



OWNER'S MANUAL

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY,
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION.



MINIMUM RECOMMENDED OPERATOR AGE: 18

02

TRX250EX Sportrax250EX

IMPORTANT NOTICES

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY

Your Owner's Manual contains important information on safety, operation, and maintenance. Anyone who operates this Sportrax should carefully read and understand the contents of this manual before riding the vehicle.


AGE RECOMMENDATION

The minimum recommended age for this Sportrax model is 16. Children under age 16 should never operate this vehicle.

RIDER TRAINING

Anyone who operates this vehicle should get proper instruction. We recommend a certified rider training course which is available to all interested people. For information, contact your Honda dealer or call 1-800-887-2887 (USA only).

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Honda provides many important safety messages both in this manual and on the vehicle. For your safety and the safety of others, pay special attention to all warnings preceded by this alert symbol . Failure to follow the warnings contained in this manual can result in **SERIOUS INJURY** or **DEATH**.

DANGER

Indicates that severe personal injury or death will result if instructions are not followed.

WARNING

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

To protect your vehicle from damage, pay attention to cautions.

CAUTION:

Indicates a possibility that equipment or property damage could result if instructions are not followed.

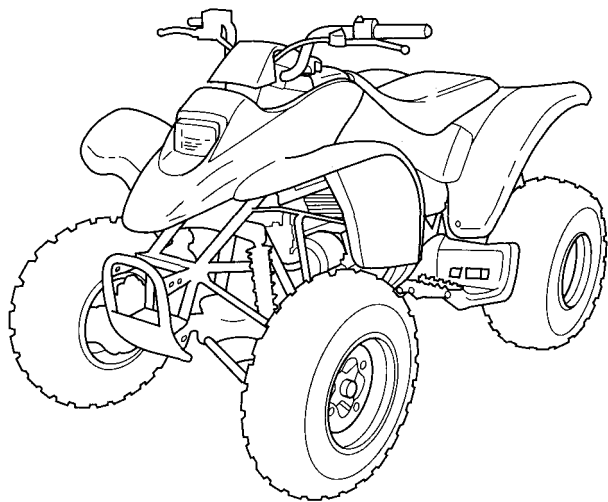
NOTE:

Gives helpful information.

The Owner's Manual should be considered a permanent part of your Sportrax. It should remain with the vehicle at all times and stay with the Sportrax if it is sold.

**2002
TRX 250EX**

**Honda Sportrax 250EX
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 Sportrax. 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 Sportrax'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
Sportrax SAFETY	1
Special Safety Messages	1
Warning Information	6
PARTS LOCATION AND OPERATION	10
Parts Location	10
Parts Operation	14
Power Controls	14
Lights	19
Gearshift Controls	21
Brake Controls	23
Fuel Tank	24
Engine Oil	26
Additional Features	27
RIDING YOUR Sportrax	30
Before Riding	30
Rider Preparation	30
Vehicle Preparation	32
Safe Riding Rules	40
Riding	52
Starting the Engine	53
Shifting Gears	57
Riding in Reverse	58
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 Requirements	77
Maintenance Schedule	78
Maintenance Precautions	80
Tool Kit	81
Fuel System	82
Lubrication	94
Engine	99
Clutch	101
Electrical System	103
Brakes	107
Wheels and Tires	115
Seat Removal	120
Engine Guard and Skid Plates	121
Spark Arrester	122
TRANSPORTING YOUR Sportrax	124
CLEANING YOUR Sportrax	127
STORING YOUR Sportrax	129
SPECIFICATIONS	132
WIRING DIAGRAM	134
CONSUMER INFORMATION	135
WARRANTY SERVICE	137
SERIAL NUMBERS AND COLOR LABEL	138
INDEX	139
AUTHORIZED MANUALS	145

Sportrax 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).

California Proposition 65 Warning

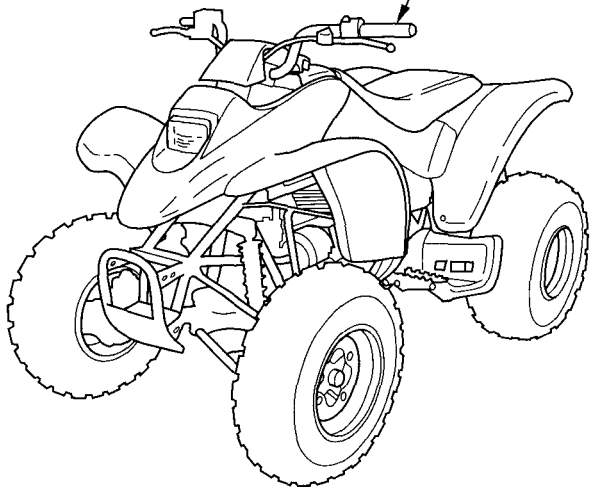
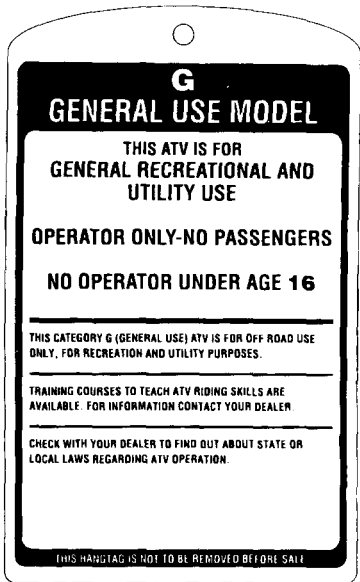
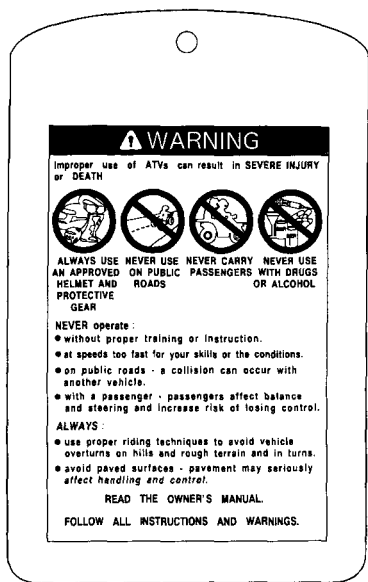
WARNING: This product contains or emits chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

WARNING INFORMATION

Your Sportrax 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 tire pressure or overloading can cause loss of control.

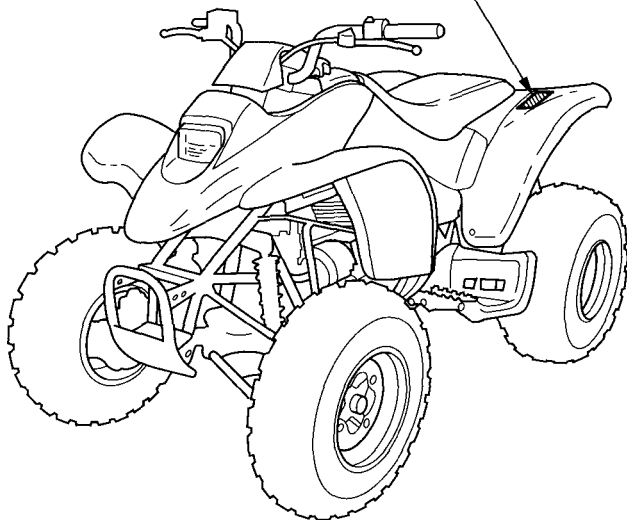
Loss of control can result in severe injury or death.

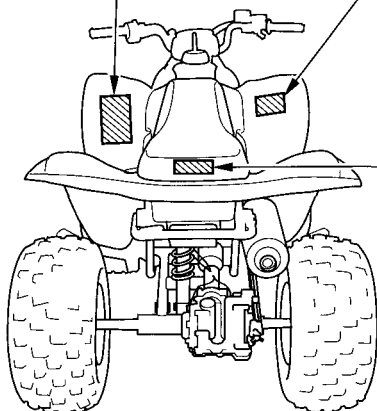
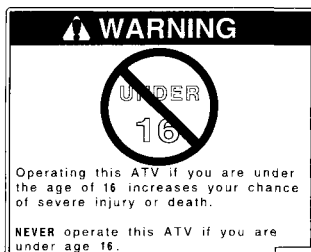
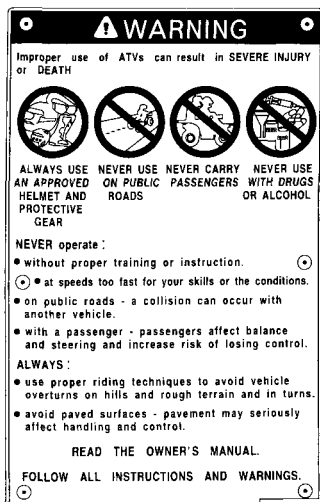
Cold tire pressure :

Front : $30 \pm 4 \text{ kPa}$ $0.30 \pm 0.04 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ $4.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ psi}$.

Rear : $20 \pm 3 \text{ kPa}$ $0.20 \pm 0.03 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ $2.9 \pm 0.4 \text{ psi}$.

Maximum weight capacity ; 110kg (243lbs.)





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

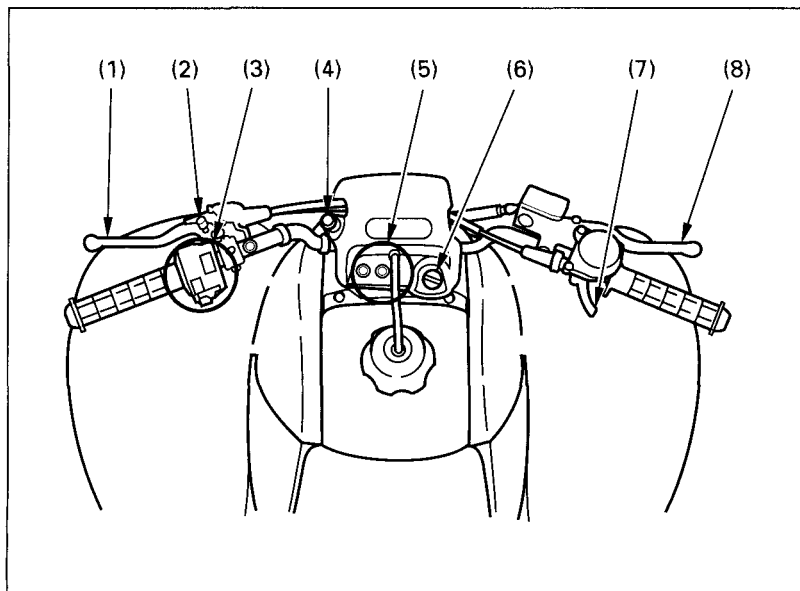


Fig. 2-1

Handlebars, from rider's point of view

- (8) Headlight
- (9) Fuel fill cap
- (10) Storage box, containing:
 - Tool kit
 - Owner's manual
- (11) Operator footpeg
- (12) Rear brake pedal

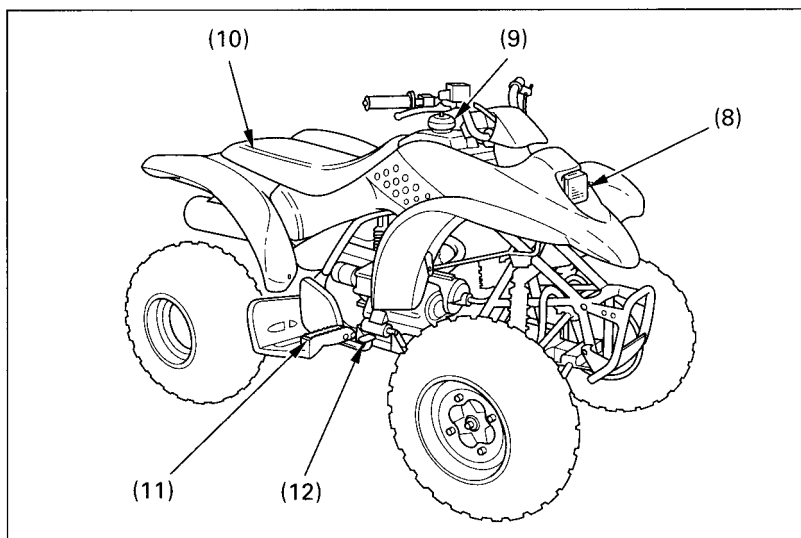


Fig. 2-2

Right side of Sportrax

- (13) Flag pole bracket
- (14) Seat lock lever
- (15) Fuel valve
- (16) Oil filler cap/dipstick
- (17) Gearshift pedal
- (18) Operator footpeg

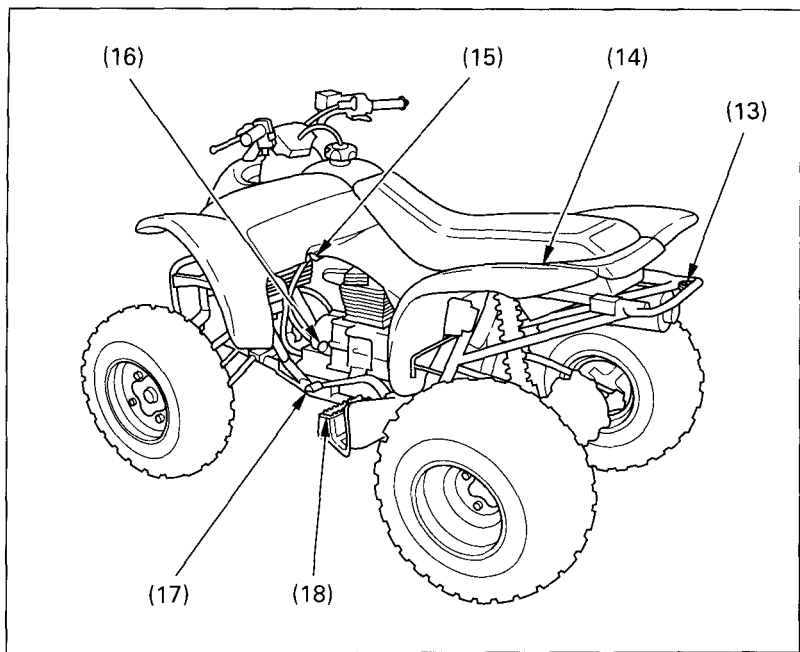


Fig. 2-3

Left side of Sportrax

While reading this manual, remember:

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

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.

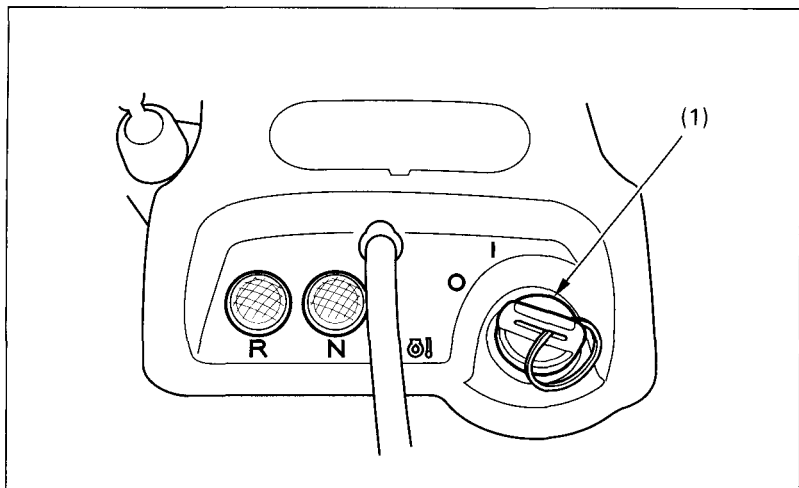


Fig. 2-4

(1) Ignition switch

Key Position	Function	Key Removal
OFF (○)	The engine and headlight cannot be operated.	The key can be removed.
ON (I)	The headlight 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 (○) position, the engine will operate. When the switch is in either OFF (⊗) 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 (○) position.

NOTE:

If you stop your Sportrax by turning the engine stop switch OFF (⊗), be sure to turn the ignition switch OFF (○) to prevent battery discharge.

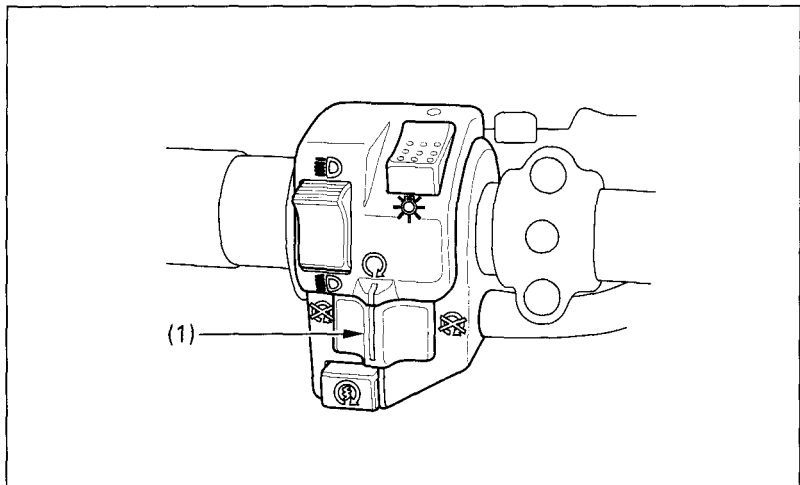


Fig. 2-5

(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.**

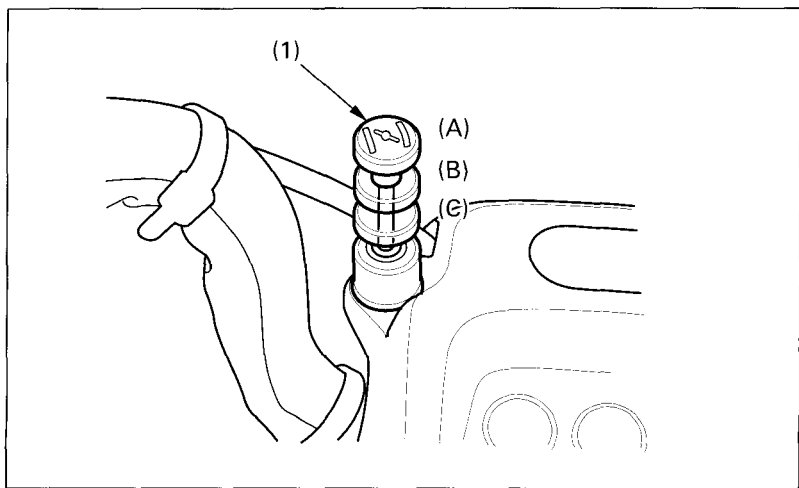


Fig. 2-6

(1) Choke knob

(A) Fully ON

(B) Halfway 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).

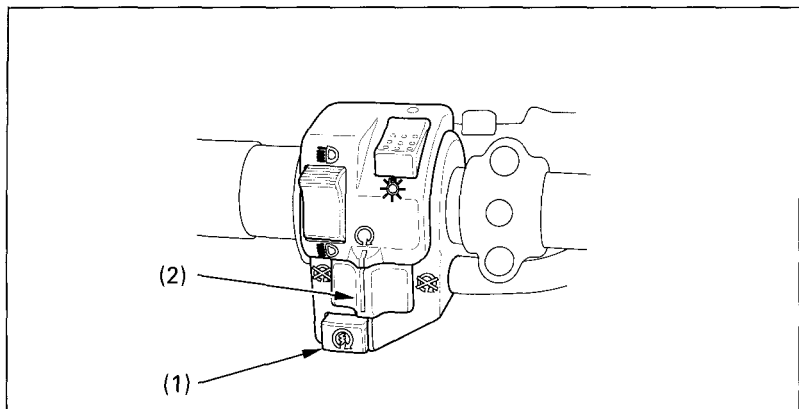


Fig. 2-7 (1) Starter button

(2) Engine stop switch

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.

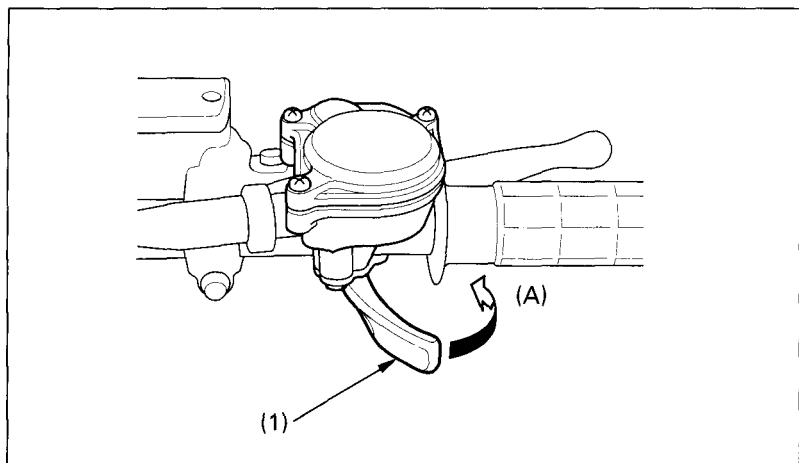


Fig. 2-8

(1) Throttle lever

(A) To open the throttle

LIGHTS

Headlight and Dimmer Switches

The headlight and dimmer switches (Fig. 2-9) 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).

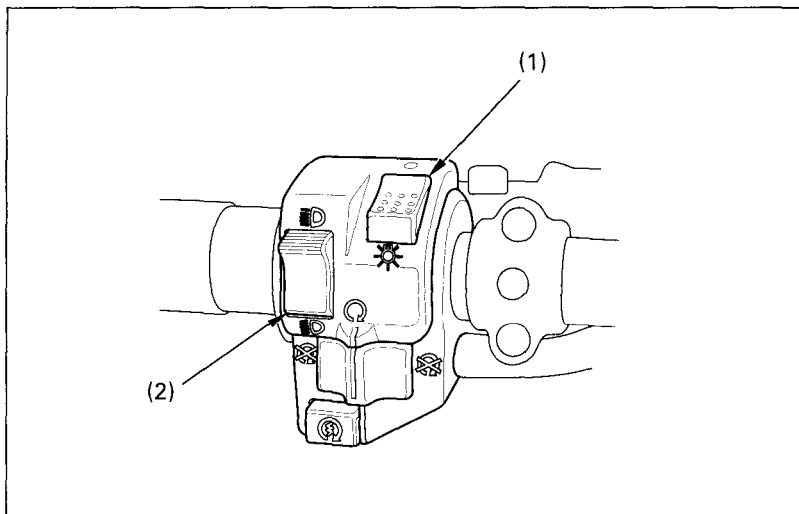


Fig. 2-9

(1) Headlight switch

(2) Dimmer switch

Reverse and Neutral Indicator Lamps

The reverse indicator lamp (1) and the neutral indicator lamp (2) (Fig. 2-10) 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).

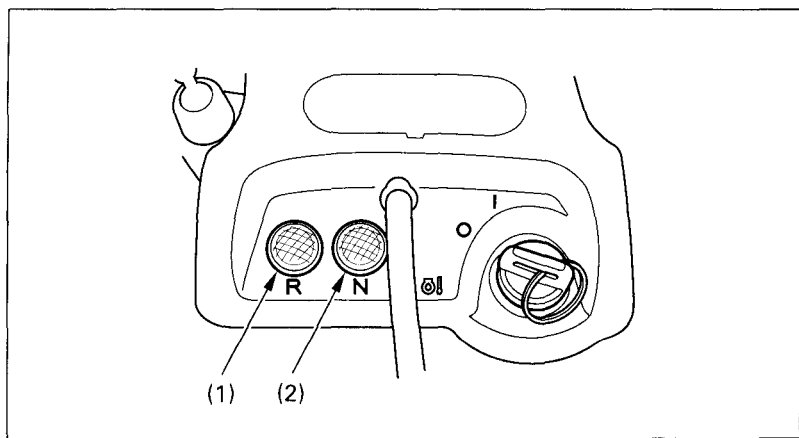


Fig. 2-10

- (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. 2-11). The pedal automatically returns to the horizontal position when released.

Your Sportrax 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 57.)

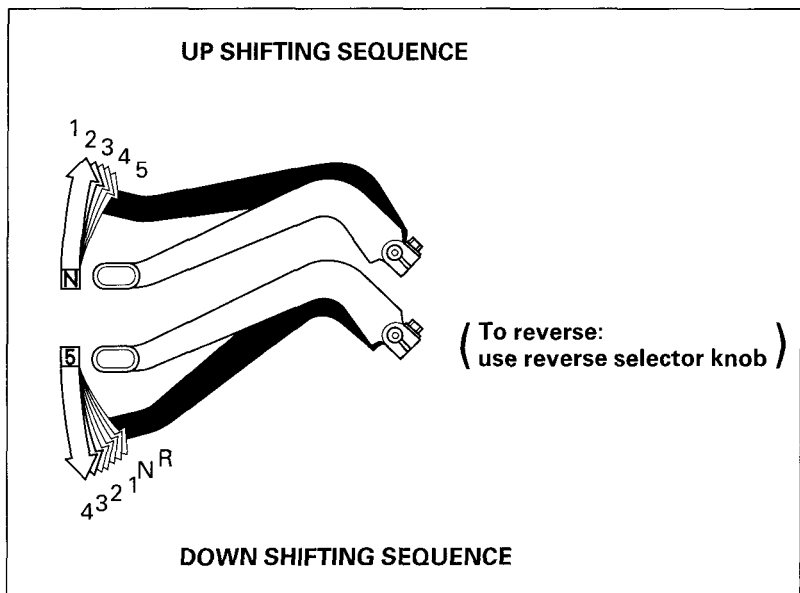


Fig. 2-11

Gearshifting sequence

Reverse Selector Knob

The reverse selector knob (Fig. 2-12) (1) is on the rear brake lever.

To shift into reverse, first bring the Sportrax 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 Sportrax 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.

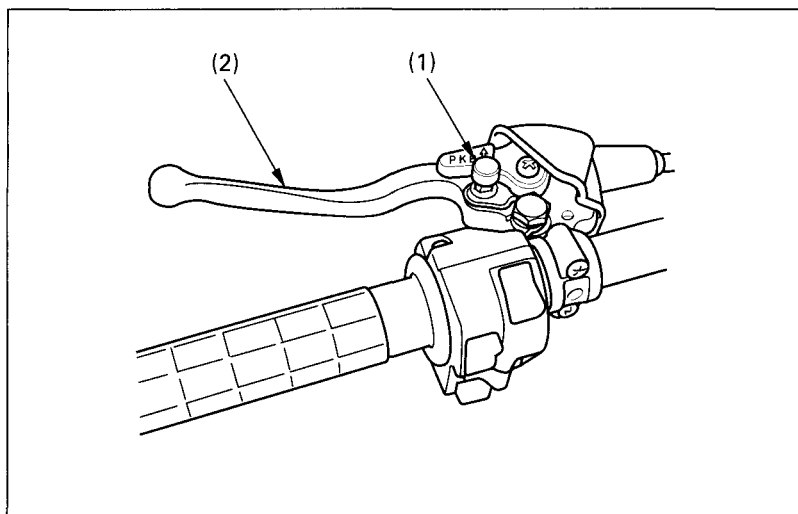


Fig. 2-12 (1) Reverse selector knob (2) Rear brake lever

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 either by depressing the brake pedal or by squeezing the rear brake lever (Fig. 2-13).

Parking Brake

The rear brake lever has a lock which allows it to be used as a parking brake.

To set the parking brake, squeeze the rear brake lever (1) and lock it with the lock lever (2). Always set the parking brake when parking and before starting the engine.

To unlock the parking brake, squeeze the rear brake lever until the lock lever releases.

Using the parking brake in freezing weather may cause the brakes to freeze in the locked position.

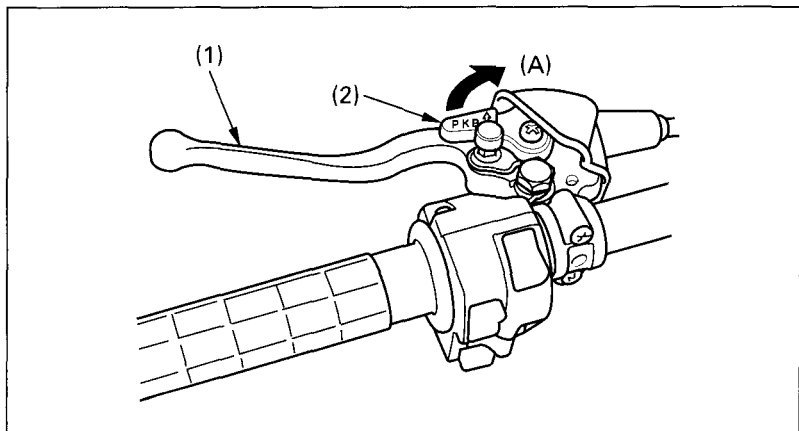


Fig. 2-13 (1) Rear brake lever/
Parking brake lever (2) Lock lever
(A) To lock

FUEL TANK

Fuel Fill Cap

After refueling, be sure to tighten the fuel fill cap (Fig.2-14) until it clicks.

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

To refuel refer to page 82 .

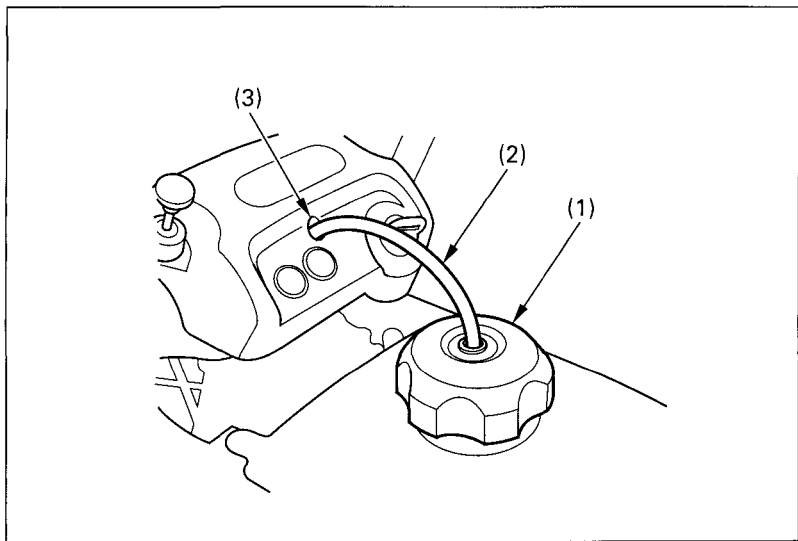


Fig. 2-14 (1) Fuel fill cap

(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 Sportrax 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:

0.66 US gal (2.5 l , 0.55 Imp gal)

NOTE:

After refueling, do not operate the Sportrax 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 .

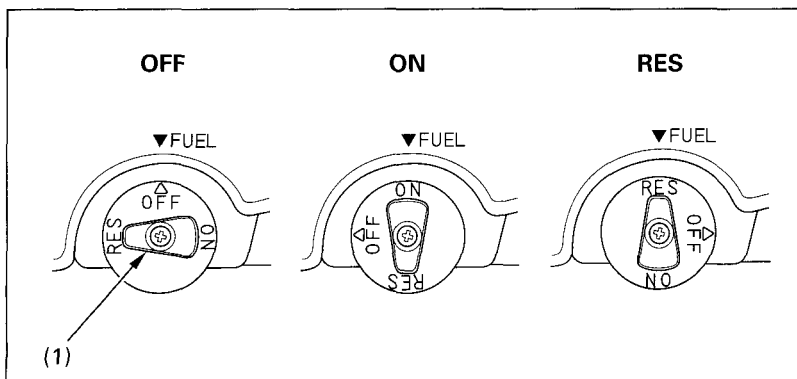


Fig. 2-15

(1) Fuel valve

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Flag Pole Bracket

The flag pole bracket (Fig. 2-17) is located 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.

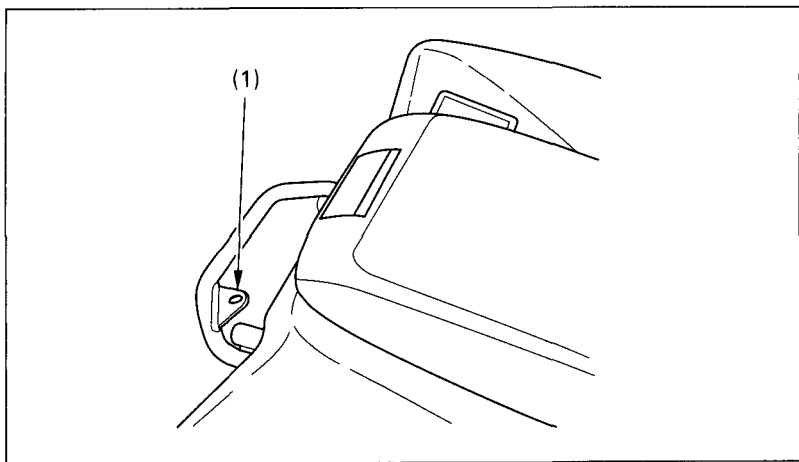


Fig. 2-17

(1) Flag pole bracket

Storage Compartment

The storage compartment (1) (Fig. 2-18) is located under the seat. To remove the seat, see page 120.

The storage box (2) is stored in the storage compartment (1). The storage box contains the owner's manual (3) and tool kit (4) (including the air pressure gauge).

The owner's manual (3) and spare fuse (5) should be stored in the plastic document bag (6). The storage box should be stored in the storage compartment.

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

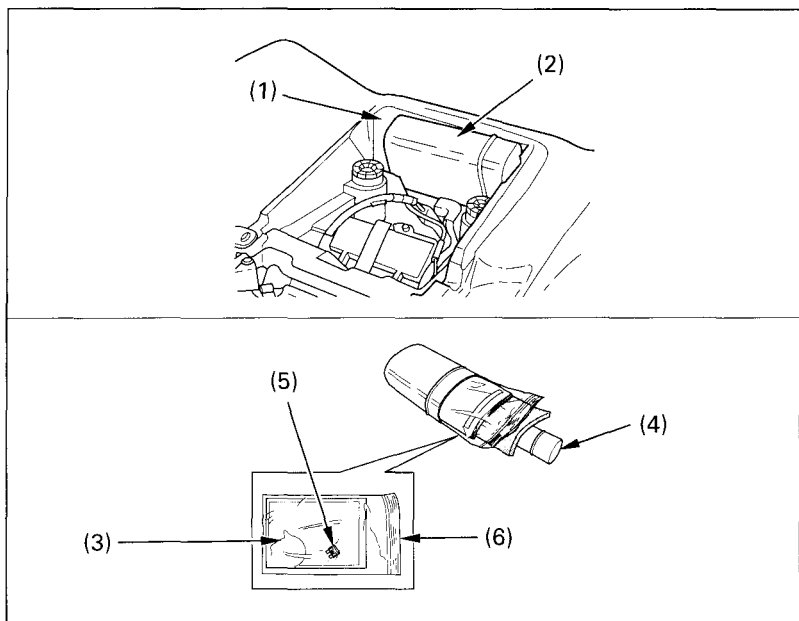


Fig. 2-18 (1) Storage compartment (4) Tool kit
 (2) Storage box (5) Spare fuse
 (3) Owner's manual (6) Plastic document bag

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

RIDING YOUR Sportrax

This part of the Owner's Manual discusses how to ride your Sportrax 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 Sportrax is in good operating condition, and learning some basic safe-riding rules.

RIDER PREPARATION

Age Recommendation

The minimum recommended age for this Sportrax 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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax 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 94-97). 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 parking brake lever free play (pages 107–114).
4. **Tires.** Check condition and pressure (pages 116–118).
5. **Throttle.** Check for smooth opening and closing in all steering positions.
6. **Headlight and headlight dimmer switches.** Check for proper function (page 19).
7. **Engine stop switch.** Check for proper function (page 15).
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. **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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax has the proper tires and that they are in good condition. Also be sure the tires are inflated to the proper air pressure (see page 117).

⚠ 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 Sportrax.

NOTE:

The following weight limits apply to standard equipment only. Modifying your Sportrax, 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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax 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.
3. Do not add electrical equipment that will exceed the vehicle's electrical system capacity. A blown fuse could cause a loss of lights or engine power.

⚠ 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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax. You should also always wear goggles or a face shield, gloves, boots, a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and long pants.

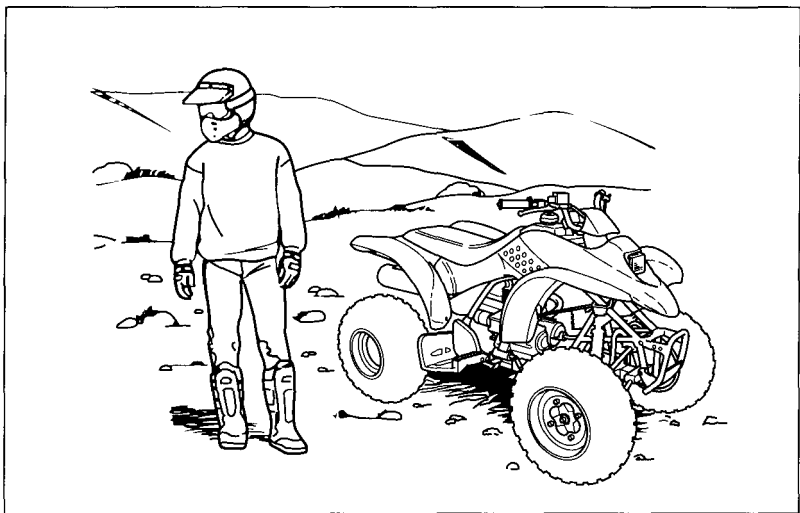


Fig. 3-1

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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax.

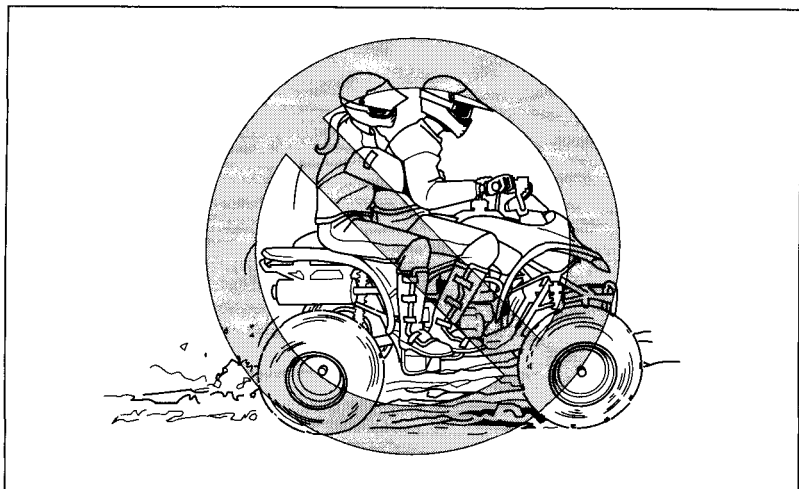


Fig. 3-2

Never carry a passenger on your Sportrax.

⚠ 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 Sportrax's don't mix. Even a small amount of alcohol can impair your ability to operate a Sportrax safely. Likewise, drugs—even if prescribed by a physician—can be dangerous while operating a Sportrax. 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 Sportrax 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 Sportrax on pavement.

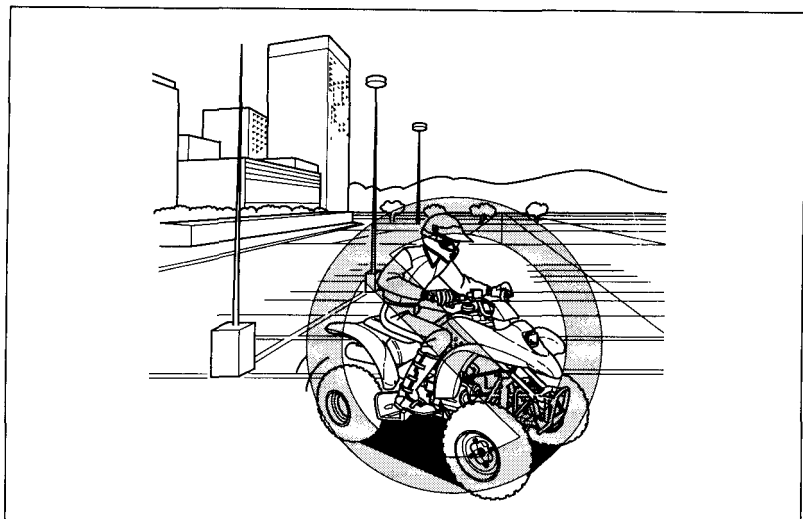


Fig. 3-3

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 Sportrax 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.

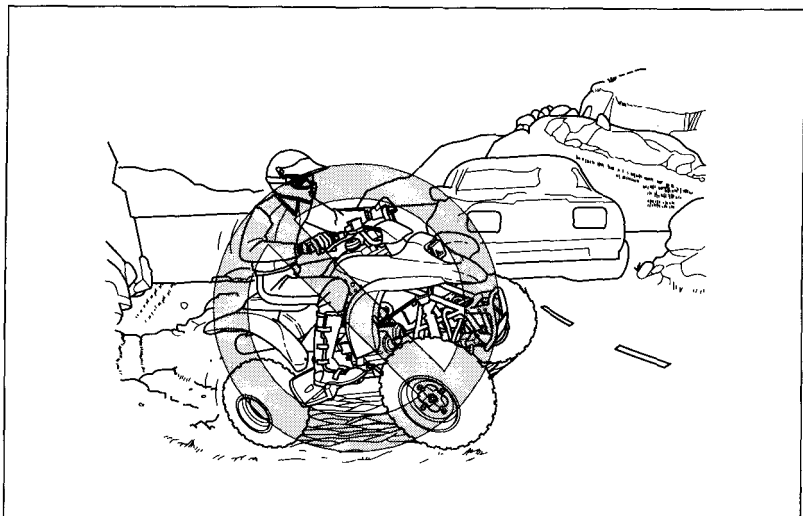


Fig. 3-4

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 Sportrax. This is important to maintain your balance and to control the vehicle. If you put your feet on the ground while the Sportrax 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.

No Stunts

When riding, you should keep all four wheels of your Sportrax on the ground. Avoid "wheelies," jumps and other stunts, as they could cause loss of control.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Attempting wheelies, jumps, and other stunts.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Increases the chance of an accident, including an overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

**Never attempt stunts, such as wheelies or jumps.
Don't try to show off.**

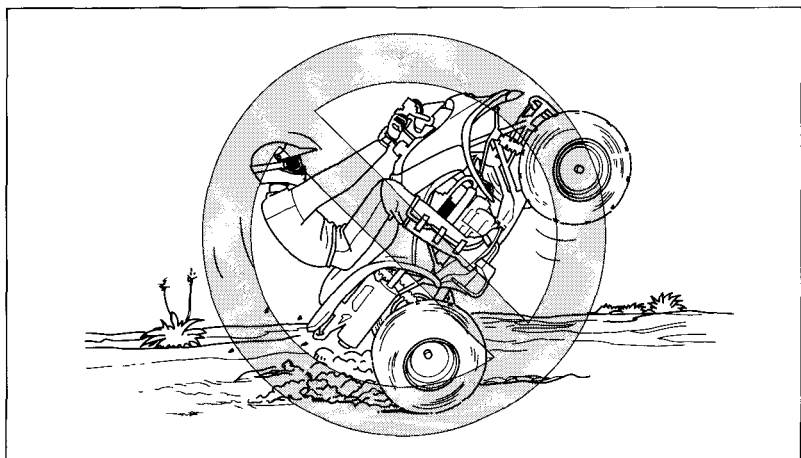


Fig. 3-5

Never attempt wheelies or other stunts.

Use Care on Unfamiliar Terrain

Before riding in a new area, always check the terrain thoroughly. Don't ride fast on unfamiliar terrain or when visibility is limited. (It's sometimes difficult to see obstructions.)

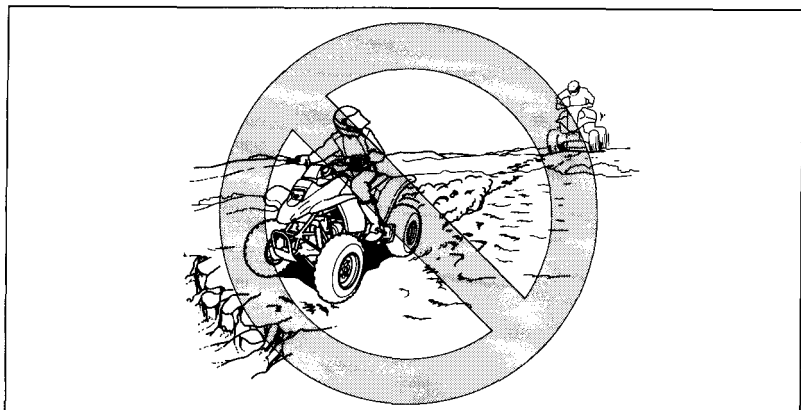


Fig. 3-6

Be alert for changes in the terrain.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Failure to use extra care when operating this ATV on unfamiliar terrain.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

You can come upon hidden rocks, bumps, or holes without enough time to react.

Could result in the ATV overturning or going out of control.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Go slowly and be extra careful when operating on unfamiliar terrain.

Always be alert to changing terrain conditions when operating the ATV.

Never ride past your limit of visibility. Maintain a safe distance between your Sportrax and other off-road vehicles. Always exercise caution, and use extra care on rough, slippery and loose terrain.

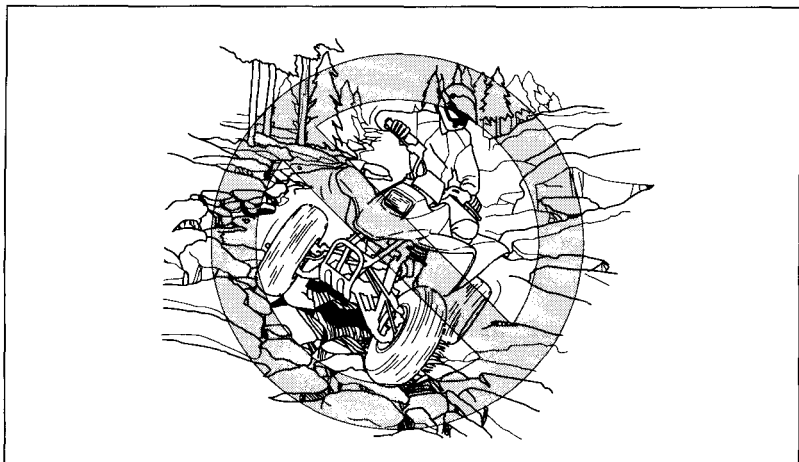


Fig. 3-7

Use extra care on rough terrain.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Failure to use extra care when operating on excessively rough, slippery or loose terrain.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of traction or vehicle control, which could result in an accident, including an overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Do not 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.

RIDING

For your initial riding practice, select a safe area free of obstacles with a level surface of dirt or sand. Practice at low speed until you are confident in shifting gears, braking, and making turns.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Running the engine in an enclosed area.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide gas that can cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never operate the ATV engine in an enclosed area, such as a garage.

STARTING THE ENGINE

Preparation

1. Select a level surface and lock the parking brake (page 23) before starting the engine.
2. Turn the fuel valve (1) and ignition switch (2) to ON.
3. Make sure the engine stop switch (3) is at RUN (\odot).
4. Make sure that the transmission is in neutral by checking that the neutral indicator (4) lights.

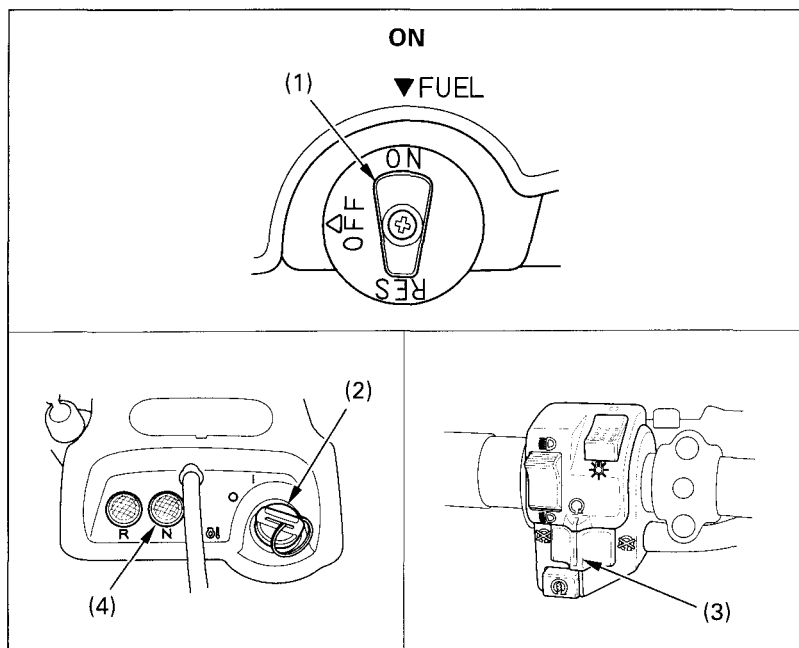


Fig. 3-8

(1) Fuel valve
(2) Ignition switch

(3) Engine stop switch
(4) Neutral indicator lamp

Starting Procedure (After Preparation)

To restart a warm engine, follow the procedure for High Air Temperature.

The starter motor will operate only when the transmission is in neutral.

Normal Air Temperature

10°–35 °C (50°–95 °F)

1. Pull the choke knob (1) up all the way to fully ON (A) position, if the engine is cold.
2. With the throttle slightly open, press the starter button.

CAUTION:

Pressing the electric starter button for more than 5 seconds at a time may cause the starter to overheat and damage the starter. Release the starter button for approximately 10 seconds before pressing it again.

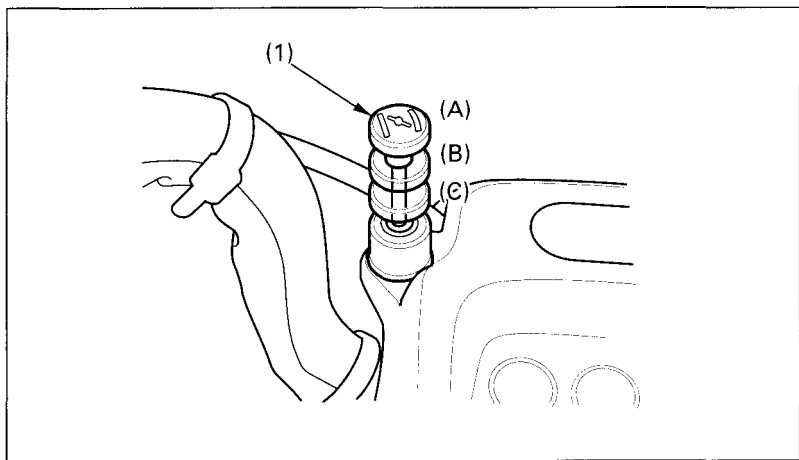


Fig. 3-9

(1) Choke knob

(A) Fully ON

(B) Half way position

(C) Fully OFF

3. Immediately after the engine starts, push the choke knob down to the halfway position (B).
4. Warm up the engine by opening and closing the throttle slightly.
5. After the engine has warmed up, push the choke knob down all the way to fully OFF. (C)
6. If idling is unstable, open the throttle slightly.

High Air Temperature

35 °C (95 °F) or above

1. Do not use the choke.
2. Start the engine (follow step 2 under Normal Air Temperature).

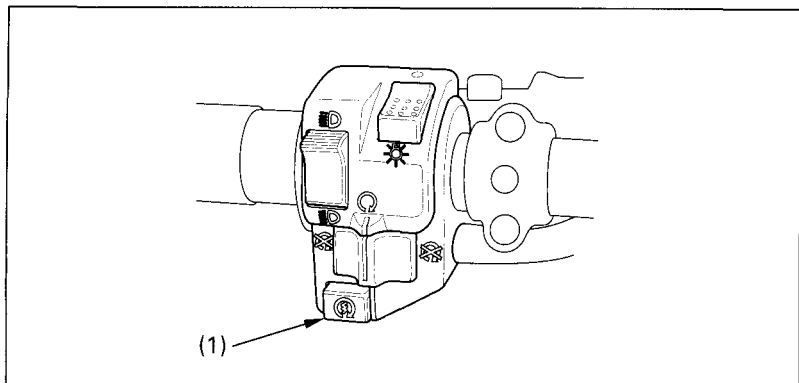


Fig. 3-10

(1) Starter button

Low Air Temperature

10 °C (50 °F) or below



1. Follow steps 1 – 2 under “Normal Air Temperature.”
2. Warm up the engine by opening and closing the throttle slightly.
3. When the engine begins to run slightly rough, push the choke knob down to the halfway position (B).
4. Continue warming up the engine until it runs smoothly and responds to the throttle, then push the choke knob down all the way to fully OFF (C).
5. If idling is unstable, open the throttle slightly.

CAUTION:

- * **Extended use of the choke may impair piston and cylinder wall lubrication and shorten the life of the engine.**
- * **Do not race the engine during the warm-up period.**
Racing a cold engine wastes fuel and increases engine wear.

Flooded Engine

If the engine does not start after pushing the starter button several times, it may have become flooded with excess fuel. To clear the engine:

1. Turn the engine stop switch OFF ().
2. Move the choke knob to the OFF position.
3. Hold the throttle fully open and briefly press the starter button several times.
4. When the engine is cleared, wait 10 seconds. Then turn the engine stop switch to RUN () and repeat the normal starting procedure, but don't use the choke.

High Altitude Adjustment

For operation above 3,000 feet (1,000 m), it may be necessary to switch to high altitude carburetor jetting (see page 93).

SHIFTING GEARS

After starting the engine and letting it warm up, follow these procedures:

1. With the transmission in neutral, release the parking brake, but continue squeezing the rear brake lever.
2. With the throttle closed, raise the gearshift pedal one full stroke to shift into 1st (first) gear.
3. Release the rear brake lever and increase engine speed by gradually opening the throttle.
4. When speed increases, release the throttle and shift to 2nd gear by raising the gearshift pedal one full stroke.
5. Repeat this sequence to progressively upshift to 3rd, 4th and 5th (top) gear.
6. To downshift, reverse this sequence. Remember to close the throttle each time you shift to the next lower gear.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Shifting gears without releasing the throttle.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of control or cause the ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always release the throttle when shifting gears.

RIDING IN REVERSE

To shift into reverse, first bring the vehicle to a complete stop and make sure the transmission is in neutral. Then follow these procedures:

1. Be sure there are no obstacles or people in the way.
2. While pushing the reverse selector knob in, squeeze the rear brake lever, then depress the gearshift pedal (page 21).
3. Release the rear brake lever.
4. Open the throttle gradually and ride slowly. Do not open the throttle suddenly or make abrupt turns.
5. To stop, close the throttle and gradually apply both the front and rear brakes. Do not abruptly apply the rear brake by itself.
6. To shift out of reverse and into neutral, raise the gearshift pedal one stroke.

While reading this manual, remember:

▲WARNING

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

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Improperly operating in reverse.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

You could hit an obstacle or person behind you, resulting in serious injury.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

When you select reverse gear, make sure there are no obstacles or people behind you. When it is safe to proceed, go slowly.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Applying only the rear brake abruptly when operating in reverse gear.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The front wheels could lift off the ground and the ATV could overturn backwards.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Carefully apply both the front and rear brakes when stopping in reverse gear.

MAKING TURNS

To make a turn on level ground, steer the handlebars and lean your body toward the inside of the turn. (Fig 3-11) Leaning helps balance the vehicle, and it feels more comfortable. Leaning into a turn is an important technique to master in riding a Sportrax.

To make a sharp turn at low speed, it helps to shift your body slightly forward on the seat (Fig 3-11), and lean inside, as you steer the handlebars. Shifting weight forward allows the rear wheels to turn easier, and it also improves front-wheel steering. Remember to shift your body forward to make sharp low-speed turns and whenever you turn while accelerating from a full stop.

Apply the throttle slowly and gradually when you turn and start up at the same time. During other turns, use the throttle to maintain the desired speed throughout the turn. Practice these techniques on level ground until you are confident in making turns.

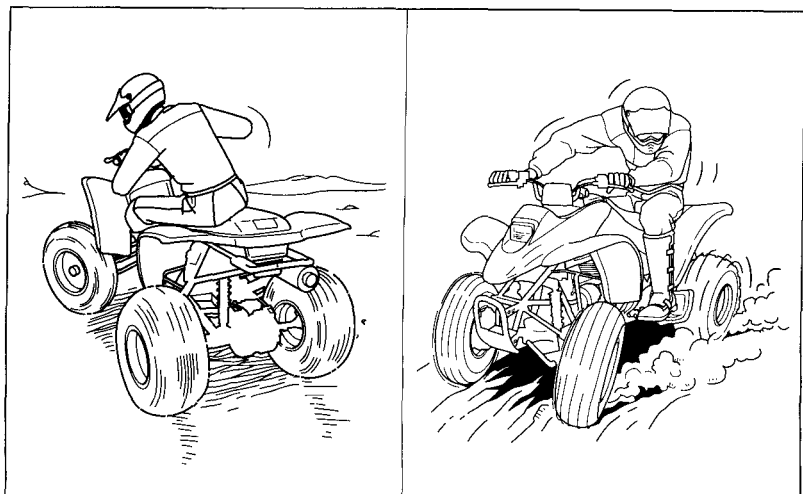


Fig. 3-11 Lean your body to the inside of a turn and forward.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Turning improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The ATV can go out of control, causing a collision or overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always follow proper procedures for turning as described in this Owner's Manual.

Practice turning at low speeds before attempting to turn at faster speeds.

Do not turn at excessive speeds.

The terrain surface can be a major factor affecting turns. Skidding during a turn is more likely to occur on slippery surfaces, such as snow, ice, mud and loose gravel. If you skid on ice, you may lose all directional control. To avoid skidding on slippery terrain, keep your speed low and ride with caution.

If your Sportrax skids sideways during a turn, steer in the direction of the skid. Avoid hard braking or accelerating until you have regained directional control.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Skidding or sliding improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

You may lose control of this ATV.

You may also regain traction unexpectedly, which may cause the ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Learn to safely control skidding 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 or sliding out of control.

RIDING UP HILLS

The Sportrax's ability to safely climb hills largely depends on the rider's skill and judgment. Begin by practicing on smooth, gentle slopes. As you gain experience, you'll learn the hazards and your own limitations. You may then proceed to ride on more difficult terrain. However, you must be able to decide which hills or hazards might cause the Sportrax to overturn. Avoid excessively steep hills.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating on excessively steep hills.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The vehicle can overturn more easily on extremely steep hills than on level surfaces or small hills.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never operate the ATV on hills too steep for the ATV or for your abilities.

Practice on smaller hills before attempting larger hills.

When climbing hills, you must shift weight toward the front wheels to help keep them on the ground. To do this, shift your body slightly forward on the seat and lean forward. For greater weight shift, move your body farther forward and lean forward.

To climb a hill, take a running start in an appropriate gear and speed for the conditions. Maintain a steady speed as you ascend the hill.

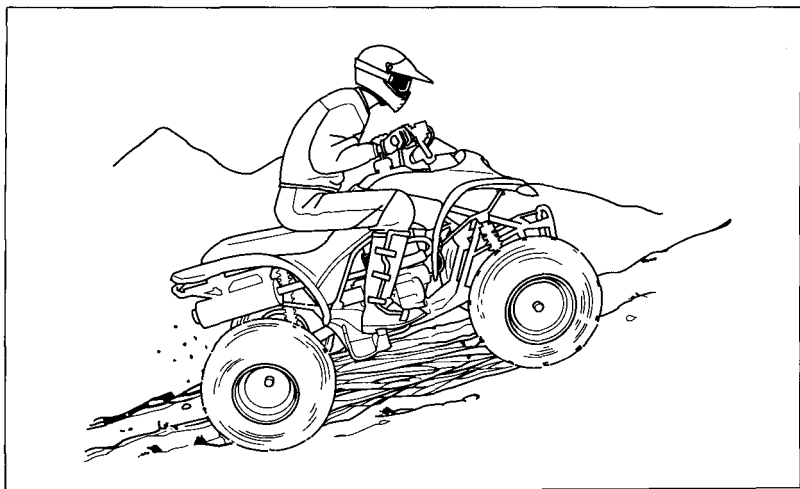


Fig. 3-12

Shift weight forward when climbing hills.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Climbing hills improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of control or cause the ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always follow proper procedures for climbing hills as described in this Owner's Manual.

Always 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. The ATV could flip over backward.

Never go over the top of any hill at high speed. An obstacle, a sharp drop, or another vehicle or person could be on the other side of the hill.

If you incorrectly estimate climbing capability or terrain conditions, the Sportrax may not have enough power or traction to continue uphill.

If you are about to lose all forward speed:

1. Using the front and rear brakes together, bring the Sportrax to a stop with the vehicle pointed straight uphill.

2. Get off the Sportrax while you continue holding the brakes.
3. Shift into neutral, set the parking brake and turn the engine off.
4. Then assess the situation.

If the Sportrax starts rolling backwards before you begin braking, keep your weight uphill, apply the front brakes first, then carefully apply the rear brake as well. Do not apply the rear brake only or abruptly if you are rolling backwards, or the vehicle may overturn.

If the Sportrax continues sliding backwards after you've applied the brakes, get off and away from the vehicle.

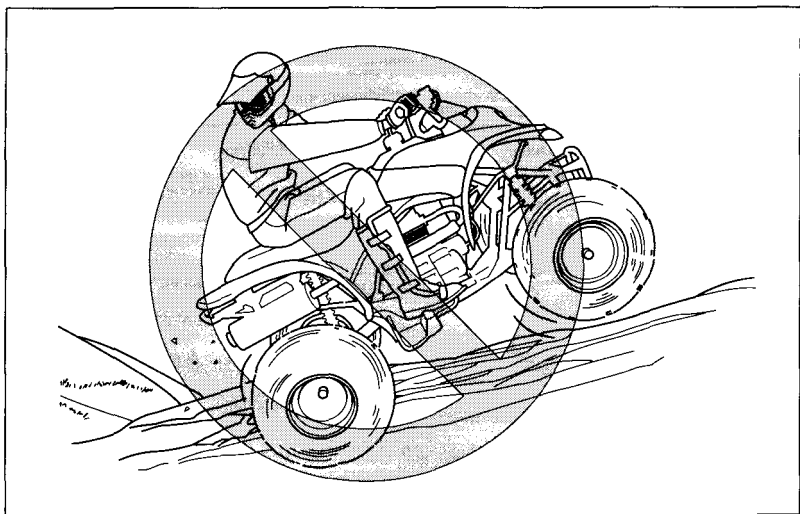


Fig. 3-13 If you roll backwards down a hill, don't apply the rear brake abruptly.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Stalling, rolling backwards or improperly dismounting while climbing a hill.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could result in ATV overturning.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Use proper gear and maintain steady speed when climbing a hill.

If you lose all forward speed:

Keep weight uphill.

Apply the brakes.

Lock parking brake, after you are stopped.

If you begin rolling backwards:

Keep weight uphill.

Never apply the rear brake abruptly while rolling backwards.

Apply the front brake.

When fully stopped, apply rear brake as well, and then lock parking brake.

Dismount on the uphill side if the vehicle is not pointed straight uphill.

Back the vehicle down the hill, following the instructions in this Owner's Manual.

If the hill is not too steep and you have good footing, you may be able to walk the Sportrax back down the hill. Make sure your intended path is clear in case you lose control of the Sportrax.

If you decide you can walk the Sportrax safely:

1. Stand with your body facing downhill, beside the vehicle so you can reach the front brake lever with your left hand (See Fig. 3-14).
2. Be sure your legs are clear of the wheels.
3. Check your footing.
4. Then slowly and carefully back the Sportrax down the hill using the front brake lever to control speed.
5. If you lose control of the Sportrax, for your safety, get away from the vehicle.

If the hill is too steep or too slippery, or if you have any doubt whether you can safely walk the Sportrax back down the hill, leave the vehicle where it is and get help. If possible, block the wheels so the vehicle won't roll backwards.

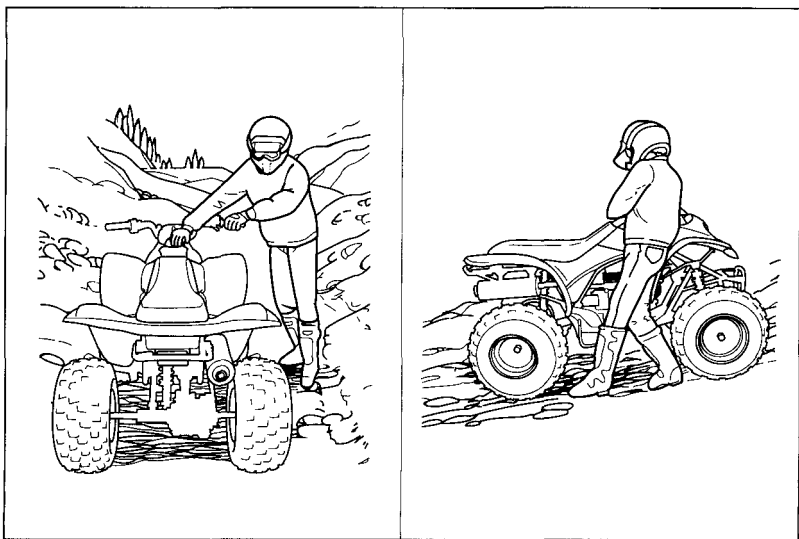


Fig. 3-14 Be sure your legs are clear of the wheels.

Body position for backing down a hill.

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

RIDING DOWN HILLS

It's usually advisable to descend hills with the Sportrax pointed straight downhill. Avoid angles that would cause the vehicle to lean sharply to one side.

As you approach a downhill, stop and survey the terrain below. Never ride past the limit of your visibility.

When you've selected a safe downhill path, shift into a lower gear, shift your weight back with your arms extended and braced against the handlebars, then go down slowly with the throttle closed.

Use mainly the rear brake to control speed. Avoid using the front brake hard or abruptly when riding down hills. Remember, braking effectiveness is reduced on any hill with a loose surface.

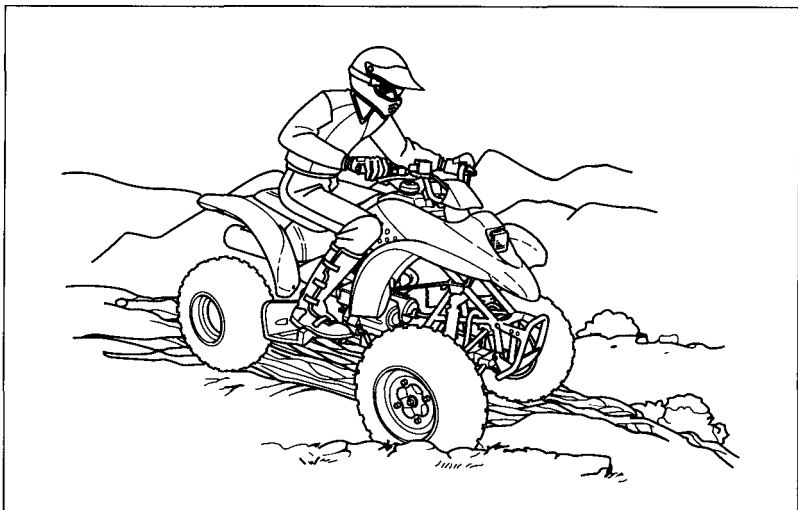


Fig. 3-15

On downhills, shift your weight back.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Going down a hill improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of control or cause ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always follow proper procedures for going down hills as described in this Owner's Manual.

Note: a special technique is required when braking as you go down a hill.

Always 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.

CROSSING SLOPES

To maintain balance and stability when riding across a slope, you need to shift weight toward the uphill side of the vehicle. To do this, move your body off the center of the seat and lean toward the uphill side. On a slippery or loose surface, you may also need to steer slightly uphill to maintain a straight course across the slope. Avoid crossing hills that are excessively steep, slippery or rough.

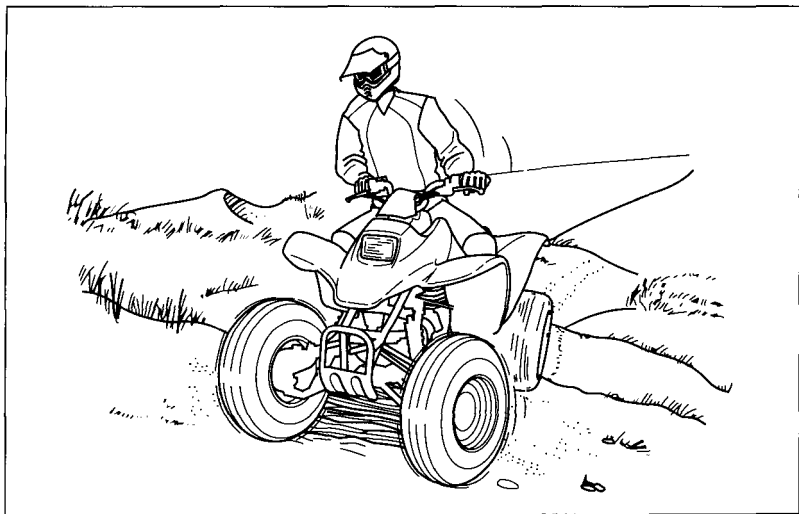


Fig. 3-16

Shift weight uphill when crossing slopes.

MAKING TURNS ON SLOPES

Compared to riding on level ground, you may need to shift more weight and lean more when making turns on slopes. Do not make turns on any slopes until you have first mastered the techniques for making turns on level terrain.

Begin by practicing turning on gentle, smooth slopes before attempting turns on steeper or more difficult terrain. Avoid making turns on very steep, rough or slippery hills.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Improperly crossing hills or turning on hills.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of control or cause ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never attempt to turn the ATV around on any hill until you have mastered the turning technique as described in this Owner's Manual on level ground.

Be very careful when turning on any hill.

Avoid crossing the side of a steep hill if possible.

When crossing the side of a hill:

Always follow proper procedures as described in this Owner's Manual.

Avoid hills with excessively slippery or loose surfaces.

Shift your weight to the uphill side of the ATV.

RIDING OVER OBSTACLES

Watch out for bumps, rain ruts, potholes and other obstacles in the terrain. When you approach any obstacle, reduce your speed and be prepared to stop.

Never try to ride over large obstacles, such as large rocks or fallen logs.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Improperly operating over obstacles.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Could cause loss of control or a collision. Could cause the ATV to overturn.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Before operating in a new area, check for obstacles.

Never attempt to ride over large obstacles, such as large rocks or fallen trees.

When you go over obstacles, always follow proper procedures as described in this Owner's Manual.

RIDING THROUGH WATER

Your Sportrax is designed to travel through water up to approximately 10 inches deep. Before crossing a stream, make sure the water is not too deep or flowing too fast.

Choose a path where both banks have gradual slopes, then proceed through the water at a slow, steady speed. Watch out for submerged obstacles and slippery rocks. Avoid getting the spark plug or air cleaner wet, as this would cause the engine to stop.

After riding through water, the brakes may be less effective than normal. Test the brakes after traveling through any water, and if necessary, apply the brakes repeatedly until the heat of friction has dried them, and the brakes regain their normal effectiveness.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV through deep or fast flowing water.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN


Tires may float, causing loss of traction and loss of control, which could lead to an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never operate this ATV in fast flowing water or in water deeper than that specified in this Owner's 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 pads.

PARKING

Always choose a level place to park. After bringing your Sportrax to a stop, hold the brakes while you shift into neutral. Then set the parking brake and turn the ignition switch OFF (). If you're through riding for the day, also turn the fuel valve OFF.

While reading this manual, remember:

WARNING

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

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

EMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) requires that your Sportrax comply with *applicable exhaust emissions standards* during its useful life, when operated and maintained according to the instructions provided.

The Vehicle Emission Control Information Label (1) is attached on the right side of the frame below the front fender.

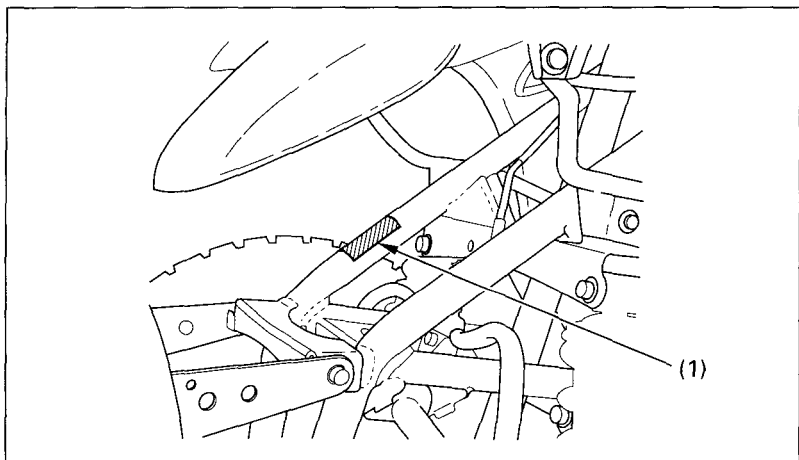


Fig. 3-17

(1) Vehicle Emission Control Information Label

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

		FREQUENCY ITEMS	Whichever comes first ⇨	INITIAL MAINTENANCE	REGULAR MAINTENANCE INTERVAL			Refer to page
					mi	600	1200	
					km	150	1000	
			NOTE	HOURS	20	100	200	
EMISSION RELATED ITEMS	*	FUEL LINE					I	—
	*	THROTTLE OPERATION					I	86
	*	CARBURETOR CHOKE					I	91
		AIR CLEANER	(NOTE 1)			C	C	87–89
		AIR CLEANER HOUSING DRAIN TUBE	(NOTE 2)			I	I	90
		SPARK PLUG				I	I	99
	*	VALVE CLEARANCE			I	I	I	100
		ENGINE OIL			R	R	R	26,94–97
	**	ENGINE OIL STRAINER SCREEN					C	—
	**	ENGINE OIL CENTRIFUGAL FILTER					C	—
	*	ENGINE IDLE SPEED				I	I	92

I: Inspect and Clean, Adjust,
Lubricate or Replace if necessary.

C: Clean R: Replace

A: Adjust L: Lubricate

		FREQUENCY ITEMS	Whichever comes first	INITIAL	REGULAR		Refer to page		
			⇒	MAINTENANCE		MAINTENANCE INTERVAL			
				mi	100	600		1200	
				km	150	1000		2000	
		NOTE	HOURS	20	100	200			
NON EMISSION RELATED ITEMS		REAR FINAL GEAR CASE OIL				(R: EVERY 2 YEARS)	I	98	
	*	BRAKE FLUID	(NOTE 3)				I	I	108
	*	BRAKE SHOE WEAR	(NOTE 1)					I	113
	*	BRAKE PAD WEAR	(NOTE 1,2)					I	109
		BRAKE SYSTEM				I	I	I	107 – 114
	*	REVERSE LOCK SYSTEM				I	I	I	102
		SKID PLATES, ENGINE GUARD					I	I	121
	*	CLUTCH SYSTEM				I	I	I	101
	*	SUSPENSION					I	I	—
	*	SPARK ARRESTER					C	C	122
	*	NUTS, BOLTS, FASTENERS				I		I	—
	**	WHEELS/TIRES				I	I	I	115 – 119
	**	STEERING SHAFT HOLDER BEARINGS						I	—
	**	STEERING SYSTEM						I	—

* Should be serviced by your authorized Honda dealer, unless the owner has proper tools and service data and is mechanically qualified. Refer to the official Honda service manual.

** In the interest of safety, we recommend these items be serviced only by your authorized Honda dealer.

- NOTES:
1. Service more frequently when riding in dusty areas, sand or snow.
 2. Service more frequently after riding in very wet or muddy conditions.
 3. Replace every 2 years. Replacement requires mechanical skill.

MAINTENANCE PRECAUTIONS

Before beginning any maintenance or repairs, read the appropriate instructions and warnings and make sure you have all the tools and materials you will need.

Choose a clean area that is level and has good ventilation and good light. Make sure the engine is off unless otherwise instructed. If you need to replace any parts, remember to use only new genuine Honda parts or their equivalents.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Failure to properly maintain the ATV.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Increases the possibility of an accident or equipment damage.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

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

Use only genuine Honda replacement parts or parts of equivalent quality.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Performing maintenance operations with the engine running.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Increases the chances of injury from moving parts or hot surfaces.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Unless otherwise stated, always turn the engine off before performing any maintenance operations.

TOOL KIT

A tool kit (Fig. 4-1) is provided with your Sportrax and stored in the storage box under the seat.

The tools in the kit are sufficient to perform routine maintenance and simple repairs. Any extensive work requiring additional tools should be performed by your authorized Honda dealer.

The tool kit includes the following items:

- * Standard/Phillips screwdriver
- * Spark plug wrench
- * Screwdriver handle
- * Tool case
- * Air pressure gauge

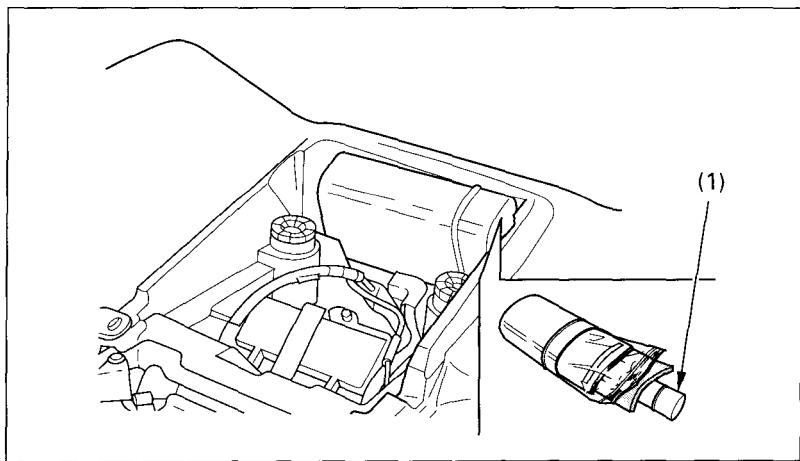


Fig. 4-1

(1) Tool kit

FUEL SYSTEM

FUEL

Refueling

The fuel tank capacity, including reserve, is:

2.69 US gal (10.2 ℓ , 2.24 Imp gal)

The reserve fuel supply is:

0.66 US gal (2.5 ℓ , 0.55 Imp gal)

To open the fuel fill cap (1), pull out the breather tube (2) from the handle cover hole (3). Then turn the fuel fill cap counterclockwise.

Do not overfill (make sure there is no fuel in the filler neck (4)).

After refueling, be sure to tighten the fuel fill cap firmly by turning it clockwise until it clicks.

Insert the breather tube into the handle cover hole.

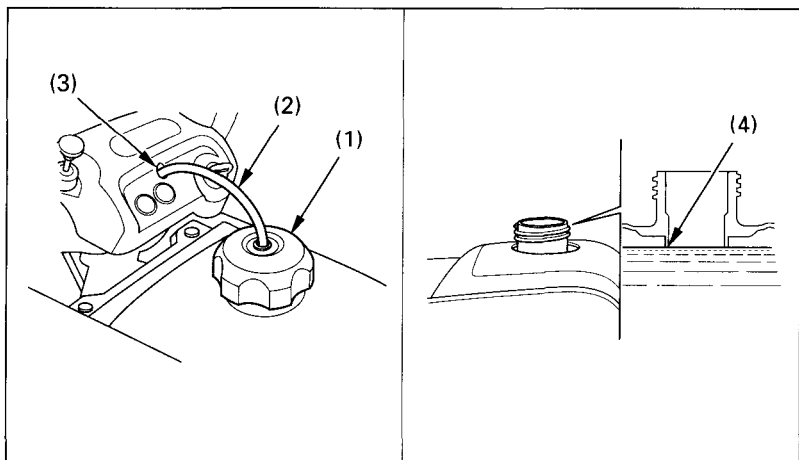


Fig. 4-2

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

- (4) Filler neck

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Refueling this ATV or handling fuel improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel could explode or ignite.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always refuel this ATV and handle fuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine off. Do not smoke or allow flames or sparks in the area where fuel is handled.

Do not overfill the tank. Be careful not to spill fuel when refueling. After refueling, make sure the fuel fill cap is closed properly and securely.

If any fuel is spilled, make sure the area is dry before starting the engine.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Prolonged contact of fuel with the skin.
Breathing fuel vapor.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel can cause skin irritation.
Fuel vapor could cause lung damage.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Avoid repeated or prolonged contact of fuel with the skin or breathing of fuel vapor.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

Fuel Recommendations

Your engine is designed to use any gasoline that has a pump octane number of 86 or higher. (Gasoline pumps at service stations normally display the pump octane number.)

Use unleaded fuel only because it produces fewer engine and spark plug deposits and extends the life of the exhaust system. Never use stale or contaminated gasoline or an oil/gasoline mixture. Avoid getting dirt, dust or water in the fuel tank.

Using a lower octane than recommended can cause persistent “pinging” or heavy “spark knock” (a metallic rapping noise). If severe, these can lead to engine damage.

CAUTION:

If “spark knock” or “pinging” occurs at a steady engine speed under normal load, change brands of gasoline. If spark knock or pinging persists, consult your authorized Honda dealer. Failure to do so is considered misuse, and damage caused by misuse is not covered by Honda’s Limited Warranty.

Oxygenated Fuels

Some conventional gasolines are being blended with alcohol or an ether compound. These gasolines are collectively referred to as oxygenated fuels. To meet clean air standards, some areas of the United States and Canada use oxygenated fuels to help reduce emissions.

If you use an oxygenated fuel, be sure it is unleaded and meets the minimum octane rating requirement.

Before using an oxygenated fuel, try to confirm the fuel's contents. Some states/provinces require this information to be posted on the pump.

The following are the EPA approved percentages of oxygenates:

ETHANOL (ethyl or grain alcohol) 10 % by Volume

You may use gasoline containing up to 10 % ethanol by volume. Gasoline containing ethanol may be marketed under the name "Gasohol".

MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) 15 % by Volume

You may use gasoline containing up to 15 % MTBE by volume.

METHANOL (methyl or wood alcohol) 5 % by Volume

You may use gasoline containing up to 5 % methanol by volume as long as it also contains cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors to protect the fuel system. Gasoline containing more than 5 % methanol by volume may cause starting and/or performance problems. It may also damage metal, rubber, and plastic parts of your fuel system.

If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms, try another service station or switch to another brand of gasoline.

Fuel system damage or performance problems resulting from the use of an oxygenated fuel containing more than the percentages of oxygenates mentioned above are not covered under warranty.

THROTTLE

Throttle Cable and Lever

Check the condition of the throttle cable and the operation of the throttle lever. Make sure the cable does not bind or interfere with smooth operation of the throttle in any steering position. If the cable is worn or kinked, have it replaced by your Honda dealer.

Throttle Free Play

Throttle free play, measured at the tip of the throttle lever (Fig. 4-3), should be:

1/8—5/16 in (3—8 mm)

To adjust throttle free play:

1. Slide the rubber sleeve (1) back to expose the throttle cable adjuster (2).
2. Loosen the lock nut (3), then turn the adjuster to obtain the correct free play.
3. Tighten the lock nut and reinstall the sleeve.

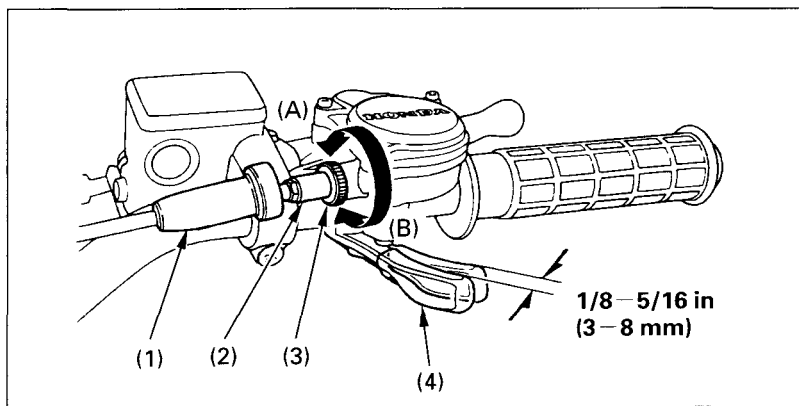


Fig. 4-3

- (1) Rubber sleeve
(2) Cable adjuster
(3) Lock nut

- (4) Throttle lever
(A) To decrease free play
(B) To increase free play

Other Checks

Check the throttle cable for kinks and signs of wear that could cause stretching or failure. Lubricate the throttle cable with a commercially available lubricant to prevent premature wear and corrosion.

AIR CLEANER

Air Cleaner Filter

The air cleaner accumulates dust and must be cleaned periodically. If the Sportrax is ridden in dusty areas, the air cleaner must be cleaned at more frequent intervals than specified in the Maintenance Schedule. If the Sportrax is submerged in water, the air cleaner should be checked and water should be drained from the air cleaner housing before starting the engine.

To clean the air cleaner:

1. Remove the seat by pulling up the seat lock lever (1) (Fig. 4-4).
2. Uncover the rubber sheet (2) from the retainer clips (3).
3. Unlatch the four retainer clips (3) and remove the air cleaner housing cover (4).

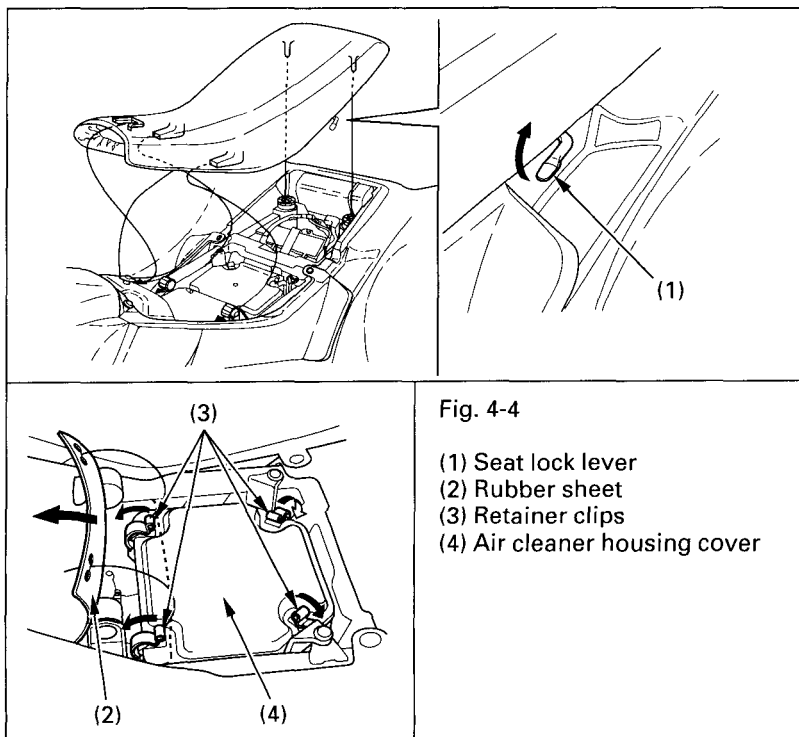


Fig. 4-4

- (1) Seat lock lever
- (2) Rubber sheet
- (3) Retainer clips
- (4) Air cleaner housing cover

4. Remove the screws (2) (Fig. 4-5) and remove the air cleaner assembly (1) from the air cleaner housing.
5. Unscrew the clamp (3).
6. Remove the air cleaner (4) from the air cleaner body (5).

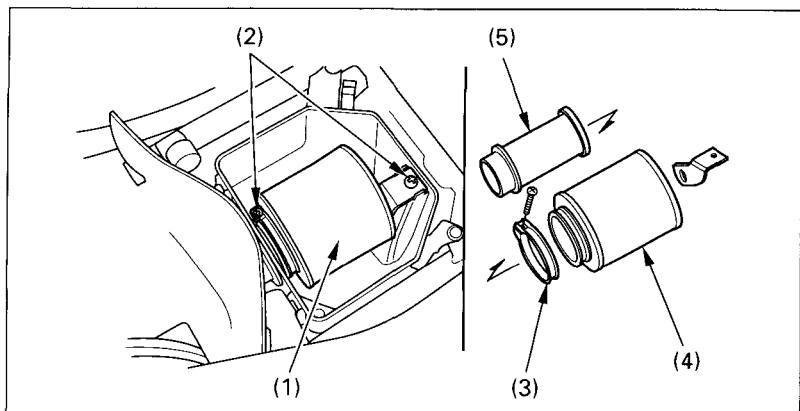


Fig. 4-5 (1) Air cleaner assembly (4) Air cleaner
 (2) Screws (5) Air cleaner body
 (3) Clamp

7. Gently wash the air cleaner in clean, non-flammable (high flash point) solvent such as kerosene – not gasoline. Allow the air cleaner to dry thoroughly before applying oil. A wet air cleaner will not fully absorb the oil.

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Using gasoline or low flash point solvents for cleaning ATV parts.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

A fire or explosion could result.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Use only a nonflammable or high flash point solvent to clean ATV parts.

7. Soak the air cleaner in Pro Honda Foam Filter Oil or an equivalent [Canadian Vehicles: gear oil (SAE 80–90)] until saturated, then squeeze out the excess oil.

CAUTION:

Twisting the air cleaner when squeezing out excess oil could damage the air cleaner.

8. Reassemble by reversing the disassembly sequence.

Dust Cover

Do not push the dust cover (1) (Fig. 4-6) into the air cleaner housing (2). If the dust cover is dirty, clean it.

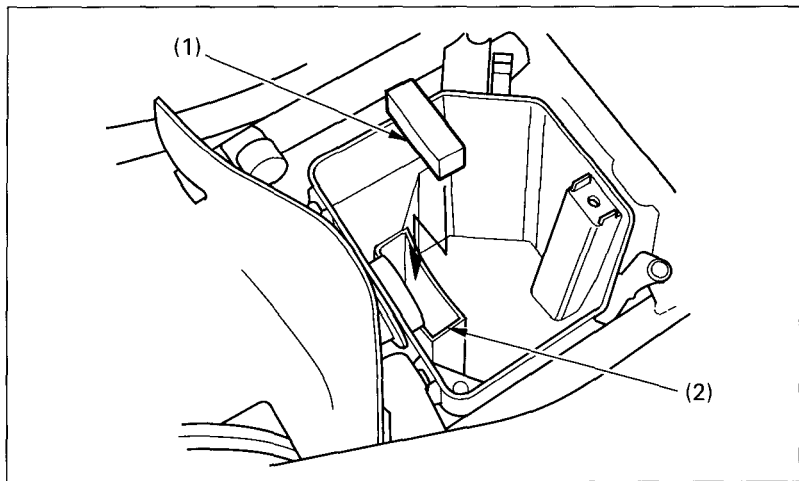


Fig. 4-6

- (1) Dust cover
(2) Air cleaner housing

Air Cleaner Housing Drain Tube

The air cleaner housing drain tube (Fig. 4-7) should be serviced in accordance with the Maintenance Schedule. (Riding through water may require more frequent inspection.) If deposits can be seen in the drain tube, the tube must be cleaned before starting the vehicle.

To clean the drain tube:

1. Remove the drain tube (1) by removing the clip (2).
2. Drain the deposits.
3. Reinstall the drain tube, securing it with the clip.

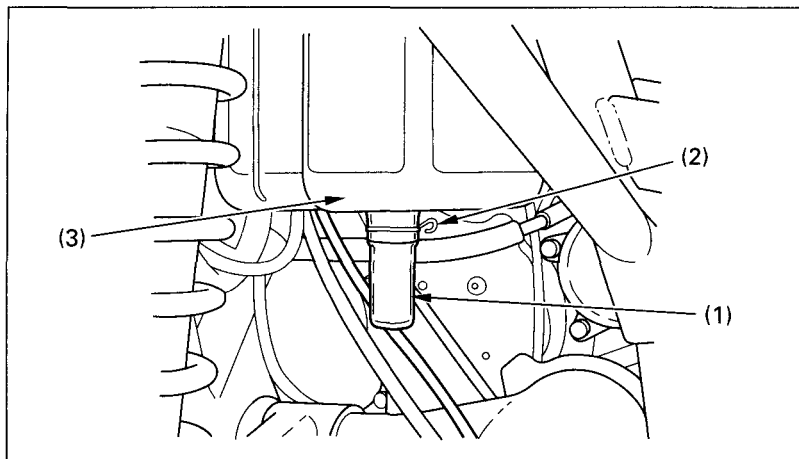


Fig. 4-7

(1) Drain tube
(2) Clip

(3) Air cleaner housing

Carburetor

Choke Cable and Knob

Check the condition of the choke cable (Fig. 4-8) and the operation of the choke knob (2). If the cable is damaged or kinked, have it replaced by your Honda dealer.

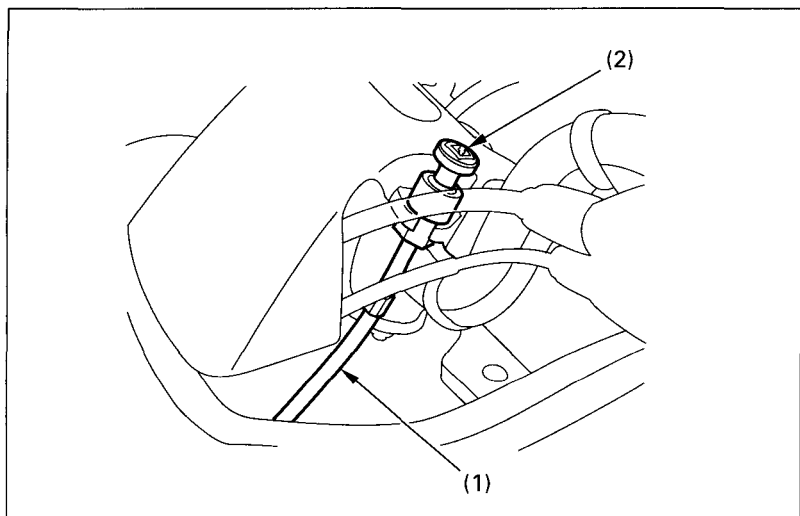


Fig. 4-8

(1) Choke cable

(2) Choke knob

Adjusting Idle Speed

NOTE:

Do not try to compensate for faults in other systems by adjusting the carburetor.

To adjust the idle speed:

1. Warm up the engine. The engine must be warm for accurate idle adjustment. Ten minutes of stop-and-go riding is sufficient.
2. Adjust idle speed by turning the throttle stop screw (Fig. 4-9).

Idle Speed:

$1,400 \pm 100$ rpm

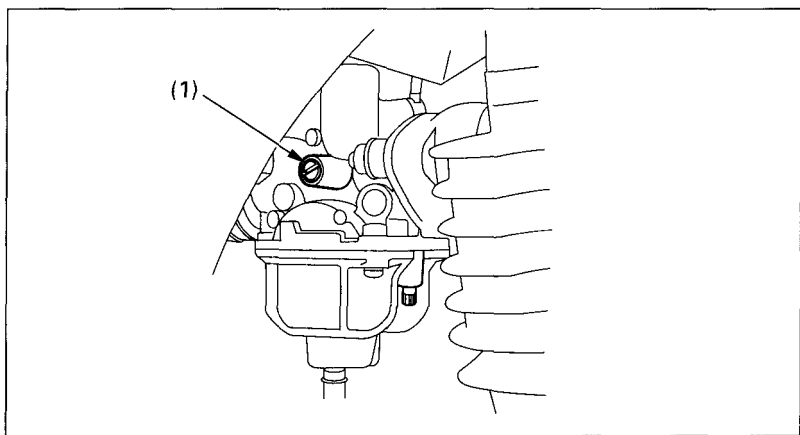


Fig. 4-9

(1) Throttle stop screw

High Altitude Adjustment

When operating this Sportrax at altitudes ranging above 3,000 feet (1,000 m), the air-fuel mixture becomes overly rich. This may result in poor engine performance and increased fuel consumption.

A high altitude jet is available to compensate for high altitude richness. For those who are mechanically proficient and have the necessary tools, installation and adjustment procedures are given in the official *Honda Service Manual* available from your Honda dealer. All others should have this carburetor modification performed by an authorized Honda dealer.

CAUTION:

Sustained operation with the high altitude jet at altitudes below 5,000 feet (1,500 m) may cause engine overheating and damage.

LUBRICATION

ENGINE OIL

Checking Engine Oil Level and Adding Oil

Check the engine oil level each day before operating your Sportrax and add oil if needed.

To check the oil level:

1. Make sure the vehicle is on level ground.
2. Start the engine in a well-ventilated area and let it idle for a few minutes.
3. Stop the engine.
4. After a few minutes, remove the oil filler cap/dipstick (Fig. 4-10) from the front crankcase cover and wipe it clean.
5. Insert the dipstick without screwing it in, then remove the dipstick and check the oil level. The oil level should be between the upper level mark (2) and the lower level mark (3) on the dipstick.
6. If required, add the specified oil into the filler cap hole, up to the upper level mark on the dipstick. Do not overfill.
7. Reinstall the oil filler cap/dipstick.

CAUTION:

Running the engine with improper oil level can cause serious engine damage.

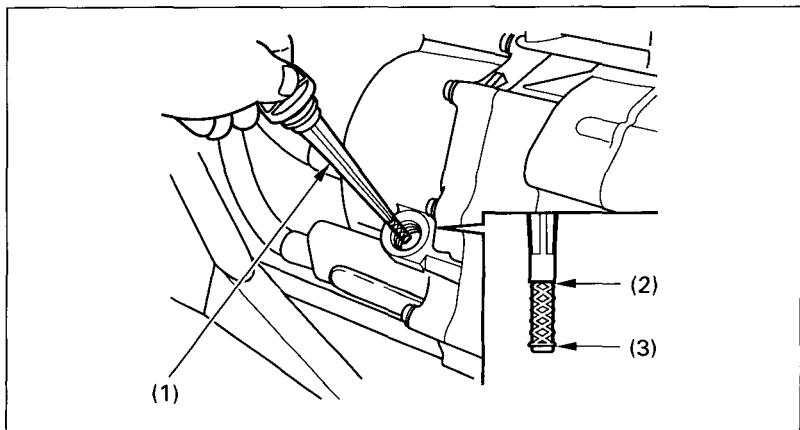


Fig. 4-10 (1) Oil filler cap/dipstick

(2) Upper level mark
(3) Lower level mark

Engine Oil Recommendations

Recommended Oil Viscosity: SAE 10W-40. Other viscosities shown in Fig. 4-11 may be used when the average temperature in your riding area is within the indicated range.

USE PRO HONDA GN4 4-STROKE OIL OR AN EQUIVALENT.

For Canada:

USE HONDA 4-STROKE OIL OR AN EQUIVALENT.

Do not use oils with graphite or molybdenum additives. They may adversely affect clutch operation.

Use only high detergent, premium quality motor oil certified to meet API Service Classification SF or SG. Motor oils intended for Service SF or SG will show this designation on the container. The use of special oil additives is unnecessary and will only increase operating expenses.

NOTE:

- * Engine oil is a major factor affecting the performance and service life of the engine. Nondetergent, vegetable, or castor based racing oils are not recommended.

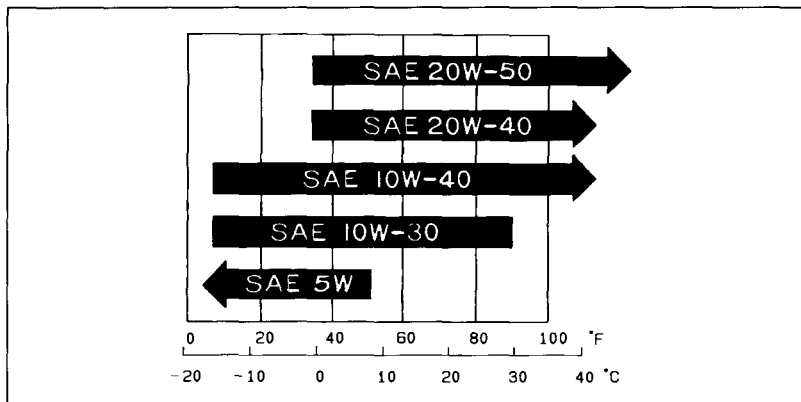


Fig. 4-11

Recommended oil viscosities

Changing the Engine Oil

Engine oil should be changed in accordance with the Maintenance Schedule. Use motor oils of the grade and viscosity recommended.

When changing oil, drain the oil from the crankcase while the engine is still warm. This will ensure complete and rapid draining.

To change the oil:

1. With the Sportrax on level ground, remove the oil filler cap/dipstick from the right crankcase cover (Fig. 4-10).
2. Place an oil drain pan under the crankcase and remove the oil drain plug (Fig. 4-12).

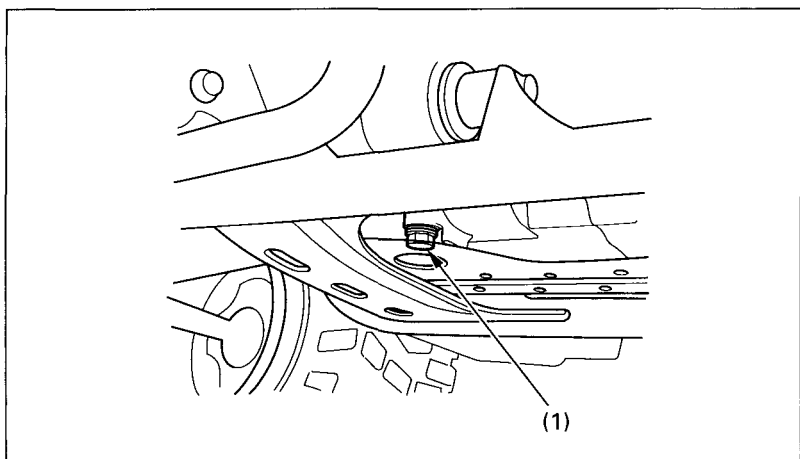


Fig. 4-12

(1) Oil drain plug

3. Check that the drain plug sealing washer is in good condition, then reinstall the oil drain plug securely. If necessary, replace the sealing washer.
Oil drain plug torque:
18 lbf-ft (25 N·m , 2.5 kgf-m)
4. Fill the crankcase with the recommended oil approximately:
1.7 US qt (1.6 ℓ , 1.4 Imp qt)
5. Reinstall the oil filler cap/dipstick.
6. Start the engine and let it idle for a few minutes.
7. Stop the engine and check the oil level. Make sure the oil is between the upper and lower level marks on the dipstick.
If necessary, add more oil but do not overfill.

CAUTION:

Running the engine with improper oil level can cause serious engine damage.

NOTE:

- * To protect the environment, please dispose of used engine oil properly. We suggest you place used oil in a sealed container and take it to your local service station for reclamation. Do not put it in the trash or pour it on the ground.
- * If a torque wrench was not used for installation, see your authorized Honda dealer before operating the vehicle to verify proper assembly.

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

REAR FINAL GEAR CASE OIL

Change the oil in the rear final gear case when specified by the Maintenance Schedule. Change the oil with the final gear case warm, and the Sportrax on level ground to assure complete and rapid draining.

To change the rear final gear case oil:

1. To drain the oil, first place an oil drain pan under the oil drain plug (Fig. 4-13).
2. Remove the oil filler cap (1) and the drain plug (2).
3. After the oil has completely drained, reinstall the drain plug.

Drain Plug Torque:

9 lbf·ft (12 N·m , 1.2 kgf·m)

4. Fill the gear case with the recommended oil.

Rear final gear case oil:

3.4 US oz (100 cm³, 3.5 Imp oz)

Recommended oil:

Honda shaft drive oil or equivalent HYPOID GEAR OIL SAE 80

Remove the oil level check bolt (3).

Make sure the oil level reaches the oil level check hole (4).

5. Install the oil filler cap and oil level check bolt.

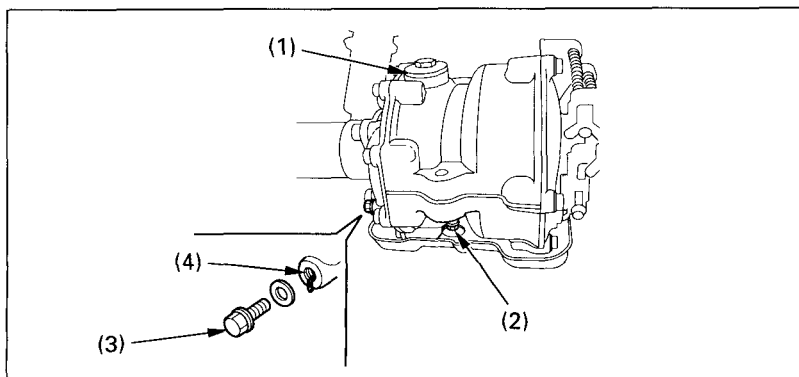


Fig. 4-13

(1) Oil filler cap
(2) Drain plug

(3) Oil level check bolt
(4) Lower edge of oil level
check hole

ENGINE

SPARK PLUG

The standard spark plug is: DPR8EA-9 (NGK)
or X24EPR-U9 (DENSO)
For cold climate (Below 5 °C, 41 °F): DPR7EA-9 (NGK)
or X22EPR-U9 (DENSO)

CAUTION:

Using a spark plug of incorrect size or heat range can cause serious engine damage.

To check and change the spark plug:

1. Disconnect the spark plug cap.
2. Clean any dirt from around the spark plug base.
3. Remove the plug with the wrench provided in the tool kit.
4. Visually inspect the spark plug electrodes for wear. The center electrode (Fig. 4-14) should have a flat tip and sharp edges, and the side electrode (2) should not be eroded. If the electrodes and insulator tip appear unusually fouled or burned, we suggest that you contact your authorized Honda dealer.
5. Discard the spark plug if there is apparent wear or if the insulator is cracked or chipped.
6. Using a wire-type feeler gauge, make sure that the spark plug gap is correct. If adjustment is necessary, bend the side electrode carefully.
The gap should be:
0.03—0.04 in (0.8—0.9 mm)
7. With the plug washer attached, thread the spark plug in by hand to prevent cross-threading.
8. After threading by hand, tighten a new spark plug 1/2 turn with the spark plug wrench to compress the washer. If you are reusing a plug, it should only take 1/8—1/4 turn after the plug seats.

CAUTION:

The spark plug must be securely tightened. An improperly tightened plug can become very hot and possibly damage the engine.

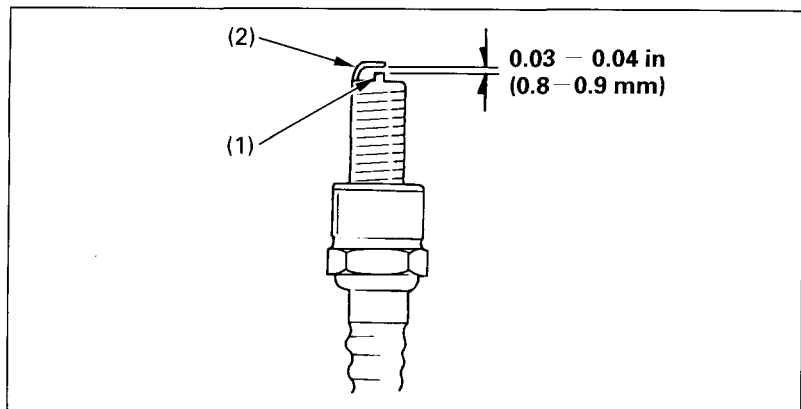


Fig. 4-14 (1) Center electrode (2) Side electrode

VALVES

Valve clearance should be:

0.005 in (0.13 mm)

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

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

CLUTCH

Clutch Adjustment

To adjust the clutch:

1. Make sure the ignition switch is OFF (○).
2. Loosen the lock nut (Fig. 4-15), and turn the clutch adjuster (2) counterclockwise until you feel slight resistance.
3. Then turn the adjuster 1/4 turn clockwise, and tighten the lock nut to hold the adjuster in this position.
4. After adjustment, start the engine and test ride the Sportrax to be sure the clutch is operating properly.

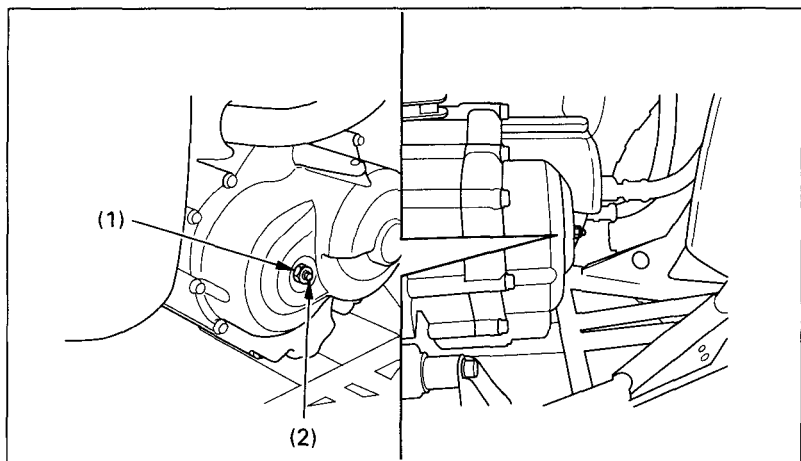


Fig. 4-15 (1) Lock nut

(2) Clutch adjuster

Reverse Lock System

Measure the reverse assist lever (2) free play. Free play, measured at the lever (2) end near the cable (Fig. 4-16), should be approximately:

1/16–3/16 in (2–4 mm)

To adjust, loosen the lock nut (3) and turn the adjusting nut (4). Tighten the lock nut securely.

Other Checks:

Check the reverse assist lever and cable for loose connections or other damage. If the cable is worn or kinked, have it replaced by your Honda dealer.

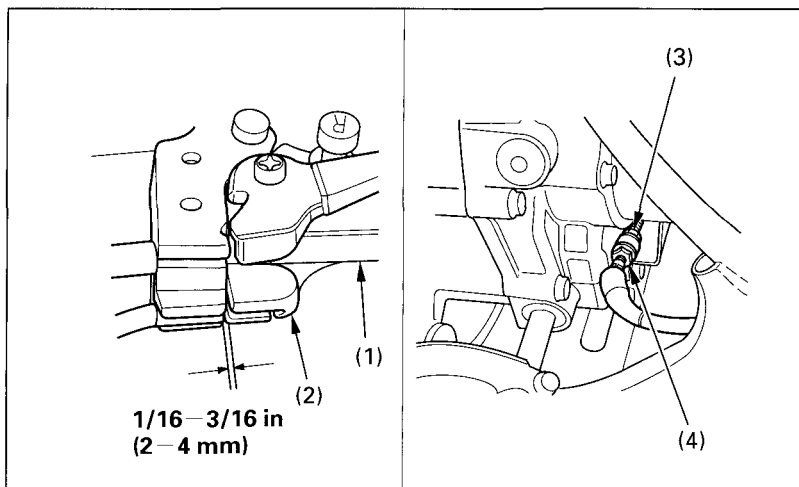


Fig. 4-16 (1) Rear brake lever
(2) Reverse assist lever

(3) Lock nut
(4) Adjusting nut

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

BATTERY

Your Sportrax battery is located in a compartment under the seat. The battery is sealed, so it is not necessary to check the electrolyte level or add distilled water. If the battery seems weak, see your authorized Honda dealer for information on recharging or replacement. If you replace the battery, choose one that is sealed and equivalent to the original. Be sure to read and follow all safety precautions indicated on the battery.

CAUTION:

Do not attempt to remove the caps from the battery cells as this may damage the battery.

Although the battery is sealed, it vents explosive gases and should be handled with appropriate care.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Allowing open flames or sparks near the battery.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Gases may explode and possibly cause injury.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Do not allow open flames or sparks near the battery.

When the Sportrax is to be stored for an extended period, remove the battery from the vehicle and charge it fully. Then store it in a cool, dry place. If the battery is to be left on the vehicle, disconnect the negative cable from the battery terminal.

WARNING: Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds. **Wash hands after handling.**

Battery Removal

1. Make sure the ignition switch is OFF (○).
2. Remove the seat (page 120).
3. Remove the battery holder (1), (Fig. 4-17) by removing the mount bolts (2).
4. Disconnect the negative (-) terminal lead (3) from the battery (4) first, then disconnect the positive (+) terminal lead (5).
5. Remove the battery.
 - * Install in the reverse order of removal.
 - * Check all bolts and other fasteners are secure.
 - * After installing the battery, check to see if the battery cables are routed correctly.

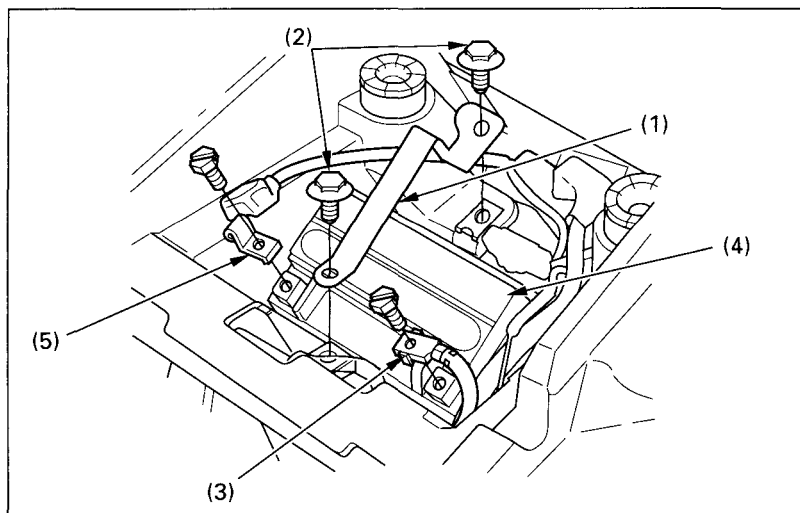


Fig. 4-17

(1) Battery holder
(2) Mount bolt

(3) Negative (-) terminal lead
(4) Battery
(5) Positive (+) terminal lead

FUSE

As illustrated in Fig. 4-18, the fuse (2) is located in the battery compartment.

A spare fuse is located in the storage box under the seat (page 28).

The specified fuse is:

15 A

If a fuse fails frequently, it usually indicates a short circuit or an overload in the electrical system. See your authorized Honda dealer for repair.

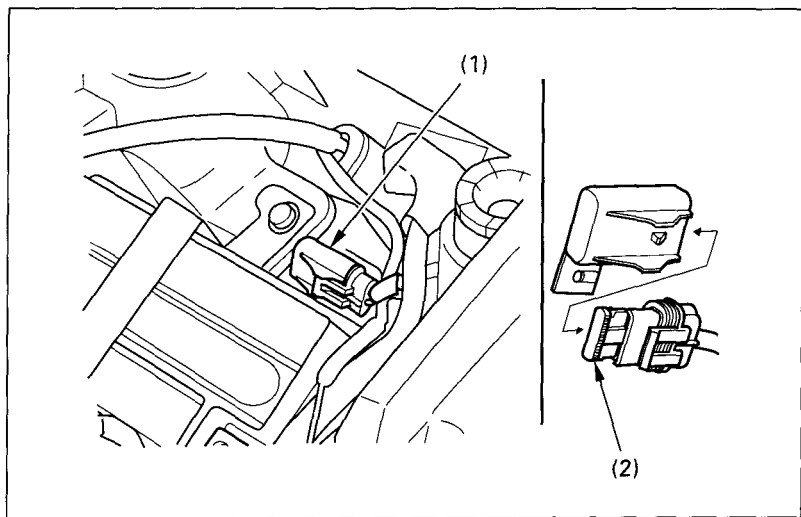


Fig. 4-18

(1) Fuse holder assembly

(2) Fuse

To replace a fuse:

1. Make sure the ignition switch is OFF (○).

CAUTION:

Turn the ignition switch OFF (○) before checking or replacing the fuse to prevent accidental short-circuiting which could damage the electrical system.

2. Remove the seat (page 120).
3. Remove the fuse holder assembly (Fig. 4-18).
4. Pull the old fuse out of the fuse holder.
5. Push the new fuse in to the fuse holder.
6. Install the fuse holder assembly and seat.

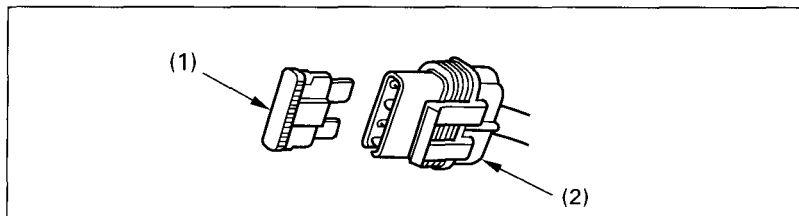


Fig. 4-19 (1) Fuse

(2) Fuse holder

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Improperly replacing a fuse.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Serious damage to the electrical system, which could cause a fire or a loss of lights or engine power, which could lead to an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Never use a fuse with a different rating from that specified in this Owner's Manual.

Do not pry the clips open to get a fuse out, as a loose fuse could cause damage to the electrical system or start a fire.

BRAKES

Front Brakes

This Sportrax has front hydraulic disc brakes.

As the brake pads wear, brake fluid level drops, automatically compensating for wear.

There are no adjustments to perform, but fluid level and pad wear must be inspected periodically. The system must be inspected frequently to ensure there are no fluid leaks.

NOTE:

If the brake lever travel become excessive and the brake pads are not worn beyond the recommended limit (page 109), there is probably air in the brake system and it must be bled. See your authorized Honda dealer for this service.

CAUTION:

- * To prevent damage to the brake system, use only fluid from a sealed container. Never allow contaminants (dirt, water, etc.) to enter the brake fluid reservoir.**
- * Brake fluid can damage paint and plastic, so handle the fluid with care. When adding brake fluid, be sure the reservoir is horizontal before removing the cover to prevent accidental spilling.**
- * Use only DOT 4 brake fluid from a sealed container.**

Brake Fluid Level:

Check if the fluid level is below the lower level mark (1) through the inspection window (2).

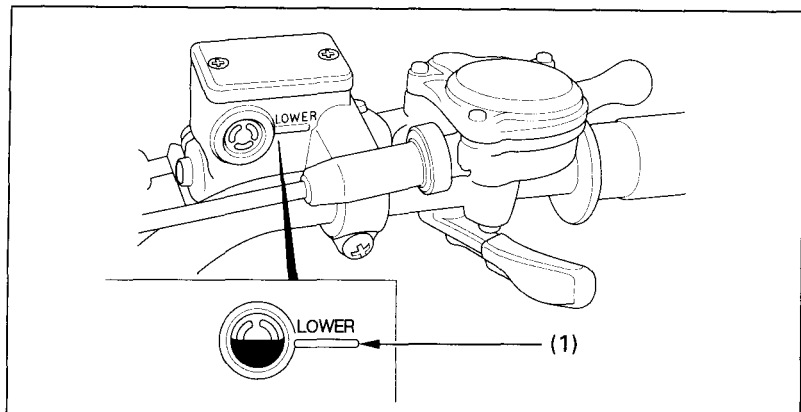


Fig. 4-20 (1) Lower level mark

(2) Inspection window

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Brake fluid contacting the skin or eyes.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

May cause irritation.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Avoid contacting brake fluid with the skin or eyes. In case of contact, flush thoroughly with water and call a doctor if your eyes were exposed.

Brake Pads:

Brake pad wear will depend upon the severity of usage and riding conditions. The pads will wear faster in wet or muddy conditions. **Inspect the pads visually during all regular service intervals to determine the pad wear.**

1. Brake pads—If the wear indicator (1) aligns with the edge of the reference mark (2), both pads must be replaced, see your authorized Honda dealer for this replacement.

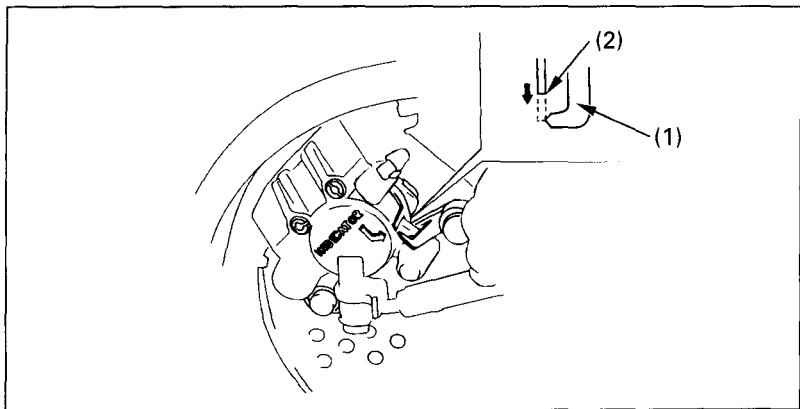


Fig. 4-21 (1) Wear indicator

(2) Edge of reference mark

Other Checks:

1. Make sure there are no fluid leaks.
2. Check the condition of brake hoses and fittings. If the hoses are worn or cracked, have them replaced by an authorized Honda dealer.

Rear Brake

This Sportrax has a single mechanical drum brake on the rear axle housing. Each day before riding you should check the operation of both the rear brake pedal and the rear brake lever. You should also periodically check the brake shoes for wear.

To check and adjust brake pedal free play:

Measure the distance the rear brake pedal moves before the brake starts to take hold. Free play, measured at the end of the pedal (Fig. 4-22), should be:

9/16 – 13/16 in (15 – 20 mm)

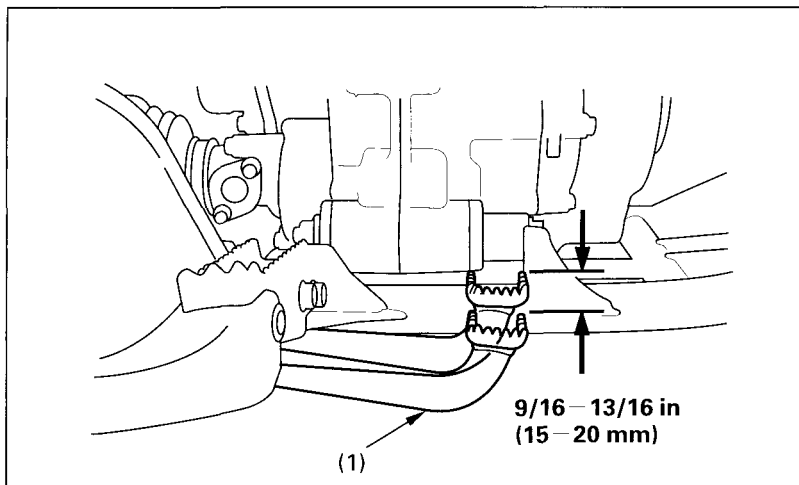


Fig. 4-22

(1) Rear brake pedal

To adjust the free play, turn the brake pedal adjusting nut (1), (Fig. 4-23), located on the brake operating rod at the rear of the frame. Make sure the cut-out on the adjusting nut is properly seated on the brake arm pin (3).

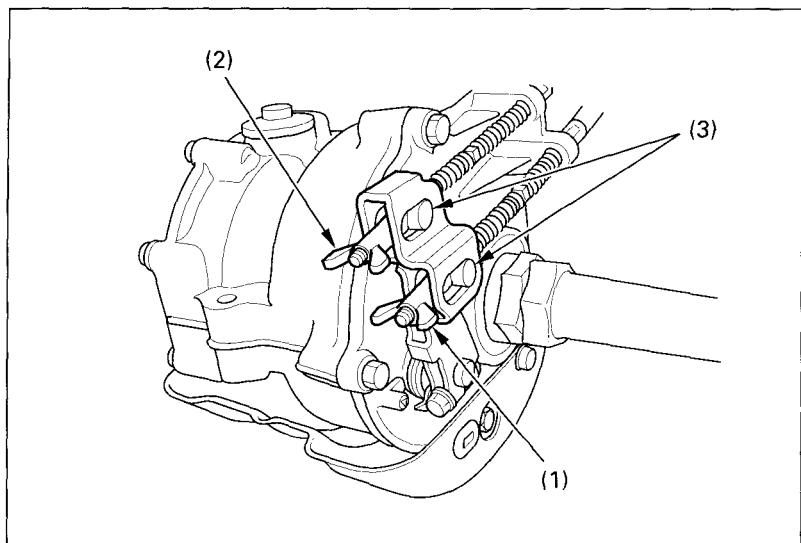


Fig. 4-23

(1) Brake pedal adjusting nut
(2) Brake lever adjusting nut

(3) Brake arm pin

To check and adjust brake lever free play:

Measure the distance the rear brake lever moves before the brake starts to take hold. Free play, measured at the tip of the brake lever (Fig. 4-24), should be:

9/16 – 13/16 in (15 – 20 mm)

To adjust the free play, turn the brake lever adjusting nut (2), (Fig. 4-23), located on the brake operating rod at the rear of the frame. Make sure the cut-out on the adjusting nut is properly seated on the brake arm pin (3).

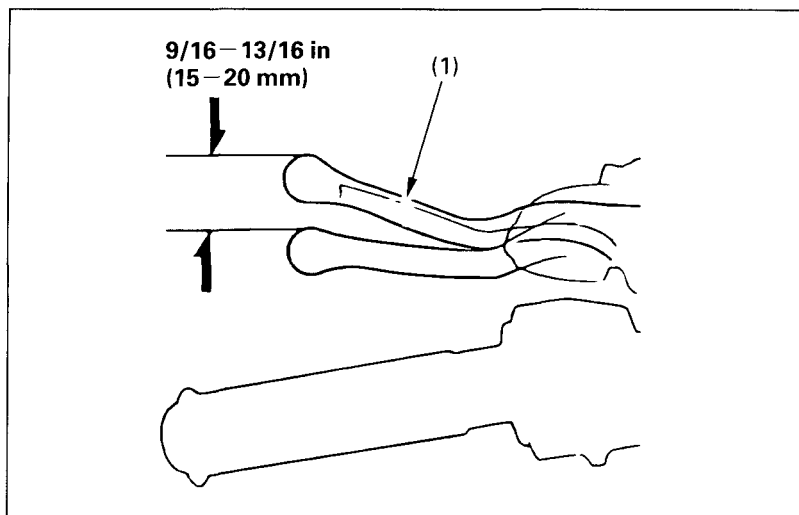


Fig. 4-24

(1) Brake lever

DRAINING WATER FROM BRAKE

Make sure the engine is off and the parking brake is set. Then remove the drain bolt (Fig. 4-26) from the bottom of the rear brake cover. If any water drains, the brake seals must be replaced by your Honda dealer as soon as possible.

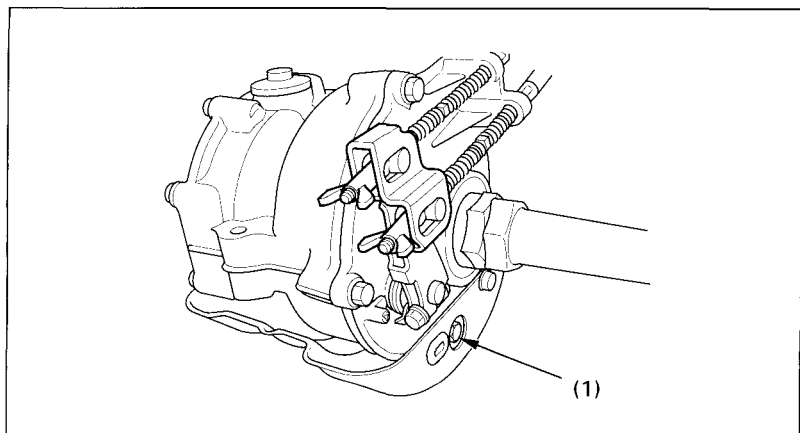


Fig. 4-26

(1) Rear brake drain bolt

WHEELS AND TIRES

WHEEL REMOVAL

If you need to remove a wheel from your Sportrax, follow these procedures:

1. Raise the front (or rear) wheels off the ground and place a support securely under the vehicle.
2. Loosen the wheel nuts (Fig. 4-27) with a 17 mm socket wrench.
3. Remove the wheel.

When reinstalling a wheel, tighten the wheel nuts in a crisscross (rather than a circular) pattern.

Wheel nuts torque:

47 lbf·ft (64 N·m , 6.5 kgf·m)

Be sure the tapered side of the wheel nuts face the wheel rim (2).

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Installing wheels improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

A wheel may come loose, possibly leading to an accident.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Carefully follow the instructions in this Owner's Manual when installing wheels.

NOTE:

If a torque wrench was not used for installation, see your authorized Honda dealer before operating the vehicle to verify proper assembly.

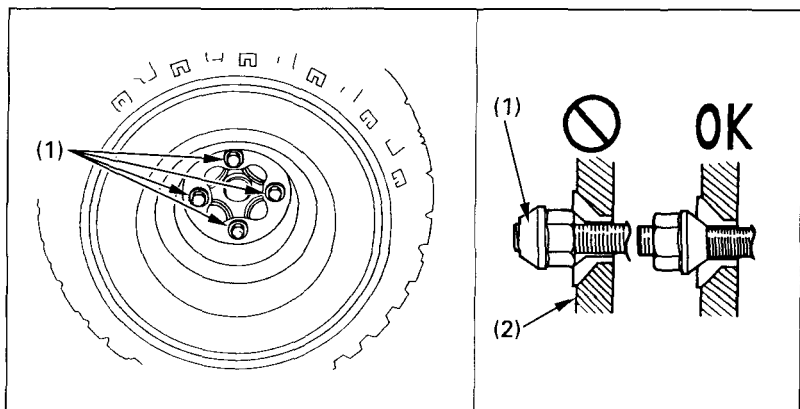


Fig. 4-27 (1) Wheel nuts

(2) Wheel rim

TIRES

This Sportrax is equipped with low pressure tubeless tires. Although the tires are designed specifically for off-road use, they are not immune to punctures. Always select your riding area with care.

Tire Pressure

Check the tire pressure frequently with the tire pressure gauge supplied with the vehicle. For normal use, the tires should be inflated to the pressure recommended in Fig. 4-28.

NOTE:

- * Tire pressure should be checked before you ride, when the tires are "cold." Be sure to check tire pressure at the riding site, since changes in altitude can affect air pressure.

* A manually operated tire pump should be used rather than the high pressure systems found in service stations. This will minimize the possibility of tire damage from overinflation. If you use a high pressure system at a service station, add air in small amounts and check the pressure increase frequently to prevent possible tire damage from overinflation.

	FRONT	REAR
TIRE SIZE	AT22 × 7-10 ★★	AT22 × 10-9 ★
TIRE BRAND	KT171 DUNLOP	KT175 DUNLOP
RECOMMENDED PRESSURE	4.4 psi (30 kPa , 0.30 kgf/cm ²)	2.9 psi (20 kPa , 0.20 kgf/cm ²)
MAXIMUM PRESSURE	5.0 psi (34 kPa , 0.34 kgf/cm ²)	3.3 psi (23 kPa , 0.23 kgf/cm ²)
MINIMUM PRESSURE	3.8 psi (26 kPa , 0.26 kgf/cm ²)	2.5 psi (17 kPa , 0.17 kgf/cm ²)

Fig. 4-28

Tire specifications

⚠ WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Operating this ATV with improper tires, or with 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 this Owner's Manual for this vehicle.

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

Tire Tread Condition

To check the condition of a tire tread, measure the groove depth (1) (Fig. 4-29) in the center of the tire, or check the wear indicator (2).

The minimum tread depth is 3/16 in (4 mm). When the tread depth is less than recommended, the tire should be replaced.

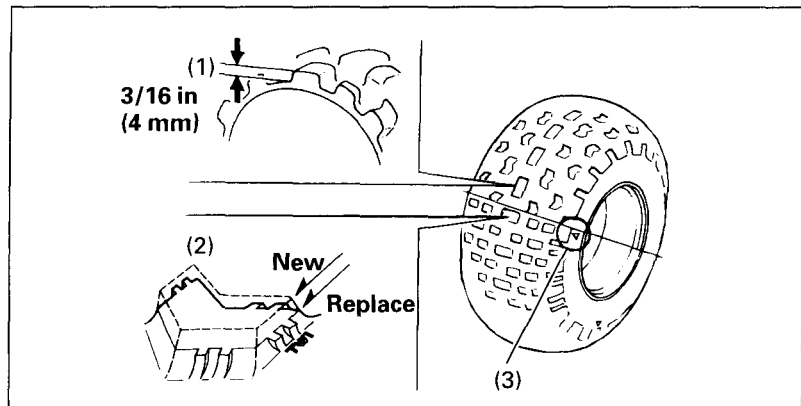


Fig. 4-29

(1) Groove depth
(2) Wear indicator

(3) Wear indicator
location mark

Repairing a Flat Tire

If you have a flat tire, use the plug method to make a temporary repair. (The plug method is applied from the outside of the tire and is the same as that for conventional tubeless tires.)

A plug-type repair kit, available at most auto parts stores or service stations, provides a plug, an installation tool, tire cement, and an instruction sheet. Follow the instructions provided with the repair kit to make a temporary repair.

As soon as possible, have the tire permanently repaired by an authorized Honda dealer. Any tire that cannot be repaired should be replaced.

Whenever the Sportrax is to be operated far from service facilities or available transportation, we recommend that you carry a tire pump and a repair kit with the vehicle.

SEAT REMOVAL

To remove the seat (Fig. 4-30), pull up the seat lock lever (1) at the left side of the seat and lift it up.

To install the seat, align the tabs on the seat with the grommets on the frame and press the seat down until it locks.

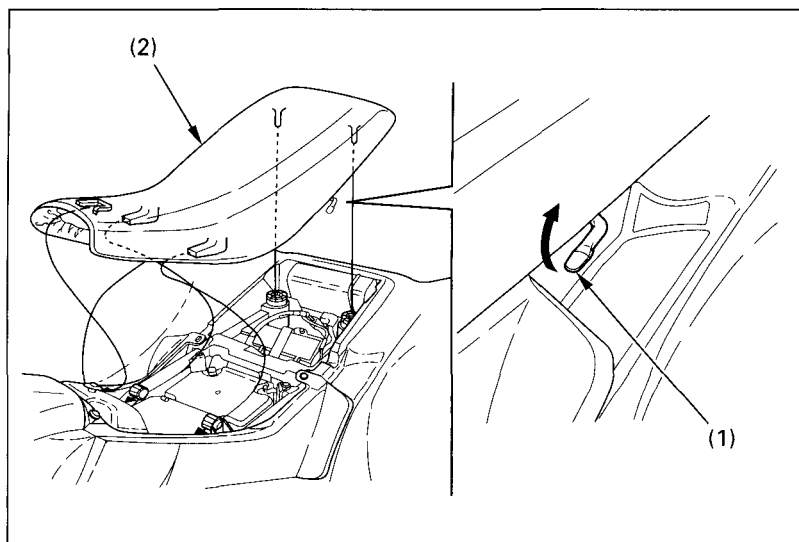


Fig. 4-30 (1) Seat lock lever

(2) Seat

ENGINE GUARD AND SKID PLATES

The engine guard (Fig. 4-31) protects the engine crankcase.

The skid plates (2) protect the frame and rear final gear case. Check the guard and plates for cracks, damage or looseness at intervals shown in the Maintenance Schedule (page 84–85).

Replace the guard and plates with new ones if they are cracked or damaged. If the guard and plate bolts are loose, tighten them securely.

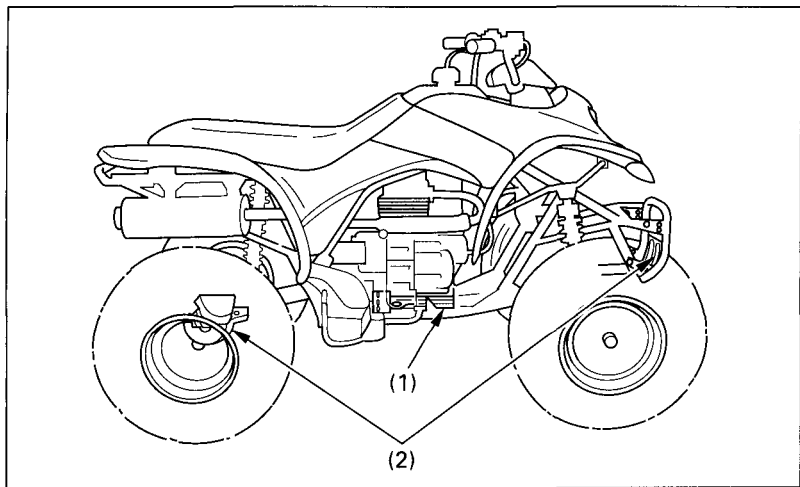


Fig. 4-31

(1) Engine guard

(2) Skid plates

SPARK ARRESTER

The spark arrester must be serviced every 100 operating hours to maintain its efficiency.

Regular servicing prevents carbon buildup (which can diminish engine performance) and also complies with USDA regulations for regular maintenance to assure proper function. The spark arrester prevents random sparks from the combustion process in your engine from reaching the environment.

To purge the system:

1. Allow the engine and muffler to cool.
2. Remove the three bolts (2), the spark arrester (1), and the gasket (3) from the muffler (4).

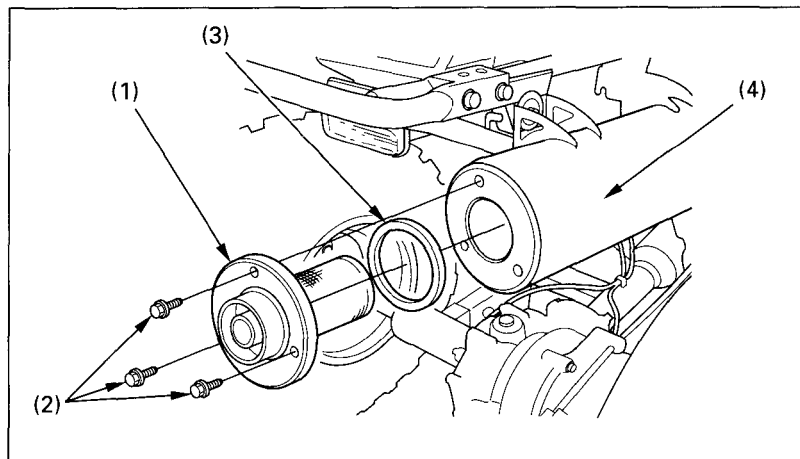


Fig. 4-32 (1) Spark arrester
(2) Bolts

(3) Gasket
(4) Muffler

3. Use a brush to remove carbon deposits from the spark arrester screen. Be careful to avoid damaging the spark arrester screen. The spark arrester must be free of breaks and holes. Replace, if necessary. Check the gasket. Replace, if necessary.

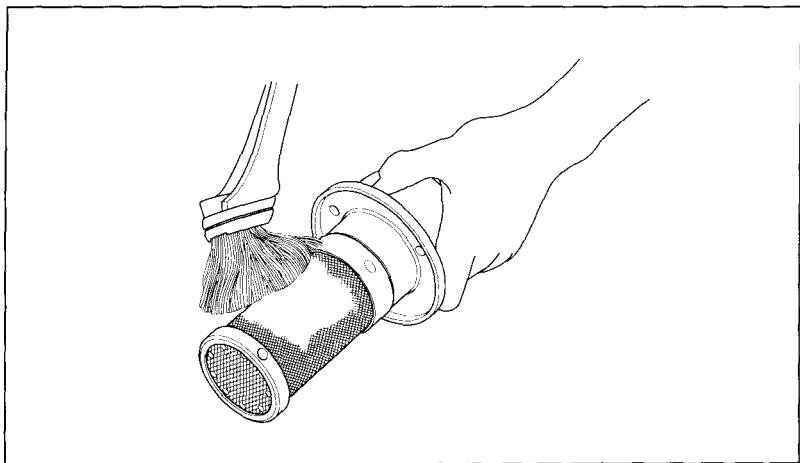


Fig. 4-33

4. Install the spark arrester and the gasket in the muffler and tighten the three bolts securely.

TRANSPORTING YOUR Sportrax

When you transport your Sportrax, we recommend that you carry the vehicle in its normal operating position (on all four wheels) and follow these procedures:

1. Set the parking brake and place the transmission in gear.
2. Turn the fuel valve OFF.
3. Secure the vehicle with "tie downs" in the areas shown (Fig. 4-34). Suitable "tie downs" are available from your Honda dealer. Ordinary rope is not recommended because it can stretch under load.

CAUTION:

Using tie downs in any other areas can damage your Sportrax.

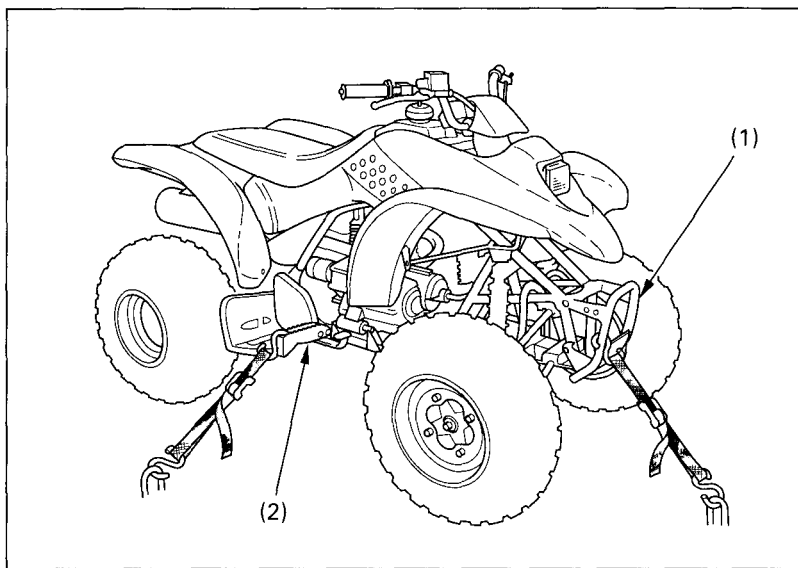


Fig. 4-34 Points to secure Sportrax with tie downs

(1) Front carry pipe
(2) Right footpeg

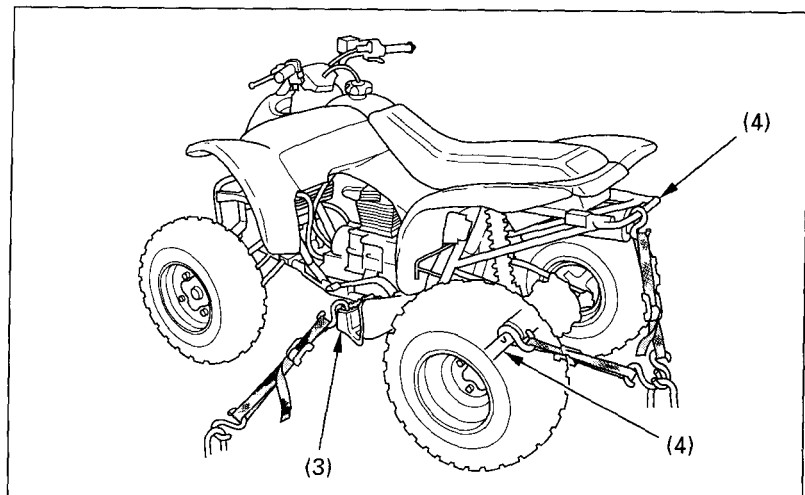


Fig. 4-35 Points to secure Sportrax with tie downs

(3) Left footpeg
(4) Rear carry pipe or Rear axle shaft

If it is necessary to incline your Sportrax upright on the rear end:

1. Follow steps 1 and 2 on the previous page.
2. Place a suitable container under the carburetor drain tube.
3. Turn the drain screw counterclockwise and drain the fuel from the carburetor.
4. After draining the carburetor, turn the drain screw clockwise until it is tight.
5. Pour the drained fuel into the fuel tank.
6. Tilt the vehicle and secure properly.

Do not tow your Sportrax behind a car or other vehicle.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Inclining this ATV without first draining fuel from the carburetor.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel could explode or ignite.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always drain fuel from the carburetor before inclining this ATV.

Always handle fuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine off. Do not smoke or allow flames or sparks in the area where fuel is handled.

If any fuel is spilled, make sure the area is dry before starting the engine.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Prolonged contact of fuel with the skin.
Breathing fuel vapor.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel can cause skin irritation.
Fuel vapor could cause lung damage.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Avoid repeated or prolonged contact of fuel with the skin or breathing of fuel vapor.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

CLEANING YOUR Sportrax

CLEANING

Clean your Sportrax regularly to protect the surface finishes and inspect for damage, wear, and oil or brake fluid leakage.

Avoid cleaning products that are not specifically designed for ATV or automobile surfaces.

They may contain harsh detergents or chemical solvents that could damage the metal, paint, and plastic on your Sportrax.

If your Sportrax is still warm from recent operation, give the engine and exhaust system time to cool off.

Park in a shady area. Washing your Sportrax in bright sunlight may cause the finish to fade because water droplets intensify the sun's brightness. Spotting is also more likely because surface water can dry before you have time to wipe it off.

We recommend avoiding the use of high pressure water spray (typical in coin-operated car washes.)

CAUTION:

High pressure water (or air) can damage certain parts of the Sportrax.

1. Rinse the Sportrax thoroughly with cool water to remove loose dirt.
2. Clean the Sportrax with a sponge or soft cloth using cool water. Avoid directing water to muffler outlets and electrical parts.
3. After cleaning, rinse the Sportrax thoroughly with plenty of clean water.
Detergent residue can corrode alloy parts.

NOTE:

The inside of the headlight lens may be clouded immediately after washing the Sportrax. Moisture condensation inside the headlight lens will disappear gradually by turning on the headlight in high beam. Run the engine while keeping the headlight on.

4. Dry the Sportrax and lubricate the drive chain.
5. Start the engine and let it run for several minutes.
6. Test the brakes before riding the Sportrax. Several applications may be necessary to restore normal braking performance.

Braking efficiency may be temporarily impaired immediately after washing the Sportrax.

Anticipate longer stopping distances to avoid a possible accident.

Aluminum Wheel Maintenance

Aluminum may corrode from contact with dirt, mud, or road salt. Clean the wheels after riding through any of those substances. Use a wet sponge and mild detergent, or a commercially-available spray cleaner/degreaser designed for use on aluminum. Avoid stiff brushes, steel wool, or cleaners containing abrasives or harsh chemical compounds.

After washing, rinse with plenty of water and dry with a clean cloth. Then apply a mild, commercially-available spray cleaner/polish or wax.

For stained or dull-looking wheels, use a quality chrome/aluminum polish to restore the finish.

STORING YOUR Sportrax

STORAGE

Before storing your Sportrax for an extended time, be sure you thoroughly check the vehicle for needed repairs and have them corrected. Otherwise, the repairs may be forgotten by the time you remove the vehicle from storage.

In addition, extended storage requires that you take the following steps to reduce the effects of deterioration from non-use of the vehicle:

1. Change the engine oil.
2. Drain the fuel tank and carburetor. Be sure to drain the fuel in a well-ventilated area, not in a garage.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Refueling this ATV or handling fuel improperly.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel could explode or ignite.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Always refuel this ATV and handle fuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine off. Do not smoke or allow flames or sparks in the area where fuel is handled.

Do not overfill the tank. Be careful not to spill fuel when refueling. After refueling, make sure the fuel fill cap is closed properly and securely.

If any fuel is spilled, make sure the area is dry before starting the engine.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Prolonged contact of fuel with the skin.
Breathing fuel vapor.


WHAT CAN HAPPEN

The fuel can cause skin irritation.
Fuel vapor could cause lung damage.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Avoid repeated or prolonged contact of fuel with the skin or breathing of fuel vapor.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

3. Remove the spark plug and pour one tablespoon (15–20 cc) of clean engine oil into the cylinder.
Operate the starter for a few seconds to distribute the oil, then reinstall the spark plug. (Make sure the engine stop switch is OFF () before pressing the starter button.)
4. Remove the battery (page 104) and store it in an area protected from freezing temperatures and direct sunlight and out of the reach of children, slow charge the battery once a month.

WARNING

POTENTIAL HAZARD

Allowing open flames or sparks near the battery.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Gases may explode and possibly cause injury.

HOW TO AVOID THE HAZARD

Do not allow open flames or sparks near the battery.

5. Wash and dry the Sportrax, and wax all painted surfaces.
6. Inflate the tires to their recommended pressures.
7. Place the Sportrax on blocks to raise all four tires off the ground.

SPECIFICATIONS

DIMENSIONS	
Overall length	68.3 in (1,735 mm)
Overall width	41.8 in (1,062 mm)
Overall height	42.2 in (1,073 mm)
Wheelbase	44.3 in (1,124 mm)
WEIGHT	
Dry weight	355 lbs (161 kg)
CAPACITIES	
Engine oil	2.0 US qt (1.9 ℓ , 1.7 Imp qt)
Fuel tank	2.69 US gal (10.2 ℓ , 2.24 Imp gal)
Fuel reserve	0.66 US gal (2.5 ℓ , 0.55 Imp gal)
ENGINE	
Bore and stroke	2.70 × 2.45 in (68.5 × 62.2 mm)
Compression ratio	9.2 : 1
Displacement	14.0 cu-in (229 cm ³)
Engine idle speed	1,400 ± 100 rpm
Spark plug, standard	DPR8EA-9 (NGK) X24EPR-U9 (DENSO)
Spark plug gap	0.03—0.04 in (0.8—0.9 mm)
Valve clearance	0.005 in (0.13 mm)
CHASSIS AND SUSPENSION	
Caster angle	9°
Trail length	1.6 in (40 mm)
Tire size, Front	AT22 × 7-10 ★★
Rear	AT22 × 10-9 ★

POWER TRANSMISSION

Primary reduction	3.086
Final reduction	3.692
Gear ratio 1st	2.846
2nd	1.933
3rd	1.444
4th	1.130
5th	0.913
Reverse gear ratio	4.769

ELECTRICAL

Battery	12 V – 8 AH
Generator	0.123 kW/5,000 rpm

LIGHTS

Head light (Low/High)	12 V 35/35 W
Taillight	12 V – 5 W
Neutral indicator light	12 V – 1.7 W
Reverse indicator light	12 V – 1.7 W

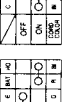
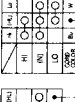
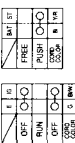
FUSE

Fuse	15 A
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0030Z-HN6-0000



W	WHITE	Gr	GRAY
COLOR COMB : GROUND-MARKING			



CONNECTION OF SWITCH

CONSUMER INFORMATION

EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEMS

Source of Emissions

The combustion process produces carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and hydrocarbons. Control of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen is very important because under certain conditions, they react to form photochemical smog when subjected to sunlight. Carbon monoxide does not react in the same way, but it is toxic.

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. utilizes lean carburetor settings and other systems to reduce carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and hydrocarbons.

Exhaust Emission Control System

The exhaust emission control system is composed of lean carburetor settings, and no adjustment should be made except idle speed adjustment with the throttle stop screw.

The exhaust emission control system is separate from the crankcase emission control system.

Crankcase Emission Control System

The engine is equipped with a closed crankcase system to prevent discharging crankcase emissions into the atmosphere.

Blow-by gas is returned to the combustion chamber through the air cleaner and the carburetor.

NOISE EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM

TAMPERING WITH THE NOISE CONTROL SYSTEM IS PROHIBITED:

U.S. federal law prohibits, or Canadian provincial laws may prohibit the following acts or the causing thereof: (1) The removal or rendering inoperative by any person, other than for purposes of maintenance, repair, or replacement, of any device or element of design incorporated into any new vehicle for the purpose of noise control prior to its sale or delivery to the ultimate purchaser or while it is in use; or (2) the use of the vehicle after such device or element of design has been removed or rendered inoperative by any person.

AMONG THOSE ACTS PRESUMED TO CONSTITUTE TAMPERING ARE THE ACTS LISTED BELOW:

1. Removal of, or puncturing the muffler, baffles, header pipes or any other component which conducts exhaust gases.
2. Removal of, or puncturing any part of the intake system.
3. Lack of proper maintenance.
4. Replacing any moving parts of the vehicle, or parts of the exhaust or intake system, with parts other than those specified by the manufacturer.

Problems that May Affect ATV Emissions

If you are aware of any of the following symptoms, have the vehicle inspected and repaired by your authorized Honda Motorcycle Dealer:

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

WARRANTY SERVICE

Your satisfaction and goodwill are important to your Honda dealer. All Honda warranty details are explained in the Distributor's Limited Warranty.

Normally, any problems with the product will be handled by your dealer's service department. Sometimes, however, despite the best intentions of all concerned, misunderstandings can occur. If your problem has not been handled to your satisfaction, we suggest you take the following action:

- * Discuss your problem with a member of the dealership management. Often, complaints can be quickly resolved at that level. If the problem has already been reviewed with the Service Manager, contact the owner of the dealership or the General Manager.
- * If your problem still has not been resolved to your satisfaction, contact the Motorcycle Customer Service Department of American Honda Motor Co., Inc. The address is P. O. Box 2220, Torrance, CA 90509—2220. Telephone: (310) 532—9811. [Canadian Vehicles: Refer to the warranty booklet that was supplied with your vehicle.] We will need the following information in order to assist you:
 1. Your name, address, and telephone number.
 2. The product model, year, and frame/VIN serial number.
 3. Date of purchase.
 4. Dealer's name and address.
 5. The nature of your problem.

After reviewing all the facts, we will advise you of what action can be taken. Please bear in mind that your problem will likely be resolved at the dealership level, using the dealer's facilities, equipment and personnel. So it is very important that your initial contact be with the dealer.

We appreciate your purchase of a Honda Sportrax. We want to assist you in every way possible to assure your complete satisfaction.

SERIAL NUMBERS AND COLOR LABEL

The frame, engine and key numbers (Fig. 5-1) will be needed when you order replacement parts. The color is also helpful. Record the numbers and color here for your reference.

The frame serial number (2) is stamped on the front of the frame. The engine serial number (3) is stamped on the right crankcase. The color label (4) is attached to the frame below the seat (page 124).

KEY NO. _____

FRAME NO. _____

ENGINE NO. _____

COLOR _____

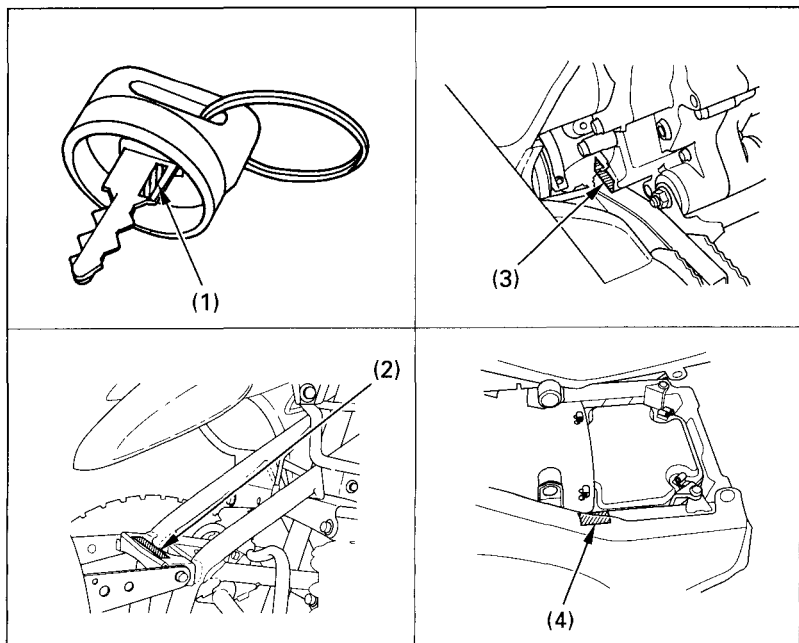


Fig. 5-1

(1) Key number
(2) Frame number

(3) Engine number
(4) Color label

INDEX

A

Accessories	38
Age recommendation	30
Air cleaner	
Air cleaner	87
Housing drain tube	90
Air pressure gauge	81
Apparel, recommended	40
Authorized manuals	145

B

Battery	103
Brakes	
Brake cables	113
Brake fluid	108
Front brakes	
Brake lever	23
Brake pads	109
Parking brake	23
Rear brake	
Brake lever	23
Brake lever free play	112
Brake pedal	23
Brake pedal free play	110
Brake shoes	113
Break-in procedures	ii

C

Carburetor	
High altitude adjustment	93
Idle speed adjustment	92
Choke	
Cable	91
Knob	91
Cleaning	127
Climbing hills	63
Clutch adjustment	101
Consumer information	135
Crossing slopes	72
Customer service	137

D

Dimmer switch	19
Dipstick	26, 94

E

Emission control system	135
Engine	
Idle speed adjustment.....	92
Break-in procedures.....	ii
Engine guard	121
Flooded engine.....	56
Starting the engine.....	53
Engine oil	
Changing oil.....	94
Checking oil level and adding oil.....	94
Oil filler cap/dipstick.....	26, 94
Recommendations	95
Engine stop switch.....	15
Exhaust system	
Cleaning.....	33
Purging.....	122

F

Final gear case oil	98
Flag pole bracket.....	27
Flooded engine	56
Fuel	
Fuel recommendations	84
Fuel fill cap.....	24, 82
Fuel tank capacity	82
Fuel valve.....	25
High altitude fuel mixture adjustment	93
Refueling.....	82
Reserve fuel supply	25
Fuse	
Location	105
Replacement.....	106

G

Gasoline (see Fuel)	
Gearshift pedal	21
Gearshifting	21, 57

H

Headlight switches	19
High altitude fuel mixture adjustment	93
Hills	
Riding across slopes	72
Riding down hills	70
Riding up hills	63
Stopping on hills	65
Turning on slopes	73

I

Idle speed adjustment	92
Ignition switch	14
Indicator lamp	
Reverse indicator lamp	20
Neutral indicator lamp	20
Inspection, pre-ride	32

L

Loading	
Loading and Operational Guidelines	36
Weight limits	35
Lubrication	
(see Engine oil)	

M

Maintenance	
Precautions	80
Schedule	78
Modifications	40

N

Neutral indicator lamp	20
Noise emission control system	136

O

Obstacles, riding over	74
Oil (see Engine oil)	
Oil filler cap/dipstick	26, 94
Owner's manual storage	28

P

Parking	76
Parts location	10
Parking brake	23
Passenger carrying	42
Pavement, no riding on	44
Pinging	84
Pre-ride inspection	32

R

Rear final gear case oil	98
Reverse	
Assist cable	102
Assist lever	102
Gear, shifting into	21, 57
Indicator lamp	20
Riding in reverse	58
Selector knob	22
Rider training course	1, 32

S

Safety messages, special	1
Seat removal and installation	120
Serial numbers and color label	138
Shifting gears	21, 57
Skid plates	121
Skidding	62
Spark arrester	122
Spark knock	84
Spark plug	99

Specifications	132
Stalling on a hill	65
Starter button	17
Storage compartment.....	28
Storing procedures	129

T

Throttle	
Cable	86
Lever.....	18, 86
Tires	
Inflation and air pressure	116
Repairing.....	119
Specifications	117
Tread condition	118
Tool kit	81
Transporting procedures.....	124
Turning	
On level ground	60
On slopes	73

V

Valve clearance	101
-----------------------	-----

W

Warning labels	7
Warranty service.....	137
Water	
Draining from brakes	114
Riding through.....	75
Weight limits	35
Wheel removal	115
Wiring diagram	134

While reading this manual, remember:

⚠ WARNING

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

AUTHORIZED MANUALS

The Service Manual (Publication Item No. 61HN601) used by your authorized Honda dealer is available from Helm, Inc. (USA only, Canada: See your Honda dealer to order authorized manuals.)

Also available, but not necessary, to service your model is the Honda Common Service Manual (Publication No. 61CM001), which explains theory of operation and basic service information for various systems common to all Honda motorcycles, motor scooters and ATVs.

These Honda manuals are written for the professional technician, but most mechanically-capable owners should find them easy to use if they have the proper tools and observe proper safety standards. Special Honda tools are necessary for some procedures.

Publication Item No.	Description	Price Each*
61HN601	2002 TRX250EX Service Manual	\$40.00
61CM001	Common Service Manual	\$48.00
31HN6610	2002 TRX250EX Owner's Manual	\$16.00

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! 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.