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Apple MIDI: How To Make It SMPTE Compatible

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Apple MIDI: How To Make It SMPTE Compatible

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The Apple MIDI Interface does not transmit or receive the SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) Time Code data stream. SMPTE Time Code is transmitted over separate cabling, most often by way of 1/4-inch (sometimes RCA) plugs.

This type of connection is not supported on the Apple MIDI Interface. Also, the Apple MIDI Interface would need a microprocessor to accommodate SMPTE Time Code. The Apple MIDI Interface does not contain a microprocessor.

Certain pieces of hardware can accept SMPTE Time Code and, in turn, generate MIDI Time Code (MTC). MTC is imbedded into the standard MIDI data stream, and thus, can be transmitted via MIDI cables. Should MTC be in the data stream when arriving at the Apple MIDI Interface, MTC will be passed with no changes. Programs that understand MTC may then perform their operations according to MTC timing data.

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