



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

## 29 Dash panel assembly - removal and installation

### Warning:

On models equipped with airbags, always disable the airbag system before working in the vicinity of the impact sensors, steering column or instrument panel to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag, which could cause personal injury (see Chapter 12) .

## 3-Series

### Removal

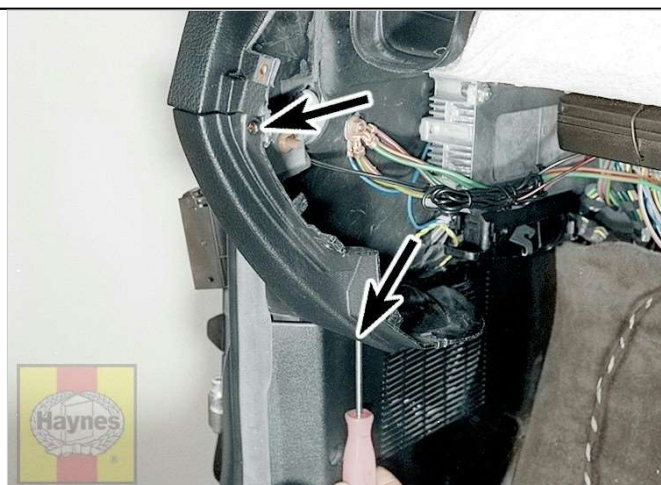
- 1 Disconnect the battery negative terminal. **Caution:** *If the radio in your vehicle is equipped with an anti-theft system, make sure you have the correct activation code before disconnecting the battery.*
- 2 Remove the center console (see [Section 28](#) ).
- 3 Remove the steering column (see [Chapter 10](#) ).
- 4 Remove the instrument panel assembly, cigarette lighter and radio/cassette unit (see [Chapter 12](#) ).
- 5 On models equipped with a passenger side airbag, remove the airbag unit (see [Chapter 12](#) ). Unscrew the airbag mounting frame retaining bolts and remove the frame from the dash.
- 6 Carefully unclip the left and right-hand windshield pillar trim panels and remove them (see illustration) .

**29.6 Unclip the windshield pillar trim panels and remove them from the vehicle**



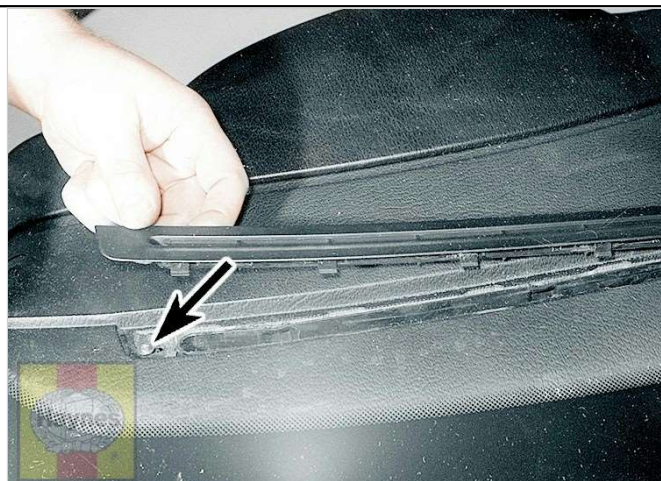
7 Loosen and remove the retaining screws and remove the small section of trim from the passenger end of the dash (see illustration) .

**29.7 Unscrew the retaining screws and remove the trim panel from the passenger end of the dash**



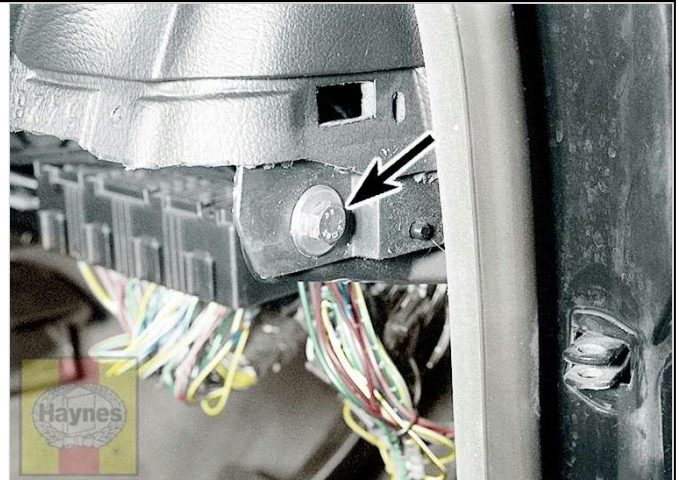
8 Unclip the trim covers from around the left and right-hand windshield vents and remove the screws securing the vents to the dash (see illustration) .

**29.8 Unclip the windshield vents from the top of the dash to gain access to the vent screws (arrow)**



9 Loosen and remove the retaining bolts from the left and right-hand ends of the dash and recover the spacers (see illustration) .

### 29.9 Dash retaining bolt (arrow)



10 Carefully ease the dash assembly away from the firewall. As it is withdrawn, release the wiring harness from its retaining clips on the rear of the dash, while noting its correct routing. **Note:** *Label each wiring connector as it is disconnected from its relevant component. The labels will prove useful on installation, when routing the wiring and feeding the wiring through the dash apertures. Remove the dash assembly from the vehicle.*

## Installation

11 Installation is a reversal of the removal procedure, noting the following points:

- A. Maneuver the dash into position and, using the labels stuck on during removal, ensure that the wiring is correctly routed and securely retained by its dash clips.
- B. Clip the dash back into position, making sure all the wiring connectors are feed through their respective apertures, then install all the dash fasteners, and tighten them securely.
- C. On completion, reconnect the battery and check that all the electrical components and switches function correctly.

## Z3 models

12 On these models, it's not necessary to remove the dash panel assembly in order to perform any procedure included in this manual.