

## Kohler 230117-S

# Kohler 230117-S Spring Instruction Manual

Genuine Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Part

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Kohler 230117-S is a genuine Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) replacement spring designed for various Kohler engines and equipment. This spring is a critical component in the recoil starter assembly, facilitating the proper retraction of the starter rope after engine cranking. Using genuine OEM parts ensures compatibility, reliability, and optimal performance for your equipment.



**Image 1.1:** The Kohler 230117-S replacement spring. This image displays the compact, coiled metal spring, which is a crucial component for the recoil starter mechanism in compatible Kohler engines.

### Key Features:

- **Genuine OEM Part:** Ensures perfect fit and function as specified by Kohler.
- **Durable Construction:** Manufactured to Kohler's quality standards for longevity.
- **Direct Replacement:** Designed to replace the original spring, part number 230117-S.

## 2. INSTALLATION

**Safety First:** Before beginning any installation, ensure the equipment is turned off, the spark plug wire is disconnected to prevent accidental starting, and the engine has cooled down. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and eye protection.

1. **Access the Recoil Starter:** Locate and remove the recoil starter assembly from your engine. This typically involves unscrewing several bolts or screws that secure it to the engine housing.
2. **Disassemble the Recoil Starter:** Carefully open the recoil starter housing. Be aware that the old spring may be under tension. Observe how the existing spring is installed before removal.
3. **Remove Old Spring:** Gently remove the old or broken spring from its housing. Note its orientation and

how it engages with the starter pulley and housing.

4. **Install New Spring:** Position the new Kohler 230117-S spring into the recoil starter housing, ensuring it is correctly seated and oriented. The inner end of the spring typically hooks into the starter pulley, and the outer end hooks into the starter housing. Refer to your specific engine's service manual for detailed diagrams and instructions, as spring installation can be intricate and vary slightly by model.
5. **Rewind the Pulley (if necessary):** If the starter rope is detached or the pulley needs to be rewound, follow the specific procedure for your recoil starter model to tension the spring correctly. This usually involves winding the pulley in a specific direction until resistance is met, then securing the rope.
6. **Reassemble and Test:** Reassemble the recoil starter housing, ensuring all components are correctly aligned. Reattach the recoil starter assembly to the engine. Connect the spark plug wire and test the starter mechanism to ensure smooth operation and proper rope retraction.

**Note:** Recoil spring installation can be challenging due to spring tension. If you are unsure, it is recommended to consult a qualified service technician or refer to your engine's specific service manual for detailed, model-specific instructions.

### 3. FUNCTION AND OPERATION CONTEXT

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The Kohler 230117-S spring is an integral part of the manual recoil starter system found on many small engines, such as those used in lawn mowers, generators, and other outdoor power equipment. Its primary function is to store and release kinetic energy to retract the starter rope after it has been pulled to crank the engine.

When the operator pulls the starter rope, the rope unwinds from a pulley, causing the engine's flywheel to rotate. Once the engine starts or the rope is released, the tension in the recoil spring pulls the rope back onto the pulley, preparing the starter for the next use. A properly functioning spring ensures that the starter rope retracts smoothly and completely, preventing tangles and damage to the starter mechanism.

### 4. MAINTENANCE

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While the spring itself requires minimal direct maintenance, ensuring the overall recoil starter assembly is well-maintained will prolong the life of the spring and the entire system.

- **Keep Clean:** Periodically remove the recoil starter assembly and clean out any dirt, grass clippings, or debris that may accumulate inside. Debris can impede the spring's movement or cause premature wear.
- **Inspect Rope:** Regularly inspect the starter rope for fraying or wear. A worn rope can break, causing the spring to snap back violently or become over-tensioned. Replace worn ropes promptly.
- **Lubrication:** Lightly lubricate the pivot points of the starter pawls and the central shaft of the pulley with a dry lubricant or a small amount of light grease. Avoid over-lubricating the spring itself, as this can attract dirt.
- **Check for Damage:** Inspect the spring for any signs of corrosion, cracks, or deformation. A damaged spring should be replaced immediately to prevent further issues.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you experience issues with your recoil starter, the spring may be a contributing factor. Here are common problems and potential solutions:

- **Starter Rope Does Not Retract:**
  - **Cause:** Broken or weak recoil spring, rope tangled, pulley jammed, or excessive friction.
  - **Solution:** Disassemble the recoil starter. Inspect the Kohler 230117-S spring for breakage or loss of tension. Replace if damaged. Check for obstructions or damage to the pulley and housing.
- **Starter Rope Pulls Out and Stays Out:**
  - **Cause:** Spring has lost tension or is dislodged from its mounting points.
  - **Solution:** Open the recoil starter and re-seat the spring correctly. If the spring is stretched or damaged, replace it.
- **Hard to Pull Starter Rope:**
  - **Cause:** Spring binding, excessive friction in the assembly, or engine compression issues.
  - **Solution:** Clean and lightly lubricate the recoil starter components. Ensure the spring is not binding. If the issue persists, check engine compression.
- **Grinding or Clicking Noise from Starter:**
  - **Cause:** Damaged spring, worn pawls, or debris in the assembly.
  - **Solution:** Disassemble and inspect all components for wear or damage. Replace any faulty parts, including the spring if it shows signs of damage.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

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Attribute	Value
Part Number	230117-S
Brand	Kohler
Material	Plastic ( <i>Note: This specification from source data may refer to packaging or other components, the spring itself is metal.</i> )
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	1 x 1 x 1 inches (approximate)
Item Weight	51 pounds ( <i>Note: This weight from source data is likely incorrect for a single spring and may refer to shipping weight for multiple items or a different product. The actual spring is very light.</i> )
UPC	087206442490

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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As a genuine Kohler OEM part, the 230117-S spring is typically covered by Kohler's standard warranty for replacement parts. Warranty terms can vary, so it is recommended to retain your proof of purchase and consult the official Kohler website or contact Kohler customer support directly for specific warranty details applicable to your region and purchase.

For technical assistance, further product information, or to locate authorized service centers, please visit the official [Kohler website](#) or refer to the documentation provided with your specific Kohler engine or equipment.