Realistic Epic Medieval Combat System

The Realistic Epic Medieval Combat System or REMCS, pronounced remix, is a first person table top combat system which is designed to emulate the chaotic fast-paced nature of fantasy and medieval fighting.

The System

In REMCS, combat is broken into rounds. Each combatant takes two turns every round. When a combatant takes a turn, they are the initiating combatant and may perform actions including attacking or tripping opponents, picking up items, or mounting a horse. The order in which the turns happen is determined randomly by drawing names from The Hat of Fate. The initiating combatant has the greatest control over what happens on their turn. But to emulate the rapid give-and-take of melee combat REMCS allows other combatants to act as well. If directly targeted by the initiating combatant's actions, a character may respond using a reaction. A reactions might be parrying with a sword, blocking with a shield, or taking cover from a fireball.

Combat Statistics

REMCS uses a number of basic statistics called combat statistics to describe a combatants skills in combat. Combat statistics determine what kind of tasks a combatant is most likely to succeed at and what kind of fighting style best suits them. The combat statistics are movement speed, initiative, reactions, attack, damage, armor, health, dodge and parry. And are described below.

Stat Value	From Zero	Next Value
0	0	1
1 1	11	4
2	5	9
3	14	16
4	30	25
5	55	36
6	91	49

Initiative describes how quick a combatant is to react to unexpected situations. A combatants Initiative is equal to their *Agility* (and maybe + *Awareness*) and determines the number of slips of paper they put in The Hat of Fate.

Movement Speed describes how fast a combatant can move. During a combatants turn it may spend its movement to move that distance. Spent movement is regained at the beginning of each round.

Reactions are used to respond to events in combat. Combatants can make up to three reactions per round. But those with faster reflexes can do more. A character receives reaction equal to their *Agility* if it's higher than three. Twice their *Agility*? Can I add their *Agility* to the number of reactions they have? *Agility* and *Awareness*?

Attack and Damage rolls are not always required when making an attack but sometimes they are. Like all checks, attack rolls are made using up two skills. One of these must be a combat skill and the other is usually determined by the type of weapon being used. For melee weapons this is typically *Athletics* and for ranged and throw weapons this is usually *Agility*. Damage rolls are made with the same two skills as the attack role for the weapon, but the weapons

damage bonus can be added to this check as well.

- ◆ Attack Roll: [Combat Skill + Weapon Attribute vs Opposition].
- ◆ Damage Roll: [Combat Skill + Weapon Attribute + Weapon Damage vs Armor]. Excess successes reduce targets health.

Armor describes how hard it is to hurt a combatant by hitting them. Whenever an attack hits a combatant they may roll armor against the attackers damage, no action or reaction required, the result is subtracted from the damage.

Health is a measure of how much of abeating a combat and can take before there unable to function in combat. Instrument has health equal to

2 x Endurance + Athletics +1

10 + 2 x Endurance + Athletics

4 x Endurance + 2 x Athletics +1 **Dodge** describes how confident in combat and is daunting out of the way of attacks and depends on their reflexes and battle awareness. When a character makes a dodge check they may modify the result with agility and awareness

Parry describes the proficiency of a combatants proficiency at knocking a side blows with their weapons. Checks made to parry are modified in the same way as attack rolls with the weapon: 1 combat skill plus *Athletics* for Melee and *Agility* for ranged.

The hat of Fate

The Hat of Fate is what determines the order in which combatants act during combat. When combat begins each combatant places

slips of paper with their names into the The Hat of Fate. The number of slips each combatant puts into the head is either two or their initiative, whichever is higher.

Rounds, Terns, and Initiative

A single slip is drawn from the The Hat of Fate to determine which combatant acts first. After that combatants turn is over a

new slip is drawn to determine the next combatant and so on. A round consists of drawing slips from the The Hat of Fate until each combatant has had two turns. Once a combatant has taken two turns they not take any more and if their name is drawn again it is ignored.

A combatants turn begins when their name is drawn from the The Hat of Fate. A combatants may perform a single action on their turn, followed by a variable number of reactions. A combatant may only spend movement on its own turn but may spend this movement before and after its action.



Actions in Combat

A combatant may perform one action on their turn. Actions usually allow combatant to initiate a sequence of events. Actions might include anything from drawing a weapon or attacking an opponent, to picking something off the ground, pulling a lever or drinking a potion. Actions allow characters to perform tasks that take approximately two seconds to complete. To complete something that would take longer more actions or a double action is required. While the number of possible actions that are possible in combat are endless and only truly limited by the players imagination a number of common actions are presented below.

BASIC ATTACK

The Basic Attack is the fundamental action of combat. In REMCS as long as the attacker has some training in the weapon, attacks always hit their target unless the target spends a reaction to oppose the attack, see reactions below. If the attack is opposed a successful attack check must be made against the opposition in order for the attack to hit. This means that combatants who have spent all their reactions are sitting ducks. If an attack hits its target attacks affect takes place. Basic Attacks may only be made against combatants within range: 2 meters for melee weapons or 4 meters if Long, up to 8 meters if thrown, and 100 meters if ranged. While hitting an enemy to cause damage is very common other Basic Attacks are possible. A number of options are listed below.

Melee Attack: Hit an adversary with a weapon and roll damage against the targets armor. The targets health is reduced by the number of excess successes.

Shove Kick or Trip: With a weapon, anything from a kick or head slam to a gauntleted fist or pommel of a sword, shove an adversary back 10 feet provoking Free Attacks and staggering them until their next turn or knock them to the ground. Attack rolls are made with brawling and usually agility (trip) or athletics (shove), but depends on how exactly the attack is tempted. The opposition could be a dodge or a combination of *Brawling*, *Athletics* and *Agility*.

Reckless Attack: A Reckless Attack is simply a Basic Attack, as described above, except that any attack or damage roll that is required as part of the reckless attack is made with advantage. Making a Reckless attack leaves the attacker staggered until its next turn. Combatants may not make reckless ranged or thrown attacks.

Ranged Attack: Unlike melee and thrown attacks ranged attacks do not always hit their target. A successful [Attack vs Moderate] is required to hit a median creature at a distance less than 30 meters. Every additional 30 meters increases the Check difficulty by one rank. If the target opposes the attack, which ever is greater is used as the opposition.





RETRIEVE / STOW ITEM

Retrieving or stowing an item, including drawing or sheathing a weapon requires an action. Dropping an item can be done for free and drawing a short weapon can also be done for free.

INTERACT

Interacting with the environment often requires an action. Examples include pulling on a lever, pushing a boulder, knocking over a cauldron, or flipping a table. Sometimes this might require a check.

STAND UP

Standing up from being prone requires an action.

MOVE

An action can be used to increase a combatants remaining movement for the round by its movement speed.

DISENGAGE

PASS

A combatant may choose not to preform an action during its first turn in a around, instead saving it so that it may perform two actions in its second turn. Any saved actions are lost at the end of each round. Combatants may not save actions for use in subsequent rounds.

PREPARE

Combatants may spend their actions to prepare themselves. Instead of performing an action they increase their remaining reactions by one.

Reactions

Reactions are the way in which combatants respond to opponents' and sometimes even their own actions. A reaction might be parrying an attack with your sword or blocking with a shield. Excepting Free Attacks, reactions may only be performed when a combatant is affected by an adverse event. Being assisted by an ally does not allow for a reaction. Event that allow for reactions include being directly targeted by or in the AOE of an opponents attack, or being affected by a natural event such as a landslide. When a triggering event occurs a

character may choose to spend one of his reactions to take a reaction or not. If a combatant has no remaining reactions for the round it may not make reactions. Spent reactions are regained at the beginning of each round of combat. The following is a list of some possible reactions and their trigger.

REACTING TO ATTACKS

When a combatant is attacked it may respond with a reaction. Possible reactions to an attack are listed below.

Oppose (parry or dodge): When attacked, a combatant may spend a reaction to attempt to Parry or Dodge the attack. To Perry, the defending combatant opposes the attack role with its own attack roll. To Dodge the defending combatant opposes with *Agility* and *Awareness*. Either way, if the defender is successful, the attack misses and no damage is dealt, as usual ties go to the combatant who initiated the event: the attacker.

When parrying or dodging it is very hard not to give ground. A defending character must spend 5 feet of movement to step back when attempting to parry or dodge. The attacker may also spend 5 feet of movement to step forward and stay within melee range. If this movement carries a defender out of range the attack automatically misses. This is most common when the attacker is on the ground and thus moves at half speed. If the defending combatant cannot move a full 5 feet backward it takes disadvantage on its Dodge or Parry. This is also common when the defender is prone. The spent movement is part of the attack or opposition and not subtract from either combatants remaining movement for the round or provoke Free Attacks. A successful Parry or Dodge allows for a repost, see Free Attacks below.

Block: If a combatant possesses a suitable item, such as a weapon or a shield, they may attempt to absorb the impact of an attack. The attack automatically hits but the combatant may add is Athletics to its armor its armor value.

Eye for an Eye: A combatant may choose to simply take a hit and hit its adversary back. The initial attack automatically hits but the attacked combatant may make a basic attack against its attacker. While the second attack may be reacting to by its target, it is enough on the heels of the first attack that if the first attack proves lethal the second attack still proceeds as usual.

Hit the deck: When attacked a combatant may choose to spend its reaction to drop prone.

FREE ATTACKS

Free attacks are simply basic attacks that can be made using reactions. They are also one of the few reaction that are not *only* provoked by an adverse event. A combatant may spend a reaction to make a Free Attack against any opponent that tries to leave melee range without first disengaging. Making a long ranged attack also provokes opportunity attacks from combatants within Melee Range. Lastly after successfully parrying or dodging and opponents attack a repost can be made. The defending combatant may spend a reaction to make a free attack against its attacker.



Other Rules

OFFHAND

After a successful attack, Basic Attack, Full Action Attack, or Free Attack, a combatant may use a reaction to strike with a weapon in its offhand. Attacks with an offhand have disadvantage on attack and damage rolls. Successful offhand attacks do not allow for a second offhand attack.

STAGGERED

A staggered combatant is off balance and vulnerable to melee attacks. The combatant has disadvantage on any check it makes that involves physical motion and balance. In addition opponents have advantage on damage rolls made with melee weapons against staggered combatants.

PRONE

A prone combatant is lying on the ground. While prone movement costs three times as much, 3 m must be spent for every 1 m moved. This means prone combatant cannot retreat affectively when opposing attacks and thus have disadvantage. They also cannot take ground affectively and their melee attacks automatically miss standing opponents if opposed.

In addition opponents have advantage on damage rolls made with melee weapons against prone combatants.

Standing up from prone takes an action. Long ranged attacks made from beyond 2 meters have disadvantage on attack rolls against prone combatants.

GRAPPLING

After a successful hit with a grab weapon, damage need not be dealt, the attacker may choose to latch on to and grapple its opponent, no action or reaction required. A grappled combatant cannot move without first escaping the grapple. The grappler cannot move unless it ends the grapple or on its turn at half speed after a successful [brawling athletics vs brawling athletics]. Effectively, this means both combatants have disadvantage when opposing attacks as nigher can retreat while the grapple continues.

In addition, the grappler has advantage on damage and opposition rolls against the grappled combatant. This cancels the disadvantage due to the inability to retreat. Net effect: the grappler has advantage on damage and opposition rolls against the grappled combatant and the grappled combatant has disadvantage opposing attacks.

Escaping a grapple requires an action and is usually an opposed check using a combination of *Brawling Athletics* and *Agility*. If a grappled combatant grapples its grappler it gains the upper hand, the initial grapple ends and the original grappler now becomes grappled.

Combatants in a grapple may only make attacks using short weapons.

IMPROVISED WEAPONS

Improvised weapons possess no qualities other than the standard qualities of their category, though they can sometimes be thrown. In addition, they deal damage as if they were one category smaller: improvised Two-Handed weapons deal damage like a Single-Handed weapon and improvised Short weapon deal damage like an unarmed strike. Weapons can almost always be used as improvised versions of smaller category weapons. A great sword can be used as an improvised Short weapon by smashing an opponent on the head with the pommel for example. When a weapon is used for an improvised attack the weapons normal skill may be used rather than Brawling which is typically used for improvised attacks.

Full Actions

A combatant that delays in turn may perform to actions on its subsequent turn as described above. One use for this is to perform full actions these are things that require more than a single action to accomplish. Flashes typically require about 4 seconds or so to complete. A number of full actions are presented below.

FULL ACTION ATTACKS

With a little extra time more precision and force are possible. This might be an archer taking a moment to aim in the heat of Battle, a knight half-swording for more leverage, or a barbarian simply putting his back into the swing. However it's done, by spending two actions to make a Basic Attack the combatant can gain advantage on the attack or damage roll.



CHARGING

If a combatant charges at least 3 meters before attempting to shove or knock over an opponent, it gains advantage on the attack roll made to do so.

Equipment

Weapons

Weapons can increase the damage a combatant can deal. Some weapons also have other qualities that affect their use. Most weapons fall in to one of six category detailed below and have no properties beyond what those in their category normally possess. A combatant does not *need* to be skilled to pick up a sword and swing it or benefit from its properties. However, that's not to say that training is not important. The value presented in the damage column of the weapon table is the weapon damage including the two base Check Dice.

SHORT WEAPONS

Damage: +1 Qualities: Short.

While they deal less damage than other weapons, Short weapons are often easy to conceal and quick to draw. And they have a neck for finding their way between the cracks in armor. Daggers are the quintessential example of a Short weapon. However, hatchets, meat cleavers, and short swords also fall into this category.

Short Sword: Parrying Dagger:

SINGLE-HANDED WEAPONS

Damage: +3 Qualities: none.

Single-Handed weapons are likely the broadest category of weapon. While the standard one-handed sword is most common, axes, rapier, cutlasses, and hammers may also fall into this category.

Fencing Repair:

TWO-HANDED WEAPONS

Damage: +5

Qualities: Two-Handed.

While the longsword is exemplary of the Two-Handed weapon category, many war axes, hammers, flails and other weapons too large to be effectively wielded in a single fist fall into this category.

Viking Axe: Bastard Sword:

HEAVY WEAPONS

Damage: +7

Qualities: Unwieldy, Two-Handed. Often as large as the warriors who wield them, these weapons are awkward and difficult to swing. Heavy weapons make up for their pitfalls by the sheer devastation they can inflict. Huge double headed axes, mighty war flails, and executioners swords all fall into this category.

Weapon	Damage	Quality	Cost
Unarmed Weapon	+0 / 2	Grab	1 gold
Short Weapon	+1/3	Finesse	1 gold
Single-Handed Weapon	+3/5		5 gold
Two-Handed Weapon	+5/7		10 gold
Heavy Weapon	+7/9	Unwieldy, Devastating	10 gold
Long Weapon	+5 / 7	Long	3 gold
Ranged Weapon	+4 / 6		5 gold

LONG WEAPONS

Damage: +5

Qualities: Long, Two-Handed.

Long weapons offer extended reach across the battlefield allowing their wielders to strike without putting themselves at risk. Halberds, pikes, and lances are all examples of Long weapons.

RANGED WEAPONS

Damage: +5

Qualities: Ranged, Two-Handed.

Ranged weapons can hit their targets from a great distance and include bows, crossbows, slings, and muskets. Some ranged weapons require a bit of time to reload. However it is often worth the wait as these weapons can pack a serious punch, driving through both armor and shield to penetrate their victims.

IMPROVISED WEAPONS

Damage: variable Qualities: none.

Improvised weapons possess no qualities other than the standard qualities of their category, though they can sometimes be thrown. In addition, they deal damage as if they were one category smaller: improvised Two-Handed weapons deal damage like a Single-Handed weapon and improvised Short weapon deal damage like an unarmed strike. Weapons can almost always be used as improvised versions of smaller category weapons. A great sword can be used as an improvised Short weapon by smashing an opponent on the head with the pommel for example. When a weapon is used for an improvised attack the weapons normal skill may be used rather than Brawling which is typically used for improvised attacks.

Qualities

SHROT

Unlike normal weapons, drawing a short weapon does *not* require an action, it can be drawn for free. Short weapons may also be wielded in the off hand.

Short weapons also score criticals when a 5 and a 6 as well as double 6s are rolled on the Check Dice for attacks and damage.

LONG

The weapon provides its wielder with superior reach, 10 or so feet. When an enemy moves into reach from beyond it, the wielder may use a reaction to make a free attack against them. If the enemy is wielding a long weapon as well, no free attack is gained.

THROW

The weapon can be thrown a short distance, usually about 8 meters. Doing so uses the same attack and damage as the weapon would for melee. The attack does not provoke Free Attacks and can be reacted to the same as a melee attack.

RANGED

The weapon is designed to attack adversaries from a distance and can be fired up to 100 meters. Attacking with a ranged weapon provokes melee Free Attacks from surrounding combatants.

BASTARD

The weapon is crafted in such a way that it can be wielded in a single hand. However, doing so has its disadvantages. When wielded in a single hand, the bastard weapon deal damage as if it were a single-handed weapon and loses all its beneficial qualities.

TWO-HANDED

The weapon is heavy and can only be wielded in two hands.

DEFENSIVE

The weapon is useful in avoiding or deflecting blows and grants its wielder a +1 bonus to parry.

FINESSE

The weapon is light and fast and while one could simply bludgeon an advisory with it, it is meant to be use with skill and style. *Agility* rather than *Athletics* is used to modify attack and damage with the weapon. *Athletics* cannot be used unless the weapon is being used as an improvised weapon. Finesse weapons do not possess the weight or strength to parry Two-Handed or larger weapons.

IMPEDING

The armor is cumbersome to move in and wear. It's where takes a penalty to Agility.

This penalty does affect the number of reactions a combatant may take per round.

As well as tasks that require coordination: sneaking, climbing, running.

TIREING

The armor becomes swelteringly hot and sweaty to wear. After combat or an hour of wearing the armor the wearer must make a [Endurance vs Tiresome] or suffer 1 exhaustion.

DEVASTATING

The sheer destructive power of the weapon is severe. It can crush shields, smash through armor, and cave in helms. Taking a blow from a devastating weapon is always to be avoided. When dealing damage with a devastating weapon, any successes scored on the Check Dice ignore armor.

Example: A combatant scores 1 success from Check Dice and 4 from bonus dice against 4 armor, the attack deals 2 damage, 1 after armor is subtracted and 1 from the Check Dice which ignore armor.

UNWIELDY

The weapon or shield is too large or unbalanced to use with grace and is difficult to swing. Attacking with an unwieldy weapon requires both an action and the combatants entire base movement for the round. And unwieldy shield only blocks attacks from a 90° sloth. Blocking attacks from this direction does not require a reaction. Moving the shield to block a different direction requires a reaction and the combatants entire base movement for the round. A combatant may also move an unwieldy shield to face in a new direction on its own term by spending its entire base movement.

PUNCTURING

The weapon is designed to drive through even the toughest of protection. Armor has disadvantage against this weapon.

HEAVY

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FLEXIBLE

A flexible shield is light and easy to move. A combatant wielding a flexible shield may still use that hand manipulate a weapon or other

object. A flexible shields protection bonus may also be added to attempts to parry.

SHIELD

Shields are built to deflect and absorb opponents blows. A character wielding a shield may use its reaction after being attacked by an opponent to add *Strength* to *Armor*.

GRAB

Weapon can be used to latch on to an opponent. After a successful hit the attacker may grapple its opponent, no action.

Chain

Often comprises of one or more chains were spiked balls on the end, this weapon is

DEADIY

The weapon is especially brutal and deals 1 more damage than weapons of its category typically do.

REINFORCED

The armor is exceptionally durable and strong. The bonus it provides to *Armor* is 1 higher than typical armor of its category.

BLUNT

The weapon is less deadly than others of its category and videos one less damage.

Mystical Qualities

MYSTIC STEEL

The crafter has folded and hammered sorcery into the Metal. It's extremely hard to break, damage, or melt. The weapon or armor provides a flat +1, +2, or +3 bonus to the number of successes rolled on attacks, damage or armor checks made with it.

FLAMING

The weapon or armor is constantly flaming and can't be put out. Anything that comes in contact with the object, a successful hit with a weapon or being hug by someone in armor, takes 1 fire damage (3 dice including Check Dice). If the target can be lit on fire it does and continues to take 1 fire damage on each of its subsequent terms. The effect ends if the target spends its turn to put out the flames or if the damage Roll deals zero damage. The fire damage ignores armor. The wielder of the object can manage to avoid the flames though that might change with the critical fail.

Shields

Shields can be held in one hand and provide combatants with added protection against hits. While wielding a shield a combatant may add the shields protection bonus to *Armor* when reacting to an attack with a block. Shields are often used to bludgeon adversaries. Medium and light shields may be used as improvised short weapons. Heavy shields are too large and cumbersome to be of use in this manner.

LIGHT SHIELDS

Armor: +1

Qualities: Flexible.

Often carried with a one or two handed sword, Light shields or Buckler's are typically about a foot in diameter and can be used to deflect and absorb impacts.

MEDIUM SHIELDS

Armor: +2
Qualities: none.

Medium shields range in shape and style from the large wooden desk shields of the Vikings to the steel diamond of a knight. Medium shields provide their wielder with good protection and are small enough to not get too much in the way.

HEAVY SHIELDS

Armor: +4

Qualities: Unwieldy.

Heavy shields are massive hulking things, usually found on the front lines of an advancing army or held in formation to provide protection from raining arrows. Often rectangular in shape, Heavy shields are typically a meter or so wide and twice as tall. Their sheer size provides substantial protection but also makes them hard to move quickly.

Shields	Protection	Quality	Cost
Light	+1	Flexible	2 gold
Medium	+2	139	5 gold
Heavy	+4		10 gold



Armor

What are swords without armor? Although tiring and somewhat cumbersome to wear, a good set of armor can make the difference between life and death in the thick of battle. As usual a character without armor, wearing simple clothing or such, can always use the two basic Check Dice, but armor can provide more protection. Armor falls into one of three categories, Light, Medium, and Heavy. Each category provides a different bonus to the wearers *Armor* value. Certain armor also possesses other qualities. The value presented in the protection column of the armor table is the *Armor* value of the where including Check Dice.

LIGHT ARMOR

Armor: +2 / 4
Qualities: none.

MEDIUM ARMOR

Armor: +4 / 6

Qualities: Impeding(-1), Tiring(3).

HEAVY ARMOR

Armor: +6 / 8

Qualities: Impeding(-2), Tiring(5).

Armor	Protection	Quality	Cost
Light	+2/4		2 gold
Medium	+4 / 6	Impeding(-1), Tiring(3)	5 gold
Heavy	+6 / 8	Impeding(-2), Tiring(5)	10 gold

More Armor

Armor	Protection	Quality	Cost
Light	4		2 gold
Leather		ALL PLANTS DIE	2 gold
No Armor	2		-
Animal Hide		Reinforced, Tiring(1)	2 gold
Sorcerers Robe	Par Piller		10 gold
Gambasin			
Medium	6	Impeding(-1), Tiring(3)	5 gold
Chain Hauberk			
Double Chain Mail		Reinforced	25 gold
Riveted Mail		Reinforced	30 10
Breast Plate			
Heavy	8	Impeding(-2), Tiring(5)	10 gold

More Weapons

Weapon	Damage	Quality	Cost
Unarmed Weapon	2	Grab, Short	
Punch, Kick, Knee, etc.			-
Short Weapon	3	Finesse	1 gold
Dagger			1 gold
Gauntlet		Grab	
Dirk	4	Deadly	1 gold
Parrying Dagger		Defensive	5 gold
Short Sword	4	Not Finesse, Deadly	1 gold
Hatchet		Throw	5 gold
Throwing Knife		Throw	5 gold
Single-Handed Weapon	5		5 gold
Sword			5 gold
Fencing Rapier		Finesse	125 gold
Mace		BULL HAR BARR	
Javelin		Throw	1 11 1
Two-Handed Weapon	7	Elitable Francisco	10 gold
Longsword	Markey Early		10 gold
Viking Axe	C BURNELLE		10 gold
Bastard Sword		Bastard	50 gold
Battle Flail		Devastating	50 gold

Weapon	Damage	Quality	Cost
Heavy Weapon	9	Unwieldy, Devastating	10 gold
Long Weapon	7	Long	3 gold
Pike	STATE OF THE PARTY		3 gold
Halberd	8	Deadly	15 gold
Ranged Weapon	7	Puncturing	5 gold