

Contents

Motorcycle Safety P. 2

Operation Guide P. 16

Maintenance P. 42

Troubleshooting P. 88

Information P. 110

Specifications P. 133

Index P. 137

Welcome

Congratulations on your purchase of a new Honda motorcycle. Your selection of a Honda makes you part of a worldwide family of satisfied customers who appreciate Honda's reputation for building quality into every product.

To ensure your safety and riding pleasure:

- Read this owner's manual carefully.
- Follow all recommendations and procedures contained in this manual.
- Pay close attention to safety messages contained in this manual and on the motorcycle.

To protect your investment, we urge you to take responsibility for keeping your motorcycle well serviced and maintained. Also, observe the break-in guidelines, and always perform the pre-ride inspection and other periodic checks in this manual.

When service is required, remember that your Honda dealer knows your motorcycle best. If you have the required mechanical "know-how" and tools, you can purchase an official Honda Service Manual to help you perform many maintenance and repair tasks. ➔P.126

Read the warranty information thoroughly so that you understand the warranty coverage and that you are aware of your rights and responsibilities. ➔P.129

You may also want to visit our website at www.powersports.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. 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 safety 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 judgement.

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.

Other important information is provided under the following titles:

NOTICE Information to help you avoid damage to your motorcycle, other property, or the environment.

Motorcycle Safety

This section contains important information for safe riding of your motorcycle.
Please read this section carefully.


Safety Guidelines	P.3
Safety Labels	P.7
Safety Precautions	P.9
Riding Precautions	P.10
Accessories & Modifications	P.13
Loading	P.14

Safety Guidelines

Follow these guidelines to enhance your safety:

- Perform all routine and regular inspections specified in this manual.
- Stop the engine and keep sparks and flame away before filling the fuel tank.
- Do not run the engine in enclosed or partly enclosed areas. Carbon monoxide in exhaust gases is toxic and can kill you.

Always Wear a Helmet

It's a proven fact: helmets and protective apparel significantly reduce the number and severity of head and other injuries. So always wear an approved motorcycle helmet and protective apparel.  P.9

Before Riding

Make sure that you are physically fit, mentally focused and free of alcohol and drugs. Check that you and your passenger are both wearing an approved motorcycle helmet and protective apparel. Instruct your passenger on holding onto the grab rail or your waist, leaning with you in turns, and keeping their feet on the footpegs, even when the motorcycle is stopped.

Take Time to Learn & Practice

Even if you have ridden other motorcycles, practice riding in a safe area to become familiar with how this motorcycle works and handles, and to become accustomed to the motorcycle's size and weight.

Safety Guidelines

We recommend that all riders 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.

USA Other riding tips can be found in the You and Your Motorcycle Riding Tips booklet that came with your motorcycle.

Ride Defensively

Always pay attention to other vehicles around you, and do not assume that other drivers see you. Be prepared to stop quickly or perform an evasive maneuver.

Make Yourself Easy to See

Make yourself more visible, especially at night, by wearing bright reflective clothing, positioning yourself so other drivers can see you, signaling before turning or changing lanes, and using your horn when necessary.

Ride within Your Limits

Never ride beyond your personal abilities or faster than conditions warrant. Fatigue and inattention can impair your ability to use good judgement and ride safely.

Don't Drink and Ride

Alcohol and riding don't mix. Even one alcoholic drink can reduce your ability to respond to changing conditions, and your reaction time gets worse with every additional drink. 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. Inspect your motorcycle before every ride and perform all recommended maintenance. Never exceed load limits (➤P.14), and do not modify your motorcycle or install accessories that would make your motorcycle unsafe (➤P.13).

If You are Involved in a Crash

Personal safety is your first priority. If you or anyone else has been injured, take time to assess the severity of the injuries and whether it is safe to continue riding. Call for emergency assistance if needed. Also follow applicable laws and regulations if another person or vehicle is involved in the crash.

If you decide to continue riding, first evaluate the condition of your motorcycle. If the engine is still running, turn it off. Inspect for fluid

leaks, check the tightness of critical nuts and bolts, and check the handlebar, control levers, brakes, and wheels. Ride slowly and cautiously. Your motorcycle may have suffered damage that is not immediately apparent. Have your motorcycle thoroughly checked at a qualified service facility as soon as possible.

Emergency Shut-down Procedure for Motorcycles Equipped with Dual Clutch Transmission (VFR1200FD only)

Unlike standard motorcycles, or its manual transmission sibling, the VFR1200FD with dual-clutch transmission does not have a clutch lever that would provide you with an additional means to control the engine power being transmitted to the rear wheel. Thus, in the unlikely event that you experience a stuck throttle or other unintended application of power to the rear wheel, you should shut down the engine by use of the ENGINE STOP SWITCH (➡P.31). By moving this switch to the OFF position, you will immediately stop the engine but maintain all electrical system functions, including lights and indicators.

Carbon Monoxide Hazard

Exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas. Breathing carbon monoxide can cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death.

If you run the engine in confined or even partly enclosed area, the air you breathe could contain a dangerous amount of carbon monoxide. Never run your motorcycle inside a garage or other enclosure.

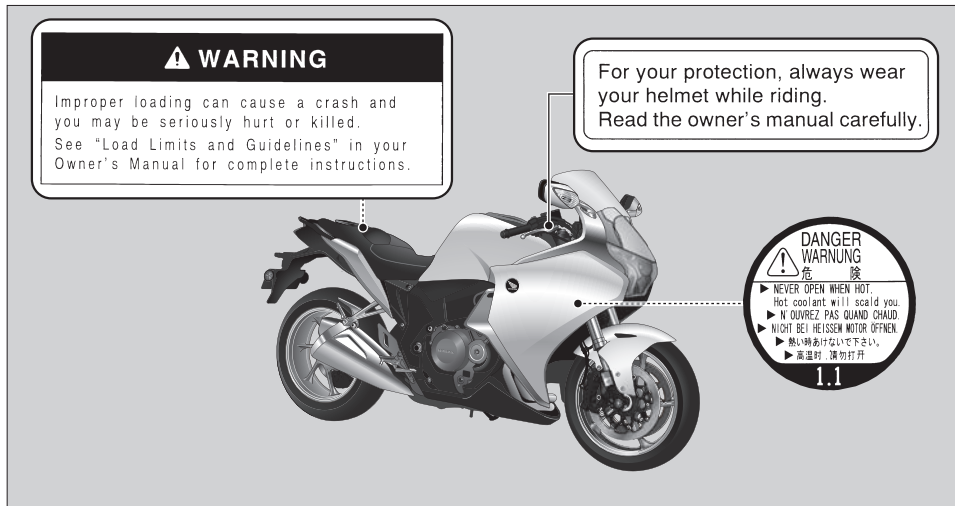
WARNING

Carbon monoxide gas is toxic.
Breathing it can cause
unconsciousness and even kill you.
Avoid any areas or activities that
expose you to carbon monoxide.

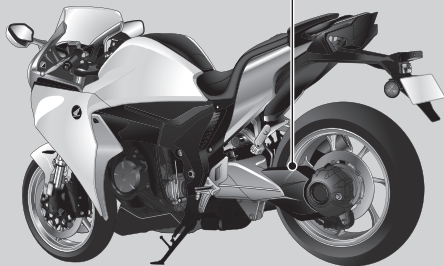
Safety Labels

Safety and information labels on your motorcycle provide important safety information and may warn you of potential

hazards that could cause serious injury. 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



TIRE INFORMATION	
Cold tire pressures : [Up to maximum weight capacity]	Tire brand Front Rear
Front 250kPa 2.50kgf/cm ² 36psi	DUNLOP ROADSMART CQ K ROADSMART K
Rear 290kPa 2.90kgf/cm ² 42psi	BRIDGESTONE BT021F N BT021R N
[Up to 90kg(200lbs) load]	Min. recommend tire center tread depth.
Front 250kPa 2.50kgf/cm ² 36psi	Front 1.5mm (0.06in.) Rear 2.0mm (0.08in.)
Rear 290kPa 2.90kgf/cm ² 42psi	Read owner's manual.
Maximum weight capacity : 182kg(402lbs)	This motorcycle is equipped with tubeless tires.
Tire size : Front 120/70ZR17M/C(68W)	
Rear 190/55ZR17M/C(75W)	

Safety Precautions

- Ride cautiously and keep your hands on the handlebars and feet on the footpegs.
- Keep passenger's hands on the handgrips, passenger's feet on the footpegs while riding.
- Always consider the safety of your passenger, as well as other drivers and riders.

Protective Apparel

Make sure that you and any passenger are wearing an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, and high-visibility protective clothing. Ride defensively in response to weather and road conditions.

■ Helmet

Should be safety-standard certified, high-visibility, and correct size for your head

- Must fit comfortably but securely, with the chin strap fastened

- Face shield with unobstructed field of vision or other approved eye protection

USA Look for a DOT (Department of Transportation) certification label on any helmet you buy.

WARNING

Not wearing a helmet increases the chance of serious injury or death in a crash. Make sure that you and any passenger always wear an approved helmet and protective apparel.

■ Gloves

Full-finger leather gloves with high abrasion resistance

Riding Precautions

■ Boots or Riding Shoes

Sturdy boots with non-slip soles and ankle protection

■ Jacket and Pants

Protective, highly visible, long-sleeved jacket and durable long pants for riding (or a protective suit).

Riding Precautions

Running-in Period

During the first 300 miles (500 km) of running, follow these guidelines to ensure your motorcycle's future reliability and performance.

- Avoid full-throttle starts, rapid acceleration, rapid braking and rapid down-shifts. Ride conservatively.

Brakes

Observe the following guidelines:

- Avoid excessively hard braking and sudden shifting to a lower gear.
 - ▶ Sudden braking can reduce the motorcycle's stability.
 - ▶ Where possible, reduce speed before turning; otherwise you risk wheel slippage.

- Exercise caution on low traction surfaces.
 - ▶ The wheels lock more easily on such surfaces, and braking distances are longer.
- Avoid continuous braking.
 - ▶ Repeated braking can overheat the brakes, reducing their effectiveness.

■ Brake System

Your motorcycle is equipped with a brake system that distributes the braking force between the front and rear brakes.

The distribution of the braking force applied to the front and rear brakes when operating the lever only and when operating the pedal only is different.

For full braking effectiveness, operate both the lever and pedal together.

■ ABS (Anti-lock Brake System)

ABS helps prevent the brakes from locking up during hard braking.

- ABS does not reduce braking distance. In certain circumstances, ABS may actually result in a longer stopping distance.
- ABS does not function at speeds below 6 mph (10 km/h).
- The brake lever and pedal may recoil slightly when applying the brakes. This is normal.
- Always use the recommended tires to ensure correct ABS operation.

■ Engine Braking

Engine braking helps slow your motorcycle down when you release the throttle. For further slowing action, downshift to a lower gear. Use engine braking with intermittent use of the brakes to reduce speed when descending long, steep slopes.

Riding Precautions

Wet or Rainy Conditions

Road surfaces are slippery when wet, and wet brakes further reduce braking efficiency.

Exercise extra caution when braking in wet conditions.

If the brakes get wet, apply the brakes while riding at low speed to help them dry.

Parking

- Park on a firm, level paved surface.
- If you must park on a slight incline or loose surface, park so that the motorcycle cannot move or fall over.
- Make sure that high-temperature parts cannot come into contact with flammable materials.
- Do not touch the engine, muffler, brakes and other high-temperature parts until they cool down.

- To reduce the likelihood of theft, always lock the handlebars and remove the key when leaving the motorcycle unattended. Use of an anti-theft device is also recommended.

Parking with the Side Stand

1. Stop the engine.
2. Push the side stand down.
3. Slowly lean the motorcycle to the left until its weight rests on the side stand.
4. Turn the handlebars fully to the left.
 - ▶ Turning the handlebars to the right reduces stability and may cause the motorcycle to fall.
5. Turn the ignition switch to the LOCK position and remove the key. ➔ [P.29](#)

Refueling and Fuel Guidelines

Follow these guidelines to protect the engine and catalytic converter:

- Use only unleaded gasoline.
- Use recommended octane number. Using lower octane gasoline will result in decreased engine performance.
- Do not use fuels containing a high concentration of alcohol. ➤ [P.125](#)
- Do not use stale or contaminated gasoline or an oil/gasoline mixture.
- Avoid getting dirt or water in the fuel tank.

Accessories & Modifications

We strongly advise that you do not add any accessories that were not specifically designed for your motorcycle by Honda or make modifications to your motorcycle from its original design. Doing so can make it unsafe. Modifying your motorcycle may also void your warranty and make your motorcycle illegal to operate on public roads and highways. Before deciding to install accessories on your motorcycle be certain the modification is safe and legal.

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 & Modifications

Do not pull a trailer with, or attach a sidecar to, your motorcycle. Your motorcycle was not designed for these attachments, and their use can seriously impair your motorcycle's handling.

Loading

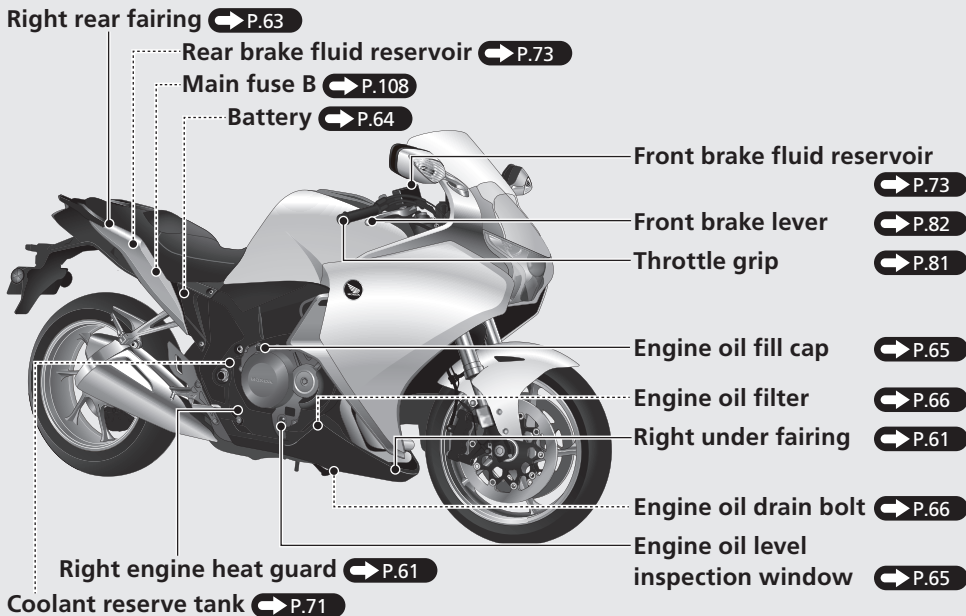
- Carrying extra weight affects your motorcycle's handling, braking and stability. Always ride at a safe speed for the load you are carrying.
- Avoid carrying an excessive load and keep within specified load limits.
 - **Maximum weight capacity / Maximum luggage weight** [P.133](#)
- Tie all luggage securely, evenly balanced and close to the center of the motorcycle.
- Do not place objects near the lights or the muffler.

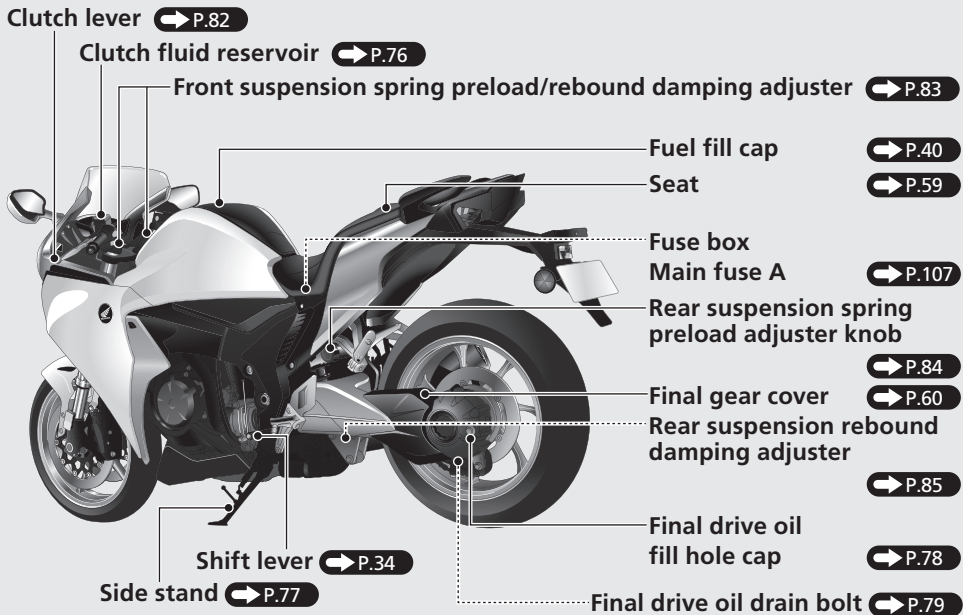
WARNING

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.

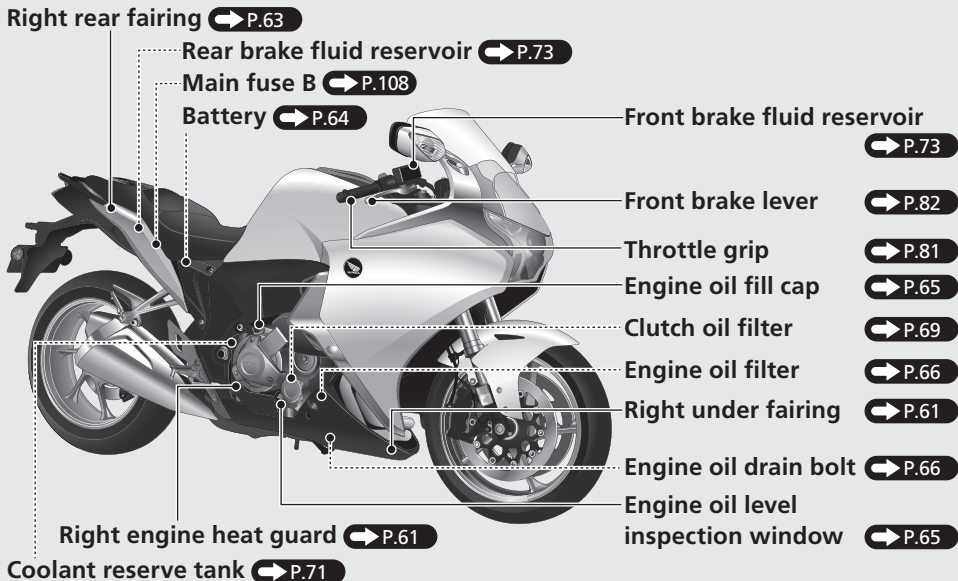
Parts Location

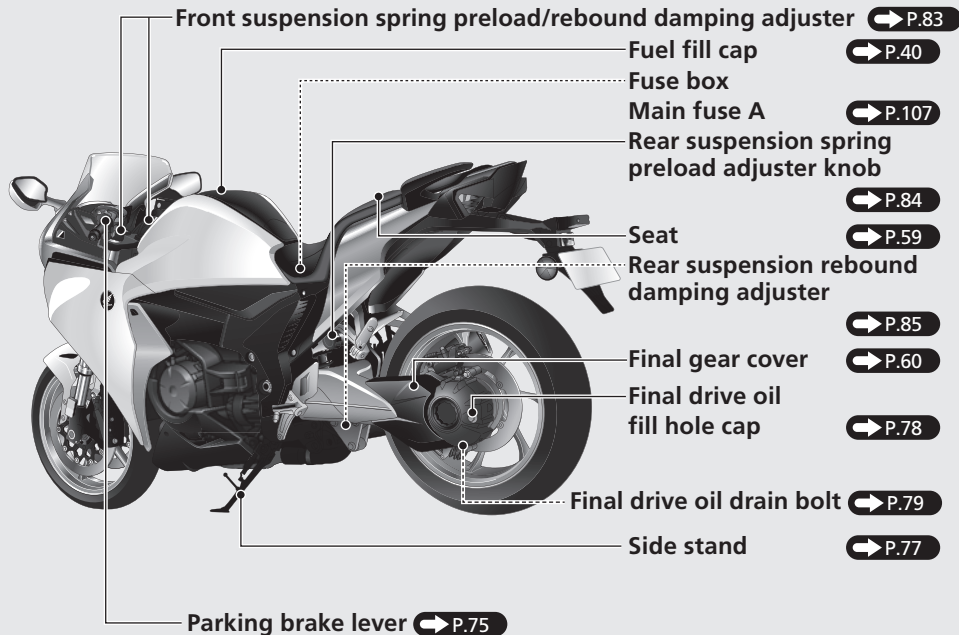
(VFR1200F)



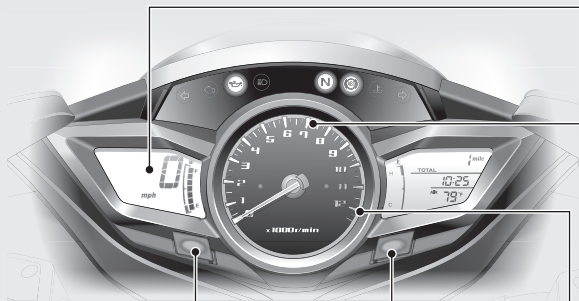


Parts Location *(Continued)* (VFR1200FD)





Instruments



A button

B button

Tachometer red zone
(excessive engine rpm range)

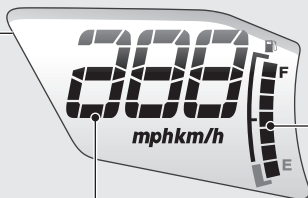
Tachometer

NOTICE

Do not operate the engine in the tachometer red zone. Excessive engine speed can adversely affect engine life.

Display Check

When the ignition switch is turned ON, all the mode and digital segments will show. If any part of these displays does not come on when it should, have your dealer check for problems.



Speedometer

Fuel gauge

Remaining fuel when only 1st (E) segment starts flashing:
approximately 1.19 US gal
(4.5 litres)

**A button & B button**

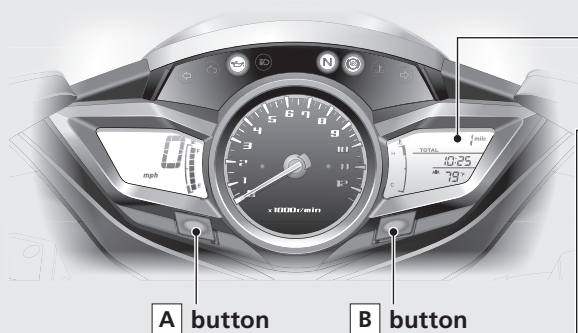
Press and hold both buttons to change the speed and mileage units ("mph" & "mile" / "km/h" & "km") for the speedometer, odometer, and tripmeter.

Press **B** button to select either "mph" & "mile" or "km/h" & "km", then press **A** button to set.

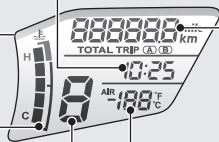
After the speed and mileage unit is set, select the air temperature unit.

Press **B** button to select either ° F or ° C, then press **A** button to set.

Instruments (Continued) (VFR1200F)



Clock (12-hour display)



Air temperature gauge (AIR)

Display range: 14 °F (-10 °C) to 122 °F (50 °C)

- Below 13 °F (-11 °C): " - - " displays
- Above 122 °F (50 °C):
 - Air temperature gauge (flashing digits)
 - ▶ The temperature readout may be incorrect at low speeds due to reflected heat.

Coolant temperature gauge (🌡️)

- Above 252 °F (122 °C):
 - High coolant temperature indicator lights
 - 5th (H) segment flashes
- ▶ Even if the engine coolant temperature is low, the cooling fan may start running when you rev up the engine. This is normal.

Gear position indicator

Shows 1st to 6th gear position.

Odometer [TOTAL] & Tripmeter [TRIP A/B]

[A] button switches between odometer & tripmeters.

- Odometer: Total distance ridden.
- Tripmeter: Distance ridden since tripmeter was reset (press and hold [B] button to reset to 0.0 mile/km).

To set the clock:

- 1 Turn the ignition switch ON.
- 2 Select the odometer.
- 3 Press and hold [B] button until the hour digits start flashing.



- 4 Press [B] button until the desired hour is displayed.

▶ Press and hold to advance the hour fast.



- 5 Press [A] button. The minute digits start flashing.



- 6 Press [B] button until the desired minute is displayed.

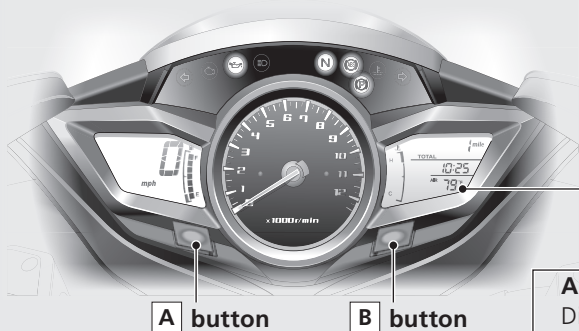
▶ Press and hold to advance the minute fast.



- 7 Press [A] button. The clock is set.

▶ The time can also be set by turning the ignition switch OFF.

Instruments (Continued) (VFR1200FD)




A button

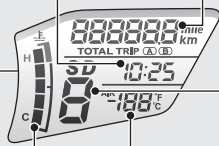
B button

Coolant temperature gauge ()

- Above 252 °F (122 °C):
 - High coolant temperature indicator lights
 - 5th (H) segment flashes
- ▶ Even if the engine coolant temperature is low, the cooling fan may start running when you rev up the engine. This is normal.

Odometer [TOTAL] &
Tripmeter [TRIP A/B]  P.23

To set the clock:  P.23
Clock (12-hour display)




Air temperature gauge (AIR)


Display range: 14 °F (-10 °C) to 122 °F (50 °C)

- Below 13 °F (-11 °C): " - - " displays
- Above 122 °F (50 °C):
 - Air temperature gauge (flashing digits)
- ▶ The temperature readout may be incorrect at low speeds due to reflected heat.

D indicator

Comes on when the D mode is selected in the AT MODE.  P.38

S indicator

Comes on when the S mode is selected in the AT MODE.  P.38

Gear position indicator


The gear position is shown in the gear position indicator when the D, S mode or MT MODE are selected.

- ▶ "-" appears for a few seconds and then goes off when the engine starts.
- ▶ "-" flashes when the engine stop switch position is changed from RUN to OFF with the ignition switch ON.
- ▶ "-" flashes when the ignition switch is turned ON with the engine stop switch OFF.

The indicator may flash if:

- ▶ The front wheel leaves the ground.
- ▶ You turn the wheel while the motorcycle is upright on the stand.

This is normal. To operate the system again, turn the ignition switch OFF, then ON again.

If the "-" indicator is blinking in the gear position window while riding:  P.93

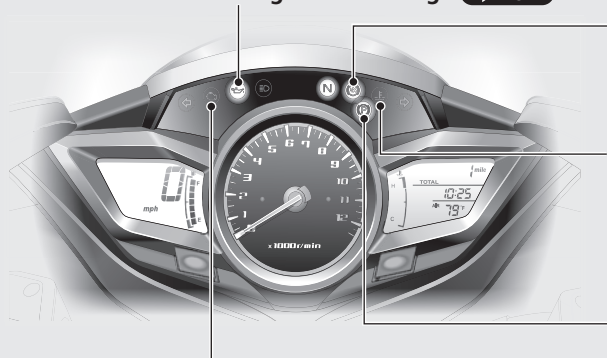
Indicators




Low oil pressure indicator

Comes on when the ignition switch is turned ON.
Goes off when the engine starts.

If it comes ON while engine is running: → P.91



PGM-FI (Programmed Fuel Injection) malfunction indicator lamp (MIL)

Comes on briefly when the ignition switch is turned ON with the engine stop switch in the RUN  position.

If it comes ON while engine is running: → P.91



ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) indicator

Comes on when the ignition switch is turned ON. Goes off when your speed reaches approximately 6 mph (10 km/h).

If it comes ON while riding:

→ P.92



High coolant temperature indicator


If it comes ON while riding:

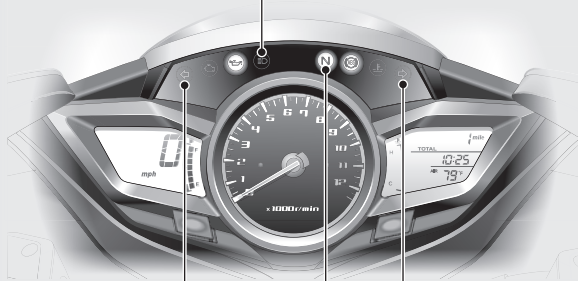
→ P.90




Parking brake indicator (VFR1200FD only)

Lights as a reminder that you have not released the parking brake lever. → P.33

 **High beam indicator**



 **Left turn signal indicator**

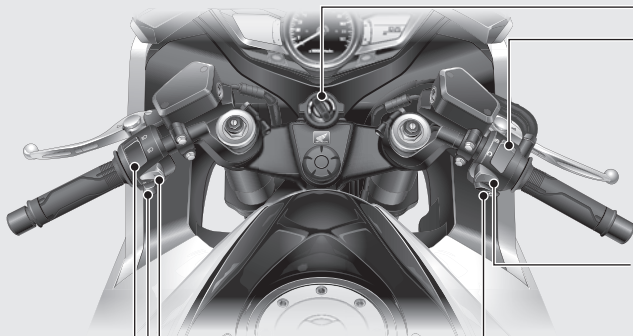
 **Right turn signal indicator**

 **Neutral indicator**

Comes ON when the transmission is in Neutral.

Switches

(VFR1200F)





Horn button





Turn signal switch

Headlight dimmer switch

- : High beam
- : Low beam

Engine stop switch

Should normally remain in the RUN  position.

- ▶ In an emergency, switch to the OFF  position (the starter motor will not operate) to stop the engine.



Hazard switch

Switchable when the ignition switch is ON. Can be turned to OFF regardless of the ignition switch position.

- ▶ The signals continue flashing with the ignition switch in OFF or LOCK after the hazard switch is ON.



Start button

Headlight turns off when operating the starter motor.

Ignition Switch

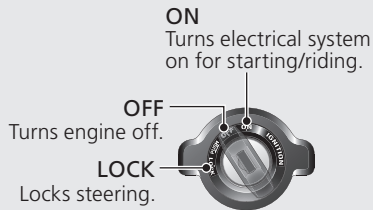
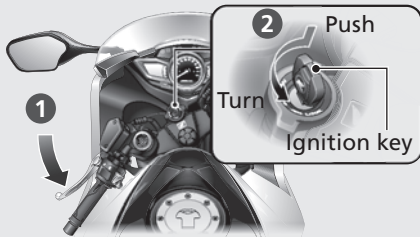
Switches the electrical system on/off, locks the steering.

- ▶ Key can be removed when in the OFF or LOCK position.

Steering Lock

Lock the steering when parking to help prevent theft.

A U-shaped wheel lock or similar device is also recommended.



Locking

- 1 Turn the handlebars all the way to the left.
- 2 Push the key down, and turn the ignition switch to the LOCK position.
 - ▶ Jiggle the handlebars if the lock is difficult to engage.
- 3 Remove the key.

Unlocking

Insert the key, push it in, and turn the ignition switch to the OFF position.

Switches *(Continued)* (VFR1200FD)


Parking brake lever and Release button

Be sure the parking brake is applied while parking and warming up the engine.

- ▶ Make sure the parking brake lever is released before riding.

To apply the parking brake lock

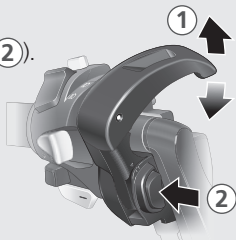
Pull the parking brake lever back to lock the rear wheel.

- ▶ Be sure the release button pops out and parking brake lever is not released.
- ▶ The parking brake lock will not function if the parking brake is not adjusted properly.  P.75

To release the parking brake lock


Release the parking brake lever by lightly pulling in the lever (1) and pressing the release button (2).

- ▶ Before riding, check that the parking brake indicator is turned OFF and make sure that the parking brake is fully released so there is no drag on the rear wheel.





 **Hazard switch**  P.28

Shift up switch (+)

To shift up the gear.  P.39

Headlight dimmer switch

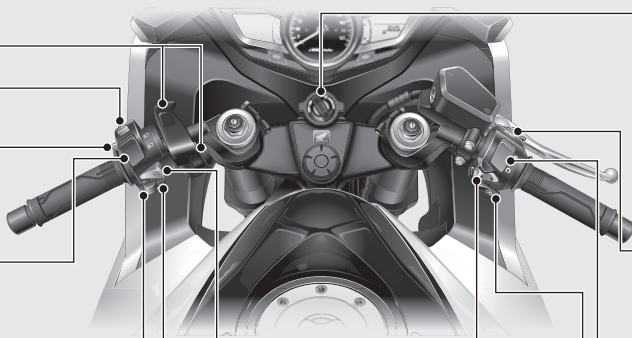
- : High beam
- : Low beam

 **Turn signal switch**

Shift down switch (-)

To shift down the gear.

 P.39



 **Horn button**

N-D switch

To shift between Neutral and AT MODE.  P.38

 **Start button**

Headlight turns off when operating the starter motor.

Ignition Switch

Switches the electrical system on/off, locks the steering.

▶ Key can be removed when in the OFF or LOCK position.


Steering Lock:  P.29


AT/MT switch

To shift between the AT MODE and MT MODE.

 P.38

Engine stop switch

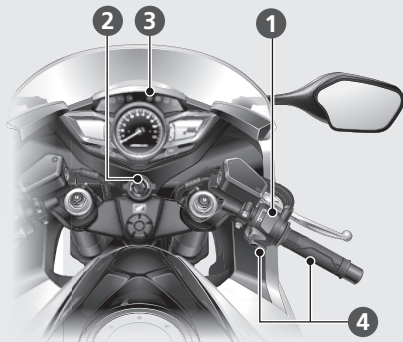
Should normally remain in the RUN  position.

▶ In an emergency, switch to the OFF  position (the starter motor will not operate) to stop the engine.

Starting the Engine


(VFR1200F)

Start your engine using the following procedure, regardless of whether the engine is cold or warm.




NOTICE

- If the engine does not start within 5 seconds, turn the ignition OFF and wait 10 seconds before trying to start the engine again to recover battery voltage.
- Extended fast idling and reving the engine can damage the engine, and the exhaust system.

- 1 Make sure the engine stop switch is in the RUN  position.
- 2 Turn the ignition switch to the ON position.
- 3 Shift the transmission to Neutral (**N** indicator comes ON). Alternatively, pull in the clutch lever to start your motorcycle with the transmission in gear so long as the side stand is raised.
- 4 Press the start button with the throttle completely closed.

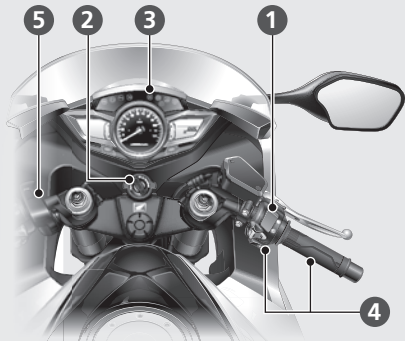
If the engine does not start:

- 1 Open the throttle fully and press the start button for 5 seconds.
- 2 Repeat the normal starting procedure.
- 3 If the engine starts, open the throttle slightly if idling is unstable.
- 4 If the engine does not start, wait 10 seconds before trying steps **1** & **2** again.



If Engine Will Not Start  P.89


(VFR1200FD)

Start your engine using the following procedure, regardless of whether the engine is cold or warm.


**NOTICE**

- If the engine does not start within 5 seconds, turn the ignition OFF and wait 10 seconds before trying to start the engine again to recover battery voltage.
- Extended fast idling and revving the engine can damage the engine, and the exhaust system.

- 1 Make sure the engine stop switch is in the RUN  position.
- 2 Turn the ignition switch to the ON position.
- 3 Check the transmission in Neutral ( indicator comes ON).
- 4 Press the start button with the throttle completely closed.
- 5 Make sure the parking brake lever is released before riding.

If Engine Does Not Start  P.32

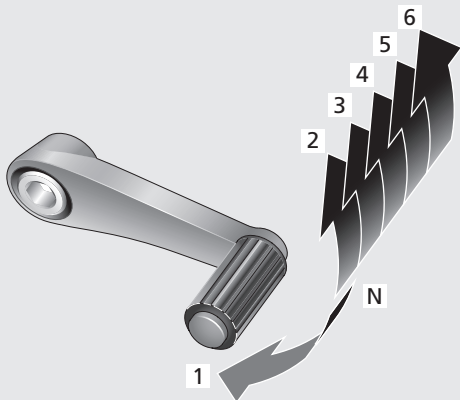
When you stop the engine

- 1 To stop the engine, shift to Neutral ( indicator comes ON).
- 2 Turn the ignition switch OFF.
- 3 Pull the parking brake lever when you park the motorcycle.

Shifting Gears

(VFR1200F)

Your motorcycle transmission has 6 forward gears in a one-down, five-up shift pattern.



If you put the motorcycle in gear with the side stand down, the engine will shut off.

Recommended Shift Points

Shifting Up

From 1st to 2nd	12 mph (20 km/h)
From 2nd to 3rd	19 mph (30 km/h)
From 3rd to 4th	25 mph (40 km/h)
From 4th to 5th	31 mph (50 km/h)
From 5th to 6th	37 mph (60 km/h)

Shifting Down

From 6th to 5th	28 mph (45 km/h)
From 5th to 4th	22 mph (35 km/h)
From 4th to 3rd	16 mph (25 km/h)

NOTICE

Improper shifting can damage the engine, transmission, and drive train. Also, coasting or towing the motorcycle for long distances with the engine off can damage the transmission.

(VFR1200FD)

VFR1200FD is equipped with an automatically controlled 6-speed transmission. It can be shifted automatically (by AT MODE) or manually (by MT MODE).

If you put the motorcycle in gear with the side stand down, the engine will shut off with the clutch disengaged.

Recommended Shift Points

Shifting Up

From 1st to 2nd	16 mph (25 km/h)
From 2nd to 3rd	22 mph (35 km/h)
From 3rd to 4th	28 mph (45 km/h)
From 4th to 5th	34 mph (55 km/h)
From 5th to 6th	37 mph (60 km/h)

Shifting Down

From 6th to 5th	34 mph (55 km/h)
From 5th to 4th	31 mph (50 km/h)
From 4th to 3rd	25 mph (40 km/h)
From 3rd to 2nd	19 mph (30 km/h)
From 2nd to 1st	12 mph (20 km/h)

NOTICE

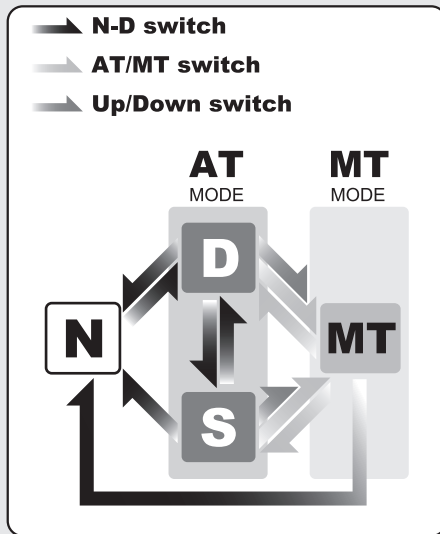
Improper shifting can damage the engine, transmission, and drive train. Also, coasting or towing the motorcycle for long distances with the engine off can damage the transmission.

Shifting Gears *(Continued)* (VFR1200FD)

Dual Clutch Transmission

In order to respond to rider demands in a broad range of situations, the transmission is equipped with three operating modes, AT MODE (including D mode for regular operation and S mode for sporty riding); and MT MODE (MT mode for a 6-speed manual operation), which delivers the same shift feel as a manual transmission.

The Dual Clutch Transmission system runs a self check immediately after starting the engine. “-” appears in the gear position indicator window for a few seconds, then goes out. While “-” appears, you cannot shift into gear. While “-” appears, you cannot shift into gear.



Neutral (N): Neutral is selected automatically when you turn the ignition switch to ON.

If neutral is not selected when you turn the ignition switch to ON:

- ▶ Turn the ignition OFF and ON again.
- ▶ If neutral is still not selected after turning the engine OFF then ON again. ➔ [P.93](#)
You may hear (click) noises when the transmission shifts to Neutral (N). This is normal.

When you can change between N and D

- ▶ Motorcycle is stopped and the engine is idling.
- ▶ Throttle is completely off. It is not possible to change from Neutral to D mode while the throttle is applied.
- ▶ You cannot change between N and D mode while the wheels are rotating.

NOTICE

- To prevent clutch damage, do not use the throttle to keep the motorcycle stopped uphill.

AT MODE: In this mode the gears are shifted automatically according to your riding conditions. You can choose between two modes within AT MODE: D mode and S mode.

D mode (AT): This is the standard mode when AT MODE is selected. Select D mode for regular operation and efficient fuel economy.

S mode (AT): Select this mode while riding in AT MODE when you need more power, such as when overtaking, climbing hills, or pulling away.

MT MODE: MT MODE (6-speed manual operation) You can choose between 6 gears in this mode.

Shifting Gears *(Continued)*

Changing between Neutral and AT/MT

Changing from Neutral (N) to AT MODE

Press the D/S side of the N-D switch (①).

The D mode indicator comes on, "1" is shown in the gear position indicator and first gear is selected.

Changing from AT or MT MODE to Neutral

Press N on the N-D switch (②).

Changing between D mode and S mode while in AT MODE

Press the D/S side of the N-D switch. The S or D mode indicator comes on (③,④).

Changing between AT MODE and MT MODE

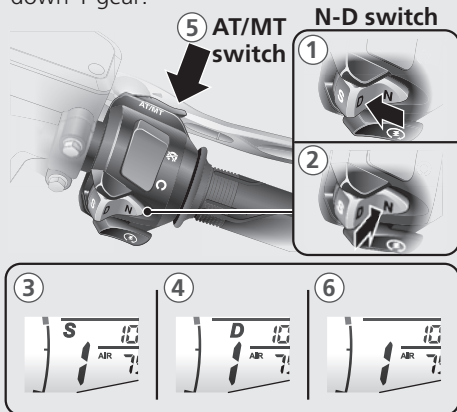
Press the AT/MT switch (⑤).

The S or D indicator goes out while MT MODE is selected (⑥).

Changing from AT to MT with the +, - switch

When press the shift up switch (+), you can change to MT MODE with shifting up 1 gear.

When press the shift down switch (-), you can change to MT MODE with shifting down 1 gear.



Riding in MT MODE

Shift up and down with the + and - switch. The selected gear is shown on the gear position indicator.

- ▶ If the MT MODE is selected, the transmission does not shift up automatically. Do not allow the engine revs to go into the red zone.
- ▶ The transmission automatically shifts down when you slow down, even in MT MODE.
- ▶ You will start from 1st gear even if MT MODE is selected.

Downshifting Blipping Control

In MT MODE, this system controls down shifting with the throttle completely closed by increasing engine revs automatically to match the gear ratio.

- ▶ This system may not increase engine revs in some running conditions.

Shifting Up:

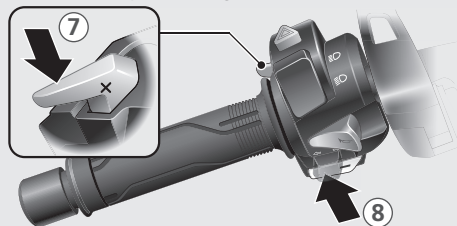
Press the shift up switch (+) (7).

Shifting Down:

Press the shift down switch (-) (8).

You cannot continue shifting gears by keeping the shift switch pressed.

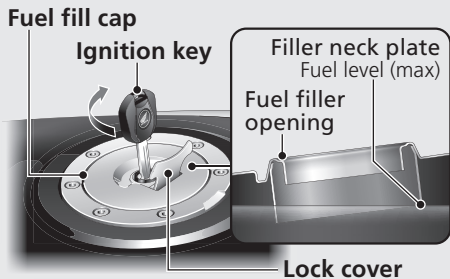
To continue shifting gears release the switch and press it again.



Shift Limit

You cannot downshift if the engine will exceed the rev limit. ➔ [P.35](#)

Refueling



Do not fill with fuel above the plate.

Fuel type: Unleaded gasoline only

Recommended fuel octane number:

Pump Octane Number (PON) 91 or higher.

Tank capacity: 4.89 US gal (18.5 litres)

Refueling and Fuel Guidelines ➔ P.13

Opening the Fuel Fill Cap

Open the lock cover, insert the ignition key, and turn it clockwise to open the cap.

Closing the Fuel Fill Cap

- 1 After refueling, push the fuel fill cap closed until it locks.
- 2 Remove the key and close the cover.
 - ▶ The key cannot be removed if the cap is not locked.

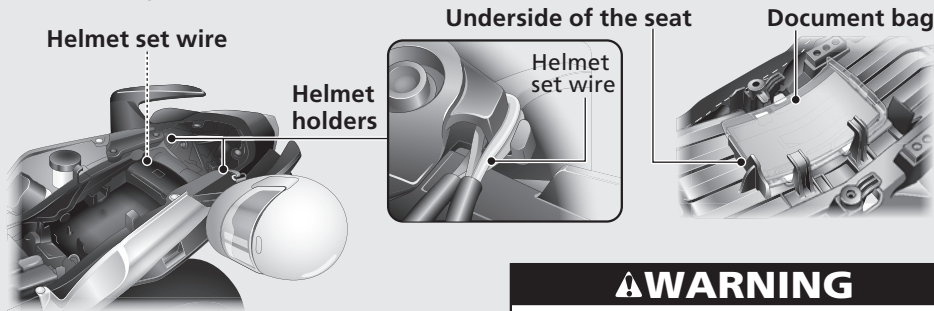
⚠ WARNING

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive. You can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel.

- Stop the engine, and keep heat, sparks, and flame away.
- Handle fuel only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills immediately.

Storage Compartment

Helmet holders and a helmet set wire (in the tool bag) are located under the seat. The document bag is located on the underside of the seat.



► Use the helmet holder only when parked.

► **Removing the Seat** ➔ P.59

⚠ WARNING

Riding with a helmet attached to the holder can interfere with the rear wheel or suspension and could cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed. Use the helmet holder only while parked. Do not ride with a helmet secured by the holder.

Maintenance

Please read “Importance of Maintenance” and “Maintenance Fundamentals” carefully before attempting any maintenance. Refer to “Specifications” for service data.

An optional tool kit may be available. Check with your Honda dealer’s parts department.

Importance of Maintenance	P.43	Coolant	P.71
Maintenance Schedule	P.45	Brakes/Clutch	P.73
Maintenance Fundamentals	P.48	Side Stand	P.77
Removing & Installing Body Components P.59		Final Drive Oil	P.78
Seat.....	P.59	Throttle	P.80
Clips.....	P.60	Other Adjustments	P.82
Final Gear Cover.....	P.60	Clutch and Brake Levers.....	P.82
Right Engine Heat Guard &		Front Suspension.....	P.83
Right Under Fairing.....	P.61	Rear Suspension.....	P.84
Right Rear Fairing.....	P.63	Headlight Aim.....	P.86
Battery.....	P.64	Brake Light Switch.....	P.87
Engine Oil	P.65		

Importance of Maintenance

Keeping your motorcycle well-maintained is absolutely essential to your safety and to protect your investment, obtain maximum performance, avoid breakdowns, and reduce air pollution. Maintenance is the owner's responsibility. Be sure to inspect your motorcycle before each ride, and perform the periodic checks specified in the Maintenance Schedule. ➤P.45

WARNING

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

Always follow the inspection and maintenance recommendations and schedules in this owner's manual.

For information about the exhaust emission and noise emission requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and Environment Canada (EC). ➤P.119

USA

Maintenance, replacement or repair of the emission control devices and systems may be performed by any motorcycle repair establishment or individual using parts that are "certified" to EPA standards.

Maintenance Safety

Always read the maintenance instructions before you begin each task, and make sure that you have the tools, parts, and skills required. We cannot warn you of every conceivable hazard that can arise in performing maintenance. Only you can decide whether or not you should perform a given task.

Follow these guidelines when performing maintenance.

- Stop the engine and remove the key.
- Park your motorcycle on a firm, level surface using the side stand or a maintenance stand to provide support.
- Allow the engine, muffler, brakes, and other high-temperature parts to cool before servicing as you can get burned.
- Run the engine only when instructed, and do so in a well-ventilated area.










Maintenance Schedule

The maintenance schedule specifies the maintenance requirements necessary to ensure safe, dependable performance, and proper emission control.



Maintenance work should be performed in accordance with Honda's standards and specifications by properly trained and equipped technicians. Your Honda dealer meets all of these requirements. Keep an accurate record of maintenance to help ensure that your motorcycle is properly maintained. Make sure that whomever performs the maintenance completes this record.


All scheduled maintenance is considered a normal owner operating cost and will be charged for by your dealer. Retain all receipts. If you sell the motorcycle, these receipts should be transferred with the motorcycle to the new owner.








Maintenance Schedule

Items		Frequency	Odometer Reading *1							Refer to page	
			× 1,000 mi	0.6	4	8	12	16	20		24
			× 1,000 km	1.0	6.4	12.8	19.2	25.6	32.0		38.4
Emission-related items	Fuel Line					I		I		I	–
	Throttle Operation					I		I		I	80
	Air Cleaner *2						I			I	–
	Spark Plug		Every 16,000 mi (25,600 km): I		Every 32,000 mi (51,200 km): R						–
	Valve Clearance							I			–
	Engine Oil		Initial = 600 mi (1,000 km) or 1 month: R Regular = Every 8,000 mi (12,800 km) or 12 months: R							65	
	Engine Oil Filter			R		R		R		R	66
	Clutch Oil Filter		VFR1200FD	R				R			69
	Radiator Coolant *3					I		I		R	71
	Cooling System					I		I		I	–
	Secondary Air Supply System					I		I		I	–
	Evaporative Emission Control System						I			I	–
	Exhaust Gas Control Actuator Cable		Every 16,000 mi (25,600 km): I								–

Maintenance Level

 : Intermediate. We recommend service by your Honda dealer, unless you have the necessary tools and are mechanically skilled. Procedures are provided in an official Honda Service Manual ( P. 126).

 : Technical. In the interest of safety, have your motorcycle serviced by your dealer.

Items		Frequency	Odometer Reading *1							Refer to page	
			× 1,000 mi	0.6	4	8	12	16	20		24
			× 1,000 km	1.0	6.4	12.8	19.2	25.6	32.0		38.4
Non-Emission-Related Items	Final Drive Oil				I		I		R	78	
	Brake Fluid *3			I	I	R	I	I	R	73	
	Brake Pads Wear			I	I	I	I	I	I	74	
	Brake System		I		I		I		I	82	
	Brake Light Switch					I		I		I	87
	Brake Lock Operation		VFR1200FD	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	75
	Headlight Aim					I		I		I	86
	Clutch System		VFR1200F			I		I		I	82
	Clutch Fluid *3		VFR1200F		I	I	R	I	I	R	76
	Side Stand					I		I		I	77
	Suspension					I		I		I	83
	Nuts, Bolts, Fasteners			I		I		I		I	–
	Wheels/Tires					I		I		I	55
	Steering Head Bearings			I		I		I		I	–

Maintenance Legend

I : Inspect (clean, adjust, lubricate, or replace, if necessary)

R : Replace

Notes:

*1 : At higher odometer readings, repeat at the

frequency interval established here.

*2 : Service more frequently when riding in unusually wet or dusty areas.

*3 : Replace every 2 years, or at indicated odometer intervals, whichever comes first. Replacement requires mechanical skill.

Pre-ride Inspection

To ensure safety, it is your responsibility to perform a pre-ride inspection and make sure that 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.

Check the following items before you get on your motorcycle:

- Tire tread wear and air pressures are within limits ➔ [P.55](#)
- Lights, horn, and turn signals operate normally

Check the following items if you are carrying a passenger or cargo:

- Combined weight is within load limits ➔ [P.133](#)
- Cargo is secured properly

- Suspension spring preload and damper settings are adjusted to suit load ➔ [P.83](#), [84](#)

Check the following items after you get on your motorcycle:

- Throttle action moves smoothly without binding ➔ [P.80](#)
- Brake lever and pedal operate normally

Check the following items at regular intervals:

- Oil level is between the upper and lower marks ➔ [P.65](#)
- Brake fluid level is above the lower mark (Front) and between the upper and lower marks (Rear) ➔ [P.73](#)
- Engine coolant level is between the upper and lower marks ➔ [P.71](#)
- **(VFR1200F)** Clutch fluid level is above the lower mark ➔ [P.76](#)
- **(VFR1200FD)** Parking brake works properly ➔ [P.75](#)

Periodic Checks

You should also perform other periodic maintenance checks at least once a month regardless of how often you ride, or more often if you ride frequently.

Also, check the odometer reading against the Maintenance Schedule and perform all maintenance that is due. ➤P.45

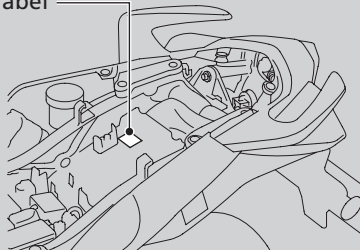
Tires and wheels	Check the air pressure (➤P. 55), examine tread for wear and damage (➤P. 56), and check the wheels for damage.
Fluid levels	Check the engine oil level (➤P. 65), engine coolant level (➤P. 71), clutch fluid level (➤P. 76), and brake fluid level (➤P. 73), final drive oil level (➤P. 78).
Lights	Check that the headlight, brake light, taillight, turn signals and license plate light are working properly.
Controls	Check the freeplay of the clutch lever (➤P. 82), throttle grip (➤P. 80), front brake lever (➤P. 82), rear brake pedal, and parking brake (➤P. 75).
Fuses	Check that you have a full supply of spare fuses.
Nuts & bolts	Check the major nuts and bolts, and tighten as needed.

Replacing Parts

Always use Honda Genuine Parts or their equivalents to ensure reliability and safety. When ordering colored components, specify the model name, color, and code mentioned on the color label. The color label is attached to the rear fender under the seat.

➔ [P.59](#)

Color label



⚠️ WARNING

Installing non-Honda parts may make your motorcycle unsafe and cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always use Honda Genuine Parts or equivalents that have been designed and approved for your motorcycle.

Battery

Your motorcycle has a maintenance-free type battery. You do not have to check the battery electrolyte level or add distilled water. Clean the battery terminals if they become dirty or corroded.

Do not remove the battery cap seals. There is no need to remove the cap when charging.

What to do in an emergency

If any of the following occur, immediately see your doctor.

- Electrolyte splashes into your eyes:
 - ▶ Wash your eyes repeatedly with cool water for at least 15 minutes. Using water under pressure can damage your eyes.
- Electrolyte splashes onto your skin:
 - ▶ Remove affected clothing and wash your skin thoroughly using water.

- Electrolyte splashes into your mouth:
 - ▶ Rinse mouth thoroughly with water, and do not swallow.

WARNING


The battery gives off explosive hydrogen gas during normal operation. A spark or flame can cause the battery to explode with enough force to kill or seriously hurt you.

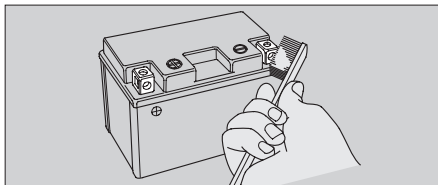
Wear protective clothing and a face shield, or have a skilled mechanic do the battery servicing.

Warning: Battery posts, terminals, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds.

Wash your hands after handling.

I Cleaning the Battery Terminals

1. Remove the battery.  P.64
2. If the terminals are starting to corrode and are coated with a white substance, wash with warm water and wipe clean.
3. If the terminals are heavily corroded, clean the terminals with a wire brush or sandpaper. Wear safety glasses.



4. After cleaning, reinstall the battery.

The battery has a limited life span. Consult your dealer about when you should replace the battery. Always replace the battery with another maintenance-free battery of the same type.

I Charging

If you use electrical accessories that drain the battery or you do not ride frequently, we recommend that you charge the battery every 30 days using a charger designed specifically for your Honda, which can be purchased from your dealer. Read the information that came with your battery charger and follow the instructions on the battery. Avoid using an automobile-type battery charger, as these can overheat a motorcycle battery and cause permanent damage. Make sure the ignition switch is in the OFF position before charging the battery.

NOTICE

Improper charging can damage the battery. If you can't charge the battery or it appears unable to hold a charge, contact your dealer.

NOTICE

Jump starting using an automobile battery can damage your motorcycle's electrical system and is not recommended. Bump starting is also not recommended.

NOTICE

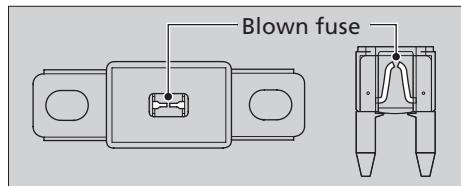
Installing non-Honda electrical accessories can overload the electrical system, discharging the battery and possibly damaging the system.

Fuses

Fuses protect the electrical circuits on your motorcycle. If something electrical on your motorcycle stops working, check for and replace any blown fuses. ➤ [P.107](#)

Inspecting and Replacing Fuses

Turn off the ignition switch to remove and inspect fuses. If a fuse is blown, replace with a fuse of the same rating. For fuse ratings, see "Specifications." ➤ [P.135](#)

**NOTICE**

Replacing a fuse with one that has a higher rating greatly increases the chance of damage to the electrical system.

If a fuse fails repeatedly, you likely have an electrical fault. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

Maintenance Fundamentals

Engine Oil

Engine oil consumption varies and oil quality deteriorates according to riding conditions and time elapsed.

Check the engine oil level regularly, and top off if necessary. Dirty oil or old oil should be changed as soon as possible.

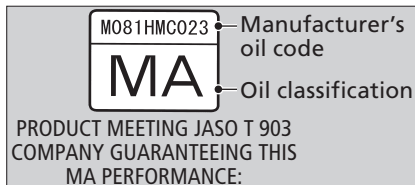
■ Selecting the Engine Oil

For recommended engine oil, see “Specifications.” ➔ [P.134](#)

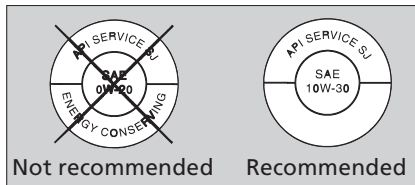
If you use non-Honda engine oil, check the label to make sure that the oil satisfies all of the following standards:

- JASO T 903 standard*1: MA
- SAE standard*2: 10W-30
- API classification*3: SG or higher

*1. The JASO T 903 standard is an index for engine oils for 4-stroke motorcycle engines. There are two classes: MA and MB. For example, the following label shows the MA classification.



- *2. The SAE standard grades oils by their viscosity.
- *3. The API classification specifies the quality and performance rating of engine oils. Use SG or higher oils, excluding oils marked as “Energy Conserving” on the circular API service symbol.



Brake Fluid (Clutch Fluid)

Do not add or replace brake fluid, except in an emergency. Use only fresh brake fluid from a sealed container. If you do add fluid, have the brake system serviced by your dealer as soon as possible.

NOTICE

Brake fluid can damage plastic and painted surfaces. Wipe up spills immediately and wash thoroughly.

Recommended brake fluid:

Honda DOT 4 Brake Fluid or equivalent

Final Drive Oil

Recommended final drive oil:

Hypoid gear oil SAE 80

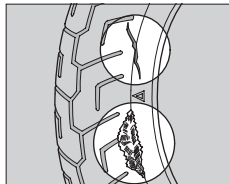
Tires (Inspecting/Replacing)

Checking the Air Pressure

Visually inspect your tires and use an air pressure gauge to measure the air pressure at least once a month or any time you think the tires look low. Always check air pressure when your tires are cold.

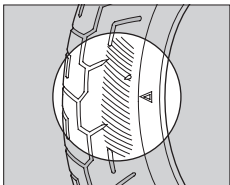
Inspecting for Damage

Inspect the tires for cuts, slits, or cracks that exposes fabric or cords, or nails or other foreign objects embedded in the side of the tire or the tread. Also inspect for the bumps or bulges in the side walls of the tires.



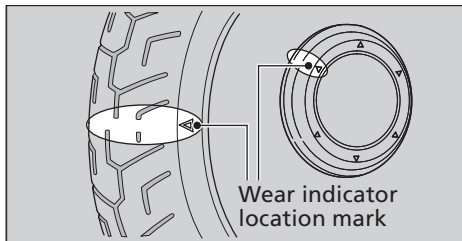
Inspecting for Abnormal Wear

Inspect the tires for signs of abnormal wear on the contact surface.



Inspecting Tread Depth

Inspect the tread wear indicators. If they become visible, replace the tires immediately. For your safety, you should replace the tires when the minimum tread depth is reached.



⚠️ WARNING

Riding on tires that are excessively worn or improperly inflated can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Follow all instructions in this owner's manual regarding tire inflation and maintenance.

Have your tires replaced by your dealer. For recommended tires, air pressure and minimum tread depth, see “Specifications.”

➤ P.134

Follow these guidelines whenever you replace tires.

- Use the recommended tires or equivalents of the same size, construction, speed rating, and load range.
- Have the wheel balanced with Honda Genuine balance weights or equivalents.
- Do not install a tube inside a tubeless tire on this motorcycle. Excessive heat build-up can cause the tube to burst.
- Use only tubeless tires on this motorcycle. The rims are designed for tubeless tires, and during hard acceleration or braking, a tube-type tire could slip on the rim and cause the tire to rapidly deflate.

WARNING

Installing improper tires on your motorcycle can adversely affect handling and stability, and can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always use the size and type of tires recommended in this owner's manual.

Tire Service Life

The service life of your tires is dependent on many factors, including, but not limited to, riding habits, road conditions, vehicle loading, tire air pressure, maintenance history, speed, and environmental conditions (even when the tires are not in use).

In addition to your regular inspections and maintenance, it is recommended that you have annual inspections performed once the tires reach 5 years old. It is also recommended that all tires be removed from service after 10 years from the date of manufacture, regardless of their condition or state of wear.

The last four digits of the TIN (tire identification number) indicate the date of manufacture.

Tire Identification Number (TIN)

The tire identification number (TIN) is a group of numbers and letters located on the sidewall of the tire.

① ② ③
DOT XXXX XXXX 22 09

DOT: This indicates that the tire meets all requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

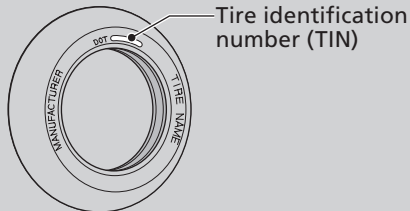
① XXXX: Factory code

② XXXX: Tire type code

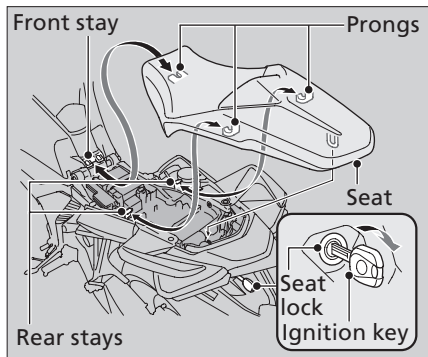
③ 22 09: Date of manufacture (week & year).

Example: week 22 in year 09.

Tire Labeling Example



Seat



■ Removal

1. Insert the ignition key into the seat lock, and turn and hold the key clockwise to unlock the seat.
2. Pull the rear of the seat back and up.

■ Installation

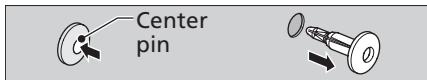
1. Insert the front and rear prongs into the front and rear stays on the frame.
 2. Push forward and down on the rear of the seat until it locks in place.
Make sure that the seat is locked securely in position to pull it up lightly.
- The seat locks automatically when closed. Take care not to lock your key in the underseat compartment.

Clips

The clips must be removed to remove the right rear fairing.

Removal

1. Press down on the center pin to release the lock.
2. Pull the clip out of the hole.



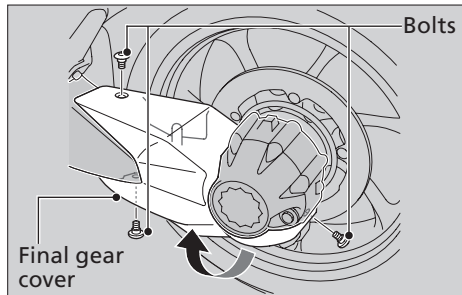
Installation

1. Push the bottom of the center pin.
2. Insert the clip into the hole.
3. Press down on the center pin to lock the clip.



Final Gear Cover

The final gear cover must be opened to drain the final gear oil.



Removal

1. Remove the bolts.
2. Open the final gear cover.

Installation

Install the parts in the reverse order of removal.

Right Engine Heat Guard & Right Under Fairing

The right engine heat guard must be opened to service the coolant reserve tank or to check the engine number.

(VFR1200F)

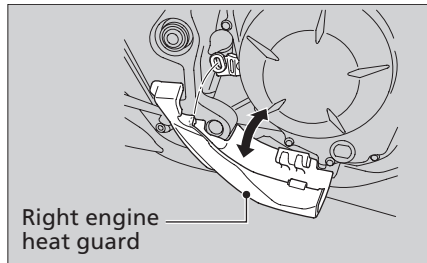
The right under fairing must be removed to service the engine oil filter.

(VFR1200FD)

The right under fairing must be removed to service the engine oil filter and the clutch oil filter.

Removal

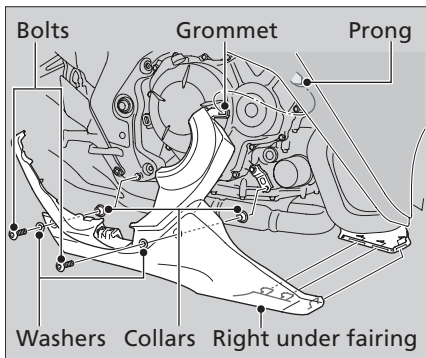
1. Open the right engine heat guard.



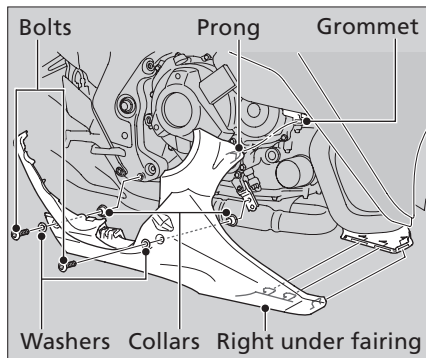
Removing & Installing Body Components ► Right Engine Heat Guard & Right Under Fairing

2. Remove the bolts, washers and collars.
3. Remove the prong from the grommet.
4. Remove the right engine heat guard and right under fairing.

(VFR1200F)



(VFR1200FD)

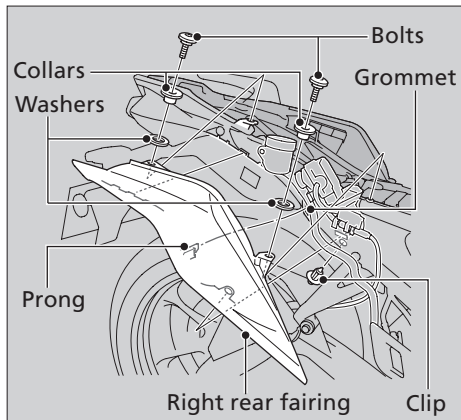


Installation

Install the parts in the reverse order of removal.

Right Rear Fairing

The right rear fairing must be removed to remove the rear wheel.



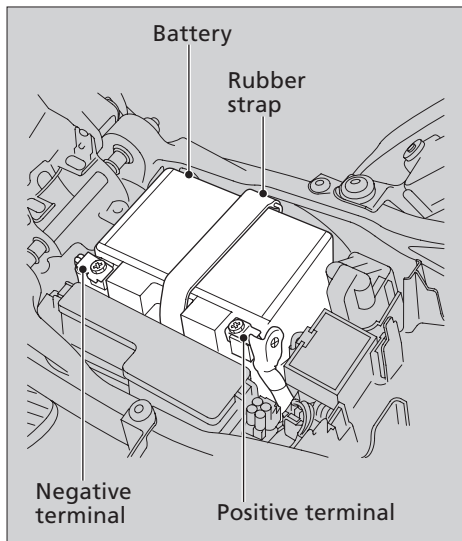
Removal

1. Remove the seat. ► [P.59](#)
2. Remove the bolts, collars, washers and clip. ► [P.60](#)
3. Remove the prong from the grommet.
4. Remove the right rear fairing.

Installation

Install the parts in the reverse order of removal.

Battery



Removal

1. Remove the seat. ➤ [P.59](#)
2. Unhook the rubber strap.
3. Disconnect the negative ⊖ terminal and remove the battery lead.
4. Disconnect the positive ⊕ terminal and remove the battery lead.
5. Remove the battery taking care not to drop the terminal nuts.

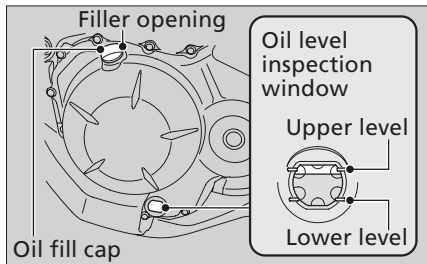
Installation

Install the parts in the reverse order of removal. Always connect the positive ⊕ terminal first. Make sure that bolts and nuts are tight.

For proper handling of the battery, see "Maintenance Fundamentals." ➤ [P.51](#)
Battery Goes Dead ➤ [P.101](#)

Checking the Engine Oil

1. If the engine is cold, idle the engine for 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Turn the ignition switch OFF, stop the engine and wait 2 to 3 minutes.
3. Place your motorcycle in an upright position on a firm, level surface.
4. Check that the oil level is between the upper and lower level marks in the oil inspection window.



Adding Engine Oil

If the engine oil is below or near the lower level mark, add the recommended engine oil. ➔ [P. 54](#)

1. Add the recommended oil until it reaches the upper level mark.
 - ▶ Place your motorcycle in an upright position on a firm, level surface when checking the oil level.
 - ▶ Do not overfill above the upper level mark.
 - ▶ Make sure no foreign objects enter the oil filler opening.
 - ▶ Wipe up any spills immediately.
2. Securely reinstall the oil fill cap.

NOTICE

Overfilling with oil or operating with insufficient oil can cause damage to your engine. Do not mix different brands and grades of oil. They may affect lubrication and clutch operation.

For the recommended oil and oil selection guidelines, see “Maintenance Fundamentals.” ➤P.54

Changing Engine Oil & Filter

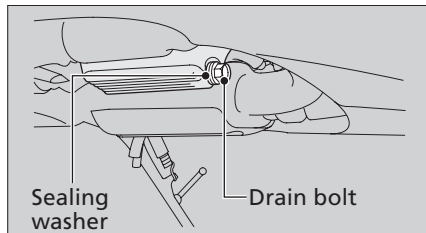
Changing the oil and filter requires special tools. We recommend that you have your motorcycle serviced by your dealer.

Use a new Honda Genuine oil filter or equivalent specified for your model.

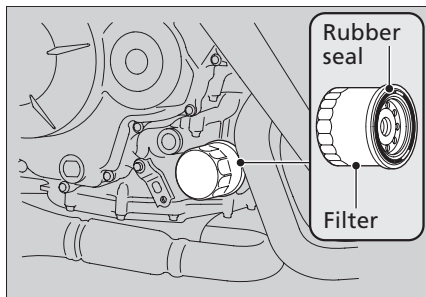
NOTICE

Using the wrong oil filter can result in serious damage to the engine.

1. If the engine is cold, idle the engine for 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Turn the ignition switch OFF, stop the engine and wait for 2 to 3 minutes.
3. Park on a firm, level surface and lower the side stand.
4. Place a drain pan under the drain bolt.
5. Remove the oil fill cap, drain bolt, and sealing washer to drain the oil.



6. Remove the right engine heat guard & right under fairing. ► P. 61
7. Remove the oil filter with a filter wrench and let the remaining oil drain out. Make sure the prior seal is not stuck to the engine.
 - Discard the oil and oil filter at an approved recycling center.



8. Apply a thin coat of engine oil to the rubber seal of a new oil filter.
9. Install a new oil filter and tighten.

Torque: 19 lbf·ft (26 N·m, 2.7 kgf·m).

10. Replace the sealing washer. Install the drain bolt and tighten.

Torque: 21 lbf·ft (29 N·m, 3.0 kgf·m).

11. Fill the crankcase with the recommended oil (►P. 54) and install the oil fill cap.

Required oil

VFR1200F

When changing oil & engine oil filter:

3.4 US qt (3.2 litres)

When changing oil only:

3.2 US qt (3.0 litres)

VFR1200FD

When changing oil & engine oil filter:

4.1 US qt (3.9 litres)

When changing oil only:

3.8 US qt (3.6 litres)

12. Check the oil level. ►P. 65

13. Check that there are no oil leaks.

14. Install the right engine heat guard & right under fairing.

Changing Clutch Oil Filter (VFR1200FD only)

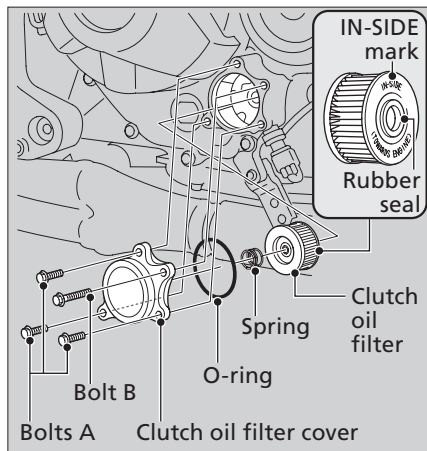
Use a new Honda Genuine clutch oil filter or equivalent specified for your model.

NOTICE

Using the wrong clutch oil filter can result in serious damage to the transmission.

1. Follow the steps 1-7 of Changing Engine Oil & Filter. ► [P.66](#), [67](#)

2. Remove the clutch oil filter cover, clutch oil filter and spring by removing the clutch oil filter bolts A and B.
 - Discard the oil and clutch oil filter at an approved recycling center.



Engine Oil ► Changing Clutch Oil Filter (VFR1200FD only)

3. Install the new clutch oil filter with the rubber seal facing in, toward the engine. You will see "IN-SIDE" mark on the clutch oil filter body, near the seal.
4. Replace the O-ring and apply a thin coat of engine oil to the new O-ring when before installing it.
5. Install the spring and the clutch oil filter cover.
6. Install the clutch oil filter bolts A, B and tighten.
7. Apply a thin coat of engine oil to the rubber seal of a new engine oil filter.
➤ P. 67
8. Install a new engine oil filter and tighten.

Torque: 19 lbf·ft (26 N·m, 2.7 kgf·m).

9. Replace the sealing washer. Install the drain bolt and tighten.

Torque: 21 lbf·ft (29 N·m, 3.0 kgf·m).

10. Fill the crankcase with the recommended oil (➤ P. 54) and install the oil fill cap.

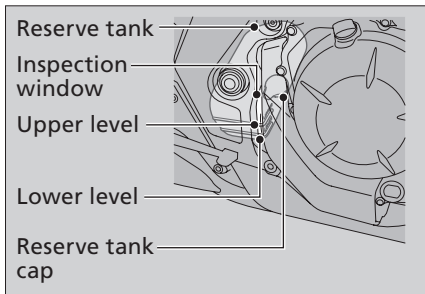
Required oil**When changing oil, engine oil filter & clutch oil filter:**

4.2 US qt (4.0 litres)

11. Check the oil level. ➤ P. 65
12. Check that there are no oil leaks.
13. Install the right engine heat guard & right under fairing.

Checking the Coolant

1. Place your motorcycle on a firm, level surface.
2. Hold your motorcycle in an upright position.
3. Check that the coolant level is between the upper and lower level marks in the reserve tank from the inspection window.



If the coolant level is dropping noticeably or the reserve tank is empty, you likely have a serious leak. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

Recommended Coolant

Pro Honda HP is a pre-mixed solution of antifreeze and distilled water.

Concentration:


50% antifreeze and 50% distilled water

A concentration of antifreeze below 40% will not provide proper corrosion and cold temperature protection. A concentration of up to 60% will provide better protection in colder climates.

NOTICE

Using coolant not specified for aluminum engines or using ordinary tap water can cause corrosion.

Adding Coolant

1. If the coolant level is below the lower level, add fluid until the level reaches the upper level mark.
Add fluid only from the reserve tank cap and do not remove the radiator cap.
2. Open the right engine heat guard.
 P. 61
3. Remove the reserve tank cap and add fluid while monitoring the coolant level.
 - Do not overfill above the upper level mark.
 - Make sure no foreign objects enter the reserve tank opening.
4. Securely reinstall the cap.
5. Close the right engine heat guard.

WARNING

Removing the radiator cap while the engine is hot can cause the coolant to spray out, potentially scalding you.
Always let the engine and radiator cool down before removing the radiator cap.

Changing Coolant

Have your dealer change the coolant unless you have the proper tools and are mechanically qualified.

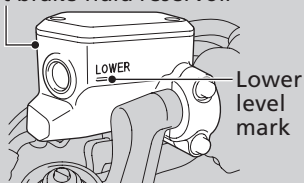
Checking Brake Fluid

1. Place your motorcycle in an upright position on a firm, level surface.
2. **Front** Check that the brake fluid reservoir cap is horizontal and that the fluid level is above the lower level mark.
3. **Rear** Remove the seat. ➔ [P.59](#)
4. **Rear** Check that the brake fluid reservoir is horizontal and that the level is between the lower level and upper level marks.

If the brake fluid level in either reservoir is below the lower level mark or the brake lever and pedal freeplay becomes excessive, inspect the brake pads for wear. If the brake pads are not worn, you most likely have a leak. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

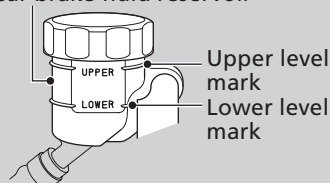
Front

Front brake fluid reservoir



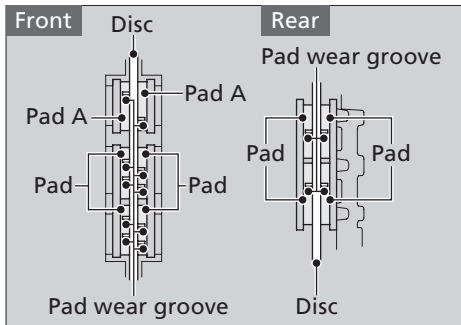
Rear

Rear brake fluid reservoir



Inspecting the Brake Pads

Check the condition of the brake pad groove wear indicators. The pads need to be replaced if a brake pad is worn to the groove.

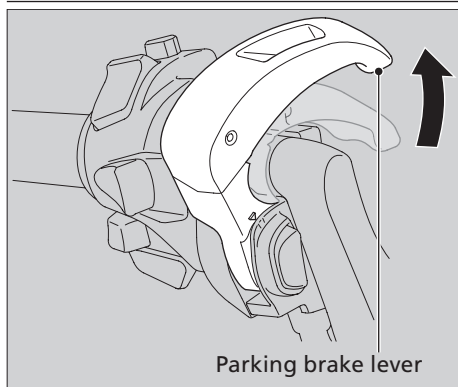


- 1. Front** Inspect the brake pads from in front of the brake caliper.
 - Always inspect both left and right calipers.
 - Pad A of the left caliper is part of the combined brake system. Pad A wear of the left caliper may be different from the rest of the front pads.
- 2. Rear** Inspect the brake pads from the rear right of the motorcycle.

If necessary have the pads replaced by your dealer.

Always replace both left and right brake pads at the same time.

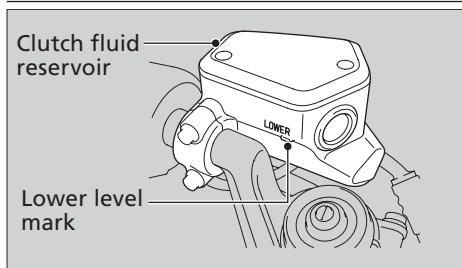
Inspecting the Parking Brake (VFR1200FD only)



Place your motorcycle on a firm, level surface. Stop the engine and push your motorcycle while applying the parking brake lever to check the efficacy of the parking brake.

If the efficacy of the parking brake become weak, have the brake adjusted by your dealer.

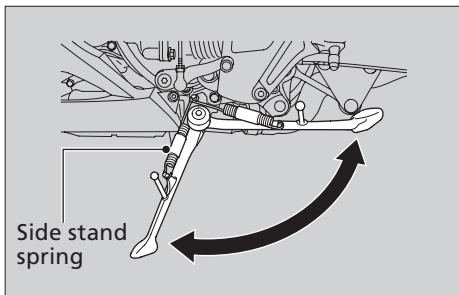
Checking Clutch Fluid (VFR1200F only)



1. Place your motorcycle in an upright position on a firm, level surface.
2. Check that the clutch fluid reservoir cap is horizontal and that the fluid level is above the lower level mark.

If the fluid level is low or if you find fluid leaks, or deterioration or cracks in the hoses and fittings, have the clutch system serviced by your dealer.

Side Stand



1. Check that the side stand operates smoothly. If the side stand is stiff or squeaky, clean the pivot area and lubricate the pivot bolt with clean grease.
2. Check the spring for damage or loss of tension.
3. **(VFR1200F)**
Sit on the motorcycle, put the transmission in Neutral, and raise the side stand.

(VFR1200FD)

Sit on the motorcycle and raise the side stand.

4. (VFR1200F)

Start the engine, pull the clutch lever in, and shift the transmission into gear.

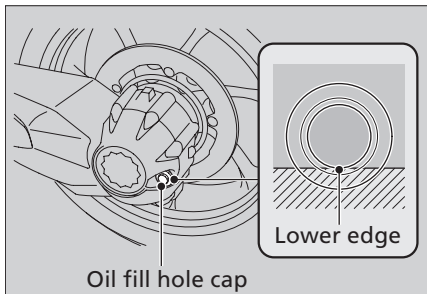
(VFR1200FD)

Start the engine and press the D/S side of N-D switch to switch the transmission into D mode.

5. Lower the side stand all the way. The engine should stop as you lower the side stand. If the engine doesn't stop, have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

Checking the Final Drive Oil

1. Place your motorcycle on the side stand on a level surface.
2. Remove the oil fill hole cap.
3. Check the oil level. It should be flush with the lower edge of the oil fill hole.



Adding Final Drive Oil

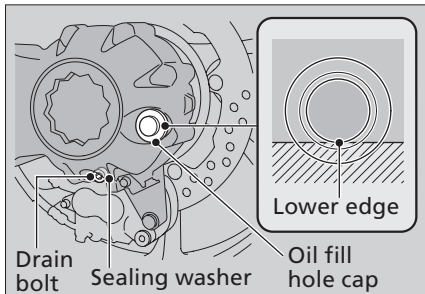
If the final drive oil level is low, check for oil leaks. Add the recommended final drive oil (➤P. 55) until it reaches the lower edge of the opening.

1. Pour the final drive oil into the oil fill hole until it reaches the lower edge of the opening.
 - ▶ Do not over fill above the lower edge of oil fill hole.
 - ▶ Make sure no foreign objects enter the oil fill hole.
 - ▶ Wipe up any spills immediately.
2. Reinstall the oil fill hole cap and tighten.

Torque: 5.9 lbf-ft (8 N·m, 0.8 kgf·m).

Changing Final Drive Oil

1. Place your motorcycle on the side stand on a level surface.
2. Open the final gear cover. ➔ [P. 60](#)
3. Place a drain pan under the drain bolt.
4. Remove the oil fill hole cap, drain bolt, and sealing washer to drain the oil.



5. Replace the sealing washer. Install the drain bolt and tighten.

Torque: 9 lbf·ft (12 N·m, 1.2 kgf·m).

6. Fill the final gear with the recommended oil. ➔ [P. 55](#)

Required oil: 6.8 US oz (200 cm³)

7. Check the oil level. It should be flush with the lower edge of the oil fill hole.
8. Reinstall the oil fill hole cap and tighten.

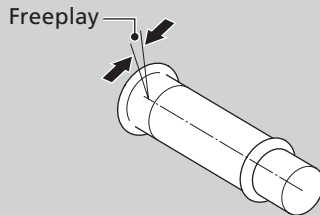
Torque: 5.9 lbf·ft (8 N·m, 0.8 kgf·m).

9. Check that there are no oil leaks.
10. Close the final gear cover.

Checking the Throttle

With the engine off, check that the throttle rotates smoothly from fully closed to fully open in all steering positions and throttle freeplay is correct. If the throttle does not move smoothly, close automatically, or if the cable is damaged, have the motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

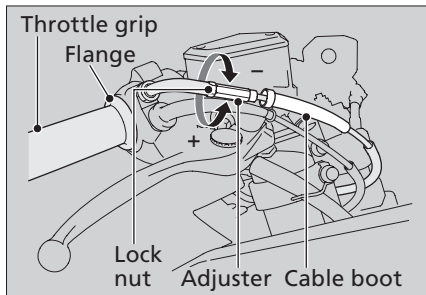
Freeplay at the throttle grip flange:
1/16 to 3/16 in (2 to 4 mm).



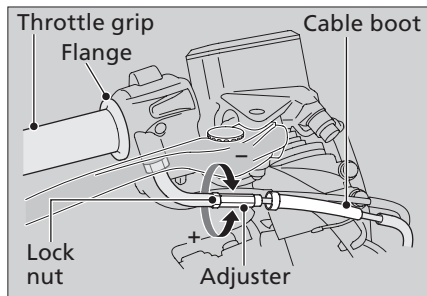
Adjusting the Throttle Cable Freeplay

1. Slide the cable boot.
2. Loosen the lock nut.
3. Turn the adjuster until the freeplay is 1/16 to 3/16 in (2 to 4 mm).
4. Tighten the lock nut, return the cable boot, and inspect the throttle action again.

(VFR1200F)



(VFR1200FD)



Other Adjustments

Adjusting the Clutch and Brake Levers

You can adjust the distance between the tip of the clutch and brake lever.

Adjustment method

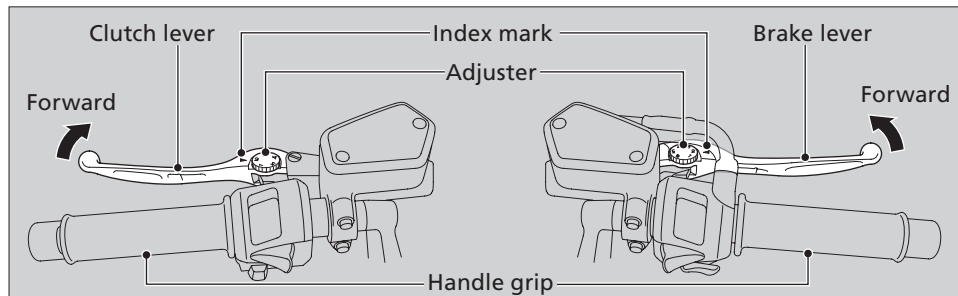
Turn the adjuster until the numbers align with the index mark while pushing the lever forward in the desired position.

After adjustment, check that the levers operate correctly before riding.

NOTICE

- Do not turn the adjuster beyond its natural limit.

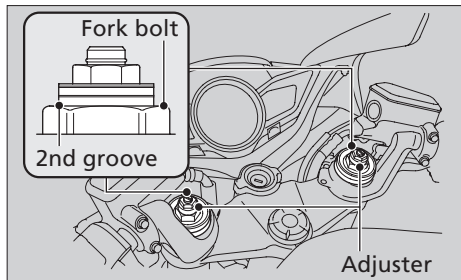
VFR1200FD is not equipped with clutch lever and clutch lever adjuster.



Adjusting the Front Suspension

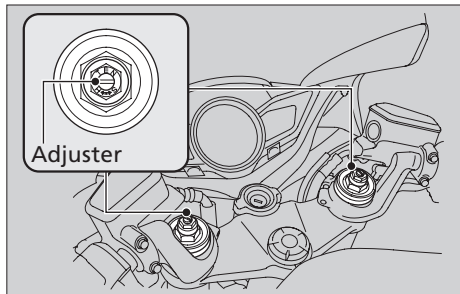
Spring Preload

You can adjust the spring preload by the adjuster to suit the load or the road surface. Turn clockwise to increase spring preload (hard), or turn counterclockwise to decrease spring preload (soft). The standard position is the second groove from the top aligning with the top surface of the fork bolts.



Rebound Damping

You can adjust the rebound damping by the adjuster to suit the load or the road surface. Turn clockwise to increase rebound damping (hard), or turn counterclockwise to decrease rebound damping (soft). The standard position is 6 clicks from the maximum setting.



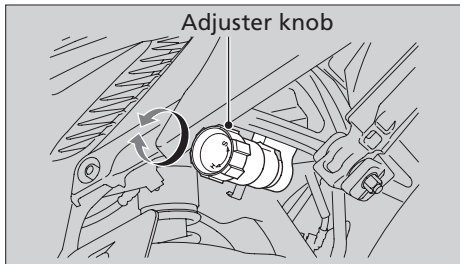
NOTICE

Do not turn the adjuster beyond its limits.
Adjust both left and right forks to the same spring preload and rebound damping.

Adjusting the Rear Suspension

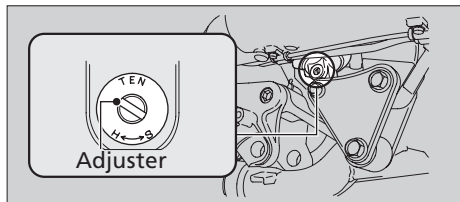
Spring Preload

You can adjust the spring preload by the adjuster knob to suit the load or the road surface. Turn clockwise to increase spring preload (hard), or turn counterclockwise to decrease spring preload (soft). The standard position is 11 clicks (**VFR1200F**)/15 clicks (**VFR1200FD**) from the minimum setting.



Rebound Damping

You can adjust the rebound damping by the adjuster to suit the load or the road surface. Turn clockwise to increase rebound damping (hard), or turn counterclockwise to decrease rebound damping (soft). The standard position is 3/4 turn from the maximum setting.



NOTICE

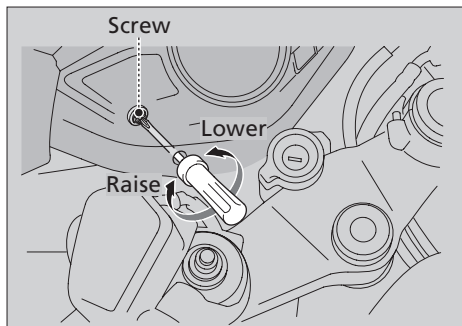
Do not turn the adjuster beyond its limits.

NOTICE

The rear shock absorber damper unit contains high pressure nitrogen gas. Do not attempt to disassemble, service, or improperly dispose of the damper. See your dealer.

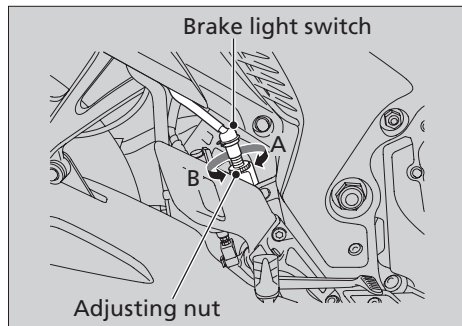
Adjusting the Headlight Aim

You can adjust vertical aim of the headlight for proper alignment. Turn the screw using a Phillips screwdriver in or out as necessary. Obey local laws and regulations.



Adjusting the Brake Light Switch

Check the operation of the brake light switch. Turn the adjusting nut in the direction A if the switch operates too late, or turn the nut in the direction B if the switch operates too soon.



Troubleshooting

Engine Will Not Start	P.89
Overheating	
(High coolant temperature indicator is ON)	P.90
Warning Indicators ON or Flashing	P.91
Low Oil Pressure Indicator	P.91
PGM-FI (Programmed Fuel Injection)	
Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL).....	P.91
ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) Indicator	P.92
If the "-" Indicator is Blinking in the Gear Position Window While Riding	P.93

Tire Puncture	P.94
Electrical Trouble	P.101
Battery Goes Dead.....	P.101
Burned-out Light Bulb	P.101
Blown Fuse	P.107


Starter Motor Operates But Engine Does Not Start

Check the following items:

- Check the correct engine starting sequence ➤ [P.32, 33](#)
- Check that there is gasoline in the fuel tank
- Check if the PGM-FI malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) is ON
 - ▶ If the indicator light is ON, contact your dealer as soon as possible.

Starter Motor Does Not Operate

Check the following items:

- Make sure engine stop switch is RUN  position ➤ [P.28, 31](#)
- Check for a blown fuse ➤ [P.107](#)
- Check for a loose battery connection or battery terminal corrosion ➤ [P.52](#)
- Check the condition of the battery ➤ [P.101](#)

If the problem continues, have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

Overheating (High coolant temperature indicator is ON)

The engine is overheating when the following occurs:

- High coolant temperature indicator comes ON
- Acceleration becomes sluggish

If this occurs, pull safely to the side of the road and perform the following procedure. Extended fast idling may cause the high coolant temperature indicator comes ON.

NOTICE

Continuing to ride with an overheated engine can cause serious damage to the engine.

1. Stop the engine using the ignition switch, and then turn the ignition switch to the ON position.
2. Check that the radiator fan is operating, and then turn the ignition switch to the OFF position.
If the fan is not operating:
Suspect a fault. Do not start the engine. Transport your motorcycle to your dealer.
If the fan is operating:
Allow the engine to cool with the ignition switch in the OFF position.
3. After the engine has cooled, inspect the radiator hose and check if there is a leak.
➔ [P.71](#)
If there is a leak:
Do not start the engine. Transport your motorcycle to your dealer.
4. Check the coolant level in the reserve tank, and add coolant as necessary.
➔ [P.72](#)
5. If 1-4 check normal, you may continue riding, but closely monitor the temperature gauge.

Low Oil Pressure Indicator

If the low oil pressure indicator comes ON, pull safely to the side of the road and stop the engine.

NOTICE

Continuing to ride with low oil pressure can cause serious damage to the engine.

1. Check the engine oil level, and add oil as necessary. ➔ [P.65](#)
2. Start the engine.
 - ▶ Only continue riding if the low oil pressure indicator goes OFF.

Rapid acceleration may momentarily cause the low oil pressure indicator to come ON, especially if the oil is at or near the low level. If the low oil pressure indicator stays ON when the oil level is at the proper level, stop the engine and contact your dealer.

If the engine oil level goes down rapidly, your motorcycle may have a leak or another serious problem. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

PGM-FI (Programmed Fuel Injection) Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL)

If the indicator comes ON while riding, you may have a serious problem with the PGM-FI system. Reduce speed and have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer as soon as possible.

ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) Indicator

If the indicator operates in one of the following ways, you may have a serious problem with the brake system. Reduce your speed and have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer as soon as possible.

- Indicator comes ON or starts flashing while riding
- Indicator does not come ON when the ignition switch is in the ON position
- Indicator does not go OFF at speeds above 6 mph (10 km/h)

If the ABS indicator stays ON, your brakes will continue to work as a conventional system, but without the anti-locking function.

The ABS indicator may come ON if you turn the rear wheel while your motorcycle is lifted off the ground. In this case, turn the ignition switch OFF and then ON again. The ABS indicator will go OFF after your speed reaches 6 mph (10 km/h).

If the “-” Indicator is Blinking in the Gear Position Window While Riding

(VFR1200FD only)

If the “-” indicator is blinking while riding, you may have a serious problem with the Dual Clutch Transmission system.

Park your motorcycle in a safe place and have your motorcycle inspected by dealer immediately.

To determine whether it is still possible to continue riding, perform the following.

1. Turn the ignition switch to OFF.
2. Turn the ignition switch to ON and attempt to start the engine.

If you cannot start the engine:

Turn the ignition switch to OFF and move the motorcycle back and forth slightly (to disengage the gears).

Turn the ignition switch to ON again and again try to start the engine.

If you still cannot start the engine:

Try starting the engine while applying the brake lever or pressing the brake pedal.

If you can shift from N to D mode:

When a gear position is shown in the gear position indicator, you can ride in that gear. Take your motorcycle to your dealer riding at a safe speed.

If you can't shift from N to D mode and the “-” indicator is blinking:

Serious damage has occurred and you should not attempt to continue. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer immediately.

Repairing a puncture or removing a wheel requires special tools and technical expertise. We recommend you have this type of service performed by your dealer. After an emergency repair, always have the tire inspected/replaced by your dealer.

Emergency Repair Using a Tire Repair Kit

If your tire has a minor puncture, you can make an emergency repair using a tubeless tire repair kit.

Follow the instructions provided with the emergency tire repair kit.

Riding your motorcycle with a temporary tire repair is very risky. Do not exceed 30 mph (50 km/h). Have the tire replaced by your dealer as soon as possible.

WARNING

Riding your motorcycle with a temporary tire repair can be risky. If the temporary repair fails, you can crash and be seriously injured or killed. If you must ride with a temporary tire repair, ride slowly and carefully and do not exceed 30 mph (50 km/h) until the tire is replaced.

Removing Wheels

Follow these procedures if you need to remove a wheel in order to repair a puncture.

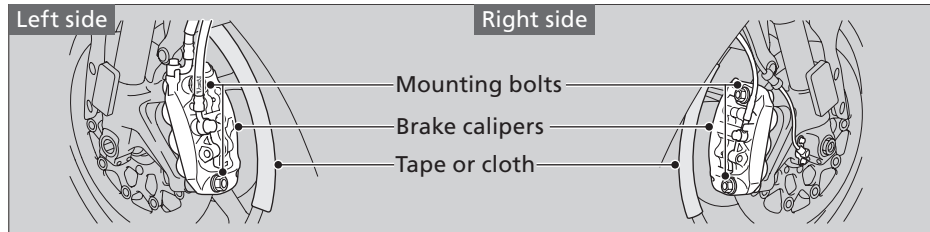
When removing and installing the wheel, be careful not to damage the wheel speed sensor and pulser ring.

Front Wheel

Removal

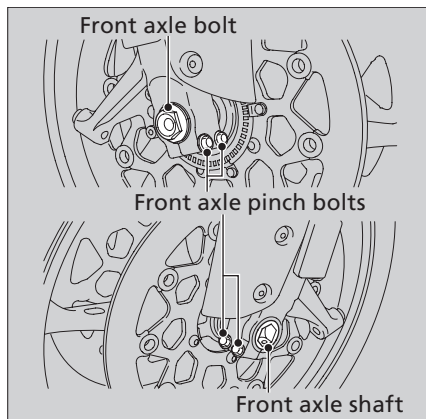
1. Park on a firm, level surface.
2. Cover both sides of the front wheel and brake caliper with protective tape or cloth.
3. On the left side, remove the mounting bolts and remove the brake caliper.

4. On the right side, remove the mounting bolts and remove the brake caliper.
 - Support the brake caliper assembly so that it doesn't hang from the brake hose. Do not twist the brake hose.
 - Avoid getting grease, oil, or dirt on the disc or pad surfaces.
 - Do not pull the brake lever or push the brake pedal while the brake caliper is removed.
 - Take care to prevent the brake caliper from scratching the wheel during removal.



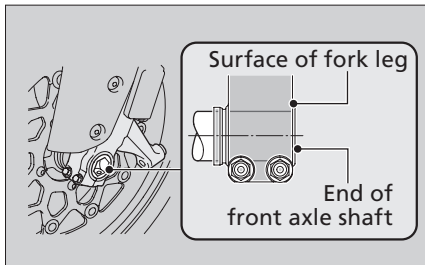
Tire Puncture ► Removing Wheels

5. Remove the front axle bolt.
6. Loosen the right axle pinch bolts.
7. Support your motorcycle securely and raise the front wheel off the ground using a maintenance stand or a hoist.
8. Loosen the left axle pinch bolts.
9. On the left side, withdraw the front axle shaft, and remove the side collars and wheel.



Installation

1. Attach the side collars to the wheel.
2. On the left side, place the wheel between the fork legs and insert the lightly greased front axle shaft to the end, through the left fork leg and wheel hub.
3. Align the end of the front axle shaft with the surface of the fork leg.



4. Tighten the left axle pinch bolts to hold the axle.
5. Tighten the axle bolt.

Torque: 58 lbf·ft (79 N·m, 8.1 kgf·m).

6. Loosen the left axle pinch bolts.
7. Tighten the right axle pinch bolts.

Torque: 16 lbf·ft (22 N·m, 2.2 kgf·m).

8. Install the right brake caliper and tighten the mounting bolts.

Torque: 33 lbf·ft (45 N·m, 4.6 kgf·m).

Tire Puncture ► Removing Wheels

9. Install the left brake caliper and tighten the mounting bolts.

Torque: 33 lbf·ft (45 N·m, 4.6 kgf·m).

- Take care to prevent the brake caliper from scratching the wheel during installation.
- Use new mounting bolts when installing the brake caliper.

NOTICE

When installing the brake calipers into position on the fork legs, carefully fit the brake disc between the pads to avoid scratching them.

10. Lower the front wheel on the ground.
11. Apply the brake lever and brake pedal several times. Then, pump the fork several times.

12. Retighten the left axle pinch bolts.

Torque: 16 lbf·ft (22 N·m, 2.2 kgf·m).

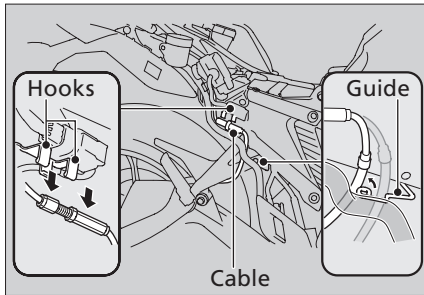
13. Raise the front wheel off the ground again, and check that the wheel rotates freely after you release the brake.
14. Remove the protective tape or cloth.

If a torque wrench was not used for installation, see your dealer as soon as possible to verify proper assembly.

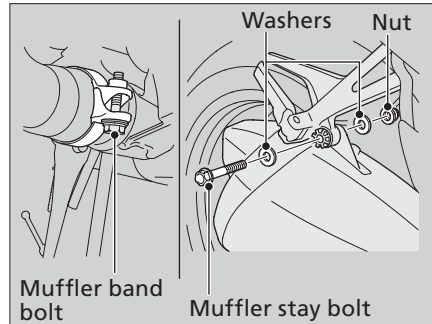
Rear Wheel

Removal

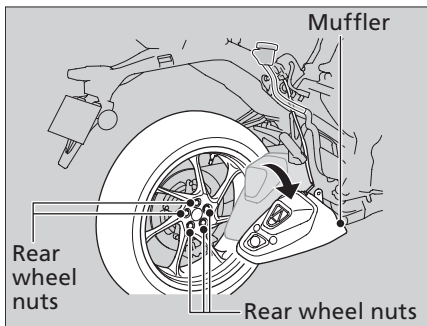
1. Remove the right rear fairing. ➔ P.63
2. Support your motorcycle securely and raise the rear wheel off the ground using a maintenance stand or a hoist.
3. Release the cable from the hooks and guide.



4. Loosen the muffler band bolt.
5. Remove the muffler stay bolt, nut and washers.



6. Move the muffler outward.
7. Remove the rear wheel nuts, and remove the rear wheel.



Installation

1. To install the rear wheel, reverse the removal procedure.
2. Install the rear wheel and tighten the rear wheel nuts equally.

Torque: 80 lbf-ft (108 N·m, 11 kgf·m).

3. Tighten the muffler band bolt.

Torque: 13 lbf-ft (17 N·m, 1.7 kgf·m).

4. Check that the wheel rotates freely.

If a torque wrench was not used for installation, see your dealer as soon as possible to verify proper assembly. Improper assembly may lead to loss of braking capacity.

Battery Goes Dead

Charge the battery using a motorcycle battery charger.

Remove the battery from the motorcycle while charging.

Do not use an automobile-type battery charger, as these can overheat a motorcycle battery and cause permanent damage.

If the battery does not recover after recharging, contact your dealer.

NOTICE

Jump starting using an automobile battery is not recommended, as this can damage your motorcycle's electrical system.

Burned-out Light Bulb

Follow the procedure below to replace a burned-out light bulb.

Turn the ignition switch to the OFF or LOCK position.

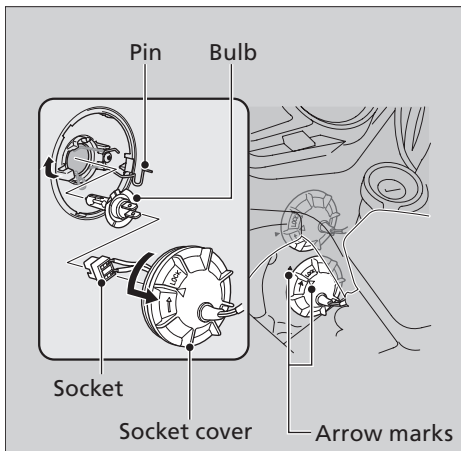
Allow the bulb to cool before replacing it.

Do not use bulbs other than those specified.

Check the replacement bulb for correct operation before riding.

For the light bulb wattage, see "Specifications." ➔ [P.135](#)

Headlight Bulb

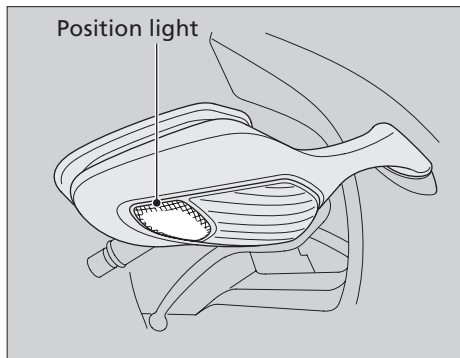


1. Remove the socket cover by turning it counterclockwise.
2. Pull the socket off the bulb without turning it.

3. Press the pin down and pull out the bulb without turning it.
4. Install a new bulb and parts in the reverse order of removal.
 - Make sure the arrow marks on the socket cover and headlight housing are aligned.

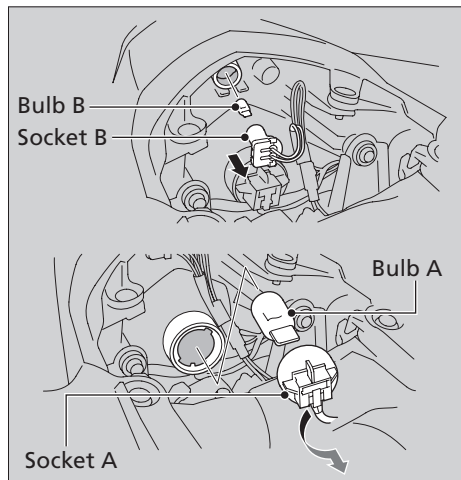
Do not touch the glass surface with your fingers. If you touch the bulb with your bare hands, clean it with a cloth moistened with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol.

Position Light



The position light uses several LEDs. If there is a LED which is not turned on, see your dealer for this service.

Brake/Taillight Bulb



1. Remove the seat. ➤ [P.59](#)

2. **Brake light**

Turn the socket A counterclockwise and pull it out.

Taillight

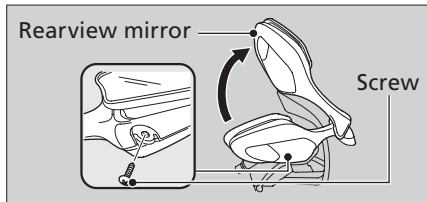
Pull out the socket B.

3. Pull out the bulb A and B of the socket A and B without turning it.

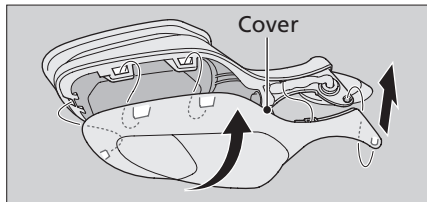
4. Install a new bulb in the reverse order of removal.

Front Turn Signal Bulb

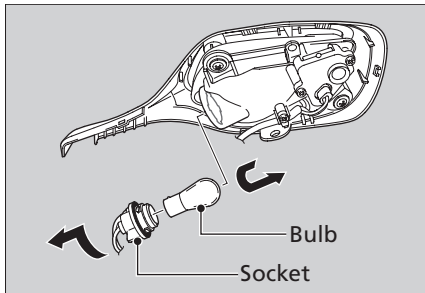
1. Remove the screw.
2. Fold the rearview mirror.



3. Remove the cover from the rearview mirror carefully in the procedure shown in the illustration.



4. Turn the socket counterclockwise and pull it out.
5. Slightly press the bulb in and turn it counterclockwise.
6. Install a new bulb in the reverse order of removal.

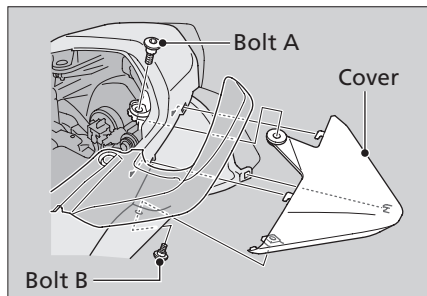


7. Reinstall the cover and install the screw and tighten.

Torque: 1.1 lbf-ft (1.5 N·m, 0.2 kgf·m).

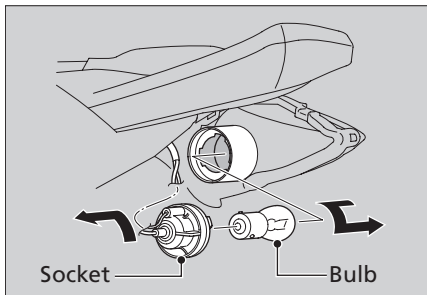
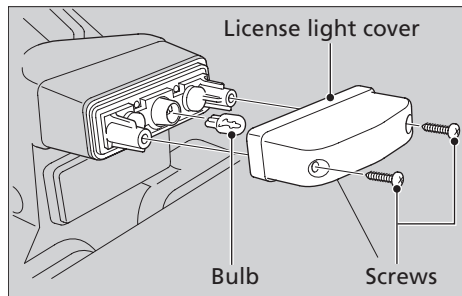
■ Rear Turn Signal Bulb

1. Remove the seat. ► [P.59](#)
2. Remove the bolt A and B.
3. Remove the cover.



Electrical Trouble ► Burned-out Light Bulb

4. Turn the socket counterclockwise and pull it out.
5. Slightly press the bulb in and turn it counterclockwise.
6. Install a new bulb in the reverse order of removal.
7. Reinstall the cover.

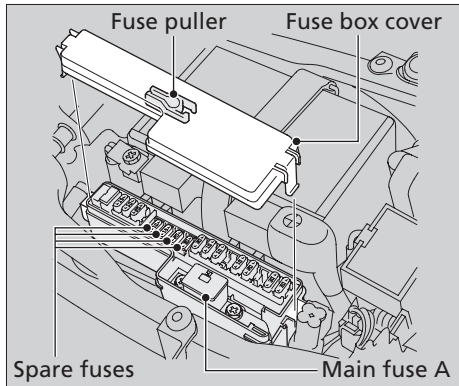
**License Plate Light Bulb**

1. Remove the screws and license light cover.
2. Pull the bulb out of the socket without turning it.
3. Install a new bulb in the reverse order of removal.
4. Reinstall the cover.

Blown Fuse

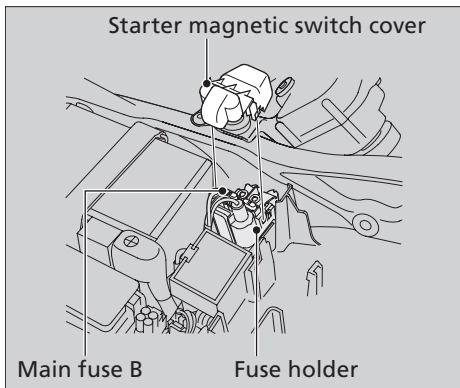
Before handling fuses, see “Inspecting and Replacing Fuses.” ► [P.53](#)

■ Fuse Box Fuses



1. Remove the seat. ► [P.59](#)
2. Remove the fuse box cover.
3. Pull the main fuse A and other fuses out one by one with the fuse puller in the fuse box cover and check for a blown fuse. Always replace a blown fuse with a spare of the same rating.
4. Reinstall the fuse box cover.
5. Reinstall the seat.

■ Fuse Holder Fuses



1. Remove the seat. ► [P.59](#)
2. Remove the starter magnetic switch cover.

3. Pull the main fuse B and other fuses out one by one with the fuse puller and check for a blown fuse. Always replace a blown fuse with a spare of the same rating.
 - Spare fuses are provided in the fuse box.
 - A fuse puller is provided in the fuse box cover.
4. Reinstall parts in the reverse order of removal.

NOTICE

If a fuse fails repeatedly, you likely have an electrical problem. Have your motorcycle inspected by your dealer.

Information

Keys	P.111
Instruments, Controls, & Other Features	P.112
Caring for Your Motorcycle	P.113
Storing Your Motorcycle	P.115
Transporting Your Motorcycle	P.116
You & the Environment	P.117
Vehicle Identification Number	P.118
Emission Control Systems	P.119
Catalytic Converter	P.124
Oxygenated Fuels	P.125
Authorized Manuals	P.126
Warranty Coverage and Service	P.129

Honda Contacts	P.130
USA Reporting Safety Defects	P.132

Keys

Ignition key

Be sure to record the key number provided with the original keys and record it in this manual. Store the spare key in a safe location. To make a duplicate, take the spare key or the key number to a locksmith.

If you lose all keys and the key number, the ignition switch assembly will probably have to be removed by your dealer to determine the key number.

Instruments, Controls, & Other Features

Ignition Switch

The headlight is always ON when the ignition switch is ON. Leaving the ignition switch ON with the engine stopped will drain the battery.

Engine Stop Switch

Do not use the engine stop switch except in an emergency. Doing so when riding will cause the engine to suddenly turn off, making riding unsafe.

If you stop the engine using the engine stop switch, turn the ignition switch OFF. Failing to do so will drain the battery.

Odometer

The display locks at 999,999 when the read-out exceeds 999,999.

Document Bag

The owner's manual, registration, and insurance information can be stored in the plastic document bag on the underside of the seat.

Ignition Cut-off System

A banking (lean angle) sensor automatically stops the engine and fuel pump if the motorcycle falls over. To reset the sensor, you must turn the ignition switch to OFF and back to the ON position before the engine can be restarted.

Caring for Your Motorcycle

Frequent cleaning and polishing is important to ensure the life of your Honda. A clean motorcycle makes it easier to spot potential problems.

In particular, seawater and salts used to prevent ice on roads promote the formation of corrosion. Always wash your motorcycle thoroughly after riding on coastal or treated roads.

Washing

Allow the engine, muffler, brakes, and other high-temperature parts to cool before washing.

1. Rinse your motorcycle thoroughly using a garden hose to remove loose dirt.
2. If necessary, use a sponge or a soft towel with mild cleaner to remove road grime.
 - ▶ Clean the windscreen, headlight lens, panels, and other plastic components with extra care to avoid scratching them.

Avoid directing water into the air cleaner, muffler, and electrical parts.

3. Thoroughly rinse your motorcycle with plenty of clean water.
4. After the motorcycle dries, lubricate any moving parts.
 - ▶ Make sure that no lubricant spills onto the brakes or tires. Brake discs or pads contaminated with oil will suffer greatly reduced braking effectiveness and can lead to a crash.
5. Apply a coat of wax to prevent corrosion.
 - ▶ Avoid products that contain harsh detergents or chemical solvents. These can damage the metal, paint, and plastic on your motorcycle.
Keep the wax clear of the tires and brakes.

Washing Precautions

Follow these guidelines when washing:

- Do not use high-pressure washers:
 - ▶ High-pressure water cleaners can damage moving parts and electrical parts, rendering them inoperable.
- Do not direct water at the muffler:
 - ▶ Water in the muffler can prevent starting and causes rust in the muffler.
- Dry the brakes:
 - ▶ Water adversely affects braking effectiveness. After washing, apply the brakes intermittently at low speed to help dry them.
- Do not direct water under the seat:
 - ▶ Water in the underseat compartment can damage your documents and other belongings.
- Do not direct water at the air cleaner:
 - ▶ Water in the air cleaner can prevent the engine from starting.

- Do not direct water near the headlight:
 - ▶ Any condensation inside the headlight should dissipate after a few minutes of running the engine.

Aluminum Components

Aluminum will corrode from contact with dirt, mud, or road salt. Clean aluminum parts regularly and follow these guidelines to avoid scratches:

- Do not use stiff brushes, steel wool, or cleaners containing abrasives.
- Avoid riding over or scraping against curbs.

Panels and Windscreen

Follow these guidelines to prevent scratches and blemishes:

- Wash gently using a soft sponge and plenty of water.
- To remove stubborn stains, use diluted detergent and rinse thoroughly with plenty of water.

- Avoid getting gasoline, brake fluid, or detergents on the instruments, windscreen, panels, or headlight.

Exhaust Pipe and Muffler

The exhaust is made of stainless steel, which can become tarnished with burn marks if splattered with oil or other substances when hot. To remove burn marks, use a mild abrasive compound. To remove dirt and mud, use a kitchen cleaning solution for stainless steel and wash with a soft sponge. Rinse with plenty of water to remove all residue.

NOTICE

Even though the exhaust is made of stainless steel, it can become stained. Remove all marks and blemishes as soon as they are noticed.

Storing Your Motorcycle

If you store your motorcycle outdoors, you should consider using a full-body motorcycle cover.

If you won't be riding for an extended period, follow these guidelines:

- Wash your motorcycle and wax all painted surfaces (except matte painted surfaces). Coat chrome pieces with rust-inhibiting oil.
- Place your motorcycle on a maintenance stand and position a block so that both tires are off the ground.
- After rain, remove the body cover and allow the motorcycle to dry.
- Remove the battery to prevent discharge. Charge the battery in a shaded, well-ventilated area.
 - ▶ If you leave the battery in place, disconnect the negative \ominus terminal to prevent discharge.

Transporting Your Motorcycle

After removing your motorcycle from storage, inspect all maintenance items required by the Maintenance Schedule.

USA For more information about storage, refer to the Honda Winter Storage Guide, available from your dealer.

Transporting Your Motorcycle

If your motorcycle needs to be transported, it should be carried on a motorcycle trailer or a flatbed truck or trailer that has a loading ramp or lifting platform, and motorcycle tie-down straps. Never try to tow your motorcycle with a wheel or wheels on the ground.

NOTICE

Towing your motorcycle can cause serious damage to the transmission.

You & the Environment

Owning and riding a motorcycle can be enjoyable, but you must do your part to protect the environment.

Choose Sensible Cleaners

Use a biodegradable detergent when you wash your motorcycle. Avoid aerosol spray cleaners that contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which damage the atmosphere's protective ozone layer.

Recycle Wastes

Put oil and other toxic wastes in approved containers and take them to a recycling center. Call your local or state office of public works or environmental services to find a recycling center in your area, and to get instructions on how to dispose of non-recyclable wastes. Do not place used engine oil in the trash, or pour

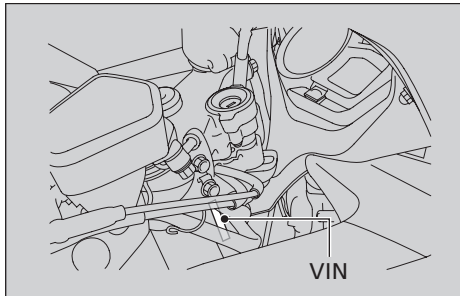
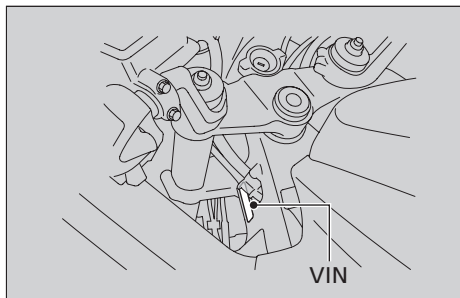
it down a drain or on the ground. Used oil, gasoline, coolant, and cleaning solvents contain poisons that can hurt refuse workers and contaminate drinking water, lakes, rivers, and oceans.

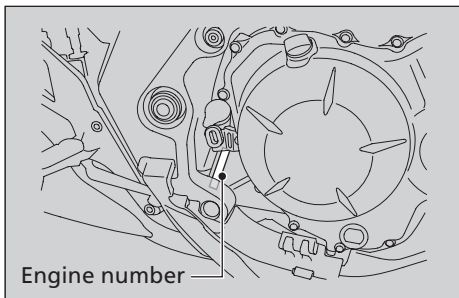
Vehicle Identification Number

The VIN and engine serial numbers uniquely identify your motorcycle and are required in order to register your motorcycle. They may also be required when ordering replacement parts.

The VIN number is stamped on the right side of the steering head and also appears on the Safety Certification Label attached to the left side of the frame.

The engine number is stamped on the side of the crankcase. To check the engine number, open the right engine heat guard. ➤P.61
You should record these numbers and keep them in a safe place.





Emission Control Systems

Your motorcycle engine emits combustion byproducts, including carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and hydrocarbons (HC). Gasoline evaporation also emits hydrocarbons. Controlling the production of NO_x, CO, and HC is important for the environment.

Exhaust Emission Requirements

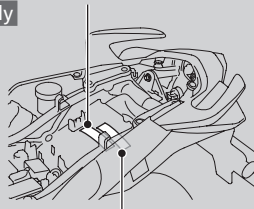
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and Environment Canada (EC) require that your motorcycle comply with applicable exhaust, crankcase, and fuel permeation emission standards during its useful life, when operated and maintained according to the instructions provided.

CARB also requires that your motorcycle comply with applicable evaporative emission requirements during its useful life, when operated and maintained according to the instructions provided.

Compliance with the terms of the Distributor's Warranties for Honda Motorcycle Emission Control Systems is necessary in order to maintain a valid emissions system warranty (USA only). The Vehicle Emission Control Information label is located under the seat.

➤ [P.59](#)

Vehicle emission control information label Canada only



Vehicle emission control information label

Noise Emission Requirements

The EPA requires that motorcycles built after January 1, 1983 comply with applicable noise emission standards for one year or 3,730 miles (6,000 km) after the time of purchase when operated and maintained according to the instructions provided.

Exhaust Emission Control System

The exhaust emission control system includes the following components that should not need adjustment, although periodic inspection by your Honda dealer is recommended.

PGM-FI System

The PGM-FI (programmed fuel injection) system uses sequential multiport fuel injection, and is comprised of air intake, engine control, fuel control, and exhaust control subsystems. The engine control module (ECM) uses sensors to determine how much air enters the engine, and then controls how much fuel to inject.

Ignition Timing Control System

The ignition timing control system adjusts the ignition timing to reduce the amount of HC, CO, and NO_x produced.

Secondary Air Injection System

The secondary air injection system adds filtered air into the exhaust gas to help improve emission control performance.

Catalytic Converters

The exhaust system contains one or more catalytic converters. Catalytic converters use a catalyst to convert most of the harmful exhaust gas compounds into harmless compounds.

Evaporative Emission Control System

An evaporative emissions control system uses a canister filled with charcoal to adsorb fuel vapor from the fuel tank while the engine is off. The vapor is drawn into the engine and burned while riding.

Crankcase Emissions Control System

The positive crankcase ventilation system prevents gases that build up in the engine's crankcase from being released into the atmosphere. The gases are drawn into the engine and burned while riding.

Fuel Permeation Emission Control

The fuel tank, fuel hoses, and fuel vapor charge hoses use fuel permeation control technologies to prevent fuel vapor emissions. Tampering with these components to reduce or defeat the effectiveness of the fuel permeation technologies is prohibited.

Noise Emission Control System

TAMPERING WITH THE NOISE CONTROL SYSTEM IS PROHIBITED:

U. S. federal law prohibits, and 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 FOLLOWING ACTS:

1. Removal of, or puncturing the muffler, baffles, header pipes or any other component which conducts exhaust gases.
2. Removal of, or puncturing of 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 Affecting Motorcycle Exhaust Emissions

Have your motorcycle inspected and repaired by your Honda dealer if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Hard starting or stalling after starting
- Rough idling
- Misfiring or backfiring during acceleration
- Poor engine performance and poor fuel economy

Catalytic Converter

This motorcycle is equipped with an three-way catalytic converter. The catalytic converter contain precious metals that serve as catalysts in high temperature chemical reactions that convert hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) in the exhaust gasses into safe compounds.

A defective catalytic converter contributes to air pollution and can impair your engine's performance. A replacement unit must be an original Honda part or equivalent.

Follow these guidelines to protect your motorcycle's catalytic converter.

- Always use unleaded gasoline. Leaded gasoline will damage the catalytic converter.
- Keep the engine in good running condition. A poorly running engine can cause the catalytic converter to overheat causing damage to the converter or the motorcycle.
- If your engine is misfiring, backfiring, stalling, or otherwise not running properly, stop riding and turn off the engine. Have your motorcycle serviced as soon as possible.

Oxygenated Fuels

Some conventional fuels blended with alcohol or an ether compound are available in some locales to help reduce emissions to meet clean air standards. These gasolines are collectively referred to as oxygenated fuels. If you plan to use oxygenated fuel, check that it is unleaded and meets the minimum octane rating and blend requirement.

The following fuel blends are EPA-approved and can be used in your motorcycle:

- Ethanol (ethyl alcohol) 10% by volume (max). Gasoline containing ethanol may be marketed under the name “Gasohol.”
- MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) 15% by volume (max)
- Methanol (methyl alcohol) 5% by volume (max) that contain cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors to protect the fuel system. Never use a blend containing more than 5%.

Fuel system or performance problems resulting from the use of an oxygenated fuel containing higher percentages are not covered by your warranty.

NOTICE

Improper use of oxygenated fuels can damage metal, rubber, and plastic parts of your fuel system.

Oxygenated fuel can also damage paint. Damage caused by spilled fuel is not covered by warranty.

If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms or performance problems, try a different brand of gasoline.

Authorized Manuals

The Service Manual 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, which explains basic service

information for various systems common to all Honda motorcycles, motor scooters, and all-terrain vehicles.

These Honda manuals are written for the professional technician. However, if you possess the proper tools, observe the safety standards, and are mechanically capable, you should find them easy to use.

Special Honda tools are necessary for some procedures.

Publication Item No.	Description	Price Each*
61MGE01	2010 VFR1200F/FD Service Manual	\$60.00
61CM002	Common Service Manual	\$48.00
31MGE601	2010 VFR1200F/FD Owner's Manual	\$16.00

* Prices are subject to change without notice and without incurring obligation.

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By completing this form you can order the materials desired. You can pay by check or money order, or charge to your credit card. Mail to Helm, Inc. at the address shown on page 128 (USA only).

Canada See your Honda dealer to order authorized manuals.

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Authorized Manuals

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Warranty Coverage and Service

Coverage

Your new Honda is covered by the following warranties:

- Motorcycle Limited Warranty
- Emission Control System Warranty
- Noise Control Warranty

The responsibilities, restrictions, and exclusions that apply to these warranties are explained in the Warranties Booklet given to you by your Honda dealer at the time of purchase. Always keep your Honda owner's card with your Warranties Booklet (USA only).

It is important to realize that your warranty applies only to defects in material or workmanship of your Honda. Your warranty coverage does not apply to the normal wear

and deterioration associated with use of the motorcycle.

Your warranty coverage is not voided if you perform your own maintenance. However, failures that occur due directly to improper maintenance are not covered by these warranties.

You can extend almost all of your warranty coverage through the Honda Protection Plan (USA only). For more information, see your Honda dealer.

Service

Please remember that maintenance recommended in the Maintenance Schedule is not included in your warranty coverage.

If you believe you have a problem with your motorcycle, call the service department of your Honda dealer. Make an appointment for an

Honda Contacts

inspection and diagnosis. You will be asked to authorize that inspection, and your dealer will return the results of the inspection. If a problem exists and is covered under warranty, your dealer will perform the warranty repairs. If you have any questions about your warranty coverage or the nature of the repair, talk to the Service Manager of your Honda dealer.

If a misunderstanding occurs and you aren't satisfied with your dealer's handling of the situation, we suggest you discuss your problem with the appropriate member of the dealership's management team. If you are still not satisfied, contact the owner of the dealership or their designated representative.

Honda Contacts

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

If you wish to contact Honda directly to comment on your experiences with your motorcycle or with your dealer, please send your comments to the following address (USA only):

Motorcycle Division,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.,
P.O. Box 2200, Torrance,
CA 90509-2200
Mailstop: 100-4C-7B,
Telephone: (866) 784-1870.

Canada Refer to the Warranties Booklet that was supplied with your motorcycle. Please include the following information in your letter:

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Product model, year, and VIN
- Date of purchase

- Dealer name and address

We will likely ask your Honda dealer to respond, or possibly acknowledge your comments directly.

Your Honda Dealer

The service department of your Honda dealer offers trained personnel to perform regular maintenance and most repairs. It has the latest available service information from Honda and also handles warranty inspections and repairs.

The parts department offers Honda Genuine Parts, Pro Honda products, Honda Genuine Accessories (USA only), and Honda accessories and products (Canada only) that provide the same quality that went into your motorcycle.

The sales department offers the Honda Protection Plan to extend almost all of your warranty coverage (USA only).

Your Honda dealer can also supply information about, riding events, and information about safety training available in your local area, and the Honda Rider's Club of America (USA only).

Honda Rider's Club of America (HRCA)

You may be eligible for a Honda Rider's Club of America (HRCA) membership with the purchase of your new Honda. You can log onto the HRCA Clubhouse website for details at www.hrca.honda.com.

USA Reporting Safety Defects

If you believe that your vehicle has a defect which could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

To contact NHTSA, you may call the Vehicle Safety Hotline toll-free at: 1-888-327-4236

(TTY: 1-800-424-9153); go to <http://www.safercar.gov>;

or write to:

Administrator, NHTSA,
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.,
Washington, DC 20590.

You can also obtain other information about motor vehicle safety from: <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Specifications

■ Main Components

Overall length	88.6 in (2,250 mm)
Overall width	VFR1200F 29.7 in (755 mm) VFR1200FD 29.1 in (740 mm)
Overall height	48.0 in (1,220 mm)
Wheelbase	60.8 in (1,545 mm)
Minimum ground clearance	4.9 in (125 mm)
Caster angle	25° 30'
Trail	4.0 in (101 mm)
Curb weight	VFR1200F 591 lb (268 kg) VFR1200FD 613 lb (278 kg)
Maximum weight capacity ^{*1}	402 lb (182 kg)
Maximum luggage weight ^{*2}	101 lb (46 kg)
	Luggage 46 lb (21 kg)
	Accessories 55 lb (25 kg)
Passenger capacity	Rider and 1 passenger
Minimum turning radius	11.6 ft (3.5 m)
Displacement	75.45 cu-in (1,237 cm ³)
Bore x stroke	3.19 × 2.36 in (81.0 x 60.0 mm)
Compression ratio	12.0:1

*1 Including rider, passenger, all luggage, and accessories

*2 Includes the weight of the luggage and added accessories.

Fuel	Unleaded gasoline Recommended fuel octane number: Pump Octane Number (PON) 91 or higher.
Tank capacity	4.89 US gal (18.5 litres)
Battery	12V-11.2Ah
Gear ratios	VFR1200F
	1st 2.600
	2nd 1.736
	3rd 1.363
	4th 1.160
	5th 1.032
	6th 0.939
	VFR1200FD
	1st 2.466
	2nd 1.789
	3rd 1.409
	4th 1.160
5th 1.032	
6th 0.939	
Reduction ratios	VFR1200F 1.738 / 1.060 / 2.545
(primary / secondary / final)	VFR1200FD 1.738 / 1.063 / 2.545

Specifications

■ Service Data

Tire size	Front	120/70ZR17M/C (58W)
	Rear	190/55ZR17M/C (75W)
Tire type	Radial, tubeless	
Recommended Tires	Front	DUNLOP ROADSMART CQ K BRIDGESTONE BT021F N
	Rear	DUNLOP ROADSMART K BRIDGESTONE BT021R N
Tire air pressure	Front	36 psi (250 kPa, 2.50 kgf/cm ²)
	Rear	42 psi (290 kPa, 2.90 kgf/cm ²)
Minimum tread depth	Front	0.06 in (1.5 mm)
	Rear	0.08 in (2.0 mm)
Spark plugs	(standard)	IMR9E-9HES (NGK) or VUH27ES (DENSO)
Spark plug gap	(non-adjustable)	0.031 to 0.035 in (0.80 to 0.90 mm)
Idle speed	1,150 ± 100 rpm	
Recommended engine oil	API Service Classification SG or higher except oils labeled as energy conserving on the circular API service label, SAE 10W-30, JASO T 903 standard MA, Pro Honda GN4 4-stroke oil (USA & Canada) or Honda 4-stroke oil (Canada only), or an equivalent motorcycle oil	

Engine oil capacity	VFR1200F	
	After draining	3.2 US qt (3.0 litres)
	After draining & filter change	3.4 US qt (3.2 litres)
	After disassembly	4.2 US qt (4.0 litres)
	VFR1200FD	
	After draining	3.8 US qt (3.6 litres)
	After draining & filter change	4.1 US qt (3.9 litres)
	After draining engine & clutch oil filter change	4.2 US qt (4.0 litres)
	After disassembly	5.2 US qt (4.9 litres)
	Recommended final drive oil	Hypoid gear oil SAE 80
Final drive oil capacity	After draining	6.8 US oz (200 cm ³)
	After disassembly	8.1 US oz (240 cm ³)

Recommended brake (clutch) fluid	Honda DOT 4 Brake Fluid
Cooling system capacity	VFR1200F 3.80 US qt (3.60 litres) VFR1200FD 4.16 US qt (3.94 litres)
Recommended coolant	Pro Honda HP Coolant

■ Bulbs

Headlight	12V-55W x 2
Brake light	12V-21/5W
Taillight	12V-5W
Front turn signal lights	12V-21W x 2
Rear turn signal lights	12V-21W x 2
Position light	LED
License plate light	12V-5W

■ Fuses

Main fuse	A	50A
	B	30A
Other fuses	30A, 20A, 15A, 10A	

■ Torque Specifications

Engine oil drain bolt	21 lbf-ft (29 N·m, 3.0 kgf·m)
Oil filter	19 lbf-ft (26 N·m, 2.7 kgf·m)
Final drive oil fill hole cap	5.9 lbf-ft (8 N·m, 0.8 kgf·m)
Final drive oil drain bolt	9 lbf-ft (12 N·m, 1.2 kgf·m)
Front wheel axle bolt	58 lbf-ft (79 N·m, 8.1 kgf·m)
Front wheel brake caliper mounting bolts	33 lbf-ft (45 N·m, 4.6 kgf·m)
Front wheel axle pinch bolts	16 lbf-ft (22 N·m, 2.2 kgf·m)
Rear wheel nuts	80 lbf-ft (108 N·m, 11 kgf·m)
Muffler band bolt	13 lbf-ft (17 N·m, 1.7 kgf·m)
Front turn signal cover screws	1.1 lbf-ft (1.5 N·m, 0.2 kgf·m)

Information Record

VIN	
Engine No.	
Ignition Key No.	
Color Label & Code	
Owner's Name	
Address	
City/State	
Phone	
Dealer's Name	
Address	
City/State	
Phone	
Service Manager	

A

ABS (Anti-lock Brake System)	11
ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) indicator.....	26, 92
Accessories.....	13
Air Temperature Gauge	22, 24
AT/MT Switch.....	31, 38
Authorized Manuals	126

B

Battery	51, 64
Brake Light Switch	87
Brakes	
Fluid	55, 73
Pad Wear	74
Braking	10
Bulb	
Brake/Taillight	103
Front Turn Signal	104
Headlight	102
License Plate Light	106
Position Light	103
Rear Turn Signal	105

C

Caring for Your Motorcycle	113
Clutch Oil Filter	69
Clutch System	82
Color Label	50
Compartment	
Owner's Manual.....	41
Coolant	71
Coolant Temperature Gauge	22, 24

D

Digital Clock Adjustment	23
--------------------------------	----

E		G	
Electrical Trouble	101	Gasohol.....	125
Emission Control Systems.....	119	Gasoline	40
Engine		H	
Number.....	118	Hazard Switch	28, 30
Oil.....	54, 65	Headlight Aim.....	86
Overheats.....	90	Headlight Dimmer Switch	28, 30
Starting.....	32, 33	Helmet Holder.....	41
Stop Switch	28, 31, 112	High Beam Indicator.....	27
Stopping	112	High Coolant	
Environment.....	117	Temperature Indicator.....	22, 24
F		Honda Contacts	130
Final Drive Oil.....	55, 78	Horn Button	28, 31
Flooded Engine	89		
Front Brake Lever Adjustment.....	82		
Front Suspension	83		
Fuel			
Gauge.....	21		
Recommended	40		
Remaining	21		
Tank Capacity.....	40		
Fuses.....	53, 107		

I

Ignition Cut-off System	
Banking Sensor	112
Side Stand	77
Ignition Key	111
Ignition Switch	29
Indicators	26
Information Record	136
Instruments	20

L

Labels	7
Load Limits	14
Loading Guidelines	14
Low Oil Pressure Indicator	24, 26

M

Maintenance	
Fundamentals	48
Importance	43
Safety	44
Schedule	45
Maximum Weight Limit	14
Modifications	13

N

Neutral Indicator	27
--------------------------------	----

O

Odometer	23, 112
Oil	
Engine	54, 65
Final Drive	55, 78
Overheating	90
Oxygenated Fuels	125

P	
Parking.....	12
Parking Brake Indicator.....	26
Parking Brake Lock	33, 75
Parts Location	16
PGM-FI (Programmed Fuel Injection)	
malfunction indicator lamp (MIL)....	26, 91
Protective Apparel.....	9
R	
Recommended	
Coolant.....	71
Final Drive Oil	55
Fuel.....	40
Oil.....	54
Refueling	40
Removal	
Clips.....	60
Final Gear Cover.....	60
Right Engine Heat Guard.....	61
Right Rear Fairing	63
Right Under Fairing	61
Seat	59
Repair Kit.....	94
Reporting Safety Defects (U.S.)	132
Riding Precautions.....	10
S	
Safety Labels	7
Safety Precautions	9
Shift Down Switch	30
Shifting Gears	34
Shift Up Switch.....	30
Side Stand.....	77
Side Stand Ignition Cut-off System	77
Specifications	133
Speedometer.....	21
Start Button	28, 31
Starting the Engine	32
Steering Lock.....	29
Stopping Engine	112
Storage	
Compartment	41
Owner's Manual.....	41
Storing Your Motorcycle	115
Switches.....	28

T

Tachometer	20
Throttle.....	80
Tires	
Air Pressure.....	55
Puncture	94
Replacing	57, 94
Transporting Your Motorcycle.....	116
Tripmeter	23
Turn signal indicators	27

V

Vehicle Identification Number	118
-------------------------------------	-----

W

Warning Indicators ON.....	91
Warranty Coverage and Service	129
Washing Your Motorcycle.....	113
Weight Limit.....	14, 133
Wheels	
Front removal.....	95
Rear removal	99