


Proper operation and maintenance can prevent starting and engine performance problems. In many cases, the cause of the problem may be a simple operational oversight.

If you have a problem starting the engine – or experience poor engine performance – the following information may help you. If you can't correct the problem, see your dealer.

If your motorcycle won't start, listen as you press the start button. If you don't hear the starter motor turning, refer to the Starter motor doesn't operate symptom. If you can hear the starter motor working normally, refer to the Starter motor works, but the engine won't start symptom.

SYMPTOM: Starter motor doesn't operate.	
POSSIBLE CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
ignition switch OFF	Turn the ignition switch ON.
engine stop switch OFF	Turn the engine stop switch to  (Run) position.
transmission not in neutral	Shift into neutral.
side stand down (when transmission not in neutral)	Put the transmission in neutral or raise the side stand and pull the clutch lever in.
blown fuse	Replace with a new fuse of the same rating (page 172).
battery lead loose	Tighten the battery lead.
low (or dead) battery	Charge the battery (page 139). If charging doesn't help, see your dealer.
faulty starter motor	If all possible causes are negative, the starter motor may be faulty. See your dealer.

SYMPTOM: Starter motor works, but the engine won't start.	
POSSIBLE CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
out of fuel	Fill the fuel tank.
flooded engine	See Flooded Engine (page 26).
loose or unconnected spark plug cap	Install the spark plug cap securely. If the engine still won't start, see your dealer.
loose battery cables	Tighten the battery terminal bolts.
weak battery	Charge the battery (page 139). If charging doesn't help, see your dealer.

SYMPTOM: Engine starts, but stalls as you shift into gear.	
POSSIBLE CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
side stand down	Raise the side stand. Start again.