

## Lightning Strikes New Ground

### Ford's Electric F-150 Merges Electric Power With Proven Capability

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Ford F-150 Lightning demonstrates how far electric vehicles have come.

This electric pickup successfully translates America's best-selling vehicle into a capable EV that brings both impressive innovations and inevitable compromises to the segment.

Under its conventional-looking aluminum bodywork, the Lightning packs serious performance credentials. The Extended Range version combines dual electric motors producing 580 horsepower with a 131-kWh battery pack, delivering effortless acceleration that surpasses its gas-powered siblings.

From a stop, the instant torque pins passengers to their seats with a quietness that seems impossible from such a substantial vehicle.

The truck's battery pack, mounted low in the frame, contributes to notably stable handling. Ford's independent rear suspension provides a smoother ride than traditional leaf springs, though the truck's considerable weight remains apparent in corners.

Steering provides good feedback for a full-size pickup, and brake response blends regenerative and friction braking seamlessly.

Practicality hasn't been overlooked. The 14.1 cubic-



The Lightning retains traditional F-150 proportions while adding LED lighting elements and aerodynamic wheel designs.

foot front trunk offers secure, weatherproof storage where an engine would normally sit.

The optional 9.6-kW Pro Power Onboard system can power job sites or serve as emergency home backup, adding genuine utility beyond regular truck duties. Ford's Pro Trailer Backup Assist and Smart Hitch features help manage towing duties.

The interior follows standard F-150 design, with a spacious crew cab accommodating five adults comfortably. Upper trims feature a 15.5-inch portrait touchscreen that manages most functions effectively, though some interior materials feel inconsistent with our test

truck's \$80,490 price point.

Range and charging present the most significant challenges. While the EPA estimates 320 miles per charge for Extended Range models, that number decreases substantially when towing or hauling near the 1,952-pound payload capacity.

Ford's native navigation system helps locate charging stations, but long-distance travel requires careful planning around DC fast-charging availability. The new vapor injection heat pump system helps maintain range in cold weather conditions.

Access to Tesla's Supercharger network through Ford's new charging

adapter should help address some range anxiety concerns.

Recent price reductions make the Lightning more accessible, with the new Flash trim offering extended range capability under \$70,000. Standard equipment includes Ford Co-Pilot360 safety features, LED lighting, and power-adjustable seats.

Our test vehicle added the Pro Power upgrade, BlueCruise capability, and max trailer tow package, pushing the final price to \$80,490 with destination.

The Lightning's dual-motor powertrain configuration provides standard four-wheel drive, with ground clearance matching regular

F-150s.

While it won't replace purpose-built off-road models, the instant torque proves useful on loose surfaces. The independent suspension balances capability with comfort better than traditional truck setups.

Ford's decision to maintain familiar F-150 dimensions means the Lightning works with existing truck accessories and storage solutions. The 5.5-foot bed offers the same functionality as gas models, including built-in scales to monitor payload weight.

Overall, the Lightning proves most compelling as a daily-use truck that occasionally handles heavier duties.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Ford F-150 Lightning (\$74,495). Options: Pro Power onboard 9.6 kW (\$1,200), BlueCruise with three-year plan (\$2,100), max trailer tow package (\$1,100), mobile power cord (\$500). Price as tested (including \$2,095 destination charge): \$80,490

##### BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 145.5 in.  
Length: 232.7 in.  
Width: 96 in.  
Height: 78.3 in.  
Battery: 131 kWh  
Power: Dual electric motors (580 combined hp)  
Range: 320 miles  
MPGe: 70 city, 63 highway

##### RATINGS

Style: 7  
Performance: 8  
Price: 6  
Handling: 8  
Ride: 9  
Comfort: 9  
Quality: 8  
Overall: 7

##### WHY BUY IT?

Ford's advanced electric pickup delivers strong performance and innovative features while maintaining core F-150 functionality.

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Steering provides good feedback for a full-size pickup, and brake response blends regenerative and friction braking seamlessly.

Practicality hasn't been overlooked. The 14.1 cubic-foot front trunk offers secure, weatherproof storage where an engine would normally sit.



A vertical 15.5-inch touchscreen anchors the dashboard in higher trims, while familiar controls maintain easy operation.

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#### A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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