

Dan#47's Build Story

Well where shall we start ...?

I suppose i'd better tell you a little bit about me. I'm Dan, 31 from Ludlow. I'll be totally honest I'm not the greatest speller in the world, I'm one of those guys that, give me hammer or a pencil and I'll draw or make what ever want, but when it comes to spelling I struggle some times, so bear with us. (lol) Any way I work for a company called F.C.S.S (Fiat coupe specialist and spares) so I'm always around big horse power cars, I'm a massive petrol head, if its got wheels I'm there (lol). To be honest, I don't think I've ever had a car and not done something to it. I've had a wide range of car ownership from my mighty Metro to the Peugeot, BMW, Fiats, VW, Vauxhall, and last but not least Toyota. Now Toyota is where I felt at home and even more so with the early 90s Jap. stuff in the form of the '92 Mk2 MR2. Now that to me felt and drove like a proper car. I had two N/A's both were great in there own way but my zircon blue N/A was my baby we had some great times at Japfest



Then I had the chance of owning the Holy Grail of MR2's, the MR2 turbo!



Quick, God yes, loved it to bits, boost on tap savagely spiting flames at every gear change and sound that would be enough to enrage the dead!

Then I did some thing silly, I asked the missus to marry me?! Thats when life changed for me. We decided to move back to the parents', to save for the wedding and a deposit for a house so anything expensive had to go. Bye-bye MR2 turbo!! lol. To be honest, its was getting expensive on fuel anyway! So what next?

Well, I've always had moments of liking the MX5, I'm not sure why as I've never driven one before, but I just did, there was something about them.

Japfest, Castle Combe, 2012, I was walking around, and stumbled across this



Oh my! I just stood there staring at it like a complete “window licker on a day trip” in awe of its’ Jap retro-ness. My god, what a car!!

So that's where it started, the hunt was on for a red MX5. Now because of the savings etc. I would really have to buy and build this on an almost non-existent budget, my missus will go bonkers otherwise. Any way, I found this tidy little Eunos up by Manchester with original hard top with 15inch Lorber wheels for £1K.



Right, next thing is to find a good forum . That's where you guys at MX5 Nuts came into play its amazing how one car can have so many looks going on from race car to show car JDM to retro, standard to speedster. Its just epic, so the modifying began with home made cold air intake



these were just the original lights cut and filled (photo above shows process in progress, hence orange colour). The next mod was the obligatory offset number plate, removal of the front fog lights and of course the finest of the finest, TRS tow straps.



Next on list, I fancied some chrome bullet mirrors and race roundels. Now its got to have a number, but what? Now, I'd love to say its a number that means some thing to me, but in truth, its part of the registration plate (lol), so car 47 was born.



I Did my first track day with this car at Pembrey, and il learned a lot about it.



Great car's coming along, or so i thought. I took a deep hard look at the 5 and thought, "what do i want from it, because its kind of retro-racer with JDM going on"? "No, this is not good, a rethink is in order, retro is where its at".



So, I replaced the front number plate with a sixties-style stick on. I also wanted a trap lip, again no funds, so I made one from a mk1 VW Golf front lip.



I also did a few under bonnet modifications, fitted a strut brace and routed the induction to the scuttle panel to harvest cooler air.



To carry on with the retro theme, white writing was added to the tyre walls .. this took for ever but the pen only cost £1.99 on eBay, i think it had the desired effect.

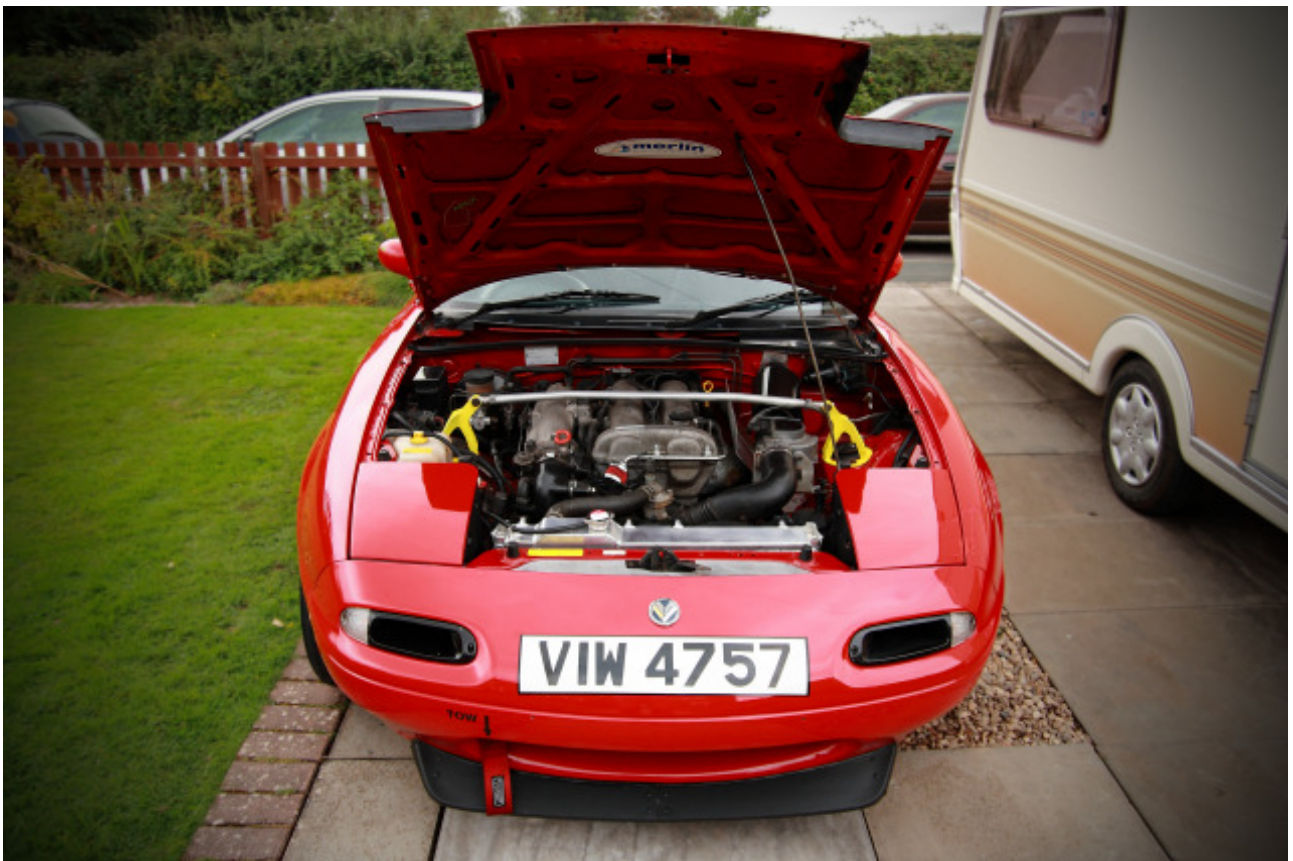


It handled like a boat at Pembrey, so next on the list was suspension. I went on to MX5 Nutz for sale section, and these springs (shown below) were bought for the princely sum of £25. I also wanted a smooth boot lid, and as I did not like the look of the OEM spoiler, that was changed as well for a boot lid at £10 from Nutz, bargain!





I fitted a race alloy radiator, with a home made radiator panel and deleted the air conditioning system, to save weight.



Ever since I saw that MX5 at Japfest, I've loved the "G wing" style, I think with the hard-top it really makes the car. So I made my own version in the style of, but not an out and out copy, using a sheet of second hand acrylic, a hot air gun and a can of black spray paint.



MOT was due when I found this,



did this,



and fixed it like this.



She then passed her MOT. (Yay!!!)

Car 47 was begin to become more retro racer, than just retro show car, so i fitted these from good old eBay along with a few Mazdaspeed stickers for effect





As car 47 was being created at home we built this at work 500bhp of Italian 5 pot power !!



Which sent me into deep reflection. Car 47 needs, no, wants to be a track car. But, track cars have roll cages and I can't afford to buy a roll cage . So we bought the CDS tubing and made our own at work (my boss is a class 1 in nuclear welding, or some thing like that, so it's a proper job).



Car 47 also lost its soft top, carpet and trim. What a difference, the car drives much better after losing the weight. I fitted a de-cat pipe, (a swap for fitting brakes on my mate's car) 14 degree adjustment to the engine timing was also carried out at this time.

I bought some aluminium and made door cards as the originals were looking tired and I didn't feel it was in keeping with the overall look I was trying to achieve. The floor pans, both sides were partly covered with aluminium, because the red on the floor got on to my missus hand bag, (don't ask).



Well we're bang up to date now. I've added a camera mount, for my I-phone and tidied up where the cage goes through the bulkhead into the boot with some little aluminium plates.



Thanks for taking time to read this story, its been a bit epic..

Regards Dan #47

PS Just thought I'd add these photos to finish.



