

T-CLOCK Inspection Worksheet

T-CLOCK is a mnemonic developed by the [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) for assisting you in doing a comprehensive pre-ride (or a pre-purchase) inspection of a motorcycle. It is easily memorized and very useful. The individual letters stand for the specific areas to check:

- **T — Tires & Wheels**
- **C — Controls**
- **L — Lights**
- **O — Oil**
- **C — Chassis**
- **K — Kickstand**

Just print these pages and stick them on the wall near where you store your motorcycle(s), or stuff them in your tank bag or under the seat...

T — TIRES & WHEELS			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Tires	Condition	<i>Tread depth, wear, weathering, evenly seated, bulges, imbedded objects.</i>	Front - Rear
	Air Pressure	<i>Check when cold, adjust to load/speed.</i>	Front - Rear
Wheels	Spokes	<i>Bent, broken, missing, tension, check at top of wheel: "ring" = = OK, "thud" == loose spoke.</i>	Front - Rear
	Cast	<i>Cracks, dents.</i>	Front - Rear
	Rims	<i>Out of round/true == 5mm. Spin wheel, index against a stationary pointer.</i>	Front - Rear
	Bearings	<i>Grab top and bottom of tire and flex: No freeplay (click) between hub and axle, no growl when spinning</i>	Front - Rear
	Seals	<i>Cracked, cut or torn, excessive grease on outside, reddish-brown outside.</i>	Front - Rear

C — CONTROLS			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Lever	Condition	<i>Broken, bent, cracked, mounts tight, ball ends on handlebar lever.</i>	Front - Rear
	Pivots	<i>Lubricated.</i>	
Cables	Condition	<i>Fraying, kinks, lubrication; ends and length</i>	
	Routing	<i>No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension; no sharp angles, wire looms in place.</i>	
Hoses	Condition	<i>Cuts, cracks, leaks, bulges, chafing, deterioration.</i>	
	Routing	<i>No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension, no sharp angles, wire looms in place.</i>	
Throttle	Operation	<i>Moves freely, snaps closed, no revving.</i>	

L — LIGHTS			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Battery	Condition	<i>Terminals clean and tight, electrolyte level, held down securely.</i>	
	Vent Tube	<i>Not kinked, routed properly, not plugged.</i>	
Lenses	Condition	<i>Cracked, broken, securely mounted, excessive condensation.</i>	
Reflectors	Condition	<i>Cracked, broken, securely mounted.</i>	
Wiring	Condition	<i>Fraying, chafing, insulation.</i>	
	Routing	<i>Pinched, no interference or pulling at steering head or suspension, wire looms and ties in place, connectors tight, clean.</i>	
Headlamp	Condition	<i>Cracks, reflector, mounting and adjustment system.</i>	
	Aim	<i>Height and right/left.</i>	

O — OIL			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Levels	Engine Oil	<i>Check warm on centerstand, dipstick, sightglass.</i>	
	Hypoid Gear Oil	<i>Transmission, rear drive, shaft.</i>	
	Hydraulic Fluid	<i>Brakes, clutch, reservoir or sight glass.</i>	
	Coolant	<i>Reservoir and/or coolant recovery tank — cool only.</i>	
	Fuel	<i>Tank or gauge.</i>	
Leaks	Engine Oil	<i>Gaskets, housings, seals.</i>	
	Hypoid Gear	<i>Gaskets, seals, breathers.</i>	
	Hydraulic Fluid	<i>Hoses, master cylinders, calipers.</i>	
	Coolant	<i>Radiator, hoses, tanks, fittings, pipes.</i>	
	Fuel	<i>Lines, fuel taps, carbs.</i>	

C — CHASSIS			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Frame	Condition	<i>Cracks at gussets, accessory mounts, look for paint lifting.</i>	
	Steering-Head Bearings	<i>No Detent or tight spots through full travel, raise front wheel, check for play by pushing/pulling forks.</i>	
	Swingarm Bushings/Bearings	<i>Raise rear wheel, check for play by pushing/pulling swingarm.</i>	
Suspension	Forks	<i>Smooth travel, equal air pressure/damping and anti-dive settings.</i>	
	Shock(s)	<i>Smooth travel, equal preload, air-pressure and damping settings, linkage moves freely and is lubricated.</i>	
Chain/belt	Tension	<i>Check at tightest point.</i>	
	Lubrication	<i>Side plates when hot. Note: do not lubricate belts!</i>	
	Sprockets	<i>Teeth not hooked, securely mounted.</i>	
Fastners	Threaded	<i>Tight, missing bolts, nuts.</i>	

	Clips	<i>Broken, missing.</i>	
	Cotter Pins	<i>Broken, missing.</i>	

K — KICKSTAND			
Item	Check	Look for	Check off
Centerstand	Condition	<i>Cracks, bent.</i>	
	Retention	<i>Springs in place, tension to hold position.</i>	
Sidestand	Condition	<i>Cracks, bent (safety cut-out switch/pad if equipped).</i>	
	Retention	<i>Springs in place, tension to hold position.</i>	

Web page design by [H. Marc Lewis](#)