

PRODUCT REVIEW

COOLSTREAM BLUETOOTH MUSIC RECEIVER

After picking up a 2015 Victory Cross Country Tour, we were surprised to see that it was equipped with the early style 30-pin audio adapter, which only works with old iPhones up to the 4S, and is incompatible with the iPhone 5 and newer phones, as well as Android phones. Apple dropped the 30-pin connector back in 2012, so we can only surmise that Victory still has a boatload of these older radios and is using them up. The Victory Magnum has a newer radio and accepts a USP cable, and is more adaptable, but let's save that for another story.

At first this seemed a bit of a letdown, but a quick search of the Internet revealed that there are several workarounds for this. Of course, there are adapters to convert the 30-pin to lightning connectors out

there, so that was one way to go; however, that still leaves the "Droid" phones out of the mix.

Looking around further, we found the CoolStream Duo Bluetooth Music Adapter. This reasonably priced device (\$40) allows the user to plug directly into the 30-pin connector and stream music and audio (such as from a GPS) through the audio system of the Victory, via Bluetooth from the phone or other audio device. You can also use the unit with your home music system, though either the 30-pin connector, or the 3.5mm cord which is also provided. This connector can also be used to stream your music to any auto or motorcycle sound system with a 3.5 mm input.

The best feature is you can now mount your phone directly on the handlebars and access it while rolling down the road, changing tracks or inputting an address, giving you complete control over your device. The phone doesn't have to be physically connected to the bike at all.

We teamed the CoolStream Duo up with a phone mount designed especially for our iPhone from Marlin's, called the M-Mount. This

versatile mount has heavy springs that expand allowing a wide variety of phone and GPS units to be solidly mounted to your handlebars. The price for this unit varies, based on the diameter of handlebars on your ride. Ours cost \$125.

Connecting the phone to the CoolStream Duo couldn't be easier. Just connect it to the bike's 30-pin connector, turn on the unit, it powers itself up and is also charged through the connector. On the iPhone, steps may vary by the device, but should be similar, just go to Settings, Bluetooth, and select CoolStream on the

phone and pair the device. Your music will now stream directly to the Victory's stereo.

We were amazed how foolproof the whole process was, and for forty buckaroos, you now have Bluetooth connectivity on your Victory, something that the factory doesn't yet offer at any price, at least until they read this article and see how easy it is.

—Kit Maira

Sources:

CoolStream

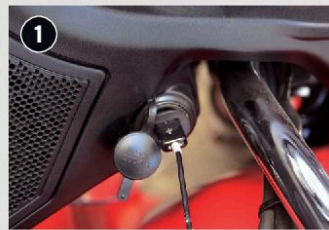
www.coolstreamrocks.com

Marlins

www.marlinsclocks.com



The CoolStream Duo, it adapts Bluetooth compatible cell phones and other devices to 30-pin connector audio systems.



1. A USB adapter and power cord plugged into the 12 volt power tap will keep your device charged.

2. The CoolStream Duo plugs directly into the 30 pin cable supplied with the bike.

3. Marlin's M-Mount is easily fastened securely to the handlebars.

4. Our iPhone is secured in the M-Mount and transmitting music to the Cross Country's radio, through Bluetooth.