

DS18 BTRC-R

DS18 BTRC-R Marine Bluetooth Audio Receiver with Controller

Model: BTRC-R | Brand: DS18

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The DS18 BTRC-R is a marine-grade, waterproof universal Bluetooth streaming audio receiver with an integrated controller. Designed for environments where space is limited or traditional head units are not suitable, this device provides convenient Bluetooth connectivity to any audio system. It allows users to control music playback directly from the unit, reducing distractions from mobile devices. The BTRC-R is compatible with both Android and iPhone devices, offering versatile audio streaming capabilities for marine and powersports applications.

2. PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Waterproof Design:** IPX6 water resistance rating ensures durability in marine and powersports environments.
- **Bluetooth 5.0 A2DP:** Provides high-quality audio streaming with a wireless connection range of up to 35 feet (conditions may vary).
- **Multiple Inputs/Outputs:** Features a USB port for music playback and 1A charging, two RCA line outputs, and a 3.5mm auxiliary input.
- **Integrated Controller:** Easy-to-use, LED-illuminated push buttons for power, source selection, volume, and track control.
- **RCA Pre-Output:** Includes a remote turn-on lead to connect external amplifiers for expanded audio systems.
- **Compact Design:** Holder cage design allows for easy and space-saving installation.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Upon unpacking, please ensure all items are present:

- 1x DS18 BTRC-R Bluetooth Audio Receiver with Controller
- 1x 3.5mm Stereo Auxiliary Cable
- Mounting Hardware (screws, nuts, washers)
- Integrated Power Wiring Harness

4. INSTALLATION

4.1 Mounting the Unit

The BTRC-R is designed for flush mounting in a standard gauge hole. A template may be provided with the product for precise cutting. Ensure the mounting location is secure and allows for proper wiring connections.



Image: DS18 BTRC-R with dimensions for installation. The image shows the front and side profile of the round controller with measurements: Overall Length: 3.81" / 97mm, Overall Depth: 1.47" / 37.4mm, and a mounting depth of 2.43" / 61.9mm.

4.2 Wiring Connections

Carefully connect the integrated wiring harness according to the following guidelines. It is recommended to consult a professional for complex installations.

- **Power (Red Wire):** Connect to a switched 12V DC power source (e.g., ignition or accessory line) that

provides power when the vehicle/boat is on.

- **Ground (Black Wire):** Connect to a solid chassis ground point.
- **Remote Turn-On (Blue Wire):** Connect to the remote input of your external amplifier(s). This wire provides a 12V signal to turn on connected amplifiers when the BTRC-R is powered on.
- **RCA Line Outputs (White/Red):** Connect these to the RCA inputs of your amplifier(s). The BTRC-R provides 1 pair (Left & Right) of 2.5V pre-amp outputs.
- **Auxiliary Input (3.5mm Jack):** Use the provided 3.5mm stereo cable to connect external audio devices.
- **USB Port:** Connect a USB flash drive for music playback or use for 1A device charging.



Image: Rear view of the DS18 BTRC-R showing the integrated wiring harness. Visible connections include colored wires for power, ground, and remote, along with RCA outputs and a USB port.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Power On/Off

Press and hold the **POWER/PLAY/PAUSE** button (center button) to turn the unit on or off.

5.2 Bluetooth Pairing

1. Ensure the BTRC-R is powered on and in Bluetooth mode (indicated by the illuminated BT Pairing button).
2. On your mobile device, enable Bluetooth and search for available devices.
3. Select "DS18 BTRC-R" from the list to pair. Once paired, the BT Pairing button will stop flashing and remain solid.

5.3 Audio Source Selection

Press the **SOURCE** button (top button) to cycle through available audio sources: Bluetooth, Auxiliary (AUX), and USB.

5.4 Volume Control

Use the **VOL+** (right button) and **VOL-** (left button) buttons to adjust the audio volume.

5.5 Track Control (Bluetooth/USB Mode)

- Press the **PLAY/PAUSE** button to play or pause the current track.
- Press the **NEXT TRACK** button (bottom right) to skip to the next track.
- Press the **PREVIOUS TRACK** button (bottom left) to go to the beginning of the current track or the previous track.



Image: Front view of the DS18 BTRC-R controller, highlighting the illuminated buttons for Source, Play/Pause/Power, Volume Up/Down, Next/Previous Track, and BT Pairing.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Water Resistance Rating	IPX6
Bluetooth Version	5.0 (A2DP)
Wireless Connection Range	Up to 35ft (conditions may vary)
Power Input	DC 12V-14.4V
RCA Line Out (Pre-Amp)	1 Pair (Left & Right), 2.5 Volts
Auxiliary Line Input	3.5mm Jack
USB Player	4Ft Extension Cord, 1A Charging
Remote Out	200mA
Frequency Response	20Hz-20Khz
Signal to Noise Ratio	≥80dB
Total Harmonic Distortion (T.H.D)	≤0.1%
Channel Separation	≥60dB
Overall Length	3.81" / 97mm
Overall Depth	1.47" / 37.4mm
Product Dimensions	5.63 x 5 x 4.76 inches
Item Weight	14.4 ounces

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your DS18 BTRC-R, please refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Check all power connections (12V, ground, remote turn-on) for secure contact and correct voltage. Ensure the vehicle/boat ignition is on if connected to a switched power source.
- **No Audio Output:** Verify that the correct audio source is selected (Bluetooth, AUX, USB). Check volume levels on both the BTRC-R and your connected device. Ensure RCA outputs are securely connected to the amplifier and the amplifier is powered on.
- **Bluetooth Pairing Issues:** Make sure the BTRC-R is in Bluetooth pairing mode (flashing BT Pairing button). Disable and re-enable Bluetooth on your mobile device, then try searching and pairing again. Ensure no other devices are currently paired to the BTRC-R.
- **Distorted Audio:** Reduce the volume on both the BTRC-R and your connected device. Check for loose wiring connections or damaged cables.
- **USB Playback Issues:** Ensure the USB drive is formatted correctly (e.g., FAT32) and contains compatible audio files (MP3/WMA).

8. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your DS18 BTRC-R, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, damp cloth to clean the unit. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners that could damage the surface or waterproof seals.
- **Connection Checks:** Periodically inspect all wiring connections for corrosion or looseness, especially in marine environments.
- **Water Exposure:** While waterproof (IPX6), avoid prolonged submersion or high-pressure water jets directly on the unit. Ensure all caps for unused ports (like USB or AUX) are securely closed.

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official DS18 website. If you require technical assistance or have questions not covered in this manual, please contact DS18 customer support.