
STIHL[®]

**Brushcutter
Safety Manual**

Contents



Warning!

Because a brushcutter is a high-speed cutting tool, some special safety precautions must be observed to reduce the risk of personal injury.

Careless or improper use may cause serious or even fatal injury.

To receive maximum performance and satisfaction from your STIHL brushcutter, it is important that you read and understand the maintenance and safety precautions before using your brushcutter. Contact your STIHL dealer or the STIHL distributor for your area if you do not understand any of the instructions in this manual.



Warning!

Before using a backpack brushcutter (FR 108), electric trimmer (FE 40, 55) or a direct drive string trimmer (FS 44), consult the owner's manual for the particular model for additional warnings and instructions.

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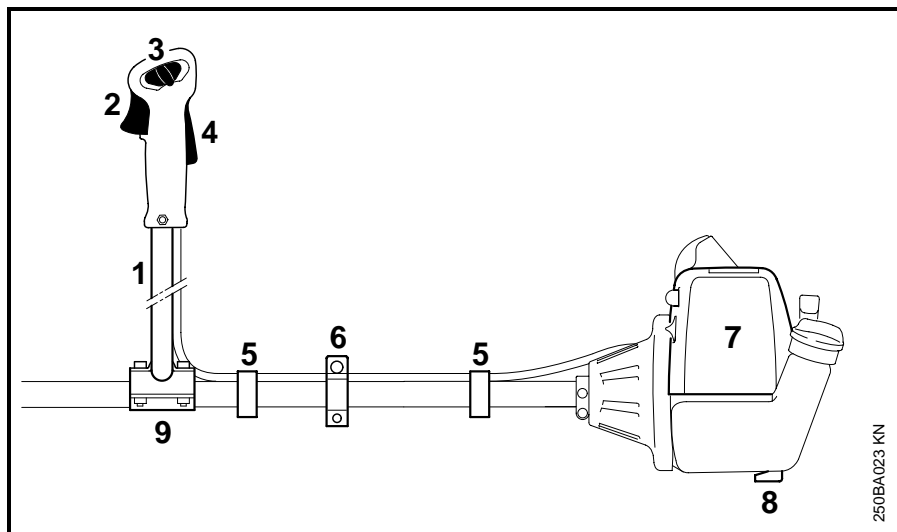
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0457 187 3021. M10. M9. Rei. Printed in Germany

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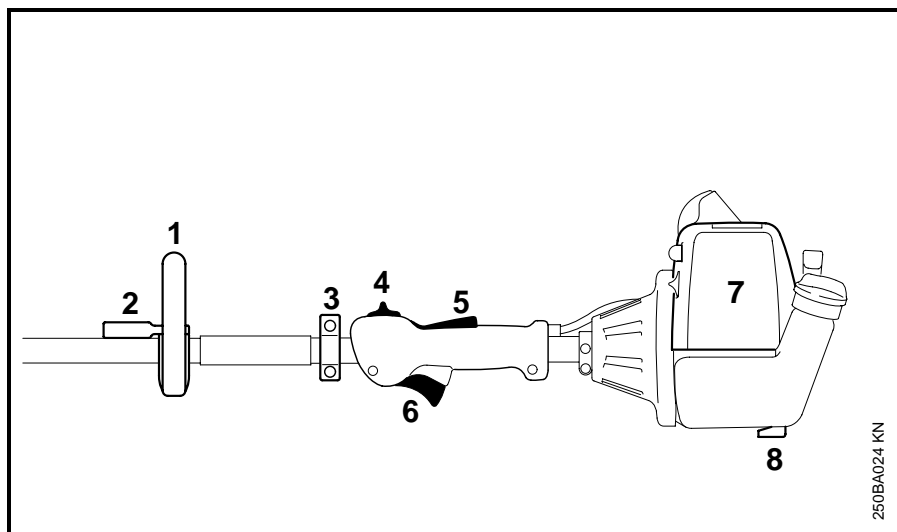
STIHL®

Parts and Controls



Version with bike handle

- 1 Bike handle
- 2 Throttle trigger
- 3 Slide control
- 4 Throttle trigger interlock
- 5 Throttle cable retainer
- 6 Carrying ring
- 7 Air filter cover
- 8 Machine support
- 9 Handle support



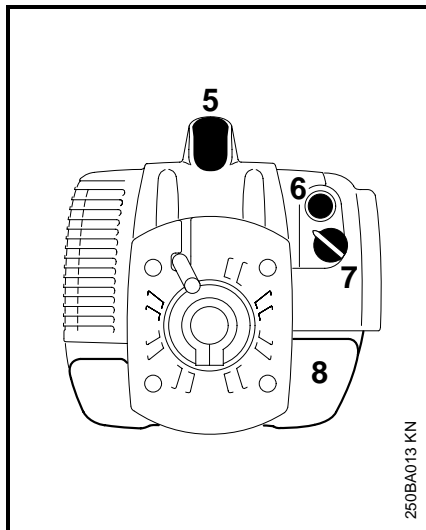
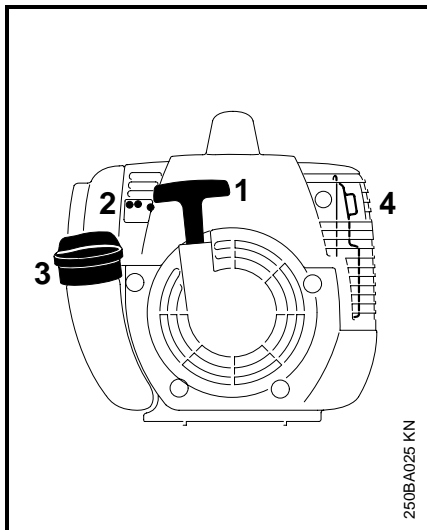
Versions with Loop handle

- 1 Loop handle
- 2 Barrier bar
- 3 Carrying ring
(not all markets)
- 4 Slide control
- 5 Throttle trigger interlock
- 6 Throttle trigger
- 7 Air filter cover
- 8 Machine support

Definitions

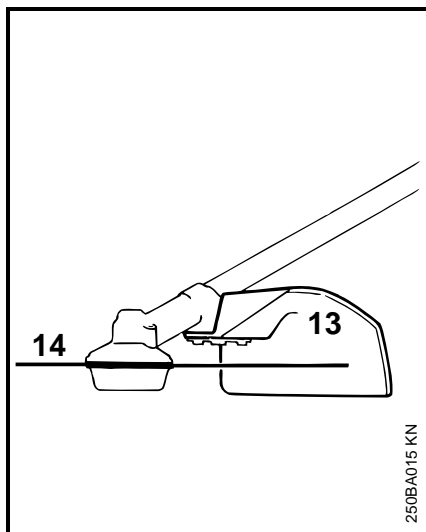
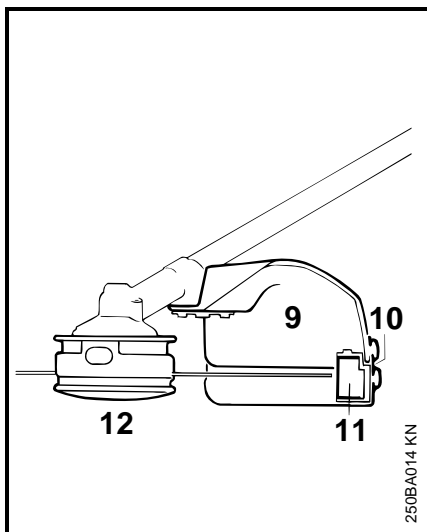
- 1. Bike handle.**
To hold the brushcutter with both hands.
 - 2. Throttle trigger.**
Controls the speed of the engine.
 - 3. Slide control.**
Starting throttle lock and stop switch.
Keeps the throttle partially open during starting and switches the engine's ignition off and stops the engine.
-
- 1. Loop handle.**
For easy control of machine during cutting work.
 - 2. Barrier bar.**
Helps keep cutting attachment away from operator's feet and legs.
 - 3. Carrying ring.**
The device to connect the brushcutter to the harness.
- 4. Throttle trigger interlock.**
Must be depressed before the throttle trigger can be activated.
 - 5. Throttle cable retainer**
Fixes the throttle cable on the drive shaft.
 - 6. Carrying ring.**
The device to connect the brushcutter to the harness.
-
- 4. Slide control.**
Starting throttle lock and stop switch.
Keeps the throttle partially open during starting and switches the engine's ignition off and stops the engine.
 - 5. Throttle trigger interlock.**
Must be depressed before the throttle trigger can be activated.
 - 6. Throttle trigger.**
Controls the speed of the engine.
- 7. Air filter cover.**
Covers the air filter element.
 - 8. Machine support.**
For resting machine on the ground.
-
- 7. Air filter cover.**
Covers the air filter element.
 - 8. Machine support.**
For resting machine on the ground.
- "J"-handle.**
For easy control of machine during cutting work. Designed to act as barrier to reduce the risk of blade contact. (not illustrated)

Parts and Controls



All versions

- 1 Starter grip
- 2 Carburetor adjusting screws
- 3 Fuel filler cap
- 4 Muffler (with spark arresting screen)
- 5 Spark plug boot
- 6 Fuel pump
- 7 Choke knob
- 8 Fuel tank



- 9 Deflector with skirt
- 10 Skirt
- 11 Blade (for nylon line)
- 12 Mowing head
- 13 Deflector
- 14 Metal cutting tool

Definitions

- 1. Starter grip.**
The grip of the pull starter, which is the device to start the engine.
 - 2. Carburetor adjusting screws.**
For tuning carburetor
 - 3. Fuel filler cap.**
For closing the fuel tank.
 - 4. Muffler (with spark arresting screen).**
Reduces engine exhaust noise and directs the exhaust gases. The spark arresting screen is designed to reduce the risk of fire.
 - 5. Spark plug boot.**
Connects the spark plug to the ignition wire.
 - 6. Fuel pump.**
Provides additional fuel feed for a cold start.
 - 7. Choke knob.**
Eases engine starting by enriching mixture.
 - 8. Fuel tank.**
For fuel and oil mixture.
-
- 9. Deflector with skirt.**
The deflector is designed to reduce the risk of injury from foreign objects flung backwards toward the operator by the cutting tool and from contact with the cutting tool. Is not designed to contain fragment metal blades
 - 10. Skirt.**
The skirt at the bottom of the deflector must be adjusted as described in the chapters on mounting the various cutting tools.
 - 11. Blade.**
Metal blade at the deflector in order to keep the line of the cutting head at the proper length.
 - 12. Mowing head.**
The cutting attachment, i. e. mowing head, for different purposes (special accessory).
 - 13. Deflector.**
The deflector is designed to reduce the risk of injury from foreign objects flung backwards toward the operator by the cutting tool and from contact with the cutting tool.
 - 14. Metal cutting tool.**
The cutting attachment, i. e. blade, made from metal for different purposes (special accessory).

Safety Precautions and Working Techniques



Warning!

Because a brushcutter is a high-speed, fast-cutting power tool, special safety precautions must be observed to reduce the risk of personal injury.



It is important that you read, fully understand and observe the following safety precautions and warnings. Read the owner's manual and the safety instructions periodically. Careless or improper use of any brushcutter may cause serious or fatal injury. Have your STIHL dealer show you how to operate your brushcutter. Observe all applicable local safety regulations, standards and ordinances.



Warning!

The use of any brushcutter may be hazardous. If the rotating cutting tool comes in contact with your body, it will cut you. When it comes in contact with solid foreign objects such as rocks or bits of metal, it may fling them directly or by ricochet in the direction of bystanders or the operator.

Striking such objects could damage the cutting attachment and may cause blades to crack, chip or break. STIHL does not recommend the use of rigid blades when cutting in stony areas. Thrown objects or damaged blades may result in serious or fatal injury to the operator or bystanders.



Warning!

Minors should never be allowed to use a brushcutter. Bystanders, especially children, and animals should not be allowed in the area where a brushcutter is in use.

Never let the brushcutter run unattended.



Warning!

Do not lend or rent your brushcutter without the owner's manual. Be sure that anyone using your brushcutter understands the information contained in this manual.

Most of these safety precautions and warnings apply to the use of all STIHL brushcutters. Different models may have different parts and controls. See the appropriate section of your owner's manual for a description of the controls and function of the parts of your model brushcutter.

Safe use of a brushcutter involves

1. the operator
2. the brushcutter
3. the use of the brushcutter.

THE OPERATOR!

Physical Condition

You must be in good physical condition and mental health and not under the influence of any substance (drugs, alcohol, etc.) which might impair vision, dexterity or judgment. Do not operate a brushcutter when you are fatigued.

Be alert - if you get tired while operating your brushcutter, take a break. Tiredness may result in loss of control. Working with any brushcutter can be strenuous. If you have any condition that might be aggravated by strenuous work, check with your doctor before operating a brushcutter.



Warning!

Prolonged use of a brushcutter (or other machines) exposing the operator to vibrations may produce whitefinger disease (Raynaud's phenomenon) or carpal tunnel syndrome. These conditions reduce the hand's ability to feel and regulate temperature, produce numbness and burning sensations and may cause nerve and circulation damage and tissue necrosis.

All factors which contribute to whitefinger disease are not known, but cold weather, smoking and diseases or physical conditions that affect blood vessels and blood transport, as well as high vibration levels and long periods of

exposure to vibration are mentioned as factors in the development of whitefinger disease. In order to reduce the risk of whitefinger disease and carpal tunnel syndrome, please note the following:

- Most STIHL power tools are available with an anti-vibration ("AV") system designed to reduce the transmission of vibrations created by the engine to the operator's hands. An AV system is recommended for those persons using power tools on a regular or sustained basis.
- Wear gloves and keep your hands warm.
- Keep the AV system well maintained. A cut-off machine with loose components or with damaged or worn AV buffers will tend to have higher vibration levels.
- Maintain a firm grip at all times, but do not squeeze the handles with constant, excessive pressures, take frequent breaks.

All the above mentioned precautions do not guarantee that you will not sustain whitefinger disease or carpal tunnel syndrome. Therefore continual and regular users should monitor closely the condition of their hands and fingers. If any of the above symptoms appear, seek medical advice immediately.

Proper Clothing



Warning!



Brushcutter operation can cause serious injury to eyes, ears and person. The deflector provided with your brushcutter may not protect

the operator from all foreign objects (gravel, glass, wire, etc.) thrown by the rotating cutting attachment. Thrown objects may also ricochet and strike the operator. Therefore, to reduce the risk of injury to your eyes never operate a brushcutter unless wearing goggles or properly fitted safety glasses with adequate top and side protection complying with ANSI Z 87.1 (or your applicable national standard). To reduce the risk of injury to your face STIHL recommends that you also wear a face shield or face screen over your goggles or safety glasses.



Warning!



Brushcutter noise may damage your hearing. Wear sound barriers (ear plugs or ear muffs) to protect your hearing. Continual and regular users should have their hearing checked regularly.

Wear proper protective clothing.



Protect your hands with gloves when handling the brushcutter and the cutting tool. Heavy-duty, nonslip gloves improve your grip and protect your hands.



Clothing must be sturdy and snug-fitting, but allow complete freedom of movement. Avoid loose-fitting jackets, scarfs, neckties, jewelry, flared or cuffed pants, unconfined long hair or anything that could become caught on branches, brush or moving parts of the unit. Wear long pants made of heavy material to protect your legs. Do not wear shorts, pants, sandals or go bare foot. Secure hair so it is above shoulder level.



Good footing is most important in brushcutter work. Wear sturdy boots with nonslip soles. Steel-toed safety boots are recommended.



Wear an approved safety hard hat to reduce the risk of injury to your head when there is a danger of head injuries.

THE BRUSHCUTTER

For illustrations and definitions of the brushcutter parts see the chapter on "Parts and Controls"



Warning!

Never modify a brushcutter in any way. Only attachments supplied by STIHL or expressly approved by STIHL for use with the specific STIHL brushcutter models are authorized. Although certain unauthorized attachments are useable for the STIHL brushcutter, their use may, in fact, be extremely dangerous.

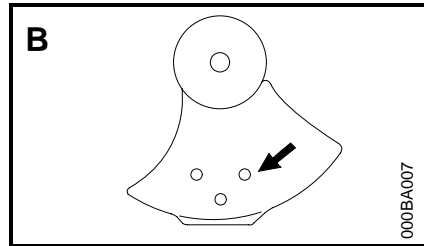
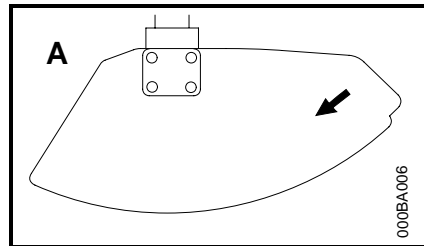
THE USE OF THE BRUSHCUTTER

Transporting the brushcutter



Warning!

Always turn off the engine and make sure the cutting attachment has stopped before putting a brushcutter down. When transporting your brushcutter in a vehicle, properly secure it to prevent turnover, fuel spillage and damage to the brushcutter. Keep metal cutting tools covered with the transport guard (optional accessory).



Arrows on the deflector (A) and stop (B) show the correct direction of rotation of the cutting tool.

The throttle trigger must move freely and always spring back to the idle position. The cutting tool must be properly tightened and in safe operating condition. Inspect for loose parts (nuts, screws, etc.) and for cracked, bent, warped or damaged blades.

Fueling

Your STIHL brushcutter uses an oil-gasoline mixture for fuel (see the chapter on "Fuel" of your owner's manual).



Warning!



Gasoline is an extremely flammable fuel. If spilled and ignited by a spark or other ignition source, it can cause fire and serious burn injury or property damage. Use extreme caution when handling gasoline or fuel mix.

Do not smoke or bring any fire or flame near the fuel.

Preparation for the use of the brushcutter

Adjust carrying harness and hand grip to suit your size before starting work. The machine should be properly balanced as specified in your owner's manual for proper control and less fatigue in operation.

Always check your brushcutter for proper condition and operation before starting, particularly the throttle trigger, throttle trigger interlock (if applicable), stop switch, cutting tool, deflector and harness.

Fueling Instructions

Fuel your brushcutter in well-ventilated areas, outdoors.

Warning!

Gasoline vapor pressure may build up inside the gas tank of a two cycle engine depending on the fuel used, the weather conditions, and the venting system of the tank. In order to reduce the risk of burns and other personal injury from escaping gas vapor and fumes, remove the fuel filler cap on your brushcutter carefully so as to allow any pressure build-up in the tank to release slowly. Never remove fuel filler cap while engine is running. Select bare ground for fueling and move at least 10 feet (3 m) from the fueling spot before starting the engine. Wipe off any spilled fuel before starting your brushcutter and check for leakage.

Warning!

Check for fuel leakage while refueling and during operation. If fuel or oil leakage is found, do not start or run the engine until leak is fixed and spilled fuel has been wiped away. If this happens, change your clothing immediately.

Warning!



Unit vibrations can cause an improperly tightened fuel cap to loosen or come off and spill quantities of fuel.

In order to reduce risk of fuel spillage and fire, tighten fuel cap by hand with as much force as possible. The screwdriver end of the STIHL combination wrench or other similar tool can be used as an aid for tightening slotted fuel caps.

Operating instructions

Warning!

Improper use of any brushcutter can cause serious or fatal personal injury. Read, understand and follow all safety instructions in your owner's manual before operating these products. To reduce the risk of personal injury to the operator from blade contact and thrown objects, make sure your unit is equipped with the proper deflector, handle and harness for the type of cutting attachment being used (see chart in chapter on "Selecting the Cutting Tool"). Always wear proper eye protection.

Starting

Warning!

Your brushcutter is a one-person machine. Once started, it may fling foreign objects for a great distance.



To reduce the risk of eye and other injury insure that bystanders are at least 50 feet (15 m) away. Stop the engine and cutting tool immediately if you are approached. Start and operate your brushcutter without assistance. For specific starting instructions, see the appropriate section of your manual. Place the brushcutter on firm ground or other solid surface in an open area. Maintain a good balance and secure footing.

 **Warning!**

To reduce the risk of injury from loss of control, be absolutely sure that the cutting tool is clear of you and all other obstructions and objects, including the ground, because when the engine starts at starting-throttle, engine speed will be fast enough for the clutch to engage and turn the cutting tool.

 **Warning!**

When you pull the starter grip, don't wrap the starter rope around your hand. Do not allow the grip to snap back, but guide the starter rope to rewind it properly. Failure to follow this procedure may result in injury to hand or fingers and may damage the starter mechanism.

With the engine running but at idle, attach the brushcutter to the spring hook of your harness (see appropriate chapter of this manual).

Working Conditions

Operate and start your brushcutter only outdoors in a ventilated area.

 **Warning!**



Your brushcutter produces toxic exhaust fumes as soon as the engine is running. These gases (e.g. carbon monoxide) may be colourless and odourless. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling toxic fumes, never run the brushcutter indoors or in poorly ventilated locations.

 **Warning!**

Use of this product can generate dust and fumes containing chemicals known to cause respiratory disease, cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. If you are unfamiliar with the risks associated with the particular dust or fume at issue, consult your employer, governmental agencies such as OSHA and NIOSH and other sources on hazardous materials. California and some other authorities, for instance, have published lists of substances known to cause cancer, reproductive toxicity, etc.

Control dust and fumes at the source where possible. In this regard use good work practices and follow the recommendations of OSHA/NIOSH and occupational and trade associations. When the

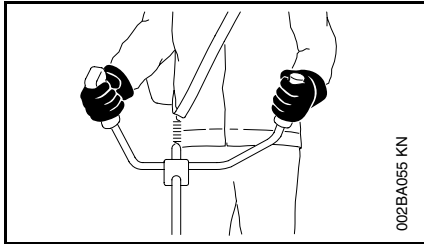
inhalation of toxic dust and fumes cannot be eliminated, the operator and any bystanders should always wear a respirator approved by NIOSH/MSHA for the type of dust and / or fumes encountered.

 **Warning!**

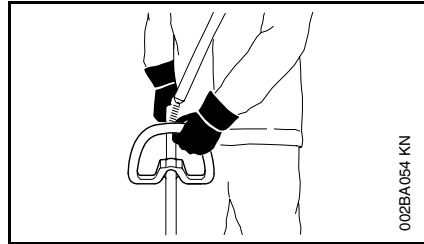
The muffler and other parts of the engine (e.g. fins of the cylinder, spark plug) become hot during operation and remain hot for a while after stopping the engine. To reduce risk of burns do not touch the muffler and other parts while they are hot.

Operate the brushcutter under good visibility and daylight conditions only. Work carefully.

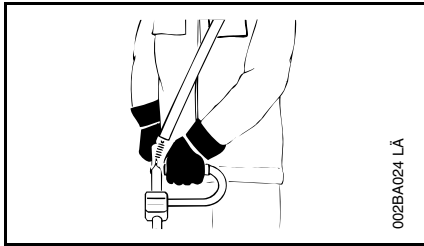
Do not cut any material other than grass, brush and wood. The cutting tools may be used only for the operations described in your manual.



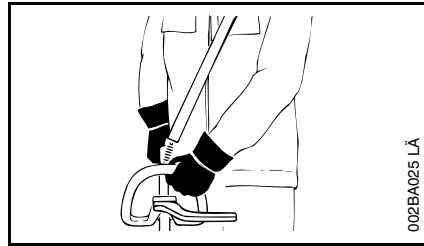
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002BA054 KN



002BA024 LA



002BA025 LA

Always hold the brushcutter firmly with both hands. Wrap your fingers tightly around the handles, keeping the handles cradled between your thumb and forefinger. Keep your hands in this position, to have your brushcutter under control at all times. Make sure your brushcutter handles and grip are in good condition and free of moisture, pitch, oil or grease.



Warning!

Never attempt to operate any brushcutter with one hand. Loss of control of the brushcutter resulting in serious or fatal injury may result.

To reduce the risk of bodily injury resulting from loss of control and/or contact with the cutting tool, make sure your unit is equipped with the proper handle and harness for the type of cutting attachment being used (see chart in chapter on "Selecting the Cutting Tool").

Special care must be taken in slippery conditions (wet ground, snow) and in difficult, overgrown terrain. Watch for hidden obstacles such as tree stumps, roots and ditches to avoid stumbling.



Before cutting, inspect the area for stones, glass, pieces of metal, trash or other solid objects. The cutting attachment could throw objects of this kind.



To reduce the risk of injury from thrown objects and blade contact,

never operate a brushcutter without a properly mounted deflector. Keep the skirt on the deflectors adjusted properly at all times (see chapter on mounting the various cutting tools of your owner's manual). Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.



Warning!

This brushcutter is normally to be used at ground level with the cutting attachment parallel to the ground. Use of a brushcutter above ground level or with the cutting attachment perpendicular to the ground may increase the risk of injury, since the cutting attachment is more fully exposed and the brushcutter may be more difficult to control. Never use your brushcutter as a hedge trimmer.

 **Warning!**

When using rigid blades, avoid cutting close to fences, sides of buildings, tree trunks, stones or other such objects that could cause the brushcutter to kick out or could cause damage to the blade. STIHL recommends use of the nylon line heads or Polycut head for such jobs. In addition, be alert to an increased possibility of ricochets in such situations.

Do not operate using the starting throttle lock as you do not have control of the engine speed. See section of your owner's manual on the proper use of the slide control.

If the cutting tool or deflector becomes clogged or stuck, always turn off the engine and make sure the cutting tool has stopped, before cleaning. Grass, weeds, etc. should be cleaned off the cutting tool at regular intervals.

 **Warning!**

During cutting, check the tightness and the condition of the cutting tool at regular intervals. If the behavior of the tool changes, stop the engine immediately, and check the nut securing the tool for tightness and the cutting tool for cracks and damage. Replace cracked, bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting tools immediately. Such tools may shatter at high speed and cause serious or fatal injury.

 **Warning!**

A loose blade may cause the blade to vibrate, crack, break or come off the brushcutter, which may result in serious or fatal injury. Make sure that the blade is properly tightened. Use the wrench supplied or one of sufficient length to obtain the proper torque. If the blade loosens after being properly tightened, stop work immediately. The retaining nut may be worn or damaged and should be replaced. Never use unauthorized parts to secure the blade. If the blade continues to loosen, see your STIHL dealer. Never use a brushcutter with a loose blade.

 **Warning!**



Keep hands and feet away from cutting tool. Never touch a rotating cutting tool with your hand or any part of your body. It continues to rotate for a short period after the throttle trigger is released (flywheel effect).

Important adjustments

 **Warning!**

To reduce the risk of personal injury from loss of control or contact with the running cutting tool, do not use a cutting tool with incorrect idle adjustment. At correct idle speed, the cutting tool should not move. For directions on how to adjust idle speed, see the appropriate section of your owner's manual.

If you cannot set the correct idle speed, have your STIHL dealer check your brushcutter and make proper adjustments and repairs

MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND STORING

Maintenance, replacement, or repair of the emission control devices and systems may be performed by any nonroad engine repair establishment or individual. However if you claim warranty for a component which has not been serviced or maintained properly or if nonapproved replacement parts were used, STIHL may deny warranty.

Use only identical STIHL replacement parts for maintenance and repair. Use of non-STIHL parts may cause serious or fatal injury.

Follow the maintenance and repair instructions in the appropriate section of your owner's manual. Please refer to the maintenance chart on the last pages of this manual.

Warning!

Always stop the engine and make sure that the cutting tool is stopped before doing any maintenance or repair work or cleaning the brushcutter. Do not attempt any maintenance or repair work not described in your owner's manual. Have such work performed at your STIHL service shop only.

Warning!

Never repair damaged cutting attachments by welding, straightening or modifying the shape. This may cause parts of the cutting tool to come off and result in serious or fatal injuries.

Warning!

Check condition of cutting tool at regular short intervals. If behavior of tool changes, check it immediately for tightness or any signs of cracks in particular. Replace damaged or dull cutting tools immediately, even if they have only superficial cracks. If the blade loosens after being properly tightened, the retaining nut may be worn or damaged and should be replaced. If the blade continues to loosen, see your STIHL dealer. Do not attach any blade to a unit without proper installation of all required parts. Never use unauthorized parts to secure the blade. Failure to use the proper parts may cause the blade to fly off and seriously injure the operator or bystanders.

Warning!

To reduce the risk of fire and burn injuries, check fuel filler cap for leaks at regular intervals. Use the specified spark plug and make sure it and the ignition lead are always in good condition.

Warning!

Never test the ignition system with ignition wire boot removed from spark plug or with unseated spark plug, since uncontained sparking may cause a fire.

Warning!

To reduce the risk of fire and burn injury, use only spark plugs authorized by STIHL. Always press spark plug boot snugly onto spark plug boot of the proper size. (Note: If boot has detachable SAE adapter nut, it must be attached.) A loose connection between spark plug boot and ignition wire connector in the boot may create arcing that could ignite combustible fumes and cause a fire. Keep spark plug clean, and make sure ignition lead is in good condition.

 **Warning!**

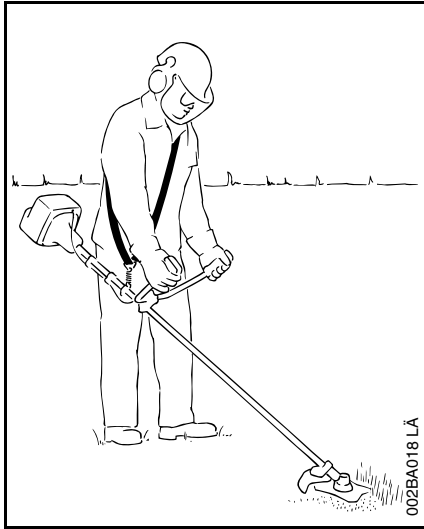
Do not operate your brushcutter if the muffler is damaged, missing or modified. An improperly maintained muffler will increase the risk of fire and hearing loss. Never touch a hot muffler or burn will result. If your muffler was equipped with a spark-arresting screen to reduce the risk of fire (e.g. in the USA, Canada and Australia), never operate your brushcutter if the screen is missing or damaged. Do not modify or remove any part of the muffler or spark arresting screen. Remember that the risk of forest fires is greater in hot or dry weather.

Keep cutting tool sharp. Tighten all nuts, bolts and screws, except the carburetor adjustment screws, after each use.

Additionally, the daily maintenance schedule for your brushcutter set forth in your STIHL Owner's Manual should be strictly followed.

Store brushcutter in a dry, high or locked location out of reach of children.

Before storing for longer than a few days, always empty the fuel tank.



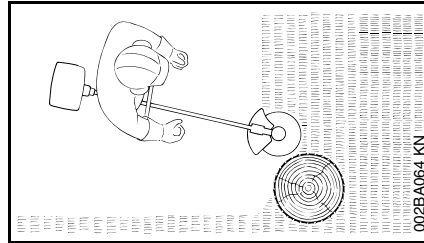
USING THE CUTTING TOOLS

For an illustration of the various cutting tools and instructions on proper mounting see the chapter on "mounting the cutting tools" in your owner's manual.

Using the mowing heads

The STIHL Supercut, Autocut, Trimcut and Polycut mowing heads produce a clean and tidy finish.

They are to be used only on brushcutter equipped with a limiter blade in the deflector in order to keep the line at the proper length (see "Parts and Controls" chapter of this manual).



If the lawn edges are planted with trees or bordered by a fence etc., it is best to use a nylon line head. It achieves a "softer" cut with less risk of damaging tree bark etc. than with the polymer blades.

However, the polymer bladed STIHL "Polycut" produces a better cut if there are no plants along the edge of the lawn. Sharpening is not necessary and worn cutting blades are easily replaced.

Warning!

To reduce the risk of serious injury, never use wire or metal-reinforced line or other material in place of the nylon cutting lines. Pieces of wire could break off and be thrown at high speed toward the operator or bystanders.

STIHL "Supercut" mowing head

Fresh line is advanced automatically. Frayed line is replaced by a simple adjustment (see instruction sheet supplied with mowing head).

STIHL "Trimcut" mowing head

Frayed line is replaced by a simple adjustment (see instruction sheet supplied with mowing head).

STIHL "Autocut" mowing head

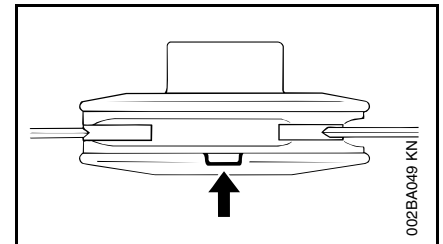
Nylon cutting cord advances automatically when tapped against the ground.

STIHL "Polycut" mowing head

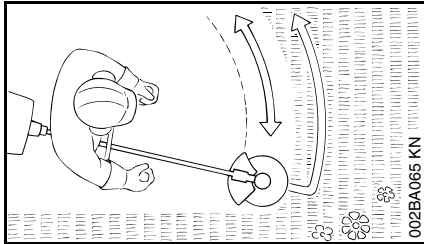
Uses either nylon lines or nonrigid plastic blades

Important!

Three rectangular wear limit marks are applied to the base (periphery) of the Polycut.



To reduce the risk of serious injury from breakage of the head or blades, the Polycut must not be used when it has worn as far as one of these marks. It is important to follow the maintenance instructions supplied with the head!



Using the grass cutting blade

All kinds of grass and weeds can be easily cut with the grass cutting blade. The brushcutter is swept in an arc similar to a scythe.



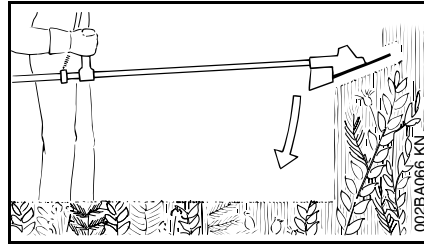
Warning!

To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury never attempt to cut woody materials.

The **4-tooth** grass cutting blade is intended to cut grass and weeds. It has 4 cutting knives with cutting edges on both sides, i.e. front and rear.

The **8-tooth** grass cutting blade is recommended for cutting fern or reed.

Both blades have to be resharpened when all cutting edges are dull.



Using the brush knife

When fitted to the brushcutter, the brush knife is suitable for applications ranging from cutting matted grass to clearing weeds, wild growth and scrub.

To cut wild growth and scrub, lower the rotating brush knife down onto the growth to achieve a chopping effect. Use the brushcutter like a scythe to cut grass, i.e. sweep it to and for in an arc.



Warning!

When cutting woody materials, use the left side of the blade to avoid "kickout" (blade thrust) situations.



Warning!

Improper use of a brush knife may cause it to crack, chip or shatter. Thrown parts may seriously injure the operator or bystanders. To reduce the risk of personal injury it is essential to take the following precautions:

Avoid contact with hard or solid foreign objects such as stones, rocks or pieces of metal.

Never cut wood or shrubs with a stem diameter of more than 2cm (3/4") - use a circular saw blade for such work. Inspect the brush knife at regular short intervals for signs of damage. Do not continue working with a damaged brush knife. Resharpener the brush knife regularly (when it has dulled noticeably).

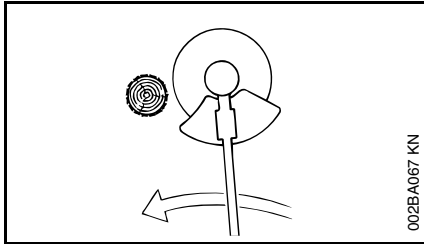


Warning!

When cutting young saplings or other woody materials up to 2cm (3/4") in diameter, use left side of the blade to avoid "kickout" situations (see appropriate section in this manual). Do not attempt to cut woody material with a larger diameter, since the blade may catch or jerk the brushcutter forward. This may cause damage to the blade or brushcutter or loss of control of the brushcutter, resulting in personal injury.

Using the circular saw blade

Circular saw blades are suitable for thinning brush and cutting small trees up to a diameter of 4 cm (1 1/2 in). Do not attempt to cut trees with larger diameters, since the blade may catch or jerk the brushcutter forward. This may cause damage to the blade or loss of control of the brushcutter which may result in serious injury.



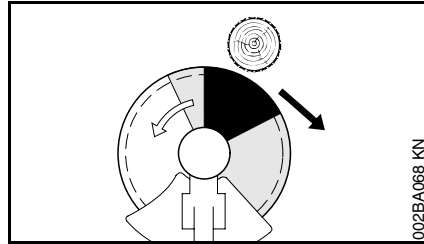
When the brushcutter with circular saw blade is used to cut down small trees, STIHL recommends that the standard deflector be removed and replaced by the special "stop" (see chapter "circular saw blade" for mounting instructions). This stop helps to keep the brushcutter positioned against the tree during the cutting process. Inexperienced users should place the left side of the stop against the tree trunk before beginning to cut. This will keep the brushcutter against the tree during the cutting operation and will reduce the risk of loss of control and possible kickout (described in the following section).



Warning!

In order to reduce the risk of injury from thrown objects or from operator contact with the cutting tool, be sure to remount the standard deflector for all other uses.

Before starting the cut, accelerate the engine up to full throttle. Perform cut with uniform pressure. STIHL recommends that the circular saw blade be applied to the right of the tree, using the non-shaded area of the blade.



Warning!

The risk of kickout is highest when cutting in the darker shaded area. To reduce the risk of kickout and resulting injury, do not use this area of the circular saw blade for cutting trees or shrubs. Special techniques using the lighter shaded areas of the blade to cut shrubs and trees should only be used by experienced operators with specialized training in use and control of the brushcutter.

To reduce the risk of serious injury to the operator or bystanders by a kickout, never use a circular saw blade on a brushcutter with a loop handle.

Risk of "kickout" (blade thrust) with all rigid cutting blades



Warning!

Kickout (blade thrust) is the sudden and uncontrolled motion towards the operator's right or rear that can occur when the shaded area of the rotating blade comes in contact with a solid object like a tree, rock, bush or wall. The rapid counterclockwise rotation of the blade may be stopped or slowed, and the cutting attachment may be thrown in an area to the right or to the rear.

This kickout (blade thrust) may cause loss of control of the brushcutter and may result in serious or fatal injury to the operator or bystanders. To reduce the risk of injury, extreme caution should be used when cutting with the shaded area of any rigid blade.

Maintenance Chart

Please note: Different models may have different parts and controls.		before starting work	after finishing work or daily	after each refueling stop	weekly	monthly	if faulty	if damaged	as required
Complete machine	Visual inspection (condition, leaks)	x		x					
	Clean		x						
Control handle	Check operation	x		x					
Air filter	Clean						x		x
	Replace							x	
Filter in fuel tank	Check						x		
	Replace							x	x
Fuel tank	Clean					x			
Carburetor	Check idle setting - cutting tool must not turn	x		x					
	Readjust idle								x
Spark plug	Readjust electrode gap						x		
Cylinder fins	Clean				x				
Spark arresting screen in muffler	Inspect		x						
	Clean or replace								x
All accessible screws and nuts (not adjusting screws)	Retighten								x
Rubber vibration buffers	Have replaced by STIHL dealer						x		
Metal cutting tools	Visual inspection	x		x					
	Sharpen							x	x
Gearbox lubrication	Check				x				
	Top up								x
Drive shaft lubrication	Check								
	Replenish								x



WARNING!

The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

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