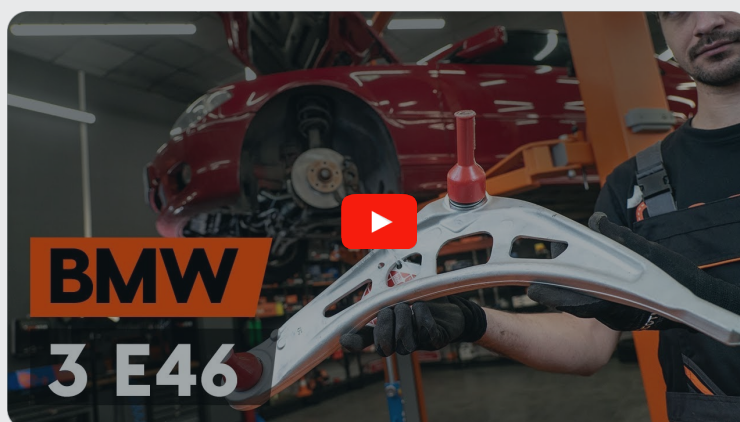


SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

i Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Compact (E46) 316ti 1.8, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 325ti 2.5, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 318ti 2.0, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 320td 2.0, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 318td 2.0, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 316ti 1.6, BMW 3 Compact (E46) 318Ti 2.0

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: FRONT LOWER ARM – BMW 3 COMPACT (E46). LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #19
- Combination spanner #21
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 18
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Ball joint puller
- 3-Arm Gear Puller
- Phillips screwdriver
- Crow bar
- Rubber mallet
- Vice
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

Replacement: front lower arm – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Professionals recommend:

- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right lower control arms.
- Replacement of the independent suspension lower arm in some cars requires a part of the outlet piping of the additional heater to be removed.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: FRONT LOWER ARM – BMW 3 COMPACT (E46). RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STEPS:

1

Secure the wheels with chocks.

**2**

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

**3**

Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.

4

Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW 3 Compact (E46)

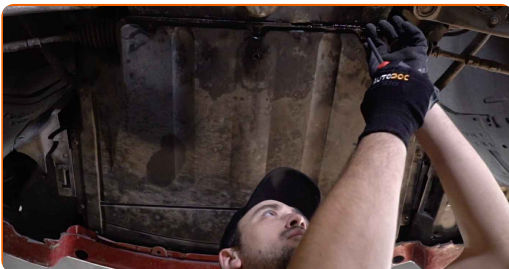
5

Remove the wheel.



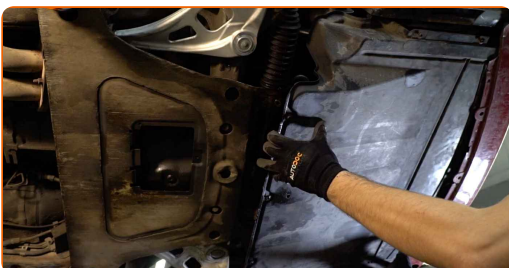
6

Unscrew the fasteners of the lower sound insulation. Use a Phillips screwdriver.



7

Remove the lower sound insulation.

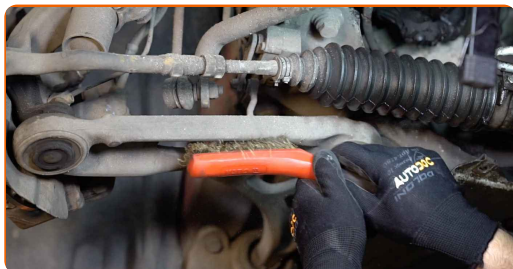


Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with the lower sound insulation.

8

Clean all joints of the arm. Use a wire brush. Treat all joints of the arm. Use WD-40 spray.

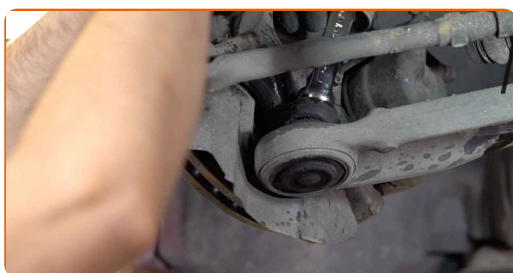


Replacement: front lower arm – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Tip:

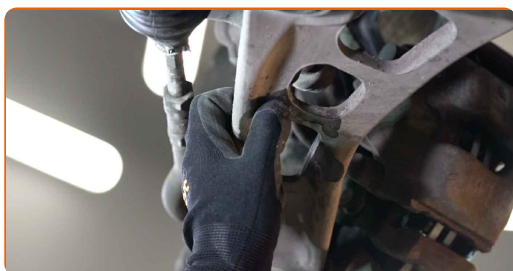
- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.
- Wear protective goggles.

9

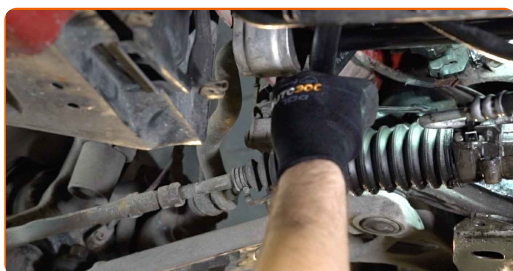
Loosen the fastener connecting the ball joint to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #19.



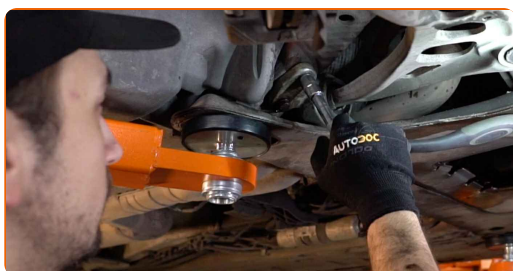
- 10 Detach the fastener connecting the suspension level sensor to the suspension control arm. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



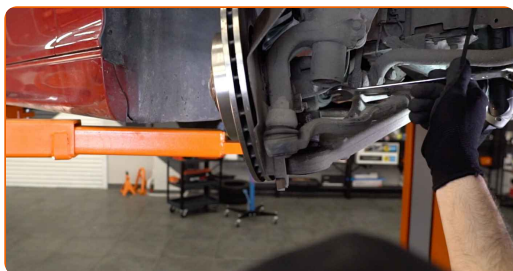
- 11 Unscrew the arm fastening from the subframe. Use a combination spanner #21.



- 12 Unscrew the rear arm fastening. Use a drive socket #18. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a ratchet wrench.



- 13 Unscrew the ball joint fastening to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #19.



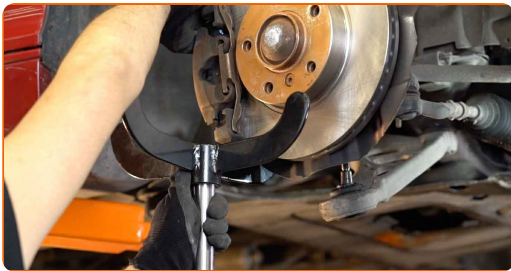
- 14 Disconnect the ball joint from the steering knuckle. Use a ball joint puller.



- 15 Disconnect the lower arm from the steering knuckle.



- 16 Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



- 17 Remove the arm. Use a crowbar.



- 18 Grip the suspension control arm in a vice.



19 Treat the control arm bush. Use WD-40 spray.



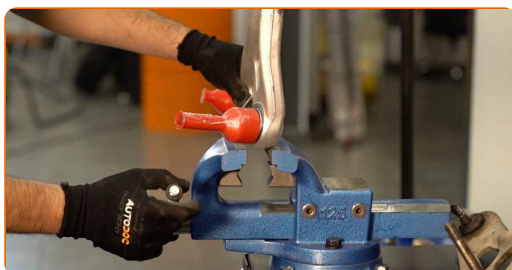
20 Remove the control arm bush. Use 3-Arm Gear Puller.



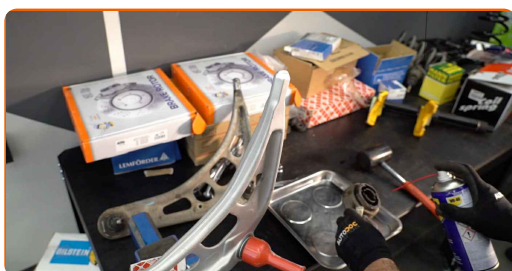
21 Loosen the vice and remove the control arm.



22 Grip the new control arm in a vice.

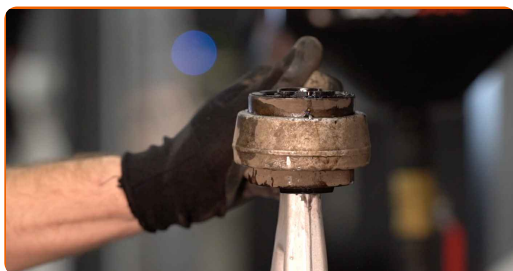


23 Treat the mounting seat of the control arm bush. Use WD-40 spray.



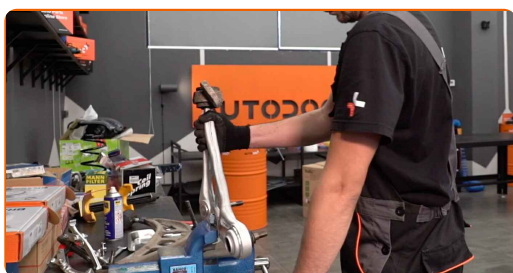
24

Install the control arm bush to its mounting seat. Use a rubber mallet.



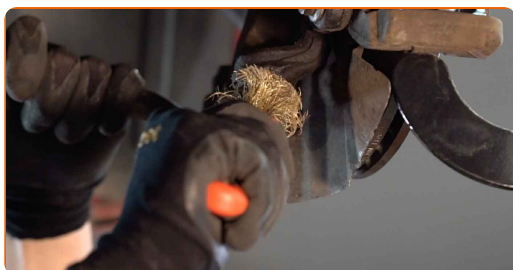
25

Loosen the vice and remove the control arm.



26

Clean the mounting seats and the thread of the suspension arm. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



27

Install a new arm.

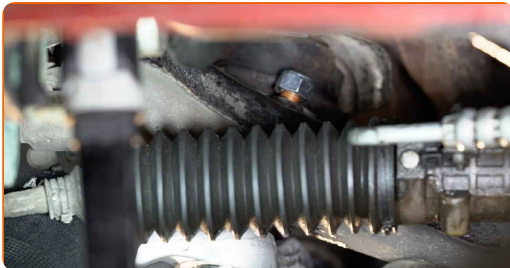


Replacement: front lower arm – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- During the installation process, use only new bolts and nuts.
- Do not damage the ball joint cover.

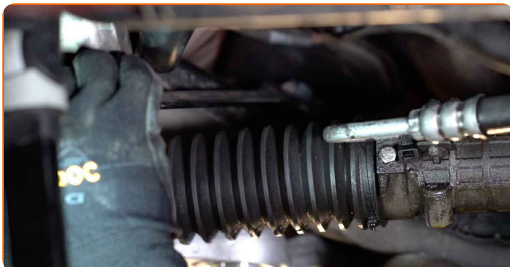
28

Install the control arm fasteners.



29

Screw the fastener connecting the control arm to the subframe. Use a combination spanner #21.



30

Screw the rear arm fastener. Use a drive socket #18. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a ratchet wrench.

