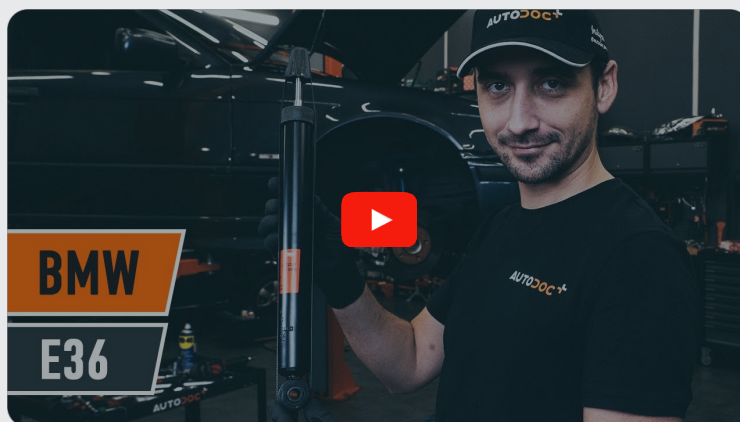




How to change rear
shock absorbers on **BMW**
3 Convertible (E36) –
replacement guide

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) 328i 2.8, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 323i 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 (E36) 323i 2.5

REPLACEMENT: SHOCK ABSORBERS – BMW 3 CONVERTIBLE (E36). TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 17
- Clip removal tool
- Shock absorber socket #DD6
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Vice
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

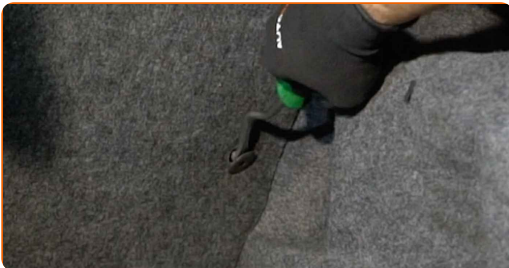
Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Both shock absorbers of the rear suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock absorbers of the rear suspension.
- Please note: all work on the car – BMW 3 Convertible (E36) – should be done with the engine switched off.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1 Open the boot lid.

2 Remove the clips of the boot side lining. Use a clip removal tool.



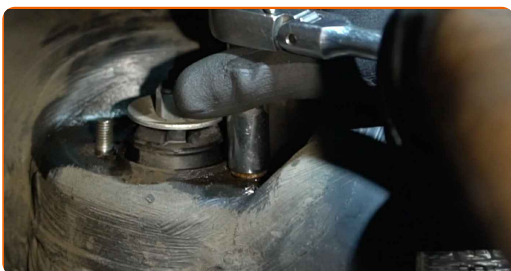
3 Detach the boot side lining.



4 Clean the shock absorber fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



5 Loosen the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



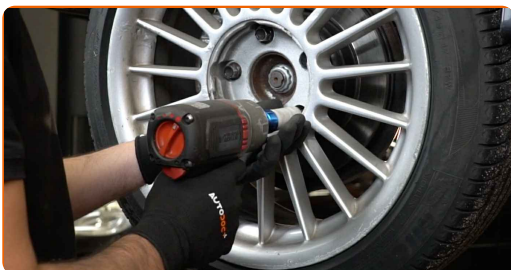
6 Secure the wheels with chocks.

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



8 Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.

9 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts.
BMW 3 Convertible (E36)

10

Remove the wheel.



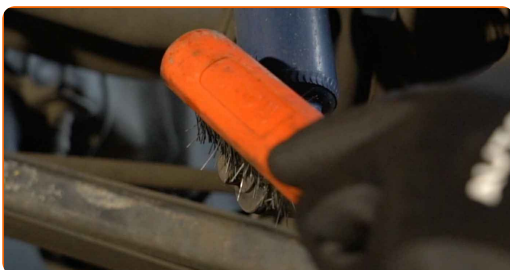
11

Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



12

Clean the shock absorber fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



13

Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #17. Use a ratchet wrench.

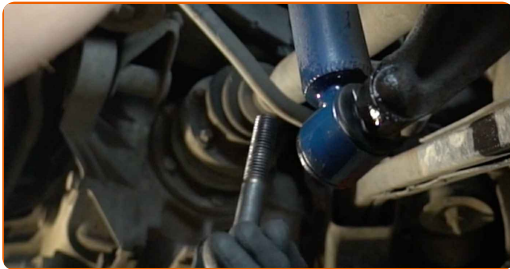


AUTODOC recommends:

- BMW 3 Convertible (E36) – To avoid injury, hold the shock absorber while unscrewing the fastening bolts.

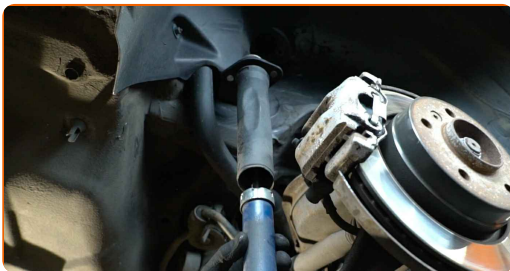
14

Remove the fastening bolt.



15

Remove the shock absorber.



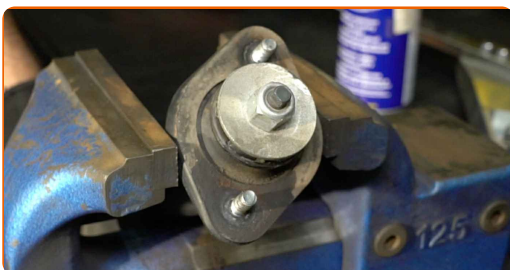
16

Clean the shock absorber mounting seats. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

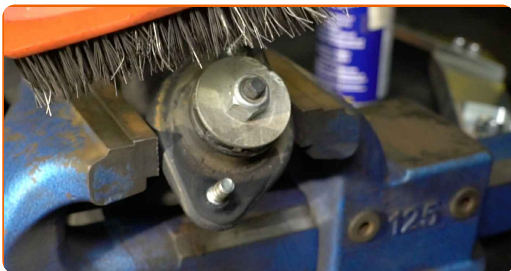


17

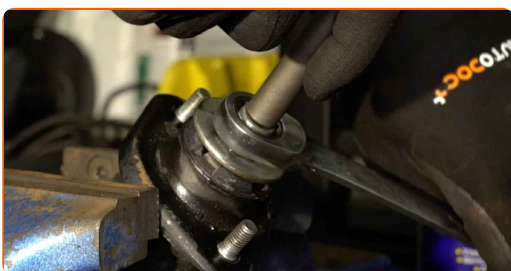
Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



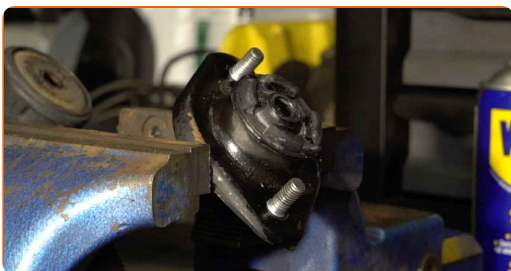
18 Clean the shock absorber rod fastener. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



19 Remove the shock absorber piston rod fastening. Use a shock absorber socket DDN[®]6. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



20 Remove the shock absorber upper mount.



21 Remove the shock absorber dust boot and bump stop.



Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Examine the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop. Replace them if necessary.
- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

22

Install the dust boot and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



23

Install the shock absorber upper mount.

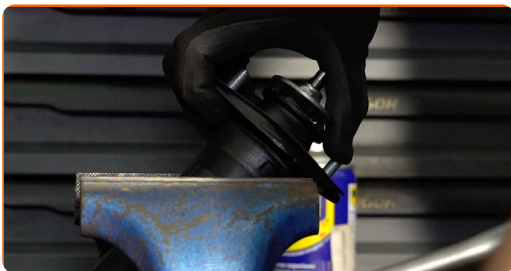


24

Tighten the shock absorber rod nut. Use a drive socket #16. Use a shock absorber socket DDN#6 Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 37 nm torque.



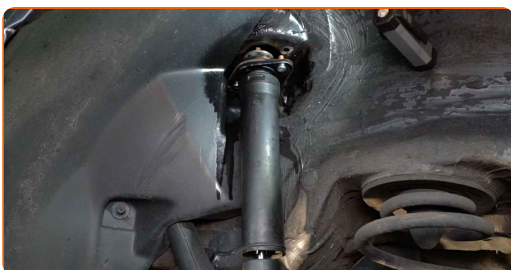
25 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



26 Treat the shock absorber rod fastener. Use copper grease.



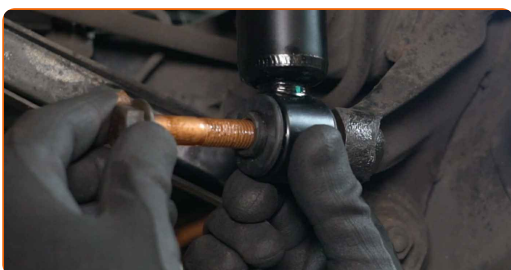
27 Place the shock absorber in the wheel arch and secure it.



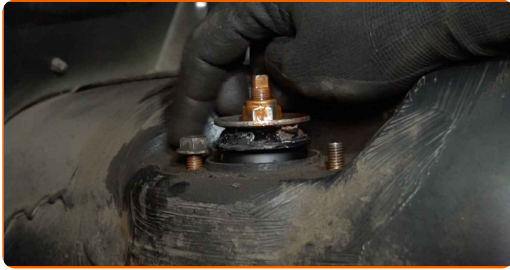
AUTODOC recommends:

- BMW 3 Convertible (E36) – To avoid injury, hold the shock absorber while screwing in the fastening bolts.

28 Install the fastening bolt.



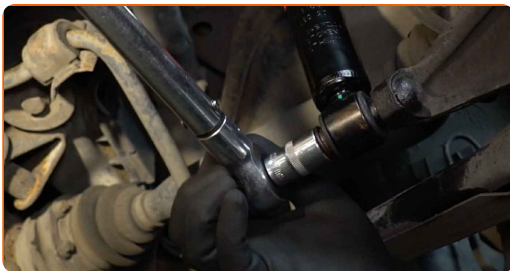
29 Screw the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Do not tighten it.



30 Raise the hydraulic transmission jack by 10-15 cm.



31 Tighten the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 100 Nm torque.



32 Remove the support from under the arm.

AUTODOC recommends:

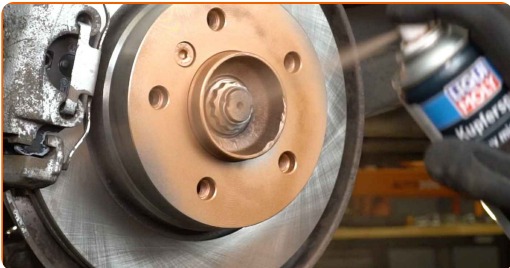
- Replacement: shock absorbers – BMW 3 Convertible (E36). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

33 Treat the shock absorber fasteners. Use copper grease.

34 Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush.



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



36 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

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

37 Install the wheel.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. BMW 3 Convertible (E36)

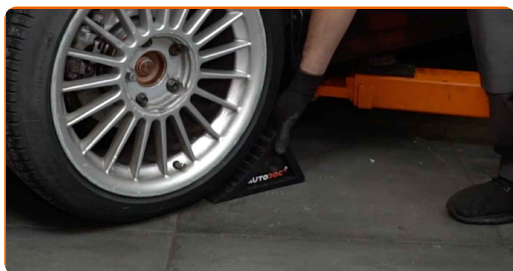
38 Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



39 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.



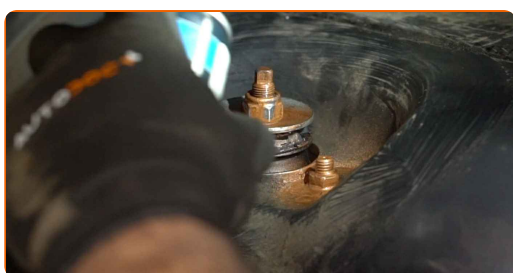
40 Remove the jacks and chocks.



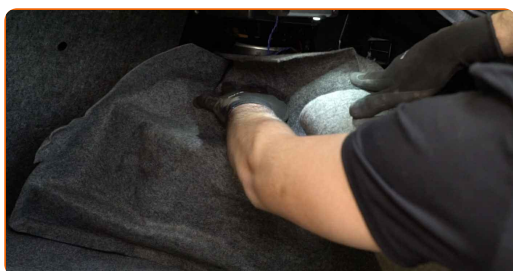
41 Tighten the top shock absorber fastening. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 24 Nm torque.



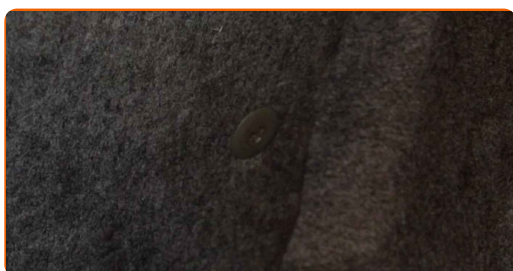
42 Treat the shock absorber fasteners. Use copper grease.



43 Attach the side lining of the boot.



44 Install the clips of the boot side lining.



45

Close the lid of the luggage compartment.

WELL DONE! 

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