



Drive System

Many karts today are direct drive. By this we mean there are no gears and there is no clutch, simply a chain connecting the pinion gear on the engine to the drive sprocket on the rear axle. It is extremely critical to align these gears properly to prevent premature wear on the sprockets and the chain. After installing the chain carefully rotate the axle in its normal rotating direction. Make sure that the spark plug is grounded while you are rotating the engine to prevent damaging your ignition. Adjust the rear sprocket to a position where the chain rides perfectly in the center as you rotate the axle. Once this is complete, adjust the tension of the chain.

Adjust the tension of the chain by sliding the engine backwards or forwards. It is very important to leave some slack in the chain since the chassis flexes while you are on the track. If you do not leave sufficient play, as the chassis flexes it can bind up and rob your engine of power. The chain could also break leading to unnecessary expenses and frustration. If you leave the chain too loose, the probability of losing it is high and once again frustration and expenses could set in.

Shifter karts are becoming ever more popular these days and although you must still align the pinion gear with the rear sprocket, you also have a transmission to service. It is a very good practice to drain the transmission oil after every day you've been out and replace it with fresh oil. The most important point to remember is to lube your chain after each time you have been out on the track since chain lube is substantially cheaper than chains or sprockets.