

*Enthusiasts Blogging Our Favorite Classifieds*



## 1995 BMW M3 LIGHTWEIGHT

Published [March 19, 2020](#) by [Carter](#)

### WARNING!

This post is in our archives. Links in this post may have been updated to point to similar cars available to bid on eBay.



*'E36 M3s are garbage'*

You know you've seen the internet comments, probably more than once. Odds are, people saying that don't own or haven't owned a M3 at all, and more than likely even if they do, they haven't owned an E36. But there was some weight behind the claim that in some regards the US-market E36 M3 was the least M3ish of all of the generations, and generally speaking they've remained the cheapest. That is, all except for one.

The Lightweight was a 1995 homologation special model with aluminum doors, a sport suspension, a shorter rear axle ratio, and an adjustable aerodynamic package. Deleted was the air conditioning, sunroof, and radio as well as some sound deadening, and rumor has it that the S50s were hand-picked for each of the 126 produced. These have been steadily climbing in price, and last year I was pretty shocked to see the asking price of one I looked at crack **\$100,000**. But I don't think anyone was ready for the results of the **ex-Paul Walker group of five** in January. If you weren't paying attention, two hit \$220,000, then \$242,000, then \$258,000. But the gem was the super low-mileage example that hammered for an absolutely astonishing \$358,000 after premium. Mouth firmly agape yet?

So it's no surprise that some of the lesser examples have come out of the woodwork, and this might be the lesser of the lesser. It's a tired, slightly rusty, blown motor example – but it's all there, and ready to be restored. What's the ask?

**CLICK FOR DETAILS: [1995 BMW M3 LIGHTWEIGHT ON EBAY](#)**



**Year:** 1995**Model:** M3 Lightweight**VIN:** WBSBF9325SEH07430**Engine:** 3.0 liter inline-6**Transmission:** 5-speed manual**Mileage:** 70,000 mi**Location:** Bethel, Connecticut**Price:** \$32,500 Buy It Now

*In 1995 BMW built 126 M3 Lightweights. They were built with aluminum door skins. No sun roof or AC. No leather and no sound insulation. Plus some carbon fiber trim pieces in the interior. BMW was able to strip out 200 lbs and create the very best drivers M3 of the 1990's. The car we have for sale is one of these lightweights. It retains its aluminum doors. Correct seats and interior. It has sat for many years and it not running. The previous owner stated that he missed a gear and then had thinks he bent a valve. The car has it's correct wheels and other lightweight bits. Please call or email for more photos and with any questions.*





It's in a sad state for sure, but only relative to the pristine examples that hit the high numbers. Truth told, this is how many E36s look when they come to market. It might even be a bit better than average, and certainly the rarity of the parts means that it's desirable. It doesn't even look like it would be all that difficult to restore; sort the wheels and exterior, new rubber, refresh the suspension, rebuild the motor, some cleaning and a whole lotta clams later and you're ready to hit the show circuit. It's certainly *possible*. Is it worth it? By my rough coffee-sip figures, you'd be looking at about \$55-60k once you're done, perhaps more if you pay a top-notch shop to do it all for you. \$60K gets you into a lot of cars, most of which you could make a strong argument are better than the E36 Lightweight. The same asking price as this car also would get you into a running **E30 M3 project this week.** But I'm not sure you could get into an E36 Lightweight cheaper today. So, there's that?

-Carter



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## 7 COMMENTS



**Greg**

March 19, 2020

I am perplexed by the e36 M3 Lightweight. It's basically a 240 hp M3 with stripes, a wing and a numbered plaque. Oh and they took a few pounds out of it. I guess "collectors" really like it. The same types that collect and push up values for the Porsche RS America.



**Ricky Weston**

March 19, 2020

I have a feeling this thing is in worse condition than the pictures really show.



**Richard Weston**

March 19, 2020

Yep this thing is definitely a POS. Look carefully at the ebay pictures and you'll notice rust all over the place. God only knows what the underneath of the car looks like. Total disaster, I'm just guessing. Even at \$35k this is way overpriced.



**michael blechman**

March 19, 2020

buy it now and restore it to perfection and have the car you want... the price is low regardless of condition... i have seen cars in much worse condition restored and become the object of deserved respect... 126 original examples means rarity and the cost to bring this car into show condition isn't prohibitive... light weights will only get more valuable so... carter's estimate of 60k is a deal...

there may be better cars than this at the price but they aren't as rare nor will they ever have the cachet of being a BMW competition model... the collectors are right to invest in this car and for a reasonable cost have a drivable fun car...



**David**

March 28, 2020

Wow. This is now on BaT as "non-running". <https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1995-bmw-m3-142/>



**Carter**

March 29, 2020

Thanks David, saw that! It will be interesting to see how it does.

**David**

April 10, 2020

Sold for \$18k on BaT on 4/3/20. Various commentators on the BaT listing flushed out details about the car, finding pictures showing that it was in much worse condition than advertised, with a lot of rust and more unoriginal parts than stated.

<https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1995-bmw-m3-142/>

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