XZENT

Two New Infotainers from Xzent in Test

Universal for all vehicles with 2-DIN radio

Naviceiver or moniceiver?

▶ **With the Xzent X-427 and X-227 the Swiss car hifi specialist ACR launches two new double DIN radios – with and without a navigation option.**

There's hardly a driver on the road today who manages without the guidance of a navigation system. Many simply use a navigation app on their smartphone – mostly Apple or Google Maps. Both applications work reliably by virtue of their online maps, through only so long as a stable network with Internet access is available. However, the small screen of a mobile phone is not that convenient and manual operation of the phone is not allowed while driving. More practical are monitor radios that can use Apple CarPlay, Android Auto or USB mirroring. The particular nav app can then be safely and legally used from the car radio. On the other hand, many drivers will not want to miss the comfort and reliability of the offline maps of a permanent in-car navigation system. These differing requirements and customer preferences are met by ACR with their two new Xzent devices. Whereas the X-227 supports Apple CarPlay and mirroring using AndroidLink, it is possible to equip the X-427 with offline navigation.

Linux-based

Xzent X-227 and X-427 are the follow-on products of X-222 X-422. The Swiss engineers have not only optimized the hardware to keep pace with the state of the art, but also thoroughly updated the software. Where the predecessors were still based on Windows CE, the new models now make use of a Linux platform. Basically, here we are not talking about small changes, but rather about a new development. All the more pleasing is that the prices have remained at the attractive level of their predecessors.
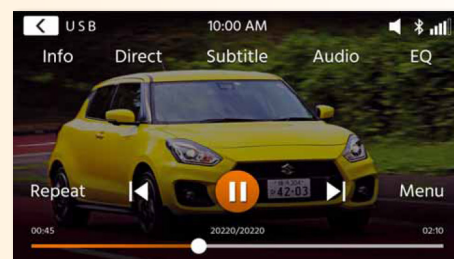
Near relatives

X-227 und X-427 resemble the others not only in appearance like peas in a pod, but are also technically very closely related with almost an identical feature set and functions.
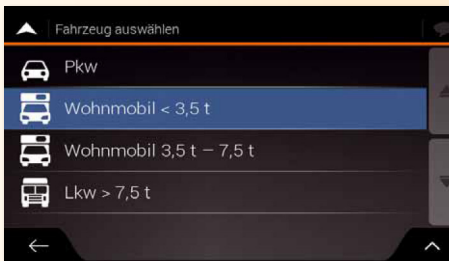
Let us first look then at what they have
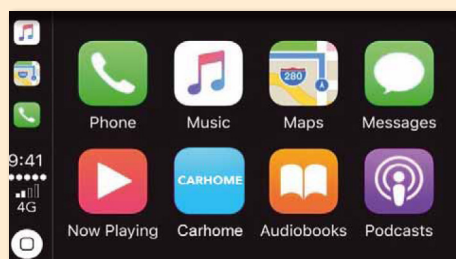
The X-227 handles Apple CarPlay
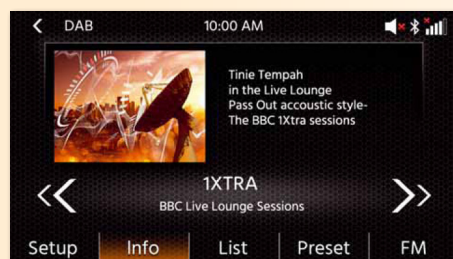
Digital radio reception via DAB+

Video playback via USB

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X-427: Optional motorhome navigation

X-427: Onboard computer in the sat nav software

X-427: Traffic info via TPEG

in common. The Xzent units have a large 16.5 cm capacitive touchscreen. Next to it on the left are the rotary volume controls and four softkeys for the most important functions. One of the keys, FAV, can be assigned. At the rear are six preamp outputs, two USB connections, two camera inputs, video input and output, HDMI input, mic connection, input for the programmable steering wheel remote control interface, and the two antenna sockets for FM and DAB+. The X-227 and X-427 therefore have excellent connectivity and offer all the necessary and desirable interfaces.

DAB+ und Bluetooth

In addition to the FM tuner, the Xzent devices offer digital radio reception. The DAB+ twin tuner can handle MOT Slideshow, dynamic station list, DAB-DAB Service Following und DLS text. They connect to the smartphone wirelessly over Bluetooth to allow hands-free calls and music streaming. With an Android phone connected via USB the preinstalled AndroidLink app enables the mobile phone display to be mirrored on the car radio. All apps on the phone, including navigation, can then be used and controlled from the Xzent touchscreen.

Audio and video

Via the two USB ports, the HDMI input and, in the case of the X-227, also

via the microSD slot in the front, you can playback all the common audio and video formats. iPod control is supported. An 8-band graphic equalizer, balance, fader and volume controls are available for sound adjustment. The subwoofer output can be split between 65 and 160 Hz using a low pass filter and adjusted for level.

CarPlay or nav system

Now to the differences. While the MicroSD slot at the top right of the front panel in the X-227 can be used for media playback, in the X-427 it is intended for storing the optional navigation software. As usual, Xzent relies here on collaboration with NNG to offer the proven iGo-Primo navigation system in three different packages. Beside the new car variant X-MAP27-PC1 for 119 euros, there are two motorhome packages to choose from: X-MAP27-MH1 (199 euros) and X-MAP27-MH3 (249 euros). All three offerings include Europe-wide map material, lane assist,

Analog FM reception

HIGHLIGHT
Upper-class
CAR&HiFi *4/2021*

Xzent X-227

Price	**about 330 Euro**
Distributor	ACR, Bad Zurzach, Schweiz
Hotline	acr-info@acr.eu
Internet	www.xzent.com

Summary

Sound quality	20 %	1,2	■■■■□
Bass	4 %	1,5	■■■■□
Neutrality	4 %	1,0	■■■■■
Transparency	4 %	1,0	■■■■■
Soundstaging	4 %	1,5	■■■■□
Dynamics	4 %	1,0	■■■■■
Picture quality	20 %	1,2	■■■■□
Sharpness	3,3 %	1,0	■■■■■
Brightness	3,3 %	1,5	■■■■□
Contrast	3,3 %	1,0	■■■■■
Color rendering	3,3 %	1,0	■■■■■
Viewing angle	3,3 %	1,0	■■■■■
Reflection	3,3 %	1,5	■■■□□
Lab	15 %	1,5	■■■■□
• USB	7,5 %	1,8	■■■□□
Distortion	3,75 %	1,5	■■■■□
Signal/Noise Ratio	3,75 %	2,0	■■■□□
• Tuner	7,5 %	1,1	■■■■■
Frequency response	1,88 %	1,5	■■■■□
Crosstalk	1,88 %	1,0	■■■■■
Distortion	1,88 %	1,0	■■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	1,88 %	1,0	■■■■■
Practice	45 %	0,9	■■■■■
Operation	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Features	20 %	0,8	■■■■■
Reception test	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Workmanship	5 %	1,0	■■■■■

Xzent X-227

Upper-Class	**1,1**
CAR&HiFi *4/21*	
Price/performance: very good	

„Successful infotainer with CarPlay and AndroidLink"
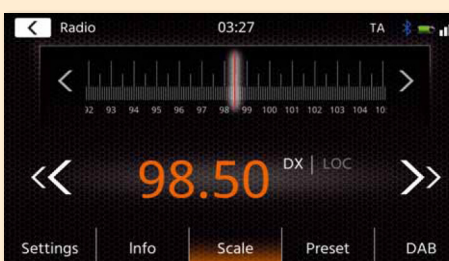
Technical data

Amplifier output / W	15
Output Voltage / V	2,6
Output impedance / ohms	521
USB	
THD+N (%)	0,012
SNR (A)	82
Tuner	
THD+N (%)	0,081
Signal/Noise Ratio (A)	61
Crosstalk (dB)	48
Monitor size (cm)	16,5
Touchscreen	•
Dual Zone	–
Dolby Digital / Pro Logic decoder	–
param./graph. EQ-bands	– / 8
Crossover	LP
Time alignment	•
Pre-outs	6
AV-in / AV-out	• / •
Digital-out	–
Connectors camera / navigation	2 / –
USB front / rear	– / 2
iPod controll	•
Bluetooth HFP/A2DP	• / •
Other	CarPlay / Android Auto

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X-427: Clear map views

X-427: Comprehensive camping database with the MH software

HIGHLIGHT
Upper-class
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tunnel mode, Auto Zoom for junctions and roundabouts, intelligent calculation of route alternative and TPEG service with traffic information via DAB+. In the case of the MH variants you can additionally input vehicle parameters like height, width, weight etc. so they can be considered in the route calculation. Beside a Premium POI package, these also provide a special Camping POI package with approx. 20,000 relevant points of interest and detailed information. The map updates in the case of PC1 and MH1 are free for one year, whereas they are free for three years in the case of MH3 . A GPS antenna is included with the X - 427.

This navigation option is not offered by the somewhat cheaper X-227, which does however support Apple CarPlay unlike the X-427. So iPhone owners have the possibility, in addition to AndroidLink, to use the navigation app of their mobile phone along with numerous other phone apps safely, legally and conveniently from the screen of the X-227.

Test results

In the field both devices work equally well, are reliable and user friendly. The user interface of the new software has been very well done: calling up and using the many different functions is intuitive and easy. The touchscreen response is smooth.

The button illumination is selectable so that the devices can also be blended harmoniously into the look of the vehicle interior. In our field tests on the Xzent neither sound nor reception weaknesses are evident. Hands-free calling and smartphone pairing also function really well. The iGo navigation system on the X-427 has already proven itself in our tests hundreds of times, as is to be expected with Xzent.

Summary

The Xzent X-227 and X-427 are highly successful multimedia radios at attractive prices. The X-427 even offers the possibility of an upgrade to a sat nav system. The X-227 is somewhat cheaper, but nevertheless, in addition to Android apps, still brings iPhone functions into the car radio, thanks to Apple CarPlay.

X-427: Clear route guidance also at complex crossroads

▶ Technical data

Amplifier output / W	15
Output Voltage / V	5,3
Output impedance / ohms	540
USB	
THD+N (%)	0,013
SNR (A)	81
Tuner	
THD+N (%)	0,047
Signal/Noise Ratio (A)	61
Crosstalk (dB)	46
Monitor size (cm)	16,5
Touchscreen	•
EQ/soundprocessor	•
Crossover	LP
Pre-outs	6
AV-in	•
Video-out	•
Connectors camera	2
MP3/WMA/AAC	• / • / •
USB / iPod	2 / •
Bluetooth HFP/A2DP	• / •
Maps	europe
TMC/TMC Pro	• / TPEG
IR-remote	•
Other	Android Link

▶ The Xzent X-227 & A-427 fit here:

In cars with a double DIN slot. For many other models, accessory specialists offer kits that include installation and connection adapters.

▶ Xzent X-427, X-MAP27-PC1

Price	about 400+120 Euro
Distributor	ACR, CH-Bad Zurzach
Hotline	acr-info@acr.eu
Internet	www.xzent.com

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Reflection	2,5 %	1,5	■■■■□
▶ Navigation	15 %	1,0	■■■■■
Guidance	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Route calculation	5 %	1,5	■■■■■
Features	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
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Signal/Noise Ratio	1,88 %	1,0	■■■■■
▶ Practice	40 %	0,9	■■■■■
Operation	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Features	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Reception test	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Workmanship	20 %	0,8	■■■■■

▶ Xzent X-427, X-MAP27-PC1

Upper-Class	**1,1**

CAR&HiFi *4/21*
Price/performance: excellent

„With optional software a first-class navigation receiver for cars or motorhomes"