MIDI

Musical Instrument Digital Interface

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MIDI

Musical Instrument Digital Interface

- Communication Protocol, Digital Interface & Electrical Connectors
- 1 MIDI link through a MIDI cable can carry up to 16 channels of information – NOT Sound

MIDI encapsulates the instructions not the sound.

History of MIDI

Why was it created?

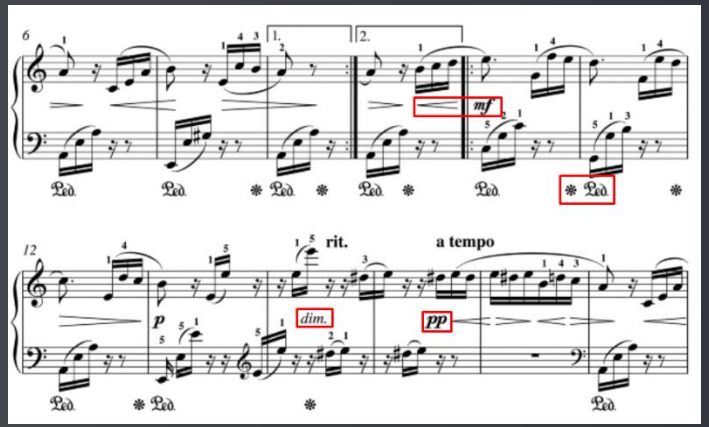
The need of a standard to synchronize electronic musical instruments manufactured by different companies.

Creators?

Ikutaro Kakehashi, Dave Smith & Tom Oberheim

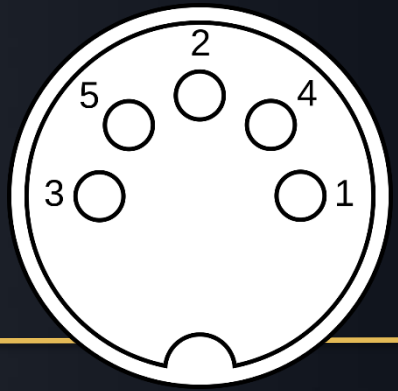
When?

First mention on a paper of 1981



Characteristics & Specification of MIDI

+ Small file size
+ Easy modification and manipulation
+ Wide choice of electronic instruments
+ MIDI over USB standard / Easy connection with PC



MIDI Cable

- 8-bit words transmitted serially at 31.25 Kbit/s
- 16 channels of transmission (0-15)
- Representation of 128 notes (C-1 to G9) → [8, 12500] Hz
- MIDI 2.0 → 256 Channels / 32, 64, 96 or 128 bits length messages