

April 2014

At the General Meeting Tuesday April 1st during the tech talk I brought up that I had added Bluetooth capabilities to our 2008 Corvette Coupe. The following applies only to 2005 through 2008 C6 Corvettes. I used the Corvette Forum as a starting point of my research. The end result is that I am using a **Kinivo BTC450 Bluetooth Car Kit** http://www.kinivo.com/Kinivo-BTC450-Bluetooth-Hands-Free-Input/dp/B009NLTW60?field_availability=-1&field_browse=2866011011&id=Kinivo+BTC450+Bluetooth+Hands-Free+Input&ie=UTF8&refinementHistory=brandtextbin%2Csubjectbin%2Ccolor_map%2Cprice%2Csize_name&searchNo delID=2866011011&searchPage=1&searchRank=salesrank&searchSize=12 with an adapter from <http://www.kawal.net/auxinput.htm> (\$40) that permits the Kinivo to broadcast through the stock Corvette sound system. I used the Alternative 2 (AUX-2) harness because I have a current XM subscription. I also have the built-in Navigation system which doesn't have a 3.5mm jack as part of the non-nav system.

I was able to do the install within about 20 minutes with no tools to speak of. If you want to install the jack permanently you will need to drill a 1/2" hole. All my wiring came together in the center console. I used a Radio Shack cigarette lighter adapter (makes the single cigarette lighter in the console capable of plugging three devices in). I have the CB radio plugged into one and a USB connector in the other one so your phone or tablet can be charged. There is a USB input as part of the Kinivo which means you can use and charge two devices at a time. I also put the mic on the center console immediately in front of the console lid so that either the driver or the passenger can use the phone.

Read through the instructions on the Kawal.net site and make sure you are purchasing the correct harness.

Once you have it all installed you can make and receive cell phone calls from your cell that is played back through the cars speakers. You can also play music from your cell including Pandora or other internet music sites. I can play my personal music collection from the phone and if you use the cell phone mapping it is also broadcast through the car system.

The only downside I have found so far is that the Kinivo can only have one device connected through Bluetooth at a time.

There are some considerations you might want to make before you purchase. Such as do I have XM and if I do, will I still want it after I have access to my own music or internet music? The same goes for the Car's phone system that is part of the OnStar system. Just remember the car phone is a satellite phone and your cell is not. That means if you are out of cell phone range very often you might want to keep that service – if not that is another way of saving some money.

Once installed the car radio must be turned to XM2 to hear everything through the car system. You can still use XM2 by just unplugging the Kinivo from the lighter. Your volume control for everything on the phone uses the car system including the controls on the steering wheel. Siri works so I suspect whatever cell you have will integrate the same way. I can verbally tell the phone to call someone from my contacts list or simply state the number to call. Your cell can be in your pocket it doesn't need to be physically connected to the system unless you want to charge it.

If I can be of any assistance give me a call

Fred Smith