



How to change front  
brake caliper on **BMW 3  
Compact (E36)** –  
replacement guide

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

### Important!

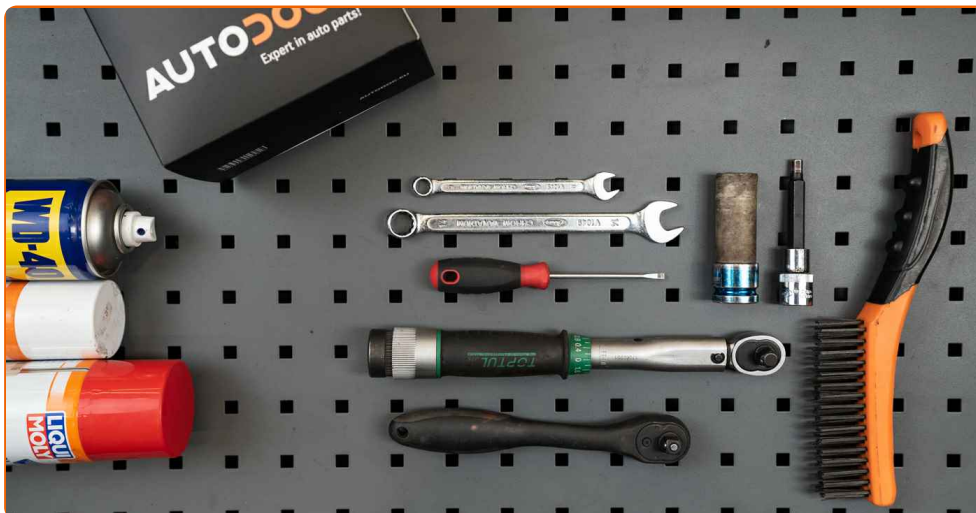
This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Compact (E36) 318ti 1.9, BMW 3 Compact (E36) 323ti 2.5

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 Saloon (E46) 318i 1.9

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE CALIPER – BMW 3 COMPACT (E36). LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #9
- Flare nut spanner #14
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Flat Screwdriver
- Brake bleeder kit
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

**Buy tools**

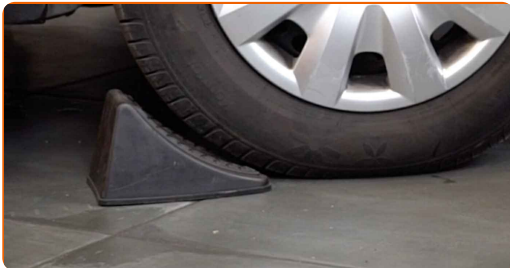
Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right brake calipers on the same axle.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

## REPLACEMENT: BRAKE CALIPER – BMW 3 COMPACT (E36). 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 front of the car and secure on supports.

**5** Unscrew the wheel bolts.



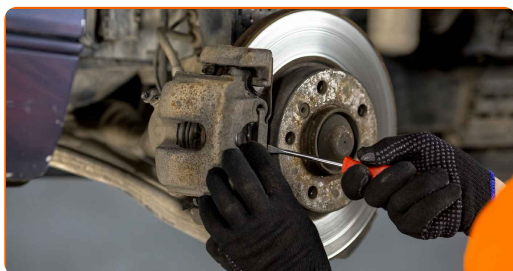
Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Tip:

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

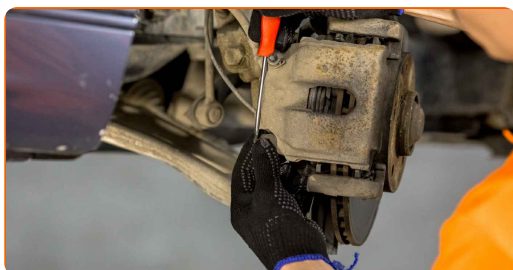
**6** Remove the wheel.



**7** Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a flat screwdriver.



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



**9** Clean the area where the brake hose is connected to the caliper, and the guide pins area. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.

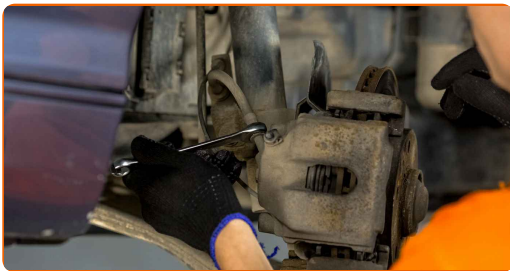


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

10

Loosen the brake hose fastening. Use a flare nut spanner #14.

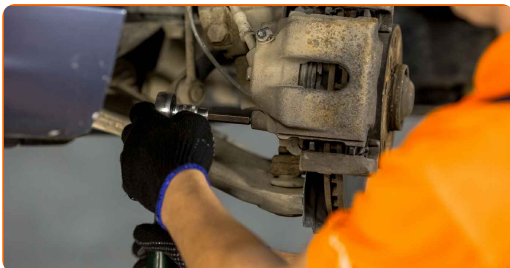


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Clean the brake caliper fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

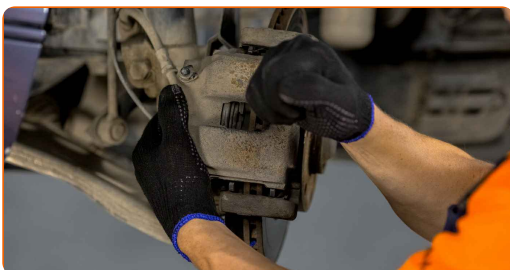
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Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



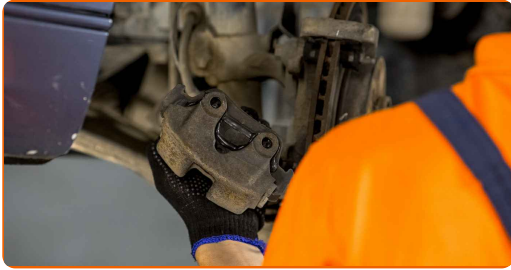
13

Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



**14**

Remove the brake caliper.

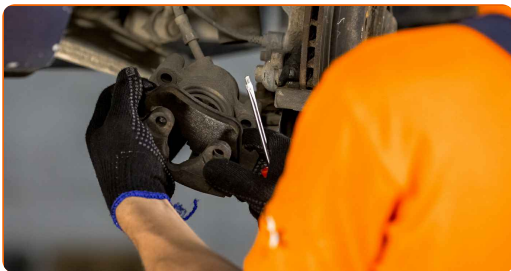


**Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). AUTODOC recommends:**

- When replacing the brake caliper, it is recommended to check the brake hose for damages and, if necessary, to replace it with a new one.
- When replacing a brake caliper it is recommended to replace brake pads, check the state of the brake discs and replace them with new ones if necessary.
- Check the brake caliper bracket, brake caliper guide pins and boots. Clean them. Replace, if necessary.
- 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.

**15**

Remove the brake pads.



**16** Unscrew the brake hose from the brake caliper. Use a flare nut spanner #14.



**17** Treat the brake hose. Use a brake cleaner.



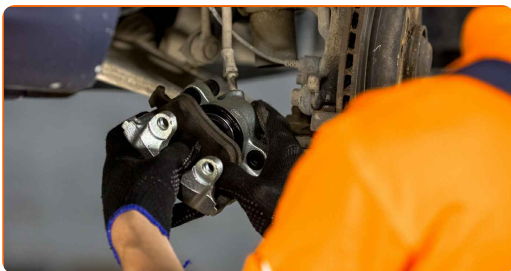
Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Tip from AUTODOC:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

**18** Install and fix the brake hose into a new caliper.



**19** Install the brake pads.



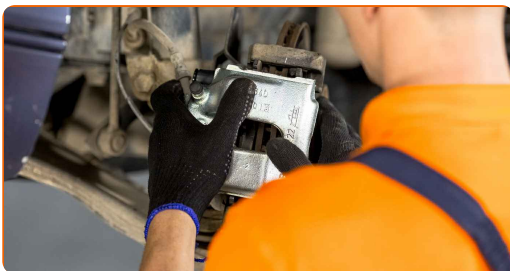


Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- If going to use the old brake pads, clean them.
- Use a wire brush.

20

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



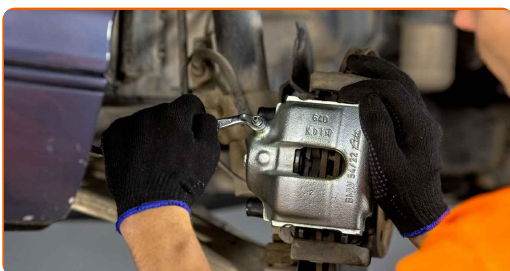
21

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



22

Undo the brake bleeder screw. Use a combination spanner #9.



**23** Connect the brake bleeder kit to the brake bleeder screw.



**24** Bleed the brake caliper system. Without starting the engine, press the brake pedal several times until you feel significant resistance.



**25** Disconnect the brake bleeder kit.

**26** Tighten the brake caliper bleed screw. Use a combination spanner #9. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 10 Nm torque.



**27** Clean dirt from the brake hose bolt. Use a brake cleaner.



Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Tip:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

28

Install the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a flat screwdriver.



29

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



30

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



32

Install the wheel.



Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

33

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



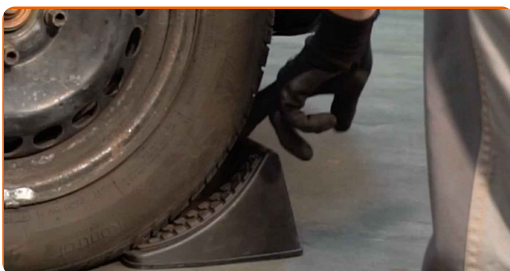
34

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.



35

Remove the jacks and chocks.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Replacement: brake caliper – BMW 3 Compact (E36). Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if necessary.

**36**

Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap. Close the hood.

**WELL DONE!** **VIEW MORE TUTORIALS**

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