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› [Roland](#) /

› [Roland WM-1 Low-Latency Wireless MIDI Adaptor Instruction Manual](#)

Roland WM-1

Roland WM-1 Low-Latency Wireless MIDI Adaptor Instruction Manual

Model: WM-1

Brand: Roland

INTRODUCTION

The Roland WM-1 is a low-latency wireless MIDI adaptor designed to facilitate MIDI communication between musical instruments and devices without the need for physical cables. It supports connection to iOS devices and Mac computers, enabling wireless interaction with MIDI music applications. For Windows PC connectivity, a separate Roland WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle is required. The WM-1 offers both standard and ultra-low-latency 'Fast mode' for timing-critical applications, enhancing flexibility in music production and performance environments.

KEY FEATURES

- **Wireless MIDI Communication:** Connects to keyboards, drum machines, and other hardware with standard MIDI I/O to wirelessly communicate with MIDI music apps on iOS devices and Mac computers.
- **Low-Latency Performance:** Offers best-in-class low-latency in standard mode and ultra-low-latency (3 ms) in 'Fast mode' for applications where timing is extremely critical. 'Fast mode' requires a Roland WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle (sold separately) connected to a macOS/iOS/iPadOS device.
- **Easy Setup:** Designed for straightforward setup, providing responsive and reliable performance comparable to a wired MIDI connection.
- **Cable-Free Environment:** Eliminates the need for MIDI cables, reducing clutter and offering greater freedom in music creation and performance.
- **Comprehensive MIDI Data Support:** Transmits MIDI note data, MIDI sync for tempo, effects, LFOs, loops, and more.
- **Multi-Device Compatibility:** Facilitates MIDI communication between other WM-series units and macOS/iOS Bluetooth MIDI devices. Standard mode supports up to four total devices; 'Fast mode' supports two total devices.
- **Battery Powered:** Operates for approximately 60 hours on a single AAA battery.
- **Windows PC Connectivity:** Optional WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle (sold separately) is required for wireless MIDI with Windows computers and 'Fast mode' support for macOS & iOS.

SETUP GUIDE

1. Powering the WM-1

The WM-1 operates on a single AAA battery. Ensure a fresh battery is inserted for optimal performance. The device is designed for long battery life, providing approximately 60 hours of operation.

2. Connecting to a MIDI Device

The WM-1 connects directly to your instrument's 5-pin DIN MIDI IN/OUT ports. The WM-1 unit has two parts: one for MIDI OUT and one for MIDI IN. Connect the part labeled 'OUT' to your instrument's MIDI OUT port, and the part labeled 'IN' to your instrument's MIDI IN port.



Image: Roland WM-1 Wireless MIDI Adaptor. The top unit shows 'MODE RED : STANDARD ORANGE : FAST' indicating operational modes. The bottom unit shows 'MADE IN MALAYSIA' and FCC ID. The device consists of two parts connected by a short cable, one for MIDI OUT and one for MIDI IN.

3. Pairing with iOS/macOS Devices

Once the WM-1 is connected to your MIDI instrument and powered on, it will be discoverable as a Bluetooth MIDI device. Open your music application on your iOS device or Mac computer and navigate to its MIDI settings to initiate pairing. The device will appear as 'WM-1' or similar. Select it to connect.

4. Pairing with Windows PC (WM-1D required)

For Windows PC connectivity, a separate Roland WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle is required. Plug the WM-1D into a USB

port on your Windows PC. The WM-1D will then establish a wireless connection with your WM-1 adaptor. Refer to the WM-1D manual for specific driver installation and pairing instructions.

5. General Connection Examples (Non-Roland Official Videos)

The following videos provide general examples of connecting wireless MIDI interfaces to various devices and software. While not specific to the Roland WM-1, they illustrate common setup and usage scenarios for Bluetooth MIDI adaptors.

Video: Wireless Connection System MS1 Connection Tutorial by sincoaudio. This video demonstrates the unboxing and connection process of a generic wireless MIDI system, showing how to connect the MIDI A and MIDI B units to an electric piano and a computer for MIDI communication.

Video: FORE K1 Wireless MIDI Interface by FORE. This video illustrates how to connect a wireless MIDI interface to a Windows PC and an iOS device, demonstrating the pairing process and MIDI signal transmission.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Standard Mode vs. Fast Mode

The WM-1 offers two operational modes: Standard Mode and Fast Mode. The mode is indicated by the LED color on the device.

- **Standard Mode (Red LED):** Provides reliable low-latency MIDI communication suitable for most applications. It supports connection with up to four total devices (WM-series units and macOS/iOS Bluetooth MIDI devices).
- **Fast Mode (Orange LED):** Delivers ultra-low-latency communication (3 ms) for applications where timing is extremely critical. This mode requires a Roland WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle (sold separately) connected to a macOS/iOS/iPadOS device and supports up to two total devices.

To switch between modes, locate the 'MODE' button on the WM-1 unit and press it. The LED color will change to indicate the active mode.

2. MIDI Data Transmission

The WM-1 transmits various types of MIDI data, including note data, control changes (CC), program changes (PC), and MIDI sync messages. This allows for comprehensive control over your musical instruments and software, including tempo synchronization, effects modulation, LFO control, and loop management.

3. Understanding Bluetooth MIDI Roles (General Information)

Bluetooth MIDI devices operate in either a 'Central' or 'Peripheral' role. A Central device scans for, finds, and connects to Peripheral devices. Peripheral devices wait to be connected by a Central device. Most devices have fixed roles, but some operating systems (like iOS/macOS) can act as either. The WM-1 typically functions as a Peripheral when connecting to a Central device like an iOS/macOS device or a WM-1D dongle.

Video: CME WIDI Bluetooth MIDI explained in 1 minute! This video provides a concise explanation of Bluetooth MIDI roles (Central and Peripheral) and how devices interact in a wireless MIDI setup. (Note: This is a general explanation, not specific to Roland products).

Video: CME Explains: Bluetooth MIDI and WIDI Basics (5 min.). This video offers a more in-depth look at Bluetooth MIDI fundamentals, including connection rules, roles, and basic troubleshooting for various devices. (Note: This is a general explanation, not specific to Roland products).

MAINTENANCE

Battery Replacement

The WM-1 uses one AAA alkaline battery. When the battery is low, the device's performance may be affected. Replace the

battery promptly to ensure continuous and reliable operation. To replace the battery, open the battery compartment, remove the old battery, and insert a new AAA battery, observing the correct polarity.

Cleaning

Wipe the device with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents, as these may damage the finish or internal components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Device not powering on:** Ensure the AAA battery is correctly inserted and fully charged. Replace the battery if necessary.
- **Unable to pair with iOS/macOS device:**
 - a. Confirm Bluetooth is enabled on your iOS/macOS device.
 - b. Check the WM-1's LED indicator to ensure it is in a discoverable state (e.g., blinking slowly).
 - c. Ensure no other devices are currently paired with the WM-1. Bluetooth MIDI peripherals typically connect to only one central device at a time.
 - d. Try restarting both the WM-1 and your iOS/macOS device.
 - e. In your iOS/macOS Bluetooth settings, 'forget' or 'remove' any previous pairings with the WM-1 or similar MIDI devices, then attempt to pair again.
- **High latency in Standard Mode:** If low latency is critical, ensure you are using 'Fast Mode' (requires WM-1D for macOS/iOS/iPadOS).
- **No MIDI signal:**
 - a. Verify that the WM-1's 'OUT' connector is plugged into your instrument's MIDI OUT, and 'IN' into MIDI IN.
 - b. Check the MIDI settings within your music application to ensure the WM-1 is selected as the input/output device.
 - c. Ensure your instrument is sending/receiving MIDI data correctly.
- **Windows PC connection issues:** Ensure you are using the Roland WM-1D Wireless MIDI Dongle. Update your PC's Bluetooth drivers and operating system to the latest versions.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** WM-1
- **Item Weight:** 2 ounces
- **Product Dimensions:** 7.2 x 4.37 x 1.33 inches
- **Batteries:** 1 AAA batteries required (included)
- **Battery Type:** Alkaline
- **Compatible Devices:** WM-series units and macOS/iOS Bluetooth MIDI devices
- **Connector Type:** 5-pin DIN
- **Color:** BLACK
- **Specific Uses For Product:** Music Production, Performance

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- 1 Wireless MIDI Adapter (Roland WM-1)
- 1 AAA Battery

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official Roland website or contact your local Roland dealer. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty validation.