

Front Seatback Panel & Pocket Removal

Model & year: **95-01 7-Series, U.S.**

Expertise level: **Beginner > Intermediate > Advanced**

Date: **July, 2017**

Estimated time to complete: **1 hour**

Tools Required

- 10mm nut driver
- Screwdriver

Facilities Needed

- Workbench

Parts Required

- None

Getting Started

BMW's "contour" seats consist of a folding upper panel and a main, lower panel which includes the map pocket. In order to access the pockets, the upper panel needs to be removed before the lower panel.



All this can be accomplished without tools, using hand force only. The lower panel can be somewhat difficult to remove, requiring a lot of pulling and positioning. In my experience, there's no method that works every time.

Once removed, the lower panel can rest face-down on a workbench or table to facilitate pocket removal.

Procedure

Seatback Panel Removal

1) Recline front seatback fully forward (vertical).

2) Remove upper panel.

From rear seat, grasp both sides of panel and pull downward firmly while pulling the bottom outward. Once the lower clips are free, lift panel off upper hooks. Set aside.

3) Remove lower panel.

Grasp the bottom of panel (anywhere) and pull out firmly while shifting panel back and forth (left/right). It may take several attempts of pulling and shifting but it should eventually release its bottom clips. Then lift panel off its upper hangers.

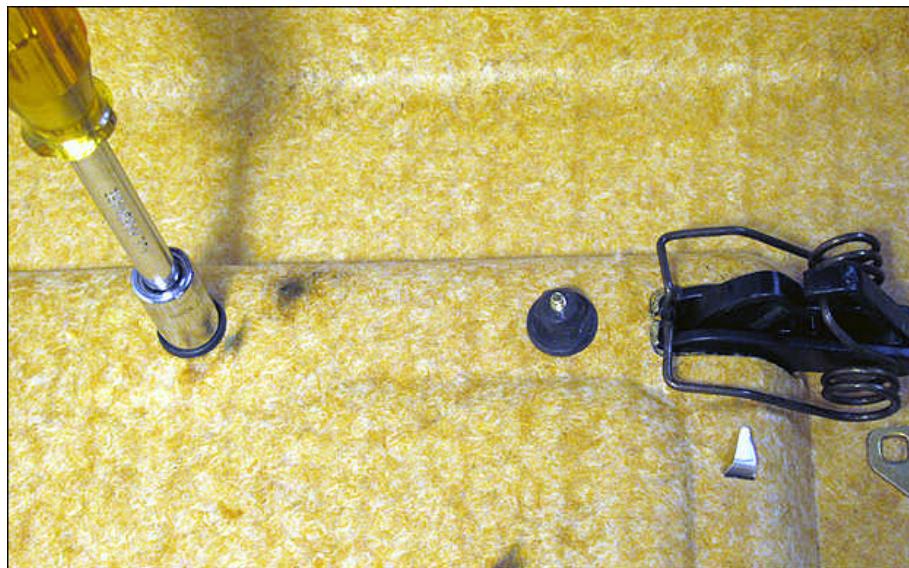
Move lower panel to workbench.

Pocket Removal

4) With lower panel laying on workbench or table, first remove pocket springs. Using both hands, squeeze the coil between index fingers and thumbs in order to release the lower portion from the hinge retaining groove. Then pull spring out of its upper retaining slots. Repeat for other side. See image below:



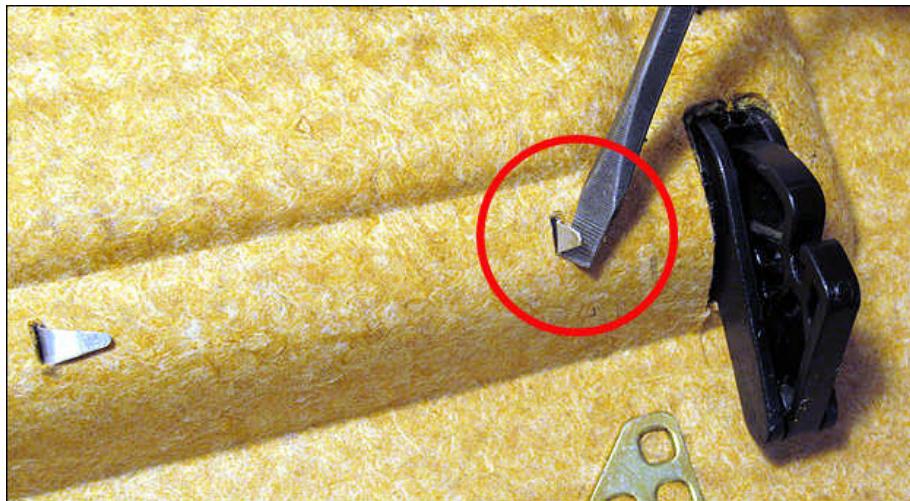
5) Next, remove the two (2) 10mm black plastic retaining nuts. Repeat for other side:



If the screws come loose from the other side and prevent the nuts from loosening, apply upward pressure to the nuts by

inserting a screwdriver or similar tool under the nut while turning.

6) Unclip the pocket's bottom flap material by prying up the four (4) aluminum retaining tabs:



7) Extract pocket from panel by lifting it up and out. The removed pocket should look like:



Prepare Pocket for Shipping

Please retain all pocket hardware including:

- Black plastic nuts (4),
- Hinge springs (2), and
- Aluminum flap retainer.

Package the pockets (without hardware) securely and ship to: Henderson Design, 987 Oak Lynn Dr, Willis, TX 77378.
(This address is also shown during PayPal check-out.)