

**Haynes**
shows you how

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

4 Battery cables - check and replacement

Warning:

These vehicles are equipped with a Battery Safety Terminal (BST) device incorporated into to the battery positive cable's clamp. The BST incorporates a pyrotechnic device that automatically disconnects battery power to the engine compartment electrical components in the event of an impact of sufficient force to deploy the airbags. Battery power will be available to the exterior lights and the interior electrical components. If the positive cable clamp requires replacement, be sure to replace it with a genuine replacement part, not a generic cable clamp.

Note:

To gain access to the battery, refer to [Section 3](#) .

1 Periodically inspect the entire length of each battery cable for damage, cracked or burned insulation and corrosion. Poor battery cable connections can cause starting problems and decreased engine performance.

2 Inspect the cable-to- terminal connections at the ends of the cables for cracks, loose wire strands and corrosion. The presence of white, fluffy deposits under the insulation at the cable terminal connection means that the cable is corroded and should be replaced. Also inspect the battery posts for distortion and corrosion. If they're corroded, clean them up as described in [Chapter 1](#) .

3 When removing the cables, always disconnect the cable from the negative battery terminal first and hook it up last, or you might accidentally short out the battery with the tool you're using to loosen the cable clamps. Even if you're only replacing the cable for the positive terminal, be sure to disconnect the negative cable from the battery first (see [Section 1](#)).

4 Disconnect the old cables from the battery, then trace each cable to its opposite end and disconnect it (see [illustration](#)) . Be sure to note the routing of each cable before disconnecting it to ensure correct installation. Separate the starter cable from the other wiring. Then, after you've installed the new starter cable, carefully bunch the wiring - including the starter cable - back together again. Tape it to hold it together tightly, re-cover it with the conduit, then finish taping all exposed wiring.

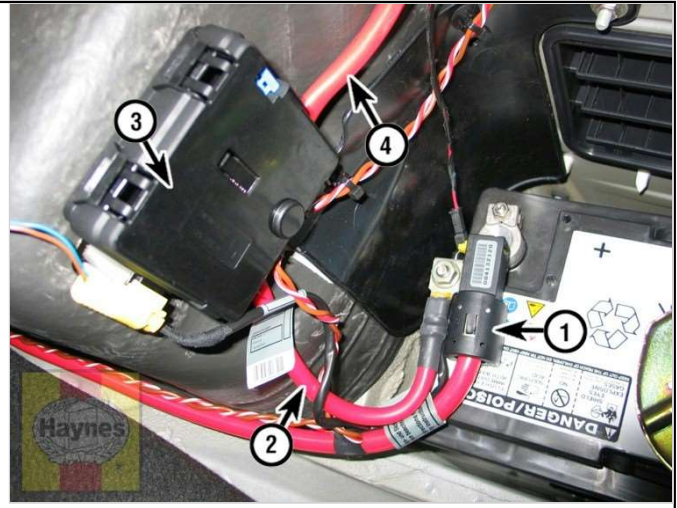
4.4 Positive battery cable details

1 Positive battery cable with the Battery Safety Terminal (BST)

2 Positive battery cable to the main harness fuse box

3 Main harness fuse box

4 Positive battery cable leading to the engine compartment



5 When purchasing battery cables, *take the old one(s) with you when buying new cables* . It is vitally important that you replace the cables with identical parts.

6 Clean the threads of the solenoid or ground connection with a wire brush to remove rust and corrosion. Apply a light coat of battery terminal corrosion inhibitor or petroleum jelly to the threads to prevent future corrosion.

7 Attach the cable to the solenoid or ground connection and tighten the mounting nut/bolt securely.

8 Before connecting a new cable to the battery make sure that it reaches the battery post without having to be stretched.

9 Connect the cable to the positive battery terminal first, *then* connect the ground cable to the negative battery terminal (see [Section 1](#)).

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