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Service Bulletin

Date: December 20, 2012

Bulletin No: JC-023-12

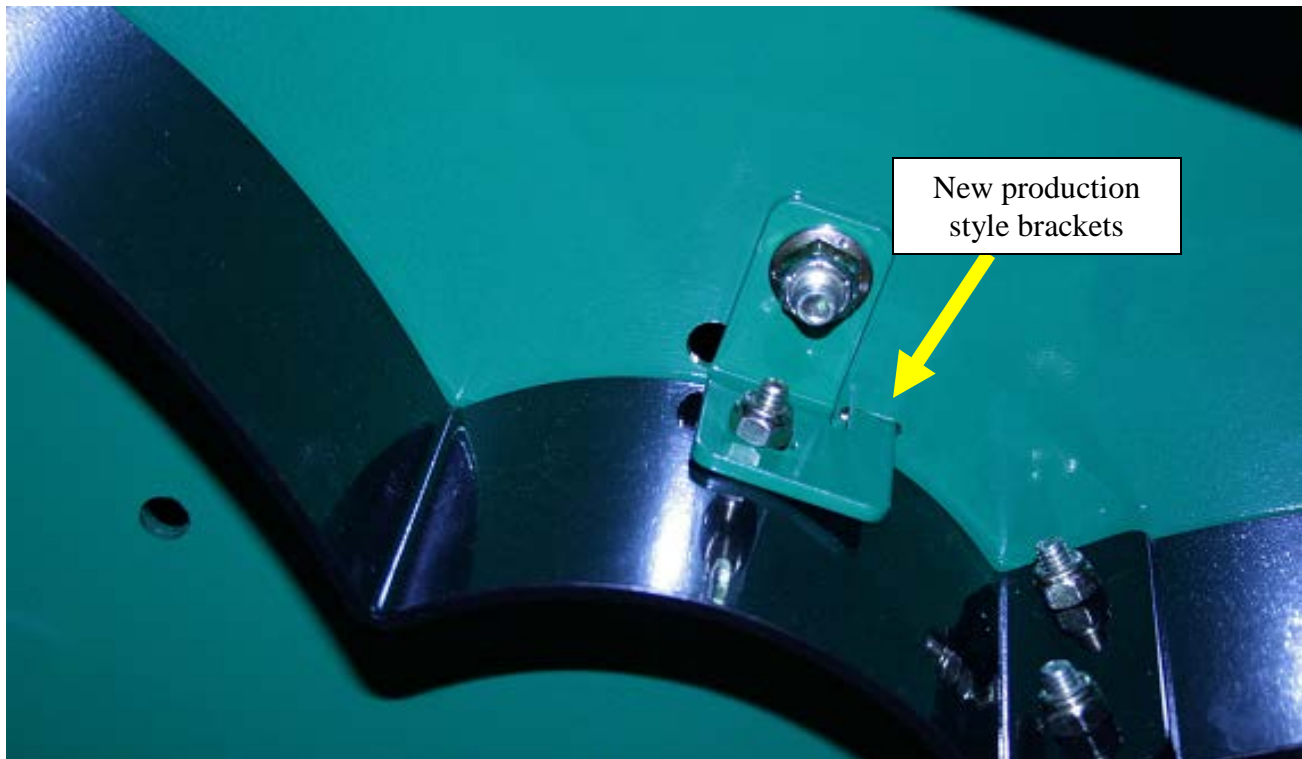
Product Type: G, H & J series BOB-CAT mowers

Cut Quality and Optimal Blade Pitch Setting

Customer Issue: In certain conditions customers report an uneven cut or uncut strips left between the blades on G, H and J series mowers.

Cause: It's possible with variances in production tolerances that the front deck baffles can be positioned too far from the leading edge of the blade. This can reduce the lift and efficiency of the cutting system and impact the quality of cut in some applications.

Action Required: Follow the instructions in kit (see below for kit numbers) to install adjustable mounting brackets to position baffles within 1/4" of the blade (a typical instruction sheet is attached at the end of this bulletin). New production units will have mounting brackets that will be indexed to the deck to insure accurate baffle positioning. Units that have brackets with locator tabs as shown below are not affected by this bulletin.



Make Your Move™



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Optimal Blade Pitch Setting: In the past we learned that pitching the deck forward helped save horsepower improving mower performance. Newer models have more horsepower available so we can now set the decks for the best cut performance and desired cutting results based on the customer requirements. With more horsepower at our disposal, the method of determining pitch is as follows:

Positive pitch (1/8" to 1/4" down in the front) = Best fuel **economy**

Neutral pitch (blade level from front to rear) = Best cut **quality**

Negative pitch (1/8" to 1/4" down in the rear) = Best **striping** (not all grass types lend themselves to striping - typically Northern grasses stripe much better than Southern grasses)

Products Involved and associated Service Kits:

- Kits for G and later ProCats, Predator Pros, and H/J FastCats:
970448 (52")
970449 (61")
970450 (48" - can also be used for FastCat G)
970451 (42")
970452 (36")
- Kits for G-series FastCats:
970450 (48" - same as above - can also be used for H/J FastCats)
970456 (52")
970457 (61")
- Kits for Midsize G models:
970453 (48")
970454 (54")

Warranty: You may claim up to .4 hour of labor and parts for units covered under this bulletin. Please file warranty using Service Bulletin Number JC-023-12 with one unit per claim.

If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Department at 920-699-2000.

This bulletin is relevant to the departments checked below. Please circulate as appropriate.

SERVICE

☒

WARRANTY

☒

SALES

☐

PARTS

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Make Your Move™

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INTRODUCTION: This instruction sheet covers the installation of baffle kits for the following FastCat and ZT2 ProCats/
Predator Pros:

970452 (36" H & J Series FastCat)

970451 (42" H & J Series FastCat)

970448 (52" H & J Series Fast Cat, 52" G, H, & J Series ZT2)

970449 (61" H & J Series Fast Cat, 61" G, H, & J Series ZT2)

NOTE: To gain access to the baffles of the deck, lift unit up on a hoist or tip machine back and secure position.

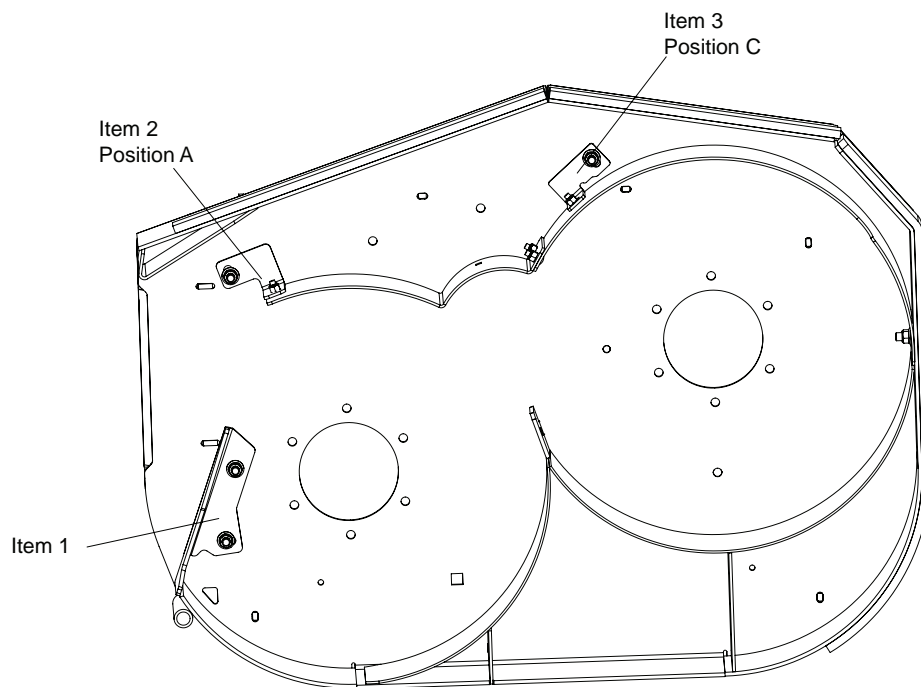
970452 & 970451-FastCat 36" & 42":

1. Remove and discard the existing discharge baffle, retain hardware for Step 2.
2. Install new discharge baffle 1 using existing hardware removed in Step 1.
3. Remove and discard the existing baffle mounting brackets. Retain existing hardware for use in installing new brackets.
4. Using hardware removed in Step 3. Install brackets 2 & 3 to baffles then attach to deck top in positions **A & C** as shown in **Figure 1**. **NOTE:** Some brackets are located in new positions, Refer to **Figure 1** for correct placement. Do not fully tighten hardware.
5. Starting from the non-discharge (LH) side of the deck, adjust and tighten each bracket one by one so that the baffles are between 1/8" and 1/4" from the blade tip as shown in **Figure 5**.

NOTE: ENSURE THE BLADES DO NOT TOUCH THE BAFFLES AT ANY POINT.

Due to the current radius of each baffle, it will likely not be possible to have a 1/4" gap between the entire baffle and the blade tip. However, maintaining the correct gap between the blade tip and baffle by the baffle brackets will help ensure the 1/8" to 1/4" gap.

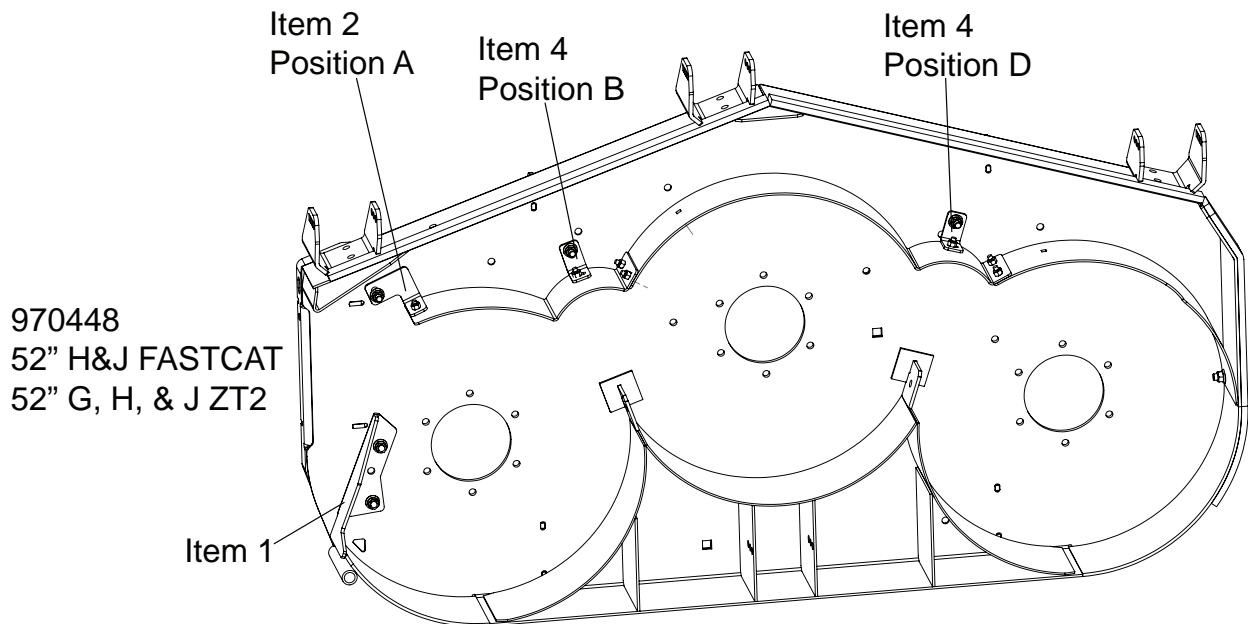
FIGURE 1



970452 & 970451
for 36" & 42" FastCat H & J Series (36" illustrated)

970448-FastCat / ZT2 52":

1. Remove and discard the existing discharge baffle, retain hardware for Step 2.
2. Install new discharge baffle **1** using existing hardware removed in Step 1.
3. Remove and discard the existing baffle mounting brackets. Retain existing hardware for use in installing new brackets.
4. Using hardware removed in Step 3. Install one bracket **2** and two brackets **4** to baffles then attach to deck top in positions **A, B, & D** as shown in **Figure 2**. **NOTE:** Some brackets are located in new positions, Refer to **Figure 2** for correct placement. Do not fully tighten hardware.
5. Starting from the non-discharge (LH) side of the deck, adjust and tighten each bracket one by one so that the baffles are between 1/8" and 1/4" from the blade tip as shown in **Figure 5**.
NOTE: ENSURE THE BLADES DO NOT TOUCH THE BAFFLES AT ANY POINT.
Due to the current radius of each baffle, it will likely not be possible to have a 1/4" gap between the entire baffle and the blade tip. However, maintaining the correct gap between the blade tip and baffle by the baffle brackets will help ensure the 1/8" to 1/4" gap.

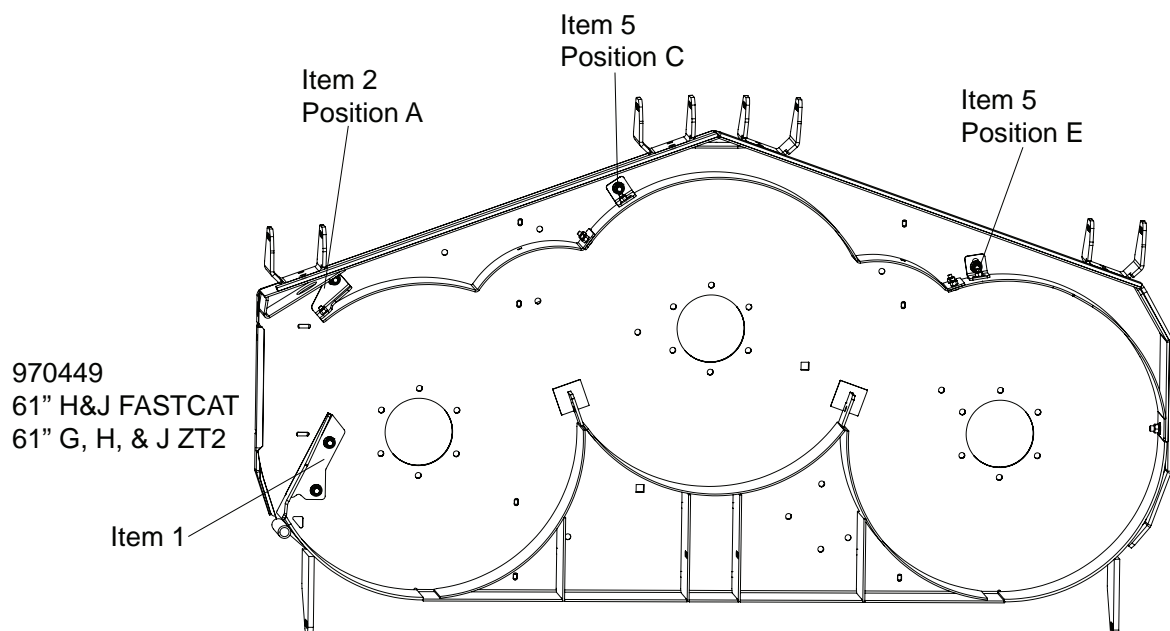
FIGURE 2

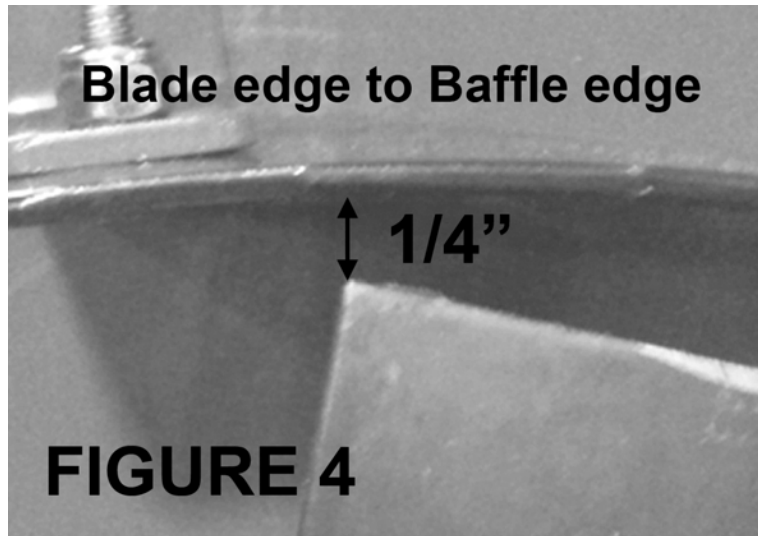
970449-FastCat / ZT2 61”:

1. Remove and discard the existing discharge baffle, retain hardware for Step 2.
2. Install new discharge baffle 1 using existing hardware removed in Step 1.
3. Remove and discard the existing baffle mounting brackets. Retain existing hardware for use in installing new brackets.
4. Using hardware removed in Step 3. Install one bracket 2 and two brackets 5 to baffles then attach to deck top in positions **A, C, & E** as shown in **Figure 3**. **NOTE:** Some brackets are located in new positions, Refer to **Figure 3** for correct placement. Do not fully tighten hardware.
5. Starting from the non-discharge (LH) side of the deck, adjust and tighten each bracket one by one so that the baffles are between 1/8” and 1/4” from the blade tip as shown in **Figure 5**.

NOTE: ENSURE THE BLADES DO NOT TOUCH THE BAFFLES AT ANY POINT.

Due to the current radius of each baffle, it will likely not be possible to have a 1/4” gap between the entire baffle and the blade tip. However, maintaining the correct gap between the blade tip and baffle by the baffle brackets will help ensure the 1/8” to 1/4” gap.

FIGURE 3



ITM	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY
	970452	KIT-BAFFLE 36 (INCLUDES ITEMS 1 - 3)	1
	970451	KIT-BAFFLE 42 (INCLUDES ITEMS 1 -3)	1
	970448	KIT-BAFFLE 52 (INCLUDES ITEMS 1, 2, & 4)	1
	970449	KIT-BAFFLE 61 (INCLUDES ITEMS 1, 2, & 5)	1
1	4168085.2	BAFFLE-DISCHARGE	1
2	4168488.2	BRKT-BAFFLE LH (USED ON 36" & 52" DECK)	1
	4168525.2	BRKT-BAFFLE RH (USED ON 42" & 61" DECK)	
3	4168491.2	BRKT-BAFFLE RH (USED ON 36" & 42" FASTCAT DECKS)	1
4	4168513.2	BRKT-BAFFLE MTG (USED ON 52" DECKS)	2
5	4168524.2	BRKT-BAFFLE LH/CENTER (USED ON 61" DECKS)	2