



**Operator's  
Manual**

**John Deere  
Electric 96 Mower**

**OM-M80099  
Issue L4**





# Safety Precautions

**⚠** Improper use or maintenance of the Electric 96 Mower and its equipment can result in injury. To reduce this possibility, give complete and undivided attention to the job at hand and follow these safety precautions.

## Preparation

*Know your controls.* Read this manual carefully. Learn how to stop the traction drive and mower motors quickly in an emergency.

*Do not allow children to operate machine;* nor adults to operate it without proper instructions.

*Keep children and pets* a safe distance away.

*Never permit any person other than the operator* to ride or board the riding mower at any time.

*Clear work area of objects* which might be picked up and thrown.

*Always wear relatively tight and belted clothing* when operating the Electric 96 Mower. Loose jackets, shirts, sleeves or other loose clothing should not be worn because of the danger of catching them in moving parts or controls.

*Read and observe all "CAUTION" AND "WARNING" decals* appearing on mower and equipment. See page 1.

*Remove charging cord from wall receptacle* before starting traction motor.

## Operation

*Give complete and undivided attention* to the job at hand.

*Do not attempt to operate riding mower when not on the seat.*

*Do not use mower unless discharge chute guard* is in place.

*Never direct discharge of any material toward bystanders* nor allow anyone near machine while it is in operation.

*Disengage clutch and shift into neutral* before starting traction drive motor.

*To stop ground travel,* depress both the brake and clutch pedals. The Electric 96 Mower will coast if only the clutch pedal is depressed.

*Always stop ground travel* before shifting gears.

*Do not mow or drive on steep slopes.* Always winch Electric 96 onto a tilt-bed trailer.

*Do not stop or start suddenly* when going uphill or downhill. Mow up and down the face of slopes; never across the face.

*Reduce speed on slopes* and in sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.

*Stay alert for holes* in terrain and other hidden hazards. Always drive slowly over rough ground.

*Stop and inspect riding mower and attachments* for damage after striking a foreign object. Repair damage before restarting and operating the equipment.

*Turn off mower motors and traction motor* (1) before leaving operator position, (2) before making any repairs or adjustments, (3) when transporting or not in use, or (4) when unclogging mower discharge chute.

*Take all possible precautions* when leaving riding mower unattended; such as lowering attachments, shifting into neutral, setting parking brake, stopping all motors, and removing key.

*Mow only in daylight* or in good artificial light.

*Never make a cutting height adjustment* while motors are running if operator must dismount to do so.

*Set mower at highest cutting height* when mowing rough ground or tall weeds.

*Avoid operating mower in wet grass.*

*Use care when pulling loads or using heavy equipment.* Use only approved drawbar hitch points. Limit loads to those you can safely control. Do not turn sharply. Use care when backing.

*Watch out for traffic* when crossing or working near roadways.

## Maintenance and Storage

*Disconnect a battery cable* from a negative terminal when working on the electrical system.

*Keep vehicle and attachments in good operating condition* and keep safety devices in place.

*Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight* to be sure equipment is in safe working condition.

*Follow maintenance instructions* in this manual. Have a competent serviceman inspect the mower each year.

*Check blade mounting bolts* for proper tightness at frequent intervals.



Charge batteries in a ventilated area.

Keep shroud raised while charging batteries until timer returns to "STORE."

Keep flames away and avoid smoking while working around batteries to avoid fires or explosion.



## CAUTION

1. Keep discharge chute guard in place.
2. Before servicing machine: disengage power, shut off motors, make sure mower blades have stopped revolving, remove key from main switch.
3. Do not stand near machine while blades are in motion.
4. Keep hands, feet and clothing away from power-driven parts.

M12234



## CAUTION

**Do not operate mower with discharge chute guard removed.**

**WIDTH OF CUT** →

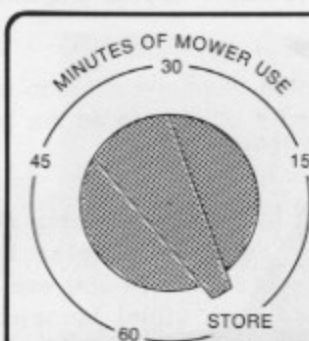
M12101



## CAUTION

Rotating blades under this entire mower deck.  
Keep hands and feet away.

M12102



### CHARGER OPERATION

1. Plug charger cord into grounded 110/125 volt "AC" outlet after each use period. Leave charger connected for automatic battery maintenance.
2. After using mower, position charger timer knob to corresponding minutes of mower use.
3. Timer knob will return to STORE when batteries are fully charged. Do not reset until mower has been operated. Over-charge causes excessive water loss.
4. Mower is ready to use when meter pointer is in YELLOW area.



## CAUTION

1. Combustible gas produced when charging batteries. Do not charge in enclosed or unventilated area.
2. While charging, leave hood in raised position and keep sparks and open flames away.

M12347



## CAUTION

### BATTERY CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1. Do not remove battery cover except for service.
2. Do not service while charging battery.

1. Always recharge batteries immediately after use.
2. Never store batteries in a discharged or partially discharged condition.
3. Electrolyte level—Check monthly or as necessary.  
Before charging—Add water until plates are just covered.  
After charging—Add water until level is to split ring. Do not overfill.

M12237



## CAUTION

1. Study your operator's manual before attempting to mow. Learn how to stop quickly.
2. Keep all shields in place.
3. This vehicle is not for street or highway use.
4. Keep people and pets a safe distance away.

5. Before dismounting: depress clutch and brake pedals, set parking brake, shift transmission into NEUTRAL, move both MAIN and MOWER switches to OFF position.
6. Remove MAIN switch key before servicing, adjusting, or leaving the vehicle unattended.

M12236



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M16558Y

John Deere Electric 96 Mower



## To the Purchaser



*This OPEI Seal certifies that your model of mower has been tested by an independent laboratory and that it complies with American National Standard B71. 1a. 1974, "Safety Specification for Power Lawn Mowers, Lawn and Garden Tractors, and Lawn Tractors."*

Read this operator's manual before you start the motors. You will be able to do a better, safer job of mowing.

**!** This safety alert symbol identifies important safety messages in this manual. When you see this symbol, be alert to the possibility of personal injury and read carefully the message that follows.

Your operator's manual contains SI Metric equivalents which follow immediately after the U.S. customary units of measure.

*This operator's manual is prepared for Electric 96 Mowers (Serial No. A096D 030001M-*

*).*

The Electric 96 Mower is designed and manufactured to the traditionally high standards of John Deere. It has many quality features to bring you new mowing efficiency and convenience, as well as greater ease of operation and maintenance. If given proper care, your mower will give you long, efficient service.

The Electric 96 Mower has an electric traction drive motor to power the 3-speed transaxle. The mower is driven by two individual electric motors, one on each blade. Cutting width is 34 inches.

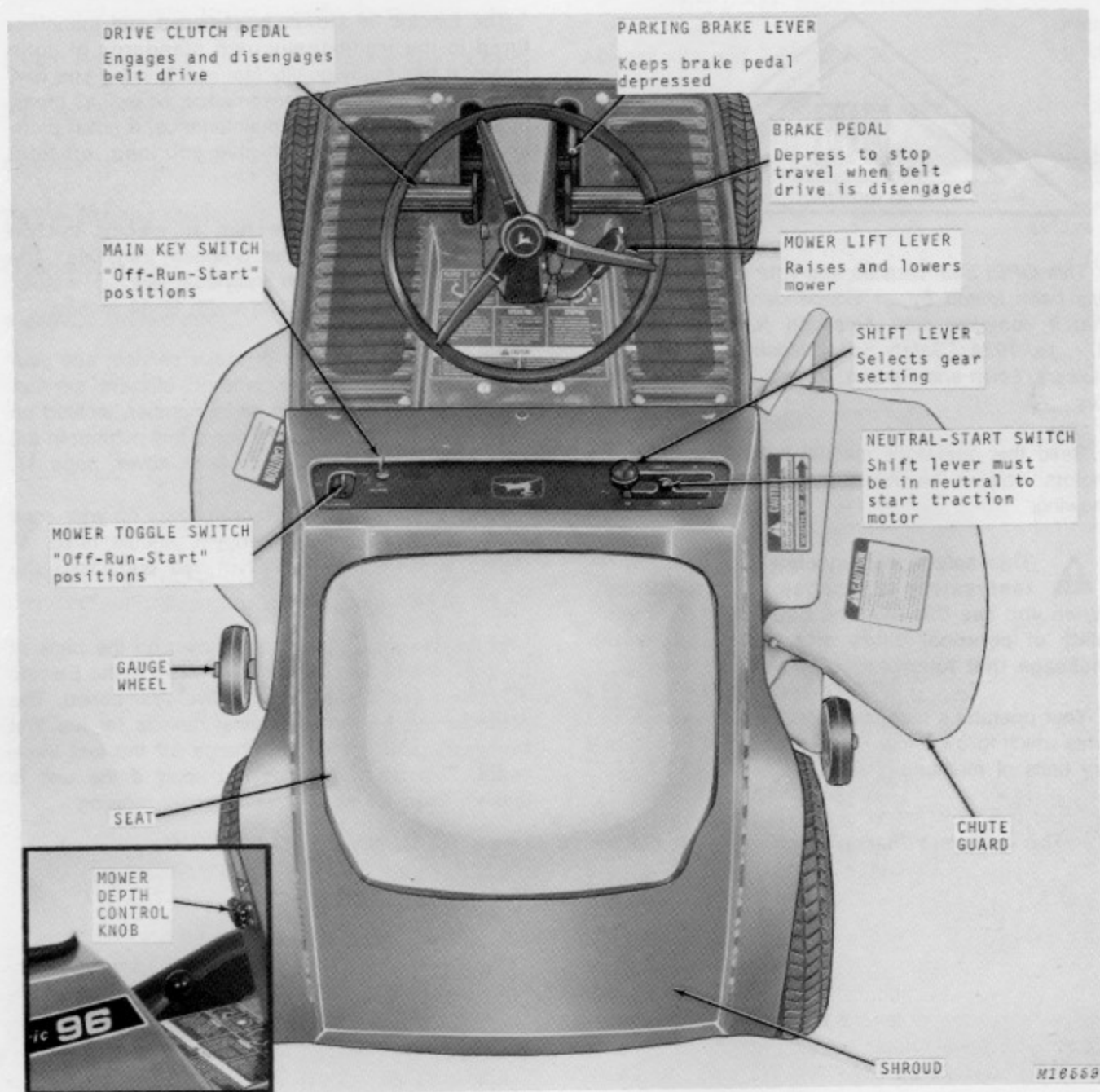
When in need of parts or major service, see your John Deere Dealer. For prompt, efficient service, give the dealer the mower serial number, located on the rear of the battery box. Record this number in the space provided on the inside back cover, page 17.

The warranty on this mower appears on your copy of the purchase order which you should have received from your dealer when you purchased the mower.

In addition to the warranty shown on the back of the purchase order, the batteries used in the Electric 96 Mower are warranted for a five year period. The batteries are warranted against defects for the first two years with a prorated charge for the last three years. This warranty does not apply if the unit is leased, used for hire, or commercial mowing.



# Controls

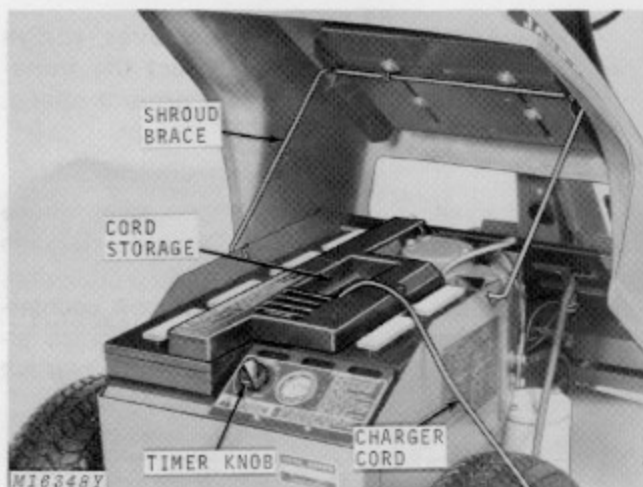






# Before Starting Mower

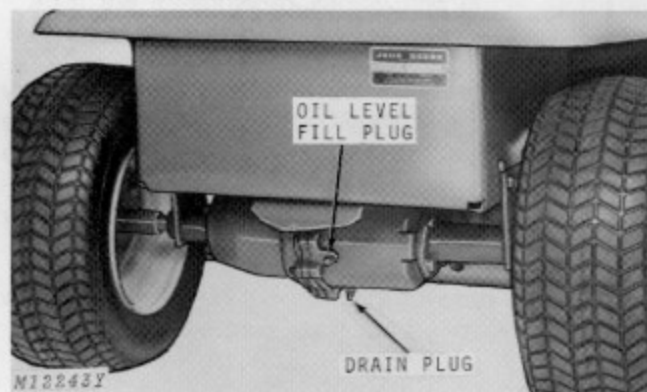
## PREPARING THE MOWER



Move charger control timer knob to "STORE", if not in that position. Unplug the charger cord from the electrical outlet. Coil the cord and store it in the compartment between the batteries.

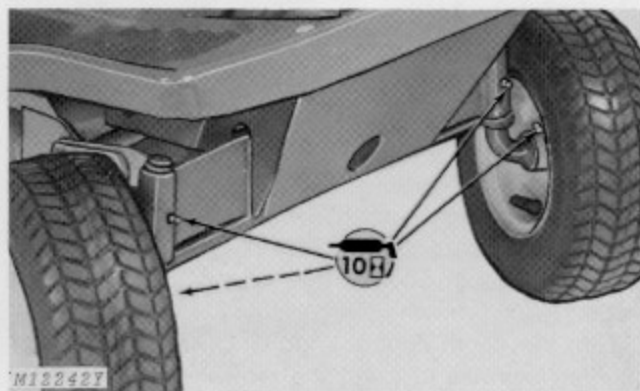
Raise the shroud slightly and pivot the shroud brace to the rear. Lower the shroud.

## Checking Transaxle Lubricant



Check transaxle lubricant level periodically with mower parked on a level surface. Remove oil level-fill plug. Lubricant should be level with hole. If necessary add John Deere AM30200 Transmission Lubricant with a JD94 Pressure Oil Can until lubricant runs out of hole. John Deere SAE 90 Gear Lubricant or an equivalent SCL multipurpose-type gear oil also can be used in the transaxle.

## Lubricating Grease Fittings



Lubricate the four grease fittings illustrated with John Deere Multi-Purpose Lubricant or an equivalent SAE multipurpose-type grease every 10 hours of operation. Use either a hand grease gun or the John Deere Pisto-Luber with flexible hose (available from your John Deere dealer.)

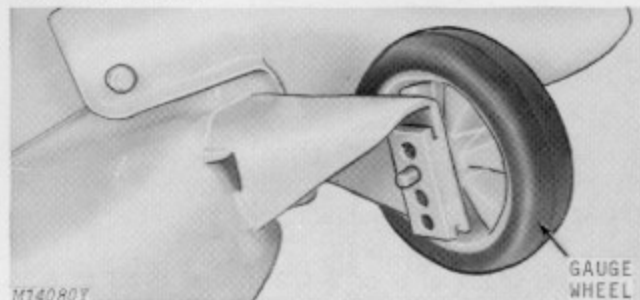
## Checking Tire Pressure

Check tire pressures with a low-pressure tire gauge. Inflate front tires to 8 psi (55 kPa); rear tires to 6 psi (41 kPa).

A JDST-13 Low-Pressure Tire Gauge is available from your John Deere dealer.

## Adjusting Cutting Height

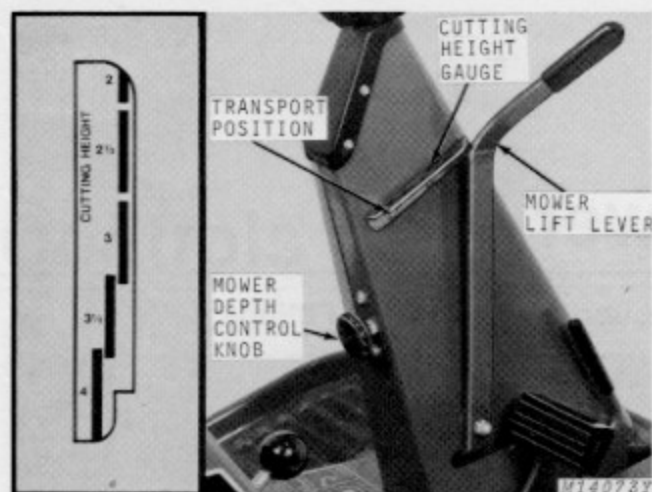
**CAUTION:** Turn off all motors before adjusting mower or gauge wheels to desired cutting height.



Adjust gauge wheels by removing cap screw and positioning cap screw in hole that places gauge wheels as close to ground as possible without touching. The gauge wheels are anti-scalp wheels only and should not carry the weight of the mower.

Both gauge wheels must be in the same position.

## Adjusting Cutting Height—Continued



To set the mower for a specific height of cut, move the lift lever slightly rearward and out to release it from the transport position, that is, locked behind cutting height gauge. Let lift lever move forward until it stops.

Turn the depth control knob clockwise to raise, or counterclockwise to lower the mower until the lift lever is centered on the desired height of cut shown on the cutting height gauge. Adjustments can be made to any increment between numbers shown.

## MOWING TIPS

### Area To Be Mowed

Before mowing, analyze the area to determine the best mowing procedure. Consider the height of the grass and the type of terrain (level, hilly, or rough) as well as the presence of rocks or trash.

**CAUTION:** Pick up all rocks, stones, twigs and other debris you can find before mowing in a new area. Enter the area cautiously. Cut grass higher than desired the first time over so mower will clear unseen obstructions and will not cause scalping if ground is pitted.

### Cutting Height

Cut grass more often rather than too short. Short grass is subject to more rapid deterioration in hot weather and invites weed growth in growing weather. Check local recommendations for the most suitable grass height in your area.

Cutting grass at 2 or 2-1/2 inches (5.08 to 6.35 cm) is satisfactory for most turfgrasses. This will leave sufficient leaf area to give a neat appearing lawn.

Mow often enough so that only one-third of growth is removed at each cutting. This promotes dense growth which helps shade out weedy grasses.

Cutting less often produces dense clippings which should be removed.

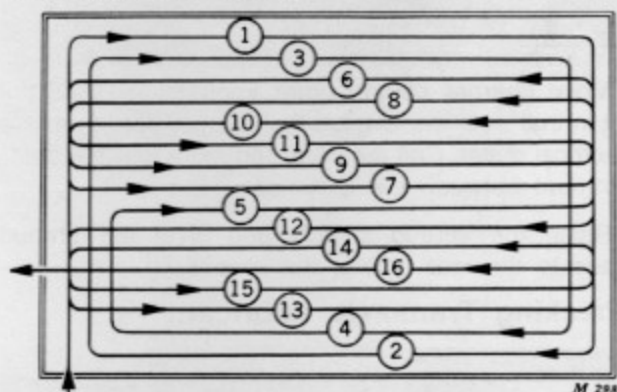
### Travel Speed

Select a ground travel speed based on density and length of grass. Use first speed "1" for slow ground travel. When mowing dense, tall grass, it may be desirable to mow only a partial swath.

**CAUTION:** When mowing over rough ground or on hillsides, select the transmission gear that will give a safe ground speed.

### Mowing Pattern

When beginning to mow large open areas, make two or three clockwise passes to discharge clippings away from bordering objects such as sidewalks, driveways, fences, buildings, etc. Then mow counterclockwise to discharge clippings over the grass already mowed. A simple rule to follow is to make left turns whenever possible.



For the professional touch in large open areas, try the mowing pattern shown above. Make two or three passes clockwise around the lawn and then cut the lawn in half by mowing down the center. Turn counterclockwise (to the left) at each end of area over grass already cut.

Plan the mowing pattern so that you can mow straight forward as much as possible.

### Trimming

Turn to the left when there is room enough to trim all the way around trees, bushes and shrubs.

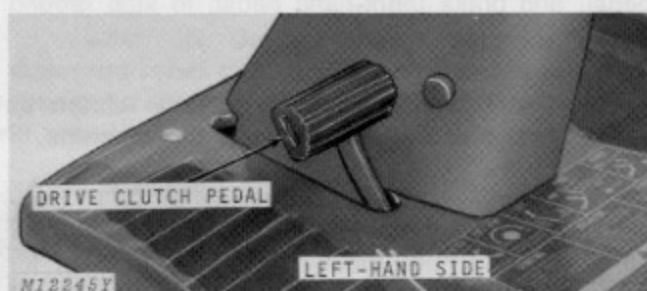
Leave close trimming for clean-up. Turn to the right when necessary to trim along an inside circle of hedge, fence or bush. Closest trimming can be accomplished by running the left side of the mower next to the objects to be trimmed. Slow down for maximum control while trimming.



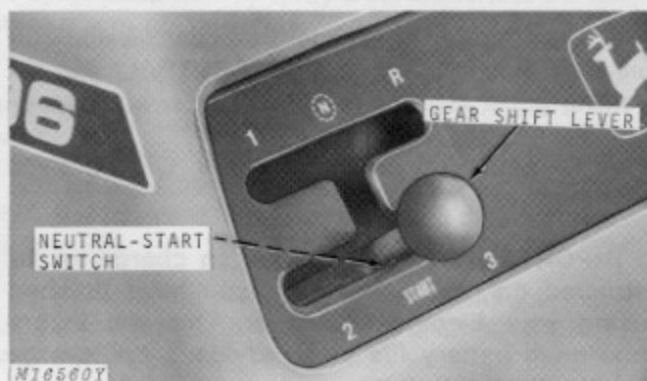


# Operation

## OPERATING THE MOWER



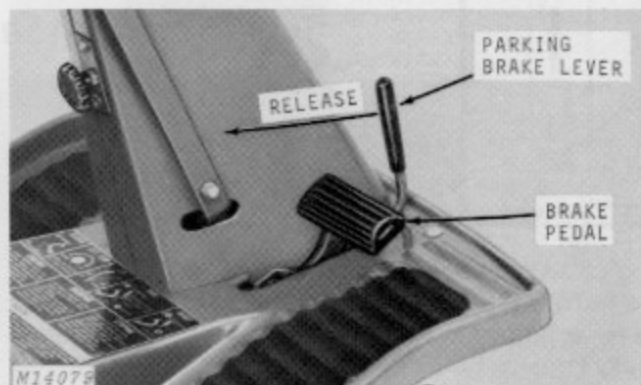
Depress the drive clutch pedal.



Shift the transaxle to neutral and press down on the shift lever to activate the neutral-start switch. Release clutch pedal.



Turn the main key switch to the "START" position to start the traction drive motor. Release the switch as soon as the motor starts. The switch will return to the "RUN" position.



Depress the brake pedal (at the right of the steering console) and move the parking brake lever to the rear to release the parking brake. Remove foot from brake pedal.



### CAUTION:

A. Never operate your machine without brakes.

B. Be sure the parking brake is disengaged when machine is operated.

C. Do not "ride" the brake pedal. Use brakes for stopping only.



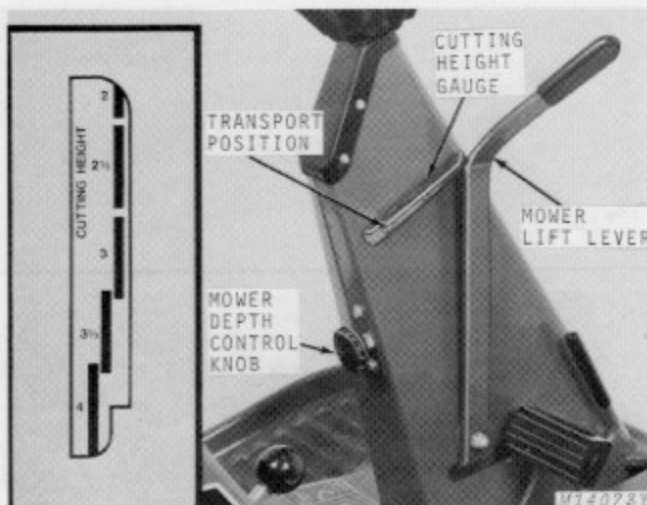
Raise mower toggle switch to the "START" position. Release switch after mower motors are running. The switch will return to the "RUN" position.



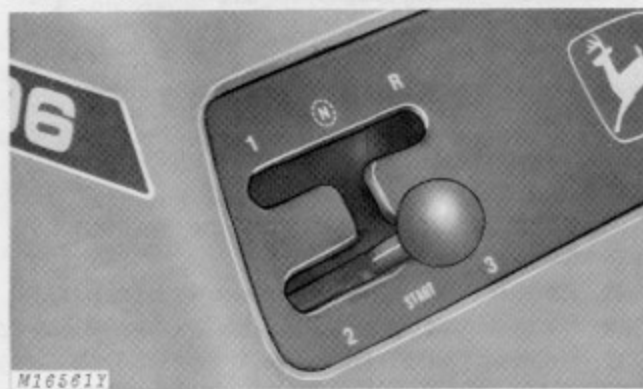
### CAUTION: Be sure area is clear of people before starting mower motors.

Start the mower motors before lowering the mower to cutting height, especially in tall or dense grass. Allow the blades to attain cutting speed before lowering the mower.

## OPERATING THE MOWER—Continued



Pull slightly rearward and out on the mower lift lever to release it from the cutting height gauge. The lever will move forward lowering mower to the preset height (page 6).



With drive clutch pedal depressed, shift transaxle to select speed and direction of travel desired. The shift quadrant has a horizontal "H" pattern with 3 forward speeds and one reverse.

**CAUTION:** Do not attempt to shift gears on-the-go. Always stop ground travel before changing speeds. Look to the front and rear before releasing clutch pedal to be sure area is clear of persons, pets and obstructions.

It may be necessary to let out drive clutch pedal momentarily to rotate gears for easy engagement. Release the drive clutch pedal slowly for a smooth start.

Use the first speed "1" for mowing thick or tall grass, when trimming or mowing in close quarters, or when ground is rough. Use second speed "2" for normal mowing. Use third speed "3" for mowing thin grass or in open areas.

**CAUTION:** On slopes and terraces operate in first speed "1" to avoid need for gear changing.

**IMPORTANT:** Always move mower toggle switch to "OFF" position and raise the mower to transport position when driving from one area to another or crossing gravel driveways.

## STOPPING THE MOWER

1. Fully depress BOTH the drive clutch (left-hand pedal) and brake (right-hand pedal) to stop ground travel.

**CAUTION:** Depressing only the clutch or brake pedal will not stop the machine.

2. Move mower toggle switch down to "OFF" position to stop mower motors. Pull back mower lift lever all the way to raise mower to highest position for transport. Lock lift lever behind mower cutting height gauge.

3. Drive mower to storage area near electric outlet. Stop ground travel. Shift to "NEUTRAL" and set parking brake lever.

4. Turn main key switch to vertical "OFF" position and remove key.

**IMPORTANT:** Place batteries on charge as instructed on next page when you have finished using your Electric 96 Mower. This will insure maximum battery life and provide a full charge for the next mowing.

## TOWING LOADS

Use caution when towing heavy loads. Do not attempt to move loads in excess of the combined weight of the operator and the Electric 96 Mower.

Continuous towing of heavy loads can cause traction drive motor to overheat, which will trip a thermal overload mechanism causing the motor to stop. Allow motor to cool; then reduce load before proceeding.

## LOADING MOWER ON TRAILER

**CAUTION:** When loading the Electric 96 on a tilt-bed trailer, use a winch. Driving the mower up a steep incline could result in the mower tipping backwards.



# Electrical Maintenance

## CHARGING THE BATTERIES

**CAUTION:** Do not charge batteries with any other charger. Do not use the mower batteries to start other vehicles. Battery damage will result.

**CAUTION:** Highly combustible hydrogen gas is vented from the batteries during the charge cycle. When charging batteries, keep the shroud raised until the timer returns to the "STORE" position. Charge batteries in a ventilated area. Keep flames away from batteries. Do not smoke around batteries.

Charge your Electric 96 after each use. To do so, first raise the shroud and pivot the shroud brace forward.

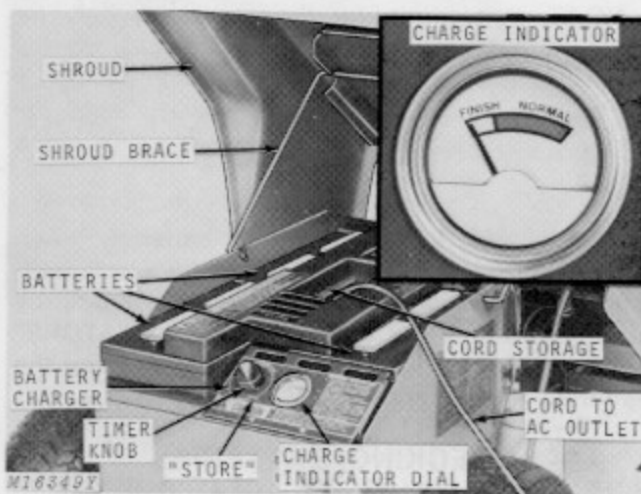
The charger has three components of concern to you—the line cord, the timer knob and the charge indicator dial.

1. Remove the *line cord* from the storage compartment. Plug it into a grounded, alternating current (AC) outlet supplying 110 to 125 volts. Be sure the circuit is "live"—that it is not switched off, or does not have a burned-out fuse or tripped circuit breaker.

2. Set the *timer knob* at the number on the charger face which describes the length of time the mower was last used. When the timer knob is set in any position other than "STORE", the charger will begin to charge the batteries and the timer knob will begin to rotate clockwise toward the "STORE" position.

The timer knob requires 12 hours to return to the "STORE" position if it is set in the "60 MINUTE" position. It requires proportionately less time if the timer is set for less time.

When the timer knob is in the "STORE" position, only a trickle charge is sent to the batteries. This charge about equals normal "at rest" battery discharge. When the timer is set in the "STORE" position, the charger will maintain a healthy, charged battery, but will not charge a low or dead battery.



3. A *charge indicator dial* is built into your charger. This yellow and green dial indicates only the charger action. It does not indicate the condition of the batteries. When the needle is in the green area, the charge output is high. When the needle is in the yellow area, the charge output is low. This indicates the mower is ready for use again.

**NOTE:** Remember, the charge indicator dial can only be read when the timer knob is in a position other than "STORE". It cannot be read in the "STORE" position.

**EXAMPLE:** If you wish to know if the batteries are ready to use, set the timer knob at about "15" on the dial. Wait 5 minutes. If the charge indicator needle is then in the yellow area, turn the timer knob to "STORE". The mower is ready for use. The batteries are fully charged. If, however, the needle is still in the green area after 5 minutes, reset the timer knob for the length of time the mower was last used. Wait until the charge indicator needle returns to the yellow area, before attempting to mow.

Regardless of how long the mower was used, the charge indicator needle will always show a high rate of charge (needle in green area) when the timer knob is first moved out of the "STORE" position. The charge rate will reduce rapidly, however, if the batteries are fully charged or nearly so.

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## CHARGING THE BATTERIES—Continued

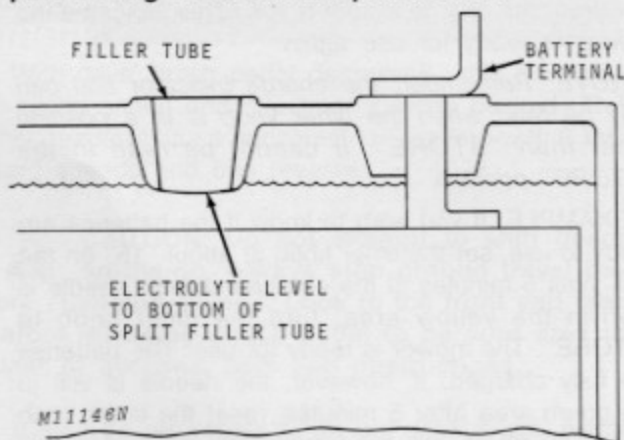
**IMPORTANT:** Abnormal temperatures, home AC voltage, or battery age can cause the charge indicator needle to remain in the green area when the batteries are actually fully charged. Additional charging will cause water loss. If charge indicator needle does not move when the timer knob has been moved out of the "STORE" position, check the home supply circuit. If there is current, unplug line cord from AC outlet. Check charger fuses. See information at the right.

**NOTE:** It is normal for the charger to become warm when operating. Fuses within the charger and in the positive lead wire prevent machine damage if the charger becomes too warm. Always keep the shroud raised and the air passages open when charging the batteries.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not remove batteries when storing mower. A battery left inactive will self-discharge. A long period of inactivity will destroy a battery. Leave the timer knob in the "STORE" position (permitting a trickle charge) to keep the batteries fully charged.

## CHECKING BATTERIES

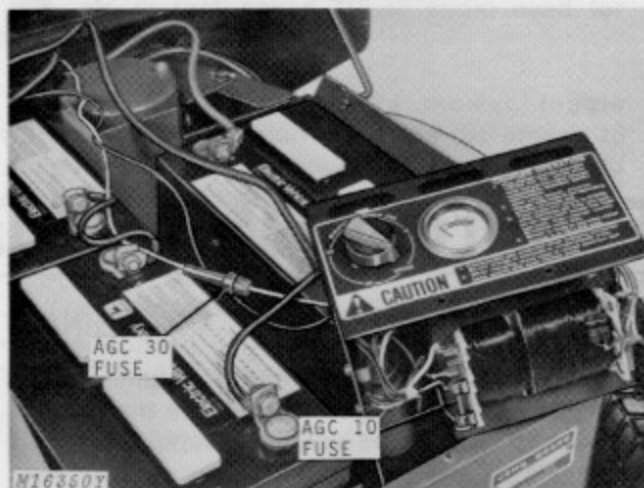
**CAUTION:** Battery electrolyte is poisonous and can be injurious to eyes, skin and clothing. Handle it carefully. If electrolyte is spilled, flush immediately with a solution of one part baking soda to four parts water.



Check electrolyte level periodically (at least once each month). If necessary, add distilled water to bring level to top of circular split ledge in filler tube.

Keep battery terminals clean and free of corrosion. Coat terminals with petroleum jelly. Keep connections tight to prevent arcing and pitting.

## REPLACING CHARGER FUSES



**NOTE:** It is normal for the charger to become warm when operating. Fuses within the charger and in the positive lead wire prevent machine damage if the charger should become too warm. When charging the batteries, always keep the shroud raised and the air passages open.

If the charge indicator needle does not move when the timer knob is moved out of the "STORE" position, check the AC supply circuit. If there is current, remove line cord from AC outlet. Check charger fuses and replace, if necessary.

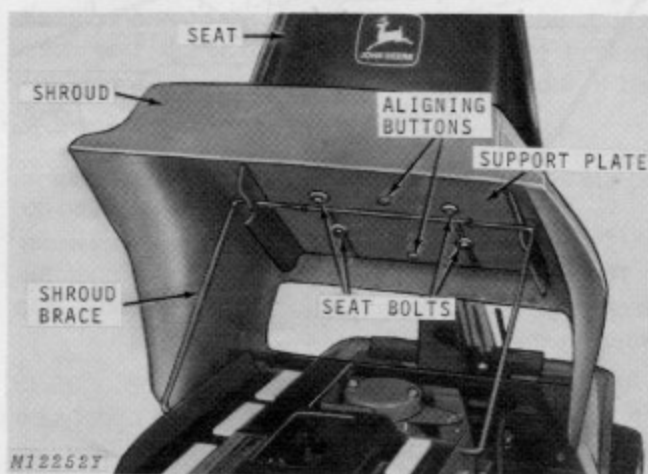
To check fuse in charger-to-battery line, hold long portion of fuse holder in left hand. Push short knurled end toward long end, while turning short knurled end toward you. If fuse is defective, replace fuse with an AGC 30 fuse. Lock two portions of fuse holder together by turning short knurled end away from you.

To check fuse inside charger, remove two screws from top of charger. Lift upward on charger and visually check fuse. If defective, replace the fuse with an AGC 10 fuse. Lower charger into place and install two screws.



# Adjustments and Service

## ADJUSTING SEAT



The seat may be adjusted to suit operator comfort.

Raise the shroud and pivot shroud brace upward. Loosen the cap screws holding the seat. Lower shroud and slide seat forward or backward as desired. Then raise shroud again and tighten cap screws. Be sure aligning buttons on shroud are in holes in support plate before tightening cap screws.

## LEVELING MOWER

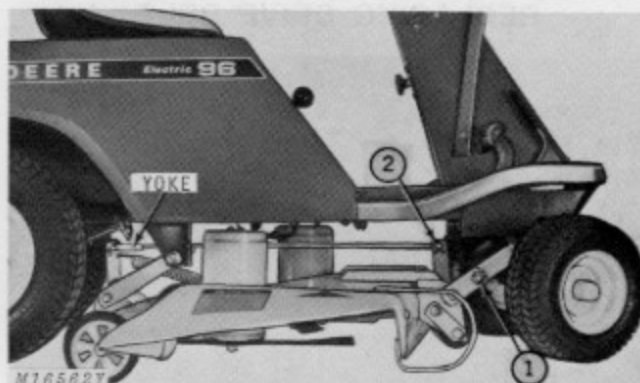
Park the mower on a flat surface such as a sidewalk or concrete driveway. Check to see that tires are inflated equally.

**CAUTION:** Turn key to "OFF" and remove key from switch before leveling mower.

With the mower in the lowered position, measure the distance of each blade tip from the ground. Rotate the blades and measure this distance at the front, rear and side of the mower.

When properly leveled, the dimensions on each side of the mower will be equal. The front of the mower should be 1/8 to 1/4 inch (3.18 to 6.35 mm) lower than the back for most efficient cutting.

1. To adjust for side-to-side level, loosen bolt on right front draft arm and raise or lower mower deck until blades are level. Tighten nut firmly.



2. To adjust for rear-to-front pitch, pull cotter pin in rod and remove rod from bracket. Turn rod into yoke to raise rear of mower, or out of yoke to lower rear of mower. Reinstall rod.

## REMOVING AND INSTALLING MOWER



To remove mower, lower mower with lift lever and raise shroud. Then:

1. Disconnect both mower motor leads and thermostat lead.

2. Pull spring-locking pin and remove drilled pin to disconnect lift cable yoke.

3. Pull spring-locking pin and remove drilled pin in rear draft link.

4. Pull spring-locking pins and remove drilled pins in front of machine.

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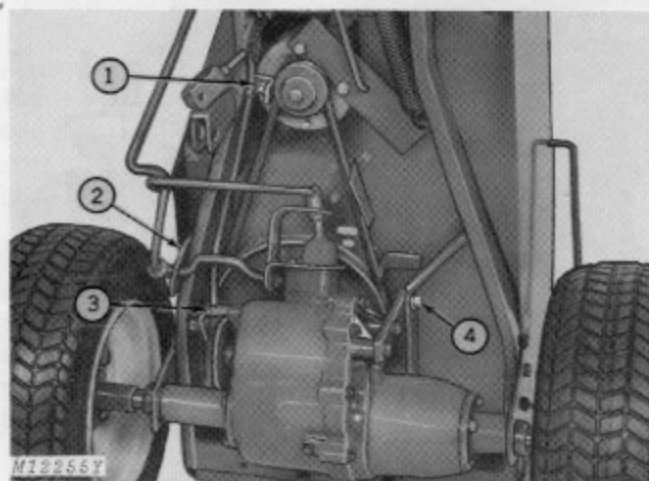
## REMOVING AND INSTALLING MOWER—Continued

5. Partially raise front of machine to remove mower.

**CAUTION:** Do not tip Electric 96 on end with batteries installed. Electrolyte will run out.

Reverse above procedure to install mower.

## REPLACING DRIVE BELT



Remove mower to provide access.

Block up frame at right rear corner and remove right wheel.

1. Remove belt guide. Depress clutch and remove belt from motor sheave.
2. Remove shift lever bracket from frame.
3. Disconnect brake rod pivot.
4. Remove transaxle brace from frame. Pivot transaxle downward and remove belt from sheave.

Replace belt in reverse procedure. Be sure belt is inside all belt guides.

## REPLACING NEUTRAL-START SWITCH

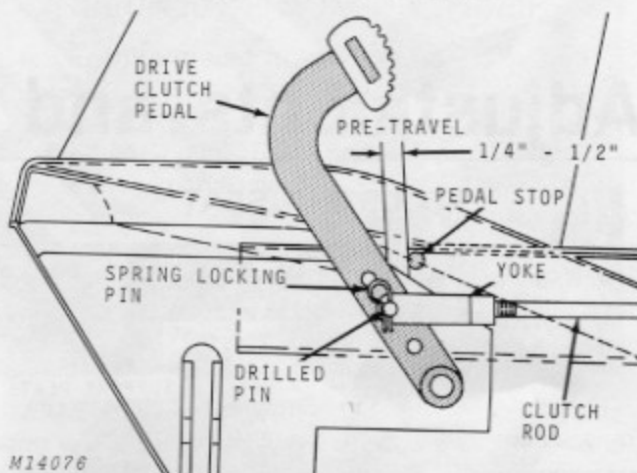


Shroud Removed for Clarity

Remove connector from switch terminals. Remove nut to remove switch from bracket.

Install new switch and adjust so that ball will depress when shift lever is pressed down. Install connector on terminals.

## ADJUSTING CLUTCH



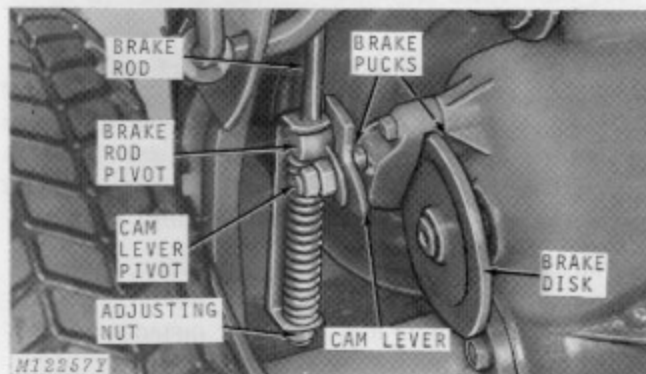
The clutch pedal should be adjusted so that the back edge of the pedal just contacts the pedal stop when in the engaged position.

When properly adjusted, 1/4 to 1/2-inch (6.35 to 12.7 mm) pre-travel should exist between pedal stop and back edge of pedal before traction motor drive belt starts to disengage.

To adjust, remove spring locking pin securing the drilled pin. Remove the drilled pin. Turn the yoke "off" the clutch rod to increase pre-travel or onto clutch rod to decrease pre-travel.

Reinstall drilled pin and spring locking pin.

## ADJUSTING BRAKE



Bottom View—Right-Hand Side of Transaxle

If braking is ineffective, increase spring tension on brake rod by turning nut on end of rod.

If cam lever does not force brake pucks against disk, turn nuts on cam lever pivot stud. Loosen outer nut; then turn inner nut and tighten outer nut.



## SERVICING TRANSAXLE

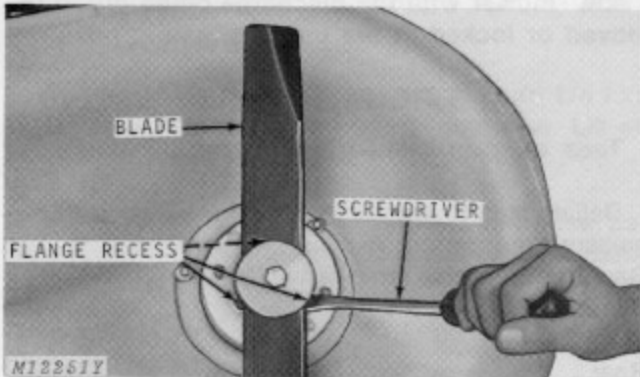
If transaxle is inoperative or operates erratically see your John Deere Dealer.

## SERVICING MOWER BLADES

Keep blades sharp and in balance for uniform mowing with a minimum of power.

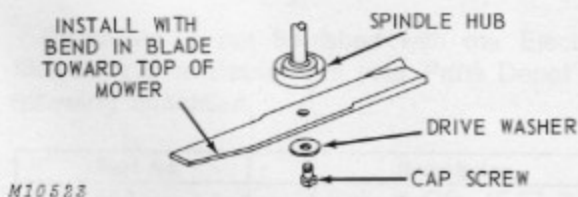
Sharpen blades leaving a 1/64-inch (0.40 mm) dull tip on the cutting edge. A razor-sharp cutting edge will roll over and dull more quickly. Maintain original bevel. Remove an equal amount of material from each end of the blade to maintain proper balance. Replace blade if extensively damaged or out of balance.

Excessive mower vibration indicates blades are out of balance or improperly installed.



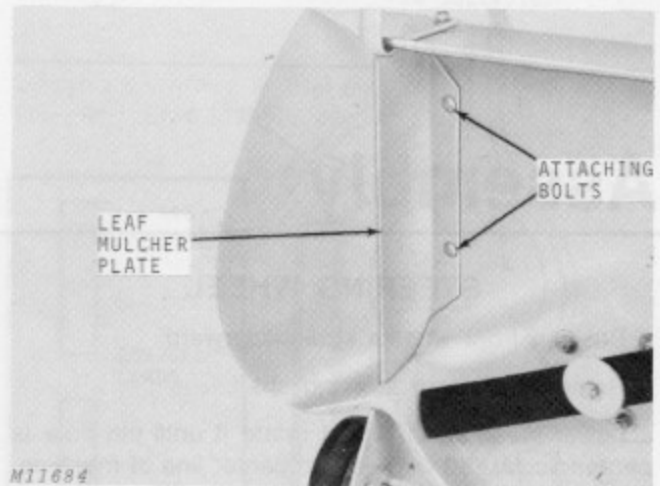
**CAUTION:** Turn key to "OFF" and remove key from switch before removing blades.

Remove each blade by removing center cap screw and drive washer. If cap screw turns hub after blade is loosened, pry with screw driver in flange recess to hold hub while removing cap screw.



Install each blade as illustrated. Tighten cap screw to 55 ft-lbs (74.6 Nm) torque.

## ATTACHING LEAF MULCHER PLATE (Extra Equipment)



Install the leaf mulcher plate with 1/4 x 1/2-inch carriage bolts and 1/4-inch wing nuts.

## LUBRICATION

### LUBRICATING GREASE FITTINGS

Lubricate the four grease fittings illustrated on page 5 with John Deere Multi-Purpose Lubricant or an equivalent SAE multipurpose-type grease every 10 hours of operation. Use either a hand grease gun or the John Deere Pisto-Luber with flexible hose (available from your John Deere dealer).

### CHANGING TRANSAXLE LUBRICANT

Every 200 hours or two years, whichever comes first, remove transaxle drain plug and drain all oil. Replace plug and add three 8-ounce (0.237 l) cans of AM30200 Transmission Lubricant or its equivalent through oil-level fill hole. See illustration on page 5.

John Deere SAE 90 Gear Lubricant or an equivalent SCL multipurpose-type gear oil can be used in the transaxle.

Check oil level periodically with mower parked on a level surface. Oil should be up to oil level-fill hole.

### LUBRICATING STEERING MECHANISM

At the beginning of each mowing season lubricate the steering gear pivot and the bushings at the top and bottom of the steering wheel shaft with oil.



# Assembly

## STEERING WHEEL

Position front wheels straight forward.

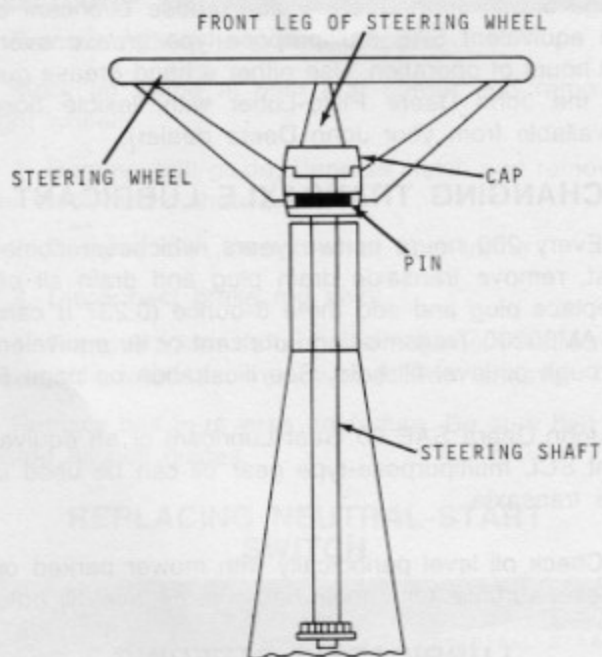
Remove pin from steering shaft.

Lower steering shaft and rotate it until pin hole is perpendicular (90 degrees) to center line of machine.

Raise steering shaft and block it up to hold it in this position.

Install steering wheel over shaft and line up pin hole in steering wheel with pin hole in steering shaft.

**NOTE:** Steering wheel is correctly installed when front leg of steering wheel faces directly forward, parallel to front wheels.



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VIEWED FROM REAR

Install pin until an equal distance exists in hole on each side of steering wheel.

Install round leaping deer decal on cap and press cap into hub of steering wheel.

**NOTE:** Use a wood block large enough to span entire diameter of cap if it is necessary to tap cap in to place.

## DISCHARGE CHUTE GUARD

The discharge chute guard is shipped attached to the mower deck, but is locked in the upright position. Loosen lock nut at front of chute guard until flush with end of stud.

**CAUTION:** Do not overtighten nut or use mower with the discharge chute guard removed or locked in the upper shipping position.

## TIRE PRESSURE

Tires are over-inflated for shipping purposes.

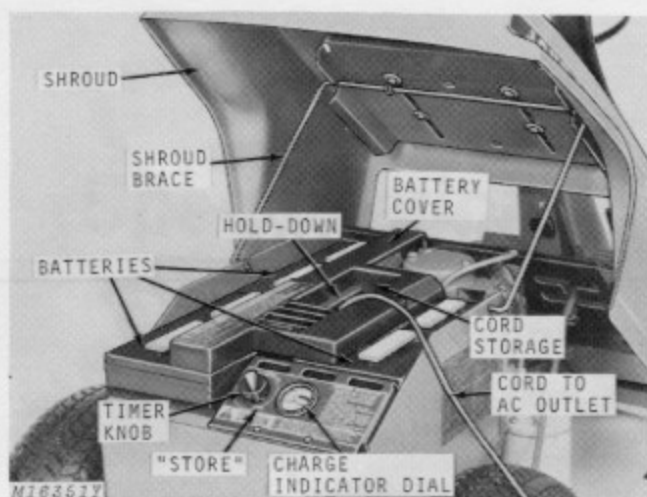
Deflate tires to pressures listed below using a low-pressure tire gauge. A JDST-13 Low-Pressure Tire Gauge is available from your John Deere dealer.

Front .....	8 psi (55 kPa)
Rear .....	6 psi (41 kPa)

## LEVELING MOWER

After adjusting tire pressure, level mower as instructed on page 11.

## ACTIVATING BATTERIES



Raise shroud and pivot brace forward to hold shroud in raised position. Remove charger cord from storage compartment.

Depress battery cover hold-down and turn 1/4 turn right or left to unhook hold-down from base. Lift off cover. Remove batteries from compartment.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to remove batteries before filling with electrolyte. This will prevent damage in case of acid spill.

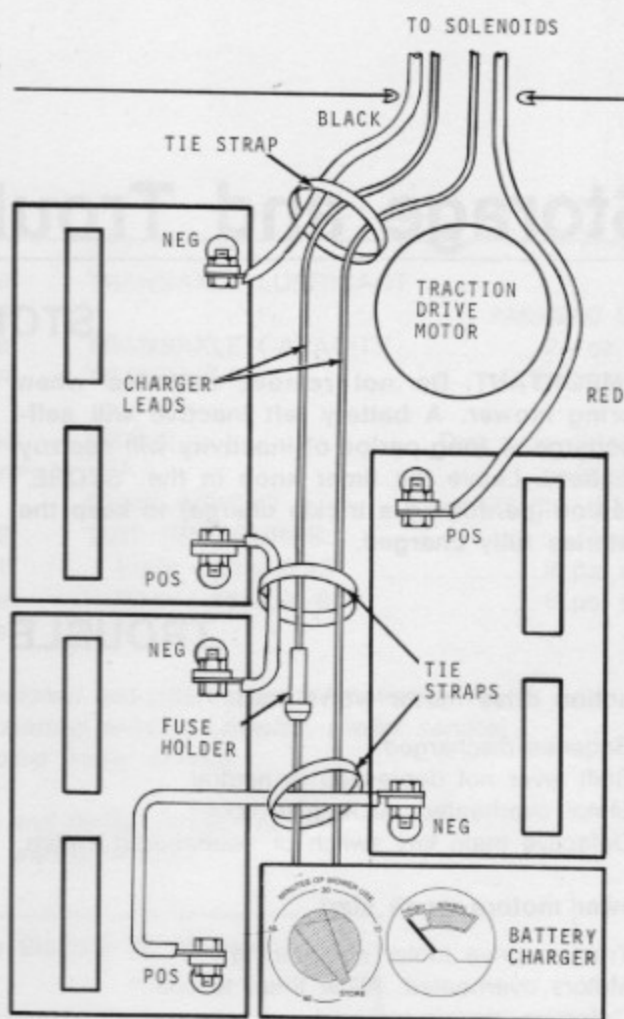
Fill batteries with electrolyte until level is ONLY 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) above plates. DO NOT fill to proper level until after charging.

**CAUTION:** Battery electrolyte is poisonous and can be injurious to eyes and clothing. Handle it carefully. If spilled, clean with a solution of one part baking soda to four parts water.

Electrolyte is not furnished with the Electric 96 Mower. It is available from your Parts Depot in the following quantities:

Part No.	Description
PT511	Z-Pak, 6 Qts. (5.67 l)
PT509	EZE-Pak, 5 Gal. (18.93 l)
PT510	F-Pak, 5 Gal. (18.93 l)
TY5003	Hose for 5 Gal. (18.93 l) F-Pak

Use only battery grade sulfuric acid electrolyte with 1.265 specific gravity plus or minus 0.005 corrected to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (26.6°C).



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Clean and dry batteries and install them in battery compartment. Position batteries and make connections as shown in above illustration. Place three tie straps as indicated.

Replace battery cover and secure hold-down. Connect charger cord to electrical outlet, and turn timer knob to "60 MINUTES".

After a full charge cycle has been completed, add electrolyte until it is to the bottom of the split filler tubes. See illustration on page 10.

Remove tabs from batteries to indicate date batteries were activated.





# Storage and Trouble Shooting

## STORAGE

**IMPORTANT:** Do not remove batteries when storing mower. A battery left inactive will self-discharge. A long period of inactivity will destroy a battery. Leave the timer knob in the "STORE" position (permitting a trickle charge) to keep the batteries fully charged.

Clean all dirt and grease from your Electric 96 Mower. Repaint chipped or rusted spots.

**IMPORTANT:** Leave battery charger connected to electrical outlet to maintain batteries at full charge. See page 9.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING

### Traction drive motor won't start

Batteries discharged.  
Shift lever not depressed in neutral.  
Motor overheated. Allow it to cool.\*  
Defective main key switch or neutral-start switch.

### Mower motors won't start

Traction drive motor not running.  
Motors overheated. Allow them to cool.\*  
Defective mower solenoid.

### No ground travel

Drive belt broken.  
Clutch linkage broken.  
Shift linkage broken.

### Batteries not recharged

Charger not working.  
No power to charger.

### Uneven mowing

Tires not inflated properly. See page 5.  
Mower not leveled properly. See page 11.  
Reduce ground speed on rough ground so mower does not bounce.

*\*Circuit breakers open when motors become overheated. Allow them to cool; then proceed under reduced speed or load.*



# Specifications

TRACTION MOTOR .....	Permanent Magnet - 2 Pole, 3600 rpm	TRANSAXLE LUBRICANT .....	SAE 90 AM30200 Lubricant
MOWER MOTORS (2) .....	Permanent Magnet - 2 Pole, 3200 rpm	TRANSAXLE CAPACITY .....	24 oz. (0.72 l)
MOTOR PROTECTION - TRACTION AND MOWER .....	Thermal overload	TRANSAXLE .....	3 forward speeds; 1 reverse
CHARGER PROTECTION .....	Two Fuses	BRAKE .....	Disk type on transaxle, pedal operated
ELECTRICAL PROTECTION, 100 AMP .....	Metal fuses (2)	CURB WEIGHT .....	475 lbs. (215.46 kg)
BATTERIES (3) .....	John Deere 12-volt*	TIRE PRESSURES:	
CHARGING TIME .....	12 hours when timer knob is set at "60 Minutes"	Front - 11x4.00-5 .....	8 psi (55 kPa)
		Rear - 16x6.50-8 .....	6 psi (41 kPa)

*\*The batteries are specially designed and constructed for motive power and are not suitable for engine starting service. Likewise, starter service batteries are not suitable for motive power service.*

*(Specifications and design subject to  
change without notice.)*

## John Deere Electric 96 Mower

Mower Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_

*(To be filled in by purchaser)*

