

Want some more passenger legroom

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One thing I noticed about the NC was the lack of foot room on the passenger side.

Not that I have large feet or long legs, I just can't find a comfortable place to put them under the dash.

I also noticed there appeared to be a lot less room on the passenger side compared to the driver's side. My significant other has a habit of snoozing when I drive and without being able to recline the seatback she does end up with a sore neck.

Whilst trolling through *Miata.net*, I came across a thread which listed a number of cheap mods to fix various issues with the NC and included a reference to "Another free mod and only beneficial for your co pilot is removing that annoying big plastic foot rest under the carpet on passenger side." This struck a chord and I investigated the mod further.



Various discussions on the usefulness of the wedge/footrest from both the US and UK have established it is used to mount the Advanced Keyless Entry (AKE) module (if fitted), and as a mount for the iPod controller. It's designed to create a more comfortable position for your feet, achieve the perfect 50/50 ratio by move the passenger further back or to provide some shock absorption for the passenger's feet in the case of a head-on accident. I'm thinking it would make an ideal position for an aftermarket Engine Control Unit (*what was Mazda thinking?*).

With the correct tools this mod takes about 15-30 minutes and is nearly totally reversible (see point 8). Removing the wedge is applicable for all NCs.

1. Remove the door sill by working your fingers under the side near the rear and pull upwards.



2. Pull away the rubber door seal up to the dash vent.



3. Remove the plastic rivet under the internal fuse box cover/kick panel.



in your NC? Here's how ...



4. Using an appropriate lever, ease out the white clip and remove the fuse box cover/kick panel.



5. Remove the trim fastener holding the carpet in place.



6. Pull back the carpet to expose the plastic wedge.



7. The wedge is located on two studs; just pull the wedge away from the floor. The studs are not used for anything – to my knowledge – other than locating the plastic wedge and they need to be trimmed flush with the sound deadening (they will still locate the wedge if you chose to refit it). How you remove the excess material is up to you ... pliers, side cutters, hacksaw, Dremel, grinder or bolt cutters (my choice) are but a few options.



8. From some angles you can see some exposed sound deadening. I trimmed and fitted a small piece of black carpet behind the OEM carpet near the fuse box cover/kick panel and heater box.

9. Put everything back in the reverse order – excluding the wedge.



Initially the carpet will look a bit saggy, but it will conform to the “new” shape and you won't see it. Your passengers will certainly feel the difference. ■

