

TRIMMER/EDGER INSTRUCTION MANUAL



CATALOG NUMBERS GH900. GH912

KEY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW:

• The guard must be installed before trimming or edging - if not, the motor will overheat. When replacing the line, use only .065 inch diameter ROUND line (B&D Model #AF-100 is recommended) - otherwise the trimmer will not function properly.
Do not bump the feed head against the ground - it will disrupt the automatic feed mechanism.

- Always use the cord retention feature

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PLEASE READ BEFORE RETURNING THIS PRODUCT FOR ANY REASON.

If you have a question or experience a problem with your Black & Decker purchase, go to http://www.blackanddecker.com/instantanswers

If you can't find the answer or do not have access to the Internet,

call 1-800-544-6986 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Mon. - Fri. to speak with an agent. Please have the catalog number available when you call.

SAVE THIS MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

VEA EL ESPANOL EN LA CONTRAPORTADA.

INSTRUCTIVO DE OPERACIÓN, CENTROS DE SERVICIO Y PÓLIZA DE GARANTÍA. ADVERTENCIA: LÉASE ESTE INSTRUCTIVO ANTES DE USAR EL PRODUCTO.







SAFETY GU INES - DEFINITIONS

It is important for you to read and understand this manual. The information it contains relates to protecting YOUR SAFETY and PREVENTING PROBLEMS. The symbols below are used to help you recognize this information.

 Δ DANGER: Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious iniurv.

AWARNING: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

ACAUTION: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

NOTICE: Used without the safety alert symbol indicates potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in property damage.

 \triangle **WARNING:** When using electric gardening appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed to reduce risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury, including the following.

IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO REDUCE RISK OF INJURY:

- Before any use, be sure everyone using this trimmer reads and understands all safety instructions and other information contained in this manual. Save these instructions and review frequently prior to use and in instructing others.

ACAUTION: Failure to comply with the recommendations outlined in the key information section will void warranty.

AWARNING: Some dust created by this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals are:

- compounds in fertilizers
- compounds in insecticides, herbicides and pesticides
- arsenic and chromium from chemically treated lumber

To reduce your exposure to these chemicals, wear approved safety equipment such as dust masks that are specially designed to filter out microscopic particles.

AWARNING: ALWAYS use safety glasses. Everyday eyeglasses are NOT safety glasses. Also use face or dust mask if trimming operation is dusty. ALWAYS WEAR CERTIFIED SAFETY EQUIPMENT: ANSI Z87.1 eye protection (CAN/CPA Z94.3),

NOSH/OSHA respiratory protection.

AWARNING: Always wear proper personal hearing protection that conforms to ANSI S12.6 (S3.19) during use. Under some conditions and duration of use, noise from this product may contribute to hearing loss.

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

- **ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION** Wear safety glasses or goggles at all times when this trimmer is plugged in.
- **GUARD** Do not use this trimmer without guard attached.
- **DRESS PROPERLY** Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Rubber gloves and substantial rubber soled footwear are recommended when working outdoors. Don't operate the trimmer when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Wear heavy long pants to protect your legs. Wear protective hair covering to contain long hair.
- **NYLON LINE** – Keep face, hands and feet clear of rotating nylon line at all times.
- THE ROTATING LINE PERFORMS A CUTTING FUNCTION Use care when trimming around screens and desirable plants.
- **KEEP ALL BYSTANDERS AWAY** at a safe distance from work area, especially children.
- **IMPORTANT WARNING** When being used as an Edger, stones, pieces of metal and other objects can be thrown out at high speed by the line. The trimmer and guard are designed to reduce the danger. However, the following special precautions should be taken: MAKE SURE that other persons and pets are at least 100 feet (30m) away.
- TO REDUCE THE RISK of rebound (ricochet) injury, work going away from any nearby solid object such as wall, steps, large stone, tree, etc. Use great care when working close to solid objects and where necessary, do edging or trimming by hand.
- **AVOID ACCIDENTALLY STARTING** Don't carry plugged-in trimmer with finger on trigger.
- DO NOT FORCE THE APPLIANCE at a rate faster than the rate at which it is able to cut effectively. .
- **USE THE RIGHT APPLIANCE** Do not use this trimmer for any job except that for which it is intended.
- **DON'T OVERREACH** – Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- **DAMAGE TO UNIT** If you strike or become entangled with a foreign object, stop trimmer immediately, unplug, check for damage and have any damage repaired before further operation is attempted. Do not operate with a broken hub or spool.
- **DAMAGE TO CORD** Keep power cord away from rotating line. If you damage the • cord, unplug it from the power supply before moving the tool or examining the damage. A damaged cord must be replaced before further use. SECURE EXTENSION CORD using the cord retainer shown in Figure H.
- **DISCONNECT TRIMMER** when not in use, when replacing line, or prior to cleaning.
- AVOID DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS Do not use electric appliances in damp or wet locations. Follow all instructions in this Instruction Manual for proper operation of your trimmer. Don't use the trimmer in the rain.
- **DO NOT OPERATE** portable electric trimmers in gaseous or explosive atmospheres. ٠ Motors in these trimmers normally spark, and the sparks might ignite fumes.
- STORE IDLE TRIMMERS INDOORS When not in use, trimmers should be stored indoors in a • dry, locked-up place out of reach of children.
- STAY ALERT Do not operate this unit when you are tired, ill, or under the influence of ٠ alcohol, drugs, or medication.
- GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (GFCI) protection should be provided on the circuit(s) or outlet(s) to be used for the trimmer. Receptacles are available having built-in GFCI protection and may be used for this measure of safety.

- DON'T ABUSE CORD Never carry trimmer by cord or yank it to disconnect from receptace. Keep cord from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- REPLACEMENT PARTS When servicing use only identical replacement parts.
- MAINTAIN TRIMMERS WITH CARE Follow instructions in maintenance section. Keep handles dry, clean and free from oil and grease.
- CHECK DAMAGED PARTS Before further use of the trimmer, a guard or other part that is damaged should be carefully checked to determine that it will operate properly and perform its intended function. Check for alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, mounting, and any other condition that may affect its operation. A guard or other part that is damaged should be properly repaired or replaced by an authorized service center unless otherwise indicated elsewhere in this manual.
- DO NOT immerse trimmer in water or squirt it with a hose. DO NOT allow any liquid to get inside it.
- · DO NOT store the trimmer on or adjacent to fertilizers or chemicals.
- DO NOT clean with a pressure washer.
- · Keep guards in place and in working order.
- · Keep hands and feet away from cutting area.

WARNING: Do not use trimmer if the switch trigger does not turn the trimmer on or off. Any trimmer that can not be controlled with the switch trigger is dangerous and must be repaired.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

SYMBOLS

The label on your trimmer may include the following symbols. The symbols and their definitions are as follows:

Vvolts	Aamperes
Hzhertz	Wwatts
minminutes	\sim or Acalternating current
or DCdirect current	n _o no load speed
🕕Class I Construction	😑earthing terminal
(grounded)	${\mathbb A}$ safety alert symbol
Class II Construction (double insulated)	/min or rpmrevolutions or reciprocation per minute

SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS: POLARIZED PLUGS

CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electric shock, this equipment has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other) and will require the use of a polarized extension cord. The trimmer plug will fit into a polarized extension cord only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the extension cord, reverse the plug. If the plug still does not fit, obtain a correct polarized extension cord. A polarized extension cord will require the use of a polarized wall outlet. This plug will fit into the polarized wall outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the way. If the plug does not fit fully into the wall outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the wall outlet. This plug will fit into the polarized wall outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the wall outlet. The plug still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper wall outlet. Do not change the equipment plug, extension cord receptacle, or extension cord plug in any way.

SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS: EXTENSION CORDS

WARNING: To reduce the risk of electric shock, use only with an extension cord intended for outdoor use, such as an extension cord of cord type SW-A, SOW-A, STW-A, STOW-A, SJW-A, SJW-A, SJTW-A. or SJTOW-A.

Make sure your extension cord is in good condition. When using an extension cord, be sure to use one heavy enough to carry the current your product will draw. An undersized cord will cause a drop in line voltage resulting in loss of power and overheating. The table shows the correct size to use depending on cord

Minimum Gauge for Cord Sets					
Volts		Total Length of Cord in Feet			
120V		0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150
		(0-7,6m)	(7,6-15,2m)	(15,2-30	,4m) (30,4-45,7m)
Ampere Rating					
More			American V	Vire Gau	ge
Than	Than				0
6 -	10	18	16	14	12

length and nameplate ampere rating. If in doubt, use the next heavier gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the heavier the cord. If the extension will be used outside, the cord must be suitable for outdoor work. The letters "WA" on the cord jacket indicate that the cord is suitable for outdoor use.

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION (FIGURE A)

1. On/Off Trigger Switch 2. Cord Retainer

3. Power Cord Plug

Auxillary Handle
 Collar
 Motor Housing

7. Edge Guide Wheel 8. Guard

9. Spool

ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT

WARNING: UNPLUG THE TRIMMER BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ATTACH THE GUARD, EDGE GUIDE OR HANDLE. NEVER OPERATE TOOL WITHOUT GUARD FIRMLY IN PLACE. THE GUARD MUST ALWAYS BE ON THE TOOL TO PROTECT THE USER.

ATTACHING THE GUARD AWARNING: NEVER OPERATE TRIMMER WITHOUT GUARD FIRMLY IN PLACE.

- Turn the trimmer upside down so that you are looking down at the spool (9).
- · Remove the screw from the guard with a phillips screwdriver.
- Turn the guard (8) upside down and slide it fully onto the motor housing (6). Make sure the tabs (10) on the guard engage the ribs (11) on the motor housing as shown in **figure B**. The locking tab (25) should have snapped into the housing slot (26).
- · Continue to slide the guard on until you hear it "snap" into place.
- Insert the guard screw as shown in figure C to complete the guard assembly.
- Once the guard is installed, remove the covering from the line cut-off blade, located on the edge of the guard.

ATTACHING THE AUXILIARY HANDLE

- To attach the handle (4), press in on the buttons (12) on both sides of the upper housing as shown in **figure D**.
- Position the handle as shown in **figure E**, matching up the grooved side of the handle with the grooved button. Partially push the handle on so that it will hold the buttons in when you release them with your hand.
- Push the handle completely onto the housing and position it slightly until it "snaps" into place (figure F).
- To adjust the handle up or down, press in on the button (13) and raise or lower the handle.
- The handle should be adjusted so that your front arm is straight when the trimmer is in the working position.

HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

CAUTION: Adjust the length of the trimmer to obtain proper working positions as shown in **figure I1**.

- The overall height of the trimmer can be adjusted by loosening the collar (5) and rotating it in the direction of the arrow shown in **figure G**.
- Move the upper housing straight up or down. When the desired height is achieved, tighten the collar by rotating it opposite of the direction shown in **figure G**.

ATTACHING EXTENSION CORD (FIGURE H)

An extension cord retainer (2) is built into the switch handle that prevents the cord from coming unplugged. To use this feature, simply double the extension cord about 8 inches (203mm) from the end, and insert it into the slot (14) in the end of the handle area as shown in figure H. Hook the loop formed by doubling the cord over the tab (2). Gently tug on the cord to insure that it is firmly retained in the trimmer's handle. Plug the receptacle end of the extension cord into the power cord plug (3) in the trimmer.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

 \triangle **WARNING:** Always use proper eye protection that conforms to ANSI Z87.1 (CAN/CSA Z94.3) while operating this power trimmer.

AWARNING: Disconnect the plug from the power source before making any assembly, adjustments or changing accessories. Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the trimmer accidentally.

ACAUTION: Before you begin trimming, only use the appropriate type of cutting line.

CAUTION: Inspect area to be trimmed and remove any wire, cord, or string-like objects which could become entangled in the rotating line or spool. Be particularly careful to avoid any wire which might be bent outwardly into the path of the trimmer, such as barbs at the base of a chain link fence.

SWITCHING ON AND OFF

- To switch the trimmer on, squeeze the trigger switch (1).
- To switch the trimmer off, release the trigger switch.

OPERATING THE TRIMMER

- With the unit on, angle unit and slowly swing the trimmer side to side as shown in figure I.
- Maintain a cutting angle of 5° to 10° as shown in **figure I1**. Do not exceed 10° (**figure I2**). Cut with the tip of the line. To keep distance from hard surfaces use edge guide (7).
- Maintain a minimum distance of 24 inches (609.6 mm) between the guard and your feet as shown in figure I1. To acheive this distance adjust the overall height of the trimmer as shown in figure G.

CONVERT TO EDGING MODE

AWARNING: Disconnect the plug from the power source before making any adjustments. The trimmer can be used in trimming mode or edging mode to trim overhanging grass along lawn edges and flower beds.

WARNING: When being used as an Edger, stones, pieces of metal and other objects can be thrown out at high speed by the line. The trimmer and guard are designed to reduce the danger. However, **MAKE SURE** that other persons and pets are at least 100 feet (30m) away.

- To operate as a maintenance edger, turn the collar (5) as shown in figure G.
- Hold the metal shaft and rotate the lower housing 180° as shown in figure J.
- Turn the collar back until tight.

NOTE: The metal shaft and housing will only rotate in one direction.

• To return to the trimming position, loosen the lock collar and rotate the lower housing back 180° and retightening the collar.

EDGING

Your string trimmer is equipped with Smart Edge Technology that will automatically shift to a more efficient speed when in edging mode for better control.

Optimum cutting results are achieved on edges deeper than 2 inches (50 mm).

- Do not use this trimmer to create trenches.
- Using the edging wheel (7), guide the trimmer as shown in figure K.
- Position the edging wheel on the edge of the sidewalk or abrasive surface so the cutting line is over the grass or dirt area to be edged.

NOTE: The Auto Feed System may not operate correctly if wheeled edge guide is not used.

NOTE: You will experience faster than normal cutting line wear if the edging wheel is positioned too far from the edge with the cutting line positioned over the sidewalk or abrasive surface.

- To make a closer cut, slightly tilt the trimmer.
- Return to the trimming postion by loosening the lock collar and rotating the lower housing back 180°. The tool will lock in the trimmer position.

CUTTING LINE / LINE FEEDING

Your trimmer uses .065 inch (1.65 mm) diameter, ROUND nylon line. During use, the tips of the nylon lines will become frayed and worn and the special self feeding spool will automatically feed and trim a fresh length of line. Cutting line will wear faster and require more feeding if the cutting or edging is done along sidewalks or other abrasive surfaces or heavier weeds are being cut. The advanced automatic line feeding mechanism senses when more cutting line is needed and feeds and trims the correct length of line whenever it's required. DO NOT BUMP trimmer on ground in attempt to feed line or for any other purposes.

REPLACEMENT ACCESSORIES

CAUTION: Before you begin trimming, only use the appropriate type of cutting line. Use Black & Decker replacement spool Model No. AF-100, and replacement cap RC-100. Reload nylon line (either bulk or prewound replacement spool) as shown in this manual.

- Reload nylon line (either bulk or prewound replacement spool) as shown in this manual.
 USE ONLY .065 inch (1.65 mm) DIAMETER ROUND NYLON LINE. Do not use serrated or heavier gauge line, as they will overload the motor and cause overheating. This line is available at your local dealer or authorized service center.
- Other replacement parts (guards, spool caps, etc.) are available through Black & Decker service centers. To find your local service location call: 1-800-544-6986 or visit www.blackanddecker.com.

WARNING: The use of any accessory not recommended by Black & Decker for use with this trimmer could be hazardous.

REPLACING THE SPOOL

- Unplug trimmer.
- Depress the tabs (15) and remove the spool cap (9) from the spool housing (16) in the trimmer head (**figure L**).
- For best results, replace spool with Black & Decker model no. AF-100.
- · Grasp empty spool with one hand and spool housing with other hand and pull spool out.
- If lever (17) (figure M) in base of housing becomes dislodged, replace in correct position before inserting new spool into housing.
- Remove any dirt and grass from the spool and housing.
- Unfasten the end of the cutting line and guide the line into the eyelet (19) figure N.
- Take the new spool and push it onto the boss (18) (figure M) in the housing. Rotate the spool slightly until it is seated. The line should protrude approximately 5-3/8 inches (136mm) from the housing.
- Align the tabs on the spool cap with the slots (20) in the housing (figure N).
- · Push the cap onto the housing until it snaps securely into place.

CAUTION: To avoid trimmer damage, if the cutting line protrudes beyond the trimming blade, cut it off so that it just reaches the blade.

REWINDING SPOOL FROM BULK LINE (USE ONLY .065 IN. ROUND DIAMETER LINE)

Bulk line is also available for purchase from your local retailer. **NOTE:** Hand wound spools from bulk line are likely to become tangled more frequently than Black & Decker factory wound spools. For best results, factory wound spools are recommended.

To install bulk line, follow the steps below:

- · Unplug trimmer.
- · Remove the empty spool from the trimmer as described in "REPLACING THE SPOOL".
- · Remove any remaining cutting line from the spool.
- Make a fold at the end of the cutting line at about 3/4 inch (19mm)(21). Feed the cutting line into one of the line anchoring slots (22) as shown in **figure O**.
- Insert the 3/4 inch (19mm) end of the bulk line into the hole (23) in the spool adjacent to the slot as shown in figure P. Make sure the line is pulled tight against the spool as shown in figure P.
- Wind the cutting line onto the spool in the direction of the arrow on the spool. Make sure to wind the line on neatly and in layers. Do not crisscross (**figure Q**).
- When the wound cutting line reaches the recesses (24), cut the line. (figure P).
- · Fit the spool onto the trimmer as described in "REPLACING THE SPOOL".

ACAUTION: Before you begin trimming, only use the appropriate type of cutting line.

MAINTENANCE

 \triangle **WARNING:** To avoid serious injury, switch off and unplug the trimmer before performing any maintenance.

CAUTION: To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustment should be performed by authorized service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using identical replacement parts.

- 1. Keep the air intake slots clean to avoid overheating.
- 2. Your trimmer line can dry out over time. To keep your line in top condition, store spare prewound spools or bulk line in a plastic, sealable bag with a tablespoon of water.
- 3. Plastic parts may be cleaned by using a mild soap and a damp rag.

4. The line cutter on the edge of the guard can dull over time. It is recommended you periodically touch-up the sharpness of the blade with a file.

IMPORTANT: To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustment should be performed by authorized service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using identical replacement parts.

TROUBLESHOOTING TRIMMER RUNS SLOWLY

- · Unplug the trimmer.
- · Check that the spool housing can rotate freely. Carefully clean it if necessary.
- Check that the cutting line does not protrude more than approximately 5-3/8 inches (136mm) from the spool. If it does, cut it off so that it just reaches the line trimming blade.

AUTOMATIC LINE FEED DOES NOT WORK

- Unplug the trimmer.
- Remove the spool cap.
- Pull the cutting line until it protrudes approximately 5-3/8 inches (136mm) from the spool. If
 insufficient cutting line is left on the spool, install a new spool of cutting line.
- Ensure that the line is not crisscrossed on the spool as detailed in **figure Q**. If it is, unwind the cutting line, then wind it back on the spool neatly so that the lines do not cross.
- Ensure the beginning of the cutting line is pulled tight against the spool as shown in figure P.
 Align the tabs on the spool cap with the cut outs in the housing.
- Push the spool cap onto the housing until it snaps securely into place.
- If the cutting line protrudes beyond the trimming blade, cut it off so that it just reaches the blade.
 If the automatic line feed still does not work or the spool is jammed, try the following suggestions:
 - · Carefully clean the spool and housing.
 - Remove the spool and check if the lever in the spool housing can move freely.
 - Remove the spool and unwind the cutting line, then wind it on neatly again. Replace the spool into the housing.

 Problem trimmer will not start. 	 Possible Cause Cord not plugged in. Circuit fuse is blown. 	Possible Solution • Plug trimmer into a working outlet. • Replace circuit fuse. (If the product repeatedly causes the circuit fuse to blow, discontinue use immediately and	
	Circuit breaker is tripped.	have it serviced at a Black & Decker service center or authorized servicer.) • Reset circuit breaker. (If the product repeatedly causes the circuit breaker to trip, discontinue use immediately and have it serviced at a Black & Decker service center or authorized servicer.)	
	 Cord or switch is damaged. 	Have cord or switch replaced at Black & Decker Service Center or Authorized Servicer	
 Cutting line is consumed quickly in edge mode. 	• Edging too far from edge of sidewalks or abrasive surfaces. The cutting line is hitting the	• Ensure edging wheel is on the edge of the surface and the cutting line is positioned in the grass or dirt area to be edged not the sidewalk or other abrasive surface.	

sidewalk or abrasive surface. For assistance with your product, visit our website **www.blackanddecker.com** for the location of the service center nearest you or call the BLACK & DECKER help line at **1-800-544-6986**.

SERVICE INFORMATION

All Black & Decker Service Centers are staffed with trained personnel to provide customers with efficient and reliable power trimmer service. Whether you need technical advice, repair, or genuine factory replacement parts, contact the Black & Decker location nearest you. To find your local service location, call: **1-800-544-6986 or visit www.blackanddecker.com**

FULL TWO-YEAR HOME USE WARRANTY

Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. warrants this product for two years against any defects in material or workmanship. The defective product will be replaced or repaired at no charge in either of two ways. The first, which will result in exchanges only, is to return the product to the retailer from whom it was purchased (provided that the store is a participating retailer). Returns should be made within the time period of the retailer's policy for exchanges (usually 30 to 90 days after the sale). Proof of purchase may be required. Please check with the retailer for their specific return policy regarding returns that are beyond the time set for exchanges. The second option is to take or send the product (prepaid) to a Black & Decker owned or authorized Service Center for repair or replacement at our option. Proof of purchase may be required. This warranty does not apply to accessories. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state or province to province. Should you have any questions, contact the manager of your nearest Black & Decker Service Center. This product is not intended for commercial use. **FREE WARNING LABEL REPLACEMENT:** If your warning labels become illegible or are missing, call **1-800-544-6986** for a free replacement.

LATIN AMERICA: This warranty does not apply to products sold in Latin America. For products sold in Latin America, check country specific warranty information contained in the packaging, call the local company or see the website for warranty information.

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