

**Haynes**
shows you how

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

13 Door handle and latch components - removal and installation

Warning:

The models covered by this manual are equipped with Supplemental Restraint systems (SRS), more commonly known as airbags. Always disarm the airbag system before working in the vicinity of any airbag system component to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag, which could cause personal injury (see Chapter 12) . Do not use a memory saving device to preserve the ECM's memory when working on or near airbag system components.

Removal

Interior door handle

1 The interior door handle is integral with the door trim, and cannot be replaced separately.

Front door latch assembly

2 Fully open the window then raise it approximately 140 cm (measured at the rear of the glass). Remove the door inner trim panel as described in [Section 12](#) . Carefully peel the plastic sound insulation panel off from the door (carefully cut through the sealant) to gain access to the latch components and continue as described under the relevant sub-heading. If the sound insulation panel is damaged on removal it must be replaced.

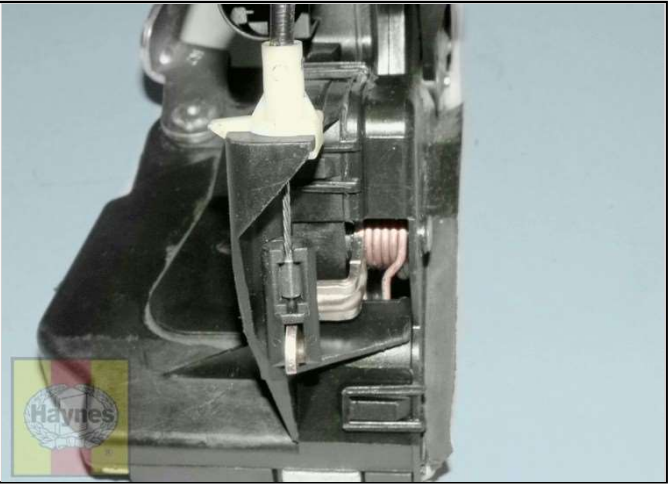
3 Loosen the window clamp retaining bolts (see illustrations 14.5a and 14.5b) , and tape or wedge the window into the fully closed position. Remove the two nuts securing the window rear support bracket, and maneuver it into the lower part of the door. There is no need to remove the guide rail (see illustration 14.8) .

4 If working on the driver's door, remove the lock cylinder as described in Steps 13 to 15.

5 Release the latch assembly wiring retaining clips and disconnect the wiring connector(s).

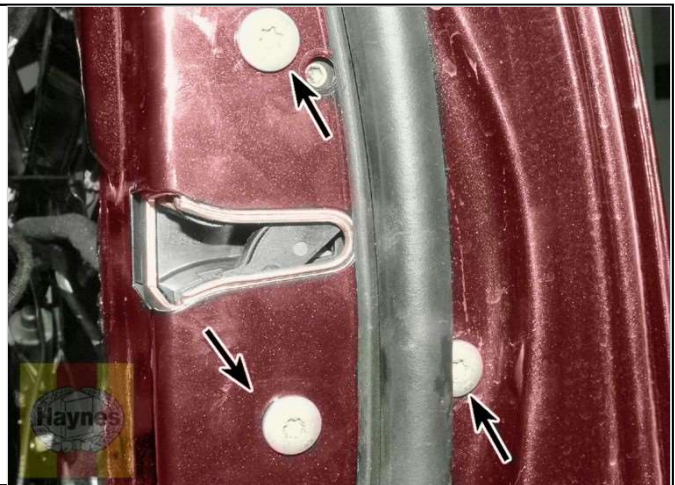
6 On vehicles from September 2000, pry the outer cable from the retaining bracket, and disconnect the inner end from the lever on the latch (see illustration) .

13.6 Pry the outer cable from the bracket and disengage the inner end from the lever



7 Loosen and remove the latch assembly retaining screws then maneuver it behind the rear window support rail, and out from the door complete with the latch button linkage (see illustration) .

13.7 Remove the door latch retaining screws



Front door exterior handle up to September 2000

8 If working on the driver's door, remove the lock cylinder as described in Steps 13 to 15. If working on the passenger's door, pry out the grommet in the door end panel to expose the outer handle rear cover retaining bolt. On Coupe models, gently fold back the upper door rubber trim to expose the grommet. Remove the bolt with an Allen key and remove the rear cover from the outer handle (see illustrations) .

13.8a Remove the grommet to expose the handle rear cover bolt - Sedan and Sport Wagon models . . .

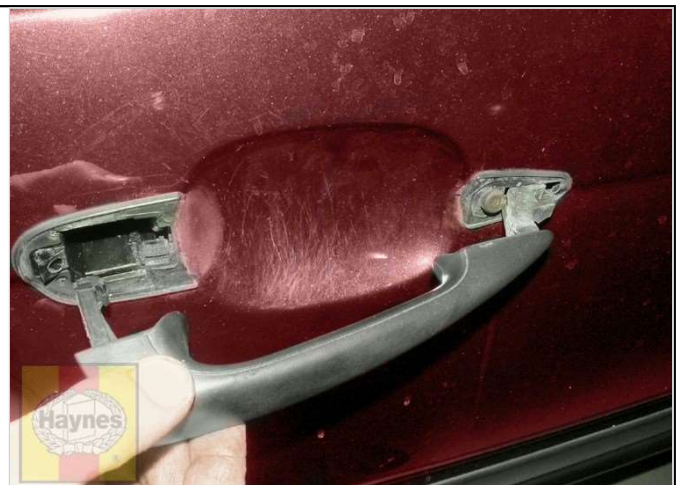


13.8b . . . and Coupe models



9 Pull the outer handle outwards and approximately 2 mm to the rear. The latch mechanism is now engaged. Press the outer handle approximately 4 mm inwards, and slide the handle to the rear and out from the door (see illustration) .

13.9 Slide the outer handle to the rear and out of the door



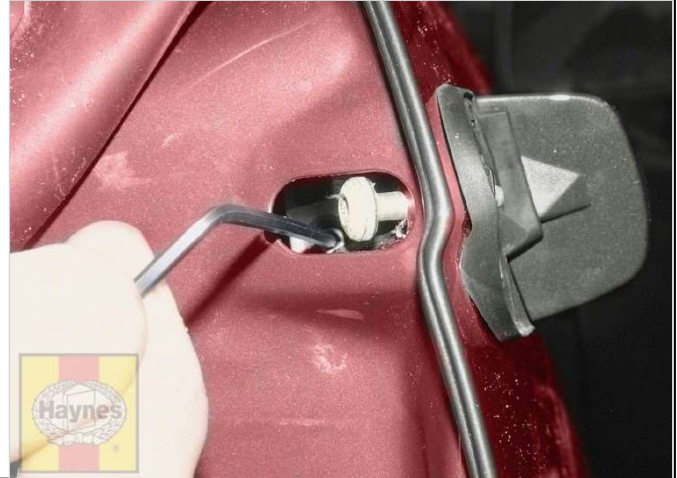
Front door exterior handle from September 2000

10 If working on the driver's door, remove the lock cylinder as described in Steps 13 to 15. If working on the passenger's door, pry out the grommet in the door end panel to expose the outer handle rear cover retaining

bolt. On Coupe models, gently fold back the upper door rubber trim to expose the grommet. Remove the bolt with an Allen key and remove the rear cover from the outer handle.

11 The latch must be placed in the 'installation position'. Pull the handle outwards and wedge it in place with a piece of wood or rag. Working through the aperture in the door end panel, turn the actuator screw counterclockwise until it comes to a stop (see illustration) . Remove the piece of wood or rag (as applicable).

13.11 Turn the actuator screw counterclockwise

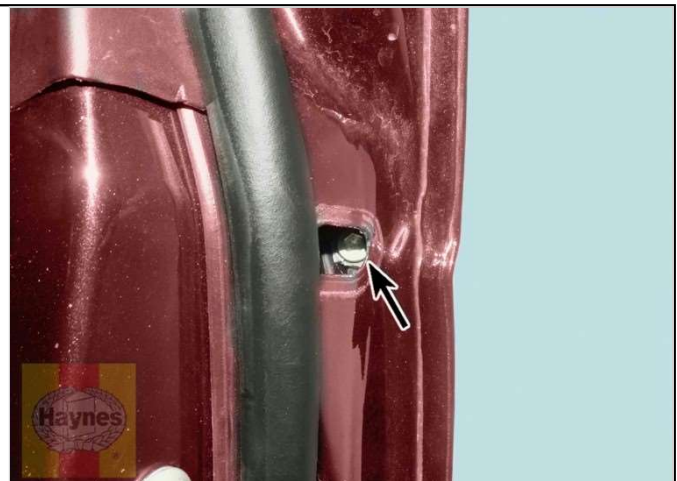


12 Pull the rear of the handle out, and maneuver it from the door.

Front door lock cylinder

13 Pry out the grommet in the door end panel to expose the lock cylinder retaining bolt (see illustration) . On Coupe models, gently fold back the upper door rubber trim to expose the grommet.

13.13 Pry out the grommet, and remove the lock cylinder retaining bolt



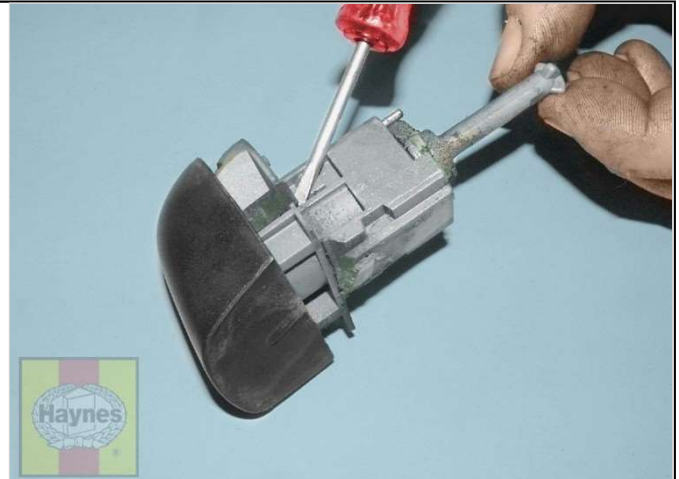
14 Remove the retaining bolt with an Allen key, and pull the lock cylinder from the door (see illustration) .

13.14 Remove the bolt and pull the lock cylinder from the door



15 If required, release the two retaining clips and separate the cylinder from the plastic cover (see illustration) .

13.15 Release the retaining clips and remove the lock cylinder cover

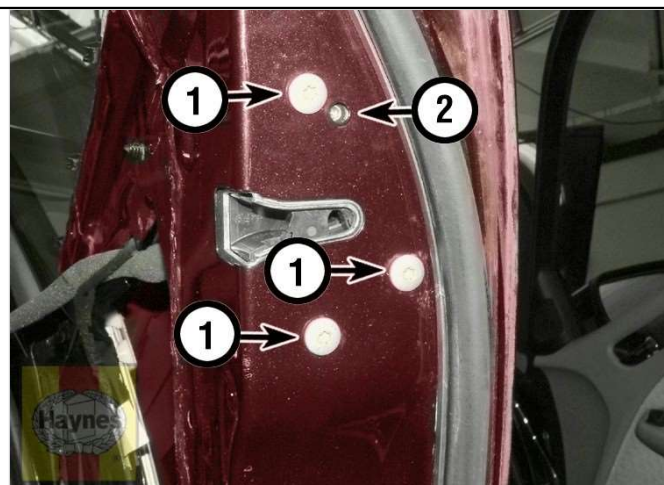


Rear door latch

16 Remove the door inner trim panel and sound insulation material as described in [Section 12](#) . Disconnect the door latch wiring connector(s).

17 Loosen and remove the latch assembly retaining screws, then maneuver the latch from the door, complete with the lock button linkage (see illustration) .

13.17 Rear door latch retaining screws (1) and latch adjusting screw (2)



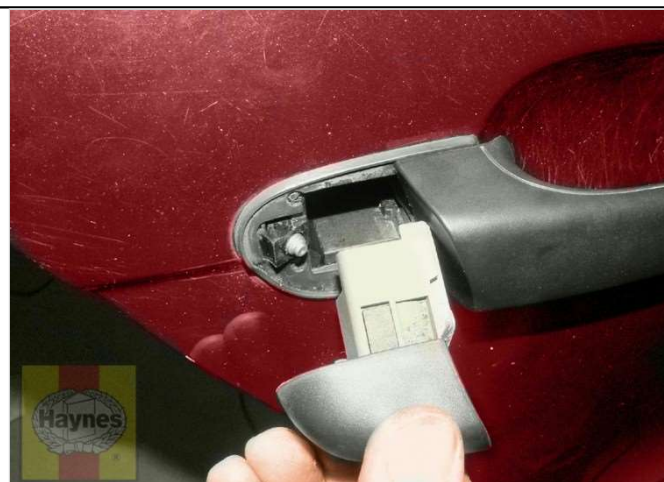
Rear door exterior handle up to September 2000

18 Pry out the grommet in the door end panel to expose the outer handle rear cover retaining bolt. Remove the bolt with an Allen key and remove the rear cover from the outer handle (see illustrations) .

13.18a Pry out the grommet . . .



13.18b . . . remove the screw and remove the rear handle cover



19 Pull the outer handle outwards and approximately 2 mm to the rear. The latch mechanism is now engaged. Press the outer handle approximately 4 mm inwards, and slide the handle to the rear and out from the door (see

illustration 13.9) .

Rear door exterior handle from September 2000

20 Pry out the grommet in the door end panel to expose the outer handle rear cover retaining bolt. Remove the bolt with an Allen key and remove the rear cover from the outer handle.

21 The latch must be placed in the 'installation position'. Pull the handle outwards and wedge it in place with a piece of wood or rag.

22 Working through the aperture in the door end panel, turn the actuator screw counterclockwise until it comes to a stop (see illustration 13.11) . Remove the piece of wood or rag (as applicable).

23 Pull the rear of the handle out, and maneuver it from the door.

Installation

Interior door handle

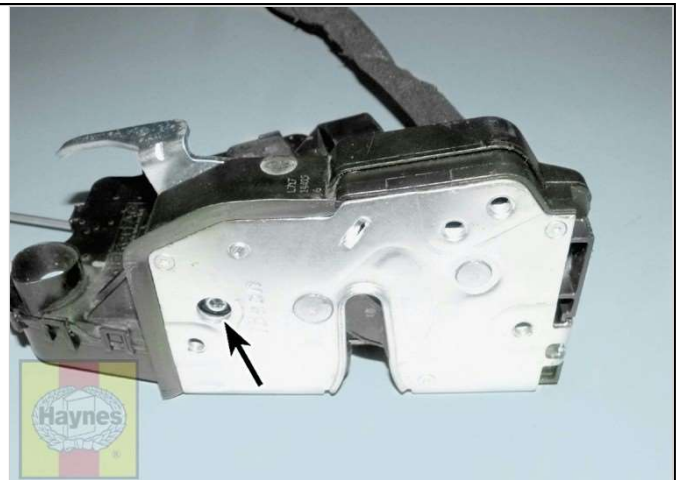
24 The interior door handle is integral with the door trim panel, and cannot be replaced separately.

Front door latch assembly

25 Remove all traces of old locking compound from the latch retaining screws.

26 Prior to installation the latch, loosen the latch adjustment screw. The screw has a left-hand thread on right-hand door latches, and a right-hand thread on left-hand door latches (see illustrations) .

**13.26a Loosen the latch adjustment screw
- Sedan and Sport Wagon models**



13.26b Latch adjustment screw - Coupe models



27 Maneuver the latch assembly into position, ensuring that the lock button linkage engages correctly with the hole in the door. Make sure that the latch lever is inserted between the outer door handle support member and the outer door skin (see illustration) .

13.27 Ensure the latch lever is between the door skin and the support member



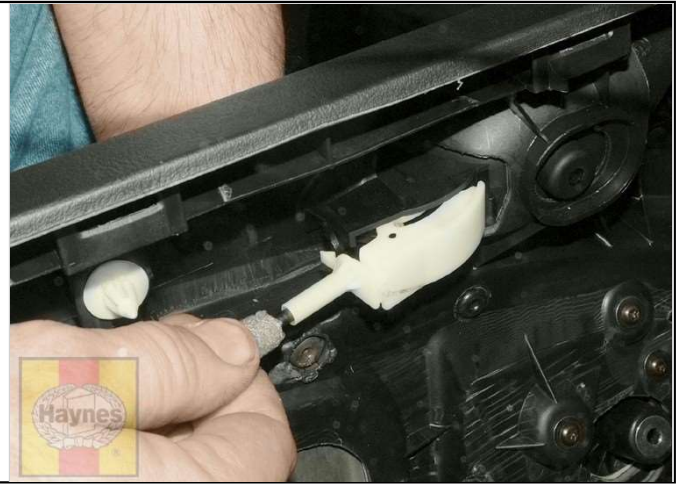
28 Apply fresh locking compound to the latch screws (BMW recommend Loctite 270) then install them and tighten them to the specified torque.

29 Reconnect the wiring connector(s) and secure the wiring in position with the relevant clips.

30 On the driver's door, install the lock cylinder as described in Steps 43 to 45.

31 On all vehicles from September 2000, reconnect the cable to the latch lever, and install the cable outer to the retaining bracket (see illustration) .

13.31 Reconnect the cable to the latch lever



32 Position the window and rear guide rail, install the nuts and tighten them securely. Lower the window and install it to the clamps as described in [Section 14](#) .

33 Do not close the door until the operation of the latch has been set-up and checked as follows:

- A. Pry out the small plastic cap adjacent to the latch upper retaining bolt, to access the latch adjusting screw (see illustrations 13.26a and 13.26b).
- B. On the left-hand door, tighten the adjusting screw in a clockwise direction. Tighten the driver's door latch adjusting screw counterclockwise.
- C. Using a screwdriver 'close' the door latch by pushing in the latch lever (see illustration).
- D. Using the key, unlock the door.
- E. Using the outside handle, 'open' the latch.
- F. If the latch fails to open, loosen the adjusting screw, then tighten it again. Recheck the latch operation.
- G. Do not close the door until you are completely satisfied that the latch is working correctly. If the door is accidentally closed, it may not be possible to open the door without cutting the door outer skin.
- H. Install the plastic sealing cap to the door end panel.

13.33 Use a screwdriver to 'close' the door latch



34 Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#) .

Front door exterior handle up to September 2000

35 Ensure that the latch lever is positioned correctly (see illustration 13.27) . If not, insert a screwdriver through the aperture in the door end panel, and move the lever outwards.

36 Insert the front of the handle into the corresponding hole in the door skin, followed by the rear of the handle. Hold the handle gently against the door and push it forward until it 'clicks' into place.

37 If installing the driver's door handle, install the lock cylinder as described in Steps 43 to 45. If installing the passenger's handle, fit the outer handle rear cover into place, and tighten the retaining bolt securely. Install the grommet to the door end panel.

38 Do not close the door until the operation of the latch has been set-up and checked as described in Step 33. Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#) .

Front door exterior handle from September 2000

39 Prior to installation the handle, the door latch must be in the 'installation position'. The distance between the latch actuator mounting and the outer door plate must not exceed 8 mm (see illustration) . If the distance is greater, pull the mounting outwards with a finger, until the measurement is correct.

13.39 The distance between the mounting and the door plate must not exceed 8 mm



40 Insert the front edge of the handle into the corresponding hole in the door, and then push the rear of the handle into place. Ensure the seal between the handle and door skin is not distorted. Turn the latch actuator screw fully clockwise to release the handle lock from the installation position.

41 If installing the driver's door handle, install the lock cylinder as described in Steps 43 to 45. If installing the passenger's handle, fit the outer handle rear cover into place, and tighten the retaining bolt securely. Install the grommet to the door end panel.

42 Do not close the door until the operation of the latch has been set-up and checked as described in Step 33. Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#) .

Front door lock cylinder

43 If separated, clip the plastic cover back onto the cylinder.

44 Lubricate the outside of the lock cylinder with a suitable grease.

45 Install the lock cylinder into the door latch, and tighten the retaining screw securely. Install the plastic grommet into the door end panel. Before closing the door, check the latch operation as described in Step 33.

Rear door latch

46 Prior to installation, remove all traces of old locking compound from the latch retaining screws.

47 Prior to installing the latch, loosen the latch adjustment screw. The screw has a left-hand thread on right-hand door latches, and a right-hand thread on left-hand door latches (see illustration) .

13.47 Loosen the latch adjustment screw



48 Maneuver the latch assembly into position, ensuring that the lock button linkage engages correctly with the hole in the door. Make sure that the latch lever is inserted between the outer door handle support member, and the outer door skin.

49 Apply fresh locking compound to the latch screws (BMW recommend Loctite 270) then install them and tighten them to the specified torque. Reconnect the wiring connector(s) and secure the wiring in position with the relevant clips.

50 On all vehicles from September 2000, reconnect the cable to the latch lever, and install the cable outer to the retaining bracket.

51 Check the operation of the latch assembly as described in Step 33.

52 Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#) .

Rear door exterior handle up to September 2000

53 Ensure that the latch lever is positioned correctly (see illustration) . If not, insert a screwdriver through the

aperture at the rear of the handle, and move the lever outwards.

13.53 Ensure the latch lever is pulled to the outside of the door



54 Insert the front of the handle into the corresponding hole in the door skin, followed by the rear of the handle. Hold the handle gently against the door and push it forward until it 'clicks' into place.

55 Install the outer handle rear cover into place, and tighten the retaining bolt securely. Install the grommet to the door end panel.

56 Do not close the door until the operation of the latch has been set-up and checked as described in Step 33.

57 Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#).

Rear door exterior handle from September 2000

58 Prior to installation the handle, the door latch must be in the 'installation position'. The distance between the latch actuator mounting and the outer door plate must not exceed 8 mm (see illustration 13.39). If the distance is greater, pull the mounting outwards with a finger, until the measurement is correct.

59 Insert the front edge of the handle into the corresponding hole in the door, and then push the rear of the handle into place. Ensure the seal between the handle and door skin is not distorted.

60 Install the outer handle rear cover into place, and tighten the retaining bolt securely. Install the grommet to the door end panel.

61 Do not close the door until the operation of the latch has been set-up and checked as described in Step 33.

62 Reseal the plastic sound insulation panel to the door. Install the trim panel as described in [Section 12](#).