BMW E46 Convertible

Storage Compartment Lid Hydraulic Cylinder Removal

Created by taylor192 of E46Fanatics.com

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Storage compartment lid hydraulic cylinders removal

Lets first start with the storage lid cylinders. It took me about an hour documenting everything as I went.

Tools required:

NOTE: some of the tools pictured are for the other DIYs. Consult the list below.

- 13mm socket and ratchet
- small flat head screw driver
- mini pry bar
- cutters
- rags
- tape

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Step 1: Remove the trunk trim

- Remove the cover from the bottom of the trunk. You'll notice I've already dismantled the driver's side of my trunk (as part of replacing the main lift cylinders). I'll cover dismantling the passenger side as they are nearly identical.

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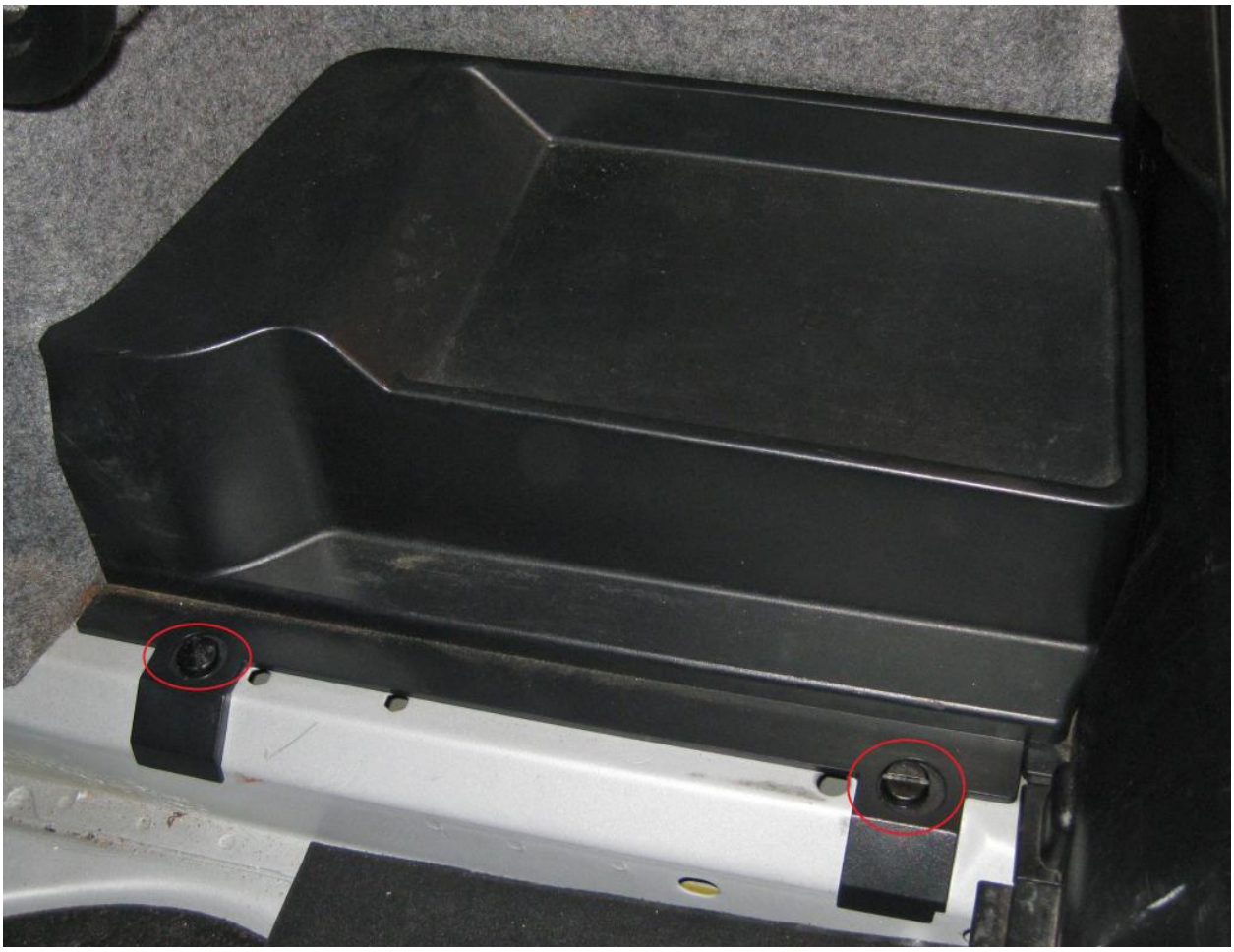
- Remove the battery cover (passenger side) by turning the push pins 90 degrees and pulling them out. The storage tray on the driver's side is secured with push pins.



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- Remove the trunk light on both sides. Pull the grey tab to release.

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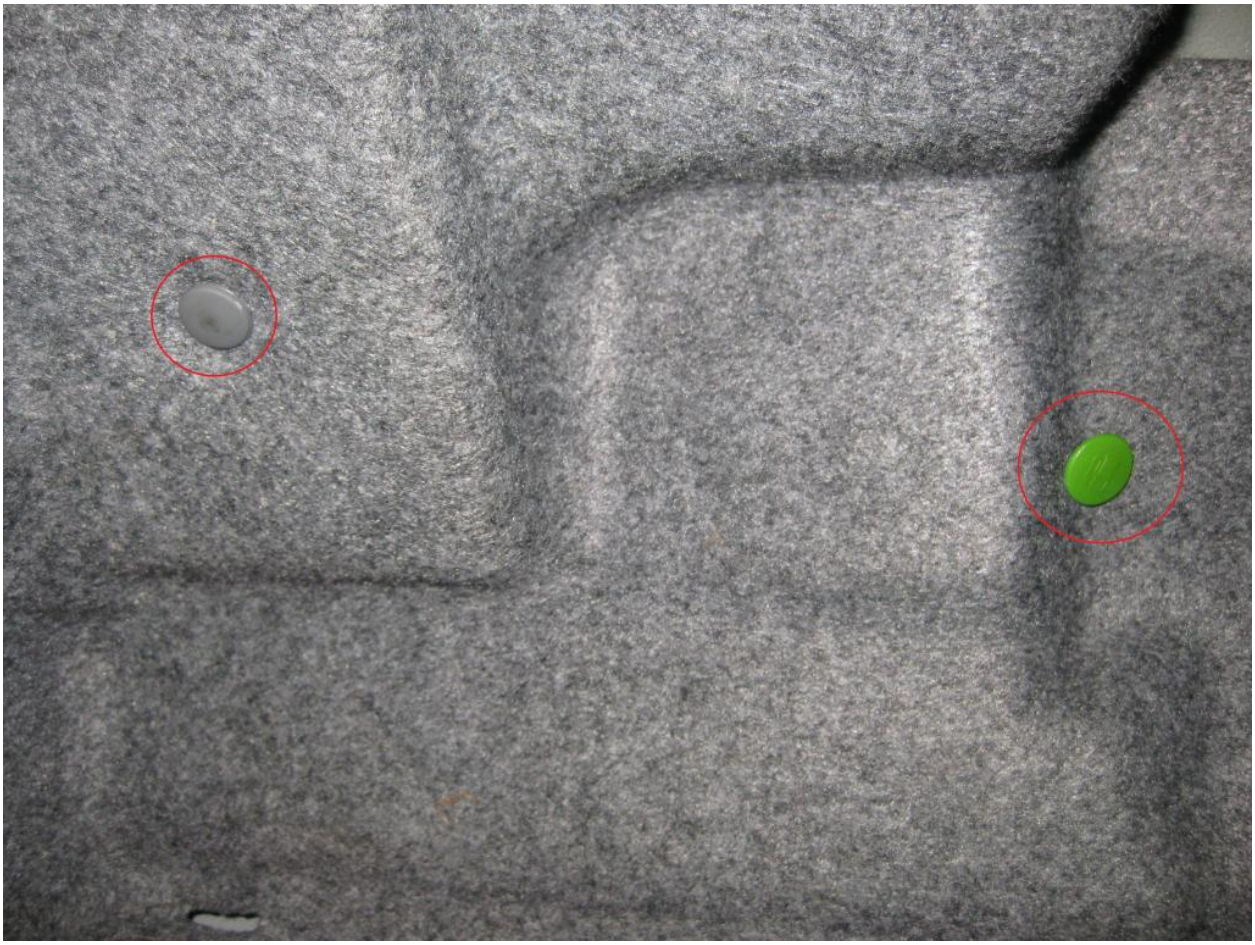
- Remove the push pins holding the carpet on both sides. The passenger side had an extra green push pin with a fuel symbol on it. If anyone knows what it is for please let us know.



- The carpet on the passenger side can be pulled back above the battery. The carpet on the drivers side must be completely removed to access the hydraulic pump. To remove the carpet: PULL!

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Step 2: Remove the passenger side storage lid cylinder

- Unbolt the carrier. The top 2 are grey nuts, the bottom is a brass bolt. All 3 are 13mm and tightened to 10 Nm or 7 ft lbs (or mechanic tight).

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- Remove the pin holding the hydraulic cylinder to the carrier. Pry up the clip to remove it.

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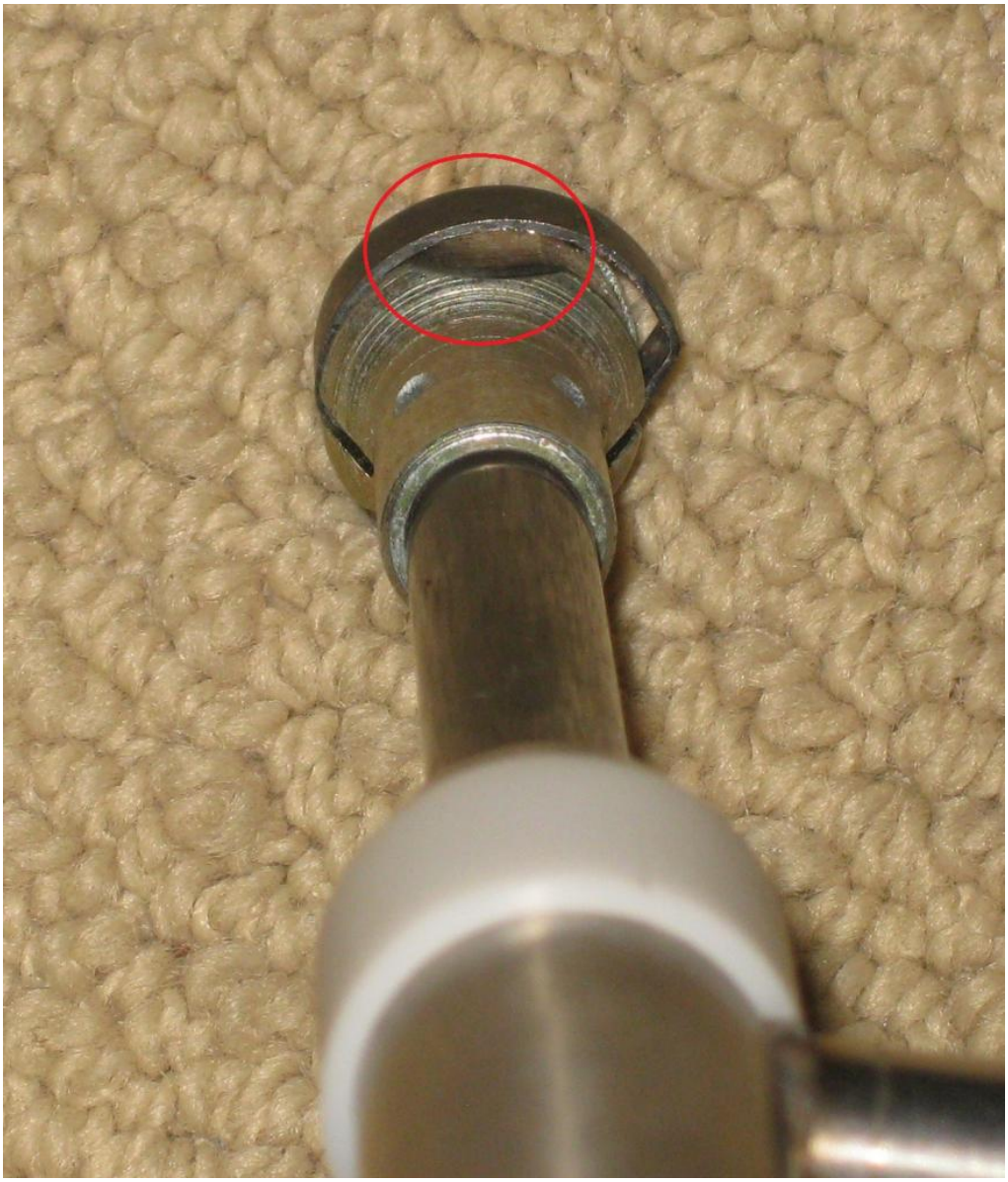
- Remove the ball socket end of the hydraulic cylinder. The trick is to get a small flat head screw driver under the retaining clip and pry it away. The ball socket has a flat spot which you can find by feel (since it's hard to see unless you have a mirror). This was by far the longest and more difficult part of the removal. Installation will be a breeze as they just snap back on!



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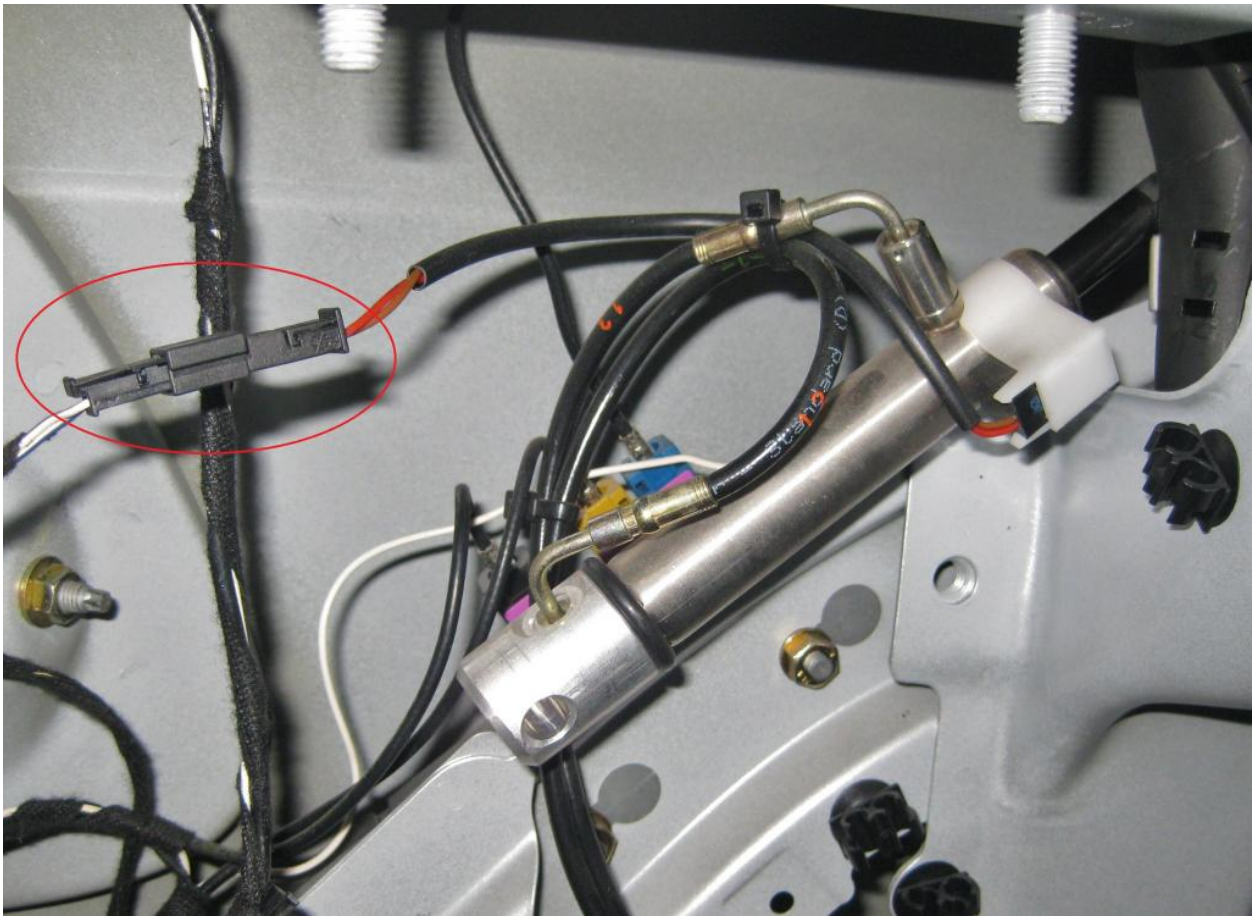
- Unclip the hydraulic lines back to the pump. The lines are tied together near the pump, cut the ties. The official instructions mention you have to remove the trim along the top of the trunk. I found you could just pull it back to expose the lines and clips.

Step 3: Remove the driver side storage lid cylinder

- Repeat step 2 on the driver's side. There is an extra sensor that must be disconnected.



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Step 4: Remove the hydraulic lines from the pump.

- Pull fuse 35 in the glove box. It is a big red 50 amp fuse that supplies power to most of the convertible system.

- Disconnect the pump just to be safe, especially if you plan to drive while waiting to get the cylinders back. The connector is above the pump.

- Free the pump by loosening the 13mm nut (no need to remove, just loosen) and pulling off the sound insulation.

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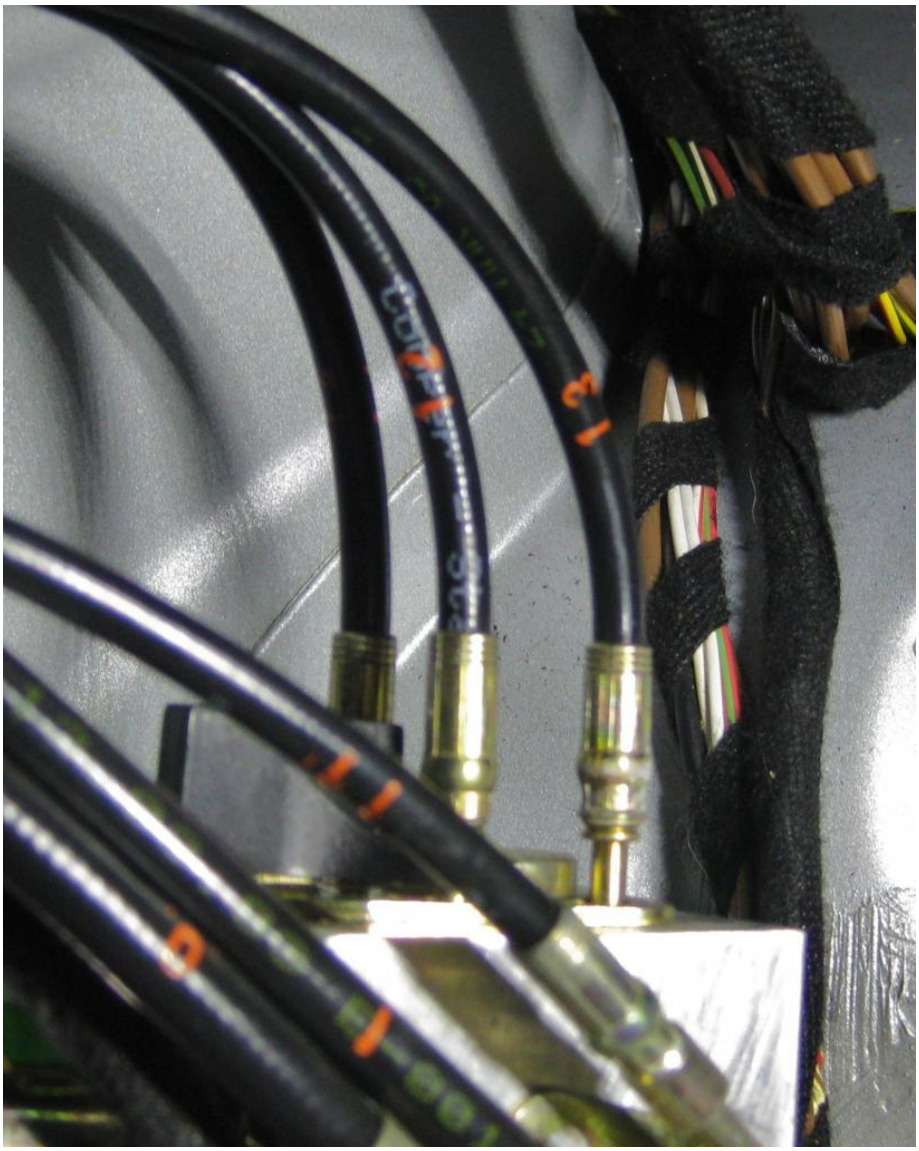
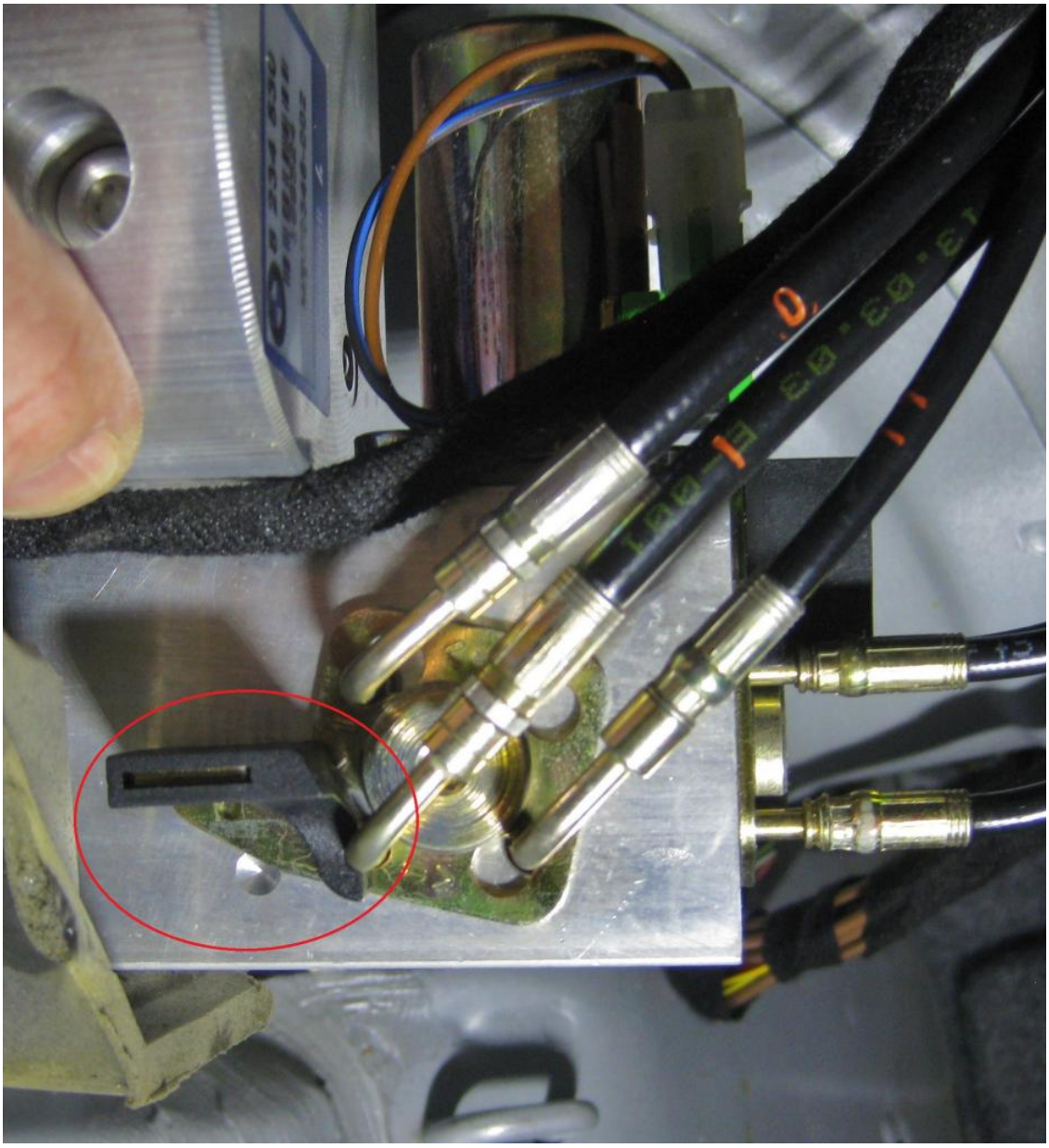
- The lines are numbered and the metal retaining plate stamped with the number and an arrow indicating where the line is installed. Thank you to Klaus for pointing this out, I would have never noticed the small '11' and arrow marked on the plate 2 pictures below.

Note: The hydraulic pump DIYs mention marking the lines, yet I bet they did not know the plates are stamped. I would check your plates are stamped and lines numbered, if not then use some tape and marker to mark the lines.



- Disconnect the hydraulic lines. They will leak so have rags handy! I wrapped the ends in rags then secured the rags with tape. Pry up the black retainer. Turn the metal retainer. Pull the lines out.



Step 5: Send to Top Hydraulics to be rebuilt!

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