

KICKING AN '08 GT

WE INSTALL A NEW KICKER SHELBY AUDIO SYSTEM

Text and Photos by Lee Mathias

In 1965, Carroll Shelby worked his magic on Ford's new Mustang and created the legendary Shelby GT 350. He upgraded the suspension, increased the engine power and wrapped it in a simple but unique package, white with blue stripes. Today, Shelby and Kicker have joined forces to work similar magic on the current Mustang's already awesome audio system. The new Kicker Shelby system is designed as a do-it-yourself, plug and play upgrade to any 2005 – 2009 Mustang, except convertibles. This more powerful system outperforms the optional Shaker 1000 and brings tuner level performance to your Mustang's audio system. The Shelby logos instantly identify this unique package. As an added bonus, it also takes up less room in the trunk than the Shaker 1000.

Kicker has designed the parts to directly replace or interface with the factory components. All the wiring has factory-style harnesses that plug into the existing plugs. There are no holes to drill, wires to solder, or components to modify. The Kicker Shelby is compatible with any of Mustang's three factory audio systems. It is designed to allow you to upgrade your system in steps, or all at once. Instructions are included for the basic system, Mach 500, and Mach 1000. The front and rear speaker package upgrades the two rear speakers and two smaller door speakers. Simply take out the existing speakers and plug in the Kickers. The two eight-inch door speakers are a second package. It includes speakers, spacers, and Shelby covers. Once again, remove the factory parts, screw in the Kicker parts and plug into the existing wiring. The trunk-mounted sub and amplifier has its own enclosure, custom designed to fit the Mustang's trunk. Simply attach it to the two existing factory studs and plug in the harness. The amplifier package bolts under the dash using existing hardware and plugs into the factory head unit. Each package has its own set of instructions with pictures.

Can this really be plug and play? How complete are the instructions? Can the average do-it-yourselfer do the install with basic hand tools?

These questions were posed to Patrick Kelley of Kelley's Restorations. Kicker provided a complete audio system, and Patrick volunteered to do the system install on MCA President Steven McCarley's black 2008. Steven arrived at Patrick's shop about 10 in the morning. I was there armed with a digital camera, pen, and paper. Patrick's experience with late model Mustangs was a definite advantage. My extra set of hands also helped speed up the installation. How long did it take? Steven was on the road by 4 in the afternoon.

Could this be done by the average owner? Absolutely. The process is

possible in your home garage with basic tools (listed on page 41).

The average do-it-yourselfer could do it in a day or less depending on how familiar they are with removing the factory plastic panels. Removing these panels without damaging them is the most difficult part of the install.

How complete are the instructions? They are extremely comprehensive and the pictures are excellent. The only confusion is where the four sets of instructions (one for each of the four packages) overlap. Some instructions are repeated in several places. Thoroughly read through all of them before you start and you will understand the basic process. Follow along as we install the Kicker Shelby in Steven's Mustang and we'll point out some helpful hints. **MT**



TOOLS NEEDED

- Good flashlight or small portable work light
- Trim removal tool (any auto parts store)
- T-20 & T-30 torx Phillips screwdriver (power driver is quicker)
- 7mm, 10mm, 13mm sockets and ratchet
- Ignition module wrench (use with T-20 on rear shelf speakers)
- Small pocket flat blade screwdriver
- 90-degree dental pick
- Wire cutter, stripper tool

LET'S GET STARTED

1



▲ Unpack everything and identify the packages that go with each set of instructions.

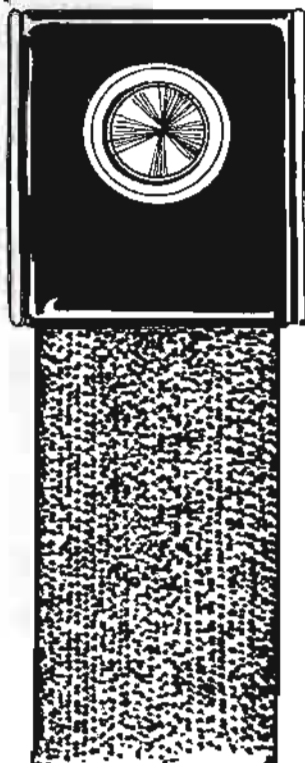
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▲ The trunk unit consists of a 200-watt amplifier and 10-inch subwoofer factory installed in a custom-fitted enclosure.

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3



▲ The 284 watt amplifier mounts under the glove box and runs the 6 X 8 door and package tray speakers.

4



▲ These are the harnesses and instructions supplied in the kit. Everything is labeled for easy identification.

5



▲ Lift the tab to remove the battery box cover.

6



▲ Use a 10 mm to remove the bolt holding the positive cable, reattach it with the two system cables. Do not install the two fuses at this time.

7



▲ Remove the red plastic shield from the battery cover, discard it and reattach the cover.

8



▲ When routing the wires under the passenger fender well, note one possible path crosses a sharp edge, but the path shown is a smooth edge. Push the wires through an existing opening to maintain weather seal.

9



▲ Unsnap both door sill moldings, remove the fuse cover and passenger kick panel.

10



▲ Unsnap the shifter boot cover with the trim tool. You do not need to remove the shift knob.

11



▲ Remove the two screws under the center console lid and unsnap the console top cover.

12



▲ Unplug the wiring and remove the cover.

13



▲ Slide out both console side panels.

14



▲ Pry out the radio bezel, unplug the switches and remove them from the car. Be careful not to break any clips.

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15



▲ Use a small screwdriver to unsnap the selector switch plug.

16



▲ Unscrew four bolts, unplug the harness, and pull out the factory head unit.

17



▲ Unscrew and remove the glove box door.

18



▲ Wires coming from under the fender well are inserted into the supplied plug, then clip the plugs together.

19



▲ Pry clip open to insert the wires, then snap shut.

20



▲ Amp hangs under the glove box, attaches with glove box door screws and HVAC nut.

21



▲ Plug the Kicker wiring into the radio harness, reinstall radio, bezel, console parts, and glove box door.

22



▲ Remove rear seat cushion and fold down the seat backs.

23



▲ Remove both rear quarter trim panels. Each has three plastic clips you remove with the trim tool.

24



▲ Remove the four clips and take out the rear package shelf.

25



▲ Use the ignition module wrench with a Phillips insert to remove and install the two 5 X 8 speakers. Wires simply plug in.

26



▲ Route trunk wiring down passenger side, through the factory hole and over the trunk carpet.

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27



▲ Trunk amp enclosure attaches to two existing studs and plugs into harness.

28



▲ These fasteners appear to be Phillips screws. You actually rotate them 1/4 turn and pry out.

29



▲ Reinstall package tray, quarter panel trims, and the rear seat.

30



▲ Pry off cover around door lock button.

31



▲ Pull out access plate in arm rest, remove torx screw.

32



▲ Remove access panel behind door handle, remove torx.

33



▲ Snap out door lock control panel, unplug wires and access the torx behind it.

34



▲ Pop out mirror access cover and unplug the wires.

35



▲ Remove eight 7mm trim screws and pull door panel loose.

36



▲ Door handle unclips and is removed through the hole.

37



▲ Unscrew 5 X 8 speaker from the door.

38



▲ Unplug factory speaker and install Shelby unit.

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▲ Remove the bolt on the back of the door panel that holds the 8-inch woofer.

41



▲ Cut the 4 wires and remove the speaker.

43



▲ Install a gasket on the spacer, door panel side.

45



▲ Strip the white wire with the black stripe and the white wire with the grey stripe about 1/2-inch. The black and white one goes to the black connector, the grey and white one goes to the red connector. The two remaining wires are tied off; be sure to insulate them to prevent accidental grounding.

40



▲ Pry cover off factory speaker.

42



▲ Snip off the plastic speaker alignment pin on the door panel.

44



▲ Screw the spacer to the door panel with the supplied screws.

46



▲ Screw the speaker to the spacer, install insulator and bolt on the back.

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47



▲ Screw the Shelby speaker cover on.

48



▲ When reinstalling the door panel, be sure to line up the two clips on the bottom before snapping in the top.

49



▲ One more door panel and you're done.

50



▲ Install the fuses under the hood and another Mustang is ready to go Kickin' off into the sunset.

SOURCES:

Kicker Shelby Stereo System

Shelby Performance Parts

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