

A Manual for Finding the Dungeon Star

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1 Introduction

This manual which you hold your hands is meant to guide you through the treacherous, and often bullshittingly unfair dungeon known as *The Depression* that shelters the *Dungeon Star*. This manual currently holds little useful information, but is meant to guide players who are new to the genre of roguelikes, or to provide specific information to **Dungeon Star**.

2 Gameplay

The current goal of **Dungeon Star** is to reach the lowest point of the dungeon without dying, while collecting as much gold as possible.

Within the two-dimensional overhead view of a floor of the duneon, you are represented by @ (as in, the player is *at* this location). Your obstacles are the inhabitants of *The Depression*, who appear to be various creatures represented by the letters of the alphabet.

2.1 Character Creation

At the start of any new game, you will get the chance to customize the abilities and starting equipment of your characters. The six abilities you can choose from are:

- **Strength** - determines how much damage the protagonist can deal, and the amount the player can carry in their inventory.
- **Dexterity** - determines how effective the protagonist's armor is, and how likely the protagonist is to step on a trap.
- **Constituion** - determines the amount of health the protagonist starts with, and the protagonist's natural poison resistance.
- **Intelligence** - *currently unused*.
- **Wisdom** - *currently unused*.
- **Charisma** - *currently unused*.

The protagonist is also able to follow an **inspiration**, which gives them a boost to certain ability scores, and determines their starting equipment. Those inspirations are:

- **Self** - the protagonist gains their power from within themselves; no challenge is impossible, because they've made it this far without backing down. *Starts with a tower shield.*
- **Life** - the protagonist sees the value in all life, and only wishes to kill in order to obtain the *Dungeon Star*. *Starts with a wand of Pacification.*
- **Peace** - the protagonist seeks a silent future, devoid of all conflict. *Starts with a +2 dagger and a wand of Striking.*
- **Prosperity** - the protagonist seeks to fulfill all of their material desires through whatever means they deem necessary. *Starts with a wand of Greed.*

- **The Arts** - the protagonist is driven by the urge to preserve and cultivate the creation of arts. *Starts with a wand of Lightning.*
- **The Stars** - the protagonist is motivated by the chance to study the vastness and wonders of the sky, and will scour every face of the planet to find the right tools to do so. *Starts with a wand of Detect Stairs and wand of Detect Traps.*

2.2 Combat

To attack an enemy, attempt to walk into it. Not all enemies will be so easy to attack, so here are a few tips to deal with them:

- If you find yourself surrounded by enemies, retreat into a 1-tile wide tunnel. It will be easier to deal with one enemy at a time, instead of being assaulted on every side.
- Use items to your advantage! Many deaths can be prevented not by running-and-gunning, or racing through the dungeon as soon as possible, but by using the right item at the right time.
- Both the player and enemies can attack in all 8 directions, so if you are only using the arrow-keys to move adjacent to an enemy in the cardinal directions, they will almost certainly be able to get a hit on you.

2.3 Hunger

The threat of starvation is a constant threat in *The Depression*. Luckily for you, a current surplus of food stuffs caused by rampant item imbalancing means that you shouldn't face any real threat of starvation. For now. To eat food items, open the inventory with **i** and select the food item you want to eat. Sometimes, monster will drop their corpses (represented by %), and their flesh can be extracted by pressing **x**.

As long as you aren't hungry, your health will heal automatically. There's almost no reason to rush through the dungeon.

2.4 Identification

Many items within the *The Depression* are foreign to surface-dwellers, and as such, the protagonist will almost certainly be unable to recognize them. The types of items that appear **unidentified** include potions, scrolls, wands, and rings. Most items will be identified upon use, but this isn't universally true.

The identity of each item is different every new game, so don't rely the identity of one item to be the same from a previous game (e.g. a Diet Dr. Fabulous may be a poison potion one game, but be a potion of resist poison the next game).

3 The Depression

The Depression is a mega-dungeon formed via unknown means. Some theorize that it's the remnants of a crater left behind after the *Dungeon Star* fell to Earth; others believe that a great mage formed the dungeon using the power of the crown. Either way, your goal is to reach the bottom of *The Depression*, retrieve the *Dungeon Star*, and return to the surface alive. Of course, you won't find the *Dungeon Star* in the current version of the game, and the variety in enemies and items spawned stops after around 20 levels down, so the overall method of getting to the lowest point should be of little concern to you.

3.1 Traps

Hidden traps can be found within the dungeon (represented by a ^), which will only slow (or halt) your progress downwards. The higher your Dexterity score is, the less likely you are to reveal or interact with a trap. The same goes for other creatures within the dungeon.

4 Items

There are several items to be found within *The Depression* to help you on your quest to finding the *Dungeon Star*.

4.1 Potions and Scrolls

Potions (represented by !) are found in the dungeon as a cans of soft drink from the centuries-defunct Dr. Fabulous Corporation. When consumed, they may give some effect to the protagonist, and provide a small amount of nutrition.

Scrolls (represented by ?) are found as mislabelled scrolls from a mad wizard who once roamed the dungeon. They enable the user to perform some magic spell when read. However, they can only be used once, so consider the best opportunity to use them!

4.2 Wands

Wands (represented by /) appear in many materials in the dungeon, and, like scrolls, allow the user to perform a magic spell when used. They have a limited number of charges, so they can be used multiple times before being depleted of energy.

4.3 Rings

Rings (represented by =) give the protagonist a more permanent effect than spells or potions, and one can be worn on both the left and right hand.

5 Controls

The controls of **Dungeon Star** are ever-changing as new features are added, and as old controls are considered to be awful, but this list of controls is accurate to the vision of the game.

5.1 Menu Manipulation

- q - list controls
- *Escape* - exit menu; exit to main menu

5.2 Movement

- *Up/Down/Left/Right* - cardinal movement
- 8/2/4/6 - cardinal movement
- j/k/h/l - cardinal movement
- 7/9/1/3 - diagonal movement
- u/i/b/n - diagonal movement
- . - wait turn
- 5 - wait turn
- > - descend stairs
- < - ascend stairs

5.3 Environemt Interaction

- , - grab item
- g - grab item
- x - butcher corpse
- ; - look at entity

5.4 Character Interaction

- i - open inventory
- d - drop item
- c - show character screen