

# MIDI Specifications

The **MIDI** Protocol consists of a package list, that normally contains one or more packages. Each Package contains (depending on its 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 first byte is always set, if it's a status byte. If the first byte is zero, it's a data byte:

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:

- [MIDI Technical Fanatic's Brainwashing Center](#) must-read!
- [Jglatt's Technical MIDI Specs Page](#)
- [MIDI Introduction & Tutorial from midi.org](#)
- [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 \(Data Bytes\)](#)
- [Excellent Article Summary and many Links at answers.com](#)
- [ASCII Conversion Table](#)

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

Permanent link:  
[https://wiki.midibox.org/doku.php?id=midi\\_specification&rev=1151544564](https://wiki.midibox.org/doku.php?id=midi_specification&rev=1151544564)

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

