bluetoothctl Bluetooth from the shell

Scan find it → **pair** **Pair** exchange keys → **trust** **Trust** allow reconnect → **connect** **Connect** use profiles

CONCEPTS

<dev> is the device MAC address (AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF). Press Tab to complete it from the scan results.

Pairing needs an agent. Inside the prompt it is registered for you; in one-shot mode it is not, so pair interactively.

This tool talks to the bluetoothd daemon; if the prompt shows no controller, the service is not running.

SESSION

bluetoothctl
Open the interactive prompt

bluetoothctl *<command>*
Run one command and exit

bluetoothctl --timeout *<seconds>* **scan on**
Scan for a fixed time, then exit

bluetoothctl --agent *<capability>*
Start with an agent of that capability

bluetoothctl --monitor
Print low-level monitor output

SESSION (cont.)

help
List the commands of this menu

quit
Leave the prompt

menu *<name>*
Enter a submenu

back
Return to the main menu

CONTROLLER

power on
Switch the adapter on

power off
Switch the adapter off

show
Show controller state

list
List controllers

select *<ctrl>*
Pick the default controller

system-alias *<name>*
Set the name others see

discoverable on
Let other devices find this one

discoverable-timeout *<seconds>*
Show or set discoverable time

CONTROLLER (cont.)

pairable on
Accept incoming pairing requests

agent on
Register the pairing agent

default-agent
Make this agent the default

agent *<capability>*
Choose the agent's input/output type

DISCOVER

scan on
Start scanning for devices

scan off
Stop scanning

scan le
Scan for Low Energy devices only

scan bredr
Scan for Classic devices only

devices
List known devices

devices Paired
List only paired devices

devices Connected
List only connected devices

devices Trusted
List only trusted devices

DISCOVER (cont.)

info *<dev>*
Show a device's state and profiles

PAIR AND CONNECT

pair *<dev>*
Pair with a device

trust *<dev>*
Let it reconnect automatically

connect *<dev>*
Connect all profiles

disconnect *<dev>*
Drop the connection

remove *<dev>*
Forget the device and its pairing

connect *<dev>* *<uuid>*
Connect one profile only

block *<dev>*
Refuse connections from it

SUBMENUS

menu gatt
Browse and read GATT attributes (LE)

menu scan
Set scan filters (transport, RSSI, UUID)

SUBMENUS (cont.)

menu player
Control media players on a connected device

RECIPES

Pair a new headset

```
bluetoothctl
power on
agent on
default-agent
scan on
# wait for the device, then:
pair AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
trust AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
connect AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
scan off
```

Reconnect a known device

```
bluetoothctl devices Paired
bluetoothctl connect
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
bluetoothctl info
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
```

Start over with a stubborn device

```
bluetoothctl remove
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
bluetoothctl --timeout 15
scan on
# then pair, trust, connect
interactively
```

Script several commands

```
bluetoothctl <<EOF
power on
devices Connected
show
EOF
```