Power Design in d12 Supers

Burn

Burn is the main way that powers are balanced. You total the burn rating of all powers used in a given round. At the end of each round, you roll a d12. If you roll equal or less than your burn total, you lose an energy. If you roll 3 or more above your burn total, you gain an energy.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Burn Total | Lose | No Change | Gain |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| 9 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |

So, 5 burn is the break-even point where a character can fight forever without gaining or losing energy. Using 6 or more burn results in a loss of energy over time. However, keep in mind that energy is not just used for powers. It is used for rerolls, recovering hit points and powering certain effects. So, it is not necessary (or even desirable) that powers have burn ratings that will deplete combatants.

Attack Powers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Burn | Missile Dmg | Melee Dmg |
| 2 | 2d4+stat | 2d6+stat |
| 3 | 2d6+stat | 2d8+stat |
| 4 | 2d8+stat | 2d10+stat |
| 5 | 2d10+stat | 2d12+stat |
| 6 | 2d12+stat | --- |

Modifiers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Condition | Burn | Notes |
| Accuracy | +/-1 | Attack is more or less accurate than average |
| Area of Effect | +2 |  |
| Conditional | -1 | Power has restrictions as to when it can be used |
| Device Power | -1 | Devices can be dropped, disarmed, taken away and cannot be used while restrained |
| Energy Damage | +1 | Because energy armor is rarer than physical |
| Penetrating Damage | +2 | Powers that do penetrating damage have one less damage die |
| Proc, Low | +1 | Bleed, Pierce, or Increased Knock for example – value of 3 or less |
| Proc, High | +2 | Proc value of 4 or more |
| Psychic Damage | +2 | Because psychic armor is rarer |
| Reduced Knock | -1 |  |
| Status Effect, Minor | +1 | Effects that allow the target to act with only a minor penalty (-1), do less than 1d4 damage/round |
| Status Effect, Major | +3 | Powers that stop the target from acting freely, penalize him with a -2 or more, or do 1d4 damage or more each round |
| Zap Attack | +1 | Because Zap defense is rarer |

Stat Values and Damage Dice

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Stat | Damage Die |
| Normal | 10 | 1d6 |
| Trained | 12 | 1d8 |
| Agent | 16 | 1d10 |
| Super | 20 | 1d12 |

Damage and Armor Balance

Assuming the average combatant has 28 hit points, the average attack is 2d8+1d10 (14.5 dmg), and that characters should be downed in 4 hits, then the average armor value of a character should be around 7.5.

Characters can stack up to two separate armor powers, and so generally, armor should give between 3-4 AV. This stacking limit can be circumvented by certain powers (Ancient Weapons has the “Item” designation allowing a 3rd armor piece to stack), and by buffs. These powers will have to be balanced by lowered AV, or by having a burn cost.

Movement Powers

Movement powers have a burn rating of 1. However, movement powers that are extremely fast (>12 hexes/round) have a burn of 2, and flight and teleport increase this by 1.

Entangles

Entangles are rated by their dice and armor values. The typical entangle has 4 dice, and low armor (4 or less AV). A 4d6 entangle with 4 AV armor will entangle a victim with 14 points. This will hold someone for 2 attacks, which is 2 rounds if only the victim attacks the entangle, and only 1 round if the target’s allies join him.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Burn | Entangle |
| 3 | 4d4 |
| 4 | 4d6 |
| 5 | 4d8 |
| 6 | 4d10 |
| 7 | 4d12 |

Standard Power Enhancements

This table lists standard enhancement packages for various types of powers. Individual powers will have enhancements not listed here, and not every power of a given type will have all of these enhancements. However, this list will give a good starting point from which to create powers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Enhancements** |
| Area Melee Attack | * Burn -1 / x3 / -- / 10P * Dmg Die / x3 / +1B / 10P * Knock +1 / x1 / +1B / 10P * Knock Dice +1 / x2 / +1B / 10P * Radius +1 / x2 / +1B / 10P * Save DL +2 / x3 / +1B / 10P |
| Area Ranged Attack | * Burn -1 / x3 / -- / 10P * Dmg Die / x3 / +1B / 10P \*\*\* * Knock +1 / x1 / +1B / 10P * Knock Dice +1 / x2 / +1B / 10P * Radius +1 / x2 / +1B / 10P * Range +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Save DL +2 / x3 / +1B / 10P |
| Armor | * Armor / x3 / +0B / 10P \*\*\* * Resist Piece(1) / x2 / +0B / 10P |
| Targeted Melee Attack | * Accuracy +2 / x2 / +0B / 10P * Bleed +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Burn -1 / x3 / -- / 10P * Dmg Die / x3 / +1B / 10P \*\*\* * Dmg Die / x3 / -2A / 10P \*\*\* * Pierce +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P |
| Targeted Ranged Attack | * Accuracy +2 / x2 / +0B / 10P * Bleed +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Burn -1 / x3 / -- / 10P * Dmg Die / x3 / +1B / 10P \*\*\* * Dmg Die / x3 / -2A / 10P \*\*\* * Fast +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Pierce +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Range +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P * Save DL +2 / x3 / +1B / 10P |
| Targeted Ranged Entangle | * Accuracy +2 / x2 / +0B / 10P * Armor / x3 / +1B / 10P * Entangle Die / x3 / +1B / 10P \*\*\* * Range +1 / x3 / +0B / 10P |

Armor and move always increases by 1/3 their original value. The values are rounded down, but the missing fractional points are made up on the 2nd or 3rd enhancements. For instance, if you have Armor 4, the enhancement will be 1/1/2. If you have Armor 8, the enhancement will be 2/3/3.

Some enhancements are listed twice, each one having two different impacts. Damage die is the most common, listed with both +1B and -2A. That means that for each damage die enhancement you choose, you can either take +1 burn or -2 accuracy. You can still only take the damage die enhancement 3 times.

Powerset Notation

Category

* (A)ttack – Attack powers are powers used to affect enemies in battle. They usually take ½ action to activate, but their activation ends your turn. Attacks are categorized either (r)anged, (m)elee, (t)argeted area, or (p)oint-blank area. Most attacks require a to-hit roll which can be (s)hoot, s(t)rike, or (z)ap.
* (B)uff – Buffs powers are used to increase the capabilities of you and your allies.
* (D)efense
* (M)ovement
* Sta(N)ce – A stance is a toggled ability that in declared on or off at the beginning of a round. Only a single stance can be active at one time.
* A(R)mor
* (U)tility
* (T)rait
* Maneu(V)er – Maneuvers are skills that are activated alongside another combat action, such as an attack or a defense. Their activation is quirky and often based on specific conditions or die rolls. Any number of maneuvers can be activated at the same time, given that the conditions are met, and costs are paid. Maneuvers can stack with adders and stances. Maneuvers can be (r)anged, (m)elee or (b)oth.
* (+)Adder – Adders are similar to maneuvers, in that they are activated alongside other powers. Only a single adder can modify a single power at once.

Activation

* (A)ttack – The power is activated as a ½ action and ends your turn. The burn cost is added when the power is activated.
* (C)onditional – The power can be activated when certain conditions are met.
* Fr(E)e – The power can be activated with no time, but only during your turn.
* (F)ull – The power is activated as a full action. The burn cost is added when the power is activated.
* (H)alf – The power is activated as a full action. The burn cost is added when the power is activated.
* (M)ove – The power is activated as either a ½ action, in which case you get half the benefit (as in a ½ move), or as a full action, in which case you can use it to the fullest extent. The burn cost is added once and is the same whether a ½ or full activation is used.
* (N)one – The power does not have to be activated and is on all the time.
* (R)eaction – The power can be activated at any time as a reaction. Its burn cost is added each activation.
* (T)oggle – The power is activated as a toggle and must be stated to be on/off at the beginning of each round and is on/off for the entire round. The burn cost is added when the power is declared to be on.
* (+) – This power is an adder and is activated alongside the power it modifies

Burn

* (#) Number – Your burn rating is increased by this amount
* (E)xpend – Each time you use the power, you immediately burn one energy.
* E(x) – Each time you use this power, you immediately burn (x) energy.
* (M)aintain – While this power is active, you have to put one energy on it, making it unavailable for use. When this power ends, that energy is burned, but can be recovered and used normally.
* M(x) – Same as M, but this power requires you to maintain it with an energy, AND it also increases your burn rating each round.

Delivery

* (A)rea – The power is directed at an area, requiring a to-hit roll vs. a defense of 6
* (D)irect – The power is directed at a spot and no to-hit roll is required
* (S)hoot – The power requires a to-hit roll using the Shoot combat skill
* S(T)rike – The power requires a to-hit roll using the Strike combat skill
* (Z)ap – The power requires a to-hit roll using the Zap combat skill
* (-)None – The power is not delivered, or is cast on the user, or centered on the user