

The used-bike buying checklist

Before paying

- ☐ **Paperwork:** Check the V5 is present and matches bike. Check service records match bike.

Theft Checks

- ☐ **Steering lock:** Check for damage.
- ☐ **Ignition barrel:** Check operation.
- ☐ **Paperwork:** Check numbers and address.

Mechanical & electrical condition

- ☐ **Start the bike:** Check for smoke from cold.
- ☐ **Electrics:** Headlights, indicators, horn etc...
- ☐ **Battery:** Check around 14V at idle.
- ☐ **Tyres:** Look for uneven wear / repairs. Check valve.
- ☐ **Wheels:** Check for dents in the rims.
- ☐ **Forks:** Check for oil leaks, pitting and bends.
- ☐ **Brakes:** Check discs for cracks, ridges and pits. Check pads for wear.
- ☐ **Engine:** Check finish and for oil leaks.
- ☐ **Exhaust:** Check for severe corrosion.
- ☐ **Fluids:** Check levels and colours.
- ☐ **Bearings:** Check for play in wheels, headstock and swingarm.
- ☐ **Final drive:** Check for wear (or leaks in shaft).
- ☐ **Start the bike again:** Listen for rattles or knocks.
- ☐ **Keys:** Check all are present and work.
- ☐ **Test ride:** TAKE CARE AND BE INSURED. Check ABS light goes out. Check all gears engage correctly and for smooth acceleration & braking.

Crash damage and racing checks

- ☐ **Fork legs:** Check for chamfering.
- ☐ **Engine cases:** Check colour and for scuffs.
- ☐ **Pegs:** Check for wear.
- ☐ **Exhaust:** Check for damage front and rear.
- ☐ **Swing-arm:** Check chamfering.
- ☐ **Radiator:** Look for twisting.
- ☐ **Bodywork:** Check colour and fit.
- ☐ **Frame:** Check for repair or damage.
- ☐ **Pillion pegs:** Check for scrapes.
- ☐ **Lock stops:** Check steering stops undamaged.
- ☐ **Clocks:** Check mileage and alignment.
- ☐ **Bar ends:** levers and mirrors: Check for scuffs or replacement.
- ☐ **Tank:** Check for overspray & graphics alignment.
- ☐ **Sub-frame:** Check for twisting, and scrapes on any parts that stick out, especially grab rails.
- ☐ **Drilled fasteners:** Check for lockwire holes.

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