

LED Lighting Upgrade Kit for Tesla Model X – Review and Installation Guide [As seen in Teslarati]

Tesla's [factory] Premium Upgrade Package for the Model X and Model S includes what the company describes as "Soft LED ambient interior lighting".

Illumination from the interior LED lighting is quite subtle and dim enough that one could argue that it provides little more than just a faint glow. The same applies for the trunk and front trunk ("frunk") lighting which I find hardly useable especially during the dead of night when I pull into a dimly lit destination charging location, and fumble my way through a mix of bags full of mystery items that my wife and kids packed, makeshift trash bags, and other roadtrip related goodies, before finally locating the correct overnight bags. And even then, I'm able to find the right items simply because I unearthed everything else from the frunk and located it via process of elimination.



The Model X has 11 rectangular white LEDs positioned across the doors, trunk, frunk and footwells. 2 LEDs are red with each one located on the outer edge of the front door.

The level of difficulty to install them varies ranging from a quick and easy direct pop-out that takes no longer than 2 minutes, to more difficult light assemblies that are hard pressed into rigid plastic.

Instead of going into detail on how to install these lights, since they're truly just plug-n-play and self explanatory to install, I'll just highlight a few tips for each area along with my perception of the result. Also note that I will not provide before and after photos. Just after. It was near impossible to get a great nighttime "before" shot since, well, it's nighttime and photos don't capture well in darkness. Using flash would have defeated the purpose and not give a true depiction of the area [pre-LED lighting upgrade kit].

Where are the interior Model X LEDs located?

As mentioned earlier, the Model X has a total of 11 rectangular shaped white LEDs not including the 2 red ones on the outer edge of the front doors.

FRUNK – QTY: 2

The frunk has 2 LEDs on the side closest to the hood latch. These lights are one of the easiest to install and should be attempted first as the "practice run". The entire process can be completed in less than 4 minutes since the light assembly itself simply presses into the carpet lining and easily removable without the use of tools. Once the assembly is dislodged, the connectors can be easily disconnected from the assembly and plugged directly into the replacement LED. This same procedure will apply to all subsequent lights being installed. The results are drastic as the Ultra-Bright LEDs are significantly brighter than the factory LEDs. Of all of the lights I installed into the car, these provide the most useful value.



FRONT DASH (FOOTWELL) – QTY: 2

The lights rest beneath the front dashboard and on each side of the driver and passenger footwell. The light assembly is pressed into the thin plastic covering that lines the bottom of the dashboard. Removing the LED assembly takes a little more strength to remove and requires that you use the wedge tool [provided] that you can wedge in-between the plastic lining and LED assembly. Once you're able to gently pry the assembly away from the plastic trim, you can use 2 fingers to firmly grip and pull the assembly from the trim. Because of the location of the light, I found the easiest way to access it is by laying on your back while looking up at the light assembly.

The lighting effect is stunning especially when combined with the lighting upgrade beneath the second row seating. It's just bright enough to provide useful lighting for ease of entry and exit, but not bright enough to cast light anywhere above the seat. No goldfish effect.



FRONT SEAT (UNDERNEATH) – QTY: 2

Below each of the front seats is an LED attached to a plastic LED housing secured to a thin mesh cloth. Popping the LED out was simple and can be done without the use of tools. The most difficult part about this 5 minute install is being able to access the light nestled deep beneath each seat.



These lights provide the most dramatic effect. With falcon wing doors up and the self-presenting doors open, the entire car looks and feels like a majestic spacecraft.

FRONT DOOR (PUDDLE LIGHTS) – QTY: 2



Beneath each of the front doors is a puddle light that illuminates the area directly below each door. Applying the same techniques used on the other areas, gently pry the light assembly from the plastic door panel using [wedge tool provided] – just enough so you

can get a firm grip on each corner of the light with your fingers. Pull the assembly away from the door, disconnect the connector, and plug it into the new Ultra-Bright LED.

The power of these bulbs and the direction in which it's pointed creates a bright cloud of white beneath each front door making for a great look. The puddle lights also serve as very useful lighting especially in darker areas where one might not be able to see where they might be walking.

Note that each door also has a red factory [light that can be replaced with the red LED lights provided in the kit].

TRUNK – QTY: 2

This is by far the most difficult install of them all. I'm not sure if it was isolated to my particular Model X or all, but the light assembly mounted to the rear hatch is extremely difficult to dislodge from the plastic panel.

It's a tight fit and the assembly is wedged so tightly into the plastic that prying with a wedge tool will only break the tip of the tool. I ended up using a tiny flathead screwdriver to pry my way around the light assembly, but even with that it took many attempts, and a lot of accidental scraping against the plastic trim before I was able to muscle the assembly out of the rear hatch.

It also helps if you fold the third row seats down and sit inside the trunk while facing outwards. This will give you a better view and access to the hatch-mounted LED assembly. The other LED in the trunk can't be easier to remove since it's simply pressed into the carpet lining on the right of the trunk.

I'd have to say that the upgraded trunk lighting did not have as significant of an impact on overall usefulness than the trunk lighting had. This is primarily because there's only one LED mounted to the right of the trunk. The painfully difficult to install hatch light provides little value in my opinion due to the angle in which the light shines, and also the LED's distance from the surface of the trunk.



GLOVE BOX – QTY: 1

Last but not least, there's the single LED inside the top of the glovebox. Given that I rarely use the glovebox and the level of difficulty to access this light, I decided to skip it. Plus, with items stowed inside a glovebox and occupying most of the glovebox space, there's really no value to have a brighter light within such a confined area.

