

IMPORTANT TIPS & F.A.Q.

- 1) The self-tapping screws attach the XJ Pod to the vehicle side panel. The phillips-head screws mount the speaker and grille.
- 2) Using an amplifier to power the XJ Pod is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. One that will fit under your passenger seat or the rear seat and provides up to about 100 watts of *continuous* power would be great.
- 3) **YOUR RADIO IS ABSOLUTELY THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN YOUR AUDIO SYSTEM!** Speakers and amplifiers can only replicate the signal they receive. If your radio is just average, then the quality of sound coming from your speakers will be greatly compromised. Using a radio with pre-amp outputs (RCA's) of **4 volts** or more will send a super-clean signal to your amplifier(s) and speakers.
- 4) When you're conducting sound tests on the XJ Pod, check your FM sound as well as CD, MP3, etc. The exact same song played on FM simply won't sound as good or 'get as loud' as when played by CD, MP3, etc. because the radio is pulling in the FM signal from the radio station, not producing it internally.
- 5) The best place to run an amplifier power wire is through the firewall so look for a place where you can drill a small hole to run the power wire through from your car battery back to the amplifier. Mount the amplifier power wire fuse block in the engine compartment, above your battery if possible. Drill two pilot holes in the firewall and run two screws through the fuse block and into the firewall.
- 6) **The ground wire for the amplifier should be as short as possible.** For best results, mount it by way of a ring terminal to one of the seat bolts that mounts the seat to the floor, or drill out your own. You should scrape off some paint to expose bare metal on the floor board for the ring terminal to rest on. **FOLLOWING THIS METHOD WILL ENSURE A GREAT GROUND!** **We also recommend that you ground your radio at the same place as the amplifier.** This can be accomplished by cutting the ground wire at the back of the radio and attaching it to a new wire, which is run from your radio to the amplifier's ground location. This method will reduce all ground loops between your radio and amplifier, reducing the risk of alternator noise or 'whine'.
- 7) Plug remaining air space where the speaker wires go through the grommet hole with a glue gun, wax, etc. to seal the chamber. If air can escape there, it can result in a vibration noise or whistling noise.
- 8) If you still have a factory radio and want to upgrade, you'll also want to get a (vehicle specific) wire adapter plug designed to connect the new radio to your vehicle's factory plug. Most major audio outfits will have the one you need and they're usually around \$20.
- 9) Make sure there's no debris in the pod that could cause any vibrations.
- 10) Armor-All® or an equivalent can make the pod a darker black and glossy in appearance.



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Required tools: Drill/screw gun, Exacta knife/ razor blade, Wire cutters / strippers, Wire terminal crimper, 5/16" socket bit and extension for drill OR 5/16" ratchet socket and extension and a small drill bit for pilot holes, possibly a jig saw or roto-zip tool if you need to cut the speaker hole larger (use caution with either of these tools).

Installation:

If you purchased the XJ Pod without speaker:

- 1) You may need to cut the speaker hole larger for certain speakers. From the factory line, we must cut the hole small enough to accept 8" speakers with smaller mounting diameters so the unit will work with those specific speakers.

If you purchased the XJ Pod with speaker included:

- 1) The speaker is mounted with a couple of screws to hold it in place during shipping. You'll need to remove the speaker before installing the unit. (The rest of your mounting hardware is inside the pod).

PROCEDURE:

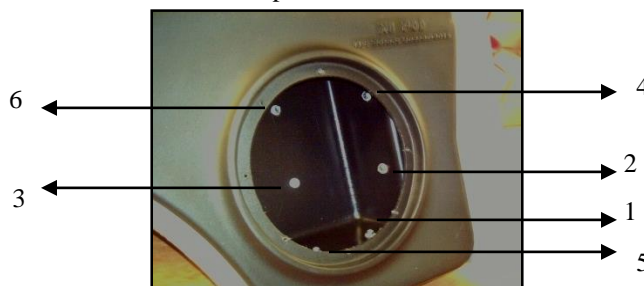
- 1) Run all wire under your vehicle's carpet, trim pieces along the passenger-side door(s), etc. Make all connections and **make sure the speaker is getting the signal.**
- 2) Run the speaker wire through the grommet hole (install the grommet) of the XJ Pod, on the bottom and fill the remaining air space around the wire at the grommet with a glue gun, wax, etc. to completely seal the enclosure **BEFORE** you screw the pod in to place.
- 3) Acoustic foam pieces are included with your XJ Pod. Make sure the acoustic foam is placed on the back of the pod in the areas shown below. We don't glue them to the pod because they will usually separate during shipping, and all you have to do is put them on the areas shown and hold them in position as you place the pod in the panel.

- 4) It is recommended that you remove the cargo panel to place some sound dampening material on the backside of the panel as well as the inside metal body of the Jeep so your chances of any vibration coming from the vehicle itself are lessened greatly. It has been our experience that Dynamat® works well for this. You may not need to do this and may still get good sound with little vibration; each vehicle is different.



- 5) There is a specific method for attaching the pod to your vehicle: Without the speaker installed yet, put the pod in the vehicle's side panel and push it into place. Before running any screws through, make sure the pod is pushed **back, down** and **to the right**. You have (6) self-tapping screws to hold the pod in place, but they have to attach in a specific order for best results and you want to make sure not to run them in too hard; the vehicle's plastic panel you're screwing into is not as thick as the pod plastic, to give you an idea of how tight to go with the screws before beginning to strip the plastic. You want them snug, no doubt, but you're not changing a flat tire here! Run them through in the same general areas as shown in the picture below **AND** in the order shown:

Simultaneously push the pod back, toward the floor, and to the rear of vehicle and then run the self-tapping screws in order as shown:



- 6) **Time to install the subwoofer and there is a specific way to mount it and the grille:**

Use the four shorter phillips screws and mount the subwoofer first, running screws through at the 12,3,6, & 9o'clock positions. Next, put the grille back plate flush on top of the speaker with the edge **facing up**. Use the remaining longer four phillips screws and attach the grille plate by lining up the plate's holes to the other four unused screw holes in the subwoofer. Pop on the mesh grille cover and you're done. Now it's time to adjust the radio and amplifier controls to your liking. Try various kinds of music and find bass, treble, etc. settings that work well for all.