

Modifying the Zodiac Hot-Sync Cable with a Palm Tungsten Car Charger

From "Doc Scott" at www.tapland.com

Difficulty: Easy

Tools Required:

-Sharp Knife



- Wire Cutter



-Electrical Tape



Optional:

-Wire Stripper (these are fancy automatic ones)



-Soldering Iron and Electrical Solder



Equipment:

Tapwave Zodiac USB HotSync Cable

--For \$14.99 from www.tapwave.com or CompUSA, J&R, etc.



Palm Tungsten (or similar 5 volt) car charger

--for less than 10\$ from various sources (try Ebay)



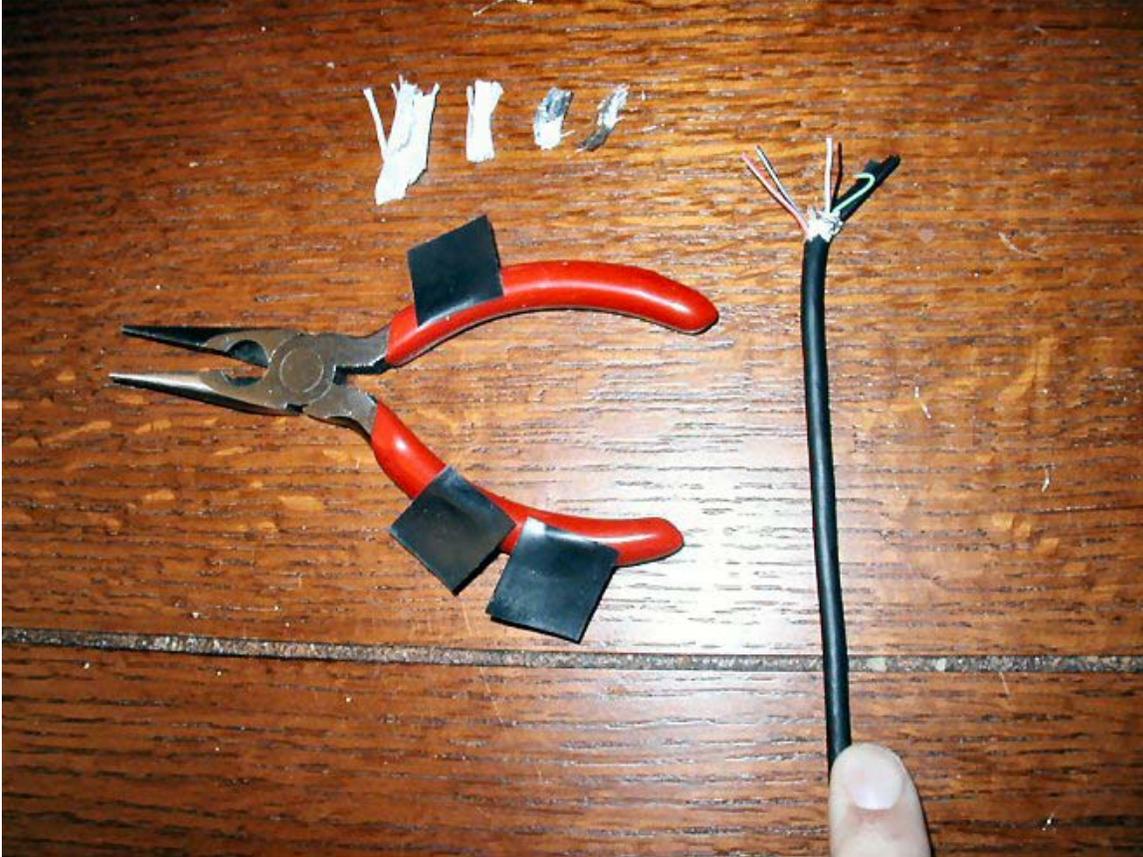
Step 1: Cut hotsync cable about 6 inches from the adapter, strip off a couple of inches of the plastic insulation using knife or wire strippers.



Step 2: Next remove and cut off the white paper stuff that surrounds the wires. The black and red wires exposed provide (+) and (-) voltage to the hotsync adapter. These are the ones you will splice to the car charger. Inside the wire mesh are the 4 wires from the USB connector. The wire mesh and foil protect the data in these cables from electrical interference.



Step 3: Remove the wire mesh shield surrounding the USB cables. This exposes 4 little wires-- green and white for data, black for ground red for power (used for hotsync only, not connected to charger). Bend the tips and tape them over to prevent shorts (not sure if this would actually do anything but seems a prudent precaution).



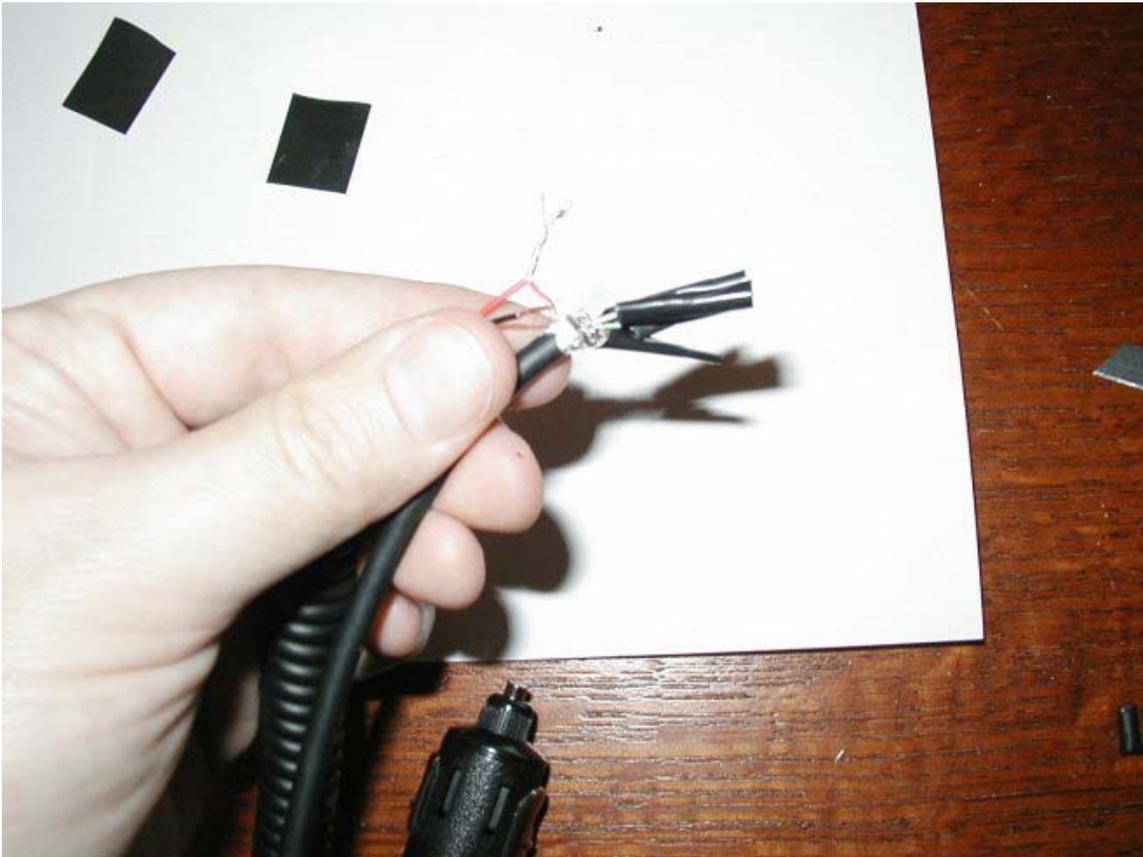
Step 4: Take you car charger and cut off the Palm adapter. Strip off a couple of inches of insulation exposing red and black (+) and (-) wires.



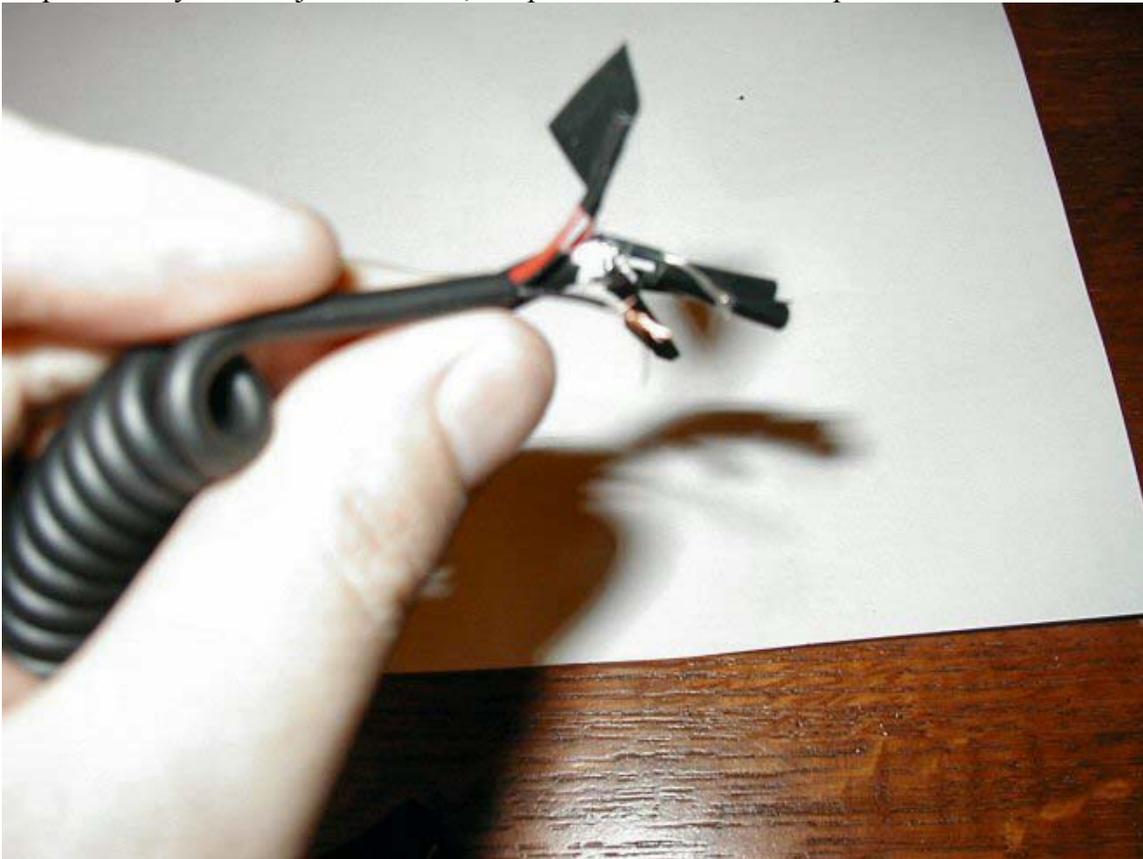
Step 5: Strip 1/2 and inch or so of insulation from the red and black voltage wires from both the hotsync adapter and the car charger ends. After you strip them, twist the loose ends tight (keeps in neat).



Step 6: Join the red wire from the car charger to the red wire from the adapter by twisting them together. You may want to add a drop of solder at this point to make for a better connection. Then do the same for the black wires.



Step 7: After you have joined a wire, wrap the end in electrical tape.



Step 8: Fold the taped end back along the wire length and then tape over both tape and wire again. (Do the same for both the red and black wires)



Step 9: Now just tape everything over nice and neat.



And you are done!



Note: You try these modifications at your own risk. The charger designed for the Palm Tungsten is not designed to the specifications for the Zodiac and while I haven't had any problems with mine, damage is possible to your device.