

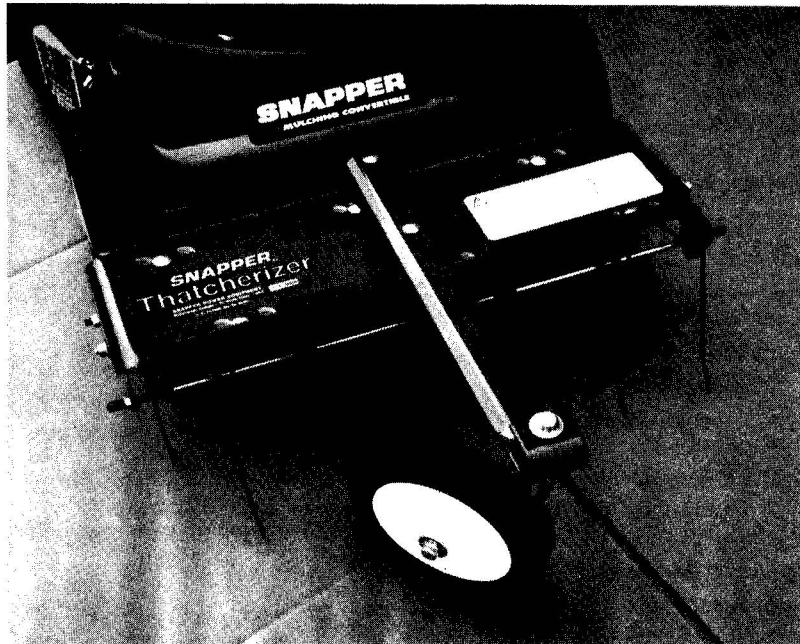
# **SNAPPER**®

**POWER EQUIPMENT**

## **THATCHERIZER™** **Assembly • Operation • Maintenance** **Instructions**

**KIT #61256**

**U.S. PATENT NO. RE 32551**



**SNAPPER**® McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.  
DIVISION OF FUQUA INDUSTRIES, INC.

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the Snapper Thatcherizer. It will effectively dislodge excessive thatch from your lawn where it can be vacuumed up into the grass catcher on mowers so equipped. Thatch is a layer of stems, clippings, runners, roots and leaves that have not decayed. It builds up between the ground surface and the green part of the grass. Excessive thatch prevents the proper amount of air, water and fertilizer from reaching the root structure. In areas where thatch is thick, it can kill the grass and provide a host for insects and turf disease.

In addition to de-thatching, your Thatcherizer can help you perform other lawn care duties. For example, you can use it for "scratching" the surface of the soil for over-seeding, to give the seed a better chance of germinating. Also use it to comb matted grass upright before mowing for a smoother, more even cut. Your Thatcherizer will do a good job of dislodging and raking up that thin layer of pine straw which often remains partially embedded in the soil or is entwined in the grass. Vacuum up heavy accumulations of pine straw or leaves before using your Thatcherizer.

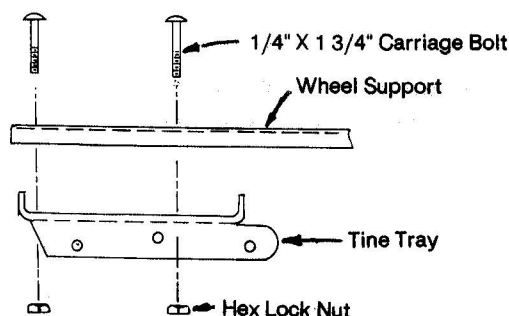
After assembly, see the adjustment section of this manual (or the decal on the Thatcherizer) to properly adjust the tines for best results.

## ASSEMBLY

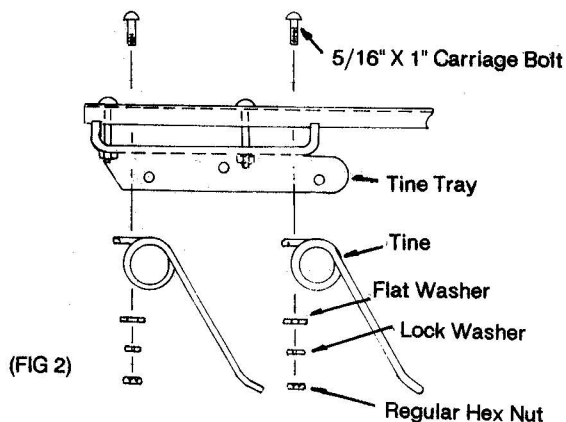
NOTE 1: The "ears" extending from the tine tray are on the **front** of the Thatcherizer.

NOTE 2: Lock nuts must be used for certain portions of the assembly to resist loosening. They require more torque while tightening. Regular hex nuts can be threaded on with your fingers until they are seated.

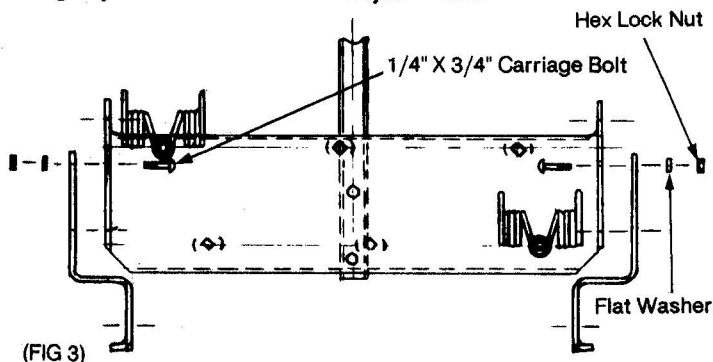
1.(FIG.1) Attach the wheel support to the tine tray using two 1/4" x 1-3/4" carriage bolts and hex lock nuts. The wheel support must rest in the notches of the tine tray. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.**



2.(FIG.2) Attach six tines to the tine tray using 5/16" x 1" carriage bolts, flat washers, lock washers, and regular hex nuts. The tips of the tines should face forward, as shown making sure the loop between the tine coils nests inside the projections.



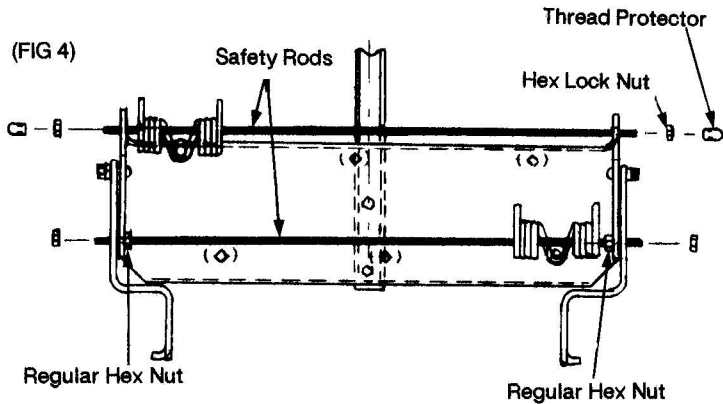
3.(FIG.3) Assemble right and left-hand mounting brackets to the sides of the tine tray as shown, using 1/4" x 3/4" carriage bolt, flat washer, and hex lock nut on each side. To determine left and right hand, assemble so the safety tabs of the mounting brackets point down and outward. Push the carriage bolt from the inside of the tine tray through the slotted hole of each mounting bracket. Leave the hex lock nuts slightly loose for final adjustment.



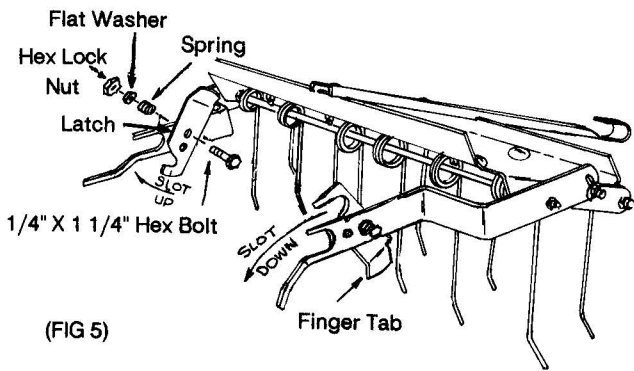
4.(FIG.4) Push one safety rod through the ears on the front of the tine tray, and the front tine coils. Tighten with 1/4" hex lock nuts on each end until the rod cannot move from side to side. Install the rubber thread protectors over the threads on both ends of the safety rod. Push the other safety rod through the remaining hole on the mounting bracket, tine tray and rear tine coils. Before passing through the other side of the tine tray, thread a regular hex nut completely down to the base of the thread. With the rod pushed in the direction of that hex nut, thread a regular hex nut on the other end of the rod **inside** the tine tray.

Adjust these two hex nuts to touch the inside of the tine tray and also allow the same amount of thread to protrude out from both sides.

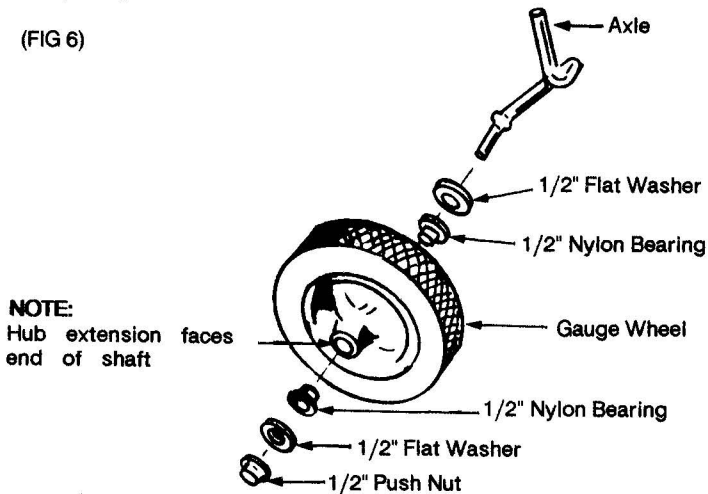
Tighten the rods from the outside with hex lock nuts. Be sure that you tighten the lock nuts **against the regular nuts** on the inside of the tine tray. Failure to do so will distort the tine tray and mounting brackets. Thread protectors are not required on the rear safety rod.



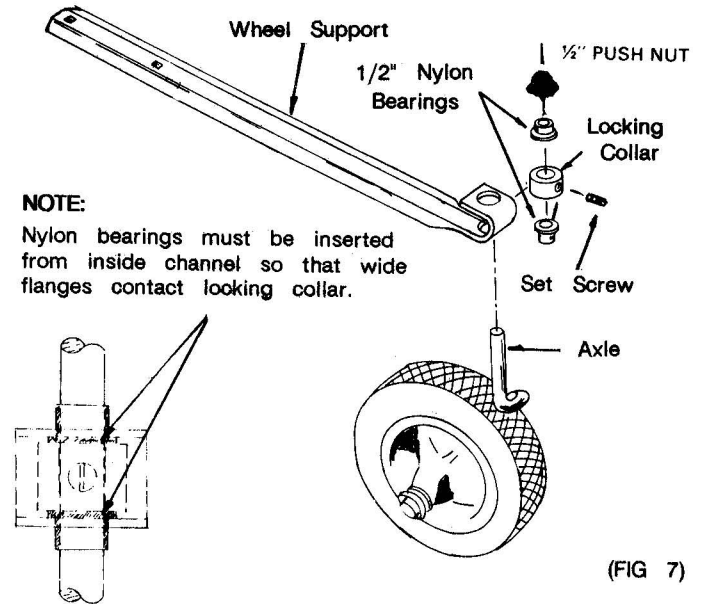
5.(FIG.5) Attach the latches to the mounting brackets (so the finger tabs point in) using 1/4" x 1-1/4" hex bolts, springs, 1/4" flat washers and hex lock nuts as shown. Tighten each lock nut until the spring is compressed to 7/16" in length and the latch is still free to pivot.



6.(FIG.6) Insert a 1/2" nylon bearing into each side of the gauge wheel. Mount the gauge wheel on the axle as shown using 1/2" flat washers on both sides of the wheel, then drive a 1/2" push nut over the axle end.



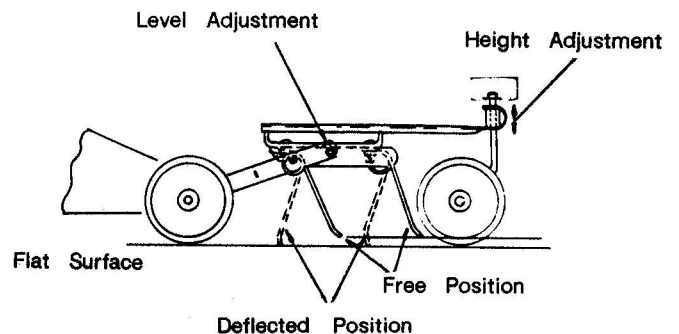
7.(FIG.7) Position the locking collar with the 1/2" axle bearings inside the wheel support. Slide the axle (with gauge wheel attached) through the wheel support and the locking collar; drive a 1/2" push nut over the axle end on the top side then tighten the set screw slightly to prevent the axle from falling out during final adjustment.



## ADJUSTMENT

NOTE: Mower with Thatcherizer attached is not designed to be used with mower wheels in lowest cutting position. For most lawns, adjust the Thatcherizer as follows:

1. Select a smooth, flat surface such as a driveway, sidewalk, garage floor, etc. Adjust the front mower wheels to their highest mowing position. Attach the Thatcherizer to the front axle of the mower by opening the latches on the mounting bracket, slipping it on the axle, then closing the latches. Next re-adjust the front mower wheels to the desired height, and position the thatcherizer gauge wheel directly under the gauge wheel support.
2. Loosen the hex lock nuts on the sides of the mounting brackets, and the gauge wheel set screw. Adjust the tine tray to place the tine tips approximately 1/2" above the flat surface when in the free position and to touch the flat surface when manually deflected.
3. Tighten all lock nuts and gauge wheel set screw.



To remove the thatcherizer, raise front mower wheels to their highest position, open latches and pull out. Re-adjust the mower wheels to the desired height.

## WHEN TO USE

Every lawn is different, so there is not a rule for when to use the Thatcherizer. Some lawns are very dense and the Thatcherizer should be used about every third or fourth cutting. Lawns that are less dense should require less de-thatching. In general, you want to leave a very small amount of thatch (about 1/8" thick) in your lawn. This is enough to shade the grass roots from direct sunlight, yet allow plenty of air, water and fertilizer to get to the roots for nourishment.

For best results, vary your mowing and de-thatching pattern from one cutting to the next.

**Tine Action-** Grass should be less than 3" tall for proper tine action. When in use, all the tines on the Thatcherizer should deflect back (independently) and "flip" the thatch forward. If the tines seem to drag without flipping forward, the tine tray is too low and should be raised. If all the tines stay in the free position, the tine tray should be lowered. Make adjustments as necessary up or down by no more than 1/4" each time until proper results are achieved.

## MAINTENANCE

The Thatcherizer is maintenance free. However, as with any steel product, it can rust. For rust on the tines, apply a light coat of oil. For rust on the trays or mounting brackets, just sand lightly and coat with enamel. Always store the Thatcherizer in a dry area.

Ref. No.	Part No.	Description	Quantity
1	60574	Thatching Tine	6
2	19948	Tray-Tine	1
3	90883	Carr. Bolt 5/16"-18 x 1"	6
4	14098	Washer-Reinforcing	6
5	90187	Lock Washer 5/16" SAE	6
6	90196	Hex Nut 5/16"-18	6
7	18700	Wheel Support	1
8	14342	Bearing-Nyliner	4
9	14100	Bushing-Wheel Adj.	1
10	14101	Push Nut 1/2"	2
11	18493	Axle-Wheel	1
12	90250	Plain Washer- 1/2" SAE	2
14	18189	Wheel Gage 7" x 1.50 x .562	1
15	90015	Carr. Bolt 1/4"-20 x 1-3/4"	2
16	90761	Hex Lock Nut 1/4"-20	10
17	90063	Hex Nut 1/4"-20	2
18	14103	Set Screw - 5/16" x 1/4"	1
19	22424	Cap - Vinyl	2
20	26572	Bar - Mount RH	1
21	90074	Carr. Bolt 1/4"-20 x 3/4"	2
22	90055	Plain Washer - 1/4" SAE	4
23	26573	Bar - Mount LH	1
25	32891	Latch - Frame Attach	2
26	18499	Rod - Tine	2
27	90825	Hex Bolt 1/4"-20 x 1-1/4"	2
28	22425	Spring - Compression	2
29	14062	Thatcherizer Decal	1
30	14115	Decal - Adjustment	1

Should the need arise for replacement parts, refer to the illustrations in this manual for correct part description, then order through any authorized Snapper dealer.

