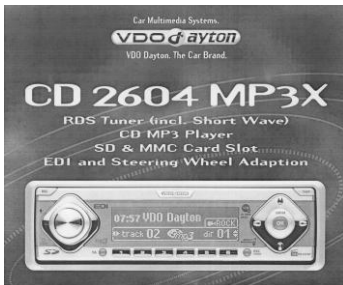


Radio



Radios are available in so many variations and price classes. It is easy to lose track. From a DAB unit with integrated CD changer, integrated TV and integrated GPS that can cost you some thousand bucks down to (supposed) bargains for only a few Swiss Francs. The choice is difficult and I had to set priorities; on one hand to keep my budget and on the other hand to have most of the functionalities that I wanted. I don't need a USB connection, nor do I require Bluetooth (built into the GPS device) or a 1000W amplifier in my car. I decided along the following guidelines: It should be a quad-band radio (AM, FM, LW, SW), robust, simple in handling, burglary protected and it should be able to play cassettes, CD, MP3 and from SD-cards. I searched for quite some time - from malls to specialist dealers - , but I couldn't find a device that matched my requirements and was within my budget. As luck would have it, I got aware of an internet advertising that instantly drew my attention because they offered a radio that matched exactly my requirements for an acceptable price.

It was a 'VDO Dayton CD 2604 MP3X' for approximately 400 CHF (400 USD) and I decided to buy it (<http://www.discount-car-hifi.ch/>). Unfortunately, they don't carry it anymore in their offering. But all details are available under <http://www.vdodayton.com/>. The radio is not only capable of satisfying all my requirements but has a lot more features. But I don't need them for my purpose and so I didn't buy the options. The 4 x 25W (constant) output are sufficient for me (2 speakers in the front and 2 speakers in the rear). Up to now I am very confident with my choice. The radio is robust (several thousand kilometers on rough terrain), it was an acceptable price, it is protected against burglary (front panel can be removed) and has Short Wave (SW) capabilities. Unfortunately the Swiss Short Wave-service transmissions ceased in 2004. As an alternative I tune now in to 'Deutsche Welle' or BBC for acceptable news coverage and reports.