

USB product information

Compatibility-tested MP3 players and USB devices.



Overview

With the **USB audio interface (option code 6FL)** for BMW suitable MP3 players such as the **Apple iPod** can be connected to the vehicle via a **USB interface and operated by means of the vehicle's input elements**. Along with MP3 players, USB sticks can also be connected to the USB audio interface to enable playback of the audio files stored on the USB stick. As regards connection of a mobile phone with USB interface to the USB audio interface, it is important to bear in mind that some mobile phones exclude simultaneous Bluetooth operation of the phone, in other words there is no assurance that calls can be received or initiated.

It is possible to access the audio files directly via a playlist, but it is also possible to search by musical genre, artist, album or track. However, the audio files can be sorted and displayed correctly in the vehicle only if the file information (e.g. ID3 tags) stored on the MP3 player contains only Latin characters. Only the audio files will be played back. Access to other files (e.g. videos) is not possible.

Due to the variety of MP3 players and USB sticks available on the market and the multiplicity of specifics that can vary from device to device, flawless operation with the USB audio interface cannot be ensured for all devices. The devices tested by the BMW Group as compatible are therefore communicated on a regular basis.



Premises

The following device classes are supported by the USB audio interface; see the information and tables below for details:

- Apple iPod and Apple iPhone
- MP3 players and USB sticks (USB mass memory as per "USB Mass Storage Class" specification)
- MP3 players with Media Transfer Protocol (MTP)

An "Incompatible device" message displayed in the car indicates that an attempt has been made to connect a device belonging to a class that is not suitable for use with the interface.

Apple iPods are connected to the vehicle with the "adapter cable for Apple iPod/iPhone" (Y-adapter 30-pin plug to USB and AUX-IN) available as an accessory from the BMW Group. This adapter enables quick access to the iPod's audio files and it also charges the iPod. Copy-protected music files can also be played back.

Other MP3 players or USB sticks can be connected to the vehicle with the aid of a USB cable. The external device also receives its charging supply via this cable (max. 500mA); it is advisable not to connect the external device to the vehicle's 12V power socket at the same time. It is not possible to access copy-protected audio files.

The USB audio interface supports the mainstream compression formats MP3 (mp3), AAC (aac, m4a, m4b), WAV/PCM (wav) and WMA (wma, asf) and playlists in M3U format.

Persons considering leaving MP3 players or USB sticks in the car must comply with the applicable instructions for use. It is advisable not to leave MP3 players or USB sticks in the car for a prolonged period, because extreme ambient conditions can occur in the closed interior of the vehicle (temperature, relative humidity).

Please observe the notes on the following pages.

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Apple iPod/iPhone

Apple iPods are generally supported from the 4th generation onward. This includes iPod nano, iPod mini, iPod Touch and iPhone. The Click Wheel is the identifying feature of 4G devices and later generations. Older models have a scroll wheel or touch wheel and are not supported.

Apple iPods have to be connected by means of the "adapter cable for Apple iPod/iPhone" (Y-adapter, 30-pin plug to USB and AUX-IN) available as an accessory from the BMW Group. iPod Touch, iPhone and devices for Mac OS are supported only if this adapter cable is used. The adapter cable is also necessary for playing copy-protected music files and for showing playlists, and also for quick access to the contents of the iPod.

Skip forward/back in a podcast takes the iPod to the start of the next/current podcast, respectively. It is not possible to skip to chapter markers.

Only the soundtrack of videos is played back.

iPod shuffle can be used only as a USB device with FAT file system. For more details visit: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=61131>

If the iPod freezes, one way of remedying the situation is to reset the device. For details visit: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1320>

Select "About" from the main menu to view details of the software version installed on the iPod. More information is posted on the Apple websites. Please note that iTunes can update the iPod's software automatically, which could compromise the interplay of the iPod with the USB audio interface.

To check the software version: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=60984>

To identify the iPod model: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=61688>

An iPod can be disconnected from the vehicle at any time.

MP3 players and USB sticks

MP3 players with Media Transfer Protocol (MTP) are supported. Some MTP devices can be switched to Mass Storage Class mode. See the instructions for use issued with the MP3 player for details.

MP3 players compliant with the USB Mass Storage Class specification are supported, as are USB sticks. These devices have to be formatted with the FAT file system. Only the files in the first partition are displayed. With some MP3 players it is necessary to start by switching on the USB connection and activating the mass-storage mode (USB Mass Storage Class). See the instructions for use issued with the MP3 player for instructions.

Once the MP player or USB stick has been connected to the vehicle for the first time, information about the music content is uploaded to the vehicle. This enables convenient selection by musical genre, artist, album, track and playlist. If devices containing very large volumes of data are connected, the device's directory structure initially provides the only way of accessing the music. A device with 8GB flash memory will take about 10 minutes to synchronise. The time it takes for synchronisation to complete and the speed of response to inputs depend on the storage capacity and the technology of the device and on the number of music tracks stored and on their type.

USB hard discs and USB hubs or card readers with multiple slots cannot be used.

The use of USB memory sticks with integrated hard disc is not recommended. Tests have shown that adequate audio quality cannot be ensured for these devices.

MP3 players and USB sticks can be disconnected from the vehicle at any time.

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Support

If your MP3 player or USB stick does not work correctly with the USB audio interface, the problem might be due to defective or specially coded audio files (e.g., bit rate higher than 256 kbit/s). Always consult the instructions for the device being used.

When an MP3 player is synchronised on a PC, it sometimes happens that the software of the MP3 player is updated automatically and under certain circumstances this can have a negative effect on the MP3 player's compatibility with the USB audio interface.

Given the multiplicity of MP3 players and USB sticks available on the market and the differences in technology, perfect in-car operation cannot be ensured. The devices that have been tested by the BMW Group are listed in the tables below.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to consult your authorised BMW Service partner

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Manufacturer / brand	Model	Tested firmware release	Storage capacity	Tested with USB audio interface	Notes
Apple	iPhone	1.1.4	8GB	09/07	a1
	iPod Touch	1:1	8GB, 16GB	09/07	a1
	iPod Classic	1.1.1	160GB	09/07	a2
	iPod with Click Wheel (4th generation)	3.1.1.1	20GB, 40GB	03/07	
	iPod with colour display (including iPod Photo)	1.2.1	20-60GB	03/07	
	iPOD Video (5th generation)	1.2.3	30GB, 60GB	03/07	
	iPOD Nano (1st generation)	1.3	1-4GB	03/07	
	iPOD Nano (2nd generation)	1.1.3	2-8GB	03/07	
	iPOD Nano (3rd generation)	1.1	4GB, 8GB	09/07	
	iPOD Mini (1st generation)	1.4.1	4GB	03/07	a3
	iPOD Mini (2nd generation)	1.4.1	4GB, 6GB	03/07	
Acer	Advanced MP3 Player	ACTS12_28	1GB	03/07	
ATMT	Digital MP3 Player	4.3-H51-29FC	256MB	03/07	
ATP	MP3MP4 Player	9.0.48	512MB	03/07	
Cowon	D2	2.46	2GB	09/08	b3
	iAudio G3	1.20e	512MB	03/07	
	iAudio U3	1.29	1GB, 2GB	03/08	
	iAudio 6	1.27	4GB	03/08	b3
	iAudio 7	1.13	4GB	09/08	b3
Creative	Nomad MuVo TX SE	1.13.02	1GB	09/07	
	MuVo V100	1.04.03e	2GB	03/08	
	Zen nano Plus	1.11.01e	1GB	09/07	
	Zen stone Plus	1.03.01	2GB	09/08	
	Zen Vision:M	1.62.02		09/08	
Hama	DMP 100 card reader			03/07	b4
iRiver	X20	1.04	2GB	09/08	b3
Maxfield	G-Flash	3.292	1GB	03/07	
	Max-Sin Touch	20.110.124	1GB	03/07	
	Ivy	004.301.025	8GB	03/08	
Meizu	Mini Player	S 1.010	2GB	03/08	b2
Neo	Sensi	9.0.48.0000	512MB	03/07	
Neomeric	NTO	1.1.5.0	512MB	03/07	
Odys	MPX10	RY J6.4.37	1GB	03/07	b1

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Manufacturer / brand	Model	Tested firmware release	Storage capacity	Tested with USB audio interface	Notes
Odys	MP3-Z11 Image	ACTS16D_16 3.2.16	1GB	09/07	
Packard Bell	Vibe 360	1.03N-DT	1GB	09/08	b2
Philips	GoGear SA1100	2.610.110	512MB	03/07	
	GoGear SA177	PY-A-M-N-7_5	512MB	03/07	
	GoGear SA 2115	3.05	2GB	03/08	
	GoGear SA 3115	3.75	1GB	09/08	
Samsung	YP-55x	6.104	512MB	03/07	
	YP-K3	3.09 WA JN	4GB	09/08	
	YP-K5	1.03 WA JN	1GB	09/08	b2
	YP-P2	1.15	4GB	09/08	
	YP-U1	2.242	1GB	03/07	
	YP-T7J	YP-T7J	512MB	03/08	
	YP-T7x	5.07.04EU	512MB	07/09	
	YP-T10	1.20	4GB	09/08	
SanDisk	Sansa Clip	01.01.18F	2GB	09/08	b3
Sony	NWZ-A815	V1.00	2GB	03/08	
	NWZ-S515	V1.00	2GB	03/08	
	NWZ-S615F	V1.00	2GB	03/08	
Support Plus	Digital Audio	2.600	512MB	03/07	
Thomson	EM 2601	8111816	1GB	03/07	
Trekstor	i.Beat blaxx	030.210.720	4GB	09/08	
	i.Beat cebrax	2.611.128	1GB	03/07	
	i.Beat censo	2.620.571	2GB	09/08	
	iBeat cody	00.02.0006	4GB	09/08	
	iBeat motion	01.07.0032	2GB	09/08	
	i.Beat organix	5150.0507R	1GB	03/07	
	i.Beat vision	U3.15	2GB	03/07	
	i.Beat xtension FM	2.09.92.08	2GB	09/08	
X4 Tech	Bogie Man II	3.0.41	256MB	03/07	
	Clip Man II	3.5.35	512MB	03/07	b2

See below for functional restrictions and notes

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Apple iPod and iPhone		MP3 players and USB sticks	
a1	The "Repeat track" function is not supported.	b1	When the vehicle restarts, playback might not resume at the point where it was interrupted.
a2	The podcasts might not be sorted in the vehicle in the same order as on the iPod.	b2	Device has to be switched on manually when connected to the USB audio interface.
a3	When the iPod mini is disconnected from the vehicle, the iPod settings (random/repeat functions) changed in the vehicle are not reset. These temporary changes are adopted as permanent by the iPod mini. The parameters in question have to be reset manually at the iPod mini as necessary.	b3	The MTP device can be switched to USB Mass Storage mode.
		b4	The device has no built-in memory; instead, it incorporates a card reader. The customer must supply the storage medium (card).