

# ASSEMBLY

## Contents of Crate

- Riding Mower (1)
- Steering Wheel/Shaft Assembly (1)
- Rear Engine Cover (1) †
- Steering Pedestal Cap (1)
- Front Bumper (1) †
- Operator's Manual (1)
- Rear Hitch Plate (1)
- Oil Drain Sleeve (1)
- Discharge Chute Assembly (1)
- Hardware Pack (1)
- Engine Operator's Manual (1)
- Seat Assembly (1)
- Oil Siphon (1) †
- Mulch Plug (1) †

† — If equipped

**NOTE:** This Operator's Manual covers several models. Riding mower features may vary by model. Not all features in this manual are applicable to all riding mower models and the riding mower depicted may differ from yours.

**NOTE:** All references in this manual to the left or right side and front or back of the riding mower are from the operating position only. Exceptions, if any, will be specified.

**NOTE:** Some components may come already assembled. If they are already assembled, skip ahead to the next step.

## Contents of Hardware Pack

Before beginning installation, remove all the contents from the crate and all the hardware from the pack to make sure everything is present. Hardware is listed below.

- Hitch Plate
- Seat Mounting Bracket (two shoulder bolts & lock nuts installed)

## Recommended Tools for Assembly

- 3/8" wrench and/or socket
- 1/2" wrench and/or socket
- 7/16" wrench and/or socket
- 9/16" wrench and/or socket
- Phillips screw driver
- 1/4" drive ratchet

## Manually Moving the Riding Mower

On 6-Speed units, shift the shift lever into NEUTRAL. On Hydro units, use the transmission bypass rod and proceed with Step 1.

1. Engage the transmission bypass rod to move the riding mower manually without starting it. The transmission bypass rod is located on the inside of the right tire near the rear of the riding mower. Engage the bypass rod by pulling out and down. See Figure 1.

**NOTE:** If the riding mower will not move or does not move freely when pushing check if the bypass lever is fully open or the brake is engaged.

**NOTE:** The transmission will NOT engage when the hydrostatic bypass rod is pulled out. Return the rod to its normal position prior to operating the riding mower. If the riding mower will not move when pushing on the forward/reverse pedals or moves slowly, check to see if the bypass valve is on.

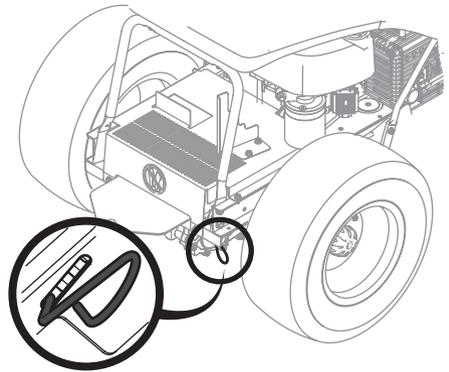


Figure 1

### ⚠ CAUTION

Never tow your riding mower. Towing the riding mower with the rear wheels on the ground may cause severe damage to the transmission.

2. Disengage the bypass rod by lifting up and allowing the rod to move back in after moving the riding mower. See Figure 1.

# ASSEMBLY

## Installing the Steering Wheel Assembly

If the steering wheel assembly for your riding mower did not come already installed, follow the steps below:

1. Slide the pedestal cap (a) onto the steering shaft (b) so that when the steering shaft (b) is installed on the riding mower, the pedestal cap (a) will be upright as shown in Figure 2.

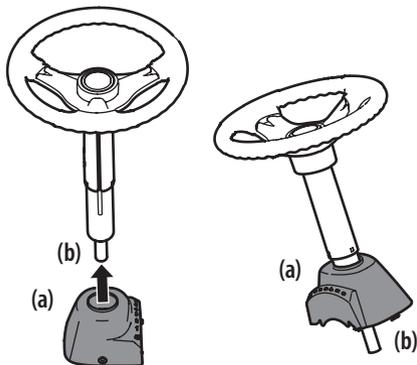


Figure 2

2. Remove the shoulder bolt and lock nut from the steering shaft and retain for later steps.
3. With the steering wheel assembly upright and positioned over the lower steering shaft on the riding mower, align the steering wheel so that with the riding mower wheels straight, the large opening on the steering wheel is facing forward.
4. Lower the steering wheel assembly (a) onto the lower steering shaft (b) and secure with the shoulder bolt (c) and lock nut (d) previously removed. See Figure 3.

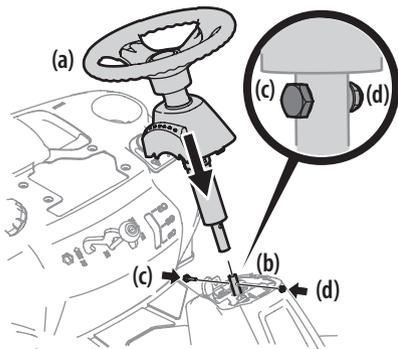


Figure 3

5. Tighten the shoulder bolt and lock nut using a 9/16" wrench or socket and 7/16" wrench or socket.

6. Remove the factory-installed pedestal cap mount screw located on the riding mower's steering console. Retain the screw for later instructions.
7. Slide the pedestal cap (a) down onto the riding mower and slightly rotate to the right to clip into place. Secure the pedestal cap (a) with the screw (b) previously removed. See Figure 4.

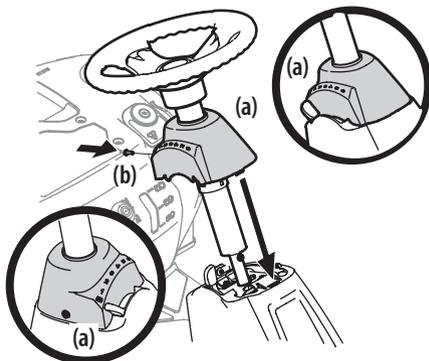


Figure 4

## Steering wheel height adjustment (If equipped)

To adjust the height of the steering wheel:

1. Sit in the operator's seat and place your hands on the steering wheel.
2. Push the button (a) on the steering column and raise or lower the steering wheel (b) to the desired position. See Figure 5.

**NOTE:** Once the desired position is achieved, lift up and down on the steering wheel to make sure it locks into place and the button (a) on the steering column releases into a locked position. Do not operate the riding mower unless the steering column is in a locked position.

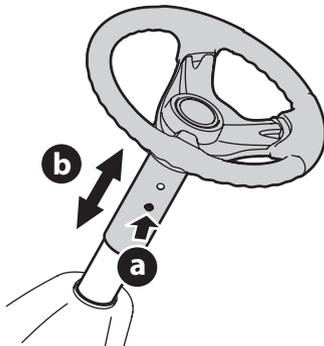


Figure 5

# ASSEMBLY

## Attaching the Seat (If necessary)

If the seat for your riding mower was not attached at the factory, follow the applicable instructions below to attach it.

1. Remove the shoulder bolts (a) and lock nuts (b) from the seat mounting bracket (c) included in your hardware pack. See Figure 6.

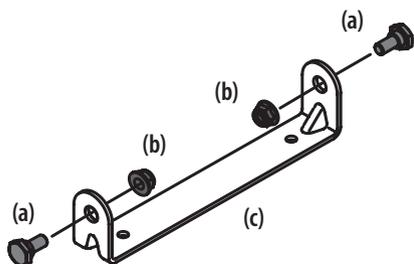


Figure 6

2. Remove the two self-tapping bolts (a) factory-installed on the riding mower. See Figure 7.

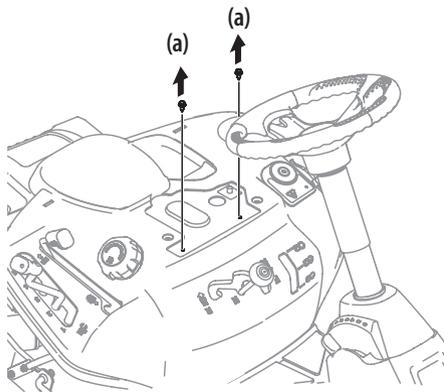


Figure 7

3. Align the seat bracket (a) in place over the holes from where the self-tapping bolts (b) were removed, as shown in Figure 8.

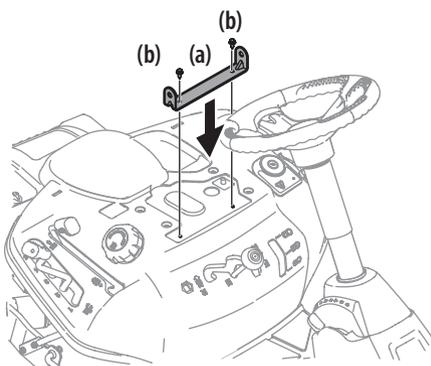


Figure 8

4. Using a 1/4" drive ratchet with a 3/8" socket, secure the seat bracket (a) with the self-tapping bolts (b) removed in Step 2. See Figure 8.

### CAUTION

Do not use any type of power tool (e.g. impact gun or electric drill with nut driver attached) when tightening the self-tapping bolts to attach the seat bracket.

5. Position the seat assembly over the seat mounting bracket, aligning the holes provided.
6. Install the two shoulder bolts (a) and lock nuts (b) removed from the seat mounting bracket (c) in Step 1. See Figure 9.

**NOTE:** Make sure that the bolt's shoulder is completely recessed into the seat bracket when securing the lock nut. See inset of Figure 9.

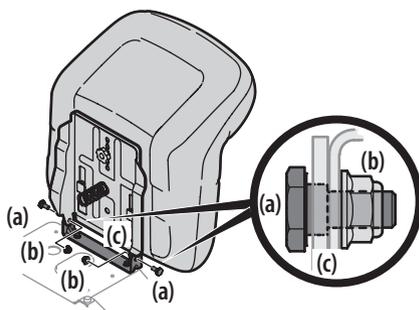


Figure 9

## Seat Adjustment

1. To adjust the position of the seat, remove the adjustment knob on the bottom of the seat. Slide the seat forward or backward as desired. Reinstall the adjustment knob. Refer to Figure 10.

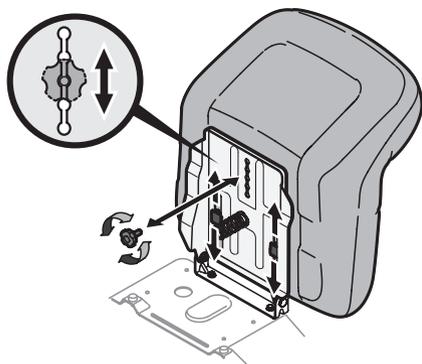


Figure 10

## Installing the Deck Chute

### ⚠ WARNING

Never operate this riding mower without either the mulch plug or deck chute installed.

1. Remove the wing knobs (a) installed on the mowing deck and retain for later installation. See Figure 11.

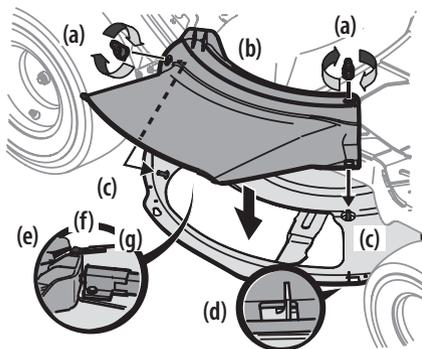


Figure 11

2. Install the deck chute (b) into the deck discharge opening on the deck. The rear of the chute (b) should be under the tab (f) on the rear deck bracket (g). The studs (c) on the deck surface will fit through the holes on the upper portion of the deck chute (b). The small tab (d) on the deck lip area will fit through the square cutout on the lower portion of the deck chute (b). See Figure 11.

**NOTE:** Make certain that the upper-rear portion of deck chute (b) is depressing the safety switch (e) located on the deck surface and under the tab (f) on the rear deck bracket (g). The engine will not start without the deck chute (b) properly in place.

3. Secure the deck chute (b) by tightening the wing knobs (a) removed in Step 1. See Figure 11.

## Installing the Mulch Plug (If equipped)

### ⚠ WARNING

Never operate this riding mower without either the mulch plug or deck chute installed.

1. Remove the wing knobs (a) installed on the mowing deck and retain for later installation. See Figure 12.

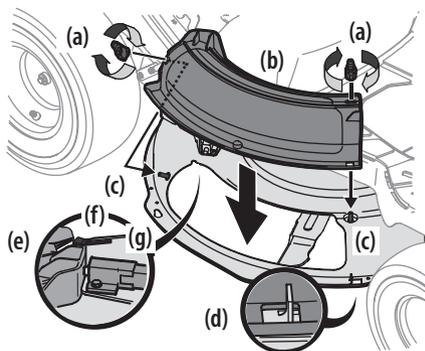


Figure 12

2. Install the mulch plug (b) into the deck discharge opening on the deck. The rear of the mulch plug (b) should be under the tab (f) on the rear deck bracket (g). The studs (c) on the deck surface will fit through the holes on the upper portion of the mulch plug (b). The small tab (d) on the deck lip area will fit through the square cutout on the lower portion of the mulch plug (b). See Figure 12.

**NOTE:** Make certain that the upper-rear portion of mulch plug (b) is depressing the safety switch (e) located on the deck surface and under the tab (f) on the rear deck bracket (g). The engine will not start without the mulch plug (b) properly in place.

3. Secure the mulch plug (b) by tightening the wing knobs (a) removed in Step 1.

# ASSEMBLY

## Install the Rear Engine Cover (If equipped)

1. Remove the two factory-installed hex screws (a) located on the rear engine cover (b). Retain the hex screws (a) for later instructions. See Figure 13.

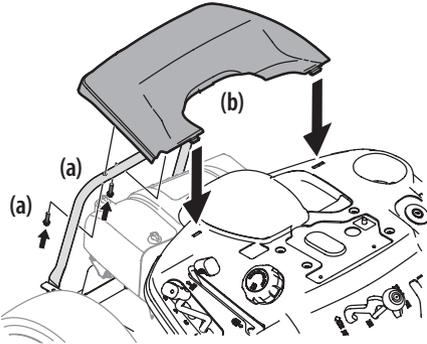


Figure 13

2. Install the rear engine cover (b) by positioning it in place as shown in Figure 13. Tip the rear engine cover (b) forward to fit it into the slots provided, then rotate it backwards to align the mounting holes.
3. Secure the rear engine cover (b) with the two hex screws (a) removed in Step 1. Do not over-tighten.

## Installing the Hitch Plate

1. Slide the hitch plate (a) in between the frame (b) and the rear cover (c) on your riding mower. See Figure 14.

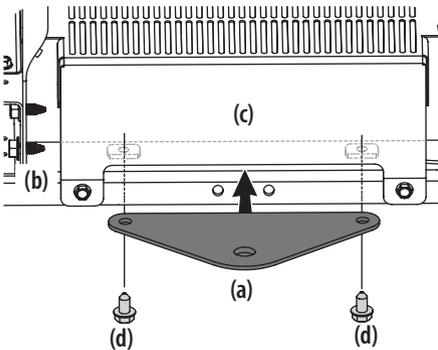


Figure 14

2. When the holes in the hitch plate (a) and the frame (b) are aligned, install the two hex screws (d) up through the frame (b) and into the hitch plate (a). See Figure 14.
3. Securely tighten the hex screws (d).

## Installing the Bumper (If equipped)

1. Remove the two screws (a) as shown in Figure 15.

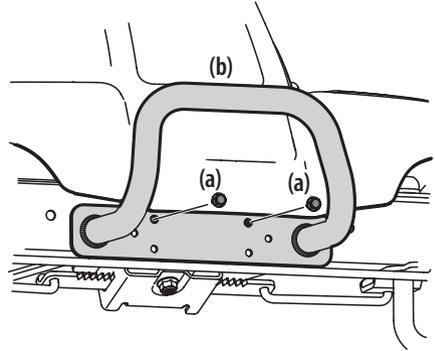


Figure 15

2. Position the bumper (b) over the mounting holes and secure using the screws (a) removed in Step 1. See Figure 15.

## Connecting the Battery Cables

### ⚠ WARNING

**CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65:** Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

### ⚠ CAUTION

When attaching battery cables, always connect the **POSITIVE (Red)** wire to its terminal first, followed by the **NEGATIVE (Black)** wire.

For shipping reasons, both battery cables on your equipment may have been left disconnected from the terminals at the factory. To connect the battery cables, proceed as follows:

**NOTE:** The positive battery terminal is marked POS. (+). The negative battery terminal is marked NEG. (-).

### 24" DECK MODELS

1. Plug the red cable (a) into the positive battery terminal (b). See Figure 16.
2. Plug the black cable (c) into the negative battery terminal (d). See Figure 16.

**NOTE:** If the battery is put into service after the date shown on top/side of battery, charge the battery as instructed in the Service and Maintenance section prior to operating the riding mower.

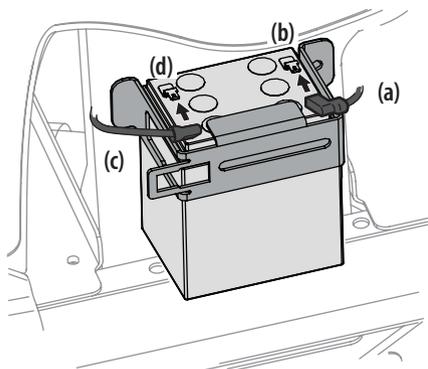


Figure 16

### 30" DECK MODELS

1. Remove the factory installed hex bolts (a) and nuts (b) located on the end of the wiring harness. Retain the hardware for later instructions. See Figure 17.

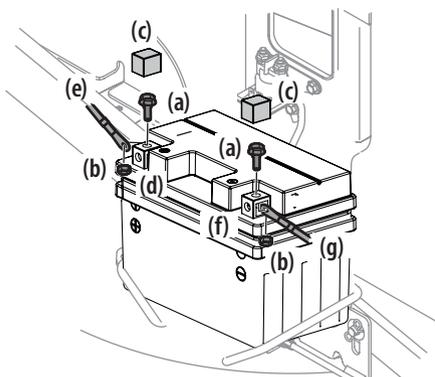


Figure 17

2. Remove the plastic cover (c), if present, from the positive battery terminal (d) and attach the red cable (e) to the positive battery terminal (d) with one of the hex bolts (a) and nuts (b), removed in Step 1. Use a Philips screw driver. See Figure 17.
3. Remove the plastic cover (c), if present, from the negative battery terminal (f) and attach the black cable (g) to the negative battery terminal (f) with the remaining hex bolt (a) and nut (b). See Figure 17.
4. Position the red rubber boot over the positive battery terminal (d) to help protect it from corrosion.

**NOTE:** If the battery is put into service after the date shown on top/side of battery, charge the battery as instructed in the Service and Maintenance section prior to operating the riding mower.

### Tire Pressure

#### **⚠ WARNING**

Equal tire pressure should be maintained at all times. Never exceed the maximum inflation pressure shown on the sidewall of the tire.

The recommended operating tire pressure is:

- Approximately 10 psi for the rear tires
- Approximately 14 psi for the front tires

**IMPORTANT!** Refer to the tire sidewall for exact tire manufacturer's recommended or maximum psi. Do not overinflate. Uneven tire pressure could cause the cutting deck to mow unevenly.

### Gas & Oil Fill-up

The gasoline tank is located under the left side of the seat on 30" deck models and on the engine on 24" deck models. Do not overfill.

#### **⚠ WARNING**

Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Never fuel machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.

**IMPORTANT!** Your riding mower is shipped with motor oil in the engine. However, you **MUST** check the oil level before operating. Be careful not to overfill.

Service and check the engine oil as instructed in the Engine Operator's Manual packed with your riding mower. Read the instructions carefully.

**IMPORTANT!** It is important to **NOT** top off your fuel tank when filling with fuel. Leave an expansion area available inside the fuel tank to allow for the fuel to expand and for proper ventilation. Otherwise the unit may not run properly.

Fill the tank on 30" deck models in accordance with Figure 18, for 24" deck models refer to the Engine Operator's Manual.

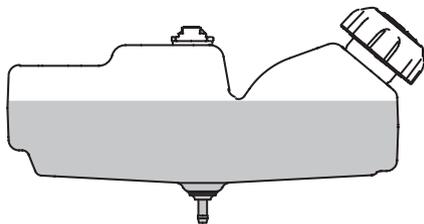


Figure 18