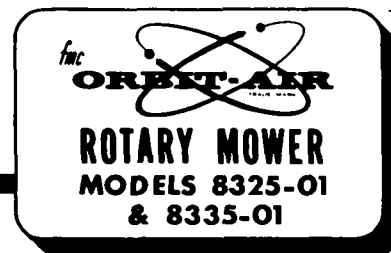


Owner Operation and Maintenance Manual



TO THE OWNER

This is an operation manual only and does not cover repair. All repair work must be performed by an authorized Bolens dealer or the warranty is void. Bolens equipment is carefully engineered to give efficient, trouble free performance if properly operated and maintained. Keep your unit clean and lubricate regularly. Periodically inspect the unit and perform any upkeep maintenance necessary.

The dealer is obligated by the factory to completely assemble and service new equipment before delivery and thoroughly explain its operation. He will repair or replace any parts which fail due to defective material or workmanship during the warranty period and also provide future repair service and parts. To insure continued satisfactory operation, insist that your new equipment is completely serviced and its operation explained by your dealer.

ASSEMBLY

The mower is shipped completely assembled except for the handle, throttle control, and clutch lever. Insert ends of lower handles (straight sides of bottom ends outward) into upper handle, align holes and secure with special oval head screws. The heads of the screws should be to the outside. Position holes in lower handle, over mounting studs of mower base, add 3/8" flat washers and secure with 3/8-16 lock nuts. Mount the handle struts from the lower handles to the brackets on mower base using 5/16-24 x 1-1/4 capscrews and lock nuts on top and 5/16-24 x 5/8 capscrews and lock nuts on the bottom. The end of strut with two holes must be attached to the lower handle and the hole utilized will determine the handle height. The mounting brackets on the mower base have slotted holes to allow for movement of the handle assembly, therefore, do not tighten capscrews to the extent that the strut binds on the bracket. Mount the throttle control to the outside of left handle and clutch control to outside of right handle with 1/4-20 x 1-1/4 capscrews and lock nuts. Secure wire housings to handles with clips provided.

ENGINE

IMPORTANT: THE ENGINE IS SHIPPED WITHOUT OIL IN THE CRANKCASE. Before using the unit, check to be certain the crankcase is filled to indicated level with lubricant specified in engine manual. Check oil level and change oil in accordance with engine manufacturer's instructions. (The drain plug

is located underneath the mower base.) Other important information is contained in the engine manual; follow all instructions carefully.

To start the engine, move throttle lever to "choke" position and **BE SURE CLUTCH LEVER IS IN DIS-ENGAGED POSITION.** Push lever on side of impulse starter all the way in. Extend impulse starter handle and turn clockwise four turns. Retract starter handle, stand free of mower and pull lever outward. When engine starts, gradually move throttle control to "fast" position. To stop engine, move throttle control to "stop" position. **CAUTION: NEVER WIND IMPULSE STARTER AND LEAVE ENERGIZED.**

NOTE: BOLENS DIVISION DOES NOT WARRANT THE ENGINE ON THIS UNIT. IT IS WARRANTED SEPARATELY BY THE MANUFACTURER THROUGH HIS OWN LOCAL SERVICE STATIONS.

CONTROLS

The throttle lever on the left handle controls choking, engine speed, and stopping the engine. The clutch control on the right handle engages and disengages the forward motion of the mower. The lever on the rear of the mower base opens and closes the discharge cover. A latch prevents the discharge cover from opening all the way as the cover must act as a deflector for safe operation. If a bag and chute attachment is used, it will be necessary to open the discharge cover all the way. This can be done by raising the latch with the finger which will release the "stopper action" on the cover. **IMPORTANT: RELEASE THE LATCH ONLY WHEN BAG AND CHUTE IS USED.**

OPERATION

The larger chamber of the base has the capacity to handle an enormous quantity of clippings without plugging or windrowing. The clippings are held in suspension within the base by the air flow created by the blade and cut until fully pulverized. This fine mulch is then forced downward over the mowed portion of the lawn where it disappears among the grass roots and provides health restoring mulch to assist in maintaining a healthy attractive lawn.

When cutting tall weeds or grass, open the discharge cover to permit immediate discharge of excessive clippings from the base. When operating the mower with the discharge cover open, best results will be obtained by mowing in a clockwise direction around



BOLENS DIVISION
PORT WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN
America's Finest Outdoor Power Equipment

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

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FORM NO. 551487

the plot, keeping the uncut grass on the operator's right. In this way the discharged clippings will fall in the path of the next swath to be again picked up and cut into a fine mulch.

In the fall of the year the Orbit-Air Mower is a perfect unit for leaf mulching. For best results the wheels should be set so the mower base is in the lowest position and the mower run over the leaves with the discharge cover closed. The leaves will be cut and recut in the base in the same manner as grass clippings in lawn mowing and after being pulverized will be forced downward between the grass blades.

If you prefer to remove the mulch entirely, a discharge chute and bag is available from your dealer. With the chute and bag installed, cutting and bagging of the mulch is completed in one operation; no unnecessary work such as raking or lawn sweeping is involved. When the bag is full, remove it from the mower and transport the mulch in the bag to the compost pile.

CUTTING HEIGHT

The cutting height is regulated by individual adjustment of each wheel. Seven cutting heights are available ranging from a high of 3 inches to a low of 1 inch. The highest cut setting is with the adjusting levers toward the front and the lowest setting with the levers toward the rear. To change the height of cut, hold wheel firmly, pull lever toward wheel until it is free and move to desired setting. Release the lever and be sure it seats in the hole selected. All four levers must be in the same height setting.

CAUTION: NEVER CHANGE CUTTING HEIGHT WITH THE ENGINE RUNNING.

CUTTING BLADE

Always keep the blade sharp for best cutting results. When sharpening the blade, file or grind equal portions off both ends to maintain a balanced blade. If the blade is not properly balanced, vibration will result which could cause serious damage to the engine. A loose blade or blade coupling will also cause vibration, therefore be sure the blade is mounted securely at all times.

MAINTENANCE

Check the complete unit regularly for loose screws and nuts, especially the cutting blade and blade coupling mounting screws. Periodically place a few drops of light oil on the rear wheel bolts and height adjusting linkage. In case the gear case is repaired, pack gears and bearings with regular gun grease before assembling.

BELT REPLACEMENT AND ADJUSTMENT

The drive belt is properly adjusted at the factory and the spring loaded idler pulley will compensate for

normal stretch and wear of the belt. If the drive belt must be replaced, remove the gear case cover and the belt cover. The belt can now be removed easily and a new belt installed.

Replace the belt cover but before replacing the gear case cover, check the clutch lever for proper idle setting. With the front mower wheels in the highest cut setting and the clutch lever all the way back, there should be a maximum clearance of 1/8 inch between the idler pulley and the baffle under mower base.

If adjustment is necessary, it can be made by changing the position of control wire in the clutch lever or by changing the position of wire housing in the clamp on mower base. The setting should be changed with the clutch lever forward to remove tension of clutch wire. After setting is changed, move clutch lever to disengaged position and check idler pulley for proper clearance. The position of the belt guide on engine drive pulley is also very important for smooth idling. The belt guide should be in line with the front edge of the drive pulley at all times.

CHUTE AND BAG ATTACHMENT

Mount the two brackets to the inside of mower handle using the bolts joining the upper and lower handle. Both brackets must have the large hole to the front. The left bracket is mounted with the large hole below the handle and the right bracket with large hole above the handle. Mount rod with curved end first. Insert straight end of rod through hole in right bracket and with rod passing over left handle, insert curved end in hole of left bracket. Secure rod with cotter pin. Couple the rod with hooked end to rod already installed. Release latch and open discharge cover completely. Position chute over discharge hole with the lip on rear of chute behind the wall of mower base. Insert lock pin on front of chute into hole in mower base and turn 90 degrees. Install bag from chute to support rod.

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

- (1) Be sure the clutch lever is disengaged before starting the engine.
- (2) Never stand in front of mower when starting engine.
- (3) Remove stones, wire, etc. from area to be mowed. Avoid striking protruding objects such as pipes and stones with cutting blade.
- (4) Always keep hands and feet free from edge of mower base when engine is running.
- (5) Always remove spark plug wire when working on the mower.
- (6) Never allow children in area being mowed.
- (7) Never leave mower unattended while engine is running.
- (8) Never add gasoline while engine is running.
- (9) Never operate mower with discharge cover entirely open unless using a bag and chute attachment.
- (10) Always keep unit clean and in good repair.