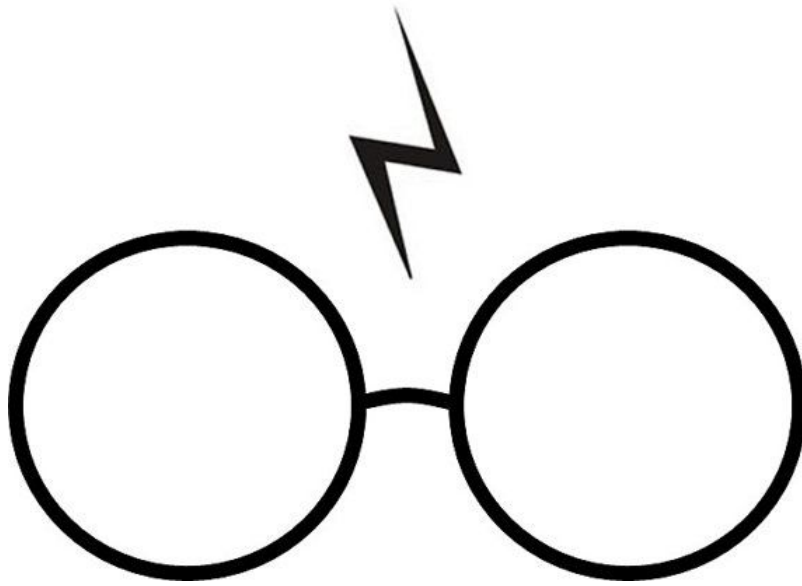


Basic Handbook



Harry Potter & The Role Playing Game

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction | 2 |
| I Characters | 4 |
| 1 Creating A Character | 5 |
| 2 Playable Species | 6 |
| 3 Character Archetype | 8 |
| 4 Main Attributes | 18 |
| 5 Character Progression & Skills | 20 |
| II Actions and their Consequences | 24 |
| 6 Performing Actions | 25 |
| 7 Non-Combat Actions | 27 |
| 8 Combat Actions | 28 |
| 9 Stealth and Critical Strikes | 31 |
| 10 Taking Damage | 32 |
| III Items | 36 |
| 11 Items | 37 |
| IV Magic | 42 |
| 12 Spells | 43 |
| 13 Spell List | 46 |

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 requirements 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 mechanics 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

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

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

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

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

Base Speed: 3

Extra points: 4

Extra skills: 2

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.

3, on top of the following basic attributes:

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.

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.

Gryffindor Student

The Sorting Hat tells us that:

*You might belong in Gryffindor,
Where dwell the brave at heart,
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry
Set Gryffindors apart*

Gryffindor is the House that prizes bravery above all other attributes. The ability to stare terror and adversity in the face without blinking or shirking your responsibilities is a must-have if you are to belong to this House. A Gryffindor student is strong and chivalrous, but they can also be headstrong and arrogant. Never afraid to make a joke, or question authority, Gryffindor students are often difficult to control in the classroom.

Gryffindor students typically settle into one of two routes: the **Sportsman** and the **Rebel**. The sporty students are physically very capable, and get increased attributes associated with their chosen sport, as well as general improvements to their health. The more rebellious students, on the other hand, have a knack for causing trouble – and more importantly, getting away with it.

| Gryffindor Student | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Archetype Level | Arcane Wisdom | Archetype Features | Sportsman Features | Rebel Features |
| 1 | + 0 | Heart of Bravery | – | – |
| 2 | + 0 | Fear Resist | – | – |
| 3 | + 0 | – | Sports Team | Provocative Words |
| 4 | + 0 | Heart of Bravery II | – | Wild Spirit |
| 5 | + 1 | – | Healthy Living | Disobedient Tactics |

Archetype Features

Heart of Bravery:

Starting at level 1, the Heart of Bravery gives your character a +1 boost to the Willpower and Endurance proficiencies. This bonus increases to +2 at level 4.

Fear Resist:

Starting at level 2, gain check-advantage when performing Fear and Intimidation resists.

Sportsman Features

Sports Team:

Starting at Level 3, you may join one of the sports teams available at Hogwarts. The three main sports teams are Quidditch, Rugby and Fencing.

Your choice of sport gives you benefits at 3rd and 4th level, and are detailed at the end of this section.

Healthy Living:

Starting at Level 5, your healthy and active lifestyle gives you a +2 bonus to the Health proficiency.

In addition, once per week, you may resist a minor sickness, poisoning or physical injury up to 5 points.

Rebel Features

Provocative Words:

At 3rd level, you gain the ability to provoke sapient beings into attacking you. Target must perform a SPR (Willpower) resist check (DV 12 +1 for each Gryffindor level, max 18). If it fails, target must enter into combat as the aggressor. If already in combat, target must focus exclusively on you for 2 turns.

Wild Spirit:

At 4th level, you may utilise your passion for freedom and rebellion, gaining a +2 bonus to the Chaos proficiency.

Disobedient Tactics:

At 5th level, choose from one of the following bonuses:

- **Innocent Face:** get +2 to persuasion checks when denying your actions
- **Distracting Tricks:** once per day, create a small magical disturbance to distract a target. Distracted targets are subject to an Attack of Opportunity next turn.
- **Distrust of Authority:** all resist checks against authority figures get +2 bonus.

Sports

There are 3 sports commonly played at Hogwarts, Quidditch, Rugby and Fencing.

Fencing

Fencing is an ancient martial sport, seen by wizardkind as a much safer alternative to wizarding duels. Fencing is a precision sport, requiring great dexterity and speed to master. Practitioners of this sport may find the skills they learn transferable to a combat situation.

Honed Reflexes:

Starting at 3rd level, you receive a +1 bonus to dexterity proficiency. At 5th level, this becomes a +2 bonus. Also at 3rd level you get check-advantage in evasion checks during close-quarters fighting.

Sabre:

Starting at 4th level, the team invest in high-quality equipment that you may keep. Receive a 1d8+1 non-magical rapier. If you lose it, you may have a new one delivered to you after 2 days.

Rugby

Rugby is one of the few muggle sports to remain popular in the wizarding world (mostly thanks to a famous squib player on the Scottish team). Rugby is a brutal contact sport, which prizes strength and the ability to safely neutralise opponents.

Explosive Power

Starting at 3rd level, you receive a +1 bonus to strength proficiency. At 5th level, this becomes a +2 bonus.

Combat Tackle

Starting at 4th level, you may perform a 'tackle' action whilst moving. This action requires that you have been running for at least 2m. Does (distance + ATH(str) modifier) bludgeoning damage (max 6) and pushes the target back a further 1 metre. This action counts as part of your movement this turn.

Quidditch

Quidditch is the single most popular magical sport. Played atop a broomstick, the ability to perceive and react to your surroundings in 3 dimensions is the key to Quidditch.

Flying Lessons

From 3rd level onwards, you have proficiency in broomstick flying. All flight related checks get +1. This increases to +2 at 5th level.

Spatial Awareness

From 4th level onwards, your perception proficiency gets a +1 bonus, and your eyesight and effective spellcasting radius get a 50% bonus in all conditions.

Hufflepuff Student

Hufflepuff House is home to those students who are kind and hard working, as the Sorting-Song elaborates:

*You might belong in Hufflepuff,
Where they are just and loyal,
Those patient Hufflepuff's are true,
And unafraid of toil.*

Traditionally seen as “the other house”, and often mercilessly mocked as such, Hufflepuff has come into its own recently. Certainly, the combination of hard-work, loyalty and kindness is not something to be sneered at. Even if they are not always the highest achievers, a Hufflepuff Student is someone you want to be around. Though sometimes timid, they make friends quickly and are often perceptive above what is usual for a student.

This house is home to two distinct groups – the **Hard Workers** and the **Student Counsellors**. What the Hard Workers lack in natural talent, they more than make up for in their dedication to completing tasks. The Student Counsellors, on the other hand, are kind and empathetic souls who want to help others feel happy and comfortable.

| Hufflepuff Student | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Archetype Level | Arcane Wisdom | Archetype Features | Hard-Worker Features | Student Counsellor Features |
| 1 | + 0 | Heart of Loyalty | – | – |
| 2 | + 0 | Ally Assist | – | – |
| 3 | + 0 | – | Night-Owl | Kind Heart |
| 4 | + 0 | Heart of Loyalty II | Industrious Attitude | Calming Aura |
| 5 | + 1 | – | Dedicated Training | – |

Archetype Features

Heart of Loyalty:

Starting at level 1, the Heart of Loyalty gives your character a +1 boost to the Understand Other and Perception proficiencies. This increases to +2 at level 4.

Ally Assist:

Starting at level 2, you gain check-advantage when performing spells on your allies.

Hard Worker Features

Night Owl:

From 3rd level onwards, you may dedicate 1 night to auto-succeed on any research or learning check, at the cost of acquiring a lvl 2 exhaustion status. You may also use this skill to bypass the usual spell-memorisation phase, and commit a spell to memory overnight.

Industrious Attitude:

At 4th level, your dedication to work means that you get more done than most students. You may learn 2 more spells per level, and research/learning checks take only half the time.

At 5th level, news of your work ethic has reached teachers, and you get +2 persuasion checks against teachers.

Dedicated Training:

At 5th level, you are able to turn your determined mind to a project outside of academia. Get one of the following abilities:

- **Physical Training:** get check-advantage in movement and acrobatics checks.
- **Weapons Training:** get check-advantage in melee and ranged combat checks
- **Musical Training:** learn to play a new musical instrument

- **Language Training:** learn to speak a new language

Student Counsellor Features

Kind Heart:

From 3rd level, when you help assist someone such that they offer you a reward for your help, you may forgo all reward and instead get a permanent check-double-advantage when interacting with that person.

At 5th level, your reputation for kindness gives you a check-advantage when negotiating with all non-evil sapients.

Calming Aura:

At 4th level, you may use your major action once per day to remove all confusion, enraging and terrified status effects from all targets in a 1d4 metre radius. If the target is not afflicted by any of these effects and is in combat, they immediately exit combat for 2 turns, or until next harmed. Target may resist by performing a SPR(willpower) Resist check (DV = 12 + Hufflepuff level). At 5th level, this effects all targets in 1d8 metre radius.

Ravenclaw Student

Their hearts full of a desire for learning, but their eyes blinking against the harsh light of day, Ravenclaw students often make unwilling adventurers – preferring instead the comfort of a cosy library. Some secrets, however, cannot be found between the pages of a book – and an expedition must be mounted, for as the Sorting Hat tells us:

*Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw,
If you've a ready mind,
Where those of wit and learning,
Will always find their kind.*

Ravenclaw is the house that prizes knowledge and an inquisitive mind above all other traits. Often members of this house are the most advanced spellcasters in their year, but their lack of practical experience and physical ineptitude means they're not always the best in every situation.

Students in Ravenclaw are typically one of two breeds: the **nerds** and the **prodigies**. The nerds are those who love learning for learning's own sake, they latch onto a topic and devour all information related to that subject. The prodigies, on the other hand, are truly gifted individuals who have a natural talent in a specific field.

| Ravenclaw Student | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Archetype Level | Arcane Wisdom | Archetype Features | Nerd Features | Prodigy Features |
| 1 | + 0 | Heart of Wisdom | – | – |
| 2 | + 1 | Arcane Knowledge Increase | – | – |
| 3 | + 1 | – | Extraordinary Memory | Prodigy Choice, Prodigy Feature |
| 4 | + 1 | Heart of Wisdom II | Passion project | Prodigy Feature |
| 5 | + 3 | Arcane Knowledge Increase | – | – |

Archetype Features

Heart of Wisdom:

Starting at first level, you may choose 2 of the four intelligence proficiencies to take a + 1 bonus in. Repeat this process again at 4th level (you may choose differently).

Arcane Knowledge Increase

At second level, and again at 5th level, gain a bonus point to your Arcane Wisdom.

Nerd Features

Extraordinary Memory:

From 3rd level, you may commit a book (see Items for a booklist) to memory. Memory and Knowledge checks in that field get a bonus equal to your Ravenclaw level. You may only have this bonus in one field at a time.

Passion project:

Starting at 4th level, you may choose one specific spell or skill (such as potionmaking) as your "project". Checks to your project may then be performed with a die one level larger than your present one. If you use a d20, gain a +4 bonus instead. Changing your passion project takes 2 weeks of solid work. If you do not use the skill at least once a week, you become out of practice, and must start again.

Prodigy Features

Prodigy Choice:

A prodigy has an exceptional gift in a particular area, well beyond their years. At 3rd level, you get to choose which field you truly excel in. You may choose one prodigy area: Chess, Music or Art. Your field of expertise gives you features at 3rd and 4th level. Information about the prodigy fields are listed below.

Prodigy Fields

A prodigy is typically an individual who excels in one of the three following areas: Chess, Music or Art.

Art

An art prodigy is not just someone who is good at art – they are those truly gifted people whose artwork transcends usual standards of beauty. Add in some magic, and the possibilities are near-endless.

Visual Clarity:

From 3rd level, you see things much more clearly than the average human. Perception proficiency gets +1 bonus.

Starting at 5th level, you are also able to observe any weak spots in the armour of an enemy.

Basic Runes:

From 4th level, you are able to recreate the basic magical runes. By painting the runes on a surface and infusing them with magical energy, you may turn your artwork into magical masterpieces. Painting a rune takes 1 minute (5 combat rounds), though not necessarily consecutively. You may paint the rune using any material as long as it is reasonable that it adheres to the surface. Runes are activated immediately after you complete them.

You may paint one of the following runes:

- **Rune of Illusion:** project a basic illusion onto the surface around the rune. The artist may shape the illusion to an extent, but detail is limited to basic textures and colours. Maximum area is 3m². Rune deactivates on contact with the illusion.
- **Rune of Trapping:** the next being to touch the rune must pass a SPR(willpower) Resist check (DV 14) or be paralysed for 1 turn.
- **Rune of Protection:** when activated, casts *Lesser Ward* spell in a 2m radius.

Chess

Chess was first invented by muggles, but wholeheartedly adopted by wizarkind (albeit with a few alterations). It is said that chess is a microcosm of what it is to be a ruler – the skills needed (patience, strategy, and a willingness to sacrifice) are said to be the most important when a leader of men. If this is to be believed, a Chess prodigy is therefore able to leverage their skills into the real world.

Tactical Inference:

Starting from 3rd level, you may use your major action to ascertain the plans of your enemy by performing a 1d8 INT (history) check + 1 per Ravenclaw level, with the DV set by the target performing an INT(deception) Resist check.

Knowing their plans gives you check advantage for all actions against them, and them check disadvantage for all actions against you for 5 combat rounds.

Patient Strike:

From 4th level onwards, for every 5 combat rounds that you do not take damage in, get a +1 bonus to all subsequent attacking checks (max 3). This counter resets when you take damage.

Music

Music, though known and practiced by muggles throughout history, is deeply connected to the primal magic that flows through the veins of the universe. A wizarding music prodigy isn't just someone who can play music unerringly well, they can manipulate the very fabric of reality as they play. Characters that take the Music Prodigy should first choose an instrument to play.

Perfect Pitch:

From 3rd level, receive a +2 bonus to Perception proficiency.

Virtuoso Performance:

Starting from 4th level, if you are able to play music for at least 1 minute (5 combat rounds) without taking damage or being otherwise interrupted, all targets within hearing range (and which can hear) take one of the following effects:

- Take 1d4 psychic damage
- Become confused for 1 round
- Take check disadvantage for 1 round

For each subsequent round that you are able to maintain the performance without being interrupted, this effect repeats.

Slytherin Student

As a house, Slytherin has a bad reputation – even the words of the Sorting Hat have a menacing air:

*Or perhaps in Slytherin,
You'll make your real friends,
Those cunning folk use any means,
To achieve their ends.*

This reputation is, for the most part, undeserved. Slytherin is not a house of evil students; rather it is the house of people with ambition, charm and with lofty goals. Driven by their desire to make something of their lives, the Slytherins can indeed be deceptive, but they can also be charming and persuasive. Never underestimate a Slytherin student, for they will surely never underestimate you.

Aside from the occasional bad egg, the Slytherin students fall into two camps: the **student politicians** and the **schemers**. The student politicians are those students who are heavily involved in every student initiative they can find - whether they do this for the sake of power, or out of a genuine desire to improve the lives of students is neither here nor there. The schemers, on the other hand, are students who always seem to have some kind of plan, a side-hustle or otherwise elaborate scheme to improve their lot in life.

| Slytherin Student | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Archetype Level | Arcane Wisdom | Archetype Features | Student Politician Features | Schemer Features |
| 1 | + 0 | Heart of Ambition | – | – |
| 2 | + 0 | Bonus Skill | – | – |
| 3 | + 0 | Heart of Ambition II | Alliance | Side Hustle |
| 4 | + 0 | – | Charm Offensive | Researched Enemy |
| 5 | + 1 | Bonus Skill | Inevitable Betrayal | Life Plan |

Archetype Features

Heart of Ambition:

Starting at level 1, the Heart of Ambition gives your character a +1 boost to the Persuasion and Deception proficiencies. This increases to +2 at level 4.

Bonus Skill:

At levels 2 and 5, you may choose an additional Skill when levelling up.

Student Politician Features

Alliance:

From 3rd level you may attempt to persuade any sapient creature to not only stop fighting you, but to defect and join your side. Targets must pass a SPR (willpower) Resist check against your 1d20 CHR (persuasion) check. If they fail, they will disengage from combat, and join your side as an ally. This action takes 3 turns to complete, during which time the target must be within hearing range.

Charm Offensive:

From 4th level, you may use your charm and charisma to lower the mental defences of all non-allies within hearing range. Targets must pass a SPR (willpower) Resist check against your 1d20 CHR (deception) check. Failure results in a 100% weakness to psychic damage for 20 rounds.

Inevitable Betrayal:

From 5th level, you may choose to betray any individual under the influence of the *Alliance* effect, or any genuine ally. Doing so gives you check double-advantage on all actions against them for 4 turns, and the first attack triggers a critical strike on them.

Schemer Features

Side Hustle:

From 3rd level, you may set up a small business to make you a small amount of money every day. The amount of money generated every day is 5 times your Slytherin level.

Researched Enemy:

From 4th level, you may research into any named species or NPC. That species or character then gets check disadvantage on any actions against you. The number of researched enemies you can have at any time is 3 less than your current Slytherin level. It takes 1 week to research a new enemy.

Life Plan:

From 5th level, when you multiclass, you may automatically start at LVL 3 in your new Archetype. If you multiclass a second time, start at LVL 2, further multiclassing starts at the usual LVL 1.

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 6.1.

- 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 OHP, 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 9). 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 pre-requisites
- 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 given to you 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 | |
| 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 | |
| Broomstick Lessons | If you have a broomstick, can fly to other locations. Flight speed increases with each level. Mid-air dodging checks gets a + 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 boost. | 5 | |
| 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 At Master level, you may spontaneously get visions of what is about to occur. You are able to use Divination spells which match your level in this skill. | 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 | |
| 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 | You may cast two spells during a major action. If the first spell fails, so does the second. | 1 | <i>Adept Battlemage</i> |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 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 > 19</i> |
| 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> |
| 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 1d6/8/10/12/20 die to cast Dark Arts spells. You can use Dark Arts spells which match your level in this skill. | 5 | |
| 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 holy. 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. Cannot be used in the learning spell procedure or counterspells. | 1 | |
| 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 | |
| Silent Magic | Spells that normally require an incantation can be used silently. Silent magic checks suffer -4 / -2 / 0 penalty to all checks. | 3 | |
| 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 | |
| Surge | You may take one extra major action in your turn. This skill cannot be used again until you rest for 4+ hours. | 1 | |
| 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 | |
| Wandless Magic | May cast a spell without using a wand. All wandless magic is also silent. Wandless magic casting checks take a 50% penalty. | 1 | <i>Adept Silent Magic</i> |
| Withstand | Resist checks may use a 1d6/8/10/12/20 dice. | 5 | |

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 3.

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 table below gives an example:

| Attribute Value | Modifier |
|-----------------|----------|
| 6-7 | -2 |
| 8-9 | -1 |
| 10-11 | +0 |
| 12-13 | +1 |
| 14-15 | +2 |

Note that modifiers for attributes with a skill less than 10 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 diseased
 - **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 5.2.2).

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.

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.

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:

$$\text{metres travelled} = \frac{1d10 \text{ ATH (speed) check}}{5}$$

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 rolled a 1.5m movement, you may only use 1m, if you desire. If your movement check was a non-integer, and you do not continue moving in the next turn cycle, your next turn automatically uses your minor movement to move the final 0.5m and you may not use another minor movement that cycle.

If you do elect to continue moving the next turn, you may use the 'sprint' effect to continue moving at the same pace as the previous turn, without another roll. This can be continued for a maximum of 3 turns. If you are sprinting, you may not change direction – this would require a 'new movement' to be initiated. You may also simply elect to perform a new movement roll, in order to get a better value.

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

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.

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.

Holy

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

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 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.

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: Items

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Items are, as you would expect, physical objects that you can have in your possession. Items may be stored in one of two places: in your backpack, or on your person, in which case they are said to be equipped.

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.

Physical Weapons

Magical combat 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.

Melee Weapons

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

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

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.

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!

Armour

As discussed in section 10.0.4, wearing armour will help protect your character from taking damage.

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* exceed 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 1m^2 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. This means that battlefield repairs take 3 turns, unless you have an ally who can repair the armour for you in a single turn.

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 |

Wands

All witches and wizards start off with their very own magic wand. The wand chooses the wizard, not the other way around, so 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.

Books

this is a list of the types of books 40
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Part IV

Magic

12: Spells

Spells are how Wizards and Witches get by in the world, it is what makes them special.

Casting Spells

Spells are broken down into 7 categories: Hexes & Curses, Transfiguration, Charms, Recuperation, Illusion, Divination, and Dark Arts. Different types of spells require different abilities to cast: illusion spells often require the charisma and deception to overpower the target's willpower, whilst hexes and curses often rely on sheer magical power for their effectiveness.

All spells are cast by performing the relevant checks – rolling a dice, and then adding on the associated skill modifiers and bonuses for that check type – and then deducting the associated fortitude cost. Each spell has its own check type, which is specified in the spell list below. The dice that you get to use to perform the casting check depends on the level of the skill that you have in the associated school of magic (i.e. the 7 skills associated with each of the 7 schools of magic).

If you possess enough FP to make the cast, and the casting check is greater than or equal to the difficulty of the spell (also listed in the spell tables), then the spell is successfully cast.

The dice that you get are enumerated below:

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

As you get more and more powerful in each of the 7 schools of magic, you therefore unlock larger and larger dice, which grants you access to more powerful spells, and also makes casting spells of a lower level easier and easier (as there is less chance of failure).

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 that a caster of the specified level is able to cast. For example, the book *Dark Forces: A Guide to Self Protection* is a level 4 Hexes & Curses book, and so contains all level 1, 2, 3 and 4 level Hexes and Curses.

To cast a spell from a book, you must be holding the 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 *always* takes one major action (i.e. it is unaffected by *Fast Caster* feats etc. and cannot be used as a *quickcast*), Power Points may not be dedicated to the spell, and you are open to *Attacks of Opportunity* when doing this in combat. Swapping books takes a major 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.

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 is calculated from:

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

The minimum value of N is 4.

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.

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 Types

There are 4 main categories of spell, which tell you how that spell is used. These categories are *instant*, *concentration*, *ritual* and *ward* spells.

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.

Concentration

A concentration 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 concentration 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 31). 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 concentration spell, focus 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.

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.

13: 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

Incantation: *ambustum*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green gas
Duration: 2 minutes
Fortitude: 3
Check: POW, DV 4

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

Incantation: *subsidium*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Red-orange rays
Duration: 1 hour
Fortitude: 2
Check: EMP, DV 3

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

Incantation: *crinus muto*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 2 hours
Fortitude: 2
Check: CHR (Deception) , DV 4

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

Astral Assistance

Beginner-level Divination

Incantation: *auxilio*
Spell Type: Ritual (2 turns)
Visual: Golden glow
Fortitude: 5
Check: EMP (Arcane) , DV 5

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

Incantation: *forum mutatio*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 1 hour
Fortitude: 4
Check: FIN, DV 4

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

Incantation: *thanatos*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Sickly-green shockwave
Fortitude: 4
Check: EVL, DV 5
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

Incantation: *celeritate*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 3 turns
Fortitude: 4
Check: CHR, DV 3

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

Incantation: *caterwaul*
Spell Type: Ward
Duration: 2 weeks
Fortitude: 4
Check: INT, DV 3
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 + 2×PP) metres. Ward decays after 2 weeks.

Cause Confusion

Beginner-level Hex

Incantation: *confundo*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Pink bolt
Duration: 3 turns
Fortitude: 5
Check: CHR (Deception) , DV 3
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

Incantation: *pigmentus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Bolt of specified colour
Duration: 2 days
Fortitude: 4
Check: INT, DV 4

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

Chaotic Whispers

Beginner-level Illusion

Incantation: *rastarum*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Wand-tip glows purple
Duration: 2 minutes
Fortitude: 4
Check: SPR (Deception) , DV 4
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

Incantation: *sismeus amici*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green rays
Duration: 1 hour
Fortitude: 5
Check: CHR (Persuasion) , DV 4

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

Incantation: *orchideous*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 3 days
Fortitude: 3
Check: EMP, DV 5

Conjures flowers from thin air.

Create Fire

Beginner-level Charm

Incantation: *incendio*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 3
Check: SPR, DV 3

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

Incantation: *dolus*
Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)
Fortitude: 4
Check: FIN (Stealth) , DV 5

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

Incantation: *aguamente*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 4
Check: INT, DV 4

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

Incantation: *vetitum scenticus*
Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)
Visual: Yellow-black aura
Fortitude: 6
Check: EVL (Arcane) , DV 3

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

Incantation: *klinnerast*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 3
Check: POW, DV 3

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

Incantation: *lux stultium*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration: 1 hour
Fortitude: 3
Check: INT (Deception) , DV 3
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

Incantation: *verdimillious*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green bolts
Fortitude: 4
Check: FIN (Arcane) , DV 4

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

Incantation: *stabit*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Pale blue bolt
Fortitude: 2
Check: SPR, DV 4

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

Incantation: *venari*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Semi-transparent arrow
Duration: 3 days
Fortitude: 3
Check: INT, DV 4
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

Incantation: *dicemi*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Blue rays
Fortitude: 6
Check: INT (Research) , DV 3

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

Incantation: *lumos*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 1
Check: INT, DV 2

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

Incantation: *fortudus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Golden rays
Duration: 1 hour
Fortitude: 2
Check: SPR (Persuasion) , DV 3

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

Knockback

Beginner-level Hex

Incantation: *flipendo*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Blue pulse
Fortitude: 3
Check: POW (Intimidation) , DV 3
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

Incantation: *voco dens*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 4
Check: POW, DV 4
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

Incantation: *wingardium leviosa*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 5
Check: FIN, DV 4

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

Incantation: *locus*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 3
Check: EMP (Research) , DV 4
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

Incantation: *protego*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Ethereal Shield
Fortitude: 5
Check: POW, DV 5

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

Incantation: *stylum*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 2
Check: FIN (Dexterity) , DV 2

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

Incantation: *enervate*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Yellow-white rays
Fortitude: 3
Check: EMP (*Healing*) , DV 3

Heal for 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

Incantation: *aspectu*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 2 hours
Fortitude: 3
Check: EMP (*Perception*) , DV 3

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

Piercing Wail

Beginner-level Charm

Incantation: *magnus surgerus*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 3
Check: SPR (*Performance*) , DV 5

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

Spell Type: Ritual(5 turns)
Fortitude: 2
Check: INT (*Arcane*) , DV 0

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

Preserve Object

Beginner-level Charm

Incantation: *preseritas*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Silver rays
Duration 10 days
Fortitude: 2
Check: FIN (*dexterity*) , DV 3

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

Incantation: *muffliato*
Spell Type: Ward
Duration 1 hour
Fortitude: 6
Check: SPR, DV 4

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

Spell Type: Ritual (3 turns)
Fortitude: 2
Check: INT, DV 3

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

Incantation: *praesidium*
Spell Type: Concentration
Visual: Brick-red rays
Fortitude: 2
Check: INT (*Arcane*) , DV 4

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

Incantation: *antidolus*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 4
Check: INT (*Understand Other*) , DV 5

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

Incantation: *malusanguis*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Black bolt
Fortitude: 3
Check: POW, DV 2

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

Incantation: *tenebrosa*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 2 minutes
Fortitude: 4
Check: EVL, DV 4

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

Incantation: *argentipus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Silver Mist
Duration 1 hour
Fortitude: 6
Check: INT, DV 5

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

Incantation: *lingua maxima*
Spell Type: Ritual (5 minutes)
Duration 4 minutes
Fortitude: 8
Check: EMP (*Understand Other*) , DV 4

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

Incantation: *ferscabere*
Spell Type: Instant
Duration 1 day
Fortitude: 4
Check: POW, DV 4

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

Sting

Beginner-level Hex

Incantation: *ictus*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Green dart
Fortitude: 5
Check: SPR (*Precision*) , DV 2

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

Incantation: *lapis pellium*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Dark green rays
Duration 5 minutes
Fortitude: 4
Check: SPR (*Endurance*) , DV 4

Increase the target' AC by 10+PP.

Sunburst

Beginner-level Recuperant

Incantation: *sol maxima*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Searing-white bolt
Fortitude: 4
Check: SPR, DV 4

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

Incantation: *conanimus*
Spell Type: Ritual (2 turns)
Duration 2 days
Fortitude: 5
Check: EMP (*Understand Other*) , DV 5

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*

Incantation: *ventrilofors*
Spell Type: Concentration
Fortitude: 4
Check: INT (*Deception*) , DV 2

Cast your voice such that it appears to be coming from somewhere up to $5 \times PP$ metres away.

Trip*Beginner-level Hex*

Incantation: *lubricor*
Spell Type: Instant
Fortitude: 4
Check: POW (*Stealth*) , DV 4
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*

Incantation: *sectumsempra*
Spell Type: Instant
Visual: Red slash
Fortitude: 4
Check: POW, DV 4

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.