



Songs of Maya

a game by
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1 Introduction

Songs of Maya is a generic, light, and abstract role playing rule set with a focus on keeping the game balanced while maintaining an even probability distribution and promoting creative story telling. It leans towards a cinematic play style.

1.1 Goals

- Rules light
- Flexible
- World agnostic
- Consistent probability distribution
- Easy game preparation
- Little bookkeeping during the game
- Balanced game mechanics but unbalanced storytelling

1.2 Inspirations

This game did not come from nothing. Many other games had an impact on its creation. Some of the most impactful ones are the following.:

This games systems for aspects and movement were heavily inspired from the Fate Core system. Karma was originally inspired by Fate Cores Fate Points, but EZD6 had the better name for the concept. The distribution of attributes into categories was inspired by the AERA RPG. The fate die to create unexpected events was inspired by the One Page Solo RPG Engine. The optional rule "Only Players Roll" is taken from the Cypher System. The turn order was taken from Tides of Ambition.

1.3 How to use the game

- Have fun. If the rules hinder you from having fun then screw the rules.
- When in doubt use common sense. The rules will never be perfect. If something is illogical when using the rules or if no rules exists for the situation then feel free to find your own.
- Use the aspects value as a guideline and be creative with what it could mean. Does a flame wall having a value of 4 mean that it has a difficulty of 4 to jump over it or does it attack anyone jumping over with 4 dice points? Do what fits your story.

1.4 Conventions

Dice shorthand: $3d6$ means rolling three six sided dice and summing up the results. $1d_02$ means rolling 1 dice whose sides go from 0 to 2 (three sides in total). $2 \times d_08$ means rolling a dice whose sides go from 0 to 8 and multiplying the result by 2.

Aspects: Aspects are highlighted like this **example aspect 3**. The tailing number indicates the value of the aspect. If an aspect has an additional number in square brackets (**example aspect 2[4]**), this denotes the resistance of the aspect. A trailing letter denotes the duration of the aspect **Scene**, **Mission**, **Campaign**. (**example aspect 1[2]M**)

Quick Reference: All core rules can be found in Quick Reference blocks at the beginning of their respective sections. Everything else are just explanations and extensions of these rules.#

DP: Means dice points (see Dice Mechanics)

AP: Means aspect points (see Checks)

AV: Means aspect value (see Aspects)

2 Rules

2.1 Dice Mechanics

Quick Reference:

Whenever a dice roll is required you get dice points (DP) (see Checks). The result of a roll are aspect points (AP). There are many ways to perform a roll. This is only the default way to do it. Read the entire section Dice Mechanics to develop your own.

When a roll is required, roll one six sided die and add the result to your DP. Then roll another six sided die and subtract it from your DP. The result are your AP.

$$AP = DP + 1d6 - 1d6$$

The dice points (DP) are calculated from the attributes and aspects. They can be used to buy dice and constant points for the roll of a check. When dice are rolled, the results are added together, together with any constant points to get the result of the check. They are called the aspect points (AP). AP can be used to create aspects (see Aspects). DP can only be used in a single roll, and not be kept for future rolls.

- A die is worth exactly its average result in DP.
 - $1dN$ is worth $\frac{N+1}{2}DP$
 - $1d_0N$ is worth $\frac{N}{2}DP$
 - Throwing a N sided die twice and subtracting the lower result from the higher is worth $\frac{N}{3}DP$
 - Rolling any dice twice and subtracting the second roll from the first is worth exactly $0DP$
 - A dice that always rolls the constant value N is worth $N DP$
- It is possible for costs to contain a fraction of a DP.
- Any dice multiplied by a factor F is worth the price of a single die multiplied by this factor F

You can decide for each check individually what dice to roll, It is still advisable to always use the same dice if possible. To keep all possible results evenly distributed you should favor to roll just a single die, or at most two dice. Pick higher factors ($F \times d10$) if you have significantly more DP available. Don't be afraid of the fractional DP costs.

There are multiple ways to simulate d_0N dice. To simulate a ...

- d_02 : take a $d6$ and count 1,2 as 0; 3,4 as 1; and 5,6 as 2.
- d_02 : roll a fudge die (also known as fate dice). Count the empty sides as 0, count the "-" as 1 and "+" as 2. (essentially counting the number of lines.)
- d_08 : roll a $d10$ (most actually go from 0 to 9). Re-roll the die if you roll a 9.
- d_0N with $N \leq 12$: Take a deck of cards. Count the queen as 0, ace as 1, numbers as they are, joker as 11, and king as 12. Discard any cards you don't need.

Sometimes it makes no sense to roll dice, but we want a constant value. Then we can take the average. This means instead of rolling dice we just take the dice points as if it were the result of a roll. This is fair since it is also the average result of a roll.

Dice	Cost (DP)
<i>d3</i>	2
<i>d4</i>	2.5
<i>d6</i>	3.5
<i>d8</i>	4.5
<i>d10</i>	5.5
<i>d12</i>	6.5
<i>d20</i>	10.5
<i>d₀2</i>	1
<i>d₀8</i>	4
<i>d₀9</i>	4.5
<i>d₀12</i>	6
<i>1d6 – 1d6</i>	0
<i>1d10 – 1d10</i>	0

2.2 Attributes

Quick Reference:

There are the 8 attributes Strength, Dexterity, Will, Intellect, Empathy, Charisma, Gear, and Finances. Each attribute gets a whole number value. The higher the value the greater things a character can achieve.

Category	Attribute	Description
Physical	Strength	strength and hardiness
	Dexterity	agility, speed, precision
Mental	Will	perseverance, attention
	Intellect	intelligence, knowledge
Social	Empathy	understanding people
	Charisma	interacting with people
Resources	Gear	Gear you have prepared
	Finances	Money and investments

Two attributes each can be combined to a attribute category. Having a point in a category means having a point in all its attributes and vice versa. All categories can be combined to a single value called competence. The attributes value is the basis for the dice points one has available for checks.

2.3 Aspects

Quick Reference:

Aspects have a descriptive name and a whole number value (AV).

- **Create:** Make a check. For each aspect point (AP) from the checks result you can increase the AV of the new aspect by one.
- **Use:** Add the AV of the aspect to the DP for the check. Any AV point can only be used once per round.
- **Multiple Targets:** To create an aspect that effects an area or multiple targets, double the AP cost per AV.
- **Duration:** By default an aspect can be used once. To make it apply every round until the duration is over, double the cost per AV per duration category (once, scene, mission, campaign).
- **Acting:** Some aspects can perform actions on their own. For this use the AV as the DP for the check.
- **Remove:** To remove an aspect you need to make a check. Reduce the AV of the aspect by the AP of the check. You may need to match the duration of the aspect or the GM can make apply again later.
- **Resistance:** Aspects can resist being removed. Reduce any attempt to remove the aspect by its resistance. Each point of resistance costs 1 AP. The costs double in line with other modifications.

Aspects are a combination of a descriptors and a value. When invoked the AV (aspects value) is added or subtracted from the DP (dice points) for checks. An aspect is always bound to something. Be it a player, a NPC, an object, an event, or a zone. Be creative with aspects. Try to bind their effects to the value and they should stay balanced enough.

Creating an Aspect An aspect can be created at any time by the GM. It can also be created by any player, NPC or even object. To create an aspect all but the GM need to make a check. The aspect points (AP) from this check can be used to create an aspect. Increasing or decreasing an AV (aspects value) by 1 costs 1 AP (aspect point). The description of the aspect can be decided freely.

*Arthur the mage wants to inflame the grass around him to channel the enemies into a one on one battle with his Companions. The GM likes this idea and creates the aspect **Dry Grass 3** that Arthur can use. Arthur decides to*

cast his spell, succeeds with 6 AP, and creates the aspect Wall of Fire 3. Now the next enemy has to either go around the wall or get burned. If an enemy tries to jump through, they have to roll on it against the fires 6 dice points. If the fire succeeds they get burned.

Using Aspects Whenever it makes narrative sense, an aspect can be used (also called invoked). When used an aspect adds its value to the number of points that can be used for a check. It is also possible to call out an aspect to be used to hinder a check. Then the value is subtracted from the points instead. An aspect can both be used for actions and reactions but never at the same time. If you use aspects in a contest make sure that aspects are not used more than once per round by a character or their points are distributed over different actions.

Multiple Targets or Area Aspects An aspect can affect a zone or multiple individual targets. To create such an aspect costs double the AP (aspect points). Exceptions may be made by the GM.

Enduring Aspects An aspect can be over within a round or it can last longer. Normally aspects last for a round or until invoked once. If your aspect should last longer and potentially apply each round it should cost double the AP (aspect points) for each increase. Exceptions may be made by the GM. In general it can be said, that an aspect lasts as long as it makes sense. It is possible to make aspects last even longer. Use the following table as an orientation.

Once	A few seconds or until used once, Example: tripped
Scene	Until the end of a fight, Example: Frightened
Mission	Until the end of a story or quest, Example: Wounded
Campaign	Until the end of a story arc, Example: Demonic Poison

If it takes effort to keep up the aspect then it should be applied as a negative aspect on other actions which may be impacted.

Acting Aspects Sometimes an aspect should perform actions on its own. Each round they can act like any other player or NPC. They use their value for their actions.

Poison Cloud 2S: Each round it tries to use 2 dice points to poison anyone inside the cloud. Since it impacts a zone,

it can do this for everyone inside the zone every round.

Resistant Aspects An aspect can have resistance to being removed. The resistance is subtracted from any attempt to remove this aspect. Each point of resistance costs 1 AP. Be creative when invoking a resistant aspect. For example armor could be implemented as an aspect with resistance.

*A heavy door blocks the way. The GM creates the aspect **Fortified Door 5[2]**. This means the aspect has a value of 5 with a resistance of 2. The players try to break through with pure strength. On their first try they get 4 AP. 2 get absorbed by the doors resistance and the rest weakens the door. The doors aspect is now **Fortified Door 3[2]**. On their second try the players get 6 AP and break through. If the players had decided to pick the lock the GM may have ignored the resistance value.*

Character Aspects Aspects can also be bound to a character and be bought with CP (character points). If an aspect is mostly negative in nature it may give you CP instead. Character aspects can be invoked by the GM to make the character do something.

Damage Aspects are also used to represent damage a character or object has taken. If a character is unable to act in a scene because too many aspects hinder him, it is a good idea to narrate them out of the scene.

The enduring aspect **Damage** is also the name of an abstraction for other more precise aspects like **broken leg** or **intimidated**. Its only purpose is to speed up combat when detail is not wanted. As such it acts a bit differently. Damage does not hinder one during a contest. After a contest it is converted to another aspect of equal value. Often times this enduring aspect is more enduring. If one has more **damage** which would hinder one in an action, than DP available for this action, then one can not perform this action. This is generally the point at which one is considered incapacitated.

Converting Aspects Sometimes it may be useful to change one or more aspects into another. In those cases just create a new aspects for an equivalent number of AP as all the aspects you remove for it did cost. A good example for this is

replacing a more abstract **combat damage** at the end of a fight, with a more permanent and more interesting long term damage.

*During a fist fight against the goblin chief the glorious knight has taken 7 damage. After he lost the fight this gets converted into the more enduring aspect **wounded pride** 3.*

Aspects with special effects Not everything that you want to achieve can be usefully quantified with a number. In those cases it may be easier to orient yourself on comparable traits. Take the cost in CP of an equivalent trait and divide it by 6 (the CP cost of an character aspect point). The result is how high the value of the aspect (AV) would have to be to create a comparable result. For anything else these aspects act the same as any other.

For example the trait Flight costs 60 CP. In order to achieve full flight with an aspect it needs to have a AV of 10. Lower values mean a diminished form of the same, like the ability to glide.

2.4 Checks

Quick Reference:

Add points of an attribute any applicable aspects value (AV) to get the dice points (DP). For these you can buy one or more dice to roll (see dice mechanics). The result of the roll are the aspect points (AP) of the check.

- **Difficulty:** Some aspects hinder a check. For them consider the AV to be negative instead.
- **Collaboration:** Add either the DP for the checks or the AP of all checks made together.
- **Risky:** Roll the same dice again, this is the risk check. If the risk check is higher, then use the result of the check to create a negative aspect instead. To reduce the risk by n , reduce the risk roll by n before the comparison and the result after.
- **Take Time:** Make multiple checks and add the AP.

Checks are rolled when the outcome of an action is not certain. Each check is bound to an attribute.

Add the points in the relevant attribute and all applicable aspects together. These are your dice points. Use them to buy the dice to roll (see Dice Mechanics). You get the result of the roll in aspect points (AP) to create or change an Aspect.

If the aspect points are zero or negative, the check fails.

If the aspect points are not a whole number, then you can round the result just before creating the aspect.

Difficulty The checks difficulty is the sum of all aspects that are to be overcome or created. This means that a door having the difficulty 3 to be opened is the same thing as the door having the aspect **Closed 3** on it. If an obstacle can not simply be partially overcome you can give it a resistant aspect.

*The player tries to pick a door lock. The GM decides that he can not partially pick a lock and thus chip away at the door. So he gives it the aspect **closed 1[5]**. This means that the player needs at least 6 AP to open it and has to do it with one check.*

Collaborative checks Everyone rolls individually and then sum together all AP. Alternatively you can also sum up the DP and make a single roll.

Risky checks Roll the same dice you rolled for the check again. This is called the risk roll. If it shows a higher value then it comes to a bad outcome. The original check dice (not those for the risk check) are used to create a negative aspect.

The chance of something bad happening is quite high (around 50%) unless you reduce the risk. If this is too risky for your game then you can require two risk rolls instead. Something bad only happens if both risk rolls are higher (around 30%).

Before the check a player can reduce or heighten the risk. For this select a number. For the comparison of the dice, the check roll is increased by the number, but for the result the check is decreased by the number. The check roll can not go below its regular minimum. Calculating the AP from the check happens after all this.

Taking Time Sometimes a check is too difficult to achieve something within 1 check. Then it may be possible to do multiple checks over a longer time to accumulate the points needed. However, you must decide beforehand how many checks you want to take. The AP of all checks are accumulated after considering the difficulty. The GM has a veto right and can limit the amount of checks.

Limited Aspects To prevent players from stacking up aspects endlessly it may be good to limit the amount of points one can use. The dice points should be limited to double the sum of the relevant attribute and all used aspect points from character inherent aspects. Feel free to disregard this rule however if it does not fit well with the story.

Multiple Checks Sometimes the players fail to pass an obstacle with just one check. If the players have a new idea on how they might overcome the challenge then you can allow them another check. The new idea may add the checks AP to the previous attempt or replace them, depending on the narrative.

The player has to climb up a cliff. The cliff has the aspect sheer rock face 6[2] At first he tries to just climb. He rolls a 3 on his check. This does not suffice and because of the 2 resistance of the aspect he has only overcome 1 of the 6 AP, he needs. This is harder than expected and considering that he has already climbed some of the distance a failure may end in a fall. He pulls out some wedges from his pack and starts to use them to create some better holds. For this the GM allows a new check, which he gets 7 AP from. With those he just barely climbs the rest of the distance.

Take the average In some situations it may be good idea not to roll any dice at all. In those cases you can just assume that the average result was rolled. This means that you get the DP in AP out of the check.

2.5 Contest

Quick Reference:

Each participant can make one or more checks each round.

- Action: A check to create an aspect
- Reaction: A check to prevent an aspect from being created.
- Turn Order: Groups act together. If a group surprises the other or has significantly fewer members they go first. Characters can act on their turn or at any later time in the round. When in doubt the players or the stronger go first.
- Multiple (re)actions: Total number of points (dice points) gained from

the attributes is the largest attribute value of all used in the checks. From each attribute (and aspect) you can use at most its value in points.

The prototypical contest is combat, but the same rules can be used any scenario where multiple parties act in opposition to each other. Be it a diplomatic debate or the hostile takeover of a company.

A contest is divided into rounds. Each participant in the contest can make one or more checks each round. When it is a participants turn or on any later point in the round they can perform an action.

Actions An action is a check that tries to create an aspect. Any kind of aspect can be created, based on what fits the scene. You can try to gain an advantageous position, or start a big fire.

The default aspect created in combat is **damage**.

Alternatively the aspect can be **stress** as a non enduring alternative to damage.

Stress only holds for 1 round but cost only 1 AP per level of the aspect. It can be invoked to hinder the victims action. Note that you can only use any point of this aspect once in the round.

Reactions Whenever someone takes an action and has rolled his dice anyone else can immediately try to perform a reaction to prevent it. A reaction does not by its nature create an aspect. If you announce this before the action is rolled you can take the average on a reaction. You have to announce the number of dice invested. The AP from the reaction are then subtracted from the AP of the action to lessen its effect.

Turn Order All characters of a group act together. The specific order within a group can be decided freely. If a group surprises the others then they go first. If a group has significantly fewer members, then they go first. If all else fails determine the order randomly.

A character can act on his turn or at any later time in the round. If two characters wait for each other none of them can act.

Multiple (re)actions Each round you can take multiple actions and reactions. The total number of points gained from the attributes is the largest attribute value of the checks. From each attribute you can use at most its value in DP in total. Each Aspect can only be used once per round or their AP (aspect points) have to be distributed to the (re)actions.

Acting together When acting together all values are combined and a single combined check is made or alternatively everyone rolls separately and only the AP are combined. To act together all have to act at the same time in the turn order, so effectively at the earliest when the slowest has his turn.

2.6 Traits

Quick Reference:

Traits allow characters to break rules of the game or the world in some way. Some checks that can only be performed because of a trait make those checks risky. Traits can be bought for character points.

Traits are distinguishing things about the character that allow him to break a rule of the world or the game in some way. For example with the Trait Night Vision you can just see in the dark. No rolls required. Some traits (like all magic) should come with a risk, meaning all checks that can only be made with this trait are risky checks. Traits can be bought for character points, this is possible both at character creation and later in the game.

See the chapter List of Traits for examples.

2.7 Karma

Quick Reference:

Each player can have up to 3 karma. They can be used at any point in time to repeat a single die roll (not just your own) or to add an interesting aspect to a scene. The GM has veto rights. Karma can be recovered by a characters aspect or trait being used against them or by objectively failing in a scene or as a reward for good role play, anything that brings joy to all players and the GM.

2.8 Character Creation

Quick Reference:

Distribute 240 CP (character points) on your Attributes, Aspects and Traits.

Use the rules under equipment to limit your starting gear.

Character Advancement:

You may reward your players with CP (character points) for reaching milestones in the story or simply surviving the session.

- An attribute point costs 6 CP.
- An Aspect point typically costs 6 CP, but can vary based on how specific they are.
- A Trait typically costs 25 CP but can vary widely. Negative traits can even have a negative price.

A typical player character will have:

- all attributes with value 3 on average
- 3 aspects with value 4
- 1 trait

2.9 Movement and Range

Quick Reference:

Sometimes it is useful to draw maps and define distances. In a contest split the area into roughly 3-5 zones. A character can move from one zone to another each round. If one can act at a range, like for example when shooting a bow, one can act 1-2 zones far. During the round a character is moving he can be considered to be in both zones at once.

2.10 Items and Equipment

Quick Reference:

Items behave exactly like aspects if they have an AV. For multiple use items apply the rules for enduring aspects.

- Equipment: Characters may initially have any item that they could acquire using buying, crafting, or gathering if they always take the

average on checks.

- Buying: Make a finances check to create the items aspects. On success get the item and a negative aspect Expenses worth the same amount of AP on your finances for some time.
- Crafting: Make a check to create the items aspects. Resources used for the check get used up.
- Gathering: Make a check to create the items aspects.
- Condition: Apply the rules for enduring aspects if the item is in use. If its time has run out you can still use it, but it may break at any time, especially on a failed check.

Items are in essence just named things with one or more attached aspects. For most items their aspects are obvious and don't need to be mentioned specifically. For example if you use a sword with AV 4, then you can just assume that it has an aspect aiding in a fight for 4 points. Some items may be enduring, they can be used multiple times. Other items are a one use item like a first aid kit.

2.10.1 Equipment

Characters may initially have any item on them that they could acquire by buying, crafting, or gathering if they always take the average on checks. They must be able to carry all that gear on them or if it is part of their household it must fit in their normally furnished home. Apply reason as necessary.

When out adventuring characters have all the gear that they have written down. Additionally they can be allowed to make a Gear check to see if you have an item. The check is risky and if they fail they get the negative aspect Packed the wrong stuff until the end of the mission or until they resupply.

2.10.2 Buying

Characters can buy new items with a Finances check. It works just like crafting the items aspects. If you succeed in buying the item then you take a negative aspect expenses worth the same AP on your finances for some time. The negative aspect should have a AV lower than your finances plus fitting aspects. The GM does not have to let you retry on a fail. If you use items with aspects to help with the check, like the Treasure you found during your last adventure, you may lose them if you succeed on the check.

2.10.3 Crafting

Characters can also build their own items. For that they need the appropriate tools and resources. The resources may be used as assisting aspects. If the check to create the item fails the resources might be lost, depending on what they are.

2.10.4 Gathering

Resources can be gathered with a simple check. The environments aspects may help or hinder this check.

2.10.5 Condition

Items may break, even when used normally. Use the rules for enduring aspects to create the item and determine its durability. The items don't immediately break if the aspects time has run out, but the GM may decide that they do at any time afterwards. This could for example be done if a check with them fails. To repair an item make a crafting check, if it makes sense for the item. Depending on the AV the item may not be repaired fully.

3 Optional Rules

3.1 Magic

Magic gives a huge narrative flexibility to explain aspects. To balance this out any checks made using magic should be risky checks.

Depending on the setting, a trait might be necessary to cast magic or even a specific kind of magic.

With this, magic can still become quite powerful, since one can create several aspects and combine them for bigger spells. For example a mage might make special conjuration candles, draw a pentagram with magic symbols and then use those two aspect to assist in his conjuration spell.

It is up to the individual games setting to define how magic works. By themselves the rules above give a very soft magic system, but by defining how magic works in your world, you can make it a hard magic system.

Some technology can be handled just like magic as well. For example in a cyber-punk setting a hacker may be handled just like a mage in a fantasy setting.

To limit the amount of spells being cast, you may rule that a spell has to be kept active. This means that each active spell acts as a negative aspect for each additionally cast spell.

3.2 Less precise Attributes

Instead of using the attributes as listed you can use only the categories (Physical, Mental, Social, Resources). Learning a level in one of the categories costs double of what a level in an attribute would cost. For GMs it might even be useful to combine all attributes into a single value called the capability (CB) for some NPCs. In this case the costs are 8 times that of what a level in an attribute would cost.

3.3 No Abstraction for Wealth

To remove the resources category from the attributes just raise the price of learning a level of the other attributes by $\frac{1}{3}$ (from 6 to 8). The costs for goods and services depend on the setting.

3.4 Retroactive Actions

The GM may allow players retroactively having performed some action. For example having placed a trap beforehand. To balance this any check on such an action should be a risky check.

3.5 Quicker Battles

Instead of differentiating between attacking and blocking you can speed up combat by handling it all as generic combat. If someone initiates combat with his action, others may react with combat in return. Whoever wins the contest makes the difference as a damaging aspect.

3.6 Only Players Roll

If you like you can generally let only players roll the dice. Everyone else will take the average result. This means that in combat only players will roll to hit or roll to block.

3.7 Adjust Power-level

The power-level describes how strong player characters may be in comparison to average people and how quickly they become stronger. By default an average person has the value 5 in every attribute (competence 5) and no traits and aspects. This also means that by just one aspect point a character becomes 20% stronger compared to an average person. To play a more grounded or more differentiated game you can change this average competence to for example 10. Then

a character becomes only 10% stronger per aspect point. Follow these steps to adjust your games power level.

- Let N be the competence value of an average person.
- CP cost for attributes and aspects stay the same.
- CP cost for an average trait becomes $5 \times N$. (alternatively multiply the CP cost for the traits in the list with $\frac{N_{new}}{N_{old}}$)
- Default start CP become $48 \times N$.

4 Advice

4.1 Gameplay Notes

Since aspects can appear, disappear and change frequently during play, it is good to write them down and show them to your players. For this i suggest to use post-it notes. This has the nice effect that you can give your players something physical that represents the advantages they created or can use.

4.2 Player Character Creation

When creating a character you may adhere these guidelines:

- No attribute above 8
- No attribute below 2
- Have 1 aspect describing what you want to be good at
- Have 1 aspect describing how you make your living
- Have 1 aspect describing what you like to do as a hobby
- Formulate your traits and aspects such that they can be interpreted as a vulnerability
- Have at least 1 trait

Break these guidelines as you like.

4.3 Non-Player-Character Creation

Often you don't need highly specific attributes. Use less precise attributes unless you really need more precision.

- Define competency value (or attributes)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a strength (for combat encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a weakness (for combat encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a desire (for social encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a vice (for social encounters)

If you keep the positive and negative aspects balanced, then the math for the CP is only about the competency value, which is roughly 50 CP per point.

4.4 Encounter Design

The challenge rating (CR) is a number serving as a quick reference for how hard aspects to overcome should be or how strong enemies should be. When creating aspects that the players must overcome use the CR as the AV (aspect value). Then creating enemies that the players must fight set their Competence or attribute to the CR.

- A players or NPCs CR can be calculated from their CP. $CR = \frac{CP}{50}$
- For static challenges, the average of the players CR is a good value for the aspect (challenge rating).
- For group challenges, the sum of all players CR is a good value for the aspect.
- For contests match the enemies total CR or CP with that of the players.
- Let your players become creative and create aspects to help them better their odds.
- Try to give any noteworthy opponent an advantageous and a disadvantageous aspect. Give the players a chance to find out about those.
- To make a challenge easier or harder change the CR.

4.5 How To: Stealth as a Group

Only roll the checks for the players and take the average for everyone else. Compare the sneaking of each from the one group to the perception of each from the other group. If any perception is higher than any of the sneaking values then they get spotted. Often times the characters in the group help each other. Let them distribute some points within the group after they rolled their checks. This represents something like the best scout sneaking ahead and finding the best route for the others, or distracting a guard such that the more obvious members of the group can pass unnoticed.

4.6 How To: Taunting

Let the player make a check to create the **taunted by ..** aspect. This may be opposed by the other party. If the aspect is created then it hinders any attack on someone else. It may also impact other actions. It may be a smart choice to make the **taunted by ..** aspect enduring and affecting the whole group.

4.7 How To: Mind Control

Mind control is similar to taunting. Create an aspect like **Mind Controlled by ...**. Any actions that would conflict with this aspect are hindered by it (for example attacking the controller). If the mind control is stronger than the victims will then it will generally follow orders. The victim may try to break free each round. For this it makes a will check to remove the **Mind Controlled by** aspect.

Marty the mage casts his mind control spell on an orc bandit with the words "Fight for me". Marty has 9 AP from his

check, while the orc has only 3 to defend against this. This means that Marty can create the aspect with 6 AP. Since he wanted an enduring aspect he creates Fight for Marty 3s, The orc has only 3 Will, so he starts attacking his compatriots.

4.8 How To: Healing

Healing is just reducing a negative aspect. Whether this is possible, and by what means is up to the GM. Instead of removing the aspect immediately, i would strongly suggest to instead make the aspect time out faster. In most cases think about the time-frames in terms of the flow of the story.

- Round: Until just after the next round of combat or action is going to be performed.
- Scene: Until the next scene begins
- Mission: Until the current objective is achieved or failed
- Champaign: Until the next big change in the story.

A Soldier got hit in a firefight and is now bleeding 2. If untreated this aspect would regularly roll with 2 dice points to harm the soldier. The medic rolls to perform first aid and gets a result of 3. He aspect gets changed into dressed bullet wound 2. Now it does not thread to harm the soldier any more, but it still hinders him. It would heal in about 4-6 Months on its own. The soldier gets brought to a hospital where the wound is treated properly. It heals after 3 Weeks.

The party had a hard fight against the cultists. One got punched, he will recover by the next scene. Another got hit with a sword. He will recover by the end of the current mission (once they are done with the cultists secret temple). The last got cut with the demonic ritual dagger. His wound is unearthly and would only heal by the end of the champaign. The group decides to seek out the help of the local temple. With their help the demonic presence gets purged and the wound turned into a regular cut, which heals by the end of the current mission.

4.9 How To: Stopping Movement

If one character wants to move and someone else tries to hinder them, then both parties have to exert effort. This means both have to make a check. The results are compared. If the stopper has more then the movement is stopped, where appropriate. If the mover succeeds then the movement is not stopped. Sometimes it may be better to grant partial success to the stopper. In this case the distance that the mover moved is reduced according to how much AP both parties have compared to each other.

4.10 How To: Fall Damage

Assuming your characters are humans then falling creates damage. You get a damaging aspect worth 4 AP per 1m of height of the fall. This can be reduced with an appropriate check. Remember that enduring aspects (including damage from falling) cost double the AP.

*A burglar jumps from rooftop to rooftop to escape the guards. One of the chasms is too wide though and he plummets onto the street 4m (16 AP) below. He makes a check with his dexterity to mitigate this fall. On this check he gets 10 AP. Thus he gets only 6 AP worth of damage. The GM decides that he has a **sprained ankle 3** for the rest of the scene.*

*The spy is hanging on a zip-line rappelling from one skyscraper to the next. The enemy guards cut the rope. Now the spy is falling to the balcony far below his original target. The fall would be roughly 10m (40 AP). Even with his skills this is deadly. He rolls only 3 AP on his mitigation check. Thus he crashes to the ground receiving **/aspect{Broken bones all over the body 4c}** and **/aspect{disoriented 5r}** from the fall. Luckily his constitution is quite good **Physical 6** so he survives, but barely.*

4.11 How To: Bribe

To Bribe someone you need to give them more than they can normally comfortably afford. This means you need to create the **bribe** with an AV of at least their

finances value plus applicable aspects. The **bribe** may need to be enduring to cover a longer time span.

The group got caught in the streets by a guard after the curfew. They try to bribe him to convince him to act as if he hadn't seen them. For this they need 5 AP to match the guards finances value of 5.

*The crime boss intends to bribe the police commissioner to keep the police force away from his business until he gets the next big deal done. The commissioner has finances 6 and also a **sense of duty** 4. So bribing him for this limited time (until the end of the mission) would cost 40 AP.*

4.12 How To: Secret Checks

To hide the result of a check you may change which side rolls the dice.

A PC wants to know if the NPC just lied to them. Instead of letting the player roll with their 9DP against the lies 7AP, you can roll for the lie 7DP and compare them against the players 9AP. The player never has to see what was rolled.

5 Lists

None of the following lists is exhaustive. They should be taken as examples. You are invited to design your own with your group.

5.1 How To: Sacrifices

A mage sacrificing a maiden in order to summon a daemon or a priest sacrificing a goat to please his god are common themes in stories. In game you will want to use such a sacrifice as a helping aspect. Also sacrifices of objects are feasible. For objects set its total $\frac{AP_{cost}}{2}$ as the sacrifices value. For animals and similar set its $CR \times 2$ as its sacrifices value. For people set their $CR \times 4$ as the sacrifices value.

5.2 List of Traits

The number in the parenthesis is the cost in CP for the trait. Take this list as a starting point for your game. Feel free to diverge from it were you see fit.

Friend of Nature (25): You can talk to the forces of nature and have a chance to convince them to help you. This can be asking, a bird what he has seen, letting yourself be concealed by a bush or calling a wild bear to aid you in combat.

Illusionist (25): You are adept at creating illusions. The bigger and more complex they get the harder this is.

Speedster (50): You have incredible speed. Others see only a blur when you sprint past them. This often gives you an advantage on dexterity checks, so you can re-roll them once per round. You can move double the distance per round.

Medium (25): You can commune with ghosts and spirits. You have no control over them, but you can gain their attention.

Night-vision (25): You can see in darkness as if it were light.

Sleepless (25): You don't need sleep. This means you have a lot more time in a day, but you still need to rest from too much physical or mental exertion.

Flight (60): You can fly. Be it with wings or otherwise. Your speed in flight is no different from your speed on land.

Tinkerer (25): You can build wondrous mechanical marvels. From clocks up to steam powered automatons.

Hacker (25): You are not only proficient in computer science but you can even achieve movie worthy feats like stopping another car with only your laptop during a car chase. Tools not included.

Plot Armor (25): Each scene you can disregard one new aspect or one change in an aspect representing damage.

Short Weapon Fighting (15): You can not get disadvantaged because your weapons are too short compared to your opponent.

Unarmed vs. Armed (15): You can fight against armed opponents even when you have no weapon without disadvantage.

Alchemist (25): You can brew potions, salves and other things which create wondrous effects.

Shape Shifter (25): You can alter the physical form of either yourself or that of others.

Seeer (25): You have to ability to see glimpses of future, past and present. Both at your current position and over great distances.

Amphibious (25): You can live both underwater and on land.

Telepathic link to undead servants (25): You can telepathically give orders or even see through the eyes of the undead creatures you raised.

Hide in Plain Sight (25): You can disappear from sight, like a ninja with a smoke bomb.

Short Range Teleportation (90): You can disapear from your current position and instantaneously appear somewhere else. The target has to be in a short range to you, maybe a couple of zones at most. The ability is limited by some condition like: "you have to see the place", "You have to have been there", "You can only teleport from one shadow to another".

Long Range Teleportation (180): You can disapear from your current position and instantaneously appear somewhere else. There is practically no limit to the range. The ability is limited by some condition like: "you have to see the place", "You have to have been there", "You can only teleport from one shadow to another".

5.3 List of NPCs

The following are examples of NPCs and monsters. They are all created using the rules for Character Creation.

Average Citizen (240CP)	
Competency	5
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Goblin (133CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	2	2	2
Aspects:		Traits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night Vision (25 CP) 	

Ratling (102CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
2	2	2	2
Aspects:		Traits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strength in Numbers 1 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Wolf (78CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	1	2	0
Aspects:		Traits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endless endurance 1 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Guard (246CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
6	5	5	4
Aspects:		Traits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Guard 1 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Dark Mage (355CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
4	10	5	7
Aspects:		Traits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Necromancer 3 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telepathic link to undead servants 	

Ogre (180CP)							
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
12	5	5	2	2	2	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 							

Zombie (121CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
5	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious bite 			

Bandit (240CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
6	5	5	4
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 			

Combat Drone (115CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooting 3 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 			

Orc Veteran (229CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
6	4	3	3
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reckless and Bold 2 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 			

Orc Warrior (187CP)			
Physical		Mental	Social
5		4	2
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reckless and Bold 1 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night-vision 			

Giant Spider (127CP)							
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
2	4	2	2	1	1	2	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spider Webs 2 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night-vision 							

6 Solo Rules

In case you want to play alone, you can use the following tools.

6.1 Scene

Roll on the Scene type table to find out what kind of scene it is.

Roll on the descriptor table for at least 3 descriptors. If you have consecutive scenes then i advise to roll only 1 new descriptor and remove only the first of the previous scene. This will make your encounters more connected to one another.

Lead questions for Scenes:

- Who/What?
- Does What?
- To whom?
- In what manner?

Lead questions for NPCs:

- Personality?
- Desires?
- Has Vice?
- Has Virtue?

Determine the scenes challenge rating.

- Start with your players challenge rating ($CR = \frac{CP}{50}$).
- For a successful scene increase the challenge rating by 1
- For a failed scene decrease the challenge rating by 2

This will result in a natural ebb and flow for the story which favors the players being able to succeed. If you want a harder experience change the numbers by which you change the challenge rating. The challenge rating is the default difficulty for environmental challenges and the default total competency of all enemies in combat encounters.

Add aspects to the scene or anything in it, based on the descriptors.

6.2 Descriptors

Ask your question and roll as often on the descriptor table as you need to get a good idea (3 is often a good number). Feel free to disregard results that don't work for you. The descriptor table is based on the Toki Pona language (but not identical to it). The second column provides you with the applicable toki pona word and gives you a short form to write it down.

6.3 Tables

Yes / No Questions

1	Very No
2-4	No
5-6	Ambiguous
7-9	Yes
10	Very yes

Amount

1	Very Little
2-4	Less
5-6	As Expected
7-9	More
10	Very Much

Scene Type

1-4	As Expected
5-6	Environmental
7-8	Social
9-10	Combat

Description

00	akesi	reptile, amphibian
01	ala	no, not, zero, nothing
02	alasa	to hunt, forage, seek, try to, attempt
03	ale	all, abundant, bountiful, plentiful, life
04	anpa	dependent, under, floor, low, bottom
05	ante	different, altered, changed, other
06	awen	enduring, protected, safe, waiting
07	esun	market, shop, fair, bazaar, deal
08	ijo	thing, phenomenon, object, matter
09	ike	bad, negative, irrelevant, complicated
10	ilo	tool, implement, machine, device
11	insa	center, content, inside, internal organ
12	jaki	disgusting, obscene, sickly, toxic, unclean
13	jan	human being, person, somebody
14	jelo	yellow, yellowish
15	jo	to have, carry, contain, hold
16	kala	fish, marine animal, sea creature
17	kalama	to produce a sound, recite, utter aloud
18	kama	coming, future, summoned, to become
19	kasi	plant, vegetation: herb, leaf
20	kepeken	to use, with, by means of
21	kili	fruit, vegetable, mushroom
22	kiwen	hard object, metal, rock, stone
23	ko	clay, semi-solid, paste, powder
24	kon	air, breath, essence, spirit
25	kule	colorful, pigmented, painted
26	kulupu	community, company, group, nation
27	kute	ear, to hear, listen, obey
28	lape	sleeping, resting
29	laso	blue, green
30	lawa	head, mind, to control, direct, guide, own
31	len	cloth, clothing, fabric, textile, cover
32	lete	cold, cool, uncooked, raw
33	lili	little, small, short, few, a bit, young
34	linja	cord, hair, rope, thread, line, connection
35	lipu	flat object, book, paper, record, website
36	loje	red, reddish
37	lon	located at, real, true, existing, affirmative
38	luka	arm, hand, five, touch/feel, interact
39	lukin	eye, see, examine, read, seek, try to
40	lupa	door, hole, orifice, window
41	ma	earth, outdoors, world, territory, soil
42	mama	ancestor, creator, caretaker, sustainer
43	mani	money, cash, savings, wealth
44	moku	to eat, drink, consume, ingest
45	moli	dead, dying
46	monsi	back, behind, rear
47	mu	animal noise, non-speech vocalization
48	mun	moon, night sky object, star, glow
49	musi	artistic, entertaining, playful, recreation

50	mute	many, a lot, more, much, quantity
51	nasa	unusual, strange: silly: drunk, intoxicated
52	nasin	way, custom, doctrine, method, path, road
53	nen	bump, button, hill, mountain, nose
54	nimi	name, word
55	noka	foot, leg, bottom, lower part
56	olin	love, respect, show affection to
57	open	begin, start, open, turn on
58	pakala	botched, broken, damaged, harmed
59	pali	do, take action on, build, prepare
60	palisa	long hard thing, branch, rod, stick
61	pan	cereal, grain, barley, bread, pasta
62	pana	give, send, emit, provide, put, release
63	pilin	heart, feeling, emotion
64	pimeja	black, dark, unlit
65	pini	ago, completed, ended, finished, past
66	pipi	bug, insect, ant, spider
67	poka	hip, side, next to, nearby, beside
68	poki	container, bag, bowl, cupboard, vessel
69	pona	good, positive, useful, friendly, simple
70	sama	same, similar, sibling, peer, fellow, as, like
71	seli	fire, chemical reaction, heat source
72	selo	outer form, outer layer, bark, skin, boundary
73	sewi	area above, awe, divine, supernatural
74	sijelo	body, physical state, torso
75	sike	ball, circle, cycle, sphere, wheel
76	sin	new, fresh: additional, another, extra
77	sinpin	face, foremost, front, wall
78	siten	image, picture, symbol, mark, writing
79	sona	know, be skilled in, be wise about
80	soweli	animal, beast, land mammal
81	suli	big, heavy, large, long, important, adult
82	suno	sun, light, radiance, shine, light source
83	supa	horizontal surface, bed, table
84	suwi	sweet, fragrant: cute, innocent, adorable
85	tawa	going to, toward, for, moving, going to
86	telo	water, liquid, fluid, wet substance, beverages
87	tenpo	time, duration, moment, period, situation
88	toki	communicate, say, speak, talk, think
89	tomo	indoor space, building, home, house, room
90	tu	two, separate, cut
91	unpa	have sexual relations with
92	uta	mouth, lips, oral cavity, jaw
93	utala	battle, challenge, struggle against
94	walo	white, light-colored, pale
95	wan	unique, united: one
96	waso	bird, flying creature, winged animal
97	wawa	strong, confident, energetic, intense
98	weka	absent, away, ignored
99	wile	must, need, require, should, want, wish

7 Scenario: A Spark of Divinity

Gods are real and numerous. When they have children with other gods or mortals their offspring sometimes inherit the spark of divinity. The gods are shaped and empowered by the beliefs of the mortals about them.

The player characters are born with this spark of divinity. Initially they are mostly like the mortals. But as interact more and more in the world, stories about their deeds start shaping their being and empower them.

7.1 Rules

Additionally to regular experience in the form of character points, the GM will distribute story aspects,

Story aspects are mostly like regular aspects except . . .

- they symbolize what people think about the character
- initially they are generic
 - generic story aspects are worth one aspect point per value
 - they can be converted to other fitting not generic story aspects
 - they can be used to help in checks. But once used they are used up
- If the stories about a divine change then the GM can also give negative points

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8 Magic System: Enhanced Symbolism

If you apply this magic system to your games world, then symbols have true power. Be it a shape like a cross, a concept like purity, faith or anything else. If people connect it with certain effects then it will have a comparable impact on the world. How strong this effect really is depends on many factors. Since so many things have symbolic value, it is extremely common for them to impact each other. This means that a pentagram may have a different strength depending on how the stars align or a certain gem having a completely different effect depending on it being wet or dry. Combining symbols allows crafting precise effects.

Mages are those who have learned both to predict these effects but also how to concentrate and amplify them. They learn to do this in a myriad of ways. Some may seek true understanding through meditation or experiences, while others study ancient tomes.

It is unclear what exactly determines what is a symbol and what its meaning is. Some claim it is the gods, some say it is the living, and others claim that the souls of the dead dissolve and spread the meaning to all things. No matter what it is, the meaning of symbols changes over time. Magic has a resistance to this change, but it is not immune. So an ancient spell may be different from what it once was.

Every spell needs a worldly component. This can be an object like a voodoo doll, a sound like the continuous chant of a group of monks or an action like touching an object. Even a fireball is a worldly manifestation of the spell. This means that every spell can be disabled with worldly means. Since symbols change their meaning and cross interactions all the time, magic is dangerous. Every roll on casting magic must be risky.

9 One Shot: Sabotage during a space battle

A Sci-Fi scenario.

9.1 Introduction

You are a group of spies that snuck in on an enemies powers military space ship. You have face identities. Recently you have been informed by your command that your ship is going to be attacked. Your job is to sabotage the ship you are on in order to ensure the battle goes in your factions favor. You are then supposed to flee with one of the drop pods.

9.2 Cast

Alex the Hacker

(207CP)

Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Aspects:

- Great with Technology 5
- Spy Training 2
- Combat Training 2

Traits:

- Neural Implants (can connect directly to technology)

Brett the Soldier

(207CP)

Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Aspects:

- Tactical Genius 2
- Spy Training 2
- Combat Training 5

Traits:

-

Jo the Face						(207CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spy Training 2 • Combat Training 2 • Convincing Liar and Conman 5 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shapeshifting Facemask: Can imitate another persons face. Needs training to pull of convincingly. </div>							

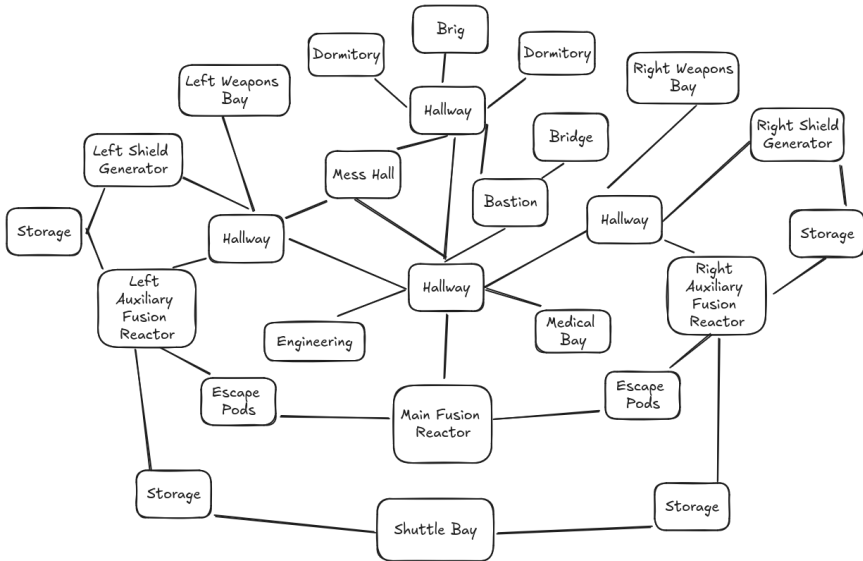
Robin the Spy						(207CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spy Training 5 • Combat Training 2 • Contortionist 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameleon Suit: This suit can dynamically change color and even appear semi transparent. With Training one can use it almost like an invisibility suit. </div>							

9.3 NPCs

9.4 Rules

- Every scene you play one round of the battle between the spaceships.
- For each ship sum together all rolled ship values
- Attack is used to attack the opponent.
- Defense is used to defend against the opponents attack.
- Any damage goes first against the total shield strength.
- Then the remaining damage can reduce the hull value of a room (decide at random which)
- If a rooms hull value is 0 then it is destroyed. All in the room get vented to space.
- Each has a power consumption. If there is not enough power for a room then its attack and defense go to zero.

9.5 Spaceship



9.5.1 Weapons Bays

Ships Values

- Attack 120
- Defense 0
- Power Consumption 60
- Hull 75
- 6 Engineers (CR 4)
 - Plasma Pistol 2
- Danger: Explosive 5
- Many nooks and crannies 4

9.5.2 Shield Generators

Ships Values

- Attack 0
- Defense 120
- Power Consumption 180
- Hull 50
- 3 Engineers (CR 4)
 - Plasma Pistol 2
- High Power Consumption 5

- Many nooks and crannies 4

9.5.3 Auxiliary Fusion Reactors

Ships Values

- Attack 0
- Defense 0
- Power Consumption 180
- Hull 50
- 4 Engineers (CR 4)
 - Plasma Pistol 2
- 2 Guards (CR 5)
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- High Power Consumption 5

9.5.4 Fusion Ractors

Ships Values

- Attack 0
- Defense 0
- Power Consumption 300

- Hull 75
- 4 Engineers (CR 4)
 - Plasma Pistol 2
- 4 Guards (CR 5)
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- High Power Consumption 8

9.5.5 Brig

Ships Values

- Hull 50
- One Guard (CR 5)
 - Will use first round to raise the Alarm
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- 5 Cells
 - Cell door 10[5]
- 3 Prisoners (each CR 3)

9.5.6 Bridge

Ships Values

- Hull 150
- 1 Captain (CR 7)
- 4 Officers (CR 6)
 - Plasma Pistol 2
- 2 Guards (CR 5)
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- Lots of Computers 5
- can shut of any other rooms functions

9.5.7 Bastion

Ships Values

- Hull 50
- 1 Officers (CR 6)
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- 4 Guards (CR 5)
 - Plasma Rifle 3
- Autoturret 12 [3]
- Blast door 30 [5]

9.5.8 Mess Hall

Ships Values

- Hull 50

During the first 3 Scenes, will some of the board personal be here. They will stow away all movable objects in the hall. Afterwards they will move to the shuttle bay in order to be ready for an evacuation.

-
- 5 Ship Personnel (CR 3)

9.5.9 Medical Bay

Ships Values

- Hull 100

Whenever a room gets hit and destroyed some of the personnel may be injured and brought to the medical bay.

- 2 Doctors (CR 3)
 - Medical Training 4
 - Pacifist 2
- Medical Equipment 6

10 One Shot: In the Necromancers Dungeon

A Medieval Fantasy scenario.

Escape from the dungeon of a necromancer.

The players play a group of people who were captured by a powerful necromancer. The necromancer has conquered a small kingdom with his forces and regularly gets deliveries of prisoners which he uses for his necromantic experiments. The group find themselves in the dungeon cells. And need to flee. Through another half dead prisoner they get the information that escape is impossible. Every prisoner is magically marked and can always be found by the necromancers forces. The Necromancer is Arrogant and Cruel. If you can escape your only chance is defeating the necromancer and freeing this land from his scourge.

10.1 Cast

Knight							(264CP)
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
6	5	5	3	3	3	5	5
<div> Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced Tournament Combatant 5 Member of a noble family 4 </div> <div> Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none </div>							

Thief							(267CP)
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
5	7	3	4	3	5	3	3
<div> Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the Shadows (thieves guild) 5 Great free climber 3 Smooth talker 1 </div> <div> Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sink into Shadows </div>							

Druid						(294CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	5	6	3	3	5	5
<div> Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circle of the eternal forest druid 6 Herbalist 5 Recluse 2 </div> <div> Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protector and Servant of Nature </div>							

10.2 NPCs

Necromancer						(1104CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
12	12	24	24	16	20	16	16
<div> Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of the Dark Arts 12 Divinator 10 Ruler of the Darklands 7 Sadistic Master of Pain 5 Sure of himself / Arrogant 5 </div> <div> Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lich Necromantic Fleshweaver </div> <div> Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skeleton Staff 6 Dagger of Pain 6 </div>							

Guard						(156CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
<div> Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained Guard 3 Likes to Drink 2 </div> <div> Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> </div>							

Undead Abomination						(111CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
6	6	1	1	1	1	0	0
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hates life 6 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undead Obedient Servant </div>							

10.3 Map

10.3.1 Dungeon (-1 floor)

CR +0

The dungeon is a couple of hallways which are lined with small cells. Each cell has walls made from mortared rough stone and are shut with a metal banded heavy wooden door. The only sources of light are a dimly glowing lichen and some magical candles in the hallways which are made from finger bones.

- Very dim light 3
- Rot and decay 3
- Water dripping from the ceiling 2
- Heavy iron banded doors

10.3.2 Torture Chamber (-1 floor)

CR +1

The pain and suffering of sentient are a powerful ingredient if extracted correctly. The torture chamber has all the tools of the trade. Its ceiling is adorned by a green eye which appears to be unmoving yet always gives the eary feeling it is looking right at you. The eye extracts the pain and channels it into the green elixir which has to be placed on the altar on the far side if the room.

- all sorts of torture implements 6
-

10.3.3 Pantry and Wine Cellar (-1 floor)

CR -1

A long line of barrels line one side of this hallway. The other is lined with dusty wine bottles. To keep his mortal servants from stealing from his precious collection

the necromancer has created the stalker. A scarily deformed skeleton which is supposed to hide in the shadows and ambush and thief. however it did succumb to decay and now some of the guards steal a little from time to time.

- Dark nooks and crannies 4
- Great wine 6
- Vial of concentrated suffering

10.3.4 Necromantic Lab (-1 floor)

CR +2

In this horrid room full of horrors and half finished experiments. This is where all the necromancers special troops are stitched together. The players will find here some of the notes of the dark mage, dangerous creatures and more than enough reason to hate. The partially built creatures here will attack the players once they come close enough.

-

10.3.5 Watch Room (0 floor)

CR +2

A few bunk beds, a table, and some chairs are in this room, This is where the guards stay if they don't have to do their rounds. Most of the time there is at least one guard here. Either sleeping or playing cards at the table. Maybe even drinking some stolen wine.

- Well lit 2
- Kind of chaotic 2
-

10.3.6 Entrance Hall (0 floor)

CR -2

The tall double winged door is closed. Outside, in front of the door stand a couple of heavily armored guards.

10.3.7 Alchemy Lab (0 floor)

CR +0

- All sorts of Alchemical instruments and ingredients 6

10.3.8 Kitchen (0 floor)

CR +0

- Pots Pans and Knives 3

10.3.9 Guest Rooms (1 floor)

CR +0

10.3.10 Dining Room (1 floor)

CR +0

A long table, made from Mahogany, is the centerpiece of this room. Despite the size, and Luxury of this room, is it mainly used by the dark lord of this house to demonstrate his superiority.

- luxurious 5

10.3.11 Living Chambers (2 floor)

CR +2

The personal chambers of the lord are surprisingly simple, yet or of high quality. The players have to be careful as these rooms is always guarded.

- Simple 3
- Quality 3

10.3.12 Library (3 floor)

CR +3

This room is frequently visited and occupied by the mage.

- A vast collection of tomes 6

10.3.13 Observatory (4 floor)

CR +4

On the very top of the tower and surrounded by a balcony is the mages observatory.

- Tools of astronomy and divination 6
- . High up 6

11 One Shot: A night at the Hospital

A modern horror scenario.

The year is 1980. You play a group of college students who decided on a dare to spend a night in an abandoned hospital. Originally you came with more people but because of a stupid fight you split up into two groups. You settled down in one of the old patients rooms on the first floor. As the clock shows midnight, you hear a sudden bang, as all doors and windows of the hospital shut at once. From this point on they can not be opened by any means. You have to figure out how to escape from this situation.

Background:

- The hospital has a very long history.
 - The oldest part of the hospital is build in a former prison.
 - It was once a mental institution.
 - A couple of years ago, there was a scandal when a nurse turned serial child murderer.
- It is inhabited by several ghosts. Each has different goals.
 - A ghost can be pacified or destroyed. For both you need an understanding of his history.

11.1 Cast

History Student						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
4	3	2	3	4	2	3	3
Aspects:				Traits:			
• History Nerd 3				• None			
• Tourist Guide 1				Items:			
• Plays Sports 2				• Flashlight 1			
				• Lighter 1			

Linguistics Student						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	2	3	4	3	3	3	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin Nerd 3 Works in a Library 1 Plays the Guitar 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <div>Items:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashlight 1 Guitar 2 </div>							

Engineering Student						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
4	3	3	3	3	2	4	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineer 3 Hobby car mechanic 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <div>Items:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashlight 1 Pocketknife 2 Gaffa Tape 1 </div>							

Psychology Student						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
2	3	3	3	4	4	2	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology 3 Barista 1 Dancer 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <div>Items:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashlight 1 Dance Shoes 1 </div>							

Chemistry Student						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	2	5	2	2	4	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry 3 Plays the Harmonica 1 Runner 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <div>Items:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashlight 1 Chocolate Bar Harmonica 1 </div>							

11.2 NPCs

Mad Maggie the Child Murderer						(180CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	2	5	2	2	4	3
<div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry 3 Plays the Harmonica 1 Runner 2 </div> <div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <div>Items:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashlight 1 Chocolate Bar Harmonica 1 </div>							

Maggie the Child Murderer

Dr. Francis Budgelburry the Famous Neurologist

11.3 Rules

The ghosts are bound to the hospital in general and to their area in particular. They are able to move away from it but tend to avoid it out of habit.

The players are not able to leave the hospital in any way until they have dealt with the two ghosts.

11.4 Map

11.4.1 Pharmacy (1 Floor)

Stalked by the shadows. If one of the shadows catches you it will try to carry you off into the Orthopedic ward. There they will Break your limbs.

Points of Interest:

- You can find beta-blockers to calm your nerves.
- You can find caffeine to stay awake.

11.4.2 Kitchen (1 floor)

The kitchen is pure chaos. A bunch of poltergeists throw stuff around in here. Only the cleaning closet is untouched by the poltergeist.

- Poltergeist 4
- Save but insanely cold walk in fridge 5

Points of Interest:

- You can find some cooking oil from which you can make fuel for the ambulance.
- You can find ingredients in the cleaning closet (the only)

11.4.3 Outpatient and Atnual Ward (1 floor)

Stalked by the shadows. If one of the shadows catches you it will try to carry you off into the Orthopedic ward. There they will Break your limbs.

Shadow (C 4):

- Strong 8
- Pushed away by light 3
- Incorporal and immortal

11.4.4 Accident & Emergency (1 floor)

If the players find the ambulance in the garage, they can try to bring it back to working condition. For this they need to repair the vehicle and get some fuel.

- broken Ambulance 6

Points of Interest:

- You can find some tools here. Hammers 1, Saws 2. In one of the ambulances even a crowbar 2
- You can find a pair of walky-talkies here.

11.4.5 Entrance Hall (1 floor)

The entrance hall is mostly like the players remember from when they came in. Since it is the way to everything else you can hear noises and feel winds coming from everywhere.

- A feeling of strong unease and danger 2

Points of Interest:

- A brief history of the Hospital with maps and photos.
 - If looked at closely you can find a weird spot on the basements map from back in asylum times. If cross referenced with the maps from prison times you find the spot of a hidden room. Today it borders on the Autopsy chambers.

11.4.6 Fracture/Orthopedic Clinic (2 floor)

Stalked by the shadows. If one of the shadows catches you it will try to carry you off into the Orthopedic ward. There they will Break your limbs.

11.4.7 Surgery theaters (2 floor)

The former surgery theaters and neighboring rooms smell weird. Sometimes a fog moves through the rooms. If a creature is caught in it it tends to put them to sleep.

- The smell of pain 3
- Anesthetic Fog 4

Points of Interest:

- A display cabinet with the original notebook of a famous neurologist (TODO Name) who worked here back when it was an insane asylum.
 - If read by the players they can find notes about operations on patient during which he found several abnormalities with their brains.
 - If cross referenced with the notes you can find in administration you will find out that those patients were officially not operated on but died by other causes just before the date of the operation.
 - You can find a hint on where in the basement the operation room should be.

11.4.8 Chapel (2 floor)

- Sanctuary for the Believers 4

11.4.9 Administration (3 floor)

- Chaos 3

Points of Interest:

- If you go through the notes you may find:
 - Asylum Patient Records: It contains lists of patients, their arrival, conditions and release or death date. Also the cause of death if applicable. If cross referenced with the notebook from the Surgery Theater then . . . (see there)
 - Personnel Records: If they search for the Murderous Nurse then they will find out that her grandmother died in the insane asylum. If they search for her in asylum records then they will find how she had murderous rages whenever she was separated from her Baby Blanket. Because of company policy it was once taken from her completely and put into storage.

11.4.10 Pediatric and Maternity Ward (3 floor)

The pediatric ward is stalked by the ghost of the Murderous Nurse. She stalks through the rooms hunting the ghosts of the children. If a player is seen by her then she will hunt them. She is corporeal and will react to being fought with weapons. But she can not die. If she is slain her body will disintegrate and she will soon stalk the halls again.

- Childrens Noises 2

Mad Maggie (C 4xPlayers):

- Murderous 6
- Terrifying 6
- Sadistic 6
- Impulsive 6
- Broken Mind of a Mad Woman 6

11.4.11 Autopsy (-1 floor)

Set in a renovated part of the former Prison Cellar is the autopsy department. The main room is lined with a wall of body storages. When the group comes into the room the dead in the storages begin to rise. They start to move and pound on the doors. If freed or if they had enough time to free themselves they will fight the living. Once the dead have left their confinement the lights turn off and only blink for a second when turned on again. Flashlights may still work normally.

- Unnaturally Cold 3
- Sharp Instruments 4

- Lights out 4

Zombie (C 3)

- Unnaturally strong 2
- Unfeeling undead 2
- Literally Brainless 3

Points of Interest:

- The zombies are the patients of the famous neurologist. They all have some mark of surgery on their heads.
- Entrance to secret surgery room: Behind the wall where the bodies are stored there is the old surgery room of the neurologist. This can be found out in the entrance hall.

11.4.12 storage cellar (-1 floor)

Since the Hospital is build on a former Prison its cellar still has that layout. The rooms are filled.

- Prison Doors 3 [10]
- A bunch of Random Stuff in Storage 5
- Flickering Lights 2

Points of Interest:

- In a few of the rooms you can find a bunch of very old numbered boxes. In them is very random stuff.
 - One of the boxes contains the baby blanket of the murderous nurses grandmother. This can be used to pacify the ghost.

Name:

CP:

Traits:

Competence:

Physical:

Strength:

Dexterity:

Mental:

Will:

Intelect:

Social:

Empathy:

Charisma:

Resour.:

Finances:

Gear:

Aspects:

Items:

12 Simplified Rules

12.1 Aspects

Aspects don't get values.

12.2 Attributes

There are the 4 Attributes: Physical, Mental, Social, Ressources.

Each attribute can only have one of the 5 states: Very Low, Low, Normal, High, Very High.

- If a character uses a very low attribute in a check, it acts like two negative aspects.
- If a character uses a low attribute in a check, it acts like a negative aspect.
- If a character uses a high attribute in a check, it acts like a positive aspect.
- If a character uses a very high attribute in a check, it acts like two positive aspects.

12.3 Checks

Roll 2d6 one after the other. If the first is higher than the second then the check is a success. If it is lower then it is a failure. For each positive aspect you can change any of the two dice by one. For each negative aspect you have to do it to your disadvantage.

12.4 Contests

Each round two or more parties each roll a check. The one with the highest difference of the dice wins. If the differences are the same then the one with the higher result on the first die wins. If it is still even, then it becomes a stalemate.

The winner of the contest may create an aspect or remove an aspect. If a side has little or no chance to succeed a round of the contest, then it ends.

12.5 Traits

As normal.

12.6 Character Creation

You have 240 CP. You can buy the following from them.

- 1 Attribute from normal to high (30CP)
- 1 Attribute from normal to low (-30CP)
- 1 Aspect (15CP)
- 1 Trait (25CP)