



Haynes
shows you how

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

7 Exterior light units - removal and installation

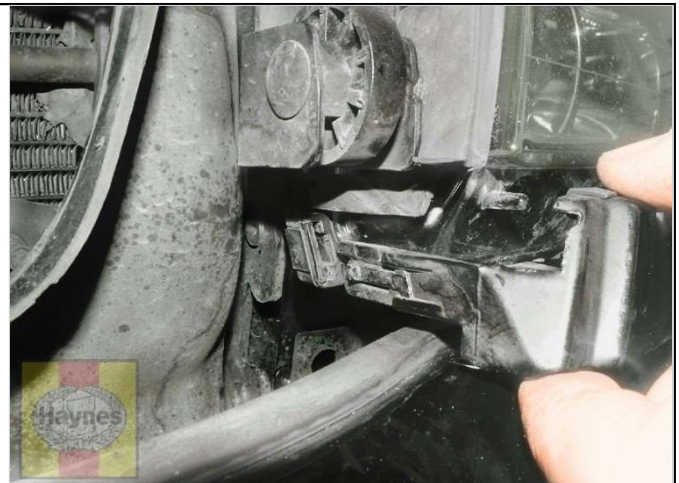
Headlight

1 Remove the relevant direction indicator light (see Step 12).

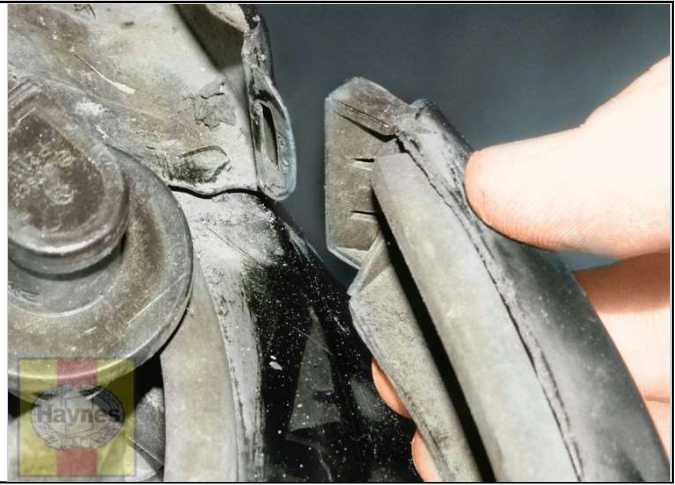
2 Where applicable, carefully lever out the headlight washer jet from the trim below the headlamp, and pull it out to its stop. With a sharp tug, separate the jet from the washer tube.

3 Unclip the inboard end of the headlight trim, press the trim down slightly to release the center retaining clips, then disengage the outboard end from the front fender (see illustrations) . At this point, if required, the headlight lens can be removed by releasing the retaining clips around its circumference.

7.3a Unclip the inboard end . . .



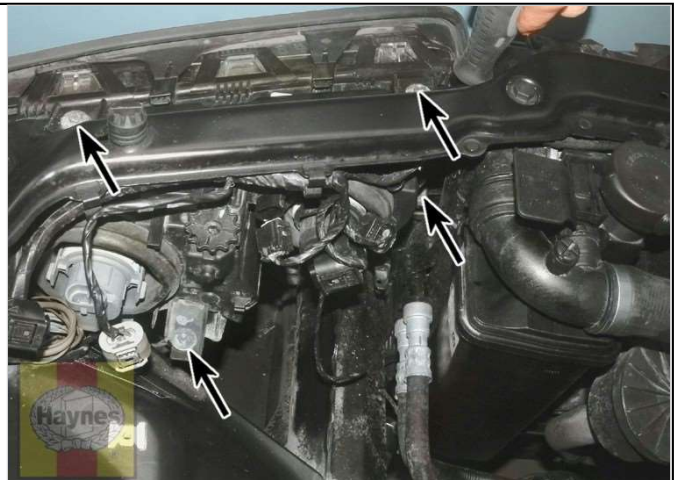
7.3b . . . and outboard end of the headlight trim



4 Note their installed positions, and disconnect all wiring connectors from the rear of the headlight.

5 Each headlight is retained by four screws - two hexagon head, and two Torx screws. Loosen and remove the headlight retaining screws (see illustration) . **Note:** *As the screws are removed, do not allow the plastic retaining clips to rotate. If necessary retain the clips with a suitable open-ended wrench.*

7.5 Remove the headlight retaining screws



6 Remove the headlight unit from the vehicle.

7 Installation is a direct reverse of the removal procedure. Lightly tighten the retaining screws and check the alignment of the headlight with the bumper and hood. Once the light unit is correctly positioned, securely tighten the retaining screws and check the headlight beam alignment using the information given in [Section 8](#) .

Xenon headlight control unit

8 Remove the relevant headlight as described earlier in this Section.

9 Remove the two retaining screws, slide the control unit to the rear of the headlight and remove it (see illustration 5.10) .

10 If required, the control unit can be separated from the mounting bracket by removing the two securing screws.

11 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Front direction indicator light

12 Insert a screwdriver down through the hole in the inner fender, and release the indicator light retaining clip (see illustrations 5.19a and 5.19b) . On Coupe models, the light is secured by a single screw (see illustration 5.19c) . Slide the light forward and disconnect the wiring connector from the light unit.

13 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure, making sure the light retaining clip engages correctly or the screw is securely tightened.

Front indicator side marker

14 Using finger pressure, push the side repeater lens gently forwards. Pull out the rear edge of the lens and withdraw it from the fender (see illustration 5.23) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

15 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure.

Front fog light

Sedan and Sport Wagon models

16 Using a wooden or plastic tool, carefully lever the fog light from the bumper (see illustration 5.26) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

17 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Coupe models

18 Lever out the catches, and remove the bumper trim from around the fog lights (see illustration 5.31) .

19 Remove the screws and remove the fog light. Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

20 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Rear light cluster

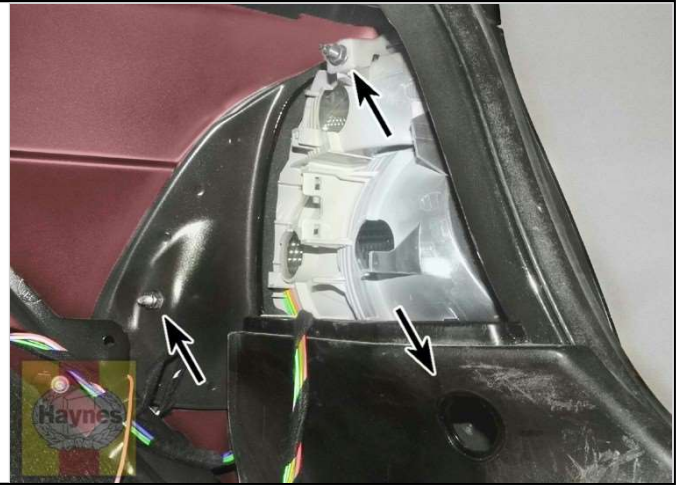
Body-mounted lights - Sedan/Coupe

21 From inside the vehicle luggage compartment, release the retaining clip (models up to September 2001) or remove the faster (models from October 2001) and remove the bulb holder from the rear of the light cluster (see illustrations 5.35a and 5.35b) .

22 Release the retaining clips and partially detach the luggage compartment side trim panel around the area of the light cluster (see [Chapter 11, Section 27](#), if necessary).

23 Remove the three retaining nuts and remove the cluster from the fender (see illustration) .

7.23 The rear light is secured by three nuts



24 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Body-mounted lights - Sport Wagon

25 Fold back the flap in the luggage compartment to expose the bulb holder. To improve access to the left-hand light, remove the warning triangle from its location.

26 Release the retaining clip, and lift the bulb-holder assembly slightly (see illustration 5.39) .

27 Remove the three retaining nuts, and remove the light cluster (see illustration) .

7.27 Remove the three nuts and remove the light unit



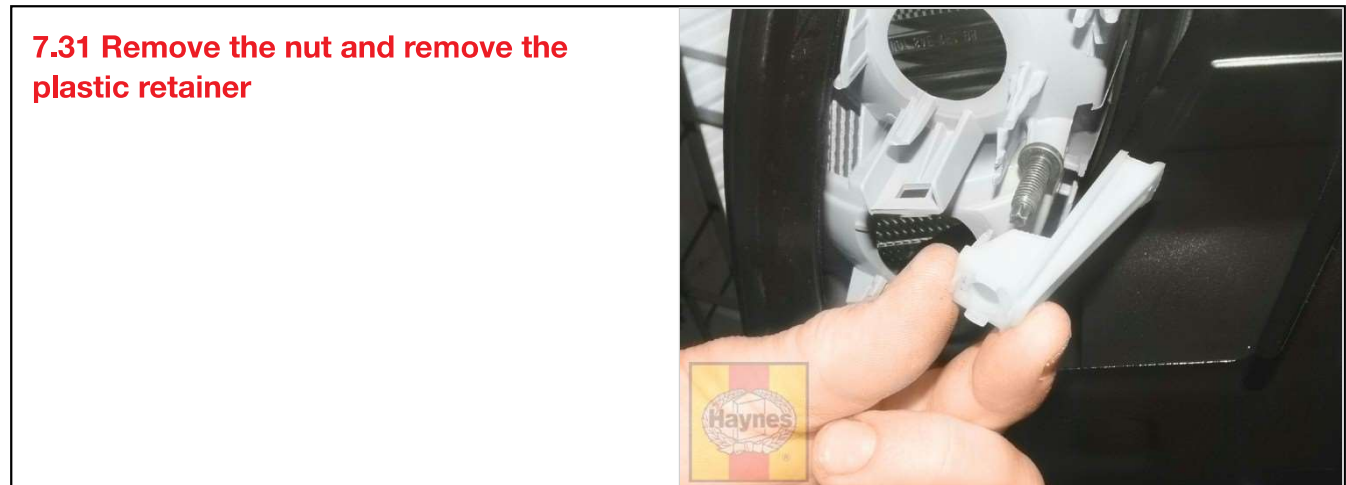
28 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Trunk lid-mounted lights - Sedan/Coupe

29 Pry out the two clips and partially release the trunk lid trim panel behind the light cluster (see illustration 5.42) .

30 Release the retaining clip, and remove the bulb holder from the trunk lid (see illustration 5.43) .

31 Remove the securing nut, remove the plastic retainer, and remove the light cluster (see illustration) . Note that the edge of the light unit wraps around the edge of the trunk lid.



32 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Tailgate-mounted lights - Sport Wagon

33 Carefully pry luggage compartment light unit from the tailgate trim panel. Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is removed.

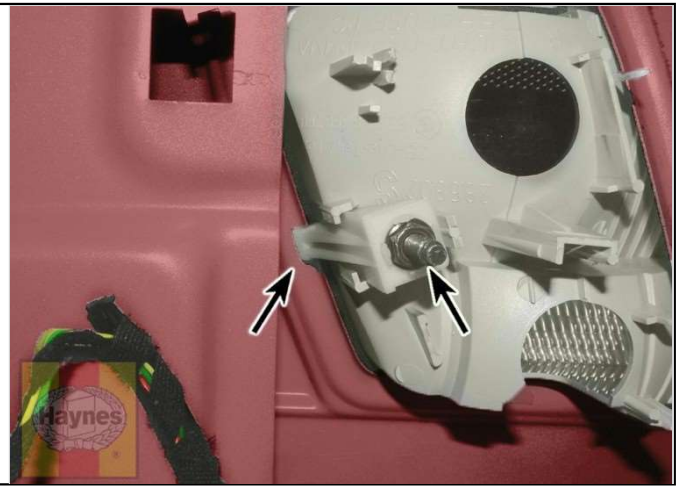
34 Pry up the small piece of trim at the top of the panel (see illustration 5.47) .

35 Remove the two retaining screws at the upper edge, and carefully release the trim panel retaining clips (see illustration 5.48) . Lift the panel from place.

36 Disconnect the rear light cluster wiring connector, release the retaining clip and remove the bulb holder (see illustration 5.49) .

37 Loosen the securing nut, press the lock lever in the direction of the light cluster and remove it (see illustration) .

7.37 Remove the nut and press the lever towards the light cluster



38 Installation is the reverse of removal.

License plate light

39 Using a small screwdriver, carefully pry out the light lens, and remove it from the trunk lid/tailgate (see illustration 5.55) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the unit is withdrawn.

40 Installation is the reverse of removal.

Headlight range control motors

41 Remove the headlight lens as described in Steps 1 to 3 earlier in this Section.

42 Remove both bulb holders from the rear of the headlight as described in [Section 5](#) .

43 Carefully pull the headlight “frame” towards the front (see illustration) .

7.43 Pull the “frame” from the headlight



44 Remove the protective rubber seals around the bulb holders from the rear of the unit.

45 Mark its original position and counting the number of rotations, turn the central adjuster wheel clockwise (maybe 20 to 30 rotations) until the top of the insert is released from the guide slot, then the outer adjuster piece can be released from the insert. Carefully disengage the range control motor rod from the socket on the rear of the insert. Maneuver the insert from the headlight.

46 Remove the retaining screws, disconnect the wiring connector, and remove the range control motor (see illustration) .

7.46 The headlight range control motor is retained by two screws

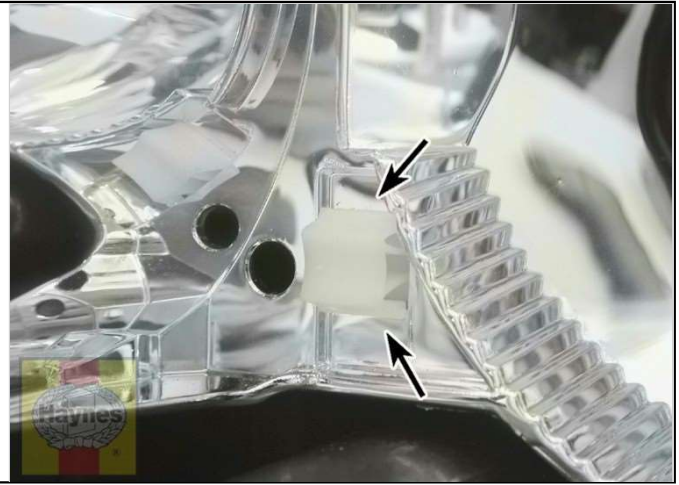


47 When installing the headlight insert, release the retaining clips and remove the black plastic trim from the center of the headlight insert, then squeeze together the retaining lugs, and remove the control motor socket from the insert (see illustrations) . Do not install the black plastic trim yet.

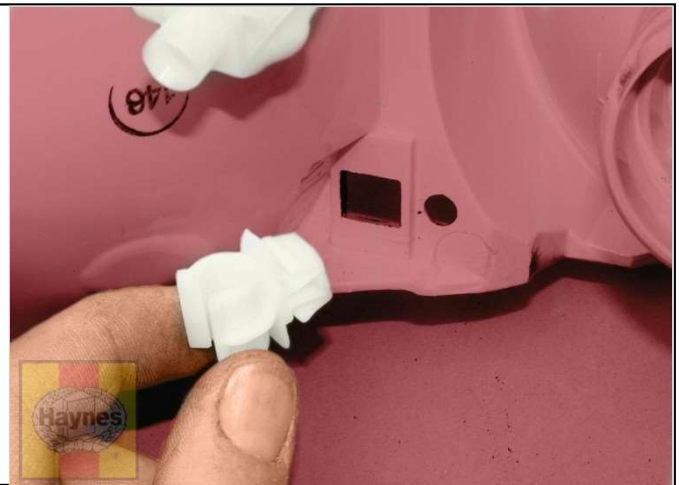
7.47a Remove the black plastic trim . . .



7.47b . . . then squeeze together the retaining clips . . .

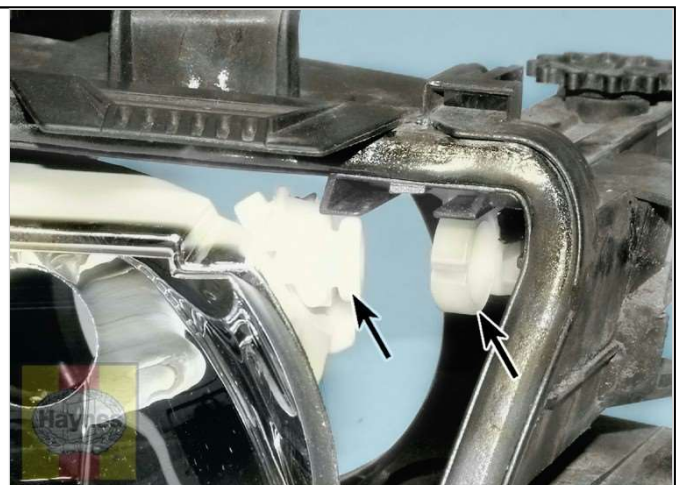


7.47c . . . and remove the control motor socket from the insert



48 Locate the socket on the control motor rod, clip the outer adjuster piece onto the insert, and aligning the central adjusting piece with the corresponding slot in the headlamp shell, rotate the central adjusting wheel back to its original position. Push the insert onto the range control motor socket until its clips into place - guide the socket into place from the front of the insert (see illustration) . Install the black plastic trim.

7.48 Clip the outer adjuster piece onto the insert



49 When completed, have the headlight beam aim checked, and if necessary adjusted.

