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Mostly Coherent Ramblings of a Silicon Forest Tech Geek.



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How to Set up Bluetooth in Arch Linux

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I installed Arch Linux on my new laptop a couple of months ago, and strangely enough, never used Bluetooth on it yet. Bluetooth in Arch Linux can be fun and interesting at times.

I wanted to use my favorite Sony headphones on my laptop (It only has Arch Linux on it, no Windows!), so I thought I'd document the process.



Step 1: Install Bluez and Blueman

The first step is to install some utilities.

I will install:

- [Bluez](#)
- [Bluez Utils](#)
- [Blueman](#)

```
sudo pacman -S bluez
sudo pacman -S bluez-utils
sudo pacman -S blueman
```

These should install without a problem. You'll see a neat icon here:



Next, make sure the btusb Kernel module is loaded:

```
lsmod | grep btusb
```

```
Jeremy@devlaptop:~
File Edit Tabs Help
[jeremy@devlaptop ~]$ lsmod | grep btusb
btusb                65536  0
btrtl                24576  1 btusb
btbcm                20480  1 btusb
btintel              32768  1 btusb
bluetooth            675840 44 btrtl,btintel,btbcm,bnep,btusb,rfcomm
[jeremy@devlaptop ~]$
```

Here's a trick to help it find adapters, even if you plug one in:

```
sudo vim /etc/bluetooth/main.conf
```

Search for autoenable:

```
# AutoEnable defines option to enable all controllers when they are found.
# This includes adapters present on start as well as adapters that are plugged
# in later on. Defaults to 'false'.
AutoEnable=true
```

Save the file.

2. Enable the Service

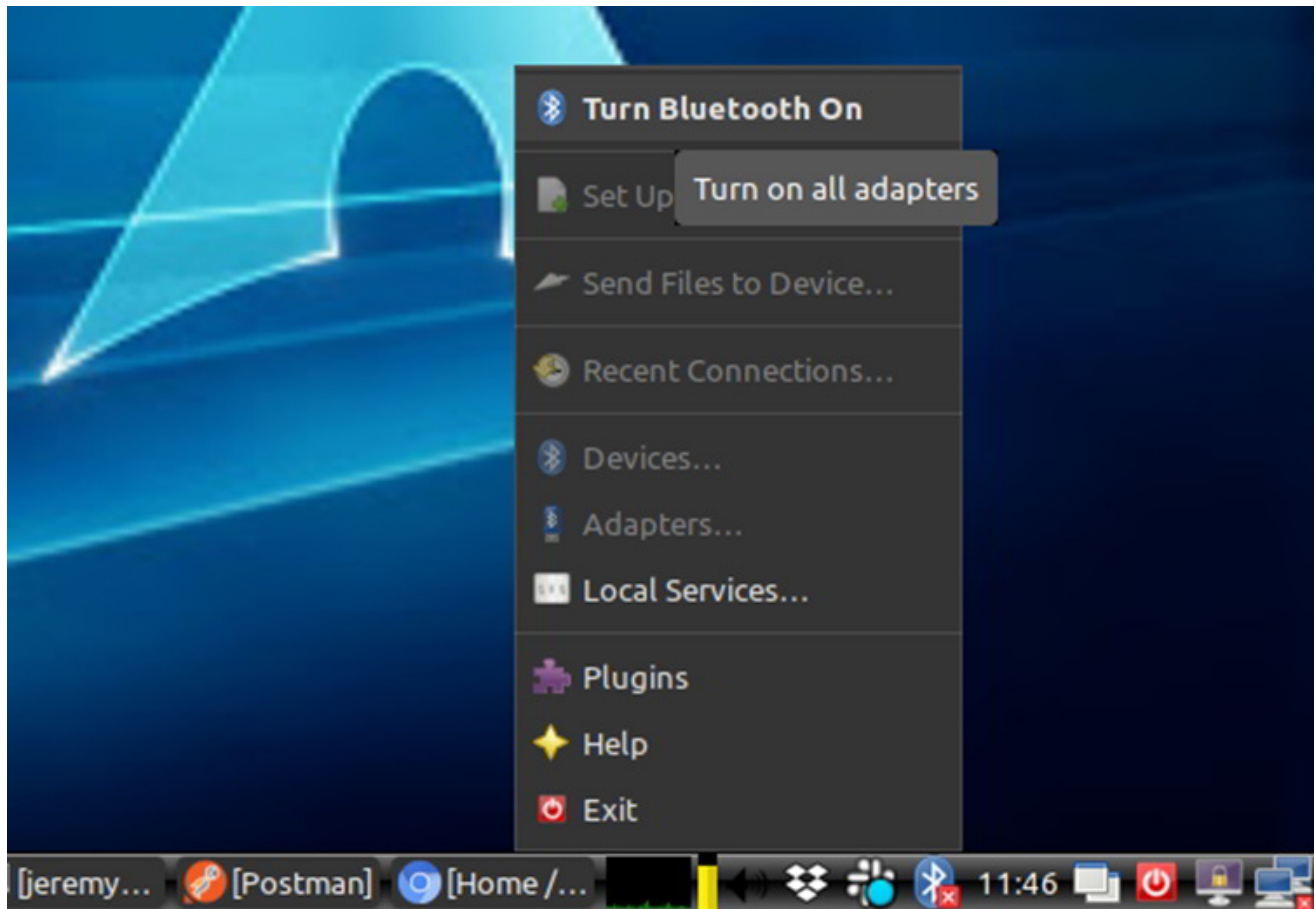
Next, we want to try starting up the service:

```
sudo systemctl start bluetooth.service
```

If you want it to start up automatically, enable it:

```
sudo systemctl enable bluetooth.service
```

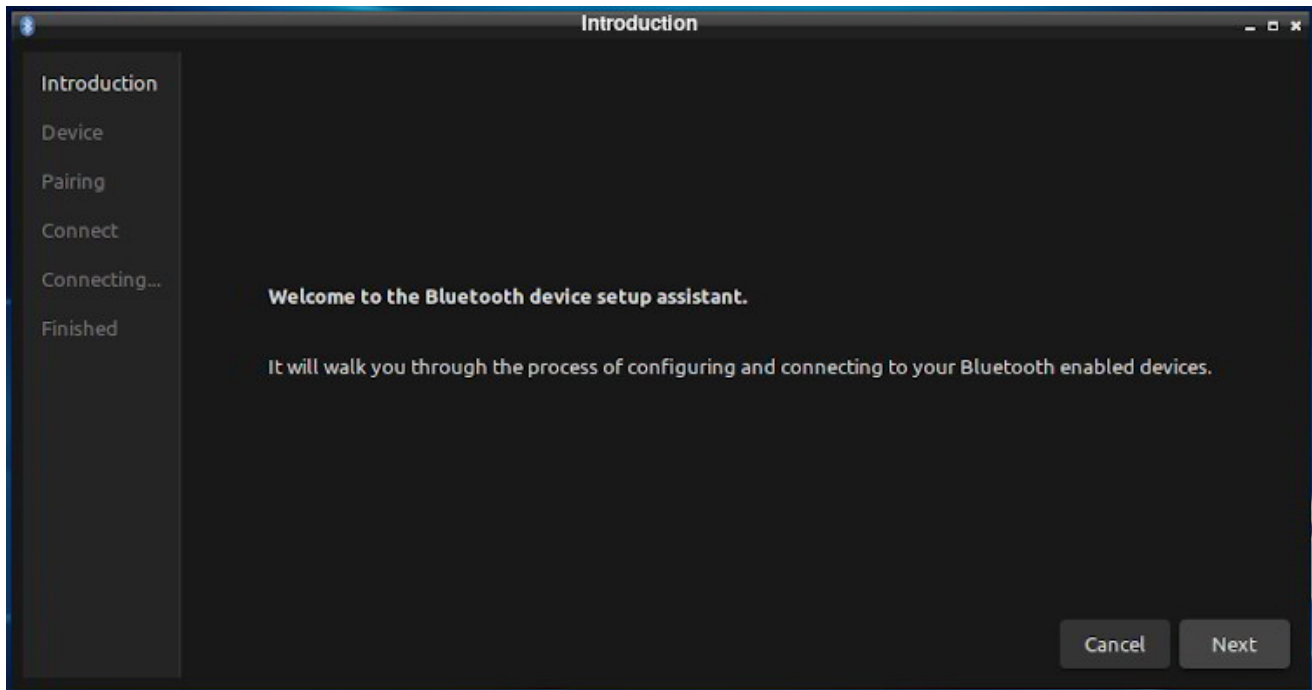
Now we should be up and running. You can turn on all adapters with Blueman:



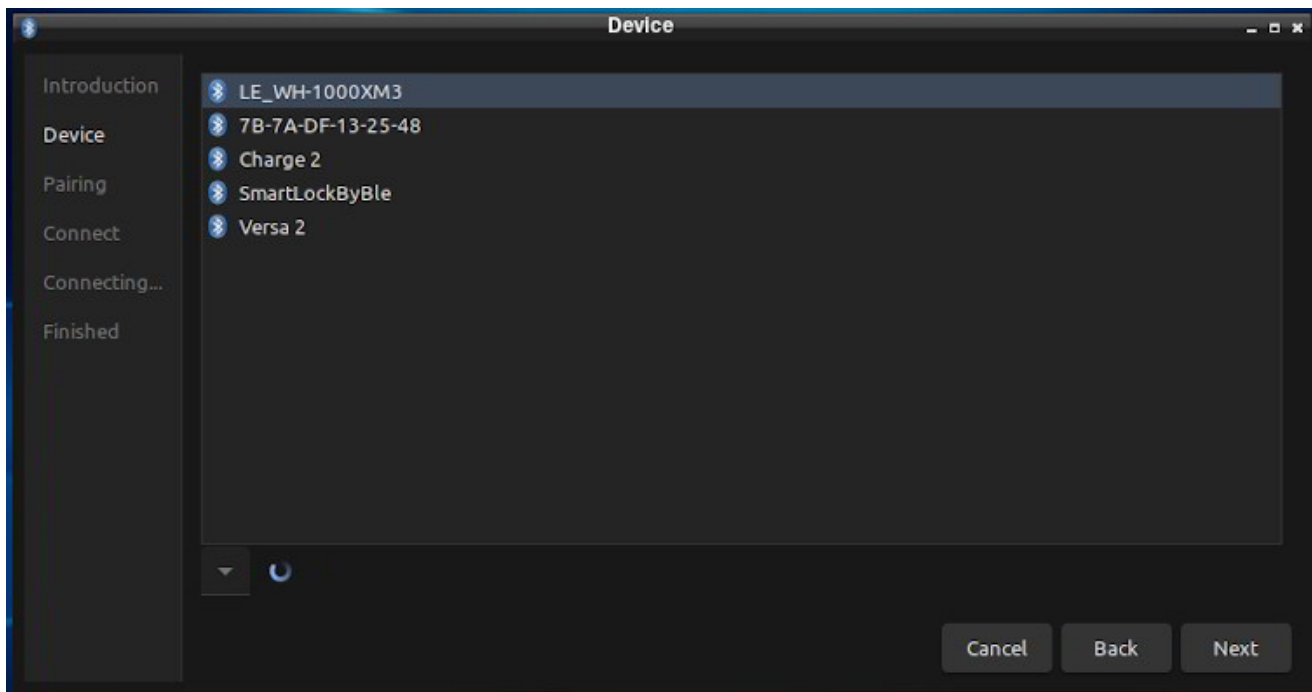
Now you should be ready to connect and pair.

3. Pairing

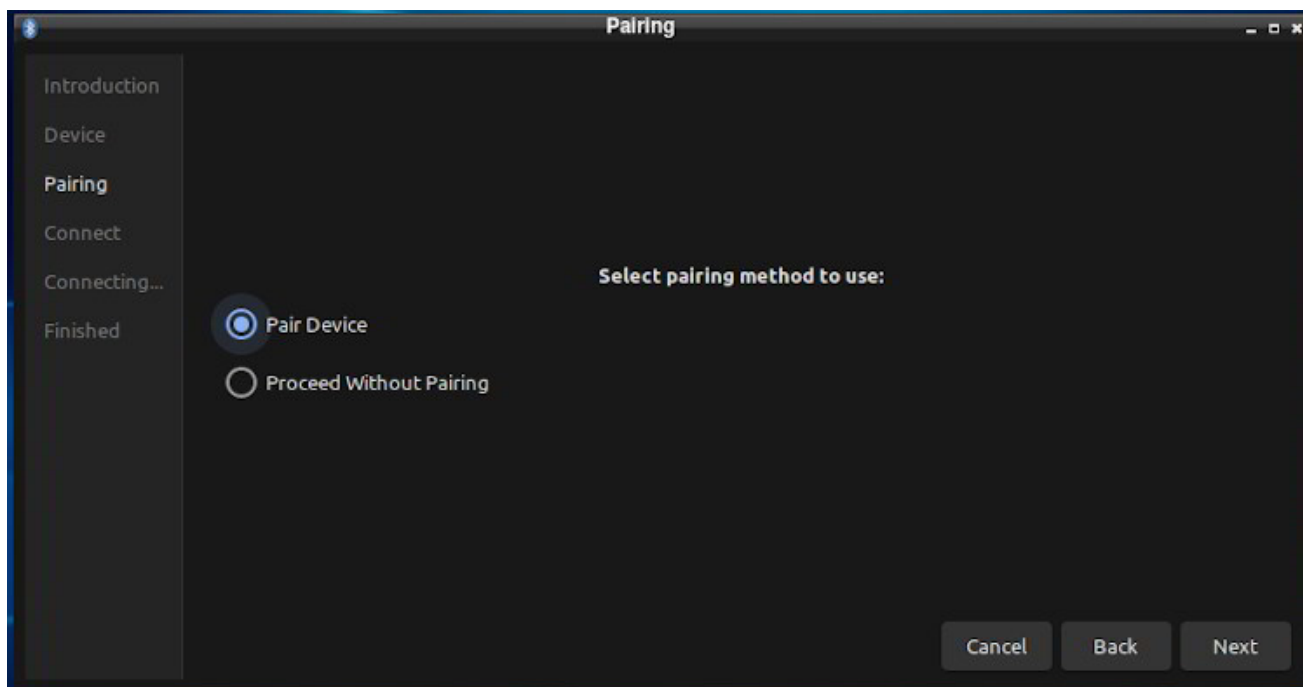
Blueman makes pairing pretty easy:



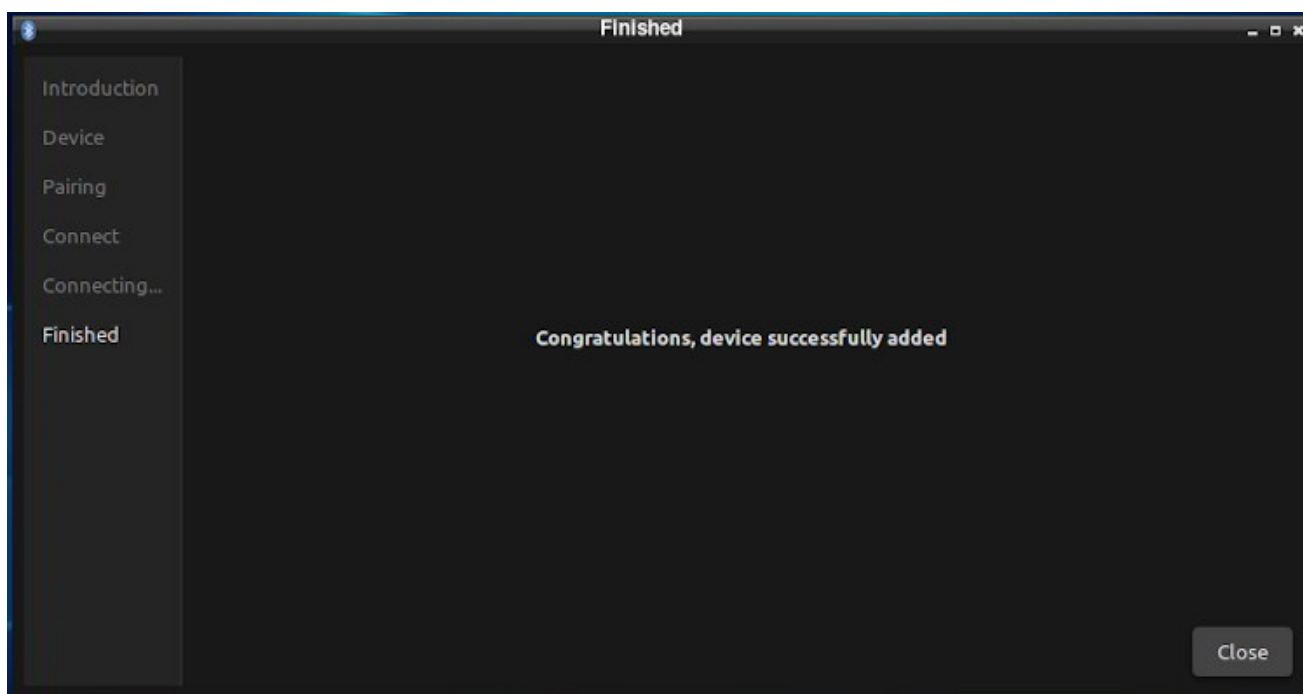
Select a device:



Start pairing:



And you're done connecting!



If you're connecting headphones like I am, there are a few more steps.

Connecting Audio

First off, I'll install pulseaudio and the Bluetooth extension.

```
sudo pacman -S pulseaudio  
sudo pacman -S pulseaudio-bluetooth
```

Start up pulseaudio:

```
sudo systemctl pulseaudio start
```

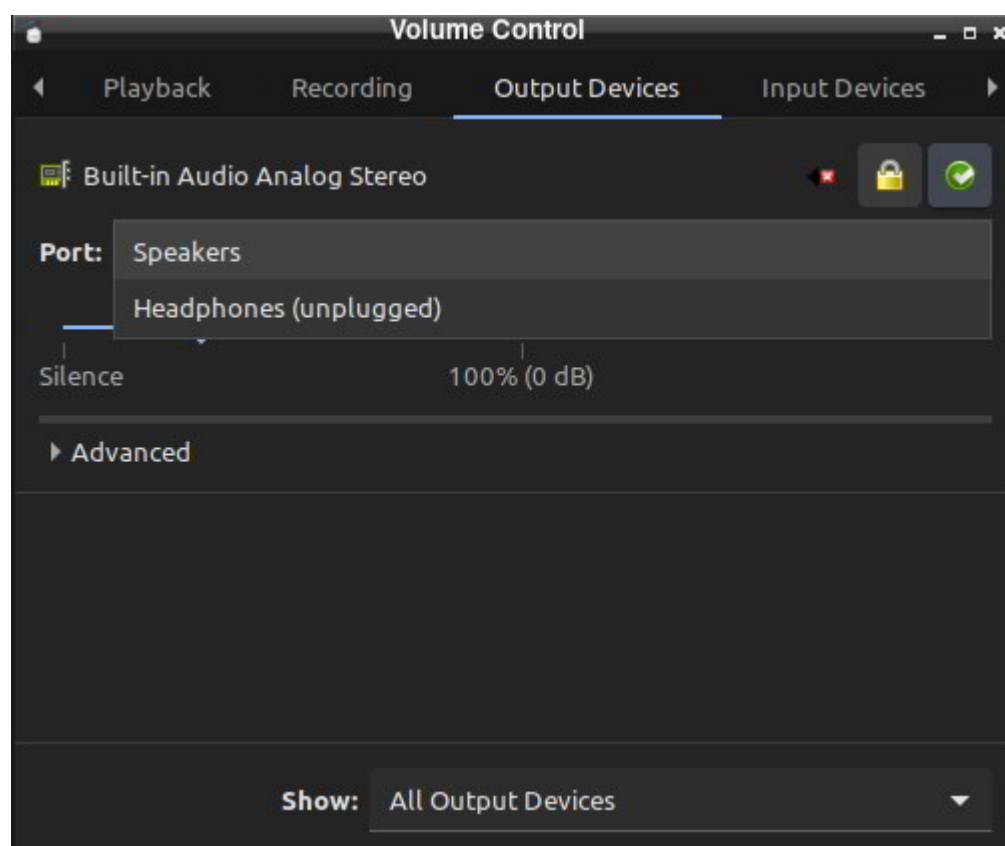
If you want it to start up automatically:

```
sudo systemctl start pulseaudio
```

One utility I like to use to control audio (point it towards my speakers or the headphones) is Pavucontrol.

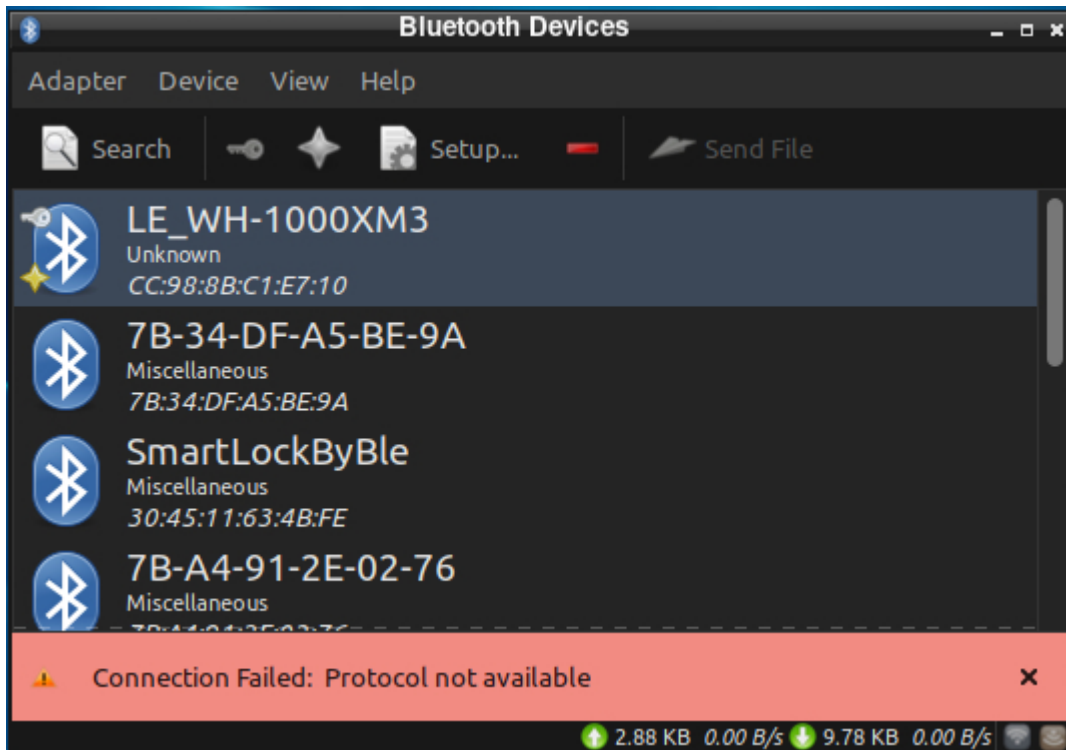
```
sudo pacman -S pavucontrol
pavucontrol
```

This is a great way to switch back and forth:



Note: If You Have a2dp

If your audio devices uses a2dp (Advanced Audio Distribution Profile), you may get the following error:



Connection Failed: Protocol not available

Here's how to fix it. There's a gdm fix, so it connects upon login (if you're using GDM)

```
cd ~/src
git clone https://aur.archlinux.org/pulseaudio-bluetooth-a2dp-gdm-fix.git
makepkg -i
```

You'll also need to do this:

Here's a hotfix that I found that worked. Check out [this gist](#).

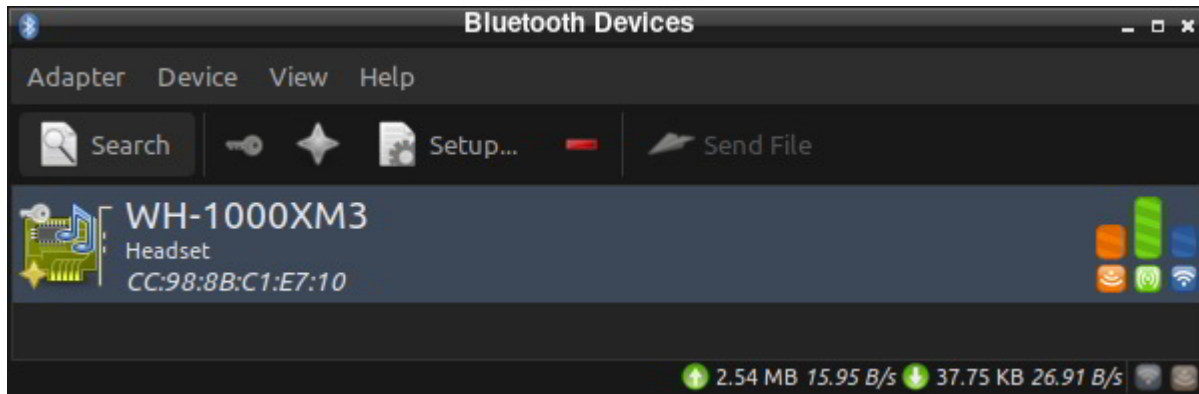
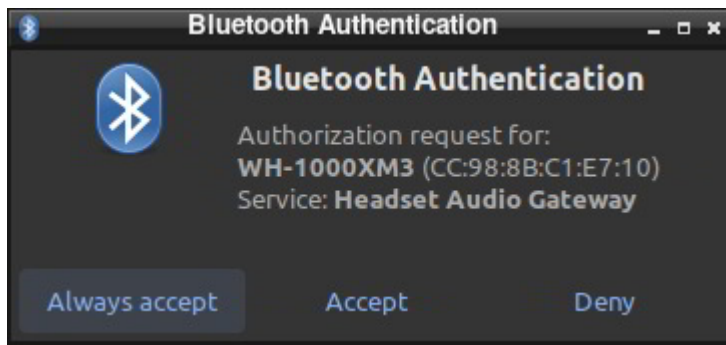
Use [this content](#) for your bt-autoenable-a2dp.sh file:

```
mkdir -p ~/.config/scripts/xorg
vim ~/.config/scripts/xorg/bt-auto-enable-a2dp.sh
sh ~/.config/scripts/xorg/bt-auto-enable-a2dp.sh
```

Create a udev rules file and [add this content](#)

```
sudo vim /etc/udev/rules.d/20-bt-auto-enable-a2dp.rules
```

Now you should be up and running and listening to audio! It worked for my WH-1000MX3 headphones.



Questions, comments? [Let me know!](#)

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