

# Ford

## 51, 61 AND 66 RIDER MOWER TRACTORS

# Operator's Manual



Ford Tractor Operations

Reprinted

# SAFETY



**WHILE THIS MOWER HAS BEEN BUILT TO OPEI SAFETY STANDARDS**, the manufacturer does not mean to imply that this unit is 100% accident proof. **IT MUST BE USED WITH THE SAME CAUTION AND CARE REQUIRED WHEN OPERATING ANY SIMILAR MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.**



**READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE ACTUAL OPERATION.** Assemble your mower completely and carefully as described in this manual. **Do not use mower without either the chute guard or a complete grass bag.** Keep all safety devices in place and check the grass catcher frequently for signs of wear and deterioration. Replace with new bag as a safety precaution. **NEVER ATTACH OR REMOVE CHUTE OR GRASS BAG, OR UNCLOG A CHUTE, WHILE ENGINE IS RUNNING OR BLADE IS TURNING . . . BE SURE . . . DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE!**



**FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF COMPLETELY WITH ALL CONTROLS AND LEARN TO STOP THE ENGINE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.**



**ANY CARBURETOR ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WITH EXTREME CAUTION . . .** Mower mufflers develop extreme heat in operation, be careful not to touch the muffler while engine is running . . . or for a while after engine is shut off. Never change engine governor setting



**DISENGAGE ALL CLUTCHES AND PUT GEAR-SHIFT IN NEUTRAL BEFORE STARTING ENGINE.** Never run the engine in an enclosed area . . . exhaust fumes are dangerous. Never store the mower with gasoline in the tank, inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.



**KEEP HANDS AND FEET CLEAR OF MOVING PARTS AND THE DISCHARGE CHUTE . . . AT ALL TIMES!**



**ALWAYS START MOWER FROM THE SIDE OPPOSITE THE DISCHARGE CHUTE.** Have mower on a level surface. When starting "manual start" mowers, stand firmly on the side opposite the discharge chute.



**CLEAR THE AREA TO BE MOWED OF ALL STONES, STICKS, WIRE, TIN CANS AND ALL OTHER DEBRIS BEFORE STARTING TO MOW.** Determine the location of and avoid striking any solid, permanent fixtures, such as curbs, tree roots, stumps, water pipes, shut-off valves, etc.



**IF YOU SHOULD STRIKE ANY OBJECT:**

- **STOP THE MOWER IMMEDIATELY.**
- **DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE FROM SPARK PLUG AND EXAMINE MOWER FOR DAMAGE.**
- **REPAIR OR REPLACE ANY DAMAGED PART BEFORE RESUMING OPERATION.**



**DISCONNECT SPARK PLUG WIRE FROM SPARK PLUG AND SECURE THE WIRE AWAY FROM THE SPARK PLUG BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY ADJUSTMENTS OR REPAIRS.**



**THIS RIDING MOWER IS DESIGNED TO CARRY ONLY THE OPERATOR.** In the interest of safety, other passengers, especially children, should never be allowed to ride with the operator.



**GIVE COMPLETE AND UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO THE MOWING JOB.** Operate the mower at the slowest speed that will cut the grass satisfactorily. Use caution when operating on uneven terrain. Disengage the blade drive when transporting.



**DO NOT WEAR LOOSE CLOTHING THAT MIGHT GET CAUGHT IN MOVING PARTS.**



**STOP THE ENGINE WHENEVER YOU LEAVE THE MOWER OPERATING POSITION.** Never leave the mower running, when you leave it, for any reason. Don't start the mower until you are ready to mow.



**DEVELOP THE HABIT OF REMOVING THE KEY EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE THE MACHINE.**



**KEEP CHILDREN COMPLETELY AWAY FROM THE MOWER WHILE IT IS IN OPERATION.** Keep all persons and pets away from area to be mowed. Never direct the discharge of the mower toward bystanders or in a direction where thrown objects could cause injury or damage. Avoid directing discharge toward a street, sidewalk or similar traffic area.



**DO NOT DRIVE TOO CLOSE TO A CREEK OR A DITCH AND BE WATCHFUL OF HOLES WHICH MIGHT CAUSE THE RIDER TO TIP SIDEWAYS.** Be especially careful when making turns, stopping, starting or backing. Never stop or start suddenly.



**BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WHEN OPERATING THE RIDER ON HILLSIDES OR SLOPES.** As a general rule, if the slope is steep enough to make you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, it is too steep for safe operation of the Rider. Mow up and down the face of a steep slope . . . never across the face.



**NEVER OPERATE MOWER IN THE RAIN OR WHEN GRASS IS WET.** Slippery conditions are extremely dangerous.



**FILL GAS TANK OUTDOORS, BUT NEVER WHILE ENGINE IS RUNNING OR HOT. NEVER FILL TANK WHILE SMOKING.** Use an approved container to handle and store an inflammable liquid. If you spill gasoline, wipe it up. Keep mower free from accumulations of grass or debris build-up. Replace gas tank cap securely.



**TEACH ALL SAFETY RULES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES TO ALL PERSONS OPERATING MOWER.** Never allow children to operate power mower.

# ASSEMBLY

Check the contents of the small carton; it should include:

- Steering Wheel
- Seat
- Chute Deflector
- Plastic Fastener Bag

## (ELECTRIC START MODELS ONLY)

- Battery Carton (containing Battery and Battery Acid)
- Battery Charger

Remove the two "J" bolts holding the front axle and the bolt through the rear hitch, to free the rider from the carton skid.

## STEERING WHEEL

Slide Rubber Washer and Sleeve (included in fastener bag) onto Steering Shaft. Slide other Rubber Washer (with  $\frac{7}{8}$ " hole) onto Steering Wheel. Align hole in the steering Wheel with the hole in the Steering Shaft. Using access hole in the Sleeve, secure Steering Wheel to Shaft with hex hd. cap screw and lock nut as shown in FIG. 3. Tighten securely.

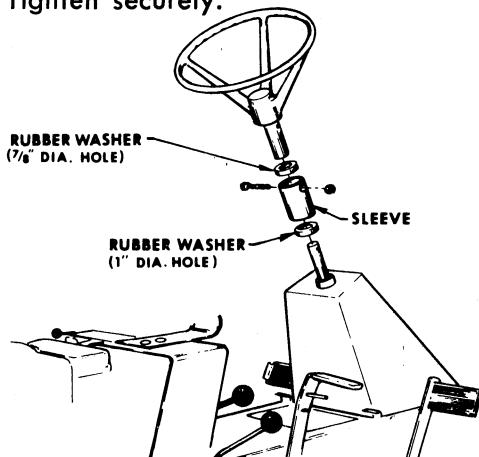


FIG. 3

## SEAT ASSEMBLY

Attach the Seat to the Seat Spring using parts from fastener bag as indicated in FIG. 4.

The squareholes in the Seat Spring provide an adjustment to allow the operator to position the seat so that he may easily reach the foot pedals.

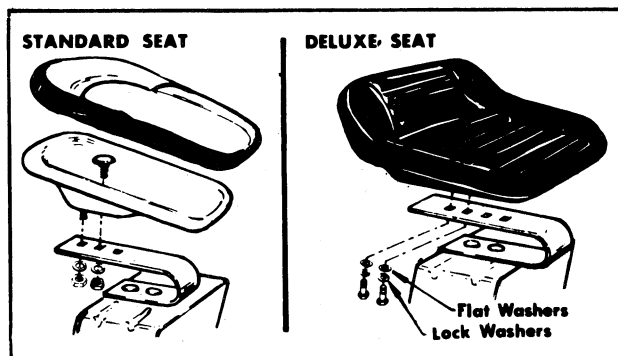


FIG. 4

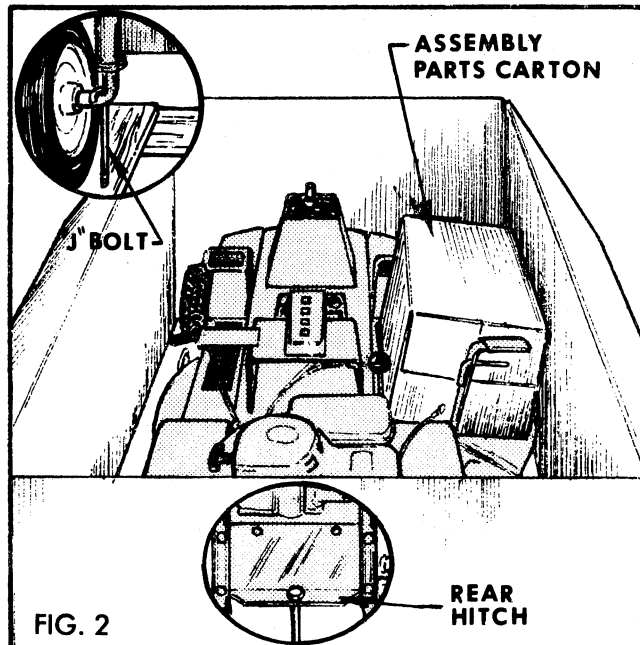


FIG. 2

## CHUTE DEFLECTOR

Assemble the Chute Deflector to the Cutter Housing with hex head cap screws and lock nuts (included in fastener bag) as shown in FIG. 5.

**WARNING: DO NOT OPERATE THE MOWER WITHOUT THE CHUTE DEFLECTOR OR A GRASS BAG INSTALLED!**

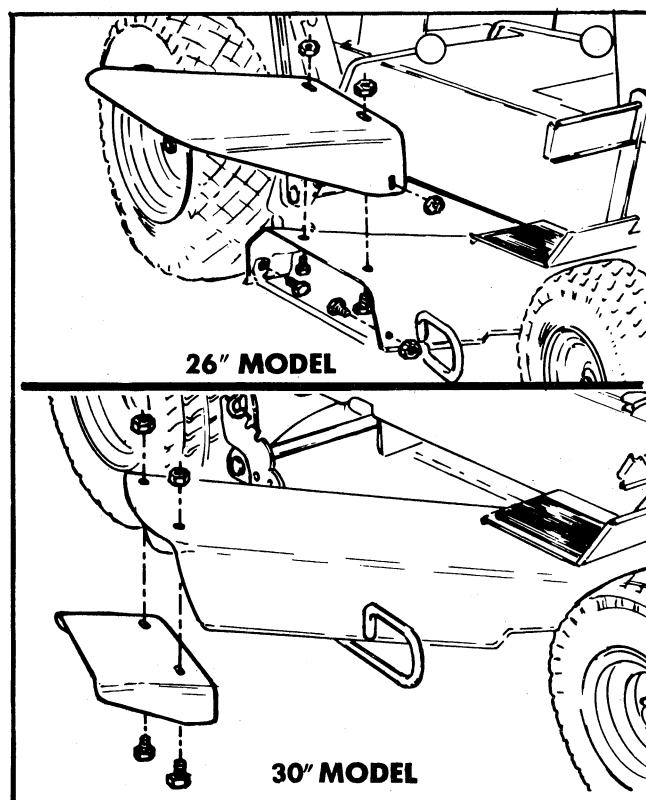


FIG. 5

# ASSEMBLY cont.

## ELECTRIC START MODEL

Carefully remove the Battery and the Battery Acid from carton. Do not tip or squeeze the Battery Acid carton. Activate the Dry-Charge Battery **BEFORE** installing it on the rider.

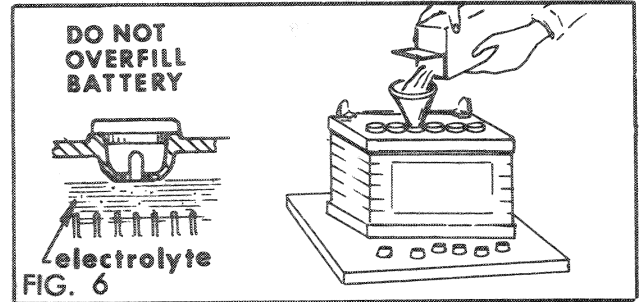
**FILL:** Carefully fill each cell with acid furnished until it becomes visible at bottom of filling tube. Temperature of acid should be room temperature. Use extreme **CAUTION** when filling. Should any acid be spilled on your person, your clothing, or the battery during filling—**WASH OFF IMMEDIATELY!!** and neutralize with soda or ammonia solution.

**CHARGING:** Loosen or remove the battery filler caps during the charge cycle.

Connect the Battery Charger to the Battery as follows, **BEFORE** plugging into AC outlet:

- Connect Red **POSITIVE (+)** Charger Clip to **POSITIVE (+)** Battery Terminal.
- Connect Black **NEGATIVE (-)** Charger Clip to **NEGATIVE (-)** Battery Terminal. (If there is any sparking, the clips are not connected to the proper terminal. . .reverse the connection **IMMEDIATELY!**)
- Make sure all connections are secure.
- Connect the line cord to AC outlet and charge with 1 amp Charger for 24 hours prior to use.

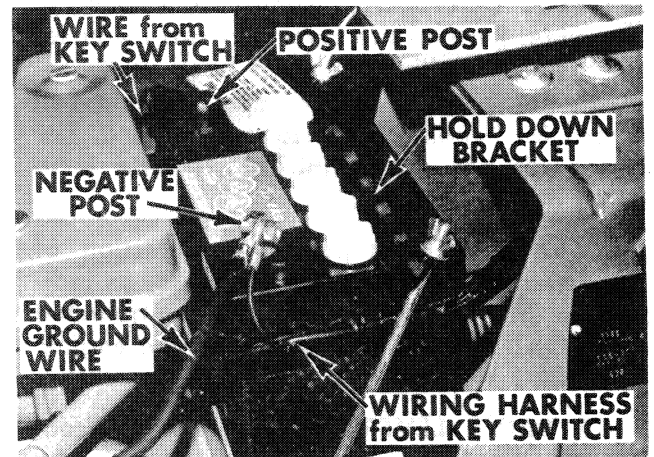
Leave caps off for approximately twenty minutes to allow gases to escape.



**CAUTION:** Battery acid is corrosive to metals. Do not pour into any sink or drain. Before discarding, rinse and mutilate electrolyte container.

## INSTALLATION:

Position the Battery on the frame and secure with Hold Down Bracket, two Hooks, washers and wing nuts (included in fastener bag) as shown in FIG. 7. Connect wires to Battery as shown, using carriage bolts, lock washers, and hex nuts included in fastener bag.



## BEFORE OPERATION

- **READ THIS MANUAL . . .** Become completely familiar with the controls and operation before actual use of the rider.
- **READ . . .** the safety section of this manual.
- **FILL . . .** crankcase with oil.
- **FILL . . .** the fuel tank with clean, fresh "regular" grade gasoline. **DO NOT MIX OIL WITH GASOLINE.**
- **CHECK . . .** the battery liquid level.
- **CHECK . . .** the oil level of the transaxle.
- **CHECK . . .** the air pressure in the tires. See Specifications

All accessories and attachments have their own manual. Be sure to read such manuals thoroughly for proper assembly and operating instructions.

# CONTROLS

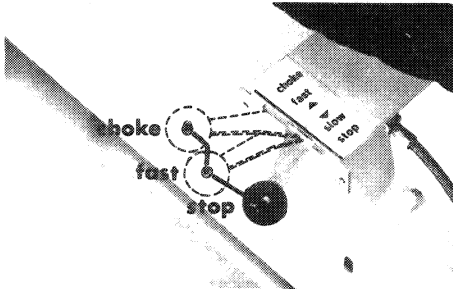


FIG. 9

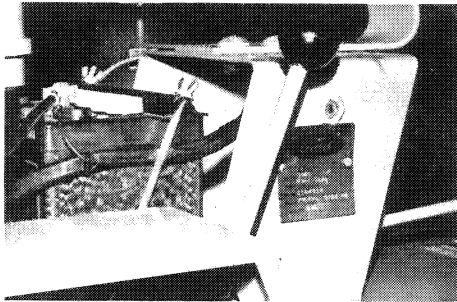


FIG. 10

**THROTTLE CONTROL:** controls the speed of the engine. Pushing the lever forward increases engine speed. Pulling the lever back decreases the engine speed. Pull the lever up and full forward for "choking" to start the engine. **The engine will not start until the Throttle is in "RUN" or "CHOKE."**

**GEAR SHIFT LEVER:** permits a selection of three forward speeds and one reverse, as indicated on the shift panel. Always have gearshift in NEUTRAL position before starting the engine.

**BLADE DRIVE LEVER:** engages and disengages the blade drive mechanism. Moving the lever up to the "RUN" position engages the blade drive mechanism. Moving the lever down to the "NEUTRAL" position disengages the blade drive mechanism. **The engine will not start until the Blade Drive Lever is in "NEUTRAL."**

**CLUTCH PEDAL:** Must be depressed before starting the engine or braking to a stop. When pedal is depressed (down position) the clutch is disengaged to permit selection of neutral, reverse or forward gear speed. When pedal is released (up position) the clutch is engaged and rider will move in direction and speed selected. **The engine will not start until the Clutch Pedal is depressed.**

**CLUTCH LOCK LEVER:** locks the Clutch Pedal in a down position to permit starting the engine with the recoil starter. Additional pressure on the Clutch Pedal will release the Clutch Lock Lever.

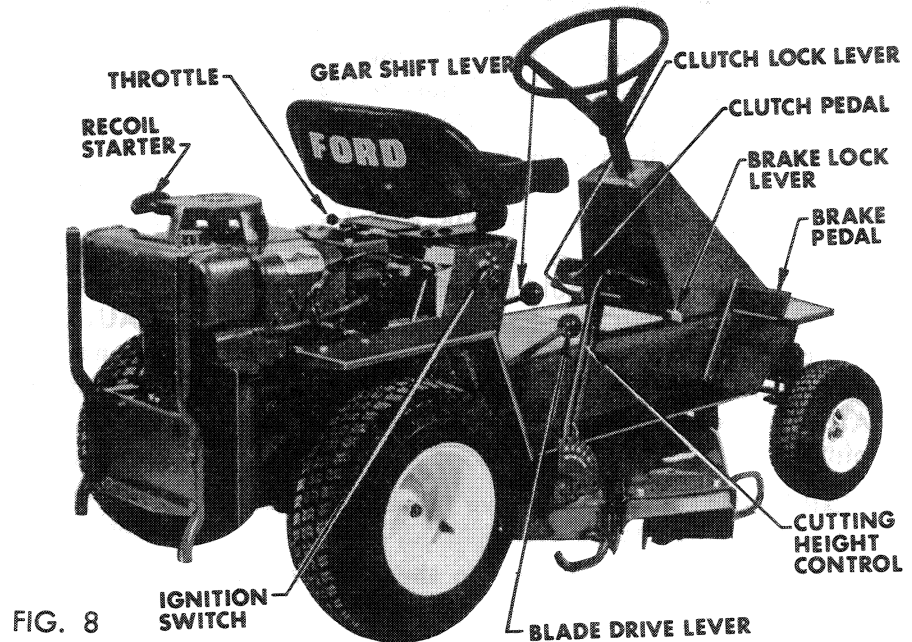


FIG. 8

**IGNITION SWITCH (ELECTRIC START MODEL):** has three positions, "OFF," "ON" and "START." Turning the ignition key to the extreme right cranks the engine. When the key is released it will automatically return to the "ON" position. Key in a straight up and down position is in the "OFF" position and stops the engine. **RECOIL STARTER:** For use when battery is low and engine will not start with ignition key. **The engine can not be started until the ignition key is in the "ON" position.**

**IGNITION SWITCH (MANUAL START MODEL):** has two positions, "OFF" and "ON." It is necessary to have the key in the "ON" position before starting the engine with the recoil starter. Having the key in the "OFF" position prevents accidental starting of the engine by an unauthorized person.

**BRAKE PEDAL:** when the pedal is depressed (down position) the brake is engaged and rider movement is stopped. Depress clutch before braking. When the pedal is released (up position) the brake is disengaged.

**BRAKE LOCK LEVER:** serves as a parking brake. Depress the lever to lock the Brake Pedal in the down position. Additional pressure on the Brake Pedal will release the Brake Lock Lever.

**CUTTING HEIGHT CONTROL:** raises and lowers the mower housing to adjust the cutting height. To change the cutting height, grasp the handle and squeeze the spring loaded lever to free the handle. Move the handle to the desired cutting height, as indicated by the numbered notches, and release the lever into the notch.

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