

# DECK ADAPTER KIT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LAWN TRACTOR LEAF BAG

Thank you for purchasing our product. We hope that you enjoy it and find it easy to use. Trials show that if you read these instructions before starting it will take you about 30-45 minutes to complete the installation. If you do not read the instructions it may take you several hours and then you will probably have to read them anyway. There are pictures included to help you understand the installation process.

**If you purchased this product for your Zero Turn Mower please read the supplemental sheet, page 3, before starting to install the product.**

If you have any questions or comments you can visit [www.LawnTractorLeafBag.com](http://www.LawnTractorLeafBag.com) or call us toll free at 877-530-9084 for more information.

## **PARTS LIST**

1 – **DischargeTube**- 8” diameter clear wire reinforced tube, about 60” long.

This tube is used to carry the leaves from the mower deck to the Lawn Tractor Leaf Bag at the back of the tractor.

1 - **Multi-fit Deck Adapter.**

Attaches to the mower deck to collect and direct discharge material into the above tube.

1 - **Chute Vent Disk**

Disk & Collar go together. This assembly maintains proper airflow and is where the Leaf Bag attaches.

### **Hardware Kit**

5 - Ratchet hold-downs with S hook attached.

Used to secure the Deck Adapter and Tube to the tractor.

6 - 6’ pieces of 1/8” rope with S hooks

1 - Bag Clip.

Used to attach the tow cord to the Lawn Tractor Leaf Bag.

7- self-tapping screws

1 - **Lawn Tractor Leaf Bag**

## **TOOLS NEEDED**

Alert brain equipped with a reasonable thought process and an understanding of mechanized equipment. You will need to identify the moving and non-moving parts of the mower deck.

Hammer.

Drill and drill bits sized 1/4" and 3/8+".

Phillips head screwdriver to install the self-tapping screws.

Tape to tie up excess rope.

A pencil or magic marker that writes on black plastic.

**For your ZTM mower you will also need:**

Bracket to support Discharge Tube



## Deck Adapter Kit Instruction Supplement for Zero Turn Mowers

Installing the Deck Adapter Kit, (DAK), to your Zero Turn Mower, (ZTM), will require an additional bracket to support the end of the Discharge Tube off the ground and away from the tire. You will need to create this bracket, it is not included in the kit.

**The ZTM does not have a fender covering the rear wheels.** The end of the discharge tube is normally secured to the rear fender, (see instruction photo #1 on page 7). Therefore a bracket will be needed to support the end of the discharge tube. The bracket can be as simple as a broomstick, zip tied or taped to the rear of the frame. The bracket must be long enough to extend past the rear tire and support the discharge tube, but should not stick out much further than needed. The bracket can support the tube from below or above and is secured to the bracket using one of the rope ratchets.



Tire sticks out past the fender/gas tank.



Fancy bracket installed to support discharge tube.

Complete the installation of the DAK using the rest of the instructions. If you have any questions please give us a call or email. 877-530-9084. [Ken@LawnTractorLeafBag.com](mailto:Ken@LawnTractorLeafBag.com)

# STEP 1

## **PRE-INSTALLATION ASSEMBLY.**

### **Assemble the 5 Rope Ratchets.**

1. Feed the end of each rope through a ratchet assembly. The feed direction is printed on the side of the ratchet assembly. Lift the metal tab to free the ratchet wheel if necessary. After feeding the rope around ratchet wheel tie a knot at the end of the rope to avoid the rope pulling back through the ratchet and having to do this all over again.

**Assemble Chute Vent Disk Assembly.** Hammer the Chute Vent Disk onto the round collar. It will snap into place tightly. This is the Chute Vent Assembly.

Spin the Chute Vent Disk Assembly down onto the discharge tube about 8-10" from one end. The flat side of the Assembly goes on first. There is a long cutout on the face of the chute vent disk. Offset the ends of the plastic at the cutout so that the assembly spins down the tube like a nut on a bolt. It may be a snug fit.

**Prepare Deck Adapter parts.** Slide the Deck Adapter pieces apart. Manually flex the open end of the front piece apart to create a tight fit when it slides inside the rear piece. Push the open end of the rear piece closed to help create a tight fit as front part slides in. Slide the pieces back together, they should fit together snugly.

Move your mower to a place where you can easily access the mower deck. Lower your mower deck to the lowest setting so that it is closest to the ground. Clean any grass clippings and debris off of mower deck so that all parts are exposed.

# STEP 2

## **FITTING THE DECK ADAPTER (DA) TO YOUR MOWER DECK.**

**NOTE:** The DA goes over the discharge opening of your mower deck to collect the debris as it is coming out and funnels it into the discharge tube. As you fit the DA to your mower deck you will need to slide it open and closed to adjust it to your size deck opening. You may need to remove the Discharge Guard that is already attached to your mower deck or just secure it up and out of the way. You may also need to angle the DA to cover the whole discharge opening. When fitting the DA be sure to leave clearance of 2" from all moving parts. Remember to leave room so that the Discharge Tube can attach to the end of the DA.

Slide the two sections of the DA together. Check that they are snug and still easily slide to adjust the opening size. (If necessary flex the loose ends of each part as described in Step 1.)

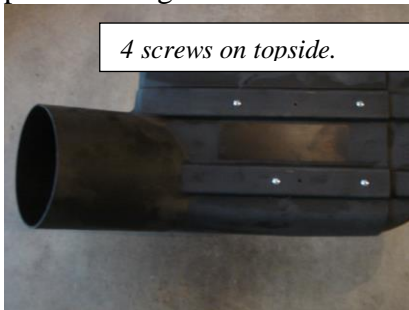
Slide the DA open so it is a little larger than your deck opening.

There should be a lip along the bottom of your mower deck. Slide the triangular alignment notch in each lower corner of the DA over this lip on each side of the discharge opening. If your deck does not have a lip, manually hold the DA in place during this fitment process. (A second person will make this easier.)

Close or open the DA as needed to cover the deck opening. If the original equipment Discharge Guard is interfering with placement you may need to remove it or tie it up out of the way. (**Warning**-Do not operate your mower without the Discharge Guard or the complete LTLB assembly in place.) Check that the DA clears the tires and other moving parts. Check that the rear tube clears the rear tire by several inches.

When you have the DA fitted correctly and it covers the entire discharge opening mark a line where the 2 sections of the DA overlap.

Remove the DA from you mower deck. Check that the 2 sections are positioned along the marked line. Secure the 2 sections together using 2 screws in each of the 2 alignment rails located on the top of the 2 sections. Use 3 screws on the under side to secure the edges of the rear part so it does not snag the ground during use. The screws are self-tapping or you can drill a 1/4" pilot hole. Check fitment to the mower deck being sure to place the alignment notches on the lip of the mower deck.



## STEP 3

### ATTACHING THE DECK ADAPTER TO YOUR MOWER DECK.

**NOTE:** The DA will be attached to your mower deck using three of the rope ratchets provided. There will be a rope ratchet connected at each corner near the triangular alignment notch and a third connecting near the top center of the outside alignment rail.

The first 2 rope ratchets will connect to the DA using the existing holes near the triangular alignment notch in each lower corner. Attach the S hook at the other end to a **non-moving part** of the mower deck. Pull the ropes taut while positioning the DA. You will now have 2 rope ratchets holding the DA against the mower deck but the top of the DA will fall away from the mower deck.

In the middle of the outside edge of the outside alignment track, drill a 3/8+” hole. Attach one S hook in this hole and the other end of the rope ratchet to a **non-moving part** of the mower deck. Pull rope taut.

The DA should now be securely attached to the mower deck. Check fit by adjusting the height of the mower deck assembly. The DA should move with the mower deck. Next grab the DA and shake it. The DA should be on snug and not easily shift its position in relationship to the deck. If the DA moves significantly during either test it is not installed correctly. If installed correctly secure all excess rope so it does not tangle in moving parts or drag on the ground.



*Deck Adapter shown attached to mower deck with Discharge Tube attached. This photo shows the Deck Adapter in the proper position for use. Note the rope from the Deck Adapter up along tube that attaches to Vent Disk.*

## STEP 4

### ATTACHING THE DISCHARGE TUBE & LAWN TRACTOR LEAF BAG

1. **INSTALLING THE TUBE.** See Fig 1. Slip the 8” tube over the end of the DA that is already attached to your mower deck. The Chute Vent Disk is positioned at the rear. Slide the tube down until it rests on the lower half of the DA. Align the tube up the side of the tractor towards the rear. The tube should stick out past the back end of your tractor a minimum of 6 inches. If it does not, extend the tube by pulling on both ends and stretching to full length. Spin the Chute Vent Assembly to position it about 3” off the back of the tractor.
2. **For Lawn Tractors See Fig 1** Use a ratchet assembly to secure the upper end of the tube. Be sure to keep the tube and rope clear from tractor control lines and the tires. When installed correctly the tube will be firmly attached to the side of the tractor but may move some. Secure any extra rope out of the way. **If your fender does not stick out past your tire, or there are tractor controls mounted in your fender, you may need to purchase a quick connect clamp.** See the Clamp description at the end of these instructions.
3. Hook a ratchet assembly onto the S hook that is already installed on the top of the DA. **See Fig 1.** Lead the rope up the top of the tube, under the rope holding the tube in position and attach the S hook end to the Chute Vent Assembly using one of the vent holes. Pull the rope taut but not enough to pull the tube out of position. This rope helps to distribute the load and keeps the tube in position.
4. **For ZTM’s.** Secure the tube to the end of your bracket using a ratchet. It should not sag. Secure any extra rope out of the way.
5. **INSTALLING THE BAG CLIP and TOW ROPE.** Lay the Leaf Bag out on the ground. About half way down a side of the leaf bag where the seam is, attach the Bag Clip. The Bag Clip slides open by moving the loose top section forward. You may need to push down the center-locking tab to release the clip. Hold the fixed piece on the underside of the bag material and slide the floating piece across the bag material locking it into place. Pull on the clip to check that it is on tightly. Tie the remaining 6’ rope to the bag clip.
6. **See Fig 2.** Create the tow cord by attaching the remaining rope to the Bag Clip so the hook is about 1 foot short of the end of the bag where the drawstring is. You may need to untie and reposition this tow cord again. If the hook is positioned correctly it will carry the weight of the bag and prevent the bag from pulling on the tube.
7. **CONNECTING YOUR LAWN TRACTOR LEAF BAG.** See Fig 3. Attach your Leaf Bag around the Chute Vent Assembly. Pull the drawstring tight while aligning it in the channel around the outside of the Chute Vent Assembly. The Bag Clip should be directly in line behind the tractor. Hook the end of the tow cord to the frame at the back of the tractor. Be sure that the extra cord will not catch on any moving parts.



8. **See Fig 4.** Start the mower deck and check that the towrope is short enough to pull the inflated Leaf Bag up against the back of the tractor. If not you will need to move the S hook to a shorter length. **This is critical and indicates that the tow cord will carry the weight of the Leaf Bag, not the tube and chute.**



Fig 1- Discharge Tube attached to side of lawn tractor at top, and from DA to Chute Vent Disk.



Fig 2- Bag clip attached half way down side of bag. Towrope is about a foot short of end. (Your clip may vary.)



Fig 3- Leaf Bag and towrope attached to the tractor. Note bag clip is on side of bag, in line behind tractor.



Fig 4- Leaf Bag in use and towrope carrying the weight of the leaf bag.



## **NOTES:**

Be sure to secure all excess rope out of the way so it does not catch on moving parts or drag on the ground. You can do this with tape or zip ties.

If the discharge tube sticks out past the rear of the tractor more than 10" and droops down you may want to shorten it. We recommend using the full length of the tube a few times before cutting the tube. You may find that the extra tubing does not affect performance

As the Leaf Bag fills it may tend to pull away from the back of the lawn tractor. A little is OK but if the bag starts to pull the discharge tube off this indicates that the towrope needs to be shorter. The towrope should be carrying the weight of the bag.

When you empty the bag it is easiest to simply unhook the tow cord from the tractor and leave the bag clip attached to the Leaf Bag. This way you will not have to attach and adjust the bag clip and towrope again.