

## First test drive in a Tesla Model S

Written by Christof Demont-Heinrich, SCD.Com Editor  
Wednesday, 06 February 2013 09:48

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editor's  
blog  
entry

I got my first chance behind the wheel of a Tesla Model S Performance Edition Monday.

And, wow, is the Model S quick! I know: That's hardly a revelation, Christof!

But it's one thing to read about how the Model S Performance Version has instant torque (443 lbs) and a huge amount of horsepower (410 hp) immediately for the taking. It's another altogether to feel it yourself as you punch the accelerator (can't call it a gas pedal anymore – sweet!).

In fact, I didn't have the guts, nor really the chance, to truly step on it in [my brother's metallic blue Model S](#), which

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he's had for a little more than a month. There was too much traffic on I-25 between Fort Collins, Colo. and Erie, Colo., which is where we found ourselves in Model S #1984 on this bright, sunny Monday afternoon along Colorado's scenic Front Range where we both live -- my brother in Boulder and me in Aurora, Colo.

### **Poll: Affordable Tesla**

Would you ditch your gas car for an affordable Tesla Model S with 300 miles of range?

Yes, in a heartbeat

No, I love gas

Not sure

### **Boxed in on highway on ramp**

My only good chance to gun the Model S on the 40-mile leg I drove got stolen by a glacially slow truck merging onto I-25 southbound in Fort Collins right in front of us. As we moved forward on the ramp, two cars behind us beat me to the punch in leaping into the left lane and boxed me in behind the truck. Call me a bit conservative, but, yes, I'm one to be a bit cautious when driving someone else's \$80,000 car for the very first time -- hence the longer hesitation than the folks behind me in leaping into the left lane.

By then, the truck was going 55 (as Sammy Hagar notes, just Can't Drive 55! ;-) ) -- and I was only able to gun it to 75. To be sure, that's the quickest I've ever gone from 55 to 75 in any car I've ever driven -- to be fair, I've never driven anything like a Porsche, Corvette, high-end Camaro, etc. So, sadly, I didn't get to do the 10 mph to 75 mph in 3 seconds or so that I might have been able to if not for that damn truck ;-)

In fact, my brother took care of that 4.4 second, 0-60 mph rush on the 40-mile leg up from Erie to Fort Collins -- we met at a Denver RTD Park-and-Ride where we parked my 21-year-old Acura Integra so we could head up together to the Discovery Science Center in Fort Collins, our "birding" destination. For the past two months, the Science Center has seen more than 100 Common Redpolls, a rare northern bird that typically can only be found easily in Canada, at its feeders -- yes, my brother and I are both avid birders (wonder if anyone else out there has ever "birded" from a Model S ;-))

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