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Strex SP18

Strex Car Radio with Bluetooth - User Manual

Model: SP18

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Strex Car Radio. This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your new car radio. Designed for universal compatibility with its 1-DIN standard size, this car radio offers a comprehensive audio experience with Bluetooth, USB, SD card, AUX, and FM radio capabilities.

Enjoy hands-free calling with the built-in microphone and keep your phone charged via the USB port. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure proper operation and to maximize your enjoyment of the product.

2. Safety Information

- Always operate the device safely and responsibly. Do not operate the radio in a way that distracts you from driving.
- Ensure all connections are secure and correctly wired to prevent short circuits or damage.
- Do not expose the unit to moisture or extreme temperatures.
- Only use the specified power supply (DC 12V).
- Do not attempt to disassemble or modify the unit. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- Keep the remote control and small parts out of reach of children.

3. Package Contents

Please check the box for the following items:

- 1x Strex Car Radio (SP18)
- 1x Power Cable
- 1x Speaker Cable
- 1x Remote Control
- 2x Disassembly Keys
- 1x User Manual



Figure 3.1: Items included in the package. From top left: Disassembly tools, remote control, packaging box, 1-DIN mounting frame, 1-DIN trim frame, car radio unit, user manual, and connection wires.

4. Product Overview

Familiarize yourself with the main components and controls of your Strex Car Radio.

4.1 Front Panel Controls



Figure 4.1: Overview of all functions on the front panel. Key controls include: Power On/Off, Call End/Mode Select, Next Track, Time Display, USB Port, AUX Port, SD Card Slot, Charging USB Port, Previous Track, Volume Knob, Automatic Station Search, Equalizer Settings, Pause, Repeat Play, Random Play, 10 Numbers Forward, 10 Numbers Back.

The front panel features a central volume knob, various function buttons, a USB port for media playback and charging, an AUX input, and an SD card slot. The display shows current mode, track information, and time.

4.2 Rear Connections



Figure 4.2: Rear view showing the Plug & Play ISO connection. Includes antenna input, audio output (RCA for left and right channels), and the main power/speaker harness connection with fuse.

The rear of the unit provides standard ISO connectors for power and speakers, RCA outputs for external amplifiers, and an antenna input.

5. Installation

The Strex Car Radio is designed with standard 1-DIN dimensions, making it suitable for installation in most vehicles without modifications.



Figure 5.1: Universal 1-DIN format with dimensions: 188 mm (width) x 58 mm (height) x 68 mm (depth).

5.1 Pre-installation Checklist

- Ensure your vehicle has a 1-DIN slot.
- Disconnect the vehicle's negative battery terminal before starting installation.
- Gather all necessary tools (e.g., screwdrivers, wire strippers).

5.2 Wiring Connections

1. Connect the power cable (red and yellow wires) to your vehicle's corresponding power sources (switched and constant 12V).
2. Connect the ground wire (black) to a suitable metal point on the vehicle chassis.
3. Connect the speaker wires to your vehicle's speakers, ensuring correct polarity for each speaker.
4. Connect the antenna cable to the radio's antenna input.
5. If using external amplifiers, connect the RCA audio output cables.

5.3 Mounting the Unit

1. Insert the metal mounting sleeve into the dashboard opening. Bend the tabs outwards to secure it.
2. Slide the car radio into the mounting sleeve until it clicks into place.
3. Attach the trim frame around the unit for a finished look.
4. Reconnect the vehicle's negative battery terminal.

6. Setup

After successful installation, perform the initial setup steps.

6.1 Initial Power On

Press the power button () on the front panel to turn on the unit. The display will light up.

6.2 Setting the Clock

Press the **CLK** button to display the time. Press and hold**CLK** to enter clock setting mode. Use the volume knob or arrow buttons to adjust hours and minutes, then press **CLK** again to confirm.

7. Operating Instructions

7.1 Basic Operations

- **Power On/Off:** Press the button.
- **Volume Control:** Rotate the central knob to adjust volume.
- **Mode Selection:** Press the **MODE** button to cycle through available sources (FM, Bluetooth, USB, SD, AUX).

7.2 FM Radio Operation

- **Band Selection:** Press the **BAND** button to switch between FM1, FM2, and FM3 bands.
- **Automatic Search:** Press and hold the **AMS** button to automatically scan and save strong stations.
- **Manual Tuning:** Briefly press the buttons to fine-tune the frequency.
- **Preset Stations:** Use the number buttons (1-6) to select saved stations. Press and hold a number button to save the current station to that preset.

7.3 Bluetooth Connectivity



Figure 7.1: The car radio supports various streaming methods including Bluetooth, USB for music and charging, AUX, and SD card.

1. Ensure the car radio is in Bluetooth mode (display shows "BT").
2. Enable Bluetooth on your mobile device and search for available devices.
3. Select "CAR BT" or similar from the list on your device to pair. No password is typically required.
4. Once paired, you can stream audio from your device to the car radio.

7.4 Hands-free Calling



Figure 7.2: Hands-free calling allows you to answer calls directly via the radio using the built-in microphone and control buttons.

- **Answering a Call:** When an incoming call rings, press the **MODE** button (call answer icon) to answer.
- **Ending a Call:** Press the **MODE** button again to end the call.
- **Rejecting a Call:** Press and hold the **MODE** button to reject an incoming call.
- **Redial:** In Bluetooth mode, press the **MODE** button twice to redial the last number.

7.5 USB/SD Playback

- Insert a USB drive into the USB port or an SD card into the SD card slot. The unit will automatically switch to USB/SD mode and begin playback.
- **Play/Pause:** Press the **AMS** button.
- **Next/Previous Track:** Press the buttons.
- **Repeat:** Press the **RPT** button to repeat the current track.
- **Random Play:** Press the **RDM** button for random playback.

- **Folder Navigation:** Use **DIR+** and **DIR-** buttons to navigate folders.
- **ID3 Tag Support:** The display will show title, artist, and album information for compatible files.

7.6 AUX Input

Connect an external audio device (e.g., MP3 player, smartphone) to the AUX-IN port on the front panel using a 3.5mm audio cable. Select AUX mode using the **MODE** button.

7.7 Equalizer Settings



Figure 7.3: Adjustable lighting allows you to choose from 8 different colors with a single button press.

- Press the **EQ/LOUD** button to cycle through preset equalizer modes (Jazz, Rock, Pop, Classic, etc.).
- Press and hold the **EQ/LOUD** button to enter manual equalizer adjustment. Use the volume knob to adjust bass, treble, left/right balance, front/rear balance, and loudness.
- The unit also features adjustable lighting for the buttons, allowing you to select from 8 different colors by pressing the **EQ/LOUD** button briefly (when not in EQ adjustment mode).

7.8 Remote Control

The included remote control allows for convenient operation of all major functions from a distance. Refer to the remote control's button layout for specific functions.

8. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Strex Car Radio, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the unit's surface. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or chemical sprays.
- **Ports:** Keep USB, AUX, and SD card slots free of dust and debris.
- **Temperature:** Avoid exposing the unit to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight for prolonged periods, or high humidity.
- **Fuse Replacement:** If the unit does not power on, check the fuse located on the rear of the unit. Replace it with a fuse of the same rating (e.g., 10A).

9. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your car radio, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power / Unit does not turn on	Incorrect wiring; Blown fuse; Loose connection.	Check all power and ground connections. Inspect and replace the fuse if necessary. Ensure the vehicle's battery is charged.
No sound	Volume too low; Mute function active; Incorrect speaker wiring; Damaged speakers.	Increase volume. Check if mute is active. Verify speaker connections and polarity. Test with different speakers if possible.
Bluetooth not connecting or unstable	Device not in pairing mode; Interference; Already connected to another device.	Ensure the radio is in Bluetooth mode. Restart both the radio and your mobile device. Forget the device on your phone and re-pair. Move closer to the unit.
Poor FM radio reception	Antenna not connected; Weak signal area; Damaged antenna.	Ensure the antenna is securely connected. Try tuning to different stations. Consider a stronger antenna if issues persist in various locations.
USB/SD card not recognized	Unsupported file format; Corrupted files; Incompatible storage device.	Ensure media files are MP3/WMA/WAV/FLAC. Reformat the USB/SD card (FAT32). Try a different USB/SD card.
Display too dark (especially during daytime)	Brightness setting; Environmental lighting.	Check if there's a brightness setting (not explicitly mentioned in specs, but common). Adjust the angle of the unit if possible to reduce glare. This can be a limitation of the display technology.

10. Specifications

Detailed technical specifications for the Strex SP18 Car Radio:

Feature	Specification
Brand	Strex
Model Name	Autoradio SP18
Model Number	SP18
Tuner Technology	AM/FM
Compatible Devices	Smartphone
Special Features	Equalizer, Hands-free calling with built-in microphone, Clock function, ID3 support, Remote control included, Front panel detachable
Number of Items	1 (main unit)
Remote Control Type	IR
Audio Output Mode	Stereo
Audio Output	Loudspeakers
Speaker Surround Sound Configuration	4.0
Output Wattage	4x50W (RMS), 60 Watt (Peak)
Power Source	Electric Corded (DC 12V)
Number of Speaker Output Channels	4
Number of USB Ports	2 (one for media, one for charging)
Connector Type	AUX, Bluetooth, FM, SD, USB (USB Type A)
Audio Format Support	MP3/WMA/WAV/FLAC
Bluetooth Version	4.2
FM Radio Frequency	87.5-108 MHz
Installation Dimensions (W x H x D)	188 mm x 58 mm x 68 mm
Product Dimensions	18.8 x 6.8 x 5.8 cm; 275 g
Color	Black
Country of Origin	China

11. Warranty and Support

Strex products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For any questions, technical support, or warranty claims, please contact your retailer or the Strex customer service. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty purposes.

For the most up-to-date information and support resources, please visit the official Strex website or contact their customer support channels.

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