

TECH SESSIONS WITH HARRISON MOTORSPORTS
PERFORMANCE SWAY BAR INSTALLATION
(BMW E34 5 Series '89-'95)

Your 5 Series is a car that handles well out of the box – by virtue of the fact that it's a BMW, of course, right? The handling of the E34, while sporting for some, may be described as soft for others. One relatively simple and cost-effective performance handling upgrade that can be done is to replace the factory sway bars with stiffer, thicker bars manufactured by such tuners as Racing Dynamics, Eibach, or even upgraded factory bars from other E34s such as the M5 (all available through Harrison Motorsports). Replacing the factory bar with a thicker, stiffer unit will stiffen the connection between the suspension and body of your E34, resulting in reduced body roll during cornering.

To remove the sway bar, you must first remove the sway bar links. It is wise to replace the old links when installing a new sway bar. They are inexpensive and available through Harrison Motorsports.

First, place the car securely on jack stands. Do not work under a vehicle supported by a jack only. Remove both front wheels. Take a 16mm open end wrench and block the nut on the sway bar link. With a 17mm socket, remove the nut on the other side of the sway bar. Next, unbolt the stabilizer bar bushing brackets. Once these two brackets are removed, you will be able to drop the bar. Reinstall the new sway bar and sway bar links, using new self locking nuts on the sway bar links. Put the wheels back on and lower the car. There is no need for suspension realignment. That's it!

Removal of the rear sway bar and links is a little more involved, as it requires partial removal of the exhaust system. Since this is done most easily with a lift and proper tools, we encourage you to schedule us to install your new rear sway bar for you.