

For DIN slot, small radio slot, and axle mounting

Blaupunkt Frankfurt Stereo MB Retro Radio

Revival of the 1970s



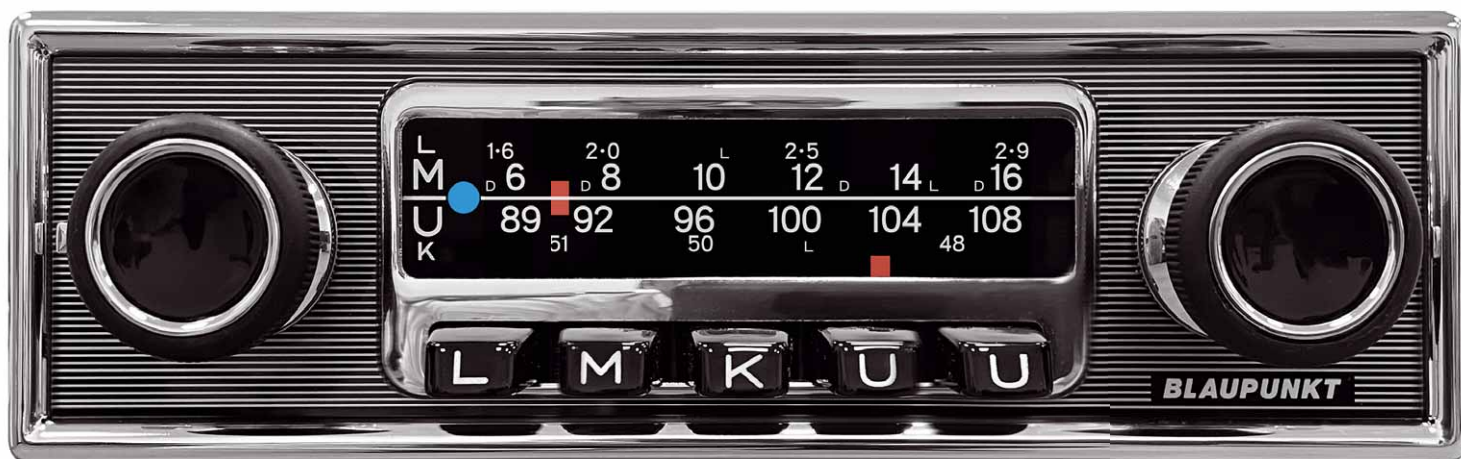
- ▶ Blaupunkt has built a reputation in the classic car radio scene for its retro designs for both young and old-timer enthusiasts. Now, with the Frankfurt Stereo MB, it introduces a model that features a 1970s look.

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Retro: The analog scale exudes the flair of the 1970s

Before car manufacturers switched to today's highly integrated head units, the DIN slot dominated most car dashboards for decades. But that wasn't always the case. In the past, installation slots or preparations were often slightly smaller for so-called axle devices. These devices have only a small recess for the radio display and two holes next to it for the axles of the volume control and station selector knob. That's why it's called that.

The Blaupunkt Frankfurt MB comes with the necessary accessories for all three installation options: with an installation frame in the DIN slot, without an installation frame in the small radio slot, and as an axle device. This means it fits in most vintage cars from the late 60s, 70s, and 80s.



The rear panel offers USB-A and USB-C ports

Analog Scale

Visually—and this is important in a classic car—the Blaupunkt can only be described as a success. The pin-stripe decor, central display, two rotary controls with rockers, and five large buttons are absolutely timeless. The buttons are labeled L, M, K, U, U, which stand for long, medium, short, and ultra-short wave (FM), as was customary in the 1970s. Today, of course, only FM is still relevant, so there are actually just five station presets for FM or DAB. This is because the Frankfurt Stereo MB is equipped with modern technology, including a digital radio receiver.

The display is an eye-catching feature. Although it is a modern 3-inch TFT color screen, it can also display an analog frequency scale that strongly resembles the originals from the 1970s. In the menu, accessible via the right rocker switch, you can choose whether the scale appears when the ignition is turned on, is not displayed during operation, or is displayed automatically after 10 or 30 seconds. This allows you to, for example, enjoy your oldies playlist from your smartphone via Bluetooth at a classic car meet while the



The packaging design is also not off the shelf

display shows the vintage frequency scale. Clever!

Modern Technology

That's the idea behind Blaupunkt's retro radios: modern technology wrapped in a classic style. The Frankfurt Stereo MB is a perfect example. As mentioned, it features DAB+ digital radio and Bluetooth. The back panel has two USB ports: USB-A and USB-C. It also includes five strong preamp outputs for the front, rear, and subwoofer. This lets users control a high-quality car stereo system in a vintage car without

compromising the original look. For hands-free calling, there is also a connection for the included external microphone, which can be discreetly installed.

Audio

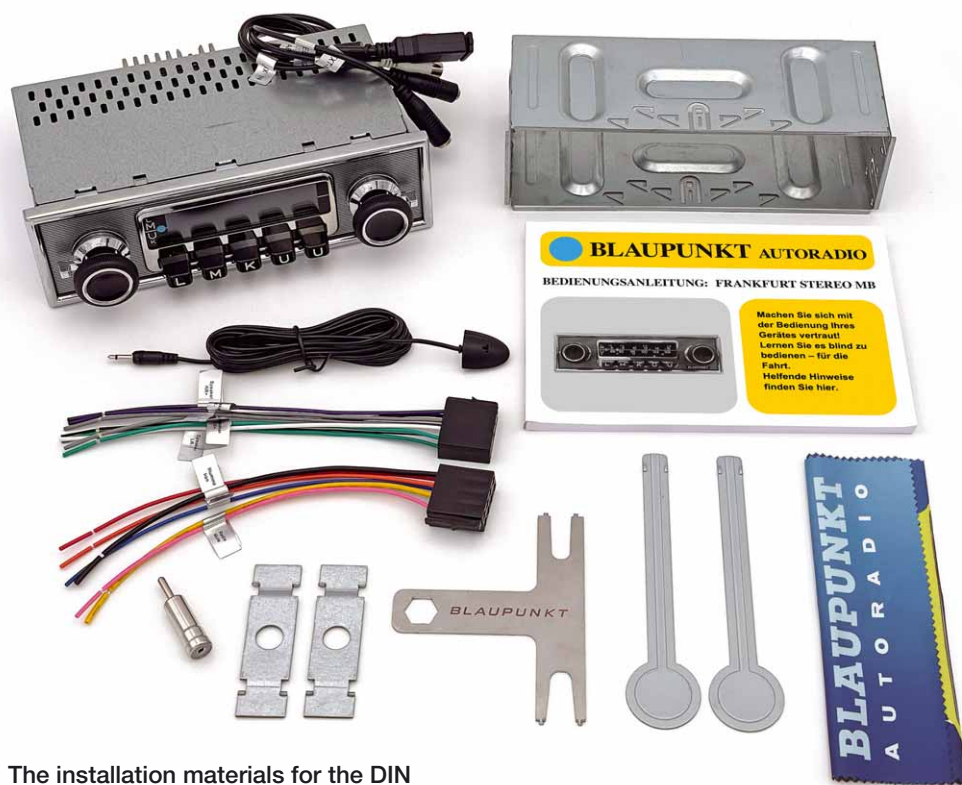
The sound optimization features offered by Blaupunkt would have been unimaginable in the 1970s. It includes a graphic equalizer with 14 bands for both the front and rear. Crossover networks (high-pass and low-pass) with adjustable frequency and slope are also available. Classic tone controls for treble and bass, as well as loudness and balance, are included. The subwoofer level can be adjusted.

Operation

It was certainly not easy for the developers to combine modern features with traditional controls. But the Frankfurt Stereo MB has really pulled it off. Of course, it takes some time to get used to, but after a brief



The front panel can be unscrewed for installation in the small radio compartment and for axle mounting



The installation materials for the DIN shaft, small radio shaft, and axle mounting are included in the scope of delivery

period, the two rocker switches and rotary knobs are very simple to operate. This applies not only to basic functions like source selection but also to various settings within the menu. The clear, multi-line display is very helpful in this regard.

Price-Performance

Blaupunkt has set a suggested retail price of EUR 799 for this vintage device. That might seem high initially, especially since modern 1-DIN car radios with similar features are already available at much lower prices. However, the price makes sense when you consider that manufacturing the rear-seat device is more complicated and the expected production quantities are probably smaller than for standard radios. Both of these factors lead to higher production costs. And most importantly, this is a one-of-a-kind product for which we are not aware of any comparable alternatives.

Specifications

Power output	15
Output voltage/V	4
Output impedance/Ohm	600
USB	
THD+N (%)	0,06
SNR (A)	81
Tuner	
THD+N (%)	0,05
SNR (A)	63
Crosstalk (dB)	31
RDS	•
Channel memory	24
MP3/WMA/AAC	• / • / •
Mute/GAL	• / -
Loudness	•
Tone control	•
param./graph. EQ bands	- / 14
Pre-outs	5
Crossovers	•
Time alignment	-
Detachable front	-
Remote control	-
Aux-in front / rear	- / •
USB front / rear	- / 2
iPod control	•
Bluetooth HFP/A2DP	• / •
Others	DAB+

The Blaupunkt Frankfurt Stereo MB fits here:

Ideal for vintage vehicles with a DIN slot, a small radio opening, or an axle cutout.

Conclusion

The Blaupunkt Frankfurt Stereo MB is an outstanding car radio designed to match the look and mechanics of classic vehicles. It seamlessly integrates modern technology into cars from the 1970s while preserving their original style.

Dipl.-Phys. Guido Randerath

Blaupunkt Frankfurt Stereo MB

Price	800 Euro
Distributor	Evo Sales GmbH, Germany
Hotline	+49 5151 823820
Internet	www.bpautomotive.de

Rating

► Sound	35 %	★★★★★
Bass foundation	7 %	★★★★★
Neutrality	7 %	★★★★★
Transparency	7 %	★★★★★
Spatial imaging	7 %	★★★★★
Dynamics	7 %	★★★★★
► Lab	20 %	★★★★★
• USB	10 %	★★★★★
Distortion	5 %	★★★★★
Signal to noise ratio	5 %	★★★★★
• Tuner	10 %	★★★★★
Frequency response	2,5 %	★★★★★
Crosstalk	2,5 %	★★★★★
Distortion	2,5 %	★★★★★
Signal to noise ratio	2,5 %	★★★★★
► Practice	45 %	★★★★★
Operation	10 %	★★★★★
Features	20 %	★★★★★
Reception test	10 %	★★★★★
Build quality	5 %	★★★★★

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Price/performance: good

„First choice for historic vehicles“