

# Convertible Top Installation Guide



## 1996-2002 BMW Z3/M Roadster

### What's Included

A new convertible top includes sewn-in plastic retainers and tinted plastic window. Also, we enclose new BMW original metal attachments for the hold down cable as these are often damaged during the removal of the old top.

### Material Types

This convertible top is available in either the original Twillfast II or a lower cost Stayfast cloth.

### Features

All of our Z3 convertible tops include these critical BMW engineering and design upgrades that fixed issues in earlier Z3 models.

- Relief pockets have been added in the quarters
- A stiffener has been added above the plastic window
- Elastic straps have been added to support the tension straps

### Tools Required

- Various screwdrivers
- Ratchet, 12mm socket
- Heavy-duty stapler, 10mm staple
- Pliers and cutter
- Contact cement spray adhesive
- Drill, steel bit 5/32"
- Rivet gun, rivet 1/4" 12mm (5/32" 4mm dia.)



1

Find a dry, comfortable working environment where you have space to place and organize items to be removed that are to be reinstalled later in the process.

Retract the frame to the open position as shown and begin removing the screws that hold the header rail in place.

There are a lot of screws to be removed and you will need to keep track of them to make sure you use the same screw when re-assembling the new convertible top.



2

Once the screws have been removed, detach the header rail.



3

Next, you will need to remove the front side rubbers to access additional screws to be removed.



4

Once the rubbers are out of the way, you can begin removing the screws as shown.



5

Start to peel back the front edge of the top.



6

The next step is to remove the tension side straps. Begin by removing the tension cable screw.



7

Remove the side “L” shaped bracket to free the cable.



8

The next step is to remove the tension side straps .



9

Detach all “C” channel plastic rails from cross bows.



10

Remove side quarter rubbers to access screws.



11

Remove the screws under the side quarter rubbers to detach the brackets.



12

Now you can remove the screws along the side to detach the existing top from the quarters.



13

Separate the “L” shaped bracket from the cable and pull out the cable from the sleeve on the side of the existing convertible top.

You will be re-using this cable on your new top, so you will need to keep it with the other hardware that will be re-assembled onto the top later.



14

The next step is to detach the quarter inner flap from the frame.

Begin by cutting the existing top across the lower section for easier access.





15

Cut rivets located at the end of the rear tacking strip.



16

Detach quarter inner flap from frame, by pulling it downward.



17

Cut or drill rivet to remove elastic straps from second bow.

The bows are numbered from front to back, so the second bow is the second from the front.



18

Remove the top well quarter plugs to access tacking bow bolt nuts.



19

With your 5/32" socket wrench, start to remove the tacking bow bolt nuts at the quarters.



20

Pull away the well lining to access the bolt nuts underneath.



21

Remove the bolt nuts across the top well.



22

Now you can detach the rubber strip from the edge of the top well.



23

Start to pry apart the tacking bow away from vehicle.



24

Now you should add some masking tape along the edge to protect the paint as you are working.



25

Lift out the tacking bow.



26

Remove the end screws and there are some staples here that will need to remove as well.



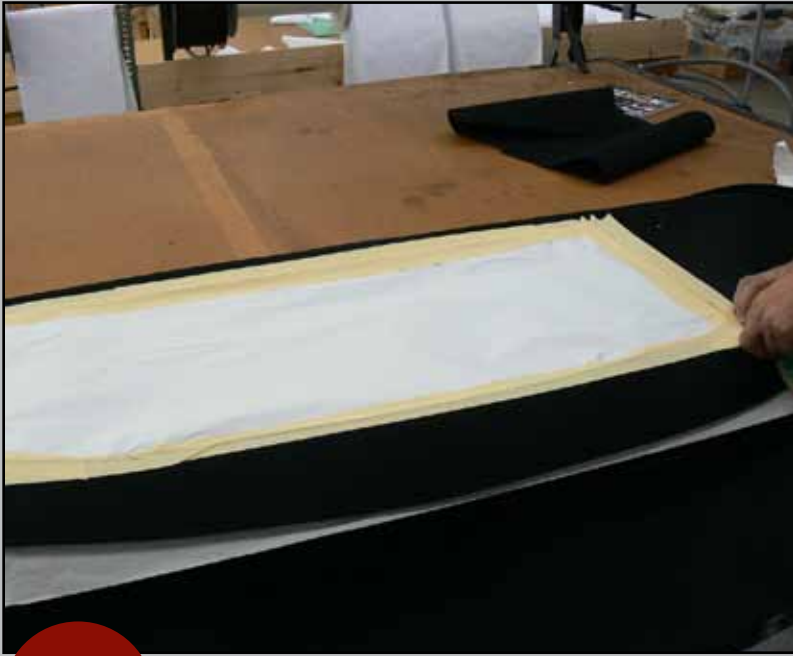
27

Separate the existing top from this bracket.



28

**START INSTALLING NEW TOP:**  
Begin by carefully inspecting the new top, then protecting the plastic window on both sides by using masking tape to hold a piece of foam to similar material over the window.



29

View of the plastic window section fully protected so it does not get scratched during the installation process. Use a masking tape that will come off easily and cleanly.



30

Draper the new convertible top over the existing top frame.





31

Begin by attaching the top, using screws, to the tacking bow.



32

Locate the center mark. This is where you will begin stapling the new top to the tacking bow.

The center mark at the rear of the new top is a small cutout for alignment only.



33

Using your heavy duty stapler or compressed air stapler as shown, begin stapling from the center outward.



34

Your staples should be evenly spaced across the tacking bow as illustrated in the image to the right.



Staple the window section across the rear bow.

35



Work your way around to the side quarters pulling the top material tight as you go.

36



37

After you have completed the stapling, drop in the tacking bow into the top well and position it to the body bolts.



38

Re-attach the bolt nuts.



39

Re-install the rubber strip to the edge of the top well.



40

Next, we need to assemble the inner, above the window, elastic strap.



41

You will need to stretch these forward to attach them to the second and then the first bow as illustrated.



42

Hook the quarter flaps to the frame.



43

Now you can insert your existing tension cable removed earlier through the top sleeve.



44



45

Then, connect the new “L” shaped brackets that came with your new convertible top to the existing side tension cables.



46





47

Secure the bracket and cable to the frame.



48

Secure the front side of the top and quarters to the frame, but do not install the screws yet.



49



50

Using a spray contact cement adhesive, attach the new convertible top to the front header.

We recommend an adhesive spray designed for fabric such as 3M yellow supertrim adhesive.



The 3M adhesive spray is sold in an aerosol spray can.



51

Press firmly to stretch the top to the header bow. Work with the top nearly closed to judge the tightness of the new top.

Don't overstretch. You will find the top is tight initially and this is normal and preferred.



52

Secure the quarter flaps.



53

Begin adding the screws all along the bracket.

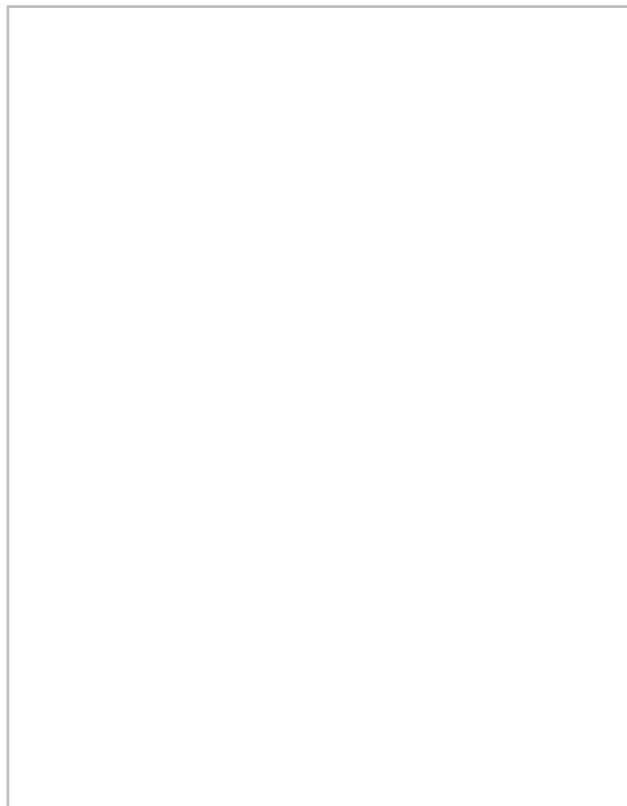


54

Secure the front header rail to the frame.

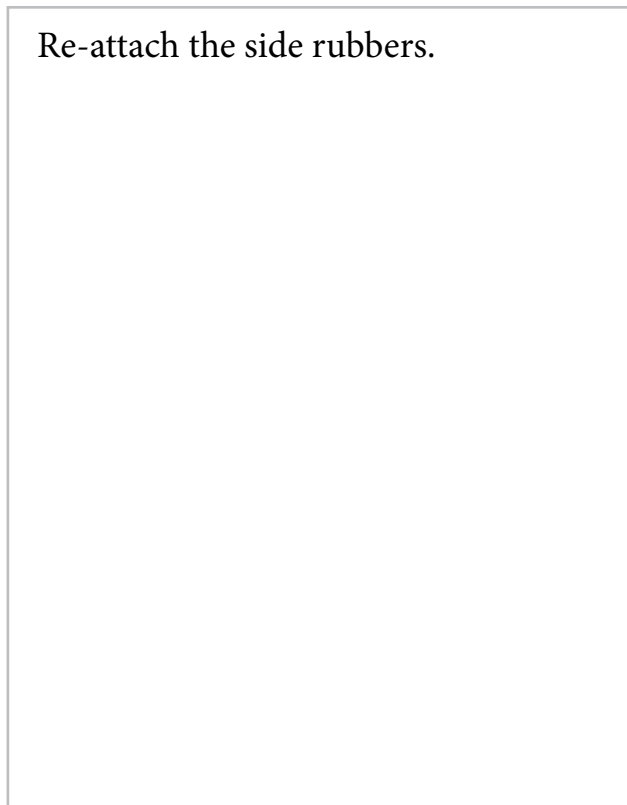


55



56

Re-attach the side rubbers.





57



58

Position top side straps to frame arm. These are the elastic tension straps that assist in pulling the top material inward as you are opening it.



59

Use rivets to secure in place.



60

Re-attach the rear top well lining.



61

Attach all three top listers by using contact cement adhesive.



62

Secure with "C" channel rails.





63

Complete attaching the “C” channel rails, then take off the plastic window protection to finish the project.

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Now that you have everything installed close the new top. You will find that it is tight if everything went well. This is how it should be at first.

If your new top is not tight at first, then it can become too loose in a few months and will not look as good as it could .

After you have left the top up for at least a week it will begin to stretch into its normal shape. In colder weather it will take longer.

After a couple of months your new convertible top will settle in completely and become more flexible and pliable



**DO NOT OPEN THE TOP FOR  
AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS**

### **DISCLAIMER**

These instructions are provided as a guide to assist the professional install this product and no representations or warranties are implied as to their completeness and accuracy. From time to time, modifications to the design of the product may occur, and this guide may not reflect all such modifications.

If you have any questions about the product or this installation guide please contact the reseller from whom you purchased this product.

WE PROVIDE THESE INSTRUCTIONS AS A GUIDE ONLY AND RECOMMEND YOU USE A PROFESSIONAL INSTALLER. SIERRA NOR ITS DISTRIBUTORS, AFFILIATES, OR RESELLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE OR DAMAGE TO THE PRODUCT THAT MAY OCCUR DURING INSTALLATION.

## Auto Tops & Seats Warranty

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Convertible tops, headliners and related products are guaranteed to be free of defects in materials and workmanship at the time of shipment from our facility. The warranty applies to the original owner and is not transferrable.

### **For a period of five (5) years from the date the unit is delivered to the first retail purchaser:**

- Failure of the glass window bond to the topping material

### **For a period of three (3) years from the date the unit is delivered to the first retail purchaser:**

- Cracking or breaking of plastic components
- Delaminating of the deck seams

### **Items not covered under warranty for any period of time:**

- Rips, tears, or discoloration of the topping material and stitching
- Seals and gaskets
- Dealer and/or purchaser installed parts and accessories
- Installation on the vehicle
- Glass window breakage or cracking
- Zippers and fasteners

### **Certain conditions will void all warranty including:**

- Use for any purpose other than normal private use including rental and promotion
- Altering the convertible top in any manner without written approval
- Misuse, negligence or accident
- Installation of any part or accessory without written approval

### **Conditions and Limitations:**

This warranty is subject to certain conditions and limitations including, but not limited to the following:

- Any part of a convertible top that is found to be defective under the terms of this warranty will be repaired or replaced using either new or reconditioned parts at our discretion
- In determining what constitutes a failure under the terms of this warranty, our decision shall be final
- This warranty is extended to the original purchaser only and is not transferable to subsequent purchasers
- We do not accept any responsibility in connection with the installation of any of its products
- We do not undertake responsibility to any purchaser for warranty express or implied by any of its dealers, distributors or agents beyond that which is contained herein
- Without regard to an alleged defect of its products, we, under no circumstance, assume responsibility for loss of time, inconvenience, revenue, or other consequential damage including, but not limited to, expenses for telephone, food, lodging, travel, loss or damage to the vehicle the products are installed on, or loss or damage to personal property of the purchaser or user of the products
- We reserve the right to make changes in the design of, improvements of, or warranty of its products without imposing any obligation upon itself to provide the same for any products theretofore manufactured.

Some jurisdictions do not allow limitations on or exclusions to warranties, therefore, some of these exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty affords you specific legal rights. You may have other legal rights that may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.