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[BMW 3-Series \(92-98\) & Z3 \(96-98\) Haynes Online Manual](#)

1 General information and precautions

Warning:

Before carrying out any work on the electrical system, read through the precautions given in Safety First! at the beginning of this manual and Chapter 5 Part A.

The electrical system is of the 12 volt negative ground type. Power for the lights and all electrical accessories is supplied by a lead/acid type battery which is charged by the alternator.

This Chapter covers repair and service procedures for the various electrical components not associated with engine. Information on the battery, alternator and starter motor can be found in Part A of [Chapter 5](#).

It should be noted that prior to working on any component in the electrical system, the battery negative terminal should first be disconnected to prevent the possibility of electrical short circuits and/or fires. **Caution:** *If the stereo in your vehicle is equipped with an anti-theft system, make sure you have the correct activation code before disconnecting the battery.*

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