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MANUAL PREVIEW

Ford

Operator's Manual

538

Mower Conditioner

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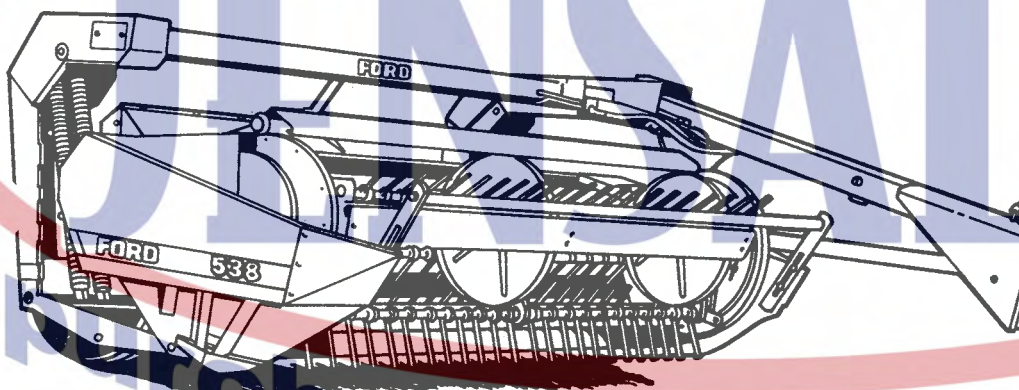
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Operator's Manual

FO-O-538 MC

FORD

**Series 538
MOWER
CONDITIONER**



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OPERATOR'S MANUAL

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CAUTION

Read the Operator's Manual.

Learn to operate this machine SAFELY.

Be alert. Observe ALL Safety Practices.

Machines can be hazardous in the hands of an UNFAMILIAR, UNTRAINED or COMPLACENT operator.

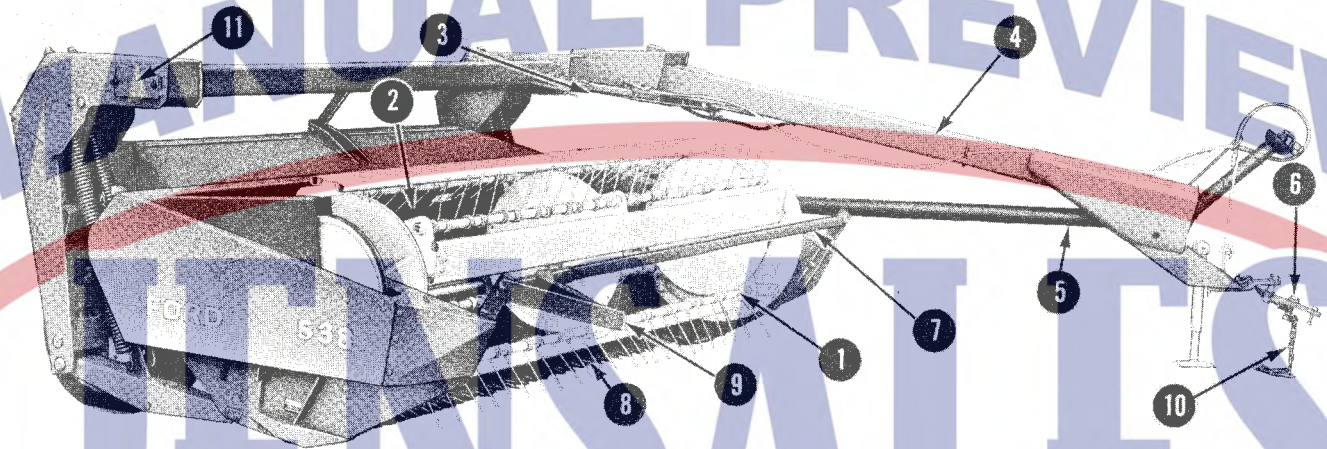
Don't risk INJURY or DEATH.

MA-10034

INTRODUCTION

The Ford 538 Mower-Conditioner is designed to cut a variety of crops and place the conditioned material in a swath or windrow. The machines are factory adjusted for most conditions and will not require any adjustments unless unusual crops or crop conditions are encountered.

Wherever the terms "right" and "left" are used, it should be understood to mean from a position behind and facing the machine.



- 1 - Reel
- 2 - Conditioning rolls
- 3 - Tongue positioner
- 4 - Tongue

- 5 - Power line
- 6 - Equalizer hitch
- 7 - Pushover bar
- 8 - Cutter bar

- 9 - Tall crop divider
- 10 - Safety chain
- 11 - Spare knife compartment



- 1 - Tool box
- 2 - Gauge shoe
- 3 - Swath baffle control
- 4 - Float springs
- 5 - Jack

ADJUSTING AND OPERATING

OPERATING THE MOWER-CONDITIONER IN THE FIELD

TONGUE POSITIONING

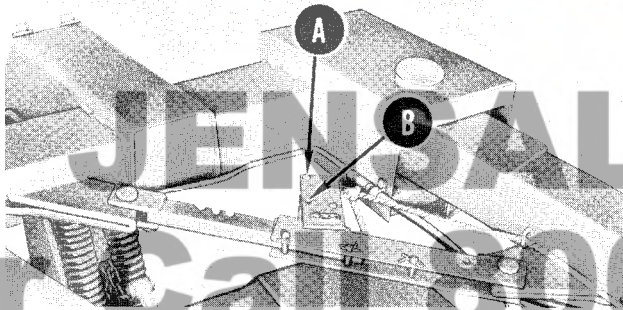
This machine must be operated with the tractor power take-off running at either 540 r.p.m. or 1000 r.p.m., depending on how the mower-conditioner is equipped. **Do not exceed these speeds.**

Rope Controlled Tongue Positioner

The rope-controlled tongue positioner permits you to place the mower-conditioner in any one of three operating positions as well as two transport positions from the tractor seat.

Pull the control rope to disengage the latching bar and drive the tractor forward or in reverse to dial the machine into working or transport position respectively. Lowering the header to the ground facilitates easier dialing. Release the control rope to allow the latching bar to enter the desired notch in the tongue positioner.

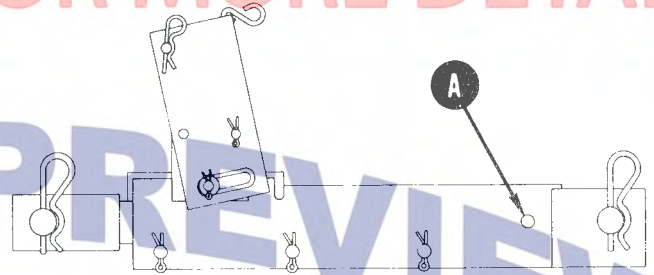
NOTE: It may be necessary to stop the tractor in order to disengage the latching bar from the tongue positioner.



A pin is provided for locking out the latching bar. When transporting the mower-conditioner, remove pin from A and insert in hole B to prevent accidental unlatching.

Use the tongue position that will allow a full cut and still provide the required clearance between the tractor tire and the standing crop.

NOTE: Insert headed pin at "A" to limit the tongue positioner when using the left side tall crop divider.

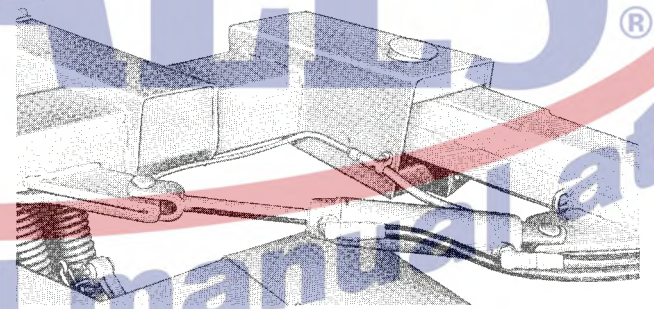


NOTE: The tongue positioner may operate more easily than you expect. Operate carefully to avoid damage.

Hydraulic Tongue Positioner (Optional)

A 3 x 8-inch double-acting hydraulic cylinder can be used to position the machine anywhere between transport and operating position.

NOTE: Do not substitute any other cylinder.



NOTE: To prevent interference with the tongue and power line, attach a stroke limiting stop collar as shown to limit the tongue positioner when using the left side tall crop divider.

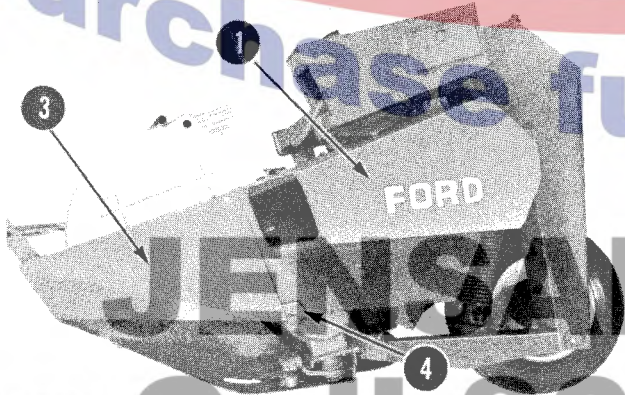
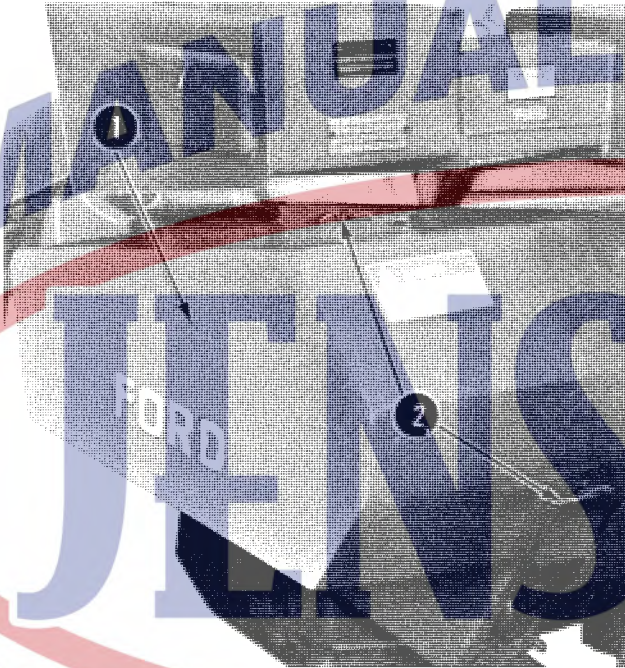
IMPORTANT: Some Ford 8" cylinder rods may protrude into the clevis and cause interference. Grind off the rod end in these instances.



- 1 - Hydraulic cylinder
- 2 - Stop collar

ADJUSTING AND OPERATING

To open the left-hand shield "1", unlatch clamps "2" on top and rear of shield. Slide the shield slightly rearward to disengage from the diver shield "3" and retainer bracket "4". The shield is still attached to the machine by the power line passing thru the opening in the front of the shield. Slide the shield along the powerline for access to drives and gear box.



NOTE: Do not raise or lower the header with shield removed.

Reinstall the shield in the reverse order of removal.

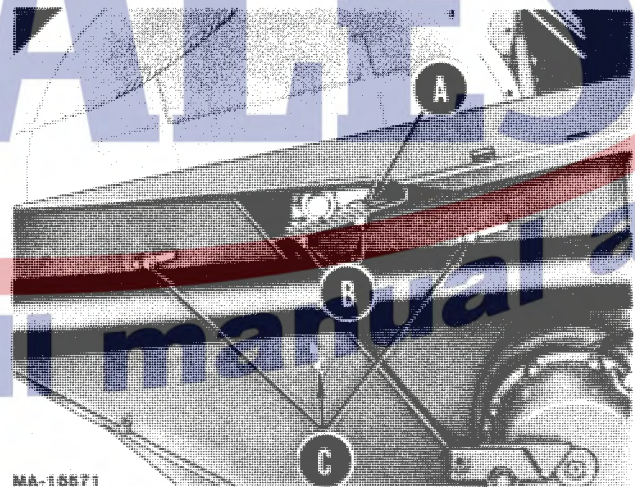
NOTE: Be sure the leading edge of the shield goes behind the divider shield and the bottom edge into the retainer bracket.

Position

The factory setting for the reel position is 23 inches from the center of the reel shaft to the center of the upper roll shaft.

Horizontal adjustment is obtained by loosening bolts "B" on each side and bolts "C" on the left side and sliding the reel along the side sheet ledges.

Vertical adjustment is obtained by adding or removing shims "A" from under the reel bearing supports. Store the shims that are not being used under the flange.



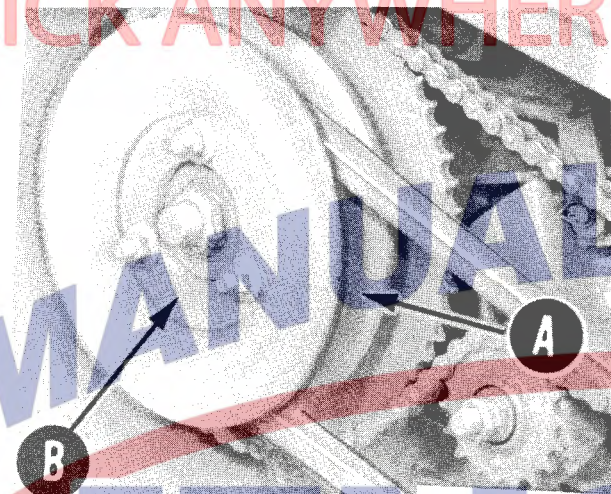
Left side of machine shown.
(shields removed)

NOTE: Both sides must be adjusted equally to prevent the reel from binding.

NOTE: The reel must be adjusted to prevent the tines from striking the knife hold-down clips or rolls; this can cause tine breakage.

ADJUSTING AND OPERATING

Speed



Reel drive shield removed.

The reel speed was factory set for 61 revolutions per minute (r.p.m.), but can be changed by adding or removing shims between the pulley halves in the reduction drive "A". Adding shims will decrease the speed. Refer to the reel speed chart. If shims are removed, store them on the outer side of the pulley as shown at "B".

Reel Speed Chart

No. of shims in reduction drive pulley	Reel Speed r.p.m.
0	79
1	74
2	70
3	65
4 Factory Setting	61
5	56



CAUTION: Avoid loose fitting clothing, which could catch on moving or rotating mechanisms.

ADJUSTING THE CONDITIONER ROLLS

The roll adjustments are factory set and will be satisfactory for most legumes, such as alfalfa and clover. For grass-type crops, additional roll pressure may be required. For thick stemmed crops (cane, sudex, and similar hybrids), decreased roll pressure with an increase in the roll gap will give the best conditioning results.

A crop is properly conditioned when the stems are crushed and the leaves undamaged. Excessive roll pressure will damage the leaves. Damaged leaves will dry too fast, resulting in excessive leaf loss. A delay in checking the effect of proper conditioning will be more conclusive than an immediate inspection.

Roll Gap

With the header in the down or working position, check the roll gap. Also check to be sure the lugs are centered in the mating roll grooves. The roll gap is factory set at 1/32-inch and can be adjusted by varying the shim pack thickness. A .105 and .060-inch thick shims are provided to change roll gap .060 and .030-inch respectively.

Once the approximate change in the shim pack thickness has been determined, raise the header into the transport position, install the header lockout pins on each side and change the shim pack arrangement first removing the nut and bolt "A".

NOTE: The (.060-inch) shim must always be placed on top when changing the shim pack arrangement.



CAUTION: ALWAYS BLOCK-UP raised equipment when servicing. NEVER rely on the hydraulic system.

Remove the header lock out pins, lower the header and recheck the roll gap clearance.



Store unused shims from each side at "B" on left side.

NOTE: Rolls that excessively contact each other will cause noise, vibration, wear, and excessive crop damage.