

Hand signals

Talking from bike to bike when riding is just bloody hard to do. (It is barely doable at stop lights.) If the bikes are quiet enough, then the wind noise isn't, or the helmet is blocking the sound getting out and getting in. Yelling at one another tends to make you LOOK at the other rider and not at the road. Use your hands and legs instead. This is especially helpful when riding in a large group. Make your gestures large and obvious. Most of these gestures/signals are common to most groups.

Left turn

Obviously you have the electric turn signals on your bike. Use them. You also have your arms. Hold your left arm and hand out straight -- just like you were taught in Drivers Ed.



Right turn

Obviously you have the electric turn signals on your bike. Use them. You also have your arms. Hold your upper left arm out straight and your lower left arm and hand pointing up -- just like you were taught in Drivers Ed.



Turn signals left on

We all do it. If the bike is ahead of you, beep your horn once to get their attention. Raise your left hand up, at about a 45 degree angle, and open and close your fist a few times. Laugh at them when you get to the next stop -- gently, as you may be the next idiot.

Law enforcement in area

Use your left hand to tap the top of your helmet. Don't hit so hard as to give yourself a headache.



Road hazard left side

Use your left arm or leg to point at the hazard. You may want to move your line a little to allow better viewing for the riders behind you.



Road hazard right side

Use your left hand on top of your helmet and pointing to the right, or use your right leg and point to the hazard. You may want to move your line a little to allow better viewing for the riders behind you.



Slow down

Use your left (or right) hand and hold it out and wave it up and down, with your palm pointing down.



Slow down a lot/stop

Use your left (or right) hand and hold it down, at about a 45 degree angle, with the palm facing backwards. Move it up and down.



About to start lane splitting/lane sharing

Hold your hand up, with the palm straight, with your baby finger facing forward, and wave it forwards and backwards, tomahawk style. Tom-tom drums optional. Close to ride single file, but your moving your arm.



Ride in single file

Hold your hand up with a single finger (index finger, please) pointing up. Waggle the hand and finger (not the arm) to draw attention to the single finger.



Ride in a stagger

Hold your hand up with only your index and baby fingers pointing up. Waggle/twist the hand to draw attention to the fingers.



Empty gas tank

First off -- *you dummy* -- we stop often enough -- dang it! Now beep once to get attention and point to your tank.



Empty belly/thirsty/got to hit the bathroom

Beep once to get attention and point to your mouth or mimic taking a drink or eating a sandwich. Yeah, using this when you got to hit the head works. You got to stop at a viable store for food or drink, and they usually have facilities available.



Bike is dying/dead/I got big trouble

Beep once to get attention and make a throat slashing gesture. Pull your bike to the side of the road as safely as you can. Find a wide, safe spot. Please!



Get your head out of your ass

This can only be done when you are stopped and can use both hands, but it is a fun one. Make a fist with one hand, hold it upright. Grasp the 'fist' wrist with the other. Then pull the fist down through your grasping hand. Repeat as needed.



Single finger salute

Try to restrain yourself from using this. It may not bite you on the butt, but it will likely bite me later. Smile and wave instead. It will drive them crazy.



Live long and prosper

OK, so this is if you ride a Vulcan Battle Cruiser. So sue me.



Grumpa's special

Useless genetics allow me to do this. Enjoy.
Palm facing forward means double the peace.
Palm facing backward means double...um...er...
see single finger salute. hee hee

