



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

## 4 Switches - removal and installation

### Warning:

The models covered by this manual are equipped with Supplemental Restraint systems (SRS), more commonly known as airbags. Always disarm the airbag system before working in the vicinity of any airbag system component to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag, which could cause personal injury (see Section 25) . Do not use a memory saving device to preserve the PCM's memory when working on or near airbag system components.

1 Disconnect the cable from the negative terminal of the battery (see [Chapter 5, Section 1](#)).

### Steering column switches

2 Place the steering column in the fully lowered and extended position. Remove the steering wheel as described in [Chapter 10](#) .

3 Loosen the upper column shroud retaining screw and pull out the plastic rivet (see illustration) . Gently squeeze together the sides of the trim, lift the steering wheel end of the shroud first, then disengage the front end of the shroud.

**4.3 Loosen the screw and pull it out with the plastic rivet**



4 Place the column in the highest, fully extended position. Using a small screwdriver, push in the center pins of the two expanding rivets securing the lower shroud to the column, gently squeeze together the side of the upper

shroud, and remove the lower shroud (see illustration) .

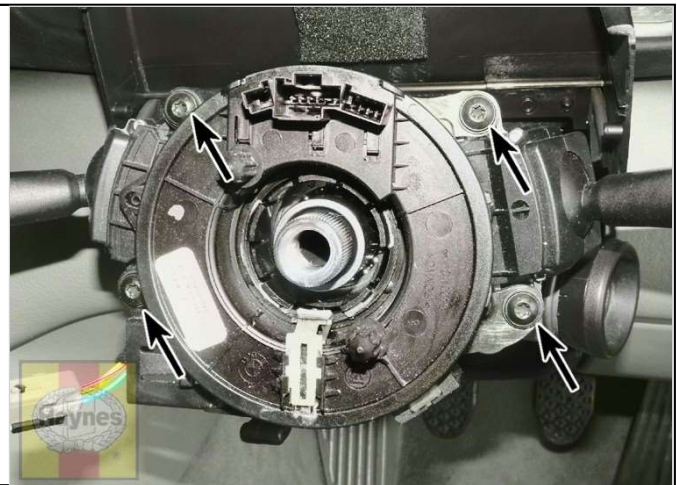
**4.4 Push in the center pins of the expanding rivets**



5 Disconnect the wiring connectors from the airbag contact unit, wiper and indicator switches.

6 Remove the four retaining screws and lift the switch assembly over the end of the steering column (see illustration) .

**4.6 Remove the four screws and remove the switch assembly**



7 If required, the switches can be removed from the assembly by releasing the two retaining clips (see illustration) .

#### 4.7 Depress the retaining clips to remove the switches



8 Installation is the reverse of the removal procedure, ensuring that the wiring is correctly routed. Also, make sure the airbag contact unit is centralized (see [Chapter 10, Section 17](#)).

## Lighting switch

9 Using a wooden or plastic spatula, carefully pry the decorative strip from the driver's side of the dash, above the light switch. Take care not to damage the dash panels.

10 Open the driver's side glove box, remove the two screws at its upper edge, and maneuver the glove box from the instrument panel. If necessary see [Chapter 11, Section 27](#).

11 Remove the two screws along the top edge of the light switch, lift the switch slightly, pull the top edge of the switch out and remove it from the dash. Lever over the locking catch, and disconnect the wiring connector as the switch is withdrawn (see illustrations) . No further disassembly of the switch is possible.

#### 4.11a Remove the two screws and remove the light switch



#### 4.11b Lever over the locking catch and disconnect the wiring connector



12 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Hazard warning switch and central locking switch

13 On manual transmission models, carefully unclip the shift lever boot from the center console and fold it back over the lever.

14 On models with an automatic transmission, carefully pry up the selector lever boot complete with plastic surrounding trim.

15 Remove the rear ashtray/storage tray, then remove the four screws (two at the front, two at the rear) securing the center console (see [Chapter 11](#) if necessary), lift up the gear/selector lever surround trim.

16 Lift the front edge of the rear center console, and press the switch(es) from place. Disconnect the wiring connectors as the switch(es) are removed (see illustration) .

#### 4.16 Press the hazard/central locking switch out from underneath



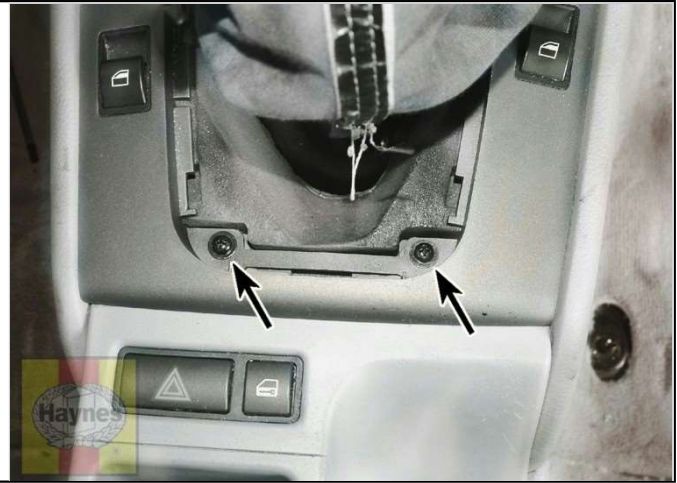
17 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Electric window switches



18 Unclip the gear lever/selector lever boot from the surrounding trim, and pull it up to expose the trim retaining screws (see illustration) . Note that on automatic transmission models, the boot should be lifted with the adjacent trim from the center console panel (see [Chapter 7B](#) ).

#### 4.18 Remove the trim retaining screws



19 Remove the two retaining screws and lift up the rear of the trim panel.

20 Press in the locking tabs and remove the switch(es) from the panel (see illustration) . Disconnect the wiring connector(s) as the switch is withdrawn.

#### 4.20 Press in the locking tabs and remove the switch



21 Installation is the reversal of removal.

## Exterior mirror switch

22 Starting at the front edge, carefully pry the switch out from the armrest (see illustration) .

#### 4.22 Carefully pry the mirror switch from the armrest



23 Disconnect the wiring connector and remove the switch.

24 Installation is the reverse of removal.

### Cruise control clutch switch

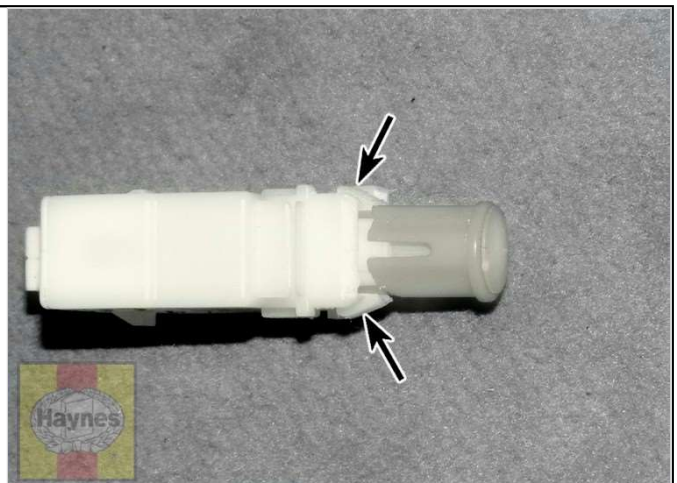
25 Remove the driver's side lower dash panel retaining screws then unclip the panel and remove it from the vehicle. Note their installed positions and disconnect any wiring connectors as the panel is withdrawn.

26 Disconnect the wiring connector from the switch.

27 Depress the clutch pedal, and pull the switch red sleeve out to its fully extended position.

28 Depress the retaining clips and slide the switch out of position (see illustration) .

#### 4.28 With the red sleeve fully extended, squeeze together the retaining clips



29 Installation is the reverse of removal.

### Heated rear window switch

## Models with automatic air conditioning

30 On these models the switch is an integral part of the control unit and cannot be replaced. If the switch is faulty seek the advice of a BMW dealer.

## Other models

31 On these models the switch is an integral part of the heater control panel printed circuit.

32 Remove the heater control panel as described in [Chapter 3](#) .

33 Disconnect the switch wiring connector, release the retaining clips and pull the switch from the panel.

34 Installation is the reverse of removal. Check the operation of the switch before installation the control panel to the dash.

## Heater blower motor switch

### Models with automatic air conditioning

35 On these models the switch is an integral part of the control unit and cannot be replaced separately.

### Other models

36 Remove the heater control panel as described in [Chapter 3](#) .

37 Remove the retaining screws then unclip the switch from the rear of the control panel and remove it.

38 Installation is the reverse of removal. Check the operation of the switch before installing the control panel to the dash.

## Air conditioning system switches

39 Refer to steps 35 to 38.

## Heated seat, electric rear sun blind and traction control (ASC+T) switches

40 Remove the storage compartment from the center console.

41 Disconnect the wiring connector then depress the retaining clips and slide the switch out from the panel.

42 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Parking brake warning switch

43 Remove the rear section of the center console as described in [Chapter 11](#) to gain access to the parking brake lever.

44 Disconnect the wiring connector from the warning light switch then remove the screw and remove the switch (see illustration) .

#### 4.44 Remove the screw and remove the parking brake warning switch



45 Installation is the reverse of removal. Check the operation of the switch before installing the center console, the warning light should illuminate between the first and second clicks of the ratchet mechanism.

## Brake light switch

46 Refer to [Chapter 9](#) .

## Interior light switches

47 The function of the courtesy light switches is incorporated into the door/trunk lid/tailgate lock assembly. To remove the relevant lock refer to [Chapter 11](#) .

## Steering wheel switches

48 Two different types of steering wheels are used on the E46 3-Series range. Either a Multifunction steering wheel, or a Sports steering wheel. To remove the switches, remove the driver's airbag as described in [Section 25](#) , then proceed under the relevant heading.

### Multifunction steering wheel

49 Carefully pry the switch from the steering wheel, and disconnect the switch wiring connectors (see illustration) . Note that the horn switch is integral with the airbag unit.



#### 4.49 Pry the switch from the steering wheel



### Sports steering wheel

50 Remove the four retaining screws (two securing the upper section and two securing the lower section), and unclip the switch carrier panel from the steering wheel (see illustrations) . Disconnect the wiring connector as the panel is withdrawn.

#### 4.50a Remove the switch carrier upper screws . . .



#### 4.50b . . . and lower screws



### Electric sunroof switch

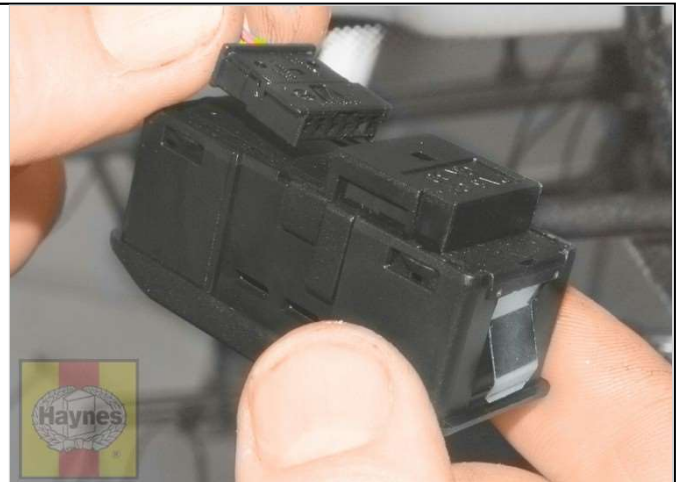
51 Depress the clip at the rear of the switch, and pull the switch from the panel (see illustration) .

**4.51 Press-in the retaining clip and pry the switch from the panel**



52 Disconnect the switch wiring connector then depress the retaining clips and slide the switch out of position (see illustration) .

**4.52 Disconnect the switch wiring connector**



53 Installation is the reverse of removal.

## Ignition switch/steering column lock

54 Refer to [Chapter 10](#) .