

Is the integrated multifunctional car radio really better than the function extendable one?



Multifunctional car radios are replacing the traditional radio function only car media players, everyone knows more functions equal more fun. Popular functions including Bluetooth, navigation, radio, of course, all become basic functions of a car multimedia player, no need to elaborate how useful and convenient they are as the overwhelming advertisement already done a great job.

New functions are developed for better accessibility to the smartphone, such as mirror link, few companies have successfully developed their own free version. The Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, as the third party driving assistance

APP, are gaining more followers every day, some car radios already integrated with the Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. But there are car head units compatible with the Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Here I made a comparison:

Car radios' Android Auto and Apple CarPlay		
	Integrated	External
Price	Higher	Lower
Function Display	Stable	Stable
Installation	Not required	Plug-and-Play
Replacement	Difficult, need to return the whole unit	Plug-and-Play

That's the information I found for your reference. (Every choice is not easy to make, some part needs to be sacrificed...)

If you are looking for information about an external Android Auto/ Apple CarPlay dongle, Pumpkin [NA7006B](#) may be helpful. Other external device like DAB digital radio box [NA7021B](#) is also available.

[Install the Pumpkin Radio AA0452H on my Opel Vectra C GTS 05](#)



After a long time, I finally decided to buy [the radio](#).

I drive an Opel Vectra C GTS 05.

The old standard radio did its job, but the radio reception was sometimes really bad, even using a Bluetooth transmitter to listen to music via Spotify was a real pain after some time, depending on the region where you were traveling, the reception was so bad that I just turned the radio off because a constant noise is just a pain.

The radio came pretty quickly. Then I went straight to expanding the old radio. First remove the 4 Torx screws with a T8 screwdriver so that I could remove the radio from the radio

slot using the supplied pull-out brackets, then carefully removed all cables and loosely screwed the frame from the old radio using a T20 screwdriver to remove it.

Then I plugged the specially ordered antenna adapter into the radio, screwed the wifi antenna and glued it inside the car and then the same thing again with the GPS antenna. Then I connected all the other cables and inserted the radio.

Then I pushed a 32GB SD card into the slot for the GPS card and pushed a 128GB SD card into the SD slot.

Then I started the engine and the radio went on.

The first start took a little time because everything had to be loaded first. The two memory cards were recognized directly and I still had to assign which card should do what.

After setting up, I switched off the engine and the radio went off on its own. After restarting the engine, it started again and was ready to start very quickly.

I park about 10m away from my house, nevertheless I have a very good WiFi signal to my home network. The connection via Bluetooth with my Galaxy Note 10 works very well and by itself.

The radio quality is a difference like a day and night, so highly recommended.

The quality of Bluetooth tested with me with Spotify, again a whole lot better.

Navigation via the Google Maps app on the radio works super well and without any problems.

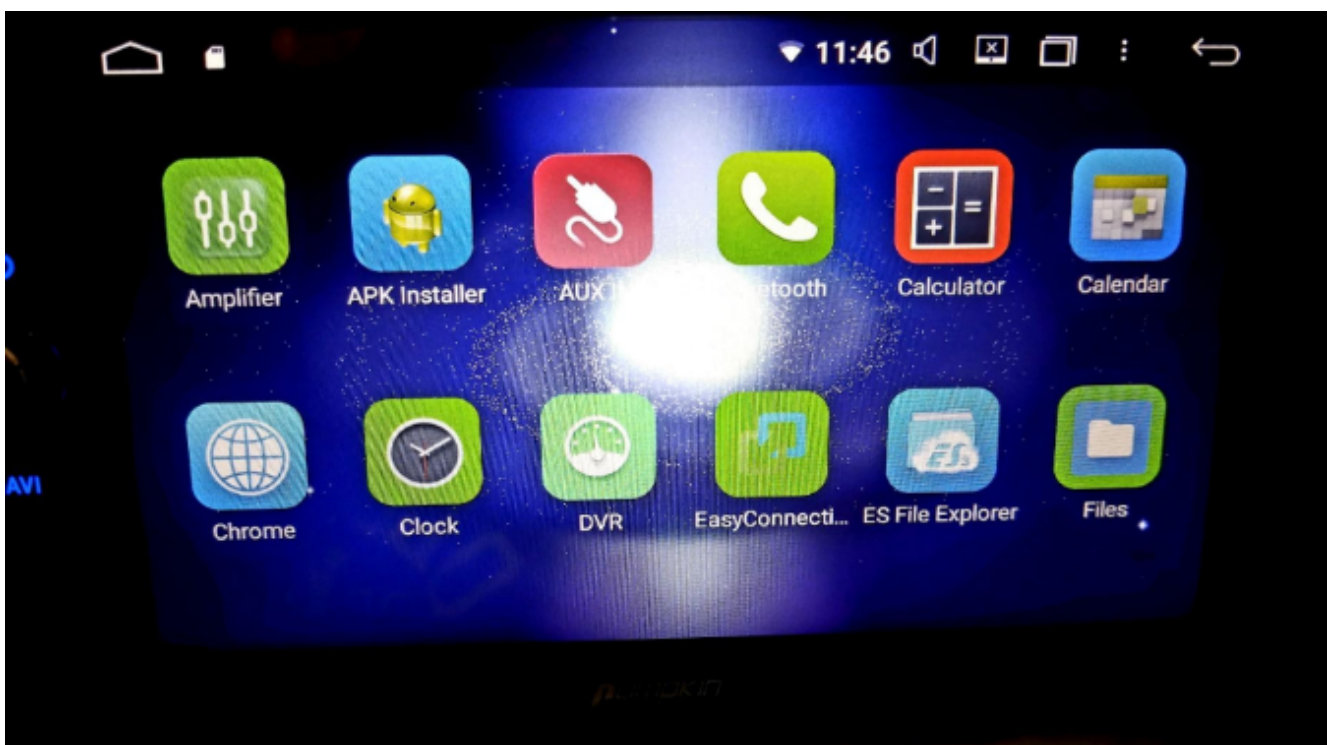
I had to relearn the steering wheel buttons but it was half as wild and you have a lot of different options that you can put on the buttons, which I really like.

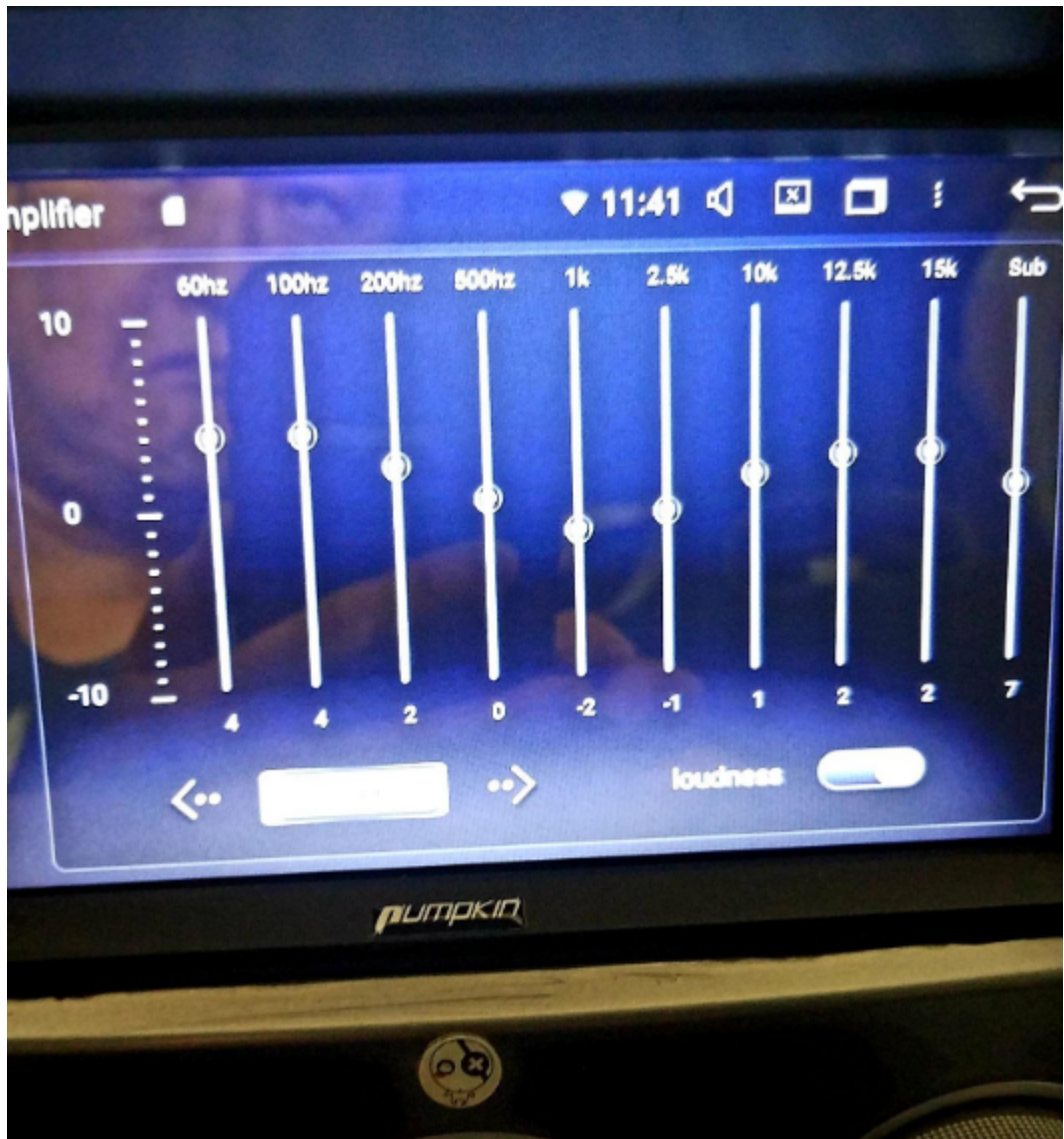
On the whole, I am very happy to have chosen the radio. So now I have a super car radio with a lot of functions that really work.

I highly recommend it.

Greatest receiver by far

Replacing my old receiver with this [Pumpkin 7 inch 2 Din Octa-Core Android Car Radio](#). Wiring was a breeze as I only had a few wires to solder. At first glance it is very well made and solid. Came with all the connectors as specified. After the install, it turned on immediately with no delay. The screen was clear and responsive, it has multiple different menu options and it functions much like a tablet. The settings are similar to any Android phone setup. The wifi antenna picks up all nearby signals. GPS on/offline is great, but you need to install the initial maps. Sound clarity is great, having an EQ is a plus. The external mic is a bit awkward to mount anywhere so I left my old one on. This receiver is far superior than my previous in all aspects. One bummer was that there is an IR sensor but no remote was provided, kind of weird as there was no offer of remote online either. Check out pics.







Install Note: If your car had a 6.2" DVD player previously, the dimensions on this receiver will be much larger. As the console bezel on my 06 WRX fit a 6.2 screen perfectly. I had to trim down the bezel to fit this receiver.
