



Haynes
shows you how

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

5 Front suspension control arm - removal, overhaul and installation

Removal

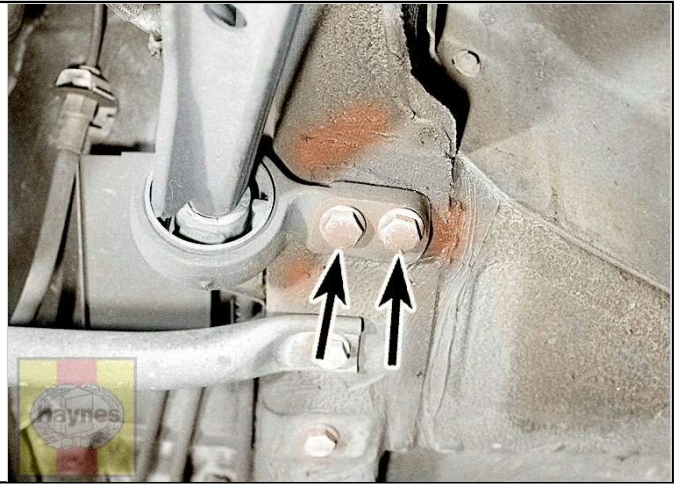
- 1 Chock the rear wheels, firmly apply the parking brake, then jack up the front of the vehicle and support on axle stands.
- 2 Remove the appropriate front wheel.
- 3 On models where the stabilizer bar is connected to the control arm, remove the nut and washer securing the connecting link to the arm (see illustration) .

5.3 Remove the nut and washer (arrow) securing the connecting link to the lower arm



- 4 Unscrew the control arm balljoint retaining nut, and release the arm from the steering knuckle. **Note:** *You might not be able to unscrew the nut completely until the balljoint stud is separated from the steering knuckle. If necessary release the steering knuckle from the arm using the balljoint separator.*
- 5 Loosen and remove the two bolts securing the control arm rear mounting to the vehicle body (see illustration)

5.5 Lower arm rear mounting bracket retaining bolts (arrows)



6 Unscrew the nut from the control arm front mounting stud, and remove the control arm assembly from underneath the vehicle (see illustration) . Note that the stud may be a tight fit in the crossmember and may need to be tapped out of position.

5.6 Control arm front mounting stud nut (arrow)



Overhaul

7 Thoroughly clean the control arm and the area around the arm mountings, removing all traces of dirt and underseal if necessary, then check carefully for cracks, distortion or any other signs of wear or damage, paying particular attention to the mounting bushings and balljoints. If either the bushing or the outer balljoint requires replacement, the arm should be taken to a BMW dealer or other qualified repair shop. A hydraulic press and suitable spacers are required to press the bushings out of position and install the new ones. **Note:** *The center balljoint is integral with the control arm and can't be replaced separately.*

Installation

Note:

New control arm rear mounting and balljoint nuts will be required on installation. On models where the stabilizer bar is connected to the lower arm, a connecting link retaining nut will also be required.

8 Ensure the mounting studs are clean and dry, then install the control arm.

9 Locate the front mounting stud in the crossmember, and engage the balljoint stud with the steering knuckle. Where necessary, also align the stabilizer bar connecting link with the arm hole. If necessary, press the front mounting bushing stud into place using a jack positioned beneath the arm.

10 Install a new nut to the front mounting stud and tighten it to the specified torque.

11 Install a new nut to the balljoint shank, and tighten it to the specified torque.

12 Install the control arm rear mounting bracket bolts, and tighten them to the specified torque.

13 Where necessary, install the washer and new retaining nut to the stabilizer bar connecting link, and tighten it to the specified torque.

14 Install the wheel, then lower the vehicle to the ground and tighten the wheel bolts to the specified torque.

© 2024 Haynes Manuals, Inc. Contact us