

Head Unit Change – Seat Ibiza mk3

This document was translated to English from the French by me, Bastard. I've done nothing but the translation. So I take no responsibility if you damage your car by following this guide.

I've seen a Spanish, incomplete, version of this document with the same pictures in it so I don't know who's taken the original material from who. Anyway, the version I translated has been written by Darksidedu59@hotmail.com, so for what concerns me, the credits for this guide go to himself alone.

ATTENTION: This job is not particularly difficult, this said, it is necessary to have enough time to do it with calm, to avoid unreparable errors. You have to know that the stereo facia with all its circuits costs more than 300 Euros.

First step consists in taking off the stock head unit. To do this, you just need to unscrew the two screws under the center console:



Then you need to carefully pull out the facia beginning from the bottom and then gradually going upwards. Once you are at the top you will need to pay a bit of attention because there is a clip just under the hazard lights button.

Now unplug the plug that attaches the facia circuit to the radio:



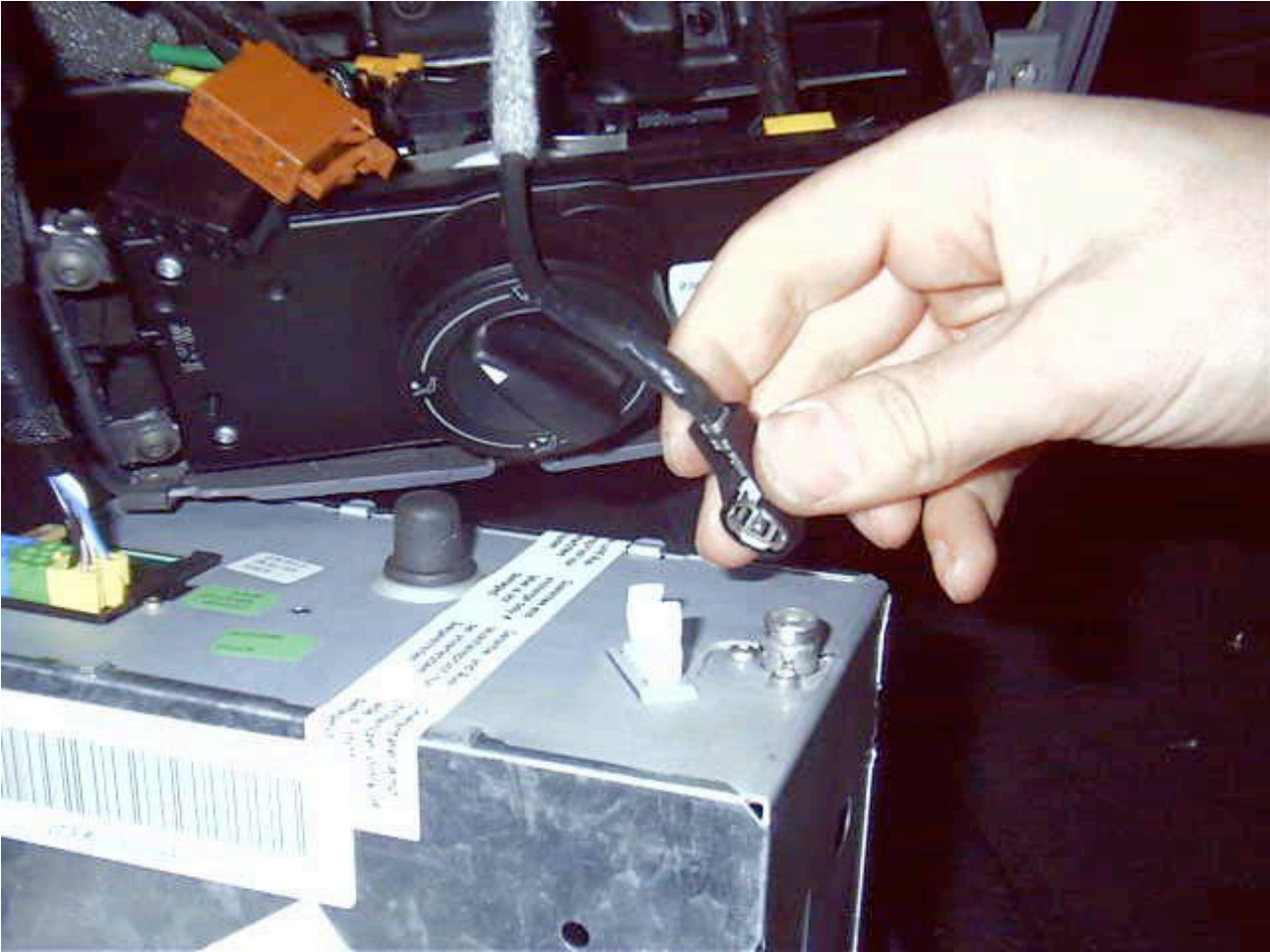
Now you have to unscrew the four screws that hold the radio in place:



Now carefully pull the stock head unit out and pull the plugs that are behind it:



Don't forget the aerial plug:



Now you can pull out the stock head unit.

In order to put a different head unit in, we need to get a secondary power supply. So we need to double the ISO plug like this:



[On the left there is the female ISO plug that will be plugged to the car, on the right there are the three plugs for the new head unit]

Here is the female ISO plug that will be plugged to the plug on the car:

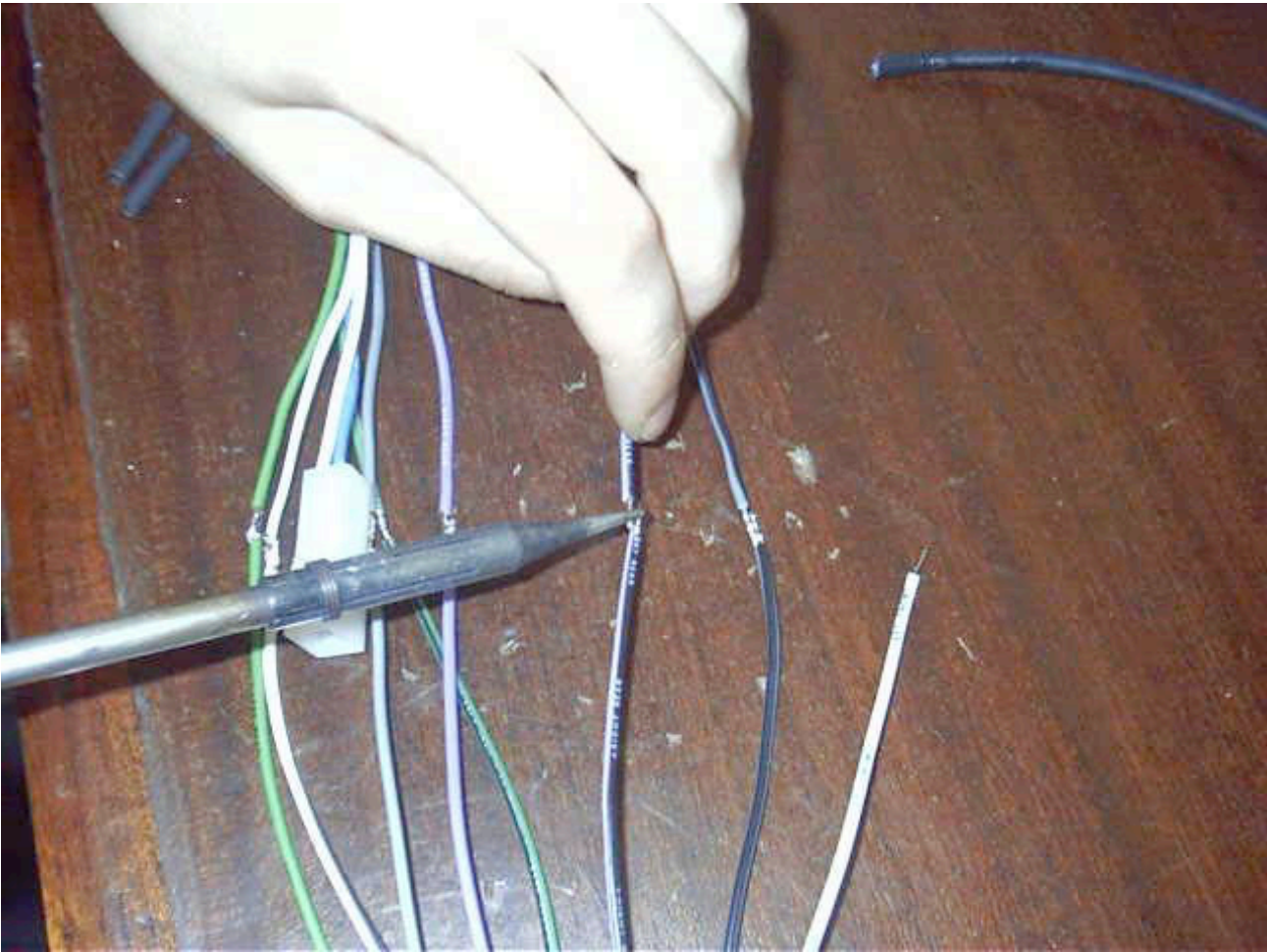


Sign all the wires to recognize them and connect them correctly to their place in the plug.

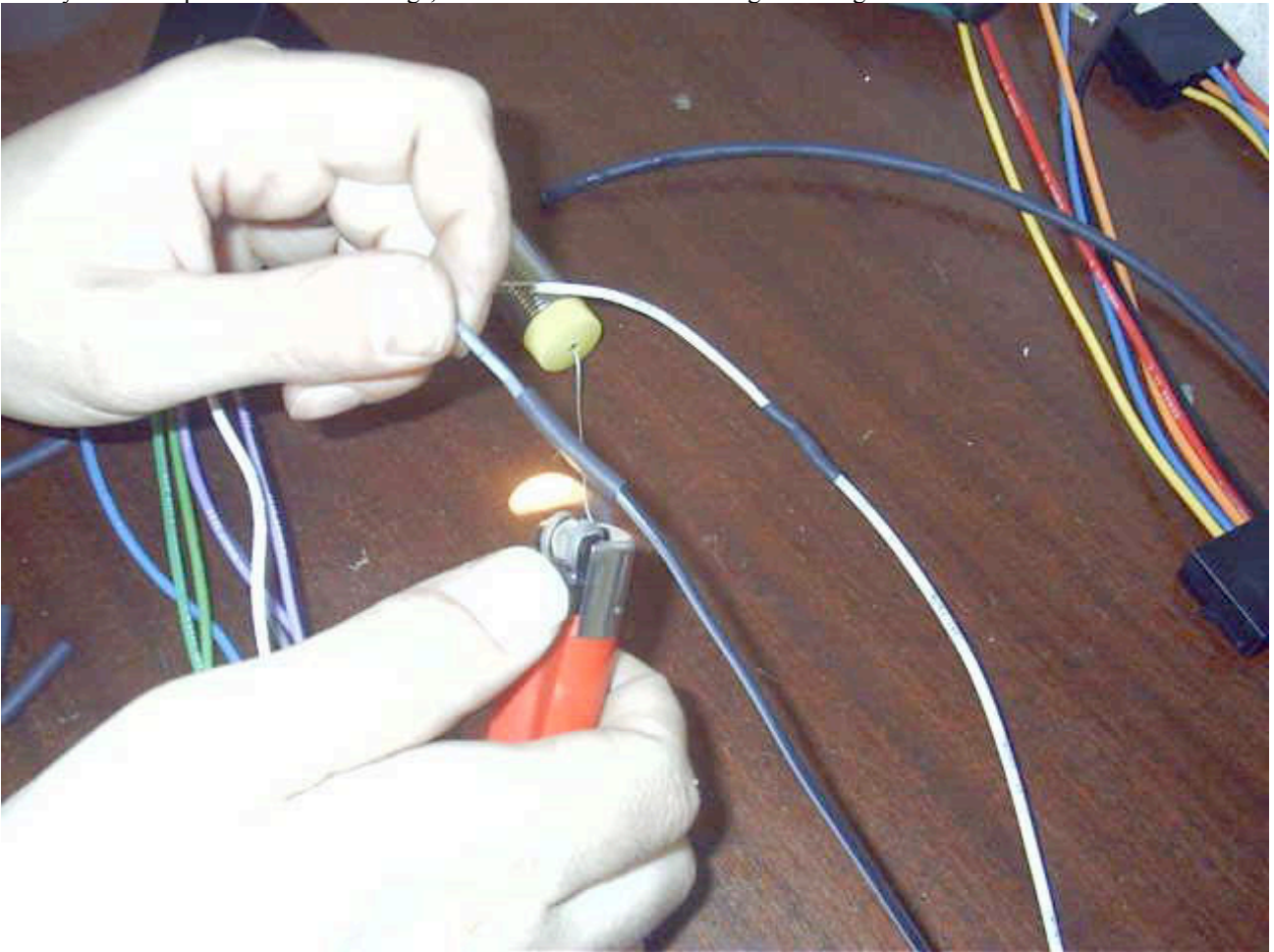
To obtain a good result, first of all, begin with putting the solder on the wires:



Then link with the other correspondent plug:



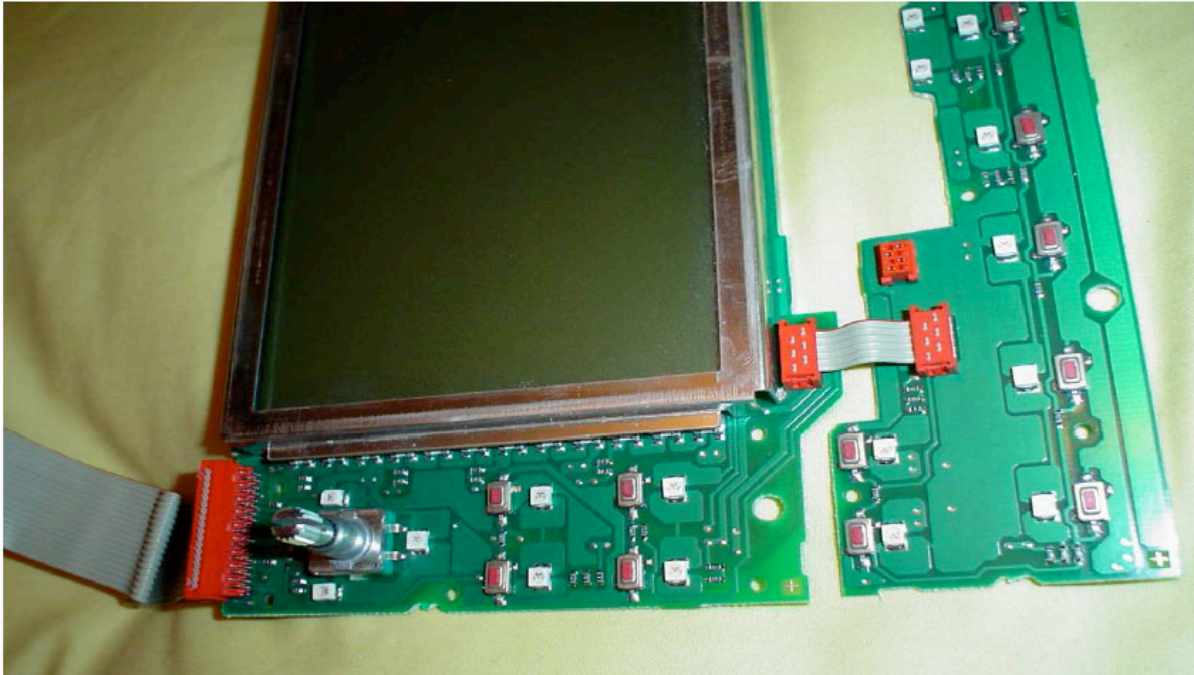
Once you've completed all the solderings, insulate with thermo-shrinking sheathings:



Now we can get to work on the head unit.

To house the new head unit you will need to take out the tape reader. To do this, you need to remove the protections that are over and under the head unit. Now turn the head unit and unscrew the four screws that hold the tape reader to the rest of the head unit and take it out.

Now we need to get to work on the fascia circuit. This job is a bit complicated, so take your time, it's important. We are going to work on the following circuits:

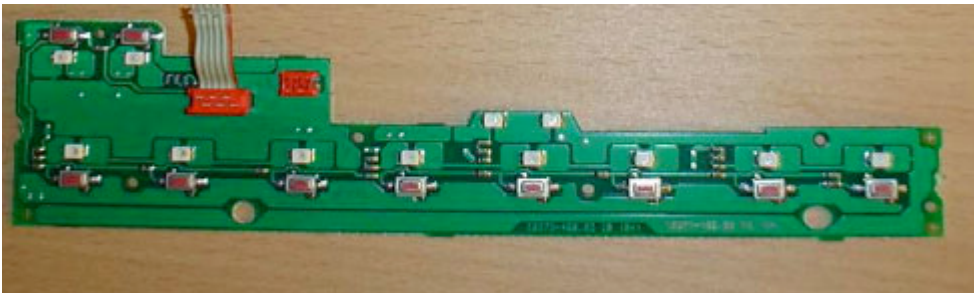


We need to detach the two circuits. Just tear the small ribbon cable [the one that connects the two circuits] out of the plug on the screen circuit.

Once the cable is detached, cut the circuit like in the following picture. We need to cut it to put the new head unit under it. This operation obviously cuts the link between the two circuits, and this is why we'll need to solder some wires. We'll get to talk about this in a few moments.

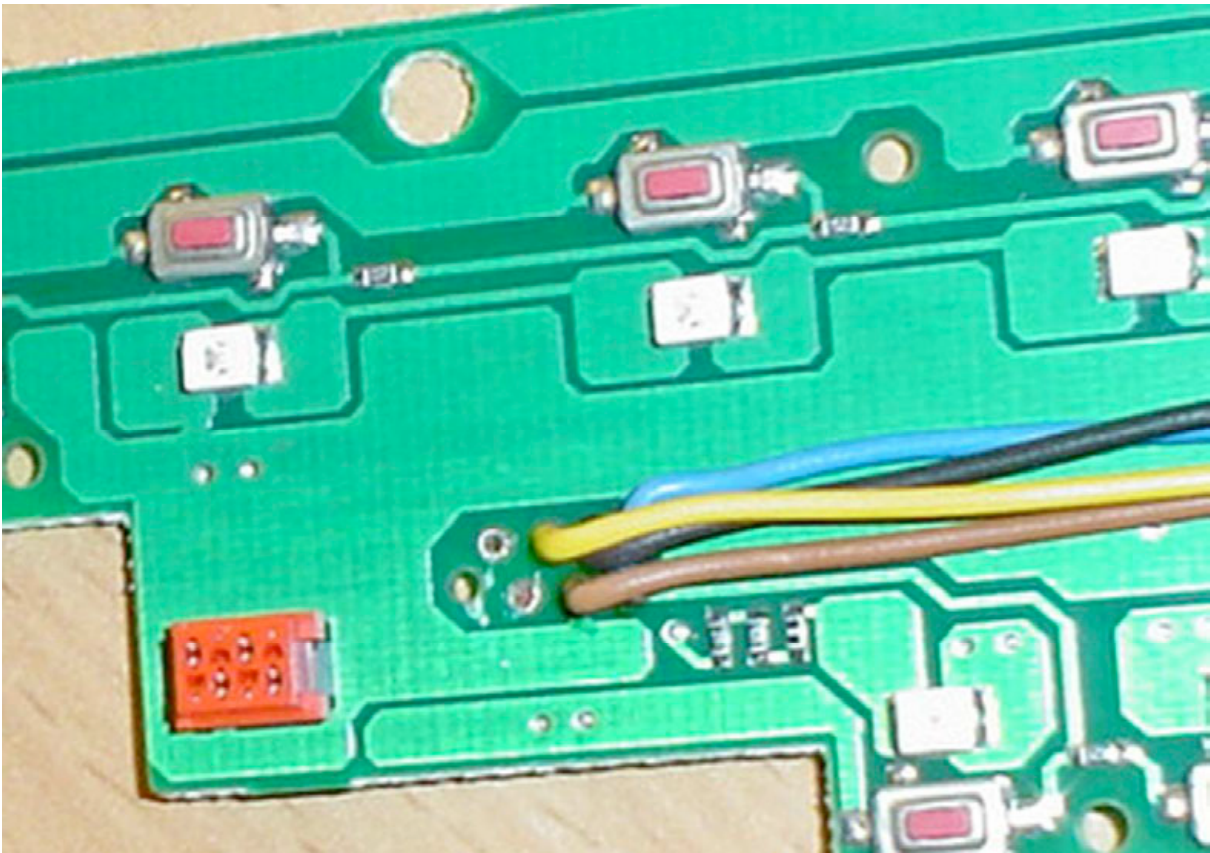


On this circuit:



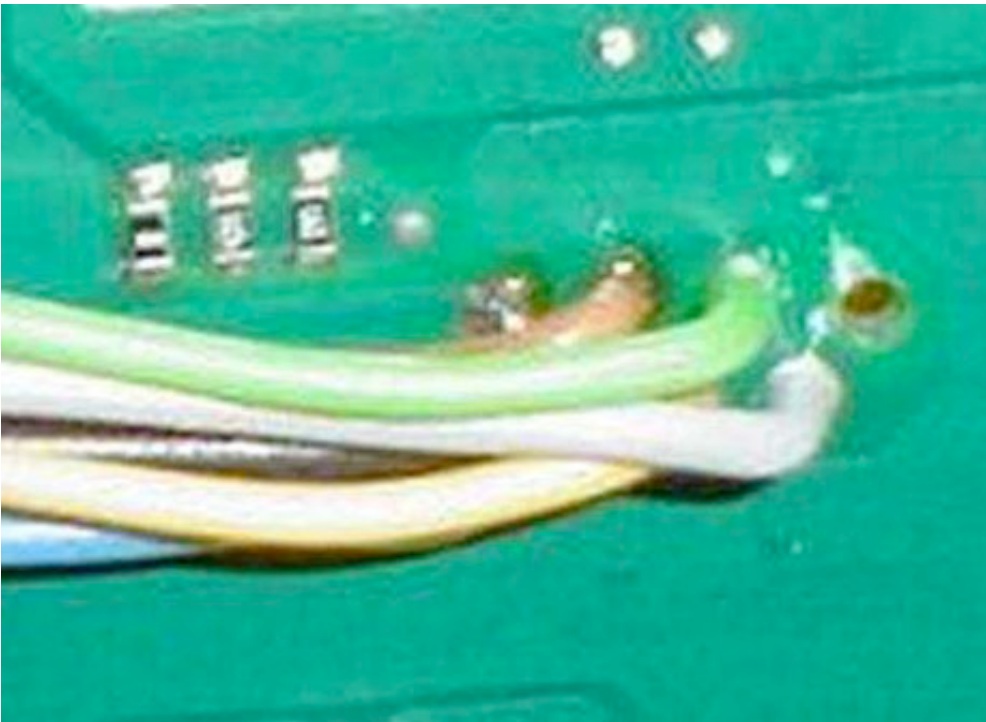
Unsolder the red plug on which the ribbon cable is connected.

Once you've done, then you'll need to begin soldering new wires. Use some 0,22 mm² section wires. Try to get them in different colours in order to well understand where they need to be soldered. Begin to solder these four wires:



Make sure the solderings are well solid.

Now we need to solder the last two wires:

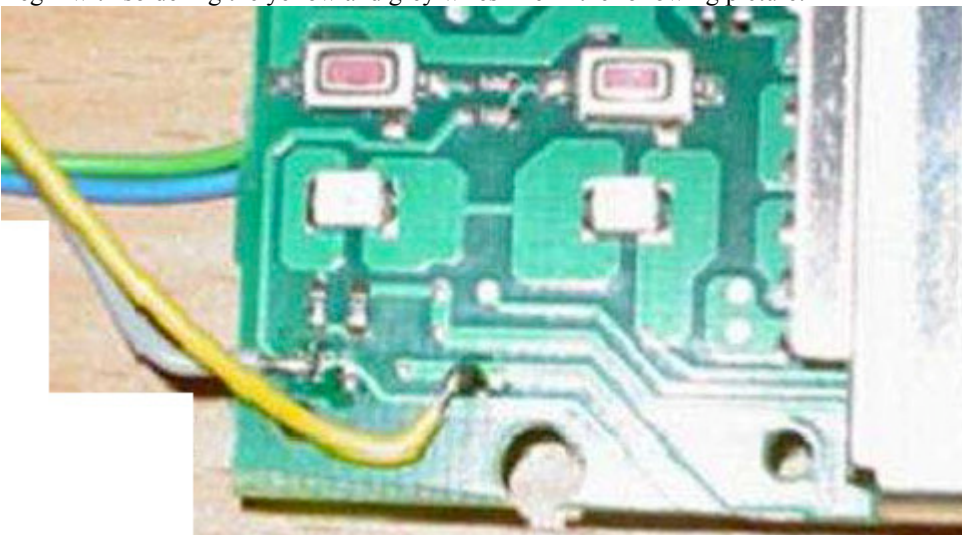


Verify that your wires are of the necessary length for the purpose.

Once every wire has been soldered on the circuit, we need to solder them on the other circuit, the one where the screen is.

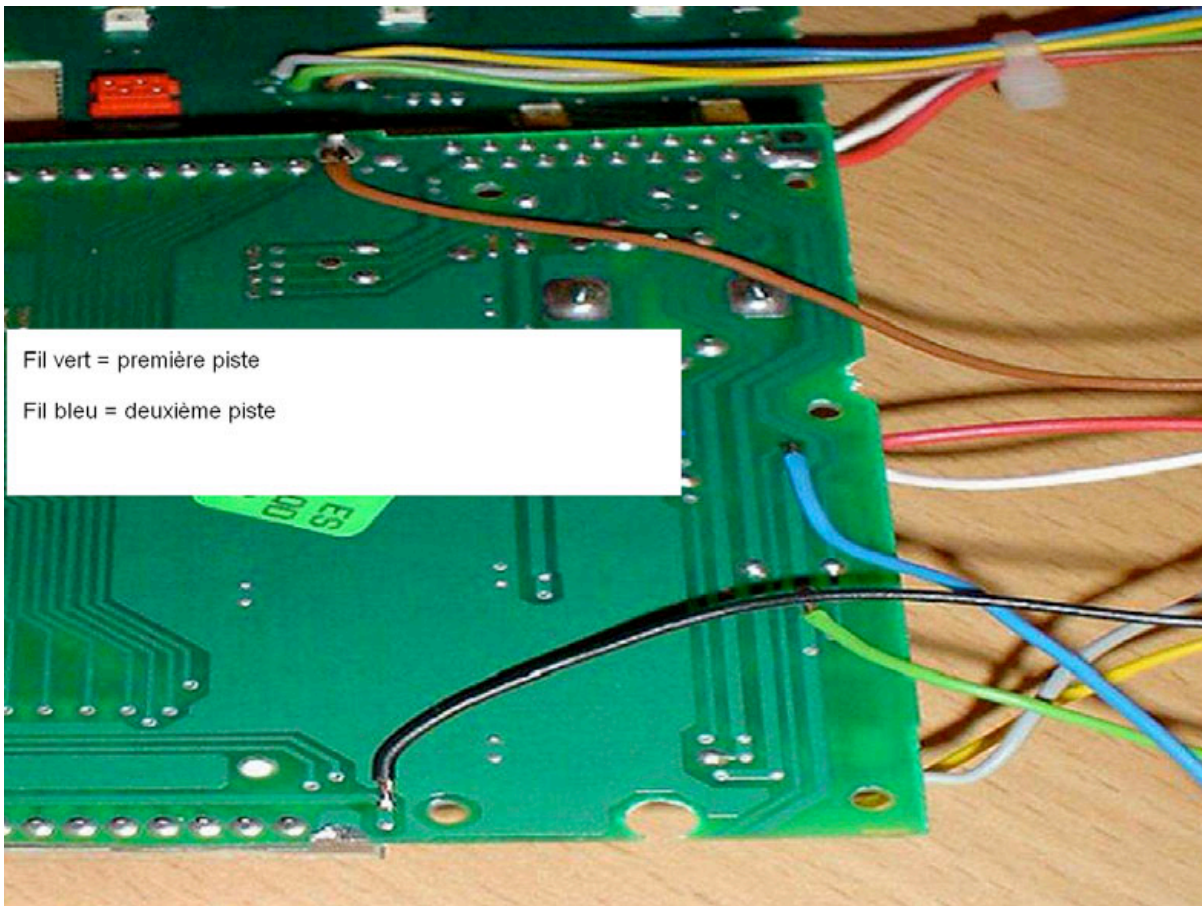
Using coloured wires will make things easier.

Begin with soldering the yellow and grey wires like in the following picture:



If the solderings don't seem too solid, you can scratch plastic off of the tracks with a cutter to get to the copper.

Now turn the circuit and solder the other four wires as the following picture shows



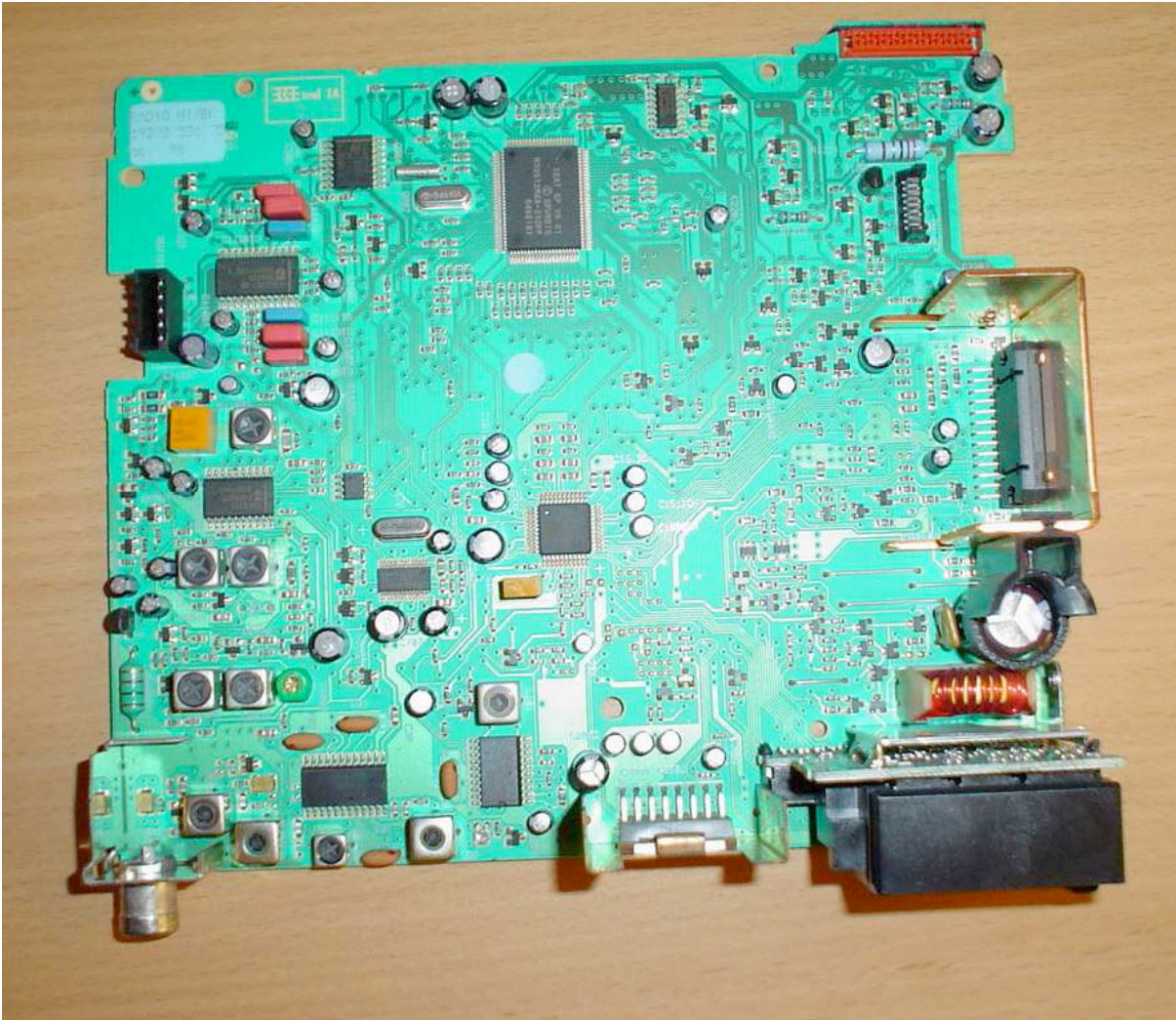
[white label says: 'Green wire = first track', 'Blue wire = second track']

Verify that all your solderings are well solid and that there's no contact between the components' solderings and your wires.

Now we have gotten past the most difficult part. So get a coffee and a five minutes break.

After the break we have to modify the original case to get the space in which the new head unit will be lodged.

First of all we need to take out the main circuit like the following picture shows:



Handle this circuit with care since it costs more than 500 Euros [including the case].
Now we need to create a new case/box for it: find a box of the same circuit dimensions.
We have used a chocolate box:



Here it is opened:



As you will have surely noticed, there's a hole at the back of the original housing:



We then can use that hole as an attachment point.

This is how the finished box will have to look like:



If you can't find a suitable box, you can always use the original one and modify it.

Once you've finished the box, we can look on how to mount the whole [new hu + box] on the console. Seeing that the lower attachment points of the old case are not used anymore, we can use them to bolt the new head unit in.

We need then to create some tangs that will be fixed on the head unit like this:



Then you'll need to do the same for the other side.

Once the new head unit is lodged and screwed in, you can plug the box in:



and then put it over the new head unit:



Now get back to the circuit on which you've soldered the wires and carefully envelope it like this:



Then put it in between the new head unit and the main circuit box:



Cut a suitable hole in the fascia to fit the new head unit front and mount/plug everything back in place:



