If your motorcycle’s battery is dead, you need to jump start it before you can hit the road. This can be done with the help from a Car/Truck or another bike.

What You Need:

- Motorcycle jumper cables
- Water bottle and a cool hat
- Cellphone
- These instructions

Manufacturers do not recommend attempting to jump start a motorcycle battery from a car. The reason is that car batteries are much larger and have a much higher amperage (more power) and can damage a motorcycle battery. Life doesn't always cooperate, however, and you may find yourself with little alternative. The good news is that with proper precautions, you can jump start a motorcycle battery from a car without damaging the bike and with little risk to the battery.

Instructions for jumping a motorcycle from a Car/Truck

1. Turn off both vehicles and make sure lights and other equipment is also turned off. Open the car hood and remove any protective caps over the battery terminals on both vehicles. Leave the car turned off until you are finished jump starting the motorcycle and have disconnected the jumper cables.

2. Connect one red clamp to the positive terminal of the motorcycle battery. Make sure the clamp does not touch any other metal part. Connect the black clamp to the motorcycle frame (try to choose a point free of paint or chrome to avoid scratches or discoloration). It's better not to connect directly to the negative terminal as this increases the chance of damaging the battery.

3. Connect the other red clamp to the positive terminal of the car battery, making sure the clamp touches nothing else. Double-check that you are connecting positive to positive. Next, connect the black clamp to the negative terminal of the car battery, being careful not to touch the positive clamp in the process. Leave the car turned off.

4. Start the motorcycle. Unless the battery is totally gone, it should start right up. Let it run a few minutes to warm up the motorcycle engine before disconnecting the jumper cables.

5. Disconnect the jumper cables in the reverse of the order you connected them (Steps 2 and 3). Be careful to keep the clamps from touching anything metal until the cables are fully disconnected. Leave the motorcycle running until you drive it home or to a bike shop to get a new battery or a proper recharge.

Instructions for jumping a motorcycle from another motorcycle

1. Align the two motorcycles close enough so the batteries can be connected with the jumper cables. Disengage the power on the bike with the working battery.

2. Locate the positive terminal on the battery pack of motorcycle with the dead battery. It is labeled with a plus sign. Take the red end of the clamp and place it over this terminal.

3. Find the negative terminal on the dead battery pack. It is labeled with a minus sign. Connect the black clamp of the jumper cables here.
4. Place the clamps on the other end of the jumper cables to the terminals on the bike with the working battery. The red clamp connects to the positive terminal and the black clamp connects to the negative terminal.

5. Start up the bike with the working battery and allow it to idle for several minutes. Attempt to start the motorcycle with the dead battery. If it has successfully charged, it should start up with no problem.

6. Remove all cables from both bikes. Allow the bike with the recharged battery to run for a while to ensure that the battery maintains the charge.

Tips:

1. If you have a roadside assistance plan for your bike, use your cellphone to call for help. You may have to wait an hour or so before help arrives. Many plans will tow you to the nearest bike dealer for your make of bike.

2. If you can't get the bike started, you'll need to use the cellphone to summon help. A hat and water bottle will be essential if you encounter a long wait in the sun.