

Brakes & braids: what's stopping you?

■ Words & photos: Peter Lawson-Gillies

On the 2015 "3 Peaks Run", coming down Mt Buffalo, I started to find the brakes on my NC a bit wanting. It's an auto, so the brakes get a fair hammering.

I studied what was available locally and overseas and after many hours of playing on the net, came up with what seemed like a very good deal.

I purchased four drilled rotors and ceramic pads from the USA, at approximately \$280.00 landed (ie, including transport!).

Are they any good?

When cold, they are a little heavier than normal on the first one or two stops – not *super* heavy, but I can notice it.

Once warmed up though, they just get better and better! I'm VERY impressed!

Fitting was a breeze – it probably took 45 minutes to an hour for the entire car.

If you are thinking of a brake upgrade for your MX-5, have a look at their website (*PDF readers can click on the addresses to go to the relevant pages*):

For the 1989 to 1993 model:

<http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/FRONT-REAR-DRILLED-SLOTTED-BRAKE-ROTOR-CERAMIC-PADS-1989-1993-Miata-Miata-/401204970712?hash=item5d69ae04d8>

These cost US\$131.36 plus US\$79.44 postage – that's about \$295.00 Australian at current exchange rates – not bad!

For the 1994 to 2005 models:

<http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/FRONT-REAR-DRILLED-SLOTTED-BRAKE-ROTOR-AND-8-CERAMIC-PADS-1994-2002-Mazda-MX5-/391543174210?hash=item5b29cab442>

Cost is US\$127.37 plus US\$79.32 postage (about A\$289.00).

For the 2006 to 2013 model:

<http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/FRONT-REAR-DRILLED-SLOTTED-BRAKE-ROTOR-AND-8-CERAMIC-PADS-2006-2013-Mazda-MX5-/401204967877?hash=item5d69adf9c5>

These cost US\$138.17 plus US\$74.02 postage (about A\$296.00).

They have a very comprehensive website so it's worth a look for other goodies, including lots of other Mazda models.

No doubt the ND is also in there somewhere.

So, what's stopping you? ■

On the 2016 "3 Peaks Run", I had a chance to really work the brakes and see how they perform. They were superb!

I cannot fault them and they created a lot of interest from many other attendees – I suspect further orders will be placed in the coming weeks.

I was also asked to chase up some **braided brake hoses** to be able to be fitted as well – once you improve the brakes, you might as well make a job of it and get the firmest pedal possible!



Above and below: the slotted and drilled rotors. Note that they are plated on the non-braking surface ... no nasty rusty hub!



Postscript:

Go to the following site: <http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/Techna-Fit-Stainless-Steel-Braided-Brake-Lines-2006-2015-Mazda-Miata-MX5-/361733531649?hash=item5438ffa801:g:pzwwAAOSwLnBX3Vo2>

These are specifically for an NC and are approximately A\$154.00 landed. No doubt they also have lines for other model MX-5s – drop them a line to enquire. ■