

## 1985 BMW 325e



Ok, folks, we are getting near the end of these car reviews-slash-therapy sessions. For me, it has been a trip down amnesia lane. However, one of the most unforgettable cars I have ever owned was the absolutely wonderful 1985 BMW 325e. Mine had the straight six gasoline M20 engine with 121 horsepower. This seems a bit tame but when you consider the torque was 170 foot pounds, more than that of a Buick 350, and coming in at around only 2,500 pounds, this thing really moved! I picked it up from a guy in Monterey, California, who had an “extra BMW lying around” that he didn’t need. How posh. For \$1,700 I grabbed it! The only problem with mine was a slightly bad sunroof seal. Weirdly, it was a 5-speed manual with cruise control – so sporty yet practical! It was a solid car that cornered like mad, too.

My fondest memory with this car was my graduation from a particularly intensive 15 month military school. I was so sick of the place that I had the BMW packed and in the parking lot outside the graduation ceremony. I walked up on stage, received my certificate, shook some hands, and walked right off the stage into my car. Other students were still crossing the stage as I drove out into the California desert, sunroof and all windows open, cruise set and 80. What a memorable and lovely drive all the way to Kentucky.

On another occasion I was forced to leave it in the parking lot of a military headquarters in Michigan for over a year while I was deployed overseas. Friends told me that it had been completely buried in snow for most of the winter. When I returned I popped a fresh battery in it and started it right up. Alas, when I finally tore the clutch out of it (probably from the obligatory driving like an A-hole, required of all BMW drivers) I had already spent about a year learning how expensive BMWs can be to repair. Between the time I was spending under it and the money I was putting into it, the 28 year old car became an unsustainable investment. It was a lot of fun while it lasted.