MEVOTECH INSIDER
Service Tips and Best Practices

2010-2004 BMW X3 (E83/E83 LCI) - Front Lower Forward Control Arm and Front Lower Ball Joint Identification

Brand	Supreme	Product	Control Arm & Ball Joint	Date	January 2023
Part Number(s)	MS10501/MS10547/CMS10196/CMS10197				

When performing a front lower forward control arm and/or front lower ball joint replacement service on the 2010-2004 BMW X3, it is important to identify the correct required replacement components for a frustration-free install.

Production Date - up to December 2006

Vehicles built up to December 2006 (chassis code E83) and which still retain the original factory equipped components, will feature the original "thin" neck front lower forward control arms. This "thin" neck control arm can only be used in conjunction with a "shorter" height ball joint. **See Figure 1**.

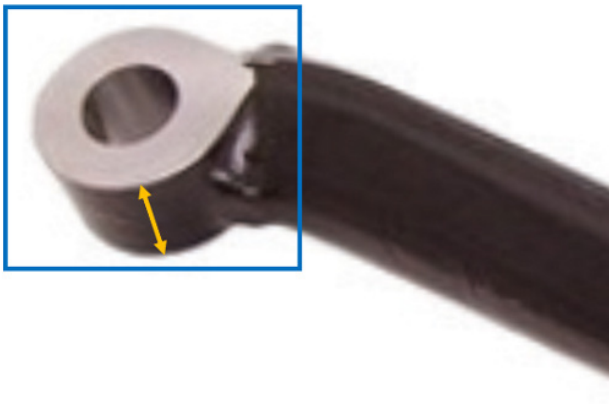


Figure 1. First design "thin" neck front lower forward control arm

If replacing a "shorter" height ball joint on a vehicle with a production date up to December 2006 **and** which retains the original "thin" neck front lower forward control arm, use the following Mevotech Supreme part number:

MS10501 - Front lower ball joint - "Shorter" height front lower ball joint for use in conjunction with "thin" neck front lower forward control arms

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Production Date – after January 2007

Vehicles built after January 2007 (chassis code E83 LCI) will feature the revised "thick" neck front lower forward control arms. This "thick" neck control arm can only be used in conjunction with the revised "taller" height ball joint. **See Figure 2**.

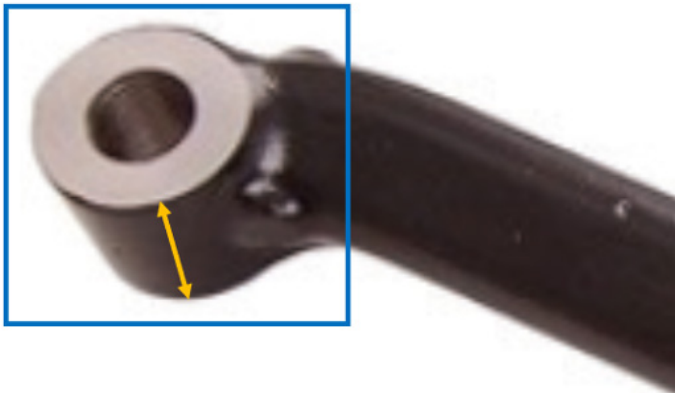


Figure 2. Revised design "thick" neck front lower forward control arm

If replacing a "thick" neck front lower forward control arm or a "taller" height ball joint on a vehicle with a production date after January 2007 **OR** if converting a pre-January 2007 model to the revised design, use the following Mevotech Supreme part numbers:

MS10547 - Front lower ball joint - "Taller" height front lower ball joint for use in conjunction with "thick" neck front lower forward control arms
CMS10196 - Front left lower forward control arm – Revised "thick" neck design
CMS10197 - Front right lower forward control arm - Revised "thick" neck design

For a successful repair outcome, adhere to the following:

- Before installation of replacement parts, ensure all mating surfaces are clear of rust, debris and burrs. Inspect mounting areas for cracks, deformation and or an out of round condition. Replace mounting surfaces if these are found.
- Verify press-in diameters and stud tolerances, including on steering knuckle side. Replace all damaged or out-of-specification mating components.
- It is important to note that these components cannot be interchanged:
  -If replacing a "thin" neck control arm with a "thick" neck control arm, the ball joint must be updated
  -If replacing a "shorter" height ball joint with a "taller" height ball joint, the control arm must be updated
- It is also important to note if replacing with updated components, the replacement should be done in pairs for both sides of the vehicle to retain suspension geometry. Perform vehicle alignment after repair.

Always ensure to refer to the factory service manual for correct diagnostic procedures, component removal and installation methods and fastening torque values and procedures where applicable. Only use a calibrated torque wrench for final fastening.

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