

Slow Seat Belt Retraction. 2006 to 2011 Miatas

I read with great interest on Miata.net where guys with early NC Miatas (2006 to 2011) were having trouble with their seat belts slowly, or not retracting. I had the same problem with my 2006. If you have a 2006 to 2011 with the same problem, you may want to read carefully below.

I found that Mazda actually published a Technical Service Bulletin to remedy this situation. Here is a synopsis of what to do, and the part numbers you need to buy. You can read the attached Mazda Technical Service Bulletin if you want all the details.

Just as a side note. If your car is under warranty, Mazda will perform the actions required in a Technical Service Bulletin free of charge. But if your car is out of warranty, you would have to pay the charges to do it. Whereas a "Recall" is covered if your car is in or out of warranty.

The first part of the bulletin is to clean the seat belt itself, and clean the round metal "D-Ring" bracket which the seat belt slides around when retracting. The second part is to buy new style plastic seat belt guides, and the metal brackets which help support the guides on the backrest of the seats. I can say I have done this, and it has helped.

Note if you buy the new plastic guides, you do need the new metal "Protector" (support) brackets. I tried using the old metal support brackets with the new plastic guides, and they do not fit together correctly.

These can be purchased thru the LTM On-Line parts web page with the part numbers I have listed below.

LTM Parts web page: <http://www.ltmdiscounttoyotaparts.com/>



*** Always replace belt guide and protector simultaneously because shapes of the belt guide are different.

New Part Numbers

NHY8 88 1L7	Belt Guide (Right)	1	(Plastic Guide)
NHY8 88 1M7	Belt Guide (Left)	1	(Plastic Guide)
NHY8 88 1J1	Protector (Right)	1	(Metal Support)
NHY8 88 1K1	Protector (Left)	1	(Metal Support)

See the Mazda Technical Service Bulletin below for more information.

Zoom-Zoom, Bill Latsha

Service Information

Mazda Motor Corporation

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Category S	Repair Guidance	Ref. No. R086/10A	Page 1 of 3
Coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please inform your dealers		Date Issued October 29, 2010	
Please convey this information to your <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warranty Dept. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parts Dept. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training Dept. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Rep.		Date Revised December 8, 2011	
Applicable Model MX-5/Miata (NC)		Applicable Countries or Specifications Worldwide	

[Updated]

Note: "MASS PRODUCTION CHANGE" and "BEGINNING VIN & DATE OF MODIFICATION" have been updated.

Subject: Poor Seat Belt Retraction

DESCRIPTION

Some vehicles may experience that seat belt has been retracted slowly when the seat belt is unfastened.

CAUSE

Dirt, dust or smudges increases the friction between the belt guide in the seat back shoulder area or the anchor area and the seat belt, and may cause the poor retraction.

MASS PRODUCTION CHANGE

~~The shape of the belt guide will be changed and the friction resistance with the seat belt was reduced.~~

To reduce the friction resistance with the seat belt, shape of the belt guide has been changed.

BEGINNING VIN & DATE OF MODIFICATION

US Spec.

JM1 NC ***** 216626 January 1, 2011

EC Spec.

JMZ NC ***** 253768 January 1, 2011

ADR Spec.

JM0 NC ***** 202637 January 1, 2011

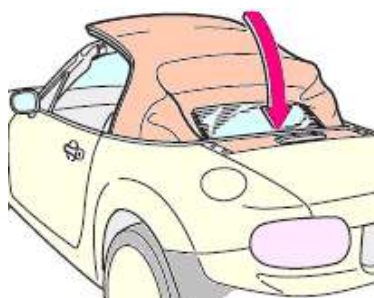
General Spec.

JM7 NC ***** 202637 January 1, 2011

REPAIR PROCEDURE

Clean the seat belt, belt guide, anchor and etc. of the affected seat belt. If this action does not solve the issue, replace right and left belt guide and protector with the improved ones. For details, refer to the following procedures.

Note: Opening the convertible top enhances the accessibility.



1. Confirm the retraction performance:

Fully pull out the seat belt and keep it in this position by hand. Release it and confirm the duration between releasing and completely pulling back.

Note:

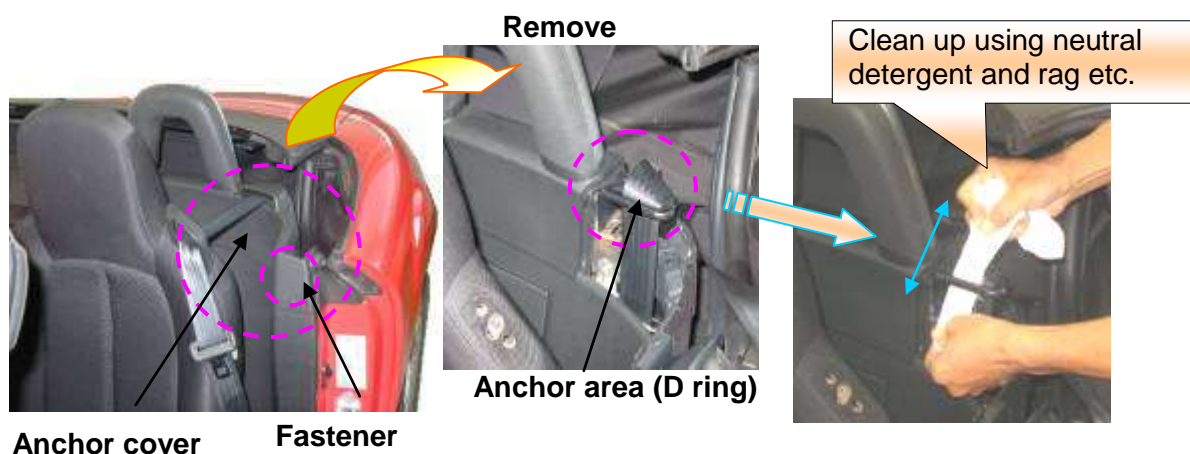
Avoid any interruption and resistances such like seat belt rubbing to the front seat while retraction, by assisting and guiding the belt with another hand during the retraction.

If it takes about 2 seconds or less, the retraction performance is within the specification.

If not within specification: Go to the next step.

2. Remove dirt, dust, smudges from the seat belt, the belt guide and the anchor area according to Owner's Manual:

Clean the webbing with a mild soap solution recommended for upholstery or carpets. Follow the instructions. Don't bleach or dye the webbing, this may weaken it. After cleaning the belts, thoroughly dry the belt webbing and make sure there is no remaining moisture before retracting them.



***Cleaning of anchor area:** Remove the fastener and the anchor cover to remove smudges on the seat belt anchor area (D ring).

Confirm the retraction performance after cleaning.

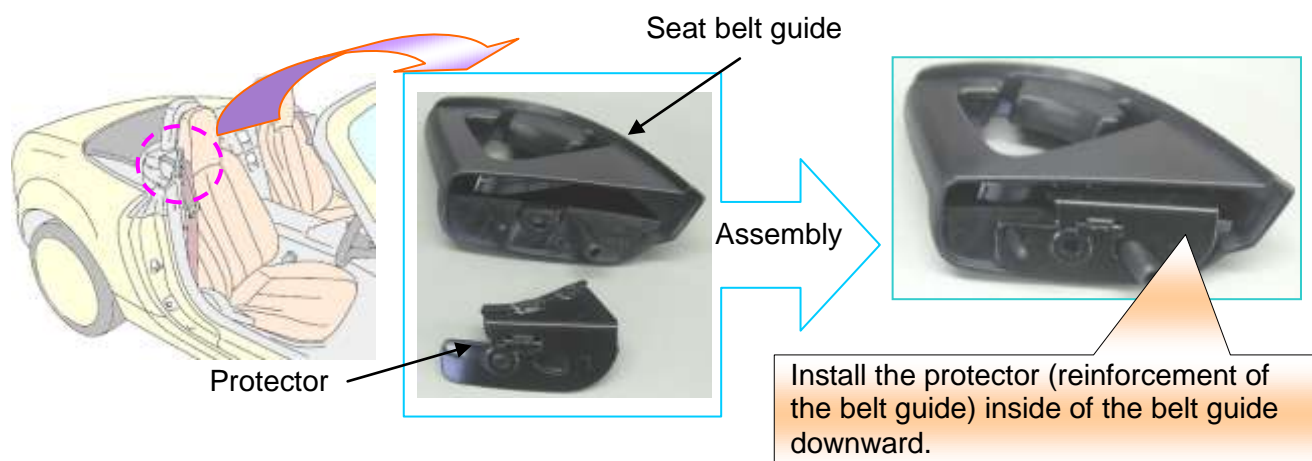
If now within specification: Make sure that the customer takes care of the interior maintenance such like seat belt (removal of smudges) on a regular basis.

If not within specification: Go to the next step.

3. Replace the seat belt guide & the protector with the modified ones. (Both Sides)

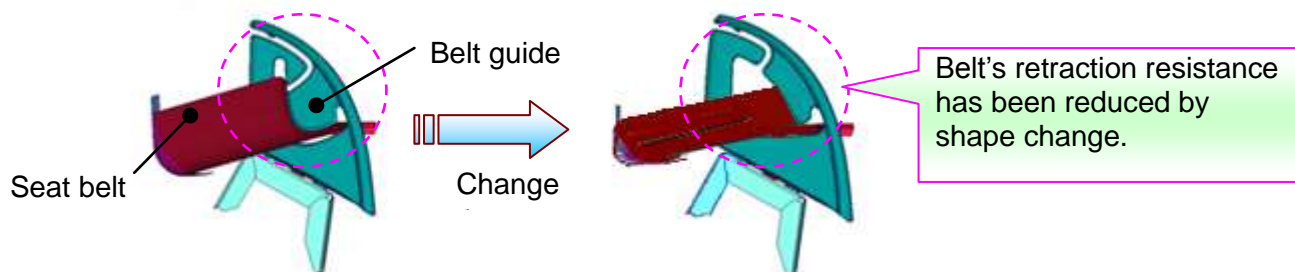
(1) Remove the seat belt guide (combined with the protector).

Loosen the attachment screw and remove the seat belt guide & protector.



(2) Assembly new seat belt guide & new protector, then install it using original screw.

Note: *The shape of the belt guide (Service parts) has been changed as illustration.



(3) Confirm the performance of seat belt retraction and if it's not improved, clean up the seat belt & anchor area again.

(4) Make sure cleanness and installation of each part is kept in a good condition.

PART INFORMATION

Part Number *		Part Name	Q'ty	Remark
New	Old			
NHY8 88 1L7	NE51 88 1L7 02 NG90 88 1L7 02 NH52 88 1L7 02	Belt Guide (Right)	1	Always replace belt guide and protector simultaneously because shapes of the belt guide are different.
NHY8 88 1M7	NE51 88 1M7 02 NG90 88 1M7 02 NH52 88 1M7 02	Belt Guide (Left)	1	
NHY8 88 1J1	NE51 88 1J1	Protector (Right)	1	
NHY8 88 1K1	NE51 88 1K1	Protector (Left)	1	

Note: *Select part number according to EPC.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Symptom Code	71
Damage Code	9E
Causal Part No.	NHY8 88 1L7
Q'ty	1
Operation No.	XXF4FXRX
Labor Hours	0.3 H (One Side or Both Sides)
Period Covered	Normal Warranty Period

Note: Including cleaning time for belt and anchor area.

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