

## Changing the front brake pads on an E34 M5

This article describes the process of changing the front brake pads on an E34 M5. Most of the text comes from a post to the E34 Mailing List by Kevin Kelly (Thanks Kevin!) and the pictures are provided by Bill Klemme (Thanks Bill!). Comments and PDF by Ben Mehling.

### *Required Parts:*

- New Pads
- Brake sensors
- Brake Fluid

### *Required Tools:*

- 7mm allen wrench (or socket w/ 7mm allen head)
- Flat head screwdriver / Vise grips (to pry off caliper clip)
- Favorite Bleeder kit

**1)** Take out caliper pin bolts with 7mm allen (best to buy a socket with this head and use your ratchet)

The bolts are shown in this picture:



And the bolts after they have been removed are shown below:

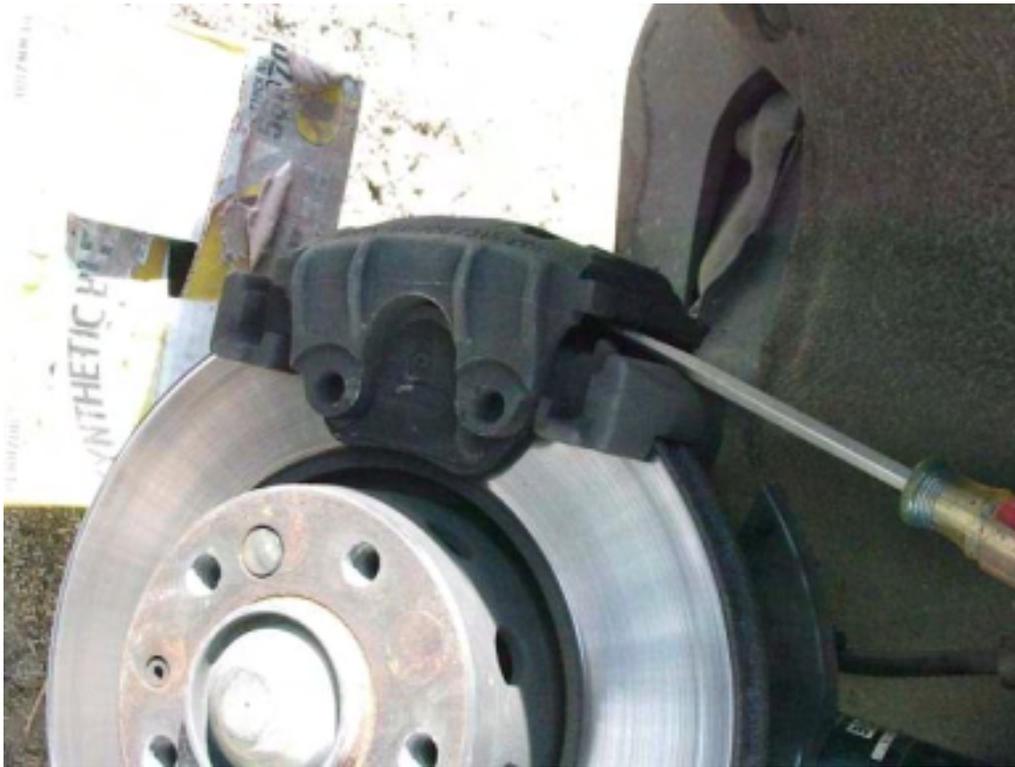


**2)** Use your pliers or a screwdriver to pull the pad clip/spring of the front of the caliper. I just grab it, pull it towards the front and twist a bit -- it pops right off.

**3)** Disconnect the brake sensor wire if you are doing that side.



**4)** At this point, you should be able to wiggle the caliper off the bracket by pulling away from the rotor. Have a box or spare jack stand handy to rest the caliper on so you don't stress the hose.



If it doesn't come away easily, then hook up a clear hose and a jar to the bleeder valve as in the picture below, and loosen the bleeder valve. Pulling the caliper against the rotor will push the piston back into the caliper, and allow you to pry the caliper off.



**5)** Remove old pads. This picture shows the pads in place after the caliper has been removed.



**6)** If you haven't done so already, hook up a bleeder hose and jar as described above, loosen the bleeder screw and push the piston in. This is easy when the fluid (old and dirty) can escape through the tube.

**7)** Close the bleeder screw

**8)** Insert new pads (put brake sensor wire on when working on the appropriate side), and put the caliper back on bracket

**9)** Lubricate and replace the caliper pin bolts, torque to 20-22lbs

**10)** Refit the caliper springs. They just pop right on.

**11)** Reconnect brake sensor.

**12)** Top off the master cylinder, do a quick bleed and your off.

Piece of cake and I can't believe what shops get paid to do this!