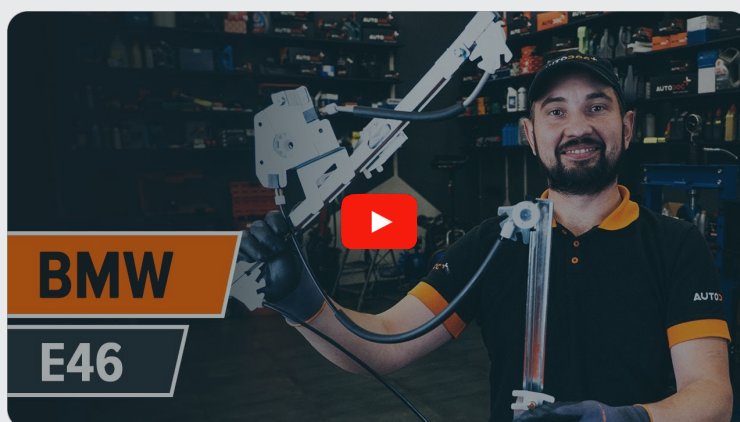




How to change front  
window regulator on  
**BMW 3 Compact (E46)** –  
replacement guide

### 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

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 Touring (E46) 320d 2.0

REPLACEMENT: WINDOW REGULATOR – BMW 3 COMPACT (E46). TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Electronic spray
- Torque wrench
- Drive socket # 8
- Drive socket # 10
- Torx bit T25
- Torx bit T30
- Ratchet wrench
- Plastic trim tool
- Round-nose pliers

**Buy tools**

Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

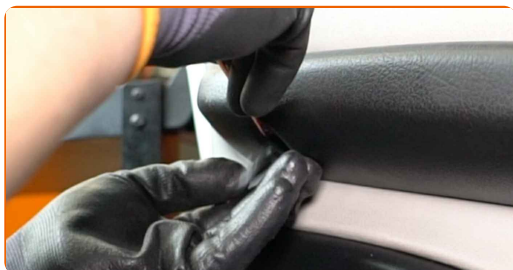
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

## REPLACEMENT: WINDOW REGULATOR – BMW 3 COMPACT (E46). USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

**1** Open the car door.



**2** Remove the caps from the door armrest fasteners. Use a plastic trim tool.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Do not use excessive force when removing the part as this may damage it.

3

Disconnect the wing mirror control module. Use a plastic trim tool.

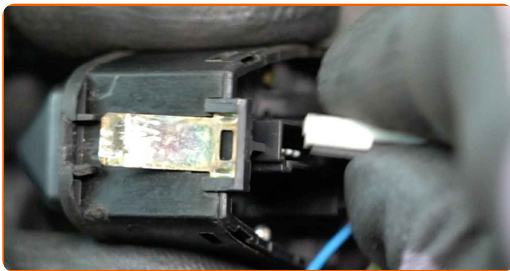


**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). To avoid damaging the part when removing it, do not use excessive force.

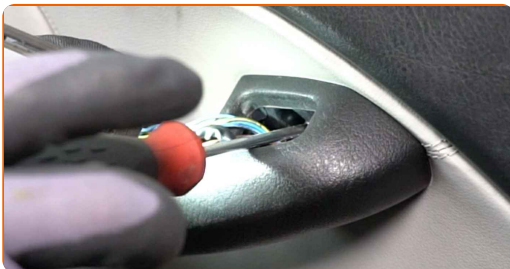
4

Disconnect the wing mirror control connectors.



5

Unscrew the door handle fastener. Use Torx T25.



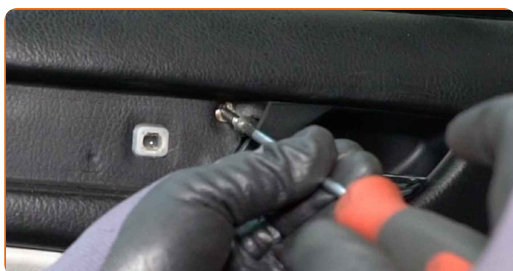
**6** Remove the door card trim panel. Use a plastic trim tool.



Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.

**7** Unscrew the door card fasteners. Use Torx T25.



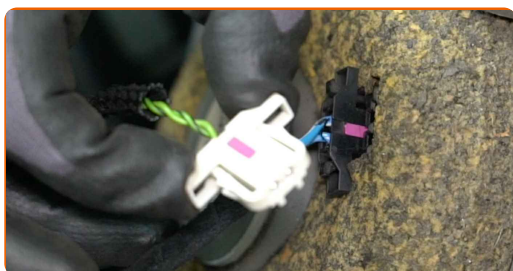
**8** Detach the door card. Use a plastic trim tool.



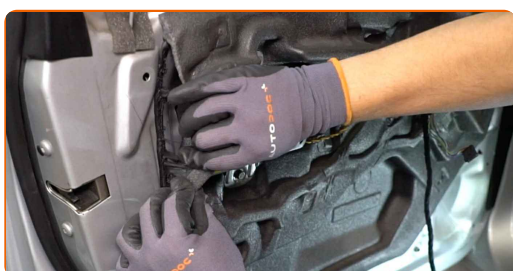
**9** Detach the door lock actuator cable.



- 10** Disconnect the audio system speaker connectors. Disconnect the wing mirror control connectors from the door card.



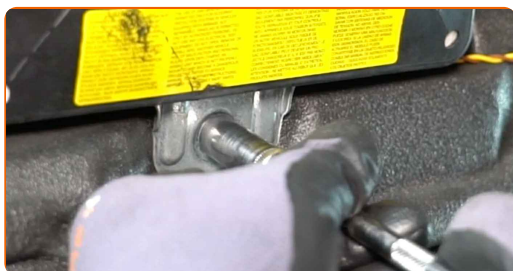
- 11** Detach the door panel sound insulation.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.

- 12** Unscrew the SRS control module fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



- 13** Remove the SRS module.



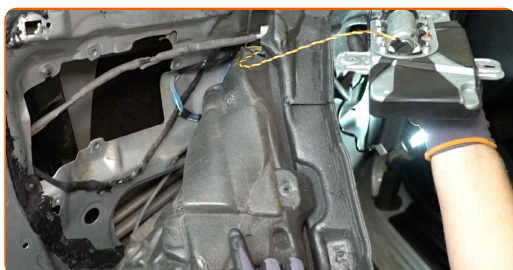


**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.

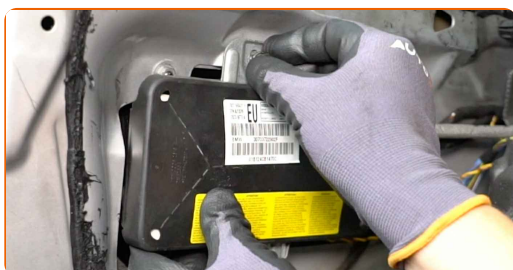
**14**

Detach the door panel sound insulation.



**15**

Install the SRS module.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). To avoid damaging the part during installation, do not use excessive force.

**16**

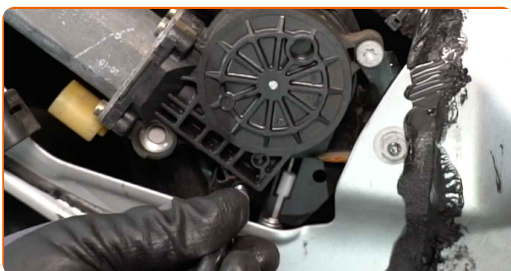
Screw in the SRS module fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



**17** Disconnect the power window module connector.



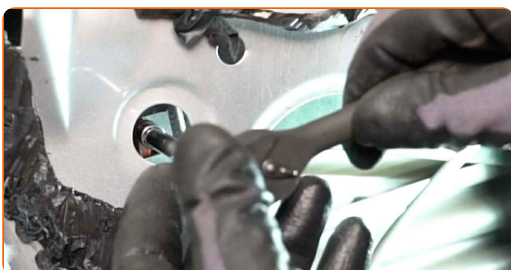
**18** Unscrew the fasteners of the power window module. Use Torx T30. Use a ratchet wrench.



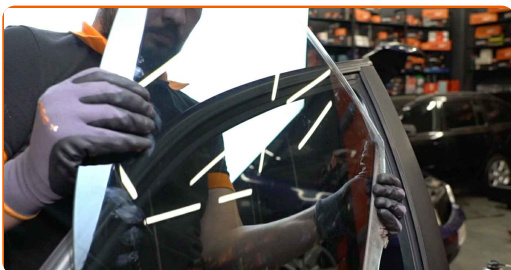
**19** Remove the power window switch module.



**20** Unscrew the window glass fasteners. Use a drive socket #8. Use a ratchet wrench.



**21** Raise the glass a little and remove it.

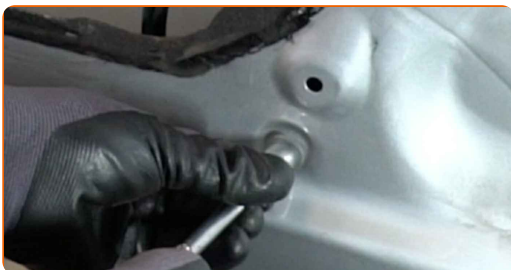


Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Professionals recommend:

- To avoid injury, hold the glass when raising it.
- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.

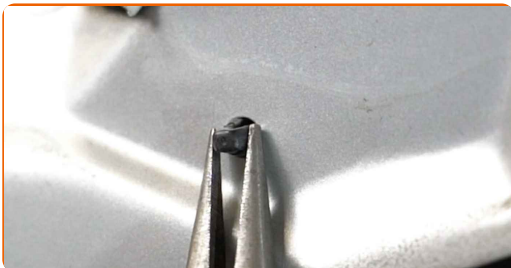
22

Unscrew the fasteners of the window regulator assembly. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



23

Squeeze the retainer of the window regulator actuator to release and disconnect it. Use round-nose pliers.



24

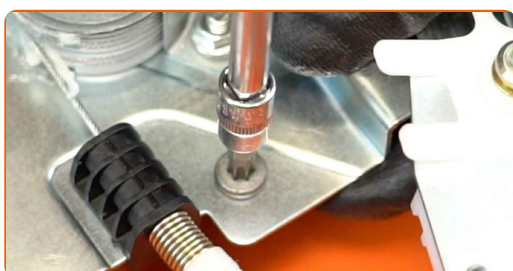
Remove the window regulator actuator.



**25** Install the power window switch module.



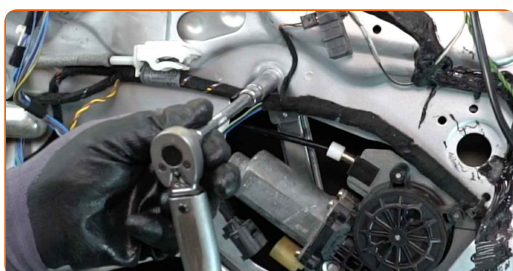
**26** Tighten the fasteners of the power window module. Use Torx T30. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 11 Nm torque.



**27** Attach the window regulator drive gear.

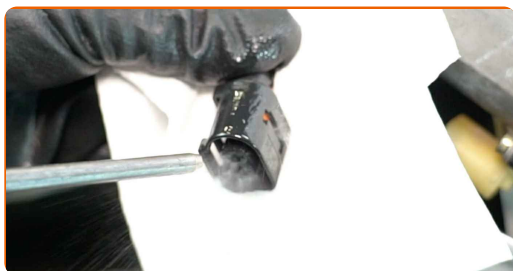


**28** Tighten the fasteners of the window regulator assembly. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 11 Nm torque.

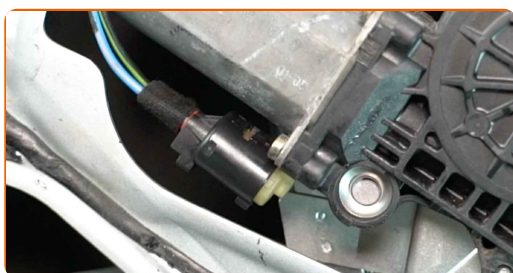


**29** Attach the retainer of the window regulator actuator.

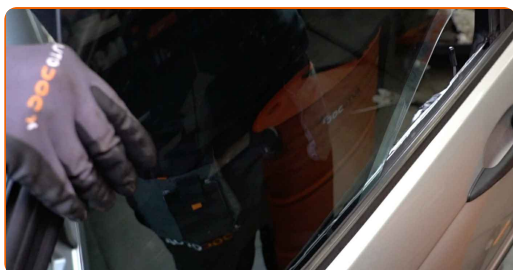
**30** Treat the power window module connector. Use dielectric grease.



**31** Connect the power window module connector.



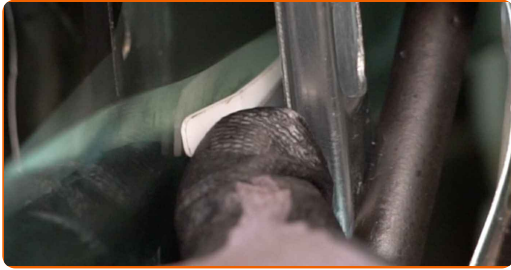
**32** Lower the window glass and install it to its mounting seat in the window raiser mechanism.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- To avoid injury, hold the glass when lowering it.
- Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Do not use excessive force during installation. This may damage the part.

**33** Install the retainers of the window glass fasteners.



**34** Unscrew the SRS control module fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



**35** Remove the SRS module.



Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.



**36** Attach the door panel sound insulation.



Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Check that the sound insulation fits snugly on the mounting seats.

**37** Install the SRS module.



AUTODOC recommends:

- When installing, do not use excessive force to avoid damage to the part.

**38** Tighten the SRS module fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 8 Nm torque.



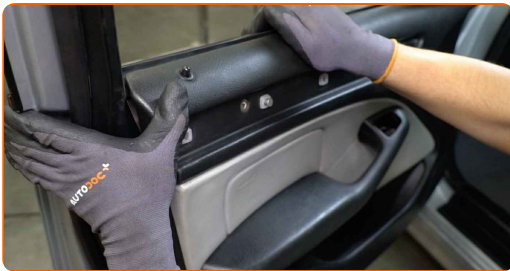
**39** Connect the audio system speaker connectors. Connect the wing mirror control connectors to the door card.



**40** Attach the door lock actuator cable.



**41** Reinstall the door card. Make sure you hear a click indicating that it is locked in place.

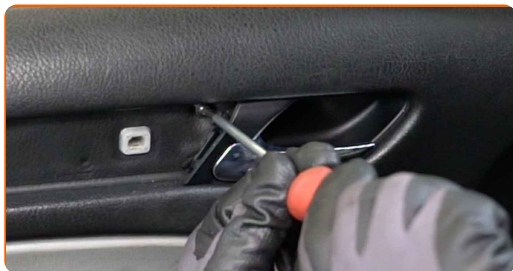


Replacement: window regulator – BMW 3 Compact (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- When installing, do not use excessive force to avoid damage to the part.



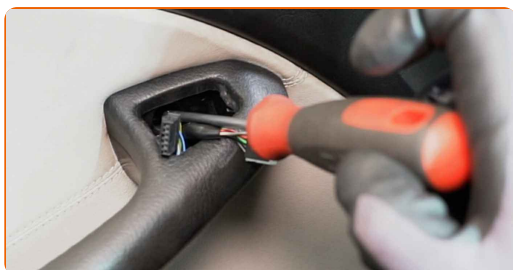
**42** Screw in the door card fasteners. Use Torx T25.



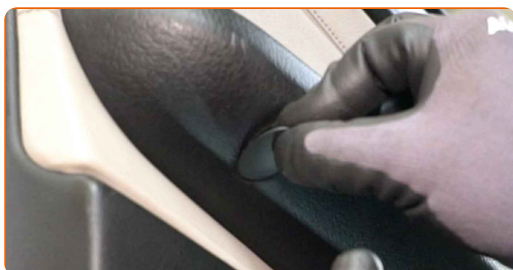
**43** Install the door card trim panel.



**44** Screw in the door handle fastener. Use Torx T25.



**45** Install the caps on the door armrest fasteners.



**46** Treat the wing mirror control connectors. Use dielectric grease.

**47**

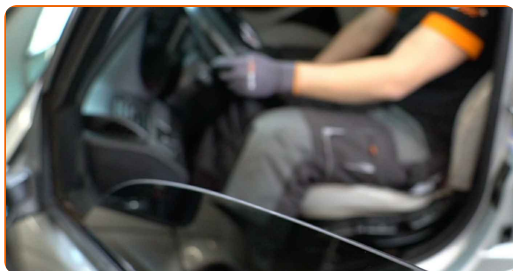
Connect the wing mirror control connectors.

**48**

Connect the wing mirror control module.

**49**

Switch on the ignition. This is necessary in order to make sure that the component operates properly.

**50**

Switch off the ignition.

**51**

Close the car door.

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

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