

NAME

timebase — reformat ****kern** or ****recip** score with constant time-base

SYNOPSIS

timebase **t** *n*[.] [-**x**] [*inputfile ...*] [*> outputfile.tb*]

DESCRIPTION

The **timebase** command is used to reformat ****kern** or ****recip** inputs so that output data records represent equivalent slices (elapsed duration) of time. The effect of the **timebase** command is best illustrated by an example. With a specified time-base of a sixteenth duration, the following input:

**kern	**kern	**kern	**kern
4g	8.r	8.cc	16ee
.	.	.	8ff
.	32b	16cc	16gg
.	32a	.	.
8f	8cc	8dd	8ff
*-	*-	*-	*-

would produce the following output:

**kern	**kern	**kern	**kern
*tb16	*tb16	*tb16	*tb16
4g	8.r	8.cc	16ee
.	.	.	8ff
.	.	.	.
.	32b	16cc	16gg
8f	8cc	8dd	8ff
.	.	.	.
*-	*-	*-	*-

Each output record represents a snap-shot of a sixteenth duration following the previous data record. Depending upon the choice of time-base, the resulting output is either expanded or contracted in length. Details finer than the specified time-base are lost; in the above example, notice that the second thirty-second note (pitch ‘A’ in the second spine) has disappeared from the file as the time-base is only a sixteenth duration.

The time-base is selected by assigning a ****recip** duration value to the **-t** option. Time-base durations may be dotted.

Comments and barlines are preserved in the output, however, acciaccatura records (grace notes) are discarded.

It is recommended that output files produced using the **timebase** command should be given names with the distinguishing '.tb' extension.

OPTIONS

The **timebase** command provides a number of options.

- h** displays a help screen summarizing the command syntax
- t *n*** set time-base where *n* represents a ****recip** duration
- x** strip duration values from the input

Options are specified in the command line. e.g.

```
timebase -t 8. -x
```

will remove ****kern** or ****recip** duration encodings from the output; each output data record will represent an elapsed duration of a dotted eighth note.

PORTABILITY

DOS 2.0 and up, with the MKS Toolkit. OS/2 with the MKS Toolkit. UNIX systems supporting the *Korn* shell or *Bourne* shell command interpreters, and revised *awk* (1985).

SEE ALSO

****kern** (2), **metpos** (4)

WARNINGS

Depending upon the defined time-base, passages of prolonged syncopation may disappear from the output. The **timebase** command assumes the integrity of the duration structure of the input score. Corrupt duration structures in the input will produce unpredictable results.