John Deere LX178A

John Deere Original Equipment LX178A Maintenance Kit and 48-inch Mower Deck Blades User Manual

For John Deere LX178 Lawn Tractors with 48-inch Mower Decks

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper use and installation of the John Deere Original Equipment LX178A Maintenance Kit, which includes standard blades for a 48-inch mower deck. This kit is designed to help maintain the optimal performance and longevity of your John Deere LX178 lawn tractor. Regular maintenance using genuine John Deere parts ensures reliable operation and consistent cutting quality.



Figure 1: John Deere LX178A Maintenance Kit. This image displays all components included in the kit: two bottles of Turf-Gard oil, an oil filter, an air filter, a fuel filter, two spark plugs, and two standard mower blades.

2. Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when performing maintenance on your equipment. Failure to follow safety precautions can result in serious injury or damage to the machine.

- **Read the Original Equipment Owners Manual:** Before beginning any maintenance, consult your John Deere LX178 lawn tractor's owner's manual for specific safety guidelines and procedures.
- **Engine Off and Cool:** Ensure the engine is turned off, the key is removed, and the engine has cooled down before performing any service.
- **Disconnect Spark Plug Wires:** To prevent accidental starting, disconnect the spark plug wires before working on the engine or blades.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- **Secure the Machine:** When working under the mower deck or lifting the machine, ensure it is securely

supported to prevent it from falling.

- **Handle Blades Carefully:** Mower blades are sharp. Handle them with extreme caution and wear heavy-duty gloves.

3. Maintenance Procedures

This section outlines the steps for replacing the components included in your John Deere LX178A Maintenance Kit. Refer to your tractor's owner's manual for detailed instructions on accessing specific components.

3.1. Engine Oil and Oil Filter Replacement

Regular oil and filter changes are crucial for engine health. This kit includes John Deere Turf-Gard oil and an oil filter (part of LG184 kit).

1. Run the engine for a few minutes to warm the oil, then shut it off and remove the key.
2. Place a drain pan under the oil drain plug. Remove the drain plug and allow all old oil to drain completely.
3. Replace the drain plug securely.
4. Locate and remove the old oil filter. Be prepared for some oil spillage.
5. Apply a thin film of new engine oil to the gasket of the new oil filter.
6. Install the new oil filter by hand, turning it until the gasket contacts the engine block, then tighten an additional 1/2 to 3/4 turn. Do not overtighten.
7. Fill the engine with the specified amount of new John Deere Turf-Gard oil. Check the dipstick to ensure the oil level is within the safe operating range.
8. Start the engine and check for leaks. Shut off the engine and recheck the oil level after a few minutes.

3.2. Air Filter Replacement

A clean air filter (part of LG184 kit) protects the engine from dust and debris, ensuring proper air-fuel mixture and engine performance.

1. Locate the air filter housing, typically on the side of the engine.
2. Open the air filter housing cover and carefully remove the old air filter element. Note its orientation.
3. Clean any debris from inside the air filter housing.
4. Install the new air filter element, ensuring it is seated correctly.
5. Securely close the air filter housing cover.

3.3. Fuel Filter Replacement

The fuel filter (part of LG184 kit) prevents contaminants from reaching the carburetor or fuel injectors, ensuring smooth engine operation.

1. Locate the fuel filter in the fuel line, usually between the fuel tank and the engine.
2. Use clamps to pinch off the fuel lines on both sides of the filter to minimize fuel leakage.
3. Carefully remove the old fuel filter by loosening the clamps and detaching the fuel lines.
4. Install the new fuel filter, ensuring the arrow on the filter points in the direction of fuel flow towards the engine.
5. Reconnect the fuel lines and secure them with clamps. Remove the pinching clamps.
6. Check for any fuel leaks after starting the engine.

3.4. Spark Plug Replacement

New spark plugs (part of LG184 kit) ensure efficient ignition and optimal engine performance.

1. Locate the spark plugs on the engine.
2. Carefully disconnect the spark plug wires.
3. Use a spark plug wrench to remove the old spark plugs.
4. Inspect the new spark plugs for correct gap (refer to your owner's manual for specifications). Adjust if necessary.
5. Thread the new spark plugs into the engine by hand to prevent cross-threading.
6. Tighten the spark plugs with the wrench, typically 1/4 to 1/2 turn after hand-tight, or according to your owner's manual. Do not overtighten.
7. Reconnect the spark plug wires firmly.

3.5. Mower Blade Replacement (48-inch Deck)

Replacing worn or damaged blades (M115495) is essential for a clean cut and healthy lawn. This kit includes two standard blades for a 48-inch mower deck.





Figure 2: Side view of a John Deere 48-inch mower deck standard blade. Note the curvature designed for optimal cutting and discharge.

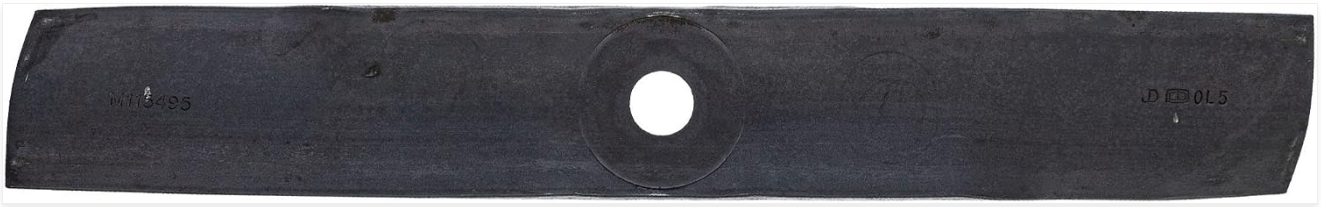


Figure 3: Top view of a John Deere 48-inch mower deck standard blade. Shows the central mounting hole and the cutting edges.

1. **Safety First:** Ensure the engine is off, the key is removed, and the spark plug wires are disconnected. Engage the parking brake.
2. **Access the Deck:** Carefully raise the front of the tractor or remove the mower deck from the tractor according to your owner's manual to access the underside. Secure the deck or tractor with jack stands.
3. **Remove Old Blades:** Use a block of wood to prevent the blade from turning. Using a wrench, loosen and remove the blade mounting bolt. Remove the old blade and any washers.
4. **Clean Spindle Area:** Clean any grass or debris from the spindle shaft and mounting area.
5. **Install New Blades:** Position the new blade onto the spindle, ensuring the cutting edge faces the correct direction (usually upwards towards the deck). Reinstall any washers and the blade mounting bolt.
6. **Tighten Bolts:** Tighten the blade mounting bolt to the torque specification provided in your owner's manual. Use a torque wrench for accuracy.
7. **Repeat for all Blades:** Repeat the process for all blades on the 48-inch mower deck.
8. **Reassemble:** Reattach the mower deck or lower the tractor. Reconnect spark plug wires.

4. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues that may arise and how they relate to the components in this maintenance kit. Always refer to your John Deere LX178 owner's manual for comprehensive troubleshooting guides.

- **Engine Cranks but Won't Start:**
  - Check spark plugs: Ensure they are clean, properly gapped, and connected. Replace if fouled or damaged.
  - Check fuel filter: A clogged fuel filter can restrict fuel flow. Replace if necessary.
- **Engine Runs Poorly or Lacks Power:**
  - Check air filter: A dirty air filter can restrict airflow. Replace if clogged.
  - Check spark plugs: Worn or fouled spark plugs can cause misfires. Replace if needed.
  - Check fuel filter: Partial blockage can lead to inconsistent fuel delivery.
- **Poor Cut Quality or Uneven Mowing:**
  - Check mower blades: Dull, bent, or improperly installed blades will result in a poor cut. Replace with new blades from the kit. Ensure blades are installed with the cutting edge facing up.
- **Engine Overheating:**
  - Check oil level: Insufficient or old oil can contribute to overheating. Ensure proper oil level and consider an oil change if overdue.

5. Specifications

Product Name	John Deere Original Equipment LX178A Maintenance Kit + Standard Blades, 48" Mower Deck
Brand	John Deere
Kit Model Number	LX178A (Manufacturer Part Number) / 1001688
Compatible Mower Model	John Deere LX178
Mower Deck Size	48 inches
Kit Contents	(1) LG184 Maintenance Kit (includes oil, oil filter, air filter, fuel filter, spark plugs), (1) M115495 Standard Blades (set of 2)
Item Weight	Approximately 12.7 Pounds
Product Dimensions (Kit Box)	24"L x 8"W x 8"H

6. Warranty and Support

6.1. Manufacturer Warranty

This John Deere Original Equipment Maintenance Kit comes with a manufacturer's warranty of **6 months**. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. The warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use.

6.2. Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or to inquire about other genuine John Deere parts, please visit the official John Deere website or contact your authorized John Deere dealer. You can also visit the John Deere Store on Amazon for product information and support resources.