

Mini Backup Camera

THE SOLUTION. Chances are you will not have the same problem, as most cars should work fine with a straight splice to the backup lights, but even if you have my problem, the solution is simple with a few basic tools. I purchased a standard auto relay from RadioShack for \$6.99. The relay has four connections. If you have not wired relays before, don't be intimidated. Diagrams are available online and each terminal (connection) is numbered:

First, run a wire from an adequate power source (positive wire feeding cigarette lighter). As always, don't risk frying your electrical circuit. Use an inline fuse (available at Wal Mart and most auto stores for a couple of dollars). I used a three amp mini fuse.

Wire your relay as follows (refer to markings on relay and use standard crimped terminal ends):

#85: Connect to a GOOD ground. Black

#30: Connect to your fused power source. Red

#86: Connect to the positive wire feeding your back up light. White

#87: Connect to the camera's positive power lead. Blue

Negative camera lead to any GOOD ground (can share ground with relay).

HOW DOES IT WORK? When you place the car in reverse, power goes to to backup lights. The backup light power supply is not enough to support the camera but is enough to support the relay (the relay requires very little power (about 150MA compared to the cameras 300-500 MA). When the relay is activated by the backup light, it throws and internal switch which in turn connects the cigarette lighter circuit power to the camera which is more than enough to support the camera and any standard device(s) plugged into the cigarette lighter circuit.