

Nissan 240SX Car Stereo Installation Guide by Ivan Baggett – Updated 05/10/2004

This document describes how to install an aftermarket car stereo into a 1991 - 1993 Nissan 240SX. This particular model of Nissan was made for several years. This information may or may not be useful for other years and models.

This document shows how to connect a car stereo (head unit) only. No subwoofers, aftermarket amplifiers, crossovers, etc. You can get amazing sound from just a high-power head unit (4 x 40W) and upgrading the stock speakers (4x6 in. front, 6.5 in. rear). This system used a Kenwood KDC-1011S AM/FM/CD head unit and Boston Acoustics 2-way 4x6 and 6.5 in. speakers. All together, \$300 of equipment. It was retrofitted into a 1991 Nissan 240SX with a factory premium sound package, replacing the AM/FM/Cassette head unit and dual-cone speakers. In another installation, the same model of head unit and Sony XPL0D 3-way 6.5 in. speakers were retrofitted into a 1993 Nissan 240SX with the standard (non-amplified) sound package.

I applaud the Nissan designers for making it so easy to install a head unit into the dash. The plastic dash piece that surrounds the stereo, A/C, and shifter is retained with four spring clips; just lift it off. The stereo is secured into the dash by a bracket and four mounting screws. Remove these screws, then lift the old stereo unit out. Remove the bracket from the old unit by removing two screws on each side of the unit. Disconnect all wires to the old unit. You should see two rectangular plastic connectors and an antenna connector. The wire functions of the plastic connectors are:

WIRE COLOR	FUNCTION	WHAT IT DOES & HOW TO CONNECT IT
LIGHT GREEN	AMPLIFIER POWER	This is an output from the unit. When turned on, the unit should apply +12V power to this signal. If you have the Nissan premium sound package, its amplifiers use this signal to control their on/off state. Connect this to the ANTENNA POWER output on the new unit.
RED	REAR LEFT SPEAKER +	
GREEN	REAR LEFT SPEAKER -	DO NOT CONNECT TO GROUND
VIOLET	REAR RIGHT SPEAKER +	
PINK	REAR RIGHT SPEAKER -	DO NOT CONNECT TO GROUND
BLUE	+12V ACCESSORY	This is the main power input to the unit. It is active only when the ignition is in the ACC or ON positions.
RED W/YELLOW STRIPE	ILLUMINATION -	NOT USED
RED W/BLUE STRIPE	ILLUMINATION +	NOT USED
BLACK W/RED STRIPE	ANTENNA POWER	This is an output from the unit. When turned on, the unit should apply +12V power to this signal. The power antenna uses this signal to control its up/down state. Connect to the ANTENNA POWER output on the new unit.
RED W/BLACK STRIPE	+12V BATTERY	This is the backup (memory and clock) power input to the unit. It is always active.
BROWN W/WHITE STRIPE	FRONT RIGHT SPEAKER -	(correction; was + in previous revision of this document) DO NOT CONNECT TO GROUND
BROWN	FRONT RIGHT SPEAKER +	(correction, was – in previous revision of this document)
BLUE W/YELLOW STRIPE	FRONT LEFT SPEAKER -	DO NOT CONNECT TO GROUND
BLUE W/WHITE STRIPE	FRONT LEFT SPEAKER +	
BLACK (DOES NOT EXIST IN CAR'S WIRING HARNESS)	GROUND	This is the ground connection for the unit. It should be connected to the car's metal frame. The shifter boot retainer ring is an ideal place to attach to.

If you don't mind cutting into the car's wiring, you can cut off the rectangular plastic connectors and attach the head unit wires directly. If you want to keep the connectors, get a wiring harness adapter from Radio Shack. If you have the Nissan premium sound package, each speaker has its own amplifier. I recommend connecting the new unit's speaker outputs into the existing amplifier inputs, instead of direct to the speakers. The existing amplifiers have electronic equalization that enhances bass and treble response, and sounds better than running the speakers directly from the new unit. You don't have to do anything special to do this; the premium sound package should be wired to your new unit in the same way as the chart above.

The stock antenna connector is a non-standard two-prong plug. Cut this off and separate the antenna cable small and large wires. Install a Motorola-style antenna plug (available at Radio Shack) onto the large wire. Insulate the small wire; it will not be used.