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Stihl MS 201

Stihl MS 201 TC-M Chainsaw Instruction Manual

Model: MS 201 TC-M | Cutting Length: 35 cm

1. SAFETY INFORMATION

Operating a chainsaw can be dangerous if proper safety precautions are not followed. Always read and understand the entire instruction manual before operating the Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury or death.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Head Protection:** Wear a safety helmet with face and hearing protection.
- **Eye Protection:** Always wear safety glasses or goggles.
- **Hand Protection:** Use heavy-duty work gloves.
- **Leg Protection:** Wear chainsaw protective trousers or chaps.
- **Foot Protection:** Wear safety boots with steel toes and non-slip soles.

Fuel Handling Safety

- Always mix and handle fuel in a well-ventilated area, away from ignition sources.
- Use only approved fuel containers.
- Do not smoke while refueling.
- Wipe up any spilled fuel immediately.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Stihl MS 201 TC-M is a powerful and compact gasoline-powered chainsaw designed for professional tree care and pruning. It features a 35 cm cutting length and is equipped with advanced engine technology for efficient operation.



Figure 2.1: Top-side view of the Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw, highlighting the ergonomic handle and engine housing.



Figure 2.2: Side view of the Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw, showing the Stihl branding and engine components.

3. SETUP

Unpacking and Assembly

1. Carefully remove all components from the packaging.
2. Inspect for any shipping damage. If damaged, do not use and contact your dealer.
3. Ensure all parts listed in the packing list are present.

Bar and Chain Installation

Proper installation of the guide bar and saw chain is crucial for safe and efficient operation.

1. Ensure the chain brake is disengaged.
2. Remove the chain sprocket cover by loosening the nuts.
3. Place the guide bar onto the studs.
4. Fit the saw chain around the sprocket and into the guide bar groove. Ensure the cutting edges face forward on the top of the bar.
5. Replace the chain sprocket cover and hand-tighten the nuts. Do not fully tighten yet.
6. Adjust chain tension (refer to 'Chain Tension Adjustment' in Section 5).
7. Fully tighten the chain sprocket cover nuts.



Figure 3.1: Close-up view of the chainsaw's chain and guide bar, illustrating proper assembly.

Fuel and Chain Oil Filling

The MS 201 TC-M operates on a gasoline-oil mixture and requires chain lubricant.

- **Fuel:** Use a high-quality unleaded gasoline mixed with Stihl 2-stroke engine oil at the recommended ratio (typically 50:1). Refer to the fuel tank cap for specific ratios.
- **Chain Oil:** Fill the chain oil tank with high-quality bar and chain lubricant. Do not use waste oil.

Ensure both caps are securely tightened after filling.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Starting the Chainsaw

1. Place the chainsaw on a firm, level surface.
2. Engage the chain brake by pushing the front hand guard forward.
3. Set the master control lever to the cold start position (choke).
4. Hold the chainsaw firmly with one hand on the front handle and place your foot on the rear handle.
5. Pull the starter cord slowly until resistance is felt, then pull briskly until the engine fires briefly.
6. Move the master control lever to the half-throttle position.
7. Pull the starter cord again until the engine starts.
8. Blip the throttle to disengage the half-throttle and return to idle.
9. Disengage the chain brake before beginning cutting operations.

Stopping the Chainsaw

To stop the engine, move the master control lever to the STOP position.

Chain Brake Operation

The chain brake is a critical safety feature. It can be engaged manually by pushing the front hand guard forward or automatically by inertia during kickback. Always ensure the chain brake is functional before each use.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw.

Chain Tension Adjustment

Correct chain tension is vital. A loose chain can derail, and an overly tight chain can cause premature wear to the bar and chain, and reduce engine power.

1. Loosen the nuts on the chain sprocket cover.
2. Using the tensioning screw, adjust the chain until it fits snugly against the underside of the guide bar, but can still be pulled around by hand.
3. Lift the tip of the guide bar slightly while tightening the nuts on the chain sprocket cover.
4. Check tension again.

Chain Sharpening

A sharp chain is essential for efficient and safe cutting. Sharpen the chain regularly or have it professionally sharpened.

Air Filter Cleaning

Clean the air filter regularly to maintain engine performance and prevent damage. Remove the filter cover and clean the filter element with warm soapy water or compressed air. Replace if damaged.

Spark Plug Inspection

Inspect the spark plug for wear and proper gap. Replace if electrodes are worn or fouled. Refer to the specifications for the correct spark plug type and gap.

Guide Bar Maintenance

Regularly clean the guide bar groove and oil holes. Flip the guide bar periodically to ensure even wear.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine won't start	No fuel, incorrect starting procedure, fouled spark plug, clogged fuel filter.	Check fuel level, follow starting instructions, clean/replace spark plug, check fuel filter.
Engine runs, but chain does not move	Chain brake engaged, clutch issue.	Disengage chain brake. If problem persists, contact service.
Poor cutting performance	Dull chain, incorrect chain tension, worn guide bar.	Sharpen chain, adjust chain tension, inspect/replace guide bar.
Excessive vibration	Loose components, damaged chain/bar, engine issue.	Check all fasteners, inspect chain/bar for damage, contact service if engine related.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Stihl MS 201 TC-M chainsaw:

- **Model Number:** MS 201
- **Power Source:** Gasoline
- **Cutting Length:** 35 cm
- **Item Weight:** 3.85 kg (8.49 lbs)
- **Product Dimensions:** 37 x 10 x 37 cm (14.57 x 3.94 x 14.57 inches)
- **Material:** Plastic (housing)
- **Manufacturer:** STIHL
- **GTIN (UPC):** 00795711953546

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or contact your authorized Stihl dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, spare parts, or service, please contact your local authorized Stihl service center. Only use genuine Stihl replacement parts and accessories.