

MiTo Fuel Cap Guide

I never thought I could fill two pages of useful information in an article on fuel caps, but despite the apparently dull subject matter, I do get asked about the fuel caps with some frequency. So here we are: two pages on the topic of your options for the MiTo fuel cap!

The fuel cap for the MiTo is either loved or hated. Unlike most Alfa Romeos, the MiTo does not have a locking fuel filler flap, hence it has a locking fuel cap. By contrast, the Giulietta has a locking filler flap so benefits from a fuel cap that does not need a key to open it.

For me personally, there is nothing more infuriating or difficult to operate than a locking fuel cap that needs a key operation. I'm sure my sausage fingers don't help, but I always struggle to get the *relatively* chunky Alfa Romeo remote/key in and turn it whilst also holding the cap to avoid it spinning. It seems to need too many hands and take too much fuss at the pump. Though I should point out that I am terrifically lazy and generally already in a bad mood at having to stop and hand over an extortionate amount of mostly-tax money



Photo © Alen Thomas, with thanks

also develop a sticky lack of operation over time. This can be improved by removing the lock barrel and cleaning, along with applying some graphite lock lubricant. If yours is difficult to operate you might want to investigate those possible fixes first.

But there are alternatives too, though some come with some

of child-proof locking mechanism.

The MOT tester will not care if someone could steal your fuel, only that fuel cannot escape in the event of an accident.

So your MiTo does not need a key operated fuel cap. But that is where the risk comes in. Because the MiTo does not have a locking fuel filler flap, by fitting a ratchet locking petrol cap without a key lock barrel, anyone can access your fuel to syphon it out. My personal view these days is that syphoning fuel isn't really a thing any more, but of course it will depend on where you live, where you leave your car at work, and

your own personal level of risk taking.

My patterns (having used a keyless fuel cap for some years) are typically that my MiTos are either at home (monitored by CCTV) or travelling around the UK with me. I do often stay in some Travel Taverns which are typically considerably less than five star rated, but I never leave the car for long periods and typically park under or near a light and/or CCTV. And I carry my locking fuel cap in the boot just in case I find myself stranded in a particularly dodgy area.

But I have to confess that since



risk.

Let's start with meeting MOT regulations as there is sometimes some confusion. You are required to have a locking petrol cap fitted to your vehicle for the MOT. That means a petrol cap that physically locks in place and cannot come loose of its own accord. But for the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean it must lock with a key. It needs to have the locking ratchet action whereby you rotate it clockwise until the ratchets click. It's a kind



for fuel.

But even if I was slimmer and less lazy, I also really dislike the thought of my keyring or keys scratching my paintwork as it hangs aimlessly from the filler flap whilst I fill up. I go to some lengths to look after my paintwork and I don't want my own keys to cause any damage.

The standard fuel cap can

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first switching to a non-key fuel cap my day-to-day life with the MiTos have been greatly improved.

Your Options

Your options vary based on whether you have a petrol or diesel MiTo, and whether you want to still lock the fuel cap with a key.

The first option is the standard petrol cap that needs the remote/key. If you get on fine with this then just retain it and try to get back the time you've spent needlessly reading this article.

The second is an expensive aluminium cap that does not need a key. These are lovely things to have but let's be honest, nobody else knows you have one! I do have one of these fitted on my new MiTo but in truth it's not as easy to open, particularly if your hands are cold or wet. They are also very expensive, typically costing around £70 which is an expensive option for something that nobody else knows is there.

The third option (and my daily approach) is a standard Alfa/Fiat fuel cap that does *not* need a key. These were fitted to various Alfa Romeos and Fiats which do benefit from a locking fuel filler flap but fit and work perfectly in the MiTo. And because they are commonly used, you can source them easily for less than £20.

There is one final option

worth considering too. You can obtain a *locking* fuel cap complete with two *new* keys (separate from your ignition) which I have to say is growing on me. I have tested it and it works well; the keys are much smaller than our MiTo remotes and I must confess I got on fine with it, even with my giant sausage fingers. But you obviously need the extra key on your keyring.

The options differ slightly depending on whether you have a

petrol or diesel MiTo: you don't want a fuel cap that says 'UNLEADED FUEL ONLY' on a diesel MiTo, or vice versa, for fear of making a mistake at the pump.

The aluminium fuel cap, however, can be used in both the petrol and diesel MiTos as it simply has an Alfa Romeo logo on it. Needless to say, you still need to remember which fuel type to put in your MiTo!

On balance, I'm very happy

with keyless fuel caps, but if you choose to use them be sure to retain your original fuel cap. The lock barrel is coded to your key so it should stay with the car if you ever sell it (and do as I do - keep it in your boot in case you park somewhere out of your level of comfort).

So there we are: two whole pages on the fuel cap. You really can't complain about the value in this newsletter - no other Owners Club would do this for you...

Fuel	Description	Part Num.	Requires Key	Designed For	
Petrol	Original petrol cap with lock barrel installed (matched to the remote key)	48220586	Yes (original remote)	Alfa Romeo MiTo	
Petrol	Petrol cap with new lock barrel and keys	71802520	Yes (new keys provided)	Alfa Romeo MiTo Fiat 500, Punto, Stilo, Doblo, Panda, Bravo	
Petrol	Petrol cap with no lock barrel	46746613	No	Alfa Romeo 156, 159, Brera, GTV, Giulietta Fiat 500, Punto, Stilo, Doblo, Panda, Bravo	
Diesel	Original diesel cap with lock barrel installed (matched to the remote key)	46785426	Yes (original remote)	Alfa Romeo MiTo	
Diesel	Diesel cap with new locking barrel and keys	71802900	Yes (new keys provided)	Alfa Romeo MiTo Fiat 500, Punto, Stilo, Doblo, Panda, Bravo	
Diesel	Diesel cap with no locking barrel	46756767	No	Alfa Romeo 156, 159, Brera, GTV, Giulietta Fiat 500, Punto, Stilo, Doblo, Panda, Bravo	
Any	Aluminium cap with Alfa Romeo Logo	71807723	No	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	

