<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>GENERAL INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>61B27LDML PROWLER INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>61B27LDML PROWLER REFERENCE SHEET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>ENCORE WARRANTY INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>SAFETY PRECAUTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>PROWLER OPERATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>BEFORE OPERATING REMINDERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>CONTROL LOCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>STARTING ENGINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>STOPPING ENGINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>SAFETY INTERLOCK SYSTEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>CORRECT TRANSMISSION OPERATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>MOWING SPEED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>MAINTENANCE INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>SERVICE LOCATOR CHART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>GENERAL INFO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>TIRE PRESSURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>LUBRICATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>BATTERY INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>OIL AND FILTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>DRIVE ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>NEUTRAL ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>TRACKING ADJUSTMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>BELT ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>DECK LEVELING ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>BRAKE ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>DECK CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>MOWER BLADES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>ELECTRICAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>WIRE HARNESS SCHEMATIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>NOTES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING:**

THE ENGINE EXHAUST FROM THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CHEMICALS KNOWN IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER, BIRTH DEFECTS OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HAZARDS.

**WARNING:**

For illustration clarity, some illustrations and figures in this manual may show shields or guards removed. Under NO circumstance should your mower be operated without these devices in place.

**IMPORTANT:**

A separate Engine Owner’s Manual is included with your owner’s packet which contains additional engine information that will not be repeated in this manual. You are urged to read it before attempting any operation or repair of the engine. Engine Owner’s Manual covers the engine manufactures warranty.
This manual covers the following equipment models:
61B27LDML

To the new owner

The purpose of this manual is to assist owners and operators in maintaining and operating the Encore Rider mower and deck. Please read it carefully; information and instructions furnished can help you achieve years of dependable service. A separate Engine Owner’s Manual is included with your owner’s packet which contains additional engine information that will not be repeated in this manual. You are urged to read it before attempting any operation or repair of the engine. The Engine Owner’s Manual covers the engine manufactures warranty.

It is the owner’s responsibility to make certain that the operator reads and understands this manual and all decals before operating this machine. It is also the owner’s responsibility to make certain that the operator is a qualified and physically able individual, properly trained in the operation of this equipment. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.

Using this manual

General operation, adjustment and maintenance guidance is outlined for both the experienced and novice Encore user. Operating conditions vary considerably and cannot all be addressed individually. Through experience, however, operators should find no difficulty in developing good operating skills suitable to most conditions. Directions used in this manual, for example RIGHT or LEFT, refer to directions when seated on the mower facing forward unless otherwise stated.

Photographs and illustrations used were current at the time of printing, but subsequent production changes may cause your machine to vary slightly in detail. ENCORE MFG. CO., INC. reserves the right to redesign and change the machine as deemed necessary, without notification.

Warranty Registration

The Delivery and Warranty Registration form must be completed and signed to validate your warranty protection. As the new equipment owner, you are expected to see that the form is completed and forwarded to ENCORE MFG. CO., INC. at time of delivery.

IMPORTANT: Any unauthorized modification, alteration, or use of non-approved attachments voids the warranty and releases ENCORE MFG. CO., INC. from any liability arising from subsequent use of this equipment.

Model and Serial Number

Mower model and serial number are found on the serial tag, located on the seat frame directly under the seat plate.

These numbers are required on the Warranty Registration form. They will also assure you of the correct service parts when replacement becomes necessary.

Parts and Service

Use original Encore replacement parts only. These parts are available through your local Encore dealer. To obtain prompt, efficient service, always provide the following information when ordering parts:
1. Correct part number and description
2. Correct model number
3. Correct serial number

All warranty repair and service must be handled through an authorized Encore dealer. Arrangements should be made through your local service center.

For the location of your nearest dealer please use the dealer search on our website: www.seriousred.com or www.encoreequipment.com

WARNING:
DO NOT allow children to operate the machine. DO NOT allow any adult to operate the machine without proper instruction.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pulleys</th>
<th>Engine Base</th>
<th>Torque Specs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>483025 tensioner pulley-clutch</td>
<td>582165 523034 park brake switch</td>
<td>blade bolt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>823351 tensioner pulley-pump belt</td>
<td>582447-0219 Briggs &amp; Stratton Daihatsu diesel</td>
<td>65 ft-lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523329 tensioner pulley-blade drive belt</td>
<td></td>
<td>90 ft-lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523507 pump pulley</td>
<td>583030 throttle</td>
<td>50 ft-lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>583107 pulley-blade spindle</td>
<td>583038 throttle</td>
<td>250-300 ft-lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523329 stationary idler pulley</td>
<td>N/A throttle</td>
<td>wheel motor axle nut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>593201 gearbox pulley</td>
<td>Briggs &amp; Stratton Daihatsu Muffler Gasket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENCORE WARRANTY

WHAT IS COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY
This warranty extends to the original retail purchaser only and commences on the date of original retail purchase:

1. Residential use: The warranty will be Three years from the date of purchase against defects in workmanship and materials for any Encore rider that is used for consumer purposes.
   - Normal residential use means use of product on owners’ property only. (Doesn’t apply to Prowler Series)
2. Commercial use: The warranty will be Two year from the date of purchase and 90 days for rental use against defects in workmanship and materials for any Encore rider that is used for commercial purposes.
3. If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period a defect in materials or workmanship:
   - Purchaser must promptly notify an Authorized Encore Dealer and return the mower, including any defective parts, to an Authorized Encore Service Dealer.
   - Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. will determine if material or workmanship is defective and then either repair or replace such parts.
   - Service calls and/or transportation expense of the product to and from the authorized dealer, for warranty work, will be paid by the owner of the product.
4. Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. provides a limited warranty for 90 days from the date of purchase against defects in workmanship and materials for all parts, excluding normal wear items such as batteries, tires, and belts.
5. The Deck Shell warranty is Ten years from the date of purchase against defects in workmanship and materials for any Encore rider that is used for consumer and commercial use only.
6. NOTICE: Cutter housings, electrical components, hydraulic components and electric-clutch must be returned before warranty will be paid.
7. The engine warranty is covered by its respective manufacturer. Please refer to the manufacture’s warranty statement in the manufacture’s engine manual that is included in the literature packet. Engine warranties should be referred to the nearest authorized service outlet of the engine manufacturer.

Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. reserves the right to change or improve the design of any mower without assuming any obligation to modify any mower previously manufactured.

WHO MUST PERFORM THE WARRANTY SERVICE
All warranty service will be performed by dealers authorized by Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. Service calls and/or transportation expense of the product to and from the authorized dealer, for warranty work, will be paid by the owner of the product. For warranty service you can contact an authorized dealer or contact:

Encore Mfg. Co., Inc.
PO Box 888
Beatrice, Nebraska 68310
1-800-267-4255
www.encoreequipment.com
www.seriousred.com

WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY
Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. does not warranty:
- Repairs made by unauthorized persons.
- Damage caused by use of the Encore equipment for purposes other than those for which it was designed
- Damages caused by disasters such as fire, flood, wind, and lightening.
- Damages caused by neglect, abuse, abnormal use, improper or unreasonable use, accident, negligence or misuse.
- Repairs or replacement resulting from the use of unauthorized parts, accessories or attachments.
- Repairs or replacement as the result of any alterations or modifications, in the determination of Encore, which adversely affects the operation, performance or durability of the equipment.
- Encore unit which has the serial number removed or made illegible.
- Depreciation or damage caused by normal wear, lack of reasonable and proper maintenance or failure to follow the products owner’s manual provided by Encore Mfg. Co., Inc.
- Normal maintenance parts and service including, but not limited to: filters, fuel, lubricants, tune-up parts, belts, blades, blade sharpening, brake or steering adjustments.
- Repairs necessary due to improper fuel, contaminates in the fuel system, or failure to properly prepare the fuel system prior to any period of non-use over three months.

LIMITATION OF REMEDIES
In no case shall Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages based upon breach of warranty, breach of contract, negligence, strict liability in tort, or any other legal theory. Such damages include, but are not limited to:
- Loss of profits
- Loss of savings or revenue
- Loss of use of Encore mower or any associated equipment
- Cost of capital
- Cost of any substitute equipment, facilities, services, or downtime
- The claims of third parties including customers, and injury to property
- Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

OWNER’S RESPONSIBILITY
You must maintain your Encore Product following the maintenance procedures described in your owner’s manual. Such routine maintenance, whether performed by a dealer or by you, is at your expense. This machine, like any other powered equipment, is potentially dangerous unless properly operated. Any operator must be cautious and keep safety in mind at all times.

Any operator, prior to using the Encore equipment, should thoroughly familiarize himself with the owner’s manual regarding operation and safety of the machine, as well as all safety warnings on the machine itself. 

ENCORE MFG. CO., INC. CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WAY YOU OPERATE, OR THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH YOU OPERATE THE MOWER. USE COMMON SENSE AT ALL TIMES.

WARRANTY REGISTRATION
1. The Warranty registration form MUST be completed and forwarded to Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. within fifteen days following date of purchase.
2. The date of purchase constitutes delivery.

Encore Mfg. Co., Inc. does not assume or authorize anyone to assume for them any other obligation.
Safety Precautions

Your mower is only as safe as the operator! Operator carelessness or error may result in serious bodily injury. Improper maintenance of the machine may also result in injury. Please read and follow these instructions on Safe Operation and be certain that anyone using this mower fully understands and follows these instructions. Instructions are from ANSI Standard B17.4-2004.

1. Familiarize yourself with the controls and know how to stop the rider and mower deck quickly.

2. Inspect your work area carefully. Remove debris from the area to be cut. Keep all bystanders away from the mowing area.

3. Avoid contact with moving parts. Keep hands and feet clear of the mower deck.

4. Never direct the discharge of material toward bystanders or allow anyone near the machine while in operation.

5. The machine is not intended for highway or street use. Never carry passengers!

6. Never tamper with safety devices or guards. If a guard or safety device is damaged or removed, replace it before operating the rider.

7. Handle gasoline carefully. Use an approved gasoline container. Fill the fuel tank, to within 1” from the neck, with good quality unleaded gasoline.

8. Seat must be occupied and drive levers must be in the Neutral position and the Blade Clutch must be disengaged before starting engine.

9. Operator must wear proper shoes and clothing, which may include safety glasses and ear protection.

10. Mow only during daylight hours or under very good artificial light.

11. The safety shield over the Grass Discharge area must always be bolted in place and in the DOWN position unless the Grass Catcher is being used.

12. If a solid object has been hit by the blades stop the machine and check for damage. Repair or replace any damaged / broken part prior to restarting the engine.

13. To avoid burns, DO NOT TOUCH the engine or muffler immediately after operation or during.

14. Disengage blades when transporting and when crossing walks and gravel roads.

15. DO NOT mow close to drop-offs, deep ditches or other hazards. DO NOT attempt to mow slopes greater than 15°. Always mow across the face of a slope NOT up and down.

16. Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes and in sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.

17. The Encore Rider is NOT designed for towing.

18. Only factory approved Grass Collection Systems are permitted.

19. Shut off fuel while storing or transporting. Do Not store fuel near flames or drain indoors.
Before Operating - Reminders

Fill engine crankcase as per engine manufacturer’s manual. ENGINE DOES NOT HAVE OIL IN CRANKCASE FROM THE FACTORY. Add proper fuel to fuel tank, open shut-off valve. The battery is a gel-cell and will not require acid. Before hooking up the ground wires make sure that the engine has been filled to the proper level with oil. If battery will not turn the engine over after hooking the wires up it may require a charge for 15 to 20 minutes.

Assembly Instructions

1. Remove mower from the crate. Lay out all the hardware and parts from the inner box:
   Parts will consist of:
   1 - seat
   1 - bolt bag
   1 - literature packet
   2 - handles
2. Open bolt bag and lay out
   1 - oil breather cap
   4 - 5/16-18 X 1 1/4 bolt
   4 - 5/16-18 whiz lock nut
   4 - 5/16-18 nylock nut
   4 - 5/16- std flat washers
3. Take (4) 5/16 std flat washers and (4) 5/16 nylock nuts and bolt the seat into place. Slide the studs of the seat though the seat plate and secure with one flat washer and nylock nut on each of the 4 studs. (Slide the seat all the way back onto seat tracks in order to flip seat forward.) At this time you may also connect the seat switch wires.
4. Using the (4) 5/16-18 X 1 1/4 bolts, bolt the handles into place. Note: Handle mounts to the outside of the square control block with whiz locks located on slotted or handle side.
5. Place breather cap on oil tank. Note: The oil tank is pre-filled from the factory with 20w50 oil and should be visible in the sight glass located on the back of the tank. The correct level is mid-point in the sight glass.

Control Location

1. Ignition Key- On front control panel
2. Engine Throttle- On front control panel
3. Engine Choke – On front control panel
4. Blade Switch – Right hand console
5. Parking Brake – Left hand console
6. Fuel Valve- On front panel
7. Indicator Lights (oil, alt and temp) – Right hand console.
8. Glow plugs and fuel filter lights located on the left console.
9. Hour meter is located behind the seat on the left hand side standing in front of the machine. (Not shown)
10. Serial Plate is located under the seat, on the inside of the right side of the seat frame. (Not shown)

⚠️ CAUTION:

Always remove the key and set the parking brake when leaving the machine unattended, even for just a few minutes.

PREVENT ACCIDENTS: Do not give children or unauthorized persons an opportunity to operate this machine.

Starting Engine

The throttle control, ignition switch and choke control are located between the motion control levers on the front panel under the front of the seat. Because of a built-in safety interlock system, your machine will not start unless the seat is occupied.

TO START ENGINE: occupy seat, set park brake, leave the motion control levers swung out, move throttle control lever all the way to choke position. With the throttle set in slow position, turn the key to the “ON” position and wait approximately 5 seconds for the glow plugs to cycle (indicator light should be on while plugs are preheating combustion chamber). When the light goes out, turn the key to the “START” position to engage starter, release the key when engine starts. Ignition switch is spring loaded and will return to run position automatically. Let the engine warm up for a few minutes before applying load.

Stopping Engine

TO STOP ENGINE: move throttle lever to idle position and turn ignition key to “OFF” position. If engine has been working hard or is hot, allow engine to idle for a short period of time before turning off key. This practice will help cool engine before stopping.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY engine may be stopped by turning ignition key to “OFF” position.
Safety Interlock System

Your Encore Rider is equipped with a Safety Interlock System that is designed to help prevent possible serious injuries. Understanding and maintaining this system is vital for maximum safe operation.

TO START ENGINE:
1. Blades (PTO) must be “OFF”.
2. Control levers in neutral (swung out).
3. Park Brake “ON”.
4. Operator in seat.

THE ENGINE WILL KILL IF:
1. The operator leaves the seat with:
   a. The control levers out of neutral (swung in).
   b. The blades on (PTO).
   c. The park brake is “OFF”.
   d. All the above.
2. The park brake is set before the control levers are in neutral (swung out).

Correct Transmission Operation To Go Forward Or Reverse

The Encore Rider is equipped with a pump/wheel motor unit for each wheel and are controlled with “Motion Control Levers”, one for each wheel. See Figure 1

Mowing Speed

The Encore Rider is designed to operate most efficiently at maximum blade speeds.

The running speed of the machine should allow the mower blades to maintain this maximum speed while mowing across turf. Use a slower ground speed for cutting tall grass, grass which is heavy with moisture, or when mowing uphill. If ground speed is too fast, or blade speed is too slow, mowing will be uneven because mower blades will not be able to lift grass into cutting position as the mower passes.

Throttle control regulates speed of engine as measured in RPM. This control SHOULD NOT be used to control ground speed.

AS SETTING IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forward Travel</th>
<th>Pivot Turn</th>
<th>Forward Travel Right Turn</th>
<th>Reverse Travel Right Turn</th>
<th>Reverse Travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Push both levers forward evenly</td>
<td>Push one lever forward and other lever pull back</td>
<td>Push left lever forward more than the right lever</td>
<td>Pull left lever back more than right lever</td>
<td>Pull back both levers evenly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = Neutral or Stopped Travel [ Return both levers evenly to the neutral position. ]

Direction of arrows indicate direction of machine travel.

The further the levers are moved away from the neutral position, the faster the machine will travel.

To turn the mower LEFT or RIGHT, slow the speed of the wheel in the direction you want to turn.

To CHANGE DIRECTION, slowly move levers to neutral and move the lever forward in the direction of travel you want to go.

Figure 1
**LOCATED UNDER THE ENGINE TO THE REAR OF THE MACHINE**

**LOCATED TO REAR OF THE DECK**

- SERVICE GEAR BOX EVERY 500 HOURS
- CHECK FOR LEAKS WEEKLY
- OIL: 80-90 GEAR LUBE

**NOTES:** Consult Engine Manual for Engine Manufactures Recommendations on Operation and Maintenance Information.

**GREASE FITTING LUBRICATION LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAINTENANCE</th>
<th>DAILY</th>
<th>FIRST 8 HR.</th>
<th>EVERY 25 HR.</th>
<th>EVERY 50 HR.</th>
<th>EVERY 100 HR.</th>
<th>EVERY 200 HR.</th>
<th>EVERY 300 HR.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHECK AND AD ENGINE OIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHECK FOR LOOSE OR LOST NUTS AND SCREWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHECK FOR FUEL AND OIL LEAKAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHECK OR CLEAN AIR INTAKE SCREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAN AIR CLEANER FOAM ELEMENT</td>
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<td>CLEAN AIR CLEANER PAPER ELEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAN DUST AND DIRT FROM CYLINDER AND CYLINDER HEAD FINS</td>
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<td>TIGHTEN NUTS AND SCREWS</td>
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<td>CHANGE ENGINE OIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAN AND REGAP SPARK PLUG</td>
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<td>CHANGE OIL FILTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>REPLACE AIR CLEANER PAPER ELEMENT</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEAN COMBUSTION CHAMBER</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHECK AND ADJUST VALVE CLEARANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAN AND LAP VALVE SEATING SURFACE</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

〇: SERVICE MORE FREQUENTLY UNDER DUSTLY CONDITIONS
★: HAVE AN AUTHORIZED ENGINE MFG DEALER PERFORM THESE SERVICES

**MAINTENANCE DAILY FIRST 8 HR. EVERY 25 HR. EVERY 50 HR. EVERY 100 HR. EVERY 200 HR. EVERY 300 HR.**

- 72" MID CUT GEAR BOX
- 52-61" MID CUT GEAR BOX
Maintenance Info

1. Do not adjust mower or change attachments unless the engine has been stopped and the key has been removed.
2. Good maintenance, wiping up gasoline and oil spills, will reduce potential fire hazards.
3. To insure that the mower will remain in safe operating condition, check and tighten all bolts, nuts and screws. Especially make certain the blade bolt/nuts are always tightened properly.
4. Never adjust governor on engine to a faster speed. The engine manufacturer adjusts the engine RPM to the proper setting.
5. Allow time for the engine to cool down prior to storing mower. Do not store mower or gasoline near any open flame or where gasoline fumes may be ignited.
6. Always replace worn or broken parts with genuine Encore repair parts purchased from an authorized Encore dealer. Using anything other than Encore repair parts may void all Encore factory warranties.

Tire Pressure

This vehicle has been designed to achieve maximum operator comfort and ride. This cannot be achieved without proper tire pressure. A low pressure gauge is required to check the front tires.

- Front Tires - 15-20 PSI
- Rear Tires - 15-20 PSI

Lug nuts should be checked regularly for tightness. Torque lug nuts to 50ft/lbs. The center hub nut should be torqued to 175-200ft/lbs.

NOTES:

The Encore Rider is driven and steered by the rear wheels.

REAR TIRE CIRCUMFERENCE DIRECTLY EFFECTS THE TRACKING OF THE MACHINE.

If the machine will not drive in a straight line, check air pressure and adjust accordingly.

Lubrication

The following recommendations on lubrication chart below should be adhered to. Environmental conditions may be cause to vary frequency. Grease points are pointed out in Figure 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Maintenance Task</th>
<th>Service Intervals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blades - sharpen &amp; securely fastened to 65 ft-lbs</td>
<td>Every 10 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check fuel level</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge chute - securely in place &amp; in lowest position</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verify safety start interlock system</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visually inspect tires</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visually inspect unit for loose hardware and/or damaged parts</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check battery connections</td>
<td>Every 50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check tire pressure with a guage</td>
<td>Every 50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check pump drive belt tension &amp; condition</td>
<td>Every 100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check blade drive belt tension &amp; condition</td>
<td>Every 100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check deck drive belt tension &amp; condition</td>
<td>Every 100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tighten lug nuts on wheels</td>
<td>Every 100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check oil level in engine</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change engine oil &amp; filter</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change fuel filter</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean air intake screen</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean cylinder / head fins</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean foam element</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean paper element</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace air cleaner paper element</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean and regap or replace spark plugs</td>
<td>See Note A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
A. Refer to Supplied Engine Manufactures Owner’s Manual for all maintance and engine manufactures warranty policy information

Battery

The battery is located under the seat of the machine. The gel-cell battery is maintenance free.

⚠️ CAUTION: ⚠️

When servicing the battery or any other part of the electrical system, or if the battery must be removed for any reason, always, disconnect negative (ground) cable FIRST and reconnect it LAST to avoid possibility of electrical shorts.

At temperatures below 32° F (0° C), full charge state must be maintained to prevent cell electrolyte from freezing and causing permanent battery damage.

For longest service life, battery should be kept clean by wiping it off with a paper towel. Any corrosion around battery should be removed by applying a solution of one part baking soda to four parts water. A light coating of grease or petroleum jelly may be applied to all exposed terminal surfaces to prevent corrosion.
Oil And Filter

Hydraulics
The hydraulic system on this Encore Rider are filled with 20W50 motor oil which will require approximately 7 quarts of oil to fill.

The hydraulic oil should be changed after every 500 hours or annually, whichever comes first. The oil should also be changed if the color of the fluid has become black or milky. A black color and/or a rancid odor usually indicates possible over heating of the oil, and a milky color usually indicates water in the hydraulic oil.

WARNING:
To avoid serious Burn injuries:
- Allow engine, and hydraulic fluids to cool before servicing transmission or engine systems.

Oil And Filter

72" MID CUT GEAR BOX

52-61" MID CUT GEAR BOX

WARNING:
To avoid serious Burn injuries:
The cutter deck gearbox can reach high operating temperatures. Allow the cutter deck gearbox to cool before servicing.

Gear Box
The fluid level in the gear box should be checked after every 100 hours of operation or bi-weekly, whichever occurs first.

Remove ignition key and raise deck to transport position. Clean and remove the check plug from the side of the gearbox. Visually check that the lubricant level is up to the bottom edge of the check-plug hole. If lubricant is low, add SAE 80W90 lubricant through the check-plug hole. Install the check plug and tighten securely. The lubricant in the cutter deck gearbox should be changed after every 500 hours of operation or yearly, whichever occurs first.

Place a suitable container beneath the cutter deck gearbox and locate the gearbox drain plug. Remove the drain plug, drain the lubricant into the container and properly discard it.

Reinstall the drain plug and add SAE 80W90 lubricant through the check-plug in the gearbox, until it is level with the bottom of the check-plug hole. Install the check plug and tighten securely.

WARNING:
1. Gasoline is harmful or fatal if swallowed.
2. Long-term exposure to vapors can cause serious injury and illness.
3. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapors.
4. Keep face away from nozzle and gas tank or container opening.
5. Keep gas away from eyes and skin.
**Drive Adjustment**

If the mower is not tracking straight or if the unit creeps in the “Neutral Stop” position proceed with the following instructions.

**TIRE PRESSURE:**

Checking air pressure in the tires is critical for proper drive or tracking.

**NOTE: DO NOT ADD ANY TYPE OF TIRE LINER OR FOAM FILL MATERIAL TO THE TIRES!**

Excessive loads created by foam filled tires may cause failures to the hydro drive system, frame and other components. Foam filling tires will void warranty.

Front tires: 15 to 20 psi  
Drive tires: 15 to 20 psi

**Neutral Adjustment**

1. Raise the drive wheels of the mower off of the ground. Safely block the frame in this position so it is secure.
2. With the unit blocked up securely and the arms in the neutral position (in the lock out position) sit in the operator's seat and start the engine. With the engine running release the park brake and check to see if there is any wheel creep (any rotation).
3. If wheels rotate with the control levers in lock position, stop the engine and remove the belt cover between the seat frame and engine by removing the 2 - 1/4 x 3/4 bolts.
4. All neutral creep (rotation) should be adjusted out of the drive. This adjustment is performed at the adjustable Pump Link on each corresponding pump. (See fig.) Loosen the jam nut between the ball stud and the control rod. Thread the stud into the control rod if there is forward rotation and out of the control rod if there is reverse rotation. Never adjust the link more than 2 full turns at a time. Retighten the jam nut and start the engine, and repeat step #2.
5. If the wheel still rotates in the Neutral Lock position with the brake OFF repeat step #4.

**Tracking Adjustment**

If the machine pulls left or right on a level, flat surface begin by checking the tire pressure. The front tires should have 15 to 20 PSI and the rear tires should have 15 to 20 PSI. If tire pressures are correct examine the dampening cylinders. The cylinders are preset from factory to limit the forward motion of the control levers. (When the control lever is at full speed, all the way forward in the control slot, the damping cylinder should bottom out.) To adjust tracking, loosen the two bolts on the cylinder adjusting plate. Push adjusting plate to move the cylinder forward on the fast side. This will restrict the movement of the control lever to even out tracking. Always slow the fast side of the machine down if tracking is necessary.

**Note:** On uneven surfaces the operator is responsible in keeping the machine traveling in a straight line.

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**Diagram:**

- **PUMP LINK**
- **CYLINDER ADJUSTING PLATE**
- **SPEED CYLINDER**
- **JAM NUT**
- **REVERSE LIMIT STOP**
- **RETURN LINK**
**Belt Adjustment**

Remove key from the ignition switch. Remove the key from ignition switch. Flip up the foot plate (See fig. 3) to gain access to the deck drive belt and the eyebolt assembly that is used for adjusting the spring tension. The spring tension is measured by the gap between the coils and should be approximately 1/8". By turning the 5/16" nylock nut on the end of the eyebolt clockwise, it will increase tension. Moving the deck bracket into the second slot (See fig. 3) may also increase tension.

4. To adjust the deck height, remove the clevis pin from the lift spring rod. This may be accomplished by moving the lift arm to a point that relieves the pressure off the pin. (See fig.2) To raise the deck, thread the back of the spring rod clockwise. To lower the deck, turn the spring rod counter clockwise (Note: When changing the length of the spring rod do so in two turn increments). At this time also inspect the bushings or washers, at the base of the spring (by the spring bolt) and check for binding.

5. Reassemble the spring rod and replace the clevis pin. Now move the deck up and down and recheck the side to side blade measurement.

**Deck Leveling Adjustment**

The deck comes from the manufacturer prelevel. If the deck does not appear to be cutting level, follow this procedure.

1. Set all tire pressures to correct specification.

2. Place machine on a level cutting surface and inspect blades to make sure that one is not damaged or bent.

3. Stop engine and Remove the ignition key. While wearing heavy gloves rotate the blades so that they are all pointing to the forward side of the deck. (See fig.1) Measure from the blade tip to the ground on all three blades. If there is more than 3/16" difference from one side of the deck to the other, the deck should be leveled.

4. To adjust the deck height, remove the clevis pin from the lift spring rod. This may be accomplished by moving the lift arm to a point that relieves the pressure off the pin. (See fig.2) To raise the deck, thread the back of the spring rod clockwise. To lower the deck, turn the spring rod counter clockwise (Note: When changing the length of the spring rod do so in two turn increments). At this time also inspect the bushings or washers, at the base of the spring (by the spring bolt) and check for binding.

5. Reassemble the spring rod and replace the clevis pin. Now move the deck up and down and recheck the side to side blade measurement.

**Brake Adjustment**

After the first 40 hours of use check brakes for adjustment. Brakes are adjusted by setting the lock collars on the brake rods located by each drive wheel. There must be 1/8 to 1/4 inch of gap between the lock collar and swivel with the brake in the ON position. This distance should be checked bi-weekly. After adjusting the lock collar, you may have to also adjust the brake link by pulling the hair pin clip and adjusting swivel accordingly.
Deck Cutting Height Adjustment

Foot Deck Lift Option

To adjust the cutting height, place foot on the foot pedal, press down until it is locked in the up position, and then remove the height adjustment pin to the desired cutting height. Once the job has been done, press down on the foot pedal and with your right hand reach down and push the plastic section of the height adjustment towards the front of the mower. This will allow you to slowly release pressure with your foot which in turn will allow the deck to lower down to your desired cutting height.

Electric Deck Lift Option

To adjust deck cutting height, simply press the up or down switch on your left side on the side panel next to the seat to raise or lower the deck cutting height a deck cutting height gage located by the right front caster.

Mower Blades

Check sharpness of mower blades after every 10 hours of operation. To sharpen blades proceed as follows:

\[\text{CAUTION:}\]

TURN OFF ENGINE AND REMOVE KEY BEFORE MAKING ANY ADJUSTMENTS.

- Block front end of mower up or run front up on ramps.
- Remove blade by turning bolt counter clockwise.
- Blades should be discarded when worn excessively. See Sketch.

- Sharpen blade with a hand file, electric grinder or blade sharpener. Wear gloves and eye protection when sharpening. Grind blade at original bevel.
- Check balance of blade by positioning the blade on a nail or blade balance pedestal. Grind the blade on the end that is heavier until both sides balance.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing which could get caught in moving parts. Always be sure to wear adequate protective clothing. Wearing safety glasses and safety shoes is advisable.
- Reinstall blades. Refer to Figure 9 for further information

DANGER

Observe usual fuel handling precautions:

- Do not smoke while refueling.
- Do not fill tank with engine running or while engine is hot.
- Clean up any gasoline spills.
- Allow engine to cool before storing machine inside a building.
- Keep fuel away from open flame or spark and store mower away from open flame or spark if this fuel in the tank.
- Use extra caution when handling gasoline and other fuels: They are flammable and vapors are explosive. A fire or explosion from gasoline or other fuels can burn you and others and can damage property.
- Refuel outdoors preferably, or in well ventilated areas.
- Never attempt to start engine when there is a strong odor of fuel fumes present. Locate and correct cause.
- Store gasoline in an approved container and keep it out of the reach of children.
- Never buy more than a 30 day supply of fuel.
- Always place fuel containers on the ground away from your vehicle before fueling.
- Do not fill gasoline containers inside a vehicle or a truck or a trailer as interior carpets or plastic truck bed liners may insulate the container and slow the loss of any static charge.
- When practical, remove equipment from truck or trailer and refuel mower with its wheels on the ground.

Important Note:

Cup side of spring washer goes against blade.

Figure 9
ENCORE PART #: 583276
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR 61B850P ; 26 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR 72B850P ; 26 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR 72B850ZP ; 26 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR B850PFC ; 26 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR 61B27LD ; 27 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL
ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FOR 72B27LD ; 27 HP BRIGGS - DIESEL