

MP3 player "input" for car stereo.

by [mikeklepacz](#) on August 8, 2009

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Intro: MP3 player "input" for car stereo.

This instructable was inspired by <http://www.instructables.com/id/Add-an-auxiliary-MP3Ipod-input-to-your-cars-st/?ALLSTEPS> so thank you "aka_bigred" who was the original author. This mod will allow you to add an MP3 player input jack to your car stereo.

This is made for a Stereo with a CD player WITHOUT an AUX option.

Caution. I take no responsibility if this messes up your Cd player, your MP3 player or worse. This mod is not perfect but it works for my purposes. To you nay sayers keep it to yourself.

This mod requires you to take apart and reassemble your cars cd player if you don't feel comfortable doing it then don't

The items I used in the mod are:
Pioneer DEH-3400 (Make Year 2002)
30 Gig IPOD video
Old pair of headphones



step 1: Stereo Removal

Remove the car stereo. I did not take pictures because everyone has a different stereo.

step 2: Disassemble

Now that you have your stereo apart it might look something like this. On the left side is the main unit. The right side is the cd player itself and this is what we will focus on from now on.

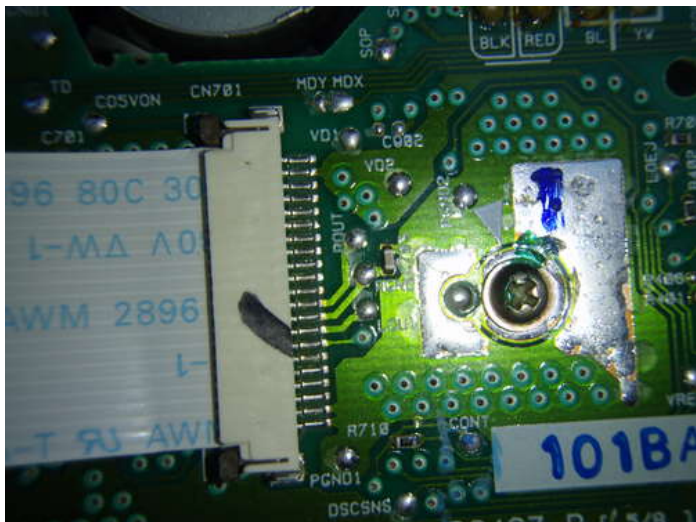


step 3: Find the "input"

Depending on the model of Stereo that you have you should have a "ribbon wire" that connects cd player to the main unit. Where the Ribbon connected to the cd player is where you want to look. The image attached is up close.

If you look closely you can see to the right of where the ribbon is attached it says on the board "ROUT" , "LOUT" and "AGND" These are the three connections that we need to make.

I can't say if it is like this for every cd player but it works for mine. This idea here is we are tricking the CD player into thinking that is it playing a CD.



step 4: Solder Time

Now it is time to take that old pair of headphones and cut the speakers off. The headphones that I had was as described.

Left - Green wire and bare copper wire. Green is Pos.
Right- Red wire and bare copper wire. Red is Pos.

Solder both copper wires to AGND
Solder the Red to the ROUT and the Green to the LOU





step 5: TEST!

Before you go any further make sure it works!



step 6: Seal it!

We don't need to start any fires or short out something so get some liquid electrical tape and put it on the soldered points.



step 7: Reassemble

Reassemble the stereo. You might want to tie the wire into a know somewhere on the unit. That way when someone decides to pull on your nice new "Aux" cable it doesn't get ripped out!

step 8: Silent CD

Now this is definitely NOT my idea or my file. Like I said before this was "inspired by" with out this idea it wouldn't work so thank you.

Burn a CD with the silent track and just fill the cd with the track. This way the Cd player "plays" a silent cd and we HEAR the mp3 player bi-passing the CD unit.

File Downloads



silent.mp3 (4 MB)

[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'silent.mp3']

Related Instructables



Loudest Boombox with MP3 Player HD Radio by gcrden



My Car Stereo - Ipod Enabled by vinodvv



Adding a direct line-in to your car stereo for an iPod/mp3 player by pickingrin



Add an auxiliary (MP3/Ipod) input to your car's stock radio by aka_bigred



Add an Aux In jack for Clarion Stereo Head Unit (In Subarus) by catnip67



Car stereo stock radio fake-out by scottrredd



Invisible MP3 Player for Cars by reid



Guitar Hero Guitar with Built-in Speaker by jaycruz

Comments

20 comments

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adilee says:

Is there no way instead of connecting it to the cd, why not to theradios audio output and just have a switch to toggle from radio andipod.

Oct 14, 2009. 3:52 AM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

for my particular unit, the radio audio is not as good of qualityas the cd audio settings. that is why i didn't go through the radio.with other units I am sure it would be more of an option. Also. I neverhave troubles with the player skipping. I was just making note that itis possible.

Oct 14, 2009. 8:49 AM [REPLY](#)



adilee says:

Thanks for getting back to me about this, my only concern is that i gotalot bass of from my 2X 1000W sub and that skip will not soundgood...anyway i was wondering if you could help me with trying the radiomethod. Dnt wanna waste ur time but i dnt knw what to look for on thecircuit board, then after that its just a matter ofreconnecting...rite!!! Thanks Dude

Oct 14, 2009. 11:34 PM [REPLY](#)



----- says:

Thanks! I knew there had to be someway of doing this. I have wanted to do this for a couple of years now. As for the music skip. Does your cd players not have the repeat function? You could just keep listening to the same song over and over(Blank song). Or does it skip because of the song change?

Sep 26, 2009. 5:50 AM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

It skips because of the cd going from track 15 to track one. its the only time it happens. just make full "silent" cd and make it to where there are no time gaps in between songs. it should be fine then. but then again im sure it depends in the maker of the original unit

Sep 26, 2009. 11:20 AM [REPLY](#)



Ko0LaiD says:

As a tip for people with the same car, i would take pictures on how to get the stereo out. You will get more views.

Aug 11, 2009. 3:00 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

It is all totally custom. This is a stereo from 2002 in a 1984 caprice. All custom mount brackets and such

Aug 11, 2009. 5:48 PM [REPLY](#)



Mattais says:

I agree. Absolutely no point in having pictures of removal. Great guide, I will be using it.

Sep 23, 2009. 9:34 PM [REPLY](#)



DanAdamKOF says:

Ahh, I was wondering how this would come together, then you pull out the silent CD. I was thinking cutting the traces and wiring them to a switch, but really this is easier and accomplishes the same thing. Clever.

Aug 13, 2009. 7:10 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

Yeah I got the idea from aka_bigred and just modified it for my needs. There are a few cons though. When the cd is "over" and it goes back to track one my music stops until the cd player starts "playing" again. But for free I can totally live with that.

Aug 14, 2009. 1:50 AM [REPLY](#)



DanAdamKOF says:

Sorry to flood you, but

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Corolla-2007-ipod-radio-aux-input-hack/>

Does this "upside down" method work for you? If it does, there shouldn't be a pause :)

Aug 14, 2009. 2:14 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

I don't know and I don't mind the pause really. I just didn't know if I would risk sound quality if I soldered to the tuner unit so I soldered mine to the CD player audio out connection on the play itself.

Aug 14, 2009. 7:05 PM [REPLY](#)



DanAdamKOF says:

Yeah I figured that would be the case. Hm, I wonder if it's possible to perhaps spoof the TOC in the CD to trick the player into thinking it's a 99:99:99 long track or something like that... if it works, that would be pretty nifty.

Aug 14, 2009. 2:03 PM [REPLY](#)

Anyway, you could partially remedy this by rewinding to the beginning of the CD, as long as you're not driving for longer than the length of the CD you won't encounter a skip. I'm sure you've thought of that though.

Here's another idea I was toying with:

<http://hackaday.com/2005/06/07/auxiliary-input-for-a-car-stereo/>

I was thinking that I'd disassemble the CD Changer to the bare minimum components required to make it run, just to identify itself to the headunit, and then do the hack as above, but thinking about it, and reading the posting, I think a CD has to actually be running... so this wouldn't work as a simple plug-and-play input like I was thinking.



Ko0LaiD says:

Nice, i was wondering something like this.

Aug 10, 2009. 5:25 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

It was way easier then I could have hoped for. F paying \$200 for a new cd player with aux.

Aug 10, 2009. 8:36 PM [REPLY](#)



Ko0LaiD says:

\$200? Where are you shopping?

Aug 10, 2009. 9:43 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

By the time you buy a new stereo and then the controller to interface with the IPOD it's around 200 at former circuit city or best buy

Aug 11, 2009. 12:10 AM [REPLY](#)



Ko0LaiD says:

What controller? There's the cord that plugs into the front of the stereo, that you hook the player into. Then the line outs in the back for the amp for the speakers and subs...

Aug 11, 2009. 2:32 PM [REPLY](#)



mikeklepacz says:

yeah but if you want a good model that controls the mp3 player through the unit you have to pay a lot

Aug 11, 2009. 5:46 PM [REPLY](#)



Ko0LaiD says:

Oh, yes, good point.

Aug 11, 2009. 6:53 PM [REPLY](#)