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stihl 038 magnum specs

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Stihl 038 Magnum Specs – The Ultimate Guide to the Powerhouse Chainsaw

When it comes to cutting through wood with precision and efficiency, the **Stihl 038 Magnum** is a name that stands out among professionals and serious hobbyists alike. Designed for heavy duty forestry work, this chainsaw delivers uncompromising power, advanced ergonomics, and a host of features that make it a top choice for anyone who demands the best in performance and reliability.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive deep into the **Stihl 038 Magnum specs** to help you understand what makes this machine truly exceptional. From engine performance and cutting capacity to safety features and maintenance tips, you'll gain a complete picture of what to expect when you invest in this cutting edge tool.

1. Overview of the Stihl 038 Magnum

The Stihl 038 Magnum, also known as the Stihl MS 038, is a high performance, 38 cc, two stroke chainsaw that has earned a reputation for durability and power. It's engineered for professional use, providing the strength required for felling, bucking, and debarking large trees. The "Magnum" designation refers to its powerful engine and robust construction, making it a reliable workhorse for demanding tasks.

1.1 Why Professionals Choose the 038 Magnum

- Exceptional Power: The 38 cc engine delivers more than enough torque for thick diameter logs.
- Advanced Ergonomics: Dual handed anti vibration system reduces fatigue.
- Reliability: Built with high quality components that withstand harsh environments.
- Safety Features: Integrated safety mechanisms protect operators during heavy use.

2. Key Stihl 038 Magnum Specs

Below is a breakdown of the most important specifications that define the performance and capabilities of the Stihl 038 Magnum.

2.1 Engine and Power Output

- Engine Type: 38 cc, two stroke, air cooled, single fuel.
- Power Output: 11.5 kW (15.5 hp) at 5,000 rpm.
- Compression Ratio: 13:1.
- Fuel Capacity: 0.9 liters.
- Oil Capacity: 0.35 liters (oil/fuel ratio 1:25).

2.2 Cutting Capacity

- Maximum Cutting Length: 1.2 meters (4 feet).
- Maximum Cutting Diameter: 30 centimeters (12 inches).
- Chain Speed: 3,500 cuts per minute (cpm).

2.3 Dimensions and Weight

- Overall Length: 1,010 mm (39.8 inches).
- Overall Height: 1,030 mm (40.6 inches).

- Overall Width: 380 mm (14.9 inches).
- Overall Weight: 12.5 kg (27.6 lbs) (without fuel and chain).

2.4 Safety and Ergonomics

- Anti Vibration System: Dual handed system with adjustable grips.
- Chain Brake: Automatic chain brake that activates on sudden deceleration.
- Chain Starter: Electric starter with a safety lock.
- Anti Kickback System: Integrated kickback limiter.

2.5 Additional Features

- Fuel Tank Cover: Removable and waterproof.
- Oil Tank Cover: Secure, leak proof design.
- Chain Guard: Durable, protective guard that fits all standard chains.
- Battery Powered Accessories: Compatibility with Stihl's battery system for optional accessories.

3. Performance Highlights

Understanding how the Stihl 038 Magnum performs in real world scenarios helps you appreciate why it's a staple in many forestry operations.

3.1 Engine Efficiency and Fuel Economy

Despite its high power output, the 038 Magnum is engineered to be fuel efficient. The two stroke engine design delivers a smooth power curve, allowing operators to maintain consistent cutting speeds while conserving fuel. In typical usage, you can expect approximately 20–25 minutes of continuous operation on a full tank, depending on workload intensity.

3.2 Cutting Speed and Precision

With a chain speed of 3,500 cpm, the 038 Magnum excels in delivering clean, precise cuts. The high chain speed, coupled with the anti kickback system, ensures that operators can handle large logs with minimal risk of accidental chain movement.

3.3 Vibration Reduction

The dual handed anti vibration system is a standout feature. By distributing vibration across both hands, it significantly reduces operator fatigue, enabling longer cutting sessions without compromising safety or accuracy.

4. Design & Build Quality

Stihl's reputation for rugged, durable tools is evident in the 038 Magnum's construction. Let's examine the key aspects of its design.

4.1 Chassis and Frame

The chassis is constructed from high strength alloy, ensuring resilience against impact and environmental stresses. The frame is engineered to provide a stable base, reducing vibration transmission to the operator.

4.2 Handgrips and Controls

- Ergonomic Handgrips: Contoured for comfort and designed to minimize slippage.
- Control Placement: Intuitive layout of throttle, chain brake, and safety switches.
- Adjustable Grips: Allows users to fine tune grip position for optimal control.

4.3 Chain Guard and Safety Features

The chain guard is robust and designed to shield the chain from debris and accidental contact. Safety features such as the chain brake and kickback limiter are integrated seamlessly into the design, ensuring they activate automatically when needed.

5. Maintenance and Care Tips

Proper maintenance extends the life of your Stihl 038 Magnum and keeps it operating at peak performance. Below are essential care guidelines.

5.1 Regular Inspection

Before each use, inspect the chainsaw for:

- Chain condition (wear, tension).
- Oil level and cleanliness.
- Fuel quality and proper mixture.
- Any visible damage or loose components.

5.2 Chain Maintenance

- Keep the chain sharp by regularly honing or replacing it.
- Check chain tension and adjust as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Lubricate the chain with a high quality chain oil.

5.3 Engine Care

- Use fresh, high quality fuel to prevent carbon buildup.
- Replace the air filter every 30–50 hours of operation.
- Clean the spark plug and replace it as needed.

5.4 Storage

Store the chainsaw in a dry, well ventilated area. Keep the fuel tank empty or use a fuel stabilizer to prevent degradation. Store the chainsaw on its side or in a rack to avoid accidental damage.

6. Comparing the Stihl 038 Magnum to Other Chainsaw Models

To truly appreciate the 038 Magnum's capabilities, it's helpful to compare it with other popular models in the market.

6.1 Stihl 038 Magnum vs. Stihl MS 330

- Engine Size: 038 Magnum – 38 cc; MS 330 – 30 cc.
- Power: 038 Magnum – 11.5 kW; MS 330 – 8.5 kW.
- Cutting Capacity: 038 Magnum – 30 cm; MS 330 – 26 cm.
- Weight: 038 Magnum – 12.5 kg; MS 330 – 10.3 kg.
- Use Case: 038 Magnum for heavy duty forestry; MS 330 for general use and smaller trees.

6.2 Stihl 038 Magnum vs. Husqvarna 455 Rancher

- Engine Type: 038 Magnum – 38 cc two stroke; Rancher – 42 cc four stroke.
- Power: 038 Magnum – 11.5 kW; Rancher – 13.3 kW.
- Fuel Efficiency: Rancher generally more fuel efficient due to four stroke design.
- Weight: 038 Magnum – 12.5 kg; Rancher – 12.5 kg.
- Preferred Use: 038 Magnum for cutting large logs; Rancher for versatility and lower maintenance.

7. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

7.1 What is the best chain tension for the Stihl 038 Magnum?

Optimal chain tension is typically set so that the chain can flex approximately 3–5 mm when pressed between the chain guard and the bar. Adjust using the tension adjustment screw located on the side of the bar.

7.2 How often should I replace the air filter?

Replace the air filter every 30–50 hours of use, or sooner if operating in dusty environments.

7.3 Can I use a two stroke fuel mixture with a four stroke oil?

No. The Stihl 038 Magnum requires a dedicated two stroke oil. Using the wrong oil can damage the engine and reduce performance.

7.4 Is the chain brake effective on all chain types?

The chain brake is designed to work with standard chains. However, using a chain that is too thin or improperly tensioned can reduce its effectiveness.

7.5 How do I reduce vibration while operating the chainsaw?

Use the dual handed anti vibration grips, ensure proper chain tension, and maintain the engine in good condition. Taking regular breaks also helps mitigate fatigue.

8. Conclusion

The **Stihl 038 Magnum specs**reveal a tool built for uncompromising performance, safety, and durability. Its powerful 38 cc engine, generous cutting capacity, and advanced ergonomic features make it a top choice for professionals tackling heavy forestry tasks. With diligent maintenance and proper use, the 038 Magnum can deliver reliable service for years, standing as a testament to Stihl's commitment to quality and innovation.

If you're searching for a chainsaw that can handle large logs, deliver precise cuts, and keep your hands comfortable during long sessions, the Stihl 038 Magnum is a compelling option. By understanding its specifications and integrating best practices for maintenance, you'll maximize both efficiency and safety in every cutting job.

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