

## CB Installation Tip in a PRHT Miata

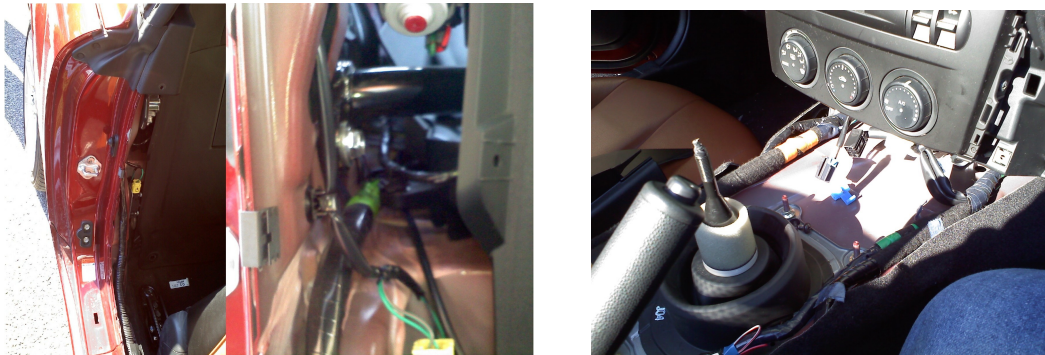
I previously did a write up on the CB Radio model which we find works great in our Miatas (Cobra C75-WXST), and the “Anderson Splitter” we like as it allows us to use our Miata AM/FM antenna system with our CB Radio. November 2010 was the article on the CB Radio itself, and December 2010 was the article on the CB installation. But the “Powered Retractable Hardtop Miata” (PRHT) has some different roadblocks to getting the antenna cable back to the trunk, over the soft top model. This article will deal with a trick which turns this installation from a nightmare to a piece of cake.

If you want or need a refresher on the previous articles, please click on the link below and go to this PACE Web page, and read the last 2 articles (November & December 2010) at the bottom of this page:

<https://sites.google.com/site/pacemiataclub/tech-talk-with-bill/2010-tech-talk-articles>

The hard part with the PRHT was getting the antenna cable past the well which the hard top retracts down into when you put the hard top down. I helped one club member install his CB into his PRHT Miata, and we spent 2 hours fighting to get the antenna cable from the passenger compartment back into the trunk. I said that was the last PRHT I would ever help with! But another club member asked me to help him with his PRHT, and I couldn't resist the offer to pad my Miata Modification Fund a little. Fortunately he had learned a tip from Jeff Anderson, who makes the splitter, and it made this install a piece of cake. Knowing we have other club members with PRHT Miatas, I thought I would cover his trick in this article for others to benefit from.

The pictures below show where the tunnel is to feed the antenna cable back thru to the trunk (Left picture), and where you can tap into electric (from cigarette lighter outlet) so you have power with the ignition switch on (Right picture).



The first step is to start the process of lowering the hard top. As you hit the button to lower the hard top, the first thing to happen is the rear shelf lid covering the hard top well lifts up. Watch this shelf lift, and STOP everything when this shelf lid gets to it's full up position. You should now have the hard top fully up, and this “rear shelf lid cover” fully up. Stop everything here and turn off the car. You are ready to go to work.

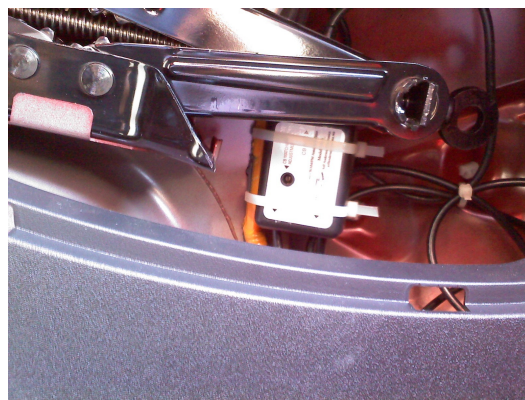
I won't cover how-to here, but remove the plastic covers along the back of the passenger's side entry, and the inside of the trunk. The December 2010 article will tell you how. Here is the trick that makes this easy. Looking down into the hard top well, on the **passenger** side, you will see a plastic shield panel right along the outside of the well.

There are 3 “Pop/Snap” buttons that hold this panel into place. One to the bottom front, One to the front top, and one to the rear top of the panel. Remove these 3 buttons and push the panel towards the center of the car. The front wants to stay somewhat in place, but this is OK as you only need to move it a couple inches. See the 2 pictures below.



Now look into the channel at the rear of the passenger’s side door opening where the other wiring goes thru. You will find if you push the antenna cable thru this channel, it goes right into the hard top well in the area where you moved the panel away from. Reach down into the hard top well, grab the antenna cable, and push it back into the trunk. Go back into the trunk, and pull the antenna cable back to the antenna connection in the trunk. This took us about 10 minutes to get the cable to the trunk in Tom’s car versus 2 hours in Jack’s car. Put the plastic shield panel into place in the hard top well, and make sure the antenna cable is down away from any moving parts. Push in the Pop-Button retainers, and put the top down all of the way to then finish the installation in the passenger compartment and in the trunk. Refer to my December 2010 article for “the rest of the story” to finish the CB and splitter installation in your Miata.

Just for reference, the left picture below shows the inside of the trunk with the panels removed, and the right picture shows the antenna splitter in place.



Zoom-Zoom!  
Bill Latsha