

DR[®] ZERO-TURN RADIUS MOWER

Safety & Operating Instructions

36-inch & 42-inch Models



COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS[®], INC.

www.dr-owner.com

THANK YOU!

And congratulations on your purchase of a new DR® Zero-Turn Radius Mower. We have done our utmost to ensure that your DR will be one of the most trouble-free and satisfying pieces of equipment you've ever owned.

Please let us know if you have any questions or problems. We want to answer or correct them quickly. (When you do call, please have your serial number or order number handy; it will speed things up.) We also hope to hear from you about how you like your new mower.

Please tell your friends about your new DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. Having new owners spread the word about our products and the way we conduct business is the best advertising we have and it's the best way we can provide you with even better service in the years to come.

Thanks once again!



for all of us at
Country Home Products, Inc.

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introducing the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower	5
About This Manual	5
Chapter 2: Important Safety Considerations	7
Safety and Information Labels	7
Protecting Yourself and Those Around You	8
Dressing Appropriately	8
Preparing to Use Your Mower	8
Operating the Mower Safely	9
Mowing on Slopes	10
Servicing Your Mower	10
Safety with Gasoline-Powered Machines	11
Maintaining and Storing Your Mower	12
Handling the Battery Safely	12
A Note to California Users	12
Chapter 3: Setting Up Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower	13
Package Checklist	13
Assembling Your Mower	13
1. Read the Safety Instructions	14
2. Attach the Seat	14
3. Connect the Battery Cables	15
4. Align and Tighten the Drive Levers	16
5. Add Oil to the Engine	16
6. Fill the Fuel Tank with Gas	17
A Tour of Your Mower	18
Controls and Features	19
Chapter 4: Operating Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower	22
Learning How to Operate Your Mower	22
Operating the Transmission	23
Adjusting the Seat	24
Setting the Parking Brake	25
Adjusting the Cutting Height	25
Starting and Stopping the Blades	26
Starting and Stopping the Engine	26
Testing the Safety Interlock Systems	27
Learning to Use the Drive Levers	29
Performing Pre-Start Checks	30
Practice Driving Your Mower	31
Mowing	32
Mowing and Lawn Care Tips	34
Towing Trailers and Other Attachments	34

Chapter 5: Maintaining the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower	35
Maintenance Schedule	35
Performing Regular Maintenance	36
Working on Your Engine.....	37
Maintaining the Blades	38
Removing and Leveling the Mower Deck	40
Adjusting and Replacing Belts	42
Caring for the Battery	43
About Your Tires and Wheels.....	46
Adjusting the Neutral Setting	48
Adjusting the Parking Brake	49
Changing the Headlights	50
Storing Your Mower.....	51
 Chapter 6: Troubleshooting Guide.....	 52
Mower Chassis Parts List.....	55
Mower Chassis Schematic	59
Electrical Schematic	60
42-Inch Mower Deck Parts List.....	61
42-Inch Mower Deck Schematic.....	62
36-Inch Mower Deck Parts List.....	63
36-Inch Mower Deck Schematic.....	64
DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower Specifications	65
Daily Checklist for the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower	67

Chapter 1: Introducing the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

Congratulations on purchasing your new DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. The advanced technology built into your DR Mower makes lawn care easy and enjoyable, year after year. The DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower is both easy to use and fun to operate.

The DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower comes in two models:

- The 42-inch model is equipped with three blades and cuts a 42-inch swath.
- The 36-inch model is equipped with two blades and cuts a 36-inch swath.

The blades for both models are safely attached to the mower's deck, and turn in unison through drive belts connected to the mower's engine. Except for the number of blades and belts on your mower and the horsepower of the engines, both models are exactly alike.

This manual is shipped with your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. It explains how to setup, safely operate, and maintain your new DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. Any power mower, however, must be operated properly to be safe. Before you start to use the mower, read the operator's manual carefully to become completely familiar with the mower's features and controls and how they operate. Carefully adhere to the safety and operating instructions described in this manual to ensure yourself of many years of productive use.

Please let us know if you have any questions or problems. Just call us at our toll-free phone number 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637); our Technical Support Department will be happy to help you and answer any questions you might have. When you call, please have your serial number or order number available so we can help you quickly. You can find the serial number on the mower's frame at the rear of the engine.

About This Manual

This manual is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introducing the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

- Describes the organization of this manual.
- Explains the conventions used throughout the text.

Chapter 2: Important Safety Considerations

- Describes the safety labels on your mower.
- Explains guidelines for safely operating your mower.

Chapter 3: Setting Up Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

- Explains how to set up your mower.
- Describes and explains the mower's features and controls.

Chapter 4: Operating Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

- Provides instructions for starting and stopping your mower.
- Describes some safety tests.
- Explains the many cutting features of your mower.
- Provides tips for cutting your grass.
- Explains how to safely tow with your mower.

Chapter 5: Maintaining the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

- Provides tips on maintaining your mower and engine.
- Describes how best to store your mower.

Chapter 6: Troubleshooting Guide

- Lists common problems and their solutions.

In addition to these chapters, this instruction guide includes a parts list, an exploded schematic drawing, the mower's specifications, a section for your notes, your warranty, and a checklist of daily maintenance procedures (on the back cover) to help you keep your mower performing well for years to come.

And Remember: We focus on safely using your mower. If you are ever unsure about an action you are about to take, please don't do it. Instead, contact Country Home Product's toll-free support at 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637).

Conventions Used In This Manual

This manual enlists a number of techniques to help you get the most out of these instructions and, ultimately, the most out of your mower.



WARNING! This Warning symbol alerts you to essential operating, safety, and maintenance (servicing) instructions that are potentially hazardous which, if not avoided, can result in serious injury and even death.

Important! This information is important in the proper use of your mower. Failure to follow this instruction might result in minor or moderate injury to you or damage to your mower.

Tip: This is a helpful hint to guide you in getting the most out of your mower.

Note: This information may be helpful to you when using your mower.

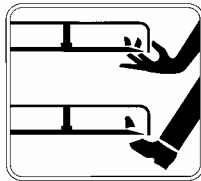
Tools needed: This indicates you will need a special tool to perform a maintenance function on your mower.

Note: Country Home products, Inc. reserves the right to discontinue, change, and improve its products at any time without notice or obligation to the purchaser. The descriptions and specifications contained in this manual were in effect at the time of printing. Some equipment described within this manual might be optional.

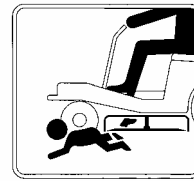
Chapter 2: Important Safety Considerations

We want you to enjoy years of safe and productive use from your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. To avoid getting injured, please take time to read these *Safety and Operating Instructions* in their entirety and the engine manufacturer's manual before using the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower.

Riding lawn mowers are serious machines. If operated improperly, they can cause serious injury or even death, both to the operator and to bystanders. The most common causes of injury are:



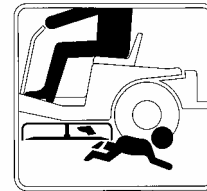
Contact with a spinning blade.



Running over someone.



Tipping over the mower.



Backing over someone.

Be alert and pay close attention to what you are doing!

Safety and Information Labels

A few safety and information labels appear on your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. Take some time to read them and follow their instructions. Replace damaged or missing safety labels immediately.

Protecting Yourself and Those Around You

Tragic accidents can occur if you are not alert to the presence of children when riding your mower. Children are often attracted to the mower and the activity of mowing. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.



WARNING! This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet, and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury and even death.

- Be sure the area is clear of other people before mowing. Do not allow children, bystanders, or pets in your work area when the mower is being operated.
- Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.
- Be alert! Stop the engine and the blades if anyone — especially children — enter the area.
- Only allow responsible individuals who have a thorough understanding of these instructions to operate the mower. Never allow children to operate the mower.
- Never carry children. They may fall off and be seriously injured or interfere with the safe operation of the mower.
- Before and while driving the mower backwards, look behind and down for small children.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision.
- If you are ever unsure about an action you are about to take, please don't do it.

Dressing Appropriately

- Always wear protective goggles or safety glasses with side shields while mowing to protect your eyes from possible thrown objects.
- Wear shoes with non-slip treads when using your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower. If you have safety shoes, wear them. Do not use the mower while barefoot or wearing open sandals.
- Wear long pants while mowing.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry which might be caught on the mower's moving parts.
- Use earmuffs or earplugs to protect your hearing.

Preparing to Use Your Mower

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the mower's labels and in the manuals. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the mower before starting.
- Never operate the mower without the proper guards, safety switches, or other safety and protective devices in place and properly connected. Inspect the mower and cutting blade to determine that these safety devices are properly installed, in good repair, and operate properly. If the condition or operation of these devices is questionable, you must repair them or replace them before using the mower.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the mower is to be used, and remove all stones, sticks, wire, pet supplies or lawn toys, and any other foreign objects that could be thrown by the mower's blades. Objects struck by a blade can cause severe injuries. Also note the location of holes, ruts, bumps, stumps, and other possible hazards.
- Mow only in daylight or in an area well lit by artificial light. Turn on the mower's headlights to help you see.

Operating the Mower Safely



WARNING! The items listed in this section will help you keep your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower running smoothly and, most importantly, prevent injury to yourself or others. Please review them carefully before starting your machine.



WARNING! Always stop the engine, set the parking brake, stop the blades, and remove the ignition key whenever you leave the operating position for any reason. This includes inspecting and cleaning the mower, performing routine maintenance, clearing grass, making adjustments, and repairing the mower.

- Do not insert the ignition key into the mower until you are ready to operate the mower. Store the ignition key away from children and people not authorized to use the mower.
- Never leave a running mower unattended. Always stop the engine, set the parking brake, turn off the blades, and remove the ignition key before dismounting.
- Turn off the blades when not mowing.
- Do not put your hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Keep clear of the discharge area at all times. Be aware of the mower discharge direction and do not point it at anyone.
- Never operate the mower in the rain or when the grass is wet.
- Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. When maneuvering in reverse, use extreme caution. Always look down and behind you before driving backwards.
- Stop the blades when crossing over loose materials such as gravel drives, walks, or roads, as objects discharged by the blades can be hazardous.
- After striking a foreign object or if the mower vibrates abnormally, stop the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the ignition key. Inspect the mower for any damage and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.
Note: Excessive vibration is generally a sign of trouble.
- Stay alert and watch what you are doing.
- Do not operate the mower when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not use your mower for any job other than those for which it is intended.
- Use only manufacturer-recommended replacement parts and accessories.
- Never bend, cut, fit, weld, or alter the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower in any way. Modifications to your mower could cause personal injuries and property damage, and will void your warranty.
- The exhaust area on the engine becomes very hot with use. Allow the engine to cool before maintaining it or making adjustments.
- When operating over uneven terrain and slopes, use extreme caution to ensure solid and firm traction.
- Never allow children or animals near the work area. Keep at least 50 feet clear of bystanders and always turn the mower off when someone approaches.
- Never operate the mower with a damaged shield or without the shield in place.
- Watch for traffic when mowing near roadways.
- Never carry passengers.
- Slow down before turning.
- Use extra care when loading or unloading the mower into a trailer or truck. Do not ride the mower when loading or unloading.

Mowing on Slopes

Slopes are a major factor related to losing control of your mower and tipping over, which can result in severe injury or death. Exercise extra caution on all slopes. To determine if a slope is safe to mow, back up it (*without the blades engaged*). If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, do not mow it!

Do:

- Mow across the slope with your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower; never mow up or down.
- Remove obstacles such as rocks, tree limbs, or any other potential object that the blades could throw or the mower could hit.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Be careful on uneven terrain to avoid overturning the mower. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Drive at a slow speed. The tires may lose traction on slopes even though the brakes are functioning properly.
- Keep all movement on the slopes slow and gradual. Do not make sudden changes in speed or direction.
- Avoid starting or stopping on a slope. If the tires lose traction, disengage the blades and proceed slowly — and diagonally — down the slope.
- If the front wheels lift off the ground, pull the levers back to stabilize the mower.

Do Not:

- Do not turn on slopes unless necessary, and then, turn slowly and gradually downhill, if possible.
- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments. The mower could suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff or ditch or if an edge caves in.
- Do not mow on wet grass. The tires can lose traction causing the mower to slide.
- Never try to stabilize the mower by putting your foot on the ground.

Servicing Your Mower

- Never make adjustments or repairs with the motor running. Stop the engine, set the parking brake, stop the blades, and remove the ignition key to prevent accidental starting.
- Keep all nuts and bolts tight, especially blade attachment bolts, and keep the equipment in good condition.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- Keep your mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up.
- Allow the mower to cool for at least five minutes before servicing or storing.
- Mower blades are sharp; they can and do cut. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when working with them.
- Batteries contain sulfuric acid. To prevent burns, avoid contact with skin, eyes, and clothing. To prevent fire or explosion keep sparks and open flames away from the battery.
- Before disconnecting the negative battery cable, make sure all switches are off.

Safety with Gasoline-Powered Machines



WARNING! The items listed in this section will help you keep your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower running smoothly and, most importantly, prevent injury to yourself or others. Please review them carefully before starting your machine.

- Do not run the engine in an enclosed area or without proper ventilation.
- Store all fuel in containers specifically designed for that purpose. Plastic containers are more likely to prevent sediment and condensation problems.
- Refuel your mower outdoors only.
- Do not smoke while refueling or operating the mower.
- If you spill gasoline, do not attempt to start the engine. Move the mower away from the area of the spill and avoid creating any source of ignition until the gas vapors have dissipated. Wipe up any spilled fuel to prevent a fire hazard and properly dispose of the waste.
- Use extra care when handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and their vapors are explosive.
- Never remove the fuel cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow the engine to cool before refueling.
- To prevent fire and explosion caused by static electricity:
 - Never fill gas containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
 - When practical, remove fuel-powered equipment (such as your mower) from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container rather than from a fuel dispenser nozzle.
 - If a fuel dispenser nozzle must be used, keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
- Allow the engine to cool completely before storing the mower in any enclosed area. Never store the mower near an open flame or spark with gas in the tank.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or modify the engine speed.
- Some state and local regulations require the use of a spark arrester on gasoline-powered engines. Contact your local fire marshal or forest service for specific information pertaining to your area. If you are required to use a spark arrester, please contact one of our Customer Service Representatives at 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) who will assist you in obtaining and installing one.

Maintaining and Storing Your Mower



WARNING! Always remove the ignition key before performing any adjustment or repairs, or when storing your mower.

- Maintain the lawn mower with care — keep cutting edges sharp and clean for the best and safest performance. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the mower is in safe operating condition. Follow the instructions in this manual for changing parts.
- Do not operate the mower if it does not start normally or does not stop normally.
- Check the blade and motor mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Use only authorized replacement blades.
- Keep mower clean and dry. Use a damp cloth or sponge with a mild soap or detergent when cleaning your mower. Never use gasoline, solvents, or other petroleum-based or solvent-based products when cleaning.
- When not in use, store the mower indoors in a dry place.

Handling the Battery Safely

- Do not charge the battery in the rain or in wet locations.
- Exercise care in handling the battery in order not to short-circuit it with conducting materials such as rings, bracelets, and keys. When short-circuited, the battery or conductor may overheat and cause burns.
- Do not dispose of batteries in a fire, as the battery cells may explode. Do not open or mutilate the batteries. Released electrolyte (battery acid) is corrosive and will cause damage to eyes, skin, or clothes. Battery acid is toxic if swallowed or if the fumes are inhaled.
- Never throw away used batteries in your household trash. Bring them to a recycling center or household hazardous waste depot for proper disposal. Please refer to “Recycling a Used Battery” on page 45 for more information.



WARNING! Please dispose of used batteries responsibly, according to your local hazardous materials regulations.

A Note to California Users



WARNING! The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.

Chapter 3: Setting Up Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

This chapter outlines a few simple steps you need to follow to set up your new mower before you use it. Take time to familiarize yourself with the controls and features on your mower by reviewing the photographs before beginning the steps outlined in this chapter.

Package Checklist

Country Home Products ships the following items with your new mower. Please check to make sure you have everything listed below:

- Two ignition keys
- Seat assembly (including four bolts, washers, and lock nuts)
- These *Safety and Operating Instructions*
- The engine manufacturer's manual

If you are missing any of the items listed above, please call Customer Service at 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) for assistance.

Country Home Products, Inc. reserves the right to discontinue, change, and improve its products at any time without notice or obligation to the purchaser. The descriptions and specifications contained in this manual were in effect at printing. Equipment described within this manual may be optional. Some illustrations may not be applicable to your machine.

Note: The explanations and descriptions in this manual occasionally refer to the right and left side of your mower. This orientation is from the point of view of an operator sitting on the mower's seat.

Assembling Your Mower

Your Zero-Turn Radius Mower ships partially assembled. Before using your mower, you must first fully assemble it and prepare the engine. To prepare your mower, perform the following tasks:

1. Read these *Safety and Operating Instructions* and the engine manufacturer's manual fully.
2. Attach the seat.
3. Connect the battery cables.
4. Align and tighten the drive levers.
5. Add oil to the engine.
6. Fill the fuel tank with gas.

Each of these steps is described in detail below. See *Figure 4* on page 18 for photographs of your fully assembled mower.

1. Read the Safety Instructions

The Zero-Turn Radius Mower is a powerful, mobile cutting machine that uses two or three sharp blades (depending on the model) rotating at high speed. For your own safety and understanding, please read these *Safety & Operating Instructions* in their entirety—paying special attention to Chapter 2: Important Safety Considerations — before assembling and using your mower.

Then read the engine manufacturer's manual to fully understand your engine.

Your mowing experience will be greatly enhanced as a result of reading both manuals.

2. Attach the Seat

Your mower's seat ships attached to a sliding adjuster. As a safety feature, it comes wired with an operator-presence switch. This operator-presence switch not only prevents the engine from starting unless you are sitting in the seat, but also immediately stops the engine if you get up from the seat.

To attach the seat, you must secure the sliding adjuster to the mower, then plug in the operator-presence switch.

Tools needed:

½ inch socket wrench (or open-end wrench)

1. Align the holes in the seat slider with the holes in the seat platform on the mower. Make sure the seat is facing forward.

Tip: Place the wrench and the bolts, washers, and lock nuts on opposite side's of the mower's fenders so that you can easily reach them.

2. Insert, in opposite corners, two bolts through the aligned holes.
3. Holding down the seat, raise the seat platform all the way then back a bit until the support arm locks into place.

Tip: In order to more easily raise the seat platform, push the seat back on the slides.

4. On the underside of the seat platform, slide on a washer and loosely screw a lock nut onto each bolt.
5. Attach the two remaining bolts, washers, and lock nuts to two open holes.
6. Using the wrench, tighten the lock nuts securely (*Figure 1*).
7. Plug the connecting wire to the seat's operator-presence switch. Be sure the clasp snaps into place.

Tip: Leave the seat up so that you can connect the battery cables.



Figure 1. Seat raised, exposing the battery, seat support arm, and the operator presence connection.

3. Connect the Battery Cables

The DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower ships with the battery wires disconnected. This prevents the battery from discharging during shipment. Before using your mower, you must connect both battery wires.

Important! When connecting the cables to the battery, first connect the red positive cable, then connect the black negative cable. Reverse the order when disconnecting the cables: first remove the black negative cable, then remove the red positive cable.

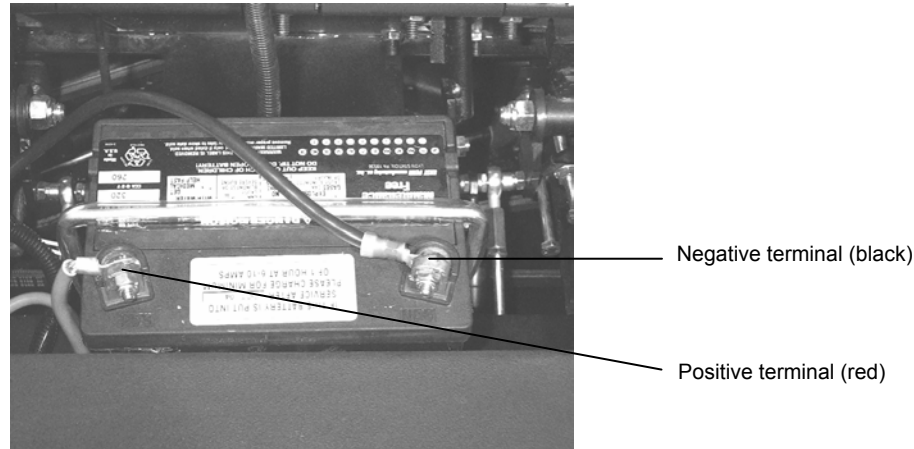


Figure 2. Battery with cables attached

Tools needed:

Two 7/16 inch socket wrenches (or open-end wrenches)

1. Unscrew the nuts and remove both bolts from the battery terminals.
2. Attach the red cable to the Positive (Pos) battery terminal.
3. Insert the bolt to connect the red cable, and screw on the nut securely.
4. Attach the black cable (with a blue hood) to the negative (Neg) battery terminal.
5. Insert the bolt to connect the black cable, and screw on the nut securely (*Figure 2*).
6. Lower the seat.

Tip: Try this when lowering the seat. Stand next to the seat's support arm. Grasp the top of the seat with your left hand and push the seat all the way forward. With your right hand, push the support arm back a bit. Now slowly lower the seat onto the seat springs.

4. Align and Tighten the Drive Levers

The drive levers ship loose. You need to correctly position them, then lock them into place.

Tools needed:

$\frac{3}{4}$ inch socket wrench (or open-end wrench)

1. Lift one of the drive levers to the neutral position and swing it out.
2. Tighten the drive lever's bolt securely (*Figure 3*).
3. Swing in the drive lever.
4. Lift the other drive lever to the neutral position and swing it out.
5. Tighten this drive lever's bolt securely.
6. Swing in the drive lever. Make sure both drive levers align. (You should be able to gently tap their ends together.)



Figure 3. Right drive lever bolt. Both drive levers must be correctly positioned and bolted in place.

5. Add Oil to the Engine



WARNING! You must add oil before starting the engine. This machine is shipped without oil. Traces of oil may be in the reservoir from factory testing, but you must add oil before starting the engine. Fill the reservoir slowly checking the dipstick frequently to avoid overfilling.

Tools needed:

1½ quarts SAE 30 engine oil

Note: Please refer the engine manufacturer's manual for detailed information about the type of oil to use.

1. Make sure your mower sits on a level surface.
2. Turn the oil cap counterclockwise to unlock it, then remove it. The dipstick is attached to the cap.
3. Add *most* of the oil to the reservoir and wait a minute for it to settle.
4. Insert the dipstick and screw on the cap, locking it down.
5. Remove the dipstick and check the "Full" mark.

Important! To get an accurate reading when checking the oil lever, make sure you lock down the dipstick.

1. If necessary, continue adding a few ounces of oil at a time, rechecking the dipstick each time until the oil reaches the "Full" mark. Be careful not to overfill the reservoir.

Important! Be sure to clean up any spilled oil when you are finished.

6. Fill the Fuel Tank with Gas

Your mower's gas tank ships empty. You must add gas before using the mower.

1. Turn the gas cap counterclockwise and remove it.
2. Fill the gas tank to within 1/4 inch of the top with fresh, unleaded gas — approximately three gallons of gas.

Note: Please refer the engine manufacturer's manual for information about the type of gasoline to use. Use only the recommended gas.

3. Screw the gas cap back on securely.

Important! Be sure to clean up any spilled gas when you are finished.

A Tour of Your Mower

The model shown in *Figure 4* is your fully-assembled DR Zero-Turn Radius 42-inch Mower. The 36-inch model, while slightly different, looks essentially the same.



Figure 4. Two views of your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

Controls and Features

Your Zero-Turn Radius Mower comes equipped with a number of controls and features that enable you to safely operate your mower. Familiarize yourself with these features. Then refer to Chapter 4 for instructions on how to use them.

Ignition Switch

The ignition is to the right of the seat, on the control panel (*Figure 5*). The ignition switch has four positions; from left to right, they are Off, Lights, Run, and Start, each with its own matching icon drawing. The key turned to the Start position starts the engine, then when released, returns to the Run position. If the key is turned back to the Lights position, the mower's headlights turn on while the engine continues to run. The engine stops when the key is turned to the Off position.

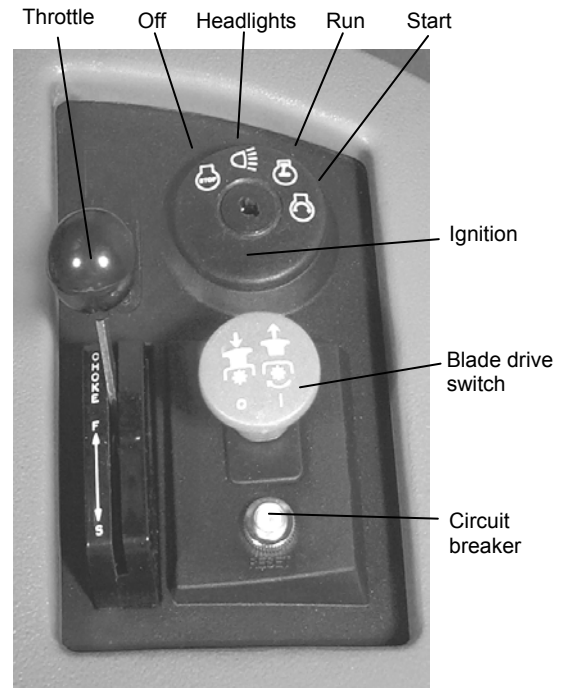


Figure 5. Control panel

Throttle

The throttle is also located on the control panel (*Figure 5*). The throttle helps start the engine and controls the engine's speed.

The throttle's Choke position is for starting the engine. The Choke position activates a "butterfly" valve in the engine's carburetor which regulates the amount of air entering the engine. When the throttle is in the Choke position, less air is admitted into the engine. This results in a higher fuel-to-air mixture that makes the engine easier to ignite when cold. A warm engine may not need choking.

The throttle's slide positioning between the Slow and Fast positions regulates the speed of the engine (as measured in revolutions per minute). The engine operates most efficiently when the throttle is set to Fast speed. This speed also ensures the engine is adequately cooled and the mower blades rotate at a speed to best cut your lawn.

Important! Use the throttle setting to regulate the speed of your blades. Use the drive levers to regulate the speed of your mower.

Blade Drive Switch

The blade drive switch is on the control panel, to the operator's right (*Figure 5*).

- To engage the mower blades, pull the switch up.
- To disengage the mower blades, push the switch down.

Take a moment to look at the symbolic drawings on the top of the blade drive switch. These drawings accurately represent how to use the switch. The left drawing depicts the blades disengaged (switch down); the right drawing depicts the blades engaged (switch up). Notice also the international symbol for Off and On under each symbolic drawing.

Important! For your safety, the engine only starts when the blade drive switch is disengaged (pushed down).

Circuit Breaker

Your mower's electrical system is protected by a single 15 amp circuit breaker, located on the control panel (*Figure 5*). When your mower's electrical system overloads, the circuit breaker trips. If the circuit breaker trips, simply push the Reset button to re-establish the circuit breaker's connection. A circuit breaker that trips repeatedly could be a harbinger to bigger problems. If the breaker keeps tripping, consult your dealer to have your mower and breaker inspected and possibly repaired.

Drive Levers

As their name implies, the drive levers enable you to drive your mower. They allow you to sit in neutral, go forward slowly or faster, go backwards slowly, to turn right and left, and to turn on the mower's axis (a zero turning radius) both clockwise and counterclockwise.

Always sit down on your mower's seat to operate the drive levers. To sit down, move the drive levers to the neutral position (where they naturally would lie) and swing them outwards (*Figure 6*).

Note: You only need use a very light pressure when operating the drive levers.



Figure 6. Drive levers swung out, in the neutral position

Important! For your safety, the engine only starts when the drive levers are in neutral and pushed out.

Neutral Position: The drive levers are in neutral when they can be moved outward.

To Go Forward: From a neutral position, pushing the drive levers moves the mower forward. As the drive levers are pushed forward, the mower's speed increases.

To Go Backwards: From a neutral position, gently pulling the drive levers moves the mower in reverse.

To Stop: Move both drive levers in the direction opposite travel to the neutral position. If you are moving forward, pull the levers back to neutral; if you are backing up, move the levers forward to neutral.

To Turn: Turning is controlled by moving either one drive lever slightly forward or one slightly backwards for the neutral position. *To Turn Left*, either move the left lever backward or move the right lever forward. *To Turn Right*, either move the right lever backward or move the left lever forward. It is easiest to steer with one lever while controlling the speed with the other.

To Turn on a Zero Radius: First stop the mower. Then at the same time, move one lever back and the other lever forward. The mower turns on its own axis in the direction of the lever that is pulled back.



WARNING! Always use the drive levers to stop the mower. Never use the parking brake.

Mower Deck Cut Height Lever

The cut height lever for the mower blades is located on the right side of the front panel, beneath the driver's seat (*Figure 7*). This lever controls the cutting height of the blades. There are six positions.

The blades are set to their lowest in the Lo position; conversely, the blades are set to their highest in the Hi position. The lever moves up and down, then is locked into position at the desired cut height.

Important! Always set the cut height lever to its highest position whenever you are simply moving or driving your mower from place to place (when you are not mowing).

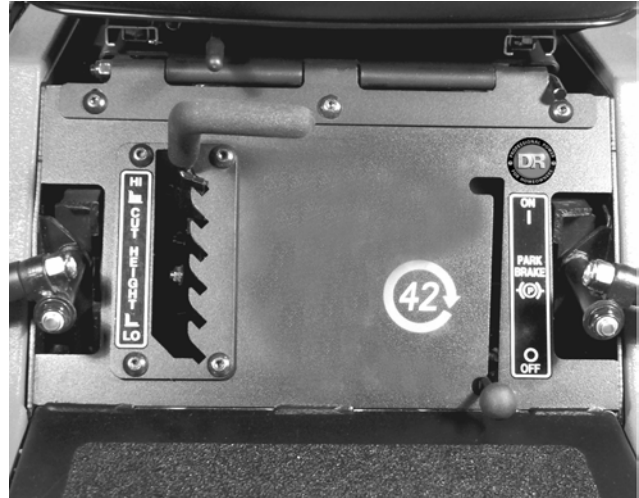


Figure 7. Cut height lever and the parking brake

Parking Brake

The parking brake is located on the left side of the front panel, beneath the driver's seat (*Figure 7*). After stopping the mower and turning off the engine, an engaged parking brake holds your mower in place. The parking brake is engaged when pulled to the On position; disengaged when set in the Off position. Notice again the use of the international On and Off symbols.

Important! The parking brake is not intended to stop the mower while in motion, and should not be used for that purpose.

The engine stops if the parking brake is engaged while the drive levers are in a drive position.

Important! For your safety, the engine only starts when the parking brake is set.

Transmission Drive System

The Transmission Drive System controls the mower's drive train. When the Transmission Drive System is engaged, the mower can be driven using the drive levers. When disengaged, the mower must be pushed to be moved. The Transmission Drive System is set with two levers on opposite sides of the mower's chassis, just inside the rear wheels.

Engine

Your mower comes equipped with a Briggs & Stratton Intek single-cylinder, overhead valve (OHV), air-cooled, low-emission engine. A 15.5 horsepower engine powers the 42-inch model; a 14.5 horsepower engine powers the 36-inch model.

To learn more about your engine, please read and refer to the engine manufacturer's manual.

Chapter 4: Operating Your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

This chapter explains how to use each of the controls and features on your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower, how to test the safety features built into your mower, and how to safely drive your mower. You may find it helpful to review the photo of your fully-assembled DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower to gain a good understanding of the location of each control and feature before reading this chapter.

Successfully operating your mower depends upon your complete understanding of the controls on your mower, knowing how to operate them, and making sound judgments about driving and about the terrain being mowed. Sound judgment prevents accidents.



WARNING! Never allow anyone to operate the mower without complete knowledge of all controls and their use.

This chapter begins by explaining how to use each feature and control on your mower. Try out each one individually until you are comfortable with its operation. For your safety and those around you, it is paramount that you instinctively understand how to use your mower.

Later in the chapter, you learn how to put all the mower's features and controls into action, first by practicing driving your mower, then by mowing your lawn. Before mowing, make sure you fully understand how to use all of the mower's features, and how to drive your mower.

Learning How to Operate Your Mower

This section explains how to use the various controls on your mower. For your own safety, familiarize yourself with them before mowing. Once you learn how to operate the various controls and understand how to use them safely, you can put them all together to first practice driving your mower, then to mow your lawn.

1. Operating the transmission.
2. Adjusting the seat.
3. Setting the parking brake.
4. Setting the cutting height.
5. Starting and stopping the blades.
6. Starting and stopping the engine.
7. Learning how to use the drive levers.

Operating the Transmission

Your mower comes equipped with a hydrostatic transmission drive system. It can either be engaged or disengaged. When the transmission is engaged, you can drive your mower. With the transmission disengaged, you can push your mower (sometimes called free-wheeling) although you cannot drive it.

There are times when you must push your mower, such as out of an enclosed space before starting the engine. Because of engine emissions, you should never start your engine in an enclosed space.



WARNING! Always turn off the engine before engaging or disengaging the hydro release levers. Never attempt to move the levers with the engine running.

You engage and disengage the transmission by moving the hydro release levers by hand. You can find these levers on each side of the engine, behind each of the rear wheels (*Figure 8*). You must disengage both levers to push the mower.

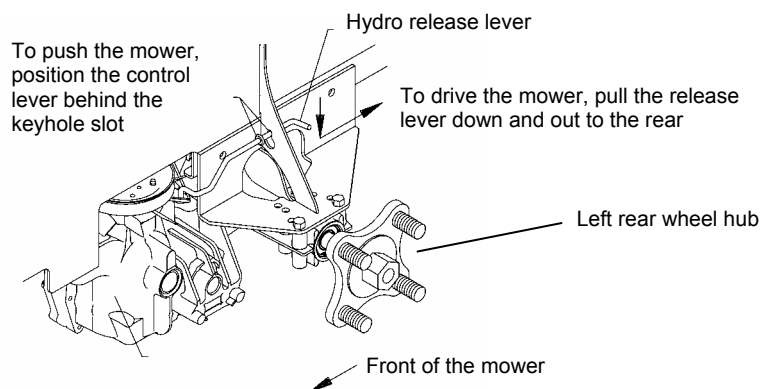


Figure 8. Transmission hydrostatic release lever

Engaging the Transmission

The transmission must be engaged for you to drive your mower.

To engage the transmission, pull the release lever down through the key hold slot and towards you so that the hydro release levers are out and loose (*Figure 9*). Make sure you do this to both the right and left levers.

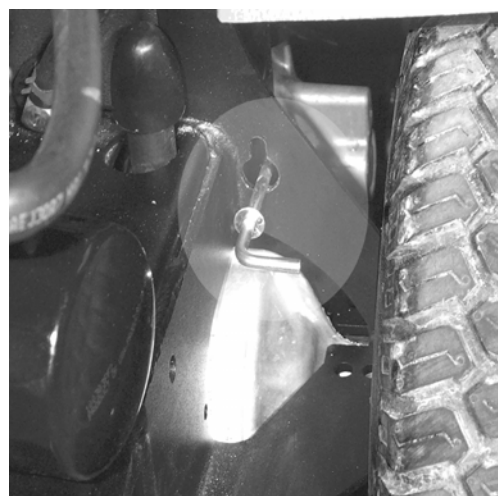


Figure 9. Transmission engaged; the mower can be driven

Disengaging the Transmission

To push your mower, you must disengage the transmission.

To disengage the transmission, push the hydro release levers in through the keyhole slot, and push up until the flange is held in place by the keyhole slot (*Figure 10*). Make sure you do this to both the right and left levers. You can now freely push your mower without starting it. Remember to release the parking brake.

Your mower is heavy! Don't over exert yourself; enlist the help of another to help push the mower. Push your mower at a slow speed, never more than two miles per hour.

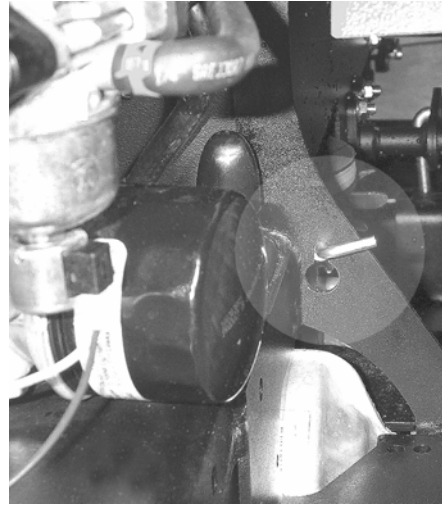


Figure 10. Transmission disengaged; the mower can be pushed



WARNING! Never tow your mower, only push it by hand. Towing can cause severe damage to the hydrostatic transmission.

Adjusting the Seat

Because of the operator-presence switch, you must sit on your mower for it to start and run.

1. Sit on your mower's seat.
2. Grasp seat slide adjuster and move it into adjustment position (*Figure 11*).
3. Slide seat forward or backward. Find a comfortable position with both feet either firmly on the platform floor or on the angled footholds, with your legs slightly bent.
4. Release seat slide adjuster.

Tip: Try using the second and third fingers on your left hand, and pull the seat slide adjuster to the left.



Figure 11. Seat with slide adjuster

Setting the Parking Brake

The hand operated parking brake is located below the driver's seat, on the left (*Figure 12*). Thus, it's best to use your left hand to set the brake when sitting on the mower. The parking brake must be set before you can start your engine.

- To set the brake, pull the lever out, pull it up to the top, and lock the lever into position.
- To release the brake, pull the lever out, move it down to the bottom, and lock it into position.

Note: Always set the parking brake before getting off your mower. Remember to release the parking brake before pushing the mower.



Figure 12. Parking brake set (engaged in the On position)

Adjusting the Cutting Height

Using the cutting height lever, you can easily adjust the blade height to six different positions (*Figure 13*). The cutting height lever is located below the driver's seat, on the right. Thus, it's easiest to use your right hand to adjust the cutting height. Moving the cutting height lever moves the entire mower deck.

Cutting heights range, in 1/2 inch increments, from 1 1/2 inches high when using the bottom setting, to approximately 4 inches when using the top setting. Use this table to help determine the best cut height.

Position	Cut Height
High	4 inches (10.2 centimeters)
5	3 1/2 inches (8.9 centimeters)
4	3 inches (7.6 centimeters)
3	2 1/2 inches (6.4 centimeters)
2	2 inches (5.1 centimeters)
Low	1 1/2 inches (3.8 centimeters)

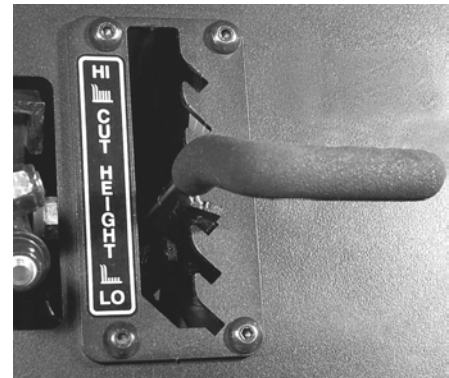


Figure 13. Cutting height lever set to the third position, to cut at 2 1/2 inches



WARNING! Never adjust the blade height with the blades spinning (blade switch up). First set the blade height, then start the blades spinning.

1. Push the blade drive switch down to stop the blades.
2. Using your right hand, pull out the cutting height lever.
3. Move the lever to the desired height, and lock it into place. You'll see the mower deck move up and down as you move the cutting height lever up and down.

Important! Remember, set the cutting height to its highest position when you are pushing your mower or driving it from place to place.

Starting and Stopping the Blades

Use the blade drive switch, located on the control panel, to start and stop the blades spinning. The diagram on the switch depicts how it operates.

Important! Set the cutting height of the blades before starting them spinning.

- To start the blades spinning, firmly pull the blade drive switch up.
- To stop the blades spinning, push the blade drive switch down. The mower's blades will stop spinning within a few seconds.

If the blades don't start spinning when you pull up on the switch, push the circuit breaker's Reset button and try again.



WARNING! If the circuit breaker keeps tripping, have your mower examined by an authorized Country Home Products representative before using the mower again.

Starting and Stopping the Engine

Your mower's electronic ignition quickly starts and stops the engine.



WARNING! Don't start your engine in an enclosed space. First push the mower to an open space.

Starting the Engine

1. Sit on the seat, set the parking brake, swing the drive levers out, and push the blade drive switch down.

Important! The engine will not start if you are not sitting on the seat, when the parking brake is released, the drive levers are in, or the blade drive switch is up (engaged).

2. Move the throttle control to the "choke" position (put the throttle in the catch in the middle of the choke position).
3. Insert the ignition key and turn to the Start position. When the engine starts, release the ignition key. The key returns to the Run position.
4. Move the throttle back to fast ("F" position).

Tip: If the engine stalls, runs a bit rough, or hesitates while accelerating, push the throttle to choke again and keep it there until the engine fully warms up. You'll probably only need to do this when the engine is cold.

5. To mow with headlights, turn the ignition key to the Headlights position.



WARNING! If the engine fails to start after about 10 seconds of continuous cranking, turn the key to the Off position and allow the starter motor to cool. Check the cause of the hard starting; consult the Troubleshooting Guide.

Stopping the Engine

The quickest and easiest way to stop the engine:

- Turn the ignition key all the way to the Off position.

If the engine has been working hard or is hot, allow it to idle a short time before turning off the key. This practice helps cool the engine before stopping.



WARNING! Always turn off the engine, remove the key, and set the parking brake when leaving your mower unattended, even if for just a few minutes. Prevent accidents; don't give children or others unfamiliar with the mower an opportunity to operate it.

There are other situations when the engine will stop:

- You raise yourself up off the seat.
- You set the parking brake while the drive levers are in a drive position.
- You push the driver levers out in the neutral position.
- The mower runs out of gas.

After you finish mowing, disengage the mower blades and set the deck height to its highest position before moving the mower to storage. Once you park the mower, set the parking brake.

Testing the Safety Interlock Systems

Before using your mower for the first time, and then occasionally from that point on, perform these tests to make sure your mower's safety systems are working properly.

To perform these tests, sit on your mower's seat.



WARNING! If any safety check fails, do not operate the mower until the system has been checked and repaired by an authorized Country Home Products dealer.

Parking Brake Switch Test

This test ensures that the parking brake's safety feature is operating properly.

1. Swing the drive levers out.
2. Disengage the blade drive switch (push it down).
3. Release the parking brake (set in the Off position).
4. Turn the ignition key to Start.

The engine should not turn over or even attempt to start.

Drive Lever Switch Test

This test ensures that the drive lever's safety feature is operating properly.

1. Disengage the blade drive switch (push it down).
2. Set the parking brake (set in the On position).
3. Swing the drive levers in.
4. Turn the ignition key to Start.

The engine should not turn over or even attempt to start.

Blade Drive Switch Test

This test ensures that the blade drive switch's safety feature is operating properly.

1. Set the parking brake (set in the On position).
2. Swing the drive levers out.
3. Engage the blade drive (pull the switch up).
4. Turn the ignition key to Start.

The engine should not turn over or even attempt to start.

Seat Switch Test

This test ensures that the operator-presence switch on the mower's seat is operating properly.

1. In a safe area away from bystanders, start the engine.
2. Release the parking brake (set to the Off position). Leave the drive levers swung out.
3. Engage the blade drive (pull the switch up).
4. Raise yourself slightly off the seat.

The engine should stop.

Learning to Use the Drive Levers

There's a knack to using the drive levers. So before starting and driving your mower for the first time, read through this explanation to understand how to use the drive levers. Then sit on the mower's seat and push the drive levers to get a feel for them — sort of a dry run. Then follow the instructions in “Practice Driving Your Mower” to practice using them (without the blades spinning) before actually mowing your lawn.

Use the palm of your hands to hold the drive levers, wrapping your fingers around the handles to assure stability. Holding the drive levers together helps keep the mower stable and avoids jerking movements as the mower hits a bump or moves over rough ground. *Figure 14* shows you some of the drive lever positions.

Important! Move the drive levers in a slow, controlled motion. Each time you release a drive lever, it returns to neutral, stopping that wheel from turning. Try not to just let go of a drive lever though; if you do, that wheel stops abruptly.

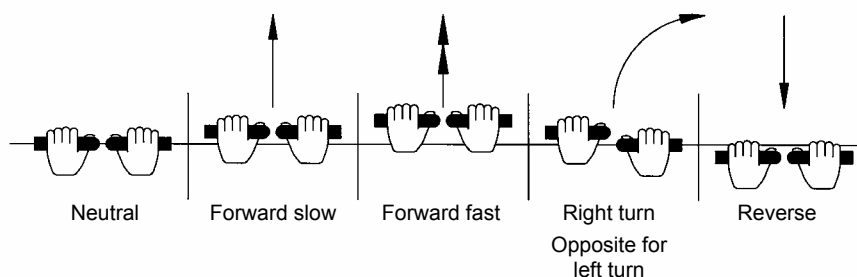


Figure 14. Positions of the drive levers for various driving directions

Neutral Position

The drive levers are in neutral when you can swing them out. Neutral is their natural resting position. In neutral, the mower stops.

Moving Forward

The mower has two basic forward speeds. Move the drive levers slightly forward to drive at a slow speed. Push them all the way out to drive at the mower's fastest speed. To move straight, keep the driver levers together.

Moving Backward

To reverse, slowly pull back on the drive levers. Remember to keep the drive levers together to move in a straight line.

Stopping the Mower

To stop, slowly ease up on both drive levers; they automatically return to neutral and the mower stops. If you need to stop quickly, remove your hands from both drive levers; the mower stops suddenly.

Note: If the mower creeps while stopped, you need to adjust the neutral setting. Please refer to “Adjusting the Neutral Setting” for details.

Turning

To turn, move one drive lever towards neutral, which slows or stops the wheels on that side of the mower. Leave the other drive lever in position, which continues to move and turns the mower. You can turn left and right, while moving forward or backward.

While moving forward: turn left by pulling the left drive lever back to neutral; turn right by pulling the right drive lever back to neutral.

While moving backwards: turn left by pushing the left drive lever forward to neutral; turn right by pushing the right drive lever forward to neutral.

Turning in a Zero Radius

Turning in a zero radius causes the mower to spin on its own axis. You turn in a zero radius by causing the wheels on opposite sides of the mower to turn in opposite directions. You can turn in a zero radius either clockwise or counterclockwise.

Always come to a complete stop before turning in a zero radius.

- Turn counterclockwise by slowly pulling the left drive lever back to reverse while slowly pushing the right drive lever to a forward position.
- Turn clockwise by slowly pulling the right drive lever back to reverse while slowly pushing the left drive lever to a forward position.

Performing Pre-Start Checks

Before starting your mower, perform this list of safety checks. At this point, you should have already completely read both these *Safety and Operating Instructions* and the engine manufacturer’s manual.

1. Push the mower out of the storage location into an open, grassy area without any nearby obstacles. Then engage the transmission.



WARNING! Do not operate the engine in an enclosed area due to the harmful exhaust gas produced.

2. Set the parking brake.
3. Set the blade height lever to high.
4. Push down the blade drive switch.
5. Inspect for any visible damage to the mower, the engine, the deck, the tires, and the blades. Make sure the tires are properly inflated.

6. Check the engine oil; fill to the appropriate level if necessary. Make sure the oil cap is locked down.
7. Check the gas level; add more if needed. Make sure the fuel cap is screwed on tightly.
8. Make sure the blades and engine are clear of any debris or dried-on grass.
9. Check to make sure all blades are securely attached.
10. Make sure the grass deflector is tightly held down by the spring-engaged hinge.
11. Push out the drive levers, sit on the mower's seat, adjust the seat to a comfortable and secure position.
12. Know how to stop the blades, the mower, and the engine.

Practice Driving Your Mower

Now that you have a feel for the drive levers, drive around your yard to get used to the controls and a feel for the mower. While learning how to drive, keep the blades disengaged, the mower deck set to high, and the throttle set to slow speed.

Learn the skill of driving your mower before engaging the blades and mowing your yard. The goal is to become comfortable driving your mower, almost to the point of it becoming second nature, before you use your mower to cut grass.



WARNING! Always keep control of your mower. Drive your mower at a comfortable speed. Never drive at a speed where you feel uncomfortable or out of control.

Take a few minutes and follow the steps below. They'll help you learn how to maneuver and control the mower.

1. First, perform the pre-start checks previously described. When you're done, you'll be sitting down, the seat adjusted, drive levers out, parking brake set, mower deck set high, blades off, and on a grassy, clear area.
2. Start the engine and set the throttle to its slowest setting.
3. Swing the driver levers in. (*Do not* engage the blades.)
4. Push the driver levers forward. Get a feel for moving forward slowly and faster.
5. Move the driver levers back to neutral to stop the mower.
6. Now try reverse; pull both drive levers back. Then stop again.
7. Practice turning left, then practice turning right. Practice turning while moving forward, then while moving backward. Try moving in a complete circle, first right, then left.
8. Stop again, then practice turning in a zero radius. Try turning clockwise, then counterclockwise.
9. Now, practice! Drive around your yard until you feel comfortable driving your mower.

Mowing

Now that you know how to operate all of your mower's controls and have a good feel for driving your mower, you are ready to mow your grass.



WARNING! The mower's spinning blades can easily throw stones, sticks, and other debris at great velocity, which could injure people or damage property. Do not run the mower over gravel driveways or over loose stones or mulch with the blades spinning.

1. First, perform the pre-start checks previously described. When you're done, you'll be sitting down, the seat adjusted, drive levers out, parking brake set, mower deck set high, blades off, and on a grassy, clear area.
2. Set the throttle to Choke.
3. Start the engine.
4. Set the throttle to Fast.
5. Release the parking brake.
6. Swing in the drive levers.
7. Drive to the area where you want to mow.
8. Stop the mower.
9. Set the cutting height.
10. Engage the blades.

Now you are ready to drive off and mow your lawn.



WARNING! When you stop the mower, always turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and take the ignition key with you.

Mowing Speed

Remember, the throttle regulates the speed of the blades; the drive levers regulate the speed (and direction) of the mower.

The mower operates most efficiently at the maximum blade speed. Always set the throttle to Full when mowing. This ensures that the blades spin at full speed and the engine is adequately cooled.

Slow down when cutting tall grass or grass with moisture, or mowing on hilly terrain. If you drive too fast or the blade speed is too slow, mowing will be uneven because the mower blades will not be able to lift the grass into the cutting position as the mower passes over the ground.

Cutting Height

You have probably established the best cutting height for your lawn from previous experience. Remember though that the cutting swath from your Zero-Turn Radius Mower is probably much wider than you are used to.

So the first time you use your new mower, set the cutting height a little higher than you normally would. This helps in two ways. First, you can better determine how to mow uneven areas without the wider cut resulting in scalping your lawn. Second, you can better judge the best blade height for your grass without cutting it too low.

When You Finish Mowing ...

After you have finished mowing for the day, follow these steps to safely move, clean, and store your mower.

1. Stop the blades.
2. Raise the cutting height to its highest level.
3. Drive to your storage location and stop there.
4. Stop the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the ignition key.
5. Push out the driver levers, get off the mower, and push the drive levers back in.
6. Clean any grass and debris from the mower, paying special attention to the blades and engine (especially the muffler, manifold area, and the air intake screen).
7. Disengage the transmission and release the parking brake.
8. Push the mower into its storage location.
9. Set the parking brake.
10. Take the ignition key with you.



WARNING! Always keep the discharge deflector in place. Never attempt to clear the mower blades without disengaging the blades, turning off the engine, and removing the ignition key.

Mowing and Lawn Care Tips

- The mower discharges cut material to the right. Always try to cut and trim with the uncut tall grass or weeds on your left.
- Always check your work area before mowing and remove any debris that might be thrown or damage the mower.
- Do not cut the grass when it is wet. Wet grass clogs the underside of the mower deck and discharge area.
- For the healthiest lawn, avoid removing more than one third of the leaf blade during any one mowing session. When more than one third of the leaf blade is removed, the grass plant produces less food for itself and therefore becomes weaker and more susceptible to disease and insect damage. Proper cutting can reduce weeds and disease by 50% to 80%.
- Adjust the cutting height so that you only cut 1 to 2 inches of grass at a time. Cut thicker grass at a higher cutting height, or cut a narrower swath. Do not force the mower forward in thick grass; rather, cut it with a couple of passes.
- Cut tall grass with the cut height lever in the top or second notch. Overlap the cutting swaths with each pass, instead of a cutting full swath. Then make a second pass at the desired height.
- Keep the underside of the mower deck clean. Frequently remove dried grass, allowing the clippings to discharge freely.
- Mow across slopes; never up and down.
- Keep your mower blade sharp! A sharp mower blade cuts the grass quickly and cleanly. For best results, inspect the blade often and have an extra, sharp blade ready to install as a replacement while the dull blade is being sharpened.
- Mowing dense grasses (such as St. Augustine or Bermuda grass) requires more power to cut properly. For these grasses, drive more slowly to ensure a quality cut.
- If you have any of the following grass, use the table to determine the best cut height. These heights are based on adequate moisture conditions and normal thatch buildup in a healthy lawn. Depending on where you live and how you use your lawn, you might find a different height is best.

<i>Grass Type</i>	<i>Best Cut Height</i>
Bermuda grass	1 to 2 inches
Bluegrass	2 to 3 inches
Buffalo grass	1½ to 3 inches
Rye grass	2 to 3 inches
Tall fescue	3 to 3½ inches
Zoysia grass	1 to 3 inches

Towing Trailers and Other Attachments

You can use your mower to tow trailers and other attachments. If necessary, you can add a tow ball.

Limit your towing loads to 150 pounds or less. Towing a heavier attachment could damage the transmission drive or cause the mower to become unstable.

Chapter 5: Maintaining the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

Like any machine, maintaining your mower ensures its best performance and extends its life. Follow the procedures explained in this chapter to keep your mower working at peak efficiency.

Maintenance Schedule

This chart enables you to quickly determine when to perform certain maintenance procedures.

Frequency	Required Maintenance
Before each use	Check engine oil level.
After each use	Clean grass and debris from muffler and manifold area. Check air intake screen. Clean grass under deck.
After 5 hours break-in	Change engine oil.
After 20 hours break-in	Check deck serpentine belt.
Every 10 hours	Perform regular maintenance. Inspect blades for sharpness.
Every 25 hours	Clean air filter element.
Every 50 hours	Grease all zerks. Inspect the belts for fraying or stretching. Replace if necessary. Change engine oil. Change engine oil filter.
Every 100 hours (or annually)	Replace air filter element. Replace more frequently if operating in extremely dry and dusty conditions. Replace fuel filter. Replace spark plug. Check the valve clearance.
Before storing for more than 30 days	Drain the fuel or add a fuel stabilizer. Disconnect the cables from the battery. Charge the battery.



WARNING! Before performing any maintenance, always turn off the engine and allow it to cool completely. Remove the ignition key and disconnect the spark plug wire. Wear sensible clothing; remove all jewelry.

Performing Regular Maintenance

Perform these basic maintenance tasks on your mower after every 10 hours of use.

Clean the Mower

Wash the mower. Use a mild automotive type detergent and water. Using a soft brush or rag, clean any debris above and below the deck, and around the engine. Do not use any alkaline based soaps or pressure wash your mower — they can damage the bearings and other parts of your mower.

Note: Make sure you allow the engine to cool before washing it. If the bearings are hot, they draw moisture inside as they dry, which causes them to corrode.

After washing your mower, start the engine and engage the blades for a few minutes to disperse any water that may have accumulated in the bearings, pulleys, or fans.

Lubricate the Zerks

Use a multi-purpose or a name brand wheel bearing grease to lubricate the mower's zerks. Give each zerk three pumps of grease. The 42-inch model has five zerks; the 36-inch model has four.

Each front wheel has a zerk behind its cylindrical caster (*Figure 15*).

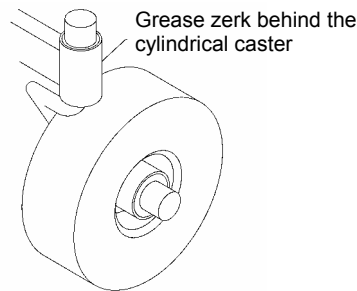


Figure 15. Grease zerk for the front wheels

Each blade hub on the mower deck also has a zerk (*Figure 16*).



Figure 16. Grease zerk for left blade on the 42-inch model

Check the Electrical System

Keep all connections clean, tight, and dry.

Tighten All Bolts

Check all the bolts and nuts occasionally throughout the season to be sure they're secure. Tighten them if necessary.

Check the Tire Pressure

The correct tire pressure helps your mower operate efficiently and helps level your mower's cut. Make sure each tire has the correct pressure. Add air if necessary. Inflate the front tires from 16 to 21 pounds; inflate the rear tires from 8 to 14 pounds.

Working on Your Engine

The *Briggs & Stratton Operating and Maintenance Instructions* that ship with your DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower contains a wealth of information about your engine. The manual explains how to:

- Add gas to your fuel tank, and the type to use.
- Check and add oil to the engine, and explains the kinds of oil to use.
- Change the oil and oil filter.
- Maintain your engine, including a complete schedule.
- Change the air filter.
- Check and change the spark plug.
- Change the fuel filter.
- Clean debris from the engine.
- Tune-up your engine, including complete specifications.
- Adjust the remote throttle and carburetor.

Be sure to read the manual thoroughly before working on the engine. A complete understanding can only help you keep your engine at peak performance.

Familiarize yourself with the various parts of the engine. Refer to *Figure 17* and *Figure 18* for details.

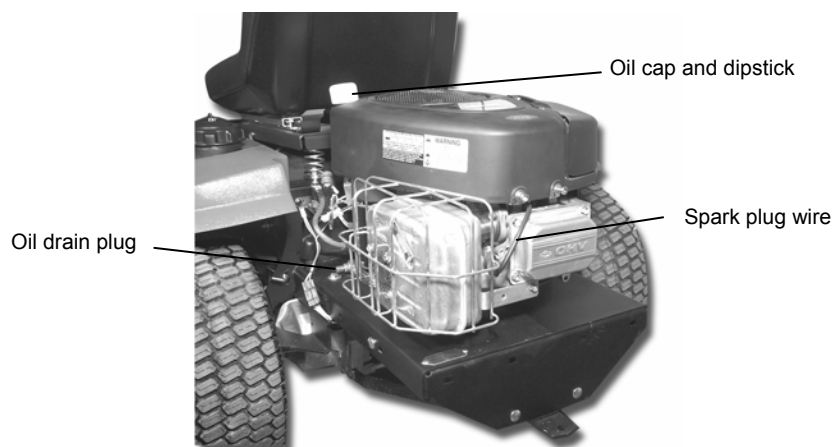


Figure 17. Left side of the engine

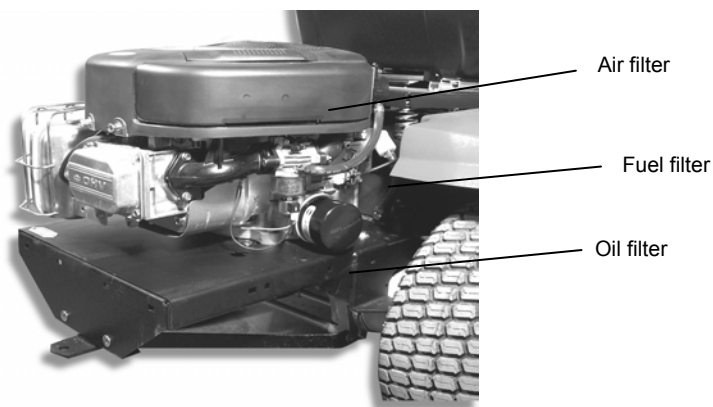


Figure 18. Right side of the engine

Maintaining the Blades

To obtain the best results when mowing, keep your mower blades sharp and well balanced. Check the blades for sharpness, damage, or cracking. The 42-inch model has three blades; the 36-inch model has two blades. Always remove the blades from your mower to sharpen them.

Removing the Blades



WARNING! Wear heavy, thick gloves when holding onto a blade; avoid the sharp edge of the blade.

Tools & supplies needed:

¾ inch socket wrench

Thick, heavy gloves to protect your hands

Two blocks of wood

1. Park the mower on a smooth, level surface. Turn off the engine and remove the ignition key.
2. Set the parking brake.

Tip: For added safety, place blocks of wood behind each rear wheel.

3. Move the blade height lever to its highest setting.
4. Place the jack under the middle of the front frame and raise the mower until you can access the blades under the mower.



WARNING! Raise the mower until it rests on the angle brackets that hold the rear engine platform. Do not try to raise the mower any higher as the mower could become unstable.

5. Put on your gloves. Hold the blade or use a short piece of lumber to block the blade from turning.
6. Mark each blade. On the 42-inch model, mark them left, center, and right. On the 36-inch model, mark them left and right.
7. Loosen and remove the blade bolt and washer assembly; remove the blade (*Figure 19*).
8. Inspect the blade. If it is excessively worn, bent, or cracked, discard it and install a new blade. Otherwise, sharpen it.
9. When replacing the sharpened blade or installing a new blade, seat and center the blade on the pilot, screw in the bolt and washer assembly, then tighten to 60 foot pounds. Check to make sure the blade is tight and secure.
10. Safely jack down your mower and remove the wooden blocks if you used them.

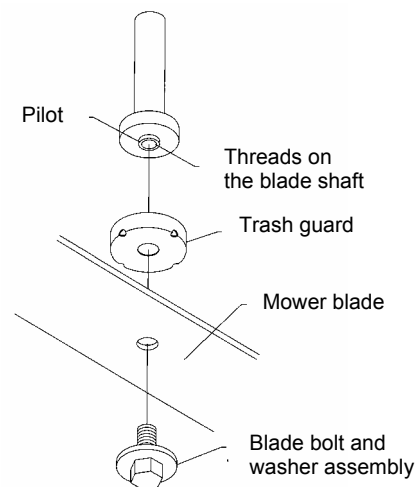


Figure 19. Attaching the blade

When replacing blades, use only the blades available from Country Home Products. They are made to fit your mower, and their edges are set to the proper 25° cutting angle.

Sharpening the Blades

You can easily sharpen your mower blades with a few tools. Remember, only sharpen blades in good condition. Replace blades that are bent, cracked, or otherwise damaged.

Tools & supplies needed:

Fine-toothed file or sharpening stone

Gloves

Vice

Safety glasses

1. Secure the blade in a sturdy vise.
2. While wearing safety glasses, carefully file the cutting edges of the blade using even strokes. Be sure to file both sides of the blade equally. Take care to retain the 25° angle of the original cutting edge.
3. Check the blade after sharpening to be sure it is still balanced.

Balancing a Blade

An out-of-balance blade can cause your mower to vibrate, which can cause damage to the mower, especially to its engine.

Because you are removing metal from the blade, make sure to remove an equal amount from each side to keep the blade balanced. The best way to balance a blade is with a blade balancer (available at most local hardware stores), or with a large screwdriver, nail, or bolt.

Tools & supplies needed:

Gloves

Blade balancer, or a large screwdriver, nail, or bolt

1. After sharpening the blade, hang it on the balancer and check the level. You can also hang the blade from a large screwdriver, nail, or bolt clamped into a vice.
2. If one side of the blade tips lower, sharpen that side a little at a time until the blade is balanced.
3. When sharpening a used blade, be especially careful to keep it balanced. If in doubt, replace the blade with a new one.

You can, of course, always have a mower service sharpen and balance your blade.

Removing and Leveling the Mower Deck

Sometimes it's best to remove the mower deck to work on it. This also makes it easier to remove and reattach the mower blades.

Removing the Deck

The process for removing the deck is the same for both the 36-inch and 42-inch models. Only the location of the engine-to-deck belt idler L-rod differs. Refer to *Figure 20* and *Figure 21* for the location of the parts used in this procedure.

Tools needed:

Pliers

½ inch socket wrench

Jack

1. Move the cut height lever to its lowest setting.
2. Loosen the hex nut on the engine-to-deck belt idler L-rod. (To loosen, turn the hex nut counterclockwise.) Remove the belt first from the deck pulley and then from the engine pulley.
3. Remove a cotter pin and washer from one end of the deck support rod. Take note of the remaining shim washers used between chassis and the deck so that you can correctly replace them.
4. Slide the deck support rod from the chassis and the deck.
5. Remove the cotter pin and washer from each deck L-rod.
6. Remove the three deck L-rods from the chassis lift arms. When the deck L-rods are removed, carefully lower the deck to the ground.
7. Carefully raise and support the front of the chassis. Use a jack if necessary.
8. Slide the deck from underneath the mower to remove it.

To reinstall the deck assembly, reverse these steps.

Note: When reinstalling the deck, route the belts correctly through the grooves of all pulleys and adjust the tension on the belt.

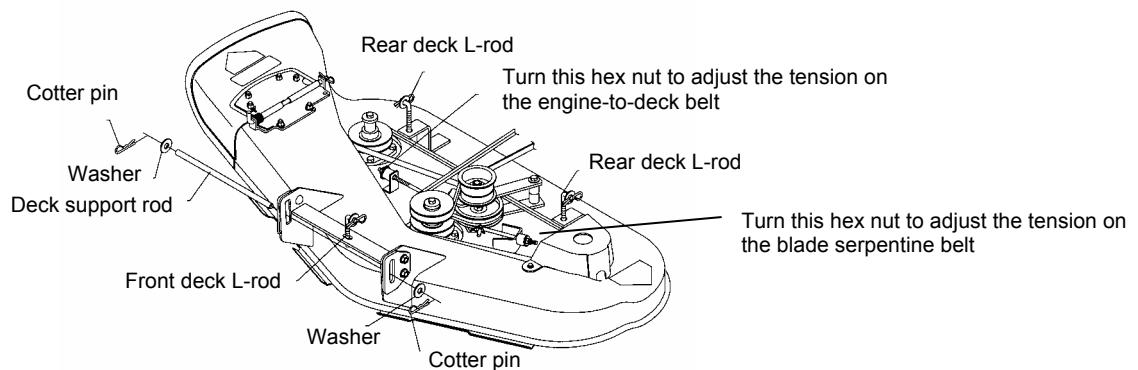


Figure 20. 42-inch mower deck

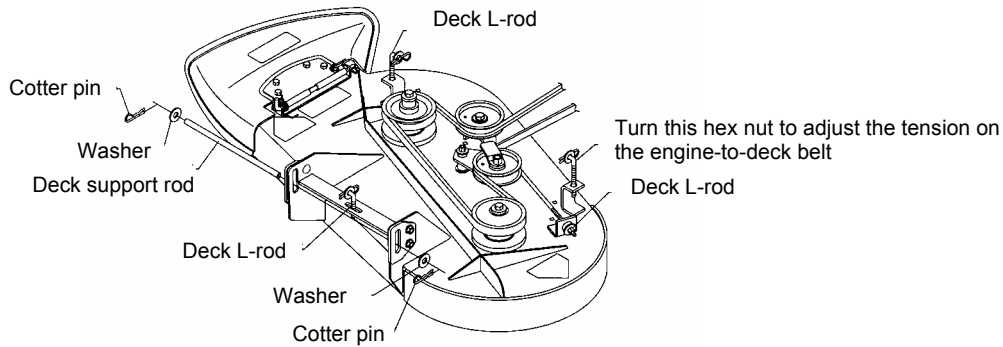


Figure 21. 36-inch mower deck

Leveling the Deck

The mower deck must be level to ensure a level cut.

Tools needed:

9/16 inch socket wrench

Ruler

1. Park the mower on a smooth, level surface. Ensure the tires are inflated to the proper pressure and in the forward-travel position (axles in, tires out; see Figure 4).
2. Move the cut height lever to its highest setting.
3. Turn each blade so that it aligns side to side on the mower.
4. Measure the distance from the floor to the outer tip of one blade, and write it down. Move to the other side of the mower and check the same measurement for the outside blade.
5. If the measurements differ, turn the nut on one or both of the rear L-rods until both measurements are equal (Figure 22).
6. Turn each blade so that it aligns front to back on the mower.
7. Measure the distance from the floor to the front and back outer tips of a blade. The back blade tip should be $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch higher than the front blade tip.
8. If necessary, turn the nut on the front L-rod until the difference falls between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

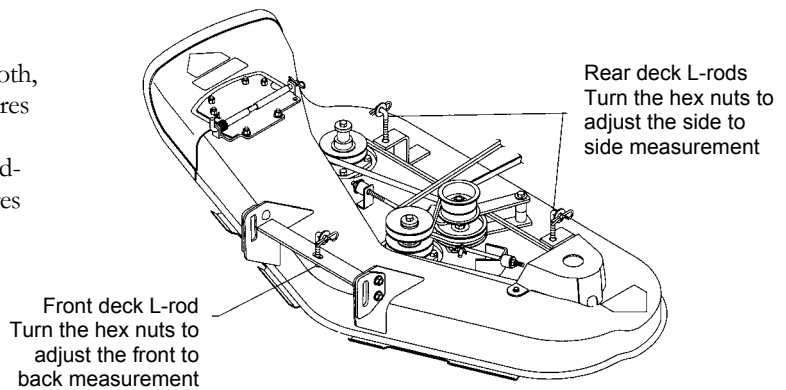


Figure 22. Leveling the deck using the 42-inch model

When you are finished, the deck is in the baseline level position. Your cut is now level. If, however, your grass type or the condition of your yard dictate, you can make additional adjustments to achieve the results you desire.

Adjusting and Replacing Belts

Depending on the model, your mower comes with either two or three belts. Check them after every 50 hours of operation. Tighten any that are loose. Replace any that are either stretched or frayed.

The 42-inch DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower has three belts: a drive belt connecting the engine to the drive train, a belt that connects the engine to the deck, and a serpentine belt that connects the three blades together.

The 36-inch DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower has two belts: a drive belt that connects the engine to the drive train, and a belt that connects the engine to the deck and both blades.

Adjusting the Deck Belt Tension

You can adjust the tension on the mower's deck belts: the engine-to-deck belts on both the 36-inch and 42-inch models, and the serpentine belt on the 42-inch model. You cannot adjust the tension on the engine-to-drive-train belt.

Tools needed:

½ inch socket wrench

Ruler

Adjust a belt's tension by turning the hex nut on the idler L-rod. The belts have the proper tension when the idler shock mount is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide (*Figure 23*).

1. Move the cut height lever to its lowest setting.
2. To loosen the belt tension, turn the hex nut counterclockwise. Loosen the belt tension when the width of the idler shock mount is *less* than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
3. To tighten the tension, turn the hex nut clockwise. Tighten the belt tension when the width of the idler shock mount is *greater* than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

You access one hex nut from the left side of the mower, from the front of the deck (*Figure 24*). Use this hex nut to adjust the tension for the 36-inch model's engine-to-deck belt, and for the 42-inch model's serpentine belt.

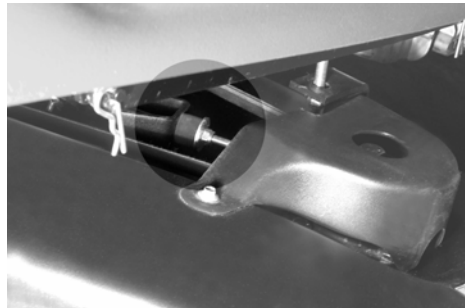


Figure 24. Accessing the idler L-rod hex nut on the deck's left side

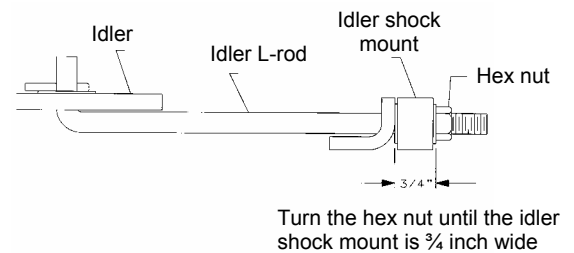


Figure 23. Idler L-rod used to tension the belts

You access the other hex nut from the right side of the mower, from behind the deck (*Figure 25*). Use this hex nut to adjust the tension for the 42-inch model's engine-to-deck belt.

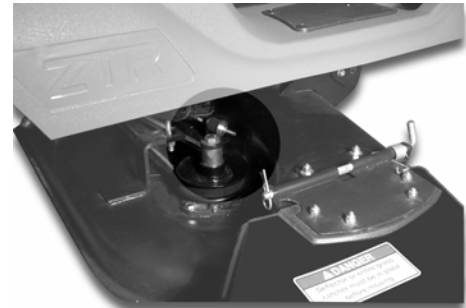


Figure 25. Accessing the idler L-rod hex nut on the deck's right side

Replacing a Deck Belt

Whenever a belt is worn, frayed, cut, or otherwise damaged, replace it immediately. Follow this procedure for both engine-to-deck belts and for the 42-inch serpentine belt.

Important! Always use manufacturer recommended belts for replacement parts. These belts are designed specifically for each application.

Tools needed:

½ inch socket wrench

1. Move the cut height lever to its lowest setting.
2. Loosen the tension on the appropriate idler L-rod by turning the hex nut counterclockwise.
3. Remove the old belt first from the deck pulleys and then from the engine pulley.
4. Install the new belt, correctly aligning it on the pulleys. Start with the engine pulley. For 36-inch models, refer to *Figure 20*; for 42-inch models, refer to *Figure 21*.
5. Tighten the idler L-rod nut to the proper tension: the idler shock mount must be ¾ inch thick.

Caring for the Battery

Proper care can extend the life of a battery. Follow these recommendations to ensure your battery's best performance and long life:

- This is a maintenance-free battery and the fluid level cannot be checked.
- Do not continue to crank the engine with a low battery.
- Try to keep the battery at full charge to maximize its life. If the mower is not used, you should charge the battery every thirty to sixty days.
- Store an unused battery in a dry area that does not freeze.



WARNING! The battery contains sulfuric acid electrolyte which is poisonous and corrosive.

Charging the Battery

Automobile batteries last for years because they are recharged every time you drive your car — usually on a daily basis. The DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower recharges its battery when you operate it continuously for about 45 minutes or more. However, if you run your mower infrequently (less than 45 minutes with each use) or let it sit during the off-season without recharging, the battery life is shortened.

Your battery needs to be charged or replaced if you experience any of these symptoms:

- The engine won't start.
- The starter makes a whirring or grinding noise.
- The starter makes no noise at all.

You must also charge your battery if your mower is put into service after the date specified on the battery's label.

Before charging your battery, perform a couple of simple tests to determine if there might be another problem:

- Check all cable connections.
- Check the charge in the battery. Disconnect the battery cables and put a volt tester on the battery. A fully charged battery should read about 12 volts. (Follow the steps below for the proper order of detaching and attaching the battery cables.)
- Disconnect the battery cables, clean the terminals, and reconnect the cables.
- Check the electrical system, looking for loose connections or frayed wiring. Check the wire connections at the ignition.
- If you are still unsure, call one of our Technical Support Representatives toll-free 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) for assistance.

If the battery loses its charge, recharge it using the DR Battery Charger (available from Country Home Products) or other trickle charger. The charger should have an output of 12 Volts at 1 to 2 amps. At 1 amp, charge the battery for up to 48 hours; at 2 amps, charge the battery for up to 24 hours.

You can also use a 6 to 10 amp automotive battery charger. If you do, only charge the battery from 1 to 2 hours; never any longer.

Do not charge an already charged battery. In theory, you cannot overcharge your battery with a trickle charger; however, when a battery is fully charged and the charger is still on, it generates heat that could be harmful to the battery. Do not keep a trickle charger connected to the battery for more than 48 hours.

To connect a charger to your battery, follow the steps listed below.

Tools needed:

Two 7/16 inch socket wrenches (or open-end wrenches)

1. Lift the seat and latch it securely.
2. Clean the battery and the terminals with baking soda to remove any accumulated discharge.
3. Detach the cables from the battery. First unscrew the nut and detach the black cable from the Negative (Neg) battery terminal. Then unscrew the nut and detach the red cable from the Positive (Pos) battery terminal. When detaching cables, always remove the Negative cable first.
4. Attach the battery charger to the battery. Attach the red (+) battery charger cable to the Positive battery terminal, then attach the black (–) battery charger cable to the Negative battery terminal. When attaching cables, always attach the Negative cable last.
5. Plug the battery charger into an outlet.
6. When the battery is charged, disconnect the battery charger. First, disconnect the black (–) charger cable from the Negative terminal, then disconnect the red (+) charger cable from the Positive terminal.
7. Unplug the battery charger from the outlet.
8. Reattach the battery cables to the battery. Attach the red cable to the Positive battery terminal, insert the bolt to connect the red cable, and screw on the nut securely. Attach the black cable (with a blue hood) to the negative battery terminal, insert the bolt to connect the black cable, and screw on the nut securely.
9. Lower the seat.

Replacing the Battery

Replace the battery when it no longer holds a charge or when it is damaged. Use only batteries from Country Home Products; other batteries could possibly damage your engine.

Tools needed:

7/16 inch socket wrench (or open-end wrench)

1. Lift the seat and latch it securely.
2. Clean the battery and the terminals with baking soda to remove any accumulated discharge.
3. Detach the cables from the battery. First unscrew the nut and detach the black cable from the Negative (Neg) battery terminal. Then unscrew the nut and detach the red cable from the Positive (Pos) battery terminal. When detaching cables, always remove the Negative cable first.
4. Crawl or reach under the mower, unscrew the lock nuts, and remove the washers from the battery's retaining arm.
5. Back on top of the mower, remove the retaining arm.
6. Remove the old battery and set it aside. Place the new battery into the mower, and replace the retaining arm.
7. Crawl back under the mower. Slide on a washer, then a nut onto each side of the retaining arm. Bolt them down snugly, but not too tight. You don't want to crack the battery housing.
8. Reattach the battery cables to the battery. Attach the red cable to the Positive battery terminal, insert the bolt to connect the red cable, and screw on the nut securely. Attach the black cable (with a blue hood) to the negative battery terminal, insert the bolt to connect the black cable, and screw on the nut securely.
9. Lower the seat.

Recycling a Used Battery

Important! Please dispose of used batteries responsibly, according to your local hazardous materials regulations. Never throw away used batteries in your household trash.

Please dispose of your used batteries responsibly by recycling them. Call your local Solid Waste Management District or your local waste handler to locate the collection site nearest you. Some collection sites recycle batteries year-round; others collect them periodically.

You can also visit the Web site of Earth 911 for more information [www.earth911.org]. Once there, click the Municipal HHW link under Hazardous Household Waste, and enter your zip code. The site lists recycling centers located near you.

For a fee, you can recycle your batteries with the International Metals Reclamation Company. Visit them at www.inmetco.com and click Service; or contact them at:

INMETCO
PO Box 720
245 Portersville Road
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 758-2825; fax (724) 758-2845

To learn more about hazardous waste recycling, visit the Web site for Battery Council International [www.batterycouncil.org] or for the Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov].

About Your Tires and Wheels

Your mower employs two different size tires and wheels for the front and back. The tire pressure for each is also different.

<i>Tire</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Pressure</i>
Front tires	11 x 4.00 x 5	16 to 21 pounds
Rear tires	18 x 8.5 x 8	8 to 14 pounds

Check the lug nuts regularly for tightness. Check the tires for tread wear and damage.

Replacing a Rear Wheel

While it is not very likely, you might need to remove a wheel to possibly repair or replace the rim or the tire. The front and rear wheel are attached differently, so the process for each is also different.

Tools & supplies needed:
13/16 inch deep socket and wrench
6 inch extension arm
Jack
Block of wood

1. Park the mower on a smooth, level surface, turn off the engine, remove the ignition key, and set the parking brake.
2. Jack up the mower. Place the jack under the frame just behind the rear wheel. Place a block of wood under the opposite corner's front tire (*Figure 26*).

Tip: A scissors-type jack works best. You might also want to protect the mower's frame from being scratched by the jack's cradle.

3. Loosen the four nuts on the rear wheel.

Tip: It's easier to loosen the lock nuts when the tire is on the ground, then to remove them when the tire is raised.

4. Raise the mower slightly off the ground, just enough to lift the wheel off the ground.
5. Remove the four nuts.
6. Slide the wheel off the axle.

After you fix the tire or rim, reattach it to the mower by simply reversing this process.

7. Slide the wheel onto the axle and screw on the nuts by hand as tight as you can.
8. Jack down the mower. Remove the jack and the block of wood.
9. Tighten the four nuts securely.

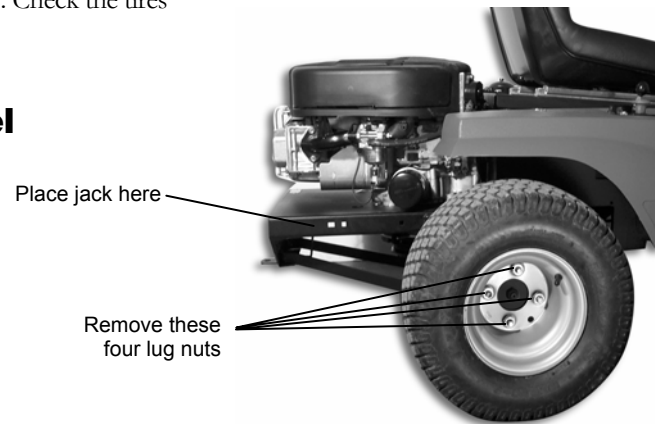


Figure 26. Rear wheel

Replacing a Front Wheel

The process for replacing a front wheel is a little trickier, since the front wheels rotate freely.

Tools & supplies needed:

Large flat-head screwdriver

Jack

Block of wood

1. Park the mower on a smooth, level surface, turn off the engine, remove the ignition key, and set the parking brake.
2. Pull the black hood off the wheels hub (*Figure 27*).
3. Using the screwdriver, push the retainer clip off the wheel's axle.
4. Place the jack under the middle of the front frame and raise the mower slightly, just enough to pull off the wheel.

Tip: Place the jack under the entire frame, not just under the bumper. Take care to protect the bumper from the jack's cradle.

5. Holding the wheel's rotating axle, slide the wheel off the axle.

After you fix the tire or rim, reattach it to the mower by simply reversing this process.

6. Slide the wheel securely onto the axle. Make sure it is secure; hold the rotating axle to stabilize it.
7. Jack down the mower. Remove the jack.
8. Using the screwdriver, force the retainer clip back onto the axle.
9. Push the black hood onto the hub.



Figure 27. Front wheel with the hub removed

Adjusting the Neutral Setting

Your mower should stop when the drive levers are in neutral. Over time, however, the neutral setting might loosen and the mower might begin to creep.

Drive your mower until it has warmed up. Stop the mower and swing out the drive levers; leave the parking brake off. If your mower creeps, adjust the neutral setting. To do this, you must access the hydro control linkages (*Figure 28*) on either side of the battery.

First, determine which wheel is creeping.

- If the right wheel creeps, then adjust the linkage on the right side.
- If the left wheel creeps, then adjust the linkage on the left side.
- If both wheels creep, adjust both linkages.

Tools & supplies needed:

½ inch open-end wrench

Jack

Blocks of wood

1. Stop the engine, remove the ignition key, disengage the blades, and set the parking brake.
2. Set the blocks of wood in front of the front tires. Jack up the rear of the mower so that the rear tires do not touch the ground.
3. Swing out the drive levers, start the engine, and release the parking brake.
4. Raise the seat to access both hydro control linkages.
5. Loosen the jam nuts on the ends of the coupler (*Figure 29*).
6. If the right wheel creeps forward, turn the right coupler counterclockwise until the wheel stops turning. If the right wheel creeps backwards, turn the right coupler clockwise until the wheel stops turning.
7. If the left wheel creeps forward, turn the left coupler clockwise until the wheel stops turning. If the left wheel creeps backwards, turn the left coupler counterclockwise until the wheel stops turning.
8. Tighten the jam nuts against the coupler.
9. Stop the engine and set the parking brake.
10. Jack down the mower and remove the blocks of wood from the front wheels.

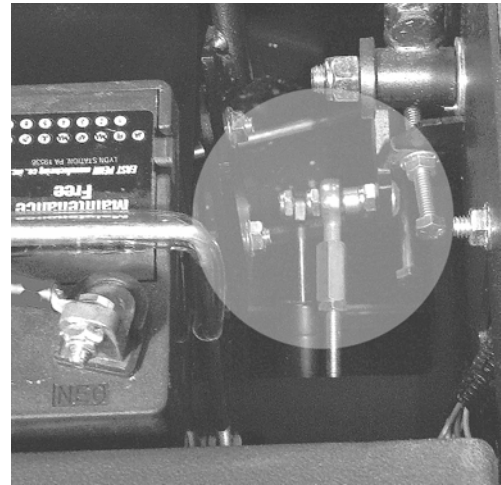


Figure 28. Hydro control linkage to the battery's right

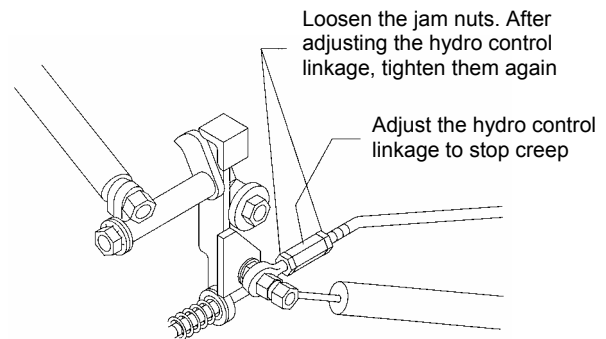


Figure 29. Adjusting the hydro control linkage

Adjusting the Parking Brake

When the parking brake is engaged, it locks the rear fly wheel sprockets on both rear wheels. If necessary, you can adjust the parking brake setting.

Tools needed:
7/16 open-end wrench

The parking brake adjustments are located under the engine, one for each rear wheel (*Figure 30*).

The setting is correct when the fly wheels are just locked when the parking brake is set. The parking brake should set easily. If you have to force it even a bit, the brake is set too tight. On the other hand, if the fly wheels aren't completely locked down, the brake is too loose. If the mower rocks when the brake is set, then it is probably too loose.

To adjust the parking brake, reach in from behind the mower.

- To tighten the brake assembly, turn the locking nut clockwise.
- To loosen the brake assembly, turn the locking nut counterclockwise.

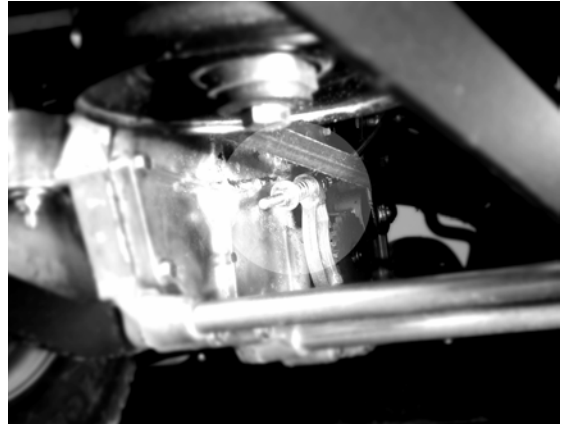


Figure 30. Adjusting the parking brake

Changing the Headlights

In the unlikely event that your headlight burns out, you can easily replace it. Headlamp assemblies are made up of a bulb assembly and a wiring harness. Both headlamp assemblies fit into an inverted T-slot under the fenders, behind the mower's front bumper, and turn outwards to loosen.

1. Remove the screw from the front foot pad (*Figure 31*).
2. Lift the front of the fender to access the headlamp assembly.
3. Reach behind the front bumper, grasp the headlamp assembly, and turn towards the outside fender until it loosens; then pull it out.
4. Replace the bulb assembly by disconnecting it from the wiring harness (*Figure 32*), then snapping in a new bulb assembly. Use a 37.5 watt halogen bulb.
5. Align the headlamp assembly with the inverted T-shaped slot, seat it all the way, then turn it towards the center of the mower. It locks into place.
6. Replace the fender and the screw. Tighten the screw securely.

You can obtain bulb assemblies from J.W. Speaker Corporation, W185 N11315 Whitney Drive, P.O. Box 489, Germantown, WI 53022; call them toll free at 1 (800) 558-7288 or visit their web site at www.jwspeaker.com. The bulbs are part number 0532142.

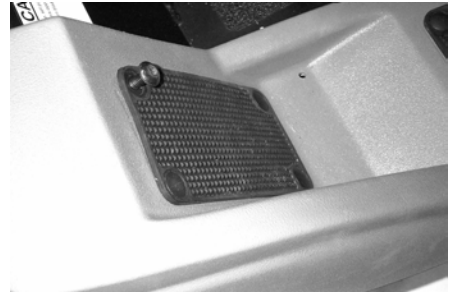


Figure 31. Unscrew the screw from the front foot pad



Figure 32. Bulb assembly removed from the wiring harness

Storing Your Mower

When you store the mower for an extended period of time, follow these important guidelines to help ensure your mower's best performance when you use it again.

- Before storing your mower, perform all the regular maintenance procedures outlined at the beginning of this chapter.
- Always store the mower in an environment where the temperature is between -4°F (-20°C) and $+104^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($+40^{\circ}\text{C}$). Make sure the storage temperatures will never be outside these limits.
- Store the mower in a dry environment. Water will damage the mower and battery.
- Do not store the mower near chemicals (such as fertilizers), or organic or other solvents. These products are often highly corrosive and may cause permanent damage to your mower.
- Do not store the mower close to a source of heat, sparks, or open flames.
- Let the engine run out of gas or add a stabilizer to the gas. As gasoline grows old, it becomes less volatile, and forms harmful gum and varnish deposits in the carburetor and fuel systems. Do not store gasoline in your mower for more than two months unless you've added a stabilizer.
- Always keep the ignition key in a safe place and away from children.
- Repair all bare metal surfaces.

Tips for Storing the Battery

- Always store the mower with a full battery charge. In temperatures lower than 40°F , a battery maintains a charge for about 60 days.
- You can safely keep the battery in the mower when storing for the long-term.
- Clean the top of the battery and the terminals with baking soda and water.
- Disconnect the cables from the terminals. Do not press, bend, or use force on the terminals. Do not apply heat (such as a soldering iron) to the terminals.
- During long-term storage of batteries that are intended for reuse, periodically recharge the battery. Before charging the battery, observe its external appearance and keep it clean and dry. Never charge or use a battery that shows cracks, changes shape, leaks, or otherwise is obviously damaged.

Chapter 6: Troubleshooting Guide

Most problems are easy to fix. Consult the troubleshooting table for common problems and their solutions. If you continue to experience problems call Country Home Products, Inc. for support.



WARNING! Before performing any maintenance procedure, stop the engine, remove the ignition key, and disconnect the spark plug wire.

Symptom	Possible Cause and Solution
<i>The engine won't start.</i> <i>(Please refer to the engine manufacturer's owner's manual for engine-specific procedures.)</i>	- Are the mower blades engaged? Push down the blade switch to disengage the blades. - Is the parking brake on? If not, pull up the lever to engage it. - Has the circuit breaker tripped? Push the reset button. If the circuit breaker keeps tripping, do not use your mower; instead call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) for assistance. - Are you using fresh, clean gas? If the gas is old, change it. Use a fuel stabilizer if you keep gas longer than two months. - Does the engine have the right amount of clean oil? If the oil is dirty, change it following the procedure in the engine manufacturer's owner's manual. - Is the spark plug clean? If the spark plug is dirty or cracked, change it. If it's oily, leave it out, hold a rag over the plug hole and blow out any oil in the cylinder, then wipe off the plug and reinsert it. - Is the air filter clean? If it's dirty, change it following the procedure in the engine manufacturer's owner's manual. - Is your battery charged? Check it yourself or at a gas station. If it's low, charge it with a 12-volt, 1 to 2 amp trickle charger. If you don't use your mower for at least 45 minutes at a time, the battery may need to be periodically charged. Please refer to "Caring for the Battery" on page 43. - If your engine still won't start, there could be a larger problem at hand (for example, the solenoid, ignition switch, or starter could be faulty). Call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.
<i>The engine lacks power or is not running smoothly.</i> <i>(Please refer to the engine manufacturer's owner's manual for engine-specific procedures.)</i>	- Are you using fresh, clean gas? If it's old, change it. Use a fuel stabilizer if you keep gas longer than two months or so. - Does your engine have the right amount of clean oil? If it's dirty, change it following the procedure in the engine manufacturer's owner's manual. - Is the spark plug clean? If it's fouled or cracked, change it. If it's oily, leave it out, hold a rag over the plug hole and blow out any oil in the cylinder, then wipe off the plug and reinsert it. - Is the air filter clean? If it's dirty, change it following the procedure in the engine manufacturer's owner's manual. - Are the blower housing, throttle linkage, and cooling fins free of debris? Clean them following the instructions in the engine manufacturer's owner's manual. - If your engine still lacks power, call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.

Symptom	Possible Cause and Solution
<i>The mower blades do not spin, slip, or lack power.</i> <i>The mower blades keep spinning or spin after you push the Blade Switch down.</i>	- Is your blade belt properly routed and aligned on the drive pulleys? Check it against the figures under “Removing the Deck” on page 40. Properly align the belts if necessary. - The blade belt could be loose. Tighten the blade belt by following the procedure under “Adjusting the Deck Belt Tension” on page 42. - Is your blade belt worn, frayed, or stretched? If so, replace it. Please refer to “Adjusting and Replacing Belts” on page 42. ⇒ If none of this helps, call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.
<i>A whirring or grinding sound is coming from the starter.</i> <i>There is no noise at all when you attempt to start the engine.</i>	- You may need to charge the battery. Follow the instructions under “Charging the Battery” on page 43. - If the battery doesn’t take a charge, you probably need to replace it. Follow the instructions under “Replacing the Battery” on page 45. - If neither of these solutions work, call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.
<i>The engine turns over, but does not start.</i>	- Check the fuel tank. Add gas if necessary. - The fuel filter could be clogged. Clean or replace it. - The spark plug could be fouled. Clean or replace it.
<i>The engine is hard to start.</i>	- The fuel line might be clogged, restricting the flow of gas to the engine. Clean the fuel line and check the fuel filter to be sure its clean. - The fuel pump might be faulty. Call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we can help determine if your fuel pump needs replacing.
<i>The engine starts, but quickly stops.</i>	- Is there water in the gas tank? Drain the old gas and refill with new fuel. First, though, make sure that water didn’t seep into your gas storage container. Also, before adding new gas to the fuel tank, consider allowing the fuel tank to air dry. - Is the fuel line clogged? Check the fuel filter and, if needed, clean or replace it. - The fuel tank vent could be plugged. If so, clean it. - The fuel pump might be faulty. Call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we can help determine if your fuel pump needs replacing.
<i>The engine overheats.</i>	- First, before you try any of these solutions, allow the engine to cool completely. - The flow of air to the engine might be restricted. Check the air intake screen and fins for clogging. Clean them if they are clogged. - The oil level might be too low or too high. Adjust the oil to its proper level. - Is the engine running too slowly while you are mowing? Run the engine faster.
<i>The engine runs, but the mower does not move.</i>	- Is the transmission engaged (locked)? If not, engage the transmission by setting the hydro release lever back to its normal position. - The drive belt could be slipping or broken. Adjust the tension on the belt if it’s slipping; otherwise, replace it. - The transmission oil could be low. Add oil to the proper level as needed. - Has the transmission been damaged? Call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.
<i>The engine loses power or the transmission overheats.</i>	- Is the engine’s air filter clogged? If so, clean or replace it. - Has the transmission been damaged? Call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.

Symptom	Possible Cause and Solution
<i>The engine stalls when engaging the blades.</i>	▪ Are you sitting on the mower's seat? Unless you are, the mower will not run. Sit down to mow. ▪ Is the deck belt properly routed and aligned on the drive pulleys? Check it against the figures under "Removing the Deck" on page 40. Properly align the belts if necessary. ▪ Are the blades blocked by accumulated grass and other material? If so, clean under the deck to free the blades. ▪ The interlock system could be faulty. If you suspect this, call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you. ▪ The blade spindle bearing could be faulty. If you suspect this, call 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637) and we will help you.
<i>The drive system is not operating properly.</i>	▪ Does the mower creep to the side? If so, check the tire inflation and make sure all the tires are equally inflated. You also might need to adjust the control linkage to straighten the mower's drive. ▪ Does the mower creep in neutral? Adjust the control linkage to ensure the mower does not move when the drive levers are in the neutral position. ▪ The mower could be low on power. Check the tension on the drive belt; tighten or replace the belt if necessary.
<i>The quality of your cut is inferior.</i>	▪ If the grass cut is uneven (higher on one side and lower on the other), then your mower's cut is uneven too. First, check the tire inflation and make sure all the tires are equally inflated. Next, make sure the mower's deck is level. If not, level it. (See "Leveling the Deck" on page 41.) ▪ Are the ends of the grass blades ragged? Then sharpen your blades. ▪ Is the cut grass dispersing poorly? The grass chute could be clogged; try cleaning the underside of the deck. A belt might be loose or slipping. If so, tighten or replace it. ▪ Are there patches of grass that aren't being cut? If so, run the engine faster. Also check for a loose or slipping belt. Tighten or replace the suspect belt as necessary.

Mower Chassis Parts List

Item #	Description	Quantity
1080	½ x ¾ bushing	2
1673	Spring mount	1
1743	Engine idler pulley, 3" flat	2
1763	Battery retaining arm	1
2108	Battery cable	2
2638	Hose	2
3003	⅝ – 18 x 1½ bolt	3
3005	⅝ – 18 hex nut	2
3006	⅝ – 18 x 1¼ bolt	2
3007	¼ – 20 hex nut	2
3008	¼" flat washer	10
3014	¼ – 20 x ¾ bolt	6
3019	⅝" hex lock washer	4
3020	⅝" flat washer	35
3021	⅝" L-washer	2
3022	⅝" L-washer	1
3033	½" flat washer, narrow	1
3043	Retaining ring	1
3048	⅜ – 16 x 1½ bolt	1
3049	¼ – 20 hex jam nut	1
3056	.344 x 1.25 x .071 washer	3
3057	⅜" flat washer	6
3072	Cotter pin, mower deck	2
3074	⅝ – 24 hex jam nut	2
3077	⅝ – 18 x 2¾ bolt	4
3087	⅝ – 18 x ¾ bolt	5
3091	½ – 20 hex lug nut	8
3094	½" flat washer	2
3098	⅝ – 18 x 3 bolt	1
3116	⅝ – 18 x 1 carriage bolt	7
3130	.39 x .75 spring washer	4
3167	⅝ – 18 x ¾ carriage bolt	26
3169	⅜ – 16 x 1 bolt	2
3173	10 – 16 x ½ tap screw with washer	4
3193	.445 x 1.38 x .255 washer	1
3199	⅝ – 18 x 2¼ bolt	2

Item #	Description	Quantity
3204	¼ – 20 hex nut with nylok	10
3205	⅝ – 18 hex nut with nylok	33
3206	⅜ – 16 hex nut with nylok	2
3207	½ – 13 hex nut with nylok	2
3208	10 – 24 hex nut with nylok	6
3220	⅞ – 20 x 2¾ bolt	1
3222	⅝ – 24 hex nut with nylok	4
3224	⅝ – 18 x 1 bolt with nylok	6
3235	10 – 24 x ⅝ pan head screw	10
3236	⅝ x 3½ eyebolt	1
3257	Circuit breaker reset button	2
3266	¼" internal L-washer	4
3273	Throttle cable	1
3298	.515 x .874 x .031 washer	6
3300	⅛ x 1 x 1½ foam pad (under gas tank)	2
3310	⅝ – 18 hex nut with nylok	8
3322	⅝ – 18 x 5½ bolt	2
3334	¼ – 20 hex nut with nylok	2
3342	.525 x 1.375 x .25 washer	3
3344	Grease zerk	2
3351	¼ – 20 x ½ screw	5
3393	⅝ – 18 x 2½ bolt	2
3394	⅝ – 18 hex flange nut	40
3405	⅝ – 18 clip nut	4
3421	Cotter pin (idler L-rod)	4
3423	Elbow with filter	1
3478	Rear tire, 42-inch	2
3649	Fuel line clamp	2
3671	.39 x 1.56 spring	2
3774	Steel tie rod end, back	2
3808	Fuel line hose	1
3876	Caster spring	2
3878	Caster plug	2
4124	Solenoid with hardware	1
4217	Battery, 12 volt	1
4230	Throttle cable	1

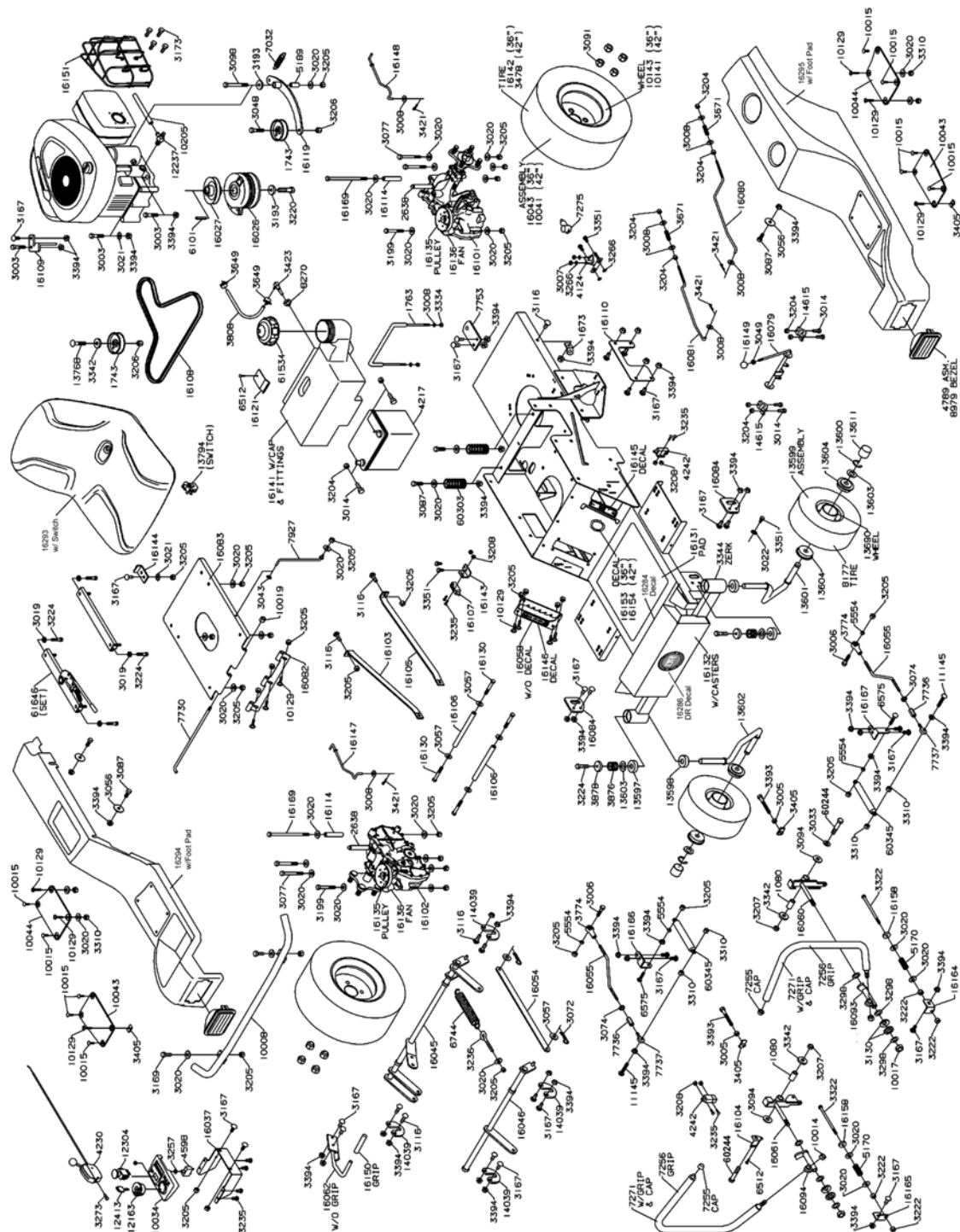
Item #	Description	Quantity
4242	Deck switch	2
4598	Circuit breaker	1
4789	Headlight with bezel assembly	2
5170	Positive neutral spring, heavy	2
5189	Bushing	1
5554	Spacer	4
6101	Center shaft key	1
6512	10 – 32 x ½ carriage bolt	2
6575	$\frac{5}{16}$ – 18 x 1½ carriage bolt	2
6744	Spring	1
7032	Spring	1
7255	Drive lever cap	2
7256	Sleeve	2
7271	Drive lever with grip and cap	2
7275	Terminal cover, small	1
7730	Seat hinge pin	1
7736	Steel tie rod end coupler	2
7737	Steel tie rod end, front	2
7753	Hitch	1
7927	Seat support arm	1
7974	Control lever	2
8177	Front caster tire	2
8270	Tank fitting	1
8979	Headlight bezel	2
10008	Front bumper	1
10014	½ – 13 hex nut with nylok, black	2
10015	¼" tree rivet	10
10017	½ – 13 hex nut with nylok, black, thin	2
10019	$\frac{3}{8}$ – 16 hex nut with nylok, black	1
10034	Control panel base	1
10041	Rear wheel and tire, 42-inch	2
10043	Front foot pad	2
10044	Fender foot pad	2
10129	$\frac{5}{16}$ – 18 x 1 screw	13
10141	Rear wheel, 42-inch	2
10143	Rear wheel, 36-inch	2

Item #	Description	Quantity
10187	Battery ground cable	2
10205	Oil drain hose	1
11145	$\frac{5}{16}$ – 18 x 2 carriage bolt	2
12163	Ignition switch	1
12237	Oil drain	1
12304	Blade drive switch	1
12413	Ignition key	1
13597	Caster bushing	2
13598	Bearing	2
13599	Front tire and wheel assembly	2
13600	$\frac{7}{8}$ " E-ring	2
13601	Front wheel axle, left	1
13602	Front wheel axle, right	1
13603	Washer	4
13604	Front wheel bearing	4
13611	Front wheel hub cover	2
13690	Front caster wheel	2
13768	$\frac{3}{8}$ – 16 x 1¼ carriage bolt	1
13794	Operator-presence switch	1
14039	Deck hanger	4
14615	Control shaft handle	2
16026	Clutch	1
16027	Engine pulley	1
16037	Control panel mounting bracket	1
16043	Rear wheel and tire, 36-inch	2
16045	Lift shaft, rear	1
16046	Lift shaft, front	1
16054	Deck link	1
16055	Steering tie rod	2
16058	Lift quadrant	1
16060	Steering pivot, left	1
16061	Steering pivot, right	1
16062	Lift handle	1
16079	Brake rod	1
16080	Brake link, left	1
16081	Brake link, right	1
16082	Seat platform hinge	1
16083	Seat platform	1

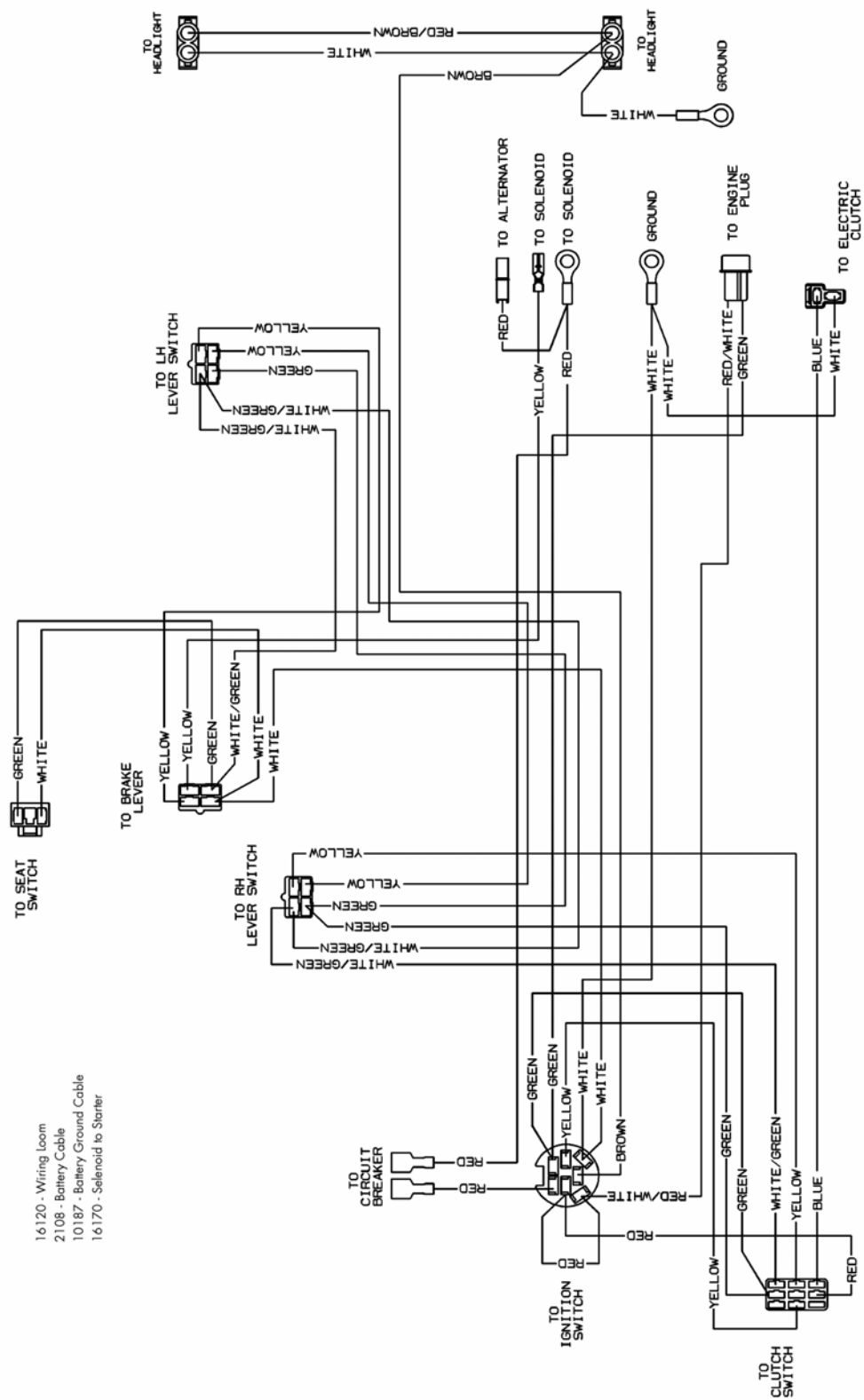
Item #	Description	Quantity
16084	Wear plate	2
16093	Drive lever linkage, left	1
16094	Drive lever linkage, right	1
16101	Transmission hydro case, left	1
16102	Transmission hydro case, right	1
16103	Tie bar, right	1
16104	Control lever switch plate	1
16105	Tie bar, left	1
16106	Linkage tie rod	2
16107	Switch	1
16108	Transmission hydro belt	1
16109	Clutch stop	1
16110	Side brace	1
16114	Hydro spacer	2
16119	Belt idler arm	1
16120	Wiring loom	1
16121	Hold down	1
16130	Idler bushing	4
16131	Floor pad	1
16132	Mower frame with casters	1
16135	Engine pulley	2
16136	Engine fan	2
16141	Fuel tank with cap and fittings	1
16142	Rear tire, 36-inch	2
16143	Switch mount	1
16144	Seat stop	1
16145	Parking brake decal	1
16146	Cutting height lever decal	1
16147	Release rod, right	1
16148	Release rod, left	1
16149	Knob	1
16150	Grip	1
16151	Muffler guard	1
16153	36-inch circular decal	1
16154	42-inch circular decal	1
16158	Rubber washer	2
16164	Control lever anchor, left	1
16165	Control lever anchor, right	1
16166	Strut anchor, right	1

Item #	Description	Quantity
16167	Strut anchor, left	1
16169	$\frac{5}{16}$ – 18 x 6 bolt	2
16170	Solenoid to starter wiring	1
16284	Caution and warning decal	1
16286	DR logo decal	1
16293	Seat with operator-presence switch	1
16294	Fender with foot pads, right, orange	1
16295	Fender with foot pads, left, orange	1
60244	$\frac{1}{2}$ – 13 x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ carriage bolt	2
60303	Seat spring	2
60345	Dual action damper	2
61534	Gas cap	1
61646	Seat sliders set	2

Mower Chassis Schematic



Electrical Schematic



42-Inch Mower Deck Parts List

Item #	Description	Quantity
1355	Deck L-rod, front, 42-inch	1
1409	Deck L-rod, back, 42-inch	2
1687	Belt idler pulley	1
1701	Bearing	6
3008	1/4" flat washer	8
3014	1/4 – 20 x 3/4 bolt	12
3020	5/16" flat washer	1
3057	3/8" flat washer	8
3072	Cotter pin, mower deck	6
3090	1/2 – 20 x 1 1/4 bolt	3
3094	1/2" flat washer	2
3100	7/16" flat washer	2
3167	5/16 – 18 x 3/4 carriage bolt	4
3204	1/4 – 20 hex nut with nylok	12
3205	5/16 – 18 hex nut with nylok	2
3206	3/8 – 16 hex nut with nylok	16
3248	5/16 x 1 1/8 thick washer	2
3297	1/2 – 13 hex nut with nylok	2
3319	Idler shock mount (belt tension)	2
3326	5/16 x 3 1/2 eyebolt	1
3342	.525 x 1.375 x .25 washer	3
3344	Grease zerk	3
3352	3/8 – 16 x 1 1/4 bolt	12
3356	12 – 14 x 3/4 drill & tap screw	1
3357	Belt idler stud, bottom, 42-inch	1
3361	Belt idler stud, top, 42-inch	1
3394	5/16 – 18 hex flange nut	4
3421	Cotter pin (idler L-rod)	2
3536	Danger decal	1
3721	Warning decal	1
3938	Deflector spring	1
4750	Large washer	1
4979	Deflector hinge bottom	1
5189	Bushing	2
6100	Outer shaft key	4
6109	Kevlar serpentine belt	1

Item #	Description	Quantity
6111	Kevlar belt, engine-to-deck, 42-inch	1
6168	Trash guard	3
6236	Blade, 42-inch	3
6264	Blade hub with grease zerk, 42-inch	3
6272	Belt pulley, 42-inch	4
6274	Belt idler arm with stud, bottom, 42-inch	1
6294	Deflector, 42-inch	1
6297	Deflector shaft	1
6422	Front baffle, 42-inch	2
6524	Belt idler pulley	1
7015	Idler L-rod, 7 3/4" (right)	1
7129	Hub spacer	3
7980	Idler L-rod (left)	1
7983	Hub spacer, right	1
8398	Blade hub assembly, left	1
8400	Blade hub assembly, right	1
8688	Blade, 42-inch high-lift	3
9385	Belt guard	1
9852	Deflector hinge top	1
12244	Hub spacer, center	1
13576	Blade bolt and washer assembly	3
13704	Blade shaft with hardware, 42-inch right	1
13705	Blade shaft with hardware, 42-inch left	1
13708	Blade shaft with hardware, 36-inch & 42-inch	1
14176	Deck rod wear plate	2
14788	Blade hub assembly, center	1
14792	Belt idler arm with stud, top, 42-inch	1
16041	Mower deck assembly	1
16115	Deck support rod	1
16161	Mower deck with baffles, 42-inch	1

62



8398 - Left Hub Assembly
14788 - Center Hub Assembly
8400 - Right Hub Assembly
16041 - Mower Deck Assembly

36-Inch Mower Deck Parts List

Item #	Description	Quantity
1324	Blade, 36-inch	2
1351	Blade, 36-inch high-lift, right	1
1352	Blade, 36-inch high-lift, left	1
1447	Belt idler arm, 36-inch	1
1685	Idler L-rod	1
1687	Belt idler pulley	2
1701	Bearing	4
1924	Deflector, 36-inch	1
2545	Baffle, 36-inch deck	1
3008	1/4" flat washer	5
3014	1/4 – 20 x 3/4 bolt	4
3020	5/16" flat washer	3
3033	1/2" flat washer, narrow	1
3057	3/8" flat washer	6
3072	Cotter pin, mower deck	6
3087	5/16 – 18 x 3/4 bolt	2
3090	1/2 – 20 x 1 1/4 bolt	2
3094	1/2" flat washer	2
3167	5/16 – 18 x 3/4 carriage bolt	7
3204	1/4 – 20 hex nut with nylok	4
3205	5/16 – 18 hex nut with nylok	7
3206	3/8 – 16 hex nut with nylok	11
3243	5/16 – 18 x 3 1/4 bolt	1
3248	5/16 x 1/8 thick washer	2
3251	1/2 – 13 x 2 bolt	1
3297	1/2 – 13 hex nut with nylok	2
3319	Idler shock mount (belt tension)	1
3342	.525 x 1.375 x .25 washer	2
3344	Grease zerk	2
3352	3/8 – 16 x 1 1/4 bolt	8
3375	Deck L-rod, 3 1/2", 36-inch	3
3379	1/2 – 13 x 3 bolt	1
3394	5/16 – 18 hex flange nut	4
3421	Cotter pin (idler L-rod)	1
3536	Danger decal	2
3721	Warning decal	1

Item #	Description	Quantity
3938	Deflector spring	1
4750	Large washer	1
4979	Deflector hinge bottom	1
5068	Pulley spacer	2
5282	Bushing	1
5461	Hub spacer	1
6064	Belt pulley spacer	1
6100	Outer shaft key	2
6168	Trash guard	2
6297	Deflector shaft	1
7033	Belt guard	2
9852	Deflector hinge top	1
13576	Blade bolt and washer assembly	2
13708	Blade shaft with hardware, 36-inch	1
14176	Deck rod wear plate	2
14579	Blade shaft spacer	2
14617	Blade shaft	1
14736	Blade hub with grease zerk, 36-inch	2
14786	Blade hub assembly, right	1
14787	Blade hub assembly, left	1
16035	Mower deck assembly, 36-inch	1
16090	Belt pulley, 36-inch	2
16115	Deck support rod	1
16126	Idler bushing	1
16133	Mower deck with baffles, 36-inch	1
61515	Kevlar belt, engine-to-deck, 36-inch	1

64



DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower Specifications

Chassis	11 gauge steel welded frame assembly	
Body	All body parts are made of high density polyethylene, and they are dent and corrosion resistant.	
Mower Deck	36-inch Deck: 11 GA fabricated construction; 36-inch cut width 42-inch Deck: 13 GA stamped steel construction; 42-inch cut width	
Blade Drive	Electric clutch	
Transmission	Each rear wheel is independently driven by a Hydro Gear Easy-Turn hydrostatic drive	
Engine	Zero-Turn Radius 42-inch model: 15.5 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek, single cylinder, overhead valve, air cooled, gasoline, vertical shaft with cast iron cylinder, pressure lube with spin-on filter Zero-Turn Radius 36-inch model: 14.5 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek, single cylinder, overhead valve, air cooled, gasoline, vertical shaft with cast iron cylinder, pressure lube with spin-on filter	
Starting System	Electric-key switch operation with safety interlock blade drive	
Tires	Front:	11 x 4.00-5 ribbed tread [16–21 PSI]
	Rear	18 x 8.50 x 8 – 4 ply turf tread [8–14 PSI]
Capacities	Fuel	3 gallons
	Engine Oil	1.5 quarts
Dimensions	Width	40-inch maximum track width
	Height	40-inch to top edge of seat
	Length	72-inch hitch tab to front bumper
	Weight	475 pounds

Specifications subject to change without notice.

Limited One-Year Warranty

Terms and Conditions

The DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower is warranted for one (1) year against defects in materials and workmanship when put to personal residential household use; ninety (90) days for any other use. The engine is warranted separately by the engine manufacturer.

For the purposes of all the above warranties, "personal residential household use" refers to non-commercial residential use and further excludes misuse, accidents, or damage due to inadequate maintenance.

Country Home Products, Inc. certifies that the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower is fit for ordinary purposes for which a product of this type is used. Country Home Products, Inc. however, limits the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness in duration to a period of one (1) year in personal residential household use; ninety (90) days for any other use.

The Limited One-Year Warranty on the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower starts on the date the machine ships from our factory. The Limited One-Year Warranty is applicable only to the original owner.

The warranty holder is responsible for the performance of the required maintenance as defined by the manufacturer's owner's manuals.

The warranty holder is responsible for replacement of normally wearing parts such as the belts, bearings, debris shield, blades, tires, hydro filters, and battery.

Attachments and accessories to the machine are not covered by this warranty.

During the warranty period, the warranty holder is responsible for any all shipping and transportation charges, if required.

SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON THE LENGTH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

Country Home Products, Inc. shall not be liable under any circumstances for any **incidental or consequential damages or expenses** of any kind, including, but not limited to, cost of equipment rentals, loss of profit, or cost of hiring services to perform tasks normally performed by the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower.

SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

Technical Support Hotline

Country Home Products, Inc.'s objective is to have 100% satisfied customers. For that reason, we operate a 6-day-per-week Technical Support Department for our DR owners. You can talk to a Representative by dialing our Toll-Free Hotline at 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637). The sole job of our well-trained and friendly folks is to ensure that you get any help you need in a timely fashion. They are there to answer all your questions including: (1) inquiries on any of the above warranties, (2) inquiries about replacement parts, or (3) your questions regarding service, maintenance, and operation.

Our Customer Service Representatives are also happy to answer any of your questions regarding the separate warranties on all engines. However, to obtain service, repair, or replacement of any engine within the time period covered by the manufacturer's limited warranty, follow the instructions and warranty information specifically pertaining to those items provided by their separate manufacturers.

THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

Daily Checklist for the DR Zero-Turn Radius Mower

To help maintain your DR for optimum performance, we recommend you follow this checklist each time you use your mower.

- ☐ GAS: Fill the gas tank with clean, fresh, unleaded gas.
- ☐ OIL: Check the oil level with the dipstick and add more if necessary (only add oil to the level indicated on the dipstick—do not overfill). Use SAE 30 high detergent oil.
- ☐ SPARK PLUG: Clean the spark plug and replace if needed.
- ☐ AIR FILTER: A clean air filter will mean a much easier-starting and better running engine. You should clean the paper air filter after every 25 hours of use, more frequently if you are mowing in dusty conditions.
- ☐ ENGINE AIR COOLING SYSTEM: It is very important to keep the engine clean of debris. Remove grass and other built-up materials from the air intake screen before, during and after you mow. Regularly remove debris from the blower housing and cooling fins. A dirty engine retains heat and can cause damage to the internal engine parts.
- ☐ BELT: Check the belts for wear, proper alignment, and tension.
- ☐ BLADES: Make sure the blades are firmly and securely attached, and that they are sharp and free of debris.
- ☐ TIRES: Check all four tires for proper inflation, possible damage, and for adequate tread.
- ☐ DECK: For the best cut, make sure the deck is level, free of debris, and at the proper height. If you are uncertain whether the grass you want to cut is too long or thick for optimal cutting, then raise the deck height and mow in multiple passes, cutting it slightly shorter each time.
- ☐ TRANSMISSION: Make sure that the transmission is engaged.
- ☐ MOWER FITNESS: If you notice anything unusual, such as a vibration or odd sound, shut the mower down immediately. Remove the ignition key and, following all safety procedures, inspect the mower blade and underside of the deck for any obstructions.

If you cannot find the cause of the problem or are uncertain what to do, then have it inspected by a qualified shop before using it, or call the Country Home Products' toll free Technical Support Department at 1-800-DR-OWNER (376-9637).