

October 27, 2026

2027 KAWASAKI KLE®500 MOTORCYCLE LINEUP

LIFE'S A RALLY. RIDE IT

For 2027, the Kawasaki [KLE®500](#) motorcycle lineup expands to three models with the addition of the new KLE®500 SE Smartride ABS. Building on the premium equipment of the KLE500 SE ABS, the new model adds Kawasaki's first self-engaging clutch system and spoke wheels fitted with tubeless Dunlop Trailmax Mixtour tires. Together, these features enhance convenience and control in stop-and-go traffic, on longer tours, and during off-pavement exploration while preserving the KLE500's approachable, adventure-ready character.

Built on the highly capable KLE®500 ABS platform, the three-model lineup combines a responsive 451cc parallel-twin engine, purpose-designed trellis frame, long-travel suspension, 21-inch front wheel, rally-inspired styling, and relaxed ergonomics to provide a balanced package for city streets, highway travel, and dirt-road exploration.



KLE®500 SE SMARTRIDE ABS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Smartride self-engaging clutch
- Spoke wheels with tubeless tires
- Taller adjustable windscreen
- Metal-reinforced hand guards
- Large skid plate
- All-LED lighting
- 4.3-inch color TFT display

NEW KLE®500 SE SMARTRIDE ABS

The 2027 KLE500 SE Smartride ABS combines the SE model's taller adjustable windscreen, metal-reinforced hand guards, large skid plate, all-LED lighting, and 4.3-inch color TFT display with Kawasaki's new Smartride self-engaging clutch and spoke wheels with tubeless tires. The result is a premium KLE500 that reduces the effort required during frequent starts and stops and adds touring convenience while retaining the familiar shift operation of a manual-transmission motorcycle.

NEW SMARTRIDE: SELF-ENGAGING CLUTCH

Smartride integrates a compact mechanical centrifugal starting clutch between the clutch housing and the conventional, lever-operated multi-disc clutch. At idle, the starting clutch remains disengaged, allowing the motorcycle to remain stopped and idle in gear without the rider pulling the clutch lever. As

the throttle is opened and engine speed increases, the starting clutch engages automatically and transfers power to the transmission. This removes the need to feather the clutch when pulling away from a stop and significantly reduces clutch use in stop-and-go traffic.

During normal riding, the starting clutch remains fully engaged and the rider changes gears in the conventional manner using the clutch lever and shift pedal. If a higher gear is selected while the motorcycle is stopped, an alert on the instrument panel prompts the rider to select a lower gear before starting. The entirely mechanical system requires no electronic controls.

An engine-brake cam keeps the starting clutch engaged during deceleration until the motorcycle is nearly stopped, preserving a natural engine-braking feel. Despite the added function, the clutch assembly is only about 0.4 inch wider and 0.2 inch larger in diameter than a conventional assembly, with an additional weight of approximately 2.2 pounds. This compact design minimizes the effect on the KLE500's performance, styling, and ergonomics.

NEW SPOKE WHEELS WITH TUBELESS DUNLOP TRAILMAX MIXTOUR TIRES

The KLE500 SE Smartride ABS uses front and rear spoke wheels fitted with tubeless tires, retaining the impact-absorbing characteristics and adventure-ready appearance of a traditional wire-spoke design. Small-diameter spokes help limit wheel weight, while the tubeless tires allow certain punctures to be repaired without removing and replacing an inner tube.

Dunlop Trailmax Mixtour tires deliver balanced on-road and off-road performance. A silica-and-carbon compound contributes to dry- and wet-weather grip, abrasion resistance, and resistance to block chipping. The block pattern is designed to provide traction across a variety of surfaces, while consistent pattern rigidity from upright riding to full lean contributes to linear handling.

ADVENTURE-READY PERFORMANCE

At the heart of every KLE500 is a fuel-injected 451cc parallel-twin engine with smooth, responsive power delivery. Strong low-end performance supports controlled riding on unpaved roads, while quick acceleration at higher rpm provides the flexibility needed for highway travel. A balancer shaft helps reduce vibration, and the Assist & Slipper Clutch contributes to a light lever pull while helping limit rear-wheel hop during aggressive downshifts.

The engine is carried in a high-tensile steel trellis frame developed specifically for real-world versatility rather than adapted from a motocross platform. Its rigidity balance and lightweight construction contribute to straightforward handling on dirt roads and composed control on pavement. The slim chassis, smooth bodywork, linear power delivery, and 7.3 inches of ground clearance help riders maintain a natural standing position and move confidently across varied terrain.

SUSPENSION, BRAKES & WHEELS

A 43mm KYB cartridge-type inverted fork provides 8.2 inches of front-wheel travel and combines responsive action with the rigidity needed for predictable handling. Kawasaki's New Uni-Trak® rear suspension delivers 7.7 inches of travel, with progressive action and stepless spring-preload adjustability to accommodate different riders, passengers, and luggage.

A 300mm front disc and 230mm rear disc provide strong, controllable braking. Selectable ABS lets the rider disable the system when appropriate for off-pavement conditions; the system returns to its default setting with front and rear ABS active after the motorcycle is switched off and restarted.†

The 21-inch front and 17-inch rear wheel combination contributes to stability and bump absorption and continues a defining feature of the KLE series. The KLE500 ABS and KLE500 SE ABS use lightweight aluminum rims, durable steel spokes, and IRC GP-410 tires, while the new KLE500 SE Smartride ABS receives spoke wheels fitted with tubeless Dunlop Trailmax Mixtour tires described above.

RALLY-INSPIRED DESIGN & RIDER COMFORT

The KLE500 blends an authentic rally-raid image with familiar street-bike elements and KX motocross-inspired details. A tall, compact front cowl, adjustable windscreen, triple LED headlight, low-positioned front fender, stepped seat, slim fuel tank, and flowing side covers create a purposeful silhouette. Clear panels around the cowl improve forward terrain visibility and wind protection, while the elevated instrument panel remains easy to read when seated or standing.

KX-inspired ergonomics influenced the wide, forward-positioned handlebar, footpeg location, bodywork, and smooth engine covers. Together with the comfortable seat and narrow rider interface, these details create a relaxed, upright riding position with ample freedom of movement and natural control whether seated or standing. Removable rubber footpeg inserts let riders choose additional cushioning for pavement or more direct grip for off-road riding.

A 4.2-gallon fuel tank combines useful touring range with a shape that preserves ground clearance and allows the rider to move forward when riding off-road. The windscreen adjusts through three positions, with the lowest setting prioritizing terrain visibility and the highest providing the most wind protection at higher speeds.

The standard rider and passenger seats are designed for day-to-day use and long-distance comfort. By combining them with the available ERGO-FIT Low Front Seat and ERGO-FIT Pillion Seat (Low), owners can choose from four seating arrangements. The standard high/high configuration emphasizes long-ride comfort, while the high/low combination creates a flatter profile that supports rider mobility during off-road riding.

TOURING CAPACITY & SMARTPHONE CONNECTIVITY

A reinforced rear frame allows two side cases and a top case, available as Kawasaki Genuine Accessories, to be fitted at the same time. The structure is designed to support loads while maintaining composed handling at highway speeds, giving riders flexible cargo options for commuting and extended travel.

The KLE500 ABS uses a high-contrast full LCD instrument panel with a bar-style tachometer, gear-position indicator, fuel gauge, remaining range, fuel-consumption information, service reminders, and Kawasaki's Economical Riding Indicator. The KLE500 SE ABS and KLE500 SE Smartride ABS feature a 4.3-inch color TFT display with selectable background colors and automatic brightness adjustment.

Both displays support smartphone connectivity through RIDELOGY THE APP*. Riders can review vehicle information and ride logs, adjust display settings, and receive connected-device notifications.

Navigation functionality is also available with a valid license, purchased separately, and varies by country.

KLE®500 ABS

The 2027 KLE500 ABS returns as the foundation of the lineup, combining the 451cc engine, multi-purpose trellis frame, long-travel suspension, selectable ABS, full LCD instrumentation, adjustable windscreen, aluminum skid plate, tubed spoke wheels, and smartphone connectivity in an approachable adventure package. Its relaxed riding position and three-position windscreen support comfortable highway travel, while the 21-inch front wheel and long-travel suspension maintain capability when the pavement ends. The standard aluminum skid plate helps protect the engine and muffler, and the full LCD panel keeps essential information easy to read in varied conditions.

KLE®500 SE ABS

The 2027 KLE500 SE ABS returns with premium adventure-touring equipment, including a taller adjustable windscreen, metal-reinforced hand guards, a larger skid plate, all-LED lighting, and a 4.3-inch color TFT display. Its tubed spoke wheels are paired with IRC GP-410 tires.

KAWASAKI GENUINE ACCESSORIES

Kawasaki Genuine Accessories allow riders to tailor the KLE500 lineup for touring, comfort, and protection. Available equipment includes side cases, a top case, passenger grab bars, a rear carrier, a large windscreen, hand guards, grip heaters, USB Type-C charging, alternate ERGO-FIT seats, a large skid plate, engine guard, radiator screen, center stand, LED fog lamps, GPS bracket, and an accessory relay.

All trademarks, registered trademarks, logos, and copyrights are the property of their respective owners.

**RIDEOLOGY THE APP and all trademarks, registered trademarks, logos, and copyrights are the property of their respective owners.*

†Local laws may require ABS to remain active when riding on public roads.

2027 Model Variations

Kawasaki KLE®500 SE Smartride ABS

Color: Pearl Blizzard White, Metallic Bluish Green

MSRP: \$7,999

Availability: November 2026

Kawasaki KLE®500 ABS

Color: Metallic Carbon Gray / Ebony

MSRP: \$6,599

Availability: November 2026

Kawasaki KLE®500 SE ABS

Color: Pearl Blizzard White, Metallic Bluish Green

MSRP: \$7,499

Availability: November 2026

To download high-resolution images, log on or register for the Kawasaki media site at <http://kawasakimedia.com>.

ABOUT KAWASAKI

Kawasaki started full-scale production of motorcycles over a half century ago. The first Kawasaki motorcycle engine was designed based on technical know-how garnered from the development and production of aircraft engines, and Kawasaki's entry into the motorcycle industry was driven by the company's constant effort to develop new technologies. Numerous new Kawasaki models introduced over the years have helped shape the market, and in the process have created enduring legends based on their unique engineering, power, design and riding pleasure. In the future, Kawasaki Motors, Ltd. is committed to maintaining and furthering these strengths which will surely give birth to new legends.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. markets and distributes Kawasaki motorcycles, ATVs, side x sides, and JET SKI® watercraft through a network of approximately 1,100 independent retailers, with close to an additional 7,700 retailers specializing in general purpose engines. Kawasaki and its affiliates employ nearly 3,100 people in the United States, with approximately 260 of them located at Kawasaki's Foothill Ranch, California headquarters.

Kawasaki's tagline, "Let the Good Times Roll.®", is recognized worldwide. The Kawasaki brand is synonymous with powerful, stylish and category-leading vehicles. Information about Kawasaki's complete line of powersports products and Kawasaki affiliates can be found on the Internet at www.kawasaki.com.