

Why Are Black Miatas Faster?

By Millard Johnson (zendog)

It is a known fact that black Miatas are faster than cars of other colors. That is, of course, why most race sanctioning bodies prohibit black cars. Think, for example, what would happen if Ferrari painted their cars black. This would force all other F1 cars to be painted black. The result would be the most beautiful race in history, but it would make it difficult to tell which car was in the lead. It would also reduce the interest in the race itself, as spectators would be more interested in watching beautiful black cars go around the track at the expense of concern for which car actually finished first. So, while it is perfectly clear that black cars are, on average, 15% more powerful than the other, less attractive cars, the question remains — why?

Some people have postulated that the advantage is built into black cars at the factory. It is generally acknowledged that assembly line workers, when they are aware they are working on a black car, will take exceptional care. Every part that has any flaw will be withheld from the black car assembly and put on one of the cars of lesser color. Only the finest parts and best quality workmanship is put into black cars. While this understandable bias toward the more beautiful black cars can explain part of the superiority, it certainly can not explain all of it.

A number of studies have shown that people with greater intelligence (19.729 IQ points in the Greeb and Billieu study) tend to purchase black cars. The same study, and others, also shows that these highly intelligent people (who also have heightened esthetic sensibility) take far better care of their machines. But again, higher IQ and greater sophistication of owners can not explain all of the remaining superiority of black cars.

It may yet be proved that black cars absorb energy from the sun and wind and transform that energy into transcendental horsepower. Certainly, anyone who has ever ridden in a recently waxed and polished black car has witnessed the ethereal experience of heightened power. Although this phenomena has been extensively recorded and studied there is, as yet, no technique to measure such natural and paranormal forces at work.

The conclusion we MUST come to is at once profoundly simple, deductively sound, and patiently obvious. This is a conclusion I make reluctantly. But, as Sherlock Holmes said, when all other explanations have been eliminated, the one remaining hypothesis must, in fact, be accepted. I am, therefore sure that all of you will agree with me in my conclusion: black cars are faster because God prefers black Miatas.

Classifieds

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Barb Gentry shows off her 2nd place trophy won while driving solo in the 2001 Fussin' and Cussin' as the envious third place winner looks on.

All Fussin & Cussin' photos courtesy of Chuck Wills, Bob Wiley, Beth McCoy, and Sara J McBride

MDC Driver Training Day at Putnam Park

Saturday, November 3rd, is the scheduled driver's training and lapping day at the Putnam Park Road Course. (<http://www.putnampark.com/>) This is the event set up by Manny Lozano of the Motorsports Driving Club after talking to club enthusiasts at the Miata Performance Day at AIM in March. Putnam Park is a good track for learning as it is a smooth and forgiving track (no trees or lakes close by to error into!), but challenging even for the experienced driver.

A minimum of 25 student/lapper cars are needed to make the event happen. Helmets and a four-point rollbar or hardtop is required. Students will have D/C/B group experience levels. Lappers should have A/Red run group, instructor, or club racer level experience. There will only be two run groups (Students and Instructors/Lappers) to maximize track time. Each run group will drive 25 minutes and rest 35 minutes, every hour, on the hour, from 9 am to 11:50 pm, and from 1 pm to 5 pm. Lunch will be from noon to 12:50 pm. Corner workers will receive a fifteen minute break in the afternoon.

Fee schedule is as follows—for 1-driver cars: \$275 by Oct 6, \$325 by Oct 27, or \$375 cash at the gate. Add 20% for 2-driver cars—\$330 by Oct 6, \$390 by Oct 27, or \$450 cash at the gate. Cars will run rain or shine, but will the event will be cancelled if there is a forecast of snow. Contact Manny Lozano, at LLozano@Prodigy.Net for more information.