

Leo's Z3 Corner

Episode 8 - How I Kept My Cool

The last episode was about the cooling system. This is a follow-up on the work that I had done.

So **WHO** can **DO** THE WORK??

Two of our go-to, non dealer installers locally were both quick to respond with labor quotes. PatRicks in Ocala was 2/3 the cost of Automaster's in Leesburg. Neither will warranty parts I provide. No warranty on labor either. So getting the stuff myself is now **out!!!!** Looks like BMW of Ocala is my best bet! (See video below and I think you will be impressed with the dealership professionalism)

I had the dealer check my whole cooling system out last week when it was in for other preventive maintenance. **Plan B** in effect. Cosmo, as I have found, is the consummate service technician at BMW Ocala favoring the great Z3's. He was kind enough to give me his suggestions during a phone conversation for the cooling system upgrades (preventive maintenance!) and priced 2 estimates for me. One was with BMW branded parts and the other with OEM or better, aftermarket parts. \$400 difference right there. No label. We agreed to replace belts, hoses, and what was on the list of concern but not if they are durable yet. I really want Cosmo's expertise as well as a labor guarantee. Parts here are only 2 years max anyway even from the dealer. Getting My **Plan B** working with AUTOMASTERS and Pat Ricks too. **They** buy and mark up the equivalent level parts **I** specify and they guaranty the labor. Turns out both of them were

way **HIGHER** than BMW OCALA and only warranty their parts and labor for 1 year. At last a NO BRAINER! How many more water pumps in my future? https://www.autozone.com/cooling-heating-and-climate-control/water-pump/uro-water-pump-uro-000605/473018_0

- Cooling systems parts to be changed:
- Radiator - Durolast A2038 or Nissens 60638
- Expansion Tank URO 1487 or Rein EPT0026
- Tank Cap 2 Barr- Rein ocm CPE0030P or Behr CRB 22000P
- Bleeder Screw Brass- URO Premium 17-11-1-717-788PRM
- Belt Component kit with tensioner- Continental V belt K49282D
- Water pump- Aluminum impeller- URO 605 AL
- WP Pulley Aluminum- URO 590 AL
- Thermostat Housing Aluminium- URO 711
- Thermostat 192F (89C) - Duralast 3089
- Upper Radiator hose- Dayco C71663 or Rein CHR 0014R
- Lower Radiator hose - Dayco B71664 or Rein CHR 0228R
- Heater Inlet Hose (dealer says its leaking?) Rein CHH0274P
- Heater Outlet Hose- CHH0278P

- 1 Gallon of Anti-freeze/ Coolant- fill the rest with DI water. No issues with freezing here. Dealer only uses 1 gal. - BMW equivalent
- Clamps and shop supplies as needed! Hazmat disposal fees?

What to keep: Hopefully, reuse fan, fan clutch, fan shroud and pulley on alternator. Cosmo said BMW makes incredible radiator hoses and may reuse them.

What to consider: Be prepared to consider the options if issues arise. A ***lot*** is coming out and being replaced while they are going in for the water pump removing most of these parts anyway. SO, hard to be exact and we are after reliability, longevity and Cosmo's expertise!

So, to be clear, the dealer, with Cosmos in control, is at about \$2000 after our CLUB DISCOUNT with a 2 year parts and labor warranty. PatRicks is at \$2400 with all aluminium radiator and expansion tank, \$550 for those and ONLY 1 yr warranty P&L. And Automasters has it at about \$2800 with all the parts I specified at 1yr warranty P&L.

SO, it clearly turns out that I'm the investor in this fine automobile. I started looking at a new water pump with metal impeller blades b/c ***the plastic impeller is deemed a pending liability.*** AND , that lead to aluminum thermostat housing, thermostat, hoses, fan clutch (it should come out with the fan so they may turn out well enough to reuse!), radiator with weak plastic end caps, belts and switching to metal (aluminium) pulleys too if Cosmo says the plastic ones look suspect!. I don't care how much more it weighs!! Reliability young man! I want another 10+ enjoyable years and 50K miles out of my Z's cooling system too! So far so good and

maybe as good as it gets for now.

Here's what my experience at BMW of Ocala was like from the service bay doing the cooling system:



Any decisions you may enact with your car fully reflects the best of your considerations. Any suggestions you have for me are always appreciated unless you tell me to buy a new Z4!

