FLOWTRON®
electric
Leaf Eater
the Ultimate MULCHER
SHREDS LEAVES,
GRASS
CLIPPINGS,
PINE NEEDLES . . .

OWNER’S
MANUAL

MODEL
LE-900F

• Assembly
• Operation
• Maintenance
• Repair Parts

Instructions given with this symbol are for personal safety. Be sure to follow them.

Always Wear Eye Protection During Operation

ONE Year Limited Warranty on FLOWTRON LEAF-EATER THE ULTIMATE MULCHER — LE-900F
FLOWTRON, division of Armatron warrants your Flowtron Leaf-Eater to be free from defects in materials or workmanship under normal use and service for one year from the original purchase. All parts which are defective will be repaired or replaced free of charge. Any implied warranties, including the implied warranty of merchantability are also limited in duration for one year from the original purchase date. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not apply to you.

The provisions of this warranty shall not apply to any Flowtron Leaf-Eater which has been subject to misuse, neglect or accident, nor which is used for a purpose for which it is not designed, or which shall have been repaired or altered in any way so as to adversely affect its performance and reliability. Service by unauthorized parties voids your warranty. Warranty covers only the original purchaser. Commercial and/or professional use is excluded from warranty coverage.

Flowtron neither assumes nor authorizes any person to assume for it any other liability in connection with its products. No responsibility is assumed for any consequential damages that may result from the use of a Flowtron product, nor for damages due to accident, abuse, lack of responsible care, the affixing of any unauthorized attachments, loss of parts or subjecting this unit to any but the specified voltage. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of the incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Flowtron Outdoor Products
15 Highland Ave, Malden, MA 02148 • an ARMATRON company
781-321-2300 • www.flowtron.com

WARNING
Carefully read and follow safety rules, precautions and operating instructions. Failure to do so can result in serious personal injury.
KNOW YOUR FLOWTRON ULTIMATE LEAF-EATER

Your Flowtron Ultimate Leaf-Eater is a quality built product that is designed to provide you with a unit that is affordable and will perform with a minimum of care and maintenance.

A. Special Features Include:
- Coarse to fine leaf reduction with special positions for pine needles and grass clippings.
- Unique leg design – functions upright or straddles trash barrel.
- Tilt feature makes loading easy; body of unit flips 180° for simple, compact storage.
- Bungee cord surrounding bottom of unit firmly holds leaf bag in position.
- Storage compartment with hinged door holds cutting lines, gloves, safety glasses, etc.
- Foam cushion handle grips ensure comfort and ease of carrying.
- Powerful universal electric motor.
- Runs on ordinary 120 volt, 15 amp household current.

B. Unpacking Instructions
Your unit has been carefully packed at the factory to prevent damage during shipment and storage.

Carefully unpack the carton as follows:
1. Check parts against list shown.
2. Examine for damage.

ASSEMBLY

Hardware Bag Contents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Part #</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>352 3533</td>
<td>Leg Connector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>245 6225 P38</td>
<td>#10-32 Phillips Pan Head Screw, 1 1/2” long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>396 2599</td>
<td>Leg Hub Spacer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>245 6237 P28</td>
<td>#8 Phillips Pan Head Sheet Metal Screw, 1 1/2” long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>396 2438</td>
<td>Handle Grip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>345 2181</td>
<td>#10-32 Wing Nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>345 2285 P28</td>
<td>#8-32 Phillips Pan Head Screw, 1 1/2” long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>396 2877 P01</td>
<td>Cutting Lines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Preparation
Your Owner’s Manual has been developed to help you assemble the unit and to understand its safe operation. It is important that you read your manual completely to become familiar with the unit before you begin assembly.

Tools you will need:
- #2 phillips head screwdriver

1. Assemble Funnel
   a. Place funnel halves on flat surface with narrow opening facing up. Align both halves and press locating pin of funnel half into locating hole on adjacent funnel half. See figure 3. Using two (2) #8 x 1/2” screws, fasten both halves together.

   NOTE: Flange on funnel half overlaps outer surface of adjacent funnel half as shown in figure 3.

   b. Rotate Funnel 180° and repeat step a for opposite side.
2. Attach Funnel to Housing
Place narrow opening of funnel on upper end of housing and position funnel so that flat areas of funnel are located at the right and left housing towers. Align boss on funnel with hole at top center of housing tower as shown in figure 4. Repeat for opposite side. With bosses aligned, press funnel firmly down onto housing. Apply pressure all around edge of funnel until funnel snaps into place and is seated evenly around the housing.

3. Assemble Legs
Position the two curved leg sections to form a semi-circle. Place leg connector brackets at the junction of the two leg sections and align the holes in the brackets with the holes in the legs. Fasten using two #10 x 1 1/2” screws and two #10 x 32 wing nuts. See figure 5.

4. Attach Spacer and Handle Grips to Legs
Locate holes on sides of horizontal portion of leg sections. Holes are located approximately 7" from end of leg.
Install a spacer on a #8 x 1/2" pan head sheet metal screw and fasten to outside surface of leg. Repeat for opposite side. See figure 6.
Place handle grips on horizontal ends of both leg sections.

5. Assemble Housing To Legs
Remove knobs and hubs from both sides of the housing by unscrewing knob and pulling hub off threaded stems located on either side of the housing. Do not remove friction pads. See figure 7.
Place housing on legs with funnel facing downward. Position with Flowtron Leaf-Eater label facing semi-circle, and with threaded stems of housing above leg spacers. Place hub on leg making certain that spacer on leg passes through slot on hub. See figure 7.
Insert threaded stem through hole in center of hub and fasten by threading knob onto stem. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN Repeat for opposite side. Position unit at desired angle and tighten left and right knobs

When making large changes in housing angle or when placing housing in the storage position, loosen knobs before rotating.
SAFETY RULES AND PRECAUTIONS

Warning: To reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury, the following basic safety precautions should always be followed.

**READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Become familiar with all sections of this owner’s manual before attempting to operate the shredder. This shredder should be used solely for the purpose it was intended.
2. Use only parts or accessories specifically designed for use with this shredder. Using other parts or accessories could increase risk of injury.
3. Keep Children Away – all visitors should be kept at a distance from the work area.
4. Never allow your hands or any part of your body or clothing inside the upper housing area.
5. Avoid Dangerous Environments – do not use shredder in damp or wet locations. Do not operate or store shredder in wet areas. Do not operate in rain. Store indoors when not in use, in a dry, and high or locked-up place — out of reach of children.
6. This shredder should be operated on a solid, level surface.
7. Dress Properly – do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Use of work gloves and substantial footwear is advised when working outdoors. Wear protective hair covering to contain long hair.
8. Stay Alert – Watch what you are doing. Use common sense. Do not operate shredder when you are tired.
9. Do not Abuse Power or Extension Cords – Never carry unit by its power cord or yank cord to disconnect from receptacle. Keep all cords clean and away from heat, oil and sharp edges and inspect for damage before each use.
10. Ground unit properly. Follow instructions on page 5 when connecting to electrical outlet.
11. Warning – To reduce the risk of electrical shock, use only an extension cord intended for outdoor use. See page 5 for additional information on extension cords.
12. Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection should be provided on the circuit(s) or outlet(s) to be used for this shredder. Receptacles are available having built-in GFCI protection and may be used for this measure of safety.
13. If it is necessary for any reason to inspect, clean or repair the shredder, turn the shredder off and wait until it comes to a complete stop, then disconnect the power cord before attempting such inspection or repair.

14. Disconnect shredder from the power source when not in use, before servicing, and when changing cutting lines.
15. When feeding material into the shredder be extremely careful that pieces of metal, rocks, bottles, cans or other foreign objects are not included.
16. Do not force the shredder. It will do the job better and with less likelihood of a risk of injury when used at the rate for which it was designed.
17. If the cutting mechanism strikes a foreign object or if your shredder should start making an unusual noise or vibration, immediately switch it off, wait until the shredder has come to a complete stop, then disconnect the power cord and take the following steps:
   A. Remove any foreign or clogged material.
   B. Check for any loose parts and tighten to assure continued safe operation.
   C. Replace or repair any damaged parts.
18. Avoid unintentional starting. Be sure switch is off when plugging in the shredder.
19. Always use safety glasses. Wear face or dust mask if operation is dusty.
20. Check discharge area periodically after stopping shredder to assure the processed material does not build up and clog motor cooling vents.
21. Do Not Overreach – keep proper footing and balance at all times.
22. Do not move shredder when motor is running or with finger on the switch.
23. Maintain Shredder With Care – Follow instructions for replacing cutting lines and for cleaning air filter. Inspect shredder power cord periodically, and if damaged, have it repaired by an authorized service facility. Keep handles dry, clean, and free from oil and grease.
24. Check Damaged Parts – Before further use of the shredder, any 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 indicated elsewhere in this manual.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS
ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

Important: Use a 14 ga. or heavier extension cord with a maximum length of 100 ft.

Grounding Instructions
This shredder should be grounded while in use to reduce the risk of electric shock to the operator.
The shredder is equipped with a three-conductor cord and three-prong grounding plug. The green or
green and yellow conductor in the cord is the
grounding wire. Never connect the green or green
and yellow wire to a live terminal.
The shredder is intended for use on a circuit that
has a grounded outlet box that looks like the one
illustrated in figure 8, sketch A.
An adapter which looks like the adapter illustrated
in figure 8, sketch B is available for connecting
three-prong plugs to two-prong receptacles. The
green colored rigid ear, lug, or the like on the
adapter, must be connected to a permanent
ground, such as a properly grounded outlet box,
using a metal screw.
Check with a qualified electrician or serviceman if
the grounding instructions are not completely
understood, or if in doubt as to whether the shred-
der is properly grounded.

Extensions Cords
Only use three-wire extension cords that have
three-prong grounding plugs and three-hole recep-
tacles that accept the shredder’s plug. When using
an extension cord, make sure that it is in good con-
dition.
Use a 14 ga. or heavier extension cord with a max-
imum length of 100 ft. An undersized extension
cord will cause a drop in line voltage resulting in
loss of power and overheating.
Warning – To reduce the risk of electric shock, only
use extension cords intended for outdoor use, such
as cord types SW-A, SOW-A,
STW-A, STOW-A, SJW-A, SJOW-A, SJTW-A or
SJTW -A.
To prevent disconnection of the shredder cord from
the extension cord during operation, make a knot
as shown in figure 9. Devices for retaining exten-
sion cords are also available at your local hardware
retailer.

1. On/Off Switch
The On/Off switch is located on the side of the
Lower Housing. To turn unit on push switch up to
“On” position, see figure 10. To turn unit “Off” push
switch down to “Off” position, see figure 10.

2. Circuit Breaker/Reset Button
The circuit breaker/reset button is located on the
lower, outside front of the motor housing as shown
in figure 10. The unit is designed to shut down in
the event of an overload. To restart, place on/off
switch in “off” position, push reset button, wait
approximately three minutes and then place switch
in “ON” position.
SAFE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Your Flowtron Ultimate Leaf-Eater can be hazardous if improperly or carelessly used. The instructions and figure shown below demonstrate the right way to use your machine. Read and understand the operating instructions before you operate your machine. Always use safe and cautious operating methods. Please remember, the operating and safety instructions have been written for your use. Failure to read all instructions may result in injury. Be sure you have read “Rules for Safe Operation” on page 4 before proceeding.

1. Moving Your Unit

Disconnect the power cord from the extension cord or power source, grasp the unit along the top of the housing tower, lift and move to wherever you choose. To place unit on trash container, lift by grasping hand grips located on leg extensions. To use on legs with leaf bag, place bag around unit and retain with bungee cord. See figure 12.

2. Loading Your Machine

With the machine running, feed double handfuls of dry leaves, or single handfuls of wet leaves, into the hopper. Allow the machine to shred the load completely and regain speed before reinserting the next load. Do not overload the machine by letting it labor at low speed: this will cause the circuit breaker to shut the motor off. If this happens, turn the switch off, unplug the machine, clear the unshredded material from the hopper, reset the breaker and continue with your shredding.

3. Mulching Control Lever

The control lever, see figure 13, controls the particle size and speed at which material goes through the unit. With the control lever in the COARSE position, material will process through the unit faster but will give you a larger particle size than if the lever were in the FINE position. The FINE position setting will discharge material slower, but will give the smallest particle size. Use special settings for pine needles, grass clippings and thatch. For best results, material should be shredded when dry.

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Filling hopper with unshredded material at a rate faster than the machine can handle may result in permanent damage to your motor.

Do not attempt to shred twigs, branches or other foreign objects. If detected during operation, stop the shredder and remove these items from the hopper.

Do not allow shredded material in trash container or leaf bag to reach bottom of motor housing. A reduction in airflow will result and may cause permanent damage to your motor.

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page 6
1. Cleaning Your Unit
Your unit requires a minimum of maintenance other than cleaning. It is recommended that you clean out built-up residue from inside the housing area during and after each use. Replace cutting line as often as necessary, see paragraph 2 below, and clean air filter frequently, see paragraph 4 below. Any other maintenance or repairs should be performed by Flowtron.

2. Replacement of Cutting Line
Your unit is supplied with six strips of six (6) cutting lines each (for a total of 36 cutting lines). To separate individual lines simply pinch the indent between lines nearest strip end and peel away. Replace cutting cord when a noticeable decrease in shredding efficiency is observed. To remove used cutting lines pull used line out of the spinner head inside the housing. To install new cutting lines place each end of new line through the two holes in the post on top of the spinner head and pull through so that both ends of the line are even. Thread lines through the two ferrules on the side of the spinner head and pull tight so that ends are even. See fig. 14.

WARNING: Use only .080 diameter monofilament cord 12 3/4" long. Use of thicker lines, lines made of substitute materials, or lines greater than 12 3/4" long MAY RESULT IN PERMANENT DAMAGE TO YOUR MOTOR AND/OR INJURY.

3. Replacement of Spinner
Remove screw and "O" ring from center of spinner. Lift spinner off shaft. Place new spinner over shaft and turn until hex falls in place. Tighten screw until "O" ring is depressed slightly.

Important
Do not attempt to run or use your machine with the Air Filter removed. Check frequently to insure that the Air Filter is clean. Always disconnect the power cord prior to removing Air Filter.

4. Cleaning Air Filter
The removable air filter is located on the side of the housing tower. To remove, grasp filter with fingers and pull out of compartment. (See figure 15.) Rinse with clear water and air dry. Replace air filter before using machine.

5. Storage
To reduce storage space requirements, loosen knobs and rotate unit 180°, (funnel facing downward).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Trouble Shooting Problem</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor will not start</td>
<td>No electric power.</td>
<td>Check to be sure power cord is connected to the power source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No cutting action/lack of power.</td>
<td>Circuit breaker has tripped.</td>
<td>Clean filter and residue inside housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor does not sound like it is running properly.</td>
<td>Cutting line is worn or residue has built-up inside of housing.</td>
<td>Replace cutting line with new line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air filter is dirty.</td>
<td>Clean built-up residue in housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit bound with debris.</td>
<td>Remove and clean air filter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clean unit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: LER-100 Cutting Line Kit contains 12 replacement lines and may be purchased from your local dealer. If not available, order direct from Flowtron Outdoor Products or on line at www.flowtron.com

**FIGURE 14**

**FIGURE 15**