

 **HONDA**

OWNER'S MANUAL



CRF230L

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **OPERATOR AND PASSENGER**

This motorcycle is designed to carry the operator and one passenger. Never exceed the maximum weight capacity.

- **ON/OFF-ROAD USE**

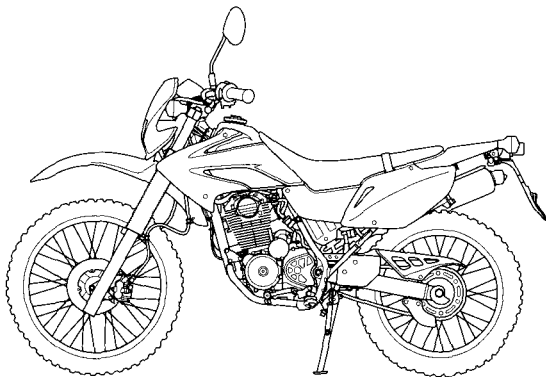
This motorcycle is designed for “dual purpose” use.

- **READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL CAREFULLY**

Pay special attention to the safety messages that appear throughout the manual. These messages are fully explained in the “A Few Words About Safety” section which appears before the Contents page.

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

Honda CRF230L OWNER'S MANUAL



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WELCOME

The motorcycle presents you a challenge to master the machine, a challenge to adventure. You ride through the wind, linked to the road by a vehicle that responds to your commands as no other does. Unlike an automobile, there is no metal cage around you. Like an airplane, a pre-ride inspection and regular maintenance are essential to your safety. Your reward is freedom.

To meet the challenges safely, and to enjoy the adventure fully, you should become thoroughly familiar with this owner's manual BEFORE YOU RIDE THE MOTORCYCLE.

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 motorcycle, other property, or the environment.

When service is required, remember that your Honda dealer knows your motorcycle best. If you have the required mechanical "know-how" and tools, your dealer can supply you with an official Honda Shop Manual to help you perform many maintenance and repair tasks.

Pleasant riding, and thank you for choosing a Honda !

- The following code in this manual indicates the country.

U	Australia	New Zealand
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- The specifications may vary with each locale.


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:

▲ 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.

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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

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 that you can meet on and off-road.

There is much that you can do to protect yourself when you ride. You'll find many helpful recommendations throughout this manual. Following are a few that we consider to be 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 3).

Make Yourself Easy to See On-Road

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

Be Alert for Off-Road Hazards

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

Ride Within Your Limits

Pushing the limits is another major cause of motorcycle accident both on-road and off. 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 judgements and ride safely.

Keep Your Bike in Safe Condition

For safe riding, it's important to keep your motorcycle properly maintained. Having a breakdown can be difficult, especially if you are stranded off-road far from your base. To help avoid problems, inspect your motorcycle before every ride and perform all recommended maintenance. Never exceed load limits, and use only accessories that have been approved by Honda for this motorcycle. See page 7 for more details.

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.

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 proper gear.

⚠ 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.

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-coloured helmet can make you more noticeable in traffic, as can reflective strips.

An open-face helmet offers some protection, but a full-face helmet offers more. Always wear a face shield or goggles to protect your eyes and help your vision.

Additional On-Road 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 keep your hands warm and help prevent blisters, cuts, burns and bruises.
- A motorcycle riding suit or jacket for comfort as well as protection. Bright-coloured and reflective clothing can help make you more noticeable in traffic. Be sure to avoid loose clothes that could get caught on any part of your motorcycle.

Additional Off-Road Gear

On-road apparel may also be suitable for casual off-road riding. But if you plan on any serious off-road riding you will need more serious off-road gear. In addition to your helmet and eye protection, we recommend off-road motorcycle boots and gloves, riding pants with knee and hip pads, a jersey with elbow pads, and a chest/shoulder protector.

LOAD LIMITS AND 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 tyres and brakes, you can safely carry loads within the given limits and guidelines.

In addition, exceeding the weight limits or carrying an unbalanced load can seriously affect your motorcycle's handling, braking, and stability. Adding accessories or making modifications that change this motorcycle's design and performance can also make it unsafe. Also, the weight of any accessories will reduce the maximum load the motorcycle can carry.

The following pages give more specific information on loading, accessories and modifications.

Loading

How much weight you put on your motorcycle, and how you load it, are important to your safety. If you decide to carry 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

Following are the load limits for your motorcycle:

Maximum weight capacity:

158 kg (348 lbs)

Includes the weight of the rider, passenger, all cargo and all accessories

Maximum cargo weight:

8 kg (18 lbs)

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 7 .

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 130 km/h (80 mph) when carrying cargo.

Follow these guidelines whenever you carry a passenger or cargo:

- Keep cargo small and light. Make sure it cannot easily be caught on brush or other objects, and that it does not interfere with your ability to shift position to maintain balance and stability.
- Place weight as close to the center of the motorcycle as possible.
- Do not attach large or heavy items (such as a sleeping bag or tent) to the handlebar, fork, or front fender.
- Make sure that all cargo is tied down securely.
- Never exceed the maximum weight limit.
- Check that both tyres are properly inflated (page 25).

Accessories and Modifications

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

⚠ WARNING

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

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

Accessories

We strongly recommend that you use only Honda Genuine 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 dealer for assistance and always follow these guidelines:

- Make sure the accessory does not obscure any lights, reduce ground clearance and banking angle, limit suspension travel or steering travel, alter your riding position or interfere with operating any controls.
- Be sure electrical equipment does not exceed the motorcycle's electrical system capacity (page 109). A blown fuse can cause a loss of lights or engine power.

- 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, mufflers, emission control system or other equipment can also make your motorcycle illegal.

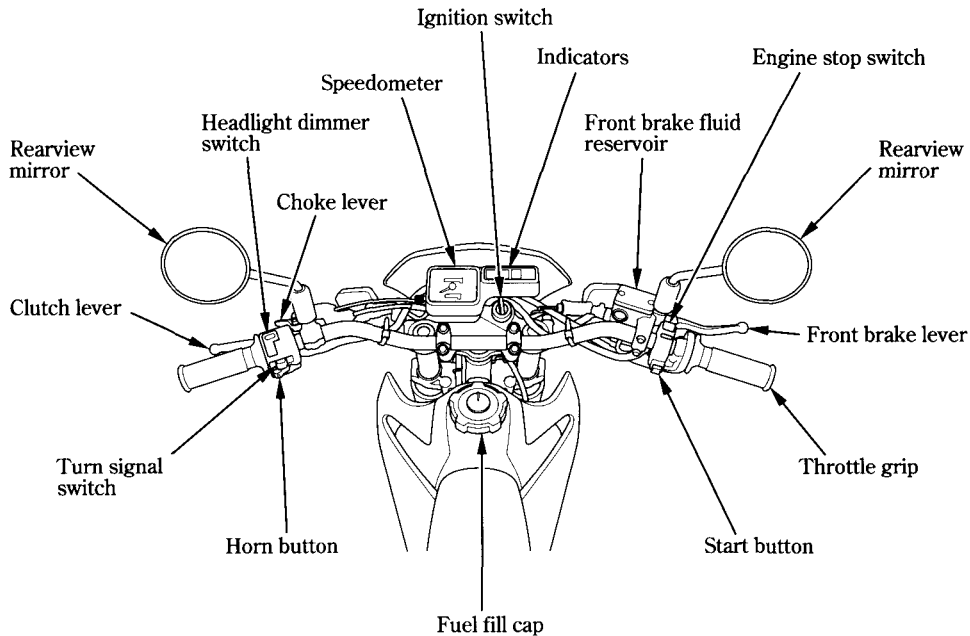
OFF-ROAD SAFETY

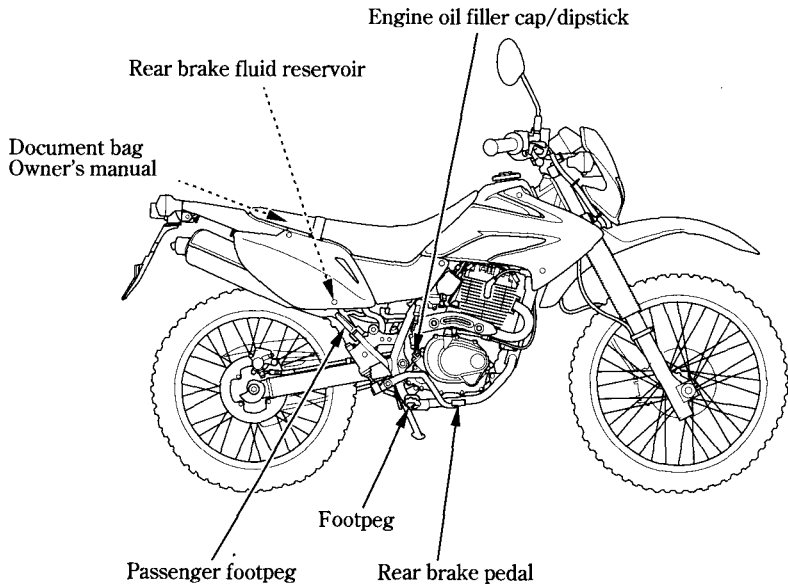
Learn to ride in an uncongested off-road area free of obstacles before venturing onto unfamiliar terrain.

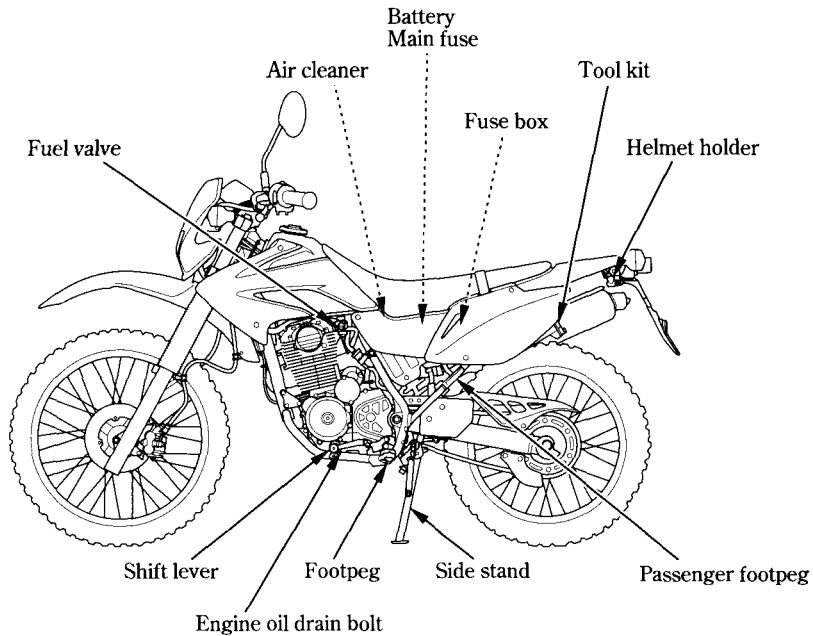
- Always obey local off-road riding laws and regulations.
- Obtain permission to ride on private property. Avoid posted areas and obey “NO Trespassing” signs.
- Ride with a friend on another motorcycle so that you can assist each other in case of trouble.
- Familiarity with your motorcycle is critically important should a problem occur far from help.
- Never ride beyond your ability and experience or faster than conditions warrant.
- If you are not familiar with the terrain, ride cautiously. Hidden rocks, holes, or ravines could spell disaster.

- Muffler is required in most off-road areas. Don't modify your exhaust system. Remember that excessive noise bothers everyone and creates a bad image for motorcycling.

PARTS LOCATION



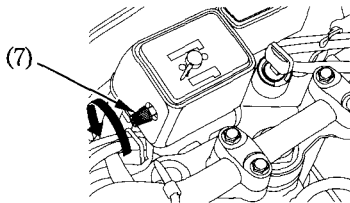
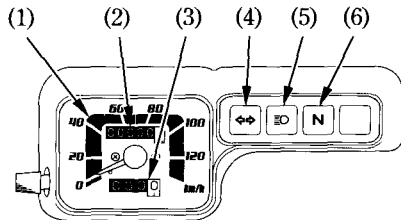




INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATORS

The indicators are in the speedometer, above the headlight. Their functions are described in the table on the following page.

- (1) Speedometer
- (2) Odometer
- (3) Tripmeter
- (4) Turn signal indicator
- (5) High beam indicator
- (6) Neutral indicator
- (7) Tripmeter reset knob



(Ref.No.) Description	Function
(1) Speedometer	Shows riding speed.
(2) Odometer	Shows accumulated mileage.
(3) Tripmeter	Shows mileage per trip.
(4) Turn signal indicator (green)	Flashes when either turn signal operates.
(5) High beam indicator (blue)	Lights when the headlight is on high beam.
(6) Neutral indicator (green)	Lights when the transmission is in neutral.
(7) Tripmeter reset knob	Resets tripmeter to zero (0). Turn knob in direction shown.

MAJOR COMPONENTS

(Information you need to operate this motorcycle)

BRAKES

Both the front and rear brakes are the hydraulic disc types.

As the brake pads wear, the brake fluid level drops.

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. If the control lever or pedal free travel becomes excessive and the brake pads are not worn beyond the recommended limit (page 88), there is probably air in the brake system and it must be bled. See your Honda dealer for this service.