Identifying your Saab 9-3 or Saab 9-5



Between 1997 and 2013, Saabs two main models were the 9-3 and Saab 9-5. Both were sold through two generations. In the Saab community they are known as OG (original generation) and NG (new generation) and there are also differences between facelifts in these generations.

The easiest way to tell which version you have is to check the year and the front of the car as they are all distinctively different.



SAAB 9-3 OG built between 1998 and 2003

Convertible models were built until 2003, 3/5 door hatchback production ended in 2002. The front bumper and chrome front grill are separate and headlamp wipers were optional All models use the 29-738 steering wheel control interface to change the radio. For single DIN installation, pocket 50-2000 can be used.

The 9-3 OG is an update on the Saab 900 NG.



SAAB 9-3 NG (Pre-facelift) built between 2003 and 2006

The front grill is integrated into the front bumper with a full width lower grill.

The Saab Information Display (SID) is located on top of the dashboard.

It is not possible to change the radio in these cars to an aftermarket set.



SAAB 9-3 NG (Post Facelift) built between 2006 and 2013

The front grill is integrated into the bumper with the left and right sections against the headlights and a thicker chrome trim.

The SID is integrated into the dials.

All models use 29-UC-050-SAAB steering wheel control interface to change the radio with fascia panel 50-311 for single or double DIN installation.



SAAB 9-5 OG (Pre-Facelift) built between 1997 and May 2002

The front bumper and chrome front grille are separate.

Headlamp wipers were optional and the SID (Saab Information Display) has 6 trip functions. All models use 29-738 steering wheel control interface to change the radio with 50-698 double DIN fascia or 50-2000 single DIN pocket.



SAAB 9-5 OG (Facelift 1) built between May 2002 and October 2006

Front grill integrated into the front bumper and head lamp wipers replaced with high-pressure washers.

The SID has 8 trip computer functions. Some late models come with optional Denso Satnav. All models use 29-643 steering wheel control interface with 50-698 double DIN fascia or for single DIN the 50-2000 pocket.



SAAB 9-5 OG (Facelift 2) built between October 2006 and 2010

Front grill and bumper integrated with chrome trim around the head lamps and smaller grill sections. The SID is integrated into the dials.

Models with basic radio use 29-UCCAB-050-SAAB steering wheel control interface. Models with Denso navigation use 29-694.V2 on cars with paddle sift gearbox or interface 29-742 on cars with a paddle shift gearbox. All versions use fascia 50-310.



SAAB 9-5 NG built between 2010 and 2012

A completely new design from the previous generation with a deeper front grill and full width rear light bar.

It is not possible to change the radio in these cars to an aftermarket set.

Identifying your Saab—Earlier Models



Through the late 1980s and most of the 1990s Saab had a two car range, the mid-size 900 and the large execuitve 9000.

The 900 ran through two generations again named OG (old generation) and NG (new generation) before the 900 nameplate was retired during a facelift in 1998 and the 900 NG was rebadged to become the 9-3 OG.

The 9000 was a joint project with the Fiat group and ran for a single generation.



SAAB 900 OG built between 1978 and 1994

Initially available as a 3 or 5 door hatchback with the 4 door sedan arriving in 1980 and the convertible in 1986. The hard-top models ended production in 1993, with the convertible surviving until 1994.

Received a facelift in 1987 where integrated bumpers and a sloped front end were introduced. All models built from 1978 until production ended require part 20-124 to change the radio.



SAAB 900 NG built between 1993 and 1998

Available as a 3 or 5 door hatchback through 1993 and 1994 with the Convertible introduced in

Received a major facelift in 1998 and became the 9-3.

All models use ISO connectors for their radios, requiring part 20-136, and a very few late models have steering wheel controls, requiring part 29-738 to change the radio. For single DIN installation, pocket 50-2000 can be used.



SAAB 9000 built between 1984 and 1998

Based on the same platform as the Fiat Croma, Alfa Romeo 164 and Lancia Thema. Available as a sedan or a hatchback.

A major facelift in 1992 changed the sheet metal of the hatchback significantly with earlier cars receiving the designation CC and later cars CS. All sedans have the CD designation. Cars built before 1994 require part 20-124 to change the radio, cars built from 1994 onward have ISO connections, requiring part 20-136.

Identifying your Saab-Models designed for North America

Between 2004 and 2012, three models were designed for the North American market which were based on models from other manufacturers with links to or under the ownership of General Motors.

These cars had shorter production runs than most other Saab models and while most were sold in North America, small amounts were sold in left hand drive European markets, particularly in Scandanavia.

Each of these cars was only built for a single generation.



SAAB 9-2X built between 2005 and 2006

Based on the Subaru Impreza 5 door hatchback and often refered to as the "Saabaru". There were multiple external changes to integrate it into the Saab range but the interior, including the audio equipment is the same as the Subaru.

No cars have steering wheel controls so ISO lead 20-129 is required to change the radio. For single DIN installation, pocket 50-2000 can be used.



SAAB 9-7X built between 2004 and 2009

Based on the GMT360 platform shared with the Chevrolet TrailBlazer, GMC Envoy and Buick Rainier. Built as the replacement for the Oldsmobile Bravada after the discontinuation of the brand

All models come with steering wheel controls and a BOSE sound system, with optional navigation. GM Data interface 23-202 needs to be used to change the radio along with fascia panel 50-733.



SAAB 9-4X built between 2011 and 2012

Based on the same platform as the Cadillac SRX. A very rare vehicle, only 814 were built during 10 months in 2011 with the final cars sold in 2012 before the bankruptcy of Saab. The interior is similar to the Saab 9-5 NG.

It is not possible to change the radio in these cars to an aftermarket set.