

How To Fit a Roll Bar into a Mini

Tools required: Drill and drill bits, center punch, marking pen, silicone sealant, general hand tools, ratchet strap long enough to fit around the rear legs of the roll bar, and an assistant.

1. You will be drilling a hole through the rear wheel well, directly above the tires. If there is a risk of drilling into the tire, you should first jack up the car and place it on jack stands, then remove the rear wheels..
2. To get the roll bar in you'll have to take out the interior. This is because the bar needs to pivot once it's in the car, meaning that anything in the interior will get in the way. Make sure all nuts and bolts are safely removed and you make a note of where everything goes.
3. First to come out are the front seats. Make a note of the bolts used – they should be high strength ones – and if you lose one replace with a similar item. If you've got a center console, remove that too.
4. Take off the steering wheel. To be sure you get it back on in the same position, mark its position with tape or crayon before removing.
5. Although not strictly necessary, it's a good idea to remove the rear seat to keep from damaging it.
6. Remove the upper B pillar seatbelt mountings to provide room for the bar to pivot within the cabin.
7. It may help to remove the rear seatbelt inertia reels, if you have them, as it gives more room in the side bins. Lift up the vinyl wheel arch covering to expose the painted metal.
8. Together with your helper, lift the bar into the car, parallel to the floor. Place the ratchet strap around the rear legs and ratchet it tight, flexing the legs until they are close enough together to fit between the B-pillars.
9. Now lift the bar and pivot it forward so the front legs are sitting in the side bins and the rear legs are pressed against the rear wheel arches. Once in the correct position, gently release the ratchet strap.
10. Now with the bar in position, mark the mounting holes. Make sure the bar is touching both wheel arches and is sitting squarely. Then mark through the mounting holes on the legs with a marker.
11. Define the marks with a center punch and drill holes the size necessary to fit the mounting bolts. It will be helpful to first drill a pilot hole.
12. If your roll bar is fitted with a removable diagonal, attach the diagonal before bolting in the roll bar. This is because the roll bar will flex during installation, and may make alignment of the diagonal impossible.
13. Coat the inner face of the outside mounting places with silicone sealant to keep water from seeping between the plate and the body.
14. With the mounting plates inside the wheel arch and the sill, push the bolts up through the plates. Thread the nut onto the bolt from the inside, using any lock washers or flat washers provided. Tighten the nuts finger tight at first, to be sure that all bolts are lining up properly.
15. If your roll bar has a diagonal, tighten the nut closest to the diagonal first. Then tighten all nuts.
16. With the bar installed, you may now re-install all of the interior parts you removed.