

“Retrofying” your NA

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Being a hopeless car tragic my mind is continuously drifting into visuals of tasteful chrome trim, not the 1970s American bling, but the British and Italian '50s and '60s subtle, stylish sports car type ...

You know ... narrow elegant bumpers, shining interior toggle switches, small bullet shaped side mirrors, and long clicky snick gated gear shifters.

Also a love of many things Italian takes me to the aural delight of the induction sound of pre-EFI Alfa Romeos (105 series or Alfetta) at wide-open throttle. Those dual Weber or Delorto carburetors ingesting volumes of oxygen in the way that only a side-draft “Carburatori” can.

To look upon an engine bejewelled in those melodic trumpets, it's like the engine is attached to the carburetors, not the other way around!

When I acquired my 1990 NA6 in 2014, all I wanted was a return to fun motoring after 10 years without a project car, and with no intention of modifying it all.

It didn't take long, though, especially after joining the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania and meeting some friendly and influential members (*you guys know who you are*) as well as seeing and researching some of the NA project cars on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!

This led me to the project that sits in my shed now.

So here is a list of the mods (that I can remember anyway) that I have perpetrated so far, that have slowly transformed the standard Crystal White 1990 NA6 into a kind of retro '60s Gulf Racing tribute.

I hope to continue painting on this “canvas” for years to come, and that you guys might be inspired to paint on your “canvas”. ●

■ **Please note:** All “Tech Talk” information is provided as a guide only. All work is carried out at the owner's risk.



The day I bought it:
Plain Jane (probably more desirable today, though)



Koni dampers/Kings springs.
A good compromise between ride and handling performance



Webers in mock-up stage prior to installation



Webers fully set up and running



Original gauge cluster prior to Jass Performance bezel install



Before

New bezel and gauge surround rings from *Beavis Motorsport*

Old-school hazard and pop-up light toggles by *Jass Performance*

After

Home-made vent centre caps

Shifter extension from *Beavis Motorsport* and short shift kit from *MX5 Mania*

Analogue gauge cluster

Deleted console ... because old roadsters didn't have plastic consoles!

Old-school window up/down toggles

Console delete panel from *Jass Performance*

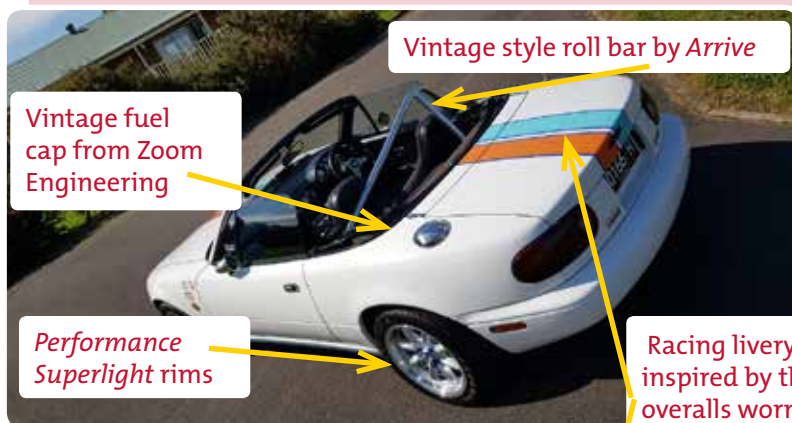
Chrome vent rings from *MX5 Mania*

Italian-made *Vintage Speco* steering wheel



Vintage MAZDA decal from *Spinnywhoosh*

OEM-style front spoiler painted Gulf blue

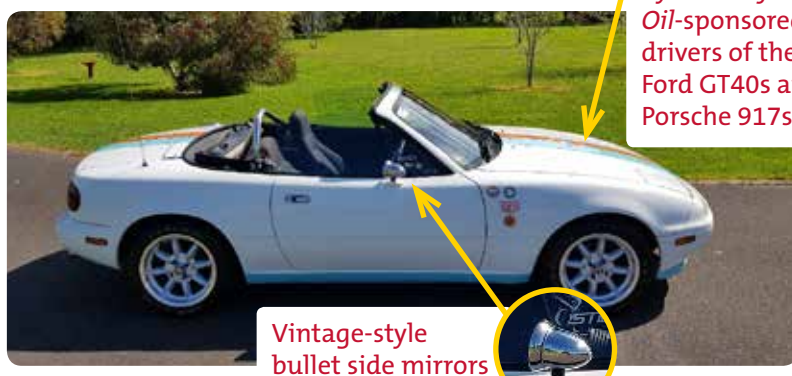


Vintage style roll bar by *Arrive*

Vintage fuel cap from *Zoom Engineering*

Performance *Superlight* rims

Racing livery inspired by the overalls worn by the *Gulf Oil*-sponsored drivers of the *Ford GT40s* and *Porsche 917s*



Vintage-style bullet side mirrors

- » Koni Yellow adjustable dampers/Kings springs.
- » Federal track tyres.
- » Performance Superlight rims. Classic '60s style.
- » Lightweight aluminium wheel nuts.
- » OEM style front spoiler. Painted Gulf blue.
- » Blacked out sills painted Gulf blue.
- » "Arrive" classic style polished alloy rollbar.
- » Gulf racing livery "cobra" stripes by *Wills Signs*.
- » Vintage MAZDA decal by *Spinnywhoosh*.
- » Home-made cold air intake in headlight cover.
- » Zoom engineering vintage fuel cap.
- » Italian-made Weber 45dcoe side draft carburettors on an original *Mazdaspeed* intake manifold.
- » Large aluminium radiator.
- » Hi Tech full flow 4-2-1 exhaust extractors.
- » Custom-made full-flow exhaust.
- » Polished alloy oil catch can.
- » Carbon canister delete.
- » Whiteline strut brace with brake master cylinder stopper.
- » *MX5 Mania* ignition leads.
- » Italian-made *Speco* steering wheel.
- » Steering wheel adaptor from *Beavis Motorsport*.
- » *MX5 Mania* short shift kit with 3" extension from *Beavis Motorsport*.
- » Weighted chrome gear knob.
- » Console delete.
- » Console delete panel from *Jass*.
- » Home-made window up/down toggles.

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