



[Manuals.plus](#) /

> [John Deere](#) /

> John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley Sabre AM121108 Instruction Manual

## John Deere AM121108

# John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108 Instruction Manual

For Sabre and Scotts Lawn Tractors

## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley, part number **AM121108**. This idler pulley is a critical component in the drive system of compatible lawn tractors, ensuring correct belt tension and smooth operation.

**Compatibility:** This idler pulley is compatible with various Sabre and Scotts lawn tractor models. Please refer to your equipment's original owner's manual to verify compatibility before installation.

- **Sabre Models:** 1338G, 1438GS, 1438HS, 1538G, 1542GS, 1542HS, 15.542GS, 15.542HS, 1546G, 1638HS, 1642HS, 1642V-Twin H, 1642V-Twin G, 1646H, 1742GS
- **Scotts Models:** S1642, S1742



Figure 1: Front view of the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108. This image shows the pulley's main surface and central bearing.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

---

Always prioritize safety when working with machinery. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury or damage to equipment.

- **Disconnect Power:** Before performing any maintenance or installation, ensure the lawn tractor's engine is off, the spark plug wire is disconnected, and the battery is disconnected (if applicable) to prevent accidental starting.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety glasses, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- **Consult Owner's Manual:** Always refer to your specific lawn tractor's owner's manual for detailed safety procedures and installation instructions.

- **Secure Equipment:** Ensure the lawn tractor is on a stable, level surface and properly supported if lifting is required.
- **Use Correct Tools:** Utilize the proper tools for the job to avoid damage to parts or injury.

### 3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

---

Installation of an idler pulley typically involves working with the drive belt system. If you are unsure about any step, it is recommended to seek assistance from a qualified service technician or refer to your specific equipment's service manual.

#### General Installation Steps:

1. **Preparation:** Park the lawn tractor on a flat, stable surface. Engage the parking brake. Disconnect the spark plug wire and battery.
2. **Access:** Depending on your model, you may need to remove the mower deck or other covers to access the drive belt system and idler pulley.
3. **Document Belt Routing:** Before removing the old pulley or belt, carefully note or photograph the existing belt routing. This is crucial for correct reassembly.
4. **Relieve Belt Tension:** Locate the mechanism that applies tension to the belt (often another idler pulley or spring) and relieve the tension to allow for belt removal.
5. **Remove Old Pulley:** Unbolt and remove the worn or damaged idler pulley. Keep track of any washers, spacers, or mounting hardware.
6. **Install New Pulley:** Position the new John Deere AM121108 idler pulley in place, ensuring it is correctly aligned. Secure it with the original mounting hardware. Do not overtighten.
7. **Reinstall Belt:** Route the drive belt according to your documented diagram. Ensure the belt is properly seated in all pulley grooves.
8. **Restore Belt Tension:** Reapply tension to the drive belt system. Verify that the belt is taut but not excessively tight.
9. **Reassemble:** Reinstall any covers or the mower deck that were removed.
10. **Test:** Reconnect the spark plug wire and battery. Start the engine and carefully test the operation of the drive system at a low speed in a safe, open area. Listen for unusual noises or vibrations.



Figure 2: Side view of the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108, showing the depth of the pulley groove for the belt.

## 4. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

---

The idler pulley AM121108 is a passive component within the lawn tractor's drive system. It does not have direct user controls. Its primary functions are:

- **Belt Tensioning:** It maintains proper tension on the drive belt, which is essential for efficient power transfer from the engine to the transmission or mower deck.
- **Belt Routing:** It guides the drive belt along its correct path, preventing slippage and ensuring all components operate in sync.

- **Vibration Reduction:** A properly functioning idler pulley helps to absorb vibrations and reduce noise within the belt system.

Ensure that the belt is correctly routed and tensioned after installation to allow the idler pulley to perform its function effectively.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

---

Regular inspection and timely replacement of the idler pulley are crucial for the longevity and performance of your lawn tractor.

### Inspection Schedule:

- Inspect the idler pulley at the beginning of each mowing season or every 50 operating hours, whichever comes first.
- Perform a visual check for any signs of wear, damage, or excessive play.

### What to Look For:

- **Bearing Noise:** Listen for squealing, grinding, or rattling noises coming from the pulley, which indicates a worn bearing.
- **Excessive Play:** Gently try to wiggle the pulley. Any significant side-to-side movement or looseness indicates a worn bearing or mounting.
- **Cracks or Damage:** Check the pulley surface for cracks, chips, or uneven wear that could damage the belt.
- **Belt Tracking Issues:** If the belt is consistently slipping off the pulley or showing uneven wear, the pulley might be misaligned or worn.

If any of these issues are observed, the idler pulley should be replaced promptly to prevent further damage to the belt system or other components.



Figure 3: Angled view of the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108, highlighting the central bearing and mounting points.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

---

If you experience issues with your lawn tractor's drive system, a failing idler pulley could be a contributing factor.

Symptom	Possible Cause (Idler Pulley Related)	Recommended Action
Squealing or grinding noise from belt area	Worn or seized idler pulley bearing	Inspect and replace idler pulley.

Symptom	Possible Cause (Idler Pulley Related)	Recommended Action
Belt slipping or coming off pulleys	Worn idler pulley, incorrect tension, or misalignment	Check pulley for wear/damage, verify belt routing and tension. Replace if necessary.
Excessive vibration or shaking	Damaged or unbalanced idler pulley	Inspect pulley for physical damage. Replace if damaged.
Reduced power to wheels or mower deck	Belt slippage due to worn idler pulley or insufficient tension	Inspect idler pulley and belt tension. Replace pulley if worn.

If troubleshooting does not resolve the issue, consult your lawn tractor's service manual or contact an authorized John Deere service center.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

---

Key specifications for the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108:

- **Part Number:** AM121108
- **Manufacturer:** John Deere
- **Product Dimensions:** Approximately 16 x 10 x 1 inches (packaging dimensions)
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 1.2 pounds
- **Material:** Metal (typically steel with a protective coating)
- **Bearing Type:** Sealed bearing (specific type may vary)



Figure 4: Top-down view of the John Deere Genuine OEM Idler Pulley AM121108, showing the overall circular shape and central bore.

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

---

As a genuine John Deere OEM part, this idler pulley is typically covered by John Deere's standard warranty for replacement parts. For specific warranty details, please refer to the warranty information provided with your original equipment or contact an authorized John Deere dealer.

For technical support, installation assistance, or to purchase additional genuine John Deere parts, please contact your local authorized John Deere dealer or visit the official John Deere website.

**John Deere Store:** [Visit the John Deere Store on Amazon](#)