

Supplement: Siemens CID Nav Radio Prep

- **Model & Year:** 98-01 7-Series, U.S.
- **Expertise:** Beginner
- **Date:** February 3, 2020
- **Updated:** November 16, 2020
- **Time Estimate:** 30 minutes

7 Series ^{E38}

Tools Required

- Jeweler's screwdriver (or similar small screwdriver, or T8-T9 torx)

Facilities Needed

- None

Parts Required



- **Siemens CID Radio:** used, \$120 - \$175

Getting Started

The Siemens CID nav radios found on both the E83 X3 and E85 Z4 are a high quality alternative to the troublesome Becker BM53 radios typically used as upgrades on the E38 7-series. Right away, you'll notice the heavier and more substantial feel of the Siemens compared to the featherweight Becker, in addition to the Siemens's copper heat sinks in the rear. The Siemens shares all the features of late-model Beckers with the added benefit of [HD radio](#) on some models (not to be confused with satellite radio).

Also, the Siemens radio tends to be less expensive than the Becker!

The catch? This is an in-dash nav radio and therefore has a conventional faceplate, which needs to be removed (along with its onboard CD player) before trunk fitment. This is a simple task requiring no more than about 30 minutes and a small screwdriver, as illustrated in this helpful [video](#). Afterward, installation procedures are identical to the Becker.

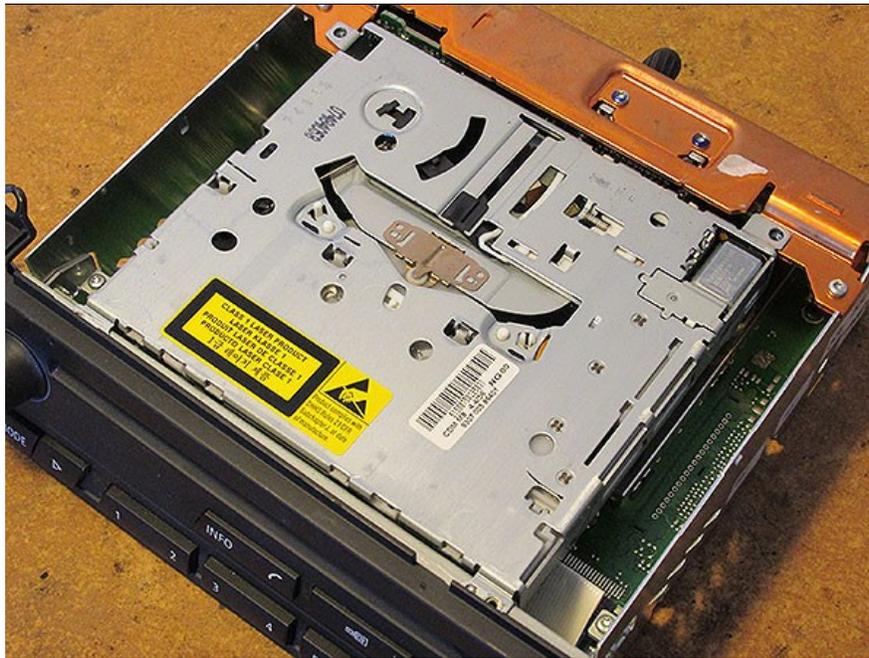


The name "CID" does not appear on the label but the radio is referenced as such in BMW's official parts catalog. Other than a part number, there is no particular model number on the label (image above).

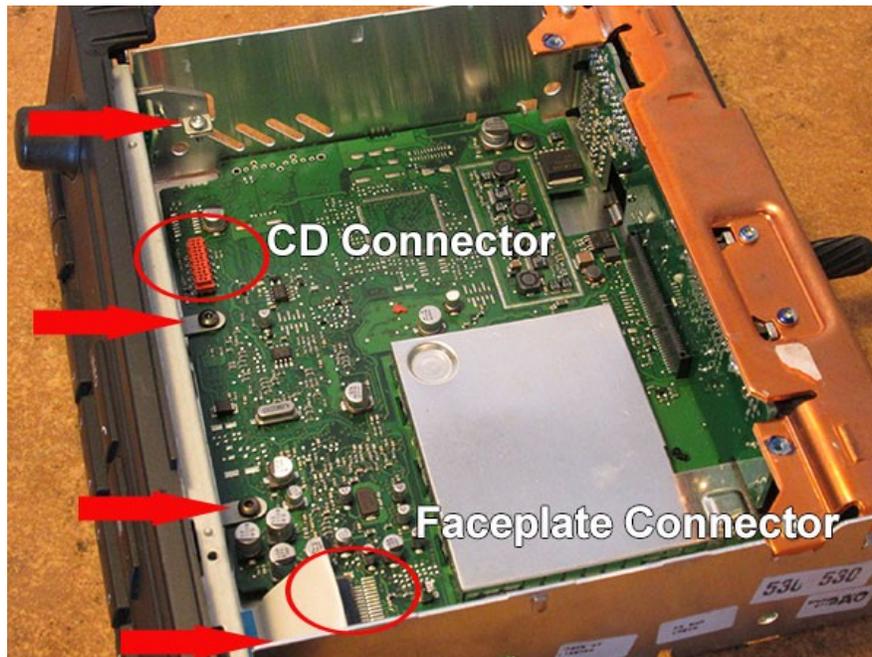
TIP: Since the faceplate is not needed, purchasing CID radios with scratched or damaged faceplates is acceptable. This flexibility allows consideration of even lower priced units.

Procedure

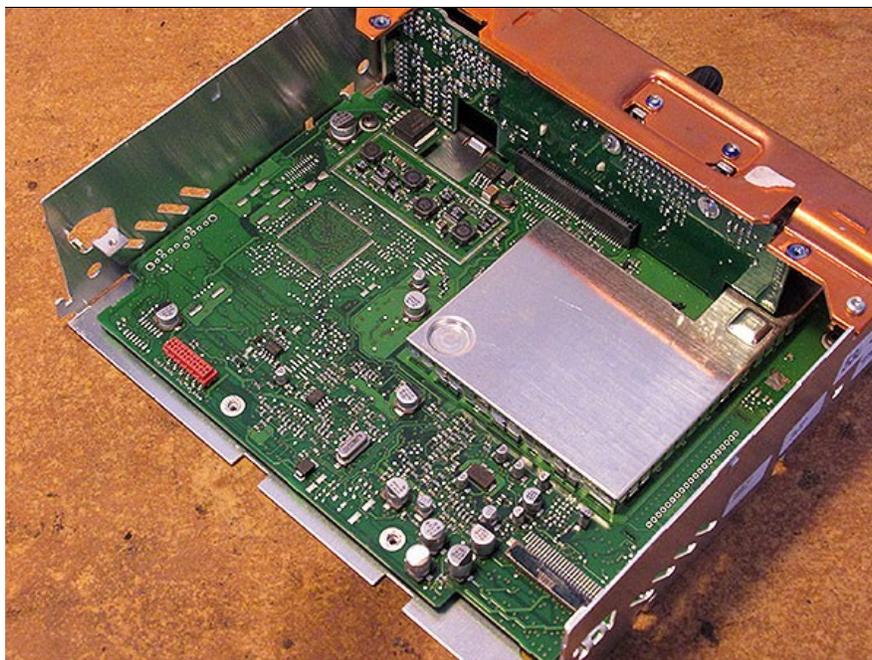
- 1) Using a jeweler's screwdriver or similar, remove the four (4) top screws and pry up the cover to reveal the internal CD player:



- 2) Lift up CD player and locate its ribbon tape connection. Pull up ribbon tape's red connector to disconnect CD player from circuit board:

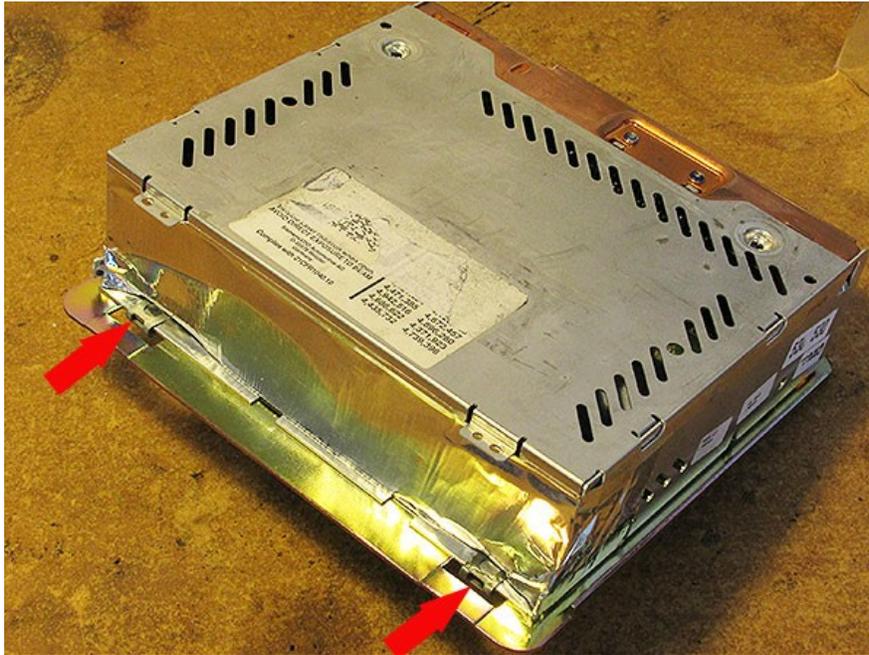


3) Remove the four (4) screws holding the faceplate to the radio chassis (red arrows above), then pull faceplate free. Grasp pull-tab on faceplate's ribbon tape and pull forward to release. The radio will now look like:



4) Re-install top cover, then close the remaining exposed side with a strip of aluminum tape or similar (see Step 5 image below).

5) Remove (unscrew) black spacer prong (at rear of radio), and secure radio to bracket with an 8mm nut. Then use a pair of small clips to further secure radio to bracket (illustrated by red arrows below):



6) Now, install and code Siemens radio in the same manner as Becker (see DIY procedure).

New Features & Screens

The Siemens nav radio has some new features and screen information not previously available from either your stock Alpine C43 or the Becker BM53 radio.

The Siemens uses a buffering circuit to smooth transitions between modes and even radio station selections. For example, when toggling thru your FM presets, instead of sudden and abrupt switching (normal to all radios), the Siemens softly fades-out the previous selection then fades-in the current selection. The same is true of mode switching (ex: switching from radio to CD mode). Note also:

INFO Screen



- *NAV-Min*: ranges from -9 to +9. Supposedly controls spoken nav directions, but I cannot confirm this. Has no affect on "Nav Volume" from MENU.
- *Freq*: displays radio station frequency numbers in addition to PTY info (for stations that feature PTY).

AM/FM Radio



- "P" Displays: each preset is displayed in numeric order (P1, P2, etc) in the method enabled from INFO. For example, if PTY is enabled, the preset is represented by its corresponding textual data (if available). If PTY is disabled, the preset is represented by frequency. Note also "Freq" number displayed in small font (upper center, enabled from INFO) next to selected station's RDS text.
- Each preset is selectable by scroll wheel in addition to its preset button on face panel. The current selection is marked with a checkbox.

CD Changer

With its onboard CD player removed, the radio will flash "NO DISC" when toggling inputs with the MODE button. Continue pressing MODE to reach the CD Changer input (if connected).



- "P" Displays: each disc is displayed in numeric order (P1, P2, etc).
- Each disc is selectable by scroll wheel in addition to its button on face panel. The current disc is marked with a checkbox.
- "TR" Display: tracks (songs) are represented by large font "TR" while disc numbers are in small font on the far right.

AUX

- Displays "AUX" (same as BM53).

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