Automatic Transmission

The shift lever position indicator is in the instrument panel. The appropriate letter or number illuminates to show what position the shift lever is in.

The 4-speed automatic transmission shift lever is arranged with "P" (Park) position at one end, followed in sequence by "R" (Reverse), "N" (Neutral) and the forward driving ranges. The shift lever can be shifted freely into any position indicated by the arrow “↑”. The lever cannot be shifted into any position indicated by the arrow “↓” without pushing the button located on the end of the shift lever.

In this 4-speed automatic transmission, the following three modes can be selected by pressing the "POWER" or "WINTER" switch on the floor console, with the key switch in the "ON" position:

- NORMAL mode
- POWER mode
- WINTER mode

P (Park) — Used to lock the transmission when the vehicle is parked or while starting the engine. Never move the shift lever to Park until your vehicle is fully stopped. Use this position together with the parking brake. The shift lever can be moved from PARK position if the regular brake is applied.

Refer to "Starting" in this section.
R (Reverse) — Used for backing the vehicle. Bring your vehicle to a complete stop before shifting to Reverse.

N (Neutral) — The out-of-gear position. You may restart a stalled engine while the vehicle is still moving with the selector in Neutral. Refer to "Starting" in this section. This position is also used when towing the vehicle. See "In Case of Emergency" for towing information.

D (Drive) (First to Fourth Gear) — This position is for all normal forward driving. For normal driving, we recommend that you put the shift lever in the "D" range. This will reduce vehicle noise and improve fuel economy.

3 (Third) — When operating your vehicle on slippery roads, on a long descending slope, or on a road with many sharp curves, you will want to use engine braking. At this time, put the shift lever into this range.

2 (Second) — You may choose this position when traveling down a moderate grade where you want to slow down a little without using the brake itself. Change back to the "D" position to return to normal driving. With the shift lever in "2," the vehicle will start in first gear and automatically shift to second gear.

L (First) — This position may be selected for maximum braking down severe grades. Return the selector lever to the "D" position to resume normal driving. It is possible to move the lever into first gear at any speed. However, the transmission will not actually shift to first gear until vehicle speed is below 35 mph (Power Mode) or 25 mph (Normal Mode). When starting out in "L," the transmission will not upshift.

Starting — Start the engine with the lever in the "P" or "N" position. It will not start in any other position. If it does, have your vehicle checked by your Honda dealer.

Always apply the foot brake before shifting into any driving position. This prevents the vehicle from creeping.
Do not press the accelerator pedal while shifting from "P" or "N" to any driving position.

Shift Lock — As a safety measure for vehicles with an automatic transmission, you cannot shift from "P" (Park) position into any other position unless the brake pedal is depressed when the key switch is in the "ON" position or the engine is running.

The shift lever may not move if the pushbutton on the shift lever is pressed before the brake pedal is depressed. In this case, release the pushbutton, press the brake pedal and try again.

If the shift lever won't move from the "P" position even when these instructions are followed, perform the following steps:

1. Check that the parking brake is fully applied.
2. Turn the key switch to "ACC" position.
3. Move the shift lever from "P" to "N" position, depress the brake pedal, and start the engine again.
4. Operate the shift lever.

Have the transmission checked by your Honda dealer as soon as possible.

Driving Tips

Before going down a steep or long grade, reduce speed and shift the transmission into a lower gear or range to control the vehicle's speed. This will provide engine braking to help slow the vehicle. Try not to hold the brake pedal down too long or too often. This could cause the brakes to get hot and not work properly.

Downshifting to a lower gear is especially important when towing a trailer in mountainous terrain.

Do not hold the vehicle on a hill by pressing on the accelerator. Do not press on the accelerator pedal and brake pedal at the same time. Either of these actions can overheat the automatic transmission and cause damage.
Always keep your foot off the accelerator pedal when shifting from "P" or "N" to another gear.

Do not shift to "P" (Park) when the vehicle is moving; you could damage the automatic transmission. Always come to a complete stop.

Be careful that you do not exceed the following maximum allowable speeds when accelerating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer Control Lever</th>
<th>Automatic Transmission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;L&quot;</td>
<td>35 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;2&quot;</td>
<td>65 (105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;3&quot;</td>
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"2H" (High Range, 2-Wheel Drive)
Use this for normal driving on dry pavement. This position gives greater economy, quieter ride and the least drivetrain wear.

"4H" (High Range, 4-Wheel Drive)
Use this for normal driving on gravel, wet, icy or snow-covered roads. This position provides greater traction than two-wheel drive. Top speed is limited to 65 mph (105km/h).

Instruments and Controls
"4L" (Low Range, 4-Wheel Drive)
Use this for maximum power and traction. Top speed is limited to 65 mph (105 km/h). Use "4L" for climbing or descending steep hills, off-road driving, and hard pulling in sand, mud or deep snow.

Operating the 4WD-2WD Switch
2H ↔ 4H: To shift between ranges, push the switch with the vehicle going in a straight line at any speed below 65 mph (105 km/h). The 4WD indicator will blink for a short time as the system completes the shift.

Shifting the Transfer Control Lever
4H ↔ 4L: Stop the vehicle. Place the transmission lever in "N" (Neutral) position. Then move the transfer control lever from 4H to 4L, or 4L to 4H.

Move the transfer control lever quickly and securely between positions. Do not stop midway. The transfer gear box can be damaged if the control lever is not firmly in gear. Some noise is normal when shifting.

Always stop the vehicle before shifting between low and high range (4H → 4L or 4L → 4H).

Do not use 4-wheel drive for driving on dry pavement. This causes noise and wear, and taking tight turns can damage the transfer case and driveshafts. It also reduces fuel economy.

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<td>35 (56) 65 (105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;4H&quot;</td>
<td>35 (56) 65 (105) 65 (105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;4L&quot;</td>
<td>15 (24) 30 (48) 50 (81)</td>
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Driving Pattern Selector
You can select a driving pattern suitable for existing driving conditions.

When neither "POWER" nor "WINTER" lights are illuminated, the normal driving program for general driving conditions is operative.

When more powerful acceleration is needed, select the "POWER" driving program. The "POWER DRIVE" indicator light comes on when the driving pattern selector is set in the "POWER" position. Push the button again to turn it off.

Under inclement weather conditions that cause slippery roads, activating the "WINTER" mode will improve driving operation. The "WINTER" mode may be activated while driving at speeds of 6 mph (10 km/h) or less. With the transmission lever in the "P", "R", "N", or "D" position, push the "WINTER" button on the console.

The "WINTER DRIVE" indicator light will illuminate whenever the "WINTER" mode system is activated, and the vehicle will start off in third gear.

The "WINTER" mode is deactivated when the vehicle reaches approximately 19 mph (30 km/h), when the transmission is shifted into "3," "2," or "L," by pushing the "WINTER" button.