

craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual

craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual is an essential resource for anyone who owns or operates this particular chainsaw model. This manual provides detailed instructions for safe operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair, ensuring the longevity and optimal performance of the chainsaw. Whether you are a professional landscaper, a homeowner with yard work needs, or a hobbyist, having access to the official manual can help prevent accidents and costly repairs. This article explores the key components of the Craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual, including its safety guidelines, operation procedures, maintenance tips, and troubleshooting advice. Understanding these aspects will empower users to handle the chainsaw efficiently and responsibly. Below is a detailed outline of the topics covered in this comprehensive guide.

- Overview of Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358
- Safety Instructions and Precautions
- Operating the Chainsaw
- Maintenance and Care
- Troubleshooting Common Issues
- Parts Diagram and Replacement

Overview of Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358

The Craftsman chainsaw model 358 is a popular gasoline-powered chainsaw recognized for its durability and user-friendly design. This model typically features a two-stroke engine, an automatic oiling system, and an ergonomic handle for comfortable use. It is suitable for various tasks, including tree trimming, firewood cutting, and general yard maintenance. The manual provides specifications such as engine displacement, bar length, chain type, and fuel requirements, crucial information for proper operation and servicing. Understanding the fundamental features of the model 358 helps users maximize its capabilities while minimizing wear and tear.

Key Specifications

The manual details the technical specifications which include:

- Engine Size: Approximately 38cc two-stroke engine
- Guide Bar Length: Typically 16 inches
- Chain Type: Standard 3/8-inch pitch chain
- Fuel Mixture: Gasoline mixed with 2-cycle engine oil at a recommended ratio
- Weight: Around 13-15 pounds depending on configuration

These specifications are vital for selecting compatible replacement parts and ensuring proper maintenance procedures.

Safety Instructions and Precautions

Safety is paramount when operating the Craftsman chainsaw model 358. The manual emphasizes numerous safety protocols designed to protect the user and bystanders from injury. Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), understanding the machine's controls, and adhering to operational guidelines are stressed throughout the manual.

Essential Safety Gear

The manual recommends wearing the following protective equipment:

- Safety goggles or face shield to protect eyes from flying debris
- Hearing protection such as earplugs or earmuffs to guard against noise-induced hearing loss
- Heavy-duty gloves to improve grip and protect hands
- Chainsaw chaps or cut-resistant pants to protect legs from accidental contact
- Sturdy, non-slip boots for proper footing

Operational Safety Measures

Users must follow these safety guidelines to prevent accidents:

- Inspect the chainsaw before each use to ensure all parts are functioning properly
- Never operate the chainsaw under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or when fatigued
- Maintain a secure footing and hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands
- Avoid cutting above shoulder height or using the chainsaw when standing on unstable surfaces
- Keep bystanders and pets at a safe distance

Operating the Chainsaw

The Craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual provides a step-by-step guide for starting, running, and shutting down the chainsaw safely and efficiently. Understanding these procedures is essential for effective cutting performance and minimizing mechanical issues.

Starting Procedure

Starting the chainsaw requires careful adherence to the following steps:

1. Place the chainsaw on a flat surface with the chain brake engaged
2. Activate the choke to enrich the fuel mixture for a cold start
3. Press the primer bulb several times to fill the carburetor with fuel
4. Pull the starter rope firmly until the engine attempts to start
5. Push the choke to the run position and pull the starter rope again until the engine runs smoothly

Operating Tips

While using the chainsaw, the manual advises:

- Keep the chainsaw's bar and chain properly oiled to reduce friction and wear
- Use smooth, controlled motions to avoid kickback

- Allow the saw to reach full speed before making contact with the wood
- Cut at the correct angle to prevent binding or pinching of the chain
- Engage the chain brake immediately when the saw is not cutting

Maintenance and Care

Regular maintenance as outlined in the craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual is critical for ensuring long-term reliability and performance. This section covers routine cleaning, lubrication, adjustments, and seasonal storage recommendations.

Routine Maintenance Tasks

To maintain optimal condition, the following tasks should be performed regularly:

- Clean the air filter to prevent dust and debris from entering the engine
- Sharpen the chain to maintain cutting efficiency and safety
- Check and adjust chain tension to prevent chain slippage or damage
- Inspect the spark plug and replace it if fouled or worn
- Lubricate the bar and chain using the automatic oiler system and refill oil as needed

Seasonal Storage

For long-term storage, the manual recommends:

- Draining the fuel tank or adding a fuel stabilizer to prevent fuel degradation
- Cleaning the chainsaw thoroughly to remove dirt and sap
- Storing the chainsaw in a dry, secure location away from extreme temperatures
- Loosening the chain tension to avoid damage to the bar and chain

Troubleshooting Common Issues

The craftsman chainsaw model 358 manual includes a troubleshooting section to help users diagnose and resolve typical problems that may arise during operation. This section provides practical solutions to maintain productivity and avoid unnecessary service calls.

Starting Problems

Common causes and remedies for starting difficulties include:

- Fuel-related issues: Ensure fresh, properly mixed fuel is used and the fuel filter is clean
- Clogged carburetor: Clean or rebuild carburetor if the engine floods or fails to start
- Spark plug faults: Inspect and replace spark plug if the electrode is worn or fouled

Chain and Cutting Issues

Problems with cutting performance may be due to:

- Dull chain: Sharpen or replace the chain as necessary
- Improper chain tension: Adjust tension to manufacturer specifications
- Insufficient lubrication: Check oil reservoir and automatic oiler function

Parts Diagram and Replacement

The manual provides detailed diagrams and part numbers for the Craftsman chainsaw model 358, enabling users to identify and order replacement components correctly. Having access to accurate parts information facilitates repairs and ensures compatibility.

Common Replacement Parts

Frequently replaced parts include:

- Guide bar
- Chain
- Spark plug
- Air filter
- Starter rope
- Fuel filter

Using genuine or manufacturer-approved parts helps maintain the saw's performance and safety standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358 manual online?

You can find the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358 manual on the official Sears website, various third-party manual repositories, or by searching for 'Craftsman 358 chainsaw manual PDF' on trusted sites.

What are the key maintenance tips mentioned in the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358 manual?

The manual recommends regular chain sharpening, cleaning the air filter, checking the chain tension, lubricating the bar and chain, and inspecting the spark plug for optimal performance and longevity.

How do I properly adjust the chain tension on the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358?

According to the manual, to adjust the chain tension, loosen the bar nuts slightly, turn the tensioning screw until the chain fits snugly against the bar but can still be pulled by hand, then retighten the bar nuts securely.

What type of fuel and oil mixture does the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358 require?

The manual specifies using a 40:1 fuel to two-stroke engine oil mixture to ensure proper engine lubrication and performance for the Craftsman 358 chainsaw.

How do I troubleshoot starting issues with the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358?

The manual suggests checking the fuel level and mixture, ensuring the spark plug is clean and properly gapped, inspecting the air filter for cleanliness, and verifying that the choke and ignition switch are set correctly.

What safety precautions are highlighted in the Craftsman Chainsaw Model 358 manual?

The manual emphasizes wearing protective gear such as gloves, eye protection, and hearing protection, keeping a firm grip on the saw, maintaining a proper stance, and never operating the chainsaw when tired or under the influence.

Additional Resources

1. *Craftsman Chainsaw 358: Complete User Manual and Maintenance Guide*

This manual offers detailed instructions on operating and maintaining the Craftsman 358 chainsaw. It includes step-by-step guides for routine maintenance tasks, such as chain sharpening, lubrication, and engine tuning. The book is ideal for both beginners and experienced users seeking to extend the lifespan of their chainsaw.

2. *Chainsaw Repair and Maintenance: A Comprehensive Guide for Craftsman Models*

Focused on Craftsman chainsaws, this guide covers common repair issues and troubleshooting techniques. Readers will find detailed diagrams and explanations for fixing mechanical problems, replacing parts, and ensuring safe chainsaw operation. It's a valuable resource for DIY enthusiasts and professional mechanics alike.

3. *Mastering Chainsaw Safety: Best Practices for Craftsman 358 Operators*

Safety is paramount when using any chainsaw, and this book emphasizes proper safety protocols specific to the Craftsman 358 model. The author discusses protective gear, safe cutting techniques, and emergency procedures. This guide helps users minimize risks and work confidently in various environments.

4. *The Art of Chainsaw Maintenance: Keeping Your Craftsman 358 in Peak Condition*

This book delves into the finer points of chainsaw upkeep, focusing on the Craftsman 358. It explains how

to perform detailed inspections, fine-tune engine performance, and optimize cutting efficiency. The guide is designed to help users achieve professional-level maintenance results.

5. DIY Chainsaw Tune-Up: Step-by-Step Instructions for the Craftsman 358

A practical handbook for users who want to perform their own chainsaw tune-ups, this book breaks down complex procedures into simple steps. It includes tips on carburetor adjustment, spark plug replacement, and chain tensioning. Readers will gain confidence in keeping their Craftsman 358 running smoothly.

6. Chainsaw Troubleshooting Made Easy: Solutions for Craftsman 358 Problems

This troubleshooting guide helps users quickly diagnose and fix common problems with the Craftsman 358 chainsaw. It covers issues such as starting difficulties, loss of power, and unusual noises. The book also offers preventive advice to avoid future malfunctions.

7. Efficient Woodcutting Techniques Using the Craftsman 358 Chainsaw

Beyond maintenance, this book focuses on how to use the Craftsman 358 chainsaw effectively for various woodcutting tasks. It provides guidance on cutting angles, handling techniques, and maximizing fuel efficiency. Ideal for both hobbyists and professionals seeking to improve their cutting skills.

8. Chainsaw Parts and Accessories: A Guide for Craftsman 358 Owners

This book details the essential parts and compatible accessories for the Craftsman 358 chainsaw. It helps readers identify genuine replacement components, understand their functions, and select the right accessories for specific jobs. The guide supports informed purchasing and enhances chainsaw performance.

9. Winterizing Your Craftsman 358 Chainsaw: Preparation and Storage Tips

Protect your chainsaw during the off-season with this comprehensive winterizing guide. It explains how to clean, lubricate, and store the Craftsman 358 properly to prevent damage from cold weather. The book also offers advice on restarting and inspecting the chainsaw after long storage periods.

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