



# M2961040C

MODEL NUMBER: 2961040 (Honda)  
2961050 (Kohler)

SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

## Owner's Manual

Instructions for Operation, Maintenance

### Self-Propelled Stump and Root Grinder

2961040 (691SP-20HE) & 2961050 (691SP-25KE)

Your Dosko grinder is intended for outdoor-use only and can be used to remove tree stumps and exposed root systems close to ground level. By moving the blade in sweeping movements laterally over the top and front of the stump, you can gradually grind it away. Make sure you completely read and understand this manual before using the grinder for the first time.

#### WARNING

**READ and UNDERSTAND this manual completely before using the grinder!** Failure to properly operate, and maintain this grinder could result in *serious injury or death* to the operator or bystanders.

All machines have hazards associated with their operation. This stump grinder has certain special hazards, which you must be aware of. As an operator or owner you have a duty to be aware of these hazards and know preventive measures to take to avoid them. When reading this manual pay particular attention to avoiding these hazards.

In particular, be aware of the following:

- Know location of buried electrical and other utility lines.
- Do not allow children or untrained adults to operate.
- Wear eye protection and other personal protection against flying rocks and debris.
- Check that cutter wheel teeth are secured, sharp and not missing.
- Do not operate if operator presence bar fails to stop engine upon release.
- Make sure no children or bystanders are within 75' (feet) of stump grinding operation.
- Protect cars, windows and other objects within 75' from flying debris.
- Be prepared for machine "kickback" when initially contacting the stump.
- Be aware of potential for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Prevent fires/explosions from fueling.
- Do not attempt to perform adjustments, declog or clean unit while engine is running.
- Avoid burns from engine or hot exhaust.
- Avoid using in wet or icy conditions where falls may occur.

Details about these hazards are found throughout the manual and are summarized at the end of the manual under "Important Safety Information."

#### STOP!

**ADD ENGINE OIL:** Your stump grinder comes fully assembled and requires only that you add engine oil to crankcase and fuel to tank.

**INSPECT COMPONENTS:** Closely inspect to make sure no components are missing or damaged. See the "Receiving Your Unit" section for instructions on whom to contact to report missing or damaged parts.

**Any Questions, Comments, Problems, or Parts Orders**  
*Call your dealer or Dosko Customer Service 1-800-822-0295*

## Summary of Important Safety Information

This section provides a summary of the various safety procedures and measures that have been presented throughout the manual. Keep this summary handy and refer to it to refresh your memory about how to safely use your grinder.

### **WARNING**

Carefully read and make sure you understand the following safety information before using the grinder. Improper use or maintenance of the grinder can result in *serious injury or death* from *fire/explosion, carbon monoxide poisoning, lacerations, entanglement or burns*. Damage can also occur to windows, siding, vehicles, and bystanders from chips and debris which can become projectiles.

### **General**

- **Read manual.** Read this Owner's Manual and the engine Owner's Manual completely before attempting to use and service the grinder. Serious injury or death can result if safety instructions are not followed.
- **Instruct operators.** The grinder owner or rental company must instruct all operators in safe grinder set-up and operation. Do not allow anyone to operate the grinder who has not read the Owner's Manual and been instructed on its safe use. Make sure Owner's manual is within the attached storage tube on the grinder.
- **Adults only.** Only trained adults should operate and service the grinder. Do not let children operate.
- **Under the influence.** Never operate, or let anyone else operate, the grinder while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication.
- **Intended use.** Carefully read about and understand the intended use of this grinder. Do not use for other purposes, as unforeseen hazards or equipment damage may result.
- **Controls and safety labels.** Learn how to use the machine and its controls safely. Understand and follow all safety labels.
- **Weather.** Never use in foul, bad or questionable weather, which causes a slippery ground condition.

### **Prohibition Against Modifications**

Never modify or alter the grinder in any way. Modifications can create serious safety hazards and will also void the warranty.

- **Fuel/exhaust system.** Never modify the exhaust system, fuel tanks, or fuel lines. Carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, or explosion could result.
- **Guards.** Do not operate grinder unless all guards and cover shields, which prevent access to moving parts and pinch points, are in place. Failure to guard the power transmission mechanisms *may result in serious injury or death*.

### **Safety – Before Use**

#### **Know how to operate**

- **Review safety rules.** Before use of this grinder, review the "Rules for Safe Operation."
- **Know how to operate.** Be thoroughly familiar with all controls and with the proper use of the equipment. Know how to stop the grinder quickly if needed.
- **Utility marking.** Call 811 for utility marking 3 days before stump grinding. Trees can grow on top of and around underground wiring that was installed many years before a tree was planted.

#### **Getting Ready**

- **Flying debris.** Clear area of objects such as stones, toys, steel wire, etc. that could become caught in moving machine parts and ejected as a projectile.
- **Operate OUTSIDE only – dangerous carbon monoxide exhaust!** Grinders give off carbon monoxide exhaust, a poisonous gas that can kill. You CANNOT smell it, see it, or taste it. ONLY run grinder OUTDOORS and away from building air intakes. NEVER run grinder engine inside homes, garages, sheds, or other semi-enclosed spaces. These spaces can trap poisonous gases.
- **Cooling ventilation.** The grinder needs adequate, unobstructed flow of air to allow for proper cooling of engine and grinder head. Do not allow debris to accumulate and block airflow.

## Summary of Important Safety Information (cont'd)

- **Transporting.** During transporting, take precautions to make sure stump grinder will not tip over and cause a fuel leak hazard.
- **Hot exhaust - fires.** Exhaust from engine can be extremely hot and cause fire. Position muffler at least 7 feet from combustible objects during operation.
- **Fire extinguisher.** Keep a fire extinguisher rated “ABC” by the National Fire Protection Association nearby is always recommended when using gasoline-operated machinery. Keep it properly charged and be familiar with its use.

### Personal protective equipment

- **Hearing protection.** The use of earplugs or other hearing protection device is recommended for those in close proximity to the grinder while it is operating.
- **Eye protection.** Wear ANSI approved eye protection when operating the grinder.
- **Face protection.** A helmet with a full-face visor or mesh visor with protective glasses is recommended.
- **Loose / dangling.** Loose or dangling apparel, jewelry or hair can become entangled in moving parts. Never wear jewelry or loose-fitting clothing when operating the grinder.
- **Long pants.** Wear long, heavy-duty pants to protect legs from ejected materials.

### Gasoline Safety

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive. You can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel. Use extreme care when handling gasoline:

- **Fuel outdoors.** Fill fuel tank outdoors – never indoors. Gasoline vapors can ignite if they collect inside an enclosure. Explosion can result.
- **Use approved container.** Never pump fuel directly into engine at gas station. Static charge can build and ignite fuel. Use an UL approved fuel container to transfer gas to the engine.
- **Running / hot engine.** A running engine is hot enough to ignite fuel. Never add fuel or remove gas cap if engine is running or still hot. Stop the engine and allow to cool at least two minutes before adding fuel.
- **Heat / flames / sparks.** Keep sources of heat, flame, or sparks away while adding fuel.
- **Don't fill to the top** DO NOT overfill the gas tank. Allow at least 1” of empty space below the fill neck to allow for fuel expansion and operation on slopes.
- **Don't fill to the top.** Do not fill the gas tank to the top. Gasoline may spill when operating on a slope.
- **Replace cap.** Replace gas cap securely before starting engine.
- **Spills.** Clean up fuel spills immediately. Move grinder away from spilled fuel on the ground. Wipe fuel off engine and wait 5 minutes for excess fuel to evaporate before starting engine. Gas soaked rags should be disposed of properly.
- **On skin / clothes.** If gasoline is spilled on your skin or clothes, change clothes and wash skin immediately.
- **Inspect fuel system.** Check fuel system on a regular basis. Look for signs of leaks, deterioration, chafed or spongy fuel hose, loose or missing fuel hose clamps, damaged fuel tank, or a defective fuel shut-off valve. Do not start grinder until needed repairs have been completed.
- **Gasoline storage.** Store gasoline in a cool, dry place in an UL-approved, tightly sealed container away from children.

### Safety – During Use

- **Safety equipment / controls.** Always operate the grinder with all safety covers, guards, and barriers in place and in good working order, and all controls properly adjusted for safe operation.
- **Controls.** Stay in the OPERATOR POSITION while actuating controls.
- **Know how to stop.** Know how to stop the grinder quickly if needed by releasing the operator presence bar. If this does not work, do the following in order until unit is stopped. 1. Push the stop button on the control panel. 2. Use on/off switch on engine (or ignition switch on electric start models). 3. Engage full choke by flooding the engine.
- **“Kickback”.** Machine can experience significant “kickback” when operating or first coming into contact with the stump.
- **Slipping/Falling.** Operating in wet or icy conditions could lead to losing your footing and slipping or falling.
- **Damaged.** Do not operate the grinder with damaged, missing, incorrectly adjusted, or broken parts.
- **Check for gas leak before starting.** After opening gasoline valve, smell for gas before starting engine. If you smell gas, DO NOT start engine. DO NOT light a match. DO NOT flip on an electrical switch. Exit area immediately and call fire department.
- **Carbon monoxide exhaust.** The running engine gives off carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that can kill you. You CANNOT smell it, see it, or taste it. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using the grinder, shut off the engine and get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. See a doctor. You may have carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Summary of Important Safety Information (cont'd)

- **Other exhaust dangers.** This product contains or emits chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Avoid inhalation of exhaust.
- **Smoking/sparks.** Never smoke near the running grinder, and never operate near sources of sparks or flames.
- **Hot muffler.** Never touch hot muffler or hot exhaust manifold. Exhaust and engine parts can be very hot and will burn you.
- **Machine's moving parts.** Keep hands, feet, and apparel away from drive belts, cutter wheel, and other moving parts. Never remove any drive belt or guard while the unit is operating. Contact with belt or rotating teeth will cause personal injury.
- **Refueling.** DO NOT refuel the engine until it has cooled at least two minutes.
- **Malfunction during operation.** Always shut the machine off if any unusual noise or vibration occurs.
- **Vibration.** Overexposure to machine vibration on a daily basis may lead to circulatory or nerve damage.
- **Adjusting / repairing.** Always turn off grinder and remove spark plug or spark plug wire before working on the grinder to prevent accidental starting. Disconnect battery.

### Safety – After use

- **Cool engine before storing.** Let engine cool for at least five minutes before storing. A hot engine can be a fire hazard.
- **Shut off fuel supply.** Make sure gasoline shut-off valve is in the OFF position. (Honda GX390 only)
- **Prevent accidental starting.** When grinder is not in use, remove key from starter (electric start engines) and secure in a safe location, or remove spark plug in order to ensure that grinder cannot be started in a storage location or by untrained persons.
- **Storage location.** Store the grinder in a dry location away from sources of heat, open flames, sparks or pilot lights – such as water heaters, space heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, or other gas appliances – EVEN IF the grinder's gas tank is empty. Residual gasoline could ignite.
- **Exercise regularly.** Exercise grinder every four weeks to dry out moisture that accumulates in the windings. If grinder cannot be exercised on a regular basis, prepare grinder for long-term storage.

### Safety - Inspection/Maintenance

Inspect and maintain your grinder on a regular basis and repair as needed to keep it in safe working condition:

- **Turn off grinder.** Always turn off grinder and remove spark plug or spark plug wire before working on the engine or grinder to prevent accidental starting. Disconnect battery
- **Replace guards / shields.** Make sure all guards and shields are replaced after servicing the grinder.
- **Burns.** Do not touch hot muffler. Muffler will be hot even if unit is stopped. Allow unit to cool before servicing.
- **Replacement parts.** If a part needs replacement, only use parts that meet the manufacturer's specifications. Replacement parts that do not meet specifications may result in a safety hazard or poor operation of the grinder and will void the warranty.

## Special Safety Information on Static Electricity

### Static electricity and filling gasoline:

#### Static electricity can initiate from ungrounded gasoline tanks or containers, from flowing gasoline, and from persons carrying a static electric charge

Static electricity on numerous occasions has explosively ignited gasoline vapors that were present during fueling processes, resulting in serious burns to nearby persons. To avoid static electricity while fueling, certain steps must be followed before and during the fueling process in order to minimize and safely dissipate static charge build-up.

#### Filling Portable Containers at Service Stations:

Use a portable container to fill grinder tank. Never fill the grinder's gas tank directly from the service station's fuel dispenser pump – the grinder's tank is not grounded and the high velocity flow of gasoline from a fuel pump can cause static electric build-up. Use an approved portable container to transfer gasoline to the grinder's tank.

- **Use a portable container made of metal or conductive plastic.** It will dissipate charge to ground more readily.
- **Fill container on the ground.** Never fill the portable gas container while it is sitting inside a vehicle, trailer, trunk, or pick-up truck bed. ALWAYS place container on the ground to be filled.
- **Touch a grounded metal object before starting.** Always dissipate static charge from your body before beginning the fueling process by touching a grounded metal object at a safe distance away from fuel sources.
- **Keep nozzle in contact with container.** Keep fuel dispenser nozzle in contact with the portable container at all times while filling at a service station. Do not use the nozzle lock-open device on the dispenser hose.

#### About static electricity and fueling

Many common objects can accumulate and retain a static electric charge. Objects made of non-conductive materials (e.g. plastics) easily accumulate and retain static electric charge, as can objects made of conductive material (e.g. metal, water) if they are not electrically grounded. The static electric charge on an object, such as a human body or plastic fuel tank/container, can reach as high as several thousand volts!

A static electric spark can be generated if the static electric charge stored on an object “jumps” to another, less charged object. Such a spark can ignite invisible gasoline vapors that are present during fueling situations.

#### Typical sources of static electric hazards during fueling

The following objects can accumulate a static electric charge and cause an ignition spark in typical fueling situations:

- **Ungrounded tanks/containers.** Any ungrounded fuel tank or container can accumulate a static electric charge as a result of contact with other objects or friction during transportation. This static electricity can discharge as a spark to the grounded gasoline dispenser nozzle, as the nozzle is first brought close to the tank/container at the beginning of the fueling process.
- **Flowing gasoline.** Most people are not aware that gasoline accumulates static electric charge while flowing through a hose or pipe. This charge then transfers to and accumulates in the gas tank or container that is being filled. The total amount of charge accumulation depends on the amount of gas pumped into the container, the speed with which it is pumped, and whether or not the tank/container is grounded. If sufficient static electric charge accumulates in the fuel tank or container during the fueling process, the tank/container may discharge a spark to the grounded gasoline dispenser nozzle.
- **Persons.** A person dispensing the gasoline can carry a static electric charge on their body, typically resulting from contact with their car seat or electronics. The static electricity can discharge as a spark between that person's hand and either the grounded dispenser nozzle or the fuel tank opening.