

Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00

Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 72-Inch Deck Blade Instruction Manual

Model: 438-0003-00

1. INTRODUCTION

This instruction manual provides essential information for the safe and correct installation and maintenance of the Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 72-Inch Deck Blade. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting any installation or maintenance procedures. Retain this manual for future reference.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Failure to follow these safety instructions may result in serious injury or death.

- Always wear heavy-duty gloves and eye protection when handling mower blades. Blades are sharp and can cause severe cuts.
- Ensure the mower engine is turned off, the spark plug wire is disconnected, and the parking brake is engaged before performing any maintenance or installation.
- Allow the engine and blades to cool completely before touching them.
- Never work under a mower that is not securely supported. Use jack stands or a lift designed for the mower's weight.
- Inspect blades regularly for damage, cracks, or excessive wear. Replace damaged blades immediately.
- Use only genuine Spartan Mowers replacement parts to ensure proper fit and performance.

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 is a genuine factory replacement blade designed for 72-inch mower decks. It is compatible with the following Spartan Mowers models:

- Spartan Mowers 2016-2019 RT
- Spartan Mowers 2020-2022 RT HD
- Spartan Mowers 2016-2019 SRT
- Spartan Mowers 2019-2022 SRT XD
- Spartan Mowers 2020-2021 SRT HD

This blade is engineered to maintain the cutting performance and balance of your Spartan Mower.





Figure 1: Main view of the Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 72-Inch Deck Blade. This image shows the full length of the blade with its central mounting hole and sharpened edges.

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Follow these steps carefully to replace your mower deck blade. It is recommended to replace all blades on the deck at the same time to maintain balance and optimal cutting performance.

Tools Required (Not Included):

- Socket wrench with appropriate size socket for blade bolts.
- Torque wrench.
- Blade removal tool or a block of wood to prevent blade rotation.
- Wire brush (for cleaning).

Installation Steps:

1. Prepare the Mower:

- Park the mower on a flat, level surface.
- Turn off the engine and remove the ignition key.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire(s) to prevent accidental starting.
- Engage the parking brake.
- Allow the engine and deck to cool down.

2. Access the Blades:

- Carefully raise the front of the mower deck or the entire mower using a suitable lift or jack stands to access the underside of the deck. Ensure the mower is stable and secure.

3. Remove Old Blades:

- Wearing heavy-duty gloves, position a blade removal tool or a block of wood between the blade and the mower deck to prevent the blade from turning.
- Using a socket wrench, loosen and remove the blade bolt(s) that secure the blade to the spindle. Note the orientation of the blade for correct installation of the new blade.

- Remove the old blade and any washers or spacers.

4. Clean the Spindle Area:

- Use a wire brush to clean any grass clippings, dirt, or debris from the spindle shaft and the underside of the mower deck where the blade mounts.

5. Install New Blade:

- Place the new Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 blade onto the spindle, ensuring the cutting edge is facing the correct direction (typically towards the front of the mower when viewed from below). The curved "wing" of the blade should point upwards towards the deck.
- Reinstall any washers or spacers in their original order.
- Insert the blade bolt(s) and hand-tighten them.

6. Torque the Blade Bolts:

- Using a torque wrench, tighten the blade bolt(s) to the manufacturer's specified torque. Refer to your mower's main operator's manual for the exact torque specifications. If not available, a common torque range for mower blades is 70-90 ft-lbs (95-122 Nm).
- Ensure the blade is securely fastened and does not wobble.

7. Final Steps:

- Carefully lower the mower.
- Reconnect the spark plug wire(s).
- Test the mower in a safe, open area to ensure proper operation and cutting performance. Listen for any unusual vibrations.



Figure 2: Top view of the blade, showing the central mounting hole and the overall flat profile with slight bends at the ends. The "SPARTAN 438-0003-00" marking is visible on the blade surface.



Figure 3: Side profile of the blade, illustrating the upward curve (lift) at each end, which helps create airflow for effective grass cutting and discharge.



Figure 4: Angled view of the blade, highlighting the sharpened cutting edge and the robust construction of the steel blade.

5. OPERATING

This product is a replacement deck blade and does not have independent operating instructions. For detailed operating procedures of your Spartan Mower, including deck height adjustments and safe mowing practices, please refer to the main operator's manual provided with your specific mower model.

6. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance of your mower blades ensures optimal cutting performance and extends the life of your equipment.

- **Regular Inspection:** Before each use, inspect blades for sharpness, bends, cracks, or nicks. Replace blades that are severely damaged.
- **Sharpening:** Blades should be sharpened regularly, typically after every 20-25 hours of use, or more frequently if mowing in sandy or abrasive conditions. Ensure blades are balanced after sharpening to prevent excessive vibration.
- **Cleaning:** After each use, clean grass clippings and debris from the underside of the mower deck and blades. This prevents rust and maintains airflow for a better cut.
- **Replacement:** Even with regular sharpening, blades will eventually wear down. Replace blades when they are significantly worn, bent, or cracked, or when sharpening no longer restores a good cutting edge.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues after blade installation, consider the following:

- **Excessive Vibration:** This often indicates an unbalanced blade or an improperly tightened blade bolt. Re-check the torque of the blade bolts. If blades were sharpened, ensure they are properly balanced.
- **Uneven Cut:** An uneven cut can be caused by dull blades, bent blades, or incorrect blade installation. Ensure blades are sharp, not bent, and installed with the correct orientation. Also, check the mower deck leveling.
- **Poor Grass Discharge:** This can be due to dull blades, excessive grass buildup under the deck, or incorrect blade lift. Ensure blades are clean and sharp, and that the "wing" of the blade is pointing upwards.

If problems persist, consult your authorized Spartan Mowers dealer or a qualified service technician.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Part Number	438-0003-00
Brand	Spartan Mowers
Deck Size Compatibility	72-Inch
Product Dimensions	24.25 x 2.5 x 1 inches
Item Weight	4 pounds
Manufacturer	Intimidator
Material	Steel

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information regarding the Spartan Mowers 438-0003-00 72-Inch Deck Blade, please refer to the warranty documentation provided with your original Spartan Mower or contact an authorized Spartan Mowers dealer. You can also visit the official [Spartan Mowers Store on Amazon](#) for additional product information and support resources.

