

OnPar



One of Pioneer's three MINI Coops.

European installers used to run a few steps behind their U.S. counterparts. **Not any more.** learns our intrepid globetrotting reporter.

SCENE



Das ist die M-Klasse die ich für Kenwood BRD gebaut habe.

Verbs & Visuals: Baron Richard von Truesdell

Part Consumer Electronics Show, part Spring Break and Hot Import Nights, the Car + Sound Show, held April 26-28 in Sinsheim,

Germany provided an interesting counterpoint to the SEMA International Auto Salon held just the week before. Rather than a gaggle of Asian show cars, Volkswagens of all shapes and sizes dominated the show floor, along with the new BMW-built Mini Cooper. New MINIs were everywhere in Sinsheim, Pioneer had three different variations on display, while JVC's red MINI featured a unique amp rack/sub enclosure combo.



VDO-Dayton, a brand distributed in the U.S. by Audiovox, had this killer PT Cruiser with full Kenwood multimedia system.



J. Audio represented with a VW Lupo - even smaller than a Polo. This was the first chance for many Euro car audio heads to spec the new W7s.



*Das ist der 5er BMW den ich für
AUDISON Österreich gebaut habe*

Steven Seiler, a German installer with a monster rep, built this 5-Series BMW for Hertz. Sick monitor integration.

In the past, the best European installations trailed the best here in the U.S. by a considerable margin. That's no longer the case. This year's Sinsheim, as opposed to our last visit two years ago, showed us that the best installs are now on par with the best in the States. This is especially remarkable since European installers work with much smaller cars than their Stateside counterparts. Even the benchmark Honda Civic is considered a mid-size car in Europe.

But there remains one fundamental difference in installation



Jeeps are pretty common in Germany's autobahns, although Wranglers are rare. Magtal's TJ has a front-mounted sub serving as grille guard.



Ne! Zis American pink he has - how do Americans say - a snowball's chance in hell with us!



Digaton's VW Polo - smaller than a Golf - bangs with Rockford Fosgate drivers, and a touch of neon, all around.