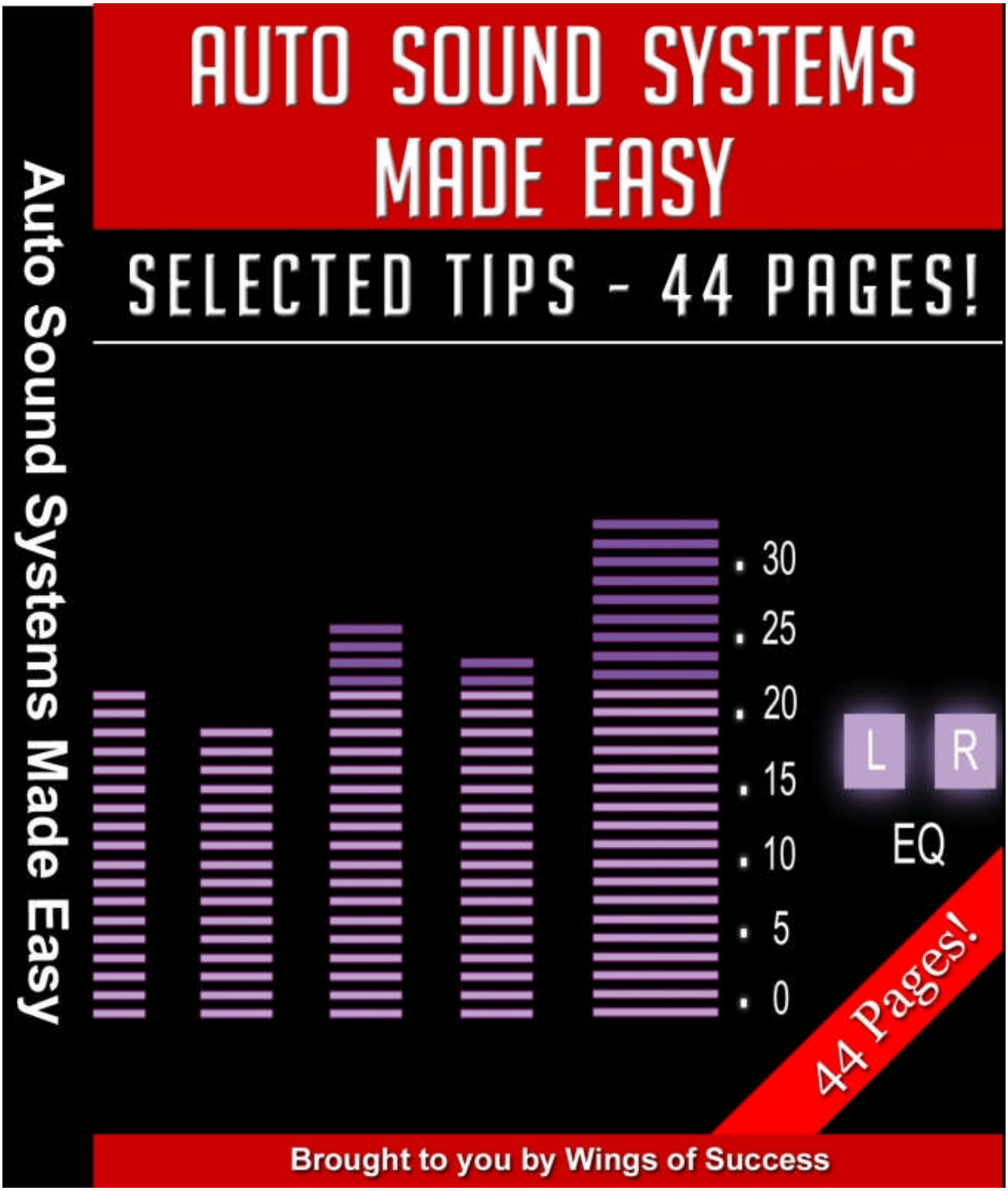


© Wings Of Success

Contents

Duh, It's A Car Stereo! 8
How to: A Car Stereo Installation Guide 10
Pimp Up Yo' Ride! Why You Need A Good Car Stereo System 12
Ebay Has Surprising Bargains On Auto Sound Systems 14
Great Brands For Good Prices On Auto Sound Systems 16
Professional Installation Of Auto Sound Systems Imperative 18
Speakers Play the Sound but Auto Sound Systems Make It 20
The Ipod And The Auto Sound System 22
The Reasons Why You Should Add A DVD Player To Your Auto Sound System 24
XM Satellite Or Sirius For Your Auto Sound System 26
A Pioneer In Their Own Right: The Pioneer Car Stereo 28
It's A Sony Car Stereo 30
Auto Sound Systems Are Becoming Entertainment Systems 33
Choosing The Right Amplifier For Your Auto Sound System 35
Technology Spending Limits And The Auto Sound System 37
The Importance of a Good Auto Sound System 39
Is Auto Sound Systems Latest Technology A Necessity? 41

© Wings Of Success

Duh, It's A Car Stereo!

If you are new to the car stereo market, you may find yourself overwhelmed at the sheer number of parts and accessories that can make up a top of the line car stereo system. In this article, we'll explore the basic components that make up a functioning car stereo system.

The Head Unit: Making It Happen

You may have seen the term "head unit" before and not known what exactly it was. Simply put the head unit is the part of your car stereo that actually produces the music from radio, tape, CD, or other device. But nowadays you can also get head units for your car stereo that can play DVDs or music and video from USB flash drives or memory cards. Head units have sure come a long ways from when people used to install home stereo equipment in their vehicles!

Amplifiers: Bring the Boom

While your head unit may provide its own internal amplification (which may be enough for you), at some point most car stereo enthusiasts will want to add amplifiers to the mix. Simply put, and amplifier takes a signal coming out of your head unit, and makes it louder. Be careful when shopping for amplifiers, as some of the large amps can draw over 100 amps; this may be well over what your alternator and battery can provide, and can cause damage to those components.

Speakers: Woofers, Tweeters, What?

The best head unit and amp is completely useless without speakers. Speakers, regardless of size, all do one thing: take the electrical signal coming from either the head unit's internal amp or your external amp and turn it into sound, usually loud sound. The different types of speakers are classified by the range of sounds they can reproduce. Tweeters, for example, only reproduce high pitches, while woofers reproduce the upper bass ranges. Midranges make midrange sounds, strangely enough, while subwoofers cover sounds from the low bass all the way down to sub sonic (those sounds you can feel but not hear). Subwoofers are usually the first candidate for external amplifiers, since they require large amounts of current to make that bone shaking bass.

© Wings Of Success

Putting It All Together

Let's review: head units take your CD or tape and convert it to electrical signals. The amplifier makes this signal larger, and finally the speakers take that signal and make sound out of it. These are the base components you need for any car stereo installation. The accessories, such as crossovers and signal isolators, may or may not be needed for your particular application.

These are the basics you need to know for all car stereo systems. Now that you have a better idea what all these different terms actually mean, you should be able to shop intelligently for your new car stereo system. Just remember, as always, while you get what you pay for, you don't necessarily have to have the absolute best (and most expensive) parts for a good sound. More often than not, a midrange product will provide the best bang for your buck. And remember, it's all modular! You don't HAVE to buy every piece all at once. You can start with the head unit, and simply wire it's built in amplifier into your factory car stereo speakers. Add a sub and an amp later if you want, or replace the factory speakers with higher quality ones, it's all up to you.

© Wings Of Success

How to: A Car Stereo Installation Guide

If you have ever looked into buying a new car stereo system, you probably realize that the costs of having it professionally installed can almost double the cost of your new system. But there is always the other option: do it yourself. While a car stereo installation can be complicated, there is nothing in particular that prevents you from doing it yourself, as long as you are willing to put in the time and effort to learn how before you diving into the project. Not only can you learn a lot, but there is always a sense of satisfaction when you fire it up for the first time, knowing you did it all yourself.

Patience and caution are paramount here. Some car stereo equipment is quite expensive, not to mention the price of your car to begin with! So be careful, proceed slowly, and if you have doubts, find out the answer to whatever is bothering you before you continue. Not taking it slow and carefully can lead to a botched install or even broken equipment or a damaged vehicle.

Beginners are advised to keep it simple the first time around. Don't try to install a full car theater system with LCD displays and DVD players or video games for your first installation. Start with the head unit. This is both the easiest and the most critical thing to get right the first time. Often the wiring harness that plugs into your factory stereo will need an adapter to get the correct electrical connections to the power and speaker system already in your car. And being able to reuse your factory wiring makes things much easier down the road when replacing the factory speakers. Don't just cut the harness off! Use an adapter. If you ever want to replace the head unit again, things will be much easier if you can simply unplug the old adapter and replace it with a new one for the new head unit.

The head unit will also probably require an adapter kit of some kind to fit properly in the factory dash hole. Most factory systems are either custom or what is called "Double DIN", whereas most aftermarket head units are single DIN form factor. Sometimes, filing away parts of the trim surrounding the mounting area will be needed. Do some test fits before you bolt everything down.

© Wings Of Success

Speakers are a very important part of any quality audio system. While you may be able to get sound from your factory speakers with that new head unit, replacing those factory speakers with high quality aftermarket ones can make a huge difference in the quality of your sound.

For your first speaker installations, you should try to replace the speakers in the factory mounting holes. This is a fairly simple procedure, but can require removing interior panels to access the speaker mounting locations. This method is advantageous because you can use the existing brackets and wiring.

More complicated is mounting speakers in locations that didn't originally have speakers, or putting larger speakers in existing mounting locations. This will often require metalworking and building boxes and baffles to accommodate the new speakers. But if you don't have any factory speakers, or they are in bad locations, this may be your only option. Just be careful, and if the project requires a lot of reshaping of the cars metal locations, you should consider having it professionally done; this kind of work is best done with specific tools that most home enthusiasts don't have. such as plasma cutters and pneumatic sheet metal formers.

© Wings Of Success

Pimp Up Yo' Ride! Why You Need A Good Car Stereo System

So you've spent thousands getting your car ready for show. New paint job, tricked out suspension, phat rims, you've got it all. But what about on the inside? A bumpin' system can be THE difference between a cool car and a truly awesome show winner.

While a killer system can make your car that much cooler, having a crap car stereo system can totally kill your cars coolness factor. This is never good if you've already spent a lot of money tricking out your vehicle. Even if you have something less than fantastically good looking, having that killer thump is guaranteed to make more people actually want to ride in your car. By the same token, a pathetic car stereo system can make your car have even less appeal than it does now.

So What Makes a Killer Car Stereo System?

Quality and attention to detail pretty much sums it up. You will never be able to get the best sound out of cheap parts, and they are more prone to failing (usually at the worst possible moment) than the more expensive parts. Little things, like the frequency of a crossover, your EQ settings, and small variations in speaker placement can make a huge difference in the overall sound of your car stereo system.

Listen around and see who has systems that sound good to you. If you can listen to several different systems in the same kind of car as yours, you will be able to get a much better idea of what sounds good and what doesn't. But even if you are listening to different car stereo systems in different vehicles than yours, you can still get a good idea of what brands of gear you like and which ones to avoid cause they sound like crap. Remember, whatever sounds the best to you in your car is the best for you! No one else can tell you what is sounds good, because listening is a very subjective experience.

Car stereo expos and conventions can be another good way of gaining listening experience, and you will usually be able to check out more different systems at one than you can find on the streets.

© Wings Of Success

Whatever you do, unless you have a truly awesome factory car stereo system, you will want to replace that head unit and speakers. The difference, even using factory mounting locations, can be the difference between night and day. Your mids will have more punch, your highs will be clearer and brighter, and the bass will have that bone deep thump everyone loves. Adding at least one amplified subwoofer will make a huge difference as well. You just can't get the same bass out of a 7" woofer as you can out of a 12" subwoofer.

Amplifiers are the driving force behind your car stereo system. Skimping in this area is extremely dangerous, not only to your sound quality, but to your speakers as well. An underpowered or cheaply made amplifier is prone to what is known as clipping. Without getting too technical, what this does is send a large amount of direct current through your speaker, causing the speaker coil to overheat and melt. This leads to the infamous "blown speaker". Coil overheating is the single biggest cause of speaker failure. Putting too large of an amplifier on a speaker can cause the same thing to happen. Always match up your speakers' power handling ratings to the output of your amplifier. For instance, let's say you have a 4 channel amplifier that provides 1000 watts total power. That is 250 watts per channel (1000/4), so your speakers should be capable of handling that much power, or you risk blowing them out.

Having a killer car stereo system is something your can be proud of, and dramatically increases your cars coolness factor and resale value, no matter what vehicle it is installed in.

© Wings Of Success

Ebay Has Surprising Bargains On Auto Sound Systems

So you are in the market for some quality auto sound system components, or maybe an entire system, but you don't want to spend an arm and a leg on it? Ebay may be the answer to your prayers.

What is Ebay?

Anyone familiar with the internet (and many who aren't) has probably heard of Ebay. For those of you who don't know, Ebay is the worlds largest online auction house. Every day, literally thousands of auto sound system parts are auctioned off to the highest bidder, often at bargain prices significantly under normal retail cost.

Using Ebay to Find Auto Sound System Parts

Ebay can be a wonderful tool for people looking for surprisingly good bargains on auto sound system components. There are all kinds of different brands available, many of which may not be available to you locally. And these parts are often sold for less than retail. Using Ebay's search makes it easy to find the exact auto sound system parts you are looking for. Every component, from the head unit to amplifiers, speakers to accessories, and everything you need to install your auto sound system can be bought off of Ebay. You can also find installation guides, speaker boxes, sound dampening materials, and other related products there.

The Disadvantages of Ebay

There are a few things to keep in mind when bargain-hunting for auto sound system parts on Ebay. The biggest concern is that you can't listen to it before you buy it. But if you can find the same part locally, you can easily give it a test listen in their storefront. In fact, that is probably the best way to choose what parts to buy, unless you are very familiar with auto sound system components and already know exactly what you want. Then there are the general problems that come with shopping on the internet. Ebay has taken care of a lot of the problems that can come with internet shopping by implementing a rating system, wherein sellers (and buyers) are given feedback and a score based on how honestly they do business. Avoid sellers with low ratings,

even if they seem to have a killer bargain. But sometimes people with no rating at all will be selling an auto sound system component. These people are first-time sellers, and can be worth a shot if you feel OK with taking a slight gamble.

Post-Purchase Installation

The last thing to keep in mind is that your new bargain auto sound system will still have to be installed. A lot of professional shops give a discount to the installation or the parts when you purchase and install in one location. Sometimes, this can wind up being cheaper than buying off of Ebay and having your local shop install the system at their full rates. But if you feel confident that you can do it, you can always attempt the installation on your own. This will save you a LOT of money, but if your system is particularly complex, you may wish to have it done professionally. While more expensive up front, this could save you a lot of time and maybe even money if you crack that shiny new LCD panel trying to fit it yourself.

© Wings Of Success

Great Brands For Good Prices On Auto Sound Systems

So you want to juice up that pathetic factory sound system, but the price of some auto sound system equipment is making your wallet shiver in fear? Don't worry, with a little bit of smart shopping you can put together a system that will blow your factory sound away, without spending your entire savings to do it.

Online Shopping

If you are willing and able to install the system yourself, and have listened to a bunch of systems and gotten an idea of the brands of auto sound system parts you want, you can find great deals shopping for your parts online. Even if you don't want to do the installation yourself, the Internet is still a great place to shop for the best deals on name brand equipment.

Shopping Locally

Again, if you are willing to do the installation yourself, or are looking to upgrade your existing system, you can find good deals locally a lot of the time. Even though auto sound system shops often have higher prices than online stores, a good bit of the price of any auto sound system is the installation. You can often get away with paying retail if you do the install yourself, and get a great deal on a killer sound system in the process. The main advantage to shopping locally is that you can listen to the different systems before you buy, which is just not possible when shopping on the Internet.

Hit the Pawn Shops

If you both have a good idea of the brands of auto sound system equipment you want and are willing to purchase used equipment, you can shop around your local pawn shops. You can find some really bargain-basement prices in these shops, and usually any gear that a pawn shop buys is tested and working. All auto sound system components, from head units to speakers and amplifiers, are available at pawn shops all over.
The best total prices are still only obtainable by installing the system yourself; if you are not confident in your abilities, it can still be worth it have even used parts professionally installed

since it can be much easier to put different parts in once the wiring and brackets are all in place, making it more of a plug and play operation.

Name Brands at Good Prices

While everyone would like to have top of the line JL Audio competition speakers or the like, the prices on the very best auto sound system components can be astronomical. You can easily spend over $500 on a single speaker at the very top end. But there are plenty of quality midrange products from companies like Kenwood, Alpine, and JVC. Stay away from the absolute bottom of the barrel parts, though, as they can often sound worse than your existing factory system You do not want to spend a bunch of money only to have it sound the same or worse than your existing system. The midrange products are usually the way to go for the best price vs. performance. And with some careful product selection and shopping, you can build a kicking system for under $400 if you do the installation yourself.

© Wings Of Success

Professional Installation Of Auto Sound Systems Imperative

So you just dropped $800 for a good auto sound system. Now comes one of the hardest decisions you will have to make: do I get this system installed professionally or do it myself? While you may be very tempted to do it yourself and avoid spending another $300 or more having it professionally installed, you need to ask yourself several questions before you decide to do it yourself.

Can I Do This Myself?

The first question you need to ask yourself and answer honestly is "Can I really do this on my own?". Installing an auto sound system is no easy task. It requires concentration, a certain proficiency at mechanical tasks, and a fair amount of specialized knowledge. Something as simple as running too small a wire can cause physical damage to your expensive components, and some of the more common problems like ground loop noise or alternator whine can be difficult to fix if you don't know the electrical theory behind it all. Mounting speakers and your head unit usually requires some sort of modifications to your cars body and dash, and if not done properly can damage your vehicle and look lousy. Even installing a subwoofer requires enough knowledge of acoustics and how sound actually propagates to be able to build an enclosure that sounds good and works with your subwoofer rather than against it.

If none of the preceding examples made much sense to you, then you are probably better off having your auto sound system professionally installed. It will save you a lot of time, headache, and quite possibly money of you damage expensive components or your vehicle.

But if you have some idea what all this means, or are willing to spend a couple of weeks learning all the ins and outs involved, then doing it yourself may be a viable option.

Do I Want To Do This Myself?

Even if you either already are capable enough, or feel confident you could learn how well enough to do it yourself, you may not want to. For one thing, doing a good job of installing even the most basic auto sound system takes a lot of time and effort spent cramped in your cars

interior. Wires, screws, and other things you have to get at invariably seem to be in the most awkward locations. In some cars, even getting the part of the dash off you will need to can be a nightmare. Having a professional do it can save you a lot of time and effort, and will usually wind up with you listening to the system you just dropped big bucks on a lot sooner. Plus, any shop worth going to will offer a warranty on their work. So if some wiring they install shorts out in the future, you may be covered for any damage resulting from it. This can be especially important in auto sound systems, since they are routinely subjected to vibration, shock, dust, and temperature extremes.

Sound Quality is Paramount

If you think that installing an auto sound system is as simple as hooking everything up and going off down the road, you probably don't need to be doing the installation yourself. After hooking everything up comes probably the hardest part to get right for the amateur: tuning the new system. Things like crossover frequencies, overall sound balance, and the precise speaker locations can make a HUGE difference in the way your system sounds at the end. If you don't know exactly what to listen for, and don't have some audio tuning CDs, your sound will be very suboptimal. Even though it may sound alright to you, you will be amazed at how much better a properly tuned auto sound system can sound. A professional can more than likely do a much better job of this in less time than you can.

© Wings Of Success

Speakers Play the Sound but Auto Sound Systems Make It

When building or upgrading an auto sound system, the first thing most people look into are the speakers. While speakers do play a very large role in the overall sound of your system, there are many other things that must be taken into consideration if you are going to avoid "over-speakering". It's not necessary with modern technology and enclosures to take your entire trunk up with giant subwoofers to get that bone shakin bass you want.

The Head Unit

Good sound starts at the source. And in the case of auto sound systems, this source is the head unit. This is the CD player in your dash that actually provides the signals that the rest of your system amplifies and plays back. You can have the best speakers and amps in the world, but if you pair that with a cheap head unit with a lousy DAC, your sound will be lousy. In fact, with good speakers and amps, any shortcomings in your head unit will become glaringly obvious; the speakers will faithfully reproduce everything fed to them, including the hiss caused by a cheap DAC and op amps.

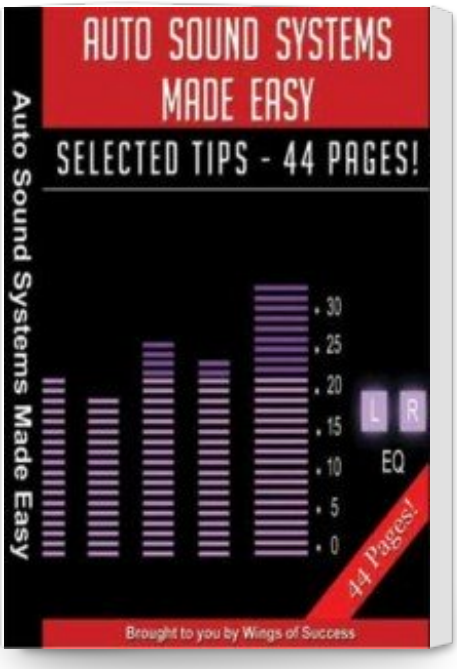
The Amplifiers

Again, the best way to get killer sound is to start at the source and work your way to the output. After you have a good quality head unit that makes a clean audio signal, you need quality amplifiers to take this signal and push it still clean to your speakers. Cheap amps will often introduce noise into your signal, whether through lousy signal to noise ratios, or ground loop/alternator whine caused by poor internal or external grounds. Again, with good, speakers, any problems with your amplifiers will be very audible as your killer speakers faithfully reproduce every bit of the signal the amps provide - including any noise.

The Speakers

And finally, you should consider the speakers themselves. The biggest two things to remember are quality makes a huge difference, and bigger is not always better. If you listen to a lot of music with extremely fast bass hits, like techno, using 15" subwoofers will make your bass line

Auto Sound Systems Made Easy



Publisher :

Author :

Type the URL : http://www.kopykitab.com/product/1883

Get this eBook