

Music Manager 2.1

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** and download the DMG of version 2.1 together with its `.sha256` file. 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, skipping tracks already there and checking that every file arrived.
- 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 and a storage bar, including the space your selection will take.
- Artwork fixing, a mini player with AirPlay, remote libraries over SMB, interface in English and Italian.

What is new since 2.0

- **New name and icon**, flat buttons, and a much faster start (the Music library is read in parallel).
- **Rebuilt storage bar** (System, Data, Maps, Services, Music) with the free space written in it, a Storage Capacity row, and orange/red warnings when space runs low.
- **Safer transfers**: send several playlists at once, a **Cancel** button with a clear summary, and Send is disabled when the selection does not fit.
- **Delete confirmation sheet** that also rewrites the playlists on the watch that were affected.
- **Browsing**: genre filter, Find similar, multi-disc albums, "on device" arrows, Shift-click and drag selection.
- **Player and AirPlay**: working volume on Apple TV, HomePod and amplifiers, a slider that follows the AirPlay device, Now Playing info (banner on the Apple TV) and media keys.
- **Garmin devices that mount as a disk**: information panel and Eject. Music on external drives and SD cards is *experimental* and off by default.
- Optional read-only **Device File Manager**, a detailed-log switch and diagnostic snapshots.

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. In Terminal run `xattr -cr "/Applications/Music Manager.app"` and then open the app.
Alternative: **System Settings** ► **Privacy & Security** ► **Open Anyway** (on macOS 27 this method may hang; the Terminal one is safer).
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

- Developed and tested on **macOS 27**. It has **not** been tested on macOS 26: reports from macOS 26 users are especially welcome.
- Tested mainly with a Garmin Fenix 9 Pro; other models may behave differently. "It works on my watch" reports are valuable too, 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 choose to save one.
- **Your watch**: the app writes music files and playlists into the Music folder. Deleting happens only when you ask and always after a confirmation; it cannot be undone from the app.
- **Your data**: no analytics, no tracking, no account. Nothing is uploaded anywhere by the app on its own.
- **Optional features, OFF by default** (Settings ► Advanced): the software and maps check contacts Garmin's servers through an undocumented service and sends the contents of the watch's GarminDevice.xml; music on external volumes is experimental.
- **Diagnostic information** is copied only when you ask, so you can read it before sharing. It does not contain your music files.

Known limits

- Not tested on macOS 26 and not notarized (see above).
- The Apple TV banner works, but the Apple TV remote cannot control the app yet. Very old AirPlay receivers may be refused by macOS itself (an old Yamaha amplifier, for example, is also refused by Music).
- Only the first MTP device found is used. 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 must be closed.

Please keep your own backup of anything important on the watch. 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.

Ideas and feature requests are welcome in Issues too.

Licenses

Free software, GPL v3.0. 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 tried the betas and helped make this release better!