

It's Way Better to Receive Than to Give (Come on.....Admit It ☺)

Hi Miata Folks,

The holidays are approaching and it's time to make the gift(s) wish-list ideas available for Santa, the Significant Other or your kid, (hopefully, the wealthy investment banker) or whomever will come across with the best Miata goodies you want. And remember, if you REALLY want to get what you want, you can always buy it yourself. Ask for cash or gift certificates. One size fits all. ☺

I've listed some stuff specifically for us Miata owners that you might like for fun, car tech or maintenance or because you just want it bad (what better reason?). And, of course, there's tons of other options as you cruise through on-line Miata-related catalogs. As a not-so-subtle holiday gift-giving hint, you may want to print this list and highlight the items you think would be befitting to bestow upon you and your Miata and then leave it lying casually in a studied semi-conspicuous spot for all to see. Personally, I'm not so subtle; I post it right up there on my refrigerator at eye-level for The Husband in October. ☺

All items listed are available at your local auto supply store or on-line at some of my favs: GoMiata.com, Autogeek.com, Tirerack.com, MossMiata.com, etc.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to everyone and I hope to see you at the December 7th Holiday Brunch at the Springside Inn in Auburn.

(This column will return in the spring with the first Club newsletter of 2015 when we pull off winter storage covers and turn over the engines.)

Drive carefully and Zoom-Zoom!

Gail

2014 MIATA OWNER'S GIFT GUIDE LIST

Stocking Stuffers:

- Digital Tire Gauge (accurate, quick and easy to use)
- Hygrometer or Refractometer (to check your coolant/antifreeze concentration)
- Miata/MX5/Mazda keychain (they come in metal with logos, colors and leather)
- Midstate Miata Club magnetic decals (be a proud and loud MMC member)
- Land's End Miata Club apparel with MMC logo (see our Club website for details for hats, visors, T-shirts, jackets, etc.)
- Fun license plate holder (get that free auto dealership advertising off your car!)
- Car Care Products (how about RaggTop vinyl or canvas convertible top cleaner & conditioner)
- Care package of miscellaneous car care cleaning and detailing products
- A California Duster soft brush (removes dust and won't scratch paint)
- Removable genuine sheepskin seat belt shoulder pad (keeps the seatbelt from cutting into your shoulder and/or chafing)

A Little More Expensive.....

- A gift certificate from a local auto supply shop or a Miata-specific on-line store (large denominations are always appreciated ☺)
- A gift certificate for parts or service from your local Mazda dealer (for Mazda oil filters, pieces-parts, tune ups or maybe that big ticket item 60,000 mile timing belt replacement you need. See notation above.)
- Driving Gloves (leather or summer string crochet; there the “cool factor” to consider here)
- Driving Shoes (I know it sounds elitist but they are really comfortable and thin-soled better for “pedal feel” and heel ‘n toe driving if you’re so inclined. Check out the *Puma* outlet store at Waterloo Outlet Mall for real motorsport driving shoes at great prices.)
- A really good car cover (H2O resistant, UV resistant, and breathable. I like CoverCraft brand.)
- Removable luggage rack (if it don’t all fit in the trunk)
- A cool new gear shift knob (tons of options if you want to customize – please don’t buy the skeleton skull one!)
- Miata custom-fitted 3-piece luggage set (you won’t believe how much you can pack in these babies so says my lady friend Miata owner)
- Custom Miata floor & trunk carpet mats from GGBailey.com (any color, any initials, name or words, wild animal prints...you get to design and they will make)
- Cargo Net (for inside the trunk to keep your detail spray, microfiber towels, and odds and ends from flying around back there when you take those fast corners ☺)
- Chrome gas cap filler (looks so cool and matches the chrome trunk lid hinges on some models. I love mine.)
- Tonneau cockpit cover (Miata-specific for parked top-down days to keep out UV, dirt, etc.)
- Custom you-design NYS DMC license plates (I’ve seen some pretty funny/cute ones; yeah, they cost a little more but hey, life is short. Have fun.)
- A GoPro video/still camera (tiny, easy to use and lots of fun to capture those twisty’s and beautiful back roads drives. You can playback on your computer or TV with appropriate cables or send to YouTube or via email for your friends and family to admire you driving abilities. ☺ About \$200-300)

Techie & Car Stuff

- A genuine Mazda Miata Factory Workshop Manual (NOT Haynes manuals – I’m talking about the real thing here for \$189.00. Wish I had one when I was looking all over for the oil filter for the first time..... ☺)
- Any of the following:
 - A new stainless steel muffler (lasts forever and sounds better)
 - A new stainless steel muffler with stainless single or twin exhaust pipe(s)
 - Pull-Out-The-Stops: An entire stainless exhaust system (highlight this for your investment banker kid)
- Sway Bars upgrade replacement front and rear with new end links (for the performance aficionado or “spirited driver” to stiffen the lateral roll through corners. Not cheap, say \$500.00. It’s on my wish-list.)
- Tires all around (consider summer or all-seasons. Read my previous column “Tires 101”)
- Wheels (customize your Miata to one-of-a-kind. There’s a ton of options out there starting at about \$100 per wheel to sky’s-the-limit.)
- Portable battery jumper with air compressor (about the size of carry-on luggage. Great for adding air to your tires at home or jumping the dead battery after you’ve left the lights on all night. ☹)
- Aftermarket Complete Suspension System (this is another really big bucks item but if you’re after handling and performance, consider.)