

2011-2013 Mazda Mazda3 | Moderate | 60-120 minutes

TOOLS

Floor jack and two jack stands Wheel chocks
Lug wrench 7mm hex (Allen) socket Ratchet
C-clamp or brake caliper piston tool Wire
brush Bungee cord or wire Nitrile gloves
Dust mask

PARTS

Front brake pad set with shims and hardware
clips (for 2010-2013 Mazda3)
Brake parts cleaner spray
High-temperature brake caliper grease
Brake fluid (DOT 3, for topping off if needed)

STEPS

- 1 Secure the car and loosen the lug nuts - Park the Mazda3 on a flat, level surface, set the parking brake firmly, and chock both rear wheels so the car cannot roll. Loosen the front lug nuts about a quarter turn while the wheels are still on...**
- 2 Raise the front and remove the wheels - Jack up the front of the Mazda3 by the front subframe and set jack stands under the reinforced pinch welds, then remove the lug nuts and take off both front wheels. Working on both front wheels at on...**
- 3 Unbolt the caliper and support it - On the 2010-2013 Mazda3 front caliper, remove the lower caliper guide pin bolt with a 7mm hex socket, then swing the caliper body upward off the pads. If the caliper resists, wiggle it gently rather...**
- 4 Remove the old pads and hardware - Slide the old inner and outer pads out of the caliper bracket and remove the old stainless hardware clips from the bracket rails. Note which pad was inner and which was outer, and check the old pads...**
- 5 Clean and lubricate the slide pins - Pull the caliper slide pins out of the bracket boots, wipe off the old grease, and inspect them for rust or pitting; replace any pin that is scored or stiff. Apply a thin, even coat of high-temperatu...**
- 6 Compress the caliper piston - Use a C-clamp or caliper piston tool to push the caliper piston back into its bore, going slowly and keeping an eye on the brake fluid reservoir under the hood. If the reservoir is already full, siph...**
- 7 Install the new pads and hardware - Snap the new stainless hardware clips from the pad kit into the caliper bracket rails, making sure each one seats fully in its notch. Apply a light film of brake grease to the pad backing plates wher...**
- 8 Reinstall the caliper and wheel - Swing the caliper body back down over the new pads and reinstall the 7mm hex guide pin bolt, tightening it snugly without overtightening. Spin the rotor by hand to confirm it turns freely with only l...**
- 9 Pump the pedal, check fluid, and test drive - Before driving, pump the brake pedal slowly several times until it firms up, because the first pumps seat the piston against the new pads. Check the brake fluid reservoir level and top off with DOT 3...**