

Your Tesla, Day to Day

Sunday, September 20, 2026

KEEP
THIS
SET

Ten sheets for daily ownership at Heron's Key (Pro Tips runs to two pages). Take them home & keep them in the car.

Cheat sheets in this set

1 CS-01 · Keys & Unlock

Phone key · if the phone won't unlock · key card · walk-away lock · signed-in app

2 CS-02 · ChargePoint / J1772 **DAILY**

Start the session · adapter first · 80% / 30A · unlock → white T → pull as one

3 CS-03 · Mobile Connector

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10 CS-10 · Pro Tips **BONUS · 2 PAGES**

Siri precondition · find your car · camera button · charging craft · settings worth switching on

Today

- **Presentation** + handouts
- **At the vehicle** — your questions, scenarios, demos, practice
- These sheets go home with you

Do these two tonight

- A **key card** in each wallet
- **Walk-Away Door Lock** on, in your own profile

REMEMBER Precondition your vehicle before walking down.

Keys & Unlock

Phone key · if the phone won't unlock · key card · walk-away lock

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Your phone is the everyday key

Carry your phone with Bluetooth on and the Tesla app left **running in the background** — don't force-quit it. Walk up and the car unlocks by proximity (passenger doors too — they pull the handle). From farther away: open the app and tap **Unlock**. You do **not** tap the phone on the car.

COMMON MISTAKE

Do **not** tap the phone on the B-pillar — that gesture is for the **key card** only.

If the phone will not unlock the car

- 1 **Wake the phone** (tap or raise to wake). That often jolts the key back to life.
- 2 Still locked? **Open the Tesla app**. Once the screen is awake, opening the app usually fixes it.
- 3 Still locked? Press the **padlock** in the app — or use the **key card** on the B-pillar.

Key card — unlock, then drive

Keep a key card in your wallet or purse. Two cards ship with the car.

- 1 **Unlock:** tap the card on the driver's side **B-pillar** (pillar behind the front door window), about **one-third of the way up**.
- 2 **To drive:** sit down, lay the card on the **center console phone-charging pad**, then press the **brake**. The spot varies: older 3/Y want it on the flat area behind the cupholders.

Walk-away lock

Walk away with your phone — lights flash once and the car locks (mirrors may fold). It will **not** lock if a door/trunk is open or a phone/key is still inside.

Enable Walk-Away Door Lock in **every** driver profile (Controls → Locks). Carry your phone — don't leave it in the car even for a quick stop.

Phone Left Behind Chime (Controls → Locks) sounds when the phone is still inside — exactly when the car won't lock.

Signed-in app = live control

Anyone signed into the Tesla app on a phone or iPad can **control the car live** (lock, climate, frunk, and more).

The app's **Start** button lets someone drive or move your car from afar, with no key of their own.

SAFETY Sign out of shared tablets and guest devices when you are done.

ChargePoint / J1772

Your daily habit at Heron's Key · adapter · unlock · pull as one

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Daily habit HK

- Use the community **ChargePoint** with your **J1772 adapter**.
- Everyday settings: charge limit **60–80%** and current **30A**. Raise the limit only when you will drive soon (trip).
- Overnight plugged in is fine — the car stops at your limit.
- Plug in below about **25%**; it only gets critical near **10%**.
- Prefer ChargePoint over unknown shared garage outlets (breaker overload risk).
- **LFP packs are the exception** (most Model 3 Standard Range; rarely a Y). If yours is one, the car and app will ask for **100% about once a week** — do what it says.



Your adapter



Handle + adapter, in the port

That is the one piece you pull out. Handle, adapter and all — never the handle on its own.

The **red clip** is an optional 3D-printed accessory: it locks the station handle into your adapter so nobody can pull it out and walk off with it while you charge.

Plug in

- 1 **Start your ChargePoint session** the way the station asks (app or card).
- 2 Snap the **adapter onto the station handle first**.
- 3 Plug the combined piece into the car. Wait for the **T to blink green**.

Unplug

- 1 **Unlock:** tap **Unlock Charge Port** in the app *or* hold the **rear-left door handle 3–4 seconds**.
- 2 Wait for the **T to turn solid white**.
- 3 Pull the **handle and adapter out together as one unit**.
- 4 Once clear of the car, separate the adapter and return it to the **driver door pocket**.

THE ONE TO REMEMBER Leave the **button on the J1772 handle alone** while the handle is still in the port — pressing it there separates the adapter and leaves it stuck in the car.

Out and about BONUS

This same adapter opens public J1772 chargers all over town — often the **best parking spots**, frequently **cheap or free**. **PlugShare** shows you where.

At Heron's Key HK

Skip garage wall outlets for daily charging. **ChargePoint is the better home path** here.

Mobile Connector

The cord that came with the car · travel use · storage

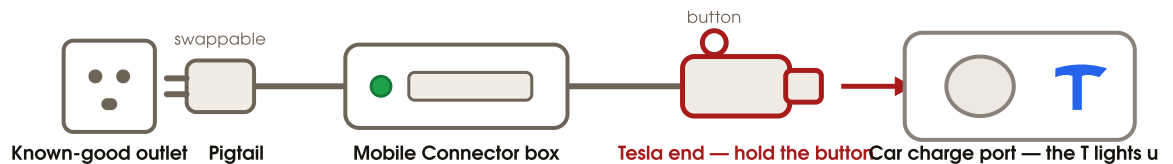
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What it is

The black box that shipped with the car: a **Mobile Connector** plus plug ends (“pigtailed”) — typically a 15A household plug and a NEMA 14-50. It plugs **straight into the car**. You do **not** use the J1772 adapter with it.



The Mobile Connector



How to use it

- 1 Attach the pigtail you need to the Mobile Connector.
- 2 Plug into a known-good outlet, then plug the Tesla end into the **vehicle's** charge port.
- 3 **To unplug:** press and **hold the button on the handle**, then pull when the **T** turns **solid white**.

TIP Tesla / NACS handles (Mobile Connector, Supercharger, Wall Connector) use the hold-button-then-pull method. ChargePoint / J1772 with the adapter is a different sequence — see CS-02.

Storage

- Keep it in the **frunk**.
- If you carry an extension cord, use a heavy **12 AWG** cord — **only**.
- Best for **travel / visiting** — hotels, friends, RV parks with known outlets.

At Heron's Key **HK**

ChargePoint is still the better **daily** home. Do **not** make an unknown garage wall outlet your everyday charger (breaker / shared-circuit risk).

HK Mobile Connector = travel kit.
ChargePoint = daily habit.

Supercharging

Road trips · how to plug · nearby sites · cost

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How to Supercharge

- 1 Enter a far destination in the car's **navigation** — the car plans Supercharger stops and can warm the battery on the way.
- 2 At the stall, plug the Tesla cable **straight into the car** (no J1772 adapter). Charging usually starts by itself and bills your Tesla account.
- 3 To leave: press and **hold the button on the Supercharger handle**, then pull. The app can also unlock the charge port.
- 4 When the app says you are nearly done, **move the car** — busy sites may add an **idle fee** (usually about **\$1 a minute**) if you linger after charging finishes.

Cost SIMPLE

- As a **Tesla owner**, you get **member pricing** at Superchargers — no special signup.
- Live price shows in the **app** and on the car screen at the stall. A ~40 kWh top-up is often roughly **\$10–\$18** nearby, but always trust the live number.
- Save Superchargers for **trips**; ChargePoint at home is usually much cheaper per mile.

Nearby sites HK

- **Gig Harbor Target / Borgen Blvd** — Supercharger coming. Construction has been visible on site.
- **Tacoma Mall Blvd and Silverdale** (Target / Randall Way) — open now; check live price in the app.

REMEMBER In-car navigation is ground truth for which chargers are open and what your trip needs.

Charge Port T Lights

Green · white · blue — what each means

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Read the T on the charge port

The light behind the Tesla “T” on the charge port tells you what the car is doing. Three colors you will see most:



Blinking green = charging now

Power is flowing. Leave it alone until you are ready to go.



Solid white = unlocked

Port is unlocked and ready — safe to pull the cable (or handle + adapter as one unit on ChargePoint). **Don't wait too long** — it turns blue again and locks the handle back in.



Blue = waiting (not charging right now)

Common reasons: you have **reached your charge limit** and the charger is **idle** (done for now); **or** a **charge schedule** is set and you are outside the window. It can also mean the **ChargePoint dispenser itself is idle** — no session running. Check the app or charging screen: raise the limit, change the schedule window, or restart the station session.

Also about blue

- Brief blue with no green can also appear during a **software install** — charging pauses, then resumes when the install finishes. Normal.
- If charging keeps stopping or the plug feels loose: unplug and **re-seat firmly**.

QUICK MEMORY Green blink = charging. White = pull, now. Blue = done / waiting (limit, schedule, station, or install).

Climate & Cabin

Precondition · Keep / Pet / Camp · defrost · Cabin Overheat

KEEP

Warm or cool — “precondition” — before you walk out

In the Tesla app, tap the **fan** button — the little propeller in the row under the car picture, usually between the frunk button and the padlock. That row can be rearranged, so look for the propeller.

- **Dark / gray fan** = climate off · **White fan** = climate on
- Turn it on **5–10 minutes** before you leave. If plugged in, it uses shore power.
- Cold weather / full defrost: start **30–45 minutes** ahead from your apartment. App Climate → **Defrost Car** before you walk to the car.

Parked climate modes (in the car)

While in **Park**, open Climate. Four buttons: **Off / Keep / Pet / Camp**.

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Holds your temperature for a **20–30 minute** errand. No need to watch the clock — the car shuts the climate system off by itself after **2 hours**.

PET MODE

For when you **leave** a pet in the car. Like Keep, but it also runs the **rear vents** and keeps the screen on telling passers-by the pet is safe. Stay nearby; watch the app. Put your pet's name on that screen: Controls → Display → Customize Pet Mode.

CAMP

Longer stays / overnight. The screen shows a campfire scene, then darkens itself if you don't touch it.

WHILE YOU'RE IN THE CAR

You do **not** need Pet Mode — HVAC runs when a door opens and while you're seated. If the screen goes dark, **tap it** to wake it. Switch to **Camp** for a long sit — or as a “human mode” if a passenger stays in the car.

SAFETY · CAMP

Camp **disables walk-away lock and Sentry** and keeps the car unlocked. Do **not** use Camp just to power a cooler — use **Keep Accessory Power On** instead.

Foggy windshield / defrost

- 1 Open **Climate** — nudge the temperature up and back down for the quick menu (tapping the number also works). It's in the full Climate menu too.
- 2 Press the **windshield icon once** → **blue** = defog.
- 3 Press **twice** → **red** = full defrost. A third press (grey) turns it off.

Voice: press the mic button and say “**front defrost on**” — or, with Grok, “**Hey Grok, turn on front defrost.**”

HOT DAY Cabin Overheat Protection (Controls → Safety) keeps the cabin from getting dangerously hot after you park, for 12 hours. Turn it on or off, and set the threshold, in the app.

Drive Feel

Regen · Hold · Chill · the Heron's Key slip

KEEP

One-pedal driving (regen)

Lift off the accelerator and the car **slows on its own**, putting energy back into the battery. With **Hold** it will bring you to a full stop — even on a grade. The brake pedal always works exactly as you expect. Regen is gentler when the battery is very cold or completely full — also normal. Power meter left of the speedometer: **green = regen**.

Stopping modes

Change only while **Parked**, under **Controls** → **Dynamics** (older software: Pedals & Steering — VERIFY on your car):

- **Hold** — full stop; the one to use for one-pedal driving.
- **Creep** — gentle forward like a gas car. Try **Hold** instead; it's safer.
- **Roll** — coasts; can roll on hills.

Want the gas-car coasting feel?

Deceleration Mode → **Reduced** (Controls → Dynamics).

Heron's Key parking slip **HK**

The risk here is the **concrete pillars** in the garage. If your slip is next to one, **park and unpark it yourself** — no Autopark, no Summon. When in doubt, park it yourself. Always stay alert.

Comfort options

- **Chill:** Controls → Dynamics → Acceleration → Chill — smoother start, less sensitive accelerator feel.
- **Speed Limit Warning:** Controls → Autopilot / Self-Driving → Display or Chime. A reminder only — it does **not** cap your speed and does **not** affect FSD.

Read the screen

Tesla is “verbose, literal, direct, and clear.” If it beeps or shows a message, **read it first**. Bell in Controls = alerts + Learn More.

OVER THE PAGE Full Self-Driving — the two ways to steer its behaviour without switching it off, and the one mistake that kills people.

You Are Always the Driver

Full Self-Driving (Supervised) · profiles · the pedal · attention

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Two ways to steer its behaviour — without switching it off

- **1 · The speed profile.** Scroll the right wheel: Sloth, Chill, Standard, Hurry, Mad Max. **Change it as often as you like, in the middle of a drive.** This is not a set-and-forget setting — match it to the road, the traffic and how you feel right now. Use it as freely as you want.
- **2 · The accelerator.** Nudging FSD along with the pedal is allowed, for a second or for miles.

THE ONE THAT KILLS PEOPLE While your foot is on the accelerator, FSD will not brake. The screen flashes **blue and red** to tell you so, every time. Never let those flashes become background noise — with the pedal down, the car **will** drive into whatever is in front of it.

KATY, TEXAS · 19 JUNE 2026 A driver with FSD engaged pressed the accelerator to **100%**, reached **73 mph** on a residential street, and drove into a house, killing a person inside. Tesla's vehicle logs show the pedal was still floored after impact. The driver has been charged with felony manslaughter; the case is still before the courts. FSD was on the whole time — and it did not brake, because a foot was on the pedal.

Staying in charge of it

- **Right scroll wheel** — press **in** to engage or disengage (smoothest). Left scroll = media.
- **Brake or firm steering** takes over immediately. The car will not fight you.
- Eyes on the road, ready to take over. Look away and you get **chime warnings**; ignore them and you can lose FSD for a **week**. “Never be afraid to take immediate control.”
- **If you never respond** — asleep, or taken ill — the car does not simply stop in the lane. It **pulls over, comes to a stop and puts the hazards on**. A backstop, never a plan. (Confirmed on FSD v14 with AI4 hardware; not verified for older HW3 cars.)
- Pass control back and forth “like a hot potato” until the handoffs feel seamless.

BLUE FLASH · ATTENTION Listen and look for the nags. If it asks for steering force, don't jiggle the wheel — **torque gently in one direction**. Sunglasses are fine; face-hiding hats may trigger wheel checks. Keep your visual scan alive, like flying IFR, and the nags mostly stop.

Help & SOS

Black screen · emergency exits · Roadside · Sentry · wash · frunk

KEEP

Who to call

- **Injury, airbags, smoke, or danger** → **911** first. If a phone is connected by Bluetooth and the setting is on, the car dials for you.
- **Car trouble** (won't charge, flat, locked out, tow) → **Tesla Roadside 24/7: 1-877-79TESLA** (1-877-798-3752), or Roadside in the app. Same number: Controls → Service.
- **Service** in the app → describe + photos. It's the preferred way to make first contact.

Black or frozen screen (while Parked)

- 1 **Tap the screen gently** a few times — usually it is just asleep. You can also switch on **Camp mode** from the app's Climate menu to wake it.
- 2 Still black? In **Park**, press and **hold BOTH scroll wheels** until the **Tesla T** appears on screen (~30 sec), then let go.

Dark screen ≈ asleep, not dead — the car still drives.

Emergency door releases (power fails)

Only when **stopped** — never while moving. Open gently (window may not drop).

- 1 **Front doors:** pull **UP** on the small lever just in front of the window switches.
- 2 **Rear doors:** in the bottom of the door pocket, lift the small cover and pull the **cable** forward.
- 3 **Brief your passengers.** The person who needs the rear release has never read this sheet — and it is not intuitive.

Day to day: regular door-handle button. Practice once at home.

Sentry at home **HK**

- Controls → Safety → Sentry → **Exclude Home** in **BOTH** profiles.
- Home pin on your **actual garage slip**.
- If on at home anyway, toggle off in the app.

Frunk · Wash · Flat

- **Open the frunk:** app or touchscreen — no exterior hood latch.
- **Car wash:** unplug → Car Wash Mode → prefer **touchless** / hand-wash.
- **Flat:** no spare. Don't keep driving. Call Roadside. Tire kit = temporary only.
- **Towing:** flatbed or wheel skates only — never with the wheels rolling.

QUICK MEMORY Unlock fail → wake phone → open app → key card. ChargePoint stuck → Unlock Charge Port → white T → pull handle+adapter as one. You are always the driver.

Everyday Owner Asks

Phone doors · defrost · hazards · blind spot · Park Assist · display · Premium · wash · FSD attention

KEEP

Phone unlock & passenger doors

- Walk up with phone → car unlocks; passenger pulls the handle.
- From the apartment: open the app and tap **Unlock**.
- **Turn Driver Door Unlock Mode OFF** (Controls → Locks). Good idea, poor execution — it re-locks the other doors while you walk around the car. More trouble than it's worth.

Hazard flashers

- **Physical triangle button** in the roof liner above the rearview mirror (overhead).
- Works even without a key nearby. Press once while parked so your hand knows where it is.

Blind spot — what to look for

- **Older Model 3 / Y** have blind-spot help, but not a classic side-mirror light — listen for the **chime** and watch the **red edge** on the screen when you signal.
- **Newer cars with the interior light strip** also flash it **red on that side** (Controls → Lights → Blind Spot Warning Accent Lights; on by default).
- Still check mirrors and glance over your shoulder.



See it happen. Point a phone camera here — the newer warning and the camera view.

Premium Connectivity

- **Without:** basic A→B nav · built-in voice (mic / right scroll).
- **With (~\$9.99/mo):** live traffic · sat view · streaming · live Sentry · **Grok**.
- **Grok is the one worth paying for.** Navigate, ask it anything about your car, have it change settings for you. If you're confused — ask Grok.

Precondition before you walk down

- App fan 5–10 min ahead · cold/ice: **Defrost Car** in app Climate (30–45 min if icy).
- Plugged in = uses wall power. In-car: windshield icon 1× / 2× / 3×.

Larger text on the screen

- **Controls → Display → Text size → Large.**
- Brightness is on that same Display screen — and on the main Controls screen — if it feels dim, or too bright at night.

Park Assist vs Autopark vs FSD

- **Park Assist** = beeps + proximity view when parking slowly — guidance; *not* FSD.
- **Autopark** = car steers into a space. Part of the FSD package, but **not FSD** — you trigger it on the screen: tap the space the car found, press Start. (VERIFY on your Controls → Autopilot.)
- **FSD parks for you** — pick Parking Lot / Street / Driveway / Charger before you arrive.
- **HK slip:** park and unpark manually **if you are next to a concrete pillar**.

Car wash · rear glass · FSD attention

- Unplug → **Car Wash Mode** → prefer **touchless** or careful hand-wash.
- No rear wiper on 3/Y is **normal** — use camera + defrost.
- FSD: you are always the driver. Sleep / eyes down → chime warnings → if you don't respond it pulls to the side, stops, and puts the hazards on. Brake = you drive.

DIGNITY Lots to learn is normal. Keep these sheets in the car — and practise while you're at home.

Pro Tips

The small things that make the car feel like yours

KEEP

From your phone

- **“Hey Siri, warm up the car.”** Make a Shortcut — or put it on your iPhone's Action Button — to precondition. Point it at your car *by name* and it fires at the right car every time.
- **Find your car.** The app shows an arrow and the distance to where you parked. Learn it before you need it in the garage.
- **“Will I make it?”** App → Navigation → type a destination. It shows the battery % you'd arrive with, without going near the car.
- **Scout the stop.** Tap a Supercharger in the app for photos of where it actually is, what's nearby, and the price.

Charging like a regular

- **The number on a Supercharger pin** is how many stalls are **free right now** — not how many exist.
- **Set Arrival Charge.** Tell the car what % you want *left* when you get there and it plans every stop to hit it.
- **Arrive low, leave early.** Pulling in around **10–20%** charges fastest. Don't stand there filling to 100%.
- **Finish just before you go.** Schedule charging to end near your departure — sitting full overnight is the part the battery minds, not the charging.

Inside the car

- **Camera button, right side of the wheel.** Fastest way to the cameras. Swipe up or down to flip the big view between front and rear — the side views stay up the whole time. Best seat in the house for backing out. On older cars, set **Scroll Wheel Function → Camera**.
- **Two voices, one button.** Tap and release = car commands. Press and **hold** = Grok. If a green microphone keeps appearing instead of Grok, hold it longer.
- **Leave climate in AUTO.** Set the temperature and let it run the fan. Auto is doing more than it looks like.
- **Tire pressures and trip data at a glance.** Swipe the media card at the bottom-left — media → trips → pressures. Both live there. No menu, and it doesn't cover your map.

Little joys

- **Unlock everything from your seat.** Press and **hold** the door-open button inside your own door.
- **Repaint it on screen.** Controls → Software → tap the colour swatch beside the car's name. Purely cosmetic, instantly satisfying.
- **Your own lock chime.** Put a file named **LockChime.wav** in the top level of the dashcam USB drive. It sticks — even through software updates.
- **The frunk has a drain plug** (newer Model Y and Cybertruck). Load it with ice — no engine to melt it.

SET ONCE, PER DRIVER Several settings live in **your driver profile**, not in the car: walk-away lock, mirror folding, navigation favourites. If something “won't stick,” check you're in your own profile first.

YES, IT REALLY HAS THAT A medical-grade **HEPA filter** and **Bioweapon Defense Mode** — look in Climate. Model S / X / Y and Cybertruck only; sorry, Model 3.

Pro Tips, continued

If you don't see one, your car doesn't have it

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People & access

- **Give the people you trust their own access.** In the app, **Manage Drivers** — they get their own phone key instead of borrowing yours, and they can help from anywhere.
- **An Apple Watch can be a key** all by itself. It unlocks and drives the car, and it is still on your wrist when your phone is dead.
- **Phone Left On Wireless Charger Chime.** Controls → Locks — the version for cars without the newer UWB sensing.
- **Green Traffic Light Chime.** Controls → Self-Driving. A tone when the light you're waiting at turns green. No subscription needed.



Why it matters. A driver had chest pain mid-drive; his son rerouted the car to the nearest hospital from his phone. Staff were waiting.

Dashcam & Sentry

- **The dashcam holds up to 24 hours**, not an hour. Something happened yesterday? It may still be on the drive.
- **A red X on the dashcam icon means it is not recording.** That icon is the only honest answer to “is it running?”
- **Live Sentry view needs no USB drive** — it's a livestream. If the camera view fails, the drive is not your problem.
- **Clips are encrypted** and won't open on a computer. Unlock one from the padlock in the car's Dashcam viewer, or at dashcam.tesla.com.

Things it already does

- **There's a tutorial built into the car.** The Onboarding Guide covers the screen, lights, wipers and driver settings — good refresher training any time.
- **Comfort Braking** eases off at the last moment so stops don't jerk. Nothing to switch on, in the cars that have it.
- **Child Left Alone Detection** is on by default where it's fitted: it flashes, sounds, and messages your phone.
- **Cabin Overheat Protection → Exclude Home** skips it in your own garage, still protects the car everywhere else.

On the road

- **Charging slowly?** Look at the kW, not the clock. Unplug, re-seat, or move one stall along — that fixes most of it.
- **It drives to the pin, not the name.** A search can drop the pin behind the building. Drag it where you want to arrive.
- **Use HOV Lanes → Auto.** Controls → Navigation. The cabin camera counts your passengers and uses the lane only when you qualify.
- **Superchargers predict the wait** before you get there.

POWER WHILE PARKED **Keep Accessory Power On** (Controls → Charging) keeps the 12-volt sockets, USB ports and phone pads live after you walk away — the right way to run a cooler. Not Camp mode.

IF A GUIDE SENDS YOU SOMEWHERE THAT ISN'T THERE The menus moved. **“Autopilot” is now “Self-Driving,”** and the parking-brake toggle is gone — hold the Park button. Older videos still use the old names.