15 The College of Illusions (Ver 1.4)

The College of Illusions is concerned with truth, deception and sensation. Practitioners of the College (or Art) of Illusions are called Illusionists. This College is one of extremes, of subtlety and flamboyance, and especially of deception and honesty. Illusionists are taught that they are privy to one of the most potent truths known to the sentient races, namely that our senses are the only window to the existence of reality. Based on this doctrine, they change the appearance of reality rather than the actual nature. This often leads to more impressive but superficial effects than other Colleges. These effects have meant that Illusionists have historically been associated with stage magicians and sleight-of-hand artists, which has degraded their status in the eyes of other Adepts. Most accept their stage heritage, and revel in the layers of deception involved in revealing a great truth to their audience. Some, however, become enmeshed within their own fantasy and fail to differentiate between this and reality. Others deny this deception totally, and turn to death as the only fixed point in a changing world. These Adepts use people's dependency on their senses to cause death and despair.

Traditional Colours

The more flamboyant of the Illusionists will often wear bright, even garish clothing incorporating as many colours as possible. These colours will usually not clash, but the Illusionist wearing them will stand out in any crowd. At the very least, most Illusionists will wear extremes of colours; fire, blood, sable, snow, charcoal, emerald, gold, etc.

Traditional Symbols

The College of Illusions is associated with a plethora of symbols adopted from individual performers. Theatrical symbology is common.

On Illusions

Most Magics in this College are Illusions. Illusions cannot be "disbelieved"; the images are there and will interact with light and sound in the same manner as the objects they represent. Mirrors and light sources may not be created. Unless stated, the Illusions will not be substantial, and any solid objects or spells will pass through them. Illusions will interact with each other as if real. Illusion spells may be dispelled by anyone with the appropriate counterspell, although Illusions on an entity gains their passive magic resistance.

15.1 Restrictions

Adepts of the College of Illusions may practice their arts without restrictions.

The MA requirement for becoming an Adept of the College of Illusions is 13.

15.2 Base Chance Modifiers

The Base Chance of performing any talent, spell or ritual of the College of Illusions may be modified by conditions.

As the successful performance of Illusion magic is as much finesse and presentation as raw power, a knowledge of the Performing Arts is considered essential by many Adepts. Furthermore, willing a change in reality to the level of detail necessary for deception, requires good concentration and Willpower. The following conditions modify the base chances of the College of Illusions:

For each point the Adept's Willpower varies $$\pm/-1$$ from 15

For each two full Ranks in Troubadour + 1

15.3 Talents

Concealed Casting (T-1)

Experience Multiple: 150

Effects: This Talent allows the Adept to cast without any apparent movement or noise. The Adept may not speak or make meaningful or extravagant actions.

They may not cast without a hand free or if mute. If an observer is intent on the Adept (e.g. in conversation with), the observer may make a $(2 \times PC)$ - Rank check to notice. All aspects of the Spell (including Base Chance) must be cast at the lower of the Talent's and Spell's ranks, and the Base Chance is further reduced by 20%. The Talent only functions with spells of the College of Illusions.

Enhanced Vision (T-2)

Experience Multiple: 225

Effects: The Adept may see through any obscurement such as smoke, dust, water, fog, cloud or rain (though not darkness) to a distance of 10 feet (+ 10 / Rank) as if unobscured. Normal penalties then accrue from this range. The Adept may see objects or entities that are invisible - they appear to have a slight blue sheen around them. If the invisibility effect (excluding Walking Unseen) is of a higher Rank than the Enhanced Vision, the object or entity may not be clearly identified or directly magically targeted. The Adept has a Base Chance of PC (+ 5 / Rank) of Detecting Illusions if they take a Pass Action — each Illusion may only be checked once. Detecting an Illusion does not nullify its effects.

Project Image (T-3)

Experience Multiple: 200

Effects: This Talent creates a visual Illusion of the Adept, who becomes Invisible as per (G-4) except that attacking in melee will always disrupt this Talent. Initially, the image forms over the Adept. The image will reflect the current appearance of the Adept, in any desired stance. The image may only be changed or moved (at TMR) when the Adept takes a pass action. The image must remain in line of sight and within 15 feet (+ 15 / Rank), and may not pass through solid objects. At Rank 5, the image may make appropriate environmental noises, e.g. footsteps. At Rank 10, the Adept may move while maintaining the relative distance and direction to their image. At Rank 15, the Adept may project their voice through the image. At Rank 20, the Illusionist may also see through the image. The abilities gained at Ranks 15 and 20 require pass actions to use.

15.4 General Knowledge Spells

Audile Illusion (G-1)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank
Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank
Experience Multiple: 125
Base Chance: 30%

Base Chance: 30 Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Area

Effects: This Illusion allows the Adept to create up to Rank simple sounds, each coming from a location fixed either absolutely or relative to an object. Whilst taking a pass action, the Adept may cause any combination of these sounds to occur. Sounds and locations are defined as they are first used, not at time of casting. No language or musical instrument may be imitated. The maximum volume at Ranks 0–4 is that of a stage whisper (usually clearly audible at 25'), at Ranks 5–9, normal conversation (50'), at Ranks 10–14, shouting (200'), at Ranks 15–19, screaming (500'), and at Rank 20, thunder (1 mile). The range at which the sound will be clearly heard is affected by the ambient level of noise.

Flash of Light (G-2)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: Immediate Experience Multiple: 150 Base Chance: 20% Resist: Passive Storage: Potion Target: Self

Effects: This spell creates a blinding flash of light emanating from the Adept's body. This light is magical in nature, and may cut through areas of magical darkness. All entities not shielded by a solid object and within range must either resist or be blinded for 5 seconds (+ 5 / 2 full Ranks). Blinded characters have their Strike Chance reduced by 50, and they move at half their normal TMR. The Adept is normally not affected by this spell.

Illusion of Food (G-3)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 100

Base Chance: 50% Resist: None Storage: Investment Target: Object

Effects: The Adept may change the taste, appearance and smell of up to 1 cubic foot of food or drink (+ 1 / Rank). At Rank 11, the Adept may create (Rank - 10) pounds of food or drink. This magically created food will recover fatigue for the duration of the spell. The Adept's Cooking Rank will effectively be improved by 2, or to a minimum of Rank / 2. No other properties (e.g. poison, magic) may be changed or created with this spell.

Invisibility (G-4)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 5 minutes + 5 / Rank Experience Multiple: 450 Base Chance: 30%

Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Potion, Ward

Target: Entity or Object

Effects: The target is made invisible, but cannot melee attack without becoming visible. At Rank 16, the target can attack in melee whilst invisible. The target may become visible at will. Once they have become visible, the spell ends. The effects of this spell are identical to the E & E College spell of the same name.

Personalised Illusion (G-5)

Range: 30 feet + 30 / Rank Duration: 1 hour + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 75 Base Chance: 40% Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Area

Effects: This Illusion creates an image of a specific type peculiar to the Adept. At Rank 0, the image must be of a rock. At each of Ranks 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20, another image may be chosen. The Adept may select the colouring, size and conformation of the image at cast time (e.g. a closed iron chest, or an open wooden casket) up to a maximum diameter of 5' and height of 8'. The Illusion is not affected by physical laws except that it is opaque to light. The Adept may move or rotate (though not manipulate) the Illusion by taking a pass action. The workmanship is as if the Adept were an Artisan of one-third

Illusion of Seeming (G-6)

Range: 5 feet + 5 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200

Base Chance: 20%
Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward Target: Object or Illusion

Effects: This Illusion creates a visual image of up to 2 cubic foot (+ 2 / Rank) on an object, which will move with the object if the object changes shape or position, and dissipate if the object is destroyed. The Adept may move or change the image by taking a pass action to concentrate on it. The object has not been changed, and still has its original physical properties. The workmanship is as if the Adept were an Artisan of one-third Rank.

If the target is an Illusion, the target may be changed

to any other form that it could normally take. Up to 1 cubic foot of the target (+ 1 / Rank) may be changed during each pass action. This change will revert if the Seeming ceases before the target Illusion. The Adept may only affect their own Illusions.

Static Illusion (G-7)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 30 minutes + 30 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200

Base Chance: 30% Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Area

Effects: This spell creates a visual Illusion within a volume no larger than (Rank + 3) feet by (Rank / 2 + 2) feet by (Rank / 3 + 1) feet. The Illusion is fixed at casting, and may not be changed or moved with this spell. The workmanship is as if the Adept were an Artisan of one-half Rank.

Illusionary Wall (G-8)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 30 minutes + 30 / Rank Experience Multiple: 125

Base Chance: 20% Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Area

Effects: This spell creates an Illusion of a non-solid, linear or smoothly curved wall. It may have all the characteristics of any other wall spell (except solidity, damage or fear), or mimic an adjacent surface instead. The wall is 20' by 10' by 12", with each Rank altering its height or width by 2' or thickness by 4". The wall must be attached along the entirety of one of its thinnest edges.

15.5 General Knowledge Rituals

Illusionary Cloaking (Q-1)

Range: 5 feet + 5 / Rank Duration: 6 hours + 6 / Rank Experience Multiple: 100 Base Chance: 40% + 4% / Rank

Target: Area Cast Time: 1 hour Material: None

This ritual creates a subtle visual Illu-Effects: sion over all non-living matter within range according to the Adept's wishes. Only surface appearance is changed, and this ritual does not provide invisibility. This means that objects will retain their silhouette, and the Illusion will fill the same volume as the object. The new appearance will fade over the last hour of the duration. The workmanship is as if the Adept were an Artisan of one-half Rank.

Illusory Fog (Q-2)

Range: 30 feet + 30 / Rank Duration: 1 hour + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 75 Base Chance: 40% + 4% / Rank

Target: Area

Cast Time: 30 minutes

Material: None

Effects: This ritual creates Illusory fog to a height of 10 feet + 2 / Rank within range. The fog will rise within five minutes of the ritual's completion, centred on the spot where the Adept performed the ritual. The fog has a visibility of 20 hexes (- 1 / Rank).

15.6 Special Knowledge Spells

Illusionary Animal (S-1)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 150

Base Chance: 35% Resist: None Storage: None Target: Area

Effects: An Illusion of a non-magical, non-sentient creature of no larger than 10 lb + 10 lb × Rank squared is created. The Illusion will have the instincts of the creature it is based on, though it will obey most simple mental instructions from the Adept. This communication is one-way, and may only occur while the animal is within range of the spell. No other communication is possible - it has no mind. The animal has the minimum PS, MD, AG, TMR and PC for the selected creature. The animal is solid, and can bear weight. It cannot attack effectively, nor cause fear. Only creatures previously observed by the Adept may be created. Smell, sound and feel are created as appropriate. If damaged, the Illusion is dissipated. The Adept may perceive through the animal's senses as follows: Rank 3 taste; Rank 7 smell; Rank 11 touch; Rank 15 hearing; Rank 19 sight.

Illusionary Bolt (S-2)

Range: 15 feet + 5 / RankDuration: 5 seconds + 5 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200 Base Chance: 30% Resist: Active, Passive Storage: Investment Target: Entity, Object or Area

Effects: An Illusion of any dangerous-looking object of "throwable" size is created in the Adept's hand. When thrown, it flies in a straight line, doing (D-2) + 1 / 2 full Ranks magical damage to the first Entity or object struck. Illusions take double damage from this

Illusory Creation (S-3)

Range: Touch

Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 250

Base Chance: 20% Resist: None Storage: Investment

Target: Area

Effects: This spell creates the Illusion of one small object. The object will have the physical attributes of one of the following: cloth, leather, wood, bronze; to a maximum of 1 lb (+ 1 / 3 full Ranks). The object will be of a single form, with no moving or removable pieces, though of any combination of colours. The object will interact normally with its surrounds. The workmanship is as if the Adept were an Artisan of one-third Rank.

Illusion of Deep Pockets (S-4)

Range: Self

Duration: 1 hour + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200 Base Chance: 40% Resist: None

Storage: Potion Target: Entity

Effects: This Illusion creates 1 magical pocket (+ 1 / Rank) about the Adept's clothing. Each pocket can hold an object with a largest dimension of no more than 1 inch (+ 1 / Rank). No entity can be placed in a pocket. The total weight held may not exceed 1 lb (+ 1 / Rank), and no individual object can weigh more than half this amount. The pockets are not obvious, but thorough investigation may find them: searchers get a (2 × PC) - Rank check to notice. Items within the pockets may not be located by spells of a lesser rank. The pockets may only be accessed while the Adept is clothed; however, a new set of clothes will still contain the pockets. At the end of the spell, the pockets expel their contents.

Disguise Illusion (S-5)

Range: Touch

Duration: 1 hour + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200 Base Chance: 20% Resist: Active, Passive

Storage: Investment, Potion, Ward

Target: Entity

Effects: The Adept may change the target's appearance. The target may not be located by location spells of a lesser rank. The target's height may vary by 1% / Rank, and their weight by 2% / Rank. The target's voice or clothing may be changed at Rank 5 or both of these at Rank 10; an individual may be duplicated or gender or race changed at Rank 15; or two of these at Rank 20. If clothes are included in the spell, they revert to normal if discarded. The disguised form has the PB of the target +/- 2 / 3 full Ranks, within racial

Illusionary Euphonia (S-6)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 150 Base Chance: 25%

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Resist: None Target: Area

Effects: This Illusion creates the sound of harmonious voices or musical instruments. One instrument (+ 1 / 3 full Ranks) may be played; or one voice (+ 1 / 6 full Ranks) may speak or sing. Each may come from a different location fixed either absolutely or relative to an object. The effective rank of the performance or conversation is Rank/2, to a maximum of the Adept's rank in the instrument or language. Pass actions are required for musical performance at a skill level above Rank/5, or conversation. The maximum volume at Ranks 0-4 is that of a stage whisper (usually clearly audible at 25'), at Ranks 5-9, normal conversation (50'), at Ranks 10-14, shouting (200'), at Ranks 15-19, screaming (500'), and at Rank 20, thunder (1 mile). The range at which the sound will be clearly heard is affected by the ambient level of noise

Hallucination (S-7)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 225

Base Chance: 25% Resist: Active, Passive

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Entity

Effects: This spell enables the Adept to select 1 entity (+ 1 / 3 full Ranks) as an audience for their Illusions. Whenever the Adept casts an Illusion, they must decide whether everyone can perceive it, or just the targets of this spell. This spell does not circumvent any resistance checks by the targets. The Illusion must be cast during the duration of this spell although the effects may last after the Hallucination duration has expired.

Heroism (S-8)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200

Base Chance: 30% Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Potion

Target: Entity

This spell charges the target with great might and heroism. They seem taller and stronger, and their actions gain a natural grace and power. All allies (in line-of-sight) led by the target gain a bonus die modifier of 1 (+ 1 / Rank) to all fear checks, while neutral observers gain a bonus of 1 (+ 1 / Rank) to reaction rolls. The target gains a defence bonus of 1% + 1% / Rank.

Illusion of Innocence (S-9)

Range: 1 foot + 1 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 250 Base Chance: 30% Resist: Active

Storage: Investment, Potion Target: Entity

Effects: This Illusion changes the mien of 1 entity (+ 1 / 4 full Ranks). This influences the initial reactions of all entities who perceive the target: they will react as if the target is an innocent (this does not necessarily mean a favourable reaction). The spell does not force people to act stupidly - if the target does not act appropriately, their opinion may be revised rapidly. Extreme behaviour terminates these effects. For example, should a target prepare a weapon, cast a passively resistible spell, or attack, the spell will dissipate.

Maze (S-10)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 5 seconds + 5 / Rank Experience Multiple: 450 Base Chance: 1%

Resist: Active, Passive

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Entity

Effects: The target is transported into a hedge-maze of perpetual fog, where they may wander as they will. The hex that they occupied is filled with opaque mist that disperses in 5 seconds. At the end of the spell, the target reappears in their original hex (they are displaced by solids but displace fluids); any items dropped inside the maze reappear along with the target. Whilst in the maze, they must make a 2 × WP check each pulse to perform a non-pass action. Personal magical effects continue, (e.g. while a Phantasm would follow the target into the maze, Agony wouldn't). For all purposes, the Maze is deemed to be on the same plane that the target just disappeared from. Each target appears within their own unique Maze. The Adept may still see (and thus cast upon) the target, but not physically contact them.

Illusion of Metamorphosis (S-11)

Range: 1 foot + 1 / Rank
Duration: 5 minutes + 5 / Rank
Experience Multiple: 225
Base Chance: 15%
Resist: Active, Passive
Storage: Investment, Potion

Target: Entity

Effects: The target's appearance alters to that of a one hex creature of at least (target's PS + EN) pounds, over a period of 5 seconds. Their actual form and characteristics do not change. They do not gain any special abilities (e.g. poison, magic, fear, flight) associated with that animal. The Adept must be familiativith the desired animal. The spell will cease when the target takes effective Endurance damage. Creatures available by Rank:

Rank 0 Small Land Animals;

Rank 4 Felines, Apes & Prehumans;

Rank 8 Avians, Fish, Lizards & Snakes;

Rank 12 Horses, Large Land Animals;

Rank 16 Earth Dwellers, Fairy Folk, Humans;

Rank 20 Giants.

Illusion of Mist (S-12)

Range: 20 feet + 20 / Rank Duration: 10 minutes + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 100 Base Chance: 30%

Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Ward

Target: Area

Effects: The Adept creates an Illusion of 1000 cubic feet of mist (+ 500 / Rank) of any shape entirely within the Adept's range. The mist must be least 1 foot in any dimension and may have detail no finer than one foot in size. The visibility in this mist is 20 feet (-1 / Rank). The mist is not affected by wind. By taking a pass action, the Adept may move the mist up to 1 hex / pulse so long as it remains within range.

Illusion of Multiple Images (S-13)

Range: 1 foot + 1 / Rank Duration: 1 minute + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200 Base Chance: 20% Resist: None

Storage: Investment, Potion

Target: Entity

Effects: One image of the target (+ 1 / 5 full Ranks)

appears in the target's hex. Each image disappears upon receiving damage. All images are identical to the target, and will imitate their actions faithfully. The images have the same defence as the target, but no magic resistance. Any targeted attack has an equal chance of hitting each image and the target. More than one image may be struck by a multi-target or area effect attack.

Nightmare Illusion (S-14)

Range: 15 feet + 15 / Rank Duration: 10 seconds + 10 / Rank Experience Multiple: 400

Base Chance: 5% Resist: Passive

Storage: Investment, Ward, Magical Trap

Target: Area

Effects: The Adept creates a terrifying, hostile and dangerous Illusion. The Nightmare is initially under the Adept's control, and will obey their commands until the Adept's concentration is broken or the Nightmare is slain or dissipated. The Nightmare is totally insubstantial and invisible to all who resist. The Nightmare has a combined EN and FT of 20 (+ 5 / 2 full Ranks), but no defence or armour. It can automatically hit up to two different targets a pulse for [D - 2] (+ 1 / 2 full Ranks) magical damage. It has a TMR of 10 and an Initiative of 30 (+ 2 / Rank). It may not be stunned. At Rank 15, every target must make a fear check upon first being struck. The Nightmare may move in any direction without restriction, including through air, walls, water, etc. except through the area of an Illusion Special counterspell. If concentration is lost, the Nightmare will attempt to kill as many people as possible, and can not be controlled by any means.

15.7 Special Knowledge Rituals

Illusionary Aura (R-1)

Range: 5 feet

Duration: 1 day + 1 / Rank Experience Multiple: 200 Base Chance: 30% + 3% per Rank

Target: Entity
Cast Time: 1 hour
Material: None

Effects: This ritual creates an Illusion to alter the Aura of the target. The target's apparent Aura is altered by fooling the DA, DE or Divination with a stereotype defined in Rank + 1 words, e.g. Rank 4 - "Master Thatcher and Evil Necromancer". The questioner then receives appropriate answers based on the stereotype; if the question is not covered by the stereotype, the real answer is returned. The Illusory Aura will not hide information, merely alter it. The Ritual of Warding is not affected.

Illusionary Terrain (R-2)

Range: 5 feet + 5 / Rank
Duration: 2 hours + 2 / Rank
Experience Multiple: 150
Base Chance: MA + 3% per Rank
Target: Area

Target: Area Cast Time: 1 hour Material: None

Effects: This ritual creates an Illusion such that observers outside the range can not sense any sign of entities or their trappings within the area. Temporary campsites will not be seen and permanent dwellings appear deserted and dilapidated. However, some effects may be seen, e.g. the smoke and light of a campfire rising above the ritual's range. The ritual will not hide entities from each other if both are outside the effect, even if the area lies between them. Magic that is not targeted on entities or their possessions may not be hidden through this ritual. Any Location or Scrying magic lower than the Rank of Illusionary Terrain may not detect into the ritual's area.

Permanency (R-3)

Range: 5 feet Duration: Permanent Experience Multiple: 550 Base Chance: MA + 2% per Rank Target: Spell or Ritual

Cast Time: 1 hour Material: Special

Effects: The Adept can make any one of their own Illusion spells or rituals permanent. The Illusion must have sufficient duration to last throughout the ritual. Once an Illusion has been made permanent, no changes are possible. The Illusion may be overridden by any similar spell for the duration, rather than queueing. Ingredients costing 5,000sp (- 200 / Rank) are consumed upon success or backfire. The ritual is removable by a Ritual of Dissipation or the Adept's own Special Knowledge counterspell.