



**Owner's Manual**  
**FasTrak™**  
**Mini FasTrak™**

**HUSTLER** 



# GENERAL INFORMATION

This manual applies to the following Hustler equipment lines:

Mini FasTrak 36/42  
FasTrak 48/54

## To the new owner

The purpose of this manual is to assist owners and operators in maintaining and operating the FasTrak tractor and deck. Please read it carefully; information and instructions furnished can help you achieve years of dependable performance.

A separate Engine Owner's Manual is included with your owner's packet which contains additional engine information that will not be repeated in this manual. You are urged to read it before attempting any operation or repair of the engine.

The Quick Reference Decals are designed to give the operator brief information needed in the daily operation and service of the machine. These decals are not intended to be used in place of this manual but instead are to be used as an extension of this manual. These decals should not be removed or obliterated. Replace these decals if they become unreadable.

It is the responsibility of the operator to read and understand the information provided in this manual. The operator is responsible for the safe operation of the machine. The operator should read the manual before operating the machine. The operator should read the manual before operating the machine. The operator should read the manual before operating the machine.

## Warranty registration

The Delivery and Warranty Registration form must be completed and signed to validate your warranty protection. As the new equipment owner, you are expected to see that the form is completed and forwarded to Hustler Turf Equipment at time of delivery.

Be sure to register the tractor plus each attachment that displays a model and serial identification number plate with Hustler Turf Equipment.

**IMPORTANT:** Any unauthorized modification, alteration, or use of non-approved attachments voids the warranty and releases Hustler Turf Equipment from any liability arising from subsequent use of this equipment.

## Model and serial number

Tractor model and serial numbers are found on the serial identification plate, located on the frame directly below and to the right of the operators seat.

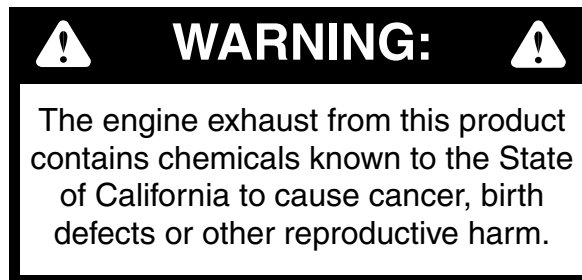
These numbers are required on the Warranty Registration form. They will also assure you of the correct service parts when replacement becomes necessary.

## Parts and service

Use original Hustler replacement parts only. These parts are available through your local Hustler dealer. To obtain prompt, efficient service, always provide the following information when ordering parts:

1. Correct part description
2. Correct model number.
3. Correct serial number.

All warranty repair and service must be handled through an authorized Hustler dealer. Arrangements should be made through your local service center.



**IMPORTANT:** This engine is not equipped with a spark arrester muffler. It is a violation of California Public Resource Code Section 4442 to use or operate this engine on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered unimproved land. Other states or federal areas may have similar laws.

This spark ignition system complies with Canadian ICES-002.

The enclosed Engine Owner's Manual is supplied for information regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Emission Control Regulation of emission systems, maintenance and warranty.

Keep this Engine Owner's Manual with your unit. Should the Engine Owner's Manual become damaged or illegible, replace immediately. Replacements may be ordered per the information found in the Product Information section of this manual.



**MINI FASSTRAK 36/42 TRACTORS & DECKS  
HUSTLER TURF CONSUMER PRODUCT  
THREE YEAR FULL WARRANTY FOR RESIDENTIAL USE  
(90 DAYS LIMITED WARRANTY FOR COMMERCIAL USE)**

**WHAT IS COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY**

Hustler Turf Equipment, makes the following warranty to the original purchaser only:

- a. Residential use:** Hustler Turf Consumer Products used for normal residential purposes\* are warranted for **three (3) years from date of delivery** on all materials and workmanship.

If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period (three years from date of delivery) a defect in materials or workmanship:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. In no event shall such notification be received by Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer later than thirty-seven (37) months from date of delivery.
- Within a reasonable time after such notification, Hustler Turf Equipment, will correct any defect in material or workmanship on the Hustler Turf Equipment, by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

\* **Normal residential purpose means use of product on same lot as your home.** Use at more than one location is considered commercial use, and then the commercial use warranty would apply.

- b. Commercial use:** Hustler Turf Consumer Products used for commercial or institutional use are warranted for **90 days from date of delivery**, on all materials and workmanship. **(Rental use is warranted for 90 days)**

**NOTE: An hour meter kit must be installed to receive warranty coverage on Commercial units.**

If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period such a defect:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. In no event shall such notification be received by Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer later than 120 days from date of delivery.
- Within a reasonable time after such notification, Hustler Turf Equipment, will correct any defect in material or workmanship on the Hustler Turf Equipment, by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

- c. Hustler Turf Equipment** provides a limited warranty for the entire length of ownership by the original purchaser (residential only) for the following items:

- Against all defects in the **tractor frame** resulting from frame breakage.
- Against all defects in the mowing deck which results in the **front edge of the deck** being bent into the blades.

If the original Purchaser discovers within this warranty period such a defect:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. Such notification must be received by Hustler Turf Equipment or an authorized dealer during the period when the equipment is owned by the original purchaser.
- Hustler Turf Equipment will correct any defect in the frame resulting in frame breakage by repairing or replacing part(s) with new or used replacement parts.
- Hustler Turf Equipment will correct any defect in the deck resulting in the front edge of the deck being bent into the blades by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor, shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

- d. The Honda engine** is covered by a two (2) year limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (commercial or residential) only, and,

**The Kohler Courage engine** is covered by a two (2) year limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (residen-

tial only) and a 90 day limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (commercial only), and,

- e. The battery** is covered by a one (1) year limited warranty to the original owner only.

**WHO MUST PERFORM THE WARRANTY SERVICE**

All warranty service will be performed by dealers authorized by Hustler Turf Equipment. **Service calls and/or transportation expense** of the product to and from the authorized dealer, for warranty work, will be paid by the owner of the product. For warranty service contact an authorized dealer.

**WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY**

Hustler Turf Equipment, does not warranty:

- Some product, components or parts not manufactured by Hustler Turf Equipment
- Repairs made by unauthorized persons
- Damage caused by use of the Hustler Turf Equipment for purposes other than those for which it was designed
- Damages caused by disasters such as fire, flood, wind, and lightning
- Damages caused by neglect, abuse, abnormal use, improper or unreasonable use, accident, negligence or misuse
- Repairs or replacement resulting from the use of unauthorized parts, accessories or attachments
- Repairs or replacement as the result if any alterations or modifications, in the determination of Hustler Turf Equipment, which adversely affects the operation, performance or durability of the equipment.
- Hustler Turf Equipment which has the serial number removed or made illegible
- Depreciation or damage caused by normal wear, lack of reasonable and proper maintenance, failure to follow the product's owner's manual operating, maintenance and adjustment instructions or other operational instructions provided by Hustler Turf Equipment.
- Normal maintenance parts and service including, but not limited to, filters, fuel, lubricants, tune-up parts, belts, blades, blade sharpening, bearings, brake or steering adjustments
- Repairs necessary due to improper fuel, contaminants in the fuel system, or failure to properly prepare the fuel system prior to any period of non-use over three months

**DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY**

The foregoing warranties are in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. However, if the Hustler Turf Equipment is purchased as a consumer product, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose is limited to the duration of this limited 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.

**LIMITATION OF REMEDIES**

In no case shall Hustler Turf Equipment, be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages based upon breach of warranty, breach of contract, negligence, strict liability in tort, or any other legal theory.

Such damages include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of profits
- Loss of savings or revenue
- Loss of use of Hustler Turf Equipment or any associated equipment
- Cost of capital
- Cost of any substitute equipment, facilities, services or downtime
- The claims of third parties including customers, and injury to property

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

#### **TIME LIMIT**

Any action for breach of warranty must be commenced within thirty-seven (37) months following delivery of the goods in a **residential application**. Any action for breach of warranty must be commenced within 120 days following delivery of the goods in a **commercial application**.

#### **NO OTHER WARRANTIES**

Unless modified in writing, signed by both parties, and approved by the President of Hustler Turf Equipment, this agreement is understood to be the complete and exclusive agreement between the parties, superseding all prior agreements, oral or written, and all other communications between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement. No employee of Hustler Turf Equipment, or any other party is authorized to make any warranty in addition to those made in this agreement.

#### **ALLOCATION OF RISKS**

This agreement allocates the risks of product failure between Hustler Turf Equipment, and the purchaser. This allocation is recognized by both parties and is reflected in the price of the goods.

#### **OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

You must maintain your Hustler Turf Consumer Product following the maintenance procedures described in your owner's manual. Such routine maintenance, whether performed by a dealer or by you, is at your expense.

**This machine like any other powered equipment is potentially dangerous unless properly operated.** Any operator **must** be cautious and keep safety in mind at all times. Any operator, prior to using the Hustler Turf Equipment, should thoroughly familiarize himself with the owner's manual regarding operation and safety of the machine, as well as all safety warnings on the machine itself.

#### **WARRANTY REGISTRATION**

1. **Dealers must** register the unit on-line at [www.Hustlerdealer.com](http://www.Hustlerdealer.com) or by filling out the Warranty registration form, provided in the owner's packet. If using the Warranty registration form it **MUST** be completed and signed by the authorized dealer and original purchaser.
2. For validation, the completed Warranty registration form **MUST** be forwarded to Hustler Turf Equipment, within ten (10) days following date of purchase.
3. The date of purchase constitutes delivery.

**FASTRAK 48/54 TRACTORS & DECKS**  
**HUSTLER TURF CONSUMER PRODUCT**  
**FOUR YEAR FULL WARRANTY FOR RESIDENTIAL USE**  
**(ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY FOR COMMERCIAL USE)**

**WHAT IS COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY**

Hustler Turf Equipment, makes the following warranty to the original purchaser only:

- a. Residential use:** Hustler Turf Consumer Products used for normal residential purposes\* are warranted for **four (4) years from date of delivery** on all materials and workmanship.

If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period (four years from date of delivery) a defect in materials or workmanship:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. In no event shall such notification be received by Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer later than forty-nine (49) months from date of delivery.
- Within a reasonable time after such notification, Hustler Turf Equipment, will correct any defect in material or workmanship on the Hustler Turf Equipment, by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

\* **Normal residential purpose means use of product on same lot as your home.** Use at more than one location is considered commercial use, and then the commercial use warranty would apply.

- b. Commercial use:** Hustler Turf Consumer Products used for commercial or institutional use are warranted for one **(1) year or 400 hours of use, whichever comes first, from date of delivery**, on all materials and workmanship. **(Rental use is warranted for 90 days)**

**NOTE: An hour meter kit must be installed to receive warranty coverage on Commercial units.**

If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period such a defect:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. In no event shall such notification be received by Hustler Turf Equipment, or an authorized dealer later than thirteen (13) months from date of delivery.
- Within a reasonable time after such notification, Hustler Turf Equipment, will correct any defect in material or workmanship on the Hustler Turf Equipment, by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

- c. Hustler Turf Equipment** provides a limited warranty **for the entire length of ownership by the original purchaser (residential only)** for the following items:

- Against all defects in the **tractor frame** resulting from frame breakage.
- Against all defects in the mowing deck which results in the **front edge of the deck** being bent into the blades.

If the original Purchaser discovers within this warranty period such a defect:

- He must promptly notify Hustler Turf Equipment or an authorized dealer, in writing of the defect. Such notification must be received by Hustler Turf Equipment or an authorized dealer during the period when the equipment is owned by the original purchaser.
- Hustler Turf Equipment will correct any defect in the frame resulting in frame breakage by repairing or replacing part(s) with new or used replacement parts.
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- Such repair, including parts and labor, shall be at the expense of Hustler Turf Equipment, and,

- d. The Honda engine** is covered by a two (2) year limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (commercial or residential) only, and,

**The Kohler Courage engine** is covered by a two (2) year limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (residen-

tial) only and a 90 day limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (commercial only), and,

**The Kawasaki engine** is covered by a two (2) year limited warranty, by the engine manufacturer, to the original owner (commercial or residential) only, and,

- e. The battery** is covered by a one (1) year limited warranty to the original owner only.

**WHO MUST PERFORM THE WARRANTY SERVICE**

All warranty service will be performed by dealers authorized by Hustler Turf Equipment. **Service calls and/or transportation expense** of the product to and from the authorized dealer, for warranty work, will be paid by the owner of the product. For warranty service contact an authorized dealer.

**WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY**

Hustler Turf Equipment, does not warrant:

- Some product, components or parts not manufactured by Hustler Turf Equipment
- Repairs made by unauthorized persons
- Damage caused by use of the Hustler Turf Equipment for purposes other than those for which it was designed
- Damages caused by disasters such as fire, flood, wind, and lightning
- Damages caused by neglect, abuse, abnormal use, improper or unreasonable use, accident, negligence or misuse
- Repairs or replacement resulting from the use of unauthorized parts, accessories or attachments
- Repairs or replacement as the result if any alterations or modifications, in the determination of Hustler Turf Equipment, which adversely affects the operation, performance or durability of the equipment.
- Hustler Turf Equipment which has the serial number removed or made illegible
- Depreciation or damage caused by normal wear, lack of reasonable and proper maintenance, failure to follow the product's owner's manual operating, maintenance and adjustment instructions or other operational instructions provided by Hustler Turf Equipment.
- Normal maintenance parts and service including, but not limited to, filters, fuel, lubricants, tune-up parts, belts, blades, blade sharpening, bearings, brake or steering adjustments
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The foregoing warranties are in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. However, if the Hustler Turf Equipment is purchased as a consumer product, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose is limited to the duration of this limited 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.

**LIMITATION OF REMEDIES**

In no case shall Hustler Turf Equipment, be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages based upon breach of warranty, breach of contract, negligence, strict liability in tort, or any other legal theory.

Such damages include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of profits
- Loss of savings or revenue
- Loss of use of Hustler Turf Equipment or any associated equipment
- Cost of capital

- Cost of any substitute equipment, facilities, services or downtime
- The claims of third parties including customers, and injury to property

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

#### **TIME LIMIT**

Any action for breach of warranty must be commenced within forty-nine (49) months following delivery of the goods in a **residential application**. Any action for breach of warranty must be commenced within thirteen (13) months following delivery of the goods in a **commercial application**. Any action for breach of warranty must be commenced within 120 days following delivery of the goods in a **rental application**.

#### **NO OTHER WARRANTIES**

Unless modified in writing, signed by both parties, and approved by the President of Hustler Turf Equipment, this agreement is understood to be the complete and exclusive agreement between the parties, superseding all prior agreements, oral or written, and all other communications between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement. No employee of Hustler Turf Equipment, or any other party is authorized to make any warranty in addition to those made in this agreement.

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#### **OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

You must maintain your Hustler Turf Equipment product following the maintenance procedures described in your owner's manual. Such routine maintenance, whether performed by a dealer or by you, is at your expense.

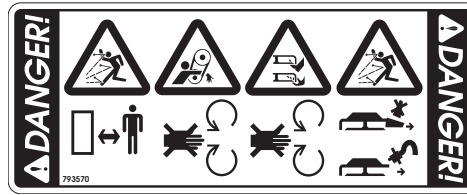
**This machine like any other powered equipment is potentially dangerous unless properly operated.** Any operator **must** be cautious and keep safety in mind at all times. Any operator, prior to using the Hustler Turf Equipment, should thoroughly familiarize himself with the owner's manual regarding operation and safety of the machine, as well as all safety warnings on the machine itself.

#### **WARRANTY REGISTRATION**

1. **Dealers must** register the unit on-line at [www.Hustlerdealer.com](http://www.Hustlerdealer.com) or by filling out the Warranty registration form, provided in the owner's packet. If using the Warranty registration form it **MUST** be completed and signed by the authorized dealer and original purchaser.
2. For validation, the completed Warranty registration form **MUST** be forwarded to Hustler Turf Equipment, within ten (10) days following date of purchase.
3. The date of purchase constitutes delivery.







**▲ DANGER!**

**Read Owner's Manual Help Avoid Injury**

- ▲ Operator training required.
- ▲ Know all controls.
- ▲ Keep hands in place.
- ▲ Maintain all safety devices.
- ▲ Lock brakes before backing.
- ▲ Keep children and others away.
- ▲ Stay clear of power driven parts.
- ▲ Do not operate in areas where machines could tip.

**Refueling**

- ▲ Stop engine and allow engine to cool for 2 minutes prior to refueling.
- ▲ Clean up any gasoline spill.
- ▲ Do not refuel while in enclosed trailer or other enclosed areas.

**Before Starting**

- ▲ Shifting levers must be in park/travel position.
- ▲ Deck clutch switch must be in off position.
- ▲ Check performance of all safety interlock switches daily (including operator presence switch).

**While Operating**

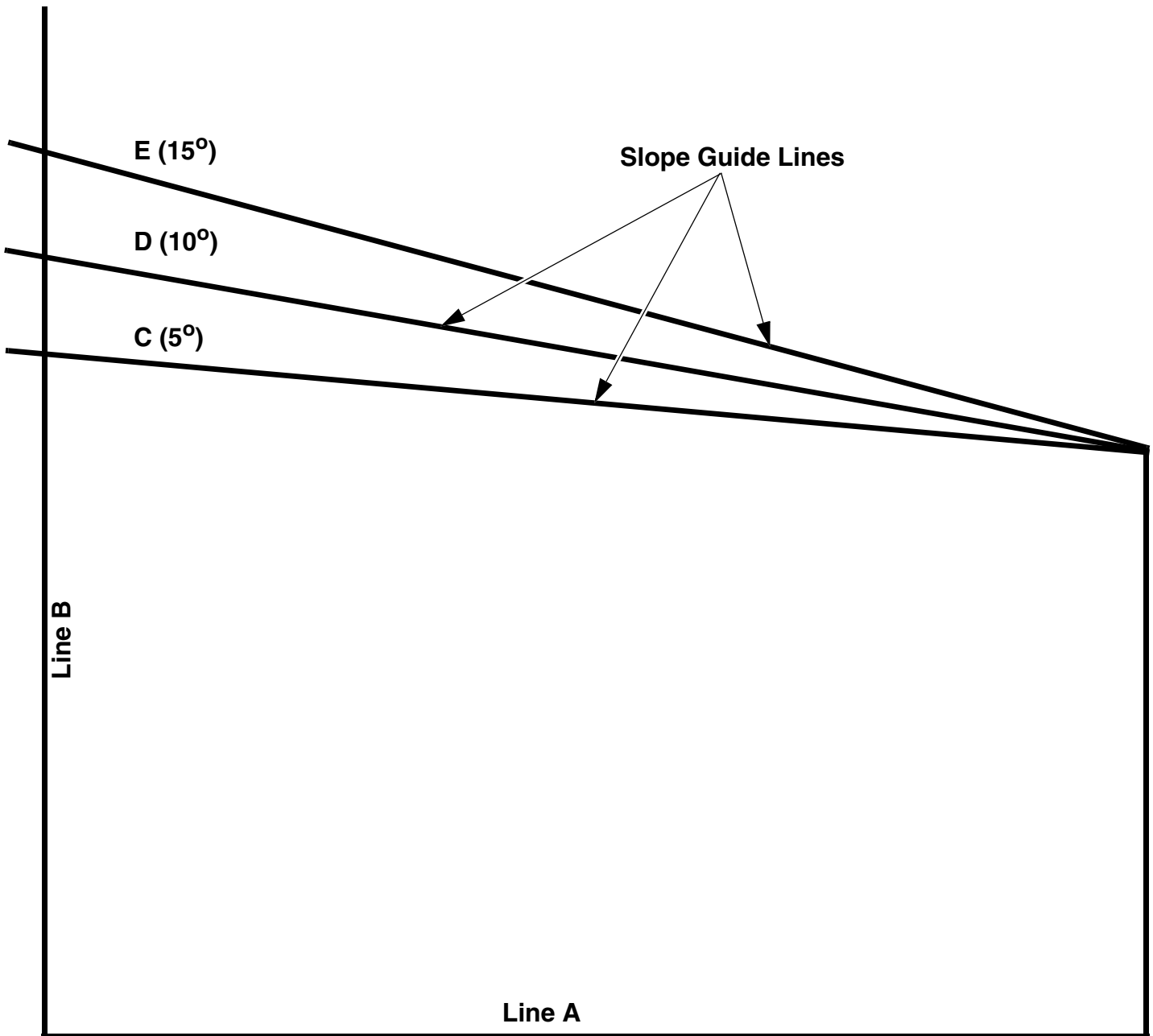
- ▲ Never perform maneuvers at high ground speeds.
- ▲ Avoid sudden turns.
- ▲ Avoid quick movements of steering levers.
- ▲ Reduce speed and use extreme caution when operating on slopes.
- ▲ Check mowing area, and remove objects that could be thrown by blades.

**Before Leaving Operating Platform**

- ▲ Place drive/steering controls in park/travel position.
- ▲ Place deck clutch switch in the off position.
- ▲ Turn engine off and remove key.
- ▲ Check machine when parked on a slope.

# SLOPE GUIDE

Use this diagram when determining the degree of slope to be mowed.



1. Hold this sheet of paper in front of you. Make sure that Line A is horizontal.
2. Align Line B with a vertical surface such as pole, tree or building.
3. Fold the paper along the slope guide lines (C, D or E).
4. Align the closest slope guide line with the ground slope. This will give you a close estimation of the ground slope to be mowed.



# OPERATION

## Safe Operating Practices

This product is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Always follow all safety instructions to avoid serious injury or death.

## Operation

- ▲ Never leave a running machine unattended. Always disengage deck clutch, place steering control levers in park brake position, stop tractor engine, and remove ignition key when leaving operator's seat.
- ▲ Always remain seated while operating machine.
- ▲ Always keep safety shields and covers in place, except for servicing.
- ▲ Always maintain a safe distance from people and pets when mowing. Always stop machine if someone enters the area.
- ▲ Always operate machine in daylight or with adequate working lights.
- ▲ Follow daily and weekly checklists, making sure hoses are tightly secured and bolts are tightened.
- ▲ Always observe traffic laws while driving machine from one location to another. Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- ▲ Always be alert for hazards such as rocks, metal objects and other debris which may be thrown or entangled by mower blades. Watch out for holes or deep depressions.
- ▲ Inspect area to be mowed for hazards such as rocks, metal objects and other debris which may be thrown or entangled by mower blades. Remove these objects before mowing.
- ▲ Always inspect machine for damage after striking a foreign object. If damage is found, repair machine immediately. Be sure to disengage deck clutch, place steering control levers in park brake position, stop tractor engine, and remove ignition key when leaving operator's seat to inspect damage.
- ▲ Always wear adequate ear protection, such as earplugs, when operating this equipment as prolonged exposure to uncomfortable or loud noises can cause impairment or loss of hearing. Do not wear radios or music headphones while operating the machinery. Safe operation requires your full attention.
- ▲ Do not operate the equipment while wearing sandals, tennis shoes, sneakers, shorts or any type of loose fitting clothing. Always wear long pants, safety glasses, ear protection and safety shoes when operating this machine.
- ▲ Always be aware of what is behind the machine before backing up. Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while backing up.
- ▲ Never push forward suddenly on your steering control levers while the machine is in rearward motion because machine may tip backwards.
- ▲ Never pull back suddenly on your steering control levers while the machine is in forward motion.
- ▲ When moving in reverse, push forward slowly on steering control levers and avoid sudden movement. Rapid movement of the steering control levers in either direction could result in a reaction of the tractor that can cause serious injury.
- ▲ Never operate a poorly maintained machine.
- ▲ Never attempt high speed maneuvering, especially in crowded or congested areas.
- ▲ Never allow persons to operate this machine without proper instruction or allow children to operate machine. Allow only responsible adults who are familiar with these instructions to operate this machine.
- ▲ Never put hands or feet under any part of the machine while it is running.
- ▲ Never carry passengers.
- ▲ Always disengage the blades and wait for them to stop before crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
- ▲ Always keep clear of the mower blades and attachments during their operation.
- ▲ Turn off blades when not mowing.
- ▲ Slow down before turning.
- ▲ Stop the engine before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the discharge chute. Never clear the discharge chute with the engine running. Turn off the engine and be sure the blades have stopped before

cleaning. Use a stick to clear a plugged discharge area. **Never use your hand!**

- ▲ Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ▲ Exercise caution when loading or unloading the machine onto a trailer or truck.
- ▲ Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating the mower.
- ▲ Data indicates that operators, age 60 years and above, are involved in a large percentage of riding mower-related injuries. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate the mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.
- ▲ If any attachment or additional weight is mounted on the rear of the unit, any rapid movement of the steering control levers in either direction could result in a reaction of the tractor that can cause serious injury.
- ▲ **Clean flammable material from machine. Prevent fires by keeping engine compartment, exhaust area, battery, fuel line, fuel tank and operator's station clean of accumulated trash, grass clippings, and other debris. Always clean up spilled fuel and oil.**

## Using a ramp

- ▲ Use extreme caution when loading and unloading a unit with a ramp.
- ▲ Use only a single, full width ramp; do not use individual ramps for each side of the unit. Having a full width ramp provides a surface for the tractor frame to contact if the unit starts to tip backwards. It also reduces the risk of a wheel going off and the machine tipping over.
- ▲ Do not exceed a 15 degree angle between the ramp and the ground or between the ramp and the trailer or truck.
- ▲ When on a ramp avoid sudden acceleration

## Slope Operation

**Slopes are a major factor in loss-of-control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra caution. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it; do not mow it.**

- ▲ Use extreme caution when operating on slopes.
  - Be extremely careful changing directions on a slope. Slow down.
  - Do not operate where the machine could slip or tip.
  - Turn slowly
  - Turn on the most level part of the slope
  - To maximize traction, it is better to turn the front of the machine uphill, rather than downhill. **If drive tires lose traction, steering control is lost which could cause serious injury or death.**
  - If it becomes necessary to turn downhill, turn slowly and gradually, if possible.
- ▲ Do not remove or modify the stabilizer wheels.
- ▲ Watch for holes, ruts or bumps. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- ▲ Remove obstacles such as rocks, tree limbs, etc.
- ▲ Keep all movement on slopes slow and gradual. Do not make sudden changes in speed or direction.
- ▲ Avoid starting and stopping on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the blades and proceed slowly straight down the slope.
- ▲ Mow a safe distance (minimum of two mower widths) away from drop-offs, retaining walls, drainage ditches, steep banks, water, and other types of hazards to avoid a wheel dropping over the edge or to avoid the ground from breaking away. This will help avoid machine rollover and serious injury or death.
- ▲ Use a walk behind or push mower on slopes and near drop-offs, retaining walls, drainage ditches, steep banks and water to avoid machine rollover and serious injury or death.
- ▲ Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding and loss of steering control.
- ▲ Do not try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.
- ▲ If the mower's tires lose traction when operating on slopes, disengage the blades, place the steering control levers in the park brake position, turn the engine off and get help.

- ▲ Never make sudden starts, stops, turns, or reverse direction, especially when maneuvering on slopes. The steering is designed for sensitive response. Rapid movement of the steering control levers in either direction could result in a reaction of the tractor that can cause serious injury.
- ▲ Never stop suddenly while backing down slopes. This action may result in a reaction of the tractor that can cause serious physical injury.
- ▲ The Hustler mower is capable of operating horizontally (traverse) on moderately steep slopes. When operating on slopes up to 15 degrees, be aware of any conditions that may cause the tractor drive tires to lose traction resulting in a possible loss of control of the machine. An operator should not operate on a slope until he is thoroughly familiar with the equipment.

**Do not operate on slopes greater than 15 degrees.**

Refer to Slope Guide, page 9, when determining the degree of slope to be mowed.

It is strongly recommended that the operator drive the machine off of the slope, using extreme caution, if any sign of loss of traction is detected. Wait until the condition that caused the problem is resolved before attempting to operate on the slope again.

Terrain conditions can affect traction resulting in possible loss of control of the machine. Some of the conditions to be aware of are:

1. Wet terrain
2. Depressions in the ground; i.e. holes, ruts, washouts
3. Mounds of dirt
4. Soil type; i.e. sand, loose dirt, gravel, clay
5. Grass type, density, and height
6. Extremely dry conditions of grass
7. Tire pressure

The attachments mounted to the tractor will also affect the way it handles on a slope. Be aware that each attachment's characteristics vary.

Another consideration to safe mowing on slopes is to be aware of what is located at the bottom of the slope. Extreme caution should be

used when there is a hazard located at the bottom of the slope. Some examples are:

1. Water; i.e. lake, river
2. Cliffs, retaining walls
3. Roads, highways
4. Buildings
5. Rocks

These are just a few examples of situations when caution must be used when operating on a slope. There are many other possibilities too numerous to mention. Just remember to always exercise extreme caution when operating on any slope.

## Children

**Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.**

- ▲ Never leave machine unattended with ignition key in switch, especially with children present.
- ▲ Children or bystanders may be injured if they move or attempt to operate the tractor while it is unattended. Always disengage deck clutch, place steering control levers in park brake position, stop tractor engine, and remove ignition key when leaving operator's seat.
- ▲ Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of another responsible adult.
- ▲ Be alert and turn the machine off if children enter the area.
- ▲ Before and while backing, look behind and down for small children.
- ▲ Never carry children, even with the blades off. They may fall off and be seriously injured or interfere with safe machine operation.
- ▲ Never allow children to operate the machine.
- ▲ Use care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, the end of a fence or other objects that may obscure vision.

## Control Panel

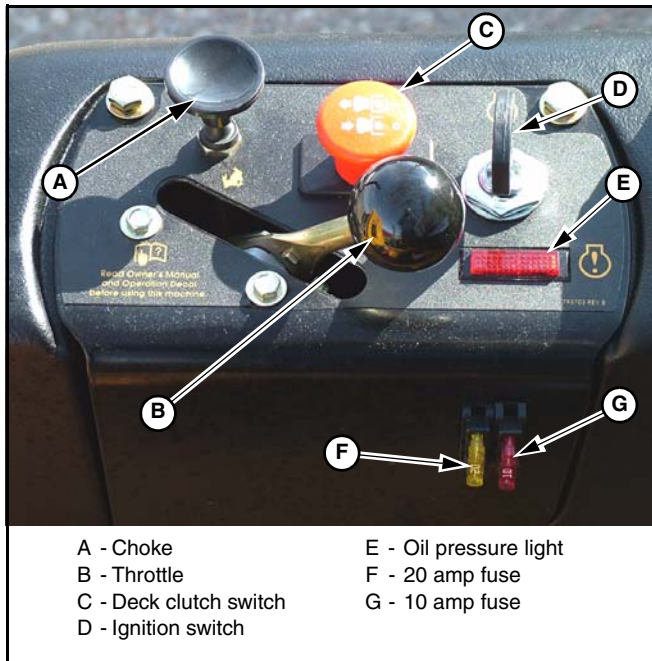


Figure 3-1

**IMPORTANT:** When access is required under the seat platform and the seat is equipped with the optional arm rests, make certain to place the control arms in the park brake position and pivot the arm rests upward before placing the seat platform in the full forward position to prevent arm rest damage.

## Control Panel

- A. Choke control (Fig. 3-1)** — a cable is linked to manually operate the engine choke. When the control knob is in the down position, the choke is in the off (run) position. When the control knob is pulled up, the choke is in the on (start) position. **Do not** operate the machine in the on (start) position.
- B. Throttle control (Fig. 3-1)** — a cable is linked to engine throttle for controlling engine speed. Move lever forward to increase engine rpm, move lever rearward to decrease engine rpm.



Figure 3-2



Figure 3-3



Figure 3-4

C. **Deck clutch switch (Fig. 3-1)** — this switch engages the deck. Pull the switch up to engage and push switch down to disengage the clutch.

**IMPORTANT:** Never engage clutch with engine running at high rpm or when the deck is under load. Clutch, belts or deck could be damaged.

D. **Ignition switch (Fig. 3-1)** — a three position switch: off, run, and start. With key inserted, rotate it clockwise to START position; release key when engine starts, and switch will automatically return to the RUN position.

E. **Oil pressure light (Fig. 3-1)** — this light comes on when the ignition switch is placed in the RUN position and stays lit until the engine is running and a safe oil pressure is developed. If light comes on during operation, shut engine off immediately and locate and correct the problem.

F. **20 amp fuse (Fig. 3-1)** — Main - 20 amp, blade-type

G. **10 amp fuse (Fig. 3-1)** — Clutch/Aux - 10 amp, blade-type

## Controls

A. **Steering control levers (Fig. 3-2 & 3-3)** — these levers control the tractor's speed, direction, stopping, neutral lock, and park brake. Levers are used to steer, accelerate, decelerate, stop and change direction. When the control levers are in the park brake position (3-3) the tractor will not move when the engine is on and drive pumps are operating.



**WARNING:** The parking brake may not hold the tractor if parked on a slope. Block or chock the machine when parked on a slope

B. **Deck lift pedal (Fig. 3-4)** — the deck lift pedal is used to raise or lower the deck. Push on the pedal to raise the deck and then place the deck height locking pin into the desired cutting height hole.

Push the deck lift pedal to raise the deck when going over obstructions.

## Safety start interlock system

The tractor is equipped with a safety start interlock system consisting of the park brake switches, seat switch, and deck clutch switch.

**Check tractor safety start interlock system daily, prior to operation.** This system is an important tractor safety feature. It should be repaired immediately if it malfunctions. The machine incorporates a separate seat switch which will stop the tractor engine when the operator is unseated for any reason while the tractor is operating. This is a safety feature designed to prevent runaway or accidental entanglement. To inspect the system:

1. The operator must be on the seat when testing the seat switch.
2. Set both steering control levers in the park brake position.
3. Start the engine and allow it to warm up to operating temperature.
4. With the deck clutch switch down and the steering control levers in the park brake position, slowly raise off of the seat. **The engine should continue to run.**
5. With the deck clutch switch up and/or the steering control levers in the neutral, forward or reverse position, slowly raise off of the seat. **The engine should stop.**
6. **If the engine fails to stop** when the deck clutch switch is up or one or both of the steering control levers are up and the operator is off the seat, check the function of the seat switch. If the seat switch is not operating properly (**is not opening or closing**) and if the cause can not be determined, replace the seat switch.

If the problem can not be located, contact your Hustler Dealer.



**WARNING:** The safety interlock system should always function per steps 4 and 5. If it does not function properly, it should be corrected immediately. Do not operate machine without properly functioning seat safety switch.

## Engine starting

The tractor's safety start interlock system is also designed to protect the operator and others from accidental injury due to unintentional engine starting. The engine starting motor will not engage until:

- A. Steering control levers are in the park brake position.
- B. Deck clutch switch is in the down (OFF) position.



**WARNING:** The safety interlock system must not be disconnected or bypassed. Doing so could cause the machine to operate unexpectedly resulting in personal injury.

**NOTE:** The operator's seat is equipped with a separate safety switch. If for any reason the operator should become unseated when the steering control levers are not in the park brake position (park brake switches are disengaged) or the deck clutch switch is engaged the engine will stop.

The following steps are the correct procedures for starting the engine. If difficulty is encountered, contact the Hustler Dealer in your area.

1. Before starting tractor each day, perform daily pre-operation checking. (See Safety start interlock system section)
2. Make sure the steering control levers are in the park brake position and deck clutch switch is disengaged.
3. Use choke, if unit is equipped with one, when engine is cold, or if warm engine fails to start within 5 seconds of cranking. Avoid flooding and operate engine without choking as soon as possible.
4. Set throttle at approximately 1/2 open position.
5. Insert key in ignition switch and rotate full clockwise to engage starting motor. Release key when engine starts.

**IMPORTANT:** The engine starter should not be operated for periods longer than 30 seconds at a time. An interval of at least two minutes should be allowed between such cranking periods to protect the starter from overheating and burn-out.

6. Perform test to make sure safety start interlock system is operating properly. Refer to Safety start interlock system section.
7. As soon as engine begins to run, check to make certain the oil warning light, engine light and alternator warning light (if applicable) are off. If not, stop engine immediately and check for the cause.
8. Allow the engine to idle a few minutes before advancing the throttle and/or engaging the deck clutch.
9. Before stopping the engine, place the steering control levers in the park brake position, disengage the deck clutch, and throttle back to low idle

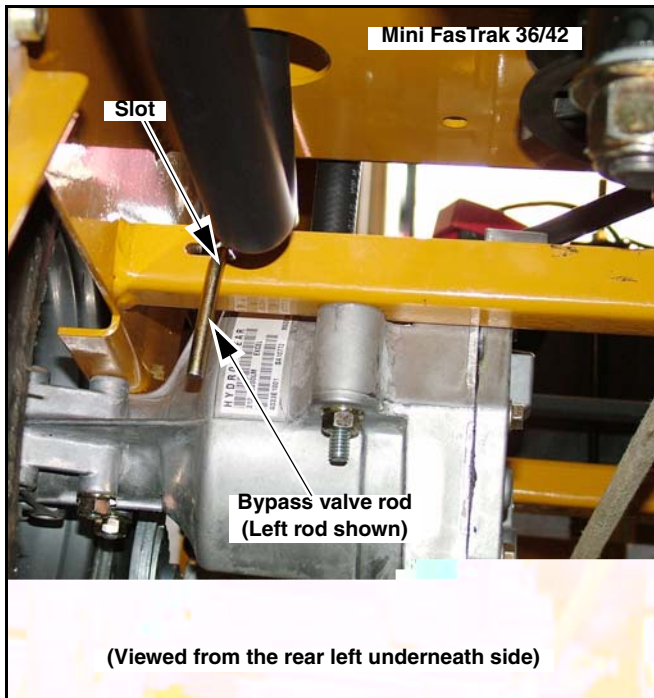


Figure 3-5

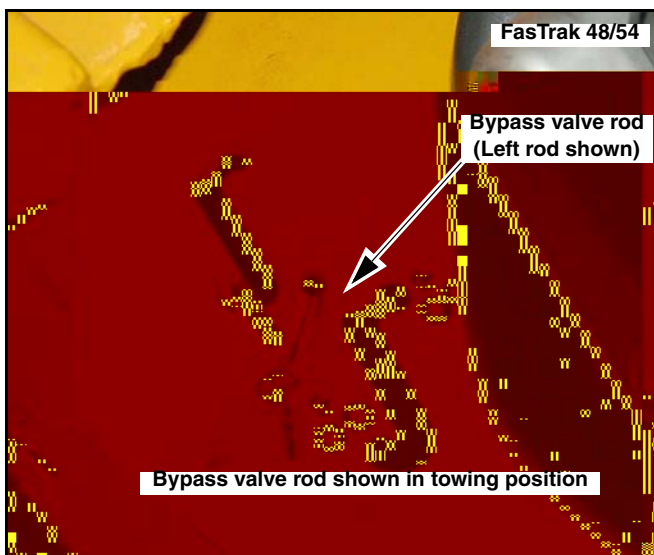


Figure 3-6

for a couple of minutes; then rotate ignition key counter-clockwise to the OFF position. Remove the key from switch before leaving the tractor.

### Stopping the engine

Use the following procedure to shut off the engine after operating the equipment.

1. Place the control levers in the park brake position
2. Disengage the deck clutch
3. Throttle back to low idle for a couple of minutes
4. Rotate ignition key counter-clockwise to the OFF position. Remove the key from switch before leaving the tractor.

### Moving tractor with stalled engine

If it becomes necessary to move the tractor when the engine is inoperative, the transaxles are equipped with bypass valves.

**Mini FasTrak 36/42** - Before moving the unit, pull out on the bypass valve rods and slide them into the slot to lock in position. Both bypass valve rods are located underneath the rear of the tractor at the back of the transaxle. (Fig. 3-5)

**FasTrak 48/54** - Before moving the unit, pull up on the bypass valve rod and slide it in the slot to the disengaged position.

The steering control levers must be placed in the neutral position, to release the park brakes, so that the tractor can be moved. Both bypass valve rods are located at the front corners of the engine on the engine platform. Fig. 3-6

Do not tow the machine. Move it by hand or use a winch to load on a trailer for transporting.

When transporting on another vehicle, the tractor must be secured.

**IMPORTANT:** Always make certain the two bypass valves are returned to their operating position before running the tractor following repairs.



**WARNING:** Allow engine exhaust manifold to cool before engaging or disengaging the bypass valves. The bypass valve rods are located close to the exhaust system.

### Driving the tractor



**DANGER:** Never make sudden stops or reverse direction, especially when maneuvering on a slope. The steering is designed for sensitive response. Rapid movement of the steering control levers in either direction could result in a reaction of the tractor that can cause serious injury.

After starting engine, engage the control levers and steer as follows:

**To go forward**, push steering control levers forward an equal distance (Fig. 3-7).

**To go in reverse**, pull steering control levers rearward an equal distance (Fig. 3-7).

**To turn left**, move the right steering control lever farther forward from neutral than the left steering control lever. (Fig. 3-7)

**To turn right**, move the left steering control lever farther forward from neutral than the right steering control lever. (Fig. 3-7)

**To pivot turn**, move one steering control lever forward and the other steering control lever back of neutral. This will allow the drive wheels to counter-rotate. (Fig. 3-7)

**To stop or decrease speed**, move steering control levers to neutral. When going forward pull back gently on steering control levers. When going in reverse push forward gently on steering control levers.

**To make a three point turn to the right**, move the left steering control lever farther forward from neutral than the right steering control lever and start the turn. Next, pull back on the steering control levers until they are past neutral and the machine starts to go rearward. Pull right steering control lever farther rearward from neutral than the left steering control lever until the rear of the machine has pivoted around. Then, push the steering control levers forward until they are both past neutral and the machine starts to go forward. Push the left steering control lever farther forward from neutral than the right steering control lever and finish the turn. (Fig. 3-9)



**DANGER:** When moving in the rearward direction push forward gently on steering control levers and avoid sudden movement. Any sudden movement could cause the front of the mower to come off of the ground resulting in possible loss of control.



**WARNING:** Always be aware of what is behind the machine before backing up. Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while backing up.

**IMPORTANT:** Rapid movement of steering control levers is not recommended as damage to the hydraulic system components may occur.

**To increase speed**, increase steering control lever's distance from neutral. The farther forward steering control levers are from neutral, the faster tractor will travel forward. The farther back steering control levers are from neutral, the faster tractor will go in reverse.

### Operating suggestions



**DANGER:** Prior to operating the tractor the operator should be thoroughly familiar with the proper use and operation of the



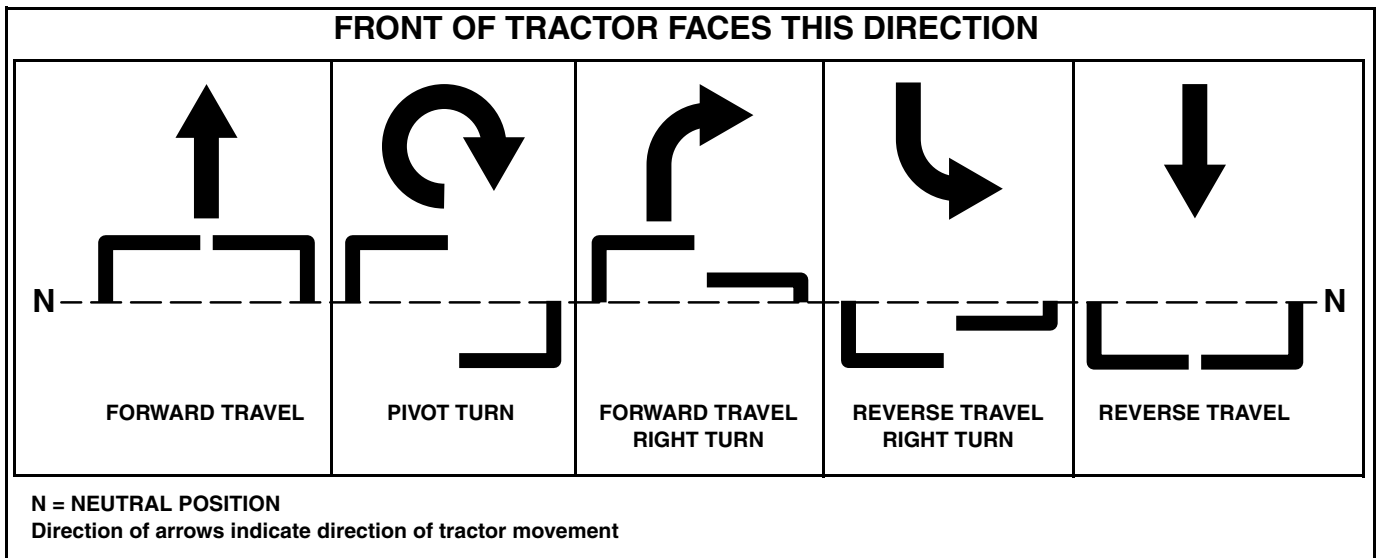


Figure 3-7

equipment, should read the manual completely and thoroughly, and should have attempted slow moving maneuvers to become familiar with the operation of the equipment before attempting normal speed operation. An inexperienced operator should not mow on slopes or on uneven terrain.



**WARNING:** If you lose steering control while operating the machine, place the steering control levers in the park brake position immediately. Inspect the machine and involve your Hustler dealer to resolve the problem before continuing to operate.



**WARNING:** The unit's steering control levers are very responsive: **Easy does it!** For smooth operation, move lever slowly, avoid sudden movement. Skill and ease of operation come with practice and experience. The machine can spin very rapidly. Use caution when making turns and slow down before making sharp turns.

Inexperienced operators may have a tendency to oversteer and lose control. Slow-moving practice maneuvers are recommended to become familiar with these characteristics before attempting normal speed operation.



**WARNING:** Sharp depressions or raised obstacles (such as gutters or curbs) should not be directly approached at high speed in an attempt to "jump" them as the operator could be thrown from the equipment. Approach at a slow speed and angle one drive wheel at the obstruction. Continue at an angle until the wheel clears and then pivot the opposite wheel around.

When turning on soft wet turf, keep both wheels rolling either forward or backward. Pivoting on one stopped wheel can damage turf. This is especially important when mowing.

Tractor performance is maximum when the throttle is set at full rpm. This gives maximum power to the drive wheels and deck when needed. Use the control levers to control ground speed rather than engine rpm.

**Keep blades sharp.** Many professional mowing companies have additional sets of blades and change blades twice a day: once in the morning and again at noon. **Many problems** with incorrect cutting patterns **are due to dull blades** or blades which have been **sharpened incorrectly**. Information on sharpening blades is listed in this manual's maintenance section. In addition, most communities have individuals or companies which specialize in sharpening mower blades. **Blade sharpness should be checked daily.**



**DANGER:** Never work with blades while engine is running or deck clutch switch is engaged (on). Always place deck clutch

switch in the **disengaged** position, place steering control levers in the park brake position and turn engine off and disconnect negative battery cable. Block up mower when you **must** work under it. Wear gloves when handling blades. **Always check for blade damage** if mower strikes rock, branch or other foreign object during mowing!

**Use high blade speed.** Your mower is designed to operate at full throttle. The throttle setting directly controls blade speed. The highest blade speed generally gives best cut.

**Direct grass discharge to right,** away from unmown area. Select a mowing pattern that directs grass discharge towards the outside, not towards center, of mowing area. Generally, this means using a pattern utilizing **left turns** because side discharge is to **right**. In any case, avoid throwing grass discharge onto unmowed area because grass is then mowed "twice". Mowing twice puts an unnecessary load on the unit and reduces mowing efficiency.

**When mowing a lawn for the first time** cut grass slightly longer than normal to avoid scalping uneven terrain. When possible, it is best to use the cutting height that was used in the past. When cutting grass taller than six inches, you may want to mow the lawn twice to achieve a better quality of cut.

**During normal mowing cut only about 1/3 of the grass blade.** Cutting more than that is not recommended unless grass is sparse or it is the end of the mowing season.



Side discharge chute

Figure 3-8

**Alternate mowing direction** to keep the grass growing straight and better dispersion of the clippings.

**Remember, grass grows at different rates** at different time of the year. Mow more often in the early spring to maintain the same cutting height. As the growth rate slows in mid summer, mow less frequently. If you cannot mow at a regular interval, mow at a high cutting height; then mow again two days later at a lower cutting height.

**Raise the cutting height of the mower** if the cutting width of the mower is wider than the previous mower. This ensures that uneven turf is not cut too short.

**Raise the cutting height of the mower** if the grass is slightly taller than normal or if it contains a high degree of moisture. Then mow it again with the cutting height set lower.

**If the machine's forward motion** must be stopped while mowing, a clump of grass clippings may drop onto your lawn. To avoid this, move onto a previously cut area with the blades engaged.

**WARNING:** Never direct discharge of material from mower deck towards bystanders. Do not operate the mower without either the discharge chute or the entire grass collection system in place. Fig. 3-8

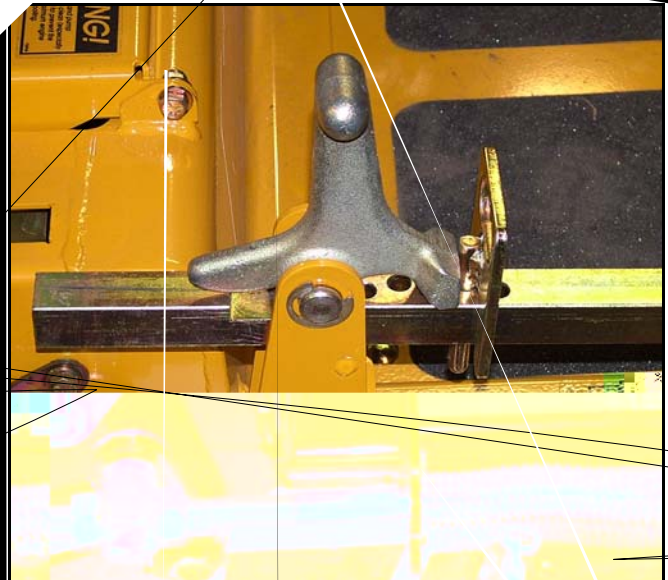
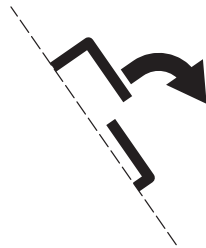
### Mower deck operation

**DANGER:** Never attempt to make any adjustments to the mower deck while the engine is running or with the deck drive clutch engaged. Mower blades cannot be seen and are located under the deck. Fingers and toes can be cut off.

When starting, engage the deck clutch switch (Fig. 3-1) and allow the engine to reach full rpm. Engaging the deck clutch at high engine rpm or when under load (for example) can cause belts and/or electric clutch to suffer wear or possible damage.

### Cutting height adjustment

The cutting height is adjustable from 1-1/2" - 4-1/2" (3.81 cm - 11.43 cm) in 1/4" increments. The holes in the height adjusting bar are spaced at 1/4" intervals. By turning the height adjusting stop around, 1/4" increments can be achieved due to the 1/4" spacing.



**EXAMPLE:** When the height adjusting stop is placed in the 1-1/2" (3.81 cm) hole, **with the 1/4" (.64 cm) plate facing to the front of the unit**, the cutting height is at 1-1/2" (3.81 cm). When the height adjusting stop is placed in the 1-1/2" (3.81 cm) hole, **with the 1/4" (.64 cm) plate on the operator's side of the hole**, the cutting height is at 1-3/4" (4.45 cm).

The notch located at the rear of the height adjusting bar is to be used when the deck is placed in the transport mode.

### Anti-scalp wheels

Anti-scalp wheel kits are standard on FasTrak units. These anti-scalp wheels are designed to minimize scalping when mowing on rough uneven terrain.

After setting the cutting height, adjust the anti-scalp wheels so they extend below the deck but **do not contact the ground**. They should always be at least 1/4" to 3/4" (6.35mm to 19.05mm) below the deck. With the unit sitting on a flat level surface, the wheel position can be adjusted up or down as needed from 3/4" to 1-3/4" (19.05mm to 44.45mm) below the blade surface. Move the wheels up or down, in 1/2" (12.70mm) increments, using the different axle mount holes in the wheel mount bracket. Fig. 3-11

When adjusting the rear anti-scalp wheels, the wheel should be in the same axle mount hole as the front anti-scalp wheels.

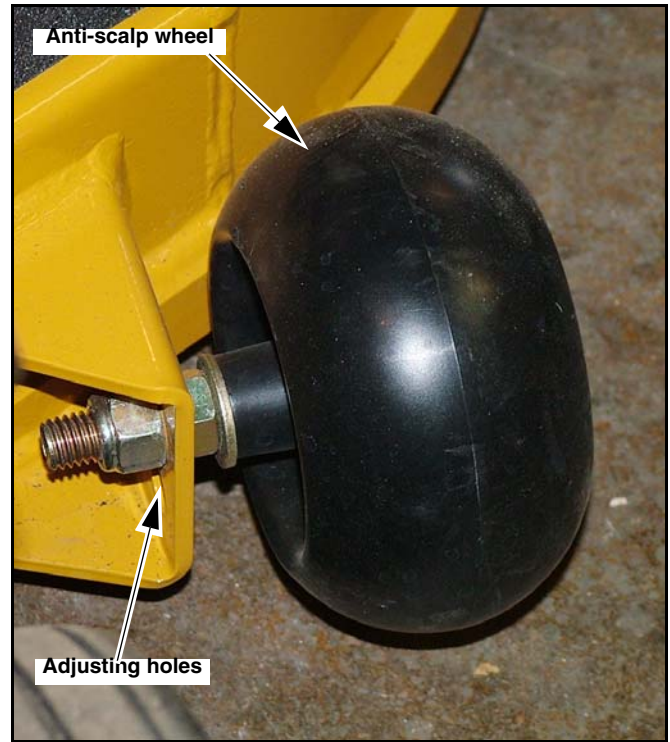


Figure 3-11



# MAINTENANCE & ADJUSTMENTS

## Safe Servicing Practices

This product is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Always follow all safety instructions to avoid serious injury or death.

## Service

- ▲ Unless specifically required, **DO NOT** have engine running when servicing or making adjustments to tractor. Place control levers in the park brake position, disengage deck clutch, remove ignition switch key and disconnect negative battery cable before doing any maintenance. Repairs or maintenance requiring engine power should be performed by trained maintenance personnel only. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, be sure proper ventilation is available when engine must be operated in an enclosed area. Read and observe safety warnings in front of manual.
- ▲ Before working on or under the deck, make certain engine cannot be accidentally started. Shut engine off and remove ignition switch key for maximum safety. Repairs or maintenance requiring engine power should be performed by trained maintenance personnel only.
- ▲ Except when changing or checking belt, always keep belt covers on mower deck for safety as well as cleanliness.
- ▲ Use a stick or similar instrument to clean under the mower making sure that no part of the body, especially arms and hands are under mower.
- ▲ Keep your machine clean and remove any deposits of trash and clippings, which can cause engine fires and hydraulic overheating as well as excessive belt wear. Clean up oil or fuel spillage. Allow machine to cool before storing.
- ▲ **Clean flammable material from machine. Prevent fires by keeping engine compartment, exhaust area, battery, hydraulic lines, fuel line, fuel tank and operator's station clean of accumulated trash, grass clippings, and other debris. Always clean up spilled fuel and oil.**
- ▲ Always wear adequate eye protection when servicing the hydraulic system and battery, or when grinding mower blades and removing accumulated debris.
- ▲ Use extra caution when handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and vapors are explosive.
- ▲ Never attempt to start engine when there is a strong odor of gasoline fumes present. Locate and correct cause.
- ▲ Never refuel tractor while engine is running; never refuel near an open flame or near d.7( a5.7( )-7.5(wing the)4.8(i)7.ch cr( a5.7(ar)-5.7nd remove6541f1.1955 0 T2-0.0004 4c0.0672(l)ar-5.4( k.1(n)7.7 Ro)-0.9(r-6.6(e)-0outdo(andu)4f-5.
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## Lubrication

Use SAE multi-purpose grease.

## Electrical system

The electrical system is a 12-volt, negative ground. Recommended battery size is a garden tractor BCI group U1R with 225 or better cranking AMP rating. A maintenance-free battery is recommended. Otherwise, follow battery manufacturer's maintenance, safety, storing and charging specifications.

**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.

**WARNING:** Avoid skin and clothing contact with battery acid.

Always wear eye protection when checking the battery, acid can cause serious injury to skin and eyes. If contact occurs, flush area with clean water and call physician immediately. Acid will also damage clothing.

Do not drink the battery electrolyte.

Do not allow open flame near the battery when charging.

Hydrogen gas forms inside the battery. This gas is both toxic and flammable and may cause an explosion if exposed to flame. Always remove the negative ground first and replace it last.

Do not overfill battery.

Electrolyte may overflow and damage paint, wiring or structure. When cleaning the battery, use soap and water. Be careful not to get soap and water into the battery. Clean the battery terminals with a solution of four parts water and one part baking soda when they become corroded.

**WARNING:** Shorts caused by battery terminals or metal tools touching metal tractor components can cause sparks. Sparks can cause a battery gas explosion which will result in personal injury.

Prevent the battery terminals from touching any metal tractor parts when removing or installing the battery.

Do not allow metal tools to short between the battery terminals and metal tractor parts.

**WARNING:** Incorrect battery cable routing could cause damage to the tractor and battery cables. This can cause sparks which can cause a battery gas explosion which will result in personal injury.

Always **disconnect** the negative (black) battery cable before disconnecting the positive (red) cable.

Always **connect** the positive (red) battery cable before connecting the negative (black) cable.

## Hydraulic system

The FasTrak 48/54 is equipped with two Hydro-Gear ZT 2800 transaxles. Fig. 4-1

**IMPORTANT:** Never use hydraulic or automatic transmission fluid in this system; use only motor oil as specified. Remember, dirt is the primary enemy of any hydraulic system.

The hydraulic expansion tank is located in front of the engine and under the operator's platform. Fig. 4-1

Check oil level in hydraulic system after every 50 hours of operation or weekly, whichever occurs first. Check more often if system appears to be leaking or otherwise malfunctioning.

Fluid level should be at the "Full Cold" line on the expansion tank. Use only SAE 20W50 SL service motor oil.

Initial system oil and filter change **must** be after the first 75 hours of use or 1 year whichever comes first. Thereafter, replace filter and oil in each transaxle every 2 years or 200 hours, whichever comes first. **NOTE:** The filter guard must be removed to access filter.

Each transaxle's filter is located per Fig. 4-2. A standard oil filter wrench is used to change filter, threads are right handed. **Use a Hustler approved filter element only.**

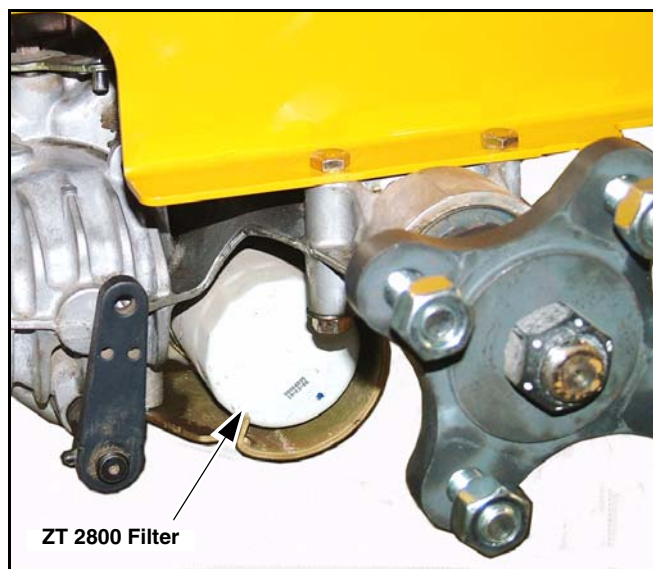
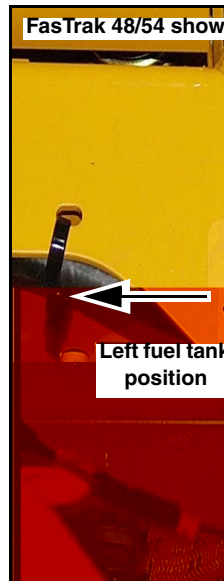
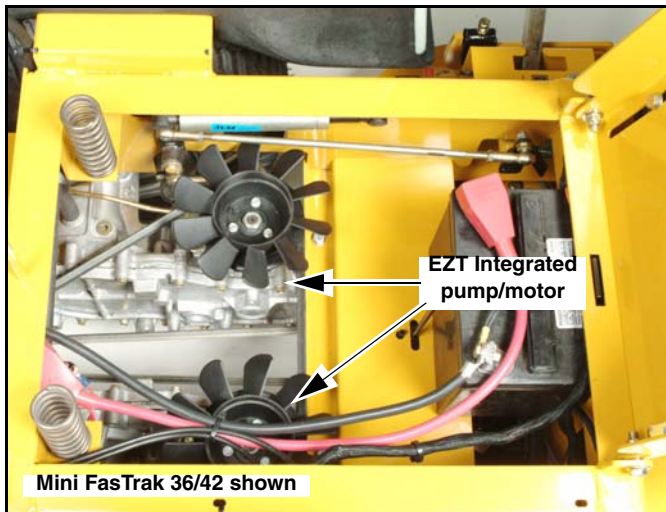


Figure 4-2

**IMPORTANT:** Purging procedures must be followed after changing the oil and filter. Refer to Parts Manual (Hustler P/n 107652) for more detailed oil changing and purging information.

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Keep fuel away from open flame or spark and store machine away from open flame or spark if there is fuel in the tank. Use extra caution when handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and vapors are explosive. A fire or explosion from gasoline can burn you and others and can damage property. Refuel outdoors preferably, or in well ventilated areas. Never attempt to start engine when there is a strong odor of gasoline fumes present. Locate and correct cause. Store gasoline in an approved container and keep it out of the reach of children. Never buy more than a 30 day supply of gasoline. Always place gasoline containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling. Do not fill gasoline containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer as interior carpets or plastic truck bed liners may insulate the container and slow the loss of any static charge. When practical, remove equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel the equipment with its wheels on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel the equipment on the truck or trailer using a portable container and not a gasoline dispenser nozzle. If a gasoline dispenser nozzle must be used, keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Read and observe safety precautions elsewhere in this manual.



**WARNING:** Gasoline is harmful or fatal if swallowed. Long-term exposure to vapors can cause serious injury and illness. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapors. Keep face away from nozzle and gas tank or conditioner opening. Keep gas away from eyes and skin.

The fuel tanks are located in the tractor's fenders.

Use regular unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher. **IMPORTANT:** Never use methanol, gasoline containing methanol, or gasohol containing more than 10% ethanol because the fuel system could be damaged. Do not mix oil with gasoline.

A **fuel shut-off valve** is located on each tractor. The location and operation of the fuel valve will vary depending upon the unit. Close the fuel valve to prevent fuel flow to the engine. The valve's two other positions will allow fuel to be drawn from either one or the other fuel tank. 4-4

**IMPORTANT:** Do not overfill the fuel tanks. The fuel tanks should be filled no higher than 2" (5.08 cm) below the tank's fill neck.

### Engine oil and filter

Check engine oil daily and after every 4 hours of operation. Tractor must be setting level when checking oil. Refer to engine manual and maintenance schedule for oil recommendation and capacities.

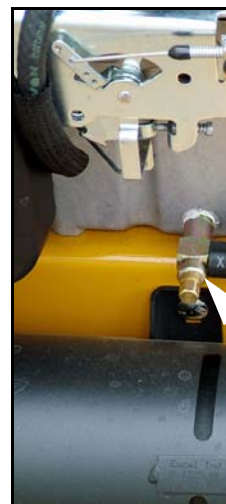


Figure 4-5

Change the engine oil and filter after the first 5 hours of operation, per the engine manufacturer's recommendations after that. If tractor is being operated in extremely dirty conditions, then it is recommended oil be changed more frequently. **IMPORTANT:** When removing the oil filter take precautions to minimize oil spillage on the exhaust system.

Attach the oil drain hose, furnished with the unit, to the oil drain valve when draining the engine oil. Oil drain hose **must** be removed after oil is drained. **IMPORTANT:** All oil drips or spills **must** be cleaned off of the exhaust system before operating the machine. Fig. 4-5

### Engine air filter

Perform engine air filter maintenance per the engine's owner's manual.

### General engine maintenance

Detailed instructions and recommendations for break-in and regular maintenance are specified in the Engine Owner's manual. Please refer to this manual for engine servicing, lubricating oil levels with quality and viscosity recommendations, bolt torques, etc. The engine warranty is backed by the manufacturer. Special attention should be paid to applicable data which will not be duplicated here.

### Belts

Inspect belts frequently for wear and serviceability. Replace a belt that shows signs of severe cuts, tears, separation, weather checking and cracking, or burns caused by slipping. Slight raveling of belt covering does not indicate failure, trim ravelings with a sharp knife.

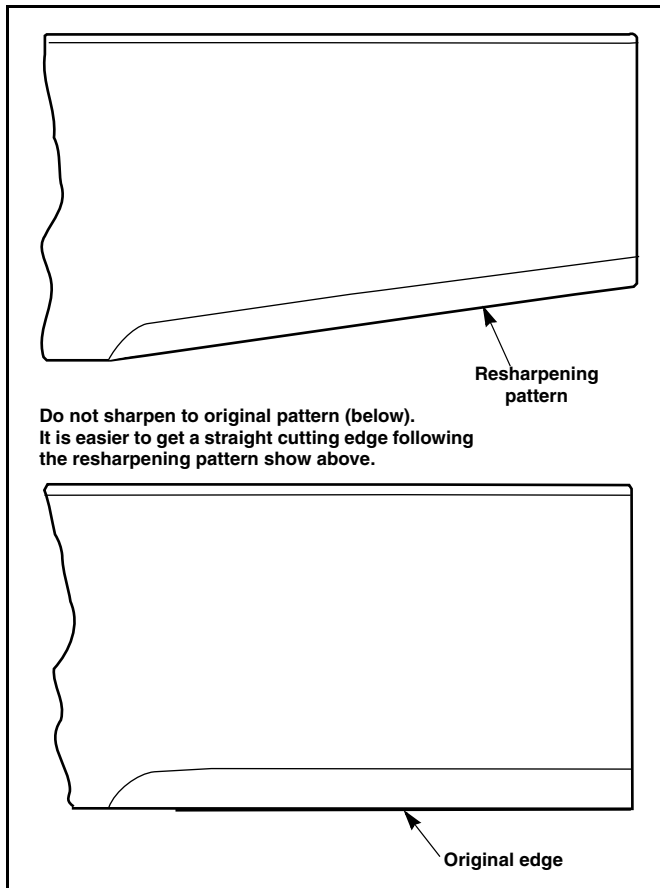


Figure 4-6

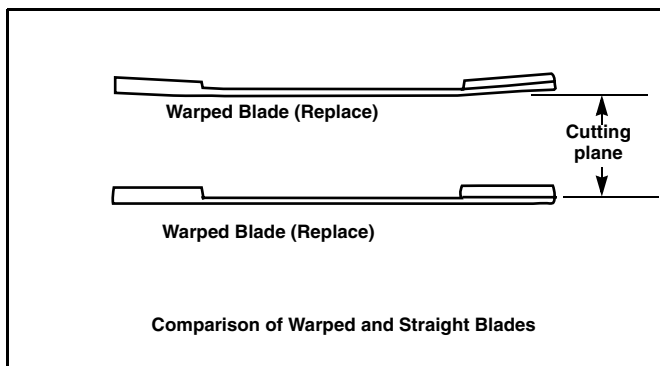


Figure 4-7



**WARNING:** If the pump belt fails, loss of control will occur especially when operating on a slope. **If you lose steering control while operating the machine, place the steering control levers in the park brake position immediately. Inspect the machine and involve your Hustler dealer to resolve the problem before continuing to operate.**

Inspect the belt pulley grooves and flanges for wear. A new belt, or one in good condition, should never run against the bottom of the groove. Replace the pulley when this is the case, otherwise belt will lose power and slip excessively.

Never pry a belt to get it on a pulley as this will cut or damage the fibers of the belt covering.

Keep oil and grease away from belts, and never use belt dressings. Any of these will destroy the belt composition in a very short time.

### Mower blade maintenance

Check the mower blades daily, they are the key to power efficiency and well groomed turf. Keep them sharp, a dull blade will tear rather than cut the

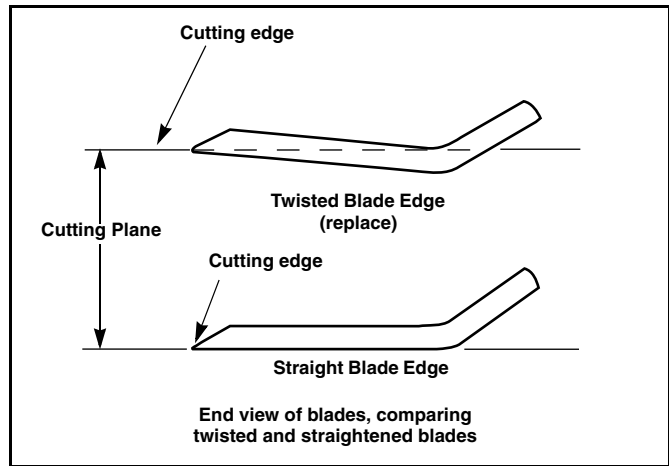


Figure 4-8

grass, leaving a brown ragged top on the grass within a few hours. A dull blade also requires more power from the engine.

Replace any blade which is bent, cracked or broken.



**WARNING:** Never attempt to straighten a bent blade by heating, or weld a cracked or broken blade as the blade may break and cause serious injury. Replace worn or damaged blades.



**DANGER:** Never work with blades while engine is running or deck clutch switch is engaged (on). Always place deck clutch switch in the disengaged position, place steering control levers in the park brake position and turn engine off and disconnect negative battery cable. Block up mower when you must work under it. Wear gloves when handling blades. Always check for blade damage if mower strikes rock, branch or other foreign object during mowing!



**WARNING:** Always wear adequate eye protection when grinding mower blades.

Always place deck clutch switch in the **disengaged position**, place steering control levers in the park brake position and turn engine off and disconnect negative battery cable. Block up mower when you **must** work under it. Wear gloves when handling blades. **Always check for blade damage** if mower strikes rock, branch or other foreign object during mowing!

### Mower blade removal

Use a 15/16" wrench to remove the 5/8" cap screw holding the blade to the spindle shaft from underneath. **NOTE:** A blade holding tool (part number 381442) is available from Hustler Turf Equipment. It is designed to prevent the blades from rotating when they are being removed or installed on the spindle. Contact your Hustler dealer for more information.

Sharpen the blades on a grinder following pattern as shown (Fig. 4-6). Touch-up sharpening can be done with a file.

Check the blades for balance following grinding. A commercial balancing tool is available through most hardware supply stores, or balancing can be done by placing the blade on an inverted line punch or 5/8" bolt. Blade should not lean or tilt. Spin the blade slowly, blade should not wobble. If blade is out of balance, true it up before reinstalling.

Lay the blade on a flat surface and check for distortion (Fig. 4-7 and 4-8). Replace any distorted blade.

Do not re-use spindle bolts which have stripped, worn or undercut threads. Torque bolts on spindles to 118 foot-pounds (160.01nm) when reinstalling blades.

**IMPORTANT:** The blade sail (curved part) must be pointing upward toward the inside of the deck to ensure proper cutting.



**WARNING:** When mounting blades, rotate them after installation to ensure blade tips do not touch each other or sides of the mower.



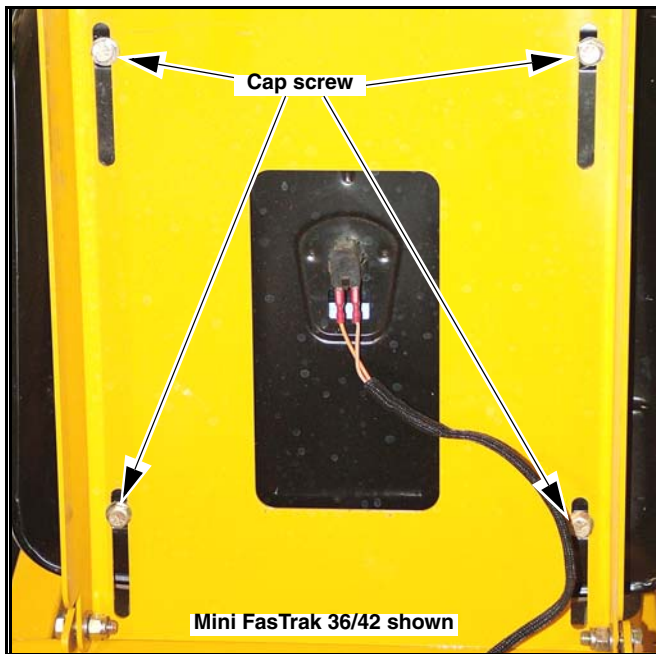


Figure 4-9



Figure 4-10



**WARNING:** Failure to correctly torque the bolt may result in the loss of the blade which can cause serious injury.



**WARNING:** Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves and use extra caution when servicing them.

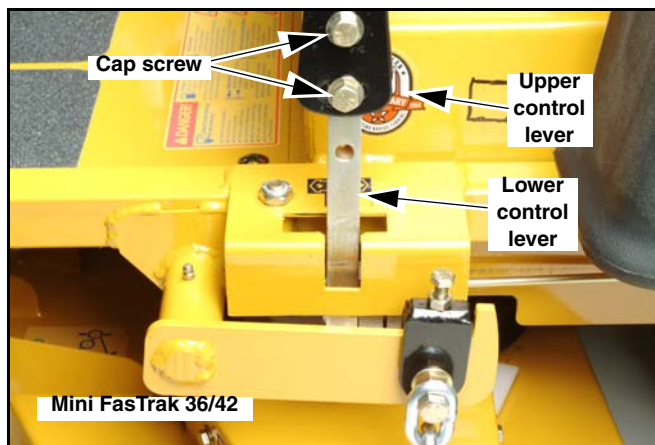


Figure 4-11

### Seat adjustment

**Mini FasTrak 36/42** - The seat can be adjusted forward and rearward by removing the locknut that locks the seat platform in place and pivoting the seat platform up and forward. Then loosen the four cap screws on the underneath side of the operator's platform. Position the seat where you have the best control of the machine and are the most comfortable and then tighten the cap screws. Fig. 4-9

**FasTrak 48/54** - The seat can be adjusted forward and rearward by sliding the seat release handle and moving the seat until a comfortable operating position is attained. Fig. 4-10

### Steering control lever adjustment

The steering control levers can be adjusted for operator comfort. By loosening the cap screws that attaches the upper control lever to the lower lever (Fig. 4-11), the upper control lever can be pivoted to fit the operator's personal preference.

The steering control levers can also be adjusted up and down. Remove the cap screws and slide the upper control lever up or down and align the holes in it with the holes in lower lever. Re-install the cap screws and tighten.

The steering control levers should be adjusted so that they align with each other when in the neutral position.

**Mini FasTrak 36/42  
Maintenance Schedule  
Refer to Fig. 4-12**

SERVICE AT INTERVALS INDICATED	WEEKLY OR 50 HOURS	ANNUALLY OR 100 HOURS
Verify safety start interlock system	Prior to each use	
Visually inspect unit for loose hardware and/or damaged parts	Prior to each use	
Visually inspect tires	Prior to each use	
Check oil level, engine (1)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours	
Clean air intake screen (4)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours	
Clean foam element (4)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours	
Check fuel level	Prior to each use	
Blades - sharpen & securely fastened	Prior to each use	
Discharge chute - securely in place & in lowest position	Prior to each use	
Clean engine and transaxle compartment	Daily	
Grease deck height pivots	X	
Grease gauge wheel bearings	X	
Change engine oil and filter (1) (3)	X	
Clean cylinder and head fins(a)	X	
Check battery connections	X	
Check tire pressure with a gauge	X	
Clean engine exterior (a)	X	
Replace air cleaner paper element (4)	X	
Clean & regap spark plugs (a)		X
Check pump and deck belt tension and condition (5)		X
Check fuel and hydraulic lines (6)		X
Check fuel valve and grommet (6)		X
Tighten lug nuts on wheels (2)		X
Change fuel filter		X
Replace spark plugs		X

**NOTES:**

- Initial oil change is after 5 hours of operation. Thereafter, change oil after every 40 hours operation. Change more often under dusty or dirty conditions and during hot weather periods.
- Torque initially and after first 2 hours of operation.
- Change engine oil filter per the engine manufacturer's recommendations. Refer to Engine Owner's Manual for recommendations and other maintenance items.
- Service more often under dusty or dirty conditions.
- Pump drive belt only - Inspect every 6 months or 100 hours** and replace if worn or cracking is noticed. Otherwise, **replace every 200 hours or 2 years** whichever comes first.
- Check fuel line hoses, fuel valve and grommets for any cracks or leaks

**REFERENCES:**

a — Refer to Engine Owner's Manual

**NOTE:** After completing maintenance cycle (100 hours), repeat cycle.

**FasTrak 48/54  
Maintenance Schedule  
Refer to Fig. 4-13**

SERVICE AT INTERVALS INDICATED	WEEKLY OR 50 HOURS	MONTHLY OR 100 HOURS	ANNUALLY OR 300 HOURS
Verify safety start interlock system	Prior to each use		
Visually inspect unit for loose hardware and/or damaged parts	Prior to each use		
Visually inspect tires	Prior to each use		
Check oil level, engine (1)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours		
Clean air intake screen (4)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours		
Clean foam element (4)	Prior to each use or every 4 hours		
Check fuel level	Prior to each use		
Blades - sharpen & securely fastened	Prior to each use		
Discharge chute - securely in place & in lowest position	Prior to each use		
Clean engine and transaxle compartment	Daily		
Change transaxle oil and filter (7)	Every 200 hours or 2 years		
Grease deck height pivots	X		
Grease gauge wheel bearings	X		
Change engine oil and filter (1) (3)	X		
Clean cylinder and head fins(a)	X		
Check battery connections	X		
Check tire pressure with a gauge	X		
Check hydraulic oil level	X		
Clean engine exterior (a)	X		
Clean & regap spark plugs (a)		X	
Check pump and deck belt tension and condition (5)		X	
Check fuel and hydraulic lines (6)		X	
Check fuel valve and grommet (6)		X	
Tighten lug nuts on wheels (2)		X	
Change fuel filter			X
Replace spark plugs			X

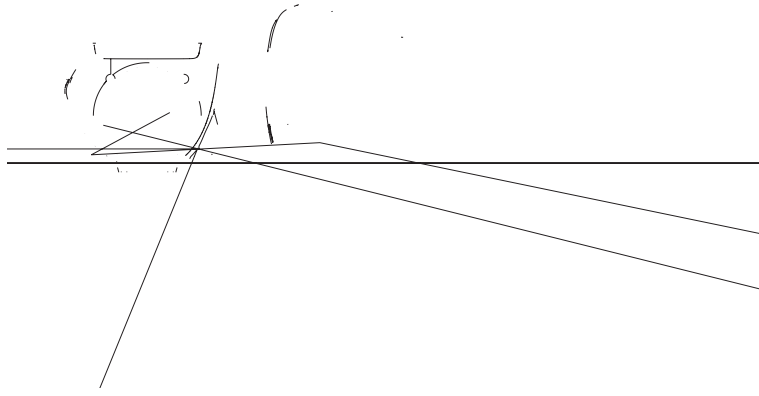
**NOTES:**

- Initial oil change is after 5 hours of operation. Thereafter, change oil after every 40 hours operation. Change more often under dusty or dirty conditions and during hot weather periods.
- Torque initially and after first 2 hours of operation.
- Change engine oil filter per the engine manufacturer's recommendations. Refer to Engine Owner's Manual for recommendations and other maintenance items.
- Service more often under dusty or dirty conditions.
- Pump drive belt only - Inspect every 6 months or 100 hours** and replace if worn or cracking is noticed. Otherwise, **replace every 200 hours or 2 years** whichever comes first.
- Check fuel line hoses, fuel valve and grommets for any cracks or leaks
- Initial system oil and filter change **must** be after the first 75 hours of use or 1 year whichever comes first. Thereafter, replace filter and oil in each transaxle every 2 years or 200 hours, whichever comes first.

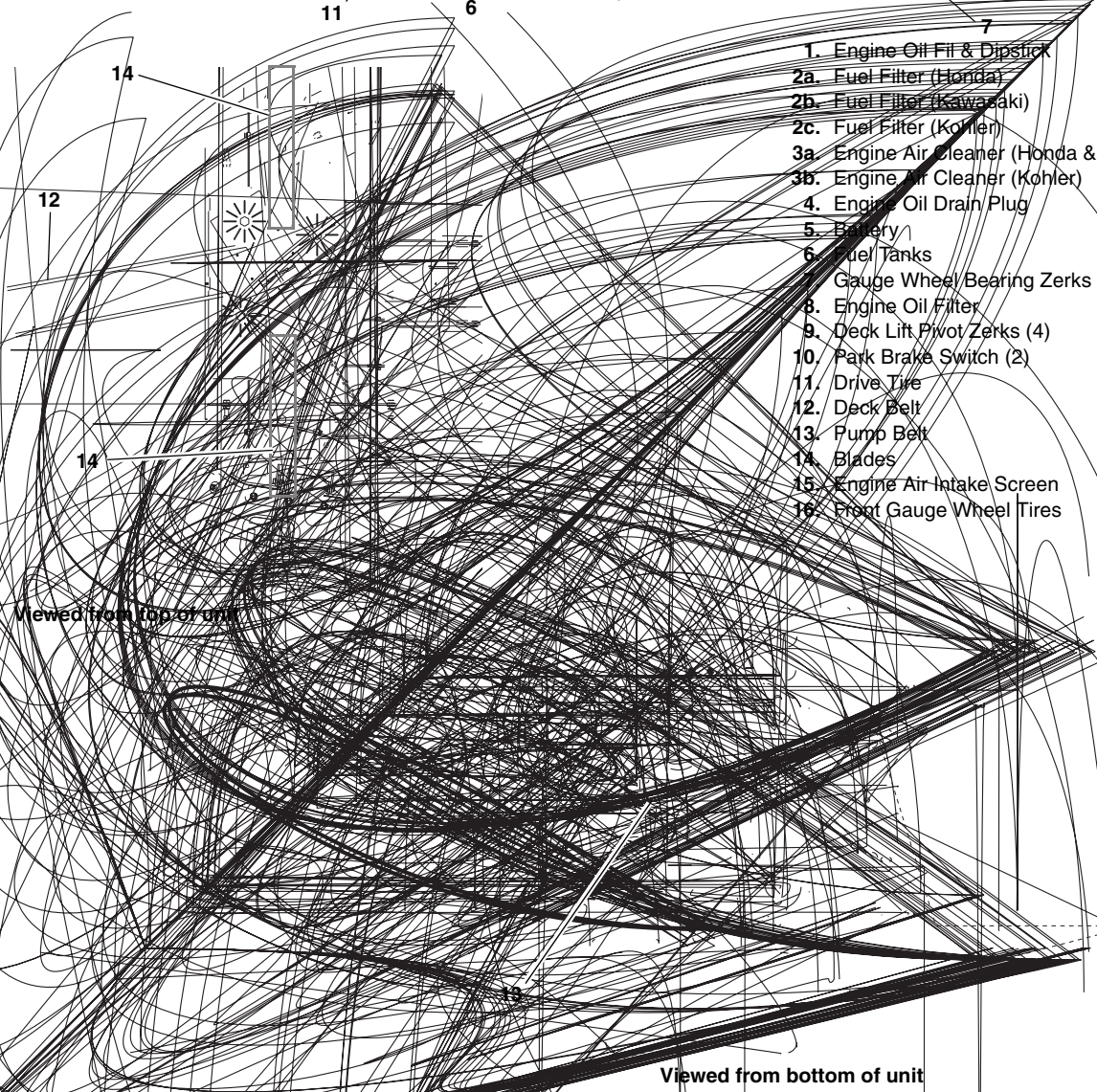
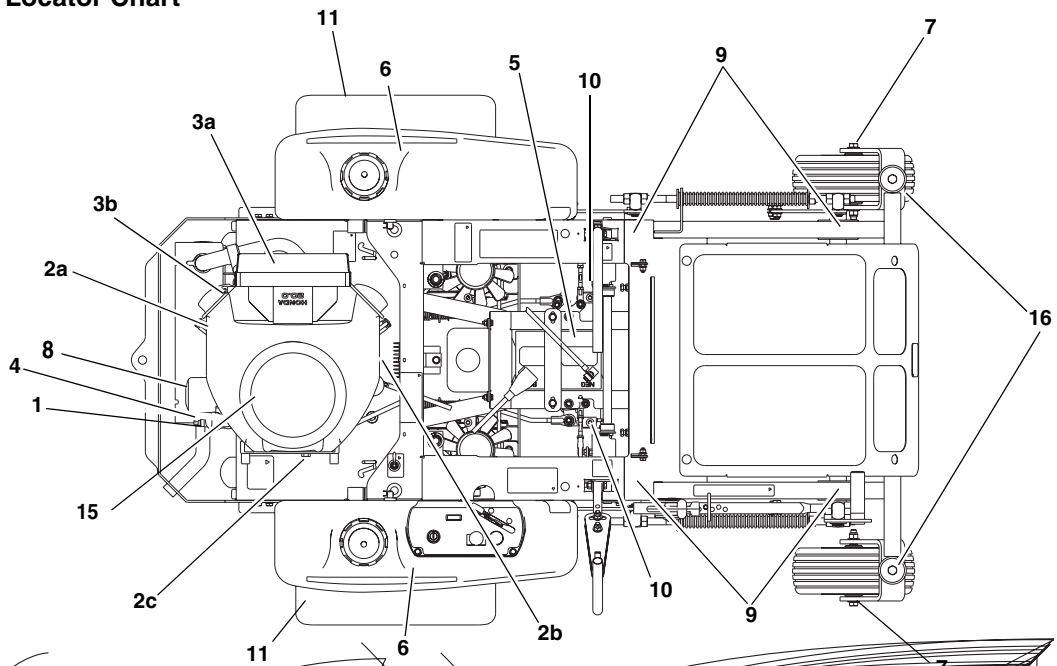
**REFERENCES:**

a — Refer to Engine Owner's Manual

**NOTE:** After completing maintenance cycle (300 hours), repeat cycle.



# FasTrak 48/54 Maintenance Locator Chart



- 1. Engine Oil Fill & Dipstick
- 2a. Fuel Filter (Honda)
- 2b. Fuel Filter (Kawasaki)
- 2c. Fuel Filter (Kohler)
- 3a. Engine Air Cleaner (Honda & Kawasaki)
- 3b. Engine Air Cleaner (Kohler)
- 4. Engine Oil Drain Plug
- 5. Battery
- 6. Fuel Tanks
- 7. Gauge Wheel/Bearing Zerk(s) (2)
- 8. Engine Oil Filter
- 9. Deck Lift Pivot Zerk(s) (4)
- 10. Park Brake Switch (2)
- 11. Drive Tire
- 12. Deck Belt
- 13. Pump Belt
- 14. Blades
- 15. Engine Air Intake Screen
- 16. Front Gauge Wheel Tires

Viewed from top of unit

Viewed from bottom of unit

Figure 4-13

# TROUBLESHOOTING

SYMPTOMS	PROBABLE CAUSES	SUGGESTED REMEDIES
<b>Starting motor does not crank</b>	Steering control levers not in park brake position or switch not adjusted	Place steering control levers in park brake position or re-adjust switch
	Deck clutch switch engaged	Disengage clutch switch
	Weak or dead battery	Recharge or replace
	Electrical connections are corroded or loose	Check the electrical connections
	20 amp fuse is blown	Replace the 20 amp fuse
	For additional causes	See engine manual
<b>The engine will not start, starts hard or fails to keep running</b>	No fuel or line plugged	Fill tank or replace line
	Fuel valve is turned off	Open the fuel valve
	There is incorrect fuel in the fuel system	Drain the tank and replace the fuel with the proper type
	There is dirt in the fuel filter	Replace the fuel filter
	Dirt, water or stale fuel in the fuel system	Contact your Hustler Dealer
	The choke is not on	Move the choke lever to ON
	Numerous	See engine manual
	<b>Engine: Runs with continuous misfiring or engine runs unevenly or erratically</b>	Numerous
<b>Loss of power or system will not operate in either direction</b>	Restrictions in air cleaner	Service air cleaner
	Poor compression	See your dealer
	Steering linkage needs adjustment	Adjust linkage
	Tow valve open	Close tow valve
	The traction drive belt is worn, loose or broken	Install a new traction drive belt
	For additional causes	See engine manual
	<b>Overheating</b>	Air intake screen or cleaning fins clogged
	For additional causes	See engine manual
<b>Low engine oil pressure</b>	Low oil level	Add oil
	Oil diluted or too light	Change oil and check for source of contamination
<b>High oil consumption</b>	Numerous	See your dealer
<b>Tractor jerky when starting or operates in one direction only</b>	Steering control linkage needs adjustment	Adjust linkage
	Loose steering linkage	Tighten linkage
	Transaxle component faulty	See your dealer

SYMPTOMS	PROBABLE CAUSES	SUGGESTED REMEDIES
<b>Tractor creeps when steering control levers are in neutral</b>	Steering linkage needs adjustment	Adjust linkage
<b>Tractor circles or veers in one direction</b>	Steering linkage needs adjustment	Adjust linkage
	Loose steering linkage	Tighten linkage
	Tires improperly inflated	Adjust air pressure to 8 - 10 psi
	Transaxle component faulty	See your dealer
<b>There is abnormal vibration</b>	The engine mounting bolts are loose	Tighten the engine mounting bolts
	The engine pulley, idler pulley or blade pulley is loose	Tighten the appropriate pulley
	The engine is pulley is damaged	Contact your Hustler Dealer
	The cutting blade(s) is/are bent or unbalanced	Install new cutting blade(s)
	A blade mounting bolt is loose	Tighten the blade mounting bolt
	Spindle bearing is worn or loose	Replace or tighten spindle bearing
	A blade spindle is bent	Contact your Hustler Dealer
<b>Uneven cutting height</b>	The blade(s) are not sharp	Sharpen the blades
	A cutting blade(s) is/are bent	Install new cutting blade(s)
	The deck is not level	Level the deck per the Deck leveling and height adjustment section of the parts manual
	An anti-scalp wheel is not set correctly	Adjust the height of the anti-scalp wheel
	The underside of the deck is dirty	Clean the underside of the deck
	Tires improperly inflated	Adjust air pressure to 8 - 10 psi
	A blade spindle is bent	Contact your Hustler Dealer
<b>Blades do not rotate</b>	The deck drive belt is worn, loose or broken	Install a new deck drive belt
	The deck drive belt is off the pulley	Install the deck drive belt and check for a reason
	Electric clutch is not engaging	Check and/or replace 10 amp fuse. Contact your Hustler dealer



# STORAGE

When storing the unit at the the end of the mowing season, the following steps should be taken to ensure readiness for the next mowing season.

1. Remove all grass, dirt, and trash from tractor and mower. Clean tractor and mower and touch up all scrapes with Hustler spray paint.  
**IMPORTANT:** Wash the machine with a mild detergent and water. Do not pressure wash the machine. Avoid excessive use of water, especially near the control panel, engine and the integrated pump/motor units.
2. Install new air filter per Engine Owner's Manual.
3. Check thoroughly for any worn or damaged parts that need replacing and order them from your dealer.
4. Thoroughly lubricate machine, according to lubrication instructions.
5. Block tractor up so weight is off tires.  
**NOTE:** Do not deflate tires.
6. Remove the battery from machine
  - A. Clean battery
  - B. Check the electrolyte level
  - C. Charge the battery, if necessary
  - D. Store battery in a cool, dry place (do not expose to freezing temperatures)
  - E. Always keep the battery fully charged. (Especially important to prevent battery damage when the temperature is below 32°F.)
6. Perform separate engine preparation as listed below.
7. Store tractor in a clean, dry place.

## Preparation of engine for storage

When engine is to be unused for long periods, proceed as follows:

1. Run engine for a minimum of 15 minutes.
2. Drain oil from crankcase while engine is still warm.
3. Refill with fresh oil of proper viscosity.

4. Drain fuel tank and run the engine until it stops from lack of fuel. Gasoline evaporates if left in carburetor for long periods, forming gum and varnish deposits in carburetor. These deposits will cause engine flooding and loss of power.
5. Remove and replace fuel filter if not done in previous 100 hours.
6. Remove spark plugs and pour a tablespoon of engine oil into each spark plug hole. Install plugs, but do not reconnect plug leads.
7. Crank engine with starter at least a dozen revolutions to distribute oil over cylinder walls and valve mechanism.
8. Clean exterior surface of engine. Spread a light film of oil over any exposed metal surfaces of engine that are subject to corrosion.
9. Clean dirt and chaff from cylinders and fins, blower housing and muffler.
10. Check oil filler cap and fuel tank cap to make certain they are securely in place.
11. Refer to engine manual for more information.

## New season preparation

Before starting the tractor following post season storage, the following servicing is required:

1. Clean tractor, removing trash and dirt accumulation.
2. Check engine oil level.
3. Fill fuel tank with fresh gasoline. Run machine at half speed for 5 minutes, checking operation of steering control lever. Stop engine and check for oil leaks, loose fittings and so forth.
4. Tighten any bolts that have loosened and make sure all hair pins, cotter pins and clevis pins are in place.
5. Install all safety shields and review safety precautions listed in this manual.
6. Check and inflate tires to 8-10 psi.
7. Refer to engine manual for more information.

# PRODUCT LITERATURE

This section contains sources of additional literature concerning your tractor. Literature should be ordered from your Hustler dealer or direct from indicated source.

## Parts Manuals

If you would like to order a Parts Manual for a particular tractor, the Hustler part number for that manual is listed in the following chart. Please contact your Hustler dealer to order the manual.

Model	Model Number	Parts Manual P/N	List Price
Mini FasTrak 36/42	927343, 927350, 927368, 927376	333559	\$22.50
FasTrak 48/54	928275, 928291, 928267, 928520, 928502	108277	\$22.50





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