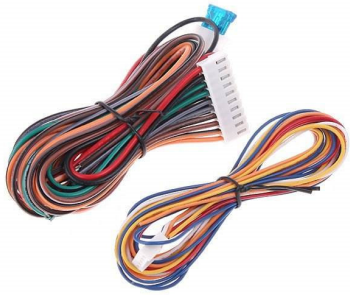
INTRO TO ALARM AND REMOTE START SYSTEMS:

Opening the box of your first alarm and remote start system can be very intimidating. With all the different parts and wires, it can be confusing to even experienced mobile electronics installers. This section is dedicated to helping you understand the components that make up a remote start and security system and how they operate.

CONTROL UNIT

The control unit or “brain” of the alarm and remote start system is the heart of the system. This is often a black box that all harnesses and components connect to. The control unit is where the processing of various input and output functions takes place. The control unit monitors signals from trigger inputs and sensor outputs to trigger the alarm. The control unit also monitors signals from the remote transmitters to arm or disarm the system, lock and unlock the doors, remote start the vehicle, or operate other accessories such as the horn or trunk release.

WIRING HARNESSES



The wiring harness may consist of one or more separate harnesses that plug into the control unit and connect to various vehicle circuits, sensors, or switches. NOT EVERY WIRE IS USED OR CONNECTED. Alarm and remote start systems are designed to integrate with a wide range of vehicles with many different types of circuits.

REMOTE TRANSMITTERS

One or more remote transmitters are used to control the various functions of the alarm or remote start system. Most are also already programmed and come with new batteries.

ELECTRONIC SIREN

Security systems and some remote start systems include an electronic siren. Most sirens have a positive and a negative wire. The negative wire connects to chassis ground and the positive wire connects to the alarm's siren output wire. The electronic siren is the system's sounding device. The system sounds the siren when the system is armed or disarmed or when the alarm is triggered. Some electronic sirens have a self-contained battery to power the siren if power to the alarm is disconnected.

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VALET SWITCH

The valet switch is used for a variety of functions depending on the complexity of the system. The valet switch connects to the control unit through a small harness. Generally, the valet switch is a momentary switch that plugs into the system's control unit. The valet switch supports functions of programming, sensor disable, and system override.

LED

The L.E.D. (light emitting diode) shows visual status of the system. It connects to the control unit usually through a small harness. It primarily serves as a theft deterrent. The L.E.D. shows that the system is armed and warns potential thieves.

EXTERNAL SENSORS

Many security systems include external sensors, such as an external shock sensor. They connect to the system's control unit through a wire, cable, or ribbon harness. External sensors offer increased protection through their ability to be mounted in locations where they would best detect a disturbance to the vehicle.

EXTENDED RANGE ANTENNA

Some systems include an extended range antenna. Generally the antenna is mounted on the windshield and provides the user the benefit of increased range to control functions of the alarm or remote start.

RELAYS

Some systems require relays for functions such as starter disable, power door locks, etc. Some include all necessary relays, but most do not.