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## TARTER FM206

# Tarter 200 Series Finish Mower User Manual

Model: FM206

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

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This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Tarter 200 Series Finish Mower, Model FM206. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the equipment. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or equipment damage.

### 1.1 General Safety Precautions

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, hearing protection, and sturdy footwear.
- Ensure all guards and safety devices are in place and functioning correctly before operation.
- Keep bystanders, especially children and pets, away from the operating area.
- Never operate the mower under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Disconnect the power take-off (PTO) shaft and turn off the tractor engine before performing any adjustments, maintenance, or clearing blockages.
- Be aware of rotating blades and moving parts.



Figure 1: Tarter 200 Series Finish Mower, Model FM206. This image shows the complete finish mower, highlighting its robust construction and three-point hitch attachment points, ready for connection to a tractor.

## 2. SETUP

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Proper setup is crucial for the safe and effective operation of your finish mower.

### 2.1 Attaching to the Tractor

1. Ensure the tractor is turned off, in park, and the parking brake is engaged.
2. Back the tractor slowly towards the mower, aligning the lower lift arms with the mower's lower hitch pins.
3. Connect the lower lift arms to the mower's hitch pins and secure them with appropriate locking pins.
4. Connect the top link of the tractor's three-point hitch to the mower's top hitch point. Adjust the top link to level the mower from front to back.

### 2.2 PTO Shaft Connection

1. With the tractor still off, align the PTO shaft from the tractor with the input shaft on the mower's gearbox.
2. Slide the PTO shaft onto the gearbox input shaft until it locks securely. Ensure the locking collar is fully engaged.
3. Check that the PTO shaft has sufficient overlap and can operate through its full range of motion without binding.

## 2.3 Pre-Operation Checks

- Verify all nuts, bolts, and fasteners are tight.
- Check the gearbox oil level. Refer to the gearbox manufacturer's recommendations for oil type and capacity.
- Inspect blades for sharpness and damage. Replace or sharpen as needed.
- Ensure tire pressure on the mower's wheels is correct.

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## 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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Follow these steps for safe and effective operation of your Tarter Finish Mower.

### 3.1 Starting the Mower

1. With the mower securely attached and PTO shaft connected, start the tractor engine.
2. Engage the tractor's PTO at a low RPM, gradually increasing to the recommended operating speed (typically 540 RPM).
3. Slowly lower the mower to the desired cutting height using the tractor's hydraulic lift.

### 3.2 Adjusting Cutting Height

The cutting height is primarily adjusted by the mower's caster wheels. Loosen the locking pins on each wheel assembly, adjust the wheel height to raise or lower the mower deck, and then re-secure the locking pins. Ensure all wheels are set to the same height for an even cut.

### 3.3 Mowing Techniques

- Operate the mower at a speed appropriate for the grass conditions. Slower speeds are recommended for dense or tall grass.
- The Tarter 200 Series Finish Mower is designed for maintaining ankle-deep grass and provides a well-manicured finish.
- Due to its free-floating hitch system, the mower can follow ground contours, allowing for even cutting on uneven terrain.
- Avoid sudden turns or abrupt changes in speed while the PTO is engaged.

### 3.4 Shutting Down

1. Raise the mower completely off the ground using the tractor's hydraulics.
  2. Disengage the tractor's PTO.
  3. Turn off the tractor engine, engage the parking brake, and remove the key.
  4. Allow all moving parts to come to a complete stop before approaching the mower.
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## 4. MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your finish mower.

### 4.1 Daily Maintenance

- Clean the mower deck of grass clippings and debris after each use.
- Inspect blades for damage, wear, or looseness.
- Check all safety guards and shields for proper attachment and condition.

### 4.2 Weekly/25-Hour Maintenance

- Grease all zerks (grease fittings) on the PTO shaft, caster wheels, and other pivot points.
- Check gearbox oil level and top off if necessary.
- Inspect belts for tension and wear. Adjust or replace as needed.

### 4.3 Seasonal/Annual Maintenance

- Change gearbox oil.
- Remove, sharpen, or replace blades. Always replace blades in sets to maintain balance.
- Inspect all bearings and bushings for wear.
- Clean and repaint any areas where paint is chipped to prevent rust.

### 4.4 Storage

When storing the mower for extended periods, clean it thoroughly, lubricate all moving parts, and store in a dry, protected area. Consider placing blocks under the deck to relieve pressure on the tires.

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## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Tarter Finish Mower.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Uneven Cut	Mower not level; uneven tire pressure; dull/damaged blades.	Adjust top link to level mower; check tire pressure; sharpen or replace blades.
Excessive Vibration	Bent or unbalanced blades; loose fasteners; worn bearings.	Inspect and replace blades; tighten all fasteners; check and replace bearings.
Mower Not Engaging	PTO shaft not fully engaged; tractor PTO not activated.	Ensure PTO shaft is locked; engage tractor PTO.
Poor Cutting Performance	Dull blades; operating too fast; grass too tall/wet.	Sharpen/replace blades; reduce ground speed; mow when grass is dry.

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## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

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Key specifications for the Tarter 200 Series Finish Mower, Model FM206.

Feature	Specification
Model	FM206
Brand	TARTER
Cutting Width	72 Inches (6 ft.)
Recommended Horsepower	20-60 Hp
Hitch Type	Category 1
Item Weight	670 Pounds
Color	Black (Multicoloured as per listing)
UPC	704496021074

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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Tarter products are manufactured to high standards. For specific warranty details, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or contact Tarter customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.

### 7.1 Customer Support

For technical assistance, parts, or warranty inquiries, please contact Tarter customer support. Contact information can typically be found on the manufacturer's website or on your product documentation.

*Note: Always provide your model number (FM206) and serial number when contacting support.*