

FOUR TRAX FOUR FUN

FourTrax 200SX

The FourTrax doesn't have much suspension, but it's lightweight and easy to ride.

The new Honda FourTrax 200SX goes about winning the recreational four-wheel market differently from Suzuki. The 200SX isn't as bare-boned as Suzuki's Quadrunner or as

performance-oriented as their Quadracer. The FourTrax falls somewhere between the two.

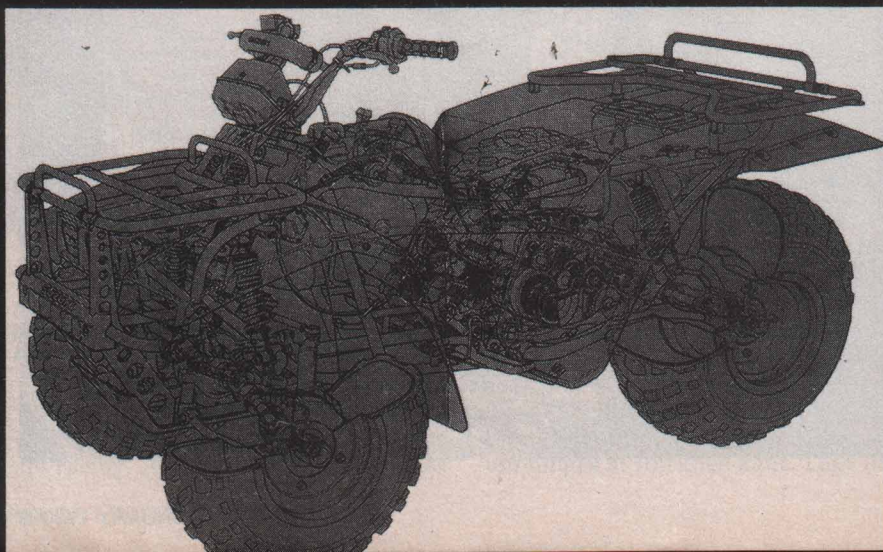
With an electric start, a reverse gear and an automatic clutch, the 200SX seems to shout "Beginners

SUZUKI LT-4WD QUAD RUNNER

Suzuki reps tell us they knew Honda was coming out with a four-wheel-drive ATV while development work was going on at Suzuki. They decided to wait and see just what Honda came out with and then make sure their own 4x4 was better. The new LT-4WD Quadrunner is a completely different machine from the Honda FourTrax 4x4. Suzuki's 4x4 has a five-speed engine with a three-

speed secondary transmission that allows you to choose high, low or super-low gearing for a total of 15 forward speeds. In addition, the Suzuki has the option of running in two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive or four-wheel drive differential lock. The LT-4WD has a skid plate that runs the length of the vehicle. We'll test one as soon as possible.

—Bob Carpenter



A helmet lock is a subtle reminder that you should always wear a helmet.

Only," but the completely new 199.1cc engine carries the possibility of aftermarket big-bore kits. And while the FourTrax is extremely popular with kids, women and beginners, our hardened testers found themselves having a ball on it, too. Our intended short jaunt around the pits to make sure the 200 was running properly for an awaiting beginner turned into a 20-minute romp through the puckerbushes.

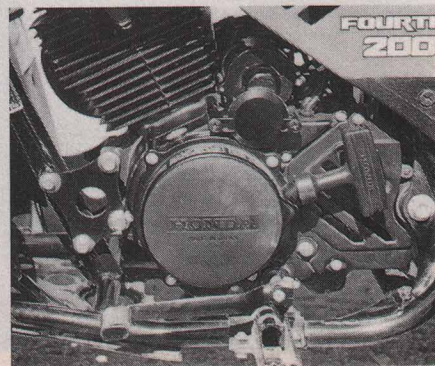
Our experts were quick to define the limits of the 3.1 inches of front suspension travel and the 3.9 inches of rear travel, but the seemingly small amount of wheel travel was adequate for most exploits.

The steering lock is a nice safety item for those who camp out and don't want to spend the night worrying that their ATV will disappear. A helmet lock is convenient for the same reason and is further evidence of Honda's concern for safety.

Maintenance of the FourTrax 200SX is kept to a minimum by virtue of its automatic cam chain tensioner and externally adjustable valves. The valves are remarkably easy to adjust, as the method was borrowed from Honda's scooters.

A new breather system uses the frame backbone to carry air on the right-hand side to the intake, while

The new 200SX engine is also found in Honda's Fat Cat and ATC200X.



PHOTOS: GARY THOMPSON

the left-hand side functions as the engine's breather. The intake side of the frame is 42.7mm in diameter; the breather side is 28.6mm in diameter.

The five-speed transmission is easy to use and has the standard Honda procedure for locating reverse gear. You have to get the tranny in neutral, push the red button near the left-hand brake lever, then pull that lever in all the way and push down on the shift lever. It may seem more complicated than it needs to be, but it increases safety.

The cable-operated rear drum brake is fully sealed; the hydraulic front drum brake is partly sealed. The battery is maintenance-free and the 520 O-ring chain should never wear out.

In fact, we don't see how the FourTrax 200SX could wear out at all. We rode it for hours and hours. . . .

—Bob Carpenter



Honda's FourTrax 200SX is a great beginner's ATV that experts like, too.

MANUFACTURER SPECIFICATIONS

Price	\$1898
Overall length.....	65.4 in.
Overall width	39.4 in.
Ground clearance.....	4.7 in.
Dry weight.....	478 lb.
Fuel capacity.....	2.2 gal. total
Fuel reserve	0.5 gal.

ENGINE

Type	Air-cooled SOHC two-valve, four-stroke single
Displacement.....	199.1cc
Carburetion.....	22mm Keihin
Starting system.....	Electric or pull
Lubrication system.....	Wet sump

TRANSMISSION

Clutch	Automatic
Transmission	Five-speed plus reverse
Final drive.....	Chain

CHASSIS

Front suspension.....	Double wishbone with twin Showa shocks, 3.1 in. travel (claimed)
Rear Suspension.....	Swingarm with single Showa shock, 3.9 in. travel (claimed)
Brakes.....	Front—Dual hydraulic drums Rear—Double-leading shoe drum
Tires	Front—20 x 7.00-8 Ohtsu Rear—22 x 11.00-8 Ohtsu

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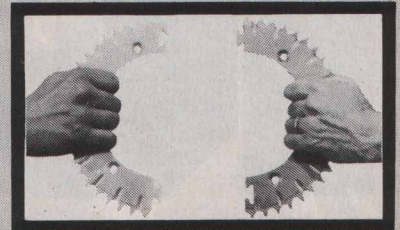
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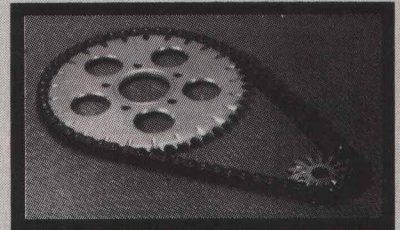
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