

Brain Dump

March 2010

Scott Langley (2Windy)

Brain dump? Yeah, this shouldn't take long... This is one of those months where there's no theme, just a bunch of miscellaneous stuff I'd like to share with you.

First, you regular readers out there may recall me telling the story of Judy's Miata and how it blew a head gasket. You and I can now sleep tight knowing it's been fixed. In fact, Judy and Amanda are taking it to FL as I type this.

Many thanks go out to Jim Miller for helping out in the garage for a couple late nights this week. There seemed to be no damage to speak of and no reason for it to have let go; other than just a simple failure of the middle layer of the gasket. Miata's use a standard 3-layer metal gasket, don't they Carl? He and I both have experienced this particular happiness during the past year. :O)

Next, I've been meaning to tell you about the best \$89 I've spent on my car in a long time. Before the trip to Myrtle Beach in March, I purchased and installed an adaptor that allows me to plug my iPod directly into the factory stereo on my Mazdaspeed. It allows me to control the iPod via the buttons on the radio, charges it and turns the iPod on and off with the radio.

It's made by Grom Audio and is available from their website at <http://www.gromaudio.com/>. It works with any of the Miata radios from 2002 thru at least 2008, probably thru 2010. Keep in mind that Mazda sells an iPod interface as well, but it's almost twice the price and doesn't include the secondary 3.5mm (1/8") audio input that the Grom unit has.

Lastly, I'll admit I'm a sucker for detailing supplies. Just look at my detailing cart and big red cabinet sometime. Oh, and then there's the box upstairs. Anyway, I finally got to try out Meguiars Ultimate Compound today (\$9.99 @ Autozone). It was released last year and I'm just getting around to trying it. There's been lots of hype about its ability to cut like a compound and finish to a high gloss like a polish.

Well... it ain't hype. It's the real deal. I used it with my Porter Cable random-orbital and a cutting pad on Judy's 97M. The nose was pretty pock-marked with outlines of bugs, water spots and scuffs. Five minutes later it was beautiful. It leveled the paint in a way that you can't normally do with an orbital and finished to a smooth gloss unlike any compound would. Usually, a compound leaves fine scratches that require a polish to clean up and a polish doesn't have the cutting ability to correct serious defects. This stuff does both and does it quickly. Highly recommended! I can show you at the Tech/Detail Day at my house noon-6pm June 13th.

So, here's to a great summer folks! Do something to make this season special! There's a LOT on the club calendar over the next couple months. Don't forget about the Arthritis Car Show and the Miata weekend coming up July 9-10-11!!!

Disclaimer: We are fortunate to live in a time and place when we can enjoy things like fun little cars, club meetings and events together. Beats the heck out of most of the alternatives, doesn't it? Be sure to thank a veteran for their service in keeping us safe and free.