



If we run a batch file by starting it manually, we usually don't mind seeing the "black square" of the console window. If, on the other hand, we run a batch file scheduled, or remotely, we often would prefer not to see the "black square" at all.

Several tools and techniques exist to hide a console window.

Start a batch file minimized

The most simple solution is to run the batch file minimized. The batch file will still be visible in the task bar while running. For batch file started by a shortcut, this may be "sufficiently hidden".

```
START /MIN "your title" "d:\path\yourbatch.bat"
```

See this JSIFaq tip on [how to make a batch file start another batch file hidden](http://windowsitpro.com/article/articleid/83406/jsi-tip-9242-how-can-i-hide-a-batch-window.html) (<http://windowsitpro.com/article/articleid/83406/jsi-tip-9242-how-can-i-hide-a-batch-window.html>) (uses a temporary VBScript file). Note that, because the script is created and called by a batch file, there will still be a visible console window.

Or download and use my [RunNHide.vbs](#) or [RunNHide.exe](#).

Make a batch file minimize its own console

Use one of the following commands *within* a batch file to *minimize* that batch file's console window:

```
CONSOLESTATE /Min
```

or:

```
SETCONSOLE (http://prozandcoms.stefanoz.com/setconsole-exe-console-window-control/) /minimize
```

or:

```
TITLE MinimizeMePlease  
FOR /F %A IN ('CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) ^| FIND "MinimizeMePlease"') DO CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) %A /MIN
```

Make a batch file hide its own console

Use one of the following commands *within* a batch file to *hide* that batch file's console window:

```
CONSOLESTATE /Hide
```

or:

```
SETCONSOLE (http://prozandcoms.stefanoz.com/setconsole-exe-console-window-control/) /hide
```

or:

```
TITLE HideMePlease  
FOR /F %%A IN ('CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) ^| FIND "HideMePlease"') DO CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) %%A /HID
```

or, using [KiXtart](#):

```
> Temp.kix ECHO SetConsole^("Hide"^)  
KIX32.EXE Temp.kix  
DEL Temp.kix
```

Spoiler alert: *completely* hiding the console is not possible in the standard command interpreters CMD.EXE or [COMMAND.COM](#).

All techniques to hide the console that have to be called from within the batch file will always show at least a short "black flash" of the console being opened before it is hidden.

Therefore, the "cloaking" of the console has to be started *before* starting the batch file, which means using an alternative scripting language to start the *command interpreter* hidden.

To *restore* console visibility, use:

```
CONSOLESTATE /Show
```

or:

```
SETCONSOLE (http://prozandcoms.stefanoz.com/setconsole-exe-console-window-control/) /show
```

or:

```
TITLE HideMePlease  
FOR /F %%A IN ('CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) ^| FIND "HideMePlease"') DO CMDOW (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) %%A /VIS
```

or, using [KiXtart](#):

```
> Temp.kix ECHO SetConsole^("Show"^)  
KIX32.EXE Temp.kix  
DEL Temp.kix
```

Start a batch file minimized

If a console window is visible already, but you want to start another batch file minimized, use one of the following commands:

```
START /MIN d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

or:

```
CMDOW.EXE (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) /RUN /MIN d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

Start a batch file hidden

If a console window is visible already, but you want to start another batch file hidden, use one of the following commands:

```
PSEXEC -d CMD.EXE /C d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

or:

```
CMDOW.EXE (http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/) /RUN /HID d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

Run a batch file completely hidden

To *completely* hide the console, a Windows (GUI) executable or an alternative scripting language with GUI based interpreter (e.g. VBScript with WSCRIPT.EXE) has to be used. Do *not* use the following commands in a batch file, as this batch file will run in a (visible) console window itself.

```
RUNNHIDE.EXE d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

or:

```
WSCRIPT.EXE RunNHide.vbs d:\path\yourbatch.bat
```

or:

```
HSTART.EXE (http://www.ntwind.com/software/utilities/hstart.html) /NOCONSOLE "d:\some dir\yourbatch.bat"
```

Make sure the batch file closes its own window *in all circumstances*, because you won't be able to *see* whether it does close or keep running "forever".

[CONSOLESTATE.EXE](#), [RUNNHIDE.EXE](#) and [RUNNHIDE.VBS](#) are "third party" tools written by yours truly.

[SETCONSOLE](#) (<http://prozandcoms.stefanoz.com/setconsole-exe-console-window-control/>), [CMDOW](#) (<http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/>), [HSTART](#) (<http://www.ntwind.com/software/utilities/hstart.html>) and [PSEXEC](#) are "third party" tools written by other authors.

[KiXtart](#) can be downloaded from [kixtart.org](http://www.kixtart.org/) (<http://www.kixtart.org/>).

VBScript is native and installed in Windows since Windows 2000.

Note: CMDOW, HSTART and PSEXEC may sometimes be (wrongly) accused of being malware by some Anti-Virus and malware scanners. They are not, but they certainly *could* be abused for "less honourable" purposes.