



Testing the Microsoft Band 2 Music Controls: A Bluetooth Compatibility Experiment

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Note: *This experiment was tested with only Band 2 devices and not Band 1 devices. As well, this will only work with Bands that have firmware in or above the following Build Version series: 2.0.5XXX.0*

My name is Eric Mendoza. I created this document with the purpose of documenting what devices can utilize the Microsoft Band 2's music control panel via Bluetooth connection alone. Ever since Microsoft discontinued the Bands, they have largely become e-waste thanks to their decision to cut distribution and upkeep of the necessary dedicated smartphone app that is needed to set up a Band in the first place.

When I discovered Band earlier this year, sometime in mid-2021, it became a mission of mine to make my own Band useful despite Microsoft's active neglect. This idea gradually evolved and gave rise to the document you see before you. This everchanging spreadsheet of data will grow slowly over time as I, and other Band users, test our Bands with more and more devices.

Hopefully this inspires some of you to pick up some of these discontinued devices to use as fun DMP (digital media players) alongside a Band! Keeping old tech useful and out of the trash is a passion of mine that goes hand-in-hand with this project and so I hope this has a positive effect.

Thanks for checking this out!

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Device Name	Type	OS	Did it pair?	Control Play/ Pause?	Control Next/ Previous?	Control Volume?	Display Track Name?	Display Play/Pause Status?	Connection Consistent?	Note*
2	Samsung Ativ S	Smartphone	Windows Phone 8.1 (v8.10.14203.306)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
3	iPod Touch G6	DMP	iOS 12 (12.5.4)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	[Jump to A27]
4	BlackBerry Z10	Smartphone	BlackBerry 10 (10.3.3.2129)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
5	BlackBerry Classic	Smartphone	BlackBerry 10 (10.3.3.2137)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
6	BlackBerry Bold 9930	Smartphone	BlackBerry 7.1 OS Bundle 2879 (v.7.1.0.1066)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3G, not 4G
7	Raspberry Pi 4 Model B 8GB	Single-Board Computer ([ARM v8] 64-bit SoC)	Raspberry Pi OS (Kernel 5.10)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	[Jump to A30]
8	Walkman NWZ-F806	DMP	Android 4.0.4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	[Jump to A24]
9	Samsung S6	Smartphone	Android 7.0.0	Yes	Inconsistently	Yes	No	Inconsistently	No	Yes	[Jump to A28]
10	Nokia 5.3	Smartphone	Android 11	Yes	Maybe?	Maybe?	No	Maybe?	Maybe?	Yes	[Jump to A29]
11	LG G6	Smartphone	Android 8.0.0	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	[Jump to A25]
12	Schok Classic	Smart Feature Phone	Android 8 Go Edition	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
13	Nokia 8110 4G	Smart Feature Phone	KaiOS 2.5.1	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
14	BlackBerry KeyOne	Smartphone	Android 8.1.0	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	[Jump to A26]
15	Nokia 5.3	Smartphone	Android 10	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
16	LG Chocolate Touch	Feature Phone	Proprietary	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	
17	GPD Win 1	PC - 64bit (x86 Portable)	Windows 11 Pro (v21H2, Build 22000.120)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	
18	Lenovo ideapad Z585	PC - 64bit (x64 Portable)	Windows 8.1 (v6.3, Build 9600)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	
19	Lenovo LX14	DMP	Proprietary	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
20	Nokia Lumia 900	Smartphone	Windows Phone 7.5	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Incompatible
	Device Name	Note* Details	Tested Apps List	<div>Blue means the listed app worked <i>least</i> adequately with the Band, Green means that it performed <i>more</i> adequately with the Band, and Yellow means it is <i>neutral</i> compared to the rest of that respective list.</div>							
24	Walkman NWZ-F806	While this DMP can control the music, the BT connection breaks when the screen turns off. Best suggested use-case: Docked at an audio system with the screen set to never turn off.	N/A								
25	LG G6	With certain music apps, no controls at all are present, but next/previous at least works on one app.	* Simple Music Player * Spotify								
26	BlackBerry KeyOne	Some apps consistently displayed the current song title and play pause status while others did not. This is not useful, but it is noteworthy.	* Pulsar Music Player * Simple Music Player * Music Player by "Music Player." * Local music player * Music Player - MP3 Player (Muzio Player) * MP3 player without advertising * Spotify * Play Music- Music Player, MP3 Player, Audio Player * Musicolet Music Player								
27	iPod Touch G6	Be sure to select "Yes" when a prompt appears and asks if you are pairing to iPhone.	N/A								
28	Samsung S6	When the Band is first connected (not just paired, but also reconnected), it gets exactly one consistent chance to control play/pause. After that, it is totally random and unpredictable When you can press and use the button. The name of the track is also inconsistently displayed... It feels random when it decides to update that info.	* Samsung Music * Spotify								
29	Nokia 5.3 (Android 11)	Some apps consistently displayed the current song title while others did not. As well, it seems that sometimes the play/pause button is arbitrarily set to pause (play arrow icon), but will function normal after tapping it once or twice. It is still very much usable... However this was upon first trial. After this I could not recreate the results. Further testing is needed.	* Simple Music Player * Spotify								
30	Raspberry Pi 4 Model B 8GB	The controls work, minus volume.	* VLC Player								



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