

Music Manager 2.1 Beta 1

A free, independent macOS app to transfer music and playlists from the Music app to a Garmin watch over USB (MTP), and to manage what is on the watch.

Download (app + full source code)

<https://github.com/RickyDive/musicmanager>

Go to **Releases** to get the DMG. The README (English and Italian) and `docs/INSTALL.md` explain everything step by step.

What it does

- Browses your Music library by Playlists, Artists, Albums and Songs, and shows which tracks can be transferred.
- Sends tracks, albums, artists or whole playlists to the watch, keeping an Artist/Album folder structure.
- Checks that every file really arrived, and skips tracks that are already on the watch.
- Recreates each playlist (.m3u8) from scratch and verifies it on the device after sending.
- Custom Playlist: build a playlist from any tab, save it to a file, send it to the watch or save it into Music.
- Shows what is on the watch (playlists, artists, albums, songs, files) and a storage bar with Garmin, maps and music space, including the space your selection will take.
- Artwork, a mini player with AirPlay, remote libraries over SMB, interface in English and Italian.

Requirements

- Apple Silicon Mac (no Intel build), macOS 26 or later
- A Garmin watch with music support and a USB cable
- DRM-free mp3 / m4a / aac tracks (cloud-only, DRM-protected and Apple Lossless tracks cannot be transferred)
- Homebrew is **not** needed: the required libraries (libmtp, libusb) are bundled in the app

Installation: the app is not notarized

I don't have an Apple Developer account, so the app is not notarized by Apple. On first launch macOS will refuse to open it: this is expected.

1. Open the DMG and drag **Music Manager** to Applications.
2. Open **System Settings** ► **Privacy & Security**, scroll down and click **Open Anyway** next to Music Manager. Alternative from Terminal: `xattr -dr com.apple.quarantine "/Applications/Music Manager.app"`
3. The first time you read or send, macOS asks permission to control **Music**: click OK, otherwise the app cannot read your library.
4. If the watch is not detected: quit Garmin Express, Android File Transfer or Image Capture and reconnect the cable.

If you prefer not to trust a binary, the full source code is in the repository and you can build it yourself.

Testing status: please read

Up to now the app has only been tested by me, my family and a few friends, essentially with a Garmin Fenix 9. Other models may behave differently. From this version on I would really appreciate feedback from a wider audience, including "it works fine on my watch" reports, because they tell me which models are fine.

Privacy & safety

- **Your Music library:** the app only reads it. It does not modify or delete tracks, albums or existing playlists. The only thing it can add to Music is a playlist, inside its own folder ("≡♪ Garmin Music Manager"), and only when you explicitly choose to save one.
- **Your watch:** the app writes music files and playlists into the Music folder. Deleting happens only when you ask (delete buttons, "Clear Music folder") and always after a confirmation. Deleting from the watch cannot be undone from the app.
- **Your data:** no analytics, no tracking, no account. Nothing is uploaded anywhere by the app on its own.
- **One optional feature, OFF by default** (Settings ► Advanced): the software update check contacts Garmin's servers using an undocumented service and sends the contents of the watch's GarminDevice.xml. Leave it off if you are not comfortable with that.
- **Diagnostic information** is copied to the clipboard only when you ask for it, so you can read it before sharing. It contains app, macOS and Mac model versions, watch model and storage, a few settings and the last log lines, not your music files.

Known limits: it is not perfect

This is a beta and it can have bugs. Please keep your own backup of anything important on the watch. Known limits: only the first MTP device found is used; track tags are not rewritten (the app does not edit your MP3 tags; for MP4 files only the artwork is touched when you ask for it); other apps that use the watch over USB (Garmin Express, Android File Transfer, Image Capture...) must be closed.

The app is provided "as is", without warranty, and is an independent project, not affiliated with or endorsed by Garmin or Apple.

How to help me fix things

1. In the app: **Help ► Copy Diagnostic Information**
2. **Help ► Send Feedback** opens the GitHub Issues page (a free GitHub account is needed)
3. Choose "Bug report", paste the diagnostics and tell me: what you did, what you expected, what happened, your watch model, and whether it happens every time.

Help ► Show Log in Finder reveals the log file if I need more detail. Ideas and feature requests are welcome in Issues too.

Licenses

The app bundles libmtp and libusb (LGPL 2.1+), dynamically linked. Details in [Help ► Third-Party Licenses](#) and in the repository.

Thank you to everyone who tries it and helps make it better!