V-Belt Replacement for Ford 907 Flail Mowers

By Frank C. DeFelice

The Ford 907 Flail Mower was manufactured between the years of 1965 and 1972, and many are still hard-at-work in the fields. Mowers manufactured between 1970 and 1972 can be identified by their spring-type tensioners (similar to an automotive fan belt tensioner) and larger 8-inch diameter idler pulleys. Mowers which were manufactured prior to 1970 were equipped with a solid (non-spring type) tension adjusting bracket, and smaller 6-inch diameter idler pulleys.

Obtaining the correct V-belt for a Ford 907 Mower can be difficult (particularly for the 1970-and-later units) because Ford-New Holland changed the belt’s part number several times; yet failed to account for the larger 8-inch idler pulley on the 1970-and-later units. Fortunately, all 907 mowers use a standard “C” profile V-belt, which you can purchase from any local NAPA store. Here is what Ford 907 Flail Mower owners need to know, to order the proper V-belt for their machines, and safely replace a worn or broken belt:

1) If your mower has the solid idler adjusting bracket (no tension spring) and a 6-inch idler pulley (which actually measures 7” across at the rim edges), your mower was manufactured before 1970; and uses a C-52 belt.
2) If your mower has the spring-type tensioner and an 8-inch idler pulley (which actually measures 9” across at the rim edges), your mower was manufactured in 1970 or later; and uses a C-53 belt.

To replace the belt, begin by removing the side cover. Then, fully loosen the two 15/16” nuts that secure the threaded J-bolt in the stop bracket. Loosen slightly the 9/16” nut located in the center of the idler adjusting bracket; and loosen slightly the 9/16” nut located at the elongated slot at the top of the belt compartment (note that these 9/16” bolts are of the carriage-type; and loosening them more than necessary may cause the square base to fall out of the slot). Then turn the inner 15/16” nut against the stop bracket; forcing the idler pulley forward. Observe the movement of the 9/16” bolt in the elongated slot at the top of the belt compartment; so as not to allow it to exceed its limits of travel. Additional slack will be introduced in the belt; allowing it to be easily removed from the machine.

To install the new V-belt, place the new belt over the upper and lower pulleys, with the back of the belt (wide surface) positioned between the edges of the idler pulley. Then tighten the outer 15/16” nut, until the belt is slightly taught; and carefully roll the pulleys (watch your fingers!) to assure that the belt is properly seated in all three pulleys. Continue tightening the outer 15/16” nut, until the belt deflects one-quarter inch (1/4”) when 10 pounds of force is applied to its center. When the proper tension has been obtained, tighten the inner and outer 15/16” nuts against the stop bracket using wrenches on both the inner and outer nuts. Tighten the 9/16” nut on the Idler adjusting bracket, and the 9/16” nut at the elongated slot. Replace the cover and start mowing!

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Upper Pulley: Measures 9” edge to edge - Type “C” Belt Profile
Pre-1970 Idler Pulley: 6” (on flat) =7” edge to edge = C52 Belt
Post-1970 Spring-idler Pulley: 8” (on flat) =9” edge to edge = C53 Belt
Lower Pulley: Measures 8” edge to edge - Type “C” Belt Profile