

Where Do I Find....

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Scott Langley (2 WINDY)

Hey Miata fans! I hope everyone's had a great summer, be sure to get out and enjoy all these beautiful fall days we're having! This month, I'd like to help you find things... information, parts, accessories and stuff. Most of the questions I've heard lately have been, "Where do I find..." or "How do I...". So here's some info on places and sources that I use to find all kinds of things.

First, I'm fond of saying that the sum of man's knowledge is available on the Internet. The corollary to that is that the sum of man's stuff is available on E-Bay! For online info about your Miata, there's no better place than www.miata.net. It's thought to be the largest forum and website devoted on only one car. On the left hand side of the opening page you'll find links to the following and much, much more:

- Marketplace: Links to dozens of on-line vendors that sell everything for your Miata
- FAQ: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about your Miata
- Garage: How-to articles on a number of projects to repair, update or modify your car
- Classifieds: Here's where to find for those "gently used" parts you're looking for
- Reviews: User reviews of parts and accessories for your car

Also at miata.net, you'll find the Forum, known as www.forum.miata.net. There is about 17 years worth of knowledge stored in the forum. The forum is broken down by subject to make it easier to browse. Be sure to check out the "Good Threads That Were Saved" section near the bottom. Even more useful, learn to use the search function listed at the top of the forum's main page. From there, you can find anything! :O)

A couple other interesting sites to keep in mind are www.flyinmiata.com and www.good-win-racing. Flyin' Miata is a tuner located in Colorado that specializes in modifying Miatas, especially turbo and supercharger kits. They are some of the most knowledgeable folks in the Miata world. They also carry a number of other cool parts and gizmos, including used parts. Goodwin Racing is run by Brian Goodwin out in California. Brian's been racing and auto-x'ing Miatas since about day one. If it's suspension or tire & wheel info you need, Brian's your man. He has great prices on wheels and tires for Miatas.

If you like catalog buying, you might like www.miatamania.com, otherwise known as Moss Motors. They've got a little bit of everything and after you place your first order, you'll never want for a Miata catalog again! Another vendor to note is www.gomiata.com, they have a similar stock list, but their pricing varies.

If you're looking for factory parts, your local dealer is just a phone call away. But some of us don't live near a dealer, so factory parts can be a bit more hassle. For factory parts direct to your door, it's hard to beat Trussville Mazda at www.trussvillemazda.com. Their parts prices are typically 40%-60% off list. They may be located in Alabama, but order on Monday and it'll be here on Wednesday most of the time. Be sure to ask for Marshall to get his specialized Miata parts knowledge.

OK, while the internet is great and all, what else is there? Well, there're always books! Heck, do a search at the library for "Miata", or check out the transportation section of any large bookstore and you'll be impressed by what you find. There are a number of Miata-specific books available, but my favorite is "Miata Performance Projects" by Keith Tanner, see www.miataprojects.com. Keith works for Flyin' Miata and has written a book that walks you through 41 projects from general maintenance to engine swaps, top replacement and striping! It's clear, easy-to-follow and even lists the tools and parts needed for each project. Other good books include the "Mazda Miata Enthusiast's Shop Manual" by Rod Granger/Pete Shoemark and "Mazda Miata Performance Handbook" by Norm Garrett.

Last, but not least, we have a number of very knowledgeable folks within our club. Send out an email or seek someone out individually, but don't hesitate to ask questions if you have them. Use the club roster to find email addresses and phone numbers if need be. Miata folks are a friendly sort, and we don't mind helping out when we can.

I hope this information can help you find out more about your car, and perhaps save you a little money along the way. I also hope that these articles are worthwhile and I want to cover car topics that folks are interested in. I've got a list of ideas about as long as my arm, but if you have any topics you'd like to see me discuss, or if you just have questions, feel free to drop me a note at scottlangley97@columbus.rr.com.

Happy motoring!