

Instruction Sheet

Kit Number: 79702800 & 79703000

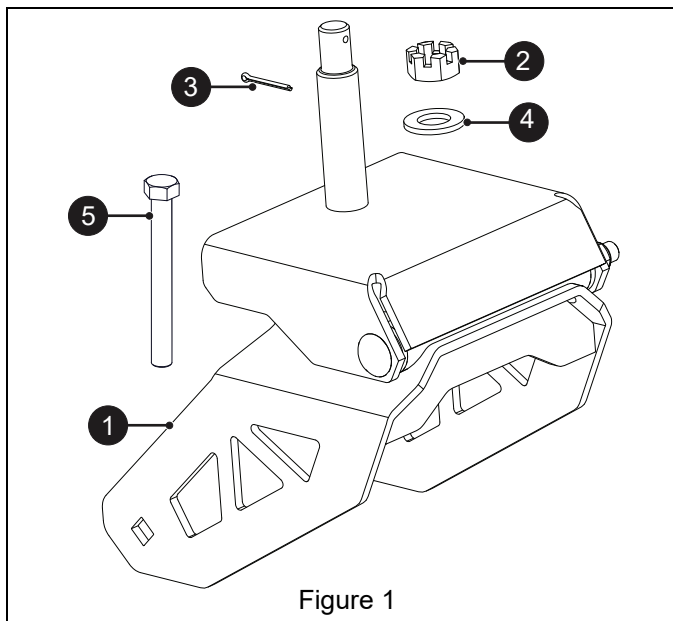
SUSPENSION FORK KIT

WARNING: FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS could result in personal injury and/or damage to unit.
Read, understand, and follow all safety practices in Operator's Manual before beginning.

Package Contents

Check the contents of your kit for the parts listed below
Also see Figure 1.

Item	Description	Qty	AriensCo P/N
1	Red Suspension Fork Assembly (79702800) Orange Suspension Fork Assembly (79703000)	2	See <i>Suspension Fork Kit Parts List</i> on page 6.
2	3/4"-16 Slotted Nut	2	00595500
3	1/8" x 1 1/4" Cotter Pin	2	06700212
4	13/16" x 15/32" Flat Washer	2	06401140
5	1/2"-13 x 4 1/2" Grade 8 Hex Bolt	2	05901736

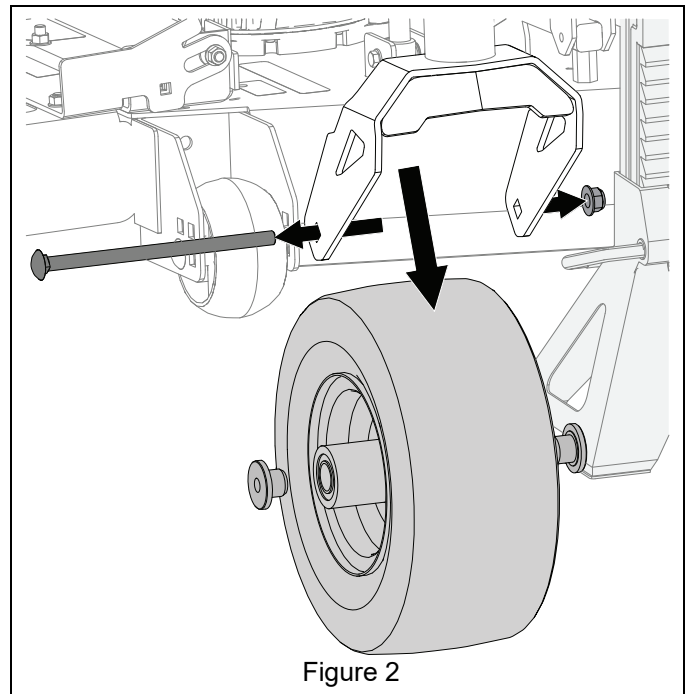


REMOVAL

1. Park unit on a flat, level surface and engage parking brake.
2. Remove key and wait for moving parts to stop and for hot parts to cool.

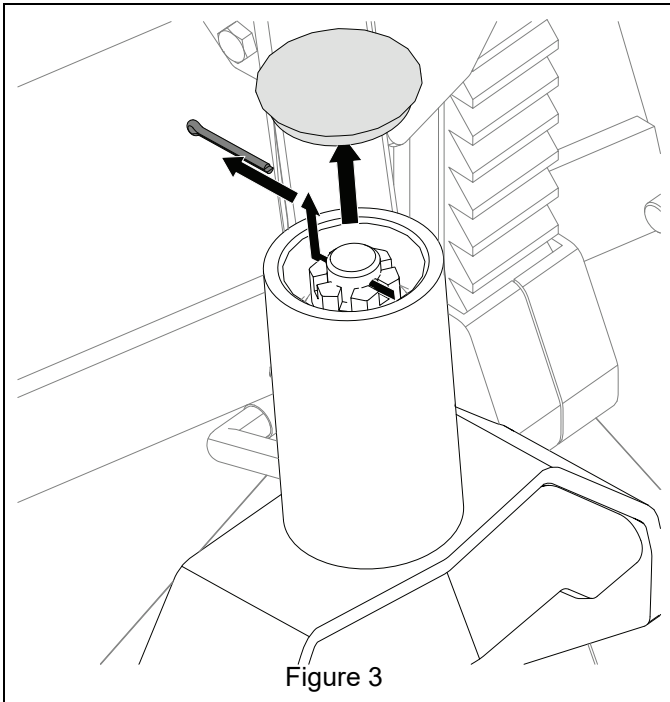
WARNING: AVOID INJURY! ALWAYS ensure that jack stands are secure and strong enough to support weight of unit during maintenance.

3. Chock rear wheels and lift unit so front caster wheels are off the ground.
4. Securely support front of unit. Remove and retain round head square neck bolt and flange nut retaining front caster wheel. Remove and retain caster wheel and wheel spacers. See Figure 2.

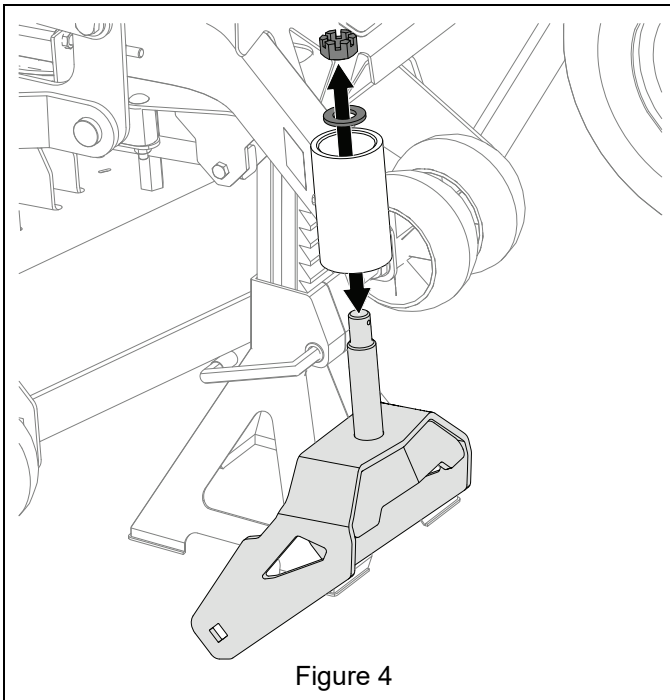


See Figure 3.

5. Remove and retain dust cap from top of caster fork tube.
6. Remove and discard cotter pin from slotted nut.



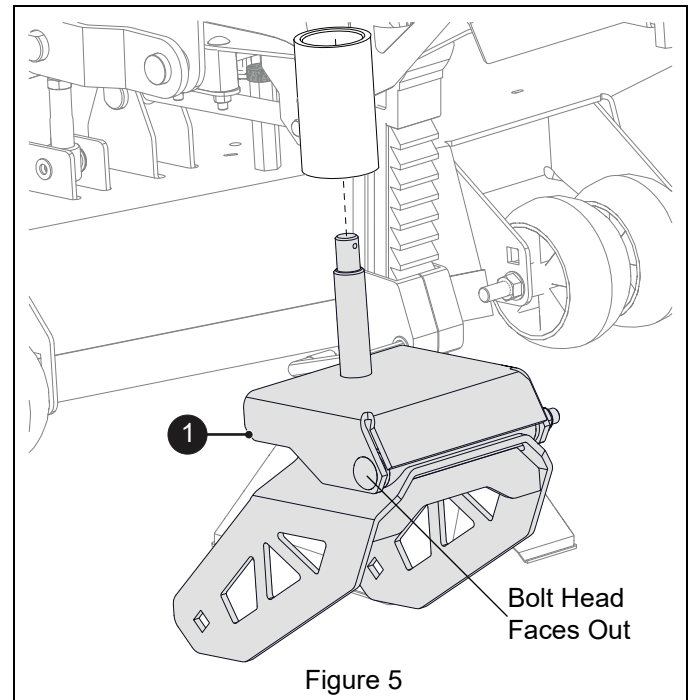
7. While supporting caster fork assembly, remove and discard slotted nut. Remove and discard flat steel washer and caster fork assembly. See Figure 4.



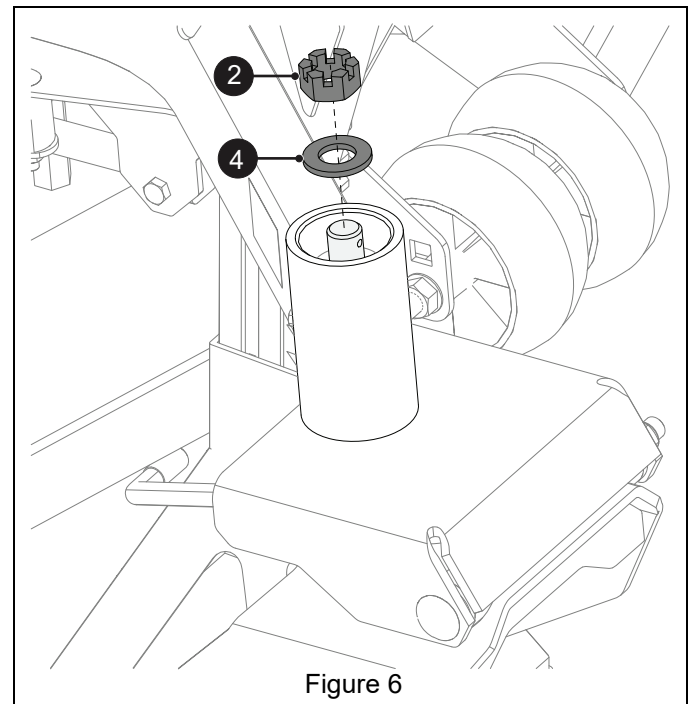
INSTALLATION

See Figure 5.

1. Select the suspension fork assembly (item 1) that positions the hinge bolt head facing out when traveling forward. Insert fork assembly into caster fork tube and support in position.

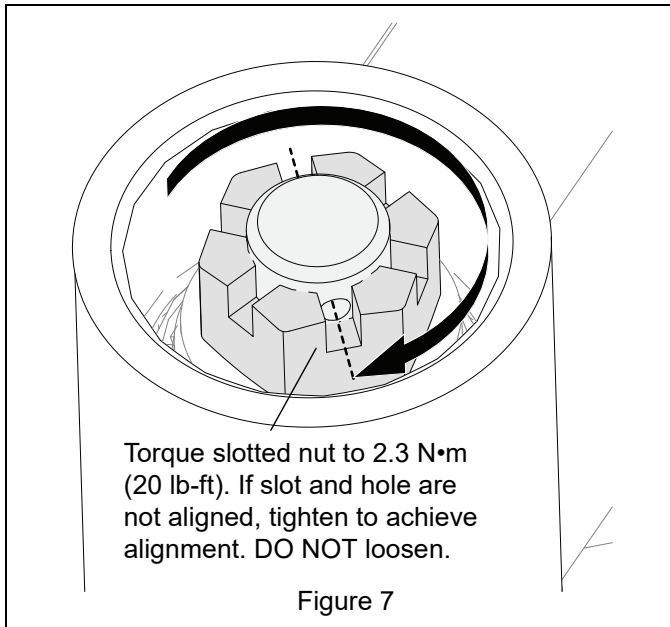


2. Install flat washer (item 4) on caster shaft and retain suspension assembly with slotted nut (item 2). See Figure 6.

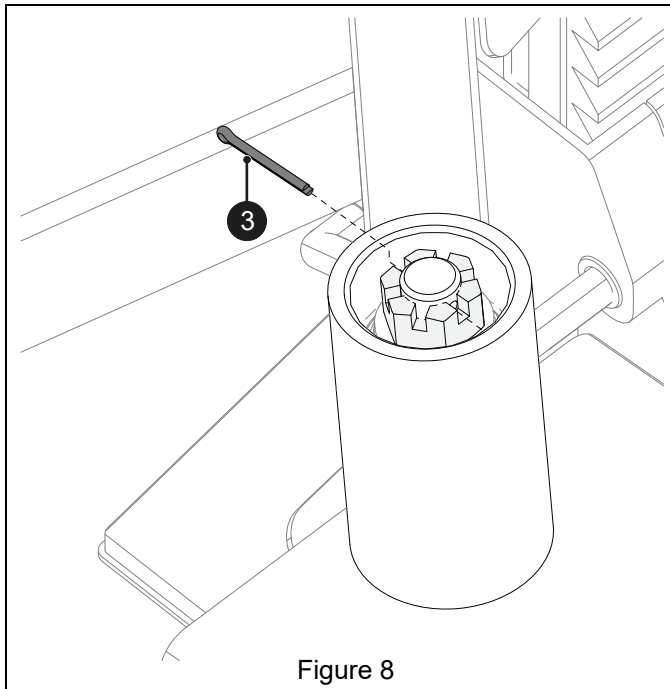


See Figure 7.

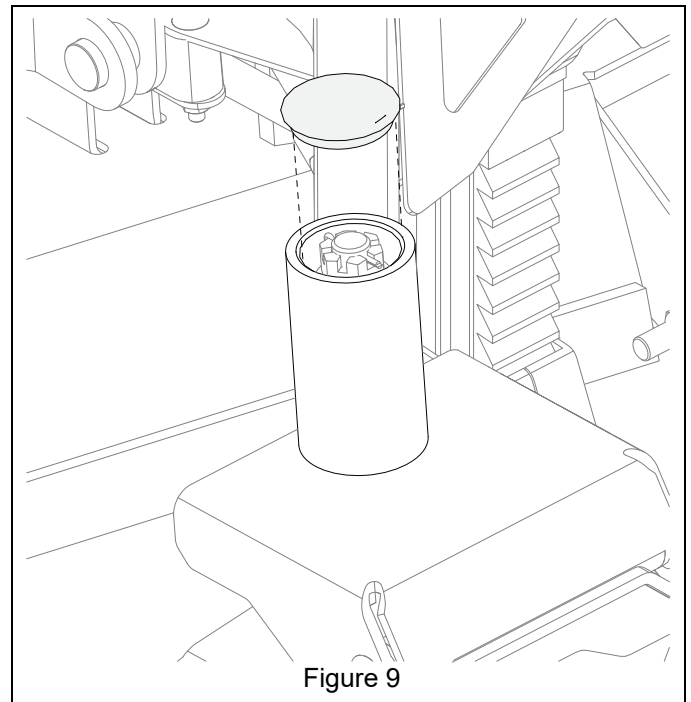
3. Torque slotted nut to 2.3 N•m (20 lb-ft).
4. Ensure one nut slot aligns with shaft hole. If not aligned, tighten nut until the next available slot aligns with the shaft hole. **DO NOT** loosen nut.



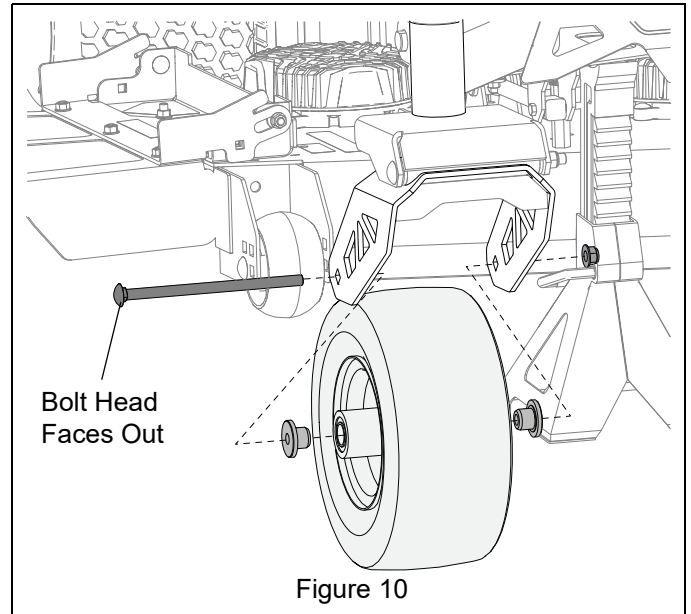
5. Install cotter pin (item 3) into shaft and bend pin tangs to secure in place. See Figure 8.



6. Reinstall dust cap. See Figure 9.



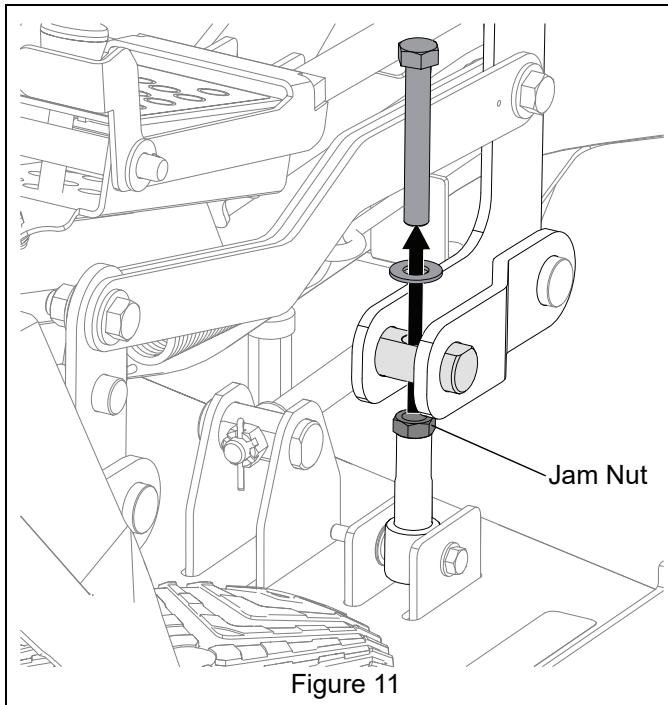
7. Ensure that wheel spacers are correctly positioned in hub and reinstall caster wheel. Wheel bolt is positioned with head facing out when traveling forward. See Figure 10.



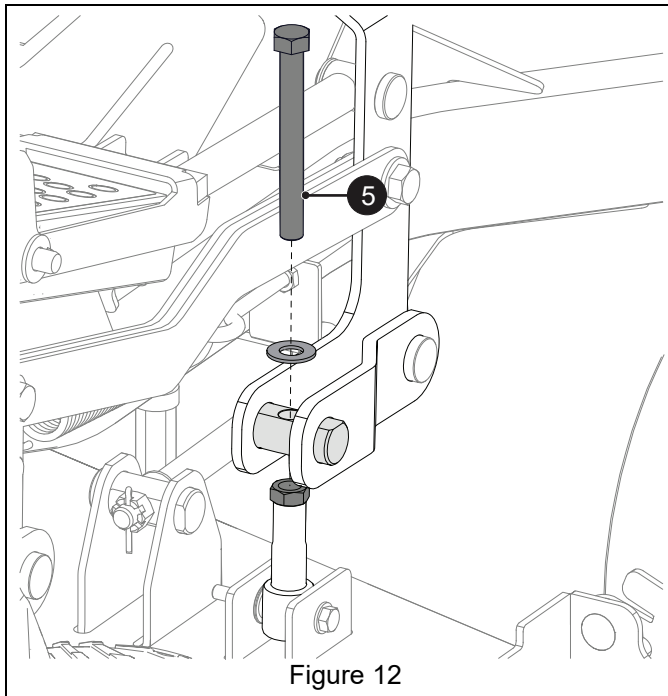
8. Repeat removal and installation steps on other side of mower.
9. Lubricate both caster assemblies by injecting grease into grease fittings on both sides.
10. Lower unit to the ground.
11. Replace front mower hanger bolts. See *Replace Front Mower Deck Bolts* below.

REPLACE FRONT MOWER DECK BOLTS

1. Park mower on a flat level surface.
2. Position desired-height blocks under front corners of front deck edge so that deck is supported.
3. Loosen jam nut and remove front deck hanger hex bolt and flat washer from deck-lift link and pin. Discard hex bolt; retain washer See Figure 11.



4. Position flat washer on deck lift pin and install one 1/2" x 4 1/2" hex bolt (item 5) through pin and into deck-lift link. Do not tighten jam nut. See Figure 12.



5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 on other side of deck.
6. Remove blocks.
7. Adjust deck level and pitch.

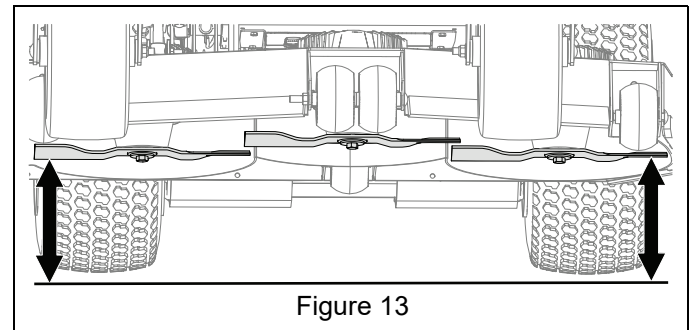
LEVEL AND PITCH MOWER DECK

NOTICE: Blade forward-pitch specifications are for side-discharge decks. Rear-discharge decks are set to zero pitch which is the same blade height from front to rear.

IMPORTANT: Make sure unit is on a flat, level surface and that tires are inflated to the recommended pressures.

Check Blade Level and Pitch

1. Raise deck to 3 1/2" (8.9 cm) cutting height.
2. Engage parking brake.
See Figure 13.
3. Position mower blades so ends point left to right across the width of the deck.
4. Measure the distance between the ground and the cutting edge of the left and right blades. If the measurements are not within 4.7 mm (3/16") of each other, level the deck. See *Level Mower Deck* on page 5.



See Figure 14.

5. Position mower blades so ends point front to back and measure the following:
 - At the front of the deck, measure the distance between the ground and the cutting edge of the middle blade.
 - At the rear of the deck, measure the distance between the ground and the cutting edge of the left and the right blades.

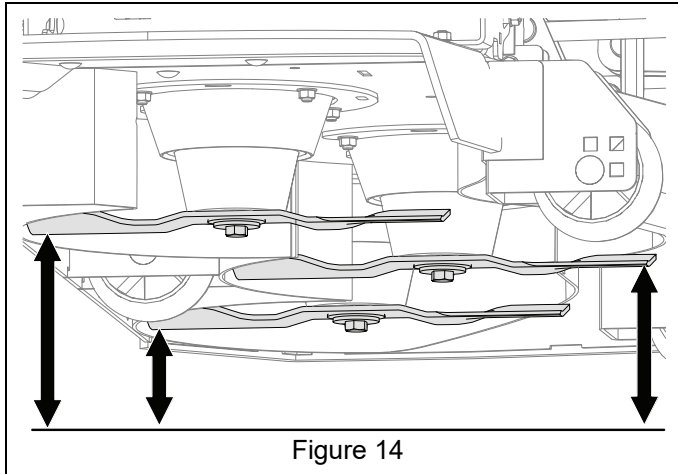


Figure 14

If the front measurement is not 3.2 mm (1/8") lower than the rear measurements, adjust the blade pitch. See *Adjust Blade Pitch* on page 5.

Level Mower Deck

See Figure 15.

1. Lower the high side of deck:
 - a. Loosen jam nuts against deck-lift links.
 - b. Turn adjustment bolts counterclockwise.
 - c. Measure distance between the ground and cutting edges of left and right blades. Continue adjustment if necessary.
 - d. Tighten jam nuts against deck-lift links.
2. Raise the low side of deck:
 - a. Loosen jam nuts against deck-lift links.
 - b. Turn adjustment bolts clockwise.
 - c. Measure distance between the ground and cutting edges of left and right blades. Continue adjustment if necessary.
 - d. Tighten jam nuts against deck-lift links.

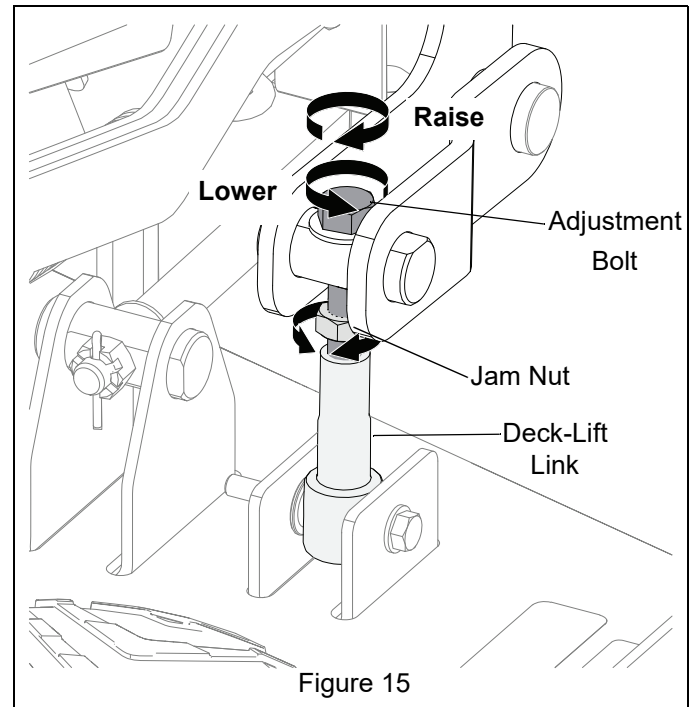


Figure 15

Adjust Blade Pitch

IMPORTANT: Side-to-side deck heights **MUST** remain level even after completing pitch adjustment.

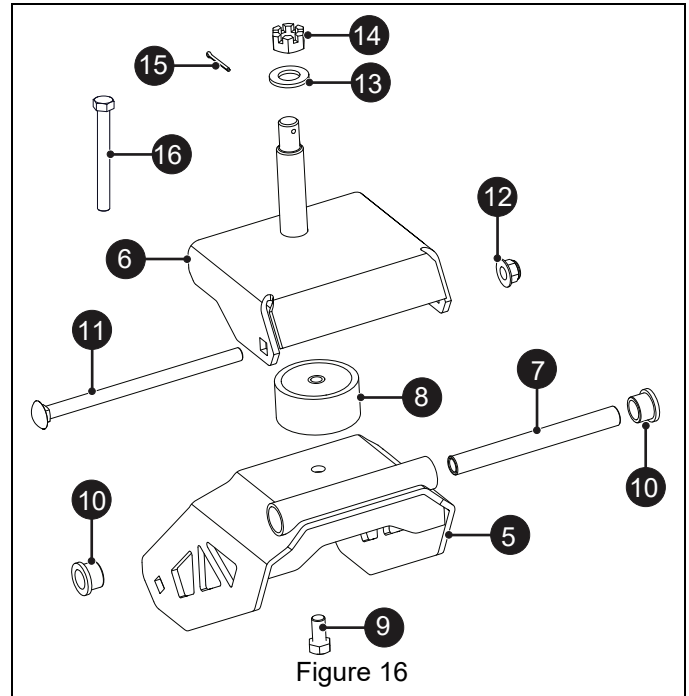
IMPORTANT: Pitching the front of the blades lower than the rear provides a balance between cut quality and the power needed to cut grass. Certain cutting conditions require the deck rear to be pitched lower than the front. Positioning the deck this way requires more engine power but can provide better cut quality. Rear discharge decks are set to zero pitch which is the same blade height from front to rear.

1. Increase forward pitch:
 - a. Loosen jam nuts against all deck-lift links.
 - b. Turn front adjustment bolts counterclockwise to lower deck front.
 - c. Turn rear adjustment bolts clockwise to raise deck rear.
 - d. Check adjustment. See *Check Blade Level and Pitch* on page 4.
 - e. Tighten jam nuts against deck-lift links.
2. Decrease forward pitch:
 - a. Loosen jam nuts against all deck-lift links.
 - b. Turn front adjustment bolts clockwise to raise deck front.
 - c. Turn rear adjustment bolts counterclockwise to lower deck rear.
 - d. Check adjustment. See *Check Blade Level and Pitch* on page 4.
 - e. Tighten jam nuts against deck-lift links.

SUSPENSION FORK KIT PARTS LIST

See Figure 16. Quantities are per side.

Item	Description	Qty	AriensCo P/N
5	Red Lower Suspension Weldment (79702800)	1	09360553
	Orange Lower Suspension Weldment (79703000)	1	09360559
6	Red Upper Suspension Weldment (79702800)	1	09469053
	Orange Upper Suspension Weldment (79703000)	1	09469059
7	Fork Pivot Rod	1	09361100
8	Rubber Suspension Spacer	1	09361200
9	1/2"-13 x 1" Hex Bolt	1	05901715
10	3/4" x 3/4" x 1" Flange Bushing	2	03985500
11	1/2"-13 x 8 1/2" Hex Bolt	1	06200321
12	1/2"-13 Nylon Flange Nut	1	06500810
13	13/16" x 15/32" Flat Washer	1	06401140
14	3/4"-16 Slotted Nut	1	00595500
15	1/8" x 1 1/4" Cotter Pin	1	06700212
16	1/2"-13 x 4 1/2" Grade 8 Hex Bolt	1	05901736



NOTICE: Refer to the parts catalog for your model for all other caster fork parts.