Quick Start Guide

iConnectivity

iConnectMIDI
Ultra high-speed MIDI interface for Computers & Handhelds

Quick Start Guide
# Table of Contents

Overview .................................................................................................................................................. 3  
What’s in the Box ..................................................................................................................................... 4  
Getting Connected ................................................................................................................................. 5  
What You Can Connect .......................................................................................................................... 6  
Port Names ............................................................................................................................................... 9  
MIDI DIN Connections ............................................................................................................................ 11  
  To Send MIDI To iConnectMIDI™ ........................................................................................................ 11  
  To Receive MIDI from iConnectMIDI™ ............................................................................................... 11  
Multiple MIDI Devices .............................................................................................................................. 12  
USB MIDI Connections .......................................................................................................................... 12  
Mini-USB Connections ............................................................................................................................ 14  
Routing and Filtering ............................................................................................................................... 18  
PortManager ........................................................................................................................................... 18  
  Saving Your Changes ............................................................................................................................. 20

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Overview

iConnectMIDI™ is a versatile and easy to use, next generation MIDI interface that converges several existing standard connectors in one unit. Now you can seamlessly connect your MIDI instruments and controllers with your iOS devices and computers without special drivers and using standard cables.

iConnectMIDI™ is a wired interface to ensure a stable connection between all your devices and providing reliable MIDI data transport. It is self-powered (adapter included) and provides useful indicator lights for all ports. A cable that connects the iOS 30-pin connector to a mini-USB connector is also included (additional cable for a second iOS device is optional). All other cabling can be accomplished using standard MIDI cables and USB cables.

The USB-A connector on the front can be connected to a single USB-MIDI device/controller or a standard USB hub (powered) so that more than one USB-MIDI device can be used at once. Up to eight (8) controllers can be simultaneously connected and played with a hub. With two pairs of MIDI DIN ports on the back, the hub-capable USB-A connector, and two mini-USB connectors, iConnectMIDI™ can be the central interface for twelve (12) ports of MIDI. Because MIDI DIN allows for daisy-chaining of instruments through their built-in MIDI ports, the total number of instruments and controllers can be greater than twelve.

iConnectMIDI™ lets you take advantage of the vast choice in USB-MIDI controllers currently available, many of which are highly affordable and portable. These controllers are also lightweight compared to their traditional counterparts, which means savings in your shipping and transportation costs, not to mention savings in back pain!

One unique aspect of iConnectMIDI’s functionality is its ability to allow full communication between all connected devices. This has been done in the past with other MIDI interfaces, but it is the first time that standalone direct communication between USB-MIDI and MIDI-DIN devices has been made possible. No computer is required for such setups, which greatly increases your ability to create truly one-of-a-kind rigs.

It is also the first time that a MIDI interface allows direct connection between your MIDI instruments and controllers to both an iOS device and a computer, taking advantage of the massive software diversity on three platforms (iOS, Mac®, and PC). This is truly a revolution in convergent technology, where a rich touchscreen interface of a handheld device can be coupled with the power of huge memory and hard drive space of a computer in a dedicated musical context.
What’s in the Box

Figure 1. iConnectMIDI™ main unit

Figure 2. Power supply

Figure 3. International plug adapters

Figure 4. iConnectMIDI™ - iOS cable
Getting Connected

1. Select the appropriate plug adaptor for your region and attach it to the power supply at the wall wart end. It should snap into place.

2. Plug the power supply barrel connector into the barrel jack at the rear panel of iConnectMIDI™.

3. Plug the power supply into the power receptacle. iConnectMIDI™ will power up by displaying a brief flash of some of the indicator lights, followed by a constant green light of the power indicator light.

4. You are now ready to connect devices to iConnectMIDI™.
What You Can Connect

iConnectMIDI™ has three connector types:

- USB-A (front panel)
- Mini-USB (front panel)
- MIDI DIN (rear panel)
These connectors allow for a wide range of devices to be connected to iConnectMIDI™, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USB-A (front panel)</th>
<th>Mini-USB (front panel)</th>
<th>MIDI DIN (rear panel)</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| • Keyboard controllers  
• Drumpad controllers  
• Control surfaces  
• Synthesizers  
• Mixers  
• USB hub (powered) | • Mac® computer or laptop  
• PC computer or laptop  
• iOS device (iPhone®, iPod touch®, iPad®) | • Synthesizers  
• Synthesizer modules  
• Keyboard controllers  
• Drumpad controllers  
• Control surfaces  
• Mixers  
• MIDI-enabled guitar pedals  
• Outboard effects units  
• Sequencers  
• Standalone digital recorders  
• Timecode generators  
• MIDI mergers  
• MIDI splitters |

Endless combinations of instruments and computing devices are possible with the connectivity options of iConnectMIDI™. All devices can freely talk to one another with MIDI data.
Figure 5. iConnectMIDI™ possibilities
Port Names

When iConnectMIDI™ is used with DAW software on any of the compatible computing platforms, the list of iConnectMIDI™ ports varies with each platform. Each platform presents the iConnectMIDI™ port names differently and can lead to some confusion about which instrument is plugged in to a port.

Refer to the list below to easily identify each of the ports in use and their corresponding jacks on iConnectMIDI™.

Input Ports

Table 1. Input port names for various platforms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>iOS, OSX</th>
<th>Windows XP</th>
<th>Windows 7</th>
<th>Actual Port</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iCM DIN1</td>
<td>USB Audio Device (2)</td>
<td>iConnectMIDI</td>
<td>MIDI DIN 1 In</td>
<td>Rear panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM DIN2</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [2] (2)</td>
<td>MIDIIN2 iConnectMIDI</td>
<td>MIDI DIN 2 In</td>
<td>Rear panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB D1</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [3]</td>
<td>MIDIIN3 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>Mini-USB 1 In</td>
<td>Front panel, left mini-USB jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB D2</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [4]</td>
<td>MIDIIN4 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>Mini-USB 2 In</td>
<td>Front panel, right mini-USB jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB H1</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [5]</td>
<td>MIDIIN5 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 1 In</td>
<td>Front panel USB-A port on iConnectMIDI if no USB hub connected; first attached device with USB hub connected</td>
</tr>
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<td>iCM USB H2</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [6]</td>
<td>MIDIIN6 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 2 In</td>
<td>With connected USB hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB H3</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [7]</td>
<td>MIDIIN7 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 3 In</td>
<td>With connected USB hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB H4</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [8]</td>
<td>MIDIIN8 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 4 In</td>
<td>With connected USB hub</td>
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<td>iCM USB H5</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [9]</td>
<td>MIDIIN9 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 5 In</td>
<td>With connected USB hub</td>
</tr>
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<td>iCM USB H6</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [10]</td>
<td>MIDIIN10 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 6 In</td>
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<td>iCM USB H7</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [11]</td>
<td>MIDIIN11 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 7 In</td>
<td>With connected USB hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCM USB H8</td>
<td>USB Audio Device [12]</td>
<td>MIDIIN12 (iConnectMIDI)</td>
<td>USB-A 8 In</td>
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Output Ports

Table 2. Output port names for various platforms

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Notes:
1. “iCM” is the abbreviation for “iConnectMIDI”
2. MIDI DIN ports are unidirectional, meaning that a separate cable is needed for each direction of data flow. Connect MIDI cables from a MIDI OUT or MIDI THRU to a MIDI IN.

3. In Windows XP, if other MIDI interfaces are connected along with iConnectMIDI™, there may be no distinction in naming of the USB ports between the interfaces. Thus, some of the names may be duplicates of names used for iConnectMIDI™ ports.

4. In Windows XP, the default naming for a MIDI port connected through a USB link is “USB Audio Device”, regardless of whether the actual port is USB-MIDI or MIDI DIN.

5. Some applications in Windows retrieve the correct names of each iConnectMIDI™ port.

6. The “D” and “H” designations in iOS and OSX stand for “Device” and “Host”, signifying USB device ports and USB host ports, respectively.
**MIDI DIN Connections**

To connect a device with MIDI DIN connectors, you will need one or more MIDI cables. A MIDI cable is an inexpensive cable that contains a 5-pin DIN connector on both ends and is available at most music equipment stores. MIDI cables are available in various lengths from six inches to 20 feet. Use only the length that you require as excessive length can introduce some delay in the transport of MIDI data.

![MIDI DIN connections](image)

**To Send MIDI To iConnectMIDI™**

To connect a MIDI device that will send out MIDI data, connect one end of the MIDI cable to the device’s MIDI OUT port (usually located on its back panel). Then, with the other end of the MIDI cable, connect it to one of iConnectMIDI’s MIDI In DIN ports on the rear panel (either pair of MIDI1 or MIDI2). Ensure that the MIDI device is powered up.

Press a key or button that sends MIDI data on your MIDI-enabled device. Then look at the indicator lights of iConnectMIDI™. The lights for MIDI DIN input should light up for each key or button press.

**To Receive MIDI from iConnectMIDI™**

To connect to a device that will receive MIDI data from iConnectMIDI™, connect one end of the MIDI cable to either MIDI1 or MIDI2 Out port on the rear panel of iConnectMIDI™. Connect the other end of the MIDI cable to the MIDI IN jack on the rear of the MIDI instrument.

Note that iConnectMIDI™ will not be the source of MIDI data. The data will originate from another device connect to iConnectMIDI™, such as a controller, synthesizer, or DAW software.
Multiple MIDI Devices

Most MIDI DIN-equipped instruments can be daisy-chained with other MIDI instruments. By using a MIDI cable between each instrument so that from one instrument to the next the cable connects the THRU port of one to the IN port of the next instrument.

If you need to send MIDI data to iConnectMIDI™, the last instrument in the chain should have its OUT port connected to iConnectMIDI’s IN port with a MIDI cable. Each instrument in the chain can be set to its own MIDI channel so that it can be recognized from the originating MIDI device and specifically sent data. One or more MIDI instruments can be on the same MIDI channel; this causes all of those instruments to trigger their sounds simultaneously from a single MIDI event on the same MIDI channel.

Note that there is a distinction between a MIDI channel and a MIDI port. Each MIDI port can contain MIDI data for up to 16 channels of MIDI. That means that iConnectMIDI™ can simultaneously pass 192 channels of MIDI data.

USB MIDI Connections

One or more USB MIDI devices can be connected to iConnectMIDI™ via the USB-A jack on the front panel (see Figure 7). Additionally, this is a **hub-capable** jack, allowing you to connect a powered USB hub (sold separately) with which up to eight (8) MIDI instruments and controllers can be connected to iConnectMIDI™ simultaneously (see Figure 8).

With this many controllers connected via a USB hub, each device port is given a unique name. The port names are visible in the computing device’s operating system or at the software application user interface, with each operating system using a different naming standard for attached USB MIDI devices. See Table 1
and Table 2 for listing that compare the names of each port on various operating systems.

Figure 7. Single USB MIDI device connection to iConnectMIDI™

Figure 8. Multiple USB MIDI devices via a USB hub
Mini-USB Connections

Located on the front panel are dual mini-USB jacks (see Figure 9), allowing you to connect iOS devices (iPhone®, iPod touch®, and iPad®), Mac®, and PC computers. Any combination of up to two computing devices can be connected to iConnectMIDI™.

To connect to an iOS device, use the included 30-pin to mini-USB cable. To connect to a computer, use a USB-A to mini-USB cable.
Figure 11. Dual Mac® computer setup.

Figure 12. Mac, PC and Korg nanoKontrol setup.
Figure 13. PC, iPad and Korg nanoKontrol setup.

Figure 14. Mac, iPad, and Korg nanoKontrol setup.
Figure 15. Several USB-MIDI controllers with PC and iPad.
Routing and Filtering

iConnectMIDI™ has powerful routing and filtering features that provide unprecedented control over the MIDI data flow. With these, you can set how data is routed between all of the twelve ports and what types of data is seen at each port.

By default, any MIDI data from an input port is instantaneously replicated to each of iConnectMIDI’s output ports. For most applications, this behavior is useful. However, there may be setups that require more specific routing of the MIDI data.

Similarly, iConnectMIDI™ supports the full specification of MIDI data types. iConnectMIDI™ has filtering capability for a subset of the most commonly seen MIDI data, such as Note On, Note Off, pitch bend, and Active Sensing.

The configuration features of iConnectMIDI™ can be accessed using the iOS app **PortManager**, available for free download from the Apple App Store.

**PortManager**

PortManager hierarchically displays the inputs and outputs of iConnectMIDI™, starting with the input ports, and progressing to the twelve output ports tied to each input port. With this arrangement, you can determine (using simple touchscreen gestures) which input port is enabled and which of the output ports will receive data that has entered a given input port.
To enable and disable an input or output port, simply touch the line of the desired port and its checkmark will appear as a solid color (enabled) as or as an outline (disabled).
For each input and output port, there are filterable parameters corresponding to specific MIDI event types that can be enabled or disabled for pass through from input port to output port, again with simple touchscreen gestures.

Similarly, enabling or disabling a filter involves simply touching the line of the desired parameter and its virtual button will appear pressed or unpressed.

Note that the filter for a given parameter is active only if the button for the parameter is in the “up” position and grey. When the button is in the “down” position and orange in color, then the MIDI event will not be filtered out and is allowed to pass from the input port to the output port.

**Saving Your Changes**

Changes to your iConnectMIDI’s configuration are temporary and can be lost if the power is disconnected from iConnectMIDI™. To permanently save the
settings, ensure that the Commit button (on the first level of the Inputs tab) is first pressed.

![Figure 25. Top level of the Inputs tab.](image)

PortManager contains a help browser that gives you more detailed information about how to use it. Touch the About tab at the bottom tab bar and help will be displayed.