

[TESTED]

MotoChello Audio Speaker Bridge

An easy DIY solution to convert speaker audio to earphone that works with the "wonder wheel."

I HAVE A K1600 with the Alpine audio system and chose a Sena headset to use with it. I was disappointed to find the "wonder wheel" didn't work with it (apparently not the headset's fault but because it isn't the BMW one). The system sounds best through the outside speakers but I don't always want them on, so I started searching the online boards for another option. It turns out, I'm not the only one who had that problem-including owners of the K1200LT and R1200RT with the Alpine audio system.

Some posts had suggestions that are downright scary, like cutting wires and other alterations to route speaker audio to earphones. While I certainly enjoy the benefits of technology, I am not very savvy when it comes to doodling with it. I like this bike and paid a lot for this system. And I certainly don't want to mess it up by making a rookie mistake.

I was relieved to find several riders who found a solution using a product called a Speaker Bridge that not only solved their problem but was safer than the "home brew" methods. Now I was interested.

The Speaker Bridge is made by Moto-Chello and costs only \$89, for me a cheap price considering everything. I very much like that it was designed to protect my bike's system as well. You can choose

To install, the Audio Speaker MotoChello Bridge's wires need Audio Speaker Bridge to be "tapped" into the motorcycle's speaker wires. ↓ A 3.5mm cable is included to connect to an audio transmitter such as the Sena SM10. ↓ Originally, the BMW "wonder wheel" only controlled headset volume to BMW headsets.

> between outside speakers and in-ear types, and it will connect to a Sena SM10 Dual Stream Stereo transmitter so I can use the Bluetooth headset of my choice. Sounded good.

Next, I found a couple of links on the MotoChello website to instruction videos that show how to hook it up (neither was made by MotoChello but both were very helpful). One is specific to the K1600/K1200 installation (youtu.be/7SQx-dSW37g), and has two parts. The second was from a Sena dealer (youtu.be/HbnSZY-BX3lY). I was relieved to see that it didn't look too hard, so decided to go for it.

The package was simple—just the Speaker Bridge, audio cable and instruction diagram. When deciding where to mount the device, it depends on whether you want to use the button to switch between the speakers and headset (which means you have to be able to reach it) or leave it on one setting (and tuck it away somewhere). I put it below the seat (not under it) since I can easily reach it but it isn't obvious.

I watched the video again before starting and took my time, following the instructions. Installation went faster than expected and worked great. I connected the SM10 transmitter, which will pair with two headsets and found my Sena headset not only works, but so does the wonder wheel.

Good job, MotoChello! The sound quality has improved with a boost from the Sena transmitter; I can use the headset of my choosing and have all the functions of the Alpine system. In all, it was a good decision I would make again. For more information, see motochello.com.—Sam Macken