



60 Tips & Tricks Tesla Model 3

EVANNEX

Model 3—Tips & Tricks

Some Model 3 owners are vehicle experts who know everything about the car. But there are many, many other owners who haven't spent hours on Reddit, YouTube, the forums, and Facebook groups. As a consequence, those Model 3 owners haven't encountered tips and tricks that make the Model 3 even more compelling for their day-to-day driving. We've written **60 Tips & Tricks for Tesla Model 3** for them.

The intent of **60 Tips & Tricks for Tesla Model 3** is to share some of the things we've learned through years of Model 3 driving. We've also curated the best on-line suggestions from other Model 3 owners.

We hope **60 Tips & Tricks for Tesla Model 3** provides you with information that enhances your Model 3 driving experience.

Quick Look

Not everybody likes to read—we get that.

If all you want are Model 3 tips and tricks without background or explanation, we've highlighted them for you in **red bold face text**. We encourage you to scan this document for the information you need.

Getting Ready for Your Model 3

If you've just placed your order for a Model 3, the most important thing you'll need to do is be sure you have a strategy for charging your new battery electric vehicle (BEV). The most effective approach is to install your own charging infrastructure—charge your car at home in your garage. You'll need to have an electrician install the right circuit (we'll discuss that next).



Do NOT assume that you'll be able to use a 110V outlet to get your charge. It's enormously inefficient, painfully slow, and not something you want to do—except in an emergency.

But lots of Model 3 owners rent and/or park their car in a place that doesn't have direct access to the power required for charging. Using a local supercharger to acquire a charge is one solution, getting your place of work to install a charger is another, or using public chargers is a third, but it is necessary to plan ahead—now.

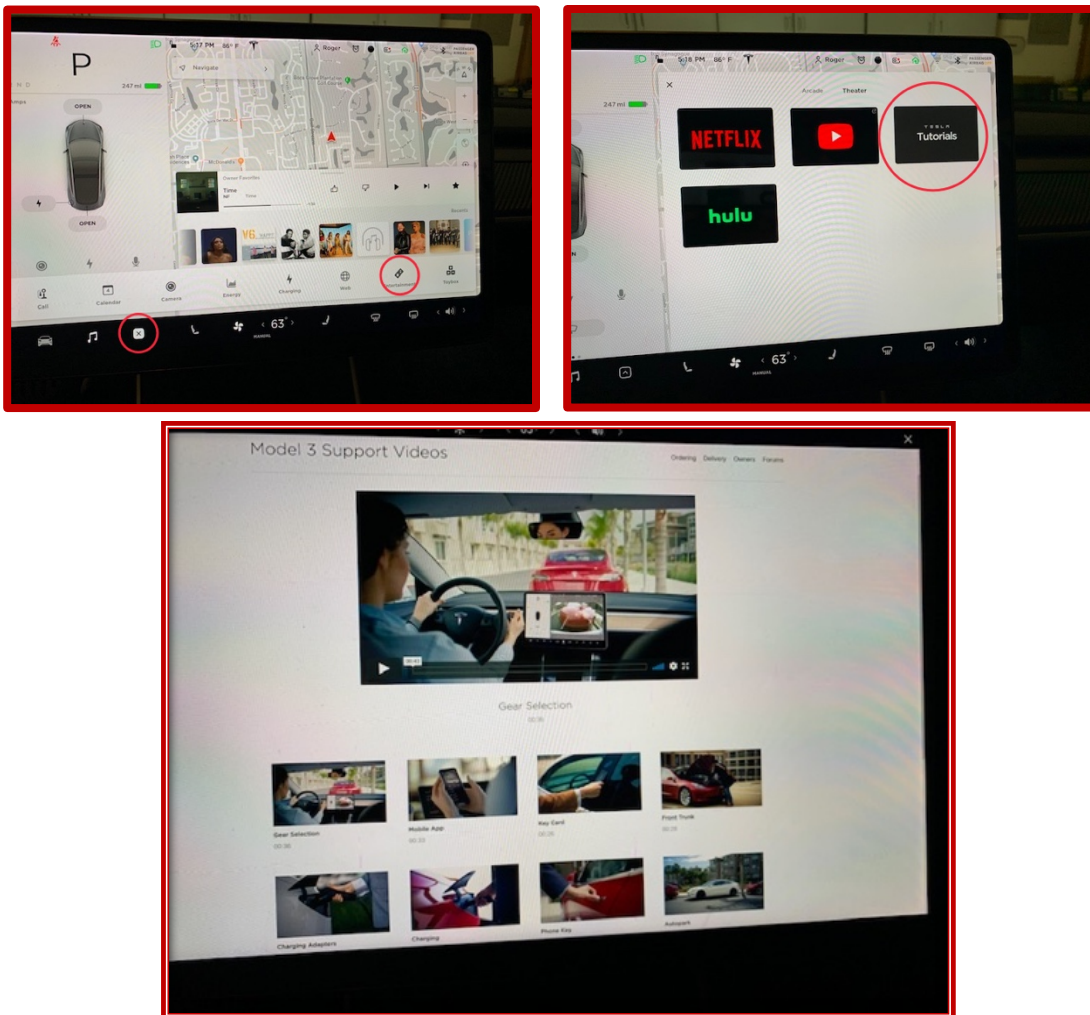
Learning about the Model 3

Before you learn tips and tricks, it might be a good idea to learn about the Model 3—sort of a quick look at important parts of the Model 3 User Manual.

Tesla provides access to a variety of Model 3 tutorials directly on your Model 3 display screen.

Tutorials

Select the apps icon in the lower menu panel, then the entertainment icon, and then **Tutorials** (don't get distracted by Netflix or Hulu!). You'll learn a lot.



Charging Your Model 3

For most new Model 3 owners, vehicle charging is something they've never had to worry about. Once you place your order for Model 3, the first question is:

“How do I set it up, and what do I do if I can't set up charging where I live (e.g., you live in a high rise without a parking garage)?”

Your Charging Circuit and Outlet



Your charging cable is called the Universal Mobile Connector (UMC). It's provided as standard equipment with your Model 3.

The UMC comes standard with a NEMA 14-50 240V adapter (and a NEMA 14-50 120V adapter). These can be interchanged easily.

However, for best charging results, you need a 240V 50A circuit.

Charging at 110V is very inefficient and time-consuming and is NOT recommended.

Charging Your Model 3

Wait! What? I really don't get volts (V) and amps (A). Why is 240V better than 110V?

What are volts and amps? You don't need an electrical engineer's understanding of Volts (V) and Amps (A), even though you own a battery electric vehicle (BEV). But it's helpful to have a very basic understanding of the terms.



"Volts are like water pressure. If pressure is high, water will shoot out of a hose at great speed. Likewise, the higher the voltage, the faster electricity will flow [through a circuit]." (Nick Howe)

So ... **there's a lot more "pressure" in a 240V circuit, meaning that electricity will flow faster and consequently, your battery will charge faster.**

Amps are a measure of electrical current and are analogous to the volume of the water that comes out of a hose. The more amps, the more current is coming through a particular circuit.

So ... **a circuit that allows 32 amps to pass through it is much more efficient for charging than a circuit that allows less than 20 amps to pass through it.**

Charging Your Model 3

The Basics

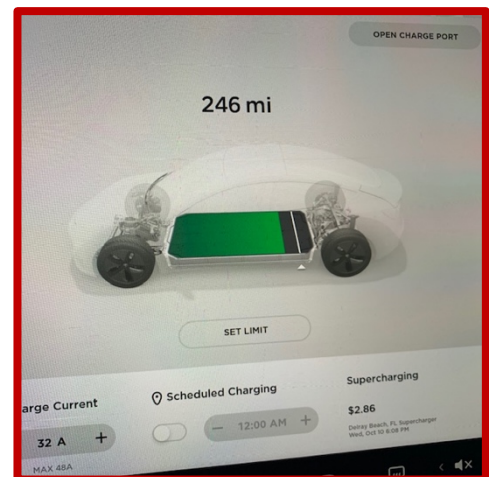
Because charging your Model 3 (or for that matter, any BEV) will be a new experience, it's likely you'll have a few questions ...

“How much should I charge, and more important, how many miles of range will I get from each hour of charging?”

How Much to Charge?

For normal daily usage, you should charge to 80 or 90 percent, not a full “range charge” (that you'd use for a long road trip). This maximizes battery life and also takes less time.

Press the lightning bolt symbol on your display, and then set the charge percentage within the charging window sliding the white caret either left or right.



How many miles of range will I get per hour of charging?

Your Model 3 will get about 30 miles of range per hour of charging for a recommended NEMA 14-50 circuit. That means that an 8-hour overnight charge will provide about 240 miles of range.

Removing the charging cable.

If your car is locked and you're charging, you may find that you can't remove the UMC from Model 3, even if you have your phone and press the button at the top of the UMC charging connector. **To remove the UMC, press the driver door handle inward or open the driver door first, then remove the UMC.**

Charging Your Model 3

No matter how hard I try to keep my charging cable neat and organized, it gets tangled and is hard to hang up.

UMC tangles.

To help get rid of tangles: **Disconnect the UMC from the NEMA 14-50 outlet. Hold it so the charging connector hangs downward. Allow the cable to rotate and ‘untwist.’** Then coil the cable as normal and rehang the UMC, plugging it back into the outlet.



The High-Power Wall Connector (HPWC)



The HPWC is a Tesla accessory that will provide somewhat faster charging (if you have a 60AMP circuit). It's a cool looking device that provides nice charging cable management, but **the HPWC isn't really necessary for most Model 3 owners, unless you need to do fast charges during the day.** In general, a NEMA 14-50 240V 50A outlet and the UMC will serve you well. By the way, the standard UMC limits charging to 32A for Model 3.

Charging Your Model 3

I'm buying a Model 3, and it's the second Tesla in my garage. Do I need to have an electrician install a second charging circuit?

Charging Two Teslas at the Same Location

If you're lucky enough to own two Teslas, **generally you do NOT need to have two charging circuits**. Most multiple Tesla owners use a single UMC, charging their Teslas on alternate nights. Just be sure that you've positioned your NEMA 14-50 outlet or your HPWC so that the charging cable (UMC) can reach both vehicles. However, if both owners drive long distances each day, it may be necessary to have two circuits so that both Teslas can receive a full charge overnight.

Supercharging strategies

If you arrive at a Tesla supercharger and there's a car in stall 1A, don't pull into 1B, if you have an option. Stall 1B shares power with 1A and as a result, your charging time will be somewhat slower.

Better to go down the line to a different charger number.



Charging Your Model 3

My grocery store/coffee shop/mall has public charging stations for EVs. Can I use them for my Tesla?

Charging at a Public (non-Tesla charger)

When you're using a public class 2 charger (e.g., ChargePoint), **you'll need an adapter to enable the J1772 charge plug on the public charger to connect to the charge port on your Model 3.** A J1772 adapter can be acquired directly from Tesla.

Unplugging from a Public Charger

When you're ready to unplug the charging cable coming from the public charger, **you need to get into your Model 3, hit the lightning bolt icon to get to the charging window and then tap the lock/unlock icon after charging has stopped.** The connector will then unlock.



Rebooting

Like all computer-based systems, the Model 3 display processor occasionally “flips a bit” and your display will freeze, act flaky, or otherwise go down. In more extreme cases, some automotive function may act in an unusual or dysfunctional way. That’s when it’s important to know how to “reboot.”

Display reboot. If you need to reboot your display processor because it’s acting flaky or has frozen, you use the “two thumb salute.” **Press down on both steering wheel scroll wheels and hold for about 5 seconds, and the processor will reboot.** The screen will go blank for a minute or less, and then the Tesla “T” will appear. The screen will reappear a 10 – 20 seconds later and you’re good to go.



Note that it sometimes takes a minute or two to achieve wireless connectivity. Note also that **you can continue to drive the Model 3 during this activity but there is no display of speed or anything else**—the screen is black.



Hard Reboot. If you feel the need to reboot the processors in the entire car, **use the same approach for the “two thumb salute” noted earlier, but in this case, press on the brake. All systems will reboot.** Note that the car can NOT be driven during this activity. In general, a “hard reboot” should be conducted in consultation with Tesla service, who might recommend it in select circumstances.

Using Autopilot

Autopilot represents the beginning stages of autonomous driving. It's still "beta" and it does require careful monitoring, but it sure makes long distance driving easier!

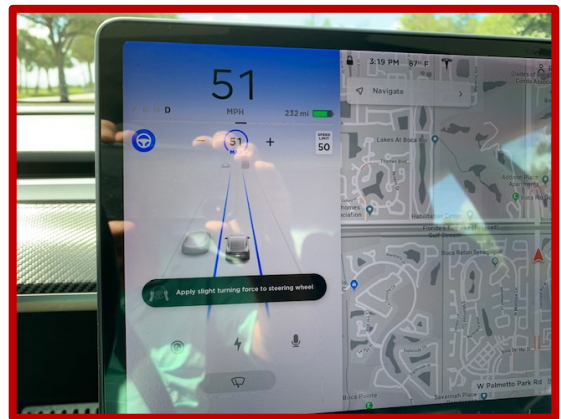
Autopilot 'Touch' Verification

For some Model 3 owners, a mildly irritating aspect of Tesla autopilot is that it demands that you verify your presence and attention by regularly touching the steering wheel when autopilot is engaged.

One way to satisfy this requirement without jiggling the steering wheel is to **roll or tap the right scroll wheel on the steering wheel**

to acknowledge your presence and attention. Note that if you roll the wheel, you will increase/decrease the max Autopilot speed by 1 mph for each click, so be aware, scrolling up 1 mph and then on the next verification demand, down 1 mph.

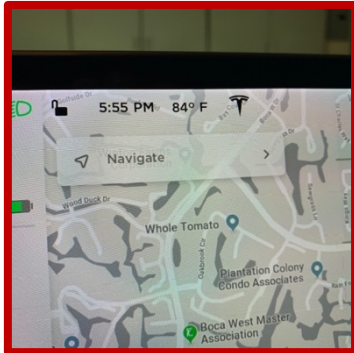
Another approach that some owners claim can work is to **rest your right elbow on the center console arm rest and hold the steering wheel at the 4 – 5 o'clock position with your right hand, palm downward.** This does work sometimes, but we've found it's not always reliable.



Whenever you drive (even if your Model 3 is doing most of the work), it's important to always remain alert—safety first!

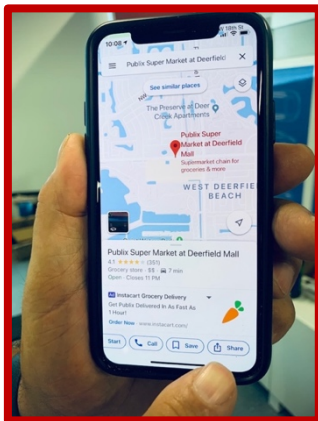
Navigation

Navigating Home



If you need to navigate “Home” from some location, the easiest way is to **swipe down on the Navigate button in the upper left-hand portion of the map display. That will initiate a route to your home.**

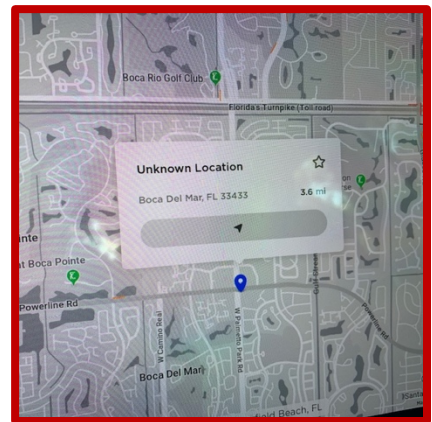
Deleting a Navigation Address from your List. **Touch the address and swipe right.**



Sharing a Destination Found with an iPhone

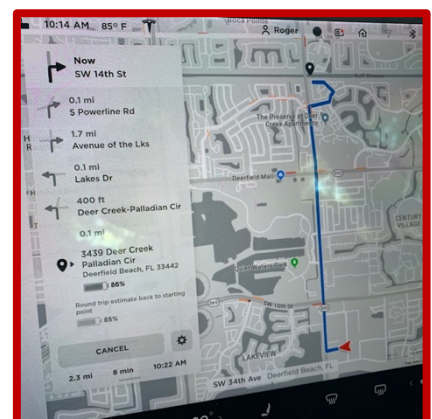
If you’re not in your car and happen to use Google Maps to look up a destination on your iPhone, you can share the destination with your Model 3 Nav system. Look up the destination using Google Maps on your iPhone, **press “Share” on the iPhone, select the Tesla App**

icon and you’ll send the destination to your Model 3 nav system.



Navigate to a Non-address Location

If you want to navigate to an intersection of two roads, but don’t have an address to input into the nav system, you can **find the intersection on your Model 3 map display and press down at that location. A small window will appear** with a “navigate” button, indicating an “unknown address.” **Press the navigation arrow in the small window and your Model 3 will set a route for you to get there.**



Range

Almost every new BEV owner suffers from “range anxiety.” Don’t stress. For most people, most of the time, it’s a nothing burger. Stop worrying about it and enjoy your Model 3.

Getting More Range

If you’re worried about range on a long trip, slow down. The biggest contributor to range loss is aerodynamic “drag” which increases as the square of the vehicle velocity ... so going slower does maximize range.

What is My ‘Real’ Range?

If you want a somewhat more accurate indication the range you have remaining during a trip, use the energy graph. **The energy graph is acquired by selecting the App icon in the lower menu panel and then selecting “Energy Graph.”** The graph will provide you with an estimate of remaining range based on the energy consumed last 5, 15, or 30 (selectable) miles of driving. For those who are technical, it also provides you with your energy consumption in Wh/mile.



Regen and Range Charges

If you’re about to take a road trip and put a full range charge on your Model 3, be aware that regen will not kick in for the first 5 or 10 miles of driving. This can be a little disconcerting once you become used to regen, so it’s something to be aware of.

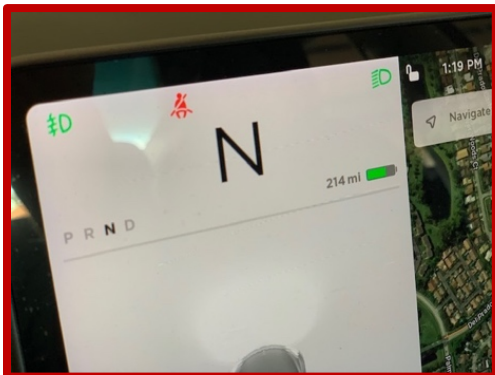
Tips While You're Driving Model 3



Turn signals. Model 3 has a somewhat unique approach for its turn signal. **Pushing all the way down or up sets the signal and leaves it on. To cancel the turn signal, tap it once in the same direction as the turn.**

Going from reverse to drive without pressing the brake.

If you're in reverse (R) backing up slowly (<5 mph) **you can put Model 3 into drive (D) using the stalk on your steering wheel column without pressing on the brake.**



Neutral. Although it's rare, there may be times you'll want to put your car into Neutral (N). To do this, **put your car into Drive (D) and press the brake putting it into "Hold" mode. Now, push up on the right steering column stalk until an N appears.** Your Model 3 is in neutral.

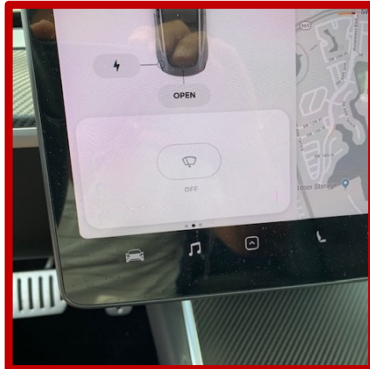
Speed increase while in cruise control. When you're in cruise control, you can speed up and reset the cruise control speed. **Press the right scroll wheel, and it will reset the speed to the new speed. Rolling the right scroll wheel will increase/decrease your max speed incrementally.**

Controlling the music display. To control the music display, you can **swipe up and down on the music icon in the lower menu panel** (bottom of the screen, icon is second from the left). You can also do this by swiping on the music display itself, but sometimes the icon is simpler.

Tips While You're Driving Model 3

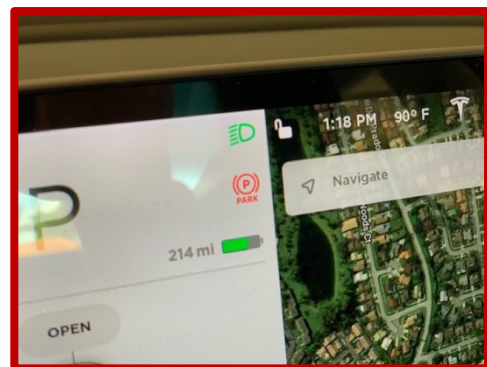


Windshield wipers. For a quicker way to bring up the windshield wipers when it starts to rain, press the button at the end of the left steering column stalk. The wipers will initiate one time and the wiper control will appear on your display. Once the small wiper control window appears, you can set the wipers to the style and speed you desire. Note also that the wipers can be set to “Auto” so they initiate when rain impacts the windshield.

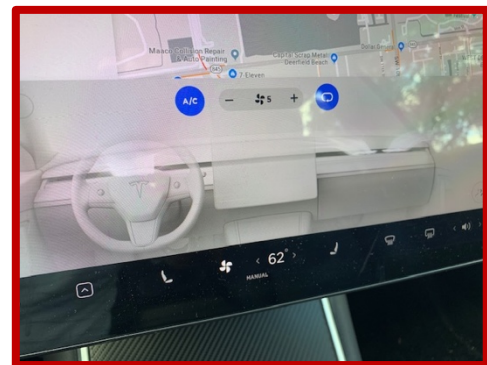


Parking brake. To engage the parking brake, as opposed to putting the car in park (P), press and hold the button on the end of the right steering

wheel stalk for 2 seconds. A parking brake indicator will appear on your display.



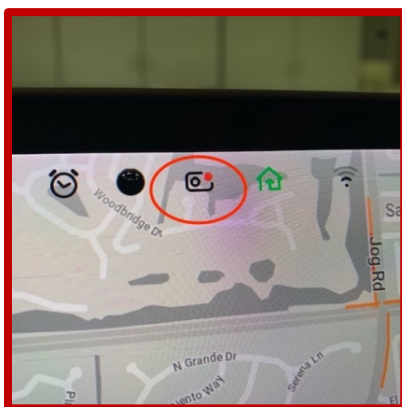
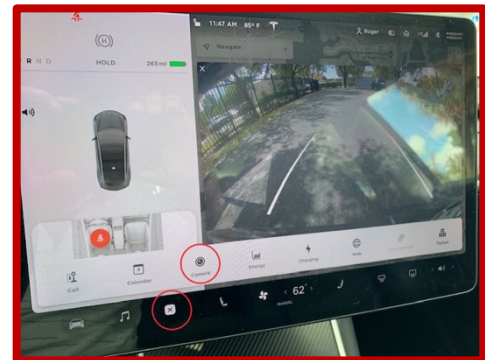
Climate control. If you want to turn the climate control system off, touch and hold the fan icon in the lower panel for about 2 – 3 seconds, and it will turn the system off. The same holds for turning the system off after you've used your defroster (the defroster icon is in the lower menu panel).



Your HVAC system. To turn on your HVAC system, you can tap a temperature indicator. If you tap it a second time, a slider appears and you can adjust the temp without hitting the right and left arrows next to temperature. To turn HVAC off, just touch and hold the fan icon for about 2 seconds.

Tips While You're Driving Model 3

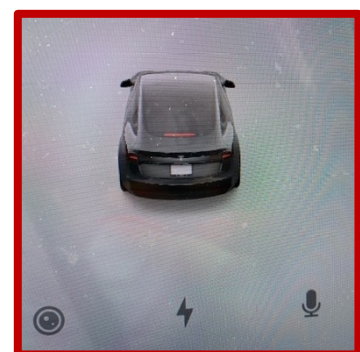
Backup camera. To display the rear facing camera while driving, **tap the app icon in the lower menu panel (bottom of the screen, icon is third from the left)**. It will bring up a variety of apps including the rear camera function. If you want to switch away from the rear camera, **close the camera window by swiping down**. To get back to the camera view, simply swipe up on the app icon and the rear camera view will reappear.



Dash cam. To save the last 60 seconds of your dash camera or the output of Sentry Mode, you must press the camera icon (a camera and red dot icon in the upper middle of the display screen). Then hit the download icon that replaces the camera icon. Finally, a green check mark will appear indicating that the video is saved.

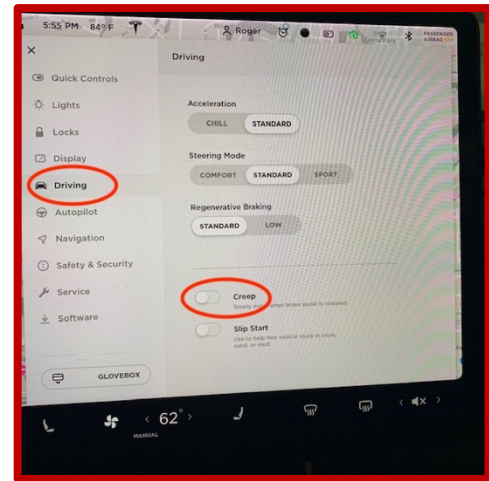
Removing the flash drive. To eject your flash drive so you can view the video on your PC or Mac, tap and hold the camera icon for a second or two. When the red indicator turns gray, the flash drive can be safely removed.

Your car's avatar in the speedometer window. The avatar of your car on the display will provide you with an indication of any lights that are out. For example, if you look closely, both rear tail lights are lit when braking. If a tail light is out, it will not light in the avatar. Another little-known fact: the steering wheel icon (upper left) within the speedometer window will turn in conjunction with your actual steering wheel. Cool!



Tips While You're Driving Model 3

Creep Mode. “Creep mode” simulates the feeling of an ICE vehicle with an automatic transmission. You take your foot off the brake in creep mode and the car creeps forward. **Creep mode is toggled on or off by hitting the car icon in the lower menu panel (bottom of the screen, icon is far left), then hitting “Driving” and then toggling “Creep Mode” as desired.**



Autopark. If you struggle with parallel parking, Autopark is a must-have feature. **Cruise slowly by a line of parked cars. For parallel parking, drive past an open space until a blue**

circled “P” illuminates on your display. Shift into reverse and press “Start.” The Model 3 takes care of the rest.

In addition, AutoPark can park in vertical parking slots found in large parking lots. **Cruise slowly by a line of parked cars. For vertical parking, drive past an open space until a blue circled “P” illuminates on your display. Shift into reverse and press “Start.”** The Model 3 takes care of the rest and backs into the space.

As an aside ... when doing vertical slot parking, AutoPark usually does the equivalent of a 3-point turn maneuver and then accurately backs into the pace. We suspect that will change as the system becomes more intelligent.

The Tesla Mobile App and Tesla Apps

When you hear the phrase Tesla App(s) it means different things in different contexts.

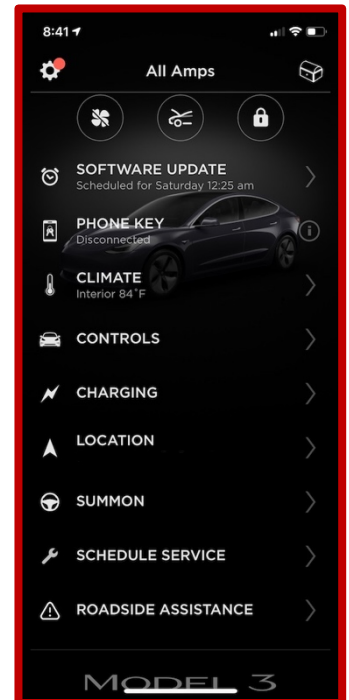
The Tesla Mobile App

This app resides on your iOS or Android smartphone and can be used to control various functional aspects of your Model 3 remotely, including Smart Summon.

Screen-Based Tesla Apps

Screen-based Tesla apps provide a variety of information and capabilities via your display screen. They control everything from your rear camera, to the Web Browser, to your Calendar and Entertainment.

To get at the screen-based Tesla apps that are available, use the app icon in the lower menu panel (bottom of the screen, icon is third from the left). It will bring up a variety of apps (e.g., the web browser). If you want to revisit the last app you were using, simply swipe up on the app icon and the last app window will reappear.



Voice Activation

Voice activation allows you to interact with your Model 3 without taking your eyes off the road, reaching for the display, or otherwise being distracted.

The number of voice activation commands grows every year and it's likely that soon, a majority of vehicle functions will be controlled by voice.

Voice activation Commands

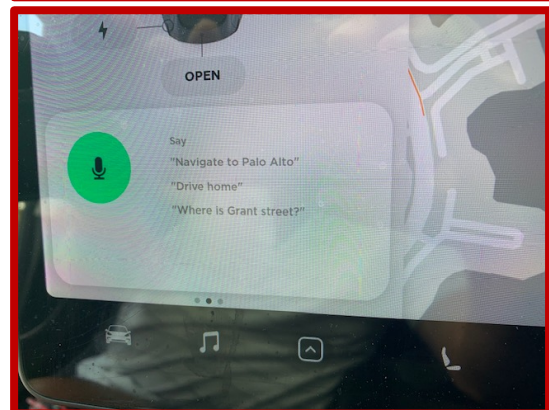
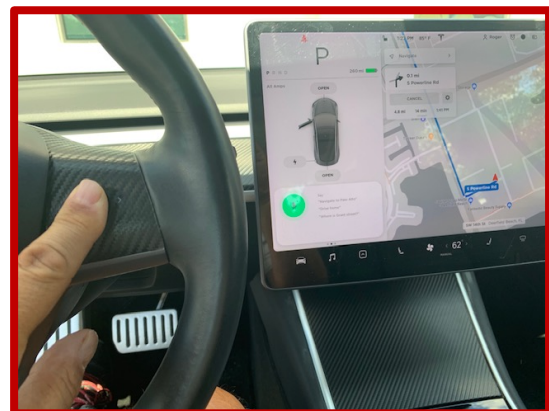
Press in the right scroll wheel and speak your command.

You can use voice commands to:

- Call a contact.
- Navigate to a location.
- Control the audio system

Initiating Voice Commands

The easiest way to initiate a voice command is by pressing the right scroll button. You can also tap the microphone button on the touchscreen. **When you hear the tone, speak your command.** As you speak, the touchscreen displays an interpretation of your command. It also displays tips to remind you of the type of commands you can speak. When you finish speaking the command, tap the voice button again or simply wait.



Voice Activation

Making a call. To call a contact on your Bluetooth-connected phone, say “Call” or “Dial”, followed by the contact’s first and/or last names. For example, “Call Joe” or “Call Joe Smith”. If there are multiple phone numbers associated with a contact, you’ll be prompted to choose the one you want.

Initiating Navigation. To search for or navigate to a location, say “Where is”, “Drive to”, or “Navigate to”, followed by an address, a business name, a business category, or landmark.

Getting Home. If you defined a navigation address for your home or work location, you can use a voice command to navigate there by saying “Navigate home” or “Navigate to work”.

Using the Audio System. To listen to an Internet music service, say “Listen to” or “Play”, followed by the name of the song, album, artist, or combination. To improve voice recognition accuracy, provide multiple cues in your command, such as the artist plus the song (for example, “Listen to Yellow Brick Road” or “Play Yellow Brick Road by Elton John”). The recorded command must contain a verb that is supported.

Voice Activation Verbs

Navigation ...

“Navigate to <place>”
 “Where is <place>”
 “Drive to <place or address>”
 “Take me to <place or address>”
 “Drive home” (if you configured a home address)
 “Navigate to work” (if you configured a work address)
 “Cancel Trip”
 “Cancel Navigation”

Navigation ...

“Call <name>”
 “Dial <name>”

Audio/Music ...

“Play <song/artist/genre>”
 “Listen to <song/artist/genre>”

Other ...

“Bug report” (then describe the problem.)
 “ho ho ho” (activates Santa mode easter egg.)

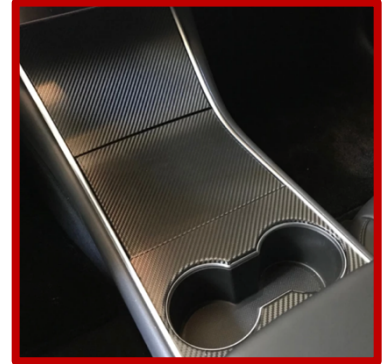
Other Tips for Model 3

Fingerprints on the gloss black center console

The least expensive way to remedy this common problem is to apply a high-quality vinyl wrap to the two center console doors and the cup holder area.

Wraps can be acquired at EVANNEX® and come in matte finishes that reduce or eliminate the appearance of fingerprints. More information can be obtained

here: <https://evannex.com/products/interior-vinyl-kit-collection-for-model-3>



What to do with the Key Card?

The flat, gloss surface of the center console doesn't hold the key card well, and if you corner aggressively, the card can and does slide off, often in between the front seat and the console. **Our key card holder, "Card Rails," available at low cost from EVANNEX stops the Key Card from sliding.** More information can be

obtained here: <https://evannex.com/products/cardrailstm-integrated-key-card-holder-for-tesla-model-3>



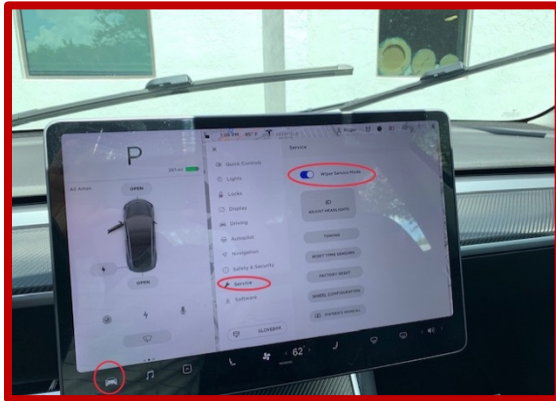
Softer ride. If you find the Model 3 ride a bit harsh, you can lower the tire pressure by 3 – 4 psi to 41 psi with no noticeable decrease in driving efficiency. Note that at 39 psi, the tire pressure management system (TPMS) will issue a warning for low pressure.

Tire Pressure warnings. Your tire pressure management system (TPMS) is quite sensitive and will generally report Model 3 tire pressure below 39 psi.

The recommended tire pressure is 45 psi but as we note above, you can set it at 41 psi for a softer ride.



Other Tips for Model 3



Replacing windshield wipers. **If you need to replace your windshield wipers, go to Car Icon (lower left-hand corner of the menu panel) → Service → Wiper Service Mode toggle.** The wipers will come up half way, allowing you to get at the wiper blades with no problem.

Bug Reporting. **If you want to report a bug to Tesla directly, activate voice commands by pressing the right scroll wheel and say “Bug Report.”** Then speak your report and it’s automatically transmitted to Tesla.

12 V socket. **The 12V socket for Model 3 is inside the rear storage area of the center console.**

“Curb rash” (scraping damage on the perimeter of your rims) happens. It’s unsightly on nice rims, and can be expensive and inconvenient to fix.

Curb rash and rim protection. You should use rim protection to save your wheels from curb rash and eliminate the need for costly repairs. We recommend “Wheel Bands,” a rim protection product that’s easy to install, looks kind of cool, can be acquired at EVANNEX. Wheel Bands come in a variety of colors, as well as reflective finishes.

More information can be obtained here: <https://evannex.com/products/wheel-bands-kit-for-tesla-model-3>



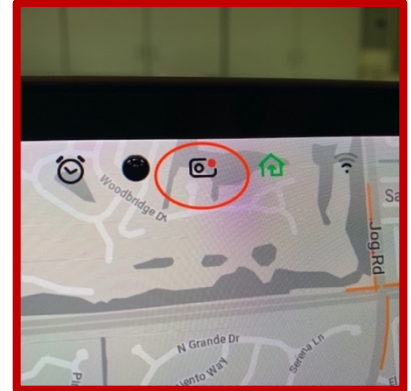
Other Tips for Model 3

Setting up Dashcam and Sentry Mode recording.

You'll need a 32G flash drive formatted to FAT32 format or a portable SSD drive.

For OSX, step-by-step directions can be for formatting found here: <https://www.admfactory.com/how-to-format-usb-flash-drive-to-fat32-in-mac-os/>

For Windows, step-by-step directions for formatting can be found here: <https://www.easeus.com/partition-master/format-usb-flash-drive-in-windows-10.html>



Once the drive has been formatted, place it in one of the front USB ports inside the center console under the display and you're ready to record.



Trunk and Frunk Opening. Some Model 3 owners find that it would be convenient (e.g., when you're carrying groceries) for the Trunk and Frunk to open fully without the need to pull up on the trunk hatch or frunk hood.

EVANNEX offers specialized trunk and frunk pneumatic struts that accomplish automatic opening.

More information can be obtained here:

<https://evannex.com/products/trunk-lift-pneumatic-hood-supports-for-tesla-model-3-set-of-two>

and here:

<https://evannex.com/products/frunk-lift-pneumatic-lift-supports-for-tesla-model-3>

Share Your Tips and Tricks

We hope that the tips and tricks we've presented here make your Model 3 driving experience even more pleasurable.

If you've discovered a cool Model 3 tip or trick that you'd like to share, tell us about it by contacting us at info@evannex.com

Drive Electric!

About Us

EVANNEX® was formed in 2012, when the Tesla Model S was still a beta prototype, and Model X and Model 3 were nothing more than footnotes in Tesla's broader strategy to introduce elegant, long-range EVs to the world.

We began in a garage in South Florida with a single product. Today, we've grown into a company that now designs, manufactures, and sells over 100 aftermarket accessories for Tesla vehicles.

Our goal, stated simply, is to make the perfect car perfect for you. We're proud of our long history within the Tesla community and are gratified that so many Tesla owners trust our products and give us their business.

The EVANNEX Portfolio of Model 3 Products

EVANNEX offers the industry's largest and highest quality selection of products for Model 3. These include products for the vehicle's interior and exterior along with specialty items. Our products encompass offerings that customize the look of Model 3 and/or provide functional enhancements to the vehicle. Many are available ONLY at EVANNEX:

Carpet floor mats	Frunk Cooler
All weather floor mats	Custom Car Cover
Vinyl kits (interior and exterior)	Chrome Trunk Molding
Dual Wireless Qi charger	Eco Hitch
Custom Cupholder Insert	Quick Install License Plate Bracket
Door Control Stickers	Bolt-on License Plate Bracket
Performance Pedal Covers	"T" Puddle Lights
LED Lighting Upgrades	Rear Lighted "T"
Foot Rest Dead Pedal	Frunk Lifts
Model 3 Key Card Rails	Trunk Lifts
Glove Box Hook	Carbon Fiber Spoiler
Glasses Clip	Rear Reflector Trim
Glove Box Bumper	Side Camera Covers
Center Console Insert	Mirror Covers
SeatHoodie	Charge Port Skins
SunShades	Key Fob Case
Seat Covers	Grab Handle Tool
Display screen protective films and glass	Reverse Umbrella
Rear Seat Pet Cover	Charging Notices
Trunk and Frunk Lifts	Posters
Trunk Organizer	Mugs
	Tee Shirts

EVANNEX introduces new products every month. Please visit evannex.com or [sign-up for our weekly newsletter](#) to learn about new offerings.