

CHANGING WHEELS AND TYRES

The easiest way to make your Mini stand out from the crowd

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Alternative wheels and tyres are one of the best car modifications for instant results. The Mini looks great on everything from 15-inch spoked alloys to outrageous 19-inch dinner plates on rubber band tyres. But, remember that changing the wheels and tyres will affect the car's handling. Whatever you choose to buy, always check with the supplier first that the offset is correct and that they won't foul the brakes. If you've fitted larger brakes, you may need a spacer to create a sufficient gap, although it's not necessarily the safest option. New Mini has four stud holes, but conversions for five-hole wheels are available from companies like Zeemax (www.zeemax.com). If you match the rolling circumference (the diameter of the wheel and tyre) of the new wheel to that of the old (i.e. fit larger wheels with low profile tyres) then there's no need for the speedo to be recalibrated.

The following steps show what's involved in changing a full set of wheels and tyres using the Mini's toolkit. Find out where the jacking points are located on your Mini before changing the wheels. This information is displayed on the jack in the toolkit. Our photos also show the location of the jacking points. Thanks to Cool New (01708 738855) for the props and advice.



1 Place the car on a flat surface. Pull the handbrake on and select first gear. Wash all the wheels to remove any harmful road dirt or brake dust



2 To remove the front wheels, place a chock under the rear of the rear wheel, which is on the same side of the car as the wheel you want to remove



3 If your wheels have a hubcap fitted, lever it off with the key provided in the standard toolkit



4 Slacken all four wheel bolts. Don't fully loosen or remove them yet. Use the key for the locking wheel nut



5 Use the jack found in the toolkit and place it under the front jacking point. Raise the car enough to remove the wheel and undo the wheel nut



6 Some aftermarket wheels are supplied with a plastic locator to help fit them onto the hubs. Fit the locators if they are supplied



7 After removing the original wheel, fit the new wheel, tighten the bolts, then lower the car to the ground and fully tighten them to 110Nm



8 When removing a rear wheel, place a chock under the front of the adjacent front wheel and raise the car on the rear jacking point. After fitting all the wheels, recheck the nuts



9 If you've changed to larger or smaller sized wheels and tyres, the runflat sensor light may light up when the ignition is switched on. If it stays on, the sensor has detected a change in the wheel/tyre diameter. See the next step to fix this



10 If the run flat sensor remains illuminated, it will need resetting. Switch off the ignition, press and hold down the button for the sensor (below the handbrake), switch on the ignition and wait for a beep. Release the button, then switch the ignition off then on again