The easiest way to connect your lpod to the Renault radio.

Before explaining how to do this, first the advantages and disadvantages:

Advantages:

- 1. Easy to install
- 2. Material needed costs less than EUR 10
- 3. Volume (including mute) will work with the remote control behind the steering wheel
- 4. Your lpod music on your radio

Disadvantages:

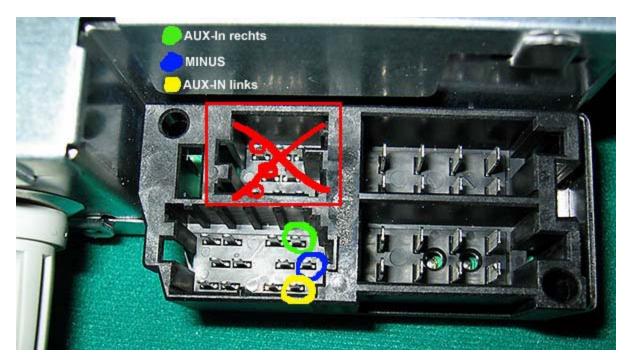
- 1. No music/song information on the radio screen
- 2. It will not automatically charge your lpod
- 3. You cannot skip songs with the radio remote control

With more advantages than disadvantages ©, here is the story:

While surfing on the forum I discovered that the standard Renault radio has an AUX-input on the back of the radio. There are several interfaces (like IceLink) which connect your Ipod to almost any radio, but they are quite expensive. Because the Renault radio does not produce spectacular sounds, a cheap and easy way would do fine for my Ipod music.

The link to start, with many thanks to our German forum members, was: <u>http://board.mccforum.de/viewtopic.php?t=1656&highlight=aux</u>

The relevant info for the standard Renault radio can be found on the back of the radio:



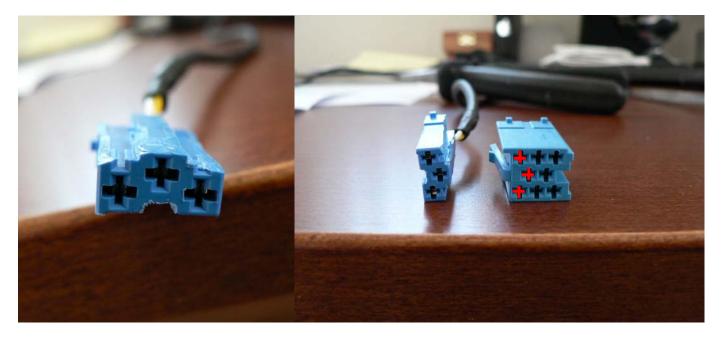
With this information, the search for an easy adapter just began. After a few hours of 'googling' I found a "mini-iso \rightarrow mini jack" converter cable at the Conrad store (<u>http://www.conrad.nl</u>). Order part number 378292 – 89 with an investment of only EUR 7.95 and you will get the following:



Until here, no difficult DIY-stuff was needed. As you probably noticed, the blue plug fit seamlessly into the socket indicated in red in the first picture.... I tried, but it won't produce any sound at all. So some minor modifications must be done to the mini-iso plug.

5 of the 8 holes have to be removed. Simply get any sharp knife, and get all empty holes removed from the plug. The plastic plug is pretty hard on the outside; please make sure you do not cut any of the three holes already connected to the cable.

The following pictures show the end result you should achieve:



What is important?

- 1. As you can see in the front picture, you should remove all empty holes;
- 2. Please make sure, that the bottom of the plug has an U-shape, if else is will not fit;
- 3. The comparison picture shows, in red, the original plug and the custom made, Renault proof plug.

OK, when done you are almost there!

Remove the radio from the dashboard (stick two small screwdrivers into the two of the four holes (left or right) which can be seen in the front of the radio. It will release the radio with a little push from the back. Please repeat on the other side of the radio).

When the radio is removed, you can fit your custom made iso-plug into your radio as follows (the marked AUX-input on the first picture):



This is what you see in the picture:

- 1. Yellow plug is from the remote control on the steering wheel
- 2. Blue plug is the lpod connector
- 3. White plug is the normal radio connector
- 4. Black plug is the second normal radio connector

Because the blue plug is melded in the factory, it will hold by itself and there is no need to glue or tape it to the radio.

The standard cable is long enough (approx. 30-40cm) to get your lpod almost anywhere in the care (although I did not try the glove compartment). I have chosen to "install" it directly under the radio, so I can skip songs and scroll through the library when necessary.

A small hole in the compartment below the radio will do the job of the ability to store the lpod below the radio. There is enough cable to drive and play with you lpod without losing your sight on the road.



And the final result:



Enjoy!

Simon