How to change front camshaft oil seal, on 1.8 Petrol

By Baconbuttyman

Yesterday I noticed a bad oil leak coming from the end of the camshaft on the right hand side of the engine bay. As advised it was the camshaft oil seal.

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The hardest thing about this job is putting the oil seal in the right way round, ehem, which I initially didn’t! Tools needed are 10mm socket and wrench, long nose pliers or a hook type tool (for removal of old seal, mine came out, or more to the point fell out) and a Philips (cross) screwdriver.

First of all, remove the air filter cover to give better access, there are two screws at the top of the cover, and it simply hooks off, set this aside once removed.

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Now it's time to remove the bolts holding the seal cover plate. There are two only, this requires the 10mm socket. Be careful, if you have just been out in the car, these parts would be hot. Put these safely to one side.

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Now it's time to remove the old seal, if you are lucky then it will come out easily with the pliers, if not, then get the hook you have and gently prize it out and away, if it still won't move then you may need to make a small hole in the seal back and either use the hook in the hole or a small self-tapping screw to grip in the hole and pull outwards.

Ok, now you have the seal out, wipe the area clean, with a cloth, ensure there is no oil residue in the area.

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Now it’s time to put the new one in, don’t put it in the wrong way round like I did initially. (Thanks to T-Cut for putting me straight). You need the flat end outwards. There is a lip on the inner of the seal, which just needs a little persuasion in going into place, this lip ensures a tight seal. When you have it on, gently tap it home, I used the old seal to tap it down, re-wipe the area incase oil from the old seal is left.

Ok, now wipe off the backing plate and put a little grease on the bolts and replace. Then replace the air filter cover and that’s it, job done. Also I find it home practice to clean your tools off before putting away hope this how to helps.

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