



## Shifting gears

Your Cota has five forward gears in a one-down, four-up shift pattern. To start riding, after the engine has been warmed and the side stand raised.

1. Close the throttle and pull the front brake lever in.
2. Pull the clutch lever all the way in.
3. Depress the shift lever from neutral down to first gear.
4. Release the front brake lever. Gradually open the throttle while you slowly release the clutch lever. If the engine min-1 (rpm) (speed) is too low when you release the clutch lever, the engine will stall. If the engine min-1 (rpm) (speed) is too high or you release the clutch lever too quickly, your Cota may lurch forward.
5. When you attain a moderate speed, close the throttle, pull the clutch lever in, and raise the shift lever. After shifting, release the clutch lever and apply the throttle.
6. To continue shifting up to each higher gear, repeat step 5.
7. To shift down to a lower gear, close the throttle, pull the clutch lever in, and depress the shift lever. After shifting, release the clutch lever and apply the throttle.

Remember to close the throttle and pull the clutch lever in completely before shifting.

### NOTICE

*Improper shifting may damage the engine, transmission, and drive train.*

Learning when to shift gears comes with experience. Upshift to a higher gear or reduce throttle before engine min-1 (rpm) (speed) gets too high. Downshift to a lower gear before you feel the engine laboring (lugging) at low min-1 (rpm).

### NOTICE

*Downshifting can help slow your motorcycle, especially on downhill. However, downshifting when engine min-1 (rpm) is too high can cause engine damage.*

### NOTICE

*To prevent transmission damage, do not coast or tow the motorcycle for long distances with the engine off.*

### NOTICE

*If you put the motorcycle in gear with the side stand down, the engine will shut off.*

## Parking

Lower the side stand to support your Cota. Always choose a level surface to park.

## Braking

To slow or stop, apply the front brake lever and rear brake pedal smoothly, while downshifting to match your speed. Gradually increase braking as you feel the brakes slowing your speed. To prevent stalling the engine, pull the clutch lever in before coming to a complete stop. For support, put your left foot down first, then your right foot when you are through using the rear brake pedal.

For maximum braking, close the throttle and firmly apply the front brake lever and rear brake pedal controls.

Applying the brakes too hard may cause the wheels to lock and slide, reducing control of your Cota. If this happens, release the brake controls, steer straight ahead until you regain control, then reapply the brakes more gently.

Generally, reduce your speed or complete braking before beginning a turn. Avoid braking or closing the throttle quickly while turning. Either action may cause one or both wheels to slip. Any wheel slip will reduce your control of your Cota.

When riding in wet or raining conditions, or on loose surfaces, the ability to maneuver and stop will be reduced. All of your actions should be smooth under these conditions. Rapid acceleration, braking, or turning may cause loss of control. For your safety, exercise extreme caution when braking, accelerating, or turning.

When descending a long, steep grade, use engine compression braking by downshifting, with intermittent use of both brakes.

When you brake to a stop, pull the clutch lever in before stopping completely to prevent stalling the engine. For support, put your left foot on the ground first, then your right foot when you have finished braking.