



IOG

DATA SHEET

## SETTING HEIGHT OF CUT

### ADJUSTMENTS TO A CYLINDER MOWER

There are several adjustments necessary to a cylinder mower to ensure the best use of the machine. At all times safety should be considered before any adjustment to a mower, it is necessary to take the following steps:

- Switch off the engine.
- Switch off the fuel.
- Remove Spark plug lead.
- Support the mower securely.
- Do not adjust the mower on the turf surface (to prevent fuel and oil spillage damaging the turf).

### CYLINDER TO BOTTOM BLADE ADJUSTMENT

If the 'cut' of the mower is incorrectly set, then tearing of the grass leaves will result. This will provide for incidence of disease appearing in the sward at a later stage and further, may also cause the discoloration of the grass sward. The cutting cylinder should revolve evenly and across the full width of the bottom blade without being set too tightly. There are two distinct methods of adjustment, depending on the machine involved.

- The cylinder will move towards or away from the bottom blade
- The bottom blade will move towards or away from the cylinder.
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Adjusters will be situated at each end of the cylinder shaft for the former method and at each end of the sole plate for the latter. The correct adjustment is found by placing paper between the cylinder and bottom blade then by turning the cylinder, using an implement (not hands) cut the paper cleanly. The test should be carried out in at least three places along the length of the cylinder.

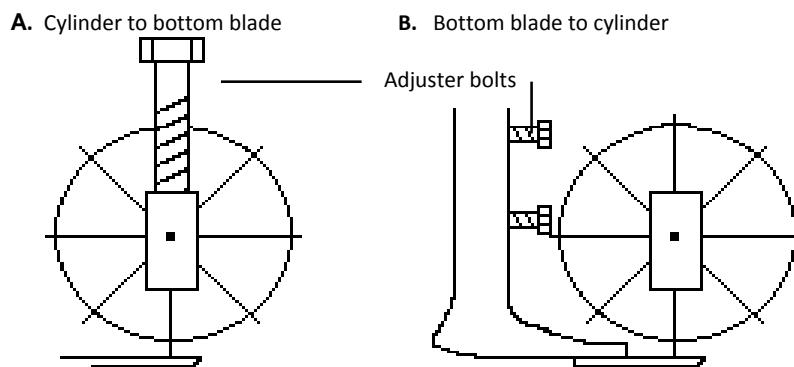
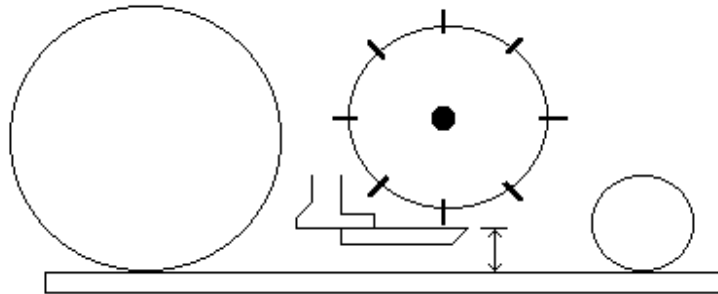


Fig. 1 - Cylinder to bottom blade adjustment

### HEIGHT OF CUT ADJUSTMENT

The height of the sward found upon a pitch, will have a profound effect on how that pitch will perform. Adjustment of the mower is critical to success. Raising the front roller will lower the height of cut and lowering the roller will increase the height. The usual method for testing the correct height, is to place a straight edge beneath the machine and from the rear to the front roller (fig. 2). The gap between the straight edge and the top of the bottom blade is the height which the machine will cut the sward. Allowances must be made when the surface to be cut is damp, as the weight of the machine in use will have a marked effect on the height of cut, which will have been already set.

Many groundsmen will now use a tool (fig. 3) specially made for adjusting the height of cut. This is made of a straight bar, a bolt is threaded through the bar which can be adjusted to the height of cut required. It is then placed to the two rollers and the correct adjustment made.



Height of cut = Distance from top of straight edge to top of bottom blade

Fig. 2 Height of cut adjustment

Height of cut =  
Distance between top of bar and bottom of bolt head

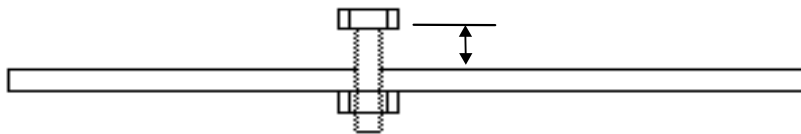


Fig. 3 Height of cut adjustment bar

#### Adjustment of throw plate

The throw plate will only require adjustment periodically according to the weather conditions. The throw plate ensures that the clippings produced by the mower are placed into the grass box (fig.4). When conditions are dry the throw plate will be as low as possible to ensure the grass does not fly over the top of the box. In damp or wet conditions the throw plate is best placed as high as possible to prevent the cylinder from clogging up with grass clippings.

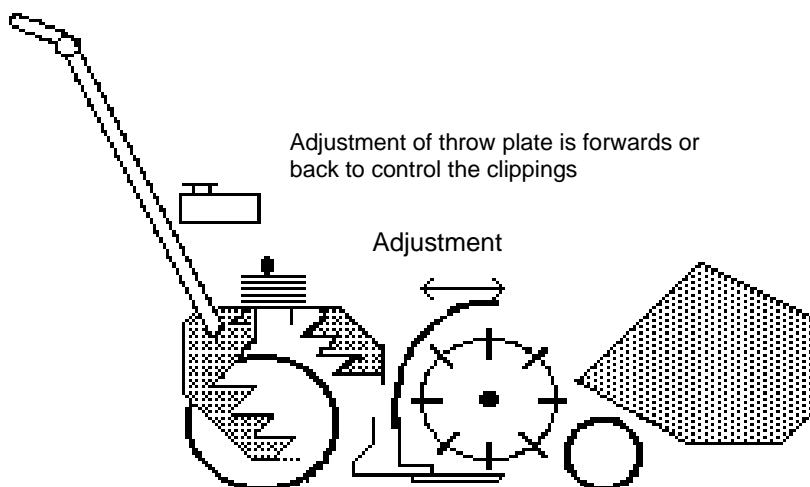


Fig 4 Adjusting the throw plate

Implications of incorrect mower adjustments:

- Ribbing
- Wash boarding
- Tram lining
- Tearing

#### **MOWER MAINTENANCE**

All moving parts should be oiled or greased as stated in the manufacturer's handbook. Ensure that excess oil is not applied as this may drop to the grass and cause damage. If a machine is regularly used it may require a regrind to the cylinder. All grass clippings should be removed after use by a stiff brush or air line. Do not wash off with water as this may damage the engine and encourage rust to the metal parts.

For details of our short courses please contact the address below.

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