Subject: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by mixinlady on Fri, 09 Dec 2011 20:01:54 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I know my husband loves to replace the sound system in any new car he buys. Is this the first priority for your vehicles, or do you shop specifically for a car that already comes with quality speakers?

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 12 Dec 2011 02:03:16 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi, I used to have that affliction. Now I seldom even listen to music in the car unless it is a long trip. The peace and quiet is nice. The biggest problem I found with swapping out the original equipment was the difficulty caused by the auto company and their sometimes rather creative use of wiring. Of particular issue was the way they grounded the systems. It was also lots of fun trying to get either one or two 12 inch subwoofers installed.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by LeeLee on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 03:44:44 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I really do not care about the speakers in a car, when I am buying one. I just want to make sure the car runs. I can always replace the speakers later, if I do not like them.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by Freddy on Thu, 23 Feb 2012 21:35:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I prefer to buy a car that has decent speakers. Then I don't have to worry about working on the sound right after I buy it. I don't always have the time for little projects like that, so I'd rather be comfortable doing it at my own pace.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by jammin_nmy_livinroom on Sun, 18 Mar 2012 03:39:43 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Normally I would rather buy a car with a nice stereo already installed. However, I came across a situation last time I was car shopping where one car had a significantly nicer stereo than another I was considering, but because of this, it was priced too high and the salesman was unwilling to negotiate a more reasonable price, so I actually ended up buying the car with the sub-par stereo because of the final sales price. So now I'm going to buy a nicer set up and have fun installing it

myself!

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by Nymeria on Sun, 18 Mar 2012 20:53:56 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

This is not a priority for me. I don't go buy audio systems as a rule, so as long as the stereo in the car is tolerable, I'll go with it.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by Shane on Fri, 13 Apr 2012 21:14:04 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

A decent stereo is a factor when I'm buying a new car. I'll typically upgrade the speakers down the line and usually the head unit when the warranty expires. Used cars get the switcheroo right off the bat usually. I don't get to listen at home like I want, so the car is more often than not my music time unfortunately.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by timron on Wed, 25 Apr 2012 19:45:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Unless I just absolutely cannot afford it, I'll always buy a car with an upgraded sound system over one with factory-issue hardware. A bad stereo system is a deal breaker for me, because I travel a lot and spend a lot of time in my car.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by zheka on Wed, 31 Oct 2012 15:48:41 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

in my (limited) experience, even factory upgraded car audio systems are mediocre at best.

for decent sound quality, proper custom installs with aftermarket components is the best bet.

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by 24KPython on Mon, 12 Nov 2012 22:14:09 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Oh hell yeah, it's worth the effort! Besides that, it's fun. Not to mention absolutely necessary to get anything remotely listenable to an audiophile.

Generally, my opinion is that the head unit is the least of the problems. The first thing I replace is the tiny cables with some quality 10-14 gauge copper - if not some high-end cables which are easy enough to DIY. Next up is to deal with the acoustics -- first by damping the ridiculous vibrations, so the car doesn't "fart" at every bass note -- and around the front speakers to tighten the imaging. Then to replace the front speakers and pad the under-dash area to reduce reflection. At that point, the sound should be "listenable".

Subject: Re: DIY Car Stereos: Worth the Effort?
Posted by VoigtClub on Thu, 15 Nov 2012 21:12:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

24KP: Great point about the acoustics. That's the worst hassle of car audio -- that it's near impossible to set up an optimal listening environment without serious compromises. Obviously road noise is a huge problem in most vehicles, and the motor doesn't help much either. (I can't wait until I can afford an all-electric!) I know car audio guys who soundproof and dampen the car with concrete and replace the panels with MDF -- it really makes a difference (though I imagine it kills your gas mileage!). And because of the unpredictable acoustics, you HAVE to EQ... which is something I avoid at all costs on the home system. All that said, cars certainly make for an fun engineering challenge.
