

**Haynes**  
*shows you how*

**BMW 3-Series and Z4 (99-05) Includes 2006 325ci/330ci Coupe and Convertible models Haynes Online Manual.**

## 5 Bulbs (exterior lights) - replacement

04:36

### **Caution:**

This video is for familiarization purposes only. Read below for specific information on your vehicle.

## **General**

1 Whenever a bulb is replaced, note the following points.

- A. Remember that if the light has just been in use, the bulb may be extremely hot.
- B. Always check the bulb contacts and holder, ensuring that there is clean metal-to-metal contact between the bulb and its terminals. Clean off any corrosion or dirt before installing a new bulb.
- C. Wherever bayonet-type bulbs are installed, ensure that the contacts bear firmly against the bulb contact.
- D. Always ensure that the new bulb is of the correct rating and that it is completely clean before installing it; this applies particularly to headlight/fog light bulbs.

# Headlight

## Halogen (conventional) bulbs

2 Disconnect the wiring connector from the rear of the bulb holder (see illustration) .

### 5.2 Disconnect the headlight bulb wiring connector



3 Squeeze in the retaining clips, turn the bulb holder assembly counterclockwise and remove it from the rear of the headlight (see illustration) . To improve access to the left-hand headlight, remove the air filter housing (see [Chapter 4](#) ).

### 5.3 Squeeze together the retaining clips, and rotate the bulb holder counterclockwise



4 Pull the bulb straight out from the holder (see illustration) .

#### 5.4 The headlight bulb is a push-fit in the bulb holder



5 When handling the new bulb, use a tissue or clean cloth to avoid touching the glass with the fingers; moisture and oil from the skin can cause blackening and rapid failure of this type of bulb. If the glass is accidentally touched, wipe it clean using rubbing alcohol.

6 Push the new bulb into the holder, ensuring that the bulb's contacts align with the corresponding slots in the bulb holder.

7 Install the bulb holder to the rear of the headlight, rotating it clockwise until the retaining clips lock. Reconnect the wiring connector.

### Xenon bulbs

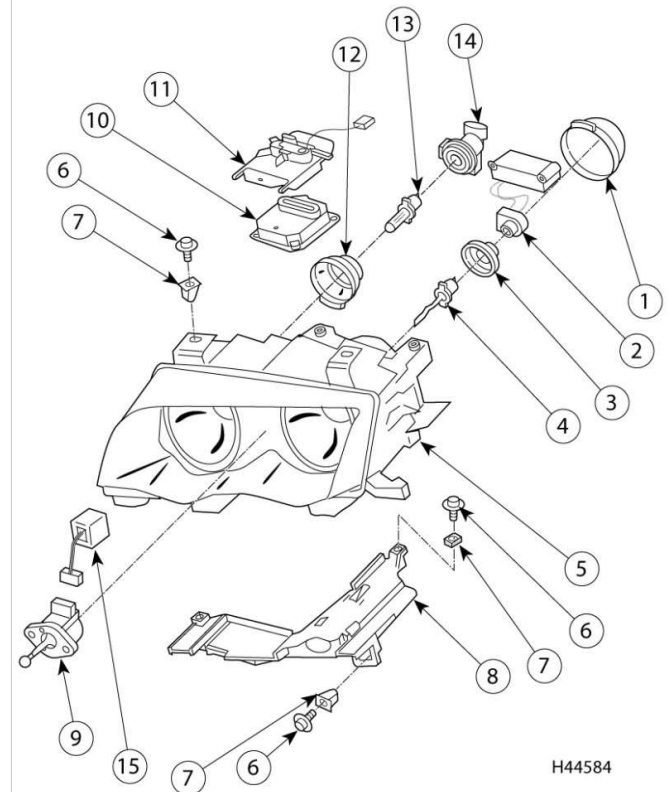
8 On models equipped with Xenon bulbs, due to the potential high voltages involved, disconnect the battery negative lead as described in [Chapter 5, Section 1](#) . To improve access to the left-hand headlight, remove the air filter housing as described in [Chapter 4](#) .

9 Pull the plastic cover from the rear of the headlight.

10 Rotate the bulb igniter unit on the rear of the bulb counterclockwise and disconnect it (see illustration) .

## 5.10 Xenon headlight

- 1 Plastic cover
- 2 Xenon bulb igniter unit
- 3 Locking ring
- 4 Xenon bulb
- 5 Headlight housing
- 6 Screw
- 7 Plastic nut
- 8 Headlight carrier plate
- 9 Headlight adjustment stepper motor
- 10 Xenon bulb control module
- 11 Bracket
- 12 Main beam cover
- 13 Main beam bulb
- 14 Bulb socket
- 15 Connector



11 Twist the bulb retaining ring counterclockwise and remove it, with the bulb, from the headlight.

12 Install the new bulb to the headlight, and secure it in place with the retaining ring.

13 Install the igniter to the rear of the bulb, turning it clockwise to secure it.

14 Install the cover to the rear of the unit. Where necessary, install the air filter housing.

15 Reconnect the battery negative lead as described in [Chapter 5, Section 1](#).

## Front parking light

16 To improve access to the left-hand headlight, remove the air filter housing (see [Chapter 4](#)).

**17 Rotate the bulb holder counterclockwise and withdraw it from the headlight unit. The bulb is of the capless type and is a push-fit in the holder (see illustrations) .**

**5.17a Twist the parking light bulb holder counterclockwise and remove it**



**5.17b The parking light bulb is a push-fit**



**18 Installation is the reverse of removal.**

## **Front direction indicator**

**19 On all except Coupe models, insert a screwdriver through the hole in the inner fender top, press down and release the light unit retaining clip. Withdraw the direction indicator light from the fender. On Coupe models, the light unit is retained by a single screw (see illustrations) .**



**5.19a Insert a screwdriver through the hole in the fender . . .**



**5.19b . . . to release the indicator retaining clip (except Coupe)**



**5.19c On Coupe models, remove the screw**



20 Disconnect the wiring connector, and twist the bulb holder counterclockwise to remove it from the light unit.

21 The bulb is a bayonet fitting in the holder. Push the bulb in slightly, then rotate it counterclockwise and pull it from the holder (see illustration) .

### 5.21 Push in and twist the bulb counterclockwise



22 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure making sure the light unit is securely retained by its retaining clip/screw as applicable.

## Side marker/turn signal light

23 Using finger pressure, push the lens gently forwards. Pull out the rear edge of the lens and withdraw it from the fender (see illustration) .

### 5.23 Push the side marker/turn signal lens forward, and pull the rear edge out



24 Rotate the bulb holder counterclockwise and pull it from the lens. Pull the capless bulb from the holder (see illustration) .

### 5.24 Pull the capless bulb from the side repeater bulb holder



25 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure.

## Front fog light

### Sedan and Sport Wagon models

26 Using a wooden or plastic tool, carefully pry the fog light from the bumper starting at the inside edge (see illustration) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

### 5.26 Carefully pry the fog light from the bumper



27 Rotate the bulb holder counterclockwise and remove it from the light.

28 The bulb is integral with the bulb holder (see illustration) .



**5.28 The fog light bulb is integral with the bulb holder**



29 When handling the new bulb, use a tissue or clean cloth to avoid touching the glass with the fingers; moisture and grease from the skin can cause blackening and rapid failure of this type of bulb. If the glass is accidentally touched, wipe it clean using rubbing alcohol.

30 Installation is the reverse of removal. If necessary, adjust the aim of the light by rotating the adjusting screw adjacent to the lens (see illustration) .

**5.30 To adjust the fog light aim, insert an Allen key into the aperture at the outside edge of the lens**



## Coupe models

31 Lever out the catches, and remove the bumper trim from around the fog lights (see illustration) .

### 5.31 Release the catches and remove the fog light trim



32 Remove the screws and remove the fog light. Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

33 Rotate the bulb holder counterclockwise, and pull the bulb from the holder.

34 Installation is the reverse of removal. If necessary, adjust the aim of the light by rotating the adjusting screw adjacent to the lens (see illustration) .

### 5.34 Rotate the adjusting screw to aim the fog light



## Rear light cluster

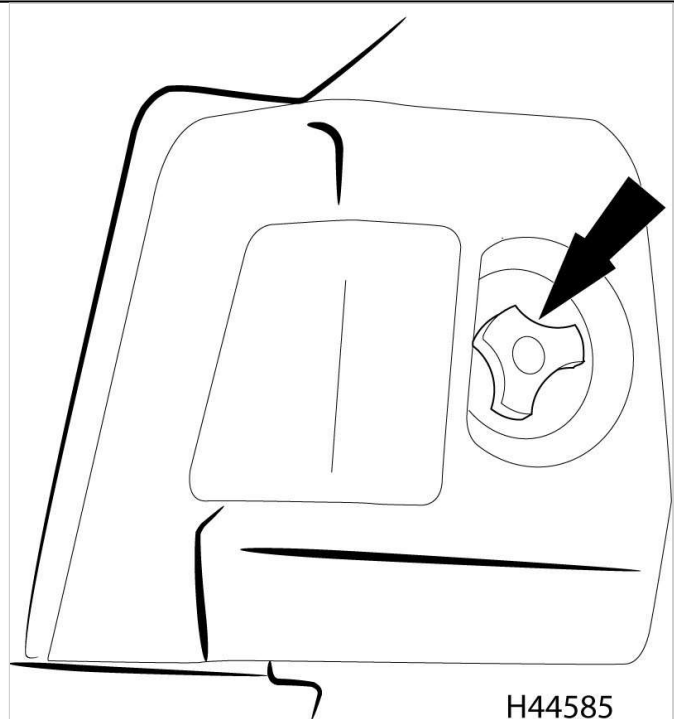
### Body-mounted lights - Sedan/Coupe

35 From inside the vehicle luggage compartment, release the retaining clip (models up to September 2001) or remove the fastener (models from October 2001) and remove the bulb holder from the rear of the light cluster (see illustrations) .

**5.35a Release the retaining clip (models up to 09/01) . . .**

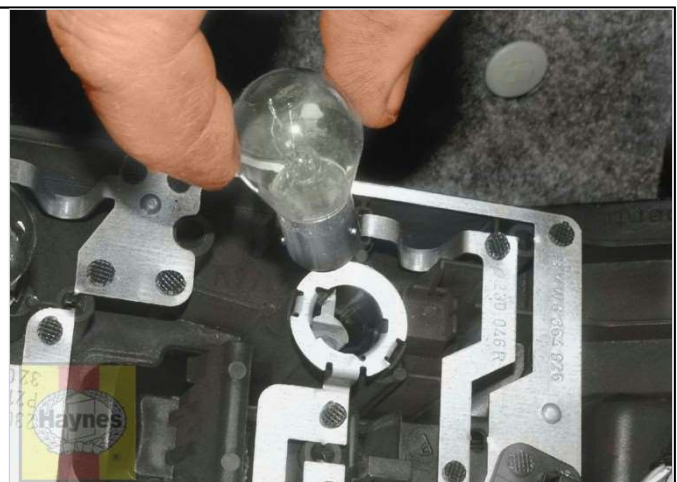


**5.35b . . . or remove the fastener (models from 10/01)**



**36 Press the relevant bulb in slightly, twist it counterclockwise, and remove it from the bulb holder (see illustration) . Note: If replacing the double element stop/tail bulb, the bayonet pins are offset, and the bulb will only fit one way around.**

**5.36 Press the bulb in, twist it counterclockwise and remove it**



37 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Body-mounted lights - Sport Wagon

38 Fold back the flap in the luggage compartment to expose the bulb holder. To improve access to the left-hand light, remove the warning triangle from its location.

39 Release the retaining clip, and lift the bulb holder assembly slightly (see illustration) .

**5.39 Release the clip and lift the bulb holder assembly**



40 Press the relevant bulb in slightly, twist it counterclockwise, and remove it from the bulb holder.

41 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Trunk lid-mounted lights - Sedan/Coupe

42 Pry out the two clips and partially release the trunk lid trim panel behind the light cluster (see illustration) .

**5.42 Pry out the trunk lid trim retaining clips**



43 Release the retaining clip, and remove the bulb holder from the trunk lid (see illustration) .



**5.43 Release the retaining clip and remove the bulb holder**



44 Press the relevant bulb in slightly, twist it counterclockwise, and remove it from the bulb holder (see illustration) .

**5.44 Push in the bulb, and rotate it counterclockwise**



45 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Tailgate lights - Sport Wagon

46 Carefully pry the luggage compartment light unit from the tailgate trim panel. Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is removed.

47 Pry up the small piece of trim at the top of the panel (see illustration) .



**5.47 Pry up the trim at the top of the tailgate panel**



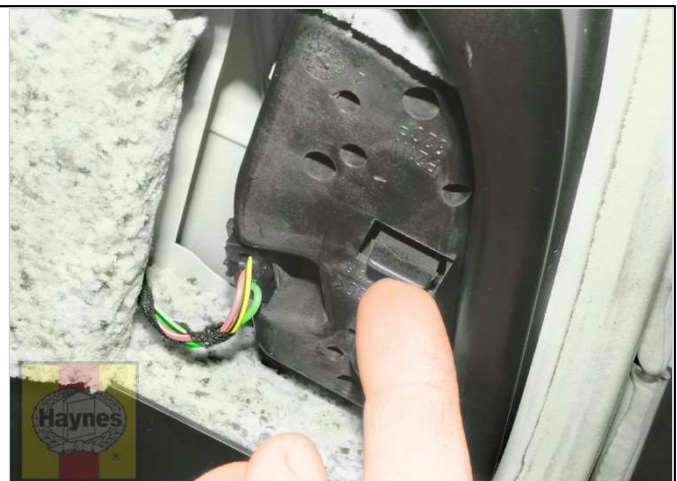
48 Remove the two retaining screws at the upper edge, and carefully release the trim panel retaining clips (see illustration) . Lift the panel from place.

**5.48 Remove the two screws**



49 Disconnect the rear light cluster wiring connector, release the retaining clip and remove the bulb holder (see illustration) .

**5.49 Release the bulb holder retaining clip**



50 Press the relevant bulb in slightly, twist it counterclockwise, and remove it from the bulb holder.

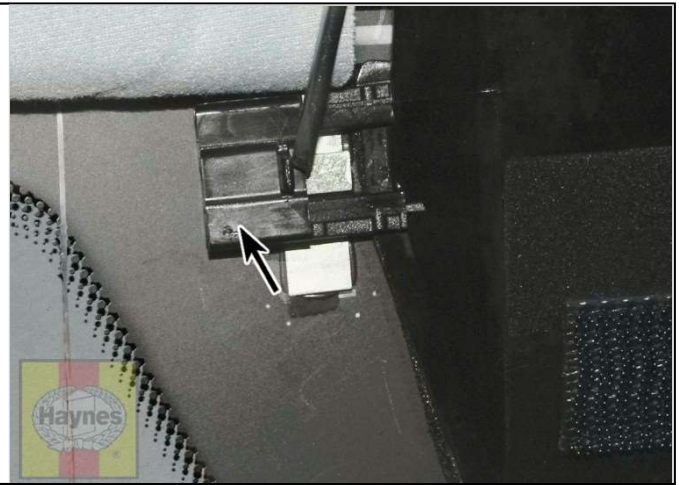
51 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## High-mounted stop-light

52 Carefully pull down the front edge, then slide the cover forward and remove it. Two types of cover may be used. The one-piece cover has two patches of Velcro at the front edge, while the split type cover has two push-in clips at the front edge.

53 Slide off the two retaining clips, and remove the light unit (see illustration) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the light is withdrawn. The high-mounted stop-light is an LED strip. If a fault develops, consult your local BMW dealer or specialist.

**5.53 Slide the retaining clips away from the high-mounted stop-light**



54 Installation is the reverse of removal, ensuring that the lugs at the rear of the cover engage correctly with the corresponding locating holes.

## License plate light

55 Using a small screwdriver from the inboard end, carefully pry out the light lens, and remove it from the trunk lid/tailgate (see illustration) .

**5.55 Pry off the license plate light lens**

56 The bulb is of the “festoon” type, and can be pried from the contacts.

57 Installation is the reverse of removal, making sure the bulb is securely held in position by the contacts.

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