

Rear bumper and sensor removal on 02 BMW 3 Series Compact.

Note. Follow this procedure at your own risk.

It's often recommended that the negative lead of the battery be removed before working on any electrical components. Remember to note fuel consumption and average speed data if you want to keep it as this data is volatile and will be lost when the battery is disconnected.

Picture 1. The rear bumper is fixed by two large Torx 50 bolts and two studs. The left hand bolt and stud positions are shown by red arrows in picture 1. The bolts are reached from beneath the bumper, there is a cut out on the leading edge of the bumper beneath each bolt.



The trick, having removed those bolts and studs, is getting the bumper to slide back. And be warned, when it does slide back it does so suddenly and drops off the back of the car, but don't worry, it won't hit the ground. It's fall will be abruptly halted by the cables to the parking sensors. NOT what you want. Either have a helper or position something to prevent the bumper falling off.

It may be possible to remove the bumper without removing other pieces of trim but I believe it will be easier if these are removed. See pictures 2 through 5.

Picture 2. The trim clips out easily.



Picture 3. Locate the leading edge first when refitting.



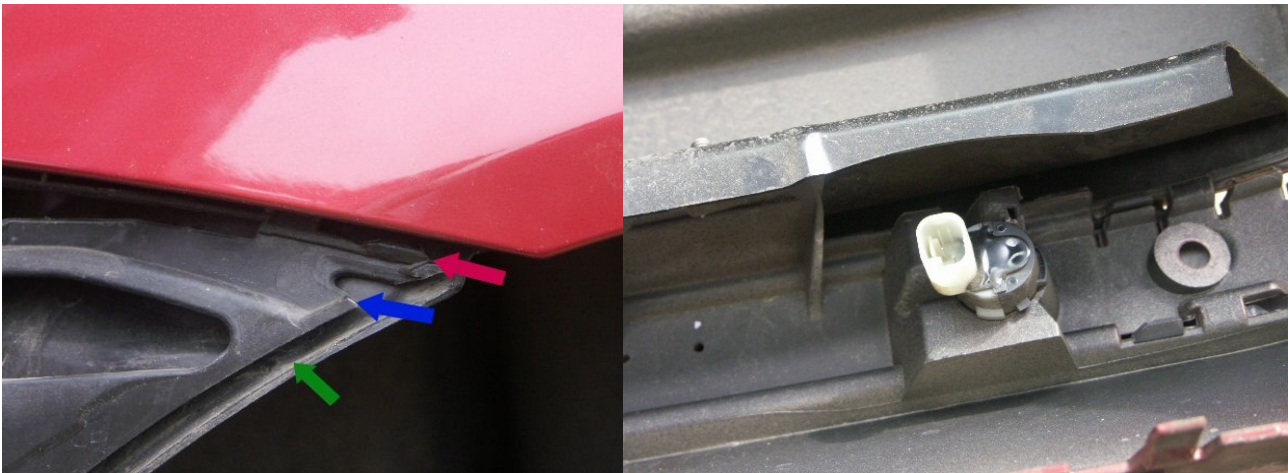
Pictures 4 & 5. The bumper can be easily removed without removing this trim, but it certainly helps to have it off when refitting so that you can see that the bumper locates correctly onto the two runners on each side.



There are several locations where the bumper is clipped in place. There are two beneath each light cluster, shown by the green arrows on picture 1. The most awkward one though is the topmost part by the wheel arches. The bumper clips over a locating stud, but there seems no easy way, I've found at least, to lift the bumper over it. See the blue arrow in picture 1 and the locating stud in picture 6. (other wheel arch shown, sorry for any confusion) If anyone knows the trick to this please let me know. I made do by pushing a trim tool between the leading edge of the bumper inside the wheel arch and wiggling it between the wheel arch mud guard (green arrow) then up to where the blue arrow is and pushing down while pushing back on the bumper. This plastic though is VERY stiff with no give at all and the bumper fits so tightly to the bodywork above that it's not possible to lift the bumper over the stud (shown by the red arrow). Good luck :)

Picture 6.

Picture 7.



Once the bumper is off the sensors can easily be removed by firmly pressing the moulding to one side and popping the sensor up from below. The sensors cannot simply be metered out to tell if they are good or bad as they seem to have capacitance or inductive elements.

I had a single bad sensor that caused intermittent and random beeps even when clear of any obstacle as soon as I engaged reverse.

My reversing sensor had the following numbers on it:

6 916 329
602.627
602.400
6 911 904
A1:02
02

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