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shows you how

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

## 27 Dash trim panels - removal and installation

### Warning:

On models equipped with airbags, always disable the airbag system before working in the vicinity of the impact sensors, steering column or instrument panel to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag, which could cause personal injury (see Chapter 12) .

### General information

- 1 The dash trim panels are secured using either screws or various types of trim fasteners, usually studs or clips.
- 2 Check that there are no other panels overlapping the one to be removed; usually there is a sequence that has to be followed that will become obvious on close inspection.
- 3 Remove all obvious fasteners, such as screws. If the panel will not come free, it is held by hidden clips or fasteners. These are usually situated around the edge of the panel and can be pried up to release them; note, however that they can break quite easily so replacements should be available. The best way of releasing such clips without the correct type of tool is to use a large flat-bladed screwdriver. Note in many cases that the adjacent sealing strip must be pried back to release a panel.
- 4 When removing a panel, never use excessive force or the panel may be damaged; always check carefully that all fasteners have been removed or released before attempting to withdraw a panel.
- 5 Installation is the reverse of the removal procedure; secure the fasteners by pressing them firmly into place and ensure that all disturbed components are correctly secured to prevent rattles.

### Glovebox

#### 3-Series models

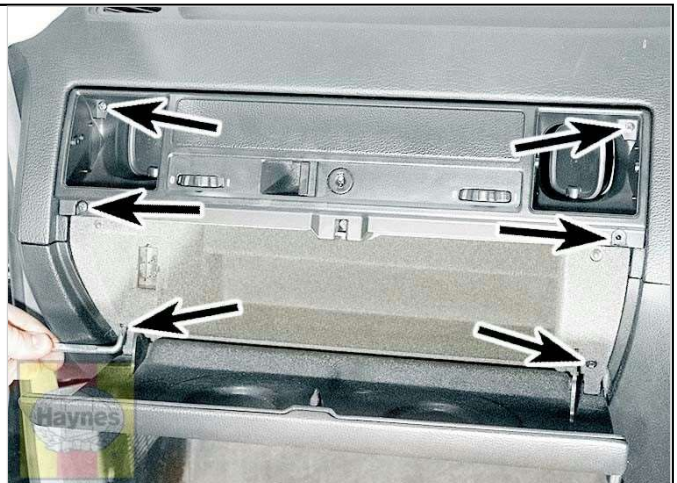
- 6 Where the glovebox heater vents are not molded into the glovebox, unclip and remove them (see illustration) .

**27.6 Where the heater vents are not molded into the glovebox, carefully unclip and remove them**



7 Open up the glovebox lid and pry off the trim caps from the two center retaining screws. Loosen and remove the retaining screws securing the glovebox to the dash. Where the heater vents are part of the glovebox, access to the upper screws is gained through the vents (see illustration) .

**27.7 Loosen and remove the glovebox retaining screws (arrows)**



8 Close the lid and remove the two screws from the base of the glovebox.

9 Slide the glovebox out of position disconnecting the wiring connector(s) as they become accessible (see illustration) .

**27.9 Slide out the glovebox and disconnect its wiring connectors (arrows)**



10 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Z3 models

11 Open the glovebox and remove the four trim caps (see illustration) located near the glovebox door lock catch, then remove the screws behind the caps.

**27.11 To remove the Z3 glove box from the dash, remove these six trim caps (arrows) and the screws behind them (the two lower left arrows indicate the right side center console fasteners)**



12 Remove the trim caps and screws located to the left of the glovebox and on the far right end of the dash (see illustration 27.11) .

13 Close the glovebox, pull it down and remove it.

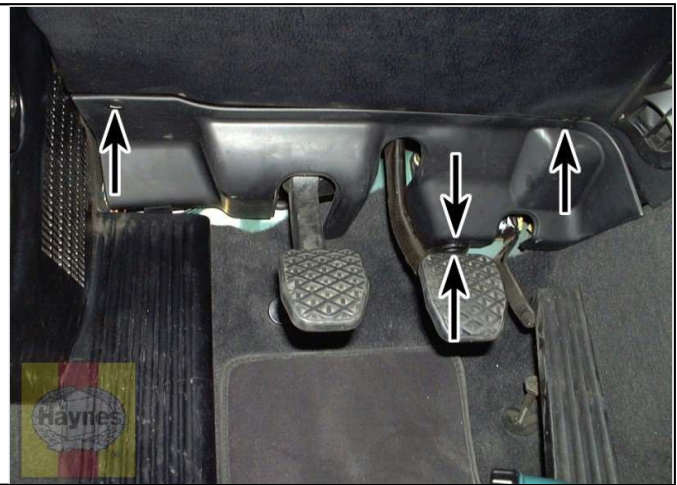
14 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Pedal cover

15 Some models are equipped with a pedal cover, which covers the space between the lower instrument panel trim cover and the firewall.

16 To remove the pedal cover, remove the three retaining screws (see illustration) and remove the cover.

**27.16 A typical pedal cover (Z3 shown); to detach it, remove all fasteners (arrows)**



17 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Lower dash trim panel

18 The lower dash trim panel covers the under-dash space between the lower edge of the dash and the pedal cover.

19 To detach the left lower dash trim panel, remove the pedal cover (see Steps 15 and 16), remove the two fasteners from the forward left side of the center console, remove the trim panel fasteners (see illustration) , and then pull off the trim panel.

**27.19 A typical left lower dash trim panel (Z3 shown); to detach it, remove the two forward center console fasteners (lower right arrows), and then remove all trim panel fasteners (arrows)**



20 To detach the right lower dash trim panel, remove the two fasteners from the forward left side of the center console (see illustration 27.11) , remove the trim panel fasteners (see illustration) and then pull off the trim panel.



**27.20 A typical right lower dash trim panel (Z3 shown); to detach it, remove the two forward center console fasteners (see illustration 27.11), remove the trim panel fasteners (arrows), and then pull down the panel**



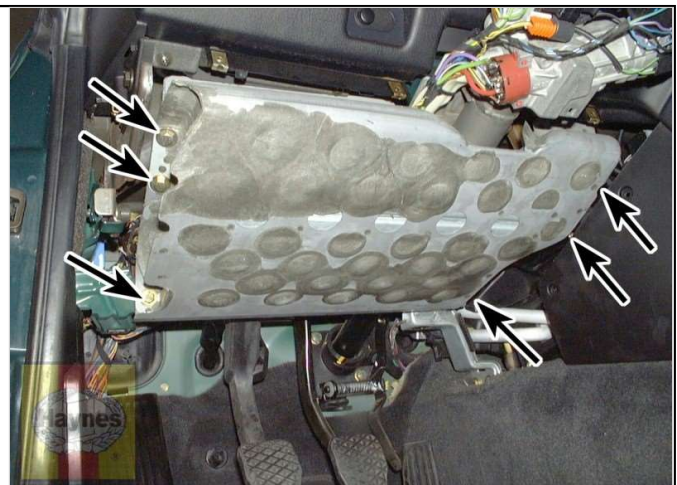
21 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Knee bolster

22 The knee bolster, which is located behind the lower instrument panel trim on the driver's side, affords some extra protection for the driver's legs in the event of a serious head-on crash. You'll need to remove the bolster to get to the upper ends of the pedals, or to troubleshoot or replace any relays, switches or wiring harnesses under the left end of the dash.

23 To detach the knee bolster, remove all fasteners (see illustration) .

**27.23 A typical knee bolster (Z3 shown); to detach it, remove these fasteners (arrows)**



24 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Kick panels

25 The kick panels cover the space below the ends of the dash, between the front door and the firewall.

26 To detach a kick panel, remove all fasteners (see illustration) , and then remove the kick panel.

**27.26 A typical (right side) kick panel (Z3 shown); to detach it, remove the fastener (arrow), and then pull off the kick panel**



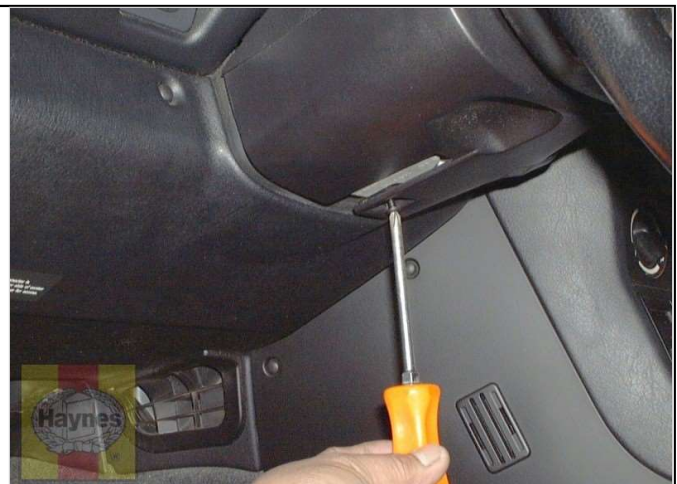
27 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Steering column covers

28 The steering column covers protect the ignition switch, key lock cylinder and turn signal/windshield wiper switch assembly on the steering column, between the steering wheel and the instrument cluster.

29 To detach the lower half of the steering column cover, remove the retaining screw (see illustration) and pull off the cover.

**27.29 To detach the lower steering column cover, remove this retaining screw (Z3 model shown, other models similar)**



30 To detach the upper half of the steering column cover, remove the retaining screw (see illustration) and lift off the cover.

**27.30 To detach the upper steering column cover, remove this retaining screw (Z3 model shown, other models similar)**



31 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Carpets

32 The passenger compartment floor carpet is in one piece and is secured at its edges by screws or clips, usually the same fasteners used to secure the various adjoining trim panels.

33 Carpet removal and installation is reasonably straightforward but very time-consuming because all adjoining trim panels must be removed first, as must components such as the seats, the center console and seat belt lower anchorages.

## Headliner

34 The headliner is clipped to the roof and can only be withdrawn when fittings such as the grab handles, sun visors, sunroof, windshield, rear quarter windows and related trim panels - along with the door, tailgate and sunroof weather-stripping - have been removed.

35 Headliner removal requires considerable skill and experience if it is to be carried out without damage and is therefore best entrusted to an expert.

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