

Modifications made during the production of the BMW Z8 E52



Production time, including test vehicles, 12/1998 until 07/2003

Presentation of the Z07 study at the Motor Show in Tokio 1997 and in Detroit 1998

Until 09/2000 Partial increase in motor oil consumption (problem M5 E39; Motor S62), BMW only allows recommended motor oil (e.g. Castrol TWS 10W 60) for the S62 engine!
Use of the GPS unit MK II; GPS-antenna cable is not attached to the GPS-unit itself but to the frame of the GPS unit which is attached to the body of the car

Approx. 09/2000 Modifications made to the piston's, the cylinder walls and the VANOS-unit. Installation of a pressure compensation unit for the VANOS-unit (decrease of the "rattling" during cold start). A retrofit was not offered by BMW because this issue was seen as a "comfort" matter.
Conversion of the GPS-unit, from MK II to MK III, with changes to the wiring harness and the GPS-antenna on the GPS-unit.
Shape of the windscreen safety hook was modified in order to archive a more stable hold of the windscreen to eliminate the "flapping" of the windscreen at increased speed.

Approx. 07/2001 Exchange of the Motorola StarTAC 130 phone to the Motorola V50. A retrofit of the V50 was offered by BMW, however the corresponding retrofit unit needs to be installed as well. The retrofit unit has the BMW-part-nr.84 63 0 140 099.

Approx. 09/2001 Modification to the rear indicator lights due to lack of tight fit. The modified indicator lights can be recognised on their black surface which is in contrast to the original chrome surface.
The windshield manufacturer was replaced, which led to a decrease in quality. The new windshields are less durable (cracks can occur with temperature changes, driving through a carwash or rocks hitting the windshield). Generally only the windshields of the last manufacturer are available as spare parts.

Approx. 06/2002 Production of the 555 ALPINA Roadster V8 commenced, with the ALPINA V8-engine based on the M62 and automatic transmission (displacement capacity increases from 4,4 to 4,8 liters). 105 vehicles were produced to ECE specifications and have their own ALPINA VIN nr. engraved, 450 vehicles were produced to USA specifications and have a BMW VIN nr. engraved. The ALPINA V8 Roadsters are equipped with special 20" wheels WITHOUT RunFlat-tires. Modifications were made to the suspension when compared to the regular Z8 (more comfortable) and in addition further modifications were made to the ECE vehicles. The ECE vehicles are equipped with ALPINA shock absorbers, the US vehicles are equipped with the original BMW Z8 shock absorbers with specific ALPINA springs.

Since 09/2002 Modifications to the VANOS-unit. Change to the DVD-GPS-unit, from the MK III-system to the MK IV-system. All of Europe is now stored on one single DVD, the input of postal codes is now possible with the appropriate software update and the speed has increased tremendously, (about 10 x). A retrofit from MKII and MK III to the DVD-system MK IV is possible, however appropriate programming is required. BMW had not intended a retrofit.
Note: Only the BMW Z8 GPS-unit were configured for vertical installation!

Since 09/2006 Performance Package is available, BMW-part-nr. 51 71 0 420 758, the price is EURO 371.20 (10/2006), consisting of modified front strut towers and front strut brace.

Since 12/2006 Some parts have an expiry date, e.g. the rear window and the neon-technology indicator lights.

Since 05/2007 Performance Package is available for the ALPINA Roadster V8, BMW-part-nr. 51 71 0 420 758. Additionally 2 specific sheet-metal brackets with the BMW-part-nr. 31 33 0 423 173 are required. The ALPINA part nr. for the sheet-metal brackets is 13 70 748. The original BMW installation manual was adjusted to the ALPINA Roadster V8.

Standard equipment plus equipment and accessories delivered with the car at the time of purchase:

- Hardtop, hardtop cover, and specific hardtop stand with instructions for the hardtop stand and matching key (Allen key)
- Windscreen in the same leather colour as the interior (in storage jacket)
- Tarpaulin in the same leather colour as the interior (in storage jacket)
- Cloth with BMW-logo, to cover up the rear window when softtop is down.
- BMW model car (Kyosho, size 1 : 18) in the same colour combination as the vehicle itself. Delivery of the model took place via standard mail several weeks after the vehicle was delivered.
- Special Z8 map for documents, in black leather and with Z8-logo, with manual for multi-info-radio for the vehicle, service-booklet and a list for country specific road assistance.
- Motorola cell phone, including all accessories, in a BMW box (leather pouch, re-charger (with adapter), head-set and manual as well as accessory pamphlet)
- Individualised Z8 book in the same colour as the interior leather of the car, with VIN- nr, photo of the purchased vehicle, right after it was build, in a special box with separate Z8-badge, identical to the one between the upper back of the seats. In this book, which is from BMW, it states on page 45 that spare parts will be available for at least the next 50 years. Delivery of the book took place via mail several weeks after the delivery of the model car
- Special BMW Z8 ignition key-pouch in black leather with Z8-logo
- First aid kit and warning triangle
- Special Z8 tool set in a black leather mantel with Z8-logo incl. adapter for the lockable head bolts and black gloves)
- GPS-CD / DVD



In addition the US vehicles had a battery charger as part of their standard equipment, which was placed in the trunk. A cup-holder on the passenger side of the middle console was also part of the US standard equipment.

Production numbers – Color variations – Exterior colors

The following table gives a general idea of the color variations and numbers during the production period of the BMW Z8. Also included in the numbers and colors are the 555 Alpina V8 Roadsters, those on the North American market (450) have a BMW VIN and the remaining 105 on the ECE market have an additional Alpina VIN. Vehicles on the ECE market run from AF77000 to AF80159 (3160), Vehicles for the North American market run from AH60000 to AH62542 (2543).

Exterior color	Interior color	Numbers	Total
Titaniumsilver	Black	1895	
Titaniumsilver	Crema	16	
Titaniumsilver	Sportred / Black	1262	
Titaniumsilver	Crema / Black	9	
Titaniumsilver	Individual color	0	3182
Black	Black	667	
Black	Crema	229	
Black	Sportred / Black	342	
Black	Crema /Black	331	
Black	Individual color	3	1572
Topazblue	Schwarz	135	
Topazblue	Crema	138	
Topazblue	Sportred / Black	8	
Topazblue	Crema / Black	37	
Topazblue	Individual color	1	319
Red	Black	137	
Red	Crema	62	
Red	Sportred / Black	77	
Red	Crema / Black	15	
Red	Individual color	0	291
Stratusgray	Black	114	
Stratusgray	Crema	46	
Stratusgray	Sportred / Black	12	
Stratusgray	Crema / Black	23	
Stratusgray	Individual color	1	196
Individual color	Black	0	
Individual color	Crema	1	
Individual color	Sportred / Black	0	
Individual color	Crema / Black	0	
Individual color	Individual color	123	124

Two- tone “Individual” Models

Black / Titaniumsilver	Light grey	7
Stratusgrey / Ivory	Crema	11
Carbonblack / Titanumsilver	Light grey	1

Total: 5703

Yearly production numbers consisting of a total of 5703 produced vehicles incl. the 555 ALPINA Roadster V8

Year	ECE Specifications AF77000 to AF80159	USA Specifications AH60000 to AH62542	Total
1998	AF77000 to 77001 2	0	2
1999	AF77002 to AF77083 82	AH60000 to AH60017 18	100
2000	AF77084 to AF78538 1455	AH60018 to AH60508 491	1946
2001	AF78539 to AF79752 1214	AH60509 to AH61606 1098	2312
2002	AF79753 to AF80017 265	AH61607 to AH62254 648	913
2003	AF80018 to AF80159 142	AH62255 to AH62542 288	430
	3160	2543	5703

Source: survey done by BMW Z8 Club e.V. through VIN-Decoder

Distinctions between the USA - ECE-Specifications

For US vehicles: speedometer in miles and kilometres. Modified wiring harness and changes in the audio-system, the rear indicator lights are red. Country specific software in regard to the exhaust-system, GPS, phone etc. Different headlights, aluminium cup-holder with aluminium attachment on the passenger side. The rear bumper has integrated side lights and is formed to hold the US specific license plates.

Different license plate holder for the front. The trunk contains an unlocking system which allows for the opening of the trunk lid from the inside of the trunk (emergency-opening in form of a yellow plastic lever on the left side of the trunk).

Importing a BWM Z8 from the USA

Due to the current low value of the US dollar, several BMW Z8 were re-imported from the US. The transport, e.g. in a container, is relatively simple to organize, however, one should definitely take a close look at the desired vehicle in the US. The US equivalent to the German internet car trader www.mobile.de is the www.autotrader.com. The climate in e.g. California or Florida (which is where most Z8 were delivered to in the US) is entirely different from here. Paint, leather and especially the plastic rear window suffer tremendously under the influence of direct sunlight. Also the frequently discussed frame damage issue definitely justifies the flight to the US in order to inspect the vehicle of your choice. US vehicles have their own VIN-nr. with AHXXXXX, a certificate of conformity from the manufacturer does not exist. Therefore licensing and registration in Germany **can** potentially turn out to be quite difficult. To begin with the rear red indicator lights have to be replaced with the yellow ECE lights and the software has to be adjusted. Club members have reported a wide range of experiences when it came to registering and licensing US vehicles. Some TÜV respectively DEKRA offices posed no problems at all, however, with others registration was only possible with the greatest effort. Contact information to Club members and firms which have already imported vehicles from the US and/or have refitted cars for the German market are available at the Club office.

Known problems of the BMW Z8 (E52) (07/2007)

Problem	Solution
Indicator light failure (neon-technology, mostly rear indicator lights)	Exchange! The inert gases evaporate over time. Keep an eye on the expiry date!
Lateral wholes in the softtop.	Tears in the creaser, laterally, on the softtop Repair kit BMW part-nr. 54 34 7 072 808. Price, EURO 46.18 (04/2006) BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazine 2 (2006)
OBD-ASU is not possible	Have BMW update your software
Yellow indicator lamp "exhaust emissions" lights up and/ or engine looses power and goes into emergency mode	Check VANOS-unit and sensors. Often only the sensors are defect and not the VANOS-unit BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazine 3 (2007)
Defect inside mirror (manifestation of bubble filled with fluid)	Exchange!
Rear seat plastic covers fall off because the glue on the clamps disintegrates	Re-glue the clamps
Softtop fabric slides out of the stitching around the rear window	Renew glue on the softtop fabric Pay attention to the expiry date of new rear windows! BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazine 1 (2005)
Windscreen flutters while driving at high speed	Check the safety hooks of the windscreen
Headlights point too low after the installation of the Performance Package	Transmitter for the automatic headlight levelling (located on a strut on the right front wheel) were incorrectly installed (at a 180° twist)
Head gasket on the S62 engine defect!	So far this defect has only occurred sporadically in connection with a dirty cooler. The temperature display on the instrument panel works quite slowly and once the indicator lamp comes on it's often already too late! BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazine 3 (2007)
Headlight units do not work	It sometimes happens that vehicles with lower clearance have the wiring which leads to the headlights damaged as well as the fender interior trim worn through!
Motor oil quality for the S62 engine in the Z8	The S62 engine in the BMW Z8 reacts very sensitive to different "oil qualities". BMW recommends the exclusive use of Castrol TWS 10W - 60 BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazine 3 (2007)
Activation of the alarm system	Replace engine compartment light switch, problems with the insulation of the hood BMW Z8 Club e.V. Magazin 3 (2007)

What else is worth "Z8" mentioning?

- Placement in the James Bond movie "The world is not enough" in 1999 and in Jackie Chan's movie "The Tuxedo" in 2003
- On 01.01.2006, 1430 BMW Z8 were registered in Germany