



FOCUS

Electric parking brake



The system

When a car is equipped with an electric parking brake, the handbrake lever is **replaced by a hand control and an electronic control unit**, which can integrate features like Hill-Holder or Auto-Hold. These functions allow the vehicle to remain braked when stopped on a slope or at traffic lights without needing to hold the brake pedal down.



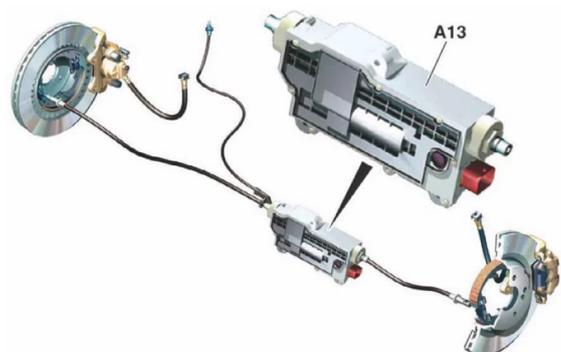
Electric parking brakes basically come in **two types**:

1 With cables

This type can be considered a true hybrid of the traditional handbrake, as **it retains the cables that operate the shoes** integrated into the rear discs, similar to classic handbrakes.

In this case, **the electric motor is simply used to pull the cables**, replacing the manually operated lever. Like traditional handbrakes, this system may experience diminishing effectiveness over time due to cable wear. Most issues arise in very cold weather, where **the parking brake may remain locked even after**

being deactivated with the appropriate button. In such situations, it's necessary to unlock the system using a special tool from the



car manufacturer or the parking brake supplier, and this should only be done by specialized mechanics.

2 Directly on the calipers or the drums

In this configuration with two motors (one per wheel), **each motor engages a mechanism that acts directly on the wheel brakes**. For example, in systems where the parking brakes are integrated into the calipers, the braking force is greater than that of a classic parking brake. Typically, these systems **are activated twice**, a few minutes apart, with increasing torque to ensure maximum safety. The advantages of this system include not only greater braking power but also **flexibility**, as it allows for the application of the parking brake on the front wheels to enhance **safety** further.

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Attention

Even a simple brake pad replacement requires **the use of a diagnostic tool** to control the opening of the caliper. If the brake is deactivated from the button in the passenger compartment, it will reactivate after a short period, posing a risk of injury to those working on the vehicle. Therefore, it is crucial to follow proper procedures and possess the necessary expertise.

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