

Volunteer Audio Installation Tips



HD GROUND PROBLEMS



Congratulations! Your new receiver is wired up and installed. The music sounds great but the handlebar controls don't work. If the wiring is right and the interface is properly initialized, then you may have a problem with a poor ground.

Common problems caused by a poor ground connection

- Handlebar controls that act erratically and will not hold a setting
- Speakers that come and go intermittently
- Receiver overheating
- Noise

Every electrical signal that goes out needs a return path. Ground provides this path.

Handlebar control interfaces are very sensitive. If the ground path is disrupted the interface will malfunction and need to be reinitialized.

Audio components should always be on the same ground point. When at all possible we recommend attaching your audio equipment harness's ground wires (black wires) *only* through the motorcycle's factory harness.


If for some reason a chassis ground is needed (such as a damaged ground in the harness) make sure the new wire is to a true metal chassis point.

Dealing with a poor ground issue

- ✓ Check that your chassis ground points are secure and attached to clean metal.
- ✓ Make sure your audio components are attached to a single ground.
- ✓ With the exception of a fork ground, we recommend using a known factory ground point.
- ✓ Wiggle the ground wires (especially near the terminals) while the stereo is on to check intermittent issues. Wires may become frayed and broken over time (especially due to steering) resulting in intermittent connections.
- ✓ Run a ground wire direct to the battery when adding external amps or bypassing a damaged harness ground.

Miscellaneous

You may need a wiring diagram for your motorcycle if the problem ground point(s) cannot be located quickly at obvious locations.

A ground point in a wiring diagram is marked with this symbol, . Ground is also referred to as *common* in electronic circuits. If you see **+** and **-** (positive and negative) the negative side is the common path, or ground. Don't let the two terms confuse you. In the E.I.A. standard wire color code, black represents the ground wire.