



***LasTec Articulator  
Model 325E-97***

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**Owner's Manual**

**LasTec**

*A Division of Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.  
7865 N County Rd 100E  
Lizton, Indiana 46149  
Phone (317) 892-4444 Fax (317) 892-4188  
[www.lastec.com](http://www.lastec.com)*

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## ***Read This Manual In Its Entirety BEFORE Operating The Articulator***

The information presented herein will prepare you to operate the Articulator in a safe and knowledgeable manner. Proper operation of the Articulator will provide a safer working environment, and promote higher quality, more efficient results.

Keep this manual at hand at all times for ready reference. The designed and tested safety of the Articulator is dependent upon its operation within the guidelines and limitations as outlined in this manual. Always adhere to all the safety rules presented in this manual, on the Articulator as well as on any related equipment you may be operating.

## ***Warning Symbols***

Throughout this manual, the following symbols are displayed in order to indicate important safety information. When coming upon one of these symbols in this manual, be aware of a potential hazard being discussed in the accompanying paragraphs. Hazards such as damage to equipment, serious personal injury, or even fatal injury are possible, perhaps even likely, if the accompanying instructions or procedures are not properly adhered to.

Following is a legend describing the warning symbols utilized throughout this manual, and the potential types of hazards which they indicate:



### ***Caution!***

***This symbol indicates a potential equipment hazard.***

Failing to properly adhere to the instructions, rules, or procedures may result in equipment malfunction, damage, or destruction.



### ***Warning!***

***This symbol indicates a potential personal injury hazard.***

Failing to properly adhere to the instructions, rules, or procedures may result in personal injury.



### ***Danger!***

***This symbol indicates a potential serious injury or fatal injury hazard.***

Failing to properly adhere to the instructions, rules, or procedures may result in serious injury or even fatal injury.

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## ***Servicing The Articulator***

The Articulator is carefully engineered and manufactured to provide safe, dependable, and satisfactory service. As with all other mechanical equipment, the Articulator requires routine inspection, cleaning and maintenance.

When servicing the Articulator, be sure to use only genuine LasTec parts. Utilization of substitute parts will not only void the warranty, but may also cause unsafe or unsatisfactory operation of the Articulator due to their substandard quality or incorrect application.

In order to handle all of your service needs, your authorized LasTec dealer stocks genuine LasTec parts, and has trained mechanics on hand. Your dealer can also supply tools or equipment which may be necessary to service the Articulator.



***ALWAYS use only genuine LasTec parts when servicing the Articulator! Utilization of substitute parts will void the warranty and may cause unsafe or unsatisfactory operation of the Articulator!***

## ***Product Registration***

Immediately record the model and serial numbers of your Articulator in the spaces provided below. These number can be found on the serial number plate which is permanently affixed to the mower. You should provide this information to your dealer any time you are ordering parts. This will assist them in supplying you the correct, most current parts for the particular serial number series of your Articulator.

---

**Drive Unit Model Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Drive Unit Serial Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cutting Deck Model Number :** \_\_\_\_\_

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You should now fill out the warranty registration form (*Chapter 6*) and mail or fax it to LasTec Inc. This form must be completed and returned to the factory within thirty (30) days of purchase in order to validate the warranty. Please do not hesitate!

## The E-Series Articulator Equipment Specifications

<b>72" Cutting Deck</b>	Cutting Width	72" Total, (3) Articulating 25" Cutting Decks	
	Blades	(3) 25"L x 2 1/2"W x 1/4"T High-Lift	P701
	Blade Tip Speed	Normal Operating Range of 15,000 to 16,000 FPM	
	Cutting Height Range	1" to 4" in 1/4" Increments	
	Gross Weight	1250 Lb.	
	Operating Environment	Outdoor use only	
	Gauge Wheels	(5) 9" x 3" Foam-Filled Tires	A150
	Front Tires	(2) 13" x 6" Pneumatic Tires	P465
	Drive Tires	(2) 20" x 8" Pneumatic Tires	P687
	Cutting Deck Drive Belt (Deck E2)	(1) Insta-Power 851030	P607
	Cutting Deck Belt, Right (Deck E3)	(1) Insta-Power 85870	P707
	Cutting Deck Belt, Left (Deck E1)	(1) Insta-Power 85890	P706

<b>Transmission</b>	Hydrostatic Drive Unit, Right	Hydro-Gear BDP-10	018185
	Hydrostatic Drive Unit, Left	Hydro-Gear BDP-10	018185
	Hydro Oil	API service class SG or CD, viscosity SAE 20W-50	
	Oil Filters	(2) 25 micron, 7 GPM full-flow, 3/8" NPT	P620
	Hydro Oil Capacity (with Filters)	5 qt. (2 1/2 qt. per unit)	
	Hydrostatic Drive Belts	(1) Belt, Goodyear BX48	019533

<b>Engine</b>	Model	CV22	P736
	Bore	3.03" (77 mm)	
	Stroke	2.64" (67 mm)	
	Displacement	38.1 cu inch (624 cc)	
	Power (@3600 RPM)	22 HP (16.4 kW)	
	Max Torque	33 ft. lb. (45 N m)	
	Compression Ratio	8:5.1	
	Weight	90 lb. (41 Kg)	
	Oil	API service class SG or SH, viscosity SAE 10W-30	
	Oil Capacity (with Filter)	2.1 qt. (2 l.)	
	Oil Filter	Kohler® 12 050 01 full-flow	
	Fuel	<b>Unleaded Gasoline:</b> octane rating 87 or higher. (Countries using the Research Method, 90 min.) <b>Gasohol:</b> 10% or less ethyl alcohol by volume. <b>Gasoline/Ether Mix:</b> 15% or less MTBE by volume.	
	Fuel Capacity	10 Gallons (5 Gallons per tank)	
	Battery	12 Volt DC	P625

# Safety Information

The purpose of this manual is to assist you in properly operating and maintaining your Articulator. Read and understand this entire manual before attempting to operate or perform any maintenance on Articulator. This manual provides information and instructions which will help you enjoy years of dependable performance from your Articulator. Although these instructions have been compiled through extensive field experience and engineering data, some information presented herein may be general in nature due to unknown and/or varying operating conditions. However, these instructions, coupled with your increasing experience with your Articulator, will enable you to develop procedures suitable to your particular situation.

The illustrations and data used in this manual were current at the time of printing, but the Articulator may vary slightly due to ongoing engineering changes. LasTec Inc. reserves the right to implement engineering and design changes to the Articulator as may be necessary without prior notification.

Some illustrations in this manual show the Articulator with safety guards removed in order to provide improved viewing of the particular components being discussed. *This is for informational purposes only -- never operate the Articulator with any of the safety guards removed!*



***NEVER operate the Articulator without the grass chute, and all guards and shields in place and properly secured!***

Throughout this manual, we make references to right and left directions. We determine right and left from the operator seat, facing in the direction of forward travel. Blade rotation is clockwise as viewed from the top of the Articulator.

Safety is a primary concern in the design, production, and service of all LasTec equipment. Unfortunately, our extensive efforts to provide safe equipment can be wiped out by a single careless act of an operator. In addition to the design and configuration of the Articulator, hazard control and accident prevention are also dependent upon the awareness, concern, prudence and proper training of all personnel involved in its operation, transportation, maintenance, and storage.

**THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE IS AN INFORMED, CAREFUL OPERATOR!** We ask you to be that kind of operator.



***Safety instructions are important! Read all safety rules in this manual as well as all safety rules in any related equipment manuals!***

The designed and tested safety of the Articulator is dependent upon its operation within the limitations as explained in this manual. Be familiar with and follow all safety rules in this manual as well as all safety rules provided with any related equipment you may be operating.

### ***Preparational Safety Rules***



***Know your controls and how stop the Articulator, disengage the blades, and shut off the engine quickly in an emergency! Read this entire manual as well as any manuals provided with any related equipment!***



***NEVER allow anyone to operate the Articulator without proper instruction! Any and all operators must be instructed in and capable of the safe operation of the Articulator and any related***



***NEVER allow children to operate the Articulator! ! NEVER allow children on or near the Articulator!! ALWAYS clear entire area of all personnel before operating the Articulator!!***

- Always wear relatively tight and belted clothing to avoid entanglement in moving parts. Wear sturdy rough-soled work shoes, as well as protective equipment for the eyes, hands, hearing and head. Never operate the Articulator or related equipment in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers.
- Clear the cut area of any stones, branches or other debris that may be thrown and cause injury or damage.
- Operate only in daylight or good artificial light.

- Verify that all safety decals are properly installed, visible, and intelligible.
- Always remove accumulated debris from the Articulator to avoid a fire hazard.
- Verify that the Articulator is properly set up, adjusted, and in good operating condition.
- Always perform the pre-operation equipment inspection (chapter 3), and the appropriate maintenance schedule (chapter 9) before operating the Articulator.
- Be sure that all auxiliary equipment switches (blades, lights, etc.) are in the OFF position before attempting to start the engine.
- Be sure that the parking brake is set before attempting to start the engine.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine.
- Lock all three deck lift levers into transport position before transporting to the cut area.

### ***Operational Safety Rules***



***ALWAYS work safely! Follow all safety rules! A careful operator is the best insurance against accidents!***  
***ALWAYS clear area of all personnel before operating***



***NEVER operate the Articulator without all guards and shields properly installed and in good condition!***  
***ALWAYS stay well clear of all moving parts!***  
***ALWAYS stay clear of blades during operation!***

- Always perform the pre-operation equipment inspection (chapter 3), and the appropriate maintenance schedule(s) (chapter 9) before operating the Articulator.
- If the Articulator is equipped with a Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS), you must always wear your seat belt.
- Never permit any person other than the operator to ride or board the Articulator at any time.  
**NEVER ALLOW RIDERS!**
- Never allow anyone in front or behind the Articulator while operating. **BE SURE THAT THE AREA BEHIND YOU IS CLEAR BEFORE OPERATING IN REVERSE!**

- Never allow anyone into the path of discharge.
- Never discharge in the direction of bystanders, vehicles, or buildings.
- Do not stop or start suddenly when going up or down a hill. Avoid operating on steep slopes.
- Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary - and then only after careful observation of entire area behind mower.
- Use extreme care and maintain minimum ground speed when transporting on a hillside or over rough ground, and when operating close to ditches or fences.
- Reduce speed on slopes and in sharp turns to minimize potential tipping or loss of control. Use caution when changing directions on slopes.
- Be alert for holes in the terrain as well as any other hidden hazard. Always drive slowly over rough ground.
- Disengage the blades, stop the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key before dismounting the Articulator, making any adjustments, or changing control positions.
- Stop the Articulator immediately upon striking any obstruction. Disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, remove the key, and inspect the Articulator any damage. Always repair any damage before resuming operation of the Articulator.
- Never lift the cutting decks of the Articulator while the blades are engaged.
- Never engage the blades with the cutting decks raised.
- Never place your hands or feet under the Articulator while the engine is running.
- Disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, remove the key, and be sure that all motion has stopped before performing any maintenance or adjustments.
- Stay well clear of all moving parts.
- Keep hands and feet away from the blades at all times during operation.
- Take all possible precautions when leaving the Articulator unattended: Disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key anytime you leave the Articulator unattended.

- Watch for oncoming traffic whenever crossing any roadways, driveways, or parking lots.
- Handle gasoline with caution - it is explosive! Always use approved gasoline containers; Never use gasoline as a solvent; Never fuel the Articulator while the engine is running or hot; Never fuel the Articulator indoors; Wipe up any spilled gasoline; Never smoke around gasoline.
- Do not run engine indoors - exhaust fumes are dangerous and deadly.

## **Maintenance Safety Rules**



**ALWAYS disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key before performing any service or maintenance on the Articulator!**

- Always perform the appropriate maintenance schedule(s) in a timely fashion.
- Never allow anyone near any operator controls while performing adjustments, service or maintenance.
- Always use personal protection equipment such as eye, hand, head, and ear protection when performing any service or maintenance.
- Keep the Articulator engine free of debris or excess grease or oil to reduce fire hazard.
- Keep the Articulator in good operating condition with all safety devices in place.
- Check the blades frequently. Verify that they are sharp, free of nicks and cracks, and securely fastened.
- Periodically tighten all bolts, nuts and screws and check that all fasteners are properly installed to ensure that the Articulator is in safe operating condition.
- Upon completing any maintenance or service function, verify that all safety guards and devices are properly installed before operating the Articulator.
- Verify that all warning labels and decals are properly installed, visible, and legible.
- Always remove debris from underneath the Articulator after each use.

## Storage Safety Rules



- Never run the engine indoors. **NEVER run any engine indoors! Exhaust gasses contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison!**
- Never store equipment with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes could reach an open flame or spark.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing in an inside enclosure.
- Remove all accumulated debris from both the top and bottom of the Articulator before storing.
- Sand chipped or scratched areas and re-paint them to prevent rust during storage.
- Lubricate the all moving parts of the Articulator to prevent rust during storage.



## Fuel Tanks

The 325-E Series Articulator is equipped with two 5-gallon fuel tanks, which are located under the inner two fenders on each side of the operator seat. The Articulator is shipped dry (no fuel) from the factory, so you will need to fuel the Articulator before operating. The inlets of each are clearly marked with decals. **Do not attempt to fuel the Articulator until you read and understand the entire INITIAL SET-UP section of this manual.**

There are shut-off valves located on the bottom of each fuel tank. These valves allow the operator to regulate the flow of fuel from each tank to the engine. Before operating the Articulator, you should be sure that both fuel valves are in the ON position.

When cutting for an extended period of time on a side hill, or when parking the Articulator on a side hill, fuel may travel from the uphill tank to the downhill tank, overflow, and leak out through the vented fuel tank cap! Anytime you encounter extended periods of time on a side hill, you should turn off the valve on the lower tank. This will eliminate any fuel flow from tank to tank.



**Extended periods of time on a side hill may allow fuel to flow from the uphill tank to the downhill tank, causing overflow and leakage!**  
**Turn off the valve on the downhill tank any time you encounter extended periods of time on a side hill!**

## Fuel



**Gasoline is extremely flammable! Both gasoline and gasoline vapors can explode if ignited!**  
**NEVER store gasoline in unapproved containers, in confined areas, or near spark or open flame!**  
**NEVER smoke near gasoline!**

**Gasoline:** Use only unleaded gasoline, with an octane rating of 87 or higher. In countries using the Research method, use 90 octane minimum.

**Gasohol:** Gasohol may be used, as long as the mixture is 10% ethyl alcohol or less by

volume. Any other gasoline/alcohol blends are not to be used.

**Gasoline/Ether:** Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and unleaded gasoline blends may be used, as long as the mixture is 15% MTBE or less by volume. Any other gasoline/ether blends are not to be used.



***ALWAYS turn off engine before refueling!  
NEVER fill tank indoors or when engine is hot!  
ALWAYS wipe off all spilled gasoline before  
starting engine!  
NEVER smoke when refueling!***

## ***Engine Oil***

It is important that the proper type of oil be used in the crankcase. It is also important that the oil level and quality be checked daily. Use of incorrect oil, inadequate oil level, or dirty oil causes engine damage.



***Be sure to use the correct oil in the crankcase!  
Be sure to check the oil level and quality daily!  
Incorrect oil, inadequate oil level, or dirty oil will  
cause engine damage!***

A high-quality detergent oil of API (American Petroleum Institute) service class SG or SH is to be used, with an SAE viscosity grade of 10W-30. Due to the nature of the lawn care industry, it is assumed that operation of the Articulator will typically be in air temperatures higher than 32°F / 0°C. In the unlikely event that you will be operating the Articulator in air temperatures of less than 32°F / 0°C, consult the **Kohler® Engine Owner's Manual** (*located in the back of this manual*) for the proper SAE viscosity grade of motor oil you should use.

## ***Hydro Oil***

It is important that the proper type of oil be used in the hydrostatic drive units. It is also important that the oil level and quality be checked daily. Use of incorrect oil, inadequate oil level, or dirty oil causes transmission damage.



***Be sure to use the correct oil in the transmission!  
Be sure to check the oil level and quality daily!  
Incorrect oil, inadequate oil level, or dirty oil will  
cause transmission damage!***

An engine oil with a minimum rating of 55 SUS at 210°F and an API Classification of SG/CD and an SAE viscosity grade of 20W-50 is to be used in the hydrostatic drive units. Again, due to the nature of the lawn care industry, it is assumed that the operation of the Articulator will typically be in air temperatures higher than 32°F / 0° C. In the unlikely event that you will be operating the Articulator in air temperatures less than 32°F / 0° C, consult the Hydrostatic Transmission Service and Repair Manual located in the back of this manual for the proper SAE viscosity grade oil you should use. Both hydro oil tanks should be filled to the “FULL” marking displayed on each tank.

## **Battery**

The Articulator utilizes a 12-volt battery. If the battery charge is not sufficient to crank the engine, recharge the battery.



***EXPLOSIVE GAS!  
Batteries produce explosive hydrogen gas while  
being charged!  
Always charge batteries in a well-ventilated area!***

Batteries produce explosive hydrogen gas while being charged. To prevent fire or explosion, only charge batteries in a well-ventilated area. Do not charge the battery anywhere near spark, open flame, or other sources of ignition. Always remove jewelry before handling batteries. **KEEP ALL BATTERIES OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN!**

Be sure all control switches are in the OFF position before disconnecting the negative (-) ground cable. Otherwise, sparking and explosion are possible!

## **Steering Controls**

There are three (3) positions from which to control the E-Series Articulator:

1. From the operator seat, using the left and right hand controls
2. From the operator seat, using the left and right foot controls
3. From the walk-behind position, using the left rear and right rear hand controls

All three sets of operator controls are inter-linked, moving simultaneously when any of the three are activated. Before operating the Articulator, check to be sure all the controls are properly connected, clear of debris, and freely operable from each of the three operator positions.

## **Cut Height**

The E-Series Articulator has a cutting range of 1" to 4", in 1/4" increments. The cutting height is pre-set at the factory to 2". If you wish to change the cutting height, do so before attempting to operate the Articulator. You may find it easier to change the cutting height with the outer decks in the raised position – refer to the “**Deck Lift**” section of this chapter for instructions on raising the cutting decks.



***NEVER attempt to change the cutting height while the engine is running!  
ALWAYS disengage the blades, turn off the engine, set the parking brake, and remove the key before attempting to adjust the cutting height!***

**NOTE: Always park the Articulator on as level ground as possible whenever you change or adjust the cutting height!**

The cutting height of the five 9" gauge wheels are set using combinations of 1" and 1/4" spacers. Change the cutting height by simply moving the spacers from above to below each wheel shaft collar. When there are no spacers below the collar, the cutting height is set at 1". Placing any combination of spacers below the collar raises the cutting height by the corresponding thickness of the spacers used. (*i.e., a 1" spacer will set the cutting height at 2", a 1" and a 1/4" spacer together will set the cutting height at 2 1/4", etc.*)

The cutting height of the two 13" tires located on the front axle are set using the turnbuckle located between the front axle and the cutting deck. To set the cutting height on the front axle, place a spacer of the desired height at the front center of the cutting deck (or use a rule to measure the distance between the bottom of the deck and the ground). Slowly turn the turnbuckle in order to raise or lower the cutting deck until the spacer just slides snugly between the bottom of the cutting deck and the ground (or you reach the desired measurement).

## **Gauge Wheel Pivot Arm Adjustment**

The gauge wheel pivot arm located on the outside of the outer two cutting decks are designed to enable the decks to cut more accurately at either the top of a mound or in the valley between mounds. However, in the case of extreme contours (severely sharp mounds and narrow valleys) you may experience areas of grass which have been cut lower than desired. If this is the case,

simply adjust the stopping bolt (located at the pivot point of the gauge wheel arm) down, fixing the arm against the cutting deck and eliminating any pivot motion. This will enable the gauge wheels to lift the cutting deck slightly earlier and lower the cutting deck slightly later when traveling over mounds and through valleys, thus alleviating this problem in severely mounded areas.

## **Deck Lift**

The E-Series Articulator is equipped with a manual cutting deck lift system which enables the operator to lift each of the three decks either independently or in unison. It is recommended that the deck lift system be utilized during any transport situation. It offers easier negotiation of curbs, and helps to prevent the cutting decks from striking objects or debris which may be in the path of transport. It is also useful when changing the blades or performing other routine maintenance to the Articulator.



**NEVER attempt to lift the cutting decks while the blades are engaged!**  
**ALWAYS disengage the blades and wait for all motion to stop before attempting to lift the cutting**



**NEVER engage the blades while the cutting decks are in raised position!**  
**ALWAYS be sure to lift the center cutting deck (T-handle pedal) first, followed by the outer two cutting decks (left and right hand levers)!**

There is a T-handle pedal located to the front of the operator seat (between the left and right control pedals), and hand lever located to each side of the operator seat. T-handle pedal lifts the center cutting deck. The left hand lever lifts the left cutting deck, and the right hand lever lifts the right cutting deck. All three lifts are designed to automatically lock into raised position when activated. **ALWAYS LIFT THE CENTER DECK FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE TWO OUTER DECKS!**

## **Deck Release**

In order to return the cutting decks to cut position, you must first release each lift lever manually. **OPERATE THE LEVERS ONE AT A TIME ONLY!** There is a substantial amount of weight supported by each lever - attempting to operate them simultaneously could cause the cutting decks to suddenly drop unexpectedly. On each of the left and right hand levers, depress the button located on the end of the lever and **CAREFULLY** lower the deck to cutting position.

Release the T-handle pedal by initially applying pressure to the pedal, then pushing the deck release lever forward (located in the right floorboard just inside the front axle pivot collar) once released, CAREFULLY lower the deck to cut position.



***ALWAYS operate one lever at a time when releasing the decks to cut position!  
NEVER engage the blades until all three decks have been lowered to cut position!***

## ***Deck Belt Tension***

LasTec's revolutionary double idler pulley belt tensioning system automatically tensions the belts on the left and right cutting decks, thus eliminating the need for manual belt tension adjustment.

If the idler system goes to its maximum stroke without adequately tightening the belt, you will need to utilize a shorter belt. For further information, contact the factory for proper belt lengths for your Articulator.

If you are unable to install a belt with the idler system at its minimum stroke, you will need to utilize a longer belt. For further information, contact the factory for proper belt lengths for your Articulator.

## ***Drive Belt Tension***

The drive belt (located between the engine and the center cutting deck) is a specialty belt manufactured to LasTec's specifications. The spring-loaded idler pulley system automatically tensions the belt to the proper level. If the drive belt is worn or stretched to the point that it can no longer be properly tensioned, replace the belt.

## ***Hydrostatic Drive Belt Tension***

Like the drive belt, the hydrostatic drive (or mule drive) belts (located between the engine and the hydrostatic drive units) is automatically tensioned to the proper level by the spring-loaded idler pulley system. If the belt is worn or stretched to the point that it can no longer be properly tensioned, replace it.

## ***Hours/Service/RPM Meter***

The meter located on the main control panel has several functions which not only aid you in the proper operation of the Articulator, but also help you to adhere to a proper and timely

maintenance schedule. Simply depress the SET button on the face of the meter to change modes. Depress and hold the button to change the setting.

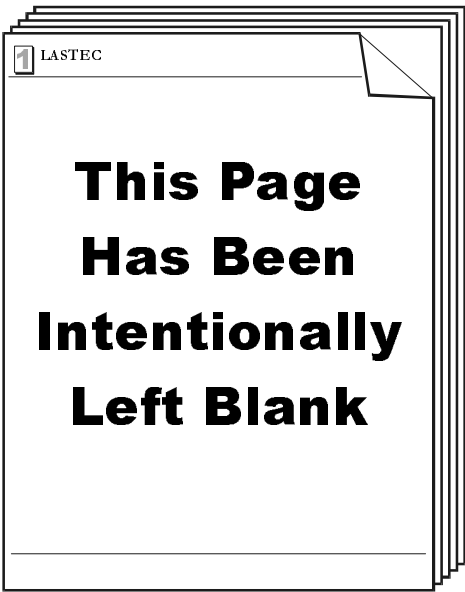
The various functions of the meter are as follows:

**Hour Meter:** Records the actual running time logged on the engine. It is non-erasable.

**Job Timer:** An erasable, independent timer (much like the re-settable odometer in an automobile). This allows the timing of various jobs, enabling more accurate job costing, billing, etc.

**Service Alarm:** Set your own service and maintenance schedules. The display flashes when a scheduled service or maintenance function is due.

**Tachometer:** Displays the engine RPM during operation. This enables more accurate control of the Articulator in varying cutting situations and conditions, and will prevent accidental over-powering or abuse of the engine - promoting longer engine life.





# ***Pre-Operation Equipment Inspection Checklist***

## **Engine**

- Check oil level and condition. Add oil if low - do not overfill. Change oil if necessary.
- Check fuel level. Add fuel if needed. Verify shut-off valves (under each tank) are in the ON position.
- Check air filter for dirty, loose, or damaged parts. Clean or replace filter if necessary.
- Check that all intake and cooling areas are clean and clear of debris.

## **Transmission**

- Check hydro oil level and condition. Fill to indicators on tanks. Change oil if necessary.
- Check the hydrostatic drive unit cooling fans (located between the drive units and the rear tires) for loose, broken, or distorted blades, and that the fan is securely fastened. Secure or replace the fan if necessary.
- Inspect the entire transmission system for leaks. Areas to inspect include the shaft seals, all hoses and fittings, the filters, and the hydrostatic drive unit housings. Repair any leaks, and replace any damaged parts.
- Verify that the bypass valve (located in the front of the hydrostatic drive unit housing) is functional. The bypass valve should be fully released prior to operation, and should extend approximately .22" from the hex nut.

## **Cutting Decks**

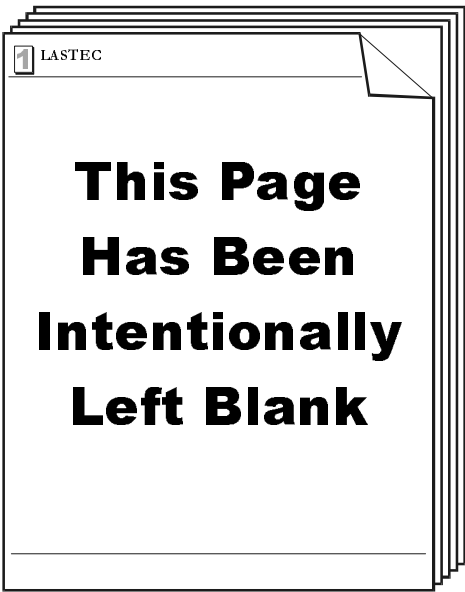
- Inspect all blades for proper installation, orientation, tightness, sharpness, and overall condition. Be sure the lift fin is oriented to the top of the blade, the mount bolt is secure, the blade is sharp, and free of any nicks, cracks, or bends. Always replace any damaged blades.
- Check all belts for proper tension and condition. Replace any worn or improperly sized belts.
- Verify proper function of all gauge wheels. The wheel hubs should turn freely without excessive side-to-side motion, and be free of debris. Clean, adjust, or replace wheels as necessary.
- Check that the discharge chute is clear of debris and properly mounted as to prevent thrown object hazards.
- Verify that all warning decals are in place, visible and legible.
- Check that entire cutting deck area is clean and clear of debris.
- Verify that all guards, shields, and safety devices are properly installed and secure.
- Check that the cutting height is set to the desired level. Utilize the spacers on each of the four gauge wheels located on the two side cutting decks, as well as the wheel located on the rear of the center cutting deck. Utilize the turnbuckle located between the front axle and the center cutting deck.
- Lock all three cutting decks into transport position (with the deck lift levers) for transport to the cut site.

## **Controls**

- Check that all three sets of steering controls (rear controls, seat controls, and pedals) are properly linked, free of debris, and operate freely.
- Check that both front and rear ignition switches are in the proper positions for the intended operator position. If operating from the seat, the rear ignition switch must be in the RUN position; if operating from the rear controls, the front ignition key switch must be in the RUN position. Be sure that all auxiliary switches (lights, blades, etc.) are in the OFF position before attempting to start the engine.
- Set the parking brake prior to starting the engine.

## **General**

- Check the air pressure in the pneumatic drive tires. Proper air pressure is 22 PSI.
- Check the air pressure in the pneumatic front tires. Proper air pressure is 40 PSI.
- Check that the operator seat lock is properly latched and operator seat is secure.



# Operating Procedures



***Do not attempt to operate the Articulator until you have read and understand this manual in its entirety!  
Never allow anyone to operate the Articulator without proper training and without first reading***



***ALWAYS perform the pre-operation equipment inspection before attempting to operate the Articulator!  
ALWAYS perform the appropriate maintenance schedule(s) before attempting to operate the***



***Follow all safety rules stated in this manual as well as the manuals supplied with any related equipment you are operating!  
A well informed safety-conscious operator is the best safeguard against accident or injury!***

## Starting The Engine

Upon completion of reading and understanding this manual in its entirety, performing the pre-operation inspection, performing the appropriate maintenance schedule(s), and reviewing all safety rules, you are ready to begin operating the Articulator.

Verify that the ignition key switch (main control panel) and the rear ignition switch (rear control panel) are in the appropriate positions for the intended operator position. If you will be operating the Articulator from the operator seat, the rear ignition switch must be in the RUN position. If you will be operating the Articulator from the rear controls, the ignition key switch must be in the RUN position.

Be sure all auxiliary switches (blades, lights, etc.) are in the OFF positions. Take your position at either the operator seat or the rear controls.

The choke and throttle are activated with twist controls (located to each side of the operator seat, mounted on the inside fenders) which can be operated from both the operator seat and the rear controls. You will need to operate the choke anytime you start the engine. The left twist

control activates the choke. There is a decal indicating the proper direction of operation (open or closed) of the twist control. You can also determine the choke activation by viewing the cable pull arm (located to the rear of the twist control rod). Pulling the choke cable OUT closes the choke. IN opens the choke. Fully close the choke to start the engine.

The right twist control activates the throttle. There is a decal indicating the proper direction of operation (fast or slow) of the twist control. You can also determine the throttle activation by viewing the cable pull arm (located to the rear of the twist control rod). Pulling the cable OUT increases the throttle. IN decreases the throttle. You should position the throttle at approximately ½ stroke to start the engine.

Start the engine. From the operator seat, turn the key switch on the main control panel to the START position, and release it to the RUN position when the engine begins running. From the rear controls, push the engine toggle switch on the rear control panel to the START position, and release it to the RUN position when the engine begins running.

If the engine is cold, you will need to leave the choke closed for a few minutes until the engine begins to warm up. Adjust the throttle in or out to obtain a stable idle.

If the engine fails to start after ten seconds of continuous cranking, discontinue the starting attempt. Turn off all equipment switches and check for the problem before continuing.

## ***Stopping The Engine***

Stop the engine by throttling down to a slow idle, then turning the ignition key switch to the OFF position (if operating from the operator seat) or pushing the ignition toggle switch to the OFF position (if operating from the rear controls).

In case of emergency, the ignition switch on either control panel will stop the engine, regardless of the operator's control position.

## ***Motion Control***

The E-Series Articulator is equipped with two hydrostatic drive units, one operating each rear drive wheel. These units are controlled separately with any of the three sets of control levers (rear controls, operator seat controls, and foot controls).

When the control levers are released, they automatically return to the neutral position, stopping all motion of the Articulator.

Pushing a control lever forward activates the hydrostatic drive unit on the corresponding side, turning the drive wheel in the corresponding direction. (i.e., a right control lever pushed forward activates the right drive wheel in the forward direction. A right control lever pulled back activates the right drive wheel in the reverse direction.)

The control levers also govern the ground speed of the Articulator. The farther from the neutral position the lever is pushed or pulled, the faster the corresponding drive wheel turns. Always use the control levers to regulate ground speed - NOT the throttle control. Following are the proper steering procedures:

1. **To travel forward:** Push both control levers forward evenly. The farther they are pushed, the faster the Articulator travels.
2. **To travel in reverse:** Pull both control levers backward evenly. The farther they are pushed, the faster the Articulator travel.
3. **To turn to the right:** Push the left control lever forward slowly, and maintain the right control lever in neutral position.
4. **To turn to the left:** Push the right control lever forward slowly, and maintain the left control lever in neutral position.
5. **To obtain a zero turn radius (ZTR) to the right:** Push the left control lever forward slowly, while simultaneously pulling the right control lever backward slowly.
6. **To obtain a zero turn radius (ZTR) to the left:** Push the right control lever forward slowly, while simultaneously pulling the left control lever backward slowly.
7. **To stop:** Return both control levers to the neutral position.
8. **To change directions:** Slowly return both control levers to the neutral position, and allow the Articulator to slow to a stop. Then slowly move the control levers into the appropriate positions to travel in the desired direction.

## ***Parking Brake***

The parking brake lever is located between the main control panel and the right floorboard. To set the brake, pull up on the lever until it locks in at its maximum stroke upward. To release the brake, push the lever back down until it rests freely on the mower frame. Remember to set the parking break before dismounting the Articulator, before leaving the Articulator unattended, or before performing any maintenance or adjustments on the Articulator.

## Operating The Cutting Deck



**NEVER engage the blades while the cutting decks are in transport position!**  
**ALWAYS be sure all three lift levers have been fully released, and all three cutting decks are in cut position before engaging blades!**



**ALWAYS clear area of all personnel before engaging the blades!**  
**NEVER operate the Articulator without all guards and shields properly installed!**  
**ALWAYS stay clear of all moving parts!**  
**ALWAYS stay well clear of blades during operation!**

The 325E Articulator is equipped with a 72” wide cutting deck, which is comprised of three independently articulating 25” decks. The individual cutting decks pivot at blade level, and the revolutionary double idler pulley belt tension system takes up excess belt length or releases additional belt length as necessary during the up and down articulation of the decks. This allows the Articulator to hold the contour of ground with unmatched precision - delivering the best quality cut of any rotary mower in the world.

All three cutting decks are belt driven - the drive belt (located between the engine and the center deck) drives the center deck, and the deck belts (located between the center deck and the outer two decks) drive the outer two decks.

The E-Series Articulator is equipped with an electric clutch which activates the drive belt, thus engaging the blades of all three cutting decks simultaneously. The blades are engaged in one of two ways, depending on the operator’s control position:

- 1. Engaging the blades from the operator seat:** With the engine running, and all three cutting decks in cut position, switch the BLADES toggle switch (located on the main control panel) to the START position. It is a MOMENTARY SWITCH - you may release it immediately upon activation of the clutch. The blades will engage slowly, and gradually increase in speed until the desired RPM is reached.
- 2. Engaging the blades from the rear controls:** The operator present switch (located just in front of the rear control lever guard) must be activated in order to engage the blades. To activate, pull the operator present bar toward you and

hold it firmly in place against the rear control guard. With the engine running, and all three cutting decks in the cut position, switch the BLADES toggle switch (located on the rear control panel) to the START position. It is a MOMENTARY SWITCH - you may release it immediately upon activation of the clutch. The blades will engage slowly, and gradually increase in speed until the desired RPM is reached.

The operator present switch must remain activated at all times in order to operate the cutting deck from the rear control position. If the operator present bar is released at anytime during rear control operation, the blades will automatically be disengaged. In case of emergency or loss of control, simply release the operator present bar to immediately disengage the blades.

## **Blade Speed**



***NEVER operate the Articulator at engine speeds beyond the recommended range as stated!  
If the recommended RPM range does not provide an adequate cut in abnormal cutting conditions or problem areas, improve the cut by reducing ground speed or making two passes over the problem area!***

One of the functions of the meter located on the main control panel is the indication of engine RPM. The engine governor is factory-set to allow a maximum engine speed of 3400 RPM, in order to promote longer engine life as well as prevent the operation of the cutting deck at unsafe (and illegal) blade speeds. Under normal cutting conditions, the Articulator will provide a good quality cut when operated at an engine speed ranging from 2900 to 3200 RPM. This translates to a blade speed ranging from approximately 15,000 to 16,000 FPM, which is adequate for most normal cutting situations. When cutting excessively tall, thick, or wet grass, you may improve the cut performance by TEMPORARILY increasing the engine RPM slightly beyond the 2900 to 3200 RPM range, thus slightly increasing the blade speed. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED THAT THE ENGINE SPEED EXCEED 3300 RPM AT ANY TIME. In the unlikely event that an engine speed of 3300 RPM is not providing the desired cut quality due to excessively tall, thick, or wet grass, or any other abnormal cutting situation or problem areas, improve the cut quality by either reducing the Articulator ground speed or making two passes over the problem area. DO NOT OPERATE THE ARTICULATOR AT AN ENGINE RPM BEYOND THE RECOMMENDED SAFE OPERATING RANGE STATED

## ***Ground Speed***

The E-Series Articulator is designed to cut cleanly and efficiently at relatively high ground speeds, with the engine operating at 2900 RPM. Reduced ground speed is required when operating on severe contours, when cutting excessively tall, wet, or thick grass, or when traveling up or down large or steep hills. Maximum ground speed is intended for transport only, with all three cutting decks locked in transport position, and should not be attempted during any cutting operation.

Attempting to change directions at high ground speed, whether cutting or transporting, can cause damage to the turf, especially in wet conditions. Direction changes should be made by slowing to a near or complete stop (returning the control levers to neutral position), and slowly changing the control lever positions to begin travel in the desired direction. This prevents turf damage, as well as prolonging equipment life and promoting safer operation of the Articulator.



## ***First 5 Operating Hours***

1. Change the hydro oil.
2. Change both hydro oil filters.
3. Change the engine oil.
4. Change the engine oil filter.

## ***Every 8 Operating Hours***

1. Check air pressure in the pneumatic tires. Air pressure of 22 PSI is recommended.
2. Grease all wheel yoke pivot collars.
3. Inspect all belts for proper tension and condition. Replace if necessary.
4. Inspect all blades for proper installation, tightness, sharpness, and condition. Sharpen any dull blades. Tighten any loose blade bolts. Always replace any damaged or cracked blades. Check that the lift fin is oriented to the top of the blade upon installation.
5. Inspect the spindle bearing grease seals (under each cutting deck) for grease leakage or improper seating. If the seal is improperly seated or unseated, re-install it into the bearing. If the seal is leaking, damaged or missing, replace it.
6. Inspect the mounting bolts on both drive pulleys (located on the electric clutch under the engine and on the center cutting deck). Tighten if loose.
7. Verify the discharge chute is properly mounted and free of debris.
8. Verify that all hardware is securely fastened and in good condition.
9. Verify that all safety covers are in place and securely fastened.
10. Verify that all warning labels and decals are properly installed, visible, and legible.
11. Verify that all motion control levers are properly linked, functional, and free of debris.

## ***Every 25 Operating Hours***

1. Complete all previous maintenance schedule checklists.
2. Grease all wheel hubs.
3. Lubricate all joints and moving parts which are not equipped with grease fittings. Motorcycle oil or WD-40 is recommended for these areas.
4. Service the pre-cleaner element.\*
5. Check oil cooler. Clean if necessary.\*

*\* Refer to the Kohler<sup>®</sup> engine owner's manual located in the back of this manual.*

## ***Every 50 Operating Hours***

1. Complete all previous maintenance schedule checklists.
2. Grease all blade spindle bearing housings.
3. Inspect all wheel bearings for wear, damage, debris, and proper tightness. Replace any worn or damaged wheel bearings and/or related components.
4. Inspect all bronze bushings for wear. Replace if necessary.
5. Grease all grease fittings.

## ***Every 100 Operating Hours***

1. Complete all previous maintenance schedule checklists.
2. Service the air cleaner element.\*
3. Change the engine oil.\*
4. Remove the cooling shrouds and clean the cooling areas.\*
5. Change the hydro oil and both filters. Change both hydro oil filters.

*\* Refer to the Kohler<sup>®</sup> engine owner's manual located in the back of this manual.*

## ***Every 200 Operating Hours***

1. Change the engine oil filter.\*
2. Check spark plug condition and gap.\*

\* *Refer to the Kohler<sup>®</sup> engine owner's manual located in the back of this manual.*

## ***Every 500 Operating Hours***

1. Complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, and 50-Hour Maintenance Schedule checklists.
2. Inspect all blade spindle bearings for wear or damage. Always replace worn or damaged spindle bearings before operating the Articulator
3. Replace all bronze bushings.
4. Inspect the pull pin for wear or damage. Replace if necessary.
5. Re-pack the tapered roller bearings in all wheels. Always replace worn or damaged bearings and related components before operating the Articulator.
6. Inspect all component parts and wear points. Replace any worn, damaged, or missing parts before operating the Articulator.
7. Have bendix starter drive serviced.\*
8. Have solenoid shift starter disassembled and cleaned.\*

\* *Refer to the Kohler<sup>®</sup> engine owner's manual located in the back of this manual.*

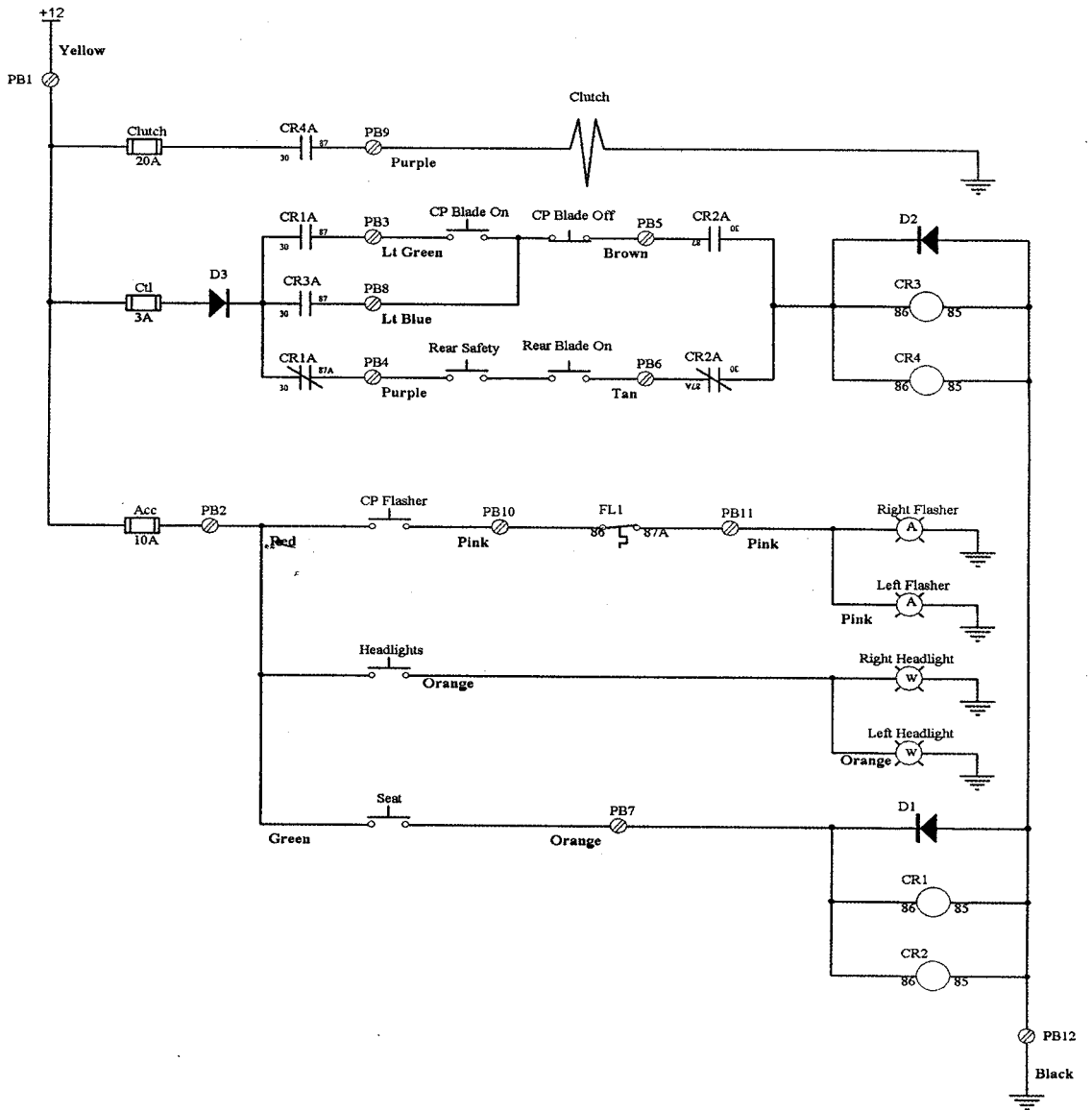
## ***Annual Maintenance***

1. As an annual maintenance program, LasTec recommends the purchase and installation of a complete K608 Articulator Model 325ER Rebuild Kit. Contact your Articulator dealer for more information about the K610 Rebuild Kit.
2. After installing the K610 325ER Rebuild Kit, complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, 50-Hour, 100-Hour, 200 Hour, and 500-Hour Maintenance Schedule Checklists.

# The Articulator Model 325E Maintenance Chart

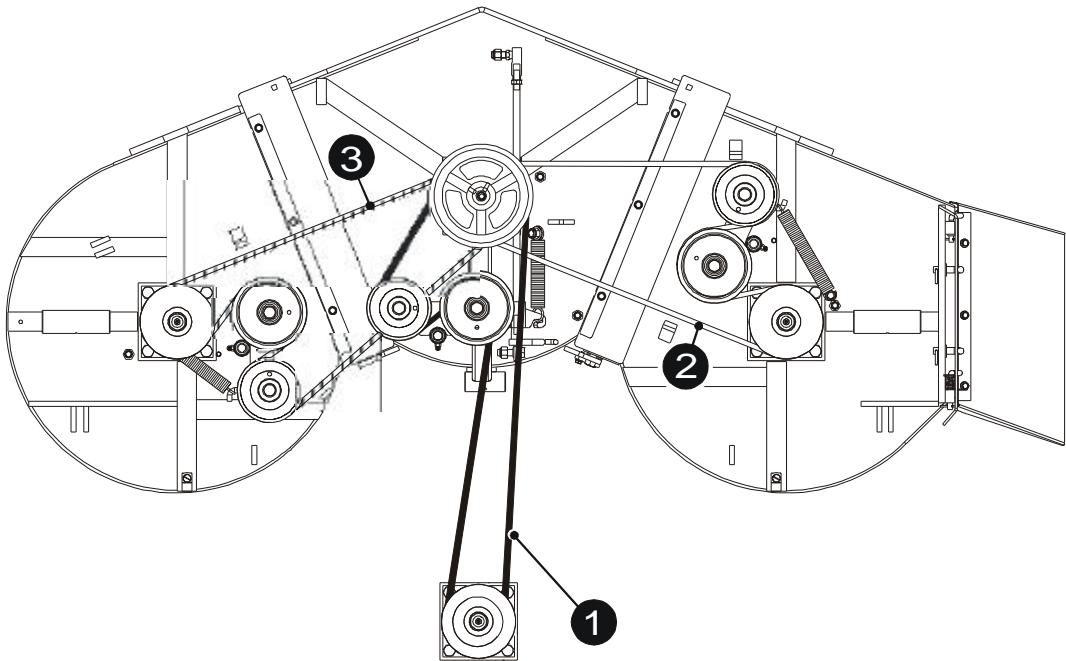
	First 5 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 8 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 25 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 50 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 100 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 200 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Every 500 Hours Maintenance Checklist	Annual Maintenance Checklist
Change the Hydro Oil	•							
Change Both Hydro Oil Filters	••							
Change the Engine Oil	••							
Change the Engine Oil Filter	••							
Check Air Pressure in the 13" Pneumatic Tires. (40 PSI)		•						
Check Air Pressure in the 20" Pneumatic Tires. (22 PSI)		••						
Grease All Wheel Yoke Pivot Collars		••						
Inspect All Belts for Proper Tension & Operating Condition		••						
Inspect All Blades & Blade Hardware		••						
Inspect Grease Seals in Lower Blade Bearings		••						
Inspect the Mounting Bolts on Both Drive Pulleys (Clutch & Center Deck)		••						
Verify the Grass Discharge Chute is Properly Mounted & Free of Debris		••						
Verify That All Hardware is Securely Fastened & in Good Condition		••						
Verify That All Safety Covers Are In Place & Securely Fastened		••						
Verify That All Warning Labels & Decals are Properly Installed, Visible, & Legible		••						
Verify That All Motion Control Levers Are Properly Linked, Functional, & Free of Debris		••						
Complete the 8-Hour Maintenance Schedule Checklist			•					
Grease All Gauge Wheel Hubs			••					
Lubricate All Non-Fitted Wear Points			••					
Service the Pre-Cleaner Element			••					
Inspect Oil Cooler			•					
Complete the 8-Hour & 25-Hour Maintenance Checklists				••				
Grease All Blade Spindle Bearing Housings				••				
Inspect All Wheel Bearings for Wear, Damage, Debris, & Proper Installation				••				
Inspect All Bronze Bushings				••				
Grease All Remaining Grease Fittings				••				
Complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, & 50-Hour Maintenance Checklists					••			
Service the Air Cleaner Element					••			
Change the Engine Oil & Filter					••			
Remove the Cooling Shrouds & Clean the Cooling Areas					••			
Change the Hydro Oil & Both Filters					•			
Complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, 50-Hour, & 100-Hour Maintenance Checklists						••		
Replace the Spark Plug						•		
Complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, 50-Hour, & 100-Hour, & 200-Hour Maintenance Checklists							•	
Inspect All Blade Spindle Bearings							••	
Replace All Bushings							••	
Inspect the Pull Bar Pin							•	
Re-pack All Wheel Bearings							••	
Inspect Entire Machine for Worn or Damaged Parts							••	
Have Bendix Starter Drive Serviced							•	
Have Solenoid Shaft Starter Disassembled & Cleaned							•	
Install the K608 Articulator Model 325E Rebuild Kit								•
Complete the 8-Hour, 25-Hour, 50-Hour, 100-Hour, 200-Hour, & 500-Hour Maintenance Checklists								•

# The Articulator Model 325E Wiring Diagram



# Articulator Model 325E Belt Diagram

- 1  Top
- 2  Middle
- 3  Bottom



# Warranty

LasTec, A Division of Wood-Mizer Products, Inc. warrants its new products to be free of defects in material or workmanship. This warranty is applicable only for the normal service life expectancy of the machine or components, not to exceed twelve consecutive months from the date of delivery of the new LasTec product to the original purchaser.

LasTec, A Division of Wood-Mizer Products, Inc. warrants any new products supplied to a rental yard, or any other situation involving the rental, lease, or other temporary use of the product by a third party, to be free of defects in material or workmanship, not to exceed 90 days from the date of delivery of the new LasTec product to the original purchaser.

Under no circumstances will it cover any merchandise or components thereof, which, in the opinion of the company has been subjected to negligent handling, misuse, alteration, accident, or repairs made with any parts other than those obtainable through LasTec Inc.

Warranty on all normal wear items such as bearings, belts, and bushings is 90 days from date of delivery. Any claim received after 90 days will not be accepted. All warranty items must be filed with your distributor. The distributor will then file the warranty claim with LasTec.

Our obligation under this warranty shall be limited to repairing or replacing, free of charge to the original purchaser, any part that in our judgement shall show evidence of such defect, provided further that such part shall be returned within thirty (30) days from date of failure to LasTec Inc., routed through the dealer and distributor from whom the purchase was made, with transportation charges prepaid.

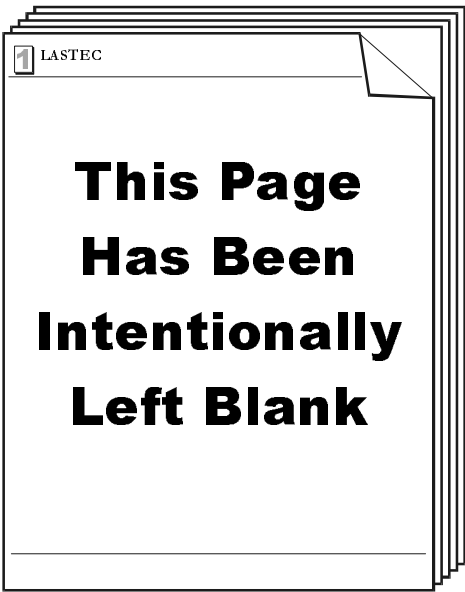
This warranty shall not be interpreted to render us liable for injury or damages of any kind or nature, direct, consequential, or contingent to person or property. This warranty does not extend to loss of any expense or loss incurred for labor, supplies, substitute machinery, rental or for any other reason.

There are no warranties, either expressed or implied, of merchantability or fitness for particular purpose intended or fitness for any other reason.

This warranty is subject to any existing conditions of supply which may directly affect our ability to obtain materials or manufacture replacement parts.

LasTec Inc. reserves the right to make improvements in design or changes in specifications at any time, without incurring any obligations to owners of units previously sold.

No one is authorized to alter, modify or enlarge this warranty nor the exclusion, limitations and reservation.





# Lastec Warranty Registration Form

**IMPORTANT!** To validate the warranty, this registration form must be completed in full and returned to Lastec within fifteen (15) days of purchase!

Detach Here

**Company Name**

**Company Contact**

**Mailing Address**

**Shipping Address**

**Phone**

**Fax**

**Authorized Company Representative Signature:**

*I have read and understand the warranty policy and maintenance sections of the operators manual for the machine described below.*

**Articulator Model:**

**Serial Number:**

**Distributor/Dealer Purchased From:**

**Date Purchased:**

**Purchase Price:**

Detach Here

## Customer Profile Information

*Please check the box that most accurately describes your business:*

Golf Course  
 Municipal

Sod Farm  
 Government

Schools  
 College

Sports Complex  
 Landscaping Company

Light Agriculture  
 Other

Total Acreage Cut: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

Average Operating Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

### How Did You Hear About Us?

### The Articulator

*Please help us to better serve you by completing the following survey information:*

*Please list the features and/or benefits which helped you to choose the articulator:*

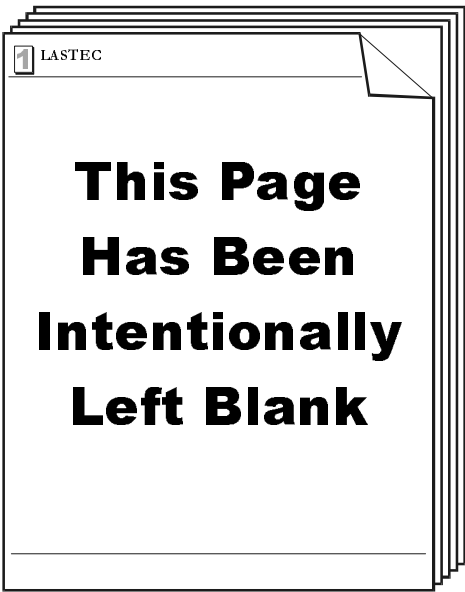
Do you own an Articulator, and if so what model?

How did you hear about Lastec?

Who referred you to the Articulator?

Who was the salesman that assisted you?

Detach Here



## ***Pre-Delivery Checklist***

- Check the air pressure on the pneumatic drive tires. Proper air pressure is 22 PSI.
- Check the air pressure on the pneumatic front tires. Proper air pressure is 40 PSI.
- Set the proper cutting heights at all wheel locations.
- Check the engine oil level.
- Check the hydro oil level.
- Check the battery charge.
- Check that all motion controls are operable and working correctly.
- Inspect entire hydrostatic drive system for any leakage.
- Inspect all belts for proper installation and tension.
- Verify that all hardware is properly installed, tight, and in good condition.
- Verify that all blades are properly installed, sharp, and free of nicks or cracks.
- Grease all grease fittings.
- Lubricate all other pivot points, hinge points, and moving parts.
- Verify that all safety guards are in place.

## ***Delivery Checklist***

- Present the **Owner Manual**, and have the customer read and understand all sections.
- Have the customer log the **Articulator Model & Serial Numbers** in the manual. *(Chapter 1)*
- Have the customer fill out the **Warranty Registration Form**. *(Chapter 6)*
- Review all **Safety Information** with the customer. *(Chapter 2)*
- Review all **Initial Set-Up** procedures with the customer. *(Chapter 3)*
- Review the **Pre-Operation Equipment Inspection Checklist** with the customer *(Chapter 3)*
- Review all **Operating Procedures with the customer**. *(Chapter 4)*
- Review all **Maintenance Schedules** with the customer. *(Chapter 5)*
- Remind the customer of the maintenance procedures to be performed **After The First 5 hours of operation**. *(Chapter 5)*

