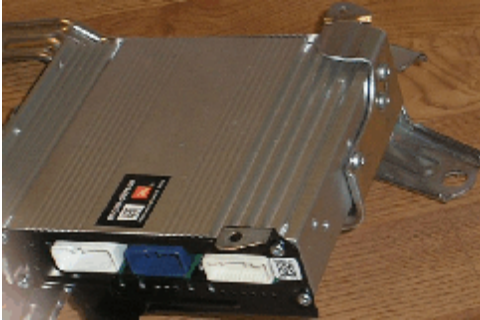


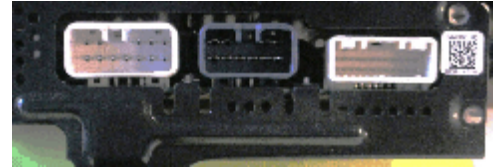
2008 Prius Audio Upgrade May-June 2009

Well, when I purchased the car in May of 2008, I knew right away that the sound system would be upgraded. I just didn't know how long it would be before that was to happen.

My first concern was the JBL amp because it controls volume and fader control; simply replacing the amp would not be an option.

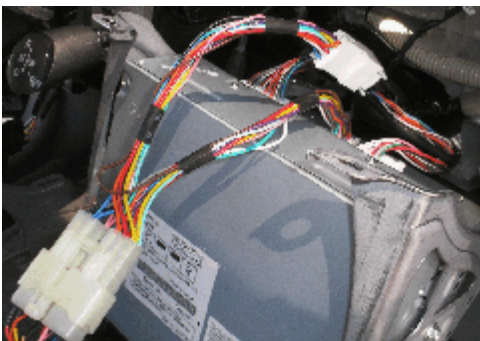


JBL Amp



Amp Connections

Next was iPod integration. Using the aux in from the center console was not going to cut it. I knew my iPod could sound so much better. USA Spec iPod integration helped there. In removing the factory radio, it was necessary to remove the lower panel below the steering wheel; it was necessary to do that prior to removing the upper panel above the steering wheel first. The AC vent to the left of the radio has mounting clips underneath the upper panel.

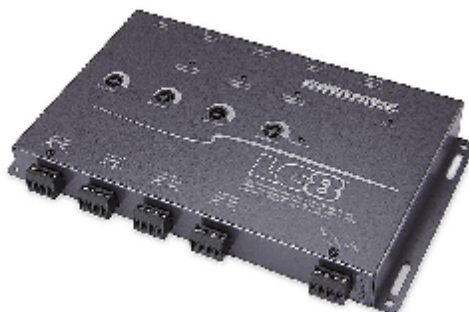


iPod Wiring Harness



USA Spec iPod Adapter

My next concern was how to keep all the functionality of the NAV and bluetooth capability. I had considered both the CleanSweep and AudioControl as preamplifiers. I eventually ruled out the CleanSweep because it was designed to not use the factory system volume control.

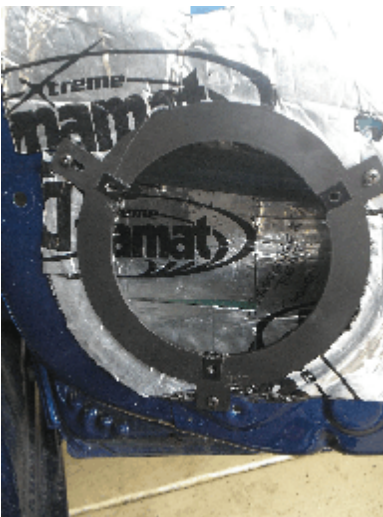


AudioControl LC8

Now I needed speakers and an amplifier. Went with Clarion 1620M 6.5" components front and rear and a Pioneer GF6400M amplifier (60W x 4 RMS). I also wanted dynamat. Now where to mount the LC8 and Pioneer amp. Eventually decided on the rear storage tray.



Clarion 1620 M 6.5" component speakers



Speaker Mount



Inner and Outer Door Skins



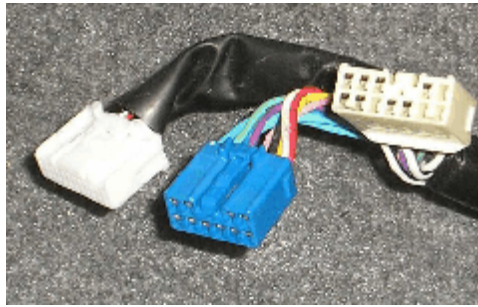
Crossover



Crossover

I used the dynamat on both inner and outer door skins, as well as trunk, firewall, and floor. Once that was completed, but before putting the cabin back together, I placed the wiring from the JBL amp to the rear storage tray, and ran speaker wire from the rear storage tray to the front speakers in anticipation of mounting the speakers in the near future. I got this neat stuff from Crutchfield that had eight speaker wires and a remote power wire all combined into this clear jacket. Neat. I actually didn't connect the wiring up at this point, because I needed to construct some sort of mounting platform for the amp and LC8. Additionally, I drilled out the three rivets per woofer and mounted them back in place using screws.

I was apprehensive about cutting into the factory wiring harness. Because I would be using the AudioControl LC8, I needed to tap into the factory wiring harness. I eventually ended up cutting the factory harness.

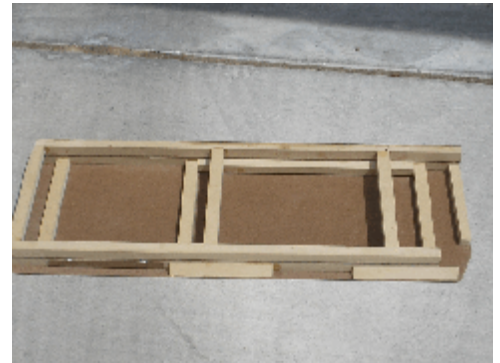


Wiring Harness at JBL Amp

I created a mounting platform using wood scraps I had lying around and covered it in black vinyl.



Top View



Bottom View

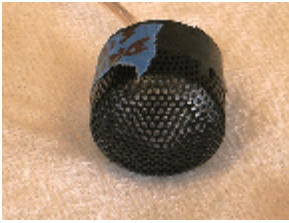


Finished Product

Mounting the woofers was no problem; used the supplied mounting rings and hardware. Mounting the tweeters was more problematic because the Clarion tweeters were .75" as opposed to the JBL 1.0". With my trusty Dremel tool and a hot glue gun, that problem was solved. The tweeters came with both flush-mount and surface-mount options.

I sliced the flush-mount trim rings and mounted the tweeters in there and glued the whole assembly into the factory

locations.



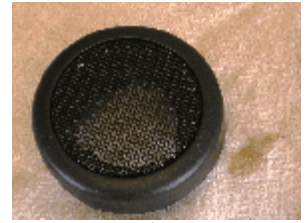
Tweeter



Tweeter flush-mount



JBL rear door mount



JBL rear door mount



Tweeter flush-mount before and after



Tweeter factory mount



Tweeter front door mounted



Tweeter rear door mounted



Tweeter assembly components

The system sounds wonderful; I needed to set tweeters front and rear at their -3dB settings to reduce harshness.