

Player Book

- The GM describes the situation and states what is possible.
- You say **what you do** and **what effect you want**.
- If the outcome is uncertain, the GM states:
 1. which attribute you are using (S/Z/M),
 2. what the difficulty is (**TN**),
 3. what may happen in case of failure.
- You roll **one die** of your attribute and check if the result \geq **TN**.

The shortest rule

Roll your attribute die. Result \geq **TN** = success.

You have:

- a Role (Warrior / Rogue / Mage),
- 3 Attributes: Strength (S), Dexterity (D), Magic (M),
- Hearts (life) and Mana,
- 2 Talents (optional but recommended),
- gear.

2.1 What the attributes do

- Strength (S): melee, forcing, lifting, endurance.
- Dexterity (D): shots, precision, stealth, dodging, acrobatics.
- Magic (M): special effects (spells/psionics/tech — setting dependent).

2.2 Attribute dice

Each attribute has a die (**d6**, **d8**, **d10**, **d12**, **d20**). You always roll one die.

- Bigger die = better odds of high results.

2.3 Hearts and Mana

- Hearts: 5 (start).
 - Mana: 3 (start). Spend it when using Magic.
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Step 1: Pick a role

This sets your starting dice:

- Warrior: S **d10**, D **d6**, M **d6**

- Rogue: S **d6**, D **d10**, M **d6**
- Mage: S **d6**, D **d6**, M **d10**

Step 2: Note resources

- Hearts: 5
- Mana: 3

Step 3: Pick 2 Talents (optional)

Short keywords that describe strengths.

- Neutral examples: Negotiator, Scout, Mechanic, Medic, Athlete, Analyst, Hacker.

How Talents work: if a Talent truly helps, the GM may lower **TN** by one step.

- Usually 1 Talent per test.
- Talent doesn't replace description — it helps when it actually applies.

Step 4: Gear

List:

- one combat tool (melee or ranged),
- protection (if appropriate),
- 3 utility items.

Gear mostly acts as permission: you have it, so you can try certain things.

Example character

- Role: Rogue
- S **d6**, D **d10**, M **d6**
- Hearts 5, Mana 3
- Talents: Scout, Negotiator
- Gear: ranged tool, lockpicks, rope, light source

4.1 When you roll

You roll when it's risky/uncertain and failure matters.

If it's obvious and pressure-free, GM can say "it works".

4.2 Difficulty (**TN**)

Four bands:

- **TN** 4 — Easy
- **TN** 6 — Standard
- **TN** 8 — Hard
- **TN** 12 — Heroic

The GM sets **TN**. No need to guess — the GM tells you.

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Target Number (**TN**): 4 (Easy), 6 (Normal), 8 (Hard).

Roll Result:

- **1:** Failure + Complication.
 - < **TN**: Failure.
 - \geq **TN**: Success.
 - **Max (10/20):** Success + Benefit.
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4.3 Outcomes

- Result \geq **TN**: success.
- Result < **TN**: failure.
- Roll a 1: failure with a complication.
- Max on the die (e.g., 10 on **d10**): critical success + extra benefit.

Extra benefit examples: faster, quieter, safer, bigger effect, better position.

4.4 Shifting difficulty by a step

Instead of math, the GM shifts **TN** by one step:

- worse conditions \rightarrow **TN** up (e.g., 6 \rightarrow 8),
- better conditions \rightarrow **TN** down (e.g., 8 \rightarrow 6).

Your job: create better conditions via description (cover, prep, tools, plan).

4.5 Help from an ally

An ally can spend their Action to help. For that roll you may bump your die:

- **d6** \rightarrow **d8** \rightarrow **d10** \rightarrow **d12** \rightarrow **d20**.

The help must make sense (covering, distraction, handing tools).

Test example

You try to open a blocked passage quickly.

- GM: “Dexterity, **TN** 6.”
- You roll D **d10** = 7 \rightarrow success: passage opens.

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- 1 square is the basic unit of distance.
 - Movement per turn: up to 5 squares.
 - Diagonals count as 1.
 - Cover matters: ranged attacks into cover are harder.
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6.1 Your turn

- Move up to 5 squares and take 1 Action.

Actions include: attack, use gear, attribute test, help, use Magic.

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6.2 Attacks

- Melee: Strength roll.
- Ranged: Dexterity roll.
- The GM states the foe's **TN**.

Default foe **TN**:

- Minion: 6
- Elite: 8
- Boss: 12

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6.3 What a hit means

- Minion → out of the fight.
- Elite/Boss → takes a Wound (Boss has 3 total).
- Critical vs Elite/Boss → usually +1 Wound (total 2) or one positional boon (push, eject from cover).

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6.4 Misses and retaliation

If you miss (result < **TN**) and the foe could hit back, you lose 1 Heart.

- Common in melee.
- At range it depends on cover/position.

Tactical lesson: position yourself to avoid retaliation on a miss (cover, distance, plan, help).

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6.5 At 0 Hearts

- You're down and can't act.
- An ally can spend an Action to bring you to 1 Heart.

Short turn example

- Move: dash 3 squares to cover.
 - Action: shoot (D). GM: “**TN** 6, but target has cover → **TN** 8.” You roll **d10**=9 → hit.
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Magic is the “special effects” mechanic. You describe the effect; the GM sets **TN** and Mana cost.

7.1 Costs and tiers

- Trick: **TN 4**, cost 0–1
- Standard: **TN 6**, cost 1
- Strong: **TN 8**, cost 2
- Great power: **TN 12**, cost 3

7.2 Failure in Magic

If it fails:

- you lose the Mana spent, and
- a consequence appears (e.g., –1 Heart, exposed, extra threat).

7.3 Critical magic

Max roll with Magic grants an extra boon:

- bigger area/range,
- longer duration,
- higher potency,
- or reduced cost (GM may refund 1 Mana).

Magic example

You try a short 5-square “blink”.

- GM: “Standard: **TN 6**, cost 1.”
- You pay 1 Mana, roll M **d10 =7** → success behind cover.

After a conflict, if you have a safe moment and basic rest conditions:

- Hearts and Mana return to full.

After an adventure choose one:

- bump S/D/M die size: **d6** → **d8** → **d10** → **d12** → **d20**,
- or +1 Heart (max 7),
- or +1 Mana (max 5).

If you only have a **d6**, replace die sizes with thresholds:

- Master 3+, Trained 4+, Novice 5+, Untrained 6.

The GM may raise/lower your threshold by one step for situation or help.

- Always say: **what you do + why**. “I want to pull the lever” is okay, but “I want to pull the lever to close the passage” is even better.
- If the **TN** is high: don’t “strain the roll” — change the situation (cover, tools, assistance, another way).
- Establish cooperation: one person helps, the other makes the roll.
- In combat, respect cover and position — they are often more important than the roll itself.

End of the player’s book.