BinaryFactory

..by Guillaume Ross

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Using an iPhone or iPod Touch with an ELM327 Wifi OBD-II

BY GUILLAUME | PUBLISHED JULY 28, 2012

With an application such as Rev for iPhone and a ELM327, you can wirelessly obtain a lot of information from your car. The App Store also has Rev Lite which lacks a lot of feature but can be useful to just test the connectivity before paying for a more expensive app.

Due to limitations in the iOS Bluetooth stack, make sure you buy the Wi-Fi version of it on eBay and not the Bluetooth one, unless you have jailbroken your phone and really know what you're doing.

ELM327 can be ordered on eBay, most of them ship directly from Asia and should cost under $50 with shipping.
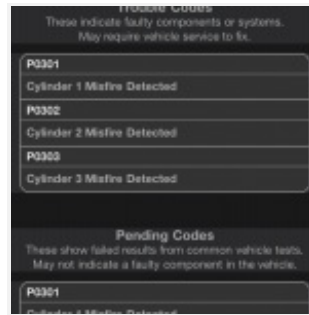
1. Connect the ELM327 to your car.
2. On your iOS device, in the Settings, chose to connect to a Wi-Fi network. My ELM327 is called "CLKDevices" but your mileage may vary. It should be relatively easy to find out which one it is unless you're in a very Wi-Fi heavy area, in which case you can just drive a bit down the road and see what name hasn't disappeared.
3. Once connected to that Wi-Fi network, click the small blue arrow to go to the advanced settings for it. Set the IP Address to Static. Configure the IP address to **192.168.0.123** and the Subnet Mask to **255.255.255.0**. Then, go back and exit the settings. Other guides/videos might tell you to configure an IP as a "router". That is not only useless but annoying as it would mean your iPhone

would attempt to join the Internet through your ELM327 and any data would not come through as it's connected to your car. Don't set a router.

4. Start your car. The OBD-II port was providing power to the ELM327 but in some cases you will not be able to retrieve any data from it if the car is not started.
5. In your App, configure the connection to use a custom TCP connection with IP **192.168.0.10** and TCP Port **35000**.
6. Enjoy reading all this information on your car better and cheaper than by using the crappy scanners they sell in stores.

Rev allows you to set up to 5 gauges and it can also record the data and later export it to CSV.

Rev allows you to see your Check Engine Light codes and adds some human readable text.

38 Responses to *Using an iPhone or iPod Touch with an ELM327 Wifi OBD-II*

1. Pingback: Misfire codes on 2011 Subaru WRX | BinaryFactory.ca

2. *Hugo* says:
   January 18, 2013 at 21:44

   I bought the elm327 obdII device and i have a iphone 4 and i can't find the device on my wifi list… what can i do?

Reply

Guillaume says:

It seems the SSID is somewhat random.
Turn on the car with the device plugged, scan for networks (use a laptop, it's a bit easier to refresh often). Note the list of SSIDs, then unplug the device and see if any network disappears.

It could also be defective.

Reply

3. *Sam* says:

Which app are you using?

I've tried using Rev Lite with the method you suggest above and it does not connect at all within the app.

Connection to the ELM327 seems to be fine though – Clearly shows as connected.

Reply

Guillaume says:

I had it working with Rev Lite, but now I use the full Rev.
I think part of the problem is sometimes that these things are completely randomly setup. Some have different SSIDs, and maybe some even have different IP addresses.

What I would suggest doing is: Connect your laptop to the ELM327 over wifi. Use a sniffer like Wireshark to see the

traffic and determine the IP address of your dongle. That could be the issue.

Also, using a Telnet client (such as Putty or even the built-in Windows telnet client – which isn't installed by default on the latest versions), you should be able to telnet into the IP address of your ELM327 on port 35000 and see raw OBDII data. If not, you don't have the right IP, it's on a different port, or it's another completely random thing.

QA on these doesn't seem to be a priority! Fortunately they are cheap..

Another suggestion: Make sure you turn on the car before trying, simply plugging it in or setting the car to accessory will enable Wifi but not full connectivity.

Reply

4. *Esteban* says:
January 29, 2013 at 15:44

hello… either using rev lite or rev full version Iam unable to see boost and many many other options…. EML 327 wifi connected to OBDII on an Audi TT 2000

Reply

Guillaume says:
January 29, 2013 at 18:53

But you see some of the data?
Is it possible that Audi uses some PIDs for boost that Rev doesn't support?

Reply

5. *Esteban* says:
January 30, 2013 at 10:32

Thank you Guillaume,

Yes I see some useless data…not even rpms

But tried DashCommand app and I am able to see rpms but not boost there for you right there are several PIDs not supported

Reply

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6. *Larry* says:

Thank you very much this information is great. I have an additional question please.
Assuming x2 applications on the iPhone both want to connect to the WiFi OBD ELM327 at the same time, is this possible and if so how would one accomplish this?
Thanks in advance
Larry.

Reply

Guillaume says:

The phone connects to the elm327. Then, any app that supports OBDII over TCP can use it. I am not sure the ELM327 can serve two sessions at the same time but I'd be interested to know if you do try it out. How do they both run at the same time? Is it a jailbroken iPhone?

Reply

Larry says:

I'll let you know, absolutely

Reply

Larry says:

February 6, 2013 at 13:48

and sorry, no the phone is not jailbroken

Reply

7. *Kirill* says:

February 15, 2013 at 18:05

Hi! I've bought on of these ELM327 as well and mine works just fine with iPhone, but I can't connect my Windows PC to the network. It just says "Windows was unable to join CLKDevices". And a picture near CLKDevices in the list of available networks is three computers and a yellow exclamation mark. Have you tried to connect yours to a PC?

Reply

Guillaume says:

February 15, 2013 at 18:07

I connected it to my Mac and it worked. Ensure you're setting a static IP to your machine when on wifi..

Reply

Kirill says:

February 15, 2013 at 18:30

Did you use MacOS on your Mac at that time or Windows? I've just tried MacOS and it also worked. But not Windows. Do you know of any good soft for MacOS? I only have ScanXL for Windows, but nothing for MacOS.

Reply

Guillaume says:

I telnetted directly on Mac, it was just for troubleshooting.

On Windows, if you connect and do ipconfig /all what is the output?

Reply

Kirill says:

On windows I configure the adaptor (IP and Mask), then choose the CLKDevices network from the list and click Connect and then I get "Windows was unable to join CLKDevices".

8. *felip* says:

iHi! I've bought on of these ELM327 as well but for some reason i cant connect with my iPhone5
please help any body

Reply

Guillaume says:

Provide more info. Do you see the wifi network at all? Is the problem wireless connectivity or getting apps to communicate?

Reply

Yana says:

April 4, 2013 at 07:11

I have the same problem. I`ve read, that this is a problem of OBD interfaces. They say, that iphone 5 doesn`t support some features that is need to connect to OBD. So what should I do? To find and buy a new OBD or to wait for your software update?

Reply

Guillaume says:

April 4, 2013 at 08:41

Just to be clear I don't make any software. I'll try it on my iPhone 5 probably tomorrow to see if it still works on the latest iOS and everything..

Reply

9.   *tim ploeg* says:

March 12, 2013 at 20:14

I picked up an elm327 wifi and can connect to it from my IPhone 4. I can see the wifi connection but I too can't get an app to connect to it. Using rev light i get an error saying device disconnected (turn car off then on, unplug elm then replug) I have tried this and nothing works. I was able to use the demo software on the disk that came with it through my PC … but I want to use my phone. Please help

Reply

Guillaume says:

March 12, 2013 at 20:35

Did you configure your laptop and iPhone with the same static IP for the wifi?

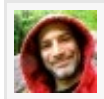Does the wifi connection establish properly from your iPhone 4?

Reply

10. *Arnaldo Lourencani* says:

April 27, 2013 at 16:41

I have a ELM 327 Wifi, can you send me the software for Iphone 4S ? I do no found it…

Mey email is alourencani@gmail.com from Brazil.

Thanks in advance

Reply

11. *Stephane Daury* says:

April 5, 2013 at 12:07

Nice. The custom IP setup was the key for me.

As a reference for others, My SSID is WIFIODB2 on my ELM 327 (maybe someone googling it can find this page).

I guess we both got a "good deal": you gave me the answer I was looking for, I'm one of the developers for the Jetpack plugin (and WordPress[.com]) I notice your site is running. Enjoy, and thanks again for posting that! 😀
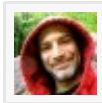
Reply

⌐ *Guillaume* says:

April 8, 2013 at 10:18

Nice!

I wonder how they even manage to have so many different SSIDs. I can understand bad quality control but it seems it's more trouble to not make that standard than just always call it Wifiodb2 (which makes way more sense than a lot of the other ones seen)!

Reply

Stephane Daury says:

April 8, 2013 at 10:30

Looks like it's because the actual ELM 327 is just a hardware component, really, that manufacturers get, setup and package for themselves. So each "packager" has its own SSID.
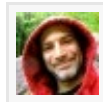
Reply

Guillaume says:

April 8, 2013 at 10:33

Very logical explanation. So we should buy a bunch at 23.50$ each and set them up with a standard SSID and resell them with usable instructions haha.

Reply

Stephane Daury says:

April 8, 2013 at 10:38

Good idea! 😀

12. *Ibrahim Khudrew* says:

April 21, 2013 at 05:08

Hi all,

I have the ELM327 running on my iPhone 4S using the full version of Rev.

My issue is it works very well one my main car however when connecting it to any other car does not work.

It simply will not connect to the app. Any help with this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Reply

13. *Holly* says:

    May 7, 2013 at 19:41

    Thanks! I just saved my husband from throwing his ipad across the garage!

    Reply

14. *elm327* says:

    May 8, 2013 at 05:05

    yeah, the elm327 is cheap and work great.

    Reply

15. *Rocco* says:

    May 21, 2013 at 11:02

    Hi! I've connect my obd elm wifi to MY car (Bmw 2009) and works great with dashboard commander, when i try to use full Rev, Rev connects properly with elm (green light) and reads the VIN, but ALL pids shows the same blocked value! For example: rpm always 33, boost always 33 psi, speed always 33 mph…
    Do you have any ideas to resolve it??

    THANK YOU!!!

    Reply

16. *PoPPaP* says:

    May 27, 2013 at 15:45

    Just wondering when connected to the ELM over wifi, can you still access the Internet through the cellular connection? Or

would it timeout when trying to connect.

Reply

Guillaume says:
May 27, 2013 at 15:58

If you configure your iPhone with no gateway on wifi, it'll go to cellular for Internet connectivity.

Reply

PoPPaP says:
May 27, 2013 at 16:19

Thanks for the info!

Reply

17. *PaulV* says:
June 7, 2013 at 00:48

Hi Gillaume… thanks for your info… got my Elm327 connected to my 4S in my MINI in flash.
Just out of interest… the website blurb says… "It also includes a power switch built-in to prevent the need for having to constantly disconnect your unit from the OBDII port.". Either its in software or I really am blind. The Elm looks just like the PLX's but I noticed they have a tiny switch on the 'wire' end of the box… not my ELM327. Is that part of the cost-saving? Is it in software (is there an inactivity timeout?).

Reply

Guillaume says:
June 7, 2013 at 07:27

I do not see any switch on mine.

I would not leave it connected permanently in my car, I would be afraid of using too much of the car's battery if I didn't use it for a few days in a row.

Also I left mine in for a while once and the wifi seemed to say active. I am not sure they have any inactivity timeout (at least mine – these things aren't exactly all standard).

Reply

Leave a Reply

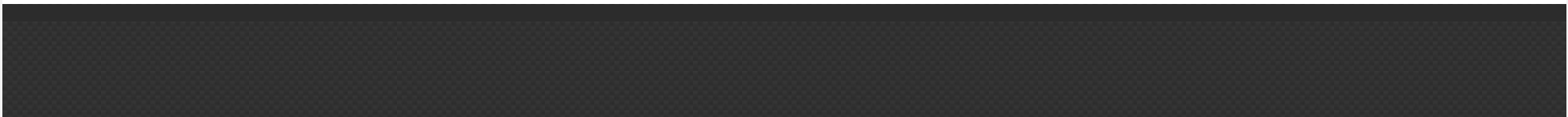Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

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