

Dension Ice Link Plus Install for Coaxial+DSP BMWs

OK, I have decided to initiate a new post to summarize my A-thru-Z install experience with the Dension IceLink Plus product for the i-Pod. I have found a lot of tid bits of helpful info, but nothing that was consolidated. So this is an attempt to do just that.

As an opening statement, if your BMW does NOT have DSP (some non-US BMWs), and/or, you have a 6-pin connection to your CD Changer (instead of a Coaxial connection) – you do not need to read this. Just thank the higher powers that your life was made easier. The Dension kit is all you will need without many of the steps (and parts and wiring) outlined below.

OK, so for DSP coaxial BMWs, here is a list of things you need, starting with the most obvious:

- i-Pod (duh!). :p Any one will do, the kit comes with a cradle and various adaptors to accommodate any version and model of Apple i-Pod.
- Dension IceLink Plus kit for BMW – sold at Best Buy for \$199, with a limited time \$20 mail-in-rebate. It is manufacturer specific, so make sure you don't pick up the Honda kit. <http://www.bestbuy.com/site/olspage...=1108124556237>
- A Digital to Analog converter (DAC). You can use a Radio Shack one, but those have been discontinued and very difficult to find in inventory. Can buy the same exact piece from Dension or various other sources (other vendors, Ebay, etc.)
- Two custom wires – you can splice them yourselves, or buy them from Dension and other IceLink vendors directly (but not Best Buy). I chose the latter, including pictures of what they look like.
 - one wire is made up of a coaxial end vs. a regular input jack on the other end
 - the other wire is a standard set of two (white/red) audio jacks on one end versus a BMW specific 6-pin connector on the other end (see pics).
- Proper lighting, tools, patience and willpower

Here are the full steps:

- Make sure you take out your CDs from the CD changer – notice I am writing this first – a hard lesson learned. Now I have to figure out how to retrieve mine out since the CD magazine eject button is only power operated.
- Disconnect the battery ('-' terminal). Make sure you do that about 2 minutes after you have shut down the engine (or closed/opened a door/trunk). The NAV computer in the trunk is still engaged and takes about a minute or so for it to 'fall asleep', so make sure the red power light is not on or blinking. Always keep this in mind when disconnecting your battery!
- Open up the trunk side panel door to access your CD changer (actually, it is better if you remove it altogether by taking out the three plastic clips, as you will need the extra clearance when running the wires). Loosen the two bolts facing the rear seats (note, you need to loosen them, not remove them). After this, simply slide up-and-away the CD changer from the bracket.

(btw, the extra clutter you are seeing around my DVD Nav are my 4 MB Quart crossovers, so you will have a lot more space than I did. Now with the extra space left open from the CD changer they are all neatly tucked away)

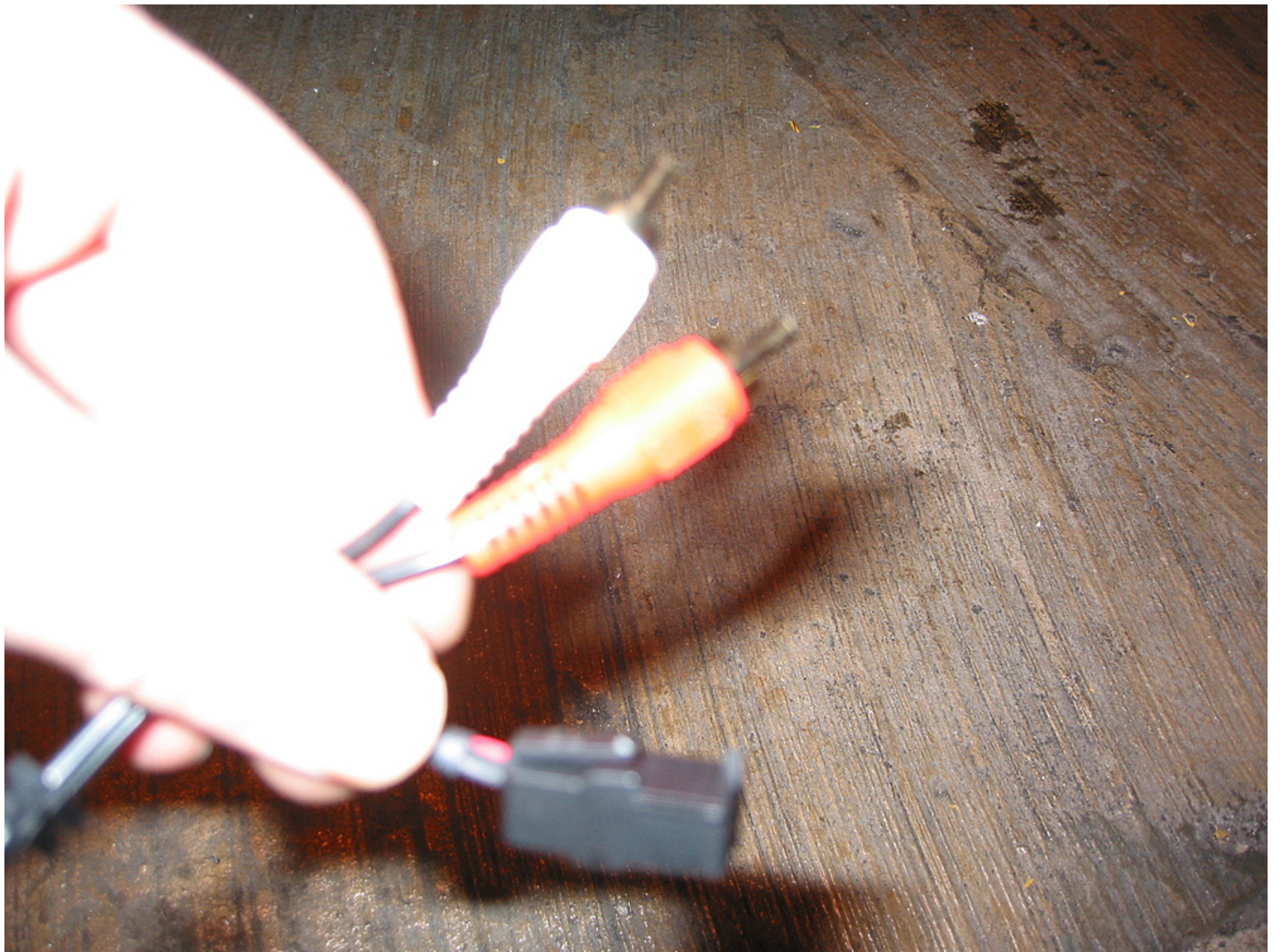
- Disconnect the two wires coming into it - the round coaxial wire (simply pull), and the 3-pin wire (it's got a clip, make sure you don't pull on it without releasing the clip). From now on, thoughts such as "Hmmm, how much can I get for my CD changer on Ebay" should be going through your mind.
- The 3-pin wire that was formerly used by the CD changer is a direct plug-and-play to the 3-pin connector on the IceLink kit provided wire, so you don't have anything more to do there. Time for the coaxial connection.
- Follow the coaxial wire that came out of the CD changer – it leads to the top of the amp. Disconnect the coaxial cable from there – similar to the CD changer, you will no longer need this wire. In its place, plug in the Dension provided custom wire – the other end of it is a regular jack that plus directly into the input side of the DAC
- Then turn to the output side of the DAC – you will need to take your second custom wire and connect the set of two (red and white) audio jacks to the DAC. The other end of the wire is the BMW specific 6-pin connector, which directly then connects to the IceLink kit provided wire.
- Now what remains is powering the DAC itself. There are two options you can take: connect it to the battery terminals, or find a power source wire and then ground the negative to an appropriate metal body panel screw. I personally chose the former approach.
- Plug the power cable into the DAC and cut the other end of it to expose the wires. Secure the exposed wires tightly to the battery terminals. I made sure I exposed enough wire that the battery terminal clamps grabbed it side to side. The Black wire goes to the Negative battery terminal, the striped wire goes to the Positive battery terminal. See pics.
- NB: you will notice there is a switch on the DAC, can't quite recall what is said, but had something to do with the recording - make sure it is set to the OFF position.
- At this stage you are pretty much done with the wiring. Now you need to decide how you are going to hide all this excess wires (the Dension Kit provided wire is purposely long so folks can mount the cradle in the cabin). I personally chose the little pockets around the M-Mobility kit – never used them anyhow, plus there is a trunk cover, so those will never be visible. Plus God forbid I ever need to replace DAC or the Adaptor, they are at an easy reach. I secured the DAC simply with Velcro as the size of the pocket bay is just right for it to fit without moving around much.

- Select a good mounting location. I chose the rear driver' side panel door – out of the way for any cargo, plus very convenient. Note that you cannot use the click wheel functions on your i-Pod once you activate the text and steering wheel controls, so having your i-Pod visible in the cabin didn't make much sense to me, plus, it can be tempting for prying eye...
- Before you put all the paneling together, it is a good time to test your work. Reattach the '-' terminal clamp, plug in your i-Pod, and pray! If you see the Denison logo on your i-Pod screen, that's a great sign. If you see your battery re-charging, that's an even better sign. If you can hear one of your playlists coming through your speakers – you are in cloud nine. And if you see the text display on the Nav screen, you should be in nirvana by now.

PS and Caveat

There are likely somewhat different (and perhaps better) approaches one can take in doing this 'mod'. I basically described, in very much layman's terms, what worked for me. There are many experienced professional members here, Boardmember **tom@** sells all the necessary components and has intalled likely a dozen and more of these, so folks should feel free to add anything I may have left out.

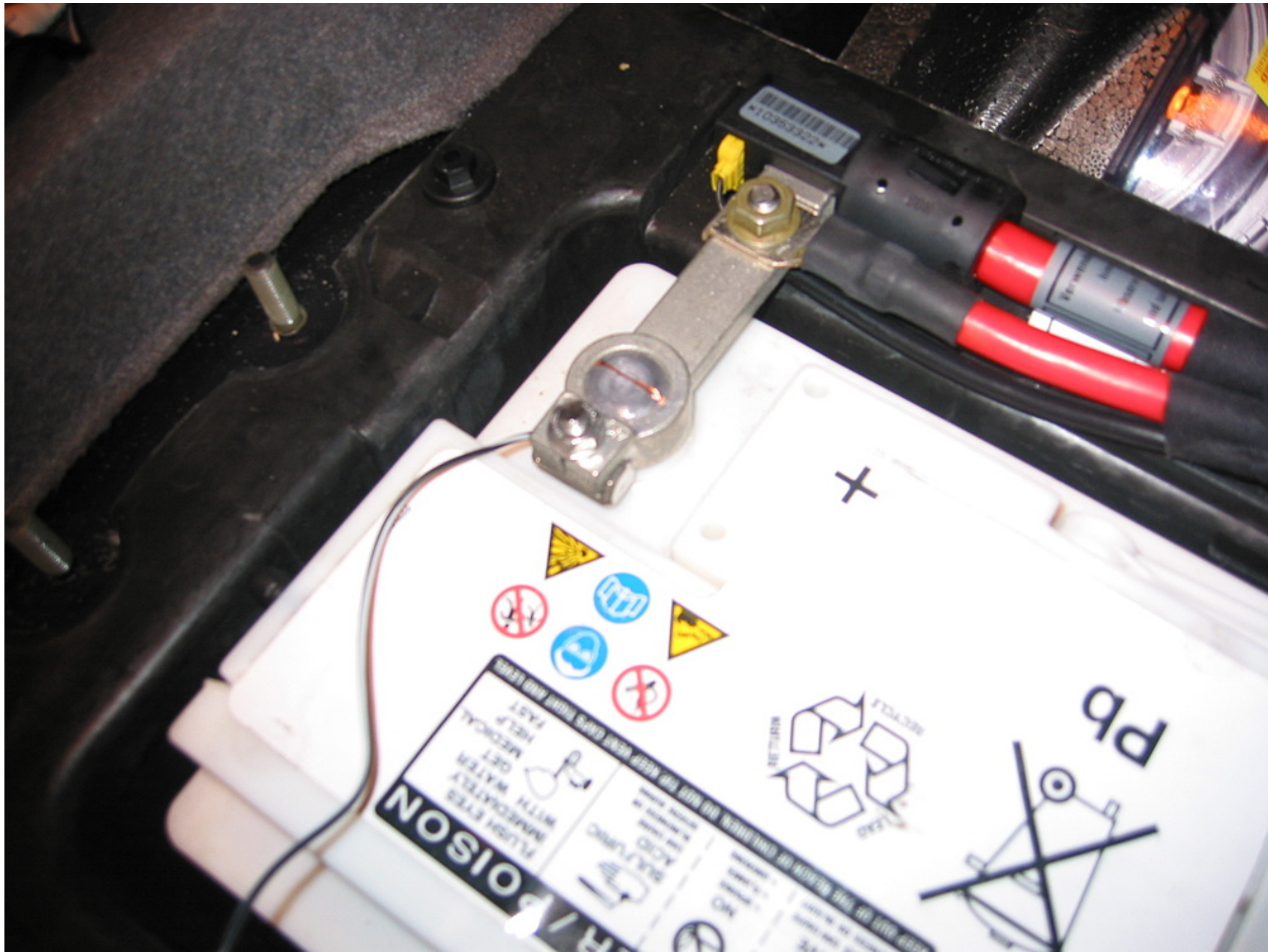












POISON

FLUSH EYES IMMEDIATELY WITH WATER GET MEDICAL HELP FAST

DO NOT DRINK FROM THIS BOTTLE OR USE THE BOTTLE FOR DRINKING OR OTHER USES







