



Tutorial:Head Unit Installation

From Tech Wiki : Nissan 350Z : Infiniti G35 : Nissan GT-R

Here, I installed the Kenwood DDX7015 touch screen DVD system. I made this step-by-step tutorial to help those that may be installing a similar unit or any aftermarket head unit. I hope that this tutorial helps anyone looking to install their own radio, screen, or DVD players. Much of this tutorial can be transferred to other types of installations involving the removal of the center console.

Notes

- ? This installation was done on a 6spd manual car without navigation or Bose stereo. Cars with automatics, Navigation, and/or Bose will require additional steps. Cars with the Bose system will require a special converter or additional steps in bypassing the factory amplifier. This is a much larger job. If anyone in the Dallas/Fort Worth area has a Bose system they wish to replace, please contact me. I would like to do a write up on the installation.
- ? To force this unit to play DVDs while the car is in motion, simply ground the brake wire. (But you didn't hear that from me.)

Procedure

The Harness

Wire up the harness. You can either purchase quick-mate harness (one for the radio, and one for the Z), or just get the harness for the Z and solder (preferred method) or crimp connect the wires to the radio's supplied harness. The wires typically are color coded. Here is my harness all soldered and taped up.



Removing The Console

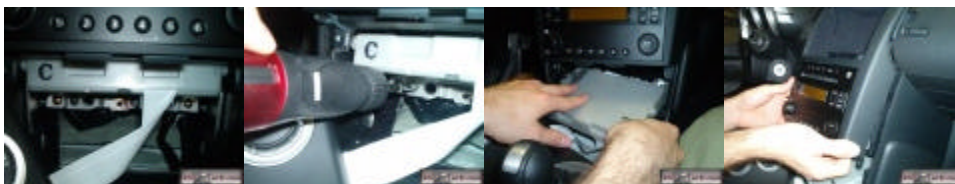
Grab lower console panel ring around the shift boot and gently pull up from the rear (it will pop loose). The upper portion is just hooked underneath the upper section of the console. You do not have to completely remove this piece, you can simply slide the lower console to the side to get it out of the way. This saves you from removing the shift knob. Remove 2 Philips screws at outer lower edges below the radio. (set these aside in a container for later use during reinstallation)



Open the center console Navigation door and remove the lower mat covering. This will expose a few screws. Extract these 2 Philips screws from the bezel and save them for later. Remove the bezel (it hooks underneath the front portion of the console.) Removing the bezel will expose 2 more Philips screws deep under the pocket. Remove these screws with a long Philips screwdriver. A magnetic screw driver will help you from losing the screws.



There are 4 Philips screws exposed under the AC control unit. Find these screws, removing and saving them for later. Remove AC control unit and unplug the three plastic connectors on rear side of control unit. Depress the release button on each of the connectors to disconnect them. Now we are ready to remove the console. Gently grasp the lower edge below the radio and pull slowly, releasing the fasteners of the console (the fasteners are the pop-type). Only loosen the lower portion at this time or you may crack the console.



Now, while still supporting the console from the bottom, grab the upper edge of the console near the front windshield and pull towards you. This will release the remaining fasteners at the top edge. At the upper edge you will find the connector for the center

gauges. Disconnect this plug. There is a small button that you must push on the plug in order to remove it. A small screwdriver or pick tool helps with this. Be gentle and do not force anything. Pull the complete console out enough to expose the backside. Here you can see the radio and all its connections.



Remove all connections to the radio. There is 1 Antenna plug which pulls right out and several plastic connectors which have the now common locking button on them. A small screw driver or pick tool will help with the connector lock buttons. Set the entire console assembly aside on a soft surface (passenger seat will do for now). Plug the new wiring harness from STEP 1 into the car side. There is two plugs and they are of different sizes, so they will only go in one way.



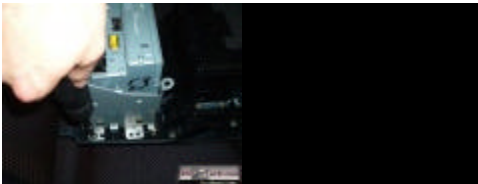
Install Radio Into Console

Back working with the console, turn it on its face. Make sure you use a soft surface to avoid scratches or damages to it. Remove 4 screws from the back holding the radio in place. For this application, I used a Double-Din sized head unit that supports “ISO mounting”, or uses the factory head unit mounting brackets. If this is how your head unit mounts, then remove the two side brackets from the factory radio and transfer them over to the new head unit. (all 4 screws may not fit on the new unit, but do the best you can). All aftermarket radios will require some type of installation kit, which can be found at any car audio shop. Or you can mold the dash to fit them as I did (see my How-to Dash Molding])



After you have put the radio into its mounting kit or molded the dash as I have done, place the new unit into the console and insert the 4 screws that we removed earlier. Be careful to insert the radio right side up. This may sound stupid, but believe, me if you

don't pay attention you will be removing the hole dash again once you realize your radio is upside down. Holding the center console back near the dashboard, plug in the wiring harness and antenna connectors. (Don't forget the antenna, I just remembered as I was writing this that I forgot....Back to the garage!)



Reinstall the Console

Place the console/radio assembly back on dashboard aligning things as best you can. Here you may also need to stick your hand in the bottom and move wires around. Some of the high end radios come with more connectors and wires than you will ever need. Try to keep things organized. Tangling wires is just bad practice. Reinstall the console in the reverse order that we removed it. First, align the upper area of the console and press into place. Press in lower portion of console to snap in the remaining fasteners.



Install the AC control unit, plugging in the plastic connectors on the back. They are different sizes, so it is impossible to install wrong. Push it back into place and align the screw holes. Reinstall the 4 screws below the control unit. Back to the Navigation pocket, Reinstall the 2 screws below the pocket. Again, a magnetic screw driver helps a lot in this step. If you drop the screw you may never find it.

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Replace the bezel into the Navigation pocket, taking note of the hooks on the front edge. Insert the 2 small Philips screws into the bezel and replace the lower pocket mat. Install 2 final screws below the radio/console assembly. Reinstall the lower half of center console. Remember to put the top in first which hooks underneath the upper portion, then snap down the ring around the shifter.



Finished

Finally! Done! Turn key on and check for smoke (just kidding)

