

Citroen Xantia CD Changer How-to

So you've got a MK1 Citroen Xantia and you want to fit a CD changer?

That's easy just go and have one installed.

You want to keep the car looking original, not have local youths breaking into it to steal you new head unit AND you don't want to spend a fortune doing it?

That's not so easy but can be done by following this guide!

WARNING! Following this how-to involves electrical wiring in your vehicle. Getting it wrong could potentially lead to your Xantia catching fire and becoming a worthless pile of scrap! (Although this is very unlikely since everything is fused to prevent damage). You should only attempt this if you are confident and experienced in soldering and basic electronics. Always disconnect the battery before doing any electrical work.

Since driving a company car with CD player for a few years the basic radio in our Xantia just didn't cut it for me any more so I set out to see what would be involved in fitting one. Our Xantia is a '95 SX hatchback TD and came fitted with the Citroen System Audio 3030 which to be fair is not a bad piece of kit and produces quite a nice sound IMHO. It has a line-in jack on the front panel so you can attach a portable CD, MD MP3 player without any messing around but it then gets in the way when changing gear which is annoying to say the least.

You have two choices if you want a CD player in your Xantia:

- 1) you can just fit a new head unit (the bit in the dashboard) that is CD changer compatible and fit the appropriate CD changer to go with it. This can be done fairly easily as a plastic adapter is available that goes into the dashboard to allow a standard size car radio to be fitted. These are available from Halfords but are actually cheaper from Citroen! The Citroen version also has a flap that can be pulled down to cover the radio when parked. The disadvantages of this are, if you don't have the Citroen adapter then people can see your new Sony/Kenwood radio and try to steal it, it spoils the look of the dash, you have to take up the carpet to fit the CD changer, you need a special

adapter to make the steering wheel controls work (if at all) and it's damn expensive!
2) You can go the original route and upgrade to the unit specified by Citroen for early Xantias. The top of the range System Audio 4030 unit is CD changer compatible and changers are still available for it, most of the wiring needed to fit it is already in the car! The problem here is that the Citroen wiring harness terminates in a propriety plug and no adapter is easily available (although I never actually tried to get one from Citroen). The 4030 unit can be had from EBay from time to time for a reasonable cost if you don't already have one. I got mine for a VERY reasonable £12! But it came without a code so I had to 'acquire' one.

Information:

The Citroen System Audio 4030 and 3030 head units were manufactured by Blaupunkt under the codes PH1/D and PH1/C respectively, they are electrically almost identical to standard Blaupunkt units of the same period. The 4030 is equipped with the standard Blaupunkt serial data control interface and as such is compatible with Blaupunkt CD changers. The changer originally fitted by Citroen, if specified, was the (Blaupunkt code) CDC-A05 however the CDC-A08 and, more recently, the CDC-A03 are also compatible.

Blaupunkt head units of that time had standard DIN connections enabling them to be fitted in any car that was also DIN standard. The 4030 also has DIN connections although the steering wheel control interface appears to be non-standard so perhaps it is not fully DIN compliant. The DIN standard interface consists of two 8 way connectors for power and speakers and a 10 way connector for CD changers etc. Compatible Blaupunkt CD changers (at least the A05 and A08) have a short length of cable ending in a 13pin DIN socket. The Xantia wiring harness ends in a 9 way latching connector.

This connector is manufactured by AMP but I had no luck tracking one down.

Overview:

To fit the CD changer I constructed my own short interface cable that plugged into the CD Changer and soldered it in parallel with the Citroen/AMP connector so that I didn't interfere with the original wiring should we sell the car. In our Xantia the connector is under the driver's seat. Others have reported finding the connector behind one of the side panels in the boot. I had to search around a bit for it as it is under the carpet accessible through an opening but once found can be pulled out for easy access.

Parts:

I used a CDC-A08 CD changer. I purchased this from Scan [here](#). This really is an incredible price when you consider that most places sell the A08 for close to £200 by itself! It also means that you can use the changer with the head unit in another car if you wish.

A 13 pin DIN plug. These can be had from Maplins [here](#).

A short length of 10 way cable, preferably screened as this carries the audio signal. I used a piece from an old computer monitor. Although the power and audio go inside the same screen I don't get any interference.

Construction:

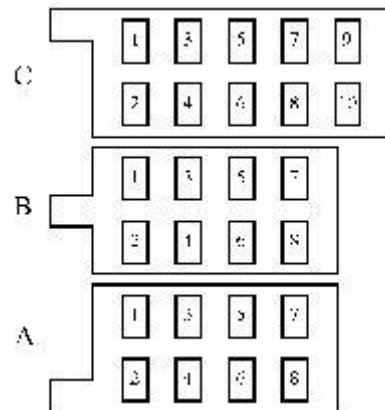
This is quite straight forward although fiddly. Using the table and pictures below as reference solder the 13-way DIN plug to one end of the cable (my cable is about 20cm long). The pins in the 13-way plug are very close together and may become loose if heated too much resulting in a short. Take care to minimise the heating from the soldering iron as much as possible. After I had tested the resulting cable with a multimeter I then ran some glue over the back of plug to hold the wires/pins in place and prevent shorting. Something solid like Araldite is suitable.

Remember to disconnect the battery now!

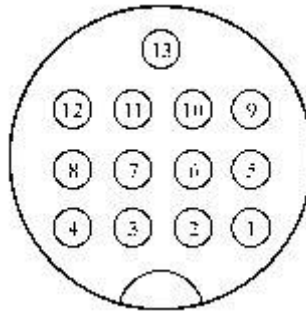
One at a time remove pins from the back of the 9-way Citroen/AMP connector and, referring to the table below; solder the appropriate wire onto it. You'll need to be working in the back of the car to do this so you'll need a long lead on your soldering iron or a gas powered one. It also helps to remove the drivers seat but isn't necessary. Alternatively you could try to get a connector from a scrap Xantia. Test the connections at the plug paying particular attention to the 12V permanent and switched supplies as these are what will cause damage if they're wrong! The CD changer fits snugly under the driver's seat in our Xantia with no need for any other form of fixing. If this looks daunting then perhaps you can bribe a friend to do it for you :)

Click on the pictures for a much larger view.

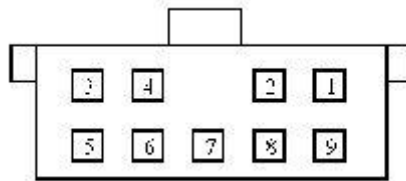
The rear connections of the System Audio 4030 \ PH1/D



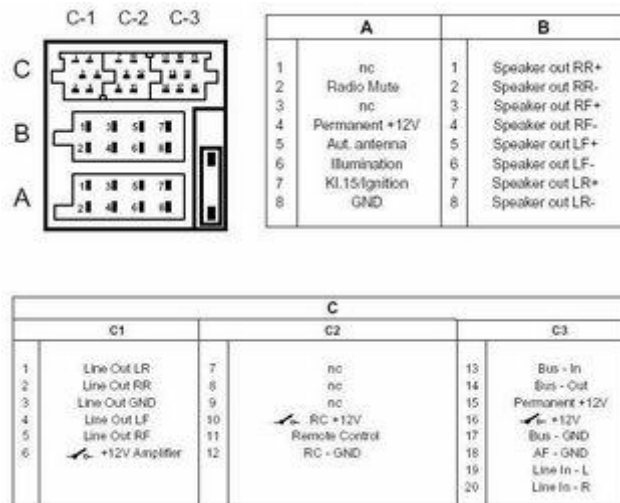
The Blaupunkt CD Changer connection (viewed looking into the plug)



The Citroen/AMP Connector (viewed from the front)



For reference, the mini-DIN connection found on the back of modern Blaupunkt Head units



Connection table

Connection	13 Pin DIN Plug	Citroen/AMP Connector	PH1/D 4030	Mini-ISO
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Audio-L	12	4	C2	19
Audio-R	8	6	C1	20
Audio-GND	6	5	C3	18
CD-Data RX	10	1	A1	13
CD-Data TX	13	2	A2	14
CD-Data GND	2 and Case	7	A3	17
12V+ Permanent	3	9	N/A	15
12V+ Switched	4	8	A5	16
Power GND	2 and Case	3	N/A	?

This worked for me and has given no trouble. However I can't say whether all Xantias have the same wiring so I advise you to make to measurements before trying anything.

Any questions, email me: [steve \(at\) jellybaby \(dot\) net](mailto:steve@jellybaby.net)