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## AIH-CONTI

**ADD-AN-AMP INSTALLATION HARNESS FOR CONTINENTAL/VDO RADIOS TO SELECT EUROPEAN VEHICLES**

Created October 1, 2020  
Revised: April 18, 2025

## PRODUCT SAFETY & DISCLAIMER

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLING, FAILURE TO DO SO MAY CAUSE PERSONAL INJURY OR DAMAGE TO PRODUCT AND/OR PROPERTY

- This installation guide is provided as a GENERAL installation guide; some vehicles vary and may require additional steps. We do not accept responsibility for third party labor charges or modifications. Exercise due-diligence when installing this product.
- We do not accept any responsibility for vehicle damage or personal injury resulting from the installation of this product.
- Careless installation and operation can result in equipment damage.

## Requirements:

EUROPEAN VEHICLE WITH ORIGINAL RADIO PLUGS/CONNECTORS

## Introduction:

Continental/VDO radios are slowly becoming the radio choice for many European luxury cars (e.g., Porsche, BMW\*, Mercedes, Land Rover, Ferrari etc.) owners. The Continental radio speaker level may be satisfactory to some, but if system lacks power and/or bass; it may be time to consider adding a subwoofer separate amplifier, or powered subwoofer and upgraded speakers. Unlike Becker OE radios; Continental offerings do not include Line-Level outputs and because of that the speaker outputs must be used to provide audio signal to aftermarket amplifier.

**NOTE:** If aftermarket amplifier or powered subwoofer has **speaker level inputs**, the AIH-CONTI is **not required**.—see our [BHA-1784B](#) harness instead.

The AIH-CONTI harness has been revised to allow Continental/VDO radios to power car speakers directly and also provide 4-full range line level outputs and turn-on lead for aftermarket amplifier or powered subwoofer.

See **Frequently Asked question** at the end of this guide.

\*The BMW version of this harness includes matching BMW 17-pin plug.

## Installation: For Becker radios with 8-pin power/speaker plugs

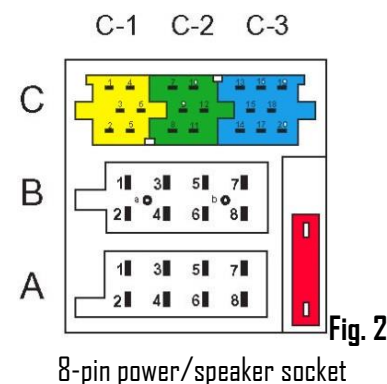
If the Continental radio has not yet been installed, proceed to remove the factory radio then proceed to step 4.

If the Continental radio has already been installed, remove it from dashboard using removal keys provided with radio.

1. Slide keys into slots to detent position. (Key “bump” should face radio)
2. Withdraw radio by pulling outwards. See **Fig. 1**



Fig. 1



**Warning:** C1-C3 sockets on Continental/VDO radios are for optional steering wheel and microphone connections. The AIH-CONTI connects to the Continental/VDO radio power/speaker socket (A and B) Seen in Fig. 2

3. Disconnect both 8-pin plugs from the Continental radio (socket "A" and "B") (See Fig. 3)

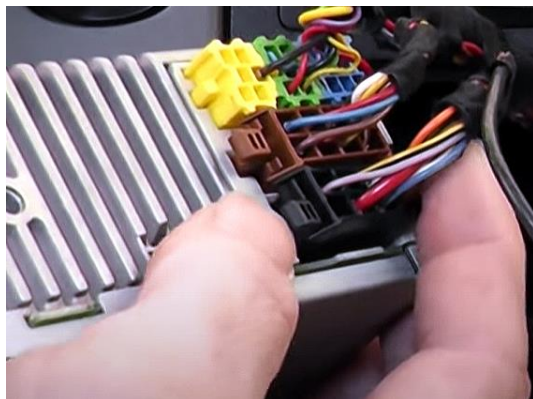


Fig. 3

4. Connect plugs removed in step 3 to mating sockets on harness (See Fig. 4)
5. Connect harness 8-pin Black (A) and Brown (B) plugs (See Fig. 4) to mating sockets on Continental radio (vacated in step 3)



Fig. 4  
harness

**NEW:** This revised edition (4.4.22) allows the Continental radio to power speakers from its internal amplifier, or bypass radios built-in amplifier in favor of aftermarket amplification or both. To bypass radio's internal amplifier, do not connect factory "B" plug to this harness.

6. Connect orange wire to vehicle's illumination (dimmer) circuit. (This circuit controls brightness of vehicles instrument cluster/radio)
7. Connect pink wire to amplifier turn on lead (wire extension required)
8. Connect RCA's (See Fig. 5) to amplifier or powered subwoofer RCA inputs (RCA patch cords required)



Fig. 5

### Installation: For BMW/Landrover with 17-pin radio connector (Not for Becker radios)

The AIH-CONTI BMW and Land rover version includes a 17-pin radio connector seen in Fig. 6. This version of the harness does not apply to BMW/Landrover with Becker (e.g. Traffic Pro etc.) BMW/Landrover with Becker radios must select "Other with ISO plugs"

Follow install instruction steps 4-8



Fig. 6

## Frequently asked questions & troubleshooting:

1. **Why does Continental radio remain ON after ignition key has been removed?**  
Continental (as well as Becker radios) are able to remain "ON" after ignition key is removed because of radio logic control. If radio is properly wired to ignition, battery and ground supply but remains "ON after key is removed, check radio system settings: Logic control and turn -OFF or ON.
2. **Do I need to connect the illumination wire (orange)?**  
Connecting orange wire allows radio to dim at night when headlights are turned on otherwise this feature is lost.
3. **Revising the harness was a great idea, but what if I want to retain OE amplifier under passenger seat?**  
To install a Continental or VDO radio and retain factory amplifier (NOKIA, HAER, BOSE) means our [ARH-CONTI](#) harness is required.
4. **I installed a Continental radio last summer. It has decent power but I want to install an aftermarket amplifier to power the factory speakers and a powered subwoofer box. Will the AIH-CONTI work?**  
If speakers were being powered by the Continental radio and wish to instead power them from an aftermarket amplifier; the AIH-CONTI can do that. In addition, you will need our [BHA-1784B](#) 8-pin speaker extension harness (available in custom lengths). Simply connect the [BHA1784B](#) to the OE 8-pin speaker plug (behind the dash), then connect each speaker pair to aftermarket amplifier speaker terminals.  
**Warning:** This does not apply to BMW and Landrover 17-pin car radio plug
5. **I've notice Continental radios pin 7 (battery) and pin 4 (ACC) are switched. Will I need to switch them on your harness?**  
**NO.** Our AIH-CONTI is wired to meet all Continental/VDO radio wiring requirements including BAT, ACC, GROUND, ILL.
6. **My BMW does not have a 17-pin plug. Which version of the harness should I purchase?**  
The radio plug in older BMW's varies between the 17-pin plug (e.g. Blaupunkt and 16-pin (e.g. Becker)  
The AIH-CONTI works in both application and user must select version based on their vehicle wiring. If 17-pin plug, select BMW with 17-pin plug and if 16-pin ISO, select BMW ISO or other with ISO plugs.

7. **My Porsche has a Kenwood radio and previous owner cut the OE plugs. Will the AIH-CONTI work to install a Continental radio?**

Purchase our [BHD-1784](#) harness. Cut Kenwood harness (or that of any aftermarket radio) an inch short of OE splice. Match residual Kenwood wire colors with those on the BHD-1784. Once completed connects plugs to the Continental/VDO radio.

### Disclaimer

- This product has no affiliation with Porsche, Becker etc.
- We're not liable for misuse of this product.
- We recommend professional installation.

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