

Rim rash ... what's the treatment?



Words & photos: Rob Tanner, Southern Tasmania Chapter

Rim rash is that dreaded disease caused by the occasional rogue gutter which jumps out and savagely attacks our precious rims!

But, help is at hand, with a relatively simple DIY fix for that dreaded edge of rim scrape.

Materials required: A small electric palm sander, some narrow strips of emery cloth, and wet and dry paper, from coarse down to about 800 grit, a grey automotive scourer (available from any auto paint shop), some Brasso, rag, and masking tape.

What to do:

1. Remove the wheel, remove the valve, and pop down to your nearest tyre outlet, and have them break the bead on the front only.
2. Mask off around the damaged area/s with a couple of layers of masking tape.
3. Cut your emery cloth and wet and dry into strips about 25-30mm wide, and fit the coarsest one to one edge of the sander.
4. Carefully sand out the damaged areas, until the worst of the damage is gone (some of this can be done by hand if you wish).
5. Then sand by using progressively finer paper at each stage until you get to the 800 grit (three or four stages are plenty).
6. When you have the repaired area nice and smooth, finish off with the grey scourer, and then some Brasso, to get a nice polished finish.
7. Once complete, return to your tyre outlet and have them reattach the tyre to the rim. Pump up the tyre, and finish off with a coat of tyre gel, re-fit the wheel, and your beautiful MX-5 is looking pristine again!

Note that the wheel used for this article is from an NB SE Turbo, which has a "chrome" silver paint finish. You will see some faint feathering at the painted edges where you did the repair, but it looks 100% better than the rash.

This repair, carried out on silver painted wheels, may require a wheel re-paint, but that is a article for another day.

Thanks to Jo Hurst for the loan of her wheel for this article.

Please note: NB8B wheels have a clear coat and all earlier, non-LE wheels are not painted and have a cast finish. ■



The dreaded rim rash ...



What you need for the job ...



Mask around the damaged area ...



Carefully sand out the damaged areas ...



Sand each stage using progressively finer paper ...



Finish off to a polished surface ...



Beautiful!



Like a bought one!

NA to NB brakes ... correction

Last month our Tech Talk article on swapping NA to NB brakes suggested using a vice to push back the rear brake caliper piston. Member feedback advises that the rear actually has an adjuster you turn with an Allen key to retract the piston. Using a vice damages the adjuster and compromises the efficiency of the rear brakes.