

# Sounds Like A Winner

BY BOB FEATHER

**E**arplugs, wires, connectors, confusion! I just want to go for a ride and bring along my tunes without all the hassles, man! Why doesn't someone make a sound system for my bike with an MP3 player adapter so I can cruise with the muse?

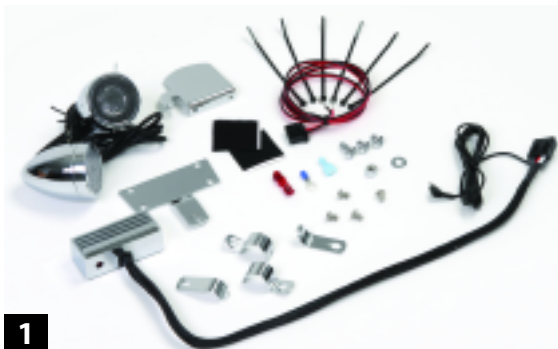
Well, someone does make a simple solution for all you guys wanting tunes while you tour. In this article we'll install the Cycle Sounds Universal sound system, which allows you to pop your MP3 player onto a convenient handlebar bracket and enjoy your favorite sounds on the road.

The stylish chromed speaker pods fit discreetly on the handlebars and the 50-watt X2 power amp delivers all the punch and boom you'd expect from your MP3 player. The kit comes complete with all necessary hardware and connectors, making the installation so easy a Neanderthal could do it!

Out on the road, the Cycle Sounds System performance is what you'd expect from an open-air speaker system. Cruising the back roads at subhighway speeds delivers the best performance. At highway speeds, wind becomes a major factor as the battle between noise and sound quality is waged. And we found that the bass coming from the speakers made the handlebars vibrate beyond what the engine contributed.

For those of you wanting a simple-to-install, easy-to-use, discreet sound system for your bike, the Cycle Sounds Universal sound system delivers the goods. Art Handleman, resident wrench at Valley Motorsports, in Ansonia, Connecticut, demonstrates just how easy this installation is.

*The sound while riding actually improves when wearing a full-face helmet, or at least one with ear coverage. The bass becomes more obvious, and the overall sound quality richer.*



**1** The Cycle Sounds kit comes with everything shown here.



**2** The bike handlebars are ready for speaker installation.



**3** Mount the speakers on handlebars using the included brackets.



**4** Route the speaker wires through the handlebar looms.



**5** Mount the amplifier to the amp mounting bracket.



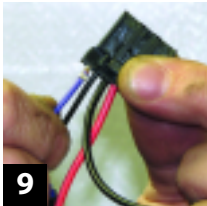
**6** Mount the amplifier on the bike. Note: choose a mounting point where the amplifier will be in the open air.



**7** Remove the headlight unit from the basket, then locate a power wire that has power only when the ignition switch is turned on.



**8** Using the supplied wire harness, run it through the rear of the headlight basket, crimp the ground lug onto the wire and secure it to a chassis ground.



**9** Insert the speaker wires into the harness connector.



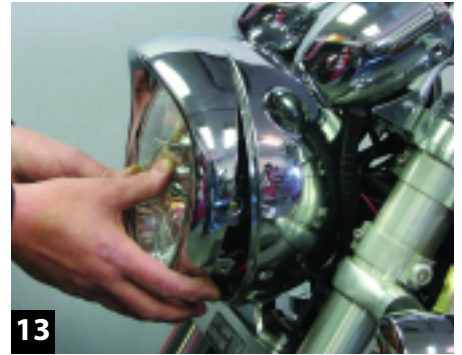
**10** Plug the speaker wire connector into the amplifier connector.



**11** Install the MP3 mount.



**12** Run the audio cable with jack up the right handlebar and secure it to the MP3 mount.



**13** Tidy up the wiring in the headlight basket and replace the headlight unit.



**14** The installation is complete.

RB

# **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**SAVE 60%  
off the cover price**

# **RoadBike**

**Get RoadBike BEFORE  
newsstand readers**

**Subscribe online at  
[www.RoadBikeMag.com](http://www.RoadBikeMag.com)**

**Or call 877.693.3577**