

# Un/Install Sideloaded Android Wear Apps

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## ADB Tools

You can use [this tool](#) to easily install ADB on your computer in less than 2 minutes.

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## Enabling Debugging Mode

Go to the Settings app on whatever Android device your watch is paired to, go to About Phone, and keep tapping the 'Build number' until a message says 'You are a developer!'. Go back to the main screen and press the new 'Developer' menu item. Now tap 'USB Debugging' to enable your computer to access your phone via ADB.

Now we have to do the same thing, but on the watch. On the home screen of your watch, say 'okay google, open settings' or hold down the power button on your watch. Now that you are in Settings, scroll to 'About' and press the 'Build number' until you get the same 'You are now a developer!' message.

Go to the Developer Options in the watch settings and tap 'ADB Debugging' and 'Debugging over Bluetooth'. Finally, open the Android Wear app on your phone, press the Settings button on the top right, and check 'Debugging over Bluetooth'. It should say 'Host: disconnected' and 'Target: connected' after you're done.

Tip: You might also want to turn on 'Stay awake while charging', because when the screen turns off whatever app you have open will quit. This will keep the screen on as long as you have your watch plugged in (remember to turn it off after you're done!)

# Installing applications

Installing Android apps on your watch. Android applications are stored in files called Android Application Packages, or .apk files. You can find APK's of popular Android apps on various websites, or copy them straight from your phone.

For this tutorial we will use a port of [GL Tron](#) found on the F-Droid store. [Click here](#) to download the APK, then find it on your hard drive. If you're on Windows, open the Command Line by opening the Start Menu and typing 'cmd' in the search. On Mac and Linux, open the Terminal app.

Plug your phone into your computer via USB, type 'adb devices' in the command and press enter. It should print something like this:

```
List of devices attached
03107f69d0218bba      device
```

Congratulations, this means you have successfully connected your phone to your computer! But now we have to get your watch connected too. Type these commands into the command line (press enter after each command):

```
adb forward tcp:6666 localabstract:/adb-hub
```

```
adb connect localhost:6666
```

Now do the same 'adb devices' command. If you've followed these steps correctly, you should see a new device called 'localhost':

```
03107f69d0218bba      device
localhost:6666 device
```

Now let's try installing that game. Type 'adb -e install', a space, and then drag the APK file into the command line window. It should result in something like this:

```
adb -e install C:\Users\corbin\Downloads\com.glTron_4.apk
```

Now press enter and watch the magic. If you see 'Success' you, well, succeeded! But how do you get to your apps? Well, you can tap on the home screen (bringing up the OK Google

screen), and scroll down until you see Start. Tap it, and you will see all your apps (Android Wear, as well as the ones you installed) on the list. You can also install [Wear Mini Launcher](#) on your phone to give easy access to your apps as well, or say 'ok google, run gl tron' with voice.

You should see GL Tron on your apps list, tap it and press the left or right sides of the screen to control your lightcycle. Congratulations, you just installed an Android app on your watch!

## Uninstalling Applications

Uninstalling applications is a bit more work than installing them, I tried dozens of app removers and none of them seemed to work on Android Wear (it must be missing some libraries for that to work). Instead, you have to remove them on your computer via the ADB tool. Type this into the console:

```
adb -e shell pm list packages -3
```

This will list all the applications installed on your watch (not including system apps). Find the ID of the app you want to un-install, for this example we will uninstall GL Tron. The ID will begin with something like com. or org. and end with the name of the app. So in this case, the ID is:

```
com.glTron
```

Now to un-install it, simply type this command and press enter:

```
adb -e shell pm uninstall -k com.glTron
```

You will notice that the ID of the app you want to un-install is at the end of the command. Once the command prints 'Success', the app should be deleted from your watch.