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James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery, this month looking at the Toro Reelmaster 5610

The anatomy of... a Fairway Mower



It's all about the DPA cutting units... There are three models in the Toro Reelmaster 5010 series, the 35.5hp RM5410-D with 5 inch, 8- or -11 blade reels and the 35.5hp RM5510-D and 44.2hp RM5610-D, both with 7 inch reels and a choice of 8- or 11-blades. These differences apart, each model shares the same basic running gear and DPA reel design. Here we take a closer look at the range-topping 5610.

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Step-by-step Analysis... Toro Reelmaster 5610

THE ANATOMY OF... Ride-on Fairway mowers have evolved to the point where modern units can now deliver a consistent quality cut at speeds that would have been considered impossible perhaps even a decade ago. To suggest there have been huge developments that have enabled this would be wrong, but subtle design tweaks have been combined to make the Toro Reelmaster 5610-D a deservedly popular model.

Of equal importance, Toro, and indeed all the key manufacturers, have taken the maintenance demands of their mowers into consideration. No point developing a mower that can deliver high levels of performance if this action is to be matched to intensive workshop care.

In the case of the Reelmaster 5010 Series, a key development has been the adoption of Toro's new well proven DPA, Dual Precision Adjustment, cutting units. A key DPA design feature is the use of a cast alloy main structure. Unlike traditional welded tubular cutting unit frames, Toro chose the rigid cast alloy frame of a DPA unit is easier to build 'true' in the factory and, once in service, remains that way. This means there is no need for adjustment built in to accommodate any difference in end-to-end reel to bedknife clearance; the company suggests it will not be needed.

Other DPA design features include a removable cast support frame for the bedknife. This is designed to not only make it simpler to remove the bedknife for sharpening but to also allow the bedknife clearance to the reel to remain constant and at the same time as it is adjusted to accommodate wear/sharpening. According to the company, this prevents bedknife having to be lowered as it wears, so doing away with 'backing the reel' before it can be acted upon by the cutting unit of the reel. The aim is to ensure a consistent cut as the reels are engaged and across the full 2.54m cut width.

The EdgMax bedknife comes as part of the Toro package when new, although a standard steel bedknife is available as a lower price replacement. The company suggest, however, that the EdgMax design will retain a sharpness up to three times longer than standard steel. This thanks to the increased tensile resistance of the cutting tip. When the EdgMax needs to be replaced it can still be sharpened in the workshop.

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