

License plate light, removing and installing

1. With trunk lid raised, remove license plate light trim panel screws. See Fig. 15.

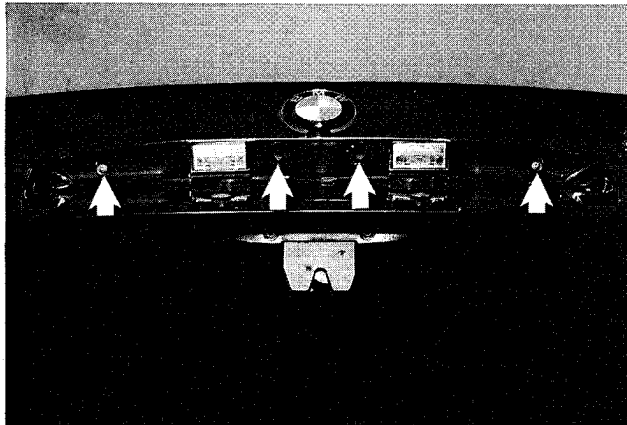


Fig. 15. Remove screws (**arrows**) and remove license plate light trim panel.

2. Using a flat tipped screw driver, pry gently on right side of license plate light assembly. See Fig. 16.
3. Lift license plate light assembly from sheet metal. Release harness connector locking tabs and separate harness from license plate light electrical connector.

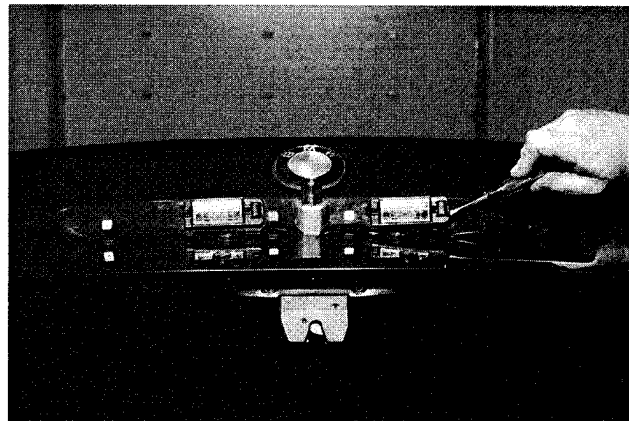


Fig. 16. Insert screwdriver (**arrow**).

NOTE —

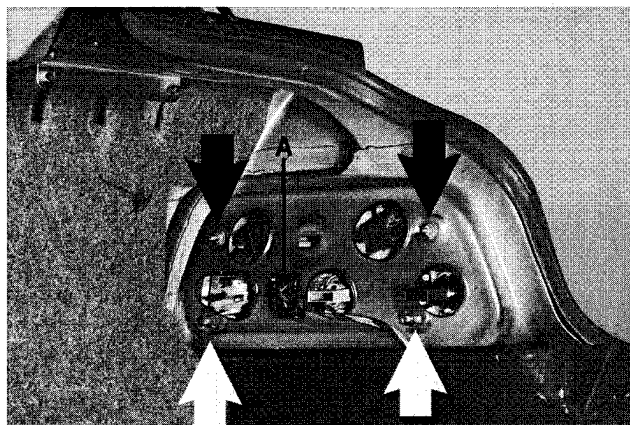
Inspect bulb contact springs for damage and corrosion. Replace socket assembly if necessary.

4. Installation is reverse of removal.



Taillight assembly, removing and installing

1. Open trunk lid. Remove cover from rear of taillight. Refer to Fig. 11.
2. Depress locking tabs on electrical harness connector and disconnect from rear of taillight lens assembly. Remove four taillight assembly retaining nuts. See Fig. 13.



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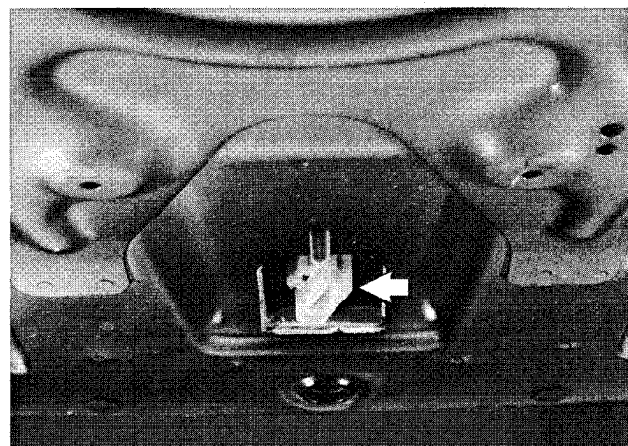
Fig. 13. Taillight mounting nuts (arrows) and harness connector (A).

3. Installation is reverse of removal.

Center Brake Light

On convertible models, it is necessary to open trunk lid and remove inner tailgate trim adjacent to license plate light assembly. Then remove the electrical connectors and four center brake light retaining nuts. Push center brake light out. Replace bulbs if necessary.

On 4-door and coupe models, open trunk lid. Working directly under center brake light, turn bulb socket counterclockwise $\frac{1}{4}$ turn and remove from center brake light assembly. Replace bulb if necessary. See Fig. 14.



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Fig. 14. Turn center brake light socket counterclockwise and remove bulb.

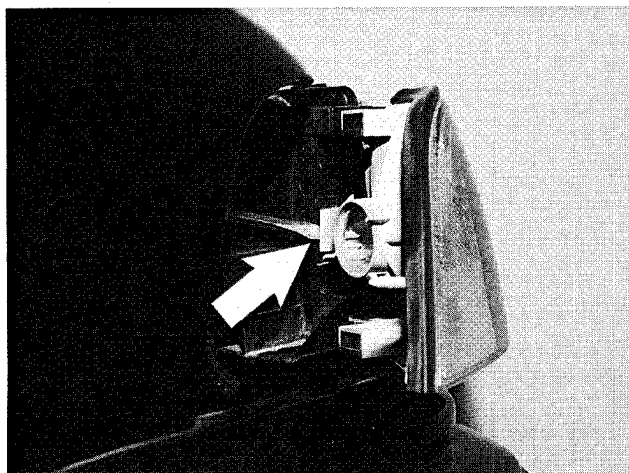
Center brake light housing, replacing (4-door and coupe models)

1. Remove rear window parcel shelf. See 513 Interior Trim.
2. Depress tabs on center brake light electrical connector and disconnect.
3. Remove retaining screws and remove socket.
4. Replace bulb.

Front turn signal assembly, removing and installing

The procedure below also includes turn signal bulb replacement.

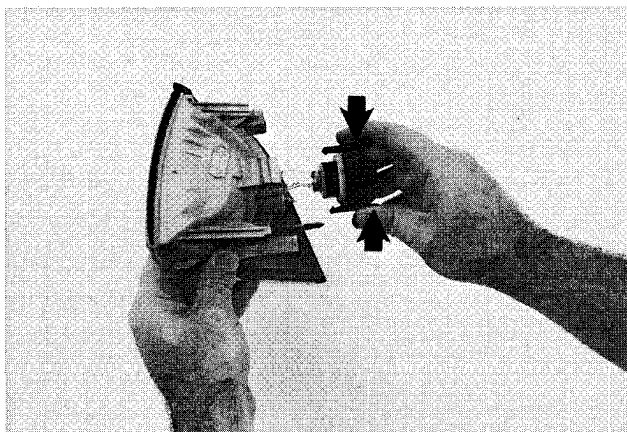
1. Working inside engine compartment, use a screwdriver to press turn signal assembly retaining clip away from retaining tab on headlight assembly frame. Push turn signal forward. See Fig. 9.



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Fig. 9. Press on clip (arrow). Light slides straight out.

2. Depress tabs on bulb socket and remove from turn signal assembly. See Fig. 10.



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Fig. 10. Depress locking tabs (arrows) to remove bulb and socket from turn signal housing.

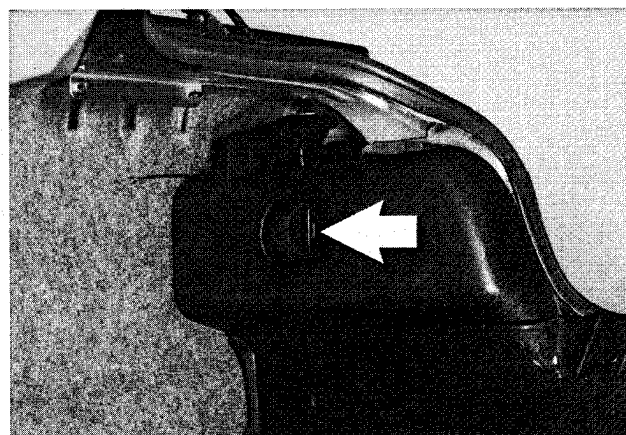
Side Marker Lights

Side marker lights on later model E36 cars are snapped into the front fenders. To service, carefully pry the assembly out of the fender, then detach the electrical harness connector and bulb socket.

REAR LIGHTING

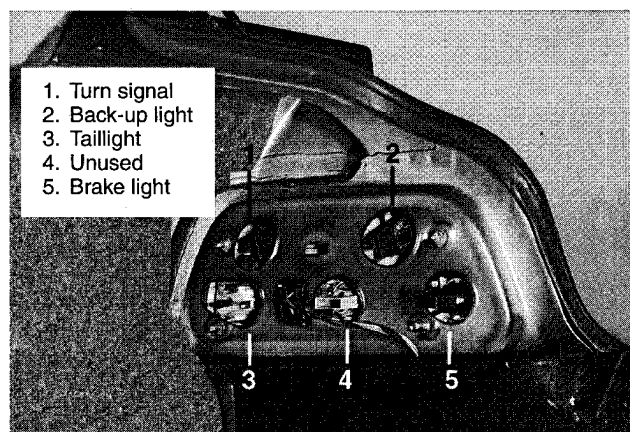
Taillight Bulbs

To access taillight bulbs, see Fig. 11. The location of the rear bulbs are shown in Fig. 12. Turn bulb socket 1/4 turn to remove.



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Fig. 11. To remove taillight bulb cover, turn retainer (arrow) 1/4 turn counterclockwise.



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Fig. 12. Taillight bulb identification.

REAR LIGHTING

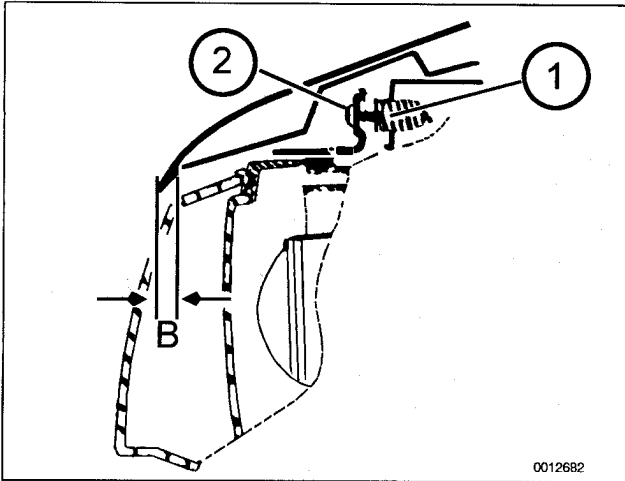


Fig. 6. Measure gap **B** (1.5 mm) between front of hood and headlight cover. Note horizontal headlight adjusting nut (1) and retaining screw (2).

Foglight assembly, removing and installing

The following procedure covers foglight lens and foglight bulb replacement. Foglight components are shown in Fig. 7.

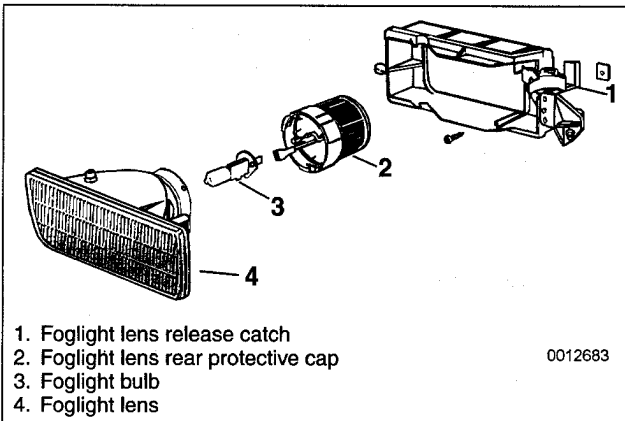


Fig. 7. Foglight assembly (removed).

1. Insert a screwdriver in upper air duct inlet of front lower valence and disengage foglight lens catch mechanism. Swing light outward and gently disengage hinged end. See Fig. 8.



Fig. 8. Insert screwdriver in upper air duct inlet.

2. Remove rear protection cap and disengage steel wire foglight bulb clamp.
3. Remove bulb from rear of foglight assembly. Disconnect electrical harness from foglight bulb.

CAUTION —

Do not touch halogen bulbs with your bare hands. If necessary wipe bulb using a clean cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol.

4. Installation is reverse of removal. Check electrical connector for corrosion. Spray with contact cleaner, if necessary.

Bulb Application (USA Models):

- Foglight bulb H1 (55w)

Headlight assembly, removing and installing

CAUTION —

Following headlight assembly work, headlight beam aim must be adjusted using special equipment.

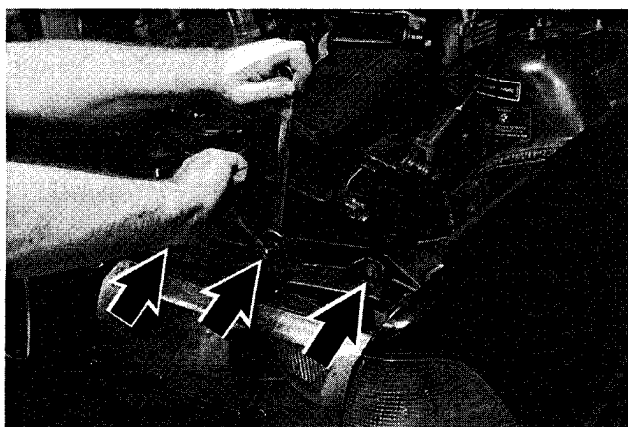
1. Left side: Remove air filter housing, air intake duct, and air mass meter. See **100 Engine-General**.
2. Disconnect harness connectors from headlight bulbs.
3. Remove front turn signal. See **Front turn signal assembly, removing and installing** later in this repair group.
4. Remove radiator cover. See Fig. 2.



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Fig. 2. Radiator cover screws (arrows).

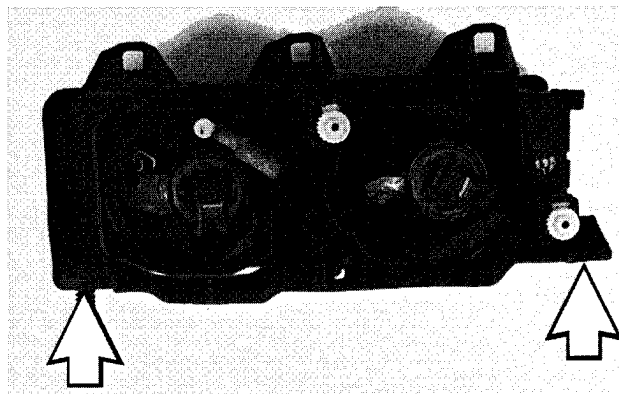
5. Using a wrench, brace adjusting nut at top center of headlight. Remove three screws at top of assembly. See Fig. 3.



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Fig. 3. Brace headlight adjusting nut as shown and remove top screws (arrows).

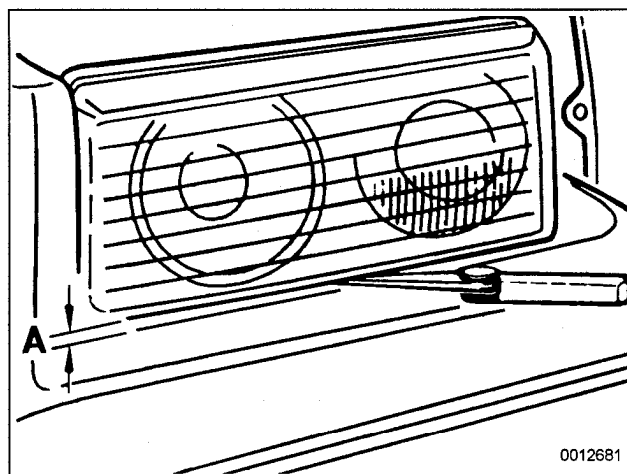
6. Remove two screws on bottom of assembly. See Fig. 4.



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Fig. 4. Headlight bottom retaining screws (arrows). Screws mount in threaded expanding rivets which act as headlight height adjusters.

7. Remove headlight assembly from front.
8. On installation, tighten lower screws first while holding expanding rivets with a wrench. There should be a 2.5 mm gap between bottom of lens and front panel. Use adjusting nut to raise or lower headlight unit. See Fig. 5.



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Fig. 5. Measure gap A (2.5 mm) between bottom of headlight assembly and front panel.

9. Clearance between hood and headlight cover should be 1.5 mm. Adjust by turning upper headlight adjusting nuts, then tighten down center screw. See Fig. 6.

630 Exterior Lighting

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GENERAL

The headlight and foglight assemblies use halogen bulbs. To ensure the longevity of halogen bulbs, the bulb glass should not be handled. Dirt and skin oils may cause a bulb to fail prematurely. If necessary wipe bulb using a clean cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol.

NOTE —

Use only original equipment replacement bulbs. Non-original equipment bulbs may cause false failure readings on the check control display (where applicable).

WARNING —

When working on electrical systems, remove the fuse protecting the circuit under repair. See 610 Electrical Component Locations.

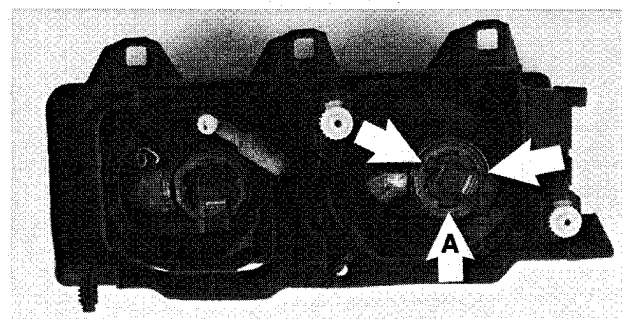
FRONT LIGHTING

Headlight bulb, replacing

1. Open engine hood.
2. Working in back of headlight assembly, grasp rear of bulb socket (harness connector) and turn counterclockwise 90°. Pull bulb out of headlight assembly. See Fig. 1.
3. Disconnect harness connector from bulb.

CAUTION —

Do not touch halogen bulbs with your bare hands. If necessary wipe bulb using a clean cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol.



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Fig. 1. To release bulb from headlight assembly, rotate socket counterclockwise to disengage retaining tabs (arrows). Right side bulb is shown in unlocked position. Note that bottom tab **A** is wider than other two.

4. Installation is reverse of removal. Align tabs on bulb base to cutouts on rear of lens assembly. Secure bulb by rotating clockwise 90°.

Bulb Applications

- Low beam headlight bulb H9006
- High beam headlight bulb H9005