

**Instruction Manual**  
**Electric Shrub & Hedge Trimmer**  
**Models 8118 / 8124 / 8134 / 8144**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING** – to guard against injury, basic safety precautions should be observed, including the following:

1. **READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS.**
2. **DRESS PROPERLY.** Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Use gloves, non-skid footwear and safety glasses. **Safety glasses are available at your B&D dealer.**
3. **STAY ALERT.** Watch what you are doing – use common sense. Do not operate trimmer when fatigued.
4. **DANGER – CUT HAZARD – KEEP HANDS AWAY FROM BLADES.** Keep both hands on handles when power is on. Don't feed twigs or other material to be cut into the blade with your hands or reach over the moving blade to pick up clippings. If the blade jams: (a) Turn tool "OFF", and unplug trimmer, (b) Use a short stick to push jammed material out of blade teeth. Never grasp the exposed cutting blades or cutting edges when picking up or holding the tool. **CAUTION** – Blade coasts after turn off.
5. **WARNING – GUARD AGAINST ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARD.** Don't use trimmer in rain, in wet locations, or on wet hedges or shrubbery. Use only extension cords marked "suitable for use with outdoor appliances" having electrical rating not less than rating of trimmer. Do not use damaged extension cords. Inspect cords periodically and replace if damaged. Do not abuse cord. Never carry trimmer by cord. Do not yank cord to disconnect from receptacles. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
6. **KEEP CHILDREN AWAY.** Do not permit children to use trimmer or contact extension cord. All children and other visitors should be kept a safe distance from the work area.
7. **USE TRIMMER PROPERLY.** Use only for trimming the type of shrub, growth, etc., described in the operating instructions. Do not abuse trimmer.
8. **DON'T OVERREACH OR STAND ON UNSTABLE SUPPORT.** Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
9. **AVOID ACCIDENTAL STARTING.** Do not carry the tool with your finger on the switch. Be sure trigger switch is "OFF" before plugging in the trimmer.
10. **DO NOT LOCK SWITCH "ON"** unless essential for a particular operation. Do not leave switch locked on.
11. **DISCONNECT (UNPLUG) TRIMMER FROM POWER SUPPLY** when not in use, before servicing, cleaning, etc.
12. **MAINTAIN TOOL WITH CARE.** Keep cutting edges sharp and clean for best and safest performance. Follow instructions for lubricating and proper maintenance.
13. **STORE IDLE TOOLS INDOORS.** When not in use, the tool should be stored indoors in a dry, high, or locked up place – out of reach of children.
14. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR TRIMMER.** To assure product safety and reliability, repairs, maintenance and adjustment should be performed by Black & Decker service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using Black & Decker replacement parts.
15. **USE RIGHT TOOL.** Do not use the tool for any job except that for which it is intended.
16. **KEEP HANDS AND ALL PARTS OF BODY AWAY FROM BLADE.** The edges are sharp and can cause injury even when the tool is "OFF."
17. **BEFORE TRIMMING,** inspect areas for wires, cords, glass or other foreign objects which could come in contact with the blade.
18. **DO NOT** operate portable electric tools in gaseous or explosive atmospheres. Motors in these tools normally spark, and the sparks might ignite fumes.

**SAVE THESE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR FUTURE USE.**

## Double Insulation

Your tool is Double insulated to give you added safety. This means that it is constructed throughout with two separate "layers" of electrical insulation or one double thickness of insulation between you and the tool's electrical system.

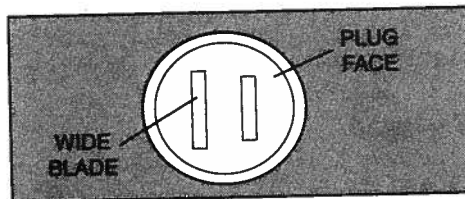
Tools built with this insulation system are not intended to be grounded. As a result, the extension cord used with your tool can be plugged into any conventional 120 volt electrical outlet without concern for maintaining a ground connection.

**NOTE:** Double-insulation does not take the place of normal safety precautions when operating this tool. The insulation system is for added protection against injury resulting from a possible electrical insulation failure within the tool.

**CAUTION:** When servicing double insulated tools, USE ONLY IDENTICAL REPLACEMENT PARTS. Replace or repair damaged cords.

## Polarized Plug

This product is supplied with a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other as shown below). This plug will fit into a polarized outlet (receptacle) only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into your outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install a proper polarized outlet. Do not modify or change this plug in any way.



## Hedge Trimmer Models

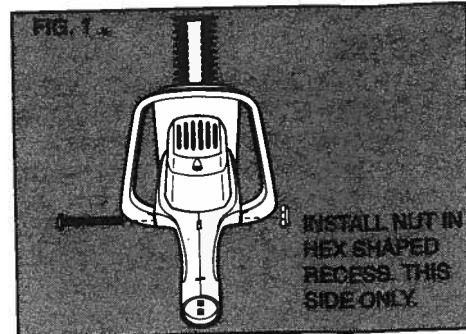
This instruction manual applies to the following hedge trimmer models that differ in blade length.

MODEL	BLADE LENGTH
8118	13"
8124	16"
8134	18"
8144	22"

## Attaching Wraparound Handle

**WARNING: DO NOT USE TOOL WITHOUT HANDLE.**

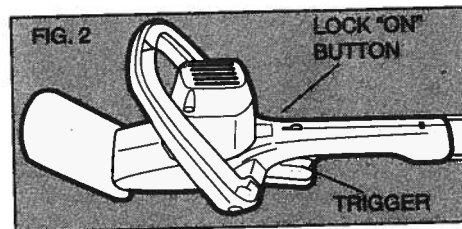
1. Assemble wrap around handle to trimmer, as shown in Figure 1. The textured surface of the handle faces the blades ... AWAY from the operator.



2. Insert the hex nut supplied with the trimmer into the hex shaped recess in the RIGHT side of the handle, as shown in Figure 1. **NOTE:** The right side of the handle is the side on the right when viewed as you would normally hold the tool when trimming with it.
3. Hold the nut in the recess as you insert the screw from the LEFT side of the handle. Tighten the screw into the hex nut firmly.

## Switch

To turn the trimmer "ON", depress the trigger switch as shown in Figure 2. Release trigger to turn trimmer "OFF".



To lock the trigger switch "ON" for continuous trimming, first depress the trigger. With the tool running, push and hold the "LOCK ON" button forward. Now release trigger, then "LOCK ON" button, and the tool will stay "ON".

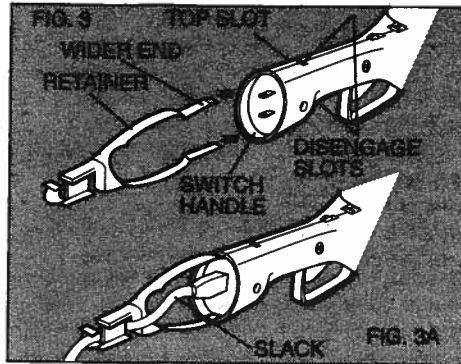
To release the locking mechanism, depress trigger fully, then release it. The trigger will snap out, turning tool "OFF".

## Extension Cord Retainer

1. Look into the end of the switch handle and you will see 2 slots. The WIDER end of the retainer goes into the TOP slot (Figure 3). Push both ends of retainer into switch handle.
2. Plug extension cord into switch handle and fit cord into retainer, leaving a little slack (Figure 3A).

**NOTE:** The retainer may be removed from the tool for replacement if damaged, or if improperly assembled. Two "disengage slots" are located in the top and bottom of the handle (Figure 3). To disengage the

retainer, pull on each end of the retainer in turn while pushing a screwdriver gently into the appropriate slot.



### Extension Cords

Double insulated tools have 2 wire cords, and can be used with 2 wire or 3 wire extension cords. Only round jacketed extension cords should be used, and we recommend that they be listed by Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) (C.S.A. in Canada). If the extension will be used outside, the cord must be suitable for outdoor use. The letters "WA" on the cord jacket indicate that the cord is suitable for outdoor use. Any cord marked as outdoor can also be used for indoor work.

An extension cord must have adequate wire size (AWG or American Wire Gauge) for safety, and to prevent loss of power and overheating. The smaller the gauge number of the wire, the greater the capacity of the cable, that is 16 gauge has more capacity than 18 gauge. When using more than one extension to make up the total length, be sure each individual extension contains at least the minimum wire size.

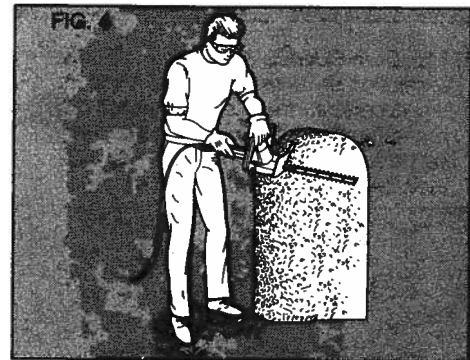
To determine the minimum wire size required, refer to the chart below:

120 Volts Ampere Rating		Total Length of Cord in Feet			
		25 ft.	50 ft.	100 ft.	150 ft.
More Than	Not More Than	A.W.G			
0 - 6		18	16	16	14
6 - 10		18	16	14	12
10 - 12		16	16	14	12
12 - 16		14	12	NOT RECOMMENDED	

Before using an extension cord, inspect it for loose or exposed wires, damaged insulation, and defective fittings. Make any needed repairs or replace the cord if necessary. Black & Decker has extension cords available that are U.L. (C.S.A. in Canada) listed for outdoor use.

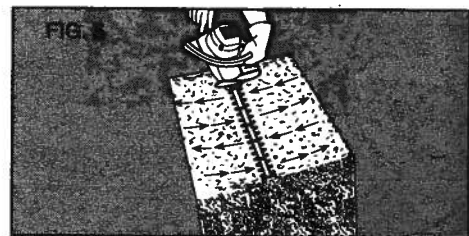
### Trimming Instructions

- SAFETY** – Be sure to carefully read and follow the safety rules shown on page 2 of this manual.
- EXTENSION CORD** – (Figure 4) Always keep extension cord behind trimmer and away from the trimming operation. Never drape it over a hedge being trimmed. **If you cut or damage the cord, unplug it at the electrical outlet immediately, before inspecting or repairing cord.**
- WORKING POSITION** – Maintain proper footing and balance and do not overreach. Wear safety goggles, non-skid footwear and gloves when trimming. Hold the tool firmly in both hands and turn the tool "ON". Always hold the trimmer, as shown in these illustrations, with one hand on the switch handle and one hand on the bail handle. Never hold the tool by the blade guard.



#### 4. TRIMMING NEW GROWTH

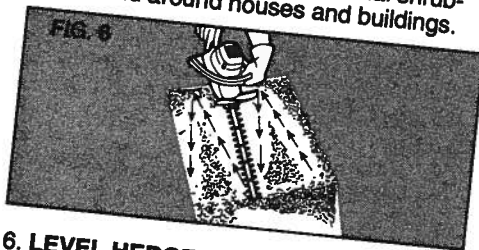
(Figure 5) – A wide, sweeping motion, feeding the blade teeth through the twigs is most effective. A slight downward tilt of the blade, in the direction of motion gives the best cutting. One sweep will usually cut all twigs in the blade's path, but if not, a second sweep should lop off the stragglers.



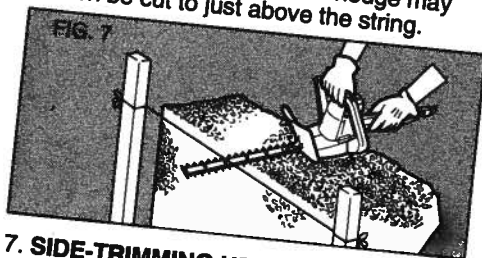
### 5. TRIMMING HEAVIER GROWTH

(Figure 6) – To cut older growth, with thicker twigs, use a “sawing” motion as you feed the blade through the growth. This clears the blade faster and helps to feed the thicker twigs into the blade teeth. Heavy branches should be fed slowly into the blade, using only a portion of the cutting edges. Should the trimmer stall on these heavy pieces, stop immediately and turn the switch “OFF”. Back off the blade and start again.

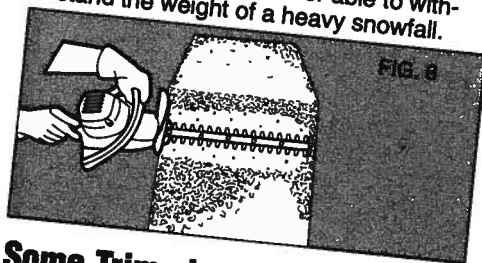
**CAUTION:** Do not use the trimmer for cutting stems greater than 3/8" thick. Use the trimmer only for cutting normal shrubbery found around houses and buildings.



6. LEVEL HEDGES (Figure 7) – To obtain exceptionally level hedges, a piece of string can be stretched along the length of the hedge at the desired height to serve as a guide line. The hedge may then be cut to just above the string.



7. SIDE-TRIMMING HEDGES (Figure 8) – Hold the trimmer as shown and begin at the bottom and sweep up. To prevent the bottom of the hedge from being over-shadowed and becoming spindly through lack of sunshine, round the hedge or taper it inward from bottom to top. These shapes will also be better able to withstand the weight of a heavy snowfall.



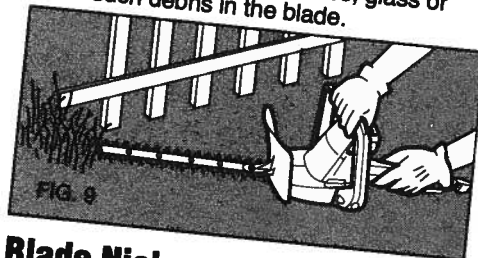
**Some Trimming Suggestions**  
**HEDGES** – For maximum convenience in trimming and shaping, don't let your hedge grow more than about 5 feet tall and

30 inches wide. During the first year of growth, trim the top two or three times – each time several inches higher than it was after the previous trimming. When the growth at the base of the hedge fills out, start tapering the sides to keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom. After the first year, two trimmings during the growing season should be sufficient.

**EVERGREENS** – Newly planted evergreens should not be trimmed in the first year. After the first year, spring-growing varieties should be trimmed once a year, in spring, after the growth has emerged. Species that also grow through the summer should be trimmed in early summer, when new growth is 2 or 3 inches long, and again in midsummer. Trim only the new wood, as old branches without needles will not send out new shoots.

### Grass Trimming (Fig. 9)

The shrub & hedge trimmer will also serve as an excellent grass trimmer. Its long flat blade can be swung left and right to quickly trim large areas. Also, the blade can slide under the bottom of most fences to easily trim this difficult area. Be careful not to catch fence wire, stones, glass or other such debris in the blade.



### Blade Nicks

The cutting blades are made from high quality, heat treated steel and with normal usage, they will not require reshaping. However, if you accidentally hit a wire fence, stones, glass or other hard objects, you may put a nick in the blade. There is no need to remove this nick as long as it does not interfere with the movement of the blade. If it does interfere, unplug unit and use a fine toothed file or sharpening stone to remove it.

### Dropping the Trimmer

If you drop the trimmer, carefully inspect it for damage. If the blade is bent, housing cracked, or handles broken or if you see any other condition that may affect the trimmer's operation contact your local Black & Decker service center for repairs before putting it back into use.

**WARNING:**

**TO GUARD AGAINST INJURY, OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- READ INSTRUCTION MANUAL BEFORE USING.
- SAVE INSTRUCTION MANUAL.
- KEEP HANDS AWAY FROM BLADES.
- KEEP HANDS ON HANDLES. DON'T OVERREACH.
- CAUTION – BLADE MAY COAST AFTER TURNED OFF.
- DO NOT USE UNDER WET CONDITIONS.
- DO NOT USE WITH DAMAGED CORD.
- DO NOT UNPLUG OR STORE WITH SWITCH LOCKED ON.

**Preventing Corrosion**

Fertilizers and other garden chemicals contain agents which greatly accelerate the corrosion of metals. Do not store the tool on or adjacent to fertilizers or chemicals.

**Cleaning**

With the unit unplugged, use only mild soap and a damp cloth to clean the tool. Never let any liquid get inside the tool; never immerse any part of the tool into a liquid.

**Lubrication**

Self lubricating bearings are used in the tool and periodic relubrication is not required. However, it is recommended that after two or three seasons of use, you take or send the trimmer to one of our service locations (see TOOLS, ELECTRIC, in yellow pages) for a thorough cleaning, inspection and relubrication. If the tool is being used professionally, the above should be accomplished after each trimming season.

**Caution**

DO NOT use the shrub & hedge trimmer with any type of accessory or attachment. Such usage might be hazardous.

**Important**

To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustments should be performed by Black & Decker service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using Black & Decker replacement parts. When servicing use ONLY IDENTICAL REPLACEMENT PARTS.

**Home Use Warranty (A Full One Year Warranty)**

Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. warrants this product for one year. We will repair, without charge, any defects due to faulty material or workmanship or at our option replace the product free. Please return the complete unit, transportation prepaid, to any Black & Decker service center or authorized service station listed under "Tools Electric" in the yellow pages. This warranty does not apply to accessories. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state. Should you have any questions, contact your nearest Black & Decker service center manager.

Every Black & Decker tool is of the highest quality. If you wish to contact us regarding this product, please call us toll free between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET, seven days a week.

1-800-762-6672

This symbol on the nameplate means the product is listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.



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