

John Deere BUC10704

John Deere BUC10704 Mulch Control Kit Instruction Manual

For 42-inch Accel Deep Mower Decks

[Introduction](#) [Safety Information](#) [Setup & Installation](#) [Operation](#) [Maintenance](#) [Troubleshooting](#) [Specifications](#) [Support](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of the John Deere BUC10704 Mulch Control Kit. This kit is designed to convert your 42-inch Accel Deep Mower Deck for mulching operations, allowing you to switch between mulching and side discharge as needed. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting installation or operation to ensure safe and efficient use of your equipment.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Always follow all safety precautions when working with lawn care equipment. Failure to do so can result in serious injury or death.

- Read and understand the operator's manual for your specific John Deere tractor and mower deck before installing or operating this kit.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- Ensure the engine is off, the spark plug wire is disconnected, and the parking brake is engaged before performing any installation, maintenance, or adjustments.
- Allow the mower deck and blades to cool down before handling.
- Keep hands and feet away from moving parts.
- Use only genuine John Deere replacement parts.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present in your John Deere BUC10704 Mulch Control Kit package. If any parts are missing or damaged, contact your authorized John Deere dealer.

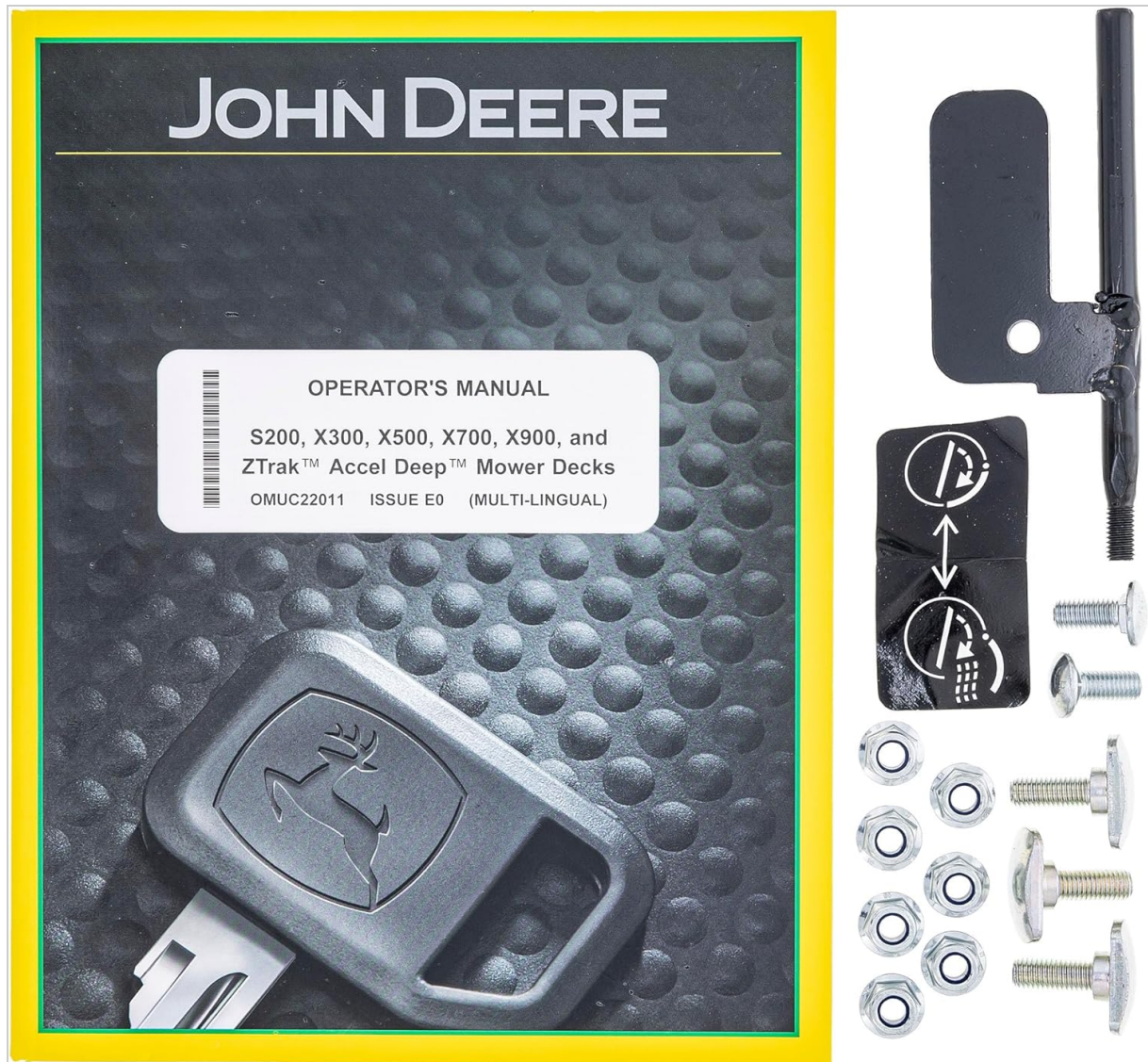


Figure 1: Overview of the John Deere BUC10704 Mulch Control Kit components.

The kit typically includes:

- Mulching baffle assembly
- Mulching blades (2)
- Control lever assembly
- Mounting hardware (bolts, nuts, washers)
- Operator's Manual (OMUC22011)

4. SETUP & INSTALLATION

Installation of the Mulch Control Kit requires careful attention to detail. It is recommended to consult the official John Deere installation instructions provided with the kit or seek assistance from an authorized John Deere service technician if you are unsure about any steps.

4.1 Prepare the Mower Deck

1. Park the tractor on a level surface, engage the parking brake, turn off the engine, and remove the key.
2. Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent accidental starting.
3. Lower the mower deck to its lowest position.
4. Remove the mower deck from the tractor according to your tractor's operator manual.
5. Clean the underside of the mower deck thoroughly, removing any grass clippings or debris.

4.2 Remove Existing Baffle (if applicable)

If your mower deck has an existing internal baffle for bagging, it may need to be removed to accommodate the mulching kit. Refer to your mower deck's manual for specific instructions on baffle removal.

4.3 Install Mulching Blades

The kit includes specialized mulching blades. These blades are designed to cut grass into finer pieces for mulching.



Figure 2: John Deere Mulching Blades (M170642).

1. Carefully remove the existing mower blades. Note the orientation of the blades for reinstallation if you plan to switch back to standard blades.
2. Install the new mulching blades, ensuring they are oriented correctly with the cutting edge facing the direction of rotation.
3. Tighten the blade bolts to the torque specifications provided in your mower deck's operator manual.

4.4 Install Mulching Baffle Assembly

The mulching baffle assembly directs grass clippings within the deck for optimal mulching.



Figure 3: Mulching Baffle Assembly.



Figure 4: Mulching Baffle Components (underside view).

1. Position the mulching baffle assembly inside the mower deck.
2. Align the mounting holes on the baffle with the corresponding holes on the mower deck.
3. Secure the baffle using the provided hardware (bolts, nuts, washers). Ensure all fasteners are tightened securely.

4.5 Install Control Lever Assembly

The control lever allows you to switch between mulching and side discharge modes.



Figure 5: Control Lever Assembly.

1. Attach the control lever assembly to the designated mounting points on the mower deck.
2. Connect the linkage from the control lever to the mulching baffle mechanism.
3. Test the lever's movement to ensure it smoothly engages and disengages the mulching function. Adjust if necessary.

4.6 Reinstall Mower Deck

1. Reinstall the mower deck onto the tractor according to your tractor's operator manual.
2. Reconnect the spark plug wire.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The John Deere BUC10704 Mulch Control Kit allows you to easily switch between mulching and side discharge modes using the control lever.

5.1 Mulching Mode

In mulching mode, the baffle is closed, keeping grass clippings under the deck longer to be cut into finer pieces. This returns nutrients to the lawn and eliminates the need for bagging.

- To engage mulching mode, move the control lever to the 'Mulch' position.
- For best mulching results, mow when grass is dry and not excessively tall. Reduce ground speed if necessary.

5.2 Side Discharge Mode

In side discharge mode, the baffle is open, allowing grass clippings to be discharged from the side of the mower deck.

- To engage side discharge mode, move the control lever to the 'Discharge' position.
- This mode is useful for cutting taller grass or when you prefer to collect or rake clippings.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Mulch Control Kit.

- **Clean the Deck:** After each use, clean the underside of the mower deck and the mulching baffle to prevent grass buildup, which can hinder performance and lead to corrosion.
- **Inspect Blades:** Regularly inspect the mulching blades for sharpness and damage. Sharpen or replace blades as needed. Dull blades can tear grass, leading to an unhealthy lawn.
- **Check Hardware:** Periodically check all mounting hardware for tightness. Tighten any loose bolts or nuts.
- **Lubricate:** Apply a light lubricant to the pivot points of the control lever and baffle mechanism to ensure smooth operation.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor mulching quality (long clippings, clumping)	Dull blades, mowing too fast, grass too tall or wet, deck clogged.	Sharpen/replace blades. Reduce ground speed. Mow when grass is dry and shorter. Clean underside of deck.
Difficulty switching between modes	Linkage obstructed or stiff, grass buildup around baffle.	Clean baffle area. Lubricate pivot points on control lever and baffle. Check for bent linkage.
Excessive vibration	Unbalanced or damaged blades, loose hardware.	Inspect blades for damage or imbalance; replace if necessary. Check and tighten all mounting hardware.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** BUC10704
- **Compatibility:** John Deere 42-inch Accel Deep Mower Decks (X300, X350, X350R, X354, X370, X380, X590, Z335E, Z335M, Z345M, Z345R)
- **Cutting Width:** 42 Inches
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 11.8 Pounds
- **Product Dimensions:** 13"D x 29"W x 8"H (approximate package dimensions)
- **Material:** Primarily plastic baffle components, metal control lever and blades.

9. SUPPORT & WARRANTY

For technical assistance, replacement parts, or warranty information, please contact your authorized John Deere dealer or visit the official John Deere website. Always provide your product model number (BUC10704) when seeking support.

John Deere products are manufactured to high standards. Refer to the warranty statement included with your original purchase for specific terms and conditions.