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Oregon 96-696

Oregon 96-696 Jacobsen Gator Mulcher 3-In-1 Replacement Lawn Mower Blade Instruction Manual

Model: 96-696 | Brand: Oregon

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Oregon 96-696 Jacobsen Gator Mulcher 3-In-1 Replacement Lawn Mower Blade is designed to provide superior cutting performance for various lawn conditions. This blade functions as a mulching, bagging, and side discharge blade, offering an upgrade over standard manufacturer blades. It is specifically engineered to replace many original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts, including Jacobsen - JT391039.



Figure 1: Oregon 96-696 Jacobsen Gator Mulcher 3-In-1 Replacement Lawn Mower Blade. This image displays a black, straight lawn mower blade with distinctive mulching teeth on both ends and three circular mounting holes located in the center for attachment to a mower deck.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when handling or installing lawn mower blades. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury.

- **Disconnect Power:** Before performing any maintenance or installation, ensure the lawn mower's engine is off and the spark plug wire is disconnected (for gasoline mowers) or the battery is removed (for electric/battery mowers) to prevent accidental starting.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Always wear heavy-duty work gloves to protect hands from sharp edges. Eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) is also recommended.
- **Stable Work Area:** Work on a flat, stable surface. If tilting the mower, ensure it is securely supported and cannot tip over.
- **Blade Condition:** Inspect the blade for damage or cracks before installation. Do not install a damaged blade.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the safe and effective operation of your lawn mower blade.

1. **Prepare the Mower:** Ensure the mower is turned off, the spark plug wire is disconnected, and the mower is stable. If tilting, ensure the carburetor side is up to prevent fuel leakage.
2. **Remove Old Blade:**
 - Using a block of wood or a blade removal tool, secure the old blade to prevent it from turning.
 - Loosen and remove the blade bolt(s) and any washers or spacers. Note their order and orientation.
 - Carefully remove the old blade.
3. **Clean Mounting Area:** Clean any grass clippings or debris from the blade mounting area on the mower deck.
4. **Install New Blade:**
 - Position the new Oregon 96-696 blade with the cutting edges facing the direction of rotation (usually indicated by an arrow on the blade or mower deck). The mulching teeth should face upwards towards the mower deck.
 - Align the center hole(s) of the blade with the spindle.
 - Reinstall any washers or spacers in their original order.
 - Insert and tighten the blade bolt(s) securely. While specific torque specifications are not provided, ensure the bolt is very tight to prevent the blade from loosening during operation.
5. **Verify Installation:** After tightening, ensure the blade is seated correctly and spins freely without wobbling.
6. **Reconnect Power:** Reconnect the spark plug wire or reinstall the battery.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

The Oregon 96-696 Gator Mulcher blade is designed for optimal performance in various conditions.

- **Mulching Performance:** This blade excels at mulching, finely cutting grass clippings and returning them to the lawn as natural fertilizer. For best mulching results, mow when grass is dry and avoid cutting more than one-third of the grass blade length at a time.
- **Bagging and Side Discharge:** The 3-in-1 design also provides efficient bagging and cleaner side discharge compared to many standard blades.
- **Versatile Conditions:** The Gator G3 blade is effective in wet, dry, and sandy turf conditions, making it a versatile choice for diverse lawn care needs.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance extends the life of your blade and ensures consistent cutting quality.

- **Inspect Regularly:** After each use, inspect the blade for nicks, bends, cracks, or excessive wear. A dull or damaged blade can lead to poor cut quality and increased mower vibration.
- **Cleaning:** Remove accumulated grass clippings and debris from the blade and underside of the mower deck. This prevents rust and maintains balance.
- **Sharpening:** Blades should be sharpened periodically to maintain a clean cut. Use a file or grinder to sharpen the cutting edges, maintaining the original angle. Ensure the blade remains balanced after sharpening to prevent vibration. If unsure, seek professional sharpening services.
- **Replacement:** Replace the blade if it is severely bent, cracked, or worn beyond safe limits.
- **Storage:** Store the blade in a dry place to prevent rust.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your mower's cutting performance after installing the new blade, consider the following:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor cut quality (ragged edges)	Dull blade; Incorrect blade height; Mowing wet grass.	Sharpen or replace blade; Adjust mower deck height; Mow when grass is dry.
Excessive mower vibration	Unbalanced blade (due to sharpening or damage); Loose blade bolt; Bent blade.	Balance blade or replace; Tighten blade bolt securely; Replace bent blade.
Blade not mulching effectively	Grass too long or wet; Mower speed too fast; Dull blade.	Cut less grass at a time; Reduce mowing speed; Sharpen or replace blade.

SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Model Number	96-696
Length	23-inches
Center Hole	1/2-inches
Plane Type	Straight
Item Weight	3.55 pounds
Product Dimensions	8 x 4.11 x 8 inches
Replaces OEM Part	Jacobsen - JT391039

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding product warranty, returns, or technical support, please contact Oregon customer service directly or visit their official website. You can also find more information about Oregon products by visiting the [Oregon Store on Amazon](#).