

Who actually invented the lithium-ion battery?



Everyone knows in the meantime the electric car manufacturer **Tesla**. This has taught the conventional German luxury car producers the fear. In Switzerland, in the upper segment such as the Mercedes S-Class, BMW 7 and the like, significantly more Teslas have been sold than from those models. Tesla finally comes with smaller, cheaper models on the market. In the meantime, the Europeans have also woken up and now also come with e-models in the price range middle. High time, otherwise a major worldwide trend simply overslept. China relies heavily on e-mobility, not least because of the filthy air in big cities, where the sun shines through only dimly, if at all, and people with face masks walk around. A terrible idea for us.

Thousands of lithium-ion batteries are installed in the lower part of the Tesla S in the picture and provide for enormous acceleration, extremely low center of gravity and for a distance of around 500 kilometers and more. Not only in the car such batteries are installed, but in countless mobile devices such as mobile phones, laptops, tools, bicycles and now even in small scooters.

Who actually invented Li-ion batteries?

The Japanese **chemist Akira Yoshino** worked in the early 1980s on a specific technology that was still in need of improvement. His goal was to produce the smallest possible battery, which also has a high energy density. In 1985, Yoshino and his colleagues were granted the patent for the first lithium-ion battery with truly huge potential. The energy density is increasing now and Yoshino expects in the future with a load time of only 5 minutes!. He continues to research on a **solid-state battery** that can not burn, among other things! At the Paul Scherrer Institute in Würenlingen, the local researchers are on the front line. We are eager to see what happens. In English, the general battery technology is a real "game changer" for all of us!

*from Jürg Fehlbaum, free journalist
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