

New Lines of Off-Road 4-Wheelers: The RIDGE and RIDGE XR Series



RIDGE RANCH EDITION & RIDGE LIMITED shown

With the market for off-road four-wheel vehicles expanding in North America's power sports market, Kawasaki Motors has developed the RIDGE and RIDGE XR series to provide the versatility that supports both work and pleasure. These off-roaders are equipped with a Kawasaki 999-cm³ water-cooled four-stroke parallel four-cylinder engine with high power and high torque and have a comfortable, quiet, and roomy cabin matched with high-quality finishing. We have gradually been launching the series into the market since February 2024, mainly in North America (U.S. and Canada).

Introduction

The market for off-road four-wheel vehicles is expanding in North America's power sports market. Off-road four-wheel vehicles have diverse uses closely related to lifestyle, such as for utility and recreation.

1 Background

Our MULE series launched in 1988 is known as a vehicle with high functionality and durability for everyday tasks. In 2008 we also launched the TERYX series, designed with a riding performance for recreational use. The RIDGE and RIDGE XR series have been developed to

offer comfort and quality levels never seen before in conventional off-road four-wheel vehicles, and suit both everyday tasks and recreational use (**Fig. 1**).

2 Product overview

Both the RIDGE series for everyday tasks and the RIDGE XR series for recreational use feature many variants to meet a wide range of needs. Both series feature the engine and driving system that boast the performance and strength essential for off-road vehicles, long travel suspension, high minimum ground clearance, a platform with plenty of load capacity, and a robust chassis.

The RIDGE series uses small tires to lower the



Fig. 1 Variants of the RIDGE and RIDGE XR series

platform height, making it easy to load and unload during everyday tasks. In addition, we have reduced the engine exhaust sound, improving comfort when operating it for hours at a time.

The RIDGE XR series uses a high-power engine, a driving system with a front/rear differential lock mechanism, and large tires to improve off-road handling during recreational use.

3 Main features

(1) Engine

The RIDGE and RIDGE XR series are equipped with our newly developed 999-cm³ four-stroke parallel four-cylinder DOHC engine, water cooled and with four valves per cylinder shown in **Fig. 2**. This provides a linear response and smooth power delivery, supporting a wide range of uses including everyday tasks and recreation. While the clear and exhilarating sound typical of four-cylinder engines adds to the thrill of the ride, this one is still quiet enough for conversation in the vehicle.

The power and torque of the RIDGE XR series engine has been further boosted from the RIDGE series to suit sport driving. The electronically controlled throttles allow you to choose from three power modes. In Work mode, the throttle response is softer and controllability in the low-speed region is improved. Sports mode features a

more linear throttle response to suits sport driving. And Normal mode offers characteristics balanced between Sport and Work modes.

Moreover, reliable engine braking on downhill slopes by controlling the engagement and release of the continuously variable transmission (CVT) belt clutch ensures stability.

(2) Chassis

The steel tube ladder frame, developed with a focus on ride comfort, offers well-balanced rigidity and a highly comfortable ride. This design ensures enough flexibility to withstand the shocks endured in off-road driving while being extremely durable.

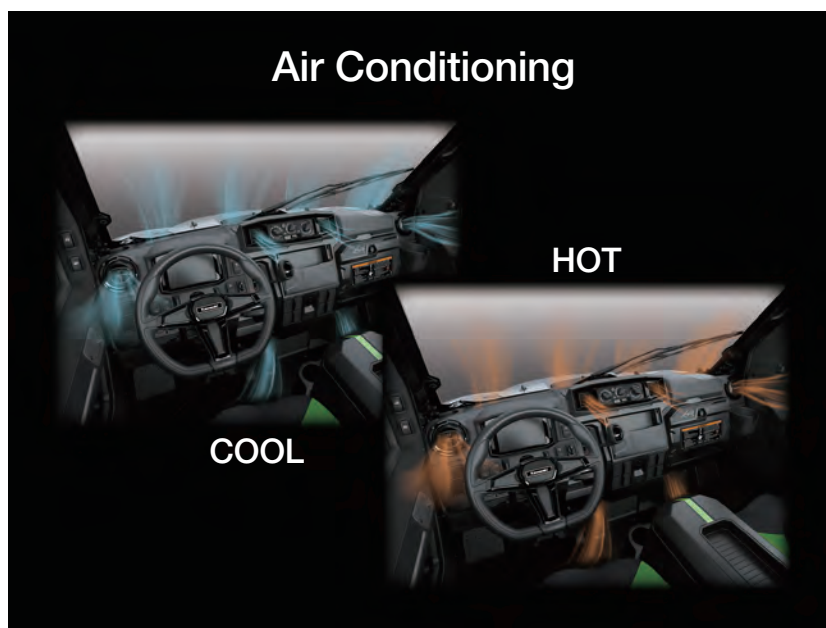
(3) Design and equipment

The entire range looks impressive, with line-type LED position lights complementing the high-intensity LED headlights.

High-grade fit and finish details, including the feel of the luxurious D-shaped steering wheel, dashboard design and controls with a built-in 7-inch TFT color instrument panel, flat door handles designed to make the most of the indoor space, non-slip foot rests with carefully selected texture and angle, floor lighting, backlit switches, and decorative touches in every section, result in a high-quality interior as seen in **Fig. 3**.



Fig. 2 Engine exterior



(a) Air Conditioning



(b) Interior lighting

Fig. 3 Vehicle interior



Fig. 4 Vehicle exterior

(4) Suspension

Double-wishbone suspension with long wheel travel for the front and rear wheels provide excellent ground-following performance and comfort.

(5) Full cabin and HVAC

(heating, ventilation and air conditioning)

For the first time, Kawasaki's off-road four-wheelers have a fully enclosed cabin with front and rear windshields and full doors with electric power windows. This keeps out dirt and water during off-road driving for greater comfort,

and the air conditioner offers and escape from summer heat and winter cold.

Conclusion

We have gradually been launching the RIDGE and RIDGE XR series since February 2024, mainly in North America. RIDGE represents Kawasaki's commitment to take on challenges to reach the pinnacle of excellence in this field, and we will keep striving to provide even better products and services.

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