



BMW E53 X5 Direct-Fit Hitch
Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



Skill Level
1 - Easy
Basic Skills
Required



Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- **RH** refers to the *passenger side* of the vehicle.
- **LH** refers to the *driver side* of the vehicle.
- Always use the proper torque specifications.
- If applicable to this installation, torque specifications will be listed throughout the document and at the end as well.
- Please read all of these instructions and familiarize yourself with the complete process **BEFORE** you begin.

GENERAL PREPARATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety, please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- Park your car in a safe, well lit, level area.
- Shut the engine off and remove the key from the ignition switch.
- Make sure any remote start devices are properly disabled.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the parking brake is applied until the vehicle is safely lifted and supported.
- Whether lifting a vehicle using an automotive lift or a hydraulic jack, be sure and utilize the factory specified lift points.
- Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear.
- **ALWAYS** support the vehicle with jack stands.
- **ALWAYS** read and follow all safety information and warnings for the equipment you are using.

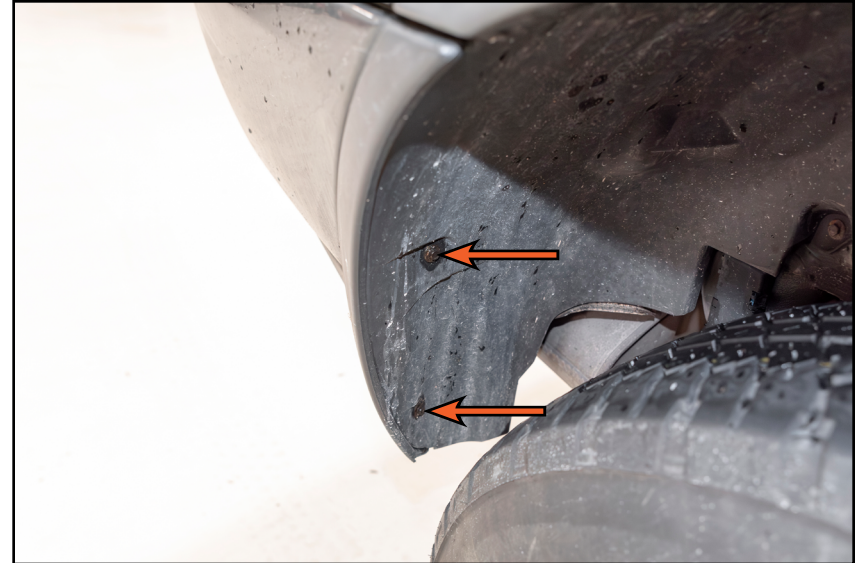


NEVER get underneath a vehicle that is supported only by a jack, and **ALWAYS** make sure that the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands.

INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 1: 8mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two screws (arrows) that secure each fender liner to the rear bumper.



Step 2:

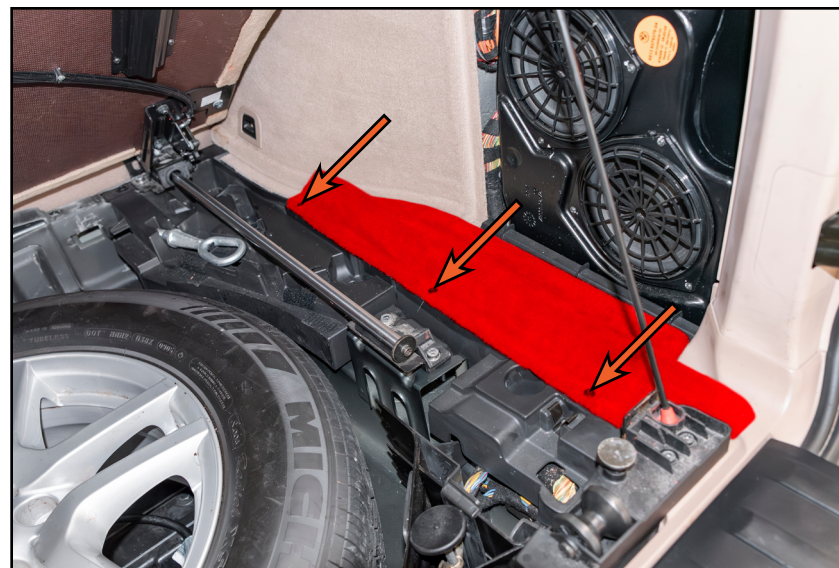
Open the hatch, then remove the carpeted floor and side access panels (arrows).



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 3: Phillips Head Screwdriver

Remove the three screws (arrows) then remove each carpeted side floor panel (highlighted in **RED**).



Step 4: 10mm Socket & Ratchet

Loosen the nuts then remove the two rear plastic floor supports (highlighted in **RED**).



If your vehicle is equipped with PDC: Disconnect the connector (highlighted in **RED**) located in the rear RH corner of the cargo area.



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 5: Trim Removal Tool

If equipped, pull the two exhaust tip surround panels (highlighted in **RED**) free from the rear bumper.



Step 6: Trim Removal Tool

Pry the rear bumper panel free from the lower retaining tabs (arrows).



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 7: T55 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Loosen and remove the bolt from above each exhaust tip housing (as shown in inset photo). Carefully pull the bumper away from the vehicle, pull the PDC harness free from the body (if equipped), and carefully lower the bumper to the ground.



Step 8: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

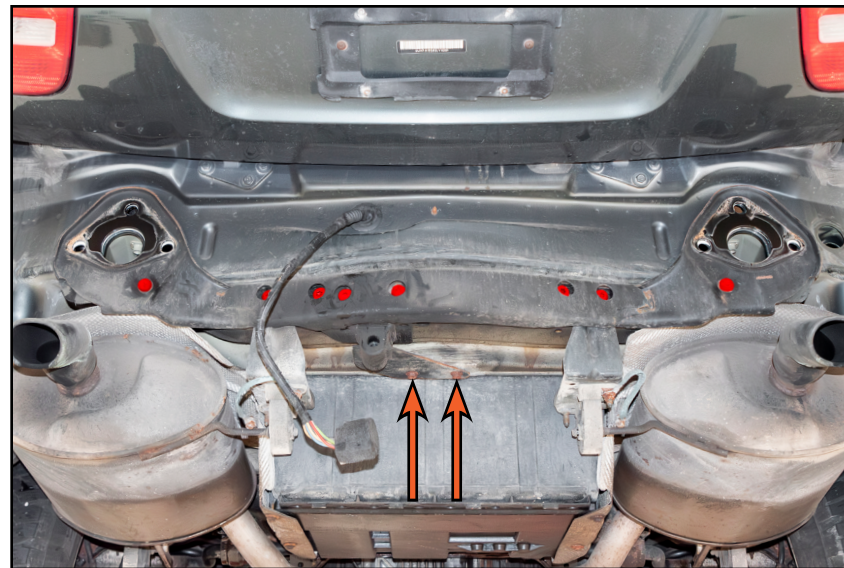
Loosen the three nuts (arrows in inset photo) from inside the trunk area and pull each of the bumper shocks (highlighted in **RED**) free from the body.



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 9: 13mm, T45 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Loosen the two lower screws (arrows), then support the rear bumper brace, remove the screws (highlighted in **RED**), and lower the brace to the ground.



Step 10: 19mm wrench, 19mm Socket & Ratchet

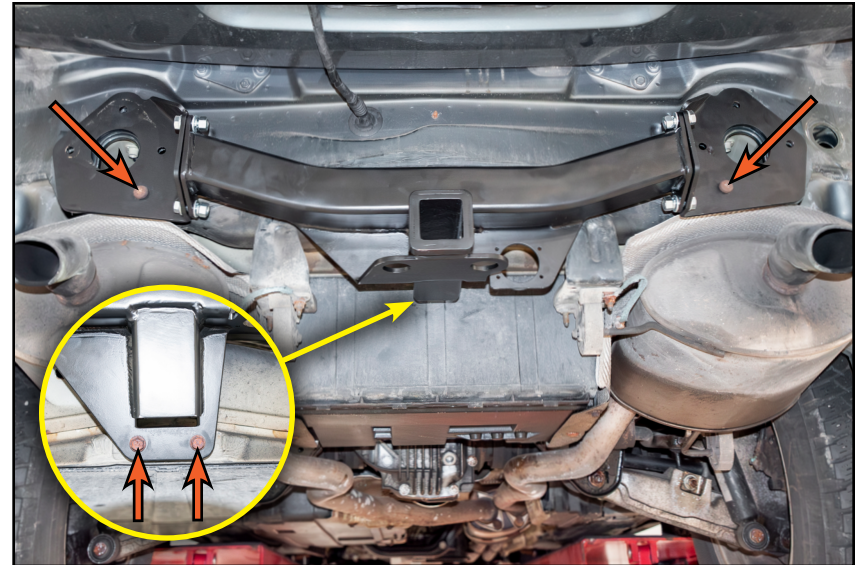
Assemble the hitch as shown, leaving all hardware loose to aid in installation.



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 11: 13mm, T45 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Lift the assembled hitch into place and secure it with two of the brace bolts (arrows) and the two lower brace bolts (arrows in inset photo), tightening until snug.



Step 12: 19mm Wrench, 19mm, 13mm Socket & Torque Wrench

Reinstall the bumper shocks (highlighted in **GREEN**), then replace the nuts (arrows in inset photo) and torque them to 24 Nm (18 Ft-lbs). Go back and tighten the hitch hardware until fully snug.



INSTALLING THE HITCH

Step 13: T55 Torx Socket & Torque Wrench

Reinstall the rear bumper, torquing the two bolts to 55 Nm (41 Ft-lbs), then reinstall the two exhaust tip surround panels (highlighted in **GREEN**).



Step 14: 8mm, 10mm Socket & Ratchet

Reinstall the cargo area trim panels as shown. Reinstall the fender liner screws.



Congratulations, your installation is complete!

Your Hitch installation is complete!



These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

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