

John Deere

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MODEL:

**300 Hydrostatic
Tractor**

**OPERATOR'S
MANUAL**



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MANUAL PREVIEW

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Issue 01

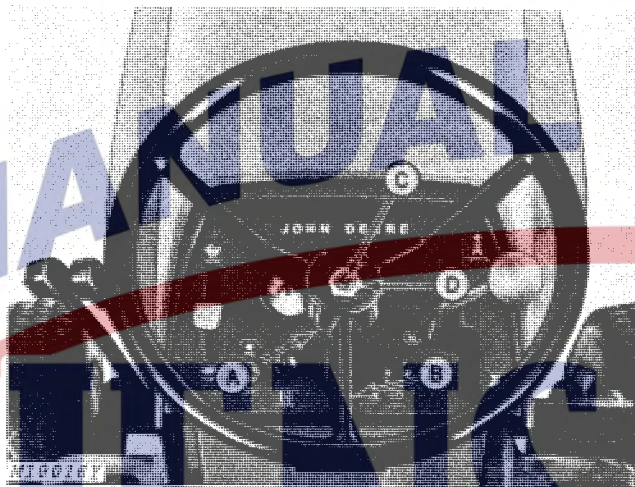
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JOHN DEERE 300 HYDROSTATIC TRACTOR

PREDELIVERY CHECK LIST

IMPORTANT: Before starting tractor, remove tractor from shipping stand. Perform and check each predelivery item listed below. Use delivery check list as a reminder of items to discuss with customer.

☐ Install Steering Wheel

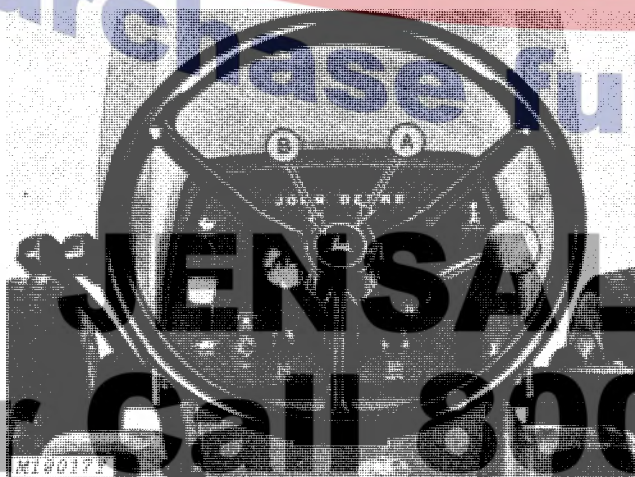


A—Foam Washer
B—Steering Wheel

C—Steering Shaft
D—Nut

Place plastic foam washer (A) on steering shaft.

Position steering wheel (B) on steering shaft (C) with single spoke on steering wheel down when front wheels are straight ahead. Install nut (D) and tighten to a maximum torque of 10 to 12 ft-lbs (13 to 16 Nm).



A—Steering Wheel Cap

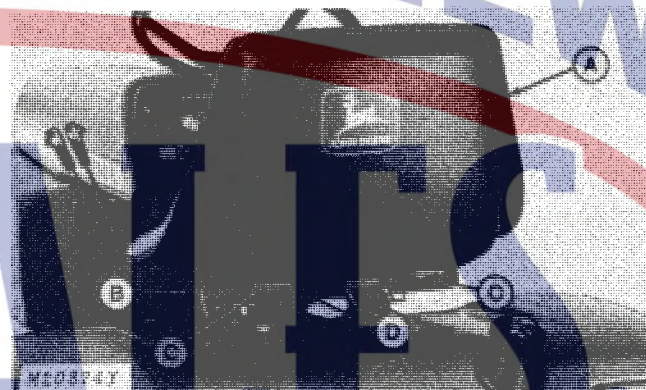
B—Leaping Deer Decal

Lubricate inner flange on steering wheel cap (A) with multipurpose-type grease or oil. Press cap into steering wheel hub.

NOTE: If it is necessary to tap cap into place, use a wood block large enough to span entire diameter of cap and tap cap into place.

Remove adhesive back from leaping deer decal (B). Install decal on steering wheel cap (A).

☐ Install Seat



A—Seat
B—Seat Springs

C—Cap Screws and
Flat Washers
D—Seat Safety Switch Wires

Attach seat (A) to seat springs (B) with four 3/8 x 3/4-inch cap screws and flat washers (C).

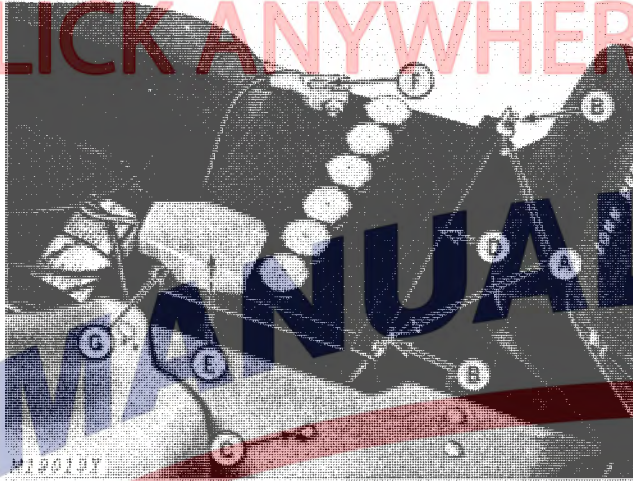
Connect seat safety switch electrical wires (D).

NOTE: A flat washer should be under head of each cap screw.

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PREDELIVERY CHECK LIST—Continued

☐ Remove Battery



A—Wing Nuts
B—Rods
C—Slots

D—Battery Hold-Down
E—Positive (+) Terminal
F—Negative (-) Terminal
G—Battery Terminal Cover

Loosen wing nuts (A) and unhook rods (B) from slots (C) in pedestal. Remove battery hold-down (D).

Lift battery out of battery box.

☐ Add Electrolyte to Battery

IMPORTANT: Be sure to remove battery from tractor before filling with electrolyte to prevent any accidentally spilled electrolyte from damaging tractor.

CAUTION: Battery electrolyte is poisonous and can be injurious to eyes and clothing. Handle it carefully.

Electrolyte is not furnished with the tractor. It is available from your Parts Depot in the following quantities:

Part No.	Description
PT511	Z-Pak, 6 Qts. (5.676 l)
PT509	EZE-PAK, 5 Gal. (18.927 l)
PT510	F-Pak, 5 Gal. (18.927 l)
TY5003	Hose for 5 Gal. (18.927 l), F-Pak

Use only battery grade sulfuric acid electrolyte with 1.265 specific gravity plus or minus 0.005 corrected to 80°F (25°C).

Use special precaution when adding electrolyte to the battery. With battery removed from the tractor, add electrolyte until plates are just covered. Electrolyte temperature should be above 60°F (15°C), preferably 80°F (25°C), to give correct specific gravity reading on hydrometer.

CAUTION: After the battery is activated, hydrogen and oxygen gases in the battery are very explosive. Keep open sparks and flames away from the battery at all times, especially when charging the battery.

☐ Charge Battery

Charge battery 30 to 40 amps for 10 minutes or 15 amps for 30 minutes.

If excessive bubbling of electrolyte occurs, reduce the charging rate. At full charge, electrolyte should have a specific gravity reading of 1.265 on the hydrometer.

After charging, add electrolyte until level is to top of circular split ledge in filler tube. Thereafter, add only distilled water as use and time require.

☐ Install Battery

Clean and dry battery exterior. Install battery.

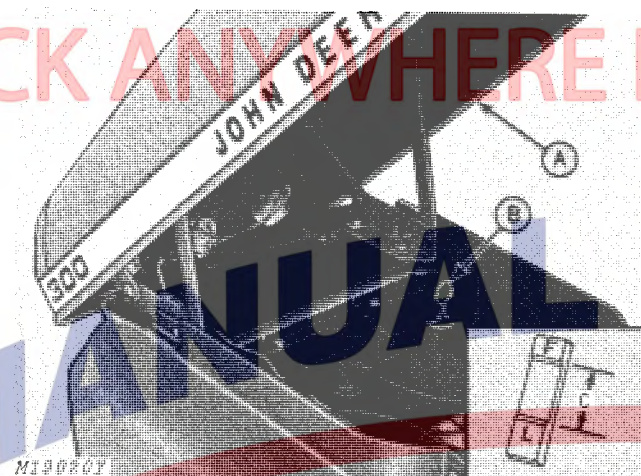
CAUTION: To avoid accidental short circuit, be sure to attach the positive cable to the positive terminal (E) before the ground cable is attached to the negative terminal. Be sure battery terminal cover (G) is over positive (+) battery terminal (E) as shown.

Hook rods (B) into slots (C) and tighten wing nuts (A) on battery hold-down (D).

Install battery ground cable over negative (-) battery terminal (F) and tighten bolt.

☐ Check Engine Crankcase Oil Level

☐ Check Transmission Fluid Level
Tractors (Serial No. 70000-71160)



A—Hood

B—Dipstick

C—Safe Range

Park the tractor on a level surface, stop the engine and raise the hood (A). Wipe dust and dirt from around the dipstick (B) on right-hand side of engine. Pull out dipstick.

If necessary, add John Deere Torq-Gard Supreme engine oil or its equivalent of the proper viscosity (see chart below) to bring oil level up to safe range (C) on the dipstick when the dipstick is pushed down tight. If oil other than Torq-Gard Supreme is used, see page 12 of Operator's Manual for specifications.

JOHN DEERE TORQ-GARD SUPREME ENGINE OIL			
Air Temperature Season	Oil Viscosity	1/2-pint (0.2366 l) pop-top can (6 per carton)	1-quart (0.946 l) can
Summer Above 32°F (0°C)	SAE 30	AR63979	AR63218
Winter Below 32°F (0°C)	SAE 5W-20	AR63980	AR63288



IMPORTANT: In cold weather run engine several minutes to warm-up transmission fluid before operating tractor. If fluid is not warm, internal transmission damage may result. See page 5 of Operator's Manual.

Unscrew transmission dipstick (arrow). If necessary, add John Deere All-Weather Hydrostatic Fluid or an equivalent Type "F" Automotive Automatic Transmission Fluid to bring level to the midpoint of "SAFE" range when dipstick is screwed in tight. Check fluid level with engine running at idle speed.

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- ☐ Check Transmission Fluid Level
Tractors (Serial No. 71161-)



A—Fill Tube Cap
B—Sight Tube

C—Accumulator-Vent

NOTE: The tractor engine should not be running when checking or adding fluid.

Fluid level should be visible at midpoint of sight tube (B) in slot in frame when tractor engine is stopped.

IMPORTANT: The 1/16-inch diameter hole in outside wall of accumulator-vent (C) must be positioned at an upward angle to prevent fluid leakage and insure proper venting.

If fluid level is low, remove fill tube cap (A) and add necessary amount of fluid until visible at midpoint of sight tube (B) in slot in frame.

IMPORTANT: Do not overfill.

- ☐ Close Free-Wheeling Valve



The free-wheeling valve (arrow) is open when the tractor is shipped from the factory. This permits moving the tractor without starting the engine. Turn the knob counterclockwise until tight to close the free-wheeling valve.

The tractor will not move when the engine is running unless the free-wheeling valve is closed. See page 6 of the Operator's Manual for additional information.

IMPORTANT: As with any hydraulic power transmission, internal damage can result when vehicle is towed. Push tractor manually only short distances when necessary. Use a trailer to transport tractor.

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M16149

Figure 1-John Deere 300 Hydrostatic Tractor

Controls



A—Free Wheeling Valve Knob
 B—Depth Control Knob
 C—Choke Knob
 D—Front PTO Clutch Control Switch*
 E—Throttle Lever
 F—Hydraulic Control Levers
 G—Ammeter

H—Hydrostatic Control Lever
 I—Brake Lock Strap
 J—Brake Pedals
 K—Parking Brake Knob
 L—Light Switch
 M—Ignition Key Switch

Figure 3

***NOTE:** A pressure-sensitive safety switch (not illustrated) is located in the seat. This switch shuts off the engine whenever the operator leaves the seat with the engine running and the PTO engaged. The engine will remain running with the PTO disengaged and the operator off the seat.

Operation

BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE

Engine Break-In

Special break-in oil is not required for the tractor engine. Change the engine crankcase oil after the first two hours of operation. Instructions for changing engine crankcase oil are on page 12.

IMPORTANT: Always allow the tractor engine to warm up before operating. See page 5. In cold weather run the engine several minutes to warm-up transmission oil. If the transmission oil is not warm, internal transmission damage may occur.

Fill Gas Tank

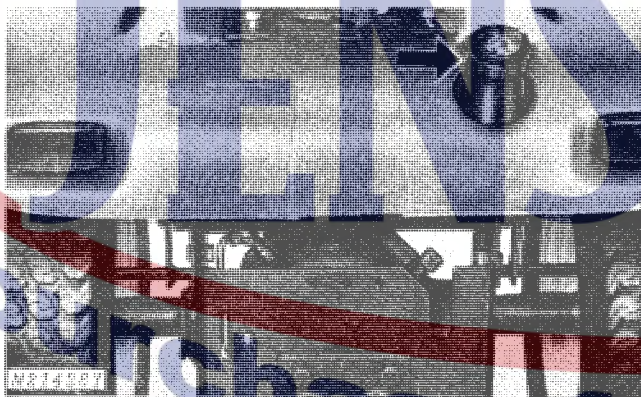


Figure 4

CAUTION: Shut off tractor engine and do not smoke when filling gas tank.

Wipe dust and dirt from around filler cap (arrow) before removing it. Place cap in a clean area when removed.

IMPORTANT: Do not permit any type of foreign material to enter the fuel system. Clean fuel in-sures against hard starting, poor performance and possible engine damage. Always use clean gasoline storage cans and funnels.

Fill the gasoline tank with fresh, clean regular grade gasoline having an octane rating of 85 or higher. It is recommended that non-leaded gasoline be used because it reduces engine cylinder head deposits. Low-lead or leaded regular grades are acceptable if the octane rating is 85 or higher.

DO NOT use premium, ethyl or white gasoline or regular gasoline having an octane rating below 85. Never use special additives, such as carburetor cleaners, deicers, or moisture-removing liquids in the gasoline.

IMPORTANT: Never mix oil with gasoline.

Check Crankcase Oil Level

Park the tractor on a level surface, stop the engine and raise the hood. Wipe dust and dirt from around the dipstick before removing it. The oil level should be to the midpoint of two arrow marks on dipstick when the dipstick is pushed down tight. If necessary, add oil as instructed on page 12.

Check Air Filter

Check the air filter to be sure it is clean. See page 16.

Check Engine Air Intake Screen and Shrouds

The engine is air-cooled. Always keep the engine air intake screen and shrouds clean to prevent overheating. See page 17.

Check Tire Inflation Pressure

Check tires for proper inflation pressure. See page 17.

! MOWER SAFETY !

When using your tractor with a mower:

1. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
2. Never make a cutting height adjustment while the engine is running if you must dismount to do so.
3. Shut off engine before unclogging discharge chute.
4. Check blade mounting bolts for proper tightness at frequent intervals.
5. Do not use mower unless discharge chute guard is in place.

STARTING THE ENGINE



Figure 5

1. Depress both brake pedals and position the parking brake knob in bottom of slot.
2. Disengage power-driven equipment by pushing front PTO clutch control switch down to "OFF" position.
3. Place hydrostatic control lever in horizontal oval notch (neutral position) shown on page 6.

NOTE: The engine will not start when the ignition key is removed, the PTO clutch control switch is in "PTO" position, or the hydrostatic control lever is engaged.

4. Position throttle lever approximately 1/4 of the way up in slot.
5. If engine is cold, pull choke knob all the way out. Usually it isn't necessary to choke a warm engine.

6. Turn ignition key clockwise to "START" position. Gradually push choke knob in when engine starts. It may be necessary to leave choke half-way out until engine warms up. With engine running, the ammeter needle should be in the black (+) area or in the vertical position between the black (+) area and the amber (-) area. If the needle is in the amber (-) area, check the electrical connections or contact your dealer.

WARMING-UP TRACTOR

Always be sure the tractor is warmed-up properly, especially during cold weather, before operating under a full load.

A good way to do this is first to idle the engine at approximately 1/4 open throttle for two minutes and then at about 3/4 open throttle for another two minutes.

It is good practice to operate the tractor for the first five minutes at a lower ground travel speed. This permits the oil in the transmission and engine to circulate freely and prevents undue wear on internal parts.

IDLING THE ENGINE

The tractor engine is air-cooled and requires an unrestricted, ample amount of air for cooling the valves, pistons, rings, and other internal engine parts. Keep engine air intake screen clean, page 17. Avoid unnecessary engine idling. Prolonged engine idling can cause the engine operating temperature to rise. This in turn causes crankcase oil dilution, due to incomplete fuel combustion, and permits formation of gummy deposits on valves, pistons, and piston rings. It also allows rapid accumulation of engine sludge and unburned fuel in the exhaust system.

Rather than idle the engine for a considerable length of time, stop the engine.

OPERATING THE TRACTOR

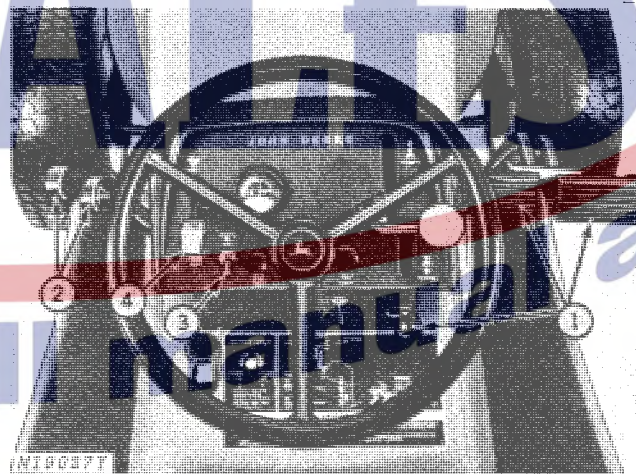


Figure 6

1. Depress both brake pedals and position parking brake knob to the right in the upper slot. Release brake pedals.
2. Lower equipment to operating position by moving the respective hydraulic control lever forward. The lever will return to neutral when released. Operation of the two hydraulic control levers is explained on page 8.
3. When operating with a mower, snow thrower or other front-mounted power-driven equipment, engage PTO (power take-off) by pulling out PTO clutch control switch and raising it to "PTO" position. Rear-mounted power-driven equipment is engaged and disengaged with its own integral clutch.
4. Raise throttle lever to operate equipment at maximum engine speed.