

e46 rear bearing replacement

[Page 1](#) | [Page 2](#) | [Page 3](#) | [Page 4](#)



The inner bearing race usually stays with the flange as you pound it out. Use a bearing separator or a 3 leg puller to remove the race. (E30 hub shown)



Remove the snap ring holding the bearing in (not shown). Assemble your bearing tool.



Use the largest mandrel possible that will clear the control arm on the inboard side of the bearing. You want to push on as much area of the bearing as possible to avoid pushing out just the inner races.



The bearing is out! Clean everything with your favorite solvent and wipe clean. The new bearing should be installed dry. use the largest mandrel possible on the outboard side to push on as much of the bearing outer race as possible. Pushing on the inner race can damage the bearing.



Install a new snap ring. I'm sure you can reuse the old one but a new one is under \$4.00 at the parts counter. If the snap ring will not fit into the groove, the bearing is not fully seated. break out the bearing tool again and push it all the way in.



Check the fit of the hub on the stub axle. You should be able to push the hub on far enough to expose enough threads to get the axle nut started.



If you have to pound the axle into the hub, you run the risk of pushing the outboard inner race



Slide the axle into the hub. Thread the new axle nut on a couple turns

out of the bearing which may cause damage. Clean the hub and axle as needed and check the fit several times. All I had to do was wire brush the axle splines and spray some solvent on the hub splines. Make sure both splines are clean and dry before assembly.

After you are happy with the hub-axle fit, push the hub into the new bearing with the bearing tool. Use a smaller mandrel on the inboard side so that it only pushes against the inner race.

to make sure it starts on the threads. Tightening the nut later will finish the job of pulling the stub axle into the hub. Reattach the inboard CV joint to the diff output flange. Reattach the shock and swaybar if necessary.