



External battery for electric car

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We're used to power banks for smartphones and laptops, but the ZipCharge Go is on a whole different scale. It's about the same size as a suitcase and includes wheels and a retractable handle, which is good news as it weighs around 50 lbs. When fully-charged, it offers between 20-40 miles of range depending on the EV, and takes between 30-60 minutes to transfer that charge to a vehicle's battery using a standard Type 2 cable.

As Autoblog reports, although it will be possible to purchase a ZipCharge Go, it's also going to be available to rent from \$67 a month. Two versions are planned (4 kWh and 8 kWh), but they won't be available until Q4 next year. Charging is controlled via an app, which allows you to leave the power bank plugged into your EV and schedule when charging starts.

The power bank is a lot of additional weight to carry in an EV, but clearly ZipCharge thinks range anxiety coupled with convenience will be enough to make the Go popular. There's also multiple use cases beyond just having a backup, for example, businesses may offer them to employees or visitors, and roadside assistance services could carry one for drivers who call for help when their EVs run out of charge. ZipCharge also points out 40% of people can't charge an EV at home "because they don't have off-street parking or they rent," but they'd surely require more than a 40 mile recharge every day.

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I started working at PCMag in November 2016, covering all areas of technology and video game news. Before that I spent nearly 15 years working at Geek as a writer and editor. I also spent the first six years after leaving university as a professional game designer working with Disney, Games Workshop, 20th Century Fox, and Vivendi.

[Read Matthew's full bio](#)

If you drive an electric vehicle, making sure you can make it to the next charging station without losing charge is vital. Fortunately, there is plenty of technology that can help drivers locate the nearest chargers, and more and more charging stations popping up on highways and roads around the world every day.

But because life isn't always predictable, it can be wise to invest in a portable EV charger battery.

Keep reading for all the basics on how portable EV chargers work, and our recommendations of two worth investing in.

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Charging EVs with a portable charger is not as simple as charging a cell phone with an external battery -- basically, most EV chargers function by converting a standard wall outlet into something powerful enough to sufficiently charge your EV.

According to Electric For All, these days, most electric cars come with a 120-volt level 1 portable charger. But a level 2 portable charger is far more efficient, as it can convert the energy from a power outlet into a charge for your car much more quickly. Keeping one handy, whether at home or in your car, can help you avoid ever being without a charge and experiencing too much range anxiety.

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