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CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace 2011+ Mazda 2



WARNING: You will be removing several fasteners from the vehicle. Be sure to place them in a safe place, as you will be reusing them.



WARNING: Installation requires you to trim a small amount of molding from the interior of the rear of the vehicle. If you are not comfortable with that, then this part will not be able to be successfully installed.



NOTE: When working on your car, you should be wearing mechanics gloves or other form of hand protection as well as ANSI Approved Safety Glasses.



NOTE: These instructions were written for reference only on a 2011 model year and the use of a factory service manual is recommended. Please read these instructions thoroughly prior to starting installation. **If you have a different model year, the pictures and steps may vary slightly, but the overall installation process will remain the same.**

Part Number:
Mz2-3-021
Time Estimate:
45-60 min.
Wrench Rating:
2/5

Model
Mazda 2

Year
2011+

Trim
All

TOOLING LIST:

Car jack with jacks stands (or lift)
3/8 Drive Ratchet
12mm Socket
17mm Wrench
22mm Wrench (or Crescent Wrench)

Phillips Screwdriver
Flathead Screwdriver
Utility Knife or Dremel
Marker or similar marking tool

PARTS LIST:

CorkSport Black Anodized Aluminum Bar
1x Right Hand Thread Bar End
1x Left Hand Thread Bar End
2x Quick Release Pins
2x CNC Milled Aluminum Brackets
2x Black Plastic Panel Covers
4x M8 Washers

4x M8 x 1.25mm Lock Nuts
4x M8 x 1.25mm x 35mm Bolts

For help with installation, call 360-260-CORK (2675)







Installation Instructions:

CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace

2011 Mazda 2

How the Instructions Work

To best cover all of our customers experience levels and familiarity with the systems on their Mazda, we have broken our instructions down into numbered steps, each of which has the core information in the header with additional detail as needed depending on your experience. If you have a high level of experience, you can just use the checklist below and then skip to the step number where you need help or assistance. Video assistance may also be available for certain steps and is indicated by the HD icon:  Areas where there is a safety concern are indicated by the warning icon:  Cautionary areas (where parts are fragile, etc) are indicated by the caution icon:  Key tips are indicated with the light bulb icon: 

Overview/Checklist:

This is an overview of each of the steps of the build. You can use this as a reference and a checklist as you button up the work on the car.



1. Remove the Factory Hatch Interior Panels

- 1a) Remove the rear deck lid from the cargo area as shown in **Figure 1A**
- 1b) Remove the hatch carpet and foam molding panels and fold down the rear seats.
- 1c) Remove the rear plastic molding as shown in **Figure 1B**
- 1d) Remove the one (1) clip shown by the **green arrow** as shown in **Figure 1C**
- 1e) Remove the screw holding the side panel on as shown in **Figure 1C**
- 1f) Repeat steps 1d & 1e for the driver's side fasteners
- 1g) Remove the jack cover by pulling out on the handle as shown in **Figure 1C**
- 1h) Remove the hatch light from the plastic moulding as shown in **Figure 1D**
- 1i) Open the rear driver's door and remove the floor trim panel**
- 1j) Repeat step 1i for the passenger's side panel
- 1k) Remove the passenger's side hatch panel
- Note: Use caution and take your time removing the panel so you do not break any plastic**
- 1l) Repeat step 1k for the passenger side panel

2. Install the CNC Aluminum Brackets

- 2a) Put the rear of your vehicle on jack stands so that both rear wheels are just off the ground**
- 2b) Remove the two (2) 12mm bolts holding the rear passenger shock in place
- Note: You want the suspension to drop at least 2 inches. you may need to jack up the rear of the vehicle further if it does not drop at least 2 inches**
- 2c) Slide one of the aluminum brackets into place on the driver's side damper mount and reinstall the **damper by threading in two (2) of the supplied M6 bolts being sure to put washers on them first**
- Note: Be sure that the bracket holes line up with the bolts**
- 2d) Hand thread one (1) lock nut onto each bolt and then tighten both evenly
- 2e) repeat steps 2b-2d for the driver's side bracket







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Overview/Checklist:

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3. Trimming & Reinstalling the Interior Panels

 Note: Use caution when trimming interior panels. Measure twice and cut once

- 3a) Set the driver's side hatch panel back into place and mark the center of the aluminum mounting bracket. Using a utility knife or dremel, cut a 1" circle or square hole out of the panel
- 3b) Reinstall the driver's side panel being sure not to break or bend any tabs. Reinstall the upper screw and lower clip as shown in [Figure 1C](#). It should now look similar to [Figure 3A](#)
- 3c) Reinstall the hatch light as shown in [Figure 1C & 1D](#). Also reinstall the jack cover
- 3d) Repeat steps 3a & 3b for the driver's side panel
- 3e) Reinstall the two (2) rear bottom door trim panels as shown in [Figures 1E & 1F](#)
- 3f) Reinstall the rear hatch plastic and reinstall the two (2) clips as shown in [Figure 1B](#)
- 3g) Reinstall the hatch foam tire surround and carpet as shown in [Figure 3B](#)
- 3h) Hold up the supplied trim panel to the passenger side bracket and trace the trim panel onto the hatch plastic panel being sure that the trim panel is centered on the bracket
- 3i) Using a dremel or utility knife, cut along the traced line until the correct hole is achieved
- 3j) Repeat steps 3h & 3i for the driver side bracket
- 3k) Test fit the trim panels and make sure they fit correctly. Adjust holes if needed.**

4. Installing the Quick-Release Chassis Brace

- 4a) Insert the driver's side rod end as shown in [Figure 6A](#). Repeat for the passenger side rod end. Thread the rod end in or out so the holes line up if needed
- 4b) Twist the top of the bar towards the back of the vehicle until it is tight
- 4c) Tighten the rod end bolts up to the bar to secure the bar in place
-  Note: Twist the top of the bar towards the back of the car to make the rear end of the car **stiffer**. **Twist the top of the bar towards the front of the car to decrease stiffness.**
- 4d) Snap the trim panel into place on both the driver's and passenger's side panel.
- 4e) Should you ever need to remove the bar to make more room for hauling large items, remove both plastic panels and hand twist the bar loose. Then pull the quick release pins, remove the bar and replace the trim panels to hide the holes.
- 4f) Reinstall the bar by following steps 4A-4D if needed.

Installation Instructions:

CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace 2011 Mazda 2

1: Remove the Factory Hatch Interior Panels

A) Remove the two (2) cable hooks holding the rear deck lid to the hatch (shown by the red arrows in Figure 1A). Then unclip the deck lid by sliding it back and out of the car (shown by the green arrows in Figure 1A).



Figure 1A

B) Remove the hatch carpet and foam molding from the floor of the hatch and fold down the seat backs.

C) Remove the rear plastic moulding by undipping the two (2) clips shown by the red arrows in Figure 1B by using a flat head screwdriver. Then pull up and out of the vehicle.



Figure 1B



Figure 1C

D) Remove the one (1) clip shown in Figure 1C (green arrow) using a flat head screwdriver.

E) Remove the screw shown by the red arrow in Figure 1C by using a phillips head screwdriver.

F) Repeat steps 1D & 1E for the driver's side fasteners.

G) Remove the jack cover by pulling out on the handle (shown removed in Figure 1C).

H) Remove the hatch light from the plastic moulding as shown in Figure 1D (you may leave it plugged in.)



Figure 1D

I) Open the rear driver's side door and locate the floor trim panel. Pull up on the panel and remove as shown in Figures 1E & 1F.

J) Repeat for the passenger's side panel.



Figure 1E



Figure 1F

Installation Instructions:

CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace

2011 Mazda 2

1: Remove the Factory Hatch Interior Panels (Continued)

K) Carefully pull back the passenger's side hatch panel as shown in **Figure 1G**. There will be three (3) yellow tabs (shown by the **red arrows** in **Figure 1G**). Once you have undipped the panel, remove the panel from the vehicle and set aside. The side of the hatch should now look like **Figure 1H**.



Figure 1H

Note: Be careful and take your time removing the panel so you do not break any tabs or crack the panel.

L) Repeat step 1K for the passenger side panel.



Figure 1G

2: Install the CNC Aluminum Brackets

A) Jack up the rear of your vehicle so that both rear tires are just off the ground. Place jack stands under the vehicle so that it is secure.

B) Locate the two (2) 12mm bolts in the rear passenger wheel well (see **red ovals** in **Figure 2A**) and remove them using a 12mm socket and ratcheting wrench.

Note: The wheel and suspension should drop down, this is what you want to happen. If it does not drop, jack up the car higher and push down on the wheel if needed. The top side of the damper (shown by the **red oval** in **Figure 1H**) should drop below the hole in the chassis.

C) Slide one of the aluminum brackets into place as shown in **Figure 2B**. Then thread in the supplied M6 bolts as shown in **Figure 2A** being sure to put a washer on each bolt before threading them in.

Note: Be sure that the holes in the aluminum bracket are lined up before threading the bolts in or you could strip out the bolts. You may also need to lower the vehicle slightly to get the damper holes lined up for the bolts to thread in.

D) Hand thread one (1) lock nut onto each bolt and then tighten evenly using a 12mm socket and ratcheting wrench (nuts shown by the **red circles** in **Figure 2B**).

E) Repeat steps 2B-2D for the driver's side bracket.

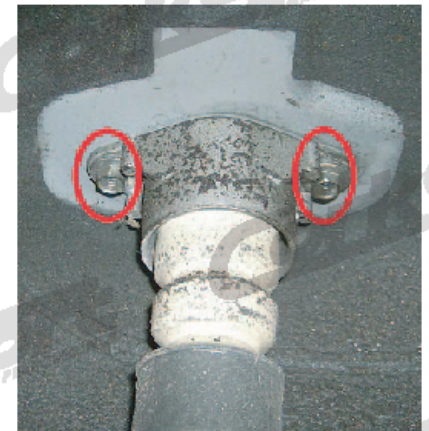


Figure 2A



Figure 2B

Installation Instructions:

CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace

2011 Mazda 2

3: Trimming & Reinstalling the Interior Panels

- Note:** When trimming the interior panels, measure at least twice before cutting. Also note that these instructions are for reference only. Your vehicle may differ slightly in hole location. Always wear proper safety equipment.

A) Set the driver's side plastic hatch panel back into place (don't snap it back in place at this time) and mark where the center of the bracket mount points are. Remove the panel. Using a utility knife or dremel, cut out a small (approximately a 1" circle or square) hole out of the panel.



Figure 3A

B) Reinstall the driver's side panel in the same careful manner as when you removed it. Be sure to reinstall the upper screw and lower clip as shown in Figure 1C. Your vehicle should now look similar to Figure 3A.

C) Reinstall the hatch light as shown in Figure 1C & 1D. Also reinstall the jack cover.

D) Repeat steps 3A & 3B for the driver's side panel.

E) Reinstall the two (2) rear bottom door trim panels by pushing them into place as shown in Figures 1E & 1F. You will hear and see them snap into place when they are in the correct position.

F) Reinstall the rear hatch plastic by putting it back in place, pushing down until it snaps into the clips and then reinstall the two clips as shown in Figure 1B.



Figure 3B

G) Reinstall the floor foam tire surround and carpet as shown in Figure 3B.

H) Hold up the supplied trim panel to the passenger side bracket hole being sure that it is centered on the hole. Using a marking device, trace an outline of the inner trim panel radius.

I) Using a dremel or utility knife, cut along the traced line until the correct hole is achieved.

J) Repeat steps 3H & 3I for the driver side bracket.

K) Test fit the trim panels and make sure they fit into place correctly. If the trim panel does not fit, you may need to see where the panel is hitting and trim a little more until it fits in snugly.

Installation Instructions:

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4: Installing the Quick-Release Chassis Brace

A) Insert the driver's side rod end (CorkSport logo on the strut tower bar in the upright position as shown in **Figure 6A**) in to the bracket and insert the quick-release pin through the bracket as well as the rod end. Repeat this for the passenger's side of the bar. If the rod end does not line up, thread the rod end further in to or out of the bar until the holes line up on the rod end and bracket.



Figure 4A

B) Once the bar is installed, twist the top of it towards the back of the vehicle by hand until it is tight.

C) Using a 17mm end wrench to hold the bar and a 22mm end wrench (or Crescent wrench) to tighten the rod end nuts, snug the rod end nuts up to the end of the bar (both ends).

Note: Twisting the top of the bar towards the back of the car will increase stiffness of the rear end. Twisting it toward the front of the car will decrease stiffness.

D) Snap the trim panel into place on both the driver and passenger side panels to hide the aluminum brackets and quick-release pins.

E) Should you ever need to remove the bar to make room for large items in your vehicle, simply remove both trim panels and hand twist the bar (top towards the front of the car) until it is loose. Then pull the quick release pins by pushing the button in and pulling out on the pin. You can then replace the trim panels to hide the holes where the bar was installed.



Figure 4B

F) Reinstall the bar by following steps 4A - 4D if needed.