RL20H Belt Replacement

Tools: channel-lock pliers, 1/2", 7/16" and medium adjustable wrenches.

Typical time to complete: 10-15 minutes.

Replacement belt part number: H0705

STEP #1: Remove cover; STEP #2: Loosen rear belt guard and pivot away from belt;

STEP #3: Remove belt from engine pulley, drive pulley and idler.

STEP #4: Using the 1/2” and adjustable wrenches, remove nut, belt guide, 1 x washer and 1 x bearing from idler to create space to remove belt. TIP: Use some tape to hold the bearing and washers together.

DO NOT MANUALLY PUSH THE IDLER ARM FORWARD TO REMOVE THE BELT AS IT MAY DAMAGE THE SPRING.

STEP #5: Install new belt and re-assemble idler components (use the pliers to hold the nut in place while turning the bolt).
**STEP #6:** Verify the pulleys are aligned (adjust the engine pulley by loosening the set screws) and the bearings rotate smoothly. Move the belt into position ensuring it’s routed correctly in the engine pulley, the drive pulley and the idler. Move rear belt guard back into position directly behind the belt as shown and tighten. With front belt guide in proper position as shown, tighten the idler bearing bolt / nut.

**Step #7:** Squeeze the engagement lever to check the idler movement and belt engagement / tension. The optimum function is to have the lever close to touching the handle while the idler is engaging and tightening the belt, creating sufficient tension. At this point, there should be visible clearance between the belt, the belt guide (front) and belt guard (back). The idler position can be changed by adjusting the clutch cable. There are 2 x adjustment locations (where it mounts at the handle and at the frame), however it’s best to start at the handle location. Use the lock nuts to move the outer cable in the bracket (which will move the idler position) ... downward moves the idler forward to increase the belt tension / upward moves the idler backwards to decrease the belt tension.
**Step #8:** Release the clutch lever and make sure the belt is sufficiently moved out of the engine pulley (groove). The belt guide (in the proper position) helps push the belt out of the pulley groove, while the belt guard (in the proper position) helps hold the belt. Once this verified, tighten the cable lock nuts and check the lever tension – which (when squeezing) it gets tight just before the lever touches the handle.

**STEP #9:** Testing the belt engagement.
Verify that the drive roller lift lever is in the up and disengaged position, then start the engine to check the clutch function before use. A new belt may cause slight / temporary engagement and movement of the reel and drive roller when the unit is first started (without the lever engaged). **WARNING: IF THE BLADE / REAR DRIVE ROLLER ARE TURNING CONTINUEOUSLY WITHOUT ENGAGING (SQUEEZING) THE CLUTCH LEVER, STOP THE ENGINE AND RE-ADJUST.** After using the unit for 30-60 minutes, the new belt will work in and the clutch engagement / disengagement will stabilize.

**Step #10:** Reinstall the cover and tighten.
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The belt and cable are wear components, so over time with normal use there may be slight stretching and/or wear, requiring re-adjustment of the clutch engagement. **Excessive operation with partial engagement (slow speed) can result in premature belt wear or failure.** If you notice excessive slack / looseness in the clutch lever action combined with slowing or slipping of the drive roller, adjust the cable to achieve the proper engagement and lever action.