

BMW e85 / e86 Double Din Facia

Installation Instructions



Thank you for purchasing one of our Double Din Facia's, these have been designed in CAD and 3D printed using the latest HP Fusion Jet Technology. The unit has been designed to replace the existing air vents and radio from an e85 or e86 BMW Z4 (2002 – 2009) and redirects the air flow down the side vents in the facia unit, making the necessary space for a standard Double Din in Car Entertainment Head Unit, albeit with a Short Chassis design.

A standard Double Din Head Unit requires an opening of 100mm x 178mm, and this unit has been designed with an opening of 100.5mm x 179.25mm. This is to allow for the standard deviation between the various head units on the market, and the slight differences in the front bezel dimensions of a head unit and the rear chassis part of the head unit, as there is a 0 to 1.5mm difference between the head units measured.

To remove the existing air vents from your car, please refer to YouTube for videos on how to extract them. You will need a fine flat bladed screwdriver to release the clips in the upper roof of the vents, and then simply extract. Once removed, remove the two screws



holding in the factory radio. Slide out the radio and uncouple the wiring harness of the radio and unplug the Aerial (Fakra connector). If your car has been fitted with an aftermarket handsfree kit, such as a Parrot, then remove all the components and additional wiring harnesses, so that you are left with just the factory wiring.

Once the factory vents and radio are removed, test fit the new facia unit into the dashboard, so that you get a feel for how it will install. You may need to move wiring out of the way with your fingers to get the Facia unit to sit in the correct place. Once test fitted, remove the facia unit. If there is a slight interference between the Facia Unit and behind the dashboard, you may need to trim off some of the excess factory residue / trim overall that sits behind the factory dashboard facia. The new Facia unit has been test fitted in 8 vehicles, and only on one occasion did a slight trim be required.



Take your new Double Din Head Unit and remove its outer mounting cage, as this is not required for this installation. Slide your new Head Unit into the Facia supplied. It will be a loose fit until you install the side mounting bolts, so be careful not to let it fall out and get damaged.

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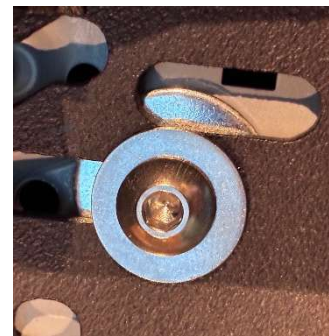
Take the two Domed M5 x 16mm bolt and washer (supplied), and using the side mounting ISO fixing holes, insert the M5 bolt into one of the side mounting holes in your head unit. If you have bought a Chinese Android unit, these might not come with the ISO mounting holes, so they are not guaranteed to fit this facia unit. This is as advised in the advert.



If when you have loosely inserted the M5 bolts, there is a gap between the inner face of the facia unit and the chassis of your head unit, then use some of the supplied washers



to shim out this gap. If you don't shim this gap out, then when you tighten the two M5 bolts (3mm Allen Key required, not supplied), it will distort the overall facia unit. The gap exists due to the tolerances mentioned above. Line up the front of the head unit with the facia and once the shims (washers) are in place,



tighten up the M5 bolts, just enough for friction to hold the head unit in place. The Head Unit is now installed in the facia and is ready to go into the dashboard.

Ensure that all wiring is installed and routed so that it does not snag or prevent the unit from being slid into place. Be aware that your head unit will have come with its own plugs in the back of the head unit and provides ISO plugs on the other end. You will also require a specific ISO to BMW Z4 (e85/e86) harness so that your unit connects to the standard BMW plug. This additional harness can be bought with, or without, steering wheel control module (Connect 2). They are about £10 - £40 respectively. You may also need a specific patch cable to make the steering wheel controls to fully operate. These are readily available from eBay or Amazon.

An Aerial adapter might also be required for the BMW Fakra Aerial Lead, again readily available from eBay or Amazon for just a few pounds. If you are installing a rear-view camera, please install that wiring, along with any USB charging leads, or wired Android or Car Play, depending upon your Head Units functions.



Once all your cabling is installed, a test of the unit should take place, making sure everything comes on and functions as expected. You can loosely install the Facia into the Dashboard to save having to hold and balance in your hands.



Once you are satisfied that all is working as it should, its time to install the Facia into the



dashboard. Using the two Flat Headed M6 and large washers, slide the M6 bolts into the back of the facia and into the bolts locating slots. The large washer is used to spread the load of the bolt over a larger area and is essential to prevent over stressing of the 3D

bolt bracket. These bolts and washer, whilst a close fit, they will



fall out of the slots if the unit is not held level when

offering up the unit into the dashboard. If these bolts are moving around,

consider putting a tiny blob of “blutak” on the bottom of the washer or utilise the small Nylon Washer, just to hold these bolts in place. The bolts

will automatically align to the hole hidden in the

facia unit between the vent’s slats when slotted all the way to the

end of the bolt slot. You will find this hole in the 7th vent slat from

the top. Insert a 4mm Allen Key (not supplied) into this hole and

engage the Allen key into the bolt head. This might be a little fiddly,

but everything will align. If you have two 4mm Allen Keys, then

insert and engage both bolts simultaneously, but this isn’t

essential.



With the two M6 bolts and associated washers in place, offer up the facia unit to the

dashboard, keeping it level so the M6 bolts don’t drop out of there bolts slides. Align the

facia unit with the opening in the dashboard, and whilst feeding in the wires and making

sure that they don’t get trapped, push the facia unit into place. The facia will sit slightly

proud of the dash, as the M6 bolts will be preventing it from sitting snugly. Using the

4mm Allen key, start to tighten one of the M6 bolts, just a couple of turns so that its

engages in the factory captive plastic female bolt fixing (these are the white plastic parts

that the factory radio bolted in to). Once you feel one bolt engage, start to engage the

second bolt on the other side of the facia. Once both M6 bolts have engaged, tighten

both bolts up until the facia unit sits neatly in the right place. You may need to push the

facia unit a millimetre or two to get it to sit on the facia rebate correctly. Once you are

satisfied that the facia is in place, lightly tighten the M6 bolts, remember these bolts only

need tightening to hold the facia in place.

IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN THESE M6 BOLTS OTHERWISE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE BOLT HOLDER ON THE REAR OF THE UNIT WILL SNAP OFF.

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That's it, the facia is now installed, and you have use of a modern head unit, with car play, Bluetooth, telephone etc, providing an noticeable improvement in sound quality even with stock BMW speakers. You also get air flow through the side vents, controllable using the factory air flow dials.

Removal is a simple as installation, just watch out for the M6 bolts when you remove the unit, as they may fall out and drop behind the dashboard.

What you should receive

Double Din Facia Unit, with foam strip already installed.

2No M5 x 16mm Domed Head Bolts, with 15mm Washers

2No M6 x 16mm Flat Headed Bolts, with 20mm Washers and small Nylon Washer

2No additional 20mm Washers (for shimming)

Small plastic bag with bolts and washers in it



Suggested Head Units

- Kenwood DMX8021DABS
- Kenwood DMX7722DABS
- Kenwood DMX129DAB – This unit has been tested and is 1.5mm smaller than the others, so you will have a gap of about 0.75mm between head unit and facia.
- Alpine iLX-W690D
- Pioneer DMHA240DAB
- Pioneer DMHA340DAB
- JVCKW-M785DBW
- JVC KW-M180BT

Each of these units will require ;

- Wiring harness to be used between the Head Unit (ISO Plugs) and the BMW standard interface plug.
- A different harness is required for the steering wheel controls to work, and some harnesses also need an additional patch wire to make steering wheel controls to function fully.
- Possibly a Fakra Aerial adapter to accept the ISO BMW aerial lead.
- DAB Aerial amplifier / adapter, or even a separate DAB aerial that fits inside the window frame.
- Possibly a splitter for aerial and DAB with a signal amplifier. It only works with DAB when there's a strong signal, so if you want DAB, go for a dedicated DAB aerial.
- Possibly some USB leads for connecting to iPhone or Android Devices for charging / car, as most units will come with USB's inputs.
- Finally, if you head unit supports a rear facing camera, then you'll require the leads for that to work.