

# The Perfect Motorcycle

## Used Motorcycle Inspection Checklist

Track your progress toward acquiring your next motorcycle as detailed in the book *The Perfect Motorcycle: How to Choose, Find and Buy the Perfect New or Used Bike* which is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.theperfectmotorcycle.com](http://www.theperfectmotorcycle.com)

*(Circle answers or check boxes below with results of inspection steps)*

### Vehicle Description and Seller Information

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Displacement (Engine Size) \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Advertised Price \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Validated  
 Yes No  
 (Red Flag)

What is your 1st Impression (5 = Excellent, 1 = Bad) 1 2 3 4 5

*\*Be careful when checking—*  
 Is engine cold upon your arrival?

Validated  
 Yes No  
 (Red Flag)

Does it have current registration tabs (license)?  
 Mileage (dirt bike, hours) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is there a clear title?  
 Does the owner information match title?  
 (For dirt bike—certificate of ownership or sales invoice)

Check and record the 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)—on the steering head

Validated  
 Yes No  
 (Red Flag)

Will you continue with the inspection? Yes  No  If not, say “Thank you for your time today. I really appreciate your meeting with me, but I have decided that I’m not able to buy your motorcycle. Good luck. Thank you again. Goodbye.”

### Inspect the Tires

Front

Tire Pressure \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brand and Model \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age (DOTXXX or DOTXXXX) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tread Depth (penny) OK Average Worn  
 Condition New OK Cupped  
 Uneven Flat Profile  
 Wheel Condition OK Dented Corroded  
 Scratched Out-of-Round

Rear

Tire Pressure \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brand and Model \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age (DOTXXX or DOTXXXX) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tread Depth (penny) OK Average Worn  
 Condition New OK Cupped  
 Uneven Flat Profile  
 Wheel Condition OK Dented Corroded  
 Scratched Out-of-Round

### Check and Study the Fluids

Fuel

Gas tank OK Rusty Suspect Damage  
 (magnet test)  
 Fuel Smell OK Alcohol Odd Other  
 Fuel Color OK Dark Blue

Front Brake

Fluid OK White Rusty  
 Pads OK Worn  
 Rotor OK Worn

Rear Brake

Fluid OK White Rusty  
 Pads OK Worn  
 Rotor OK Worn

Motor Oil

Level OK Low or High

For water-cooled engines:

Coolant Level OK Low or High Rusty Color

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(Circle answers or check boxes below with results of inspection steps)

### Evaluate the Engine

Place cardboard under engine

Oil evident around seams? Y  N

Inside of end of muffler: Grey or tan Black oily

Upon starting:

Sound OK Changed after warm

Exhaust OK Black smoke

Blue smoke White smoke

Running OK Stumbles or misses

Does headlight obviously brighten and darken with engine speed? Y  N

If unable to test ride:

Clutch engagement OK Grabby

Transmission OK Clunky Shifting Difficult

Check engine for leaks OK Oil Fuel Coolant

Motor Oil

Color Amber Dark Metallic

Smell OK Burnt Gasoline Smell

Check cardboard OK Oil Drops

Fuel Drops Coolant Drops

Oil evident around seams Y  N

Air filter—Is the inside of the intake tract clean? Y  N

Plug condition Grey or tan Black oily

Compression test OK Low

### Assess the electrical system

Headlight Low Beam  High Beam  Taillight

Stoplight Actuation: Brake—lever  Brake—pedal

Signal Lights FR  FL  RR  RL

Horn  Neutral Light  Gauge Lights

Battery if accessible—cells equally filled? Y  N

If battery tested with voltmeter:

Voltage engine off \_\_\_\_\_VDC

Voltage engine on \_\_\_\_\_VDC

### Examine the general overall condition

Visible damage, bars/levers, engine cases, pegs 1 2 3 4 5

(5 = Excellent, 1 = Bad)

Obviously new or mismatched “sticky-outy” things Y  N

Footpeg rubbers wear consistent with mileage? Y  N

Bodywork condition (5 = Excellent, 1 = Bad) 1 2 3 4 5

Seat condition (5 = Excellent, 1 = Bad) 1 2 3 4 5

Anything obviously out of place? Y  N

Wiring, tape, bolts missing?

Frame Tightness—Bike on centerstand

Wiggle front wheel for forks and bearing check OK Clunk

Turn handlebars slowly OK Centering Roughness

Wiggle rear wheel for swingarm and bearing check OK Clunk

On bike with brake on, rock back and forth OK Clunk

### General Condition (5 = Excellent, 1 = Bad) 1 2 3 4 5

#### Accessories Included

Do you have any take-offs? Y  N

Does it come with any extras? Y  N

(manual, spare parts, special tools)

Windshield  Soft Luggage  Hard Luggage

Aftermarket: Exhaust  Seat  Lights  Suspension

#### Take Photos

- Right side
- Left side
- Front straight on
- Cockpit including odometer (*turn key on if electronic*)
- Rear straight on
- Drivetrain
- Obviously damaged parts

Additional Notes from Inspection

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