



Haynes
shows you how

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

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

Note:

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

Removal

1 Loosen the rear wheel bolts. Chock the front wheels, then raise the rear of the vehicle and support it securely on jackstands. Remove the rear wheel.

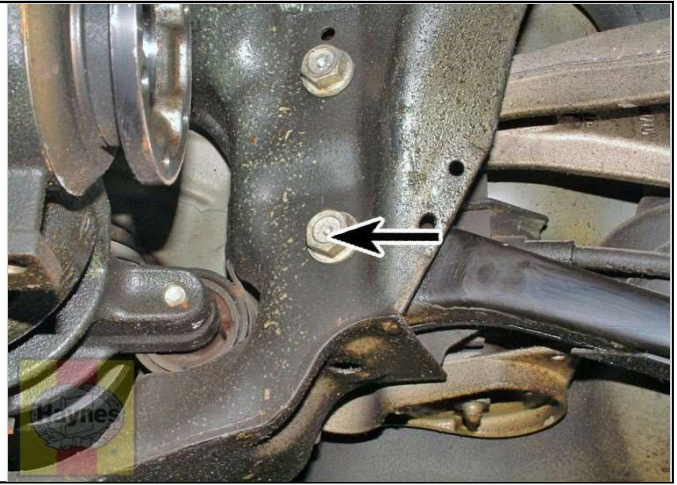
2 Using paint or a suitable marking pen, make alignment marks between the lower control arm pivot bolt eccentric washer and the trailing arm. This is necessary to ensure that the rear wheel alignment and camber are correct on installation.

3 Support the trailing arm with a jack, then 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 final drive unit with a jack, and remove the unit mounting bolts. Alternatively, remove the driveshaft as described in [Chapter 8](#) .

5 Loosen and remove the pivot bolt securing the control arm to the rear subframe. Withdraw the bolt, moving the final drive unit slightly to the rear (where necessary), and remove the control arm from underneath the car. Recover the special nut from the subframe (see illustrations) . **Note:** *On some models it may be necessary to detach the propeller shaft from the final drive unit in order to gain the clearance required to remove the pivot bolt. If the car is to be left for some time, reinstall the final drive unit mounting bolts and tighten securely.*

15.5a Remove the lower control arm-to-subframe bolt



15.5b Recover the special nut from the subframe



Overhaul

6 Refer to Steps 5 and 6 of [Section 14](#) .

Installation

7 Locate the special nut in the subframe cut-out, and maneuver the control arm into position (with its welded seam facing up). Install the new pivot bolt, tightening it lightly only at this stage.

8 Referring to [Chapter 8](#) , Maneuver the final drive unit into position and tighten its mounting bolts to the specified torque. Where necessary, reconnect the propeller shaft to the final drive unit.

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 Reinstall the wheel and lower the car to the ground.

11 With the car 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 wrench setting. Where necessary also tighten the wheel bolts to the specified torque. **Note:** *On completion, it is advisable to have the camber angle and wheel alignment checked and, if necessary, adjusted.*

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