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Carlinkit CK-A3-2023

CarlinKit Wireless CarPlay/Android Auto Decoder Box User Manual

Model: CK-A3-2023 | Brand: Carlinkit

1. INTRODUCTION

This user manual provides comprehensive instructions for the CarlinKit Wireless CarPlay and Wired Android Auto Decoder Box, designed to upgrade your Audi A3's original screen with modern smartphone integration features. This device allows you to seamlessly access navigation, music, messages, and more directly on your car's display.

Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and operation to ensure proper functionality and to maximize your user experience.

2. COMPATIBILITY

This CarlinKit Decoder Box is specifically designed for Audi A3 models manufactured between 2013 and 2019. It is compatible with both 5.8-inch and 7-inch original Audi screens.

Important Note: Your vehicle must have the AUX option activated in its menu for this product to function correctly. If AUX is not activated, please ensure it is enabled before installation.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Upon opening the package, please verify that all the following components are included:

- 1 x CarlinKit CarPlay Box
- 1 x Antenna
- 1 x CVBS/TPMS Cable (includes USB, Ground wire, Front & Rear view wire, Reversing detection cable, 12V rear view power cable)
- 1 x Host Cable
- 1 x Car Screen Cable

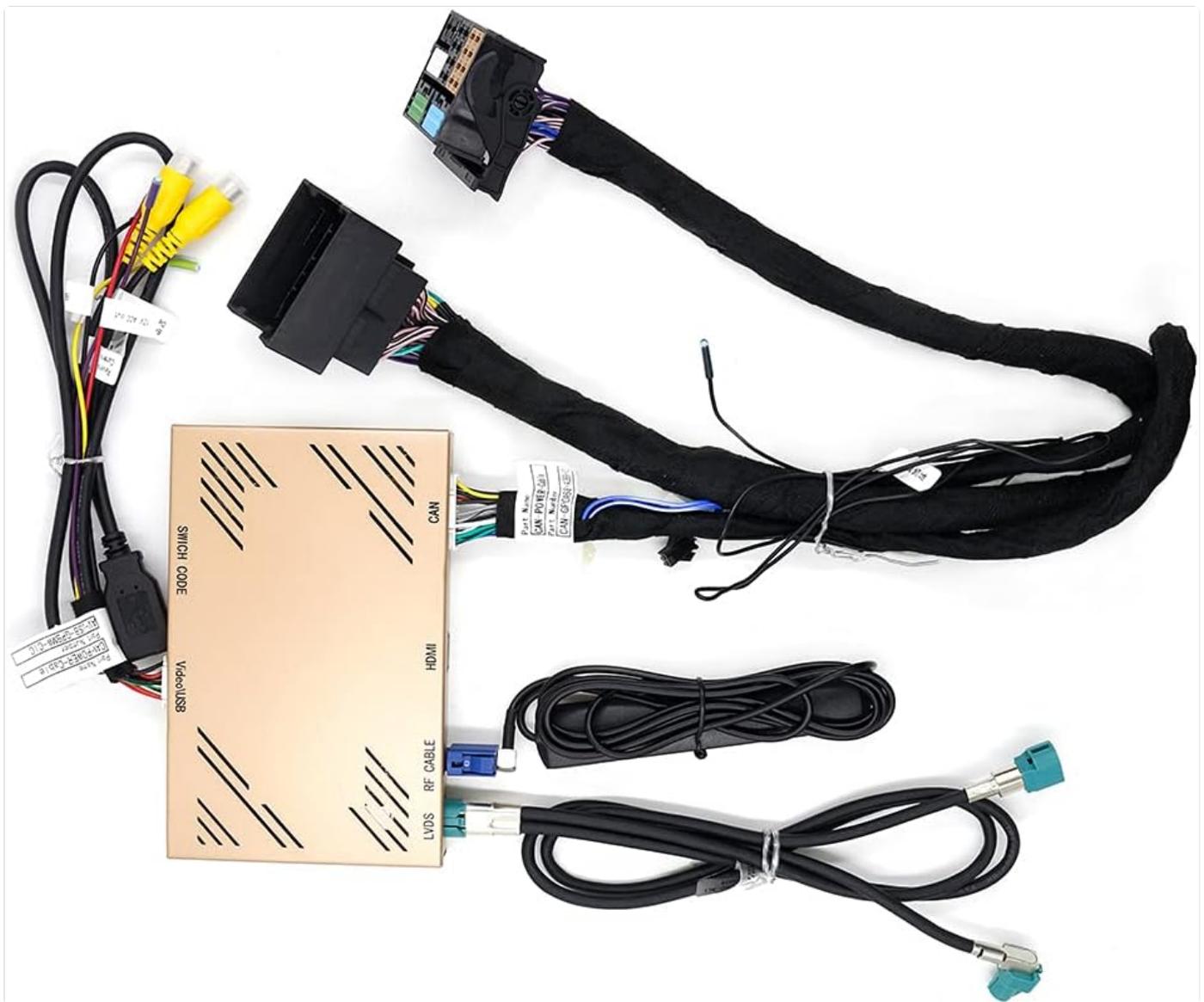


Figure 3.1: Contents of the CarlinKit Decoder Box package, showing the main unit, various cables, and antenna.

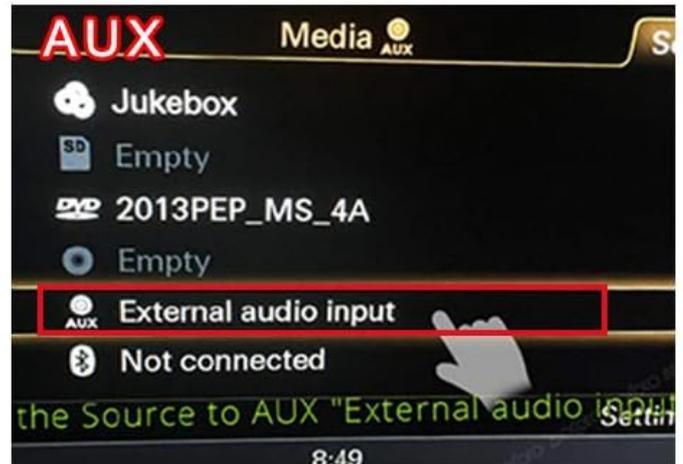
4. SETUP & INSTALLATION

Installation of the CarlinKit Decoder Box requires technical expertise. It is highly recommended to seek professional assistance if you are not familiar with car electronics installation.

4.1. AUX Activation

Before proceeding with the physical installation, ensure the AUX option is activated in your Audi's MMI system. This is crucial for audio output from the CarlinKit unit.

<How to activate AMI option to get AUX audio output>



If your car have AUX port, you can directly use the carplay, but please choose the AUX in advance.

If your car only have AMI port, please contact the seller to sent the AMI-AUX cable



Figure 4.1: Visual guide for activating the AUX option in the Audi MMI system. This step is essential for audio output from the CarlinKit device.

If your car has an AMI port, you can directly use the CarPlay function after selecting AUX. If your car only has an AMI port and no AUX option, please contact the seller to obtain an AMI-AUX cable for activation.

4.2. Physical Installation

The physical installation involves connecting the decoder box to your car's OEM radio head unit. This typically requires removing parts of the dashboard and glove box. For detailed visual instructions, refer to the official installation video provided by Carlinkit.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 4.2: Official Carlinkit installation guide for the Wireless CarPlay Android Auto Retrofit Box for Audi. This video demonstrates the step-by-step process of connecting the unit to your vehicle's system.

Note: The installation process may vary slightly depending on your specific Audi A3 model year and existing audio system (e.g., standard vs. premium sound systems). Pay close attention to wiring diagrams and dip switch settings if provided with your specific unit.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1. Wireless CarPlay Connection

To connect your iPhone wirelessly to CarPlay:

1. Select "AUX" in your car's original menu.
2. Long press the "Media" or "NAV" or "Info" button for 3 seconds to enter the CarPlay main interface.
3. On your iPhone, turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. Search for and select the product signal (e.g., "AutoKit_XXXX") in your iPhone's Bluetooth settings.
4. When the Bluetooth pairing request pops up on your phone, click "Pair" and "Allow" to successfully connect to CarPlay.
5. After successful connection, the CarPlay interface will appear on your car's screen, allowing you to use various functions.



Figure 5.1: Comparison of Apple CarPlay and Android Auto interfaces as displayed on the vehicle's screen after successful connection.

5.2. Wired Android Auto Connection

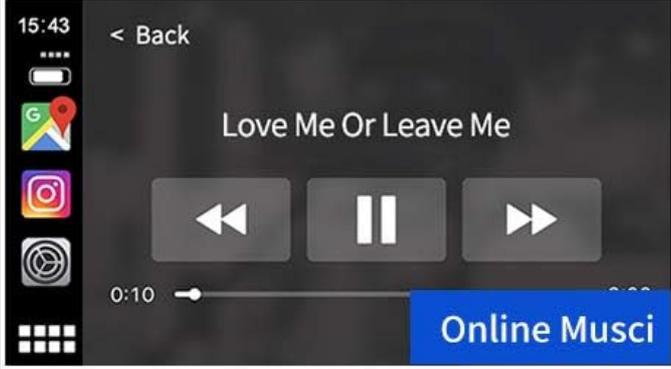
To connect your Android phone via wired Android Auto:

1. Ensure the CarlinKit main interface is displayed on your car screen.
2. Connect your Android phone to the CarlinKit USB cable.
3. On your Android phone, open the Android Auto application.
4. Ensure USB debugging is enabled on your Android phone for optimal connection.
5. The Android Auto interface will then appear on your car's screen.

5.3. Key Features and Functions

The CarlinKit Decoder Box supports a variety of functions for an enhanced driving experience:

- **Steering Wheel Controls:** Seamlessly control audio, calls, and navigation using your car's original steering wheel buttons.
- **MMI Knob Operation:** Navigate through the CarPlay/Android Auto interface using the original MMI control knob.
- **Voice Operation (Siri/Google Assistant):** Use voice commands for hands-free control of messages, music, navigation, and more.
- **Navigation:** Utilize popular navigation apps like Google Maps, Waze, and IGO directly on your car's screen.
- **Music & Media:** Play music from your phone, U-disk playback, and other media sources.
- **Phone & Messaging:** Make and receive calls, send and read messages safely while driving.
- **Screen Mirroring:** Support for mirroring your phone's screen to the car display, allowing you to view videos, photos, and other content.
- **Reverse Image:** Integrates with original and aftermarket cameras for clear reverse imaging.



Screen Mirroring

Support watch YouTube,TV news,Photos, Navigation and HD videos



Figure 5.2: Demonstrates key features including Siri Voice control, Screen Mirroring for multimedia, and integrated Reverse Image display.

Mainstream Map

Support Google Maps, Waze, IGO, Sygic, etc.



Figure 5.3: Illustrates compatibility with popular navigation applications such as Google Maps, Waze, and IGO.

6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your CarlinKit Decoder Box, follow these general maintenance guidelines:

- Keep the unit and connections dry and free from dust.
- Avoid exposing the device to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight for prolonged periods.
- Do not attempt to open or modify the device, as this will void the warranty.
- Regularly check cable connections to ensure they are secure.
- Keep your phone's operating system (iOS/Android) updated to the latest version for best compatibility and performance.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your CarlinKit Decoder Box, please refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No audio output from CarPlay/Android Auto.	Ensure the AUX option is activated in your Audi's MMI menu. Check all audio cable connections. Disconnect factory Bluetooth if connected.
CarPlay/Android Auto does not connect wirelessly.	Verify Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are enabled on your phone. Ensure you have selected the correct device in Bluetooth settings. Try restarting both your phone and the car's MMI system.
Reverse camera not working after installation.	Check the CVBS/TPMS cable connections, especially the reversing detection cable. Ensure dip switch settings on the decoder box are correct for your vehicle's camera system.
Partial image or distorted display.	Verify the car screen cable (LVDS) connections are secure and correctly installed. Check dip switch settings for screen resolution compatibility.
Difficulty with MMI knob or steering wheel controls.	Ensure all host cables are properly connected. Some functions may require specific settings adjustments within the CarPlay/Android Auto interface.
Software update issues.	Contact Carlinkit customer support for official software update instructions and passwords, as these are not publicly available.

For persistent issues or advanced technical support, please contact Carlinkit's customer service.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	CK-A3-2023
Package Dimensions	7.56 x 7.48 x 4.53 inches
Item Weight	2.16 pounds
Connectivity Technology	Auxiliary, USB
Controller Type	iOS, Android
Compatible Devices	Smartphone, Speaker
Connector Type	3.5mm Jack
Audio Encoding	Stereo
Audio Output Mode	Stereo
Surround Sound Channel Configuration	2.0
Video Encoding	H.264, H.265/HEVC, MPEG-4
Color	Black

Feature	Detail
Manufacturer	Carlinkit
First Available Date	March 13, 2020

9. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

Carlinkit is committed to providing high-quality products and excellent customer service.

- **1 Month:** If there is a product-related problem within one month (non-artificial damage), you can contact customer service for replacement or a fast refund.
- **1 Year:** We provide one year FREE after-sale guarantee service.
- **24 Hours:** If you encounter product problems, please feel free to contact customer service; we will reply within 24 hours.

For support, please contact Carlinkit via your order details or email:support@carlinkit.com.

Our 24/7 tech support team is available to answer your questions and assist with product setup or updates.