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Briggs & Stratton 19368

Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester Instruction Manual

1. Introduction

The Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester is a specialized diagnostic tool designed to quickly and accurately determine if an engine's ignition system is producing a spark. This in-line spark tester is essential for troubleshooting starting issues in various small engines, including those found in lawnmowers, chainsaws, and other outdoor power equipment. By visually confirming the presence and quality of a spark, users can efficiently diagnose ignition problems.

2. Product Overview

The Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester consists of a main body with a clear viewing window, a metal probe, and a flexible wire with an alligator clip for grounding. The metal probe connects to the spark plug boot, while the alligator clip secures to an engine ground. The viewing window allows for direct observation of the spark.



Image 1: The Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester, showing its main components including the probe, viewing window, and ground clip.

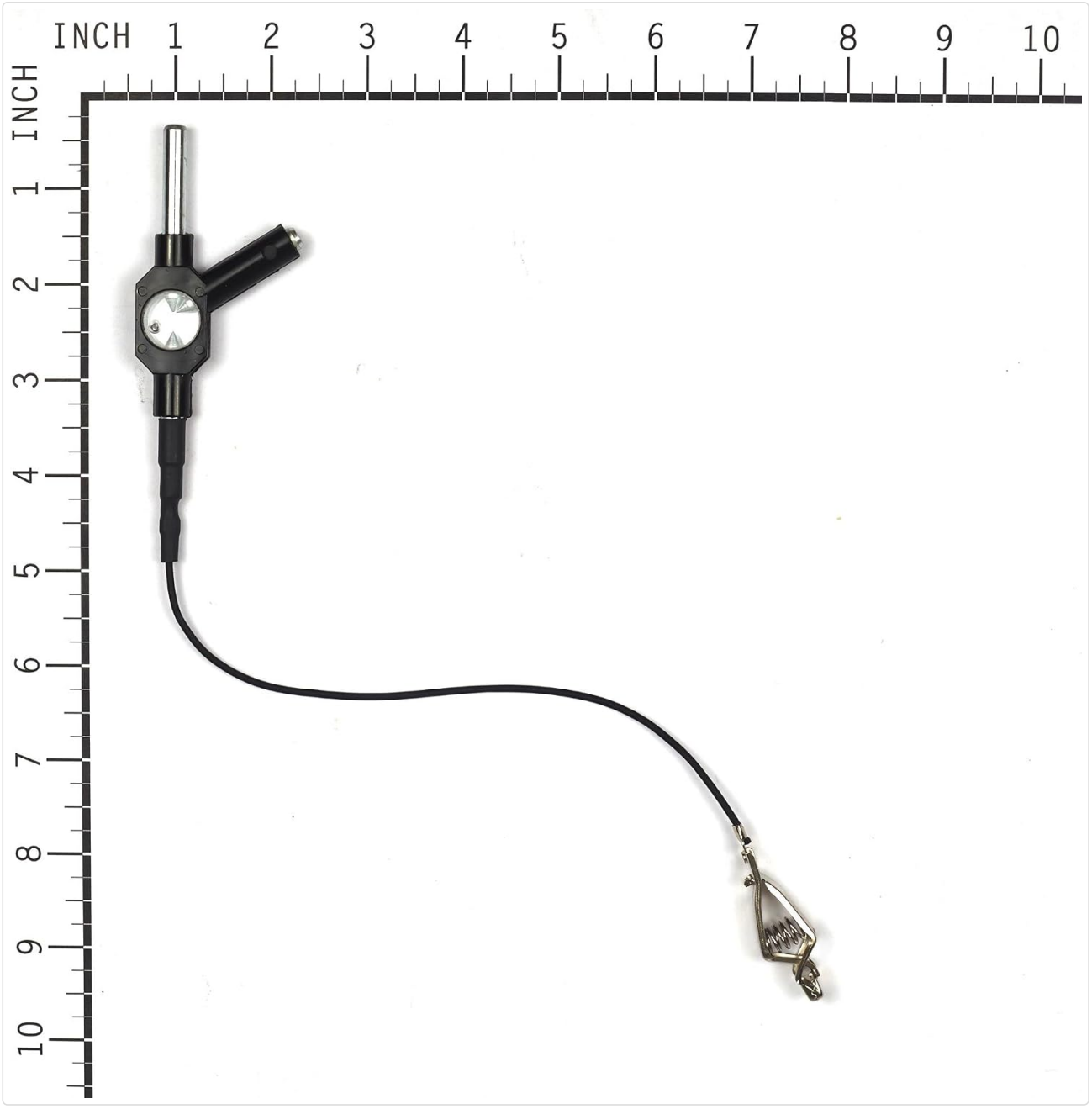


Image 2: The Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester displayed with a ruler, indicating its approximate dimensions.

3. Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when working with engine ignition systems. Failure to follow these safety guidelines may result in injury or damage to equipment.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, to protect against potential hazards.
- **Engine Condition:** Ensure the engine is turned off and has cooled down sufficiently before attempting to connect or disconnect the ignition tester.
- **Moving Parts:** Keep hands, clothing, and the tester's wire clear of all moving engine parts, such as flywheels or fan blades, during testing.
- **Electrical Shock Hazard:** Do not touch the metal probe, the spark plug wire, or the spark gap within the tester while the engine is being cranked or running. High voltage is present and can cause severe electrical shock.
- **Grounding:** Always ensure the ground clip is securely attached to a clean, unpainted metal part of the engine block to establish a proper ground connection.

4. Setup

Follow these steps to prepare the ignition tester for use:

1. **Locate Spark Plug Wire:** Identify the spark plug wire connected to the engine's spark plug.
2. **Remove Spark Plug Boot:** Carefully remove the spark plug boot from the spark plug. Do not pull on the wire itself; grasp the boot firmly.
3. **Connect Tester Probe:** Insert the metal probe end of the Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester firmly into the spark plug boot. Ensure a snug connection.
4. **Attach Ground Clip:** Securely attach the alligator ground clip to a clean, unpainted metal part of the engine block. A good ground connection is crucial for accurate testing.

5. Operating Instructions

Once the tester is properly set up, proceed with the following steps to check for spark:

1. **Verify Connections:** Double-check that both the tester probe and the ground clip are securely connected.
2. **Crank Engine:** With all safety precautions observed, crank the engine. If possible, have a helper crank the engine while you observe the tester.
3. **Observe Spark:** Look into the clear viewing window on the ignition tester.
4. **Interpret Results:**
    - **Strong, Consistent Spark:** A bright, blue, and consistent spark indicates that the ignition system (coil, magneto, wiring) is functioning correctly. The issue may lie with the spark plug itself, fuel delivery, or engine compression.
    - **Weak, Intermittent, or Absent Spark:** A dim, inconsistent, or completely absent spark indicates a problem within the ignition system. This could point to a faulty ignition coil, magneto, kill switch, or damaged wiring.
5. **Visibility Note:** In bright outdoor sunlight, it can be challenging to clearly see the spark. For optimal visibility, perform the test in a shaded area or indoors.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues during testing, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Spark Detected:**
    - **Ground Connection:** Ensure the ground clip is attached to a clean, unpainted metal surface on the engine for a solid electrical connection.
    - **Tester Connection:** Verify the tester's probe is fully and securely inserted into the spark plug boot.
    - **Kill Switch/Safety Interlocks:** Confirm that any kill switches or safety interlocks on the engine are in the 'run' or 'on' position.
    - **Ignition System Components:** If connections are good and safety switches are correct, the absence of spark likely indicates a fault with the ignition coil, magneto, or associated wiring.
- **Weak or Inconsistent Spark:**
    - This symptom often suggests a failing ignition coil or magneto that is not producing sufficient voltage.
    - Inspect all connections in the ignition circuit for corrosion or looseness, which can impede current flow.

7. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and reliable performance of your Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester, follow these simple maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe down the tester with a dry, clean cloth to remove any dirt, oil, or moisture.
- **Storage:** Store the tester in a dry environment, away from extreme temperatures and direct sunlight.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the wire, ground clip, and probe for any signs of damage, fraying, or corrosion. Replace the tester if significant damage is observed.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	5 x 5 x 0.5 inches
Item Weight	1.6 ounces
Manufacturer	Briggs & Stratton
Model Number	19368
Replaces Part Number	19051

9. Warranty and Support

For specific warranty information regarding your Briggs & Stratton 19368 Ignition Tester, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Briggs & Stratton website. For technical assistance, troubleshooting advice, or to locate authorized service centers, contact Briggs & Stratton customer support directly through their official channels.

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