

Redline Goods Mazda Miata Leather A Pillar and Windshield Header installation instructions

Materials Needed

- Contact cement
- Old paint brushes or foam brushes
- Scotchbrite pads
- 3M Blue Low Tack Painter's tape
- Exacto blade
- Kitchen shears or other sharp scissors for cutting leather
- 5 minute epoxy
- popsicle stick and paper plate (to mix epoxy)
- Door upholstery removal tool or flathead screwdriver



Working Notes

- **Read over all these instructions before you get started.** Every product from Redline is handmade, so a good fit will require some manipulation on your part. There are some suggestions in these directions that will help you get the best possible fit.
- **The goal here is to get the leather to stay put.** Excess glue will take longer to dry and may also limit your ability to stretch the leather into place, but do not use the contact cement sparingly. The plastic Mazda uses for the A-Pillars and Windshield header is very durable and resistant to adhesives. You may want to rough the surface with scotchbrite pads to promote adhesion. Use a thin coat of contact cement on the leather and on the plastic for faster drying time. Contact cement can be forgiving, so don't be afraid to pull the leather away and reposition it with a little more glue. Avoid repositioning the leather more than once. Reposition the leather too much and your corrections will show through the leather in the form of lumps or waves in the surface.
- **Keep your fingers clean of contact cement at all times.** Contact cement can be messy. The glue is not good for your skin and will leave shiny marks on the leather that you will not be able to clean off. Wearing gloves will help, but you may not have as much control manipulating the leather into position. Always be mindful of what's on your fingers when working with the leather.
 - o If you get contact cement on the finished side of the leather, use the blue tape's adhesive to try to pull the contact cement off the leather. Press the tape on top of the spot firmly and slowly peel it back. If the contact cement has not cured, it will have the consistency of rubber cement (paper glue). The painter's tape adhesive should grab the contact cement and pull it off the leather. It may take several tries.
 - o Do not use any other method to remove contact cement. Even your fingernails can damage the leather if you pick at it hard enough.
- **Last, but certainly not least - Contact cement has very strong fumes and is flammable!** Be sure to work in a well ventilated area with no open flames.



Removal Instructions:

1. In order to remove the A-Pillars and Windshield header plastic, the top striker plates (fig A), visors or plugs (fig B) and mirror (Fig C) (if equipt) must be removed along with moving the rubber molding out of the way (Figs D, E, F).



Fig A



Fig B



Fig C



Fig D



Fig E



Fig F

2. The header must be removed before the A-Pillars can be removed. I found it easier to use this upholstery removal tool (Fig G) than to use a flathead screwdriver, however it is possible to use the screwdriver. Gently pry the plastic header from the car so that you can see the clips that attach it (Figs H, I). Use the tool to pop the clips loose working your way across the header. Careful not to bend or pull too hard on the header as you may break the plastic that holds the clips. A- Pillar removal is the same as for the header (Fig J).



Fig G



Fig H



Fig I



Fig J

Header Instructions

1. Thoroughly wash off the header to clean off any protectant, waxes or other surface contaminants. Since the whole thing will be covered in leather, consider using Scotchbrite pads to rough up the surface.
2. I started with the header. Lay out your leather, finished side down and test fit your header to get an idea of fitment. The leather comes with a stitched detail that you will want straight when done. Once you have an idea of where the stitching will fall, apply cement to one end of the header and also to the corresponding leather following the manufacturers instructions for the cement. Work from one end to the other making sure to get a nice straight leather (stitch) application. Once the leather is cemented to the header, place everything face down on your work surface and trim the edges as shown (Fig k) Apply more cement to the backside edges of the header to wrap your leather around. I wasnt sure if these edges would be visible once installed, so thats why I suggest wrapping the edges (you may find it necessary to use the blue painters tape to hold the leather in place until dry.) **NOTE:** The edge of the header in the red circle (Fig K) WILL be visible when installed. They overlap the A pillars.



Fig K



Fig L



Fig M



Fig N

Also **NOTE:** you can trim the visor cutouts completely as well as the space where the striker plates bolt on. These areas are NOT visible after installation Where the rearview mirror mounts (if applicable) you can cut an "X" into the screwholes to allow the screws to pass through (Fig L). Once you have all the sections glued into place, use epoxy to coat the edges over. This will ensure that the leather does not come up if the contact cement should give way from heat or cold. With so little surface area to hold the leather in place, a little coating of epoxy is extra insurance you won't have to correct something later on. Finished Header looks like Fig M, N.

A-Pillar Instructions

1. Thoroughly wash off the A-Pillars to clean off any protectant, waxes or other surface contaminants. Since the whole thing will be covered in leather, consider using Scotchbrite pads to rough up the surface.
2. Installation of the A-Pillar leather is similar to the header installation. Lay out your leather, finished side down and test fit you header to get an idea of fitment. The leather comes with a stitched detail that you will want straight when finished and you will also want to be aware that the stitch detail should line up with the stitch detail on the header once installed. Once you have an idea of where the stitching will fall, apply cement to the entire A-pillar and the corresponding leather following the manufacturers instructions for the cement (Fig O). I found it easiest to hold onto each end where the stitch was so I could control its placement in the A-pillar. You may be able to make some adjustments before the leather is down permanently if needed.



Fig O

3. Once the leather is cemented to the A-Pillar place everything face down on your work surface and trim the edges (Figs P, Q). Wrap the edge towards the windshield as was done for the header and trim away everything else as it is not visible (Figs R, S) . Same instructions for both A-Pillars.



Fig P



Fig Q



Fig R



Fig S

4. Installation is the reverse of the removal. Photos of finished A-Pillars and Header (Figs T,U,V)



Fig T



Fig U



Fig V