

MECP Apprentice Installation Technician Job Description – 2021-2022



Position Summary - MECP Apprentice Installation Technician

The MECP Apprentice Installation Technician position involves carefully and correctly installing and configuring entry-level aftermarket electronic products in a wide range of vehicles with at least some supervision, assisting experienced technicians on more complex installations, dealing directly with customers before, during, and after an installation in a courteous manner, and maintaining a clean and functional workshop environment.

Full Description - MECP Basic Installation Technician

MECP Apprentice Installation Technician

Duties and Responsibilities

- Install direct replacements of in-dash audio/video source units retaining the functionality of existing factory-installed electronics and features using wire harnesses, integration and control modules, antenna adapters, dash kits, and other commercially available integration devices.
- Install speakers in factory-supplied locations, either a direct replacement or with adapters, to accomplish factory-like fit and function.
- Install audio amplifiers with high current power wiring, proper circuit protection, signal input, and output wiring configurations.
- Install subwoofers into pre-fabricated enclosures. Wire single and dual voice coil subwoofers properly to the amplifier's required resistance configuration(s).
- Install plug-and-play integration devices for adding various source components such as portable media players, streaming audio and video devices, and source units with smartphone integration.
- Install communication antennas for GPS, Satellite Radio, Telematic Systems, and other devices without compromising the vehicle's exterior fit and finish.

Knowledge, Skills, and Ability

- Knowledge of taking voltage (AC and DC), low current (<10a), resistance, and continuity measurements on vehicle electrical systems and aftermarket mobile electronics equipment with a digital multimeter (DMM), and what the expected normal results should be.
- Knowledge and understanding of Ohm's Law and Watt's Law and basic math (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) to use with electrical measurements taken using a DMM.
- Knowledge of electronic components such as automotive SPDT relays, silicon diodes, resistors, and switches, even if the application of them in aftermarket installations is not yet second nature to the candidate. The candidate should know what the electronic components can do.
- Knowledge and understanding of series and parallel wiring practices and load calculations.
- Knowledge of inductors and capacitors with regard to general installation considerations.
- Knowledge of various commercially available installation accessories such as dash kits, wiring harnesses, antenna adapters, speaker adapters, line output converters, specialty interfaces for

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audio source system unit replacements, audio patch cables, high current power/ground wiring, circuit protection devices, etc.

- General knowledge of security system components and functionality (including control module, siren, sensors, input/outputs, programmable features, etc.) even if not yet prepared to install without supervision. The individual should be shown the installation procedures to discover how the components work together in a completed installation.
- General knowledge of remote starter system components (such as high current and low current ignition wiring and vehicles anti-theft interface devices) and important installation considerations (such as hood pin/brake switch connections and common programmable features) even if not yet prepared to install without supervision. The individual should be shown the installation procedures to discover how the components work together in a completed installation.
- General knowledge of mobile video and rear seat entertainment system components and how they interconnect. Also, a general knowledge of direct replacement headrest and overhead video screens install.
- General knowledge of Bluetooth pairing and connection for streaming and hands-free communication while driving in a vehicle.
- General knowledge of the satellite location (GPS and GLONASS) operation and how common devices that receive these signals operate in an in-vehicle application.
- Skill to use a personal computer, internet browser, and various technical support software resources.
- Skill to disassemble vehicle interiors without damaging the vehicle or the interior components or where to locate information if the disassembly procedure is unknown or not evident.
- Ability to establish priorities, and work with supervision, ask for clarification when necessary.
- Ability to diagnose and resolve common installation errors through routine troubleshooting before calling on technical support resources for assistance.

Credentials and Experience

- Although a potential employer may expect some level of familiarity with products or installation, no professional experience is necessary. This candidate is expected to be entering an entry-level position.
- The candidate should possess a current MECP Apprentice Installation Technician certification.
- Training at an installation-related school or program is a plus.
- Previous professional installation experience is a plus.

Special Requirements

- Willing to work weekends, holidays, and shift overtime as required by the employer.
- In most states or provinces, the individual will be required to supply their essential installation tools.

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Notes about MECP Basic Installation Technician Certification

- MECP Apprentice Installation Technician level certification is intended for individuals with minimal previous experience installing aftermarket 12v vehicle electronics.
- The learning content contains eight key topic areas and related questions and a certification exam with 50 total questions.
- Once achieved, the certification is valid for the remainder of the technician's membership. Membership does not equate to certification; only successful completion of the learning content and the subsequent certification exam results in certification. Membership must be renewed, and a shirt review exam must be completed to maintain certification.
- MECP certified technicians are granted a digital certificate with an alphanumeric license number that can be validated at any time by contacting mecp@mecp.com or on www.mecp.com as a free service to potential employers or clients.
- Prospective employers are encouraged to place any candidates with MECP Apprentice Installation Technician certification but limited professional experience in a supervised work environment for at least 60 days to ensure the best employee development and retention.

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