

513-4 INTERIOR TRIM

13. Remove reinforcement bar below steering column and remove steering column shear bolts. Lower steering only slightly and support steering column. See Fig. 7.

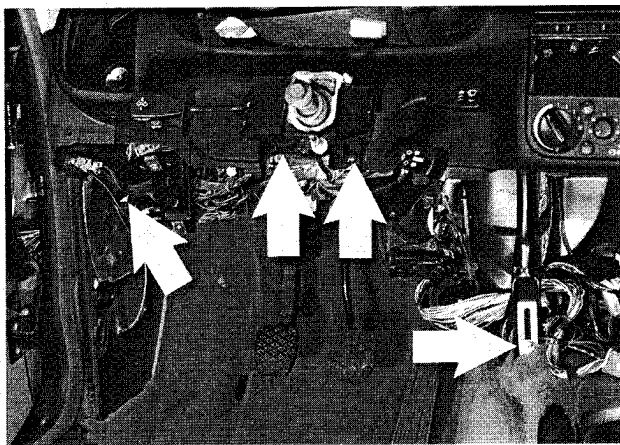


Fig. 7. Reinforcement bar bolts (arrows). Shear (headless) bolts at steering column will have to be drilled out and replaced during reinstallation.

WARNING —

Lower steering column only enough to facilitate removal of the dashboard. The steering column supports and swivel spindles can be damaged if the column is lowered too much.

14. Remove glove compartment support frame. See Fig. 8.

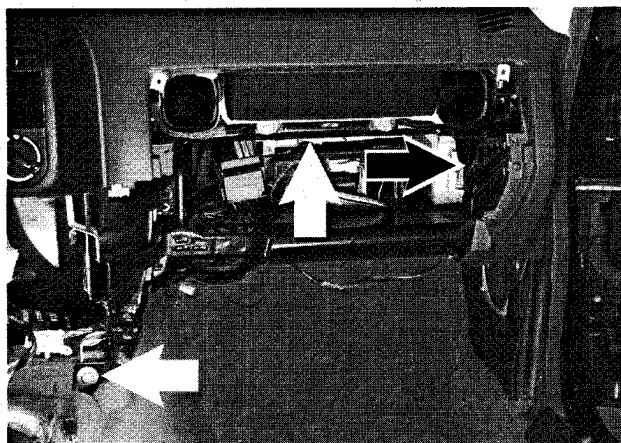


Fig. 8. Glove compartment support frame bolts (arrows).

15. Carefully pry out defroster outlets (left and right sides) at base of windshield. Remove screw below each outlet. See Fig. 9.

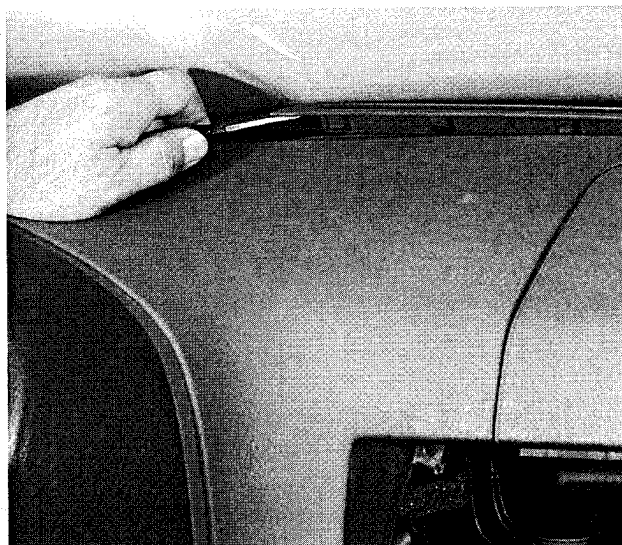


Fig. 9. Windshield defroster outlet being lifted off (arrow).

16. Remove mounting bolts on left and right ends of dashboard. See Fig. 10.



Fig. 10. Dashboard mounting bolt (arrows). Left side shown, right is similar. Some models may have two bolts on each side.

17. Lift instrument panel off slowly, making sure all harness connectors and wiring are disconnected.

18. Installation is reverse of removal.



Dashboard, removing and installing

1. Disconnect negative (-) cable from battery and cover terminal with insulating material.

CAUTION —

Prior to disconnecting the battery, read the battery disconnection cautions given at the front of this manual on page viii.

2. Remove center console as described earlier.
3. Remove glove compartment as described earlier.
4. Remove lower left dash trim piece as described above. Remove lower right dash trim panel. See Fig. 4.

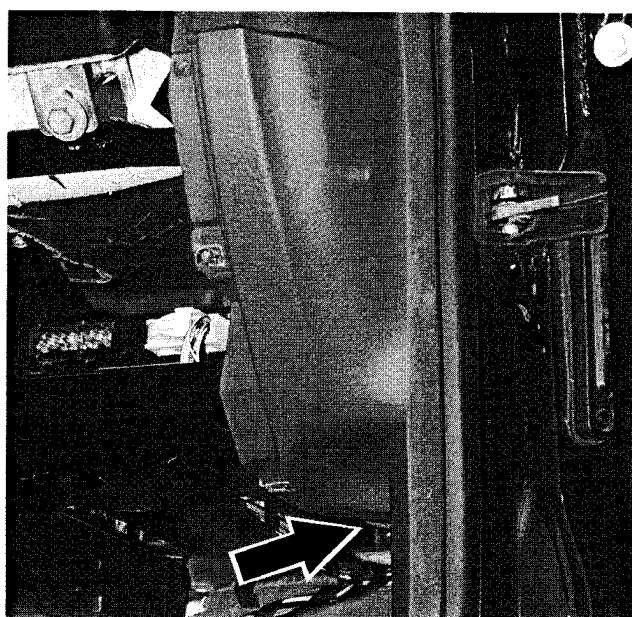


Fig. 4. Lower right dash trim piece retaining screw (arrow).

5. Remove driver and passenger airbags. See 721 Air-bag System (SRS).

WARNING —

Store the removed airbags in a safe place. Position the airbags facing up.

6. Remove steering wheel. See 320 Steering and Wheel Alignment.
7. Remove driver side knee bolster. See Fig. 5.
8. Remove instrument cluster. See 620 Instruments.

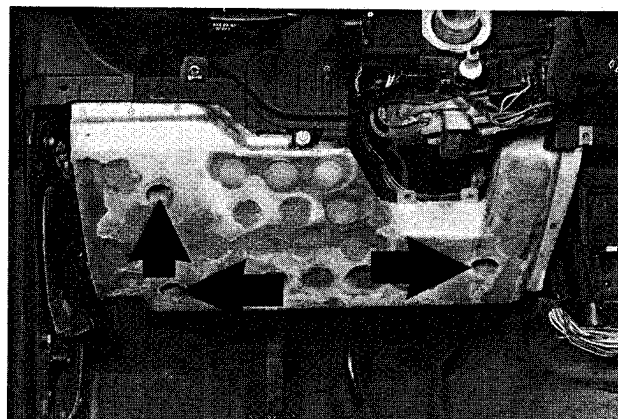


Fig. 5. Driver side knee bolster mounting bolts (arrows).

9. Remove headlight switch. Remove turn signal and windshield wiper/washer stalk switches. See 612 Switches and Electrical Accessories.
10. Remove A/C control head and module. See 640 Heating and Air Conditioning.
11. Remove radio. See 650 Radio.
12. Remove A-pillar (windshield pillar) trim on left and right sides. See Fig. 6.

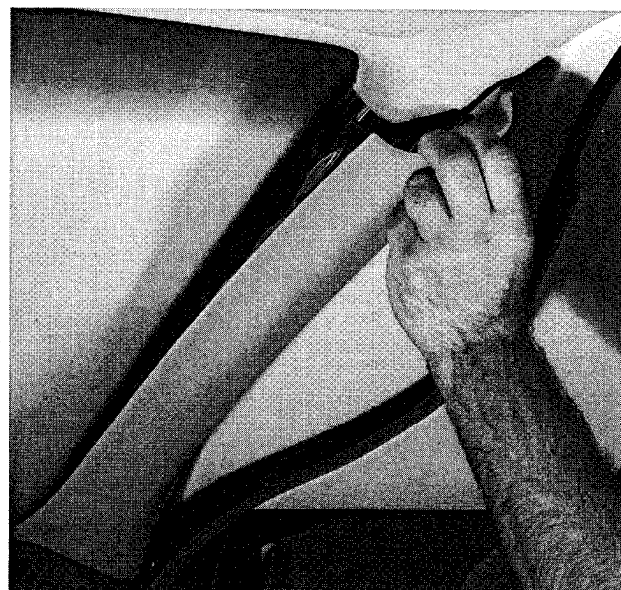


Fig. 6. A-pillar (windshield pillar) trim removal. Right side shown, left is similar.

DASHBOARD

Dashboard removal is a complex operation, involving disconnection and dismantling of a number of electrical and dash structural components.

The BMW E36 is equipped with SRS airbags mounted in the steering wheel, in the dashboard (1994 and later) on the passenger side, and in the front doors (1997 and later). Airbags units are pyrotechnic devices and should be treated with extreme caution. Improper handling of the airbags could cause serious injury.

WARNING —

- The BMW Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) is complex and special precautions must be observed when servicing. Serious injury may result if system service is attempted by persons unfamiliar with the BMW SRS and its approved service procedures. BMW specifies that all inspection and service should be performed by an authorized BMW dealer.
- Before performing any work involving the steering wheel or interior trim in the vicinity of the airbags, disconnect the negative (–) battery cable. See 721 Airbag System (SRS).
- SRS contains a back-up power supply within the SRS control module. A 10 minute discharge period should be allowed after the battery cable has been disconnected.

Glove compartment, removing and installing

1. Open glove compartment door.
2. Remove glove compartment mounting screws. See Fig. 2.
3. Pull glove compartment out, disconnecting electrical harness connectors as necessary.
4. Installation is reverse of removal.

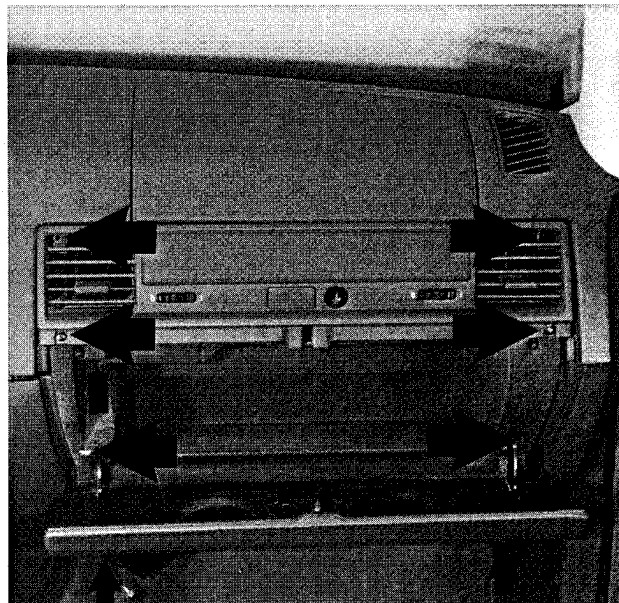


Fig. 2. Glove compartment mounting screws (arrows).

Lower left dash panel, removing and installing

1. Remove lower dash panel retaining screws. See Fig. 3.

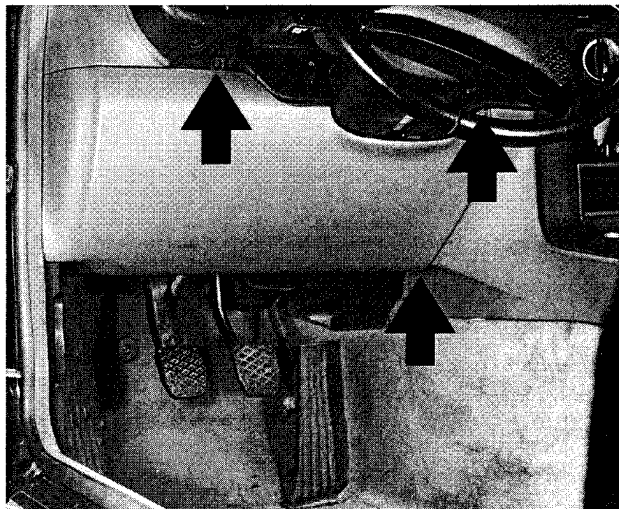


Fig. 3. Lower left dash panel retaining screws (arrows).

2. Pull lower dash panel left and back to disengage from driver's footwell retaining clips.
3. Installation is reverse of removal.

513 Interior Trim

GENERAL	513-1
CENTER CONSOLE	513-1
Center console, removing and installing.	513-1

DASHBOARD	513-2
Glove compartment, removing and installing.	513-2
Lower left dash panel, removing and installing.	513-2
Dashboard, removing and installing.	513-3

GENERAL

This repair group covers interior trim removal and installation procedures. For removal and installation of interior switches, including interior lighting equipment, see **612 Switches and Electrical Accessories**.

Most of the interior trim and finish panels are clipped or screwed into place. Many of the trim retaining clips are designed to be used only once. When removing trim that is held in place with clips, it is a good idea to have spares on hand before beginning the job.

CENTER CONSOLE

The front section center console houses the Multi-Information Display (MID) module, the front ashtray and cigarette lighter, shifter lever, power window switches and the hazard warning switch. The rear center console section houses the ashtray(s) and covers the emergency brake cable ends.

Center console, removing and installing

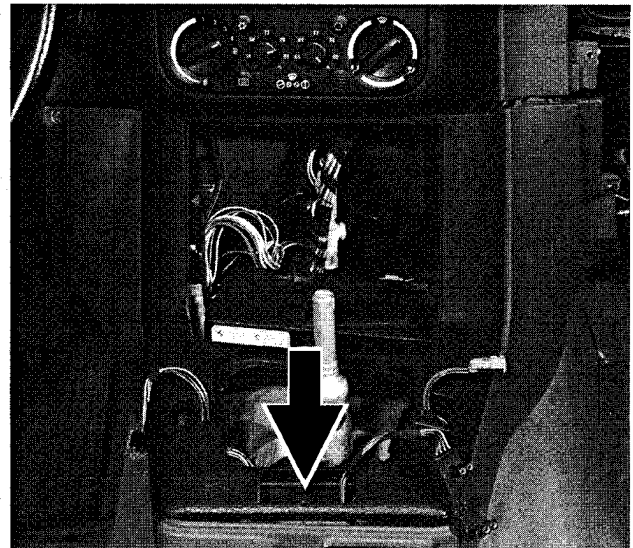
1. Disconnect negative (–) cable from battery and cover terminal with insulating material.

CAUTION —

Prior to disconnecting the battery, read the battery disconnection cautions given at the front of this manual on page viii.

2. Remove shifter boot or selector lever cover. See **250 Gearshift Linkage**.
3. Remove rear ashtray retaining screws to take out ashtray. Remove rear console retaining screw under ashtray.

4. Remove Multi-Information Display module. See **620 Instruments**.
5. Remove hazard warning switch and power window switches by pushing up and out from below.
6. Remove lower left dashboard panel and glove compartment as described later in this repair group.
7. Remove retaining screw under hazard light switch. Pull rear console back and remove retaining nut at back of front console. See Fig. 1.



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Fig. 1. Console retaining screw.

8. Take out rear console first, then front console.

CENTER CONSOLE