

Used Chinese Scooter Inspection Checklist

What to check before handing over money, in the order you can check it, including the paperwork problems specific to these machines.

DO THIS SECTION FIRST. IF IT FAILS, WALK AWAY.

A machine you cannot register is worth its scrap value however well it runs. Numbers and paperwork before mechanics, every time.

1 · NUMBERS AND PAPERWORK

- ☐ VIN found on the machine and written down in full _____
- ☐ VIN on the machine matches the VIN on the title exactly _____
Character by character, not at a glance
- ☐ Title or registration document present, in the seller's name _____
- ☐ Engine number found and recorded _____
- ☐ Emission label present and legible _____
- ☐ No sign of grinding, filing or restamping around any number _____
- ☐ Seller can explain any mismatch, and the explanation is checkable _____

STOP SIGNS

No title and no explanation. A VIN that is 16 characters when it should be 17. Numbers that have been ground off or restamped. A seller who will not let you photograph the VIN. Any of these, walk away — and if you believe a vehicle is stolen, report it rather than negotiating over it.

2 · COLD START — YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE

- ☐ Engine is genuinely cold when you arrive
Put a hand on the cylinder before the seller reaches for the key
- ☐ Starts on the button without excessive cranking
- ☐ Kickstart works too, if fitted
- ☐ Idles without needing the throttle held
- ☐ No blue smoke after the first few seconds
Oil
- ☐ No white smoke that persists once warm
Coolant, on a liquid-cooled engine
- ☐ No rattling, knocking or ticking that changes with revs
- ☐ No fuel smell or visible leak

3 · ENGINE AND DRIVETRAIN

- ☐ Oil level correct and the oil is not black sludge or milky
- ☐ No oil weeping from the case joints or the base of the cylinder
- ☐ Exhaust is solid, not blowing at the flange
- ☐ CVT engages smoothly rather than snatching
- ☐ No belt squeal or judder pulling away
- ☐ Air filter present and not soaked in oil
- ☐ Coolant level and colour, if liquid cooled

4 · BRAKES, TYRES AND WHEELS

- ☐ Front brake firm, not spongy, and does not pull to the bars
- ☐ Rear brake works and is adjustable
- ☐ Pads or shoes have visible material left
- ☐ Discs not scored or lipped
- ☐ Tyres have tread and no sidewall cracking
- ☐ Tyre date codes are not ancient
- ☐ No play in the wheel bearings when rocked
- ☐ Wheels true, no dents in the rims

5 · CHASSIS AND ELECTRICS

- ☐ Forks do not weep oil and are not pitted
- ☐ Rear shock is not leaking
- ☐ Steering turns lock to lock without notchiness
- ☐ No cracks or amateur welding on the frame
- ☐ Bodywork mounts intact, panels not held on with tape
- ☐ All lights, indicators, brake light and horn work
- ☐ Speedometer and odometer work
- ☐ Battery holds charge — restart it after the test ride
- ☐ Ignition and steering lock both work with the key supplied
- ☐ Two keys, ideally

6 · TEST RIDE

- ☐ Pulls away without hesitation
- ☐ Reaches a sensible speed for its size without flat spots
- ☐ No surging or cutting out at steady throttle

USED CHINESE SCOOTER INSPECTION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Runs straight with hands lightly on the bars
- ☐ No vibration through the bars or floor that changes with speed
- ☐ Restarts hot

DECISION

ASKING PRICE

WHAT IT NEEDS

WHAT YOU OFFERED

DATE SEEN

NOTES

Need to work out what you actually own?

The Scooter Parts Registry is a free public record of the Chinese factories behind US-market scooters, ATVs and go-karts — brand, engine family, VIN prefix, factory and related machines. No account, no email.

thescooterparts.com/identify