



If you like modern conveniences, then you may find yourself in a position where you fall in love with a 997 series Porsche 911, but are letdown by the technology. Things like Apple CarPlay, Google's Android Auto, and even simple things like a backup camera or Bluetooth were rarely seen on these cars. The good news is that most of the technology in a new 991 series car can be added to one of these modern classics.

The 997 series cars get broken down into two categories; the 1<sup>st</sup> generation models were made from 2005-2008 and typically had silver dash panels. The 2009-2011 models were known as 2<sup>nd</sup> generation cars and typically had black dashes. While there were some minor additions over the years, this was a period where Porsche was behind the times in audio and safety technology. Let's explore some of the factory equipment and upgrades that are possible.

### **In-Dash upgrade Options**

The most popular radio in the 2005-2008 models was the PCM2.1 navigation unit, and it was outdated the instant it came out. The 2009-2011 models often had the PCM3 navigation radio, and while it was better, it is now outdated as well. One of the popular upgrades is installing a replacement in-dash receiver that can work with the existing Bose audio system or the Base audio. You can gain features like CarPlay, Android Auto, and Bluetooth for handsfree calling and music streaming. Integrated GPS Navigation, and USB ports to charge phones



and play music are also common upgrades. Popular apps like Waze, Pandora, SiriusXM, and Spotify can now be accessed and controlled by your radio, so you can focus on driving your incredible machine. When the install is done properly, it looks like a Porsche factory upgrade as you can see in the picture.

### **Upgraded Audio**

While the Bose stereo option was better than the Base audio, chances are it is getting tired from age. A quality shop can install upgraded speakers in the factory locations, keeping the integrity of the vehicle intact. In some instances, the factory Bose subwoofer system can be retained and for some it makes more sense to do an upgrade. Adding power and possibly a



DSP (digital signal processor) will also improve the sound quality and overall output of the stereo system. Modern technology allows for these items to also be completely integrated into the vehicle, keeping the integrity intact. When we did the audio upgrade in my 2006 C4s, we drilled a total of two new holes when installing the audio upgrade. In almost every instance, a good technician can utilize factory mounting points, so the vehicle can be returned to stock if needed.

### Driver Safety Options

As you can imagine, driver safety options weren't a thing over a decade ago in most vehicles. But, you can add options like blind spot monitoring systems, forward collision warning, back-up cameras, and front cameras into your 911.

### Custom Installed Radar and Laser Detectors

If you are going to drive your 911 that way it was meant to be driven, a custom installed radar and laser detector should be on your list of "wants." It is different than a portable unit in that nothing is hanging from your windshield and you get real protection from laser-based radar or LIDAR. We will cover this in more detail in a future article.

### Choose a Specialist

Most of us know that a Porsche is an extremely well-engineered vehicle and it takes someone with increased skill to work on it. Many of these cars use a fiber optic audio network called a MOST system along with the CAN-BUS to carry out commands and send data. What this means to you is don't go to your local big box store and be very careful if you are going to try this yourself. Experimenting to save a few dollars often ends bad. If you look, there is probably someone within 60-90 minutes of driving distance that has the staff, equipment, and knowledge base to do great work for you. My contact information is below, so feel free to reach out to me with any questions, and good luck on your upgrades.

### About the Author

Mark Miller owns Westminster Speed & Sound, an award-winning vehicle customization facility in business since 1969. He is the Head Judge in the Mobile Electronics category for the SEMA New Product Awards, He is a two-time board member of the Mobile Electronics Retailers Association, and 11-time recipient of the Top 50 Retailers Award by ME-Magazine. He is an avid Porsche enthusiast and owner. His 12,000 square foot facility is located in Westminster, Maryland. You can reach him at [mark@WestminsterSpeed.com](mailto:mark@WestminsterSpeed.com) or by calling his store at 410-857-5300

