

Ariens 911603

Ariens Razor Reflex Drive 21-inch Self-Propelled Gas Lawn Mower

MODEL 911603 USER MANUAL

Brand: Ariens

1. Important Safety Information

Operating this lawn mower requires careful attention to safety procedures. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or property damage. Always read and understand the entire manual before operating the machine.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Always wear eye protection, hearing protection, long pants, and sturdy, non-slip footwear when operating the mower.
- **Bystander Safety:** Keep children, pets, and other people away from the mowing area. Stop the engine if anyone enters the area.
- **Operating Conditions:** Never operate the mower in wet grass, rain, or poor light conditions. Ensure the area is clear of debris such as rocks, sticks, and wires before starting.
- **Fuel Handling:** Refuel in a well-ventilated outdoor area with the engine off and cool. Do not smoke or use open flames near fuel. Store gasoline in an approved container.
- **Maintenance Safety:** Always turn off the engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance, adjustments, or clearing blockages.
- **Slope Operation:** Exercise extreme caution when mowing on slopes. Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down. Avoid excessively steep slopes.

2. Product Overview

The Ariens Razor Reflex Drive Model 911603 is a self-propelled gas lawn mower designed for efficient lawn maintenance. It features a powerful Briggs & Stratton engine and a versatile 3-in-1 cutting system.



Image: Ariens Razor Reflex Drive 21-inch Self-Propelled Gas Lawn Mower, side view.

Key Features:

- **Engine:** Briggs & Stratton EXI 725, 190-cc with ReadyStart technology, designed for no oil changes.
- **Drive System:** Rear Wheel Drive with Reflex Speed Control, allowing variable speeds between 1 and 4 MPH.
- **Cutting Width:** 21 inches.
- **Cutting Blades:** Dual Blade design with LaserEdge Eversharp technology for superior mulching and extended sharpness.
- **Cutting Modes:** Versatile 3-in-1 design for mulching, bagging, or rear discharge.
- **Height Adjustment:** 7-position height adjustment in 1/4-inch increments.
- **Deck:** Durable 14-gauge steel deck, 5.5 inches deep.
- **Storage:** Unique vertical stow capability for reduced storage space.
- **Wheels:** 8-inch front wheels and 10-inch rear wheels for smooth operation over various terrains.

3. Setup

Before operating your Ariens lawn mower, ensure it is properly set up and all initial checks are performed.

3.1 Unpacking and Initial Assembly

Your mower may arrive mostly assembled. Carefully remove it from the packaging. Unfold the handle and secure it in the operating position according to the instructions provided in the separate assembly guide (if applicable).

3.2 Adding Fuel

- Ensure the engine is off and cool.
- Use fresh, clean, unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher.
- Fill the fuel tank slowly to prevent spills. Do not overfill.
- Securely replace the fuel cap.

3.3 Checking Engine Oil

The Briggs & Stratton EXI engine is designed to never require an oil change. However, it is crucial to check the oil level before each use, especially the first use. Add oil if the level is below the 'Full' mark using the recommended oil type (refer to the engine manual for specifics).

3.4 Attaching the Bagger (Optional)

If you intend to bag clippings, lift the rear discharge door and hook the bagger onto the mower frame. Ensure it is securely seated to prevent clippings from escaping.



Image: Side view of the Ariens Razor Reflex Drive mower with the grass bagger attached.

4. Operating Instructions

Follow these steps for safe and effective operation of your Ariens lawn mower.

4.1 Starting the Engine

- Ensure the fuel tank is filled and the oil level is correct.
- Stand behind the mower, grasp the bail lever (operator presence control) and pull it towards the handle.
- Pull the starter rope firmly and smoothly until the engine starts. The Briggs & Stratton ReadyStart system typically eliminates the need for priming or choking.

4.2 Stopping the Engine

Release the bail lever. The engine and blades will stop automatically.

4.3 Engaging the Reflex Drive System

To engage the self-propel feature, push the Reflex Drive handle forward. The speed is variable, allowing

you to match the mower's pace to your walking speed (1 to 4 MPH) by adjusting how far you push the handle. Release the handle to disengage the drive.

4.4 Adjusting Cutting Height

The mower features a 7-position height adjustment system. Locate the height adjustment levers on each wheel. Pull the lever outwards and move it to the desired notch for your preferred cutting height. Ensure all wheels are set to the same height for an even cut. The cutting height ranges from 0.25 inches to 18 centimeters (approximately 7 inches).

4.5 3-in-1 Cutting Modes

- **Mulching:** For mulching, ensure the grass bagger is removed and the rear discharge door is closed. The dual blades will finely cut and redistribute clippings back into the lawn.
- **Bagging:** Attach the grass bagger as described in Section 3.4. The mower will collect clippings in the 2-bushel bagger. Empty the bagger frequently for optimal performance.
- **Rear Discharge:** For rear discharge, remove the bagger and attach the rear discharge chute (if provided). This mode is suitable for taller grass where mulching or bagging is not desired.

5. Maintenance

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

5.1 After Each Use

- **Clean the Deck:** Remove grass clippings from the underside of the mower deck to prevent buildup and maintain cutting efficiency. Disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning.
- **Inspect Blades:** Check the dual blades for sharpness, damage, or looseness. Sharpen or replace as needed.
- **Clear Debris:** Remove any grass or debris from around the engine, wheels, and drive system.

5.2 Engine Maintenance

Refer to the separate Briggs & Stratton engine manual for detailed maintenance schedules. Key points include:

- **Air Filter:** Inspect and clean or replace the air filter regularly, especially in dusty conditions.
- **Spark Plug:** Inspect and replace the spark plug annually or as recommended.
- **Oil:** As noted, the EXI engine does not require oil changes, but always check the oil level before each use.

5.3 Storage

For short-term storage, the mower's unique vertical stow feature allows it to be stored upright, saving space in your garage or shed.



Image: The Ariens Razor Reflex Drive mower shown in its vertical storage configuration.

For long-term or off-season storage:

- Clean the entire mower thoroughly.
- Add fuel stabilizer to the fuel tank or drain the fuel completely to prevent fuel degradation.
- Store in a dry, protected area.

6. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your lawn mower.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine will not start	No fuel, stale fuel, loose spark plug wire, clogged air filter.	Check fuel level, use fresh fuel, ensure spark plug wire is secure, clean/replace air filter.
Mower not self-propelling effectively	Reflex Drive handle not fully engaged, drive belt worn or loose, wheels clogged with debris.	Ensure handle is fully pushed forward, inspect/adjust/replace drive belt, clean wheels.
Blade not spinning or cutting poorly	Obstruction under deck, loose blade bolt, dull or damaged blade.	Disconnect spark plug, clear obstruction. Check blade bolt for tightness (ensure it's torqued correctly, noting the left-hand rotation). Sharpen or replace blade.
Uneven cut	Cutting height set unevenly, dull blade, bent blade.	Ensure all wheels are at the same height setting. Sharpen or replace blade.
Height adjustment levers slipping	Levers not fully engaged in notch, worn components.	Ensure levers are firmly seated in the desired height notch. If persistent, contact customer support.

7. Specifications

Brand	Ariens
Model Number	911603
Power Source	Gasoline-powered
Engine	Briggs & Stratton EXI 725, 190-cc
Material	Alloy Steel (Deck)
Item Weight	83 Pounds
Cutting Width	21 Inches
Operation Mode	Automatic (Self-Propelled)
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	40" x 23" x 18"

Maximum Adjustable Cutting Height	18 Centimeters (approx. 7 inches)
Minimum Adjustable Cutting Height	0.25 Inches
UPC	751058048482

8. Warranty and Support

Your Ariens Razor Reflex Drive lawn mower is covered by a limited warranty:

- **Mower:** 4 Year Limited Warranty
- **Engine:** 2 Year Limited Warranty

For warranty claims, technical assistance, or to locate an authorized service center, please contact Ariens customer support. Refer to the official Ariens website or your purchase documentation for specific contact information.