

# TECHNICAL TIPS – “Wench With A Wrench”

By Gail Wagner – Midstate Miata Club of NY

## Miata Fun Facts

Hi, Fellow Miata Folks,

Before I go any further, please check out my TECH articles from past newsletters on our Club webpage: [www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net) ESPECIALLY washing and detailing your car after winter storage.

While this isn't very “techie” per se, I have uncovered some Miata tidbits to share that you might enjoy.

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The original Miata was proposed to be front wheel drive. (I hope they fired the guy who came up with that idea.)

In 1976, an American, Bob Hall, a journalist at *Motor Trend Magazine* who was an expert in Japanese cars and fluent in the language, proposed a two-seater sports car to Mazda Research & Development.

The original design was created by the Mazda design studio in Southern California.

The Miata was introduced in fall of 1989 with a base price of \$13,800. Originally designed as a \$7,500 sports car, dollar-to-yen fluctuations drove the price up before its introduction.

Miata is the best selling 2-seater sports car of all time and the most raced North American production vehicle.

The first generation Miata (NA 1989-1997) sold 400,00 units.

In the 1990's, NA Miatas (1989-1997) shared the exact same interior door release as the Aston Martin DB7 sports car. Both Mazda and Aston Martin were owned by the Ford Motor Company at the time.

The NA (1989-1997) and NB (1998-2005) models all share the same chassis and interchangeable parts except for fuel tanks.

NA's, NB's and NC's (2006-2014) all share the same side design markers.

*Supposedly*, and I beg to differ personally, the NC is the least loved of all the Miatas. The badging name was changed from “Miata” to “MX-5” and HP was increased to 167.

A power retractable hardtop was added to the NC in 2007.

The ND (2014-2019) was delayed three years due to the global financial crisis

The ND wheels are the same as earlier NA and NB model with similar lug pattern.

In late 2016, the RF (retractable Fastback) model was announced.

Mazda Japanese factory will totally 100% restore to factory-spec NA Miatas with OEM parts. I wonder that that will cost?

It is suggested the word “*Miata*” comes from the Old German language word “*miete*” meaning “reward”. I’ll buy that!

“Miata” is a common female first name meaning “first born” or “first lady” of a tribal people living in western/northwestern Liberia and eastern Sierra Leone in Africa.

The 2014 Anniversary Edition Miata of 100 units sold out in 10 minutes!

The Miata Japanese design credo, “*Jinba Ittai*”, (人馬一体,) is loosely translated into rider (jin) and horse (ba) and one body (ittai) = “horse and rider as one”.

In a joint venture with Fiat in 2016, the Fiat 124 Spider, largely based on the ND Miata, is manufactured alongside the Miata at Mazda's Hiroshima plant. The 124 shares the Miata platform, mechanicals, interior and top mechanism.

In late 2018 for the 2019 model year, the Miata was designated as ND2 primarily because its 2.0 L engine was revised to 181 HP.

On April 22, 2016, Mazda broke its *Guinness World Record* by producing its one millionth MX-5.