Inserting an Auxiliary Input into a 2002 Delco AM/FM CD RDS Radio

Following these instructions is done at your own risk.

Remove the radio from the vehicle. My radio lives in a 2002 GMC Sonoma:
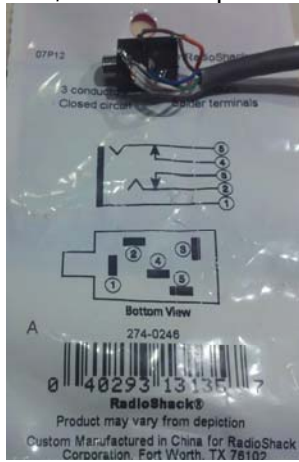

Ebay photo

Its data label.

Remove the bottom cover of the radio chassis to reveal the main board:

Audio in from CD Player

This CD player in this radio is physically separate from the radio circuitry and is connected by a 15 pin header. With the radio hooked up in the vehicle and playing a CD with the volume at 0, I used an old 1.5″ speaker with one lead grounded to the metal radio box and touched the leads in the header one at a time. Arbitrarily naming the far right pin (at the end of the header with the black lead) 1 and proceeding left to 15, pins 1 and 3 carried audio (it's very faint, you need the volume turned all the way down). Also, they emerged from a shielded black sheathing with a common ground (pin 2).

I acquired a 1/8 inch stereo closed circuit jack from Radio Shack (274-246) for under $3.00. Hopefully it will suffice. I used about 9 inches of Cat 5 wire, using the solid colors to carry the audio and the white striped leads combined to serve as a shielded ground (I was winging that one, it could be pointless or way wrong). So I soldered the wires to the jack;

Then I committed myself by cutting the shielded line in feed from the CD player. I made the assumption that the left channel was the black lead (pin 1). So the black lead from the CD player is connected to terminal 4 of the jack, and terminal 5 from the jack is connected to pin 1 (black lead) to the radio's main board. The "right" channel (white, pin 3) from the CD player is connected to terminal 3 on the jack and terminal 2 on the jack is connected to pin 3 (white lead) on the radio's main board.

I soldered all four white striped leads together and inserted it between the amplifier heat sink portion that is attached to the main PC board and the metal radio chassis.

I then drilled a 15/32″ hole into the front face of the radio, mixed up some epoxy for plastic and epoxied the jack into the hole in the blank area where the cassette would have been.

Now, I can play a CD and interrupt its output and play an external source in through the 1/8″ jack.