

Redline Goods Mazda Miata Leather Door Panel Top installation instructions

Materials Needed

- Contact cement
- Old paint brushes or foam brushes
- Scotchbrite pads
- 3M Blue Low Tack Painter's tape
- Exacto blade
- Kitchen shears or other sharp scissors for cutting leather
- 5 minute epoxy
- popcicle stick and paper plate (to mix epoxy)
- Window crank removal tool (as needed)
- several self tapping screws similar to the OEM ones used to attached the door panel top to the bottom



Working Notes

- **Read over all these instructions before you get started.** Every product from Redline is handmade, so a good fit will require some manipulation on your part. There are some suggestions in these directions that will help you get the best possible fit.
- **The goal here is to get the leather to stay put.** Excess glue will take longer to dry and may also limit your ability to stretch the leather into place, but do not use the contact cement sparingly. The plastic Mazda uses for the door panel top is very durable and resistant to adhesives. You may want to rough the surface with scotchbrite pads to promote adhesion. Use a thin coat of contact cement on the leather and on the plastic for faster drying time. Contact cement can be forgiving, so don't be afraid to pull the leather away and reposition it with a little more glue. Avoid repositioning the leather more than once. Reposition the leather too much and your corrections will show through the leather in the form of lumps or waves in the surface.
- **Keep your fingers clean of contact cement at all times.** Contact cement can be messy. The glue is not good for your skin and will leave shiny marks on the leather that you will not be able to clean off. Wearing gloves will help, but you may not have as much control manipulating the leather into position. Always be mindful of what's on your fingers when working with the leather.
 - o If you get contact cement on the finished side of the leather, use the blue tape's adhesive to try to pull the contact cement off the leather. Press the tape on top of the spot firmly and slowly peel it back. If the contact cement has not cured, it will have the consistency of rubber cement (paper glue). The painter's tape adhesive should grab the contact cement and pull it off the leather. It may take several tries.
 - o Do not use any other method to remove contact cement. Even your fingernails can damage the leather if you pick at it hard enough.
- **Last, but certainly not least - Contact cement has very strong fumes and is flammable!** Be sure to work in a well ventilated area with no open flames.



Redline Goods Mazda Miata Leather Door Panel Install Instructions:

1. Begin by removing your door panels. You will need to separate the top portion of the door panel from the bottom by removing the 5 screws as shown. If you break off a portion of a screw mount, may wish to just use another screw longer than OEM during reinstallation. The two places with the red circle are plastic welds (Fig A). I just scraped the top off, then used a small self tapping screw down the center of the remaining post to reattach. For my application, I will be covering and attaching panels from a 97 into my 90, but any NA application should be the same.



Fig A

2. Once the top portion of the door panels has been removed, remove the rubber window trim across the top of the panel (Fig B). These are removed by bending several metal tabs to free the rubber sections (Fig C). They will be reattached after the leather install. Also if you will be installing aftermarket speakers/tweeters in this top panel, now's the time to cut the opening for them (Fig D). Next, inspect the OEM vinyl and make sure it is secured well enough to the plastic body to allow for a nice leather install. If it is not, I recommend cementing the OEM vinyl edges to the plastic panel, before you begin the leather install. **NOTE:** I did find it necessary to trim the OEM vinyl in the area circled to remove extra bulk for a flatter leather install (FIG E). After you have verified and corrected any issues, thoroughly wash off the panels to clean off any protectant, waxes or other surface contaminants. Since the whole thing will be covered in leather, consider using Scotchbrite pads to rough up the surface.



Fig B



Fig C



Fig D



Fig E

3. Lay out your leather, finished side down and test fit your panel to get an idea of fitment. The leather comes with a stitched detail that you will want straight when done. Once you have an idea of where the stitching will fall, apply cement to the panel and also to the corresponding leather following the manufacturers instructions for the cement. I found it easier to apply cement to the front half first (facing the front of the car)(Figs F, G), then follow with the rear making sure to get a nice straight leather (stitch) application (Fig H).



Fig F



Fig G



Fig H

4. Once the leather is cemented to the panel front, trim the outer edges same as the OEM vinyl (Fig I) and secure the rest of the leather to the backside wrapping it around and cutting slits same as OEM vinyl. Wrapping and cutting the leather where you removed the OEM vinyl bulk is a bit tricky so take your time in this area to insure you get a nice flat point here (Fig J). Once you have all the sections glued into place, use epoxy to coat the edges over. (Fig K). This will ensure that the leather does not come up if the contact cement should give way from heat or cold. With so little surface area to hold the leather in place, a little coating of epoxy is extra insurance you won't have to correct some thing later on. Reattach the rubber window trim, be sure to use your exacto to pierce the leather where the old mounting holes were (Fig L).



Fig I



Fig J



Fig K



Fig L

5. Installation is the reverse of the removal. As stated in section 1, If you broke any of those screw mounts during removal, you may find it necessary to use a small (longer than OEM) self tapping screw down the center of the remaining post to re-attach. You can also use the self tapping screws to attach where the plastic welds were. Installed Panels (Fig M).



Fig M