



## REAR BRACE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**PART NUMBER D180-0391**

APPLICATION: 1996 - 2000 528i  
1997 - 2000 540i  
2000 M5



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### PARTS LIST

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	D183-0067	Brace Center Section
2	D182-0391	Brace Endplates
1	D183-0072	Hardware Kit

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Congratulations for being selective enough to use a Dinan Engineering Brace. We have spent many hours developing this brace to assure that you will receive maximum performance and durability with minimum difficulty in installation. Please take the time to read these instructions and call us if you have any difficulties during the installation.

1. Make sure ignition is off.
2. Raise car and remove rear wheels.
3. Remove rear wheel arch trim (plastic inner fenders). Unfasten the expansion tank and lower it out of the way. Unfasten the fuel filler neck and pull it off to the side.
4. On cars with subwoofer: Remove the three 8mm hex head screws that hold the panel up to the rear tray. The trim panel that covers the subwoofer will then drop

down a few inches. Unplug the wire connector from the subwoofer box. Remove the fourth screw and pull the subwoofer and trim panel out as a unit.

5. Fold down the access panels on both sides of the trunk. Remove the expanding rivet at the top rear edge of each side trim panel. Use a flat-bladed screwdriver to remove these fasteners.
6. Remove the trunk floor covering.
7. For cars with non-fold down rear seats: Remove the large plastic plug in the center of the trim panel on the back wall. Leave the two side panels attached to the back panel and pull them out as one unit.
8. For cars with fold down rear seats: Fold down the rear seats. Remove the two large expanding rivets from the front of the side trim panels. Remove the small expanding rivets from the plastic crossover cover and remove cover. Remove the four 10mm hex head plastic nuts from the rear of the forward trunk floor. Leave alone the expanding rivets at the front of the floor and lift the floor up slightly. Remove the two side trim covers.
9. Carefully undo the cable straps that hold the wiring harness to the fender and remove the cable holders.
10. Carefully fold the sound insulation backward to expose the shock towers.



11. The Dinan brace will mount between the shock towers, just above the upside down "V" stamped into the towers.
12. Install the supplied Allen head bolts, washers, and nuts into the mounting ears. Slip the notches in the center section onto the Allen bolts. Snug up the bolts just enough to hold the assembly together while still being able to move the ends.

13. Position the brace between the shock towers and mark the holes to be drilled. Ensure that the center section is level.



14. Centerpunch marked holes. **Tip:** On cars without fold down rear seats. On the forward holes, first use an automatic center punch. Then use a sharp awl (or other suitable tool) to dig into the metal at an angle. This creates a small divot that will help prevent the drill bit from wandering. The final large hole can be drilled from the outside.
15. Use a small drill to make you pilot holes (about 3/32").
16. Drill out the holes to the final size of 11/32".
17. Deburr the holes and protect with touch up paint.
18. After the paint dries, install the end plates with the supplied 8mm bolts, nuts and washers but do not tighten.
19. Install the Allen head bolts, washers and nuts into the endplate mounting ears, but do not tighten. Install the brace center section onto the Allen bolts. Adjust the position of the end plates as required until you get a good fit. Ensure that the center section is level.
20. When everything is properly located, tighten the bolts holding the endplates to the body. Remove the brace center section.
21. Using a sharp knife, trim away the sound insulation as required to clear the ears on the end plates and install.



22. Trim away the carpet as required to go around the ears and install.



23. Install the center section onto the Allen head bolts and tighten securely. To maintain the finish on the endplates, hold flanged nuts with wrench while tightening the Allen-head bolts.
24. Reposition the expansion tank and fuel filler neck. Secure with the 10mm nuts removed earlier. Reinstall the inner fenders. ***Tip:*** First remove the drain tube from the passenger side inner fender and plug into the rubber grommet at the gas cap end. Reattach drain tube when you position the inner fender into place, but before you fasten the plastic rivets.
25. Replace the trunk floor covering and any remaining components & enjoy!