OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS CLASSIC FANTASY







Writing, design, layout: Gavin Norman Cover art: Sam Mameli Interior art: Sam Mameli

Text and design © Gavin Norman 2020. Illustrations © Sam Mameli 2020. Dimitri © Fontalicious – Derivative Versions © Font Bros. – www.fontbros.com. Economica © TipoType – Derivative Versions © Font Bros. – www.fontbros.com. *Old-School Essentials* is a trademark of Necrotic Gnome.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About this Book	5	Kargor "Viperhand"	16
Bonesmith	6	Scamp	17
Grog	7	Rhian	18
Wispo	8	Dreg	19
Sarge	9	Hollow One	20
Cherry	10	Min	21
Sprig	11	Snipe	22
Lucky	12	Bran "the Wolf"	23
Blaine	13	Higgley	24
Greedo	14	Gordo	25
Swan	15	Neem	26





About this Book

What's in this Book?

This book contains a set of 21 pre-generated 1st level characters. 21 may seem like a rather odd number to choose; why not 20? The reason for there being precisely 21 characters is that there is one of each alignment (i.e. lawful, neutral, chaotic) and each character class in *Classic Fantasy: Genre Rules* (i.e. cleric, dwarf, elf, fighter, halfling, magic-user, thief). Three times seven.

Pre-Generated Characters for Players

When selecting a character from the set presented in this book, a common instinct is to pay primary attention to the characters' ability scores. A high score in one ability or another may look extremely appealing, on the surface.

It is worth remembering, however, that ability scores have relatively little impact in *Old-School Essentials*. Instead, players are encouraged to pick a character whose illustration, background, and equipment they find appealing, rather than focusing on the characters' numerical stats.

Experience shows that player skill and pure luck have a much greater influence on the survival rate of a 1st level PC than do high or low ability scores.

Pre-Generated Characters for Referees

A set of pre-generated characters is also a highly valuable resource for referees. The two most obvious uses are as follows.

Potential Retainers

When player characters look for retainers to join them on an adventure, the referee may wish to present the player with a selection of one or more of the characters in this book as applicants. It is recommended that each character request a flat fee of 1d4gp per day of service, plus a half share of treasure. (See *Retainers* in *Core Rules* for full details on hiring and paying retainers.)

Rival Adventurers

A referee who needs a quickly generated and yet fully detailed party of NPC adventurers can simply select a few of the characters in this book. The absolutely quickest method of selecting characters for an adventuring party is by alignment: a party consisting of seven lawful, neutral, or chaotic NPCs, one of each character class.

How These Characters Were Created

Certified 3d6-in-Order

The ability scores of the characters in this book were generated strictly using the standard character creation rules presented in *Old-School Essentials Core Rules*. Ability scores were generated by rolling 3d6 for each stat, in order, then points were reassigned to increase the prime requisite, as applicable.

This procedure results in a wide spread of ability scores, with some characters naturally fitter than others.

Hit Points

Hit points were rolled using the standard Hit Die of the appropriate class, modified by CON as usual. The optional rule of re-rolling 1s and 2s was used, ensuring that all characters have at least a moderate chance of surviving damage.

Equipment Selection

Conversely, the characters' equipment was *not* selected by the standard procedure (i.e. rolling $3d6 \times 10$ for gold and buying equipment from the lists in *Classic Fantasy: Genre Rules*). Instead, equipment was assigned to the characters purely on the basis of what seemed fitting and flavourful.

Minor Magical Trinkets

In addition to standard armour, weapons, and adventuring gear, each character possesses an odd item of some minor magical potency. These range from highly useful one-shot items (e.g. holy water) to minor charms (e.g. granting a small bonus to a saving throw) to objects of miscellaneous and strange power. Players are encouraged to find creative uses for objects of the latter sort.



Ability Scores

STR	9	I	DEX	13
INT	9	C	ON	15
WIS	18	Q	CHA	5

Ability check: *Roll under or equal on 1d20*

COMBAT



NESMIT

Lawful 1st level Cleric

SAVING THROWS



WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20





DEX modifier to *initiative* (optional)



CHA modifier to reaction rolls

20' Μv

Movement rate per round

You are an indentured servant of The Black Alderman-grimacing god of skulls, dentistry, and organ dirges. Born to a family of phaunt-herders in the temple districts of Micmar, you were sold into religious service by your penny-pinching father. Despite these reluctant beginnings, you have taken to the life of wandering monastic, bone-setter, and general spiritual know-it-all. Bonesmith is a religious title; your true name is a closely guarded secret.

You adventure to enhance your collection of pristine monster skulls and dream of founding a shrine in which to display them for the edification of the public (and to sell your home-made, low-sugar licorice).

You recently received a letter from your father pleading with you to return home for a mysterious matter of great urgency.

ABILITIES

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Blunt

Turning the undead:

1HD: 7, 2HD: 9, 2*HD: 11 Use scrolls: Of cleric spells Use divine magic items

Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful Literacy: Read and write

LOUIPMENT

Plate mail: Dented Shield: Rim of human teeth Mace: Skull-shaped Battle axe: Just for show

Backpack: Black leather Holy symbol: Silver skull Iron rations: 5 days Torches: 6 Tinder box

Cowl: Black wool, trimmed with white wolf fur Bone mask: Teeth filed into points Chirurgeon's tools: Bone saw, pliers, silver hammer Green bottle: Strong booze Paper bag: Licorice Bone flute: Human thigh-bone Belt pouch: 25gp

Holy water: Three vials

Attack Value Matrix 18 0 19 8 11 7 12 15 17



Ability Scores STR DEX 6 7 INT CON 10 14

9 10 CHA Ability check:

Roll under or equal on 1d20

LOMBAT



SAVING THROWS D 8 Death, poison



13

Paralysis, petrification

Magic wands

Breath attacks

Spells, magic rods,

S 12 +0

R

WIS modifier to saves vs magic

magic staves

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20





±

+0

DEX modifier to *initiative* (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

20' Μv

Movement rate per round

You hail from the fortress-city of Minitol, a member of the sheep-herder clan that proudly wards the hills and downs around the citadel. You are renowned as a dreamer and a layabout, spending your days examining herbs and flowers, rather than helping out with shearing and milking. It is your love of things botanical (and your relative indifference to the life of a shepherd) that spurred you to adventure, travelling far from your home in search of herbal lore.

You dream of opening your own brewery producing beers infused with all manner of weird and wondrous herbs. Your beers will be renowned both for their exotic and unique flavours and for their potent healing capacities!

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Small or normal sized

Detect construction tricks: 2-in-6 Infravision: 60'

Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 2-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful, Dwarvish, Gnome, Goblin, Kobold, Bugbear Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Lovingly oiled, ram-horn shoulder plates Battle axe: Meticulously honed 2 hand axes: On belt hooks Crossbow: 20 quarrels

Backpack: Brown suede Tinder box Oil flasks: 4 Crowbar Iron rations: 4 days (dried mutton)

Coat: Fluffy sheepskin Woolly hat: Red, long tail Books: Collection of beautifully illustrated botanical guides Magnifying glass: Blue crystal Belt pouch: 17gp

Magic dwarf lantern: Lights or extinguishes on your command (up to 10' away)

Attack Value Matrix 8 11 7 12 18 0 19 15 3 17

Attack roll: Look up attack roll in matrix to determine hit Armour Class

OLD-SCHOOL RETRO ADVENTURE GAM

Lawful 1st level Dwarf





DEX modifier to missile attacks



SAVING THROWS

D	12	Death, poison
W	13	Magic wands
P	13	Paralysis, petrification
B	15	Breath attacks
S	15	Spells, magic rods, magic staves
±	-1	WIS modifier to saves vs magic
aving throw:		

Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit +0

1

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Mv 20'

Movement rate per round

You are a member of the famed order of night-hunters, servants of the elf-queen who rules over the Forest of Gong. Among your order, your special role is the capture and tending of the rare and noble birds that are abroad at night. Your people are reclusive, secretive, and highly suspicious of other races, but a vision in the smoke-crystals of an augur set you upon a path that has led you beyond the dark borders of your ancestral home and into the wide world. You seek rumour of the lost city of Toril, said to be submerged beneath the waves of some far sea. You believe that your destiny lies there and that you will become the ruler of an outpost of your people, restoring the sunken city to splendour. In the meantime, you aim to collect jewels, fine cosmetics, and exquisite perfumes to prepare for your regal destiny.

Abilities

Mis

+0

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All

Infravision: 60' Immune to ghoul paralysis Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Protection from evil Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 2-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful, Elvish, Gnoll, Hobgoblin, Orcish Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Chain mail: Slight iridescence Shield: Leaf-shaped Sword: Elvish moon script your full poem-name 4 daggers: On belt across chest Longbow: 20 arrows

Backpack: Woven leaves Tinder box Lantern: Pink glass Oil flasks: 3 50' rope: Silvery elf-hair Iron rations: 6 days Hooded cloak: Green wool, trimmed with owl feathers Snuff box: Silver, studded with fake pearls Jar of unguent: Elf-quality skin moisturiser Embroidered wallet: 19gp

Wooden bird whistle: Calls a normal bird within 60' to land on your shoulder

OLD-SCHOOL

RETRO ADVENTURE GAM

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

Ability Scores STR DEX 10 6 INT 9 CON 6 14 WIS CHA 12 Ability check: Roll under or equal on 1d20 LOMBAT Hit points HP 7

Armour Class
4 [15]

+0 STR modifier to melee att./damage -1 DEX modifier to missile attacks







Roll over or equal on 1d20





DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Mv 20' ^{Ma}rou

Movement rate per round

You are a professional soldier, a proud member of the Imperial 17th Infantry, renowned for your stoicism and tactical savvy. You may have kept a personal name at some point in the past; now you are just Sarge.

You are the sole survivor of a recent battle with an army of rabid porcines. It is your belief that your regiment was knowingly sacrificed as a tactical pawn in a larger play. This troubles you and you now question your loyalties. You wander from town to town seeking inspiration. Return to Sracka and report to your superiors or live as a mercenary? You dream of one day being reunited with your true love and having sufficient wealth and stature to sway the family.

Abilities

AC

Mel

Mis

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All

Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Rusty and battered Two-handed sword: Bloodstained (you never wash it) Dagger: Hidden in boot Crossbow: 20 quarrels

Backpack: Military issue Tinder box Lantern: Watertight Oil flasks: 5 50' rope: With grappling hook Iron rations: 4 days Helmet: Topped with a stag and snake insignia
Woollen cloak: Ragged
Quill and ink: Blood red
Battle diary: Names of enemies slain and companions lost
Hidden locket: Portrait of your true love, now far away
Grimy leather pouch: 21gp

Seashell box: Speak a word into it; the next time it's opened, the word escapes



OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS Retro adventure game



DEX modifier to missile attacks



Lawful 1st level Halfling





Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20



+1 Init

DEX modifier to *initiative* (optional)



CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Movement rate per round

You are a professional wanderer, explorer, and recounter of tall tales. Your memory is vague at best and you have difficulty distinguishing between fact and fiction. You've forgotten where you came from, but assume it was a long way away.

Your most recent misadventure saw you imprisoned by wicked pirates. On the up-side, you've now seen much of the world through a porthole and have made friends with an odd, blue-haired giantess who slew your captors and released you. It's not entirely clear what her parting words of "I shall expect my recompense in the form of souls" implied.

Apart from an insatiable wanderlust, you adventure to find the ultimate pie. Could it be that you would marry the cook of such a culinary wonder or build your home beside the establishment that sold it?

ABILITIES

Mis

+1

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Appropriate to size

Defensive bonus: +2 AC bonus vs larger than human foes Hiding: In woods or undergrowth: 90%; in dungeons: 2-in-6 (must remain static)

Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful, Halfling Literacy: Basic

Equipment

Chain mail: Tarnished with salt Cutlass (short sword): Pommel in the shape of an apple Sling: 12 stones 2 daggers: In the belt

Backpack: Bulging at the seams Tinder box Waterskin: Full of wine Hammer and iron spikes: 12 Standard rations: 7 days (pies, apples, tomatoes, and bacon)

Tricorn hat: Human sized Black cape: Skull and crossbones insignia Gourd pipe: Highly polished Pouch of pipe weed: Stringy and pungent Lucky monkey paw: Soft and fluffy; hung from ear Leather wallet: 31gp

Pirate's hook: Rubbing the hook makes everyone (including yourself) within 10' shiver



<u>RETRO ADVENTURE</u>



You are an astrologer and moongazer (one who reads oracles by interpreting the face of the moon). A native of the town of Ling, famed for its seven singing shrines, you grew up amid a hubbub of prophets, seers, and haruspexes. It was inevitable that your natural distaste for the earthly and inclination toward the cosmic would be nurtured.

You served as tower-dwelling apprentice to the revered Master Hogwhale. That is until the master caught you playing with a deck of cards and cast you out into the night. This has been a rather rude awakening, as you know little of the world. A run of successful gambling (aided by your consultation of the planets) has given you means to support yourself for a time. You dream of travelling to the moon, a feat which is rumoured to be within the power of the Emperor's great magic.

Abilities

Use armour: None Use weapons: Dagger only

Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Ventriloquism Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful, Elvish Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Bronze dagger: Sun face hilt Silver dagger: Moon face hilt

Backpack: Pristine brown leather Tinder box Lantern: Rainbow panes Oil flasks: 4 Waterskin: Sparkling water Woollen cloak: Soft brown, lined with lambswool Silk robes: Black with gold trim Pointy hat: Black, squashed Astrological almanac: Bound in purple fish-skin Deck of cards: Exotic design 6 candles: Black and red Blue silk pouch: 7gp

Smoky quartz disk: In darkness, shows the face of the moon, illuminating a 5' radius

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS RETRO ADVENTURE GAME

Ability Scores STR DEX 9 4 INT 8 CON 8 8 WIS 8 CHA Ability check: *Roll under or equal on 1d20* OMBAT Hit points HP 3 Armour Class AC 7 [12] STR modifier to Mel 2 melee att./damage

DEX modifier to missile attacks Lucky

Lawful 1st level Thief



Saving Throws				
D	13	Death, poison		
W	14	Magic wands		
P	13	Paralysis, petrification		

Breath attacks

Spells, magic rods, magic staves

WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit +0

1

B

S

±

16

15

-1

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)



Mv 30'

±

Movement rate per round

You are a professional beggar, lurking in the criminal underworld and betraying their secrets to the authorities. You were born to a family of sewer-dredgers in the slums of Meechem, in the undercity of Sracka, living a life of wretched

hardship as the youngest, smallest, and feeblest of seventeen siblings. Despite these hard beginnings, you grew to an unnatural height and earned your nickname "Lucky", as you seemingly have the ability to survive all adversity.

Your aim in life is to transcend your wretched origins and set up an orchard, bringing the shockingly undervalued delights of the Sracka Sewer Sweet apple (your childhood favourite) and other subterranean fruits to the masses. You also seek to uncover the identity of the necromancer who stole your sister's soul, leaving her a drooling husk of a girl.

Abilities

Mis

+0

Use armour: Leather Use weapons: All

Back-stab: +4 to hit and double damage attacking unaware foe Climb sheer surfaces: 87% Find/remove treasure traps: 10% Hear noise: 2-in-6 Hide in shadows: 10% Move silently: 20% Open locks: 15% Pick pockets: 20% Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Lawful Literacy: Basic

Equipment

Leather armour: Battered but well cared for Shortbow: 20 arrows Shortsword: Antique Club: Gnarled and well-oiled

Backpack: Patched up Thieves' tools: In pockets Crowbar 50' rope: Knotted every 5' Tinder box Lantern: Blacks out when shut Oil flasks: 2 Peasant's tunic: Stinking Striped pantaloons: Massive flares Straw hat: Way too big Wig: Long, grey, curly Hidden pocket: 23gp

Glass eye necklace: +2 bonus to saves versus spells

D-5

RO ADVENTURE

 $H^{+}(1,0)$

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

ABILITY SCORES

STR 14	DEX 12
INT 11	CON 10
WIS 14	CHA 15

Ability check: Roll under or equal on 1d20

LOMBAT









S

Spells, magic rods, magic staves

Breath attacks



WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Paralysis,

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20

15



+0 nit

±

DEX modifier to *initiative* (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

20' Μv

+1

Movement rate per round

You are an elite ordained adventurer, a follower of Klath-Karnath, goddess of insane danger. You are religiously obliged to seek out the most heinous dungeons and to strip them of their treasures.

Born in the city of Sracka, your parents were cultists of Yespheria, goddess of serenity and perfect spheres. Your childhood was virtuous and tedious in the extreme, spurring a fascination for adventure and danger in your young mind.

Since hearing of its existence in the notes you pried from the clutches of a dead wizard, you have become obsessed with finding the fabled Egg of Mantumbi and claiming it for yourself. Klath-Karnath need not know of all treasures you find.

It is your belief that you have a long-lost twin, whom you briefly laid eyes upon across a crowded bazaar.

ABILITIES

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Blunt

Turning the undead:

1HD: 7, 2HD: 9, 2*HD: 11 Use scrolls: Of cleric spells Use divine magic items

Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 3-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral Literacy: Read and write

EQUIPMENT

Plate mail: Badly scratched Shield: Oblong, battered wood Warhammer: Massive irregular stone head Sling: 20 stones

Backpack: Soft brown suede Holy symbol: Bronze fist 50' rope: Ragged 10' pole: Iron-capped Crowbar Torches: 6 Tinder box

Battered hat: Brown felt Scrappy notebooks: Historical research into lost treasures Brass hip flask: Strong booze Leather wallet: 12gp

Leather snake bracelet: If anyone approaches you while you sleep, there is a 2-in-6 chance that the snake will awake you with its warning hiss.

Attack Value Matrix 10 8 11 7 12 18 0 19 15 17

Attack roll: Look up attack roll in matrix to determine hit Armour Class

DLD-SCHOOL RETRO ADVENTURE GAM

Ability Scores

STR	16	D	EX	13
INT	7	C	DN	9
WIS	7	CI	HA	13

Ability check: Roll under or equal on 1d20

Combat



Neutral 1st level Dwarf

Saving Throws

UA	1111	
D	8	Death, poison
W	9	Magic wands
P	10	Paralysis, petrification
B	13	Breath attacks
S	12	Spells, magic rods, magic staves
±	-1	WIS modifier to saves vs magic
Saving throw:		

Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit +1

±



reaction rolls

Mv 20'

+1

Movement rate per round



Initiated into the order of sculptors in Feremhaal, City of Statues, you were one of six dwarves responsible for the fifteen year long task of carving a gargantuan statue of the goddess Kaast out of the virgin mountainside. After fourteen years of diligent work, your will cracked and you absconded with a stash of gems meant to decorate the statue's left toe.

The money you got from pawning the gems was quickly spent, but you acquired a lasting proclivity for jewel theft.

Despite your expertise as a sculptor, your true passion lies with maps. You have yet to master the ability to draw a straight line, but you do not let that daunt you. You dream of drawing the plans for a great manse and paying for its construction. Even now, some years later, you still keep a low profile, fearing the retribution of the cult of Kaast.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Small or normal sized

Detect construction tricks: 2-in-6 Infravision: 60' Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 4-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 2-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral, Dwarvish, Gnome, Goblin, Kobold Literacy: Basic

Equipment

Chainmail: A little too large Shield: Round, wooden Warhammer: Double-headed Sling: 20 stones (fragments of statuary)

Backpack: Big and floppy Torches: 6 Tinder box Hammer and iron spikes: 12 50' rope: With grappling hook Crowbar Canvas cowl: Painted grey Set of chisels: Stone sculpting Chunky tome: Pages filled with scrawled maps and blueprints Quill and ink: Blue Plush pocketbook: "Gems and

Plush pocketbook: "Gems and their Values". (You mostly just look at the pictures.) Canvas wallet: 16gp

A 1' brass owl: Never loses its balance. (You typically place it on top of your head.)

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



Ability Scores	DWAN Neutral 1st level Elf	Saving Throws
STR 15 DEX 12		D 12 Death, poison
INT 15 CON 11	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	W 13 Magic wands
WIS 3 CHA 11		P 13 Paralysis, petrification
Ability check: Roll under or equal on 1d20		B 15 Breath attacks
Combat		S 15 <i>Spells, magic rods, magic staves</i>
<i>Hit points</i>		± -3 WIS modifier to saves vs magic
HP 3		Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20
Armour Class		Encounters
AC 7 [12]	A	Init +0 <i>DEX modifier to initiative (optional)</i>
Mel +1 STR modifier to melee att./damage		± +0 <i>CHA modifier to reaction rolls</i>
Mis +0 DEX modifier to missile attacks	₩ \	Mv 30' <i>Movement rate per round</i>

N_____

You are a rare non-human assassin cultist of Thangorin, god of mortality, fate, and timely death. Your order has no strictures, save that you must end the life of whomever the high oracle decrees, no questions asked.

In the downtime between holy assignations, you wander in the company of adventurers, seeking to secretly amass riches and ancient knowledge, which is forbidden to members of your cult. For as dedicated to carrying out the will of Thangorin as you are, you privately harbour desires for renown and opulent luxury. Marrying into nobility would also be ideal. You also have a passion for animals, feeling sympathy more keenly with dumb beasts than you do with other sentients. You plan to build a menagerie of creatures trained in the arts of stealth and subterfuge.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All

Infravision: 60' Immune to ghoul paralysis Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Sleep Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 3-in-6 Find secret door: 2-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral, Elvish, Gnoll, Hobgoblin, Orcish, Dwarvish Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Leather armour: Sleek black Sword: Slender, curved blade 2 daggers: Wickedly barbed

Backpack: Under the cloak Tinder box Lantern: Small and easily concealed Oil flasks: 4 50' rope: Slender and strong, plus a grappling hook Silk cloak: Reversible: black outside, crimson inside Silk pantaloons: Purple Soft slippers: Pointy toes Black & white mask: Expressionless and creepy Deck of oracle cards: You like to read macabre fates in them Black silk wallet: 9gp

Black box (4"): Anyone who looks inside sees an illusion of an item they greatly desire

RO ADVENTURE

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

Ability Scores

STR	15	DEX	10
INT	9	CON	5
WIS	5	CHA	6

Ability check: Roll under or equal on 1d20

Combat

HP	4	Hit points
AC	4 [1	Armour Class 5]
Mel	+1	STR modifier to melee att./damage
Mis	+0	DEX modifier to missile attacks



SAVING THROWS

D	12	Death, poison
W	13	Magic wands
Р	14	Paralysis, petrification
B	15	Breath attacks
S	16	Spells, magic rods, magic staves
±	-2	WIS modifier to saves vs magic
Savin	a throu	47•

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit +0

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)



CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Movement rate per round

Once a duellist of some renown, you were forced out of retirement when your homestead was destroyed by pillaging porcines. You now live as an itinerant sell-sword, joining any mercenary company that will accept a person of your age.

While you rue the loss of your farm and your peace, you now have your sights set on higher things: you wish to rebuild your reputation as a feared duellist and win back the heart of your long lost love, now married into tedious nobility. You have sent missives to your old swashbuckling crew (even the treacherous Greasy Pytter), requesting their aid in your quest. The one thing holding you back from renewed greatness is your rediscovered taste for expensive wines, feasting, and orgies. Such luxuries consume all the cash you can get your hands on and more time than you would care to count.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All

Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 3-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Chainmail: Antique Sword: Slender and dashing Shield: Unusually tall Longbow: 20 arrows

Backpack: Patched up over years of hard use Hammer and iron spikes: 12 Waterskin: Cowhide Iron rations: Jerky and nuts Lantern: Cow engravings Oil flasks: 3 Tinderbox Silver cloak: The height of fashion three decades ago Bottle of "Rampant Duchess": Good vintage, worth 30gp Drinking horn: Polished Sheaf of papers: Letters from your lost love Leather pouch: 8gp

Bag of acorns: Shaking the bag produces the sound of a howling wolf or a roaring lion (random)

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

19 **ESSENTIA** RETRO ADVENTURE C



Wayward younger sibling to the heir of your family's considerable wealth and estates, you have lived a life of ease and luxury. Until recently, that is. You are now in exile after your incessant games with fire resulted in the destruction of the manor. You have no profession to speak of and now live as a wanderer, discreetly looking up old drinking companions and trying to keep a low profile. The money that you managed to grab as you fled from your family's ire is now ebbing and it is unclear what awaits you. Nonetheless, you do not regret your deeds—the shake-up will do your family good! You feel sure that you will return to a position of wealth and luxury, but this time having earned it for yourself through your significant guile and charm. Finally getting one over on your snitch of an older brother would also be a fine thing.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields **Use weapons:** Appropriate to size

Defensive bonus: +2 AC bonus vs larger than human foes Hiding: In woods or undergrowth: 90%; in dungeons: 2-in-6 (must remain static) Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral, Halfling Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Antique, ornate Shortsword: Bent but sharp Dagger: More of a steak knife Crossbow: 20 bolts

Backpack: Oiled canvas Tinder box Backup tinder box: Hidden in rim of hat Torches: 8 Lantern: Shiny brass Oil flasks: 8 Top hat: The height of fashion Walking cane: Topped with a silver fist (worth 15gp) Woollen cloak: Fine tweed Pipe: Polished cherry wood Pouch of pipe weed: High class Leather wallet: 19gp

Silver spoon: Carved with an albatross. Rapping the spoon on a wooden table causes all food laid out to be heated piping hot.

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS RETRO ADVENTURE GAME



DEX modifier to missile attacks



D 13 Death, poison

W14Magic wandsP13Paralysis,
petrificationB16Breath attacksS15Spells, magic rods,
magic staves



WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit +0

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

+0 *CHA modifier to reaction rolls*

Mv 40'

±

Movement rate per round

Born in Elyeth on the River Nenning, your father was apprentice truthsayer to the Confederate Yagk, ruler of the region. At age ten, you ventured under the treacherous eaves of the magical forest and were promptly kidnapped by fey goblins, who raised you as their own. You spent the remainder of your childhood under the tutelage of a goblin shadow sorcerer, whose knowledge of the dark arts complemented the white magic your father had begun to teach you.

Upon coming of age, your mentor cast you out of the spooky caverns you had come to call home, commanding you to make your own way in the world. It is thus you wander, aimless and befuddled, back in the mystifying world of mortals. It is your wish, above all, to behold the shadow world of which your erstwhile master spoke and to make your home there.

Abilities

Mis

+0

Use armour: None Use weapons: Dagger only

Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Hold portal Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral, Goblin Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Dagger: Barbed goblin steel Backpack: Fancy burnished leather 50' rope: Woven from shadows Lantern: Flickering light Oil flasks: 4 Tinder box Waterskin: Forest spring water Standard rations: Mealy wafers, figs, night tomatoes Silk robes: Grey with swirling black patterns Black woollen hat: With a prodigious liripipe Walking staff: 6' tall, dead straight, stained red Array of belt pouches: Small quantities of salt, sand, ash, and powdered chalk Hourglass: Pink sand

Silk glove: Touched flesh or objects are stained sooty black

RO ADVENTURE

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19

Ability Scores STR 8 DEX 13 INT 10 CON 13 9 WIS 11 Ability check: *Roll under or equal on 1d20* COMBAT Hit points HP 4 Armour Class AC 6 [13] STR modifier to Mel -1 melee att./damage

DEX modifier to missile attacks

Neutral 1st level Thief

Saving Throws



WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Saving throw: *Roll over or equal on 1d20*



Init +1

DEX modifier to *initiative* (*optional*)



CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Movement rate per round

You are a wandering seller of potions, balms, and mystical talismans. All 100% legitimate, of course. You were born to a family of taxidermists in the city of Micmar, but were cast out for disrespecting the sanctity of your father's embalming urns and were subsequently raised by your errant uncle (a minstrel of some note). The life of a mountebank is all very well for the time being, but your true passion lies in exotic animals. You dream of founding a menagerie of rare beasts and an accompanying circus to exhibit the marvellous creatures to the public.

You also desire to clear your uncle's good name, which was sullied in an unfortunate incident with a vengeful noblewoman, leaving him destitute and disgraced.

BUITTERS

Mis

+1

Use armour: Leather Use weapons: All

Back-stab: +4 to hit and double damage attacking unaware foe Climb sheer surfaces: 87% Find/remove treasure traps: 10% Hear noise: 2-in-6 Hide in shadows: 10% Move silently: 20% **Open locks:** 15% Pick pockets: 20%

Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Neutral Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Leather armour: Black Silver dagger: Curved 7 daggers: Hidden in cloak

Backpack: Tall and thin Thieves' tools: In belt pouch Lantern: Glass painted with occult runes Oil flasks: 3 Tinder box

Purple cloak: Golden moons. Looks highly mystical 12 glass vials: Mysterious blue liquids (dyed water) Small sack: Collection of dried animal parts Waterskin: Fermenting frog eves in alcohol Pet monkey: Fancy waistcoat Belt pouch: 5gp

Black glass eye: Allows you to see faintly in darkness (10')







HOLLOW ONE

Chaotic 1st level Cleric









DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Mv 20'

Movement rate per round

You are a void-eyed disciple of Yag-Mannon, god of howling nothingness and psychedelic transcendence. Your role within the cult is that of treasure-finder—you provide the funds required to bring your god's apocalyptic schemes to fruition. Born into a wealthy merchant family in the trade-town of Micmar, you shunned your familial duties and inheritance after being seduced by a serpent priestess and fed hallucinogenic brews. Her plans backfired as the elixirs revealed not the scaled visage of her deity, but the formless blackness of Yag-Mannon. You were an accidental convert. While you strive daily to bring about the destruction of the multiverse, you practice the arts of grooming and vanity in your spare time, spending countless hours adorning yourself and maintaining your long, lustrous hair in peak condition.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: Blunt

Turning the undead:

1HD: 7, 2HD: 9, 2*HD: 11 Use scrolls: Of cleric spells Use divine magic items Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 2-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic Literacy: Basic

Equipment

Plate mail: Spiral engraving **Shield:** Howling imp face **Mace:** Spiked chaos-star

Backpack: Oiled black leather
Holy symbol: Obsidian triangle with a glaring red eye
Iron rations: 7 days
Torches: 4
Tinder box
50' rope: Ragged but strong

Helmet: Eye of Yag-Mannon Quilted jacket: Padded shoulders, many pockets Suede knapsack: Stuffed with psychedelic herbs (holy sacrament) Mirror: Lovingly polished Ivory comb: Worth 25gp Velvet pouch: 10gp

Void sack: Placed over a person's head, magically negates all external stimuli

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



Ability Scores STR DEX 5 8 INT 9 CON 14 9 WIS CHA 6 Ability check: *Roll under or equal on 1d20* COMBAT





Chaotic 1st level Dwarf

Do lady dwarves have beards? You decide!



Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20



lnit -1 ± -1

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Mv 20'

Movement rate per round

You are a slaver from the dwarf fortress of Minitol, tasked with capturing criminals and bringing them work in the mines and forges beneath the citadel. Your pleasure in this work leads you to gleefully enslave even those you know are innocent. In addition to slavery, you have two main passions in life: music and the deeps of the earth. Musically, your tastes are highhy an arises and the grant debuilding of mine an zines and the second part of the smithy. You

ly experimental—you perceive beauty in the grinding and shrieking of mine engines and the cacophony of the smithy. You belong to that strata of dwarf society that rues your ancestors' coming to the surface and seeks to return to the deeps. You aim to amass wealth by any means, found a network of slaver caravans, and retire to a subterranean fastness riddled with traps and treasure vaults.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields **Use weapons:** Small or normal sized

Detect construction tricks: 2-in-6 Infravision: 60' Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 2-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic, Dwarvish, Gnome, Goblin, Kobold Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Soot black Helmet: With one horn Shield: Wooden, iron-bands Warhammer: Two spheres 2 daggers: Sheathed at belt

Backpack: Dozens of straps
Iron rations: 7 days (smoked mutton and liver)
50' rope: With grappling hook
Hammer and iron spikes: 12
Crowbar
Tinder box

Cowl: Red-streaked hessian Manacles: Currently empty Rusty chain: 10' length Seal of Minitol: Grants you legal permission to enslave criminals Bagpipes: Subtly detuned (for maddening effect) Belt pouch: 17gp

Violet quill feather: Can engrave in metal



Attack roll: Look up attack roll in matrix to determine hit Armour Class

OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS RETRO ADVENTURE GAME



You are a wandering epicurean, trickster, and opportunist, recently escaped from centuries of imprisonment in the kitchen-dungeons of the Ja (mysterious fey entities of mist and shadow). Incarcerated for such an extended period, you have no memory of your origins or the reason for your enslavement. You are however enjoying your new-found freedom to the full!

Since escaping captivity and fleeing the forest realm of the Ja, you've warmed to the wilful, urgent nature of humans and enjoy causing the merry havoc on which they seem to thrive. Companies of adventurers are especially fun to be around. You crave material wealth just as much as the next bon vivant, but above all you love magic. You dream of one day building your own enchanted kitchen/laboratory and delving into the long-neglected arts of magical baking.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All

Infravision: 60' Immune to ghoul paralysis Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Floating disc Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 3-in-6 Find secret door: 2-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic, Elvish, Gnoll, Hobgoblin, Orcish, Dragon Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Hammered out of pots and pansShield: Orc clan sigil (stolen)Sword: Slender fey weapon3 daggers: Shards of ice

Backpack: Woven of gossamer 50' rope: Soaked in cooking oil Crowbar Lantern: Chunky cast iron Oil flasks: 4 Tinderbox Chef's apron: Spattered with fish blood Leather satchel: Cooking pots and baking implements Bag of flour: Leaks everywhere Fairy chess: Fiendishly complex—you are no master! Muslin bag: 12gp

Fairy cookbook: Contains the perfect recipe for every occasion

TRO ADVENTURE GAM

LD-Si

CHOO

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



As a native of austere Grame, which stands within sight of the fabled Cliffs of Madness, a sense of the impending apocalypse was instilled in you from a young age. Your father trained you to hunt with the dogs and you earned your nickname by slaying a white wolf, whose pelt you still wear.

When your family was slain by imperial guards for harbouring a renegade prismist (your uncle), your mind was shattered and the spirit of the wolf took hold. You now roam the borderlands as a sell-sword, plotting the Emperor's doom.

In your wanderings, you have come to value three things above all else: the company of skilled warriors, excellent ales in massive, massive quantities, and relaxing herbal soaks.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields Use weapons: All Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 4-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Chainmail: Ragged Two-handed sword: Jagged 2 hand axes: At the belt

Backpack: Oily Tinderbox Torches: 8 50' rope: Rough and tarry Iron rations: 7 days White fur cloak: Wolf pelt
Quill and ink: Scratchy
Scrappy notebook: Where you record your schemes to slay the Emperor
Vial: Herbal bath essence
Hip flask: Strong liquor
Fur pouch: 5gp

Rainbow crystal: Once per day, when rubbed, projects rainbow light in a 10' radius for 1 turn

<u>RETRO ADVENTURE GAM</u>

 $H^{+}(1)$

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



You are a butcher, gourmand, and ruthless cannibal, a devotee of the cult of Yagagphoros, goddess of flaying and anthropophagy. Raised in a burrow in the desolate wilds of the Crawback Hills, you ran away to the big city of Sracka as a child and never found your way back home. You sometimes dream of returning and of how you would cook your childhood enemies.

It is partly your lust for tasting new, delectable humanoid meats and partly your love of swordplay that drive you to adventure. The promise of riches is a secondary (but welcome!) benefit. The leader of your local cult branch has promised you that donations of sufficient magnitude will ensure your place in the eternal slaughterhouse of your goddess.

Abilities

Use armour: All plus shields **Use weapons:** Appropriate to size

Defensive bonus: +2 AC bonus vs larger than human foes **Hiding:** In woods or undergrowth: 90%; in dungeons: 2-in-6 (must remain static) Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic, Halfling Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Plate mail: Blood daubed Shield: Emblazoned with a mermaid Short sword: Meat cleaver Dagger: Boning knife

Backpack: Burnished leather Tinder box Lantern: Casts a creepy, wavering light Oil flasks: 2 Iron rations: 6 days (strips of questionable dried meat) Pointy wizard hat: Stolen Bag of dried ears: From all sorts of different humanoids Battered tome: "Fine Meats of Old Aalia" Bag of marbles: Many colours Silk wallet: 12gp

Pâté of wizard liver: Cures 1d4 hit points of damage if eaten on bread. 2 doses

LD-SCHOO

ETRO ADVENTURE GAM

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



You are an itinerant collector of occult lore and unwitting servant of the frog demon Habzarg the Relentless. You came under your infernal master's sway after somewhat over-eagerly practicing the summoning magicks in a stolen, frog-skin grimoire that came into your possession. Still, the demon's demands mesh well with your own wicked inclinations.

Your skin and eyes have begun to betray your affiliation to the amphibious, causing you to hide away from other humans (except for those obsequious and obliging friends you have beguiled with your magic).

You scheme to establish a lair in an isolated bog where you can continue your research in peace, away from the prying eyes of civilisation. You'll first just need to amass a certain level of wealth and a suitably impressive occult library...

ABILITIES

Use armour: None Use weapons: Dagger only

Use scrolls: Of magic-user spells Use arcane magic items Spell: Charm person Listen at door: 1-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic, Ogre Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Sacrificial dagger: Wavy edges Backpack: Sheathed in mail Tinderbox Torches: 6 Waterskin: Delicious fermented swamp water Hessian robe: Beggarly Conical hat: Eye motifs Walking staff: Tipped with silver bands Fishing net: Slimy Brass goblet: Bloodstained, embossed with imps Greasy pouch: 19gp

Frog-eye ring: Binds you to your master, grants infravision to 20'

ATTACK VALUE MATRIX 9 10 8 11 7 12 6 13 5 14 4 15 3 16 2 17 1 18 0 19



Ability Scores STR DEX 13 6 INT 10 CON 7 8 14 CHA Ability check: *Roll under or equal on 1d20* COMBAT Hit points HP 3 Armour Class AC 6 [13]

Mel-1STR modifier to
melee att./damageMis+1DEX modifier to
missile attacks

Chaotic 1st level Thief

Saving Throws D 13 Death, poison W 14 Magic wands Paralysis, 13 petrification B 16 Breath attacks Spells, magic rods, S 15 magic staves

WIS modifier to saves vs magic

Saving throw: Roll over or equal on 1d20

-1



lnit +1

+1

±

DEX modifier to initiative (optional)

CHA modifier to reaction rolls

Mv 30'

±

Movement rate per round

You are an assassin and infiltrator-for-hire, working in the maze-like mercantile quarters of Sracka's middle city. Your favoured modus operandi is to draw people into your confidence with your charm and good looks before stabbing them in the back. While you prefer urban commissions, you are not averse to venturing underground when the pay is good.

With the spoils of your trade, you live to the highest standard possible, relishing luxury, debauchery, and finery of all kinds. Years of hard drinking have gifted you with a remarkably cool head, even after copious indulgence. You seldom think of the future, being content to spend what wealth you have and revel in the moment.

Despite your hedonistic lifestyle, against your better instincts you dream of true love and of raising children.

Abilities

Use armour: Leather Use weapons: All

Back-stab: +4 to hit and double damage attacking unaware foe Climb sheer surfaces: 87% Find/remove treasure traps: 10% Hear noise: 2-in-6 Hide in shadows: 10% Move silently: 20% Open locks: 15% Pick pockets: 20% Listen at door: 2-in-6 Open stuck door: 1-in-6 Find secret door: 1-in-6 Find room trap: 1-in-6 Languages: Common, Chaotic Literacy: Read and write

Equipment

Leather: Immaculate Shortsword: Slender and quick 3 daggers: One hidden in boot Crossbow: 20 quarrels

Backpack: Lightweight silk Thieves' tools: Hidden in boot 50' rope: With grappling hook Lantern: Engraved with scenes of carnal pleasure Oil flasks: 3 Tinderbox Silk cape: Black, eminently fashionable Jewelled rings: Look very valuable, actually just glass Cigarette holder: Long and elegant Clay flask: Heady wine Appointments book: Written in a private code

Pouch of silver dust: Cast into the air, renders you invisible for 3 rounds



OLD-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS Retro adventure game



A selection of 21 pre-generated 1st level characters for use in Classic Fantasy campaigns!

► **Beautifully illustrated:** All characters are illustrated by the fabulous Sam Mameli.

► **Inspiring character backgrounds:** The descriptions of all characters include notes on their history and quirks, for role-playing inspiration.

► **Full equipment:** All characters are equipped ready for adventure, with a full complement of arms, adventuring gear, and quirky personal oddments.

► **Class abilities:** Each character sheet also notes the class abilities of the character, for easy reference.

Requires Old-School Essentials Core Rules, Classic Fantasy: Genre Rules, and Classic Fantasy: Cleric and Magic-User Spells

Further Classic Fantasy genre books in the *Old-School Essentials* product line:

Classic Fantasy: Genre Rules Classic Fantasy: Cleric and Magic-User Spells Classic Fantasy: Monsters Classic Fantasy: Treasures



ISBN 978-3-96657-031-2