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Arnold 490-501-M034

Instruction Manual: Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt

Model: 490-501-M034

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt, model 490-501-M034, is a replacement component designed for specific lawn mower models. This belt is crucial for transmitting power from the engine to the drive system, enabling the self-propelled function of your lawn mower. Manufactured from durable Polyurethane (PU), it is engineered for reliable performance and longevity.



Image 1.1: The Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt, model 490-501-M034, shown in its retail packaging. This image highlights the product's appearance and branding.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working with lawn mowers and their components. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury or damage to equipment.

- **Disconnect Spark Plug:** Before performing any maintenance or installation, always disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent accidental engine startup.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves and eye protection, to guard against cuts, scrapes, and debris.
- **Allow Engine to Cool:** Ensure the engine and all moving parts are cool to the touch before beginning work.
- **Read Mower Manual:** Refer to your specific lawn mower's owner's manual for additional safety precautions

and detailed instructions relevant to your model.

- **Secure Mower:** If tilting the mower, ensure the fuel tank cap is securely fastened and the mower is stable to prevent tipping.

3. COMPATIBILITY

This Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) drive belt is designed for use with various 21-inch lawn mower models from brands such as MTD, Troy-Bilt, Yard-Man, and others that specify part number 490-501-M034 or equivalent. Always verify the required part number in your lawn mower's owner's manual to ensure proper fit and function.



Image 3.1: The official MTD logo, indicating the brand's association with genuine parts.

4. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Replacing a drive belt requires careful attention to detail. Follow these steps for a successful installation. Refer to your lawn mower's specific service manual for model-specific diagrams and instructions.

1. Prepare the Mower:

- Ensure the engine is off and cool.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent accidental starting.
- Remove the ignition key if applicable.
- If your mower has a fuel shut-off valve, turn it to the "OFF" position.

2. Access the Drive System:

- Carefully tilt the lawn mower onto its side, ensuring the carburetor and air filter are facing upwards to prevent fuel or oil leakage.
- Locate the drive belt cover, typically found on the underside or rear of the mower deck.
- Remove any bolts or screws securing the drive belt cover and carefully detach it.

3. Remove the Old Belt:

- Observe how the old belt is routed around the pulleys. Taking a photo can be helpful for reassembly.
- Carefully disengage the old belt from the engine pulley and the drive pulleys. It may be necessary to relieve tension on idler pulleys.
- Remove the old belt completely.

4. Install the New Belt:

- Route the new Arnold drive belt around the pulleys exactly as the old belt was positioned. Start by placing it around the smaller, harder-to-reach pulleys first.

- Ensure the belt is seated correctly in all pulley grooves.
- Verify that any tensioning mechanisms or idler pulleys are correctly engaged with the new belt.

5. Reassemble and Test:

- Reattach the drive belt cover, securing it with all original bolts or screws.
- Return the mower to its upright position.
- Reconnect the spark plug wire.
- Start the engine and engage the drive system in a safe, open area to confirm proper operation. Listen for unusual noises and check for smooth engagement.



Image 4.1: The Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt, removed from its packaging, showing its full length and construction. This view is useful for understanding its shape and how it fits around pulleys.



Image 4.2: A close-up view of the end of the Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt, highlighting the material and any specific connectors or features. This detail can be important for proper installation.

5. OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

Once the new drive belt is installed, ensure it is functioning correctly before extensive use.

- **Initial Check:** After installation, run the mower briefly and engage the drive system. Listen for any unusual noises, vibrations, or signs of the belt slipping.
- **Smooth Engagement:** The self-propelled function should engage smoothly without jerking or hesitation.
- **Proper Speed:** The mower should maintain its intended self-propelled speed.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and maintenance of your drive belt can extend its lifespan and ensure optimal performance of your lawn mower.

- **Periodic Inspection:** Regularly inspect the drive belt for signs of wear, cracking, fraying, glazing, or stretching. A worn belt can lead to reduced drive performance.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the belt and pulleys free from grass clippings, dirt, and debris. Accumulation can cause slippage and premature wear.
- **Tension Check:** Ensure the belt maintains proper tension as specified in your mower's manual. Incorrect tension can lead to slippage or excessive wear.
- **Replacement:** Replace the belt if any significant signs of wear or damage are observed, or if the self-propelled function becomes inconsistent.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your lawn mower's drive system after belt installation or during use, consider the following:

| Symptom | Possible Cause | Solution |
|---|---|--|
| Mower not self-propelling | Belt is broken, slipped off pulleys, or too loose. | Inspect belt for damage or displacement. Reinstall or replace if necessary. Check tension. |
| Slipping or inconsistent drive | Belt is worn, glazed, or contaminated with oil/grease. Incorrect tension. | Clean belt and pulleys. Adjust tension. Replace belt if worn or glazed. |
| Unusual noises (squealing, grinding) | Belt rubbing against components, worn pulleys, or incorrect belt routing. | Verify belt routing. Check pulleys for wear or damage. Ensure belt cover is not interfering. |
| Belt wears out quickly | Misaligned pulleys, excessive tension, or operating in harsh conditions. | Inspect pulley alignment. Adjust tension. Avoid operating in conditions that cause excessive strain. |

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Product Type:** Drive Belt
- **Brand:** Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts)
- **Model Number:** 490-501-M034
- **ASIN:** B00I0XUTUU
- **Material:** Polyurethane (PU)
- **Belt Style:** V-belt or Serpentine belt (*Note: This product is a V-belt*)
- **Compatible Devices:** Lawn Mower (21-inch models, verify part number)
- **Product Dimensions (approx.):** 13.75 x 3.75 x 0.5 inches (packaged)
- **Item Weight (approx.):** 1.6 ounces
- **Country of Origin:** United States

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding the Arnold (MTD Genuine Parts) 21-Inch Drive Belt, please refer to the documentation provided with your original lawn mower or contact Arnold/MTD customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

For further assistance or technical support, please visit the official Arnold or MTD website, or consult your local authorized service dealer.

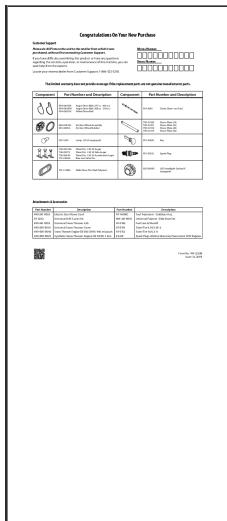
Online Resources:

- [MTD Products Official Website](#)
- [Arnold Parts Official Website](#)

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Related Documents - 490-501-M034

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|---|---|
|  | <p>Deluxe Universal Snow Thrower Cab Assembly Instructions Comprehensive assembly instructions for the Arnold Deluxe Universal Snow Thrower Cab (Model 490-241-0032), including parts identification, step-by-step assembly guidance, and manufacturer's limited warranty information.</p> |
|  | <p>Belts & Belt Pulleys Catalog - ARNOLD Comprehensive catalog of belts and belt pulleys from ARNOLD, featuring various types, specifications, and cross-references to original manufacturer part numbers. Includes detailed information on belts sorted by OEM, measurement, and manufacturer.</p> |
|  | <p>Troy-Bilt 13AL78BS023 Lawn Tractor: Features, Maintenance, and Accessories Comprehensive guide for the Troy-Bilt 13AL78BS023 lawn tractor, covering preparation for spring, end-of-season maintenance, and available attachments and accessories. Includes model information and part numbers.</p> |



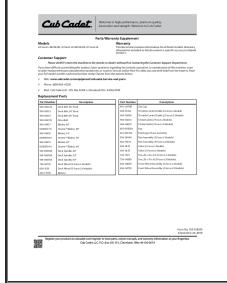
[Yardworks Snow Thrower Parts & 4-Year Limited Warranty Guide](#)

Comprehensive guide for Yardworks snow throwers, including a detailed parts list with part numbers, customer support contact, and the full 4-Year Limited Warranty terms and conditions. Learn about covered parts, exclusions, and how to obtain service.



[Deluxe Universal Snow Thrower Cab Assembly Instructions](#)

Comprehensive assembly instructions for the Arnold Deluxe Universal Snow Thrower Cab (Model 490-241-0032), including parts identification, step-by-step assembly guidance, and manufacturer's limited warranty information.



[Cub Cadet Z-Force Series Parts & Warranty Supplement | MTD Products](#)

Find replacement parts, attachments, and detailed warranty information for Cub Cadet Z-Force L, LX, and LE models. Covers domestic and commercial use terms from MTD Products.