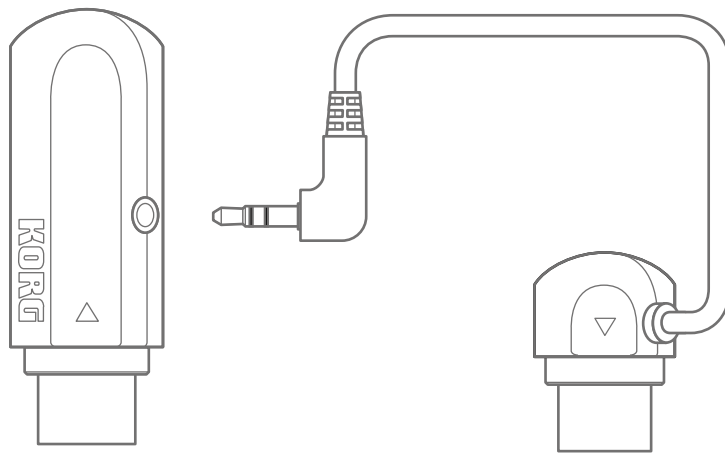


# BM-1

BLUETOOTH® MIDI INTERFACE

## Owner's Manual



\*Before using the BM-1, please read the Precautions (PDF) carefully to ensure proper use.

### Supplementary contents

**PDF** [Precautions, Dear Customer for Users Purchasing the BM-1, BM-1 Owner's Manual, Bluetooth MIDI Connection Guide, KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual](#)

**MOVIE** [BM-1 video manual](#)

**APP** [KORG BM-1 App for iOS, Bluetooth MIDI Connect for iOS, Bluetooth MIDI Connect for Mac](#)

**DRV** [KORG BLE-MIDI Driver for Windows](#)

**HELP** [Frequently asked questions](#)

**Prod.** [Product website](#)

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# Introduction

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Thank you for purchasing the Korg BM-1 Bluetooth MIDI interface.

To help you get the most out of your purchase, please read this manual carefully.

The BM-1 can be used to wirelessly transmit and receive MIDI messages to and from a connected synthesizer, digital piano or MIDI controller with a MIDI connector (5-pin DIN). This device lets you transmit and receive these MIDI messages to and from a Windows PC, Mac, iPhone/iPad, Bluetooth MIDI controller or other devices or computers that have Bluetooth MIDI functionality. You can also create a group connection by using more than one BM-1.

The BM-1 consists of two components. The first component is the main adapter, which supplies power from the MIDI OUT connector of your MIDI device to wirelessly transmit MIDI messages. The second component is the sub adapter, which you connect to the MIDI IN connector of your MIDI device for receiving MIDI messages.

The KORG BM-1 App gives you access to the BM-1 group settings, lets you update the device's firmware and configure other various settings. See the KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual for details.

*Note:* The KORG BM-1 App is only for use with iOS/iPadOS.

→ [Conventions in this manual](#)

## Conventions in this manual

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- The shape and indications shown in the illustrations of this manual may differ somewhat from the actual product.

- Symbols used in this manual:



Indicates an explanation you should heed to ensure that you can correctly utilize the capabilities or functionality of this unit.

*Note*

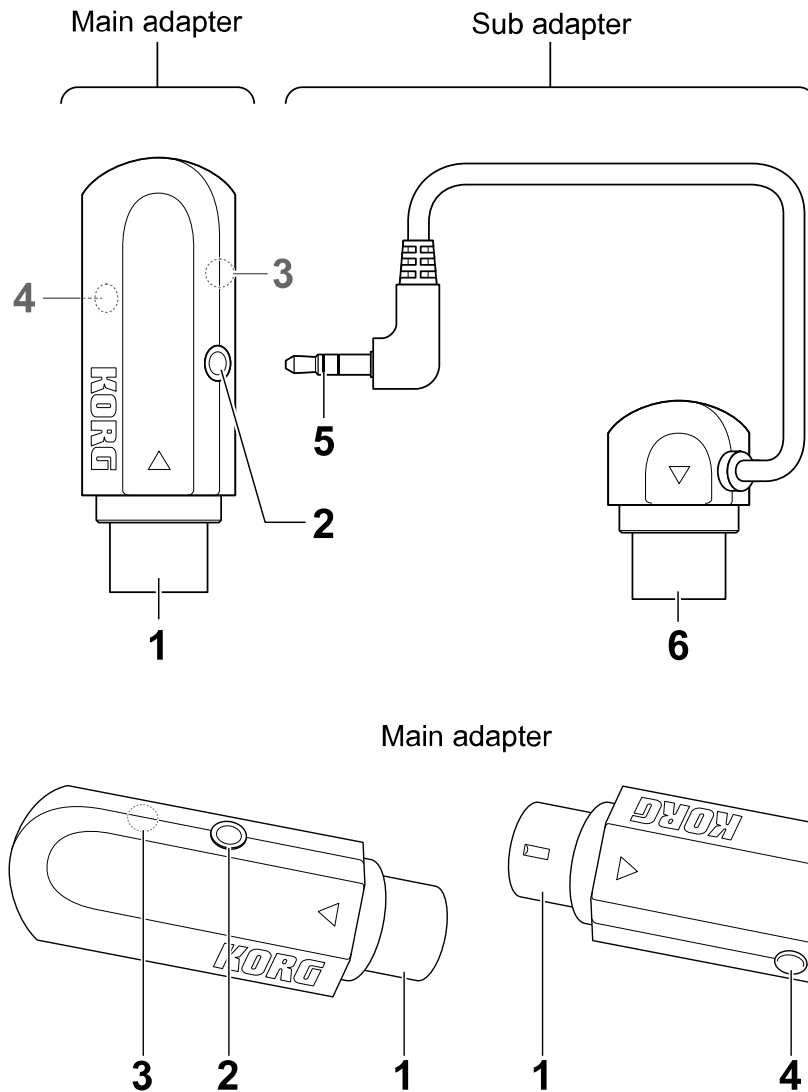
Indicates an explanation that requires your attention.

*Tip*

Indicates supplementary information that is useful to know.

- The term “MIDI device” in this manual refers to any synthesizer, digital piano or MIDI controller with a MIDI connector (5-pin DIN).  
“Bluetooth MIDI device” refers to any device (such as a Bluetooth MIDI controller) that features Bluetooth MIDI functionality. This may include devices such as a Windows PC, Mac or iPhone/iPad that use Bluetooth MIDI, or a MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected.

# Features



## | Main adapter

*Note:* When you connect the main adapter of the BM-1 to your MIDI device and turn on the MIDI device, the BM-1 automatically turns on as well.

### 1 MIDI OUT connector (5-pin DIN)

Connect this to the MIDI OUT connector on your MIDI device.

### 2 3.5 mm TRS mini phone jack

Use this jack for connecting the main adapter to the sub adapter.

This supplies power from the main adapter to the sub adapter, and is used for transmitting MIDI data between these two devices.

### 3 LED

Lights up or blinks, depending on the status of the BM-1.

- **Blinking slowly (blue):** waiting for connection from a device
- **Blinking rapidly (blue):** connected normally with device (while MIDI messages are being transmitted/received)
- **Lit (blue):** connected normally with device (while MIDI messages are not being transmitted/received)  
Note: Only for devices that do not automatically output MIDI messages such as active sensing or clock
- **Blinking rapidly (blue-green):** connected normally with device playing a “central” BLE role (while MIDI messages are being transmitted/received)
- **Lit (blue-green):** connected normally with device (while MIDI messages are not being transmitted/received)  
Note: Only for devices that do not automatically output MIDI messages such as active sensing or clock
- **Lit (green):** Operating in firmware update mode
- **Blinking (green/red):** Receiving data in firmware update mode

### 4 Mode button

Use this button when restoring the unit to its factory settings, or when switching the BLE role to a peripheral role. This also has a supplementary use when the firmware is being updated via the KORG BM-1 App.

*Tip:* We recommend that you usually use the KORG BM-1 App for the mode button operations.

See the following when using the mode button to configure the settings.

- [Restoring the factory settings](#)
- [Updating the firmware](#)
- [Switching between the BLE roles](#)

## | Sub adapter

### 5 3.5 mm TRS mini phone plug

Connect this to the main adapter.

### 6 MIDI IN connector (5-pin DIN)

Connect this to the MIDI IN connector on your MIDI device.

*Note:* Use the sub adapter while it is connected to the main adapter. The sub adapter cannot be used by itself.

# Connections

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- [Connecting the BM-1 to MIDI devices](#)
- [Connecting a MIDI device to your computer](#)
- [Connecting a MIDI device to your iPhone/iPad](#)
- [Connecting a MIDI device to a Bluetooth MIDI device](#)
- [Connecting two MIDI devices](#)
- [Grouping together more than one MIDI device](#)

## Connecting the BM-1 to MIDI devices

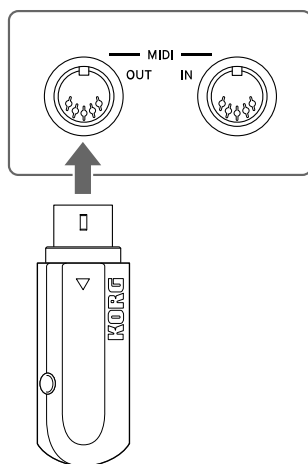
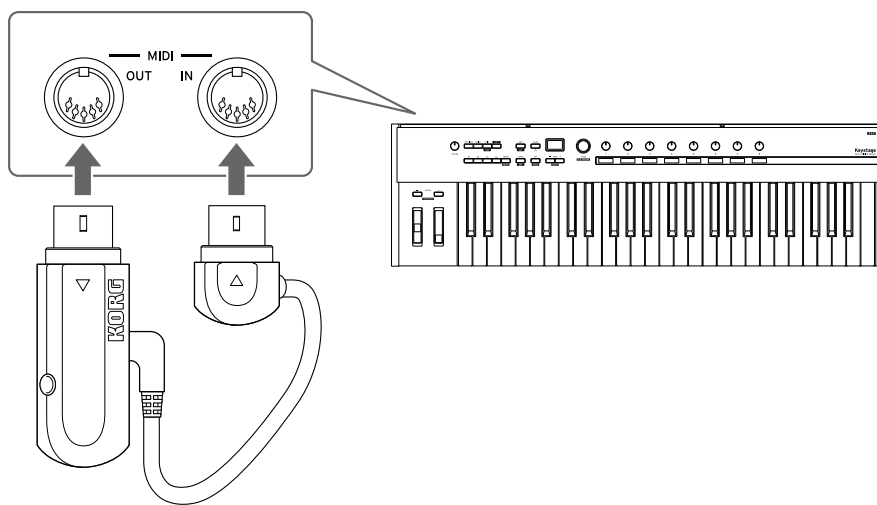
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Connect the BM-1 to the MIDI connector (5-pin DIN) of your MIDI device (such as a synthesizer, digital piano or a MIDI controller), and get the devices ready to transmit and receive MIDI wirelessly.

- 1 Connect the 3.5 mm TRS mini phone plug of the BM-1 sub adapter to the 3.5 mm TRS mini phone jack of the main adapter.
- 2 Connect the BM-1 main adapter to the MIDI OUT connector of your MIDI device, and connect the sub adapter to the MIDI IN connector on your MIDI device.

*Tip:* If the MIDI device only has a MIDI OUT connector or if you only want to use the BM-1 to transmit MIDI data, you can remove the sub adapter and use only the main adapter.

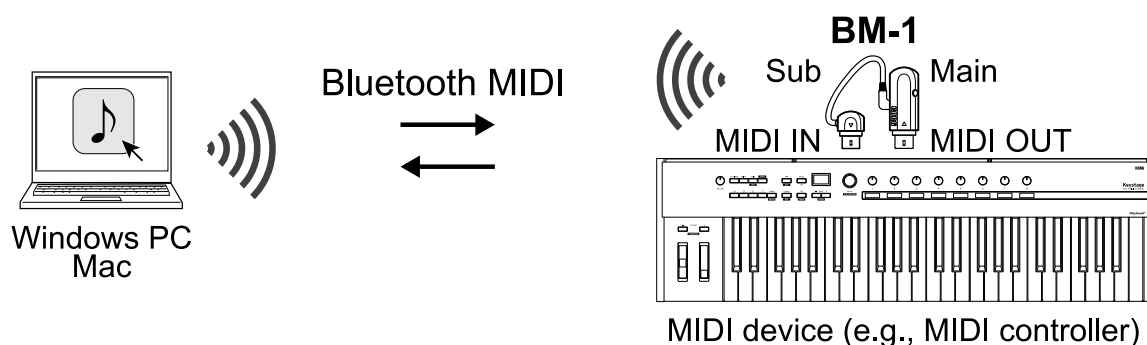
*Note:* You can't connect and use the sub adapter by itself.



# Connecting a MIDI device to your computer

MIDI data can be transmitted and received between your computer and a MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected.

*Note:* You will need a computer with Bluetooth functionality to do this.



For details on connecting to or disconnecting from a Windows PC or Mac, refer to [Bluetooth MIDI Connection Guide](#).

*Note:* If the BM-1 does not enter connection standby mode (with the LED slowly blinking blue) right after the MIDI device is turned on, make sure that the BM-1 is not connected to any other devices (such as a computer, an iPhone/iPad or a Bluetooth MIDI device) in the vicinity, and disconnect from those devices if it is.

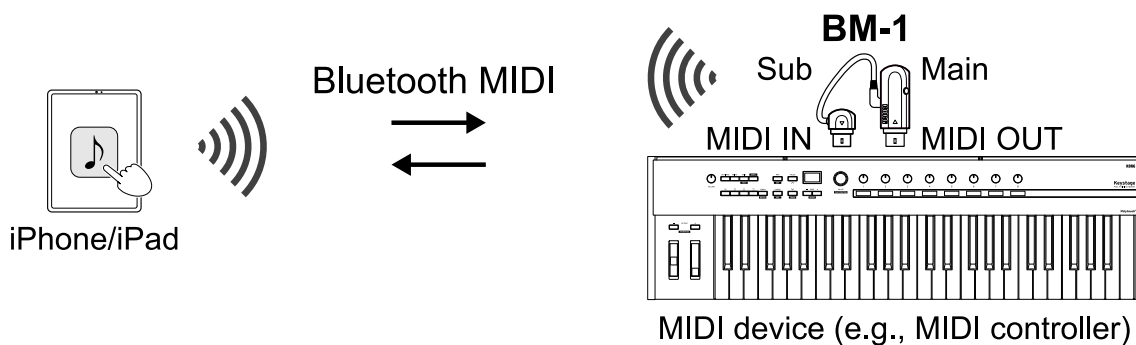
- ⚠ Check whether your computer meets the operating requirements of the BM-1 before use.  
See [the Korg website](#) for the latest information on OS support.

## Configuring your DAW or software sound generator application

To use the BM-1 with your computer, you must configure the BM-1 in the MIDI input/output settings in the application you are using. Refer to the application's owner's manual for details.

## Connecting a MIDI device to your iPhone/iPad

MIDI data can be transmitted and received between your iPhone/iPad and a MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected.



For details on connecting to or disconnecting from an iPhone/iPad, refer to [the Bluetooth MIDI Connection Guide](#).

*Note:* If the BM-1 does not enter connection standby mode (with the LED slowly blinking blue) right after the MIDI device is turned on, make sure that the BM-1 is not connected to any other devices (such as a computer, an iPhone/iPad or a Bluetooth MIDI device) in the vicinity, and disconnect from those devices if it is.



Check whether your iPhone/iPad meets the operating requirements of this device before use.

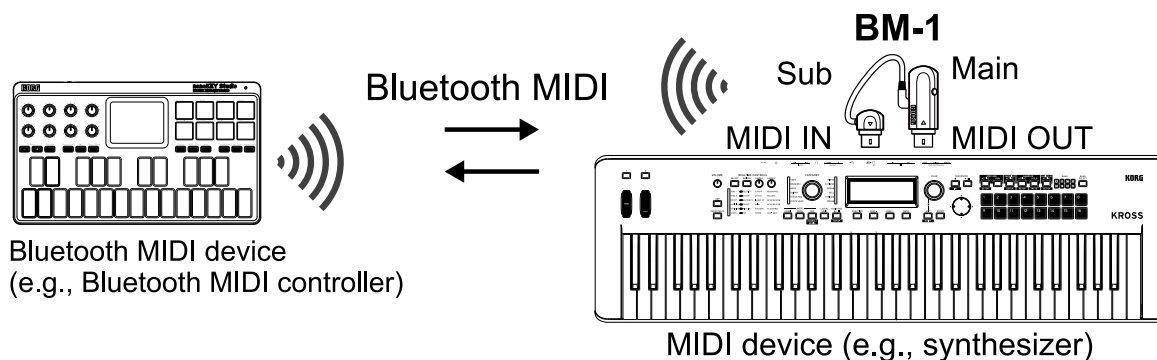
See [the Korg website](#) for the latest information on OS support.

### Configuring your DAW or software sound generator application

To use the BM-1 with your iPhone/iPad, configure the settings in the application you're using or in KORG Bluetooth MIDI Connect. See [the Bluetooth MIDI Connection Guide](#).

## Connecting a MIDI device to a Bluetooth MIDI device

MIDI data can be transmitted and received between your Bluetooth MIDI device and a MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected.



- 1 Turn on the MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected, and turn your Bluetooth MIDI device on. The BM-1's LED slowly blinks blue, and the device enters connection standby mode. The devices are paired automatically, and the LED lights up blue. When MIDI data is transmitted, the LED blinks rapidly.

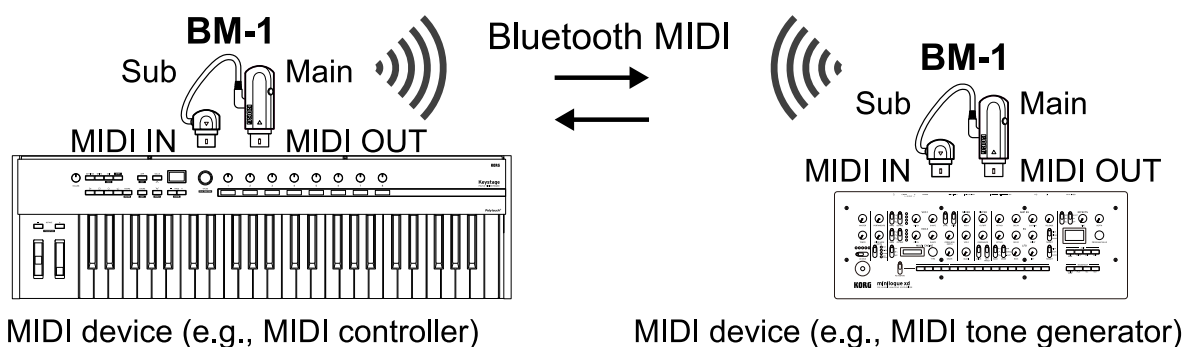
*Note:* If the BM-1 does not enter connection standby mode (with the LED slowly blinking blue) right after the MIDI device is turned on, make sure that the BM-1 is not connected to any other devices (such as a computer, an iPhone/iPad or a Bluetooth MIDI device) in the vicinity, and disconnect from those devices if it is.

*Note:* Some Bluetooth MIDI devices such as MIDI controllers may only work if their BLE role is set to "peripheral". In this case, use the KORG BM-1 App to set the BLE role to "Auto (to all BLE MIDI devices)", referring to the KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual.

## Connecting two MIDI devices

MIDI data can be transmitted and received between two MIDI devices to which the BM-1 is connected.

*Note:* You will need two BM-1 devices for this.



- 1 Turn on the two MIDI devices to which the BM-1 devices are connected.

The BM-1's LED slowly blinks blue, and the device enters connection standby mode.

The devices are paired automatically, and the LED lights up blue. When MIDI data is transmitted, the LED blinks rapidly.

*Note:* If the BM-1 does not enter connection standby mode (with the LED slowly blinking blue) right after the MIDI device is turned on, make sure that the BM-1 is not connected to any other devices (such as a computer, an iPhone/iPad or a Bluetooth MIDI device) in the vicinity, and disconnect from those devices if it is.

*Note:* If the BLE role of either BM-1 is set to "peripheral", the connection can't be made. Set the BLE role to "Auto (to all BLE MIDI devices)", referring to the KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual.

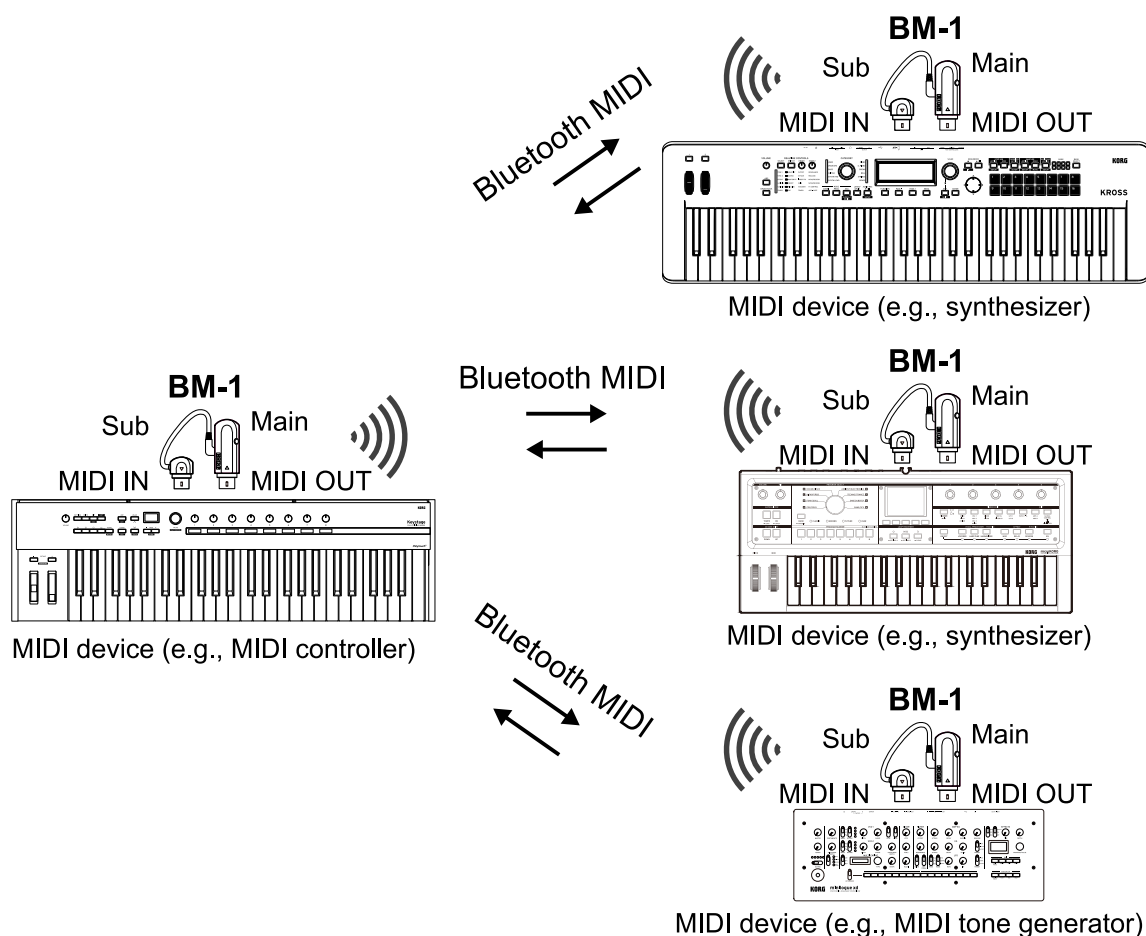
## Grouping together more than one MIDI device

You can group together up to five BM-1 devices and transmit/receive MIDI data between them.

Use the KORG BM-1 App to configure or remove the group function settings. To install the KORG BM-1 App, visit the App Store and search for “KORG BM-1”.

Refer to the KORG BM-1 App Owner’s Manual for how to connect the group.

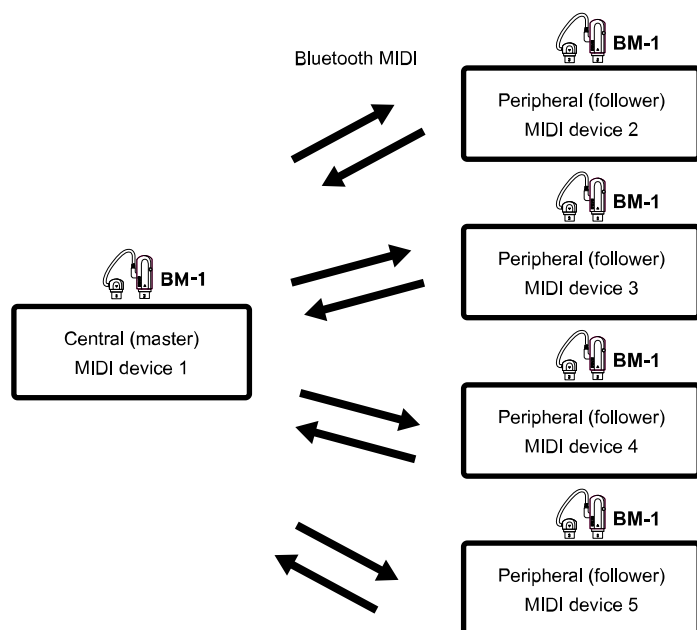
*Note:* You will need a separate BM-1 for each MIDI device that you wish to connect.



The BLE role for the first BM-1 should be set to “central”, and the BLE roles for the other devices should be set to “peripheral” when connecting.

As shown in the following illustration, when you play the MIDI device to which the “central” BM-1 is connected, MIDI messages are sent to MIDI devices 2, 3, 4 and 5, to which the “peripheral” BM-1 devices are connected, and these messages are received by the peripheral devices. When you play MIDI device 2, MIDI messages are transmitted to and received by MIDI device 1. In this case, the other MIDI devices 3, 4 and 5 do not receive any data. MIDI devices 3, 4 and 5 work the same as MIDI device 2.

*Note:* You can’t include a Windows PC, Mac or an iPhone/iPad in this group function.



# Appendices

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- [Restoring the factory settings](#)
- [Updating the firmware](#)
- [Switching between the BLE roles](#)
- [Troubleshooting](#)

## Restoring the factory settings

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Here's how to restore the BM-1 to its factory settings.

You can either use the KORG BM-1 App or just use the BM-1 to restore the factory settings.

To restore the settings with the KORG BM-1 App, refer to the KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual.

Here's how to restore the factory settings with just the BM-1.

- 1** Turn off the MIDI device.
- 2** Connect the BM-1 main adapter to the MIDI OUT connector of your MIDI device.
- 3** Turn on the MIDI device while holding down the BM-1 mode button. Once the **LED blinks three times (for about three seconds)**, release your finger from the mode button.

 Make sure to release your finger from the mode button once the LED blinks three times. If you keep pressing the button for seven or more seconds, the device enters firmware update mode. Once this happens, you won't be able to use the device normally from the time that the firmware is updated until the update is completed with the KORG BM-1 App. What's more, you won't be able to exit firmware update mode, even when you try to reset the device to factory settings.

The LED lights up (or blinks) blue, and the BM-1 is restored to the factory settings.

## Updating the firmware


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Use the KORG BM-1 App to update the firmware of the BM-1. See the KORG BM-1 App Owner's Manual for details.

*Tip:* Normally, you can update the firmware just by using the KORG BM-1 App, without needing to press the mode button on the BM-1. Note that you must change the mode using the mode button if you didn't enter firmware update mode with the KORG BM-1 App.

- 1** Turn off the MIDI device.
- 2** Connect the BM-1 main adapter to the MIDI OUT connector of your MIDI device.
- 3** Turn on the MIDI device while holding down the BM-1 mode button. Once the LED lights up green (for about seven seconds), release your finger from the mode button.
- 4** Use the KORG BM-1 App to perform the update.

The LED lights up (or blinks) blue, and the BM-1 firmware update is completed.

 Once this happens, you won't be able to use the device normally until the update is completed with the KORG BM-1 App. What's more, you won't be able to exit firmware update mode, even when you try to reset the device to factory settings.

## Switching between the BLE roles

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Under the BLE-MIDI (MIDI over Bluetooth Low Energy) standard, there are two roles that a device can play: “central” (the master device) and “peripheral” (the follower device).


- Central role: scans the peripheral devices to establish a connection
- Peripheral role: transmits its own status as waiting for connection (connection request), and waits for the device that is assigned the central role to begin the connection

For the BLE roles of the BM-1, you can use the KORG BM-1 App to set either “Auto”, which automatically searches for central and peripheral roles and switches between them; or “Force peripheral”, which defines its role as a peripheral. See the KORG BM-1 App Owner’s Manual for details.

Follow the steps below if you want to switch to “Force peripheral” on the BM-1.

*Note:* You can’t switch to “Auto” just by using the BM-1.

- 1 With the BM-1 turned on, hold down the mode button until the green light of the LED goes dark (about three seconds), and then release your finger.  
This switches to the “Force peripheral” role.

 The connections shown below are unavailable if the BM-1 is set to “Force peripheral”. Use the KORG BM-1 App to switch to “Auto”.

- Connections with Bluetooth MIDI devices (such as the KORG nanoKEY Studio)
- When connecting two BM-1 devices and both devices are set to “Force peripheral”

### Examples of BLE role settings

Windows PC, Mac, iPhone/iPad: central	↔	BM-1: peripheral
BM-1: central	↔	Bluetooth MIDI device: peripheral
BM-1: central	↔	BM-1: peripheral

# Troubleshooting

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## **The main adapter LED does not light**

- Make sure that the BM-1 main adapter is connected to the MIDI OUT connector (5-pin DIN) of your MIDI device.
- Ensure that the MIDI device to which the BM-1 is connected is turned on.
- The MIDI OUT connector (5-pin DIN) on your MIDI device may not be designed to supply power. Check the information from the manufacturer of your MIDI device.

## **The main adapter LED is lit green**

- This means that the BM-1 is in firmware update mode. Use the KORG BM-1 App to complete the update.

## **The sub adapter doesn't work as-is (by itself) when plugged into a MIDI IN connector (5-pin DIN)**

- The BM-1 sub adapter can't be used by itself. Connect it to the main adapter before use.

## **Can't connect to a Bluetooth MIDI device (such as a Bluetooth MIDI controller)**

- The BM-1 might already be connected to a different device.  
Check whether the BM-1 is already connected to another device (such as an iPhone/iPad) in the vicinity.  
On that other device, disconnect or turn off Bluetooth, and then try connecting the two BM-1 devices to your device again.
- When connecting to a Bluetooth MIDI device (such as the microKEY Air, which operates in peripheral mode), use the KORG BM-1 App to set the BLE role to "Auto".
- The BM-1 automatically detects the connection for Bluetooth MIDI devices that meet the standard BLE-MIDI specifications. If the devices don't connect, there may be a compatibility issue between the BM-1 and the other device.

## **Can't connect two BM-1 devices to each other**

- One of the BM-1 devices might already be connected to a different device.  
Check whether the BM-1 is already connected to another device (such as an iPhone/iPad) in the vicinity.  
On that other device, disconnect or turn off Bluetooth, and then try connecting the two BM-1 devices to your device again.
- Set the BLE role on one of the BM-1 devices to "Auto" when connecting. You can't connect both BM-1 devices when their BLE roles are set to "Force peripheral".

## **Can't connect the BM-1 to a computer, iPhone or iPad**

- If other Bluetooth MIDI devices (such as a Bluetooth MIDI controller) in the vicinity of the BM-1 are turned on at the same time, they will pair automatically. Turn the Bluetooth MIDI devices off.

## **The connection between the BM-1 and the iPhone/iPad or the Mac is unstable or exhibits latency**

- If you've updated the BM-1 firmware or your device's OS, the cache from the old (previous) Bluetooth connection may cause this problem. Delete any existing pairing settings from the Bluetooth settings on your iOS/iPadOS device or on macOS, and temporarily disable Bluetooth. After that, re-enable Bluetooth and try pairing with the BM-1 again.

**The usable wireless communication range is too short, there is too much latency or the signal gets cut off**

- The BM-1 complies with Bluetooth standards for wireless communication. If your environment contains many obstacles such as trees or objects made of reinforced concrete, or other devices that emit electromagnetic waves, this may have an effect on the range of the BM-1's wireless communication or response time.

# Specifications

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## **Bluetooth**

Bluetooth 5, MIDI over Bluetooth Low Energy-Compliant

## **Connectors**

MIDI IN, OUT connectors (5-pin DIN)

## **Compatible devices**

MIDI devices or Bluetooth MIDI controllers with a 5-pin DIN OUT

Mac, iPhone/iPad models that support Bluetooth 4.0 or later

## **Supported operating systems**

Windows, macOS, iOS/iPadOS

For details on OS compatibility for the BM-1, visit [the Korg website](#).

\*Group connections and firmware updates configured via the KORG BM-1 App are available only for iOS/iPadOS.

## **Latency**

Approx. 3 ms (measured with BLE5 when using two BM-1 devices)

## **Communication range**

20 m (when no obstacles are present)

## **Firmware updates**

Available via the KORG BM-1 App on iOS/iPadOS

## **Power supply**

Compatible with 5 V/3.3 V (via MIDI OUT)

## **Power consumption**

37 mW

## **Dimensions (W x D x H)**

Main adapter: 57 x 21 x 21 mm/2.24" x 0.83" x 0.83"

Sub adapter: 27 x 21 x 21 mm/1.06" x 0.83" x 0.83"

## **Weight**

Main adapter: 12 g/0.42 oz

Sub adapter: 11 g/0.39 oz

## **Included items**

Precautions

Dear Customer

## **Software/driver**

KORG BM-1 App (iOS/iPadOS)

KORG Bluetooth MIDI Connect (Mac, iOS/iPadOS)

KORG BLE-MIDI Driver (Windows PC)

\*Specifications and appearance are subject to change without notice for improvement.

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