

1990 Miata Convertible Top Replacement

By Steve Moore

For those of you that enjoy working on your cars, here's another set of picture on our Club website that shows the replacement of the top on Rita's Miata with a new Robbins top. It looks like the OEM top that came on the car, but actually has a glass defroster and no zipper rear window. It came with a new rain rail, rivets and other parts to make it work with older Miata's. The top ribs needed to be linked together with straps, which are part of the modification to cause them to work correctly and stay in place as the top is raised and lowered.

The old top was in pretty bad shape as the pictures show. It was separating at some seams, it had a few small leaks and the windows were not clear any more. I had to do some drilling on the ribs for the new straps and added new wear protectors on each side of the top to protect it from wear when it is raised and lowered.

After installation there was about a 4 inch gap where the top clamps to the windshield header and was impossible to close and latch. I made a rope tool to hook onto the top and force it closed with my feet. I finally got it to close and latch after a few days heating in the hot sun and forcing it closed with the rope. Needless to say, it fits very tight and looks great. I worked on it a little each day after work for a few days and will probably do the same to my yellow car some day in the future.