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› CUB CADET 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable Instruction Manual for LTX 1040, 1042, 1045, 1046, 1050KH, 1046M

CUB CADET 946-04618C

CUB CADET 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable Instruction Manual

For LTX 1040, LTX 1042, LTX 1045, LTX 1046, LTX 1050KH, LTX 1046M Series Lawn Tractors

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

This manual provides essential information for the CUB CADET OEM Part Number 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable. This component is designed to facilitate the engagement and disengagement of the mower deck on compatible Cub Cadet lawn tractors. It is a direct replacement for prior part numbers 946-04618B, 946-04618A, 946-04618, and 746-04618C, ensuring proper fit and function.



Figure 1: Top view of the Cub Cadet 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable, showing the main cable, spring, and connection points.

2. COMPATIBILITY

The 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable is compatible with the following Cub Cadet LTX series lawn tractor models:

- LTX-1040
- LTX-1042
- LTX-1045
- LTX-1046
- LTX-1046M
- LTX-1050KH (2009 models)

Important: Always refer to your original equipment owner's manual to verify compatibility and ensure correct part selection for your specific model and year.

3. INSTALLATION (SETUP)

This section outlines the general procedure for replacing the deck engagement cable. Specific steps may vary slightly depending on your Cub Cadet model. Always consult your lawn tractor's service manual for detailed instructions.

3.1 Safety Precautions

- Ensure the engine is off and cool.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent accidental starting.
- Engage the parking brake.
- Place the mower deck in its lowest position.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves and eye protection.

3.2 Removal of Old Cable

1. Locate the existing deck engagement cable. It typically runs from the PTO (Power Take-Off) lever on the tractor's dashboard or fender to the mower deck mechanism.
2. Carefully observe how the old cable is routed and connected at both ends. Taking photos can be helpful for reassembly.
3. Disconnect the cable from the PTO lever assembly. This usually involves removing a clip or pin.
4. Disconnect the cable from the mower deck engagement mechanism. This may involve releasing a spring, removing a bolt, or detaching it from a bracket.
5. Remove any cable ties or clamps securing the cable along its path.
6. Carefully pull the old cable out from the tractor.



Figure 2: The deck engagement cable, illustrating the two main connection points and the protective spring coil.

3.3 Installation of New Cable

1. Route the new 946-04618C cable along the same path as the old cable, ensuring it does not interfere with moving parts or hot engine components.
2. Connect one end of the new cable to the mower deck engagement mechanism. Ensure all clips, pins, or bolts are securely fastened.
3. Connect the other end of the cable to the PTO lever assembly.
4. Secure the cable with any necessary cable ties or clamps to prevent it from sagging or getting caught.
5. Double-check all connections for security and proper routing.



Figure 3: Close-up view of the spring and hook mechanism, which typically connects to the mower deck engagement arm.

3.4 Post-Installation Check

- Reconnect the spark plug wire.
- Start the engine and test the PTO engagement. The mower deck should engage smoothly when the PTO lever is activated and disengage completely when deactivated.
- If the deck does not engage or disengage correctly, turn off the engine, disconnect the spark plug, and re-inspect the cable connections and routing.

4. OPERATION

The deck engagement cable is an integral part of your lawn tractor's power take-off (PTO) system. When the PTO lever is moved to the "Engage" position, the cable pulls on the deck engagement mechanism, which in turn activates the mower blades. Moving the PTO lever to the "Disengage" position releases tension on the cable, stopping the blades.

Ensure the engine is running at the recommended RPM before engaging the PTO for smooth operation and to prevent strain on the system.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and minor maintenance can extend the life of your deck engagement cable:

- **Visual Inspection:** Periodically check the entire length of the cable for signs of wear, fraying, kinks, or damage to the outer casing. Pay close attention to the connection points and areas where the cable might rub against other components.
- **Lubrication:** While not always necessary for sealed cables, if the cable feels stiff or sticky, a light application of a suitable cable lubricant (e.g., silicone spray) into the ends of the casing can improve operation. Avoid over-lubrication, which can attract dirt.
- **Routing:** Ensure the cable remains properly routed and secured. If any clamps or ties are broken or missing, replace them to prevent the cable from getting snagged or damaged.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the cable and its connection points free from dirt, grass clippings, and debris.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your mower deck engagement, consider the following:

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Mower deck does not engage.	Cable is broken, stretched, or disconnected.	Inspect cable for damage. Reconnect if loose. Replace if broken or excessively stretched.
Mower deck does not disengage.	Cable is seized, bent, or improperly routed.	Check cable for kinks or obstructions. Lubricate if stiff. Ensure proper routing.
PTO lever is stiff or hard to move.	Cable is corroded, damaged, or binding.	Inspect cable for corrosion or damage. Lubricate or replace as needed. Check PTO lever mechanism for obstructions.
Blades engage partially or intermittently.	Cable is stretched or adjustment is incorrect.	Consult your tractor's service manual for PTO cable adjustment procedures. Replace if cable is excessively stretched.

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve the issue, it is recommended to consult an authorized Cub Cadet service technician.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Part Number:** 946-04618C
- **Replaces Prior MPN:** 946-04618B, 946-04618A, 946-04618, 746-04618C
- **Product Dimensions:** 8.5 x 5.25 x 1 inches
- **Item Weight:** 9.3 ounces
- **Manufacturer:** CUB CADET

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding the warranty of your CUB CADET 946-04618C Deck Engagement Cable, please refer to the official warranty documentation provided by Cub Cadet or the retailer at the time of purchase. Warranty terms and conditions may vary.

For technical support, service, or to locate an authorized service center, please visit the official Cub Cadet website or contact their customer service department. Always provide your product's model number and serial number when seeking support.

You can find more information and support resources on the [CUB CADET Store on Amazon](#).



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