

User Guide Craftsman 15130383 Trimmer

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UNPACKING

- This product requires assembly.
- Carefully remove the product and any accessories from the box. Make sure that all items listed in the packing list are included.
- Inspect the product carefully to make sure no breakage or damage occurred during shipping.
- Do not discard the packaging material until you have carefully inspected and satisfactorily operated the product.
- If any parts are damaged or missing, do not operate the trimmer. Return it for replacement to the retailer from which it was purchased.

String Trimmer

NOTE:

- This Operator's Manual covers several models. Features may vary by model. Not all features in this manual are applicable to all models and the model depicted may differ from yours.

General Operation

1. Read this operator's manual carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.

2. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it.
3. This machine is a precision piece of power equipment. not a plaything. Therefore. exercise extreme caution at all times. This machine has been designed to perform one job: to cut vegetation and grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
4. Never allow children under 14 years of age to operate this machine. Children 14 and over should read and understand the instructions and safe operation practices in this manual and on the machine and should be trained and supervised by an adult.
5. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use this machine.
6. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones. sticks. wire. bones. toys and other foreign objects. which could be tripped over or picked up and thrown by the string trimmer. Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury.
7. Plan your trimming pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads. sidewalks. bystanders and the like. Also. avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction. which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
8. To help avoid trimmer line contact or a thrown object injury. stay in operator zone behind handles and keep children. bystanders. helpers and pets at least 75 feet from string trimmer while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters area.
9. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation and while performing an adjustment or repair to protect your eyes.
10. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
11. Wear sturdy. rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Never operate this machine in bare feet. sandals. slippery or light weight (e.g. canvas) shoes.
12. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge area at all times as the rotating spindle and trimmer lines can cause injury.
13. Never operate the string trimmer without proper shields. guards. control lever or other safety protective devices in place and working.
14. Never operate the string trimmer with damaged safety devices. Failure to do so. can result in personal injury.
15. Many injuries occur as a result of the string trimmer being pulled over the foot during a fall caused by slipping or tripping. Do not hold on to the string trimmer if you are falling; release the handle immediately.
16. Never pull the string trimmer back toward you while you are walking. If you must back the string trimmer away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind to avoid tripping and then follow these steps:

17. Do not operate the string trimmer while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
18. Do not engage the self-propelled mechanism on machines so equipped while starting engine.
19. The control lever is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating trimmer line. The control lever must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
20. Never operate the string trimmer in wet grass.
21. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your footing, release the control lever immediately and the spindle will stop rotating within three seconds.

WARNING:

- This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol, HEED ITS WARNING!
- DANGER: This machine was built to be operated according to the safe operation practices in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. This machine is capable of amputating fingers, hands, toes and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

Operate only in daylight or good artificial light.

- Walk, never run.
- Stop the spindle when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- Shut the engine off and wait until the spindle comes to a complete stop before cleaning the discharge area. The spindle continues to rotate for a few seconds after the control lever is released. Never place any part of the body in the trimmer line area until you are sure the spindle has stopped rotating.
- Never operate string trimmer without proper trail shield, discharge cover, control lever or other safety protective devices in place and working. Never operate string trimmer with damaged safety devices. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
- Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
- Only use parts and accessories made for this machine by the manufacturer. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.

- When starting engine. pull cord slowly until resistance is felt. then pull rapidly. Rapid retraction of starter cord (kickback) will pull hand and arm toward engine faster than you can let go. Broken bones. fractures. bruises or sprains could result.
- If situations occur which are not covered in this manual. use care and good judgement.
- Contact Customer Support for assistance or the name of the nearest service dealer.

Slope Operation

- Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents. which can result in severe injury.
- Operation on slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope. do not trim on it. For your safety. use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this machine on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees. do not trim on it.
- Do:
- Trim across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes. ruts. rocks. hidden objects. or bumps which can cause you to slip or trip. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Never remove gas cap or add fuel while engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
- Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than 1 inch below bottom of filler neck to provide for fuel expansion.
- Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
- If gasoline is spilled. wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move machine to another area.
- Wait 5 minutes before starting engine.
- Never store the machine or fuel container near an open flame. spark or pilot light as on a water heater. space heater. furnace. clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
- To reduce fire hazard. keep machine free of grass. leaves. or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
- Allow machine to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.

General Service:

- Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide. an odorless and deadly gas.
- Before cleaning. repairing. or inspecting. make certain the spindle and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.

- Check the spindle and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness.
- Also, visually inspect spindle for damage.
- Replace with the original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
- Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the string trimmer for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating the string trimmer.
- Trimmer components, guards and shields are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
- Do not change the engine's governor setting or over-speed the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
- Check fuel line, tank, cap, and fittings frequently for cracks or leaks. Replace if necessary.
- Do not crank engine with spark plug removed.
- Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.
- Observe proper disposal laws and regulations.
- Improper disposal of fluids and materials can harm the environment.
- According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this product has an Average Useful Life of seven (7) years, or 140 hours of operation. At the end of the Average Useful Life have the machine inspected annually by an authorized service dealer to ensure that all mechanical and safety systems are working properly and not worn excessively. Failure to do so can result in accidents, injuries or death.
- Do not modify engine
- To avoid serious injury or death, do not modify engine in any way. Tampering with the governor setting can lead to a runaway engine and cause it to operate at unsafe speeds. Never tamper with factory setting of engine governor.

Notice Regarding Emissions

1. Engines which are certified to comply with California and federal EPA emission regulations for SORE (Small Off Road Equipment) are certified to operate on regular unleaded gasoline. and may include the following emission control systems:
2. Engine Modification (EM). Oxidizing Catalyst (OC). Secondary Air Injection (SAI) and Three Way Catalyst (TWC) if so equipped.

Spark Arrestor

WARNING:

- This machine is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrestor meeting applicable local or state laws (if any).
- If a spark arrestor is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator. In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands.
- A spark arrestor for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact the service department, P.O. Box 361131 Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019.
- Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your balance, release the control lever immediately and the spindle will stop rotating within three (3) seconds.

Do Not:

1. Do not trim near drop-offs, ditches or embankments, you could lose your footing or balance.
2. Do not trim slopes greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge.
3. Do not trim on wet grass. Unstable footing could cause slipping.

Children

- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the string trimmer and the trimming activity. They do not understand the dangers. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- Keep children out of the trimming area and under watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
- Be alert and turn string trimmer off if a child enters the area.
- Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.

- Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child who may run into the string trimmer.
- Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
- Never allow children under 14 years of age to operate this machine. Children 14 and over should read and understand the instructions and safe operation practices in this manual and on the machine and be trained and supervised by an adult.

Safe Handling Of Gasoline:

- To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline.
- Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes, which can ignite. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.
- Use only an approved gasoline container.
- 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.
- 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.
- Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
- Never fuel machine indoors because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.

Safety Symbols

- This page depicts and describes safety symbols that may appear on this product. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine before attempting to assemble and operate.

Symbol Description

- **READ THE OPERATOR'S MANUAL(S)** Read, understand, and follow all instructions in the manual(s) before attempting to assemble and operate
- **EYE PROTECTION** Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles when operating this machine.
- **DANGER — BYSTANDERS** Do not trim when children or others are around.
- **DANGER — HAND/ FOOT CUT** Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts.
- **DANGER — THROWN DEBRIS** Remove objects that can be thrown by the machine in any direction. Wear safety glasses.

- **DANGER — SLOPES** Use extra caution on slopes. Do not trim on slopes greater than 15°.
- **WARNING—GASOLINE IS FLAMMABLE** Allow the engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
- **WARNING— CARBON MONOXIDE** Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.
- **WARNING— HOT SURFACE** Engine parts, especially the muffler, become extremely hot during operation. Allow engine and muffler to cool before touching.
- **WARNING: Your Responsibility—**Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

Assembly

- This string trimmer is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Fill up the gasoline and oil as instructed in the Engine Operator's Manual BEFORE operating your machine.

Upper Handle

- Remove the wing knob (a) and carriage bolt (b) from the left lower handle and the right lower handle. See Figure 2-1.
- Pivot the upper handle into the operating position. See Figure 2-1.
- Figure 2-1
- Move the upper handle into one of three positions by pivoting it forward or rearward.
- Flip the wing knobs (a) and carriage bolts (b) so that the wing knobs are positioned at the outside of the handle when installed.
- Secure the upper handle to the lower handle using the wing knobs (a) and carriage bolts (b) removed in Step 1. See Figure 2-2.

Gas and Oil Fill-Up

- Refer to the Engine Operator's Manual for additional engine information.
- Add oil provided before starting unit for the first time.
- Service the engine with gasoline as instructed in the Engine Operator's Manual.

WARNING:

- Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.
- Never fuel the machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and any other sources of ignition.
- Thank you for purchasing this product. It was carefully engineered to provide excellent performance when properly operated and maintained.

- Please read this entire manual prior to operating the equipment. It instructs you how to safely and easily set up, operate and maintain your machine. Please be sure that you, and any other persons who will operate the machine, carefully follow the recommended safety practices at all times. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or property damage.
- All information in this manual is relative to the most recent product information available at the time of printing.
- Review this manual frequently to familiarize yourself with the machine, its features and operation. Please be aware that this Operator's Manual may cover a range of product specifications for various models.
- Characteristics and features discussed and/or illustrated in this manual may not be applicable to all models. We reserve the right to change product specifications, designs and equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.
- If applicable, the power testing information used to establish the power rating of the engine equipped on this machine can be found at www.opei.org or the engine manufacturer's web site.
- If you have any problems or questions concerning the machine, phone an authorized service dealer or contact us directly. Customer Support telephone numbers, website address and mailing address can be found on this page. We want to ensure your complete satisfaction at all times.
- Throughout this manual, all references to right and left side of the machine are observed from the operating position. The engine manufacturer is responsible for all engine-related issues with regards to performance, power-rating, specifications, warranty and service. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's Owner's/Operator's Manual, packed separately with your machine, for more information.

Starting and Stopping Engine

- Refer to the Engine Operator's Manual packed with your string trimmer for instructions on starting and stopping the engine.

Using Your String Trimmer

- Be sure trimming area is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage the string trimmer or engine. Such objects could be accidentally thrown by the trimmer in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.

WARNING:

- The operation of any string trimmer can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can damage your eyes severely. Always wear safety glasses while operating the string trimmer, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

FITTING THE AUXILIARY HANDLE

- Loosen and remove the bolt from the handle.
- Place the handle on the line trimmer as shown.
- Adjust the handle to the most comfortable position.
- Pass the bolt through the auxiliary handle and the main handle. Tighten the nut to secure. Do not overtighten the bolt.

FITTING THE EDGING WHEEL

- See Figure 7.
- Slide the edging wheel into the slot located on the side of the motor housing. It will lock into place.
- PACKING LIST
- Line Trimmer
- Flower Guard
- Safety Guard with Screws
- Auxiliary Handle Assembly with Bolt and Nut
- Edging Wheel
- Operator's Manual

WARNING!

- Before assembly, make sure that the line trimmer is switched off and unplugged.

FITTING THE SAFETY GUARD

- See Figure 3-4.
- The Safety Guard prevents cut debris from flying back at the operator.
- Fit the safety guard into the slots on the trimmer housing and line up the screw hole in the safety guard with the screw hole in the trimmer head.
- Install supplied screw and tighten by turning clockwise with a Phillips screwdriver.

WARNING!

- The tine cut-off blade on the safety guard is sharp. Avoid contact with the blade.
- Failure to avoid contact can result in serious personal injury. Never use the line trimmer unless the guard is properly fitted.

PREPARING THE TRIMMER FOR USE

1. See Figure 8-9.
2. Press the rotational lock button and rotate the main handle counterclockwise. Release button when main handle has been rotated 180 °.

3. Turn the adjustment collar clockwise to unlock. You can slide the telescopic tube up or down to achieve the most comfortable working height.
4. Turn the adjustment collar counterclockwise till the shaft lock into place.

STARTING/STOPPING THE TRIMMER

- See Figure 10-11.
- Attach the outlet end of an extension cord to the plug on the rear of the line trimmer.
- NOTE: Use only approved outdoor extension cords.
- Route the extension cord through the slot located on the rear of the line trimmer housing and place underneath the cord retainer.
- To start the line trimmer, squeeze the safety switch, then press the switch trigger.
- To stop the line trimmer, release the switch trigger.

OPERATING THE TRIMMER

- See Figure 12.
- Hold the line trimmer as shown.
- Gently swing the trimmer from side to side.
- In order to achieve optimum cutting results, only cut dry grass.
- When cutting long or thick grass, start at the top of the grass blades and gradually work down to the bottom.
- If the line trimmer starts running slowly, reduce the amount of material you are trying to cut.

IF GRASS BECOMES WRAPPED AROUND LINE

1. Stop trimmer.
2. Unplug the line trimmer.
3. Remove the grass.
4. ADJUSTING TRIMMER HEAD ANGLE
5. See Figure 13.
6. The trimmer head can be pivoted to seven different positions.
7. Unplug the line trimmer.
8. Push the pivot button and move the trimmer head up or down to one of the seven positions indicated by the notches.

NOTE:

- Adjust the trimmer head to the first, second and third notches for trimming and notches four, five, six and seven for edging, based on preferred trimming and edging position.
- Make sure the trimmer head is securely locked into place before resuming work.

USING THE FLOWER GUARD

- The flower guard provides a visual indicator of the maximum reach of the trimming line.
- When the flower guard is swung down, it can be used as a distance guide for use around plants, poles and fence posts.

ADVANCING LINES USING AUTO FEED

NOTE:

- The trimmer is equipped with an auto-feed head. DO NOT bump the head to try to advance the line as this will damage trimmer and void warranty.
- With the trimmer running but NOT trimming, release the switch trigger.
- Wait two seconds, and press the switch trigger.

NOTE:

- The line will extend approximately 3/16 in. with each stop and start of the switch trigger until the line reaches the length of the line cut-off blade.
- Resume trimming.

ADVANCING THE LINES MANUALLY

NOTE:

- If lengthy line advancement is required, use the
- Advance Button found on the side of the trimmer head.
- Release the ON/OFF Switch Trigger to stop the unit. and unplug the trimmer.
- Depress the manual advance button, and pull one or both of the two lines. The lines will advance 3/16 inch and stop. Push the button again to advance more line.
- Push the button and pull lines out as many times as it takes to reach the line cut-off blade. Always advance both lines to the same length.

ROTATING MAIN HANDLE

NOTE:

- The best method of edging is performed with the main handle rotated.
- Unplug the line trimmer.
- Press the rotational lock button and rotate the main handle clockwise.
- Release button when main handle has been rotated to the edging position.

EDGING

- The edging wheel provides stability and easier handling when using the trimmer to edge.
- Simply swing the edging wheel down from its storage position into edging position.

SPOOL REPLACEMENT

- See Figure 18.
- Use only round .065" diameter monofilament line.
- Use original manufacturer's replacement line for best performance.
- Unplug the line trimmer.
- Push in tabs on side of spool cover.
- Pull spool cover up to remove.
- Remove spool.
- To install the new spool, make sure the two lines are captured in the slots opposite each other on the new spool. Make sure the end of each line is extended approximately 6 in. beyond each slot.
- Install the new spool so that the lines and slots align with the eyelets in the line head. Thread the lines into the eyelets.
- Pull the lines extending from the tine head so the line releases from the slots in the spool.
- Reinstall the spool cover by depressing tabs into slots in the tine head and pushing down until spool cover clicks into place.

NOTE:

- Replacement spool is available at SEARS; item # 71.99006

LINE REPLACEMENT

- Unplug the line trimmer.
- Remove the spool from the tine head.

NOTE:

- Remove any old tine remaining on the spool.
- Cut two pieces of line, each being approximately 9 ft. (m) long. Use only .065 in. (1.65 mm) diameter monofilament line.
- Insert the first tine into the anchor hole in the upper part of the spool. Wind the first tine around the upper part of the spool clockwise, as shown by the arrows on the spool. Place line in the slot on upper spool flange, leaving about 6 in. (152 mm) extended beyond the slot.
- Do not overfill. After winding the line, there should be at least 1/4 in. (6 mm) between the wound line and the outside edge of the spool.
- Repeat above step with second line, using the bottom part of spool and the lower anchor hole. Do not overfill.

- Install the spool in the tine head and replace the spool cover as described in Spool Replacement.

Warning

This content is compiled from multiple sources and is provided for reference purposes only. It may not be complete or fully applicable to all situations. If you are unable to resolve your issue, please contact the product manufacturer or an authorized service provider for official support.

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