



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

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## 20 Road test

### Instruments and electrical equipment

- 1 Check the operation of all instruments and electrical equipment.
- 2 Make sure that all instruments read correctly, and switch on all electrical equipment in turn, to check that it functions properly.

### Steering and suspension

- 3 Check for any abnormalities in the steering, suspension, handling or road “feel”.
- 4 Drive the vehicle, and check that there are no unusual vibrations or noises.
- 5 Check that the steering feels positive, with no excessive “sloppiness”, or roughness, and check for any suspension noises when cornering and driving over bumps.

### Drivetrain

- 6 Check the performance of the engine, clutch (where applicable), transmission and driveaxles.
- 7 Listen for any unusual noises from the engine, clutch and transmission.
- 8 Make sure that the engine runs smoothly when idling, and that there is no hesitation when accelerating.
- 9 Check that, where applicable, the clutch action is smooth and progressive, that the drive is taken up smoothly, and that the pedal travel is not excessive. Also listen for any noises when the clutch pedal is depressed.
- 10 On manual transmission models, check that all gears can be engaged smoothly without noise, and that the gear lever action is not abnormally vague or “notchy”.
- 11 On automatic transmission models, make sure that all gearchanges occur smoothly, without harshness, and without an increase in engine speed between changes. Check that all the gear positions can be selected with the

vehicle at rest. If any problems are found, they should be referred to a BMW dealer.

## Check the operation and performance of the braking system

12 Make sure that the vehicle does not pull to one side when braking, and that the wheels do not lock prematurely when braking hard.

13 Check that there is no vibration through the steering when braking.

14 Check that the parking brake operates correctly without excessive movement of the lever, and that it holds the vehicle stationary on a slope.

15 Test the operation of the brake booster unit as follows. With the engine off, depress the brake pedal four or five times to exhaust the vacuum. Hold the brake pedal depressed, then start the engine. As the engine starts, there should be a noticeable “give” in the brake pedal as vacuum builds up. Allow the engine to run for at least two minutes, and then switch it off. If the brake pedal is depressed now, it should be possible to detect a hiss from the booster as the pedal is depressed. After about four or five applications, no further hissing should be heard, and the pedal should feel considerably harder.

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