

How do I put a V-8 In My Miata?

I had a reader ask how he can put a 200 horsepower V-8 motor in his Miata, and asked if the existing drivetrain and brakes will handle this extra power. I can say that the Miata drivetrain will easily handle over 200 hp. A friend of mine has a Turbocharged NA dyno'd with 240 Hp at the rear wheels. The latter NB MazdaSpeed Miatas, with the Flyin' Miata "Little Enchilada" package pushes around to over 200 hp, and I personally know of a 2006 Miata that has over 300 hp at the rear wheels. The stock drivetrain and brakes handle these well. Fitment of the V8 motor to the tranny and into the car is the trick.

I am not the expert on this type of modification, so I referred him to "Flyin' Miata". They are a Miata specialized aftermarket company in Colorado, and one of their big specialties is putting a V8 into a Miata. They have pretty much perfected this upgrade. You can buy their special parts, full install kits with everything you need, or you can drop off your car there and they will do a Turn Key install for you. They are very open to being contacted for anything from parts to information. They are a great company, and a good sponsor of the Miata.Net web page. Keith Tanner is the main contact there

But there are other issues to consider when dropping a V-8 into the Miata. The V-8 has a lot of extra low end Torque. Keep in mind that Torque gives you Acceleration, and Horsepower gives you speed. The Miata rear differential is geared for the small engine to rev at a higher RPM, as this is where the power is. A V-8 has LOTS of low end Torque. It will be very easy to be idling along in low gear, punch the gas, and have both rear tires burning themselves smooth. So next are 2 more possible added costs.

Some guys change the gearing in the rear differential to a higher gear ratio, especially when going over 200 HP, or they replace the entire rear end. So here goes a \$1,000 dollars or more for the parts & labor to install it. The next consideration is wheels & tires. With that additional Torque and Horsepower, some like to put wider tires on the car to get more road contact surface from the wider tread. So for wider tires, you need wider wheels. It would be easy to drop \$500 for wider tires, and another \$500 for wider wheels, or more. Below are a few pictures of some of what is available at Flyin' Miata. You see a complete conversion, a cooling system, a V-8 motor install frame, and a different rear differential.



Below are 3 links to where you can get information and parts for your project. One is the general Flyin' Miata web page. The next is their V8 conversion section, and the last is a link to the Miata.net web page for the special V8 conversion forum section. For anyone interested in this, I am sure you will be able to get all of the info you will need from these sources. Or it can just be some very interesting reading.

Flyin' Miata home page: <https://www.flyinmiata.com/>

Flyin Miata V8 conversion section: <https://www.flyinmiata.com/V8/>

Miata.net V8 Conversion Forum section: <http://forum.miata.net/vb/forumdisplay.php?f=140> You can discuss your project here with those who are doing it at the same time.

I hope I had been of some help to him, and thought some of you may find this interesting. I wished him Good luck, and asked him to let me know how things go if he does it!

Zoom – Zoom, Bill Latsha