

TESLA FAQ

I get a lot of questions about my Tesla Model S – Here's the most common and their answers. Feel free to ask me anything that's not here. I don't bite!

What is it?

It's a Tesla Model S. An all-electric sports car made by Tesla Motors in California, USA.

Wait, all-electric? So it's not a hybrid?

Correct. No fuel, just a massive battery under the entire floor of the car and an electric motor between the rear wheels (and another between the front wheels for the AWD version). The front where an engine would normally go is just free storage space.

How far can you go?

The model with the 70 kWh battery can go up to 260 miles on a single charge. The version with the larger 90 kWh battery can manage up-to 330 miles.

Does it take long to charge?

A 30 minute charge can add up to 170 miles of range when using Tesla super chargers, which can be found across the country and the EU. Other suitable chargers can be found at most motorway services, car parks and shopping centres. A DC rapid charger adds roughly 1 mile per minute of charging.

How much does charging cost?

If you use a Tesla Supercharger it's free, non-Tesla chargers vary in price (but many are free). Home charging will cost you between £10 and £15 for a full charge depending on your electricity provider and battery size.

Can I charge it at home or work?

Yes, but it's much slower if you only use a normal mains socket. If you have a charge point fitted (typically costs around £500) it's faster.

How fast is it?

Very. The entry level model has a top speed of 140 mph and does 0-60 in just 5.5 seconds. The top end version does 160 mph and 0-60 in under 3 seconds.

Is it expensive?

The Model S starts at around £60k and they go into 6 figures for the top end models before incentives.

Are they making a cheaper car?

Yes, the Tesla Model 3 was recently announced - it's due to be roughly half the cost of the Model S and will be available in approximately 3-4 years.

Is there an SUV version?

The Tesla Model X is based on the same battery and drive system as the Model S but is a 7 seater. It's due to be available in the UK by 2017, costing £5-10K+ more than the Model S equivalent.

How safe is it?

The Tesla Model S is one of the safest production cars you can buy, with a full 5/5 star EURO NCAP safety rating in all categories. It includes automatic emergency braking, lane departure warnings, blind spot warnings, and electronic stability control as standard.

How is it greener if the electricity still comes from fossil fuels?

Aside from the fact that wind and solar power provides a lot of green energy here in the UK, even when fossil fuels are used to produce the electricity the Tesla is roughly 3x more efficient. Power plants are far more efficient than cars combustion engines at extracting energy due to their size, scale economies and the fact that they don't have to be portable.



I am not associated with Tesla Motors, I am just an owner and a fan that gets asked a lot of questions and has some free time on his hands.