



How to change rear
brake pads on **BMW 3**
Convertible (E36) –
replacement guide

SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

ⓘ Important!

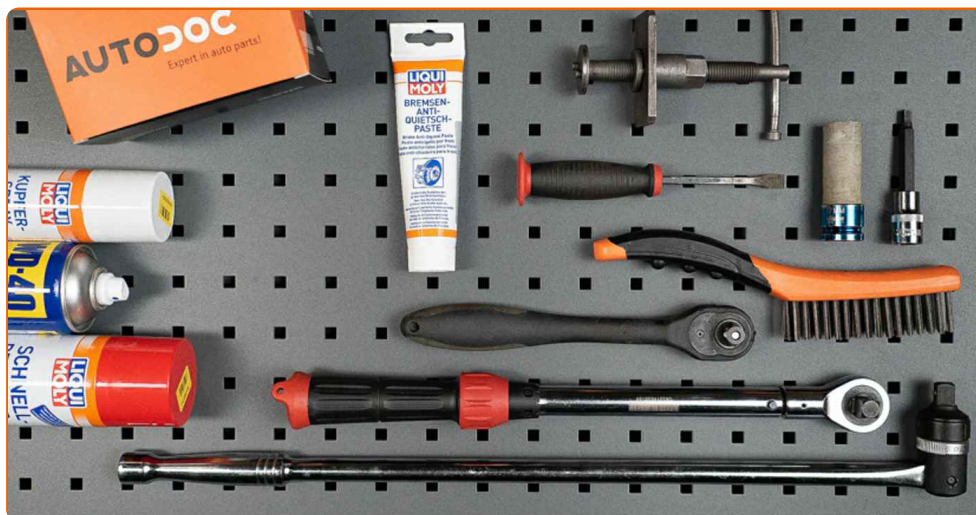
This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) M3 3.0, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 328i 2.8, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 323i 2.5, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) M3 3.2

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 Convertible (E46) 318Ci 2.0

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW 3 CONVERTIBLE (E36). 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](#)

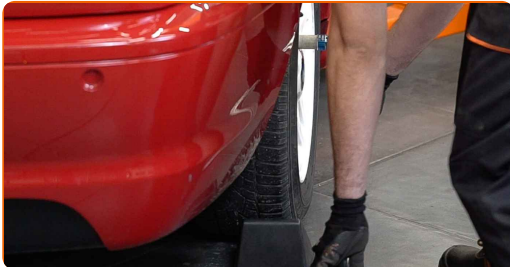
Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). AUTODOC recommends:

- 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 3 CONVERTIBLE (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 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 3 Convertible (E36)

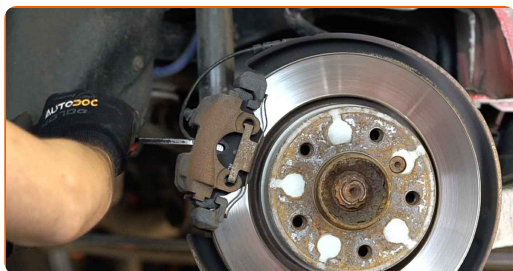
6

Remove the wheel.



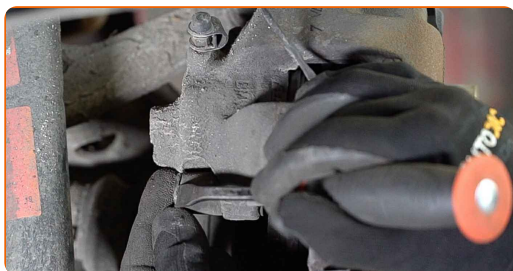
7

Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



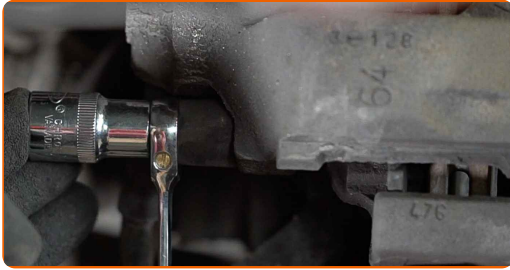
8

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



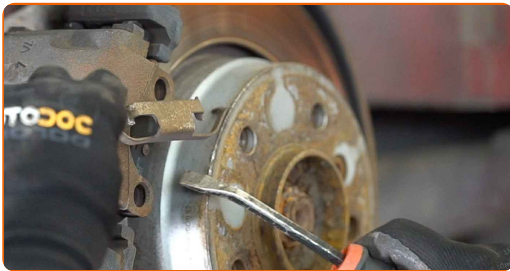
9

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



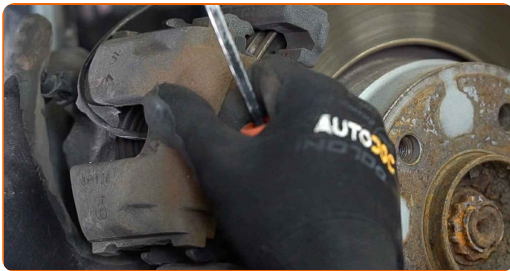
10

Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



11

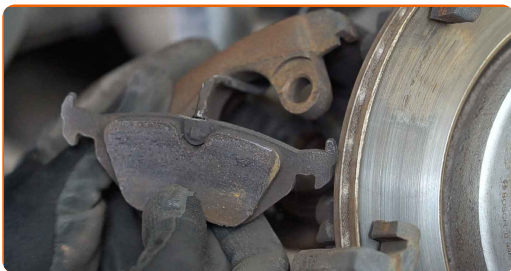
Remove the brake caliper.



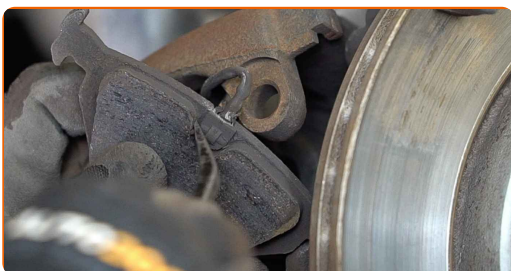
Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Professionals recommend:

- 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.



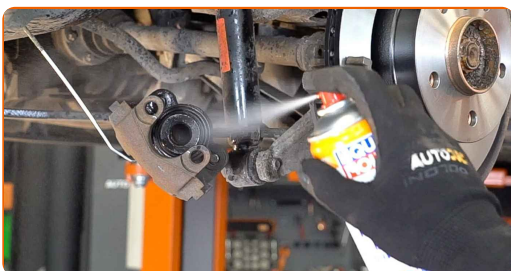
- 13 Disconnect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



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 3 Convertible (E36). 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.



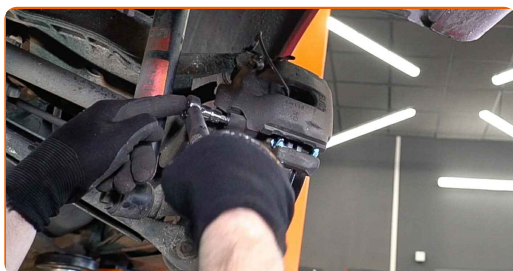
Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Tip from AUTODOC:

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

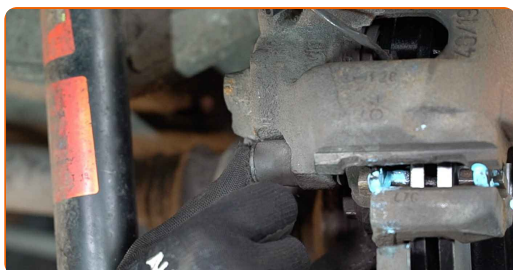
- 18 Connect the brake pads wear sensor.



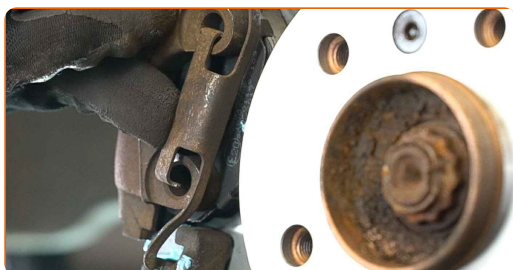
- 19 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



- 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.

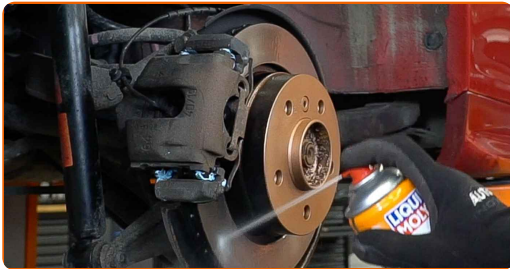


AUTODOC recommends:

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

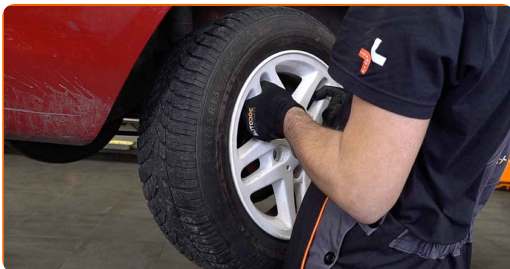
23

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



24

Install the wheel.

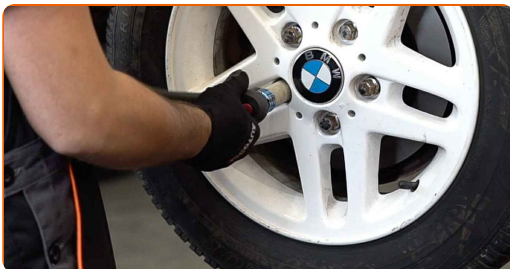


Replacement: brake pads – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Tip:

- 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 3 Convertible (E36) – 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 3 Convertible (E36). 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 3 Convertible (E36). 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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BRAKE PADS: A WIDE SELECTION

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