

## NC Miata Shifter Turret Grease (MT)

There's some discussion on miata.net as to whether this is needed or not. One camp seems to believe that the turret greases itself. The old guys who had NA and NB cars believe it needs lube.

I don't wanna cause a debate. I'm just here to show you how to lube the shifter turret if you so desire.



You have to remove the NC armrest / center console. Compared to the NA or NB this is a bear. Lots of plastic clips and chances to break stuff. But if you go slow, you can do it.

I used a rigid putty knife to pry out the change tray. I've read of folks using a razor blade, but that seems hazardous to eyes. No matter what you use,

be careful. Pry on the front edge and slowly work around to get all the clips popped free. It will hinge up as shown in the photo above.

There's 2 screws under the change tray.



Cup holder screw.

The center screw is under the cup holder base. Just pry that little black plastic piece free and get access to the screw. This is the easiest one to access.

Mine had mold underneath. It was horrible. Wear gloves and decontaminate your NC interior if required.



This seemed like the most complex piece, but it was very easy to remove. Insert a pry tool at the edge shown and pop it free. Then work your fingers under the sides to remove the rest of the cover.

There's 2 more screws under that rear piece. Once those are gone, you're in the green.

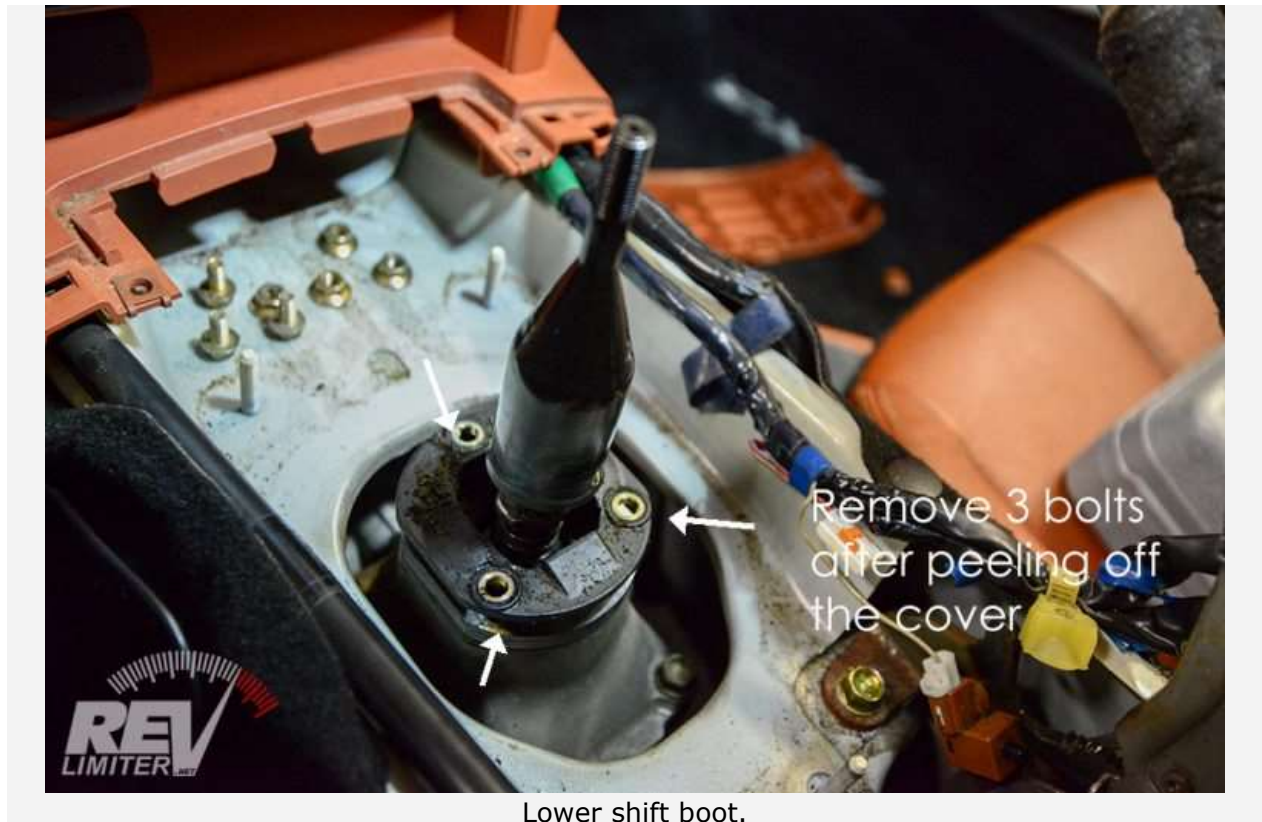
You also need to remove the shift knob (it unscrews) and the hand brake boot. I didn't take photos of these. They're quite easy to remove. The brake boot is held in by a plastic ring that just pops free with the slightest bit of pressure.



Upper shift boot.

Remove the upper shift boot. It has 4 nuts holding it in place. A deep 10mm socket does the job.

Underneath this boot is a stick-on rubber boot. Like a dust cover or noise barrier. It just peels off.



Lower shift boot.

The lower shift boot is held on by 3 bolts. Remove them. Note the orientation of the shifter, lower plastic ring, and boot as you remove the stick itself.

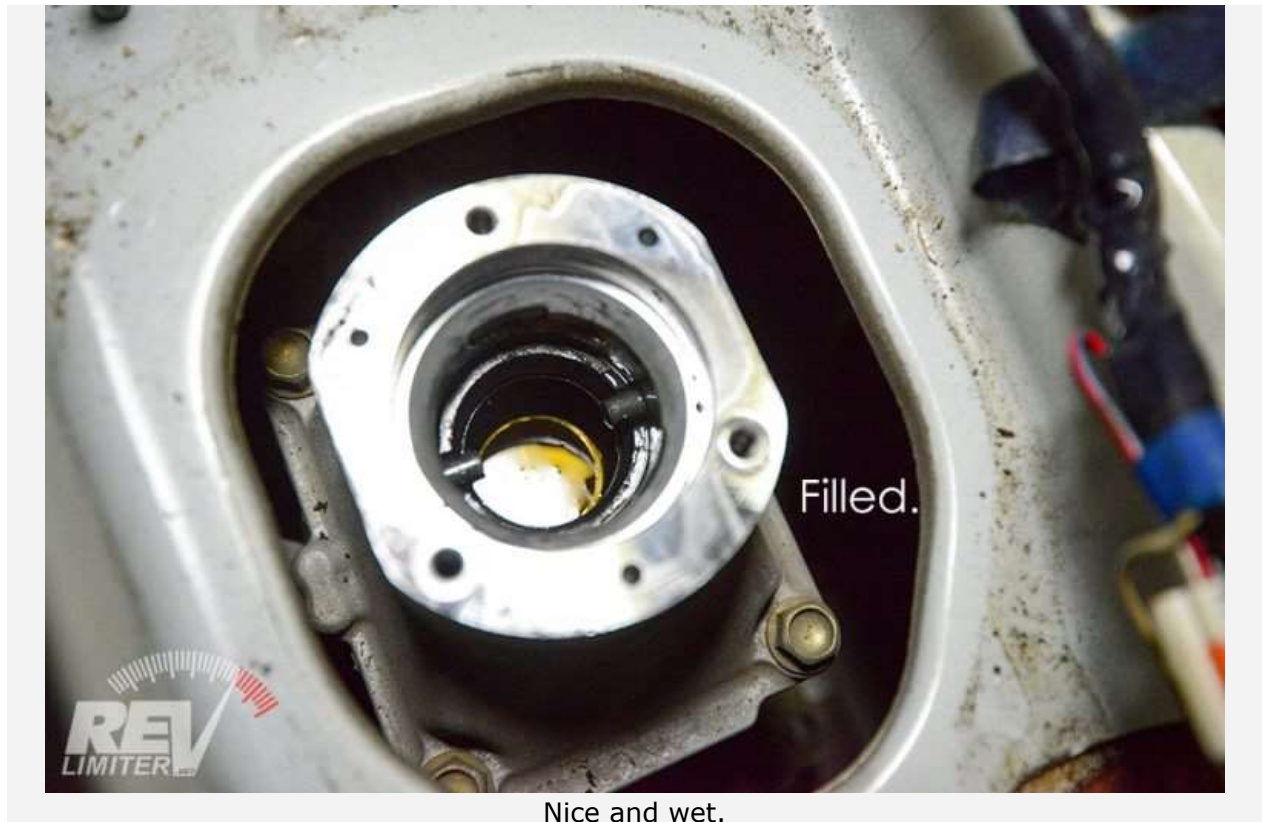
Have a towel ready to lay the shifter on. If yours still has fluid in it, you don't wanna get said fluid on your car's carpet.



So empty.

After 156,000 miles, The Stormtrooper's shifter turret was totally dry. No lube anywhere. Nothing was even slightly wet.

No wonder the car randomly couldn't go into 1st gear...



Nice and wet.

The shifter turret takes 80-230cc of GL4 gear lube depending on how much fluid is in there. Mine took the full amount.

You should also grease the top of the shifter above the ball as it is a friction point. Internet wisdom says "use grease." I had some black moly handy. I'm not sure if that was the right one, but I put a thin film on the top of the ball and reinstalled all of the parts.

After this maintenance shifting was a night and day improvement. The notchy, sticky shifter went away and I was left with a precise Miata shifter similar to any NA or NB I've ever driven. I've not been locked out of first gear since doing this maintenance either.

Success? I think so.

I hope this guide helps some folks out. And if I've forgotten anything or messed up any fluid specs, please leave a note below.