

# Flyin' Miata

## 90-97 exhaust installation hints 06-XXXXX

- These hints are intended to make your installation easier. To start, make sure that your car is safely supported. If you don't have access to a lift, I would recommend ramps for the front wheels and a floor jack backed up by jack stands for the rear. Do NOT get under your car supported only by a jack, no matter how good a jack you think you have.
- Once you have the car safely supported, thoroughly soak the nuts on the back of the catalytic converter with WD40 or similar rust buster. If possible, let soak for awhile. If you are doing a header, also soak the front cat nuts. I would recommend using hand tools to remove these nuts--air guns tend to make them gall and seize. You need a 14mm socket or wrench to fit these nuts.
- Spraying the rubber hangers with silicone spray will make them easier to slip off the brackets. On '92 and newer Miatas you will need to remove the rear subframe brace to get the stock exhaust off. These bolts take a 17mm socket or wrench.
- I generally do not re-use the locknuts on the catalytic converter. Getting them off once is lucky, if you ever want to remove them again (say to do a clutch) you will be much happier if you replace them with regular 10x1.5mm nuts.
- Once you have everything installed, check out how the tailpipe tip is centered in the fascia opening. Due to production variations in the cars, sagging of motor mounts, etc you may need to do some adjusting here. Also, any exhaust system with a larger than stock size tip will probably bang against the hold-down bracket on hard right turns. To preclude this happening I would recommend installing small (fuel hose size) hose clamps on the muffler hanger rods at the right end of the muffler. Slide the rubber hangers on the muffler rod to the left, then slide the hose clamps over the rods and lock them down. This will effectively preload the tip toward the right side of the car and prevent it from contacting the hold-down bracket.
- If you are not using a WBO2, tighten the bung plug to prevent an exhaust leak.

I hope that these help, if you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to call or e-mail. Thanks for your patronage!