The figures below show the expected message format, contents and order. All multi-byte values (for example fd, errno, count etc.) are written in big endian byte order. Byte streams like strings and read/write data should be written in its original order.

2 bytes 1 byte n bytes 4 bytes 4 bytes open opcode length n path name string flags mode message 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno close 1 byte 4 bytes opcode fd message 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno 1 byte 4 bytes 4 bytes read opcode fd count message n bytes (note that n is given in the return value) 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno data read 4 bytes 4 bytes write 1 byte count bytes opcode fd count data to write message //note that count comes before the data so we know how much data there is 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno Iseek 1 byte 4 bytes 4 bytes 4 bytes opcode fd offset whence message 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno 1 byte pipe opcode message 4 bytes 4 bytes 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno pipefd[0] pipefd[1] dup2 1 byte 4 bytes 4 bytes opcode oldfd newfd message 4 bytes 4 bytes response return value errno