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# **MIDI playing bank for Yamaha OPL2 (YMF262) chip**

## **file format specification (WOPL and OPLI)**

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and updated in 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025

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# 0. Changelog

Version | What's new

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- 1 | First version (23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2017)
  - 2 | Added banks meta-data arrays into bank format (August, 1, 2017)
  - 3 | Added two delay coefficients are needed for ADLMIDI's channel busy  
(19<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017)  
Change: Added 'blank instrument' flag into existing variable  
(26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018)  
Change: Added rhythm-mode drum type three-bit number  
(29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018)  
Change: Added two new volume scaling models: DMX and Apogee with  
fixed AM voices  
(31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2020)  
Change: Added three new volume scaling models: Audio Interfaces  
Library, Win9x Generic FM, and HMI Sound Operating System  
(6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020)  
Change: Added three new volume scaling models: Old variant of HMI  
with defected FM voices, MS AdLib driver for Windows 3.x, IMF Creator,  
and Jammie O'Connel's FM Synth driver for Windowx 3.x  
(14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025)  
Change: Formerly unused bit at the instrument bitwise flags,  
now became the "Fixed note" flag. Also clarified other bits.  
(24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025)
  - 3 | Documented operators layout as footnote (May, 12, 2019)  
| also corrected bitwise flags layout and other spelling mistakes
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# 1. Single-instrument entry

=====  
Each instrument file contains a set of data for single channel of YM262 chip to setup the timbre. Length of each instrument entry is 62 bytes (up to version 2 and in OPLI files). Any non-ASCII string data must be encoded with UTF-8 and fit to 32 bytes including the NULL terminator. Since version 3, in WOPL banks each instrument has 4 extra bytes for two extra fields.

Bytes-Length	Description
32	Name of instrument null-terminated string
2	Big-Endian 16-bit signed integer, MIDI key offset value (master instrument, or first voice in pseudo 4-operators mode)
2	Big-Endian 16-bit signed integer, MIDI key offset value (second voice in pseudo 4-operators mode)
1	8-bit signed integer, MIDI Velocity offset
1	8-bit signed integer, Second voice detune in pseudo-4-operators mode
1	8-bit unsigned integer, Percussion instrument key number
1	8-bit unsigned integer, Bitwise flags: [0EDDDCBA] A) 0x00 - 2-operator mode 0x01 - 4-operator mode B) 0x02 - pseudo-4-operator (two 2-operator voices) mode C) 0x04 - is 'blank' instrument (instrument which has no sound) D) 0x38 - Reserved for rhythm-mode percussion type number (three bits number) -> 0x08 - is Bass drum -> 0x10 - is Snare -> 0x18 - is Tom-tom -> 0x20 - is Cymbal -> 0x28 - is Hi-hat E) 0x40 - Fixed note 0) Reserved / Unused
1	8-bit unsigned integer, Feedback / Connection for 1'st and 2'nd operators or first voice
1	8-bit unsigned integer, Feedback / Connection for 3'st and 4'nd operators or second voice
--- Operators 1/2/3/4 (repeats 4 times) --- <sup>1</sup>	
1	AM/Vib/Env/Ksr/FMult characteristics
1	Key Scale Level / Total level register data
1	Attack / Decay
1	Sustain and Release register data
1	Wave form
--VERSION >= 3--WOPL-Bank-only, OPLI doesn't have those fields--	
2	Big-Endian 16-bit unsigned integer, Millisecond delay of sound while key is on
2	Big-Endian 16-bit unsigned integer, Millisecond delay of sound after key off

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1 /\* Operator indices inside of Instrument Entry \*/  
#define WOPL\_OP\_CARRIER1 0 // Operator 2 for 4-operators mode  
#define WOPL\_OP\_MODULATOR1 1 // Operator 1 for 4-operators mode  
#define WOPL\_OP\_CARRIER2 2 // Operator 4 for 4-operators mode  
#define WOPL\_OP\_MODULATOR2 3 // Operator 3 for 4-operators mode

## =====

## 2. Instrument file (OPLI)

## =====

Each instrument file contains a set of data for single channel of YM262 chip to setup the timbre on it.

Total data length: 76 bytes

Bytes-Length	Description
-----Header-----	
11	Magic number "WOPL3-INST\0". Where '\0' is a zero byte which terminates the string
2	Version. Little endian Unsigned 16-bit integer. Latest version is 2 (no difference between 2 and 1)
1	Is this instrument a percussion. 0 - melodic, or 1 - percussion
-----Data-----	
62	[Single-instrument entry], look at top of this text file

### 3. MIDI playing bank file (WOPL)

=====  
Bank format designed to store instrument bank for playing MIDI in multiple standards like GM, GS and XG. Format allows to save multiple sets with 128-instruments which is needed to store GS and XG instrument sets which have more than standard 128 instruments with a single bank. Any non-ASCII string data must be encoded with UTF-8 and fit to 32 bytes including the NULL terminator.

Total data length is sum of: 19 + (62\*128\*MBanks) + (62\*128\*PBanks) bytes

Bytes-Length	Description
-----Header-----	
--Header--	
11	Magic number "WOPL3-BANK\0". Where '\0' is a zero byte   which terminates the string
2	Version. Little endian Unsigned 16-bit integer.   Latest version is 2
2	[MBanks] Unsigned 16-bit BE integer, count of melodic   MIDI banks (every bank contains 128 instruments)
2	[PBanks] Unsigned 16-bit BE integer, count of percussion   MIDI banks (every bank contains 128 instruments)
1	8-bit unsigned integer, Global bank bitwise flags:   [000000BA]   A) Deep-Tremolo flag   B) Deep-Vibrato flag   0) Unused / Reserved
1	8-bit unsigned integer, ADLMIDI's volume scaling model   enumeration, default is 0:   0 - Generic, linearized   1 - Native OPL3's logarithmic volume model   2 - DMX volume model   3 - Apogee Sound System's volume model   4 - Windows 9x SB16 driver volume model   5 - DMX volume model with fixed AM voices   6 - Apogee Sound System volume model with fixed AM voc.   7 - Audio Interfaces Library volume model   8 - Windows 9x Generic FM driver volume model   9 - HMI Sound Operating System volume model   10 - HMI Sound Operating System (Ver. 3.0 and below)   11 - MS AdLib Driver for Windows 9x volume model   12 - IMF Creator volume model   13 - Jammie O'Connel's FM Synth volume model
--VERSION >= 2---Melodic bank meta-data----	
(repeat MBanks times)	
32	Name of melodic bank null-terminated string
1	LSB index of bank (unsigned char)
1	MSB index of bank (unsigned char)
--VERSION >= 2---Percussion bank meta-data--	
(repeat PBanks times)	
32	Name of melodic bank null-terminated string
1	LSB index of bank (unsigned char)
1	MSB index of bank (unsigned char)
InsSize:	
--62 bytes in up to version 2	
--66 bytes since version 3 and later	

-----Melodic Instruments-----  
InsSize \* 128 \* MBanks | 128 [Single-instrument entries] per each bank,  
| look at top of this text file  
-----Percussion Instruments-----  
InsSize \* 128 \* PBanks | 128 [Single-instrument entries] per each bank,  
| look at top of this text file

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