

GROUND HOG

OPERATORS MANUAL

MODEL T-4 TRENCHER



THE GROUND HOG T-4 TRENCHER

It is your responsibility as the operator of this piece of equipment to know what specific requirements, precautions and work hazards exist. You must read and understand all of the information contained in the operators manual.

The Ground Hog model T-4 trencher is a small, operator propelled, chain-type trencher designed for the installation of lines that require a narrow shallow trench.

Powered by a 5 H.P. engine, and equipped with carbide teeth, it has more than enough power to trench through the toughest soils, however, because of its small size, low horse power and trenching capacity, it is limited in what it is capable of doing. The job site, soil conditions, job specifications and operator experience may dictate that a different tool or method be used to do the job.

The digging chain of any trencher has a tendency to pull the trencher in the opposite direction you want to dig. For this reason, be sure that the digging teeth are not in contact with the ground or other objects while starting the motor and that the wheel lock device engages before lowering the digging bar into the ground. Be sure that you have a firm grip on the

chine and are ready to control it when the digging bar comes in contact with the ground.

Trenchers of all type have a tendency to "hop" or "buck" under certain conditions. This can be the result of certain soil conditions or buried objects that the trencher cannot cut through or lift to the surface. The trencher must be stopped and the object removed, or restart the trench beyond the object using a different method of trenching through or around the object.

NOTE: It is important that any piece of machinery be kept in the best mechanical condition possible. Failure to properly maintain machinery greatly reduces the productivity of the tool and could create a hazard to the operator or bystanders. **DO NOT** use machinery if it has been modified or improperly maintained.



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SAFETY TIPS

⚠ CAUTION: Before operating trencher, **BE SURE THAT IT IS STRUCTURALLY AND MECHANICALLY SAFE.** Check all engine controls, clutch action, belt and chain condition, and wheel ratchets. Be sure that the protective guards are in place. If the trencher is not working properly or is not structurally safe, take the necessary steps to put it in working order before putting it in operation.

1. Keep bystanders away from the trench and trencher while it is in use. Remember, trenchers are useful tools, but they can be hazardous both to the operator and bystanders.

2. Before using trencher, clean work area of debris, such as, rocks, wire, boards, and any other potential hazards. Inspect the entire work area for unexpected buried hazards, such as boulders, foundations and fencing.

3. Make sure you know the location of all buried utility lines. The utility companies will locate and mark the lines for you.

⚠ WARNING: A cut electrical cable or gas line can result in injury or fatality.

4. Always stop the motor when you leave the operator's position of the trencher or if somebody approaches the trencher at the "working end".

5. Always wear the proper clothing and equipment for the job. Eye and ear protection, helmet, boots, gloves and dust masks are some items that may be required.

⚠ CAUTION: Never wear a watch, ring or neck tie when working with machinery. Keep your hands, loose clothing and your hair away from moving parts.

6. Use extreme caution while operating trencher on uneven terrain. Do not risk tipping or rollover. Try to use trencher in a level position. Make sure you know the stability of the trencher. Natural vibration will make the trencher creep sideways down a slope.

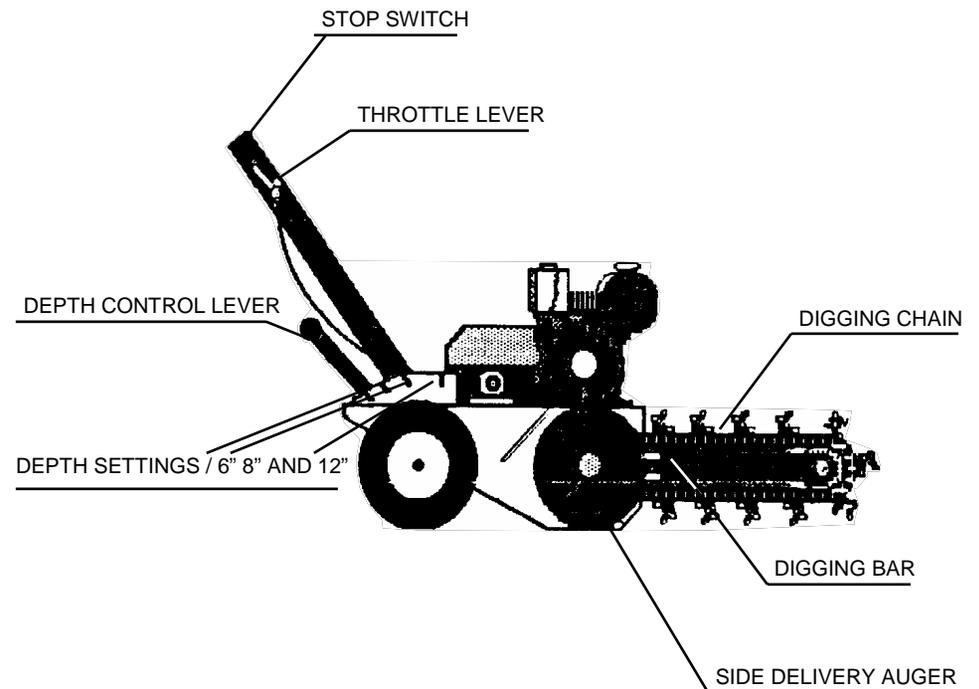
7. While digging, if the trencher hits anything, jams or begins to labor, turn the motor off and inspect the trench and trencher for any possible causes.

8. Always start trenching a safe distance from any object, such as, a fence or foundation. The digging teeth could possibly catch and climb the object.

9. Never operate the trencher or run the engine in unventilated areas.

10. Avoid coming in contact with the muffler and other engine parts after the engine is started. Temperature may exceed 150°F (66.6°C). Allow engine to cool before attempting to perform any maintenance.

THE T-4 TRENCHER



STARTING THE T-4 TRENCHER

1. Follow the procedures outlined in the engine manual supplied with the trencher, or have somebody familiar with the trencher instruct you.

NOTE: The procedures in the manual are basic instructions. The procedure could vary slightly depending on the engine controls used on the trencher.

2. Always stand to the rear of the trencher, away from the side delivery auger and digging chain, while starting the engine.

3. Make sure that all of the stop switches are in the "ON" position before attempting to start the engine.

NOTE: All trenchers have two stop switches, one on the engine and one on the handlebar.

4. Follow the procedures outlined in the engine manual supplied with the machine, start the engine.

CAUTION: While starting and when engine is running, if the throttle is set higher than idle, the clutch will engage which will cause the digging chain and other components to start moving. **KEEP BYSTANDERS CLEAR.**

5. When the engine starts, bring it to an idle and allow it to warm up for two or three minutes before operating.

PREPARING TO TRENCH

1. With the engine running at an idle, push down on the handlebar; raising the digging bar.

2. Move the depth control lever forward until it locks in the first notch.

The depth control lever is located at the rear of the trencher. To operate, lift the lever until the "lock" is clear of the "notch" on the side plates. Slowly move the lever forward until the digging bar is at the first "notch". Insert the "lock" into the "notch" to set the digging depth. Notches are set at approximately 6, 8 and 12 inches.

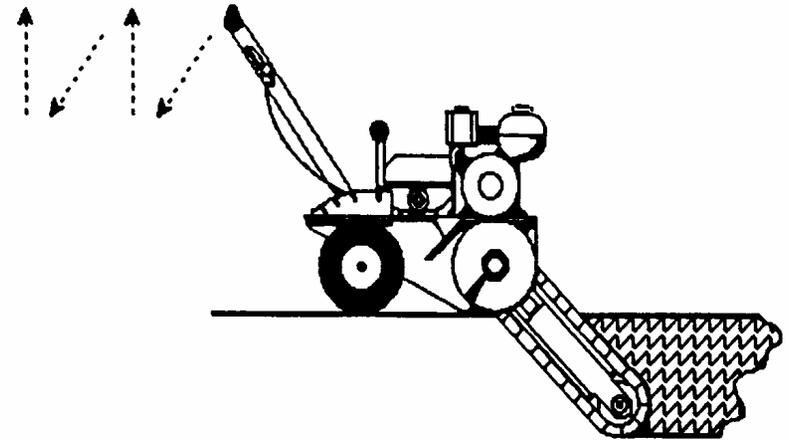
3. Increase the engine speed and lower the digging bar, allowing it dig to its depth; making sure you have control of the trencher during this process.

4. If a deeper depth is required, slowly move the depth control lever forward until the desired depth is reached; maintaining firm control of the trencher at all times.

5. Set engine speed as required for best penetration.

TRENCHING

Using a "can opener" or "rocking" motion, push down on the handle bars 2 to 4 inches. At the same time, pull the trencher toward you 4 to 6 inches. Slowly allow the handlebars to raise until they stop. Repeat this motion throughout the trenching operation. The wheel lock will aid you in this operation by helping to hold the trencher in position until the next motion is started.



CAUTION: When trenching in areas filled with obstructions, such as rocks and debris, operate the trencher at less than full throttle to assure a quicker clutch release to prevent damage to the machine and possible injury to you or bystanders.

CAUTION: This tool is intended to dig in soils only. It is not intended to be used for cutting through rock, concrete, asphalt, wood, metal or any other material that is not of a soil type. Attempting to do so may result in damage to the machine or injury to the operator or bystanders.

CAUTION: Stop engine and remove sparkplug wire before attempting to clear any jams in the digging chain, side delivery auger, clutch or drive belt and primary chain drive. Remove sparkplug wire before performing any maintenance on machine.

FINISHING

1. When trench is finished, shut the motor off. Refer to engine manual for correct procedure.
2. Using depth control handle, raise digging bar out of the trench and lock it in the rear most notch.
3. The trencher can now be moved.
4. Service the machine.

 **WARNING: Never move the trencher from place to place while the engine is running.**

MAINTENANCE

The T-4 is like any other piece of equipment when it comes to servicing. If it is periodically maintained it will perform better and last longer. If it is not serviced, parts will wear out more quickly and expensive repairs will become necessary.

1. After every use, grease the zerker fittings on the pillow block bearings and on the front of the T-4 body.
2. After every use, run the digging chain while in the “up” position for a couple minutes so as to loosen any grit or dust that might have gotten into the rollers. This will help keep the chain from freezing up.
3. Occasionally put some dry lube like WD-40 or LPS on the rollers of the digging chain to help prevent “lock up” especially if stored outside. Do not use oil.
4. Replace worn out carbide bits when necessary to avoid damage to the chain.
5. Service engine according to its operations manual.
6. Do not let primary drive chain or clutch belt get too slack. To tighten chain, remove belt guard and loosen the idler sprocket nut and slide the sprocket firmly against the chain and tighten nut. To tighten belt, loosen the engine base bolts and slide the engine to take up the slack and tighten bolts.
7. After every use, clean the excess dirt from the T-4 to prevent premature wearing of parts.

This operations manual provides some common sense guides to promote safety and efficiency in the use of the equipment described. They are compiled from instruction sheets, manuals, reference manuals and other sources believed to be reliable. No warranty, guarantee, or representation is made by Ground Hog, Inc. as to the absolute correctness or sufficiency of any information or statements included in this manual. They are intended to deal principally with common practices and conditions encountered in the use of the equipment, and are not intended to be all inclusive. **OPERATORS KNOWLEDGE, CAUTION, COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT ARE**