

Learning to ride an electric self-balancing scooter

Self-balancing electric foot scooters are fun and convenient but not as safe as you might think. It's essential that you master the following steps before even considering riding beside a road, in a busy public place or other challenging environment.

When learning you will need a safe place with lots of space and a large open flat surface such as a running track, the center of a gymnasium, a tennis court or a playground.

Before going out with your scooter

1. Understand the functions

Read the manual and other information carefully and make sure you know how to turn it on, off, and so on.

2. Understand the concept

Before you hop on, be sure you understand the concept of how it works and can visualise how the angles of the feet correlate with speed and turning.

Tilt forward = go forwards.

Tilt back = go backwards.

Right tilt forwards, left back = turn left

Left tilt forwards, right back = turn right

You can practice angling and turning your hands or sit on a chair or edge of a bed putting your feet on the device while it's switched off pretending you're riding.

In a safe practice location

3. Getting on

Put your dominant foot level on the scooter and bring the other foot up quickly.

4. Getting off

Step off behind the scooter keeping one foot level on the platform to prevent the scooter rolling away.

5. Stopping

Practice regular stopping as well as abrupt stopping at high speeds. For high speed stopping as you tilt your feet back crouch down with hands level to the ground until you reach a stop. You should aim to be able to come to a complete stop in the shortest possible distance (about 1 to 1.5 m for the Hovertrax at near top speed).

6. Turning

Practice turning on the spot (one foot tilting back, the other tilting forward) and turning at speed (one foot level, the other tilting forward). You could use plant pots or other such objects to form a practice slalom course.

7. Reversing

Practice going backwards.

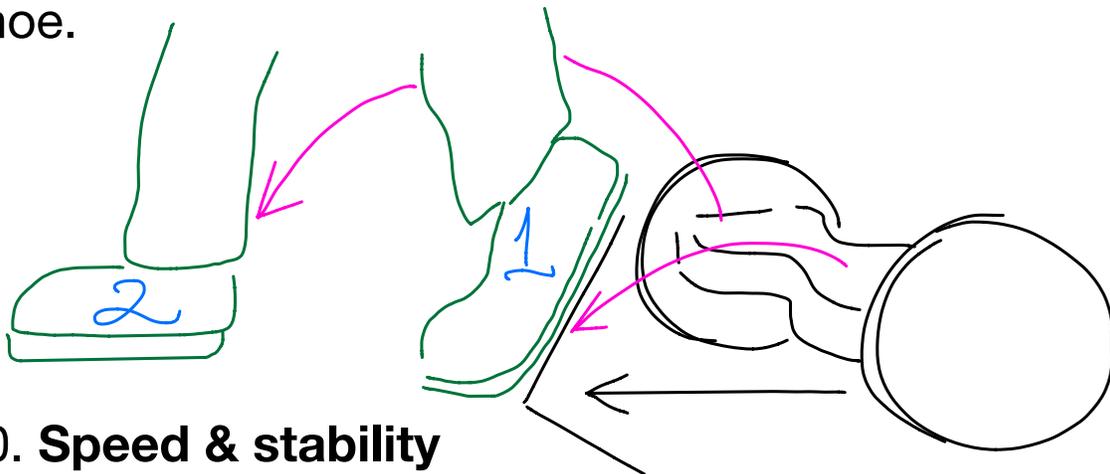
8. Reversing & turning

Practice going backwards and turning.

9. Stepping off while moving

Many foot scooters may get stuck on rough terrain. To prepare for this learn to step off while going at speed. Be extra careful because if when you step off your foot pushes down on one side of the platform the scooter will move in the corresponding direction. It could zoom out from under your feet or even back under your feet.

Go slowly in a straight line and then while moving take a quick and little step putting one foot in front of the machine resting on your toes with the heel up. Then follow with a larger step with your other foot flat on the ground. The first foot should stabilize you and stop the machine from rolling on as it goes into the sole of your shoe.



10. Speed & stability

Only once you're ready and have fully mastered the other steps should you very carefully and very gradually have a go at seeing how fast you can go

safely maintaining stability. Take multiple goes, each time increasing your speed a little more. Once the speed control tilts you back, or the device strains or wobbles then slow down right away. You must **never** try to increase the speed beyond this point otherwise the device may not have enough power to keep up with your leaning and you could fall.

At speed you must make absolutely sure that you keep both feet as level as possible on the platforms to keep a straight line.

Summary

1. Understand the concepts and the machine.
2. Try doing the basic things until they become natural.
3. Only then progress toward the more advanced things.