

Welcome to the Insight, one of the most amazing and advanced cars you can drive today!

You can drive the Insight just like the car you are used to.

To get the full performance and efficiency this incredible car has to offer, here are some simple points that other drivers have found helpful:

Before you set out

Check tire pressure

Check that tire pressures are properly set to at least 38 psi front / 35 psi rear. Many drivers receive Insights with tire pressures too low, and don't realize why the car isn't giving the fuel efficiency they expected.

Set climate control to "econ"

This allows "auto idle stop" (described below) to function. Press "econ" a second time to enable or disable A/C. On moderately warm days you'll find the car quite comfortable without turning on A/C, and fuel efficiency will be better. Because of the excellent air flow you also don't need to set the temperature too low; try 78F (25C) as a starting point.

When slowing down & stopping

Begin slowing down a little earlier

As you are slowing down the generator is turning that extra momentum into electricity. This is called "regenerative braking". The amount of charging is shown on the charge gauge on the instrument panel. At the same time, the gas engine is in "fuel cut mode", so no gas is being burned. By braking sooner using lighter brake pressure, you'll maximize the amount that the battery is charged.

Don't press clutch pedal too soon

When braking or slowing down in manual transmission Insights, it is best not to disengage the clutch immediately, as this will limit the amount that the battery is charged. Instead, wait to depress the clutch until the gauge shows that charging has stopped. It is helpful to then keep it pressed until you come to a complete stop, to maximize the use of idle stop mode. If you release the clutch while decelerating, the engine will instantly restart, in case you are about to reaccelerate.

Stay in neutral at stop lights

In a manual transmission Insight, the gas engine will restart as soon as you put the car in first gear. To allow auto idle stop to function while you're at a stop, leave the transmission in neutral. When its time to move, just press the clutch all the way down, shift into 1st, and you're off!

At all times

Shift if green arrow appears

The combination of electric motor and gas engine may be somewhat different than you are used to. To help you know when it is most efficient to shift up to a higher gear in manual transmission Insights, a green arrow will light up on the instrument panel.



Pay attention to the fuel consumption display (FCD)

This shows the fuel efficiency you are getting in miles per gallon (mpg) or litres / 100 km. Watching this display can help you to learn which driving habits lead to the best fuel efficiency. The bar graph at the bottom shows your fuel consumption rate at any given instant. The number above and to the left shows your average fuel efficiency since the currently displayed trip meter was last reset.



Passing on highway

When passing it is often helpful to down shift 2 gears in manual transmission Insights. In the Insight 4th and 5th are both overdrive gears designed for steady speed cruising. Lower gears are designed for accelerating and passing.

Leave space between you and the next car

This avoids having to slow down unexpectedly and accelerate again, which uses a lot more fuel.

Drive at a moderate speed

As with all cars, the faster you drive, the lower your fuel efficiency will be. It is best to drive at the same speed as other drivers.



When Accelerating

Maximize electric assist

Pressing the accelerator all the way down when accelerating maximizes the use of "free" electric power and gets you up to low-power cruising speed faster.



Auto Idle Stop



As you are slowing down or come to a stop, you may notice that the gas engine has shut off, and the car is very quiet. This mode, indicated by the "auto stop" light on the instrument panel, helps to further save gas and pollution. Don't worry, the car is still on and ready to move the moment you put it in gear or touch the accelerator pedal. When the gas engine needs to be restarted it will automatically, instantly and quietly turn on.

About the Insight

The Honda Insight is the most fuel-efficient auto on the road today. It also one of the cleanest running, both in terms of smog-producing emissions and greenhouse gas production.

'IMA' Hybrid Electric Propulsion System

Gas engine is used during acceleration and cruising, and is off (in one of "fuel-cut" or "idle-stop" modes) during coasting, deceleration or when the car is stationary. Electric motor helps to propel the car during acceleration, and operates as a generator during braking to recharge battery. This allows energy that would otherwise be wasted by braking to be captured and later reused.

Advanced Aerodynamics

Shaped to reduce energy lost to wind resistance, its 0.25 coefficient of drag is the lowest achieved by any production car.

Advanced Gasoline Engine

Technologies such as VTEC, precise fuel injection & spark control and low-friction design provide very clean & efficient operation. Uses stratified charge lean burn system to allow cruising speed to be maintained while burning very little fuel.

Low Rolling Resistance Tires

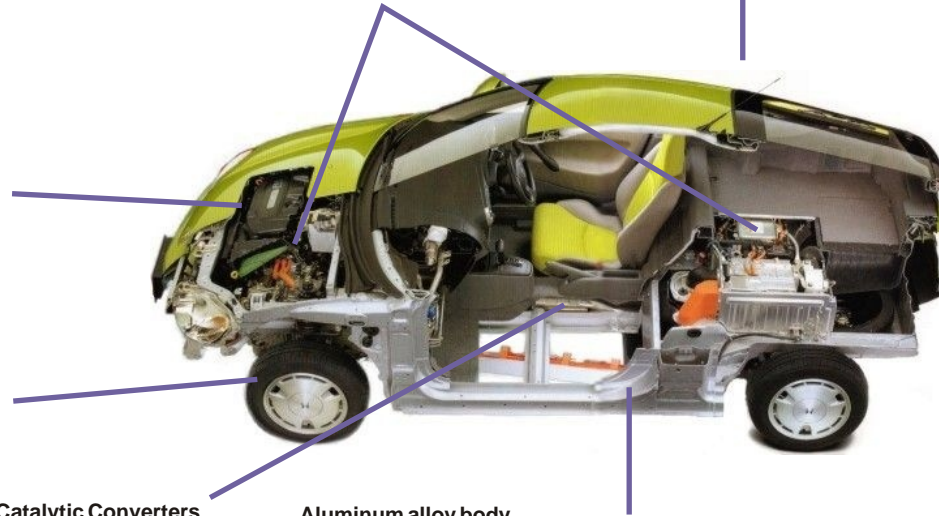
Tires designed to decrease the amount of energy lost due to things such as tire shape deforming as they rotate.

Advanced Catalytic Converters

These further reduce emissions.

Aluminum alloy body

Results in a body that is stronger and more rigid than comparably sized steel bodied Honda Civic, while being half the weight. This reduces the amount of energy needed to accelerate the car, and allows for a smaller, more efficient engine with performance of heavier car with larger engine. This material also makes the car very corrosion resistant.



Common Questions

- **Is there a transmission choice?** Honda makes it with 5 spd & continuously variable automatic
- **Does it really get 70mpg?** Can do even better. Overall lifetime average of 80 owners is 63 mpg
- **Is it safe?** NHTSA crash test rated it four stars; only small car to do better was Saturn SL 4-door
- **How much does it cost?** \$18,980 USD / \$21,180 USD with A/C (\$26,000 CAD)
- **Is there a waiting list?** When it first came out, yes, but now readily available in most areas
- **How long is warranty on electric powertrain?** 8 years, including battery, electric motor, more
- **How far on a tank of gas? What kind of gas?** 700 mi / 1125 km; Regular 87 octane
- **How does it perform in winter?** Handles snow like typical car, handles cold weather better
- **Storage space?** 462L (16.3 cu ft); perfect for most uses, even camping if you pack reasonably
- **Is comfortable on long trips?** Lots of headroom, in its element in highway cruising
- **Can you take the wheel covers off?** They come off for cleaning / changing tires. It would look strange and cost slightly in fuel efficiency to leave them off all the time.
- **Isn't it hard on the starter when it shuts off at lights?** No, engine is restarted using big, powerful IMA motor
- **Do you plug it in? When/How is it charged?** No, it doesn't plug in. It charges itself mainly from extra momentum when you're braking. If battery gets low, it will also charge from gas engine.

Brief Specs

- **Gas engine:** 3 cyl, 1.0L, 12 valve VTEC-E, 10.8:1 compression ratio, 56 kg (124lbs)
- **Electric motor/generator:** 10 kW permanent magnet DC brushless motor, 60mm (2.4") thick
- **Battery pack:** 144 volt Nickel Metal-Hydride, .94 kWh, 22 kg (48 lbs.)
- **Performance:** Top speed: 180km/h (112 mph), 0-60: 10.5s, power: 76 hp, torque: 83 lb-ft
- **Other:** Electric power steering, 4 wheel ABS, 75A DC-DC converter for 12v accessories
- **Dims:** 3.9m x 1.7m x 1.3m (155" l x 67" w x 53" h), tank: 40L / 10.6gal, weight: 848kg / 1,878lbs

Awards Won by Insight Include...

- **Sierra Club Excellence in Environmental Engineering Award**
- **International Engine of the Year Award** - Engines from all major manufacturers were evaluated on performance, efficiency, emissions, smoothness & noise.
- **Automobile Magazine Technology of the Year Award** - they also called it "a blast to drive"
- **EPA Climate Protection Award** - Only automotive product to ever receive this award
- **Top of ACEEE Greenest Cars List**