

34.27. Test run the tractor in a safe area that is free of obstacles, hazards, and bystanders after the cutting deck is installed. Check all safety features before returning the tractor to service.

### 35. STEERING GEAR AND STEERING PINION GEAR REPLACEMENT

**NOTE:** If you are replacing the steering gear or steering pinion gear, check the condition of both gears for any wear or damage. It may be wise to replace both as a set.

35.1. Remove the cutting deck. See cutting deck removal section.

35.2. If you are just replacing the steering pinion gear, use a 11/16" socket to remove the flange lock nut securing the steering pinion gear to the steering shaft. See Figure 35.2.

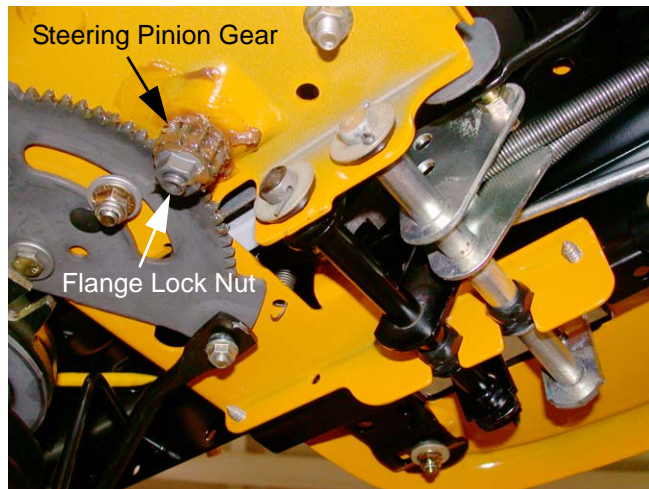


Figure 35.2

**NOTE:** If you are replacing the steering gear at this time, continue with the following steps, otherwise install a new steering pinion gear and reassemble in the reverse order of disassembly.

35.3. If you did not remove the PTO belt guard before you removed the cutting deck, do so now.

35.4. Remove the drag links from the steering gear.

35.5. Disconnect the PTO electrical connector from the wiring harness.

35.6. Using a 5/8" socket and impact wrench, remove the bolt securing the PTO to the engine crankshaft. Remove the PTO from the shaft.

35.7. Remove the drive belt from around the twin idler pulleys. This will ease removal of the drive belt from around the engine pulley.

35.8. Lower the engine pulley on the crankshaft as you remove the drive belt from around the pulley. Remove the pulley from the crankshaft. Note the orientation of the pulley for later installation.

35.9. Place a 9/16" wrench on the lock nut that secures the steering gear to the subframe. Using a 14mm socket, remove the hex cap screw and shoulder spacer. See Figure 35.9.



Figure 35.9

**NOTE:** You may need to use an impact wrench on this cap screw.

35.10. Using a 9/16" wrench and socket, remove the hex cap screw, shoulder spacer and hex nut in the middle of the steering gear. Remove the steering gear. See Figure 35.10.

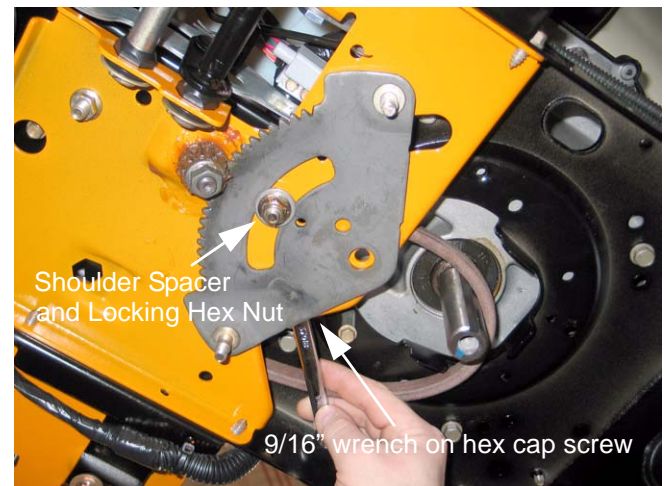


Figure 35.10

35.11. Install in the reverse order of disassembly.