

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

### Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 323Ci 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 328Ci 2.8, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 318Ci 1.9, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.2, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 325Ci 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 316Ci 1.6, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 318Ci 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Cd 3.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Cd 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Ci 3.0

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: BMW 3 Convertible (E46) 318Ci 2.0

## REPLACEMENT: SHOCK ABSORBERS – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #17
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 18
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Adjustable wrench
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Vice
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

**Buy tools**

### Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- Both shock absorbers of the rear suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock absorbers of the rear suspension.
- Please note: all work on the car – BMW 3 Coupe (E46) – should be done with the engine switched off.

## CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

**1** Press and hold the folding roof control switch. Hold the button pressed until you get access to the upper fasteners of the shock absorber.

**2** Remove the shock strut mount caps. Use a crowbar.



**3** Clean the fasteners of the shock absorber upper mount. Use WD-40 spray.



4

Loosen the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



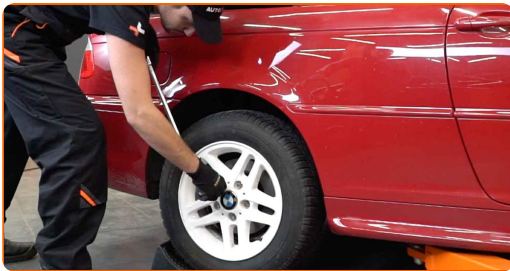
5

Secure the wheels with chocks.



6

Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.

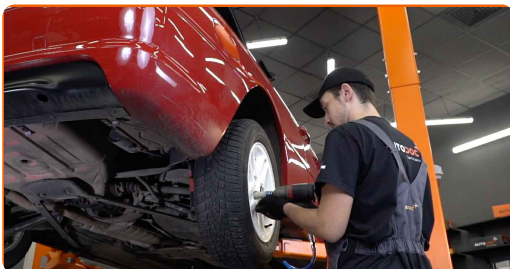


7

Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.

8

Unscrew the wheel bolts.



## Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when unscrewing the bolts.

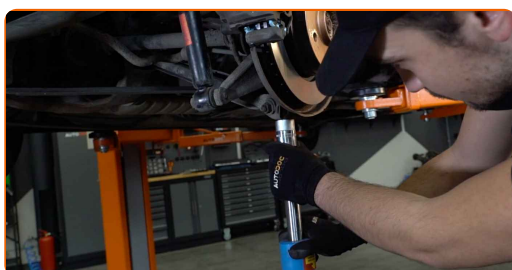
9

Remove the wheel.



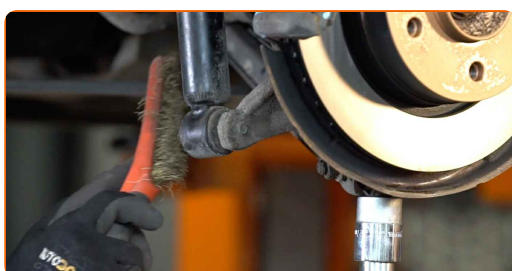
10

Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



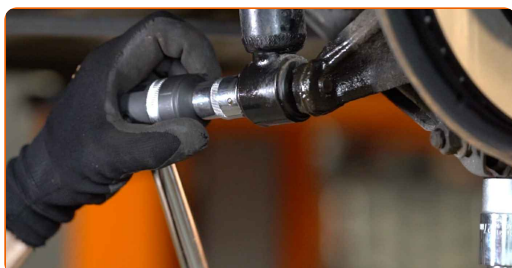
11

Clean the shock absorber fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



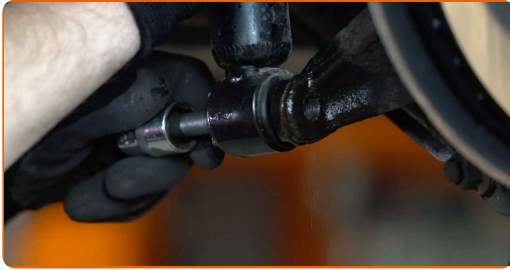
12

Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #18. Use a tap wrench.





**13** Remove the fastening bolt.



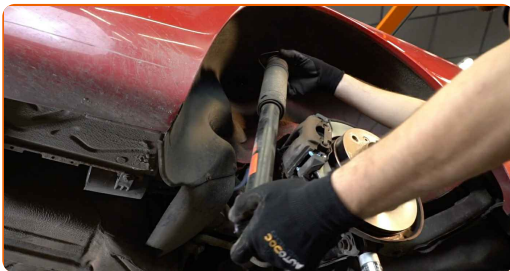
**14** Unscrew the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



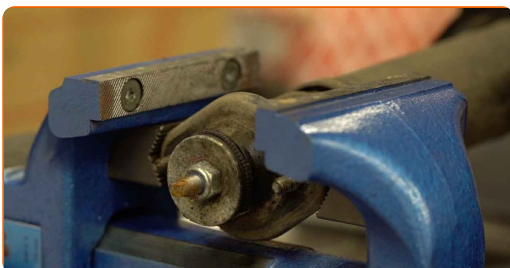
### AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the shock absorber while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW 3 Coupe (E46)

**15** Remove the shock absorber.



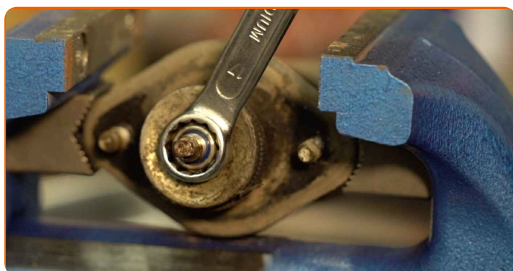
**16** Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



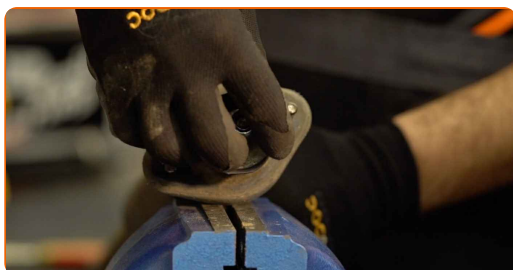
- 17 Clean the shock absorber rod fastener. Use a wire brush.



- 18 Remove the shock absorber piston rod fastening. Use a combination spanner #17.



- 19 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



- 20 Remove the shock absorber mount, boot and bump stop.

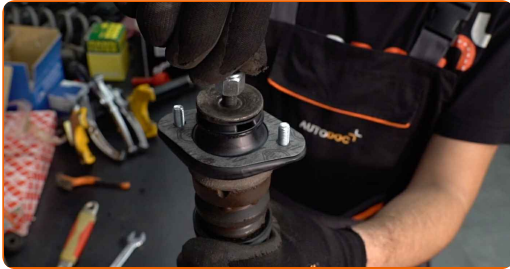


## Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- Thoroughly examine the shock absorber mount, dust boot, bump stop. Replace them if necessary.
- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

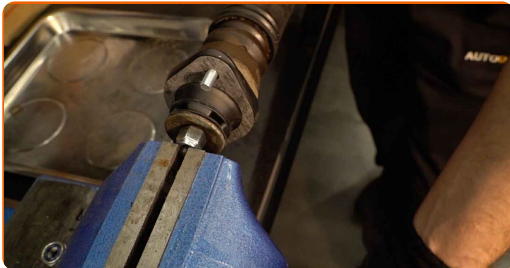
21

Install the mount, boot and bump stop onto a new shock absorber.



22

Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



23

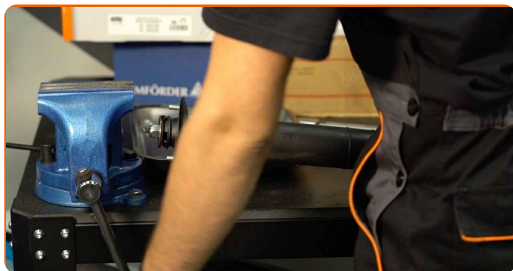
Screw the shock strut piston rod upper fastening. Use a combination spanner #17. Use an adjustable wrench. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 20 Nm torque.





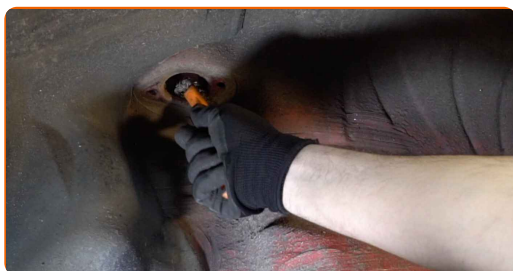
24

Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



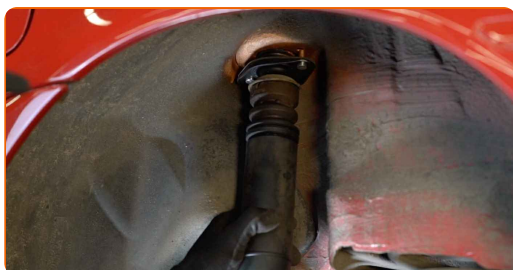
25

Clean the shock absorber mounting seats. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



26

Place the shock absorber in the wheel arch and secure it.



Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- To avoid injury, hold the shock absorber cautiously tight when screwing in the fastening bolts.

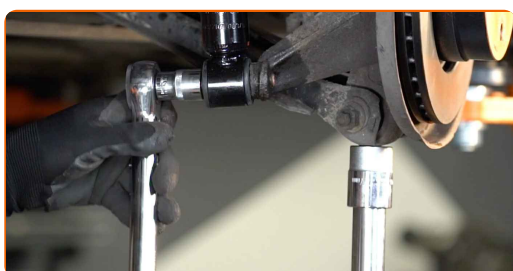
27

Screw the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Do not tighten it.



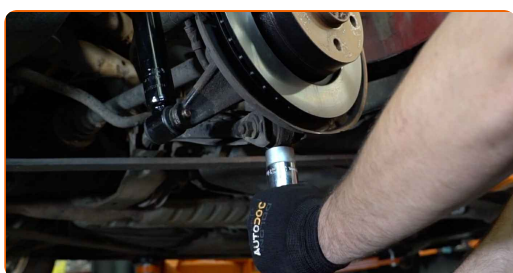
28

Tighten the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 100 Nm torque.



29

Remove the support from under the arm.



### AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.