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Explanation of models and types used in this manual:

Model	Type	Description
HRX537C	HXE	Honda rotary mower, grass bag, 530 mm mower deck, 4.8 KW, clip director, hydrostatic transmission, blade-brake clutch, European market
	HME	Electric start

Thank you for purchasing a Honda lawn mower.

This manual covers the operation and maintenance of the Honda HRX537C lawn mower.

We want to help you get the best results from your new mower and to operate it safely. This manual contains the information on how to do that; please read it carefully.

This manual should be considered a permanent part of the lawn mower and should remain with it if it is resold.

If you have a problem or questions concerning the mower, contact your supplying dealer.

We recommend that you read the warranty policy to fully understand your rights and responsibilities. The warranty policy is a separate document provided by your dealer.

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SAFETY MESSAGES

Pay special attention to statements preceded by the following words:



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



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

Each message tells you what the hazard is, what can happen, and what you can do to avoid or reduce injury.

DAMAGE PREVENTION MESSAGES

You will also see other important messages that are preceded by the following word:



Your lawn mower or other property can be damaged if you don't follow instructions.

The purpose of these messages is to help prevent damage to your lawn mower, other property, or the environment.

WARNING

– To ensure safe operation –



- **Honda lawn mowers are designed to give safe and dependable service if operated according to instructions. Read and understand the Owner's Manual before operating the mower. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or equipment damage.**

- **Read instructions carefully, become familiar with controls and proper use of equipment.**
- **Never allow children or people unfamiliar with these instructions to use the lawn mower. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.**
- **Never mow while people, especially children, or pets are nearby.**
- **Keep in mind that the operator or user is responsible for accidents or hazards occurring to other people or their property.**
- **While mowing, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.**
- **Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all objects which may be thrown by the machine.**
- **Gasoline is highly flammable:**
 - **Store fuel in containers specifically designed for this purpose.**
 - **Refuel outdoors only and do not smoke while refuelling.**
 - **Add fuel before starting the engine. Never remove the cap of the fuel tank or add gasoline while the engine is running or when the engine is hot.**
 - **If gasoline is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until the gasoline vapors have dissipated.**
 - **Install fuel caps securely.**

1. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Replace faulty mufflers.
- Before using, always visually inspect to see that the blade(s), blade bolt(s) and mower housing are not worn or damaged. Replace worn or damaged blade(s) and bolt(s) in sets to preserve balance.
- On multi-bladed machines, take care as rotating one blade can cause other blades to rotate.
- Do not operate the engine in a confined space where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Avoid operating the equipment in wet grass, where feasible.
- Mowing on slopes:
 - Always be sure of your footing on slopes.
 - Mow across slopes, never up and down.
 - Walk, never run.
 - Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
 - Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
- Use extreme caution when reversing or pulling the lawn mower toward you.
- Stop the blade(s) if the lawn mower has to be tilted for transporting, when crossing surfaces other than grass and when transporting the lawn mower to and from the area to be mowed.
- Never operate the lawn mower with defective guards or shields, or without safety devices (for example, deflectors and/or grass catchers in place).
- Do not attempt to make wheel height adjustments while the machine is running.
- Do not change the engine governor setting or over-speed the engine.
- Disengage all blade and drive clutches before starting the machine.
- Start the engine carefully according to the instructions and with feet well away from the blade(s).
- Do not tilt the lawn mower when starting the engine.

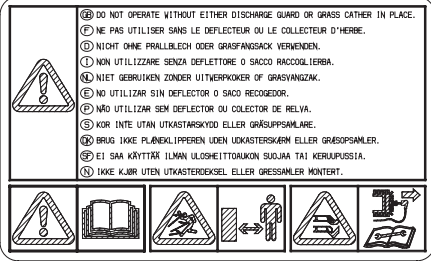
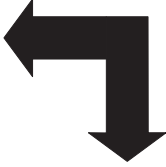






1. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not start the engine when standing in front of the discharge chute opening.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Never pick up or carry a lawn mower while the engine is running.
- Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire:
 - Before clearing a blockage or unclogging the lawn mower.
 - Before checking, cleaning or working on the lawn mower.
 - After striking a foreign object. Inspect the lawn mower for damage and make repairs before restarting and operating the lawn mower.
 - If lawn mower starts to vibrate abnormally, check immediately.
- Stop the engine:
 - Whenever you leave the lawn mower.
 - Before refuelling the lawn mower.
 - Before removing the grass catcher, side discharge adapter or mulching plug.
- Reduce the throttle setting during engine shut down and turn the fuel valve off at the conclusion of mowing.
- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- To reduce the fire hazard, keep the engine, muffler, battery compartment (if applicable) and gasoline storage area free of grass, leaves or excessive grease.
- Check the grass catcher frequently for wear or deterioration.
- Replace worn or damaged parts for safety.
- If the fuel tank has to be drained, this should be done outdoors.
- Wear eye protection.

1. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

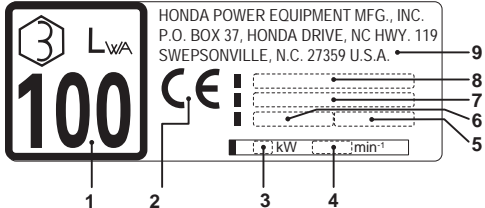
SAFETY LABEL LOCATION

This label warns you of potential hazards that can cause serious injury. Carefully read meaning. If label comes off or becomes hard to read, contact your dealer for a replacement.

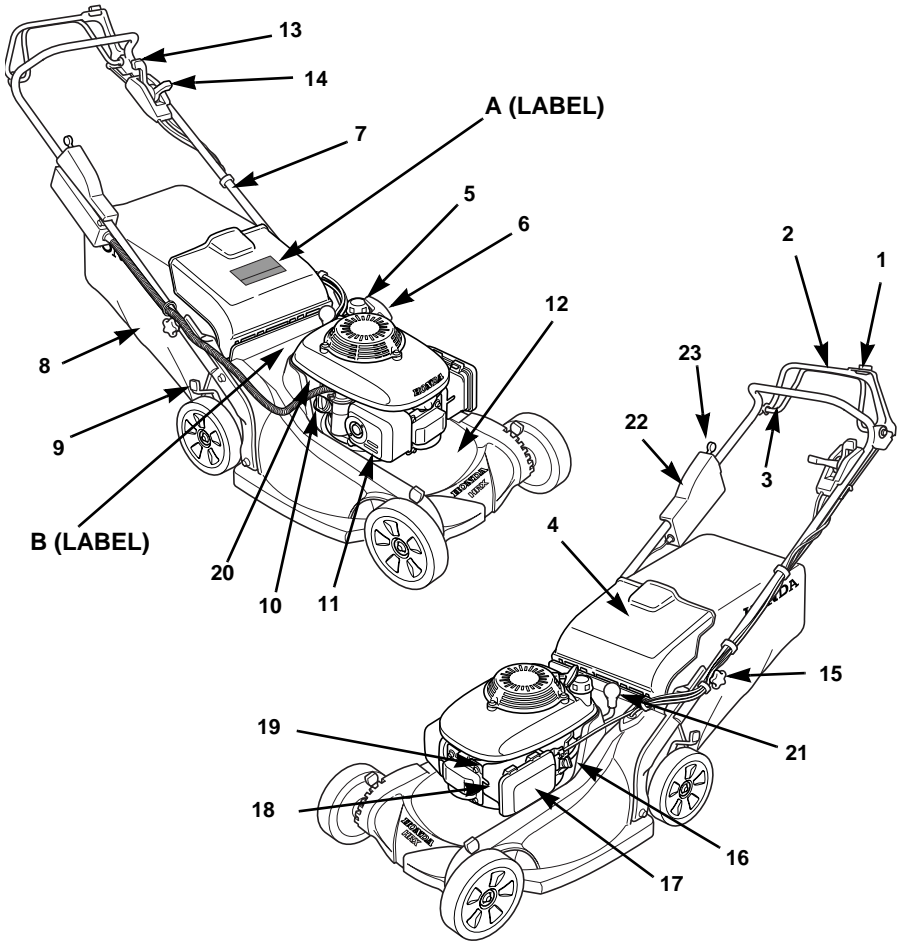
Letter	Markings	Meaning
A	 <p> Ⓜ DO NOT OPERATE WITHOUT EITHER DISCHARGE GUARD OR GRASS CATCHER IN PLACE. Ⓝ NE PAS UTILISER SANS LE DEFLECTEUR OU LE COLLECTEUR D'HERBE. Ⓝ NIHT OHNE PRÄLLELECH ODER GRASFANGSACK VERWENDEN. Ⓝ NON UTILIZZARE SENZA DEFLETTORE O SACCO RACCOLTIERBA. Ⓝ NIET GEBRUIKEN ZONDER UITKASTERKOP OF GRASOPZAMLER. Ⓝ NO UTILIZAR SIN DEFLECTOR O SACO RECOLECTOR. Ⓝ NÄO UTILIZAR SEM DEFLECTOR OU COLECTOR DE RELVA. Ⓝ KOR INTE UTEN UTKASTERKOP ELLER GRÄSOPPSAMLARE. Ⓝ BRUG IKKE PLÆNEKLIPPEREN UDEN UDKASTERKØPEN ELLER GRÆSOFSAMLER. Ⓝ EI SÄÄ KÄYTTÄÄ ILMAN ULOSHEITTOAUKON SUOJAA TAI KERÄYPUSSIA. Ⓝ IKKE KJØR UTEN UTKASTERKØSSEL ELLER GRESSAMLER MONTERET. </p>	
	 	Read and understand the owner's manual and the operation of all controls before using the machine.
	 	Avoid mowing when people, mainly children, or pets are in the operating area.
	 	Keep hands and feet away from the mower deck. Pull off the spark plug cap before carrying out maintenance work.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION PLATE

1. Permissible sound power level according to Directive EEC/84/538.
2. Conformity mark, according to the EEC/89/392 modified Directive.
3. Nominal power in kilowatt.
4. Recommended engine speed in rpm.
5. Weight in kilograms.
6. Year of manufacture.
7. Serial number.
8. Model.
9. Manufacturer's name and address.

B	 <p> HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT MFG., INC. P.O. BOX 37, HONDA DRIVE, NC HWY. 119 SWEPSONVILLE, N.C. 27359 U.S.A. </p> <p> 1: 100 L_{WA} 2: CE 3: kW 4: min⁻¹ 5: 5 6: 6 7: 7 8: 8 9: 9 </p>
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2. COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

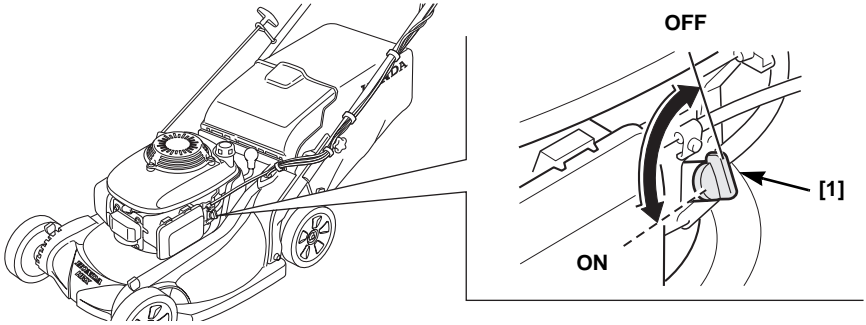


1. Blade control button
2. Blade control lever
3. Drive clutch lever
4. Discharge guard
5. Fuel tank cap
6. Recoil starter
7. Handlebar
8. Grass Bag
9. Cutting height adjustment levers (4)
10. Oil filler cap
11. Muffler
12. Mower deck
13. Shift lever
14. Throttle lever
15. Handlebar locking knob
16. Fuel valve
17. Air cleaner
18. Carburetor
19. Spark plug cap
20. Engine serial No.
21. Clip director
22. Battery (HME type)
23. Key switch (HME type)

3. CONTROLS

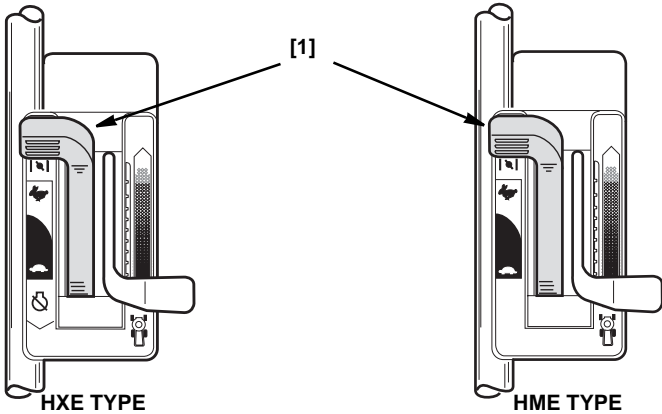
Fuel Valve

The fuel valve [1] opens and closes the connection between the fuel tank and the carburetor.



Throttle Lever

The throttle lever [1] controls the following functions:



CHOKE ----- For starting a cold engine.



FAST ----- For restarting a warm engine and for mowing.



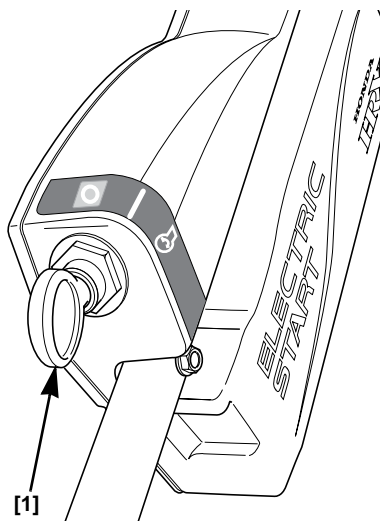
SLOW ----- For idling the engine.



STOP ----- For stopping the engine. (HME type: Turn the key switch OFF to stop the engine.)

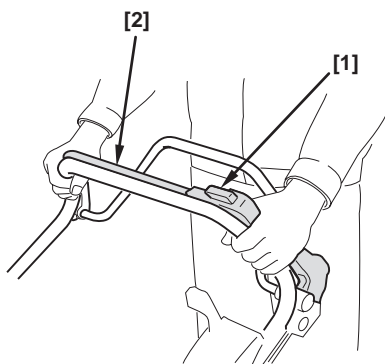
Engine Switch [1] (HME type)

- OFF Stops the engine.
- ON Running position (the key switch must be in the ON position to use the recoil starter).
- START Operates the electric starter.



Blade Control Lever

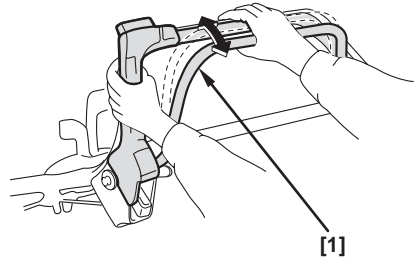
The button [1] and blade control lever [2] start and stop blade rotation.



3. CONTROLS

Drive Clutch Lever

The drive clutch lever [1] engages and disengages the transmission.

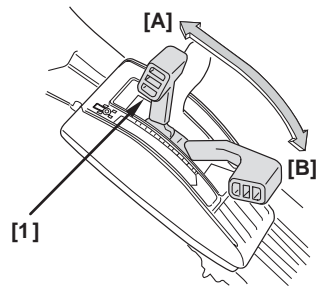


Shift Lever

The shift lever [1] selects and controls the mower's drive speed.

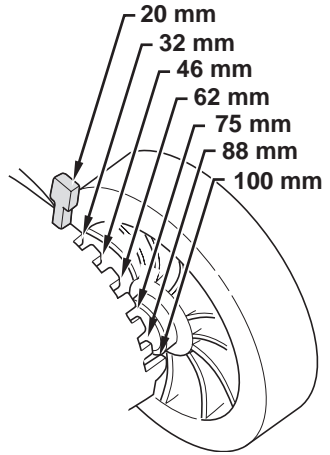
With the shift lever [1] all the way back [A] and the drive clutch lever engaged, the mower will move slowly or not at all. Use a slow speed for mowing thick grass or maneuvering in small areas.

Use position [B] for maximum self-propelled speed in large, open areas, and for transport.

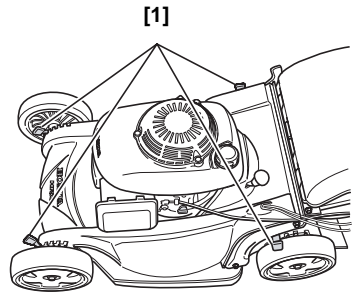


Cutting Height Adjustment Levers

There are seven adjustment settings. The cutting height figures are approximate. The actual height of cut grass will vary with lawn and soil conditions.

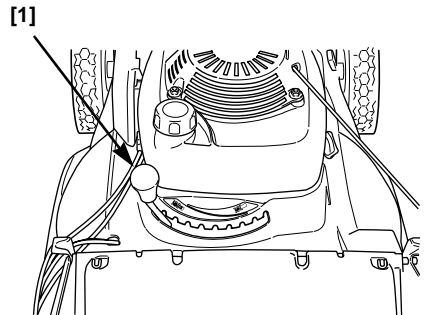


There is one adjustment lever [1] on each wheel.



Clip Director Knob

The clip director knob [1] controls bagging, mulching, and rear discharge. The knob has ten adjustment positions. The knob has ten adjustment positions.



4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

CHECK YOUR LAWN

For your safety and for the safety of others, always inspect the area before mowing.

Objects

Anything which can be picked up by the blade(s) and thrown is a potential hazard to you and others. Look for things like stones, sticks, bones, and wire. Remove them from the mowing area.

People and Pets

People and animals near the mowing area can move into your path or into a position where they could be struck by thrown objects. Clear the area of people and pets, especially children. Their safety is your responsibility.

Lawn

Check the length and condition of the grass, so you will know what cutting height and mowing speed to use.

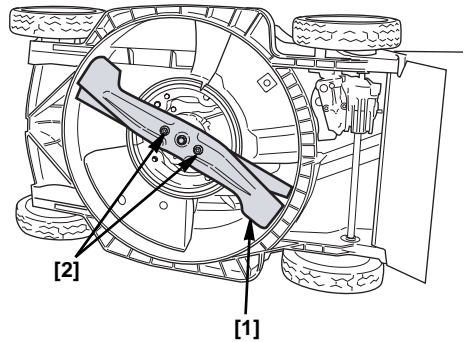
Avoid mowing wet grass. Not only will wet grass clog your mower deck and collect in clumps on the lawn, it also gives poor traction, increasing your risk of losing your footing.

4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

CHECK YOUR MOWER

Blades

1. Move the throttle lever to the STOP position.
2. Move the fuel valve to the OFF position.
3. Disconnect the spark plug cap from the spark plug.
4. Tilt the mower to the right, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting.
5. Inspect the blades [1] for wear and damage.



NORMAL



EXCESSIVELY
WORN



BENT



CRACKED

A dull blade can be sharpened, but a blade that is worn out, bent, cracked, or otherwise damaged must be replaced. A worn or damaged blade can break, causing blade pieces to be thrown from the mower.

When a blade needs sharpening or replacement take the lawn mower to an authorized Honda dealer. Or, if you have a torque wrench, you can remove and install the blades yourself (pages 53–54).

Check that the blade bolts [2] are tight (page 54).

4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Engine Oil Level

Check the engine oil level with the engine stopped and the mower on a level surface.

Use 4-stroke motor oil that meets or exceeds the requirements for API service classification SH or equivalent. Always check the API SERVICE label on the oil container to be sure it includes the letters SH or equivalent.

SAE 10W-30 is recommended for general use. Other viscosities shown in the chart below may be used when the average temperature in your area is within the indicated range.

NOTICE

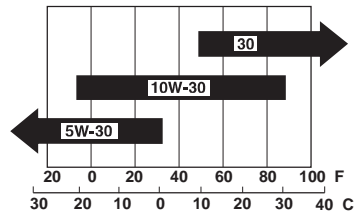
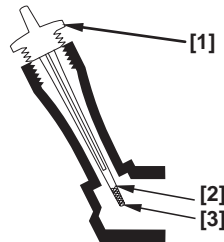
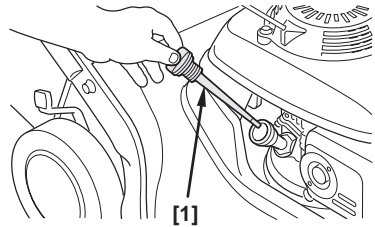
- *Running the engine with a low oil level can cause engine damage.*
- *Using nondetergent oil can shorten the engine's service life, and using 2-stroke oil can damage the engine.*

1. Remove the oil filler cap/dipstick [1], and wipe the dipstick clean.

2. Insert the dipstick into the filler neck. Do not screw it down. Check the oil level on the dipstick.

3. If the oil level is near the low level mark [3], add the recommended oil to bring the level up to the high limit mark [2]. Do not overfill.

4. Install and tighten the filler cap/ dipstick [1] securely.



4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Fuel

Fuel tank capacity: 1.1 ℓ

Refuel in a well-ventilated area before starting the engine. If the engine has been running, allow it to cool.

Never refuel the mower inside a building where gasoline fumes may reach flames or sparks. Keep gasoline away from appliance pilot lights, barbecues, electric appliances, power tools, etc.

! WARNING

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive.

You can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel.

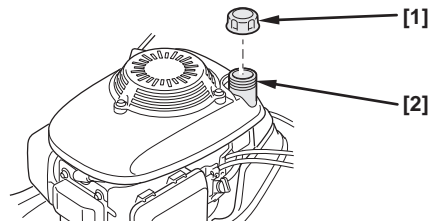
- Stop the engine and keep heat, sparks, and flame away.
- Handle fuel only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills immediately.

Spilled fuel is not only a fire hazard, it causes environmental damage. Wipe up spills immediately.

NOTICE

Fuel can damage paint and plastic. Be careful not to spill fuel when filling your fuel tank. Damage caused by spilled fuel is not covered under warranty.

Remove the tank cap [1] and check the fuel level. Refill the tank if the fuel level is low. Refuel carefully to avoid spilling fuel. Do not overfill; there should be no fuel in the filler neck [2]. After refueling, tighten the fuel tank cap securely.



Fuel Recommendations

Use gasoline with an octane rating of 86 or higher (unleaded preferred).

This engine is designed to operate on unleaded gasoline. Unleaded gasoline produces fewer engine and spark plug deposits and extends exhaust system life.

Never use stale or contaminated gasoline or an oil/gasoline mixture. Avoid getting dirt or water in the fuel tank.

4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Occasionally you may hear light “spark knock” or “pinging” (metallic rapping noise) while operating under heavy loads. This is no cause for concern.

If spark knock or pinging occurs at a steady engine speed, under normal load, change brands of gasoline. If spark knock or pinging persists, see your servicing dealer.

NOTICE

Running the engine with persistent spark knock or pinging can cause engine damage.

Running the engine with persistent spark knock or pinging is misuse, and the warranty does not cover parts damaged by misuse.

OXYGENATED FUELS

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

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

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

The following are the approved percentages of oxygenates:

ETHANOL — — — (ethyl or grain alcohol) 10% by volume

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

MTBE — — — — (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) 15% by volume

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

METHANOL — — (methyl or wood alcohol) 5% by volume

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

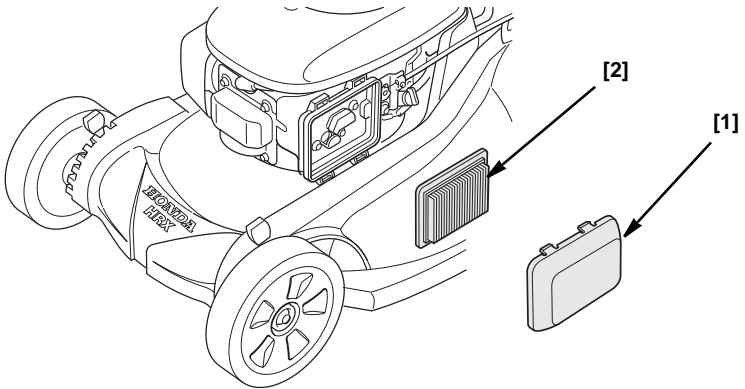
If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms, try another service station, or switch to another brand of gasoline.

4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

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

Air Cleaner Inspection

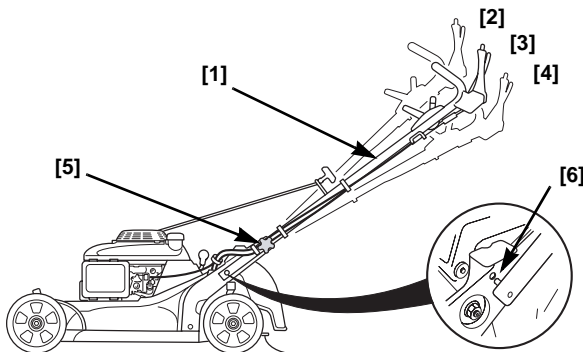
Remove cover [1]. Make sure the filter [2] is clean and in good condition. A dirty air filter will restrict air flow to the carburetor, reducing engine performance. Refer to page 46 for air cleaner service.



Handlebar Height Adjustment

Handlebar [1] height can be adjusted to three positions: high [2], middle [3], and low [4].

1. Loosen the handlebar locking knobs [5].
2. Spread the lower ends of the handlebar to release the locating pins [6].
3. Move the handlebar up or down, so the locating pins engage other holes on the handlebar mounting brackets.
4. Tighten the handlebar locking knobs securely.



4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Grass Bag

A lawn mower works like a vacuum cleaner; it blows air through the bag, which traps the grass clippings. Always empty the grass bag before it becomes filled to the limit of its capacity. Bagging performance will diminish after the bag becomes about 90% filled. Also, the bag is easier to empty when it is not packed full.

Inspection

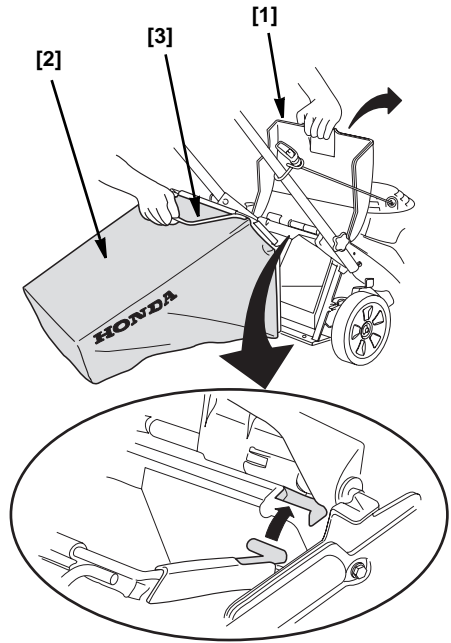
Inspect the grass bag for tears, holes, and excessive wear. The grass bag wears during normal use and will eventually require replacement. If the grass bag needs replacement you can remove and install a bag yourself (page 55).

Installation

1. Raise the discharge guard [1], use the grass bag handle [3] and hook the grass bag [2] onto the mower deck as shown.
2. Release the discharge guard to secure the grass bag.

Removal

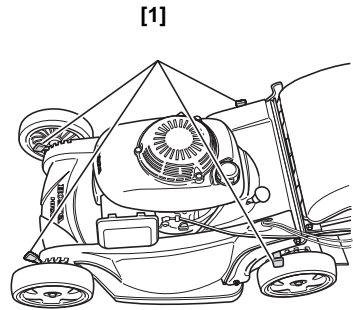
1. Raise the discharge guard, grasp the grass bag handle and remove the grass bag.
2. Release the discharge guard.
3. When the grass bag is clear of the discharge guard, you can lift it through the handlebar opening, or you can remove it to the rear of the mower below the handlebar.



4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

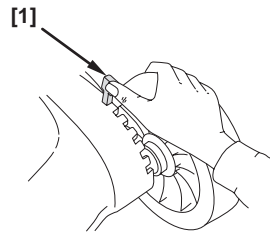
Cutting Height

Check the mower deck cutting height settings, and be sure that all four adjustment levers [1] are set to the same cutting height position.



To adjust cutting height, pull each adjustment lever [1] toward the wheel, and move it into another notch.

If you are not sure what cutting height to select, start with a high setting and check the appearance of the lawn after mowing a small area. Then readjust cutting height if necessary.



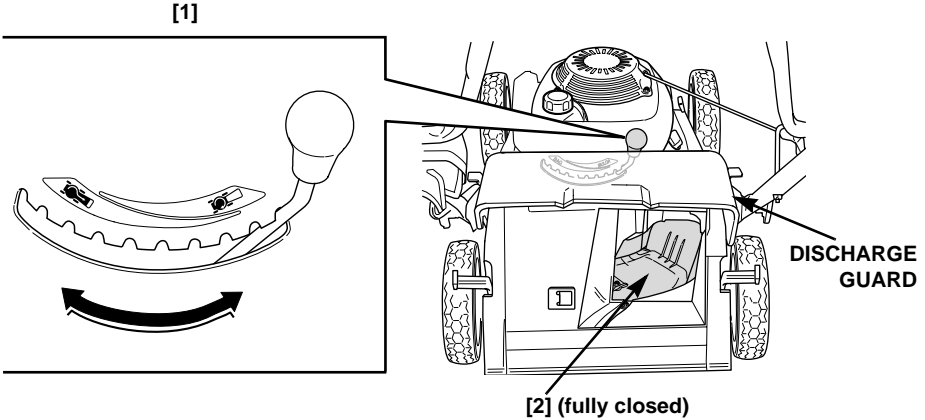
4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Clip Direction

Clip Director Knob Adjustment

Adjust the clip director knob [1] in any one of the ten positions to achieve the desired mowing results.

To adjust the clip director knob, pull the knob downward and towards the rear of the mower. The knob adjusts a sliding door [2] from the fully open BAG position to the fully closed MULCH position (see the following page).



If a high resistance is noticed when moving the clip director knob from side-to-side, excessive grass may have built up on top of the sliding door.

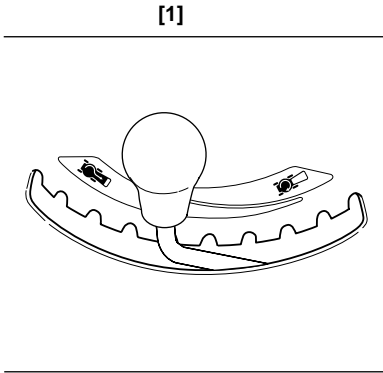
IMPORTANT SAFETY PRECAUTION

Always turn the engine off and disconnect the spark plug cap before lifting the discharge guard to view or clean around the sliding door. This will prevent contact with the rotating blades and prevent objects from being thrown into the discharge area.

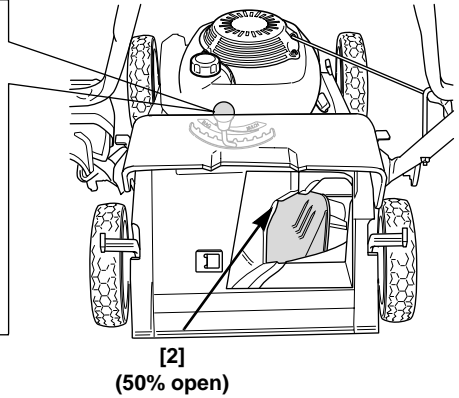
4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Sliding Door Position

The sliding door [2] can be positioned to produce different mowing results. If the preferred sliding door position is unknown, install a grass bag and begin mowing with the clip director knob [1] all the way to the BAG position. Check the appearance of the lawn. As the knob is moved towards the MULCH position, more grass will be recycled back into the lawn. Adjust the clip director knob until the desired result is achieved.

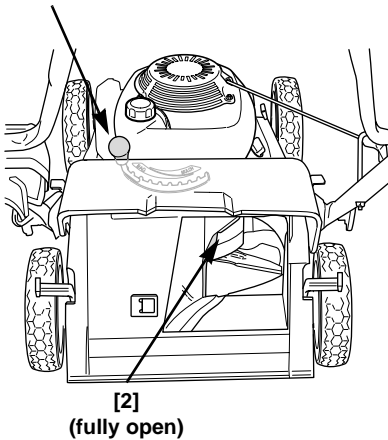


BAGGING OR REAR DISCHARGE AND SOME MULCHING



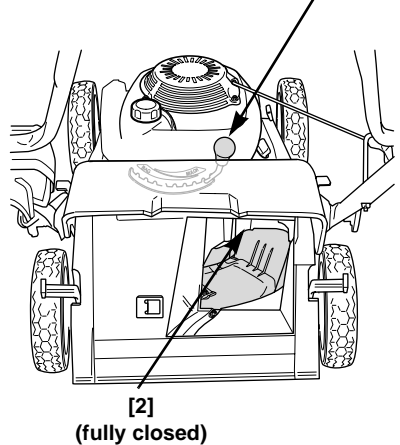
FULL BAGGING OR REAR DISCHARGE

[1]
(BAG position)



FULL MULCHING

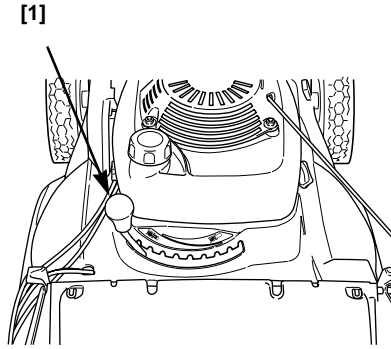
[1]
(MULCH position)



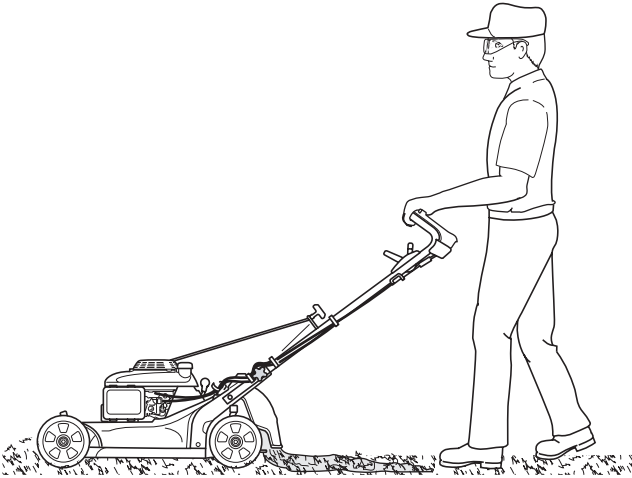
4. PRE-OPERATION CHECKS

Rear Discharge

To discharge clippings to the rear, remove the grass bag and position the clip director knob [1] in the BAG range.



Maximum rear discharge will occur when the clip director knob is all the way to the left (BAG) position. As the clip director knob is moved toward the right (MULCH) position, less grass will be discharged though the rear discharge guard.



ARE YOU Ready to Mow?

Be sure to wear protective clothing. Long pants and eye protection can lower your risk of injury from thrown objects. Wear footwear that protects your feet and won't let you slip if you mow on slopes or uneven ground.

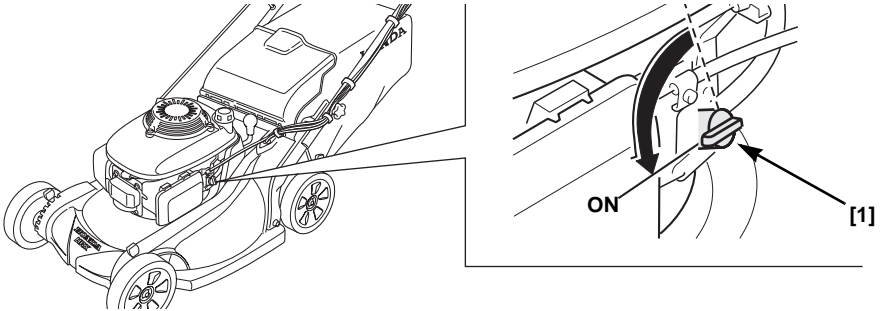
MOWING PRECAUTIONS

Before operating the mower for the first time, please review chapters 1 and 2. Even if you have operated other mowers, take the time to become familiar with how this mower works and practice in a safe area until you build up your skills.

For your safety, avoid starting or operating the engine in an enclosed area such as a garage. Your mower's exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas which can collect rapidly in an enclosed area and cause illness or death.

STARTING THE ENGINE

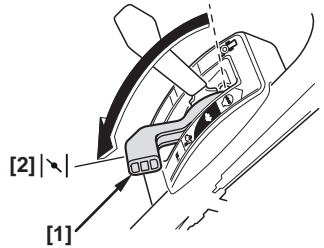
1. Turn the fuel valve [1] to the ON position.



2. Move the throttle lever [1] to the proper starting position.

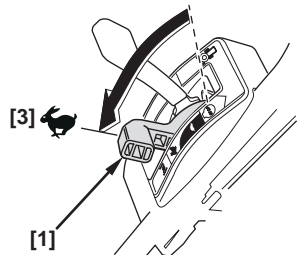
COLD ENGINE:

Move the throttle lever [1] to the CHOKE position [2].



WARM ENGINE:

Move the throttle lever [1] to the FAST position [3].

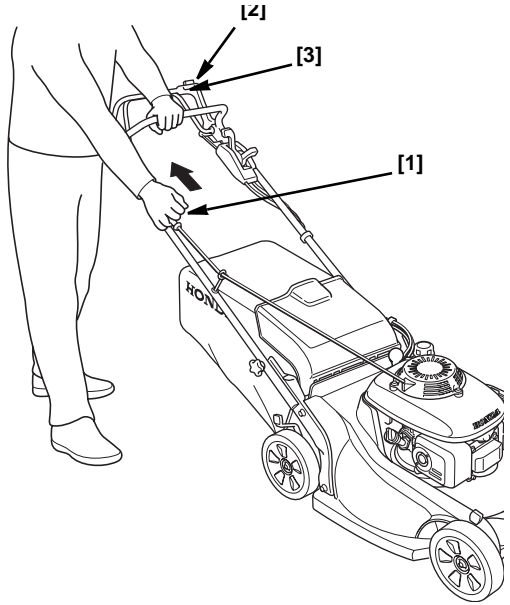


5. OPERATION

3. HXE type:

Pull the starter grip [1] lightly until you feel resistance, then pull briskly. Return the starter grip gently..

To keep the blade(s) from turning and to prevent the mower from moving forward, always release the blade control lever [2] and drive clutch lever [3] when you pull the starter

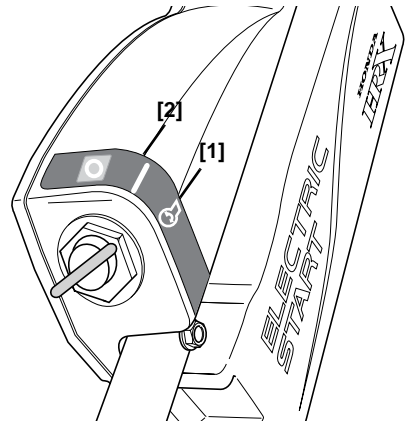


HME type:

Electric start

Turn the key switch to the START [1] position and hold it there until the engine starts.

When the engine starts, allow the key switch to return to the ON [2] position.



NOTICE

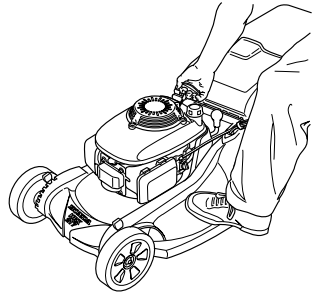
Do not use the starter for more than 5 seconds or starter motor damage may occur. If the engine fails to start, release the switch and wait 10 seconds before operating the starter again.

When the engine starts, release the key switch and allow it to return to the ON position.

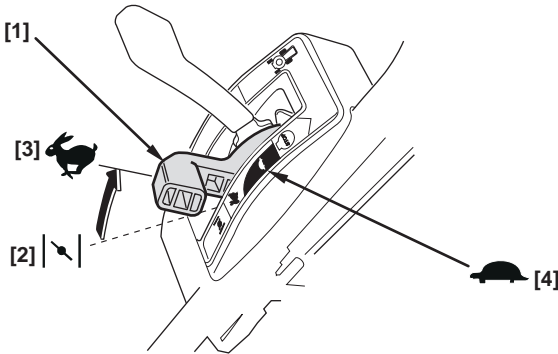
Manual start

Turn the engine switch ON. The engine switch must be in the ON position to start the engine with the recoil starter.

Place your foot on the mower deck step. Pull the starter grip lightly until you feel resistance, then pull briskly. Return the starter grip gently.



4. Move the throttle lever [1] away from the choke position [2] as soon as the engine warms up enough to run smoothly. Put the throttle lever [1] in the fast position [3] to mow or to the slow position [4] to idle.



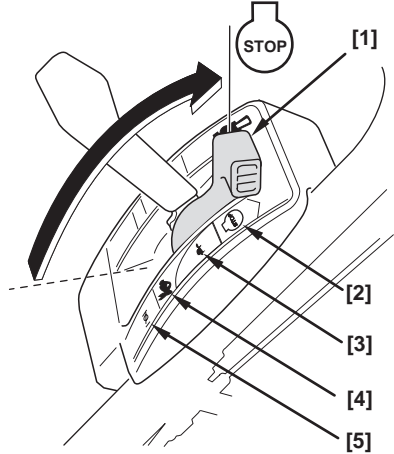
5. OPERATION

Flooded Engine

If the engine still refuses to start after several pulls on the starter, the engine may be flooded.

To clear a flooded engine:

1. HXE: Place the throttle lever [1] in the STOP position [2].
HME: Turn the key to the OFF position (see page 29).
2. Remove and dry the spark plug.
When installing the spark plug, screw it in finger tight and correctly seated. Using the correct size plug wrench, tighten it an additional 1/8 to 1/4 turn so that the washer is correctly compressed.
3. HME: Turn the key to the ON position.
HXE, HME: Put the throttle lever [1] in the fast position [4] and repeat step 3 previously mentioned under STARTING THE ENGINE.



High Altitude Operation

At high altitude, the standard carburetor air-fuel mixture will be too rich. Performance will decrease, and fuel consumption will increase. A very rich mixture will also foul the spark plug and cause hard starting.

High altitude performance can be improved by specific modifications to the carburetor. If you always operate your mower at altitudes above 1,800 meters, have a Honda dealer perform this carburetor modification.

Even with carburetor modification, engine power will decrease about 3.5% for each 300 meter increase in altitude. The effect of altitude on power will be greater than this if no carburetor modification is made.

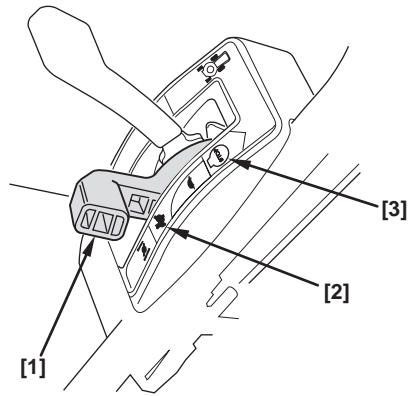
NOTICE

When the carburetor has been modified for high altitude operation, the air-fuel mixture will be too lean for low altitude use. Operation at altitudes below 1,800 meters with a modified carburetor may cause the engine to overheat and result in serious engine damage. For use at low altitudes, have your authorized Honda dealer return the carburetor to original factory specifications.

OPERATING THE CONTROLS FOR MOWING

Throttle Lever

For best cut quality, always mow with the throttle lever [1] in the fast position [2]. When the blade rotates at the preset fast speed, it creates a strong fan action that lifts and cuts grass more efficiently. Do not try to increase the preset engine speed, the blade could fracture and come apart.

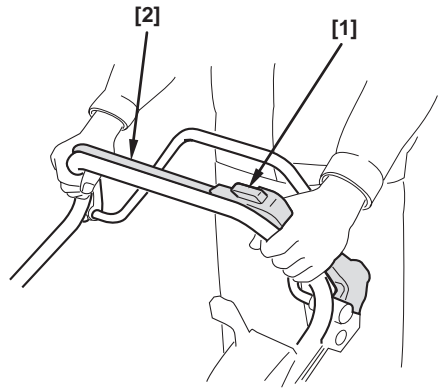


Blade Control Lever

To start blade rotation, press the yellow button [1] on top of the blade control lever [2], then push the lever forward and hold it against the handlebar.

Release the blade control lever [2] to stop the blade.

Operate the blade control lever with a quick and complete motion, so the blade control is always either fully engaged or disengaged. This will help to prevent stalling the engine, and it will help prevent damage to the blade control mechanism.



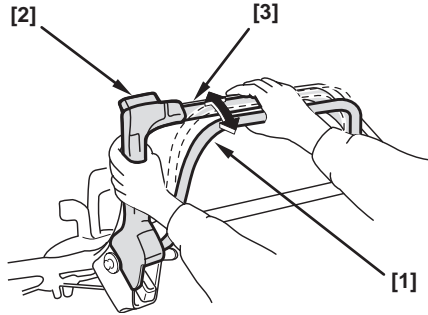
5. OPERATION

Drive Clutch Lever

Push the drive clutch lever [1] forward to propel the mower forward.

For self-propelled mowing, press the yellow button [2] on top of the blade control lever [3], push the blade control lever forward to the handlebar, then push the drive clutch lever [1] forward.

Release the drive clutch lever [1] to stop the mower's forward movement.



You can control mower speed with the drive clutch lever [1]. The mower will move gradually faster as you push the lever forward. If you push the lever all the way up to the handlebar, the mower will move at the speed determined by the shift lever setting.

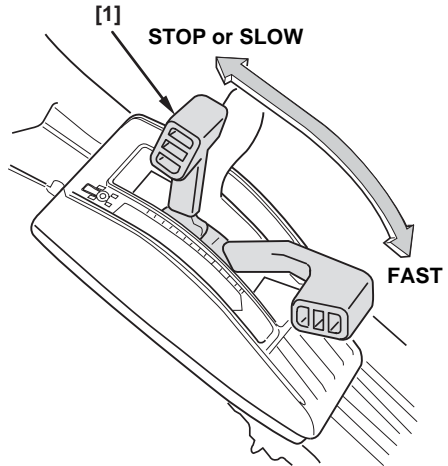
Shift Lever

Use the shift lever [1] to select the forward speed at which you wish to mow.

Do not use the throttle lever to adjust your forward speed. The throttle lever must remain in the fast position for good mowing performance. Otherwise, cut quality suffers.

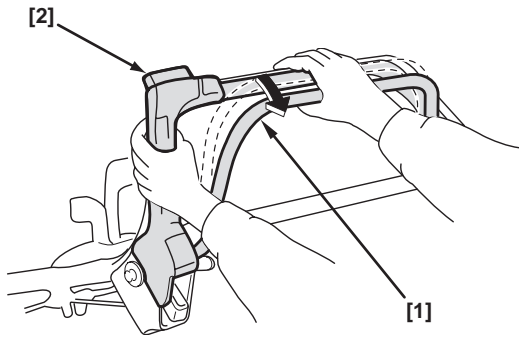
Use the lower speed range for mulching and bagging, the higher speed range for transporting.

With the shift lever all the way back and the drive clutch lever engaged, the mower will move slowly or not at all.



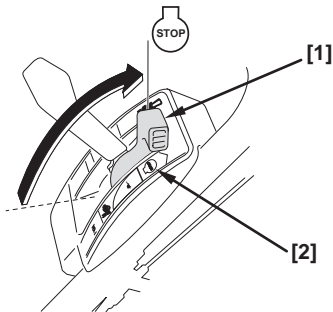
STOPPING THE ENGINE

1. Release the drive clutch lever [1] and blade control lever [2].

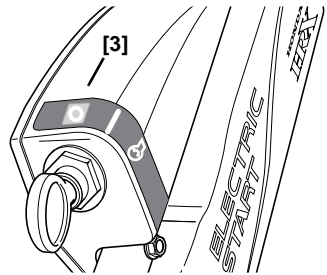


2. HXE type: Move the throttle lever [1] to the STOP position [2] to stop the engine.

HME type: Turn the key switch to the OFF [3] position.

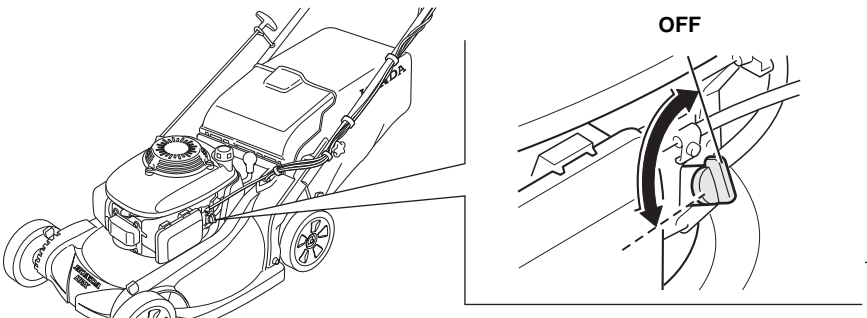


HXE TYPE



HME TYPE

3. When the mower is not in use, turn the fuel valve to the OFF position.



5. OPERATION

SAFE MOWING PRACTICES

For your safety, keep all four wheels on the ground, and be careful to avoid losing your footing and your control of the mower. Keep a firm grip on the handlebar, and walk, never run, with the mower. Be very careful when mowing uneven or rough ground.

If stuck, do not kick or shove the mower with your foot. Use the handlebar to control the mower.

WARNING

The blade is sharp and spins at high speed.

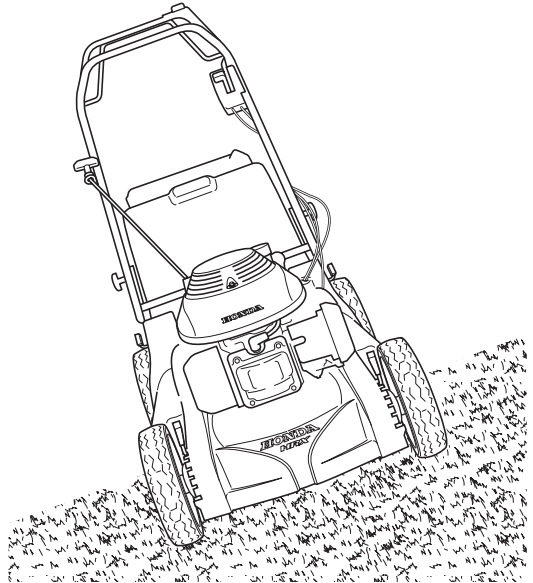
A spinning blade can cut you severely and can amputate fingers and toes.

- Wear protective footwear.
- Keep your hands and feet away from the mower deck while the engine is running.
- Stop the engine before performing any adjustment, inspection, or maintenance.

Slopes

Mow across slopes, not up and down. Avoid steep slopes (more than 20°), and be careful when changing direction.

Mowing on a slope when the grass is damp or wet could cause you to slip, fall, and lose control of the mower.



Obstacles

Use the side of the mower to cut close to large obstacles, such as fences or walls.

Release the drive clutch lever to disengage the drive when mowing around trees and other obstacles. Push the mower around obstacles for better directional control. Be careful when mowing over obstacles embedded in the lawn, such as sprinkler heads, paving, edging, etc. Avoid anything that sticks up above the surface of the lawn.

If the blade hits something, or if the mower starts to vibrate, stop the engine immediately and check for damage. Striking objects may damage the blade, bend the crankshaft, and/or break the mower deck or other components. Vibration usually indicates serious trouble.

WARNING

A worn, cracked, or damaged blade can break, and pieces of the damaged blade can become dangerous projectiles.

Thrown objects can cause serious injury.

Inspect the blade regularly, and do not operate the mower with a worn or damaged blade.

The warranty does not cover parts damaged by accident or collision.

Gravel and Loose Objects

Gravel, loose stones, and landscaping material can be picked up by the mower and thrown many feet with enough force to cause serious personal injury and/or property damage. The best way to prevent potential injury from thrown objects is to release the blade control lever to stop the blade before reaching areas with gravel, loose stones, or landscaping material.

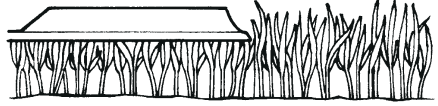
5. OPERATION

MOWING TIPS

When to Mow

Most grasses should be mowed when they have grown 1/2 to 1 inch above their recommended height.

More frequent mowing is required for mulching than for bagging. For best results, you may need to mow the lawn twice a week during the growing season.



Cutting Height

Consult a local nursery or lawn and garden center for cutting height recommendations and advice about specific types of grasses and growing conditions in your area.

If you look closely, you'll see that most grass has stems and leaves. If you cut off the leaves, you'll scalp the lawn. Let the grass recover between mowings. Your mower will work better, and your lawn will look better.



LONG ENOUGH



TOO SHORT

If your grass gets too tall, cut it once at the highest cutting height setting, then mow again in 2 or 3 days. Don't take off more than one third of total grass height in any one mowing, or brown patches may develop.

Cutting height adjustment levers are explained in the CONTROLS chapter (page 11).

Cutting Width

For an even lawn finish, overlap each mowing swath by a few inches. If the grass is very tall or thick, use more overlap and a narrower mowing swath.

Blade Speed

The blade must spin very fast to cut properly. Always use the fast throttle setting, and keep the engine running at maximum rpm.

If engine speed drops, it could mean the engine is being overloaded by the blade trying to cut too much grass. Mow a narrower swath, move the mower slower, or raise the cutting height.

Blade Sharpness

A sharp blade cuts cleanly. A dull blade tears the grass, leaving shredded ends that turn brown. When your blade doesn't cut cleanly anymore, have it sharpened or replaced.

Dry Grass

If the ground is too dry, mowing will stir up a lot of dust. Besides being unpleasant to work in, too much dust will clog the carburetor air filter.

If dust is a problem, water your lawn the day before mowing. Mow when the grass is dry to your touch, but the soil is still moist.

Wet Grass

Wet grass is slippery and can make you lose your footing. Also, wet grass clippings will clog the mower deck and collect in clumps on the lawn. Always wait for wet grass to dry before mowing.

Fallen Leaves

Your mower can be used to pick up fallen leaves for disposal. If using the mower to bag large amounts of fallen leaves, and not for mowing, set the cutting height adjustment levers so the front of the mower deck is one or two settings higher than the rear. To start, position the clip director knob in the #9 position (not quite full mulching). This setting will allow the leaves to be recirculated and recut until the particles are small enough to pass through the sliding door opening and into the grass bag. Depending on the size, type, and water content of the leaves, it may be necessary to open the sliding door to allow for best bagging results. Using the sliding door correctly will allow better grass bag filling resulting in less grass bag emptying. Be sure there are no obstacles, including rocks, hidden under the leaves.

If you want to mulch fallen leaves into your lawn, don't let the leaf cover get too deep before you begin. For best results, start mulching while grass still shows through the leaf cover. Position the clip director knob in the MULCH position. In places where fallen leaves completely cover the grass, remove the leaves by raking, or use the grass bag, so your mower can pick them up for disposal.

Clogged Mower Deck

Before clearing a clogged mower deck, stop the engine and turn the fuel valve to the OFF position. With the spark plug cap disconnected, tilt the mower so the carburetor side is up.

Clear a clogged deck with a stick, not your hands.

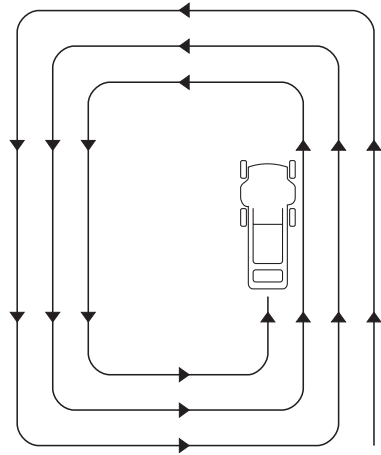
5. OPERATION

Mowing Patterns

Your Honda mower will work most efficiently if you use the following mowing patterns as much as possible. Mower deck and equipment design, and the direction in which the blade rotates, cause these mowing patterns to give the best results.

Mulching

Use a counterclockwise mowing pattern when the clip director knob is in the full MULCH position. If the lawn has an irregular shape, or many obstacles, divide it into sections where you can use counterclockwise mowing patterns..



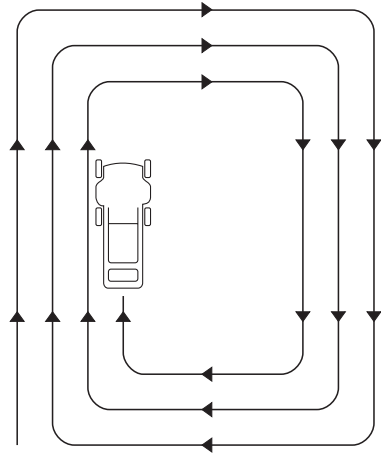
MULCHING PATTERN

Bagging

Use a clockwise mowing pattern. This will give the best clip director and bagging performance, leaving the least amount of clippings on the lawn.

Rear Discharge Mowing

Remove the grass bag and close the discharge guard. Adjust the clip director knob to the desired setting and begin mowing in a clockwise mowing pattern. If the lawn has an irregular shape, or many obstacles, divide it into sections.



BAGGING & REAR-DISCHARGE PATTERN

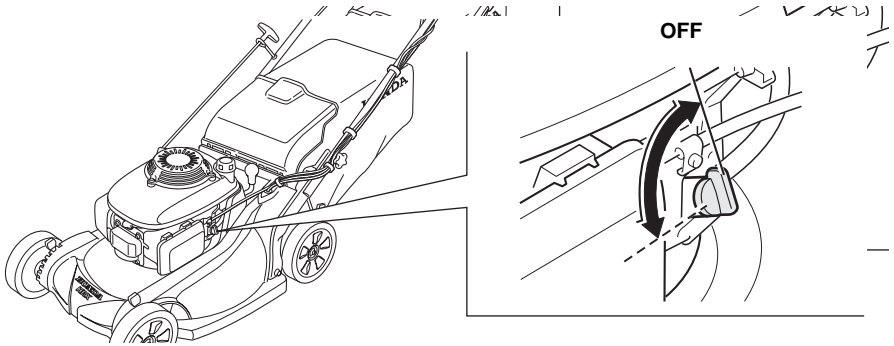
6. TRANSPORTING/STORAGE

TRANSPORTING

Before Loading

If the engine has been running, allow it to cool for at least 15 minutes before loading the mower on the transport vehicle. A hot engine and exhaust system can burn you and can ignite some materials.

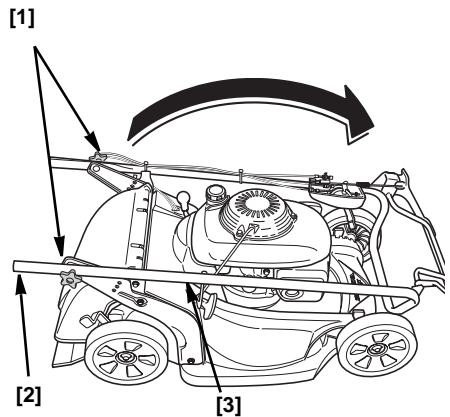
Turn the fuel valve to the OFF position. This will prevent carburetor flooding and reduce the possibility of fuel leakage.



Handlebar Folding

1. Remove the grass bag, if so equipped. You can place it on top of the engine, with the bag opening to the front.
2. Loosen the lower handlebar locking knobs [1].
3. Spread the lower ends of the handlebar struts [2] to release the locating pins. Fold handlebar [3] over mower.

When folding the handlebar, be careful to avoid kinking or pinching the control cables.



6. TRANSPORTING/STORAGE

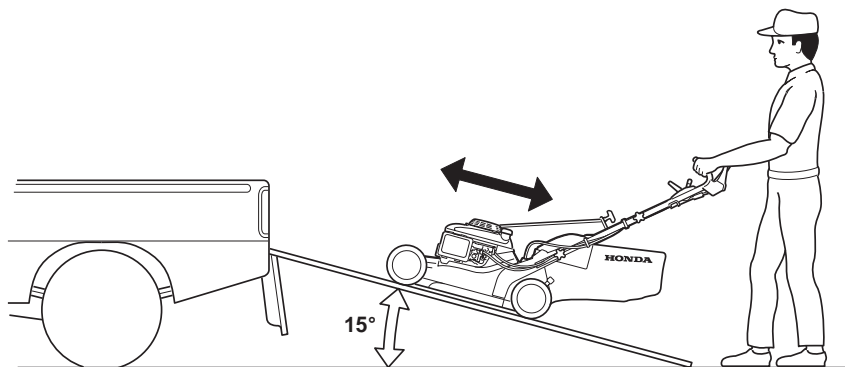
Loading and Unloading

Position the mower so all four wheels are on the bed of the transport vehicle. Tie the mower down with rope or straps, and block the wheels. Keep the tie-down rope or straps away from the controls, adjustment levers, cables, and the carburetor.

NOTICE

- To prevent losing control of or damaging the mower, do not use the drive system when going up or down a loading ramp.
- To prevent damaging the drive system, do not engage the clutch when the mower is rolling backwards.

1. Turn the fuel valve to the OFF position (page 29).
2. Use a suitable loading ramp. Adjust the loading ramp so that it is inclined at an angle of less than 15°. If a loading ramp is not available, two people should lift the mower on and off the transport vehicle keeping the mower level.



STORAGE

Proper storage is essential for keeping your lawn mower troublefree and looking good. The following steps will help protect the mower from rust and corrosion and make the engine easier to start when you use the lawn mower again.

Cleaning

1. Wash the lawn mower, including the underside of the mower deck.

Engine

Wash the engine by hand, and be careful to prevent water from entering the air cleaner.

NOTICE

- *Using a garden hose or pressure washing equipment can force water into the air cleaner. Water in the air cleaner will soak the filters and can enter the carburetor or engine cylinder, causing damage.*
- *Water contacting a hot engine can cause damage. If the engine has been running, allow it to cool for at least half an hour before washing.*

Mower Deck

If using a garden hose or pressure washing equipment to clean the mower deck, be careful to avoid getting water into controls and cables, or anywhere near the engine air cleaner or muffler opening.

Before washing the underside of the mower deck, be sure the throttle lever is in the STOP position and the fuel valve is in the OFF position. Rest the mower on its right side, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting due to carburetor flooding. Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands from the blade(s).

Grass Bag

Remove the bag from the mower, and wash it with a garden hose or pressure washing equipment. Allow the bag to dry completely before storage.

2. After washing the lawn mower, wipe dry all accessible surfaces.
3. With the mower in an upright position, start the engine outdoors, and let it run until it reaches normal operating temperature to evaporate any water remaining on the engine.
4. While the engine is running, operate the blade control lever 4 or 5 times to expel water from the blade control mechanism. Allow the blade(s) to spin for several minutes to ensure that no water remains.
5. Stop the engine and allow it to cool.
6. After the lawn mower is clean and dry, touch up any damaged paint, and coat other areas that may rust with a light film of oil. Lubricate the control cable cores with a silicone spray lubricant.

6. TRANSPORTING/STORAGE

Charging the Battery (HME type)

To assure maximum reliability, the battery should be recharged (boost charged) both before and after prolonged storage. A plug-in charger is provided to recharge the battery (see page 57).

NOTICE

Do not charge the battery for more than 24 hours or the battery may be damaged. Disconnect the battery charger from the battery before storing the lawn mower.

Fuel

Gasoline will oxidize and deteriorate in storage. Old gasoline will cause hard starting, and it leaves gum deposits that clog the fuel system. If the gasoline in your mower deteriorates during storage, you may need to have the carburetor and other fuel system components serviced or replaced.

The length of time that gasoline can be left in your fuel tank and carburetor without causing functional problems will vary with such factors as gasoline blend, your storage temperatures, and whether the fuel tank is partially or completely filled. The air in a partially filled fuel tank promotes fuel deterioration. Very warm storage temperatures accelerate fuel deterioration. Fuel deterioration problems may occur within a few months, or even less if the gasoline was not fresh when you filled the fuel tank.

The warranty does not cover fuel system damage or engine performance problems resulting from neglected storage preparation.

You can extend fuel storage life by adding a gasoline stabilizer that is formulated for that purpose, or you can avoid fuel deterioration problems by draining the fuel tank and carburetor.

Adding fuel stabilizer:

When adding a fuel stabilizer, fill the fuel tank with fresh gasoline. If only partially filled, air in the tank will promote fuel deterioration during storage. If you keep a container of gasoline for refueling, be sure that it contains only fresh gasoline.

1. Add fuel stabilizer following the manufacturer's instructions.
2. After adding a fuel stabilizer, run the engine outdoors for 10 minutes to be sure that treated gasoline has replaced the untreated gasoline in the carburetor.
3. Stop the engine, and leave the throttle lever in the STOP position. Turn the fuel valve to the OFF position.

Draining the Fuel Tank and Carburetor:

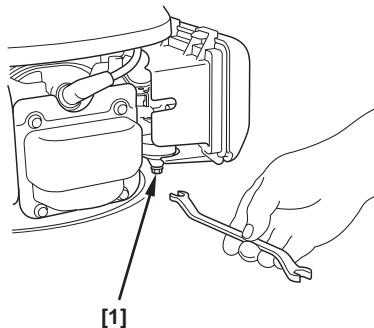
⚠ WARNING

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.

1. Remove the carburetor drain bolt [1].
Drain the carburetor bowl into an approved container.
2. Turn fuel valve ON to allow fuel from fuel tank to drain through carburetor bowl.
3. After draining, install the drain bolt.



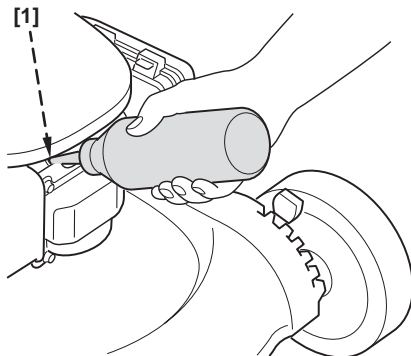
Engine Oil

Change the engine oil (page 44).

Engine Cylinder

If the mower is to be stored for more than 3 months, remove the spark plug (page 47). Pour 5 ~ 10 cc of clean engine oil into the cylinder [1]. Pull the starter rope several times to distribute the oil in the cylinder. Reinstall the spark plug.

Pull the starter rope slowly until resistance is felt, then return the starter grip gently. This will close the valves so moisture can not enter the engine cylinder.



6. TRANSPORTING/STORAGE

PLACING IN STORAGE

If your mower will be stored with gasoline in the fuel tank and carburetor, it is important to reduce the hazard of gasoline vapor ignition. Select a well-ventilated storage area away from any appliance that operates with a flame, such as a furnace, water heater, or clothes dryer. Also avoid any area with a spark-producing electric motor, or where power tools are operated.

If possible, avoid storage areas with high humidity, because that promotes rust and corrosion.

Unless all fuel has been drained from the fuel tank, turn the fuel valve to the OFF position to close the fuel valve and reduce the possibility of fuel leakage.

Place the mower with its wheels on a level surface. Tilting can cause fuel or oil leakage.

The handlebar can be folded for compact storage (page 35).

With the engine and exhaust system cool, cover the mower to keep out dust. A hot engine and exhaust system can ignite or melt some materials. Do not use sheet plastic as a dust cover. A nonporous cover will trap moisture around the mower, promoting rust and corrosion.

REMOVING FROM STORAGE

Check your mower as described in the PRE-OPERATION CHECKS chapter of this manual.

If the fuel was drained during storage preparation, fill the tank with fresh gasoline. If you keep a container of gasoline for refueling, be sure that it contains only fresh gasoline. Gasoline oxidizes and deteriorates over time, causing hard starting.

If the cylinder was coated with oil during storage preparation, the engine will smoke briefly at startup. This is normal.

Electric Start Type (HME)

At the beginning of the mowing season, charge the battery for 20-24 hours before using the electric starter (see page 57).

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE

Good maintenance is essential for safe, economical, and trouble-free operation. It will also help reduce air pollution.

To help you properly care for your mower, the following pages include a maintenance schedule, routine inspection procedures, and simple maintenance procedures using basic hand tools. Other service tasks that are more difficult, or require special tools, are best handled by professionals and are normally performed by a Honda technician or other qualified mechanic.

The maintenance schedule applies to normal operating conditions. If you operate your mower under unusual conditions, consult an authorized Honda dealer for recommendations applicable to your individual needs and use.

WARNING

Improper maintenance, or failure to correct a problem before operation, can cause a malfunction in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

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

7. MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE SAFETY

Some of the most important safety precautions follow. However, 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.

WARNING

Failure to properly follow maintenance instructions and precautions can cause you to be seriously hurt or killed.

Always follow the procedures and precautions in this owner's manual.

Safety Precautions

- *Make sure the engine is off before you begin any maintenance or repairs. This will eliminate several potential hazards:*
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust.
Be sure there is adequate ventilation whenever you operate the engine.
 - Burns from hot parts.
Let the engine and exhaust system cool before touching.
 - Injury from moving parts.
Do not run the engine unless instructed to do so.
- *Read the instructions before you begin, and make sure you have the tools and skills required.*
- *To reduce the possibility of fire or explosion, be careful when working around gasoline. Use only a nonflammable solvent, not gasoline, to clean parts. Keep cigarettes, sparks, and flames away from all fuel-related parts.*

Remember that your Honda dealer knows your mower best and is fully equipped to maintain and repair it.

To ensure the best quality and reliability, use only new, genuine Honda parts or their equivalents for repair and replacement.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

REGULAR SERVICE PERIOD Perform at every indicated month or operating hour interval, whichever comes first.		Before Each Use	First month or 20 hrs	Every 3 months or 50 hrs	Every 6 months or 100 hrs	Every year
Item						
Blade condition and blade bolt tightness	Check	○				
Grass bag	Check	○				
Engine oil	Check	○				
	Change		○		○	
Air cleaner	Check	○				
	Clean-Replace			O(1)		
Spark plug	Clean-Adjust				○	
	Replace					○
Spark arrester	Clean				○	
Idle speed	Check-Adjust					O(2)
Blade control mechanism	Check		O(2)		O(2)	
Blade control cable	Adjust		○		○	
Drive clutch cable	Adjust		○		○	
Throttle cable	Adjust		O(2)		O(2)	
Pinion gears	Lubricate				O(1, 2)	
Valve clearance	Adjust					O(2)
Fuel tank	Clean					O(2)
Fuel line	Replace	Every 2 years (2)				
Battery (HME type)	Charge	Before prolonged storage and at the beginning of the mowing season (3)				

- (1) Service more frequently when used in dusty areas.
- (2) These items should be serviced by an authorized Honda dealer, unless you have the proper tools and are mechanically proficient. Refer to the Honda shop manual for service procedures.
- (3) The HME type requires the battery to be charged for 20-24 hours before and after winter storage.

7. MAINTENANCE

ENGINE MAINTENANCE

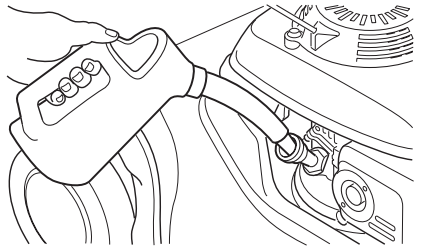
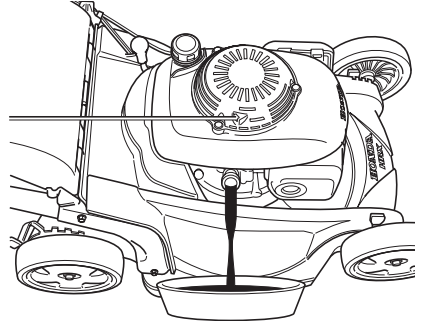
Engine Oil Change

Drain the oil while the engine is warm. Warm oil drains quickly and completely.

1. Put the throttle lever in the STOP position and turn the fuel valve OFF. This will reduce the possibility of fuel leakage (page 8).
2. Wipe the oil filler area clean, then remove the oil filler cap/dipstick.
3. Place a suitable container next to the mower to catch the used oil, then tilt the mower on its right side. The used oil will drain through the filler neck. Allow the oil to drain completely.

Please dispose of used motor oil and the containers in a manner that is compatible with the environment. We suggest you take it in a sealed container to your local recycling center or service station for reclamation. Do not throw it in the trash, pour it on the ground or down a drain.

4. Fill with the recommended oil (page 14). Do not overfill. Measure the oil level as shown on the following page.

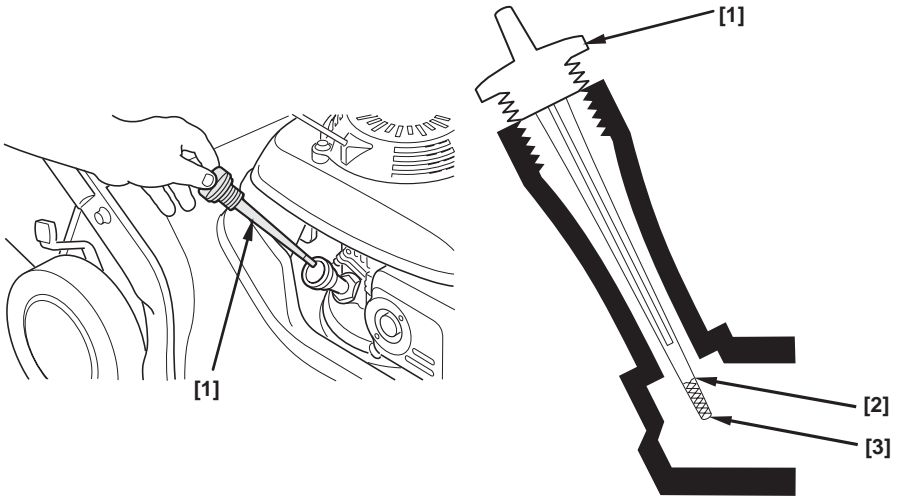


5. After changing the engine oil, and before starting the engine, check the oil level with the mower on a level surface:
 - a. Remove the filler cap/dipstick [1].
 - b. Wipe the dipstick [1] clean.
 - c. Insert and remove the dipstick [1] without screwing it into the filler neck. Check the oil level shown on the dipstick.
 - d. If the oil level is below the low level mark [3], add oil to reach the high limit mark [2] on the dipstick. Do not overfill. If the engine is overfilled, the excess oil may get transferred to the air cleaner housing and air cleaner filter.

NOTICE

Running the engine with a low oil level can cause engine damage.

- e. Screw in the filler cap/dipstick securely.



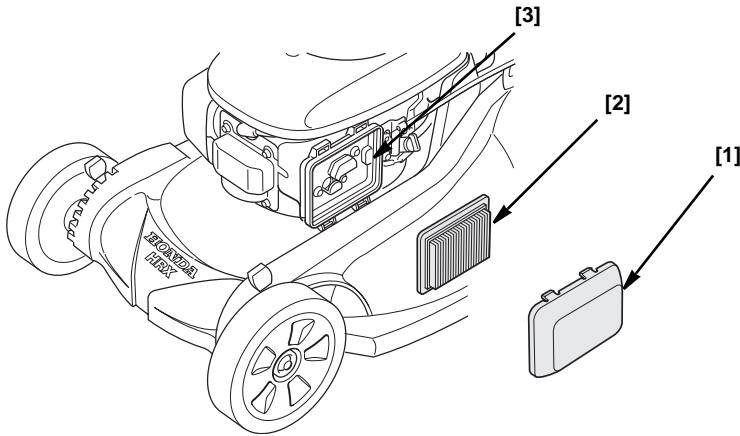
7. MAINTENANCE

Air Cleaner Service

A dirty air filter will restrict air flow to the carburetor, reducing engine performance. If you operate the mower in very dusty areas, clean the air filter more often than specified in the MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE.

NOTICE

Operating the engine without an air filter, or with a damaged filter, will allow dirt to enter the engine, causing rapid engine wear. This type of damage is not covered by the warranty.



1. Press down on the air cleaner cover [1] tabs, then remove cover.
2. Remove the filter [2] from the air cleaner housing [3].
3. Inspect the filter, and replace if damaged.
4. Clean the filter by tapping the filter several times on a hard surface to remove dirt, or blow compressed air (not exceeding 207 kPa) through the filter from the inside. Never try to brush off dirt; brushing will force dirt into the fibers.
5. Wipe dirt from the inside of the air cleaner housing and cover, using a moist rag. Be careful to prevent dirt from entering the air duct that leads to the carburetor.
6. Reinstall the filter and cover.

Spark Plug Service

Recommended spark plugs: NGK - BPR6ES
DENSO - W20EPR-U

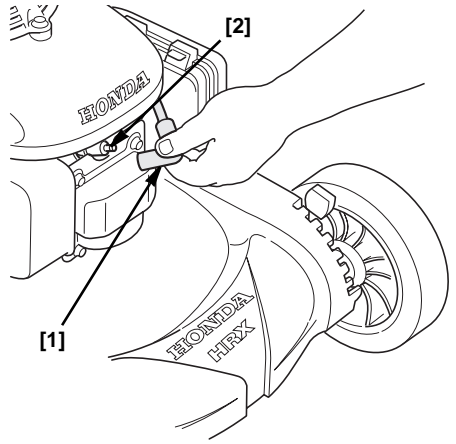
The spark plugs listed above have an internal resistor. Resistor spark plugs reduce interference with radio and TV reception.

NOTICE

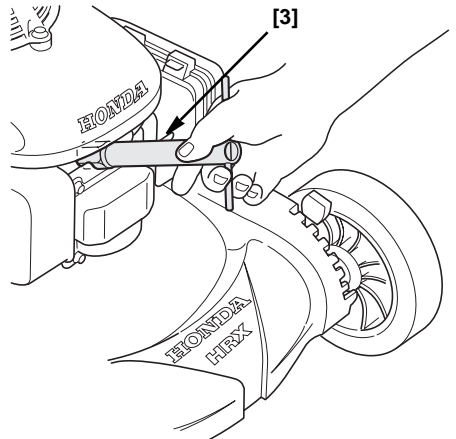
Incorrect spark plugs can cause engine damage.

For good performance, the spark plug [1] must be properly gapped and free of deposits.

1. Disconnect the spark plug cap [2] and remove any dirt from around the spark plug area.



2. Remove the spark plug [1] with a spark plug wrench [3].



7. MAINTENANCE

3. Inspect the spark plug. Replace it if the electrodes are worn, or if the insulator is cracked or chipped. Clean the spark plug with a wire brush if you are going to reuse it.
4. Measure the spark plug electrode gap with a suitable gauge. The gap should be 0.7 ~ 0.8 mm. Correct the gap, if necessary, by carefully bending the side electrode.
5. Install the spark plug carefully, by hand, to avoid cross-threading.
6. After the spark plug seats, tighten with a spark plug wrench to compress the washer.

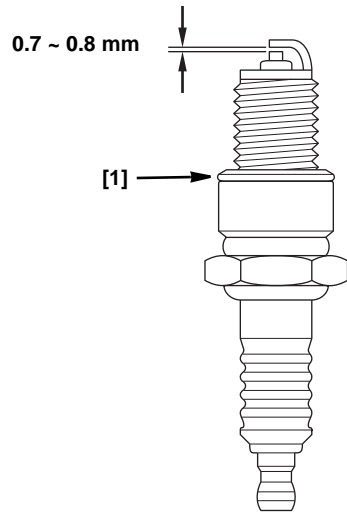
If reinstalling the old spark plug, tighten 1/8 to 1/4 turn after the spark plug seats.

If installing a new spark plug, tighten 1/2 turn after the spark plug seats to compress the washer [1].

NOTICE

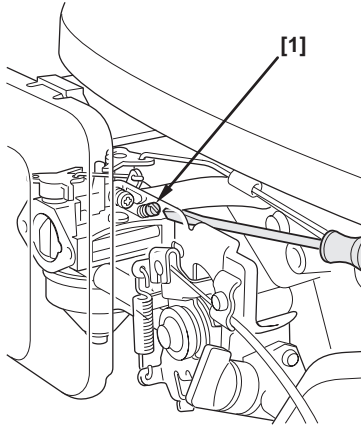
A loose spark plug can overheat and damage the engine. Overtightening the spark plug can damage the threads in the cylinder head.

7. Install the spark plug cap on the spark plug.



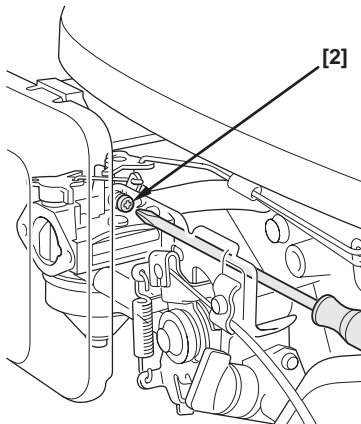
Carburetor Adjustments

1. Start the engine outdoors, and allow it to warm up to normal operating temperature.
2. Set the throttle lever in the slow position.
3. Turn the pilot screw [1] in or out to the setting that produces the highest idle rpm. The correct setting will usually be approximately 2 turns out from the fully closed position.



4. After the pilot screw is correctly adjusted and the blade control is disengaged, turn throttle stop screw [2] to obtain the standard idle speed.

Standard idle speed:
1,700 ± 150 rpm



7. MAINTENANCE

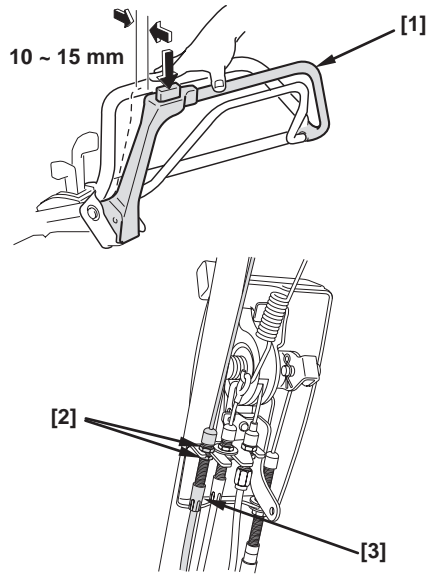
CONTROL CABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Blade Control Cable

Measure free play at the top of the blade control lever [1], while holding the button down. Free play should be 10 ~ 15 mm. If adjustment is necessary:

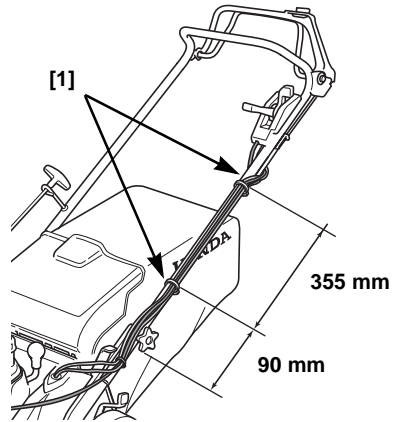
1. Loosen the locknuts [2] with a 10 mm wrench, and move the adjuster [3] up or down as required.
2. Tighten the locknuts and recheck free play.
3. Start the engine outdoors, and operate the blade control lever. Check that the blade starts when you push the lever forward and stops quickly when you release the lever.

If the blade does not start or stop as it should, with correct cable adjustment, take the mower to an authorized Honda dealer for repair.

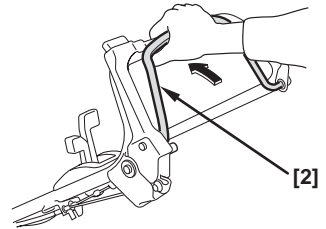


Drive Clutch Cable Adjustment

1. With the engine stopped, position the control cable bands [1] as shown.
2. Pull the shift lever all the way back to the stop position.
3. Start the engine and move the throttle lever to the FAST position.



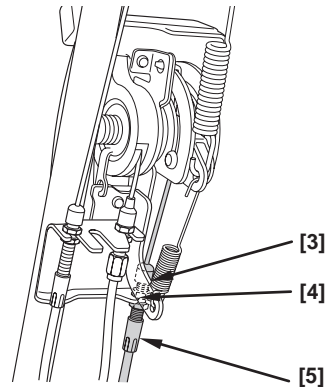
4. Engage the drive clutch lever [2] and confirm the following:
 - a. Mower does not self-propel.
 - b. Mower begins to self-propel or creeps very slowly forward when the shift lever is moved one notch forward.



If the mower does not operate as outlined above, go to step 5.

If the mower does operate as outlined above, adjustment is not required.

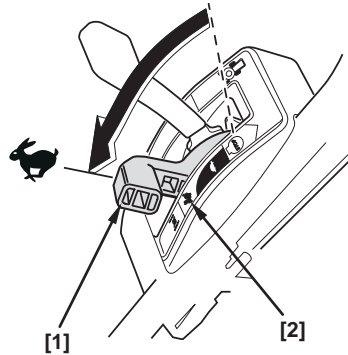
5. Loosen the top [3] and bottom [4] drive clutch cable locknuts with a 10 mm wrench. Move the adjuster [5] up or down, as required, until the mower operates as outlined in step 4. Tighten the locknuts.



7. MAINTENANCE

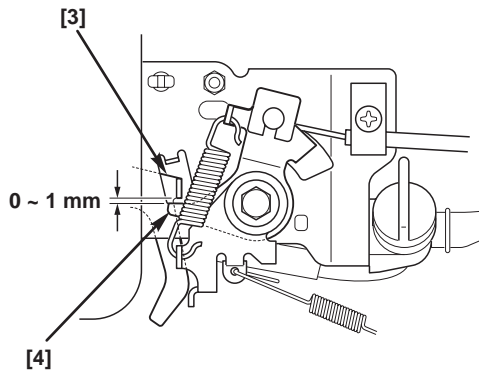
THROTTLE CABLE ADJUSTMENT

1. Move the throttle lever [1] to the fast position [2].

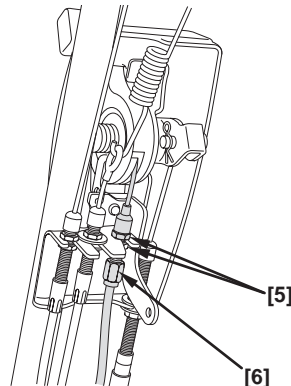


2. Remove air cleaner cover.

3. Measure clearance between control choke arm [3] and control lever [4]. Clearance should be 0 ~ 1 mm. If clearance is correct, no adjustment is necessary. If clearance is incorrect, proceed to step 4.



4. Loosen lock nuts [5] with a 10 mm wrench. Move adjuster [6] up or down as required to achieve clearance in step 3. Retighten locknuts [5].



BLADE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

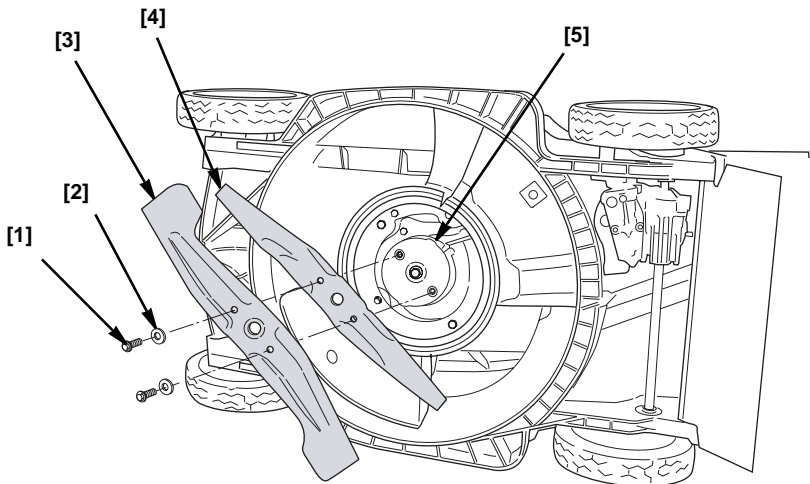
If you remove the blade(s) for sharpening or replacement, you will need a torque wrench for installation. Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands.

BLADE SHARPENING: To avoid weakening the blade(s), or causing imbalance or poor cutting, the blade(s) should be sharpened by trained staff at an authorized Honda dealer.

BLADE REPLACEMENT: Use genuine Honda replacement blades or their equivalent.

Blade Removal

1. HXE: Put the throttle lever in the STOP position.
HME: Turn the key to the OFF position (see page 29).
2. Turn the fuel valve OFF. Disconnect the spark plug cap, then tilt the mower to the right side, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting due to carburetor flooding.
3. Use a 14 mm socket wrench and remove the two blade bolts [1] and special washers [2] from the blade control assembly [5]. Use a wooden block to prevent the blades from turning when removing the bolts.
4. Remove the upper [4] and lower mulching blades [3].



7. MAINTENANCE

Blade Installation

1. Clean dirt and grass from around the blade mounting area.
2. Install the blades [1] using the two blade bolts [2] and special washers [3] as shown.

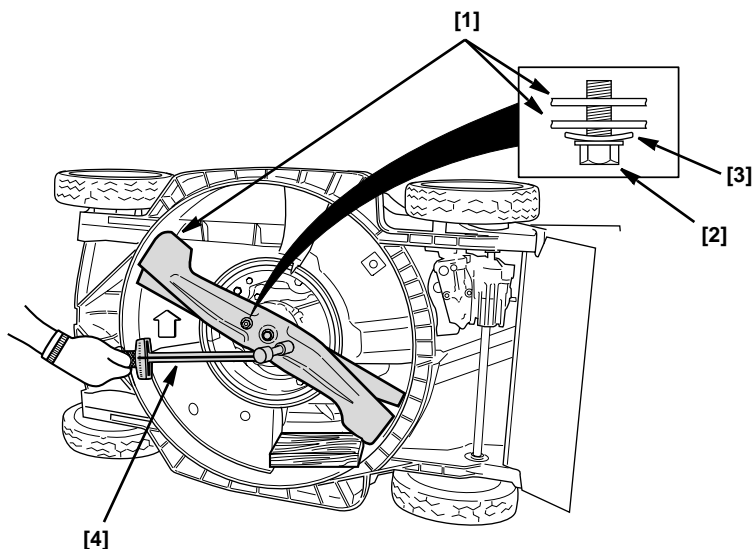
Be sure to install the special washers [3] with the concave side toward the blade(s) and the convex side toward the head of the bolts.

The blade bolts [2] are specially designed for this application and must not be replaced with other bolts.

3. Tighten the blade bolts [2] with a torque wrench [4]. Use a wooden block to prevent the blades [1] from turning.

Blade bolt torque: 49 ~ 59 N·m

If you do not have a torque wrench, have an authorized Honda dealer tighten the blade bolts before you use the mower. If the blade bolts are overtightened, they could break. If the blade bolts are not tightened enough, they could loosen or come out. In either case, it would be possible for the blade(s) to fly off while you are operating the mower.



GRASS BAG CLEANING AND REPLACEMENT

Grass Bag Cleaning

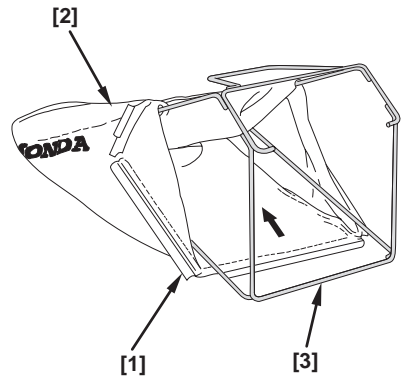
Wash the bag with a garden hose, and allow it to dry completely before use; a wet bag will clog quickly.

Grass Bag Replacement

Replace a worn or damaged bag with a Honda replacement bag or its equivalent.

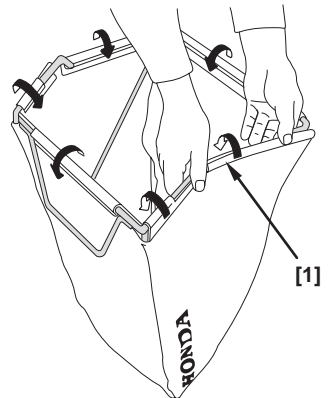
Bag Removal

1. Unclip the plastic edges [1] of the bag [2] from the frame [3].
2. Remove the bag [2] from the frame [3].



Bag Installation

1. Insert the bag frame [3] into the bag [2], as shown above.
2. Clip the plastic edges [1] of the bag [2] onto the frame [3].

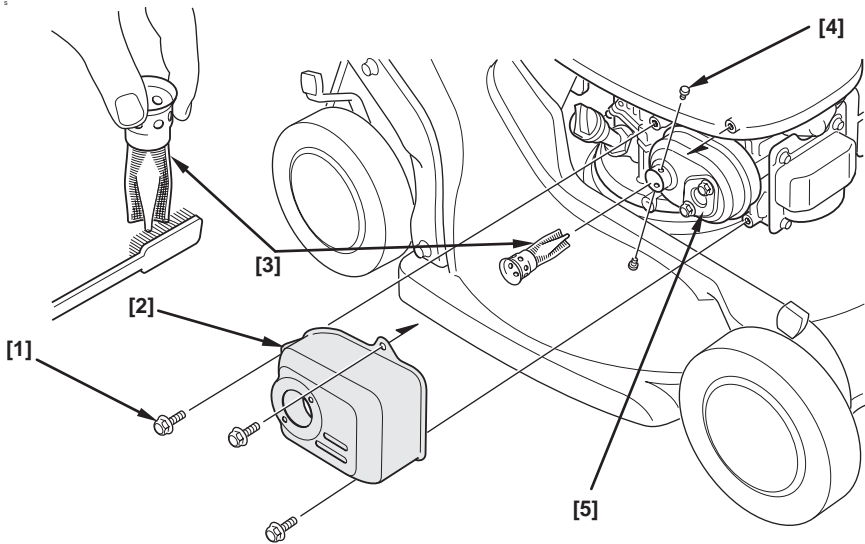


7. MAINTENANCE

SPARK ARRESTER SERVICE

The spark arrester must be serviced every 100 hours to keep it functioning as designed.

1. Allow the engine to cool, then remove the three bolts [1] from the muffler shield [2], using a 10 mm socket wrench.
2. Remove muffler shield [2].
3. Remove two screws [4].
4. Remove the spark arrester [3] from muffler [5].
5. Check for carbon deposits on the spark arrester [3] and the exhaust port. Brush carbon deposits away. Be careful to avoid damaging the spark arrester screen [3].
6. Install the spark arrester in the muffler.
7. Install the muffler components on the engine, and tighten the three bolts securely.



CHARGING THE BATTERY (HME TYPE)

The lawn mower does not have an internal charging system. A plug-in charger is provided to recharge the battery. Use the plug-in charger after prolonged storage or anytime you notice a decrease in starter motor speed.

To assure maximum reliability, the battery should be recharged (boost charged) before prolonged storage and charged again at the beginning of the mowing season. Charge the battery in a dry, well-ventilated area where the temperature is moderate.

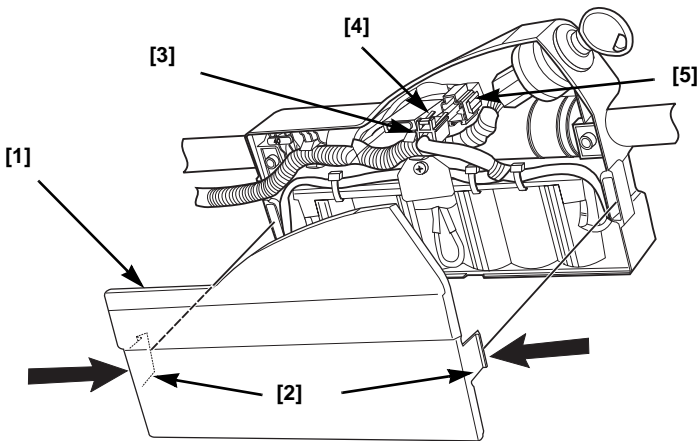
⚠ WARNING

A battery can explode if you do not follow the correct procedure, seriously injuring anyone nearby.

Keep all sparks, open flames, and smoking materials away from the battery.

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

1. Remove the battery cover [1] by depressing the tabs [2] located on the sides and releasing the tab on top of the battery cover.
2. Disconnect the battery connector [3] by depressing the connector tab [4] and pulling the battery connector from the harness connector [5], which is located inside the battery case, above the battery.

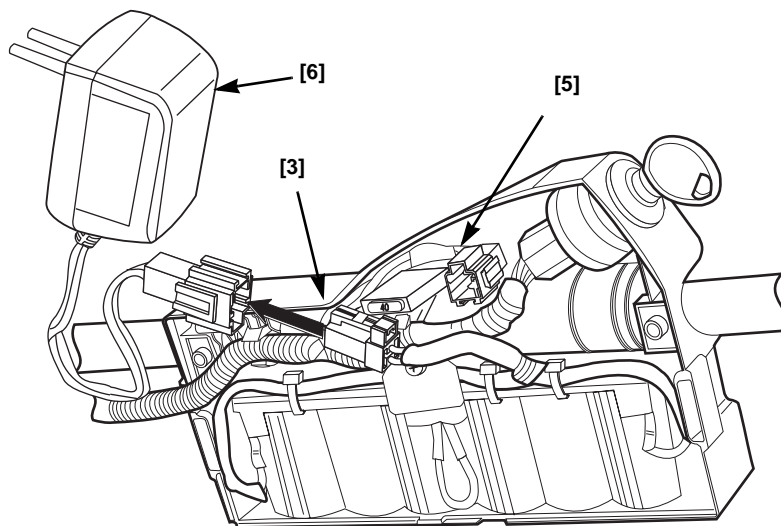


7. MAINTENANCE

3. Connect the battery connector [3] to the charger [6] supplied with the mower.

NOTICE

Do not attempt to charge the battery with any charger other than the one supplied with the mower. Use of a charger other than the one supplied may result in damage to the electrical system or fire.



4. Plug the charger into a standard household power outlet and let the battery charge for 20 to 24 hours. The charger may become slightly warm during charging. This is normal.

NOTICE

Do not charge the battery for more than 24 hours or the battery may be damaged. Disconnect the battery charger from the battery before storing the lawn mower.

5. After the battery has charged, disconnect the charger and reconnect the battery connector to the harness connector.
6. Replace the battery cover. Do not operate without the battery cover installed.

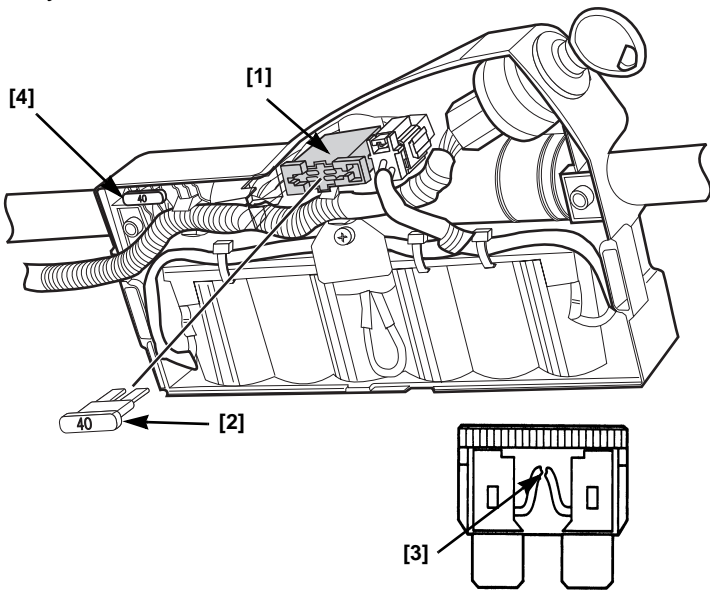
REPLACING THE FUSE (HME TYPE)

The electric starter circuit and battery are protected by a 40 ampere fuse. If the fuse burns out, the electric starter will not operate. The engine can be started manually if the fuse burns out.

1. Remove the battery cover by depressing the tabs located on the sides and releasing the tab on top of the battery cover (see page 57).
2. Locate the fuse case [1] above the battery.
3. Remove and inspect the fuse [2]. If it is burned out [3], install the spare fuse [4] provided with the mower as shown.

NOTICE

Never use a fuse with a rating other than 40 amperes. Serious damage to the electrical system or a fire can result.



If a frequent fuse failure occurs, it usually indicates a short circuit or an overload in the electrical system. Take the mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer for repair.

8. SET-UP

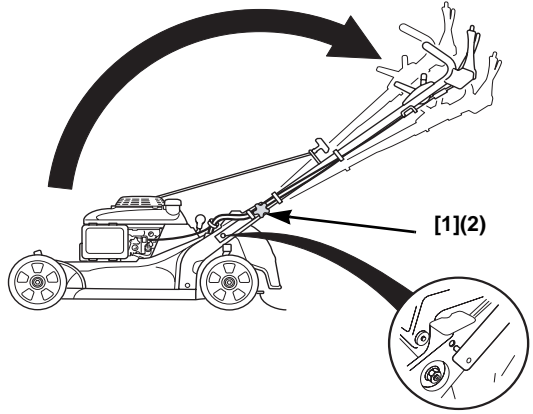
UNPACKING

Remove all the cardboard from around the handlebar.

HANDLEBAR SETUP

Loosen the two knobs [1] on the lower handlebar enough to raise the handlebar into the mowing position.

Select a desired handlebar height adjustment position and tighten the knobs securely.



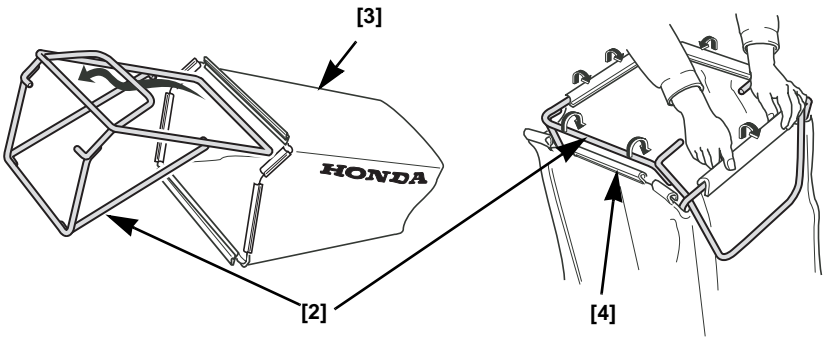
BATTERY (HME TYPE)

The mower is shipped with the battery disconnected. The battery is shipped with a partial charge and should be charged for 20 to 24 hours before use. Refer to page 57 for charging instructions.

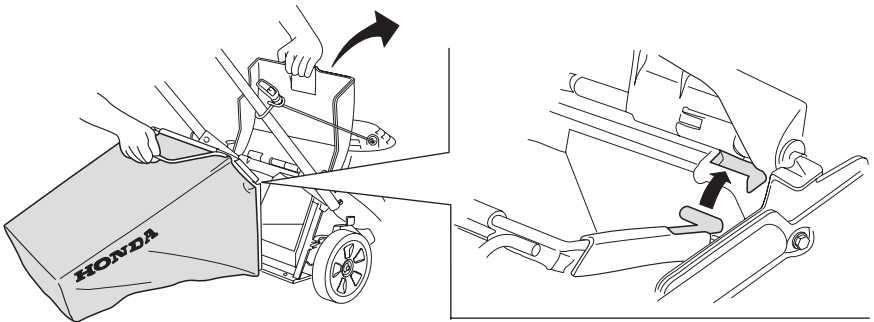
Install the key in the switch.

GRASS BAG ASSEMBLY

Slide the grass bag frame [2] into the grass bag [3] and install the plastic clips [4] as shown.



Lift the the discharge guard and install the grass bag.



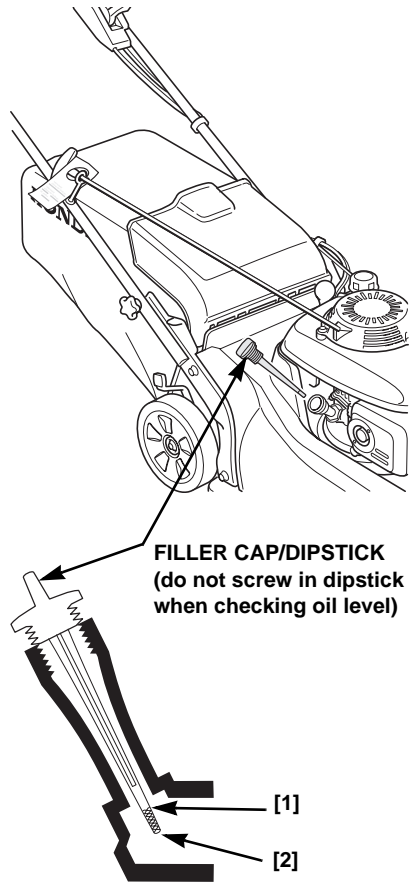
8. SET-UP

ENGINE OIL

The mower is shipped **WITHOUT OIL** in the engine.

Add enough SAE 10W-30 API service category SH or SJ oil to bring the oil level between the upper limit [1] and lower limit marks [2] on the dipstick as shown.

Do not overfill engine with oil. If the engine is overfilled, the excess oil may get transferred to the air cleaner housing and air filter.



FUEL

Refer to page 15.

BEFORE OPERATION

Before using the lawn mower, all mower operator's must read the following chapters:

- **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS** (page 3)
- **CONTROLS** (page 8)
- **PRE-OPERATION CHECKS** (page 12)
- **OPERATION** (page 23)
- **MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE** (page 41)

9. TROUBLESHOOTING

ENGINE PROBLEMS

Engine Will Not Start	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check control positions.	Fuel valve OFF. Throttle lever in wrong position. Key switch OFF (HME type)	Turn fuel valve ON (p. 8). Move throttle lever to choke position, unless the engine is warm (p. 23). Turn key switch ON to use the recoil starter (page 25)
2. Check fuel.	Out of fuel. Bad fuel; mower stored without treating or draining gasoline, or refueled with bad gasoline.	Refuel (p. 15). Drain fuel tank and carburetor (p. 39). Refuel with fresh gasoline (p. 15).
3. Remove and inspect spark plug.	Spark plug faulty, fouled, or improperly gapped. Spark plug wet with fuel (flooded engine).	Clean, gap, or replace spark plug (p. 47). Dry and reinstall spark plug. Start engine with throttle lever in fast position (p. 26).
4. Take mower to a Honda dealer, or refer to shop manual.	Fuel filter clogged, carburetor malfunction, ignition malfunction, valves stuck, etc.	Replace or repair faulty components as necessary.

Loss of Power	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check throttle position.	Throttle not set to fast position.	Move throttle to fast (p. 8).
2. Check grass height.	Grass too tall to cut.	Raise cutting height (p. 19), cut narrower swath (p. 32), or cut more frequently. Adjust the clip director (p. 20).
3. Check under mower deck.	Mower deck clogged.	Clean out mower deck (p. 33).
4. Check air filter.	Air filter clogged.	Clean or replace air filter (p. 46).
5. Check fuel.	Bad fuel; mower stored without treating or draining gasoline, or refueled with bad gasoline.	Drain fuel tank and carburetor (p. 39). Refuel with fresh gasoline (p. 15).

9. TROUBLESHOOTING

Loss of Power	Possible Cause	Correction
6. Take mower to a Honda dealer, or refer to shop manual.	Fuel filter clogged, carburetor malfunction, ignition malfunction, valves stuck, etc.	Replace or repair faulty components.

VIBRATION PROBLEMS

Excessive Vibration	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check mower deck and blades.	Grass and debris lodged under mower deck. Blade(s) loose, bent, damaged, or unbalanced by improper sharpening.	Clean out mower deck (p. 33). Tighten loose blade bolts. Replace damaged blades (p. 53–54).
2. Take mower to a Honda dealer.	Mechanical damage, such as a bent crankshaft.	Replace or repair faulty components.

MOWING AND BAGGING PROBLEMS

Poor Cut Quality or Poor Moving/Bagging Performance	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check that the throttle lever is in the fast position.	Engine speed is too slow to cut well.	Move throttle lever to the fast position (p. 8).
2. Reduce forward speed.	Mower is moving too fast for lawn conditions.	Shift to slow speed (p. 28), or push slower.
3. Check cutting height adjustment levers.	Adjustment levers set at different positions.	Set all levers to the same cutting height position (p. 19).
4. Check grass bag (if equipped).	Grass bag overfilled or clogged.	Empty grass bag. Wash grass bag if clogged with dirt (p. 55).
5. Check mower deck and blade(s).	Mower deck clogged. Blades dull, worn, or damaged. Wrong blade(s) installed.	Clean out the mower deck (p. 33). Sharpen or replace blade(s) (p. 53–54). Install correct blades (p. 53–54).

10. SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL	HRX537C	
TYPE	HXE	HME
DESCRIPTION CODE	MAGA	
GENERAL		
Length H, M, L, F	1700 mm, 1770 mm, 1825 mm, 1100 mm (folded) [cut height adj. @ 32 mm]	
Handlebar height H, M, L, F	1,105 mm, 1015 mm, 925 mm, 441 mm (folded) [cut height adj. @ 32 mm]	
Dry weight	42.1 kg	43.1 kg
Width	585 mm	
Cut width	530 mm	
Cut height adjustments	20 mm, 32 mm, 46 mm, 62 mm, 75 mm, 88 mm, 100 mm	
Grass bag capacity	88 ℓ	
Sound power level (According to EEC/84/538 & EEC/87/252 Directives)	98 dB(A)	
Vibration test (According to project EN1033/1993, ENV25349/1993, ENV28041/1993, ISO5347/1987 & ISO5348/1987)	4.5 m/s ²	

10. SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL	HRX537C	
TYPE	HXE	HME
DESCRIPTION CODE	MAGA	
ENGINE		
Model	GCV190	
Type	4-stroke, single cylinder, vertical shaft, OHC	
Displacement	187 cc	
Bore and stroke	69 x 50 mm	
Cooling	Forced air	
Lubrication	Splash and spray	
Compression ratio	8.5:1	
Maximum power	4.8 kW @ 3,600 rpm	
Maximum torque	13.2 N·m @ 2,500 rpm	
Maximum speed	2900 ⁺⁰ ₋₁₀₀ rpm	
Idle speed	1,700 ± 150 rpm	
Ignition system	Transistorized magneto	
Spark plug	NGK: BPR6ES DENSO: W20EPR-U	
Spark plug gap	0.7 ~ 0.8 mm	
Air cleaner	Dry element type	
Recommended fuel	86 octane rating or higher (unleaded preferred)	
Fuel tank capacity	1.1 ℓ	
Approximate fuel consumption	1.3 ℓ/h (average load)	
Approximate full tank running time	0.73 h (average load)	
Recommended oil	SAE 10W-30, API SH, SJ or equivalent	
Engine oil capacity	0.55 ℓ	
DRIVE		
Type	Hydrostatic	
Engine to transmission	V-belt	
Main clutch	Fluid type	
Mower speed (engine @ 2,900 rpm)	1.59~1.74 m/s	
Recommended fluid	Honda hydrostatic	

HONDA

Rotary Mower

HRX537CHXE

HRX537CHME

HONDA
The Power of Dreams



**OWNER'S MANUAL
MANUEL DE L'UTILISATEUR
BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG
MANUAL DE EXPLICACIONES
GEBRUIKSAANWIJZING
MANUALE DELL'UTENT**

39VH7H11
00X39-VH7-H110



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