

TEN MINUTES BEFORE YOU PLAY

MIDIDeviceManager · Live Emergency Guide

Recover the performance first. Diagnose the cause later.

Work in this order. It is not the order that finds the cause — it is the order that gets you playing.

1 Find out how much is wrong

Tap a Pad you know works. If several pieces of equipment are silent at once, suspect one connection rather than several faults — an adaptor, a cable, a hub.

2 Bring MIDIDeviceManager to the front

If you started a Background Session, MDM kept watching even off screen — check the Dynamic Island or your notifications first, since it may already have named what dropped. If you didn't, MDM was fully suspended and noticed nothing; either way, bring it forward now — you need to be looking at it for the next step.

3 Tap the MIDI Health badge

Top right of every screen, just below the title bar — the right-hand capsule when there are two. It turns orange within seconds of a connection dropping if MDM can still reach your equipment another way, red if it can't — either way, the actions below are your next move. Tapping it opens MIDI Health, with two actions at the foot. If anything in your rig is on a Bluetooth adaptor, tap Reconnect BLE MIDI first; refreshing MIDI connections will not help while the adaptor itself is gone. Then Refresh Device MIDI Connections — it speeds the reconnection and re-checks every port at once.

3b If there is no badge

It only appears when the MIDI Health Monitor is switched on. Both actions are still reachable: Reconnect BLE MIDI on the Tools page or in Tools → Settings, and Refresh Device MIDI Connections in Tools → Settings.

4 Read the status line, not the colour

On the Devices screen, the line under each Device says more than the dot beside it. “Assigned MIDI port unavailable” means the adaptor or cable is gone — nothing else will help until it is back. Inside MIDI Health, the same Device reads “Assigned output not found; defaulting to [name]” if orange — still sending, just not where you expect — or “Assigned output not found and no global output is available” if red — nothing going out at all. A reconnected port usually goes green on its own; the refresh above simply gets you there sooner.

5 Power-cycle the adaptor, not the equipment

A Bluetooth adaptor is the likeliest thing in the chain to have let go, and it restarts in seconds. Your equipment takes longer and is rarely the problem.

6 Check the channel on the one that is wrong

If a single Device is silent and the rest are fine, its MIDI channel is the likeliest cause. Read the channel from the equipment's own menu and match it in Edit Device.

7 Play without it

Add a Pad by hand with the Program Change number you need. It takes under a minute and works on almost anything. One song with a patch set by hand beats five minutes fixing an index.

AND IF NONE OF IT HELPS

Try the equipment from another MIDI source — a keyboard, a foot controller, another app. If it ignores those too, the problem is not MIDIDeviceManager and never was, and you can stop looking here.

WHAT NOT TO DO WITH TEN MINUTES TO GO

Do not rebuild Devices. Do not rescan MIDI Studio. Do not rebuild an index. Do not change settings you will not remember afterwards.

All of those are for tomorrow, with the equipment in front of you and nobody waiting. Write down what happened while it is fresh — that is worth more than anything you could change now.

Afterwards. Copy Diagnostics, in Tools → Settings, captures the state of your connections. Copy it while the problem is still present if you can; it is far more useful than a description written the next day.