

MechMaxx VAM60

MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower Instruction Manual

Model: **VAM60** | Brand: **MechMaxx**

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower is a robust agricultural implement designed for efficient clearing of overgrown grass, brush, and small trees on ditches, embankments, fields, orchards, and vineyards. This 60-inch working width mower connects to 25-60HP Category 1 tractors via a 3-point hitch and is powered by an included PTO drive shaft. Its offset design and hydraulic tilt capabilities (60° downward, 90° upward) allow for versatile operation across various terrains, making it an ideal tool for maintaining diverse farm properties.



Figure 1.1: Front view of the MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower, showcasing its robust construction and PTO connection.



Figure 1.2: Key specifications of the VAM60 Flail Mower, highlighting its 60-inch cutting width, 24 hammer blades, and 25-60 HP tractor compatibility.

2. IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Always prioritize safety when operating heavy machinery. Read and understand all instructions before assembly, operation, or maintenance. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death.

- **Read the Manual:** Thoroughly read this entire instruction manual before attempting to operate the mower.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Always wear appropriate PPE, including safety glasses, hearing protection, sturdy footwear, and close-fitting clothing.
- **Clear the Area:** Ensure the work area is clear of bystanders, children, and pets before starting the mower. Maintain a safe distance from the operating machine.
- **Inspect Before Use:** Before each use, inspect the mower for any loose parts, damage, or wear. Ensure all safety guards are in place and functional.
- **Add Gearbox Oil:** **CRITICAL: The gearbox is shipped without oil. You MUST add 1.20L (1.27 quart) of 85W-90 gearbox oil before first use.** Operating without proper lubrication will cause severe damage and void the warranty.
- **Tractor Compatibility:** Only use the mower with tractors that meet the specified horsepower requirements (25-60HP) and are equipped with a Category 1 3-point hitch.
- **PTO Shaft Safety:** Always ensure the PTO shaft is properly connected and guarded. Never operate the mower with the PTO guard removed or damaged.
- **Secure Attachment:** Verify that the mower is securely attached to the tractor's 3-point hitch before operation.
- **Slope Operation:** Exercise extreme caution when operating on slopes. Avoid sudden turns or excessive speeds that could lead to instability.
- **Maintenance Safety:** Disconnect the PTO shaft and turn off the tractor engine before performing any maintenance,

adjustments, or clearing blockages.



Figure 2.1: Important warning regarding the necessity of adding gearbox oil (85W-90) before initial operation. The oil filler hole is clearly marked.

3. SETUP AND INITIAL ASSEMBLY

This section provides step-by-step instructions for assembling and connecting your MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower to your tractor.

3.1 Unpacking and Inspection

1. Carefully remove all components from the packaging.
2. Verify that all parts listed in the packing list are present and undamaged. Contact customer support immediately if any parts are missing or damaged.

3.2 Attaching to Tractor (3-Point Hitch)

1. Position the mower on a flat, level surface behind your tractor.
2. Align the lower hitch pins of the mower with the lower lift arms of your tractor's Category 1 3-point hitch. Secure with appropriate pins.
3. Connect the top link of the mower to the tractor's top link attachment point. Secure with a pin.
4. Connect the PTO drive shaft. Ensure it is properly lubricated and securely attached to both the mower's gearbox and the tractor's PTO spline.
5. Connect the hydraulic hoses from the mower to the tractor's hydraulic outlets. Ensure correct connection for tilt and offset functions.



Figure 3.1: The VAM60 Flail Mower securely attached to a tractor via its 3-point hitch and PTO shaft, shown from side and rear

perspectives.



Figure 3.2: Detailed diagram of the PTO shaft (T6-LF-63 with Shear Bolt), indicating its 1 3/8" Z6 connection for proper installation.

3.3 Adding Gearbox Oil (Crucial First Step)

The gearbox is shipped dry and **must be filled with oil before its first use**. Failure to do so will result in immediate and irreversible damage to the gearbox, which is not covered under warranty.

- Locate the oil filler plug on the gearbox (refer to Figure 2.1).
- Remove the plug and slowly add **1.20 Liters (1.27 Quarts) of 85W-90 Gearbox Oil**
- Once filled, replace the oil filler plug securely.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these guidelines for safe and effective operation of your MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower.

4.1 Pre-Operation Checks

- Ensure gearbox oil level is correct.
- Check all bolts and nuts for tightness.
- Inspect hammer blades for wear or damage.
- Verify PTO shaft is securely attached and guarded.
- Confirm hydraulic connections are secure and free of leaks.

4.2 Tractor Compatibility and Power

The VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower requires a tractor with **25-60 horsepower (HP)** and a **Category 1 3-point hitch**. Ensure your tractor meets these specifications for optimal performance and safety.

4.3 Adjusting Mowing Parameters

- **Working Width:** The mower has a working width of 60 inches, allowing for efficient coverage of larger areas.
- **Cutting Height:** The mowing height above ground can be adjusted from 0.65 inches to 2 inches. This is primarily adjusted by the length of the tractor's top link. Adjust the top link so the rear of the mower is slightly lower (approximately 15 degrees) than the front to prevent scalping and ensure the rear roller supports the mower's weight, not the skid shoes.
- **Hydraulic Tilt Angles:** Utilize your tractor's hydraulic controls to adjust the mower's tilt angle. The VAM60 supports a **60° downward tilt angle** and a **90° upward tilt angle**, enabling effective mowing on slopes and banks.

- **Lateral Movement (Offset):** The offset hitch design allows for a maximum lateral movement of 77 inches from the center of the tractor, providing extended reach for ditch and bank mowing.

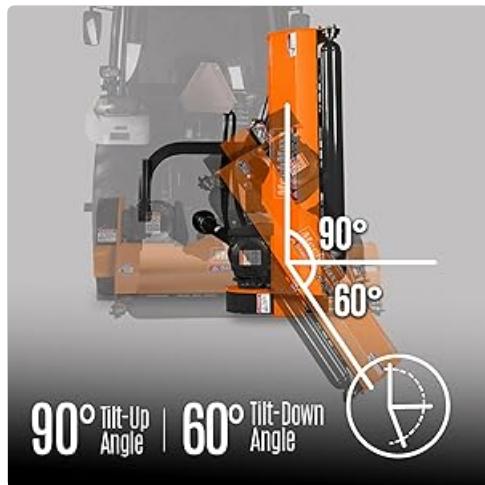


Figure 4.1: The VAM60's hydraulic system allows for significant tilt, enabling it to adapt to various terrain contours, including steep banks and ditches.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is essential for the longevity and optimal performance of your MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower.

5.1 Daily Checks

- Check gearbox oil level.
- Inspect hammer blades for excessive wear, damage, or looseness.
- Ensure all nuts and bolts are tight.
- Clean debris from the mower deck and roller.

5.2 Gearbox Oil Maintenance

Check the gearbox oil level frequently, especially during initial break-in period and before each mowing season. Change the oil annually or after every 50 hours of operation, whichever comes first.

- To check: Ensure the mower is on level ground. Locate the oil level plug (often the same as the filler plug). Oil should be at the level of the plug.
- To change: Place a drain pan beneath the gearbox drain plug. Remove the drain plug to empty the old oil. Replace the drain plug and refill with 1.20 Liters (1.27 Quarts) of 85W-90 gearbox oil through the filler hole.

5.3 Hammer Blade Inspection and Replacement

The VAM60 uses 24 durable flail hammers. Regularly inspect these blades for wear, chipping, or bending. Worn blades reduce cutting efficiency and can cause imbalance.

- Replace damaged or excessively worn blades promptly. Always replace blades in sets or balanced pairs to maintain rotor balance and prevent vibration.
- Ensure replacement blades are genuine MechMaxx parts or equivalent specifications.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

This section provides solutions to common operational problems you might encounter.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Mower not cutting effectively or leaving uneven finish.	Dull or damaged hammer blades; incorrect cutting height adjustment; insufficient tractor HP.	Inspect and replace worn blades. Adjust top link to achieve desired cutting height and ensure rear roller is supporting the mower. Verify tractor HP meets requirements.
Excessive vibration during operation.	Unbalanced or damaged hammer blades; loose components; bent PTO shaft.	Inspect and replace damaged blades, ensuring they are balanced. Check all fasteners for tightness. Inspect PTO shaft for damage.
Gearbox overheating or locking up.	Insufficient or incorrect gearbox oil; excessive load; internal damage.	Immediately stop operation. Check gearbox oil level and type (85W-90). If oil is correct, reduce load. If problem persists, contact MechMaxx customer support; internal inspection by qualified technician may be required.
Hydraulic tilt/offset not functioning.	Incorrect hydraulic hose connection; low hydraulic fluid in tractor; hydraulic cylinder or hose damage.	Verify hydraulic hose connections are correct and secure. Check tractor's hydraulic fluid level. Inspect hoses and cylinders for visible damage.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed specifications for the MechMaxx VAM60 Flail Ditch Bank Mower.

Specification	Value
Brand	MechMaxx

Specification	Value
Model Number	VAM60
Power Source	Tractor PTO
Recommended Tractor HP	25-60 HP
Hitch Type	Category 1, 3-Point Hitch
Working Width	60 Inches
Number of Hammers	24
Mowing Height Above Ground	0.65 - 2 Inches
Max Mulching Diameter	1.5 Inches
Downward Tilt Angle	60°
Upward Tilt Angle	90°
Max Lateral Movement (from center)	77 Inches
PTO Shaft Speed	540 rpm
Rotor Shaft Speed	2356 rpm
Item Weight	613 Pounds
Product Dimensions (approx.)	64"D x 27.5"W x 28"H
Gearbox Oil Type	85W-90 (1.20L / 1.27 qt)



Figure 7.1: Dimensional diagram illustrating the overall size and offset capabilities of the VAM60 Flail Mower.

8. WARRANTY AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

MechMaxx is committed to providing high-quality products and excellent customer service.

8.1 Product Warranty

For specific warranty details, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official MechMaxx website. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

8.2 Returns and Support

This product is eligible for 30-day easy returns. For any questions, technical assistance, or parts inquiries, please contact MechMaxx Customer Support. Our team is available to assist you with comprehensive pre-sales and after-sales services. You can find contact information on the MechMaxx store page on Amazon or through the official MechMaxx website. Visit the [MechMaxx Store on Amazon](#) for more information and products.

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VAM48/60/65 Flail Mower



1 YEAR WARRANTY

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