

mazda



BRITISH MOTOR
HERITAGE APPROVED



Vitesse

MGB Gearbox Conversion Kit

Fitting Instructions



KIT CONTENTS

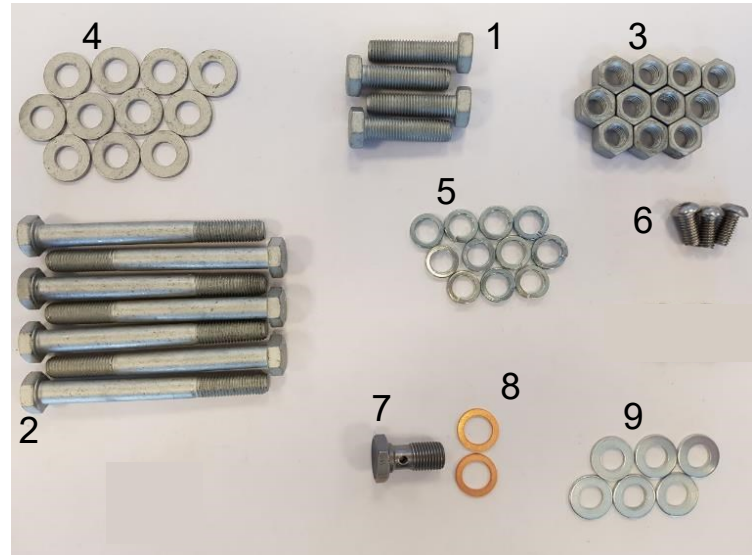
- Mazda MX-5 5 Speed Transmission:
 - Vitesse Gearbox Case
 - Vitesse Bellhousing
 - Vitesse Machined Front Plate
 - Modified rear case to accept Mazda mechanical Speedo Drive
- Mazda MX-5 OE Clutch Friction Plate with Spacers
- Vitesse Bespoke Shift Lever
- Concentric Slave Cylinder Assembly with feed and bleed pipes
- Prop Shaft
- Spigot Bush with OE needle roller bearing assembly
- Speedo Drive Cable with Angle Drive
- Gearbox Rear Mount Bracket Assembly and Isolator
- Clutch Alignment Tool
- All UNF fixings- see next page



FIXINGS

- The gearbox, bellhousing, concentric slave cylinder assembly and speedo drive are all pre-assembled, ensuring that the installation to your vehicle is as straightforward as possible.
- The following fixings are all that is required to fit the Vitesse kit to your vehicle:

1. 4X 5/16UNF x 1 1/4" HEX HEAD BOLTS
2. 7X 5/16UNF x 2.5" HEX HEAD BOLTS
3. 13X 5/16UNF NUTS
4. 11X 5/16UNF WASHERS
5. 13X 5/16UNF SPRING WASHERS
6. 3X M6X12mm DOMED CAP SCREWS
7. 1X BANJO BOLT
8. 2X COPPER WASHERS
9. 6X CLUTCH COVER SPACERS



VEHICLE AND WORKSHOP PREPARATION

- Ensure you have a clean, safe working environment with enough room around your vehicle.
- We strongly recommend the use of a vehicle lift and an engine hoist with a ratchet winch, so the angle of inclination can be adjusted when removing / refitting the engine and gearbox assembly.
- Use a torque wrench to ensure all fixings are torqued correctly.
- Ensure clutch cable is in the correct orientation for the hand of drive of vehicle.
 - Hold the cable upright over the gearbox.
 - The banjo eyelet should point to the DRIVER'S SIDE FRONT WHEEL if the gearbox were to be installed in the vehicle:
 - For RHD vehicles the banjo eyelet should point to the right front wheel
 - For LHD vehicles the banjo eyelet should point to the left front wheel
- **NOTE** the gearbox comes either pre-filled with oil, or with the oil drained in to bottles for international markets. As there is residual oil in the gearbox there is sufficient oil in the bottles to refill to the specified levels. The main case and shift case have separate oil, and should be filled as follows:
 - OIL GRADE: API Service GL-4 or GL-5
 - OIL VISCOSITY: SAE 75W-90
 - OIL CAPACITY: 2.0L {2.1 US qt, 1.8 Imp qt}
 - SHIFT CONTROL CASE OIL CAPACITY: 290-330ml {17.69—20.13 cu in}
 - OIL SERVICE INTERVAL: Every 5 years or 62,000 miles (100,000km), whichever comes first

DISASSEMBLY

1. Remove bonnet to aid engine bay access, or disconnect bonnet stay so it can be fully opened, and then retain.
2. Drain coolant.
3. Remove alternator.
4. Remove air filters.
5. Disconnect choke and throttle cable.
6. Disconnect fuel line from carbs.
7. Loosen all engine mount bolts.
8. Disconnect heater matrix feed from engine block.

LIFT VEHICLE

9. Remove exhaust system.
10. Remove prop shaft.
11. Remove slave cylinder and speedo cable from gearbox.
12. Disconnect starter motor harness.
13. Remove gearbox isolator bolts from crossmember. Leave crossmember fitted to chassis for now to support gearbox.

LOWER VEHICLE

14. Remove gear lever and gaiter.
15. Remove starter motor bolts.
16. Remove distributor cap to allow for more clearance.

17. Remove radiator if it is an early vehicle with the radiator mounted back in the engine bay.
18. Fit engine hoist to lifting points on head.
19. Lift engine and gearbox, and remove starter motor when possible.
20. Lift engine and gearbox further and remove from vehicle.
21. Drain clutch lines and remove from master cylinder.
22. Remove gearbox rear bracket / crossmember from vehicle. Your conversion kit does not use this mounting point so the four crossmember mounting bolts can be refitted to retain the plates within the chassis rail.
23. Clean up rear crossmember in preparation for gearbox installation.

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

23. Remove gearbox from engine.
24. Remove clutch cover and clutch disc from flywheel.
25. Remove spigot bush from crank using a slide hammer, or by carefully chiselling it out and removing all swarf.
26. Clean up engine back plate in preparation for gearbox refit.

It is highly recommended that the flywheel and clutch cover are inspected at this point, and a new (or re-ground) flywheel and new clutch cover sourced and fitted if necessary.

ASSEMBLY

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

The transmission is delivered fully assembled, with the concentric slave cylinder assembly, speedo drive and rear bracket and isolator assembly fitted and ready to be installed to the engine.

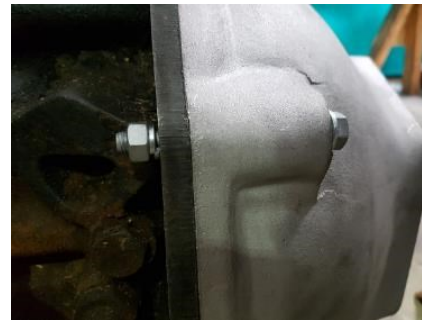
Engine and gearbox can be reinstalled separately to vehicle if a transmission jack is available. It can be easier to install in this way only if the required equipment is available.

The following assumes only an engine crane is to hand, so is more suited to a home installation.

1. Fit Spigot Bush assembly in to crank with mallet. Knurled section should be a tight fit in to the crank. If slightly loose, apply threadlock and refit.
2. Assemble the clutch cover and new friction plate to flywheel, using the supplied Mazda clutch alignment tool to ensure correct positioning. Due to the extra thickness of the Mazda clutch plate, fit the 6 stainless spacers from the bolt kit under the clutch cover fixings-see image.

3. LATE (Post 1976) CARS ONLY:

The earth strap on these vehicles is on the gearbox crossmember. As the crossmember is not fitted with this kit, it is advised to relocate the earth strap to the clutch pipe bracket on the driver's side of the transmission tunnel and fit to the closest bellhousing bolt.



ASSEMBLY

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

4. Fit gearbox to engine using:
 - 7X 5/16UNF x 3" HEX HEAD BOLTS
 - 7X 5/16UNF NUTS
 - 7X 5/16UNF WASHERS
 - 7X 5/16UNF SPRING WASHERS

This is a two-person job. Fit the fixings, with nuts and spring washers on the engine side and washers on the bolt side.

Fit and hand-tighten the top-right and bottom-left nuts & bolts first to ensure alignment of the rest of the fixings (these are the locators and have a smaller hole on the backplate), then fit remaining fixings and torque all to **19lb/ft.**

- CARE POINT: Attach a socket to the front pulley bolt and turn the engine over, to ensure the assembly is turning freely

5. Fit rear mount top plate to gearbox rubber mount.
6. Lift engine and gearbox assembly in to vehicle. Ensure rear gearbox bracket is lifted over rear body crossmember, using the flex of the rubber mount to allow it over the crossmember flange.
7. Loosely fit one bolt and nut through each engine mount point to ensure it is safe. Then lift gearbox up to allow for rear mount top plate to slide under gearbox rear mount and studs can be passed through isolator holes. Use the following to secure mount plate to isolator:
 - 2x 5/16UNF NUTS- Torque to **19lb/ft.**
 - 2x 5/16UNF SPRING WASHERS
8. Fit Prop Shaft slip yoke in to gearbox using a little gearbox oil to lubricate yoke and bush. Fit prop shaft flange to

differential, replacing fixings if originals are in poor condition.

9. Due to MGB tunnel variations, we have allowed for some float on the rear mounting. There should be 5-8mm clearance between the prop shaft front knuckle and the transmission tunnel wall. Ensure this measurement is taken at the closest point, and then secure position by fitting the lower cup bracket to crossmember. This then allows sufficient clearance for the gear lever to pass through the standard aperture and for all gears to be selected without contacting the tunnel aperture.



ASSEMBLY

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

10. Fit rear mount fixings in rotation:
 - 4X 5/16UNF x 1 1/4" HEX HEAD BOLTS at **19lb/ft**
 - 4X 5/16UNF NUTS
 - 4X 5/16UNF WASHERS
 - 4X 5/16UNF SPRING WASHERS

11. Fit shift lever from inside vehicle using the fixings below. Ensure collar is aligned to recess in shift joint as shown, and points forwards. Ensure all gears can be selected and there is no clash to tunnel aperture. If there is a clash, the rear mount needs to be moved across, maintaining some prop clearance to the tunnel wall.
 - 3x M6x12mm DOMED CAP SCREWS at **8lb/ft**

NOTE: For 3 Synchro kits, remove tunnel top to allow lever to be fitted.

12. Remove engine mount bolts and lift engine to allow for starter motor refit. Lower engine back on to mounts and fit all mount fixings.

13. Refit alternator.

14. Refit oil cooler pipes and front mounting plate.

15. Refit coolant pipes.

16. Refit fuel line, throttle cable and choke.



ASSEMBLY

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

17. Refit radiator.
18. Remove access hatch behind clutch master cylinder and remove clutch pipe.
19. Fit new clutch pipe to master cylinder with supplied new banjo bolt and copper washers. Use cable ties to retain pipe and keep clear of bonnet hinge.
20. Fill master cylinder with DOT4 brake/ clutch fluid.

21. CLUTCH BLEEDING

- Use an 8mm spanner to undo the bleed pipe $\frac{1}{4}$ of a turn.
- Depress the clutch pedal fully.
- Tighten bleed pipe
- Release clutch pedal

Repeat until resistance is felt through the clutch pedal.

This may take a number of cycles and you must keep an eye on the clutch fluid level in the master cylinder throughout the process to ensure air is not pulled through the system.



ASSEMBLY

ENGINE AND GEARBOX

22. Fit angle drive and speedo cable to speedo drive on gearbox and thread through the bulkhead to the speedometer. The knurled fittings should only be hand tight. The cable is long enough for you to ensure as smooth a path as possible. Use the grommet from the old cable to protect the new one as it passes through the bulkhead.
23. Connect reverse light switch if reverse lights are fitted. The fly leads have been fitted with bullet terminals to be compatible with the existing vehicle wiring.. The fly leads can be extended by bending the clip on the gearbox body out of the way to aid fitment.
24. Fit gaiter and surround to shift lever.
25. Fit shift knob to shift lever.
26. Test drive vehicle and enjoy!

NOTE:

It is likely that the speedometer will need to be re-calibrated to suit the new gearbox. If in the UK, we recommend Speedy Cables (www.speedycables.com) or Speedograph Richfield (www.speedograph-richfield.com) for this work.

