



HOW DO I GET INTO DRIFTING?

In today's world there is a lot of media that is focused on the car scene in general and specifically drift related shenanigans.

Now, you may come across a video online seeing professionals shredding tyres at 90mph and think... now, I want a go at that!



However, the real question then comes... How do you start drifting?

Aside from the obvious 'don't try this at home', also, don't try this in public, on the roads, or down your local Tesco carpark.

There are more than plenty of options to have a go at drifting, in either your own car, or with provided cars from companies such as RDX Academy and Learn2Drift. These kind of companies provide taster days for beginners and first timers to have a try and learn how to drift! These days can be very informative to help learn some basic car control as well.



You can also find these experiences on gift voucher sites such as Red Letter Days, Virgin Experiences, Wowcher, Groupon etc. **What a good gift idea!**

No, you don't need a 600bhp S14 with full wisefab to have a go.

There are all sorts of capable cars out there that will work for this. MX5s and E36s were always the go to a few years ago, however we see lots more IS200/250s, E46s and 350zs. However I will say, when first learning how to drift, you are best off in a close to standard, cheap car.



As we can all imagine, when attempting to force a car to do the opposite thing they are manufactured to do, you can expect some bumps and scrapes along the way.

Best advice would be to pick a car that you aren't too precious about.

Realistically all you need to have is a rear wheel drive car with some form of LSD or welded diff and a few sets of rear tyres and you are off.

A set of coilovers will help when it comes to body roll, it's not essential, but the difference is massive.

Event wise there are a few places up and down the UK running drift days. Now with social media there are lots of local groups you can join to find out more about your local track, and what is on and where.



Some events are at race tracks, some are old airfields, we even have seen some in large car parks in the past for example this photo of the DW S15 from JDM AllStars at Wembley Arena.

Once you have done a few drift days, chances are you will meet some new people, and be able to get out in the cars with them.

You may be sat thinking "that's all good but I have never driven RWD and don't want to end up in the middle of a 10 car train with experienced drivers" I think I can speak for everyone else and myself in saying that that was my first panic too, I had seen videos of cars door on door, twinning and trains, and thought it looked terrifying!

Do not fear play pens are here!

Some of the tracks have 'playpen' areas where you can go out on your own into an open space with just a few cones scattered around, so that you can learn the basic car control needed to get involved in trains and twinning.

Santa Pod is a perfect example of this with various pens and even a kidney layout where you can learn to speed up and slow down whilst sideways.



Other tracks will have a marshal letting cars onto the track, and a quiet word or in most cases a hand signal will let them know you want to do a run on your own and nobody will mind this at all. Especially if you are just learning. Professionals often still do single runs just to get used to the track layout on drift days.



A simple breakdown of the best way to get into drifting would be. -

1. Buy a RWD car with some form of LSD or locked diff.



2. Add a set of decent coilovers (HSD, BC, KW, etc)

3. Get a few spare rear tyres, maybe a spare pair of rear wheels.



4. Book a day somewhere and start making some smoke!

It really is quite simple to go out and have some fun, and in the end that is what drifting is all about.