

Upgrading to a Car Stereo with a Backup Camera - A Complete Guide

Having a backup camera installed on your vehicle is becoming increasingly popular for safety and convenience when reversing. Many new car stereos now come with backup camera inputs, making it easy to add this useful feature.

In this guide, we'll cover everything you need to know about choosing and installing a car stereo with a backup camera.

What to Look for in a Car Stereo with Backup Camera Input?

When shopping for an aftermarket car stereo that supports a backup camera, there are a few key features to look for:

- **Dedicated camera input** - Many car stereos have RCA jacks or other ports specifically for connecting a backup camera. This makes setup easier than using a multipurpose A/V input.
- **Rearview output to dashboard screen** - A car stereo that can output the camera feed to your dashboard screen enables you to see the camera while driving forward, not just in reverse. This allows the camera to double as a rearview mirror.
- **Widescreen display** - Matching the aspect ratio of your camera and stereo display ensures you get a crisp, undistorted image from the backup camera. Most cameras today record in widescreen format.
- **Camera compatibility** - Check that the stereo supports analog NTSC or digital cameras if you already have one or want a specific camera technology. Wireless backup cameras are also available.

- **Video settings** - Adjustments like brightness, contrast, and zoom may be available on higher-end stereos to customize the camera output to your preferences.

Choosing a Backup Camera

Here are some things to consider when selecting a backup camera to pair with your new [car stereo with a backup camera](#):

- Resolution and night vision capabilities
- Size of camera - smaller profiles make installation easier
- Viewing angle to match your vehicle's dimensions
- Wired or wireless cameras
- IP67 rated for automotive use and weather resistance
- Infrared (IR) lighting for lowlight visibility

Installation Tips

Installing a stereo with a camera yourself is completely doable with some key tips in mind:

- Carefully review the wiring diagram for both devices and make the appropriate connections. Pay special attention to the accessory, reverse lamp, and ground wires.
- Mount the camera high on the vehicle's rear for optimal visibility past cargo, luggage, and passengers. The license plate area is ideal.
- Run wiring through the vehicle's rubber grommets into the trunk to hide and protect wires. Use electrical tape and wire looms as needed.
- The stereo may need to be programmed or have settings adjusted once connected to recognize the camera input. Refer to instructions.

- Have all connections soldered or crimped securely, not just twisted together, for reliability.

If done properly, having a backup camera feed directly into your stereo can greatly improve visibility and make backing up significantly safer and easier. Just take time to ensure everything is connected correctly. Then you can enjoy the convenience this upgrade provides!