

2008

VT750

Shadow Aero

Shadow



HONDA

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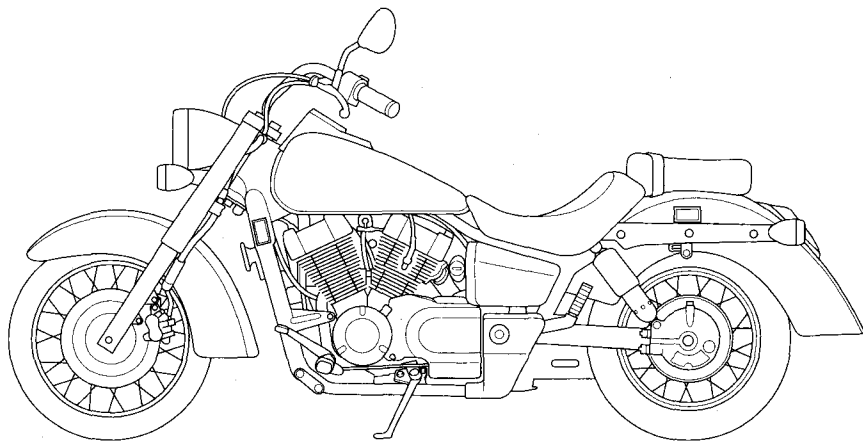
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2006

Honda VT750C

Shadow Aero

OWNER'S MANUAL



Introduction

Congratulations on choosing your Honda motorcycle.

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

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

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

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

Introduction

Read the Warranties Booklet (page 197) thoroughly so you understand the coverages that protect your new Honda and are aware of your rights and responsibilities.

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

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

You may also want to visit our website at www.honda.com.

Happy riding!

California Proposition 65 Warning

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


A Few Words About Safety

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

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

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

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

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

These signal words mean:

Safety Messages

A Few Words About Safety

DANGER

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

WARNING

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

CAUTION

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

- **Safety Headings** — such as Important Safety Reminders or Important Safety Precautions.
- **Safety Section** — such as Motorcycle Safety.
- **Instructions** — how to use this motorcycle correctly and safely.

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

Contents

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

Motorcycle Safety..... 1

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

Instruments & Controls..... 9

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

Before Riding..... 23

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

Basic Operation & Riding..... 33

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

Servicing Your Honda 49

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

Tips..... 137

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

Taking Care of the Unexpected 145

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

Technical Information 173

ID numbers, technical specifications, and other technical facts.

Consumer Information 193

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

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Sequential listing of topics in this owner's manual.

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Quick Reference

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

Motorcycle Safety

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

Important Safety Information	2
Accessories & Modifications	5
Safety Labels	7

Important Safety Information

Your motorcycle can provide many years of service and pleasure — if you take responsibility for your own safety and understand the challenges you can meet while riding.

There is much that you can do to protect yourself when you ride. You'll find many helpful recommendations throughout this manual. The following are a few that we consider most important.

Always Wear a Helmet

It's a proven fact: helmets significantly reduce the number and severity of head injuries. So always wear an approved motorcycle helmet and make sure your passenger does the same. We also recommend that you wear eye protection, sturdy boots, gloves, and other protective gear (page 24).

Important Safety Information

Take Time to Learn & Practice

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

Because many accidents involve inexperienced or untrained riders, we urge all riders to take a certified course approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). See page 26.

Ride Defensively

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

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

Make Yourself Easy to See

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

Important Safety Information

Ride within Your Limits

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

Don't Drink and Ride

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

Keep Your Honda in Safe Condition

It's important to keep your motorcycle properly maintained and in safe riding condition. To help avoid problems, inspect your motorcycle before every ride and perform all recommended maintenance. Never exceed load limits (page 31), and do not modify your motorcycle (page 6) or install accessories that would make your motorcycle unsafe (page 5).

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

⚠ WARNING

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

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

Accessories

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

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

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

Accessories & Modifications

- Do not install any fairing or windshield unless it was designed and tested by *Honda for your motorcycle*. Some fairings or windshields, even smaller ones, can cause unstable handling of your motorcycle. This is especially true if the fairing or windshield is poorly designed or improperly mounted.
- Do not add any electrical equipment that will exceed the motorcycle's electrical system capacity (page 181). A blown fuse can cause a loss of lights or engine power (page 165).
- Do not pull a trailer or sidecar with your motorcycle. This motorcycle was not designed for these attachments, and their use can seriously impair your motorcycle's handling.

Modifications

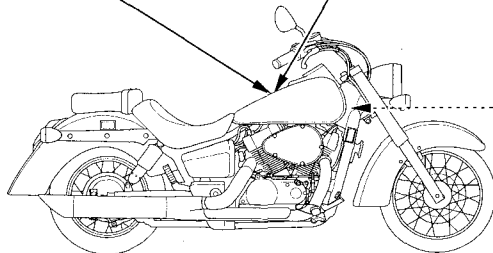
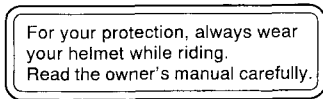
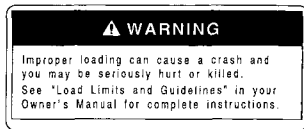
We strongly advise you not to remove any original equipment or modify your motorcycle in any way that would change its design or operation. Such changes could seriously impair your motorcycle's handling, stability, and braking, making it unsafe to ride.

Removing or modifying your lights, exhaust system, emission control system, or other equipment can also make your motorcycle illegal.

Safety Labels

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

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



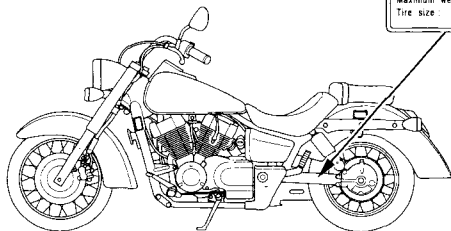
Safety Labels

< For USA >

TIRE INFORMATION	
Cold tire pressures:	
[Up to maximum weight capacity]	
Front	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Rear	250kPa 2.50kg/cm ² 36psi
[Up to 90kg(200lbs) load]	
Front	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Rear	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Maximum weight capacity: 182kg(401lbs)	
Tire size: Front 120/90-17M/C 64S	
Rear 160/80-15M/C 74S	
Tire brand	
DUNLOP	Front D404FG Rear D404
BRIDGESTONE	G701 G702
CHENG SHIN	M6002 M6011R
Min. recommend tire center tread depth:	
Front 1.5mm (0.06in.) Rear 2.0mm (0.08in.)	
Read owner's manual.	

< For Canada >

TIRE INFORMATION	
Cold tire pressures:	
[Up to maximum weight capacity]	
Front	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Rear	250kPa 2.50kg/cm ² 36psi
[Up to 90kg(200lbs) load]	
Front	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Rear	200kPa 2.00kg/cm ² 29psi
Maximum weight capacity: 186kg(410lbs)	
Tire size: Front 120/90-17M/C 64S	
Rear 160/80-15M/C 74S	
Tire brand	
DUNLOP	Front D404FG Rear D404
BRIDGESTONE	G701 G702
CHENG SHIN	M6002 M6011R
Min. recommend tire center tread depth:	
Front 1.5mm (0.06in.) Rear 2.0mm (0.08in.)	
Read owner's manual.	



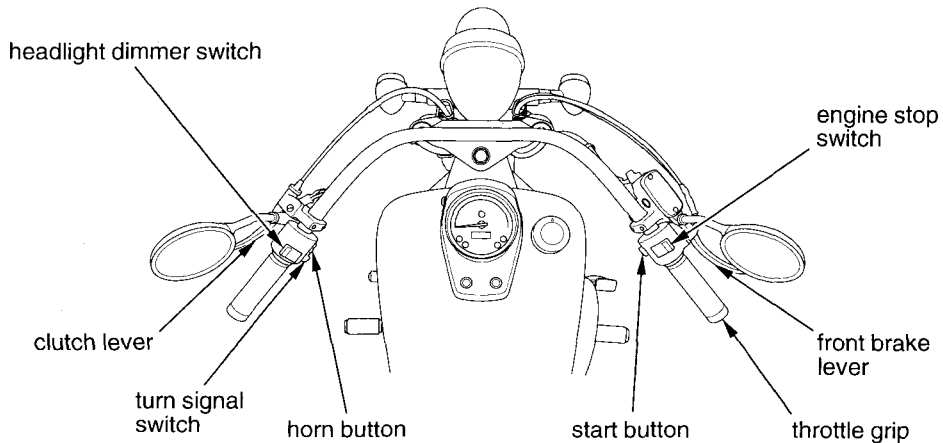
Instruments & Controls

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

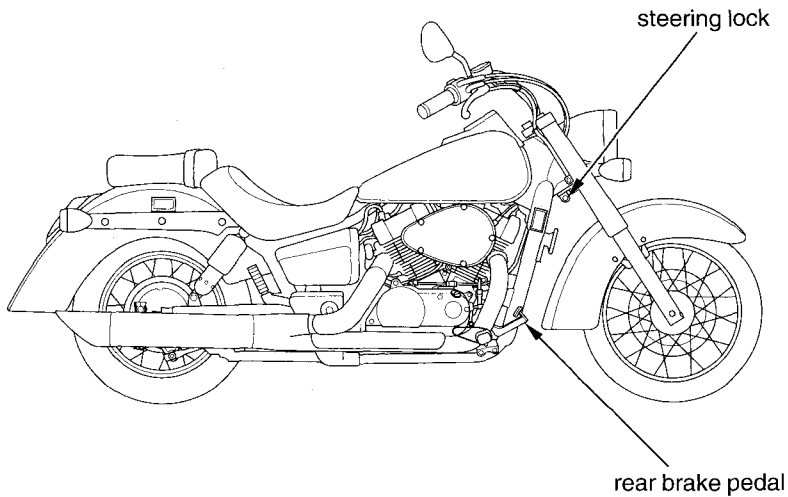
The items listed on this page are described in this section. Instructions for other components are presented in other sections of this manual where they will be most useful.

Operation Component Locations	10
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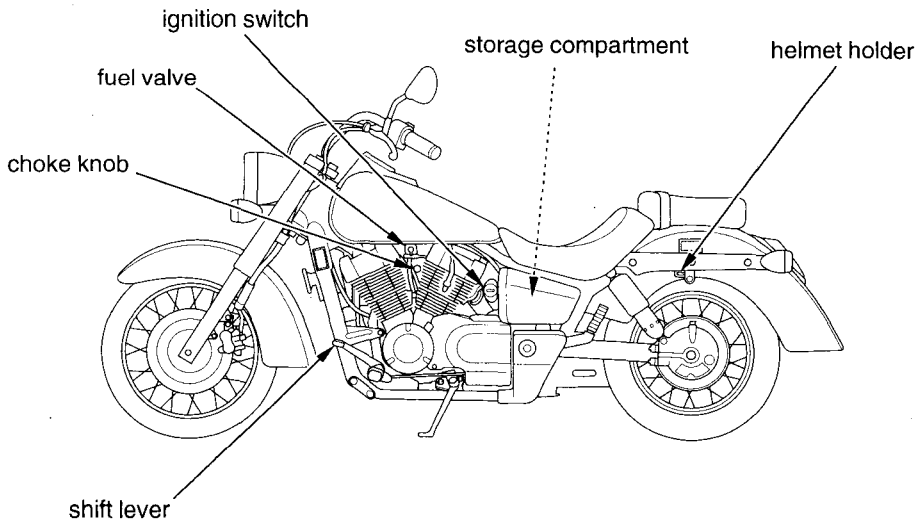
Operation Component Locations



Operation Component Locations

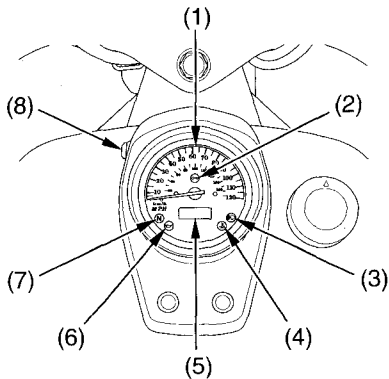


Operation Component Locations



Indicators

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



- (1) speedometer
- (2) turn signal indicator
- (3) high beam indicator
- (4) high coolant temperature indicator
- (5) odometer/tripmeter display
- (6) low oil pressure indicator
- (7) neutral indicator
- (8) odometer/tripmeter select and reset button

USA: Odometer & tripmeter read in miles.

Canada: Odometer & tripmeter read in kilometers.

Indicators

Lamp Check

The low oil pressure indicator comes on when you turn the ignition switch ON so you can check that it is working. The indicator remains on until after the engine is started. The low oil pressure indicator is identified in the table on page 16 with the words: *Lamp Check*.

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

If one of these indicators does not come on when it should, have your Honda dealer check for problems.

Indicators

1	speedometer	Shows riding speed in miles (USA) or kilometers (Canada) per hour.
2	turn signal indicator (amber)	Flashes when either turn signal operates.
3	high beam indicator (blue)	Lights when the headlight is on high beam.
4	high coolant temperature indicator (red)	Lights when the coolant is over the specified temperature. If the indicator comes on, pull safely to the side of the road. See page 162 for instructions and cautions.

Indicators

5	odometer/tripmeter display	
	odometer	Shows the total miles (USA) or kilometers (Canada) ridden (page 22).
	tripmeter 1 & 2	Shows the number of miles (USA) or kilometers (Canada) ridden since you last reset the meter. The tripmeter has two sub modes, "TRIP 1" and "TRIP 2." To zero (0) the tripmeter, press the tripmeter reset button (page 22).
6	low oil pressure indicator (red)	Lights when engine oil pressure is low enough to cause engine damage. If the low oil pressure indicator lights during operation, pull safely to the side of the road. See page 164 for instructions and cautions. <i>Lamp Check</i> .
7	neutral indicator (green)	Lights when the transmission is in neutral.
8	odometer/tripmeter select and reset button	Resets the tripmeter or selects the operation mode: tripmeter or odometer (page 21).

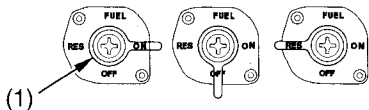
Fuel Valve

LEFT SIDE

ON

OFF

RES



(1) fuel valve

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

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

ON—normal position for riding.

OFF— for parking, storing, or transportation.

RES— for extra fuel to get to a gas station for refueling.

Automatic Fuel ON-OFF

With the fuel valve set to ON (or RES), fuel flows to the carburetors only when the engine is being started or is running. A diaphragm shuts off fuel flow when the engine is turned off.

Reserve Fuel

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

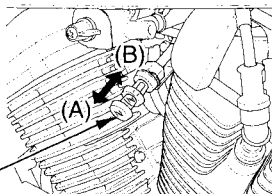
For complete information about fueling your motorcycle, see page 74 .

Controls & Features

Choke Knob



LEFT SIDE



(1) choke knob (A) fully ON
(B) fully OFF

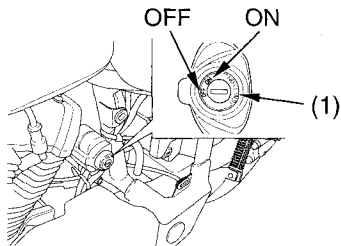
The choke knob may be used when starting the engine. See page 36 .

Ignition Switch

The ignition switch is used for starting and stopping the engine (page 35). The ignition key is also used to lock the steering for theft prevention (page 44). Insert the key and turn it to the right for the ON position.

Key Position	Function
ON	Electrical circuits on.
OFF	No electrical circuits function.

LEFT SIDE



(1) ignition switch

If a key ring is used, we recommend a fabric or leather type with just the key attached. The use of a metal key ring or the attachment of additional keys to any type of key ring may damage the finish of the side cover and engine cover while inserting the key or riding.

Start Button



The start button (1) is used for starting the engine. Pushing the button in starts the engine. See *Starting Procedure*, page 36 .

When the start button is pushed, the starter motor will crank the engine; the headlight will automatically go out, but the taillight will stay on.

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

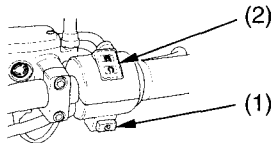
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Controls & Features

Engine Stop Switch



RIGHT HANDLEBAR



(1) start button

(2) engine stop switch

 OFF

 RUN

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

If your motorcycle is stopped with the ignition switch ON and the engine stop switch OFF, the headlight and taillight will remain on, resulting in battery discharge.

Headlight Dimmer Switch



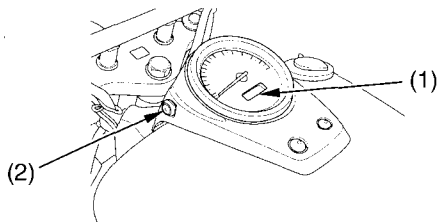
The headlight dimmer switch (1) is used to change between the high and low beams of the headlight. To operate, turn the switch to HI for high beam, LO for low beam.

Controls & Features

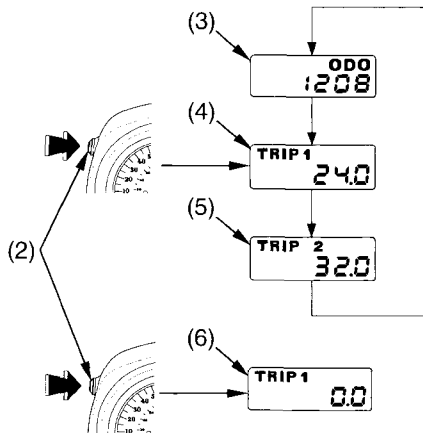
Push the button (2) to select the “ODO”, “TRIP 1” or “TRIP 2” mode.

To reset the tripmeter, push and hold the button with the display in the “TRIP 1” or “TRIP 2” mode.

FRONT



- (1) odometer/tripmeter display
- (2) odometer/tripmeter select and reset button



- (3) odometer
- (4) tripmeter 1
- (5) tripmeter 2
- (6) tripmeter reset

Before each ride, you need to make sure you and your Honda are both ready to ride. To help get you prepared, this section discusses how to evaluate your riding readiness, what items you should check on your motorcycle, and adjustments to make for your comfort, convenience, or safety. This section also includes important information about loading.

For information about adjusting the suspension on your Honda, see page 107.

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Is Your Motorcycle Ready to Ride ?	27
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Loading Guidelines	31

Are You Ready to Ride?

Before you ride your motorcycle for the first time, we urge you to:

- Read this owner's manual.
- Make sure you understand all the safety messages.
- Know how to operate all the controls.

Before each ride, be sure:

- You feel well and are in good physical and mental condition.
- You are wearing an approved motorcycle helmet (with chin strap tightened securely), eye protection, and other protective clothing.
- You don't have any alcohol or drugs in your system.

Make sure your passenger is ready to ride, too, and is wearing proper gear including a helmet.

If you must carry an extra helmet while riding, use a commercially-available elastic cord, strap, or net to secure the helmet to the seat.

Protective Apparel

For your safety, we strongly recommend that you always wear an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket whenever you ride. Although complete protection is not possible, wearing proper gear can reduce the chance of injury when you ride. Following are suggestions to help you choose the proper gear.

Are You Ready to Ride?

Helmets and Eye Protection

Your helmet is your most important piece of riding gear because it offers the best protection against head injuries. A helmet should fit your head comfortably and securely. A bright-colored helmet and reflective strips can make you more noticeable in traffic.

An open-face helmet offers some protection, but a full-face helmet offers more. Regardless of the style, look for a DOT (Department of Transportation) sticker in any helmet you buy (USA only). Always wear a face shield or goggles to protect your eyes and help your vision.

▲ WARNING

Not wearing a helmet increases the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.

Be sure you and your passenger always wear a helmet, eye protection, and other protective apparel when you ride.

Additional Riding Gear

In addition to a helmet and eye protection, we also recommend:

- Sturdy boots with non-slip soles to help protect your feet and ankles.
- Leather gloves to help protect your hands.

(cont'd)

Are You Ready to Ride?

- A motorcycle riding suit or jacket for comfort as well as protection. Bright-colored and reflective clothing can help make you more noticeable in traffic. Avoid loose clothes that could get caught on any part of your motorcycle.

Rider Training

Developing your riding skills is an ongoing process. Even if you have ridden other motorcycles, take time to become familiar with how this motorcycle works and handles. Practice riding the motorcycle in a safe area to build your skills. Do not ride in traffic until you get accustomed to the motorcycle's controls, and feel comfortable with its size and weight.

We urge all riders to take a certified course approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). New riders should start with the basic course, and even experienced riders will find the advanced course beneficial. For information about the MSF training course nearest you, call the national toll-free number: (800) 446-9227.

Other riding tips can be found in the *Riding Tips* booklet that came with your motorcycle (USA only).

Is Your Motorcycle Ready to Ride?

Before each ride, it's important to inspect your motorcycle and make sure any problem you find is corrected. A pre-ride inspection is a must, not only for safety, but because having a breakdown, or even a flat tire, can be a major inconvenience.

⚠ WARNING

Improperly maintaining this motorcycle or failing to correct a problem before riding can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always perform a pre-ride inspection before every ride and correct any problems.

Pre-ride Inspection

Check the following items before you get on the motorcycle:

Tires & Wheels Look at the tires. If a tire appears low, use an air pressure gauge to check its pressure. Also look for signs of excessive wear (page 119) or damage to the tires, rims and spokes.

(cont'd)

Is Your Motorcycle Ready to Ride?

*Leaks,
Loose
Parts*

Walk around your motorcycle and look for anything that appears unusual, such as a leak or loose cable.

Lights

Make sure the headlight, brakelight, taillight, and turn signals are working properly.

If you are carrying a passenger or cargo, also check the following:

Load Limits Make sure you do not exceed the load limits (page 31).

Cargo Check that all cargo is secure.

Adjustments Adjust the rear suspension (page 108) according to your load.

Is Your Motorcycle Ready to Ride?

Check these items after you get on the motorcycle:

- Throttle* Rotate the throttle to check it moves smoothly without binding.
- Brakes* Pull the brake lever and press on the brake pedal to check that they operate normally.
- Indicators* Turn the ignition on and check for normal operation of the indicators (page 13).

If you haven't ridden the motorcycle in over a week, you should also check other items, such as the oil level and other fluids. See *Periodic Maintenance* (page 56). Periodic maintenance should also be done at least once a month, no matter how often you ride.

Remember, be sure to take care of any problem you find, or have your Honda dealer correct it before you ride.

Load Limits & Guidelines

Your motorcycle has been designed to carry you and one passenger. When you carry a passenger, you may feel some difference during acceleration and braking. But so long as you keep your motorcycle well-maintained, with good tires and brakes, you can safely carry loads within the given limits and guidelines.

However, exceeding the weight limit or carrying an unbalanced load can seriously impair your motorcycle's handling, braking, and stability. Non-Honda accessories, improper modifications, and poor maintenance can also reduce your safety margin.

Loading

How much weight you put on your motorcycle, and how you load it, are important to your safety. Anytime you ride with a passenger or cargo, you should be aware of the following information.

WARNING

Overloading or improper loading can cause a crash and you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Follow all load limits and other loading guidelines in this manual.

Load Limits & Guidelines

Load Limits

Following are the load limits for your motorcycle:

maximum weight capacity:

401 lbs (182 kg)

410 lbs (186 kg) (Canada only)

includes the weight of the rider, passenger, all cargo, and all accessories.

maximum cargo weight:

40 lbs (18 kg)

The weight of added accessories will reduce the maximum cargo weight you can carry.

Loading Guidelines

Your motorcycle is primarily intended for transporting you and a passenger. You may wish to secure a jacket or other small items to the seat when you are not riding with a passenger.

If you wish to carry more cargo, check with your Honda dealer for advice, and be sure to read the information regarding accessories on page 5 .

(cont'd)

Load Limits & Guidelines

Improperly loading your motorcycle can affect its stability and handling. Even if your motorcycle is properly loaded, you should ride at reduced speeds and never exceed 80 mph (130 km/h) when carrying cargo.

Follow these guidelines whenever you carry a passenger or cargo:

- Check that both tires are properly inflated, and that pressure in the rear tire is increased to suit the load (page 117).
- If you change your normal load, you may need to adjust the rear suspension (page 108).
- To prevent loose items from creating a hazard, make sure that all cargo is tied down securely before you ride.

- Place cargo weight as low and close to the center of your motorcycle as possible.
- Balance cargo weight evenly on both sides.
- Do not attach large or heavy items (such as a sleeping bag or tent) to the handlebar, forks, or fender.

Basic Operation & Riding

This section gives basic riding instructions, including how to start and stop your engine, and how to use the throttle, clutch, and brakes. It also provides important information on riding with a passenger or cargo.

To protect your new engine and enjoy optimum performance and service life, refer to Break-in Guidelines (page 184).

For information about carburetor adjustment and other parts replacement for riding at high altitude, see page 185.

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Safe Riding Precautions

Before riding your motorcycle for the first time, please review the *Motorcycle Safety* section beginning on page 1, and the *Before Riding* section beginning on page 23 .

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