

*hang this booklet in a safe place*

**OPERATING  
INSTRUCTIONS**

**VICTA**

***Australia's N°1 Mower***

# CONGRATULATIONS!



. . . you've just joined the ever-growing VICTA family and although many VICTAS, well over a million in fact, have now been sold, **you** are a very personal V.I.P. Our quality and testing procedures, developed over the years, **guarantee** that you have bought the most dependable and easy to use mower. You can look forward to many years of trouble-free mowing provided you follow the few important instructions listed in the following pages. You'll be happy that you've made the right decision because VICTA'S interest in you and your mower **doesn't stop** after you take delivery. The guarantee on the rear page assures you of 12 months cover against faulty workmanship or inferior material provided you read and abide by the conditions. When you need replacement parts you'll find VICTA dealers everywhere, stocked with genuine VICTA replacement parts—easily identified by their distinctive orange pack. Insist on genuine VICTA replacement parts to keep your mower in "as-new" operating condition. Happy VICTA Mowing!

# INDEX

## Page

- 4** Safety Precautions.
- 5** Fitting Grasscatcher.
- 6** Starting.
- 8** Handle Adjustment.
- 9** Height Adjustment.
- 9** Self-propelled Model.
- 10** How to Mow.
- 13** Mower Maintenance.
- 18** Blade Replacement.
- 20** Victa Guarantee.

# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

There is no danger in using a mower if common-sense is applied and ordinary precautions taken. The operation of a rotary mower may, however, be strange to you and it is advisable that you **carefully read and carry out** the following simple instructions.

- 1** Before mowing, remove all objects from the grass likely to cause blade damage. Do not use the mower in grass containing obstructions.
- 2** Prior to using mower, check that the blade disc attachment nut is tight. If loose it should only be tightened by a skilled mechanic.
- 3** Always check that blade bolts and nuts are tight. Replace all worn blades. When blades are worn, always replace both blades (not just one) to maintain balance of the assembly.

## **DAMAGED BLADES AND WORN BOLTS ARE MAJOR HAZARDS.**

- 4** Before making any adjustment, repair, tightening, etc. (not including height or handle adjustment), **STOP THE ENGINE, ALLOW IT TO COOL AND REMOVE SPARK PLUG LEAD.**
- 5** Do not lift mower while engine is running and always keep feet and hands clear of the base plate and blades. It is wise to wear heavy shoes when mowing.
- 6** Avoid risk of injury to by-standers from flying stones, etc.—do not use the mower with people standing nearby. When not using a grasscatcher make sure that the windrower or rear discharge cover plate is in position.
- 7** Children and animals must be kept away from the mower at all times when engine is running. Always store mower out of children's reach.
- 8** Do not start the mower in a confined space such as a garage or tool shed, as carbon monoxide fumes given off by the engine are dangerous.
- 9** Check all parts of mower regularly for signs of wear, damage or looseness of bolts and nuts. Replace all damaged parts immediately.

**It is stressed that regular attention to the above safety precautions is most important.**

# FITTING GRASSCATCHER

## Self-propelled, Corvette and Cortina models

Raise the hinged flap at the back of the mower and insert the tongue of the catcher **just over the top** of the rear axle. Then lift back of catcher till the side lugs hook over the round pins on the side of the mower (circled in fig. 1). This can best be achieved by placing catcher on ground immediately behind mower, then while standing on right-hand side of mower and facing aft bend forward, raise rear flap with left-hand and, taking hold of catcher handle between lower mower handle members, pull forward with right hand.

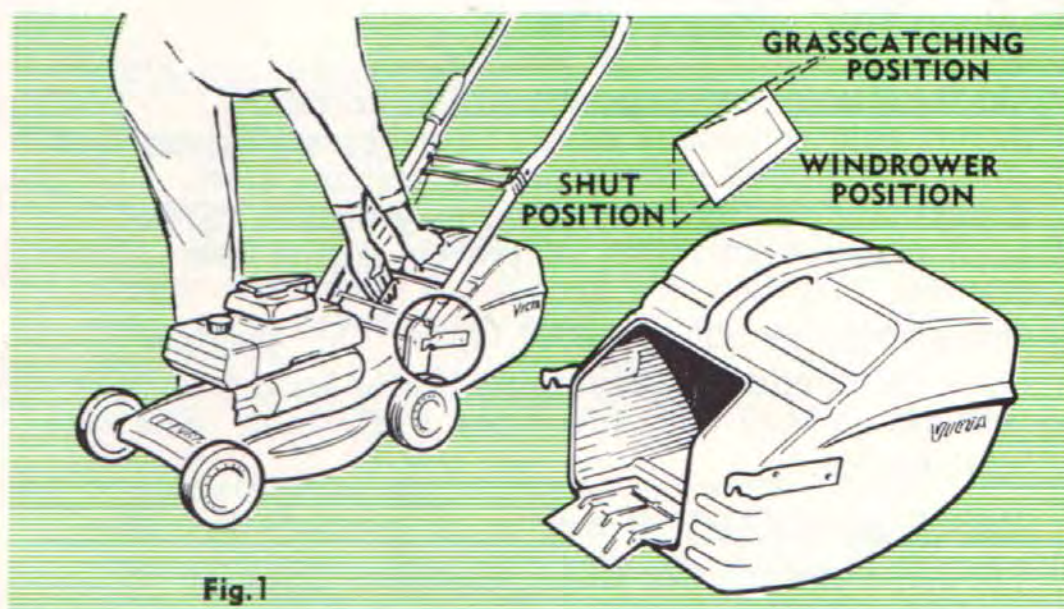


Fig. 1

## TO EMPTY

1. Stop the engine and raise cutting height adjustment.
2. Standing on the right-hand side of the mower (looking from rear of handle) remove the catcher.
3. To empty, up-end and shake.
4. Replace catcher and re-adjust cutting height.

To catch grass efficiently engine speed should be increased in dense or wet grass.

# STARTING

## PETROL-OIL FUEL MIXTURE

First, check that there is fuel of the correct mixture in the tank. Do not over fill, leave about 1" clear below the filler cap.

**It is most important to use correctly mixed 2-stroke fuel for air-cooled engines.**

WE RECOMMEND "BP-ZOOM" the green coloured ready-mixed 2-stroke fuel.

If unavailable, mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint BP 2-stroke oil with 1 gallon of BP Regular petrol. Shake well before filling mower.

**Use of the specified fuel mixture is a condition of the guarantee.**

By the time you have used the first gallon of this fuel mixture, your engine will be run-in. Do not over-rev engine during this period. If possible, avoid cutting heavy growth until after completing run-in period. Never allow the engine to race under no-load conditions.

## COLD START PROCEDURE

1. Set height control to high position.
2. Set throttle in 'FAST' position (fully forward).  
In very cold conditions it may be necessary to set throttle control in 'SLOW' position for satisfactory start.  
**Ensure that control lever is not fully back in 'STOP' position or cut-out switch will prevent engine from starting.**
3. Pull knurled section of petrol tap to "On" position.
4. Flood carburettor by depressing tickler knob at side of carburettor body until fuel flows freely from relief hole.
5. Start engine.

## IMPULSE STARTER

**(Self-Propelled, Corvette, Cortina, Special and New Utility 160 c.c. Models).**

Stand to right-hand side of mower with feet well clear of edge of baseplate.

Push trip lever on the impulse starter inwards towards the starter body as far as it will go. Unfold handle, wind  $3\frac{1}{2}$  turns clockwise then fold down. Less robust or elderly persons will find this operation easier if tackled in short ratchet movements of about 6", instead of complete rotations.

Start the engine by pulling the trip lever outwards. Refer to figure 2.

**WARNING: Do not return trip lever into starter until the next time the engine is to be started.**

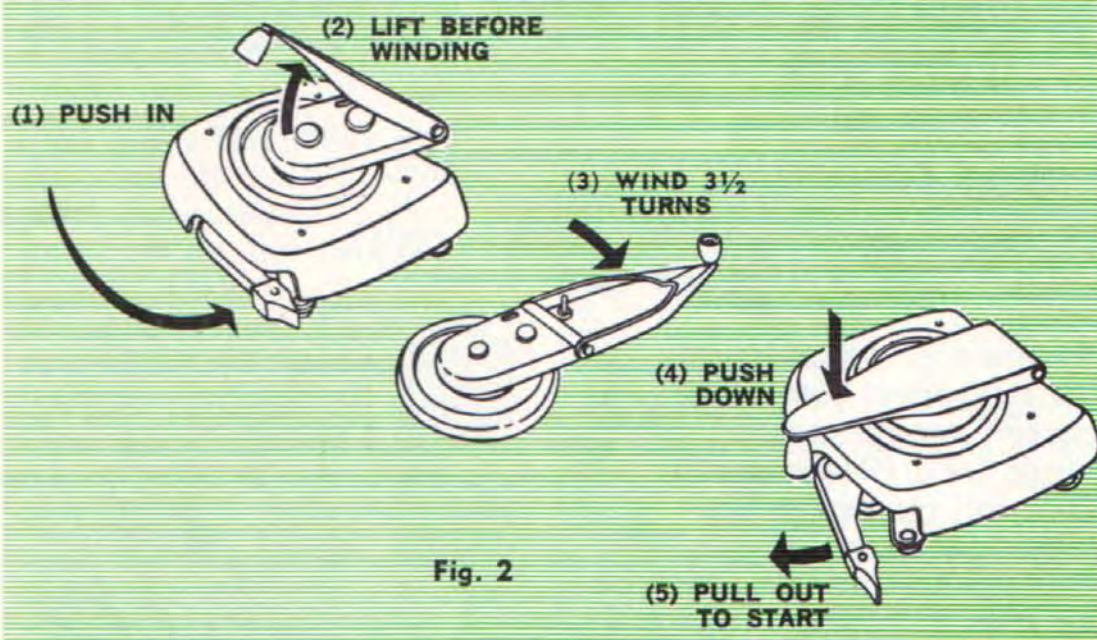


Fig. 2

## REWIND STARTER (New Utility 125 c.c. Only)

Stand behind and to the right-hand side of mower. Hold the mower handle with your left hand to brace the mower and place the ball of the right foot on right rear wheel. Bend down and take the starter grip in your right hand and pull smartly towards you. Return the cord and grip slowly back to the starter.

6. Immediately the engine starts close the throttle sufficiently to stop the engine racing. In extreme cold weather it may be necessary to allow a warm up period.
7. When ready to commence mowing set height control lever to required cutting height.
8. Adjust throttle sufficiently for effective grass cutting but without excessive revving of engine.

## HOT START PROCEDURE (All Models)

1. Set height control to high position.
2. Set throttle in 'FAST' position fully forward.  
DO NOT FLOOD CARBURETTOR.
3. Repeat operations 5, 6, 7 and 8.

# HANDLE ADJUSTMENT

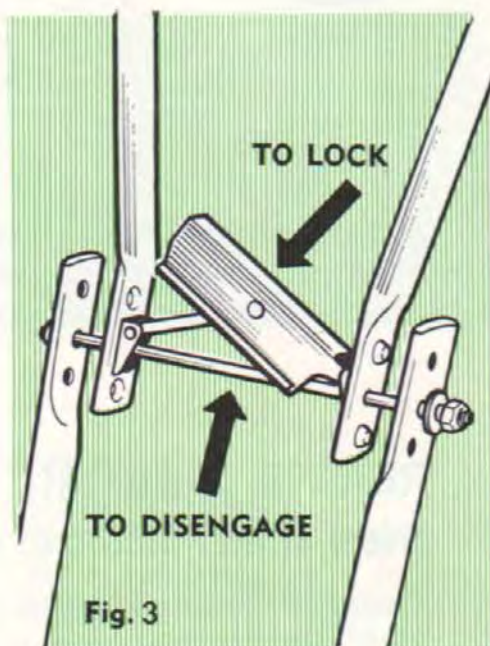
## SINGLE-FOLD HANDLE

(Special and New Utility models only).

To erect or lower handle lift right-hand side of cover plate at handle hinge joint (Refer fig. 3). This will disengage the tapered locating spigots. The top half handle will then be free to move.

To lock in position, push down cover plate to engage locating spigots.

If necessary, to take up slack in handle hinge, tighten nut on end of rod running through hinge joint.



## DOUBLE-FOLD HANDLE

(Self-propelled, Corvette and Cortina models)

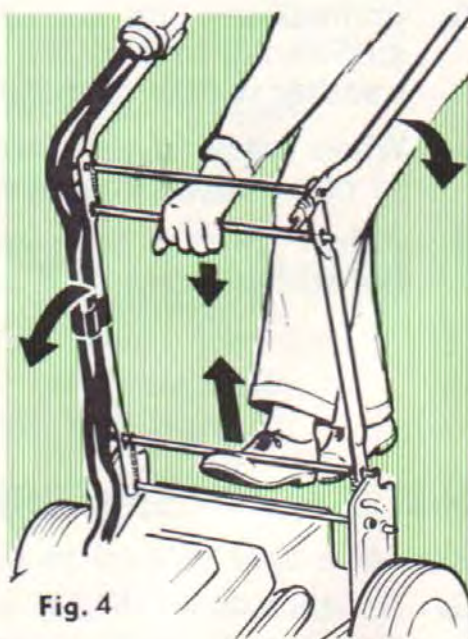
To erect handle for use from folded down position, pull offset portion up and backwards.

Handle will automatically lock in position.

To cut under branches or shrubs top half of handle can be lowered to the rear by pushing down on centre cross member which releases the upper lock.

To fold complete handle down for storage lift the upper of the two lower cross-bars using toe of shoe.

At same time push the handle forward to release the bottom lock. Then release upper lock. Fold top half of handle backwards and down (See fig. 4).



# HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Disengage the teeth from the rack on the adjustment plate by outward pressure on the Height Control Lever.

Raise or lower the mower as desired by moving the Control Lever in a forward or rearward direction. This should be accomplished as two distinct movements otherwise excessive wear occurs and positive adjustment will be lost.

On releasing the lever ensure that the teeth re-engage with the rack on the adjustment plate (see Fig. 5).

Do not attempt to cut too low—this will tend to tear your lawn.

If tearing occurs, raise the height of the cut slightly ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " makes all the difference). The height adjustment lever as illustrated in fig. 5 is typical of Corvette, Cortina, Special and Utility models where it is located on the right-hand side of mower. Fig. 6 shows location of height adjustment lever on Self-propelled model.

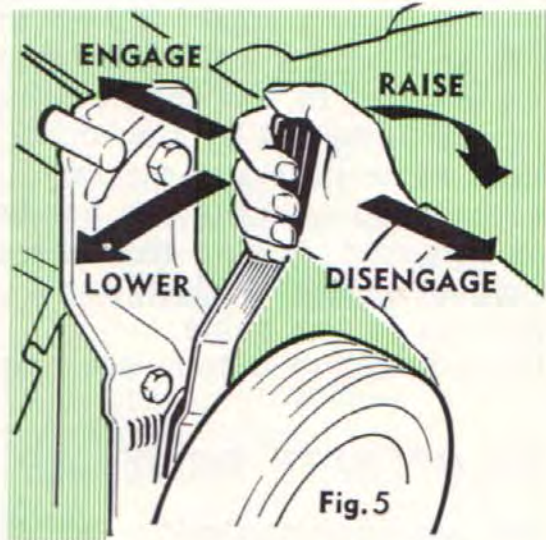


Fig. 5

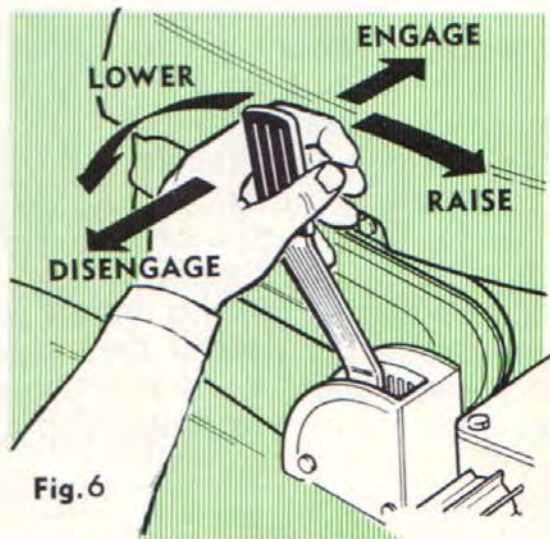


Fig. 6

## SELF-PROPELLED MODEL

**Attach clutch cable as follows:**

With the handle erected and the upper swinging portion in the backwards position, dismantle the capsule from its transit position.

To fit the capsule assembly (3) in its correct working position refer to fig. 7 and insert both square head bolts (4) from outer side of handle. With slight downward pressure fit capsule over both protruding bolt threads, replace clamp plate (2) and secure with nyloc nuts (1). Adjustment to the clutch cable can be obtained by slackening off both nyloc nuts and moving capsule up or down the handle as required. Ensure that there is neither excessive slack or tension in the cable.

For lubrication details see page 14.

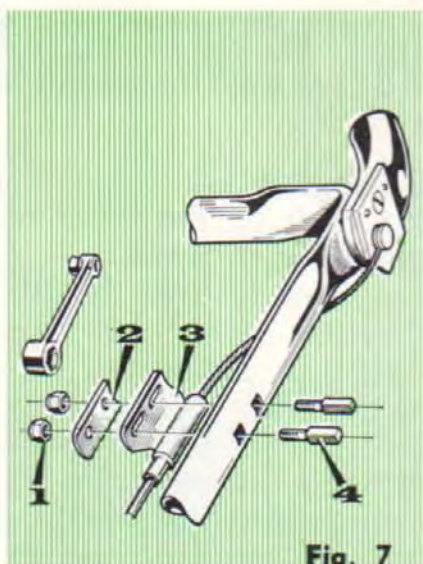


Fig. 7

## TO OPERATE DRIVE MECHANISM

Set governor control to required throttle setting.

To engage roller drive for self-propelled forward motion, swing the top control handle fully forward with a positive movement. Do not use the handle in positions other than fully forward or fully back. See fig. 8.

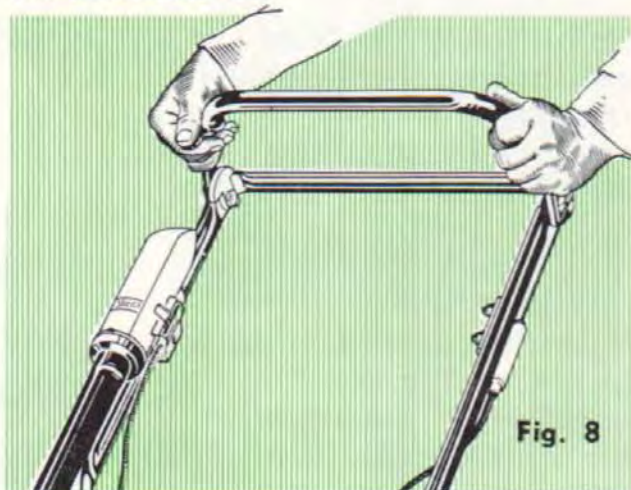


Fig. 8

Start walking with the mower at the same time as you swing the control handle forward to eliminate a "jerky" start. A few practice starts will soon co-ordinate mower propulsion and walking speed.

## HOW TO MOW

### GENERAL HANDLING:

When ready to mow set throttle control at required engine speed setting.

'FAST' for all grasscatching operation.

'SLOW' for operating without a grasscatcher. (The engine speed can be adjusted from 'SLOW' depending on the mowing conditions.)

On all two stroke models the governed carburettor will automatically regulate the cutting speed of your mower without need of further adjustment to the throttle control.

Note: When throttle lever is moved forwards from 'FAST' to 'SLOW' position the motor appears to die. It is not stopping, it is only 'revving down' to the new setting of the governor vane. **Do not make adjustments to throttle control to compensate.**

On completion of mowing close the petrol tap and allow engine to run until carburettor is dry of fuel. If mower is left standing for any length of time between mowing operations, turn fuel off to prevent possible flooding of carburettor.

To stop engine at anytime move throttle control lever to 'STOP' position. This will immediately operate the cut-out switch in the ignition circuit.

Your Victa mower is designed to cut all types of grass. Experiment with the cutting height when commencing to cut grass. Start at the highest position and work down until you reach a cutting height best suited to your lawn.

If possible, wait until your mower is run-in (after first gallon of fuel) before using it on heavy grass. It is advisable to raise the mower to its highest position for first cut in long grass, then lower to height of required finish and make final cut. This procedure will give a far superior finish to the lawn than if the heavy grass was mown down in one cut. With the throttle control set at 'FAST' the governed carburettor will allow the throttle to be fully open when cutting into the heavy grass, but prevent it from racing when not under load.

## WINDROWER—(Special model only)

Before commencing mowing fit the windrower into slotted bracket located on upper surface of side chute. (See fig. 9).

### CAUTION

At no time should mower be operated without windrower being fitted.

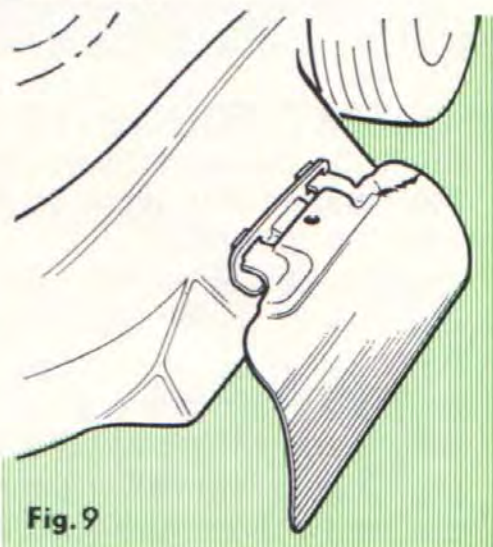


Fig. 9

## CONCRETE PATHS AND EDGES

If your lawn is raised above a path, run the mower with two wheels on the lawn and two on the path. Make sure that the wheels on the path are kept close to the edge, otherwise mower blades will foul the footpath.

## BANKS AND HILLS

The rubber tyres on your Victa mower are designed to provide sufficient grip on banks and steep hills to prevent sliding sideways. It is always easier to cut across a bank or hill rather than up or down. Plan your movements so there is a minimum of turning and up-hill mowing. Push the mower at a steady pace mowing continuously. Do not push the mower "to and fro".

## HOW TO VICTA SWEEP YOUR LAWN:

**Special and New Utility Models only.**

Cut straight-down the centre of your lawn. Turn to the left at the end and cut back parallel to the first cut. Turn left again, moving across first cut and commence third cut. Proceed in this manner so that the lawn is cut from the centre outwards in an anti-clockwise direction. Since these Victa models throw grass to the right your lawn will be cleanly swept. You will find it much quicker, easier and cleaner than if the cuttings are raked up (see fig. 10).

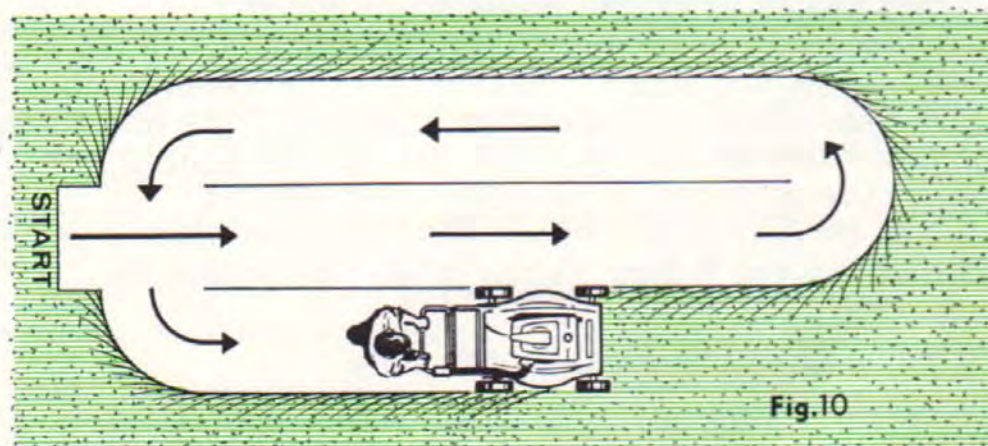


Fig.10

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

1. Push the mower forward, don't bear down on the handles this tends to force the rear wheels into the ground.
2. Don't walk backwards with the engine running—there is a risk of tripping over unseen objects.
3. Don't let grass collect around air intake vent on top of engine as this prevents cool air circulating and will cause engine overheating.
4. Don't leave mower unattended for any length of time with engine running.

# MOWER MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is required to keep your mower operating satisfactorily.

Regular tune-ups, correct fuel and lubrication are the basis of low maintenance costs.

Owners are recommended, in their own interest, to entrust all maintenance and repair work to an authorised Victa Service Centre, as such centres are equipped with the proper tools and staffed by specially trained mechanics who work under manufacturers instructions.

A comprehensive Workshop manual is available for the owner who wishes to carry out the maintenance on his mower.

For continued satisfaction use only GENUINE VICTA REPLACEMENT PARTS recognised by their distinctive orange pack. Use of other than Victa replacement parts causes your warranty to become null and void.

## ENGINE SPECIFICATION

### VICTA 2-STROKE ENGINES—125 c.c. and 160 c.c.

|                    |                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Fuel Tank Capacity | 125 c.c.—Approx. 2 pints               |
|                    | 160 c.c.—Approx. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ pints |

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Spark Plug | Pt. No. 25-005 |
|------------|----------------|

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Spark Plug gap | 0.025" |
|----------------|--------|

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Magneto Point gap | 0.020" |
|-------------------|--------|

## DRIVE ADJUSTMENT (Self-propelled model only)

The drive mechanism should not require adjustment until after many hours' service. The gap between the roller and tyre is controlled by an adjustment screw located against inside face of left-hand rear tyre.

When the gap is great enough to admit a 20 cent piece, re-adjustment must be carried out as follows:

- Set the mower on lowest cutting height.
- Check that cable is slack (the connecting loop at the pivot bolt on the engagement handle should not be under tension).
- Slacken off the locknut which locks the adjustment screw bracket in position.
- Adjust the gap between roller and tyre by turning the screw either in or out. The gap should be about  $1/32$ ".

- (e) Tighten the locknut firmly.
- (f) Set the mower on maximum height and check that rollers still clear wheels.

## CABLE ADJUSTMENT (Self-propelled model)

Slack in the cable is set to virtually zero when new. After protracted use, this will increase. If the slack exceeds  $\frac{1}{8}$ ", the cable must be re-adjusted at the capsule as shown in Fig. 7. Slacken off both nuts and move capsule down.

Adjust until the slack is taken up, but not so much as to preload the cable.

Ensure lubrication by oiling the following:—

1. Engagement handle hinge bolts.
2. Top cable loop at engagement handle junction plate.
3. Both ends of cable capsule situated at top end of handle.
4. The bottom cable loop and three swivel points in the mechanism behind the left-hand rear wheel.
5. The height adjuster handle pivot bolt.

## GEARBOX LUBRICATION (Self-propelled model)

Once each year remove 4 hexagon head screws and take cover off the gearbox situated on top of baseplate near height adjuster. Inspect grease level and top up with BP A1 chassis grease if necessary to bring level of grease to middle of cross shaft in gear compartment.

## ENGINE FAILURE

The most common causes of starting or running difficulties are:

1. **No Fuel in Tank.**  
Remedy: Add correctly mixed fuel to tank.
2. **Incorrect Starting Procedure**  
Remedy: Check operating instructions on page 6.

3. **Faulty Ignition**

Remedy: Difficulty in starting a two-stroke engine is often a dirty or incorrectly gapped spark plug. Always keep a spare, clean plug on hand.

The plug should be removed periodically for cleaning and occasionally sand-blasted at a service station.

Before sand-blasting, soak plug in petrol and wash thoroughly to remove gummy oil deposits which prevent effective sand-blasting.

After sand-blasting, carefully wash out any remaining sand with petrol and dry thoroughly.

The correct spark gap should be set by bending the side electrode only.

**Do not try to bend the centre electrode.**

If the plug doesn't spark after cleaning, try the spare plug. If this fails to spark, the magneto needs checking by a competent serviceman.

#### 4. Excess Fuel in Crankcase (Flooding)

This can be caused by:

- (a) Excessive use of tickler.
- (b) The carburettor flooding, in which case turn off fuel, clean carburettor and check for dirt under float needle. Check float for leaks and replace if necessary.
- (c) The mower standing off level for some time with the fuel turned on, allowing the fuel to run from the carburettor into the engine.

To clear excess fuel from crankcase leave fuel turned off, set throttle wide open, 'FAST' position on throttle control, spin engine until it starts, turn on fuel. In obstinate cases remove the spark plug and dry by warming it.

### CARBURETTOR

The automatically governed carburettor needs no adjustment or maintenance apart from ensuring that the governor vane is free of dirt or grease. Keep air intake vent on engine cowl free of grass, the governor vane is controlled by the air flow and if restricted can effect the engine speeds.

### WHEEL BEARINGS

Wheel bearings should not be oiled. If wheels become tight, remove wheel and clean the axle. Lightly smear with vaseline or graphite grease before refitting wheels.

### CLEANING MUFFLER

Should the muffler become clogged it can easily be cleaned by running a piece of strong wire several times into the body of the muffler (see fig. 11) after which the mower can be given some heavy work to dry out the deposits. The wire should enter about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.



Fig. 11

## AIR FILTERS

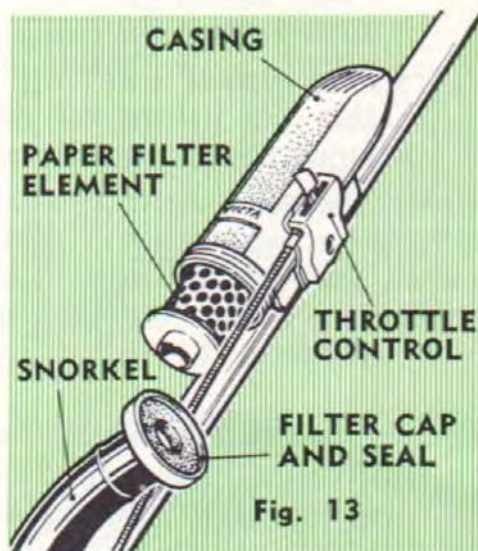
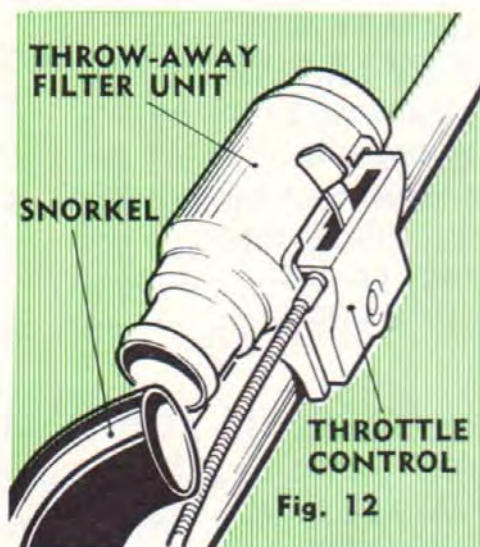
### NEW UTILITY, SPECIAL and CORTINA MODELS

(Refer fig. 12.)

The element in this unit is not removable, but it can be rejuvenated.

If the engine runs rich and sluggish it is a fair indication the filter is clogged

Remove plastic filter unit from handle and throttle control, and tap it on your hand. Replace with new unit if beyond reclaim. **Do not attempt to remove top cap of filter unit.**



### CORVETTE and SELF-PROPELLED MODELS.

(Refer fig. 13.)

Contained within the casing is a paper filter element which should not require attention except when operating in dusty conditions. Clean by slapping on the palm of your hand.

Do not clean with compressed air or wash in petrol. Replace if beyond reclaim.

## SNORKELS

Snorkels are made from material impervious to oil and grease and do not require attention.

## CARE OF CHROME PLATING

Generally, a rub with a clean, soft cloth will be all that is necessary to remove dust from plated areas. However, to remove more tenacious dirt, it may be washed with warm, soapy water and then cleaned with a good quality chrome polish. This polish should also be used if the chromium shows signs of tarnishing. Do not use ordinary metal polishes as they may contain abrasives which would ruin the plating.

## CLEANING UNDERSIDE OF MOWER

The underside of your mower should be cleaned periodically to remove clogged dirt or grass which if allowed to build up will affect the grass-catching performance.

It should always be cleaned immediately after mowing an area which has recently been dressed with Sulphate of Ammonia or fertilizer to prevent baseplate corrosion.

To clean underside of your mower, leave engine running and apply water through the inlet hole in upper surface of chassis.

The action of the blades throwing the water soon removes clogged dirt and grass.

To achieve the same effect with mowers not having a water inlet hole, stand your mower on a flat area of ground or concrete, and with the engine still running, play water from garden hose on to the ground around periphery of chassis.

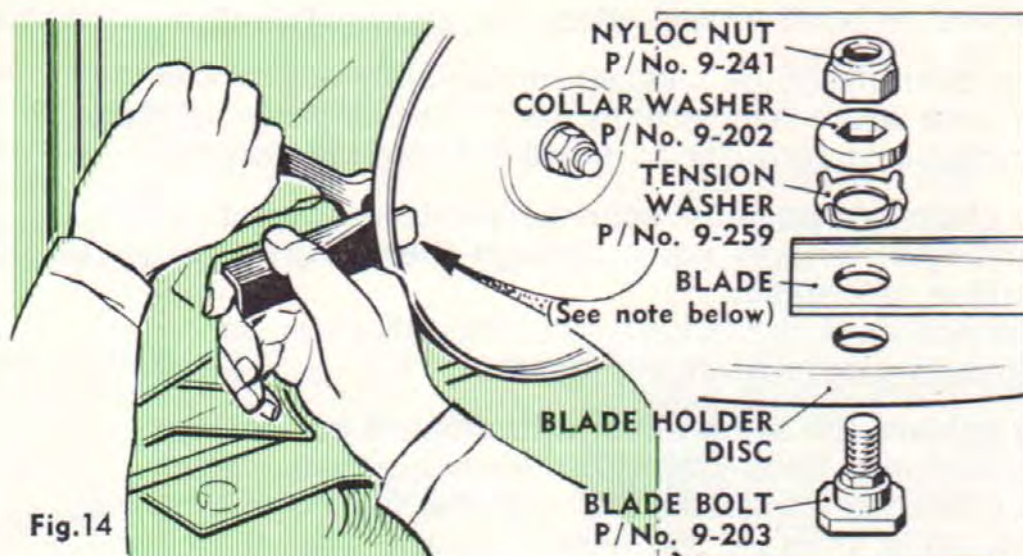
**With either method do not allow water to spray on hot engine or serious damage can result.**

On models fitted with catchers, remove catcher and lower flap.

### WARNING

Before attempting any maintenance or repair to engine or underside of mower remove the high tension lead from the spark plug.

# BLADE REPLACEMENT



1. Turn off fuel and stop engine.
2. Remove high tension lead from spark plug.
3. Remove grasscatcher if fitted.
4. Tip mower on side with muffler to the ground.
5. Turn the blades one at a time to the vicinity of rear or side chute where there is sufficient space to manipulate a spanner.
6. Remove blades. Replace bolts if worn.
7. To assemble new blades observe following procedure
  - (a) Insert square headed bolt through blade holder.
  - (b) Place blade on bolt.
  - (c) Fit tension washer with lugs away from blade
  - (d) Fit collar washer to sit within lugs of tension washer.
  - (e) Fit nyloc nut and securely tighten.
8. The order of parts after assembly should be:—  
Bolt head—blade holder—blade—tension washer—collar washer—nyloc nut.

## NOTE:

Blade Pt. No. 9-263 is for use with all catcher mowers.  
Blade Pt. No. 9-262 is for use with all non-catcher mowers.

**CAUTION:** Never fit one new blade only—always replace the pair of blades.  
This will ensure correct engine balance.  
It is not necessary to remove the blade holder.



## MOWER DIVISION

Head Office: 318 Horsley Road, Milperra  
N.S.W., Aust., 2214. Phone: 77-0122.

For Service, contact your local dealer or the Victa Branch in your State.

### NEW SOUTH WALES:

318 Horsley Road, Milperra, N.S.W., Aust., 2214.  
For service, phone: 77-0601

### VICTORIA:

272 Edwardes Street, Reservoir, 3073  
For service, phone: 46-2871

### QUEENSLAND:

105-109 Colchester Street, Sth. Brisbane, 4101  
For service, phone: 4-5901

### NORTH QUEENSLAND:

Cnr. Bowen Road & Sweet Street. Townsville, 4810  
Phone: 9-3194

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

102 King William Street, Kent Town, 5067  
For service, phone: 63-4931

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

161 Burswood Road, Victoria Park, 6100  
For service, 'phone: 6-2098.

### WHERE VICTA IS SOLD:

Australia ☐ United Kingdom ☐ Germany ☐ Italy ☐ Mauritius  
☐ Republic of South Africa ☐ Zambia ☐ Rhodesia ☐ Ghana  
☐ Nigeria ☐ Liberia ☐ Jamaica ☐ Thailand ☐ Sabah ☐  
Brunei ☐ Sarawak ☐ Malaysia ☐ New Guinea ☐ New  
Caledonia ☐ New Hebrides ☐ British Solomon Islands ☐  
Samoa ☐ Fiji ☐ Cook Island ☐ Norfolk Island ☐ Lord Howe  
Island ☐ Lebanon ☐ Tonga ☐ Greece ☐ Kenya.

# **VICTA**

## **GUARANTEE**

Any part of the mower found to be defective due to faulty workmanship or inferior materials will be replaced by or on behalf of the Manufacturers or their Dealers without charge to the purchaser for such part or for labour or material. This Guarantee shall hold for 12 months from date of purchase whilst in the possession of original purchaser. The Guarantee does not cover fair wear and tear, breakage or inefficient operation.

### **PLEASE NOTE ALSO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS**

Blades are not covered by this guarantee • B.P. Products must have been used in the recommended quantities • Transport of the mower to or from the Dealer and/or the Manufacturers shall be paid for by the purchaser • Responsibility is disclaimed if attempts to repair the mower have been made by persons other than employees of the Manufacturers, their representatives or their authorised Dealers, or if the mower has been subjected to misuse • This guarantee extends only to the original purchaser from the Manufacturers or their authorised Dealer. The purchaser's name and address must be written below at the time of sale • This Guarantee must be returned with any claim for repair or replacement under this Guarantee, together with the machine, to the Victa Dealer from whom it was purchased • Liability will not be accepted under this Guarantee unless all the above conditions are strictly fulfilled • The Manufacturer's decision regarding the application of the Guarantee shall be final and binding. The use of other than Genuine Victa Replacement Parts voids this warranty.

Purchaser's Name .....

Address .....

Date of Purchase ..... Engine No. ....

Purchased from .....

Fill in the above information and show this Instruction Manual to your Dealer when making claim under guarantee.