





CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace 2004 - 2011 MazdaSpeed3 & Mazda 3



-  **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 2010 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: Axl-8-100	Model Mazda 3	Year 2004 - 2011+	Trim Hatchback (including MazdaSpeed 3)
Time Estimate: 45-60 min.			
Wrench Rating: 2/5			
TOOLING LIST: 3/8 Drive Ratchet 10mm Socket 17mm Long Socket 17mm Wrench 22mm Wrench (or Crescent Wrench)	Phillips Screwdriver Flathead Screwdriver Utility Knife		PARTS LIST: CorkSport Black Anodized Aluminum Bar 1x Right Hand Thread Bar End 1x Left Hand Thread Bar End 2x Quick Release Pins 2x Black Powdercoated Brackets 4x M10 x 1.25mm x 35mm Bolts 8x M10 Washers







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

Installation Instructions:

CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace

2004 - 2011 MazdaSpeed 3 & Mazda 3

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 as shown in [Figure 1B](#)
- 1c) Remove the rear plastic molding as shown in [Figure 1C](#)
- 1d) Remove the four (4) cargo hooks from the cargo area as shown in [Figure 1C & 1D](#)
- 1e) Remove the screw holding the side panel on as shown in [Figure 2A](#). Repeat for passenger's side
- 1f) Fold down the rear seats and remove the clip as shown in [Figure 2B](#). Repeat for the passenger side
- 1g) Remove the passenger clip next to the seatbelt as shown in [Figure 2C](#). Repeat for the driver's side
- 1h) Remove the drivers side door panel as shown in [Figure 2D](#). Repeat for the passenger's side
- 1i) Remove the clip shown in [Figure 2E](#). Repeat for the passenger's side
- 1j) Remove the hatch light as shown in [Figures 3A & 3B](#).
- 1k) Remove the driver's side panel from the vehicle as shown in [Figures 3C](#). Repeat for the other side

2. Install the Black Powdercoated Brackets

- 2a) Remove the two (2) driver's side strut support bolts as shown in [Figure 4A](#). Repeat for the other side
- 2b) Assemble both brackets as shown in [Figure 4B](#).
- 2c) Install the driver's side bracket as shown in [Figure 4C](#). Repeat for the passenger's side

3. Trimming the Interior Panels

-  Note: Measure twice, and cut once. Also, the template is for reference only.
- 3a) Trim the driver's side panel as shown in [Figure 5A](#). Repeat for the passenger's side panel
- 3b) Fit the panel in to place as shown in [Figure 5B](#). Trim if needed. Repeat for the passenger's side







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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.



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.

5. Reinstall the Remaining Interior Panels

- 5a) Reinstall the four (4) cargo hooks as shown by the **green arrow** in **Figure 1C**
- 5b) Reinstall the rear plastic panel as shown by the **red arrow** in **Figure 1C**
- 5c) Reinstall the driver's side plastic panel clip shown in **Figure 2E** and repeat for the passenger side
- 5d) Reinstall the driver's side door jam panel as shown in **Figure 2D** and install the clip as shown in **Figure 2C**. Repeat for the passenger side panel
- 5e) Reinstall the hatch light as shown in **Figure 3A**
- 5f) Reinstall the hatch rear deck lid as shown in **Figure 1A**
- 5g) Reinstall the hatch foam molding as shown in **Figure 1B**
- 5h) Reinstall the hatch carpet as shown in **Figure 7A**
- 5i) To remove the bar, twist the top of the bar towards the front of the car and pull the quick-release pins once the bar is loose.
- 5j) Reinstall the bar by following steps 4A - 4C if needed

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CorkSport Quick-Release Rear Chassis Brace
2004 - 2011 MazdaSpeed 3 & Mazda 3

1: Remove the Factory Hatch Interior Panels

A) Remove the two (2) plastic cable clips 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 panels as shown in Figure 1B.

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



Figure 1B



Figure 1C

D) Remove the four (4) cargo hooks located in the four corners of the cargo area by opening the cover and removing the 10mm hex head bolt using a ratcheting wrench and 10mm socket (cargo hooks shown in Figure 1C& 1D).



Figure 1D

E) Remove the screw holding on the driver's side plastic side panel using the phillips head screwdriver (shown in Figure 2A by the red arrow). Repeat on the passenger side.



Figure 2A

F) Fold down the rear seats and remove the one (1) driver's side lock pin (shown in Figure 2B by the red arrow). Repeat on the passenger side.



Figure 2B

G) Remove the passenger lock pin next to the rear seatbelt as shown in Figure 2C by the red arrow). Repeat on the driver's side.



Figure 2C

H) Remove the driver's side door panel (shown in Figure 2D) by pulling out on the panel. It will come loose at the top first, and then work your way down the door jam. Repeat on the passenger's side.



Figure 2D

Installation Instructions:

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2004 - 2011 MazdaSpeed 3 & Mazda 3

1: Remove the Factory Hatch Interior Panels (Continued)

I) Once the door jam panel is out of the vehicle, remove the clip shown in **Figure 2E** and remove the plastic panel covering the seatbelt recoil as shown in **Figure 2F**. Repeat this for the other side.



Figure 2E



Figure 2F

J) Remove the panel below the hatch light as shown in **Figure 3A** and remove the light from the panel as shown in **Figure 3B**.



Figure 3A



Figure 3B

K) Remove the driver's side panel from the vehicle as shown in **Figure 3C**. Repeat this step for the passenger side panel.



Figure 3C

2: Install the Black Powdercoated Brackets

A) Remove the two (2) passenger side bolts from the strut support using a ratcheting wrench and 17mm socket. Bolts are shown by the **red arrows** in **Figure 4A**. Repeat this step for the driver's side.



Figure 4A

B) Assemble both brackets as shown in **Figure 4B** using two (2) 17mm hex head bolts and four (4) 10mm washers per bracket.



Figure 4B

C) Install the passenger side bracket as shown in **Figure 4C** by hand tightening both bolts to ensure that they are both fully threaded into the strut tower bracket. Then using the ratcheting wrench and 17mm socket, tighten the bolts so the bracket is secure. Repeat this for the driver's side bracket.



Figure 4C

Installation Instructions:

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2004 - 2011 MazdaSpeed 3 & Mazda3

3: Trimming 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) Locate the rectangle stamped into the back of the driver's side interior panel (shown as a green rectangle in Figure 5A). Measure up 1.25" from the bottom left corner of the rectangle. This will be the bottom left point of your cut. The cut will be 1.75" tall and 1.375" wide as shown by the red rectangle in Figure 5A. Using a utility knife or similar, carefully cut out the rectangle and discard the piece. Repeat the mirror image of this on the passenger side panel.

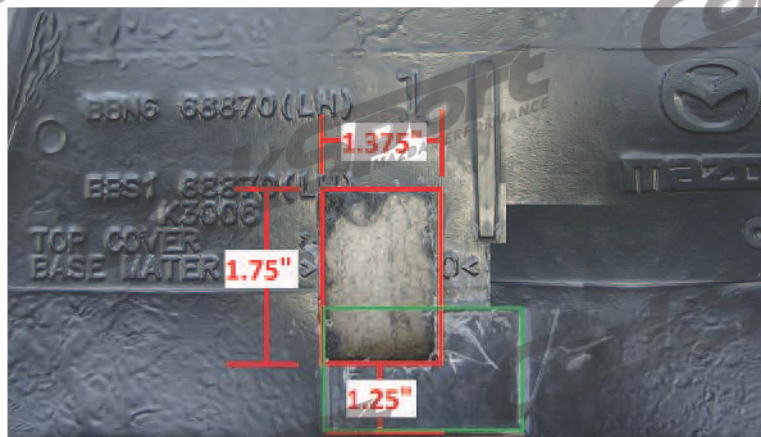


Figure 5A

B) Fit the panel over the bracket and back in to its stock location as shown in Figure 5B. If it does not fit, remove the panel and trim any excess material needed to make the panel fit over the bracket. Once fitted properly, reinstall the plastic panel over the top and reinstall the screw (hole location shown by the red arrow in Figure 5B). Repeat for the passenger side panels.



Figure 5B

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) into 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 6A

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.

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5: Reinstall the Remaining Interior Panels

- A) Reinstall the four (4) cargo hooks (green arrow in Figure 1C) using the ratcheting wrench and 10mm socket.
- B) Reinstall the rear plastic panel and reinstall the two (2) plastic clips (driver's side shown by red arrow in Figure 1C) by pushing them into the hole in the plastic and carpet panels.
- C) Reinstall the driver's side plastic panel clip shown in Figure 2E and repeat for the passenger side panel.
- D) Reinstall the driver's side door jam panel as shown in Figure 2D and install the clip as shown in Figure 2C. Repeat for the passenger's side door jam panel.
- E) Reinstall the hatch light as shown in Figure 3A.
- F) Reinstall the hatch rear deck lid as shown in Figure 1A by clipping the bottom front in (shown by green arrows) and attaching the hatch door cable clips (shown by red arrows).
- G) Reinstall the hatch foam molding as shown in Figure 1B.
- H) Reinstall the hatch carpet as shown in Figure 7A.



Figure 7A

- I) Should you ever need to remove the bar to make room for large items in your vehicle, simply hand twist the bar (top towards the front of the car) and pull the quick release pins by pushing the button in and pulling out on the pin.
- J) Reinstall the bar by following steps 4A - 4C if needed.