

TESLA MODEL S – QUICK START GUIDE

CONTROLS

- **Automatic door handles** present when you approach the car with key FOB; can also unlock by pressing on the top of the key FOB twice. Door handles recess after a minute; just press on them lightly and they will re-present themselves. Tesla automatically locks itself after a minute.
- **Car powers up when you apply the brake pedal.** It will go through its start menu just like your home PC. It is normal to see a grey screen with Tesla logo in white (software v 7.0)
- **DRIVE and REVERSE:** Two clicks down on the drive stalk (right side) for drive; hard click up for reverse. Back up camera and a schematic of where the car is come up on the 17" screen
- To **PARK** push in the silver knob on the right hand drive-stick. Caution: DO NOT TAP the PARK button when driving; the Tesla will go into park. A second caution; do not lift your bottom off the seat cushion when driving in reverse; Tesla will 'throw itself' into PARK.
- **3G reset:** IF you lose internet radio signal for say 5-7 minutes, push in thumb wheels on left and right sides of steering wheel; center screen will go blank then reset. That should reset 3G if it goes out for 5 minutes or longer.
- **Front memory seats:** once set; every time you adjust it will ask you to save the setting if you want. Controls for both front seats are on outside seat frame including back cushion adjustment, forward setting and lumbar adjustment. You can save your driver's setting every time you may an adjustment – the screen will prompt you to save it.
- **Thumbwheel** – left and right – can change what displays left and right on the IP cluster
- **HVAC at bottom** (climate); temperature is either synced or each side separate. Separate icons for front and rear defoggers and for seat heaters.
- **Audio:** lower right. For some reason every time Slacker changes a song it resets volume to low. Can also control volume with left thumb wheel.
- **Display icons are across top row.** Always places what you select at the top of the screen. You can change locations on screen with the 'toggle' indicator. Most icons (nav, media) can be made full screen with left hand toggle on the center screen.
- **Controls and Settings** – lower left next to HVAC. Controls all of the car settings: lights, door lock/unlock; steering effort, regen (std. or low), raising suspension (tall steep driveways) and other emergency brake information etc.
- **NAV system:** enter the place you want to go and Nav system will display route on the center screen and the turn by turn on the left side of the instrument cluster.
- **Nav system:** Superchargers; now time estimates are incorrect. My advice is to stay with the supercharger until you have about 15-20% more range than the trip length.

- **Rear Hatch** – three ways to open/close: 1). Press twice on rear part of the Key FOB, 2). Press the latch on the outside of the hatch below the “T” logo and above the license plate and 3). Press the hatch button on the inside of the bottom of the hatch.
- **FRUNK – if you don’t need to use it keep it closed.** FRUNK can be opened by pressing twice on the front part of the Key FOB. It does not close automatically. It is VERY EASY to warp the hood if you close the FRUNK improperly. You have to pull down the front and gently place the latch onto the mechanism and gently press down on the ends of the FRUNK not the center. The aluminum hood will deform if the FRUNK is not gently closed. Apparently TESLA knows every time a door opens or closes so just be warned if it warps under your rental, it is recorded. Just not worth the trouble!
- **Battery recharge:** touch the white **Z** on the top of the 17” screen and the charge screen will pop up and you can set the battery charge level. ONLY use the trip charge level maybe once a day; rest of the time try for 70-80% charge level. There are detents on the battery icon to show you every 10% charge level. Car will warn you about excessive full charging. **Touch “open charge port” icon** and left rear charge port will open. It will turn blue when ready to accept charger, then green if connection is correct and white when finished. It will glow amber if not a correct contact (see warning on IP too). To remove, unlock the car, approach the charging port and carefully remove when the color changes from green to white.
- **Charging and Supercharging:** Located at Atlantic Station Red Level P1 (10 stalls) and at Tesla Decatur Store (4 stalls) makes recharging quick and easy. Just park in the space – get close enough to the charge cord and **click ‘open charge port’** and connector will be able to be installed or removed. You will see the Supercharging message go on and see the Tesla charging at over 300 Volts and 170 Amps. Superchargers can be a little tricky to get right connection. When finished, go to screen and **click ‘unlock charge port’**. Using the L2 adaptor, remove the std. J1772 connector first, then add the Tesla L2 adaptor. My Tesla APP will get an alert every time you charge so don’t hesitate to contact me if you run into problems. I will likely text you when the vehicle is charged enough to be driven away.
- **Warning:** aggressive driving will drain the battery quickly. If you are driving at 75+ MPH and see your Watts/Mile above 325 your battery is going to run out fairly quickly! Please ensure that you head to a supercharger or Level 2 station when you reach 50 miles of rated battery range if you are driving in metro Atlanta. That will safely get you to either Atlantic Station or Decatur superchargers. If you are traveling to South Georgia, plan your trip using the Navigation setting so you can be routed through either Macon or Tifton Superchargers. Please allow the battery to recharge to 80% (160 miles). **If you run out of battery range, you will be responsible for flatbed towing and repairs to the battery pack if it is damaged by running out of power.**

- **AutoPilot Controls.** Three separate AutoPilot controls are found under Settings=>Driver Assistance:
 - **Traffic Aware Cruise Control** which sets a desired number of car lengths (2-7) between the Tesla and the car in front of it. You set it by pulling forward once on the lower left stalk; the left icon next to the speedometer will illuminate blue from white. You set the car lengths by the silver end knob – it will show the number of car lengths. TACC is ideal for highway cruise control driving.
 - **AutoSteer** allows the Tesla to steer itself with your hands ALWAYS near the wheel to take immediate control. It will follow the curve of the road and its goal is to keep the Tesla in the center of the lane at all times. It will prompt you to take the wheel when the camera, sonar and sensors cannot see lines clearly enough to guide the car. This feature is still in beta and is a bit finicky. ONLY use it after you are comfortable with TACC. It can be unnerving but is pretty precise.
 - **Auto Lane Change** allows the Tesla to safely make left and right lane changes. With both TACC and AutoSteer engaged, you simply press I up (left) or down (right) the lane change stalk (you MUST allow it to click into place) and the Tesla will execute the lane change. Once in the desired lane, you just turn off the lane change stalk. This feature works really well.
- **AutoPilot Blog post:** see my recent blog post to learn more about my experiences with AutoPilot <https://wordpress.com/post/atlantaevdc.com/1043>

My advice is to get very comfortable with driving the Tesla (acceleration, braking, regen) before you use AutoPilot. And Please just use it on highways like cruise control!

OTHER RESOURCES

A few other resources that will be helpful:

- 1). **Georgia EVentures website:** www.georgiaeventures.com - specifics on my 2015 Tesla Model S60 (single motor, RWD 208 mile max driving range)
- 2). **Tesla charging information:** <http://www.teslamotors.com/models-charging#/basics>
- 3). **Tesla Video walk through series:** <http://www.teslamotors.com/support> - there are about a dozen 'how to' short videos to familiarize yourself with the Model S.