

Aux-In on a 2007 Mercedes-Benz W203 (C230)

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1 Disclaimers

Note: This mostly describes how to build the cable that is missing in the 2007 MB W203 for the Audio 20 stock headunit. Much of this was based on some educated guesses and a few google searches. However, I have successfully done this in my uncle's car, and have him to thank for the pictures. Also, please note that you do this at your own risk. I take no responsibility if you screw up your headunit/car/iPod/etc... It's fairly easy, but read it through first to make sure you understand it.

2 Background

It appears for the 2007 Model Year, Mercedes-Benz thought it would save a few dollars and decided not to wire up the auxiliary in on the W203 C-Class's stock radio. This mean that, while the head unit remained the same, the wire that went from the head unit to the passenger-side footwell did not exist, making it very difficult to just buy the cable harness and add it. After doing some research, I found a posting on a Russian website (here¹) that had the pinout of the head unit. With this in hand, I went and made a cable from the harness and a CDRom Audio cable, slightly modified. After doing a little testing, it worked!

3 Preliminaries

This will only be a partial howto, since the steps to take apart the center console are already well documented, and can be found here². This howto created for the Audio 20 OEM headunit in a 2007 Mercedes Bend C230 that was lacking the factory wiring harness, but had the Aux-In feature. To test to see if you have the Aux-In feature, press and hold your "CDC" button for a few seconds. It should switch to Aux-In mode. If not, then this guide won't work for you. Sorry! Your mileage may vary... be careful, and don't do anything stupid. ☺

3.1 Parts Needed

- Audio 20 Headunit (in your car)
- Old analog CDRom Audio Cable (see Figure 1)
- Mercedes-Benz Cable Harness [A 203 540 61 07](#)
- 3.5mm male to male connector (used to attach an audio source to the headunit)
- Old portable CD/Tape player or Radio, with headphone out (optional)

¹http://www.mb-info.ru/audio/hu/audio_20_203.htm

²<http://www.mbworl.d.org/forums/c-class-w203/197530-d-i-y-05-w203-hu-removal-pics.html>



Figure 1: CDRom Audio Cable

3.2 Tools Needed

- Soldering Iron
- Heat-Shrink Tubing
- Wire strippers
- Wire cutters
- MultiMeter, preferably with a continuity tester
- X-Acto knife (optional, for cutting out the Aux-In panel)

4 Making the Cable

We first need to make the cable for the Aux-In. Since Mercedes was kind enough to continue to use the same headunit, we don't need to replace the headunit or do anything drastic. All we need to do is create the cable that goes between the Cable Harness and the headunit.

4.1 Modify the CDRom Connector

We need to cut the connector lengthwise, so one part of the connector has one of the wires (white), and the other has two wires (black and red). Your cable may vary, if you have four wires, decide which one will not be used, and group the others likewise. Just take your wire cutters, and cut lengthwise (parallel to the wires) down the connector. It should look like this when it's done (Figure 2).

The two wires that are attached to each other (in my case, red and black) will become your Right Channel and Ground, respectively. The other wire (white), will be your Left Channel.

4.2 Attach the MB Cable Harness and the CDRom Cable

Now we need to join the two together. I highly recommend you solder and heatshrink the cables. You could also use butt-splices, but the wire gauge is so fine that you'll have to be careful. Whatever your method of joining the cables together, PLEASE make sure it is insulated from itself and the outside world. You don't really want it to accidentally brush the 12V line and fry your iPod. Also, eyeball the length. The original Mercedes Cable was probably long enough to reach the center console, but I left on the excess cable from the CDRom Cable as well, which guarantees that it will reach. Depending on your CDRom Cable, you may have add some wire to make it long enough. For us, we didn't have to add any. It isn't a big problem if you have excess, as we will tuck the slack away.

Okay, enough disclaimers. Here's the wiring diagram:

Since the Mercedes Cable has more than one ground connection (Brown and Bare), you can just tie them together for our purposes. When you're done, the cable should look something like Figure 4. I would suggest



Figure 2: Modified Connector End

CDRom Cable	↔	Mercedes Cable
Red (Left)	↔	Yellow
White (Right)	↔	Black
Black (Ground)	↔	Brown
	↔	Bare

Figure 3: Wiring Diagram

testing it with your multimeter (grab your 3.5mm cable) to make sure it matches up and is working before you start trying to route the wire. See Figure 5 for the pinout.



Figure 4: Finished Cable

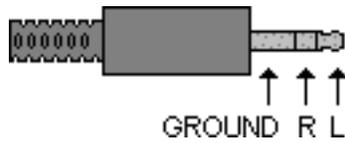


Figure 5: 3.5mm Pinout

5 Installation

5.1 Disassemble the Center Column

Okay, time to get messy (well, sorta). Pull apart your center console, and remove your Radio. Make sure to disconnect the connector harness and the antenna connections on the radio, as we'll want it out of the way for a while. Also, while you're at it, remove the two screws holding on the passenger kickplate. See Figures 6, 7 and 8.

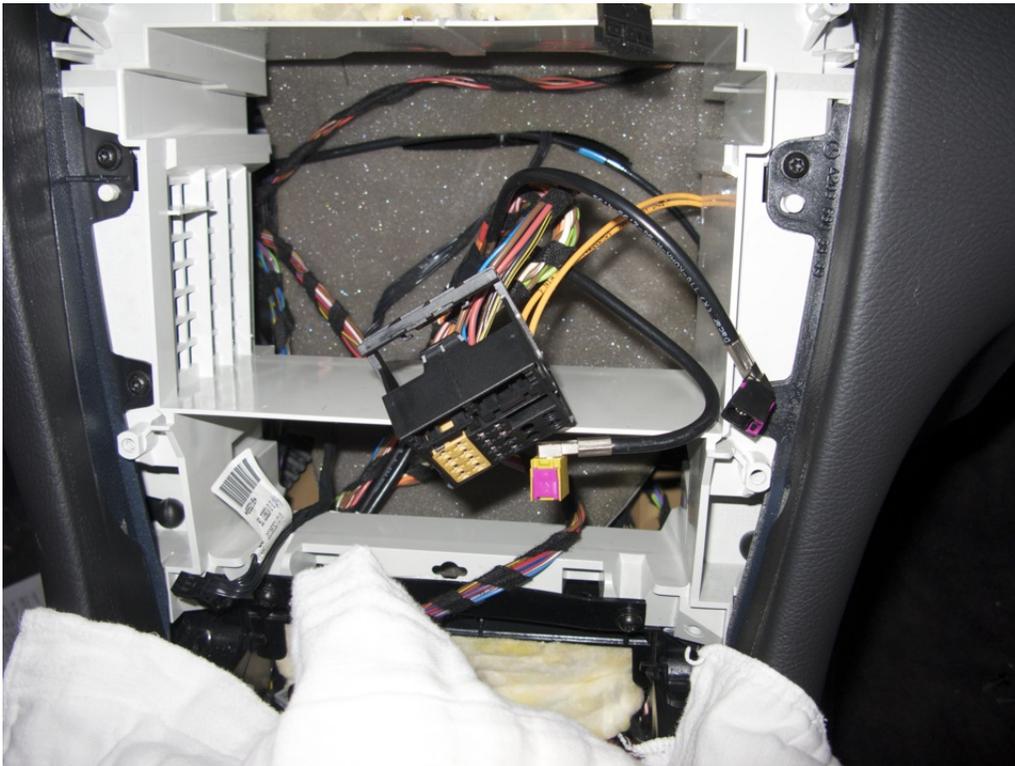


Figure 6: Center Console

Now, when I did the installation, I pulled out the glove box. I don't recommend you do that, as there is a mechanical damper that is very difficult to get realigned. It is possible to remove it relatively easily, but for us, reinstalling it took well over half an hour.

With the screws undone, pull the passenger kickplate down just a little, to where you can see the insulation. You don't need to remove this, as all we are going to do is stuff the excess wire here.

5.2 Wire Feeding

Now for the difficult part! The wire needs to be fed backwards from the passenger footwell back to the radio. You need to guide it from the passenger footwell back to the center console. You'll want to feed the end that is going to the radio back up through the center console. See Figures 9 and 10

Once you get the wire in the center console area, make sure you feed it through the opening in the big connector. You'll want to use the opening that is right above the speaker and power wires, not the one above the



Figure 7: Kickplate Screw Holes



Figure 8: Kickplate Partially Lowered

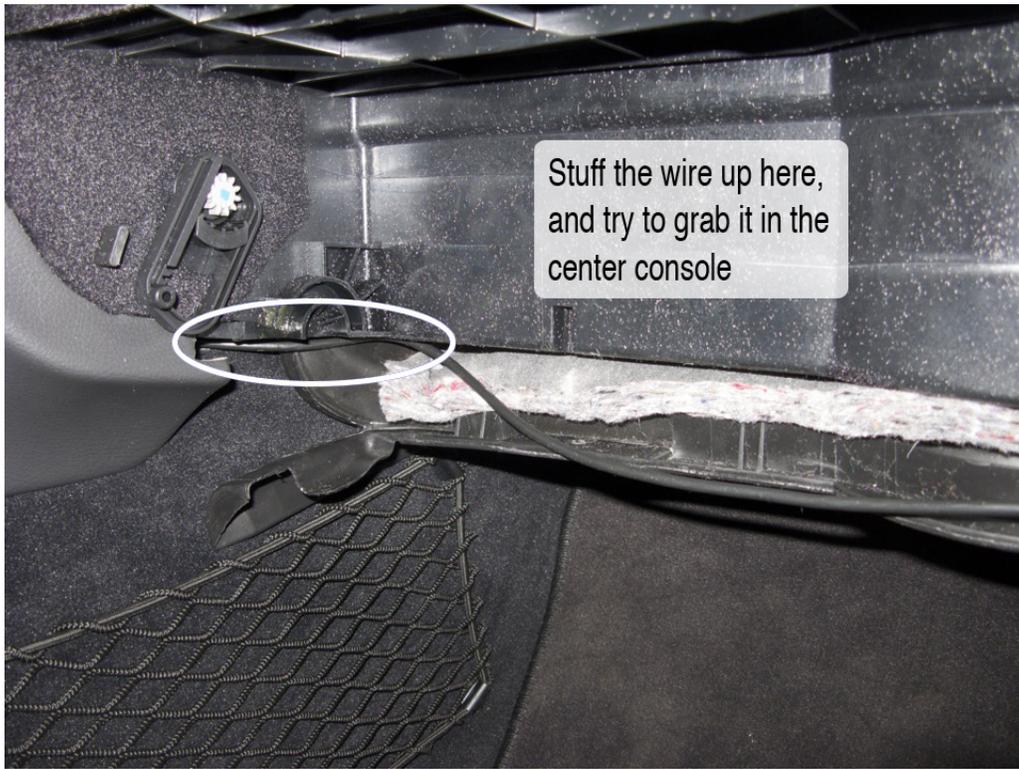


Figure 9: Wire Route Path in Passenger Footwell



Figure 10: Wire Route Path in Center Console