

**JOHN DEERE**  
**WORLDWIDE COMMERCIAL & CONSUMER**  
**EQUIPMENT DIVISION**

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**Rotary Tiller**  
**RT55**  
**RT73**  
**OMKV18189 F1**  
**OPERATOR'S MANUAL**



**JOHN DEERE**

North American Version  
Litho in U.S.A.

# INTRODUCTION

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## Thank You for Purchasing a John Deere Product

We appreciate your business and wish you many years of safe and satisfied use of your machine.

## Using Your Operator's Manual

This manual is an important part of your machine and should remain with the machine at all times.

Reading your operator's manual will help you and others avoid personal injury or damage to the machine. Information given in this manual will provide the operator with the safest and most effective use of the machine. Knowing how to operate this machine safely and correctly will allow you to train others who may operate this machine.

This manual and safety signs on your machine may also be available in other languages (see your John Deere dealer to order).

Sections in your operator's manual are placed in a specific order to help you understand all the safety messages and learn the controls so you can operate this machine safely. You can also use this manual to answer any specific operating or servicing questions. A convenient index located at the end of this book will help you to find needed information quickly.

The machine shown in this manual may differ slightly from your machine, but will be similar enough to help you understand our instructions.

RIGHT-HAND and LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction the machine will travel when going forward. When you see a broken line arrow (----->), the item referred to is hidden from view.

Before delivering this machine, your dealer performed a pre-delivery inspection to ensure best performance.

## Special Messages

Your manual contains special messages to bring attention to potential safety concerns, machine damage as well as helpful operating and servicing information. Please read all the information carefully to avoid injury and machine damage.

**IMPORTANT: Avoid damage! This text is used to tell the operator of actions or conditions that might result in damage to the machine.**

**NOTE: General information is given throughout the manual that may help the operator in the operation or service of the machine.**



**CAUTION: Avoid injury! This symbol and text highlight potential hazards or death to the operator or bystanders that may occur if the hazards or procedures are ignored.**

# PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

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## Record Identification Numbers

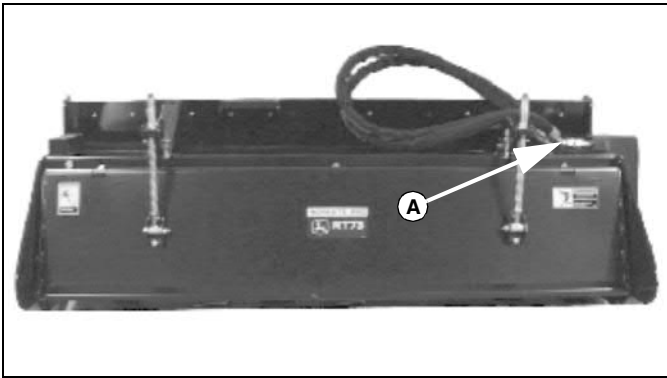
### Rotary Tiller

**RT55** Serial No. (KVRT55X100100 - )

**RT73** Serial No. (KVRT73X300100 - )

If you need to contact an Authorized Service Center for information on servicing, always provide the product model and serial number.

You will need to locate the model and serial numbers for the rotary tiller and record the information in the spaces provided below.



KV1088

DATE OF PURCHASE:

\_\_\_\_\_

DEALER NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

DEALER PHONE:

\_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER (A):

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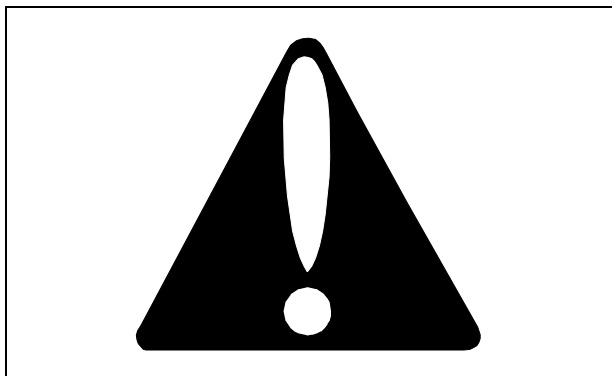
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OMKV18189 F1 - English

# SAFETY

## Understanding The Machine Safety Labels



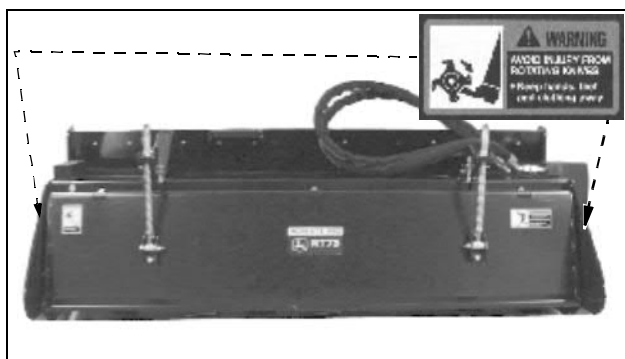
MIF

The machine safety labels shown in this section are placed in important areas on your machine to draw attention to potential safety hazards.

On your machine safety labels, the words DANGER, WARNING, and CAUTION are used with this safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

The operator's manual also explains any potential safety hazards whenever necessary in special safety messages that are identified with the word, CAUTION, and the safety-alert symbol.

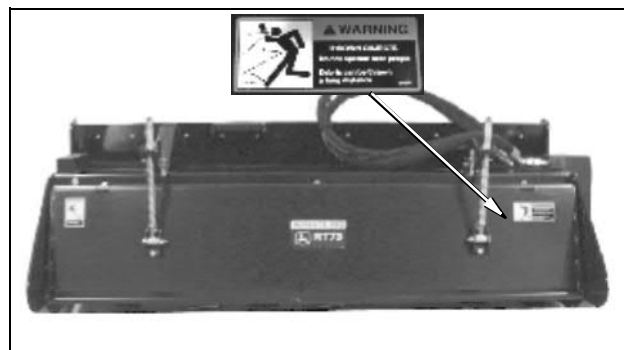
## WARNING: Avoid Injury From Rotating Tine



KV1088

- Keep hands, feet, and clothing away.

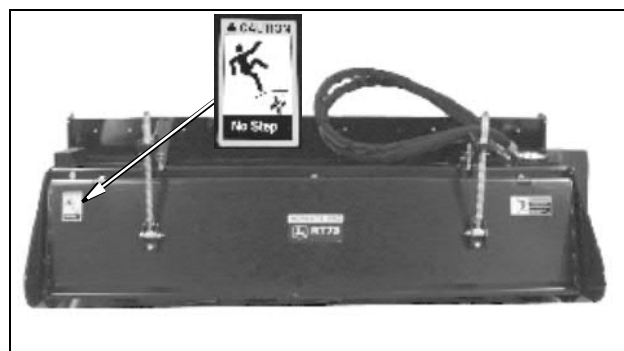
## WARNING: Thrown Objects



KV1088

- Do not operate near people.
- Debris can be thrown a long distance.

## CAUTION: No Step



KV1088

- Do not use leveling board as a step.

## Operator Training Required

- Study the Skid Steer's Operator Manual. Know the location and function of all controls. Know how to operate the skid steer before using this attachment.
- Study operating section of this manual before operating the rotary tiller. Know location and function of all controls.
- Operate machine in an open, unobstructed area under the direction of an experienced operator.
- Learn the use of all controls.
- Operator experience is required to learn the moving, stopping, turning and other operating characteristics of the machine.

# SAFETY

## Operating Safely

- Inspect the machine and attachment before you operate. Be sure all hardware is tight. Repair or replace damaged, badly worn, or missing parts. Be sure guards and shields are in good condition and fastened in place. Make any necessary adjustments before you operate.
- Clear work area of objects that might be thrown. Keep people and pets out of the work area. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- Do not permit bystanders within 3m (10 ft) of the rotary tiller.
- Do not operate rotary tiller unless it is properly installed on skid steer.
- If you hit an object, stop machine and inspect it. Make repairs before you operate. Keep machine properly maintained and in good working order.
- Do not leave skid steer unattended while it is running.
- Only operate during daylight or with adequate artificial light.
- Watch for overhead wires. Never touch wires with any part of the skid steer boom or rotary tiller.
- Call utility companies and have them plot out all their underground lines before starting any tilling operation.
- Do not let anyone, especially children, ride on the skid steer.
- Do not let children or an untrained person operate machine.
- Always check to the sides and rear of the skid steer before backing up.

## Park Safely

1. Stop machine on a level surface, not on a slope.
2. Lower boom so attachments are on the ground. (If you must leave boom raised, be sure any attachment is removed and the boom locks are in the locked [Engaged] position, and boom is resting on locks.)
3. Engage park brake switch.
4. Stop engine.
5. Remove key.
6. Before you leave the operator's seat, wait for engine and all moving parts to stop.

## Avoid Tipping

- Do not drive where machine could slip or tip.

- Stay alert for holes and other hidden hazards in the terrain. Avoid rocks, roots, and ditches.
- Slow down before you make a turn or operate on a slope.
- Drive up and down a hill – not across. Be careful when you change direction on a slope.

## Wear Appropriate Clothing



MIF

- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.
- Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating the machine.
- Wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs. Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones. Safe service and operation requires your full attention.

## Stay Clear of Rotating Devices



MIF

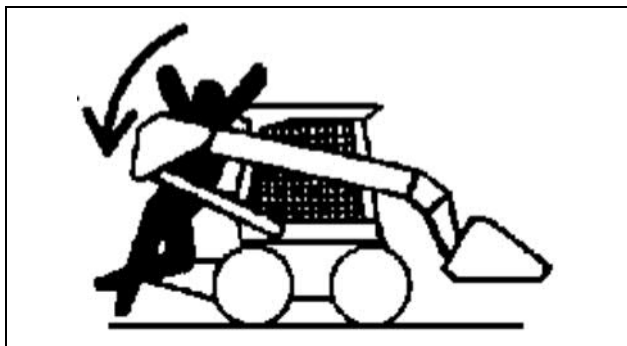
Entanglement in rotating devices can cause serious injury or death.

- Stop the engine and be sure attachment is stopped before exiting the skid steer and before allowing people

# SAFETY

near the attachment.

## Practice Safe Maintenance



M71840A

- Do not work under a raised boom unless it is resting on boom locks and attachment has been removed. Lift arms move near engine hood and frame; never stand or lean on skid steer where linkage can crush you.



MIF

- Understand service procedure before doing work. Keep area clean and dry.
- Never lubricate, service, or adjust machine while it is moving. Keep safety devices in place and in working condition. Keep hardware tight.
- Keep hands, feet, clothing, jewelry, and long hair away from any moving parts, to prevent them from getting caught.
- Lower attachments to the ground before servicing machine. Disengage all power and stop the engine. Lock park brake and remove the key. Let machine cool.
- Before servicing the machine, carefully release pressure from any components with stored energy, such as hydraulic components.
- Keep all nuts and bolts tightened, especially tine attachment bolts.
- Securely support any machine elements that must be

raised for service work.

- Never run engine unless park brake is locked.
- Keep all parts in good condition and properly installed. Fix damage immediately. Replace worn or broken parts. Replace all worn or damaged safety and instruction decals.
- To prevent fires, remove any buildup of grease, oil, or debris from the machine, especially the engine compartment.
- Do not modify machine or safety devices. Unauthorized modifications may impair its function and safety.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones while servicing the machine. Safe service requires your full attention.

## Avoid High Pressure Fluids



MIF

- Hydraulic hoses and lines can fail due to physical damage, kinks, age, and exposure. Check hoses and lines regularly. Replace damaged hoses and lines.
- Hydraulic fluid connections can loosen due to physical damage and vibration. Check connections regularly. Tighten loose connections.
- Escaping fluid under pressure can penetrate the skin causing serious injury. Avoid the hazard by relieving pressure before disconnecting hydraulic or other lines. Tighten all connections before applying pressure.
- Search for leaks with a piece of cardboard. Protect hands and body from high pressure fluids.
- If an accident occurs, see a doctor immediately. Any fluid injected into the skin must be surgically removed within a few hours or gangrene may result. Doctors unfamiliar with this type of injury should reference a knowledgeable medical source. Such information is available from Deere & Company Medical Department in Moline, Illinois, U.S.A. Information may be obtained in the United States and Canada only by calling 1-800-822-8262.

# INSTALLING

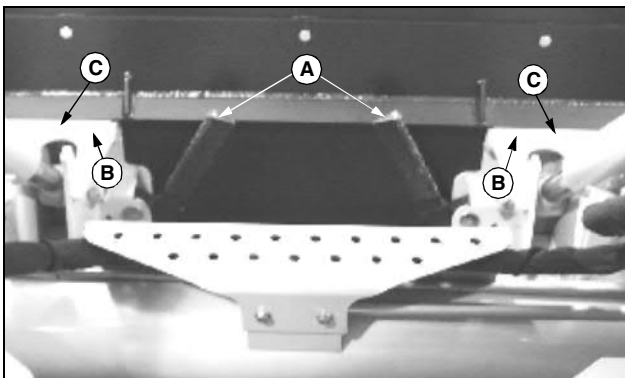
## Installing Rotary Tiller



**CAUTION: Avoid injury!**

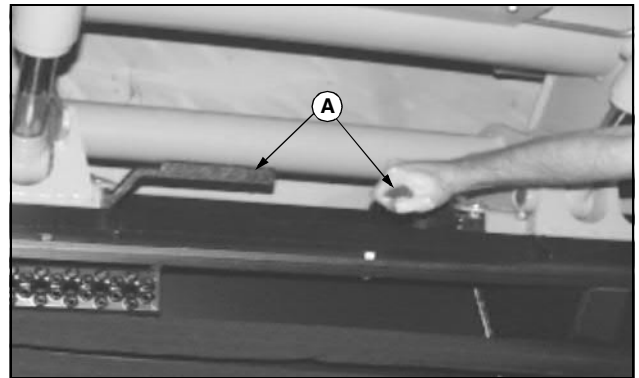
- Do not try to latch or unlatch handles from the cab.
- Be careful not to pinch hands between latch handle and step or latch handle and attachment.

1. Park machine safely. (See Parking Safely in the SAFETY section.)



KV0433

2. Lift latch handles (A) up to the unlatched position. Be sure the latch handles are all the way up so the lock pins are fully retracted.
3. Enter skid steer, fasten seat belt, start the engine, and disengage park brake switch.
4. Tilt Quik-Tatch™ mounting plates (B) forward.
5. Drive forward, slowly raise boom, and guide the top of the mounting plates into the attachment mounting brackets (C).
6. Raise and tilt back the mounting plates. The back of the attachment should rest against the front of the mounting plate.
7. When the attachment is fully supported, lower the boom until the boom is resting on the boom stops.
8. Tilt the attachment out, stopping with the bottom edge of attachment about 50 mm (2 in.) from the ground.
9. Engage the park brake switch, turn off the engine, release the seat belt, and exit the skid steer.



KV0434

10. Push the two latch handles (A) down to lock the attachment to the Quik-Tatch mounting plates.

11. Enter the skid steer, fasten the seat belt, start the engine, and disengage the park brake.



**CAUTION: Avoid injury! Injury to a bystander can occur if the attachment is not properly secured to the Quik-Tatch.**

**An operator must continuously be aware of all bystanders at the worksite.**

12. Activate the lift cylinders to raise attachment and extend bucket cylinders to tilt attachment at a slight downward angle so that the bottom of the Quik-Tatch is visible.



**CAUTION: Avoid injury! Be sure pins and latch handles are secure before operating boom and bucket.**

**If attachment is not securely latched follow the steps to remove and then repeat installation procedure.**

13. Visually inspect the attachment mechanism to verify that pins are fully engaged in slots on the back of the attachment.

14. Connect hydraulic lines.

# INSTALLING

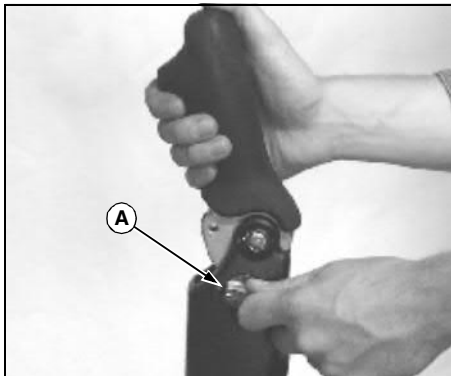
## Attaching Rotary Tiller Hydraulic Lines

**CAUTION: Avoid injury! Relieve hydraulic pressure before connecting or disconnecting auxiliary hydraulic lines.**

**Boom and bucket will move using this procedure. Ensure skid steer is parked safely with boom arms all the way down. Ensure bucket is resting on ground or clear of all objects.**

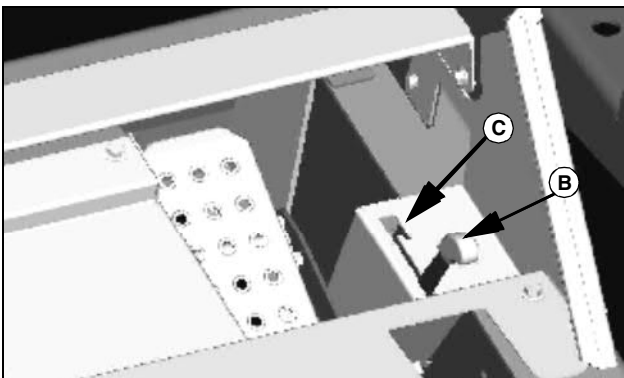
### Relieving Auxiliary Hydraulic Line Pressure

1. Sit in operator's seat. Fasten seat belt.
2. Turn key switch to the run position. Do not start engine.
3. Unlock controls from neutral position:



KV15239

- Turn key (A) to the right.



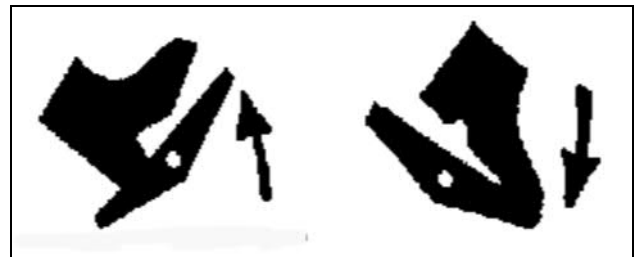
KV0415

- For hand control skid steers, push the auxiliary foot pedal lockout handle (B) forward and rest in notch (C).
4. Actuate auxiliary control several times.
- For hand/foot control skid steers:



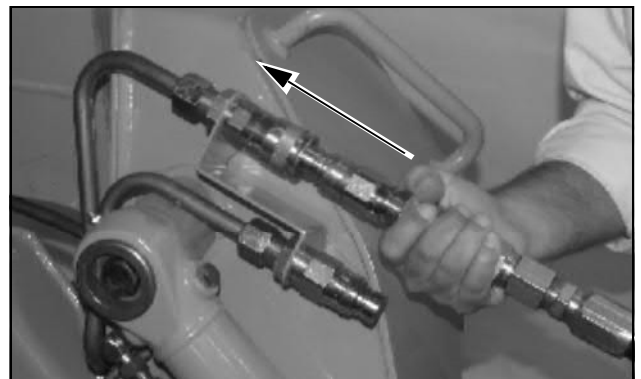
KV16895

- For hand control skid steers:



KV1116

5. Connect quick-disconnect couplers from rotary tiller to skid steer.



KV0235

6. Push couplers together with a firm continuous motion until couplers lock into place.

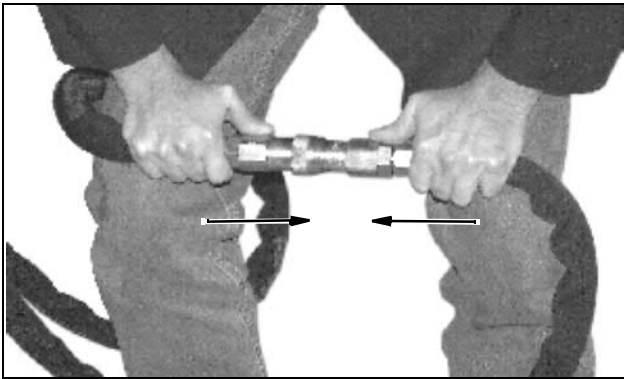
**IMPORTANT: Avoid damage! Inspect all lines and hoses for freedom of movement.**

# REMOVING

## Detaching Rotary Tiller from Skid Steer

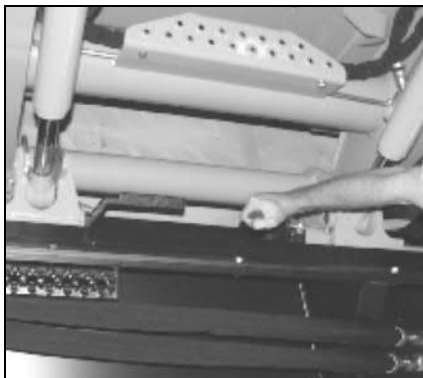
1. Park rotary tiller and skid steer on firm level ground.
2. Lower skid steer boom arms.
3. Roll bucket cylinders forward or curl back as necessary so that rotary tiller is level with the ground.
4. Engage park brake switch and stop the engine.
5. Relieve hydraulic line pressure by actuating auxiliary control several times.
6. Release the seat belt and exit the skid steer.
7. Disconnect hydraulic lines from skid steer.

**IMPORTANT: Avoid damage! Connect the two hydraulic lines from the rotary tiller to each other. This will ensure connectors stay clean and allows hydraulic fluid to circulate due to thermal expansion.**



KV16914

8. Connect the hydraulic lines together:
  - Hold hydraulic lines and place on your knees.
  - Align the fittings.
  - Using your arms and legs, push the hydraulic fittings together until the quick-disconnect couplers lock together.



KV0434

9. Lift handles on Quik-Tatch to release mounting plates

from attachment.

10. Enter the skid steer, fasten seat belt, start the engine, and disengage park brake switch.
11. Slowly roll the bucket cylinders forward while slowly backing away from the attachment.

# OPERATING

## Daily Operating Checklist

- Check skid steer tire pressure.
- Check hydraulic oil level.
- Check hydraulic connections.
- Check attachment of tiller to skid steer.
- Lubricate grease fittings.
- Check controls operation.

## Using The Auxiliary Control

The auxiliary hydraulic control directs hydraulic oil flow to operate different functions on a variety of attachments.

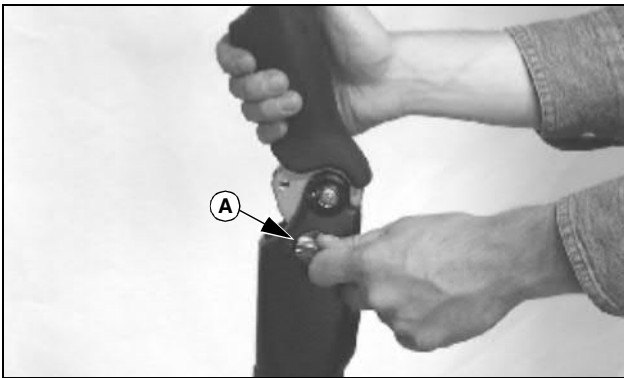
### **IMPORTANT: Avoid damage!**

**The auxiliary control must be locked in neutral when the auxiliary hydraulics are not in use to prevent overheating of hydraulic oil.**

In the case of the rotary tiller, the auxiliary control operates the direction of the tiller rotation.

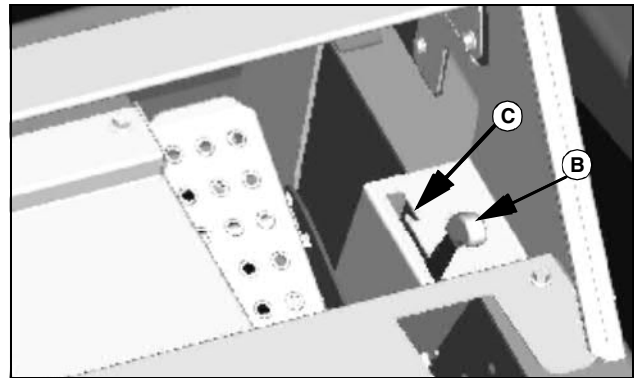
### To Unlock Control From Neutral Position:

1. Sit in operator's seat.
2. Unlock control from neutral position:



KV0232

- For hand/foot control skid steers, turn key (A) to the right to unlock handle from neutral position.

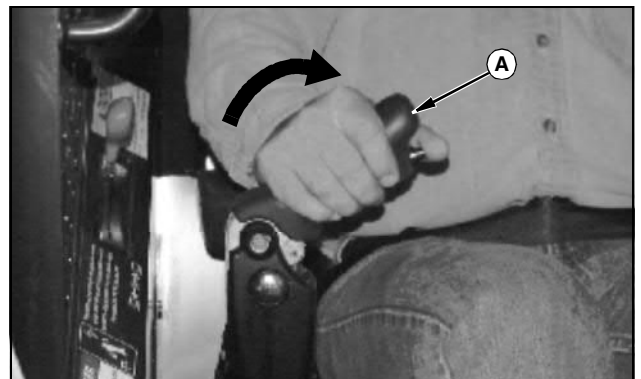


KV0415

- For hand control skid steers, push the auxiliary foot pedal lockout handle (B) forward and rest in notch (C).

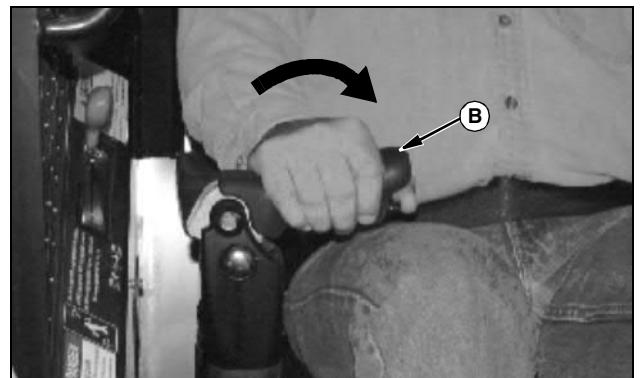
### To Rotate Tiller For Forward Travel:

#### For Hand/Foot Control Skid Steers



KV0241

1. Pivot handle (A) down toward seat to rotate the tiller for forward travel.



KV0240

2. Pulling the handle (B) all the way down toward the seat will put the control valve into detent position to give continuous oil flow to the rotary tiller. The handle will stay in this position until the operator moves the handle.



**Suggest:**

**If the above button click is invalid.**

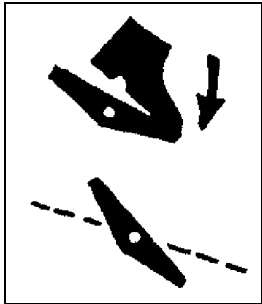
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**Thank you so much for reading**

# OPERATING

## Using the Auxiliary Foot Pedal:

### For Hand Control Skid Steers



38929B

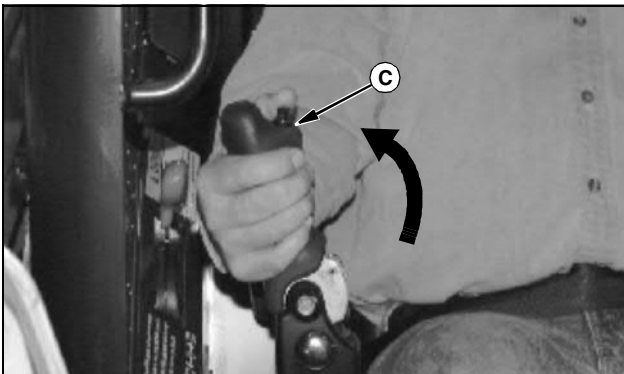
- Push front of right pedal down for forward travel. Pushing the front of the right pedal all the way down will put the control valve into detent position to give continuous oil flow to the rotary tiller. The pedal will stay in this position until the operator pushes the back of the pedal.

**NOTE:** The detent position is for forward travel only.

**If the handle/pedal has not been moved all the way down into the detent position, it will automatically return to the center position when the operator releases the handle/pedal and will stop oil flow to the auxiliary couplers.**

### To Rotate Tiller For Rearward Travel:

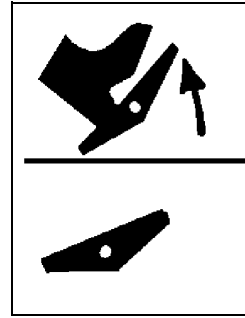
#### For Hand/Foot Control Skid Steers



KV0239

1. Pivot the handle (C) up away from seat to rotate the tiller in a direction for rearward travel.

### For Hand Control Skid Steers



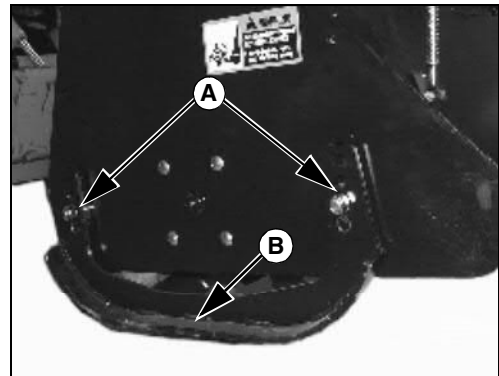
38929A

1. Push back of right pedal down for rearward travel.

## Adjusting Skid Shoes

**CAUTION:** Avoid injury! Do not work under a raised tiller unless it is safely and securely blocked.

1. Raise rotary tiller.
2. Place safety stands or blocks under tiller.



KV1065

3. Loosen adjusting bolts (A) and nuts. Do not remove.
4. Adjust skid shoe (B) to desired depth.
5. Tighten bolts to 125 N•m (92 lb-ft).

**NOTE:** Both skid shoes must be adjusted to the same depth.

6. Repeat procedure for remaining skid shoe.

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