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Contents

How To Play
Some Other Stuff
Descriptors
Types
Foci
The Force

How To Play

The rules of the Cypher System are quite straightforward at their heart, as all of gameplay is based around a few core concepts. This chapter provides a brief explanation of how to play the game, and it's useful for learning the game.

The Cypher System uses a twenty-sided die (1d20) to determine the results of most actions. Whenever a roll of any kind is called for and no die is specified, roll a d20. The game master sets a difficulty for any given task. There are ten degrees of difficulty. Thus, the difficulty of a task can be rated on a scale of 1 to 10.

Each difficulty has a target number associated with it. The target number is always three times the task's difficulty, so a difficulty 4 task has a target number of 12. To succeed at the task, you must roll the target number or higher.

Character skills, favorable circumstances, or excellent equipment can decrease the difficulty of a task.

For example, if a character is trained in climbing, she turns a difficulty 6 climb into a difficulty 5 climb. This is called decreasing the difficulty by one step. If she is specialized in climbing, she turns a difficulty 6 climb into a difficulty 4 climb. This is called decreasing the difficulty by two steps.

Some Other Stuff

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Descriptors

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Types

Players may choose from the following types for their characters: Soldier, Scout, Scoundrel or Noble.

Soldier

The general warrior.

Scout

The fast, typically stealthy operative.

Scoundrel / Noble

The silver-tongued smuggler or diplomat.

Foci

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The Force

Unlike the Star Wars Saga rule set and other homebrew systems, these rules do not restrict force sensitivity to a particular class; force sensitivity is instead treated as an additional skill tree that can be pursued by players at the DM's discretion.