

Rear seat belt, removing and installing (fold-down seat back models)

1. Remove rear seat cushion. See **520 Seats**.
2. Remove shoulder belt anchor bolt from beneath rear seat.

NOTE —

The shoulder belt anchor bolts also hold the center lap-belt in place (where applicable). Be sure to note relative positions of metal belt-end anchors in order to reassemble correctly.

3. On 4-door models: Unbolt shoulder belt lock bolt from body next to rear door frame.
4. On 2-door models: Remove rear side panel as described in **411 Doors**. Unbolt shoulder belt lock bolt from body next to quarter panel.
5. Unlock and flip down folding rear seat backrest. Remove trim plug from back of cushion (luggage compartment side).
6. Remove seat belt reel bolt and washer. See Fig. 10.

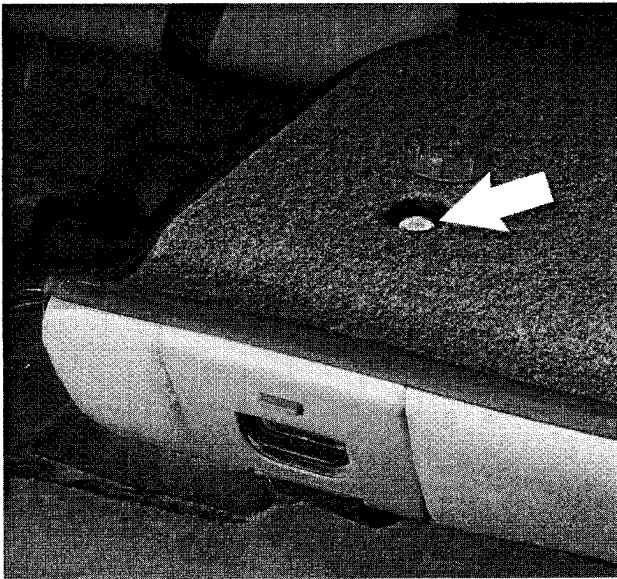


Fig. 10. Rear seat belt reel bolt (arrow).

7. Gently pry off plastic trim at top of backrest and pull out seat belt reel from seat.

NOTE —

The seat belt reel is held snugly by the backrest cushion. Moderate force will be needed to pull it out.

8. Installation is reverse of removal.

Tightening Torques

- Rear seat belt reel bolt, anchor bolt, or lock bolt to body 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

Center rear lap-belt, removing and installing

1. Remove rear seat cushion. See **520 Seats**.
2. Remove shoulder belt anchor bolts from beneath rear seat.

NOTE —

The shoulder belt anchor bolts also hold the center lap-belt in place. Be sure to note relative positions of metal belt-end anchors in order to reassemble correctly.

3. Installation is reverse of removal.

WARNING —

Alignment tabs on seat belt reels must be reinstalled in their original positions.

Tightening Torques

- Lap-belt reel bolt or lock bolt to body . 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)



REAR SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY

On 4-door E36 models, there are two 3-point shoulder belts and a center lap belt in back. On 2-door models, there is no center rear lap-belt.

In models with the stationary rear seat back, the shoulder belt reels are bolted to the middle of the parcel shelf. In models with fold-down rear seat back, the shoulder belt reels are attached to the folding seat back.

The rear seat belt assemblies are shown in Fig. 7.

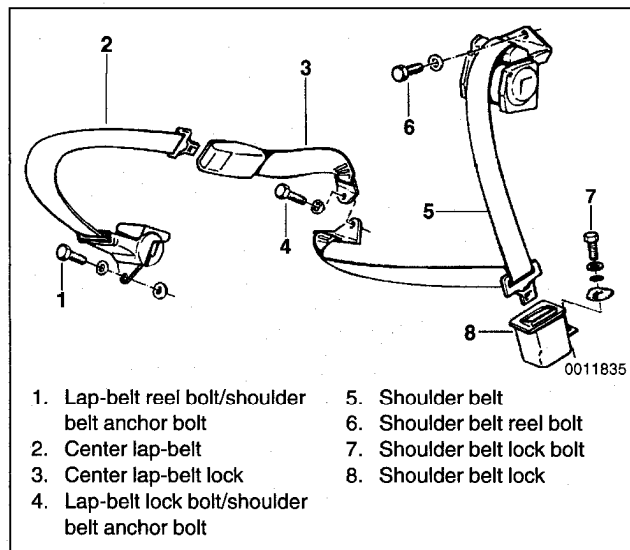


Fig. 7. Details of rear seat belt assembly.

Rear seat belt, removing and installing (fixed seat back models)

1. Remove rear seat cushion and backrest. See 520 Seats.
2. Remove plastic trim cover over shoulder belt reels from rear window shelf. See Fig. 8.
3. Remove rear window shelf. See Fig. 9.
4. Unbolt and remove shoulder belt reels.
5. Remove shoulder belt anchor bolt from beneath rear seat.

NOTE —

The shoulder belt anchor bolts also hold the center lap-belt in place (where applicable). Be sure to note relative positions of metal belt-end anchors in order to reassemble correctly.

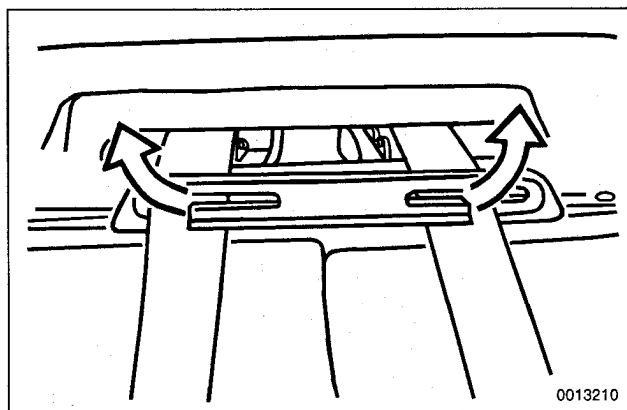


Fig. 8. Remove rear shoulder belt reel trim cover from rear window shelf. Unclip plastic, then slide off shoulder belts as shown by arrows.

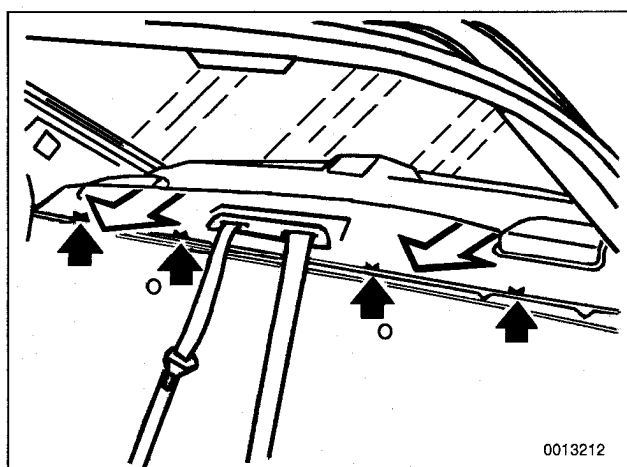


Fig. 9. Remove rear window shelf. Speaker grilles and third brake light socket will have to be removed. The front of the shelf lifts off its clips (black arrows) before the shelf slides forward.

6. On 4-door models: Unbolt shoulder belt lock bolt from body next to rear door frame.
7. On 2-door models: Remove rear side panel as described in 411 Doors. Unbolt shoulder belt lock bolt from body next to quarter panel.
8. Installation is reverse of removal.

WARNING —

Alignment tabs on seat belt reels must be reinstalled in their original positions

Tightening Torques

- Rear seat belt reel bolt, anchor bolt, or lock bolt to body 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

Front seat belt reel, removing and installing

1. On 4-door models: Remove seat belt anchor bolt from front seat. Refer to Fig. 1.
2. On 2-door models: Remove seat belt anchor bar from rear of door sill. See Fig. 4.

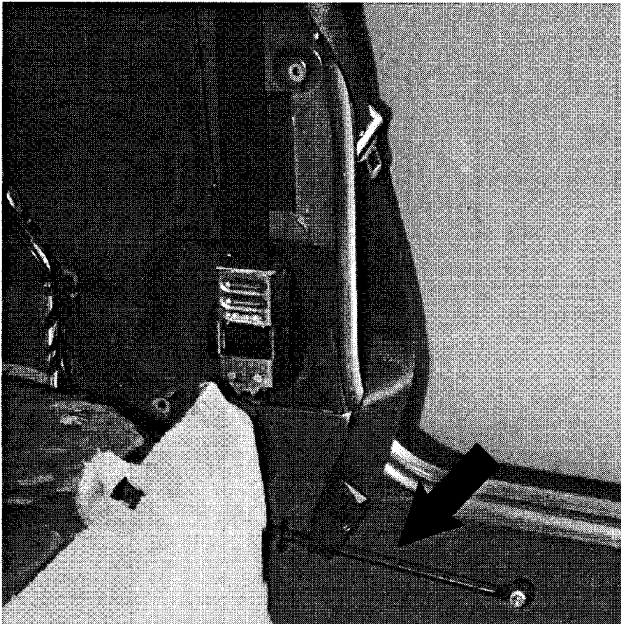


Fig. 4. Two-door seat belt anchor bar (arrow).

3. On 4-door and coupe models: Remove plastic trim cover from B-pillar (rear door jamb pillar) sliding seat belt guide. Remove nut and guide loop. See Fig. 5.
4. On 4-door models: Starting at upper corners, peel rubber door seals away from B-pillar trim. Remove trim from B-pillar.
5. On 2-door models: Remove rear side panel. See **411 Doors**.
6. Remove two bolts holding cross bracket to B-pillar. See Fig. 6.
7. Remove seat belt reel mounting bolt at base of B-pillar.

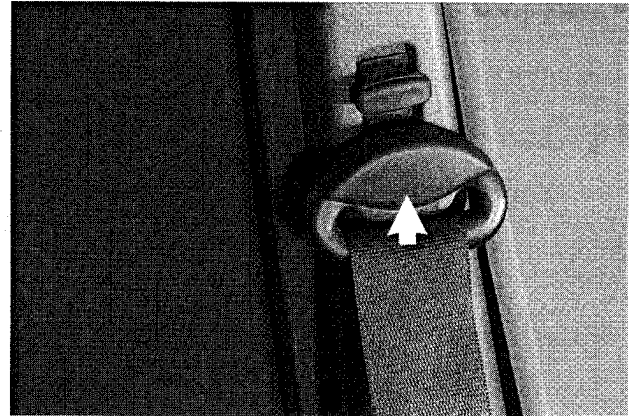


Fig. 5. B-pillar seat belt guide nut trim (arrow).



Fig. 6. B-pillar trim removed to show seat belt cross-bracket bolts (arrows).

8. Disconnect harness connector from reel assembly. Remove reel and seat belt.
9. Installation is reverse of removal.

Tightening Torque

- Front seat belt to seat (use thread locking compound) 47 Nm (35 ft-lb)
- Front seat belt guide loop to B-pillar sliding anchor 31 Nm (23 ft-lb)
- Front seat belt reel to B-pillar 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

WARNING —

- For maximum protection from injury, seat belts should be replaced as a set (including all hardware), if they are subject to occupant loading in a collision.
- Seat belts should not be modified or repaired. The seat belt anchorage points should not be changed or modified.
- Do not bleach or dye seat belt webbing. Webbing that is severely faded or re-dyed will not meet the strength requirements of a collision and must be replaced.
- Seat belts should be periodically inspected for webbing defects such as cuts or pulled threads.

FRONT SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY**Automatic Front Seat Belt Lock Tensioners**

The procedure for disabling the mechanical spring tensioner used on early cars is covered below. On cars with the pyrotechnic (explosive device) tensioners, the orange harness connector should be removed from the tensioner any time the seat is removed.

WARNING —

Both the mechanical and the pyrotechnic tensioners are powerful devices and should be handled with extreme care.

Mechanical spring tensioner, disarming

1. Remove front seat. See 520 Seats.
2. Disarm tensioner—electrically adjustable seats:
 - Working at side of seat, turn activating/deactivating screw clockwise until display changes from green to red. See Fig. 2.
 - Before reinstalling seat, turn screw until display changes back to green.

NOTE —

Green is armed. Red is disarmed.

3. Disarm tensioner—manually adjustable seats:
 - Cut wire tie next to tab on bowden cable. See Fig. 3.
 - Turn and lift tab to disengage cable housing from seat bracket.
 - Disconnect cable end from seat lever.
 - When reinstalling, correctly engage tab end of cable into seat bracket and fasten in position using new wire tie.

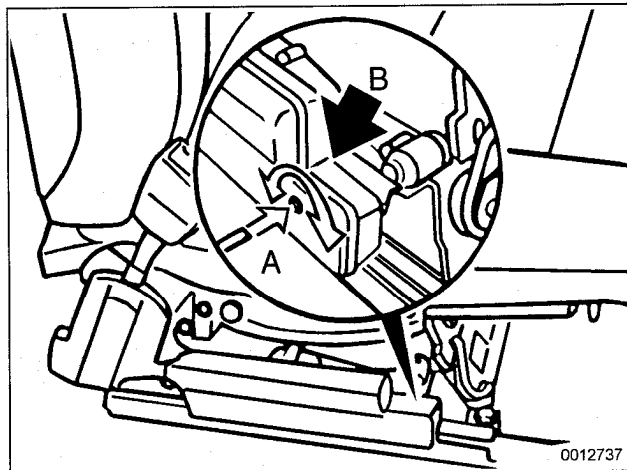
FRONT SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY

Fig. 2. Electrically adjustable front seat. Turn screw (A) to disarm mechanical tensioner. Display B turns from green to red.

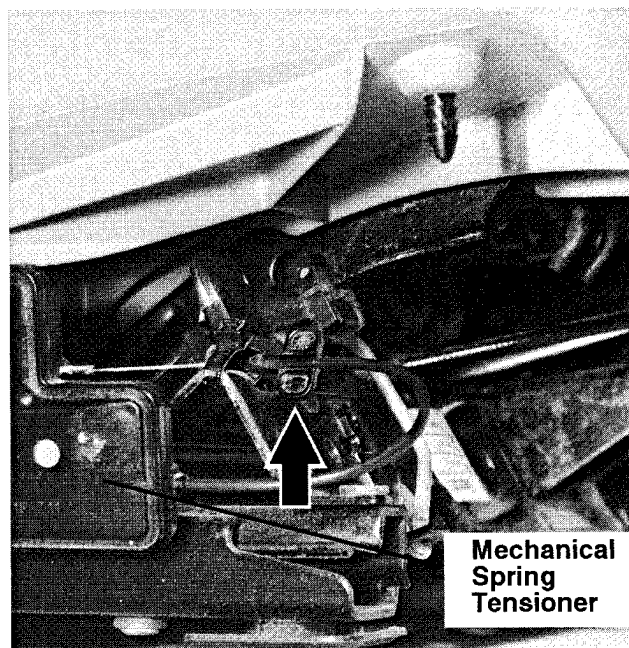


Fig. 3. Manually adjustable front seat. Turn and lift tab (arrow) to disengage cable from bracket.

720 Seat Belts

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GENERAL

All E36 models are equipped with 3-point shoulder belts at four seating positions. On 4-door models, there is an additional lap belt in the center of the rear seat.

Automatic seat belt tensioners are integrated into the front seat belt locks. Through the 1996 model year cars, a mechanical spring tensioner is used. See Fig. 1. On 1997 and later cars, a pyrotechnic (explosive charge) tensioner is used. Automatic seat belt tensioners are designed to automatically re-

tract and tension the seat belt by 55 mm (approximately 2 inches) in the event of an accident.

The seat belt reel should lock when driving quickly through curves, during severe braking or in case of a collision. The automatic reel does not require any servicing and should never be opened. Belts that do not retract and/or lock properly should be replaced promptly.

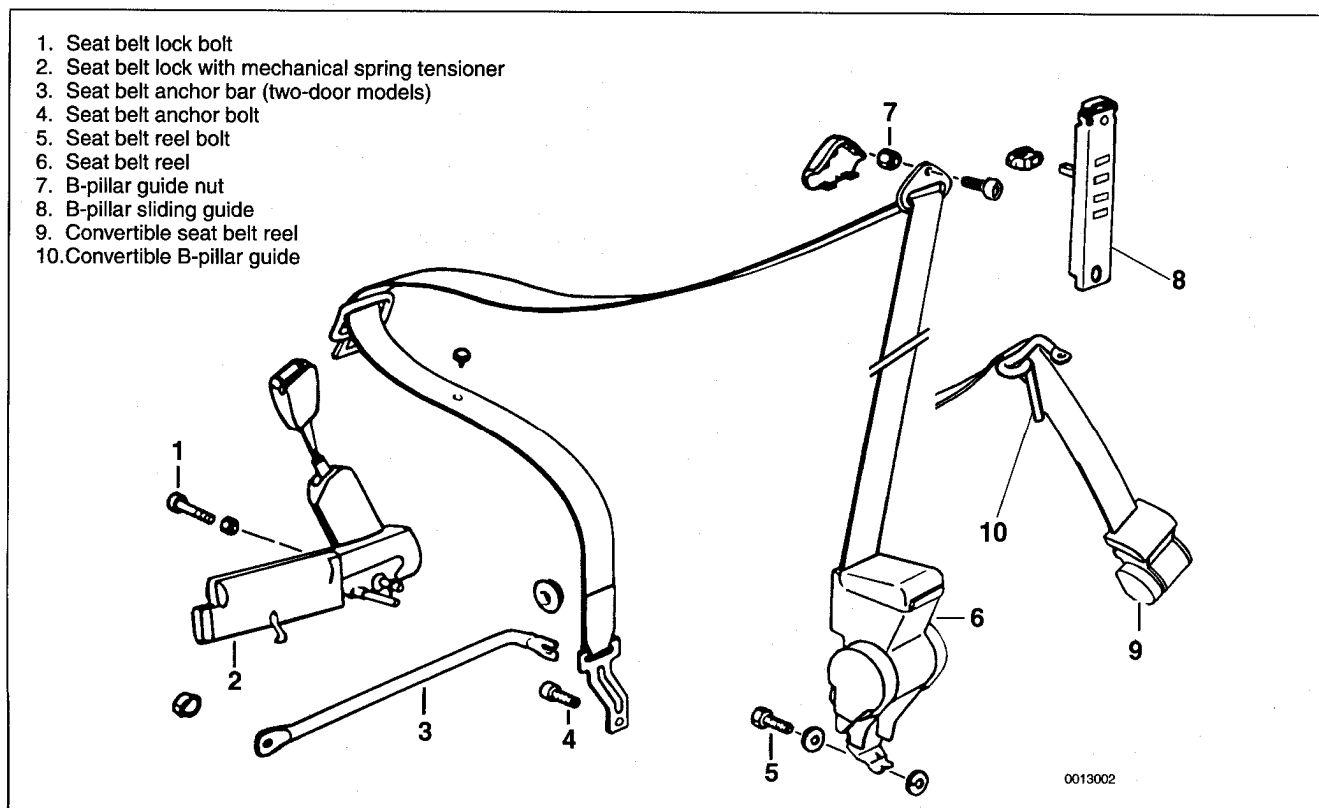


Fig. 1. Front seat belt components.

GENERAL