

# MAZDA MX-5/Eunos Roadster HOODS

## Important Mazda MX-5 Hood Information



The hood market is rife with a variety of imitation hoods claiming to have various design improvements of one form or another. There are many hoods that are made to non-original design specifications and there are many inherent problems associated with some designs. In order to make an informed choice you need to be aware of the many features of the original hood design, how it is constructed and how to identify those hoods which do not adhere to the original Mazda design. Below you will see photographs of both our hood, which adheres to the original design and construction methods and photographs of an imitation hood that is widely available. Sometimes such hoods are offered with certain claims of new improved design etc.

The photographs below will enable you to identify the original design hood against a non original hood. We will point out the various differences between the two types of hood to enable you to make a more informed choice when comparing.

### Original rear zip window design eliminates any possibility of water leakage through zip.

The hood on the left is one of our hoods made to the same design as the original Mazda hood. The hood on the right is made to a non-original design. Look more closely and you will see that the non original hood has a stitch line around the zip window. This is prominent and goes up the sides of the window and across the top. The original hood has no visible exterior stitches. There is good reason for this. Car Manufacturers take steps to reduce all signs of visible stitching on the outside of the hood. Stitches that are exposed to the elements can quickly fade, become brittle and fail. There are also the obvious problems with water ingress through the stitch holes. Another major difference is the construction of the rear section of the hood. The non original hood in the photograph has a single skin rear screen design. Compare this to the original Mazda and our Hood which have a Double Skin rear window design incorporating a replaceable inner zip window section which extends across the whole rear section of the hood and an outer section (or rear window curtain as it is called) which effectively provides a double skinned layer to the side quarters of the hood. This original design is more complex. The extra layers of material greatly add to the insulation properties of the hood and the zip window positioning provides the best possible protection from draughts and water leaks.

See the difference between these two pictures

Original Mazda & Our Hood



Non Original Hood

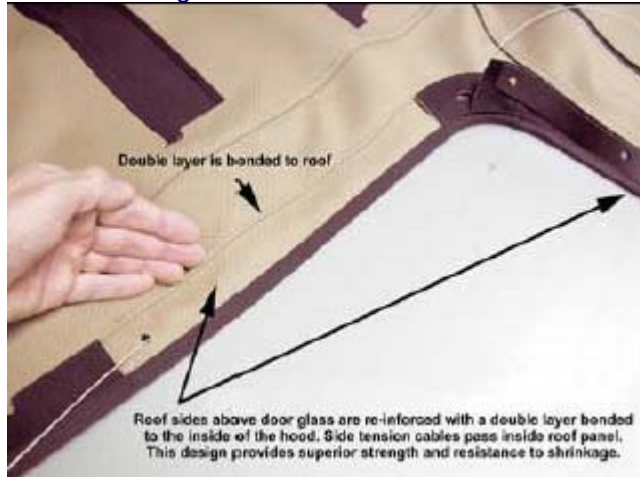


### **Bonded Double Faced Edges to Resist Shrinkage**

Some hoods are being advertised with an extended roof area to cover door seals? We find this claim to be a little misleading. Any new hood that does not adequately cover above the door seals would be considered a poor fit, and if you extend it beyond the door seals it will interfere with the door opening. You therefore cannot extend the roof area beyond its optimum size but you can ensure it stays that size by using high quality hooding materials and construction methods to re-enforce stressed areas. Mazda and our Hoods incorporate such features to resist premature shrinkage and this can be explained in the pictures below.

See the difference between these two pictures

Original Mazda & Our Hood



Non Original Hood



The sides of the original Mazda & our Hood are double skinned. (See left picture). This is achieved by gluing a second layer of material around the insides of the hood. This second layer re-enforces the sides of the hood and also carries the side tensioning cable. The side tensioning cable is passed through the material and held tightly sandwiched within the sides of the hood fabric. This arrangement not only provides a superior tight seal against the hood frame but the double layer also provides superior resistance to shrinkage.

Some after market hoods that we have seen omit to glue the re-enforcement material to the inside of the hood. (See right picture). The material is simply sewn on as a loose flap through which the tension cables will pass. This loose flap of material is not providing the same function as the original glued re-enforcements on the original Mazda and our Hoods. The hood sides remain a single thickness providing considerably less resistance to shrinkage and damage. In addition the side cable passes through the loose flap of material and therefore does not hold the sides of the hood as well as it was intended to. This non original design cuts costs from the manufacturing process at the expense of losing the obvious benefits found in the original design.

Material. There are many grades of hooding material on the market, ranging from very cheap material designed in the 50's through to expensive modern material designed in the 80's & 90's. The more modern material has a far longer life and is far more resistant to shrinking, cracking and fading. Clearly, the cheaper the hood, the cheaper the material.

We have prepared this leaflet with the assistance of our suppliers. It is not intended to imply that all other hoods on the market are of a poor design or manufacture. However, like many markets, when it comes to hoods you really do get what you pay for. We make no excuses for our prices, our hoods are of the highest quality. We could sell cheaper hoods but our policy is always to sell only goods that we would be happy fitting to our own cars.

Scimitar International Ltd.  
Unit 4, Cluster Industrial Estate  
Rodney Road, Portsmouth  
Hampshire, PO4 8ST  
Tel: 0845 345 2384 Fax: 0845 345 2385  
Website: <http://www.mx5parts.co.uk>

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