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

26 Seat belt components - removal and installation

3-Series models

Removal

Front seat belt - sedan models

Warning:

On models equipped with seat belt tensioners refer to Section 25 before proceeding.

- 1 Remove the front seat (see [Section 24](#)) and free the seat belt from the seat.
- 2 Unclip the rear seat cushion and remove it from the body.
- 3 Carefully unclip the trim panel from the rear door sill panel (see illustration) .

26.3 Unclip the trim panel from the rear door sill . . .



- 4 Carefully unclip the front sill trim panel and remove it from the vehicle (see illustration) .

26.4 . . . and the panel from the front door sill



5 Unclip the trim cover from the seat belt upper mounting. Loosen and remove the seat belt mounting nut and detach the belt from its height adjustment mechanism (see illustrations) .

26.5a Remove the trim cover . . .

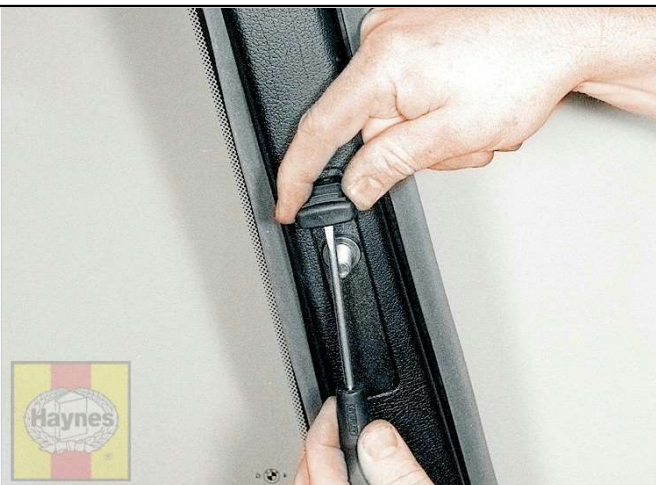


26.5b . . . then unscrew the mounting nut and free the front seat belt from its upper mount



6 Release the retaining lug on the bottom of the height adjustment lever and remove the lever (see illustration)

26.6 Release the retaining clip and pull off the height adjustment lever



7 Peel the front and rear door sealing strips away from the door pillar trim panel (see illustration) .

26.7 Release the trim strips and unclip the pillar trim panel



8 Carefully unclip the trim panel from the door pillar and remove it from the vehicle.

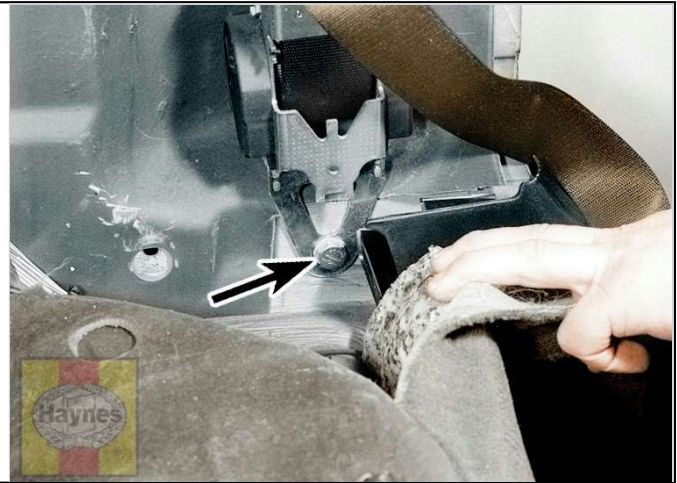
9 Unscrew the retaining screw(s) and remove the seat belt guide from the pillar (see illustration) .

26.9 Unscrew the retaining screws and remove the seat belt guide from the pillar (coupe shown)



10 Unscrew the inertia reel retaining bolt and remove the seat belt from the door pillar (see illustration) .

26.10 Unscrew the inertia reel retaining bolt and remove the seat belt (coupe shown)



11 If necessary, unscrew the retaining bolts and remove the height adjustment mechanism from the door pillar.

Front seat belt - coupe models

12 Disable the seat belt tensioner (see [Section 25](#)).

13 Remove the rear seat (see [Section 24](#)).

14 On models with folding rear seats, remove the seat back pivot bushing from the mounting bracket then unclip the top of the seat side section and remove it from the vehicle body (see illustrations) .

26.14a On coupe models, remove the seat back pivot bushing . . .



26.14b . . . then unclip the seat side section and remove it from the vehicle



15 On all models, open the door and rear window and free the sealing strips from the edge of the rear seat side trim panel. Unclip the trim panel and remove it from the vehicle (see illustration) .

26.15 Unclip the rear seat side trim panel and remove it from the vehicle



16 Remove the trim cap from the front mounting bolt of the seat belt lower mounting rail. Loosen and remove the retaining bolt then recover the spacer which is fitted between the rail and body and slide the belt off from the rail (see illustrations) .

26.16a Remove the trim cap then loosen and remove the seat belt lower mounting rail bolt (arrow) . . .



26.16b . . . and recover the spacer fitted between the rail and body



17 Remove the seat belt (see steps 5 through 11).

Front seat belt stalk (incorporating seat belt tensioner mechanism)

18 Remove the seat (see [Section 24](#)).

19 Ensuring the tensioner mechanism is disabled, loosen and remove the stalk assembly retaining nut and remove the assembly from the side of the seat (see illustration) .

26.19 Front seat belt stalk assembly retaining nut (arrow)



Rear seat side belts - models with fixed rear seat

20 Remove the rear seat (see [Section 24](#)).

21 Loosen and remove the bolts and washers securing the rear seat belts to the vehicle body and remove the center belt and buckle.

22 Unclip the trim cover from the front of the parcel shelf and detach it from the seat belts (see illustration) .

26.22 On models with fixed rear seats, unclip the trim cover from the front of the parcel shelf



23 Carefully unclip the left and right-hand trim panels from the rear pillars, disconnecting the wiring from the interior lights as the panels are removed (see illustration) .

26.23 Unclip the rear pillar trim panels and remove them from the vehicle



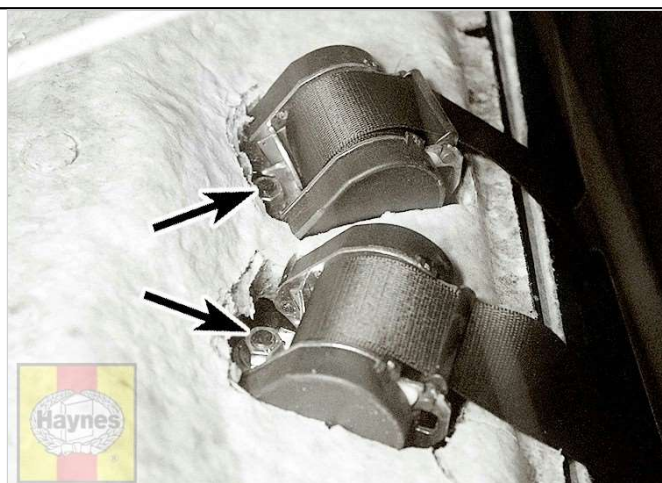
24 Remove the retaining clips from the front edge of the parcel shelf and slide the shelf forwards and out of position (see illustration) . As the shelf is removed, disconnect the wiring connectors from the high-level brake light (where fitted).

26.24 Remove the retaining clips and remove the parcel shelf



25 Unscrew the inertia reel retaining nut and remove the seat belt(s) (see illustration) .

26.25 Inertia reel retaining nuts (arrows)



Rear seat side belts - models with folding rear seats

26 Unclip the rear seat cushion and remove it from the vehicle.

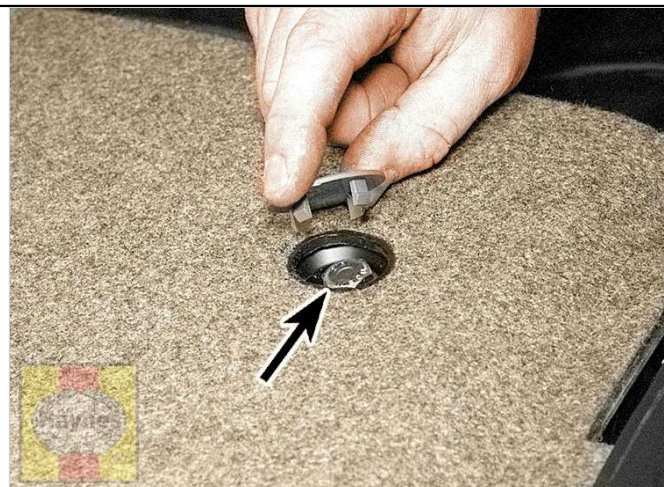
27 Loosen and remove the bolt securing the lower end of the belt to the body (see illustration) .

26.27 On models with folding rear seats, loosen and remove the seat belt lower mounting bolt . . .



28 Fold the seat forwards and pry out the circular trim cap from the rear of the seat to gain access to the inertia reel bolt (see illustration) . Loosen and remove the retaining bolt and washer.

26.28 . . . then remove the trim cap from seat back and unscrew the inertia reel retaining bolt (arrow)



29 Unclip the seat belt trim cover from the top of the seat and withdraw the inertia reel assembly from the seat back (see illustration) .

26.29 Unclip the inertia reel from the seat back and remove the seat belt



Rear seat side belt stalk

30 Unclip the rear seat cushion and remove it from the body.

31 On sedan models, carefully unclip the trim panel from the rear door sill.

32 Loosen and remove the bolt and washer and remove the stalk from the vehicle.

Rear seat center belt and buckle

33 Unclip the rear seat cushion and remove it from the vehicle.

34 Loosen and remove the bolt securing the center belt/buckle to the body and remove it from the vehicle.

Installation

Front seat belt - all models

35 Installation is a reversal of the removal procedure, ensuring that all the seat belt mounting bolts are securely tightened, and all disturbed trim panels are securely retained by all the relevant retaining clips.

Front seat belt stalk (incorporating seat belt tensioner mechanism)

36 Ensure the tensioner mechanism is correctly engaged with the seat and tighten its retaining nut to the specified torque. Install the seat (see [Section 24](#)) and enable the tensioner mechanism.

Rear seat side belts - models with fixed rear seat

37 Installation is the reverse of removal ensuring that all seat belt mountings are tighten to the specified torque and all trim panels are clipped securely in position.

Rear seat side belts - models with folding rear seat

38 Installation is the reverse of removal making sure the inertia reel is clipped securely in position and all seat belt mounting bolts are tightened to the torque.

Rear seat belt stalk

39 Installation is the reverse of removal, tightening the mounting bolt to the specified torque.

Rear seat center belt and buckle

40 Installation is the reverse of removal tighten the mounting bolts to the specified torque.

Z3 models

Warning:

Disable the seat belt tensioner(s) before beginning this procedure (see [Section 25](#)).

41 Move the seat to its full forward position and disconnect the seat belt from the seat belt guide (see [Section 24](#)).

42 Remove the lower section of the side trim panel behind the seat.

43 Remove the seat belt reel retaining bolts and remove the reel assembly.

44 Remove the seat belt retaining bolt from the side of the seat.

45 Remove the upper belt guide mounting bolt.

46 Remove the seat belt assembly.

47 Installation is the reverse of removal.

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