

Craftsman Model 917 Owners Manual

SEARS


CRAFTSMAN®

MODEL NUMBER 917.256544 OWNER'S MANUAL

- Assembly
- Operation
- Customer Responsibilities
- Service and Adjustments
- Repair Parts

EZ³



 This product has a low emission engine which operates differently from previously built engines. Before you start the engine, read and understand this Owner's Manual.

CAUTION: Read and follow all safety rules and instructions before operating this equipment.
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Sears, Roebuck and Co., Hoffman Estates, IL 60179 U.S.A.

Craftsman Model 917 Owners Manual is an essential guide for anyone who owns this particular model of lawn mower. It serves as a comprehensive resource that provides critical information on operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and safety guidelines. Understanding how to properly use and care for your Craftsman Model 917 can significantly extend its lifespan and enhance performance. In this detailed article, we will explore various aspects of the owner's manual, ensuring that you have all the knowledge you need to keep your lawn mower in optimal condition.

Understanding the Craftsman Model 917

The Craftsman Model 917 is a versatile lawn mower known for its durability and efficiency. Designed for residential use, it provides users with a reliable means of maintaining their lawns. Here are some key features that define the Craftsman Model 917:

Key Features

1. Engine Type: Typically powered by a gasoline engine, the Craftsman Model 917 offers a range of horsepower options, enabling it to tackle various mowing tasks.
2. Cutting Width: The mower usually features a wide cutting deck, allowing for broader swathes of grass to be cut with each pass, which saves time on larger lawns.
3. Adjustable Cutting Heights: Users can adjust the cutting height, providing flexibility for different types of grass and seasons.
4. Mowing Options: Many models include options for side discharge, mulching, and bagging, catering to different lawn care preferences.

Getting Started with Your Craftsman Model 917

When you first acquire your Craftsman Model 917, it's vital to familiarize yourself with the owner's manual. This document will serve as your go-to resource for all operational aspects of the mower.

Initial Setup

Before using your mower for the first time, ensure the following steps are completed:

1. Assembly: Follow the assembly instructions carefully. Ensure that all parts are securely attached.
2. Fueling: Fill the tank with the appropriate fuel type as specified in the manual. Using the wrong fuel can damage the engine.
3. Oil Check: Check the oil level and quality. Change the oil if it appears dirty or is below the recommended level.
4. Blade Inspection: Ensure that the mower blades are sharp and properly installed for an effective cut.

Safety Precautions

Safety should always be a priority when operating any lawn care equipment. Here are some safety tips outlined in the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual:

- Read the Manual: Always read and understand the owner's manual before operating the mower.
- Protective Gear: Wear appropriate clothing, including closed-toe shoes and eye protection.
- Keep Children and Pets Away: Ensure that the area is clear of children and pets before starting the mower.
- Avoid Wet Grass: Mowing wet grass can be hazardous. Wait until the grass is dry to avoid slips and falls.

Operating Your Craftsman Model 917

Operating your mower effectively involves understanding its controls and functions.

Control Panel Overview

The control panel on the Craftsman Model 917 typically includes:

- Throttle Control: Adjusts engine speed.
- Choke Lever: Used for starting the engine in cold conditions.
- Blade Engagement Lever: Engages and disengages the mower blades.
- Height Adjustment Lever: Changes the cutting height of the blades.

Starting the Mower

To start your Craftsman Model 917, follow these steps:

1. Ensure the mower is in a safe location and free of obstacles.
2. Check that the throttle is set to the appropriate position.
3. Pull the choke lever if starting in cold conditions.
4. Engage the brake if applicable.
5. Pull the starter cord firmly until the engine starts.

Mowing Techniques

For the best results while mowing, consider these techniques:

- Mow in Straight Lines: This provides a clean and uniform cut.
- Overlap Passes: Slightly overlap each pass to avoid missed patches of grass.
- Change Directions: Alternate your mowing direction each time to prevent soil compaction.

Maintenance of Your Craftsman Model 917

Regular maintenance is crucial for ensuring the longevity and performance of your lawn mower. The Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual provides a detailed maintenance schedule and guidelines.

Routine Maintenance Tasks

1. Oil Changes: Change the oil every 50 hours of operation or at least once a year. Use the recommended oil type.
2. Air Filter Replacement: Check the air filter regularly and replace it if it appears dirty or clogged.
3. Blade Sharpening: Sharpen the mower blades at least once per season or more frequently if you notice a decrease in cutting performance.
4. Spark Plug Replacement: Replace the spark plug annually to ensure reliable starting and efficient engine operation.

5. **Battery Maintenance:** If your model is equipped with a battery, check its charge and clean the terminals regularly.

Seasonal Preparation

Before transitioning between seasons, take extra care to prepare your Craftsman Model 917:

- **End of Season:** Clean the mower thoroughly, remove any grass clippings, and store it in a dry place.
- **Pre-season Check:** Before the start of the mowing season, inspect the mower for any wear and tear, and perform necessary repairs.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even with proper maintenance and care, you might encounter some issues with your Craftsman Model 917. The owner's manual provides troubleshooting tips for common problems.

Engine Won't Start

If the engine fails to start:

- Check the fuel level and quality.
- Inspect the spark plug for damage or wear.
- Ensure the choke is in the correct position.

Poor Cutting Performance

If the mower isn't cutting effectively:

- Check if the blades are dull and need sharpening.
- Ensure the cutting height is set appropriately.
- Look for clogs in the deck or discharge chute.

Conclusion

The Craftsman Model 917 Owners Manual is more than just a set of instructions; it's a comprehensive guide that empowers you to operate and maintain your lawn mower effectively. By understanding the features, following safety precautions, adhering to maintenance schedules, and troubleshooting common problems, you can ensure that your Craftsman Model 917 remains a reliable tool for your lawn care needs. Always keep the manual handy for reference and consult it regularly to maximize the performance and lifespan of your mower. With proper care, your Craftsman Model 917 can provide years of dependable service, making lawn maintenance a breeze.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual online?

You can find the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual on the official Sears or Craftsman website, or by visiting third-party sites like ManualsLib or eBay.

What type of maintenance is recommended for the Craftsman Model 917?

Regular maintenance includes checking and changing the oil, replacing the air filter, sharpening the blades, and inspecting the belts and battery.

Is the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual available in PDF format?

Yes, many users have uploaded PDF versions of the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual online for easy access.

What should I do if I lost my Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual?

If you lost your owner's manual, you can download a digital copy online or contact Craftsman customer service for assistance.

Does the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual include troubleshooting tips?

Yes, the owner's manual typically includes troubleshooting tips for common issues you may encounter while using the Craftsman Model 917.

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

Refer to the owner's manual for specific instructions, which usually involve using the height adjustment lever or wheel located near the cutting deck.

Can I use a Craftsman Model 917 for mulching?

Yes, the Craftsman Model 917 can be equipped with a mulching kit, which is often detailed in the owner's manual.

What safety precautions are mentioned in the Craftsman Model 917 owner's manual?

The owner's manual includes safety precautions such as wearing appropriate clothing, not operating on wet grass, and keeping bystanders at a safe distance.

How often should I replace the spark plug on my

Craftsman Model 917?

The owner's manual typically recommends checking the spark plug every 25 hours of operation and replacing it at least once a season.

Are there any specific fuel requirements for the Craftsman Model 917?

The owner's manual specifies using unleaded gasoline with a minimum octane rating of 87 for optimal performance.

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