

The third generation NC Series – introduced 2005

MX-5

NC1

This model was the first major body change and saw the body/chassis become stiffer than those previous and the driver/passenger sit more “in” than “on” the car.

This model was seen as many as “bloated” and losing its way, as it also had many more creature comforts.

Power went up from the previous 1800cc 113 kW at 7000 rpm and 181 Nm @ 5000 by the use of a 2 litre engine providing 118 kW @ 6700 rpm and 188 Nm @ 5000 rpm.

The weight of the car went up about 20kg but this became more when the electrically-folding roof was introduced, bringing it up another 50kg. This feature was so popular however that Mazda eventually stopped bringing in soft tops and only sold the power retractable roof during the NC2 run.

Standard on the NC1 was:

- At time of release ONLY soft top available. The folding power retractable hard top (PRHT) roof was introduced late in the NC1 series
- S-VT engine, 2-litre capacity, MZR
- 6-speed manual with optional 6-speed auto with paddle shift
- Optional leather seats
- Standard rollover bars behind seats
- Cruise control
- 6-speaker Bose sound system – 6-stack CD, AM/FM radio (7 speakers in the leather pack model)
- Front air bags and seat side air bags
- Compared to the NB, the chassis is 22% stiffer in bending and 47% stiffer in torsion
- LSD on manual cars
- Air conditioning standard
- Tilt-adjustable steering wheel
- ABS brakes
- No traction control or seat height adjustment

