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Be Connected Next-generation infotainment system that enables harmonious connectivity with smartphone applications. Begin your journey with MAZDA CONNECT. You will no longer be in the dark about your vehicle's condition. Car diagnosis and vehicle health reports are always accessible. SEE MORE Seamless connectivity between your car and
your smartphone allows for uninterrupted entertainment through improved Bluetooth® connection. Amplifying your state of being through an elevated and enjoyable driving experience. SEE MORE With the available Apple CarPlay for iPhone, you can operate essential communication, music and map apps more conveniently. Android Auto™ is also
available for Android smartphone users. Experience the world of hyper-connectivity while staying focused on the road.*Apple CarPlay shown SEE MORE Stay connected without taking your hands off the wheel. Make phone calls and send text messages using voice control. Maintain relationships through communication even when you're the go. SEE
MORE Achieve confidence and enjoyment out of your destination effortlessly with a more convenient and comfortable driving experience.
SEE MORE Check here to see if your smartphone is compatible or for information on map and software updates. SEE MORE Have a question or need help troubleshooting? See this page first for the most frequently asked questions. SEE MORE MacFormat Magazine Getty ImagesApple CarPlay can be a useful feature for connecting your smartphone
to your car's infotainment system, but there may be times when you need to turn it off. We've created this guide to help you understand the Apple CarPlay Eature and Display Driving DataWhat Is CarPlay? Apple CarPlay is a built-in feature of many
newer vehicles. It's a convenient software that allows you to sync your iPhone with your car's infotainment system, working with features such as its touch-screen display, button panel, voice command, and audio system. Connecting your car's infotainment system with the Apple CarPlay software allows you to use certain iPhone applications through
your car's integrated interface, like its touch-screen display. CarPlay syncs automatically when you plug your phone into your car or it connects using wireless technology. Types of CarPlay Features applications include virtual car keys, navigation
software, voice commands, messaging options, and entertainment features. Virtual car keys feature allows you to unlock and start your car with your phone. You can start your car with your phone. You can start your car and when they can
have access, which can be a helpful feature for setting the access permissions for new drivers. For example, if you have a teen driver at home, you can set the virtual car keys application can work for up to five hours even after
your phone battery dies. Navigation Software The Apple CarPlay software can sync your preferred navigation application from your phone to your car. While many cars have integrated GPS systems, your phone may have other options that you might prefer. By connecting your device to your car, you can display your preferred navigational tool on the
car's interface. The application can play voice directions through your car's audio system, making them clear, loud, and easy to follow. Voice commands let you navigate phone applications and request information hands-free. You can ask for directions, request music,
make calls, and send messages verbally. This allows you to keep your focus on the road, improving safety while ensuring you have the access you need to your phone features. Messaging is another valuable feature provided by CarPlay. It lets you send and receive electronic messages like emails and texts using voice commands
and the car's audio system. You can listen to messages and dictate responses to send to your contacts. This is a convenient way to contact others and handle work-related correspondences while on the road. Entertainment CarPlay also gives you access to entertainment applications during your commute. You can play music, podcasts, audiobooks, and
radio programs using your favorite phone applications. By using your phone's applications, you have access to more options than through your car's standard software. How To Choose When To Use CarPlay There are times when using CarPlay may be beneficial and times when you may prefer it off. You might choose to use CarPlay when: Increasing
Convenience: CarPlay offers many convenient features that provide access to phone applications while on the road. If you need uninterrupted access to your messaging systems or prefer your phone's applications to those installed in the car's system, CarPlay may be a convenient choice for you. Expanding Software Options: Using CarPlay can give you
access to more options than your car's existing settings. For example, your car's internal navigation system might not offer as many options as your favorite GPS system installed on your car's internal navigation system might not offer as many options as your favorite GPS system installed on your car's internal navigation system might not offer as many options as your favorite GPS system installed on your car's internal navigation system might not offer as many options as your favorite GPS system installed on your car's internal navigation system installed on y
can access and operate your vehicle and gives you control over when they can use it, which is a useful function for someone who shares their car often. You might choose not to use CarPlay when: Using Your Car's Integrated Features: Some drivers prefer to use their car often. You might choose not to use CarPlay when: Using Your Car's Integrated Features: Some drivers prefer to use their car often. You might choose not to use CarPlay when: Using Your Car's Integrated Features: Some drivers prefer to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use CarPlay when: Using Your Car's Integrated Features: Some drivers prefer to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not to use their car often. You might choose not use the car 
uses its default features rather than prioritizing your phone's settings. Driving a Rental Car: Although CarPlay maintains your personal data. Limiting Distractions: Since CarPlay increases your available options, disabling it can reduce the number of
distractions it provides. How To Turn off CarPlayDisclaimer: The guidelines in this story are general and not meant to replace instructions for your specific vehicle. Please consult your owner's manual or repair guide before attempting repairs. There are two methods for disabling CarPlay—through your Settings, which lets you disconnect from a single
vehicle, or through your iPhone restrictions menu, to prevent connecting to any vehicle. Turning off CarPlay Through Settings app. 2. Scroll to the third section of options and select "General." settings menu, select "CarPlay." menu shows the vehicles synced to your phone. To disconnect from a
vehicle, tap on the option you'd like to forget. Selecting a vehicle takes you to the vehicle menu. This option allows you to forget a single car while allowing your iPhone to connect to other cars. Turning off CarPlay
Through Restrictions 1. Open your Settings app. 2. Scroll to the second section of the application and select "Screen Time menu, scroll and tap "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions." 4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option is a select "Select "Allowed Apps." If you the you to click this option is a select "Select "Select "Select "Select "Select "Select "
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produced independently of the Car and Driver editorial staff, provides articles about cars and the automotive industry to help readers make informed purchasing choices. Hearst Autos Research, produced independently of the Car and Driver Editorial staff, provides articles about cars and the automotive industry to help readers
make informed purchasing choices. If you're a Mazda owner itching to connect your iPhone seamlessly to your vehicle, you're probably wondering, how to install Apple CarPlay in Mazda models come with Apple CarPlay in Mazda models or even some older ones with compatible infotainment
systems can be upgraded. Mazda has increasingly adopted Apple CarPlay because it offers a safer, more convenient way to access your apps, messages, and navigation directly from your dashboard. Before rushing into the installation process, it's vital to understand whether your Mazda model is compatible. Typically, vehicles from 2018 onward tend
to support Apple CarPlay either natively or through a simple software upgrade. Some Mazda models require an aftermarket solution if they lack this feature. Knowing your vehicle's compatibility helps you avoid unnecessary steps and ensures a smoother installation experience. To check, consult your Mazda owner's manual or visit Mazda's official
website, where they provide specific info on compatible models and versions, making your journey toward a more integrated driving experience much easier. Step-by-Step Guide to Installing Apple CarPlay in your Mazda Installing Apple CarPlay in your Mazda is generally straightforward, especially if your vehicle already supports it. First, verify
compatibility as mentioned earlier. If your Mazda is compatible, the next step is to acquire the correct hardware or software update might be all you need. For others, an aftermarket stereo or interface might be required. Once you have
everything ready, turn on your vehicle's ignition, then navigate to the infotainment system settings. Enable any available Apple CarPlay options, and connect your iPhone with a lightning cable or via Bluetooth if supported. Follow the on-screen prompts to pair your device, which usually involves confirming a PIN code displayed on both your phone
and screen. Once paired, your iPhone should automatically launch Apple CarPlay within your Mazda's display. It's that simple! Keep in mind, some setups might require additional steps like downloading specific apps or firmware updates, but overall, the process is designed to be user-friendly. Required Tools and Materials for Installation Before
diving into the process, gathering the right tools and materials will save you time and avoid headaches. The essentials include a good-quality lightning cable for the initial connection, a compatible iPhone with the latest iOS update, and a stable internet connection if you need to download updates or apps. If your Mazda doesn't support Apple CarPlay
natively, you might need a compatible aftermarket interface or a new stereo system designed for CarPlay compatibility. Some aftermarket upgrades come with detailed installation kits that include all necessary connectors and mounting hardware. Additionally, having basic tools like screwdrivers, pry tools, and possibly a steering wheel puller can
come in handy if you're swapping out components. It's also wise to keep your owner's manual nearby in case you need to reference specific steps or cautions. Remember, safety comes first—if you're uncomfortable with any step, consider seeking professional help to avoid damaging your vehicle or voiding warranties. Preparing Your Mazda's
Infotainment System for Apple CarPlay Preparation is key to a smooth upgrade when installing Apple CarPlay in your Mazda. Start by ensuring your vehicle is parked in a safe, well-lit area and turned off completely. If your Mazda has a touchscreen infotainment system, clean the screen gently to remove dust and fingerprints. Once cleaned, turn on
the vehicle and access the system settings. Look for options, consult the manual or manufacturer's website for specific upgrade instructions.
Disconnect any Bluetooth connections to prevent interference during setup. It's also a good idea to back up your settings if possible, especially if you plan to do a hardware upgrade. Proper preparation minimizes the risk of glitches and ensures your system recognizes your iPhone correctly once connected. Taking these initial steps can make the
entire process smoother and less stressful. Connecting Your iPhone to Mazda's Infotainment System Connecting your iPhone to your Mazda's infotainment system is the core step in activating Apple CarPlay. Start by plugging your iPhone into the vehicle using a certified lightning cable—avoid generic cables that might cause connection issues. Once
connected, your Mazda dashboard should detect the device automatically, and a prompt will appear on the screen asking if you want to enable Apple CarPlay. Confirm this prompt, and your iPhone will ask for permission to allow CarPlay to access your device while connected; tap "Allow" to proceed. In some Mazda vehicles, the connection is
check the cable, ensure your iPhone's software is up to date, and verify device permissions. Once set up, your Mazda acts as a smart hub, giving you easy control over your iPhone is connected, customizing your Apple CarPlay experience in
Mazda ensures you get the most out of the setup. Head into your vehicle's infotainment system menu and find the settings related to Apple CarPlay interface and manage permissions. It's smart to organize your favorite apps so they're
easily accessible when you're on the move, reducing distraction. Also, explore options for enabling or disabling notifications while CarPlay is active, which can help keep the interface uncluttered. Don't forget to check your iPhone's own settings—navigate to Settings > General > CarPlay and select your Mazda to customize options further. Adjust
sound settings, enable Siri voice commands for hands-free control, and review privacy settings to ensure your data stays protected. Proper configuration not only enhances usability but also ensures your driving remains safe and enjoyable with a tailored Apple CarPlay setup. Troubleshooting Common Apple CarPlay Installation Issues in Mazda Even
with careful planning, issues can crop up during the installation or initial connection of Apple CarPlay. If your Mazda isn't recognizing your iPhone, the first step is to double-check the cable and port. Faulty or damaged cables are a common culprit, so trying a different certified cable might solve the problem. Ensure your iPhone's iOS version is
current, as outdated software can cause compatibility issues. If CarPlay appears but isn't functioning or crashing—try restarting your iPhone and the vehicle's infotainment system. Resetting network settings on your iPhone can also resolve stubborn connection issues. For aftermarket setups, make sure firmware and
software are up-to-date. If issues persist, consult Mazda's support resources or seek professional help—sometimes, a simple software update or a reset is enough. Remember, patience is key when troubleshooting tech glitches, and keeping your device's firmware current reduces the likelihood of future problems. Tips for Optimizing Your Apple
CarPlay Experience in Mazda Once everything is working smoothly, there are plenty of ways to fine-tune your Apple CarPlay experience to make every drive more enjoyable. Start by customizing your favorite apps so they're just a tap away—less fumbling means safer driving. Use Siri voice commands extensively; it allows you to keep your hands on
the wheel and eyes on the road. Keep your iPhone charged or plugged in to prevent battery drain during long trips. Adjust display brightness and auto-lock settings to prevent your default destination for quicker access. Also, consider enabling to prevent your screen from dimming unexpectedly. For navigation, use Apple Maps or your preferred app and set your default destination for quicker access. Also, consider enabling to prevent your screen from dimming unexpectedly. For navigation, use Apple Maps or your preferred app and set your default destination for quicker access. Also, consider enabling to prevent your screen from dimming unexpectedly.
features like Do Not Disturb while driving to minimize distractions. Regularly updating your iOS and Mazda's infotainment software ensures you get the latest features and bug fixes. All these tips ultimately help turn your Mazda into a tech-savvy hub that feels both intuitive and safe—the goal is to enhance your driving experience without sacrificing
safety or convenience. Benefits of Having Apple CarPlay in Your Mazda Having Apple CarPlay in your Mazda isn't just about tech bragging rights; it genuinely transforms your driving experience. The biggest benefit is seamless access to your iPhone's apps without cluttering or overloading your vehicle's display, leading to safer driving. Navigating
with Apple Maps, Waze, or other compatible apps becomes much easier, especially with Siri voice control, so you can keep your eyes on the road. Playlists, podcasts, or audiobooks are at your fingertips, making every journey entertaining. Messages and calls are managed hands-free, reducing distractions and increasing safety—an absolute must-have
for modern drivers. Plus, it adds a level of convenience that's hard to match—say goodbye to fumbling with your phone while stuck in traffic. Whether you're commuting, road-tripping, or just running errands, Apple CarPlay in a Mazda elevates your vehicle's tech game, making every drive smoother, smarter, and more connected. It's like having your
digital assistant right there beside you, ready to help at a moment's notice. Safety Tips When Using Apple CarPlay While Driving While Driving
driving. Use voice commands as much as possible—Siri can handle directions, calls, and messages without you taking your hands off the wheel. Keep your eyes on the road and avoid glancing at the screen excessively; think of CarPlay as an assistive tool that should never distract you. It's also wise to familiarize yourself with the features before
driving, so you can use them instinctively. If you find yourself struggling with a connection or app function, pull over safely to sort things out rather than fumbling behind the wheel. Remember, no text, music, or app is worth compromising your safety. Prioritizing safe habits ensures that your Mazda and Apple CarPlay work together to support, not
hinder, responsible driving. Good news for Mazda owners suffering from the effects of tech envy: The maker has announced a program to retroactively integrate Apple CarPlay and Android Auto functionality to 2014 or newer model Mazda vehicles that are already equipped with the Mazda Connect infotainment system. The automaker was not an
early adopter of the technology, which has been increasingly available on new vehicles from various manufacturers since 2016. The first Mazda to get the popular services was the 2018 Mazda Connect with Apple CarPlay/Android
Auto compatibility. It also upgrades the USB ports to more powerful and faster-charging 2.1-amp units. Smartphone applications will function through the Smart Command interface via the multifunction control knob, shortcut buttons, or voice commands. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto allow users to project many of the functions and apps from their
smartphone to the in-dash screen in the vehicle after plugging the phone in to the vehicle using a USB. The advantage is that the vehicle's screen then automatically incorporates the user's personal settings and apps and looks similar to the familiar smartphone interface. Owners of applicable vehicle interested in having the upgrade performed should
contact their Mazda dealership. The service is priced at $199 plus labor and is estimated to require two hours to complete. Andrew Wendler brings decades of wrenching, writing, and editorial experience with numerous outlets to Car and Driver. His work has appeared in numerous publications,
including Car and Driver, Esquire, Forbes, Hot Rod, Motor Trend, MPH, MSN, and Popular Mechanics, among others. A Rust Belt native and tireless supporter of the region, he grew up immersed in automotive, marine, and aviation culture. A lifetime of hands-on experience and a healthy dose of skepticism provide him the tools to deliver honest and
informative news, reviews, and editorial perspective. Of note, he once won a $5 bet by walking the entire length of the elevated People Mover up track that encircles downtown Detroit. CherishYourCar.com is reader-support Apple
CarPlay, you're stuck using an infotainment system that feels a step behind—especially when you're used to having Apple Maps, Siri, or whatever a tap away on your iPhone. And if you've ever tried navigating with the built-in system, you know how clunky it can be compared to your phone. CarPlay changes that. It mirrors key iPhone apps directly to
your Mazda's screen, letting you run navigation, answer messages, and stream audio—all while keeping your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. But here's the catch: not every upgrade path is obvious. This guide breaks down everything you need to know about upgrading your Mazda CX-5 with Apple CarPlay—
whether you're driving a 2013 model or a newer one that just needs a smarter connection. We'll cover factory options, aftermarket kits, installation tips, pricing, and how real owners feel after the upgrade. If you're tired of fumbling with your phone mount or listening to FM radio because your head unit can't keep up, you're in the right place.
EurovisionNim, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons 1. Which CX-5s Need the Upgrade—and Which Already Have It Before you go shopping for kits or booking an install, you need to know exactly what your CX-5 can handle. Mazda didn't roll out Apple CarPlay across the board—it showed up slowly, depending on trim, region, and production date
Some models can get it with a simple dealer software update, others need hardware swaps, and a few already have it out of the box. Here's how it breaks down: Model-Year Quick Chart How to Check What You've Got Don't guess—confirm. Grab your VIN and: • Check your owner's manual for Mazda Connect info. • Look at the infotainment screen—
does it support Mazda Connect Version 70 or higher? • Plug in your iPhone. If CarPlay doesn't pop up, you don't have it (yet). • Or better, call a Mazda dealer with your VIN—they'll tell you what's possible. The good news? If you're in the 2017-2018 range, the official Mazda kit brings your system up to speed without ditching the stock look. If you're in the 2017-2018 range, the official Mazda kit brings your system up to speed without ditching the stock look. If you're
earlier than that, you'll be looking at aftermarket workarounds. We'll cover both in the next section. 2. Official Mazda CX-5 models equipped with the Mazda Connect system, primarily covering model years 2014 to 2018. If your CX-5
falls within that range and came with the Mazda Connect infotainment setup (not the basic non-touchscreen radio), there's a good chance you're eligible. Mazda labeled this upgrade as the "Smartphone Screen Mirroring Kit," and it includes both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto support. The most referenced part numbers include 00008FZ34 and
0000-8F-Z34, which are used interchangeably depending on region or dealership. That covers the hardware but not labor. Installation at a Mazda dealership can tack on another $200 to $600, depending on labor
rates, additional services, or if they throw in navigation or firmware updates during the process. Some owners have reported paying as little as $150 total during dealership promotions, while others were quoted over $500 with installation. It's worth calling around—pricing isn't standardized. What the Dealer Actually Does The upgrade is more than a
simple plug-and-play—it usually involves updating the infotainment firmware, replacing the uSB hub, and possibly updating the navigation maps if equipped. The process takes about 1 to 2 hours at most dealerships. You'll typically get your car back with Apple CarPlay enabled, your phone ready to connect via USB, and any relevant Mazda Connect
updates already installed. Some techs will even walk you through how to use it before handing back the keys. What You Gain—and What You Don't Going the official route comes with one big advantage: it preserves the factory look and performance. CarPlay launches right from your existing Mazda Connect screen and runs smoothly within Mazda's
native system. You'll also avoid any issues with warranty coverage or software conflicts. The downside? It's wired only. Even if your CX-5 is from 2013 or has the older infotainment platform, you're out of luck—Mazda doesn't offer a retrofit
for those builds. 3. Aftermarket Apple CarPlay Solutions Filling the Gap for Older or Unsupported Models If your CX-5 didn't come with Apple CarPlay and doesn't qualify for the official upgrade, aftermarket kits are your next best option. These third-party systems open up possibilities for 2013-2016 models and even expand features on newer ones-
especially if you're after wireless CarPlay or a larger screen. Aftermarket providers like NavTool, Carputech, and CarABC specialize in plug-and-play modules or full head unit replacements. Some retain the factory screen; others swap it entirely for an Android-based display with built-in CarPlay support. Head Unit Replacements vs. Integration
Modules There are two main directions you can go. First are replacement stereos from brands like Pioneer, Alpine, Kenwood, Sony, or Boss Audio. These require removing your factory head unit and replacing it with a new system that supports Apple CarPlay out of the box. They typically offer larger touchscreens, better audio quality, and support for
both wired and wireless CarPlay. The second route is the integration module. These plug-in boxes work with your existing Mazda Connect system, layering Apple CarPlay and Android Auto onto the factory screen. Brands like NavTool, CarABC, and Carlinkit offer options that connect behind the dash and retain your stock layout, steering wheel
controls, and backup camera. They're often marketed as "OEM-style upgrades" because they keep the original look intact. Wireless Adapters for Newer CX-5s If your CX-5 already has wireless CarPlay—typically from 2019 and up—you can skip the full upgrade and just add a wireless CarPlay adapter. Devices from Carlinkit or CarABC plug into your
USB port and let your iPhone connect over Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. It's a simple solution that eliminates the cable without touching your factory hardware. Avoid Surprise Repair Bills - FIXD tells you exactly what's wrong and what it should cost—so you're not at the mercy of a mechanic. Catch over 7,000 issues before they become expensive. Save
Thousands Over Time - One quick scan can prevent hundreds—or even thousands—in unnecessary repairs. FIXD pays for itself the first time it flags an issue. Works on Most Cars - Supports nearly all gas vehicles from 1996+ and diesel from 2006+, using your car's OBD2 port and a free smartphone app. Maintenance Alerts Built In - Automatically
tracks oil life, battery, tire wear, and more so you're never blindsided by preventable issues. Clear the Check Engine Light Yourself - Fix the problem and reset the warning light straight from your phone—no shop visit needed. Smart Buy for Used Car Shoppers - Scan before you buy to uncover hidden problems and negotiate a better deal. Try FIXD
Premium Free - Get repair cost estimates and chat with certified mechanics during your free 2-week trial. Just be aware: compatibility can be hit or miss depending on your firmware version, and some users report minor lag or dropouts with cheaper dongles. What You'll Spend Aftermarket solutions range widely in price. Integration modules typically
cost between $300 and $500, depending on the brand and model year. Replacement head units run from $250 to $700 or more, especially if you want a big-name brand with a large screen and premium features. Wireless adapters are the most affordable, generally priced between $50 and $150. Some setups come bundled with dash kits, harnesses
and cameras, while others require extra pieces to get everything working properly. If you're not going the DIY route, installation can add $100 to $400 depending on complexity and shop labor rates. Upsides and Trade-Offs The big win with aftermarket kits is expanded compatibility and better features. You're not limited by model year or Mazda's
restrictions, and you can get extras like wireless CarPlay, Android Auto, HDMI input, video playback, and custom launchers. Many of these systems also boost audio quality and offer easier screen mirroring. On the flip side, not all kits are created equal. Some require removing half your dashboard, and documentation can be spotty—especially with
less-established brands. Compatibility hiccups, touchscreen sensitivity issues, or slow boot times aren't unheard of. Still, when installed properly, most users walk away happy with the upgrade means booking time at the dealership. They'll
update your infotainment software, swap out the USB hub if needed, and run a system check to make sure CarPlay activates without issues. The whole process usually takes about one to two hours. Costs can vary depending on location. Some owners paid around $220 total, parts and labor included. Others were quoted closer to $500. A few even
reported getting it free during scheduled maintenance or as a loyalty perk—worth checking with your local dealer before booking. DIYing an Aftermarket Setup Tackling it yourself? Be ready to pull interior panels, unbolt the factory screen or head unit, and work behind the dash. Integration modules are often the easiest route—they connect behind
the existing screen and keep your factory controls. Head unit swaps demand more teardown but give you bigger displays and cleaner interfaces. You'll need basic tools: a plastic trim kit, socket set, a tape-wrapped screwdriver for tight clips, and zip ties or foam tape to manage wires. Before anything else, check your firmware version—many systems
need Mazda Connect v70 or newer to run modern kits properly. Letting a Pro Handle It Car audio shops knock these installs out fast—usually under two hours. They've already dealt with the tricky harnesses and trim clips, so you get a cleaner result without the guesswork. Labor charges typically range from $100 to $400 depending on your area and
how involved the setup is. Some brands like Niy City and Merge Screens work with certified installers, which helps if you're after a plug-and-forget experience without voiding anything. 5. What Real Owners Are Saying Feedback on the Official Mazda Upgrade Most owners who went with the dealer-installed kit report a smooth, OEM-style experience
CarPlay runs without hiccups, sound quality holds up, and steering wheel controls work like they always have. Some dealerships charge nearly double what others do for the same upgrade. And despite the $223-$275 MSRP for the kit, labor fees push totals
past $500 at certain locations. The other gripe: it's wired-only—no wireless CarPlay unless you add a separate dongle later. What Aftermarket Users Are Dealing With Replacement Stereos Swapping the entire head unit for a Pioneer, Alpine, or Sony setup often brings a huge boost in usability. Bigger screen, cleaner UI, better sound. But you might
lose access to some Mazda-specific menus unless you install integration modules or vehicle-specific harnesses. That's been a common trade-off noted in reviews. Integration Modules Plug-in boxes like the NavTool or Carputech kits are praised for keeping the factory look. They sit behind the screen and activate CarPlay over your original interface.
When installed right, most people say it works great. When it's not? You'll hear about laggy touch responses, boot delays, or audio glitches. Compatibility tends to be hit-or-miss if the firmware or model year isn't an exact match. Wireless CarPlay Adapters Carlinkit and CarABC dongles are popular with 2019+ CX-5 owners who already have wired
CarPlay. Plug one in and you're cable-free. Reviews are mixed—some users love the freedom, others mention dropped connections or delays with Siri or media apps. It works, just don't expect lightning-fast performance every time. Price vs. Performance—Where People Land Owners generally feel the upgrade is worth it. Whether it's a $220 dealer kit
or a $500 aftermarket setup, the jump in convenience—especially for navigation, messaging, and streaming—is noticeable. For those on a budget or wanting wireless CarPlay, aftermarket wins on features. But if you want peace of mind and don't mind being plugged in, the dealer route is hard to beat. Wrap-Up: Picking the Right CarPlay Upgrade for
Your CX-5 No matter which year CX-5 you're driving, there's a path to Apple CarPlay. You just need to pick the one that fits your situation. If you're behind the wheel of a 2019 or newer model, odds are you've already got it. From 2021 on, many trims even support wireless CarPlay right out of the gate. Driving a 2013-2018 model? You've got two
main choices. The official Mazda upgrade is the cleanest option—factory fit, no guesswork, and it plays nice with the existing system. It's also the only option that won't raise eyebrows at the dealership. But it's limited to specific years, and it only gets you wired CarPlay. Want more features or own a model that Mazda left out? Aftermarket kits fill in
the gaps with wireless support, bigger screens, and broader compatibility. Just be ready to either roll up your sleeves or pay for a clean install. Quality varies, so doing your homework on brands and installers is key. Whether you go OEM or aftermarket, the right setup can make your daily drive a whole lot easier—and smarter. Share — copy and
redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and
indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or
technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for
your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. First DriveImprovements to Toyota's compact electric SUV bring it closer to the competition in terms of driving range, charging capabilities, and acceleration. Reviewed ByJoey Capparella Advertisement - Continue Reading
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information. (May 2025) CarPlayWireless CarPlay in a Volkswagen ID.4Original author(s)Apple Inc.Developer(s)Apple Inc.Developer(16, 2024; 8 months ago (2024-09-16) Operating systemiOSPlatformiPhoneAvailable inSame language as the connected
iPhoneTypeTelematicsWebsiteapple.com/ios/carplay/ CarPlay is an Apple standard that enables a car radio or automotive head unit to be a display and controller for an iOS device. It is available on iPhone 5 and later models running iOS 7.1 or later. More than 800 car and motorcycle models support CarPlay, according to Apple.[1] Vehicle owners can
add support by installing certain aftermarket vehicle audio products.[2] Most CarPlay systems connect to iOS through USB,[3] and wireless support can be added through aftermarket dongles.[4] Apple Books) Podcasts (part of Apple Books) Podcasts (part of Apple Books) Podcasts (and support by installing certain aftermarket vehicle audio products.[3] and wireless support can be added through use (part of Apple Books) Podcasts (part of
Settings News Developers must obtain permission[5] from Apple to develop CarPlay-enabled apps.[6] Such apps fall into five categories: Audio: primarily provide audio content, such as music or podcasts. Examples: Amazon Music, Audible, Google Play Music, Spotify, and Overcast. Navigation: turn-by-turn guidance, including
searching for points of interests and navigating to a destination. Examples: AutoNavi, Baidu Maps, Google Maps, ChargeFinder and Waze. Automaker-made apps allow a user to control vehicle-specific features such as climate controls, gas levels, or radio via CarPlay. Messaging/Voice over IP (VoIP): listen to new messages and reply using dictation in
an audio-only interface. Messaging apps on CarPlay integrate with third-party Siri support (known as SiriKit), while VoIP apps integrate with the iOS calling interface using CallKit. Examples: Telegram, WhatsApp, and Zoom. Food-ordering apps on CarPlay integrate with the iOS calling interface using CallKit. Examples: Telegram, WhatsApp, and Zoom. Food-ordering apps on CarPlay integrate with the iOS calling interface using CallKit.
turn navigation guidance and voice-input for text messages. Newscast-style weather and stock results are announced instead of displayed. [8] Requests that bring up visual information may be blocked when the car is in gear, and most native CarPlay apps deliver audio content with minimal interaction. CarPlay-enabled apps installed on the device
display sizes and control interfaces for each vehicle: touch screen, rotary dials, buttons, steering-wheel controls, and hands-free microphones. Aftermarket head units may support CarPlay works by having the phone exchange
network credentials with a supporting CarPlay receiver over Bluetooth, establishing a two-way Wi-Fi connection. Alternatively, it is possible to use a third-party dongle adapter plugged into the car infotainment system's USB port to enable a wireless connection. This still requires a car infotainment system that supports standard (wired) CarPlay.[10]
In 2008, one year after the release of the iPhone, Mercedes vehicles were first to sell an audio system incorporating both the iPod and iPhone, equipped with 30-pin iOS input jacks. The new 2008 Harman Kardon NTG 2.5 featured full audio streaming, syncing, charging and control integrated into the steering wheel controls, instrument panel, and
head unit. Apple was working with Mercedes to develop iOS compatible audio systems into their cars first only a year after iPhone launch. With an Apple Lightning-to-30-pin adapter, iPhones/iPods remain backwards-compatible with the Harman Kardon 2.5 and later models. This is the earliest audio system specifically engineered for iPod/iPhone
 integration, which predated CarPlay and every other manufacturer incorporating iOS into vehicles.[11] The concept of CarPlay was based on the BMW Group's Technology Office USA.[12] iPod Out enabled vehicles with the necessary
infrastructure to "host" the analog video and audio from a supporting iOS device while receiving inputs, such as button presses and knob rotations, from a car's infotainment system, to drive the "hosted" user interface in the vehicle's built-in display. It was announced at WWDC 2010 and first shipped in BMW Group vehicles in early 2011. The BMW
and Mini option was called "PlugIn" and paved the way for the first cross-OEM platforms, introducing the concept of requiring a car-specific interface for apps (as opposed to MirrorLink's simple and insufficient mirroring of what was shown on the smartphone's screen).[13] CarPlay's codename was Stark.[14] Apple's Eddy Cue announced it as iOS in
the Car at WWDC 2013.[15] In January 2014, it was reported that Apple's hardware-oriented corporate culture had led to release delays.[16] iOS in the Car was then rebranded and launched as CarPlay with significant design changes at the Geneva Motor Show in March 2014[17] with Ferrari, Kia, Mercedes-Benz, and Volvo among the first car
manufacturers.[18] At WWDC 2022, Apple announced plans to release an all-new version of CarPlay, informally dubbed CarPlay 2. The new version was said to be able to control vehicle functions, access vehicle stats, and take over multiple vehicle screens. Officials said they planned to release it in late 2024[19] and that manufacturers that are
planning to adopt the new CarPlay include: Audi, Acura, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Jaguar, Land Royer, Lincoln, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Polestar, Porsche, Renault, and Volvo, [20] On January 2025, amidst delays, Apple removed the planned released date from its website. [21] On May 15, 2025, Apple announced that next-generation CarPlay, now called
CarPlay Ultra, would be included with all new vehicles from Aston Martin. Existing vehicles will also be receiving CarPlay Ultra through a future software update. [22] June 2013: Apple introduced iOS in the Car; an early version of CarPlay Ultra through a future software update.
support iOS in the Car; they later[when?] changed their minds.[24] November 2013: Siri Eyes Free mode was offered additional integration, featuring new HondaLink services, on some US and Canada models of the Civic
and the Fit. [26] March 2014: Apple introduced CarPlay, which was renamed from iOS in the Car with a full version of CarPlay, [28] November 2014: Hyundai announced the Sonata
sedan would be their first model with available CarPlay by the end of the first quarter of 2015. [29] January 2015: Volkswagen announced CarPlay support would be either standard or available on the majority of their 2016 model year lineup. [30] May 2015: General Motors announced CarPlay would be available
starting with 14 different 2016 model year Chevrolet vehicles.[31] July 2015: Honda announced CarPlay would be available in their vehicle with CarPlay in the 2016 Honda Accord.[32] December 2015: Wercedes-Benz confirmed that
CarPlay would be available starting with select 2016 model year vehicles. [34] January 2016: Apple released a list detailing the car models which support CarPlay would be available on all 2017 Ford/Lincoln model year vehicles equipped with the Sync 3 infotainment system. [36] January 2016: FCA (now a
part of Stellantis) announced CarPlay would be available on their UConnect infotainment system starting with select 2016 model year vehicles. [37] March 2016: Subaru announced the beginning of CarPlay and Android Auto support, starting with the 2017 Impreza. [38] June 2016: Nissan announced CarPlay would be available in their vehicles.
beginning with the 2017 Nissan Maxima.[39] September 2016: BMW added CarPlay as a standalone option in most of their vehicles.[40] February 2017: Harman announced the first implementation of wireless CarPlay which made its debut in the 2017 BMW 5 series.[41] April 2017: The new generation Scania range became the first heavy duty truck
in Europe to support CarPlay.[42] July 2017: The new Volvo VNL became the first motorcycle to support CarPlay.[43] October 2017: The new Volvo VNL became the first motorcycle to support CarPlay.[43] January 2018: Toyota, which was, up until this point, a notable holdout for Apple CarPlay, began to implement
CarPlay starting with the 2019 Toyota Avalon.[45] July 2018: Mazda began to implement CarPlay starting with the 2018 Mazda also began offering a CarPlay retrofit to support previous vehicles that were 2014 model year or newer and equipped with the MZD-Connect system.[47] August 2018: Harley-Davidson CarPlay support was
added to 2019 Touring models equipped with Boom! Box GTS radio.[48] December 2019: BMW no longer required a subscription to use CarPlay at WWDC 2022 which can control vehicle functions and take over multiple vehicle screens.[19] The projected release date from Apple for the
new CarPlay was late 2023. March 2023: General Motors announced plans to phase out CarPlay support in their electric vehicles in favor of a new Android Automotive system. This CarPlay phase out will start with the 2024 Chevrolet Blazer EV. New GM vehicles that are not electric vehicles, as well as any GM electric vehicle model that was released
before the Blazer EV, will retain CarPlay support for the time being.[50] July 2023: Porsche announced tighter CarPlay integration with vehicle functions through the My Porsche App. These added functions include controls. While having similar features, this was not yet the all-
new CarPlay Apple showed at WWDC 2022.[51] December 2023: Porsche and Aston Martin were the first automakers to preview vehicles running the next-generation of CarPlay (informally CarPlay 2), Aston Martin were the first automakers to preview vehicles running the next-generation of CarPlay would be launched sometime in 2024, starting with their DB12 sports car. Porsche did not state a
timeline for their next-generation CarPlay rollout.[52] January 2025: Having missed the "late 2024" rollout date for next-gen CarPlay, Apple removes the release date from its website.[21] iOS 8 introduced the option for a manufacturer to allow an iPhone to connect wirelessly. iOS 8.4 introduced
Audiobooks, a modified version of iBooks. It also introduced Apple music to the music app. iOS 9 introduced a few new features, including the ability to download a vehicle manufacturers application to allow a user to control vehicle-specific features such as climate controls or radio,[54] the Podcasts app, a redesigned Siri which is now able to read
messages, a redesigned song menu, and support for new display ranges. [55] iOS 10's Messages and reply using dictation in an audio-only interface. [56] Additionally, the update added the ability for users to rearrange and remove apps from their display through the iPhone Settings, [57] [58] while also
now showing when a third party app is being called with on the iPhone. iOS 10.3 added electric vehicle charging stations to the maps app.[59] iOS 11 redesigned and can now be tapped on to take a screenshot. The top icon on the recency bar was also
made larger. Turn-by-turn guidance was also added to the maps app, including searching for points of interests and navigation apps like Google Maps or Waze. It also increased performance in some areas, while the maps app gains new data based on dtat collected by Apple.[60] iOS 13
introduced a complete redesign which presents a split layout of maps, media information, Calendar, or Siri Suggestions. It also added Calendar, the News app, and the Settings App to the home screen, a Settings app to enable users to configure certain CarPlay specific settings, such as switching between light and dark modes, adjusting album art in
CarPlay's Now Playing screen, or enabling Do Not Disturb While Driving while in a CarPlay session, [61] while making the iPhone be able to be independently controlled from the Dashboard. In iOS 13.4, third-party map apps gained the ability to be displayed on the Dashboard. [62][63] iOS 14 added a few new features, including new preset wallpapers,
[64] the ability to run food-ordering and parking apps, [7] a revamped Siri UI which no longer takes up the entire screen, a new horizontal status bar, and support for enhanced audio messaging and VoIP apps. iOS 15 added a "city experience" to Apple Maps, replaced do not disturb with the Focus mode, added the option for a onscreen keyboard input
as an alternative to voice recognition, and revamped the maps app, featuring a 3D globe with a new color palette and increased mountain, desert, and forest detail, increased traffic information, turn lanes, bike, bus and taxi lanes, medians, and crosswalks, alongside a including a new map where details such as traffic and incidents are highlighted, as
well as an itinerary planner that lets the user view a future journey by selecting departure or arrival time.[65] iOS 16 made the confirmation process in sending a message of Siri optional and turned off by default. In addition, the Podcasts app was given a revamp, multi stop routeing was introduced to the maps app, and two new categories of
supported apps were added: fuelling and driving tasks.[66] iOS 17 added Sound Recognition, notifying drivers if a car horn and/or siren is detected. A new popup screen, like those for setting up new AirPods, prompts for
user permission to enable wireless CarPlay when a Bluetooth connection to the wehicle is established. It also replaced a few changes to the maps app.[68] iOS 18.1 revamped the home button to look similar and act identically to how it did prior to iOS 13. It was also given the ability to record the
iPhone while connected. It also revamped Siri in an attempt to be less distracting though more noticeable while also being based on Apple Intelligence. iOS 18.4 is set to introduce a third row of icons on some larger dashboards. It will also add a new North
American charging standard.[70] The Open Automotive Alliance's Android Auto is like CarPlay for Android devices. Huawei's HiCar is like CarPlay for Huawei EMUI Android and HarmonyOS devices. Fixed and the car with smartphones. Examples include BMW Connected Drive,
NissanConnect, Hyundai Blue Link, iLane, MyFord Touch, Ford SYNC, OnStar, and Toyota Entune. MirrorLink is a standard for car-smartphone connectivity, currently implemented in vehicles by Honda, Volkswagen, SEAT, Buick, Skoda, Mercedes-Benz, Citroën, and Smart with phones by manufacturers including Apple, HTC, Samsung, and Sony.[72]
[73] Tesla and Rivian's infotainment systems exclude support for CarPlay and Android Auto. [74] In April 2023, General Motors announced that it would gradually stop including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto in its electric vehicles so that it would gradually stop including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. [74] In April 2023, General Motors announced that it would gradually stop including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto in its electric vehicles so that it would gradually stop including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. [75] Consumers criticized
GM's action. The Detroit Free Press reported that some longtime GM customers said the lack of CarPlay would lead them to look at buying a Ford vehicle instead. [76] [77] Some press reported that the move would promote GM's partnership with Google and would cut off revenue streams to Apple at the expense of its customers. Some noted that the
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