RokoTMIDI

USER MANUAL

Chromatic Button Accordion MIDI Controller

Version 1.0

WELCOME

RokoTMIDI is a chromatic button accordion MIDI controller built for practice, performance, composition, silent study, and modern hybrid setups. It brings the logic and feel of the chromatic button accordion into a refined MIDI instrument that can move easily between software, wireless workflows, and external hardware.

RokoTMIDI is a MIDI controller and does not generate sound on its own. For audio, connect it to a software instrument, sound module, synthesizer, or other MIDI-capable destination.

With USB MIDI, Bluetooth LE MIDI, and 3.5 mm hardware MIDI output in a compact standalone design, RokoTMIDI is equally at home in a studio, a teaching environment, or a portable performance rig.

INSTRUMENT OVERVIEW

Figure 1. RokoTMIDI front view.

Main Features

93-button chromatic button accordion layout

6 rows and 4 octaves of playing range

Available in B-system and C-system versions

LED matrix for note guidance and visual feedback

USB-C for charging, USB MIDI, and firmware updates

BLE-MIDI 1.0 wireless connection

3.5 mm TRS MIDI Type A output for external MIDI hardware

14.8 Wh lithium-ion battery with multi-LED battery indication

Feel and Response

Accordion buttons on MX-compatible switches

Approximately 60 g actuation force

4 mm button travel

Fixed-velocity MIDI response for consistent feel during practice and performance

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CONTROLS AND CONNECTORS

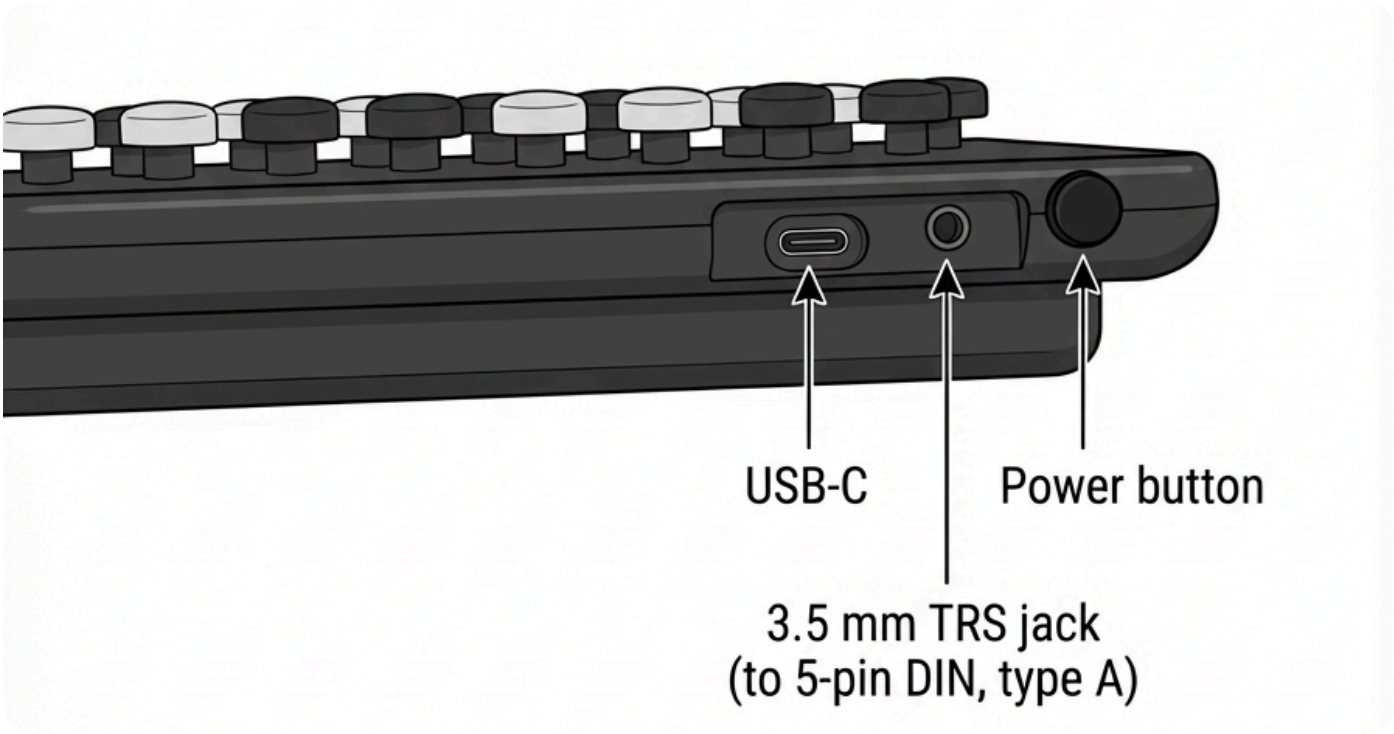

Figure 2. USB-C port, 3.5 mm TRS MIDI output, and power button.

Playing Surface

The instrument uses a 93-button, 6-row chromatic button layout with alternating 16-button and 15-button rows, starting with 16 buttons on Row 1. Depending on the version you own, the note system is configured as either B-system or C-system.

The LED matrix provides immediate note feedback while you play and can also respond to incoming MIDI in supported use cases.

External Connections

Item	Function
USB-C port	Charging, USB MIDI, and firmware updates
3.5 mm MIDI output	TRS MIDI Type A connection for external MIDI hardware
Power button	Turns the instrument on and off
Battery LEDs	Show approximate remaining battery level

Important

RokoTMIDI charges through the USB-C port and can be connected either to a phone USB power adapter or to a computer USB port.

USB MIDI requires a full USB data cable. A charge-only cable can power and charge the instrument, but it will not transmit MIDI.

The 3.5 mm MIDI output uses a TRS MIDI Type A cable.

After power-on, allow approximately 2 seconds for the startup routine to complete before playing.

QUICK START

Turn the instrument on.

Allow a brief moment for startup to complete.

Choose your connection method: USB MIDI, Bluetooth LE MIDI, or 3.5 mm MIDI output.

Open your DAW, software instrument, notation program, or learning app.

Select `RokoTMidi` or `RokoTMidi BLE` as the MIDI input where applicable.

Begin playing.

CHARGING AND POWER

RokoTMIDI is powered by a built-in 14.8 Wh lithium-ion battery and charges through its USB-C port.

You may charge the instrument using:

a phone USB power adapter

a computer USB port

The battery LEDs provide an approximate indication of remaining charge. More illuminated LEDs indicate a higher charge level. Fewer illuminated LEDs indicate that the battery should be recharged soon.

For reliable day-to-day use:

use a dependable USB cable and power source

switch the instrument off when not in use

allow the startup routine to finish before playing

CONNECTION METHODS

USB MIDI

Use the USB-C port to connect RokoTMIDI directly to a computer or other compatible MIDI host.

On most modern systems, RokoTMIDI appears as a class-compliant USB MIDI device and does not require a dedicated driver.

To use USB MIDI:

Connect the instrument with a USB-C data cable.

Open your DAW, synth, notation software, or learning app.

Select `RokoTMidi` as the MIDI input source.

Play as normal.

Important: USB MIDI will only work with a data-capable USB cable. Some inexpensive cables are designed for charging only. In that case the instrument may power on or charge correctly, but no USB MIDI connection will be established.

Typical USB MIDI uses:

software instruments

digital audio workstations

notation software

educational software

firmware updates

Bluetooth LE MIDI

RokoTMIDI supports the standard BLE-MIDI 1.0 protocol over Bluetooth Low Energy.

When Bluetooth is active, the instrument advertises itself as:

```
RokoTMidi BLE
```

This is a MIDI connection for performance and control data. It does not transmit audio.

To connect over BLE-MIDI:

Turn the instrument on.

Allow startup to complete.

Open a Bluetooth MIDI-capable app or system utility.

Search for available Bluetooth MIDI devices.

Select `RokoTMidi BLE`.

Confirm the connection inside the host app if required.

Notes:

On compatible hosts, battery percentage may also be shown over Bluetooth.

Bluetooth MIDI connection steps vary slightly by operating system and app.

RokoTMIDI sends standard MIDI note data over BLE, and compatible learning software can also make use of the row-identification data described later in this manual.

RokoTMIDI Player App

RokoTMIDI companion apps are also available under the name `RokoTMIDI Player`.

The iPhone version can be downloaded from the App Store.

The Android version can be downloaded from rokotmidi.com.

Depending on your device and workflow, the app can be used with USB MIDI or BLE-MIDI.

3.5 mm MIDI Output

The 3.5 mm MIDI output is intended for connection to external MIDI hardware such as sound modules, synthesizers, drum machines, and MIDI interfaces.

RokoTMIDI uses the TRS MIDI Type A wiring standard on its 3.5 mm output.

Figure 3. 3.5 mm TRS MIDI Type A to 5-pin DIN cable.

To use the hardware MIDI output:

Connect a TRS MIDI Type A cable or compatible Type A adapter to the 3.5 mm MIDI output.

Connect the other end to the receiving MIDI device.

Power on the receiving device.

Turn on RokoTMIDI and begin playing.

The 3.5 mm output is the preferred choice when you want a direct connection to hardware instruments without using a computer.

SYSTEMS AND ROW IDENTIFICATION

B-System and C-System Versions

RokoTMIDI is available in two note-system versions:

B-system

C-system

Each instrument is configured for one of these systems at the firmware level. This allows players to choose the layout that matches their technique, repertoire, and training background.

Why Row Identification Matters

On a chromatic button accordion, the same note may appear in more than one physical position. For standard MIDI playback this is not a problem, because ordinary MIDI software only needs to know which note was played.

For learning applications, fingering trainers, and row-aware visualizers, the exact physical row matters. RokoTMIDI therefore supports row-identification messaging in addition to standard note data.

Row Structure

Row Value	Physical Row	Description
1	Row 1	Main row, outer, 16 buttons
2	Row 2	Main row, middle, 15 buttons
3	Row 3	Main row, inner, 16 buttons
4	Row 4	Helper row, outer, 15 buttons
5	Row 5	Helper row, middle, 16 buttons
6	Row 6	Helper row, inner, 15 buttons

MIDI Row-Identification Behavior

For compatible software, RokoTMIDI sends Control Change `102` immediately before each `Note On` and `Note Off` message.

The value of Control Change `102` identifies the active row from `1` to `6`.

In practical terms, the message order is:

```
CC 102 -> Note On
```

or

```
CC 102 -> Note Off
```

This keeps the instrument fully compatible with standard MIDI destinations:

DAWs and software instruments simply ignore the extra controller message and work normally

hardware MIDI devices behave as expected

compatible educational software can identify the exact physical row that was played

All standard note messages are sent on MIDI Channel 1 by default.

LED INDICATORS

Note LEDs

The LED matrix lights active note positions while you play. In supported workflows, it can also reflect incoming MIDI activity.

This is useful for:

visual note tracking

technique practice

learning applications

confirming MIDI activity at a glance

Battery LEDs

The battery LEDs provide a quick visual estimate of remaining charge.

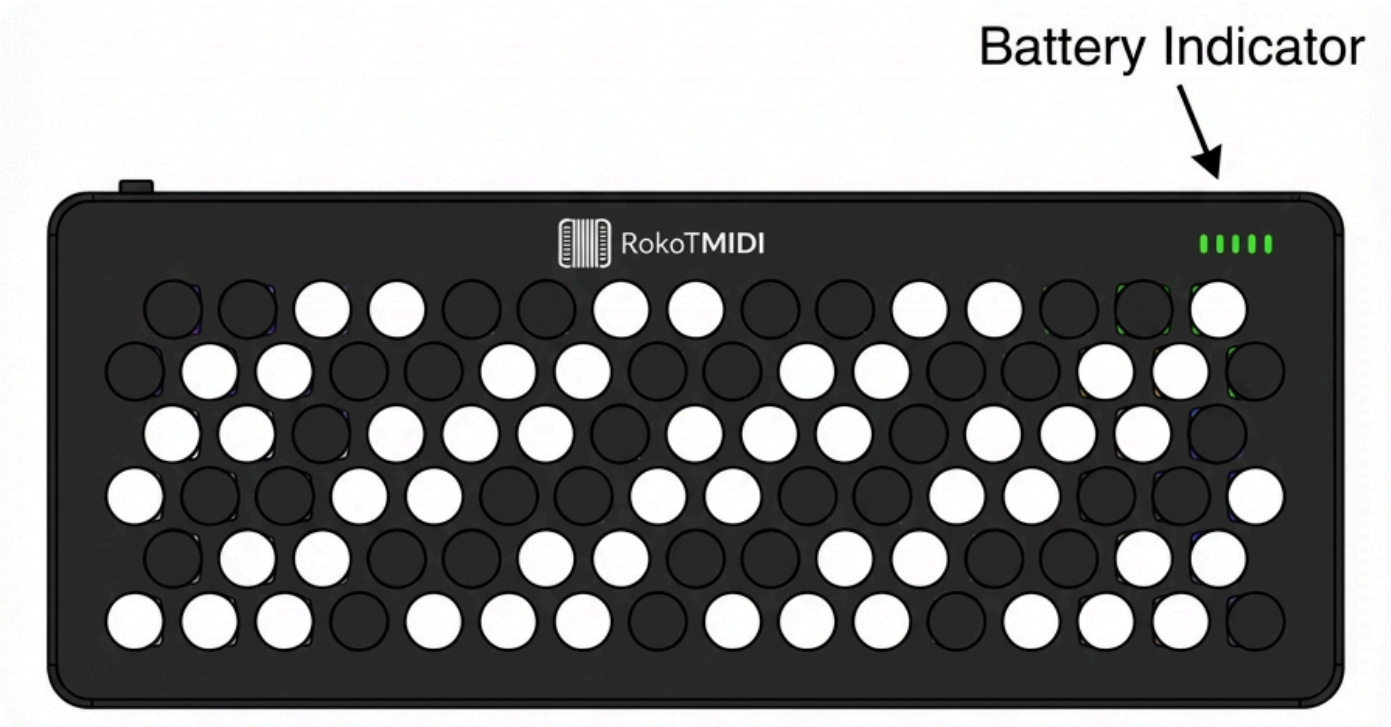

Figure 4. Battery indicator location on the instrument.

more LEDs lit means more remaining battery

fewer LEDs lit means less remaining battery

POWER AND STARTUP

To switch on the instrument:

Press the power button to turn the instrument on.

Allow approximately 2 seconds for startup to complete.

Begin playing or connect to your chosen MIDI destination.

To switch off the instrument:

Press the power button to turn the instrument off.

For the most reliable startup behavior:

avoid pressing buttons repeatedly during the first moments after power-on

use a stable power source when connected over USB

switch the unit off when it is not in use

FIRMWARE UPDATE

RokoTMIDI supports UF2-based firmware updating over USB.

Remote USB MIDI Bootloader Entry

For advanced users, support, or service workflows, the instrument can be placed into bootloader mode remotely over USB MIDI.

Connect RokoTMIDI to your computer with a USB data cable.

Open a MIDI utility or DAW that can send raw SysEx messages over USB MIDI.

Send this SysEx message to `RokoTMidi`:

```
F0 7D 00 01 F7
```

The instrument reboots into USB mass-storage bootloader mode.

The device appears as a removable drive.

Copy the new UF2 firmware file to that drive.

Wait for the instrument to restart.

SysEx details:

Manufacturer ID: `0x7D`

Device ID: `0x00`

Command: `0x01` = enter bootloader

UF2 Update Workflow

Typical update workflow after bootloader entry:

Connect the instrument by USB-C.

Put the instrument into bootloader mode.

The device appears as a USB mass-storage drive.

Copy the new UF2 firmware file to that drive.

Wait for the unit to restart.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The instrument powers on but does not respond immediately

Allow the startup routine to finish before playing. A short stabilization period after power-on is normal.

The instrument charges, but USB MIDI does not work

This usually indicates a charge-only USB cable. Replace it with a full USB data cable and reconnect the instrument.

The instrument powers on, but there is no sound

RokoTMIDI does not generate audio by itself. Connect it to a computer, app, synth, sound module, or other MIDI sound source and confirm that the receiving device is producing sound.

USB MIDI is not detected

confirm that you are using a USB data cable

try a different USB port

confirm that your software is listening to `RokoTMidi`

reconnect the instrument and reopen the MIDI settings in the application

Bluetooth MIDI is not detected

make sure the instrument is powered on

allow startup to complete

confirm that the host device or app supports BLE-MIDI

look for `RokoTMidi BLE` in the Bluetooth MIDI device list

An external MIDI device does not respond

confirm that the receiving device is powered on

check the MIDI channel setting on the receiving device

verify that you are using a 3.5 mm TRS MIDI Type A cable or Type A adapter

confirm that the receiving device is set to accept external MIDI input

A learning app does not show the correct row

The app must support row-identification data. Standard MIDI software usually ignores this extra information, which is normal.

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Specification	Value
Button layout	93 buttons, 6 rows, 4 octaves
Available systems	B-system or C-system

Specification	Value
Sound generation	MIDI controller only, no onboard sound engine
Visual feedback	LED matrix plus battery LEDs
Battery	14.8 Wh lithium-ion, USB-C charging
Button feel	Approx. 60 g actuation force, 4 mm travel
Buttons and switches	Accordion buttons, MX-compatible switches
Velocity response	Fixed velocity
USB connection	USB-C for charging, USB MIDI, and firmware updates
Wireless connection	BLE-MIDI 1.0
Bluetooth device name	`RokoTMidi BLE`
Hardware MIDI output	3.5 mm TRS MIDI Type A
Row identification	Control Change `102` before note events for compatible apps
Default note channel	MIDI Channel 1

SUPPORT

For product information, firmware notices, and support, visit rokotmidi.com.