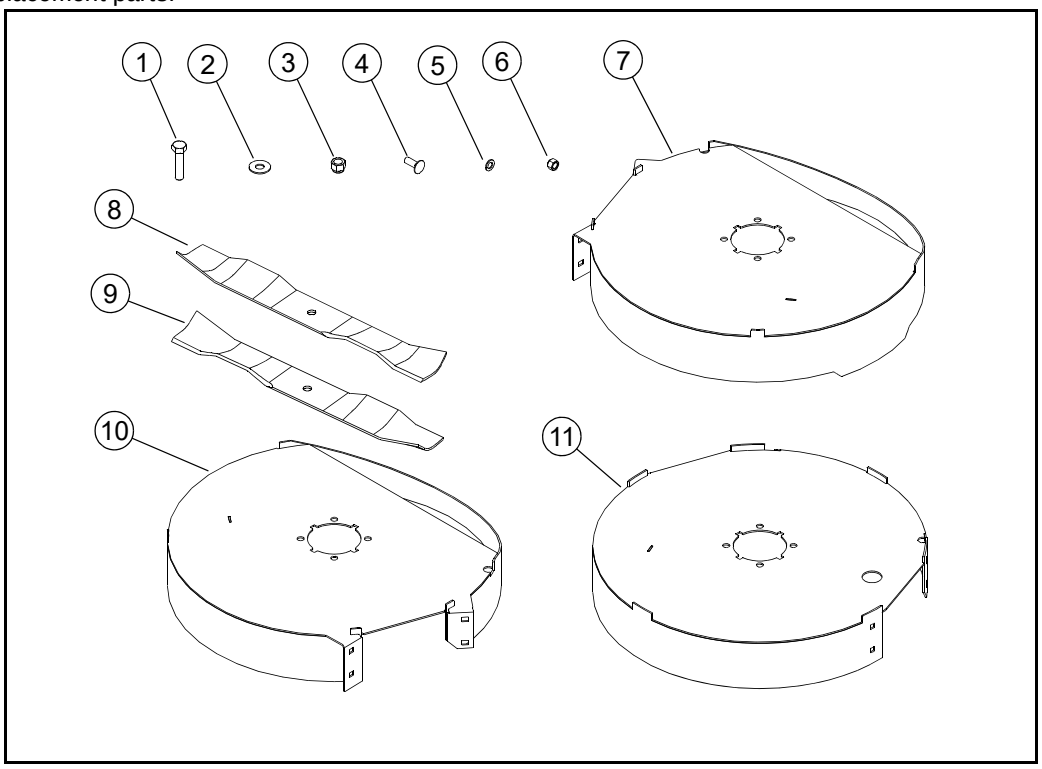
72” Rear Discharge Deck Mulch Kit **Instruction Number 122650**
Part Number 122651

Packing List

Listed below are parts included in this kit. If any parts are missing or damaged, please contact Excel Parts Department. Retain these instructions for replacement parts.



INDEX NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.
1	078949	CS .500-13 X 2.00 HX G5 ZNY	12
2	704759	FW .500 X 1.25 X .075 ZNY	12
3	781567	NT .500-13 HX G8 ZY NL	12
4	025395	CB .375-16 X 1.00 G5 ZNY	8
5	704718	FW .406 X .688 X .060 ZNYC	8
6	086660	NT .375-16 HX G5 NL	8
7	119179	LS BAFFLE	1
8	793398	BLADE, 23.86"-MUL-F-CW	2
9	604164	BLADE, 23.86"-MUL-F-CCW	1
10	119176	RS BAFFLE	1
11	119172	CENTER BAFFLE	1

WARNING

Use only appropriate vehicle stands, with a minimum weight rating of 2000 pounds to block the unit up. Use in pairs only. Follow the instructions supplied with the vehicle stands.

Assembly

1. Park the mower on a solid, level surface; set the park brakes; shut-off the engine; and remove the ignition key. (Disconnect the negative battery cable.)
2. Chock the wheels to prevent the mower from moving.
3. Remove the right- and left-side pulley covers. Retain the covers and the hardware for re-installation.
4. Remove the floor pan for access to the center pulley and spindle. Retain the floor pan and the hardware for re-installation.
5. Note the number of links in the spring tension chain at the anchor point, then release the tension springs to reduce tension on the belts. Move the belts out of the way to work on each pulley.
6. Working with one pulley at a time, remove and retain the spindle top cap screw, pulley, any spacers and the hardware to gain access to the spindle. Fig. 1
7. Remove only two of the existing spindle cap screws at a time (to keep the spindle in place) and replace them with the provided cap screws. Reuse the existing flat washers. Fig. 1
8. Remove and replace the other two cap screws with the provided cap screws. Reuse the existing flat washers.
9. Torque the four spindle cap screws to 118 ft-lbs. (160 N•m).

WARNING

Failure to correctly torque the cap screws may result in the loss of the blade which can cause serious injury.

10. Replace the spindle top cap screw, pulley, any spacers and the hardware removed in step 6. Fig. 1
11. Torque the spindle top cap screw to 118 ft-lbs. (160 N•m).

WARNING

Failure to correctly torque the spindle top cap screw may result in the loss of the blade which can cause serious injury.

12. Repeat steps 7 through 11 for the other two pulleys. Fig. 1
13. Route the belts as shown in Fig. 2 inset with the BB-section belt using the top of the double pulley and the B-section belt using the bottom pulley. Fig. 2
14. Adjust the belt tension by attaching the spring chain link where it was before at the anchor point.

    IMPORTANT: Do not over tension the spring to compensate for a badly worn belt or pulley,
15. Be sure the spring length is correct (between 9.3" and 10.3" for a new belt) as measured from the outside of one hook to the outside of the opposite hook. Fig. 2
16. Replace the right- and left-side pulley covers using the existing hardware.
17. Replace the floor pan using the existing hardware.
18. Place mower securely on jack stands and do not allow machine to move. Chock front wheels and remove drive wheels.
19. Remove the existing blades. Retain the hardware for installing the mulch blades. Fig. 3

    NOTE: Keep the existing blades to use when the mulch kit is removed.

WARNING

Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves and use extra caution when servicing them.

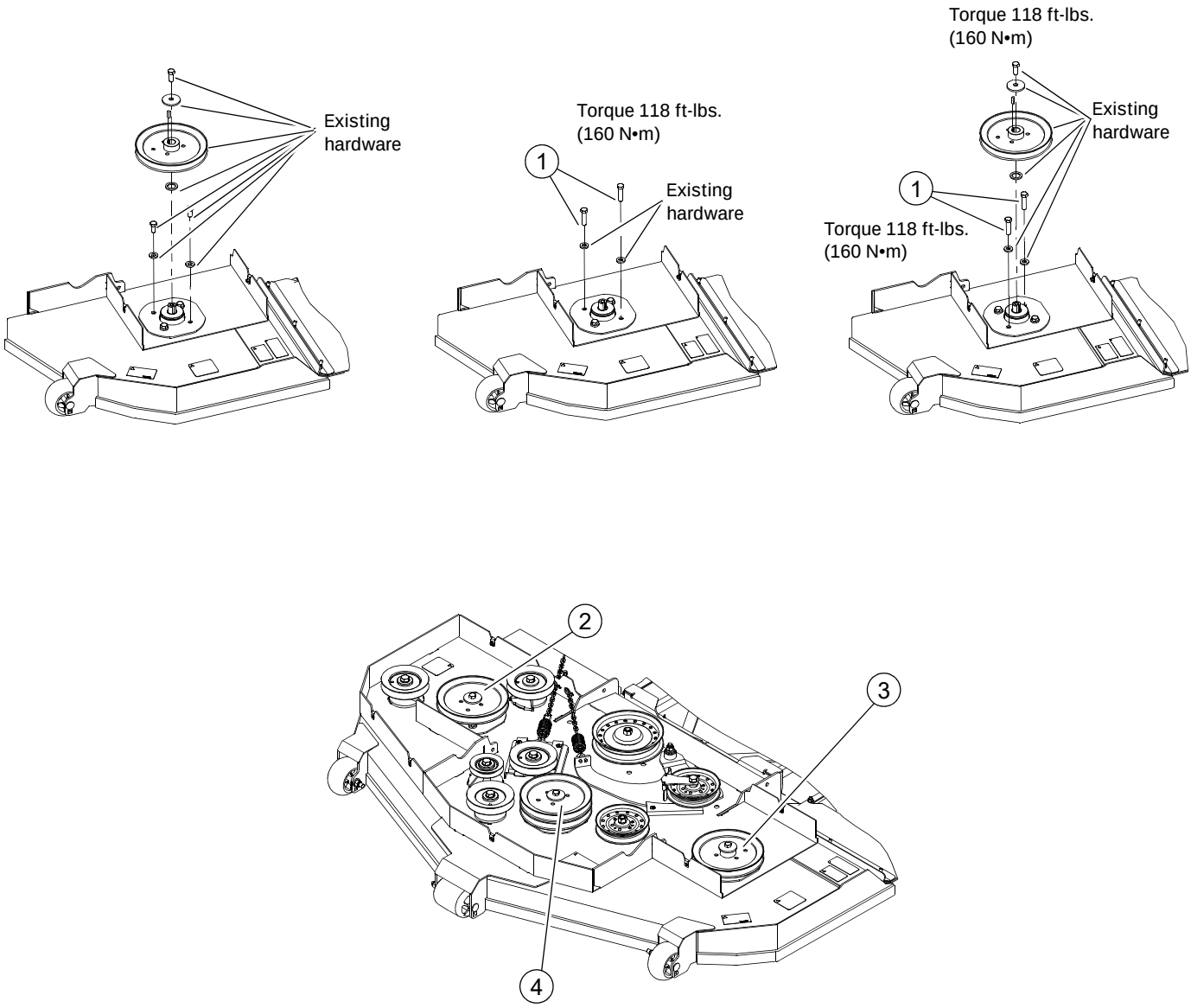
20. Starting with the left-side spindle, attach the left-side baffle to the spindle cap screws using the provided flat washers and nuts. Fig. 3
21. Attach the center baffle to the center spindle using the provided flat washers and nuts. Fig. 4
22. Connect the two baffles using the provided carriage bolts, flat washers and nuts. Fig. 4
23. Tighten all hardware.
24. Attach the right-side baffle to the spindle cap screws using the provided flat washers and nuts. Fig. 5
25. Connect the right-side baffle to the center baffle using the provided carriage bolts, flat washers and nuts. Fig. 5
26. Tighten all hardware.

27. Attach the mulching blades to the spindles using the existing blade hardware. Torque the spindle cap screws to 118 ft-lbs. (160 N•m). Fig. 6

WARNING

Failure to correctly torque the spindle cap screw may result in the loss of the blade which can cause serious injury.

28. Lower the mower.
29. Remove the wheel chocks.
30. Reconnect the negative battery cable and continue operation.



INDEX NO. **DESCRIPTION**

1	CS .500-13 X 2.00 HX G5 ZNY
2	RIGHT-SIDE PULLEY
3	LEFT-SIDE PULLEY
4	CENTER PULLEY

FIG. 1

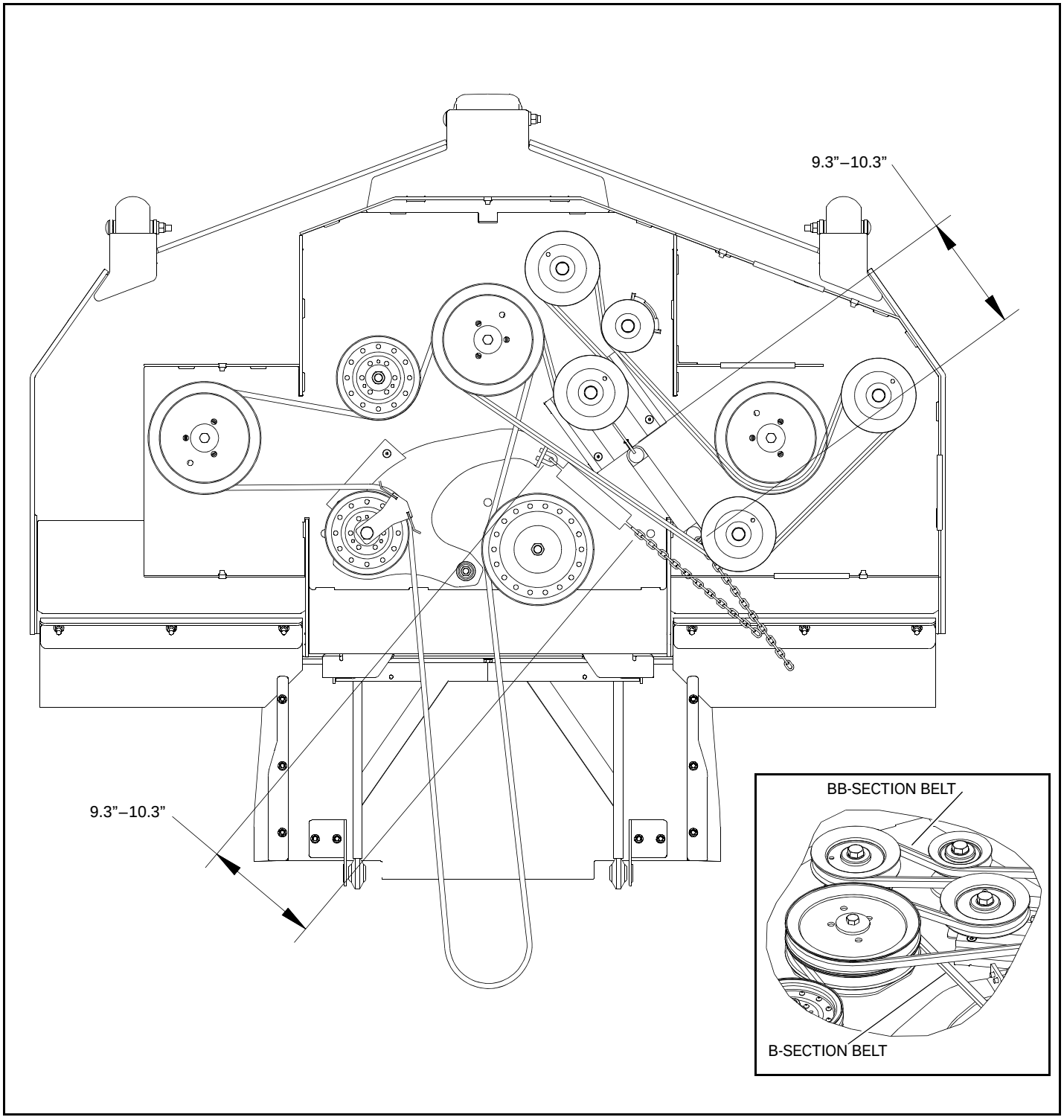
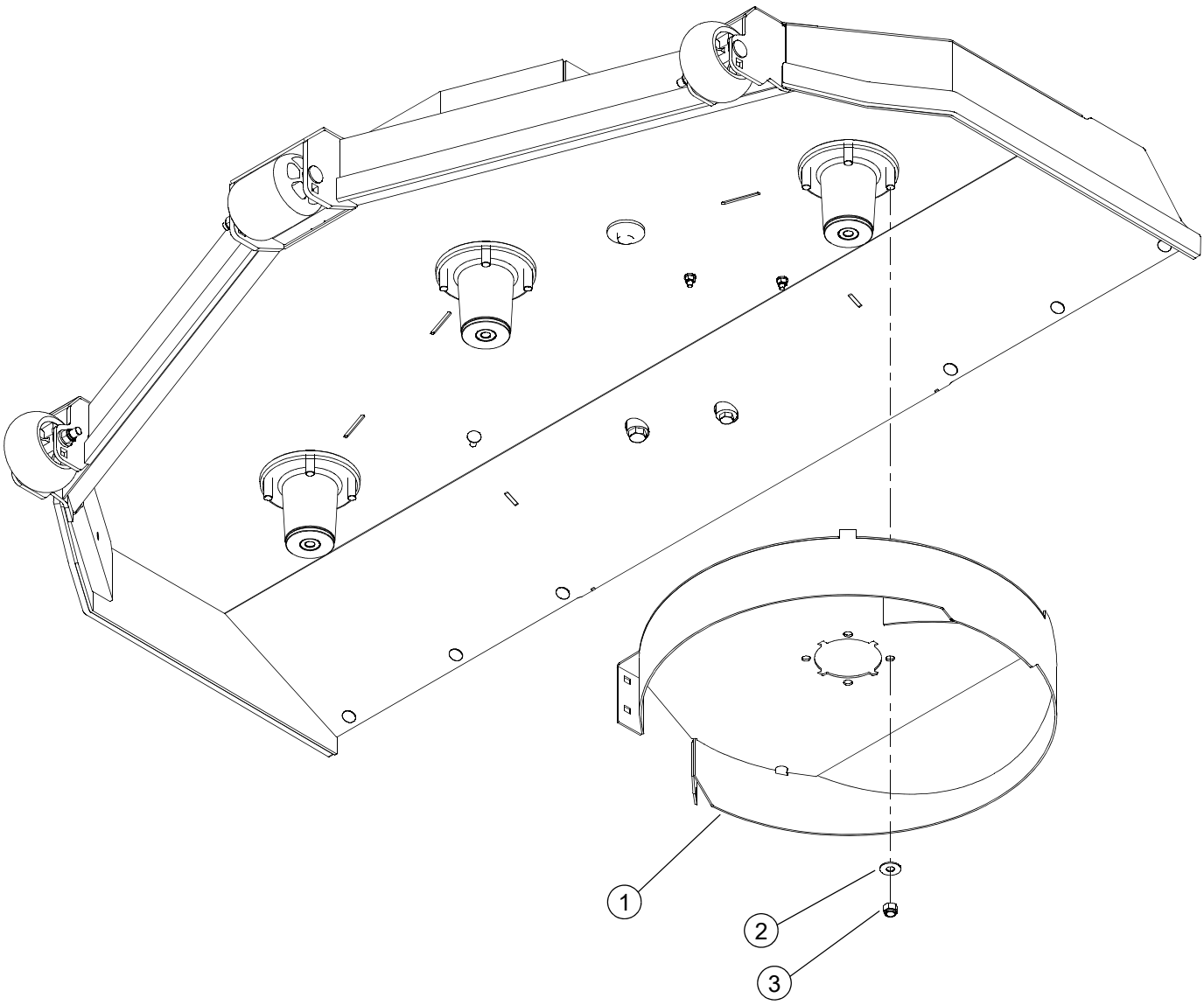
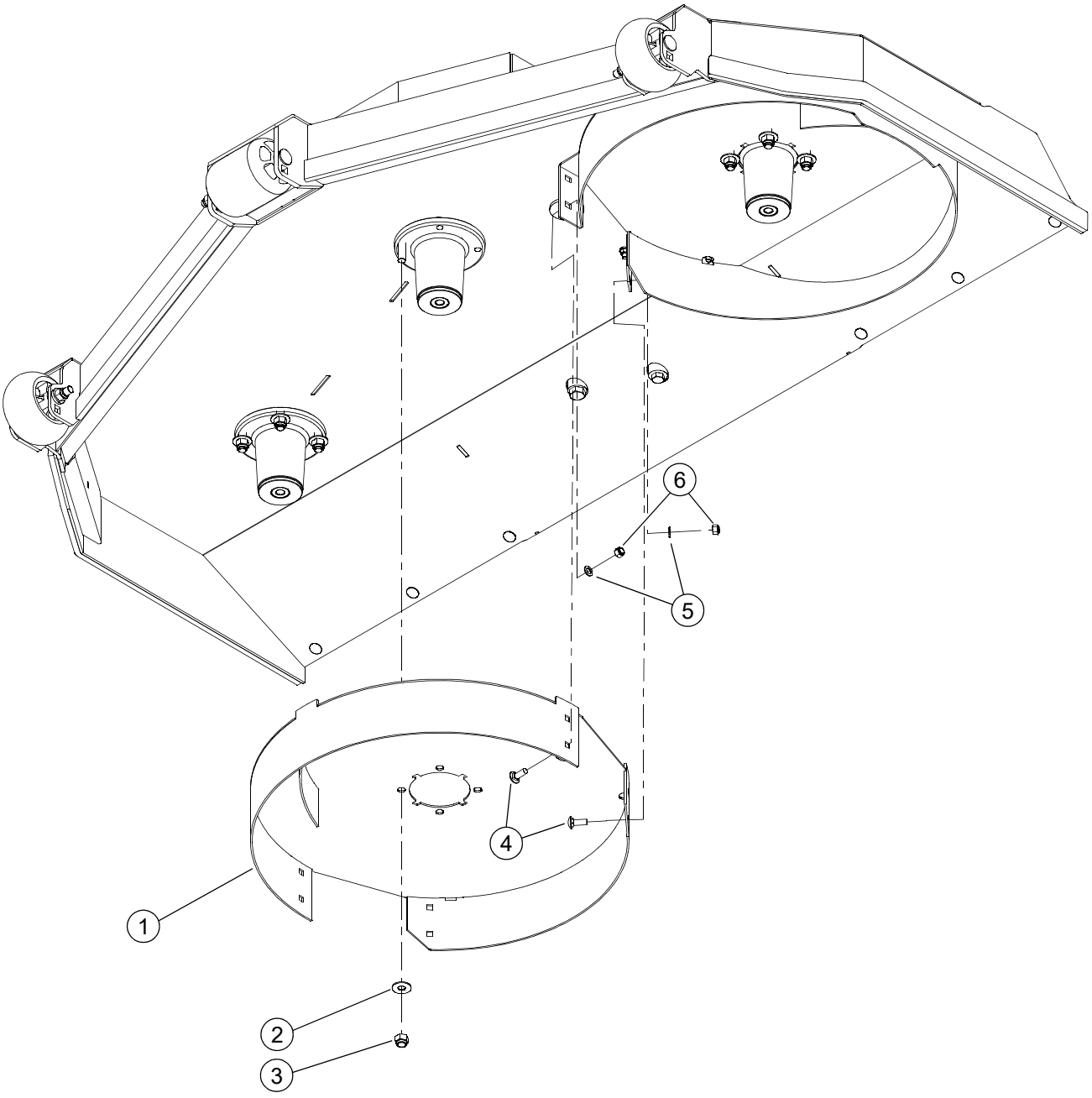


FIG. 2



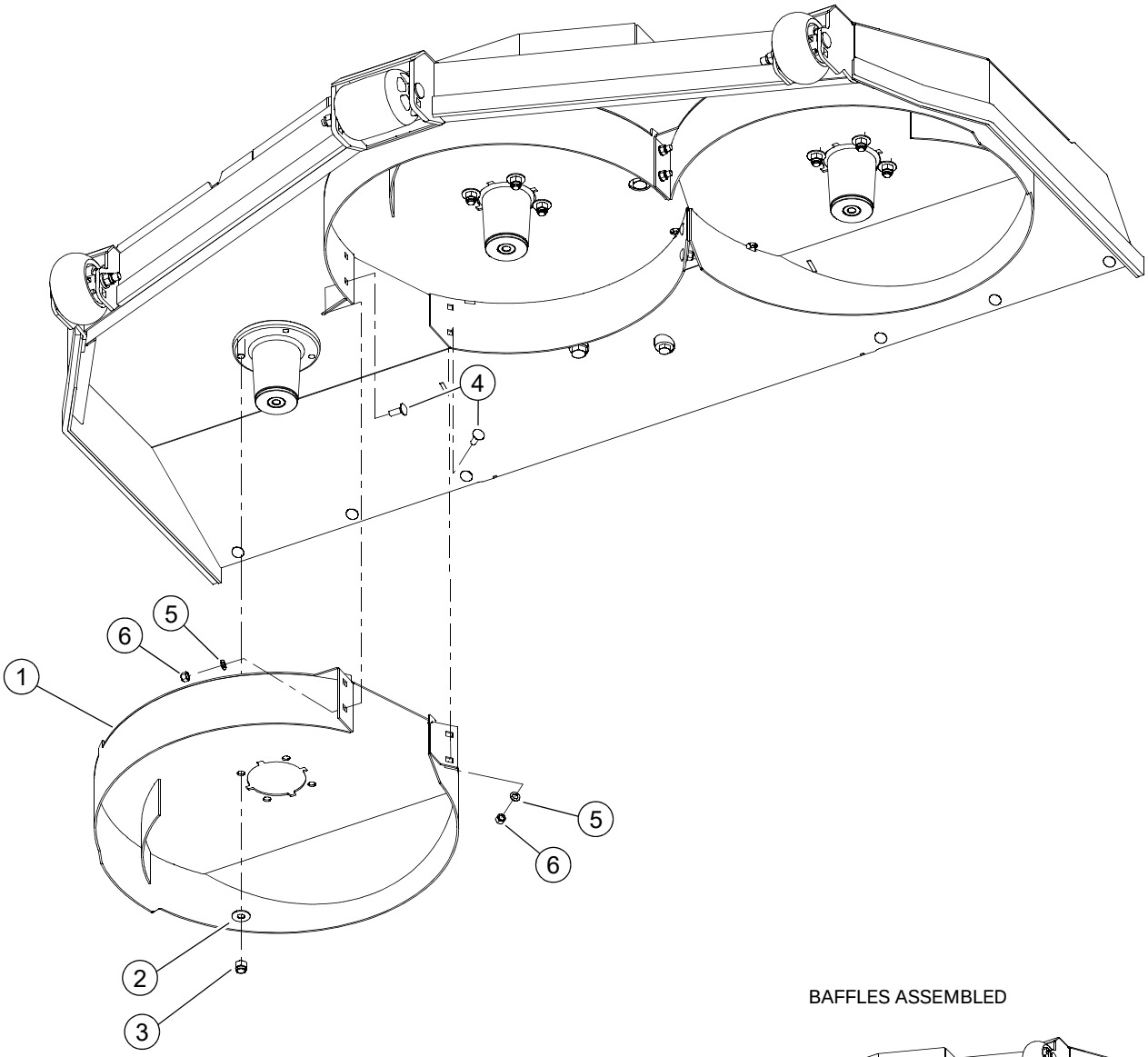
INDEX NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	LEFT-SIDE BAFFLE
2	FW .500 X 1.25 X .075 ZNY
3	NT .500-13 HX G8 ZY NL

FIG. 3

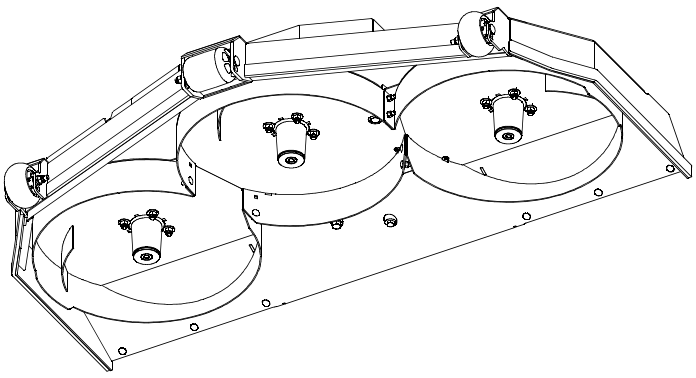


INDEX NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	CENTER BAFFLE
2	FW .500 X 1.25 X .075 ZNY
3	NT .500-13 HX G8 ZY NL
4	CB .375-16 X 1.00 G5 ZNY
5	FW .406 X .688 X .060 ZNYC
6	NT .375-16 HX G5 NL

FIG. 4

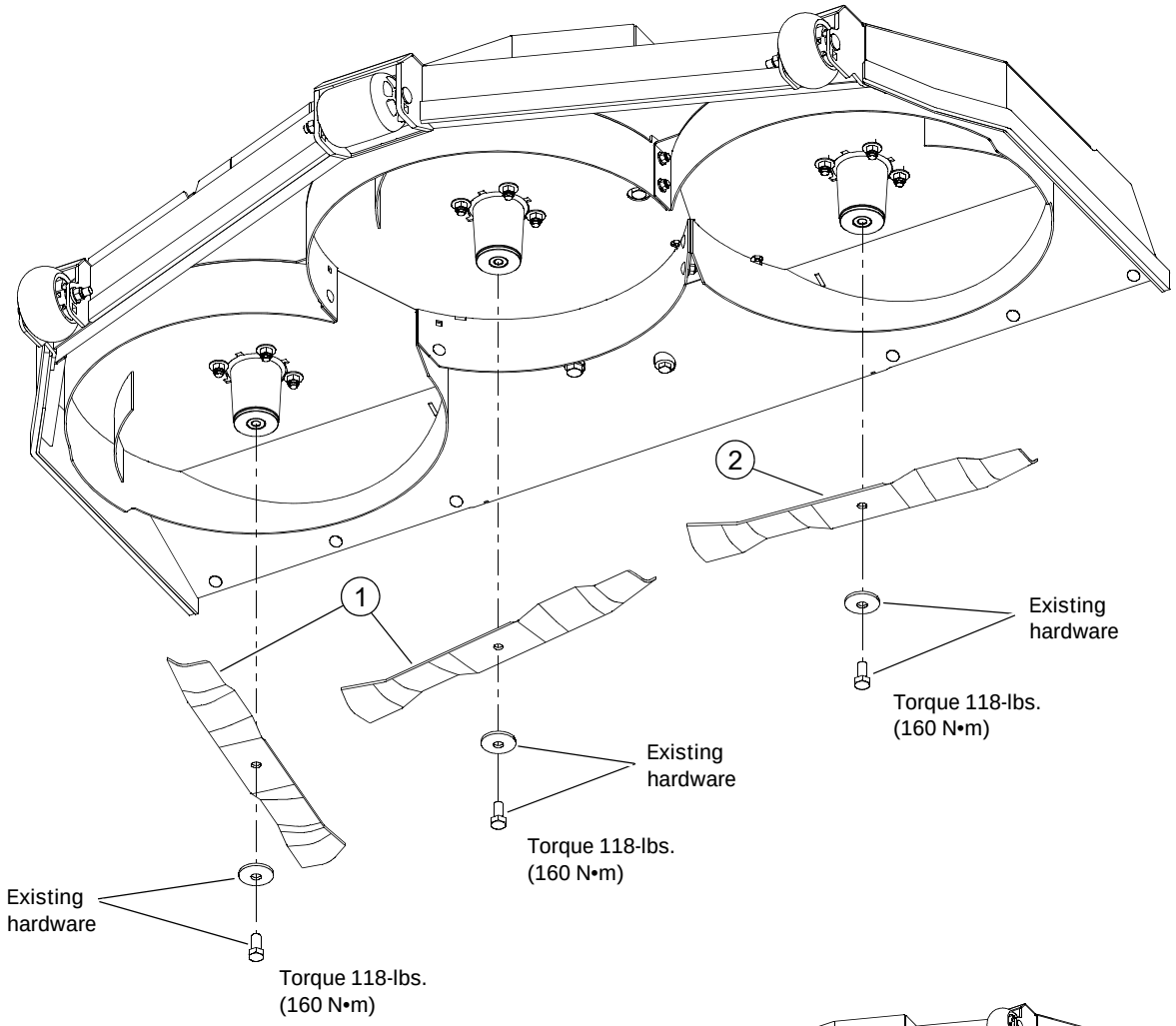


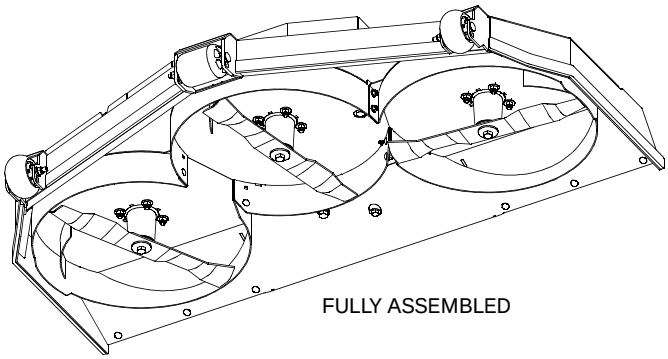
BAFFLES ASSEMBLED



INDEX NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	RIGHT-SIDE BAFFLE
2	FW .500 X 1.25 X .075 ZNY
3	NT .500-13 HX G8 ZY NL
4	CB .375-16 X 1.00 G5 ZNY
5	FW .406 X .688 X .060 ZNYC
6	NT .375-16 HX G5 NL

FIG. 5





FULLY ASSEMBLED

INDEX NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	BLADE, 23.86"-MUL-F-CW
2	BLADE, 23.86"-MUL-F-CCW

FIG. 6

Converting to Discharge Mode

If you decide to remove the mulch blades and baffles, for any reason, the following procedure should be used to convert the deck back to the discharge mode.

1. Park the mower on a solid, level surface; set the park brakes; shut-off the engine; and remove the ignition key. (Disconnect the negative battery cable.)
2. Raise the front of the mower and block it up high enough to allow the kit to be removed from the underneath side of the deck. Chock the drive wheels to prevent the mower from moving.

   NOTE: Never operate the mower with the discharge chute damaged, altered, removed, or in the raised position, except when the entire grass catcher attachment or mulching system is being used.
3. Remove the end cap baffle, center baffle and left side baffle from the underneath side of the deck. Fig. 6

WARNING

Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves and use extra caution when servicing them.

4. Replace the mulch blades with the original blades. Torque bolts on the spindles to 118 ft-lbs. (160N•m).

WARNING

Failure to correctly torque the spindle bolt may result in the loss of the blade which can cause serious injury.

5. Lower the mower.
6. Remove the wheel chocks.
7. Reconnect the negative battery cable and continue operation.

WARNING

Never operate the mower deck with the discharge chute damaged, altered, removed, or in the raised position, except when the entire grass catcher attachment or mulching system is being used.

Mulch tips

Mulching grass and leaves into your lawn can be very beneficial. However, mulching can also result in possible negative consequences if not done carefully and correctly. Listed below are some helpful mulching guidelines to help keep your lawn looking healthy.

Cut off 1" or less of grass at a time. Doing this will make it necessary to mow more frequently when using a mulch kit. Cutting off too much grass at one time can overload the deck and the engine. This can result in poor cut quality and clumps of debris being deposited on top of the grass. Debris that is left on top of the grass can smother the grass, and it may not break down prior to the next mowing.

If the grass is too tall, raise the cutting height of the deck to mulch off 1" of grass. When finished, drop the deck another 1" and mow again. Repeat this process if necessary. Sometimes there may be more grass or debris than can reasonably be mulched. In this situation, either collect the debris with a catching system or remove the mulch kit and mow in side or rear discharge mode. Upon completion of this task, manually collect the debris.

Slow down. It will be necessary to operate the mower at a slower ground speed than when operating without the mulch kit. Mulching re-cuts grass and leaves multiple times. This consumes more power. Mowing slower gives the blades more time to reduce the clipping size. This allows the clippings to fall out between the tip of the blades and inside of the housing.

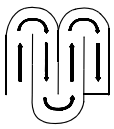
Try not to mow wet grass. The mower will have difficulty processing wet grass without the grass clumping. Wet grass will also collect on the underneath side of the deck. This will make it necessary to frequently clean the underneath side of the deck in order for it to operate properly.

Mulching heavily weeded areas can have the same effect as mulching wet grass. Weeds will often have a high moisture content and can be very sticky.

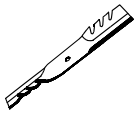
Set the throttle at full rpm for maximum performance. The blade tip speed is important. If the engine speed begins to drop, slow down the mowing ground speed until the engine can speed up.

Do not mulch too low. Mulching at a low cutting height reduces the space available to accept the clippings. This results in more visible debris. Mowing low also allows valuable soil moisture to escape.

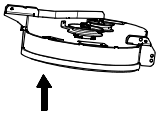
Avoid mulching when weeds are seeding out. Mulching provides a good seedbed for weeds to germinate. If you have many weed seeds, consider collecting the grass instead of mulching.



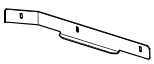
Be conscious of your mowing pattern. Shutting off the deck at the end of a pass, or backing up, can result in grass being dropped in front of the blades. It is important to plan your mowing pattern so that any dropped debris can be picked up.



Use appropriate blades for leaf mulching. If the grass is dry, the height of the cut can be lowered to prevent leaves from blowing away from the front of the deck. In some conditions, Gator™ style mulching blades are effective at breaking leaves into smaller pieces. Gator™ mulching blades are available from your dealer.



Adjust the pitch of the deck. Adjusting the pitch of the deck may result in improved mulching performance. Setting the deck level, or with the rear of the deck slightly lower than the front, can keep material in the deck longer. This will result in finer clippings. Conversely, if the rear of the deck is higher than the front, it may allow faster mowing, but larger clippings.



Lower the baffles. When mulching with a rear discharge deck that is fitted with adjustable front baffles, lower the baffles to the lowest setting to prevent debris from being blown out of the front of the deck.