

Southland SOWST4317

Southland SOWST4317 17-inch 43cc Gas Wheeled String Trimmer User Manual

Model: SOWST4317 | Brand: Southland

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Always operate this equipment in a well-ventilated area.

Wear appropriate safety gear, including eye protection, hearing protection, and sturdy footwear, to prevent injury from flying debris and noise. Be aware of potential cut hazards and keep bystanders, especially children and pets, at a safe distance (at least 50 feet) during operation. Never operate the trimmer without the guard properly installed. Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance or clearing debris.

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Southland SOWST4317 is a 17-inch 43cc gas-powered wheeled string trimmer designed for efficient trimming and clearing of thick grass and weeds. Its wheeled design reduces user fatigue compared to handheld trimmers, offering improved maneuverability. The 5-inch offset right trimmer head allows for precise trimming along obstacles.

Key Features:

- 43cc 2-stroke engine for powerful performance.
- 17-inch cutting path for efficient clearing.
- Wheeled design with 10-inch rubber never-flat wheels for easy maneuverability.
- 5-inch offset right trimmer head for trimming along walls, fences, and landscape barriers.
- Designed to operate on slopes without engine lubrication concerns (with proper 50:1 gas/oil mix).



Figure 1: Side view of the Southland SOWST4317 Wheeled String Trimmer, showing the engine, wheels, and trimmer head.

2. ASSEMBLY AND SETUP

Carefully unpack all components and ensure all parts are present before beginning assembly. Refer to the included parts diagram for identification.

2.1 Handle Assembly

1. Attach the upper handle to the lower handle using the provided bolts and knobs. Ensure the control cables are routed correctly and not pinched.
2. Adjust the handle height to a comfortable operating position and tighten the knobs securely.



Figure 2: Close-up view of the handle assembly and controls on the Southland SOWST4317.

2.2 Trimmer Head Guard Installation

1. Position the trimmer head guard over the trimmer head assembly.
2. Secure the guard using the fasteners provided. Ensure it is firmly attached and does not interfere with the trimmer line.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the trimmer head and protective guard.

2.3 Fuel Mixture

This trimmer uses a 2-stroke engine and requires a specific fuel mixture. Mix unleaded gasoline with 2-stroke engine oil at a **50:1 ratio** (2.6 oz of oil per gallon of gasoline). Use fresh, high-quality unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher. Do not use E85 fuel. Always mix fuel in a separate, approved fuel container before adding it to the trimmer's fuel tank.

CAUTION: Incorrect fuel mixture can cause severe engine damage and void the warranty.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Pre-Operation Checklist

- Ensure all fasteners are tight and components are securely attached.
- Check the fuel level and ensure the correct 50:1 fuel mixture is used.
- Inspect the trimmer line for wear or damage; replace if necessary.
- Clear the work area of any debris, rocks, or objects that could be thrown by the trimmer.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): eye protection, hearing protection, long pants, and sturdy shoes.

3.2 Starting the Engine

1. Place the trimmer on a flat, stable surface.
2. Set the ON/OFF switch to the "ON" position.
3. Push the primer bulb 5-7 times until fuel is visible in the bulb.
4. Move the choke lever to the "FULL CHOKE" position.
5. Pull the starter rope firmly and steadily until the engine attempts to start (usually 1-3 pulls).
6. Once the engine "pops" or attempts to start, move the choke lever to the "HALF CHOKE" position.
7. Pull the starter rope again until the engine starts.
8. Once the engine is running, gradually move the choke lever to the "RUN" position.
9. Allow the engine to warm up for 30-60 seconds before engaging the throttle.

NOTE: If the engine does not start after several pulls, refer to the Troubleshooting section.

3.3 Trimming Operation

- Hold the handle firmly with both hands.
- Engage the throttle to bring the trimmer line up to speed.
- Walk slowly and steadily, guiding the trimmer head along the desired cutting path.
- Utilize the 5-inch offset right trimmer head to trim along obstacles by walking in a straight line.
- Avoid striking hard objects, as this can damage the trimmer line and head.
- Do not overwork the engine; if the engine bogs down, reduce the cutting load.

3.4 Stopping the Engine

1. Release the throttle trigger.
2. Move the ON/OFF switch to the "OFF" position.
3. Allow the engine to cool down before storing.

4. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your trimmer. Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance.

4.1 Air Filter Cleaning

- Remove the air filter cover.
- Carefully remove the air filter element.
- Clean the filter with warm, soapy water, rinse thoroughly, and allow it to air dry completely. For heavily soiled filters, replacement may be necessary.
- Reinstall the dry air filter and cover.

4.2 Spark Plug Inspection and Replacement

- Remove the spark plug boot and then the spark plug using a spark plug wrench.
- Inspect the spark plug for carbon buildup or damage. Clean or replace as needed.
- Ensure the spark plug gap is set to the manufacturer's specification (refer to the full manual for exact gap).
- Reinstall the spark plug and boot.

4.3 Trimmer Line Replacement

- Turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire.
- Refer to the trimmer head instructions for specific line replacement procedures. Most heads require winding new line onto a spool or inserting pre-cut lengths.
- Use only the recommended diameter and type of trimmer line.

4.4 Storage

- For short-term storage, ensure the fuel tank is full to prevent condensation.
- For long-term storage (over 30 days), drain the fuel tank completely or use a fuel stabilizer. Run the engine until it stops from lack of fuel to clear the carburetor.
- Clean the trimmer thoroughly and store it in a dry, well-ventilated area, away from ignition sources.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine does not start	• No fuel or incorrect fuel mixture • ON/OFF switch in "OFF" position • Choke not set correctly • Fouled spark plug • Clogged fuel filter	• Fill with correct 50:1 fuel mixture • Move switch to "ON" • Adjust choke according to starting procedure • Clean or replace spark plug • Replace fuel filter
Engine runs, then stops	• Out of fuel • Clogged fuel filter • Vent in fuel cap blocked • Overheating	• Refill with correct fuel mixture • Replace fuel filter • Clear vent hole • Allow engine to cool; check for proper air circulation
Engine lacks power	• Incorrect fuel mixture • Dirty air filter • Fouled spark plug • Excessive cutting load	• Use correct 50:1 fuel mixture • Clean or replace air filter • Clean or replace spark plug • Reduce cutting load; trim in smaller passes

If problems persist after attempting these solutions, contact Southland customer support or a qualified service technician.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	SOWST4317
Engine Type	43cc 2-Stroke Gas Engine

Fuel Mixture	50:1 Gasoline to 2-Stroke Oil
Cutting Path Width	17 inches
Wheel Size	10-inch Rubber Never-Flat
Trimmer Head Offset	5-inch Right Offset
Item Weight	29.3 pounds
Dimensions (L x W)	49"L x 13"W

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

7.1 Limited Warranty

This Southland SOWST4317 Wheeled String Trimmer comes with a **2-Year Limited Manufacturer's Warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage resulting from misuse, abuse, neglect, unauthorized repairs, or normal wear and tear.

For full warranty details, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Southland website.

7.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, parts inquiries, or warranty claims, please contact Southland customer support. Have your model number (SOWST4317) and purchase date available when contacting support.

Southland Official Website: www.southlandequipment.com (Note: This is a placeholder URL, please refer to your product documentation for the actual support contact information.)

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question