

## DRAGSTER SIMULATOR

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## INFORMATION

The spreadsheet on the next page is a complete recreation of the speed system in the Atari 2600 game "Dragster"  
By shifting up your gear at specific times, you can continue accelerating and reach the finish sooner.  
But if your tachometer goes too far, your engine will blow out!  
What's the fastest time you can get?  
The supposed WR for this game is 5.51. Please contact me if you can get a time faster than 5.57, or a 5.57 with distance greater than 97.25.

## OPERATION

**NOTE: Please make a local copy for yourself to play. This document is shared read-only to preserve it from incorrect edits.**  
The spreadsheet is mostly automated. Please only adjust the "Shift" and "Gas" columns.  
A "1" in either column indicates that you are pressing that button at that frame.  
The race is over when your Distance is 97.  
You lose if your TACH value hits 32 or higher at any point.  
You can also control a frame counter and your starting TACH value. Please adjust in the control center as necessary.

## IN-DEPTH MECHANICS

### TACHOMETER & SPEED LIMITS

The tachometer value changes according to frame rules, with the frame rule getting longer the higher gear you're in.  
ie, in Gear 1, it advances every frame. In Gear 3, it advances every 4 frames.  
This pattern is affected by a starting frame counter, which you can adjust in the Control Center.  
If you are pressing gas when the tachometer tries to advance, it will go up by 1.  
If you aren't pressing gas, it will go down by 1.  
Your speed limit is derived from your current Tach value and Gear number.  
If your current speed is more than 16 below your speed limit, the tachometer will also go down by 1. This is shown in the chart as PostTach.

### ACCELERATION & DISTANCE

If the current speed limit is greater than your prior speed, your speed increments by 2.  
If the current speed limit is less than your prior speed, your speed decrements by 1.  
If the current speed limit is equal to your prior speed, it remains unchanged.  
If your speed remains the same for two consecutive frames, I regard this as a "stall."  
You should probably engage the clutch on the first frame you encounter a stall, or try to adjust your TACH to increase your speed limit.  
I included a special column to help you identify stalls.

[illegible]