



Tesla: Spawning an industry and proving how social media creates stupid people, including myself.

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Why do people who own a Tesla think they are so special? Well, I guess the reason is because I own one and I am special. But of course, I say this only tongue and cheek. Kidding aside, I have never seen so many posts on social media and YouTube describing how everything about a Tesla is so special and different than any car.

This is my second electric vehicle. Prior to this I had a Mercedes EQE. There were no YouTube videos describing how to start it, open it, look for flaws on delivery day, or how to wash it. A whole industry has been developed around Tesla with Tesla drivers thinking they are driving something other than a car, No, folks, it doesn't fly. It has a steering wheel, tires, and instead of a gas engine, an electric motor. Well, so do other car makers. Mach E, Ionic, Rivian, Lucid, and a whole bunch of others. But there are not hundreds of videos and posts about how to drive them, talk to them, or anything else. However, this is not to say that Elon created a perfect car.

Elon is smart. He started a whole industry about adding accessories to a car that should have had them to begin with. Let's see, I had to get compartment dividers because the center console is too deep to use. I had to get extra USB ports to charge things because the phone charger included is unusable as it heats up my phone so I can't touch it. Everybody "knows" you have to put a screen cover over its control iPad screen. But I don't even put one on my iPad, so what makes me think I have to put it there? I'll tell you! Social media pressure. I've now ordered a screen protector. No spare tire? So, I order an air compressor with a tire sealant. I've ordered a bunch of Tesla accessories. Like I said, these things that come with other cars are not here. I've seen people put on wraps and ceramic coating to protect the car. In all the years I have owned a car, I have never done that. I get a chip, I repair it. Not \$6000 for wrapping or ceramic coating. Elon puts a glass roof on the car which is UV protected and good enough for me. But there is a whole industry of people selling sunshades for it.

What prompted this column today is a post on fb asking people how you wash your Tesla? Literally every comment said hand wash and only with microfiber cloths. People believe that if you have a Tesla it can't go into a car wash. I wonder, will it melt? Will all the paint come off? Will I be driving around in a car that looks like a cyber truck? My answer is to how do you wash a Tesla is with soap and water at the car wash. Its unbelievable.

This all led me to looking it up out of curiosity and the bestselling car in 2026 first quarter was the Toyota Camry, right behind that is the Tesla Model Y. But nobody asks how to wash the Camry, There is not hundreds of videos on YouTube about how to drive and wash a Camry. Well folks, got some news. You wash the Tesla the same way you wash a Camry. Both cars, you have to put in car wash mode. gas cars you do it yourself, fold mirrors, stop wipers, windows closed etc. You drive to the car wash, pay, drive it onto the roller and put it in neutral and at the end you see the miracle of a clean car.

Elon is a genius. He created a whole industry of accessories for a car that should have come with them, a myriad of videos on social media and a mystique. My final comment, when my tires were low on air, I pulled into the Mercedes dealer, and they filled them up with air for me. Now I have to summon my husband to get on his hands and knees to fill up the tires because Tesla does not provide such services. And that's probably the only reason that the old "dealership model" is better for the consumer because you have a real dealership. With Tesla, It's all on me. The dealership really gives you customer service while Tesla does its best with what they've got.

I have driven cars with driver assistant packages before but Ive never driven a car with "supervised full self-driving. This is an oxymoron. How can it be supervised and yet full self-driving? I would call it "supervised driving". On the roads at "supervised self-driving". It is amazing. But on Rt. 304 and Congers, it blows through the "no turn on red". I realize at certain points why it must be supervised. I became an unpaid supervisor.

It's a great car. I love it. And with gas at the current prices, it's the best deal even without the federal tax credit. And the best part is waving to the gas stations as I drive by, going home, plugging it in like my toaster, and coming out the next day, and the toast is made.

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