

## Camshaft Identification on DOHC BMW Engines

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information concerning camshaft identification for BMW DOHC engines. This information should be considered anytime the camshafts are being removed from the cylinder heads.

The camshafts for intake and exhaust locations differ from each other although some may appear visually identical. To aid in the identification of these unique camshafts BMW marks them with a raised “A” and “E”. Although it’s kind of opposite of what you would think, the “E” is for the Intake and the “A” is for the Exhaust locations.

Camshaft caps may also be marked with the same identification marks “A” and “E” as shown in the Figure 1 illustration below.

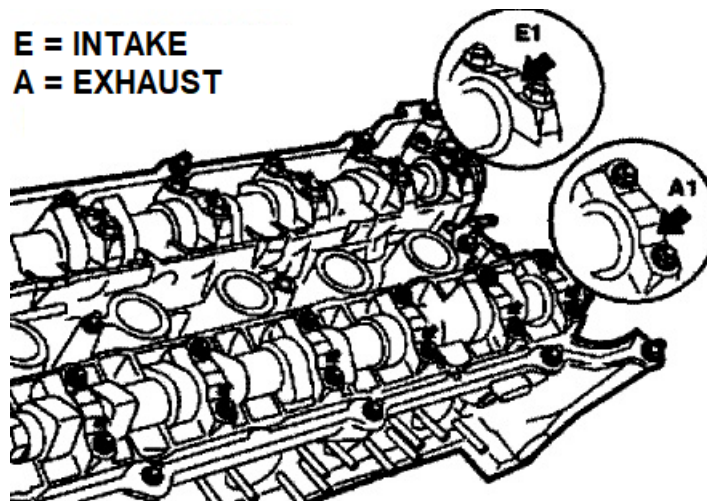


Figure 1. Number 1 From Gear End

Some cams are further identified of a specific grind by a colored ring and letter code on the end of the camshaft as shown in Figure 2 below.



Pull out camshaft.  
Camshaft Codes:

Type	Degrees	Color Ring	Code
M 20 B 20 L	252	yellow	D
M 20 B 20 M Z	260	–	L
M 20 B 23 L	252	white	C
M 20 B 25 M	260	green	F
M 20 B 25 M Z	260	–	K
M 20 B 27 M	236	–	B
M 20 B 27 M	236	blue	G
since 9/85			
M 20 B 27 M.U	236	–	B
M 20 B 27 M.Z	236	–	B

**Figure 2. M20 Engine Camshaft Codes**