

VarioUpdater 2.0

USER MANUAL
08/2026

1. About this program

This program updates the firmware of your VisioBraille braille display to the latest version. Supported are:

- “Vario 340” and “VarioHID 40” from firmware version 1.9 onwards
- “Vario 440”, “Vario 464” and “Vario 480”

The program detects by itself which braille display is connected and selects the matching firmware. There is nothing for you to choose.

Older devices of the Vario series cannot be updated with this program. The same applies to a “Vario 340” with a firmware version below 1.9. In both cases the program states the reason; please contact your dealer or the manufacturer.

Important to know: during the update, the firmware of the braille display is written anew. The program announces this part clearly beforehand; it takes less than a minute. During that time, leave the USB cable plugged in and the braille display switched on. If the connection is interrupted while this happens, the braille display may not work afterwards. It is not damaged. In that case, please contact your dealer or the manufacturer.

2. System requirements

You need Microsoft™ Windows™ version 10 or 11. For the program's voice output you need loudspeakers or headphones. The program does not need to be installed: it consists of a single executable file that contains all necessary components.

3. Voice output and messages

The program has its own voice output in German and English. The language set in the operating system is used.

Messages that are not a direct instruction start with an introductory word that tells you what kind of message it is:

- “Note” – a status message, nothing further needs to be done.
- “Warning” – particular care is required from this point on.
- “Error” – the procedure could not be completed.

Instructions, such as the request to connect the braille display, are given directly without an introductory word.

4. The update step by step

The program speaks for itself, guides you through the procedure and also shows every message as text.

Step 0: Start the program

Start the program by calling the executable file from the supplied ZIP file. A screen reader that is still running at this point is not a problem; the program will ask you to close it immediately afterwards.

Step 1: Preparation

1. Close all screen readers. A running screen reader occupies the braille display, so that the update program cannot connect to it.
2. Disconnect all braille displays from the PC.

Step 2: Connect the braille display

Now connect the braille display that is to be updated. Only a single braille display may be connected at a time.

The braille display has to be connected **anew**: a display that was already connected when the program was started will not be updated. This makes it impossible to update a display by accident.

You have a total of 90 seconds for steps 1 and 2. As soon as the braille display has been detected, the program reports its name and the installed firmware version and continues.

Step 3: Additional step for Vario 440, Vario 464 and Vario 480

For the update, these braille displays have to be put into a special mode by hand. If the program determines that an update is required, it asks you to do so as follows:

1. Unplug the USB cable.
2. Hold down the two lower keys: D3 at the bottom left and D6 at the bottom right.
3. Plug the USB cable back in while continuing to hold down both keys.

You have 90 seconds for this as well. The program then continues the update by itself.

For the "Vario 340" and the "VarioHID 40" this step does not apply: there, all further program steps run without any action on your part.

Step 4: During the update

Before the new firmware is written, the program issues a warning. **From that moment on, the connection to the braille display must not be interrupted.** Do not unplug the USB cable and do not switch the braille display off while the program is running.

The progress is announced as a percentage. The process takes less than a minute.

Step 5: Completion

Finally the braille display restarts by itself, the program checks the newly installed firmware version and reports the successful completion. It then closes. Only once the program has closed may you disconnect the USB connection.

If the installed firmware is already up to date, the program reports this and closes without changing anything. This is not an error.

5. If something does not work

If the program stops with an error message, your braille display remains usable in every case in which no new firmware has been written yet. The following overview assigns the appropriate measure to each message.

“No supported braille display was found.” Check one after the other:

- Is the USB connector on the computer plugged in correctly?
- Is the USB connector on the braille display plugged in correctly?
- Is the braille display switched on? The slide switch on the left side of the device must be pushed up.
- Is a screen reader still running? Close it, unplug the USB cable, plug it back in and start the program again.

“Several braille displays are connected.” Disconnect all braille displays and start the program again.

“The time for detecting a single braille display has elapsed.” The 90 seconds of steps 1 and 2 have passed without exactly one newly connected braille display being found. Start the program again and connect the braille display after the program asks you to.

“The braille display was not detected in update mode.” The additional step for the Vario 440, Vario 464 or Vario 480 did not work. Start the program again. After the prompt, make sure to press the keys D3 and D6 **before** plugging in the USB connector and to keep them held down while plugging in.

“The braille display could not be switched into update mode.” Start the program again. If the message appears again, close all screen readers and try a different USB port.

“The connection to the braille display was interrupted.” The connection was lost before the update started. Nothing has been written. Reconnect the braille display and start the program again.

“The firmware version of the braille display could not be read.” In most cases a screen reader is still accessing the braille display. Close all screen readers and start the program again.

“The update is not suitable for this product.” / “... not suitable for this firmware version.” Your device cannot be updated with this version of the program. The braille display has not been changed. Please contact your dealer or the manufacturer.

“An error occurred during the update.” This is the only case in which the braille display may not be operational afterwards. Please contact your dealer or the manufacturer.

6. Firmware History Vario 340 / VarioHID 40

Version 3.0

- New communication protocol “VarioHID”: the braille display is recognised without an additional driver. The proven “VarioClassic” protocol remains available in two variants for different screen readers. Hold down the D4, D5 or D6 key while switching on to select the mode you want.
- The screen reader BRLTTY is now supported.
- New braille maintenance mode: it makes cleaning the braille cells easier. To use it, hold down D1 and D6 together while switching on.

Version 2.2

- The firmware starts up faster.

Version 2.1

- New energy-saving mode: after five minutes without activity the braille display switches off. It is back immediately as soon as new data arrives from the screen reader or you press any key on the braille display.
- The connection to macOS now works reliably.

7. Firmware History Vario 440 / Vario 464 / Vario 480

Version 3.6

- VarioHID mode is now available for these braille displays as well, just like on the “Vario 340”. The assignment of the display keys in VarioHID mode has been adjusted for this.