



# OWNER'S MANUAL

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY,  
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION.



MINIMUM RECOMMENDED OPERATOR AGE: 16

**TRX500™  
FOURTRAX  
FOREMAN**

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# **Important Safety Information**

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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**

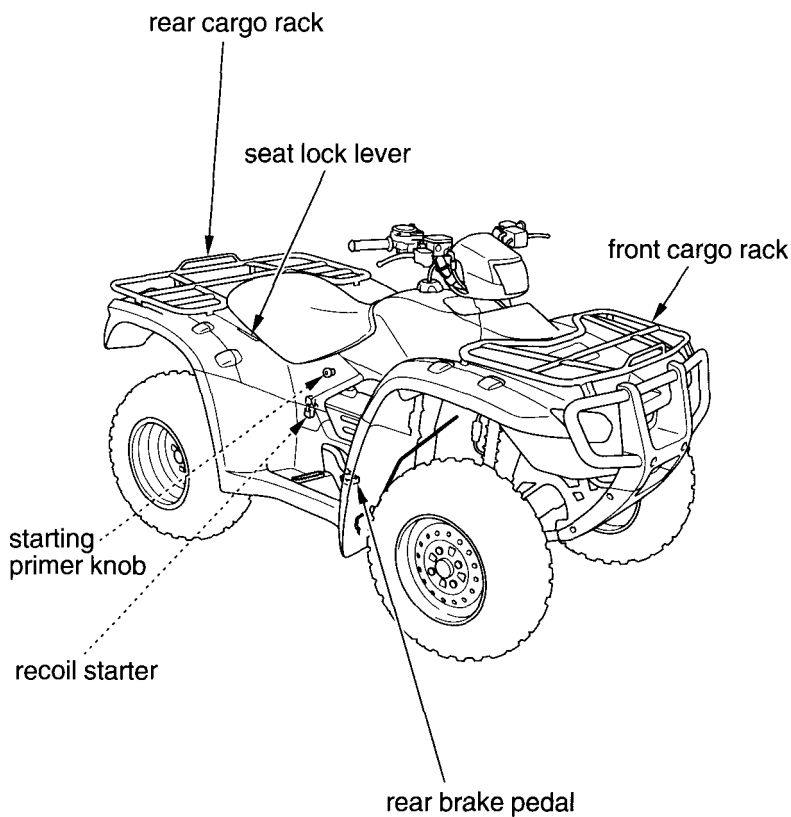
It's a proven fact: helmets significantly reduce the number and severity of head injuries. So always wear an approved motorcycle helmet. We also recommend that you wear eye protection, sturdy boots, gloves, and other protective gear (page 42 ).

## **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.

# Operation Component Locations

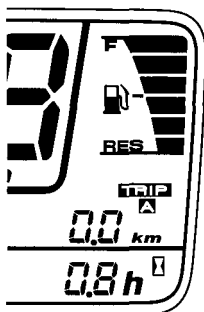
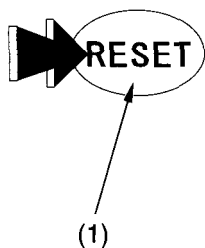
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# Indicators & Displays

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To reset the tripmeter to zero, press and hold the RESET button (1) for more than 2 seconds with the display in the tripmeter A or tripmeter B mode.



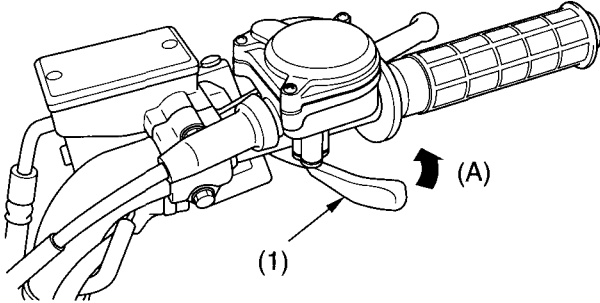
(1) RESET button

# Controls & Features

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## Throttle Lever

### RIGHT HANDLEBAR



(1) throttle lever

(A) to open the throttle

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

# Are You Ready to Ride?

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Before you ride your ATV for the first time, we urge you to:

- Read this owner's manual and the labels on your ATV carefully.
- Make sure you understand all the safety messages.
- Know how to operate all the controls.

Before each ride, be sure:

- You feel well and are in good physical and mental condition.
- You are wearing an approved motorcycle helmet (with chin strap tightened securely), eye protection, and other protective clothing.
- You don't have any alcohol or drugs in your system.

## Protective Apparel

For your safety, we strongly recommend that you always wear an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket whenever you ride.

Although complete protection is not possible, wearing proper gear can reduce the chance of injury when you ride.

Following are suggestions to help you choose the proper gear.

### Helmets and Eye Protection

Your helmet is your most important piece of riding gear because it offers the best protection against head injuries. A helmet should fit your head comfortably and securely.

# Load Limits & Guidelines

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## Loading Guidelines

Carrying cargo or pulling a trailer will affect how your ATV handles and greatly reduce its ability in accelerating, braking and making turns and other maneuvers.

Be sure to observe the weight limits and follow these guidelines:

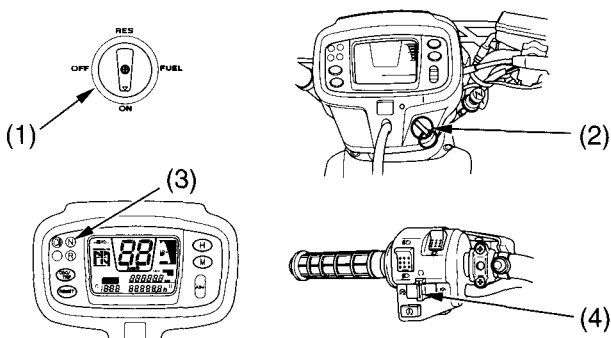
- Check that the tyres are properly inflated.
- Do not place cargo anywhere on the ATV other than on the front and rear racks. Otherwise, operating stability may be adversely affected.
- Never ride with a passenger on the front or rear cargo racks. The ATV is not designed to carry a passenger.
- Use the trailer hitch to tow another vehicle or trailer. Do not tow by tying a rope or cable to the rear rack.
- Load cargo on the rear rack as far forward as possible. Make sure cargo on the front rack does not interfere with handlebar movement.
- Do not allow cargo to extend beyond the edges of either the front or rear racks.
- Make sure all cargo is secured before riding.
- Balance cargo weight evenly on both sides.
- Never exceed the maximum weight limit.
- When towing a trailer, take care to maintain balance and stability. Distribute cargo between the front and rear of the trailer to obtain the recommended tongue weight.
- Allow extra room for starting, stopping and turning whenever you carry cargo or pull a trailer.
- Avoid riding on steep slopes when carrying cargo or pulling a trailer.
- Never cross a slope when towing a trailer.

# Starting & Stopping the Engine

Always follow the proper starting procedure described below.

For your safety, avoid starting or operating the engine in an enclosed area such as a garage. Your ATV's exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas which can collect rapidly in an enclosed area and cause illness or death.

## Preparation



(1) fuel valve  
(2) ignition switch

(3) neutral indicator  
(4) engine stop switch

1. Before starting, select a level surface and lock the parking brake (page 35).
2. Turn the fuel valve (1) and ignition switch (2) to ON ( I ).

Confirm the following:

- The transmission is in NEUTRAL (neutral indicator (3) ON).
- The engine stop switch (4) is set to RUN ( O ).

# Braking

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Your ATV is equipped with disc brakes on both front wheels which are hydraulically activated by operating the right brake lever. A single drum brake on the rear axle housing is mechanically activated by depressing the brake pedal or operating the left brake lever.

As a general rule, the front braking system provides about 70 percent of total stopping power.

For full braking effectiveness, use both the pedal and lever simultaneously. Using both braking systems will stop your ATV faster with greater stability.

To slow or stop, apply the brake lever and brake pedal smoothly, while downshifting to match your speed.

Gradually increase braking as you feel the brakes slowing your speed. The increase in engine compression from downshifting will help slow your ATV.

Applying the brakes too hard may cause the wheels to lock and slide, reducing control of your ATV. If this happens, release the brake controls, steer straight ahead until you regain control, then reapply the brakes more gently.

When possible, reduce your speed or complete braking before entering a turn. Avoid braking or closing the throttle quickly while turning. Either action may cause one or more wheels to slip and reduce your control of your ATV.

# Riding Your ATV

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When you've selected a safe downhill path, shift into a lower gear, shift your weight back with your arms extended and braced against the handlebar, then go down slowly with the throttle closed.

Use mainly the rear brake to control speed. Avoid using either the front brake or rear brake hard or abruptly when riding down hills.

Remember, braking effectiveness is reduced on any hill with a loose surface.

## **Crossing or Turning on Hills or Slopes**

Riding on hills or slopes is different from riding on level terrain. Be careful when riding on any hill. Make sure that you practice on gentle, smooth slopes before attempting to ride on steeper or more difficult terrain.

### **WARNING**

Improperly crossing hills or turning on hills could cause loss of control or cause the ATV to overturn.

Always follow proper procedures for crossing or turning on slopes as described in this Owner's Manual. Avoid crossing steep hills if possible.

# Maintenance Schedule

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The required Maintenance Schedule that follows specifies how often you should have your ATV serviced, and what things need attention. It is essential to have your ATV serviced as scheduled to maintain safe, dependable performance and proper emission control.

The service intervals in this Maintenance Schedule are based on average riding conditions. Some items will need more frequent service if you ride in unusually wet or dusty areas or at full throttle. Consult your Honda dealer for recommendations applicable to your individual needs and use.

Some items in the Maintenance Schedule can be performed with basic mechanical skills and hand tools. Procedures for these items are provided in this manual. Other items involve more extensive procedures and may require special training, tools, and equipment. We recommend that you have your Honda dealer perform these tasks unless you have advanced mechanical skills and the required tools and equipment. Procedures for such items in this schedule are provided in an official Honda Shop Manual available for purchase.

If you do not feel capable of performing a given task or need assistance, remember that your Honda dealer knows your ATV best and is fully equipped to maintain and repair it. If you decide to do your own maintenance, use only genuine Honda parts or their equivalents for repair or replacement to ensure the best quality and reliability.

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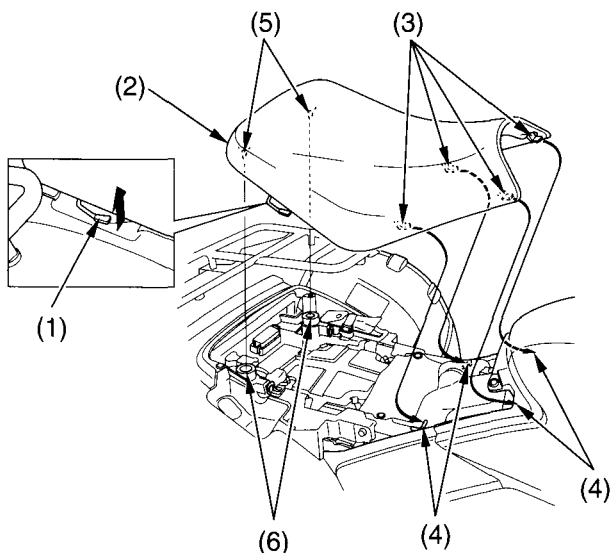
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# Seat Removal

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Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 91 .

The seat must be removed for the air cleaner, spark plug, battery and fuse maintenance.



(1) seat lock lever

(2) seat

(3) front prongs

(4) hooks

(5) studs

(6) grommets

## Removal

1. Pull the seat lock lever ( 1 ) at the right side of the seat.
2. Slide the seat ( 2 ) back and lift it.

## Installation

1. Insert the front prongs ( 3 ) into the hooks ( 4 ) on the frame and press the studs ( 5 ) into the grommets ( 6 ).
2. Press down on the seat until locks.

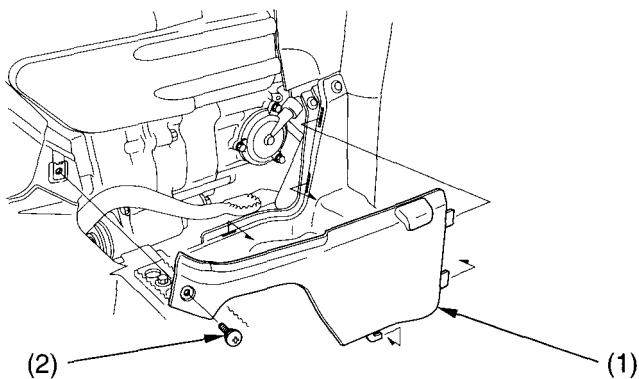
# Engine Oil & Filter

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*Install a New Engine Oil Filter:*

1. Remove the right engine sub cover (1) by removing the screw (2).

RIGHT SIDE



- (1) right engine sub cover  
(2) screw

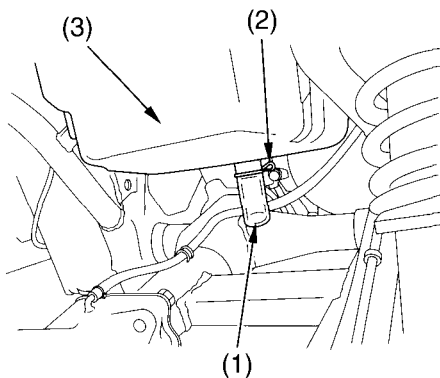
# Air Cleaner

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## Air Cleaner Housing Drain Tube

The air cleaner housing drain tube should be serviced in accordance with the Maintenance Schedule. (Riding through water may require more frequent inspection.) If deposits can be seen in the drain tube, the tube must be cleaned before starting the vehicle.

REAR



(1) drain tube  
(2) clip

(3) air cleaner housing

1. Remove the drain tube (1) by removing the clip (2) under the air cleaner housing (3).
2. Drain the deposits.
3. Reinstall the drain tube, securing it with the clip.

# Spark Plug

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11. With the plug washer attached, thread the spark plug in by hand to prevent cross-threading.
12. Tighten the spark plug:
  - If the old plug is good:
    - 1/8 turn after it seats.
  - If installing a new plug, tighten it twice to prevent loosening:
    - a) First, tighten the plug:
      - NGK: 3/4 turn after it seats.
      - DENSO: 1/2 turn after it seats.
    - b) Then loosen the plug.
    - c) Next, tighten the plug again:
      - 1/8 turn after it seats.

## NOTICE

*Improperly tightened spark plug can damage the engine. If a plug is too loose, a piston may be damaged. If a plug is too tight, the threads may be damaged.*

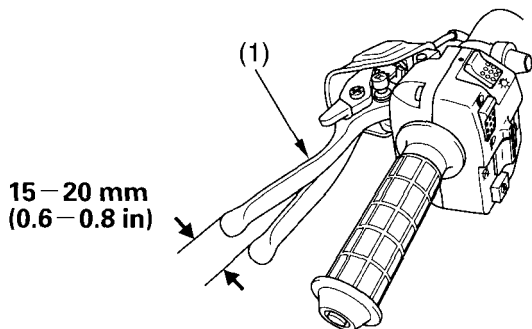
13. Reinstall the spark plug cap. Take care to avoid pinching any cables or wires.
14. Install the remaining parts in the reverse order of removal.

# Brakes

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## Rear Brake Lever Freeplay

### LEFT HANDLEBAR



(1) rear brake lever/parking brake lever

#### Inspection

Measure the distance the rear brake lever/parking brake lever (1) moves before the brake starts to take hold. Freeplay, measurement at the tip of the end of the brake lever, should be:

15-20 mm (0.6-0.8 in)

If necessary, adjust to the specified range.

# Tyres

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## Tyre Repair

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 91 .

A tyre that is repaired, either temporarily or permanently, will have lower speed and performance limits than a new or undamaged tyre.

A temporary repair can sometimes be made in an emergency situation. However, since a temporary repair may not hold, you must ride very slowly, preferably without any cargo, and have the tyre replaced or permanently repaired as soon as possible. (For more information on temporary repairs, see *If You Have a Flat Tyre*, page 181 .)

A permanent repair, such as an internal plug patch, can be made if a tyre has only a small puncture in the tread area. However you may not be able to safely carry as much weight. If you choose to have a tyre repaired, be sure the repair work is performed by a professional.

If you have a tyre professionally repaired at a non-Honda facility, we recommend that you have the work checked by your Honda dealer.

# Appearance Care

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## Spray Cleaning Your ATV

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 91.

Avoid using spray cleaner products on the tyres or suspension components.

Suggestions for using spray cleaner(s) follow:

<b>ATV condition</b>	<b>Recommended Cleaning</b>
Dust and fingerprint smudges.	Apply a spray cleaner/polish and wipe paint, chrome, glass, and clear plastic.
Light road grimes.	Spray any difficult-to-reach or very dirty areas with a spray cleaner/degreaser. Rinse and dry. Apply a spray cleaner/polish and wipe with a non-abrasive cloth.
Heavy grime. Oil leaks. Brake dust.	Use a spray cleaner/degreaser. If necessary, rub with a sponge. Rinse and dry. Apply a spray cleaner/polish and wipe with a non-abrasive cloth.
Dull, corroded chrome or aluminum.	Apply a high quality chrome/aluminum polish and wipe with a non-abrasive cloth.

# Storing Your Honda

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## Removal from Storage

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 91 .

1. Uncover and clean your ATV.
2. If your ATV has been stored for more than four months — change the engine oil (page 111 ).
3. If your ATV has been stored for more than two months — ask your Honda dealer to drain and replace the fuel.
4. Charge the battery (page 159) as required. Install the battery.
5. Perform a pre-ride inspection (page 47 ), then test-ride your ATV at low speeds.

# If You Have a Flat Tyre

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## Installation

1. Position the wheel.
2. Position the wheel nuts so that the tapered sides face the wheel rim (2).
3. Tighten the wheel nuts in a crisscross (rather than a circular) pattern to the specified torque:  
**64 N·m (6.5 kgf·m , 47 lbf·ft)**

If a torque wrench was not used for installation, see your Honda dealer as soon as possible to verify proper assembly. Improper assembly may lead to loss of braking capability.

# Technical Information

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This section contains dimensions, capacities, and other technical data, plus information on government requirements and how to break-in your ATV.

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# Catalytic Converter

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This ATV is equipped with the oxidation catalytic converter. The catalytic converter contains precious metals that serve as catalysts, promoting chemical reactions to convert the exhaust gasses without affecting the metals.

The catalytic converter acts on HC and CO. A replacement unit must be an original Honda part or its equivalent.

The catalytic converter must operate at a high temperature for the chemical reactions to take place. It can set fire to any combustible materials that come near it. Park your ATV away from high grasses, dry leaves, or other flammables.

A defective catalytic converter contributes to air pollution, and can impair your engine's performance. Follow these guidelines to protect your ATV's catalytic converter.

- Always use unleaded gasoline. Even a small amount of leaded gasoline can contaminate the catalyst metals, making the catalytic converter ineffective.
- Keep the engine tuned-up.
- Have your ATV diagnosed and repaired if it is misfiring, backfiring, stalling or otherwise not running properly.

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