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› Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head User Manual

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Model: 385-256

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head. This replacement part is designed to fit various string trimmer models, including Homelite ST155, ST165, ST175, ST285, and John Deere C1200. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure proper function and safety.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW AND COMPONENTS

The Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head is a dual-line bump feed system designed for efficient trimming. It includes all necessary components for replacement.



Figure 1: Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head Components. This image displays all the components of the Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head. It includes the main black plastic housing, a pre-wound spool with blue trimmer line, a black bump cap, a metal spring, and a small metal washer. These parts are designed for assembly onto compatible string trimmers.

The complete assembly typically consists of:

- **Trimmer Head Housing:** The main body that attaches to the trimmer shaft.
- **Spool:** Pre-wound with .080-inch trimmer line.
- **Bump Cap:** The bottom cap that allows line advancement when bumped against the ground.
- **Spring:** Provides tension for the bump feed mechanism.
- **Washer/Retainer:** Secures components.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always observe the following safety precautions when working with power tools and replacement parts:

- Disconnect the spark plug wire or remove the battery pack before performing any maintenance or installation.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- Ensure the replacement part is compatible with your specific trimmer model.
- Keep children and bystanders away from the work area.
- Refer to your trimmer's original instruction manual for additional safety guidelines.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

This trimmer head is designed for 3/8-inch outside diameter shafts and is compatible with Homelite ST155, ST165, ST175, ST285, and John Deere C1200 models. Installation typically involves the following steps:

1. **Prepare the Trimmer:** Ensure the trimmer is turned off and the spark plug wire is disconnected (for

gas models) or the battery is removed (for electric models).

2. **Remove Old Trimmer Head:** Depending on your trimmer model, you may need to use a wrench or a pin to lock the shaft and unscrew the old trimmer head. Note the direction of threading (some trimmers use reverse threading).
3. **Inspect Shaft:** Clean any debris from the trimmer shaft and ensure it is free from damage.
4. **Assemble New Head (if necessary):** If the Stens 385-256 head is not pre-assembled, place the spring into the housing, then insert the pre-wound spool. Secure with the bump cap. Ensure the line is properly fed through the eyelets.
5. **Attach New Trimmer Head:** Align the new trimmer head with the shaft. Screw it onto the shaft, ensuring it is securely tightened. If your trimmer uses reverse threading, turn counter-clockwise to tighten. Verify the head is firmly attached and does not wobble.
6. **Verify Line Feed:** Gently pull on the trimmer lines to ensure they extend freely.

Note: Some trimmer models may have unique attachment mechanisms. If you encounter difficulty, consult your trimmer's original manual or seek professional assistance. Ensure the threading of the bump knob matches your trimmer's shaft. If the threading is incorrect, it may be possible to swap the bolt from your old bump knob, but this requires careful disassembly.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Stens 385-256 String Trimmer Head features a dual-line bump feed mechanism. It comes pre-loaded with .080-inch trimmer line.

1. **Start the Trimmer:** Follow your trimmer's manufacturer instructions to start the engine or motor.
2. **Extend Trimmer Line:** While the trimmer is running at operating speed, gently tap the bump cap on a firm, flat surface (e.g., the ground). This action releases a small amount of line. The trimmer's line cutter will automatically trim the line to the correct length.
3. **Continue Trimming:** Repeat the bumping action as needed to maintain the desired line length during operation.

Important: Avoid excessive bumping, as this can lead to rapid line consumption. Ensure the line is not tangled within the spool for proper feeding.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your trimmer head.

- **Line Replacement:** When the trimmer line runs out, replace it with new .080-inch diameter line. Refer to your trimmer's manual or online resources for specific instructions on how to re-spool the line. Ensure the line is wound neatly and without tangles to prevent feeding issues.
- **Cleaning:** Periodically clean the trimmer head to remove grass clippings, dirt, and debris. This prevents buildup that can hinder line feeding.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the trimmer head for cracks, wear, or damage. Replace the head if it shows signs of significant wear or breakage.
- **Spring Check:** Ensure the spring is not corroded or damaged, as this can affect the bump feed mechanism.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Line does not advance when bumped.	- Line is tangled or jammed inside the spool. - Spool is empty or line is too short. - Spring is damaged or missing. - Debris inside the head.	- Remove the spool and re-wind the line neatly. - Replace the trimmer line. - Inspect and replace the spring if necessary. - Clean the trimmer head thoroughly.
Trimmer head does not fit or attach securely.	- Incorrect model compatibility. - Incorrect threading direction.	- Verify your trimmer model against the compatible list. - Ensure you are screwing the head in the correct direction (some trimmers have reverse threads).
Line breaks frequently.	- Line is worn or old. - Using incorrect line diameter. - Trimming against hard surfaces.	- Replace with fresh .080-inch trimmer line. - Ensure you are using the recommended .080-inch line. - Adjust trimming technique to avoid direct contact with concrete, rocks, etc.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** 385-256
- **Brand:** Stens
- **Product Dimensions:** 5 x 5 x 24 inches
- **Item Weight:** 6.7 ounces
- **Line Type:** Dual line bump feed
- **Included Line Diameter:** .080-inch
- **Shaft Compatibility:** Fits 3/8-inch outside diameter shafts
- **Compatible Models:** Homelite ST155, ST165, ST175, ST285; John Deere C1200

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, returns, or technical support, please refer to the official Stens website or contact Stens customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

You can visit the [Stens Store on Amazon](#) for more product information.