



# Lead the charge

by Neel Jaiswal

**The clocks ticking, well it's not really. Times have changed and it's the Iphone Dieter Rams inspired clock face that's pressing me forward.**

Have to get to London. Dinner beckons with friends. It's a school night and the rush hour; rather ironic as it's impossible to get anywhere quickly.

Should I take the train? That means getting the misfits train back or nowadays an Uber. No I will take the i3.

I've had the BMW i3 several months now and I love it. I'm a petrol head and if this seems incongruent then let me explicate. Cars give you freedom and pleasure and are a mode of getting from A to B. Some people value 0-60 times, some people value Nurburgring lap times and some people value miles per gallon. I go on 'how does it make me feel'.

Whether it's cars, watches, clothes, holiday hotels, restaurants- to me the denominator is sensory. Is it well crafted, does it suit it's purpose, is it exhilarating, does it feel special.

Leaving the house in my loafers, jacket and old jeans that I thought were in fashion but I can't keep up. Floris honey oud a warming scent slightly wrong for the season.

I uncouple the i3 as I would the Iphone and silently drift forward into the throngs of the melee. The silence as you cruise along is soothing and I find this is my time for reflection and cocooning.

Music isn't drowned by the engine and it tinkles and rumbles in the background, might be Duke or Miles, might be Public enemy. Hitting the motorway and the i3 is not at home, it tempers you into putting the adaptive cruise on and obeying speed limits.

At higher speeds it feels unstable, I imagine as it has skinny large tyres to decrease rolling resistance. Cornering isn't a forte either, it's hard to maintain constant acceleration with the lack of torque feel and vague steer. It lolls a bit too in the traditional sense of the word. I don't mind, it means I don't play in the fast lane -hustling and bustling away yet I draw alongside at the lights. The car only needs one pedal if you're smooth and anticipatory the regenerative braking means letting go off the accelerator slows you down. It's intuitive and less taxing. The pro sat Nav is excellent and rerouted me as it seems fit.

We are now in the conurbation and the i3 owns it. It darts off the line and the visibility with the high driving position allows you to anticipate often needed lane changes. It's bloody quick and without the ping to remind you of excessiveness it's hard to gauge how quickly you are going.

Fiscally speaking it's an expensive car to buy, but a cheap car to lease. Probably best suited putting through the business. I don't pay congestion charge, get free parking in central London and haven't seen a petrol station in months. It's nice not to be noisy and emission polluting in a strange way.

I find diesels vulgar now, they sound like tractors to me with my baseline now zeroed. As with all electric cars it suits people who have driveways for charging and whose round trips are under 100 miles; although the range extending petrol generator eliminates some range anxiety. Occasional passengers are comfortable but a school run if needed would be annoying as the rear side doors can't be opened independently and thus in effect it's a three door hatch. The doors are cool though and when open expose the carbon impregnated frame.

If you would like to join the facebook group 'Turbine- Dentists and Cars' please email me at [neeljaiswal@me.com](mailto:neeljaiswal@me.com)

**We arrive serenely at Hunan in Pimlico and that my friends is another story. ■**

