

Bluetooth Telephone Menus

(for BMWs with navigation)

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Since I've never seen this (not even in BMW's Bluetooth user manual), here's a few screenshots of a factory BT set-up.

First, you will see a new "Telephone" selection on the main Menu:



The "Telephone" page:



The "Emergency" screen is identical to main Menu.

Select "Info" to see:



"Signal Strength" represents the phone-to-tower signal, not the local phone-to-antenna signal. I didn't realize this information was available in the Bluetooth protocol. It's cool that BMW includes this feature.

The strength meter displays loss of signal readily, with a complete loss being announced by a red warning light in those mysterious triple-light displays (above the phone icon button). But gains in signal are not necessarily indicated right away, as if the meter was averaging the signal strength. This can be confirmed by looking at the signal bars on your phone. So this screen is helpful as a quick cross-check before placing (or receiving) a call in remote areas.

Most phonebooks should transfer within seconds of pairing. Select "Directory" to view:



Note your phone ID is displayed after the word "Directory". This can be set in your phone's configuration menu. You can pair up to four phones but have only one connected at a time. The last one paired will have priority. Therefore, upon entering the car with two phones, the phone with priority will pair.

Note further that phone books have a standard format: First Name, Last Name, Number, and Type (M= mobile, H = Home, etc.). So if your phone book is sloppy, that slop will show in Directory. For instance, if a contact is labeled using only the First Name field, the first name of the following entry will populate the vacant Last Name of previous entry, making for odd-looking contact info.



Press the R/T button on steering wheel to bring up Directory in cluster (regardless of radio/screen status). Scroll thru it using Up/Down arrows (hold down to go fast). Press speech button to call, and press again to terminate call.

When a call is active, a green light will appear above the phone icon button. Just as when losing connectivity, a red light will illuminate when starting car and TCU is "looking" to pair - and go out upon successful pair.

When browsing points of interest in your nav (such as restaurants or hotels), call the establishment's listed phone by selecting it.

Don't forget there's also a voice-controlled phonebook independent of your phone. It will allow you to place a call by speaking the contact's name, as opposed to manually selecting the contact in Directory. See BMW's Voice Control user manual for much more.

How cool is this?

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