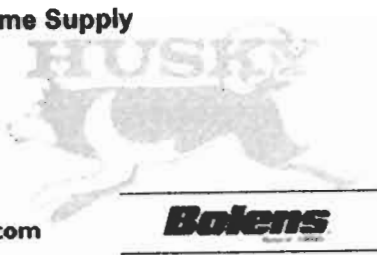


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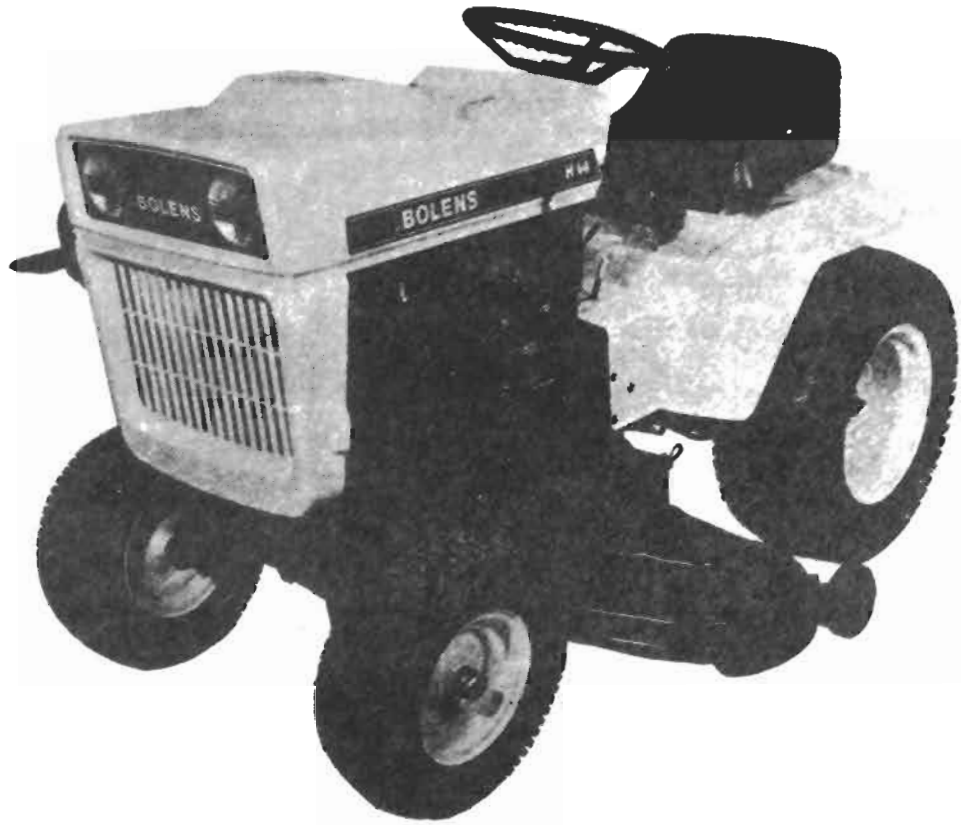


**MODEL 18423**

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*Your #1 Source For All Your Bolens Equipment Needs!*

# **BOLENS MOWER ATTACHMENT 42 INCH**



# **OWNER MANUAL**

## TO THE OWNER

This is an operational and general maintenance manual only and does not cover major repair. All major repair work must be performed by an authorized BOLENS DEALER, or the factory guaranty is void. Bolens equipment is carefully engineered to give good performance if properly operated and maintained. Keep your equipment clean and lubricate it as prescribed in this manual. Periodically inspect your unit and perform any upkeep maintenance necessary.

Your dealer is obligated by the factory to completely assemble and service new equipment prior to first delivery, and thoroughly explain and demonstrate its operation. He will repair or replace any parts which fail due to defective material and/or workmanship during the guaranty period.

IN THE EVENT OF ANY PROBLEM OR PARTS REQUIRED ALWAYS CONTACT YOUR DEALER. DO NOT RETURN PARTS TO THE FACTORY. WE REQUIRE PRIOR FACTORY APPROVAL ON RETURNS, AND APPROVALS ARE ISSUED ONLY TO BOLENS DEALERS OR DISTRIBUTORS.

## GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



PREVENTING ACCIDENTS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS MUST BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND FOLLOWED BY EVERY OPERATOR OF THIS EQUIPMENT. REVIEW THEM FREQUENTLY AND NEVER TAKE CHANCES. BE CAREFUL BEFORE, DURING AND RIGHT AFTER USE OF ANY POWERED EQUIPMENT. ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED.

1. Know the controls and how to stop quickly. READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL.

2. Do not allow children to operate the vehicle. Do not allow adults to operate it without proper instruction.

3. Do not carry passengers. Keep children and pets a safe distance away.

4. Clear the work area of objects which might be picked up and thrown.

5. Disengage all attachment clutches and shift into neutral before attempting to start the engine (motor).

6. Disengage power to attachment(s) and stop the engine (motor) before leaving the operator's position.

7. Disengage power to attachment(s) and stop the engine (motor) before making any repairs or adjustments.

8. Disengage power to attachment(s) when transporting or not in use.

9. Take all possible precautions when leaving the vehicle unattended, such as disengaging the power-take-off, lowering the attachment(s), shifting into neutral, setting the parking brake, stopping the engine, and removing the key.

10. Do not stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Mow up and down the face of steep slopes, never across the face.

11. Reduce speed on slopes and in sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.

12. Stay alert for holes in the terrain and other hidden hazards.

13. Use care when pulling loads or using heavy equipment.

a. Use only approved drawbar hitch points.

b. Limit loads to those you can safely control.

c. Do not turn sharply. Use care when backing.

d. Use counterweight(s) or wheel weights when suggested in the owner's manual.

14. Watch out for traffic when crossing or near roadways.

15. When using any attachments, never direct discharge of material toward bystanders nor allow anyone near the vehicle while in operation.

16. Handle gasoline with care - it is highly flammable.

a. Use approved gasoline container.

b. Never remove the cap of the fuel tank or add gasoline to a running or hot engine, or fill the fuel tank indoors. Wipe up spilled gasoline.

c. Open doors if the engine is run in the garage - exhaust fumes are dangerous. Do not run the engine (motor) indoors.

17. Keep vehicle and attachments in good operating condition, and keep safety devices in place.

18. Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.

19. Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame and spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.

20. To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.

21. The vehicle and attachments should be stopped and inspected for damage after striking a foreign object, and the damage should be repaired before restarting and operating the equipment.

22. Do not change the engine governor settings or overspeed the engine.

23. When using the vehicle with mower, proceed as follows:

(1) Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.

- (2) Never make a cutting height adjustment while the engine (motor) is running if the operator must dismount to do so.
- (3) Shut the engine (motor) off when removing the grass catcher or unclogging chute.
- (4) Check the blade mounting bolts for proper tightness at frequent intervals.

24. Regard your mower as a piece of power equipment. Teach this to all who operate the equipment. Power equipment not properly operated can be very dangerous.

25. When you mow on rough terrain, in high grass, the mower should be set at the highest cutting level to minimize possible ejection of debris.

26. Be alert at all times. Give complete and undivided attention to the job you are doing. This should minimize the possibility of getting into dangerous situations.

27. Use special care when mowing near objects to prevent the blades from striking them, as severe damage could result.

28. Stop the tractor and disengage the mower when any other person approaches. Do not pass or stand on the grass discharge side of the mower or allow anyone else to do so with the engine running. Objects such as wire, sticks, stones, small toys, and etc. can be ejected at high velocity out of the discharge chute.

29. Never wear loose clothing when operating unit. It could become entangled in moving parts, causing injury to the wearer.

30. Wear substantial footwear at all times to ensure as much protection as possible.

31. Always make certain no one is in the way before using reverse. This will prevent the possibility of backing over objects at the rear of the unit.



Figure 1

32. Always follow manufacturer's operational suggestions for most efficient and safest operation of unit.

33. Study your manual. Know your equipment before operating it. Take time to operate the unit in the safest manner.

#### MODEL NUMBER

To ensure prompt service when repairs or adjustments are required, your Bolens Dealer must have the following information:

For your personal reference, fill in the spaces provided below.

Model Number of Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number of Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Your Bolens Dealer has available a Parts List for your Unit. He can identify any parts you may require and furnish genuine factory replacements.



**WE URGE USING ONLY GENUINE FMC CAUTION BOLENS FACTORY REPLACEMENT PARTS, WHICH MEET ALL OF THE LATEST SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. REPLACEMENT PARTS MANUFACTURED BY OTHERS COULD PRESENT SAFETY HAZARDS EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY FIT ON BOLENS PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY ITEMS SUCH AS MOWER BLADES, TILLER TINES AND MULCHER BAGGER BLADES.**

#### ASSEMBLY

1. Count the loose parts and check against (Fig. 2).
2. Remove plastic cap from breather on mower gear case.
3. Apply small amount of grease to mower drive shaft. Slide universal joint on to mower drive shaft.

## MOUNTING

NOTE: PLACING FRONT WHEELS OF TRACTOR UP ON A TWO INCH RISER WILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO SLIDE MOWER UNDER TRACTOR. BE SURE TO REMOVE RISER AFTER MOWER IS UNDER TRACTOR IF THIS METHOD IS USED.

1. Check tractor tire pressures. Adjust to 12 pound front and 8 pounds rear. Be sure tractor is on a level surface and in park position.

NOTE: ON TRACTORS WITH HITCH PINS INSTALLED, OMIT PARAGRAPH (2) AND PROCEED WITH PARAGRAPH (3).

2. On mower shipped without the tractor, proceed as follows: Install front mower hitch pins ("B") figures 3 and 6. On the gear shift tractors remove the lower capscrew securing the bearing support and install the front hitch pin in its place. On the hydrostatic tractors install the hitch pin into the lower front hole in the mounting plate and secure with a hex nut 5/16-18 and lockwasher. Install rear mower hitch pins ("C") figures 3 and 6 and secure with hex nut 3/8-16 and lockwasher.

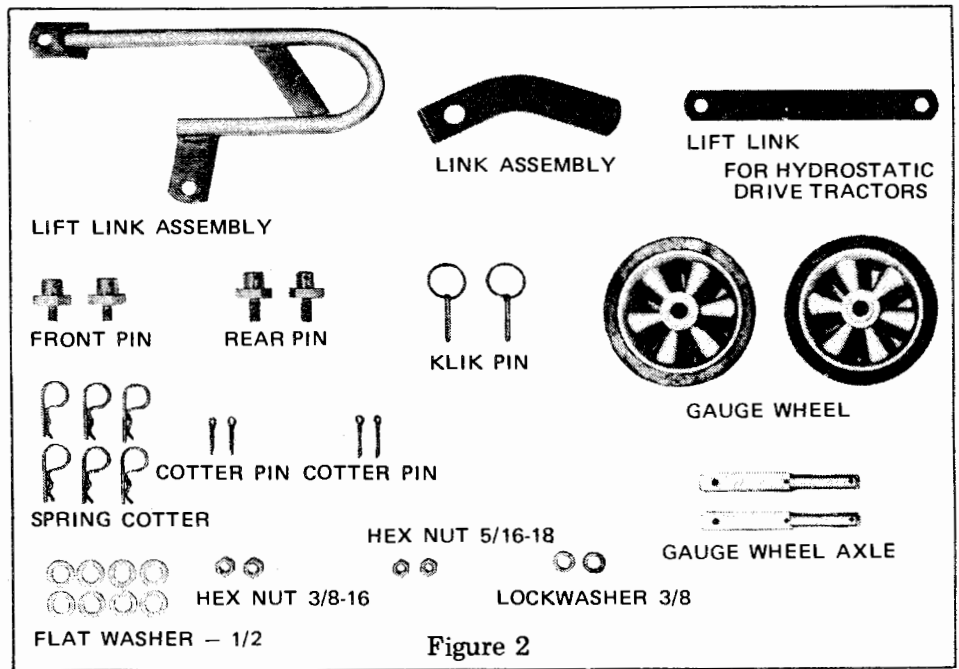


Figure 2

3. Remove cotter pin from Right Hand end of mower lift shaft "H" figure 8. Remove lift arm from shaft, see "I" figure 8. Install link assembly, see "J" figure 8 onto shaft "H". On mowers shipped with the tractor this link is on the tractor. Reinstall lift arm "I" and cotter pin.

NOTE: FOR ADDITIONAL CLEARANCE REMOVE OR LEAVE THE GAUGE WHEELS OFF OF MOWER AT THIS POINT.

4. Slide mower under tractor from the left hand side. Turning the steering wheel to the left will raise the drag link allowing additional clearance. Remove crutch tip, align hole in universal and shaft and install universal joint onto the Power Take Off (PTO) shaft. Be certain special cotter pin is installed, locking universal joint to PTO shaft.

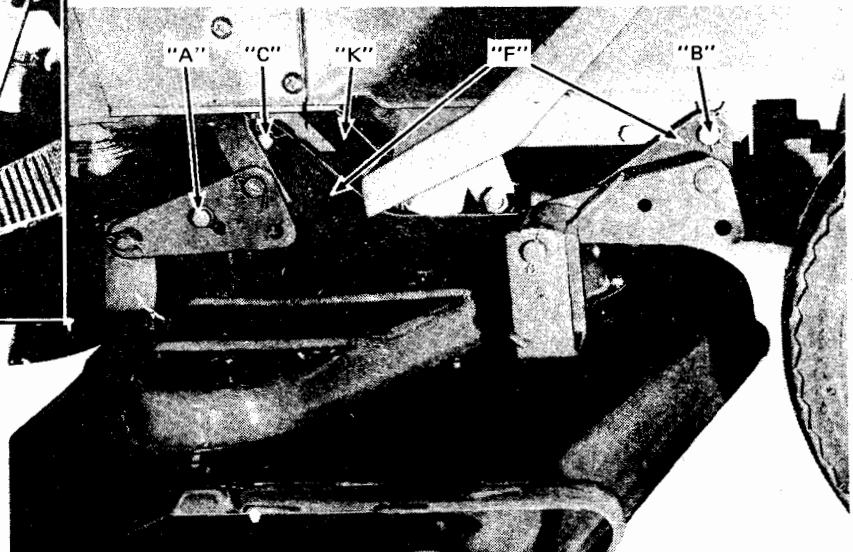
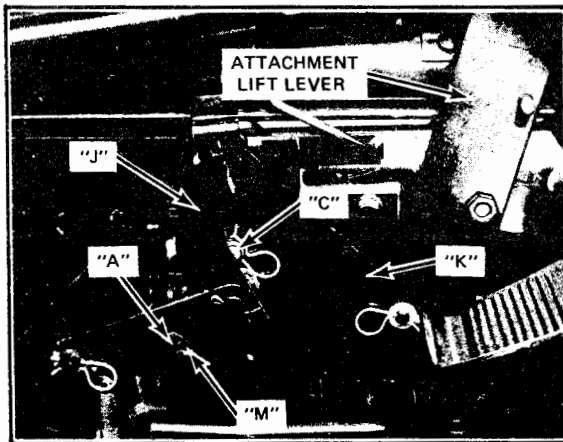


Figure 3

5. Install support brackets "F" figures 3 and 6 onto the front and rear hitch pins. Secure with spring cotters.

NOTE: INSTALL RIGHT SIDE FIRST.

6. On manual lift tractors put lift lever in the full forward position. On Hydraulic Lift tractors extend lift cylinder all the way. Then install the lift link.

On the Gear Shift tractors, lift link assembly (see figure 2) must be used. Install the link assembly with the short leg attached to the attachment lift lever. The bend is to point to the front of the tractor with the long leg of the link assembly in the upper plane. See "L" figure 4.

Attach long leg of link assembly to lift link on mower. See "J" figure 4.

On the Hydrostatic Drive tractors, lift link (see figure 2) must be used. See "K" figure 5.

Attach one end of lift link to link assembly and the other end to the attachment lift lever. Secure with spring cotters.

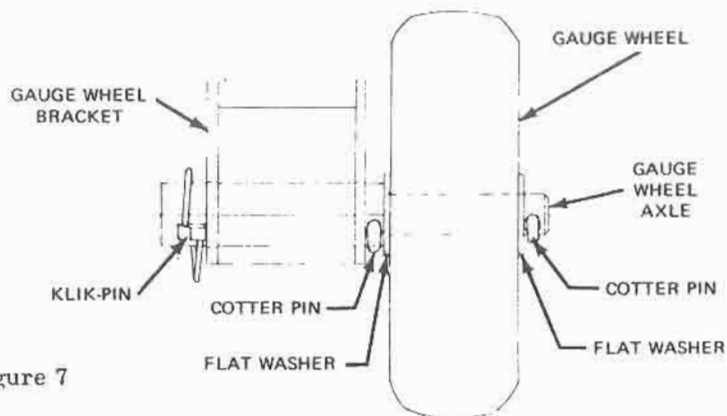
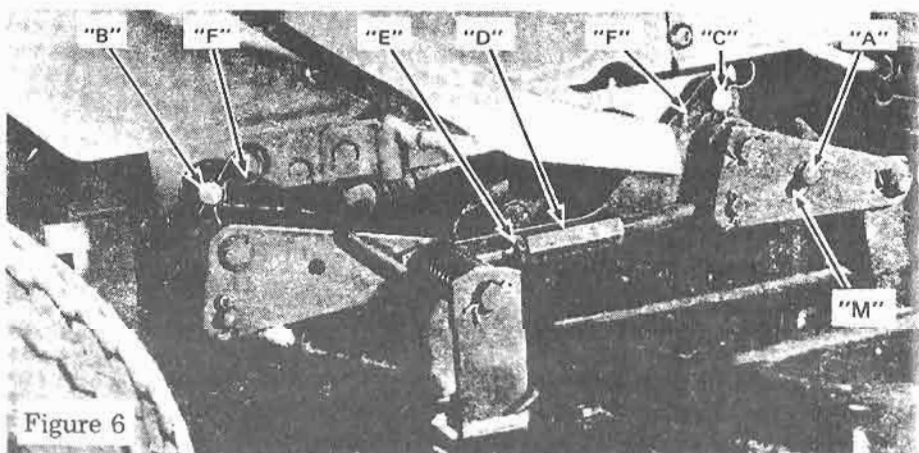
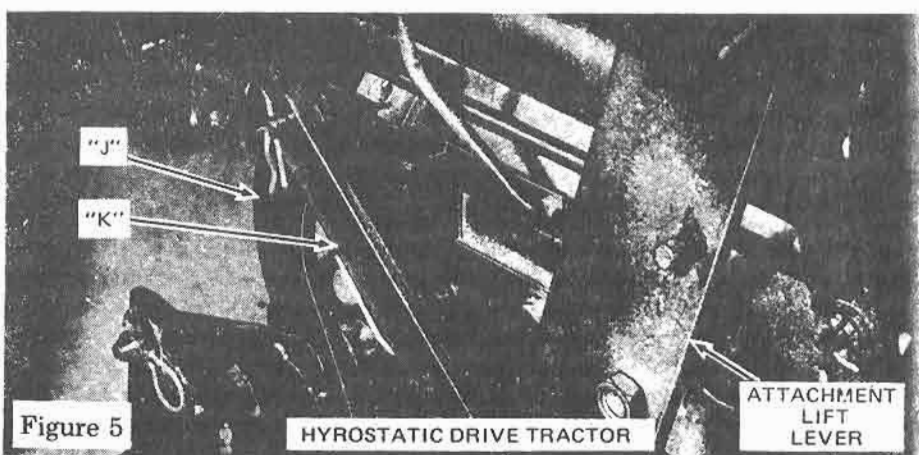
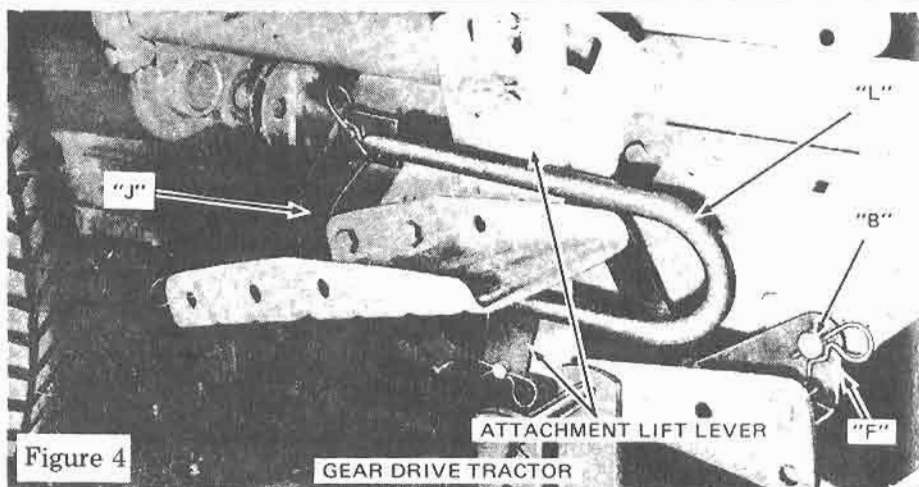
7. Assemble gauge wheels as shown in sketch figure 7.

8. Attach the two gauge wheels to the mower assembly by inserting the axle into the center HOLE of the wheel mounting bracket on the rear of the mower deck. Secure the axles with the KLIK pin supplied.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT USE MOWER DECK AS A STEP TO MOUNT TRACTOR.

### LEVELING OF MOWER

With the tractor on a level surface and with tire pressures adjusted to 12 pounds front and 8 pounds rear check if mower is level.



## FRONT TO REAR LEVELING

With the tractor on a level surface and the gauge wheels in the center hole, the bottom edge of the mower housing should be approximately 2 1/4 inches off of the floor in the rear and 3 1/2 inches in the front. If mower is either high or low in the front, level as follows:

1. Loosen lock nut "E" figure 6.
2. To lower the front of mower turn adjuster "D" figure 6 counter-clockwise (when viewed from rear of mower) to lengthen the linkage. To raise the front of mower turn clockwise to shorten the linkage. When correct adjustment is achieved, secure with locknut "E".

## SIDE TO SIDE LEVELING

If mower does not hang level side to side, when suspended on the lift, correct as follows:

Loosen capscrews "A" see figures 3, 6, 8, and 9. Move stops up or down in slots "M" until correct adjustment is achieved. Secure capscrews "A".

## OPERATION

Before making test run, check oil level in gear case. Be sure plastic cap is removed from breather, and check grease in blade spindles.

- a. Recheck all nuts and bolts for tightness after initial run-in of two (2) to four (4) hours of operation.
- b. Recheck oil level of gear case and regrease blade spindles every eight (8) hours of operation or oftener if conditions dictate.

## CAUTION

BEFORE USING MOWER REMOVE STONES, WIRE, ETC. FROM AREA TO BE MOWED. BE SURE TO AVOID STRIKING PROTRUDING OBJECTS SUCH AS PIPES, ROOTS AND EARTH MOUNDS WITH CUTTING BLADES AS THIS COULD DAMAGE THE MOWER. NEVER PLACE HANDS OR FEET UNDER MOWER BASE WHEN ENGINE IS RUNNING, OR P.T.O. LEVER IS IN "ON" POSITION.

Be sure the mower is disengaged before starting the engine. For best results, the engine should run at full throttle to maintain sufficient blade speed. The ground speed should

be controlled with the tractor gear shift or travel pedal and not by changing engine speed. For heavy cutting or when engine begins to labor, the ground speed must be reduced.

THE MOWER MAY NOT CUT PROPERLY WHEN THE GROUND SPEED IS TOO HIGH, THE BLADE SPEED DROPS DUE TO THE ENGINE LABORING OR THE P.T.O. BELTS ARE TOO LOOSE.

If the mower does not cut properly check the following:

1. The tractor engine is not at full throttle or up to speed. Set throttle as instructed in manual.

2. The ground speed is too fast for grass conditions. Stop the tractor and shift to lower range to reduce ground speed.

3. P.T.O. belt too loose. Re-adjust P.T.O. as per tractor manual.

## CONTROLS

There are two controls for operating the mower, the tractor power take-off lever for engaging and disengaging the mower, and the tractor lift lever or hydraulic lift valve to raise and lower the

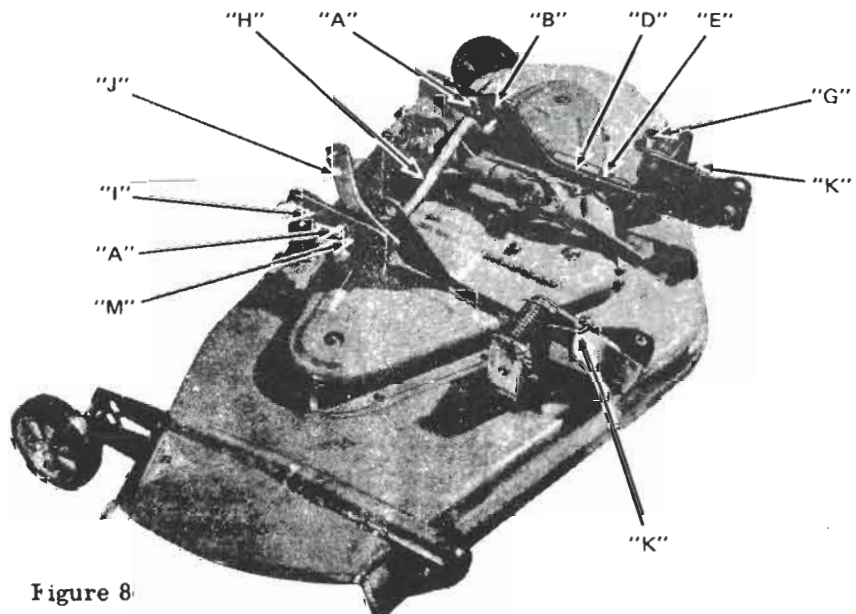
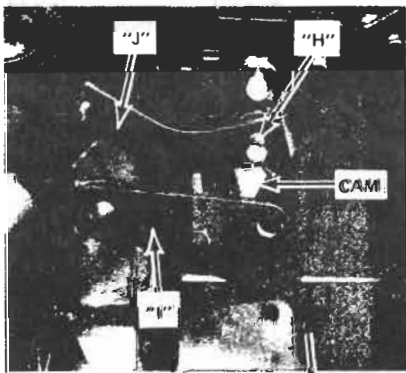


Figure 8

mower. THE POWER TAKE-OFF LEVER MUST BE ENGAGED SLOWLY WHEN STARTING MOWER. THIS WILL HELP PREVENT PREMATURE BELT FAILURE.

## HEIGHT OF CUT

The cutting height is regulated by the gauge wheels. The lift lever should be in the front position or hydraulic lift cylinder fully extended when mowing to allow the mower to float. There are three height positions for the gauge wheels. when repositioning the gauge wheel the mower must be raised and the tractor engine must be stopped. When cutting tall grass or in questionable areas, it is advisable to cut at a higher speed range than on an average lawn since the power requirements are greater. The mower level can be raised, for these conditions, with the lift lever or hydraulic lift. For transport, disengage the tractor power take-off and raise the mower to the highest position with tractor lift or hydraulic lift.



**REMOVE UNIVERSAL JOINT FROM TRACTOR**

**CAUTION** POWER TAKE-OFF SHAFT. WHEN MOWER IS REMOVED FROM TRACTOR. IF THE JOINT IS NOT REMOVED AND THE POWER TAKE-OFF IS ENGAGED, DAMAGE WILL RESULT FROM WHIPPING ACTION OF THE FREE END OF THE UNIVERSAL JOINT.

## CUTTING BLADES

For efficient cutting, maintain sharp cutting edges on the blades at all times. When sharpening blades, be sure to grind or file equal portions off both ends to maintain balance, as an unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration. The blades should be checked on a blade balancer before reinstalling. The blades are

identical and staggered for clearance so the position of individual blades is not important. BE SURE THE BLADES ARE FASTENED SECURELY AT ALL TIMES. CHECK PERIODICALLY. TORQUE TO 25 FT. LBS.

## MOWING TIPS

A beautiful rich lawn does not happen by accident. It takes time and hard work. there will be times when your grass is unusually tall and thick, like the spring of the year or when a vacation interrupts your cutting schedule. When this happens you can overload the mower, slowing down the cutting blades. Raise the cutting height and cut at a reduced ground speed. In a few days cut your lawn again at the regular cutting height. For extremely heavy grass it is advisable to cut only 1/2 or 3/4 of the normal cutting width. This will reduce the load on the mower allowing the blades to maintain their cutting speeds providing a cleaner cut.

It is always better to lap your mower over the left wheel tracks of the previous cut. This will allow the mower to cut the grass that was tramped down by the wheels, reducing the possibility of stripping.

Where ever possible, do not discharge the grass clippings into the uncut grass. If necessary, make one or two passes around the outside of the plot and then reverse the direction of the cut throwing the clippings over the cut portion. This allows the mower to cut cleaner and disperse the clippings more evenly.

It is best to avoid cutting wet grass which will form clumps giving the lawn an untidy look. If you have a choice late afternoon is the ideal time for mowing because the grass is dry and

the sensitive new cut grass is not exposed to the direct sun.

Do not cut your grass too short. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf height during each cutting. if you cut too close you shock the grass and this results in a shallow root system. The shallower the roots the greater the possibility of the grass drying out and turning brown.

During the hot dry season let your grass grow a little taller. This allows the roots to penetrate deeper and the longer grass helps keep the soil cool and moist.

Always keep your cutting blades sharp. A dull blade shatters the leaf which reduces the healthy growth of your lawn.

## LUBRICATION

The unit has five grease fittings. One on each blade housing located on the top side of the mower deck; one on each universal joint. Lubricate grease fittings every 8 hours of operation with FMC Bolens No. 16020 grease and No. 16023 grease gun.

**NOTE: THE GEAR CASE IS FILLED AT THE FACTORY WITH FMC BOLENS NO. 16021 EP 90 GEAR OIL**

**CHECK GEAR CASE OIL LEVEL BEFORE USING MOWER AND AT LEAST EVERY 8 HOURS OF OPERATION, OR OFTENER IF REQUIRED. ADD FMC BOLENS NO. 16021 EP 90 GEAR OIL TO MAINTAIN FILLER HOLE LEVEL. LUBRICATE THE BEARINGS IN THE GAUGE WHEELS PERIODICALLY WITH AN OIL CAN.**

Frequently lubricate, with Bolens No. 16020 multi-purpose grease, the sliding portion of the rectangular mower drive shaft. This is necessary to assure free up and down movement of the mower.

## DRIVE BELT

The mower has one drive belt which drives the three blades, as illustrated in figure 9.

This belt is under constant spring tension and requires no adjustment. To replace drive belt proceed as follows:

- (1) Remove mower from tractor.
- (2) Release springs on front lift arm assemblies see "K" figure 8.

Refer to figure 9 for the following:

- (3) Remove front hanger brackets from mower deck.
- (4) Remove belt shield.
- (5) Release tension of spring (H).
- (6) Remove capscrews (G) holding gear case to base.
- (7) Remove drive belt from drive pulleys (I) and idler pulleys (J) and (K).
- (8) Raise gear case (L) which will allow enough clearance to slide belt out from the rear.

- (9) Install new belt by reversing the above procedure.
- (10) When remounting front "U" brackets align with a straight edge. See figure 10.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Your mower is equipped with a hose fitting insert which enables you to wash out the underside of your mower without removing it from the tractor. To attach hose, remove the plastic cap "G" figure 10, from the hose fitting. Attach hose, lower mower to its lowest cutting position, start tractor engine.

**NOTE: BE SURE TRACTOR SHIFT LEVER IS IN NEUTRAL OR TRANSMISSION SELECTOR IS IN PARK ON HYDRO-STATIC UNITS AND PARKING BRAKE APPLIED.**

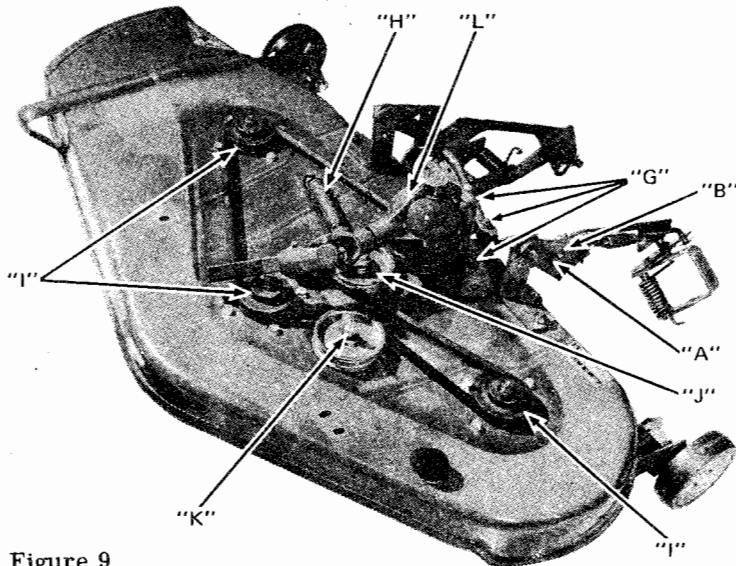


Figure 9

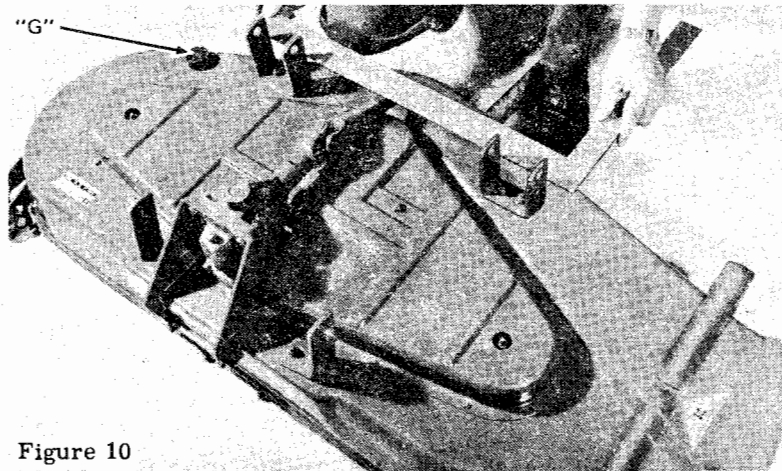


Figure 10

Engage mower blades, then turn water on full force for approximately 3 to 4 minutes. Shut off water and allow blades to continue running for several more minutes. This will air-dry the under side of the deck.

**NOTE: ALWAYS PLACE P.T.O. LEVER IN THE OFF POSITION BEFORE DISCONNECTING HOSE. REPLACE HOSE FITTING CAP AFTER WASHING OUT DECK.**

Periodically place a few drops of oil on all linkage joints especially on mower after washing out. Regularly check the complete unit for loose screws and nuts.

Bolens reserves the right to change specifications, add improvements or discontinue the manufacture of any of its equipment without notice or

obligation to purchasers of its equipment.

Bolens' approval of the use of attachments manufactured by other manufacturers is limited to assurance that such use will not void Bolens warranty on the Bolens equipment to which the allied manufactured attachments are adapted. The responsibility for the design, performance, durability, safety in operation, service repair availability, and warranty obligation remain with the allied manufacturer. Bolens specifically excludes from its warranty obligation all such allied manufactured attachments.

Bolens warranty will be voided if unapproved attachments are adapted to use with Bolens equipment and are so used.