

“Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties.”

– C.S. Lewis

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2024 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
SICKLE MOWERS

Mower FAQ's

My blades aren't cutting as well as they were when they were new. Or the mower plugs up. Why?

The 3 main issues that contribute to poor cutting.

1. belts might be loose (Solution - tighten belts so there is a 7/8 deflection with 15 lb. pressure)
2. Dull or damaged sections of the blades can also affect the cutting

To get optimal cutting it's important to follow instructions in the Operator's Manual. Sharpen the Knives to a 40-degree bevel especially the top blade and eventually also the bottom blade. It's better to have 2 sharp blades (even if eventually the bottom is smooth as well) than trying to mow with a dull serrated Knife. It is recommended to send the knives to your local service center for accurate sharpening. (check out our sharpening guides/stands or even automatic sickle sharpeners that are available)

Also inspect for any bent sections and straighten so all blades contact evenly.

New mowers come with a smooth /serrated combination (smooth on top and serrated on bottom) to cover a broad range of grasses. If you or the customer is mowing very soft fine grasses a smooth-smooth combination (top-bottom) might work better.

When the sections are sharpened to a point in front and can't be sharpened any more, it is discouraged to attempt to replace all the sections on the original knife back but rather replace the complete blade assembly as you cannot get it perfectly straight - after re-riveting - like it is from the factory and will not cut as clean and easy.

I want to replace all sections on my blades. Is this possible?

Yes, it is possible, but not recommended.

The manufacturer, ESM, suggests if you feel you need to replace all the sections on a blade, you are better off replacing the whole blade than replacing each section. You may have problems getting the sections as tight and straight as ESM can when they make them at the factory, which will lead to cutting and maintenance issues. We have all sizes of blades available in stock.

Just as important as sharp blades is maintaining the proper tension on the blades through properly adjusting the top guides.

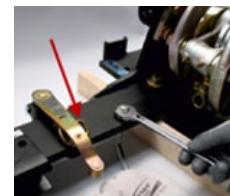
Adjusting top guides properly -loosen the 8 mm bolt on back of top guides and tap down till the guide socket is almost even with bottom of the bar back (or back bone). (please refer to Pages 20, 21, 22 in operators Manual).



Also Please refer to page 15, 16 to properly adjust the inner part of the blades. If you do not have an operator or parts manual please call dealer/supplier for one.

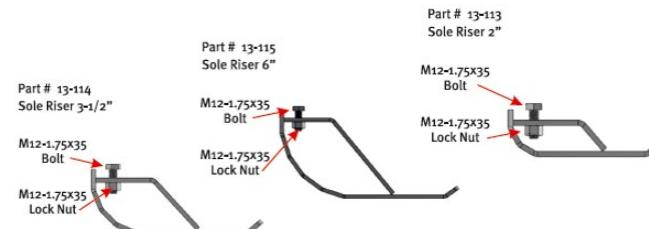
When finished removing the blades always release the "d"-rings as leaving them propped up for an extended period will weaken the down pressure needed to cut efficiently.

The bottom guides also should be checked periodically. If they can wobble up and down or are badly bent, they should be replaced. They should be (5.5mm (.2125") higher than the bottom of back bone) for proper setting and can be adjusted (Bent) accordingly with the neat new jig we offer.



Are there any higher soles available to cut my grass higher?

Optional soles for clipping pastures higher are available at 2", 3" and 6". Along with adjustable inner sole #2380397.



I'd like to get rid of the swather and outer shoe. Is that possible?

Yes, We have a parts kit that allows the swather and shoe to be removed without sacrificing cut quality. It is the Outer blade support #2460010.



I am having issues with my top and bottom ball joints. What might be the cause?

How do I order parts easily?

If you are experiencing problems with your top ball joint (part #2890090) and/or bottom ball joint (part #2890100) it may be that your head rpm is too high or too low. Optimal head rpm should be between 850 to 1,000 rpm with a maximum of 1,100 rpm.



Bottom ball joint (#2890100)

Top ball joint (#2890090)

How do I order parts easily?

You can call us at 717-442-9451 and speak with a customer service representative. To avoid delays and shipping errors, it is vitally important to refer to the 7-digit item numbers. There are many different names for the same thing, so mistakes can be made easily if the item numbers are not used during ordering.

If you do not have an Operator's Manual, please give us a call and we will mail you one out. Please use the 7-digit part numbers listed in this Manual when ordering parts. Please take advantage of Pre-season discounts by ordering supplies in Fall or winter to avoid any last minute rush and possibility of parts shortage.



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