



K2TQN Mobile - 2011 Ford Flex with Hi-Sierra antenna



Rear seat is a 60-40 split bench seat which folds forward over, towards the front of the car



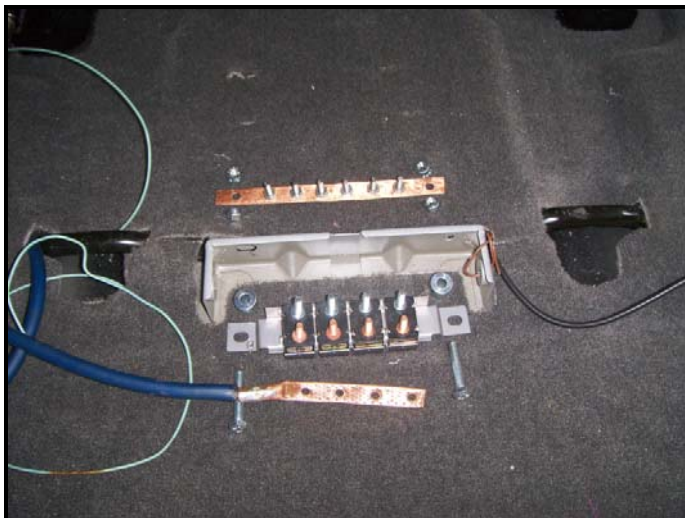
Under center of seat, after slitting carpet, padding is removed and used for a pattern for 1/4" plywood mount backed with an aluminum panel which is tied into car ground and the radio ground bar.



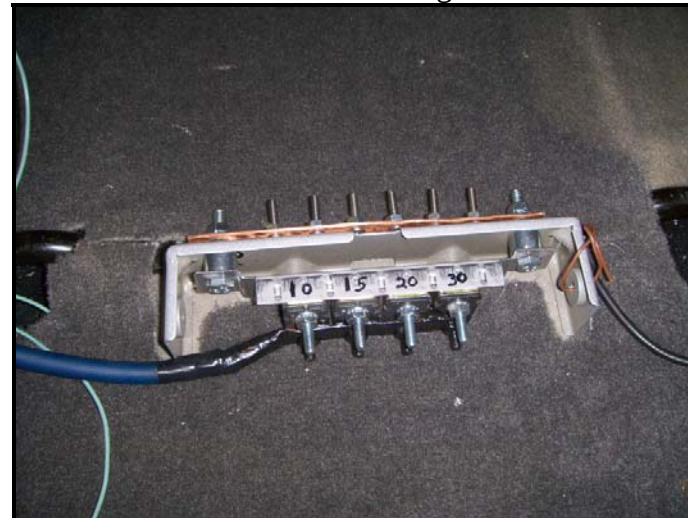
Carpet is slit for bolts to come through for mounting bracket



Plywood mount is glued down with industrial glue, no screws into metal floor due to gas tank under



Plastic cover removed and parts placed for installation, ground bar and breaker panel are mounted to the metal bracket which Ford used for the cover or a center console if the car had two bucket seats instead of bench seat





50 Amp breaker bolted to Plexiglas and that is glued and bolted on top of battery, #6 wire run to breaker panel through firewall and under carpet



Radio after installation with tuner (left), all wiring is hidden and run under the carpet



IC-7000 front panel mounted to flexible mount which is secured to front seat bolt



Speaker is mounted behind drivers left ear using Plexiglas secured under head rest supports, wiring routed through seat and under carpet to radio

Antenna mount construction



Original aftermarket hitch



Aftermarket hitch with an added 1¼" receiver welded to the left side for a Tarheel 90° antenna mount.
Entire antenna system can be removed with one bolt and disconnecting coax and control wires.

Enclosed PDF of the main parts of my system. The main 50-amp circuit breaker on the battery cuts everything off. This is nice for disconnecting everything while car is being serviced. The 4 individual breakers under the seat will automatically reset so no action is required by me once a trouble is cleared. I added additional Power Pole jacks in several locations in the car, including near the rear lift hatch. This allows for portable tailgate operation if desired. I also installed Power Pole jacks facing the 2nd row split seat, for a possible second rig, for 2-meter operation if needed. I anticipated the possibility of emergency/disaster operation. I carry a 1960's Hi-Gain HF Tape Dipole and 100' of coax in the car in case it's needed

The #6 power wire from the breaker/battery was installed by a local car-audio shop tech and was run through the firewall (a new hole) and down the Ford floor channel. (I was not able to handle the back-bending to perform this work and the \$250 installation fee worked for me. I installed the breakers and attached all the power wires. The radio is grounded to the body next to the radio, which seem to work OK. The Ford Flex body is welded together everywhere with good grounding to the frame and battery.

The 60% split car seat covers the radio, so it is out of sight and out of the way. Lifting the seat makes the radio assessable. All wiring was run under the carpeting making them tangle free from feet.

The radio control head is mounted on a flexible mount bolted to the front passenger seat bolt and rises high enough to make it easily visible, and allows my elbow to rest on the center console for hand-steady tuning. I mounted an accessory speaker on the driver's seat, just behind my left ear. This puts the audio where I need it and somewhat away from my XYL Sherry.

The antenna is mounted to the aftermarket hitch by an additional 1¼" receiver welded to the left side. This is very solid and allows the entire antenna system to be removed with a single 5/8" bolt and by disconnecting the coax and the two control wires. This hitch was selected because it had a flat left side bracket which facilitated the 2" receiver installation.

The rig is an ICOM IC-7000, 100-watts; antenna is a Sierra screwdriver (discontinued) with a long 6' whip.

I put this together just before my Montana road trip in 2011. Unfortunately I had a match problem and was unable to transmit during the trip..... But in true Murphy's Law rules, it started working 100% after I returned home. I think the grounding cable from the antenna was the problem (paint under connection?). It has been working well ever since then. I use it mainly on 18-mhz, but it has been on each band (80-10) with good results. – 73, **K2TQN**