

# How Bluetooth Car Stereos Work



by Jessika Toothman

Bluetooth car stereos are commonly integrated with Bluetooth-enabled cell phones, and when the two devices are within range of each other, they can communicate in a number of interesting ways. Depending on the particular models in use, it may be possible to make and receive calls without even pulling out your phone or pushing a single button. You can even hear the calls through the vehicle's speakers. Other models may require a few button-pushes, but usually with more ease than plodding through cell phone menus. You may also be able to view other information such as the phonebook, incoming calls and call status on the stereo panel. When the phone rings, the speakers will automatically turn down the volume on any music or movies that are playing while you chat on the phone and resume when the call is over.

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Some [Bluetooth car stereos](#) can store your phone's entire address book and other contact information; others have built-in phones which copy all the information off your phone's SIM card and take over the functions for calling. Your cell phone is disconnected from the piconet, not only saving its battery power but also providing a stronger connection.

These innovations come almost as much out of necessity as convenience – at least for people who can't stand being in the car without making a quick phone call. Many places now enforce laws limiting the use of cell phones while driving, and Bluetooth car stereos are one way to bridge the middle ground.

Besides augmenting your ability to connect with the outside world through phone calls, Bluetooth car stereos can also enhance the environment inside a vehicle. Transmitters can be used to stream music from iPods, MP3 players and satellite radio straight into the stereo without creating a mess of tangled cords. Some car stereos can display video on full-color LCD displays, although this usually isn't an option when the car is moving. If you have some passengers in the back who could use a movie to settle down, lots of Bluetooth-enabled [Android car stereos](#) also come with the hookups needed to turn your vehicle into a mobile entertainment center. Connections for other devices like GPS navigators and USB flash drives are among other common fixtures.

And with each passing year, the technology grows and evolves. Comparing Bluetooth-enabled car stereos to cassette-enabled car stereos already seems like a throwback to the Middle Ages, so who knows what the future has in store.

source: <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/gadgets/automotive/bluetooth-car-stereo.htm>

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# The Best Way to Play Music in Your Car



The current crop of car stereos is as notable for what's missing as what's included. Pumpkin's \$370 "affordable" model, the [KD-C0224](#), is typical in having neither CD player nor digital radio, but instead a large touch screen to control your Android cellphone.

The 6.95 inch display in fact is bigger than most phones, and works as a sort of giant remote control, streaming music wirelessly via Bluetooth and letting you adjust the sound on an inbuilt graphic equalizer.

It's compatible with most Android phones, iPods, memory sticks and the like. The fact that it also sports an analogue radio is almost as an afterthought.

But the KD-C0224 really only scratches the surface. Further up the range, new and emerging models will offer connectivity with Google's vision of the road ahead, respectively Android Auto. This platform combines communication, traffic information and music into a single unit.

The idea is that you install an app on your phone (only recent models will be supported) and connect it to a compatible [car stereo](#) using a standard USB charging cable. The phone then pushes information to the large LCD HD display on the dashboard.

Android Auto will connect to online radio services like TuneIn, and to music libraries such as Spotify, from where you can stream almost any song you can think of – whether stored on one of your other devices or in cloud. Depending which model you choose, you can also call up a conventional, inbuilt sat nav or Google Maps.

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## **FAQ for Pumpkin KD-C0223 Android 4.4 Car Stereo**



**Q1.** Does it fit in a Nissan Xtrail 2011 ?

**A:**Sorry, it doesn't. There is another Pumpkin Car Stereo which fits Nissan Xtrail 2011:<http://www.autopumpkin.com/pure-android-id-4-2-twin-din-universal-nissan-car-dvd-gps-navigation-with-6-2-inch-lcd-hd-capacitive-touch-screen-3g-wifi-bluetooth-support-obd2.html>

**Q2.**Does the Android operating system allow calls and txts from Google Hangouts and Google voice ?

**A:**Sorry, the builtin mic of the [Car DVD Player](#) is specifically designed for the Bluetooth phone call.

**Q3.**It says OBD2, but how does that work? Does it read engine error codes ?

**A:**Here is an instruction video about it : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ9Cw-xvkx8&feature=youtu.be&list=UU5idhlXZfjcSV9KDp-gcC0w>

**Q4.**Can you make /receive calls while using the navigation ?

**A:**Yes. A banner comes on at the bottom of the screen no matter what app you're in. It has a few buttons, one is for answer, another is for ignore.

**Q5.**Can this be tethered to a cellphone via Bluetooth for internet access ?

**A:**Sorry, it can't. But you can share your cellphone as Wifi hotspot, then use the radio to connect to the wifi signal from your cellphone and use the internet.

**Q6.**What is the unlock code to get to the advanced options ?

**A:**You can find it in the manual, which is 126.

**Q7.**Can you control high and low pass filters with this unit?

**A:**There is an equalizer in the music program. You can get apps that might better fit your needs as this [head unit](#) is running Android system.

**Q8.**Possible to wire this up without buying a harness ? Where does each of wires go ? I have a fuse holder to battery and RCA to amplifiers if possible.

**A:**The wiring is made to new non-American standard. New cars may support it but old cars need a harness to hook it up.

**Q9.**Does it fit for Nissan Versa 2009 ?

**A:**Actually, it fits a standard double DIN opening.

**Q10.**Does this unit come with a GPS antenna ?

**A:**Yes, it's magnetic and you are supposed to mount it to a piece of metal for better reception. It will use the piece of metal as a kind of extended antenna. I put mine inside the dash while some people put it in the outside of the car, and it seems to work fine.

**Q11.** Does the Bluetooth work with other accessories normally supported by Android ? Esp Valentine 1 radar detector.

**A:** Yes, it supports any and all via Bluetooth devices.

**Q12.** How do Google Maps and Waze look ? Do they rotate and look adequate ? I drive a lot for work and I primarily want this for the mapping.

**A:** That part of the car stereo works perfect and the GPS lock is quick and accurate.

**Q13.** Can you browse the Internet with tethering and play music from YouTube ?

**A:** There are three ways to browse the Internet: buying a 3G dongle, tethering your phone, or having a Wifi network to connect to. You can do whatever you like in these three ways.

**Q14.** Will it fit a 2004 F250 Truck ?

**A:** This is a standard 110\*180mm size [Android car stereo](#) which is slightly bigger than US double DIN size. Therefore, it's a hassle trying to get an stereo installation adapter (such as Metra ) to get it fit inside the opening. But if you're able to cut/ trim a bit with tools, then you're good to go. It will definitely fit, but may not look professionally installed if the installation kit isn't cut clearly.

**Q15.** Does the Bluetooth support more than one connection ?

**A:** The Bluetooth can support different connection, but it supports only one at a time.

**Q16.** Are the button lights changeable, i.e., can I change it to red ?

**A:** The button lights are changeable. Actually, there are seven colors to for you to choose.

**Q17.** Can you use Bluetooth to tether to a cellphone for Internet



t connectivity ?

**A:**Sorry, you can't connect the Internet via Bluetooth. But you can share the Wifi hotspots of your phone and search it with this [car audio](#).

**Q18.**How does the Wifi work ? Do need go near hotspots or can it be used anywhere ?

**A:**It can work anywhere there is Wifi available.

**Q19.**Does this unit receive HD radio stations ? Can you load music filled SD card into the SD port, or is the port for navigation ?

**A:**Sorry, it can't receive HD radio station, it's AM/FM RDS radio. And yes, you can load music filled SD card into the SD port, and there is a GPS port alone.

**Q20.**Is Google Play Store installed and ready for use ?

**A:**Yes, it's loaded and ready to use. Google integration is fast and easy.

**Q21.**Will this fit a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado and do I need additional harnesses for steering wheel control ? Also, will it need a new trim piece ?

**A:**Yes, it does fit the 2013 Chevrolet Silverado and you don't need any harnesses for SWC. It doesn't need a new trim piece.

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