

HLA 56

STIHL



2 - 19

Instruction Manual



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1 Introduction

Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing STIHL. We develop and manufacture our quality products to meet our customers' requirements. The products are designed for reliability even under extreme conditions.

STIHL also stands for premium service quality. Our dealers guarantee competent advice and instruction as well as comprehensive service support.

STIHL expressly commit themselves to a sustainable and responsible handling of natural resources. This user manual is intended to help you use your STIHL product safely and in an environmentally friendly manner over a long service life.

We thank you for your confidence in us and hope you will enjoy working with your STIHL product.



Dr. Nikolas Stihl

**IMPORTANT! READ BEFORE USING AND
KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE FOR REFERENCE.**

2 Guide to Using this Manual

2.1 Applicable Documents

Local safety regulations apply.

- ▶ In addition to this instruction manual, read, understand and keep the following documents:
 - STIHL AK battery safety information
 - STIHL AL 101, 300, 500 charger instruction manual
 - Safety information for STIHL batteries and products with built-in battery: www.stihl.com/safety-data-sheets

2.2 Warning Notices in Text



DANGER

- This notice refers to risks which result in serious or fatal injury.
 - ▶ Serious or fatal injuries can be avoided by taking the precautions mentioned.



WARNING

- This notice refers to risks which **can** result in serious or fatal injury.
 - ▶ Serious or fatal injuries can be avoided by taking the precautions mentioned.

NOTICE

- This notice refers to risks which can result in damage to property.
 - ▶ Damage to property can be avoided by taking the precautions mentioned.

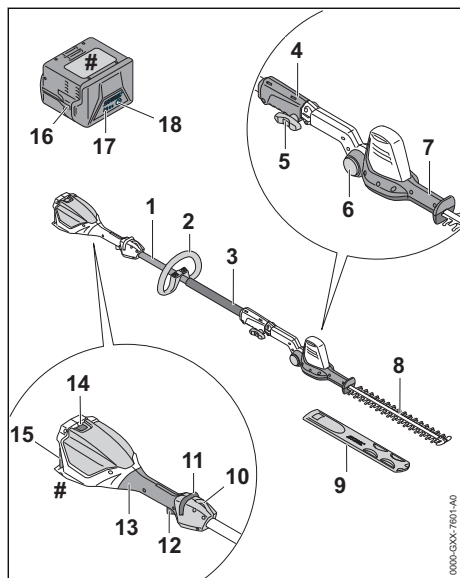
2.3 Symbols in Text



This symbol refers to a chapter in this instruction manual.

3 Overview

3.1 Hedge Trimmer and Battery



- 1 Shaft**
Connects all components.
- 2 Loop Handle**
For holding and controlling the trimmer.
- 3 Handle Hose**
For holding and controlling the trimmer.
- 4 Coupling Sleeve**
Connects shaft to cutter bar.
- 5 Wing Screw**
Secures cutter bar to shaft.
- 6 Lock Button**
Locks cutter bar in position.
- 7 Swivel Handle**
Serves to adjust angle of cutter bar.
- 8 Cutting Blades**
Perform the cutting action.
- 9 Blade Scabbard**
Helps protect user from contact with the cutting blades.
- 10 Carrying Ring**
For attaching carrying system.
- 11 Release Slide**
Unlocks the trigger.
- 12 Trigger**
Switches the trimmer on and off.

13 Control Handle

For operating, holding and controlling the hedge trimmer.

14 Locking Lever

Secures the battery in the battery compartment.

15 Battery Compartment

Accommodates the battery.

16 Battery

Supplies power to the hedge trimmer.

17 LEDs

Indicate battery's state of charge and malfunctions.

18 Button

Activates the LEDs on the battery.

Rating Label with Serial Number

3.2 Symbols

The symbols which may be on the long-reach hedge trimmer and battery have the following meanings:



This symbol indicates the direction the release slide has to be pushed in.



This symbol indicates that the cutter blade must be attached.



1 LED emits red light. The battery is too warm or too cold.



4 LEDs flash red. There is a fault in the battery.



LWA Guaranteed sound power level in accordance with Directive 2000/14/EC in dB(A) for the purpose of comparing the sound emissions of products.



The information next to the symbol indicates the energy content of the battery according to the cell manufacturer's specification. The energy content available in operation is lower.



Do not dispose of the product with domestic waste.

4 Safety Precautions

4.1 Warning Symbols

Meanings of warning signs and labels on the long-reach hedge trimmer or battery:



Observe safety notices and take the necessary precautions.



Read, understand and keep the User Manual.



Wear safety glasses and a hard hat.



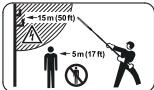
Wear safety boots.



Wear work gloves.



Do not touch moving cutting blades.



Maintain a safe distance.



Protect the hedge trimmer from rain and moisture.



Remove the battery during breaks in work, transport, storage, maintenance or repair.



Protect battery from heat and fire.



Protect the battery from rain and moisture and do not immerse it in liquids.



Observe the permitted battery temperature range.

4.2 Intended Use

The STIHL HLA 56 hedge trimmer is designed for cutting low growing shrubs, high hedges, high shrubs, high bushes and high scrub.

The hedge trimmer must not be used in the rain.

A STIHL AK battery supplies the hedge trimmer with power.

⚠ WARNING

- Batteries not explicitly approved for the hedge trimmer by STIHL may cause a fire or explosion.

This can result in serious or fatal injuries and damage to property.

- ▶ Use the hedge trimmer with a STIHL AK battery.
- Using the hedge trimmer or the battery for purposes for which they were not designed may result in serious or fatal injuries and damage to property.
 - ▶ Use the hedge trimmer as described in this instruction manual.
 - ▶ Use the battery as described in the STIHL AK instruction manual.

4.3 The Operator

⚠ WARNING

- Users without adequate training or instruction cannot recognize or assess the risks involved in using the hedge trimmer and battery. The user or other persons may sustain serious or fatal injuries.



- ▶ Read, understand and save the instruction manual.

- ▶ If the hedge trimmer or battery is passed on to another person: Always give them the instruction manual.
- ▶ Make sure the user meets the following requirements:
 - The user must be rested.
 - The user must be in good physical condition and mental health to operate and work with the hedge trimmer and battery. If the user's physical, sensory or mental ability is restricted, he or she may work only under the supervision of or as instructed by a responsible person.
 - The user is able to recognize and assess the risks involved in using the hedge trimmer and battery.
 - The user must be of legal age or is being trained in a trade under supervision in accordance with national rules and regulations.
 - The user has received instruction from a STIHL servicing dealer or other experienced user before working with the hedge trimmer for the first time.
 - The user must not be under the influence of alcohol, medication or drugs.
- ▶ If you have any queries: Contact a STIHL servicing dealer for assistance.

4.4 Clothing and equipment

⚠ WARNING

- Long hair may be pulled into the long-reach hedge trimmer during operation. This may result in serious injury to the user.
 - ▶ Tie up and confine long hair above your shoulders.
- Objects can be thrown at high speed during operation. This may result in injury to the user.



- ▶ Wear close-fitting safety glasses. Suitable safety glasses are tested in accordance with EN 166 or national regulations and available commercially with the corresponding marking.

- ▶ Wear a long-sleeved, close-fitting top and long trousers.

- Falling objects can cause head injuries.



- ▶ wear a hard hat.

- Dust can be whipped up during operation. Whipped up dust can damage the respiratory passages and cause allergic reactions.
 - ▶ If dust is generated: Wear a dust respirator mask.

- Unsuitable clothing may snag on wood, thickets or the long-reach hedge trimmer. Users not wearing suitable clothing are at risk of serious injury.

- ▶ Wear close-fitting clothing.
- ▶ Remove scarves and jewelry.

- Wearing unsuitable footwear may cause the user to slip. This may result in injury to the user.



- ▶ Wear sturdy, closed-toed footwear with high-grip soles.

- The user may come into contact with the cutting blades during cleaning or servicing. This may result in injury to the user.



- ▶ Wear work gloves made from resistant material.

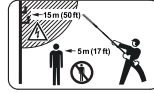
4.5 Work Area and Surroundings

4.5.1 Hedge trimmer

⚠ WARNING

- Bystanders, children and animals cannot recognize or assess the dangers of the hedge trimmer or flying debris. Bystanders, children

and animals may be seriously injured and damage to property may occur.



- ▶ Do not allow bystanders, children or animals within 5 meters of the work area.

- ▶ Maintain a clearance of 5 meters from objects.
- ▶ Do not leave the hedge trimmer unattended.
- ▶ Make sure that children cannot play with the hedge trimmer.
- The hedge trimmer is not waterproof. Working in the rain or a damp location may result in an electric shock. This can result in injuries to the user and may damage the hedge trimmer.



- ▶ Do not work in the rain or a damp location.

- Electrical components of the hedge trimmer can produce sparks. Sparks may cause a fire or an explosion in an easily combustible or explosive environment. This can result in serious or fatal injuries and damage to property.
 - ▶ Do not work in an easily combustible or explosive environment.

4.5.2 Battery

⚠ WARNING

- Bystanders, children and animals cannot recognize or assess the dangers of the battery. Bystanders, children and animals may be seriously injured.
 - ▶ Keep bystanders, children and animals away from the work area.
 - ▶ Do not leave the battery unattended.
 - ▶ Make sure that children cannot play with the battery.
- The battery is not protected against all ambient conditions. If the battery is exposed to certain ambient conditions, the battery may catch fire, explode or be irreparably damaged. This may result in serious injury to people and damage to property.



- ▶ Protect battery from heat and fire.
- ▶ Do not throw the battery into a fire.



- ▶ Use and store the battery at temperatures between - 10 °C and + 50 °C.



- ▶ Protect the battery from rain and moisture and do not immerse it in liquids.

- ▶ Keep battery away from small metal parts.
- ▶ Do not expose the battery to high pressure.
- ▶ Do not expose the battery to microwaves.
- ▶ Protect the battery from chemicals and salts.

4.6 Safe Condition

4.6.1 Long-reach hedge trimmer

The long-reach hedge trimmer is in a safe condition if the following points are observed:

- The long-reach hedge trimmer is not damaged.
- The long-reach hedge trimmer is clean.
- The controls function properly and have not been modified.
- The cutting blades are correctly fitted.
- Only original STIHL accessories designed for this long-reach hedge trimmer are fitted.
- The accessories are correctly attached.

⚠ WARNING

- If not in safe condition, components may no longer operate correctly and safety devices may be disabled. This may result in serious or fatal injury to people.
 - ▶ Work only with an undamaged long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ If the long-reach hedge trimmer is dirty: Clean the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Do not modify the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ If the controls do not function properly: Do not work with the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Only fit original STIHL accessories designed for this long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Attach accessories as described in this User Manual or in the User Manual for the accessories.
 - ▶ Never insert objects into the openings of the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Replace worn or damaged labels.
 - ▶ If you have any doubts, be sure to consult a STIHL dealer.

4.6.2 Cutting Blades

The cutting blades are in a safe condition if the following points are observed:

- Cutting blades are undamaged.
- Cutting blades are not deformed.
- Cutting blades move freely.
- Cutting blades are properly sharpened.

- Cutting blades have no burrs.

⚠ WARNING

- If they are in an unsafe condition, parts of the cutting blades may come off and be thrown at high speed. This can result in serious injuries.
 - ▶ Work only with undamaged cutting blades.
 - ▶ Make sure the cutting blades are properly sharpened and deburred.
 - ▶ If you have any queries: Contact your STIHL servicing dealer.

4.6.3 Battery

The battery is in safe condition when the following conditions are met:

- The battery is not damaged.
- The battery is clean and dry.
- The battery is working and has not been modified.

⚠ WARNING

- The battery cannot function safely if it is not in safe condition. There is a risk of serious injury to persons.
 - ▶ Use an undamaged and functioning battery.
 - ▶ Do not charge a damaged or defective battery.
 - ▶ If the battery is dirty or wet: clean the battery and allow it to dry.
 - ▶ Do not modify the battery.
 - ▶ Do not insert objects into the apertures in the battery.
 - ▶ Never connect the battery terminals to metallic objects and cause a short circuit.
 - ▶ Do not open the battery.
 - ▶ Replace worn or damaged warning signs.
- Fluid may leak from a damaged battery. If the fluid contacts the skin or eyes, this may cause irritation.
 - ▶ Avoid contact with the fluid.
 - ▶ In the event of contact with the skin: wash the affected areas with plenty of soap and water.
 - ▶ In the event of contact with the eyes: rinse the eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes and seek medical attention.
- A damaged or defective battery may emit an unusual odour, smoke or catch fire. This may result in serious or fatal injury to people and damage to property.
 - ▶ If the battery emits an unusual odour or smoke: do not use the battery and keep it away from flammable materials.
 - ▶ If the battery catches fire: try to extinguish the battery using a fire extinguisher or water.

4.7 Working

⚠ WARNING

- In certain situations, the user may no longer be able to concentrate on their work. This may result in the user stumbling, falling and suffering serious injury.
 - ▶ Keep calm and plan your work.
 - ▶ If light and visibility are poor: Do not work with the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Operate the long-reach hedge trimmer alone.
 - ▶ Watch out for obstacles.
 - ▶ Work standing on the ground and keep your balance. If you have to work at a height: Use a mobile elevating work platform or secure scaffolding.
 - ▶ If you start feeling fatigue: Take a break.
- Working above shoulder height can cause fatigue sooner. This may result in serious injury to the user.
 - ▶ Work above shoulder height for short periods only.
 - ▶ Take breaks.
- If the moving cutting blade makes contact with a hard object it can be brought to a sudden stop. The reactive forces that occur can cause the user to lose control of the long-reach hedge trimmer and be seriously injured.
 - ▶ Hold the long-reach hedge trimmer firmly with both hands.
 - ▶ Before starting work, check hedge for hard objects and remove any such objects.
- The moving cutting blades can cut the user. This may result in serious injury to the user.
 - ▶ Do not touch moving cutting blades.
 - ▶ If the cutting blades are blocked by an object: Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery, before clearing the jam.



- If the behavior of the long-reach hedge trimmer changes during operation or feels unusual, it may no longer be in a safe condition. This may result in serious injury to people and damage to property.
 - ▶ Stop working, remove the battery and consult a STIHL dealer.
- Vibrations may occur while using the long-reach hedge trimmer.
 - ▶ Wear gloves.

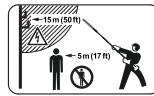


- ▶ Take breaks.
- ▶ If signs of a circulatory disturbance occur: Consult a doctor.

- Note that the cutting blades continue to run for about 1 second after you release the trigger. The moving cutting blades may cut the user. They may cause serious injury to persons.
 - ▶ Wait until the cutting blades come to a complete standstill.
- In an emergency, the user may start to panic and forget to take off the carrying system. This may result in serious injury to the user.
 - ▶ Practice taking off the carrying system.

⚠ DANGER

- Working near live electric cables may result in accidental contact with and damage to the cutting blades. This may result in serious or fatal injury to the user.



- ▶ Maintain a clearance of 15 meters from live cables.

4.8 Transporting

4.8.1 Hedge Trimmer

⚠ WARNING

- The hedge trimmer may turn over or shift during transport. This may result in personal injuries and damage to property.
 - ▶ Remove the battery.
- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.
- ▶ Secure the hedge trimmer with lashing straps or a net to prevent it turning over and moving.



4.8.2 Battery

⚠ WARNING

- The battery is not protected against all ambient conditions. The battery may be damaged if it is exposed to certain ambient conditions, and damage to property may occur.
 - ▶ Never transport a damaged battery.
- The battery may turn over or shift during transport. This may result in injury to people and damage to property.
 - ▶ Pack the battery in packaging in such a way that it cannot move.
 - ▶ Secure the packaging so that it cannot move.

4.9 Storing

4.9.1 Hedge trimmer

▲ WARNING

- Children are not aware of and cannot assess the dangers of the hedge trimmer and can be seriously injured.



- ▶ Remove the battery.

- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.
- ▶ Store the hedge trimmer out of the reach of children.
- Dampness can corrode the electrical contacts on the hedge trimmer and metal components. The hedge trimmer may be damaged.



- ▶ Remove the battery.

- ▶ Store the hedge trimmer in a clean and dry condition.
- If electric cables or pipes are embedded in the wall, they may be damaged when the wall bracket is mounted on the wall. Contact with electric cables can result in an electric shock. This can result in serious injuries and damage to property.
- ▶ Check that there are no electric cables or pipes embedded in the wall.
- If the wall bracket is not mounted to the wall as described in this instruction manual, it or the hedge trimmer may come off the wall and fall to the ground. This may result in personal injuries and damage to property.
- ▶ Mount the wall bracket to the wall as described in this instruction manual.

4.9.2 Battery

▲ WARNING

- Children are not aware of and cannot assess the dangers of the battery. Children may be seriously injured.
- ▶ Store the battery out of the reach of children.
- The battery is not protected against all ambient conditions. If the battery is exposed to certain ambient conditions, the battery may be irreparably damaged.
- ▶ Store the battery in a clean and dry condition.
- ▶ Store the battery in an enclosed space.

- ▶ Store the battery separately from the hedge trimmer.
- ▶ If the battery is stored in the charger, disconnect the mains plug and store the battery at a state of charge between 40% and 60% (2 lit green LEDs).
- ▶ Store the battery at a temperature range between - 10 °C and + 50 °C.

4.10 Cleaning, Maintenance and Repair

▲ WARNING

- The long-reach hedge trimmer may start unintentionally if the battery is left in place during cleaning, maintenance or repair operations. This may result in serious injury to people and damage to property.



- ▶ Remove the battery.

- Aggressive cleaning agents, a water jet or pointed objects can damage the long-reach hedge trimmer, cutting blades and the battery. If the long-reach hedge trimmer, cutting blades or battery are not cleaned correctly, components may no longer function properly or safety devices may be rendered inoperative. They may cause serious injury to persons.
- ▶ Clean the long-reach hedge trimmer, cutting blades and battery as described in this User Manual.
- If the long-reach hedge trimmer, cutting blades or battery are not serviced or repaired correctly, components may no longer function properly or safety devices may be rendered inoperative. This may result in serious or fatal injury to people.
- ▶ Do not attempt to service or repair the long-reach hedge trimmer or battery.
- ▶ If the long-reach hedge trimmer or the battery require servicing or repairs: Contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
- ▶ Maintain the cutting blades as described in this User Manual.
- The user may be cut while cleaning or servicing the sharp cutting blades. This may result in injury to the user.



- ▶ Wear work gloves made from resistant material.

5 Preparing Hedge Trimmer for Operation

5.1 Preparing the Long-Reach Hedge Trimmer for Operation

The following steps must be performed before commencing work:

- ▶ Ensure that the following components are in safe condition:
 - Long-reach hedge trimmer, 4.6.1.
 - Cutting blades, 4.6.2.
 - Battery, 4.6.3.
- ▶ Check the battery, 10.2.
- ▶ Charge the battery fully as described in the User Manual for the STIHL AL 101, 300, 500 chargers.
- ▶ Clean the long-reach hedge trimmer, 15.1.
- ▶ Mount the cutting blades, 7.1.
- ▶ Mount the loop handle, 7.2.
- ▶ Check the controls, 10.1.
- ▶ If you cannot carry out these steps: Do not use the long-reach hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.

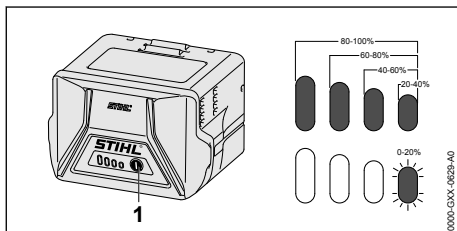
6 Charging the Battery, LEDs

6.1 Charging the Battery

The charging time depends on various factors, e.g. the battery temperature or the ambient temperature. The actual charging time may vary from the charging time indicated. The charging time is indicated at www.stihl.com/charging-times.

- ▶ Recharge the battery as described in the User Manual for the STIHL AL 101, 300, 500 chargers.

6.2 State of Charge



- ▶ Press the button (1).
- The LEDs (5) glow green for about 5 seconds and indicate the state of charge.
- ▶ If the LED on the right flashes green: Charge the battery.

6.3 LEDs on Battery

The LEDs can show the state of charge or malfunctions. The LEDs can glow or flash green or red.

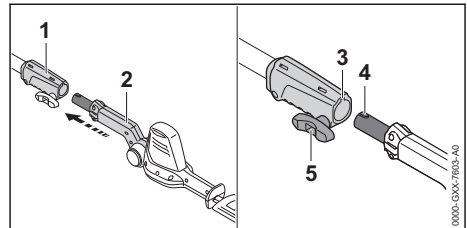
The state of charge is indicated when the LEDs glow or flash green.

- ▶ If the LEDs glow or flash red: Troubleshooting, 18.
- There is a malfunction in hedge trimmer or battery.

7 Assembling the Hedge Trimmer

7.1 Mount the Cutter Bar

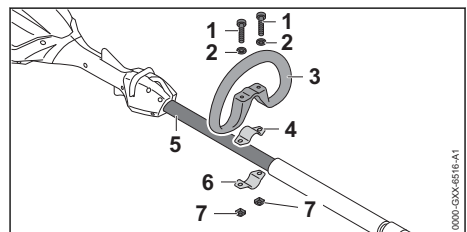
- ▶ Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.



- ▶ Line up the coupling sleeve (1) and cutter bar (2) so that the groove (3) and lug (4) face upwards.
- ▶ Push the cutter bar (2) into the coupling sleeve (1).
- ▶ Turn the wing screw (5) clockwise and tighten it until firm.

7.2 Mounting the Loop Handle

- ▶ Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery.

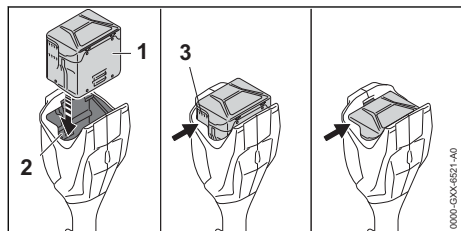


- ▶ Fit the clamp (4) in the loop handle (3).
- ▶ Place the loop handle (3) with clamp (4) on the shaft (5).
- ▶ Fit the washers (2) on the screws (1).
- ▶ Press the clamp (6) against the shaft (5).

- ▶ Insert the screws (1) through holes in the loop handle (3) and clamps (4 and 6).
- ▶ Screw on and firmly tighten the nuts (7).

8 Removing and Fitting the Battery

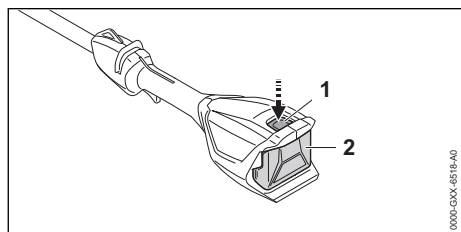
8.1 Fitting the Battery



- ▶ Insert the battery (1) in the battery compartment (2) and press it home until you hear a click.
The cooling slots (3) are still visible and the battery (1) is held securely in the battery compartment (2). There is no electrical contact between the hedge trimmer and battery (1).
- ▶ Push the battery (1) into the battery compartment (2) as far as stop.
The battery (1) engages with a second click and the cooling slots (3) are no longer visible.

8.2 Removing the Battery

- ▶ Lay the hedge trimmer on a level surface.
- ▶ Hold one hand in front of the battery compartment to ensure the battery (2) does not fall out.

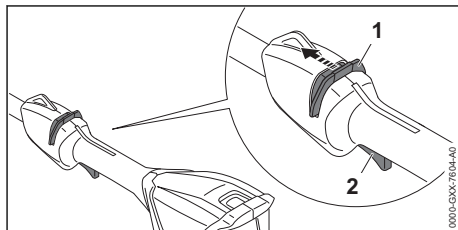


- ▶ Depress the locking lever (1).
The battery (2) is unlocked and can be removed.

9 Switching the Hedge Trimmer On/Off

9.1 Switching On

- ▶ Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with one hand on the control handle - wrap your thumb around the handle.
- ▶ Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with your other hand on the loop handle or handle hose - wrap your thumb around the loop handle or handle hose.



- ▶ Push the release slide (1) in the direction of the cutting blades with your thumb and hold it there.
- ▶ Pull the trigger (2) with your index finger and hold it there. You can let go of the release slide (1).
The motor accelerates and the cutting blades run.

9.2 Switching Off

- ▶ Release the trigger.
- ▶ Wait for the cutting blades to come to a complete standstill after about 1 second.
- ▶ If the cutting blades continue to run after about 1 second: Remove the battery and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
There is a malfunction in the hedge trimmer.

10 Testing the Hedge Trimmer and Battery

10.1 Checking the Controls

Release slide and trigger

- ▶ Remove the battery.
- ▶ Attempt to pull the trigger lever without operating the release slide.
- ▶ If the trigger can be pulled: Do not use the hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
The release slide has a malfunction.
- ▶ Push the release slide in the direction of the cutting blades with your thumb and hold it there.

- ▶ Pull the trigger.
You can let go of the release slide.
- ▶ Release the trigger.
- ▶ If either the release slide or the trigger is stiff or does not spring back to the idle position: Do not use the hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
Release slide or trigger is faulty.

Switching on the hedge trimmer

- ▶ Fit the battery.
- ▶ Push the release slide in the direction of the loop handle and hold it there.
- ▶ Pull the trigger and hold it there.
The cutting blades run.
- ▶ If 3 LEDs flash red: Remove the battery and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
There is a malfunction in the hedge trimmer.
- ▶ Release the trigger.
The cutting blades stop running after about 1 second.
- ▶ If the cutting blades continue to run after about 1 second: Remove the battery and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
There is a malfunction in the hedge trimmer.

10.2 Testing the Battery

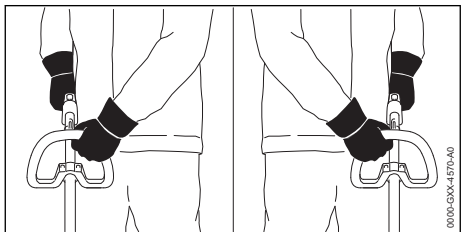
- ▶ Press button on battery.
The LEDs glow or flash.
- ▶ If the LEDs do not glow or flash: Do not use the battery and contact your STIHL servicing dealer.
There is a malfunction in the battery.

11 Operating the Hedge Trimmer

11.1 Holding and Controlling the Hedge Trimmer

The hedge trimmer can be held and controlled in two ways to suit the cutting job.

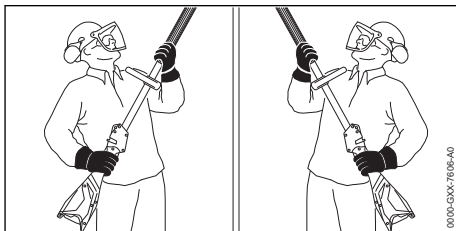
Loop Handle



- ▶ Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with one hand on the control handle - wrap your thumb around the handle.

- ▶ Hold the trimmer with the other hand on the loop handle - wrap your thumb around the loop handle.

Handle Hose

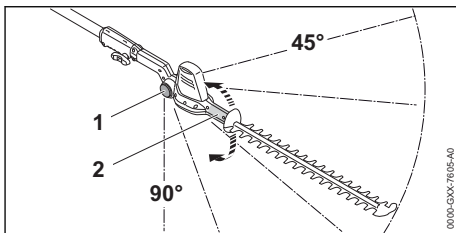


- ▶ Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with one hand on the control handle - wrap your thumb around the handle.
- ▶ Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with your other hand on the handle hose - wrap your thumb around the handle hose.

11.2 Adjusting Angle of Cutter Bar

The angle of the cutter bar can be adjusted to 2 different positions upwards and 4 different positions downwards to suit the application and the height and reach of the user.

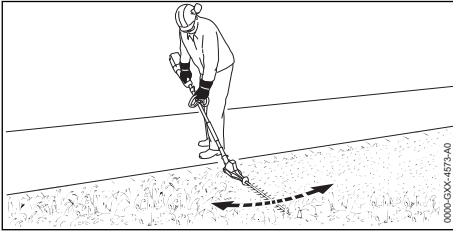
- ▶ Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.



- ▶ Hold the swivel handle (2) firmly.
- ▶ Depress the lock button (1) at both sides and hold it there.
- ▶ Move the cutter bar to the required angle.
- ▶ Release the lock button (1) at both sides.
- ▶ Move the swivel handle (2) up and down until the cutter bar engages.
That completes the adjustment.

11.3 Cutting

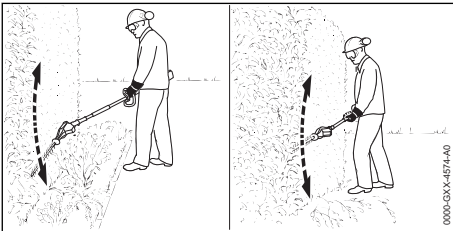
Cutting at ground level



- ▶ Set the cutter bar to a suitable angle.
- ▶ Swing the hedge trimmer back and forth in an arc.
- ▶ Walk slowly and steadily forwards.
- ▶ If cutting performance deteriorates: Sharpen the cutting blades.

Cutting side of hedge

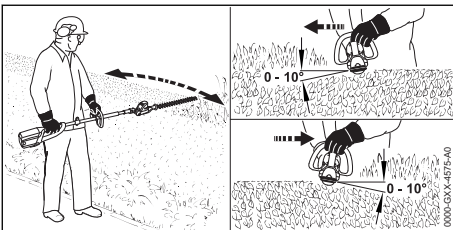
- ▶ Use lopping shears or a chainsaw to cut out thick branches first.



- ▶ If you have to cut at a certain distance from the hedge (flowerbed): Set the cutter bar to a suitable angle.
- ▶ Swing the hedge trimmer from the bottom upwards in an arc while making the cut.
- ▶ Walk slowly and steadily forwards.
- ▶ Cut the other side of the hedge in the same way.
- ▶ If cutting performance deteriorates: Sharpen the cutting blades.

Cutting top of hedge

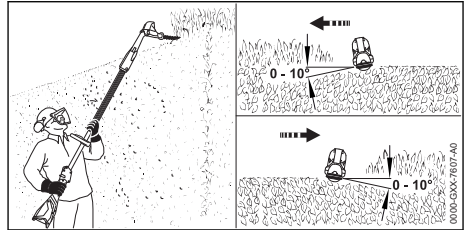
- ▶ Use lopping shears or a chainsaw to cut out thick branches first.



- ▶ Hold the cutting blades at an angle of 0° to 10° to the top of the hedge.
- ▶ Swing the hedge trimmer horizontally and in an arc while making the cut.
- ▶ If cutting performance deteriorates: Sharpen the cutting blades.

Cutting overhead

- ▶ Use lopping shears or a chainsaw to cut out thick branches first.



- ▶ Set the cutter bar to a suitable angle.
- ▶ Hold the cutting blades at an angle of 0° to 10° to the top of the hedge.
- ▶ Swing the hedge trimmer horizontally and in an arc while making the cut.
- ▶ If cutting performance deteriorates: Sharpen the cutting blades.

12 After Finishing Work

12.1 When Work is Finished

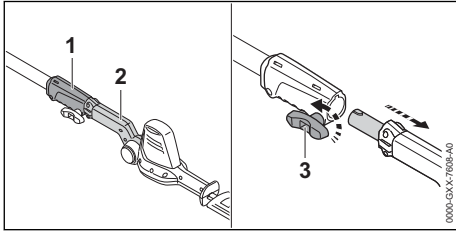
- ▶ Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- ▶ If the long-reach hedge trimmer is wet: Allow the hedge trimmer to dry.
- ▶ If the battery is wet: Leave the battery to dry.
- ▶ Clean the long-reach hedge trimmer.
- ▶ Clean cutting blades.
- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.
- ▶ Clean the battery.

13 Transporting

13.1 Transporting the Long-Reach Hedge Trimmer

- ▶ Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.

Carrying the long-reach hedge trimmer



- ▶ Rotate the wing screw (3) counterclockwise.
- ▶ Pull the cutting blades (2) out of the coupling sleeve (1).
- ▶ Carry the cutter bar in one hand with the cutting blades pointing backward.

Transporting the long-reach hedge trimmer in a vehicle

- ▶ Secure the long-reach hedge trimmer so that it cannot tip over or move.

13.2 Transporting the Battery

- ▶ Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- ▶ Check that the battery is in a safe condition.
- ▶ Pack the battery in packaging in such a way that it cannot move inside the packaging.
- ▶ Secure the packaging so that it cannot move.

The battery is subject to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods regulations. The battery is classified as UN 3480 (lithium ion batteries) and has been tested pursuant to UN Manual Tests and Criteria Part III, Subsection 38.3.

The transport regulations can be found at www.stihl.com/safety-data-sheets.

14 Storing

14.1 Storing the Hedge Trimmer

- ▶ Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- ▶ Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.
- ▶ Observe the following points when storing the hedge trimmer:
 - Hedge trimmer is out of the reach of children.
 - Hedge trimmer is clean and dry.

14.2 Storing the Battery

STIHL recommends keeping the battery in a charging state between 40% and 60 % (2 green LEDs lit).

- ▶ The battery should be stored in such a way that the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - The battery is out of the reach of children.
 - The battery is clean and dry.
 - The battery is in an enclosed space.
 - Battery is stored separately from the hedge trimmer.
 - If the battery is stored in the charger, disconnect the mains plug and store the rechargeable battery at a battery charge status between 40 % and 60 % (2 lit green LEDs).
 - The battery is in a temperature range between - 10 °C and + 50 °C.

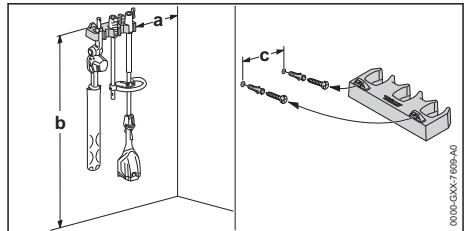
NOTICE

- If the battery is not stored as described in this user manual, the battery may become deeply discharged and irreparably damaged.
 - ▶ Charge a discharged battery before storing it. STIHL recommends keeping the battery in a charging state between 40% and 60% (2 lit green LEDs).
 - ▶ Store the battery separately from the hedge trimmer.

14.3 Storing Hedge Trimmer on a Wall Bracket

The hedge trimmer can be stored on the wall bracket.

Mounting the wall bracket



- ▶ Check the following points when mounting the wall bracket on a wall:
 - Suitable fixing materials.
 - Wall bracket is horizontal.
 The following dimensions are observed:
 - a = at least 20 cm
 - b = at least 130 cm
 - c = 22.8 cm

Fitting hedge trimmer on the wall bracket

- ▶ Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.

- Fit the blade scabbard so that it completely covers the cutting blades.
- Disassemble the hedge trimmer.
- Hang up the shaft with the coupling sleeve.
- Hang up the cutter bar with the swivel handle.

15 Cleaning

15.1 Cleaning the long-reach hedge trimmer

- Switch off the long-reach hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- Clean the long-reach hedge trimmer with a damp cloth or STIHL resin solvent.
- Clean vents with a paintbrush.
- Remove foreign objects from the battery compartment and clean the battery compartment with a damp cloth.
- Clean the electrical contacts in the battery compartment with a paintbrush or soft brush.

15.2 Cleaning the Cutting Blades

- Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.
- Spray both sides of blades with STIHL resin solvent.
- Fit the battery.
- Switch on the hedge trimmer for 5 seconds. The cutting blades run. STIHL resin solvent is distributed evenly.

15.3 Cleaning the Battery

- Clean the battery with a damp cloth.

16 Maintenance

16.1 Sharpening the Cutting Blades

STIHL recommends you have the cutting blades resharpened by a STIHL servicing dealer.



WARNING

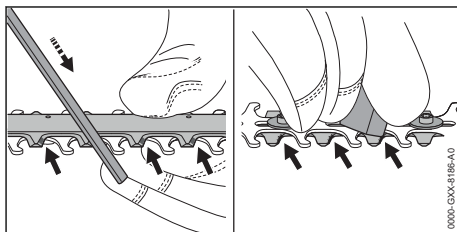
- The teeth of the cutting blades are very sharp. There is a risk of cut injuries.
 - Wear work gloves made of durable material.

18 Troubleshooting

18.1 Troubleshooting the Hedge Trimmer and Battery

Fault	LEDs on the battery	Cause	Remedy
Hedge trimmer does not start when switched on.	1 LED flashing green.	State of charge of the battery is too low.	► Charge battery as described in the User Manual for chargers STIHL AL 101, 300, 500.

- Switch off the hedge trimmer and remove the battery.



- Use a STIHL flat crosscut file to sharpen each cutting edge on the upper blade. The file only sharpens on the forward stroke. Maintain the prescribed sharpening angle,  19.2.
- Turn the hedge trimmer over.
- Deburr each cutting edge from below.
- Use a damp cloth to remove the filing dust.
- Spray both sides of blades with STIHL resin solvent.
- Switch on the hedge trimmer for 5 seconds. The cutting blades run. STIHL resin solvent is distributed evenly.
- If you have any queries: Contact your STIHL servicing dealer for assistance.

17 Repairing

17.1 Repairing the Hedge Trimmer and Battery

The hedge trimmer, cutting blades and battery cannot be repaired by the user.

- If the hedge trimmer or cutting blades are damaged: Do not use your hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL servicing dealer.
- If the battery has a malfunction or is damaged: Replace the battery.

Fault	LEDs on the battery	Cause	Remedy
	1 LED emits red light.	The battery is too warm or too cold.	▶ Remove the battery. ▶ Allow the battery to cool down or warm up.
	3 LEDs flashing red.	There is a malfunction in the hedge trimmer.	▶ Remove the battery. ▶ Clean electrical contacts in the battery compartment. ▶ Insert battery. ▶ Switch on the hedge trimmer. ▶ If 3 LEDs continue to flash red: Do not use the hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
		The cutting blades do not run freely.	▶ Spray both sides of cutting blades with STIHL resin solvent. ▶ If 3 LEDs continue to flash red: Do not use the hedge trimmer and contact your STIHL dealer for assistance.
	3 LEDs light up red.	Hedge trimmer is too hot.	▶ Remove the battery. ▶ Allow hedge trimmer to cool down.
	4 LEDs flashing red.	There is a fault in the battery.	▶ Remove battery and reinsert it. ▶ Switch on the hedge trimmer. ▶ If 4 LEDs continue to flash red: Do not use the battery; contact a STIHL servicing dealer.
	-	No electrical contact between hedge trimmer and battery.	▶ Remove the battery. ▶ Clean electrical contacts in the battery compartment. ▶ Insert battery.
	-	Hedge trimmer or battery is damp.	▶ Allow hedge trimmer or battery to dry.
Hedge trimmer cuts out during operation.	3 LEDs light up red.	Hedge trimmer is too hot.	▶ Remove the battery. ▶ Allow hedge trimmer to cool down.
	-	There is an electrical fault.	▶ Remove battery and reinsert it. ▶ Switch on the hedge trimmer.
Hedge trimmer runtime is too short.	-	Battery is not fully charged.	▶ Fully charge battery as described in the User Manual for the STIHL AL 101, 300, 500 chargers.
	-	The battery life has been exceeded.	▶ Replace battery.

19 Specifications

19.1 STIHL HLA 56 Hedge Trimmer

Approved battery:

- STIHL AK
- Weight without battery: 3.8 kg

For battery life see www.stihl.com/battery-life.

19.2 Cutting Blades

- Tooth spacing: 30 mm
- Cutting length: 450 mm
- Sharpening angle: 35°

19.3 STIHL AK Battery

- Battery technology: Lithium-ion
- Voltage: 36 V

- Capacity in Ah: see rating label
- Energy content in Wh: see rating label
- Weight in kg: see rating label
- Permissible temperature range for operation and storage: -10°C to +50°C

19.4 Noise and Vibration Data

K-value (uncertainty) for sound pressure levels is 2 dB(A). K-value (uncertainty) for sound power levels is 2 dB(A). K-value (uncertainty) for vibration levels is 2 m/s².

STIHL recommends that you wear hearing protection.

- Sound pressure level L_{pA} measured according to ISO 22868: 77 dB(A)

- Sound power level L_{WA} measured according to ISO 22868: 88 dB(A)
- Vibration level a_{HV} measured according to ISO 22867
 - Control handle: $< 1.5 \text{ m/s}^2$
 - Loop handle: 1.5 m/s^2
 - Handle hose: 1.5 m/s^2

The vibration values quoted above have been measured according to a standardized test procedure and may be used to compare electric power tools. Depending on the type of usage, the vibrations that actually occur may differ from the values quoted. The vibration values quoted may be used for an initial assessment of the user's exposure to vibrations. The actual exposure to vibrations has to be estimated. This process may also take into account times during which the electric power tool is switched off and times during which it is switched on but running off load.

Information on compliance with Vibration Directive 2002/44/EC is available at www.stihl.com/vib.

19.5 REACH

REACH is an EC regulation and stands for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances.

For information on compliance with the REACH regulation see www.stihl.com/reach.

20 Spare Parts and Accessories

20.1 Spare parts and accessories



These symbols indicate original STIHL spare parts and original STIHL accessories.

STIHL recommends the use of original STIHL spare parts and accessories.

Despite ongoing market observation, STIHL is unable to judge the reliability, safety and suitability of other manufacturers' spare parts and accessories; accordingly, STIHL cannot warrant for the use of those parts.

Original STIHL spare parts and original STIHL accessories are available from STIHL dealers.

21 Disposal

21.1 Disposing of the Hedge Trimmer and Battery

Contact the local authorities or your STIHL dealer for information on disposal.

Improper disposal can be harmful to health and pollute the environment.

- ▶ Take STIHL products including packaging to a suitable collection point for recycling in accordance with local regulations.
- ▶ Do not dispose with domestic waste.

22 EC Declaration of Conformity

22.1 STIHL HLA 56 Hedge Trimmer

ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Badstraße 115

D-71336 Waiblingen

Germany

declare under our sole responsibility that

- Category: Cordless long-reach hedge trimmer
- Manufacturer's brand: STIHL
- Model: HLA 56
- Serial identification: HA01

conforms to the relevant provisions of Directives 2011/65/EU, 2006/42/EC, 2014/30/EU and 2000/14/EC and has been developed and manufactured in compliance with the following standards in the versions valid on the date of production: EN 55014-1, EN 55014-2, EN 60745-1, taking account of EN ISO 10517 and EN 60745-2-15

Applied conformity assessment procedure in accordance with Directive 2000/14/EC, Annex V.

- Measured sound power level: 88 dB(A)
- Guaranteed sound power level: 90 dB(A)

The technical documents are stored at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG Produktzulassung.

The year of manufacture, country of manufacture and serial number are shown on the long-reach hedge trimmer.

Done at Waiblingen, 15.07.2021

ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

J. Hoffmann
pp

Dr. Jürgen Hoffmann, Director Product Certification & Regulatory Affairs

23 General Power Tool Safety Warnings

23.1 Introduction

This chapter reproduces the pre-formulated, general safety precautions specified in the IEC 62841 standard for hand-held motor-operated electric tools.

STIHL is obliged to publish these texts.

The safety precautions and warnings on avoiding an electric shock given under "Electrical Safety" do not apply to STIHL cordless products.



- **Read 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. **Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.**

The term "electric power tool" in the safety warnings refers to mains-operated (corded) power tools or battery-operated (cordless) power tools.

23.2 Work area safety

- a) **Keep work area clean and well lit.** Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
- b) **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.
- c) **Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool.** Distractions can cause you to lose control.

23.3 Electrical safety

- a) **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.

- b) **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.
- c) **Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.** Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.
- d) **Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts.** Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- e) **When operating a power tool outdoors, use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use.** Use of a cord suitable for outdoor use reduces the risk of electric shock.
- f) **If operating a power tool in a damp location is unavoidable, use a residual current device (RCD) protected supply.** Use of an RCD reduces the risk of electric shock.

23.4 Personal safety

- a) **Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.** A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.
- b) **Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection.** Protective equipment such as a dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.
- c) **Prevent unintentional starting. Ensure the switch is in the off-position before connecting to power source and/or battery pack, picking up or carrying the tool.** Carrying power tools with your finger on the switch or energising power tools that have the switch on invites accidents.
- d) **Remove any adjusting key or wrench before turning the power tool on.** A wrench or a key left attached to a rotating part of the power tool may result in personal injury.
- e) **Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.** This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations.
- f) **Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair and clothing away**

- from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- g) **If devices are provided for the connection of dust extraction and collection facilities, ensure these are connected and properly used.** Use of dust collection can reduce dust-related hazards.
 - h) **Do not let familiarity gained from frequent use of tools allow you to become complacent and ignore tool safety principles.** A careless action can cause severe injury within a fraction of a second.

23.5 Power tool use and care

- a) **Do not force the power tool. Use the correct power tool for your application.** The correct power tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
- b) **Do not use the power tool if the switch does not turn it on and off.** Any power tool that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- c) **Disconnect the plug from the power source and/or remove the battery pack, if detachable, from the power tool before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing power tools.** Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the power tool accidentally.
- d) **Store idle power tools out of the reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the power tool or these instructions to operate the power tool.** Power tools are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- e) **Maintain power tools and accessories.** Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the power tool's operation. If damaged, have the power tool repaired before use. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained power tools.
- f) **Keep cutting tools sharp and clean.** Properly maintained cutting tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
- g) **Use the power tool, accessories and tool bits etc. in accordance with these instructions, taking into account the working conditions and the work to be performed.** Use of the power tool for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.

- h) **Keep handles and grasping surfaces dry, clean and free from oil and grease.** Slippery handles and grasping surfaces do not allow for safe handling and control of the tool in unexpected situations.

23.6 Battery tool use and care

- a) **Recharge only with the charger specified by the manufacturer.** A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another battery pack.
- b) **Use power tools only with specifically designed battery packs.** Use of any other battery packs may create a risk of injury and fire.
- c) **When battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws or other small metal objects, that can make a connection from one terminal to another.** Shorting the battery terminals together may cause burns or a fire.
- d) **Under abusive conditions, liquid may be ejected from the battery; avoid contact. If contact accidentally occurs, flush with water. If liquid contacts eyes, additionally seek medical help.** Liquid ejected from the battery may cause irritation or burns.
- e) **Do not use a battery pack or tool that is damaged or modified.** Damaged or modified batteries may exhibit unpredictable behaviour resulting in fire, explosion or risk of injury.
- f) **Do not expose a battery pack or tool to fire or excessive temperature.** Exposure to fire or temperature above 130 °C may cause explosion.
- g) **Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or tool outside the temperature range specified in the instructions.** Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

23.7 Service

- a) **Have your power tool serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts.** This will ensure that the safety of the power tool is maintained.
- b) **Never service damaged battery packs.** Service of battery packs should only be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service providers.

23.8 Hedge trimmer safety warnings

Safety instructions for hedge trimmers

- a) **Keep all parts of the body away from the blade. Do not remove cut material or hold material to be cut when blades are moving.** Blades continue to move after the switch is turned off. A moment of inattention while operating the hedge trimmer may result in serious personal injury.
- b) **Carry the hedge trimmer by the handle with the blade stopped and taking care not to operate any power switch.** Proper carrying of the hedge trimmer will decrease the risk of inadvertent starting and resultant personal injury from the blades.
- c) **When transporting or storing the hedge trimmer, always fit the blade cover.** Proper handling of the hedge trimmer will decrease the risk of personal injury from the blades.
- d) **When clearing jammed material or servicing the unit, make sure all power switches are off and the power cord is disconnected.** Unexpected actuation of the hedge trimmer while clearing jammed material or servicing may result in serious personal injury.
- e) **Hold the hedge trimmer by insulated gripping surfaces only, because the blade may contact hidden wiring or its own cord.** Blades contacting a "live" wire may make exposed metal parts of the hedge trimmer "live" and could give the operator an electric shock.
- f) **Keep all power cords and cables away from cutting area.** Power cords or cables may be hidden in hedges or bushes and can be accidentally cut by the blade.
- g) **Do not use the hedge trimmer in bad weather conditions, especially when there is a risk of lightning.** This decreases the risk of being struck by lightning.

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