

EPISODE 3: Zee Springs and der Dampers (shocks!)

Ok so here we are thinking how to restore or exceed the original ride quality which certainly has not changed for the better with time and mileage. These cars were **very** high performers from their beginnings. Yes, they were very taut, had sharp steering, well mannered over road irregularities, tracked straight, and devoured corners and hills better than anything at that time especially for that price point. So how has modern technology made things even better than the original? I used the Bilstein B12 Pro Kit with a complimentary spring and shock design to make matters much better than I had when I bought my '98 in original condition with 77k miles. This combo slightly lowers the ride height without harshly changing the boulevard ride, the ride we all enjoy when we cruise around. It does lower the center of gravity slightly which will improve handling in general. However, any bumps or surprises are soaked up and the car remains planted and non-plussed with the progressive rate springs and gas charged shocks in the suspension working while the car's body remains rock steady and comfortable to be in. There was no noticeable ride harshness as a result, just a much more secure and well sorted feel though out the many driving conditions. Review the company blurbs below for more details.

Where to source them: The aftermarket is replete with springs, shocks, struts, coil overs and OEM suppliers of BWM parts. I discovered that the Tire Rack has a nice sale on this KIT. Use the links below and you'll see Turner's has the exact same thing for a good bit more. Besure to effectively complete the upgrade with the essential shock mounts, available separately from Tire Rack or Turners websites for our cars.

Who will install this stuff? I had a good experience about two years ago at Automasters in Leesburg. They were OK with me bringing them the pieces and they remarked how everything was excellent quality and how well it all went in. They may want to check the cars alignment afterward but there is really little to adjust. They may choose to give you a ballpark estimate based on the published data base of shop rates and labor hours they have access to. However, to competitively shop, there is now PatRicks Auto Service in Ocala. You can email Kyle with a description of what you want to do and they will promptly give you an answer . Service4patricksauto@gmail.com Just give them year make and model of course, a description of the job and then reference Villages BMW Z Club and Leo's Red Z 3. Just to add that those of you who favor AG (all german) AutoService in Leesburg, will find that they are NOT amenable to using other than their parts that they source and mark up.

As ever, this information is descriptive in nature and any course you select is based on your own final analysis. Shiny sides up everyone!!



<https://www.turnermotorsport.com/p-22143-z3-bilstein-b12-pro-kit-sport-suspension-package/>

<https://www.tirerack.com/suspension/suspension.jsp?make=Bilstein&model=B12+%28Pro-Kit%29&group=B12+Pro-Kit&part-Num=46-189509&autoMake=BMW&autoModel=Z3+Roadster+2.8&autoYear=1998&autoModClar=>

<https://www.turnermotorsport.com/p-367494-heavy-duty-rear-shock-mount-priced-each/>

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