



ZERO-TURN MOWER OWNER'S & SERVICE MANUAL

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SAFETY WARNING DECALS

Never use the machine, unless all safety warning decals are read and understood.



Risk of injury to fingers and hands.



Use only 20w50 motor oil in the hydro system and NOT hydraulic oil



Risk of injury to feet



Before filling fuel the engine shall be stopped and be cool. No smoking by filling. After filling wipe up spills before starting engine



Keep a safe distance from humans, animals and other fragile objects such as. glass facades and windows. There is a risk that stones may fly out of the discharge chute.



The machine must be run at max 5° slopes sideways, 10 degrees inclines and to 15 degrees declines.



Towing Capacity:

The following towing capacities are for towing a vehicle or a roll. They are calculated using a coefficient of rolling resistance at 0,030 and a coefficient of friction at 0,8.

Persistent towing of the weight as below, or on a slope greater than 10 degrees may result in premature failure of the machine. This can result in the drive system overheats, or that the shaft will be damaged.

MZ Series

Max. towing 90 kg.
Max. incline 10°

ZT Series

Max. towing 130 kg.
Max. incline 10°

CZT Series

Max. towing 180 kg.
Max. incline 10°

Outlaw Series:

Max. towing 180 kg.
Max. incline 10°

Lightning Series

Max. towing 270 kg.
Max. incline 10°

AOS Series

Max. towing 270 kg.
Max. incline 10°

This manual applies to the following equipment:

Bad Boy Diesel Series

Diesel Compact 6000 60" 28hp 3-Cylinder Diesel (20.88 kW)

Diesel 6000 60" 35hp 4-Cylinder Diesel (26.10 kW)

Diesel 7200 72" 35hp 4-Cylinder Diesel (26.10 kW)

COMMONLY USED ITEMS AND PART NUMBERS

72" Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-7230-00	Gator Blade 038-5400-00	Wave Blade 038-7215-00
60" Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-6060-00	Gator Blade 038-6003-00	Wave Blade 038-6015-00
Deck Belt	72" 041-2525-00	60" 041-0236-000	
Pump Belt	041-8411-00		
CATERPILLAR Oil Filter	CAT 28hp 063-2010-00		
Air filter	CAT 28hp Inner 063-2060-00	CAT 28hp Outer 063-2050-00	
CATERPILLAR Oil Filter	CAT 35hp 063-2010-00		
Air filter	CAT 35hp Inner 063-2060-00	CAT 35hp Outer 063-2050-00	
Motor Oil	10w30 (2 quarts)		
Hydraulic oil	20w50 (8 quarts)		



Bad Boy Outlaw Series

- Outlaw 5400 54" 30hp Briggs PRO (22.37 kW)
- Outlaw 5400 61" 30hp Briggs PRO (22.37 kW)
- Outlaw Extreme 5400 54" 31hp Kawasaki (23.12 kW)
- Outlaw Extreme 6100 61" 31hp Kawasaki (23.12 kW)
- Outlaw Extreme 7200 72" 31hp Kawasaki (23.12 kW)
- Outlaw Extreme 6100 61" 36hp Kawasaki (28.85 kW)
- Outlaw Extreme 7200 72" 36hp Kawasaki (28.85 kW)

COMMONLY USED ITEMS AND PART NUMBERS

72" Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-7230-00	Gator Blade 038-5400-00	Wave Blade 038-7215-00
61" Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-6080-00	Gator Blade 038-6081-00	Wave Blade 038-6090-00
54" Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-0001-00	Gator Blade 038-0003-00	Wave Blade 038-5220-00
Deck Belt	72" 041-0202-00	61" 041-0178-00	54" 041-1650-00
Pump Belt	041-5048-00		
Vanguard 36hp	Oil Filter 063-8018-00	Air Filter Inner 063-8020-00	Air Filter Outer 063-8019-00
Kawasaki 31hp	Oil Filter 063-8017-00	Air Filter Inner 063-2031-00	Air Filter Outer 063-2032-00
Briggs Pro 30hp	Oil Filter 063-8018-00	Air Filter 063-3003-00	
Motor Oil	10w30 (2 quarts)		
Hydro Oil	20w50 (8 quarts)		
5400 Hydro Filters	063-1060-00		

Bad Boy MZ Series

- MZ 42" 21 hp Briggs (15.66 kW)
- MZ 48" 27 hp Briggs (20.13 kW)
- MZ 42" 22 hp Kawasaki (16.41 kW)
- MZ 48" 26 hp Kawasaki (19.39 kW)

COMMONLY USED ITEMS AND PART NUMBERS

42" MZ Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-4221-00	Gator Blade 038-4222-00	
MZ Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-4826-00	Gator Blade 038-4821-00	Wave Blade 038-4825-00
42" MZ Deck Belt	041-0120-00		
48" MZ Deck Belt	041-6027-00		
MZ Pump Belt	041-6400-00		
Oil filter	Briggs 21 hp 063-2004-00	Briggs 27 hp 063-2004-00	Kawasaki engine 063-2096-00
Air filter	Briggs 21 hp 063-4026-00	Briggs 27 hp 063-4000-00	Kawasaki engine 063-2097-00
Motor Oil	10w30 (2 quarts)		
Hydraulic oil	20w50 (not to service)		



Bad Boy Commercial ZT (CZT) Series

- CZT 4200 42' 23hp Vanguard (17.15 kW)
- CZT 5000 50' 23hp Vanguard (17.15 kW)
- CZT 6000 60' 23hp Vanguard (17.15 kW)
- CZT 4200 42' 27hp Kohler (20.13 kW)
- CZT 5000 50' 27hp Kohler (20.13 kW)
- CZT 6000 60' 27hp Kohler (20.13 kW)

COMMONLY USED ITEMS AND PART NUMBERS

60' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-6060-00	Gator Blade 038-6003-00	Wave Blade 038-6015-00
50' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-5350-00	Gator Blade 038-5000-00	Wave Blade 038-5351-00
42' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-4221-00	Gator Blade 038-4222-00	Wave Blade 038-4223-00
Deck Belt	60' 041-1650-00	50' 041-1470-00	42' 041-4022-00
Pump Belt	041-5048-00		
KOHLER Oil Filter	Kohler 27hp 063-5400-00		
Air Filter	Kohler 27hp 063-8080-00		
VANGUARD Oil Filter	Vanguard 23hp 063-8018-00		
Air Filter	Vanguard 23hp 063-8050-00		
Motor Oil	10w30 (2 quarts)		
Hydro Oil	20w50 (8 quarts)		

Bad Boy Lightning and Pup Series

- Lightning 5200 52' 26hp Kawasaki LC (19.34 kW)
- Lightning 6000 60' 26hp Kawasaki LC (19.34 kW)
- Lightning/Pup 5200 52' 30hp Kohler (22.37 kW)
- Lightning/Pup 6000 60' 30hp Kohler (22.37 kW)
- Lightning 6000 60' 31hp Kawasaki (23.12 kW)
- Lightning 7200 72' 31hp Kawasaki (23.12 kW)
- Lightning 6000 60' 32hp Vanguard (23.86 kW)
- Lightning 7200 72' 32hp Vanguard (23.86 kW)

COMMONLY USED ITEMS AND PART NUMBERS

72' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-7230-00	Gator Blade 038-5400-00	Wave Blade 038-7215-00
60' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-6080-00	Gator Blade 038-6081-00	Wave Blade 038-6090-00
52' Blade	Hi-Lift Fusion 038-0001-00	Gator Blade 038-0003-00	Wave Blade 038-5220-00
Deck Belt	72' 041-0202-00	60' 041-0178-00	52' 041-1650-00
Pump Belt	041-5048-00		
Vanguard 32hp	Oil Filter 063-8018-00	Air Filter Inner 063-8020-00	Air Filter Outer 063-8019-00
Kawasaki 31hp	Oil Filter 063-8017-00	Air Filter Inner 063-2031-00	Air Filter Outer 063-2032-00
Kohler 30hp	Oil Filter 063-5400-00	Air Filter Inner 063-8020-00	Air Filter Outer 063-8019-00
Kawasaki 26hp	Oil Filter 063-2090-00	Air Filter Inner 063-8020-00	Air Filter Outer 063-8019-00
Motor Oil	10w30 (2 quarts)		
Hydro Oil	20w50 (8 quarts)		



SECTION 1: BASIC INFORMATION

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Bad Boy Mower! The purpose of this manual is to assist operators in maintaining and operating their machine. The information and instructions in this manual can help you attain years of performance from your new Bad Boy. Also, check out our website to learn more about the Bad Boy family. (www.badboyeurope.com)

- 1.1 All Bad Boy engines use 10W30 engine oil. Conventional or synthetic oil may be used.
- 1.2 All Bad Boy hydraulic systems use 20W50 engine oil. Conventional or synthetic oil may be used.
- 1.3 All Bad Boy Mowers use high temperature universal grease NLGI No. 2 for all grease fittings.
- 1.4 Tire pressure: 1.4 0,8 bar (12 psi) in front and rear tires.
- 1.5 Most Briggs, Kohler, Kawasaki, and Vanguard engines hold two (2) quarts of motor oil.

Model/Serial Number

Your Diesel model serial numbers are found on the SIN plate underneath seat. Also, these numbers can assist you in the ordering of new parts when replacements become necessary.

Parts/Service

Only Bad Boy replacement parts are to be used on your mower.

Replacement parts are available through your local Bad Boy Mower Dealer. Remember to always provide the following information when ordering parts:

1. Part number
2. Serial number

All warranty repair and service must be handled through your authorized Bad Boy Mowers dealer.

SECTION 2: OPERATING THE MOWER

Never allow untrained people to operate this machine.

The employer is responsible for instructing any person using the machine.

The employer is also responsible for instructing all persons allowed driving machine so they are well trained.

WARNING! Do not mow around people. The factory discharge chute is designed to deflect debris downward and to the sides. But it could be possible for debris to be thrown in a way that can cause damage to people or property.

Seek additional training when possible to learn more about safety techniques and practices before using the mower.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- 2.1 Always remain seated while operating machine.
- 2.2 Always maintain a safe distance from people and pets while mowing.
- 2.3 Always disengage blades, place steering controls in neutral, engage parking brake, and remove ignition key when leaving operators seat.
- 2.4 Always operate machine in daylight or with adequate working lights.
- 2.5 Be alert of surroundings. Watch for rocks, stumps, and mounds or depressions while mowing.
- 2.6 Always wear eye protection while mowing and servicing.
- 2.7 Always wear ear protection, such as earplugs, while mowing.
- 2.8 If you strike something with the mower turn the blades and mower off, engage the parking brake. Inspect then the machine for damage before resuming
- 2.9 Be aware of low hanging limbs or objects that could potentially be hazardous while mowing.
- 2.10 Never operate a poorly maintained machine.
- 2.11 Never carry passengers.
- 2.12 Always buckle seat belt, if provided one.
- 2.13 Never attempt high speed maneuvering, especially around people or property.
- 2.14 Never put hands or feet under the machine while ignition is on.
- 2.15 Never refuel machine when engine is running.
- 2.16 Never leave key in ignition, especially around children.
- 2.17 Never run engine in enclosed area.
- 2.18 Do not touch hot parts of machine.
- 2.19 Do not remove deck wheels.
- 2.20 Conditions that can affect traction resulting in the loss of control of machine: e.g. Wet terrain, Hills or extreme angles, Depressions in the ground, Mounds of dirt, Extremely dry grass, Soil type (gravel, sand, clay), Tire pressure.
- 2.21 Be aware of what is located at the bottom of slopes. For example, Rocks, Water, Cliffs, Roads and Highways
- 2.22 ***Safety warning decals are located on the mower and should always be observed and followed.***
- 2.23 Never operate the mower with the discharge chute open.
- 2.24 Prevent Fires. Remove grass and debris from engine compartment and muffler area, before and after operating machine, especially after mowing or mulching in dry conditions.
- 2.25 Do not store machine near open flame or source of ignition, such as a water heater or furnace.
- 2.26 Do not attempt to mount a tire without the proper equipment and experience to perform the job.
- 2.27 Always maintain the correct tire pressure. Do not inflate the tires above the recommended



pressure. Never weld or heat a wheel and tire assembly. The heat can cause an increase in air pressure resulting in a tire explosion. Welding can structurally weaken or deform the wheel.

- 2.28 Never run engine in enclosed area without ventilation. Carbon monoxide is deadly and carbon dioxide may cause suffocation
- 2.29 Let engine cool before storing!!!
- 2.30 Hydraulic hoses and lines can fail due to physical damage, kinks, age, and exposure. Check hoses and lines regularly and replace damaged parts.
- 2.31 Park machine on level ground. Never allow untrained personnel to service machine. Understand service procedure before doing work.

SECTION 3: MOWER OPERATION

Never operate the machine with faulty equipment.

Always be alert of sudden changes in landscape, as the mower will react differently on slopes or embankments than it will on flat surfaces.

Never operate the mower with the discharge chute open.

Do not cross terrain, other than grass, with blades turning. This could cause damage to property or bystanders.

- 3.1 Look for unwanted things under or around the machine and remove them.
- 3.2 Place parking brake in up position.
- 3.3 Drive arms must be in the “open” position. While sitting on the machine, each arm is positioned away from the operator, to the right and left. Drive arms will lock into place and must be in this position to start machine.
- 3.4 Put PTO switch in the OFF position.
- 3.5 If your machine has been equipped with a ROPS (Roll Over Protection System) then you must fasten seatbelt
- 3.6 If machine has not been started recently, engage the choke. With diesel models you should use the preheater in stead.
- 3.7 Place key in ignition and turn clockwise.
- 3.8 Once machine is started, disengage the choke. (Not with diesel)
- 3.9 Increase RPM by sliding the throttle to fast position, toward the rabbit.
- 3.10 Owners must become familiar with the controls before operating a zero-turn radius vehicle.
- 3.11 Start slowly and build your skill level. Have ample practice before using the machine at full capabilities.
- 3.12 Be comfortable with machine before engaging blades. Know what each component controls before using machine.
- 3.13 Your mower will perform differently on an incline /decline. The machine could lose traction on a decline or tip backwards on an incline with increased risk of severe injury or death.

The machine could tip backwards on an incline

Be cautious, slow down, and do not make any sudden jerking movements with control arms.

- 3.14 Once you become comfortable with your Bad Boy Mower you will notice your overall mowing time will decrease.

Avoid operating your mower on side hills of over 5 degrees, inclines of over 10 degrees, and declines of over 15 degrees.

SECTION 4: MOWER MAINTENANCE

*****Check each and provide maintenance when needed.***

DAILY

- 4.1 Check Engine Oil
- 4.2 Check Engine Air Filter
- 4.3 Check Tire Pressure
- 4.4 Inspect Blades for cracks, breakage, deformation, sharpness, and there are things wrapped around the axles
- 4.5 Inspect the cooling fins.
- 4.6 Inspect the level of coolant.

Within FIRST five hours of usage, change engine oil and filter

EVERY 30 HOURS OF USAGE

- 4.7 Grease Machine

EVERY 50 HOURS OF USAGE

- 4.8 Change Engine Oil and Filters

Check filters once a year if under 50 hours

Check air and fuel filters more often in dry, dusty conditions

Within FIRST 50 hours of usage, change hydraulic oil and filters

EVERY 250 HOURS OF USAGE

- 4.9 Change Hydraulic Fluid and Filters
- 4.10 Refer to manufacturer manual for specific information on maintenance schedules.

SECTION 5: MOWER STORAGE & TRANSPORTATION

- 5.1 Keep machine from collecting debris by storing in a covered area while not in use.
- 5.2 Fuel can harm your machine if left for more than 30 days without changing, especially if the



fuel contains ethanol. Never use fuel with more than 10% ethanol by volume. E-15 is not permitted.

- 5.3 Disconnect the negative battery cable when machine will be stored for more than 30 days.
- 5.4 Always secure properly when transporting the machine.
- 5.5 Do not load machine on trailer with blades engaged.
- 5.6 Do not use ramps to load the machine. You should always inspect that the capacity for weight matches the weight of the machine. You need a crane or a forklift to lift the machine
- 5.7 Make sure Parking Brake is in "up" position.
- 5.8 In wet conditions tires may spin while loading / unloading. If necessary, wait for dry conditions before loading / unloading.
- 5.9 Make sure mode of transportation is suitable to bear the weight of mower.
- 5.10 Deck height should be set at maximum before attempting to load.
- 5.11 Secure mower with at least two straps capable of securing weight of mower.

SECTION 6: TROUBLESHOOTING

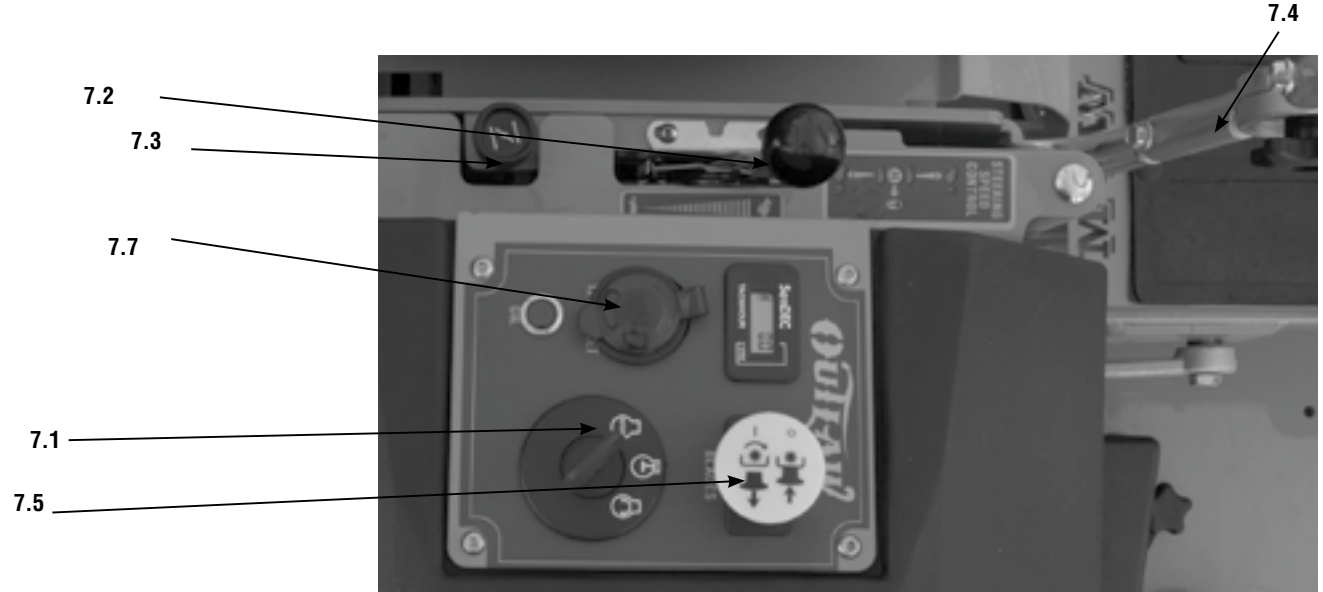
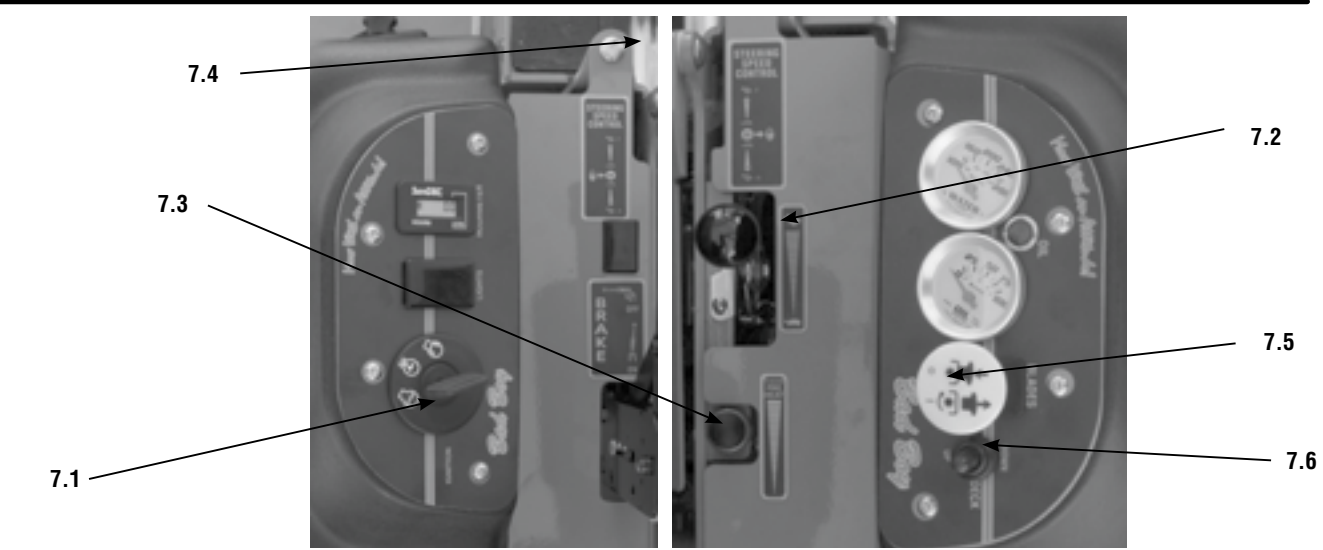
- 6.1 **Q: How do I prevent an uneven cutting pattern and increase the quality of cut?**
- 6.1 **A:** Check tire pressure, check blade sharpness (replace blades or sharpen at least once per year or when needed), make sure blades are tightened properly, check spring and belt tension, check the underside of the deck to ensure the mower deck is free of grass build-up and debris, make sure your machine is at full throttle, and vary your mowing pattern each time you cut your grass.
- 6.2 **Q: What should I do if my mower won't start?**
- 6.2 **A:** Check battery charge and connection (grounds), check your fuel (make sure fuel is less than 30 days old and contains no water), make sure your spark plug is in good condition and spark plug wire is attached. Make sure air filter is clean (a dirty filter makes it more difficult for the engine to draw air). Check for broken wires or bad connections.
- 6.3 **Q: What should I do if the blades won't engage?**
- 6.3 **A:** Make sure the safety switch is plugged in on the bottom of seat. Check the underside of the PTO engager to ensure the plug is secure at switch.
- 6.4 **Q: What type of fuel is recommended for my mower?**
- 6.4 **A:** We recommend that you use a name brand fuel to ensure quality.
- 6.5 **Q: Do you offer touch-up paint for your mowers?**
- 6.5 **A:** Touch-up paint is available. Contact your local dealer for more information.

6.6 **Q: How durable is the electric deck lift?**

6.6 **A:** The actuator which controls the deck height is designed for moving loads of up to 1000 pounds and has a static holding capability which exceeds 3,000 pounds. Our 1/4" deck weighs approximately 250 pounds which is only 25 % of working capability.

SECTION 7: CONTROLS

- 7.1 **Ignition Switch**—Bad Boy Mowers have a three position ignition switch: off, run, and start. With key inserted, rotate it clockwise to START position and release key when engine starts. Switch will automatically return to the RUN position.
- 7.2 **Throttle Control**—A cable is connected to the engine throttle for controlling engine speed. Move lever forward to increase engine rpm, move lever backward to decrease engine rpm.
- 7.3 **Choke Control**—A cable is linked to manually operate the engine choke. When the lever is in the down position, the choke is in the off (run) position. When the lever is pulled up, the choke is in the on (start) position. Do not operate the machine in the on (start) position. The choke lever is behind the throttle control. To use the diesel preheater, you have to hold down the preheater for the indicated number of seconds before starting.
- 7.4 **Control Levers**—These levers control the mower's speed, direction, and neutral lock. These levers are used to steer, accelerate, decelerate and change direction. (Drive Arms)
- 7.5 **Blade Engage Switch**—This switch engages the blades. Pull the switch up to engage the blades. Push the switch down to disengage the blades.
- 7.6 **Deck Lift Control**—The deck lift switch is used to raise and lower the deck. Pull the switch backwards to raise the deck and push the switch forward to lower the deck.
- 7.7 **12V Charger**—Charge MP3 players or Phones while working.



Section 8: MOVING MOWER MANUALLY

- 8.1 Hopefully, you'll never need to use this section of the manual. However, if you do, use extreme caution when moving machine!
- 8.2 Do not tow machine. Use a winch to load on a trailer for transporting.
- 8.3 **ATTENTION: RETURN BYPASS VALVES TO OPERATING POSITION BEFORE STARTING AND RUNNING MOWER FOLLOWING REPAIRS.**
- 8.4 Diesel Models are equipped with two neutral engage/disengage arms, located at the rear of the mower protruding from the frame and under the muffler. By pulling the arms out the mower can be put in a neutral position. Return the arms to the "forward position for normal operation.

8.5 Your Bad Boy Mower Weighs:

Diesel SERIES:	730 – 880 kg
OUTLAW SERIES:	540 - 600 kg
Lightning/Pup SERIES:	540 - 600 kg
CZT:	390 - 420 kg
MZ SERIES:	265 - 275 kg

*** Weights fluctuate with the addition of accessories.

8.6 As you can see by the weights of the machines, you shouldn't ever try to push or pull a Bad Boy Mower by hand. This could cause serious bodily injury.

Section 9: INSTRUMENTATION

9.1 Electronic Hour Meter—Registers Hour increments up to 9,999.9 total hours. This meter records the cumulative time the engine is running.

Section 10: MOWER BLADE MAINTENANCE

- 10.1 Check mower blades after use. This is essential for maintaining well-groomed turf. Keep the blades sharp. If a dull blade is used for cutting, the grass will tear rather than cut. This could damage the grass leaving a brown frayed top on the grass within a few hours. A dull blade will also require more power from the engine.
- 10.2 NEVER attempt to straighten a bent blade by heating. NEVER attempt to weld a cracked blade. The blades can break and cause serious injury or death.
- 10.3 NEVER work with blades while engine is running or deck clutch is engaged.
- 10.4 ALWAYS place deck clutch in DISENGAGE position while performing maintenance.
- 10.5 Use the stand if you have to work under the mower.
- 10.6 ALWAYS wear thick gloves when handling blades.
- 10.7 ALWAYS check for blade damage if mower strikes rock, branch, or other objects that could potentially damage the blade. (REMEMBER: NEVER CHECK BLADE WHILE ENGINE IS ON! NEVER CHECK BLADES WHILE BLADES ARE ENGAGED!)

Section 11: GREASING THE BEARINGS

- 11.1 Park the machine on a level surface and disengage the blade control switch.
- 11.2 Move the control arms outward to the neutral position. Engage parking brake, stop the engine, remove the key, and wait for all moving parts to stop before leaving the operating position.
- 11.3 Grease Type: NGLI grade #2 multi-purpose gun grease. Grease the front cater pivots.
- 11.4 Clean the grease fittings with a cloth. Scrape any paint off the front of the fitting(s).



11.5 Connect a grease gun to each fitting. Pump grease in fittings until greases begins to seep out of the bearings. Wipe up excess grease.

11.6 Refer to service manual section for grease fitting locations.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT BLADE

Essentially there are only to basic styles of mowing blades used or approved for use on our current products:

1) The standard style of mowing blade is essentially designed for cutting grass and effectively discharging the clippings out from the deck to fall onto the lawn or to be captured in a grass collection system. Standard blades are also referred to as “2-in-1” (discharging & bagging) or “high-lift” blades (because they are designed to create a higher-lifting airflow).

2) Mulching blades generally have a more curved style surface and frequently include extra cutting surfaces along the blade edges. These blades may also come in a “+” design (which is actually two individual blades arranged in a perpendicular fashion to enhance mulching). The “+” blades are usually found on older style mowers. Newer ones utilize blades with more advanced mulching technology. Mulching blades may also be referred to as “3-in-1” (mulching, discharging & bagging) or “all-purpose” blades.

Bear in mind that the re-circulating airflow design of 3/1 blades makes them less efficient at discharging grass clippings than a standard 2/1 blade. As with most all-purpose tools, there is some give and take as opposed to using a tool designed for a more specific purpose.

If you're experiencing less-than-desired cutting or discharging performance with a 3/1 blade, you may want to check into using a 2/1 blade. Conversely, if you're using a 2/1 blade and want to mulch clippings, you should see about the availability of mulching blades or a mulching kit.*

It is true there are many other styles of blades available. But since we don't manufacture or recommend using these other aftermarket styles, we will leave them out of this discussion. Should you want more information on special application or aftermarket blades, you should contact the companies that make these products. NOTES: Customers using non-OEM blades do so at their own risk. The use of unapproved (non-OEM) blades may void any or all of the mower and engine factory warranties.

* **MULCHING KITS** – These generally consist of mulching blades and a mulching plug (which closes off the discharge opening to keep the clippings contained under the deck for re-cutting) plus any necessary hardware for installation. Please check with your parts distributor regarding the contents of a particular mulching kit.

MOWING TIPS:

- Mow header strips at the ends of the lawn and around flower beds first. Make them wide enough that you can turn the mower around in the already mown section. Then mow back and forth between these header strips overlapping each lap by about 1/8 the width of the mower's deck.
- Don't cut your grass too short, particular for cool season grasses. Higher heights usually provide for a deeper root system, looks better, and is less likely to have weeds invading, particularly crabgrass.
- Don't remove any more than one third of the grass leaf at any one cutting. If circumstances arise that a lawn gets too tall and you just have to lop off a bunch to get caught up, bite the bullet and break it down into several mowings to get caught up with 3 or so days between cuttings.
- **NEVER SCALP YOUR LAWN.** Scalping severely damages the root system to such a degree that it may die.
- Avoid mowing when the grass is wet or when it's dark
- Avoid throwing grass clippings into the street and driveway where they can be washed into the sewer system. After mowing, clean up driveway and walkways.
- When mowing remove only a third with each cutting (except for the first mowing of the season when it's ok to remove more). You can safely leave clippings that will quickly decompose and add nutrients back into the soil. Contrary to popular opinion, grass clippings do not add to thatch buildup. Grass blades are made up of about 75% water.
- Mow your lawn in a different direction with each mowing, especially with lawns of shorter grass types. Altering the direction ensures a more even cut. Grass blades will grow more erect and less likely to develop into a set pattern.
- Keep your mower's blade sharp. This means having it sharpened several times during the mowing season. Keep several blades around so you'll always have a sharp one on hand. Sharp blades cut the grass cleanly and help mulch clippings into small pieces which break down quickly.
- Don't forget to change your mower's oil at least once during the mowing season. For brand new mowers, change the oil after about 5 hours of operation during the initial break-in period.
- At the end of the mowing season use a fuel stabilizer in the remaining gasoline
- In the spring, don't use that old gas unless you properly used a fuel stabilizer, it can cause a number of problems. Better to use fresh gasoline to begin the new mowing season.
- **Leaf blade A** demonstrates what a leaf blade should look like after mowing with a sharp blade.
- **Leaf blade B** demonstrates a leaf blade that was injured by a dull mower blade.
- **Leaf blade C** was cut by the mower but indicates that the mower blade is not sharp enough. The shredded white tissue protruding from the leaf blades C and D is the vascular tissue of the plant.
- **Leaf blade D** has been mown for quite some time with a dull mower blade.



To bag or mulch?

Grass clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup or increase the chances of disease. If you mow your lawn at the right height, without removing any more than 1/3 of it's total height, clippings will quickly breakdown without a trace. These clippings contribute additional nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil and supply it with additional organic materials. Clippings from a 1000 sq. ft. lawn can add as much as 1 - 2 pounds of nitrogen back into the soil.

If you have a compost pile, then you may want to bag your clippings occasionally to add much needed green-matter to the compost pile. Make sure it is mixed thoroughly with brown matter to avoid a strong ammonia odor. **DO NOT COMPOST CLIPPINGS** after applying any weed control or weed-feed type product. Before adding clippings to the compost pile wait at least 3 mowings after these products have been applied.



For additional information, please see us at

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