



Anker Innovations Brings Amazon Alexa To Your Automobile.

Digital assistants, like Amazon's Alexa, have become an integral part to many of our home lives. The Roav VIVA and VIVA Pro are new editions to the Alexa family. Both devices easily integrate Alexa through a car charger that plugs into the lighter adapter.

In the package, you'll find the Roav VIVA or VIVA Pro car charging unit that resembles a slightly larger version of a standard car charger for your phone. It features two 2.4A PowerIQ-equipped USB charging ports in a standard looking car charger, but that's where the similarity ends. The device includes an Alexa light ring plus a mute button on top for activating the Alexa.



Figure 1: Alexa Enabled Roav VIVA Pro

Anker smartly packaged Alexa into a charging unit to allow the device to easily install into your car. While you may not be familiar with the name Roav, the brand Anker may ring a bell. The product is well built, and its design is similar to other Amazon products. Users have two fast USB charging ports similar to other Anker chargers. This is especially helpful if your car doesn't have any USB ports at all.

Connecting to your virtual assistant

Setting up the VIVA Pro is easy, just as download the Roav VIVA app for iPhone or Android and pair the app with your Roav VIVA device. One of the differentiating benefits of the Roav VIVA Pro is the ability to transmit sound through Bluetooth, AUX output, AUX output and Bluetooth connections. Just say “Alexa, play me some Jimmy Buffett”, “get the weather”, or “get turn-by-turn directions”.

The less costly ROA VIVA does not include an FM transmitter to send output to your radio. It also has an older processor and less sensitive microphones. Vehicles not supporting Bluetooth would require the VIVA Pro with the FM transmitter.

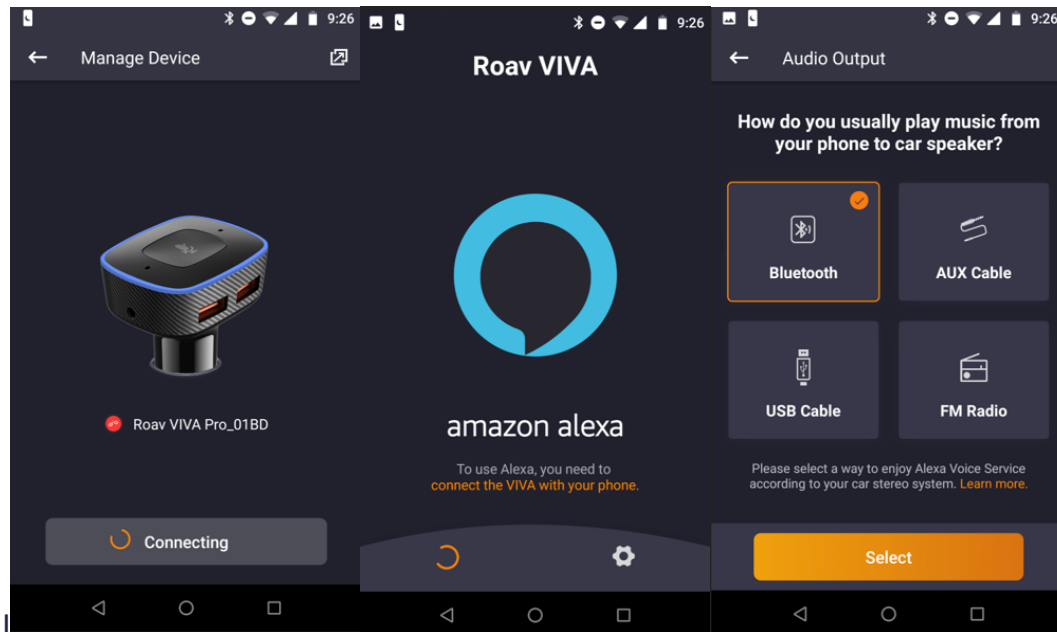


Figure 2: Insert the device, Connect with the Alexa app, and choose your Audio Output default

Hey Alexa...

Beyond music, either Roav Viva model can help control your smart home devices, order coffee from Starbucks, or simply navigate to an unfamiliar destination.

For most requests, the Roav application runs in the background leaving your favorite native navigation or music app on the screen. Some requests, like asking Alexa to make a call, can also bring up a confirmation on your screen with the number or a list of names that it thinks you are trying to call. But for the most part, whether you’re ordering dinner or communicating with your smart devices, your phone will not need to be out of your pocket or purse. Should you instead ask for directions, Waze or another preferred app will load on your phone and will be used for navigation until reaching the destination.

Current Issues

While you can stream from iHeartRadio, Amazon Music and other music sources, Anker has yet to get Spotify working with the Roav Viva devices, although they report that Spotify it will be added soon.

Be sure the device will fit in you lighter adapter without blocking the USB ports.

Pricing on Amazon

www.amazon.com (search for ROA Viva)

Prices listed were checked on December 11, 2019

ROAV Viva \$35.99

At this time Amazon was offering a 50% discount coupon

ROAV Viva Pro: \$69.99

At this time Amazon was offering a 30% discount coupon

Certainly, these discounts may change or be eliminated by the time the article is published.