

720 Seat Belts

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GENERAL

The E32 cars are equipped with 3-point shoulder belts at four seating positions. A lap belt is used in the center of the rear seat.

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

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 install seats belts or seat belt hardware purchased from an auto-recycler or salvage yard. Only BMW original replacement seat belts, hardware and mounting bolts should be used.
- Do not bleach or dye seat belt webbing. Webbing that is severely faded, or re-dyed will not meet the strength requirements and must be replaced.
- Seat belts should be periodically inspected for webbing defects such as cuts or pulled threads.

FRONT SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY

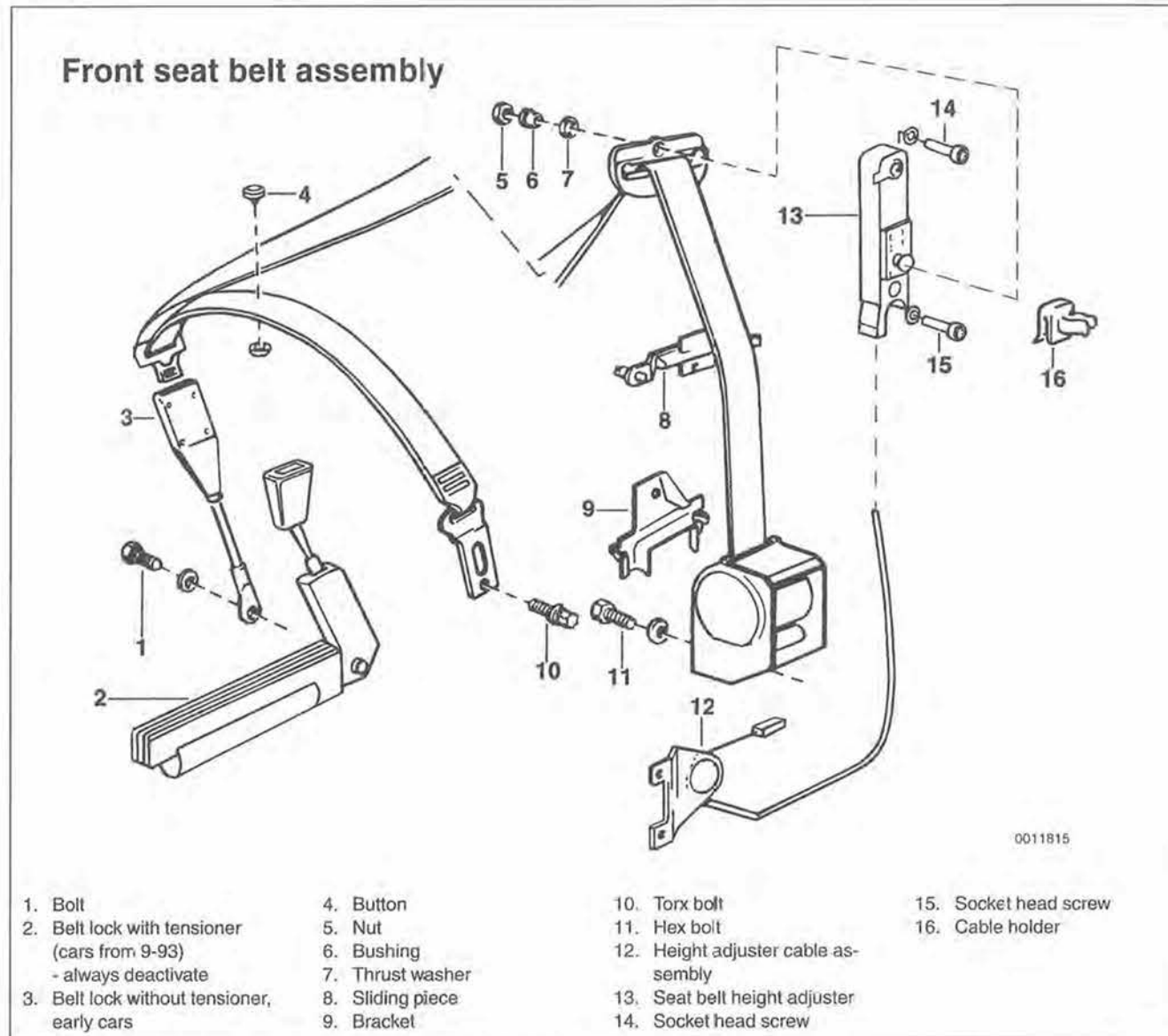
The front seat belt lock assembly varies depending on model year.

WARNING—

On late models cars (built from 9-93), an automatic seat belt lock tensioner is used on the front seats. A mechanical impact sensor activates the tensioner in the case of a head-on collision and retracts the seat belt approximately 55 mm (2 in.). This belt lock tensioner must be deactivated before servicing the seat. See **Front seat belt lock tensioner, disabling** for identifying and disabling the lock tensioner.



720-2 SEAT BELTS



Front seat belt height adjuster cable, replacing

A cable-driven front seat belt adjuster is used on the front seat. The upper seat belt anchor on the door pillar (B-pillar) adjusts automatically in height when the front seat is moved forward and back.

- Disconnect height adjusting cable from under seat. Remove seat. See **520 Seats**.
- Carefully pry off cable wheel assembly from floor. Pry up door sill plate and peel back carpet to access cable.

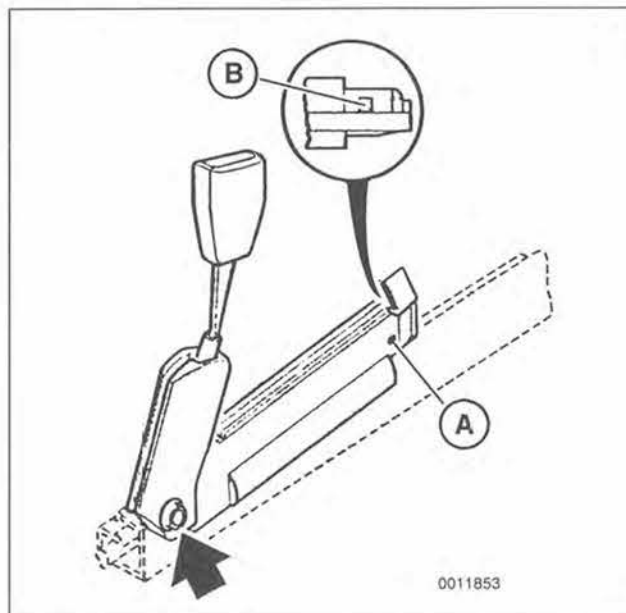
SEAT BELTS 720-3



- Remove trim cover from B-pillar. Trim panel retain clips shown at **arrows**.
- Working at upper guide on B-pillar, press down tongue retaining cable end and remove cable from reversing wheel and guides.
- Installation is reverse of installation. Be sure to reattach all cable retaining clips.

Front seat belt lock tensioner, deactivating

- Working at side of seat, pry up concealing flap on tensioner.
- Front seat belt lock tensioner screw (A) and display (B). Seat belt lock mounting bolt shown at **arrow**.
 - Turn screw beneath flap clockwise until display changes from green to red.
- To activate lock tensioner, turn screw counterclockwise until green appears in window.



Tightening Torque

- Front seat belt lock mounting bolt . . . 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

FRONT SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY

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Front seat belt reel, removing and installing

- Remove seat belt anchor bolt from beneath front seat.
- Starting at upper corners, peel rubber door seals away from B-pillar trim.
- Remove trim cover from B-pillar. Trim panel retain clips shown at **arrows**.
- Remove door lock/latch mounting screws at B-Pillar and partially remove latch.
- Remove seat belt guide bolt on B-pillar and remove guide. Remove two bolts holding cross bracket to B-pillar.
- Remove seat belt reel mounting bolt. Disconnect harness connector from reel assembly, where applicable. Remove reel with seat belt.
- Installation is reverse of removal.

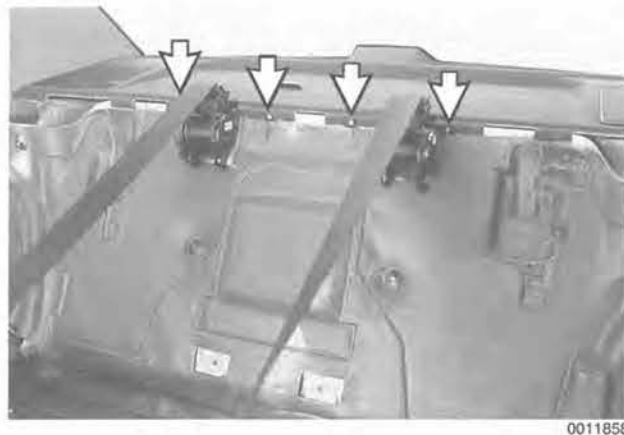
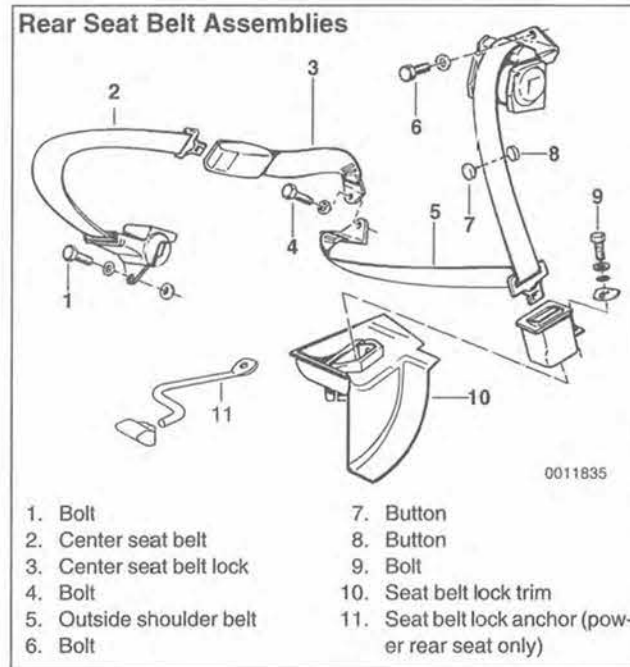
Tightening Torque

- Front seat belt guide bolt 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)
- Front seat belt height control bolt 24 Nm (17 ft-lb)
- Front seat belt on B-pillar 31 Nm (23 ft-lb)
- Front seat belt reel mounting bolt 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

REAR SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY

Rear seat belts, removing and installing

- Remove rear seat and back rest. See 520 Seats.
- Remove seat belt anchor bolt from beneath rear seat.



- Remove parcel shelf retaining clips (**arrows**) and partially lift up parcel shelf. Bench seat model shown. Model with power rear seat similar.



- Remove seat belt reel mounting bolts (**arrows**) and remove seat belt and reel.
- Installation is reverse of removal.

Tightening Torque

- Rear seat belt reel to body 48 Nm (36 ft-lb)

