



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 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | <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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