



(Researched and written by Chris Sanderson)

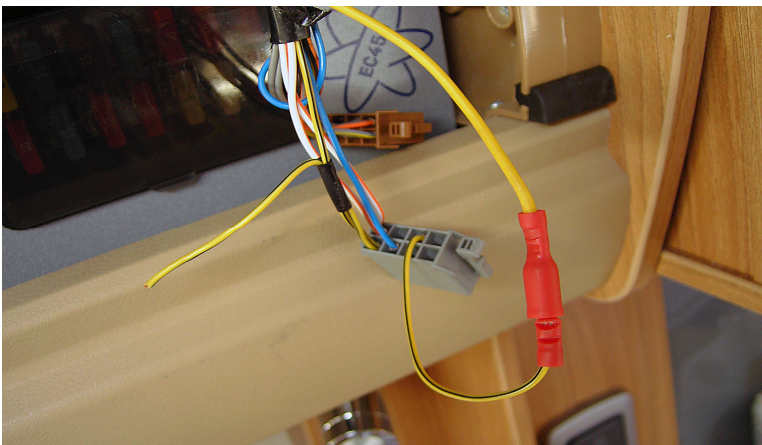
Radios in caravans - loss of set up and station memory settings.

If you like me like to listen to the radio fitted in your caravan I would imagine you have had to basically reset everything from scratch each time you get to your chosen site. Also annoyingly, what can often happen is once the car is disconnected, the radio will come into life on its own and if its volume is set low etc it will go unnoticed tucked away in its cupboard draining down the leisure battery you were hoping would last through your rally.

The reason is basically down to the fact that whereas in a car etc there are two 12 volt feeds to a radio, one permanent 12 volts and one switched 12 volt supply via the ignition, in a caravan there is only one 12 volt feed. Unfortunately this one feed disappears each time you hitch up to the car, due to the fact that a device called the Habitation Relay (HR) in the caravan operates, and cuts off the 12 volt leisure battery supply to everything it normally supplies.

There is a straightforward wiring modification that can be carried out to avoid loss of settings etc.

1. Disconnect Leisure battery (safety precaution)
2. Remove radio from its housing – slide in keys to facilitate this normally supplied with your radios instructions.
3. Identify the wiring plugs on the rear of the radio – brown for the speaker connections and grey for the power. These are DIN standard plugs common to all modern car radios so all connections irrespective of radio or car/caravan manufacture are exactly the same. Remove these plugs – don't worry, the plugs and sockets are spigot keyed so you cannot plug them back incorrectly. Set radio to one side.
4. On the grey plug you will note wiring connected to the following pins – 4, 5, 7 and 8. To help orientate the plug pins 1, 2, 3 and 6 will be spare. (See photo)
DIN standard gives Pin 4 is a permanent 12volt supply, pin 5 a 12 volt output from the radio to power an aerial amplifier, pin 7 is a switched 12 volt supply and pin 8 is an earth.
5. Identify the short piece of wire that connects pin 4 to pin 7, and cut this.
6. Using a suitable connector (spade connectors used in photo) connect a new wire to pin 4. This wire should be of sufficient length to reach a permanent 12 volt point in your caravan. Check the wiring diagram for your caravan, but often this might be best achieved by simply connecting to the leisure battery positive side via a suitable 5amp fuse
7. Insulate the other cut wire end with tape.
8. Connect back the plugs, carefully slide radio back into its cage housing making sure no wiring is trapped then reconnect leisure battery
9. Test your work – check what happens when you switch off the 12 volt supply in the caravan etc. Once you have set your radio and providing you don't disconnect the leisure battery all your settings should stay as set.
10. *Pat yourself on the back and enjoy a nice beer.*



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