



# Sarlo® BigMo™ 30" Hydro Walk-Behind OWNER'S MANUAL



## IMPORTANT:

Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mower Model #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mower Serial #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Engine Model #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Engine Serial #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer: \_\_\_\_\_



**CONGRATULATIONS** on the purchase of your new Sarlo Mower. Your Sarlo is a powerful, all-purpose power mower, designed, engineered and tested to provide years of trouble-free operation. With proper handling and maintenance according to instructions in this manual, your Sarlo will deliver years of dependable service, maximum performance and safety. Be sure to read and understand all instructions before operation. Inspect mower components, mounting hardware and lubrication before each use. Our commitment is that every Sarlo will perform to 100% of its capabilities. We are confident your Sarlo will serve you well for many years to come.

Respectfully,

*Tony Sarlo*

Tony Sarlo, President



**Fig. 1**

**OVERVIEW:** (Fig. 1.)

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Discharge Chute                | 7. Mower Blade Engagement Control (PTO Switch) |
| 2. Front Height of Cut Adjustment | 8. Ignition Switch                             |
| 3. Deck Drive Belt Guard          | 9. Engine Pull Start                           |
| 4. Operator Presence Control Bale | 10. Hour Meter                                 |
| 5. Wheel Drive Control Bale       | 11. Hydro Release Lever                        |
| 6. Engine Throttle Control        | 12. Rear Height of Cut Adjustment              |

**Know Before You Mow!**

**WARRANTY:**

SARLO POWER MOWERS, INC. hereby warrants to the original retail purchaser ALL NEW products of its own manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of **2 years** from the date of the original purchase, subject to the following conditions:

- Engines are warranted by the respective engine manufacturer. Refer to the engine manufacturer's warranty.
- Transmission parts are warranted by the manufacturer, not Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc.
- The warranty on belts, tires, throttle controls or any other item that is subject to normal wear is limited to 90 days.
- No warranty is extended to any equipment which has been misused, neglected or damaged by accident. Sarlo shall not be responsible for damage in transit or handling by any common carrier, and under no circumstances, within or without the warranty period, will the company be liable for damage for loss, or damages resulting from delay or any consequential damage included but not limited to any cost or expense of providing substitute equipment or service during periods of malfunction or non-use.
- Sarlo Power Mowers will repair or replace, free of charge, any part or parts of the mower found upon examination by any Factory Authorized Dealer or by the factory to be defective in materials and/or workmanship for the term of the warranty.
- The consumer is responsible for: (1) Normal maintenance such as greasing, gear case lubrication, minor adjustment and, (2) Transportation of any Sarlo product to and from the place warranty work is performed.
- The Sarlo warranty WILL NOT APPLY to any product repaired or altered by anyone other than an Authorized Service Distributor or Authorized Service Dealer.
- Sarlo reserves the right to incorporate any changes in design into its products without obligation to make changes on units previously manufactured.
- The warranty is valid only if the Factory Warranty Card is returned and registered.



## SAFETY:

While Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc. is dedicated to building dependable, high-performance turf equipment, our number one concern is SAFETY.

Users must carefully read this Owner's Manual before operating the machine. Never permit anyone to operate the mower without a thorough understanding of the controls and operation of the equipment.

The improper or irresponsible use of mowing equipment can cause serious injury and even death. Owners and users can prevent accidents or injuries to themselves, other people and/or to property. Use common sense.

## BEFORE YOU MOW:

Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes or boots. Do NOT operate the mower when barefoot or in open-toed sandals. Long hair, loose-fitting clothing and jewelry may get caught and tangled in moving parts, causing serious injury or death.

Wear safety glasses and use hearing protection during operation. Do NOT listen to music or wear headphones while operating the mower.

Inspect the area where the mower will be used. Evaluate the terrain, paying special attention to slopes, water hazards, drop-offs, ditches and embankments. Pay attention to hazards, obstructions, holes, ruts and bumps. Tall grass often hides dangerous obstacles. Look for items such as rocks, sticks, wire or toys. When struck by rapidly rotating blades, foreign objects become extremely dangerous projectiles, thrown from the mower at high speeds.

NEVER carry passengers, transport equipment or carry fuel on the mower. Avoid mowing and shut the mower down when bystanders or pets are present. Always be aware of the direction of the mower's discharge. Rapidly turning blades and thrown objects present a danger to operators, people and property nearby.

Check the machine each time before starting. Inspect the tire pressure, fluid levels and the air filter. Service the engine according to the separate instructions supplied by the engine manufacturer. Always disconnect the spark plug wire when inspecting or servicing the mower. Look for any signs of damage or wear to the mower. Remove excess dirt or debris before operation. Inspect the cutting blades, making sure they are sharp and undamaged. Check for the presence and tightness of all bolts, nuts, pins and screws. Tighten or replace missing items.

TEST the Safety Interlock System, also known as the Operator Presence Controls before each use to ensure that the mower's safety features are functioning properly. KNOW BEFORE YOU MOW.

## FUELING:



Always allow the engine to cool before fueling or refueling. Never operate a gas engine inside an enclosed area. Take special care when handling fuel. It is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.

Use only approved fuel containers and do not smoke. Never refuel or drain the machine indoors or inside an enclosed trailer. Don't open the gas cap or fill with the

engine running.

## SAFETY ALERT SYMBOLS:

Your Sarlo mower is equipped with Safety Alert Symbols designed to remind and warn operators of specific safety concerns.

Familiarize yourself with the location and intent of each safety symbol and use extreme caution when in proximity to these areas of concern.

You will find safety warnings and basic operating instructions at the mower controls adjacent to the throttle and choke adjustment levers. (Fig. 2)

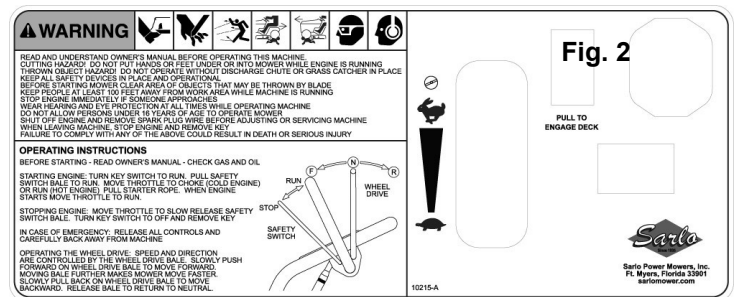


Fig. 2

Failure to follow these safety precautions and operating instructions may result in damage to the machine and/or serious injury to operators and others.

Cutting deck edges are identified by DANGER symbols on each side of the deck. (Fig. 3) Keep hands, feet and any dangling or loose clothing away from the underside of the deck.



Fig. 3

The rotary cutting blades turn at approximately 18,500 fps; contact with the spinning blades will cause serious injury or death.

NEVER operate the mower with the Side-Discharge Deflector Shield in the raised position without the grass catcher, or if the deflector has been damaged or removed. Debris may be thrown from the turning blades, causing serious injury or property damage. (Fig. 4)

Only operate the mower with the Side-Discharge deflector or the grass catcher attachment mounted and securely in place.



Additionally, caution must be used when operators are in proximity to the turning belt and pulley system that drives the cutting blade shaft. (Fig. 5) Fingers, hands, jewelry and loose-fitting clothing can catch in the rapidly moving machinery, causing injury or death.



The BigMo is equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and an electric clutch blade brake. The Mower Blade Engagement Control is a PTO (Power Take-Off) switch. To enable the blades to turn for operation, compress the Operator Presence Control Bale and pull the Mower Blade Engagement Control knob up. To disengage blades, push the knob down or in. BigMo is also equipped with a 2-position Hydro Release Lever on the rear of the machine that puts the transmission in Neutral for easy transport. (Fig. 6)



ALWAYS be certain that the PTO control is disengaged, the engine is off, the key is removed, and the spark plug wire is disconnected before inspecting or servicing the mower.



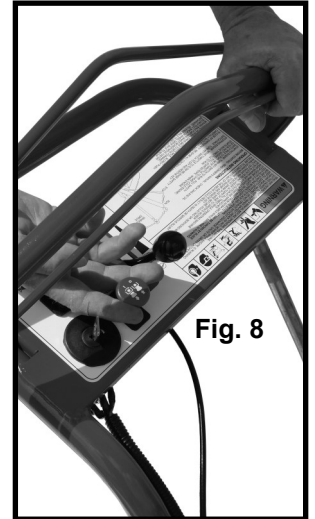
This Made in the U.S.A. decal has nothing to do with operator safety. It's just something we're darn proud of.

## SAFETY INTERLOCK SYSTEM:

For additional safety protection, your Sarlo mower is equipped with Operator Presence Controls, also known as a Safety Interlock System.

The OPC system is designed to prevent the mower from running with blades turning when left unattended, creating unsafe conditions. The Wheel Drive Control Bale automatically returns to Neutral upon release.

The Operator Presence Bale must be held continuously in order to engage the mower blades. (Fig. 8) If the Operator Presence Bale is released while the PTO or mower blades are engaged, the engine will stop running. If the PTO and mower blades are disengaged, the operator may release the mower and leave the operator's position with the engine running normally.



Starting the mower requires that the Mower Blade Engagement Control be in the OFF (down) position and the Wheel Drive Control Bale must be in the RELEASED (Neutral) position.

The Safety Interlock System should be checked for proper function before each use and any deficiency corrected before use. Disabling the Safety Interlock System will immediately void the warranty of your mower.

## GETTING STARTED:

Follow the assembly instructions included with this Owner's Manual to install the handlebars, and to connect the hydro control rod to your BigMo. Next, check oil and add fuel.

Before operating the mower, become familiar with all of the mower and engine controls. You may refer to the photo and list of components in page 2 of this Owner's Manual. Understanding the function, location and operation of these controls is key to the safe and efficient operation of the equipment.

## OPERATION:

**Starting the Engine (Cold):** Turn the key in the Ignition Switch clockwise to "Run" and move the Engine Throttle Control Lever to its forward-most position (choke). (Fig.9)



If the Mower Blade Engagement Control is in the "Off" (down) position, it is not necessary to hold the Operator Presence Bale. The Wheel Drive Control Bale should be released (in neutral). Vigorously pull engine start handle until engine starts. After engine starts and stabilizes, move the Engine Throttle Control Lever back to the FAST position. If the engine is warm, there is no need to use the choke.

**Stopping the Engine:** Turn off the mower deck and stop blade rotation by pushing DOWN on the Mower Blade Engagement Control. Move the Engine Throttle Control Lever back to the SLOW position. Release the Operator Presence Bale and turn the key in the Ignition Switch counter-clockwise to the OFF position. Remove the key.

**Emergency Stopping:** In an emergency, immediately release all machine controls and carefully back away from the mower.

**Operating the Wheel Drive:** The travel speed and direction (forward and reverse) of your mower is controlled by the Wheel Drive Control Bale. Your mower is also equipped with an automotive-style differential to make it exceptionally easy to steer and turn. The Wheel Drive Control Bale automatically returns to Neutral whenever it is released.

To move the machine FORWARD, rest your fingers of both hands on the stationary Cross Bar and hook your thumbs behind the Wheel Drive Control Bale. (Fig. 10)



Gently press the bale forward and the mower will begin to move forward. Moving the bale further forward will increase the forward travel speed of the mower. When the Wheel Drive Control Bale is brought even with the stationary Cross Bar, the mower will travel at its maximum forward speed.

To move the machine IN REVERSE, firmly place one hand on the stationary Cross Bar to steer and stabilize the mower. Using your other hand, gently pull back on the Wheel

Drive Control Bale. Moving the bale further backward will increase the reverse travel speed of the mower.

Release the Wheel Drive Control Bale to return to Neutral.

**Engaging the Mower Blades:** After confirming that the area to mow is free of hazards and bystanders, move the Engine Throttle Control to FAST, pull the Operator Presence Bale back to its engaged position and pull UP on the Mower Blade Engagement Control. (Fig. 11) If the mower blades are engaged, the Operator Presence Bale must be held continuously in the engaged position. If the Operator Presence Bale is released while the mower blades are engaged, the engine will stop running.

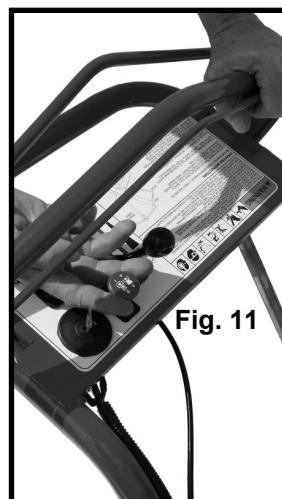


Fig. 11

### Stopping the Mower Blades:

In an emergency, the mower blades may be stopped by releasing the Operator Presence Bale. Under normal conditions, push DOWN on the Mower Blade Engagement Control and release the Operator Presence Bale. The engine will continue to run.

### Adjusting the Height of Cut:

Your Sarlo mower offers seven cutting heights ranging from 1.5 to 4.5-inches, in half-inch increments. The height of cut can be changed quickly and easily without the need for tools. The mower utilizes

adjusters at both the front and rear of the machine to ensure a flat and level cut. All adjusters should be placed in the same position.



**CAUTION! BEFORE ADJUSTING HEIGHT OF CUT, TURN OFF ENGINE AND REMOVE KEY!**

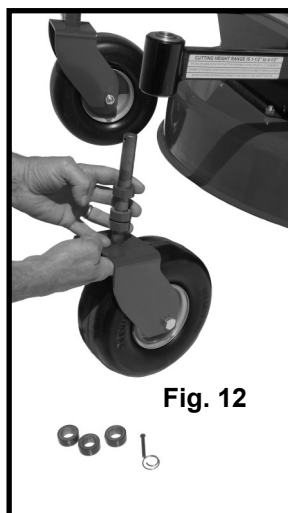


Fig. 12

To adjust the FRONT height of cut, remove the circle cotter retaining rings from the tops of both Caster Fork shafts along with any loose spacers and set aside. With the front of the mower deck lifted and securely supported with the wheels off the ground, slide the Caster Fork and Wheel assemblies downward until they disengage the support bearings in the frame. (Fig. 12)

If the forks have not been serviced, lightly lubricating the shafts may help with this process. Determine your desired cutting height, bearing in mind

that the more spacers placed on the **underside** of the fork raises the cutting position. For example:

Spacers Bottom	Cutting Height
0	1.5"
1	2.0"
2	2.5"
3	3.0"
4	3.5"
5	4.0"
6	4.5"

To adjust the REAR height of cut, locate the two black knobs (one on each side of the rear of the machine) near the base of the handlebar support. Remove the knobs and any washers and set aside. (Fig. 13) Hold up lightly on the rear height of cut lift bar, and remove the carriage bolts from the adjusters on both sides of the machine.

At this point, the Rear Axle Swing Arm of the mower is free to move up and down, allowing the rear height of cut position to be changed. The forward most hole in the adjuster is Position 6 (High). The rear most hole in the adjuster is Position 0 (Low).

Pulling up or pushing down on the Height of Cut Lift Bar, pivot the adjuster until the holes are aligned at the position desired. Reinstall bolts with washers and securely tighten knobs. The number position chosen on the rear adjusters should correspond with the number of spacers present on the underside of the front caster forks.

For example, if using 4 spacers under the front caster forks, select position 4 on the rear adjusters.

**Disengaging the Transmission:** The hydrostatic transmission of your Sarlo mower has a Release Lever on the back of the frame that allows it to be easily rolled without the engine running.



Fig. 13

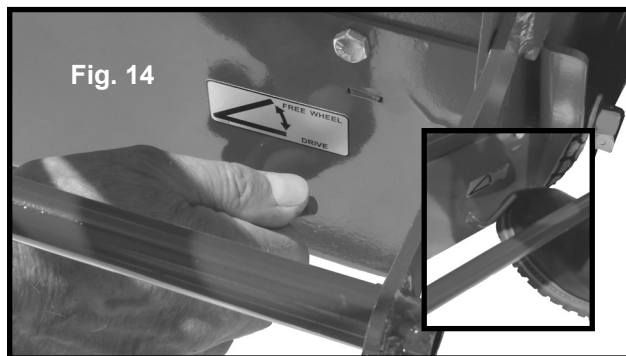


Fig. 14

To release the hydraulic pump, rotate the lever counter-clockwise to the "Free Wheel" position. (Fig. 14) To return to normal self-propel function, rotate the lever back to the "Drive" position. The Hydro Release Lever may also be operated using the foot.

**Adjusting the Hydro Control Rod:** The speed of the mower's hydro drive may be altered with simple adjustments to the Hydro Control Rod.

The mower is adjusted at the factory to run at its maximum forward speed of 6 mph at "full grip." Landscapers will likely appreciate the speed but it may be too fast for others, especially homeowners.

To adjust/reduce the maximum (full grip) speed of the mower, shorten the length of the hydro control rod. When the rod is shortened, it changes the at-rest position of the hydro bale forward.

When the operator then grips the bale, it stops-out (goes full grip) against the crossbar sooner than before, because there is less travel. This limits the amount of

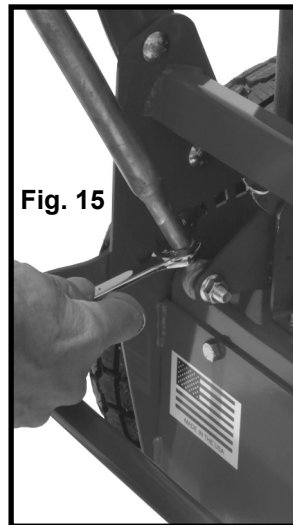


Fig. 15

stroke on the hydro pump, which in turn reduces the maximum speed of the machine.

To change the length of the hydro control rod, loosen the jam nut at the end of the rod next to the ball joint. (Fig. 15)

Since the rod is threaded RH/LH at the ends, the center tube can be turned, either taking up, or letting out the overall length of the rod.

Small changes in the length of the rod produce a noticeable change in the forward ground speed of the mower. Owners should adjust speed to individual

walking preferences.

## MAINTENANCE:

**Engine:** For all Engine Maintenance Requirements and Specifications, please refer to the manufacturer's separate engine manual provided with your mower.

**Transmission:** The hydrostatic transmission in your mower was designed for extended use in a commercial environment. It is a sealed unit and requires no routine maintenance.

**General Lubrication:** Your Sarlo mower has three grease fittings; one on each of the front caster wheels and one on the mower blade spindle. (Fig. 16) The grease fitting for the blade spindle is accessed from the underside of the mowing deck.

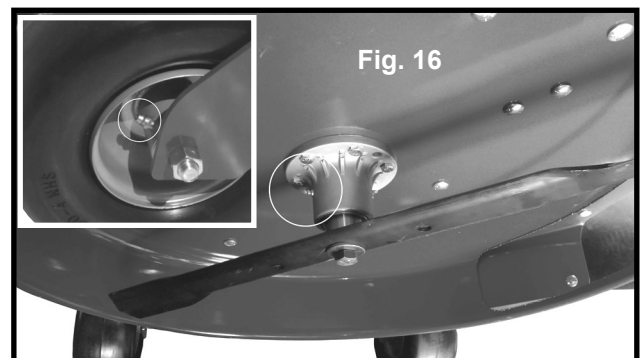


Fig. 16

The caster wheels should each be greased **every 100 hours of operation**. The mower blade spindle should be greased **every 40 hours of operation**.

Sarlo recommends the use of high-temperature/high-pressure "red" lithium grease.

**Caster Fork Service:** To make removal of the caster forks easier (for height of cut adjustments), it is recommended that operators occasionally remove the fork and wheel assemblies from their support bearings in the frame. Clean the shafts thoroughly of all accumulated dirt, rust and debris with fine sandpaper, then lubricate the shafts and bearing bores with a light lubricant such as WD-40 or PB-Blaster.

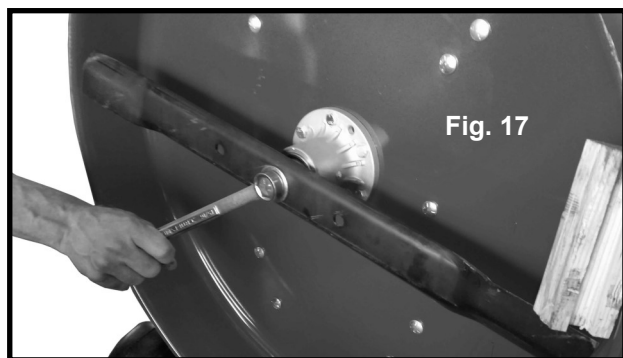
**Drive Chain Lubrication:** The wheel drive axle on your mower is driven by a roller chain that should be thoroughly lubricated at regular intervals. Dirtier environments require that the chain be lubricated more frequently. Sarlo recommends a foaming molybdenum aerosol grease like the kind commonly used for motorcycle chains. The chain should be lubricated **every 100 hours of operation**.

**Sharpening the Cutting Blade:** A sharp blade is the first step in achieving a beautiful cut.

**CAUTION! BEFORE SERVICING BLADES OR PERFORMING ANY WORK UNDERNEATH THE CUTTING DECK, TURN OFF ENGINE AND REMOVE KEY!**

Tilt the mower back and support securely to access the underside of the mowing deck. This task is done more easily with the help of a friend. (Fig. 17)

Block the blade from rotation and using a 15/16" box-end wrench or socket, remove the center retention bolt along with its special cupped locking washer and set aside.



On a suitable grinder, reshape the original cutting edge and angle and smooth away any nicks or dings. Always seek to remove the minimal amount of material.

Reinstall the blade to the spindle making certain that the airlift "wings" are to the upside and that the cupped side of the washer faces "up" against the blade. The blade retention bolt should be tightened using a torque wrench with a minimum setting of 55 Ft. Lbs.

**Tire Air Pressure:** For best traction and minimal tracking, the rear tires of your mower should be inflated to 12-16 PSI. The front caster tires are urethane-filled (no-flats) and require no inflation maintenance.

**Belt Tensioning:** The belt system is easy to access for cleaning and belt replacement. The belt has automatic spring tensioning and requires no adjustment. Never access the belt and pulley system unless the engine is turned off and the blades have stopped turning.

**Cleaning:** Clean your Sarlo after each use. Let the unit cool, then wipe the grass and debris from mower and engine. Tip the mower back to clean underneath deck. Check the mower condition to prepare it for the next use. Check the blade and mounting hardware at frequent intervals for wear and tightness. If a pressure washer is used for cleaning, we strongly advise caution around hubs and bearings where pressurized water and contaminants could be forced inside, leading to premature failure.

**SERVICE, PARTS & ACCESSORIES:**

Your Sarlo mower has been built with the finest materials available to provide you with long life and enjoyable service. Please replace any and all worn items with genuine SARLO original equipment parts for safety and for best performance.

Parts and accessories may be purchased through your local Sarlo dealer. In the event no dealer is available, parts can be ordered directly from our factory.

**Accessories:** The BigMo Standard Side Discharge may be equipped with an optional grass catcher/bagger or a mulch kit and mulch blades.

To place an order for genuine parts and accessories, or to locate the Sarlo dealer nearest you, please contact us at Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc.

**www.sarlomower.com**

Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc.

P.O. Box 1196

Fort Myers, FL 33902

**Phone: 1-800-749-5296**

---

**SARLO BigMo™ Service Parts List:**

Part #	Description	Quantity
10104	Weldment, Caster Fork	2
10105	Spacer, Caster Fork	12
10106	Bearing, Caster Fork	6
10109	Caster Wheel/Tire Assembly	2
10118	Weldment, Deck	1
10119	Belt, 30 Deck -	1
10120	Pulley, Deck Idler	1
10121	Blade, 30 BigMo	1
10130	Bushing, Deck	1
10131	Sleeve, Deck	1
10134	Spring, Deck	1

(Continued on Next Page)



