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› RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw Kit - Model R8658 User Manual

## RIDGID R8658

# RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw Kit

MODEL R8658 USER MANUAL

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## Introduction

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Thank you for choosing the RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw Kit. This manual provides essential information for the safe operation, maintenance, and setup of your new tool. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the saw to ensure proper use and to prevent injury.

The RIDGID R8658 circular saw is designed for cutting wood and wood products. Its brushless motor technology delivers efficient performance and extended runtime, making it suitable for various cutting tasks.



Image: The RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw, accompanied by its MAX Output battery and 18V charger.

## Important Safety Instructions

Always follow basic safety precautions when using electric tools to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury. Keep this manual for future reference.

- **Read All Instructions:** Familiarize yourself with the tool's operation and safety guidelines before use.
- **Wear Eye Protection:** Always wear appropriate eye protection, such as safety glasses with side shields, when operating power tools.
- **Keep Work Area Clean:** Cluttered areas and benches invite injuries.
- **Avoid Dangerous Environments:** Do not use power tools in damp or wet locations, or expose them to rain. Keep work area well lit.
- **Keep Children Away:** All visitors should be kept at a safe distance from the work area.
- **Dress Properly:** Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Contain long hair. Keep hair, clothing, and gloves away from moving parts.
- **Use Proper Tool:** Do not force tool. Use the correct tool for your application.
- **Secure Workpiece:** Use clamps or a vise to hold work. This is safer than using your hand and it frees both hands to operate the tool.
- **Maintain Tools With Care:** Keep cutting tools sharp and clean. Follow instructions for lubricating and changing accessories.

- **Disconnect Tools:** Disconnect the battery pack from the tool when not in use, before servicing, or when changing accessories.
- **Avoid Accidental Starting:** Ensure the switch is in the off position before inserting the battery pack.
- **Check for Damaged Parts:** Before further use of the tool, a guard or other part that is damaged should be carefully checked to determine that it will operate properly and perform its intended function.
- **Never Reach Underneath:** Never reach underneath the workpiece for any reason when the saw is operating.
- **Support Large Panels:** Support large panels to minimize the risk of blade pinch and kickback.

## Package Contents

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Your RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw Kit includes the following items:

- RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw (Model R8658)
- MAX Output Battery (18V)
- 18V Charger
- 7-1/4 inch Saw Blade (24-tooth carbide)
- Blade Wrench
- Operator's Manual

## Key Features

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The RIDGID R8658 Circular Saw offers several features designed for performance and user convenience:

- **Brushless Motor:** Provides maximum performance, extended runtime, and longer motor life.
- **High Speed:** Delivers 5,800 RPM for fast and efficient cutting.
- **Deep Cut Capacity:** Features a 2-1/2 inch depth of cut at 90 degrees.
- **Bevel Capacity:** Offers a 53-degree bevel capacity for angled cuts.
- **Electronic Blade Brake:** Stops the blade quickly after the trigger is released for increased safety.
- **Magnesium Construction:** Lightweight design for reduced user fatigue.
- **100% Compatibility:** Works with all RIDGID 18V batteries.

## Setup and Assembly

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### 1. Battery Installation and Removal

To install the battery, align the ribs on the battery with the grooves in the tool's battery port. Slide the battery into the tool until it clicks into place. To remove, press the battery release latch and pull the battery out.

# **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE LIFETIME SERVICE AGREEMENT**

*Image: The RIDGID 18V MAX Output battery, ready for insertion into the tool.*

## **2. Blade Installation and Removal**

1. Ensure the battery pack is removed from the saw.
2. Press and hold the spindle lock button.
3. Using the blade wrench, loosen the blade screw by turning it counter-clockwise.
4. Remove the outer blade washer and the old blade.
5. Install the new blade, ensuring the teeth are pointing in the direction of the arrow on the upper blade guard.
6. Replace the outer blade washer and tighten the blade screw clockwise with the blade wrench while holding the spindle lock button. Do not overtighten.



*Image: The circular saw with a 7-1/4 inch blade, illustrating the blade installation area.*

### **3. Adjusting Depth of Cut**

To adjust the depth of cut, loosen the depth adjustment knob located on the side of the saw. Move the shoe up or down to the desired depth, aligning the indicator with the measurement scale. Tighten the knob securely.

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*Image: Close-up view of the circular saw's depth adjustment mechanism.*

#### **4. Adjusting Bevel Angle**

To adjust the bevel angle, loosen the bevel adjustment lever at the front of the saw. Tilt the shoe to the desired angle, aligning the indicator with the bevel scale. Securely tighten the lever.



*Image: The circular saw displaying its bevel adjustment lever and angle scale.*

## Operation

### 1. General Operation Guidelines

- Ensure the workpiece is properly secured and marked for cutting.
- Always hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Allow the blade to reach full speed before beginning a cut.
- Maintain a steady, even pressure throughout the cut.
- Do not force the saw; let the blade do the work.

### 2. Starting and Stopping the Saw

To start the saw, depress the lock-off button (if present) and then squeeze the trigger switch. To stop the saw, release the trigger switch. The electronic blade brake will quickly stop the blade rotation.

### 3. Making a Cut

1. Set the desired depth of cut and bevel angle.
2. Position the front edge of the saw shoe on the workpiece, ensuring the blade is clear of the material.
3. Start the saw and allow the blade to reach full speed.
4. Slowly guide the saw into the workpiece along your marked line.
5. Maintain a firm grip and keep the saw's shoe flat against the workpiece.
6. Once the cut is complete, release the trigger and allow the blade to stop before lifting the saw from the workpiece.

## Maintenance

### 1. Cleaning

Regularly clean the saw to ensure optimal performance. Remove the battery pack before cleaning. Use a soft brush

or compressed air to clear dust and debris from the motor vents, blade guard, and shoe. Do not use solvents or harsh chemicals.

## 2. Blade Care

Inspect the saw blade before each use for sharpness, cracks, or missing teeth. A dull or damaged blade can cause kickback and reduce cutting efficiency. Replace damaged blades immediately. Keep blades clean and free of pitch buildup.

## 3. Battery and Charger Care

Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and moisture. Do not store batteries in a discharged state for extended periods. Use only the specified RIDGID 18V charger for your battery pack. Refer to the charger's manual for specific charging instructions.

## Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your circular saw.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Saw does not start	Battery not charged or improperly installed; Faulty switch	Ensure battery is fully charged and properly seated. If issue persists, contact customer support.
Blade binds or stalls during cut	Dull blade; Incorrect depth of cut; Forcing the saw; Workpiece not properly supported	Replace blade; Adjust depth of cut; Reduce feed pressure; Ensure workpiece is stable.
Excessive vibration or noise	Loose blade; Damaged blade; Loose components	Check blade for tightness and damage; Inspect saw for loose screws or parts.
Inaccurate cuts	Incorrect bevel/depth setting; Blade wobble; Improper technique	Verify settings; Check blade for damage; Practice proper cutting technique.

## Technical Specifications

Below are the technical specifications for the RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw, Model R8658:

Specification	Value
Model Number	R8658
Voltage	18 Volts
Motor Type	Brushless
No-Load Speed	5800 RPM
Blade Diameter	7-1/4 inches (184 mm)
Max Depth of Cut (90°)	2-1/2 inches

Specification	Value
Max Bevel Capacity	53 Degrees
Blade Material	High Carbon Steel (Carbide Tipped)
Item Weight	9.5 Pounds
Product Dimensions	18.5 x 8 x 9.75 inches
Handle Material	ABS Plastic
Power Source	Battery Powered
UPC	648846087146

## Warranty and Support

This RIDGID 18V Brushless Cordless 7-1/4 inch Rear Handle Circular Saw Kit (Model R8658) is **NOT eligible for the Lifetime Service Agreement**. Please refer to the product packaging or RIDGID's official website for specific warranty details applicable to this product.

**NOT**  
**ELIGIBLE**  
**FOR THE**  
**LIFETIME**  
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**AGREEMENT**

*Image: A visual reminder that this product is not eligible for the Lifetime Service Agreement.*

For technical assistance, replacement parts, or further information, please visit the official RIDGID website or contact RIDGID customer support directly. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or on the manufacturer's website.

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