Zenec E>GO Core: Innovative System Solution

E>GO CORE

INTEGRATIONSTIPP
Oberklasse
CAR&HiFi 3/2020

Large-Screen Sat Nav

Vehicle-specific for later MIB models from Volkswagen Group

▶ With the E>GO Core Zenec brings out a modular infotainment concept for new models from Volkswagen Group.

The heart of the new system system is the Zenec Core head unit Z-E1010. This is a large format 10.1" touch screen monitor with compact, rear electronic assembly that is more reminiscent of a tablet PC than a typical car radio. Matching vehicle-specific front-panel kits are available that include all necessary cable sets and antenna adapters to ensure easy installation in the minimum of time, and interfacing of the comfort functions to the Z-E1010. On its own the Z-E1010 costs 529 euros; as a set together with the front panel and respective interface kit the price is 588 or 598 euros. The sets are available for many of the later models of the Volkswagen Group, such as VW Golf 7, Polo 6, Passat, Passat Variant, Passat Alltrack, Tiguan II and Skoda Octavia III.

Deep CAN integration

A highlight of the Core unit is the deep integration with the CAN system of later MIB2 vehicles from Volkswagen. These brand and model-specific integration functions include the interfacing of audio metadata from sources to the driver information display, the Climatronic status display with or without control functions, interfacing with OPS, multifunction steering wheel, and the car menu or the cockpit vehicle data display. In addition, Core can also be connected with this vehicle interface via an optional OBD dongle. RealDash, the virtual dashboard app offers diverse graphical layouts of the instrument panel and displays data such as charge air pressure, fuel tank level and engine RPM's in real time.

SmartLink and WebLink

Naturally, the Core communicates optimally not only with the vehicle electronics but also with smartphones. For instance, SmartLink mirrors the screen content of Apple iOS and Android smartphones on the Core display. In the case of Android phones the app control is possible directly from the touchscreen of the Core; whereas with iPhones the apps are controlled from the smartphone itself.

The WebLink 2.0 function offers improved integration of interesting apps like Youtube, ShoutCast, or audio and video players that
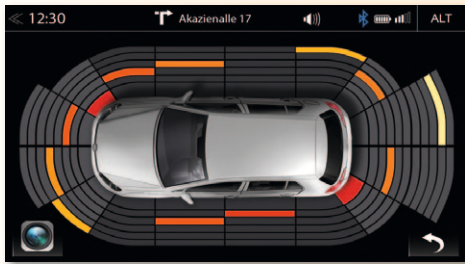
Clear main menu with direct access to important functions

Smartphones can be connected via SmartLink and WebLink
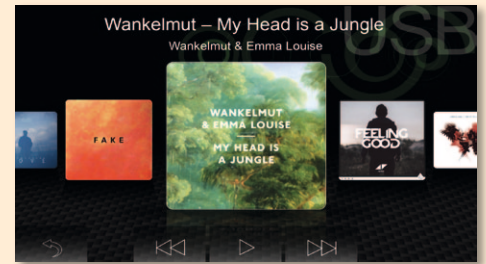
The RealDash app offers a virtual dashboard with real time information

Display of the vehicle OPS

The navigation system offers very good route guidance including road signs

Easy Drive mode with simplified control while driving

are scaled in landscape mode on the Core display and can be controlled from the device touchscreen.

Optional navigation

Together with the navigation software Z-EMAP-CORE, the Z-E1010 can be upgraded to a fully-fledged naviceiver. For an extra 119 euros you get the proven iGo navigation system with the detailed map material of 47 European countries. Free map updates are included for one year

Multimedia

In addition, the Core offers the complete range of multimedia features that one is used to from Zenec. Alongside the FM tuner there is an integrated receiver for digital radio DAB+. It supports DAB comfort functions like Service Following, MOT Slideshow, DLS text, Comfort Scan, and offers an informative display of metadata of the current radio program.

The rear of the Z-E1010 provides A/V connections, including two camera inputs and two USB ports. These can be used to connect smartphones or storage media. All the common formats are supported, including the high resolution standards MKV 1080p and FLAC up to 32 bit/192 kHz.

Bluetooth 4.1

The integrated Bluetooth module allows comfortable hands-free calling of good quality, the import of 1,000 contacts, favorite speed calling function, search function etc. During wireless music streaming via A2DP the display of iD3 tags is supported.

To optimize the sound quality the Z-E1010 has a 32-bit D/A converter, 3-band equalizer and a 24 dB/octave crossover with selectable cut-off frequencies for the active subwoofer line-out.

Operation

The Core also offers the tidy user interface for which Zenec is renowned. The enormous size of the very responsive touchscreen enables generous display of all controls, which also contributes to safe operation when driving. Furthermore, the FM and DAB+ radio sources and the media player switch to the Easy Drive mode after approx. 10 seconds.

Easy Drive then displays enlarged radio station icons, program information and other content with the required controls, making them even easier to use.

Summary

The E>GO Core is a well-conceived concept in every sense. Beside the wide range of multimedia functions we are used to from Zenec, it offers an enormous depth of integration with the vehicle electronics, making it attractive as an ideal retrofit option for later Volkswagen models.

Guido Randerath

❯ Technical Data

Amplifier output/W	15
Output voltage/V	2.4
Output impedance/ohms	1210
USB	
THD+N (%)	0.086
SNR (A)	86
Tuner	
THD+N (%)	0.044
SNR (A)	53
Crosstalk (dB)	49
Monitor	10.1"
Touchscreen	•
EQ / soundprocessor	•
Crossovers	LP
Pre-outs	6
AV-in	•
Video-out	•
Camera input	•
MP3/WMA/AAC	•/•/•
USB / iPod	2/•
Bluetooth HFP/A2DP	•/•
Maps	Europe
TMC/TMC Pro	–/–
Remote Control	–
Other	DAB+, SmartLink, RealDash

❯ Where you can fit the Zenec Z-E1010

In combination with the appropriate installation and connector set in the VW Golf 7, Polo 6, Passat, Passat Variant, Passat Alltrack, Tiguan II and Skoda Octavia III. Precise compatibility lists can be found at www.zenec.eu.

❯ *Zenec Z-E1010 + Z-EMAP-CORE*

Distribution		ACR, CH-Bad Zurzach
Hotline		info@acr.eu
Internet		www.acr.eu

❯ Sound quality	15 %	1.2	■■■■■
Bass	3 %	1.5	■■■■
Neutralitx	3 %	1.0	■■■■■
Transparency	3 %	1.0	■■■■■
Soundstaging	3 %	1.5	■■■■
Dynamics	3 %	1.0	■■■■■

❯ Picture quality	15 %	1.0	■■■■■
Sharpness	2.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Brightnesst	2.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Contrast	2.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Color Rendering	2.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Viewing Angle	2.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Reflecion	2.5 %	1.5	■■■■

❯ Navigation	15 %	1.2	■■■■■
Guidance	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Route calculation	5 %	1.5	■■■■
Features	5 %	1.0	■■■■■

❯ Laboratory	15 %	1.5	■■■■
• USB	7.5 %	1.5	■■■■
Distortion	3.75 %	1.5	■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	3.75 %	1.0	■■■■■
• Tuner	7.5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Frequency response	1.88 %	1.0	■■■■■
Crosstalk	1.88 %	1.0	■■■■■
Distortion	1.88 %	0.5	■■■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	1.88 %	1.5	■■■■

❯ Practice	40 %	0.8	■■■■■■
Operation	10 %	1.0	■■■■■
Reception test	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Workmanship	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Features	20 %	0.5	■■■■■■

❯ *Summary*

Price		app. 530 + 120 euros
Sound quality	15 %	1.2 ■■■■■
Picture quality	15 %	1.1 ■■■■■
Navigation	15 %	1.2 ■■■■■
Lab	15 %	1.3 ■■■■■
Practice	40 %	1+ ■■■■■■

❯ *Zenec Z-E1010 + Z-EMAP-CORE*

Absolute top class
Top class
Upper class
Middle class
Entry class

1,0

Price/performance: excellent

CAR&HiFi

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"Great concept with deep vehicle integration"