

MiTo Double DIN Upgrade

Upgrading your MiTo stereo to a double DIN head unit can deliver lots of advantages, replacing the Blue&Me technology with more advanced Apple CarPlay or Android Auto features; essentially your in-car experience matches your smartphone experience, with voice-activated functions via Siri or Google.



Fitting is relatively simple, but the experience will only look and work right if you have the correct fascia and connecting cables, which can be a little unclear when searching your favourite auction sites.

So Elliott Mitchell has very kindly provided this summary to help us choose the right items for a successful installation, so thank you Elliott for helping us all out!

Choosing the Head Unit

Any double DIN head unit will fit the MiTo, and any single DIN unit will fit as well with the addition of a universal pocket.


Apple CarPlay is a very popular and wanted feature for new car stereos, so this is a run-down of the most popular units selling today with either Apple CarPlay and/or Android Auto compatibility:

Sony XAV-AX1000  

The Sony is a good entry-level FM unit, both Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatible along with Bluetooth as well as having steering control integration and rear camera compatibility. However, more advanced features are lacking.



Price range approx. £250.

Pioneer SPH-DA120 

Lots of MiTo owners have this unit, though these days it is the entry-level FM unit that is



discontinued with many sellers. It has Apple CarPlay, AUX-in, Bluetooth, dual USB, HDMI in, a 6.2" capacitive touchscreen, rear camera input and steering wheel controls.



Price range approx. £279 but strong second-hand market too.

Pioneer SPH-DA130DAB 

The same externally as the DA120 but has a new interface and includes DAB receiver, analogue video inputs (important for Infoadapters - see later), Mixtrax (Pioneer's smart DJ'ing), Appradio+, a single USB and Nav-ready (though no HDMI in).

Price range approx. £320.



Pioneer SPH-DA230DAB  

The 230 has a larger 7" resistive touchscreen and has the same features as the 130 but also

features Android Auto, so is a good choice for Android users who also want DAB.



Price range approx. £320.

Kenwood DMX-7017DABS  

The Kenwood has similar features to the Pioneer DA230DAB with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, but the Kenwood interface has more in-depth audio and video settings so is good for audiophiles.



Price range approx. £379.

Clearly, there are many more options on the market and you

can do your own research of these and other units online to find the best features and cost that meet your needs and budget.

Fitting

Connects2 products have proved reliable for many years for Alfa Romeo in-car connectivity, so we recommend Connects2 products.

Fascia Adapter



There are four different fascia adapters available from Connects2 for the MiTo, depending on which variant you have.

- CT23AR04 is the silver fascia for pre-facelift MiTos from 2008 to 2012.
- CT23AR11 is the silver fascia

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for post facelift MiTos 2012 to 2014.

- CT23AR12 is the black fascia for post-facelift MiTos from 2014 on.
- CT23AR14 is the black fascia for pre-facelift MiTos 2008-2014 (if you want to change the standard colour).

The Connects2 fascia kits come with the frame, screws and everything you need to mount the head unit, so be careful buying after-market versions on auction sites as many do not come with all the extra parts that make fitting easy.

Connects2 also supply single DIN versions, and all their products can be searched by entering your MiTo vehicle details on connects2.com.

Wiring Harness Adapter

A wiring harness adapter isn't necessarily needed, however, an ignition live lead would need to be run to the new stereo harness and little re-wiring done, making the job a little more than simply plug and play, as well as removing all extra features including steering wheel controls, handbrake and reverse feeds (needed for reverse camera and video playback).

Steering Wheel Controls

Connects2 provide the adapters for the MiTo steering wheel controls to still work with a new head unit, and are as follows:



- CTSAR004.2 is pre-uConnect (Blue&Me) stereos
- CTSAR005.2 is for uConnect stereos (but note the Infoadapter information later).

Some head units require slightly different set up to get the steering controls to work, but

all the information is contained in the Connects2 instructions which are provided with these leads.

Infoadapters (uConnect only)

Later MiTos with uConnect stereos, where a large amount of vehicle settings and information (e.g. reverse camera feed, parking sensors) are displayed through the OEM stereo screen, need an Infoadapter harness which allows this extra information to be displayed on the new head unit. They do require that the aftermarket head unit has a video/rear camera input through which the data is transferred.

The Infoadapter for uConnect MiTos is CTUAR01. It is expensive but works well.

Other Parts

DAB head units require a DAB aerial. Most head units will be supplied with one, but any DAB aerial will work. They connect to the rear of the unit and feed up to the windscreen where they stick on the inside of the screen. You will also need a microphone

for which again should be supplied with the new head unit.

For pre-uConnect stereos you will also need an FM aerial 'pin' adapter for the FM aerial. These are very common and cheap.

USB

Most new head units have USB in at the rear, so you can simply feed a USB extension from the back of the head unit down behind the heater to connect a smartphone device. This works well for most installations.



But if you want to retain the in-built USB socket in the MiTo, you will need the Connects2 USB retention kit, the CTFIATUSB.

This allows the OEM (second generation Blue&Me and uConnect) input plugs by the gear stick to be used to plug USB and AUX into the head unit and allows for a clean OEM interior.

Fitting Process

The included instruction manuals with all modern head units are typically very good, so if you follow those instructions you are likely to not have any particular issues (just ensure you match the same colour leads etc).

Frequently issues arise when after-market (non-Connects2) leads and adapters are used, so we highly recommend only Connects2 products.

Beneath the standard stereo is the Blue&Me unit (if fitted). It is important to leave this unit connected and don't remove the unit when fitting a new head unit. There is enough room to push the unit down behind the heater to retain it.

Disconnecting the Blue&Me unit will result in a CANBUS error on the MiTo, resulting in flashing mileage on the dashboard.

When plugging the steering wheel control and Infoadapter harnesses in, leave the black box until last to be plugged in and do not turn the ignition on until all wiring is installed.