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

14 Exhaust system - general information, removal and installation

General information

1 The original equipment exhaust system consists of two sections. The front section incorporates the catalytic converter and the oxygen sensor and the center expansion box. The rear section incorporates the rear muffler.

2 The system is suspended throughout its length by rubber mountings and a metal bracket.

Complete system

Note:

New exhaust front section-to-manifold gaskets and securing nuts will be required on installation.

Removal

3 Jack up the vehicle and support securely on axle stands.

4 On models with a catalytic converter, turn the securing ring, and disconnect the oxygen sensor wiring connector at the bracket on the transmission crossmember.

5 Unscrew the securing nuts, and disconnect the exhaust front sections from the manifolds **(see illustration)** . Recover the gaskets.

14.5 Disconnecting the exhaust front sections from the manifolds



6 On models with automatic transmission, unscrew the securing bolts, and remove the front transmission crossmember from under the vehicle.

7 Unscrew the clamp bolts securing the two halves of the transmission exhaust mounting bracket together, then unscrew the clamp pivot bolt, and pivot the clamp halves away from the exhaust system (see illustration) .

14.7 Pivot the clamp halves away from the exhaust system



8 Slide the rear exhaust mounting rubbers from the brackets on the exhaust system.

9 Working at the rear of the exhaust system, unscrew the nuts securing the rear muffler box mounting clamps.

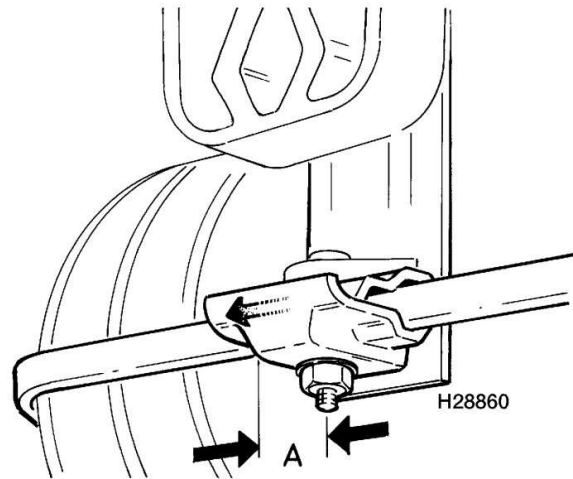
10 Withdraw the complete exhaust system from under the vehicle.

Installation

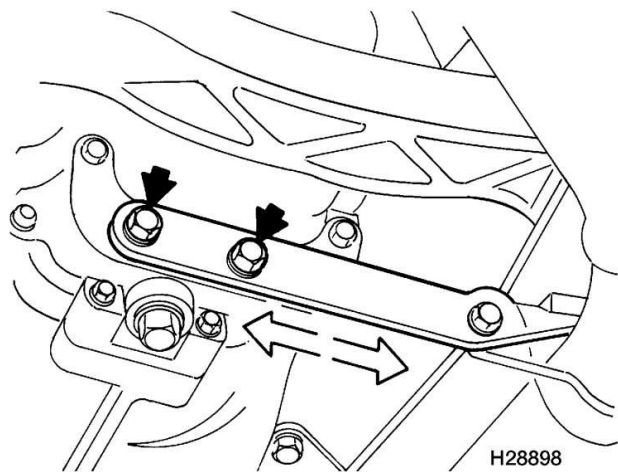
11 Installation is a reversal of removal, bearing in mind the following points (see illustrations) .

14.11a Preload the exhaust system by sliding the clamps towards the rear of the muffler box

A = 5/8-inch



14.11b Loosen the bolts (arrows) and slide the bracket to release any tension on the exhaust system



- A. Use new gaskets when reconnecting the exhaust front section to the manifolds. Also use new nuts, and coat the threads of the new nuts with copper grease.
- B. When installing the rear muffler box clamps, slide the clamps onto the muffler box and allow the system to hang so that the mountings are free from tension, then slide the clamps towards the rear of the muffler by 5/8-inch to give a preload, forcing the system towards the front of the vehicle.
- C. Check the position of the tailpipes in relation to the cut-out in the rear valance, and if necessary adjust the exhaust mountings to give sufficient clearance between the system and the valance.
- D. Once the mountings have been reconnected and tightened, loosen the two nuts and bolts securing the exhaust mounting bracket to the transmission bracket, and if necessary slide the bracket within the elongated holes to release any sideways tension on the system. Once the system is correctly positioned, tighten the nuts and bolts.

Front section

Removal

12 If desired, the exhaust front section can be removed leaving the rear section in place.

13 Follow the procedure described previously in Steps 3 through 8.

14 Counterhold the bolts, and unscrew the clamp nuts securing the exhaust front section to the rear section, then slide the front section from the rear section and remove the front section from under the vehicle (see illustration) .

14.14 Counterhold the bolts and unscrew the exhaust clamp nuts



Installation

15 Refer to Step 11.

Rear section

Removal

16 Counterhold the bolts, and unscrew the clamp nuts securing the exhaust front section to the rear section.

17 Working at the rear of the exhaust system, unscrew the nuts securing the rear muffler box mounting clamps, then slide the rear section from the front section and withdraw the rear section from under the vehicle.

Installation

18 Installation is a reversal of removal, but coat the threads of the clamp mounting nuts and bolts with a little copper grease before fitting, and preload the rear mounting as described above in Step 11.