



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

## 7 Exterior light units - removal and installation

### Note:

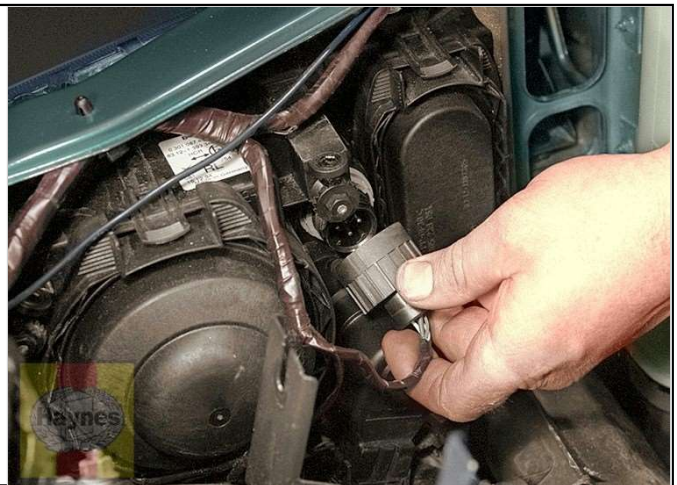
Disconnect the battery negative cable before removing any light unit, and reconnect the lead after installing the light. **Caution:** If the stereo in your vehicle is equipped with an anti-theft system, make sure you have the correct activation code before disconnecting the battery.

### Headlight

1 To improve access to the left-hand headlight, remove the air cleaner housing (see [Chapter 4](#) ).

2 Rotate the retaining ring counterclockwise and detach the main wiring connector from the headlight (see [illustration](#)) . Where necessary, release the retaining clip and disconnect the other wiring connector.

**7.2 Rotate the locking ring and disconnect the main wiring connector from the rear of the headlight**



3 Remove the turn signal light (see step 8).

4 Remove the retaining screws and remove the plastic cover from above the radiator (see [illustration](#)) .

**7.4 Remove the retaining screws and remove the plastic cover from above the radiator**



5 Loosen and remove the headlight retaining screws (see illustration) . **Note:** As the screws are removed, do not allow the plastic retaining clips to rotate. If necessary retain the clips with a suitable open-ended wrench.

**7.5 Remove the retaining screws (arrows) .**

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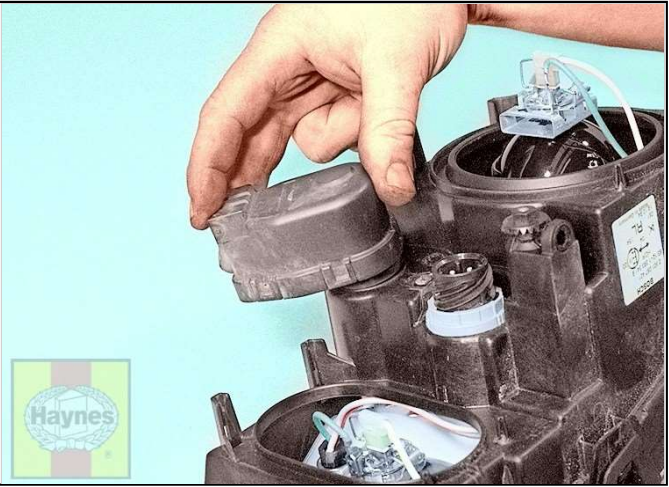


6 Remove the headlight unit from the vehicle. On models equipped with a headlight leveling system, if necessary, remove the motor from the rear of the light unit by rotating it counterclockwise and unclipping its balljoint (see illustrations) . **Note:** The motor can be removed with the headlight unit in position on the vehicle.

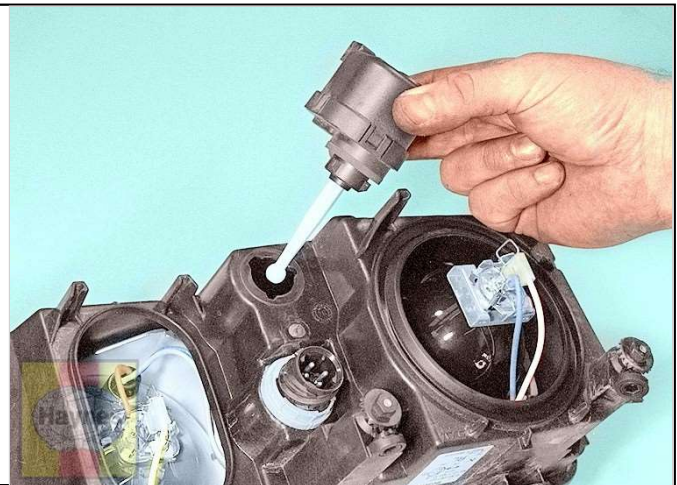
**7.6a . . . and remove the headlight from the vehicle**



### 7.6b Rotate the leveling motor counterclockwise . . .



### 7.6c . . . and unclip it from the headlight



7 Installation is a direct reversal of the removal procedure. Lightly tighten the retaining screws and check the alignment of the headlight with the bumper and hood. If necessary adjust the position of the headlight by screwing the plastic retaining clips in or out of the body (as applicable). Once the light unit is correctly positioned, securely tighten the retaining screws and check the headlight beam alignment using the information given in [Section 8](#) .

## Front direction indicator light

8 Using a screwdriver, unhook the retaining spring and withdraw the direction indicator light from the fender. Disconnect the wiring connector from the light unit and remove it from the vehicle.

9 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure making sure the light unit is securely retained by its spring.

## Front direction indicator side repeater

10 Remove the retaining screw and withdraw the light unit from the fender. Free the bulb holder by rotating it counterclockwise and remove the light unit from the vehicle.

11 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure. Do not overtighten the retaining screw as the lens is easily



cracked.

## Front foglight

12 Insert a flat-bladed screwdriver, in through the front bumper grille and release the foglight retaining clip.

13 Withdraw the foglight from the bumper and disconnect its wiring connector (see illustration) .

### 7.13 Unclip the foglight from the front bumper and disconnect its wiring connector



14 Installation is the reverse of removal, making sure the foglight is clipped securely in position. If necessary adjust the foglight aim using the adjusting screw which is accessed through the lower bumper grille.

## Rear light cluster

15 From inside the vehicle luggage compartment, rotate the retaining clip 90-degrees and remove the plastic access cover from the rear of the light cluster.

16 Disconnect the wiring connector then unscrew the retaining nuts and remove the light unit from the vehicle (see illustrations) .

### 7.16a Disconnect the wiring connector then remove the retaining nuts . . .



### 7.16b . . . and remove the rear light unit from the vehicle



17 Recover the seal which is between the light unit and body and replace it if it shows signs of damage or deterioration.

18 Installation is the reverse of the removal sequence making sure the seal is correctly positioned.

## License plate light

19 Remove the retaining screws and remove the trim cover from around the lights.

20 Press the light unit towards the left and unclip it from the trunk lid (see illustration) .

### 7.20 Removing a license plate light



21 Disconnect the wiring connector and remove the light unit.

22 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Z3 models

23 Except for the taillight clusters, removal of the exterior light assemblies is part of bulb replacement (see

[Section 5](#) ).

## Rear taillight cluster

24 Open the trunk, unscrew the knurled retaining nut that secures the tail light cluster assembly and *carefully* pull the tail light assembly straight out of the body (the tail light bulbs fit through stamped holes in the body) (see illustration 5.55a) .

25 Unscrew the outer taillight assembly retaining nuts (see illustration 5.55b) and remove the taillight assembly.

26 Installation is the reverse of removal.

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