

**Haynes**
shows you how

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

5 Automatic transmission fluid level check

03:27

Caution:

This video is for familiarization purposes only. Read below for specific information on your vehicle.

Note:

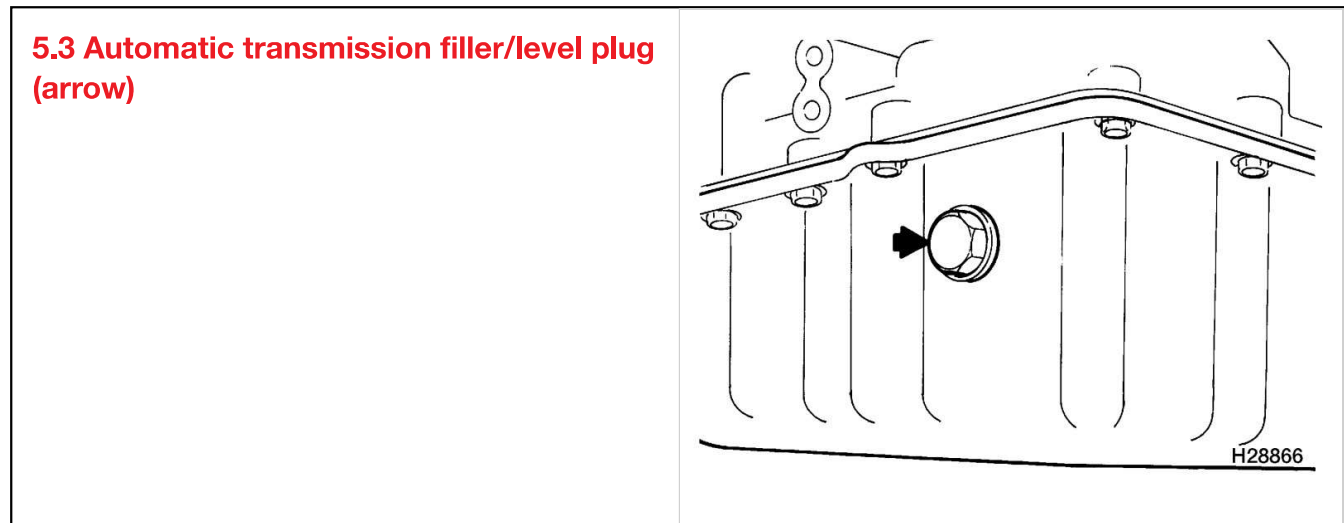
A new filler/level plug sealing ring will be required.

1 The fluid level is checked by removing the filler/level plug from the transmission fluid pan. If desired, jack up the vehicle and support on jack stands to improve access, but make sure that the vehicle is level (all four wheels should be off the ground).

2 The fluid level should only be checked when the transmission is neither cold nor at normal operating temperature. Fluid temperature should be between 86 and 130-degrees F (the automatic transmission fluid pan will be warm to the touch, but not hot). Starting the vehicle when cold, allowing it to run for a few minutes and

shifting the transmission into all of its gear ranges should bring the fluid up to the proper temperature for checking.

3 Turn off the engine. Working under the vehicle, place a container under the transmission fluid pan, then unscrew the filler/level plug (see illustration) . Recover the sealing ring.



4 Restart the engine and shift the transmission into Neutral; the fluid level should be up to the lower edge of the filler/level plug hole.

5 If necessary, top-up the fluid until it overflows from the plug hole.

6 The condition of the fluid should also be checked along with the level. If the fluid is black or a dark reddish-brown color, or if it smells burned, it should also be replaced (see [Section 25](#)).

7 Install the filler/level plug, using a new sealing ring, and tighten it to the specified torque.

8 Stop the engine and, if raised, lower the vehicle to the ground.