

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0194

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0194

Lost Communication With 'Digital Audio Control Module B'

U0194 means the vehicle's network lost contact with the Digital Audio Control Module B, a dedicated audio processor or amplifier module that lives on the controller area network (CAN) bus. The module that monitors the bus, usually the body control module or gateway, has stopped receiving the periodic status messages it expects from that audio module, so it logs the fault and turns on the warning light.

SYSTEM

Network

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Lost communication with a control module

Symptoms you may notice

- Audio system may be silent, distorted, or stuck on one source
- Warning light or chime with a communication fault message on the dash
- Steering wheel audio buttons and volume controls stop responding
- Other modules may show unrelated communication codes at the same time
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the module still powers up intermittently
- Battery drain if the audio module stays awake on a faulty bus

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Blown fuse or corroded fuse box terminal feeding the audio module
- 2 Damaged, chafed, or water-soaked wiring in the CAN bus or module harness
- 3 Loose or corroded connector pins at the audio module or its ground point
- 4 Failed Digital Audio Control Module B itself, often after heat or moisture exposure
- 5 Low battery voltage or a weak charging system disrupting bus communication
- 6 Faulty gateway or body control module that is not relaying messages correctly
- 7 Aftermarket radio or audio install that disturbed the factory network wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules and record every stored code before clearing anything
- 2 Check the fuse, relay, and ground for the audio module with a test light or multimeter
- 3 Inspect the module connectors and harness for corrosion, water intrusion, and loose pins
- 4 Measure CAN bus resistance and voltage at the module connector to confirm the bus is alive
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while watching live data for the module to drop out
- 6 Substitute a known-good module or reflash the existing one if the bus and power checks pass
- 7 Clear codes and road test to confirm the module reports consistently

Why the audio module drops off the bus

- A module that still plays sound can set U0194 intermittently, so a working radio does not rule out a failing module or wiring fault.
- Water intrusion in the trunk, door, or kick panel area is a common hidden cause because audio modules are often mounted low in the body.
- A weak battery or failing alternator can trigger this code along with several other U-codes, so check charging voltage before condemning the module.
- Aftermarket amplifiers or radio swaps frequently disturb the factory bus wiring and create this exact communication loss.
- The code names the module the network cannot hear from, not necessarily the module that is broken, so the gateway or a shared splice can be the real culprit.

Can I keep driving with U0194?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the audio module is not part of steering, braking, or engine control, but avoid long trips if the fault causes a battery drain or repeated warning chimes. Have the circuit checked soon so a wiring fault does not spread to other modules on the same bus.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with full module access
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the audio and CAN circuits
- Trim removal tools
- Soldering iron and heat-shrink tubing for harness repairs



Reading U0194

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 1** Lost communication with a control module.
- 94** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0140 Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0164** Lost Communication With HVAC Control Module · **U0184** Lost Communication With Radio · **U0193** Lost Communication With 'Digital Audio Control Module A' · **U0195** Lost Communication With Subscription Entertainment Receiver

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a MAP Sensor Works: Engine Vacuum and Load](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0194/>

