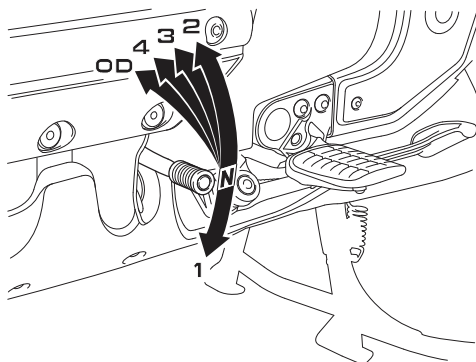


# Shifting Gears

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Your motorcycle has five forward gears in a one-down, four-up shift pattern which is coordinated with a hydraulically actuated clutch system.

Learning when to shift gears comes with experience. Keep the following tips in mind:

- As a general rule, shift while moving in a straight line.
- Close the throttle and pull the clutch lever in completely before shifting.  
Improper shifting may damage the engine, transmission, and drive train.
- Learn to recognize the engagement point as you release the clutch lever. It is at this point the transmission of power to the rear wheel resumes.
- Upshift to a higher gear or reduce throttle before engine rpm (speed) gets too high. Learn the relationship between engine sound and the normal shifting points.
- Downshift to a lower gear before you feel the engine laboring (lugging) at low rpm.
- Avoid downshifting to help slow your motorcycle when engine rpm is near its allowable maximum (near the tachometer red zone). In this situation, the rev limiter in the engine ignition control module may not prevent excessive engine speed which could damage the engine.
- To prevent transmission damage, do not coast or tow the motorcycle for long distances with the engine off.