

## Headlight Polishing Rich Velardo

Most new cars, including the 1999-2014 Miatas, have plastic covered headlights. Over time the clear plastic lens on the headlights becomes dirty, stone chipped and even foggy from age. Naturally the light output from the headlights of your Miata or Daily Driver drops off, in some cases considerably.

What to do? You could buy new headlight assemblies, but that's extremely expensive, even for used examples so most people clean the plastic lens to make them bright again.

While redoing my headlights this month, I took the opportunity to polish the lenses on my '08 Miata as they were starting to get a bit worse for wear. Since the bumper cover was off and the headlights out for other work, it was really quite simple to do.

For \$27 I bought the Meguiar's Heavy Duty restoration kit, in here is a sanding pad, two sanding discs (1000 & 3000 grit), polishing compound with a polishing wheel and a bottle of lens protectant with a nice micro fiber cloth.

Start by sanding the lens, if your lens isn't very badly fogged, you can use a lighter duty kit. The lenses on my car had a couple of marks in them that I needed to remove, so I used the heavy duty kit. After using both sanding pads you're left with a foggy looking mess, not to worry, the next step will fix that.

After sanding the marks out, use the polish and polishing wheel to buff the plastic to a shine, then apply the protectant coating and you're done.

Whatever kit you buy, be sure to follow the directions carefully and if the light is still in the car be sure to tape off all surrounding paintwork or you'll polish the paint away.

This will work on side marker lights and tail lights too. If you want to do a little custom work and remove the raised lettering on the light lenses of the side markers or tailights, this kit will allow you to get the finish back to shiney new where the lettering was removed.

