

## ETAM Chief Observer's "Observations"



### Tip sheet Number 3

In my first two tips I spoke about getting the seat and mirror adjusted correctly before setting off; now I am going to suggest something else you can do when you actually start the engine.

So you have done your checks and now want to start your engine, so now turn on the ignition and before turning the key to the start position or pressing the start button check that all your warning lights are working and watch the ones that self-check go out. Assuming they do now before actually starting, in a manual car place your feet on both the clutch and the brake pedal and depress them so the clutch is fully disengaged and the brake pedal is firm under your right foot. In an automatic press the brake pedal firmly, now depending on which hand is going to operate the start button or key with the other hand pull down gently on the steering wheel. With feet and hands in place and doing what they are supposed to be doing now start the engine. Three things should happen, one, the engine starts running, two, the steering wheel loosens up and moves slightly in the direction you are pulling and three the brake pedal depresses slightly. Without having moved you have checked that both the power steering and servo to the brakes are working. Now come off the clutch carefully just in case you have a false neutral and release the steering wheel. Keep your foot firmly on the brake pedal now release the handbrake you should see the warning light go out then re-apply the hand brake and the warning light should come back on telling you that the brake warning system is working correctly.

With that done you are now ready for the road but ideally subject to a rolling brake test, but more on that with my next tip.

*Happy motoring,*

*Dennis*