



One BOB-CAT Lane, P.O. Box 469
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SERVICE BULLETIN

Date: June 18, 2013

Bulletin No: JC-023-12 REV1

Product Type: G, H & J Series FastCat, ProCat, and Predator Pro Riding Mowers

Cut Quality Advisory - Optimal Blade Pitch and Adjustable Front Lip Settings

Customer Issue: Mower decks perform differently in various seasonal conditions and grass types. The BOB-CAT Dura-Deck™ provides the customer with multiple ways to adjust the deck in order to achieve the mowing performance or result desired.

There are three possible adjustments or a combination of the three that can be made addressed in this bulletin:

Position of New Adjustable Formed Front Lip
Optimal Blade Pitch Setting
Cut Height

- 1) New Formed Front Lip: Affective with production in February 2013, a new formed front lip was added to the mower deck (previously part of the Bahia grass kit) and replaced the straight adjustable front lip. The new lip is formed to extend inward toward the blades by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and provides a better seal for enhanced lift and air flow for the grass. It can be adjusted for different grass types to optimize cut performance.
 - *Southern season grasses generally will work with the lip down, but when cutting Bahia grass or other grasses where seed pods grow higher than the actual grass blade you will want to adjust the lip all the way up.*
 - *Northern season grasses generally require the lip all the way down.*
 - *The factory setting is all the way down.*

Note: If you have a unit with the front lip that is not formed toward the blades, you can install the new formed lip under warranty.

Kits for G, H, J Series ProCats, Predator Pros, and H and J FastCats:

970427 (48" cut)
970416 (52" cut)
970417 (61" cut)

- 2) Optimal Blade Pitch Setting: In the past, pitching the mower deck forward saved horsepower improving mower performance. Now 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. Pitch is measured from front to rear edge of the mower deck.



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

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

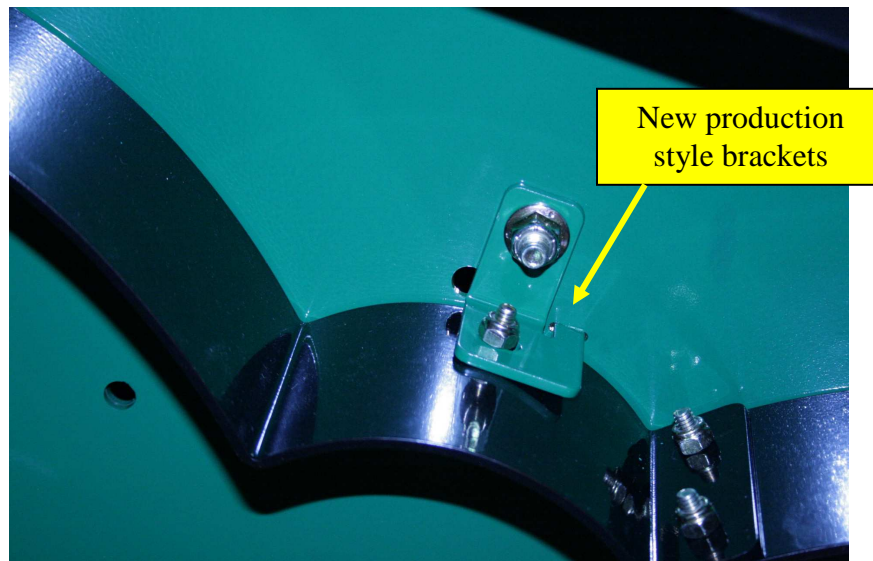
Negative pitch (1/8" to 1/4" down in the rear) = Best **striping** (not all grass types lend themselves to striping - typically Northern grasses stripe much better than Southern grasses).

- 3) Cut Height: The higher the setting for cut height, the more likely the mower deck will lose the seal around the deck in the grass, negatively affecting air flow for lifting the grass. At higher settings (4 inches or more), neutral or negative pitch, front lip adjusted all the way down, and a slower ground speed will provide better results, unless cutting Bahia or Bahia-like grass which requires the front lip all the way up.

In addition please refer to the reminder below about proper front baffle position in SB JC-23-12 from last December:

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 (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.





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Products Involved and associated Baffle Positioning 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

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 hr of labor plus parts for any kit installed under this bulletin. Please file warranty using Service Bulletin Number JC-023-12. Please file 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

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WARRANTY

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SALES

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PARTS

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