

HOW TO: RIDE STUTTER/BRAKING BUMPS

This subject is a nice easy one but very useful...

The simplest analogy for what we want to achieve is a seesaw – your wheels being the ends that hit the ground (one at a time remember). You need to balance perfectly on the middle of that seesaw otherwise one end is going to snag on a bump, a bit like when you went to the park with your older brother and he deliberately left you stuck up in the air on the seesaw (whereas when you went with someone the same weight, you went up and down for hours without any harsh impacts).

When riding stutterbumps on a bike it mostly just feels uncomfortable because the heavier wheel is trying to push against you as it rebounds off the ground (the harder you push it into the ground the harder it will try to rebound). So, to remain comfortable try to centre yourself over the tyres and work on staying stable so that you don't flop around as the bike seesaw's underneath you.

Now, the rest of the story...

Stutterbumps are caused by people braking into a corner, nothing wrong with that, but the bumps make it very difficult to slow down. This is because the wheels are only touching the ground a fraction of the time compared to when it was smooth. If the tyres aren't touching the ground it doesn't matter how much you pull the brake lever, the tyres can't grip to slow the wheel; which means you are better off not braking over the bumps at all. Try to enter slower or brake before the stutterbumps start and roll across them, but please use your brakes smoothly to slow down (and incorporate your front brake) otherwise you risk extending the stutterbump section and making it worse for everyone.

