

Here is a pictorial reminder of all the aspects to be checked in a good, systematic cockpit drill for a typical electric car.

Know your vehicle

The pictures and instructions are typical for an electric car.

It is recognised that it may not be possible to adjust some of the car's features such as seats or mirrors, until after the power has been activated.

Current E-cars will have electrical parking brakes rather than conventional pull-on handbrakes.

Particular vehicles may have a slightly different starting-up procedure so please check in your own car's handbook.

If you have a passenger in the car, make sure they check their doors security (ii), clip in the seatbelt (x) and understand how to lock / open doors (xi) at the same time that you reach the item in your drill.

We recognise there may be a multitude of variations but you should use the principles and order given here where possible. Know your car's variations and adjust your cockpit drill to suit.

P - Power?



The dash shows the state of charge of the battery and the estimated range available. Do you have sufficient miles for the trip?

D - Damage?



Check all round the car for signs of damage or anything loose.

Y - You, Your Journey?

Your emotions, attitude, mood, and tiredness effect your driving behaviour. Have you allowed enough time for the journey? Have you considered the weather conditions and any other external influences?

O - Oil check?



There is no traditional engine oil but there will be a brake fluid reservoir. Check its topped up to max mark.

E - Electrics?



Check around all the external lamps / indicators but the dashboard will show if any lamps are blown.

i) Parking brake on?



When you get into the car, confirm that the parking brake is energised so that the car cannot move and is secure.

W - Water Check?



Check cooling water and windscreen washer levels.

R - Rubber?



Check that the tread on all 4 tyres is legal and tyre pressures are as per the car handbook for the expected load condition.

ii) Door secure?



A few inches before door closure, use your left hand to tug firmly to close it: push to check its security.

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iii) Wheel / seat position?



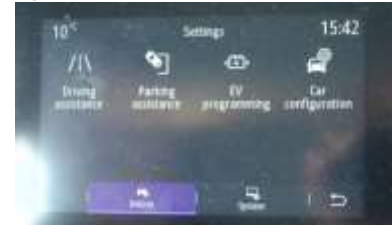
Adjust your seat/wheel for comfort and safety. Position with wrists on wheel and leg not having to stretch to reach pedals.

iv) Mirrors' positions?



Adjust manual mirror positions for maximum view. Align the top of the rear-view mirror to top of rear screen. (Electrical adjust?)

v) Infomatics



Ensure desired set up is in place before moving off. Check your owner manual for options.

vi) Start Sequence



Depress the footbrake and press start button to initiate transmission availability. Warning lights will briefly illuminate.

vii) Power steering active?



Pull down the wheel after switch on; you should feel the power steering activating.

viii) Auxiliaries



Adjust lights, heating, air flow, radio, etc. prior to setting off.

ix) Static brake check



Apply firm pressure on the footbrake to check servo is active. You may maintain this while you check / adjust auxiliaries' settings.

x) Seat belt secure?



After everything has been checked, clip in your seat belt. Does the seat belt warning light extinguish?

xi) Lock doors



Set the doors to lock or if an option, they will automatically lock after the car moves and reaches more than 5mph.

xii) Select drive



Indicators show forward or reverse drive availability. Push / pull the transmission selector to engage reverse or forward drive.

xiii) Mirror check and signal



Check for traffic in mirrors and over both shoulders before getting ready to move off. Only signal if necessary.

xiv) Moving brake check

Once moving, check the brakes work effectively by stopping from 30mph in a place clear of other traffic. Note that regenerative braking will also slow the car.

Release the brake pedal before coming to a complete stop to confirm the brake callipers release properly.