

## Treading the Trail Towards Tidy Tires

by Rick "Mr. Detail" Morris

One of the most time-consuming, and potentially frustrating, steps in getting your Miata looking really spiffy is getting the wheels and tires to look just the way you want them to. Looking around in any parking lot will usually reveal several unsuccessful attempts, ranging from cars that have never had their wheels and tires cleaned well, on up through the polyurethane look, where you can see your reflection in the tire surface. It doesn't have to be that complicated, but you do need to prepare yourself for some experimentation to get the results you want.

The first step is to get your wheels and tires completely clean. This means getting all the brake dust, road dirt and other mysterious substances off the wheels and tires. I have had really good luck using Castrol Super Clean for this step. It's a good all-purpose cleaner and degreaser and is available almost everywhere. The only caveat is to not get it on your paint. It won't do any long-term damage, but it will strip off any wax you may have on the car. Spray the wheels and tires thoroughly and then let it set for a minute or so. Next, use a natural bristle wheel brush (the plastic bristled brushes scratch) and energetically scrub the wheel and tire. Make sure you get inside the tire lettering and inside the bead on the outside of the rim. Rinse repeatedly and wash the wheel and tire with whatever you are using to wash the car with. I generally wash the car first and then clean the tires as the final step. Dry the wheels and tires with a towel.

Now that you have the wheels and tires clean, you may want to clean the wheels with some kind of wheel cleaner. This always seems like a lot of work to me, so I only do it about twice a year. I have had good results with Mother's Mag and Aluminum polish, but there are probably others that work as well. The main thing to remember is that if you clean the wheels regularly, the extra work of polishing the wheels won't be needed very often.

The last step is to apply some kind of dressing to the tires. This is where the experimentation comes in. I have found that different tires respond differently. For example, I have had really good results with Meguiar's Endurance on my tires (Yokohama AVS). The

## A Special Thanks To MS Ralliers

by Beth McCoy

Although the "Drive Against MS" Rally was not a club sponsored event, several Indy Miata Club members participated and contributed. I would like to thank Millard and Jane Johnson, who came in first place on the rally; Gary and Kathy Collings, who came in 2nd place in the rally; Stephanie and Vince Brooks, new members who drove 21/2 hours from Goshen to join us; Chuck & Teresa Wills; Chris Poglitch; Rick Morris, Phil Chambers, Barb Gentry, Steve Chase, and Sara McBride.

If I'm leaving anyone out, I apologize. A very special thanks to Shane Benson from AIM, who donated some really cool T-shirts, Speedway Mazda and Sara McBride for donating prizes from RCA and Miata vendors.

Without all of you, the event would not have been so successful. You are all very special people. May God bless you!

## Mazda Offers New Miata Colors

Mazda recently announced the return of yellow to its Miata lineup plus a new blue. "Vivid Yellow" and "Laser Blue Mica" are part of the Mazda's "Custom Order" program for the Miata. There is an additional charge of \$150.00 for these special colors. The new Custom Order program opened to the general public September 13, 2001 and ends October 15, 2001, or until production availability limits are reached, whichever comes first.

Visit <http://www.mazdausa.com>, your local participating dealer, or you can call the Miata Custom Order Program Headquarters at 1-877-588-2743 for more information.

stuff really does last a long time, and a little experimentation will give you the gloss level you are after. The Endurance does not work well at all on my roommate's Toyo T1's. I could never get the appearance I wanted, and it would only last a few days. The net result is that I have settled on Vynlex for use on both of our Miatas. It seems to give us the appearance that I want and lasts a couple of weeks before it needs to be re-applied. Vynlex also has the added advantage of being the best treatment I have found so far for the dash, top and boot cover.

The trick for any of the tire dressings I have tried seems to be to make sure that you get it applied evenly to the entire surface of the tire. This generally seems to mean using less than you think is necessary and massaging it in thoroughly. The best tool I have found for this job is a washcloth. Apply the Vynlex to the washcloth and then wipe the tire with the washcloth, making sure to spread the dressing out evenly. If you end up with more gloss than you want, you can take some of the gloss out by wiping the tire with a damp towel after the dressing has dried.

Remember, for best results, make sure your rubber is clean and dressed!

(Mr. Detail spends way too much time on keeping two Miatas looking good, but his room mate really appreciates it.)

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## New Members

A hearty welcome to our new members. We hope to see you and your Miatas at an event soon.

Chris 'Hutch' & Janet Hutcheson  
Donald and Claudia Miller  
Steve and Tracie Ollsnamer  
Julia Parrish  
Jennifer and Bob Wasson