

MIDI Specifications

The **MIDI** Protocol consists of a package list, that normally contains one or more packages. Each Package contains (depending on it's message type) 2 or 3 bytes.

The *First Byte* is called the **Status Byte** because it's defining the Event (eg NOTE_ON or CONTROLLER) and the channel on which this event occurs.

The *Second Byte* is called the **Data Byte** because it contains the Data (wow!)

The *Third Byte* is optional (depending on the event type) and contains another value, eg. for Controllers the (most important) value!

Here's an Example:

1st Byte 144 (0x90): NOTE_ON on Channel 0 (Channel 1 would be 0x91)

2nd Byte 65 (0x40): A Note

3rd Byte 100 (0x64): Velocity 100

If you want to send this message with MIOS (programmed in C) it would look like this:

```
MIOS_MIDI_BeginStream();
MIOS_MIDI_TxBufferPut(0x90);
MIOS_MIDI_TxBufferPut(0x40);
MIOS_MIDI_TxBufferPut(0x64);
MIOS_MIDI_EndStream();
```

More informations can be found online:

- [Excellent Article Summary and many Links at answers.com](#)
- [Official MIDI Specifications Index from the MIDI Manufacturer's Association](#)
 - [Table 1: MIDI 1.0 Specification Message Summary](#)
 - [Table 2: Expanded Messages List \(Status Bytes\)](#)
 - [Table 3: Summary of Control Change Messages \(Data Bytes\)](#)

[Explained MIDI Specs](#)

[ASCII Conversion Table](#)

From:
<https://www.midibox.org/dokuwiki/> - **MIDIbox**

Permanent link:
https://www.midibox.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=midi_specification&rev=1149988403

Last update: **2006/10/15 09:35**

