

Metra DP6551

# Metra DP6551 Dash Kit Instruction Manual

Model: DP6551

For Dodge Ram 1500 (1998-2001) and Ram 2500-3500 (1998-2002)

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Metra DP6551 replacement dashboard panel is specifically engineered to facilitate the installation of an aftermarket 4-inch tall (Double-DIN) radio in compatible Dodge Ram models. This panel addresses the limitation of original dashboards in these older models, which cannot accommodate larger modern radios without extensive custom fabrication. The DP6551 allows for a seamless upgrade to a larger, modern radio, enhancing sound quality and providing additional features not available with the factory unit. Its custom texture is designed to match the original look and feel of the vehicle's dashboard, ensuring a cohesive interior appearance.



Figure 1: Components of the Metra DP6551 Dash Kit, including the main dash panel and mounting brackets.

## COMPATIBILITY AND PRE-INSTALLATION CHECKS

Before beginning installation, verify that your vehicle is compatible with the Metra DP6551 dash kit. This kit is designed for specific Dodge Ram models and requires certain dashboard configurations.

- **Vehicle Models:** Dodge Ram 1500 (1998-2001), Dodge Ram 2500-3500 (1998-2002).
- **Dashboard Configuration:** Your vehicle's dashboard must have an airbag on/off panel and a storage pocket in the specified locations as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Compatibility check for the Metra DP6551. Ensure your vehicle has the indicated airbag on/off panel and storage pocket.

It is crucial to confirm these features to ensure proper fitment and functionality of the dash kit.

## WHAT'S IN THE BOX

The Metra DP6551 Dash Kit package includes the following components:

- Main Dash Panel (designed to replace the factory dash panel)
- Mounting Brackets (for securing the aftermarket radio)
- Associated hardware (e.g., screws, clips - may vary, refer to specific kit contents)



## SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Installation of the Metra DP6551 dash kit involves removing the factory dashboard panel and installing the new kit with your aftermarket radio. Professional installation is recommended, but if performing self-installation, ensure you have the necessary tools and follow all safety precautions, including disconnecting the vehicle's battery.

### Installation Steps:

1. **Disconnect Battery:** Before starting any electrical work, disconnect the negative terminal of your vehicle's battery to prevent accidental short circuits.
2. **Remove Factory Dash Panel:** Carefully remove the existing factory dashboard panel. This typically involves removing screws, clips, and disconnecting electrical connectors for components like climate controls, headlight switches, and the factory radio. Refer to your vehicle's service manual for specific instructions on dash panel removal.
3. **Prepare Aftermarket Radio:** Attach the provided mounting brackets from the Metra DP6551 kit to your new aftermarket Double-DIN radio. Ensure the radio is securely fastened to the brackets.
4. **Connect Wiring:** Connect the wiring harness from your aftermarket radio to the vehicle's wiring. This may require a separate wiring adapter (sold separately) specific to your vehicle and radio.
5. **Install Radio into Dash Kit:** Slide the aftermarket radio with attached brackets into the opening of the Metra DP6551 dash panel. Secure the radio to the dash panel using the appropriate screws or clips.
6. **Install New Dash Panel:** Carefully position the new dash panel with the installed radio into the vehicle's dashboard opening. Reconnect all electrical connectors that were previously disconnected. Ensure all clips and screws are properly aligned and secured.
7. **Reconnect Battery:** Once the dash panel is fully installed and secured, reconnect the negative terminal of your vehicle's battery.
8. **Test Functionality:** Turn on the vehicle and test the functionality of the new radio and all other dashboard components (e.g., climate controls, lights, gauges) to ensure everything is working correctly.



Figure 4: Example of the Metra DP6551 dash kit installed in a vehicle with an aftermarket Double-DIN radio.

## OPERATING THE DASH KIT

The Metra DP6551 dash kit itself does not have operational functions. Its purpose is to provide a secure and aesthetically integrated housing for your aftermarket Double-DIN radio. Once installed, the operation of your audio system will be controlled directly through the features and interface of the aftermarket radio you have chosen.

Ensure that the radio is properly seated and secured within the dash kit to prevent vibrations or movement during vehicle operation. The custom texture of the kit is designed to blend seamlessly with your vehicle's interior, maintaining the factory look while allowing for modern audio upgrades.

## MAINTENANCE

The Metra DP6551 dash kit requires minimal maintenance to retain its appearance and integrity.

- **Cleaning:** To clean the dash panel, use a soft, damp cloth. For stubborn dirt, a mild automotive interior cleaner can be used. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the dash panel and radio for any signs of loosening or damage. Ensure all mounting points remain secure.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues after installing the Metra DP6551 dash kit, consider the following:

- **Poor Fitment:**
  - Double-check that your vehicle matches the exact compatibility requirements (refer to "Compatibility and Pre-Installation Checks").
  - Ensure all factory mounting points and clips are correctly aligned with the new dash panel.
  - Verify that no wires or other components are obstructing the proper seating of the dash panel.
- **Radio Not Secure:**
  - Confirm that the mounting brackets are correctly attached to the aftermarket radio and then securely fastened to the dash kit.
  - Ensure all screws or clips provided with the kit are used and tightened appropriately.
- **Electrical Issues (e.g., radio not powering on):**
  - This is typically related to the radio's wiring, not the dash kit itself. Recheck all electrical connections between the radio, wiring harness, and vehicle.
  - Verify that the vehicle's battery is fully charged and properly reconnected.

If issues persist, it is advisable to consult with a professional car audio installer or contact Metra customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature               | Detail                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Product Model Number  | DP6551                                      |
| Brand                 | Metra                                       |
| Compatible Radio Size | 4-inch tall (Double-DIN) aftermarket radios |
| Product Dimensions    | 40.25 x 12.13 x 16.75 inches                |
| Item Weight           | 5.59 pounds                                 |
| Color                 | Standard (Black, textured to match factory) |
| Material              | High-quality automotive-grade plastic       |

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding product warranty, returns, or technical support, please refer to the official Metra Electronics website or contact their customer service department directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

Metra Electronics Contact Information:

- **Website:** [www.metraonline.com](http://www.metraonline.com) (Please check the official website for the most current contact details.)
- **Customer Service:** Refer to the website for phone numbers or email support options.

## ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

### Name

Anonymous

### Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

### Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

### Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question

---

Open the live page

<https://manuals.plus/asin/B09F7T45D8>

More documents and user manuals: <https://manuals.plus/>