



How to change rear
brake discs on **BMW 3**
Saloon (E46) –
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 Saloon (E46) 318i 1.9, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 320d 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 323i 2.5, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 316i 1.9, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 320i 2.2, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 318i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 318d 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 316i 1.8

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 DISCS – BMW 3 SALOON (E46).
TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:**



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Torx bit T30
- Drive socket # 16
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Tap wrench
- Impact screwdriver
- Rubber mallet
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

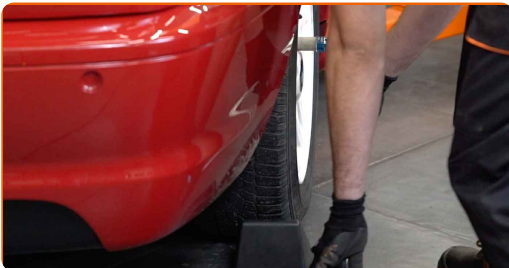
Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- Replace the brake discs on the car BMW 3 E46 in complete set for each axis. Regardless of the state of components. This will ensure even braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for both brake disks on the same axle.
- When changing the brake discs, always replace the brake pads.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE DISCS – BMW 3 SALOON (E46). USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

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.



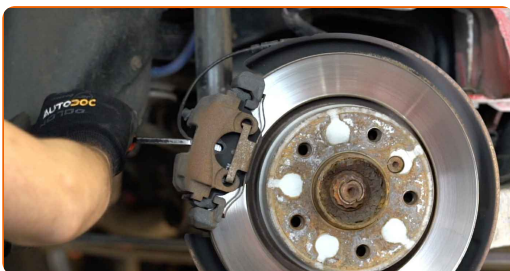
AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW 3 Saloon (E46)

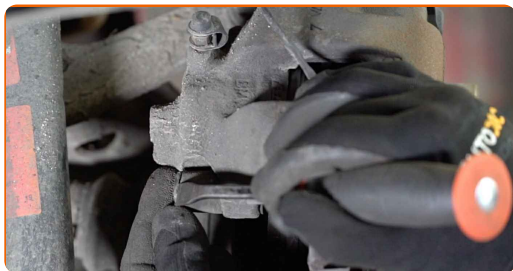
6 Remove the wheel.



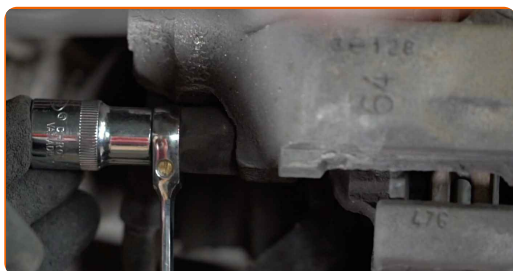
7 Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



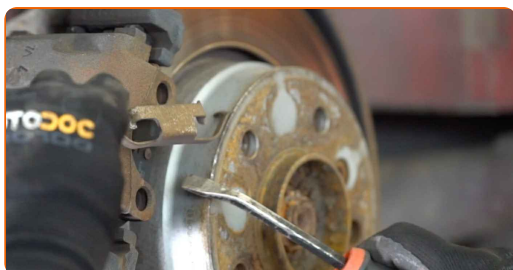
8 Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



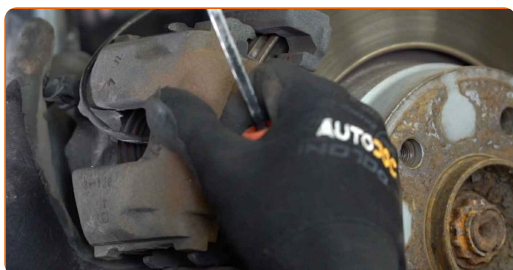
9 Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



10 Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



11 Remove the brake caliper.

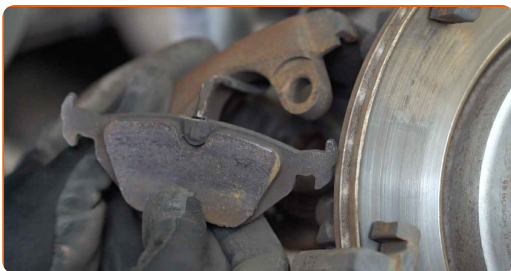


Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). Professionals recommend:

- 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.

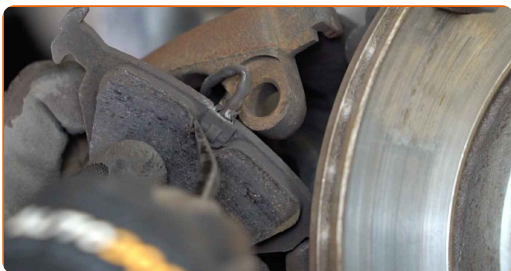
12

Remove the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



13

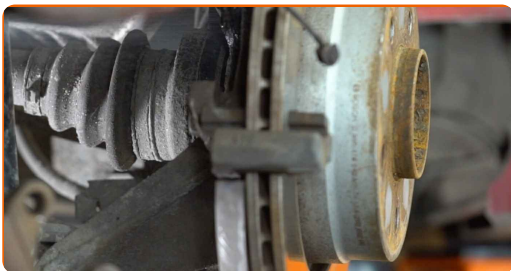
Disconnect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



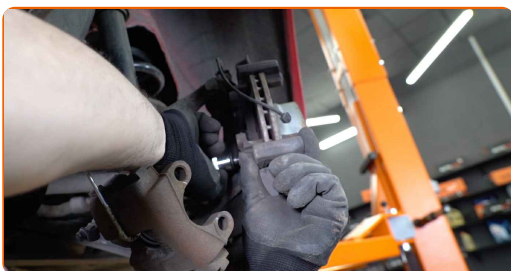
Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with the brake pad wear sensor.

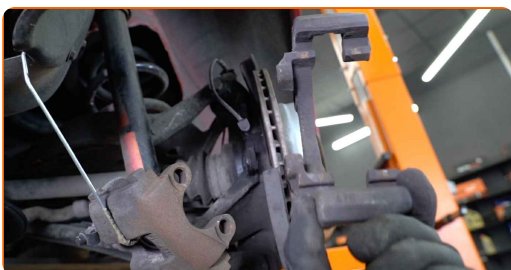
14 Clean the brake caliper bracket fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



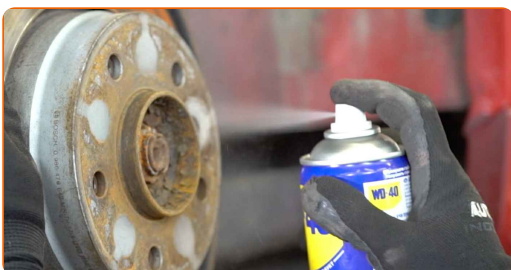
15 Unscrew the caliper bracket fastening. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench. Use a tap wrench.



16 Remove the caliper bracket.



17 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



18

Unscrew the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use an impact screwdriver.

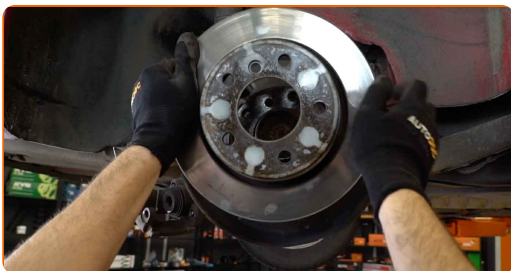


Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- If necessary, use a rubber mallet.

19

Remove the brake disc.



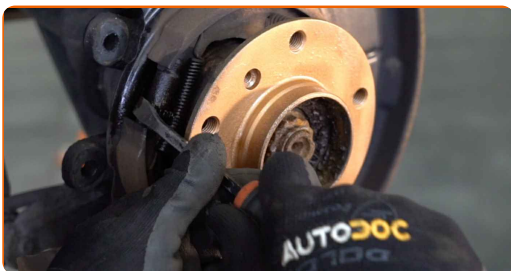
20

Clean the hub. Use a wire brush. Treat the contacting surface. Use copper grease.



21

Move the parking brake shoes against the drum. Use a crowbar.



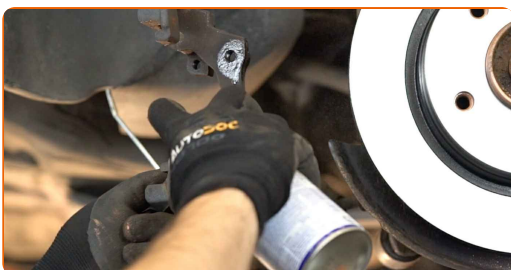
22 Install the brake disc.



23 Tighten the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 16 Nm torque.



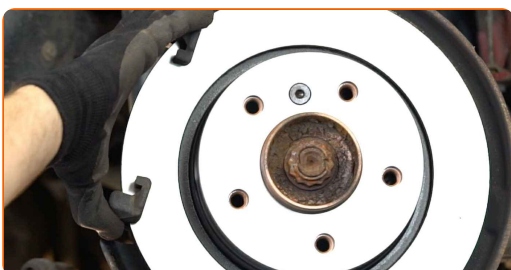
24 Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.



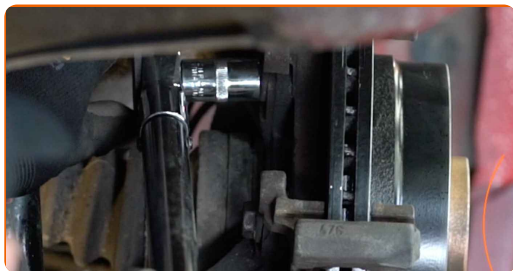
AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

25 Install the brake caliper bracket.



26 Tighten the brake caliper bracket. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



27 Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

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



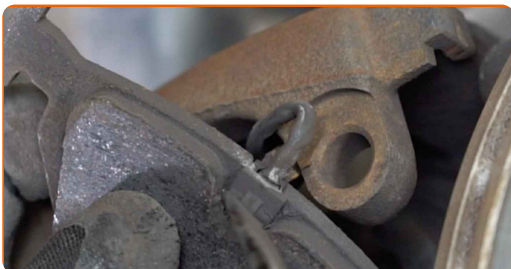
29 Install the brake pads.



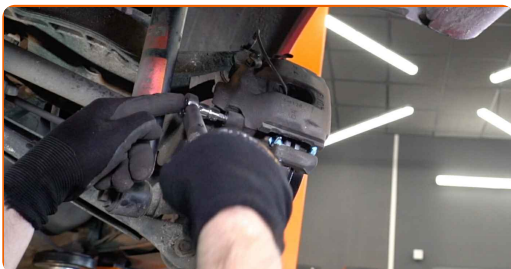
Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- If going to use the old brake pads, clean them.

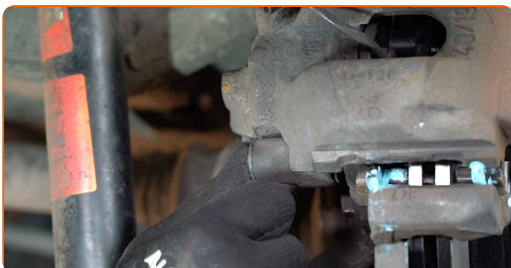
30 Connect the brake pads wear sensor.



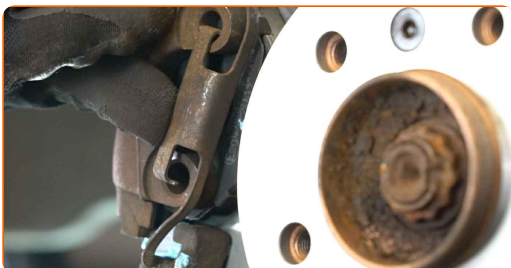
31 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



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



33 Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



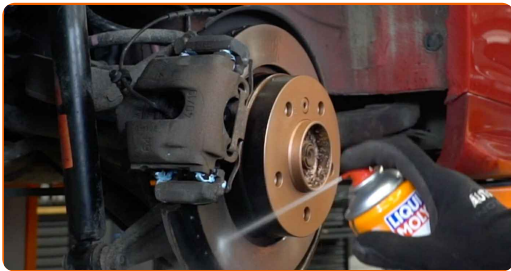
34

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



35

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

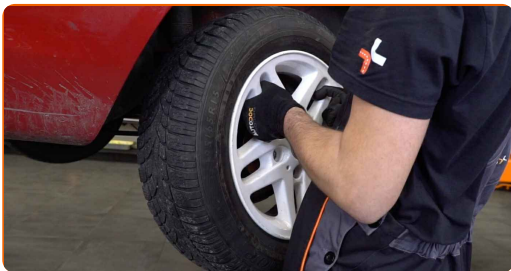


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

36

Install the wheel.



Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

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

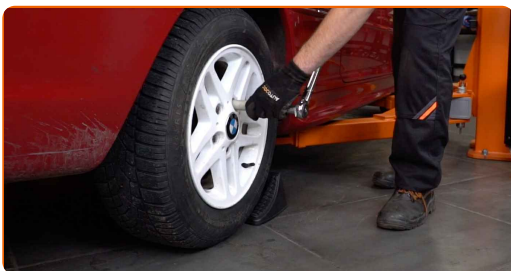
37

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



38

Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.

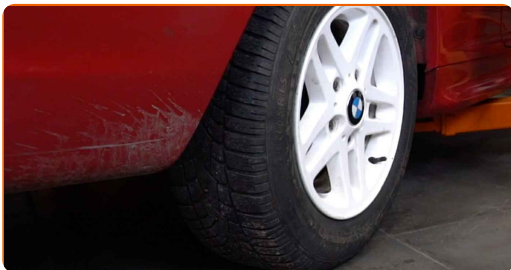


Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Without starting the engine, press the brake pedal several times until you feel significant resistance.

39

Remove the jacks and chocks.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Saloon (E46). Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if necessary.

40

Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap. Close the hood.

WELL DONE! 

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