Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram Fs 38

Understanding Your Stihl FS 38: A Complete Guide to the Parts Diagram

If you own a Stihl FS 38 weed eater, you already know it is a reliable workhorse for maintaining your lawn, garden, or property edges. However, like any piece of outdoor power equipment, regular maintenance and occasional repairs are inevitable. Whether you are dealing with a hard-starting engine, a worn-out cutting head, or a broken drive shaft, having a clear understanding of the **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** is the single most valuable tool you can possess. This guide will walk you through everything you need to know about reading, interpreting, and using this diagram to keep your trimmer running at peak performance.

Many homeowners and even seasoned landscapers feel overwhelmed when they first open a parts diagram. The exploded views, part numbers, and seemingly endless list of components can be intimidating. But once you learn the logic

behind the diagram, it becomes an intuitive map of your machine. This article will demystify the **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** and show you how to use it for repairs, maintenance, and ordering the correct parts every time. We will cover the major assemblies, common failure points, and practical tips for sourcing genuine Stihl components.

Why the Parts Diagram Matters for Your FS 38

The FS 38 is a compact, lightweight trimmer designed for residential use. It features a 27.2 cc engine, a straight shaft, and a reliable starting system. Over time, the vibration, heat, and debris take their toll on plastic housings, fuel lines, and cutting attachments. Without a proper diagram, you might end up ordering the wrong part or disassembling your trimmer incorrectly, leading to costly mistakes. The **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** serves as your blueprint, showing exactly how each component fits together and what replacement part you need.

Using the diagram also saves time. Instead of guessing which gasket or screw you need, you can look up the exact part number and order it online or from your local Stihl dealer. This precision is especially important for the FS 38, because many of its parts are unique to this model and not interchangeable with other Stihl

trimmers. Understanding the diagram empowers you to perform your own repairs with confidence, extending the life of your equipment and saving money on labor costs.

Breaking Down the Major Assemblies

The **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** is typically organized into several major assemblies. Each assembly groups together related components that work as a system. Let us explore each one in detail so you can navigate the diagram like a pro.

Engine and Crankcase Assembly

This is the heart of your FS 38. The engine assembly includes the cylinder, piston, crankshaft, connecting rod, and the crankcase housing. In the diagram, you will see these parts represented in an exploded view, showing how the piston rings fit onto the piston, how the wrist pin connects it to the connecting rod, and how the crankshaft spins within the bearings. The cylinder is often shown separately, along with the cylinder gasket and the spark plug. If you are experiencing a loss of power or excessive smoke, the engine assembly is the first place to look on your diagram. Common replacement parts in this section include the piston ring set, the cylinder gasket,

and the spark plug (part number 0000-400-0120 for the FS 38).

Fuel System Components

The fuel system on the FS 48 is simple but critical. The diagram will show the fuel tank, fuel cap, fuel filter, fuel lines, and the carburetor assembly. The carburetor is often depicted with its own internal components, such as the metering diaphragm, gasket set, and adjusting screws. One of the most common issues with the FS 38 is a clogged carburetor or a cracked fuel line. Using the **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38**, you can identify the correct fuel line diameter and length. The diagram also shows the primer bulb and its connection points. When ordering a carburetor rebuild kit, refer to the diagram to ensure you get the correct gasket set that matches your model year. Stihl has made minor revisions to the FS 38 over the years, so using the diagram to verify part numbers is essential.

Ignition and Starting System

If your FS 38 is hard to start or will not start at all, the ignition system is a likely suspect. This section of the diagram includes the flywheel, ignition module, spark plug boot, and the rewind starter assembly. The rewind starter is a common wear item, and the diagram will break it down into the starter pulley, recoil spring, starter rope, and rope grip. Replacing the starter rope is a common DIY task, and the diagram makes it easy

to see how the rope routes through the pulley and handle. Also included in this assembly is the ignition armature, which generates the spark. The gap between the armature and flywheel is critical, and the diagram may show the correct spacing. Always refer to the parts diagram for the exact ignition module part number, as aftermarket alternatives may not provide the same performance.

Clutch and Drive Shaft Assembly

The FS 38 uses a centrifugal clutch to engage the cutting head when the engine reaches a certain RPM. In the diagram, you will see the clutch drum, clutch shoes, springs, and the clutch hub. Over time, the clutch shoes wear down, causing slippage or failure to engage. The parts diagram will show you how the clutch assembly mounts to the crankshaft and how the drive shaft connects to the clutch drum. The drive shaft itself is a flexible cable that runs through the straight shaft tube. At the lower end, it connects to the gear head. If you experience vibration or a loss of cutting power, the clutch or drive shaft may need replacement. The **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** is invaluable here because it shows the correct orientation of the drive shaft and the bearing supports along the tube.

Cutting Head and Guard Assembly

This is the part of the trimmer that does

the actual work. The diagram will show the debris shield, the cutting head (usually a Tap Action or AutoCut head), the bump knob, and the trimming line. The FS 38 typically comes with an AutoCut 25-2 head, but some models may have a different head depending on the year. The parts diagram will list the individual components of the cutting head, such as the spool, the spring, the line retainer, and the cap. If you are having trouble advancing the line, the diagram can help you identify whether you need a new spool, spring, or entire head assembly. Also included in this section are the debris shield and the deflector, which protect you from flying debris. These plastic parts can become brittle over time and crack. Using the diagram ensures you order the correct replacement guard that matches your model.

How to Read the Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38

Reading an exploded parts diagram is a skill that becomes easier with practice. The diagram will show each part in an exploded view, meaning the parts are drawn slightly separated from each other to show how they fit together. Each part will have a numbered callout that corresponds to a list of part numbers. Here are some practical tips for using the **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** effectively:

- **Start with the main assembly** that contains the part you need. If you are replacing the fuel filter, look at the fuel system assembly first.
- **Use the part numbers** when ordering. Do not rely on descriptions alone, as similar parts may have different numbers for different model years.
- **Check the revision level** of your diagram. Stihl occasionally updates parts, and the diagram will indicate the latest version.
- **Pay attention to hardware** such as screws, nuts, and washers. These small parts are often overlooked but are essential for reassembly.
- **Cross-reference with your serial number** if possible. Some FS 38 models have slight variations based on the production date.

Many online retailers and Stihl dealer websites offer interactive parts diagrams where you can click on a part to see its number and price. These digital versions are even easier to use than printed diagrams because you can zoom in and see detailed views of complex assemblies.

Common Repairs and the Parts You Will Need

Using the **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38**, you can tackle several common repairs yourself. Here is a list of

frequent issues and the parts you will likely need, as identified from the diagram:

Carburetor Rebuild

If your trimmer runs rough, stalls, or will not start, the carburetor is often the culprit. The diagram will show the carburetor assembly and the gasket kit. You will need a carburetor rebuild kit that includes diaphragms, gaskets, and a screen filter. The part number for the FS 38 carburetor kit is typically 4281-120-1202, but always verify with your diagram.

Fuel Line Replacement

Cracked or hardened fuel lines are common after a few seasons. The diagram shows the routing of the fuel lines from the tank to the carburetor and the primer bulb. You will need a length of fuel line with the correct inner diameter (usually 3.5 mm for the FS 38). The diagram will also indicate if you need a fuel filter and a grommet for the tank.

Rewind Starter Repair

A broken starter rope is a simple fix. The parts diagram will show you the rope length (typically about 128 cm) and the correct rope diameter (3.0 mm). You can replace just the rope or the entire rewind assembly if the spring is broken. The diagram helps you decide which approach is best.

Cutting Head Replacement

If the cutting head is cracked or the line advance mechanism fails, the diagram shows the exact spool and cap you need. You can also see if you need a new spring or line retainer. The AutoCut 25-2 head uses a specific spool, and the diagram prevents you from buying the wrong one.

Where to Find the Official Stihl Parts Diagram

Obtaining an accurate **Stihl Weedeater Parts Diagram FS 38** is straightforward. The best source is your local authorized Stihl dealer, who can provide a printed diagram or look up parts on their system. Alternatively, many online resources offer digital copies. The official Stihl website has a parts lookup tool where you can enter your model number and view the diagram. There are also third-party sites that host parts diagrams, but be cautious of outdated or inaccurate versions. Always verify that the diagram matches your specific FS 38 model and production year. The serial number plate on your trimmer will have the exact model code, which you can use to ensure compatibility.

Using the Diagram for Preventive Maintenance

The parts diagram is not just for repairs. You can also use it as a checklist for preventive maintenance. By reviewing

the diagram, you can identify all the gaskets, seals, and wear items that should be inspected periodically. For example, you can check the air filter, fuel filter, and spark plug against the diagram to ensure you have the correct replacements on hand. This proactive approach reduces downtime and extends the life of your trimmer. The diagram also helps you understand the internal lubrication points, such as the gear head, which requires periodic greasing.

Troubleshooting Tips Using the Parts Diagram

When your FS 38 malfunctions, the parts diagram can guide your diagnostic process. Here is how to use the diagram for systematic troubleshooting:

1. **No start condition:** Check the ignition system (spark plug, ignition module, flywheel) and the fuel system (carburetor, fuel lines, filter). The diagram helps you locate each component.
2. **Poor cutting performance:** Look at the cutting head, line, and debris shield. The diagram shows the line path and the head assembly.
3. **Excessive vibration:** Inspect the clutch, drive shaft, and cutting head. The diagram reveals the order of assembly and any bearing points.
4. **Fuel leakage:** Examine the fuel tank, lines, and carburetor connections. The diagram shows all

seals and gaskets. By correl