



► With the Z-N528 the Swiss brand Zenec is launching a new moniceiver with a capacitive real glass display at an attractive price.

The Z-N528 has an enclosure in conventional 2-DIN format. That lets it be installed universally in a wide range of vehicles. The touchscreen radio is a moniceiver with diverse infotainment functions. The Zenec does not have a built-in navigation system, but its large screen is very good when used for navigation.

CarPlay and Android Auto

To use the Z-N528 for navigation you have only to connect an appropriate iPhone or Android mobile phone to the first of the two USB ports at the rear. If Apple CarPlay or Android Auto is installed, then the relevant app starts automatically, and is displayed on the 17.1 cm touchscreen of the Zenec device from where it can be controlled.

They have a clear, simplified user interface that makes them optimal for use during driving and provide access to a range of important phone functions, such as telephony, navigation, media player and messenger services. Control is easy and smooth via the capacitive glass display of the Z-N528 or, thanks to Apple Siri or Google Assistant, even more comfortably by voice input.

Bluetooth

To use voice control you need to connect the microphone supplied as the Zenec does not have one built into the front. This is not possible for design reasons due to the full glass front. Nevertheless an external microphone can be positioned wherever you want, and usually has a much better speech

quality for the receiving party. Thanks to the built-in Bluetooth 4.2 module the Z-N528 can be used for hands-free calling and audio streaming. The usual comfort functions like phonebook transfer, speed dialing, contact search and iD3 tag display are supported.

Digital radio

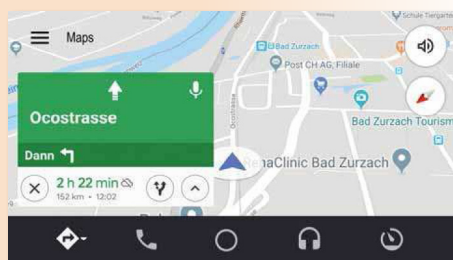
Onboard the moniceiver are receivers for analog FM broadcast and DAB+ digital radio. The DAB tuner offers all the usual comfort functions with DAB<->DAB Service-Following, MOT Slideshow, DLS Text and Comfort Scan. A power supply of active DAB antennas is supported. The DAB antenna power supply is activated as factory default but can be deactivated in the DAB setup menu, when using a passive antenna. On the road the Zenec impresses with its crystal clear digital radio reception.

Audio

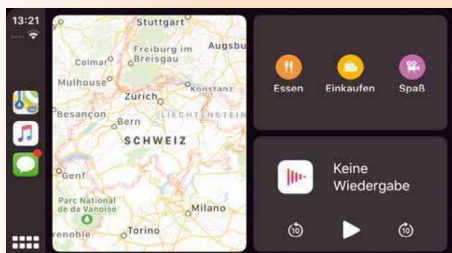
For playing media, there are two USB inputs at the rear in addition to the tuner, Bluetooth, CarPlay and Android Auto. Via these you can play audio and video files in the formats MP3, FLAC, AAC, WMA, AVI, MPEG-1/2,



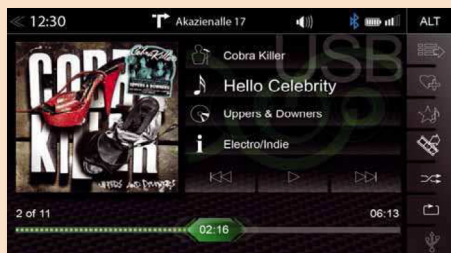
Even 5-channel time alignment is there



Smartphone navigation via the Zenec



CarPlay and Android Auto are supported



Comfortable media player



Two cameras can be connected

MPEG4, M4V (H.264), MKV 1080p, WMV and XviD. The media player of the Zenec offers clear controls, including the display of album covers. Worth highlighting are the options the Z-N528 gives you for setting the sound. The integrated signal processor offers a range of functions that is anything but a matter of course in this price category. The user has the choice of selecting the Simple mode with preset sound profiles, or changing to the Expert mode with direct access to numerous parameters. To adjust the frequency response there is an 8-band graphic equalizer. The subwoofer output level can be adjusted, phase-shift and cut off frequencies at 55, 85, 120, 160 or 240 Hz by a low-pass filter. Front and rear outputs can each be separated by a high-pass filter. You can select a slope of 12 or 24 dB/octave, and a cut-off frequency of 60, 63, 80, 100 or 120 Hz. Highlight of the audio features is the 5-channel time alignment. This enables you to delay the signals for the front and rear left/right speakers and subwoofer in-

dividually in order to improve staging, homogeneity and dynamics. Settings are in steps of 0.5 ms or 17 cm. In addition, balance, fader, volume and bass boost are also onboard. All settings are intuitive to make by means of nicely designed graphical menus.

Connections

Beside the USB ports already mentioned, at the rear you will find an analog AV input, a video output, an HDMI socket, a port for a CAN interface, and not least two AV inputs for the connection of rear and front-view cameras together with a microphone. Parking gridlines can be set for the cameras on the monitor.

On the road

The Zenec Z-N528 performs brilliantly in the test lab. This is clearly a flawless piece of engineering. And on the road we can only give it top marks. The new capacitive TFT touchscreen with glass surface delivers a good display quality, reacting promptly and reliably to every finger touch. Operation of all functions via the touchscreen and the five buttons below the display is easy and intuitive, and the entire menu structure is well thought out, self-explanatory and of an attractive graphical design. The only thing that someone might miss is a rotary volume control.

Summary

The new Zenec Z-N528 offers an outstanding range of features in its price category, excellent ease of use and superb performance in the lab and on the road.

The Zenec Z-N528 fits here:

In cars with a double DIN slot. For many other models installation and connector adapters are available as accessories.

Zenec Z-N528

Distributor	ACR, Bad Zurzach, Schweiz
Hotline	acr-info@acr.eu
Internet	www.zenec.com

▶ 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 %	1,1	■■■■■
• USB	7,5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Distortion	3,75 %	1,5	■■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	3,75 %	1,1	■■■■■
• Tuner	7,5 %	1,5	■■■■■
Frequency response	1,88 %	1,0	■■■■■
Crosstalk	1,88 %	0,5	■■■■■
Distortion	1,88 %	0,5	■■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	1,88 %	1,5	■■■■■
▶ Practice	45 %	0,8	■■■■■
Operation	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Reception test	20 %	0,5	■■■■■
Workmanship	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Features	5 %	1,0	■■■■■

Summary

Price	approx. 380 Euro		
Sound quality	20 %	1,2	■■■■■
Picture quality	20 %	1,2	■■■■■
Lab	15 %	1,1	■■■■■
Practice	45 %	1+	■■■■■

Zenec Z-N528

Ultimate-Class	1,0
Top-Class	
Upper-Class	
Middle-Class	
Lower-Class	
Price/performance: excellent	

Technical data

Amplifier output / W	15
Output Voltage / V	2,4
Output impedance / ohms	757
USB	
THD+N (%)	0,016
SNR (A)	101
Tuner	
THD+N (%)	0,043
Signal/Noise Ratio (A)	52
Crosstalk (dB)	46
Monitor size (cm)	17,1
Touchscreen	•
Dual Zone	-
Dolby Digital / Pro Logic decoder	-
param./graph. EQ-bands	HP / LP
Time alignment	•
Pre-outs	6
AV-in / AV-out	• / •
Digital-out	-
Connectors camera / navigation	2 / -
USB front / rear	- / 2
iPod control	•
Bluetooth HFP/A2DP	• / •
Other	CarPlay / Android Auto