

Supplement: Installation & Use of Bluetooth Audio Streamer

- **Model & Year:** 98-01 7-Series, U.S.
- **Expertise:** Intermediate
- **Date:** May 20, 2019
- **Updated:** March 31, 2020
- **Time Estimate:** varies

7 Series ^{E38}

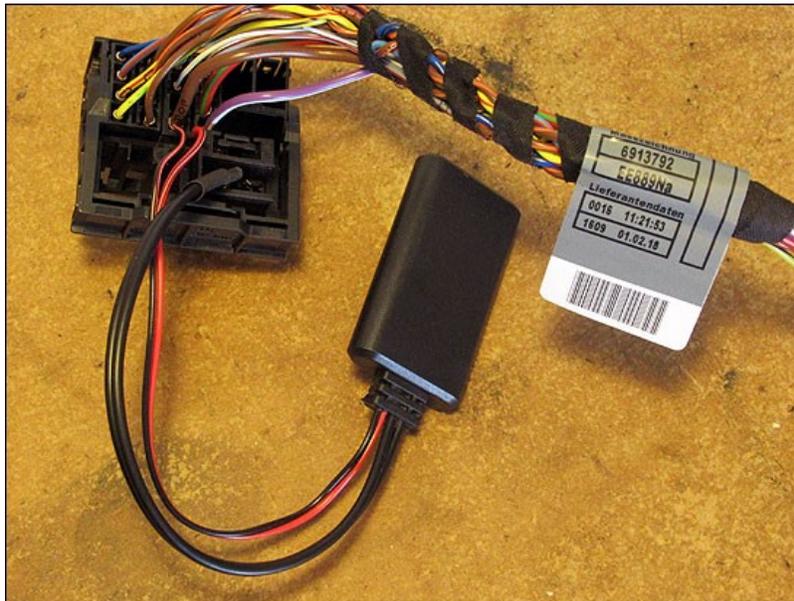
Tools Required

- Basic Hand Tools
- Jeweler's Screwdriver (or similar small pry tool)
- Soldering Iron

Facilities Needed

- None

Parts Required

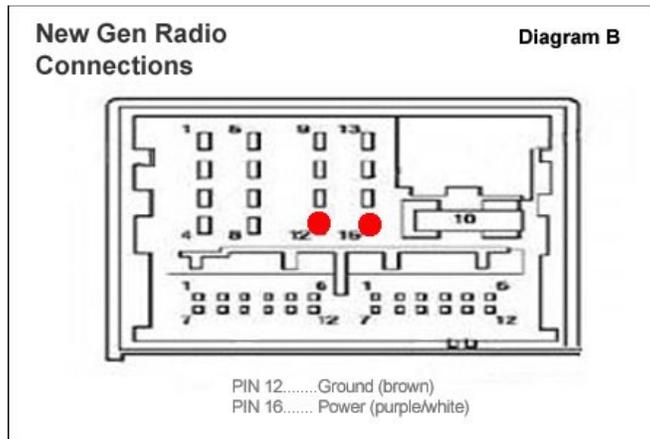


- **Bluetooth Audio Streaming Dongle:** aftermarket, \$12 - \$40.
- **Radio Wiring Adapter:** 61-12-6-913-957, \$75 new retail

Getting Started

Although aftermarket BT streamers come with plug-n-play audio connections, their 12 volt power and ground connections need to be wired manually. "Streamers" are typically shipped without installation instructions, but this isn't a problem since the task is quite simple.

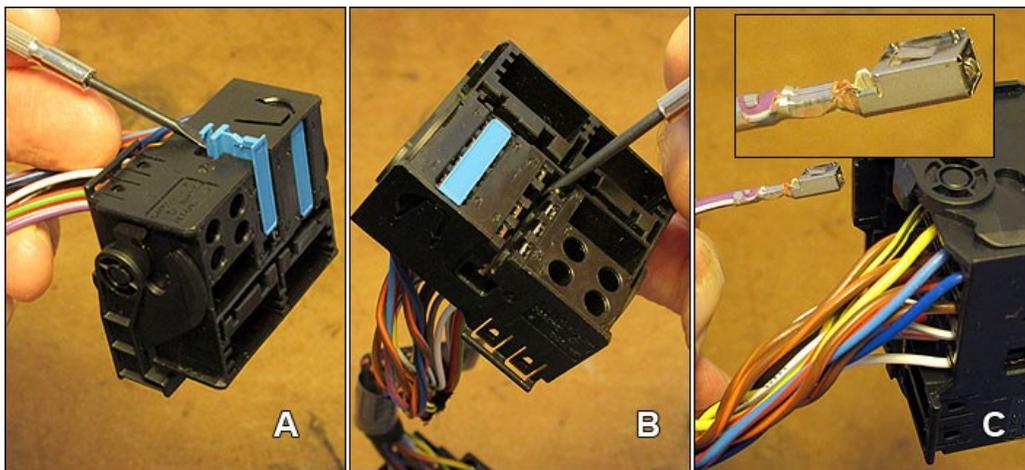
When connecting to the radio wiring adapter, use pin 16 (purple/white) for switched 12 volt power, and pin 12 (brown) for ground. See diagram B below:



The use of tap-in squeeze connectors is not recommended because of the different wire gauge (thickness) between the streamer's wires and radio wires. Instead, solder-contact the wires to the terminals.

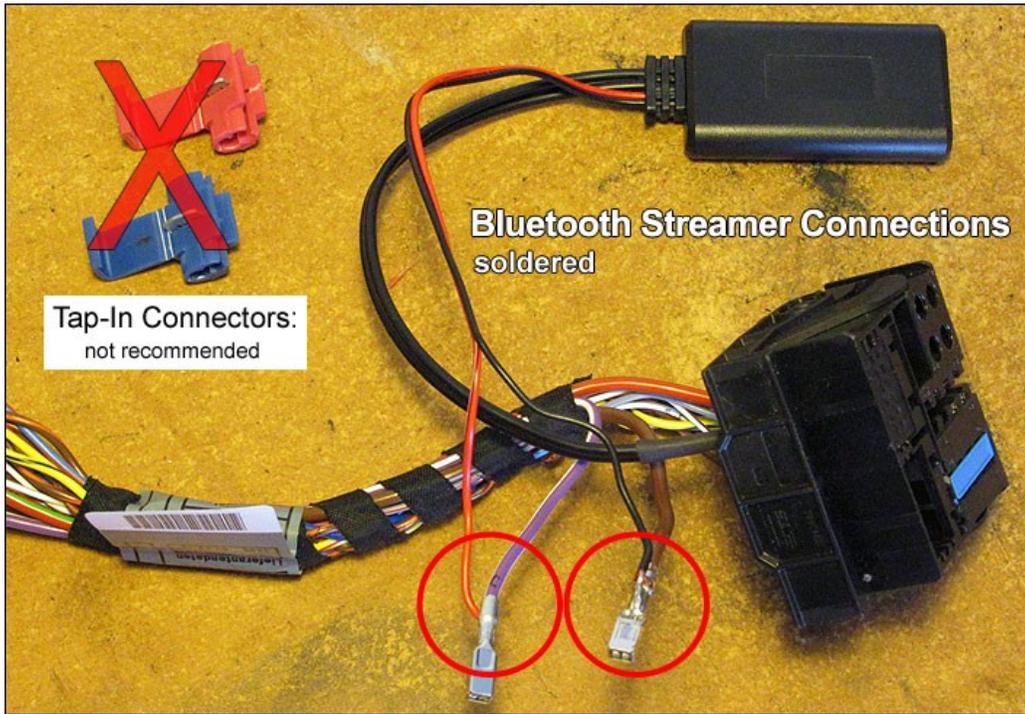
Procedure

1) Using a jeweler's screwdriver or similar, pry up the blue retainer tab from the harness connector (image panel A below).



2) Depress terminal retainer tab and push terminal pin out of harness (panel B & C). Terminal tab detail shown in panel C inset.

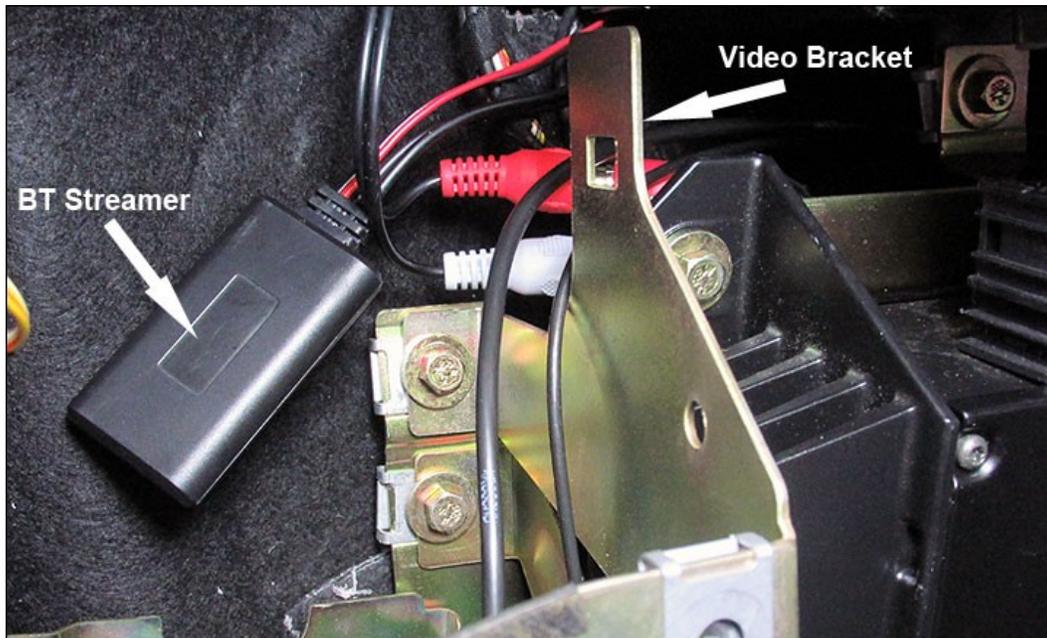
3) Solder power/ground wires to appropriate terminals. Don't apply too much solder (may create blockage). See image below.



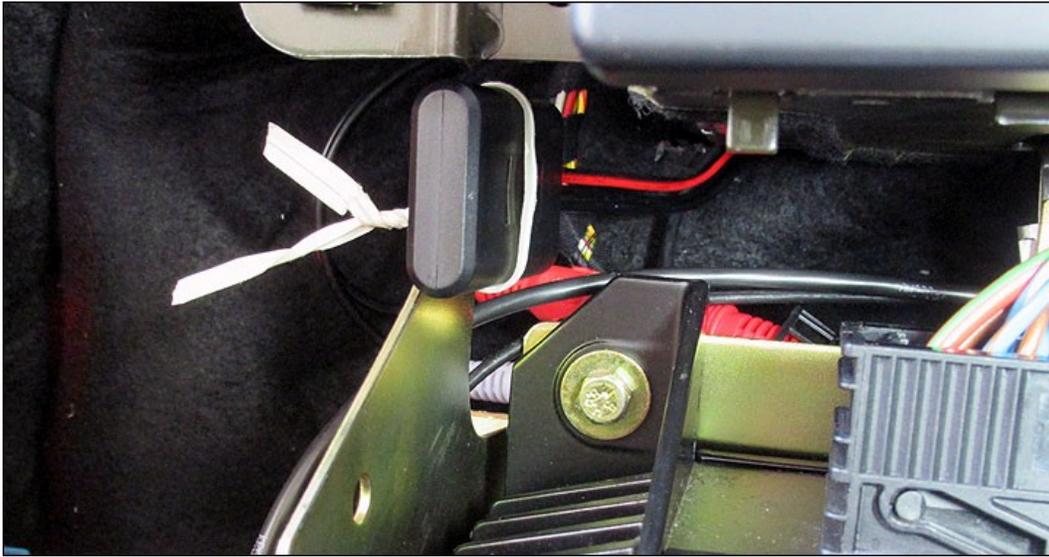
4) Re-assemble wiring adapter in reverse order (don't forget blue tab!).

Securing the Streamer

After BM53 radio installation, the streamer dongle will be...well, dangling. And since the wire length supplied by these streamers is quite short, it will have to be secured onto the nearest flat surface. The top of the nearby video bracket makes an ideal mounting location. See image below:



Using a wire tie or similar wrap, secure streamer "puck" to the top of video bracket as shown below:



Although the receiver puck is located in the trunk, your phone will have no trouble connecting.

Using the Streamer:

With ignition key in position 1 (accessory), look for the new streamer in your phone's "Bluetooth Settings" menu or similar. It should appear with a name such as "BT5908" or similar. Tap to connect.

Launch your favorite music application and toggle your BM53 radio to Aux (or CD if so connected). You should begin to hear music. Volume is adjustable from within the app and from radio knob or steering wheel button. Music is otherwise controlled from the phone app only.

Using Both a Streamer and TCU: While pairing with some older phones, the streamer may attempt to connect with both phone and media audio (although it won't work as a telephone). For those with a factory TCU, this may "kick out" your TCU connection. If necessary, configure the streamer profile to connect to media audio only. Then, configure your TCU profile to connect to phone audio only. On Android, this can be done by pressing and holding down each individual BT profile to bring up its Options menu.

Phone Power and Signal: Audio streaming consumes battery power quickly, so keep your phone plugged-in while streaming. Use a USB power adapter in place of the cigarette lighter. When streaming from a data source, music will stop upon phone signal loss. You may wish to display the signal strength screen from the nav's Telephone menu, so that you can periodically monitor signal levels (easier to read than the tiny signal bars on your phone). Alternatively, if the red annunciator light is illuminated (nav top right), signal has been lost.

This situation illustrates the advantages of installing a factory "eject box". Instead of relying solely on your phone's antenna and battery, an eject box (located in the center console armrest) integrates your phone more completely by boosting its signal thru the roof antenna while charging it as well. Eject boxes are optional on both TCU and ULF installations (your car is pre-wired). See: [Phone Charging & Signal Boosting](#).

You've done it! The last word: please don't allow yourself to become a distracted driver!

Frankie
Texas, USA
www.frankies-bmw.com