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Diono radian 3rxt manual

More Convertible and All-in-One car seats The Diono Radian 3RXT has been updated from previous models and is a solid all-in-one seat for parents to consider. A few things have changed from the older RXT model, including easier installation and more appealing aesthetic features. Most convertible car seats on the market are good, but not usually great in all areas. They can be bulky, uncomfortable, or too big to provide a snug fit for a newborn. The 3RXT comes really close to hitting all the marks, though it's got some room for improvement, especially for newborn and booster fit. Let's dive in so you can decide if this convertible seat is worth the investment for your family. 13 color choices Narrow profile works well for 3 across (most midsize to large vehicles) Steel frame 12-position adjustable headrest Good for extended rear facing Soft, plush fabric Memory foam seat bottom Includes infant cushion Removable cup holder Includes cloth cover for back side of car seat Additional side impact protection Low profile sides 10-year expiration Folds flat for easy travel and storage One of the most notable features is a new fabric cover for the back side of the car seat. It's an aesthetic improvement over rear-facing seats that have black plastic and all the ugly stickers showing. While this is easier on the eyes, it does make some adjustments more challenging. It also conceals some important items, including an extra safety feature called the "safe stop" that is often overlooked in Diono seats. We'll talk more about that below. Proven safety record 10-year expiration Narrow profile great for 3-across Easy SuperLATCH connectors One-pull harness tightening Low profile sides 13 colors with a cover for the back Folds flat for easy storage & transport Steel frame Installation is not intuitive Seat back cover obscures adjustments Only one rear-facing recline angle May limit front passenger legroom Heavy Harness straps must be rethreaded to change height Not a good fit for newborns Kids may outgrow forward or booster mode well before listed size limits Rear-facing Booster Lower anchor weight limits weight range height range weight range height range weight range height range 5 - 45 pounds Up to 44 inches Up to 44 inches 20 - 65 pounds Up to 57 inches 50 - 120 pounds Child's shoulders should be at or above 4th harness strap slot 35 pounds (rear-facing) & 40 pounds (forward-facing) This is one area that the 3RXT could improve upon. Forward-facing children may very well outgrow the height of the harness straps and headrest well before the stated height limit. Same goes with booster mode. Their shoulders may hit the bottom of the headrest well before they've outgrown the size limits for the booster seat. Newborns, on the other hand, may not fit snugly enough, as the lowest harness straps may not fit at or just below their shoulders. If you have the harness covers on, the straps may look snug, but can be deceiving. The straps alone should fit at or below the shoulders in rear-facing mode. This seat does not have an adjustable recline, which means infants with little to no head control may slump unless you have car seats that are very flat and level. The seat best fits babies who can sit up on their own and kids in forward-facing mode. The switch from forward to booster may be a toss-up depending on your child's size. Also, knowing when to stop using the lower anchors and other items can be difficult to remember, but thankfully, there is onboard storage for the manual so you can consult it when needed. How big is the Diono Radian 3RXT and will it fit in your vehicle? Seat weight: 24 pounds Width at widest point (shoulders): 16.5 inches Shell height: 24.5 inches Seat pan width (hips): 12 inches Lowest harness height (w/o insert): 8 inches Highest harness height: 17 inches Crotch buckle slots: 2.5, 5, and 7 inches For families who need 3 car seats in a row, this is where the Radian 3RXT truly shines. It's got one the narrowest profiles on the market and will fit 3 across in most mid to large-sized vehicles. For compact cars, it'll be a toss up. Tip: If you're having issues with getting 3 to fit across, some parents suggested using seat belt installations for all the seats, since the placement of the LATCH anchors could make the fit too snug. You'll have the most issues with the car seat's front to back dimensions when installed rear-facing. Due to its height, it may lessen front passenger legroom considerably. Like we recommend with all car seats, measure your car interior dimensions before purchasing. This is a HEAVY seat at 24 pounds, so it's best as an install it and leave it kind of seat. However, that's one thing many parents love about it. The seat lacks the "cheap" feel of other models. How safe is the Diono Radian 3RXT? We're happy to see fantastic reports of real crash experiences in which the Radian 3RXT performed well. One father reported that their family was in a serious roll over crash. All 3 kids were in 3RXT seats, and none of them had a scratch. There are other testimonials as well from various crashes that show this seat protects kids in many types of accidents. Diono doesn't skimp on safety features. However, using some of them might be confusing at first, so we recommend getting very familiar with each feature and when it can be used as soon as you get the seat. Read the manual thoroughly. Highlight or dogear important info, and watch as many videos as you can. For instance, unlike other car seat manufacturers, Diono allows the top tether to be used rear-facing. It prevents rebound motion. BUT, you should first ensure your vehicle allows for that. Some manufacturers such as Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge don't allow it in any of their vehicles. You should be able to find this info in your car owner's manual. Some of the adjustments to straps and the top tether must be done through the back cover, which can be a pain. This includes the Safe Stop (mentioned above). This is a strap that MUST be attached to the harness with all forward-facing kids who are under 40 pounds. It is stored on the back of the seat under the back cover. To use it, the seat must be uninstalled. You then attach it between the harness straps and splitter plate. Many parents miss this in the manual and don't see the Safe Stop strap under the back cover. Another safety adjustment that can be confusing is the adjustable bottom (forward-facing recline). It needs to be lowered for all kids 25 pounds and over who ride forward-facing. It should NOT be used for kids under 25 pounds. NOTE: There was a recall in 2017 for models produced from April 2014 to March 2015. It was for forward-facing seats, for kids over 65 pounds using the 5-pt harness, and for seats installed with a lap belt only and without the top tether. Every seat since October 2017 has been fixed to resolve the problem. No recalled seats are being sold. How easy is the Diono Radian 3RXT to install and use? Installation and seat adjustments can be confusing with this seat. Once you've done it a few times, it'll get easier. Once it's installed properly, you'll have a super sturdy seat, but it's definitely not as intuitive as other car seats. Some info on the seat and accessory labels is vague or missing info, as are some sections of the manual. One annoyance is that you must remove the seat & rethread the straps to adjust their height. However, one of the biggest issues parents had was getting the seat to the proper angle while rear-facing. There's only one fixed angle for rear-facing with this seat. This is particularly a problem on sloped vehicle seats in which the edge of the seat near the front of the car is higher than the edge near the rear. This can leave the seat too upright for small babies. For cars with flatter vehicle seats or those that have a raised bight area (the crack between the seat back and bottom), the seat will have a better recline. Diono does sell an angle adjuster. BUT it is only to help the seat sit more upright for extended rear-facing with older children. One GREAT improvement is that there is no longer a ratcheting system for harness tightening. Parents really struggled with this in previous models. Now, all you have to do is pull an adjustment strap. Easy peasy. We also love the SuperLATCH system with push-on connectors that are much easier to use than the older ones. The low profile sides are also really nice for self-sufficient toddlers and preschoolers to climb in and out of the seat on their own. Parents have also loved the fold-flat feature for easier transport while traveling. Optional Accessories Buy 2 of these in order to carry your folded up 3RXT like a backpack. Makes airport travel a lot easier. Best Car Seat Hub's Final Verdict For dependability and a proven safety record, the Diono Radian 3RXT is hard to beat. For the price, however, we wish installation and adjustments were a lot more intuitive. The hardest installation is, the bigger the chances of missing something important in regards to safety. If you have a mid to large-sized vehicle, and especially if you need 3 across car seats, this is one model you should highly consider. We'd recommend starting with a dedicated infant seat for the first few months, then switching to this one when the baby is sitting on his own. We definitely recommend watching installation videos and reading the manual closely to become familiar with everything before you use the seat. Brigala April 1, 2019 Reviews Like its predecessor, the Radian RXT, the Diono 3RXT fills a niche for parents and caregivers looking for a narrow carseat that will grow with their child. The Radian line of seats has always been known for being 3-across friendly. Families with mid-sized vehicles and 3 kids are often well-served by Radians; I had one in my Civic for years when I had to fit a toddler and two teenagers in the back regularly. The current Radian series, the 3R, 3RX, 3RXT, and 3RXT JMC (Just My Color, a customizable fashion scheme) all share the Radian platform but extra features distinguish them from each other. We have a previous review of the recently discontinued RXT and the basic features and functions are very similar. This review will cover the basics and point out the updates to the new Diono 3RXT. Radian 3RXT Weight and Height Limits • Rear-facing: 5-45 lbs., height 44" or less, and at least 1.5" of carseat above the child's head" • Forward-facing: 20-65 lbs., at least 1-year-old, height 57" or less, child's shoulders are not above top harness slots • Highback booster: 50-120 lbs., 40-57" tall, and child's shoulders must be at or above the 4th set of harness slots *See Fit to Child section fsome state laws have higher minimum age or weight requirements for riding forward-facing - find your state law here. Radian 3RXT Overview • 5 harness slot heights • 12-position headrest • 3 crotch/buckle strap positions • Safe Stop Load Limiter • Full steel reinforced frame and aluminum reinforced sides • Folds flat for travel and storage • Lined with EPS foam • Rear-facing tether capability • Deluxe push-on latch connectors • One of the narrowest convertibles on the market: makes 3-across much easier • Low profile makes loading and unloading child easier 3RXT Updates: • 65 lb. weight limit for the harness (this is more realistic than the previous 90 lb. weight limit) • Full wrap cover makes for neat and tidy storage of unused straps and accessories on the back of the seat 3RXT Measurements: Harness height: 9", 10.5", 12", 15", 17.5" Crotch strap depth: 3.5", 5.5", 7" External widest point: approx. 17" at widest point at shoulders, 16.5" at widest point at thighs Internal widest point: approx. 14" at widest point at shoulders, 14.5" at widest point at thighs Seat weight: 27 lbs. 2019 3RXT Fashions: Black, Dark Grey, Red, Plum, Yellow Sulphur, Grey Oyster, Blue Under the Cover: There are no easily noticeable changes to the basic shell of the seat. It features the same EPS foam, the same folding mechanism, and the same steel reinforcements. There are some minor differences which are not easy to photograph clearly. The shoulder belt guide for booster mode has been redesigned so it's more likely to promote proper retraction of the seat belt - something the manual helpfully points out should be checked for with each installation (this is good advice for all highback boosters). Some of the EPS foam is black instead of white. Other than that, the 3RXT is nearly indistinguishable from the RXT once its cover has been removed. Full Wrap Cover: After using this seat for a while, I realized that this is a bigger innovation than I initially thought. The first thing I noticed about the new full-wrap cover was the aesthetics. I spent several years staring at the back of a rather unightly Diono car seat in my Civic. Other car seats on the market aren't any better to look at from the back. Now that more and more state laws are moving to "rear-face until two" laws and more families are understanding the benefits of rear-facing even longer than that, it's about time the back of the car seat got some cosmetic attention. Now instead of looking at a bunch of adjustment mechanisms, harness splitters, stored top tethers, and other sundry pieces of equipment, we can actually look at the sleek and soft fabric in a color of our choosing. My youngest child is four and our rear-facing days are numbered, but I'm going to be totally honest - if I were starting over today this would be a factor in my decision. Car seats are like furniture in our cars and we see them every day for years. It's worth looking at a car seat that makes you feel happy and well put together. The more I think about this new cover design, the more I like it for practical reasons too. There are fewer opportunities to catch or snag straps or accessories on the back of the seat when moving it around. I would no longer worry about something getting caught in the x-ray machine at the airport as I send the car seat through (something I've done a couple of times with a folded Radian and always worried about). It keeps curious children from being attracted by all those loose dangly things on the back and removing, losing, or just messing with them. Mad props to Diono for giving some extra thought to the back side of a convertible car seat. It's about time someone redesigned that mess. Back of the 3RXT. The top zips down to expose the LATCH hardware, Safe Stop, and Locking Clip. The bottom zips up to provide access to the manual pocket (note the manual icon) and the back of the harness. Installation Rear-facing Installation Installation of the Radian 3RXT in the rear-facing position is the same as previous Radian models. It is either easy or difficult; there doesn't seem to be a middle ground with this carseat. In order to install the Radian rear-facing, you must first attach the rear-facing base/boot. That base/boot will determine the recline angle in your vehicle and the angle will vary depending on the slope of your vehicle seat. You will not need any rolled towels or noodles to achieve a proper angle. In fact, Diono does not allow the use of rolled towels or noodles with Radians. For an older child who has good head control and can sit upright unassisted, the Angle Adjuster accessory can be used under a rear-facing Radian to make it more upright and give front seat passengers inches more legroom too. Rear-facing with the Huggable Images toddler in a 2015 Expedition. Fully reclined without angle adjuster. Diono 3RXT with Huggable Images Toddler, rear-facing with Angle Adjuster in a 2015 Expedition. The angle adjuster leaves lots of room for the front seat passengers to adjust their seats comfortably. The RF belt path is a closed belt path, meaning it's enclosed in plastic. If you've got big hands, you'll have trouble fitting the seat belt or SuperLATCH belt through the belt path; it can even be challenging for average sized hands, although with practice it gets easier. Because it's closed, tightening the belt for a tight installation can be difficult too, especially if the female end of the seat belt buckle is close to the belt path. The best way to get a carseat tight is to pull the belt in the same direction as the belt path, but with a closed belt path, this can be challenging. Be patient and be prepared to tighten, rest, and tighten again in some vehicles. I have a seat belt system in my vehicle that is pretty much ideal for installing a Radian. The female end of the buckle is very close to the vehicle seat bight (lock), leaving plenty of room to get leverage for tightening the seat. I have used previous models of the Radian (same design in this regard) and other types of seat belt systems which are not as easy. In my vehicle, and in my experience with previous models in a variety of vehicles, installing the angle adjuster also made it easier to get a tight fit with the seat belt. Forward-facing Installation Installing the Radian forward-facing can be easier than rear-facing because the cover can be pulled away for access to the FF belt path. Vehicle buckles that are on short buckle stalks or ones like mine that are even with the vehicle seat can pose an extra challenge because the seat belt will bunch in the latchplate the tighter you pull. This is normal for this car seat, and in fact isn't unusual for car seats in general. What I did to get it tight was tighten the best I could, unbuckle, carefully straighten the seat belt in the buckle so I could take a little more slack out, then kneel into the car seat and re-buckle. It wasn't very difficult, but for a car seat novice it won't be an obvious "trick" and it could be a source of frustration. In my vehicle, I got an excellent and fairly easy installation forward-facing in the center where I don't have a forward-leaning vehicle head restraint. Behind the driver, however, the middle back of the car seat is not in contact with the vehicle seat at all. The top of the restraint rests on the non-removable forward-leaning head restraint in the car. This made getting a tight installation much more challenging, although I was able to accomplish it after several tries. I contacted Diono about this (with photos) and was informed that as long as the install was secure, it was not necessary to have the back of the child seat flush with the vehicle seat. So while more difficult, this did not create an incompatible situation. Special forward-facing concerns: Adjustable Bottom: When installing the Radian forward-facing, the 3R, 3RX, and 3RXT models require that the forward-facing adjustable bottom be lowered for children between 20 and 25 lbs. Most forward-facing children will be over 25 lbs., or will be soon, so that means you should simply plan on lowering it before installing the Radian FF. Squeeze these two bars to lower the bottom of the 3RXT into the recline position, required for most forward-facing installations. The forward-facing recline lowered as is necessary for all forward-facing children weighing more than 25 lbs. Safe Stop Load Limiter: This small strap that is attached to the back left of the carseat when you first receive your Radian is called a load limiter. Its purpose is to increase the amount of time over which your child feels crash forces. If you install the Radian FF for a child who weighs under 40 lbs., you must use the Safe Stop. The Safe Stop is never used rear-facing. When setting this seat up in forward-facing mode for my 36 lb. model, it was important to install the Safe Stop load limiter - required for all forward-facing children under 40 lb. It needs to be removed when the child reaches 40 lbs. Lap-Only Belt Installation without Top Tether: If your vehicle has a lap-only belt without a top tether anchor and you need to install the 3RXT in that position, there's a Lap Belt Cushion that is required to be used in the seat. It significantly reduces the length of the crotch strap, though Diono offers a longer strap if you call and request one, and reduces the height of the harness slots because it's a piece of 1" thick EPP foam with memory foam on top. We recommend that you try to find another seating position in the vehicle if you can. The Lap Belt Cushion is not required for use on an airplane where the only type of installation is a lap-only belt. Booster Installation When the carseat is used as a booster, it may be LATCHed in at any weight. This is because the LATCH is simply holding the carseat to the vehicle while the seatbelt is restraining the child and will be the device taking crash forces. I could not find instructions for using LATCH in booster mode in the manual, but our contact at Diono assured me that this is still allowed as it has been in previous models. Both the lower anchors and the top tether may be used in booster mode. The manual helpfully reminds the user to check to ensure the vehicle belt retracts properly in booster mode. This has been an issue with previous RXT models, and to be fair it can be an issue with almost any highback booster as it's impossible to check compatibility of every booster at every height adjustment level in every vehicle on the market. It can be a serious problem when the shoulder belt gets caught in the belt guide because if a child leans forward and the shoulder belt doesn't retract automatically, it stays loose and floppy on the child and could lead to the child being severely injured in a crash. The belt fit and geometry is otherwise very good and even earns it an IIHS Best Bet rating as a booster, but the IIHS doesn't measure booster fit with real, moving kids. I tried the RXT in two very different seating positions in my car. On the driver's side, the seat belt is mounted to the frame of the vehicle. In the center, it's seat-rear-mounted to the right of the car seat. In both positions with my 6 year old Huggable Images doll, the seat belt extended and retracted properly. Here's a video demonstrating the proper seat belt retraction. Installation Methods The SuperLATCH connectors are the deluxe IMMI push-on style connectors, similar to the push-on connectors on other seats. There is an adjuster on one side of this strap. There are storage areas at the top of the shell to store the LATCH and top tether connectors when not in use, which can be accessed by zipping open the top of the cover in back. The tether strap can be used rear- or forward-facing. While tethering a forward-facing child restraint with a harness is always recommended, a top tether is not required for this seat if one is not available. Unlike previous versions of the Radian, the manual indicates the tether is required for the 3RXT if one is available. LATCH Weight Limits: Rear-facing LATCH weight limit: 35 lbs. Forward-facing LATCH weight limit: 40 lbs. Center LATCH installations with Non-Standard Spacing: Diono allows LATCH installation in the center seating position if the vehicle manufacturer allows it and the LATCH anchor bars are spaced 11-14" apart. Inflatable Seat Belts Diono has determined that the Radian carseats can be installed with inflatable seat belts found in Ford Motor Vehicles. This does not include Mercedes vehicles, inflatable seat belts found on aircraft, or any other inflatable seat belts. Fit to Child The Radian 3RXT comes with an infant head pillow insert and a body support insert. These items are optional and you can remove either of them at any time. Huggable Images newborn doll with body and head inserts provides an acceptable fit for this doll. Newborn doll with body insert but without head support insert. This provides an acceptable fit for this doll, but would not for a smaller newborn. The Radian also comes with a set of memory foam harness pads. For the last several years, these have been required for forward-facing, and optional for rear-facing. I was not able to find guidance for this in the manual, but when I contacted Diono I was informed this has not changed - always use the harness covers for forward-facing children. Because of the well-padded cover and memory foam in the seating area, the Radian is a comfortable carseat. It won't fit small newborns well, even with the body support, because the bottom harness slots are too high. A larger newborn may or may not fit well. Our Huggable Images newborn model has an acceptable fit. Rear-Facing The manual has an error in it that is probably overlooked, but is significant nonetheless. In listing the rear-facing fit requirements in several locations, it states, "Top of head must be 1.5 in. below the headrest ears." Following this fit requirement strictly means that the 3RXT would be outgrown before toddlerhood. It is a misprint and the manual should read, "Top of head must be 1.5" below the top of the headrest." The rear-facing capacity of this seat has not been the highest on the market in several years, but it's still respectable and will comfortably fit most children in a rear-facing position until about age four. My petite four year old, weighing in at 36 lbs. and standing 39" tall, still has plenty of room to grow before she would need to switch to forward-facing in this seat. My 100th percentile older child outgrew her RXT RF at age 3 years 7 months, and in terms of capacity I'd expect the exact same from the 3RXT. This is plenty of rear-facing capacity for the vast majority of children out there. Rear-facing mode with a 4 year old, 39" 36 lb. child. She likes the seat and the low sides make it easy for her to sit criss-cross. 3rd Harness Slots When the child is using either of the bottom 2 harness slots, the headrest must be moved out of the way, positioned in the top-most spot. Once the child is using the 3rd slots, it can be moved down. My Huggable Images toddler doll's shoulders were even with the 3rd slots. This doll is supposed to represent an average 16 month old child. This 16 month old Huggable Images doll is just barely tall enough to use the 3rd harness slots, and therefore the head wings. Forward-Facing For forward-facing, average sized kids should make it easily to belt-positioning booster seat age in the harness. My daughter's shoulders are barely above the 3rd set of harness slots, she has plenty of space to go before needing the 5th set of slots which are about 17" high. Our 4 year old 39" 36 lb. model is delighted to show off the 3RXT in forward-facing mode. This shorter than average 39" tall four year old would use the 4th of 5 sets of harness slots if she were forward-facing in this seat. She should have no trouble reaching a mature booster age before outgrowing the 3RXT. Booster Mode In booster mode, we have more mixed results. The stated size range for children using this seat as a booster is 50-120 lbs and under 57 inches tall, which Diono estimates to be around age 10. My 6 year old Huggable Images doll represents a 48" tall 46 lb. child. She fits well but does not have a lot of growing room left in this booster at that size. On the other hand, the seat belt does seem to be positioned well on the model, so if you do happen to have a child over 50 lbs. who is short enough to fit comfortably, it should make a safe and appropriate booster seat. Children who are shorter and stockier, and children who have longer legs and shorter torsos, are more likely to be able to use this seat as a booster than children who are long and lean or who are taller in the torso than in the legs. Our 48" tall Huggable Images doll fits comfortably in the 3RXT in booster mode. Many children, however, especially ones that are somewhat lightweight for their height, will be too tall to physically fit into the seat by the time they reach the minimum booster weight of 50 lbs. I had my 8 year old child sit in the seat. She is tall for her age, at just under 56 inches, and weighs 76 lbs. I would say she is of average build. According to the stats in the manual, this seat should fit her as a booster. The shoulder belt guide is approximately 3" below her shoulder, and she is physically unable to actually sit in the 3RXT because her shoulders do not fit between the headwings. It is hard for me to imagine any child approaching the stated upper height limits of the seat, even one with a shorter torso and longer legs, fitting into this seat safely. In fairness to Diono, this issue of being overly optimistic on the box with what size child will actually fit in the car seat is common industry-wide. Boosters in general are like clothing - different ones provide better or worse fit on differently shaped children. Because of this reality I would not usually count on any all-in-one seat to last a child from birth to booster; it's just too hard to predict a child's stature at age six before the child is even born. If you find this seat (or any all-in-one seat) still works for you during the booster stage, consider that a bonus. This 76 lb. 56" tall child cannot physically squeeze into the 3RXT to test it out as a booster. Cover/Maintenance/Ease of Use The cover is well-padded with a comfortable texture. Diono recommends machine washing in cold water with gentle detergent on the gentle cycle and laying flat to dry. Do not wash the memory foam! From the beginning, the Diono Radian car seats have had a ratcheting harness adjuster which tightened with a tug-tug-tug motion. The 3RXT still has this feature, but I felt it was a lot smoother and easier to tighten than previous Radians I have owned. The adjuster mechanism looks different from the RXT, so perhaps this is part of the whole re-design. The harness height still adjusts from the back of the seat. The rear cover must be unzipped to access the harness slots, and each strap is removed from the metal splitter plate and re-threaded through the correct harness slot. Use the slots at or below the shoulders for rear-facing, above for forward-facing. Also, the top of the child's head must be 1.5" below the top of the car seat for rear-facing, and the tops of their ears must be below the top of the car seat for forward-facing. FAA-Approval/Lifespan/Crash Guidelines The 3RXT is FAA-approved for use in aircraft when used as a harness seat. It also is a heavy restraint weighing in at 26.5 lbs., so if you do travel with it, you'll want to use a luggage cart to avoid having to carry it. It does not come with a carry strap like the older RXTs used to, although Diono assures me the ones they sell on their website as an optional accessory will work. Since the Radian seats are some of the narrowest on the market, you won't have any problems fitting one in a plane seat AND the tray table will be able to come all the way down for a forward-facer. For rear-facing, the Angle Adjuster may make the seat fit depending on the pitch of the seats on the plane your flying. Buying a snack for the person in front of the carseat certainly doesn't hurt :). Remember that it can only be used with the harness on the plane since belt-positioning booster seats can't be used on planes. The lap belt cushion which needs to be used in the car for a lap belt installation without a top tether does NOT need to be used on an aircraft. There are 2 FAA-approval labels: 1 on the back of the seat near the LATCH and tether connectors storage location and 1 on the right side of the cover. The 3RXT expires 10 years from the date of manufacture. Diono recommends replacement after any crash. Advantages • 3 Crotch Strap Positions: Having a choice of crotch strap positions makes the harness more comfortable for bigger kids. • Low and narrow footprint means it's more likely to fit in tight spots. • Padded Cover: A thickly padded cover, plus the memory foam in the bum area, makes for a comfy seat. • Folds flat for travel and storage. • Enclosed buckle improves aesthetics when rear-facing in the car, and convenience for storage and travel. • Low profile makes loading and unloading child easier. • Can be installed with Ford Motor Company inflatable seat belts. Disadvantages (In all fairness, these aren't necessarily problems but I list them here to inform potential consumers of specific Radian 3RXT issues) • Low LATCH weight limits. • Head wings are a serious pain to adjust up and down. • Installation: Often more difficult depending on the vehicle, with a higher learning curve due to the various features. • Booster mode will be useless for the majority of children, and of limited usefulness for the rest of them - does not live up to its marketing claim of being the only seat you will need up to 57" or 120 lbs.. • Heavy for a carseat designed for travel. • The padding on the crotch strap fell onto the floor literally every time I unbuckled a child or a doll from the car seat. Diono says the padding is highly encouraged for comfort and to protect against hot buckles in the sun, but it is not absolutely required; which is good because I predict it will be left behind in a parking lot somewhere in short order. • The manual leaves a lot of unanswered questions which led me to contact the company for clarification. I can see this being an issue for a lot of parents who would sooner guess at the proper use than call the manufacturer if they can't find the information in the manual. Conclusion The Diono Radian 3RXT is a solid convertible seat with great rear-facing features. Its high height and weight limits accommodate big kids both rear- and forward-facing, yet it takes up less space than many of its competitors. For narrow backseats or 3-across situations, you simply can't beat the width of the 3RXT. Features like rear-facing tethering, thick padding, and solid construction make the Radian 3RXT a smart purchase. Don't expect it to be the last car seat your child will use, as few children will ever fit properly in booster mode and those who do will certainly outgrow it before they are big enough for a seat belt alone. Thank you to Diono for supplying the 3RXT used in this review! No other compensation was provided. All opinions expressed are those of CarseatBlog.

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