Halberds & Helmets Alex Schroeder March 4, 2016

This is the player handbook for my campaigns. It is based on Labyrinth Lord and various house rules. Referees might want to check out my Swiss Referee Style Manual. – Alex Schroeder

Old School

WE PLAY CLASSIC D&D using rules from the early eighties. This is not a Monty Haul campaign and not a stupid dungeon crawl. If at all, we explore a nightmarish mythical underworld.

The rules offer **very little mechanics**: there aren't many classes to choose from, no feats, no skills, no prestige classes and hardly any special abilities. Furthermore, elves, dwarves and other demihumans are simply separate classes. There are no elven thieves of dwarven mages. On the other hand, missing rules also leave **a lot of freedom** for players. The characters are as diplomatic, friendly or intimidating as the players want them to be. There are no rules governing it.

We're playing in a sandbox. There is **no planned ending** for the campaign. The actions of player characters determines the directions the campaign grows in.

Dangers are not adapted to the strength of the party. Generally speaking it's safer near civilized settlements. The further you move into the wilderness, the more dangerous it is. That's how **players control the risks they want to take**.

Preparation and experience should help you avoid situations, where your character's survival depends on a single die roll. If you're rolling dice, it's already too late. A saving throw is your last chance to survive due to luck and experience. Ideally you would never have to roll dice because you're well informed and equipment. Perseus didn't have to save against the medusa's petrifying gaze because he was well prepared.

Retainers are another safeguard against character death: torch bearers, porters, men-at-arms and mercenaries all cost money, but they will also keep your character alive. Should player characters die, the next character is most probably going to be one of the retainers.

Experience points are gained by spending gold you gained on adventures. If you manage to obtain the gold without combat, good for you. The best strategy is to pick your battles and stake the odds in your favor as far as possible. Remember, if you're rolling dice, it's already too late.



Ownership of the rules is optional. We'll add more rules as time passes. Discovering and befriending intelligent humanoids, for example, will allow you hire them and eventually to play them. Certain magic users can teach player characters new spells, too.

Players determine where the campaign will head. If player characters investigate rumors and locations, I will develop the game world in that direction. The harder you look, the more there is to see.

Character Creation

Start with an empty sheet of paper or print a character sheet (PDF).

ROLL 3D6 IN ORDER for your attributes.

Strength allows you to carry more and to hit harder. Add the bonus to your to-hit rolls and to your damage rolls when using *melee weapons*.

Dexterity allows you to aim better and to better avoid attacks. Add the bonus to your to-hit roll when using *ranged weapons* (but not to your damage rolls) and subtract the bonus from your *armor class* (lower is better).

Constitution determines your health. Add the bonus to every *hit die* (but never reduce a hit die below 1).

Intelligence determines your education. If you have a positive bonus, it indicates how many *extra languages* you speak.

Wisdom determines how much in tune with the world you are. Add the bonus to your *saving throws against magic* (spells, wands and the like).

Charisma determines how well others react to you, how many retainers and pets will follow you (4 + your bonus) and what their morale will be (7 + your bonus).

CHOOSE YOUR CLASS.

Fighter: you can fight well; you will be able to use magic swords; this is the simplest character to play

Magic User: you can memorize the spells in your spell book but you cannot fight very well; you may be weak at first but if you survive, you will be very powerful

Thief: your skills will improve with time; surprise your enemies and deal double damage

Elf: you can memorize the spells in your spell book and you can fight well but you will advance very slowly; you can see in the dark; elves can live forever; you need a minimum intelligence of 9

Dwarf: you are small but hardy and you can fight well; you sometimes know things about underground constructions; you can see in the dark; you need a minimum constitution of 9

Halfling: you are even smaller than dwarves and you are always barefoot; you can hide well and you are good at throwing and shooting things; you are harder to hit by giants; halflings are nimble; you need a minimum dexterity of 9

A short summary for players:

- 1. roll for your six attributes
- 2. choose your class
- 3. choose first spell, if any
- 4. copy your attack values for level 1
- 5. copy your saving throws for level 1
- 6. roll for hit points
- 7. choose alignment
- 8. roll for money
- 9. buy equipment

When using *ranged weapons*, the damage you roll remains unchanged. This is good for weak characters and bad for strong characters.

Each score comes with a bonus:

Score	Bonus
3	-3
4-5	-2
6–8	-1
9–12	
13-15	+1
16–17	+2
18	+3

What slaughter haunts your dreams? Whom do you hope to meet again in hell?

Who or what taught you sorcery? Why does it damn you?

What do you love about adventure? Who taught you your tricks?

What do you love and hate about humans? What inhuman thing will you do or refrain from doing, again and again?

What feud curses your family? How come your parents wanted a child?

Why did your parents let you go? How do you get over the lack of home and family?

Questions adapted from a Google+post by Judd Karlman.

Fighter

You can fight well. You can use magic swords. This is the simplest class to play.

Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level o	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Level 1–2	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 3	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 4	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Level 5	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
Level 6	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
Level 7–8	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Level 9	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Level 10	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

The to-hit values and saving throws for Level o are for all humans without a class including Torch Bearers and Porters. They also apply for magic users wearing armor or thieves wearing metal armor.

Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles
Level o	17	16	14	15	18
Level 1-3	15	14	12	13	16
Level 4-6	13	12	10	11	14
Level 7–9	9	10	8	9	12
Level 10	7	8	6	7	10

Magic User

You can cast spells from your spell book. Fighting isn't quite your thing. You can use but small knives and clubs. At first you will be weak, but if you survive, you will be very powerful. You may wear no armor nor carry a shield. If you do, you'll fight and save as a level o human and you cannot cast spells.

Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level 1–3	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 4–7	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 8-10	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8

Choose a spell of the first circle from your master's spell book for oell book. The referee will ha your

ir own spell book. The referee will have prepared a list for you.									
Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells				
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles				
Level 1-5	16	13	13	13	14				
Level 6-10	14	11	11	11	12				

Level	Experience Points
1	0
2	2′035
3	4′065
4	8'125
5	16′250
6	32′500
7	65′000
8	120'000
9	240'000
10	360'000

The to-hit table shows what you need to roll on a d20 to hit a particular armor class. In melee, add your strength bonus; when using ranged weapons, add your dexterity bonus.

Level	Experience Points
1	0
2	2′501
3	5′001
4	10'001
5	20'001
6	40′001
7	80'001
8	160'001
9	310'001
10	460′001

If you write your spells on to your character sheet, you won't have to search your notes during the game.

Thieves

You are a Jack of all trades. Your skills will improve over time. You may no armor other than leather and you may carry neither shield nor wear a helmet. If you do, you'll fight and save as a level o human and you cannot use your superior skills.

Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level 1–3	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 4-5	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 6-8	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Level 9–10	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

1	0
2	1'251
3	2′501
4	5'001
5	10'001
6	20'001
7	40'001
8	80'001
9	160'001
10	280'001

Level Experience Points

In the surprise round, you'll deal double damage (roll twice).

Since thieves don't cast spells and don't wear a lot of armor, playing a thief is a bit like playing on skill level HURT ME PLENTY. You have been warned.

Only if you surprise your foes!

Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles
Level 1-4	16	13	14	15	14
Level 5–8	14	11	12	13	12
Level 9–10	12	9	10	11	10

Elf

You can both cast spells from your spell book and fight. You will advance more slowly than your peers. You can see in the dark and you will live forever. You need a minimum intelligence of 9.

Elves cannot rise beyond level 10.

	-									
Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level 1–2	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 3	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 4	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Level 5	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
Level 6	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
Level 7–8	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Level 9	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Level 10	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

Elves speak the common tongue and elvish; they are also somewhat familiar with the languages of gnolls (hyena men), hobgoblins and orcs (pig men).

Level	Experience Points
1	О
2	4'065
3	8'125
4	16′251
5	32′501
6	65'001
7	130'001
8	200'001
9	400'001
10	600'001

Elves can wear all armor, wield all weapons, and cast spells. That makes them very popular. They need much more experience points to gain a level, however. They also have fewer hit points than fighters.

Choose a spell of the first circle from your master's spell book for your own spell book. The referee will have prepared a list for you.

Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles
Level 1-3	15	13	12	13	15
Level 4-6	13	11	10	11	13
Level 7–9	9	9	8	9	11
Level 10	7	7	6	7	9

Halflings

You are very small and walk around barefoot. You can hide well and you're good with ranged weapons. Giants have a hard time hitting you. You need a minimum dexterity of 9.

Halflings cannot rise beyond level 8. Since you're so small, you cannot use any large weapons such as battle axes, two handed swords or polearms. You are smaller than men but faster than dwarves.

Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level 1–2	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 3	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 4	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Level 5	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
Level 6	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
Level 7–8	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

You get an additional +1 bonus for ranged weapons. Your own armor class improves by -2 when fighting opponents larger than humans.

Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles
Level 1-3	13	10	8	9	12
Level 4-6	10	8	6	7	10
Level 7–8	7	6	4	5	8

Level	Experience Points
1	0
2	2′035
3	4'065
4	8'125
5	16′251
6	32′501
7	65′001
8	130′001



Dwarves

You are small, tough, and you know how to fight. You know a lot about constructions underground. You can see in the dark. You need a minimum constitution of 9.

Dwarves cannot rise beyond level 12. Since you're relatively small, you cannot use two handed swords. You are slow.

Armor Class	O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Level 1–2	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Level 3	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
Level 4	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Level 5	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
Level 6	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
Level 7–8	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Level 9	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Level 10	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

Level	Experience Points
1	0
2	2′187
3	4′375
4	8'751
5	17′501
6	35′001
7	70′001
8	140′001
9	280'001
10	400'001

Dwarves are somewhat familiar with the languages of goblins, gnomes and kobolds.

Saving	Dragon Breath	Paralysis	Death	Rays	Spells
Throws	Explosions	Petrification	Poison	Wands	Miracles
Level 1–3	13	10	8	9	12
Level 4–6	10	8	6	7	10
Level 7–9	7	6	4	5	8
Level 10-12	4	4	2	3	6



ROLL FOR HIT POINTS and add your constitution bonus. Fighters and dwarves roll 1d8, magic users and thieves roll 1d4, everybody else rolls 1d6.

Roll 3W6 ×10 gold. Buy some equipment using this gold.

Gold	Your parent's background
30	rag pickers, beggars, slaves, refugees
40-50	outcasts, single parents, artists
60-80	thieves, robbers, scammers
90-120	artisans, craftsmen, peasants
130-150	merchants, priests
160–170	landowners
180	nobles

When gaining a level, reroll one die per level. Add your constitution bonus to every level. A die can not be reduced below 1. Keep your old hit points if the new result is lower.

A good rule of thumb when shopping: a backpack and rations for a week. Half of your remaining gold for armor, shield, and helmet, if possible. Then buy a melee weapon, a ranged weapon and a light source. Thieves need thieves' tools. Buy rope or iron spikes and a hammer for exploration. Some monsters require wooden poles mirrors, holy water or wolfsbane to defeat. Use the remaining money to hire retainers and equip them.

Equipment

Weapon	Gold	Notes	Item	Gold	Notes
Battle axe	7	two handed, smash doors,	Backpack	5	to carry more items
		requires space to swing	Bag (large)	2	to carry more treasure
Hand axe	4	can be thrown	Flask of oil	2	burns for two rounds doing
Crossbow	30	can be used while lying on			1d8 damage when lit using
		the ground and without			a torch; may scare animals
		training (level o humans)	Garlic	1	a string of garlic to keep
30 Quarrels	10				vampires away
Long bow	40	long range, can be used in	Hammer (small)	2	for spikes and stakes
Ü		dense formations	Holy water	25	burns undead like burning
Short bow	25	can be used while riding	•		oil; no torch required
20 Arrows	5	_	Lantern	10	requires a flask of oil to
Dagger	3	can be thrown, can be			burn for 4 h
		hidden	Mirror	5	to identify vampires and
Silver dagger	30	can be used against lycan-			fight medusas
		thropes in animal form	Rations	15	food for one week; may
Short sword	7	can be used in dense			distract animals
		formations	Rope (50 ft)	1	heavy rope that cannot be
Long sword	10	can be used on foot			thrown very far
		against riders and the	Spikes (12)	1	keep doors open or closed;
		other way around, re-			need a hammer
		quires space to swing	Thieves' tools	25	required by thieves to open
Zweihänder	15	two-handed, can be used			locks
		against multiple oppo-	Torches (6)	1	burn for 1 h; may scare
		nents at the same time,			animals
		requires a lot of space	Wolfsbane	10	keeps werewolves away
Club	3	bludgeoning	Wooden pole (10 ft)	1	cheaper than a weapon and
War hammer	5	bludgeoning			useful for poking things
Mace	5	bludgeoning	Wooden stakes (3)	1	to kill vampires; needs a
Pole arm	7	two-handed, can be used			hammer
		from the second rank and			
		in dense formations			
Sling	2	requires a lot of space			
30 sling stones	_	bludgeoning			
Spear	3	can be thrown			



Armor	Class	Gold	Notes
Leather	7	20	sneaking and swimming are no problem
Chain	5	40	no sneaking and no swimming
Plate	3	60	no sneaking and no swimming
Shield	-1	10	can be sacrificed in order to evade an attack
Helmet	_	10	helps against death and dismemberment

Buildings

Some prices for buildings:

small statue for a well	50 gold
normal statue for a garden	100 gold
small stone altar with a spirit gate and a small	250 gold
pond $(2 m \times 2 m)$	
small wooden shop with a place to sleep in the	300 gold
back $(5 \text{ m} \times 5 \text{ m})$	
single story wooden business such as a tavern, a	700 gold
gallery, a gambling den (15 m×15 m)	
large bronze statue for a square	1,000 gold
two story wooden house in a village (15 m×15 m)	1,500 gold
two story stone house in a village (15 m×15 m)	3,000 gold
two story villa with marbel columns and statues	10,000 gold
in a large town (15 m×15 m)	
keep out in the wilderness, six stories (20 m×20 m)	75,000 gold
and a walled courtyard (10 m×20 m)	

Public buildings are a good way to spend gold and earn experience points.



Note that all the larger buildings need gardeners, guards, carpenters and so on for maintenance.

The wages paid for these servants also turn gold into experience points.

Wages

MERCENARIES AND SERVANTS live in the houses, caves, towers and keeps assigned to them. They don't go on adventures.

Category	Wage	Morale
servants, cooks	1 gold/month	6
light infantry	3 gold/month	8
heavy infantry	4 gold/month	8

Light infantry could be robbers with sword, shield and leather armor; heavy infantry could be city guards with sword, shield and chain mail. All off them might have to make morale checks in combat.

RETAINERS accompany their employers on adventure. Your charisma limits the number of retainers (and pets) you may have!

Category	Wages
porters, torchbearers and other unarmed people	5 silver/day
mercenaries and other fighters with level o	1 gold/day
all retainers with a level	½ treasure share

You'll have to decide at the table whether players get to bring all their retainers to an adventure. If there are too many characters to run, fights will take longer and treasure shares will be smaller.

Hiring: Before going on an adventure, one of the player characters can spend 10 gold for town criers and beer in order to attract 1d6 candidates.

Candidates

- a lazy bum
- a water carrier
- a dreamer and a fool 3.
- a poor shepherd
- an apprentice to the kennel master
- 6. a deserter, a former city guard (fighter)
- a former river pirate (fighter)
- 8. a cheating charlatan (magic-user)
- a pilgrim looking for lost shrines (magic-user)
- a hungry thief trying to 10. support a family
- a tough dwarf, disciplined 11. and taciturn
- a halfling running away from debt
- an elf looking for the 13. meaning of life
- an elementalist unable to 14. pay for tuition
- a goblin faking to be a 15. halfling (same stats)

- 16. a torch bearer
- 17. a porter
- a runaway slave 18.
- a hateful hunter 19.
- 20. an apprentice to the stable master
- a grim, one-eyed body 21. guard (fighter)
- a former mercenary 22. (fighter)
- a wandering scholar 23. (magic-user)
- a wandering miracle healer 24. (thief)
- a thief at odds with the 25. local guild
- a crazy tattooed dwarven 26. rune warrior
- a foolish halfling trying to 27. imitate their uncle
- 28. an elf unfit for elven society (why?)
- 29. a lotus monk on a journey to their inner self
- a monster from the sur-30. rounding wilderness (lizard, troll, or frogling)

Porters and similar servants cannot and will not fight. In a pinch, they'll surrender immediately.

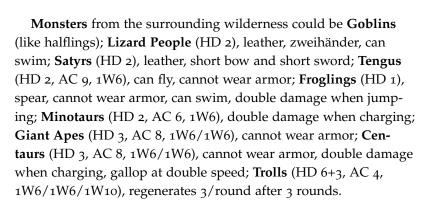
Use the following table to determine gender and age:

- boy 1
- 2 girl
- 3 man
- woman
- elderly man
- elderly woman

Magic users and elves will have a spell book with a random spell:

- read magic
- detect magic
- light
- charm person
- magic missile
- sleep

Elementalists are magic users preferring spells using the four classic elements. You could use Gavin Norman's spell list. Alternatively, you could use the elementalist class described in Gavin's Theorems & Thaumaturgy. If you don't like elementalists, the same book also has spells for vivimancers, necromancers, and illusionists. I also recommend Nathan E. Irving's The Basic Illusionist.



HD: hit dice (1d8 hit points each)

AC: armor class



Alignment

CHOOSE AN ALIGNMENT: Law, Chaos or Neutrality.

The **Priests of Law** say: "Alone we are weak and life is a valley of tears. Together we are strong. Together we build our homes. Together we till our fields. Together we defend our towns and villages. Together are we strong.

We build dams against the flood. We build aqueducts against the drought. We build canals against the plague. We drain the swamps and push back the fever. We fill our granaries and defeat famine.

We punish treachery and reward loyalty. We ensure law and justice. Even if the corruption of chaos and anarchy are on the rise, we have our heavenly order from the highest gods in heaven down to the lowest devils in hell. They make sure that punishment and rewards are not forgotten—not now and not for all eternity.

In our world, everybody has a place and there is a place for everybody—including you. See these books: the knowledge of the elders, the scriptures and tablets of our ancestors. This is our inheritance. Learn as much as you can, work as hard you can. Lift your head, rise! Be a true member of our proud community."

The **Priests of Chaos** say: "Life is Chaos: the weeds in the plowed fields, the orchards gone to woods, the shore worn away by the sea. Chaos is long patterns: the rivers unfurl, the clouds move as they will but each with their own way.

The Elves make homes in the trees, but not by killing them and cutting them into sharp-edged planks then watching those rot and weather. No, they watch for the trees' patterns and shape them slowly and live among them; the tree living, the Elf living.

Order is the hubris that mans' whims can be imposed on the world, and dooms them—man, woman, and child—to a lifetime of wearying burden. Chaos is not the burning of cities, but realizing the foolishness of building such at all. Chaos is not lawlessness, but realizing that men, like trees, have their ways, and to lay laws upon them without acknowledging this, is to cut them down and bury them in plank-sided boxes. Come with me. I know not where I'm going, but we will learn along the way. "

Trying to keep out of this cosmic battle? Choose **Neutrality**. There are no priests of neutrality.

Religious characters can pick a **Patron Deity**.

Orcus: Lord of the Undead, raises the dead

Ishtar: Ency and *amour fou*, war, descent into the Underworld, looking for true love

Nergal: Revenge, vermin, rats, pestilence, lord of the Underworld

Freya: Harvest, Circle of Life, wolves, cats, wilderness, free love

Marduk: Fighting monsters, war lord, ruler

Mitra: Fire, honesty, contracts, oaths Set: Cleverness, subterfuge and murder

Hecate: magic, witches, crossroads



The Chaos Priest's statement was taken from a blog post by Telecanter.

Basic Rules

Some key terms, first.

Player: The people sitting at the table, you, me, our friends.

Character: The people we're playing. My name is Alex and I live in Zürich. My character is called Edrig and hails from Einaheim.

Experience Points (xp): Tricking and defeating oponents grants experience points. Spending money nets you one experience point per gold piece spent. Examples: donations to a temple, erecting a statue, organizing a party, building a manor house, hiring servants, and so on. With enough experience points characters gain new levels.

Level: As time passes, characters hit better, get better saving throws and gain hit points. They gain a level.

Hit Points: Hit points indicate your endurance, luck and will to live. As you gain a level, roll as many dice as you have levels and keep the result if it is is *higher* than your current hit point total. Fighters and dwarves use a d8, magic-users and thieves use a d4, everybody else uses a d6. Do not forget to add your constitution bonus to every die rolled. If your constitution bonus is negative, you'll still get at least 1 hit point for every die. If you *loose* a level, roll as many dice as you have levels and keep the result if it is lower than your current hit point total.

Saving Throw: Targets of spells and miracles are sometimes granted a saving throw in order to avoid negative effects or to reduce damage taken by half. The spell descriptions will explicity mention any saving throws granted. Saving throws depend on your level. To make it, roll a d20 and add your wisdom bonus. You must get number indicated or higher.

Circle: As magic-users and elves gain levels, they get access to higher spell circles - more powerful spells and miracles:

Reaction Roll: The referee will make a reaction roll for almost all creatures characters talk to. Roll 2d6 and add the reaction bonus of the person doing the talking. The result varies from immediate attack (2) to very helpful (12).

Morale: When the opposing side looses a member and when it has lost half of its members, the referee should make a morale check. If 2d6 exceed the morale score, morale breaks and opponents flee. Opponents must make at most two morale checks. Player characters must never check morale. Mercenaries hired by characters must make morale checks when suffering losses. Retainers need not check morale when suffering losses.

As gold turns into experience, the pursuit of treasure is a central element of adventures. Sometimes the simple act of bringing the loot back to safety can be a problem if you weakened and heavily loaded on your way back to

Hit points are a measure of much of a beating a character can take.



Reaction Bonus: This bonus is a bit smaller than the charisma bonus because the reaction roll uses 2d6 instead of a d2o:

Bonus

-2

,	_
4-8	-1
9-1:	2
13-1	7 +1
18	+2
2d6	Reaction
2-5	negative
6–8	neutral
9-12	positive

Charisma

3

Retainers: Unlike mercenaries, retainers are loyal. Their number is limited, however: 4 + charisma bonus (1–7). After disastrous adventures, they'll need to make a Their morale is determined by the player character: 7 + charisma bonus (4–10). If they roll higher than their morale, these retainers will retire.

Experience Points for Opponents Defeated: These will be distributed amonst all the player characters and their retainers. Retainers with no levels reaching 100 experience points will gain their first level and from now on they will demand *half a share* of all treasures gained. Don't forget to determine their attributes and hit points. Their hit points may not fall below their current value. Humans may pick a class.

Retainers gain experience points like a player character. Money from wages and treasure shares can be turned into experience points. Gold (and thus xp) can be passed to other characters as long as the recipient's level is *lower*. Retainers will spend their money as quickly as possible.

Wages must be paid at the end of the session.



Skills

The big table of d6:

Skill	1d6
Default	1
Kick in doors, add your strength bonus	1-2
Trigger, evade or disarm traps	1-2
Dwarfs are better at finding secret constructions	1-2
Dwarves are better at finding traps	1-2
Elves can hear better	1-2
Elves are better at finding secret and concealed doors	1-2
Halflings are better at hiding and sneaking	1-2
Halflings are even better at hiding and sneaking outdoors	1-5
Thieves are better at everything	1-2
Thieves from 3 rd level onwards	1-3
Thieves from 6 th level onwards	1-4
Thieves from 9 th level onwards	1-5

In most cases, no dice need to be rolled. If there is a secret lever behind the statue and the player said their character was looking behind the statue, then said lever will be found. We usuall roll dice when there's some risk involved. When rolling to force doors, the referee will usually roll for a random encounter at the same time.

Thieves improve over time. They'll be faster at opening locks, disarming traps, finding secret doors, moving silently, hiding, hearing, and so on.

Combat

Surprise: Both sides roll a d6. Your side is surprised if you roll a 1 or a 2. If you're surprised, you'll have to skip the first round. If the distance between the two sides isn't obvious, add the two dice and multiply the sum with 10 ft. The result is a distance of 20–120 ft.

Initiative: At the beginning of every round, both sides roll a d6. The higer number begins. On a tie, players begin.

Round: Every round, you can move your movement rate and still do something before or after your move. Typical actions: melee or ranged attack, casting a spell or a miracle, read a scroll, quaff a potion. Getting up also counts as a move. Dropping items you're holding, drawing a weapon or saying things are free.

To-Hit: Roll a twenty-sided die (d20) and see if you hit. Add your strength bonus when making a melee attack. Add your dexterity bonus when making a ranged attack. Don't forget to add any magic bonuses, if you have a magic weapon!

20: If you roll a 20, you score a critical hit which always hit and does max damage.

30: Every player may use the thirty-sided die (d30) in place of a d20 once per session. When rolling to hit, every roll of twenty and above is a critical hit.

Damage: If you hit, roll damage using 1d6. Add your strength bonus when making a melee attack. There is no bonus for ranged attacks.

Shield: When carrying a shield and hit by a melee weapon or a magical force such as a lightning bolt or a fire ball, you may sacrifice the shield such that it absorbs all damage and is destroyed.

Space: In a wide corridor (10 ft) three people can fight side by side. The space required depends on the weapons used, however:

Weapon Characteristic	Space Required	For 10 ft
can be used in dense formations	2½ ft	4 people
normal weapons	31/3 ft	3 people
requires space to swing	5 ft	2 people
requires a lot of space	10 ft	1 person

Protection: When you are attacked, nearby friends can protect you by placing themselves in the line of attack. The attacker will roll to hit your friend instead of you. You can place yourself in the line of at most *one* extra attack per round.

Retreat: When retreating using your movement rate, your opponents can follow you and continue to attack unless somebody is covering your retreat. If you need to move faster, you'll have to flee.

Flee: When running away, you'll have to survive one last round of attacks. All your opponents in melee get one free attack with a +2 bonus.

Your movement rate determines whether surprised opponents can be attacked in the first round.

The worst that can happen is that opponents go twice in a row.

Anything may be *attempted*, but chances of success and the time it takes will be determined at the table based on circumstances.

The description of your class comes with a table where you'll see what you need to roll, depending on your level and the opponent's armor class. Roll that number or higher.

We don't use variable weapon damage. All weapons do 1d6 damage.

At low levels, shields are crucial! Unfortunately, thieves and magic users may not carry shields.



Intelligent monsters can do the same thing and protect each other. Pets cannot place themselves in the line of an attack.

Everybody in melee gets exactly *one* extra attack against fleeing opponents. If you didn't use a melee weapon, you're not in melee and don't get to make an extra attack.

Chase: If you're being chased, roll 2d6. On a 2, you're surprised. On a 3–6, it's a fight. On a 7–9, choose two points from the list. On a 10–11 choose one point. One a 12, you made it, no problem.

- you were separated
- it takes a long time
- you got lost
- you had to drop shields and backpacks

Injury and Death: Hit points are a measure of much of a beating a character can take. Once it falls to zero, and whenever you're hit thereafter, you'll have to roll on the table of *Death & Dismemberment*.

2W6 Result

- 2 Instant Death: Decapitated or other grievous wound
- Fatal Wound: gutted, stabbed through lung, broken back; you'll die in 1d6 rounds
- 4 **Severed Limb**: roll a d4: 1 sword arm, 2 shield arm, 3, 4 leg; you'll die in 3d6 rounds unless you cauterize the wound using fire or stop the bleeding using a tourniquet
- 5 **Broken Bones**: roll a d4: 1 sword arm, 2 shield arm, 3 leg, 4 rib; healing takes 2d4+9 weeks
- 6 **Painful Loss**: roll a d6: 1 nose, 2 eye, 3 ear, 4 finger, 5 d6 teeth, 6 mean cut and ugly scar
- 7, 8 **Unconscious**: knocked out and helpless for 2d6 rounds unless wearing a helmet; with a helmet, stunned for a round
 - 9 Stunned: unable to act for a round; with a helmet, only knocked down
- 10 Knocked Down: knocked down
- 11 no effect: you suffer no additional harm
- Adrenalin Surge: you get 1d4 hit points for every two levels you have (round up); after the fight you'll collapse with zero hit points and faint for 2d6 rounds

Conditions: The *Death & Dismemberment* table imposes various conditions:

Arm Lost or Broken: You can retrain your sword hand, no problem. You'll need a hand to cast spells.

Leg Lost or Broken: You can't walk until you get yourself a wooden leg. You'll never run using a wooden leg.

Rib Broken: No sudden moves with a broken rib or you'll pierce your lung!

Helpless: you can be killed without requiring a roll to hit.

Stunned: you cannot move and you cannot attack, but opponents must still roll to hit.

Knocked Down: opponents get +4 to hit you until you get up; getting up prevents you from moving in the same round.

Optional modifiers: +1 for each of the following: if there are twice as many chasing you, if you have a faster movement rate, if there's a thief in your party, if it rains, if it's dark. -1 for each of the following: if there's an elf or a ranger tracking you, if there are wounded party members with you, if there's snow on the ground.

Only use the modifiers if you remember.

Resurrection is a miracle of the 7th circle and requires a level 13 magicuser. So long as some small portion of the body still exists and you haven't been dead for more more than a hundred years, you can be raised from the dead, fully healed.

Regeneration is also a miracle of the 7th circle and requires a level 13 magic-user. This miracle will regrow missing limbs and mend broken bones. It's less taxing on the magic-user than *Resurrection*.

Raise Dead is a miracle of the 5th circle and requires a level 9 magic-user or elf. This miracle will not regrow missing limbs or broken bones. It simply restores you to life if you died due to hit point loss.

The Death & Dismemberment table was adapted from a blog post by Brian Murphy.

If you loose both arms, you'll need to get yourself a new arm. A mechanical arm made by gnomes will do, if you'll trust them not to pull a prank on you. If you loose both legs, you'll need to find somebody to carry you or magical means of movement.

Movement

Movement Rate: Humans have a movement rate (MV) of 12 that's 120 ft per round (10 s) when running or fighting.

Proceeding slowly and methodically in the underworld slows you down dramatically. MV 12 is only 120 ft per turn (10 min). That's the only way to have a fair chance of drawing maps and avoiding traps.

Carrying Capacity: You can carry as many significant items as your strength. If you carry more, each extra item adds -1 to hit and to saving throws.

Stuff: It takes a lot of small things to count as an item: a hundred gold coins, gems, rings, amulets and the like count as a single Typical movement rates of other creatures: dwarf 6, halfling 9, elf 12, giant weasel 15, dog or wolf 18, panther 21, galloping horse 24, flying hippogryph 36, flying pegasus 48.

Typical items: armor, a weapon, a book, a potion, a torch, a quiver, a scroll. There's no difference between light and heavy items. Clothing, bags or backpacks don't count.

Reputation

Reputation: Fame and honor can be earned everywhere. Even the gods are interested in the deeds of mortals. Reputation is tracked separately for all the gods, towns and factions. The higher your reputation, the harder it is to increase it. In order to gain reputation, roll higher than your current reputation. The starting reputation is o. Thus, the first time reputation increases, no roll is required. Reputation can be good or bad. The gods take an interest in blasphemers, too! Usually, reputation will not change for more than ±1 per session.

Roll an appropriate die depending on the deeds you have done:

- Roll
- d4 Finding and returning or stealing and destroying items of religious significance; saving or sacrificing animals; dedicating or desecrating altars and shrines
- Saving or sacrificing humans, dedicating or desecrating temd6
- d8 rescuing or sacrifice villages and whole communities, found cults or eradicate heresies
- convert, save or sacrifice nations and entire tribes d10
- d12 render a service to the gods

Help: The help of towns and factions may depend on your reputation. Roll 2d6 and compare it to your reputation. If you rolled higher, help is not forthcoming.

Intervention: In an emergency, reputation also acts as the percentage chance for divine intervention.

The referee maintains a list of gods, towns and factions and the respective reputation for each character.

The higher your reputation, the harder it will be to increase.



A divine intervention could mean the appearance of an angel, a devil, demon, a naga, or the like.

Spells

Magic users and elves begin their career with exactly *one* spell in their spell book. When you gain a level, you can learn one or more new spells from your peers. The referee will have at least one source of new spells prepared. You'll find some ideas on the following pages.

Repertoire: The list of spells in your spell book make up your repertoire. When casting a spell, choose a spell from your repertoire. The size of your repertoire is determined by your level:

1st circle	2 nd circle	3 rd circle	4 th circle	5 th circle
1	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-
2	1	-	-	-
2	2	-	-	-
2	2	1	-	-
2	2	2	-	-
3	2	2	1	-
3	3	2	2	-
3	3	3	2	1
3	3	3	3	2
	1 2 2 2 2	1 - 2 - 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2	1	2 2 2 2 1 2 2 2 - 3 2 2 1 3 3 2 2 2

On 1ST LEVEL YOU START with a single spell from your master's spell book. Typically, retainers would have one of the following:

Charm Person turns *one* humanoid creature into a loyal friend. The target is granted a saving throw vs. spells. As time passes, more saving throws are granted to the target:

Intelligence	Timeframe
3-8	monthly
9–12	weekly
13–18	daily

Detect Magic makes all enchanted items, creatures and locations within *60 ft* shine with a pale blue light for *20 min*.

Light enchants one object within 120 ft for 1 h + 10 min/level so that it shines faint light with a 15 ft radius.

Magic Missile hits any visible target within $150 \, ft$ and causes 1W6+1 damage. At 5^{th} level, *three* missiles can be shot at the same time and they hit different targets. At 10^{th} level, *five* missiles can be shot.

Read Magic allows you to decipher magical runes for *10 min*. This is how to read spell books, scrolls and magical inscriptions.

Sleep puts 2W8 hit dice of creatures within 240 ft to sleep for $4W4 \times 10$ min. This is a magical slumber. They need to be slapped in order to wake them before the spell ends. No creature may have more than 4+1 hit dice. Creatures with less hit dice are affected first.

Magic users and elves will often stay close to their former master and keep learning new spells from them, often in exchange for services rendered. This is why most of them will simply have a subset of their master's spell book.

An alternative to that is **Research**. This requires a starting point such as an existing a scroll, spell book or magic item, and a library of further books about the origins of magic, related spells, history and lore, and so on. The magic user or elf must have attained level 9 and spend 1,000 gold and two weeks per spell level researching (no adventuring).

The table determines both the number of spells you can cast *per day* and the number of spells *in your repertoire*.

Undead and giants may be humanoid but they're still immune to this charm.

The pale blue light is visible to all.

If you target the eyes of a creature, it will go blind for as long as the spell lasts. Blind creatures are at -4 to hit. Targets are granted a saving throw vs. spells.

There is no saving throw!

There is no saving throw!

Priests of Freya

Freya is the goddess of winter, of spring, of fertility, of grain, of war, of cats, of magic. She leads the valkyries and collects half the slain in battle. They dine with her in Sessrúmnir.

Circle	Spell Name	Traditional Name	
1	Watchful Eye of the Keeper	detect evil	
1	Scent of Sorcery	detect magic	
1	Weather the Storm	resist cold	
2	Language of Animals	speak with animal	
2	Sound of Silence	silence 15' radius	
2	Paralysis of Men	hold person	
3	Light of the Moon	continual light	
3	Weapon of the Gods	striking	Limited polymorph self means: You can
3	Wolf Shape	limited polymorph self	only turn into a white wolf: AC 6 2d4
4	Honey of the Valkyries	neutralize poison	MV 15
4	Wall of Ice	wall of ice	
4	Curse of the Völva	curse and remove curse	
5	The Path to Sessrúmnir	raise dead and ray of death	
5	Freya's Quest	quest	

Priests of Marduk

Marduk is the patron of war chariots, of war lords, of might, of lightning, of punitive justice, of commandments and stone tablets. Marduk is popular in big cities and the dwarves love him as well.

Circle	Spell Name	Traditional Name	
1	Bolt of Power	magic missile	
1	Protection from Harm	shield	
1	Voice of the Ruler	charm person	
2	Club of Law	limited striking	Limited striking means: You can only
2	Courage of Marduk	bless	enchant a club that you're wielding
2	Eyes of the Overlord	detect invisible	yourself for an extra 1d6.
3	Bolt of Lightning	lightning bolt	
3	Protection from Hail	protection from normal missiles	
3	Wings of God	fly	Chariot of Fire summons a flying,
4	Chariot of Fire	new spell	flaming scythed chariot dealing 2d6
4	Voice of the Master	charm monster	each to anybody you ride past, save
4	Wall of Fire	wall of fire	vs. wands for half damage. It holds three people. The chariot is yours to
5	Eyes of Truth	true seeing	command for 8h. MV 18.
5	Melting Walls	transmute rock to mud	

Book of the Sea

Lady Geradana has ruled the coastal elves of Lagnabadalë for over 250 years. This is her spell book. These are very traditional spells.

Circle	Spell Name	Traditional Name
1	Secrets of the Elven Voice	charm person
1	Rune Magic of Our Elders	read magic
1	Drowzy Lull of Waves	sleep
2	Searching My Feelings	ESP
2	Eternal Starlight	continual light
2	The Language of Fish	speak with animals
3	Lightning Storm	lightning bolt
3	Secrets of Whales	water breathing
3	Eye of the Storm	protection from normal missiles
4	Shape Changing	polymorph
4	Banes and Boons	remove curse
4	Flash Flood	new spell
5	Supremacy of the Will	telekinesis
5	Summon Living Storm	conjure elemental

When water breathing, you can speak the language of whales.

As is typical for elves, her favorite shape to *polymorph* into is a blue dragon. At level 9, its stats are AC o 1d6+1/1d6+1/3d10 MV 24; at level 10 its stats are AC -1 1d8/1d8/4d8 MV 24.

A *flash flood* will create a sudden flood from a body of water within 30 ft. Anybody caught by it must save vs. death or be swept away. If wearing metal armor, save vs. death again or drown within a minute or two.

When *conjuring an elemental*, she prefers to summon an air elemental called *Flying Debris*, HD 16 AC -2 3d8 F16 MV 36; plus 1d8 vs. flying creatures; requires a save vs. death to approach; immune to non-magical weapons; will attack summoner and remain on this plane if the conjurer's concentration fails.

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