

VarioUltra 20/40

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## QUICK GUIDE

### Connecting VarioUltra 20/40 with JAWS

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### Note

Also applies to BAUM versions. Basic familiarity with the VarioUltra is assumed.

## 1. Introduction

The VarioUltra is a portable braille display with 20 or 40 cells. It can be used via USB or wirelessly via Bluetooth with computers or smartphones. This works either with the optional JAWS Extension 15.53, which detects VisioBraille and BAUM displays automatically, or – as described here – without that extension. This procedure was tested with JAWS 2026.

While the JAWS Extension 15.53 is no longer required for the Vario 340, the Vario 4 and new Vario models from 2026 onwards because of the HID braille standard, the VarioUltra can be used in JAWS without the extension only via a Bluetooth connection. Under NVDA and macOS it is detected automatically via both USB and Bluetooth.

This guide explains how to set up the VarioUltra in JAWS without additional drivers. Because Bluetooth modules and stacks vary widely, it is intended as practical orientation rather than a strict rule set. Carry out the steps in the order given.

## 2. Switching the braille protocol to VarioConnect

JAWS does not include a native driver for the VarioUltra. The braille protocol of the VarioUltra therefore has to be set to VarioConnect.

1. Press S3 to open the menu.
2. *Settings* → *Braille display emulation*.
3. Press the NaviStick.
4. Select VarioConnect using NaviStick right.
5. Move down and confirm with OK.

The emulation is now switched.

## 3. Pairing with Windows via Bluetooth

1. Enable the *Bluetooth* check box on the VarioUltra.
2. Then open the Windows Bluetooth settings.
3. *Add a new device*.
4. Enable “Show all devices” so that the VarioUltra appears.
5. Select the device → “Connect”.
6. Windows requests the PIN 1111.
7. Enter the PIN.
8. Confirm the message shown on the VarioUltra with NaviStick down + OK.

### Important

The confirmation on the VarioUltra must be given immediately, otherwise pairing is aborted.

## 4. Configuring JAWS

1. In JAWS: *Options* → *Braille settings* → *Add or remove braille display*.
2. Activate BAUM VarioConnect.
3. Confirm.
4. For the interface and the default braille display, first choose the lowest COM port and set BAUM VarioConnect as the default.

5. Restart JAWS.

## 5. Testing the connection

1. Set the switch on the left of the VarioUltra to braille display mode.
2. Use S2 + B4/B5/B6/B8 to check the four Bluetooth channels.

If no connection is established, the wrong COM port has usually been selected. In that case choose another COM port in the braille display settings and test again. This may take several attempts.

## 6. Notes

- Operation as a VarioConnect via USB is not possible – the optional JAWS extension is required for that.
- The Pronto! setting is possible as an alternative but is not recommended.

### Tip

NVDA is an easy way to check whether the Bluetooth connection works at all. If NVDA detects the VarioUltra via Bluetooth, it should work with JAWS as well.

## 7. Contacts and Further Information

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