How to install a car stereo system

Take your car audio to the next level by installing a new stereo system. Follow our simple step-by-step instructions or watch the video above.

Car stereos 101

If car stereos are new to you, these quick tips will help make it easier to choose and install the right one for your vehicle.

Car stereo sizes

The “DIN car radio size” or “DIN” refers to the standard size for car audio head units and enclosures. There are two sizes of car stereos: DIN and double DIN. Consult your owner’s manual for information on the correct size for your vehicle. Here are the basic differences between DIN and double DIN car stereos:

DIN stereos mount from the front using a metal support sleeve included with the stereo.

DIN installation kits allow the stereo to front-load through the mounting sleeve, which is secured with tabs inside the rectangular opening of the kit.
Double DIN stereos (also called “2DIN”) have a taller chassis design and require installation kits that can accommodate their larger size.

Double DIN stereos mount using either factory metal brackets or brackets provided with the installation kit.
**Installation tips**

Simplify the wiring process by using a car stereo connector. It matches the wiring of your new stereo to your factory wiring plug. Car stereo connectors have the same wire color codes as your new stereo, which eliminates guesswork and makes installation easier.

Using an antenna adapter will ensure a proper connection between the new stereo and your vehicle’s antenna cable. An antenna adapter will also provide the best possible reception for the AM/FM tuner.

**What you will need**

- Stereo
- Dash mounting kit
- Harness
- Antenna adapter
- Installation tool kit
Step-by-step instructions

1. Disassemble the dash panel.

Start by referencing the disassembly instructions included with your dash kit.
Remove the factory stereo with the proper tools.

2. Prepare to install.

Connect your new car stereo to the wiring harness.
Prepare the dash kit, and insert your new stereo into the car stereo mounting kit.

3. Install.

Connect the wiring harness, and install the antenna adapter.
Mount the new stereo and mounting kit into the dashboard.

4. Reassemble.

Reassemble the dash, and enjoy your new system.

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