 Search

-- M3Forum Original (Updated)

powered by Google™

[Mobile M3forum](#)[BMW M3 Forum.com \(E30 M3 | E36 M3 | E46 M3 | E92 M3\)](#) > [BMW M3 Discussions](#) > [E46 M3 \(2001-2006\)](#)

DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Welcome, [e30will](#). | Last visited: Sat, Sep-03-2011 at 06:57:08 AM | [Private Messages](#): Unread 0, Total 90. | [User CP](#) | [My Garage](#) | [Log Out](#)[User CP](#) [Forum Guidelines / Info](#) [Community](#) [Gallery](#) [All Albums](#) [Blogs](#) [New Posts](#) [Search](#) [Quick Links](#) [Calendar](#) [FAQ](#) [Log Out](#)**E46 M3 (2001-2006)** Engine: S54 - Max Hp: 333 hp at 7,900 rpm / 262 lb/ft at 4,900 rpm
Total Produced: 45,000+ - Years Produced: 2001 to 2006.[M3Forum Sponsors List](#) | Interested in becoming a M3Forum Sponsor?

Like 41

Page 1 of 2 1 2 >

[Thread Tools](#) [Search this Thread](#) [Rate Thread](#) [Display Modes](#)

Wed, Jul-20-2011, 08:57:10 AM

#1

[Jmsimmons1](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Jun 2011
Posts: 31
Reputation: 0
iTrader: 1 reviews, 100%

DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Weather Stripping Replacement

This is a DIY guide on how to replace the weather **seal** for the rear corner panel windows of the E46 M3. These weather seals are prone to dry rotting along with the quarter panel glass **trim** (Mfg Part#: 5136819474 and 51368194742) that runs along the lower part of the side rear windows.



Unfortunately, while the quarter glass **trim** is replaceable as a stand-alone part, the weathers **seal** is NOT due to the fact that it is connected to another part called the Finisher Side Frame, which is the long black rail that runs front to back along the top portions of the side windows. Each Finisher Side Frame retails for over \$260 each and you will probably need two of them. Needless to say, this is not a cost efficient solution to the problem, especially since they will only end up dry rotting again. I decided on a far cheaper solution (\$20.00) that both

looks OEM and takes about 90 mins to do per side.

Tools needed:

1. Phillips screw driver, preferably with a magnetic head.
2. Large Flathead Screw driver
3. Box cutter blade or razor blade
4. Double-sided or colored tape
5. Possibly some interior **trim** adhesive

Skill Level:

If you think you could pass a high-school level Arts & Crafts class, you will be just fine. If you mess up, don't get frustrated or pissed. Even in the WORST case scenario, you will be out \$20.00 for the cost of the weather stripping and the time it takes to re-do something. It is still a far cry cheaper than the \$550+ you will spend on 2 Finisher Side Frames .

I would also like to apologize ahead of time about the quality of these pictures...to the point where I am actually embarrassed. My digital camera basically started to crap out on me during the install and I didn't realize the pictures were this bad until hours after the install. I would ask that if anybody else does this install, that they please take better quality photos and send them to me. I will insert them into this DIY in place of mine.

To begin, rather than re-explain the process on how to remove the **trim**, I will refer to another DIY that is currently available.

<http://forum.e46fanatics.com/showthr...ht=window+trim>

The very first picture of the aforementioned DIY shows the screws attaching the Finisher Side Frame (FSF) to the roof of the car. These screws run along the entire rail, from front to back.

You can get to the screws in the rear **window** by the following steps:

1. Open the rear **window**
2. Unlatch the ball joint on the **window** (see above DIY). You will need the extra room for both head and hand room. There is also particularly difficult screw that is between the front and rear **window** divider.
3. Remove the inside **window** gasket. Pull the upper portion of the gasket straight down from around the **window** frame. Try to leave the lower half in place as to keep a screw from falling down into the door/side frame of the car.

The last 4 screws in the back are different from the other screws, so please make sure that when you re-install them, you have them in back. The two very last screws are probably more easily accessible from outside the car.

*Note - Do not be surprised if the inside upholstered **trim** on the rubber door seals around the door comes off. Over time, the adhesive becomes brittle and it pretty much peels off. Mine did this and I simply got some upholstery glue to put it back together. (I hear that Gorilla Glue works as well, but that requires you to hold the pieces together whereas the adhesives for cars do not require such. You can find this type of adhesive in auto parts stores, probably by the paint section)*

Once you remove the screws from the FSF, you should be able to simply lift it off from the top. It is possible that the rear portion might be a little stuck due to some type of tacky tape in that location, but it is not difficult.

When the FSF is off, you will notice the rubber weather **seal** is attached by double-sided tape.



Mark the location of where the rubber weathers starts on the FSF. This is important. You will need to know where to cut the new weather **seal** so it be flush and won't collide with weather **seal** on the door. I used a piece of double-sided tape.



Once marked, you can now easily pull the old weather **seal** right off.



Note the double-sided tape underneath. Rather than trying to slowly peel this tape off, grab a simple box cutter and neatly slice the tape right off. It cuts very easily and comes off pretty clean.



This is the old **seal** removed.

Next, time to install the new weather **seal**. You can purchase this weather stripping from Autozone. It is a common part as I have found it at two different brick and mortar locations, however here is the online link.

http://www.autozone.com/autozone/acc...er=267100_0_0

It is made by Metro Moulded Parts Inc.

Make SURE that you get the 7/8-3/4 diameter. There is a smaller diameter that will give you some fitment problems.

Here comes the tricky part. The new weather stripping has some self adhesive along a ridge or spine on the bottom. Do NOT remove the protective backing! If you do, it will be extremely difficult to do the next step. Just past the elbow joint of the FSF, there is track that the old weather **seal** was wedged in. You are going to "pull" your new weather stripping through that track using the ridge or spine as the rail or anchor. It might take a little force to do so, but please be careful because the weather stripping WILL rip if forced too much. Another method is to take a large flat head screw driver and push the spine into the track.



See the extra weather stripping I have at the end? I would suggest you do the same so it can be trimmed during the re-installed. Better too long than too short.



Run the weather stripping down the length of the rail and cut it beyond the mark you made earlier...again, better too long than too short. (the red part is the backing on the double-sided tape. The green and white square is the doublesided tape I used to mark the end of the original weather **seal**).

Next, remove the tape backing down to where you wedged the weather stripping into the track. You do not have to bother trying to remove the backing down in the track. The weather stripping should be in there very tightly and will not need any form of adhesive. Tape the weather stripping spine parallel to the screw holes on the FSF.



The 3-4 screw holes near the end of the weather stripping (towards middle of FSF, not near the elbow joint) will probably be covered by part a small part of the weather stripping's spine. To avoid great difficulty trying to re-install the FSF, take a box cutter or a razor blade and cut out a small wedge to expose the holes. I found the best method to be to take the corner of the blade and push part of the spine through the screw hole. A small cut or incision will be in the spine which you can then gently pull away with your fingers. Once the weather stripping is securely taped to the FSF, you can **trim** down the new weather stripping towards the center of the FSF.

From here, you ready to re-install the FSF back onto the car. This is pretty much a common-sense process at this point, but the best process I found is as follows:

1. If you are also installing the quarter panel glass **trim** along the bottom of the **window**, DO THIS BEFORE RE-INSTALLING THE FSF! You will thank me for this later. Once this is done (or if you are not doing this install)...
2. Set the FSF in place to see if the new weather stripping is the correct length relative to the front **window trim**. If not, remove, cut/adjust, then try again.
3. When satisfied, screw in a few of the screws (1 or 2) underneath the front windows
4. Screw in the rest of the screws moving to towards the front of the car
5. Adjust the **trim** underneath the rear **window**. Take care in getting the **seal** underneath the rear **window**. You can gently tuck into place by using a large flathead screw driver.

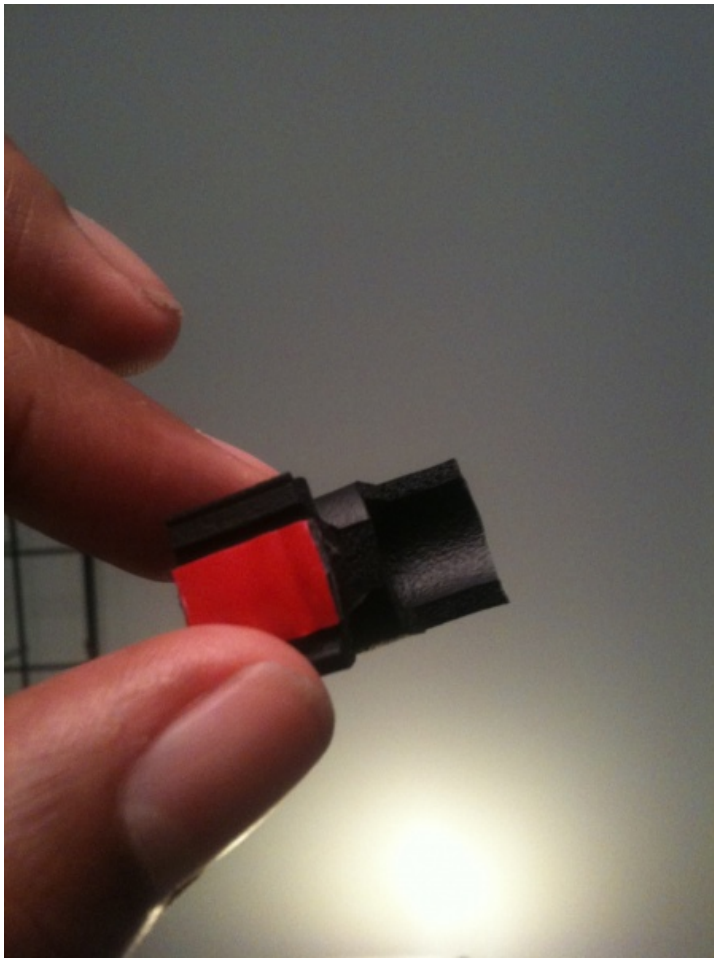


Finally, you need to **trim** the end piece past the elbow joint. *This part is a little tricky to explain and my camera*

was so jacked up at this point, it did not focus on what I wanted while the FSF was on the car. I tried again using a small end piece of weather stripping and my iphone. Hopefully you will get the jest of how you need to do this last cut.

1. **Trim** the tube portion of the weather stripping to the appropriate length you need.
2. Cut the spine off the end tip. You will be able to see how far back you can cut it, but at this point, the spine of the weather stripping is not necessary and will impare the fitment of the end a bit.
3. Cut away the lower half of the weather stripping tube facing the car. This will allow the weather stripping to fit nice and flush.





Screw in the final screws towards the rear of the windows and the final result should look pretty good.



I hope that this has been helpful. If there are any questions, please feel free to PM me or post your question. I will be going through and editing this for spelling and grammar later as I have spent waaay too much time on this for today.

Last edited by Jmsimmons1; Wed, Jul-20-2011 at 09:22:11 AM.



Wed, Jul-20-2011, 01:34:51 PM

#2

mrnile

Registered User



Join Date: Jun 2009

Posts: 262

In the garage:

'98 BMW M3

'05 BMW M3

Reputation: 0

Location: Mira Mesa, San Diego

iTrader: 0 reviews



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

great thread...sticky!!



Wed, Jul-20-2011, 01:53:18 PM

#3

blatant

///Mthusiast

Join Date: Jul 2009

Posts: 288

Reputation: 0

Location: RI

iTrader: 2 reviews, 100%



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

great job and write up. Thanks for sharing.



Wed, Jul-20-2011, 02:23:07 PM

#4

[bimmerfan08](#)

Mid-Atlantic ///M's



Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 701
Reputation: 0
Location: Hampton Roads/Virginia Tech
iTrader: [3](#) reviews, 100%



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Nice write up. I need to take a look at my seals now



///Mods: Powerflex FCABs, RTABs, Front and Rear sway bar bushings / Painted Reflectors / Removable License Plate Bracket / Torspeed Race Muffler / OEM 18" Square Wheel Setup running 265/35 / Rear Seat Delete / Khoalty LED Angel Eyes / OEM Sharkfin Dummy



Wed, Jul-20-2011, 02:24:34 PM

#5

[hockey930](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2009
Posts: 168
Reputation: 0
Location: Charlotte
iTrader: [3](#) reviews, 100%



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

awesome, I am going to do this. Thank you for taking the time to do this write up!

Just ordered mine!

Last edited by hockey930; Wed, Jul-20-2011 at 02:31:18 PM.



Wed, Jul-20-2011, 03:52:51 PM

#6

[Nervous](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Apr 2011
Posts: 37
Reputation: 0
iTrader: [1](#) reviews, 100%

Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Perfect, I'll add this in my bookmarks and todo list! However, I also need to take care about the weatherstrip at lower rear **trim** too - it is also in bad shape.



Thu, Jul-21-2011, 12:33:03 AM

#7

[mpower22](#)

Hardcore Capitalist



The Ultimate Driving Machine

Join Date: Dec 2002

Age: 30

Posts: 1,731

In the garage:

['09 TOYOTA RAV4](#)

['03 BMW M3](#)

Reputation: 0

Location: Maryland

iTrader: [46](#) reviews, 100%

Social Networks:



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Subscribed. This looks great. Have you given it the hose test yet?

///M3 - Dream Car: Acquired

2003 M3Laguna Seca Blue/Black Leather Cloth Interior/Brushed Aluminum Trim/Full [CSL] Exhaust/evolve-R

Original Owner, Custom Built - PDC, Moonroof, Bi-xenons | Euro - Rotors (F&R), Bumper, Mirrors, Warning Triangle, Console, First Aid Kit, Fire Extinguisher

OEM LED Conversion/Outer Ring Mod/Silver Vision | V1 Hardwired/Ashtray Concealed Display | Dice/iPhone

3M Color Stable Automotive Window Film 35% - Flawless | Diamond S600s, JL 10W3v3, HD900/5



Thu, Jul-21-2011, 12:41:58 AM

#8

[GotThrottle](#)

Registered User



Join Date: Feb 2011

Posts: 98

In the garage:

['04 BMW M3](#)

['97 BMW 328](#)

Reputation: 0

Location: Madison

iTrader: [0](#) reviews



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Thanks for the DIY 🙌

I'm going to do this.



Thu, Jul-21-2011, 02:45:47 AM

#9

[kaiv](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Jan 2008

Posts: 2,907

Reputation: 0

Location: san diego

iTrader: [15](#) reviews, 100%



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Great stuff! Thanks!



Kaiv's iTrader on Bimmerforums 1234



Thu, Jul-21-2011, 04:44:56 AM

#10

Jmsimmons1

Registered User

Join Date: Jun 2011
Posts: 31
Reputation: 0
iTrader: 1 reviews, 100%



Re: DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement

Quote:

Originally Posted by **mpower22**
Subscribed. This looks great. Have you given it the hose test yet?

Thank you.

Yes, I have given it the hose test and the major lightning storm test. No leaks. The **seal** is large enough to press up against the rear **window** firmly. I have also not heard any whistling while the car is at speed or anything.

If there is a situation where it is NOT pressing up close enough for your comfort, you can simply take the leftover **window** stripping along with 3M double-double sided foam tape and wedge it in between the new **seal** and your interior **window** gasket. That will push the stripping closer to the **window** and the "shim" will be invisible from both the inside and outside.

That said, I would add two disclaimers to this.

- 1) Don't throw away your old seals. Keep them just in case.
- 2) I have no clue how long the new weather stripping will last. While it is the standard stuff for automobiles and is regularly exposed to extreme heat inside engine bay, etc., we are blazing a new trail here. That said, if you go to the weather stripping company's website, they guarantee their product with a 15-year warranty.

Hell, if I am able to get 2-3 years out of this make-shift solution, I am more than willing to re-do it.

Finally, I have thought about trying to get somebody to fabricate the OEM seals by sending them one to create a die. I am not sure about the cost, but I would need to have an OEM **seal** that is not damaged to send to them...which I don't. If this is able to be done for a reasonable cost (\$50.00 or less), it could wind up being a better solution.

I dunno.



Post Reply

Like 41

Page 1 of 2 1 2 >

Bookmarks



Quick Reply



Message:



Options

☐ Quote message in reply?

Post Quick Reply

Go Advanced

« [Previous Thread](#) | [Next Thread](#) »

Currently Active Users Viewing This Thread: 1 (1 members and 0 guests)

[e30will](#)

Posting Rules



You **may** post new threads
You **may** post replies
You **may** post attachments
You **may** edit your posts

[BB code](#) is **On**
[Smilies](#) are **On**
[\[IMG\]](#) code is **On**
HTML code is **Off**

[Forum Rules](#)

Forum Jump

E46 M3 (2001-2006)



Go

[Accelerated BSN Program](#) USN Nursing School Program Get Your BSN In Only 14 Months! [online.usnnursing.com](#)

[Garage Door Service \\$29](#) Sales Repair & Installation 24/7 Call now 866-941-1578 Get 20% OFF [www.drgaragedoors.com](#)

[Life Insurance - \\$9 Month](#) No medical exam. Term & Whole Life \$250k In Coverage for \$9 Per Month. [LifeQuotesHere.com](#)

AdChoices

All times are GMT. The time now is 05:14:05 PM.

-- M3Forum Original (Updated)

[Contact Us](#) - [Home](#) - [Archive](#) - [Privacy Statement](#) - [Top](#)

Powered by vBulletin® Version 3.8.6

Copyright ©2000 - 2011, Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd.

M3Forum.com and M3forum.net is in no way sponsored, endorsed or affiliated by or with BMW NA / BMW AG or any of it's subsidiaries or vendors.

BMW and **M3** (E90 M3 | E92 M3 | E93 M3 | E46 M3 | E36 M3 | E30 M3) are registered trademarks of BMW AG.

M3Forum [Terms of Service](#)

Copyright ©1999-2011 M3Forum.com



Discussing DIY: Cheap Rear Quarter Panel Window Stripping Replacement in the E46 M3 (2001-2006) Forum - Engine: S54 - Max Hp: 333 hp at 7,900 rpm / 262 lb/ft at 4,900 rpm

Total Produced: 45,000+ - Years Produced: 2001 to 2006. at BMW M3 Forum.com (E30 M3 | E36 M3 | E46 M3 | E92 M3)