



How to change front  
brake pads on **BMW E39**  
– replacement guide

## VIDEO TUTORIAL

** Important!**

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 8 (E31) 850i / Ci 5.0, BMW 7 (E38) 740i / iL 4.0, BMW 8 (E31) 850Ci 5.4, BMW 8 (E31) 840i 4.0, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 520i 2.0, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 525tds 2.5, BMW 7 (E38) 740i / iL 4.4, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 540i 4.4, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 535i 3.5, BMW 5 Touring (E39) 520i 2.0, BMW 5 Touring (E39) 540i 4.4, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 525td 2.5, BMW 5 Saloon (E39) M5, BMW 5 Touring (E39) 525tds 2.5, BMW Z8 Roadster (E52) 4.9, (+ 17)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E39. LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- All-purpose cleaning spray
- Brake cleaner
- Anti-squeal paste
- Copper grease
- HEX bit no.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Crow bar
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

**BUY TOOLS**

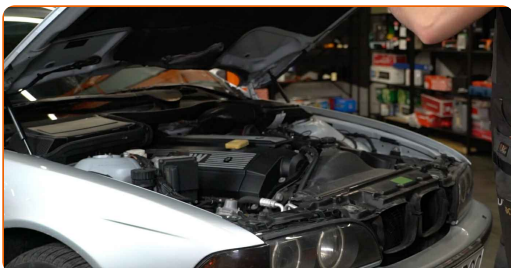
### Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- 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 E39. TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

**1**

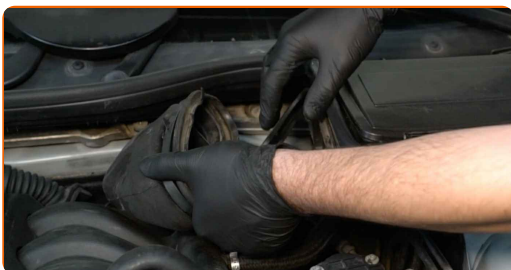
Open the hood.

**2**

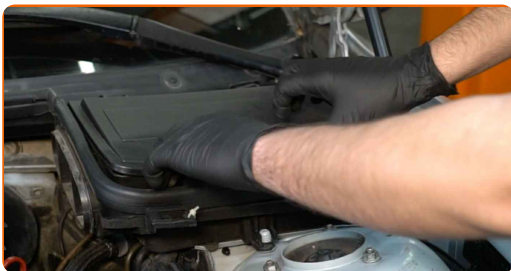
Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.

**3**

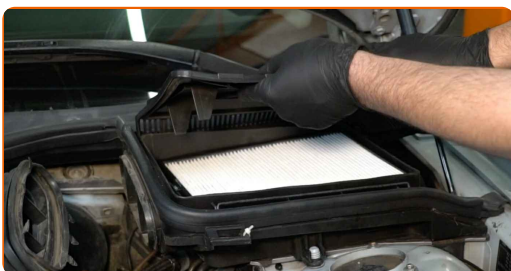
Detach the air duct from the cabin filter housing.



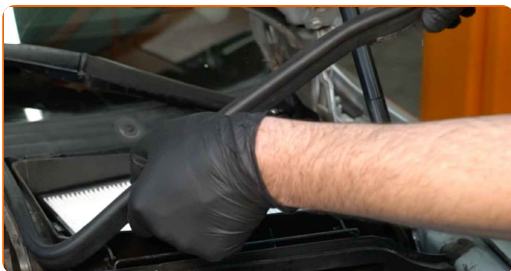
4 Release the cabin filter cover clips.



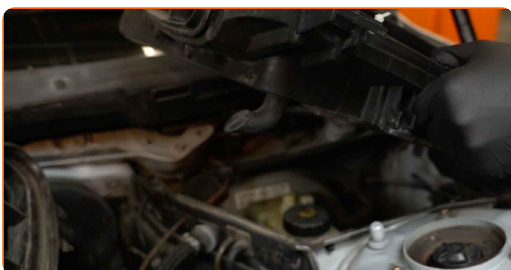
5 Remove the cabin filter housing cover.



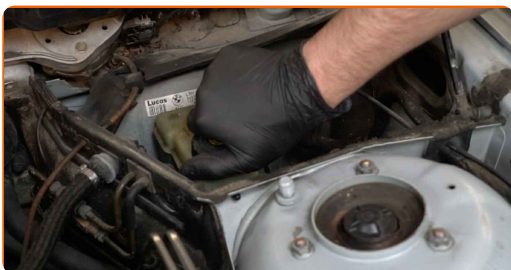
6 Remove the cabin filter housing seal.



7 Remove the cabin air filter housing.



8 Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.



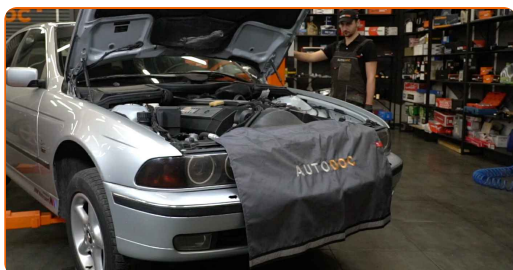
9 Secure the wheels with chocks.



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



11 Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.



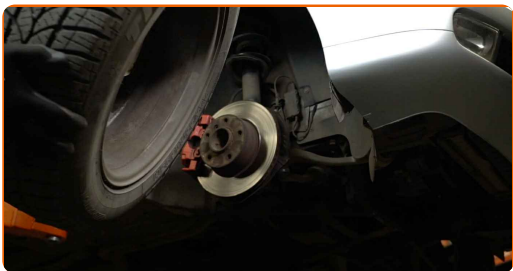
12 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



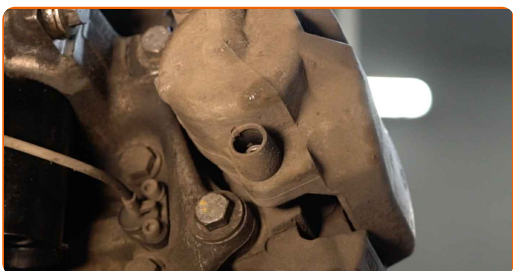
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW E39

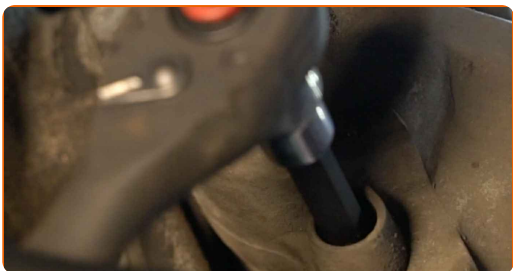
**13** Remove the wheel.



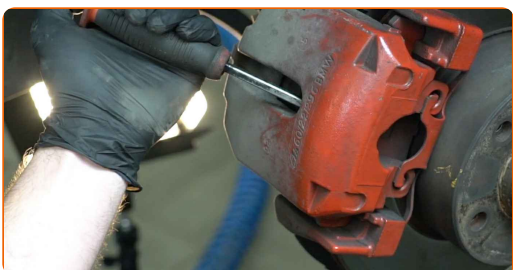
**14** Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



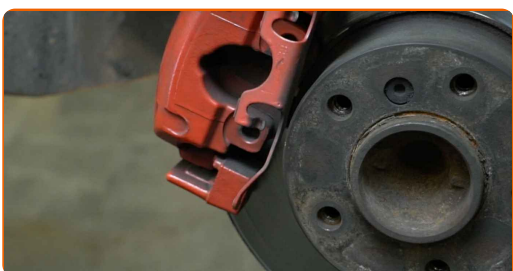
**15** Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



**16** Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



**17** Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.





**18**

Remove the brake caliper.

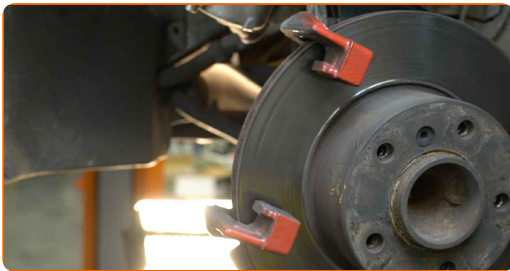


**Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. AUTODOC recommends:**

- 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.
- Check the brake caliper bracket, brake caliper guide pins and boots. Clean them. Replace, if necessary.

**19**

Remove the brake pads.



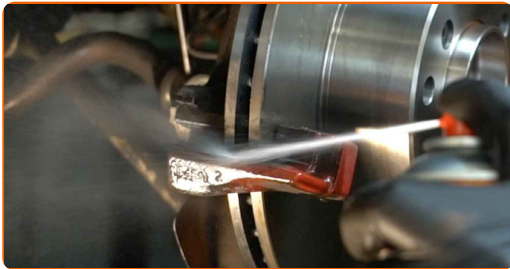


Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. Tip:

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

20

Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.



21

Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.

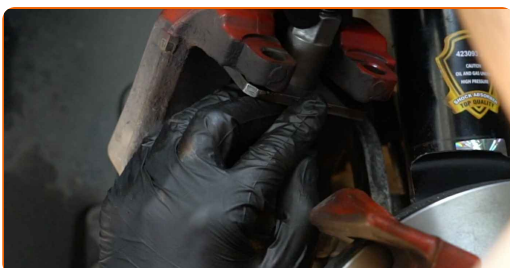


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

22

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



**23**

Treat the brake pads in the area where their surface comes into contact with the brake caliper bracket. Use anti-squeal paste.



**Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. AUTODOC experts recommend:**

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

**24**

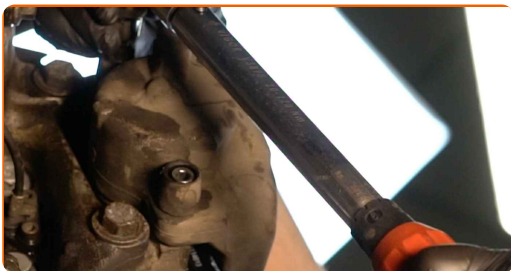
Install new brake pads.



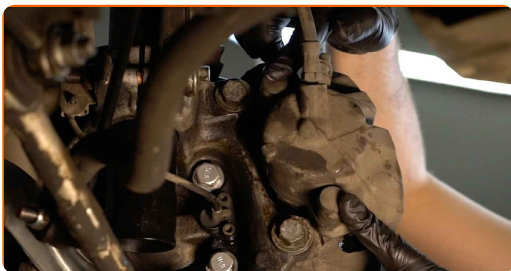
**Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. Tip from AUTODOC:**

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

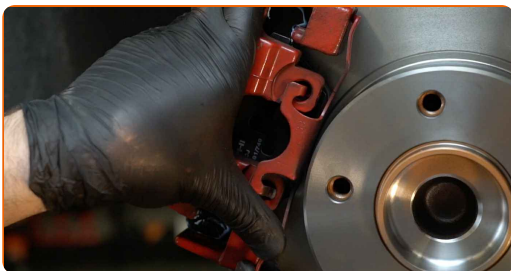
**25** Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



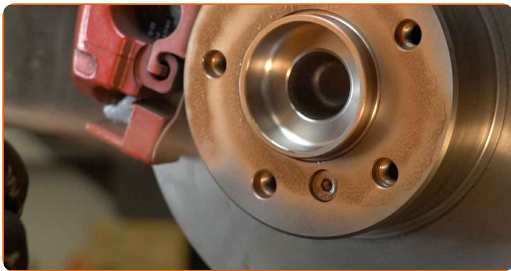
**26** Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



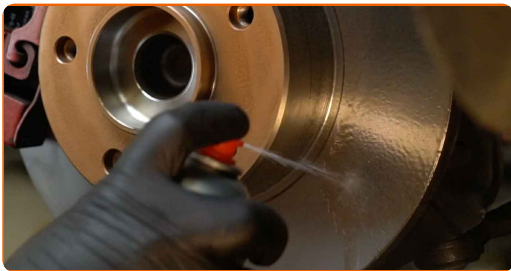
**27** Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



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



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



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

**30** Install the wheel.



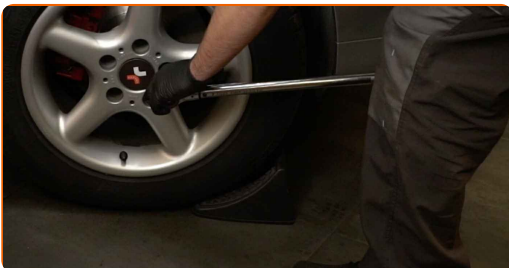
AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. BMW E39

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



**32** Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if necessary.

**33**

Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- BMW E39 – Press the brake pedal several times with the engine shut down until you feel the resistance built up.

**34**

Install the cabin air filter housing.

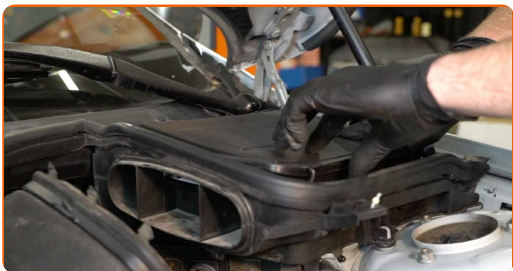


**35**

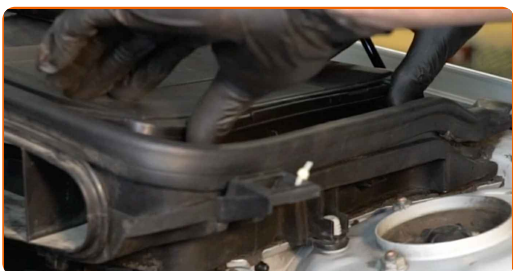
Reinstall the cabin filter housing seal.



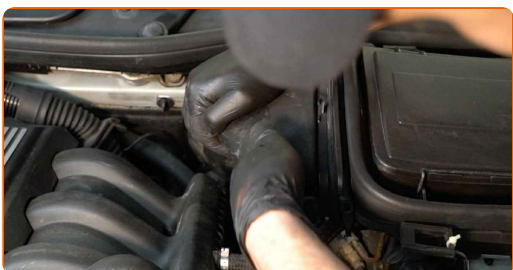
**36** Reinstall the cabin filter housing cover. Make sure you hear a click indicating that it is locked in place.



**37** Attach the cabin filter cover clips.



**38** Install the air duct housing.



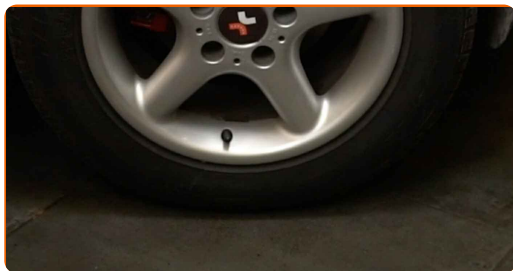
**39** Remove the fender protection cover.

**40** Close the hood.



41

Remove the jacks and chocks.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E39. 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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