

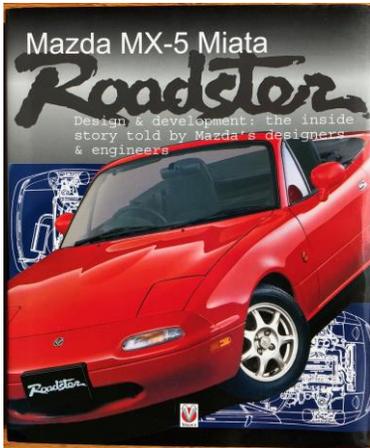
Mazda MX-5 Miata Roadster” a book review by Rich Velardo Sept 2018

Ever wonder about how your Miata came to be the wonderful sports car that it is? This chronicle of the development of the MX-5 Miata was written by Toshihiko Hirai & others who did the actual design work on the first generation Miata.

Hirai, the Product Program Manager of the LWS (Light Weight Sports) tells the story of the LWS project along with other members of his team. He has laid out the rationale for & the design goals for the LWS project, the other contributors to this book contributed with explanations of their involvement in the project. Topics covered include chassis, powertrain, body, soft & removable hardtop design. You'll also learn about the use by Mazda of computer aided design, a big deal in the late 80's. The final chapters give an account of special limited editions & how the Miata differed according to the worldwide market.

There are 15 fascinating chapters, covering everything from the first proposals for the LWS project, how the team overcame the hassles with the Mazda higher-ups (who were reluctant to approve the MX-5 Miata in the first place) through the final success that has endured as our 4th generation MX-5 Miata of today.

I found this to be a fascinating story, it's well written & has many photos, illustrations & even original drawings (in Japanese) used to develop the MX-5 Miata. In my opinion, this is highly recommended reading. Tid-bits from the book; original LWS proposals included front wheel drive, mid-engine rear drive & front engine rear drive with coupe, targa & convertibles proposed. The first prototype MX-5 was built in England with a fiberglass body & bodged together with parts from other Mazda vehicles. The interior design was meant to have the “tension & excitement” of a Japanese tea room.



“Mazda MX-5 Miata Roadster, Design & Development: the Inside Story Told by Mazda’s Designers & Engineers” by Toshihiko Hirai Veloce Publishing About \$25 to \$30 in soft cover from Amazon