

Player Book

Intro

- The GM describes the situation and options.
- You say what you do and what result you want.
- If the outcome is uncertain, the GM tells you:
 1. which attribute you use (S/D/M),
 2. the difficulty (TN),
 3. what happens on failure.
- You roll a single attribute die and check if result \geq TN.

The shortest rule

The shortest rule

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

Intro

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

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- 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

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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

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- Hearts: 5 (start).
- Mana: 3 (start). Spend it when using Magic.

Step 1: Pick a role

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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

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- Hearts: 5
- Mana: 3

Step 3: Pick 2 Talents (optional)

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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

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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

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- 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

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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)

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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.
- $< \text{TN}$: Failure.
- $\geq \text{TN}$: Success.
- **Max (10/20):** Success + Benefit.

4.3 Outcomes

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- Result $\geq \text{TN}$: success.
- Result $< \text{TN}$: 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

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

- worse conditions → TN up (e.g., 6 → 8),
- better conditions → TN down (e.g., 8 → 6).

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

4.5 Help from an ally

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

- d6 → d8 → d10 → d12 → d20.

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

Test example

Test example

You try to open a blocked passage quickly.

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

Intro

- 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.

6.1 Your turn

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

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- 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

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- 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

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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

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

Short turn example

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.

Intro

Magic is the “special effects” mechanic. You describe the effect; the GM sets TN and Mana cost.

7.1 Costs and tiers

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- 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

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If it fails:

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

7.3 Critical magic

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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

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.

Intro

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

- Hearts and Mana return to full.

Intro

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).

Intro

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.

Intro

- Always say what you do and why. Intent helps the GM pick clear stakes.
 - If TN is high, don't brute-force the roll — change the situation (cover, tools, help, new route).
 - Coordinate: one helps, the other rolls.
 - In combat, cover and position often matter more than the roll.
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End of the Player's Book.