

2008

XR65

XR65

 **HONDA**

This manual should be considered a permanent part of the motorcycle and should remain with the motorcycle when it is resold.

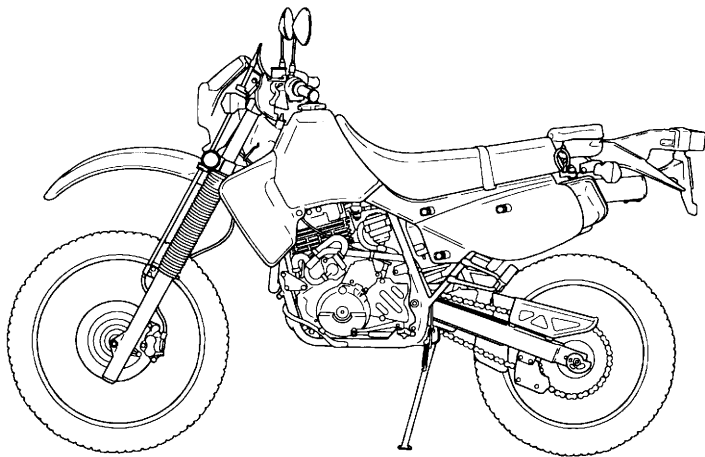
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The vehicle pictured on the front cover may not match your vehicle.

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**2006
Honda XR650L
OWNER'S MANUAL**



Introduction

Congratulations on choosing your Honda motorcycle.

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.

Before riding, take time to get acquainted with your motorcycle and how it works. To protect your investment, we urge you to take responsibility for keeping your motorcycle 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.

Introduction

Read the Warranties Booklet (page 201) thoroughly so you understand the coverages that protect your new Honda and are aware of your rights and responsibilities.

If you have any questions, or if you ever need special service or repairs, remember that your Honda dealer knows your motorcycle 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.

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 motorcycle 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 a motorcycle. You must use your own good judgment.

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

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

These signal words mean:

Safety Messages

A Few Words About Safety

▲ 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 Motorcycle Safety.
- **Instructions** — how to use this motorcycle 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.

Motorcycle Safety..... 1

Important safety information you should know, plus a look at the safety-related labels on your motorcycle.

Instruments & Controls..... 11

The location and function of indicators and controls on your motorcycle and operating instructions for various controls and features.

Before Riding..... 25

The importance of wearing a helmet and other protective gear, how to make sure you and your motorcycle are ready to ride, and important information about loading.

Basic Operation & Riding..... 39

How to start and stop the engine, shift gears, and brake. Also, riding precautions and important information about riding with a passenger or cargo.

Contents

Servicing Your Honda 55

Why your motorcycle needs regular maintenance, what you need to know before servicing your Honda, an owner maintenance schedule, and instructions for specific maintenance and adjustment items.

Tips 147

How to store and transport your motorcycle and how to be an environmentally-responsible rider.

Taking Care of the Unexpected 155

What to do if you have a flat tire, your engine won't start, etc.

Technical Information 177

ID numbers, technical specifications, and other technical facts.

Consumer Information 197

Information on warranties, emission controls, how to get Honda service manuals, and...

“Reporting Safety Defects” 206

Table of Contents 208

Sequential listing of topics in this owner's manual.

Index 212

Quick Reference

Handy facts about fuel, engine oil, tire sizes, and air pressures.

Motorcycle Safety

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

Important Safety Information	2
Accessories & Modifications	7
Safety Labels	9

Important Safety Information

Your motorcycle 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.

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 and make sure your passenger does the same. We also recommend that you wear eye protection, sturdy boots, gloves, and other protective gear (page 26).

Important Safety Information

Take Time to Learn & Practice

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

Because many accidents involve inexperienced or untrained riders, we urge all riders to take a certified course approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). See page 29.

Developing off-road riding skills is a gradual step-by-step process. Start by practicing at low speeds in a safe area and slowly build your skills. See page 29.

Ask your dealer if there are off-road riding groups in your area where you can learn from experienced riders. Also be sure to read *Tips & Practice Guide for the Off-Highway Motorcyclist* that came with your new motorcycle (USA only).

Important Safety Information

Ride Defensively On-Road

The most frequent motorcycle collision happens when a car turns left in front of a motorcycle. Another common situation is a car moving suddenly into your lane.

Always pay attention to other vehicles around you, and do not assume that other drivers see you. Be prepared to stop quickly or make an evasive maneuver. For other riding tips, see the booklet, *You and Your Motorcycle: Riding Tips and Practice Guide*, which came with your new motorcycle (USA only).

Make Yourself Easy to See On-Road

Some drivers do not see motorcycles because they are not looking for them. To make yourself more visible, wear bright reflective clothing, position yourself so other drivers can see you, signal before turning or changing lanes, and use your horn when it will help others notice 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 motorcycle 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.

Important Safety Information

Keep Your Honda in Safe Condition

It's important to keep your motorcycle 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 motorcycle before every ride and perform all recommended maintenance. Never exceed load limits (page 36), and do not modify your motorcycle (page 8) or install accessories that would make your motorcycle unsafe (page 7).

Accessories & Modifications

Modifying your motorcycle or using non-Honda accessories can make your motorcycle unsafe. Before you consider making any modifications or adding an accessory, be sure to read the following information.

WARNING

Improper accessories or modifications can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Follow all instructions in this owner's manual regarding accessories and modifications.

Accessories

We strongly recommend that you use only genuine Honda accessories that have been specifically designed and tested for your motorcycle. Because Honda cannot test all other accessories, you must be personally responsible for proper selection, installation, and use of non-Honda accessories.

Check with your Honda dealer for assistance and always follow these guidelines:

- Make sure the accessory does not obscure any lights, reduce ground clearance and lean angle, limit suspension travel or steering travel, alter your riding position, or interfere with operating any controls. (cont'd)

Accessories & Modifications

- Do not install any fairing or windshield unless it was designed and tested by Honda for your motorcycle. Some fairings or windshields, even smaller ones, can cause unstable handling of your motorcycle. This is especially true if the fairing or windshield is poorly designed or improperly mounted.
- Do not add any electrical equipment that will exceed the motorcycle's electrical system capacity (page 185). A blown fuse can cause a loss of lights or engine power (page 171).
- Do not pull a trailer or sidecar with your motorcycle. This motorcycle was not designed for these attachments, and their use can seriously impair your motorcycle's handling.

Modifications

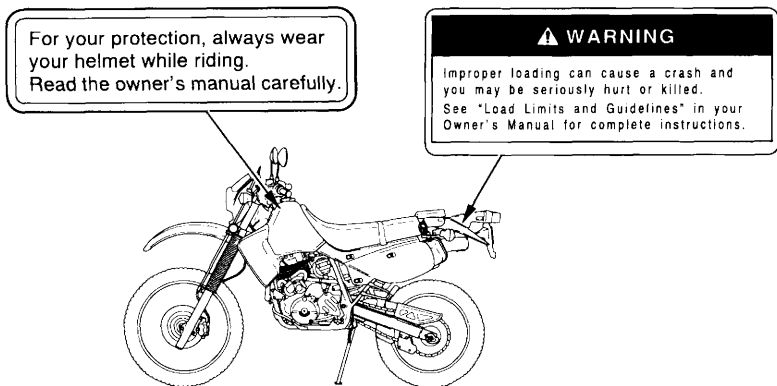
We strongly advise you not to remove any original equipment or modify your motorcycle in any way that would change its design or operation. Such changes could seriously impair your motorcycle's handling, stability, and braking, making it unsafe to ride.

We also advise you not to make any modifications or remove any equipment (such as the USDA qualified spark arrester or emission control system components) that would make your motorcycle illegal in your area.

Safety Labels

Safety labels on your motorcycle either warn you of potential hazards that could cause serious injury or they provide important safety information. Read these labels carefully and don't remove them.

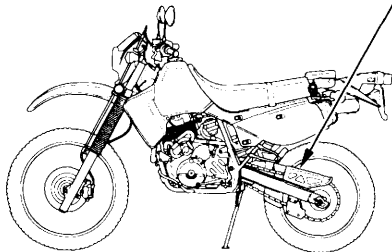
If a label comes off or becomes hard to read, contact your Honda dealer for a replacement.



(cont'd)

Safety Labels

TIRE INFORMATION		
Cold tire pressures [Up to maximum weight capacity]	Front	150kPa 1.50kgf/cm ² 22psi.
	Rear	150kPa 1.50kgf/cm ² 22psi.
[Up to 90kg (200lbs) load]	Front	150kPa 1.50kgf/cm ² 22psi.
	Rear	150kPa 1.50kgf/cm ² 22psi.
Maximum weight capacity :	149kg(328lbs)	
Tire size :	Front	3.00-21 51S
	Rear	4 60-18 63S
Tire brand	Front	Rear
DUNLOP	K850	K850
BRIDGESTONE	TW-301	TW52
Min. recommend tire center tread depth.	Front 3.0mm (0.12in.) Rear 3.0mm (0.12in.)	
<i>Read owner's manual.</i>		



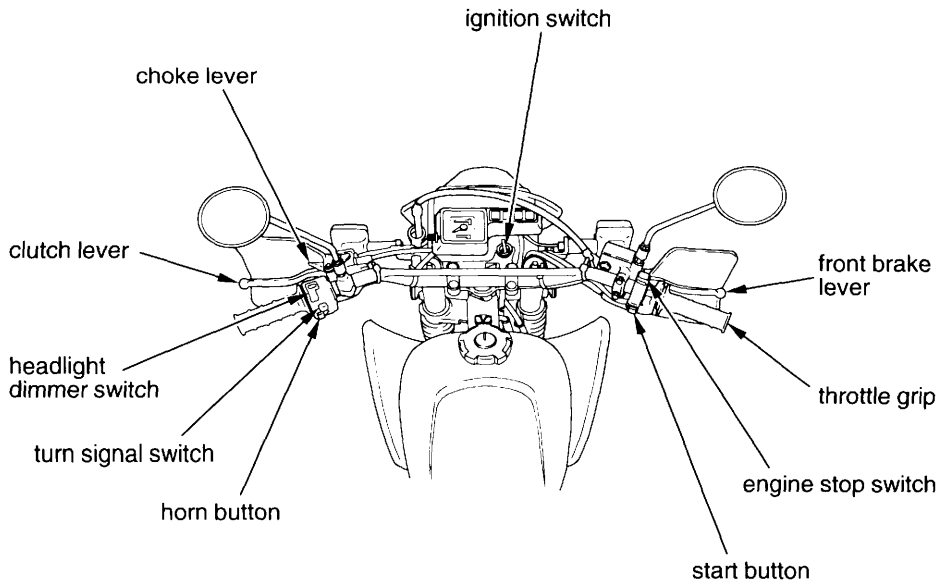
Instruments & Controls

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

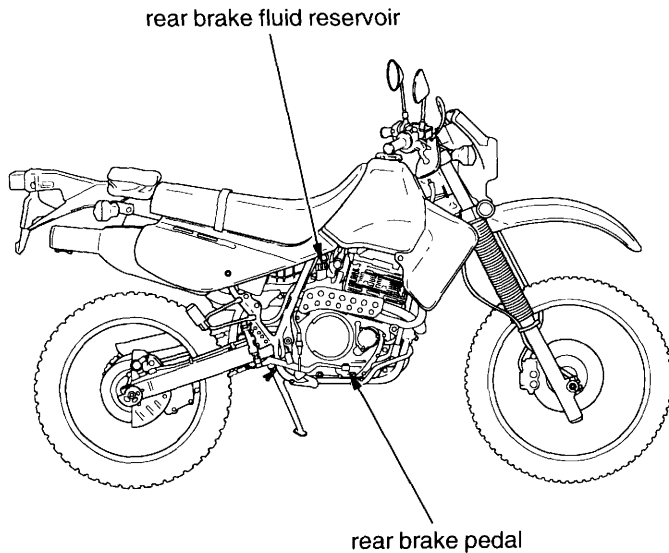
The items listed on this page are described in this section. Instructions for other components are presented in other sections of this manual where they will be most useful.

Operation Component Locations	12
Indicators	15
Controls & Features	
Fuel Valve.....	19
Choke Lever	20
Ignition Switch	21
Start Button.....	22
Engine Stop Switch	22
Headlight Dimmer Switch	23
Turn Signal Switch.....	23
Horn Button	24
Tripmeter Reset Knob	24

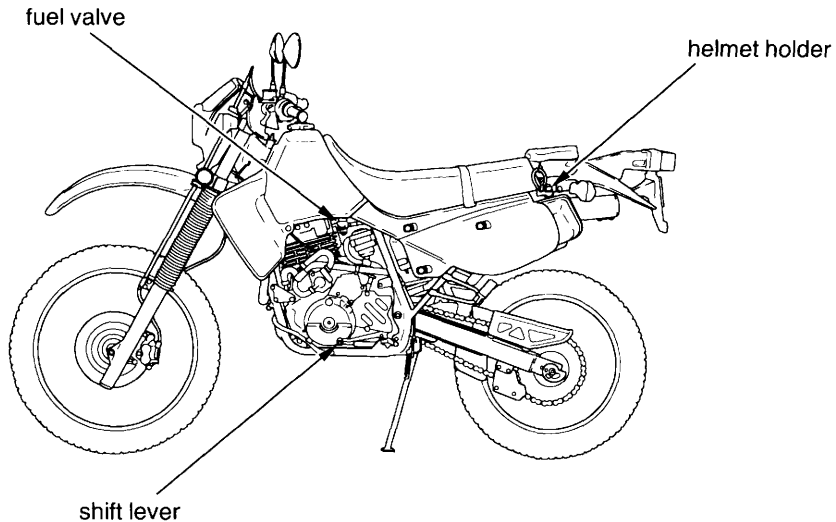
Operation Component Locations



Operation Component Locations

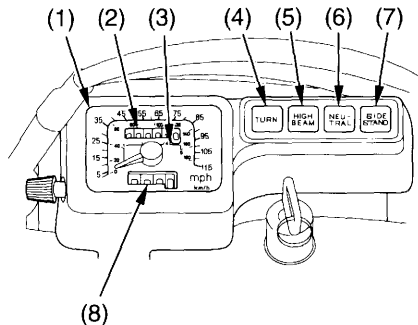


Operation Component Locations



Indicators

The indicators on your motorcycle 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) speedometer
- (2) odometer
- (3) gear range indicator
- (4) turn signal indicator
- (5) high beam indicator
- (6) neutral indicator
- (7) side stand indicator
- (8) tripmeter

USA: Odometer & tripmeter read in miles.

Canada: Odometer & tripmeter read in kilometers.

Indicators

Lamp Check

When applicable, the high beam, neutral, and side stand indicators come on when you turn the ignition switch ON and remain on until you select the low beam, shift out of neutral, or raise the side stand.

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

Indicators

1	speedometer	Shows riding speed in miles per hour.
2	odometer	Shows the total miles ridden.
3	gear range indicator	Shows proper speed range for each gear.
4	turn signal indicator (amber)	Flashes when either turn signal operates.

Indicators

5	high beam indicator (blue)	Lights when the headlight is on high beam.
6	neutral indicator (green)	Lights when the transmission is in neutral.
7	side stand indicator (amber)	Lights when the side stand is put down – to indicate that the side stand ignition cut-off system (page 41) is activated.
8	tripmeter	Shows the number of miles ridden since you last reset the meter. To zero (0) the tripmeter, turn the tripmeter reset knob.