



How to change rear
brake pads on **BMW E46**
convertible –
replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL



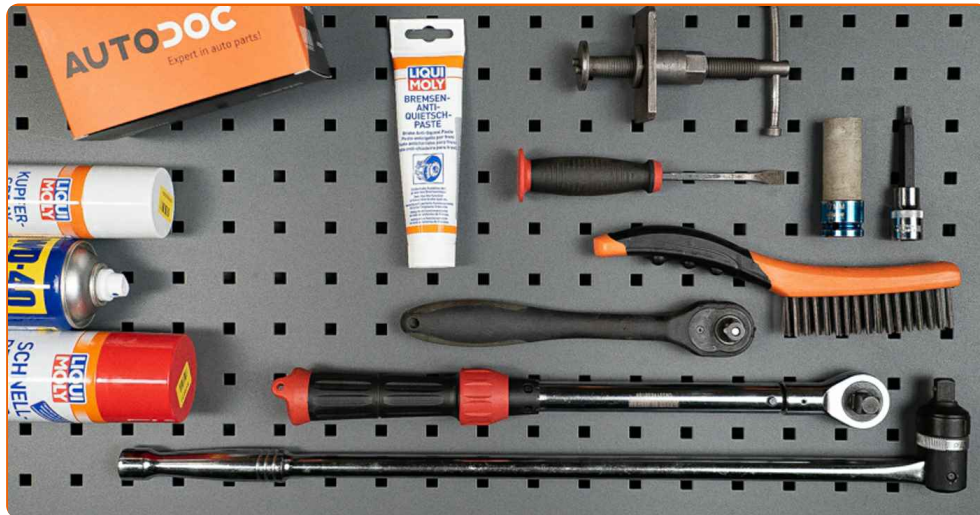
i Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Saloon (E30) M3 2.3, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 316i 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 325td 2.5, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 325tds 2.5, BMW 5 Saloon (E28) 535i / M535i 3.5, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 520i 2.0, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 520i 2.0 24V, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 524td 2.5, (+ 125)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E46 CONVERTIBLE. TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Anti-squeal paste
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

[BUY TOOLS](#)

Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- Perform the replacement of brake pads in complete set for each axis. This provides effective braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for all brake pads on the same axle.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E46 CONVERTIBLE. TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

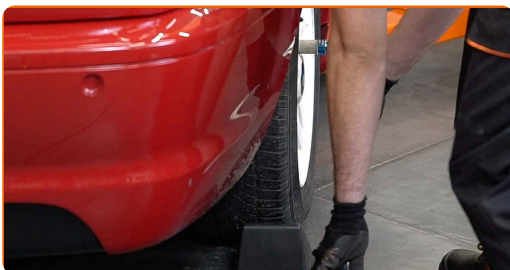
1

Open the bonnet. Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.



2

Secure the wheels with chocks.



3

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



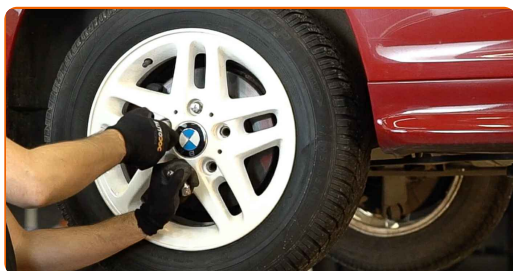
4

Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.



5

Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW E46 convertible

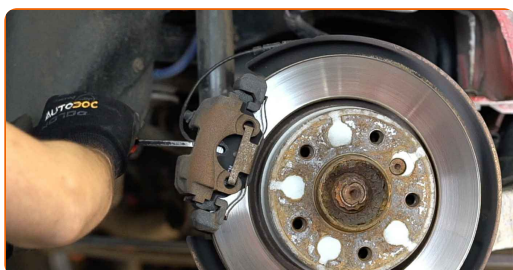
6

Remove the wheel.



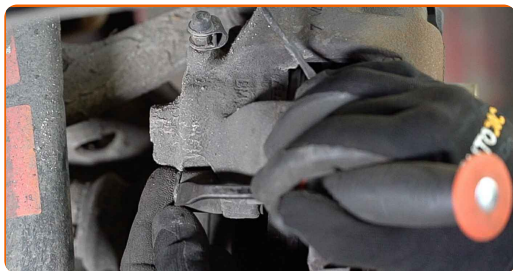
7

Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



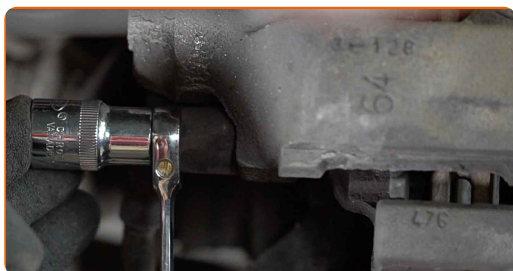
8

Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



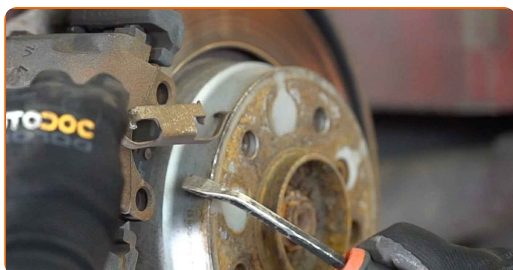
9

Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



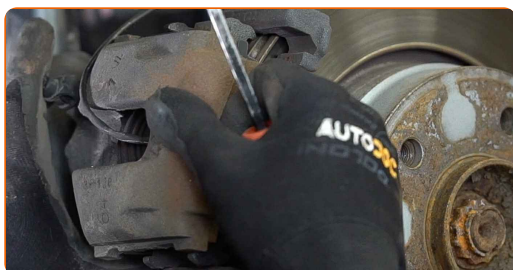
10

Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



11

Remove the brake caliper.

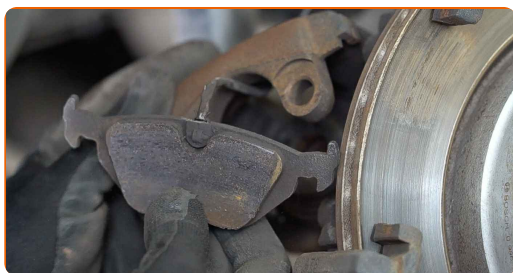


Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Professionals recommend:

- Tie the caliper to the suspension or to the body with a wire without disconnecting from the brake hose to prevent depressurization of the brake system.
- Make sure that the brake caliper is not hanging on the brake hose.
- Don't press the brake pedal after the brake caliper has been removed. As a result, the piston can fall out from the brake cylinder, and brake fluid leakage and depressurization of the system may occur.

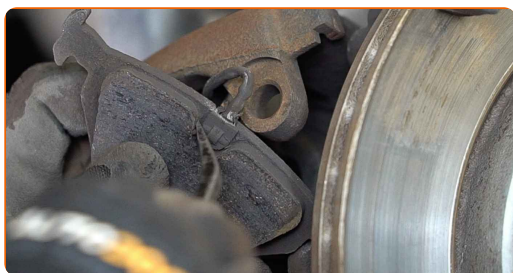
12

Remove the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



13

Disconnect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.

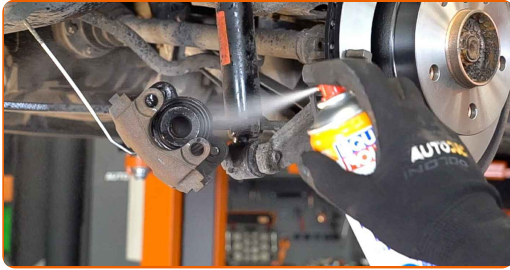


Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with the brake pad wear sensor.

14

Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

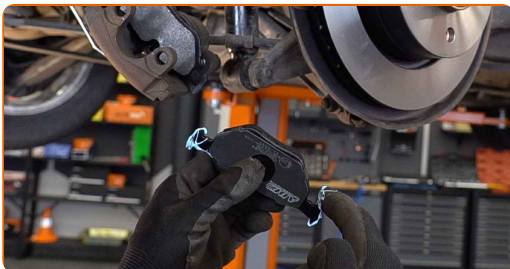
15

Press in the brake caliper piston. Use brake caliper wind back tool.



16

Treat the back side of the new brake pads. Use anti-squeal paste.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Make sure the disc surface is clean before installing the pads.

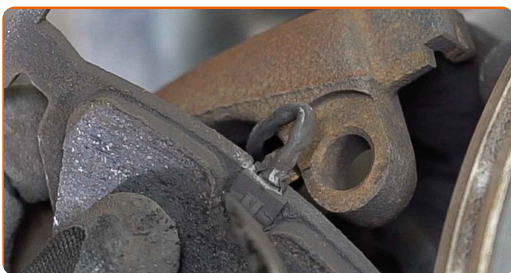
17 Install new brake pads.



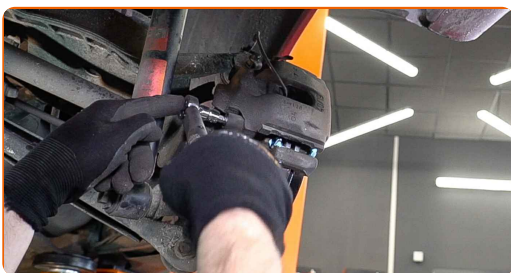
Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Make sure the pads are installed with linings facing the disc.

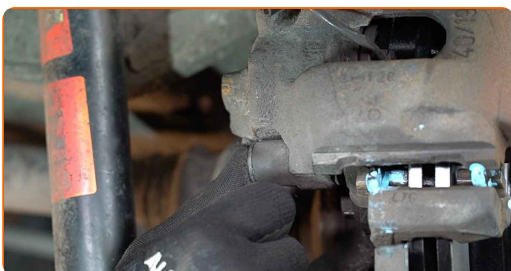
18 Connect the brake pads wear sensor.



19 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



20 Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



21

Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



22

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

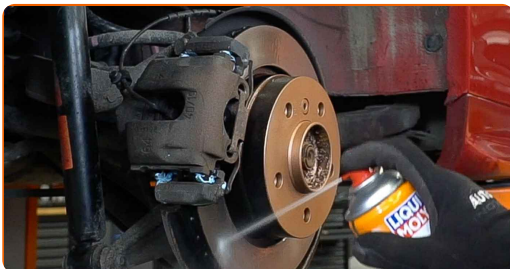


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

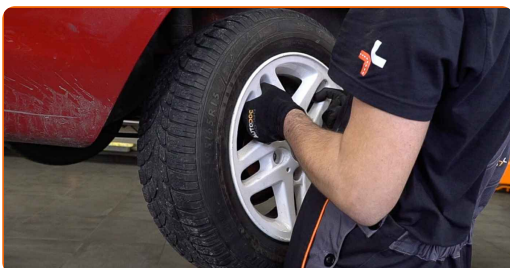
23

Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.



24

Install the wheel.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

25

Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



26

Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



AUTODOC recommends:

- BMW E46 convertible – Press the brake pedal several times with the engine shut down until you feel the resistance built up.

27

Remove the jacks and chocks.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Check the brake fluid level in the expansion tank and refill if necessary.

28

Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap. Close the hood.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- Slow down smoothly for first 150-200 km after the brake pads replacement. Avoid unnecessary and sharp braking to a stop.

WELL DONE! 

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