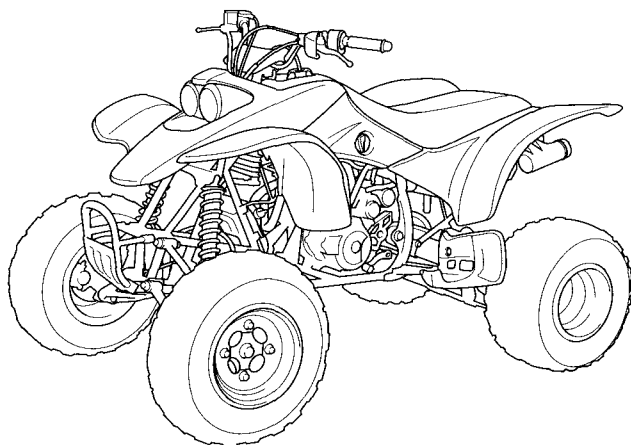


**1999
TRX 400EX**

HONDA FOURTRAX 400EX OWNER'S MANUAL

The TRX400EX is designed as a high-performance sport model to be used only by highly-experienced operators with advanced skills.



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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CONTENTS

	Page
FOURTRAX SAFETY	1
Special Safety Messages	1
Warning Information.....	6
PARTS LOCATION AND OPERATION	10
Parts Location	10
Parts Operation.....	13
Power Controls	13
Lights	18
Gearshift Controls.....	20
Brake Controls.....	21
Fuel Tank	22
Engine Oil	24
Front Suspension.....	25
Rear Suspension.....	26
Additional Features	28
RIDING YOUR FOURTRAX	32
Before Riding	32
Rider Preparation.....	32
Vehicle Preparation	34
Safe Riding Rules.....	42
Riding	54
Starting the Engine	55
Shifting Gears	59
Making Turns	60
Riding Up Hills	63
Riding Down Hills	70
Crossing Slopes	72
Making Turns on Slopes.....	73
Riding Over Obstacles	74
Riding Through Water	75
Parking.....	76

(cont'd)

CONTENTS

	Page
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	77
Emission Requirement.....	77
Maintenance Schedule	78
Maintenance Precautions	80
Tool Kit.....	81
Fuel System	82
Lubrication.....	94
Drive Chain	101
Engine	105
Clutch	107
Electrical System.....	110
Brakes	115
Wheels and Tires.....	122
Seat Removal	127
Engine Guard and Skid Plates	128
Spark Arrester	130
TRANSPORTING YOUR FOURTRAX	132
CLEANING YOUR FOURTRAX	135
STORING YOUR FOURTRAX	137
SPECIFICATIONS	140
WIRING DIAGRAM.....	142
CONSUMER INFORMATION.....	143
WARRANTY SERVICE.....	145
SERIAL NUMBERS AND COLOR LABEL.....	146
INDEX	147
AUTHORIZED MANUALS	153

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. 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).

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 WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL** **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.

S

SPORT MODEL

THIS ATV IS FOR RECREATIONAL USE BY EXPERIENCED OPERATORS ONLY

OPERATOR ONLY-NO PASSENGERS

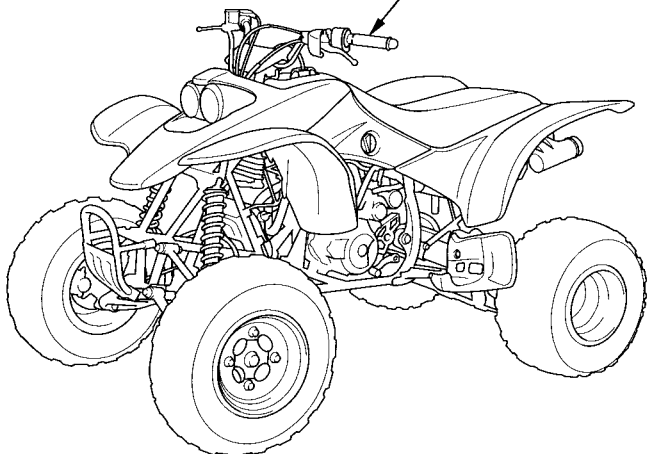
NO OPERATOR UNDER AGE 16

THIS CATEGORY S (SPORT) ATV IS A HIGH PERFORMANCE ATV FOR OFF ROAD USE ONLY. IT IS FOR SPORT TYPE RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE USE BY OPERATORS WITH ADVANCED SKILLS AND SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE.

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.

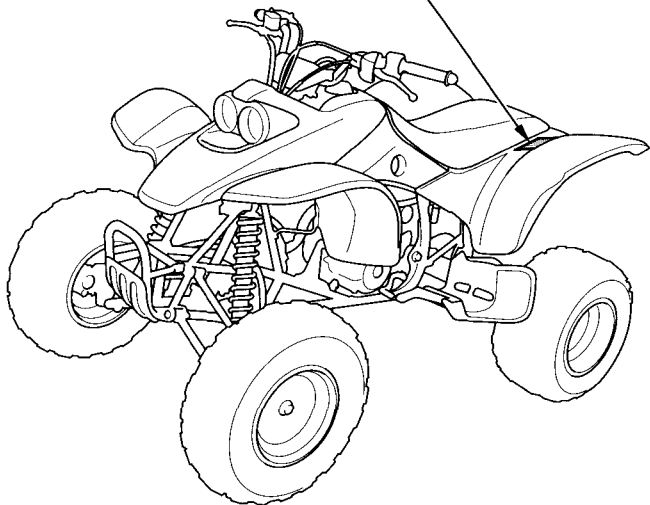
THIS HANGTAG IS NOT TO BE REMOVED BEFORE SALE




⚠ 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 : $4.0 \pm 0.6 \text{ psi}$ $0.275 \pm 0.04 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$
Rear $4.0 \pm 0.6 \text{ psi}$ $0.275 \pm 0.04 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$
- **Maximum weight capacity ; 243lbs. (110kg)**



⚠ WARNING



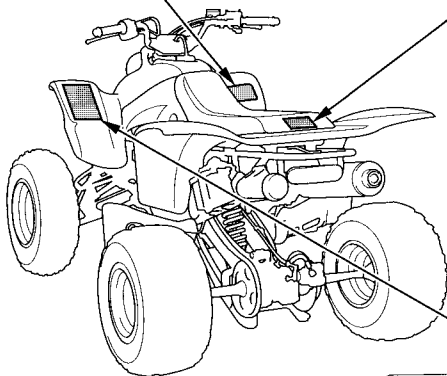
Operating this ATV if you are under the age of 16 increases your chance of severe injury or death.

NEVER operate this ATV if you are under age 16.

⚠ WARNING



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



⚠ WARNING

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



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

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) Clutch lever/Parking brake lever
- (2) Headlight switch
Engine stop switch
Headlight dimmer switch
Starter button
- (3) Neutral indicator lamp
- (4) Ignition switch
- (5) Front brake lever
- (6) Throttle lever
- (7) Fuel tank cap

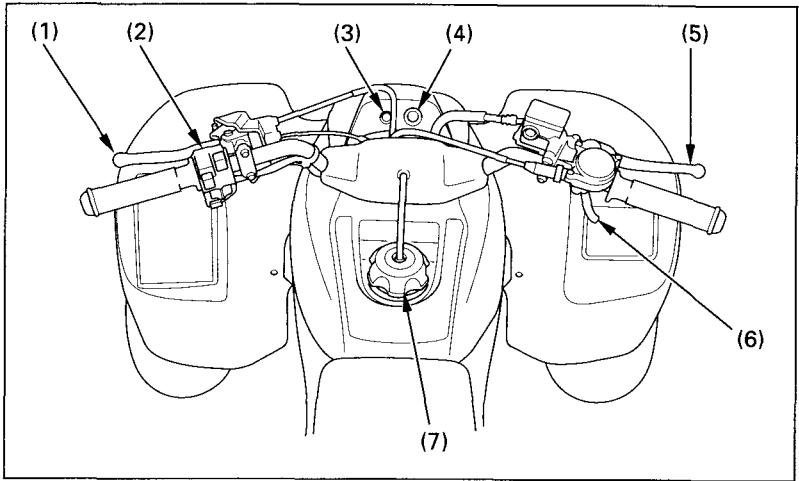


Fig. 2-1

Handlebars, from rider's point of view

- (8) Headlights
- (9) Helmet holder
- (10) Fuel valve
- (11) Flag pole bracket
- (12) Seat lock lever
- (13) Tire pressure gauge
- Tool Kit
- Owner's manual
- (14) Operator footpeg
- (15) Gearshift pedal
- (16) Oil filler cap/dipstick

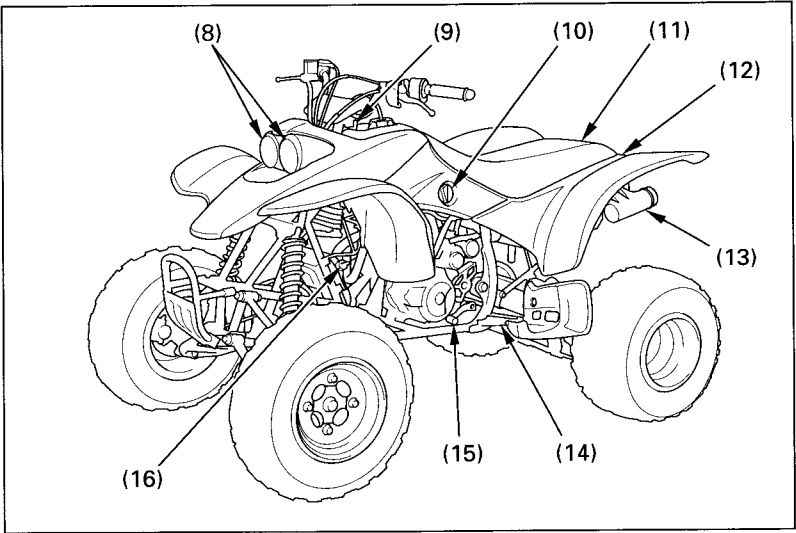


Fig. 2-2

Left side of FOURTRAX

- (17) Rear brake fluid reservoir
- (18) Front brake fluid reservoir
- (19) Rear brake pedal
- (20) Operator footpeg

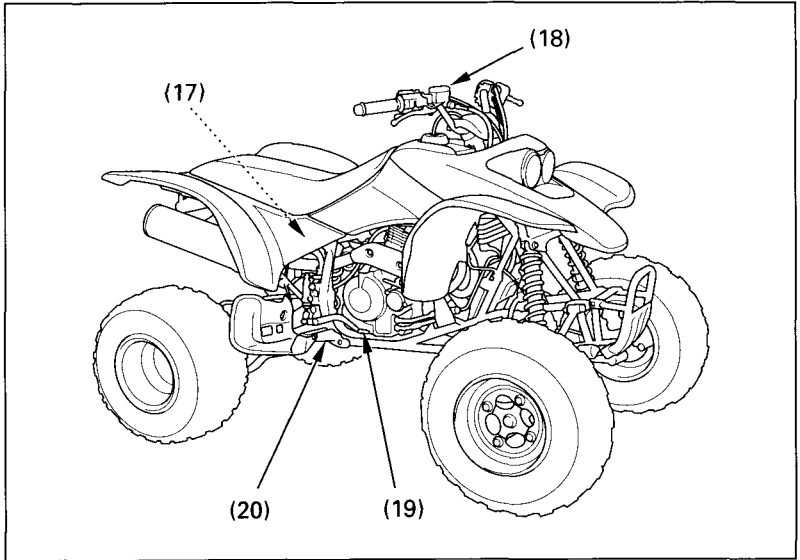


Fig. 2-3

Right side of FOURTRAX

PARTS OPERATION

POWER CONTROLS

Ignition Switch

The ignition switch (Fig. 2-4) is located on the headlight case.

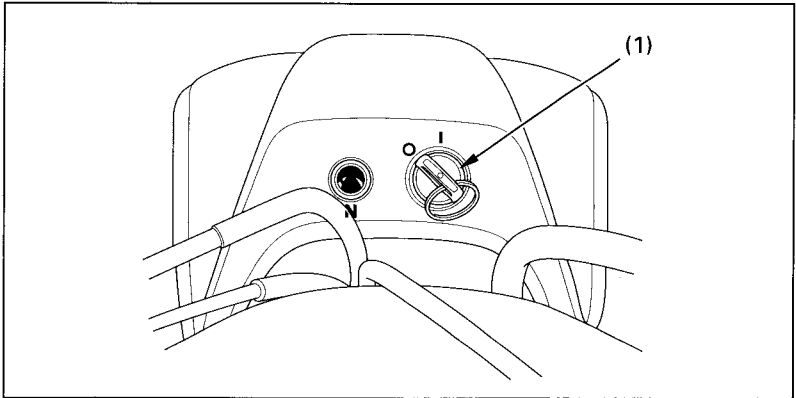


Fig. 2-4

(1) Ignition switch

Key Position	Function	Key Removal
OFF (O)	The engine and headlight cannot be operated.	The key can be removed.
ON (I)	The headlights can be turned on. With the engine stop switch at RUN (O) 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 (O) position, the engine will operate. When the switch is in either OFF (X) 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 (O) position.

NOTE:

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

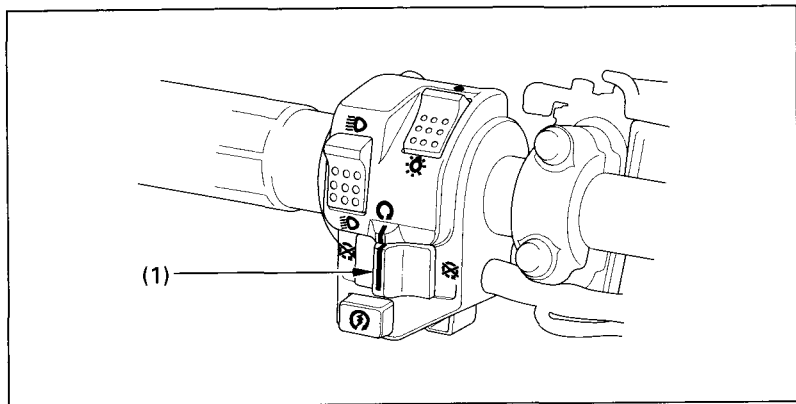


Fig. 2-5

(1) Engine stop switch

Choke Lever

The choke lever (Fig. 2-6) is on the left side of the carburetor. The choke has three positions: fully ON (C), halfway position (B), and fully OFF (A).

To start a cold engine when air temperature is 10–35 °C (50–90 °F), pull the choke lever up to fully ON before pressing the starter button. At colder air temperatures, pull the choke lever up to the fully ON position before pressing the starter button. As the engine warms, push the lever down to the halfway position. After the engine is warm, push the choke lever 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.

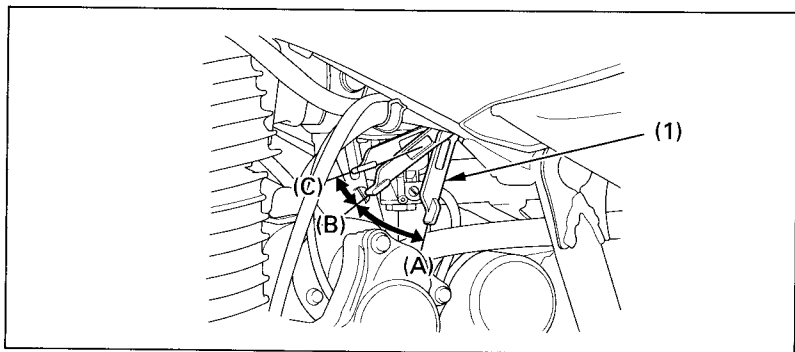


Fig. 2-6

(1) Choke lever

(A) Fully OFF
(B) Halfway position
(C) Fully ON

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).

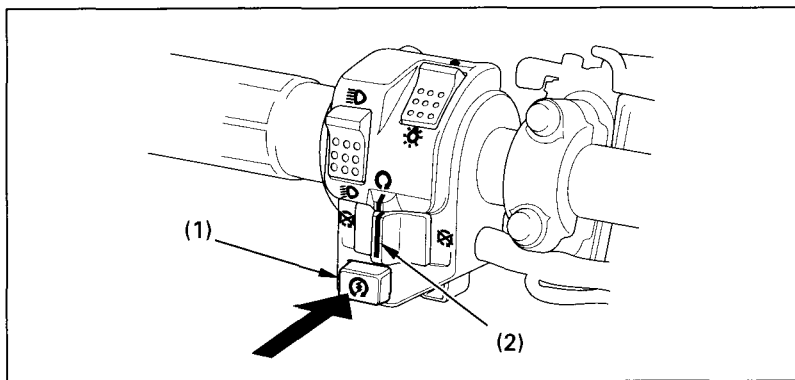


Fig. 2-7

(1) Starter button

(2) Engine stop switch

Throttle Lever

The throttle lever (Fig. 2-8) 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.

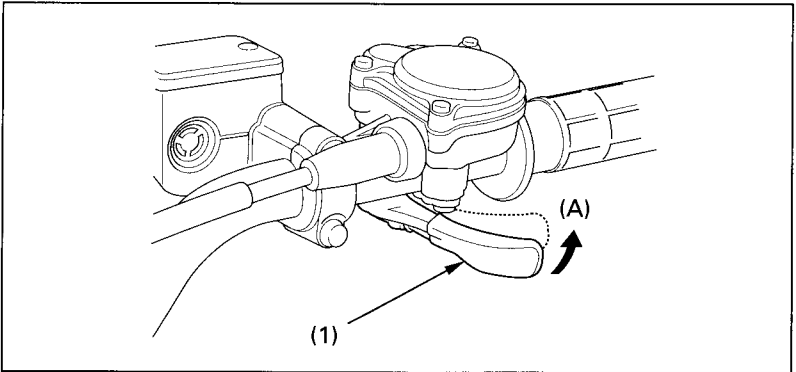


Fig. 2-8

(1) Throttle lever
(A) To open the throttle

Rear Brake

The rear brake pedal (1) is near the right footpeg.

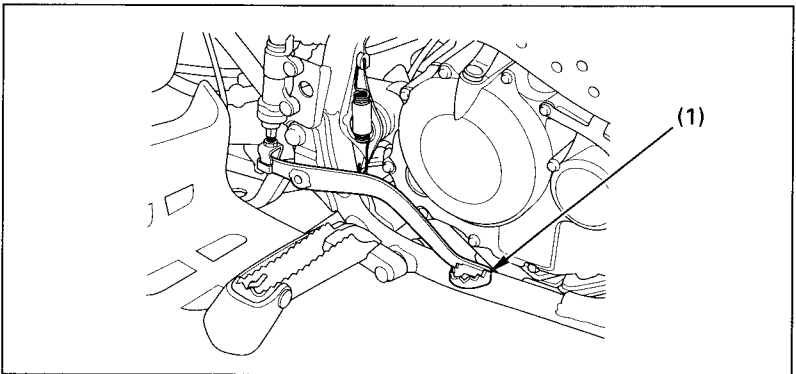


Fig. 2-9

(1) Rear brake pedal

LIGHTS

Headlight and Dimmer Switches

The headlight and dimmer switches (Fig. 2-10) 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 (≡D) or low beam LO (≡D).

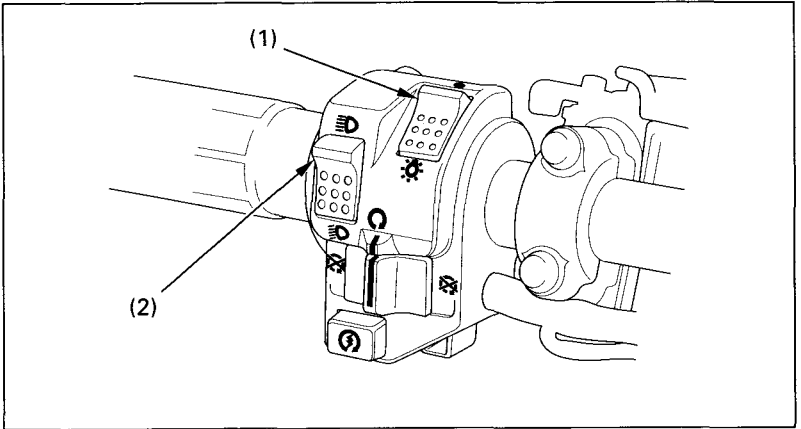


Fig. 2-10 (1) Headlight switch

(2) Dimmer switch

Neutral Indicator Lamp

The neutral indicator lamp (1) (Fig. 2-11) is located on the headlight case.

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

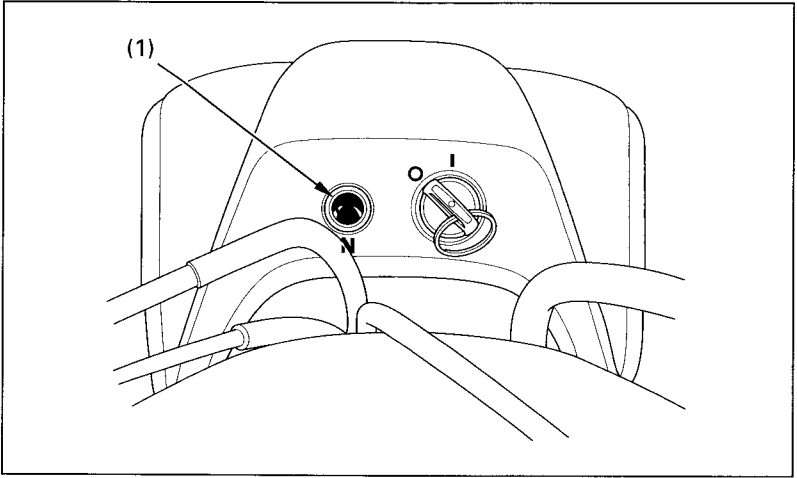


Fig. 2-11

(1) 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. 2-12). The pedal automatically returns to the horizontal position when released.

Your FOURTRAX has five-forward gears (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). To shift the transmission, pull in the clutch lever, then operate the gearshift pedal as follows.

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 .)

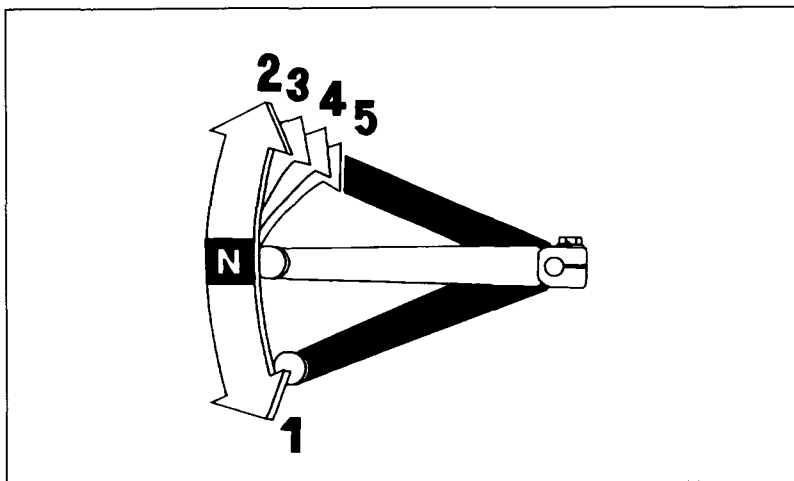


Fig. 2-12

Gearshifting sequence

BRAKE CONTROLS

Front Brakes

The front brakes are operated by squeezing the front brake lever, near the right handgrip.

Rear Brake

The rear brake is operated by depressing the brake pedal.

Parking Brake

The clutch lever also functions as the parking brake lever (Fig. 2-13). To apply the parking brake, push down the parking brake pin (3), squeeze the clutch lever (1) and lock it with the lock (A). Always apply the parking brake when parking the FOURTRAX or starting the engine. To release the parking brake, squeeze the clutch lever (1) so the lock (2) automatically retracts.

NOTE:

Use of the parking brake in freezing weather may cause the rear brake parking linkage to freeze in the locked position.

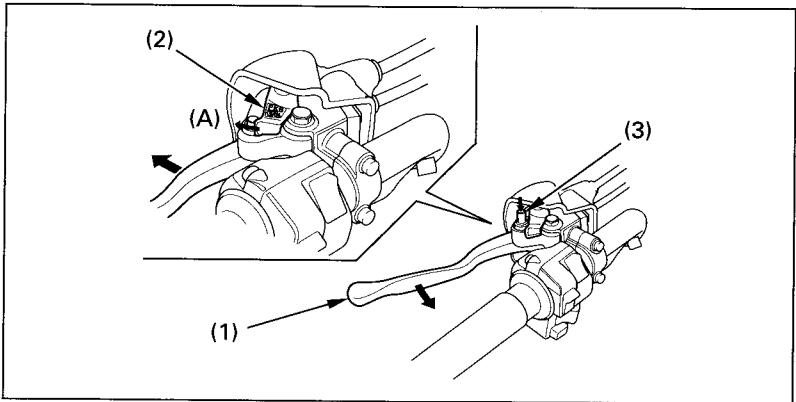


Fig. 2-13 (1) Clutch lever/
Parking brake lever
(2) Lock lever

(3) Parking brake pin
(A) To lock

FUEL TANK

Fuel Fill Cap

After refueling, be sure to tighten the fuel cap (1) firmly by turning it clockwise.

Insert the breather tube (2) into the handlebar cover hole (3).

To refuel refer to page 82 .

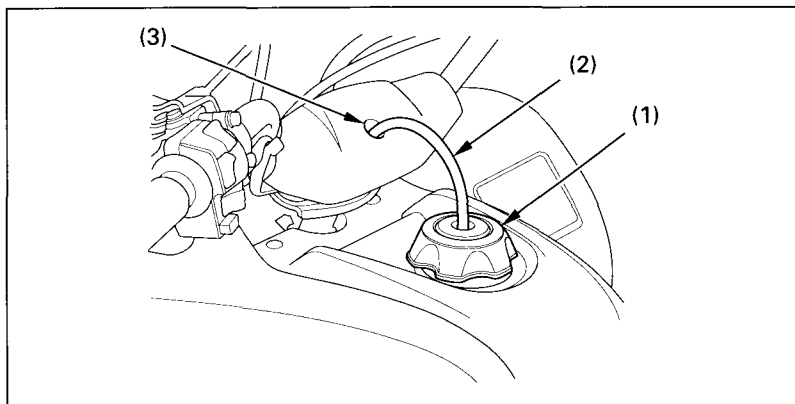


Fig. 2-14

- (1) Fuel fill cap
- (2) Breather tube
- (3) Handlebar cover hole

Fuel Valve

The fuel valve (Fig. 2-15) is on the left side of the fuel tank, and it has three positions:

OFF

When the fuel valve is in the OFF position, fuel cannot flow to the carburetor. Turn the valve OFF whenever the FOURTRAX is not in use.

ON

When the fuel valve is in the ON position, fuel will flow from the main fuel supply to the carburetor.

RES

When the fuel valve is in the RES position, fuel will flow from the reserve fuel supply to the carburetor. Use the reserve fuel only when the main supply is gone.

Refill the tank as soon as possible after switching to RES. The reserve fuel supply is:

0.42 US gal (1.6 ℓ , 0.35 Imp gal)

NOTE:

After refueling, do not operate the FOURTRAX with the fuel valve in the RES position. If you run out of fuel, there will be no reserve supply.

For gasoline recommendations and refueling instructions, see pages 82–85

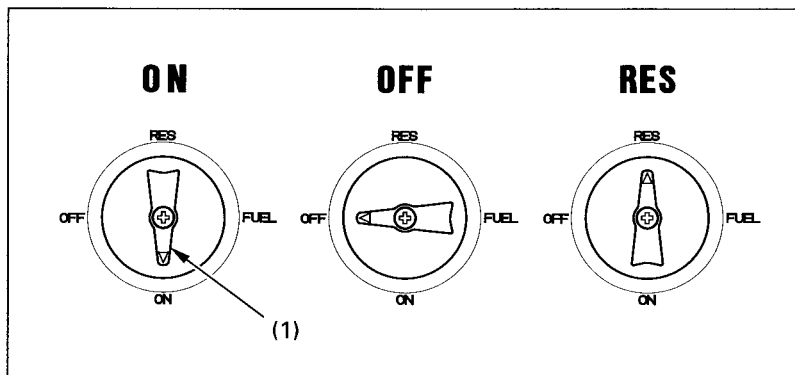


Fig. 2-15

(1) Fuel valve

ENGINE OIL

Oil Filler Cap/Dipstick

The oil filler cap/dipstick (Fig.2-16), on the oil tank (2), is used to measure the oil level. The oil should be checked each day before operating the FOURTRAX and maintained between the upper level mark (3) and the lower level mark (4) .

For oil recommendations and instructions on checking, adding and changing oil, see pages 94–100 .

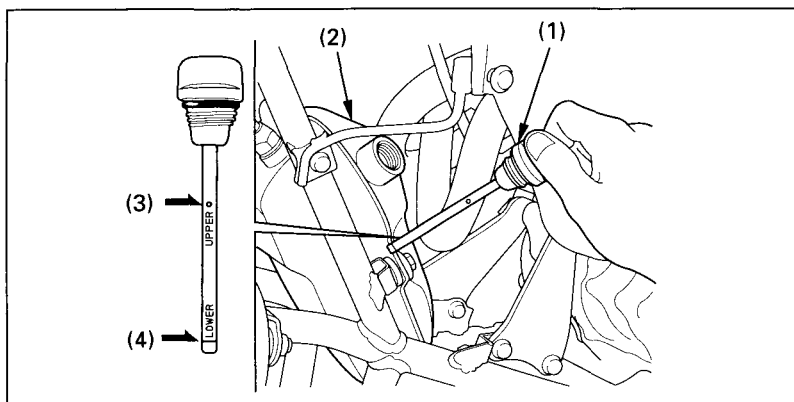


Fig. 2-16 (1) Oil filler cap/dipstick (3) Upper level mark
 (2) Oil tank (4) Lower level mark

While reading this manual, remember:

▲WARNING

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

FRONT SUSPENSION

The front shock absorbers (1) have five adjustment positions for different rider weights and riding conditions.

Position I and II are for light weight and smooth ground conditions. Positions II to V progressively increase spring tension for a stiffer suspension. Be certain to adjust each shock absorber to the same position.

STANDARD POSITION: IV

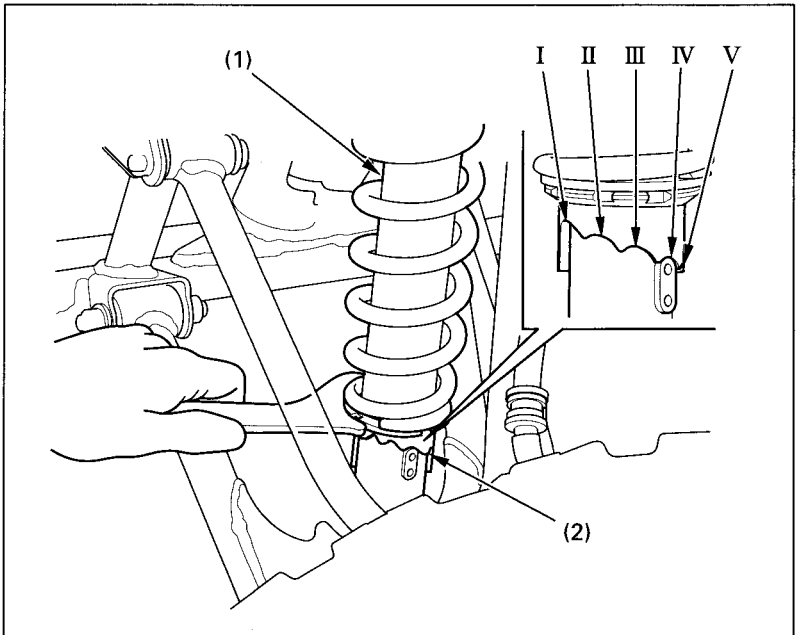


Fig. 2-17

(1) Shock absorber
(2) Adjuster

REAR SUSPENSION

The rear suspension can be adjusted for the rider's weight and riding conditions by changing the rebound and compression damping.

The rear shock absorber assembly includes a damper unit that contains high pressure nitrogen gas. Do not attempt to disassemble, service, or dispose of the damper; see your Honda dealer. The instructions found in this owner's manual are limited to adjustments of the shock assembly only.

Rebound damping:

To reduce (SOFT):

Turn the adjuster counterclockwise toward SOFT for a light load and smooth road conditions.

To increase (HARD):

Turn the adjuster clockwise toward HARD for a firmer ride and rough road conditions.

To adjust the adjuster to the standard position, proceed as follows:

1. Turn the damping adjuster (1) clockwise until it will no longer turn. This is the full hard setting.
2. The adjuster is set in the standard position when the adjuster is turned counterclockwise approximately 1.5 turns so that its punch mark (2) aligns with the reference punch mark (3).

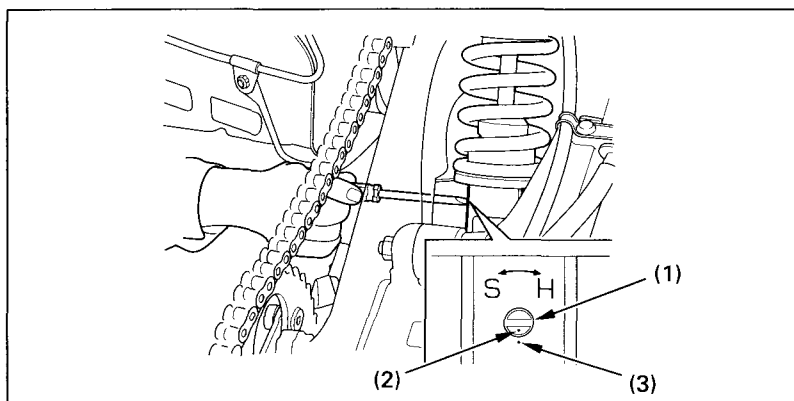


Fig. 2-18

- (1) Damping adjuster
- (2) Punch mark
- (3) Reference punch mark

Compression damping:

To reduce (SOFT):

Turn the adjuster counterclockwise toward SOFT for a light load and smooth road conditions.

To increase (HARD):

Turn the adjuster clockwise toward HARD for a firmer ride and rough road conditions.

To adjust the adjuster to the standard position, proceed as follows:

1. Turn the damping adjuster (1) clockwise until it will no longer turn. This is the full hard setting.
2. The adjuster is set in the standard position when the adjuster is turned counterclockwise approximately 2 turns so that its punch mark (2) aligns with the reference punch mark (3).

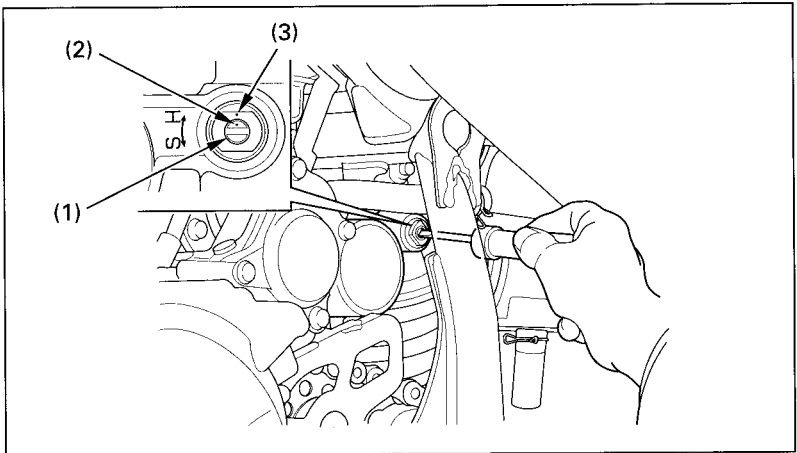


Fig. 2-19

- (1) Damping adjuster
- (2) Punch mark
- (3) Reference punch mark

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Helmet Holder

The helmet holder (1), (Fig.2-20) is a hook below left side of the handlebar cover (2). To use the holder, hang the D-ring on your helmet strap over the hook. Use the helmet holder only when the FOURTRAX is parked.

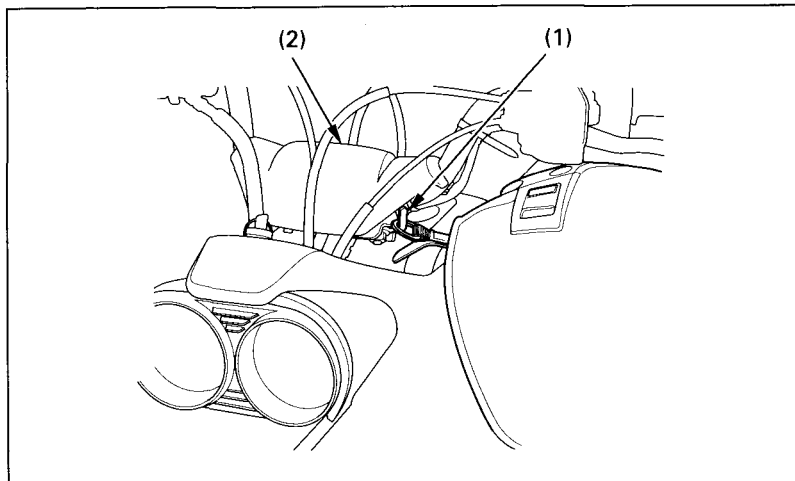


Fig. 2-20

(1) Helmet holder
(2) Handlebar cover

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV with a helmet attached to the helmet holder.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Can impair your ability to steer the vehicle.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

**Never ride this ATV with a helmet attached to the helmet holder.
Use the helmet holder only while the ATV is parked.**

Flag Pole Bracket

The flag pole bracket (Fig. 2-21) is on the carry pipe. Flag poles are optional equipment available from your Honda dealer. To mount a pole in the bracket, follow the instructions that come with the flag pole kit.

NOTE:

Flag poles are required in some riding areas. Check local regulations before riding.

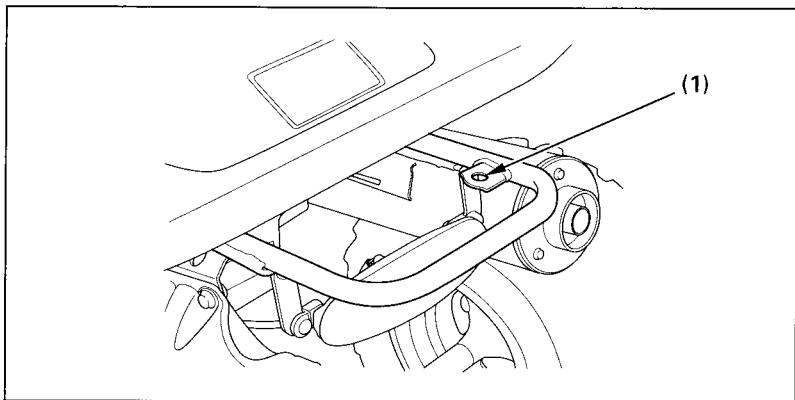


Fig. 2-21

(1) Flag pole bracket

Storage Compartment

The storage compartment (Fig. 2-22) is below the rear fender. Remove the compartment cover (1) to gain access to the compartment. The Owner's Manual (2), tire pressure gauge (3) and tool kit (4) should be stored in the storage compartment (5).

Be careful not to flood this area when washing your FOURTRAX or riding through water.

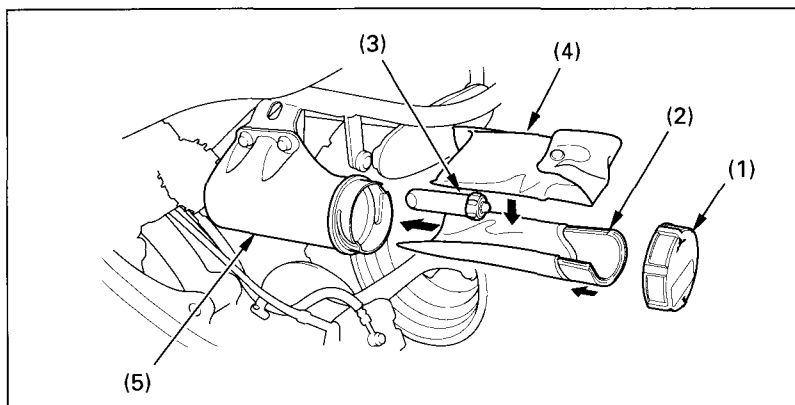


Fig. 2-22 (1) Compartment cover (2) Owner's manual (3) Tire pressure gauge (4) Tool kit (5) Storage compartment

While reading this manual, remember:

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

RIDING YOUR FOURTRAX

This part of the Owner's Manual discusses how to ride your FOURTRAX safely. Please review the special safety messages on pages 1–5 . While reading this manual, remember:

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

BEFORE RIDING

You need to be prepared before riding. This includes getting proper instruction, making sure your FOURTRAX is in good operating condition, and learning some basic safe-riding rules.

RIDER PREPARATION

Age Recommendation

The minimum recommended age for this FOURTRAX model is 16. For safety, never let children under 16 years old operate this vehicle.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Failure to follow the age recommendation for this ATV.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

If children use ATVs that are not recommended for their age, severe injury or death can result.

Even though a child may be within the age group for which an ATV is recommended, he or she may not have the skills, abilities, or judgment needed to operate the ATV safely and may be involved in a serious accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

A child under 16 should never operate an ATV with engine size greater than 90 cc.

Rider Training

Beginning and inexperienced riders should get proper instruction on how to operate this FOURTRAX safely. A hands-on rider training course is available in your area. For information, contact your Honda dealer.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV without proper instruction.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The risk of an accident is greatly increased if the operator does not know how to operate the ATV properly in different situations and on different types of terrain.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Beginning and inexperienced operators should complete the certified training course offered by Honda. They should then regularly practice the skills learned in the course and the operating techniques described in this Owner's Manual.

For more information about the training course, contact an authorized Honda dealer or call 1-800-887-2887 (USA only).

VEHICLE PREPARATION

Pre-Ride Inspection

Inspect your FOURTRAX every day before you ride it. Checking the items below will take only a few minutes, and in the long run, they can save time, expense, and possibly your life.

1. **Engine oil level.** Check the oil level and add oil if required (pages 94-96). Check for leaks.

2. **Fuel level.** Fill the fuel tank when necessary (pages 82–85). Check for leaks.
3. **Brakes.** Check operation. Make sure there is no brake fluid leakage. If necessary, adjust free play (pages 115–121).
4. **Tires.** Check condition and pressure (pages 123–125).
5. **Throttle.** Check for smooth opening and closing in all steering positions.
6. **Headlight and headlight dimmer switches.** Check for proper function (page 18).
7. **Engine stop switch.** Check for proper function (page 14).
8. **Nuts, bolts, fasteners.** Check the wheels to see that the axle nuts are tightened. Check the security of all other nuts, bolts and fasteners.
9. **Steering.** Check that the wheels turn properly as you steer the handlebars.
10. **Underbody and exhaust system.** Check for, and remove, any dirt, vegetation or other debris that could be a fire hazard or interfere with the proper operation of the vehicle.
11. **Drive chain.** Check condition and slack. If necessary adjust and lubricate (pages 101–104).
12. **Air cleaner housing drain tube.** Check for deposits in the drain tube. If necessary, clean the tube (page 90) and check the air cleaner case.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

**Failure to inspect the ATV before operating.
Failure to properly maintain the ATV.**

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Increases the possibility of an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always inspect your ATV each time you use it to make sure the ATV is in safe operating condition.

Always follow the inspection and maintenance procedures and schedules described in this Owner's Manual.

Correct any problem before you ride. If you can't correct a problem, contact your Honda dealer for assistance.

If your FOURTRAX has overturned or been involved in a collision, do not ride the vehicle until it has been inspected by an authorized Honda dealer. There may be damage or other problems you cannot see.

Tires

Before riding, make sure your FOURTRAX has the proper tires and that they are in good condition. Also be sure the tires are inflated to the proper tire pressure (see page 124).

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV with improper tires, or with improper or uneven tire pressure.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Use of improper tires on this ATV, or operation of this ATV with improper or uneven tire pressure, may cause loss of control, increasing your risk of an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always use the size and type tires specified in the Owner's Manual for this vehicle.

Always maintain proper tire pressure as described in this Owner's Manual.

Loading

Load Limits

There are limits to how much weight can be carried on your FOURTRAX.

NOTE:

The following weight limits apply to standard equipment only. Modifying your FOURTRAX, using non-standard equipment or riding on terrain that is not flat and smooth could further reduce these limits.

Maximum weight capacity 243 lbs (110 kg) maximum
(Combined weight of the rider, all accessories and all cargo)

Loading and Operational Guidelines

This FOURTRAX is not designed to carry cargo or tow a trailer. If you decide to add accessories to allow you to carry cargo or tow a trailer, use common sense.

Carrying cargo will affect how your FOURTRAX 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:

1. Never ride with a passenger.
2. Do not tow another vehicle.
3. Make sure all cargo is secured before riding.
4. Allow extra room for starting, stopping and turning whenever you carry cargo or pull a trailer.
5. Avoid riding on steep slopes when carrying cargo or pulling a trailer.
6. Never cross a slope when towing a trailer.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Overloading this ATV or carrying or towing cargo improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause changes in vehicle handling, stability and braking which could lead to an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never exceed the stated load limits for this ATV.

Cargo should be properly distributed and securely attached.

Reduce speed when carrying cargo or pulling a trailer. Allow greater distance for braking.

Use extra care when operating on hills and riding over obstacles. Never cross a slope when pulling a trailer.

Always follow the instructions in this Owner's Manual for carrying cargo or pulling a trailer.

Accessories

Genuine Honda accessories have been specifically designed for and tested on this vehicle. Because Honda cannot test all other accessories, you are personally responsible for properly selecting, installing, and using non-Honda accessories. Always follow the loading instructions above, plus the following:

1. Carefully inspect the accessory to make sure it does not block any lights, reduce ground clearance, or limit suspension travel, steering travel, or other controls.
2. Make sure the accessory does not interfere with your ability to shift body position on the seat or operate hand and foot controls.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV with improper modifications.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Improper installation of accessories or modification of this vehicle may cause changes in handling which could lead to an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never modify this ATV through improper installation or use of accessories. All parts and accessories added to this vehicle should be genuine Honda or equivalent components designed for use on this ATV and should be installed and used according to instructions. If you have questions, consult an authorized Honda dealer.

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

No Modifications

Modifying this FOURTRAX or removing original equipment may render the vehicle unsafe or illegal. Spark arresters and mufflers are required in most areas. Don't modify your exhaust system or emission control system components. Remember, excessive noise bothers everyone and creates a bad image for off-road vehicles.

SAFE RIDING RULES

Protective Apparel

Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet when riding your FOURTRAX. You should also always wear goggles or a face shield, gloves, boots, a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and long pants.

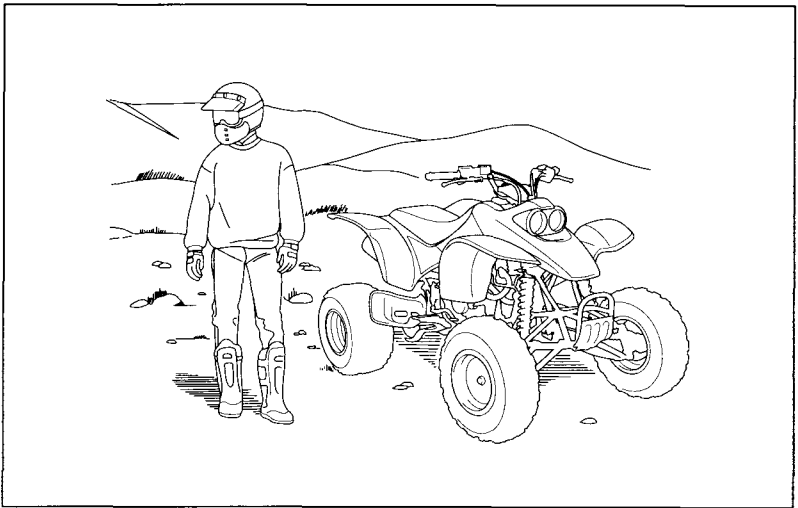


Fig. 3-1

An example of a properly dressed rider.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV without wearing an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection and protective clothing.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Operating without an approved motorcycle helmet increases your chances of a severe head injury or death in the event of an accident.

Operating without eye protection can result in an accident and increases your chances of a severe injury in the event of an accident.

Operating without protective clothing increases your chances of severe injury in the event of an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always wear 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.

No Passengers

This FOURTRAX is designed as an operator-only vehicle. The seat is designed to allow the rider to change body position, not for carrying a passenger. Never let a passenger ride on your FOURTRAX.

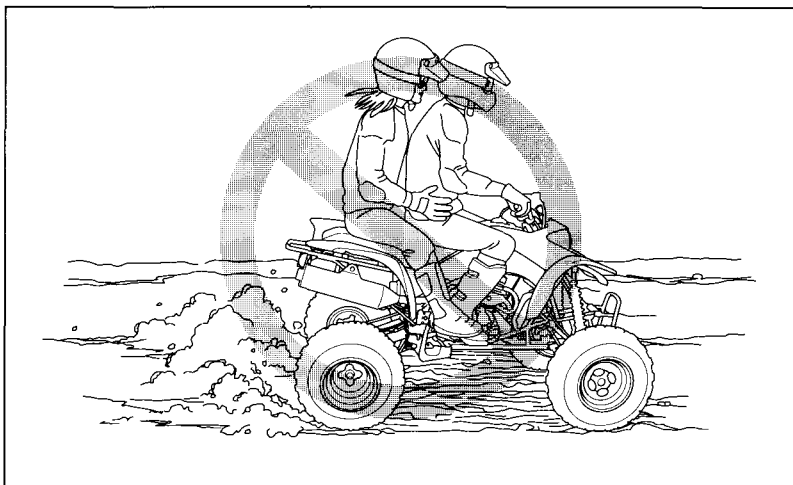


Fig. 3-2

Never carry a passenger on your FOURTRAX.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Carrying a passenger on this ATV.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Greatly reduces your ability to balance and control this ATV.

Could cause an accident, resulting in harm to you and/or your passenger.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never carry a passenger. The long seat is to allow the operator to shift position as needed during operation. It is not for carrying passengers.

No Alcohol or Drugs

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

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV after consuming alcohol or drugs.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could seriously affect your judgment.

Could cause you to react more slowly.

Could affect your balance and perception.

Could result in an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

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

Off-Road Only

Your FOURTRAX is designed and manufactured for off-road use only, not for pavement. Riding on pavement can affect handling and control. You should not ride your FOURTRAX on pavement.

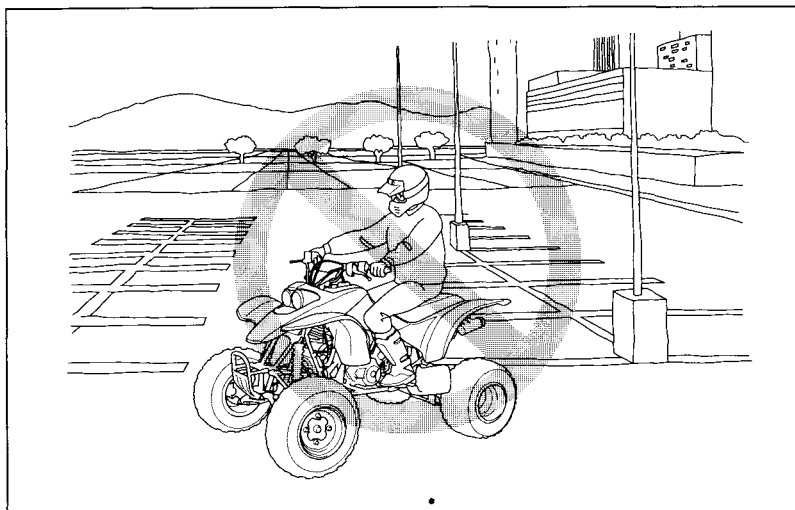


Fig. 3-3

Never ride on paved surfaces.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV on paved surfaces.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The ATV and its tires are designed for off-road use only, not for use on pavement. Paved surfaces may seriously affect handling and control of the ATV, and may cause the vehicle to go out of control.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never operate the ATV on any paved surfaces, including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and streets.

You should never ride your FOURTRAX on public streets, roads or highways, even if they are not paved. Drivers of street vehicles may have difficulty seeing and avoiding you, which could lead to a collision.

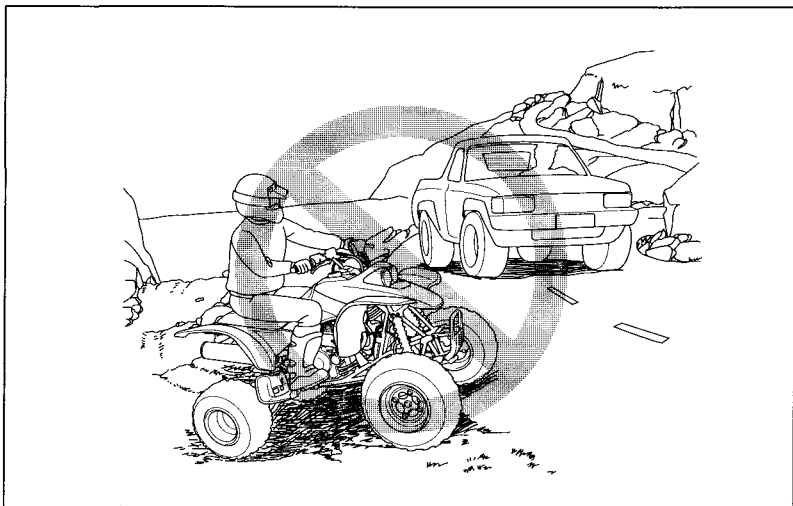


Fig. 3-4

Never ride on public roads or highways.

▲ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV on public streets, roads or highways.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

You can collide with another vehicle.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never operate this ATV on any public street, road or highway, even a dirt or gravel one.

In many states it is illegal to operate ATVs on public streets, roads and highways.

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.

When riding off-road, also remember to always obey local off-road riding laws and regulations. Obtain permission to ride on private property. Avoid posted areas and obey "no trespassing" signs.

Keep Hands and Feet on Controls

Always keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footpegs when riding your FOURTRAX. This is important to maintain your balance and to control the vehicle. If you put your feet on the ground while the FOURTRAX is moving, they could come in contact with the rear wheels, causing injury.

▲ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Removing hands from handlebars or feet from footpegs during operation.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Removing even one hand or foot can reduce your ability to control the ATV or could cause you to lose your balance and fall off of the ATV. If you remove a foot from the footpeg, your foot or leg may come into contact with the rear wheels, which could injure you or cause an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footpegs of your ATV during operation.

Control Speed

Riding at excessive speed increases the chance of an accident. In choosing a proper speed, you need to consider the capability of your vehicle, the terrain, visibility and other operating conditions, plus your own skills and experience.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV at excessive speeds.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Increases your chances of losing control of the ATV, which can result in an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always go at a speed that is proper for your vehicle, the terrain, visibility and other operating conditions, and your experience.