CHAPIN SOFTWARE

PIC

USER GUIDE

Independent Infotainment for Porsche 987 & 997



PIC running in a Porsche 987/997-era cockpit.

1.5.1-beta1 · MONZA

PUBLIC BETA

20 September 2026

About this guide

PIC is an independent infotainment environment for Porsche 987 and 997 vehicles fitted with compatible Android head units. It combines an OEM-oriented launcher, media and communication surfaces, vehicle and trip tools, capability discovery, configurable application routing and optional OBD functions.

This guide documents PIC 1.5.1-beta1, codename Monza. It is written for Public Beta users and replaces the earlier PCM Next private-beta documentation baseline. The screenshots in this edition are predominantly emulator captures from the Monza build. Where a function depends on proprietary head-unit services, external applications, phone-projection software, OBD hardware or vehicle data, the guide states that dependency rather than treating emulator output as proof of hardware compatibility.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT PIC is developed by CHAPIN Software. It is not affiliated with, endorsed by, sponsored by, approved by, or supported by Porsche AG. Porsche names and vehicle designations are used only to identify compatibility and context.

Safety

Do not configure PIC, scan head-unit capabilities, change providers, perform diagnostic operations or interact with complex menus while driving. The driver remains responsible for safe vehicle operation. Diagnostic and performance information is informational and must not replace approved workshop procedures or vehicle instrumentation.

Documentation convention

A feature shown as NOT DETECTED, N/A or DISCONNECTED in an emulator screenshot describes that test environment only. Android head units differ substantially by manufacturer, chipset, Android release, Bluetooth implementation, radio stack, CAN service, USB behaviour and installed applications.

Contents

1. Getting started

2. PIC interface

3. Infotainment and phone projection

4. Vehicle, trip and performance

5. OBD system

6. Head-unit discovery and integrations

7. PIC settings

8. Diagnostics and beta reporting

9. Compatibility notes

10. Quick reference

1. Getting started

1.1 What PIC is

PIC is designed to make an Android head unit behave more like a coherent in-car system and less like a tablet mounted in the dashboard. Its operating principle is simple: OEM first. Android second. PIC keeps Android flexibility available, but places frequently used driving, media, phone and vehicle functions behind a consistent interface.

1.2 First run

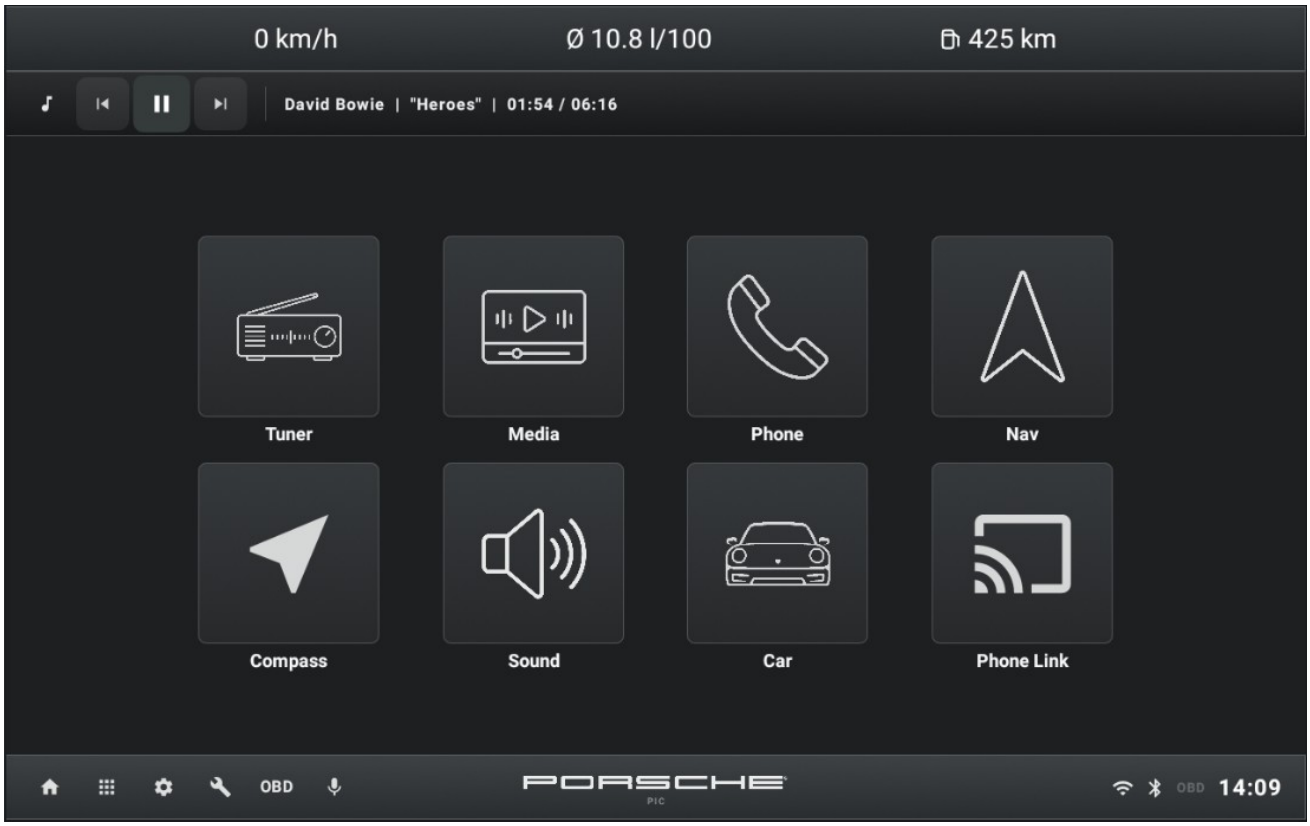
1. Install the PIC APK on the Android head unit and launch PIC.
2. Read the startup safety notice.
3. Open PIC Settings using the wrench icon. Select the correct vehicle profile and preferred units.
4. Open Unit Capabilities and run a scan on the actual head unit.
5. Review Application Integrations and choose Auto, PIC or Native application routing where available.
6. Assign specific applications where required. A long press on supported shortcuts opens the application selector.
7. Configure phone projection, media and OBD only when the corresponding software or hardware is present.
8. Use Developer Mode only for troubleshooting or structured beta testing.

IMPORTANT GPS is the universal baseline for PIC speed, distance and trip functions. OBD is optional and can enhance available vehicle data; PIC does not require an OBD adapter for its core launcher and GPS-based trip functions.

2. PIC interface

2.1 Classic Home

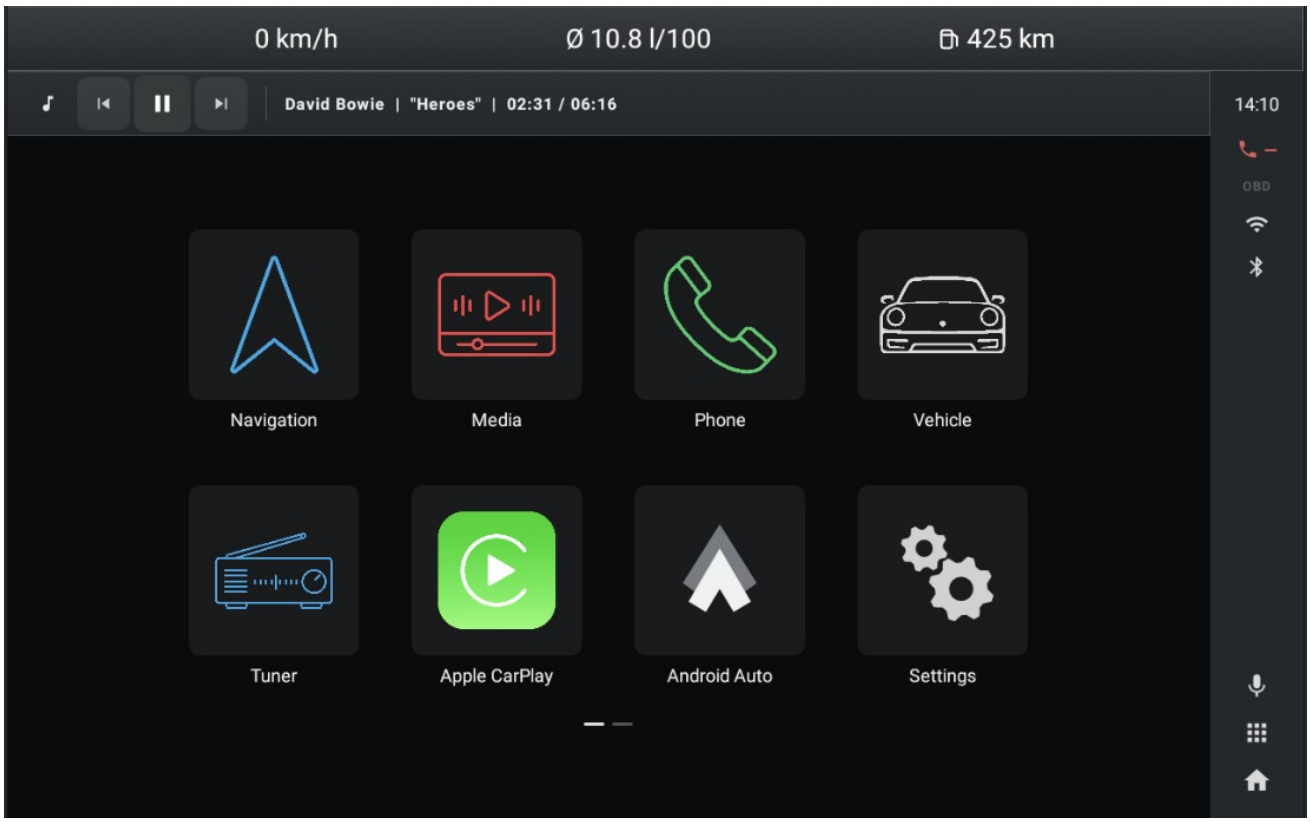
Classic Home presents the core functions in an eight-tile layout: Tuner, Media, Phone, Nav, Compass, Sound, Car and Phone Link. The top strip can show driving information and Now Playing status. The permanent lower bar provides system shortcuts and status information.



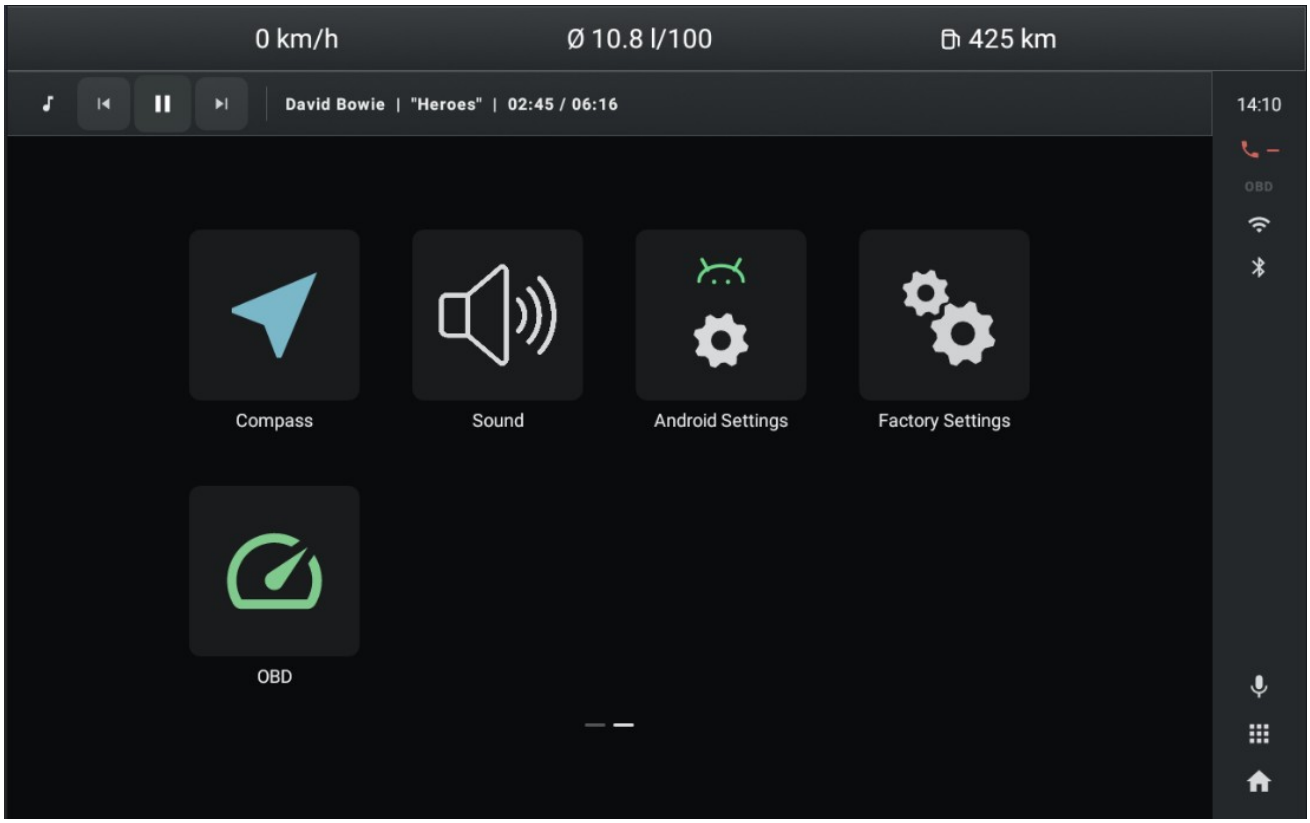
Classic Home with Now Playing active.

2.2 Modern Home

Modern Home provides a two-page layout with a persistent right sidebar. The first page exposes Navigation, Media, Phone, Vehicle, Tuner, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and Settings. The second page provides Compass, Sound, Android Settings, Factory Settings and OBD. The sidebar keeps key status and navigation controls available while moving between PIC surfaces.



Modern Home, page 1. Dedicated Apple CarPlay and Android Auto launch tiles are visible.



Modern Home, page 2.

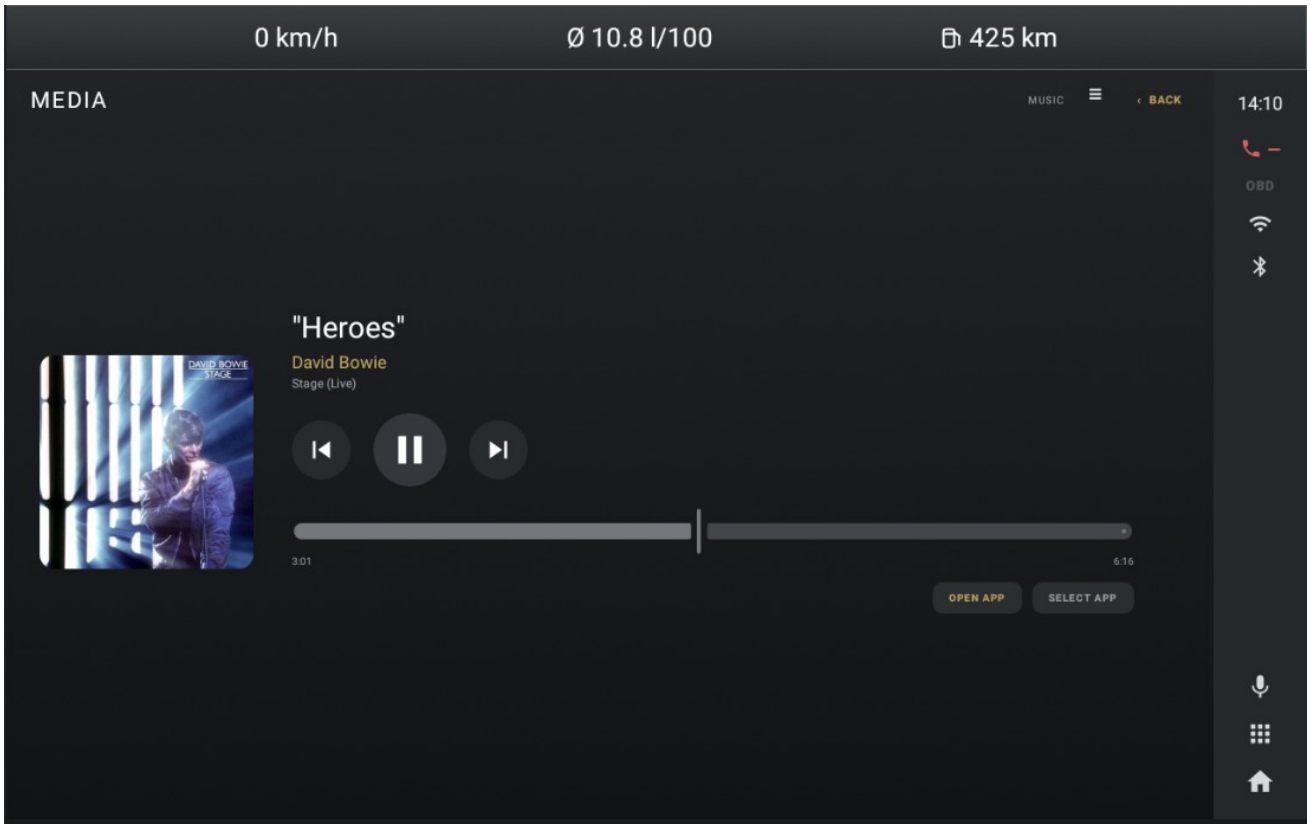
2.3 Persistent controls

Depending on the selected interface, PIC keeps a bottom bar or right sidebar available across most screens. Status indicators can include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, OBD and time. The PIC home control returns to the main operating surface.

3. Infotainment and phone projection

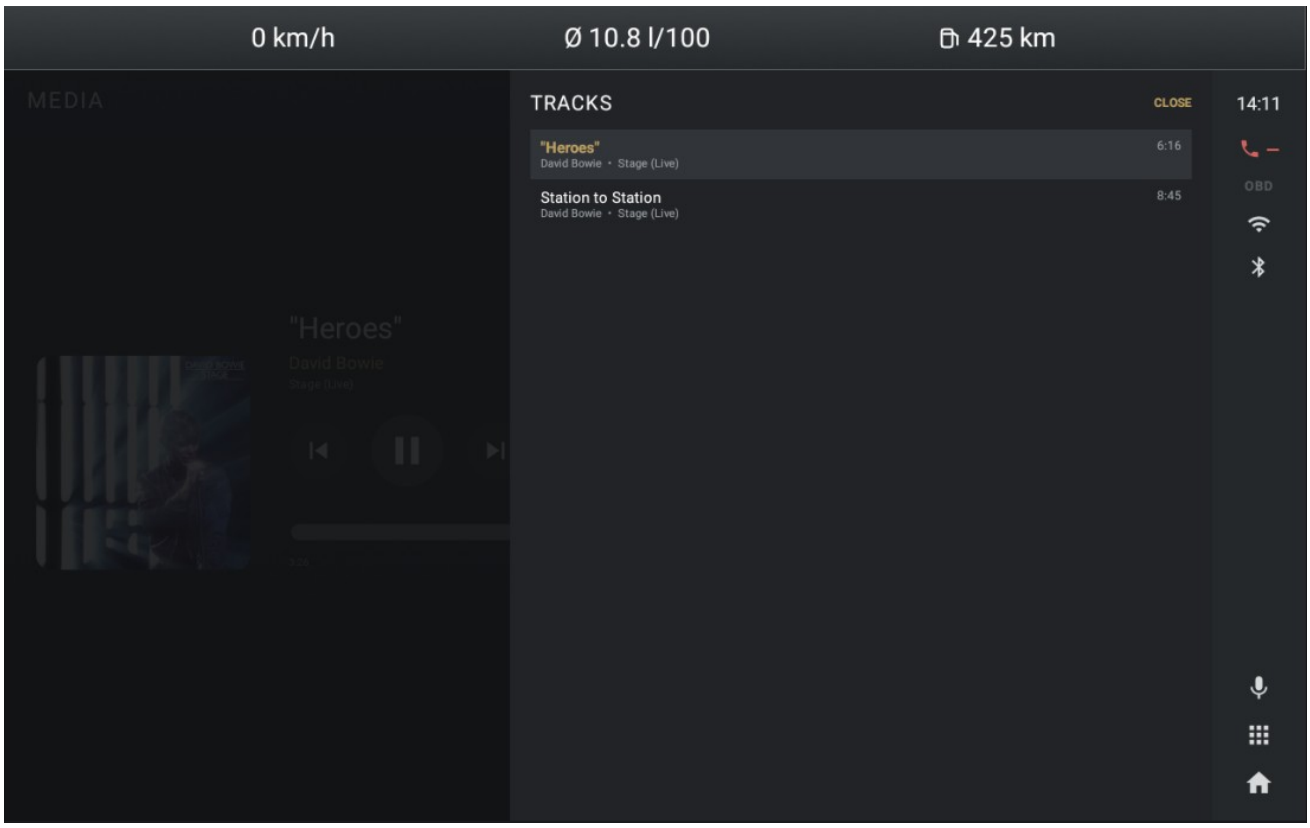
3.1 Media

The integrated Media surface can display artwork, track, artist, album, playback state, elapsed time and progress information when the active Android media provider exposes a compatible MediaSession. Playback controls remain inside PIC while OPEN APP provides direct access to the underlying provider and SELECT APP allows reassignment.



PIC Media interface with active Android media session.

The track drawer exposes available tracks when the provider supplies that information. Media integration depends on the behaviour of the selected Android application and on the permissions available to PIC.



Media track list overlay.

3.2 Phone

PIC provides a dedicated Phone surface with keypad, calls, contacts and Bluetooth views when a compatible phone backend is available. On an emulator or an unsupported head-unit Bluetooth stack, the interface can be displayed while the connection state remains unavailable.



Phone interface in the emulator, showing the disconnected state.

3.3 Tuner, Navigation and Sound

Tuner, Navigation and Sound are routed through PIC capability discovery and application integrations. Depending on the head unit, PIC can use an integrated path or launch a selected native application. Radio services are particularly vendor-dependent and cannot be validated meaningfully in the standard emulator.

Navigation normally opens the configured navigation provider. Sound can route to an integrated or native sound-control application depending on what the unit exposes.

3.4 Apple CarPlay and Android Auto

PIC supports phone projection by providing dedicated Apple CarPlay and Android Auto launch paths in Modern Home and through Phone Link routing. PIC does not implement the CarPlay or Android Auto projection protocol itself. The projection session is supplied by compatible software and hardware already present on the Android head unit, such as the unit vendor's projection application or interface.

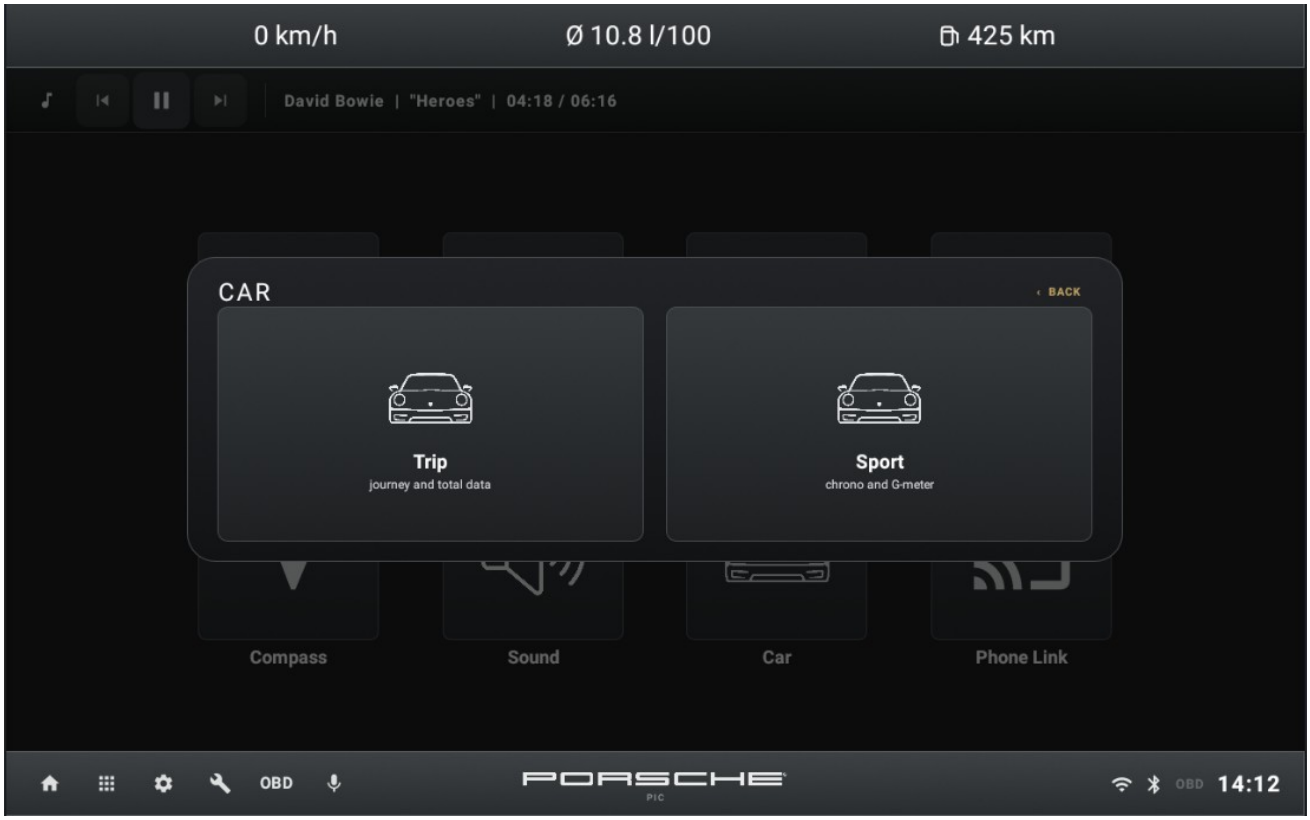
For this reason, the presence of the CarPlay or Android Auto tile must not be interpreted as a guarantee that every Android head unit supports the corresponding projection mode. PIC provides the in-car entry point and routing layer; actual compatibility depends on the head unit, installed provider, phone and connection method.

EMULATOR LIMITATION A standard Android emulator cannot reproduce the proprietary USB, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and vendor services normally used by CarPlay or Android Auto head-unit applications. The Home screenshots therefore document PIC routing and UI, not a simulated projection session.

4. Vehicle, trip and performance

4.1 Car menu

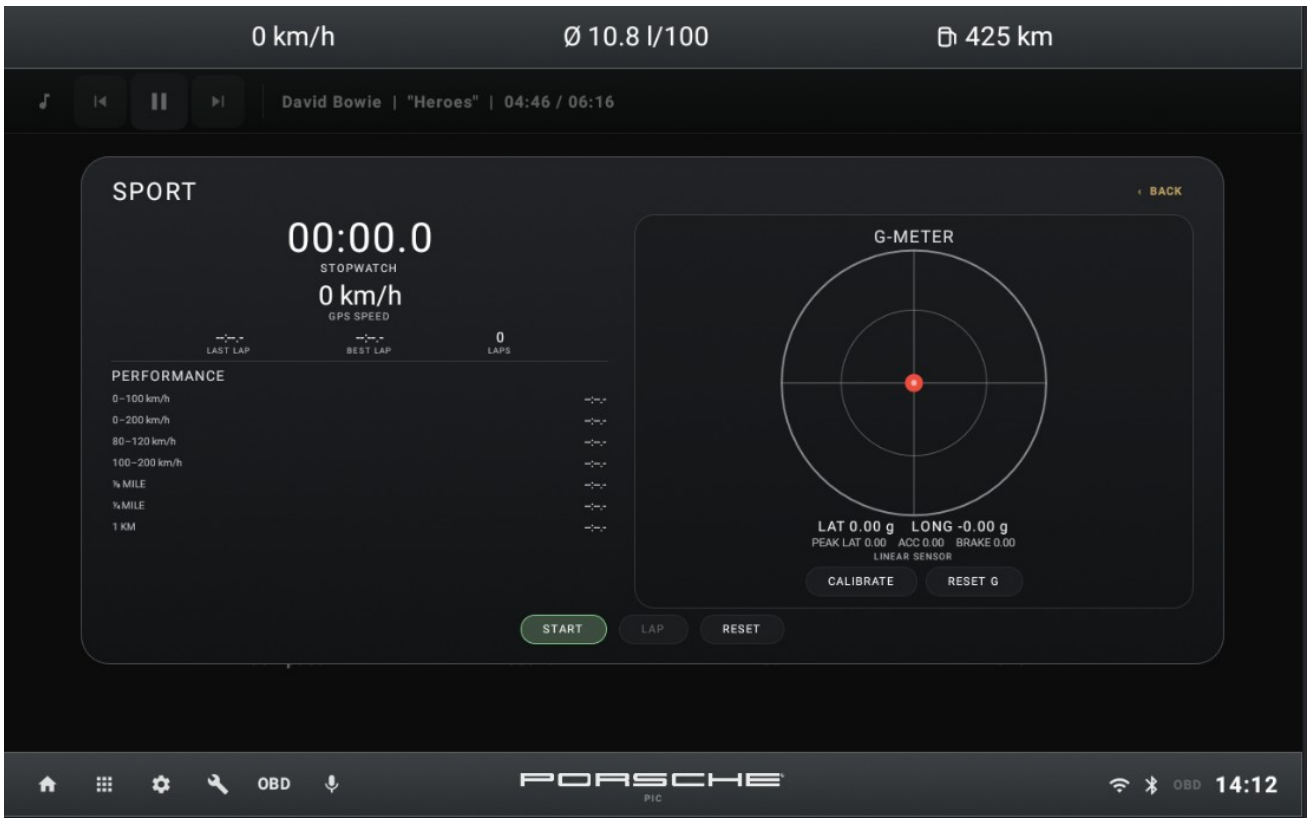
The Car tile opens two PIC-native areas. Trip contains journey and accumulated driving information. Sport provides stopwatch, performance and G-meter functions.



Car menu: Trip and Sport.

4.2 Journey

Journey presents the current driving session. Depending on available data, it can show distance, drive time, average speed, trip consumption and historical values. GPS provides the baseline movement source; additional vehicle or OBD data can enrich the result when available.



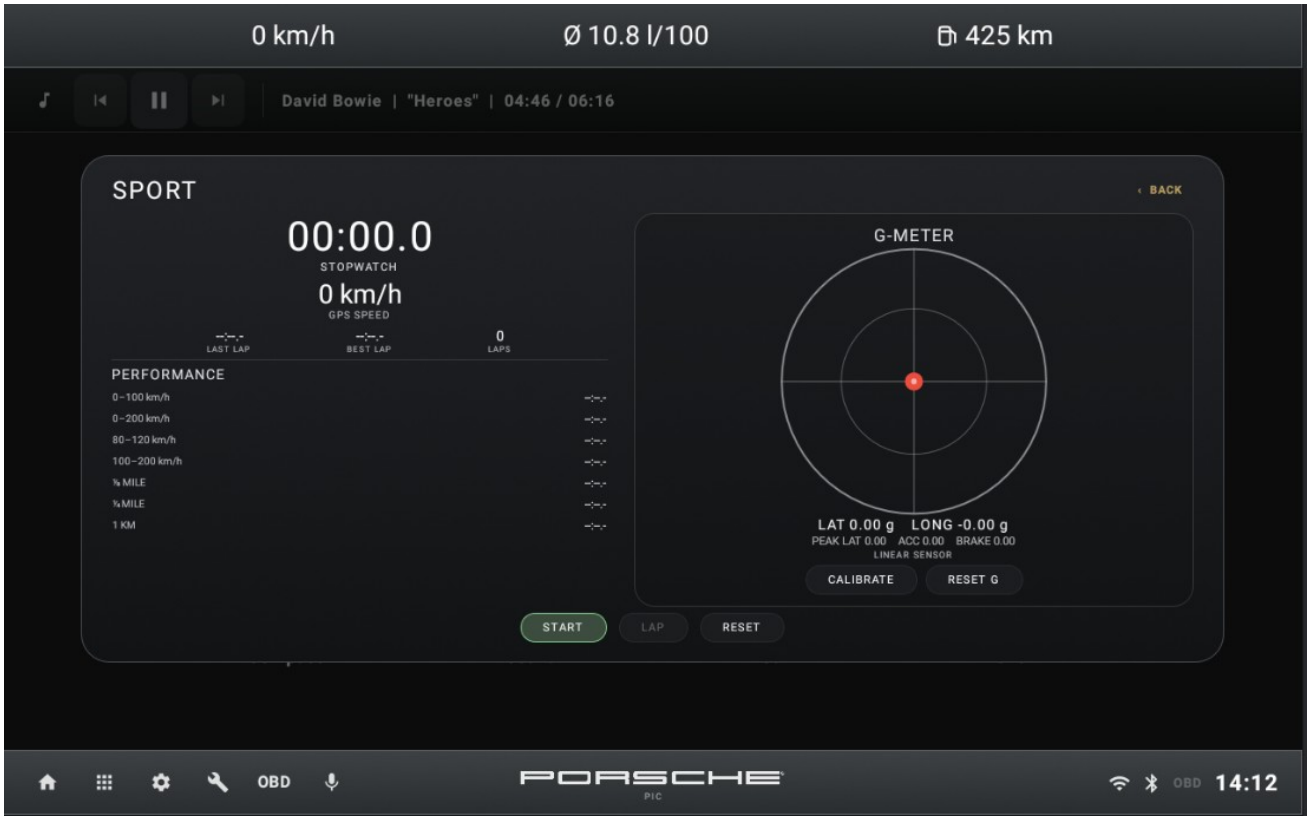
Journey view in the Monza build.

4.3 Last Drive, Trip A and Trip B

PIC retains driving-session information so that the most recently completed drive can be reviewed separately from the active journey. Trip A is intended as a user-resettable trip counter, while Trip B provides a longer-lived accumulated counter. Persistence depends on normal application and head-unit shutdown behaviour.

4.4 Sport and G-meter

Sport combines a stopwatch, GPS speed, lap handling, performance measurements and a G-meter. Performance fields include 0-100 km/h, 0-200 km/h, 80-120 km/h, 100-200 km/h, one-eighth mile, one-quarter mile and 1 km. The G-meter displays lateral and longitudinal acceleration with peak and reset controls.

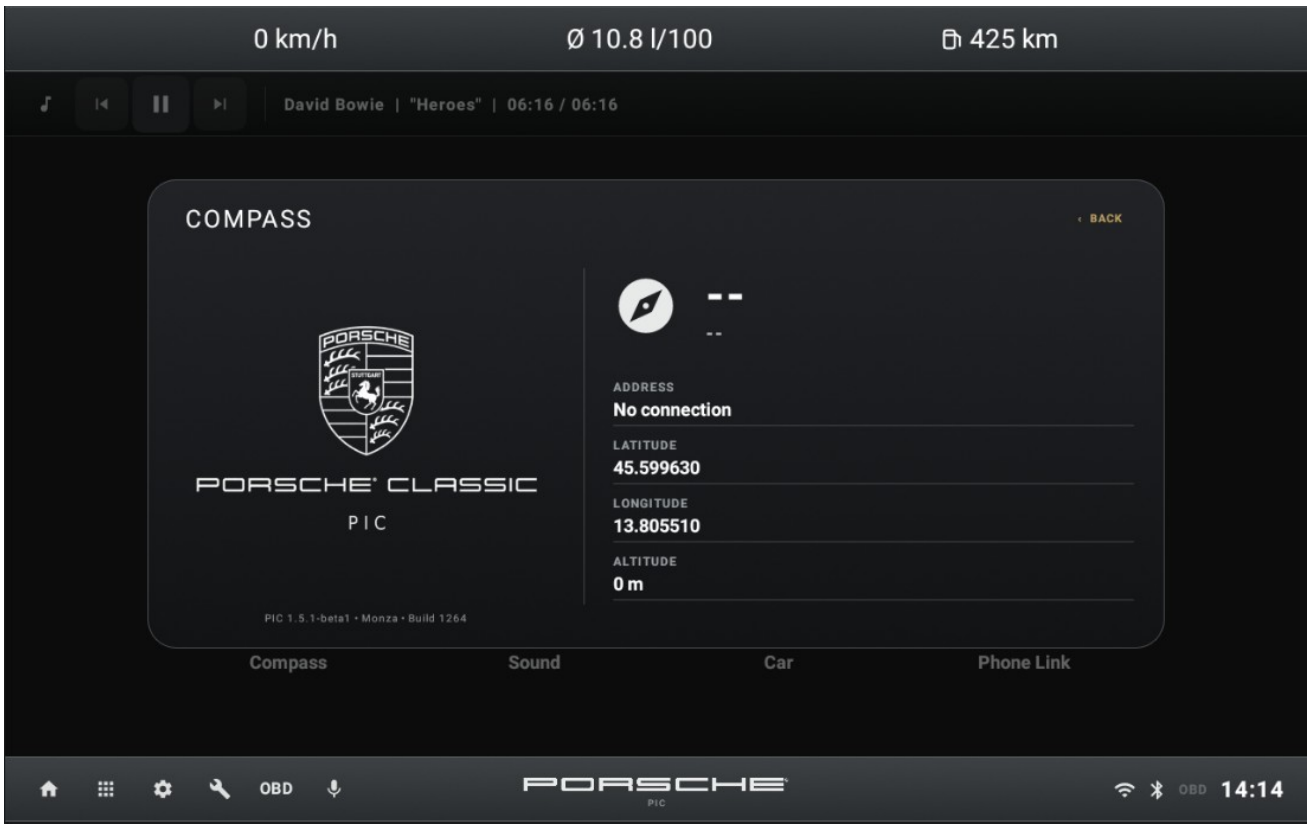


Sport and G-meter interface.

PERFORMANCE DATA Do not use emulator values or uncalibrated head-unit sensors as performance claims. Timing and acceleration behaviour must be validated on representative hardware and under safe, legal test conditions.

4.5 Compass

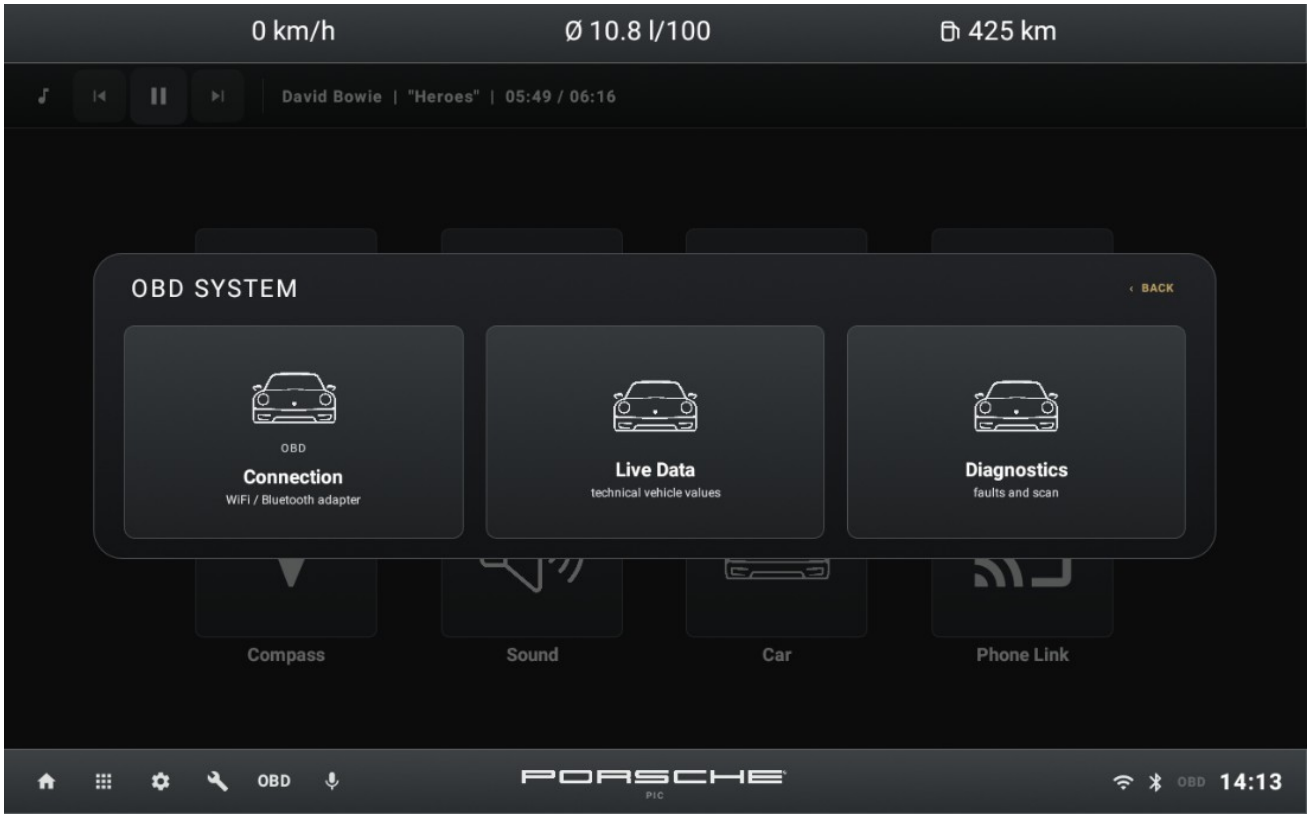
Compass uses Android location services to present heading, coordinates, altitude and address information when available. Coordinates can remain available even when network-based reverse geocoding cannot resolve an address.



Compass using emulator location data.

5. OBD system

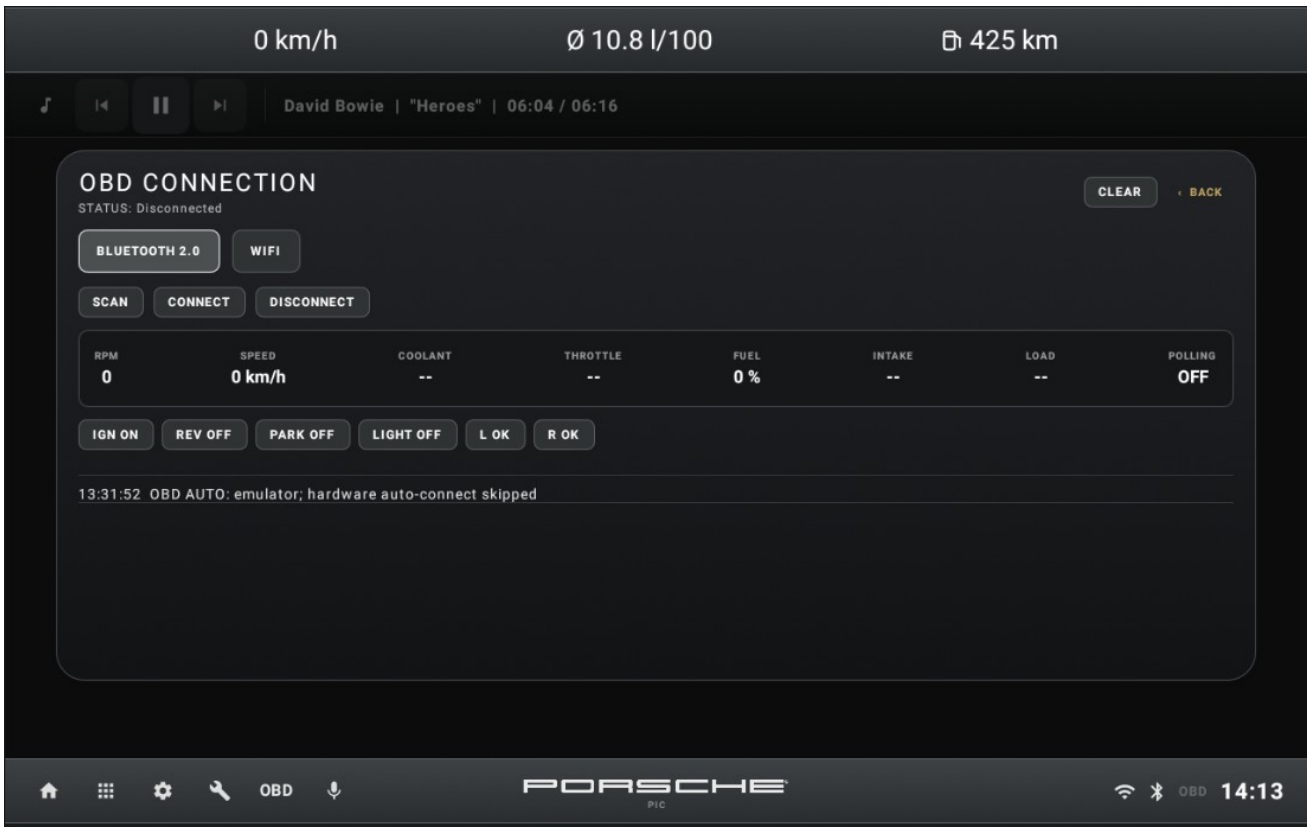
OBD is an optional PIC subsystem. The OBD menu is divided into Connection, Live Data and Diagnostics. Its transport and vehicle-data path are separate from the application-provider routing used for Media, Phone, Tuner and similar infotainment functions.



OBD System menu.

5.1 Connection

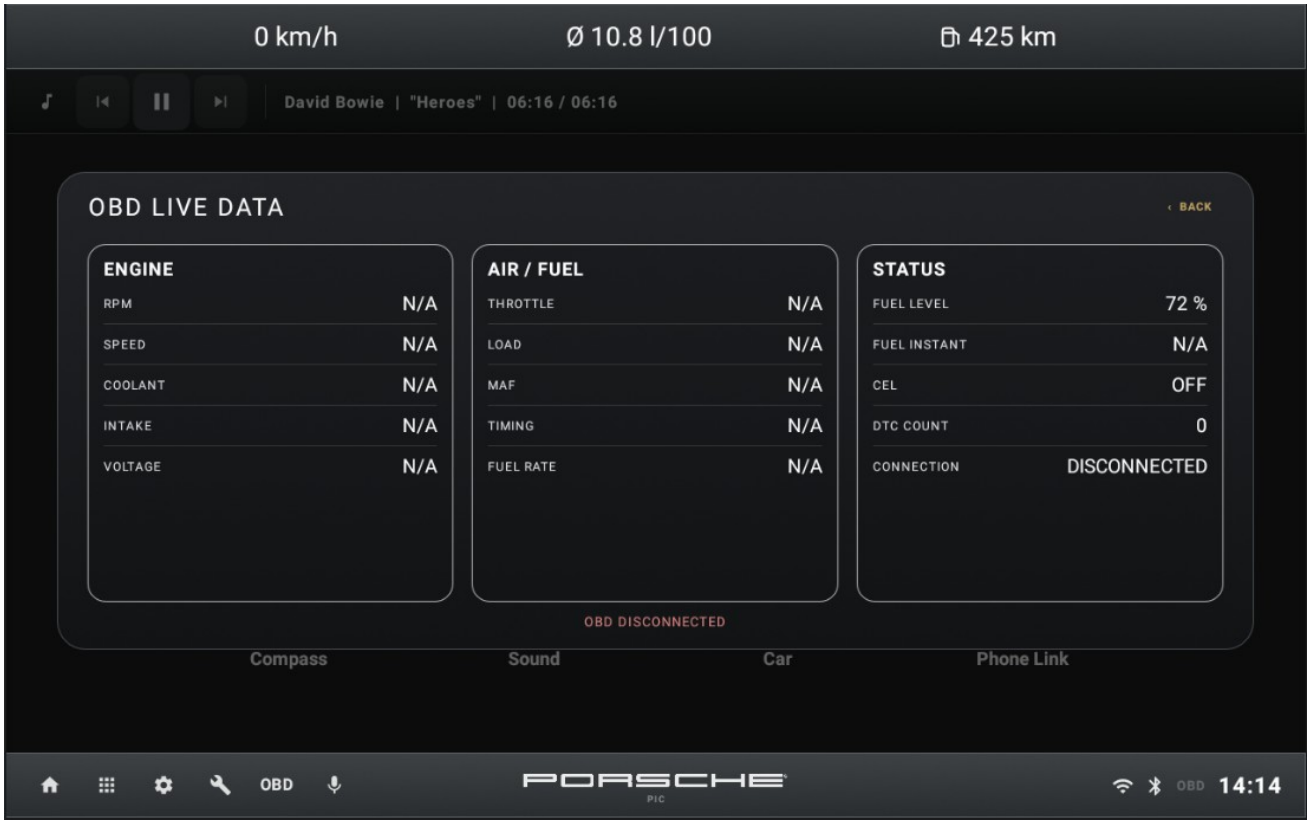
Connection provides Bluetooth 2.0 and Wi-Fi transport choices together with Scan, Connect and Disconnect controls. The status area can expose RPM, speed, coolant, throttle, fuel, intake, load and polling state when supported. Additional vehicle-state indicators may appear when the relevant signals are available.



OBD Connection in the emulator. Hardware auto-connect is intentionally skipped in this environment.

5.2 Live Data

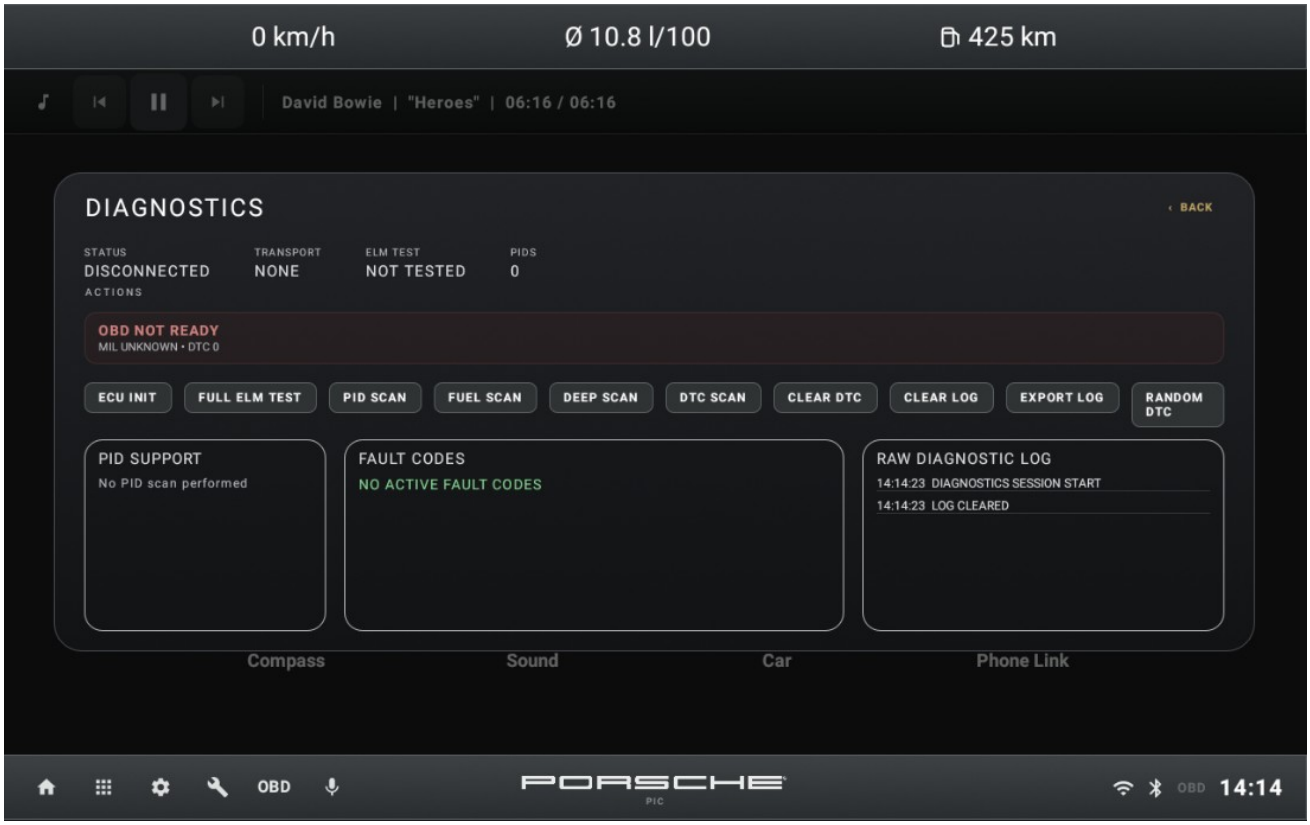
Live Data groups available values into Engine, Air/Fuel and Status. The exact PID set depends on ECU support, adapter capability and connection state. A disconnected emulator screen is documentation of layout only, not a vehicle compatibility result.



OBD Live Data while disconnected.

5.3 Diagnostics

Diagnostics reports transport state, ELM test state, supported PID count, fault codes and a raw diagnostic log. Normal diagnostic actions include DTC scanning and clearing supported fault information. Debug Mode exposes additional engineering actions for structured testing.



OBD Diagnostics with engineering controls visible.

DIAGNOSTIC CAUTION Clearing DTCs can remove information that may be useful for troubleshooting. Use diagnostic actions only when you understand their effect. PIC is not a replacement for Porsche diagnostic equipment or professional workshop procedures.

6. Head-unit discovery and integrations

6.1 Unit Capabilities

Unit Capabilities inventories the Android head unit without intentionally changing its configuration. A scan records platform information, Android version, system capabilities and integration candidates. Because Android head units vary widely, this discovery stage is central to PIC routing.



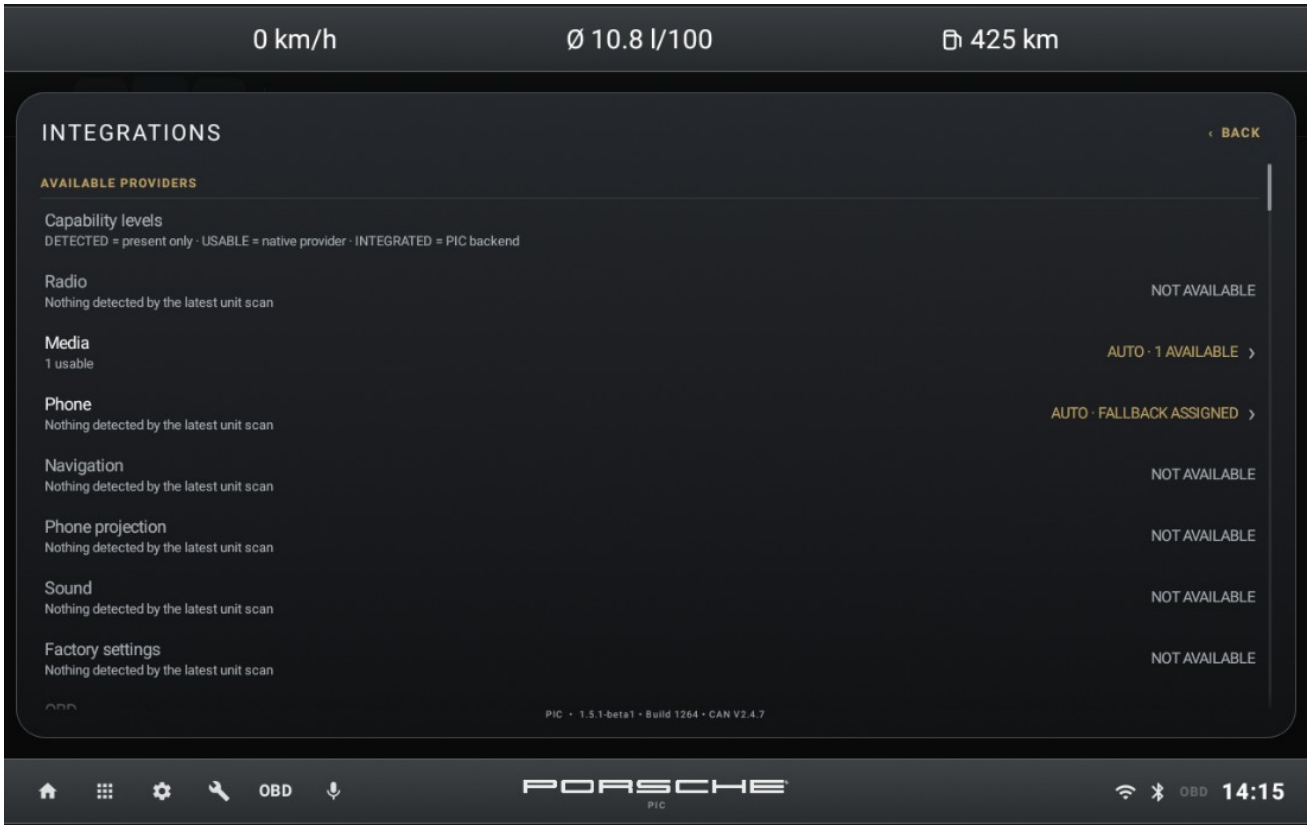
Unit Capabilities after an emulator scan.

6.2 Capability levels

PIC distinguishes three capability levels. DETECTED means that a relevant component is present. USABLE means that a native provider can be used. INTEGRATED means that PIC has a supported internal backend or interface for that function. The presence of an installed application alone does not make a function INTEGRATED.

6.3 Application Integrations

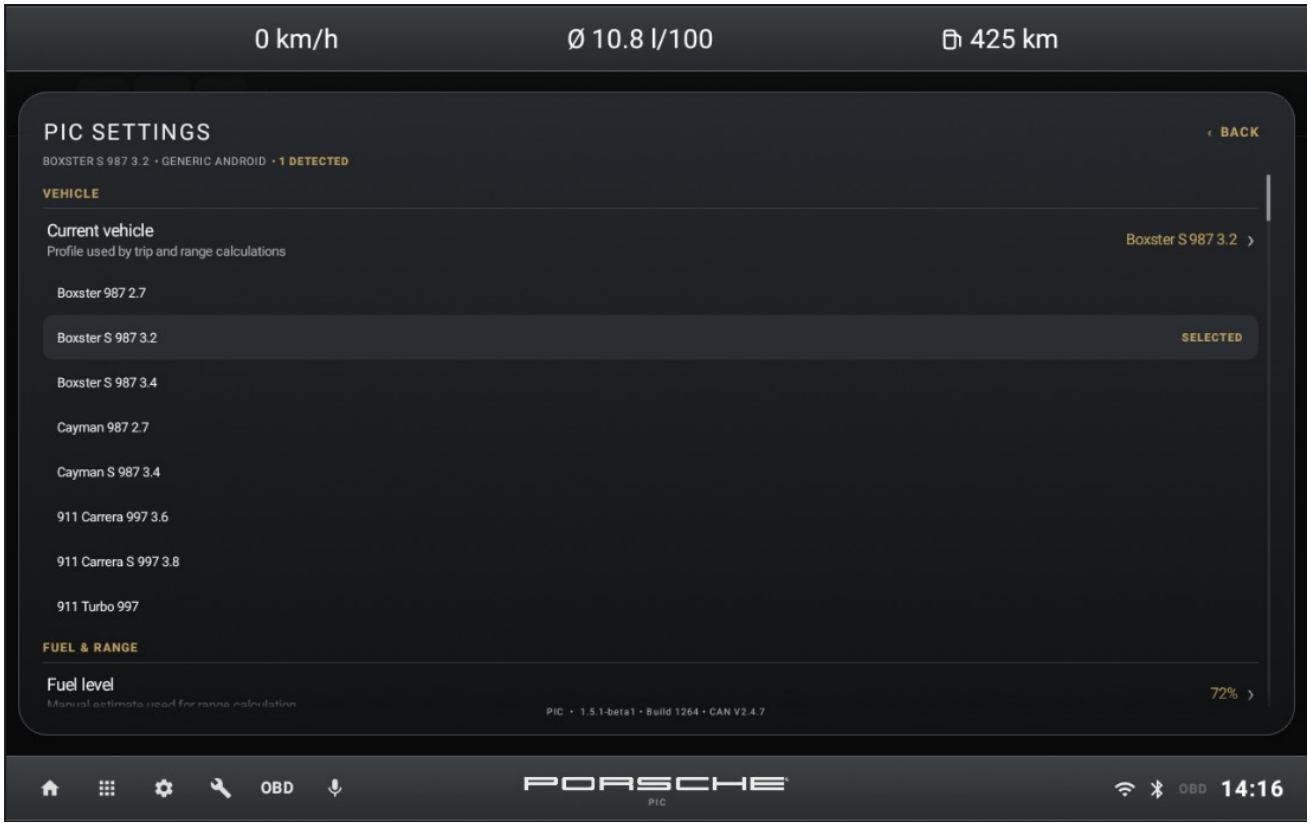
Application Integrations converts discovery results into operational routing. It reports the available providers for categories such as Radio, Media, Phone, Navigation, Phone Projection, Sound, Factory Settings, OBD and Vehicle/CAN.



Integration status and available providers.

6.4 Interface mode and provider selection

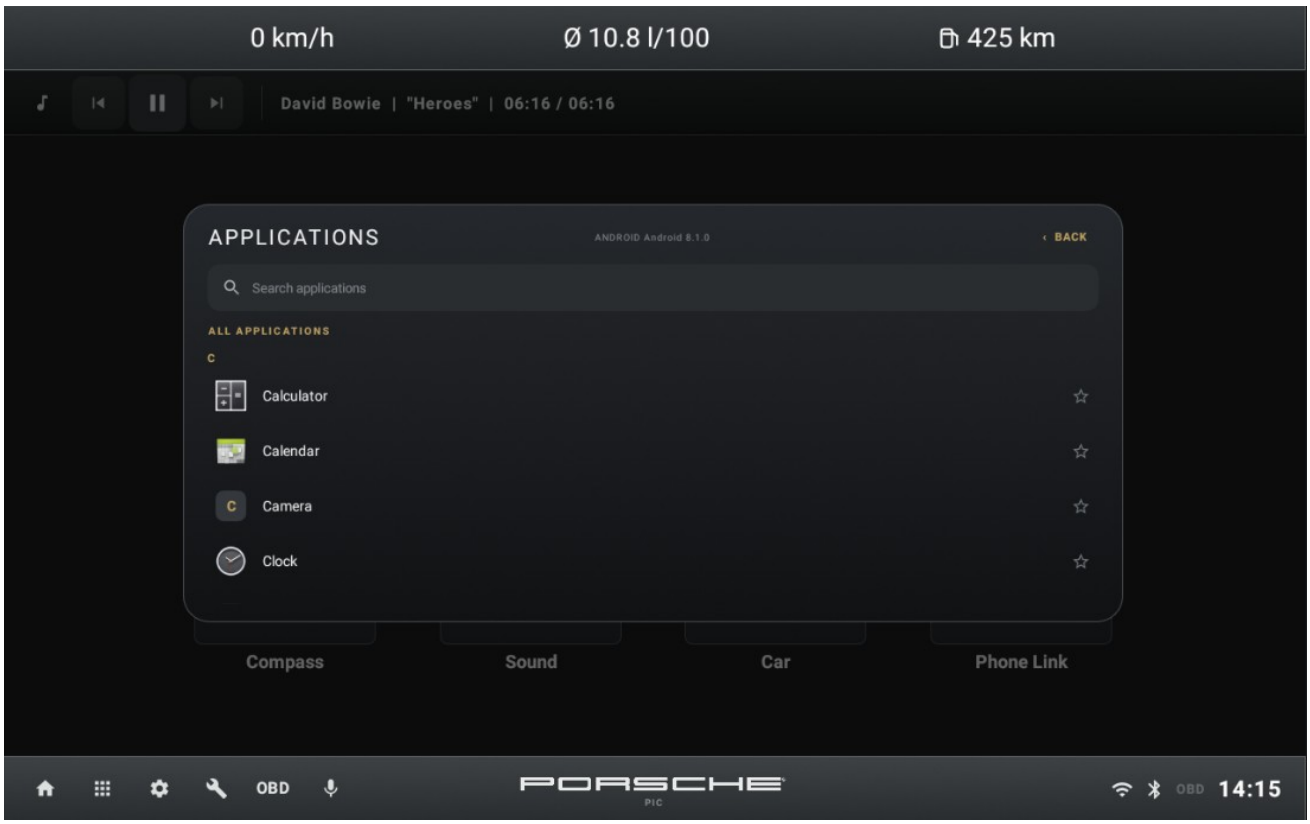
Where supported, an interface can be set to Auto, PIC or Native application. Auto chooses the best supported PIC path and preserves a native fallback. PIC prefers the integrated PIC surface when the required backend is available. Native application launches the assigned provider directly.



Interface mode selection for integrated and native providers.

6.5 Manual application assignment

A long press on a configurable function opens the application selector. Manual assignment is independent of automatic capability discovery and acts as a deliberate override. In Monza, long-press assignment is supported for Tuner, Media, Phone, Navigation, Sound, Phone Link, Settings and Android. Use Reset App Assignments in PIC Settings to clear manual mappings.



Installed application browser used for application selection.

7. PIC settings

7.1 Vehicle profile

Current vehicle selects the profile used by PIC for trip and range calculations. Monza includes profiles for Boxster 987 2.7, Boxster S 987 3.2, Boxster S 987 3.4, Cayman 987 2.7, Cayman S 987 3.4, 911 Carrera 997 3.6, 911 Carrera S 997 3.8 and 911 Turbo 997.

7.2 Fuel level and range

Fuel Level provides a manual fuel estimate for range calculation when direct vehicle fuel information is not available. Presets and a slider allow the user to set the estimated tank level. The litres calculation follows the selected vehicle profile.



Manual fuel-level entry.

7.3 Display, units and Android access

PIC Settings also controls top-bar information, display behaviour, distance and consumption units, launcher selection, Android application settings, notification access and reset operations. Notification access can be required for media-session information supplied by Android applications.

8. Diagnostics and beta reporting

8.1 Developer Mode

Developer Mode is intended for structured troubleshooting. It can expose additional OBD engineering actions and diagnostic logging. Keep it disabled during normal use unless a test procedure requires it.

8.2 Export Diagnostics

When an issue is reproducible, enable the requested diagnostic mode, reproduce the problem once and export the PIC diagnostic package immediately afterwards. The export is intended to make reports from different head units comparable without requiring continuous background telemetry.

A useful beta report should include: PIC version and build, vehicle, Android head-unit model or platform, Android version, affected function, exact steps, expected result, observed result and whether a Diagnostic Export is attached. For capability or routing issues, also report the Unit Capabilities result, selected provider and interface mode.

PRIVACY BY DESIGN PIC Public Beta reporting is designed around user-initiated diagnostic export. Diagnostic files should be reviewed before sharing if the head unit contains information the tester considers sensitive.

9. Compatibility notes

9.1 Vehicles

PIC targets the Porsche 987 and 997 generation. Vehicle profiles support the models listed in PIC Settings, but individual functions may depend on the Android head unit, connected peripherals and data sources rather than the vehicle model alone.

9.2 Android head units

There is no single Android head-unit platform. PIC therefore discovers capabilities at runtime and separates detected components from usable native providers and integrated PIC backends. Generic Android operation is the baseline; vendor-specific integrations are additive.

9.3 HCT / Microntek

Monza includes HCT/Microntek-oriented discovery and diagnostic work for compatible units. This area remains Public Beta and requires representative real-head-unit validation. A detected HCT/Microntek service or successful service binding must not be interpreted as universal support for every radio, Bluetooth, CAN or OBD function on every HCT-derived unit.

9.4 OBD

Bluetooth and Wi-Fi OBD behaviour depends on the adapter, Android Bluetooth/network implementation, ECU response and permissions available on the head unit. GPS remains the baseline for PIC trip and speed functions even when no OBD connection is configured.

10. Quick reference

Function	Normal action	Configuration source
Tuner	Integrated PIC tuner when supported; otherwise configured native provider	Capabilities + Integrations; long press override
Media	Integrated PIC media when supported; otherwise native provider	Capabilities + Integrations; long press override
Phone	Integrated PIC phone when supported; otherwise native provider	Capabilities + Integrations; long press override
Navigation	Opens configured navigation provider	Integrations; long press override
Apple CarPlay	Launches configured phone-projection provider	Head-unit projection software / routing
Android Auto	Launches configured phone-projection provider	Head-unit projection software / routing
Compass	Opens PIC Compass	Android location services
Sound	Integrated or native sound path	Integrations; long press override
Car	Opens Trip and Sport	PIC internal functions
OBD	Opens OBD System	Optional adapter and transport
Settings	Opens PIC Settings	PIC internal function
Android	Opens Android system path	Long press assignment supported

Release identity

PIC 1.5.1-beta1 · Monza · Public Beta. Developed by CHAPIN Software.

For current downloads, release notes, known issues, compatibility information and support instructions, use the official CHAPIN Software PIC website.

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