

## SECTION 4. ABOUT BASIC OPERATION

### BRAKING TO A STOP

Slowing does not always require the clutch lever to be squeezed. But when braking to a stop, roll off the throttle, and squeeze in the clutch lever and the front brake lever while pressing on the rear brake pedal. Your left foot should touch the ground first so you can use the rear brake pedal until completely stopped. You should be in first gear by the time you stop. It is important to square the handlebars (center the steering) so the motorcycle is easier to hold up. Be sure not to release the clutch lever until you are ready to move out.



When braking to a stop in a curve, gradually apply both brakes as you straighten the motorcycle. The motorcycle should be straight up and the handlebars should be square before you come to a complete stop. Be sure to downshift and keep the clutch lever squeezed in.

The front brake provides 70 percent or more of the stopping power. This is because forward weight shift pushes the front tire down onto the road surface, giving it more grip than the rear tire.



Usually, both brakes are applied at the same time when stopping, but either brake control may be used separately. Full braking power is not required for normal, planned stops. However, it is important to develop the habit of using both brakes so you can use them properly if a quick stop is needed.

Learn to make smooth, controlled stops before practicing quicker stops. It is important to have a good feel for the brake controls. Too much pressure too quickly could cause a skid and loss of control or a fall. While you are learning the basics of stopping quickly, keep speeds low and gradually develop a precise feel for the brake controls.

