

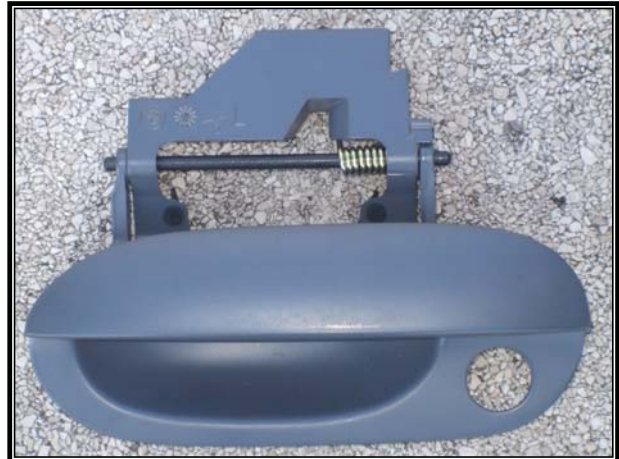
# Driver's Side Exterior Door Handle Replacement

For a 1997 BMW 740iAL

[Required Tools: Small flathead screwdriver, #2 Phillips head screwdriver, 10mm socket & ratchet.]



Broken Handle



New Handle

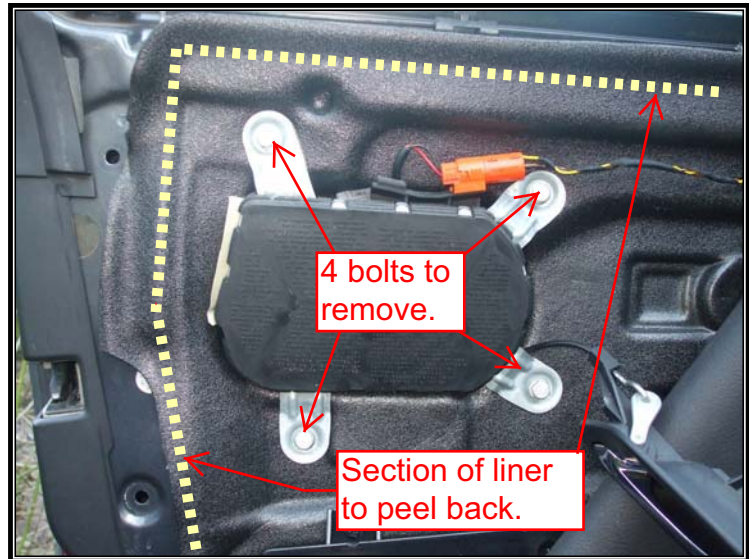
- 1) **Remove Interior Door Panel:** (a) There are several friction-held plugs around the sides and bottom edges of the door panel. (b) There is one friction clip in the center of the panel. (c) And there is one screw behind the interior door handle (you need to use a small flathead screwdriver to remove the plastic cap that covers the screw). Once (a) the plugs are popped around the panel edges, (b) the friction clip separated, and (c) the screw removed, you must lift the door panel up and off of the clips that run along the bottom of the window ledge. You must push the interior door handle through the hole in panel in order to gain enough clearance.

Leave the door panel hanging as shown in the picture to the right (**Do not remove ANY wires**; especially if you have an **airbag** in the door!!).

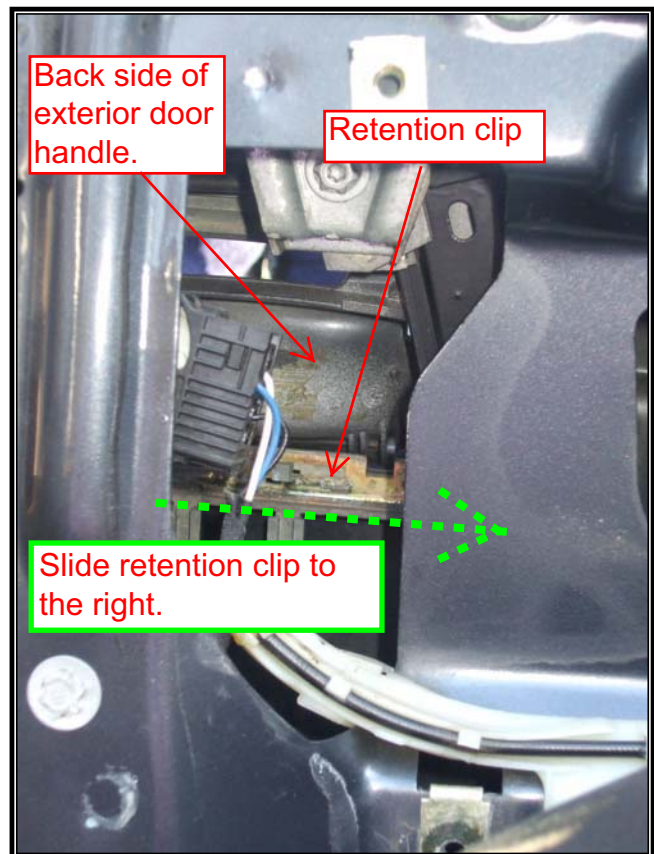


2) **Remove Airbag Control Unit:**

Remove the four (4) bolts used to fasten the airbag control unit depicted in the photo to the right. Once the bolts are removed, allow the unit to hang gently from the connecting wires.



3) **Remove a portion of door liner:** Peel back the upper left corner of the black “foam” door liner (a.k.a. sound barrier) to reveal the back of the exterior door handle; as shown in the picture to the right. As you remove the liner, keep the sticky adhesive intact, as it will be needed to re-fasten the door liner.



4) **Slide Retention Clip to Release Handle:**

Looking from the interior side of the door, you will see there is a long flat piece of metal (i.e. clip), with notches cut-out, running along the bottom of the door handle. Use a flathead screwdriver to slide this clip to the right by approximately 1 inch. Note: there is a portion of the clip that incorporates a bent locking-tab, which helps ensure the clip does not work itself loose. You must lift this tab in order to successfully slide the retention clip to the right. When the notches in the clip are aligned with tabs on the Door Handle, you will be able to remove the Door Handle from the exterior side of the door.



- 5) **Remove handle:** Once the retention clip (from step 4) is positioned properly, you should be able to remove the door handle from the exterior side of the door. Pull the handle out of the door, by pulling out on the bottom of the door handle first, and then slide the handle down and out.



- 6) **Reuse the foam backing:** Gently remove the old foam backing from the old handle, and use an all-purpose adhesive to apply it to the new handle. This foam is beneficial in keeping a little extra noise out of the vehicle cabin space.



- 7) **Insert new handle:** Install new door handle by feeding the upper portion of the handle into the hole in the door first, while pushing it upward inside the door. Once you have the handle inserted and flush with the exterior of the door, you must return the retention clip to its original locking position (i.e. reverse step 4).
- 8) **Reverse steps 3, 2, and 1 to re-attach the door panel.**

Note: You can either get the handle painted prior to installation or after installation. Should you decide to paint the handle after installation, the existing primer paint should be sufficient to protect any portion of the handle that does not get painted after installation.