

How to Improve the Sound Quality in Your Car

When driving, a car can be a great place to enjoy music, but many people still put up with marginal sound quality that they'd never tolerate at home. Today, we will give you some suggestions on how to improve the sound in your vehicle. Follow these tips, you might not have to live with the bad sound anymore.

Tips 1 : Add an amplifier.

Maybe you'll say "My factory stereo puts out 200 watts, and that's plenty of power." But there's a huge difference between 50 watts peak power per channel produced by your [Android car stereo](#) and 50 watts RMS from an outboard amplifier. A separate amplifier will provide more clean power than any car stereo, and that'll make a night-and-day difference in sound quality. Your system will sound better, whether you listen to Mahler at a conversational level or Megadeth turned up to 11. An amplifier is essential to getting great sound in your car.



Tips 2 : Build a better sub box. Or buy one.

If you're building a sealed subwoofer box, make sure it's sealed properly. Air leaks can really hurt your sub's performance.

If you're using a ported box, make sure you've got the right sub in there. You can destroy a sub that's designed for sealed box use by driving it hard in a ported enclosure. Also, it's important to build a box with the correct interior volume for the sub you've picked out. A mismatch can result in poor performance or a sub fatality. You can also avoid all of these issues by buying a premade enclosure that'll work with your subwoofer.

Tips 3 : Select a lower level of compression for your music files.

Though you can store more music files in your music player if you use greater compression, and they'll sound OK when you're listening through earbuds. You'll lose some high-and-low frequency information when you compress your music, along with some of the details that make your music interesting. And , on a good car audio system, you can really tell that something's missing.

Don't settle for the default setting when creating your files. If you want to use your iPod, smartphone, or MP3 player in your car, try using as little compression as possible. The higher the bit rate, the better your music will sound through your car's system.

Source: Crutchfield.com

How to Add Bluetooth to a Car

Most people spend a lot of their time on the road. If you're one of these people, upgrading your car's multimedia system can be one of your main priorities to make those long hours tolerable. But having too many wires for your car's multimedia system can be bothersome and may even cause driving problems. One simple upgrade that you can do to eliminate this issue is by adding a Bluetooth to your car.



Step 1 : Purchase an aftermarket [Bluetooth car stereo](#). Stock head units of newer car models already have Bluetooth capability. But if your car is a bit older, you can purchase these kinds of car radios for at least a hundred dollars from your local car parts store or the online store.

Step 2 : Install the head unit. Aftermarket car stereos with Bluetooth capability are designed just like any other head units. To install, simply remove your current car radio and disconnect all the wires behind it. Then, following the same wiring diagram or what is instructed in your new head unit's manual, connect the wires to the new radio and slide it back to the head unit bay.

Better yet, have the new car head unit installed by the store where you purchased it from. If you got yours from a local store and not over the Internet, installation should also come with the price tag you paid.

Step 3 : Connect your Bluetooth enabled device to your new car DVD player. Most head units have a quick-access button on its panel that you can use to instantly enable its Bluetooth. Once it's switched on, you can start connecting your mobile devices like smartphones and MP3 players to your radio.

Source: <http://www.wikihow.com/Add-Bluetooth-to-a-Car>

[A guide to Android Car Stereo Wiring Harnesses](#)

Getting a handle on all those wires

While they can look like some sort of multicolor pasta dish, wiring harnesses help you connect your new [Android car stereo](#) to your vehicle's wiring. In this article, we'll explain the different types of harnesses and adapters and how they're helpful when installing your new car stereo.

Car stereo wiring harnesses

Each vehicle has a different wiring story. Sometimes you have a choice of harnesses that will work in your car. Other times, you might need more than one harness to complete the installation.



The basic wiring harness

These represent the most common type of wiring harnesses. They offer connections for the power and speaker wires. They can also include connections for the new stereo's ground and illumination wires.

Using the wiring code the adapter manufacturer supplies, these harnesses enable you to match up the wires for each connection to the new stereo's wiring harness. Once that's done, you plug the other end of the harness into your car's wiring connector (the one that was plugged into the factory radio).

Specialized wiring harnesses

Vehicle audio systems, electrical systems, and convenience features have come a long way. So, the harnesses had to evolve to handle the complex wiring and data information that modern cars use.

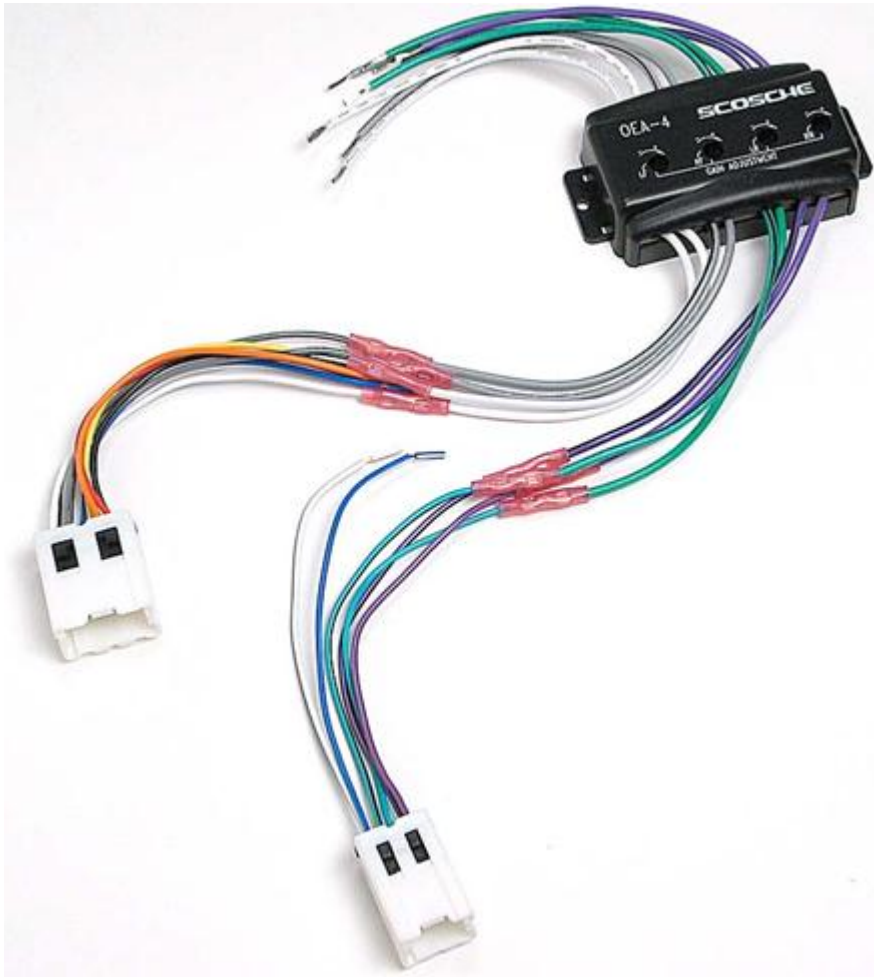
Connections at a distant location

In some vehicles, you need to plug in the harness somewhere other than behind the radio. A great example is a common version of the Ford Taurus, where the factory amp and radio tuner are located in the vehicle's trunk. These harnesses often consist of a basic wiring scheme that has wires long enough to reach the necessary destination. In the case of the Taurus, the adapter includes 20' of speaker wire to reach the trunk.

Hook up your new radio by bypassing the factory amp

A vehicle's stereo system sometimes has a separate amplifier, and when installing a new receiver, you generally need to connect the new [Bluetooth car stereo](#)'s speaker wires to the factory amp's output section. These amp bypass harnesses allow you to use the power from the new car stereo to drive your speakers and not rely on factory power.

These harnesses tend to be more affordable than amplifier integration adapters (below), but can involve more work if the amplifier is in a remote location, like under a seat or in the trunk.



Keep the factory amp in play

Many wiring harnesses can let you keep your vehicle's factory amplifier when replacing the stock radio. They include connections that directly tie the outputs of your new car stereo into the factory amplifier's inputs. So, you'll be using the factory power for your speakers, instead of the power from your new radio.

These harnesses can sometimes shorten the installation time, since wires often do not have to be run to the factory amplifier location, but they tend to be more expensive than the bypass harnesses above. You may also see a module connected in these harnesses – they include adjustments that enable you to properly integrate your stereo's speaker outputs and the factory amp's inputs to keep your music clear.

Retain those important audible safety alerts

In many vehicles, the audible safety alerts are integrated into the factory radio. When you replace that radio, these warning sounds are lost, and that's dangerous. Thus, these vehicles require a special harness to keep these audible tones working when you install a new stereo. Fortunately, these harnesses also take care of all of the basic stereo connections.

Hang on to factory conveniences you love

Today's cars include an ever-growing number of features built into the factory radios, which complicate wiring connections immensely. They can include things like Ford SYNC®, GM OnStar®, Chrysler Uconnect®, and steering wheel audio controls for the stereo and your phone.

When you replace the factory radio in these vehicles, a more-robust type of integration adapters is needed in order to have these features work with your new stereo.

Some integration adapters, like the iDataLink Maestro, even enable you to download programming for specific receivers and vehicles so you can keep as much of the factory functionality as possible.



Packages that connect and secure your radio

There are also vehicles that not only have a complicated wiring scheme, but they also have a unique dash layout. Integration adapters for these vehicles include both the wiring connections and a custom dash kit to get your new receiver installed.

These generally include just about everything you need to get the receiver connected, mounted in the dash, and retain many of beneficial factory features, such as electronic climate controls.

Additional adapters for car stereo installations

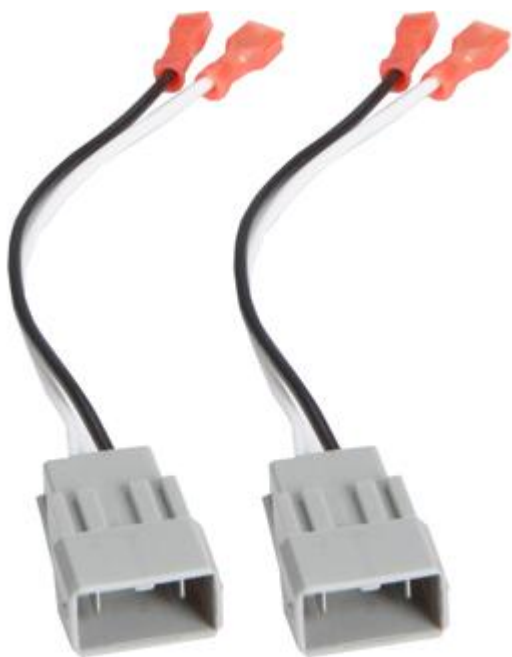
Sometimes, a wiring harness won't take care of everything and you need additional adapters to install a new stereo. They can help with a specific connection or allow you to keep a factory feature.

Antenna adapters

Many factory AM/FM antenna connectors simply plug into the antenna port on the rear of a new receiver. However, some vehicles have an antenna connector with a different shape or are part of an amplified antenna system. In these cases, an antenna adapter becomes necessary for your radio installation so you can keep your AM/FM stations playing.

Steering wheel audio control adapters

Modern vehicles often include steering wheel controls to let you safely operate your factory audio system without taking your hands off the wheel. These functions include volume controls, track forward/back, and hands-free calling controls. In most cases, those controls won't work after replacing the factory radio. Thankfully, steering wheel control adapters help integrate these controls with many new stereos, so you can keep using these handy controls with your new stereo. Besides, there are many aftermarket products like [Pumpkin car stereo](#) support steering wheel control function.



Speaker wiring harnesses

While they don't directly help with car stereo installations, the speaker wiring harnesses we offer let you use the factory speaker wires for your new speakers, just like car stereo harnesses. Their plugs match the factory speaker wiring plugs in the vehicle, and the other ends slide over the new speakers' terminals. That way, you don't have to run new wire from the radio to all the speaker locations in your vehicle or cut factory wires.

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