

Tips on command-line Csound operation

- (1) When opening the **MS-DOS command tool**, you will be launching the dos shell with the working directory set to, for instance, d:\audio. In this case, the prompt will look like this:

```
D:\audio>
```

As you can see the current directory is shown in the prompt, before the ">".

- (2) You can change directories by typing **cd *directory-name***. Remember that ".." (two dots) means the directory above the current one:

```
D:\audio>cd ..  
D:\>
```

- (3) If your orchestras & scores are in a different directory, you can change to it. For instance, try this:

```
D:\audio>cd \tmp  
D:\tmp>
```

If you need to change to a different drive, the command to change disks is just the letter of the drive, followed by a colon

(**c:** , for drive C, or **a:**, for A (floppy), etc...)

```
D:\>x:  
X:\
```

- (4) Now you can run the examples by simply by typing the command **csound** followed by the orchestra and score filenames and the other options you require, for instance:

```
D:\tmp>csound test.orc test.sco -o dac
```

- (5) If the required orchestra and score are not in the current directory, either you **cd** to the directory where these files are located or you give the **full path** to csound in the command-line:

```
D:\AUDIO>csound d:\tmp\test.orc d:\tmp\test.sco -o dac
```

This will have the same effect as (4), but the command-line has to contain the full paths to both files so that csound can find them. Since you are in D:\audio, and the files are in D:\tmp, there is no other way the program will know what you want.

- (6) On our systems, you will not have rights to write anything to most of the directories in the C: drive. So there is no point on changing to anywhere in that drive, because csound writes temporary files to the current directory and it will not be able to do it. Always use the D: drive. You can also store your orcs & scos in your X: drive space.