



# Csound Power!

*By Jim Aikin*

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Csound, a free, cross-platform, do-it-yourself software solution for sound synthesis and music production, has been growing in power for more than 25 years. Getting started with this highly sophisticated system can be a bit daunting for new users. But once you've mastered the basic concepts, using Csound is nearly as easy as plugging patch cords into a modular synthesizer. That's where **CSOUND POWER!: THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE** comes in. This definitive reference to Csound provides a thorough look at the most important features of this powerful program--as well as an introduction to a few secret features that even experienced Csound users may not know about. In this hands-on resource, you'll learn how to download and install Csound, how to understand the structure of a .csd file, and how to use dozens of the most important opcodes in the program. You'll find concise explanations, hands-on projects, and numerous code samples that will help you take advantage of Csound's dense, feature-rich environment and make a powerful difference in your music-production workflow.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

1. The World of Csound. Why Use Csound? Why You Might Not Want to Use Csound. A Quick History of Csound. Resources: Mailing List; The Online Wiki Manual; How to Use the Canonical Manual; Books for Further Study. 2. Downloading & Installing. Choosing the Correct Version: -d vs. -f Versions; When to Use an Older Version. Running the Installer: Windows; Macintosh; The Many Flavors of Linux. Setting Up Your System. Audio I/O: Real-Time Output vs. Rendering; What Are Portaudio and Jack? Testing Your Setup. What the Console Output Means. Running Csound from the Command Line. Command-Line Flags. 3. The Structure of a .csd File. The .orc/.sco File Concept. Tags. The Orchestra Header. Adding Comments to Your Code. Macros. Compiler Error Messages. 4. Using the QuteCsound Interface. The Main Windows. The Configuration Box. The Editor Window: Fixing Known Editor Glitches in Windows. Widgets. Accessing the Manual. Syntax Hints. Live Events. 5. Building Your Own Instruments. instr and endin. i- vs. k- vs. a-. p-fields and p-values. A Simple Tutorial Instrument. Adding Features to the Tutorial Instrument. Adding Still More Features. Logic and Flow Control. Debugging Tips: Common Errors; Using Print Statements. 6. Writing a Score. i-statements. t-statements. f-statements. Looping Score Sections. Advancing the Clock. Using Macros. Creating Score Events from Within the Orchestra. 7. Thirty Opcodes You Must Know. What Is an Opcode? Tone Generators: Basic Oscillators; FM Synthesis; Granular Synthesis; Formant Synthesis; Sample Playback. Envelopes. Filters. Noise Generators. Global Signal Routing. The Important GEN Routines. Table Operations. Panning. Dynamics. Analysis and Resynthesis. User-Defined Opcodes. Sound Design in Csound -- Principles & Ideas. 8. Other Front Ends. blue. WinXsound. Cecilia. AthenaCL. 9. Using Csound with MIDI. Setting Up a MIDI System. The MIDI Opcodes. Performance Considerations. 10. Other Options for Real-Time Use. OSC. Real-Time Audio Processing. Using Csound with Pd. 11. Creating Audio Effects. Delay. Reverb. Waveshaping. Chorus. 12. Algorithmic Composition Using Python.

### **About the Author**

Jim Aikin has written hundreds of articles on music technology for Keyboard, Electronic Musician, Mix, and other magazines. He is the author of POWER TOOLS FOR SYNTHESIZER PROGRAMMING, CHORDS & HARMONY, PICTURE YOURSELF PLAYING CELLO, and two out-of-print science fiction novels. His short fiction has appeared in Asimov's Science Fiction, The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, and other magazines. He is also active as a hobbyist computer programmer, having released half a dozen freeware text adventure games. To learn more about his varied activities, visit [www.musicwords.net](http://www.musicwords.net).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kevin Primeaux:**

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