

## 2010 Lexus 250h

With all the buzz about hybrid vehicles, I felt it was time to devote some quality driving behind the wheel of this vehicle. The problem I have with hybrid vehicles is the cost, this test vehicle is a 2010 Lexus 250h Premium and it will cost you \$48,155 plus tax and license. The base price is \$36,970 plus the rest are options that you may or may not need, that depends on you.

I feel today's hybrid vehicles have a lot more features than most of us need or want or will even use in the ownership life of that vehicle. My wife has a 1982 Toyota Supra L model that has a trip computer, the car has over 300,000 miles on it and she has never used the trip computer. That computer was real hi tech in 1982.

I must realize today's drivers are more techno savvy and we want all the bells and whistles found on today's vehicles hybrid or not. My test vehicle for this week did come from the factory and I had it for a week of driving all over San Diego County and a trip to LA. I have nothing negative to write about the Lexus 250h in fact it was a great vehicle and next week I will get the 350h. I feel the 250h gave me all the acceleration and performance, yes performance out of a hybrid I could ask for. The vehicle had comfortable seating with heat and cool for those nasty days. The back seat was very comfortable and the trunk was large enough for those golf bags and a lot of groceries.

This 250h came with a 2.4-liter 16-valve dual overhead camshaft 4-cylinder engine with variable valve timing mated to two electric motors, one for the engine assist and the other to start the car. Lexus gives the driver a drive-mode feature allowing the driver to choose between four settings, normal, power, eco and ev. Using the eco setting at freeway speeds is a little uncomfortable; the car acts like it is searching to give you the best with the least, once in town the eco and ev mode were perfect. The transmission is a continuously variable transmission which acts like a golf cart transmission, one speed from stop to top speed, very smooth and precise all done with a small shifter in the dash.

Speaking of the dash in the center console is a hump that houses a computer mouse and a control on each side. It is smooth and you can drive and maneuver the mouse with ease working the navigation system or climate control or one of the many radio stations available with am/fm/satellite weather sports news all voice activated if you're not into the mouse. The dash layout runs up hill to the top of the dash where a wide view monitor will rise from the dash and give you all the information on a crystal clear screen, very stylish dash I might add in fact the whole car has tons of style. Not interested in looking at the screen, touch a button located near the mouse and the unit folds back into the dash.

Another feature you might want to think about is a Tech Package which includes Lane Keep Assist (Let you know who is in your blind spot on the left and the right side of the vehicle) Dynamic Cruise Control (keeps you from rear-ending the vehicle in front of you by using a string of red lights and an audible noise to alert you) heads up display, Park Assist front and rear and a Pre-Collision System with Driver Attention Monitor.

The Lexus drives like a dream and I love the keyless fob. All you have to do is hook the fob on your belt and just walking up to the 250h it recognizes that you are there and it unlocks the car with the push of the start/stop button it engages and off I go. The fuel mileage is 35 city and 34 on the open road. I will take those numbers all day, check it out and see if a hybrid belongs in your family!