

Supplemental Instructions for Hard Dog Hide Away Trailer Hitch for Miata/MX5

909-370 1st Generation / 1990 - 1997, item #R1 & R1H

- Jack up the rear of the Miata. Be sure to support the car with sturdy jack stands. BE CAREFUL!!!!
- Remove the rear tie-down hooks and save the attaching fasteners. No additional hardware is required to mount the hitch.

Install the hitch in place of the tie-downs using the OEM tie-down fasteners.

909-371 2nd Generation / 1999 - 2005, item #R2H

- Installation requires removal of the rear bumper cover and the bumper support.
- Open the trunk, remove the carpet and plastic trunk wall panels. The side panels are attached by reusable plastic rivets that are loosened by lifting the center button with a knife blade or fingernail which allows the fastener to be removed.
- Remove the tail lights. Unplug the tail light wiring, 1 plug per side, remove the two nuts per side that hold the light assemblies in place. The lights are usually stuck to the car, be careful not to let them drop.
- Remove the rear wheel splash panels.
- Remove the rear bumper cover. There are screws behind the splash panels you just removed inside the wheel wells, behind the license plate and on top in the trunk opening. Once you have all of the fasteners removed pull the bumper cover loose by slightly twisting while pulling on the wheel and tail light openings to unsnap the attachments.
- Remove the aluminum rear bumper support by removing the three hex nuts per side using a ratchet, 6" extension and deep well socket through the holes provided.
- Install the hitch over the bumper studs and snug one of the nuts to hold it in place. Put on the safety glasses. The three threaded studs per side that hold the bumper support in place should protrude through the hitch plate leaving one hole empty. Drill a 3/8" hole through the empty hole. Remove the nut you initially installed to hold the hitch in place and reinstall the aluminum bumper support. Use Loctite or some type thread locker on the stock nuts and torque to 40 ft / lbs. Install the bolts, washers and self locking nuts provided with the hitch into the holes you just drilled and torque to 40 ft / lbs. From the rear drill a 3/8" holes through the holes the hitch reinforcement plate through the flange at the lower edge of the body. Install the bolts, washers and self locking nuts provided and torque to 40 ft / lbs.
- Reinstall the rear bumper cover, make sure you don't have any extra parts.
- Reinstall and plug in the tail lights. Do NOT over torque the tail light fasteners, remember these are plastic. Check the lights to make sure everything is operational.
- Reinstall the splash shields, trunk panels and carpet.

39 **909-372 3rd Generation / 2006 and up, item #R3 & R3H**

- 40 • Installation requires removal of the rear bumper cover and the steel bumper. This seems like a
41 lot to do but is a relatively easy task. No need to raise the car off the ground for this one.
- 42 • Open the trunk, remove the carpet and plastic trunk wall panels. The carpet is held in place by
43 simple plastic buttons that pull out easily. The side panels are attached by reusable plastic
44 rivets that are loosened by lifting the center button with a knife blade or fingernail which
45 allows the fastener to be removed. Unplug the wires attached to the rear panel for the trunk
46 latch and light.
- 47 • Remove the tail lights. Unplug the tail light wiring, 3 plugs per side, remove the three nuts per
48 side that hold the light assemblies in place. The lights are usually stuck to the car, be careful
49 not to let them drop.
- 50 • Remove the rear wheel splash panels. These are held in place by screws behind the rear
51 wheels and on the bottom.
- 52 • Remove the rear bumper cover. There are screws behind the splash panels you just removed
53 inside the wheel wells, behind the license plate and on top in the trunk opening. There are two
54 more of those plastic rivets in the tail light opening. (larger than the ones that hold the trunk
55 panels) Once you have all of the fasteners removed pull the bumper cover loose by slightly
56 twisting while pulling on the wheel and tail light openings to unsnap the attachments.
- 57 • Remove the steel rear bumper support by removing the three 17mm hex nuts per side using a
58 ratchet, 6" extension and deep well socket through the holes provided.
- 59 • Install the hitch over the bumper studs and snug one of the nuts to hold it in place. Put on the
60 safety glasses. Using the hitch as a template, drill 3/8" holes through the upper mounting
61 plates. Install the bolts, backing plates and self locking nuts and torque to 40 ft / lbs. The
62 three threaded studs per side that hold the steel bumper in place should protrude through the
63 hitch plate leaving one hole empty. Drill a 3/8" hole through the empty hole. Remove the nut
64 you initially installed to hold the hitch in place and reinstall the steel bumper. Use Loctite or
65 some type thread locker on the stock nuts and torque to 40 ft / lbs. Install the bolts, washers
66 and self locking nuts provided with the hitch into the holes you just drilled and torque to 40 ft
67 / lbs. From under the steel bumper drill a vertical 3/8" hole through the bumper and the hitch
68 reinforcement plate. Install the bolt, washer and self locking nut provided and torque to 40 ft /
69 lbs.
70 Reinstall the rear bumper cover, make sure you don't have any extra parts. You can notch the
71 cover if you like to somewhat obscure the hitch but this is not an absolute necessity.
- 72 • Reinstall and plug in the tail lights. Do NOT over torque the tail light fasteners, remember
73 these are plastic. Check the lights to make sure everything is operational.
- 74 • Reinstall the splash shields, trunk panels and carpet.

75 **Do not exceed the vehicle towing capacity.**

76 *This information comes directly from the manufacturer. Any suggestions that you may have that will improve the information (especially*
77 *detailed installation notes) are welcome. Please use the simple email form on the "Contact Us" page on the Moss website:*
78 <http://www.mossmotors.com/AboutMoss/ContactUs.aspx>

79 *If you prefer, you may call our Technical Services Department at 805-681-3411. So many people call us for help that we are often not*
80 *able to answer the calls as fast as we'd like, and you may be asked to leave a message. We apologize in advance for the*
81 *inconvenience. We will get back to you within 2 business days.*



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