OPERATOR’S MANUAL

CORDLESS 18 VOLT STRING TRIMMER

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CST00012

Your string trimmer has been engineered and manufactured to our high standard for dependability, ease of operation, and operator safety. Properly cared for, it will give you years of rugged, trouble-free performance.

**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of injury, the user must read and understand the operator’s manual before using this product.

BATTERY MUST BE CHARGED BEFORE FIRST USE.

Thank you for your purchase.

DO NOT RETURN THIS PRODUCT TO THE STORE. OPERATING, ASSEMBLY, PARTS, SERVICE QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-313-5111 BETWEEN 7:30AM—4:30PM EST FOR ASSISTANCE.

SAVE THIS MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE
GENERAL SAFETY

TO REDUCE RISK OF INJURY:
Before any use, be sure everyone using this tool reads and understands all safety instructions and other information contained in this manual.

CAUTION: Wear appropriate personal hearing protection during use. Under some conditions and duration of use, noise from this product may contribute to hearing loss.

KEEP CHILDREN AWAY - All visitors, children and pets should stay at a safe distance from the work area.

DRESS PROPERLY – Don’t wear loose clothing or jewelry. Wear protective hair covering to contain long hair. They can be caught in moving parts. Use of rubber gloves and substantial footwear is recommended when working outdoors.

USE SAFETY GLASSES – Wear safety glasses with side shields or goggles that are marked to comply with ANSI Z87.1 standard when operating this product. Use face or dust mask if operation is dusty.

USE RIGHT APPLIANCE – Do not use appliance for any job except that for which it is intended.

DISCONNECT STRING TRIMMER from the power supply when not in use or when servicing or cleaning. Do not leave unattended.

CHECK DAMAGED PARTS – Before further use of the string trimmer, a guard or other part that is damaged should be carefully checked to determine that it will operate properly and perform its intended function. Check for alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, mounting and any other condition that may affect its operation. A guard or other part that is damaged should be properly repaired or replaced. Call our customer service help line at 1-800-313-5111 for assistance.

LIGHTING - Only operate trimmer in daylight or good artificial light.

DON’T OVERREACH – Keep proper footing and balance at all times.

WARNING: Do Not use the string trimmer with any type of accessory or attachment. Such usage might be hazardous.

AVOID DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTS – Don’t use trimmer in rain, damp or wet locations. Do not operate trimmer in gaseous or explosive atmospheres. Motors in these tools normally spark and the sparks might ignite fumes.

AVOID UNINTENTIONAL STARTING – Don’t carry the string trimmer with finger on switch.

DANGER: Risk of cut. Keep hands away from lines. Keep both hands on handles when power is on.

Save these instructions and review frequently prior to use and in instructing others.

WARNING: When using electric gardening appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed to reduce risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury, including the following:

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

DO NOT ATTEMPT to remove cut material or hold material to be cut when lines are moving. Make sure trimmer switch is off when clearing jammed material from guard. Do not grasp the guard or lines when picking up or holding the trimmer.

CAUTION: Lines coast after turned off.

DON’T FORCE STRING TRIMMER – It will do the job better and with less likelihood of a risk of injury at the rate for which it was designed.

STAY ALERT – Watch what you are doing. Use common sense. Do not operate string trimmer when you are tired or under the influence of medications, drugs or alcohol.

STORE IDLE STRING TRIMMERindoors – When not in use, your string trimmer should be stored indoors in a dry and high or locked-up place, out of reach of children.

MAINTAIN TRIMMER WITH CARE – Keep guard and handles clean for best performance and to reduce the risk of injury. Keep handles dry and free from oil and grease.

WARNING: The batteries in this product may contain one or more of the following chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm: lead, nickel, cadmium, lithium, cobalt. Wash hands after handling.

WARNING: Some dust created by this product could contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals are:
- chemicals in fertilizers
- compounds in insecticides, herbicides and pesticides
- arsenic and chromium from chemically treated lumber
Your risk from exposure to these chemicals varies, depending on how often you do this type of work. To reduce your exposure to these chemicals, wear approved safety equipment such as dust masks that are specially designed to filter out microscopic particles.

WARNING: The electrical cords on this product may contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.
ASSEMBLY

PACKING LIST
String Trimmer - Safety Guard - Charger and Battery Pack - Instruction Manual - Hardware Pkg.

WARNING: Do not connect to power supply until assembly is complete. Failure to comply could result in accidental starting and possible serious personal injury.

WARNING: If any parts are damaged or missing do not operate this product until the parts are replaced. Failure to heed this warning could result in serious personal injury.

WARNING: Do not operate the trimmer without the guard attached.

ATTACHING THE GUARD
Assemble the guard as shown below by sliding it over the head of the motor housing and rotating it counter-clockwise. Using a Philips screw drive, secure the four (4) screws into the guard and motor housing.

UNPACKING
This product requires some assembly.

Carefully remove the product and any accessories from the box. Make sure that all items listed in the packing list are included.

Inspect the product carefully to make sure no breakage or damage occurred during shipping.

Do not discard the packing material until you have carefully inspected and satisfactorily operated the product.

If any parts are damaged or missing, please call 1-800-313-5111 for assistance.

AUXILIARY HANDLE ADJUSTMENT (A)
For maximum comfort and control, adjust the auxiliary handle to suit your height. Shorter users adjust handle to a lower position (away from you) and taller users adjust handle to an upper position (towards you). The handle should be adjusted so that your front arm is straight.

HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT (B)
The overall height of the trimmer can be adjusted by loosening the lock collar and rotating it opposite to the arrow shown. The tubes can then be extended shorter or longer. When the desired height is achieved by rotating the locking collar back to the original tightened position.

OPERATING

TO TURN THE TOOL ON
Push the lock button in with your thumb and then squeeze the trigger with your fingers. (Once the tool is running, you can release the lock button). To turn the tool OFF, release the trigger.

Before you start the unit, make sure the trimmer is not contacting any object.

WARNING: Stones, pieces of metal and other objects can be thrown out at high speed by the line. The unit and guard are designed to reduce the danger.

WARNING: To guard against injury, observe the following:
Read instruction manual before using, save instruction manual.
Keep hands away from lines.
Keep hands on handles. Don’t overreach.
If you strike or become entangled with a foreign object, stop tool immediately, check for damage and have any damage repaired before further operation is attempted. Do not operate with a broken hub or spool.

CAUTION: Lines coasts after turn off.
Do not use under wet conditions.

CAUTION: Inspect area to be trimmed and remove any wire, cord, or string-like objects which could become entangled in the rotating line or spool. Be particularly careful to avoid any wire which might be bent outwardly into the path of the tool, such as barbs at the base of a chain link fence.

WARNING: Do not allow familiarity with this type of product to make you careless. Remember that a careless fraction of a second is sufficient to inflict serious injury.

Do not operate a string trimmer in a tree, on a ladder, or on a scaffold; this is extremely dangerous.

Wear non-slip gloves for maximum grip and protection.
OPERATING

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Proper Cutting Stance

Weight should be balanced with both feet on solid ground.

Basic Cutting Procedure

Slowly swing trimmer side-to-side as shown.

To convert for maintenance edging, turn off the tool. Holding the trimmer with one hand by the auxiliary handle, grasp the collar and push in the direction of arrow and rotate the trimmer head until it stops (half turn), release your hand, (rotate clockwise when viewed from the switch end). The tool is locked in the edger position. Rotate the wire edge guide forward and down into place before edging.

To operate as a maintenance edger, position trimmer above sidewalk as shown.

Return to trimming position by turning the tool off, push in direction of arrow and rotating the trimmer head counter clockwise until it stops. When using the tool in the trimmer mode you may choose to fold the wire edge guide up out of the way.

WARNING: Do not trim near electrical wires or buildings.

LINE FEEDING

Your trimmer uses .065" (1.65mm) diameter nylon line to cut grass and weeds quickly and easily. In time, the tip of the nylon line will become worn and the auto feed mechanism will automatically feed and trim a fresh length of line. The cutting line will wear faster if the cutting is done along sidewalks or other abrasive surfaces or heavier weeds are being cut. The line will extend approximately ¼ in. with each stop and start of the switch trigger until the line reaches the length of the grass deflector blade. Do not bump unit on ground in attempt to feed line or for any other purpose.

REPLACING SPOOL / CLEARING JAMS AND TANGLED LINES

From time to time, especially when cutting thick or stocky weeds, the line feeding hub may become clogged with sap or other material and the line will become jammed as a result. To clear the jam, follow these steps.
- Turn off the trimmer and remove the battery.
- Press the release tabs on the line spool cover and remove the cover by pulling it straight off.
- Lift the spool of nylon line out of the hub and clear any broken line or cutting debris from the spool area.
- In case of jams and tangled line, unwrap about one foot (30cm) of line to ensure that it is undamaged. If it is OK, rewind it and insert the line end through the eyelet in the spool hub. Pull the line through the hole to maintain tension while placing the spool down in to the hub with the notched side exposed.
- Snap the spool cover back on, insert the battery and turn the tool on. In a few seconds or less you’ll hear the line being cut automatically to the proper length.

REWINDING SPOOL FROM BULK LINE (USE ONLY .065" DIAMETER LINE)

Bulk line for your trimmer/edger is available at extra cost form your local dealer or service center. To install, follow steps:
- Turn off the trimmer and remove the battery.
- Press the release tabs on the line spool cover and remove the cover by pulling it straight off. Remove the spool from the tool and remove and discard all line on the spool.
- Insert one end of the bulk line into the hole in the spool as shown in Fig. 2.
- Hold the line in the hole and pull the rest of the line through the slot in the spool as shown in Fig. 3.
- Snugly and evenly wind the bulk line onto the spool in the direction of the arrow until it is nearly full.
- Insert the line end through the eyelet in the spool hub as shown in Fig. 4. Pull the line through the hole to maintain tension while placing the spool down into the hub with the notched side exposed.
- Snap the spool down GENTLY and rotate it until you feel it drop into place.
(When in place, the spool will turn a few degrees left and right freely.)
- Snap the spool cover back on, insert the battery and turn the tool on. In a few seconds or less you’ll hear the line being cut automatically to the proper length.
CHARGING THE BATTERY PACK

Charge the battery pack only with the charger provided. Allow at least 5-6 hours of charge time before initial use of the trimmer.

Make sure the power supply is normal household voltage, 120volts, 60Hz, AC only.
The battery charger should be operated in temperatures between 23 and 104 degrees F.
The battery should be charged in a cool, dry place.
2 to 3 initial charging/discharging cycles may be required to achieve maximum run time/capacity.
Do not attempt to open the charger or the unit. There are no customer serviceable parts inside. Call our customer service help line at 1-800-313-5111 for assistance.
DO NOT incinerate battery packs even if they are severely damaged or completely worn out. They can explode in a fire causing injury.

Use the battery charger indoors only.
Disconnect charger from the power supply when not in use to prevent damage to the charger during a power surge.

When fully charged, the battery can be safely stored in temperatures down to -40 degrees F for a period of up to two weeks, before requiring charging.
Fully charge battery pack every 30 days.
If over a period of time the battery pack quickly runs down after a full 5-6 hour charging period, a replacement battery pack is needed.
To prevent permanent damage to the battery, never store in a discharged condition.

WINTER STORAGE - Fully recharge for the 5-6 hours before storage and then again every 30 days.
Since the battery will not develop a memory, it does not have to be fully discharged before recharging.
A small leakage of liquid from the battery cells may occur under extreme usage, charging or temperature conditions. This does not indicate a failure. However, if the outer seal is broken and this leakage gets on your skin.
a. Wash quickly with soap and water.
b. Neutralize with a mild acid such as lemon juice of vinegar.
c. If the battery liquid gets in your eyes, flush them with clean water for a minimum of 10 minutes and seek immediate medical attention.

TO CHARGE
Plug the charger into a standard household electrical outlet.
Place battery pack in charger. When properly connected, the red charger indicator light (LED) will glow.
NOTE: The charger indicator light will glow red continuously while charging, then when fully charged will glow green.

RECHARGING
Recharge the battery as soon as the cutting power of your cordless string trimmer is no longer effective.
Avoid running the battery into full discharge (draining the battery completely).
Follow the procedure outlined.
Recharging the battery pack according to these instructions should ensure maximum battery life.

TO INSTALL BATTERY PACK
Place the battery pack in your string trimmer (see picture). Ensure the latches on each side of the battery pack snap in place and battery pack is securely connected to string trimmer.

BATTERY DISPOSAL
Remove the battery pack from the string trimmer. Cover the terminals with heavy duty adhesive tape.
Do not attempt to destroy or disassemble battery pack or remove any components.
This product contains nickel-cadmium batteries which must be recycled or disposed of properly.
Local, state or federal laws may prohibit disposal of these batteries in ordinary trash.

The RBRC seal on the nickel-cadmium battery pack indicates that the costs to recycle the battery pack at the end of its useful life has already been paid by The Great States Corporation/American Lawn Mower Company. It is illegal to place spent ni-cad batteries in the local municipal solid waste or in the trash. RBRC in cooperation with The Great States Corporation/American Lawn Mower Company has provided an environmentally friendly and easy way to recycle spent ni-cad batteries. Just contact your local recycling center or call 1-800-BATTERY for information on where to drop off the spent battery.
CAUTION: Do not at any time let brake fluids, gasoline, petroleum based products, penetrating oils, etc., come in contact with plastic parts. They contain chemicals that can damage, weaken or destroy plastic.

Make sure the battery is detached from the unit, then use only mild soap and a damp cloth to clean the tool. Never let any liquid get inside the tool; never immerse any part of the tool into a liquid.

Fertilizers and other garden chemicals contain agents which greatly accelerate the corrosion of metals. Do not store the tool on or adjacent to fertilizers or chemicals.

IMPORTANT: To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustment should be performed by an authorized service center or other qualified service organization, always using identical replacement parts.

If you drop the trimmer, carefully inspect it for damage. If the blade is bent, housing cracked, or handles broken or if you see any other condition that may affect the trimmer's operation, contact your local Authorized Service Center for repairs before putting it back into use.

TROUBLESHOOTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Possible Solution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Unit does not run</td>
<td>- Battery not making contact</td>
<td>- Check battery is fully inserted</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Lock off not fully operated</td>
<td>- Check that lock off is fully forward prior to moving trigger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Battery not installed properly</td>
<td>- Check battery installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Battery not charged</td>
<td>- Check battery charging requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Line won't feed</td>
<td>- Line tangled in spool</td>
<td>- Unwrap 24” of line and rewind</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Line fails to cut off</td>
<td>- Line cutter in guard is damaged or missing</td>
<td>- Replace guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Battery will not charge</td>
<td>- Battery not inserted into charger</td>
<td>- Insert battery into charger until red LED appears</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Charger not plugged in</td>
<td>- Plug charger into a working outlet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Surrounding air temperature too hot or too cold</td>
<td>- Check current at receptacle by plugging in a lamp or other appliance</td>
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<td>- Check to see if receptacle is connected to a light switch which turns power off when you turn out the lights</td>
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<td>- Move charger and tool to a surrounding air temperature of above 40 degree F (4,5 degree C) or below 105 degree F (+40,5 degree C)</td>
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</table>

CALL US FIRST !!

Call us first with questions about operating or maintaining your string trimmer at 1.800.313.5111 between 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or send emails to earthwise@reelin.com.
FEATURES

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

CST00012

- Input: 18 V, DC only
- Battery: 18 V, 1.7 Ah Ni-Cd
- Speed: 7800 RPM
- Cutting Width: 12 in.
- Weight: 6.28 lb.

- .065 Single Line - Semi Automatic Feed - Edging Function - 3 Position Adjustable Head

Diagram:
- Safety Lock-Off Button
- Rear Handle
- Battery Pack
- Trigger Switch
- Locking Collar
- Telescopic Tube
- Edger Guide
- Guard
- Front Handle (Auxiliary Handle)
WARRANTY

LIMITED WARRANTY FOR CORDLESS ELECTRIC MODELS

This product is manufactured for The Great States Corporation/American Lawn Mower Company. The Great States Corporation/American Lawn Mower Company, Shelbyville, Indiana, has been making lawn mowers for over 100 years and it warrants to the original owner that each new product and service part is free from defects in material and workmanship and agrees to repair or replace under this warranty any defective product or part from the original date of purchase for one (2) years except for the conditions and circumstances listed below. Proof of purchase (original dated sales receipt) must accompany all warranty claims.

THIS WARRANTY IS NOT TRANSFERABLE AND DOES NOT COVER:

- Expendable items that become worn during normal use.
- Cosmetic defects that do not interfere with tool functionality.
- Freight costs from customer to vendor.
- Repair and transportation costs of products or parts determined not to be defective.

ANY INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS, DAMAGE, OR EXPENSE THAT MAY RESULT FROM ANY DEFECT, FAILURE, OR MALFUNCTION OF THE PRODUCT. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not apply to you.

ANY NON-RESIDENTIAL USE OR COMMERCIAL USE VOIDS ALL WARRANTIES.

Products sold damaged or incomplete, sold “as is”, sold reconditioned, or used as rental equipment.

Delivery, installation, or normal adjustments explained in the operator’s manual.

Damage or liability caused by shipping, improper handling, improper installation, incorrect voltage or improper wiring, improper maintenance, improper modification, or the use of accessories and/or attachments not specifically recommended.

Repairs necessary because of operator abuse or negligence, or the failure to install, operate, maintain, or store the product according to the instructions in the operator’s manual.

Damage caused by cold, heat, rain, excessive humidity, corrosive environments and materials, or other contaminants.

EARTHWISE

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In a continued commitment to improve quality, the Manufacturer reserves the right to make component changes or design changes when necessary.