Makita DUC 357

Makita DUC 357 Cordless Chainsaw User Manual

Model: DUC 357

1. Introduction

1.1 Product Overview

The Makita DUC 357 chainsaw features a brushless motor for extended endurance and service life, in a compact design. It includes an integrated anti-kickback brake for safety and an electric brake for efficient operation. A special gear reduction mechanism provides higher torque, enabling effective performance in demanding tasks. The battery protection circuit safeguards the battery against overload, deep discharge, and overheating, contributing to longer battery life. The chainsaw operates with low noise and no emissions. Extreme Protection Technology (XPT) enhances resistance to dust and water, allowing for use in challenging work conditions and contributing to product longevity.

1.2 General Safety Information

Always read and understand all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury. Keep all warnings and instructions for future reference. The term "power tool" in the warnings refers to your mains-operated (corded) power tool or battery-operated (cordless) power tool.

- **Work Area Safety:** Keep work area clean and well lit. Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents. Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust. Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes. Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.
- **Electrical Safety:** Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools. Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of electric shock. Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces, such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators. There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.
- **Personal Safety:** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including safety glasses, hearing protection, gloves, and sturdy footwear. Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts.
- **Chainsaw Specific Safety:** Always hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands. Ensure proper footing and balance. Be aware of kickback and how to avoid it. Never operate the chainsaw above shoulder height. Do not cut small brush and saplings with the chainsaw as they may catch in the chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.

2. Package Contents

Upon unpacking, verify that all items listed below are present and undamaged:

- 1 x Makita DUC 357 Cordless Chainsaw
- 1 x 35 cm Guide Bar (Part No. 191G16-9)
- 1 x Chainsaw Chain (Part No. 191H02-6)
- 1 x Chain Oil (Part No. 199897-3)
- 1 x 35 cm Chain Guard (Part No. 413G23-5)
- 1 x Makita BL 1850 B 18V 5.0 Ah Battery
- 1 x Makita DC 18 RC Rapid Charger (7.2V – 18V)

3. Setup

3.1 Assembly (Guide Bar and Chain)

1. Ensure the battery is removed from the chainsaw before assembly.
2. Remove the chain cover by loosening the nuts.
3. Place the chain around the sprocket and guide bar, ensuring the cutting edges face the correct direction.
4. Fit the guide bar onto the chainsaw studs, aligning the chain with the guide bar groove.
5. Replace the chain cover and hand-tighten the nuts.
6. Adjust chain tension using the tensioning screw. The chain should be snug but still able to be pulled freely by hand.
7. Fully tighten the chain cover nuts.

3.2 Battery Installation and Charging

The Makita DUC 357 operates with an 18V LXT battery. Ensure the battery is fully charged before use.



Image: Makita 18V 5.0Ah battery and DC 18 RC rapid charger. The battery slides into the charger for efficient power replenishment.

1. **Charging the Battery:** Connect the Makita DC 18 RC rapid charger to a power outlet. Insert the 18V 5.0 Ah battery into the charger. The charger will indicate the charging status. A full charge typically takes approximately 45 minutes for a 5.0 Ah battery.
2. **Installing the Battery:** Align the battery with the battery slot on the chainsaw. Slide the battery into the slot until it clicks securely into place. Ensure it is fully seated before operation.
3. **Removing the Battery:** Press the battery release button and slide the battery out of the chainsaw.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Pre-Operation Checks

- Ensure the chain is properly tensioned.
- Check the chain oil reservoir level and refill if necessary.
- Verify the battery is fully charged and securely installed.
- Inspect the chainsaw for any loose parts or damage.
- Confirm the work area is clear of obstructions and bystanders.

4.2 Starting the Chainsaw

To start the chainsaw, engage the safety lock-off button and then pull the trigger switch. The electric brake will stop the chain quickly when the trigger is released.



Image: The Makita DUC 357 Cordless Chainsaw, ready for operation. Note the ergonomic handle and chain guard.

4.3 Cutting Techniques

- Always maintain a firm grip with both hands on the chainsaw handles.
- Keep your body balanced and feet firmly planted.
- Start cutting with the chain at full speed.
- Avoid cutting with the tip of the guide bar to prevent kickback.
- Be aware of the direction the wood will fall and plan an escape path.

4.4 Safety During Operation

- Never operate the chainsaw when fatigued or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not allow children or untrained individuals to operate the chainsaw.
- Always wear appropriate safety gear.
- Be mindful of the anti-kickback brake and ensure it is functioning correctly.
- Do not force the chainsaw; let the tool do the work.

5. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the lifespan of your Makita DUC 357 chainsaw.

5.1 Chain Sharpening

A sharp chain is crucial for efficient and safe cutting. Sharpen the chain regularly or replace it when dull. Refer to the chain manufacturer's instructions for specific sharpening angles and file sizes.

5.2 Chain Oiling

The chainsaw features an automatic oiling system. Regularly check the chain oil tank level and refill with appropriate chainsaw bar and chain oil. Do not operate the chainsaw without sufficient chain lubrication.

5.3 Cleaning

- Always remove the battery before cleaning.
- Clean the guide bar groove and oil holes to ensure proper lubrication.
- Remove sawdust and debris from the motor housing and cooling vents using a brush or compressed air.
- Wipe down the exterior of the chainsaw with a damp cloth.

5.4 Storage

When not in use, store the chainsaw in a dry, secure location out of reach of children. Ensure the chain guard is in place. Remove the battery for long-term storage.

6. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Makita DUC 357 chainsaw.

- **Chainsaw does not start:**
  - Check if the battery is fully charged and properly installed.
  - Ensure the safety lock-off button is engaged before pulling the trigger.
  - Verify the chain brake is disengaged.
- **Chain is not cutting efficiently:**
  - The chain may be dull and requires sharpening or replacement.
  - Check chain tension; it might be too loose or too tight.
  - Ensure the chain is installed in the correct direction.
- **Chain is not oiling:**
  - Check the chain oil reservoir level and refill if empty.
  - Clean the guide bar oil holes and groove to remove any blockages.
- **Chainsaw stops during operation:**
  - The battery may be depleted; replace with a charged battery.
  - The battery protection circuit may have activated due to overload or overheating. Allow the tool and battery to cool down.

7. Technical Specifications

Feature	Specification
Manufacturer	Makita
Model Designation	DUC 357
Battery Voltage	18 V
Battery Series	LXT
Max Chain Speed	7.7 m/s
Chain Pitch	3/8 "
Guide Bar Groove Width	1.1 mm
Chain Oil Tank Capacity	0.15 L
Machine Weight with Battery (EPTA)	4.2 - 4.4 kg
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	428 x 214 x 234 mm
Power Source	Battery Powered

UPC	088381769822

8. Warranty and Support

Makita products are manufactured under strict quality control. In the unlikely event of a defect, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase for specific terms and conditions. For technical assistance, spare parts, or service, please contact your local authorized Makita service center or visit the official Makita website for support information.

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question