

## Shop Talk

By Ryan

### **HILL CLIMBING**

Always use common sense when attempting to climb or descend a hill. Some hills might be too steep for your abilities, while others might be too steep for your motorcycle's capability, regardless of your own skill level.

When approaching a hill, you should:

1. Look at the hill and plan the best way to hit it.
2. Speed is your friend when climbing hills. Carry as much momentum as possible coming into the hill while maintaining control of the bike.
3. Choose a gear coming into the hill that allows the speed you want while keeping RPM's in the upper range. It is far easier to down shift because you are in too tall a gear than to up shift because your RPM's are maxed.
4. Hit the hill with your feet on the pegs and centred on the bike. Shift your weight once on the hill, stay far enough forward to keep the front down, yet far enough back to maximize traction.
5. If the front end wants to come up keep on the throttle and slip the clutch a little to control the wheelie.
6. If you are not going to make it to the top it is best to turn to the right and get yourself off on the high side of the bike rather than digging yourself into a hole pointing straight up the hill.
7. By cutting to the right you can now try to swing the front end down the hill and your right foot is able to use the rear brake. Had you gone left your right foot would be holding you upright against the hill.
8. Now head back down the hill being extremely careful no one is coming up behind you.
9. When going down keep your weight back and fingers hard on the front brake and drag the rear to keep you straight.
10. Now that you're at the bottom turn around and hit it again with a bit more speed and you should be over the top.

Check online at [www.HondaPenticton.com](http://www.HondaPenticton.com)  
for all of our Shop Talk articles.