

Demon Idol

This is Demon Idol, a site dedicated to helping gamers learn, play, and master Advanced Dungeons & Dragons (AD&D), the legendary adventure game of swords & sorcery.

You might have heard that AD&D is impossible to understand, that it's a broken game, or that no one actually plays by the rules. You heard wrong. Anyone can learn AD&D and play some of the best Dungeons & Dragons of their life.

In the years since the renaissance of old-school D&D, and especially in recent years, focus has been on Basic D&D, "rules-lites", and "rulings before rules" gameplay. Demon Idol offers something different.



This is a brand new project just started in September 2023! Check back regularly as we translate our group's campaign doc and tools over to this site.

Features

- **Convention over configuration.** Instead of being bombarded with hundreds of varying rules interpretations from forums and blogs, we'll just tell you what actually works, backed by real gameplay. ¹⁾
- **By-the-book AD&D - for real.** Demon Idol AD&D uses every rule in the books [with two exceptions](#): no sex-based ability score caps for classed characters, and players are allowed to read any rulebook.
- **Rules expansions.** AD&D was always meant to be a living game which grows with your campaign. Any time we've expanded on a rule, it's clearly marked with an ^{Ex}, indicating that it's not part of the books. ²⁾
- **Insights into third-party content.** Ever since the days of Judges Guild, gamers have been creating great stuff that works with AD&D. Demon Idol will point you to it and explain where it comes in.
- **Regular, visible improvements.** We play this game multiple times every week and are always learning more. Changes will be easily visible thanks to Demon Idol's change logs and [page history](#). ³⁾
- **Tools and resources.** Demon Idol will provide character sheets, calculators, generators, and show you how to set up tools to help you run a campaign.
- **Freedom.** Demon Idol is free-as-in-cost and free-as-in-freedom. Everything here is licensed [CC BY-SA](#), and Demon Idol runs on [free software](#).

What this is not

- **A retroclone.** We want you to play the original game, and we want you to enjoy the original books. There is magic in those tomes to last ten lifetimes.
- **"2nd edition".** This is original AD&D (or "1st edition").
- **The only way to play.** Just our way.

How to get started

Read [Getting started](#) and [don't let other people control your campaign](#).

¹⁾

If you want to dig deeper, you can via footnotes and references like this one.

²⁾

Since Demon Idol is about convention over configuration, we recommend you use these by default. But you can always toss them or improve on them.

³⁾

You can see the history of individual pages with one of the buttons over at the right. That's also where you can download a PDF of any page, see old versions of a page, and see what links to a page.

From:

<https://demonidol.com/> - **Demon Idol**

Permanent link:

<https://demonidol.com/start?rev=1694854409>

Last update: **2025-04-13 23:35**

