
MIDI Vocabulary

- **Bank** ~ In MIDI devices, a bank typically holds a number of presets.
- **Controller/Control Device/Control Interface** ~ The keyboard portion of a keyboard synthesizer.
- **Controller Number** ~ Controller values typically have this, which identifies the individual control.
- **Controller/Continuous Control (CC)** ~ In MIDI, CC messages are reserved for transmitting performance messages like “bank select,” “modulation,” “volume,” and “pan” changes, and so on.
- **General MIDI** ~ Formalized standard for the MIDI protocol specification.
- **Keyboard Synthesizer** ~ A typical one has two major components: a controller and a sound module.
- **Latency** ~ In audio recording, the amount of delay a system unintentionally introduces at the recording or playback stage, usually the result of computer processing resource limitations.
- **MIDI In** ~ In MIDI, the input port of a MIDI device for receiving MIDI data from controllers and other MIDI devices from the MIDI output port of other MIDI devices.
- **MIDI Out** ~ In MIDI, the output port of a MIDI device for sending MIDI data from controllers and other MIDI devices to the MIDI input port of other MIDI devices.
- **MIDI Thru** ~ In MIDI, the thru port of a MIDI device that typically duplicates the information received at the MIDI In port and passes the information “thru” without altering it.
- **Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)** ~ Protocol that computers use to convey musical messages using numbers. When referring to audio, for example, the numbers 0–127 are commonly used to represent musical concepts like pitch and dynamics.
- **Note Off Message** ~ In MIDI, messages that specify the MIDI pitch value being performed and a velocity value of 0 in order to cease a note from sounding.
- **Open Sound Control (OSC)** ~ Protocol like MIDI that conveys information about musical events and more with the potential for greater bandwidth than MIDI.
- **Patch/Program** ~ In MIDI, a sound module may organize preset instrument timbres into patches or programs within a bank of sounds.
- **Piano Roll Editor** ~ In DAWs, a graphical representation of MIDI notes vertically according to pitch and horizontally according to duration.
- **Port** ~ In audio equipment, a jack or connection input type designed to receive signals from connected cables.

- **Program Change** ~ In MIDI, the change from one General MIDI sound set timbre to another. Like other MIDI data, General MIDI program changes are numbered between 0 and 127.
 - **Sampler** ~ Device used to play back recorded sound files known as samples. A sampler may also include the option to record samples. Samplers may be hardware or software based. There are software samplers that contain large libraries of prerecorded sample audio files. A sampler then plays these samples back when control messages are received from a DAW, a MIDI keyboard, or some other input.
 - **Software Synthesizer** ~ Virtual instruments that are included in a computer.
 - **Synthesizer** ~ Device that facilitates synthesis. In most cases a synthesizer has controls like keyboard keys, knobs, and buttons to manipulate parameters in the synthesis process.
 - **Sound Module** ~ In MIDI, a device by which MIDI data is synthesized into an audio signal.
 - **Virtual Instrument Software** ~ In audio recording, a software-based synthesizer module by which MIDI data is realized.
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