

## WIRING HARNESS BASICS

The idea behind aftermarket stereo replacement is to take a radio (head unit) from the manufacturer of your choice and install it in your specific vehicle. Your vehicle was designed and built by a manufacturer that hopes you buy *their* radio should the original one "die" and need to be replaced.

The easiest way to accomplish your radio replacement goal is to use an adapter harness assembled just for that specific radio/vehicle combination.

***First, lets get a little industry lingo straight.***

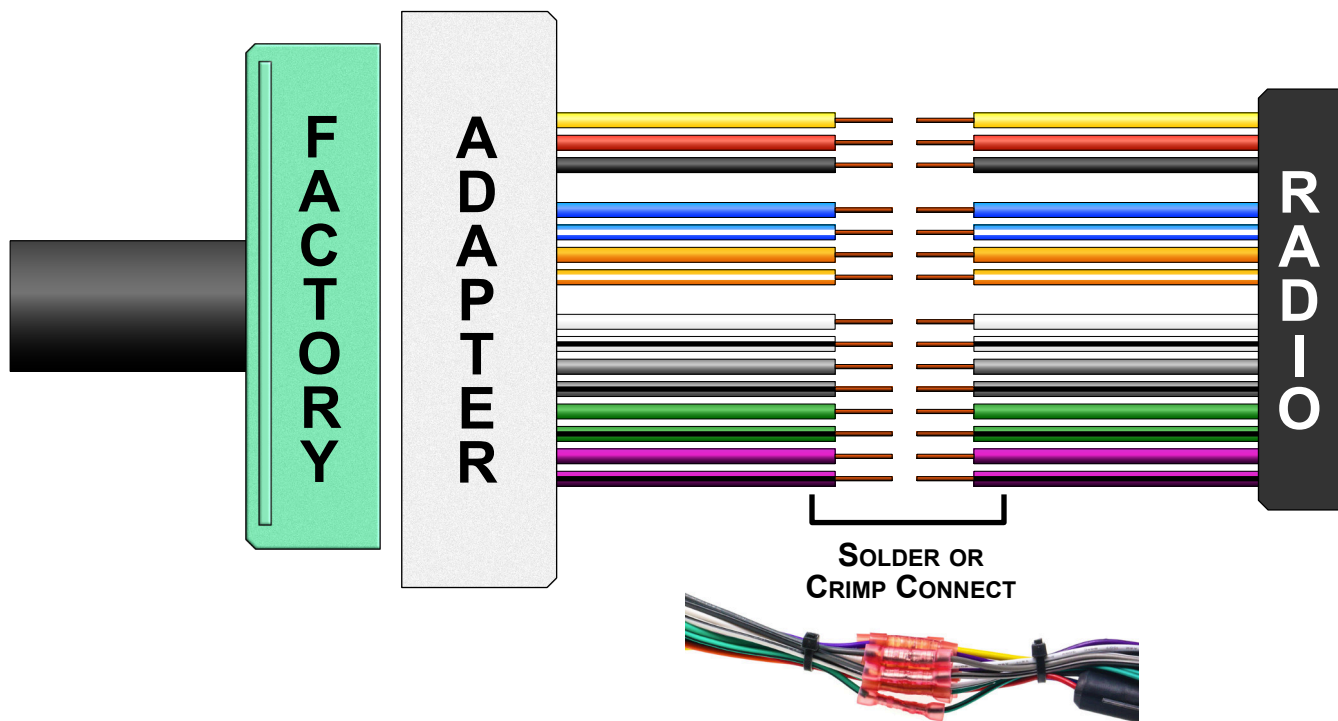
There are three *basic*\* wiring harnesses that are referred to by car audio system installers:

**Factory harness** — This is the wiring harness built into your vehicle; it is the OE (original equipment). Except in rare cases, you should not have to do anything to this harness. Note that the factory wire color codes do not match after aftermarket products.

**NEVER CUT THE CONNECTOR OFF YOUR FACTORY HARNESS!**

**Adapter harness** — This is the wiring harness that fits your specific vehicle. It is connected to the radio harness.

**Radio harness** — Every brand of radio uses their own unique wiring and plug configuration. The radio and adapter harnesses use the same wiring color code.



\* Your vehicle may also need an electronic interface in addition to, or in place of, the basic adapter harness. The assembly principle is the same.