

# Craftsman Mower

## Replacing drive belt

(There are tools in the shed to accomplish this repair – do not remove them from the shed.)

The drive belt comes off the rear pulley and jams which happens on rare occasion. (If it happens to you – you didn't do anything wrong; it's just a Craftsman design error.)

If it should happen, the mower just won't move – backwards or forwards. **DO NOT PERSIST – IT WILL RUIN THE BELT** which is a bitch to replace.

What has happened is the belt has jumped the rear pulley on top of the transmission and you will find it jammed between that pulley and the transmission housing. (It's way up there and hard to see.)

To get it back on, first you have to gain access by removing the large metal plate at the back of the mower. There are 4 bolts, two on each side, and they are hard to reach because they come in from the side and there isn't much clearance between them and the rear wheels. The 9/16 flat ratchet box end wrench will do it.

Now use the long rod affair to hook the belt and pull it toward you out from under the pulley where it is jammed. It will require a lot of force – both feet on the wheels helps. Be careful not to damage the cooling fan on top of the transmission. Once it has been replaced back on the pulley where it belongs, start the mower and confirm everything is working again. Replace the 4 bolts which isn't easy because of the lack of space to get your hand in there.

If you have ruined the belt you will feel it – there will be an obvious bump in the get-along. If the belt has to be replaced, then the whole mower deck will have to come off – it's not too hard, but time consuming. There will be 7 clips to remove (don't forget the mower clutch cable) and you can slip the

blade belt off and then wiggle the whole works out of the way. Actually getting the drive belt off isn't easy either. Begin by slipping it out of the tightner pulleys, then slipping it off the drive end, and finally the transmission end. Reverse the procedure for the new belt.

The sears part numbers for the belts are:

Drive belt (which is the one we been fiddling with) #140294

Blade drive #144959

(As of the summer of '06 Sears have them in stock at the local store. The model number of the mower is 917.270963 in case they change part numbers of the belt - which Sears likes to do.)

The regular 9/16 box end wrench is for the blades which should be removed and sharpened periodically. (You can get them off without removing the deck. I have a spare sharpened set on hand as of the summer of '06.)