

JAWS Extension v15.53

MANUAL
Installation and setup of the JAWS
Extension v15.53 for BAUM and
VisioBraille braille displays
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1. About the JAWS Extension v15.53 / Prerequisites

This extension allows you to use one of the braille displays listed below with JAWS. The extension – often incorrectly referred to as a “driver” – is certified by Freedom Scientific and is provided by LUCAS components GmbH.

1.1 Supported JAWS versions

The extension can be used with JAWS version 11 and later and works up to the current JAWS version.

1.2 Supported operating systems

Windows 11/10, 32 bit / 64 bit
Windows 8.x, 32 bit / 64 bit
Windows 7, 32 bit / 64 bit
Windows VISTA, 32 bit / 64 bit
Windows XP, 32 bit

1.3 Supported braille displays

AudioData BM (32 bit Windows only)
AudioData B2K (32 bit Windows only)

BAUM SuperVario (incl. Pocket Vario)
BAUM SuperVario2
BAUM VarioConnect (incl. Conny)
VisioBraille VarioPro2 / BAUM VarioPro
BAUM Pronto!
VisioBraille VarioUltra
VisioBraille Vario 340 / 4xx series

HumanWare Brailliant (models manufactured by BAUM)
HumanWare BrailleConnect (models manufactured by BAUM)

2. Installation and setup

Note

Make sure that only one version of JAWS is installed!

(If, for example, you have updated an older version, that older version must be removed as described in Appendix A so that the driver can be installed properly.)

JAWS 11 or a later version must already be installed in order to install this driver.

Please run the installation package and follow the instructions. The installer automatically looks for the JAWS installation and installs the driver in the correct location. If the installer does not find a suitable version of JAWS, it terminates with an error message.

The driver installs a device named “Baum Universal USB” and makes it the default braille display; a compatible braille display is usually detected automatically after JAWS has been restarted.

Caution – JAWS 15 and later

This version of JAWS installs an outdated version of the BAUM driver that cannot be uninstalled. As a result, many BAUM devices appear twice in the

device list. In this case it is essential that you pay close attention when selecting the braille display manually, so that you choose the device names of the current driver. Please observe the following rules:

If your display is connected to the PC via USB, select the universal display “BAUM Universal USB”.

Do **not** select “BaumUni BrailleDisplay”!

If your display is connected to the PC via Bluetooth, select the name that most closely matches your braille display. “BAUM SuperVario 80”, for example, uses the current driver, whereas “BAUM SuperVario BrailleDisplay” uses the outdated driver.

If you experience braille output failing after the computer wakes up from sleep mode, please check the selected device.

From JAWS 2026 onwards you can alternatively use the HID braille driver with the Vario 340 and the Vario 4 series, so that this additional JAWS driver is no longer required.

2.1 Connecting via USB

If your VisioBraille or BAUM braille display is connected via USB, no COM port needs to be specified! After restarting JAWS your braille display is already integrated automatically.

Select the universal display “BAUM Universal USB”.
Do **not** select “BaumUni BrailleDisplay”!

The setup program automatically places the device drivers required for **BAUM USB braille displays** so that they are found automatically when the braille display is connected (SuperVario, VarioConnect, VarioPro, Brailiant, BrailleConnect). If necessary, you have to install the new VisioBraille FTDI driver, which removes all outdated USB device drivers and is compatible with Windows 11.

USB HID braille displays do not require any device drivers. Windows finds the braille display automatically (VisioBraille Vario 340, Vario 4xx, VarioUltra, BAUM SuperVario2, Pronto!). For VisioBraille displays with the additional HID braille standard the HID braille driver is sufficient; the braille display must be in HID braille mode.

The USB drivers for **Audiodata braille displays** have to be installed manually beforehand. They are available for 32 bit Windows only. Instructions for installing the USB drivers can be found in chapter 2.4 of the COBRA manual at

http://www.baum.de/cobra/help/index.php?lid=1031&topic=install_audiodata
these apply to JAWS in the same way.

2.2 Connecting via Bluetooth

Please check the following conditions first:

- Is Bluetooth enabled on your braille display and on the PC?
- Is the device connected to and paired with the PC?
- Pronto! only: is the “Pronto as braille display” program set to Bluetooth and activated?
- VarioUltra only: has the VarioUltra already been paired in notetaker mode, and is it in “braille display” mode so that it can be used?

To connect your braille display to the PC, open the Bluetooth environment and search for Bluetooth devices. If a device is shown in the list, add it. The VarioUltra asks for a PIN; this is 1111. Make sure that you confirm the message shown on the VarioUltra with OK, otherwise the pairing procedure is aborted. Once the connection has been established, virtual COM ports are created on the PC. You will usually find the correct port under “Properties – Services” (Microsoft stack: right-click the device icon of the braille display in the Bluetooth environment). Make a note of the name of the port you have activated!

Go to the JAWS settings page for braille. There, activate the “Change port settings” button and enter the corresponding port.

After you have restarted JAWS, your device should now work.

We recommend the Microsoft Bluetooth stack. This stack has been pre-installed on every PC since Windows XP Service Pack 2. Interrupted connections are re-established very reliably. If you experience problems with Bluetooth, please read Appendix B Bluetooth.

- If your display is connected to the PC via Bluetooth, select the name that most precisely matches your braille display. “BAUM SuperVario 80”, for example, uses the current driver, whereas “BAUM SuperVario BrailleDisplay” uses the wrong, old driver.

- If you experience braille output failing after the computer wakes up from sleep mode, please check the selected device.

Note on the VarioUltra: When the VarioUltra is paired under Windows, the serial service is provided four times (one COM port for each Bluetooth channel); in older versions of Windows none of these COM ports is activated automatically after successful pairing.

Do this in the properties of the device pairing. As a rule these are four check boxes. Only when one of these check boxes is selected is a virtual COM port created, which then has to be assigned to the VarioUltra in the JAWS braille display manager. JAWS must then be restarted. After that – if this has not already been done – the VarioUltra has to be set as the default braille display in JAWS and JAWS has to be restarted once more.

You must also make sure that the VarioUltra is not running in an emulation but as “VarioUltra”.

If an emulation is set, the emulated braille display concerned must also be activated as a device in the JAWS braille display manager (that is, in the BAUM JAWS driver) and set as the default braille display in JAWS.

2.3 Connections via the serial interface

Some braille displays such as the SuperVario, Brailiant and Pronto! also have a standard serial interface (COM port). Unfortunately these interfaces may no longer be supported by the driver! You can operate these braille displays either via USB or via Bluetooth.

Older braille displays that only have a serial interface cannot be used with this driver. For those there is an older driver which runs up to JAWS version 10.

Appendix A: Removing older JAWS versions

If there are several JAWS versions on your PC, proceed as follows:

- Locate the places where the JAWS versions store the shared settings and the user-specific settings. The easiest way to find these locations is to follow the corresponding links under “Explore JAWS” in the Start menu.
- Uninstall all versions of JAWS and all utility programs.
- Delete all remaining files and folders containing the shared settings of all JAWS versions. It is best to go back up the directory tree and delete, for example, the folders “JAWS10” and “JAWS11”.
- Repeat the same for the user-specific settings.

- Install the JAWS version of your choice.
- Install the driver again.
- Your display should now work correctly.

Appendix B: Additional information on Bluetooth

Compatible Bluetooth stacks

A Bluetooth stack is the software required to operate a Bluetooth adapter. Unfortunately their implementation and behaviour differ considerably, which is why they are not all equally well suited to operating a braille display. The following table explains our experience:

<i>BT stack</i>	<i>Suitability</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Microsoft	Recommended	This stack has been pre-installed on every PC since Windows XP Service Pack 2. We recommend this stack. Interrupted connections are re-established very reliably.
Toshiba	Good	
BlueSoleil	Very poor	You can use your device if you activate the COM port manually in the BlueSoleil user interface before you start JAWS. Should your device move out of range, there is no way of reconnecting it other than restarting the PC.
BroadCom	Poor	Problems occur when the device moves out of range and loses the connection.

Bluetooth: possible difficulties

We recommend using the Microsoft Bluetooth stack. It is proven and works reliably. Not all devices are compatible with this stack. It may be worth

purchasing a suitable USB Bluetooth adapter.

Entering the correct COM port is a frequent source of errors. If your device does not work, compare the port number in the JAWS braille settings with the port number shown in the device properties of the braille display in the Bluetooth environment under “Services” or “Services – SPP”.

Another source of errors occurs with braille displays that can remember only one partner. This is the case, for example, with the SuperVario, SuperVario2 and VarioConnect. If they are set up on the PC and afterwards paired with a mobile phone, for instance, they forget the pairing with the PC. To reconnect them to the PC, please do the following:

- Open the “Bluetooth environment”.
- Remove the braille display.
- Search for devices.
- Connect the braille display again.
- Should the port number have changed (which is rare), please correct it in the JAWS braille settings.

Appendix C: Problems and solutions

If your braille display does not work, please check the following:

- Is it connected to the PC?
- Is it configured correctly? If you have activated “Bluetooth” in the system menu of the braille display, for example, you cannot address it via USB!
- Is the braille display switched on?
- Was the braille display switched on when you started JAWS? During initialisation the driver has to query information from the device in order to determine the length of the display and other parameters. Make sure the device is switched on and restart JAWS.
- Bluetooth: have you entered the port correctly?
- USB: is the interface in the JAWS braille settings set to “USB”?

If, after selecting the braille display and restarting JAWS, you have no active braille display or no braille display other than RemoteBraille to choose from, you have certainly selected the old driver. Change the selection as described in the chapter Installation and setup.

3. Contacts and Further Information

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