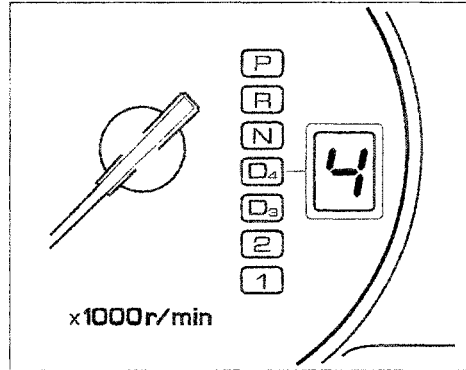


Automatic Transmission

Your Honda's transmission has four forward speeds, and is electronically controlled for smoother shifting. It also has a "lock-up" torque converter for better fuel economy. You may feel what seems like another shift when the converter locks.

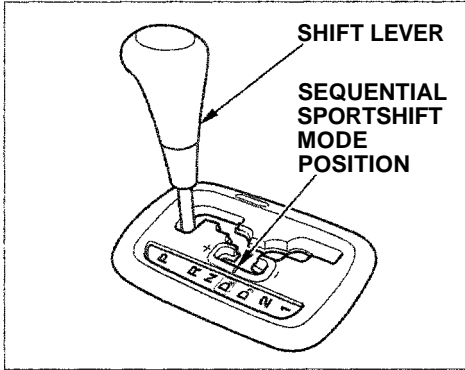
Shift Lever Position Indicator



This indicator in the tachometer shows which shift position the shift lever is in. The illuminated number next to the "D4" indicator shows you the gear you have selected in the Sequential SportShift mode.

The "D4" indicator comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch 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 eight positions. It must be in Park or Neutral to start the engine. When you are stopped in D₄, D₃, 2, 1, N, R, or the Sequential SportShift mode, press firmly on the brake pedal and keep your foot off the accelerator pedal.

To select the Sequential SportShift mode, slide the shift lever toward the left from the "D₄" position. In this mode the shift lever allows you to shift up and down manually.

To shift from:	Do this:
P to R	Press the brake pedal, then move the shift lever.
R to N	Move the lever.
N to D ₄	
D ₄ to D ₃	
D ₃ to 2	
2 to 1	
1 to 2	
2 to D ₃	
D ₃ to D ₄	
D ₄ to N	
N to R	
R to P	

Whenever you move the shift lever, slide it along the guide on the console.

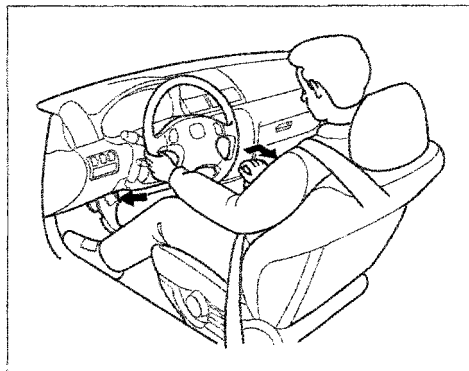
You cannot shift out of Park with the brake pedal depressed when the ignition switch is in LOCK (0) or ACCESSORY (1).

CONTINUED

Automatic Transmission

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 and have your foot off the accelerator pedal. Move the shift lever to the right to shift out of the Park position.

If you have done all of the above and still cannot move the lever out of Park, see Shift Lock Release on page [119](#).



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.

Reverse (R) — To shift to Reverse from Park, see the explanation under Park. To shift to Reverse from Neutral, come to a complete stop and then shift.

Your car has a reverse lockout so you cannot accidentally shift to Reverse from Neutral or any other driving position when the vehicle speed exceeds 7 — 9 mph (12 — 14 km/h).

If you cannot shift to Reverse when the car is stopped, press the brake pedal and slowly shift to Neutral then to Reverse.

If there is a problem in the reverse lockout system, or your car's battery is disconnected or goes dead, you cannot shift to Reverse. In this case, use the procedure of Shift Lock Release (see page [119](#)).

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

Drive (D4) — Use this position for your normal driving. The transmission automatically selects a suitable gear for your speed and acceleration. You may notice the transmission shifting up at higher speeds when the engine is cold. This helps the engine warm up faster.

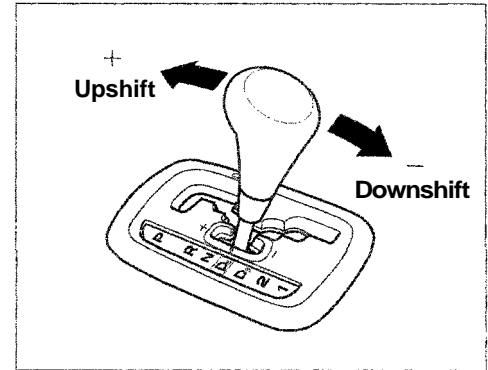
Sequential SportShift Mode—With the shift lever in "D4" position, you can select the Sequential SportShift mode to use the shift lever to shift gears; much like a manual transmission, but without a clutch pedal.

To enter the Sequential SportShift mode, slide the shift lever further to the left. To return to "D4", slide the shift lever to the right.

In the Sequential SportShift mode, each time you push forward on the shift lever, the transmission will shift to a higher gear. Pull back on the lever to downshift. The number of the gear selected is displayed next to the "D4" indicator (see page 112).

If you slide the shift lever from "D4" to the Sequential SportShift mode, the display shows the selected gear. If you selected "4", you will see / 4 / next to "D4" in the display. The Shift

Lever Position Indicator will show the gear you selected while in the sequential sportshift mode. If you select the Sequential SportShift while the car is stopped, the transmission automatically selects first gear and the display shows / 1 /.



CONTINUED

Automatic Transmission

When you accelerate away from a stop, the transmission will be in first gear. The transmission will not automatically upshift. Watch the tachometer and upshift manually before the engine reaches redline.

The transmission remains in the selected gear (4,3,2, or 1). There is no automatic downshift when you push the accelerator pedal to the floor.

The transmission may automatically downshift from fourth gear to third gear under the following conditions:

- The vehicle speed drops below 20 mph (32 km/h).
- If you drive uphill between 20—31 mph (32 — 50 km/h).
- If you press the brake pedal as you drive downhill.

Downshifting gives you more power when climbing or provides engine braking when going down a steep hill.

The transmission will also shift automatically as the car comes to a complete stop. It will downshift to first gear when the vehicle speed is under 6 mph (10 km/h).

If you try to manually downshift at a speed that would cause the engine to exceed the redline in a lower gear, the transmission will not downshift.

If you try to downshift from fourth gear to third gear, the gear indicator will flash / 3 / several times, then return to / 4 /; if you try to downshift from third gear to second gear, the gear indicator will flash / 2 / several times, then return to third gear.

If the vehicle speeds slow to below the redline of the selected lower gear position while the indicator is flashing, the transmission downshifts and the display shows the selected lower gear.

If the transmission temperature is below 14°F (— 10°C), you may not be able to use the Sequential SportShift mode.

The table shows the speed ranges for upshifting and downshifting.

To shift from	Speed range
1 → 2 2 → 3	over 6 mph (10 km/h)
3 → 4	over 20 mph (32 km/h)

To shift from	Speed range
2 → 1	under 31 mph (50 km/h)
3 → 2	under 67 mph (108 km/h)
4 → 3	under 101 mph (163 km/h)

Drive (D₃) —This position is similar to D₄, except only the first three gears are selected. Use D₃ when towing a trailer in hilly terrain, or to provide engine braking when going down a steep hill. D₃ can also keep the transmission from cycling between third and fourth gears in stop-and-go driving.

For faster acceleration when in D₃ or D₄, you can get the transmission to automatically downshift by pushing the accelerator pedal to the floor. The transmission will shift down one or two gears, depending on your speed.

CONTINUED

Automatic Transmission

Second (2) — This position locks the transmission in second gear. It does not downshift to first gear when you come to a stop. Second gives you more power when climbing, and increased engine braking when going down steep hills. Use second gear when starting out on a slippery surface or in deep snow. It will help reduce wheelspin.

Whenever you move the shift lever to a lower gear, the transmission downshifts only if the engine's redline will not be exceeded in the lower gear.

First (1) — With the lever in this position, the transmission locks in First gear.

If you shift into First position when the vehicle speed exceeds 31 mph (50 km/h), the transmission shifts into Second gear first to avoid the application of the sudden engine brake.

Maximum Speeds

The speeds in this table are the maximums for the given position. If you exceed these speeds, the engine speed will enter into the tachometer's red zone. If this occurs, you will 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.

Position	Maximum speeds
1	38 mph (61 km/h)
2	72 mph (115 km/h)
D3	105 mph (168 km/h)
D4	Top speed

Shift Lock Release

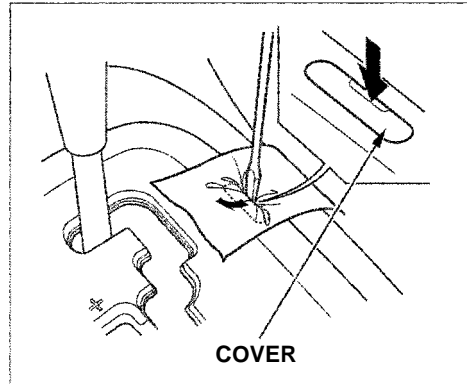
This allows you to move the shift lever out of Park if the normal method of pushing on the brake pedal does not work. This procedure also releases the Reverse Lockout.

1. Set the Parking brake.
2. Make sure the key is in the ignition switch OFF (0) position.

To release the Reverse Lockout, make sure the key is in the ACCESSORY (I) position.

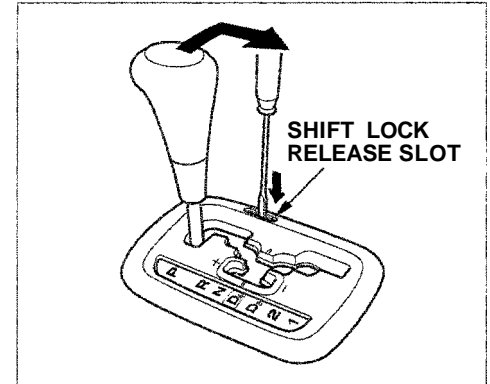
3. Put a cloth on the edge of the shift lock release slot cover next to the shift lever.

Use a small flat-tipped screwdriver or small metal plate (neither are included in the tool kit) to remove the cover. Carefully pry off the edge of the cover.



4. Insert a screwdriver in the shift lock release slot.
5. Push down on the screwdriver and move the shift lever out of Park to Neutral.

To release the Reverse Lockout, move the shift lever from Neutral to Reverse, then Park.



6. Remove the screwdriver from the shift lock release slot, then install a new cover. 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.

Parking

Always use the parking brake when you park your vehicle. 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 vehicle may roll if it is parked on an incline.

If your vehicle has an automatic transmission, set the parking brake before you put the transmission in Park. This keeps the vehicle 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 vehicle is facing uphill, turn the front wheels away from the curb. If you have a manual transmission, put it in first gear.

If the vehicle 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 moonroof and the windows are closed.
- Turn off the lights.
- Place any packages, valuables, etc., in the trunk or take them with you.
- Lock the doors.
- 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.