



Haynes
shows you how

BMW 3-Series (92-98) & Z3 (96-98) Haynes Online Manual

15 Rear suspension lower control arm - removal, overhaul and installation

Note:

This procedure does not apply to 318ti and Z3 models (the trailing arm for these models, sometimes called the control arm, can be found in [Section 13](#)).

Removal

- 1 Chock the front wheels, then jack up the rear of the vehicle and support it on axle stands. To improve access, remove the rear wheel.
- 2 Using paint or a suitable marker pen, make alignment marks between the lower control arm pivot bolt eccentric washer and the trailing arm. This is necessary to ensure that the rear wheel alignment and camber are correct on installation.
- 3 Support the trailing arm with a jack, then loosen and remove the nut and washer from the lower control arm pivot bolt. Withdraw the pivot bolt.
- 4 Referring to [Chapter 8](#) , support the weight of the differential with a jack, and remove the unit mounting bolts.
- 5 Loosen and remove the pivot bolt securing the control arm to the rear subframe. Withdraw the bolt, moving the differential slightly to the rear, and remove the control arm from underneath the vehicle. Recover the special nut from the subframe (see illustrations) . **Note:** *On some models it may be necessary to detach the driveshaft from the differential in order to gain the clearance required to remove the pivot bolt. If the vehicle is to be left for some time, install the differential mounting bolts and tighten securely.*

15.5a Remove the lower control arm pivot bolt . . .



15.5b . . . and recover the special nut (arrow) from the subframe



Overhaul

6 Refer to Steps 6 and 7 of [Section 14](#) .

Installation

Note:

A new control arm-to-rear subframe pivot bolt and nut will be required on installation.

7 Locate the special nut in the subframe cut-out, and maneuver the control arm into position. Install the new pivot bolt, tightening it lightly only at this stage.

8 Referring to [Chapter 8](#) , maneuver the differential into position and tighten its mounting bolts to the specified torque. Where necessary, reconnect the driveshaft to the differential.

9 Install the lower arm-to-trailing arm pivot bolt, eccentric washer and nut. Align the washer with the mark made prior to removal and lightly tighten it.

10 Install the wheel and lower the vehicle to the ground.

11 With the vehicle on its wheels, rock the car to settle the disturbed components in position. Check that the lower arm eccentric washer is still correctly aligned with the mark, then tighten both the control arm pivot bolts to the specified torque. Also tighten the wheel bolts to the specified torque. **Note:** *On completion, it is advisable to have the wheel alignment checked and, if necessary, adjusted.*