

N1GHTH4WK

PREFACE

Vanilla Shadowrun™ rules are complicated. And while I don't know whether the game is even sufficiently balanced, I doubt this amount of complexity is needed to give the game enough depth to be enjoyable. Shadowrun 6th Edition (6e) was supposed to simplify the rules, but appears rushed and arrived broken beyond repair if you ask me. On my search for a *simpler* version, I discovered Shadowrun Anarchy. Shadowrun Anarchy is based on 5th Edition (5e) and draws a lot of parallels while establishing its own, far simpler, rule set.

This document states the *homebrew* rules that govern my play sessions. These rules are mostly based on Shadowrun Anarchy and will be extended over time. As always, the GM retains the right to overrule established rules. There is neither fluff nor lore here, just mechanics; everything else is found in the [relevant books](#).

[SRA]: Shadowrun Anarchy

[SR5]: Shadowrun 5th Edition

[SR6]: Shadowrun 6th Edition

URNS AND NARRATIONS

Each **Turn**, every player has a chance to play out and describe their character's actions, along with other elements of the story going on around them. These descriptions are called **Narrations**, and as the game progresses these Narrations build on each other and form the story of the game. [SRA]

The **Turn Order** is situation dependent and may be adjusted by spending [Plot Points](#). If push comes to shove, compare characters **A + E Attributes** to determine who goes first.

TESTS

6-sided dice are used to determine the outcome of certain actions. A pool of dice is rolled and **Hits** are compared against a threshold stated in parenthesis or determined by the GM. Tests against other characters are rolled as an opposed test, where the opposition sets the threshold for the actor. To speed things up, the GM may use a fixed threshold instead of an oppositions' roll.

Dice pool: The dice pools for actor and opposition is determined via [Attributes](#), [Skills](#), [Amps](#), and modifiers

Hits: ☐ and ☐ count as Hits

Net Hits: Hits exceeding the threshold are referred to as Net Hits

Glitch: When **more than half** the number of dice rolled come up as ☐, something bad happens in addition to the regular outcome of the Test.

Critical Glitch: When a Glitch happens while not achieving a single Hit, something devastating happens.

Glitches cannot happen on defense Tests.

| Difficulty | Opposed Dice | Threshold |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Very Easy | 4 dice | 1 |
| Easy | 6 dice | 2 |
| Average | 8 dice | 3 |
| Hard | 12 dice | 4 |
| Extreme | 18 dice | 6 |

REPEATING TESTS

Most Tests can be repeated for an accumulative -2 modifier.

EXTENDED TESTS

Some Tests take far longer than a moment and therefore require the character to invest time. An Extended Test accumulates Hits over multiple rolls to meet a given (high) threshold. Extended Tests cannot last forever; at some point, characters reach the limit of their abilities. Each roll beyond the first suffers an accumulative **-1** modifier. When they run out of dice before meeting the threshold, the Test either fails or needs to be continued at a later point. A fixed time interval is spent along with each roll. [SR5]

Glitches during an Extended Test nullify all Hits of the current roll. A Critical Glitch can only occur on the first roll, in which case the task fails spectacularly.

TEAMWORK TESTS

Outside combat, characters can work together to overcome various obstacles. A Teamwork Test is done by selecting a leader who will do the majority of the work. Other characters assist by rolling a corresponding Test. Each helper's Hit adds a bonus die to the leader's dice pool. The number of bonus dice is **limited by the leader's Skill** (or higher Attribute).

ROUNDING

All divisions are **round down** unless stated otherwise.

| PLOT POINTS

Plot Points are tokens that can be redeemed for special effects. Both, players and the GM, have the ability to spend Plot Points. When a Plot

Point is spent, the spender hands the token to the opposition.

- Players **begin** the game **with 2 Plot Points each** and may be awarded more points by the GM
- Players may have a **maximum of 5 Plot Points**
- Players can only spend one Plot Point at a time
- The GM starts with 1 Plot Point, but can generate Plot Points for players as needed

Examples for special effects players can spend Plot Points on:

- Go first, bypassing the current [Turn Order](#)
- Move further without sacrificing an action
- Heal 1 [P](#) or [S](#) (see [Health](#))
- A character's sprites/device/etc. suddenly stop working for a moment
- Take a hit for another character in close proximity

The following applies to the GM:

- The GM may not use Plot Points to directly aid or hinder a player
- GM can only spend 1 Plot Point per Turn
- GM can spend a Plot Point to influence the Turn Order

| CHARACTER STATS

ATTRIBUTES

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| S | Strength | Physical strength and constitution |
| A | Agility | Core combat Attribute |
| L | Logic | Core technology Attribute |
| W | Willpower | Core magic Attribute |
| C | Charisma | Core social Attribute |

E EDGE

Edge is a special Attribute that represents a character's luck. Characters start each day with a number of **Edge Points** equal to their **E**. They can spend an Edge Point in one the following ways to augment a roll.

Before roll: +1 die and ☐ also count as Hits

After roll (no Glitch): Reroll all dice that did not come up as Hits

After roll (Glitch): Nullify a Glitch or turn a Critical Glitch into a Glitch

ESSENCE

Essence determines how *natural* your character is. Essence starts at 6 for all characters and is reduce by certain *unnatural* **Amps** like Cyberware. For every full point of Essence lost, an accumulative -1 modifier is added to magic- and healing-related Tests.

Cyberware: -1 Essence

Bioware: -0.5 Essence

SKILLS

Strength:

Athletics: Running, jumping, swimming, ...

Agility:

Close Combat: Armed & unarmed melee combat, ...

Projectile Weapons: Bows, throwing weapons, ...

Firearms: Pistols, shotguns, submachine guns, and rifles

Heavy Weapons: Machine guns, assault cannons, missile launchers, ...

Vehicle Weapons: Vehicle-mounted guns, drone-mounted guns, ...

Stealth: Sneaking, palming, and pickpocketing

Pilot (Ground): Cars, trucks, bikes, tanks, drones, ...

Pilot (Other): Boats, planes, ...

Escape Artist: Escaping bindings, shaking a tail, ...

Willpower:

Conjuring: Summoning & banishing spirits

Sorcery: Spellcasting, ritual spellcasting, enchanting, and counterspelling

Astral Combat: Astral/spirit combat; Astral plane only

Survival: Wilderness survival, navigation, ...

Logic:

Biotech: First aid, medicine, and cybertechnology

Hacking: Computer hacking and cybercombat

Electronics: Computer hardware & software

Engineering: Mechanics

Tasking: Summoning sprites, threading complex forms

Tracking: Physical tracking, Matrix tracking, shadowing, ...

Knowledge Skills

Charisma:

Con: Con artistry, acting, performance, etiquette, ...

Intimidation: Influence, interrogation, torture, ...

Negotiation: Bargaining, diplomacy, ...

Disguise: Camouflage, cosmetics, costuming, ...

This list is not exhaustive. New Skills can be added on the fly as the GM sees fit.

Most Skills can be used even when a character has not invested a single point into them. Such **untrained** Tests simply roll the associated Attribute.

Perception is not a Skill, roll **L + W** for a Perception Test. **(L + W) / 3** can be used for *passive* Perception.

A character can **specialize** in certain aspects of a (trained) Skill (e.g. Pistols of the Firearms Skill). A specialization grants a +2 modifier to associated Tests.

QUALITIES

Qualities are additional character traits that come in positive and negative forms. Characters typically start out with 2 positive and 1 negative Quality.

AMPS

Every more-human-than-human improvement to your character is handled as an Amp. Ranging from cybernetic implants (Cyberware) to Spells, to Cyberdecks, etc.

HEALTH

Health is represented by *Condition Monitors*, which come in two forms Physical and Stun. Each Condition Monitor consists of a number of boxes (\square / \square). When you take damage, you cross out the corresponding number of \square or \square boxes.

- Characters have $8 + S / 2$ (round up) boxes of \square
- Characters have $8 + W / 2$ (round up) boxes of \square
- For every 3 crossed-out boxes per Condition Monitor, an accumulative -1 modifier is added to all Tests
- When all boxes on one Condition Monitor are exhausted, the character becomes unconscious
- Stun damage carries over as Physical damage once the Stun Condition Monitor is exhausted
- When a character receives Physical damage after the Physical Condition Monitor is exhausted, they must make an **S + E** (1) Test, increasing the [difficulty](#) each time they receive damage. If they fail the Test, the character is dead .

Characters can be **healed** using appropriate equipment in combination with a Biotech (2) Test, and/or with magic.

- Each Net Hit on the Biotech Test heals 1 \square or 1 \square

- First Aid can only be applied within 1 hour
- Biotech and healing magic can each be applied only once per combat encounter

ARMOR

Armor works like temporary health, consuming incoming damage, getting destroyed in the process. Every armor box \square consumes one point of damage (Physical or Stun).

- Armor cannot be restored during combat
- Armored clothing cannot be combined
- Armored clothing commonly provides positive / negative modifiers
- Attacks that have ***n* armor penetration** ignore ***n*** \square when dealing damage. Ignored armor remains intact.

Armor Plates are what makes armor consume damage. Armor Plates can be replaced to restore damaged armor.

- 1 Armor Plate corresponds to 3 \square
- Armor Plates are universal and can be exchanged between different armor

DEVICE RATING

Devices and gear commonly feature a Device Rating indicating its level of quality. The Device Rating is used as threshold and Attribute(s) for Tests.

CHARACTER SHEET

A character sheet for printing is available [online](#).

The [ODG file](#) is also available and can be used directly. Modify the layout to fit your character, then lock the *layout* layer. Put your writing into a new, dedicated layer.

COMBAT

ACTIONS

A character can take either 2 Simple Actions or 1 Complex Action, in addition to their Bonus Action. A general limit of **one attack action per Turn** is imposed. Though, certain Amps allow you to exceed this limit.

Simple Action: Fire weapon (projectile / fire-arm), draw holstered weapon, pick up / put down / throw object, observe in detail, command spirit, ...

Complex Action: Fire weapon (heavy / mounted), melee attack, interacting with the matrix, going in / out of VR, cast spell, summon, astral projection, ...

Bonus Action: Drop object, drop prone, speak, quick draw, ...

Characters can freely move short distances. Moving longer distances will consume actions depending on the distance.

ATTACK & DEFENSE

A + Skill vs. **A + L**

- Net Hits result in additional points of damage
- Unarmed Combat inflicts **S** / 2 Stun damage

HACKING

L + Hacking vs. **L + Firewall**

- VR grants a +2 modifier to all related Tests
- Stun damage always applies to the Cyber-deck's Condition Monitor

- Physical damage is applied to the decker when in VR (armor is ignored), to the Cyber-deck otherwise

TECHNOMANCERS

- Use **L + L** for Matrix Defense
- Sprites can be summoned with the Hacking Skill
- Only 1 Sprite can be summoned at the same time
- Technomancers deal **L** points of damage when attacking a Sprite directly

VEHICLE / DRONE COMBAT

- Vehicles / drones use **A + L** of the driver to defend
- VR grants a +2 modifier to all related Tests

SPELLS

- Attack Spells typically state how to defend
- Only 1 Spell can be sustained at a time
- Spells featuring **Armor Avoidance (AA)** make Net Hits count as [Armor Penetration](#) instead of bonus damage
- Damage from Astral Combat is applied as Stun damage

SPIRITS

- Only 1 spirit can be conjured at a time
- Spirits are armored against non-magical attacks
- Characters can attack Spirits using **W + Close Combat**, armor is ignored, unarmed damage is applied

BOOKS

While Shadowrun Anarchy serves as the base for this variation, 5th Edition Core Books still provide a lot of interesting content. Mechanics and gear can be adapted to work with this version. 6th Edition Core Books provide even more content. However, their mechanics might better be ignored.

Source Books describe various aspects of the world; Plot Books tell the story of Shadowrun. Adventures & Missions provide resources for running the game. The Gear section gives you even more equipment beyond what's in the Core Books.

| Core Books | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Shadowrun Anarchy | Alternate Shadowrun rule set. Sometimes referred to as the rules-lite version. |
| Shadowrun 5e | 5e Rulebook. Includes a good selection of qualities, spells, and gear. |
| Run Faster | 5e Player Handbook. Provides additional metatypes, qualities, etc. Also includes <i>construction kits</i> . |
| Run & Gun | 5e Combat Rulebook. This book also serves as Arsenal. |
| Data Trails | 5e Matrix Handbook |
| Rigger 5.0 | 5e Rigger Handbook. Includes various modifications for drones and vehicles. |
| Chrome Flesh | 5e Augmentation Handbook. Contains a selection of qualities, cyberware, bioware, and more. |
| Street Grimoire | 5e Magic Rulebook. Provides even more spells, and spirits. |
| Shadowrun 6e | 6e Rulebook |
| Firing Squad | 6e Combat Rulebook |
| Double Clutch | 6e Rigger Rulebook |
| Street Wyrd | 6e Magic Rulebook |
| Source Books | |
| Power Plays | 6e Corporations |
| Collapsing Now | 6e Provides Information on Organizations and Runners |
| Better Than Bad | 5e Deep Shadows Sourcebook |
| Hard Targets | 5e Deep Shadows Sourcebook |
| Cutting Aces | 5e Guide to Con Artistry |
| The Complete Trog | 5e Orks and Trolls |
| The Neo-Anarchist Streetpedia | 6e Collection of Sixth World Knowledge |
| No Future | 6e Culture |
| Attitude | 4e Culture |
| Seattle 2072 | 4e Definitive Seattle |

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|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Howling Shadows | 5e Critter Handbook |
| Parazoology | 4e Critter Supplement |
| Parazoology 2 | 4e Critter Supplement |
| Parabotany | 4e Flora |
| Parageology | 4e Magic Supplement |

Plot Books

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Cutting Black | 2080 — Backstory for 30 Nights |
|---------------|--------------------------------|

Adventures & Missions

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Free Seattle | 2080 — Introductory adventure |
| 30 Nights | 2080 — A month long citywide blackout hits Toronto |
| Assassins Night | 2080 — Detective work in Barcelona |
| The Third Parallel | 2080 — Denver campaign |

Gear

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Arsenal (+Errata) | 4e Gear Rulebook |
| Gun Heaven | 4e Weapon Supplement |
| Gun Heaven 2 | 4e Weapon Supplement |
| Gun Heaven 3 | 5e Weapon Supplement |
| Krime Katalog | 6e Weapons / Vehicles Supplement |
| Used Car Lot | 4e Groundcraft Supplement |
| Deadly Waves | 4e Watercraft Supplement |
| Unfriendly Skies | 4e Aircraft Supplement |
| Mil Spec Tech | 4e Ground- / Aircraft Supplement |
| Mil Spec Tech 2 | 4e Ground- / Aircraft Supplement |

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