



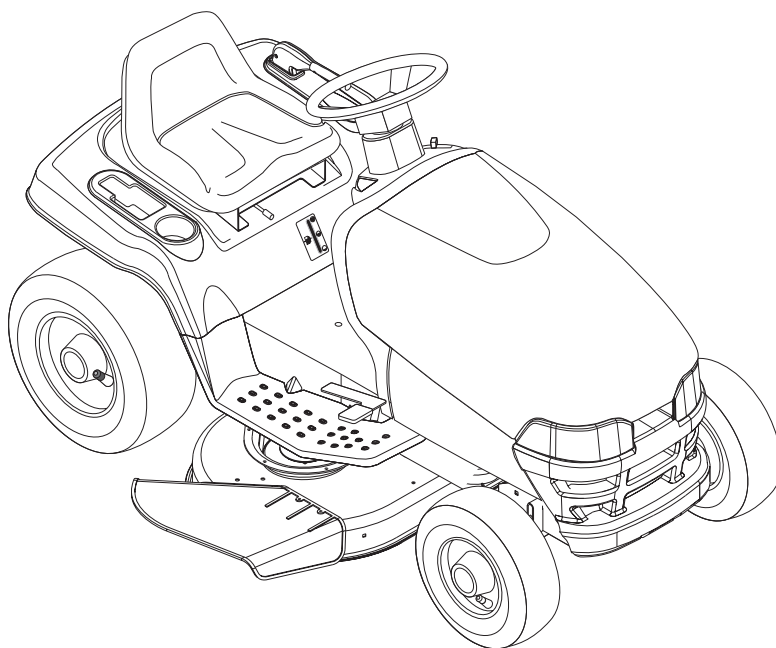
# Yard Tractor

## Owner/Operator Manual

Model

936034 - 1540

936036 - 2548



GB ENGLISH

F FRANÇAIS

E ESPAÑOL

# CONTROLS AND FEATURES

## ENGLISH

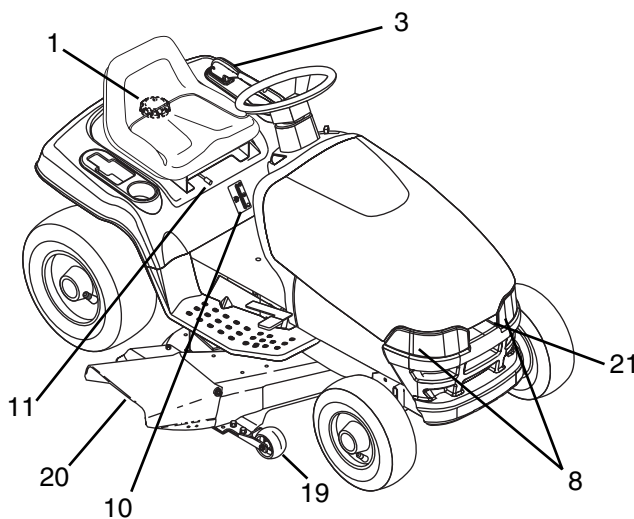
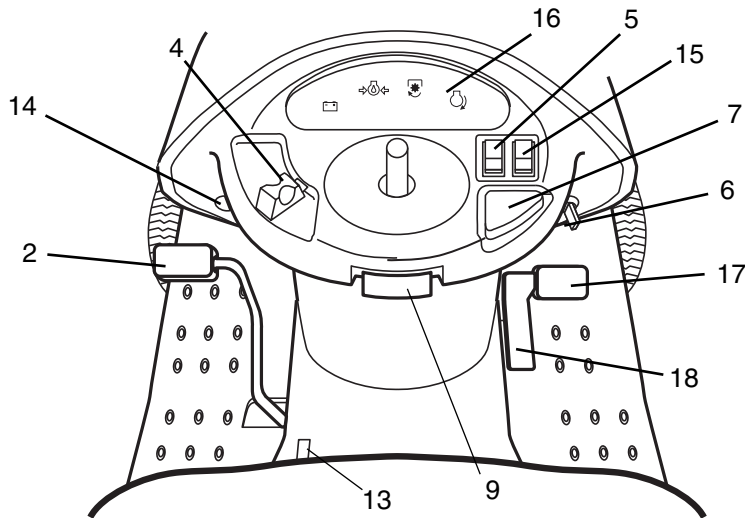
1. Fuel Tank Fill
2. Brake Pedal
3. Attachment Lift Lever
4. Throttle (936034)
5. Head Light Switch
6. Ignition/Key Switch
7. PTO Switch
8. Headlights
9. Parking Brake Latch
10. Fuel Level Indicator
11. Seat Position Adjustment Lever
12. Transmission Disconnect (Dump Valve)
13. Mower Height Indicator
14. Choke Control (936036)
15. Cruise Control Switch
16. Indicator Lights
17. Forward Pedal
18. Reverse Pedal
19. Anti-Scalp Roller
20. Deflector
21. Hood Latch

## FRANÇAIS

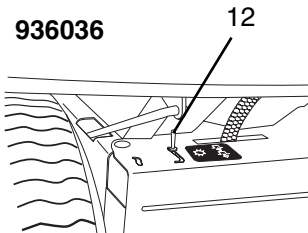
1. Réservoir d'essence
2. Pédale de frein
3. Levier de relevage de l'outil
4. Manette des gaz (936034)
5. Commande des phares
6. Démarrage/Clé de contact
7. Commande de la PdF
8. Phares
9. Verrouillage du frein de stationnement
10. Indicateur de niveau de carburant
11. Poignée de réglage du siège
12. Désenclenchement de la transmission (soupape de décharge)
13. Indicateur de hauteur de coupe de la tondeuse
14. Commande du starter (936036)
15. Régulateur de vitesse
16. Lampes témoin
17. Pédale de marche avant
18. Pédale de marche arrière
19. Rouleau anti-scalp
20. Déflecteur
21. Fermeture du capot

## ESPAÑOL

1. Llenado del depósito de combustible
2. Pedal del freno
3. Palanca de elevación del accesorio
4. Acelerador (936034)
5. Interruptor de los faros delanteros
6. Interruptor de arranque
7. Interruptor de la TDF
8. Faros
9. Traba del freno de estacionamiento
10. Indicador del nivel de combustible
11. Palanca de ajuste de la posición del asiento
12. Desconexión de la transmisión (válvula de descarga)
13. Indicador de altura del cortacésped
14. Control del estrangulador (936036)
15. Interruptor del piloto automático
16. Luces indicadoras
17. Pedal de desplazamiento hacia adelante
18. Pedal de marcha atrás
19. Rodillo anti-desbroce
20. Deflector
21. Presilla del capó



936036



936034

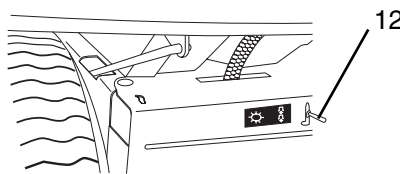


Figure 1

OT0121  
OT0181  
OT1370  
OT1371



## WARNING

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

OL4030

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## INTRODUCTION

### THE MANUAL

Before operation of unit, carefully and completely read your manuals. The contents will provide you with an understanding of safety instructions and controls during normal operation and maintenance.

All reference to left, right, front, or rear are given from operator sitting in operation position and facing the direction of forward travel.

### MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBERS

Transfer  
model & serial  
number label  
from product  
registration  
here.

When ordering replacement parts or making service inquiries, know the Model and Serial numbers of your unit and engine.

Numbers are located on the product registration form in the unit literature package. They are printed on a serial number label, located on the frame of your unit.

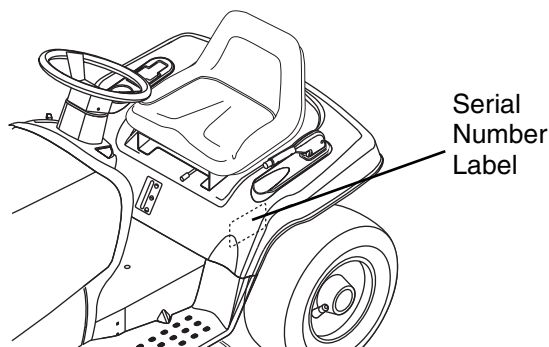


Figure 2

OT0552

- Record Unit Model and Serial numbers here.

- Record Engine Model and Serial numbers here.

### PRODUCT REGISTRATION

The Ariens dealer must register the product at the time of purchase. Registering the product will help the company process warranty claims or contact you with the latest service information. All claims meeting requirements during the limited warranty period will be honored, whether or not the product registration card is returned. Keep a proof of purchase if you do not register your unit.

**Customer Note:** If the Dealer does not register your product, please fill out, sign and return the product registration card to Ariens.

### UNAUTHORIZED REPLACEMENT PARTS

Use only Ariens replacement parts. The replacement of any part on this vehicle with anything other than an Ariens authorized replacement part may adversely affect the performance, durability, or safety of this unit and may void the warranty. Ariens disclaims liability for any claims or damages, whether warranty, property damage, personal injury or death arising out of the use of unauthorized replacement parts.

For a brief list of replacement parts see *Service Parts* in this manual. To obtain a complete parts manual, find your model and serial number. Then go to [www.ariens.com](http://www.ariens.com) or call 1-800-678-5443.

### DISCLAIMER

Ariens reserves the right to discontinue, make changes to, and add improvements upon its products at any time without public notice or obligation. 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 unit.

### DELIVERY

**Customer Note:** If you have purchased this product without complete assembly and instruction by your retailer, it is your responsibility to:

1. Read and understand all assembly instructions in this manual. If you do not understand or have difficulty following the instructions, contact your nearest Ariens Dealer for assistance. Make sure all assembly has been properly completed.

**NOTE:** To locate your nearest Ariens Dealer, call 1-800-678-5443 or go to [www.ariens.com](http://www.ariens.com) on the internet.



**WARNING:** Improper assembly or adjustments can cause serious injury.

2. Understand all Safety Precautions provided in the manuals.

3. Review control functions and operation of the unit. Do not operate unit unless all controls function as described in this manual.
4. Review recommended lubrication, maintenance and adjustments.
5. Review Limited Warranty Policy.
6. Fill out the Product Registration Card and return the card to Ariens Company or go to [www.ariens.com](http://www.ariens.com).

## SAFETY



**WARNING:** This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the safety instructions in the manuals and on decals could result in serious injury or death.

Slopes are a major factor related to loss-of-control and tip-over accidents. Operation on all slopes requires extra caution.

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive, handle with care.

Disengage attachment, stop unit and engine, remove key, engage parking brake, and allow moving parts to stop before leaving operator's position.



**CAUTION:** POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION! If not avoided, MAY RESULT in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.

### NOTATIONS

**NOTE:** General reference information for proper operation and maintenance practices.

**IMPORTANT:** Specific procedures or information required to prevent damage to unit or attachment.

### PRACTICES AND LAWS

Practice usual and customary safe working precautions, for the benefit of yourself and others. Understand and follow all safety messages. Be alert to unsafe conditions and the possibility of minor, moderate, or serious injury or death. Learn applicable rules and laws in your area. Always follow the practices set forth in this manual.

### SAFETY ALERTS



Look for these symbols to point out important safety precautions. They mean:

**Attention!**



**Personal Safety Is Involved!**

**Become Alert!**

**Obey The Message!**

The safety alert symbols above and signal words below are used on decals and in this manual.

Read and understand all safety messages.



**DANGER:** IMMINENTLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION! If not avoided, WILL RESULT in death or serious injury.



**WARNING:** POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION! If not avoided, COULD RESULT in death or serious injury.

### REQUIRED OPERATOR TRAINING

Original purchaser of this unit was instructed by the seller on safe and proper operation by the seller. If unit is to be used by someone other than original purchaser; loaned, rented or sold, ALWAYS provide this manual and any needed safety training before operation.

### SAFETY DECALS AND LOCATIONS

ALWAYS replace missing or damaged Safety Decals. Refer to figure 3 below for Safety Decal locations.

#### 1. DANGER!



Read the operator's manual.

Allow operation only by properly trained adult, never children.



DO NOT mow when children or others are around.

Keep children out of work area and under watchful care of a responsible adult.



Look down and behind before and while backing.

DO NOT operate in reverse unless absolutely necessary. Always back up slowly.



OL4750

Turn machine off when children are in the area. Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees or other objects that may obscure vision.



OL4760

Never carry children.  
Never carry riders.



OL0910

Remove objects that could be thrown by the blade.



OL4770

Go up and down slopes, not across.  
If machine stops going uphill, stop blade and back down slowly.

- DO NOT operate on slopes over 10° maximum.
- Avoid sudden turns.
- Keep safety devices (guards, shields, switches, etc.) in place and working.
- Check interlock system per manual before use.
- Understand location and function of all controls.

### 3. DANGER!



OL3030

Always keep feet and hands away from rotating parts.



OL0910

Always stand clear of the discharge area when operating this unit.



OL4140

Keep children and others away from unit while operating.



OL4010

Stop engine and remove ignition key before servicing or leaving operator's position for any reason.



OL4420

NO STEP! Always keep feet away from rotating parts.

### 4. WARNING!



OL4430

Always stand clear of the discharge area when operating this unit.



OL3320

Do not operate mower unless guards are in operating position or bagger is attached.

## SAFETY RULES

If unit is to be used by someone other than original purchaser; loaned, rented or sold, ALWAYS provide this manual and any needed safety training before operation.

Read, understand, and follow all safety practices in Owner/Operator Manual before assembling, using or working on this mower.

ALWAYS remove key from ignition and wire from spark plug before assembly, or working on this unit.

Inspect unit before each use for: missing or damaged decals and shields, correctly operating safety interlock system, and deterioration of grass catchers. Replace or repair as needed.

ALWAYS check overhead and side clearances carefully before operation. ALWAYS be aware of traffic when crossing or operating along streets or curbs.

Keep children, people, and pets away. Be alert and shut off unit if anyone enters work area. Keep children under watchful care of a responsible adult.

NEVER allow children to operate or play on or near unit.

Keep area of operation clear of all toys, and debris. Thrown objects can cause injury.

Stay alert for hidden hazards, holes, and ruts.

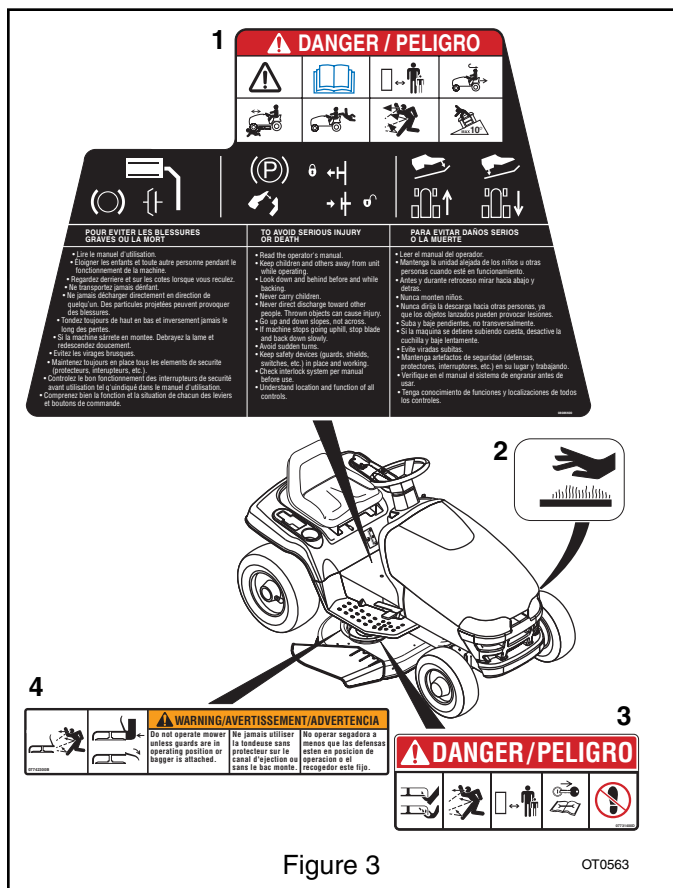


Figure 3

OT0563

## 2. HOT SURFACES!



OD0061

DO NOT touch parts which are hot from operation. ALWAYS allow parts to cool.

Avoid uneven or rough terrain. DO NOT operate near drop offs, ditches, or embankments. Unit can suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff or ditch, or if an edge caves in.

Dust, fog, etc. can reduce vision and cause an accident. Operate unit only when there is good visibility and light.

Data indicates that operators, age 60 and above, are involved in a larger percentage of riding mower related injuries. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate the riding mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.

Only trained adults may operate unit. Training includes being familiar with controls and actual operation.

NEVER operate unit after or during the use of medication, drugs or alcohol.

NEVER allow anyone to operate this unit when their alertness or coordination is impaired.

Wear adequate safety gear, sturdy shoes, and protective gloves.

DO NOT wear loose clothing or jewelry and tie back hair that may get caught in rotating parts.

Protect eyes, face and head from objects that may be thrown from unit. Wear appropriate hearing protection. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating mower.

Avoid sharp edges. Sharp edges can cut. Moving parts can cut off fingers or a hand.

ALWAYS keep hands and feet away from all rotating parts during operation. Rotating parts can cut off body parts.

ALWAYS keep hands away from all pinch points.

DO NOT touch unit parts which might be hot from operation. Allow parts to cool before attempting to maintain, adjust or service.

NEVER place your hands or any part of your body or clothing inside or near any moving part while unit is running.

NEVER direct discharge towards persons or property. Thrown objects may ricochet back towards operator. ALWAYS stand clear of the discharge area.

ALWAYS disengage attachment, stop unit and engine, remove key, engage parking brake, and allow moving parts to stop before leaving operator's position.

Use extreme caution on gravel surfaces.

Disengage PTO when attachment is not in use and when crossing gravel surfaces.

DO NOT operate unit if safety interlock system is damaged or disabled. Check safety interlock before each use (see *Operation* on page 8).

ALWAYS remove key to prevent unauthorized use.

DO NOT operate at too fast a rate. Slow down before turning.

Stop engine before removing grass catcher or unclogging chute.

DO NOT mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.

DO NOT try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.

Know the weight of loads. Limit loads to those you can safely control and the unit can safely handle.

ALWAYS keep protective structures, guards and panels in good repair, in place and securely fastened.

Do not operate without either entire grass catcher or the discharge guard in place.

DO NOT operate in reverse unless absolutely necessary. ALWAYS look down and behind before and while backing; especially for children.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for wheel weights or counterweights to improve stability when using attachments.

NEVER carry passengers—especially children—even with blades off.

Use extra care when approaching blind corners or objects that may obscure vision of hidden obstacles and children.

If you cannot back up a slope or you feel uneasy on it, do not mow it.

Mow up and down slopes, not across them.

Use slow speed on any slope. Tires may lose traction on slopes even though the brakes are functioning properly.

Keep all movements on the slope *slow* and *gradual*. DO NOT make sudden changes in speed or direction.

Use extra care while operating machines with grass catcher or other attachments. They can affect stability of the machine.

Avoid starting, stopping, or turning on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the blades and proceed slowly *straight* down the slope.

DO NOT operate on slopes over 10°.

DO NOT park on slopes unless necessary. If unit is parked on a slope, ALWAYS chock or block wheels and set parking brake.

DO NOT disengage or bypass transmission and coast downhill.

Tow only with a machine that has a hitch designed for towing. Do not attach towed equipment except at the hitch point.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for weight limits for towed equipment and towing on slopes.

NEVER allow children or others in or on towed equipment.

On slopes, the weight of the towed equipment may cause loss of traction and loss of control.

Travel slowly and allow extra distance to stop.

Use extra care when loading or unloading unit onto trailer or truck.

Secure unit chassis to transport vehicle. NEVER secure from rods or linkages that could be damaged.



DO NOT transport machine while engine is running.  
Keep unit free of grass clippings, leaves, and other debris. Clean up oil or fuel spills.

This product is equipped with an internal combustion type engine. DO NOT use unit on or near any unimproved, forest-covered or brush covered land unless exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local, state or federal laws. A spark arrester, if it is used, must be maintained in effective working order by operator.

Fuel is highly flammable and its vapors are explosive. Handle with care. Use an approved fuel container.

NO smoking, NO sparks, NO flames. ALWAYS allow engine to cool before servicing.

NEVER fill fuel tank when engine is running or hot from operation.

NEVER fill or drain fuel tank indoors.

NEVER overfill fuel tank.

Replace fuel cap securely and clean up spilled fuel.

NEVER fill 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 gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.

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.

If fuel is spilled on clothing, change clothing immediately.

Avoid Electric Shock. Objects contacting both battery terminals at the same time may result in injury and unit damage. DO NOT reverse battery connections.

Explosive Gases from battery can cause death or serious injury. Poisonous battery fluid contains sulfuric acid and its contact with skin, eyes or clothing can cause severe chemical burns.

NO flames, NO sparks, NO smoking near battery.

ALWAYS wear safety glasses and protective gear near battery.

DO NOT TIP battery beyond a 45° angle in any direction.

ALWAYS keep batteries out of reach of children.

Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

Reverse connections may result in sparks which can cause serious injury. Always connect positive (+) lead of charger to positive (+) terminal, and negative (-) lead to negative (-) terminal.

ALWAYS disconnect negative (-) cable FIRST and positive (+) cable SECOND. ALWAYS connect positive (+) cable FIRST, and negative (-) cable SECOND.

A frozen battery can explode and result in death or serious injury. DO NOT charge or jump start a battery containing frozen fluid. Thaw the battery before putting on a charger or jump starting.

ALWAYS keep protective structures, guards, and panels in good repair, in place and securely fastened. NEVER modify or remove safety devices.

DO NOT change engine governor settings or over-speed engine.

Fumes from engine exhaust can cause injury or death. DO NOT run engine in an enclosed area. Always provide good ventilation.

ALWAYS maintain unit in safe operating condition. Damaged or worn out muffler can cause fire or explosion.

Stop and inspect equipment if you strike an object or if there is an unusual vibration. Repair, if necessary, before restarting. Never make adjustments or repairs with the engine running.

Mower blades are sharp and can cut you. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them. NEVER weld or straighten mower blades.

Rotation of one blade may cause rotation of the other blades.

Check brake operation frequently. Adjust and service as required.

Keep all hardware properly tightened.

Stored energy in springs can cause injury.

Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.

Never store the machine or fuel container inside a building where there is an open flame, such as a water heater.

Allow engine to cool completely before storing in closed area or covering unit.

For extended storage, clean unit thoroughly. See Engine Manual for proper storage.

Use only attachments or accessories designed for your unit.

Check attachment components frequently. If worn or damaged, replace with manufacturer's recommended parts.

## ASSEMBLY



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

### Tools Required

- Needle nose pliers
- Open-end wrench: 3/8 in., 7/16 in., 1/2 in., and 9/16 in. or adjustable wrench
- Phillips screwdriver
- Tire gauge

### Package Contents

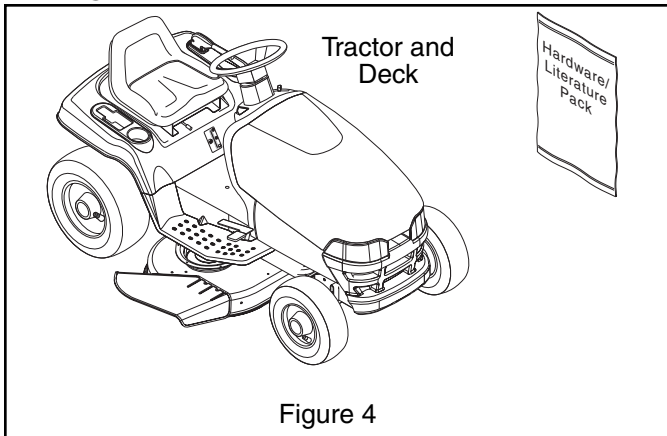


Figure 4

### Check Tire Pressure

See *Specifications* on page 18.

### Install Deck (936036)

See *Mower Deck Removal and Installation* on page 12.

### Check Lubrication

See *General Lubrication* on page 12.

### Charge Battery

See *Charging Battery* on page 16.

### Check Oil Level

Check engine oil. Fill if necessary.

Refer to engine manual for proper type oil and crankcase capacity.

### Fill Engine Fuel Tank

Refer to engine manual for proper type.

### Check Safety Interlock System



**WARNING:** FAILURE OF INTERLOCK, together with improper operation could result in death or serious injury.

See *Check Safety Interlock System* on page 11.

### Check Function of all Controls



**WARNING:** FAILURE OF CONTROLS could result in death or serious injury.

Ensure unit runs and performs properly (see *Operation* on page 8)

## OPERATION



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

### CONTROLS AND FEATURES

See Figure 1 on page 2 for all Controls and Features locations.

### SAFETY INTERLOCK SYSTEM

With operator on seat, engine must not start if PTO is engaged.

Engine **MUST STOP** if operator leaves seat when:

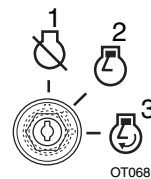
- forward and reverse pedal is not in neutral or
- parking brake is disengaged or
- PTO is engaged

Engine **MUST NOT** start unless:

- parking brake is set/brake pedal is depressed and
- forward and reverse pedal is in neutral and
- PTO is disengaged.

DO NOT operate unit unless safety interlock system is functioning properly. If it does not function properly, see your Ariens Dealer.

### Ignition Switch



The ignition switch is operated by a removable key.

To start:

Insert the key. Turn the switch clockwise from the off (1) position to the start (3) position. The key will spring back to the run (2) position.

To stop the engine, turn key to the off (1) position.



## Throttle Lever



Move lever to fast (1) position to increase engine speed. Move lever to slow (2) position to decrease engine speed.

**IMPORTANT:** Set throttle to approximately 1/2 speed when engaging PTO.



## Choke



Apply choke when starting a cold engine.

To apply choke on model 936034:

Place throttle lever in choke position.

To apply choke on other models:

Pull choke knob out. Press knob in to disengage choke.

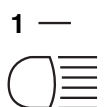
## Power Take-Off (PTO) Switch



OT0710

The power take-off switch is used to engage and disengage the attachment. Lift switch to engage attachment. Push switch down to disengage attachment.

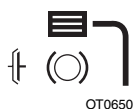
## Headlight Switch



OT0610

With key in run position, flip light switch forward (1) to turn headlights on. Flip light switch backward (2) to turn headlights off.

## Brake Pedal



OT0650

Fully depress brake pedal to stop unit.

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT leave foot on pedal during operation as belt slippage may occur.

## Attachment Lift Lever



OT0620

To raise attachment, depress thumb button on lift lever and raise lever to raise attachment.

To lower attachment, depress thumb button and slowly allow lever to move downward to lower attachment.

## Parking Brake



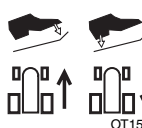
To engage:

Fully depress brake pedal and pull parking brake knob out.

To disengage:

Depress brake pedal.

## Forward and Reverse Pedal



OT1580

Press the front end of pedal downward to move tractor forward.

Press the rear end of pedal downward to move the tractor backward.

Removing foot from pedal returns unit to neutral.

## Seat Adjustment

1. Move the handle on the seat towards the center of the tractor.
2. Slide seat into a comfortable position.
3. Release handle to lock seat in position.

## Transmission Bypass Lever



OT0630

Pull bypass lever rearward and lock in slot to disengage transmission (2). Pull lever out of slot and slowly release forward to engage transmission (1).

**IMPORTANT:** Start unit with transmission bypass lever in disengaged position when starting engine in freezing temperatures (below 32°F/0°C). Slowly engage transmission, allowing transmission to warm up before applying load.

## Cruise Control Switch



OT0640

Use the cruise control switch to maintain desired speed. Depress forward pedal to desired speed and push the cruise control switch forward to engage (1).

Flip cruise control switch back or depress brake pedal to disengage (2) cruise control.

**NOTE:** Turning off cruise control switch without foot on forward or reverse pedal will stop unit abruptly.

**IMPORTANT:** If the forward pedal or reverse pedal is repositioned while cruise indicator light is on, cruise will reset at the new speed and/or direction selected.

## Hood

To open, push hood latch to the right, lift hood and place prop rod in slot under hood.

To close, remove prop rod from slot and lower it to side of engine. Lower the hood until it rests on the latch. Press down firmly at the center of the hood to snap it into latch.

## Indicator Lights

The symbols on the dash will light up when key is turned to the run position if one of the following conditions exist:



Battery voltage is lower than 12V. Refer to Maintenance.



Oil pressure is low. Check oil and add if necessary. See Engine Manual.



PTO is engaged. Disengage PTO before starting tractor.



Safe condition to start.

## FILLING FUEL TANK



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

To add fuel to fuel tank:

1. ALWAYS place unit in open or well ventilated area.
2. Stop engine and allow to cool.
3. Clean fuel cap and surrounding area to prevent dirt from entering fuel tank.
4. Remove cap.

**IMPORTANT:** See engine manual for correct type and grade of fuel.

5. Fill fuel tank to within 1/2 in. (1,2 cm) below bottom of filler neck.
6. Replace fuel cap and tighten.
7. ALWAYS clean up any spilled fuel.

## PRESTART

Before starting:

1. Check engine oil and fill if necessary. See engine manual.
2. Check fuel and fill if necessary.
3. Check safety interlock system. See *Controls and Features*.
4. Adjust seat if needed.

## STARTING

1. Sit in the operator's seat.
2. Place the PTO knob in the off position.
3. Apply choke for a cold engine, place at 1/3 throttle for a warm engine.
4. Press down brake pedal.
5. Turn the ignition key clockwise to the start position until engine starts. Release key into run position.

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT operate starter more than 15 seconds per minute. Damage can occur.

6. After engine starts, set throttle to fast position.

7. Release brake pedal.

8. Allow engine to warm up before applying load.

**IMPORTANT:** Run engine at 1/2 throttle for at least five minutes prior to applying load in freezing temperatures.

## TO OPERATE MOWER

1. With unit shut off, adjust deck to desired height of cut.
2. Start engine.
3. Move throttle lever to about half speed.
4. Engage PTO.
5. Move the throttle lever forward to full engine speed.
6. Use forward and reverse pedals to move and use steering wheel to change direction.
7. To stop mower, disengage PTO.

## SHUT-OFF

### Emergency Shut-Off

To shut-off unit in an emergency, turn ignition key to the off position.

### Normal Shut-Off

1. Turn off cruise control.
2. Stop unit.
3. Disengage PTO.
4. Lower attachment and engage parking brake.
5. Lower engine speed to slow position. Let engine run a few minutes so engine parts cool evenly before shutting engine off.
6. Turn ignition key to off position and remove key.

## PARKING

Stop engine and engage parking brake to park. Remove ignition key to prevent unauthorized use.

## FOR BEST PERFORMANCE:

Cut grass when it is dry.

Keep mower blades sharp.

Keep mower deck properly leveled.

Adjust anti-scalp rollers to prevent scalping.

Do not set height of cut too low. For very tall grass, mow twice.

Do not travel too fast.

Mow with the engine set at full throttle.

When mulching, only remove 1/3 of grass length per cutting.

Discharge clippings into areas already cut.

Vary cutting pattern with each mowing.

Do not allow grass or debris to collect inside of mower deck. Clean after each use.

## MOVING THE UNIT MANUALLY

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT push or pull (tow) tractor with another vehicle. Transmission damage will occur. Use truck or trailer when transporting.

1. Stop engine.
2. Pull bypass lever rearward and lock in slot to disengage transmission.

3. Release parking brake.
4. Push unit to desired location.
5. Apply parking brake.
6. Pull lever out of slot and slowly release forward to engage transmission.

## MAINTENANCE

Ariens Dealers will provide any service or adjustments which may be required to keep your unit operating at peak efficiency. Should engine service be required, contact an Ariens dealer or an authorized engine manufacturer's service center.



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

### SERVICE POSITION

Place unit on a flat level surface. Stop engine and disengage clutches. Assure unit is secure and will not tip over. Strap and clamp onto lift if used. Open hood to access battery or engine.

### MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The chart below shows recommended maintenance. More frequent service may be required due to working conditions (heavy loads, high ambient temperatures, dusty conditions, or airborne debris).

#### MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

| Service Performed             | Before Each Use | Every 25 hrs. | Every 50 hrs. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Check Safety Interlock System | •               |               |               |
| Check Parking Brake           | •               |               |               |
| Check Fasteners               | •               |               |               |
| Check Engine Oil**            | •               |               |               |
| Change Engine Oil**           |                 | •*            |               |
| Tire Pressure                 |                 | •             |               |
| Battery                       |                 | •             |               |
| Mower Blades                  |                 | •             |               |
| General Lubrication           |                 |               | •             |

\* Change after first 5 to 8 hours of use.

\*\* For all engine maintenance information, refer to engine manual.

### CHECK SAFETY INTERLOCK SYSTEM



**WARNING:** FAILURE OF INTERLOCK, together with improper operation could result in death or serious injury.

See *Filling Fuel Tank* on page 10.

### CHECK PARKING BRAKE

The parking brake is designed to prevent unexpected movement of the unit. If the parking brake allows unit movement while engaged for proper parking brake spring setting (see *Parking Brake Spring* on page 15).

### CHECK FASTENERS

Be certain all hardware is tightened to the proper torque. Pay special attention to blades, guards and safety shields.

### TIRE PRESSURE

Check air pressure in all tires every 25 operating hours (see *Specifications* on page 18).

### BATTERY



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.



**WARNING:** Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

### Clean Battery

Keep battery and its terminals clean. Inspect every 25 operating hours or monthly for best performance.

1. Disconnect cables from battery (negative, then positive).
2. Clean terminals and battery cable ends with wire brush.
3. Coat terminals with grease or petroleum jelly.
4. Reconnect cables to battery (positive, then negative).

## MOWER BLADES

Check mower blades for wear every 25 hours of operation. Ensure blade hardware is tightened to 50-60 lbf-ft (68-81 N•m).

Check blade for nicks and dull cutting edges. Sharpen if necessary.

Check blade for rounded or broken ends, thinned metal or other damage. Replace if necessary.

### To Remove and Install Mower Blade:

1. Stop engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and remove ignition key.
2. Block blade to prevent rotation.
3. Remove nut, flat washer, and mower blade.
4. Replace mower blade.
5. Tighten hardware to 50-60 lbf-ft (68-81 N•m).

### Sharpen the Mower Blades (Figure 5)



**CAUTION:** DO NOT sharpen mower blades while on unit. An unbalanced mower blade will cause excessive vibration and eventual damage to unit. Check mower blade balance before reinstalling blades.  
NEVER weld or straighten bent blades.

**NOTE:** Blades should be sharpened and balanced professionally. Contact your Ariens Dealer.

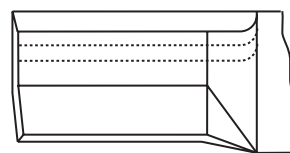
1. Remove mower blade from unit.

Discard mower blade if:

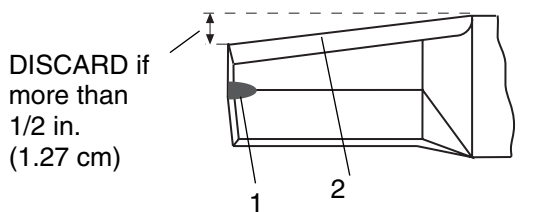
- More than 1/2 in. (1.27 cm) of metal is removed.
- Air lifts become eroded.
- Blade is bent or broken.

**NOTE:** DO NOT change angle of cutting edge or round the corner of the mower blade.

DO NOT Resharpener to this Pattern



Resharpener to this Pattern



OA0014

Figure 5

2. Sharpen mower blade by removing an equal amount of material from each end of mower blade.
3. Check mower blade balance.
4. Slide mower blade on an unthreaded bolt. A balanced blade should remain in a horizontal position. If either end of mower blade moves downward, sharpen the heavy end until blade is balanced.
5. Install mower blade on unit.
6. Tighten hardware to 50-60 lbf-ft (68-81 N•m).

## SERVICE AND ADJUSTMENTS



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

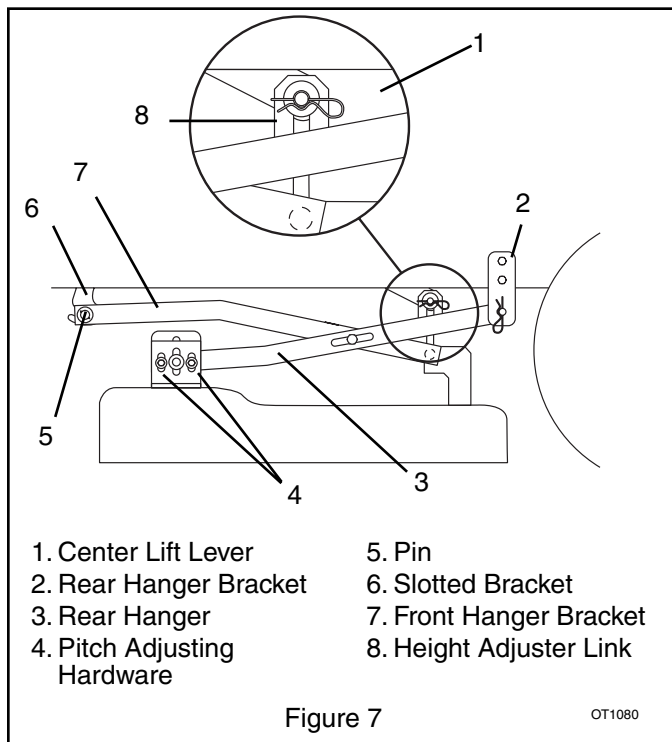
## MOWER DECK REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

### Remove (figure 7)

1. Lower mower deck to lowest position.
2. Remove height adjuster link (item 8) from center lift lever (item 1).
3. Remove rear hanger (item 3) from rear hanger bracket (item 2).
4. Remove front hanger bracket (item 7) and pin (item 5) from slotted bracket (item 6).
5. Remove mower drive belt from electric clutch (see *Replacing Mower Drive Belt* on page 14).
6. Slide mower deck out from under unit.

### Install (figure 7)

1. Slide mower deck under unit.
2. Install front hanger bracket (item 7) on slotted bracket (item 6) with pin (item 5).
3. Install rear hanger (item 3) on rear hanger bracket (item 2).
4. Install height adjuster link (item 8) on center lift lever (item 1).
5. Install mower drive belt on electric clutch (see *Replacing Mower Drive Belt* on page 14).

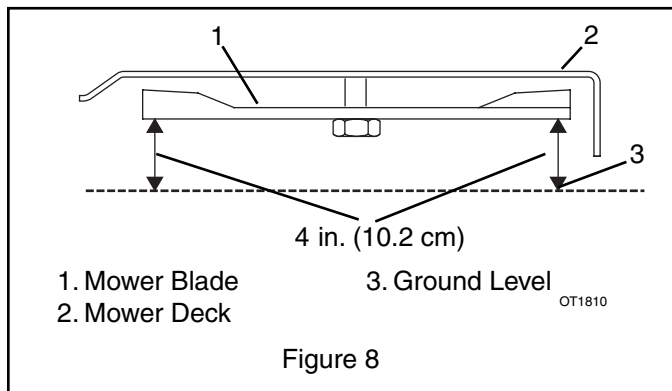


## LEVEL AND ADJUST PITCH OF MOWER DECK

Adjust on a level surface, with the tires inflated to the correct air pressure (see *Specifications* on page 18).

### Level Mower Mower Deck

1. Place mower deck in highest position.
2. With mower blades in line with discharge chute, measure the distance from mower blade to the ground on the left and right side of mower deck (figure 8). Distance should be 4 in. (10.2 cm).



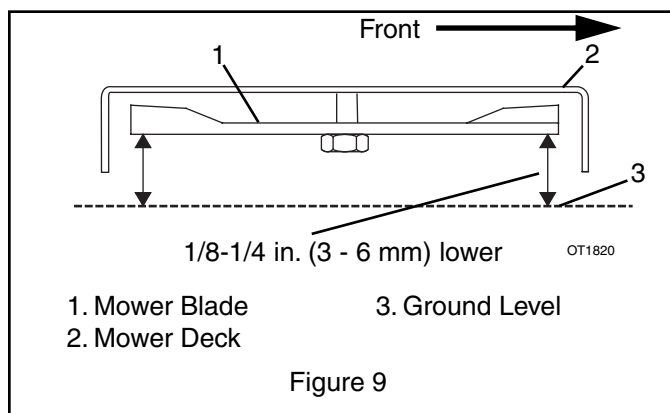
3. Remove height adjuster link (item 8) from center lift lever (item 1) on each side of the unit (figure 7).
4. Loosen jam nuts on height adjuster links (item 8) and turn the adjuster links clockwise to raise the mower deck and counterclockwise to lower the mower deck (figure 7).
5. Tighten jam nuts on height adjuster links (item 8) (figure 7).

6. Install height adjuster link (item 8) on center lift lever (item 1) on each side of the unit (figure 7).
7. Check that the mower deck is level.
  - If mower deck is not level, repeat steps 3 through 6.
  - If mower deck is level, then adjust pitch of mower deck.

### Adjust Pitch of Mower Deck

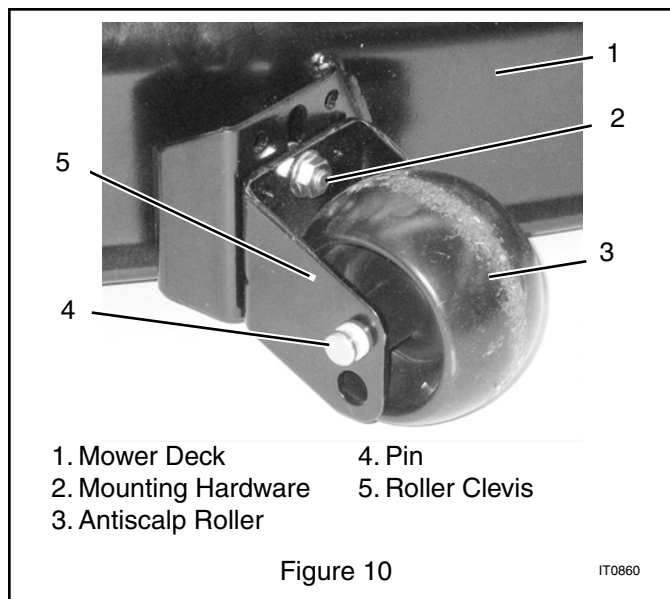
1. With the end of mower blades facing forward, measure the distance from mower blade and the ground at the front of mower deck. (figure 9).

**NOTE:** Adjust mower pitch so front end of mower blade is 1/8 in. to 1/4 in. (3 mm to 6 mm) lower than back end of mower blade (figure 9).



2. Loosen pitch adjusting hardware (item 4) on each side of mower deck (figure 7).
3. Adjust mower deck up or down to achieve proper pitch.
4. Tighten pitch adjusting hardware (item 4).

### ANTISCALP ROLLER ADJUSTMENT



**IMPORTANT:** Antiscalp rollers prevent lawn scalping. DO NOT use antiscalp rollers to set cutting height. Adjust antiscalp rollers to same height as mower blade or higher. Adjust all antiscalp rollers to same height.

**NOTE:** Adjust on a level surface, with the tires inflated to the correct air pressure (see *Specifications* on page 18).

1. Select cutting height.
2. Adjust all antiscalp rollers (item 3) to within 1/2 in. (1.27 cm) of ground (figure 10).

## REPLACING MOWER DRIVE BELT

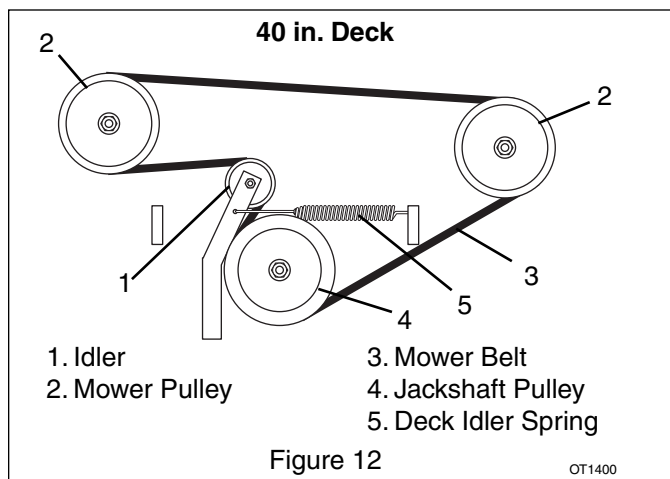
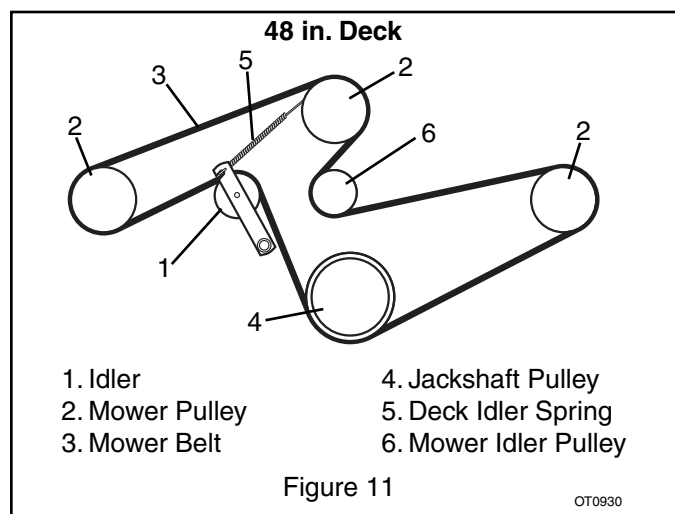
The mower belt idler system is designed to provide constant tension on the belt. If the deck idler spring is extended less than 4 1/2 in. (11.4 cm), replace the mower drive belt.

1. Disconnect deck idler spring from frame.
2. Remove belt from electric clutch and mower pan sheave.
3. Place new belt on electric clutch and mower pan sheave.
4. Reconnect deck idler spring to frame.

## REPLACING DECK BELT

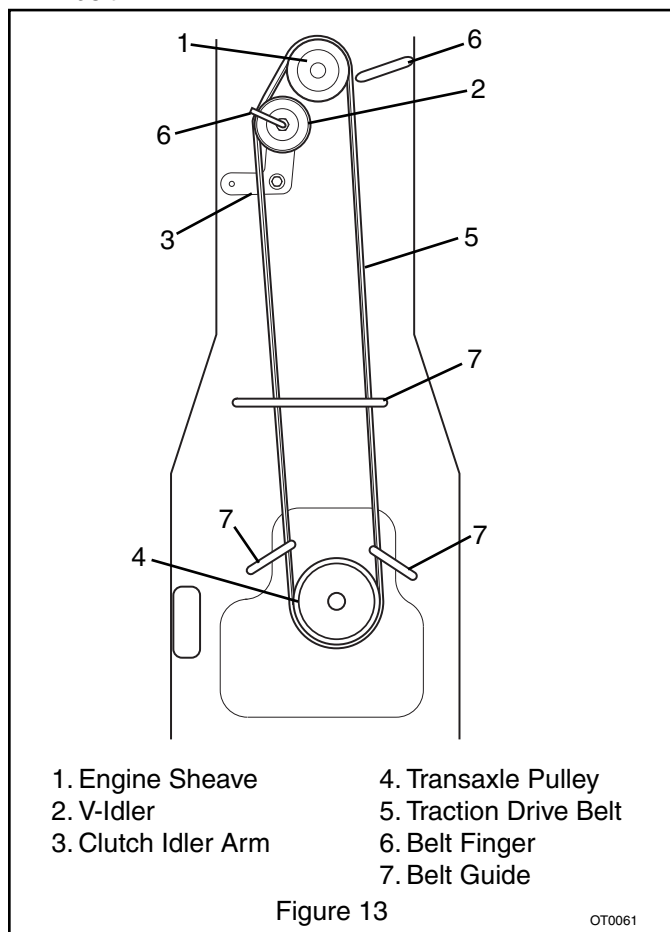
See figure 11 or figure 12.

1. Remove mower drive belt.
2. Disconnect idler spring from spring mount welded to the mower deck.
3. Remove left sheave cover.
4. Remove old belt from mower deck and install new belt. Ensure belt is seated in all pulley grooves.
5. Replace left sheave cover, reconnect idler spring and replace mower drive belt.



## TRACTION DRIVE BELT

1. Loosen hardware securing belt fingers at idler and pulleys (figure 13).
2. Depress clutch/brake pedal and remove belt from idler and pulleys.
3. Install new belt in reverse order.
4. Secure belt finger hardware with 1/16 in. to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm) clearance between belt fingers and belt.





## STEERING ADJUSTMENT

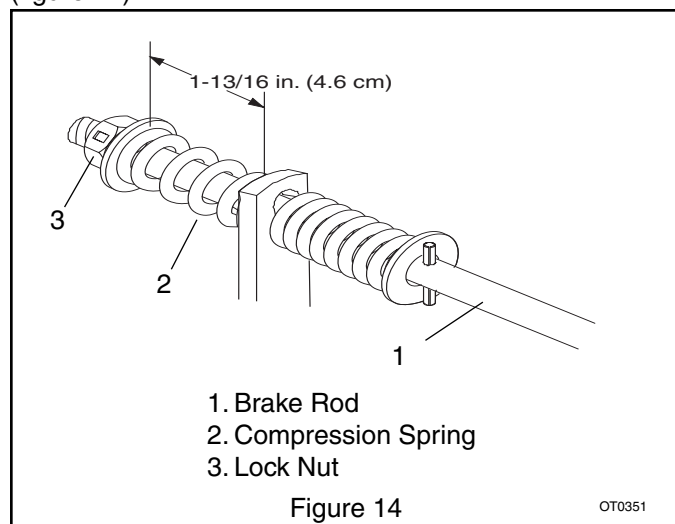
If steering system feels loose, ensure hardware is tight and check wear points for excessive wear. Replace parts as needed.

If tractor wanders or excessive tire wear develops, toe-in should be checked. Front of wheels should be 1/16 in. to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm) closer together than rear of wheels. To correct toe-in:

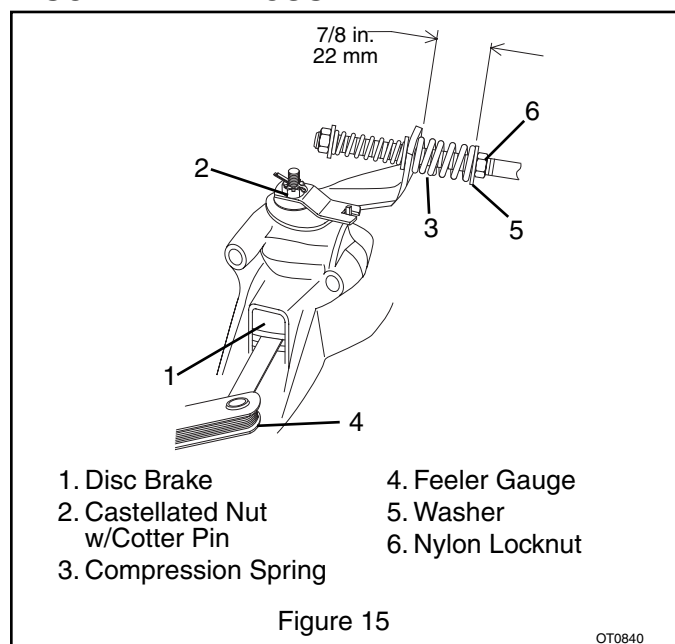
1. Loosen jam nuts at tie rod ends.
2. Turn tie rod clockwise to increase distance between front of wheels. Turn tie rod counterclockwise to decrease distance between front of wheels.
3. Tighten jam nuts at tie rod ends.

## PARKING BRAKE SPRING

Compress the spring to the length indicated with the brake on (Park Brake Set). Turn the locknut to adjust (figure 14).



## DISC BRAKE ADJUSTMENT



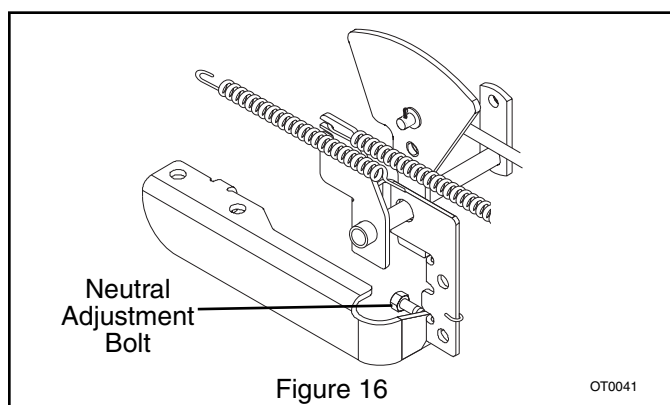
To check and change disc brake setting (figure 15):

1. Place feeler gauge between the two discs. With clutch/brake pedal released there should be 0.015 in. to 0.025 in. (0.4 mm to 0.6 mm) clearance.
2. Tighten castellated nut to decrease clearance, loosen to increase clearance.
3. Adjust brake spring. Turn nylon locknut until brake spring is compressed to 7/8 in. (22 mm) when brake pedal is depressed.

## NEUTRAL ADJUSTMENT (936036)

Adjust neutral if tractor moves when forward or reverse pedal is not depressed. To adjust neutral (figure 16):

1. Prop right rear wheel off the ground.
2. Spin right rear wheel. Turn neutral adjustment bolt until rear wheel no longer spins.



## BATTERY



**WARNING: AVOID INJURY.** Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.



**WARNING:** Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

### Battery Electrolyte First Aid

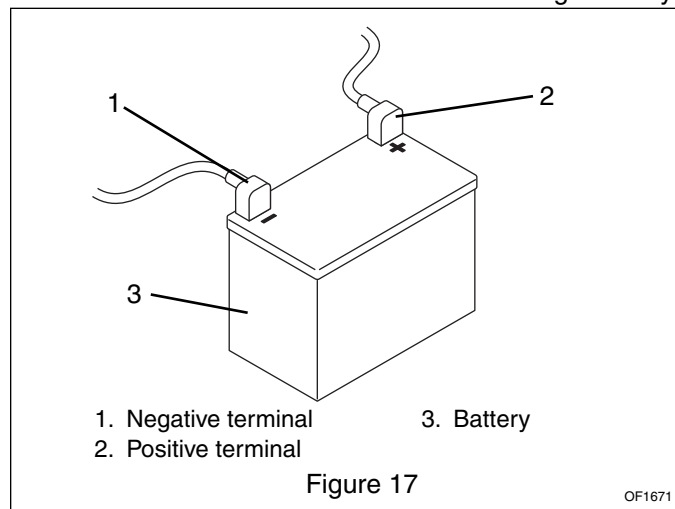
Follow First Aid directions for contact with battery fluid.

- External Contact: Flush with water.
- Eyes: Flush with water for at least 15 minutes and get medical attention immediately!
- Internal Contact: Drink large quantities of water. Follow with Milk of Magnesia, beaten egg or vegetable oil. Get medical attention immediately!

In case of internal contact, DO NOT induce vomiting!

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT fast charge. Charging at a higher rate will damage or destroy battery. ONLY use an automatic charger designed for use with your battery.

**IMPORTANT:** ALWAYS follow information provided on battery by battery manufacturer. Contact battery manufacturer for extensive instructions to charge battery.



### Charging Battery

1. Place unit in service position.
2. Disconnect negative (-) cable from battery first, then positive (+) cable.
3. Loosen strap and remove battery.
4. Place battery on bench or other well-ventilated place.
5. Connect positive (+) lead of charger to positive (+) terminal, and negative (-) lead to negative (-) terminal.
6. Charge battery according to charger and battery manufacturers' instructions.
7. Reinstall battery into unit and connect positive (+) cable first, then negative (-) cable. Position boot over positive terminal.

### Jump Starting Battery

Jump starting the battery may be required if starter motor will not crank the engine.



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.



**WARNING:** Frozen battery can explode and result in death or serious injury.  
DO NOT charge a battery containing frozen fluid. Thaw the battery before putting on a charger or jump starting.

The unit used for jump starting should have a 12 volt, 500 cold cranking amperes, negatively grounded system.

1. Disconnect negative (-) cable from battery.
2. Disconnect positive (+) cable from battery.
3. Connect the positive (+) jumper cable to the positive terminal of the unit battery.
4. Connect the other end of the positive jumper cable to the positive (+) terminal of the booster battery.
5. Connect one end of second jumper cable to the negative (-) terminal of the booster battery.
6. Connect the other end of the second jumper cable to the furthest ground point from the discharged battery.
7. Start the unit.
8. After unit starts, disconnect cables in following order: disconnect cable from ground point, disconnect negative (-) cable from booster battery terminal, disconnect positive (+) cable from booster battery terminal, and disconnect positive (+) cable from unit battery terminal.
9. Connect positive (+) cable first from unit to battery, then negative (-) cable from unit to battery.

## STORAGE



**WARNING:** AVOID INJURY. Read and understand the entire *Safety* section before proceeding.

### Short Term Storage

**IMPORTANT:** NEVER spray unit with water or store unit outdoors.

Remove all dirt, grease, leaves, etc. Store in a clean, dry area.

Ensure all fasteners are properly tightened. Inspect moving parts for damage and wear.

Clean seat with vinyl cleaner. Apply vinyl repair tape to any tears on seat.

### Long Term Storage

Follow all instructions under *Short Term Storage*.

Remove and fully charge battery. Store in a cool, dry location.

Drain fuel from fuel tank.

See engine manual for proper engine storage procedures.

Touch up all rusted or chipped paint surfaces.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

| PROBLEM                                    | PROBABLE CAUSE  | CORRECTION   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Engine will not crank/start</b>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PTO is engaged.</li> <li>2. Brake not engaged.</li> <li>3. Discharged battery.</li> <li>4. Loose battery cables.</li> <li>5. Fuel tank is empty.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disengage PTO.</li> <li>2. Depress clutch/brake pedal while starting.</li> <li>3. Charge battery (<i>see Charging Battery</i> on page 16).</li> <li>4. Check battery connections.</li> <li>5. Fill fuel tank.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Engine stops</b>                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Out of fuel.</li> <li>2. See engine manual.</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill fuel tank.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Engine problems</b>                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See engine manual.</li> </ol>   |  |
| <b>Does not operate in forward/reverse</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transmission is disengaged.</li> <li>2. Clutch needs adjustment.</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage transmission using bypass lever.</li> <li>2. See Ariens Dealer.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Engine runs roughly</b>                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choke engaged.</li> <li>2. Air cleaner clogged.</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disengage choke.</li> <li>2. Replace air cleaner. See engine manual.</li> </ol>  |

## ACCESSORIES

See your authorized Ariens dealer to add these optional accessories to your unit.

| Part No. | Description                  |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 73600900 | Rear Mounted Weight Box      |
| 73600200 | Tire Chains 20 x 8-8 Tires   |
| 73600300 | Rear Wheel Weights - 40 lbs. |
| 73601000 | Dethatcher - 40 in.          |
| 73600700 |                              |
| 73600800 | Hourmeter Kit                |

## ATTACHMENTS

| Part No. | Description         |
|----------|---------------------|
| 83600800 | Three Bucket Bagger |
| 83601100 | 36 in. Sno Thro     |

## SERVICE PARTS

| Part No. | Description                   |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 01554800 | Battery                       |
| 07229600 | PTO (Engine to Deck) Belt     |
| 07211500 | Mower Deck Belt (40 in. Deck) |
| 07235200 | Mower Deck Belt (48 in. Deck) |
| 07229700 | Transmission Belt             |
| 03624700 | Blade (40 in. Deck)           |
| 03123700 | Blade (48 in. Deck)           |

To obtain a complete parts manual, find your model and serial number. Then go to [www.ariens.com](http://www.ariens.com) or call 1-800-678-5443.

| SPECIFICATIONS   |                    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Model Number   | 936034             | 936036             |
| Description  | 1540               | 2548               |
| Length - in (cm)   | 66.5 (169)         |                    |
| Height - in (cm)   | 42.5 (108)         |                    |
| Width - in (cm)  | 53 (135)           | 58 (147)           |
| Wheel Base - in (cm)   | 46 (117)           |                    |
| Actual Weight - lbs (kg)   | 482 (218)          | 553 (251)          |
| Battery  | 12 Volt 290 CCA.   |                    |
| Brakes   | Disc               |                    |
| Steering   | Gear               |                    |
| Turning Radius - in (cm)   | 24 (61)            |                    |
| Tire Size  |                    |                    |
| Front  | 15 x 6.00-6        | 15 x 6.00-6        |
| Rear   | 20 x 8.00-8        | 22 x 7.50-12       |
| Engine - hp (kW)   | 15.0 (11)          | 25.0 (19) V-Twin   |
| Engine Manufacture   | Briggs & Stratton  |                    |
| Width of Cut - in (cm)   | 40 (101)           | 48 (122)           |
| Max. Rotation Speed<br>of Cutting Edge (min <sup>-1</sup> )              | 3065               | 4000               |
| Fuel and Capacity - gal (L)  | Unleaded 3 (11.4)  |                    |
| Governed R.P.M. (No Load)  | 3200 Max           |                    |
| Engine Oil   | See Engine Manual. |                    |
| Transmission   | Hydro-Gear 510     | Hydro-Gear 327-750 |
| Speed - Forward Max. - MPH (km/h)  | 0 - 5.5 (0 - 8.9)  |                    |
| Reverse Max. - MPH (km/h)  | 0 - 2.5 (0 - 4)    |                    |
| Transmission Lube  | 20W50 Oil          |                    |
| Rear Axle Maximum Load - lbs (kg)  | 540 (245)          | 568 (258)          |
| Tire Pressure With Loads<br>Front/Rear - Light & Medium Loads<br>(Heavy) | 10 PSI/10 PSI      |                    |
| Power Take Off   | Electric           |                    |



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920-756-2141  
Fax 920-756-2407  
www.ariens.com

## 2 Year Limited Warranty

Ariens Company warrants to the original purchaser that consumer products manufactured by Ariens Company will be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years after the date of purchase, and will repair any defect in material or workmanship, and repair or replace any defective part, subject to the conditions, limitations and exclusions set forth herein.

The two year duration of this warranty applies only if the product is put to ordinary, reasonable, and usual personal, family, or household uses. If the product is put to any business, commercial, or industrial use such as, but not limited to, commercial landscaping, mowing or snow removal services, or golf course or park maintenance, or agricultural or farmstead use, then the duration of this warranty is ninety (90) days after the date of purchase, or one (1) year after the date of purchase if the product is labeled as a Professional/Commercial Product. If any product is rented or leased, then the duration of this warranty is ninety (90) days after the date of purchase.

Genuine Ariens service parts and accessories not purchased with the product covered by this warranty, but which are later purchased and used with that product, are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days after date of purchase, and Ariens Company will repair or replace any such part or accessory free of charge, except for labor, during that period.

### **This warranty is subject to the following conditions, limitations, and exclusions:**

#### **This warranty is valid only if the following conditions are met:**

- The warranty registration card must be completed and returned to Ariens Company.
- The purchaser must perform maintenance and minor adjustments explained in the owner's manual.
- The purchaser must promptly notify Ariens Company or an authorized Ariens service representative of the need for warranty service.

#### **This warranty is subject to the following limitations:**

- The purchaser must transport the product to and from the place of warranty service.
- Warranty service must be performed by an authorized Ariens service representative. (To find an authorized Ariens service representative, contact Ariens Company at the number or address above.)
- Batteries are warranted only for a period of twelve (12) months after date of purchase, on a prorated basis. For the first ninety (90) days of the warranty period, a defective battery will be replaced free of charge. If the applicable warranty period is more than 90 days, Ariens Company will cover the prorated cost of any defective battery, for up to twelve(12) months after the date of purchase.

#### **The following items are not covered by this warranty:**

- Engines and engine accessories are covered only by the warranty made by the engine manufacturer, and are not covered by this warranty.
- If the product is equipped with a Peerless gearbox and/or transmission, the gearbox and/or transmission are covered only by the warranty made by Peerless, and are not covered by this warranty.
- If the product is equipped with a Hydro-Gear transmission and/or Hydro-Gear drive components, the Hydro-Gear transmission and/or drive components are covered only by the warranty made by Hydro-Gear, and are not covered by this warranty.
- Parts that are not genuine Ariens service parts are not covered by this warranty.
- Shoes, runners, scraper blades, shear bolts, string trimmer height guide, mower blades, mower vanes, trimmer line, headlights, light bulbs, are not covered by this warranty.
- Any defect which is the result of misuse, alteration, improper assembly, improper adjustment, neglect, or accident, is not covered by this warranty.
- Products which were not purchased in the United States, Puerto Rico, or Canada are not covered by this warranty. In all other countries, contact place of purchase.

### **LIMITATION OF REMEDY AND DAMAGES**

Ariens Company's liability under this warranty, and under any implied warranty that may exist, is limited to repair of any defect in workmanship, and repair or replacement of any defective part. Ariens Company shall not be liable for incidental, special, or consequential damages (including lost profits). Some states do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

### **DISCLAIMER OF FURTHER WARRANTY**

**Ariens Company makes no warranty, express or implied, other than what is expressly made in this warranty. If the law of your state provides that an implied warranty of merchantability, or an implied warranty of fitness for particular purpose, or any other implied warranty, applies to Ariens Company, then any such implied warranty is limited to the duration of this warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.**

**This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.**

Form: ALW2-112701



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