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Miata Drive Train Lubricants

The Miata manual transmission is considered to be one of the smoother shifting Manual transmissions. But it can be improved with synthetic lubricants. If it is time to change your manual transmission lubricant, or you just want to make it shift smoother.

The Miata 5 speed tranny can generally be helped with a synthetic fluid made by a company named "Redline Oils". Their manual transmission oil number "MT-90" is an excellent GL-4 oil and has helped many 5 speed trannies shift like a hot knife thru butter. It takes 2.1 quarts of this to change the fluid, and an aluminum washer for the drain plug. The fill plug on the driver's side of the tranny is a tapered thread pipe plug, so no washer is needed for that.

Here is a link to the Redline, MT-90: <http://www.redlineoil.com/product.aspx?pid=46&pcid=7>

I buy my "Redline" mail order from Dave McCoy, at a company in Carlisle, PA named "More than Tires". Phone is 1-800-656-3247. Nice people, great to deal with, and they ship promptly! <http://www.morethantires.com/HomePage.html>

The 6 speed tranny can be a bit more difficult to smooth out. The Redline MT-90 has helped many 6 speed trannies shift smoother too. But it seems that the internal quality of the 6 speed tranny varies more than the 5 speed, so some are not helped as much as the others. I have this in my 2006 Miata 6 speed right now, and it seems to be doing quite well.

For the 6 speed manual tranny that needs some extra help, a different synthetic manual transmission fluid seems to help get smoother shifts. This is a "Motorcraft" synthetic fluid. I am guessing since Mazda is part of Ford, the Motorcraft Lube works. It is not cheap, and it is generally not stocked at most of the Ford Dealers. But they can special order it. I know of one 6 speed tranny in our club that has smoothed out tremendously with this. This Motorcraft lubricant is in the Ford Specialty Lubricants Catalog. The item numbers for it are as follows: XT-M5-QS, Catalog Number WSD-M2C200-C. They can order it for you, or search for it on the internet.

The rear end differential can benefit from the Redline, 75w-90, GL-5 rated Differential Lube. This works fine if you have an "open", or "Limited Slip" differential. It takes less than a quart for your rear Differential. Just do not try to interchange the tranny fluid with the differential fluid. The tranny will start to shift really hard.

Link to 75w-90: <http://www.redlineoil.com/product.aspx?pid=133&pcid=4>.