



Conclave 2025 | Branson MO

## NEWSLETTER #13

### RANGE ANXIETY

On our Tour, refueling instructions will be specified in yellow boxes in the Turn-by-Turn directions. Normally we will refuel at the end of each day (or early the next morning if you prefer) when there are gas stations nearby. Unless otherwise noted, you will be expected to have a full tank at departure each day.

**NOTE ON GAS: BE SURE TO FILL UP TONIGHT OR EARLY TOMORROW. FULL TANK AT DEPARTURE.**

In the rare cases where there is no fuel near our hotel, or when we have a particularly long drive requiring re-fueling enroute, fuel stops will be included in the driving directions. These stops are carefully chosen to be sure they can accommodate 30+ cars without undue delay. Your Flight will not be expected to stop for fuel at other times/places because someone “forgot” to fill up or didn’t get a full load.

So, how far do we go between fuel stops? Obsessing on this question is what I call **“Range Anxiety”**. Many Healey owners have no idea what the real range is on a full tank. They may rarely make long drives and may be in the habit of filling up every time they take the car out. I have known some who break out in cold sweats when the fuel gauge drops below half full! Needless to say, it will be useful and comforting for you to know your car’s range and how to accurately track miles-since-the-last-fill-up (without using that dicey fuel gauge and odometer). Read on.

## CALCULATING FUEL RANGE

Getting a fix on your **True Range** isn't too difficult. Just follow these steps:

1. Fill your tank until the gas is in the filler neck where you can see it.
2. Note your odometer reading (preferably on your Garmin, see below).
3. Drive 30 (or more) miles at a normal pace with a mix of roads, speeds and traffic.
4. Carefully refill the tank to the same level as in step 1.
5. Note the amount of fuel used and the total miles driven.
6. Your average **MPG = Miles Driven / Fuel Used** (in gallons). For example, if you drove 35 miles and used 1.9 gallons of gas, your MPG is 18.4. (35/1.9).
7. Obviously longer drives will result in a more accurate MPG.
8. Multiply the size of your fuel tank times your MPG to get your RANGE. For example, if you have a stock BJ8 fuel tank of 15 gallons, your **RANGE is 276 miles** (18.4x15).

Healey 3000s came with 15-gallon tanks. The 100-4's and 100-6's had 18-gallon tanks. Sprites had much smaller 7-gallon tanks, but their correspondingly higher MPG gives them a similar RANGE to the bigger cars. Of course, many aftermarket tanks are in use and most of these are larger than the original tanks.

The big variable of course is your MPG. My BJ8 with stock engine consistently gets low 20's on these moderate speed tours, fully loaded. That means I have a **Range of around 300 miles**. Your car may be significantly different, but don't presume so until you do the test above. I routinely hear Healey owners saying they get 12-15 MPG. If that's true they have an engine so far out of tune that it needs attention (or perhaps they should try cutting off a few toes to lighten that heavy foot!).

*Bottom line is that even if you are only getting 13 MPG in a 3000, you have a Range in excess of 200 miles.*

## HOW TO USE YOUR GARMIN TO TRACK RANGE

As many of you know, your Garmin can do many things besides guiding you to the next destination. Today we will look at **“TRIP DATA”** and how to use it to track the distance you have travelled since your last fill up. The Garmin data is real.... Your gas gauge and car odometer may not be and are surely NOT as accurate.

Why is this important? Here are the refueling instructions for Day 4 of our trip:

***Note on Fuel: We will be driving 172 miles today, but there is no scheduled fuel stop. Please be sure you have a full tank before departure.***

If you calculated your RANGE as 250 miles, you have nothing to sweat. Forget the gas gauge. Unless you acquire a pin hole leak, you are going to make it with 70+ miles to spare (regardless of what your fuel gauge says).

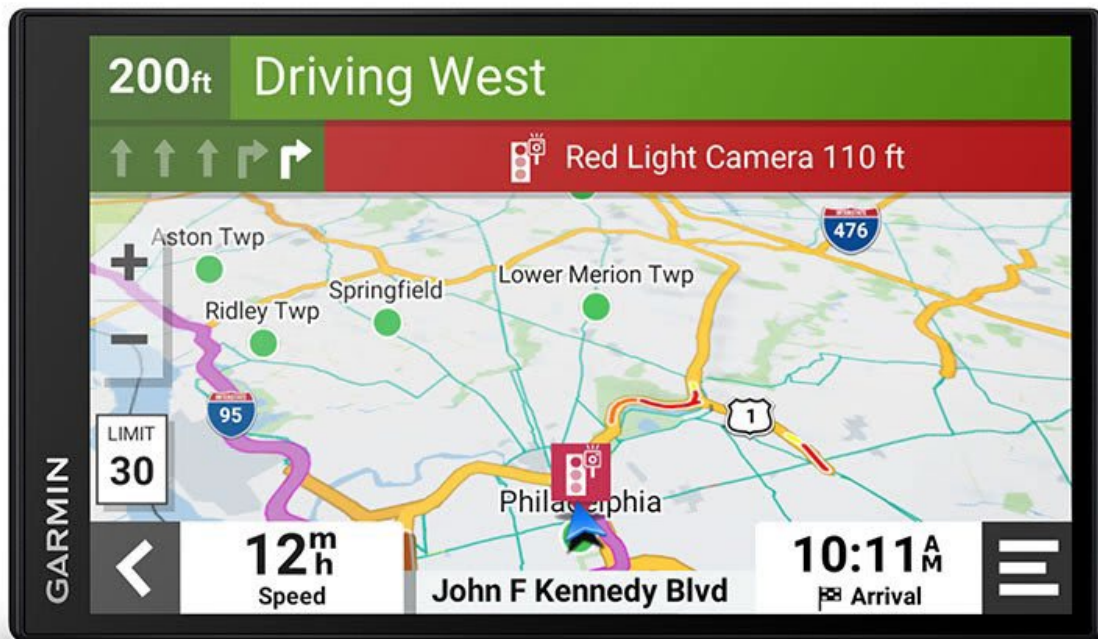
Now let's use Garmin to keep track of your miles-since-fill-up and display that information on your screen.

### GARMIN TRIP DATA

Setting up **Trip Data** is fun and informative. Your Garmin automatically keeps track of things like Driving time in hours and minutes, Top Speed, and calculates Average Speed (with and without stops), Average Miles per Hour (with and without stops) and even figures Time and Distance to the next stop (if you are using Routes or Waypoints), ETA, and even stuff like Altitude, Temperature, and Direction. But for our purposes, we're going to concentrate on the **TWO Trip Odometers**.

These are known as **TRIP A** and **TRIP B**. At the beginning of each Tour, I set my **TRIP A** odometer to zero and never touch it. It tells me how far we have gone at any time since Day 1 and at the end, the final mileage of the Tour. **TRIP B** however is going to be RESET every time I fill up. It is my running “fuel gauge” when compared to my RANGE. If my Range is 250 and Trip B says I have gone 170, I know I have plenty of fuel left.

## SETTING AND DISPLAYING TRIP DATA



The above image is of a **DriveSmart 76** main navigation screen. If you are new to Garmin, there are a bazillion short YouTube videos that cover almost every conceivable subject as well as extensive help on the Garmin.com website. But before we leave on our trip, at the very least, you should be familiar with EVERY bit of data on this screen.

To access **Trip Data**, touch the three bars in the lower right corner. Note some models may not have these, in which case you open the Trip Data menu by hitting the “Speed” button.

Once the menu opens you will see all the data types that the Garmin is collecting. You can also choose RESET to reset some or all the data.

Before our Trip, Hit Reset all. After each fuel fill up, hit ONLY “Reset Trip B”.



The screen above shows the normal display with Trip Data added (three arrows). You can select whatever data elements you wish to display in the side bar and in what order. Of course you will want to keep TRIP B visible. You can hide the side bar by clicking on the X in the lower right corner. *(Note this is not an exact replica of a DriveSmart 76 screen, but was the closest I could find.)*

### **MORE INFORMATION ON TRIP DATA**

You might have a look at the tutorial on the Garmin website shown below. Keep in mind that there are many versions of Garmin GPS, and the screen layouts vary amongst them. What you see on this tutorial does not accurately represent the DriveSmart 76 screen appearances, but the concepts are the same. You might have to poke around a bit to get the same results on your machine.

<https://support.garmin.com/en-US/?faq=uPz1Vtlyki0TcPSnOoQJT8>

### **SO, ANSWER THE QUESTION!**

*How many miles will we drive between fill ups?*

It is rare that we go more than 150 miles between fill-ups and never more than 200. We usually try to stop at least every 90 minutes for a break and gas stations make handy stopping points. Just don't count on it. Wouldn't you be more comfortable knowing your **ACTUAL RANGE** and **ACTUAL MILES DRIVEN** since last refueling?