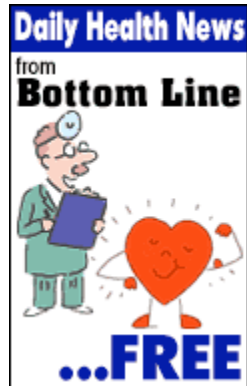


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Scooters: The Fun Way to Beat Gas Prices

April Whitney
Scoot! Quarterly Magazine

Special from [Bottom Line/Personal](#)



Scooters are an efficient way to get around town.* They are inexpensive and easy to maintain and park.

Most scooters can deliver 50 to 90 miles per gallon (mpg), better than hybrid cars. (Actual mileage will vary depending on your weight, whether you carry a passenger and the hilliness of the terrain.) New scooters have automatic transmissions and are easier to drive than motorcycles.

Purchase a helmet when you buy your scooter so that the salesperson can ensure a good fit.

There are plenty of inexpensive scooters on the market today, but it's wise to pay a bit more for a reputable brand. If you do select an off-brand, make sure that the dealer stocks a wide range of replacement parts.

Among the best scooters...

SMALL SCOOTERS

Scooters with engines smaller than 50 cubic centimeters (cc) can go up to 25 or 35 miles per hour (mph), good enough for getting around town but not for highways. They're easy to maneuver and, in

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many states, don't require a special *time*. license. They have little cargo room and lack the power to carry a passenger. A typical 50cc scooter gets 90 mpg. New models may get up to 140 mpg.

Best bets...

- **Honda Metropolitan.** A 49cc scooter from the maker of some of the most reliable vehicles in the world. 1.3-gallon fuel tank. \$1,849.** 866-784-1870, powersports.honda.com/scooters.

- **Yamaha Vino Classic.** A stylish 49cc scooter from another reliable manufacturer. 1.6-gallon fuel tank. \$1,899. 800-962-7926, www.yamaha-motor.com.

MIDSIZED SCOOTERS

Scooters with engines between 150cc and 200cc are capable of speeds of 50 or 60 mph. In most states, these scooters are legal on the highway. Expect to get 70 to 85 mpg. Best buys...

- **Kymco People 150.** A solid midsized scooter at a good price. Kymco is a well-regarded Taiwanese manufacturer. 1.8-gallon fuel tank. \$3,199. 864-472-2622, www.kymcousa.com (click on "Show Room").

- **Vespa Granturismo 200.** Italy's Vespa is the most famous name in scootering. The 200 can reach speeds in excess of 70 mph. 2.5-gallon fuel tank. \$5,199. 800-631-1101, www.vespausa.com.

TOURING/"MAXI" SCOOTERS

Scooters with 250cc engines or larger can accelerate quickly -- for more safety on busy roads -- and reach speeds in excess of 90 mph. They're capable of cross-country trips and get between 45 and 65 mpg.

- **Kymco Xciting 500.** An affordable 500cc scooter from a respected maker, capable of reaching 90 mph. 3.4-gallon fuel tank. \$5,999. 864-472-2622, www.kymcousa.com (click on "Show Room").

- **Suzuki Burgman 650.** The luxury liner of the scooter world, the 638cc Burgman is big and fast enough for any trip

you have in mind. 4.0-gallon fuel tank. \$7,799.
800-828-7433, www.suzukicycles.com.

*License requirements vary by state, but it is a good idea to take a safety course with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), a national not-for-profit organization that promotes the safety of motorcyclists (www.msf-usa.org). Call 800-446-9227 for the RiderCourse closest to you.

**Manufacturers' suggested retail prices. Discounts may be available.

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