

Advanced driving, can it save fuel?

Well the simple answer is yes, but obviously it does depend on the driver. Reading the road ahead with good forward observation is perhaps the most important feature coupled with seeing and interpreting road signs (including road paint) correctly. Using these aids the advanced driver should have the advantage of governing their acceleration, speed and braking to their benefit for fuel efficiency.

E.G. The advanced driver on first seeing a bends sign ahead on the open road will be planning their progress on the approach and by using careful acceleration sense shouldn't need to brake.

Similarly when approaching road works or a roundabout the average motorist dashes up to the queue, applies the brake comes to a stop, they will then continue with the stop start, move up one routine. The advanced driver's forward observation will have noticed the brake lights in the distance flashing on and off, and if possible selected the lane with least traffic, or will be moving up gradually.

Motorway driving gives us the chance to speed quickly from A to B, but if time and speed aren't that important remember that 56mph is much more economical than 70mph. However, we will not want to become a rolling road block.

Air Conditioning - a wonderful invention, but it does put up fuel consumption.

However, opening the window will increase the drag on a car and also increases fuel consumption. So what's the answer? Use the external fresh air setting on the heater control, rather than the air recirculated internally will benefit the cooling effect.

Tyres pressures are another area that should be checked and if necessary changed according to your load. They are designed to give grip on the road surface and an under inflated tyre will increase the drag factor considerably.

Just a few other points briefly -

- Do not carry needless excess weight in the boot, or because your fuel tank is always brim full
- Remember to remove the roof rack when it's not needed
- You could consider switching off the engine in standing traffic e.g. at a level crossing?
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to keep it efficient
- A choice of the most economic route rather than the most direct one

A smooth drive is more economical than an erratic one