



OWNER'S MANUAL

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY,
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION.



MINIMUM RECOMMENDED OPERATOR AGE: 16

05

**TRX500TM
FOURTRAX
FOREMAN**

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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.

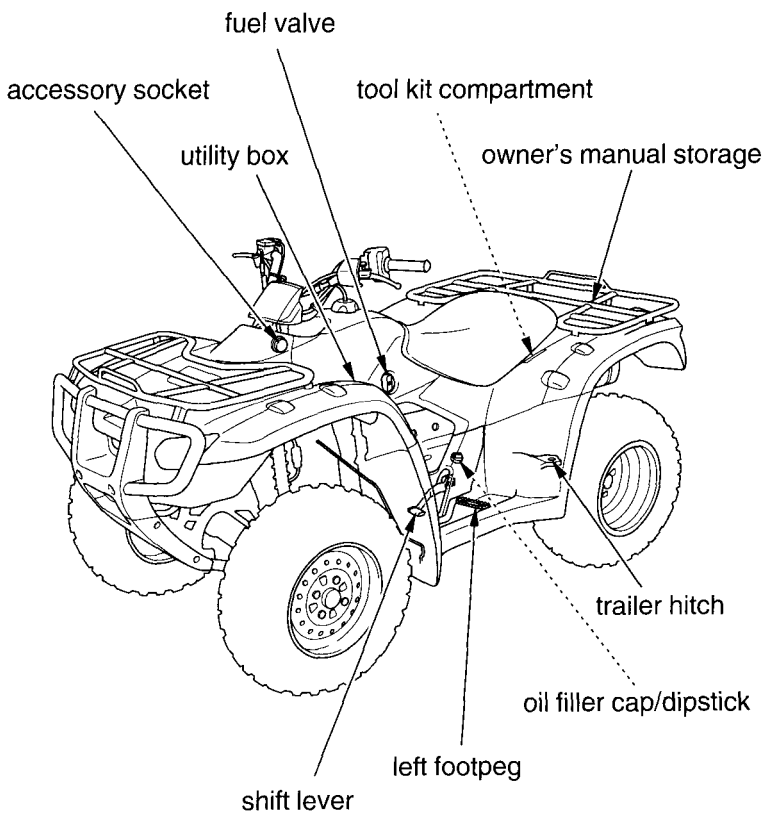
Always Wear a Helmet

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 32).

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

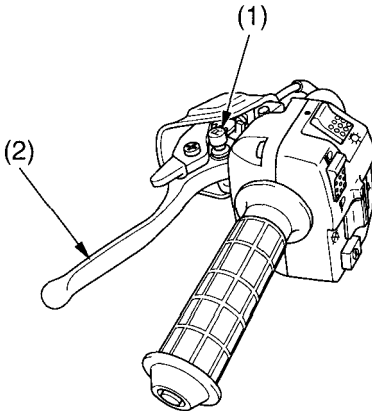


Controls & Features

Reverse Selector Knob

The reverse selector knob (1), located on the rear brake lever (2), is used to shift into reverse. To operate, with your ATV stopped and the transmission in neutral (make sure the neutral indicator lights), push in the knob, squeeze the rear brake lever, then depress the shift lever. See *Riding in Reverse*, page 60 .

LEFT HANDLEBAR



(1) reverse selector knob

(2) rear brake lever

Are You Ready to Ride?

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

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:

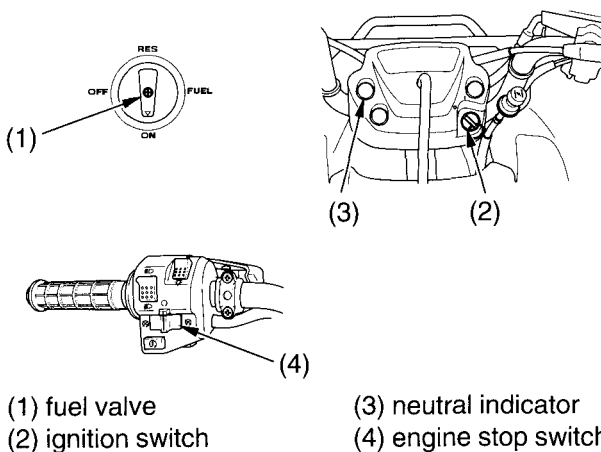
- Check that the tires are properly inflated.
- Do not place cargo anywhere on the ATV other than on the front and rear racks. Otherwise, operating stability may be adversely affected.
- Never ride with a passenger on the front or rear cargo racks. The ATV is not designed to carry a passenger.
- Use 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. Before starting, select a level surface and lock the parking brake (page 24).
2. Turn the fuel valve (1) and ignition switch (2) to ON (|).

Confirm the following:

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

Braking

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

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

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.

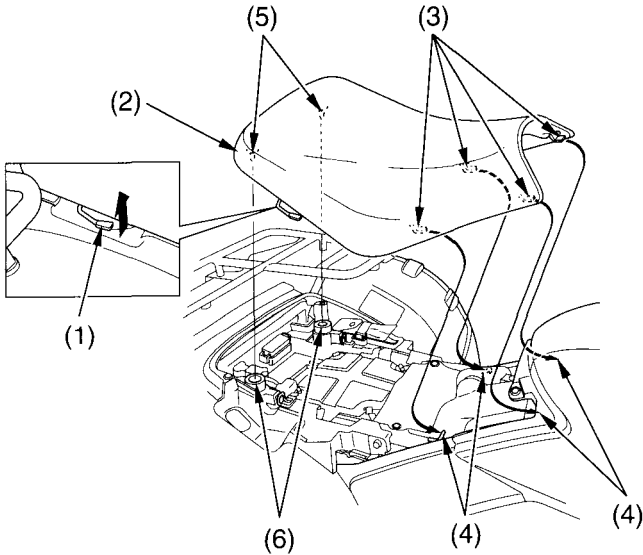
Some items in the Maintenance Schedule can be performed with basic mechanical skills and hand tools. Procedures for these items are provided in this manual. Other items involve more extensive procedures and may require special training, tools, and equipment. We recommend that you have your Honda dealer 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 Service Manual available for purchase (page 198).

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.

Seat Removal

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 81 .

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.

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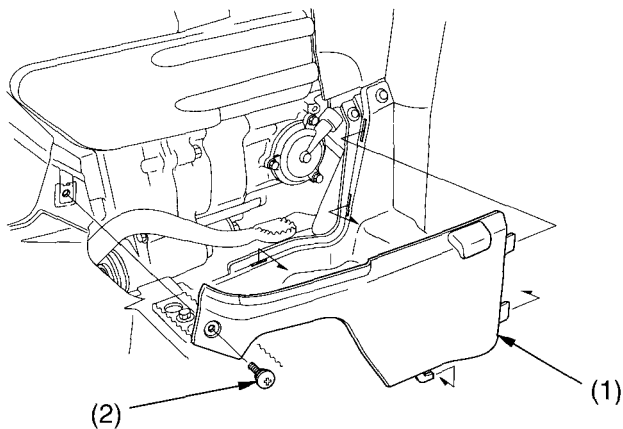
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Engine Oil & Filter

Install a New Engine Oil Filter:

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

RIGHT SIDE



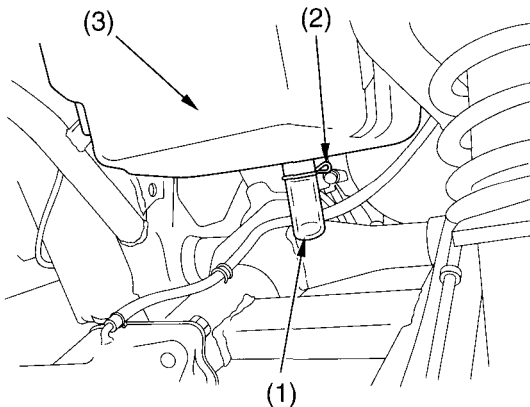
- (1) right engine sub cover
(2) screw

Air Cleaner

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.

Valves

Valve Inspection

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 81 .

Valve clearance should be:

0.006 in (0.15 mm)

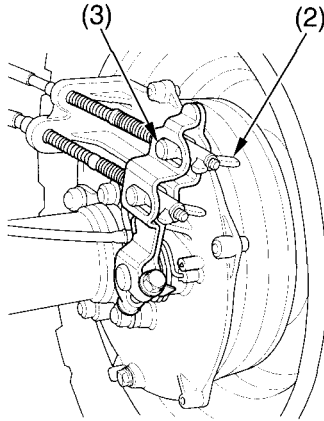
Excessive clearance will cause noise. Insufficient clearance will cause loss of power and possibly damage the valves.

For those who are mechanically proficient and have the proper tools, instructions on adjusting valve clearances are given in the official Honda Service Manual. All others should have valves adjusted by your Honda dealer.

Brakes

Adjustment

RIGHT REAR



- (2) brake lever adjusting nut
- (3) brake arm pin

Turn the brake lever adjusting nut (2), located on the brake operating rod at the rear of the frame. Make sure the cutout on the adjusting nut is properly seated on the brake arm pin (3).

Other Inspection

- Check that the rear brake lever and brake pedal assemblies are positioned properly and the securing bolts are tight.
- Make sure that the brake cables, brake arm, spring, and fasteners are in good condition.

Tires

Tire Replacement

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 81.

The tires that came on your ATV were designed to match the performance capabilities of your ATV and provide the best combination of handling, braking, and comfort.

It is best to replace all four tires, however if that is not possible, you must replace the tires in pairs (front or rear) with tires of the same size and type as the originals. Never replace just one tire.

WARNING

Installing improper tires on your ATV can affect handling and stability. This can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always use the size and type of tires recommended in this owner's manual.

The recommended tires for your ATV are:

front	AT25 × 8-12 ★★ KT181 DUNLOP
rear	AT25 × 10-12 ★★ KT185 DUNLOP

When you replace a tire, remember:

Have the tire replaced by your Honda dealer if possible.

If you have a tire professionally replaced at a non-Honda facility, we recommended that you have the work checked by your Honda dealer.

Appearance Care

Finishing Touches

Refer to *Safety Precautions* on page 81.

After washing your ATV, consider using a commercially-available spray cleaner/polish or quality liquid or paste wax to finish the job. Use only a non-abrasive polish or wax made specifically for motorcycles or automobiles. Apply the polish or wax according to the instructions on the container.

If a surface on your ATV is chipped or scratched, your Honda dealer has touch-up paint to match your ATV's color. Be sure to use your ATV's color code (page 183) when you buy touch-up paint.

If the frame has a chip that exposes the metal, first apply primer (to prevent corrosion) and then apply the touch-up paint. Several thin layers of touch-up paint are better than one thick coat.

You & the Environment

Owning and riding an ATV can be enjoyable, but you must do your part to protect nature. When you show respect for the land, wildlife, and other people, you also help preserve the sport of off-road riding.

Following are tips on how you can be an environmentally-responsible ATV owner.

- **Tread Lightly.** Stay on existing roads and trails, avoid surfaces that are easily damaged, and ride only in areas approved for off-road vehicles.
- **Keep the Noise Down.** Loud vehicles can be offensive. Ride as quietly as possible, don't remove your spark arrester, and don't modify the muffler or any other part of your air intake and exhaust systems. Such modifications not only increase noise, they also reduce engine performance and may be illegal.
- **Choose Sensible Cleaners.** Use a biodegradable detergent when you wash your ATV. Avoid aerosol spray cleaners that contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which damage the atmosphere's protective ozone layer. Don't throw cleaning solvents away; see the following guidelines for proper disposal.
- **Recycle Wastes.** It's illegal and thoughtless to put used engine oil in the trash, down a drain, or on the ground. Used oil, gasoline, and cleaning solvents contain poisons that can hurt refuse workers and contaminate our drinking water, lakes, rivers, and oceans. Before changing your oil, make sure you have the proper containers. Put oil and other toxic wastes in separate sealed containers and take them to a recycling center. Call your local or state office of public works or environmental services to find a recycling center in your area, and to get instructions on how to dispose of non-recyclable wastes.

If the High Oil Temperature Indicator Lights

Normally, the high oil temperature indicator will only light momentarily when you turn the ignition ON (I). Occasionally, it may flicker at or near idling speed.

High oil temperature may be caused by restriction of air flow over the engine (such as mud caked on the cooling fin), extended idling, an oil leak, a low oil level, or extended operation under adverse conditions. If the indicator comes on while you're riding, don't ignore it. Pull safely to a stop. Stop the engine as soon as it's safe to do so, and let it cool.

NOTICE

Continuing to ride with high oil temperature can adversely affect the service life of the engine.

- Check for any restriction of air flow through the oil cooler.
- Check for any restriction of air flow over the engine.
- Check for an oil leak.
- Check the oil level. If necessary, add the recommended oil (page 99) to the upper level mark. If you must leave your ATV to get oil, secure it as much as possible.
- Start the engine, and check that the high oil temperature indicator goes off.

If the indicator goes off — resume riding. If there is a leak — do not ride the ATV until the leak is repaired by Honda dealer.

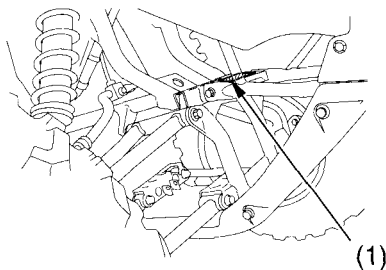
Vehicle Identification

Serial Numbers

The frame and engine serial numbers and key number may be required when ordering replacement parts. You may record these numbers in the Quick Reference section at the rear of this manual.

The frame number (1) is stamped on the front of the frame.

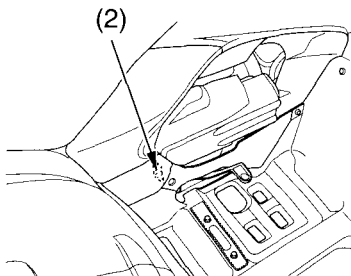
FRONT



(1) frame number

The engine number (2) is stamped on the upper side of the rear crankcase.

RIGHT SIDE



(2) engine number

Emission Control Systems

Crankcase Emission Control System

The engine is equipped with a closed crankcase system to prevent discharging crankcase emissions into the atmosphere. Blow-by gas is returned to the combustion chamber through the air cleaner and the carburetor.

Problems That May Affect ATV Exhaust Emissions

If you are aware of any of the following symptoms, have the vehicle inspected and repaired by your Honda ATV dealer.

Symptoms:

1. Hard starting or stalling after starting
2. Rough idle
3. Misfiring or backfiring during acceleration
4. After-burning (backfiring)
5. Poor performance (driveability) and poor fuel economy

Federal regulations prohibit removing or disabling a device or element of design that may affect your engine's emission performance unless your ATV will be used exclusively in competition. If you modify your engine for use in sanctioned competition events, you must deface or destroy the emission control information label.

Warranty Service

Please remember that recommended maintenance interval servicing is not included in your warranty coverage. Additionally, your warranty does not apply to the normal wear of items (such as brakes, tires, etc.).

If you believe you have a problem with your ATV, call the service department of your Honda dealer. Make an appointment for an inspection and diagnosis. Remember, as the owner of the ATV, you will be asked to authorize that inspection. Your dealer will give you the results of the inspection. If the problem is covered under warranty, your dealer will perform the warranty repairs for you.

If you have questions about warranty coverage or the nature of the repair, it is best to talk to the service manager of your Honda dealer.

Sometimes, in spite of the best intentions of all concerned, a misunderstanding may occur. If you aren't satisfied with your dealer's handling of the situation, we suggest you discuss your problem with the appropriate member of the dealership's management team. If the problem has already been reviewed with the Service Manager, Parts Manager, Sales Manager, etc., contact the Owner of the dealership or their designated representative.

Index

A

accessories.....	43
accessory socket.....	27
age recommendation.....	35
air cleaner,	
filter.....	108
housing drain tube.....	112
air pressure,	
gauge.....	91
tire.....	138
altitude, high.....	189
American Honda, contacting.....	198
apparel, protective.....	32
appearance care.....	149
authorized manuals.....	198

B

battery.....	144
brakes,	
cables.....	132
draining water from.....	135
fluid.....	125
front brake lever.....	23
front brake lever freeplay.....	126
pad wear.....	128
parking.....	24
rear brake lever.....	23
rear brake lever freeplay.....	131
rear brake pedal.....	23

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