



*Photo courtesy of TMC user "fluxmag"*

# Tesla Model S

## Lesser-Known Tips and Tricks

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## Tips and Tricks You May Not Have Discovered About Your Tesla Model S

The tips and tricks gathered in this document have been suggested by Model S owners who are members of the "Tesla Motors Club" website ([teslamotorsclub.com](http://teslamotorsclub.com)). Most of the tips contained in this document can also be found in the owner's manuals or should have been covered in your Model S delivery training, but since everyone's experience and inclination are different, this document is meant to gather the suggestions together in one place for easy viewing and retrieval. Each suggestion is followed by the username of the forum member who contributed the tip.

The latest version of this document can always be found at [www.Geremology.com/tesla](http://www.Geremology.com/tesla)

## CAR EXTERIOR

### WASHING TIP

When hand washing your car, raise the vehicle to its "Very High" suspension position and then turn it off - less bending down and makes it much easier to spray out the junk in the wheel wells. *[JoshG]*

### HATCH MAXIMUM HEIGHT

The hatch maximum opening position can be set by manually putting it in the position you want then pressing and holding the close button until there's a beep (~3 seconds). *[efusco]*

### DOOR RELEASE LEVER

A gentle/short pull on the door release levers actuates the electronic interlock to open the door, pull it all the way for the mechanical (non-electric) release. *[pete8314]*

### DOOR HANDLE DELAY

There is about a 3-second delay after the door closes before it will open again. *[Nickjhowe]*

## CHARGING

### "STICKY" RANGE CHARGE

Selecting a range-mode charge is an option that will not go back to "standard" after the charge. Repeatedly charging in "Range" mode is not good for the batteries and Tesla cautions against frequent use, so user needs to remember to set this setting back to normal after a range charge. *[JoshG]*

### CHARGE AMPERAGE SETTING IS GPS-AWARE

If you select a lower current limit at one location, the car will remember that setting and apply it for all future charging sessions at that location. Charging at another location will occur at the default amperage setting. *[DaveVa]*

### CHARGE PORT

If you have trouble opening your charge port door via the button on the charge connector, try

aiming it at the defroster lines on the back windshield, which is where the antenna is for this function. *[rlowenth]*

### **CHARGING BAR**

When in "Standard" charge mode, charging will not fill the charging bar all of the way, there will be some empty space on the bar at the right end. The bar will be full only when fully charged in the maximum range mode. *[bob\_p]*

## **CRUISE CONTROL**

### **CRUISE UP/DOWN ADJUSTMENTS**

When cruise control is active, tap cruise lever down or up slightly for - or + 1 MPH; push it further down or up for - or + 5 MPH. *[JoshG]*

### **SPEEDOMETER CRUISE SPEED MARKER**

When cruise control is cancelled, but not turned "off", a marker is shown on your speedometer where you left the setting (and where it will return to when you hit "resume"). *[JoshG]*

### **SUSPEND vs. CANCEL CRUISE CONTROL**

Press in the end of the cruise control stalk slightly to cancel and reset cruise to zero but leave it "armed". Whereas pressing forward on the cruise control stalk cancels it but leaves the set speed ready for a resume. *[Todd Burch]*

## **DRIVING**

### **HILL DRIVING**

Put car in reverse at crest of a hill and then go forward. As you pick up speed you can use the accelerator as a 'brake' now. It will pull regen when you push on the accelerator until you stop and then will use power in reverse as you should be used to. *[Zextraterrestrial]*

### **COASTING**

If you need to coast while driving and don't want to keep holding the pedal, just do a half tap on the shifter column to go to N. *[AC1K]*

## **INTERIOR FEATURES**

### **HIDDEN STORAGE POCKET**

If you have the Leather package, you have one small semi-hidden storage pouch for storing documents, charging cards, coins, etc.. It's on the leading edge of the driver's seat cushion. Not easy to find until you know where to look. *[JoshG]*

### **CHARGE ADAPTER HOLDER**

There's a recess built into the very back left side of the glove box that perfectly holds your J-1772 adapter so it's always at hand when you need it rather than going into the trunk where

your other charging accessories are likely to be stored. Push the adapter in along the left side of the glove box until it snugly fits into the storage area. *[JoshG]*

### EMERGENCY FRUNK OPENER

There's a secondary, mechanical latch beneath the glove box to open the frunk.

### EMERGENCY REAR DOOR LEVERS

There's an emergency mechanical door release for the back doors in case you get stuck. Under the front edge of the seat covered by a carpet cutout. *[efusco]*

### EZ PASS STICKER

You can mount an "EZ pass" windshield sticker and hide most of the sticker by sliding it part way underneath the rear view mirror support on the right side and sliding the top half of the sticker into the seam between the top of the windshield and the roof. (See photo on right). *[stephenpace]*



### ARMREST

Some owners might not realize that the center arm rest slides forward to hide the cup holders. Great place to hide charger and stuff when parking or not in use. *[SouthJerseyJon]*

### KRACO FLOOR MATS

The Kraco model 2520 all-weather floor mats fit the back seats of a Model S perfectly. Available online or at auto parts retailers. *[rloventh]*

### AJAR FRUNK

If frunk will pop ajar but latch closer to front of car will not release, you need to reach under the frunk cover to the left of the latch and press down on lever to open frunk. (See photo). *[Qualcan]*



## **TURN SIGNAL**

Pushing partially up/down on the turn signal stalk blinks the blinker 3 times. Handy for signaling lane changes. *[Francis Lau]*

## **VIBRATING SEATBELT**

With all four windows open and the roof open to the 80% position, the rear center seat belt vibrates in the wind. If I raise the rear driver side window, it changes the airflow and eliminates the vibration. Also, another simpler solution is to slide the seat belt fastener from the bottom (by the seat) all of the way to the top of the belt, where it should stay. This seems to eliminate the vibration - at least so far. Another option could be to always have that seat belt fastened.

*[bob\_p]*

## **LEAVING A/C AND RADIO ON**

If you have passengers in the car and need to hop out to run into a store, for example, leave the key fob in the car, and gently half-close the driver's side door until you hear a light click. That will still leave the radio and climate control on for your passengers, so they aren't left sitting in a cold/hot, quiet car. *[TheAustin]*

## **CLOSING VENTS**

All the vents including the ones in the back will close if you move the horizontal slider to one extreme. *[4sevens.com]*

## **GLOVE BOX**

Glove box locks with car. Quite handy if leaving the car locked with the windows open to keep smaller items secure. *[MLH]*

## **PANO ROOF STOP**

If you press on the rubber seal where the panoramic roof is seated while it's closing, it will stop. *[Todd Burch]*

## **WIPER SINGLE SWIPE**

The wiper stalk will do a single swipe by pushing the end in, like a button. Light and short for wipe, and long for wipe and wash. *[Babylonfive]*

## **REAR HATCH RELEASE**

There is hidden rear hatch release installed in the trunk area for cars with the rear-facing seat option. *[trns18r]*

## **SEAT PRESSURE SENSOR**

When you take enough pressure off the seat the car thinks you hopped out and goes into park. *[jcadman22]*

## **SECONDARY VENT FLAPS**

If you slide either of the driver's side A/C vents ALL the way to the left, then a secondary flap comes down (it's not very visible, as it's behind the vent's directional grills) and closes the vent completely. Ditto for the passenger side, but you have to slide them all the way to the right on that side, instead of to the left. *[Michaelwm]*

## **TRUNK SIDE POCKETS**

The 2 side pockets in the trunk are open on the bottom. *[Neech]*

### **PARCEL SHELF AND FOOTWELL COVER STORAGE**

You can store the parcel shelf and rear footwell covers in the frunk. They fit longways (front to back). *[EarlyAdopter]*

### **PANO ROOF PINCH SENSOR**

There is a pinch sensor that runs around the perimeter of the pano roof. When an object, like your hand or finger or anything else, gets pinched for an instant between the closing glass and the pinch sensor the roof will automatically reopen. *[ddruz]*

### **MAKESHIFT CLOTHES BAR**

Stretching a fairly short bungee strap from the two rear-seat anchors that are hidden under the carpeting in the back of the larger of the rear seats (ie, the middle seat) creates an effective "clothes bar" from which to hang clothes - drape them forward; works quite well. *[AudubonB]*

## **KEYFOB**

### **ALL WINDOWS DOWN**

Press and hold the "roof" (middle) button on your keyfob to lower all the windows at once. This is especially nice when walking up to a hot car. *[JoshG]*

### **DOOR UNLOCK WITH DEAD KEYFOB BATTERY**

The car can be unlocked even when the battery in the fob is dead by placing it on the passenger side window by the windsheild wiper. *[efusco]*

### **STARTING CAR WITH WEAK KEYFOB BATTERY**

The car can be started even when the battery in the fob is dead by placing it in the cup holder of the arm rest. *[efusco]*

## **LIGHTING**

### **READING LIGHTS**

The four lights that come on as "dome lights" can also be individually turned on by just pushing on the lens. Turn it off by clicking it again. *[JoshG]*

### **AMBIENT LIGHTING BUZZ "WORKAROUND"**

Until it's fixed by Tesla, if your Ambient Lights are causing a buzzing noise to be heard, you can either shut off the Ambient Lighting from your touchscreen, or turn the display brightness UP to at least 85%. *[Todd Burch]*

### **AUTO OFF READING LIGHTS**

Interior map/reading lights will turn off when the car locks even if you turn them on manually. *[Bubblertips]*

### **FOG LIGHTS**

The fog lights don't come on unless the car is fully "on." You can get in, sit down and use the touchscreen to turn on parking lights and headlights, but the fog lights are non-responsive until you press the brake to turn the car "on." *[mknox]*

### **DIMMING DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS**

During the daytime with the daytime running lights on, when a turn is being signaled, the DRL LEDs on the side that is blinking are dimmed for the duration of the turn. When the turn signal is canceled, the DRL is returned to ON. *[woof]*

### **CORNERING LIGHTS WHEN REVERSING**

When you put the car in reverse, both front Cornering Lights come on. I assume it would be the same at night with headlights on. *[mknox]*

## **OTHER DRIVER CONTROLS**

### **WIPER SINGLE SWIPE**

Push in the end of the turn signal stalk to have the wipers do a single swipe without spraying cleaner. Push in further to have it spray with wash fluid. *[Todd Burch]*

### **MIRROR TILT-ON-REVERSE**

Both side mirror tilt positions can be programmed when the car is in reverse. *[Todd Burch]*

### **EMERGENCY BRAKE**

Hold the tip of the shifter lever in to engage emergency braking. *[Todd Burch]*

### **SIDE MIRROR DEFROST**

Side mirrors do have electric defrost circuitry but there is no separate on/off for this as in some cars. Side mirror defrost comes on automatically with rear defrost function. *[mlascano]*

### **EXTEND DOOR HANDLES**

Tap the Park button to extend the door handles. *[NigelM]*

## **STEERING WHEEL CONTROLS**

### **MUTE/PAUSE**

When listening to most audio sources, click left steering wheel roller button to pause and resume (or in the case of radio and some streaming services, mute and unmute the audio). *[JoshG]*

### **MIC MUTE**

The left steering wheel roller button will mute and unmute the mic when on a call. *[DaveVa]*

## RECENT CALLS

With a bluetooth phone connected, you can call up a list of recent calls and select one for redial without lifting your hands from the wheel. Click right-side "Menu" button on steering wheel, select the phone icon, and your recent calls will appear on the right-of-speedo info display. Right click-wheel can be used to pick and dial any entry. *[JoshG]*

## IN-CALL FUNCTIONS

While on a call, clicking the right-hand "Phone" button on the steering wheel brings up a menu of choices such as hang up, mute microphone, or put the call on hold. Select from the options with the right scroll wheel. *[Todd Burch]*

## REBOOT SCREENS

Hold down the middle steering wheel buttons on both sides for a few seconds to reboot the main display. Hold down the top steering wheel buttons on both sides for a few seconds to reboot the driver's console display. *[Todd Burch]*

## TAKING SCREEN SHOTS

Hold down the bottom steering wheel buttons on each side for a few moments to grab a screenshot (Tesla Service can access this, but we cannot currently). *[Todd Burch]*

## QUICK SET OPTIONS

Using the steering wheel scroll wheel click to bring up the quick set options. Select sunroof and when the percent option pops up just click the scroll wheel again. This automatically opens the panoramic roof to the vent position. In addition, closing the roof from any previously open position requires a single click of the scroll wheel when you navigate to it from the quick set options on the dash. *[nrcooled]*

## CLIMATE CONTROL

When using the scroll wheel to adjust Climate temperatures, you can turn off climate by double clicking. *[hvb]*

## SUNROOF CONTROLS

When selecting sunroof via steering wheel scroll wheel, normally you can scroll up or down to select any % opening. Also, a single click selects vent (12%), and a second click closes the roof. After scrolling to any other % opening (20%-100%), another click closes roof (ie you don't have to scroll back to 0% in order to close roof). *[SarahsDad]*

# TOUCHSCREEN & TELEMATICS

## FULL-SCREEN SHORTCUT

Clicking an icon along the top edge for an app that's already displayed makes that one go full screen. Sometimes this is easier than clicking that tiny little "expand the window" button in the lower corner. Clicking it again in the top bar makes it go back to where it was. *[JoshG]*

## APP SCREEN LAYOUT SHORTCUTS

The "App" icons from the "Tray" at the top of your 17" screen can be dragged directly to either the top half or the bottom half of the touchscreen, depending on where you want that app to



show up. You can also drag it to the miniature "top-half" and "bottom-half" icons that appear at the top of the screen when you begin dragging an app icon. *[JoshG]*

### **CHARGE SCREEN SHORTCUT**

Rather than going through the controls screen, you can simply tap the little Battery icon that is always at the top edge of the 17" screen. *[JoshG]*

### **BLUETOOTH CONFIGURATION SCREEN**

Tap the little bluetooth icon that is always at the top of the 17" screen. *[JoshG]*

### **SIRI**

iPhone 4S and later can use Siri when paired with your Model S. The microphone and speakers in the car will function for Siri's voice input and output. However, as of now, there's no way to trigger Siri from the vehicle controls and you'd still have to press and hold your iOS device's home button. *[rlowenth]*

### **TESLA "ABOUT" SCREEN**

Pressing the Tesla logo on the 17" screen brings up an image of your car, showing your VIN#, firmware version, and most recent firmware release notes. The image of the car on screen should match your actual car's color, wheel choice, roof type, headlights/fogs/daytime running light's state, left turn signal or flashers state, and brake light state. High beams, panoramic roof status and windows are not dynamically drawn to match their current state. This is one way to know if and when your brake lights go on due to regen braking. *[stevezzzz]*

### **PROGRAMMING HOMELINK**

When programming homelink, it's easier if you hold the remote inside the frunk. *[Todd Burch]*

### **BATTERY SIZE**

Tap the Tesla logo in the top center of the main display to see the battery size (85/60/40) and software version. *[vcor]*

### **"EXIT" DRIVER PROFILE**

You can enter a new driver profile called "EXIT" with the steering wheel all the way forward and the drivers seat all the way back for easy exits and entering (as some cars do automatically). *[DavidWexler]*

### **DIRECTIONS LIST**

The list of directions that pops over the 17" screen is scrollable up and down to see the complete list. *[nickjhowe]*

### **HIGHLIGHT DIRECTIONS**

Pressing any of the items in the direction list will highlight it, and the map will reformat to highlight the appropriate section of the route. Pressing the item again will deselect it and the map will reset to its original view. *[nickjhowe]*

### **BLUETOOTH AUDIO**

Audiobooks from Audible.com can be played in the Model S by starting the Audible player on the Bluetooth device, and then selecting the device from the console as the audio source. This resumes playing from the last position, and will automatically stop playing for phone calls or

when the car stops. While you can put an MP3 audio book on a USB device, the car's software currently doesn't have "bookmark" support to resume at the last position played. *[bob\_p]*

### **PHONE VOICEMAIL**

Voicemail (on most smartphones that support visual voicemail) can be heard through the car by selecting the phone's Bluetooth as the audio device and then select playing the voicemail on the phone. *[bob\_p]*

### **CLEANING THE TOUCHSCREEN**

Take a cloth that you might use to clean your eye glasses or smartphone or iPad type device. Fold the cloth so you have at least 4 layers of cloth stacked on top of each other, then wipe away! *[blurry\_eyed]*

### **CANCEL AUTOMATIC REARVIEW CAMERA**

When in reverse, you can touch the 17 inch display to cancel the "automatic" rearview camera view. *[DaveVa]*

### **USB FAVORITES**

While playlists are not yet supported, if you mark songs on a USB stick as favorites, when you play one song from the Favorites list, when the song ends, the next song in the Fav list is played by alphabetical order. *[bob\_p]*

### **NAVIGATION DISPLAY**

The navigation display on the left of the speedo zooms in/out based on your speed. It's fairly dramatic when when overtaking to see that zoom waaaay out. *[jcadman22]*

### **AUTOMATIC VOLUME ADJUSTMENT**

Radio volume self lowers if the volume is greater than 3 and the door is opened. Volume goes back up when the door is shut. *[Bubbletips]*

### **VOICE COMMAND**

If you have your phone connected via Bluetooth and use the Voice Command to say "Call..." it will only search for a contact in your phone. However, if you're looking to call a business, restaurant, etc, use the Voice Command and say "Navigate to..." and when it finds the business, it also displays the phone number. Then, you can just hit the phone number to call it, and don't have to navigate to it if you don't need to. *[TheAustin]*

### **PAUSE TUNE-IN**

You can pause live radio using TuneIn. I've taken to listening to even local radio using TuneIn because I can pause a good song as I pull up to a drive through, get a phone call, etc. and come back to it later. Is there anything this car can't do?! *[riceguy]*

### **CALL DESTINATION**

If you're navigating to a destination and you tap the checkered flag on the map, it allows you to call your destination (if applicable). Useful if you're on your way to a restaurant, for example, and you're going to be late. *[Todd Burch]*

### **SUSPENSION SETTING**

When you set the suspension to Very High, it will automatically readjust to High when you hit 10mph, and then back to Standard when hit 20mph. *[The Austin]*

## **SUNROOF SLIDER**

The little detent in the sunroof opening slider is the quietest position (least aerodynamic buffeting). *[Todd Burch]*

## **AUDIO DECREASE W/ DOOR ADJUSTMENT**

For those of you who want the radio audio to remain at its present level with the driver's door open (let say you're washing the car and have everything open while detailing, but don't want the radio volume to go down) here's what you can do. It's hacky, but works: 1) Set volume of radio at desired level 2) Initiate a phone call via Bluetooth 3) Open driver's door 4) Disconnect the call 5) Volume should remain at set level 6) ??? 7) Profit! *[PattyChuck]*

## **TEMPERATURE SYNC**

You can toggle passenger and driver temperature sync when the "settings" menu is being displayed. Tap on the up temperature arrow and you can select or deselect the syncing of temperature. *[Jammerdjc]*

## **TOUCHSCREEN EASTER EGG**

If you bring up the About Screen (tap the Tesla logo), then hold down on model #'s for about 7 seconds, you'll see your MS scurry off, replaced with the Tesla Motors Team photo. *[aaronOk]*

## **DRIVER MEMORY APP WINDOWS**

When you change driver memory profiles, the app windows that are showing in the dashboard display to the right and left of the "speedometer" change to what was selected when last using that profile. No saving necessary. So if you like to use different displays at different driving times or routes, you could duplicate your normal profile and just change the displays, then toggle between the two profiles that are otherwise identical. *[PeterK]*

## **CAR STATUS VIA APP**

When someone else is driving your Model S, you can observe their driving speed, power/regen status and location via the map screen of the mobile app (provided they haven't disabled mobile app access from the car). *[jackbowers]*

## **CLIMATE CONTROL PERFORMANCE**

I discovered today that using the "Recirculation" mode makes the Climate Control System work a LOT more efficiently and improves performance considerably. It blows harder and feels colder/warmer in both AC and Heat mode. I was able to reset my my fan preference from "8" back to "Auto". *[barelyb]*