



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

## VIDEO TUTORIAL



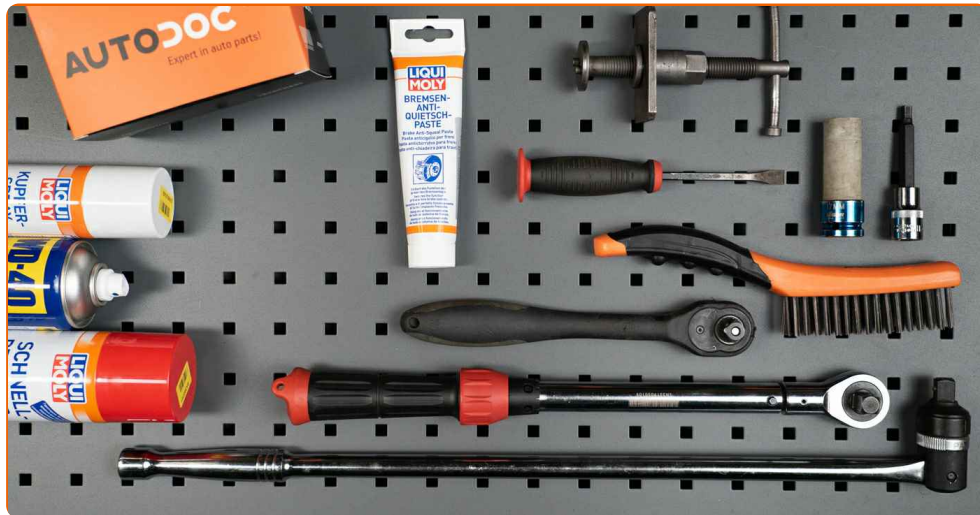
### **i Important!**

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 7 (E38) 730i / iL 3.0, BMW 7 (E38) 740i / iL 4.0, BMW 7 (E38) 750i / iL 5.4, BMW 7 (E38) 740i / iL 4.4, BMW 7 (E38) 728i / iL 2.8, BMW 7 (E38) 735i / iL 3.5, BMW 7 (E38) 725tds 2.5, BMW 7 (E38) 730d 2.9, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) M5, BMW X3 (E83) xDrive 20 d, BMW X3 (E83) xDrive 30 d, BMW 7 (E38) 740d 3.9, BMW Z8 Roadster (E52) 4.9, BMW X5 (E53) 4.4 i, BMW X5 (E53) 3.0 d, (+ 38)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

## REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E46 TOURING. TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:



- Wire brush
- 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 touring. 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 TOURING. USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

1

Open the bonnet. Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.



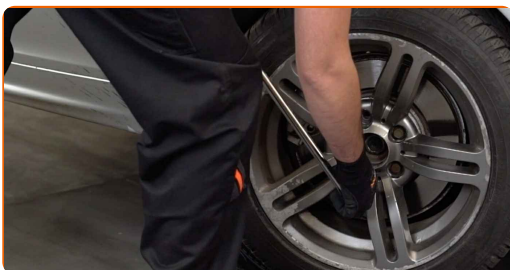
2

Secure the wheels with chocks.



3

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



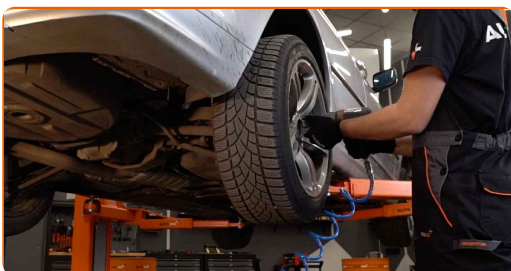
4

Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.



5

Unscrew the wheel bolts.

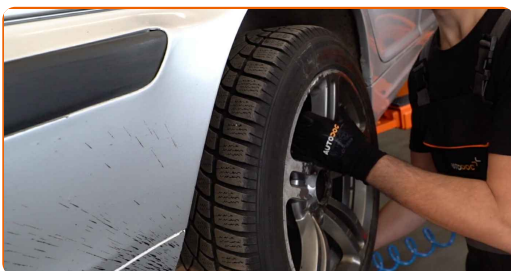


Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

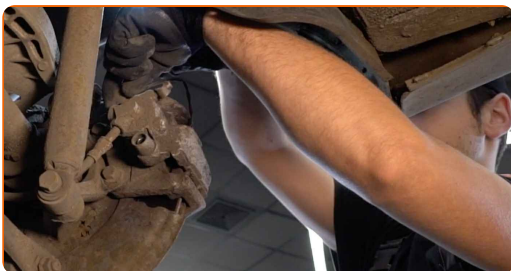
6

Remove the wheel.



7

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



8

Spread the brake pads. 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.

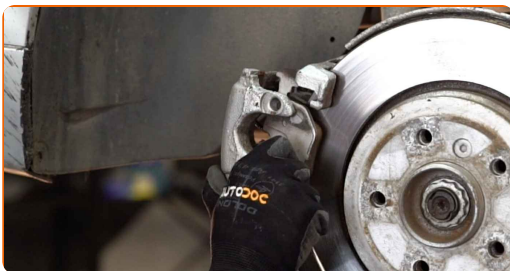


### Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- 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.

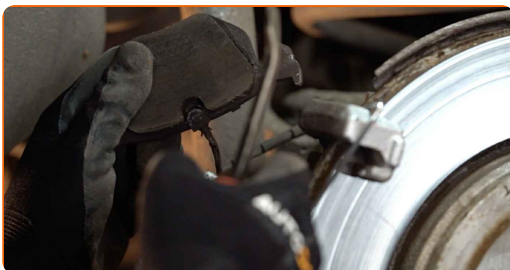


### Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. Tip:

- Measure the brake disc thickness. Upon reaching the wear limit the part must be replaced.

13

Disconnect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.





### Please note!

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

14

Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.



### AUTODOC recommends:

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

15

Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.

### Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. Tip:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

16

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





17

Treat the brake caliper bracket where it contacts the brake pads. Use anti-squeal paste.



### AUTODOC recommends:

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

18

Install new brake pads.



### Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. AUTODOC recommends:

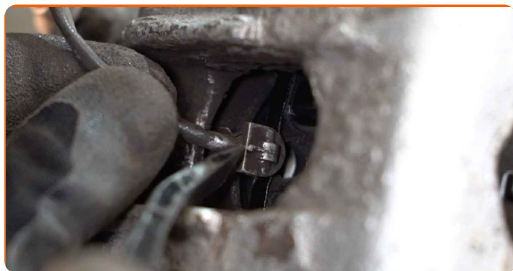
- Make sure the pads are installed with linings facing the disc.

19

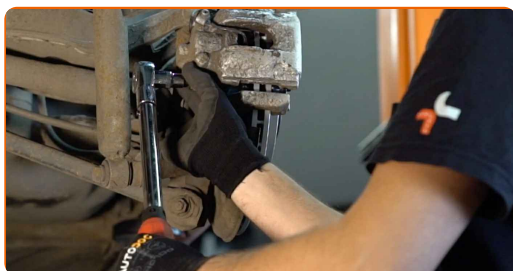
Clean the brake caliper guide pins. Use a wire brush.



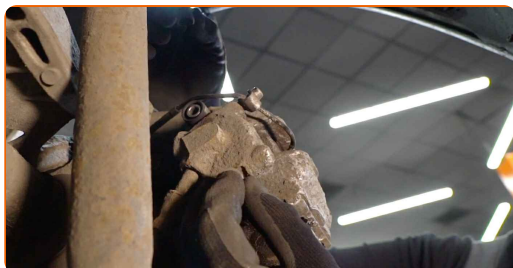
**20** Connect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



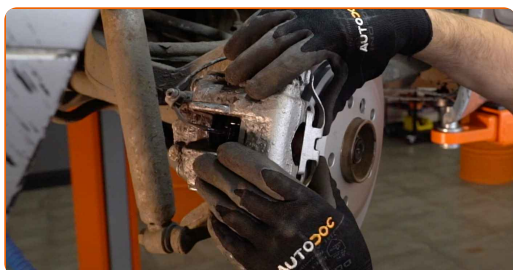
**21** Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



**22** Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



**23** Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



**24** Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

### AUTODOC recommends:

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

25

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



26

Install the wheel.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. AUTODOC experts recommend:

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

27

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



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



- 29 Remove the jacks and chocks.



### AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 touring. Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if necessary.

- 30 Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap.



### AUTODOC recommends:

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

31

Close the hood.



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

- 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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