User Guide: Using MIDI CH in Lowfi Dojo Automaton v1.2



Introduction to the MIDI Channel Feature

Lowfi Dojo Automaton now includes a powerful MIDI Channel mode selector that transforms how you route and record MIDI across your setup. The new "MIDI CH" knob allows you to switch between two modes:

- MONO: All MIDI is sent and received on a single channel
- **MULTI**: MIDI channel information is preserved across recording and playback

This feature dramatically expands the creative possibilities of your MIDI recordings, allowing for more complex routing setups and multi-timbral instrument control.

How MIDI Channel Modes Work

MONO Mode

In MONO mode (default setting), all MIDI data is consolidated to channel 1 regardless of the source channel. This provides a simple, straightforward workflow where:

- All incoming MIDI from any channel is recorded as channel 1
- All playback is sent on channel 1
- All MIDI CCs and events are normalized to a single channel

MULTI Mode

In MULTI mode, the original MIDI channel information is preserved throughout the recording and playback process:

- MIDI events retain their original channel information when recorded
- During playback, events are sent on their originally recorded channels
- This allows for controlling multiple instruments with different MIDI channels from a single pattern

Using with Hardware MIDI Setups

Hardware Synth Multi-Channel Setup

- 1. Connect your MIDI interface to your iOS device
- 2. In AUM, create a MIDI track with Lowfi Dojo Automaton
- 3. Set MIDI CH to "MULTI"
- 4. Route MIDI from Lowfi Dojo Automaton to your hardware interface
- 5. Configure your hardware synths to receive on different channels (e.g., bass synth on channel 2, lead synth on channel 3)
- 6. Record a bass line while sending MIDI on channel 2
- 7. Record a lead line while sending MIDI on channel 3
- 8. Both parts will play back simultaneously, sending to their respective instruments

Multi-Part Drum Machine Control

- 1. Connect your drum machine to your iOS device
- 2. Set your drum machine to receive multi-channel MIDI (many drum machines assign different parts to different channels)
- 3. In AUM, insert Lowfi Dojo Automaton and set MIDI CH to "MULTI"
- 4. Record a kick pattern on channel 10, snare on channel 11, hi-hats on channel 12
- 5. All parts will play back together while retaining their channel assignments

Virtual Instrument Setups in AUM

Multi-Timbral Instrument Control

- 1. In AUM, add Lowfi Dojo Automaton to a MIDI track
- 2. Set MIDI CH to "MULTI"
- 3. Add a multi-timbral AUv3 synth that supports multiple channels (like Ravenscroft 275, SampleTank 4, or ZENOLOGY Pro)
- 4. Configure the synth to use different sounds on different channels
- 5. Record bass parts on channel 1, pads on channel 2, leads on channel 3
- 6. Your pattern will play back all parts simultaneously, each with its own sound

Multiple Synth Control from a Single Pattern

- Create an AUM session with multiple AUv3 synth plugins (e.g., Arctic ProSynth, Pure Synth Platinum, and Layr)
- 2. Set each synth to receive on a different MIDI channel (1, 2, and 3 respectively)
- 3. Add Lowfi Dojo Automaton and set MIDI CH to "MULTI"
- 4. Create a MIDI routing from Lowfi Dojo Automaton to all three synths
- 5. Record a sequence on channel 1 (Arctic ProSynth), channel 2 (Pure Synth Platinum), and channel 3 (Layr)
- 6. All three synths will play their respective parts when the pattern loops

Technical Note:

For this approach, the synths do NOT need to be multi-timbral. This technique uses individual single-timbral synths, each configured to respond to a different MIDI channel. The MIDI routing happens inside AUM, with Lowfi Dojo Automaton sending data on all channels simultaneously. Each synth "filters" the incoming MIDI, only responding to events on its configured channel. This differs from the multi-timbral scenario above, where a single synth instance handles multiple channels internally.

To set up in AUM:

- Tap on the MIDI routing button (the icon with connecting dots)
- Create connections from Lowfi Dojo Automaton to each synth
- In each synth's settings, set the appropriate MIDI channel
- No channel filtering is needed in AUM's routing matrix because the synths themselves handle the filtering

AUv3 Multi-Channel Instruments Compatible with AUM:

- SampleTank 4 (IK Multimedia) Full 16-part multi-timbral support
- Ravenscroft 275 (VI Labs) Piano with multi-channel capabilities
- Arctic ProSynth (iceWorks) Synthesizer with multi-channel support
- Pure Synth Platinum (iceWorks) Virtual analog synth with multi-timbral support
- Drambo (Beepstreet) Modular environment configurable for multichannel operation
- Layr (VirsynLAB) Layering synthesizer with multi-channel capabilities
- iM1, iPolysix, iWavestation, KB-1 (Korg) Classic synth recreations with multi-channel support
- ZENOLOGY Pro (Roland) Professional sound module with extensive multi-channel support

Advanced Use Cases and Benefits

Layer Switching on the Fly

With MULTI mode, you can:

- Record different parts on different channels
- Mute/unmute specific instruments by changing their MIDI channel settings
- Create dynamic arrangements by enabling/disabling channels during live performance

MPE Controller Support

The MULTI channel mode provides enhanced compatibility with MPE controllers:

- MPE-based instruments typically use adjacent channels for different notes
- In MULTI mode, your MPE performance data is preserved with per-note expression
- Allows for recording complex MPE performances with full expression

Deep MIDI CC Automation

- Record CC automation on multiple channels simultaneously
- Each channel can control different parameters on different instruments
- Perfect for complex sound design across multiple instruments

Workflow Tips

- 1. **Color Coding**: In AUM, color-code your tracks by MIDI channel for visual organization
- 2. **Recording Strategy**: Record foundational elements first (bass, drums) on lower channels, then add melodic elements on higher channels
- 3. **Channel Standardization**: Establish a consistent channel assignment across projects (e.g., always use channel 10 for drums)
- 4. **Quick Switching**: Toggle between MONO and MULTI depending on your current needs:

- 5. Use MONO for simple single-instrument patterns
- 6. Switch to MULTI for complex multi-instrument arrangements

Troubleshooting

- If you're not hearing all your instruments, verify that each instrument is set to receive on the correct MIDI channel
- If patterns seem to be playing on the wrong instruments, double-check channel assignments
- To convert a multi-channel pattern to single channel, simply switch to MONO mode
- If MIDI seems delayed on certain channels, check that you don't have too many events on a single pattern

Conclusion

The new MIDI CH feature transforms Lowfi Dojo Automaton from a single-instrument MIDI sequencer into a powerful multi-channel compositional tool. By preserving channel information, you can create complex arrangements within a single pattern, control multiple instruments simultaneously, and develop more sophisticated musical ideas–all while maintaining the intuitive, creative workflow that makes Lowfi Dojo Automaton unique.

Whether you're working with hardware synths, iOS instruments, or a combination of both, the MULTI channel mode opens up new creative possibilities that were previously unavailable in the plugin.