

Replacing Plastic Window Guides (Coupe)

So, my window has been making funny clonking noises since as long as I care to remember. Whipped the door card off one day to discover one of the plastic window guides was partly broken, allowing the window lifting mechanism to bang in and out when the window was raised or lowered.

This is a very common problem with the coupe windows. I was lucky – normally if you leave it like this for ages, your window can end up falling into the door! Ugh!

Firstly, go buy some new plastic window guides (Part number: B51.32.1.938.884 – B01G Sliding Piece)

To remove the door card, you need to slide forward the plastic trim that fits around the door handle, prise out the 2 plastic covers in the grab handle area and undo the 2 torx bolts, then pull the door card off the door, starting at the bottom. Pull the bottom of the door trim from the side pocket bits, then gently pull the sides away and lastly the top. Be careful with the top, as the clips here are metal and they fit into the hardboard of the door trim, so if you are too rough you may damage the door card (not the end of the world, as a repair kit is available from BMW to patch up the holes in the hardboard so the clips can clip in again).

Disconnect the mirror switch and also the tweeter speaker (the plug on this slides out of its holder, then you can unplug it).

Here's the door card out, with the holes indicated.



Ok, no peel off the protective foam (or plastic) layer – be careful of the gooey black stuff used to stick it on...it can end up getting all over the door card if you're not careful!

With that off you will be able to see the window mechanism.



The picture above is what it looks like with the window up. The black unit attached to the large metal plate is the window motor.

If you wind the window down, you will be able to see the runners



Runner nearest the door latch



Runner nearest door hinge

So, here's how you get them out....



**Retaining
Clip**

Use a pair of pliers to pull the retaining clip off of the plastic guide.....like so:



Now pull the window mechanism arm out just enough to remove the ball end from the white plastic guide. Don't pull too much or you may bend the arm.



With the arm out, you can then slide the plastic guide towards the middle of the window so it comes out of the end of the runner (pretty obvious which way to push the guide, as the other end of the runner is blocked by a large nut!).



This is why mine was making a funny noise.....the collar bit has broken, mishapen and the retaining clip has also given up!



Ok, new clips look nice huh? Take off the retaining clip, slide the new guide into place (may need a bit of grease to help this), pull the arm out slightly to get it lined up with the hole in the guide, then push it home. It will be a bit stiffer to get the arm into the new clip...but that's a good thing! I found if you grip the underside of the window around the metal bracket and also the arm, you can squeeze the arm into the guide without risk of bending anything.

Once that's in, put the retaining clip back on (using the pliers again).

Then grease up the runners and guides to make sure it all moves with relative ease.



Once you have done both clips, open and close the door to make sure the window is still aligned properly, as it can be tilted slightly forward if the plastic guides were worn.

The gap should be the same all the way down the side of the window glass, and the angled bit by the wing mirror should also be the same gap all the way along the length.



If the gap is wrong, you can adjust it by undoing the nut shown below and moving the bar. Moving the bar up will move the window glass nearer to the centre pillar of the car, and moving the bar down will move the glass away from it. Only small adjustments (if any) will be needed.



Now to reassemble the door.

Stick the foam bit back on, then get the door pin through the door card and gently knock the top of the door trim onto its clips.

Then work you way round the sides of the door card.

Make sure the clips are lined up before you push on the door card, or you will bend the clips.

The clips along the bottom of the door card may need to be pushed up slightly with a thin screwdriver to get them to align with the holes in the door.

All done! Nice quiet windows again!

Hope that helps!

Russell

****Just because you have to say this: Please remember this is only what I did and these notes (albeit described in great detail) are for guidance only. As with anything car related, if you are unsure, please get advice or help from a professional mechanic. I / e36coupe.com cannot and will not be held responsible if you damage something up on your car. Thanks****