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

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## 8 Hood - removal, installation and adjustment

### 3-Series models

#### Removal

**Note:**

The hood can be raised to the near-vertical position to enable improved access when carrying out work in the engine compartment. To fully raise the hood, proceed as follows . **Caution:** Do not operate the windshield wipers with the hood in the fully open position, as the wiper blades will damage the hood.

- A. On sedan models, either release the safety catch(es), or remove the safety bolt(s) (as applicable) from the hood strut upper mounting brackets. Lift the hood, and pivot the mounting bracket hinges down over the dead-center point to lock the hood in the fully open (near vertical) position. Check that the hood is locked securely in position.
- B. On coupe models, have an assistant hold the hood in the open position, then release the securing catches and remove the hood struts. Unbolt the hood hinge ground strap(s), then remove the safety bolts from the hood hinges. Lift the hood and pull the hinge levers forwards to raise the hood to the fully open (near vertical) position. Support the hood in this position using two strong metal rods shaped to engage in the slots provided in the hood and body panels.

- 1 Open the hood and have an assistant support it. Using a pencil or felt tip pen, mark the outline of each hood hinge relative to the hood, to use as a guide on installation.
- 2 Disconnect the hose from the washer jets. On models with heated jets also disconnect the wiring connectors and free the wiring from the hood.
- 3 With the aid of an assistant, support the hood in the open position then remove the retaining clips and detach the support struts from the hood.
- 4 Loosen and remove the left and right-hand hinge to hood rear bolts and loosen the front bolts. Slide the hood forwards to disengage it from the hinges and remove it from the vehicle. Recover any shims which are fitted between the hinge and hood.
- 5 Inspect the hood hinges for signs of wear and free play at the pivots, and if necessary replace. Each hinge is secured to the body by two bolts. Mark the position of the hinge on the body then undo the retaining bolts and

remove it from the vehicle. On installation, align the new hinge with the marks and securely tighten the retaining bolts.

## Installation and adjustment

6 Install the shims (if equipped) to the hinge and, with the aid of an assistant, engage the hood with the hinges. Install the rear bolts and tighten them by hand only. Align the hinges with the marks made on removal, then tighten the retaining bolts securely.

7 Close the hood, and check for alignment with the adjacent panels. If necessary, loosen the hinge bolts and re-align the hood to suit. Once the hood is correctly aligned, securely tighten the hinge bolts. Once the hood is correctly aligned, check that the hood fastens and releases satisfactorily.

## Z3 models

8 Raise the hood. **Note:** The hood can be raised to a near-vertical position to facilitate access when servicing something in the engine compartment. To fully raise the hood, proceed as follows

- A. Remove the clip from each support piston ball socket (see illustration).
- B. Have an assistant support the hood while you use a wood stick to pry the left and right hood supports off their sockets (see illustration).
- C. Raise the hood all the way and press the supports onto the service position (upper) sockets (see illustration).

**8.8a To put the hood in its service position, remove the clip from each support piston ball socket . . .**



**8.8b . . . have an assistant support the hood while you pry the left and right hood supports off their sockets . . .**



**8.8c . . . raise the hood all the way and press the supports onto the service position (upper) sockets**



**9 Detach the washer nozzles from the washer.**

**10 Have an assistant help support the hood. Caution:** *Do not try to remove the hood by yourself. It's too heavy.*

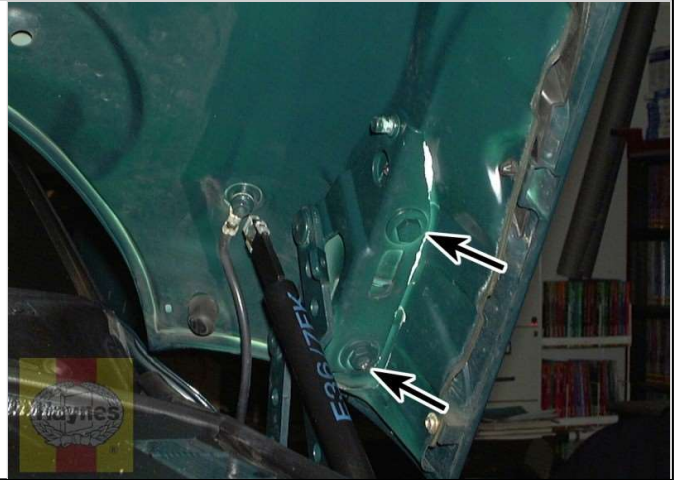
**11 Disconnect the hood support struts from the hood (see illustration) .**

**8.11 Pry off the retainer clips and disconnect the hood support struts from the hood**



**12** Mark the hood hinges (see illustration) , then remove the hood hinge bolts. Remove the hood. **Caution:** Do *NOT* place the hood on the roof. It's too heavy.

**8.12 Mark the hood hinges, then remove the hood hinge bolts (arrows)**



**13** Installation is the reverse of removal. Do not fully tighten the hinge bolts yet.

**14** After installation, make sure that the striker is correctly aligned with the lock. If it isn't, loosen the striker retaining bolts, move the striker slightly and tighten the bolts.

**15** Once the striker and lock are correctly aligned, close the hood and make sure that the gap between the hood and the bumper cover, fenders and A-pillar is even and about 5 mm in width.

**16** Finally, make sure that the hood is resting on the detent buffers. One way to verify this is to apply grease to the tops of the buffers, close the hood, open it and note whether the buffers have smeared grease onto the underside of the hood. If they haven't, back both buffers out an equal amount and recheck. Continue doing this until the buffers contact the hood.

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