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"Long Term Intro: 2006 BMW 330i"

By Bidrawn, Editor

"Our 330i was ordered with [Active Steering](#), an option we really didn't know much about. After the first few minutes turning the steering wheel, it's obvious it makes this car a much different animal. Simply driving it through the parking garage is like driving an F1 car.

The slightest nudge turns the BMW with razor-like sharpness, no more hand over hand stuff. As speed increases, the ratio grows taller but remains markedly tighter than a standard BMW. Although the first generation of active steering was left wanting (poor on-center feel and feedback), BMW basically reworked the entire system until they were satisfied.

The end result is the best steering car I've ever driven. Ultimately, BMW's active steering makes our 330i more fun to drive. The downside is driving a car without active steering, especially after just getting out of the 330i. Everything seems to steer like a school bus.

Active steering may be a hard sell for BMW dealers because it's not a visible option like larger alloy wheels or a moon roof. It is, however, just as rewarding as a more powerful engine or sport suspension. Think about that when you spec out your new 3 series."

European Car  
Karl Funke  
Deputy Editor  
(Within the same article, states):

"Now I can't imagine driving the car without it (active steering), and it makes virtually every other steering rack I've subsequently driven feel totally disjointed and nebulous."