

## Miata Seat Adapters For the MGB and MGB/GT

Thank you for purchasing this seat adapter kit from Eclectic Motorworks. This kit will allow you to install seats from a Mazda Miata into your 1968-1980 MGB or MGB/GT. Please read these instructions carefully. If you have problems, call Eclectic Motorworks at 616.355.2850 9am-5pm Monday thru Friday and we will do our best to assist you.

In addition to this kit, you will need the following tools:

- Large adjustable wrench
- Air or electric die grinder, cut-off wheel or hacksaw
- utility knife
- 7/16" combination wrench
- Round file or Dremel (necessary for 2nd generation seats)
- 7/16" socket and ratchet (optional)

### Selecting your Miata Seats

Please note that when purchasing Miata seats from a junkyard or recycler that you make sure you also receive the SEAT RAILS. This is very important because you will need the seat rails to attach to our adapters.

There are essentially 2 types of seats that have been installed in the Miata since its development that work with our kit. The first generation of seats are found in the cars from 1989 thru 1997. There were no 1998 model-year Miatas, and in 1999 they introduced a new seat which was slightly modified and had a much taller headrest. Either seat will work with this adapter kit, however the seats from the 1st generation of Miata are **PREFERRED**. They offer easier seat track modification and a headrest that is much more compatible with your top and tonneau cover.



Seat options included various colors as well as cloth and leather materials. Another popular option was a headrest-mounted pair of speakers in each seat.

The 2 types of Miata seat are pictured at left. On the left is the 2nd generation seat (1999-2004) and on the right is the preferred 1st generation seat (1989-1997). The 1st generation seats did come with two different types of bolstering under the thigh area, but this does not affect the fitment.

# Installation Instructions

## Before you begin:

The adapter kit contains the following items. Please verify that you have all the pieces before you begin:

- 4 adapter plates, marked with notches 1 thru 4 (1) Driver Outside, (2) Driver Inside, (3) Passenger Inside and (4) Passenger outside.
- 8 hex bolts, 3/8" fine thread 3/4" long
- 8 bolts, 1/4" fine thread 1 1/2" long
- 8 star washers, 1/4"
- 8 flat washers, 3/8"
- 8 lock washers, 3/8"

## Step 1—Remove your old seats

Unbolt your old seats by removing the bolts holding the slide rails to your floorboards using a 7/16" wrench. (We really recommend some sort of ratcheting wrench available from many manufacturers such as GearWrench, Craftsman, Blackhawk, Blue-Point, etc.) If you have a roadster you can simply lift the seats out of the car once they've been unbolted. It can be a bit complicated with an MGB/GT but you can wiggle them out without difficulty. If you prefer, you can unbolt the backs of the seats from the base before removing to make the job easier.

Once the seats are out of the car, remove the wooden packing strips and the aluminum spacers. Now is a good time to vacuum!

## Step 2—Prep the seat adapter plates for installation

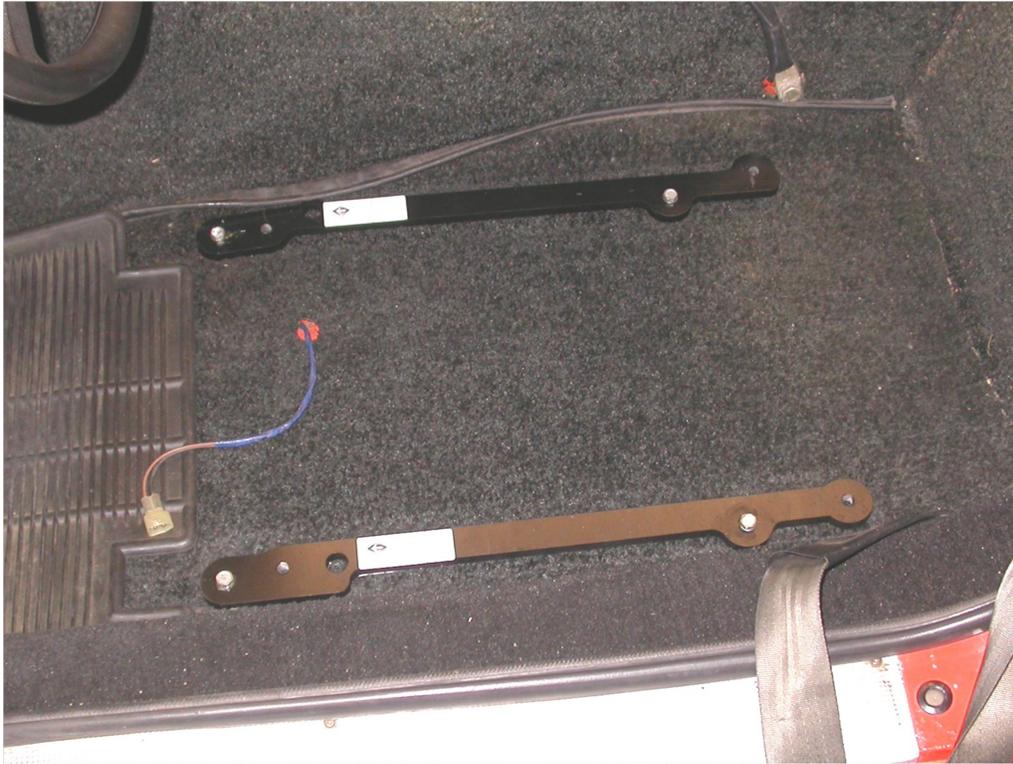
Each seat adapter plate is marked with notches for installation location and orientation. Lay them out on a table or other flat surface in order left-to-right: The rails are marked with a series of notches, 1 thru 4, indicating their position from left to right in the vehicle (1 driver's outside, 2 driver's inside, 3 passenger inside, 4 passenger outside). When the rails are laid flat, the marks will always be on the left side of the rail, with the marks forward in the passenger compartment. See the picture on the right for additional help.

## Step 3—Install the adapter plates

Lay each adapter bracket on the carpet where the original seat rail had been. There are two 5/16" holes on each plate that will correspond with the bolt hole locations in your floorboard.

Once each plate is lined up with its bolt holes, take two of the 1/4" bolts and star washers from the parts bag. Place a star washer on each bolt and thread it down through the 5/16" hole and into the captured nut in your floorboard. Once both bolts are in place, tighten them down with a 7/16" wrench or socket. If you had difficulty in taking the old bolts out, consider running a thread-chaser through the capture nuts.





Driver's side floorboard area with seat adapter plates installed. Note the bolts going down through to the floorboard's captured nuts.



Passenger floorboard area with adapter plates installed.

Optionally, when installing the adapter plates, you can also cut away the carpet from underneath plates for a small measure of added legroom. Most will find this unnecessary however as Miata seats will give you about an inch more room underneath the steering wheel compared to a stock MGB seat.

#### Step 4—Preparing the Miata seats for installation

The first thing that needs to be done to the Miata seats is to remove the seatbelt latch assembly from the right side of the drivers seat and left side of the passenger seat. Simply unbolt this using your adjustable wrench. This part isn't needed since you'll be using your body-mounted MGB seatbelts.

Next it is time to modify the seat rails themselves. They can remain attached to seats while this is done.



The front and rear of each seat rail is bent downward. Bend these so that they are straight and level with the rest of the seat rail.

Lay the seat on its back on a large table or the floor. Take your large adjustable wrench and clamp it to the end of the seat rail and, using it as a lever, bend the rail up until it is flat.



Once you've done the front parts of the rails, flip the seats over and repeat on the rear part of the rails.

*NOTE: This is one area in which the 2nd generation seats differ from the 1st. The 2nd Gen seats have a reinforced wedge design on the rear of the seat rail (see below). In order to use these rails with our adapters, you need to take a round file and "egg out" the hole by elongating it slightly. This will put the seats at a very slight tip forward, but once installed it is not noticeable.*



(Left) The completed bend, as compared to the original in as seen in the background.

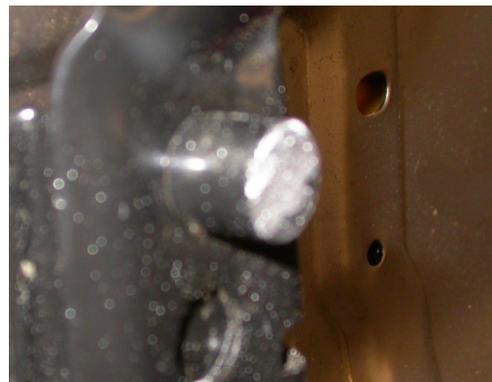


At left the rear portion of the 2nd gen seat rails. Note the use of a round file or Dremel tool to elongate the mounting hole so it will fit with the bolt on our adapter bracket.

The next step in prepping the seats is to make some small modifications to the locator pins near the front of the seat rails. Around each locating pin is a small white plastic bushing that needs to be removed. Cut this off with a utility knife.



After removing the plastic piece, use a hacksaw, cut-off tool, or whatever is handy and remove the skinny portion of the locating pin. Leave the big round nub attached to the rail, but take off the long, skinny part that was beneath the plastic (see picture below)



Before finally installing our Miata seats there are a few more recommended steps to ready them for their new life.

- Miata seat bottoms were unpainted from the factory. Often we see them with a bit of surface rust, but occasionally they can be fairly badly rusted away. To prevent this from happening to your seats, clean the bottoms and paint them with some rust-inhibiting paint (Rustoleum, Krylon, POR-15, etc).
- Grease the rails with a good quality grease. This will keep them moving freely for years to come.
- If you have and are going to use the headrest speakers, run the wiring before you install the seats to save yourself a lot of trouble later on.

## Step 5—Installing the Miata seats

Take the seat (with rails attached) and carefully lower it onto the adapter plates. The holes at the front and back of each seat rail should line up with the 3/8" threaded holes. Begin bolting down the seat rails through the waiting 5/8" hole in each plate using the 3/4" long 3/8" fine threaded bolt, 3/8" lock washer and 3/8" flat washer. Do not tighten down the bolts fully until all 4 have been threaded in.

Once all 4 bolts are in place, tighten down the 3/8" bolt using your 7/16" combination wrench. It is handy to slide the seat back on its rails to do the front nuts and forward to tighten the rear nuts. Repeat this procedure on the other side and your Miata seats are now installed and ready for use!

## Appendix—Troubleshooting

Q: The bolt holes in the adapter rails do not match with the capture nut locations on my floor. Why is this?

A: This seat adapter kit was developed using MGBs with original floors and trial-fitted to several different cars. If you are having difficulty bolting the adapters to the floor you may have replacement floor panels that have had the seat-mounting hardware incorrectly installed. Modifications to your floorboards or to the adapter plates may be necessary. If you have purchased this kit for a pre-1968 MGB your mounting holes are spaced farther apart and this kit is not compatible without modifications to your floorboards. Call Eclectic Motorworks for more information.

Q: The holes in my seat rails don't quite match up with the bolt holes on the seat adapters. What do I do?

A: If the fit is too tight (one edge of the hole drags on the bolt or you just can't quite get it through) take a round file as pictured on the bottom of page 4 and slightly enlarge the hole where it is having difficulty getting the bolt to go in smoothly and straight.

Q: These adapter plates seem awfully heavy. Is all that weight necessary?

A: The adapter plates are made from 3/8" thick steel and were designed to be the size they are for several reasons. We wanted to maintain a minimum distance from the edge to any particular mounting hole. This gave us the general shape. For safety we wanted as much material as possible for the mounting bolts to "bite" into, and the 3/8" thickness was chosen for that reason. Recently these plates have been re-designed and are now less than 1/2 of the weight of our original adapters! Weight was reduced by sculpting the shape of each plate while leaving a minimum safe distance from each hole to the edge of the bracket. In the event of an accident, we wanted the strongest, safest way possible to keep your seats mounted to the floors.

For any other technical questions or problems you may have, contact Eclectic Motorworks.



Eclectic Motorworks is always striving to improve the products we produce. We are always looking for feedback and would love to hear any comments, questions or concerns you may have. You can reach us during normal business hours at:

Eclectic Motorworks LLC  
445 W. 22nd Street  
Holland, MI 49423

616.355.2850 phone

eclecticalan@gmail.com  
www.eclecticmotorworks.com