



OWNER'S MANUAL

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY,
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION.



MINIMUM RECOMMENDED OPERATOR AGE: 16

04

**TRX250TE
FOURTRAX
RECON ES**

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Important Safety Information

Your ATV can provide many years of service and pleasure — if you take responsibility for your own safety and understand the challenges you can meet while riding.

There is much that you can do to protect yourself when you ride. You'll find many helpful recommendations throughout this manual. The following are a few that we consider most important.

Follow the Age Recommendation

The minimum recommended age for this ATV model is 16. Children under age 16 should never operate this vehicle.

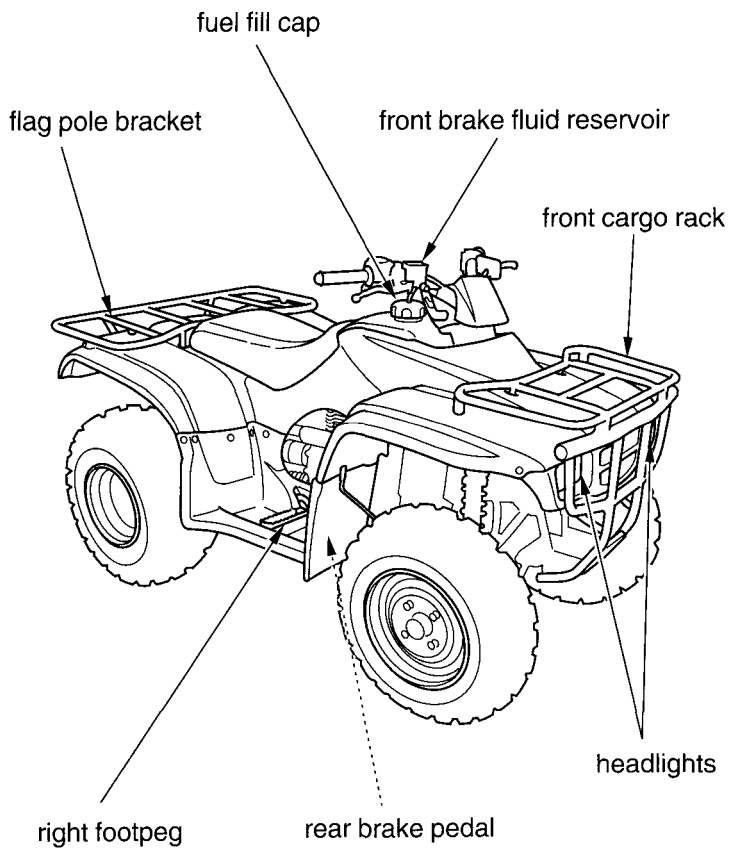
Always Wear a Helmet

It's a proven fact: helmets significantly reduce the number and severity of head injuries. So always wear an approved motorcycle helmet. We also recommend that you wear eye protection, sturdy boots, gloves, and other protective gear (page 28).

Never Carry a Passenger

Your ATV is designed for one person only. There are no handholds, footrests, or seat for a second person — so never carry a passenger. A passenger could interfere with your ability to move around to maintain your balance and control of the ATV.

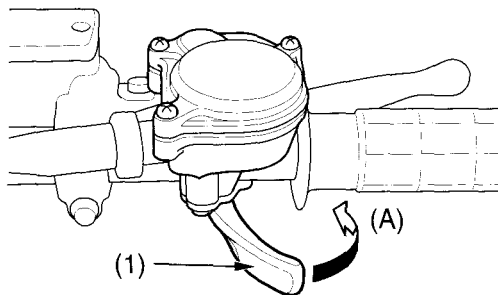
Component Locations



Controls & Features

Throttle Lever

RIGHT HANDLEBAR



- (1) throttle lever
- (A) to open the throttle

The throttle controls engine rpm (speed). To increase engine rpm, press the lever (1) with your thumb. To reduce engine rpm, release pressure on the lever. The throttle will automatically return to the closed position (engine idle) when you remove your thumb.

Are You Ready to Ride?

No Alcohol or Drugs

Alcohol, drugs and ATVs don't mix. Even a small amount of alcohol can impair your ability to operate an ATV safely. Likewise, drugs — even if prescribed by a physician — can be dangerous while operating an ATV. Consult your doctor to be sure it is safe to operate a vehicle after taking medication.

WARNING

Operating this ATV after consuming alcohol or drugs can seriously affect your judgement, cause you to react more slowly, affect your balance and perception, and result in serious injury or death.

Never consume alcohol or drugs before or while operating this ATV.

Basic Operation & Riding

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Starting & Stopping the Engine

Flooded Engine

If the engine fails to start after repeated attempts, it may be flooded with excess fuel. To clear a flooded engine:

1. Move the engine stop switch to OFF (☒).
2. Push the choke knob down all the way to fully OFF.
3. Open the throttle fully.
4. Press the start button for 5 seconds.
5. Wait 10 seconds, then turn the engine stop switch to RUN (○).
6. Repeat the “*Normal Air Temperature*” starting procedure, but don’t use the choke.

If the engine still won’t start, refer to *If Your Engine Quits or Won’t Start*, page 162.

How to Stop the Engine

Normal Engine Stop

To stop the engine, make sure the transmission is in neutral by checking that the neutral indicator lights, and turn the ignition switch OFF.

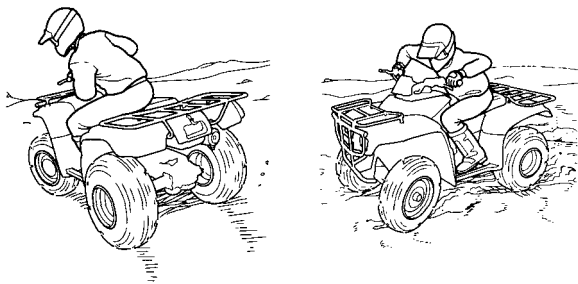
The engine stop switch should normally remain in the RUN (○) position even when the engine is OFF.

If your ATV is stopped with the engine stop switch OFF (☒) and the ignition switch ON, the battery will discharge.

Emergency Engine Stop

To stop the engine in an emergency, use the engine stop switch. To operate, move the switch to either OFF position.

Riding Your ATV



Lean your body to the inside of a turn and forward.

To make a turn on level ground: Steer the handlebar and lean your body toward the inside of the turn. Leaning helps balance the vehicle, and it feels more comfortable. Leaning into a turn is an important technique to master in riding an ATV.

To make a sharp turn at low speed: It helps to shift your body slightly forward on the seat, and lean inside, as you steer the handlebar. Shifting weight forward allows the rear wheels to turn easier, and it also improves front-wheel steering.

To make a turn from a full stop: Apply the throttle gradually when you turn and start up at the same time. Remember to shift your body forward to make sharp low-speed turns and whenever you turn while accelerating from a full stop.

Riding Your ATV

Riding Through Water

Your ATV is designed to travel through water up to approximately 10 inches deep. Before crossing a stream, make sure the water is not too deep or flowing too fast.

WARNING

The ATV tires have some ability to float. Operating this ATV through deep or fast-flowing water may cause a loss of traction and loss of control, which could lead to an accident.

Never operate this ATV in fast-flowing water or in water deeper than that specified in this Owner's Manual.

1. Choose a path where both banks have gradual slopes.
2. Proceed through the water at a slow, steady speed.
3. Watch out for submerged obstacles and slippery rocks.
4. Avoid getting the spark plug or air cleaner wet, as this would cause the engine to stop.
5. After leaving the water, always test both the front and rear brakes.
 - Riding through water can make the brakes less effective than normal, and may reduce stopping ability.
 - If necessary, apply the brakes repeatedly until they dry out and operate normally.
 - If the brakes don't regain effectiveness, stop your ATV and follow the procedures on page 130.

Maintenance Schedule

Maintenance Procedures:

I: inspect and clean, adjust, lubricate, or replace, if necessary

C: clean

A: adjust

L: lubricate

R: replace

ITEMS		FREQUENCY	WHICHEVER COMES FIRST		INITIAL MAINT.	REGULAR MAINT. INTERVAL		Refer to page		
			mi	km	100	600	1200			
			↔		150	1000	2000			
			NOTE	HOURS	20	100	200			
EMISSION RELATED ITEMS	*	FUEL LINE					I	—		
	*	THROTTLE OPERATION					I	107		
	*	CARBURETOR CHOKE					I	109		
		AIR CLEANER	NOTE 1				C	C	102	
		AIR CLEANER HOUSING DRAIN TUBE	NOTE 2				I	I	106	
		SPARK PLUG					I	I	113	
	*	VALVE CLEARANCE					I	I	116	
		ENGINE OIL				R	R	R	94	
	**	ENGINE OIL STRAINER SCREEN						C	—	
	**	ENGINE OIL CENTRIFUGAL FILTER						C	—	
	*	ENGINE IDLE SPEED						I	I	112

* Should be serviced by your Honda dealer, unless you have the proper tools and service data and are mechanically qualified. Refer to the official Honda Service Manual (page 194).

** In the interest of safety, we recommend these items be serviced only by your Honda dealer.

Fuel

Fuel Capacity

Fuel tank capacity, including reserve:

2.40 US gal (9.1 ℓ)

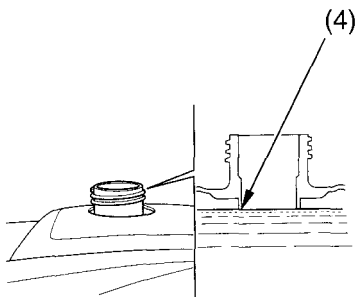
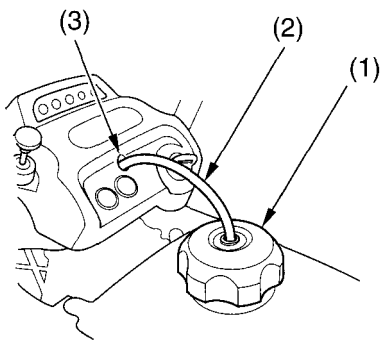
Reserve capacity:

0.63 US gal (2.4 ℓ)

The tank should be refilled as soon as possible after switching to reserve, and the fuel valve should be returned to the ON position after refueling to avoid running out of fuel with no reserve.

Refueling Procedure

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 79 .



(1) fuel fill cap
(2) breather tube

(3) handlebar cover hole
(4) filler neck

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Air Cleaner

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 79.

Proper air cleaner maintenance is very important for off-road vehicles. A dirty, water-soaked, worn-out, or defective air cleaner will allow dirt, dust, mud, and other impurities to pass into the engine.

Service the air cleaner more frequently if you ride in unusually wet or dusty areas. Your Honda dealer can help you determine the correct service interval for your riding conditions.

Your ATV's air cleaner has very specific performance requirements. Use a new genuine Honda air cleaner specified for your model or an air cleaner of equal quality.

NOTICE

Using the wrong air cleaner may result in premature engine damage.

Proper air cleaner maintenance can prevent premature engine wear or damage, expensive repairs, low engine power, poor gas mileage, and spark plug fouling.

NOTICE

Improper or lack of proper air cleaner maintenance can cause poor performance and premature engine wear.

Engine Idle Speed

The best way to assure proper carburetion is to see your Honda dealer for regularly scheduled servicing, including carburetor adjustment.

Remember, idle speed adjustment is not a “cure-all” for other problems in your engine’s fuel-delivery system. Adjusting the idle will not compensate for a fault elsewhere.

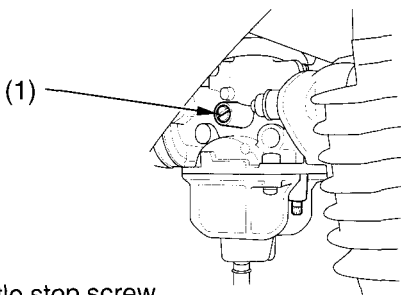
The engine must be at normal operating temperature for accurate idle speed adjustment.

For information about high altitude carburetor adjustment, see page 187 .

Idle Speed Adjustment

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 79 .

RIGHT SIDE



(1) throttle stop screw

1. If the engine is cold, start it and warm it up with ten minutes of stop-and-go riding. Stop the engine.
2. Park your ATV on a firm, level surface.
3. Connect a tachometer to the engine.
4. Shift into neutral. Start the engine.
5. Adjust idle speed by turning the throttle stop screw (1).

Idle speed (in neutral):

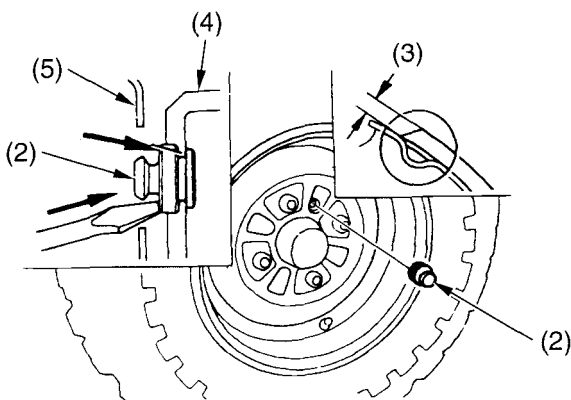
1,400 ± 100 rpm

Brakes

2. Remove the inspection hole plug (2).
3. Measure the lining thickness (3) on both front wheels:
Standard: 0.16 in (4.0 mm)
Service Limit: 0.08 in (2.0 mm)

If either lining is worn beyond the limit, both brake shoes must be replaced by your Honda dealer.

4. If the brake lever freeplay and the brake shoe lining thickness are within the recommended limits, reinstall the inspection hole plugs, seating them into the inspection hole as shown.
5. If the brake lever freeplay is excessive but the linings are not worn beyond the service limit, adjust the brake lining clearance.



(2) inspection hole plug
(3) lining thickness

(4) front brake drum
(5) front wheel rim

Tires

Air Pressure

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 79 .

Properly inflated tires provide the best combination of handling, tread life, and riding comfort. Generally, underinflated tires wear unevenly, adversely affect handling, and are more likely to fail from being overheated. Overinflated tires make your ATV ride more harshly, are more prone to damage from surface hazards, and wear unevenly.

Make sure the valve stem caps are secure. If necessary, install a new cap.

Battery

6. Charge the battery (see following section), unless you have been riding regularly.
7. Store your battery in an easy-to-reach location off the floor, in an area protected from freezing temperature and direct sunlight.
8. Clean the battery box after removing the battery for storage. Dry the battery box and, if paint is missing, re-paint the area.
9. Slow charge the battery (see following section) once every 30 days.

Installation

1. Install in the reverse order of removal.
2. Check all bolts and other fasteners are secure.

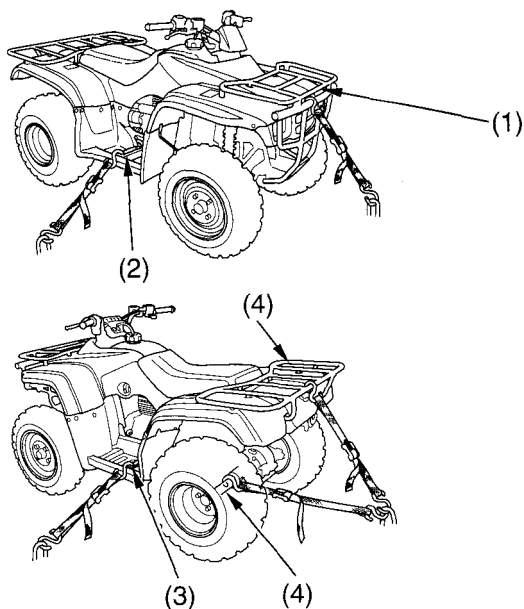
Transporting Your Honda

Do not tow your ATV behind a car or other vehicle.

When you transport your ATV, we recommend that you carry the vehicle in its normal operating position (on all four wheels) and follow these procedures:

1. Set the parking brake and place the transmission in gear.
2. Turn the fuel valve OFF.
3. Secure the vehicle with “tie-down straps” in the areas shown.
Suitable “tie-down straps” are available from your Honda dealer.
Ordinary rope is not recommended because it can stretch under load.

Using tie-down straps in any other areas can damage your ATV.



(1) front cargo rack
(2) right footpeg

(3) left footpeg
(4) rear cargo rack or rear axle shaft

If Your Engine Quits or Won't Start

Proper operation and maintenance can prevent starting and engine performance problems. In many cases, the cause of the problem may be a simple operational oversight.

If you have a problem starting the engine — or experience poor engine performance — the following information may help you. If you can't correct the problem, see your Honda dealer.

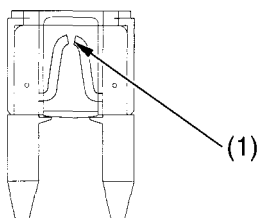
If your ATV won't start, listen as you press the start button. If you don't hear the starter motor turning, refer to the *Starter motor doesn't operate* symptom. If you can hear the starter motor working normally, refer to the *Starter motor works, but the engine won't start* symptom.

If a Fuse Blows

All of the electrical circuits on your ATV have fuses to protect them from damage caused by excess current flow (short circuit or overload).

If something electrical on your ATV stops working, the first thing you should check for is a blown fuse (1).

Check the fuse before looking elsewhere for another possible cause of the problem. Replace a blown fuse and check component operation.



(1) blown fuse

The main fuses is located in the battery compartment.

A spare fuse is located in the owner's manual storage area under the seat (page 89).

Recommended Fuses

main fuse	15 A
main fuse (control motor fuse)	30 A

Specifications

Dimensions	
overall length	70.6 in (1,794 mm)
overall width	40.7 in (1,034 mm)
overall height	41.5 in (1,054 mm)
wheelbase	44.5 in (1,131 mm)
ground clearance	6.0 in (152 mm)

Weight	
dry weight	414 lbs (188 kg)

Fuel & Lubricants	
fuel recommendation	unleaded gasoline, pump octane number of 86 or higher
fuel tank capacity	2.40 US gal (9.1 ℓ) including reserve
fuel tank reserve	0.63 US gal (2.4 ℓ)
engine oil capacity	after disassembly: 2.0 US qt (1.9 ℓ) after draining: 1.6 US qt (1.5 ℓ)
engine oil recommendation	API Service Classification SG or higher except oils labeled as energy conserving on the circular API service label, SAE 10W-40, JASO T 903 standard MA, Pro Honda GN4 or HP4 (without molybdenum additives) 4-stroke oil (USA & Canada) or Honda 4-stroke oil (Canada only), or an equivalent motorcycle oil

Oxygenated Fuels

If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms, try another service station or switch to another brand of gasoline.

Fuel system damage or performance problems resulting from the use of an oxygenated fuel containing more than the percentages of oxygenates mentioned above are not covered under warranty.

Oxygenated fuels can damage paint and plastic. Be careful not to spill fuel when filling the fuel tank. Wipe up any spills immediately.

NOTICE

Oxygenated fuels can damage paint and plastic. Damage caused by spilled fuel is not covered by warranty.

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