

2014-2021 BMW i3 | Moderate | 60-120 minutes

TOOLS

Lug wrench or breaker bar Floor jack
Jack stands (rated) Socket set and
ratchet Brake piston retractor tool or
C-clamp Wire brush Brake cleaner spray
Caliper hook or bungee cord Nitrile
gloves Dust mask Shop towels

PARTS

Front brake pad set (BMW i3)
Front brake rotors (pair, if scored or
below spec)
Brake wear sensor
Caliper slide-pin grease (silicone-based)
Brake cleaner

STEPS

- 1 Lift the i3 and remove the front wheel - Park the i3 on level ground, engage the parking brake, and loosen the front wheel lug bolts slightly before lifting. Raise the front onto jack stands at the factory lift points and remove the wheel.**
- 2 Disconnect the brake wear sensor - Locate the brake wear sensor wire clipped to the inner pad and unplug it carefully from its connector. Cut or release any zip ties holding the wire to the suspension.**
- 3 Remove the caliper and old pads - Remove the two caliper guide bolts and lift the caliper off the rotor, supporting it with a hook or bungee from the strut - never let it dangle by the brake hose. Slide the old pads out of the caliper bracket.**
- 4 Clean and inspect the slide pins - Pull the caliper slide pins out of the bracket, wipe off the old dried grease and any corrosion, and inspect the rubber boots for tears. The video shows these pins badly corroded from disuse (regen does most i3 braking) - this step is th...**
- 5 Inspect or replace the rotor - Check the rotor for scoring, lip, or rust damage; if it is below minimum thickness or deeply scored, remove the rotor retaining screw and replace the rotor. Clean the hub face with a wire brush so the new rotor sits perfectly flat.**
- 6 Retract the caliper piston - Push the caliper piston straight back into its bore with a piston tool or C-clamp to make room for the new, thicker pads. Watch the brake fluid reservoir under the hood so it does not overflow as fluid is pushed back.**
- 7 Grease pins and fit new pads plus sensor - Apply fresh silicone-based grease to the cleaned slide pins, reinstall them with intact boots, and fit the new pads into the bracket with their anti-rattle hardware. Route and connect the NEW wear sensor - reusing the old one keeps the d...**
- 8 Reassemble and seat the brakes - Remount the caliper over the pads, torque the guide bolts evenly, and reinstall the wheel. Lower the car, then pump the brake pedal several times until it feels firm before driving anywhere.**