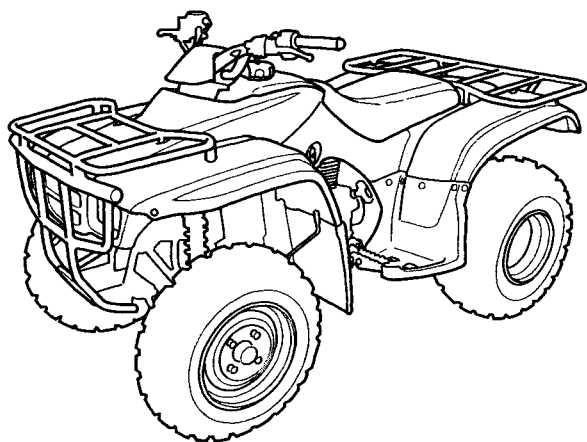


**2001
TRX 250**

HONDA FOURTRAX RECON OWNER'S MANUAL



FOR OFF-ROAD USE ONLY

This vehicle is designed and manufactured for off-road use only.

USA only:

It conforms to US EPA Noise Emission regulations, but does not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards or US EPA Exhaust Emission regulations, and operation on public streets, roads, or highways is illegal. The vehicle is equipped with a USDA qualified spark arrester. Obey local laws and regulations.

It conforms to California exhaust emission regulations for ATVs.

PREFACE

Thank you for buying a Honda FOURTRAX. Honda takes pride in a worldwide reputation for quality—in research, design, production and service. Quality is the hallmark of all Honda products and one reason why Honda is the leading manufacturer of ATVs.

Help assure your FOURTRAX's future reliability and performance by paying extra attention to how you ride during the first operating day or 15 miles (25 km). During this period, avoid full-throttle starts and rapid acceleration.

For replacement parts and accessories, we recommend genuine Honda products. They've been specially designed for your vehicle and manufactured to meet Honda's demanding standards.

This manual contains a Maintenance Schedule and information on basic maintenance procedures. If you have the required skills and tools, your Honda dealer can supply you with an Official Honda Service Manual to help you perform more advanced maintenance and repairs. When you need service, remember that your Honda dealer knows your vehicle best and is interested in your complete satisfaction.

We wish you many years of safe and enjoyable riding.

While reading this manual, remember:

▲WARNING

Indicates a strong possibility that serious injury or death may result if instructions are not followed.

All information in this publication is based on the latest product information available at the time of approval for printing. Honda Motor Co., Ltd. reserves the right to make changes at any time without notice and without incurring any obligation.

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FOURTRAX SAFETY

SPECIAL SAFETY MESSAGES

AN ATV IS NOT A TOY AND CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE.

An ATV handles differently from other vehicles including motorcycles and cars. A collision or rollover can occur quickly, even during routine maneuvers such as turning and driving on hills or over obstacles, if you fail to take proper precautions.

SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH can result if you do not follow these instructions:

- Read this manual and all labels carefully and follow the operating procedures described.
- Never operate an ATV without proper instruction.
Take a training course. Beginners should receive training from a certified instructor. Contact an authorized ATV dealer or call 1-800-887-2887 (USA only) to find out about the training courses nearest you.
- Always follow this age recommendation: A child under 16 years old should never operate an ATV with engine size greater than 90 cc.
- Never allow a child under age 16 to operate an ATV without adult supervision, and never allow continued use of an ATV by a child if he or she does not have the abilities to operate it safely.

- **Never carry a passenger on an ATV.**
- **Never operate an ATV on any paved surfaces, including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and streets.**
- **Never operate an ATV on any public street, road or highway, even a dirt or gravel one.**
- **Never operate an ATV without wearing an approved motorcycle helmet that fits properly. You should also wear eye protection (goggles or face shield), gloves, boots, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and long pants.**
- **Never consume alcohol or drugs before or while operating this ATV.**
- **Never operate at excessive speeds. Always go at a speed that is proper for the terrain, visibility, operating conditions, and your experience.**
- **Never attempt wheelies, jumps, or other stunts.**
- **Always inspect your ATV each time you use it to make sure it is in safe operating condition. Always follow the inspection and maintenance procedures and schedules described in this manual.**
- **Always keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footpegs of the ATV during operation.**

- **Always go slowly and be extra careful when operating on unfamiliar terrain. Always be alert to changing terrain conditions when operating the ATV.**
- **Never operate on excessively rough, slippery or loose terrain until you have learned and practiced the skills necessary to control the ATV on such terrain. Always be especially cautious on these kinds of terrain.**
- **Always follow proper procedures for turning as described in this manual. Practice turning at low speeds before attempting to turn at faster speeds. Do not turn at excessive speed.**
- **Never operate the ATV on hills too steep for the ATV or for your abilities. Practice on smaller hills before attempting larger hills.**
- **Always follow proper procedures for climbing hills as described in this manual. Check the terrain carefully before you start up any hill. Never climb hills with excessively slippery or loose surfaces. Shift your weight forward. Never open the throttle suddenly or make sudden gear changes. Never go over the top of any hill at high speed.**
- **Always follow proper procedures for going down hills and for braking on hills as described in this manual. Check the terrain carefully before you start down any hill. Shift your weight backward. Never go down a hill at high speed. Avoid going down a hill at an angle that would cause the vehicle to lean sharply to one side. Go straight down the hill where possible.**

- **Always follow proper procedures for crossing the side of a hill as described in this manual. Avoid hills with excessively slippery or loose surfaces. Shift your weight to the uphill side of the ATV. Never attempt to turn the ATV around on any hill until you have mastered the turning technique described in this manual on level ground. Avoid crossing the side of a steep hill if possible.**
- **Always use proper procedures if you stall or roll backwards when climbing a hill. To avoid stalling, use the proper gear and maintain a steady speed when climbing a hill. If you stall or roll backwards, follow the special procedure for braking described in this manual. Dismount and follow the procedures provided in this manual.**
- **Always check for obstacles before operating in a new area. Never attempt to operate over large obstacles, such as large rocks or fallen trees. Always follow proper procedures when operating over obstacles as described in this manual.**
- **Always be careful when skidding or sliding. Learn to safely control skidding or sliding by practicing at low speeds and on level, smooth terrain. On extremely slippery surfaces, such as ice, go slowly and be very cautious in order to reduce the chance of skidding out of control.**

- Never operate an ATV in fast flowing water or in water deeper than that specified in this manual. Remember that wet brakes may have reduced stopping ability. Test your brakes after leaving water. If necessary, apply them several times to let friction dry out the linings.
- Always be sure there are no obstacles or people behind you when you operate in reverse. When it is safe to proceed in reverse, go slowly.
- Always use the size and type tires specified in this manual. Always maintain proper tire pressure as described in this manual.
- Never modify an ATV through improper installation or use of accessories.
- Never exceed the stated load limits for an ATV. Cargo should be properly distributed and securely attached. Reduce speed and follow instructions in this manual for carrying cargo or pulling a trailer. Allow greater distance for braking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ATV SAFETY, call the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772, or the ATV Distributors' Safety Hotline at 1-800-852-5344 (USA only).

California Proposition 65 Warning

WARNING: This product contains or emits chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

WARNING INFORMATION


Your FOURTRAX comes with a hang tag (USA only) and several labels containing important safety information. Anyone who rides the vehicle should read and understand this information before riding.

The labels should be considered as permanent parts of the vehicle. If a label comes off or becomes hard to read, contact your Honda dealer for replacements.

USA only

⚠ WARNING

Improper use of ATVs can result in SEVERE INJURY or DEATH



ALWAYS USE AN APPROVED HELMET AND PROTECTIVE GEAR **NEVER USE ON PUBLIC ROADS** **NEVER CARRY PASSENGERS** **NEVER USE WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.**

NEVER operate:

- without proper training or instruction.
- at speeds too fast for your skills or the conditions.
- on public roads - a collision can occur with another vehicle.
- with a passenger - passengers affect balance and steering and increase risk of losing control.

ALWAYS:

- use proper riding techniques to avoid vehicle overturns on hills and rough terrain and in turns.
- avoid paved surfaces - pavement may seriously affect handling and control.

READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL.

FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.

U

UTILITY MODEL

THIS ATV IS FOR UTILITY USE

OPERATOR ONLY-NO PASSENGERS

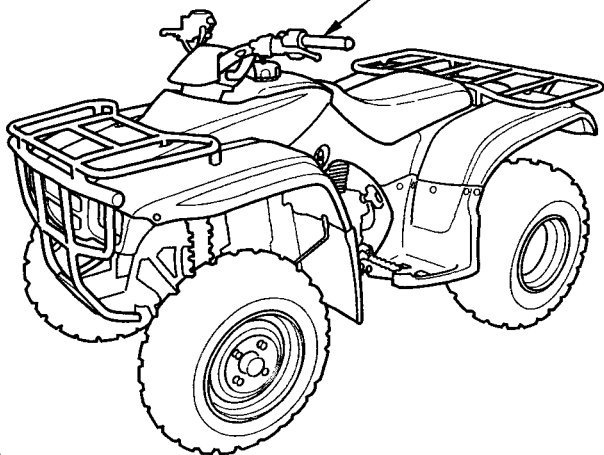
NO OPERATOR UNDER AGE 16

THIS CATEGORY U (UTILITY) ATV IS FOR OFF ROAD USE ONLY. IT IS MAINLY FOR UTILITY USE BUT IT MAY ALSO BE USED FOR GENERAL RECREATION.

TRAINING COURSES TO TEACH ATV RIDING SKILLS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR DEALER.

CHECK WITH YOUR DEALER TO FIND OUT ABOUT STATE OR LOCAL LAWS REGARDING ATV OPERATION.

THIS LABEL IS REQUIRED ON ALL UTILITY ATVs

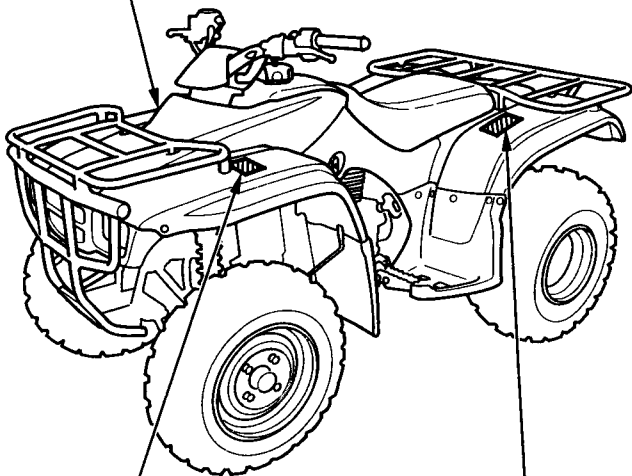


⚠ WARNING

UNDER 16

Operating this ATV if you are under the age of 16 increases your chance of severe injury or death.

NEVER operate this ATV if you are under age 16 .



⚠ WARNING

Overloading this ATV or carrying cargo improperly can change handling, stability and braking performance and can lead to an accident.

Never exceed the maximum front cargo limit of : 33lbs (15kg).

Refer to instructions in the Owner's Manual.

⚠ WARNING

Improper tire pressure or overloading can cause loss of control. Loss of control can result in severe injury or death.

- Cold tire pressure ;
 - Front : 20±3kPa 0.29±0.03kg/cm² 2.9±0.4psi
 - Rear : 20±3kPa 0.29±0.03kg/cm² 2.9±0.4psi
- Maximum weight capacity : 175kg (386lbs.)

⚠ WARNING



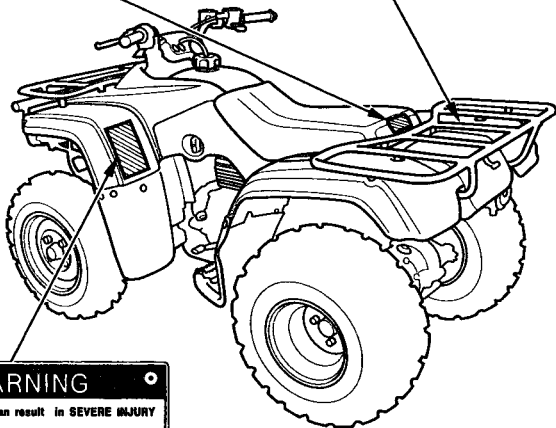
NEVER ride as a passenger.
Passengers can cause a
loss of control, resulting in
SEVERE INJURY or **DEATH**.

⚠ WARNING

Overloading this ATV or carrying cargo
improperly can change handling, stability
and braking performance and can lead to an
accident.

Never exceed the maximum rear cargo limit
(combined weight on the rear rack and in
the storage area) of: **66 lbs (30kg)**.

Refer to instructions in the Owner's
Manual.



⚠ WARNING

Improper use of ATVs can result in **SEVERE INJURY**
or **DEATH**



ALWAYS USE
AN APPROVED
HELMET AND
PROTECTIVE
GEAR

NEVER USE
ON PUBLIC
ROADS

NEVER CARRY
PASSENGERS

NEVER USE
WITH DRUGS
OR ALCOHOL

NEVER operate:

- without proper training or instruction. Ⓞ
- at speeds too fast for your skills or the conditions. Ⓞ
- on public roads - a collision can occur with another vehicle.
- with a passenger - passengers affect balance and steering and increase risk of losing control.

ALWAYS:

- use proper riding techniques to avoid vehicle overturns on hills and rough terrain and in turns.
- avoid paved surfaces - pavement may seriously affect handling and control.

READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL.

FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.

PARTS LOCATION AND OPERATION

PARTS LOCATION

- (1) Rear brake lever
Parking brake
- (2) Reverse selector knob
- (3) Headlight switch
Engine stop switch
Headlight dimmer switch
Starter button
- (4) Choke knob
- (5) Reverse indicator lamp
Neutral indicator lamp
- (6) Ignition switch
- (7) Throttle lever
- (8) Front brake lever

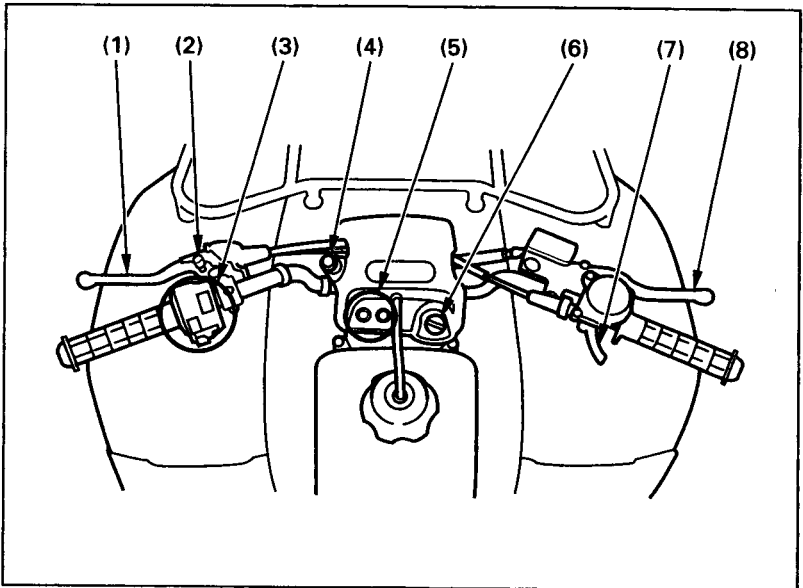


Fig. 2-1

Handlebars, from rider's point of view

- (9) Flag pole bracket
- (10) Rear cargo rack
- (11) Fuel fill cap
- (12) Helmet holder
- (13) Front cargo rack
- (14) Operator footpeg
- (15) Rear brake pedal
- (16) Headlights

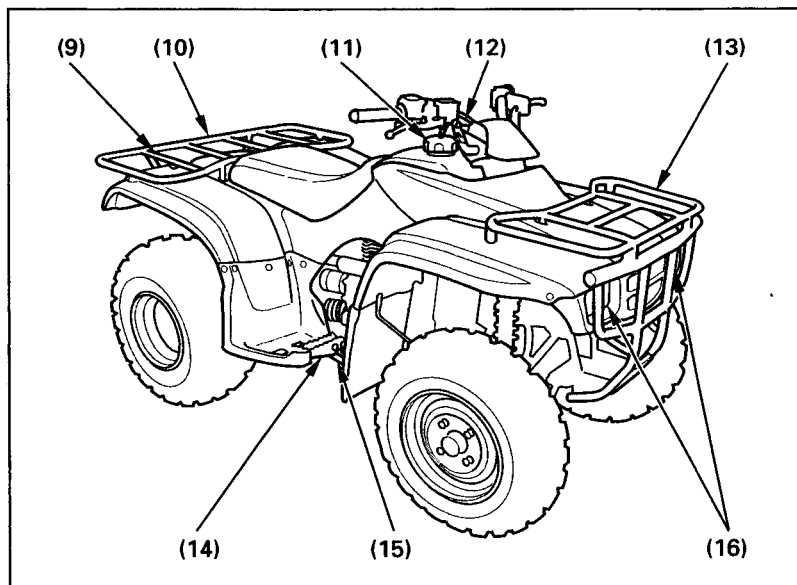


Fig. 2-2

Right side of FOURTRAX

- (17) Fuel valve
- (18) Owner's Manual storage
- (19) Storage compartment, containing:
 - Tool kit
 - Air pressure gauge
- (20) Oil filler cap/dipstick
- (21) Gearshift pedal
- (22) Operator footpeg

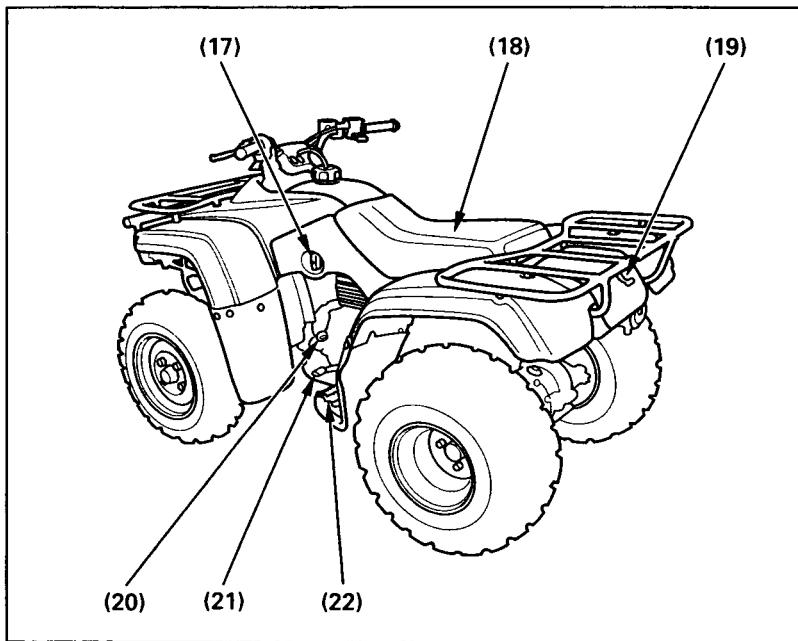


Fig. 2-3

Left side of FOURTRAX

PARTS OPERATION

POWER CONTROLS

Ignition Switch

The ignition switch (Fig. 2-4) is in the center of the handlebars directly in front of the seat.

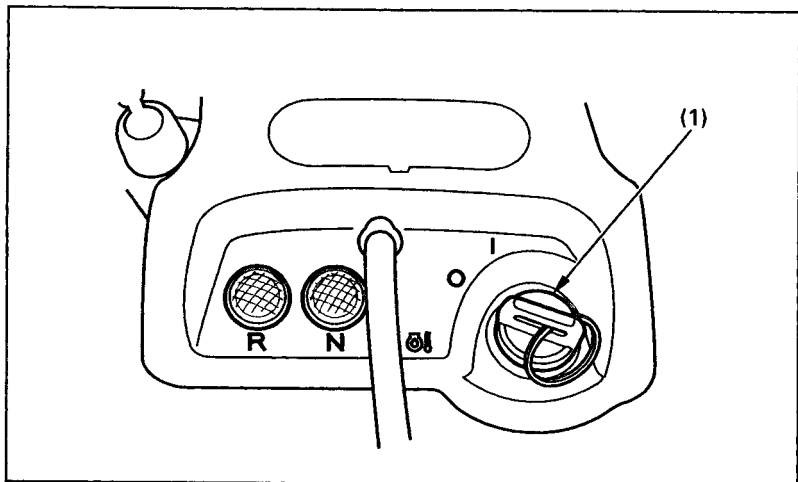


Fig. 2-4

(1) Ignition switch

Key Position	Function	Key Removal
○ (OFF)	The engine and headlight cannot be operated.	The key can be removed.
I (ON)	The headlights can be turned on. With the engine stop switch at RUN and the transmission in neutral, the engine can be started.	The key cannot be removed.

Engine Stop Switch

The engine stop switch (Fig. 2-5) is next to the left handgrip, and it has three positions. When the switch is in the RUN (\bigcirc) position, the engine will operate. When the switch is in either OFF (\otimes) position, the engine will not operate.

This switch is intended primarily as a safety or emergency control, and it should normally remain in the RUN (\bigcirc) position.

NOTE:

If you stop your FOURTRAX by turning the engine stop switch OFF (\otimes), be sure to turn the ignition switch OFF (\bigcirc) to prevent battery discharge.

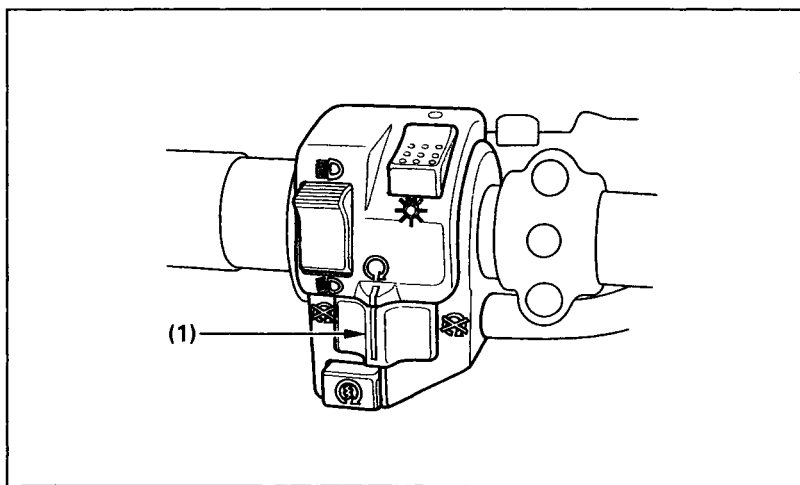


Fig. 2-5

(1) Engine stop switch

Choke Knob

The choke knob (Fig.2-6) is located above the indicator lamp. The choke has three positions: fully ON (A), halfway position (B), and fully OFF (C).

To start a cold engine when air temperature is 10–35 °C (50–90 °F), pull the choke knob up to fully ON before pressing the starter button. At colder air temperatures, pull the choke knob up to the fully ON position before pressing the starter button. As the engine warms, push the knob down to the halfway position. After the engine is warm, push the choke knob down to fully OFF. To restart a warm engine, it is not necessary to use the choke.

CAUTION:

- * Extended use of the choke may impair piston and cylinder wall lubrication and shorten the life of the engine.
- * Pushing the choke knob too hard to the OFF position may dislodge the choke cable boot. If this happens, water and dirt may enter the choke cable and cause corrosion. If the choke is hard to actuate, or feels like it is sticking, check the cable boot.

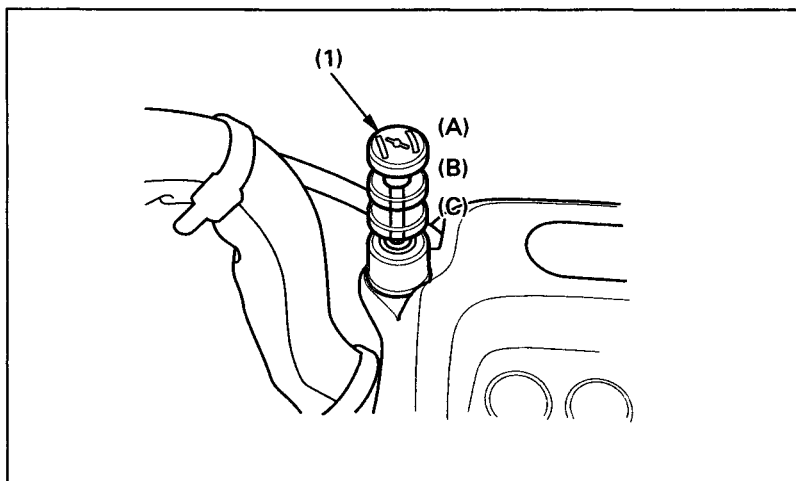


Fig. 2-6

(1) Choke knob

(A) Fully ON
(B) Half way position
(C) Fully OFF

Starter Button

The starter button (Fig. 2-7) is below the engine stop switch. To start the engine, press the starter button (1), with the transmission in neutral, the ignition switch ON (I) and the engine stop switch (2) at RUN (O).

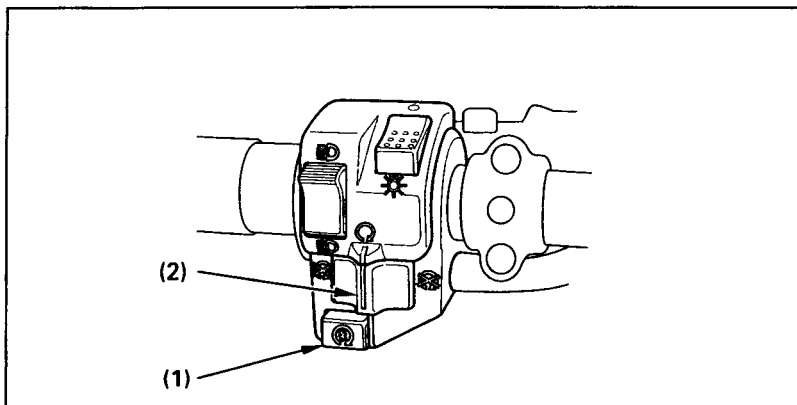


Fig. 2-7

(1) Starter button

(2) Engine stop switch

Recoil Starter

The recoil starter (Fig. 2-8) is on the left side of the FOURTRAX. It is used to start the engine when the battery is low.

To operate the recoil starter:

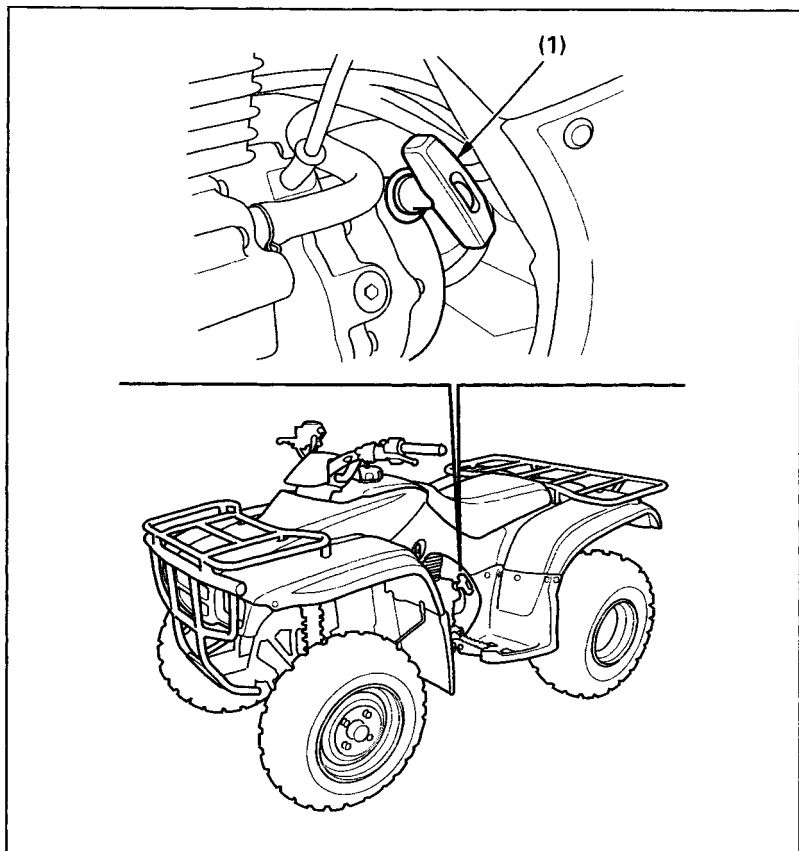


Fig. 2-8

(1) Recoil starter grip

1. Grasp the starter grip (1) firmly, then pull it out slowly approximately 4 in (100 mm).
2. Pull the grip up briskly and fully.
3. After the engine starts, allow the starter grip to return slowly.

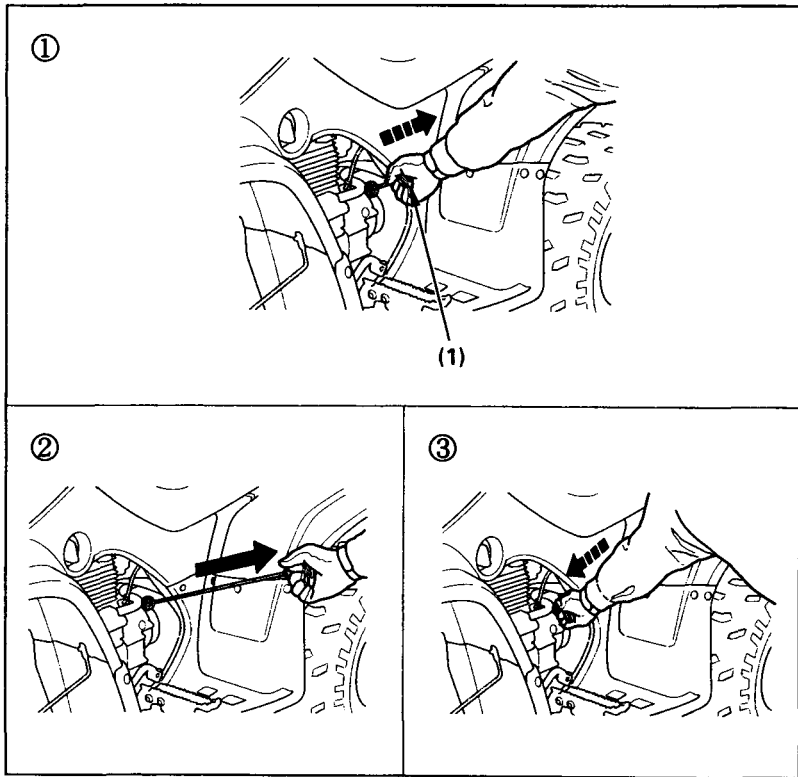


Fig. 2-9

(1) Recoil starter grip

Pull the recoil starter grip straight out so that the cord does not touch the side cover. Repeated contact with the side cover can damage the starter cord.

Throttle Lever

The throttle lever (Fig. 2-10) is next to the right handgrip, and it is operated by the thumb. Pressing the lever opens the throttle. When pressure is released, spring tension automatically closes the throttle.

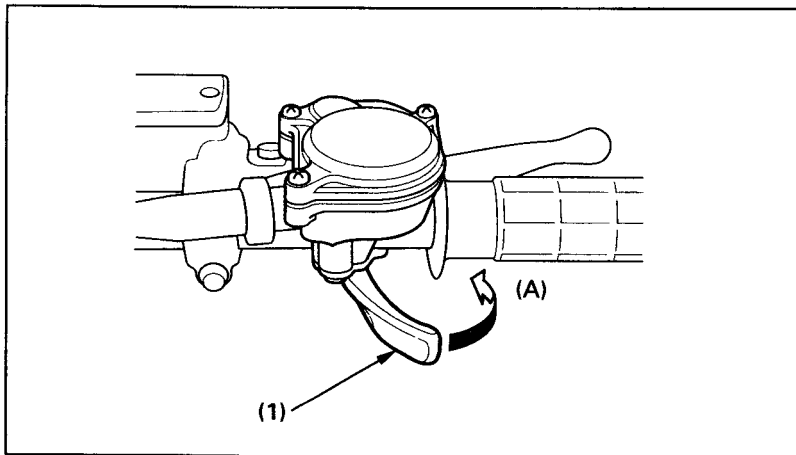





Fig. 2-10 (1) Throttle lever

(A) To open the throttle

LIGHTS

Headlight and Dimmer Switches

The headlight and dimmer switches (Fig. 2-11) are above the engine stop switch, next to the left handgrip.

Turning the headlight switch (1) ON () turns the headlight on. Use the dimmer switch (2) to select either high beam HI () or low beam LO ().

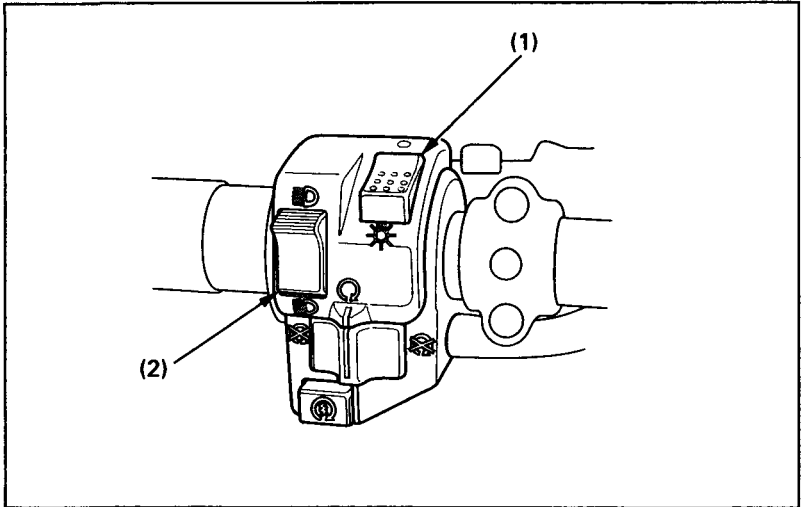


Fig. 2-11 (1) Headlight switch

(2) Dimmer switch

Reverse and Neutral Indicator Lamps

The reverse indicator lamp (1) and the neutral indicator lamp (2) (Fig. 2-12) are next to the ignition switch.

The reverse indicator lamp will light when the transmission is in reverse and the ignition switch is ON (I). The neutral indicator lamp will light when the transmission is in neutral and the ignition switch is ON (I).

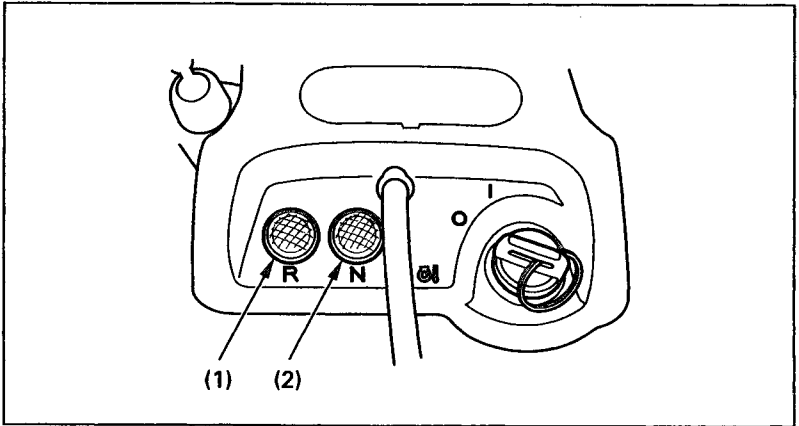


Fig. 2-12

(1) Reverse indicator lamp
(2) Neutral indicator lamp

GEARSHIFT CONTROLS

Gearshift Pedal

The gearshift pedal is near the left footpeg. One full stroke of the pedal shifts the transmission to the next higher or lower gear in the shifting sequence (Fig. 2-13). The pedal automatically returns to the horizontal position when released.

Your FOURTRAX has five-forward gears (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).

To upshift to a higher gear, put the toe of your boot under the gearshift pedal and raise the pedal one full stroke. To downshift, step on the gearshift pedal and depress the pedal one full stroke. (For further operational instructions, see page 59 .)

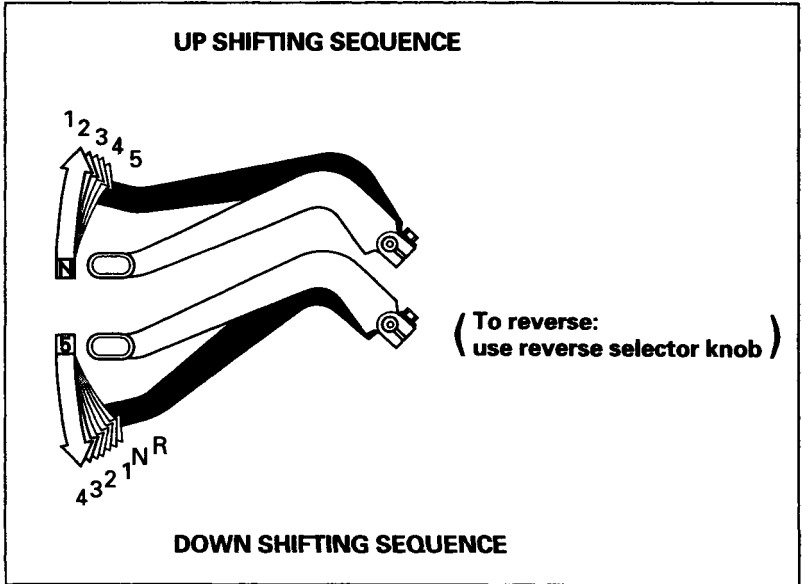


Fig. 2-13

Gearshifting sequence

Reverse Selector Knob

The reverse selector knob (Fig. 2-14) (1) is on the rear brake lever.

To shift into reverse, first bring the FOURTRAX to a complete stop and make sure the transmission is in neutral. While pushing the reverse selector knob (1) in, squeeze the rear brake lever (2), then depress the gearshift pedal.

CAUTION:

Bring the FOURTRAX to a complete stop before shifting the transmission into reverse. If the transmission is shifted into reverse while the vehicle is moving, the transmission will be damaged.

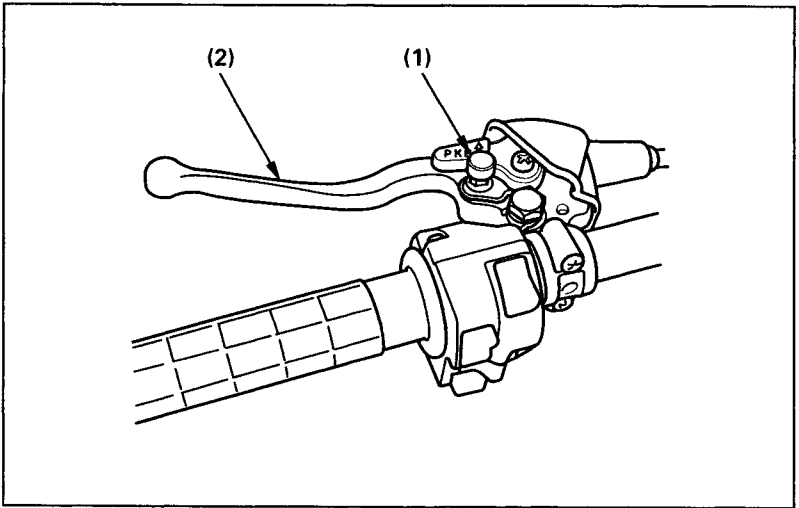


Fig. 2-14 (1) Reverse selector knob (2) Rear brake lever