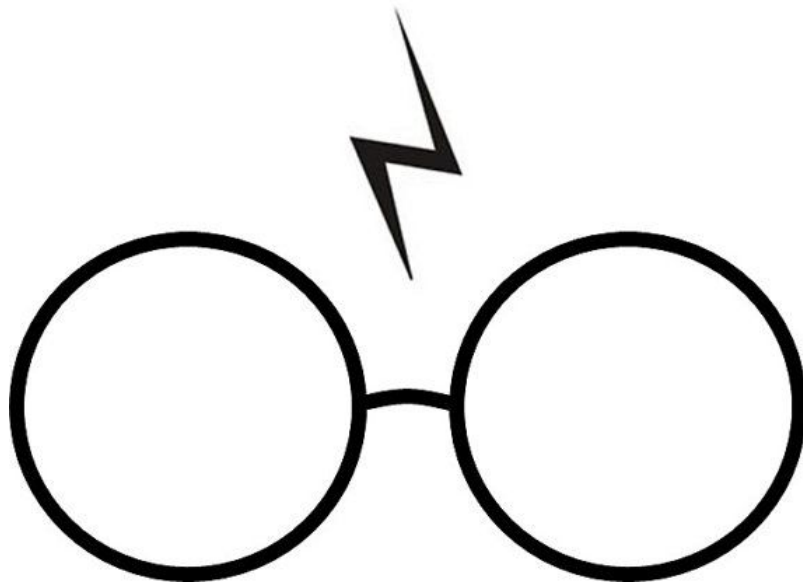


Basic Handbook



Harry Potter & The Role Playing Game

Contents

Introduction & Core Mechanic

IMPORTANT:

Note that this is only the *Basic Rulebook*. As such, it contains only introductory information needed to get beginner players involved in the game. Significant chunks of material (notably all non-student Archetypes, and spells above Novice level) have been omitted to ensure a smooth adoption for those wanting to get to grip with the game, without being overshadowed by large amounts of information.

Harry Potter & The Role Playing Game is a freeform role playing game, where you take control of a character living in the world of Harry Potter. All you need to play this game is a pen, some paper, and a set of dice – the rest is up to your imagination. If it is reasonable for your character to do something, then you may direct them to do that – to run towards evil head on and fight injustices, to run away and save yourself, or even to become the malevolent evil itself; the world really is your oyster.

Of course, in order to separate this from the games we all played as children, where actions were completed simply by claiming that it is so, this rulebook provides a framework for resolving the success and subsequent effects of the actions that you wish your character to undertake, as well as keeping track of the various abilities and attributes that your character possesses.

To this end, whenever the result of an action is uncertain, be it an attack, an attempt to persuade someone, or checking for clues, your character must rely on a 'check'. This 'check' takes into account the abilities, skills, afflictions and bonuses that your character has accumulated over their lifetime, and then adds in an element of randomness, through a dice roll, all of which are combined into a single 'check value' (or CV).

If this CV surpasses a certain minimum requirement (called the 'difficulty value' of the action, or DV) then the action is said to succeed. If you do not meet the minimum requirement, the action fails – and you may face repercussions!

But how is the DV of an action determined? This is where the Game Master (GM) comes into play. The GM is one of the players who has agreed to act as a referee for the story that the players wish to tell. The GM is the overseer of the narrative: they are responsible for describing the encounters, adventures and environments that the other players are taking part in. Though the GM controls the characters who oppose the players, the GM does not 'win' if these enemy characters prevail – the purpose of the GM is not to defeat the player characters (PCs), but to drive the story and present interesting and challenging scenarios for them to overcome.

As a corollary to this, the only completely unassailable rule in this book is that **the Game Master's judgments are always correct and final**. The GM has complete freedom to override the rules in this booklet, in the name of an interesting yet challenging story. Of course, if they have simply misread or misremembered a rule, they might self-correct when this is pointed out to them – however, in a true conflict between what the rules say and what the GM says, the GM wins every time.

An example of this would be the GM changing the require-

ments of a spell because of the way it is being used. For example, the Patronus Charm is usually cast using a SPR check, as it requires great strength of will to cast – but if you are using a Patronus as a diversion, the GM might decide that an intelligence check is more suitable. The GM is also the arbiter of what is allowed, what bonuses you may apply to a given check, and whether a tactic was successful.

Of course, this is not to say that the GM should always use this power in opposition to the players. These rules are only the basic framework upon which the GM and PCs weave their narrative – if a PC wishes to do something that is not covered in this manual, then the GM can use their power ('GM fiat') to work with the PCs to determine the outcome. Equally, if a player wants to create a PC with traits not covered in the character creation chapter, the GM may be willing to work with the PC to create the appropriate rules.

With this basic set of rules in mind, the flow of the game is rather simple:

1. **The GM describes the environment**, they may describe the sights, sounds and smells that your PCs would experience in the situation that they find themselves in. The GM should give the basic lay of the land – the things that every person in that situation would be able to spot.
2. **The players decide what they would like to do**, they might decide that they'd like to investigate a certain aspect of the room more carefully, or they might decide to cast a spell, or hit somebody with a big stick. They then inform the GM of their final decisions
3. **The players and GM work together to resolve these actions**, some resolutions are simple ('you walk through the door', 'you drink the potion'), others may require checks and the GM thinking carefully about the success of such an action. In some 'modes of play' (i.e. combat), this resolution needs to be done in a specific order with players taking turns. Other times, it may be more fluid and conversational.
4. **The GM narrates the result of this action**, telling the players what happened and how the success (or failure) of their actions impacted the world around them.

This cycle then continues, as you build up your narrative!

Computing Checks

Computing the CV of a given check is perhaps the most important mechanic for playing this game (beyond raw imagination), so it is worthwhile to consider this in more detail.

A check has three ingredients, the dice roll, the attribute modifier and the bonus modifier.

The dice roll is, as you might expect, the outcome of a dice roll. A roll can occur on one of 6 different dice: a d4, d6, d8, d10, d12 or d20, with the number simply signifying the number of sides that the dice has (so a d6 is the usual cubic dice). You may also see the *d* preceded by another number, i.e. *nd6*. This tells you to roll the d6 *n* times. Unless otherwise specified, you should generally assume that the check being asked for is using the d20 dice. For all ability-related checks, this will be your go-to dice. Magic casting and physical attacks will often require different dice.

On to the dice roll, you then add your 'attribute modifier'. This number is derived from your character's *attributes*, the key defining traits of your character. There are 8 of these attributes: **Athleticism, Finesse, Spirit, Charisma, Intelligence, Empathy, Power** and **Evil**. They typically take values between 5 and 18. A larger attribute score will give you a larger modifier in that attribute (and hence a bonus on these checks), and a smaller value can result in a *negative* modifier, making these checks harder. A check is (nearly) always specified to be a check related to one of these 8 attributes, which tells you which modifier to use.

Finally, you may then add on any situation-dependent modifiers. This may take the form of a temporary buff (such as a potion), any penalties from injuries, or any other abilities that your character has acquired along the way (such as *Proficiencies* or *Skill bonuses*). Anything that the GM feels will affect how good your character is at this test, is added on here.

Hence, to complete an action; for example, a "1d20 Intelligence (Research) Check", we would roll a single 20-sided dice to get a value *x*, and then calculate:

$$CV = x + \text{intelligence modifier} + \text{bonuses}$$

If the check value exceeds the minimum threshold (the DV) then the action is successful. If the check exceeds the threshold by a significant margin, the action might be more than just 'successful', and might have benefits beyond that which you originally intended!

Conversely, if you fail the check, then the action will fail. If you fail by a significant margin, then the action will not only not happen, it might backfire on you spectacularly, and rather than blasting your opponent into oblivion, you might find yourself vomiting slugs over the school field...

Using these Rules

For the most part, these rules sections provide nothing more than a list of when, how and under what circumstances you can acquire the various bonuses and penalties to plug into the above equation, although – of course – there's rather more to it than that!

Chapter 2 deals with character creation, and the various routes one may take to defining the character you will be playing, including playable races, professions and starting equipment. Chapter 3 focusses on some specifics of action resolution, including combat actions and movement. Chapter 4 discusses items and equipment. Chapter 5 discusses the magical art of Artificing – the creation of magical items and potions. Chapter 6 deals with the Environment and related concerns, such as vision and impaired movement. Chapter 7 contains information about character progression and leveling up, and finally (and perhaps most importantly), Chapter 8 discusses the nature and use of Magic and Spells.

The GM also has their own rulebook, the Game Master's Guide, which contains some rules, instructions and a compendium of information which might want to be kept secret from the players so that they can discover it along with their players, to prevent 'metagaming'. Players should only view this document with the GM's consent.

Part I

Characters

1: Creating A Character

The first step in playing the game is to create your own character. Your character can be whatever or whoever you want it to be – this is your story after all.

Your character is manifest in the game through your imagination, but in order to quantify the events occurring in the story, a character is formed from a mixture of several ingredients (of which imagination is a non-trivial part!), from which we can generate statistics and check values.

Before you begin, it is helpful if you have an idea of the kind of character you wish to create – your GM should tell you the rough outlines of the setting, which should help guide the type of character that will work well in the story. Do you want to play a powerfully destructive mage bent on crushing their enemies; or an investigator, pursuing the truth behind a mystery?

You should also think about the backstory of your character – what has led them to this point in their lives? Why are they going on this adventure?

Once you have a good idea of the kind of character you wish to create, follow these steps to generate you character, and record the results on the Character Sheet.

1) Choose a (sub)Species

Every character belongs to one of the Sapient races present in this world – be they a human, a goblin, or a centaur. Some of the species (notably the humans) have several "sub-species" which take into account variation within the species.

Belonging to a species confers your most basic characteristics: what do you look like? What magics – if any – do you have access to?

Some species will also find themselves having a natural aptitude for certain skills, so it can be useful to think about how best to pair up your species and archetypes. The species available, and the abilities that they possess are discussed in Chapter ??

2) Choose an Archetype

An archetype broadly defines what your character does for a living – but it is also much more than that. The archetype defines what role your character plays in the story, how they perceive and interact with others and (perhaps more importantly) what skills they can develop as they progress.

Your character receives new skills and abilities by virtue of their archetype, so look ahead and see which skills you think will be the most useful (or, the most fun!) to develop along with your character. Archetypes are discussed in detail in Chapter ??

3) Determine Attribute Scores

The 8 Attributes and 20 associated Proficiencies will be your main numerical way of interacting with the game world. These numbers encode your characters abilities. Your class and

archetype will probably already have given your characters some abilities in this area, but all characters then get a choice of how to allocate some additional points.

A low score in a given attribute will have a long-term effects on your character's abilities (though they can develop with time), so think carefully about how your abilities mesh with your character's personality and archetype. A particularly shy character, you might decide, will not be very brave, and thus will have a low Willpower. Attributes are discussed in more detail in Chapter ??

4) Gather Your Equipment

Your character will probably gain some supplies by virtue of their archetype, but you will also acquire some cash, as well as perhaps the most important item in your inventory: your wand. The item system is presented in chapter ??.

5) Go adventuring!

At this point, you will hopefully have a fully formed character, possibly working within a party of other characters.

You will now be ready to set of on your adventure!

2: Playable Species

Different magical races have different characteristics, abilities, and affinities with different kinds of magic. Each choice of race/species modifies your attribute values by a set amount and provides a pool of extra points which you can allocate to attributes at will, and some race-specific Abilities and Skills.

It is generally impossible to switch species once a character has been created, except where it makes sense within the story (i.e. a human transitioning to a Vampire after being bitten).

Pure-Blood Human

Attribute Modifiers:

ATH	FIN	SPR	CHR	INT	EMP	POW	EVL
-1	-1	+2	+1	+0	-1	+2	+0

Base Speed: 2 metres per turn.

Attribute points: 2 extra points

Skills: 2 free skills

Typically the strongest magic users, pure-bloods find it easiest to interact with other members of the magical community, whilst struggling to stay hidden amongst the muggles. Because of their lifelong reliance on magic, most pure-bloods are not very athletic or good with their hands.

Half-Blood Human

Attribute Modifiers:

ATH	FIN	SPR	CHR	INT	EMP	POW	EVL
+0	+1	+2	+0	+1	+0	0	0

Base Speed: 2.5 metres per turn.

Attribute points: 3 extra points

Skills: 1 free skill

Not as in-tune with magic as purebloods, nor as adept at blending in as the muggle-borns, half-bloods strike a balance between the two, matching their empathy with magical power. Being a half-blood does not inherently mean only one magical parent: it is a catchall term for those with a non-trivial amount of muggle relatives in the recent past. As a result, the vast majority of magical folk are Half-bloods.

Muggle-Born Human

Attribute Modifiers:

ATH	FIN	SPR	CHR	INT	EMP	POW	EVL
+1	+0	-1	+1	+0	+1	-1	+0

Base Speed: 3 metres per turn.

Attribute points: 3 extra points

Skills: 1 free skill

Coming from a non-magical background, muggle-borns often lack in raw magical power. However, being brought up in a muggle household means that they are often adept at blending in. They are also used to getting by without magic, and will often find themselves more handy and athletic than those born into their magic.

3: Character Archetype

Whilst your character is a unique individual, an adventuring soul destined for greatness, most questers find themselves falling into one of many *archetypes* – are they the head-strong hero who needs to learn humility? The academic who's quest for knowledge has led to unforeseen consequences, or the plucky underdog trying to quit their life of crime?

The archetype (also known as the *class*) of your character is a way of formalising these character types. The role of your character is more than simply the job they perform, it is the prism through which they see the world – it guides their very essence, how they perceive themselves and others. The Archetype of a character therefore has a drastic impact on the roleplaying aspect of the game.

As well as informing what kind of person your character is, the Archetype serves to provide them with some unique skills (*Features*) that they acquire as they progress through the archetype. Each time they level up, their archetype abilities increase in power. Your choice of path also provides you with information about the character's starting equipment and any proficiencies they may already have.

Within each Archetype, there are two sub-types to further distinguish your character, these sub-types fit into the broader Archetype, but the choice gives you a divergent set of features, in addition to those associated with your base Archetype. The choice of sub-type does not need to be made until Archetype Level 3, as they are indistinguishable up until that point.

There are 12 Archetypes, each with two branches.

Archetype	Alpha Branch	Beta Branch
Artificer	Enchanter	Potioneer
Auror	Enforcer	Warder
Brute	Beserker	Bodyguard
Empath	Healer	Seer
Fighter	Melee	Ranged
Investigator	Detective	Journalist
Naturalist	Magizoologist	Druid
Oathkeeper	Knight	Acolyte
Outlaw	Assassin	Thief
Performer	Bard	Acrobat
Ranger	Scout	Hunter
Sage	Teacher	Scholar

In the Basic Rulebook, however, to keep things simple, the only Archetypes included are the 4 Student archetypes. To see the full Archetype list, refer to the Core Rulebook.

Students

Characters who are students, however, are much less likely to know what their roll in life is yet. They are much more likely to be defined and shaped by their school environment, so there are four special Archetypes, dedicated to the 4 Houses at Hogwarts. Note that these 4 Archetypes only have 5 levels of features, so students are encouraged to multiclass.

Only human wizards (muggleborns, halfbloods and pure-bloods) may take these Archetypes, as Hogwarts does not (yet) accept non-human students.

Archetype	Alpha Branch	Beta Branch
Gryffindor	Sportsman	Rebel
Hufflepuff	Hard-Worker	Student Counsellor
Ravenclaw	Nerd	Prodigy
Slytherin	Student Politician	Schemer

All students have the same starting equipment, and the same choice of starting spells.

Starting Equipment

All students start with:

- a *Student's Pack*
- a basic Cauldron
- a Wand (roll on the wand table to determine composition)
- 2d4 × 5 gold.

Starting Spells

Students may choose any three spells from the *Basic Spells* set:

- *Green Sparks*
- *Stinging Hex*
- *Flower Conjuring Spell*
- *Illumination Spell*
- *Minor Healing Spell*
- *Throw Voice Charm*
- *Locator Spell*

Multiclassing

Although it is perfectly possible to progress with only one archetype, sometimes you might want to dip your toes into another set of abilities. This is called *multiclassing*. At any time, you may decide to take a new Archetype. Rather than increasing your level in your current Archetype, you may instead choose to become a Level 1 in a new class. In an ideal world, this should only be done because of a profound change in either the character, or their circumstances.

For example, a Level 6 Fighter might decide that, after their ordeal at the hands of an evil cult, to dedicate their life to eradicating all cults everywhere. This all consuming quest means that they decide to swear fealty to a powerful being and become an Oathkeeper. Next time the character progresses, she becomes a Level 6 Fighter/Level 1 Oathkeeper. They may decide to focus on their Oathkeeper until they are a level 6/5 Fighter/Oathkeeper – at which point they may take another level in Fighter. You do not necessarily abandon your original archetype.

The sum of your archetypes should (in nearly all cases) simply be the total character level (and it is this character level that determines when you next level up).

Your abilities in a given archetype are based on your level *in that archetype*, not your total character level. Our 6/5 Fighter/Oathkeeper is a level 11 character, but only has access to Level 6 Fighter features, and so on.

If you are playing a student character, you may not multiclass into a different House. Equally, a non-student may not multiclass into a House.

You may multiclass as many times as you like – though you will find yourself with considerably fewer abilities than a character who has stuck with a single archetype.

Different-Branch Multiclassing

If you have advanced to level 3, then your character will have chosen one of the two branches associated with that archetype. From this point, it is indeed possible to multiclass into the same archetype, if you wish to take the other branch. You will then have to keep track of your levels in each *branch* separately, so you may be a level 4/3 Sage(teacher)/Sage(researcher).

If you do this, you will need to use the *Repeated Features* rules (see below), but note that you may only receive a maximum of +2 arcane wisdom points from this.

Repeated Features

In general, when you take a new level in an archetype, you receive all the associated features with that level. However, some archetypes may have features that provide identical or very similar effects.

In such a case, you generally do not get multiple uses of that feature, and they do not stack. Instead, you may use the additional refined knowledge you gain to increase your arcane wisdom by 1. If you have multiclassed into the same archetype (see above), then this bonus is capped at +2.

Multiclass Equipment

Note that the equipment detailed in each archetype is the *starting* equipment. If you multiclass, however, you do not automatically acquire these items, except where it makes narrative sense.

4: Main Attributes

Attributes are the defining characteristics of your character. They enumerate how strong willed, how athletic and how popular your character is. These characteristics in turn define how good your character is at certain skills – a character with a large willpower, for instance, will be good at combat magic, whilst a character with a low athleticism would find themselves unable to run away from threats!

- **Athleticism (ATH):** Your character's ability to exert themselves physically; to run, jump and deal physical attacks. Athletic characters are often harder to kill, and able to recover more quickly from wounds.
- **Finesse (FIN):** Your character's ability to execute actions with delicacy and precision. Picking pockets, hiding and casting spells in an unusual fashion require finesse in order to execute properly.
- **Spirit (SPR):** Your character's ability to face down external threats without flinching, to be sure of themselves, and to resist when the odds are against them. A character with a large spirit can often resist the effects of mind-altering spells, and can summon the strength to carry on when all others would have submitted. Typically considered the defining characteristic of Gryffindor House.
- **Charisma (CHR):** The ability of a leader, and those who influence others. Charisma helps your character convince others of what you say, and make them like and trust you. Charisma also helps cast magic that alters their perception of reality, allowing you to convince them that it is real. A trait typically associated with Slytherin House.
- **Intelligence (INT):** Intelligence lets your character know that what they are doing is indeed the correct way forward. Though not always a substitute for raw magical power, an intelligent character learns spells more quickly, and can often be helpful in identifying threats (and their weak points). Typically considered the defining trait of Ravenclaw House.
- **Empathy (EMP):** Empathy allows your character to understand other characters, to identify when something is wrong, and to be able to help. Empathy is often required for healing and protective magics. Though often mocked by dark wizards throughout history, it is empathetic magic – love – that has often conquered the most evil characters in history. Typically a trait associated with Hufflepuff House.
- **Power (POW):** Sometimes you don't want to levitate a single brick out of a wall: you want the wall to explode. When finesse and trickery fail, throwing huge amounts of magical power at a problem can sometimes be beneficial. Some of the most spectacular magics require a large power, but when a powerful spell goes wrong, the effects can be devastating and unforeseeable.
- **Evil (EVL):** Evil characters commit atrocities in the name of furthering their own goals. They will go to any lengths to get what they desire, including killing, maiming and torturing. Evil magics may grant you enormous powers, but are you willing to pay the price?

Proficiencies

Most Attributes are subdivided further into several *proficiencies*. These provide bonuses when the check is of a certain type, as discussed in more detail in section ??.

- ATH: Health, Speed, Strength
- FIN: Dexterity, Stealth, Precision
- SPR: Endurance, Willpower
- CHR: Deception, Performance, Persuasion
- INT: Research, Arcane Knowledge, History, Flora & Fauna
- EMP: Perception, Understand Other, Healing
- POW: (None)
- EVL: Chaos, Intimidation

Determining Abilities

Perhaps the most important part of Character Creation is determining the attributes of your character. This is done by rolling a 2d6+2 ten times. This gives you 10 numbers between 4 and 14. You may then allocate 7 of these numbers to your non-EVL attributes at will. EVL defaults to zero at character creation.

Generally speaking, you will want to allocate the largest of these values to the attributes which your character will rely on the most – so a powerful magical warrior will get the largest values allotted to SPR and POW, whilst a healer gets the largest value given to EMP.

All proficiency bonuses are set to zero at the beginning of character creation.

Health & Fortitude

Having determined your character's baseline attributes, we may now begin to see how this affects values relevant to game-play – namely, the Health and Fortitude of your character.

Health

Health is the physical status of your character: attacking a character lowers their health, and when the health points (HP) of a character reach zero, that character is killed. A character's maximum health is calculated from:

$$\text{max HP} = 2 \times \text{ATH (health)} + \text{relevant bonuses}$$

When your HP limit is raised (say, by the *vita maxima* spell), your current HP is raised by the same amount. In contrast, when your HP ceiling is lowered, you only lose HP if the ceiling is lowered below your current health levels. It is never possible to have more than your maximum HP.

If your character is reduced to 0HP, then they acquire the Critical Condition status: they are completely immobilised, and will lose 1HP per turn. When you reach -10HP, you are dead, and nothing can bring you back.

Characters regenerate health slowly as minor wounds heal, at a rate of 1HP per hour whilst not in combat (unless there is a status effect blocking the healing effect), increasing to 3HP per hour when asleep. This counter is reset every time your character takes additional damage. Status effects such as Serious Wound may impact the maximum HP which can be reached by natural healing, without external intervention.

Fortitude

Fortitude is a character's ability to concentrate, which is necessary to cast spells and some other non-magic feats. Performing magic takes effort, and a character's fortitude points (FP) will be slowly eroded by engaging in such mental effort. A character's maximum mental fortitude is calculated from:

$$\text{max FP} = \text{SPR (willpower)} + \text{INT (arcane)} + \text{relevant bonuses}$$

The same rules about raising/lowering the max level apply to Fortitude, as well as Health. Fortitude is used to cast spells, all spells have an associated fortitude cost written next to them – as well as resist magic, and other actions which require intense concentration. You must subtract the relevant amount from your FP when performing such an action (plus or minus the appropriate amount for bonuses, power-boosted spells etc.)

When your FP reaches zero, your mind is exhausted, and so you will no longer be able to engage in such complex actions. Unlike HP, FP regenerates during combat; at a rate of 2FP per combat cycle where you do not cast a spell. Outside of combat, the regeneration rate is 8FP per hour, increasing to 20 per hour whilst asleep.

Note that the maximum values of your HP and FP are dynamic values: when your ATH, SPR or INT values change, so do they. This is an important consideration when deciding which attributes to increase when levelling up.

5: Character Progression & Skills

Character Progression

Each character has a 'level' associated with them, which denotes how far your character has progressed, and how powerful they are. Levelling your character is key to progressing: it unlocks new skills, boosts your attributes, and gives access to new spells. A higher-level magic user is a stronger magic user. A stronger magic user is less likely to get eaten by a passing beast, which is generally considered a good thing.

Experience

Increasing the level of your character ('levelling up') is achieved by accumulating experience. To progress from level 1 to level 2, you must accumulate 100 experience points (EP). When your character reaches 100EP, they ascend to level 2, and the counter is reset. To go from level 2 to level 3 you need to acquire another 200 EP, and so on and so forth. The EP needed to go from level x to $x + 1$ is calculated from:

$$EP_{x \rightarrow x+1} = 100x$$

Experience is gained by completing actions and defeating enemies. Experience is awarded for completing difficult actions such as casting a spell, mixing a potion, defeating an enemy in combat, or convincing someone to give you something. The GM will instruct you to roll a dice, and you will gain that much experience from completing the action.

The dice you roll (and hence the amount of experience you gain) from such an action depends on your proficiency in that skill. For instance, a first year student gains far more knowledge and experience from casting wingardium leviosa than a seasoned auror does. Hence, as you progress, you will learn less experience from trivial actions.

As a rough guide, performing an action (such as casting a spell) which is of the same proficiency level as you are will get a 2d20 roll, using one level below your proficiency is a 2d12, and so on:

Relative Proficiency	Experience Roll
Same level	2d20
1 level below	2d12
2 levels below	2d8
3 levels below	2d6
4 levels below	2d4

For example, a character with the Adept Battlemage (combat magic) skill would roll a 2d20 for successfully casting the Impediment Jinx (an adept level combat spell), whilst if they were an Master Thaumaturge (transfiguration), they would only get to roll a 2d8 for casting an Adept transfiguration spell, as this is 2 levels below Master.

Experience is only awarded when an action is truly succesful (i.e. a spell has to hit its target, as well as be succesfully cast).

Levelling Up

When your experience reaches the requisite amount, you immediately trigger the levelling up process. When you level up, you make the following changes to your character:

- Increase character level by 1, and reset EXP counter to zero (you may carry any excess EXP over)
- Increase Archetype level by one **OR** choose a new archetype (see multiclassing rules on page ??). Add any new Features you gain at this point.
- You may choose one of the following:
 - Increase an attribute by 2, or two attributes by 1
 - Choose a new Skill, if you meet the minimum prerequisites
- Calculate new HP and FP ceilings
- Reset HP and FP to maximum
- Reset spell-learned counter

Other Changes

The GM may also decide that, during the normal course of play, you have done something that warrants a permanent bonus or penalty – be it something you have learned from extensive practice, or a gift from some higher being – the GM will grant you a bonus to your Attributes or Proficiencies. This will probably most commonly be used to penalise players for immoral actions – by increasing their EVL level.

Skills

Skills are learned abilities that your character picks up along the way. They can be learned either by levelling up or given as gifts by external devices. Some skills are only temporary and will wear off after a while. Skills are key to learning new and more powerful magic, as well as unlocking useful abilities. Most skills come in 5 levels: Beginner, Novice, Adept, Expert and Master, which must be learned in that order.

The 8 most important skills are the magic-school skills: skills which are each associated with one of the 7 schools of magic (and Resist checks). They are,

Magic School	Associated Skill
Hexes & Curses	Battlemage
Transfiguration	Thaumaturgus
Charms	Sorcerer
Recuperation	Defender
Illusion	Magician
Divination	Clairvoyant
Dark Arts	Necromancy
Resist Checks	Withstand

Learning more powerful spells in each school of magic requires more and more levels in the relevant skill. To cast Expert level Hexes and Curses, you need to be an Expert Battlemage, and so on.

Other skills gives you access to more powerful abilities as well.

Prerequisites

Some skills list a minimum ability score, or other threshold that your character must posses before they take that skill. If you do not meet the threshold, you cannot take the skill, unless you are provided it by external means, such as a Class Feature.

In addition, for multi-level skills, when you take a skill you cannot take another level in that skill until you level up twice. If a character takes a skill at level x , then the prerequisite of the next level is that a character is level $x + 2$. This includes skills that are given by Class Features – if you are given a level in a skill by a Class Feature at level 8, you must wait until level 10 to level up again.

Automatic Skill Aquiring

Some skills are acquired automatically through levelling up, without you having to choose. Sometimes, these skills may be givn to your by the GM for narrative reasons, or in order to further a stagnating game.

The 8 Magic skills can indeed be levelled up by player choice in the usual fashion in order to get access to those spells slower. However, you may also gain these skills simply by reaching the appropriate level:

Skill Level	Acquiring Level
Beginner	1
Novice	5
Adept	10
Expert	15

When an auto-levelling is incurred, if you already have that spellcasting level thanks to taking the appropriate Skill manually, you instead get a +1 increase to your arcane wisdom for each Skill you took. This only applies to manually-chosen skills, it does not apply to increases due to the Spellcasting Improvement archetype feature.

Skill List

Name	Effect	Levels	Prerequisite
Ambidextrous	No penalty for using items in your non-dominant hand.	1	<i>FIN > 10</i>
Animagus	Transform into an non-magical animal at will. This animal must be chosen at the moment you acquire this skill, and cannot be changed afterwards. Transforming costs 5FP and constitutes a major action.	1	<i>Expert Thaumaturgy</i>
Apparate	Perform a SPR (willpower) check. Apparition difficulty is 18 / 17 / 15 / 15 / 12 / 12. If successful, character teleports to a region that they are intimately familiar with (Beginner), have visited before (Adept), or have heard of (Master).	5	<i>Adept Sorcerer</i>
Archer	Use a 1d4/ 1d6 / 1d8 / 1d10 / 1d12 / 1d20 dice to determine your long range accuracy checks.	5	
Battlemage	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Hexes & Curses You are able to use Hexes & Curses which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Brawler	Can perform non-magical melee attacks. Each level unlocks a different type of combat: 1: Unarmed combat 2: Small melee weapons (daggers, knives) 3: One handed melee weapons (swords, spears, axes) 4: Two-handed melee weapons (warhammer, battleaxes, broadsword) 5: Complex weapons	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Catastrophic Critical	Upon a critical hit opportunity, roll a 1d 4 / 6 / 8 / 10 / 20. Multiply the damage by the outcome of this dice roll. This overrides the usual critical procedure.	5	
Clairvoyant	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast divination spells You are able to use Divination spells which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Cleave	If a melee attack kills an opponent, you may perform a second attack using the same weapon on one adjacent opponent, dividing the damage done by 2 for every subsequent kill.	1	<i>Strength > 2</i>
Defence Against the Dark Arts	Take check-advantage when performing a resist check against any Dark-Arts spells cast by a wizard with an EVL less than your character level	5	
Defender	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Recuperationspells You are able to use Recuperation magic which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Eagle-Eyed	Increases the effective range of your vision by 50%	1	
Elegant Avoidance	Can use either ATH(Speed) or FIN(precision) attribute to perform evasion checks.	1	
Emergency Care	You may take a major action to perform a <i>stabilization</i> action. Perform an EMP(healing) check (DV 15), if successful, remove the <i>Critical Condition</i> status and apply the <i>Critical but Stable</i> condition	1	
Familiar	You may have one of the following to accompany you: Beginner: Newt, Toad Novice: Cat, Rat, Snake Adept: Owl, Poltergeist Expert: Hippogriff, Phoenix Master: (negotiate with your GM!)	5	<i>Flora & Fauna > 2</i>
Fast Caster	May cast an additional spell per major action. If the first spell fails, however, this negates the effect, and you may not complete the second spell. Does not apply to counterspells.	1	<i>Adept Battlemage</i>

Flying Lessons	At Beginner level, you become proficient in using broomsticks, and may use them to fly. Flight related checks gain a + 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 boost.	5	
Focussed Caster	When interrupted (i.e. by taking damage) during a concentration spell, you may perform a d20 SPR(endurance) check (DV 14) to stay focussed.	1	
Golden Touch	Sell items for 50% more than stated price.	1	<i>CHR > 10</i>
Knife Handler	Bladed weapons do + 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 damage, and they last twice as long before becoming dull.	5	<i>LVL 2</i>
Linguist	For each level of this skill, you can pick a new language to learn. Each language must be declared when levelling up. To learn Parseltongue, you require EVL to be greater than 4.	5	
Magician	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Illusion spells You are able to use Illusion spells which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Meditation	Fortitude regeneration gets a + 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 boost per turn where magic is not used.	5	<i>Adept Defender</i>
Merciful	You may attempt to turn a lethal blow into a knockout strike. When performing an attack that would otherwise kill the target, perform a DV 6 FIN (Precision) check. If it passes, the target is knocked unconscious, rather than killed.	1	
Metamorphmagus	Perform a CHR check. GM sets the difficulty dependent on the extent to which you must change your appearance, and the surrounding circumstances.	1	<i>Expert Thaumaturgy</i>
Mimicry	You can mimic the voice of another sapient, or the call of an animal, provided you have heard them for at least 1 minute previously.	1	<i>CHR > 13</i>
Mobile	Your speed increases by 1m	1	
Momentum Dodge	If you begin the phase behind cover, you may emerge from cover, take an action, and still be considered to be in an evasion phase, taking a 4 / 3 / 2 / 1 / 0 point penalty to the evasion check. You may not move the next turn.	5	<i>ATH > 10</i>
Muggle Lover	All muggle-related checks get check-advantage. In addition, muggles are less likely to be suspicious of you.	1	
Musician	Replace your wand with your music: perform all illusion & protective magic with your instrument of choice, using a CHR (performance) check. Spells take 2 turns to cast in this fashion. Using Silent Casting negates this effect.	5	<i>Performance > 0</i>
Necromancer	May use a 1d/6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Dark Arts spells. You can use Dark Arts spells which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
On the Ball	Get 10 / 15 / 20 / 25 / 30 seconds to make a decision about a counterspell, rather than the usual 5	5	
Overcome Resistance	Choose a damage type: fire, cold, electric, necrotic and celestial. You may ignore any resistance below 100% to this type. Every time you take this skill again, choose a different damage type.	5	<i>Beginner Battlemage</i>
Parry	Acts in place of a counterspell in close range physical combat. The attacker and defender both perform an ATH (strength) check (with weapon modifiers). If the defender succeeds, the attack fails.	1	<i>Novice Brawler</i>
Proficiency Boost	Choose one proficiency associated with an attribute with a score > 10. Increase that proficiency by 1.	7	<i>Various</i>

Raw Power	Once per day, may use perform a POW check to cast a spell, rather than the specified check, at the cost of doubling the FP cost of the cast.	1	
Shadow Walker	Every movement is considered as an Evasion Action, choosing to take an Evasive action grants check-advantage to evasion check.	1	<i>Stealth > 3</i>
Signature Spell	You may have 1/2/3 spells that are your 'signature'. These spells must be one level below your current level in their respective fields, but you get a +3 casting check on these spells.	3	<i>Novice in at least one school</i>
Silent Magic	Spells that normally require an incantation can be used silently. Silent magic checks suffer -4 / -2 / 0 penalty to all checks.	3	
Sleight of Hand	If a muggle catches you doing magic, perform a CHR (dexterity) check (DV 16) using sleight of hand to convince them that your magic is just trickery. You may also use this ability in combat to distract an opponent within 2m, causing the next attack on them to take Check Advantage on the damage-causing check.	5	<i>FIN > 14</i>
Sorcerer	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Charms You are able to use Charms which match your skill in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Spellbinder	Gain a +1/2/3/4/5 point bonus on enchanting checks.	5	<i>Adept Thaumaturge</i>
Spellmaker	Once per week, you may design your own spell (with GMs consent) by taking 1 hour. The GM will decide the appropriate type, level, DV and FP costs. The spell must be in a school you a Master in, and you must successfully cast it within three attempts for the spellmaking to be successful. If successful, the spellmaker memorises the spell. They may also transcribe the spell onto paper (1 major action) so others can book-cast it.	1	<i>Master in at least one school</i>
Stabiliser	For each level of this skill, you may nominate one check type (i.e. Illusion spellcasting, lockpicking, persuasion etc.). When performing a check of the nominated type, if possible you may choose to 'split the roll' and instead cast two die of half the nominated value, i.e. 2d10 instead of 1d20.	5	
Surge	You may take one extra major action in your turn. This skill cannot be used again until you rest for 4+ hours.	1	
Terrifying	All enemies perform a SPR (endurance) Resist check, whilst you perform a POW/EVL (intimidate) check (whichever is larger). If the check fails, target acquires <i>Terrified</i> status.	5	<i>POW > 14 or EVL > 6</i>
Thaumaturgus	May use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Transfiguration spells You are able to use Transfiguration spells which match your level in this skill.	5	<i>Auto-gained at LVL 1</i>
Tool-User	Choose a new tool to become proficient in.	5	
Tough as Nails	When you gain this skill, your Max HP increases by an amount equal to twice your level. Thereafter, gain +2 to your max HP every time you level up.	1	
Undead Benefactor	Healing spells work on the undead.	1	<i>Novice Defender</i>
Wandless Magic	May cast a spell without using a wand. All wandless magic is also silent. Wandless magic casting checks take a 50% penalty, unless used by a non-human species.	1	<i>Adept Silent Magic</i>
Warder	Protective spells and wards get a +2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 bonus to their effectiveness.	5	
Weak Spot	Attacks when an opponent's armour is still intact get a +4 bonus.	1	<i>Precision > 2</i>
Withstand	Resist checks may use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 dice.	5	

Species: Behind the Scenes	Stealth Proficiency gets +3 bonus. Your small stature means that all attacks on you are considered 'precision' shots.	1	<i>House-Elf Species Ability</i>
Species: Corrupted Blood	You are susceptible to Celestial Damage. Wounds caused by silver or blessed weapons do double damage. Prolongued (greater than 1 second) with silver does 5d8 Celestial damage (for vampires, this also extends to garlic, holy water and crucifixes).	1	<i>Vampire and Werewolf Species Ability</i>
Species: Enormous Size	Strength, Health and Endurance proficiencies get +2 bonus. Stealth, Precision, Dexterity and Deception proficiencies get -1 penalty. You are considered proficient with all Strength-based weapons.	1	<i>Half-Giant Species Ability</i>
Species: Fury's Visage	In human form, Persuasion proficiency gets +3 bonus. Once per day, you may shed human form and take on the visage of the <i>Fury</i> for up to 1 hour, or until dismissed as a minor action. Replace all memorised spells with <i>Fury's Fire</i> , gain a bonus to Resist checks equal to one third your character level and take the following stat modifiers: ATH: +3, SPR: +2, POW: +4, CHR: -5, EVL: +4	1	<i>Half-Veela Species Ability</i>
Species: Night's Child	Gain a permanent nightvision bonus, but become susceptible to the sun. For every minute you spend exposed to sunlight, suffer a 1-point penalty to ATH, SPR and POW (min 0).	1	<i>Vampire Species Ability</i>
Species: Vampiric Feeding	When within 1m of a target, you may use a major action to feed on them, dealing 2d4 necrotic damage (+1d4 for every two character levels above 2nd) to a target, and restore yourself the same amount of HP.	1	<i>Vampire Species Ability</i>
Species: Wolfblood	Gain a +3 bonus to Endurance proficiency, and +2 to Speed and Perception.	1	<i>Werewolf Species Ability</i>
Species: Wolfmoon	When the full Moon rises, you take the form of a mindless beast (controlled by the GM) for 12 hours, unless the Wolfsbane potion is taken.	1	<i>Werewolf Species Ability</i>

Part II

Actions and their Consequences

6: Performing Actions

In general, when you want to perform an action, simply tell the GM what you wish to do.

If it is a simple action – for example, “I walk to the shop”, then the action is completed with no further involvement. More complex actions may require a ‘check’ to be performed, to determine their success: inform the GM of what you want to do, and the GM will tell you what check to perform.

Checks, Modifiers & Proficiencies

Generally speaking, the following list should serve as a guide as to what general actions require which check:

- **ATH:** Required for physical feats, i.e. running, jumping, dodging and swimming
- **FIN:** Required for precision actions
- **SPR:** Feats that require concentration, force of will, and awareness of your surroundings.
- **CHR:** Convincing and persuading others, haggling and distractions.
- **INT:** Research and knowledge actions.
- **EMP:** Calming others, requesting help, identifying when something is amiss.
- **POW:** Often used to impress others, or intimidate them into helping you
- **EVL:** Intimidation, scaring. Often necessary to commit atrocities.

On top of these general actions, each school of magic has an inclination towards one attribute or another as the required casting checks – Hexes & Curses favour PWR and SPR, Transfiguration favours FIN and INT, Charms spells lean towards POW and FIN, Protective spells rely heavily on EMP checks, as does Divination, illusion obviously required CHR checks, and the Dark Arts requires extensive EVL checks.

As always, the GM has the authority to override these general guidelines, if it is suitable to do so (there is a certain crossover between CHR and EMP checks, for example, which may require event-specific discretion).

For more detail on how to calculate a check, see page ??.

Modifiers

Each character has an associated score in each of the 8 attributes, which enables them to more reliably pass checks in these fields, via the use of the associated modifiers. When performing an ATH check, for example, you perform the requisite check (usually a d20), and then add on your ATH modifier, which is derived from your ATH score in the following way:

$$\text{attribute modifier} = \frac{\text{attribute level} - 10}{2} \text{ (rounded down)}$$

The exception to this calculation is EVL. Since most people are (generally) much less evil than they are athletic, we use 5, rather than 10, in the denominator of the calculation. The table below gives an example:

Attribute Value	Modifier	EVL Value	EVL Modifier
6-7	-2	0-1	-3
8-9	-1	2-3	-2
10-11	+0	3-4	-1
12-13	+1	5-6	+0
14-15	+2	7-8	+1

Note that modifiers for attributes with a skill less than 10 (or 5 for EVL) are negative! You won't necessarily *always* be allowed to use your modifiers on every check – if you attempt to use a weapon you are not proficient in, for example, all positive modifiers are negated.

Proficiencies

In addition to the 8 main attributes, checks can be further subdivided up into 20 *proficiencies*, as follows:

- **ATH**
 - **Health** Used in checks to determine how healthy a character is, i.e. when resisting the effects of poisons and diseases
 - **Speed** Used in movement and dodge checks
 - **Strength** Used in weapon checks, and when brute force is required
- **FIN**
 - **Dexterity** Checks that require a steady hand, such as pickpocketing, or sleight of hand
 - **Stealth** Stay hidden from your enemies
 - **Precision** Used for long-distance shooting, or for ultra-precise spellcasting
- **SPR**
 - **Endurance** Checks that require resisting the effects of magic, tiredness or debilitating agony
 - **Willpower** Checks that require dominating someone else's spirit
- **CHR**
 - **Deception** Lie, cheat and mislead other characters
 - **Performance** Play music, sing, dance and otherwise entertain the masses.
 - **Persuasion** Convince others to willingly go along with your ideas
- **INT**
 - **Research** Learn new information from books and other resources
 - **Arcane knowledge** Identify magical spells, items and beings
 - **History** Recall events from the past, and recognise important figures and items from those events
 - **Flora & Fauna** Identify living beings of all shapes and sizes, and recall their properties
- **EMP**
 - **Perception** Recognise threats around you, spot things others might not
 - **Understand Other** Used in checks to understand what others want – useful in dealing with humans and beasts alike
 - **Healing** Gain bonuses when helping another being get better
- **POW**
 - (None)
- **EVL**
 - **Chaos** Gain a bonus when spreading wanton destruction and chaos
 - **Intimidation** Scare others, and make them more likely to give you what you want

Characters are provided points in a number of these areas at character creation through their racial abilities and backgrounds, and may gain more through acquiring Skills as they progress through the game.

If the GM decides that your action falls under one of these categories, they may ask for, rather than a simple “ATH check”, an “ATH (strength) check” in order for a character to lift a log, or an “ATH (speed) check” in order for the character to run away from danger.

In this case, in addition to the general ATH modifier added on to the d20 check, the character would add on their points in the strength and speed proficiencies respectively (if they had any).

Generally speaking, proficiency bonuses will always be associated with the attribute listed here – so Speed will usually be added on to an ATH check. However, in certain circumstances it makes sense to cross the borders. For example, if you are threatening to beat someone up, you might use an “ATH (intimidation)” check, or a “POW (intimidation)” if you are threatening them with magical violence – even though Intimidation is an EVL proficiency. The GM decides what is appropriate for each moment.

You are always allowed to ask the GM if a proficiency applies to a specific check, even if the proficiency was not explicitly asked for in the check – but they are always within their rights to refuse!

Arcane Wisdom

A character’s *Arcane Wisdom* is a check-modifier earned by general wisdom in the magical arts. In effect, this means that it increases by one every five levels:

Character Level	Arcane Wisdom
1-4	+0
5-9	+1
10-14	+2
15-20	+3
20+	+4

However, characters may also increase their arcane wisdom by learning the magic-school skills during the levelling-up process (see section ??).

The Arcane Wisdom stat may be used **once per day** on any magic-related check. The Arcane Wisdom value is added into the CV like a normal bonus.

The ‘once per day’ timer resets 24 hours after the previous usage, and only if the character has had at least 7 hours sleep in the interim.

Check Advantage

If you have the status effect *Check Advantage*, or are otherwise granted this ability on certain checks, then you may perform checks twice – and take the largest value. This decreases the likelihood of a negative outcome, and increases the likelihood of a positive one.

Conversely, a *Check Disadvantage* requires you to perform a check twice and take the lower of the two values.

You may sometimes have a conflict of multiple check modifiers such as this. The GM has the ability to rule that they either cancel each other out or (in rare instances) compound each other to give *check double-advantage* or *check double-disadvantage*, in which case you must perform the check three times, rather than twice. There is no check triple-(dis)advantage.

Success & Failure

After having performed the check, you will end up with a single number – a result of the (usually) d20 dice, modifiers, proficiencies and any other bonuses. It is now time to ‘resolve’ the check, and decide if the action was successful or not.

Generally speaking, the following table gives a rough outline of the check required to pass actions of a certain difficulty:

Task Difficulty	Description	Required Check
Easy	An everyday task that anyone could be expected to carry out first time.	5
Moderate	A task that a normal person might require a few tries to get right.	10
Hard	A task that a normal person could not carry out without specialist training	15
Very Hard	A task that even a trained expert might struggle to complete.	20
Legendary	A task that perhaps one person alive could actually complete.	25

It is up to the GM to decide the difficulty of the task (they do not need to reveal this to you), and they may of course deviate from this table.

If the check succeeds, then the action goes ahead – if not, then the action fails, and there may be negative consequences, especially if the dice roll was a 1 (‘natural failure’), or if your modifiers are such that the check was negative (haha). If this happens, the GM may come up with a suitable back-firing, or you may alert enemies to your presence, and so on.

On the other hand, many GM’s accept that a check which rolls a 20 on the d20 (‘nat 20’), if the action succeeds, is said to be a ‘critical success’, and may have positive effects beyond the intended. If the check was an attack, for instance, it may be considered a critical strike (see below), and do extra damage.

7: Non-Combat Actions

Actions can be split into two major types: combat and non-combat actions. Whilst the fundamental freeform aspect of the game remains present in both, during combat, the game necessarily becomes a bit more structured in how the moves are declared, and who gets to do what when in combat.

When not in direct combat with the enemy, however, you have virtually free reign with what you can do. Non-combat actions tend to be a lot less strict on their turn-based nature – as there's nobody to directly oppose you. Actions that you can undertake include casting magic, travelling, trading, creating items, and indeed, anything that you can conceive of your character doing.

Actions such as trading, potion brewing, and enchanting can only be performed when not in combat, excepting unusual circumstances, which you should be able to justify to your GM. Some specific actions, such as resting, travelling, spell casting, potion brewing and item enchantment are covered in the following sections, everything else is left up to the game master's discretion.

If you do not perform a spell in your turn, you character gets 2FP restored. If you are in a more 'free form' scenario, where moves are not rigorously kept track of, you regenerate at a rate of 2FP per minute.

Resting

Resting is an important action that can only occur when not in combat. Attempts to rest during combat are highly likely to get you killed on the spot.

When in safe territory, you may set up camp, and get a few hours shut-eye to recover from your ordeals (see the Asleep status effect for details). But be warned, the night is dark and full of terrors, and who knows what might sneak up on you whilst you are resting...

You may take rests whilst delving deep into unfriendly territory, but note that resting after every single encounter is generally frowned upon, and the GM might start throwing more and more unpleasant random encounters at you if you begin to take things to the extremes.

You should only rest in a place where it makes sense to rest – it does not makes sense, for example, to take a quick nap in whilst delving through the dungeons of an evil warlord, even if you have cleared the immediate area of enemies. Of course, if you kill the Warlord and claim his castle as your own, then it is a different matter...

Long-distance Movements

The specifics of movement in combat are discussed below, this section is concerned with movement in a more general sense.

Out of combat, wandering around the environment is very natural – you simply tell the GM that you want to go over there, and you do (barring unforeseen circumstances such as traps). The exact time taken isn't really kept track of (that would get dull), but it is presumed to occur on the scale of

minutes.

However, sometimes you might wish to travel longer distances, at which point the duration does matter.

If you are travelling more than 1 hour, then the following table gives a variety of paces, speeds and effects:

Pace	Speed	Duration	Effect
Slow	2km/h	8 hours	Perform FIN(stealth) check to remain hidden every 30 minutes
Normal	4 km/h	7 hours	(None)
Rapid	6 km/h	5 hours	-5 penalty to passive perception. 4 FP per hour.
Breakneck	10km/h	1 hour	- 10 penalty to passive perception. 6 FP per hour. 5 HP per hour.

If you attempt to travel for longer than the 'duration' of the selected pace, then you aquire the 'exhausted' status effect, and lose 50% of your max HP for every time you exceed another half-duration (so at Breakneck you would lose 50% of your max HP after 1 hour 30 minutes, at Normal, you would lose it after 10 hours 30 minutes).

This timer resets after a rest of more than 8 hours, after which time you can take up your pace again.

8: Combat Actions

The Combat Cycle

Unlike most RPGs, which tend to use a turn-based system for combat, this game uses a simultaneous combat system. The reason for this is that whilst the turn-based combat fits in with how we play games (I have my turn, you have yours, etc.), it is not entirely realistic: in a fight, you don't wait patiently for everyone else to complete attacking you before finally returning fire: everybody is completing actions at once.

After combat is initiated, a series of turn cycles occur. Each turn cycle allows every character in combat one major action, such as: a movement, casting a spell, or using an item. Before the turn is activated, there is a period of time (to be decided by your GM), during which you must decide on what you will do. Players may talk to each other during this time, but do be aware that discussing your tactics in front of the GM may give the game away, you wouldn't start shouting your plan out whilst fighting the enemy now, would you?

After this time is up, each player writes down their action on a scrap of paper (to prevent last minute changes of heart), and then all players (including the GM) reveal their action simultaneously.

Since all actions are considered to be simultaneous, the order in which the actions are resolved does not usually matter, recall that spells have a finite travel time, so it is entirely feasible for two players to stun each other simultaneously and it does not matter 'who cast first'.

It might, of course, still be possible for actions to come into conflict with each other: if two characters attempt to occupy the same space, for example. It is up to the GM's discretion how to deal with edge cases like this - for the example given, it is recommended that this be treated as a 'body slam', and both characters should recoil and take some damage.

There might also be cases where two spells are cast simultaneously where the ordering does actually matter: for example, if you heal someone at the same time that someone casts a damaging spell that would take them below 50% health, incurring the "major injury" status. If the healing action occurs first, then they are not taken below 50% health, but if the damage action occurs first, then they do fall below 50%, even if they are then brought back up over that threshold. The final health that the character ends up on might be the same, but the ordering of actions effects whether they have the *major injury* status at the end of the turn.

In cases such as this it is useful to remember that it is the *casting* of the spell that is simultaneous: so the ordering in which the spell effects should take place can be inferred from the distance between the caster and the target. The issue above is resolved simply by looking at whoever is closest to the target.

Movement

Moving is a very common action to take during combat, to avoid the enemy's attacks, or to manoeuvre yourself to enable an attack on the enemy. Movement can be broken down into three types: minor movements, transport movements and considered movements.

Minor Movements

A minor movement includes things such as turning to face an enemy, or taking a step out from behind cover. These actions do not constitute the entirety of a turn and you may still take a major action afterwards, **however, they are considered to happen at the very beginning of a turn cycle, and you cannot return to cover after emerging from it.** If you therefore emerge from cover to attack someone, and a character successfully guessed that this would happen and sent a spell in your direction, you will not be protected until you move back into cover in the next turn cycle.

A considered movement is one in which your character is attempting to do something else, whilst moving. It is considered a minor action - or 'half' a major action. The check is performed exactly as above, but you then simply divi the distance by two. You may use the other half to perform another minor action, such as an evasion, or to prepare a counter-spell. A considered movement may not then be used to trigger the 'sprint' effect.

Transport Movement

Transport movements are those designed to get you from point A to point B as quickly as possible. These actions do take up your entire turn: you can do nothing else except take a transport action. The distance that you can travel in a given transport action is calculated from:

$$\text{metres travelled} = \text{Base Speed} + \frac{\text{ATH modifier} + \text{Speed Proficiency}}{2}$$

This distance is rounded downwards to the nearest half-metre, unless you are wearing "heavy armour" (i.e. anything more heavy than usual fabrics), in which case it is rounded downwards to the nearest integer. The direction that you are travelling in **must** be declared before performing this check. You may elect to not use all of the movement that you rolled for - i.e. if you can move 1.5m in total, you may only use 1m, if you desire.

Minor Actions

You may perform two minor actions in place of a single major action, all minor movement actions occur first, but otherwise you may choose the order in which the actions are completed. Some important minor actions are listed.

Evasion

Performing an evasive action allows you to dodge out of the way of a dangerous effect (be it a giant's club, or a wayward spell). Perform an ATH(speed) Resist check. If the instigator of the effect is a being (and not, say, a falling branch), the DV of the dodge is set by them performing an EMP(perception) Resist check to anticipate your actions and adjust accordingly. If the anticipation check is greater than the evasion check, the evasion fails and the effect is applied. Otherwise, the effect misses entirely.

When declared as a minor action, you may dodge only one effect per cycle. You may, however, choose to dedicate an entire major action to evasion, in which case you may attempt to dodge up to three effects.

Counterspells

Preparing a counterspell is a form of conditional action (see below), where you may wait to cast a spell until someone directs an attack towards you.

If and when that attack comes, the GM will give you only **5 seconds** to declare which spell you are going to use to counter the attack that is headed your way. If you do not declare a spell in those 5 seconds, the attack hits you as normal. However, if you do declare a spell in those 5 seconds (and the GM will choose the first spell you declare), then you may attempt to cast that spell. If the GM judges that your counterspell negates or reflects the attack that was headed your way, then you have successfully avoided it. Otherwise, the spell continues unabated.

If multiple attacks spells were used on you simultaneously, then it is up to the GM to decide if your counterspell affects both incoming attacks, or only one (or indeed, neither). For example, a *protego* cast against two spells from the same general direction will indeed protect against both attacks. Two attacks from opposite sides, however, will not be affected by a single *protego*, which may cause you problems, as you are allowed only a single counterspell per turn.

The 5 second time limit will push you to be inventive in a split second, and you should be constantly surveying your environment to spot such situations before they arise.

If you are preparing a counterspell, it is important that you declare this first to the GM, so that the appropriate 5 second deadline can be given. Failure to do so may result in the GM declaring your counterspell invalid!

Quickspells

A quickspell is a spell that is cast as a minor action.

Spells require a clarity of focus, so casting whilst moving, or otherwise in a hurry is generally a bad idea, if you want it to

actually work. However, if you are very comfortable with spell (or a very powerful spellcaster), then you may be able get away with it.

When casting a quickspell, the dice roll is capped at half of the maximum value. If you roll higher than the capped value, you gain no additional improvements. You are also limited in the amount of attribute/modifier bonuses you can add into the casting, depending on your casting level in the associated school:

Casting Level	Roll Cap	Bonuses
Beginner	3	0%
Novice	4	25%
Adept	5	33%
Expert	6	50%
Master	10	75%

You must also take check-disadvantage on the anticipation check if the target attempts to evade.

Classifying Actions

Other actions may also be broken down into a major and a minor distinction, with major actions taking up the entirety of a turn, and minor actions being able to be used in concert with other minor actions, or with a considered movement.

Examples of minor actions could be removing an item from your bag (within reason), drinking a potion, or crouching down. Major actions would be casting spells, equipping and using weapons and so on. There is, as usual, a slight grey area in what constitutes a minor action – pulling an entire suit of armour out of your bag is clearly going to take longer than a minor action!

Some actions (i.e. putting on said suit of armour) might take a number of turn cycles to complete. You may choose to abandon the action before it is completed, but you would then need to start again from scratch to finalise it.

Classifying these actions is up to the GM: and the GM's word on the matter is final.

As a general guide, remember that there are 10 turn cycles per minute, so a major action takes around 6 seconds to complete. Anything that takes more than 3 seconds must therefore be considered a major action.

Conditional Actions

The use of the simultaneous combat system raises some interesting opportunities with conditional actions, which are actions that depend on the actions that another character takes.

The actual action, as well as the condition, needs to be declared during the normal turn cycle – but the action itself is not triggered until all other actions had been triggered.

For example, it could be that you declare as your action *if the troll attacks player A, then I cast a healing spell on player A*. You could also attempt to prevent the damage from being taken in the first place, by declaring *if the troll attacks player A, then I cast the knockback charm on the troll*. The GM may ask for a check to determine if you are close enough and have fast enough reactions for your spell to interrupt the action, but if you pass this, then you may be able to save your friend. Please see below for more counterspell options.

You are only allowed a single conditional clause in your declaration, and if that conditional does not come to pass, then your character does not do anything: there is no if-then-else in this game!

If a seemingly unbreakable condition-chain arises (i.e. player A says he will perform X if player B does Y, but player B says he will only perform Y if player A does X), it is up to the GM to resolve the conditionals – in such cases the answer is usually *nothing happens*, but there may be examples where the GM feels it is more appropriate that the action-chain is triggered.

9: Stealth and Critical Strikes

Being noticed by the enemy is generally regarded as a bad thing. It therefore often pays to be sneaky, to stay hidden from the enemy. Stealth is governed by the FIN attribute, via the Stealth proficiency.

Every time you wish to take an action whilst remaining hidden, you will need to perform a FIN (stealth) check against the target, with the target performing an EMP(perception) check – if the sneak check exceeds the perception check, then you remain hidden. If it fails, then the target becomes aware of you, and probably initiates combat.

Equally, some creatures might try to sneak up on you – but the GM can't very well ask you to perform a perception check, as you would immediately know that something was there! In order to keep the surprise, each checktype has a 'passive' value, which is simply equal to the average. Hence, for a d20 check, the passive value is 10 + relevant bonuses. The GM will use this value in private to determine if beings remain hidden or not.

The same is true for illusion spells which are cast on you without your knowledge – a passive SPR (endurance) check is used, with the same rules as before. The GM does not need to tell you about this spell, unless you actively perform a perception check to notice something wrong with the world.

If you willingly choose to perform a perception check, this gets a +2 bonus. In combat, this would count as your major action.

If you initiate combat whilst undetected (or have it initiated against you by an unseen opponent), then the attacked party must continue to attempt to perceive the enemy, until they can attack them in the usual way. You may attempt to wildly attack the enemy – throwing a fireball *near* them is probably going to hurt, even if you don't know exactly where they are, but this might be a waste of resources.

Sneak Attacks & Attacks of Opportunity

If you perform an attack on someone who is not aware that you are attacking them, or if you perform an attack on someone who has their mind elsewhere, then you have an opportunity to do large amounts of damage to the unwary target.

A sneak attack is triggered when a character attacks another when they are not expecting it – be it attacking someone who is not even aware that you pose a danger to them, or if you have snuck up behind an enemy whilst they are attacking someone else – if they don't see an attack coming, you get an opportunity to surprise them!

An attack of opportunity is triggered when somebody is aware that they are in combat, but is doing something that opens them up to attack. For example, if someone was in close-quarters range and they attempt to cast a spell on you, you can quickly stab them with a knife, and there is nothing they could do about it. Equally, if they attempt to cast a spell on someone else, then their attention is not on you. If you had already committed to an attack on them, then it has a chance to be much more effective.

Whichever method is triggered, the effect is the same: you roll

any (even-numbered) dice. If the result is an even number, then you multiply the damage by 2. If it is odd, then you just do the normal amount of damage¹.

Critical attacks (i.e. triggered by a nat20, or otherwise through a skill) are mechanically identical to an Attack of opportunity.

If you perform a critical *during* a Critical attack, then you do get to use two multipliers, but they are *added*. For example, a critical-opportunity attack would roll two dice, and use the following table to determine the dice:

	odd	even
odd	2	3
even	3	4

¹This assumes that the *catastrophic critical* is not in use – if it is, use the rules detailed in that skill

10: Taking Damage

When you are attacked, or do something stupid, you must pay the price. This is called 'taking damage'. There are different ways for you to take damage, and these have different effects associated with them.

Damage Types

Many effects specify what kind of damage they do (for instance, a sword does 1d8 slashing damage). This helps the players and the GM work out how the damage is done, and also how it is affected by any weaknesses and resistances possessed by the target.

Acid

A spray of acid burns through 1cm physical armour to reduce the HP of the being within.

Bludgeoning

The blunt-force of a hammer, or the force of falling on the ground is very difficult to protect against, reducing the HP by a large amount, and risking breaking a bone.

Celestial

A searing white light damages the undead, and banishes the unliving. Has no effect on living beings.

Cold

Cold damage seeps at your willpower, subtracting from FP rather than HP, until FP is zero, at which point it starts leaching HP. Roll a 1d4, if 1 rolled, acquire Frostbite status.

Concussive

A shockwave from an explosion, passes through physical armour to reduce HP. In addition, target rolls a 1d4, if a 1 is rolled acquire the Deaf status for 3 turns.

Electric

A bolt of lightning can arc from one target to the next, damaging the HP of all it touches. Electric damage can pass through objects and beings which are in contact.

Fatigue

Fatigue damage drains FP from the afflicted.

Fire

Fire damage burns the flesh to reduce the HP. Roll 1d6, 1-2 gives a mild burn, 2-4 gets a moderate burn, 5-6, no effect.

Force

A pure magical energy that directly damages HP.

Necrotic

The evil energies of the undead withers your soul as it damages your body – reducing HP and FP by equal amounts.

Piercing

Daggers, spears and teeth can puncture even the thickest armour to damage HP. Piercing attacks experience only 50% the usual armour rating.

Poison

Venemous stings and poisoned weapons damage HP. Roll 1d6, 1-2, mild poisoned status for 3 turns, 3-6, no effect.

Psychic

Damage that originates not from the body, but from the mind. Bypasses all protections to damage HP, and 50% again to FP.

Slashing

Swinging blades and flashing claws damage the HP of unprotected targets.

Falling

You are considered to be "falling" if you have dropped more than 2 metres, or have been propelled (by an explosion or a spell effect) over any distance.

For every metre that you fall, you take 1d4 bludgeoning damage, and upon landing you end up in the 'prone' position on the ground.

If the surface upon which you fall has any additional hazards (i.e. spikes, caltrops, fire), the associated damage is applied in addition to the falling damage.

Air

All living beings require air to breathe. The average human being requires approximately 6 litres of air (at 1atm) per minute in order to stay conscious. This scales approximately as L^3 , so a house elf (at ~1m tall) needs only 1 litre per minute to survive, whilst a giant at 5m will require over 100 litres per minute.

The amount of time a being can go without oxygen is determined by 1 minute + 1 for every point of the ATH (survival) modifier, with a minimum of 30 seconds. After this time limit is up, the being enters into the Hypoxia status, where their brain begins to shut down, and if it is not cured, then they die. Once in the hypoxia state, it is not sufficient simply to reintroduce the being to a normal environment, you must actively cure the hypoxia with a spell or potion.

Various beings are immune to these effects to a greater or lesser extent – the undead do not generally require oxygen to survive, and creatures such as merpeople possess the ability to breath underwater (though they may still suffocate in other ways).

Armour Class

All sapient beings and beasts have an associated "Armour Class" (AC), which denotes their natural resistance to damage, as well as any additional supplemental effects, such as wearing armour, or other magical effects. The formula to calculate AC is given on page ??.

AC acts to protect your HP from being damaged. If you are about to take damage from any of the following damage types: **Acid, Bludgeoning, Electric, Force, Necrotic, Piercing, Poison or Slashing**, then you may subtract away your AC from the damage done (minimum of 0), thus protecting you. Generally speaking, your AC only defends against physical

phenomena, and hence does not protect against heat, psychic and otherworldly damage unless otherwise specified. Concussive damage produces a shockwave which no physical AC can protect against.

Some spells also provide a magical pseudo-AC. The spell effects should specify which damage effects they protect against, and any differences from the usual AC effects.

Resisting

Not all effects of actions are cut and dried – some effects can be **Resisted**. For example, some spells, even after they have successfully been cast, can be resisted by the target, if they have a strong enough willpower to overpower the caster; spells such as *confundus*, and *stupefy*, as well as most illusion spells. Alternatively, somebody might try to restrain you, and your character can resist this action if they are strong enough.

Resist actions, like normal checks, are assigned an attribute (and possibly Proficiencies) that may boost the Resist check. Unless otherwise specified, the Resist check is performed using the dice granted to your character by the **Withstand** skill.

This Resist check is then compared with the assigned DV (when resisting spells, or a direct action, this is often the CV of that action). If the Resist check is greater than the CV, then the action is either denied, or has a lesser effect.

Successfully Resisting costs 2 FP. If you have fewer than 2 FP, then you cannot Resist.

You can perform multiple Resists over the course of a Turn Cycle, if multiple combatants attack you with spells that require one, for example. The only limit is when your FP runs out. However, each subsequent resist gets harder and harder: you suffer a 1 point penalty to your check for each Resist you have already performed this cycle. This counter resets at the end of the cycle.

Statues

Statues are temporary effects applied to a character, usually due to a spell or a magic item, though sometimes mundane objects can confer statues such as burns. Often these effects come with a built-in time constraint, after which time, the status is removed. It is possible to have more than one status effect at any given time.

Some statues come in 3 different levels: mild, moderate and severe; the effects for each are labelled using the notation mild/moderate / severe: the three levels of burns are indicated to do 1/2/3 damage per turn, meaning that a mild burn does 1 damage per turn, whilst a severe burn does 3.

A list of statues is found on the next page.

Status	Description	Effect	Duration
Asleep	Visiting the land of nod.	Can take no actions, but health and fortitude regenerate at a rate of 1d6 HP for every hour over 3 hours that they are asleep. Character is unaware of what is going on around them.	Until waking
Blinded	Your eyes are temporarily overloaded by a bright light.	All checks that would normally require vision fail.	1 hour
Broken Bone	You have suffered an injury that has broken your bone.	Cannot use the limb in question until it is healed. This is a major injury (see below).	Until healed
Broken Wand	Your wand is broken, and cannot perform properly.	All spell checks get a -5 penalty, and spell failures are particularly severe.	Until wand is repaired
Burned	Heat has damaged your body, but the effects are ongoing.	Does 1 / 2 / 3 damage per turn (depending on the severity), unless cold water is applied. Even after water is applied, you are 50% more vulnerable to fire damage.	10 turns.
Calm Mind	Your mind is calm and clear, you are undistracted.	All checks receive a +1 bonus.	Lasts for 1 hour, or until hurt.
Check Advantage	You have the upper hand	For each affected check type, you roll the dice twice and take the highest of the two values	As specified
Check Disadvantage	A negative effect is stopping you performing at your best	For each affected check type, you roll the dice twice and take the lowest of the two values	As specified
Confused	A fog descends upon your brain, and you are unable to think clearly,	After committing to an action, perform a 1d6 check. 5-6, the action is successful. 3-4, the action misses/doesn't work. 1-2, the action backfires randomly to you or your allies.	3 turns
Critical But Stable	You were close to dying, but your condition is no longer degrading.	You are totally unable to act	Until healed above OHP
Critical Condition	You are close to death, bleeding out.	You are totally unable to act. 1HP lost per turn. When reaching -10HP, you are dead.	Until stabilised or healed
Deaf	Your ears have been damaged, hopefully only temporarily!	All hearing-based checks fail	3 turns, or otherwise specified
Diseased	You have contracted a disease.	Specifics of the effects vary according to the disease. Knowledge checks are needed to learn more.	Never
Exhaustion	You have not slept in a long time, your mind and body are weary.	Every turn, perform a SPR (endurance) check (difficulty 15), if it fails, fortitude costs of actions are doubled, and regeneration of health and fortitude halt.	Until resting.

Frostbite	The cold has damaged your body, and it cannot function properly, but the biggest toll is on your sluggish thoughts.	Halts fortitude regeneration, and drains 1 / 2 / 3 fortitude per turn, unless warmth is applied. Even after warmth is applied, you are 50% more vulnerable to cold damage.	10 turns.
Hypoxia	Oxygen is not reaching your vital organs, you struggle to concentrate, but your brain is slowly shutting down.	All checks get a -5 penalty. If not cured within 2 minutes, death follows.	2 minutes
Invisible	Light passes straight through you; you are hidden from sight.	In adverse conditions (i.e. rain and snow), can still be visually detected. Does not stop noise. Otherwise, visual perception checks to find you fail.	Various (depends on cause.)
Lucky	The result of a Felix Felicis potion, you become extra-ordinarily lucky.	All checks used by the player get a +5 bonus, and all checks against the player suffer a -3 hit.	1 hour
Major Injury	You have suffered a major injury.	Cannot heal above 50% HP until the major injury is fixed.	Until healed
Poisoned	A nefarious chemical, a toxin, has been introduced into your system.	Does 2 / 3 / 5 damage per turn (unless otherwise directed).	10 turns.
Silenced	You find yourself unable to make any sounds.	Cannot speak, or cast verbal magic.	2 turns (unless otherwise directed).
Stunned	You have been knocked unconscious	As if you were asleep, but without the regeneration.	3 turns
Terrified	Your knees knock, your hands shake, and your mind turns inwards: you're scared.	All checks get a -3 penalty. Cannot get closer to the cause of the fear.	5 turns, or until the cause is removed.
Trapped	Ropes, snares or magic are holding you back, preventing you from moving.	You are fixed in one place, and cannot move. Some traps may also immobilise the arms, in which case you may not perform actions which require your arms.	3 turns, or until the trap is released.
Unlucky	Things are just not going your way	All checks get a -2 penalty	1 week

Part III

Items

11: Equipped Items

An item that is equipped can be used immediately. In combat, this would count as your major action. Simply tell your GM that you are using a certain item, and you may then carry out the effect that the item has.

Some items must be equipped before they can be used; you can't whack someone with your magical sword, if your magical sword is in your bag, after all. Generally speaking, getting items out of storage is not a major action; you may retrieve and then use a health potion in a single motion, for example. Some items, however, might take longer to equip: strapping on a suit of armour, for instance, clearly takes some time!

You only have a finite number of 'slots' that an item can be equipped into. Generally speaking, items fall into one of the following major categories:

- Headwear
- Jacket / robe
- Trousers
- Shoes
- Jewellery
- Right hand held item
- Left hand held item

You can only have 1 of each item class equipped into these slots at any given time (with the exception of jewellery: you may wear one necklace, two earrings and 2 rings). If you want to equip an item into a slot, you must first unequip any items that already occupy that slot. If an item has an effect, it must be equipped for that effect to be used (unless otherwise explicitly stated).

Storing Items

Items that are not currently equipped are stored in your backpack, which you should probably try to keep on you at all times. Losing it would be bad!

Unlike most other RPGs, in this game the weight of the items in your backpack is not a strict numerical figure that is kept track of (that gets a bit dull after a while), but your GM may enquire if it is reasonable for you to be carrying 13 different cauldrons around with you, along with 50 tonnes of gold. If you cannot justify how your character is able to move the equipment around, you may be forced to jettison some equipment until you can justify it. Sturdy, enchanted backpacks are your friend!

Items may be transferred between members of a party at any time, if they are within 1m (or you may use a spell such as *accio*). In combat, switching an item counts as a major action for both characters.

12: Weapons & Wands

Wands

The most important tool of any witch or wizard is their wand. Unlike with other items, you don't get to choose your wand, since it is well known that the wand chooses the wizard, not the other way around. The process for selecting your wand is to roll two d6 successively. The first roll determines the wood your wand is made of, the second determines the core.

Different materials have an affinity with different kinds of magic, and make casting those spells easier. Wood makes the spell type easier to cast (+1 to checks), and the core reduces the mental strain of casting that class of spell (-1 FP cost).

Roll	Magic School	Wood	Core
1	Defensive	Apple	Pheonix feather
2	Hexes & Curses	Holly	Dragon heartstring
3	Divination	Beech	Unicorn Tail hair
4	Transfiguration	Oak	Thunderbird feather
5	Charms	Hawthorn	Kelpie hair
6	Illusion	Hazel	Veela hair
-	Dark Arts	Human Bone	Dementor Robe

If your original wand is destroyed or lost, you need to find someone who can sell (or make) you a new one, and perform the selection process anew.

The only way to access the 7th and final category of wand is to have an EVL greater than 8. This then bypasses all other wand selection checks, and your wand is necessarily evil. It should of course be noted that wandmakers aren't too happy to sell these evil objects – you might have to cut a few bits off in order to sufficiently motivate them.

Melee Weapons

Magical combat and the use of wands is covered in detail elsewhere in this guide, but what happens when you just want to hit the bad guys with big sticks? Most wizards are inexperienced in the art of physical combat, but those with the *Brawler* and *Archer* skills can attack people with their fists, with steel, or with longer ranged weapons.

Physical combat is underrated in the magical world, but it can be used to devastating effect. When you have moved in close enough to someone, they do not have the time or room to cast an effective counterspell, and attempts to do so trigger an 'attack of opportunity'. Hence, your enemy is effectively at the mercy of you and your big stick...unless they have one of their own. In addition to this, many magical defences do not defend against physical objects, so throwing a rock through a shield charm can often be a good tactic.

Physical weapons come in two types: melee, and ranged. Melee weapons are close-quarters weapons like swords, daggers and so on, and can only be used within a 1m radius of the target. Ranged weapons are bows and arrows and even guns, and can be used from larger distances.

Weapon usage does not cost any Fortitude points, and so is often a last resort if your character has no more magic spells remaining.

To perform a melee attack, you must have the item equipped in one of your hands (or both)¹ and be stood adjacent to the target. Some weapons (such as spears and battleaxes) have a longer reach.

Melee weapons are so simple that they are automatically assumed to hit their target, unless the target is actively dodging, in which case the usual evasion rules apply. Unarmed strikes do 1HP of damage, and strikes with weapons use a specified weapon check (usually an ATH (strength) check, with a variable die size).

Because a melee attack is up close and personal, it does not usually give spellcasters enough time to retaliate with a counterspell. A non-conditional spell will still be cast before you land your blow, however, though it will trigger an attack of opportunity on the spellcaster.

All melee weapons can be used from the beginning of the game – however you are not considered proficient in them until you have the relevant *Brawler* skill. Using weapons that you are not proficient in means that you cannot apply any positive modifiers (and negative weapon modifiers are doubled) on all weapon-related checks (included evasion and anti-evasion checks), and always open you up to attacks of opportunity.

The table below gives a rough overview of the weapons available, and how other effects.

¹There is a 2 point penalty on any checks for weapons in your non-dominant hand

Ranged Weapons

Unlike melee weapons, missing the target entirely is a rather real prospect. Ranged weapons cannot be used on any target any closer than 5m, and you need to have the Archer skill to make use of long ranged weapons.

After selecting your target, you must then check if the projectile hits its target. The projectile check uses a varying dice depending on the level of the Archery skill. The base level Archery skill gets you a 1d4 dice to use. The projectile hits its target if the distance to the target is **less than 5 times the dice roll**

Therefore if you roll a 6 to hit a target that is 30 metres away, the projectile misses, as $6 \times 5 = 30$ m, and we need the dice roll to be **larger**. If the target had been 1 metre closer, it would indeed have succeeded.

Increasing the Archery skill gets you access to larger dice, and hence increases the distance that you can reach, and the likelihood of success at lower distances. If the projectile accuracy check succeeds, the relevant evasion checks are applied, and then the damage check is performed to determine how much damage is done.

Weapon Types & Improvements

The table on the next page gives the statistics for a handful of the most common weapon types, including the generalised damage checks.

However, there are of course different qualities of weapons – a finely crafted sword is going to be a more formidable weapon than a hastily thrown together blade. Different materials can also hold an edge for longer, and hence do more damage, and last longer.

The weapon list is given assuming the weapon is a base-level iron weapon. Use the following table to account for better (or worse) quality weapons. Weapon damage cannot go below 0.

Material	Damage	Blunting	Notes
Wood	-3	10 uses	Illusion magics bind strongly to wood
Bone	-1	20 uses	Dark Arts bind strongly to bone
Iron	+0	30 uses	
Steel	+1	50 uses	
Meteorite-iron	+2	100 uses	Especially powerful enchantments can be bound to meteorite-iron.
Adamantium	+ 3	Does not blunt	Cannot be forged or enchanted
Silver	+1	30 uses	Does double damage to undead

Other materials and/or bonuses may be introduced as is story appropriate.

Weapons may also be modified by being enchanted (see below), or having a chemical/potion applied to them, in order to add an extra effect to the weapon. This does not generally affect the other properties of the weapon, with the exception of things such as strong acid, which would obviously impinge the integrity of a metal sword!

Weapon List

Weapon	Type	Brawler	Damage Check	Damage Type	Notes
Club	Melee	2	1d4 ATH (Strength)	Bludgeoning	Does not blunt
Dagger	Melee	2	1d6 ATH (Speed)	Piercing	Can be thrown 10m, damage gets disadvantage (i.e. sticks, household objects)
Improvised	Melee	2	1d2 ATH (Strength)	Various	Can be used 2 handed (use 2d4 check), does not blunt
Quarterstaff	Melee	2	1d6 ATH (Dexterity)	Bludgeoning	
Scythe	Melee	2	1d6 ATH (Speed)	Slashing	
Light Axe	Melee	3	1d6 ATH (Strength)	Slashing	Can be thrown 5m
Longsword	Melee	3	2d4 ATH (Strength)	Slashing	
Mace	Melee	3	1d8 ATH (Strength)	Bludgeoning	Does not go blunt
Rapier	Melee	3	1d8 FIN (Precision)	Piercing	
Shortsword	Melee	3	1d6 ATH (Speed)	Slashing	
Spear	Melee	3	1d8 ATH (Strength)	Piercing	Can be thrown 20m (disadvantage), melee reach 2m
Greataxe	Melee	4	1d10 ATH (Strength)	Slashing	Two-handed
Greatsword	Melee	4	2d6 ATH (Strength)	Slashing	Two-handed
Trident	Melee	4	1d8 ATH (Strength)	Piercing	
Warhammer	Melee	4	4d4 ATH (Strength)	Bludgeoning	Two-handed
Glaive	Melee	5	1d20 ATH (Precision)	Slashing	Two-handed, reach 2m
Lance	Melee	5	1d12 ATH (Precision)	Piercing	Requires mount, reach 2m
Pike	Melee	5	1d12 ATH (Strength)	Piercing	Two-handed, reach 2m
Whip	Melee	5	1d4 ATH (Precision)	Slashing	Reach 5m
Blowdart	Ranged		1d6 FIN (Precision)	Poison	Can be coated in a variety of toxins
Crossbow	Ranged		1d12 FIN (Precision)	Piercing	Max range 20m, requires bolts
Improvised	Ranged		1d4 FIN (Precision)	Various	(i.e. thrown rocks)
Longbow	Ranged		1d20 ATH (Strength)	Piercing	Requires arrows. Minimum strength 15 to use.
Shortbow	Ranged		1d10 ATH (Strength)	Piercing	Max range 30m, requires arrows
Sling	Ranged		1d6 FIN (Strength)	Bludgeoning	Max range 20m, can use rocks as ammunition

13: Armour

As discussed in section ??, wearing armour will help protect your character from taking damage.

This means that battlefield repairs take 3 turns, unless you have an ally who can repair the armour for you in a single turn.

Calculating AC

All protective items come with an “Armour Class” value (AC). The total AC of a character is given by:

$$AC = \text{STR modifier} + \sum_{\text{clothes}} \text{Item AC} + \text{other bonuses}$$

Magical defences may serve to raise your AC temporarily. Beasts will also have an AC rating, determined by their inherent magic, and any defensive mechanisms they may possess.

AC acts to protect your HP from being damaged. If you are about to take damage from any of the following damage types: **Acid, Bludgeoning, Electric, Force, Necrotic, Piercing, Poison or Slashing**, then you may subtract away your AC from the damage done (minimum of 0), thus protecting you. Generally speaking, your AC only defends against physical phenomena, and hence does not protect against heat, psychic and otherworldly damage unless otherwise specified. Concussive damage produces a shockwave which no physical AC can protect against.

Some spells also provide a magical pseudo-AC. The spell effects should specify which damage effects they protect against, and any differences from the usual AC effects.

Destroying Armour

Of course, armour cannot protect you indefinitely – it will break down at some point. Acid and Piercing damage are the usual way of reducing the armour of an individual.

If the piercing damage in a *single hit* exceeds the AC of a given piece of armour, that armour is said to be damaged, and its AC is set to zero until it is repaired. You cannot damage more than one piece of armour in a given attack. On the other hand, acid damage is cumulative – the acid burns away the armour making it steadily worse and worse, until it burns through the armour to your skin. Each point of acid damage reduces the AC by 1, until it is equal to zero.

Of course – it is not just sapient beings that have ‘armour’, large creatures such as dragons have exceedingly strong scales that act as armour. The exact same rules apply to animal AC as to human AC, with the exception that each 1m² section of the being is considered an individual ‘piece’ of armour. Breaking the armour on the tail, and then attacking the chest will obviously not work!

Restoring Armour

Armour may be restored to working order by spending 3 hours repairing it (with a repair kit), or by using a suitable magic spell.

You cannot repair your own armour whilst it is being worn: you must take it off, then repair it, and then place it back on.

14: Adventuring Gear

Adventuring gear is the set of (usually non-magical) items that you would need to use to survive on a day-to-day basis on an adventure.

Name	Weight	Cost	Name	Weight	Cost
Acid	Light	10gp	Ink	Light	2gp
Ammunition (10 Arrows)	Light	15gp	Ink pen	Light	2gp
Ammunition (10 Bolts)	Light	15gp	Jewellery (cheap)	Light	40gp
Ammunition (20 Blowgun Needles)	Light	10gp	Jewellery (fine)	Light	150gp
Ammunition (20 Rifle bullets)	Light	30gp	Jewellery (luxurious)	Light	1000gp
Ammunition (20 Slingshot Bullets)	Light	4gp	Ladder (2m)	Heavy	60gp
Backpack (25L)	Light	25gp	Lamp	Light	5gp
Backpack (65L)	Medium	60gp	Magnifying Glass	Light	7gp
Ball bearings	Light	5gp	Manacles (Iron)	Medium	25gp
Bedroll	Light	15gp	Mirror (handheld)	Light	7gp
Caltrops	Medium	20gp	Oil (flask of)	Light	4gp
Candle	Light	1gp	Paper (20 sheets A4)	Light	2gp
Case (map or scroll)	Light	10gp	Parchment (5 sheets A3)	Light	10gp
Chain (5m)	Heavy	35gp	Perfume (vial)	Light	30gp
Chalk	Light	2gp	Pole (10 ft)	Light	10gp
Chest	Heavy	40gp	Potion: Antidote	Light	50gp
Clothes (adventuring)	Light	60gp	Potion: Pepper-Up	Light	30gp
Clothes (common)	Light	30gp	Potion: Poison	Light	100gp
Clothes (fine)	Light	80gp	Potion: Wiggeweld	Light	30gp
Crowbar	Medium	10gp	Rations (1 day)	Light	8gp
Drinking Flask	Light	10gp	Rope (20m)	Light	20gp
Fishing Rod	Light	40gp	Sack	Light	51gp
Floo Powder (5 uses)	Light	60gp	Shovel	Light	52gp
Food (1 warm meal)	Light	10gp	Soap	Light	53gp
Glass Vial	Light	8gp	Tea Set	Light	19gp
Hammer	Medium	15gp	Tent (two-person)	Light	55gp
Holy Water	Light	100gp	Tinderbox	Light	56gp
Hourglass	Light	5gp	Torch	Light	57gp
Hunting Trap	Light	50gp	Whetstone	Light	59gp
Ingredient Pouch	Light	35gp			

Acid: May be splashed on a melee opponent, or used as an improvised Ranged weapon, following the normal rules. In either case, do 3d4 acid damage.

Backpack (25L): The primary storage for most adventurers. A medium-sized backpack suitable for adventuring, with a volume of around 25L

Ball bearings: As a major action, spill these on the floor covering up to 5 square metres. Any creature passing through this region must succeed on a DV10 FIN Resist check, or fall prone.

Bedroll: Comfy enough to get a decent night's sleep on when out on an adventure.

Caltrops: As a major action, spill these on the floor covering up to 2 square metres. Any creature passing through this region must succeed on a DV12 FIN check, or stop moving and take 1d4 piercing damage.

Candle: For 1 hour, shed bright light 1m radius, and dim light for a further 1m.

Case (map or scroll): Safely protects up to 10 large sheets of paper from the elements.

Chain (5m): A set of large metal links. Can be broken by a DV18 ATH (Strength) check, or by taking more than 10 physical damage.

Crowbar: Gives advantage on Strength checks when leverage can be applied.

Drinking Flask: Contains enough water for one person for one day

Floo Powder (5 uses): Can be used to navigate from one fireplace on the Floo network to another.

Holy Water: May be splashed on a melee opponent, or used as an improvised Ranged weapon, following the normal rules. In either case, do 3d4 Celestial damage.

Hunting Trap: Requires 2 major actions to set, and forms a ring 0.5m in radius. Any creature that steps into this ring must succeed a DV15 FIN(Speed) check, or become Trapped, and taking 1d4 piercing damage. Trap may be broken via a DV10 ATH(Strength) check, but each failed attempt does a further 1d4 piercing damage.

Ingredient Pouch: Used to keep potion ingredients safe from the elements.

Lamp: For 6 hours, casts a bright light in a 4m radius, and dim light for a further 3m.

Manacles (Iron): Can be broken via a DV15 ATH(Strength) check, but otherwise immobilises the hands of the wearer.

Oil (flask of): Contains enough oil to refill a lamp once.

Potion: Antidote: Cures up to 5 points of poison damage.

Potion: Pepper-Up: Restores 10FP

Potion: Poison: Does 5 Poison damage per turn for 5 turns.

Potion: Wiggeweld: Restores 10HP

Rations (1 day): Not particularly nourishing, but enough to fill you up and keep you alive and kicking.

Tea Set: Contains all the ingredients to make a decent cup of tea

Tinderbox: Contains a flint and some tinder, necessary to create a non-magical fire.

Torch: Burns for 1 hour, casting bright light for 2m, and dim light for a further 2. May be used as an improvised weapon, where it does an additional 1d4 fire damage.

Whetstone: Useful for sharpening a dulled weapon.

Artefacts

Artefacts are items which are more magical in nature, and generally cannot be synthesised directly, though they may be recreated through enchanting. Some artefacts are incredibly rare and powerful, and can be hard to track down. The list below contains only some artefacts which are commonly found in the wizarding world, and should by no means be thought of as extensive.

Name	Weight	Cost
Bludger	Heavy	250 gold
Broomstick (cheap)	Medium	2000 gold
Broomstick (fine)	Medium	25000 gold
Crystal Ball	Light	150 gold
Darkandles	Light	50 gold
Deluminator	Light	3000 gold
Extending Stachel	Light	5000 gold
Gobstone (Set of 30)	Light	15 gold
Golden Snitch	Light	500 gold
Howler	Light	15 gold
Invisibility Cloak	Medium	12000 gold
Mokeskin Pouch	Light	250 gold
Obsidian Manacles	Medium	7500 gold
Omniscopes	Light	40 gold
Pensieve	Heavy	20000 gold
Portkey	(Varies)	800 gold
Quick-Quotes Quill	Light	75 gold
Rememberall	Light	50 gold
Self-Erecting Tent	Heavy	12000 gold
Sneakoscope	Light	250 gold
Spellotape	Light	12 gold
Talking Portrait	Heavy	750 gold
Time-Turner	Light	5000000 gold
Wand	Light	300 gold

Bludger: An enchanted iron ball, weighing approximately 80kg, and yet able to fly. They possess a malicious streak, and will target any flying entity within 100m and attempt to smash into them, before moving onto their next target.

Broomstick (cheap): A low-range broomstick that can get off the ground, but not much more than that. Capable of carrying one passenger at speeds of up to 100mph, thought with very clumsy handling at high speeds.

Broomstick (fine): A high-end broomstick capable of high-speed precision flying. Capable of carrying one passenger at speeds of up to 250mph, with the handling only limited by the pilot's reaction time.

Crystal Ball: A sphere of perfect crystal the manufacture of these objects is a carefully curated secret. A properly trained mind can use a crystal ball to peer through the mystic veil and learn about the universe.

Darkandles: The exact opposite of a candle, a darkandle emits darkness, rather than light. Within a 5m radius, there is total darkness, and within 5m there is only dim light, regardless of any other light sources nearby.

Deluminator: A device designed by Dumbledore, the deluminator may be targeted at a specific light-source, at which point the light is extinguished, and absorbed by the deluminator. This light source is permanently disabled until the deluminator restores the light to it.

Extending Stachel: A normal backpack that has been enchanted with the *internal extension charm*, making it several times larger on the inside than the outside. This backpack can hold up to 300L, and makes the contents 10 times lighter than normal.

Gobstone (Set of 30): A small set of stones used in the titular game. When knocked by another gobstone, they eject a squirt of corrosive liquid into the eyes of the target.

Golden Snitch: A small golden, metal orb which sprouts wings when activated. The snitch then immediately attempts to evade all living beings, though sometimes it will taunt them by floating in front of their faces, before quickly vanishing.

Howler: A magical letter that, when opened by the recipient, unfolds itself, floats and begins to scream the enclosed message, before incinerating itself. If left unopened after being delivered, it will explode violently.

Invisibility Cloak: A cloak that renders whatever is concealed within it invisible, though external factors such as sound, or the presence of rain or snow may still give away the location. The cloak also offers no protection against spells.

Mokeskin Pouch: A small coin pouch that can only be accessed by its owner.

Obsidian Manacles: A magical set of handcuffs which, when firmly closed around the wrist, prevent a witch or wizard from casting any magic.

Omniscopes: A pair of high-resolution binoculars, capable of pausing, rewinding and replaying previous events. Omniscopes are capable of 10x magnification, and a playback up to 3x slower than original of up to 1 hour of recorded footage.

Pensieve: A large stone bowl, engraved with ancient runes and inlaid with precious stones. A pensieve can be filled with memories, in the form of a silvery glowing fluid, which can then be viewed and relived in real time.

Portkey: A one-use device with a teleportation charm embedded in it. A portkey resembles a random piece of junk, but when activated (either by touch, or at a specific time), teleports to a preset location.

Quick-Quotes Quill: A quill which automatically writes down whatever is said within a 2m radius.

Rememberall: A small glass orb filled with grey smoke, which turns bright scarlet whenever the bearer forgets something. The colour reverts to grey when the target remembers.

Self-Erecting Tent: Outwardly a three-man tent, but due to an extension charm, its interior is large enough for around 10 adults to live comfortably. It erects and disassembles itself upon hearing a double-clap.

Sneakoscope: A sneakoscope is a type of dark-detector that looks like a glass spinning top. It lights up, spins and whistles whenever someone in a 2m radius is doing something untrustworthy. In practice, this grants the bearer a +5 bonus to passive perception against 'untrustworthy' actors.

Spellotape: An alternative to the *Stick* charm, when dealing with delicate magical objects, spellotape is an adhesive material.

Talking Portrait: A portrait of a witch or wizard which is imbued with their personality and (to an extent) their memories, as interpreted by the artist. These paintings can wander in and out of any nearby paintings, and also visit other paintings of themselves anywhere in the world.

Time-Turner: An incredibly powerful item, that takes the form of an hourglass on a necklace, a time turner allows one to travel backwards in time one hour for every turn of the hourglass. Attempting to travel back more than 5 hours, or otherwise interfering with the past can cause irreparable damage to the space-time continuum.

Wand: The cornerstone of wizarding life, though magic is possible without a wand, it is much harder nearly every witch and wizard possess one. Wands bond to their owner through a complex and unknown process, so it is vital that you only use your own wand, or one you have bonded with.

Packs

Packs are pre-arranged sets of equipment. Where a pack leaves the precise nature of an item unclear (i.e. 'a book'), you may choose the exact item within the following bounds:

- A book may not cost more than 50gp.
- A set of tools may not cost more than 30gp.

Basic Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A normal backpack, some normal clothes, a small dagger, a candle, and a healing potion.

Explorer Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A set of adventuring clothes, a climbing set, a torch, a map case (with map), 10 days of rations, a water flask, a bedroll and a tent.

Fighter Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A weapon (your choice), a basic set of armour, and a healing potion.

Scholar Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A normal backpack, some normal clothes, 2 books, 10 sheets of paper, ink and pen, a magnifying glass and 1 set of tools.

Student Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A normal backpack, 1 book, a set of potion equipment and a set of student robes.

Thief Pack

Cost: 30 gold
Contains: A set of (dark) clothes, lockpicking tools, a set of ball bearings, a torch, and a set of rope.

15: Books

A book is a compendium of knowledge, contained between two pages. As wizards, words and knowledge are power -- so all good wizards are familiar with their literature! Despite this, books can be rather heavy (classified as 'medium' weight), and hence a normal witch or wizard will struggle to carry more than 3 books on them during everyday life.

Normal Books

Normal books fall into many different categories,. The list below contains an example of some of the most common topics of wizarding books, and a few examples of the most famous texts within those categories, where relevant.

Name	Cost
Ancient Runes	50
Artificing	
<i>From Twigs to Flight: A Broommaking Guide</i>	35
<i>Avoiding Mishaps When Making Things</i>	20
<i>Steel, Stone & Sorcery: A Guide to Golems</i>	1000
Astronomy	
<i>The Stars and Why They Matter</i>	25
<i>Galactic Dynamics, Second Edition</i>	80
<i>The Magical Effects of Stars</i>	20
Biographies	
<i>Wizarding Biographies</i>	30
<i>Muggle Biographies</i>	10
Herbology	
<i>One Thousand Magical Herbs and Fungi</i>	40
<i>Flesh-Eating Trees of the World</i>	30
History of Magic	
<i>A History of Magic</i>	30
<i>Great Wizards Through History</i>	25
<i>Non-European Magic and its History</i>	40
<i>Hogwarts a History</i>	15
<i>Sites of Historical Sorcery</i>	80
Magical Creatures Book	
<i>Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: A Guide to Common Magical Creatures</i>	20
<i>Studies on Sapient Creatures</i>	20
<i>The Unlife, and How to Avoid Them</i>	40
<i>Monster Book of Monsters</i>	60
<i>Rare and Dangerous Magical Creatures Around the World</i>	100
Maps	
<i>Local-Scale Maps</i>	10
<i>Large-Scale Maps</i>	40
Mathematics	10
Muggle Literature	5
Muggle Studies	25
Periodicals	
<i>Daily Prophet</i>	4
<i>The Quibbler</i>	10
<i>Witch Weekly</i>	5
Potions	
<i>Magical Drafts and Potions</i>	30
<i>Advanced Potion Making</i>	80
Quidditch	
<i>Quidditch Through the Ages</i>	15
<i>Handbook of Do-It-Yourself Broomcare</i>	35

Spell Books

Spellbooks contain within them the information needed to cast spells. The rules for casting from spellbooks are detailed on page ??.

For each topic, 5 books are listed in descending order. Each of these 5 books corresponds to one block of spells listed on page ??. *The Forbidden Arts*, the second Dark-Arts spellbook therefore contains all the level-2 Dark Arts spells, but not the level one spells.

Name	Cost
Spellbook: Charms	
<i>The Standard Book of Spells</i>	30
<i>Achievements in Charming</i>	60
<i>The Standard Book of Spells (Grade 2)</i>	100
<i>Charms: An Expert's Guide</i>	200
<i>Extreme Incantations</i>	500
Spellbook: Dark Arts	
<i>An A-Z of Spooky Spells</i>	100
<i>The Forbidden Arts</i>	200
<i>Necromancy: A Misunderstood Skill</i>	300
<i>Magick Moste Evile</i>	500
<i>Spelles Moste Vyle</i>	800
Spellbook: Divination	
<i>The Dream Oracle</i>	30
<i>The Future is an Open Book (And So is This)</i>	60
<i>Unfogging the Future</i>	100
<i>Death Omens: What to Do When You Know the Worst is Coming</i>	200
<i>Time and its Mysteries</i>	500
Spellbook: Hexes & Curses	
<i>Basic Hexes for the Busy and Vexed</i>	30
<i>A Compendium of Common Curses</i>	60
<i>Curses & Counter-Curses</i>	100
<i>Dark Forces: A Guide to Self Protection</i>	200
<i>An Auror's Toolkit</i>	500
Spellbook: Illusion	
<i>Easy Spells to Fool Muggles</i>	30
<i>Jiggery-Pokery & Hocus-Pocus</i>	60
<i>On the Mysteries of the Human Mind</i>	100
<i>Merlin's Tricks and Incantations</i>	200
<i>Light and Perception: The Magician's Mastery</i>	500
Spellbook: Recuperation	
<i>Self-Defensive Spellwork</i>	30
<i>How To Not Be Killed: A Guide</i>	60
<i>Defensive Spells to Save Your Skin</i>	100
<i>An Anthology of Safeguarding Measures</i>	200
<i>Life, and How to Preserve It</i>	500
Spellbook: Transfiguration	
<i>A Beginner's Guide to Transfiguration</i>	30
<i>Transmutation and other Transformative Tricks</i>	60
<i>Theories of Transubstantial Transfiguration</i>	100
<i>Conjuring and Summoning for the Experienced Witch</i>	200
<i>The True Art of Transfiguration</i>	500

A tool helps you to do something you couldn't otherwise do with your bare hands -- or even with your wand -- such as craft or repair an item, forge a document, or pick a lock. Anyone can use a tool, but only someone who is proficient in it will be able to use a tool to its full potential. Proficiency in a tool is granted through Racial or Archetype abilities, or by taking the Tool-User Skill.

A common list of tools is presented below:

Name	Weight	Cost
Climbers Kit	Medium	25 gold
Cooking Utensils	Medium	10 gold
Disguise Kit	Light	10 gold
Forgery Tools	Light	15 gold
Gaming Set	Medium	10 gold
Herbology Tools	Medium	10 gold
Jeweller's Tools	Light	35 gold
Lockpicking Tools	Light	20 gold
Musical Instrument	Various	50 gold
Navigator's Tools	Light	10 gold
Potion Equipment	Medium	15 gold
Protective Gear	Medium	30 gold
Repair Kit	Medium	15 gold
Runic Tools	Light	25 gold
Smithing Tools	Heavy	15 gold
Surgeon's Tools	Light	25 gold

Climbers Kit

Required for scaling up vertical faces, or abseiling down them. You move at one-quarter your base speed, unless you have proficiency in this tool, in which case you move at half-speed.

Cooking Utensils

Useful for producing life-sustaining nutrition out in the wilderness. Proficiency in this toolset means meals cooked restore one level of exhaustion when eaten.

Disguise Kit

A pouch of minor cosmetics, dyes and small props allows you to alter your appearance through non-magical means. Proficiency allows you to add your Deception proficiency to all related checks.

Forgery Tools

This kit of parchments, papers, inks and wax seals enables you to attempt to produce convincing fakes and forgeries. Proficiency allows you to add your Precision bonus to forging checks.

Gaming Set

A set of a mundane or magical game, such as Wizard chess. Proficiency in this toolset allows you to take check-advantage on all checks whilst playing that game. Each subsequent game requires a new proficiency.

Herbology Tools

Tools required to grow your own plants – pruning shears, plant nutrients and so on. Proficiency allows you to add your Flora & Fauna proficiency to herbology checks.

Jeweller's Tools

A set of tools used to determine the authenticity and nature of mundane and magical objects, a Jeweller's set bears a visual similarity to the muggle tools from which they get their name – an eyeglass and some simple alchemical equipment. Proficiency allows you to add your Arcane bonus to checks.

Lockpicking Tools

Whilst a wizard often relies on magical means to get past locks, powerful and intricate magics often require additional help. Locking tools can help you investigate both mundane and magical locks, and a proficiency with them enables you to add your Dexterity proficiency to any checks.

Musical Instrument

Merely possessing a musical instrument allows you to make crude noises, but proficiency in an individual instrument allows you to work wonders with it. Each subsequent instrument requires a new proficiency.

Navigator's Tools

A requirement for long-distance navigation. Allows you to chart a course for a broomstick flight or ship's course for journeys greater than 1 hour. Proficiency allows you to add your Perception bonus to avoid getting lost.

Potion Equipment

A must-have for the budding alchemist, potion equipment typically consists of a cauldron, an alembic, and other useful bits of equipment. Proficiency in this set of equipment allows you to add your Flora & Fauna proficiency to potion making attempts.

Protective Gear

A heavy-duty set of protective robes, eye protection and gloves provide protection against alchemy and enchanting mishaps, but at the cost of a 4-point penalty to FIN and ATH whilst wearing them. Proficiency in this set of tools reduces this to a 1-point penalty.

Repair Kit

A set of tools for repairing armour and clothing. Proficiency allows you to halve the time required to repair a set to full strength.

Runic Tools

Runic tools allow you to engrave intricate runes on a surface with exquisite accuracy. They are therefore invaluable to powerful Enchanting and Rune-placing endeavours. Proficiency in these skills grants you check-advantage in all Enchanting and Rune-binding checks.

Smithing Tools

Required to forge new items out of raw material. Proficiency grants you the ability to add your Strength bonus onto all forging checks.

Surgeon's Tools

A set of surgeon's tools allows you to perform delicate medical procedures, when simple healing spells do not do the trick. Proficiency with these tools allows you to add your Healing proficiency onto any related checks.

Part IV

Magic

17: Spells

Magical Schools

The study of magic is a far-reaching field, which encompasses many different areas and skills – some of which require vastly different skillsets to use. For this reason, a magical taxonomy was introduced by the Wizangemot in 1755, which divides the study of magic up into 7 ‘Schools’, each of which contains a number of ‘Disciplines’.

School	Discipline	Description
Charms	Elemental	Elemental magic studies the manipulation and invocation of very primal forces – heat, light, energy, matter, and the classical elements.
	Kinesis	Kinesis is a discipline which relies on moving and manipulating physical objects, and often forms the basis of ‘everyday’ magic.
	Telepathy	Telepathic magic is the study of the human mind, and that which extends the senses.
Divination	Temporal	One of the most mysterious disciplines, temporal magic allows one to see beyond concerns such as time and space, and observe (and perhaps manipulate) the universe at an extraplanar level
	Bewitchment	This discipline focusses on the gentle persuasion of the mind and the manipulation of images to convince the target of something which is not true.
Illusion	Psionics	A darker side of illusion magics, psionics is the art of imposing your will over that of your target – an act which usually shatters their sanity.
Malediction	Hexes	Hexes are a field which focusses on magic that directly harms the targeted person or object.
	Curses	Unlike hexes, curses do not directly harm the target but instead incapacitates them, inhibits their capabilities, or otherwise reduces the threat they pose.
	Healing	Healing is, unsurprisingly, the study of magic used to heal the sick and wounded.
Recuperation	Warding	Warding magic is almost entirely defensive in nature, allowing the caster to protect themselves and others from harm.
	Alteration	The alteration discipline studies the ability to change things from one form into another.
Transfiguration	Conjuration	Conjuration magic is concerned with the ability to summon new objects and beings out of thin air.
	Necromancy	A taboo discipline that attempts to bend the very forces of life and death to the will of the caster
	Occultism	Occultism is a rarely studied discipline that accesses and manipulates otherworldly energies originating from the Eldritch domain – powerful, yet highly unpredictable.
Dark Arts		

Every spell is assigned to be a member of one of these disciplines, which determines the skills that are necessary to cast it.

Spell Types

In addition to falling into one of the seven Schools (a taxonomy based on the spell effect), every spell can also be categorised as a *type*, which is based on how the spell is cast.

Instant

An instant spell is cast as a single major action, and is ‘cast and forget’: as soon as you complete the requisite casting check, the spell is ‘launched’ (usually in the form of a magical bolt of light) towards the target. These bolts travel at speeds of 100m per cycle, corresponding to about 40mph. This means that, unless the target is at an extreme range, the effect is applied between the major action phase and the beginning of the next turn.

Focus

A focus spell is cast like an Instant spell, but may then be continued indefinitely, repeating the initial effects once per turn as long as you keep the spell active. No further checks are needed to continue the spell, but you must remain focussed and unless stated otherwise, the FP cost is deducted once per turn as well.

Because you must remain focussed, no further spells can be cast for the duration of this spell, and all subsequent movement checks must be ‘considered’, and no other actions (such as evasion) may be taken.

If you take damage whilst casting a focus spell, you must pass a d20 SPR(willpower) check (DV 10) in order to remain casting. In addition, all attacks on you are considered *Attacks of Opportunity* (see page ??). You may, however, end the spell effect at any time without it counting as an action.

Ward

A ward is (usually) a Recuperation spell that affects a large area. A ward may be centred on a fixed point or object, or may be centred on a moving location or even a sentient being.

Wards, however, have an unfortunate habit of interfering with each other when used in unison. If two wards have a significant overlapping region of effect and the caster does not have the *Multiward* skill or an equivalent feat, there is a significant chance (determined by the GM) that both wards will collapse.

The interference only applies if the wards are similar in magnitude and intent. For example, Hogwarts castle is a heavily warded region, but a small ward could be placed in a room without problem. Interference would only become a problem when a new castle-wide ward was attempted.

Equally, interference only applies if the effects of the ward compound each other – if they lie in opposition, then the usual spell mechanics are applied. For example, a character with a

personal shield ward touches a beartrap ward – neither ward collapses, but the beartrap ward is triggered, and the shield will attempt to protect the character.

Ritual

A Ritual spell is a spell that requires a large amount of preparation – be it meditation, drawing a summoning circle upon the ground, or performing a special dance. Each Ritual spell has a designated time that the ritual takes to complete, to cast a ritual spell you must spend this length of time preparing for the spell, and after the requisite time has passed, *then* you perform the check, and the spell effect is activated. If you fail the check, or choose to stop the ritual, i.e. to take another action, you must restart the ritual spell from the beginning.

As with a focus spell, concentration is key to completing a ritual. If you are interrupted during the preparation phase, it is considered an *Attack of Opportunity* and you must pass a DV10 SPR(willpower) check in order to continue.

Casting Spells

All spells are cast by performing a ‘check’ – rolling a dice, and then adding on the associated skill modifiers and bonuses that apply for that spell, and comparing it to the Difficulty Value (DV) for the spell. If the Casting Check (CC) is greater than or equal to the DV and you have enough FP, then the spell is considered to be cast, and the effects are applied.

When performing the check, you use a die of a size commensurate to your ability in that school of magic. As you become a more proficient magic-user, you get access to bigger dice, which enables you to cast more powerful spells, and increases the success rate and power of lower-level spells.

Level	Name	Die
1	Beginner	1d6
2	Novice	1d8
3	Adept	1d10 (with 0 = 10)
4	Expert	1d12
5	Master	1d20

The size of dice you are allowed to use is determined on a school-by-school basis via the relevant skills discussed on page ??.

Spellbooks and Memory

There are two ways to cast a spell – either by reading it from the pages of a book, or by being familiar enough with the spell that you can cast it from memory.

For each of the 7 schools of magic, there are 5 textbooks. Each of these 35 textbooks is associated with a spell-level and a school, and contains all the spells in that school for that level. For example, the book *Dark Forces: A Guide to Self Protection* is a level 4 Hexes & Curses book, and so contains all level level 4 Hexes & Curses, but **not** the 3rd level spells, for example.

To cast a spell from a book, you must be holding a book which contains the specified spell in one hand, and your wand in

another. You must then perform the checks, and the spell will be cast. Casting like this takes twice as long as normal, often has a higher casting check and fortitude cost associated with it, and you are open to *Attacks of Opportunity* when doing this in combat. Swapping books takes a minor action.

If, however, you become familiar with a spell, then it is no longer necessary to have the book in your possession – you can cast from memory. Spells cast from memory are almost always superior, and may be used as quickcast actions etc. Memory-casting is considered the ‘normal’ way to cast, and all spellcasting rules discussed are assumed to apply to memory-casting.

A spell is considered memorised when it has been cast successfully a number of times from a book in a ‘real life’ scenario (i.e. you have to actually use the spell for its intended purpose, not just cast it wildly into thin air). The number of successful book-casts, *N*, is calculated from:

$$N = 10 - (\text{INT modifier} + \text{Arcane Proficiency})$$

Casting Checks

The target roll of a spellcasting check (the DV) is the minimum value of the casting check (CC) which is required in order for the spell effect to be successfully initiated. It is determined by the level of the spell:

	Beginner	Novice	Adept	Expert	Master
DV:	4	5	6	7	11

The check-type determines which ability modifiers are added onto the dice roll. The relevant modifier is determined by the Discipline that the spell originates from, according to the following prescription:

School	Discipline	Attribute
Charms	Elemental	INT
	Kinesis	FIN
Divination	Telepathy	EMP
	Temporal	INT
Illusion	Bewitchment	CHR
	Psionics	SPR
Malediction	Hexes	SPR
	Curses	POW
Recuperation	Healing	EMP
	Warding	INT
Transfiguration	Alteration	FIN
	Conjuration	POW
Dark Arts	Necromancy	EVL
	Occultism	POW

You may, therefore, apply your INT modifier when casting a spell belonging to the Elemental Discipline. You may also ask your GM if it is appropriate to add on a Proficiency modifier to the check.

Fortitude

Casting spells is not as simple as waving your wands and saying the magic words – it takes great mental clarity to cast, and you can become exhausted from casting difficult spells. This mental burden is enumerated through the Fortitude Points attribute.

Each spell has an associated FP cost, which is deducted only after it is successfully cast. If the casting fails, then only half of the fortitude cost is deducted (rounded up).

You cannot cast a spell if it would send you into negative FP – you must wait for your head to clear before attempting that spell.

The fortitude cost of a given spell is determined by the spell type (Instant, Focus, Ritual etc.) and the difficulty of the spell, and if the spell is cast from memory or not. A book-cast spell has a 50% higher FP cost than if the caster is familiar with the spell.

The FP cost of a spell is numerically equal to the difficulty of a spell, prior to any skill modifications (i.e. a skill which reduces the difficulty of a certain spell does not reduce the FP of it, and vice versa), unless the spell is being book-cast, in which case use the bracketed values.

	Beginner	Novice	Adept	Expert	Master
Memory	4	5	6	7	11
Book	6	8	9	11	17

Power Points

Some spells have the option to dedicate *Power Points* (PP) to their casting when cast from memory. Adding Power Points to a spell amplifies that spells effects, it might make it do more damage, last longer or have a wider area of effect.

You must declare the number of power points you are dedicating to a spell before performing the check. Each power point dedicated increases the DV of the casting by one, and the FP cost by two. The maximum number of PP that can be dedicated is equal to one third of your POW attribute.

Some spells specify that, when cast by a character of a certain level, they acquire ‘free’ power points. These power points do not increase the DV or FP cost of the spell, and only apply when calculating the effect. You may still add your own PP to these spells following the normal rules.

Spell Shapes

Some spells produce bolts of energy which fly towards a target, whilst others project their energy into a given region, which are often classified via geometrical shapes: a *line*, a *cube*, a *sphere*, a *circle* a *cone* or a *cylinder*. These shapes may either originate around the caster, or from a point designated by the spell.

Circle

A circular spell extends outwards from the point of origin in a 2D circular shockwave that lies parallel to the ground. The

height of the shockwave above the ground is set by the point of origin, which is not included in the shockwave region (unless the caster chooses it to be). Because of its 2D nature, a circular spell can be avoided by ducking beneath it, or jumping over it – it is only if the shockwave impacts you that the spell effect is applied.

Cone

The point of origin of a cone is typically the caster’s wand, and a cone extends outwards from the wand, in the direction that the wand is pointing. A cone extends forwards to the specified distance, and has a circular cross section, the radius of which is equal to the distance away from the point of origin (so it is a 45° cone).

The point of origin of the cone is not considered part of the spell area.

Cube

The point of origin for a cubic spell may be selected to be either the centre of the cube, or the centre of one of its 6 sides. The cube’s side-length is specified by the spell effect. The cube point of origin is only affected by the spell if you choose the centre-origin.

Cylinder

A cylinder point of origin is specified to be a point on the ground, around which a circular cross section is drawn, and then a cylinder of energy rises up vertically to a specified height. Generally, a cylinder spell adjusts its size to an individual, and if not otherwise specified, the cylinder is 5cm wider than the target individual is wide, and 5cm taller than the target. The point of origin is affected by the spell.

Line

A line extends in a straight path from the origin (a caster’s wand) towards the target for a specified distance. Unless otherwise specified, the beam is considered to have the cross section equivalent to a pencil. The point of origin is not affected by the spell.

Sphere

A sphere’s point of origin lies at the centre, and the spell effect expands equally out in all directions from that point. Generally, the spell effect cannot penetrate into the ground or through solid objects (unless, for example, it is an explosion). The point of origin is affected by the spell.

18: Spell List

This section contains a list of all the spells available in the game. First, the spells are presented broken down into the school and level to which they belong. The next section then contains a full description of the spell, including its casting check, casting difficulty, and spell effects. Spells marked with a (*) gain more effects, or increase in power, at higher levels.

Charms

Level 1 Spells

- Create Fire (*)
- Create Trap (*)
- Create Water (*)
- Fresh Air
- Halt
- Illuminate Wand
- Levitation (*)
- Mark Surface
- Piercing Wail
- Preserve Object

Dark Arts

Level 1 Spells

- Blight (*)
- Eldritch Knowledge
- Shadow Blast (*)
- Shroud of Darkness
- Vicious Slash (*)

Divination

Level 1 Spells

- Astral Assistance (*)
- Hunter's Mark
- Identify
- Locate (*)
- Receive Omen
- Sense Traps
- Speak in Tongues
- Telepathic Bond

Hexes

Level 1 Spells

- Acidic Burst (*)
- Cause Confusion
- Green Sparks (*)
- Knockback
- Sting (*)
- Trip

Illusion

Level 1 Spells

- Blur (*)
- Chaotic Whispers (*)
- Charm Entity
- Glamour (*)
- Imbue Bravery
- Night Vision
- Throw Voice

Recuperation

Level 1 Spells

- Aid Charm (*)
- Caterwauling Ward
- Magical Shield (*)
- Minor Healing
- Privacy Ward
- Reinforce Shield (*)
- Stoneskin
- Sunburst (*)

Transfiguration

Level 1 Spells

- Alter Hair
- Basic Transmutation (*)
- Change Colour
- Conjure Flowers
- Launch Spike (*)
- Potion Mixing Spell
- Silver Shield (*)
- Steelclaw

Acidic Burst

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *ambustum*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green gas
Duration 2 minutes

Fills a cube of size 4m with an acidic cloud that does (5+PP) acid damage per turn. In a confined space, the cloud lasts indefinitely.

Higher Level Casting:

An Adept level caster may add 1d6 damage for every 3 character levels over 5th level.

Aid Charm

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *subsidiu*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Red-orange rays
Duration 1 hour

Raise the HP ceiling of a target by 3. If target has HP > 0, also increase HP by this amount.

Higher Level Casting:

At 4th, 8th, 12th and 16th levels, the HP ceiling is raised by 5, 8, 10, and 15 respectively.

Alter Hair

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *crinus muto*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 2 hours

Alters the colour and style of the casters hair. Useful for disguises.

Astral Assistance

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *auxilio*
Spell Type: Ritual (2 turns)
Visual: Golden glow

By laying your hand upon a sapient being, you may channel magical energy into them. On the next check the target performs, roll 1d4, and add it to the check (+1 per PP, max 3). If the check fails, both the target and the caster take 1d6 psychic damage.

Higher Level Casting:

An expert-level caster may roll 2d4 when performing this spell.

Basic Transmutation

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *formum mutatio*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 1 hour

Transform a 200g non-sapient animal or object into a different animal or solid object. Each power point doubles the mass of objects that can be transformed. Objects must be simple in nature.

Higher Level Casting:

A character above 6th level may add 1 free PP for every 3 character levels above 3rd.

Blight

Beginner-level Abomination (None)

Incantation: *thanatos*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Sickly-green shockwave
Resist: s, DV s

A cylinder of necrotic energy extends outwards from you in a radius of 10m (doubled with every PP, max 1km). All simple plants within range die instantly, and all other living beings take 1d4 necrotic damage (+1 per PP)

Higher Level Casting:

An adept level caster may add an extra d4 of damage for every 4 character levels above 2nd.

Blur

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *celeritate*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 3 turns

The target seems to become blurry around the edges, it is difficult to tell exactly where they are, and where they aren't. Gain check advantage on evasion checks for 3 turns.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by an adept-level caster, the first attack directed at the target also automatically misses.

Caterwauling Ward

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *caterwaul*
Spell Type: Ward
Duration 2 weeks
Resist: FIN(Stealth), DV 15

Casts a ward on the area which emits a high-pitched scream when an unknown being crosses the threshold. Radius is (10 + 2xPP) metres. Ward decays after 2 weeks.

Cause Confusion

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *confundo*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Pink bolt
Duration 3 turns
Resist: SPR (Endurance), DV CC

A target individual acquires the Confused status and takes 5 fatigue damage. On a successful Resist, no status is applied.

Change Colour

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *pigmentus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Bolt of specified colour
Duration 2 days

Causes the colour of an object to change into the colour specified by the caster.

Chaotic Whispers

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *rastarum*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Wand-tip glows purple
Duration 2 minutes
Resist: SPR (endurance), DV CC

Whilst the caster maintains concentration, the target hears a voice in their ear whispering maddening words, that slowly drive them insane. Target may perform a resist check once per turn, when one succeeds, the spell is broken. Whispers do (1+PP)d4 psychic damage per turn that the spell is active.

Higher Level Casting:

At 7th, 15th and 18th level, use a d6, d10 and d12 respectively for the damage check.

Charm Entity

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *sismeus amici*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green rays
Duration 1 hour

If target is not overtly hostile, this spell causes them to like you: persuasion checks by the caster on the individual get a (2+PP) bonus (max 5).

Conjure Flowers

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *orchideous*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 3 days

Conjures flowers from thin air.

Create Fire

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *incendio*
Spell Type: Concentration

A small jet of fire is emitted from the tip of your wand. Coming into contact with fire does 1d6 fire damage, and applies a minor Burned status effect.

Higher Level Casting:

An Adept-level caster may summon a larger gout of flame, which does an extra 1d6 fire damage for every 4 character levels above 2nd.

Create Trap

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *dolus*
Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)

Combine a magical ward with one of your existing spells. After casting the trap spell, cast the effect-spell to imbue the trap with that effect. If successful, creates a hidden magical trap of radius 50cm on any solid surface, with the effect of the original spell when triggered by an entity touching the trap. If you wish to keep a trap hidden from the GM, write down the location, spell and associated check values on a piece of paper, to be revealed when the trap is triggered.

Higher Level Casting:

A character above 10th level may add free PP to the effect-spell equal to one-third their character level.

Create Water

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *aguamente*
Spell Type: Concentration

A jet of water is emitted from the tip of your wand, useful for extinguishing fires, or cleaning surfaces, however conjured water cannot be drunk.

Higher Level Casting:

An adept-level caster may summon a torrent of water, which does 1d4 bludgeoning damage for every 3 character levels above 3rd.

Eldritch Knowledge

Beginner-level Abomination (None)

Incantation: *vetitum scenticus*
Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)
Visual: Yellow-black aura

Attune your mind to the Eldritch Domains. The Demons of the Deep will answer one of your questions, but the answers might drive you mad. The question must be said out loud for all to hear, but the answer may be written down and passed to your privately.

Fresh Air

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *klinneract*
Spell Type: Instant

A gust of air refreshes the air in a sphere of radius (2 + PP) metres around the caster, removing any gaseous effects and smelling faintly of lavender.

Glamour

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *lux stultium*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 1 hour
Resist: INT (perception), DV 5

Create a superficial glamour around a person or object, a simple trick of the light. The glamour disintegrates upon physical or magical contact, and can be seen to be fake if observer succeeds on a Resist check.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by a character greater than 8th level, the DV of the Resist check is equal to the caster level.

Green Sparks

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *verdimillious*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green bolts

Emits 3 green sparks from your wand, which can be made to strike at the enemy. Each spark does 1 force damage for each point that the casting check exceeds the difficulty value.

Higher Level Casting:

Every 3 character levels above 2nd level, add another spark.

Halt

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *stabit*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Pale blue bolt

Stop 1 inanimate object in its tracks, if mid-air, it drops to the ground. If the target is particularly small or fast (i.e. an arrow in mid-flight) the caster must pass a FIN(precision) check (DV 12) in order to hit the target.

Hunter's Mark

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *venari*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Semi-transparent arrow
Duration: 3 days
Resist: INT (Perception, passive), DV CC

If casting check exceeds passive resist value, caster is aware of the location of the target for the next 3 days, or until the mark is removed by magical means.

Identify

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *dicemi*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Blue rays

Learn the properties of the target: be it learning about the nature of the target, or the ingredients of a potion. The more power points dedicated to the spell, the more information that is revealed.

Illuminate Wand

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *lumos*
Spell Type: Concentration

Causes the tip of your wand to glow, like a torch. Casts bright light for 2m radius, and dim light for 10m. Spell last indefinitely, until concentration is broken, and does not require extra FP per turn.

Imbue Bravery

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *fortudus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Golden rays
Duration: 1 hour

Imbue your target with fortitude and vigour. They gain check-advantage on all Fear-Resist checks for 1 hour.

Knockback

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *flipendo*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Blue pulse
Resist: ATH (Speed), DV

A wave of energy strikes into the target, causing (1+PP)d4 force damage, and pushing the target backwards up to (1+PP) metres. Resist for half damage.

Launch Spike

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *voco dens*
Spell Type: Instant
Resist: ATH (Speed), DV 10

Conjure (1+PP) enormous spikes to transfigure itself from the surrounding walls/floor, impaling the target. Each spike does 1d6 piercing damage. Resist for half damage.

Higher Level Casting:

An expert-level caster may do 1d12 piercing damage per spike

Levitation

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *wingardium leviosa*
Spell Type: Concentration

Cause an object of 500g or less to levitate, controlling the vertical distance at will. Each power point dedicated doubles the mass of the object that can be lifted.

Higher Level Casting:

A character above 6th level may add 1 free PP for every 3 character levels above 3rd.

Locate

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *locus*
Spell Type: Instant
Resist: INT (Stealth), DV CC

Learn the location of non-magical objects or an unshielded living being. A being may hide from this spell by Resisting.

Higher Level Casting:

An master-level clairvoyant may perform a SPR(willpower) check to overcome magical shields blocking this spell's effect.

Magical Shield

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *protego*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Ethereal Shield

Erects an ethereal shield in front of you that absorbs incoming magical attacks. Shielding charm provides a magical AC by 10+PP against all incoming spells, but does not protect against physical damage, or the aftereffects of magic (i.e. a nearby explosion). This AC is eroded by all damage-causing effects.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by a character greater than 10th level, the AC provided is equal to the character level + 2 × PP.

Mark Surface

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *stylum*
Spell Type: Concentration

Use your wand as anything from a thin marker to a thick paintbrush, the *paint* is a magical adhesive that sticks to any surface, and may be of any colour you choose.

Minor Healing

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *enervate*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Yellow-white rays

Heal 2 points per turn. If the target has a serious wound, i.e. a broken bone, cannot heal beyond 50% health. Only works on living creatures.

Night Vision

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *aspectu*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 2 hours

Give the target nightvision for one hour: dim light is as bright as daylight, and darkness is considered dim.

Piercing Wail

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *magnus surgerus*
Spell Type: Instant

All targets in a 10m spherical radius of the caster take 2 points of psychic damage (+3 per PP), and awaken if they are sleeping.

Potion Mixing Spell

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Spell Type: Ritual(5 turns)

Used to mix a potion. See page ?? for details.

Preserve Object

Beginner-level Charm (None)

Incantation: *preseritas*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Silver rays
Duration: 10 days

The target is unaffected by the flow of time for the duration of the spell, and does not rot or otherwise decay.

Privacy Ward

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *muffliato*
Spell Type: Ward
Duration: 1 hour

A buzzing sound fills the ears of anyone trying to listen in on your conversations whilst you are in the warded area. Lasts for one hour, and has a radius of 2m.

Receive Omen

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)

Use your tea leaves to receive an omen about the future. Ask a question about the outcome of an event. The tea leaves will tell you if the outcome is positive, negative, or neutral. Takes 4 minutes to cast.

Reinforce Shield

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *praesidium*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Brick-red rays

Restore the strength of a target shield or magical ward by (2+PP) points per turn that this spell is maintained. Cannot restore the strength to more than the original level.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by an expert-level caster, you may restore a shield to 150% of its original strength.

Sense Traps

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *antidolus*
Spell Type: Instant

Attempt to discover any traps in your immediate vicinity. If successful, you may learn the location of the trap, and the trigger (but not the effect). Success conditions are set by the GM.

Shadow Blast

Beginner-level Abomination (None)

Incantation: *malusangui*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Black bolt

Hurl shadows at you enemy, dealing 1 necrotic damage for every casting point over the difficulty level.

Higher Level Casting:

An novice-level caster does 2 extra points for each point that the CV exceeds the DV, and an Expert-level caster does 4 extra.

Shroud of Darkness

Beginner-level Abomination (None)

Incantation: *tenebrosa*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 2 minutes

Extinguish all light within a (10 + 2×PP) metre radius, and all attempts to create new light fail, unless caster' passive POW check exceeds the casting check.

Silver Shield

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *argentipus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Silver Mist
Duration 1 hour

Conjures a floating silver shield from thin air, to defend you. Shield absorbs both physical and magical attacks for up to (15+2×PP) damage points, before breaking. The caster has limited control over the shield whilst it is active, using a major action to move it up to 3m in any direction.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by a character above 10th level, the shield no longer degrades with each strike, and instead acts as a normal shield with an AC equal to 15 + 2×PP.

Speak in Tongues

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *lingua maxima*
Spell Type: Ritual (5 minutes)
Duration 4 minutes

By meditating for 5 minutes, you may understand and speak the language of a willing target individual. Target must be a sapient being, or otherwise able to speak at least one language.

Steelclaw

Beginner-level Transfiguration (None)

Incantation: *ferscabere*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 1 day

Transfigures an animal's claws into large steel talons, increasing their physical damage by (5 + 2×PP)

Sting

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *ictus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green dart

Stings the target for 2 poison damage, plus one for each point that the casting check exceeds the difficulty value.

Higher Level Casting:

An expert level caster may add 2 damage for each point that the casting check exceeds the difficulty value, rather than the usual 1.

Stoneskin

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *lapis pellium*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Dark green rays
Duration 5 minutes

Increase the target' AC by 10+PP.

Sunburst

Beginner-level Recuperant (None)

Incantation: *sol maxima*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Searing-white bolt

A bolt of magic explodes on contact with a solid or astral object, releasing a searing white light that does 2d6 Holy Damage.

Higher Level Casting:

When cast by a character greater than 6th level, do 1d6 extra damage for every 3 levels above 3rd.

Telepathic Bond

Beginner-level Divination (None)

Incantation: *conanimus*
Spell Type: Ritual (2 turns)
Duration 2 days

Form a mental connection between your mind and the mind of a willing target. You may then use this connection to communicate silently. Target must be within touching distance when the spell is cast, but the bond has no distance limit after that.

Throw Voice

Beginner-level Illusion (None)

Incantation: *ventrilofors*
Spell Type: Concentration

Cast your voice such that it appears to be coming from somewhere up to 5+×PP metres away.

Trip

Beginner-level Hex (None)

Incantation: *lubricor*
Spell Type: Instant
Resist: ATH, DV CC

If the target is moving this turn cycle and fails to Resist, they go sprawling onto the ground taking 1d4 bludgeoning damage, and take the 'Prone Position' status.

Vicious Slash

Beginner-level Abomination (None)

Incantation: *sectumsempa*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Red slash

Gouges at the target, leaving deep, cursed wounds, for 1d6 points of slashing damage.

Higher Level Casting:

At 8th level, do 2d6 damage. At 14th, use 4d6, and at 20th level, use 10d6.

Part V

Appendices

19: Magic Cheat Sheet

This section contains a brief summary of the tables needed for spellcasting. This serves as a useful printout to have on hand, to avoid arduous page-flipping.

How to Cast

To cast a spell, either in combat or in day-to-day life, you must declare the spell which you are about to cast. You must be holding your wand in your dominant hand, hand be able to speak the incantation aloud, unless you have a skill or character trait which negates these rules.

You must then perform a check by rolling the relevant dice, and then compare this value with the Difficulty Value (DV) of the spell, and then finally deduct the appropriate FP cost.

Memory

Spells can be cast in one of two ways: either from memory, or from the pages of a spellbook.

Spells cast from memory are considered 'default', and most rules are written assuming that this is how they are being cast.

Of course, you must first learn a spell, before you can memorise it. This is what spellbooks are for. You may cast a spell from a spellbook if you have the spellbook open in front of you. Casting in this fashion takes twice as long as normal, leaves you vulnerable to attack, as well as costing more FP to cast.

When you have book-cast a spell a certain number of times, it is considered 'memorised', and you may cast it from memory in future. The formula to calculate the number of book-casts is:

$$N = 10 - (\text{INT modifier} + \text{Arcane Proficiency})$$

Accuracy & Resisting

After a spell has been cast, or an attack has been launched, you need to check that it hits its target. Living beings may instinctively either *Dodge* or *Block* an incoming attack, using whichever of their respective stats is highest:

$$\text{Do} = 8 + \text{FIN modifier} + \text{bonus} \qquad \text{Bl} = 8 + \text{ATH modifier} + \text{bonus}$$

These attributes set the DV of an *accuracy check* which an attacker must perform using a d20 check, plus any relevant bonuses. In combat, you may also choose to *Evade* or *Brace* as a minor action. This allows you to increase the value of Dodge or Block respectively by the value of a standard Resist check.

You may also be asked to perform an accuracy check when casting against an object which is particularly far away or small.

'Resisting' allows you to grit your teeth and power through the effects of a spell. Some spell effects can be overcome by a particular force of will. To do so, you roll your Resist dice (determined by the *Withstand* skill), and check against the DV set by the spell effect.

Check Type

Every spell belongs to one of the Disciplines, which determines the character attribute to use when casting that spell. Appropriate Proficiencies may be added onto spellcasting checks as determined by character skills, or by GM's consent that it is applicable to the spell being cast.

School	Discipline	Attribute
Charms	Elemental	INT
	Kinesis	FIN
Divination	Telepathy	EMP
	Temporal	INT
Illusion	Bewitchment	CHR
	Psionics	SPR
Malediction	Hexes	SPR
	Curses	POW
Recuperation	Healing	EMP
	Warding	INT
Transfiguration	Alteration	FIN
	Conjuration	POW
Dark Arts	Necromancy	EVL
	Occultism	POW

Check Difficulty

For a cast to be successful, the result of the casting check must be equal to or larger than the value given in this table:

	Beginner	Novice	Adept	Expert	Master
DV:	4	5	6	7	11

FP Costs

Spells 'cost' FP to cast. Failed spells cost half the amount of a successful spell and Resisting a spell costs 2FP. The FP cost of a spell is numerically equal to the difficulty of a spell, prior to any skill modifications (i.e. a skill which reduces the difficulty of a certain spell does not reduce the FP of it, and vice versa), unless the spell is being book-cast, in which case use the bracketed values.

	Beginner	Novice	Adept	Expert	Master
Memory	4	5	6	7	11
Book	6	8	9	11	17

FP Regenerates at a rate of 2FP per turn cycle in which no FP was deducted.

20: Changelog

Changes in V4.0β

Changes to the Spellcasting System

Spell Damage Reworked

“cvdv” spells (i.e. those who did more damage when a casting check exceeded the DV by a higher amount) have been replaced by equivalent spells with standard ndx damage checks. This stabilises spell effects + balances the system better than before.

General effect balancing

Spell effects were quantified across levels, and were balanced to ensure that lower level spells remain relevant at higher levels, but do not outclass their higher level compatriots.

Power Point Refocus

Previous iterations relied on drastic changes to spell effects at higher levels (i.e. switching out damage-causing dice at higher levels). This not only required strict adherence to the spelllist page, it also led to unbalanced spells and a discontinuous power slope (cheap spells suddenly gained significant power without commensurate increases in DV/FP).

This flaw was fixed by altering these spells to use the Power Point system introduced in V1 but poorly utilised. This integrates with the effect balancing: it allows spells to gradually gain power whilst also increasing the costs of that spell.

Disciplines Introduced

The introduction of the 14 Spell Disciplines and the associated fixed check-type for each of them removes the need for each spell to have a DV/checktype listed. It therefore streamlines gameplay by removing the need for constant pageflipping, and simplifies the magic system. It also synergises well with the bimodal nature many of the Schools already possessed (i.e. ‘Hexes & Curses’, ‘Healing & Warding’) in previous editions.

Some Renaming

Some small things changed names.

‘Hexes and Curses’ spell school became ‘Malediction’.

‘Concentration’ spell types became ‘Focus’ (this was purely for aesthetic / space saving reasons!)

Cheat Sheet

The ‘cheat sheet’ has been added, allowing for a simple print-out to serve as a reference for nearly all spellcasting.

Manipulate Spells

It was felt that the ‘manipulate’ spells were badly done, and were either overpowered (when considered a Novice or Adept spell), or held back simple manipulation abilities until too late in the game (when considered an Expert or Master spell). Therefore 20 new spells: 5 for each of the 4 classical elements were added in a successive manner. This hopefully provides a more integrated and flexible experience for the budding benders out there.

Spells alterations

The following spells have been added:

- Control Air/Earth/Fire/Water 1/2/3/4/5 (20 Elemental spells)

See above for the justification for these additions

- Disrupt Connection (Adept Telepathy)
- Invert Connection (Master Telepathy)
- Timeslip (Expert Temporal)
- Drain Fortitude (Adept Psionics)
- Howl (Beginner Curse, Beast)
- Delayed Effect (Adept Curse)
- Break Concentration (Expert Curse)
- Feign Death (Adept Healing)
- Shimmering Confetti (Beginner Conjuraction)
- Bind Being (Expert Conjuraction)
- Blood Moon (Adept Necromancy)
- Use Ancient Knowledge (Beginner Occultism)
- Shadowsight (Novice Occultism)
- Unfathomable Visage (Novice Occultism)
- Coven’s Protection (Expert Occultism)
- Summoning Circle (Expert Occultism)

The following spells have been removed:

- Mantle Element (Master Elemental)

This spell became redundant with the improved Control spells

- Manipulate Earth/Air/Fire/Water
(As above)

Can choose to Dodge or Block

- Summon Weak/Capable Avatar
Too skyrim-y! This is part of the removal of the three-tiered system implemented for many creatures in V1.0

The following spells have been changed:

- Flame Dart was renamed Ignite Being.

(Almost all damage-causing spells had their effects altered as part of previously mentioned rebalancing, and are not listed here)

Changes to Items

Prices

More realistic prices were added to the basic items and artefacts lists.

Evasion/AC System Revamp

Overhaul

The AC/Dodging system was overhauled. Now exists in a hybrid state between 5e and the old system. I like it better this way. AC was always abstract, this gives a better sense of what is going on, and gives a way to tradeoff between dodging and heavy armour.

Character Sheet

The character sheet was altered to include room for an accuracy, a dodge and a block attribute.

Meta-Changes

A meta-change: this changelog was included!

To-Do List

Rethink Perception

The EMP/ Perception balance feels off. Maybe rename EMP to PER and reconfigure some of EMP into CHA?

Rethink AC

Split AC up into a 'dodge' part and a 'brace' part?

Dodge: 6+FIN modifier + bonuses Block: 6+ATH modifier + bonuses

On a normal attack, melee and ranged attacks (inc. spells) perform an accuracy check (d20 + bonuses), DV = highest of dodge, block.