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BMW 3-Series 320i & 320xi (12-14), 325i, 325xi, 330i & 330xi (06) & 328i & 328xi (07-14) Haynes Online Manual

1 General information

The six-speed and eight-speed automatic transmissions consist of a torque converter, an epicyclical geartrain and hydraulically operated clutches and brakes.

The torque converter provides a fluid coupling between the engine and transmission, which acts as a clutch, and also provides a degree of torque multiplication when accelerating.

The geartrain provides either six or eight forward, or one reverse gear ratio, according to which of its component parts are held stationary or allowed to turn. The components of the geartrain are held or released by brakes and clutches which are activated by a hydraulic control unit. A fluid pump within the transmission provides the necessary hydraulic pressure to operate the brakes and clutches.

Driver control of the transmission is by a four-position selector lever, incorporating a Steptronic function. The transmission has Park, Reverse, Neutral and Drive positions. An automatic kickdown facility shifts the transmission down a gear if the accelerator pedal is fully depressed.

Certain models are available with Steptronic gearchange that allows the driver to induce gearchanges with a simple movement of the shift lever - forward to upshift, and back to downshift.

Due to the complexity of the automatic transmission, any repair or overhaul work must be left to a dealer or specialist with the necessary special equipment for fault diagnosis and repair. The following Sections are limited to supplying general information, and any service information and instructions that can be used by the owner.

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