

Dr. Detail is here to help

Making Your Miata Stand Out In A Crowd

Sooooooooo, you've spent tons of time getting your Miata to look its very best. You wax it almost every day and the shine is so deep you can read the reflection of a newspaper from ten feet away. Any rain that has the temerity to fall anywhere close to your car is repelled as soon as it gets within six feet of the finish.

You have a really spiffy set of BBS rims, Toyo tires, Jackson Racing exhaust system and a turbocharger just waiting for the next Muscle Car to pull alongside. At the same time, you just don't feel like members of the general public give your car the notice it so richly deserves. You occasionally get a thumbs up from a fellow driver, but you think, rightly so, that everybody should notice your car, whether they are a fellow Miata owner or not. In this very special edition of Dr. Detail, we are going to give you a list of improvements you can make that are guaranteed to get your the car the attention it deserves. In case you are wondering, each and every one of these improvements has been personally tested and approved by Dr. Detail, so you can rest assured that each and every one of them is completely worthwhile.

Auto Rotating Rims – The special thing about these rims is that the outer decorative trim ring keeps rotating even if the car is stopped. A guaranteed eye-popper, the sight of your rims moving even when the car is standing still will get you noticed each and every time. If you go for the extra-cost neon light inner lighting system, not only do the rims rotate, but the green halo around them is a great touch. These are the first improvement I would make, although the price may be daunting at first glance.

Valve Stem Covers - The factory black cap for the valve stem is boring. You have several choices to make in this area. Go to your local auto parts store and pick up replacement caps with skull heads, dice, etc. Installation is easy, they simply screw onto the valve stem in seconds. For a bigger effect, there is a product called Fire-Flys! Lights for your wheels. These stem caps light up as the car is moving. They turn on automatically when you drive and automatically shut off 12 seconds after the last wheel movement. The impressive comet effects that vary with your speed will have heads turning as you cruise by (available in Blue, Green, Red, and Red/White Blue).

Light Chaser Chassis Lighting – We have all seen the running board under car neon lighting systems. They do add a nice touch, but so many people have them now that they just don't stand out like they used to. A good solution to this glamor dilemma is a complete light-chaser underbody lighting kit. Available in several colors, this system, when professionally installed, puts an outline of your entire car on the ground in a variety of colors and patterns. You will revel in the attention you get at each and every stop light. This particular modification should be done only by professionals.



All-Round Air Suspension – I know the KYB AGX adjustable shocks give great ride and handling, but they don't do much in the publicity department. The ideal solution to this problem is a full-tilt air suspension. You can, with just minor body and chassis modifications, get a whole new view of the world that is ever-changing. You can change the ride height of your Miata from two inches off the ground to

being eye-level with the monster truck in the next lane at the push of a button. I especially recommend the optional suspension lighting package so everybody can see just how cool your suspension really is.

Interior Extras – Now that we've finished with all our exterior modifications, it's time to polish up the interior. After all, the interior is what you see the most, so it should look as good to you as the outside does to everybody else. I decided to go with the full snow leopard skin decorative package. There's nothing quite like the distinctive look that a leopard skin steering wheel, rear view mirror and roll bar cover and the fuzzy dice or eight balls that hang from the rear view mirror gives. These trim items are just the thing to go along with the leopard skin seat covers that you just had installed.

Traveling Extras – Let's not forget about accessorizing your luggage! We all know that sometimes traveling more than 24 hours in your car can pose packing problems. Several companies offer soft side luggage sets for your car. I've noticed that most of these are only offered in black or white color options, but my personal favorites are the Glad Drawstring Lawn & Leaf 39 Gallon bags. They conform to those odd spaces and resist tearing. You can carry extra bags that take up hardly any space for dirty clothes or for all the things you might pick up at the outlet mall! For those small personal items, I recommend the food storage bags with that handy ziplock top!

