



NEWSLETTER

Show Me Your Curves

VOLUME 1, NO. 6

Merry Christmas



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE M EDITIONS



Lookin' Ahead

December 2010

How is this for celebrating Christmas with your Miata?

Several Miata Clubs in California organize an event where they decorate their Miatas and have a *Holiday Lights Cruise* to check out the Christmas lights in the various neighbourhoods then stop for dinner. Sounds like fun doesn't it?



Yes but can they do this in California?

***Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to You and Your Families***

We look forward to Cruisin' in 2011.



ZOOM-ZOOM

Helpful Hints — DIY Headlight bulb replacement for NB Miata.

by WPartyMiller@aol.com

Disclaimer: This was for my 2000 Miata; possibly there are variations for subsequent years.

Condition: You have noticed a headlight is non-functional.

Level: Easy for a novice, of any age.

Tools: Light source, and, needle nose pliers.

Part(s): Replacement halogen bulb H4/HB2. Available from local auto parts stores.

Cost: Approximately \$15. to \$25./ each. Consider replacing both sides, keeping the good old one as a spare.

Time: 15 minutes each side.

Reference: Miata Owners Manual, under headlight bulb replacement.

Caution: Avoid touching glass portion of new halogen bulb.

Instructions:

(A) Prop open hood. You will not see the actual bulb, yet. Left bulb is in front of air intake orifice. Right bulb is in front of coolant overflow tank. Follow shielded cable forward to black plastic connector. Squeeze both sides of connector. When you feel dual springiness you are at the right spot. While squeezing both sides of connector, pull back firmly, jiggling until separation of connector from metal tabs attached to the bulb.

(B) Note the rubber boot with tabs, surrounding bulb connector housing, top and bottom. Gently pull these rubber tabs, and gasket itself, back, exposing the actual bulb. The bulb is secured by a retaining wire cage. Do not pull wire cage, yet!

Now is the time to use the needle nose pliers. Get some light in there to see, if you haven't already. What you will see is that the wire cage is a puzzle. It is hinged on the side nearest the car centre. On the other end of the wire, you want to use the needle nose pliers' tips to grasp the wire. Find the inverted plastic 'U' that the wire cage locks into. Study the situation under the light; then grasp the wire, and twist down, releasing the wire. The bulb itself will be loosely attached to the wire cage. As you pivot open the wire cage and bulb- you got it!

Note the position of the 3 connector bulb tabs. Note that the bulb assembly also has 3 tabs that fit in the lens housing. When you reassemble, you want to remember this positioning. The learning curve is over.

(C) If you haven't purchased a new bulb yet, take your halogen bulb with you to buy a matching new one.

(D) REASSEMBLY: Remember, when you install the new bulb, you can mis-position the 3 metal bulb tabs into the lens housing. So, use visual care to position the new bulb correctly, checking that all 3 tabs are inserted against their respective indented areas. (What could go wrong is that a tab could go in too far- at a non-vertical angle- rather than against the backing plate).

Refit wire cage retainer, again using needle nose pliers to pop the end-tip into the 'U'.

Push that rubber seal on firmly.

'Jiggle and push' the black plastic connector over the 3 bulb connector tabs.

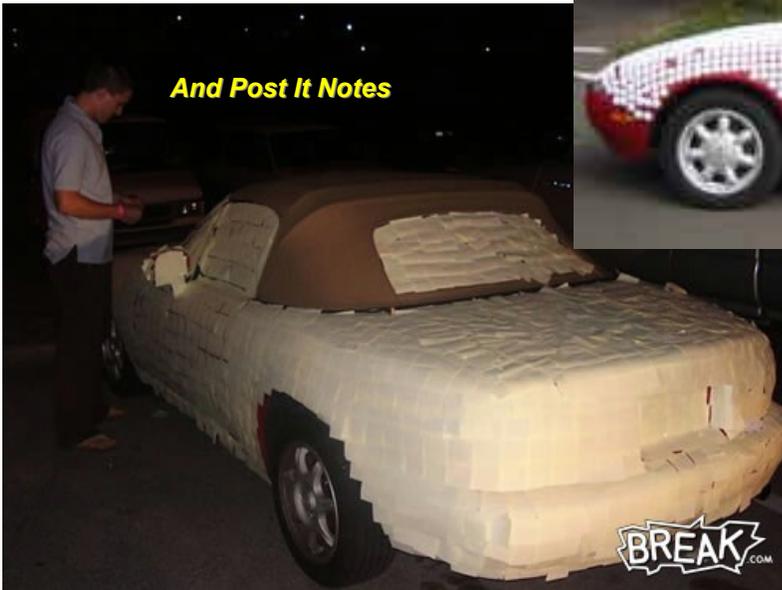
Reach into your Miata and twist the light switch on, to test headlights. (You need not start motor.)

Congratulate yourself!

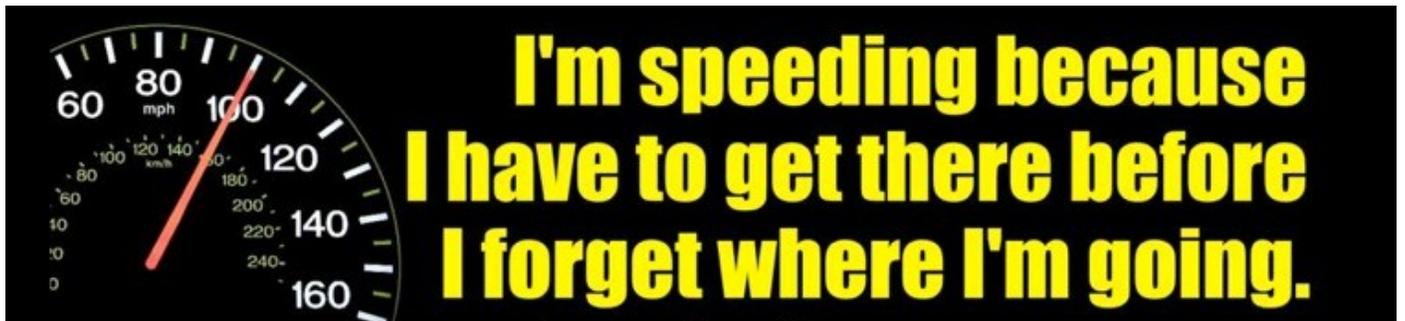
MIATA FUN

Things people will do to their cars to personalize them....

The owners of these Miatas have glued various items to the car to achieve their appearance. Whaddya think???



Cartoon Corner



Did you Know ?

What do the generational codes, "NA", "NB" and "NC" mean and where did they come from?

These codes are "Model Identifiers" per standard VIN coding convention used within Mazda. The "Model Identifier" code is the 4th and 5th position in the VIN. "NA" is the international code for "Miata", "Miata", M1 (Model 1 or First Generation Miata). "NB" = M2 (Model 2 or Second Generation Miata). and "NC" = M3 (Model 3 or Third Generation Miata). We've seen a number of rumours and references to a Fourth generation MX-5 Miata. If it happens, it would presumably be designated as the ND.

In the animated film CARS, Mia and Tia (known as The Twins) are modeled after the first-generation Mazda Miata.

Mia, (voiced by Lindsey Collins), and Tia, (voiced by Elissa Knight), are identical twin 1992 Mazda Miata sisters who are Lightning McQueen's self-proclaimed biggest fans. Their names are a play on the *Miata* nameplate.



When they first meet Lightning, Mia and Tia flash their headlights at him, similar to groupies pulling up their shirts to flash celebrities.

Mia and Tia eventually moved to Radiator Springs and work as waitresses at Flo's V8 Cafe, as seen during the end credits.

In Lightning McQueen's daydream about the Dinoco Sponsorship, the twins are Dinoco blue,



except for the scene in the penthouse, where they are painted gold. They also appeared in the *Mater* animated films with Mater the friendly, silly, dim-witted, and goofy tow truck.



Spotlight On

1994-1997 The M Editions

After producing Special or Limited Editions in 1991, 1992 and 1993, Mazda decided in 1994 to produce a special series of Miatas in limited numbers calling the series M Editions. The M Edition series was developed by Mazda USA's marketing department. It was produced for those interested in a special Miata only available in limited production numbers made during the regular production run for a limited time.

It was an attempt by Mazda to standardize a higher level of build, exclusivity and upscale content. The series consisted mostly in the application of exclusive special paint colours, luxury interior features, special wheels and M Edition badges/logos throughout the interior and exterior of each car. The M Edition series (as produced by Mazda from the factory) does not offer any engine or suspension performance enhancements over the regular series Miata nor were they sequentially numbered.; their VIN numbers will be scattered throughout the regular run for each year. A total of 12,470 M Editions were manufactured throughout the 4 year run, ending in 1997 just prior to the second-generation NB introduction.



The Mazda Miata M Edition series of vehicles are very desirable and sought after by Miata enthusiasts. They are the most misunderstood of all of the Special Editions as they are often misrepresented in advertisements. There are several definitive characteristics of the M Editions the most obvious being they ALL have tan leather interior. If it doesn't have a tan leather interior it ain't an 'M'.

We have outlined each M Edition Miata on the following pages produced with information gathered from Mazda's marketing brochures, various web sites and owners, highlighting specifications, features and numbers produced.

1994 M Edition



The 1994 M Edition included the Popular Equipment Package (formerly called B package) included: power steering, leather-wrapped steering wheel, power mirrors, Torsen limited slip differential, cruise control, power windows, power antenna....PLUS



Exterior Features:

Montego Blue Mica

Tan top and Boot

exterior badge

15" seven spoke polished alloy wheels w/ high- performance tires



Interior Features:

Tan leather interior, low-back seats, tan boot,

Nardi wood shift knob and parking brake handle,

Miata stainless door sill plates,

air conditioning, CD player and 4 speakers, M Edition floor mats,

M Edition key ring/badge/lapel pin



**1994 M Edition seats
with speakers and
M Edition logo**

1994 M Edition

Optional Features:

- Hardtop
- Automatic transmission
- ABS (standard with auto transmission)
- limited slip differential

Mechanical Specs:

- 1.8 L 120 hp, 110 ft-lb,
- ABS, 15" Alloy wheels



The 3,000 units (USA) described in the brochure as "special edition", and in magazine advertisement as "limited production" The totals in Canada were substantially less.

Other Unique Features to a 1994 M Edition

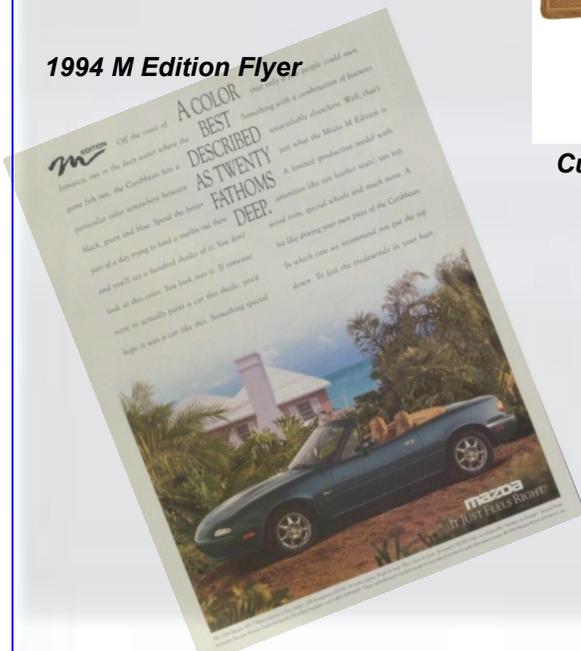


Miata Stainless Door Sills

Wood NARDI Shift Knob & Parking Brake



Custom Floor Mats



1994 M Edition Flyer



Key Fob Gift Set

1995 M Edition



The 1995 M Edition included the Popular Equipment Package (formerly called B package) included: power steering, leather-wrapped steering wheel, power mirrors, Torsen limited slip differential, cruise control, power windows, power antenna....PLUS

Exterior Features:

Merlot Mica (burgundy)
Tan top
exterior badge
15" BBS alloy wheels w/ high- performance tires

Interior Features:

Tan leather interior, low-back seats, tan boot,
Leather Nardi shift knob, M Edition stainless door sill plates,
air conditioning, CD player and 4 speakers, M Edition floor mats,
M Edition key ring/badge/lapel pin



1995 M Edition showing low-back seats with Miata logo on seat backs

1995 M Edition

Optional Features:
Hardtop
Automatic transmission

Mechanical Specs:
1.8 L 120 hp, 110 ft-lb,
ABS, 15" Alloy wheels



Production:
Launched at February 1995 Chicago Auto show "to be produced for only six months".
The 3,500 units (USA) were described in the press release as "limited edition" and as "special M Edition", in the print advertisements as "rare production". The totals in Canada were substantially less.

Other Unique Features to a 1995 M Edition



M Edition Stainless Door Sills

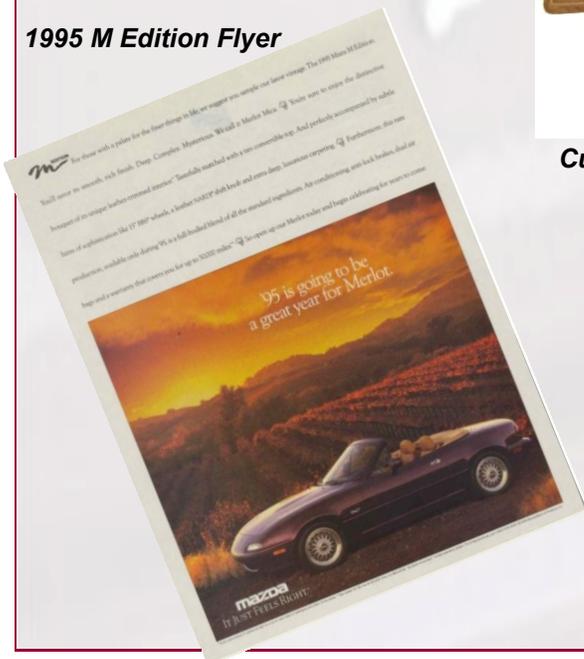


Leather NARDI Shift Knob



Custom Floor Mats

1995 M Edition Flyer



Key Fob Gift Set

1996 M Edition



The 1996 M Edition included the following features: power steering, leather-wrapped interior, cruise control, power windows

Exterior Features:

Starlight Blue Mica, Tan top, exterior badge, 15" Enkei 5-spoke wheels w/ high performance tires, Security system and remote entry



Interior Features:

Tan leather interior, Speakers in headrests of seats, tan boot, Nardi wood shift knob, wood parking brake handle, M Edition stationer logo on seatbacks, M edition logo on tachometer, Air conditioning, Premium Sound System with 6 mounted tweeters, M Edition floor mats, M Edition key ring/badge



Edition



1996 M Edition seats with speakers and M Edition logo

1996 M Edition

Optional Features:
Hardtop
Automatic transmission

Mechanical Specs:
1.8 L 120 hp, 110 ft-lb,
ABS,
15" Enkei 5-spoke wheels



Production:

Launched at February 1996 Chicago Auto show were described in the press release as "rare production" and as "special M Edition". Production totalled 2,98 in USA, substantially less in Canada.

Other Unique Features to a 1996 M Edition

Wood NARDI Shift Knob & Parking Brake



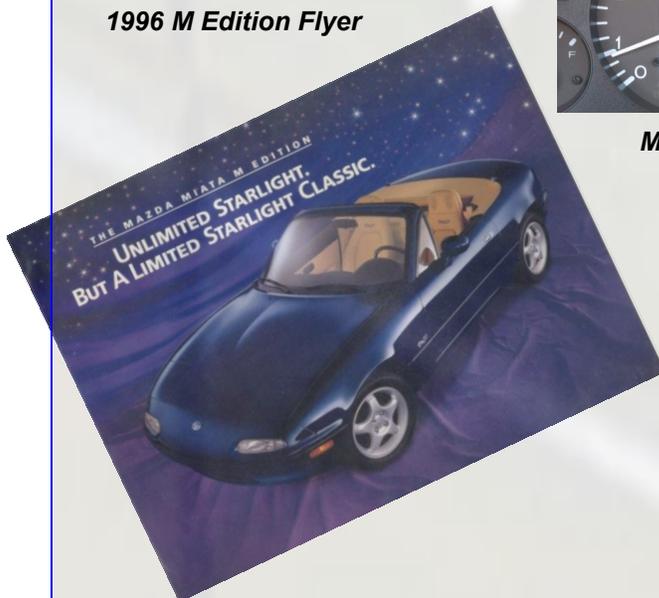
M Edition Stainless Door Sills



1996 M Edition Flyer



M Tachometer



Key Fob Gift Set

1997 M Edition



The 1997 M Edition included the Popular Equipment Package (formerly called B package) included: power steering, leather-wrapped steering wheel, power mirrors, Torsen limited slip differential, cruise control, power windows, power antenna....PLUS



Exterior Features:

Marina Green Mica, Tan top exterior badge
15" polished 6-spoke alloy wheels w/ high- performance tires
Security system and remote entry



Interior Features:

Tan leather interior, Spears in headrests of seats, tan boot, Nardi wood shift knob, wood parking brake handle, M Edition stainless door sill plates, M Edition logo on seatbacks, M edition logo on tachometer, Air conditioning, Premium Sound System with CD player, door-mounted tweeters, M Edition floor mats, M Edition key ring/badge/lapel pin,



1997 M Edition seats with speakers and M Edition logo

1997 M Edition

Optional Features:
Hardtop
Automatic transmission

Mechanical Specs:
1.8 L 120 hp, 110 ft-lb,
ABS, 15" Alloy wheels



Production:

Launched at February 1997 Chicago Auto Show Described in sales flier as "limited edition". There were 3,000 units produced from December through February (USA). The totals in Canada were substantially less.

Other Unique Features to a 1997 M Edition

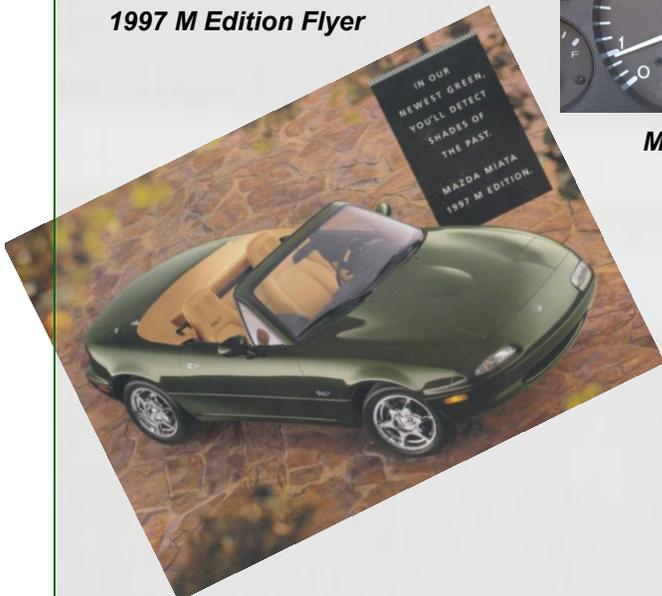
Wood NARDI Shift Knob & Parking Brake



M Edition Stainless Door Sills



1997 M Edition Flyer



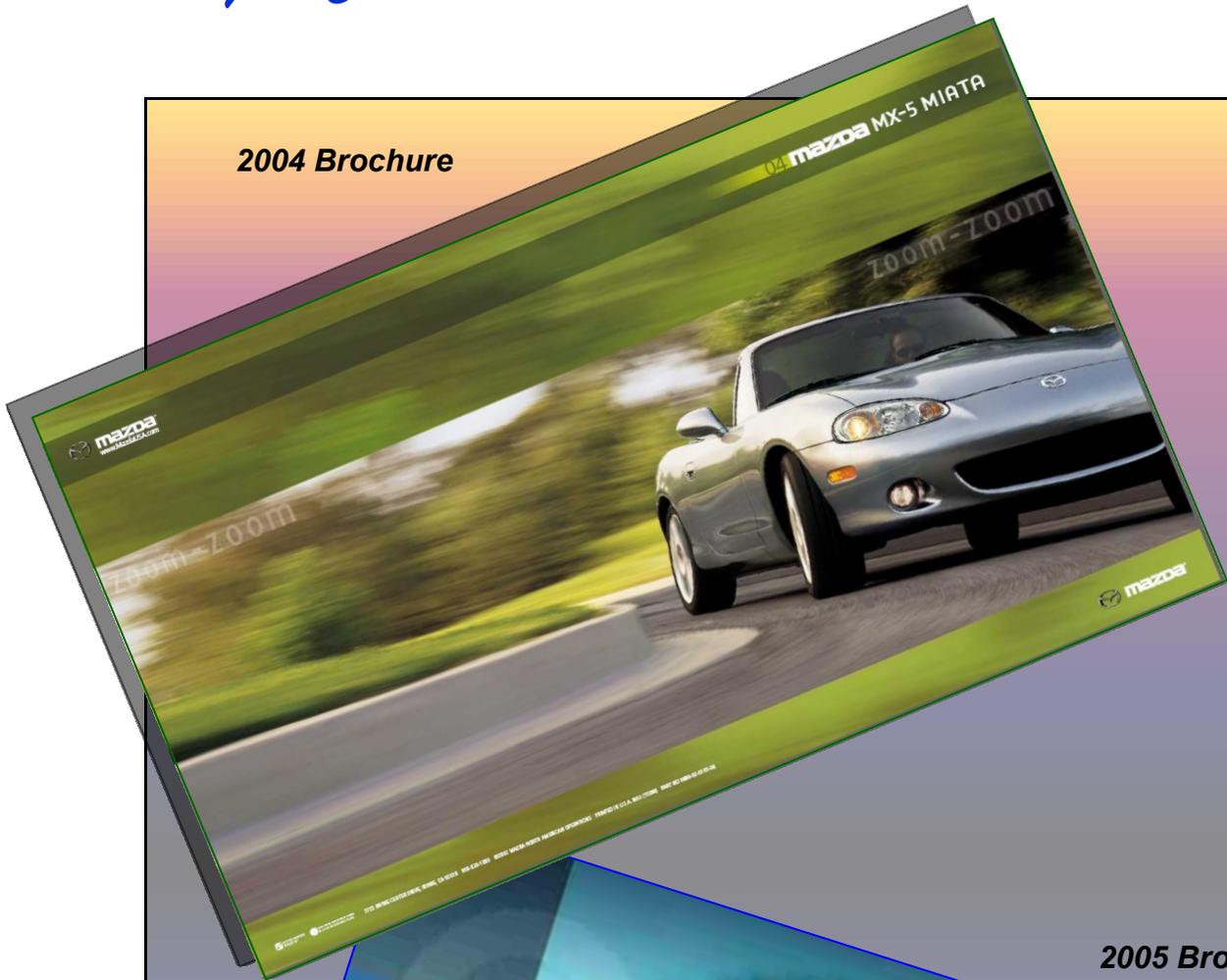
M Tachometer



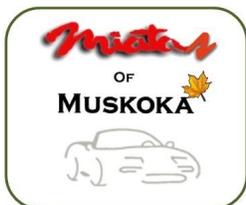
Key Fob Gift Set

Show me your Curves

2004 Brochure



2005 Brochure



“Join us because of the car, you’ll stay because of your friends”