



Haynes
shows you how

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

5 Front lower control arm - removal, overhaul and installation

Note:

New lower control arm front balljoint nuts be required on installation.

Removal

- 1 Chock the rear wheels, firmly apply the parking brake, then raise the front of the vehicle and support on jackstands. Remove the appropriate front wheel.
- 2 Remove the screws and remove the engine splash shield.
- 3 Unscrew the bolts and remove the reinforcement cross brace, or plate from under the vehicle (see [Chapter 2A](#)).
- 4 On models installed with suspension ride height sensors, unscrew the retaining nut and remove the sensor link bracket from the lower arm.
- 5 Unscrew the lower arm balljoint nut, and release the arm from the steering knuckle using a universal balljoint separator (see illustrations) .

5.5a Hold the balljoint with an Allen key while removing the nut

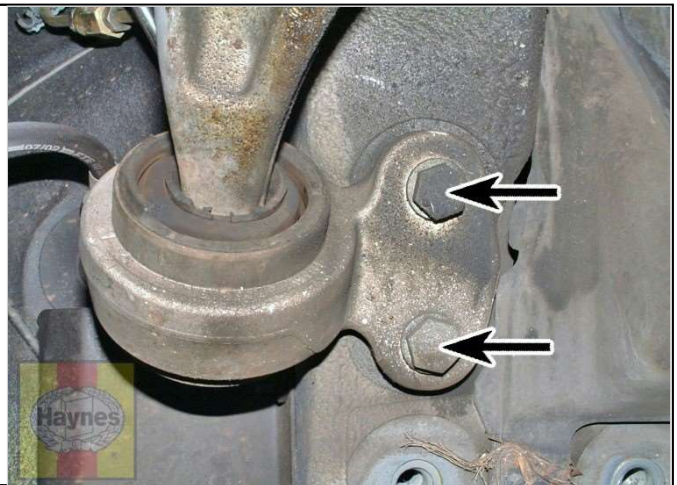


5.5b Use a balljoint separator to release the lower arm



6 Loosen and remove the two bolts securing the lower arm rear mounting bracket from the chassis (see illustration) .

5.6 Unscrew the two lower arm-to-chassis bolts



7 Unscrew the nut from the arm's inner balljoint, and remove the lower arm assembly from underneath the car. Note that the balljoint may be a tight install in the crossmember, and may need to be tapped out of position.

Overhaul

8 Thoroughly clean the lower arm and the area around the arm mountings, removing all traces of dirt and underseal if necessary, then check carefully for cracks, distortion or any other signs of wear or damage, paying particular attention to the mounting bushings and balljoint. If either the bushing or the balljoint requires replacement, the lower arm should be taken to a BMW dealer or suitably-equipped garage. A hydraulic press and suitable spacers are required to press the bushings out of position and install the new ones.

Installation

9 Ensure the balljoint studs and mounting holes are clean and dry, then place the lower arm in position.

10 Locate the inner mounting stud in the crossmember, and engage the balljoint stud with the steering knuckle. If necessary, press the inner balljoint stud into position by using a jack beneath the arm.

11 Install a new nut to the inner balljoint stud and tighten it to the specified torque.

12 Install a new nut to the outer balljoint stud, and tighten it to the specified torque setting.

13 Reinstall the lower arm rear mounting bracket bolts and tighten them to the specified torque setting.

14 On models equipped with suspension ride height sensors, reinstall the sensor link bracket to the lower arm and tighten the retaining nut securely.

15 Reinstall the reinforcement cross brace or plate to the underside of the vehicle and tighten the bolts to the specified torque.

16 Reinstall the engine splash shield.

17 Reinstall the wheel, then lower the car to the ground and tighten the wheel bolts to the specified torque.