

OWNER'S MANUAL



Read Before You Ride!

HONDA MODEL **XL250S**

©HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. 1978

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- **OPERATOR AND PASSENGER**

This motorcycle is designed to carry the operator and one passenger. Never exceed the vehicle capacity load limit shown on the tire information label.

- **ON/OFF-ROAD USE**

This motorcycle is designed for “dual purpose” use. Obey local laws and regulations.

- **READ OWNER'S MANUAL CAREFULLY**

Pay special attention to statements preceded by the following words:

WARNING *Indicates a possibility of personal injury or loss of life if instructions are not followed.*

CAUTION *Indicates a possibility of equipment damage if instructions are not followed.*

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



*Photos and illustrations in this manual are based on USA model.
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.
No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission.*



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.**

When service is required, remember that your Honda dealer knows your motorcycle best and is equipped to provide regular service.

Pleasant riding, and thank you for choosing a Honda!

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY	1	Rear Wheel Removal	35
Safe Riding Rules	1	Fuse Replacement	36
Protective Apparel	2	MAINTENANCE	37
Modifications	2	Maintenance Schedule	39
Loading and Accessories	2	Maintenance Record	41
Off-Road Safety	3	Engine Oil	42
DESCRIPTION	4	Spark Plug	43
Parts Location	4	Air Cleaner	44
Serial Numbers	8	Crankcase Breather	45
Parts Function	10	Front Brake	46
Fuel	17	Rear Brake	47
Engine Oil	19	Brake Wear Indicator	48
Tires	21	Drive Chain	49
OPERATION	23	Clutch	52
Pre-Ride Inspection	23	Side Stand	53
Starting the Engine	24	Battery	54
Break-In	26	CLEANING	56
Riding	27	STORAGE	56
Braking	29	EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM	57
Parking	30	CONSUMER INFORMATION	60
SPECIAL PROCEDURES	31	SPECIFICATIONS	63
Tool Kit	32		
Front Wheel Removal	33		

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

WARNING

** Motorcycle riding requires special efforts on your part to ensure your safety. Know these requirements before you ride.*

SAFE RIDING RULES

1. Always make a pre-ride inspection (page 23) before you start the engine. You may prevent an accident or equipment damage.
2. Many accidents involve inexperienced riders. Most states require a special motorcycle riding test or license. Make sure you are qualified before you ride. NEVER lend your motorcycle to an inexperienced rider.
3. Many automobile/motorcycle accidents happen because the automobile driver does not "see" the motorcyclist. Make yourself conspicuous to help avoid the accident that wasn't your fault:
 - Wear bright or reflective clothing.
 - Don't drive in another motorist's "blind spot".
4. Obey all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
 - Excessive speed is a factor in many accidents. Obey the speed limits, and NEVER travel faster than conditions warrant.
 - Signal before you make a turn or lane change. Your size and maneuverability can surprise other motorists.
5. Don't let other motorists surprise you. Use extra caution at intersections, parking lot entrances and exits, and driveways.
6. Keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footpegs while riding.

PROTECTIVE APPAREL

1. Most motorcycle accident fatalities are due to head injuries: ALWAYS wear a helmet. You should also wear a face shield or goggles; boots, gloves, and protective clothing.
2. The exhaust system becomes very hot during operation, and it remains hot after operation. Never touch any part of the hot exhaust system. Wear clothing that fully covers your legs.
3. Do not wear loose clothing which could catch on the control levers, kickstarter, footpegs, drive chain, or wheels.

MODIFICATIONS

WARNING

- * Modification of the motorcycle, or removal of original equipment may render the vehicle unsafe or illegal. Obey all federal, state, and local equipment regulations.*

LOADING AND ACCESSORIES

A motorcycle is sensitive to changes in weight distribution. Improper loading of cargo can impair the motorcycle's stability and performance. To prevent an accident, use extreme care when riding with cargo. These general guidelines may help you decide whether or how to equip your motorcycle.

Loading

The vehicle capacity load limit is 330lbs. The combined weight of the rider, passenger and cargo must not exceed this limit.

1. Keep cargo weight low and close to the center of the motorcycle. Load weight equally on both sides to minimize imbalance. As weight is located farther from the motorcycle's center of gravity, handling is proportionally affected.
2. All cargo must be secure for stable handling. Re-check cargo security frequently.

3. Do not attach large or heavy items (such as a sleeping bag or tent) to the handlebars, front forks, or fender. Unstable handling or slow steering response may result.

Accessories

CAUTION

** The XL250S was not designed to accept accessories such as luggage racks, saddlebags or fairings. Installation of these accessories may overstress frame components causing possible equipment damage.*

Do not add electrical equipment that will exceed the motorcycle's electrical system capacity. An electrical failure could cause a dangerous loss of lights or engine power at night, in traffic or far from help.

OFF-ROAD SAFETY

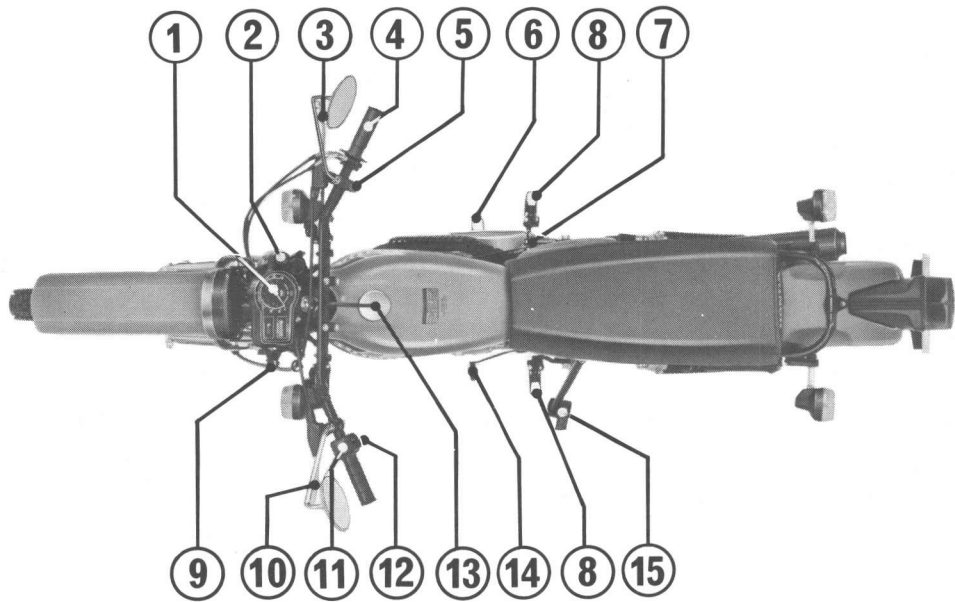
Learn to ride in an uncongested off-road area free of obstacles before venturing into unfamiliar terrain.

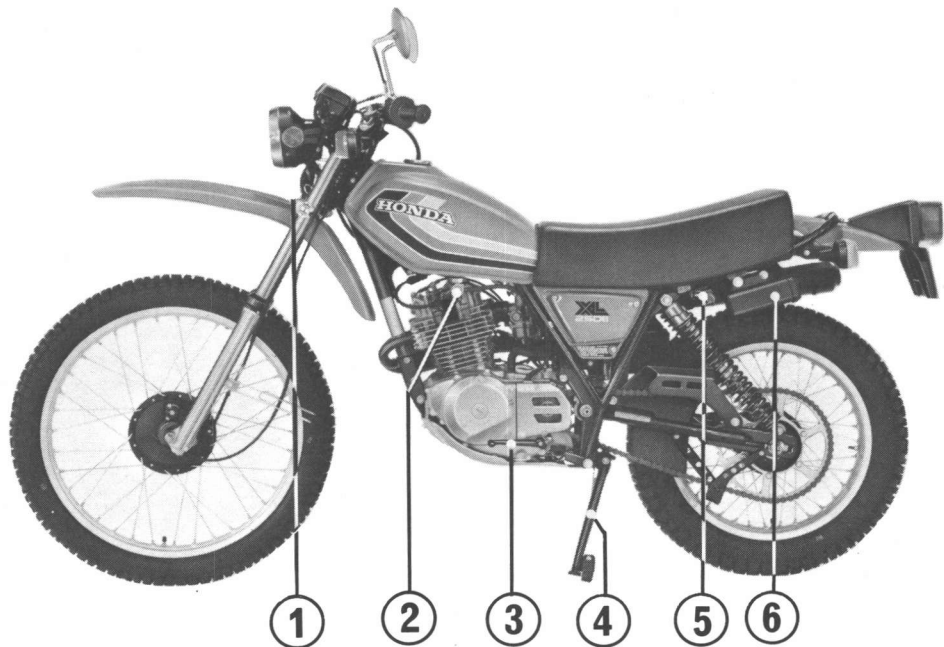
1. Always obey local off-road riding laws and regulations.
2. Obtain permission to ride on private property. Avoid posted areas and obey no trespassing signs.
3. Ride with a friend on another motorcycle so that you can assist each other in case of trouble.
4. Familiarity with your motorcycle is critically important should a problem occur far from help.
5. Never ride beyond your ability and experience or faster than conditions warrant.
6. If you are not familiar with the terrain, ride cautiously. Hidden rocks, holes, or ravines could spell disaster.
7. Spark arresters and mufflers are required in most areas. Don't modify your exhaust system. Remember that excessive noise bothers everyone and creates a bad image for motorcycling.

DESCRIPTION

PARTS LOCATION

- (1) Speedometer
- (2) Ignition switch
- (3) Front brake lever
- (4) Throttle grip
- (5) Engine stop switch
- (6) Rear brake pedal
- (7) Kickstarter pedal
- (8) Foot pegs
- (9) Choke knob
- (10) Clutch lever
- (11) Headlight dimmer switch
- (12) Turn signal switch (above)
Horn button (below)
- (13) Fuel filler cap
- (14) Gear change pedal
- (15) Side stand

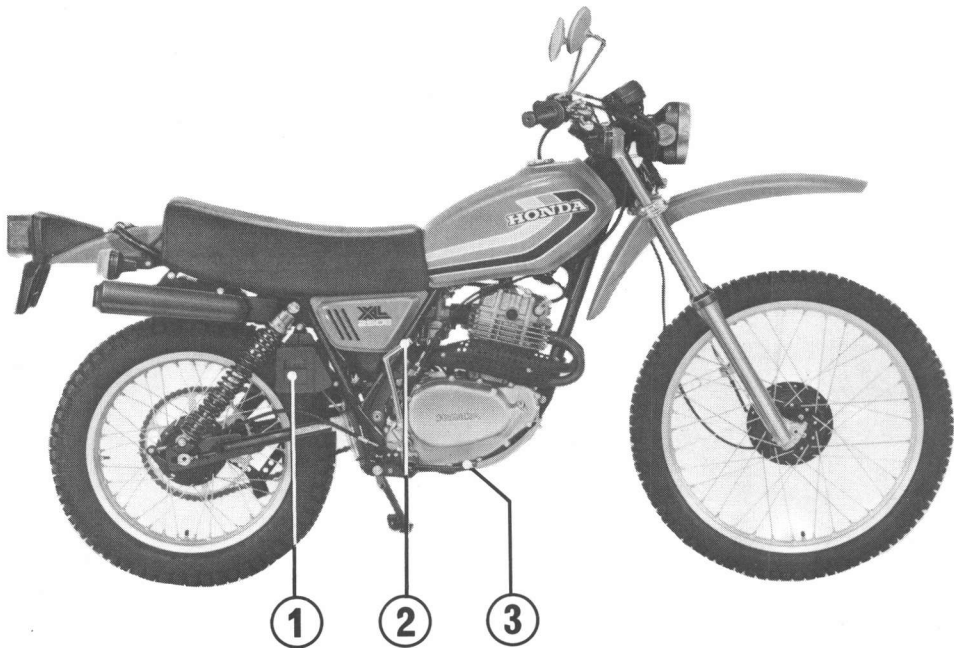




(1) Steering lock
(2) Fuel valve

(3) Gear change pedal
(4) Side stand

(5) Helmet holder
(6) Tool box



(1) Battery

(2) Kickstarter pedal

(3) Rear brake pedal

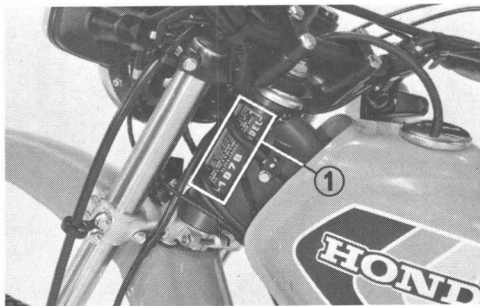
SERIAL NUMBERS

The frame and engine serial numbers are required when registering your motorcycle. They may also be required by your dealer when ordering replacement parts. Record the numbers here for your reference.

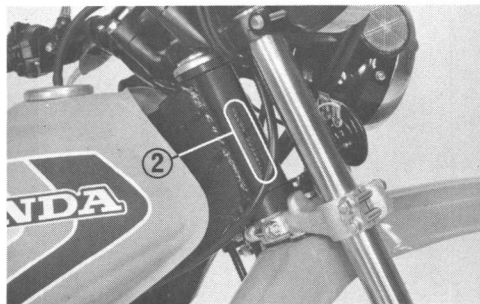
FRAME NO. _____

ENGINE NO. _____

The VIN, Vehicle Identification Number (1), is on the Safety Certification Label affixed to the left side of the steering head. This number is the same as the frame number (2) stamped on the right side of the steering head.

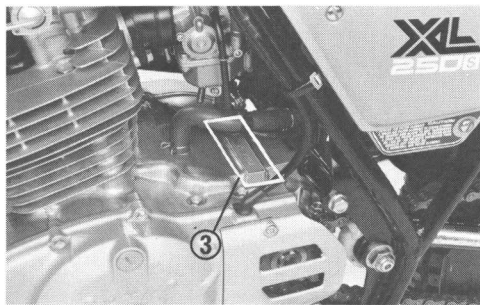


(1) VIN number



(2) Frame number

The engine number (3) is stamped on top of the crankcase.



(3) Engine number

PARTS FUNCTION

Instruments and Indicators

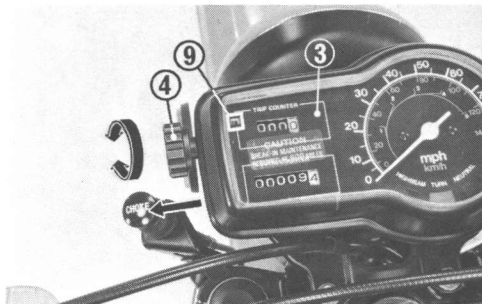
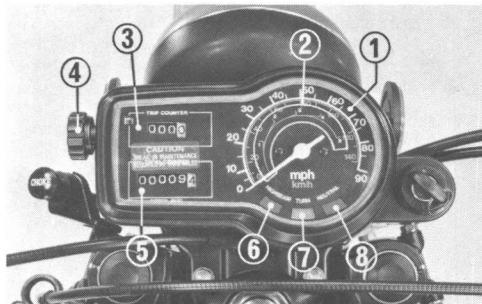
The indicators are in the speedometer, above the headlight. Their functions are described in the table on the following page.

USA model:

Total and trip counters read in miles.

Canadian model:

Total and trip counters read in kilometers.



- (1) Speedometer
- (2) Gear range indicators
- (3) Trip counter
- (4) Trip counter reset knob
- (5) Total counter
- (6) High beam indicator
- (7) Turn signal indicator
- (8) Neutral indicator
- (9) Trip "ON-OFF" indicator