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shows you how

BMW 3-Series 320i & 320xi (12-14), 325i, 325xi, 330i & 330xi (06) & 328i & 328xi (07-14) Haynes Online Manual

## 14 Differential pinion seal - replacement

### Note:

This procedure applies to the front (AWD models) and rear differential.

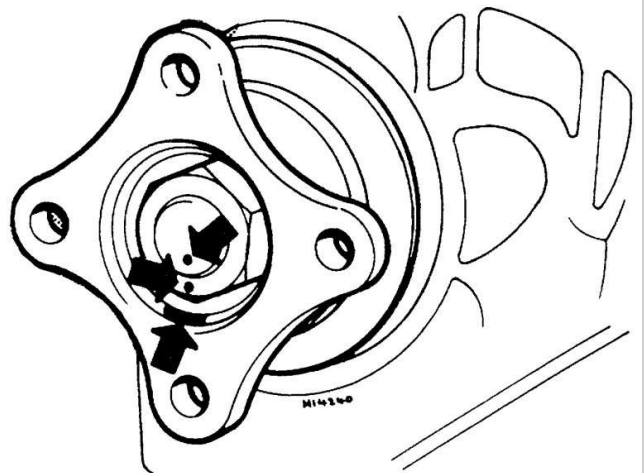
### Removal

### Note:

A new flange nut retaining plate will be required.

- 1 Remove the driveshaft (see [Section 11](#) ). Remove the exhaust system (see [Chapter 4](#) ).
- 2 Remove the retaining plate and make alignment marks between the driveshaft flange nut, the differential pinion flange and pinion (see illustration) . Discard the retaining plate; a new one must be used on installation.

**14.2 Make alignment marks on the flange, the pinion shaft and nut to ensure proper assembly**



- 3 Hold the differential pinion flange stationary by bolting a length of metal bar to it. Unscrew the nut, noting the exact number of turns necessary to remove it.
- 4 Using a suitable puller, draw the differential pinion flange from the pinion and remove the dust cover. If the dust cover shows signs of wear, replace it.

5 Pry the oil seal from the differential case with a screwdriver. Wipe clean the oil-seal seating surface.

## Installation

6 Smear a little differential oil on the sealing lip of the new oil seal, then press it squarely into the differential case until it is flush with the outer face. If necessary, the seal can be tapped into position using a metal tube which bears only on its hard outer edge.

7 Install the dust cover and locate the differential pinion flange on the pinion, aligning the marks made on removal. Replace the flange nut, screwing it on by the exact number of turns counted on removal, so that all alignment marks align. **Caution:** *Do not overtighten the flange nut. If the nut is overtightened, the collapsible spacer behind the flange will be deformed, necessitating its replacement. This is a complex operation requiring the rear differential to be disassembled.*

8 Secure the nut in position with the new retaining plate, tapping it squarely into position.

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