

Materials

- 6d6 six dice, each with six sides
- A timer
- A recording device
- 2+ players, including GM
- Materials for recording lyrics
e.g. paper and pencil, document and keyboard, tablet and stylus

Gameplay

An earworm is a song that has magical effects. The effects of an earworm are determined by their lyrics' relevance to the earworm's intended effects.

Anytime a player wants to take an action that would be contested or challenging, the GM decides on a difficulty, then rolls **1d6-4d6** depending on the difficulty they chose.

Simple	Manageable	Difficult	Impossible
1d6	2d6	3d6	4d6

After the GM rolls, the player then rolls **1d6**. The difference between the rolls determines the roll's efficacy (i.e. subtracting the GM's roll from the player's). The player may add **1d6** to their roll for each bonus they choose to fulfill.

Failure

...but, ...and,
-6, -5 -4, -3 -2, -1

Success

...but, ...and,
1, 2 3, 4 5, 6

Bonuses (+1d6 each)

- + The player is using an earworm
- + The earworm has a rhyme scheme
- + The earworm is not a couplet
- + The player performs the earworm
- + The earworm has a verse and a chorus

If the player wants to cast an earworm, they get a minute to do so. If the player is preparing an earworm, they must make an audio recording to play back when they cast it. The GM may set a longer timer for the player to cast or record, depending on how much pressure the player is under. Recordings can be played once before they have no effect.

Example Earworms

"Oh Sigrid the Mighty lept so high in the air,
her foes could do nothing but cry in despair!"

"My voice lilts to you like the breeze,
So calm it must fill you with ease,
So don't start a riot, stay peaceful and quiet,
And if you can't do that, just freeze."

"You better watch out, or else I'm gonna scorch 'ya,
all this fire I'm spittin', straight lyrical torture!"

Musicking on MARS

You are a **magical musician** on
32nd century mars who has
perfected the long-outlawed
art of the **earworm**.

Scenarios

- 1 Stealing supplies
- 2 Search and rescue
- 3 Battle of the bands
- 4 Bounty hunt
- 5 Prison break
- 6 Defending a compound

Rhyme Schemes

Couplet: _____ AA
Limerick: _____ AABBA
Octave: _____ ABBA
Ballad: _____ ABCB
Cinquain: _____ ABABB
This is not an exhaustive list

Author's Notes

Several things in this document are left deliberately vague. For example, a musician could "perform" an earworm through song, spoken word, instrumental music, sign language, text art, interpretive dance, and more.

The setting is also intentionally vague. What does 32nd century mars mean to you? What does it mean for earworms to be "outlawed"? Are you hiding your musical abilities, or do you flaunt them? All of these and more are your decisions to make.