

# v.LiNK Video-inserter

# CI-VL2-MBN2

# Compatible with Mercedes Benz Comand APS NTG1 and NTG2 navigation systems



Video-inserter with 2 video- + RGB- + rear-view camera input

# **Product features**

- RGB-input for after-market navigation
- 2 video-inputs for after-market devices (e.g. DVD-Player, DVB-T tuner, ...)
- Built-in audio-switch
- Rear-view camera input, automatically switching
- Factory rear-view camera compatible
- Switching of video through steering-wheel button and external switch
- Video inputs only NTSC compatible (only PAL compatible if factory TV is installed)
- Wrong-plugging circuit protection



# Contents

#### 1. Prior to installation

- 1.1. Delivery contents
- 1.2. Checking the compatibility of vehicle and accessories
- 1.3. Dip-switch settings
- 1.3.1. Enabling the interface's video inputs (Dip 1-3)
- 1.3.2. Rear-view camera settings (dip 5)

#### 2. Installation

- 2.1. Place of installation
- 2.2. Connecting the flex cables
- 2.3. Connections
- 2.4. Installation procedure function check
- 2.5. Picture settings
- 2.6. Audio insertion
- 2.7. Connecting 2 AV sources

#### 3. Interface operation

- 3.1. By keypad
- 4. Specifications

#### **Legal Information**

By law, watching moving pictures while driving is prohibited, the driver must not be distracted. We do not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury resulting, directly or indirectly, from installation or operation of this product. This product should only be used while standing or to display fixed menus or rear-view-camera video when the vehicle is moving, for example the MP3 menu for DVD upgrades.

Changes/updates of the vehicle's software can cause malfunctions of the interface. We offer free software-updates for our interfaces for one year after purchase. To receive a free update, the interface must be sent in at own cost. Labor cost for and other expenses involved with the software-updates will not be refunded.





### **1.** Prior to installation

Read the manual prior to installation. Technical knowledge is necessary for installation. The place of installation must be free of moisture and away from heat sources.

#### **1.1.** Delivery contents







#### 1.2. Checking the compatibility of vehicle and accessories

Requirements	
Vehicle	<b>CLS-Coupe</b> (W219) since 10/2004 bis 03/2008, <b>E-Klasse</b> (W211) bis 05/2008, <b>SLK-Klasse</b> (R171) ab 03/2004 bis 03/2008, <b>A-Klasse</b> (W169) ab 10/2004 bis 06/2008, <b>B-Klasse</b> (W245) ab 09/2004 bis 06/2008, <b>C-Klasse</b> (W203) ab 04/2004 bis 02/2007, <b>CLC-Klasse</b> (CL203) ab 06/2008 bis 09/2008, <b>CLK-Klasse</b> (C209 W209) ab 06/2004, <b>G-Modell</b> (G463) ab 04/2007 bis 08/2008, <b>GL-Klasse</b> (X164) bis 06/2008, <b>ML-Klasse</b> (W164) bis 06/2008, <b>R-Klasse</b> (W251) bis 06/2008, <b>Sprinter</b> (W906) ab ca. 04/2006, <b>Viano</b> (W639)
Navigation/radio	Comand APS NTG1 and NTG2 navigation system
Limitations	
Video only	The interface inserts ONLY video into the infotainment, for sound use the FM-modulator, the AUX-In interface AUX-110 or factory AUX which can be coded by dealership.
Video-sources	The video-inputs of the VL2 are compatible with NTSC sources only. But if a factory TV-tuner is installed, it is possible that only PAL sources can be connected.

#### **1.3.** Dip-switch settings

With the video interface boxes dip-switches it is possible to dis- or enable the interfaces

inputs (dip 1 to 3) and to preselect the type of camera which is (to be) installed (dip 5).



Dip position down is ON and position up is OFF.

#### **1.3.1.** Enabling the interface's video inputs (dip 1-3)

Only the enabled video inputs can be accessed when switching through the video sources. It is recommended to enable only the required inputs for the disabled will be skipped when switching through the video interfaces inputs.

Dip	Video-input	ON (down)	OFF (up)
Dip 1	RGB	enabled	disabled
Dip 2	Video IN1	enabled	disabled
Dip 3	Video IN2	enabled	disabled





#### **1.3.2.** Rear-view camera settings (dip 5)

Depending on whether no camera, after-market camera or factory camera shall be used, dip 5 must use different settings. If set to OFF, the interface switches to factory picture when the reverse gear is engaged to display factory rear-view camera or factory PDC picture.

Rear-view	Din 5	
camera type	519.5	
None	OFF	
Factory	OFF	
After-market	ON	

#### 2. Installation

Switch off ignition and disconnect the vehicle's battery! The interface needs a permanent 12V source. If according to factory rules disconnecting the battery is to be avoided, it is usually sufficient to put the vehicle is sleep-mode. In case the sleep-mode does not show success, disconnect the battery with a resistor lead.

If power source is not taken directly from the battery, the connection has to be checked for being start-up proven and permanent.

#### 2.1. Installationsort

The interface is installed on the backside of the monitor panel. Therefore, the head-unit must be removed.

Remove head-unit.



Remove the upper cover including the DVD/ navigation device. The external daughter PCB is plugged in between the flex cable of the monitor panel and the mainboard of the head-unit.





#### 2.2. Connecting the flex cables

A rotated and a normal 30pin flex cable are included in delivery. Depending on the orientation of the flex cable connectors at the monitor panel and at the mainboard the rotated or the normal flex cable have to be installed.

Connect the flex cable from the mainboard to J\_IN of the external daughter PCB and the flex cable from the monitor panel to J\_OUT of the external daughter PCB.



Electrical the contacts have to be transmitted similar, in other words the left contact of the monitor panel have to be connected with the left contact of the mainboard. Please take note of the contact surfaces of the flex cables during installation.



**Note:** Depending on the very navigation head-unit, the original flex cable needs to be changed into a flex cable of the package contents. In this case, with the original flex cable installed, the inserted picture will be scramble as if synchronization was missing.





#### 2.3. Connections



Page /



#### 2.4. Installation procedure – function check

Follow the below procedure using the "Connections" scheme from chapter 2.2. as reference. Before the installation of the sources and the interface we recommend a first quick connection of the interface and test run to ensure that vehicle and product are compatible. Due to changes in production of the vehicle manufacturer there is always the possibility of incompatibility.

- Switch off ignition and disconnect vehicle's battery
- Remove vehicle monitor and open the body as described in chapter 2.1.
- Remove vehicle flex cable from the flex cable socket of the mainboard
- Plug in external daughter PCB between flex cable of the vehicle and flex cable socket of the mainboard (see chapter 2.2.)
- Connect external daughter PCB to the video interface
- Connect female 6pin connector of the 4pin cable to the video interface
- Connect 4pin cable to the pins of the Quadlock as shown in chapter 2.3.
- Plug keypad into "Switch" connector. Even if the keypad shall not be used, its installation (e.g. in a hidden spot) is recommended for support reasons
- If audio insertion shall be used, connect it according to chapter 2.6.
- If 2 audio sources shall be used, connect it according to chapter 2.7.
- Reconnect battery and turn on ignition
- Check LEDs on video interface, one each must be on
- Try to activate video sources by keypad (see chapter 3.1.), using a test picture source
- If camera is (to be) connected try to engage reverse gear with test picture source connected
- If 2 audio sources shall be used, connect the audio wires and check the audio function
- ONLY after positive function check proceed with final installation of the video sources!
- After installation and connection of the real video source(s), adjust picture settings (see chapter 2.5.)





#### 2.5. Picture settings

The VL2-MBN2 does not have an OSD like other VL2-xxx interfaces. After installing the sources the picture settings can be changed using a pen on the 3 buttons of the video interface. The buttons are embedded in the housing to avoid accidental changes during or after installation. Press UP or DOWN to change the brightness. To change the contrast, press UP or DOWN while holding the MENU button pressed simultaneously. UP or DOWN must be pressed repeatedly to change values, do not longpress.

#### 2.6. Audio insertion

This interface can only insert video into the factory infotainment. The video can be activated to any audio mode of the factory infotainment. If an AV-source is to be connected, the source's video out is connected to the video IN1 of the video interface and the source's audio out to the audio insertion. Audio insertion is possible by factory audio AUX input, the optional available AUX-In interface AUX-110 or FM-modulator. The factory audio AUX can be coded by the dealership.

#### 2.7. Connecting 2 AV-sources

If two AV-sources shall be connected, connect the included audio cable to audio-switch-port of the video interface. When switching the video interface from video-IN1 to video-IN2, the audio will also automatically be switched.

Audio pins	Definition
1/2	Audio input signal R/L of source IN2
3/4	Audio input signal R/L of source IN1
5/6	Audio output signal L/R of factory audio AUX or FM-modulator
7	Ground
8	No function







## 3. Interface operation

#### 3.1. By keypad and steering-wheel

The keypad can be used to execute interface functions. Each press will switch to the next enabled input. If all inputs are enabled the order is:

Factory video  $\rightarrow$  RGB-in  $\rightarrow$  video IN1  $\rightarrow$  video IN2  $\rightarrow$  factory video  $\rightarrow$ ...

Inputs which are not enabled are skipped. If the audio cable is connected, when switching from video IN1 to video IN2, also the sound will be switched.

# 4. Specifications

BATT/ACC range	7V - 25V
Power	0.3A @12V
Video input	0.7V - 1V
Video input formats	PAL/NTSC
RGB-video amplitude	0.7V with 75 Ohm impedance
Temperature range	-40°C to +85°C
Dimensions video-box	159 x 25 x 95 mm (W x H x D)

Page 10



# 5. FAQ – Trouble shooting Interface functions

For any troubles which may occur, check the following table for a solution before requesting support from your vendor.

Symptom	Reason	Possible solution
	Not all connectors have been reconnected to factory head- unit or monitor after installation.	Connect missing connectors.
No picture/black picture (factory picture).	No power on CAN-bus box (all LED CAN-bus box are off).	Check power supply of CAN-bus box. Check CAN-bus connection of CAN-bus box.
	CAN-bus box connected to CAN-bus in wrong place.	Refer to the manual where to connected to the CAN- bus. If not mentioned, try another place to connect to the CAN-bus.
	No power on video-interface (all LED video-interface are off).	Check whether CAN-bus box delivers +12V ACC on red wire output of 8pin to 6pin cable. If not cut wire and supply ACC +12V directly to video-interface.
	No picture from video source.	Check on other monitor whether video source is OK.
No picture/black picture/white picture (inserted picture) but factory picture is OK.	No video-source connected to the selected interface input.	Check settings dips 1 to 3 of video interface which inputs are activated and switch to corresponding input(s).
	LVDS cables plugged in wrong place.	Double-check whether order of LVDS cables is exactly connected according to manual. Plugging into head- unit does not work when the manual says to plug into monitor and vice versa.
Inserted picture totally wrong size or position. Inserted picture double or 4 times on monitor.	Wrong monitor settings of video-interface.	Try different combinations of dips 7 and 8 of video- interface. Unplug 6pin power after each change.
Inserted picture distorted, flickering or running vertically.	Video sources output set to AUTO or MULTI which causes a conflict with the interfaces auto detection.	Set video source output fixed to PAL or NTSC. It is best to set all video sources to the same standard.
	If error occurs only after source switching: Connected sources are not set to the same TV standard.	Set all video sources to the same standard.
	Some interfaces can only	Check manual whether there is a limitation to NTSC
Inserted picture b/w.	nandle NTSC input.	mentioned. If yes, set source fixed to NTSC output.
Inserted picture qual. bad.		
Inserted picture size	Picture settings have not been	Use the 3 buttons and the interface's OSD to adjust the
slightly wrong.	adjusted.	picture settings for the corresponding video input.
Inserted picture		
position wrong.		
Camera input picture flickers.	Camera is being tested under fluorescent light which shines directly into the camera.	Test camera under natural light outside the garage.
Camera input picture is bluish.	Protection sticker not removed from camera lens.	Remove protection sticker from lens.

Page 11



Symptom	Reason	Possible solution	
Camera input picture		Use relay or electronics to "clean" reverse gear lamp	
black.	Camera power taken directly	power. Alternatively, if CAN-bus box is compatible	
Camera input picture	from reverse gear lamp.	with the vehicle, camera power can be taken from	
has distortion.		green wire of 6pin to 8pin cable.	
		Set dip 3 of video-interface to ON (if not input AV2 is	
Camera input picture	Camera input picture settings	not already activated) and connect the camera to AV2.	
settings cannot be	can only be adjusted in AV2	Switch to AV2 and adjust settings. Reconnect camera	
adjusted.	mode.	to camera input and deactivate AV2 if not used for	
		other source.	
Graphics of a car in	Function RDC is ON in the	In compatible vehicles, the graphics will display the	
comoro input picturo	interface OSD	factory PDC distance. If not working or not wanted, set	
camera input picture.	Interface OSD.	interface OSD menu item UI-CNTRL to ALLOFF.	
Chinoso signs in	Function RET or ALL is ON	Set interface OSD many item III CNTRL to ALLOEE or	
chinese signs in	(function for Asian market) in		
camera input picture	the interface OSD.	FDCON.	
Not possible to switch	CAN-bus interface does not support this function for	Lice external keynad or cut white wire of 6pin to 8pin	
video sources by OEM		$c_{2}$ cable and apply $\pm 12V$ impulses for $AV_{-switching}$	
button.	vehicle.	cable and apply +12v inipulses for Av-switching.	
	Drossed too short	For video source switching a longer press of about 2.5	
Not possible to switch		seconds is required.	
video sources by	SW-version of interface does	Use OEM-button or cut white wire of 6pin to 8pin	
external keypad.	not support external keypad.	cable and apply +12V impulses for AV-switching.	
Interface does not	CAN bus interface does not	Cut the groop wire of the Spin to Spin cable and apply	
switch to camera input	current this function for the	+12V constant from roverse gear lamp signal. Use	
when reverse gear is	vabieles	relay to "clean" B goar lamp nower	
engaged.	venicies.	relay to clean k-gear lamp power.	
Interface switches video-sources by itself.	CAN-bus interface	Cut the grey wire of 6pin to 8pin and isolate both	
	compatibility to vehicle is	ends. If problem still occurs, additionally cut the white	
	limited.	wire of 6pin to 8pin cable and isolate both ends.	



Made in China



