



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

## 11 Door - removal, installation and adjustment

### Warning:

If the vehicle is equipped with side-impact airbags, be sure to disable the airbag system before beginning this procedure (see Chapter 12 ).

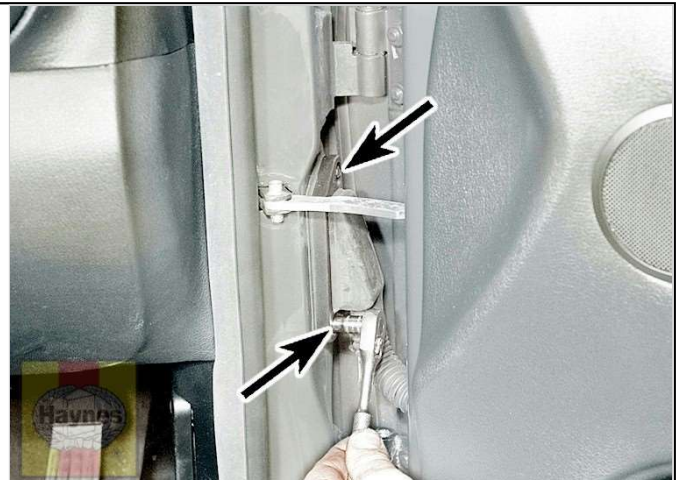
### 3-Series models

#### 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 Open up the door and loosen and remove the bolts securing the wiring connector block to the pillar. Withdraw the connector block, then release the securing clip by pulling it upwards and disconnect the wiring (see illustrations) .

**11.2a Remove the retaining screws (arrows) . . .**



**11.2b . . . then lift up the securing clip (arrow) and disconnect the door wiring connector**



**3 Slide off the retaining clip and withdraw the pivot pin securing the check link to the pillar. Where the check link is secured in position with a roll pin, tap the pin out of position with a hammer and punch. Recover the rubber from the door pillar (see illustration) .**

**11.3 Where the check link is secured in position with a roll pin, tap it out using a hammer and punch**



**4 Unscrew the hinge pivot bolts from both the upper and lower door hinges (see illustration) .**

**11.4 Unscrew the hinge pivot bolts then lift the door upwards and away from the vehicle**



5 With the aid of an assistant, lift the door upwards and away from the vehicle.

6 Examine the hinges for signs of wear or damage. If replacement is necessary, mark the position of the hinge(s) then unscrew the retaining bolts and remove them from the vehicle. Recover any shims which are fitted between the hinge and door/pillar. Install the new hinge(s), complete with shims (where fitted), align with the marks made before removal and lightly tighten the retaining bolts.

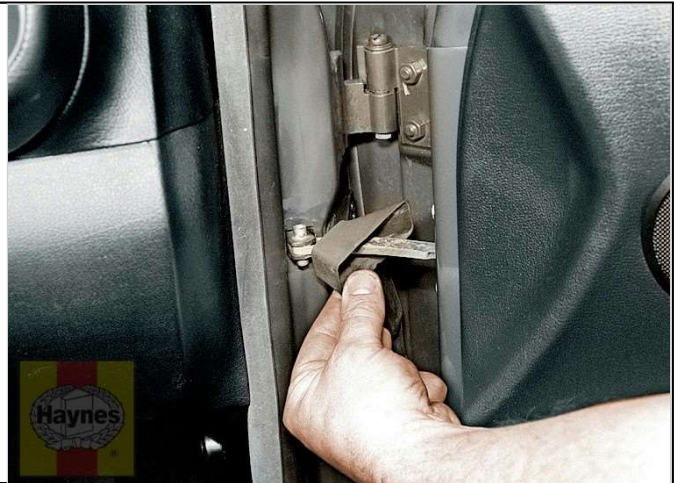
## Installation

7 Ensure the hinge pins are clean and apply a smear of fresh multi-purpose to them.

8 Maneuver the door into position and engage it with the hinges.

9 Slide the rubber onto the check link then align the link with its bracket and install the pivot pin and retaining clip/roll pin (as applicable). Seat the rubber on the door pillar (see illustration) .

**11.9 Secure the check link in position and seat the rubber on the door pillar**



10 Reconnect the door wiring connector and fasten the securing clip. Seat the connector block in the pillar and securely tighten its retaining bolts.

11 Check the door alignment and, if necessary, adjust then reconnect the battery negative terminal. If the paint work around the hinges has been damaged, paint the affected area with a suitable touch-up brush to prevent corrosion.

## Adjustment

12 Close the door and check the door alignment with surrounding body panels. If necessary, slight adjustment of the door position can be made by loosening the hinge retaining bolts and repositioning the hinge/door as necessary. Once the door is correctly positioned, securely tighten the hinge bolts. If the paint work around the hinges has been damaged, paint the affected area with a suitable touch-up brush to prevent corrosion.

## Z3 models

**13** Open the door and put a floor jack under the door to support it. Put a rubber pad or some other suitably soft material between the jack head and the lower door edge to protect the finish. Raise the jack just enough to support the door.

**14** Peel back the rubber door seal from the door check. Remove the door check retainer clip and remove the pin by tapping it out from the lower end (see illustration 11.3) .

**15** Unscrew the upper and lower door hinge pins (see illustration 11.4) so that they're loose, but don't remove them yet.

**16** Unplug the electrical connector for the door harness.

**17** With an assistant supporting the door, remove the hinge pins and remove the door by lifting it off the hinges.

**18** If you're replacing the door half of either hinge, scribe the position of the hinge on the door, then unbolt and remove the hinge. Using your scribe marks, position the new hinge(s), install the hinge bolts and tighten them securely. (The body side of each hinge is welded to the body and should only be replaced by a professional body shop.)

**19** Installation is the reverse of removal. The door need not be aligned as long as the position of the hinges has not been moved in relation to the door.