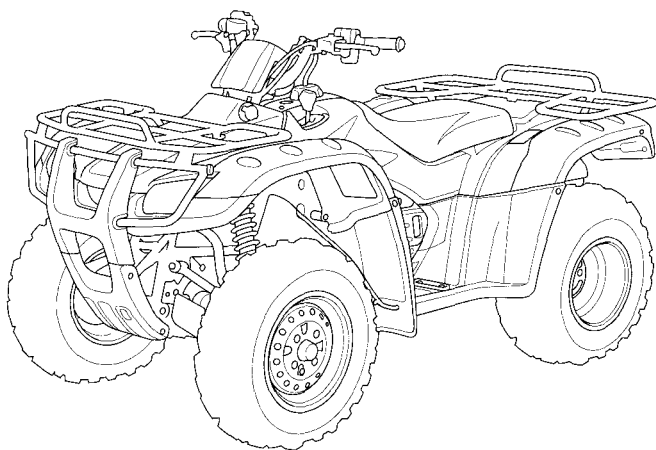


**2004  
Honda TRX400FA  
FourTrax  
Rancher AT  
OWNER'S MANUAL**



**FOR OFF-ROAD USE ONLY**

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

USA only:

It does not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, 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.

# Introduction

---

Congratulations on choosing your Honda ATV.

When you own a Honda, you're part of a worldwide family of satisfied customers — people who appreciate Honda's reputation for building quality into every product.

Your Honda was designed as a recreational ATV for off-road use by one rider only.

Before riding, take time to get acquainted with your ATV and how it works. To protect your investment, we urge you to take responsibility for keeping your ATV well maintained. Scheduled service is a must, of course. But it's just as important to observe the break-in guidelines, and perform all pre-ride and other periodic checks detailed in this manual.

We also recommend that you read this owner's manual before you ride. It's full of facts, instructions, safety information, and helpful tips. To make it easy to use, the manual contains a detailed list of topics at the beginning of each section, and both an in-depth table of contents and an index at the back of the book.

As you read this manual, you will find information that is preceded by a **NOTICE** symbol. This information is intended to help you avoid damage to your Honda, other property, or the environment.

Read the Warranties Booklet (page 217 ) thoroughly so you understand the coverages that protect your new Honda and are aware of your rights and responsibilities.

Whenever you ride, tread lightly. By staying on established trails and riding only in approved areas, you help protect the environment and keep off-road riding areas open for the future.

# Introduction

---

If you have any questions, or if you ever need special service or repairs, remember that your Honda dealer knows your ATV best and is dedicated to your complete satisfaction.

Please report any change of address or ownership to your Honda dealer so we will be able to contact you concerning important production information.

You may also want to visit our website at [www.honda.com](http://www.honda.com).

Happy riding!

## 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.

# A Few Words About Safety

---


Your safety, and the safety of others, is very important. And operating this ATV safely is an important responsibility.

To help you make informed decisions about safety, we have provided operating procedures and other information on labels and in this manual. This information alerts you to potential hazards that could hurt you or others.

Of course, it is not practical or possible to warn you about all hazards associated with operating or maintaining an ATV. You must use your own good judgment.

You will find important safety information in a variety of forms, including:

**Safety Labels** — on the ATV.

**Safety Messages** — preceded by a safety alert symbol  and one of three signal words: **DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**.

# A Few Words About Safety

---

These signal words mean:

**⚠ DANGER**

You **WILL** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

**⚠ WARNING**

You **CAN** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

**⚠ CAUTION**

You **CAN** be **HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

**Safety Headings** — such as Important Safety Reminders or Important Safety Precautions.

**Safety Section** — such as ATV Safety.

**Instructions** — how to use this ATV correctly and safely.

This entire manual is filled with important safety information — please read it carefully.

# Contents

---

These pages give an overview of the contents of your owner's manual. The first page of each section lists the topics covered in that section.

<b>ATV Safety .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Important safety information you should know, plus a look at the safety-related labels on your ATV.	
<b>Instruments &amp; Controls.....</b>	<b>9</b>
The location and function of indicators and controls on your ATV and operating instructions for various controls and features.	
<b>Before Riding.....</b>	<b>43</b>
The importance of wearing a helmet and other protective gear, how to make sure you and your ATV are ready to ride, and important information about loading.	
<b>Basic Operation &amp; Riding .....</b>	<b>57</b>
How to start and stop the engine, shift gears, and brake. Also, riding precautions.	

# Contents

---

<b>Servicing Your Honda</b> .....	<b>95</b>
Why your ATV needs regular maintenance, what you need to know before servicing your Honda, an owner maintenance schedule, and instructions for specific maintenance and adjustment items.	
<b>Tips</b> .....	<b>173</b>
How to store and transport your ATV and how to be an environmentally-responsible rider.	
<b>Taking Care of the Unexpected</b> .....	<b>183</b>
What to do if you have a flat tire, your engine won't start, etc.	
<b>Technical Information</b> .....	<b>199</b>
ID numbers, technical specifications, and other technical facts.	
<b>Consumer Information</b> .....	<b>213</b>
Information on warranties, emission controls, how to get Honda service manuals.	
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>222</b>
Sequential listing of topics in this owner's manual.	
<b>Index</b> .....	<b>228</b>
<b>Quick Reference</b>	
Handy facts about fuel, engine oil, tire sizes, and air pressures.	





# ATV Safety

---

This section presents some of the most important information and recommendations to help you ride your ATV safely. Please take a few moments to read these pages. This section also includes information about the location of safety labels on your ATV.

Important Safety Information .....	2
Safety Labels.....	5

# 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 44 ).

## **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.

# Important Safety Information

---

## **Ride Off-Road Only**

Your ATV is designed and manufactured for off-road use only. The tires are not made for pavement, and the ATV does not have turn signals and other features required for use on public roads. If you need to cross a paved or public road, get off and walk your ATV across.

## **Take Time to Learn & Practice**

Even if you have ridden other ATVs, take time to become familiar with how this ATV works and handles. Practice in a safe area until you build your skills and get accustomed to the ATV's size and weight.

Because many accidents involve inexperienced or untrained riders, we urge all riders to take a training course approved by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI). See page 46.

Contact an authorized ATV dealer or call 1-800-887-2887 (USA only) to find out about the training courses nearest you.

## **Be Alert for Off-Road Hazards**

The terrain can present a variety of challenges when you ride off-road. Continually “read” the terrain for unexpected turns, drop-offs, rocks, ruts, and other hazards. Always keep your speed low enough to allow time to see and react to hazards.

# Important Safety Information

---

## **Ride within Your Limits**

Pushing limits is another major cause of ATV accidents. Never ride beyond your personal abilities or faster than conditions warrant. Remember that alcohol, drugs, fatigue, and inattention can significantly reduce your ability to make good judgments and ride safely.

## **Don't Drink and Ride**

Alcohol and riding don't mix. Even one drink can reduce your ability to respond to changing conditions, and your reaction time gets worse with every additional drink. So don't drink and ride, and don't let your friends drink and ride either.

## **Keep Your Honda in Safe Condition**

It's important to keep your ATV properly maintained and in safe riding condition. Having a breakdown can be difficult, especially if you are stranded off-road far from your base. To help avoid problems, inspect your ATV before every ride and perform all recommended maintenance.

# Safety Labels

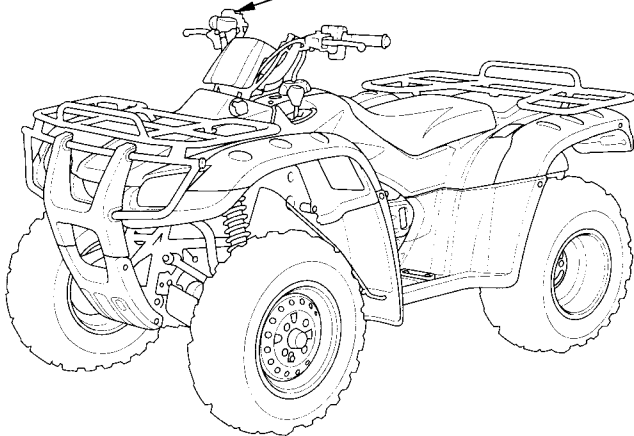
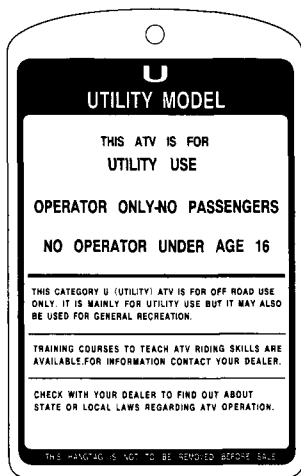
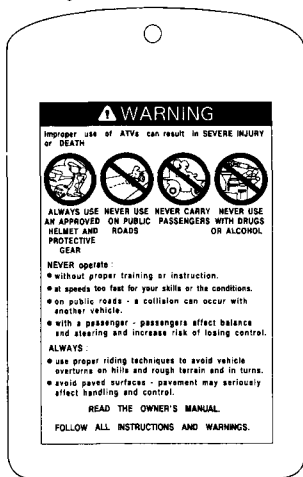
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Your ATV comes with a hang tag and several labels containing important safety information. Anyone who rides the vehicle should read and understand this information before riding.

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

# Safety Labels

USA only

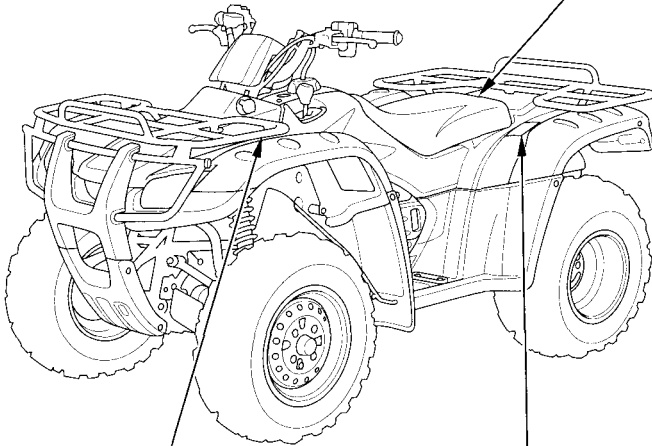


# Safety Labels

## 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 front cargo limit of: **66lbs (30kg)**.

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: 25±3kpa 0.25±0.03kg/cm<sup>2</sup> 3.6±0.4psi  
Rear: 25±3kpa 0.25±0.03kg/cm<sup>2</sup> 3.6±0.4psi
- Maximum weight capacity: 220kg 485lbs.

# Safety Labels

**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.

**BRAKING INFORMATION**

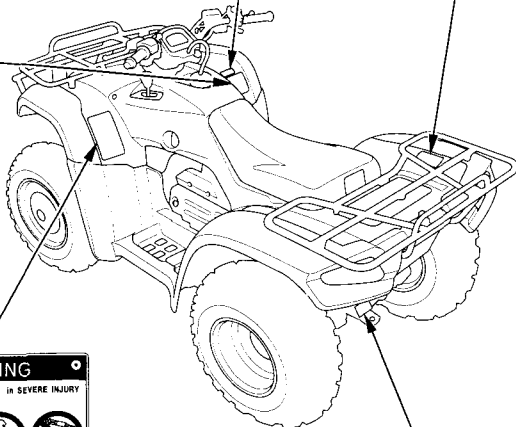
With four-wheel drive operating any brake control causes braking at both the front and rear wheels. For detailed braking information, refer to the Owner's Manual.

**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: 133lbs (60kg).

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 WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL**    **NEVER USE AT SPEEDS TOO FAST FOR YOUR SKILLS OR THE CONDITIONS**

**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.**

**WARNING**

Towing an improperly loaded trailer can cause loss of control.

- Read owner's manual.
- Tow weight limit : 3776N (85kgf) 850lbs
- Tongue weight : 137N (14kgf) 30lbs



# Instruments & Controls

---

This section shows the location of all indicators and controls you would normally use before or while riding your ATV.

The items listed on this page are described in this section. Instructions for other components are presented in other sections of this manual where they will be most useful.

Component Locations .....	11
Indicators & Displays.....	14
Multi-function Display.....	18
Drive Mode Indicator.....	19
Gear Position Indicator.....	20
Oil Change Indicator .....	21
Odometer.....	22
Tripmeter.....	22
Hourmeter .....	23
Digital Clock .....	24
Fuel Gauge .....	25

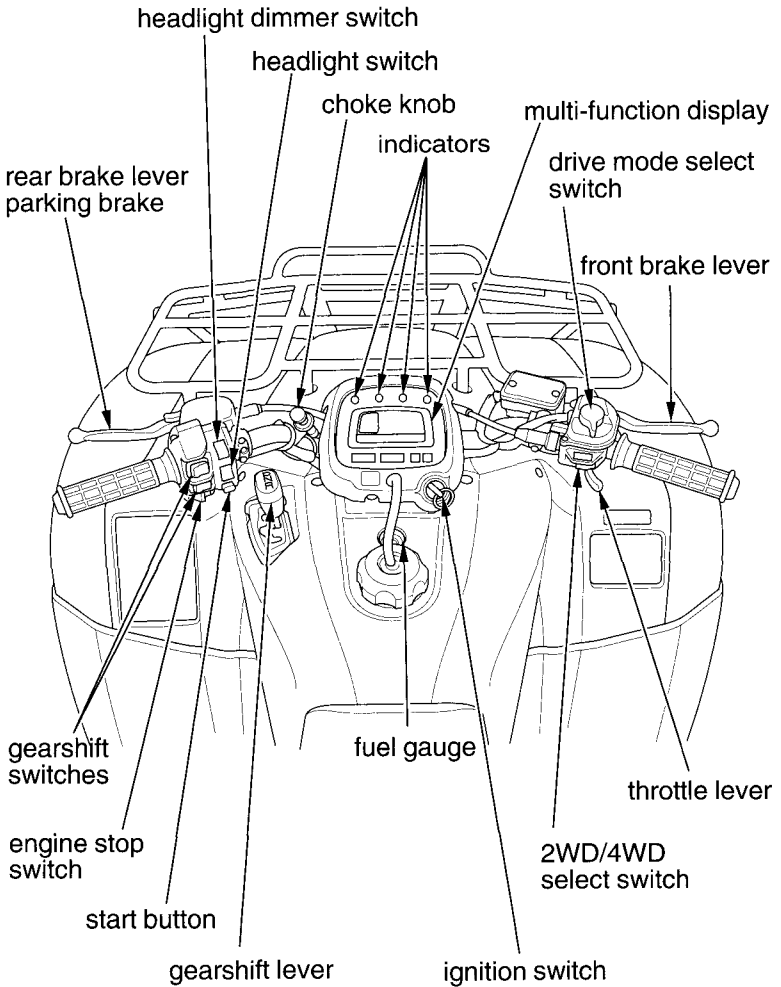
(cont'd)

# Instruments & Controls

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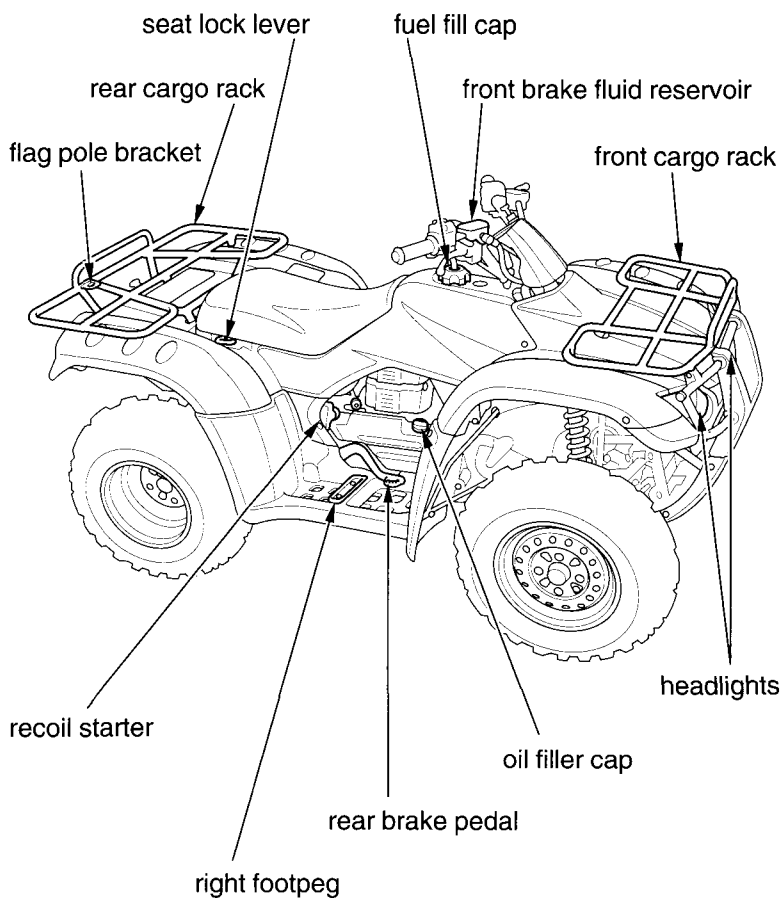
Control and Features .....	26
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Accessory Socket .....	40

# Component Locations



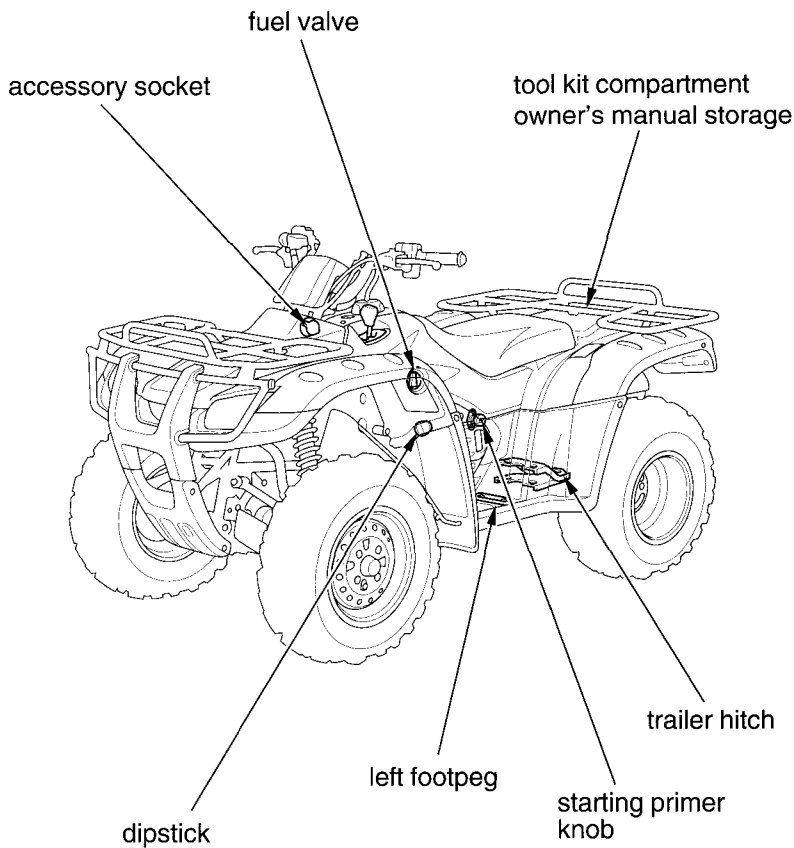
# Component Locations

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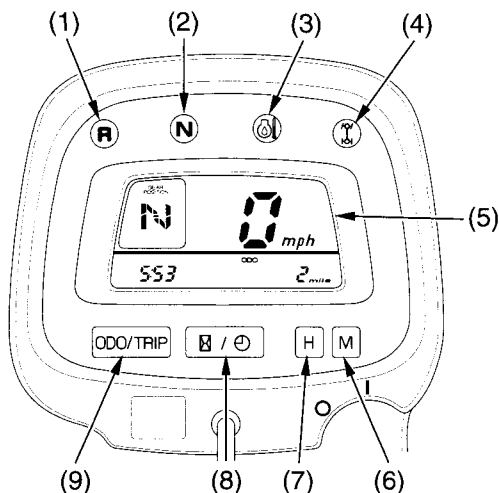
# Component Locations

---



# Indicators & Displays

The indicators and displays on your ATV keep you informed, alert you to possible problems, and make your riding safer and more enjoyable. Refer to the indicators frequently. Their functions are described on the following pages.



- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (1) reverse indicator              | (6) minute select button                  |
| (2) neutral indicator              | (7) hour select button                    |
| (3) oil high temperature indicator | (8) hourmeter/digital clock select button |
| (4) 4WD indicator                  | (9) odometer/tripmeter select button      |
| (5) multi-function display         |   |

## Lamp Check

The oil high temperature indicator comes on when you turn the ignition switch ON so you can check that it is working. The indicator remains on until after the engine is started.

This indicator is identified in the table on page 16 with the words: *Lamp Check*.

# Indicators & Displays

When applicable, the reverse and neutral indicators come on when you turn the ignition switch ON and remain on until you shift out of reverse or neutral.

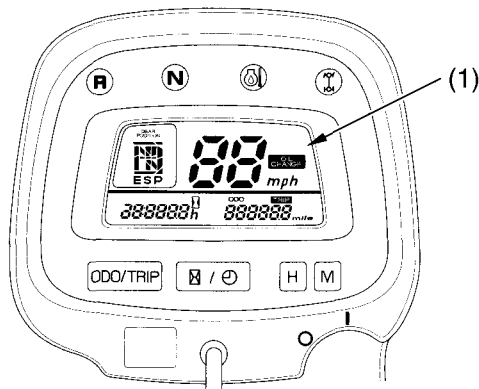
If one of these indicators does not come on when it should, have your Honda dealer check for burned-out bulbs or other problems.

## Display Check

When the ignition switch is turned ON ( I ), the multi-function display (1) will temporarily show all the modes and digital segments so you can make sure the liquid crystal display is functioning properly.

The displays are identified in the table on page 16 with the words: *Display Check*.

If any part of these displays does not come on when it should, have your Honda dealer check for problems.



(1) multi-function display

# Indicators & Displays

---

1	Reverse indicator	Lights when the transmission is in reverse. <i>Lamp Check</i>
2	Neutral indicator	Lights when the transmission is in neutral. <i>Lamp Check</i>
3	Oil high temperature indicator	Lights when engine oil temperature is high enough to adversely affect the service life of the engine. If the oil high temperature indicator comes on while you are riding, immediately bring the vehicle to a stop, turn the engine off and let it cool. See page 192. <i>Lamp Check</i>
4	4WD indicator	Lights when the drive mode is in the 4WD mode. The 4WD indicator blinks if there is a possible problem with the 2WD/4WD select system. See your Honda dealer as soon as possible. <i>Lamp Check</i> .



# Indicators & Displays

5	Multi-function display	The display includes the following functions. <i>Display Check</i> .
	Drive mode indicator	Shows the driving mode (page 19 ).
	Gear position indicator	Shows the gear position. (page 20 )
	Oil change indicator	Lights when specified maintenance interval for engine oil change is reached (page 21).
	Speedometer	Shows riding speed.
	Odometer	Shows accumulated mileage (page 22 ).
	Tripmeter	Shows mileage per trip (page 22 ).
	Hourmeter	Shows hours and tenths of hours of engine operation (page 23 ).
	Digital clock	Shows the time (hours and minutes) (page 24 ).
6	Minute select button	Advances the minutes displayed by the digital clock (page 24 ).
7	Hour select button	Advances the hour displayed by the digital clock (page 24 ).
8	Hourmeter/digital clock select button	Selects display of the hourmeter or digital clock (pages 23 , 24).
9	Odometer/tripmeter select button	Selects display of the odometer or tripmeter. Resets the tripmeter to zero (0) (page 22 ).

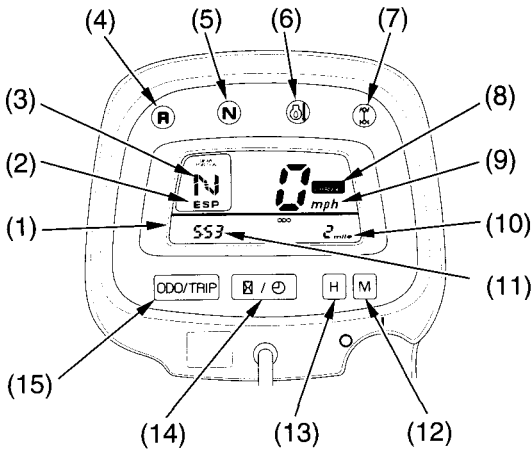
# Indicators & Displays

## Multi-function Display

The multi-function display (1) includes the following functions:

Drive mode indicator	Odometer
Gear position indicator	Tripmeter
Oil change indicator	Digital clock
Speedometer	Hourmeter

The digital clock will reset if the battery is disconnected.



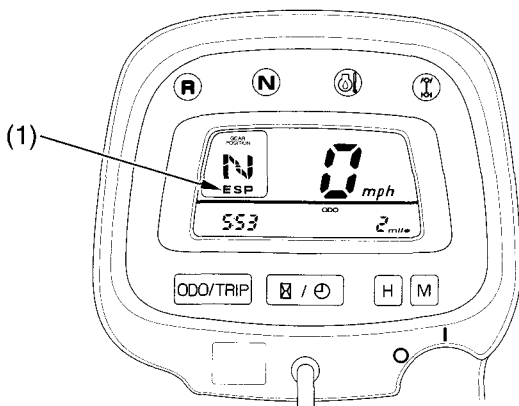
- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (1) multi-function display         | (10) odometer/tripmeter                       |
| (2) drive mode indicator           | (11) hourmeter/digital clock                  |
| (3) gear position indicator        | (12) minute select button                     |
| (4) reverse indicator              | (13) hour select button                       |
| (5) neutral indicator              | (14) hourmeter/digital clock<br>select button |
| (6) oil high temperature indicator | (15) odometer/tripmeter<br>select button      |
| (7) 4WD indicator                  |   |
| (8) oil change indicator           |   |
| (9) speedometer                    |   |

# Indicators & Displays

## Drive Mode Indicator

The drive mode indicator (1) shows the selected drive mode when the ignition switch is in the ON (I) position.

The drive mode indicator (1) displays ESP when the manual shift (ESP) mode is selected. The ESP display vanishes when the automatic shift (AUTO) mode is selected



(1) drive mode indicator

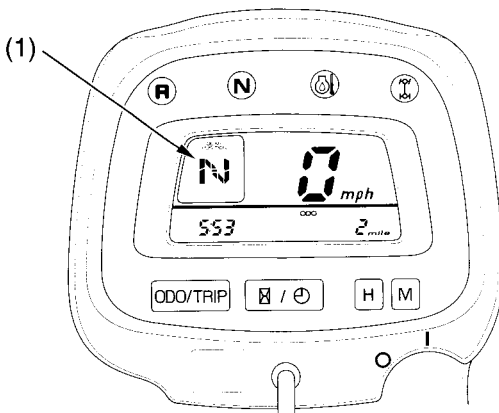
# Indicators & Displays

## Gear Position Indicator

The gear position indicator (1) shows the gear position when the ignition switch is in the ON (I) position.

The indicator displays: N for neutral, R for reverse, D for drive, and 1 – 5 for the five forward speed positions in the ESP mode.

“- -” will be displayed on the gear position indicator when the transmission is not shifted into gear properly. Before riding, check that the gear position is displayed on the gear position indicator properly.



(1) gear position indicator

# Indicators & Displays

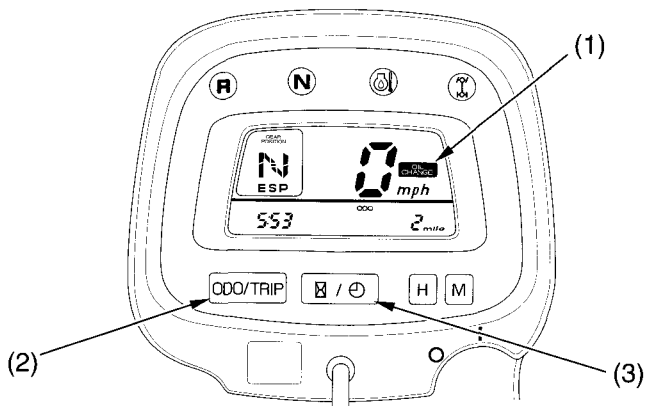
## Oil Change Indicator

The oil change indicator (1) appears in the display when the mileage or operating hours on your ATV approaches the oil change interval specified on the maintenance schedule.

Reset the indicator after each oil change.

To reset the indicator, press and hold both the odometer/tripmeter select button (2) and digital clock/hourmeter select button (3) for more than 2 seconds. The indicator will disappear.

If the oil is changed before the oil change indicator appears, be sure to reset the oil change indicator after changing the oil. The indicator will appear for 2 seconds, then disappear. This means the indicator is reset.



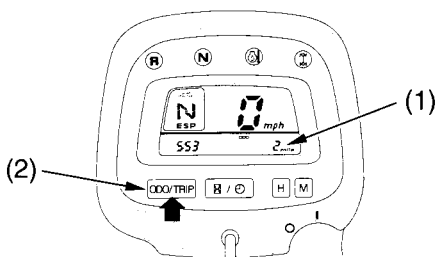
(1) oil change indicator  
(2) odometer/tripmeter  
select button

(3) digital clock/hourmeter  
select button

# Indicators & Displays

## Odometer

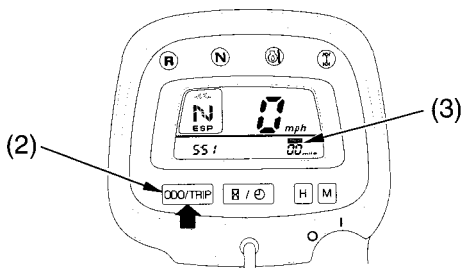
When selected, the odometer (1) registers total distance traveled in miles while the ignition is ON (1). To change the display from tripmeter to odometer, press and release the Odometer/Tripmeter select button (2).



(1) odometer (2) odometer/tripmeter select button

## Tripmeter

When selected, the tripmeter (3) shows mileage per trip while the ignition is ON (1). To change the display from odometer to tripmeter, press and release the Odometer/Tripmeter select button (2). To reset the tripmeter to zero, press the Odometer/Tripmeter select button and hold it in for at least two seconds.

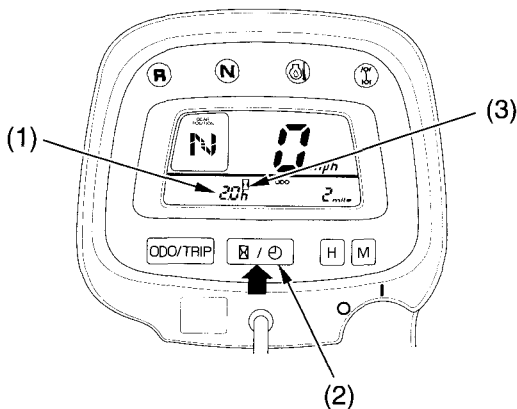


(3) tripmeter

# Indicators & Displays

## Hourmeter

When selected, the hourmeter (1) shows accumulated hours while the ignition is ON (1). The hourmeter provides accurate service period information for initial and regular maintenance. To change the display from the digital clock to the hourmeter, press and release the hourmeter/digital clock select button (2). The hourmeter mark (3) will appear.



- (1) hourmeter
- (2) hourmeter/digital clock select button

- (3) hourmeter mark

# Indicators & Displays

## Digital Clock

Shows hour and minute while the ignition is ON ( 1 ).

To change the display from hourmeter to digital clock, press and release the hourmeter/digital clock select button ( 1 ).

To adjust the time, proceed as follows:

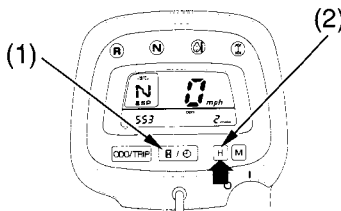
1. Turn the ignition switch ON ( 1 ).
2. To advance the hour display one unit at a time, press and release the hour select button ( 2 ).

To advance the hour display automatically, press and hold the hour select button. After two seconds, the hour display will begin advancing. Release the button when the display reaches the desired hour.

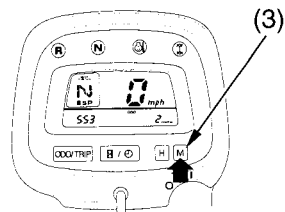
3. To advance the minute display one unit at a time, press and release the minute select button ( 3 ).

To advance the minute display automatically, press and hold the minute select button. After two seconds, the minute display will begin advancing. Release the button when the display reaches the desired minute.

4. To zero the minute display, press and hold both the hour and minute buttons simultaneously for two seconds.



(1) hourmeter/digital clock select button



(2) hour select button  
(3) minute select button



# Indicators & Displays

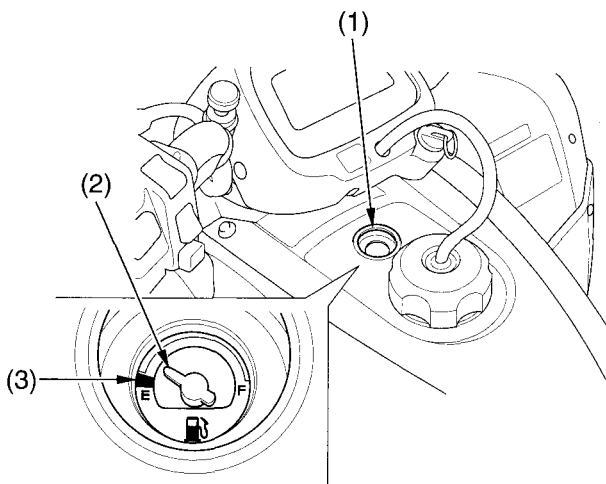
## Fuel Gauge

The fuel gauge (1) shows the approximate fuel supply available. At F (Full), the fuel tank capacity including reserve is:

3.83 US gal (14.5 l)

When the gauge needle (2) enters the red band (3), fuel will be low and you should refill the tank as soon as possible. The amount of fuel left in the tank when the needle enters the red band is approximately:

0.92 US gal (3.5 l)



(1) fuel gauge  
(2) gauge needle

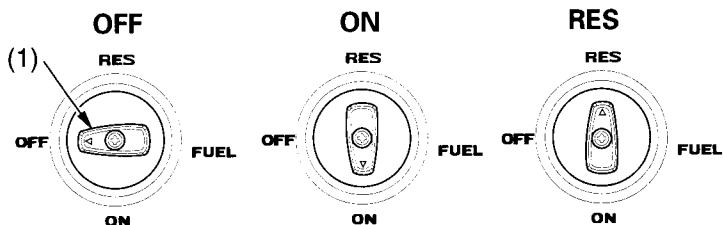
(3) red band

# Controls & Features

---

## Fuel Valve

### LEFT SIDE



(1) fuel valve

The manual fuel valve is located on the left side under the fuel tank.

The three-way fuel valve is used to control the flow of fuel from the fuel tank to the carburetor.

ON – normal position for riding.

OFF – for parking, storing, or transportation.

RES – for extra fuel to get to a gas supply for refueling.

### Reserve Fuel

Remember to check that the fuel valve is in the ON position each time you refuel. If the valve is left in the RES position, you may run out of fuel with no reserve.

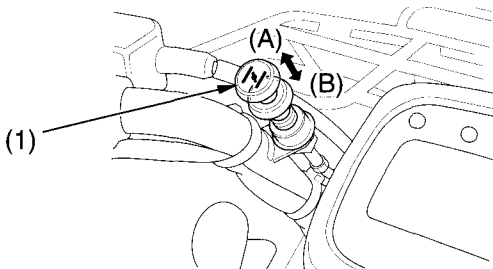
For complete information about fueling your ATV, see page 112.

# Controls & Features

## Choke Knob



CENTER OF HANDLEBAR



(1) choke knob

(A) fully ON  
(B) fully OFF

The choke knob may be used when starting the engine. See page 64 .

# Controls & Features

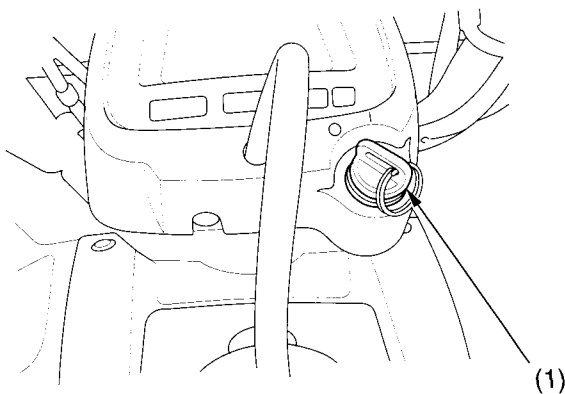
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## Ignition Switch

The ignition switch is used for starting and stopping the engine (page 64 ). Insert the key and turn it to the right for the ON position.

Key Position	Function
ON ( I )	Electrical circuits on.
OFF ( O )	No electrical circuits function.

### CENTER OF HANDLEBAR



(1) ignition switch

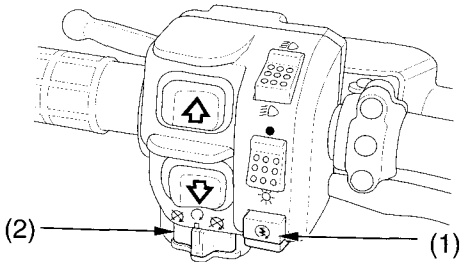
I ON  
O OFF

# Controls & Features




## Start Button



### LEFT HANDLEBAR



- (1) start button  
(2) engine stop switch

-  START  
 OFF  
 RUN

The start button (1) is used for starting the engine. Pushing the button in starts the engine. See *Starting Procedure*, page 64 .

When the start button is pushed, the starter motor will crank the engine. The starter motor will not operate if the engine stop switch is in the OFF position when the start button is pushed.

## Engine Stop Switch



The engine stop switch (2) is used to stop the engine in an emergency. To operate, press the switch to either OFF position. The switch must be in the RUN position to start the engine, and it should normally remain in the RUN position even when the engine is OFF.

If your ATV is stopped with the ignition switch ON and the engine stop switch OFF, the battery will discharge. Turn the ignition switch OFF to prevent battery discharge.