

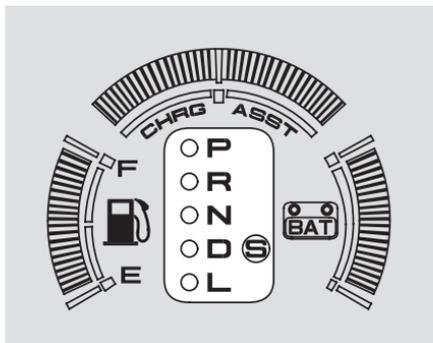
## Automatic Transmission (CVT)

### Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT)

*U.S. model*

Honda's Continuously Variable Transmission's unique design provides a smooth, constant flow of power. It is electronically controlled for more precise operation and better fuel economy.

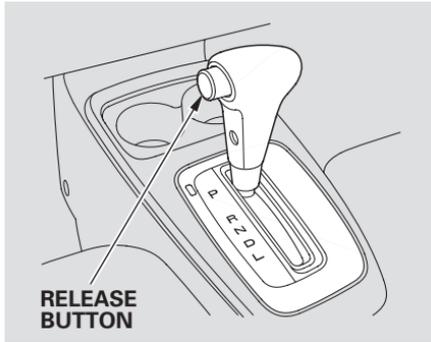
### Shift Lever Position Indicator



This indicator on the instrument panel shows which position the shift lever is in.

The “D” indicator comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch to ON (II). If it flashes while driving (in any shift position), it indicates a possible problem in the transmission. Avoid rapid acceleration and have the transmission checked by an authorized Honda dealer as soon as possible.

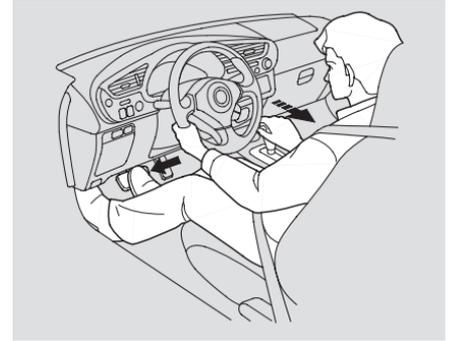
## Shift Lever Positions



The shift lever has five positions. It must be in Park or Neutral to start the engine. When you are stopped in D, L, N or R, press firmly on the brake pedal and keep your foot off the accelerator pedal.

To shift from:	Do this:
P to R	Press the brake pedal and press the release button on the lever.
R to P N to R D to L	Press the release button on the lever.
N to D D to N L to D R to N	Move the lever.

**Park (P)** — This position mechanically locks the transmission. Use Park whenever you are turning off or starting the engine. To shift out of Park, you must press on the brake pedal, have your foot off the accelerator pedal, and press the release button on the side of the shift lever. If you have done all of the above and still cannot move the lever out of Park, see Shift Lock Release on page [144](#).



You must also press the release button to shift into Park. To avoid transmission damage, come to a complete stop before shifting into Park. The shift lever must be in Park before you can remove the key from the ignition switch.

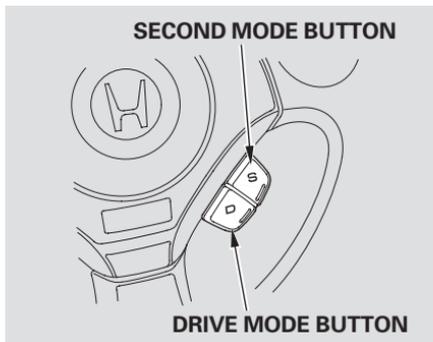
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## Automatic Transmission (CVT)

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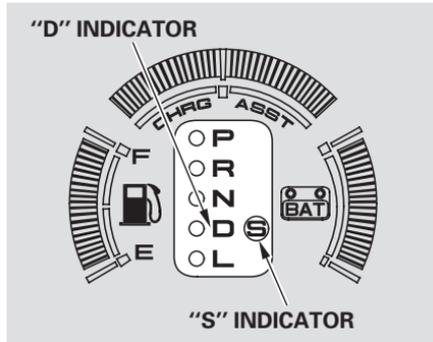
**Reverse (R)** – To shift from Reverse to Park, see the explanation under Park. To shift to Reverse from Neutral, come to a complete stop first. Press the release button before shifting into Reverse from Neutral.

**Neutral (N)** – Use Neutral if you need to restart a stalled engine, or if it is necessary to stop briefly with the engine idling. Always shift to Park position if you need to leave the vehicle for any reason. Press on the brake pedal when you are moving the shift lever from Neutral to another position.



**Drive (D)** – Use this position for your normal driving. The drive position has two modes, Drive (D) and Second (S). You can select the desired mode with the two select buttons on the steering wheel. The “D” indicator light remains lit in either mode.

**Drive Mode** – Use this mode for everyday driving. The transmission automatically adjusts to keep the engine at the best speed for driving conditions. To help the engine warm up faster, the transmission will select ratios that allow the engine to run at higher speeds when it is cold. Push the Drive mode button on the steering wheel to change from the Second mode to the Drive mode.



**Second (S) Mode** — In this mode, the transmission selects a wider range of ratios to give better acceleration. Use this mode for driving up or downhill. Push the Second mode button on the steering wheel to select Second mode. Along with the “D” indicator, the “S” indicator comes on as a reminder. To change from Second (S) mode to Drive mode, push the Drive mode button.

You can switch into and out of Second mode with the ignition switch ON (II) and the shift lever in D position. If you turn the ignition switch to ACCESSORY (I) in Second mode, the mode is switched to Drive.

The “S” indicator also comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II).

**Low (L)** — To shift to Low, press the release button on the side of the shift lever. Use Low to get more power when climbing, and for maximum engine braking when going down steep hills.

For faster acceleration when in D or L, the transmission will automatically “kick down” to a lower range of ratios when you push the accelerator pedal to the floor.

### Engine Speed Limiter

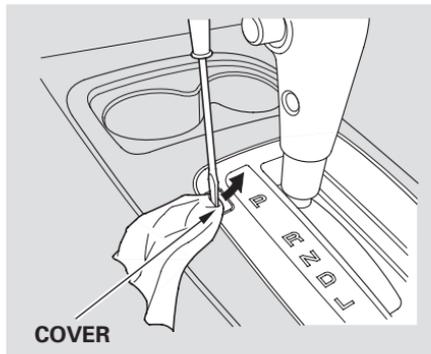
If you exceed the maximum speed for the gear you are in, the engine speed will enter into the tachometer’s red zone. If this occurs, you may feel the engine cut in and out. This is caused by a limiter in the engine’s computer controls. The engine will run normally when you reduce the RPM below the red zone.

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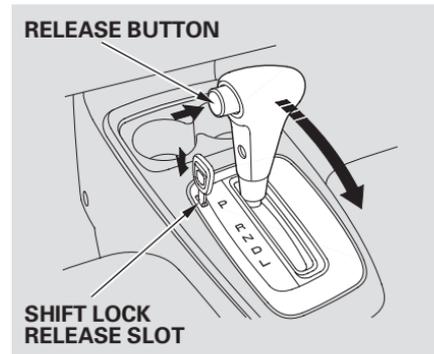
### Shift Lock Release

This allows you to move the shift lever out of Park if the normal method of pushing on the brake pedal and pressing the release button does not work.

1. Set the Parking brake.
2. Remove the key from the ignition switch.
3. Put a cloth on the edge of the Shift Lock Release slot cover next to the shift lever. Use a small flat-tipped screwdriver or small metal plate (neither are included in the tool kit) to remove the cover. Carefully pry on the edge of the cover.



4. Insert the key in the Shift Lock Release slot.
5. Push down on the key while you press the release button on the shift lever and move the shift lever out of Park to Neutral.



6. Remove the key from the Shift Lock Release slot, then reinstall the cover. Make sure the notch on the cover is on the left side. Depress the brake pedal and restart the engine.

If you need to use the Shift Lock Release, it means your car is developing a problem. Have the car checked by your Honda dealer.

### Auto Idle Stop

To maximize fuel economy, your Insight has an Auto Idle Stop function. Under certain conditions, the engine will shut off when you come to a stop. Those conditions are:

- The engine coolant is nearly up to normal operating temperature.
- The shift lever is in D or N.
- You are not pressing on the accelerator pedal.
- The IMA battery is sufficiently charged (at least 1/3 on the Battery Level Gauge).
- The A/C is off, or in ECON mode, and the outside temperature is above 41°F (5°C) (see pages 84 , 93 ).

- There is adequate vacuum reserve for the power brakes.

When these conditions are met, the engine will shut off as you are braking to a stop and the vehicle speed goes below 5 mph (8 km/h).

The engine will start again when you release the brake pedal. It will also restart, even if you are still pressing the brake pedal, under these conditions:

- You move the shift lever from D or N to R, L, or P.
- You press the accelerator pedal.
- You are on an incline, and the vehicle begins rolling.

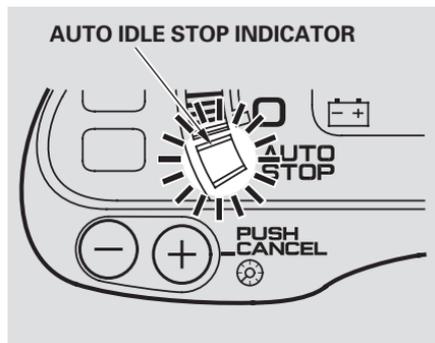
During Auto Idle Stop, the IMA charge and power brake vacuum reserve is monitored by the system. If the vacuum reserve drops below an optimal level, the engine will restart to replenish the vacuum supply. If the IMA charge drops below an optimal level and the shift lever is in Neutral, the engine will restart to recharge the IMA battery.

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### Auto Idle Stop Indicator



The indicator blinks as a reminder that the engine has stopped because of the Auto Idle Stop function. You cannot restart the engine with the ignition switch when this light is blinking.

If you open the driver's door when Auto Stop is active, the indicator will blink and you will hear a chime. The chime will stop when you close the door.

Always turn the ignition switch to LOCK (0) and remove the key if you are getting out of the vehicle.

Always use the parking brake when you park your car. The indicator on the instrument panel shows that the parking brake is not fully released; it does not indicate that the parking brake is firmly set. Make sure the parking brake is set firmly or your car may roll if it is parked on an incline.

If your car has an automatic transmission, set the parking brake before you put the transmission in Park. This keeps the car from moving and putting pressure on the parking mechanism in the transmission — making it easier to move the shift lever out of Park when you want to drive away.

If the car is facing uphill, turn the front wheels away from the curb. If you have a manual transmission, put it in first gear.

If the car is facing downhill, turn the front wheels toward the curb. If you have a manual transmission, put it in reverse gear.

Make sure the parking brake is fully released before driving away. Driving with the parking brake partially set can overheat or damage the rear brakes.

### **Parking Tips**

- Make sure the windows are closed.
- Turn off the lights.
- Place any packages, valuables, etc., in the storage box or take them with you.
- Lock the doors and the hatch with the key or the remote transmitter.
- Never park over dry leaves, tall grass, or other flammable materials. The three way catalytic converter gets very hot, and could cause these materials to catch on fire.