

## Stereo Back Light Fix

Acknowledgment and hats off to Captain Smash, I take no credit to finding the solution, all I've done is illustrated the procedure.

The following are steps to fix the back lighting for the Panasonic Stereo as shown in the picture below; however the instructions may apply to additional models. Time required for the fix will depend on your own confidence but it shouldn't take more than a couple of hours even for the complete novice. As the radio is full of delicate electronics extreme care must be taken when following the instructions so as not to permanently damage the stereo beyond repair. ***If in any doubt do not start the task and send the stereo away to be repaired by a trained professional (you'll find various companies on here that will fix the radio for you at a cost)***

In essence it appears to be a couple of dry solder joints that are causing all the problems and the fix is relatively easy and straight forward.

Note. Before disconnecting the power from the stereo, it's best to ensure you have the radio code just in case the stereo asks for it when you reconnect it.

PS. How long do you reckon before some little scumbag tries to sell these instructions on ebay 😊



Tools Required;

- Philips Screwdrivers medium & small
- Soldering iron (small tip probably best to use electrical as opposed to gas powered)
- Flux & solder (or fluxed cored solder)
- Flat Blade tool (old butter knife)
- Tweezers
- Plenty of patience.

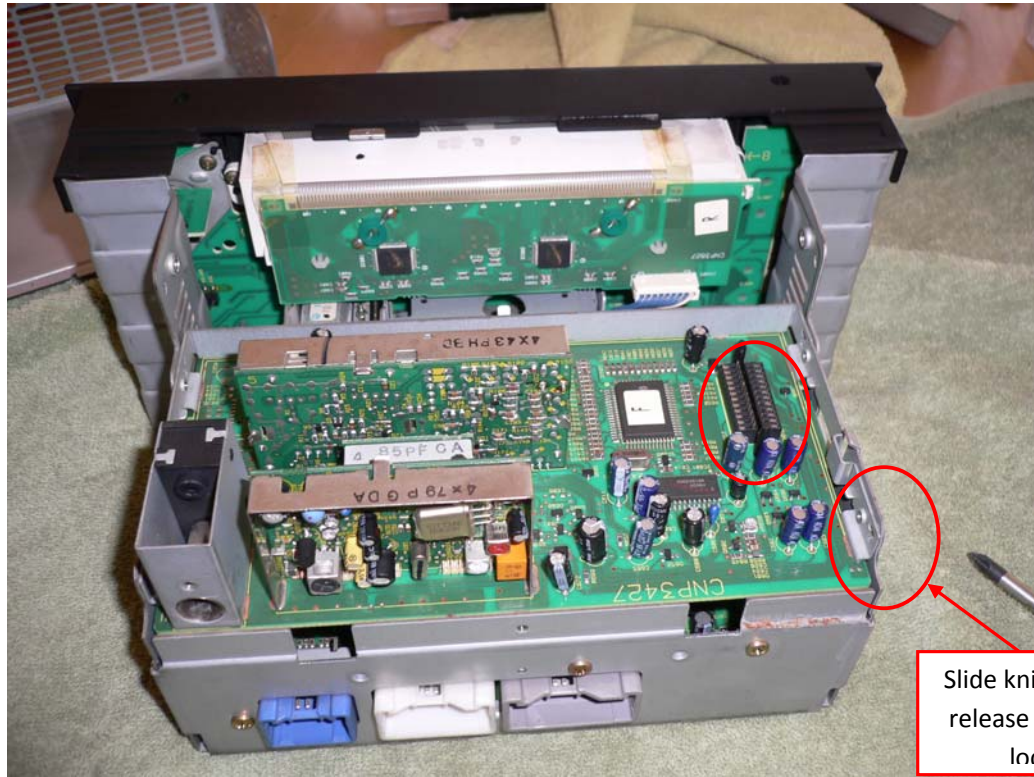
Note: To avoid any confusion I have taken everything from the back of the stereo looking forward. i.e the right hand side is shown in the photo overleaf.

## Step by Step Instructions

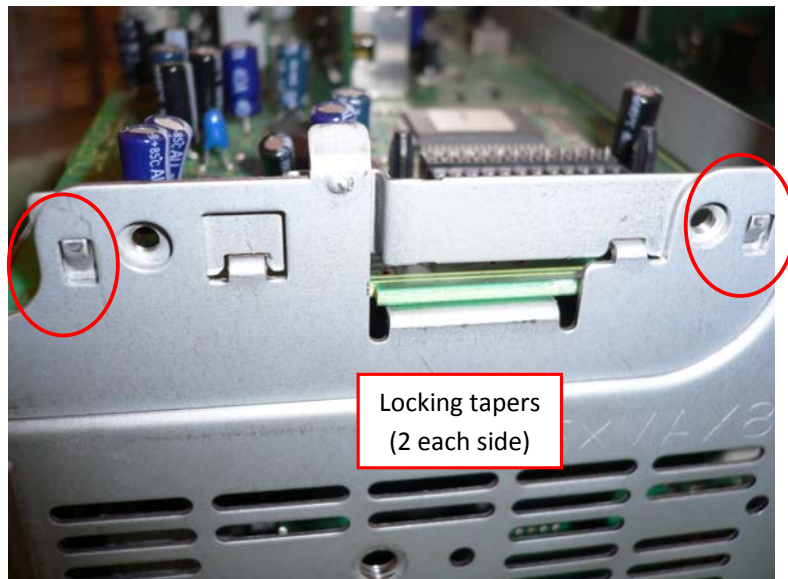
*Remove the stereo from the car (various post showing you how to do this)*



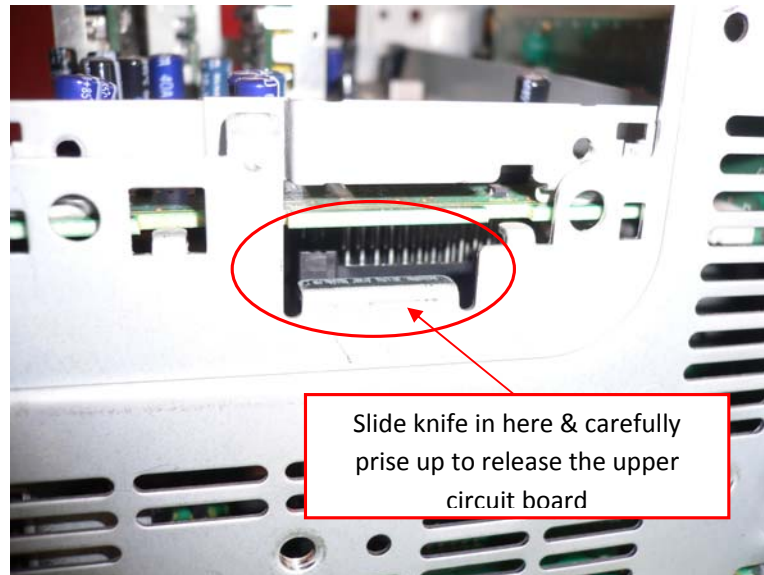
1. Identify and remove the 8 screws circled red shown in the photographs above and carefully liftoff the top of the stereo.



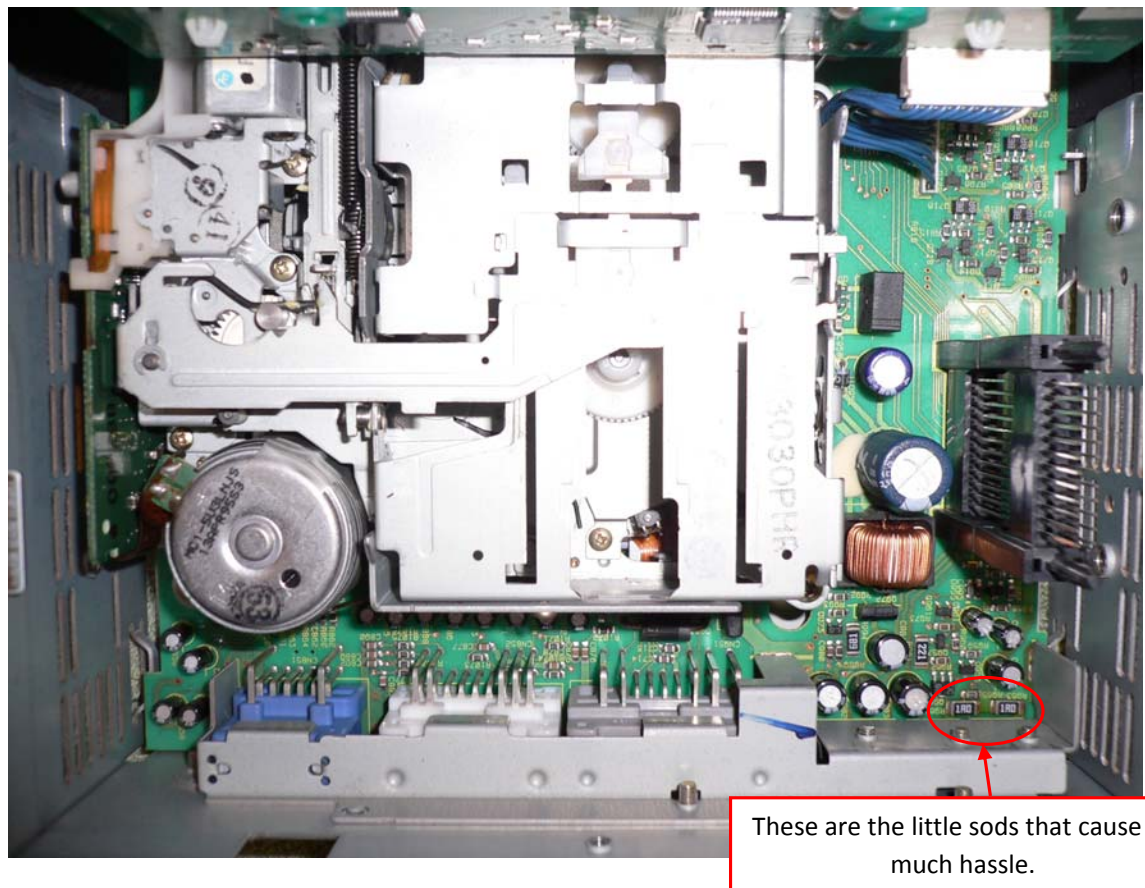
2. The dry joints are either side of a couple of ceramic resistors that to gain access to will requires the removal of the upper circuit board shown in the picture above. The circuit board is just held in place with 4 taper type lugs (2 either side) as shown in the picture below and by the pin plug connector shown by the red circle above.



3. To remove the upper circuit board, carefully slide in blade tool (butter knife) at the point shown in the **upper** photo & gently prise apart the sides of the main stereo body to release the locking tapers as shown above  
**Note: there will be a resistance due to the pin connectors so do not force this is this is proving difficult**



4. With the locking tapers free, carefully insert the butter knife under the circuit board through the slot cut out of the right hand side of the main housing and prise up on the knife whilst simultaneously lifting the opposite side of the circuit board to provide a level lift to prevent damage to the connectors on the circuit board below.



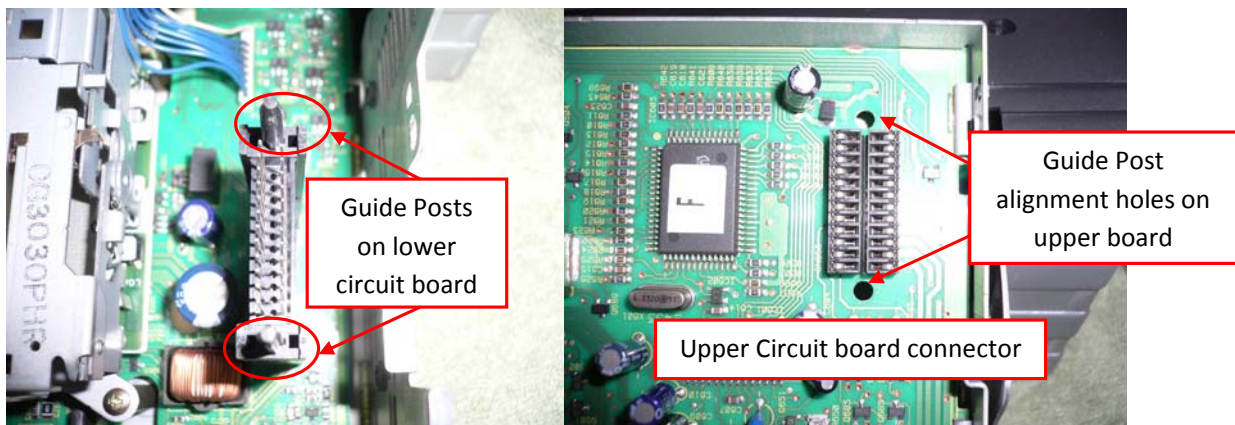
5. With the upper circuit board removed the 2 ceramic resistors can be seen for the first time at the bottom right hand corner as shown in the circle in the picture above.

## Notes

If the joints are as dry as they were on my stereo the ceramic resistors will easily move as they had become so loose they weren't even attached to the board anymore.

Access is tight, so I further removed the front panel and undid the screws holding down the cassette mechanism and the last few in the back panel so that I could withdraw the lower circuit board, but in reality the access didn't improve any great deal so I'm not sure if this step is really worth doing, however it was worth mentioning in case you are struggling with access and need to remove the lower board.

6. If the resistors are loose I suggest using tweezers to completely remove them all together from the circuit board and re-tin the nodes on which they sit and then re-tin the ends of the resistors, before putting them back in place and re-applying the heat to form a joint. If the resistors are still stuck, or partially stuck to the board I would be more inclined to simply use flux and a dab of solder to repair the joint in-situ.  
**IMPORTANT. Either way, you must take extreme care with the soldering iron so as not to leave it in place for too long otherwise the heat will damage the components and may well loosen further joints around the area of other components.**
7. With the joints re-soldered, that is the fix complete. Note, it's worth using a non metallic object (sharpened pencil is as good as anything) to apply a small amount of pressure to the other flat resistors in the area to ensure they are all good joints, mine were, but you never know.
8. Carefully lower the upper circuit board back in place on top of the lower one ensuring the pins from the lower board pass up through the corresponding slots on the upper **(not there's 2 guide posts to aid alignment)**.



9. With the lower board pins aligned with the connector on the upper board apply slightly firm pressure to the upper circuit board until the locking tapers snap back into position on main case.
10. Reposition the cover and replace all the screw. Job done !