
Mazda Miata Installation Instructions

Tools needed:

Phillips screwdriver, 1/2" socket & ratchet wrench

Can substitute: 1/2" open ended wrench or a crescent wrench in a pinch.

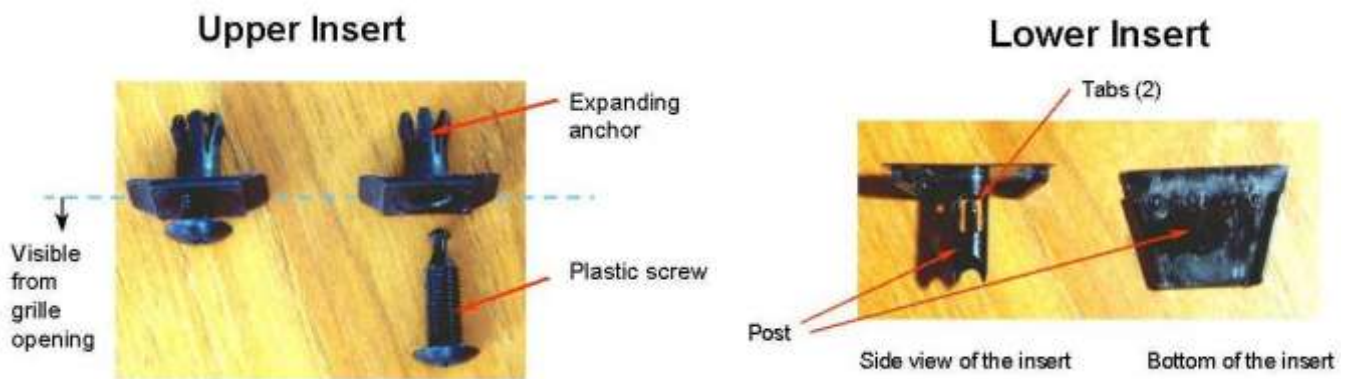
(For some early models) Diagonal wire cutters

Note: If substitute tools are being used, or if you doubt your ability to do work with them, ask a mechanic or body shop professional for help.

Installation:

1. Remove existing fasteners (6)

There are several types of fastening for the front fender clip. They are visible from the grille opening. Most likely, you will have what look like 3 black phillips screws on the top, and 3 black plates on the bottom.



The screws on top come out easily with a screwdriver, then the rectangular base will pull right out with your fingers.

The bottom plates are connected to a post, which has tabs that popped out when the fastener was pressed through the hole. The bottom plates are removed by reaching under the front of the car and pushing the two protruding tabs back into the post, then push the post back through into the grille opening.

You may alternatively encounter a soft plastic insert that has sets of fins molded in along its length. This is sometimes installed after a repair. The fins fold as they go through the hole, then spring back once they have cleared on the opposite side. Using the diagonal wire cutters, pinch the plastic fastener under its head. Pinch hard enough to get the cutting edges of the cutters up against the shank of the fastener. Pry the fastener up by rocking the handles back. Remove all six fasteners, 3 on top and 3 on the bottom.

Note: The removal of this style of inserts can cause scratches or other damage to the paint under the head of the fasteners. AutoExpressions cannot and does not guarantee that this will not happen, as it is greatly dependent upon the skill of the installer.

2. Install the teeth

There should be 6 bolts, 6 nuts, and 12 washers in the kit. They are made of nylon, and are a close approximation in strength to the fasteners pulled out in step 1. Put a washer on each bolt. The upper teeth have 3 slotted holes and 2 large holes. The slotted holes are used to mount the teeth. The 2 other holes are clearance for the license plate holder bolts (if needed). Install the teeth *using the center hole first*. Insert the bolt from the grille opening, through the teeth and through the plastic fender clip (painted) and plastic structure (cream colored). Reach through the grille opening to install a washer and a nut on the protruding bolts. **Caution - although made of plastic, the teeth can scratch or even cut the skin.**

Bolt installation, using ratchet wrench and holding nut with fingers



Tighten the nut by reaching through the grille again, and holding the nut between your fingers firmly. Using the 1/2" socket, tighten up the bolt until you can't hold it from rotating with your fingers. The holes are slotted to allow for front to back adjustment. Adjust as necessary to fit with other grille mounted accessories, such as mesh grille screens or bras.

For the lower teeth, access to the nuts is from under the car, easily reached from the front on most models. Some 99's require a reach through the grill opening due to a plastic skid plate, which can block access. Note that there are 5 slotted holes. Start with the center hole for '90-'97. Start with the slightly off-center hole for '99+'. The remaining 2 holes you need to use will line right up with the holes in the car.

For added theft deterrence, the bolt threads that protrude past the nut can be damaged, so that the nut cannot back off of the bolt.

3. Install license plate holder, if not already installed

Slide the license plate holder between the teeth and the cream colored structural plate. Re-install the bolts for it through the set of large holes in the teeth.

You are done. Now take her for a spin, and see who notices first.