THE INSTALL DOCTOR™

Why Use A Snap On Wire Harness Adapter When Installing Your New Radio

(A Nominal Cost Prevents A Total Headache)

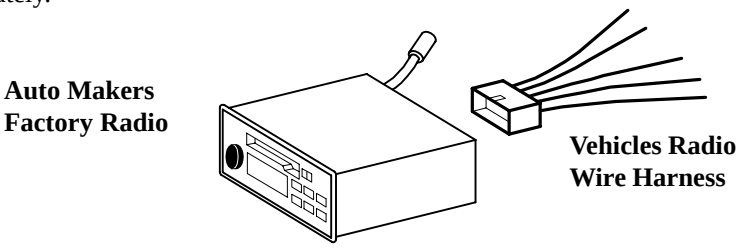
Document# 999008

For additional information regarding similar topics, please consult the following technical documents:

999009 Wiring Your New Radio Using A Snap On Wire Harness
999004 Soldering vs. Crimping Your Wire Connections (When And Why To Use Each Method)
999013 Testing And Verifying Power And Speaker Wires When Installing A New Radio
999501 How To Eliminate Engine Noise (For Basic Radio Installations)

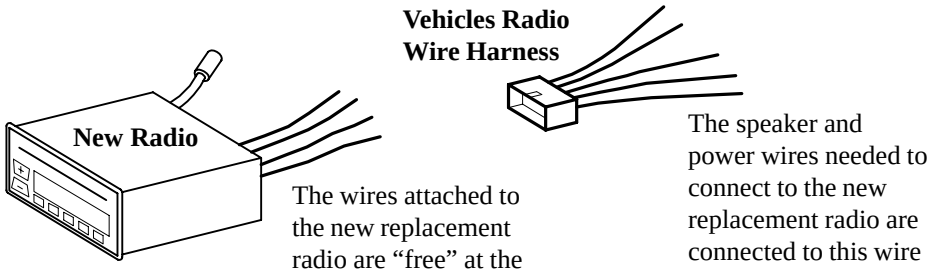
Using A Snap On Wire Harness Adapter

The Install Doctor STRONGLY recommends using a snap on wire harness adapter when replacing the auto makers factory installed radio with a new replacement radio. These snap on wire harness adapters are custom designed to plug or snap into the auto makers wire harness that originally plugged into the rear of the auto makers factory radio. Because each snap on wire harness is custom designed to fit only a specific auto makers indash wire harness, they are not included with new replacement radios but can be purchased separately.



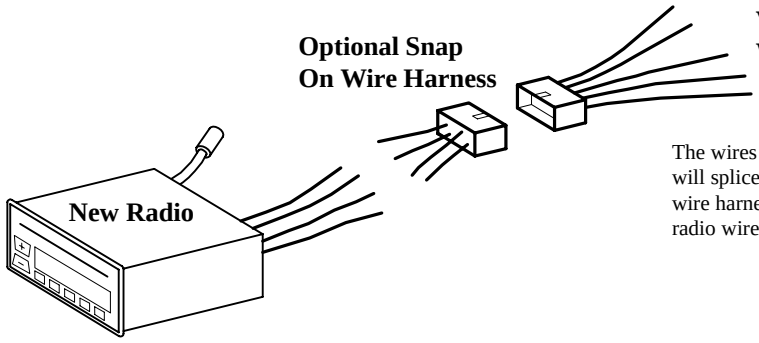
Many people wanting to install a new replacement radio in their vehicles usually become confused when professional installers and/or salesman inform them of these separate snap on wire harness adapters. A common misunderstanding for these people is that they wonder why they need to purchase an additional wire harness when the radio either has wires already attached to the radio or a wire harness is already included with the new replacement radio. The wiring on the rear of new replacement radio is designed in one of two ways: either the wires are connected internally to the electronic circuit board and then extended out of the rear of the radio, or the radio is designed with the wires attached to a small plastic wire harness connector which can be plugged into the rear of the radio. Most modern radios are designed with a separate wire harness. This allows the wire harness to be wired to the vehicles speaker and power wires without having the heavy radio attached. This also allows the radio to be unplugged without having to cut the wires. This is important when the radio needs to be serviced, or auto mechanics need to work near the vehicles dash, or when the owner wants to remove the new replacement radio and reinstall the auto makers factory radio.

So why use the additional snap on wire harness? Which ever way the new radios wiring is designed to exit from the rear of the radio, the wiring is always free (not connected to a plastic connector) at the opposite end of the wire from the new radio so that each individual wire can be connected to the corresponding wire in the vehicle. When the new radio is installed, the wires must be spliced into the wires in the vehicles dash. But, the wires in the vehicle needed to connect to the new radios wires are not free, but are connected to the vehicles indash radio wire harness plug or connector.



Until recently, in order for the “free” wire ends of the new radio to be spliced or connected to the wires attached to the vehicles indash radio wire harness, the vehicles wire harness connector had to be cut off, “freeing” the wires in the vehicles dash so that they could be spliced to the wires of the new radio.

Today, optional snap on wire harnesses are available that plug or snap into the vehicles indash radio wire harness and prevents the need to cut off the plastic connector of the vehicles indash radio wire harness. The optional snap on wire harness has wires extending out of the opposite face of the harnesses plastic connector. When the two pieces are plugged or snapped into each other, the optional snap on wire harness simply extends “free” ends of the wires that are attached to the automobiles indash radio wire harness, allowing these “free” wires to be connected or spliced to without having to cut off any plastic connectors.



The wires attached to the optional snap on wire harness will splice or connect to the wires of the new radio. The wire harness will then plug or snap into the vehicles dash radio wire harness.

DO NOT CUT OFF YOUR VEHICLES RADIO DASH WIRE HARNESS CONNECTOR if possible. There are many advantages to leaving the vehicles radio in-dash wire harness connector attached to the wires. Here are some very important reasons:

1) Cutting the harness connector off may void the warranty of new vehicles
2) Keeping the harness connector attached allows the factory radio to be reinstalled when the vehicle is sold
3) Allows the radio to be removed simply by unplugging the two wire harnesses. This is important when the radio needs to be serviced or other repairs, such as air conditioner servicing, need to be performed by an auto mechanic.
4) Cutting off the radios dash wire harness connector means that every wire will be exposed including the power wires which can electrically short out and blow fuses if they contact any metal surface in the vehicles dash.

Color Coding: another good reason to use snap on wire harnesses when replacing your auto makers factory radio is that all of the guess work has been done for you. The makers of these optional snap on wire harnesses have already tested each wire in the vehicles radio in-dash wire harness connector for you. You wont have to spend alot of time trying to guess what each wire is; the snap on wire harness tells you what each wire is. To do this, the wires are “color coded” with industry standard colors representing the function of each wire.

Note: before connecting or splicing the wires of a new replacement radio to the wires of a snap on wire harness, The Install Doctor recommends that you verify each wire is correctly marked or color coded. To do this, plug the snap on wire harness into the vehicles in-dash radio wire harness and test each wire while it is connected, but before it is spliced to the new radios wires. In very rare occasions, a wire may be misplaced in the connector which may cause the new replacement radio not to operate properly, or not at all.

If the radios dash wire harness connector has already been cut off and you need assistance in determining which wire is which, or you want to verify wires in a snap on wire harness before installing it, you can order The Install Doctors do-it-yourself installation instructions for your particular vehicle, or you can get information for testing and verifying power and speaker wires in the following technical document:

999013 Testing And Verifying Power And Speaker Wires When Installing A New Radio