



**MODEL:**  
**75-71305A**

**FLEX DECK MOWER -80"**

**NOTE:** THIS MANUAL ALSO COVER 75-71305 DECKS THAT HAVE BEEN UPDATED WITH KIT 970966. UPDATED DECKS CAN BE VISABLLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE HINGED HOOD DESIGN.

# OPERATOR'S MANUAL

MAN 4175406

Rev. A 08-2017

PARTS MANUAL 4175398



**SCHILLER**

GROUNDS  
CARE

**CALIFORNIA**

**Proposition 65 Warning**

Diesel engine exhaust and some of its constituents are known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

**⚠ WARNING**

The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

**Californie Proposition 65 Avertissement**

Les échappements des moteurs diesel et certains de leurs composants sont reconnus par l'Etat de Californie pour être cancérigènes, provoquer des défauts congénitaux et d'autres dangers en matière de reproduction.

**California Advertencia**

**⚠ AVERTISSEMENT**

L'émission du moteur de ce matériel contient des produits chimiques que l'Etat de Californie considère être cancérigènes, provoquer des défauts congénitaux et d'autres dangers en matière de reproduction.

**de la Proposicion 65**

El estado de California hace saber que los gases de escape de los motores diesel y algunos de sus componentes producen cáncer, defectos de nacimiento y otros daños en el proceso de reproducción humana.

**⚠ ADVERTENCIA**

El estado de California hace saber que los gases de escape de este producto contienen productos químicos que producen cáncer, defectos de nacimiento y otros daños en el proceso de reproducción humana.

**CALIFORNIA**

**Proposition 65 Warning**

Battery posts, terminals, wiring insulation, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

**WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING.**

# 80" FLEX DECK

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Thank you for purchasing this Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. product. You have purchased a world class product, one of the best designed and built anywhere.

This product comes with an Owner/Operator's Manual. The useful life and good service you receive from this product depends to a large extent on how well you read and understand this manual. Treat this product properly and adjust it as instructed, and it will give you many years of reliable service.

See a Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. dealer for any service or parts needed. Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. service ensures that you continue to receive the best results possible from Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. products. You can trust Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. replacement parts because they are manufactured with the same high precision and quality as the original parts.

Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. designs and builds its equipment to serve many years in a safe and productive manner. For longest life, use this product only as directed in the manual, keep it in good repair and follow safety warnings and instructions. You'll always be glad you did.

**Schiller Grounds Care, Inc.**  
**One Bob Cat Lane**  
**Johnson Creek, WI 53038-0469**

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## DESCRIPTION

The 80" Flex Deck Mower is designed specifically for finish mowing applications. One of the unique benefits of the 80" Flex Deck Mower's cutting system is its ability to float over contours that are impossible for other wide-area mowers to cut accurately. The 80" Flex Deck Mower offers a high level of maneuverability.

Although the 80" Flex Deck Mower is an industrial-quality mower, do not attempt to use it to cut extremely long grass or areas heavy with brush or debris.

Before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower, you must read and completely understand this manual as well as the drive unit manual. In addition, you must also complete the appropriate maintenance schedules and perform a complete pre-operating checklist.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Mower Deck Weight	760 lbs.	
Cutting Width	80"	
Mower Deck Configuration	(4) 21" Articulating Mower Decks	
Blades	(4) 21" High Lift-Standard	4170730
	(4) 21" Low Lift-Order Separately	Page 17 PARTS MANUAL
	(4) 21" Mulching-Order Separately	Page 17 PARTS MANUAL
	(4) 21" Low Lift Ultra-Order Separately	Page 17 PARTS MANUAL
Blade Tip Speed	Max 16,575 FPM	
Mower Deck Height Range	1" to 4-1/2"	
Operating Environment	Outdoor Use ONLY	
Mower Deck Gauge Wheels	(7) 9" X 3.5" Reliance DM	4170724
Mower Deck Belts	(1) Belt, Main Deck	4175125
	(1) Belt, Deck 1	4175332
	(1) Belt, Drive	4174756
Mulching Baffle Kit	Optional Accessory-Order Separately	75-71313
450 Harness Kit	Standard with Deck	4175270-01
440 Harness Kit	Not Included-Order Separately	4170728

## NOTICE !!!

Unauthorized modifications may present **extreme** safety hazards to operators and bystanders and could also result in product damage.

Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. strongly warns against, rejects and disclaims any modifications, add-on accessories or product alterations that are not designed, developed, tested and approved by Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. Engineering Department. Any Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. product that is altered, modified or changed in any manner not specifically authorized after original manufacture—including the addition of “after-market” accessories or component parts not specifically approved by Schiller Grounds Care, Inc.—will result in the Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. Warranty being voided.

Any and all liability for personal injury and/or property damage caused by any unauthorized modifications, add-on accessories or products not approved by Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. will be considered the responsibility of the individual(s) or company designing and/or making such changes. Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. will vigorously pursue full indemnification and costs from any party responsible for such unauthorized post-manufacture modifications and/or accessories should personal injury and/or property damage result.



This symbol means:  
**ATTENTION!**  
**BECOME ALERT!**

Your safety and the safety of others is involved.

## Signal word definitions:

The signal words below are used to identify levels of hazard seriousness. These words appear in this manual and on the safety labels attached to Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. machines. For your safety and the safety of others, read and follow the information given with these signal words and/or the symbol shown above.



**DANGER** indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **WILL** result in death or serious injury.



**WARNING** indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **COULD** result in death or serious injury.



**CAUTION** indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **MAY** result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices or property damage.

**CAUTION** used without the safety alert symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **MAY** result in property damage

## *Schiller Grounds Care, Inc.*

One Bobcat Lane  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038 U.S.A  
Phone: 920-699-2000  
Fax: 920-699-3683

MODEL NUMBER

SERIAL NUMBER

**MODEL NUMBER:** This number appears on sales literature, technical manuals and price lists.

**SERIAL NUMBER:** This number appears only on your unit. It contains the model number followed consecutively by the serial number. Use this number when ordering parts or seeking warranty information.

## GENERAL SAFETY

**WARNING**

**This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.**

- Do not allow anyone to operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower without first reading and understanding this operator's manual in its entirety. Never allow children to operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower. Never operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower when children are present.
- Operate all controls from the operator's seat, (if so equipped). **NO RIDERS.**
- NEVER operate the deck with any safety covers removed!
- Work safely! Follow all safety rules! A careful operator is the best insurance against accidents!

**DANGER**

- NEVER allow children to operate the deck.
- NEVER allow children near the deck.
- NEVER operate the machine around other people. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.

**WARNING**

- Do not allow anyone to service or operate this machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- NEVER operate the deck without all safety covers properly installed and in good condition!
- ALWAYS stay well clear of blades and all moving parts while in operation!

## PRE-OPERATION SAFETY

**WARNING**

- NEVER allow anyone to operate the deck without proper instruction! Any and all operators must be instructed in and capable of the safe operation of the deck, its attachments, and controls!
- KNOW the controls and how to stop the deck quickly in an emergency!
- READ the entire manual before attempting to operate the deck! Only allow persons who have read and understand the entire operator's manual to operate the deck!
- Always wear relatively tight and belted clothing to avoid entanglement in moving parts. Wear sturdy rough-soled work shoes, as well as protective equipment for the eyes, hands, hearing and head. Never operate the deck or related equipment in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers. .
- Clear the cut area of stones, branches, balls or other debris that may be thrown and cause injury or damage.
- Verify that all safety decals are properly installed, visible, and legible.
- Always remove accumulated debris, fuel, or excess grease and oil from the drive unit engine area to avoid a fire hazard.
- Verify that the deck is properly mounted, set up, adjusted, and in good operating condition.
- Always perform the pre-operation equipment inspection and the appropriate maintenance schedule before operating the deck.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine.

### OPERATION SAFETY



- Be sure that the parking brake is set before attempting to start the engine.
- Operate only in daylight or good artificial light (min. 200 Lux).
- Operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower only from the operator seat.
- Always wear ear protection when operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower.
- Never cut more than 1/3 of the grass length at one time since this 80" Flex Deck Mower is a finish mower.
- Be sure that all auxiliary equipment switches (blades, lights, etc.) are in the OFF position before attempting to start the engine. holes and hidden hazards.

Be sure your drive unit is equipped with a ROPS (*Roll Over Protection System*), and be sure to wear your seat belt.

- Never operate the deck without the grass chute or mulching plate installed and secure.
- Never operate the deck unless all covers, shields, and safety devices are installed and secure.
- Never permit any person other than the operator to ride or board the drive unit or deck at any time.  
**Never allow riders!**
- Never allow anyone near the drive unit or deck while operating. **Be sure that the area behind you is clear before operating in reverse!**
- Never allow anyone near or in the path of discharge.
- Never discharge in the direction of bystanders, vehicles, or buildings.
- Do not stop or start suddenly when going up or down a hill. Avoid operating on steep slopes.
- Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary - and then only after careful and

constant observation of entire area behind the drive unit and deck.

- Use extreme care and maintain minimum ground speed when transporting on a hillside or over rough ground, and when operating close to ditches, fences, or water.
- Reduce speed on slopes and in sharp turns to minimize potential tipping or loss of control. Use caution when changing directions on slopes.
- Be alert for holes in the terrain as well as any other hidden hazard. Always drive slowly over rough ground.
- Disengage the blades, stop the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key before dismounting the drive unit or making any adjustments to the deck.
- Stop the drive unit immediately upon striking any obstruction. Disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, remove the key, and inspect the drive unit and deck for any damage. Always repair any damage before resuming operation of the deck.
- Never adjust the mower deck height or lift the deck into transport position while the blades are engaged.
- Never engage the blades with the mower decks raised into transport position.
- Never place your hands or feet under the deck while the engine is running.
- Stay well clear of any and all moving parts.
- Keep hands and feet away from the blades at all times during operation.
- Take all possible precautions when leaving the drive unit and deck unattended: disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key anytime you leave the drive unit and deck unattended.
- If your drive unit is equipped with headlights and hazard lights, always activate them whenever crossing or accessing any roadways, driveways, or parking lots. Watch for oncoming traffic.
- Do not allow extended running of drive unit engine indoors - **exhaust fumes are deadly.**

## MAINTENANCE SAFETY

**WARNING**

Fuel is explosive.

- Always use approved fuel containers.
- Never handle fuel by an open flame.
- Never use fuel as a solvent.
- Never fuel drive unit while unit is running.
- Never fuel drive unit indoors.
- Always clean up spilled fuel.
- Never smoke around fuel or while fueling.
- ALWAYS disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key before performing any service to, maintenance on, or adjustments to the deck!
- Never perform maintenance on the deck when children are present.
- NEVER allow children on or around the deck.
- Always perform the appropriate maintenance schedule(s) in a timely fashion.
- Never allow anyone near any operator controls while performing adjustments, service or maintenance to the drive or the deck.
- Always use personal protection equipment such as eye, hand, head, and ear protection when performing any service or maintenance to the drive unit or deck.
- Keep the drive unit engine area free of accumulated debris, fuel, or excess grease and oil to reduce fire hazard.
- Keep the deck in good operating condition with all safety devices in place.
- Check the blades frequently. Verify that they are sharp, free of nicks and cracks, and securely fastened.
- Never run the machine in a closed area.
- Periodically tighten all bolts, nuts and screws. Verify that all fasteners are properly installed to ensure the drive unit and deck are in safe operating condition.

- Upon completing any maintenance or service function, verify that all safety guards and devices are properly installed before operating the drive unit or deck.
- Verify that all warning labels and decals are properly installed, visible, and legible.
- Always remove debris from the top and bottom of the deck after each use.

## STORAGE SAFETY

**WARNING**

- NEVER allow the extended running of any engine indoors - Exhaust gasses contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison!
- NEVER allow children on or around the deck.
- NEVER store the deck where accessible by children.
- Never store the drive unit with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes could reach and open flame or a spark.
- Allow the drive unit engine to cool before storing in an enclosed area.
- Remove all accumulated debris from the drive unit, and both the top and the bottom of the deck before storing.
- Sand and paint chipped or scratched areas and repaint them to prevent rust during storage.
- Lubricate all moving parts of the drive unit and deck to prevent rust during storage.
- ALWAYS lock the safety pins on the raised deck.

## TRANSPORT SAFETY

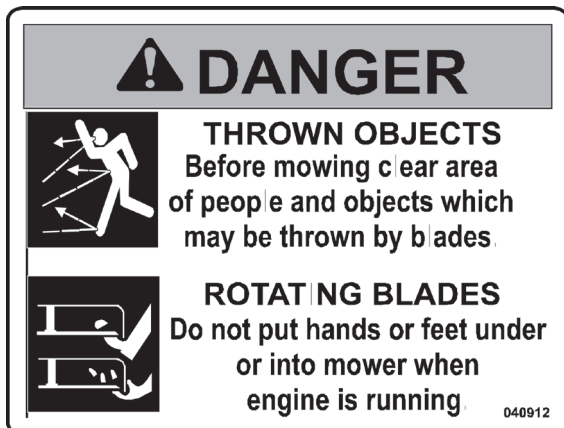
- ALWAYS lock the safety pins on the raised deck.



# 80" FLEX DECK

## HAZARD IDENTIFIED CHART

Hazard Identified	Risk Source	Control Measure
Operator injury	Inexperience	Complete Owner's Manual supplied covering all aspects of operating the unit.  Various warning decals strategically placed on the unit.
Danger of entanglement	Moving parts, especially if using a PTO.  Guards are not in place.	Warning decals stating guards must be in place.  Physical guards around belts, pulleys and shafts.  Clear warning in manual.
Danger of dismemberment	Cutting blades	Warning decals. Clear warning in manual. Physical guards around blades. Clear prohibitions outlined in manual.
Danger of projectile strike	Ejected debris from cutting blades	Warning decals. Clear warning in manual. Physical guards around blades.
Finger pinch points	Moving parts	Warning decals stating hazardous locations. Physical guards around such points. Clear warning in manual.



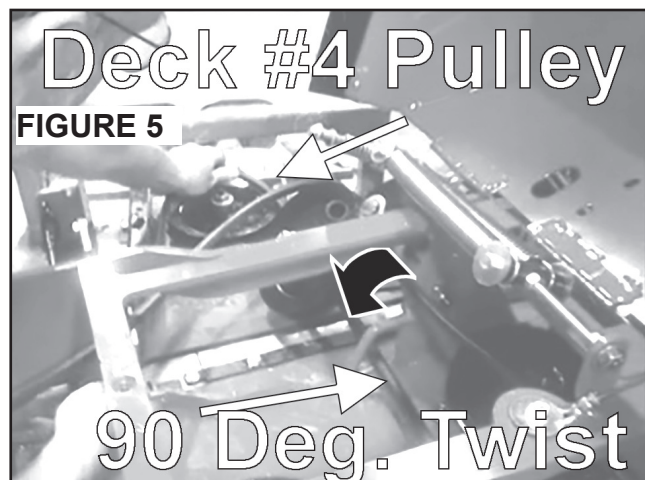
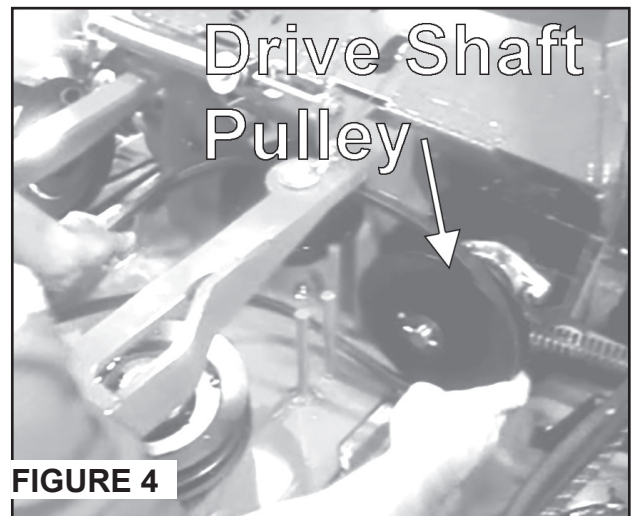
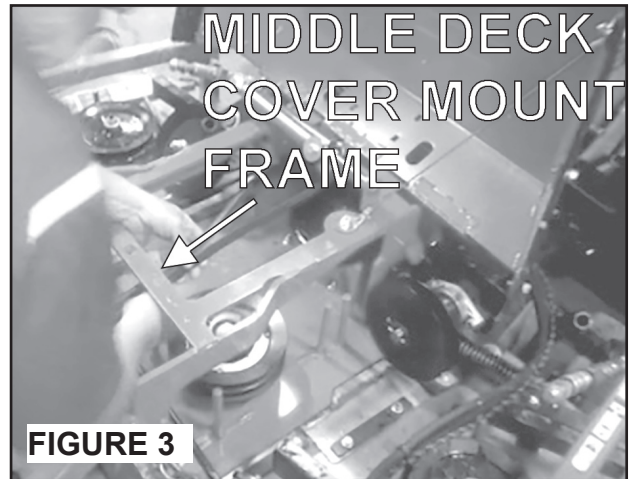
### Lift Arm Installation:

- 
- FIGURE 1**

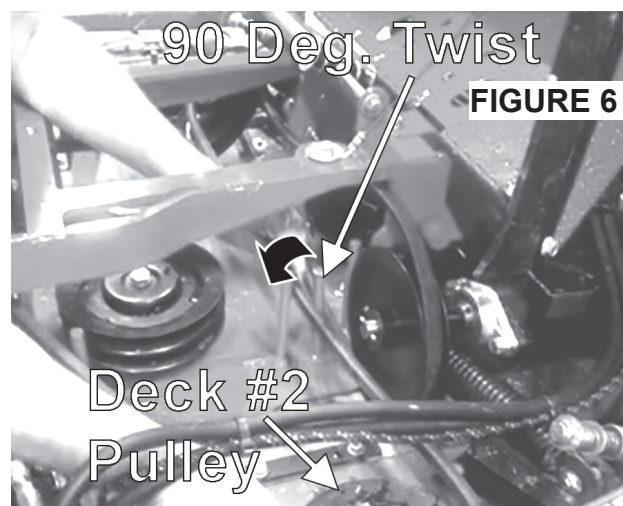
- FIGURE 2**
- 
- 90 Deg. Twist

### DRIVE BELT INSTALLATION

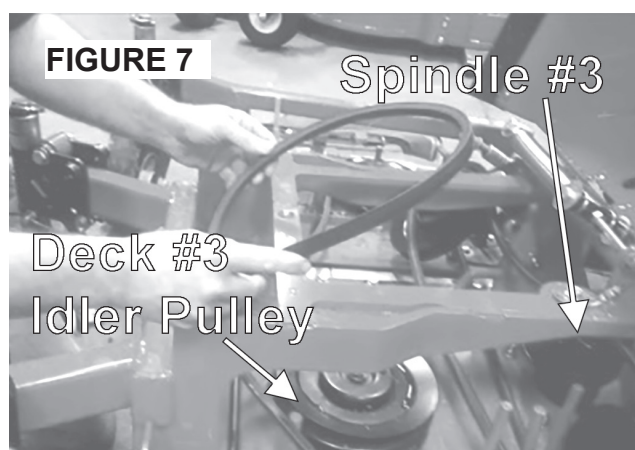
4. Insert the drive belt through the center of the middle deck cover mount frame. **(Figure 3)**
5. Install the drive belt to the drive shaft pulley. **(Figure 4)**
6. Twist the belt 90 Deg. and install to Deck #4 pulley. **(Figure 5)**



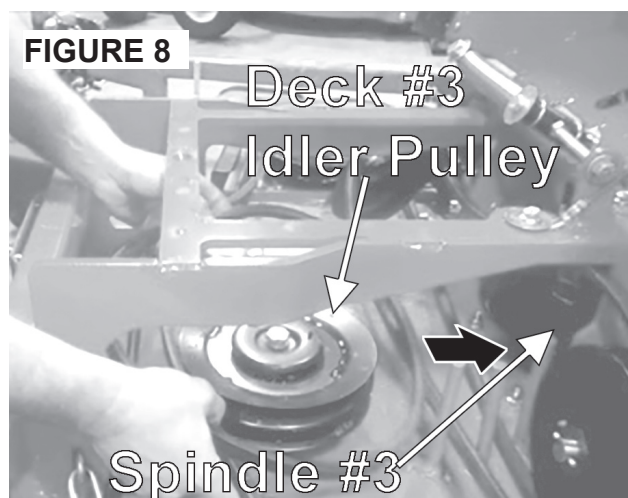
7. Twist the belt 90 Deg. and install to Deck #4 pulley. **(Figure 6)**



8. Make sure you have the correct twist and loop in position to install the belt to Deck #3 Idler Pulley and Spindle #3. **(Figure 7)**

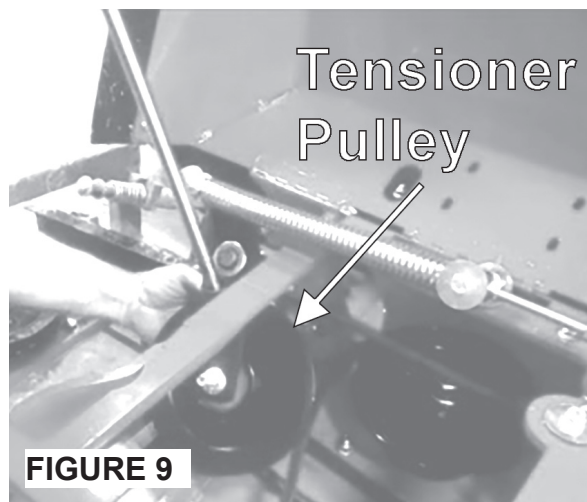


9. Make sure the belt is inside the belt guides and install the belt to Deck #3 Idler Pulley and Spindle #3. Insert the drive belt through the center of the middle deck cover mount frame. **(Figure 8)**

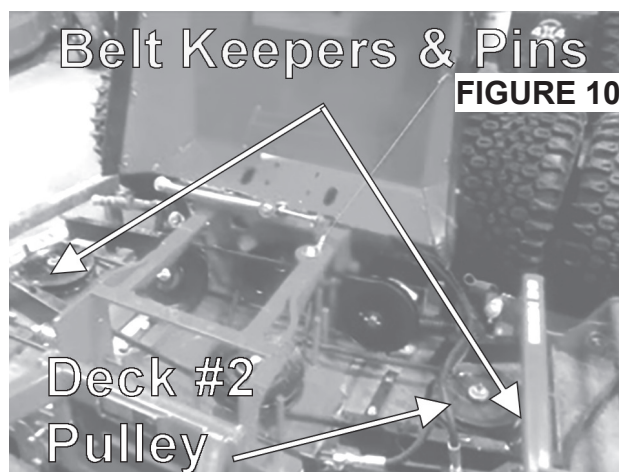




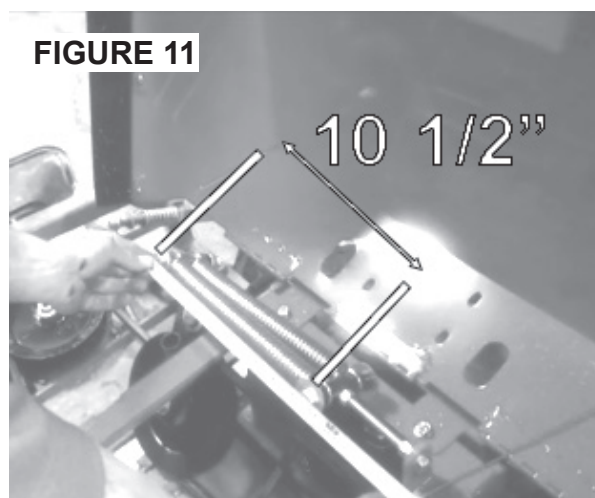
10. Use the height adjustment handle to pivot the tensioner assembly to install the drive belt to the tensioner pulley. **(Figure 9)**



11. Reinstall the belt keepers and pins. Reinstall Deck #1 belt to Deck #2 Pulley. **(Figure 10)**



12. Make sure the distance between the centerlines of the tensioner spring mount bolts is exactly 10 1/2" with all the decks flat. **(Figure 11)**



Scan the provided QR Code with your smartphone or tablet to watch the drive belt installation instructional video. (NOTE: The QR Code Reader application installation may be required.)



### BELT AND DECK TENSIONER ADJUSTMENT

13. Open the top hood cover.
14. After installing the push arms, adjust the belt tensioner so that it is 10 1/2" from the centers of spring rods (see Step 11).
15. Use the hex nuts on the deck tensioner to tension the deck tensioner spring so the distance from the washer to the deck support plate is 5 7/8". (Figure 12)
16. Close and secure top hood cover.

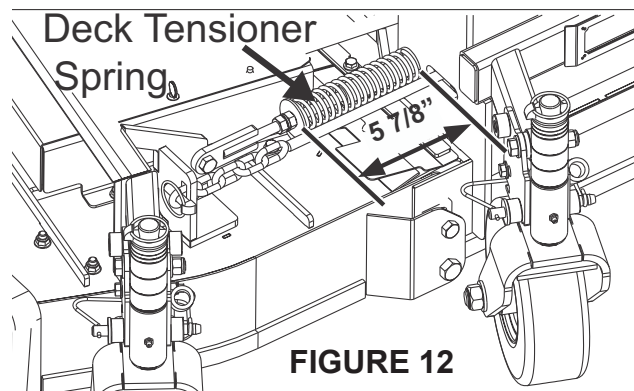


FIGURE 12

### TRACTOR PREPARATION

The tractor electrical system need to be modified to stop the PTO when the flex deck wing is raised. Use the supplied electrical components and follow the installation instructions provided to make the electrical system modifications.

The following components are provided with the flex deck.

17. Park the tractor on level ground and engage the parking brake. Turn the key to the OFF position and remove it. Trip circuit breaker, which is located in the rear of the battery compartment, by pushing the red button. (Figure 13)
18. Assemble the relay sockets to the oil cooler bracket using the two screws and nut provided. Install relays into each connector. (Figure 14).

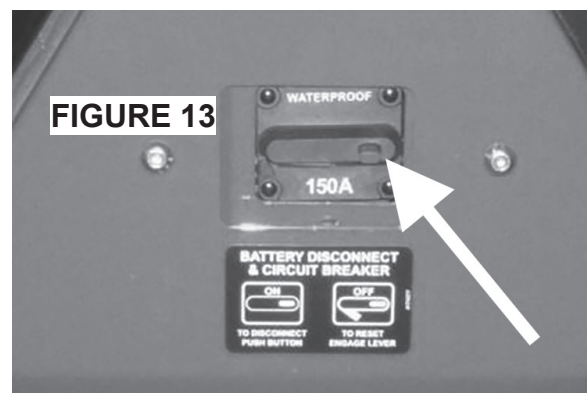


FIGURE 13

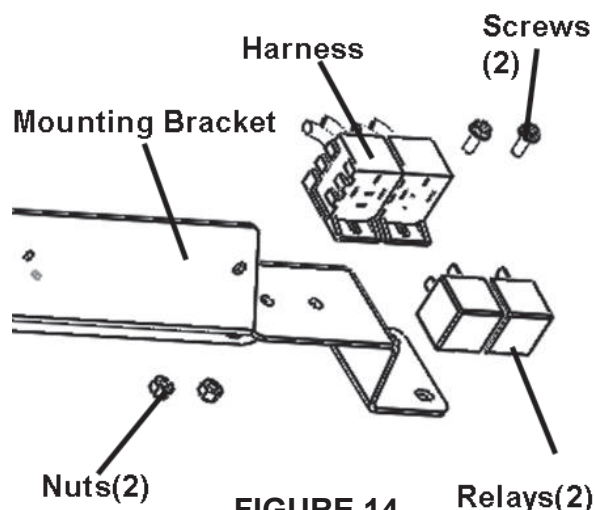
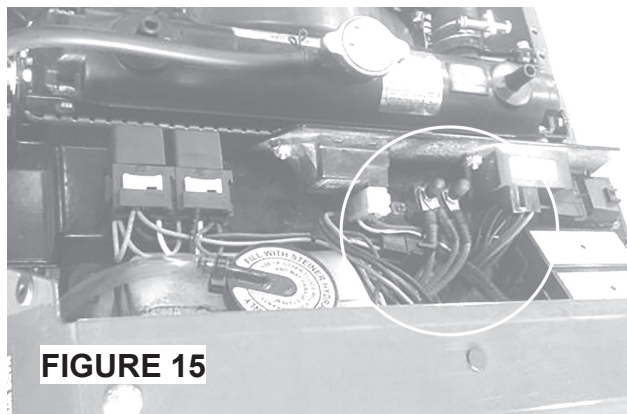


FIGURE 14

19. Disconnect the main tractor harness from the soft start module located on the oil cooler bracket. Connect the new harness between the main tractor harness and the soft start module. (Figure 15)
16. Route the harness so that it follows the path of the main tractor wire harness ending up by the hydraulic quick disconnect couplers. Secure the new harness with cable ties as needed. (Figure 15)

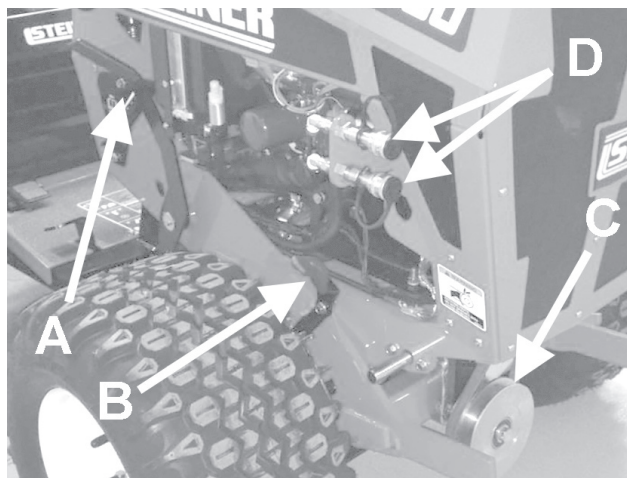


**FIGURE 15**

### ATTACHING MOWER TO TRACTOR

**NOTE: The attachment drive belt is installed around the left hitch arm before the attachment is connected to the front lift Quick Hitch.**

1. Pull up on the Hitch Control Handle (**B**) to open latches. Install the attachment to the front lift. Push down on Hitch Control Handle to lock latches.
2. Stop the engine and release the belt tension adjustment lever (**A**) by pulling the lever out away from the unit and pushing it down past the #1 adjustment notch.
3. Install the attachment drive belt on the outside double idler pulley (**C**).
4. Lift up on the adjustment lever (**A**) until the slack is out of the belt.
5. Set the tension by moving the lever one to one and one half notches after the slack has been taken out.
6. Attach the Hydraulic Quick Connects to the Unit (**D**). Connect the deck harness to the tractor looms already installed.
7. Install and secure the drive pulley shield.







### WARNING

- **DO NOT** attempt to install belts or make belt adjustments with the engine running.
1. **PROPER TENSION IS VERY IMPORTANT**  
The proper tension setting is obtained by moving the belt tension adjustment lever (A) one to one and one half notch after all slack is taken out of the drive belts. If drive belt slips tighten one additional notch.
  2. The PTO clutch is engaged or disengaged with the push/pull switch located on the dash. Engage the PTO clutch with the engine at approximately 1/2 throttle.

**NOTE:** The operator must be seated for the PTO clutch to operate. Do not attempt to bypass this safety device.

**NOTE:** Always operate mower with lift in the "float" position.

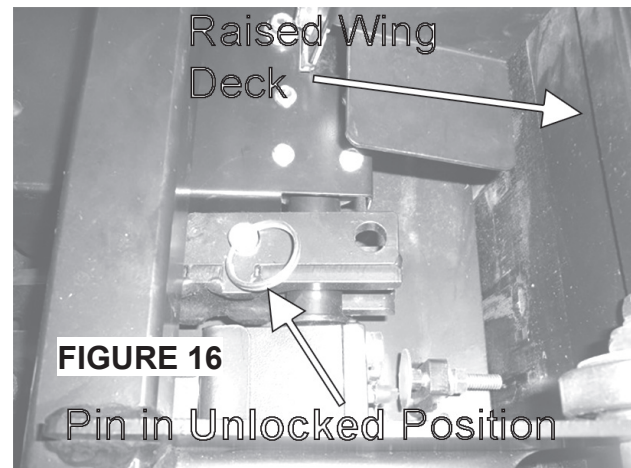
Test the system. To test, sit in the operator seat with the parking brake engaged and pre-form the following steps:

1. With the key in the 'ON' position but the engine off, pull the PTO switch 'ON'. You should hear the clutch engage.
2. Start the tractor. Engage the PTO at low engine speed. Raise the flex deck wing. When the wing raises to about 24 degrees, the PTO should shut off. If it does not, adjust the switch actuator on the deck so the PTO shuts off when the deck is raised.

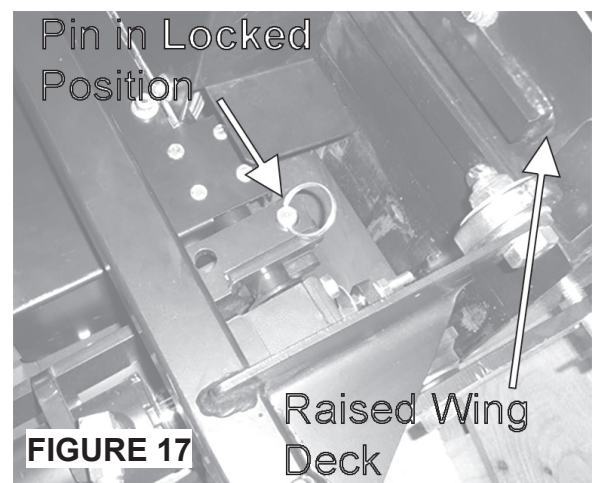
### TRANSPORTING THE MOWER

Engaging the tractor hydraulics to move the deck upward will raise the wing decks to the transport position.

**IMPORTANT!** Always use the safety pin to lock the raised wing deck for storage or transportation.



**FIGURE 16**



**FIGURE 17**

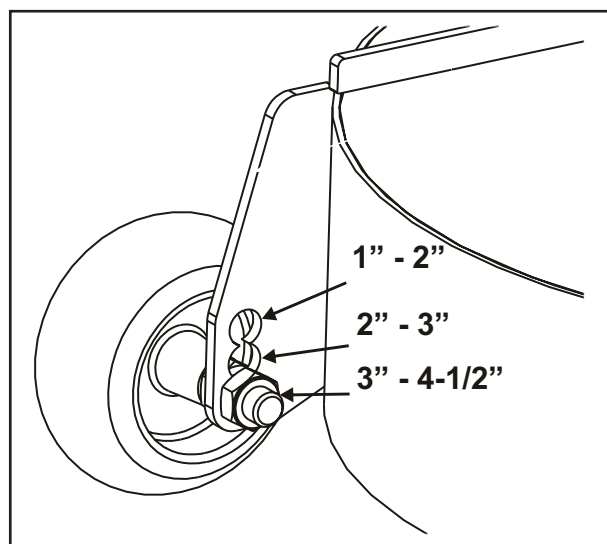
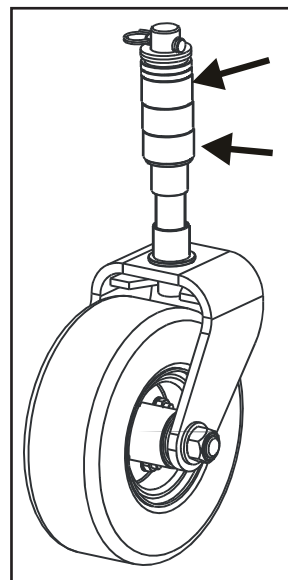
## DECK HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

**The 80" Flex Deck Mower can be set to various heights ranging from 1" to 4-1/2".**

Change the mower deck height at all the wheel locations by moving the wheel spacers from above to below each wheel yoke collar on each wheel yoke shaft. When there are no wheel spacers located below the collar, the deck is set at 1". There are two types of wheel spacers, 1" thick and 1/4" thick. Placing any combination of wheel spacers below the wheel shaft collar will raise the deck by the corresponding thickness of the spacer(s) used.

Example: (1) 1" spacer and (2) 1/4" spacers placed below the wheel yoke collars will set the mower deck to 2-1/2".

After changing the deck height, it is necessary to properly adjust the anti-scalp wheel located on the deck #1 and #4. When the deck height is adjusted between 1" to 2", install the anti-scalp wheel to the top hole of the anti-scalp mount plate. When the deck height is adjusted between 2" to 3", install the anti-scalp wheel to the middle hole of the anti-scalp mount plate. When the deck height is adjusted between 3" and 4-1/2", install the anti-scalp wheel to the bottom hole of the anti-scalp mount plate. If it does not, adjust the switch actuator on the deck so the PTO shuts off when the deck is raised 24 degrees.



### DECK LEVELING ADJUSTMENT



#### WARNING

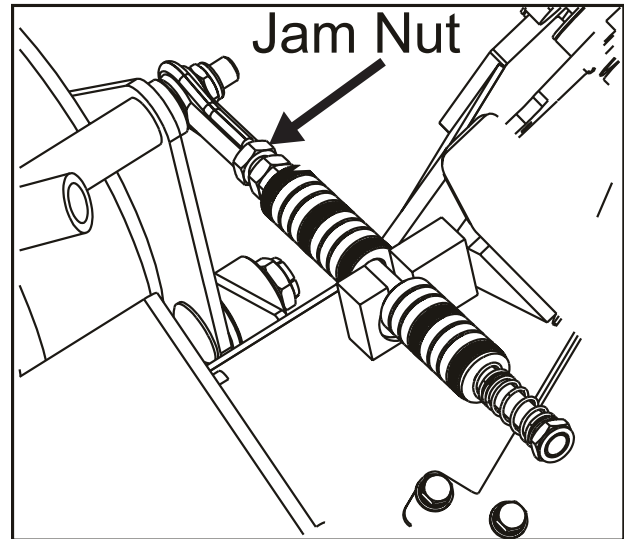
■ Always stop the tractor and disengage the PTO before attempting to set or adjust the mower deck height!

■ Never adjust the mower deck height with the tractor running or the PTO engaged.

The 80" Flex Deck Mower comes pre-leveled from the factory. Should re-leveling become necessary, follow the following procedures.

The mower deck wheel lock height adjustment rod has one (1) permanently fixed spacer, and twelve (12) adjustable spacers, each equal to 1/4" of deck height adjustment. The deck is at its minimum height of one inch when only the fixed spacer is in front of the lever lock bracket and the middle deck idler spacers are located in the top position. Each adjustable spacer on the adjustment rod placed in front of the lock bracket raises the deck height by 1/4", up to 4-1/2". The spacers which mark the 2", 3", and 4" deck height positions are knurled for quick identification.

1. Set the deck height adjustment wheel lock spacers on all wheels with these locks to 2".
2. Measure the front of each deck from the floor. They should all measure 2", +/- 1/8".
3. If any deck does not fall within this range, place 2" blocks underneath the front and back of each deck. Make sure that the 2" blocks are positioned on a flat surface. The 2" blocks need to be positioned at the closest point to each wheel.
4. Starting with the center deck first, check the spacers on the front wheel yoke assembly at correct spacing for the yoke and for the deck setting. The leveling on the front yokes was preset at the factory, and should not need adjustment. In case of accident or equipment damage, additional or replacement spacers may be obtained from your Steiner dealer, if necessary.
5. Adjust the rear wheel lock spacers to remove any excess slack by loosening the jam nut, adjusting the rod on wheel lock arm until any slack in the rod is taken up, and then tightening the jam nut.
6. Continue with the other decks until all decks have been adjusted.
7. Remove the 2" blocks from under the decks.
8. Re-measure the fronts of all decks. They should all measure 2", +/- 1/8", from the base of the deck to the floor. If any deck does not fall within this range, repeat the steps above.



## DECK DRIVE BELTS



### WARNING

- **NEVER inspect, adjust, or change the deck drive belts while the tractor is running.**
- **Always clean the entire deck (including under the belt covers) of all grease, oil, fuel, grass or debris to prevent fire or projectile hazards.**



### CAUTION

- **When cutting with new belts, do not over-power the 80" Flex Deck Mower within the first few hours of operation. Listen for excessive belt slippage. Check belt tension after 2 hours of operation. Check all belt tension adjustment hardware after the first 8 hours of operation.**

The overall life of the 80" Flex Deck Mower drive and deck belts is most greatly affected by the attention given them within their initial 8 hours of use than at any other time. Improperly adjusted, they can fail within a few hours. Be aware that over 50% of the total belt stretch/seating will occur within the first few hours of use.

The deck drive belt is located under the center deck belt hood cover. To access the belt, loosen the hardware knob and lift the hood cover towards the back of the deck.

The spring-loaded idler automatically tensions the belts.

Check the belts for visible wear or damage. If either belt appears excessively worn, dam-aged, cracked, weathered, or otherwise appears to pose an unsuitable or unsafe operating condition, replace the belt.

Check the belts for proper tension. If the idler arm pivots to its maximum stroke without adequately tightening the belts, you need to replace the belts. If the belts you are checking are new, and the idler tensioner goes to its maximum or maximum stroke

without adequately tightening the belts, it is likely you have installed the wrong size belts. Contact your Steiner dealer for the proper belt lengths for your 80" Flex Deck Mower.

Be sure that the idler tensioning springs are properly installed and in good condition. If for some reason this spring becomes loose, detached, or fatigued, the idler will not properly tension the belts.

Clean entire deck area (under the belt cover) of all excess grease, oil, fuel, grass, or debris before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower. This will help prevent damage to the equipment, fire hazard, and projectile hazards.

Be sure to replace the belt cover and hardware.

## DECK BELTS AND ALIGNMENT

Again, the overall life of the 80" Flex Deck Mower drive and deck belts is more greatly affected by the attention given them within their initial 8 hours of use than at any other time. Improperly adjusted, they can fail within a few hours. Be aware that over 50% of the total belt stretch will occur within the first few hours of use.

To access each belt, remove the belt cover hardware, and lift the belt cover from the mower deck. The mower deck belts are located under the steel belt covers on each deck. To access each belt, remove the nuts and washers and lift the belt cover from the mower deck. The double-pulley idler belt tensioning system automatically tensions the belts on the mower decks, thus eliminating the need for manual belt tension adjustment.

Check the belts for visible wear or damage. If any belt appears excessively worn, dam-aged, cracked, weathered, or otherwise appears to pose an unsuitable or unsafe operating condition, replace the belt.

Check the belts for proper tension. If an idler tensioner pivots to its maximum stroke without adequately tightening the belt, you need to replace the belt.

**If the belt you are checking is new, and the idler tensioner pivots to its maximum stroke without adequately tightening the belt, it is likely you have installed the wrong size belt. Contact your Steiner dealer for the proper belt lengths for your 80" Flex Deck Mower.**

If you are unable to install a new belt with the idler system at its minimum stroke, it is likely you are installing the wrong size belt. Contact your Steiner dealer for proper belt lengths for your 80" Flex Deck Mower.

Be sure that each idler pulley tensioning spring is properly installed and in good condition. If for some reason this spring becomes loose, detached, or fatigued, the idler will not properly tension the belt.

Clean each entire deck (including under the belt covers) of all excess grease, oil, fuel, grass, or debris before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower. This will help prevent damage to the equipment, fire hazard, and projectile hazards.

Be sure to replace all belt covers and hardware.

### BLADES



#### DANGER

- **NEVER inspect, adjust, change, or perform any other maintenance to the blades while the engine is running!**
- **ALWAYS turn off the blades, turn off the engine, remove the key, and set the parking brake before attempting to inspect, adjust, change, or perform any other maintenance to the blades!**
- **Keep all personnel clear of all controls while inspecting, adjusting, changing, or performing maintenance to the blades!**

The 80" Flex Deck Mower utilizes four individual 21" blades, located under each articulated mower deck. NEVER go near, or expose yourself or others in any way to the blades while the engine is running!

ALWAYS disengage the blades, turn off the tractor, remove the key, and set the parking brake before attempting to inspect, adjust, change or perform any other maintenance to the blades!

Keep all personnel clear of all controls while inspecting, adjusting, changing, or performing maintenance to the blades!

Inspect all blades for proper installation, orientation, tightness, sharpness, and overall condition. Be sure the lift fins are oriented to the top of the blades. Verify that the mount bolts are secure, the blades are sharp, and free of any nicks, cracks, or bends. Always replace any damaged, dull, or missing blades before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower. The recommended torque value for the blade bolts is **75 ft/lbs.**

Contact your Steiner dealer for further information about optional blades available.

### DECK WHEELS

Verify proper function of all mower deck wheels. The wheels should turn freely without excessive side-to-side motion, and be free of debris. Clean, adjust, or replace as necessary.

Check that each yoke wheel swivels freely in the shaft pivot collar, and the bushings are in good condition. If any wheel does not swivel freely, clean and grease the shaft collar assembly. Replace the bushings if necessary.

Grease each wheel after 8 hours of use and replace any worn or damaged tires.

### GENERAL

- **Always wait for all motion to stop after disengaging the PTO! Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death.**

Verify that all warning decals are in place, visible and legible.

Verify that all covers and safety devices are properly installed and fastened.

Check that the discharge chute is clear of debris, properly mounted, and in good condition. Inspect the entire 80" Flex Deck Mower for loose or entangled parts, debris, obstructions, neglected tools, or any other possible safety hazards, equipment hazards or projectile hazards.

## PRE-OPERATION CHECKLIST

Perform the following equipment inspection prior to each operation of the 80" Flex Deck Mower.

- With the tractor and 80" Flex Deck Mower parked on level ground, verify that the 80" Flex Deck Mower is properly mounted to the tractor and secure.
- Verify that the PTO is properly mounted and secure.
- Set the deck height to the desired level. If necessary, calibrate the deck height.
- Check the deck drive belt and idler tension spring for proper installation, tension and condition.
- Clean the entire center deck area (including under the belt cover) of all grease, oil, fuel, grass, or debris. Be sure to replace all covers, shields, and guards.
- Check all deck belts for proper tension.
- Clean each entire deck area (including under the belt covers) of all grease, oil, fuel, grass, or debris. Be sure to replace all covers, shields, and guards.
- Inspect all blades for proper installation, orientation, tightness, sharpness, and overall condition.
- Verify proper function of all wheels.
- Verify that all warning decals are in place, visible and legible.
- Verify that all covers and safety devices are properly installed and secure.
- Check that the discharge chute is clear of debris, properly mounted, and in good condition.
- Inspect the entire 80" Flex Deck Mower for loose or entangled parts, debris, obstructions, or neglected tools.
- Perform all safety, set-up, and pre-operation procedures listed in your tractor manual.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### TRANSPORTING THE MOWER



#### WARNING

- **Never engage the PTO when the 80" Flex Deck Mower is in the transport position!**
- **Never raise the 80" Flex Deck Mower into the transport position while the PTO is engaged.**

Complete the Initial Set-Up section of this manual **BEFORE** attempting to operate the deck.

The 80" Flex Deck Mower uses hydraulics to fold up the outside deck, allowing easy transportation. This feature has many other benefits, including remote operation, access across narrow bridges, through gates, or doorways, and reduction of required storage space. For long term storage or long distance transportation, use the safety pin on the out-er deck to keep the deck in the upright position.



### HYDRAULIC LIFT OPERATION

When properly operated, the hydraulic lift unit enables remote folding and safe transportation of the 80" Flex Deck Mower. As with all industrial equipment, improper operation of the hydraulic lift unit may result in damage to equipment, serious personal injury, or fatal injury. Follow the instructions carefully when operating the lift unit



#### WARNING

- Never engage the PTO with the decks raised!
- Never raise the decks with the PTO engaged!
- Never operate the hydraulics with the PTO engaged!
- Damage to equipment, serious personal injury, or fatal injury can result!

The 80" Flex Deck Mower comes leveled from the factory. Should deck leveling be necessary during maintenance, see the section on Mower Deck Leveling Adjustment in the Set-Up section of this manual.

1. Disengage the PTO.
  - Always wait for all motion to stop after disengaging the PTO shaft! Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death.
2. Lift the drive unit, raising the 80" Flex Deck Mower.
3. Slowly engage the hydraulics.
4. As the decks begin to rise, watch carefully to be sure there is no obstruction or binding in the 80" Flex Deck Mower.
5. Activate the hydraulics until the decks raise. The outside deck folds completely.
6. The 80" Flex Deck Mower is now ready for transport.

7. Upon arriving at the work area, activate the hydraulics, lowering the 80" Flex Deck Mower. Lower the decks until the hydraulic cylinders are fully extended on the wing decks.
8. Lower the drive unit, lowering the 80" Flex Deck Mower to cut position.

### PREPARATION FOR CUTTING



#### WARNING

- Always follow all safety rules stated in this manual and in your drive unit manual. A well-informed, safety-conscience operator is the best safeguard against accidents or injuries.
- Never allow extended running of any engine indoors! Exhaust gasses contain carbon-monoxide, and can be fatal.



#### CAUTION

- **Always perform the pre operation equipment inspection before attempting to operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower.**
- **Always perform the appropriate maintenance schedule(s) before attempting to operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower.**
- **DO NOT engage the PTO clutch with the engine at full throttle. Always reduce engine RPM before engaging PTO. Starting heavy loads at full throttle will shorten clutch and belt life.**

The 80" Flex Deck Mower is designed specifically for finish mowing applications. One of the unique benefits of the 80" Flex Deck Mower's cutting system is its ability to float over contours that are impossible for other wide-area mowers to cut accurately. The 80" Flex Deck Mower offers a high level of maneuverability.

Although the 80" Flex Deck Mower is an industrial-quality mower, do not attempt to use it to cut extremely long grass or areas heavy with brush or debris.

Before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower, you must read and completely understand this manual as well as the drive unit manual. In addition, you must also complete the appropriate maintenance schedules and perform a complete pre-operating checklist.

- Complete the Initial Set-Up section of this manual BEFORE attempting to operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower.
- After transporting to the work area, remove the deck safety pin(s) and lower the 80" Flex Deck Mower into cutting position.
- Be sure the 80" Flex Deck Mower is not positioned over any debris or loose objects.
- Be sure there are no people near the 80" Flex Deck Mower, especially in the path of discharge.
- Turn off the drive unit, disengage the PTO, shift the transmission into neutral, and set the parking brake.
- Start the drive unit. Keep the drive unit on a low RPM setting. DO NOT ENGAGE THE PTO WITH THE DRIVE UNIT AT HIGH IDLE.
- Engage the PTO.
- If there is any belt squeal, excessive vibration, or any indication of obstructions or debris in the blades, disengage the PTO at once.
- If the 80" Flex Deck Mower appears to be operating correctly, slowly increase the drive unit engine speed until the PTO is operating at the drive unit manufacturer's recommended operating RPM. DO NOT EXCEED THIS RPM DURING OPERATION OF THE 80" Flex Deck Mower.
- Release the parking brake and carefully begin cutting.

## GROUND SPEED



### CAUTION

- **Excessive ground speed over rough terrain can cause structural damage to the 80" Flex Deck Mower.**
- **Always drive cautiously and reduce ground speed when driving over rough terrain.**

Recommended ground speed range for the 80" Flex Deck Mower is 3 to 5 MPH. Your speed may vary within this range as your cutting conditions vary. Excessive ground speed while traveling over rough terrain can cause the 80" Flex Deck Mower to bounce excessively, which in turn increases the stress on its structure and the likelihood of damage to the machine. Thus, while a higher ground speed is acceptable for wide, open, flat areas, a slower ground speed is required for rough or contoured areas. Always adhere to the drive unit manufacturer's recommended ground speed range when operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower.

## CUTTING IN REVERSE



### WARNING

- **Always ensure the area behind the drive unit is clear of people or obstacles before backing the 80" Flex Deck Mower and drive unit.**

Be sure entire area around the drive unit and 80" Flex Deck Mower are clear of people or obstructions before traveling in reverse.

If you are not familiar with backing techniques, practice in an open area to develop the required skills before operating the 80" Flex Deck Mower.

When backing up with the 80" Flex Deck Mower, with the blades on or off, you must carefully watch the area around the 80" Flex Deck Mower for obstacles, people, pets and anything that the machine could come into contact with.



### CUTTING EXTREME CONTOURS



#### WARNING

- Always use a drive unit equipped with ROPS.
- Always wear your seat belt.

The 80" Flex Deck Mower cuts contoured areas well, producing a quality of cut which rivals that of a single push mower.

The basic rule of thumb to use when judging the ability of the 80" Flex Deck Mower to handle a contoured area is to cut the area with a 21" push mower set at the same height as the 80" Flex Deck Mower. If the mower cuts without scalping, the 80" Flex Deck Mower will be able to handle the area.

When cutting extreme contours, always use a drive unit equipped with a ROPS, and always wear your seat belt.

Following are important guidelines to follow when cutting extreme contours or side hills:

- Never exceed the drive unit manufacturer's maximum side slope ratings.
- Always use a drive unit equipped with a ROPS.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Do not operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower in areas which are so extremely contoured that it causes the PTO chatter or vibration.

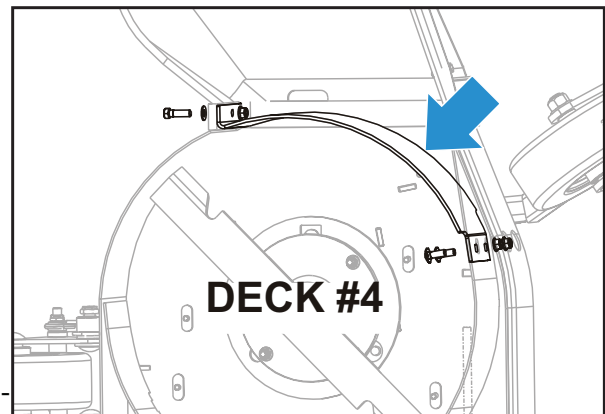
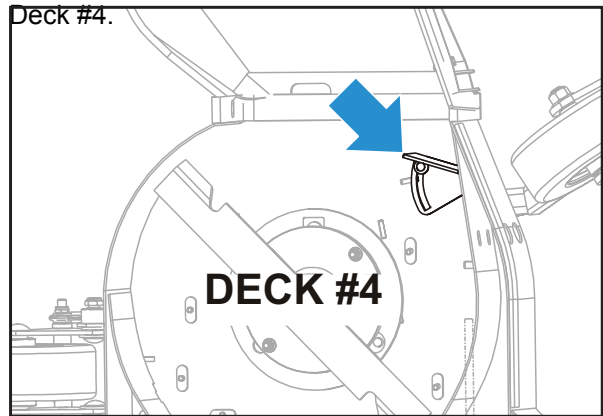
### CUTTING WET GRASS

Operation of the 80" Flex Deck Mower is not adversely affected by wet cutting conditions. However, a slower ground speed is recommended for improved grass discharge and reduced turf tear.

If, when cutting excessively wet or tall grass at reduced ground speed, you still do not get adequate grass discharge, consider making two passes over the area.

### MULCHING BAFFLE KIT INSTALLATION (optional)

The mowing deck is shipped without the mulching baffle installed to the Deck #4. To install the mulching baffle, remove the grass deflector assembly from



Install the mulching baffle to Deck # 4 as shown above.

# MAINTENANCE CHART

## 80" FLEX DECK

### MAINTENANCE



#### CAUTION

- Always perform the appropriate maintenance checklists at the proper time interval.
- Failure to perform the appropriate maintenance checklists at the proper time interval will cause damage to the 80" Flex Deck Mower, unsafe operating conditions and substandard performance.
- Warranty issues are dependent on proper maintenance.

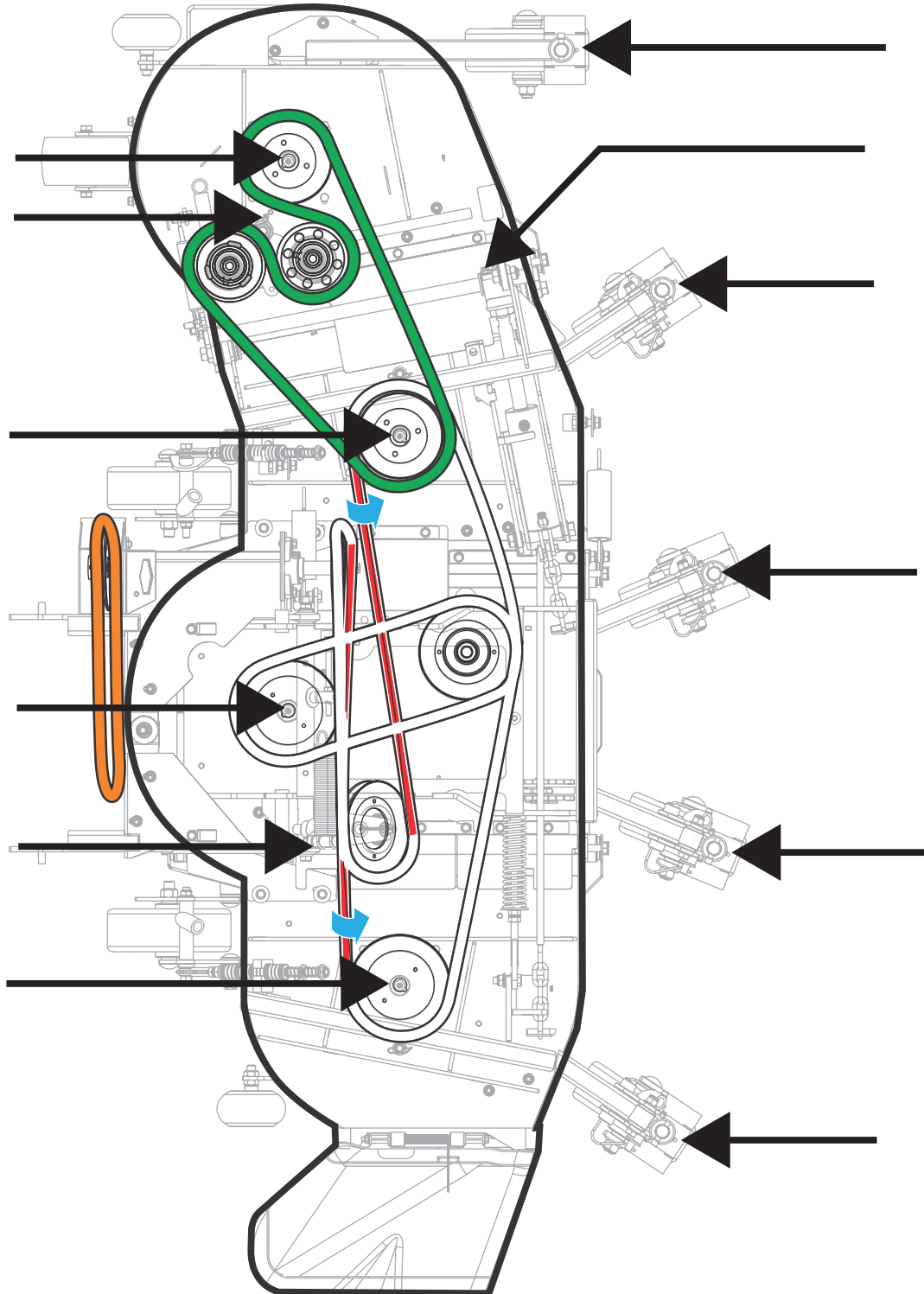
Along with completing the Pre-Operation Checklist you operate the 80" Flex Deck Mower, complete the following Maintenance Checklists at the indicated time intervals.

	Every 8 Hours	Every 50 Hours	Every 200 Hours	Every 500 Hours	Annually
Complete the Pre-operation Equipment Inspection Checklist	•	•	•	•	•
Grease all grease zerks	•	•	•	•	•
Grease all wheel hubs	•	•	•	•	•
Inspect all blade spindle bearings grease seals for grease leakage or improper seating	•	•	•	•	•
Verify that all hardware is properly installed and functional	•	•	•	•	•
Lubricate all joints and moving parts not equipped with grease zerks	•	•	•	•	•
Inspect Articulator for loose or entangled parts, debris, obstructions, neglected tools, or other hazards	•	•	•	•	•
Perform the appropriate maintenance procedure listed in your tractor manual	•	•	•	•	•
Verify proper installation, operation, and flow of grass chute	•	•	•	•	•
Clean, lube, retighten all guide wheels	*	•	•	•	•
Check deck alignment and belt tension	•	•	•	•	•
Check drive belt alignment	•	•	•	•	•
Clean off any debris that has accumulated	•	•	•	•	•
Grease all blade spindle bearing housings	•	•	•	•	•
Inspect all bushings	•	•	•	•	•
Inspect all blade spindle bearings grease for wear, damage, debris or proper installation	•	•	•	•	•
Re-pack all wheels bearings	•	•	•	•	•
Inspect all component parts and wear points	•	•	•	•	•

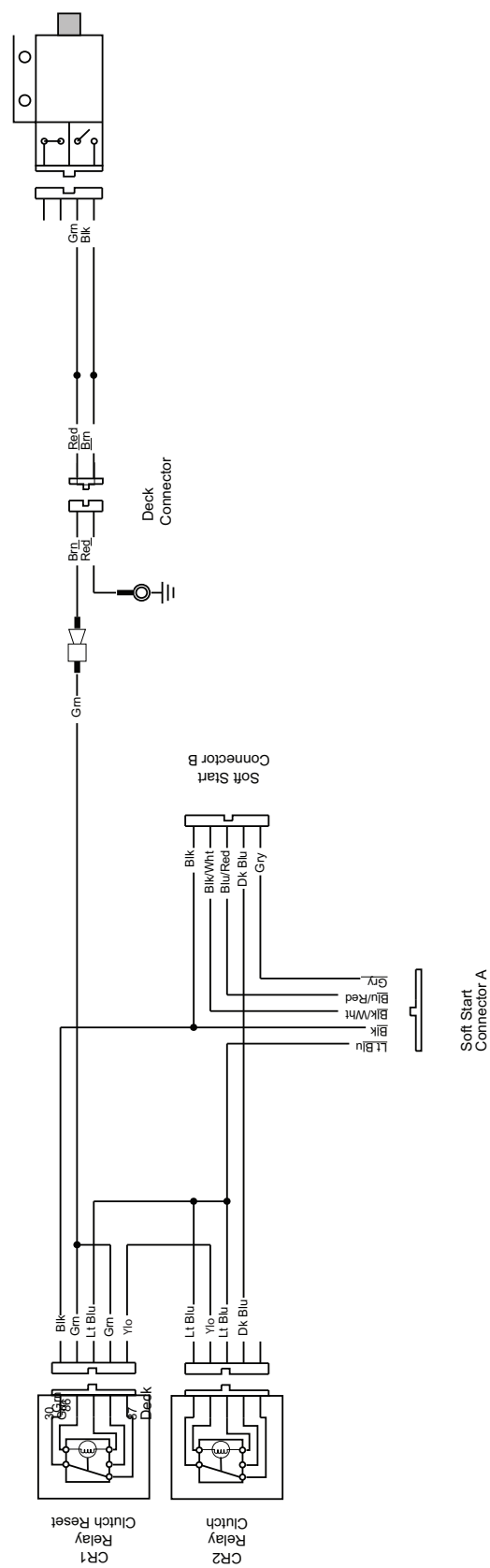
\* First 8 hours, then every 50 hours after that.

# 80" FLEX DECK

## LUBRICATION POINTS



**IMPORTANT!** Each wheel (7) also has a fitting to be greased every 8 hours of operation.



### URETHANE BUSHINGS



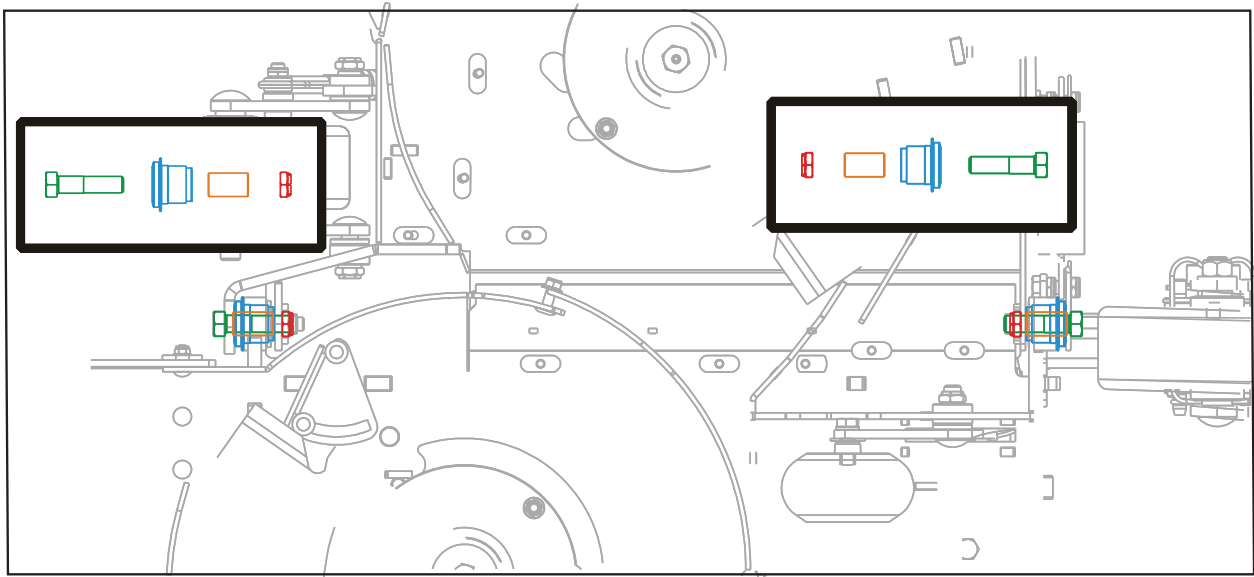
#### CAUTION

- Bolts holding urethane bushings must remain tight.

Urethane bushings are used throughout all Steiner mowers in various applications, including (but not limited to) articulating deck hinges. In all cases, the bushings ride on spacers that fit between the rotating pieces of framework, held tightly in place with bolts. It is important that the spacers remain tight between the framework at all times. Failure to keep these spacers tight will result in premature wear on the bolts, and equipment damage.

Ensure that ALL bolts associated with urethane bushings are tight at all times.

In some cases, urethane bushing applications are associated with grease points. The grease, in these cases, is used to protect the moving parts from corrosion due to water or other contaminants, and is not used for friction reduction. Ensure grease fills the cavity to prevent infiltration.



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