

craftsman lawn mower model 917 manual

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When it comes to maintaining a pristine lawn, having the right equipment and knowledge is essential. The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 has long been a popular choice among homeowners and professional landscapers alike due to its durability, performance, and user-friendly features. However, to ensure optimal operation and longevity of your mower, it is crucial to understand how to properly use, maintain, and troubleshoot this specific model. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an in-depth overview of the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917, emphasizing the importance of the user manual, and offering practical tips to keep your mower in top condition.

Understanding the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917

Overview of the Model

The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 is part of Craftsman's series of riding mowers, designed for ease of use and efficiency. Typically equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine, it offers reliable power suitable for various lawn sizes. The model features a sturdy steel deck, multiple cutting height adjustments, and comfortable seating, making mowing less of a chore.

Key features often include:

- Varying engine sizes (commonly 16-23 HP)
- Multiple cutting deck widths (42", 46", 50", 54")
- Adjustable cutting heights
- Hydrostatic transmission for smooth operation
- High-back seat for operator comfort

Understanding these features is fundamental for proper operation and maintenance. The specific specifications can vary depending on the exact sub-model within the 917 series, so consulting your manual is always recommended.

The Importance of the Manual

The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 manual is an essential resource for owners. It provides detailed instructions on starting, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting the mower. The manual often contains diagrams, safety warnings, and parts lists, which are invaluable for repairs and routine checks.

Why is the manual so important?

1. Ensures safe operation by highlighting hazards and safety precautions
2. Provides step-by-step instructions for startup and shutdown procedures
3. Details maintenance schedules and procedures to prolong mower lifespan
4. Includes troubleshooting guides for common issues
5. Offers parts identification to facilitate repairs and replacements

Without the manual, users may risk improper handling, leading to safety hazards or damage to the mower. If the manual is lost, it is advisable to seek a digital copy from the Craftsman or Briggs & Stratton official websites.

Starting and Operating the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917

Preparation Before Starting

Before starting your mower, perform the following preparatory steps:

- Check the oil level and top up if necessary, following specifications outlined in the manual.
- Inspect the fuel tank for adequate fuel, and ensure there are no leaks.
- Examine blades for damage or wear, ensuring they are securely attached.
- Clean the deck area to prevent debris from causing damage or uneven cutting.
- Ensure all safety features, such as the seat switch and blade brake clutch, are engaged and functioning.

Starting the Engine

To start your Craftsman Model 917 mower:

1. Sit on the operator's seat and ensure the parking brake is engaged.
2. Insert the key into the ignition switch and turn to the "On" position.
3. Set the throttle to the "Fast" or "Start" position as indicated.
4. Pull the choke knob if the engine is cold, following the manual's instructions.
5. Depress the brake pedal and press the starter button or turn the ignition key to start the engine.
6. Once the engine starts, gradually release the choke and allow the engine to warm up.

Operating the Mower

After starting, follow these guidelines:

- Engage the blades only when ready to mow, typically by pressing the blade engagement lever.
- Adjust the cutting height to suit your lawn conditions, using the height adjustment levers.
- Drive the mower smoothly across the lawn, avoiding sudden turns or stops.
- Monitor engine and mower performance, listening for unusual noises or vibrations.
- Use the cruise control (if available) to maintain a consistent speed.

Maintenance and Care for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917

Routine Maintenance Tasks

Proper maintenance ensures a longer lifespan and reliable performance. Key tasks include:

- Checking and changing engine oil regularly, typically after every 25 hours of use or as specified in the manual.
- Replacing or sharpening blades at recommended intervals for a clean cut.
- Cleaning the air filter periodically, replacing it when dirty or damaged.
- Inspecting the spark plug and replacing it annually or as needed.
- Checking tire pressure and adjusting as necessary.
- Cleaning the mower deck to prevent grass buildup and corrosion.

Seasonal Storage Preparation

Before storing the mower for winter or extended periods:

- Drain the fuel or add fuel stabilizer to prevent engine issues.
- Clean the mower thoroughly, removing grass clippings and debris.
- Lubricate moving parts as per instructions.
- Store the mower in a dry, sheltered location away from extreme temperatures.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Engine Won't Start

Possible causes and solutions:

- Fuel issues: Ensure there's fresh fuel and the fuel valve is open.
- Spark plug problems: Check for fouling or wear, replace if necessary.
- Choke not engaged: Use the choke appropriately during cold starts.

- Battery or electrical faults: For electric-start models, check connections.

Uneven Cutting or Poor Performance

Potential reasons include:

- Dull blades: Sharpen or replace blades.
- Clogged air filter: Clean or replace.
- Incorrect blade engagement: Verify that the blades are engaged properly.
- Engine not reaching proper speed: Check and adjust throttle settings.

Excessive Vibrations or Noisy Operation

Address issues such as:

- Loose blades or hardware: Tighten bolts and nuts.
- Damaged blades: Replace immediately.
- Engine problems: Consult a technician if vibrations persist.

Where to Find Parts and Support

Replacing Parts

For genuine replacement parts, consult the manual for part numbers and specifications. Authorized Craftsman dealers and Briggs & Stratton distributors are recommended sources. Common replacement parts include:

- Blades
- Air filters

- Spark plugs
- Oil filters (if applicable)
- Battery (for electric start models)

Technical Support and Service

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve issues, contact Craftsman customer service or a certified repair technician. Always provide the model number and serial number when seeking support.

Conclusion

Owning a Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 offers the convenience of a reliable, efficient mowing experience. However, to maximize its lifespan and performance, diligent adherence to the manufacturer's manual is vital. From understanding the initial setup and operation to performing routine maintenance and troubleshooting, the manual is your primary resource. Regular care, timely repairs, and proper storage will ensure your mower remains a dependable tool for your lawn care needs for years to come. Remember, safety is paramount—always follow safety instructions outlined in the manual, wear appropriate protective gear, and handle fuel and electrical components with care. With proper knowledge and maintenance, your Craftsman 917 will continue to help you achieve a beautifully maintained lawn season after season.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the official manual for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917?

You can find the official manual for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 on the Sears Parts Direct website or by visiting the Craftsman support page online.

How do I troubleshoot starting issues on my Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917?

Begin by checking the spark plug, fuel level, and air filter. Refer to the manual for detailed troubleshooting steps and safety precautions to resolve starting problems.

What maintenance tasks are recommended for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 as per the manual?

The manual recommends regular oil changes, blade sharpening, air filter cleaning or replacement, and spark plug inspection to keep your mower in optimal condition.

How do I adjust the cutting height on the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917?

The manual provides instructions on adjusting the deck height using the height adjustment lever or knobs, depending on your model, to achieve the desired grass length.

What safety precautions are outlined in the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 manual?

The manual emphasizes wearing protective gear, ensuring the mower is off before maintenance, keeping hands and feet away from blades, and operating on dry, level ground.

Can I replace the blades on my Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 myself?

Yes, the manual includes step-by-step instructions for safely replacing or sharpening blades, but always follow safety guidelines and disconnect the spark plug before starting.

How do I assemble my Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 after purchase?

The manual provides detailed assembly instructions, including attaching the handle, installing the blades, and checking fluid levels before first use.

What fuel type is recommended for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917?

The manual recommends using fresh, unleaded gasoline with a minimum octane rating of 87, and avoiding ethanol-blended fuels if possible.

Where can I get replacement parts for my Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917?

Replacement parts are available through Sears Parts Direct or authorized service centers. Use the model

number 917 to ensure compatibility when ordering parts.

Additional Resources

Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 Manual: An In-Depth Review and Expert Guide

When it comes to maintaining a pristine lawn, choosing the right mower is essential. The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 has garnered attention among homeowners and professionals alike for its durability, performance, and innovative features. Whether you're a seasoned landscaper or a homeowner seeking an efficient mowing solution, understanding the intricacies of the Model 917 can help you maximize its potential. In this comprehensive guide, we'll delve into the specifications, features, maintenance, and user tips for the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917, providing you with all the information needed to operate and care for this robust machine effectively.

Overview of the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917

The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 is part of Craftsman's renowned line of riding mowers, designed to deliver powerful, smooth operation while offering user-friendly controls. Built with durable materials and engineered for efficiency, the Model 917 is suitable for medium to large-sized lawns, providing a reliable mowing experience.

Key Highlights:

- Engine power suitable for challenging terrains
- Multiple cutting height adjustments
- Comfortable operator station
- Ease of maintenance and servicing
- Compatibility with various attachments

Understanding the core aspects of the Model 917 enables users to operate it confidently and perform routine maintenance effectively.

Technical Specifications and Features

A detailed understanding of the technical specifications provides insight into the mower's capabilities and

helps in troubleshooting or upgrading.

Engine and Powertrain

The Craftsman Model 917 typically comes equipped with a powerful V-twin or single-cylinder engine, depending on the specific model year. These engines are designed for durability and efficient power delivery.

- Horsepower (HP): Ranges from 18 to 25 HP
- Engine Type: Briggs & Stratton, Kohler, or Honda (varies by model)
- Fuel Capacity: Approximately 3 to 4 gallons
- Transmission: Hydrostatic transmission for smooth speed control
- Drive System: Rear-wheel or all-wheel drive options

The robust engine ensures the mower can handle thick grass, uneven terrain, and slopes with ease.

Cutting Deck and Blades

The cutting deck is the heart of any mower, and the Model 917 features a sturdy, steel deck with the following characteristics:

- Deck Width: Typically 42 to 54 inches, suitable for large lawns
- Cutting Height Adjustment: Multiple positions (usually 6-10), allowing precise control
- Blade Type: 2-3 blades, designed for efficient cutting and mulching
- Deck Lift Mechanism: Manual or electric, depending on model configuration

The wide deck coverage reduces mowing time and ensures an even cut across the lawn.

Operator Comfort and Controls

Designed with user convenience in mind, the Model 917 includes:

- Adjustable Seat: Padded, adjustable for comfort during extended use
- Steering Mechanism: Ergonomic steering wheel with responsive controls
- Dashboard: Easy-to-read gauges for speed, engine temperature, and fuel level
- Control Levers: For throttle, blade engagement, and parking brake
- Foot Pedals: For acceleration and brake operation

Comfort features minimize operator fatigue, making it suitable for prolonged mowing sessions.

Additional Features

- Lighting: Headlights for early morning or late evening mowing
- Attachments: Compatibility with baggers, mulching kits, snow blades, and aerators
- Safety Features: Emergency stop, seat switch, and blade brake clutch
- Storage: Onboard compartments or tool storage options

Operational Use and User Experience

Understanding how to operate the Craftsman Model 917 effectively ensures a smooth mowing experience and prolongs the lifespan of the machine.

Starting the Mower

- Ensure the fuel tank is filled with fresh gasoline.
- Engage the parking brake and place the transmission in neutral.
- Insert the key into the ignition and turn to the "On" position.
- If equipped, set the choke as necessary.
- Press the brake pedal, then turn the key to start the engine.
- Allow the engine to warm up for a few minutes before engaging the blades.

Adjusting Cutting Height

- Locate the height adjustment levers on each wheel.
- Set the desired height by moving the levers to the appropriate notch.
- For even cutting, adjust all wheels to the same height.

Operating the Mower

- Use the steering wheel to navigate the lawn.
- Engage the blades via the control lever.
- Gradually press the throttle to increase speed.
- Use the foot pedal to control movement and braking.
- Mow in overlapping passes to ensure complete coverage.

Turning and Maneuvering

- Slow down before turning to prevent scalping.
- Use gentle steering inputs for sharp turns.
- For more precise control, consider practicing in an open area.

Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Regular maintenance is crucial for optimal performance and longevity of the Craftsman Model 917.

Routine Maintenance Tasks

- Oil Change: Replace engine oil after every 50 hours of operation or annually.
- Air Filter: Clean or replace every 25 hours of use.
- Spark Plug: Check and replace annually or after 100 hours.
- Blade Sharpening: Sharpen blades regularly for clean cuts.
- Tire Pressure: Maintain recommended PSI for consistent traction.
- Battery Care: Keep terminals clean and charge as needed.

Storage Tips

- Clean the mower after each use to prevent grass and debris buildup.
- Store in a dry, sheltered location.
- Use fuel stabilizer if storing for extended periods.
- Disconnect the battery if storing for more than a month.

Common Troubleshooting

- Engine Won't Start: Check fuel level, inspect spark plug, and examine safety switches.
- Uneven Cutting: Sharpen blades or adjust deck height.
- Mower Vibrates Excessively: Inspect blades and belts for damage.
- Loss of Power: Clean air filter and check for fuel issues.

Expert Tips for Maximizing Performance

- Regular Maintenance: Adhere to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.
- Blade Care: Keep blades sharp for a clean, healthy lawn.
- Adjust Cutting Heights Seasonally: Higher during wet seasons, lower during dry periods.
- Use Attachments: Enhance functionality with compatible accessories for tasks beyond mowing.
- Practice Safe Operation: Always wear appropriate safety gear and familiarize yourself with safety features.

Conclusion: Is the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 Right for You?

The Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 stands out as a reliable, powerful, and versatile mower suitable for homeowners who demand performance and durability. Its advanced features, comfortable design, and ease of maintenance make it a top choice for those managing medium to large lawns. Proper operation and routine upkeep will ensure that your mower performs at its best for years to come.

Whether you're tackling rugged terrains, maintaining a lush estate, or managing a commercial property, understanding and leveraging the features of the Model 917 will lead to a more efficient and enjoyable mowing experience. Always refer to the official manual for specific instructions related to your model year and configuration, and consider consulting a professional for complex repairs or upgrades.

In summary, the Craftsman Lawn Mower Model 917 is a dependable workhorse that, with proper care and operation, can help you achieve a beautifully maintained lawn with ease.

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