



Ultimate Strongholds

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SPECIAL ELECTRONIC FEATURES

We've hyperlinked this product internally from the Table of Contents and externally with links to the [5e SRD](#). If it is in the core rulebook, we generally didn't link to it unless the rule is an obscure one. The point is not to supersede the game books, but rather to help support you, the player, in accessing the rules, especially those from newer books or that you may not have memorized.

ABOUT LEGENDARY GAMES

Legendary Games is an all-star team of authors and designers, founded by Clark Peterson of Necromancer Games and coordinated by Jason Nelson. Legendary Games uses a cooperative, team-based approach to bring you, the roleplaying game fan, the best expansion material for your game. We are gamers and storytellers first, and we believe that passion shows in our products. Check us out, and Make Your Game Legendary!

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My wife Rebecca for the almost constant "direct encouragement" while I've procrastinated. It's not nagging (even if you say it is), and I love you for it.

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE ULTIMATE STRONGHOLDS

ULTIMATE STRONGHOLDS BRINGS YOU AN AWESOME ARRAY OF FANTASTIC fortifications for your 5th Edition Campaign! This exhaustive encyclopedia integrates all levels of 5E play, from classic party-level adventuring to an easy system for creating buildings of your own, on up to the expansive kingdom-building and management rules in *Kingdoms* from Legendary Games! Explore tons of new options for buildings, rooms, augmentations, and fortified buildings, as well as unusual building locations. Dive into siege warfare with an array of siege weapons, ammunition, and special structures and building materials. *Ultimate Strongholds* goes far beyond the basic building blocks, of course, with a wealth of information for buildings integrated with kingdom and settlement attributes and a host of exotic strongholds and structures, from cloud castles to water walls, flesh piles to crystal palaces, hedge forts to ghostly redoubts, with rules for damaging such bizarre and magical constructions and the hazards they bring! Plus, you get over two dozen new spells ideal for defending your stronghold or breaching the holds of your enemies like *battering bolt*, *deathless defenders*, and *spiritual pike wall*, along with spells to enhance the fortress itself like *elemental architecture* and *haunted ruin*! Last but not least, you also get the brand-new **castellan** arcane tradition that guides and guards a fortress like no one else can!



- Jason Nelson

The Legendary Games tradition is to combine rich story and background, innovative layout, beautiful aesthetics, and excellence in design that is second to none. This product is the latest in that tradition, and we hope you enjoy using it as much as we enjoyed making it. Game on!

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INTRODUCTION

Ultimate Strongholds is an expansion that works with regular 5th Edition campaign play but also allows you to integrate your game with the large-scale kingdom-building and mass combat rules in *Kingdoms* and its expansions like *Ultimate Rulership*, *Ultimate Battle*, and *Ultimate War* from Legendary Games. It is designed to supplement those rules and provide a greater level of detail for the buildings being created, whether a lowly shack in the smallest hamlet, or a mighty castle protecting an important trade route. It then ties the creation of such buildings into an expansive treatment of siege weapons of all types that can be used to assault the strongholds built by your PCs or their enemies!

PART 1: ROOMS AND BUILDINGS

Rooms are the core of the building system, and there are a wide variety of room types which allow the creation of almost any building possible.

ROOM FEATURES

Rooms are defined by their type, the quality of their furnishings, their construction materials, and any augmentations which have been applied to the room.

TYPE

This determines the purpose of the room and the typical contents.

FURNISHINGS

The quality of furnishings in a room are typically indicative of the wealth of the owner and can have a drastic impact on the room's ability to earn capital. The different quality levels are Destitute, Poor, Average, Wealthy, and Extravagant.

If a character has rooms with lower quality furnishings than their standard of living, they apply a -1 penalty per level of difference to all Persuasion skill checks against characters who know of the room, as people assume they're just 'flashing cash' rather than making a long-term effort to integrate into the community. Conversely, if a character has rooms with higher quality

furnishings than their standard of living, they apply a -1 penalty per level of difference to all Deception skill checks against characters who know of the room, as people assume they're lying about more than just how wealthy they are.

TABLE 1-1: FURNISHING QUALITY

QUALITY	COST*
Squalid	-200gp; -3 days
Poor	-100gp; -2 days
Average	-
Wealthy	+300gp; +20 days
Aristocratic	+600gp; +20 days

MATERIALS

Rooms are assumed to be made of wood (wooden walls, wooden floors, wooden ceiling), but there are a wide variety of alternative options available, ranging from paper or hide, all the way to solid adamantite.

The following table provides details of the various materials from which a room can be constructed. A wall segment is a 10-foot-by-10-foot section of wall with the appropriate thickness. A room's floor and ceiling are constructed of the same material as the walls, and do not factor into the cost of the room.

Material: The material the walls of the building are constructed from.

Thickness: A wall constructed of this material is typically this thick.

Hardness: The hardness of the material

HP (HP per inch): The number of hit points a wall of typical thickness has, as well as the hit points per inch of thickness for the material, if a wall of differing thickness is used.

Cost (gp/lb): The cost in gp of 1 lb of the material.

Cost (gp/wall segment): The cost in gp of a single 10' x 10' wall segment.

Time Factor: The time cost of the room is multiplied by this factor. Materials that are harder to obtain or take more time to turn into a useful form for building generally have a higher time factor.



ROOM AUGMENTATIONS

Rooms may be constructed with various additional features which improve the function of the room.

DOORS

Doors in a building are usually simple wooden doors, with one or more good wooden doors leading to the outside (these do not cost anything). In addition to the fortification augmentation, individual doors may be upgraded for the cost of 1/4 the cost of a wall section of the door's material. Larger doors may be constructed to accommodate larger creatures and objects, and the cost increases based on the space of a creature that may fit through without squeezing, x4 for Large, x9 for Huge, and x16 for Gargantuan.

DOOR, CONCEALED

Benefit a door which is not obviously a door

Create 60 gp; **Time** 2 days

Size none

A less sophisticated version of the Secret Door augmentation, a concealed door is in plain view but isn't what it appears to be. Examples of this include a hinged bookcase, or a door which exactly matches the wooden panelling of the room. Normally when a Concealed Door is discovered, it is possible to open it with no special effort (unless it's locked). Like Secret Doors, if a Concealed Door is concealed from both sides, it must be paid for separately for each side. A concealed door requires a DC 10 Wisdom (Perception) check to identify. Every 60 gold above the base cost of the augmentation adds +1 to the DC, to a maximum of 20.

DOOR, SECRET

Benefit a hidden door with a hidden opening mechanism

Create 100 gp; **Time** 3 days

Size none

A Secret Door is a hidden exit from a room, generally requiring manipulation of a mechanism in another part of the room. Examples of this include a hidden button inside the bust of a famous bard on the table opening a sliding door behind a bookcase, or the almost ubiquitous tilting a book to open a door nearby. For the cost listed above the Secret Door is only secret from one side – if the other side is also to be a secret door, it must be paid for separately. A DC 10 Wisdom (Perception) check can find a secret door,

and another DC 10 Wisdom (Perception) check will find the opening mechanism. Every 100 gp above the base cost increases the DC of both checks by +1, to a maximum of 20.

FORTIFICATION, IMPROVED

Benefit increase room's durability

Create 600 gp; **Time** 30 days

Size As original room

This augmentation can be applied to any room, heavily reinforcing walls, adding iron-bound doors, and treating materials to resist fire. All walls have their damage threshold increased by +5, doors are iron doors (damage threshold 10, 60 hit points), and the walls and floors gain fire resistance.

FURNISHINGS

Furnishings are now a separate feature of a room, rather than an augmentation, see Furnishings (above).

SPELL

Spells with a duration greater than instantaneous can be set to affect entire rooms. Treat these as wondrous items but the effects of the spell do not extend beyond the room, and automatically affect all creatures inside the room (saving throws still apply, and only need to be checked when a creature first enters the room – if the creature leaves and re-enters the room, make any saving throw again).

Prices and availability for each spell is subject to GM discretion.

Conditional Spells: In addition to having spells which are permanently in place within rooms, it is also possible to have a spell augmentation that triggers only when certain conditions are met. Conditional spell augmentations cost twice as much as a normal spell augmentation, but the owner can select the triggering conditions per the *contingency* spell and may specify who or what is and is not affected by the augmentation. Once selected, the trigger conditions and targets may not be changed.

TRAP

See the *5E SRD* for trap rules. Costs and construction times for traps are up to the GM..



TABLE 1-2: WALL MATERIALS COST

MATERIAL	THICKNESS (FT)*	DAMAGE THRESHOLD	HP (HP PER INCH)	COST (GP/LB)	COST (GP/WALL SEGMENT)	LABOR FACTOR	TIME FACTOR
Paper	0.0025	0	1 (12)	2.5	0.25	1	1
Glass	0.04	2	1 (2)	1	640	2	1
Viridiums	0.04	7	7 (15)	40	25600	2	2
Viridium (magically strengthened)	0.04	7	7 (15)	290	185600	2	2
Cloth	0.02	0	3 (15)	0.1	1.11	1	1
Darkleaf Cloth	0.02	10	5 (20)	375	4160	1	1
Griffon Mane	0.02	0	6 (30)	250	2775	1	1
Hide	0.04	2	7 (15)	0.006	32.4	1	1
Angelskin	0.04	5	3 (5)	100	21600	1	1
Dragonhide	0.04	10	5 (10)	9	1944	1	1
Eelhide	0.04	2	3 (5)	120	25920	1	1
Sod	1	7	60 (5)	-	-	1	2
Thatch	1	3	96 (8)	0.01	1.25	1	1
Wood	0.5	5	60 (10)	0.005	10	1	1
Darkwood	0.5	5	60 (10)	80	80000	1	1
Greenwood	0.5	5	60 (10)	50	100000	1	1
Whipwood	0.5	5	90 (15)	125	250000	2	3
Wyroot	0.08	5	10 (10)	250	40000	1	1
Unworked Stone	5	8	900 (15)	-	-	-	-
Hewn Stone	3	8	540 (15)	-	-	1	1
Drystone wall	1	8	90 (8)	-	-	2	1
Thin Masonry	0.5	8	45 (8)	0.05	255	2	1
Masonry	1	8	90 (8)	0.05	850	2	2
Superior Masonry	1	8	90 (8)	0.05	850	3	2
Reinforced Masonry	1	8	180 (15)	0.075	1350	2	3
Blood Crystal	0.08	10	10 (10)	500	600000	2	2
Iron	0.25	10	90 (30)	0.1	1225	1	3
Lead	0.02	3	7 (30)	0.05	71	1	1
Adamantine	0.08	20	40 (40)	300	1225000	3	3
Alchemical Silver	0.08	8	10 (10)	10	55675	2	3
Elysian Bronze	0.08	10	30 (30)	100	556750	2	3
Fire-forged Steel	0.08	10	30 (30)	75	417562.5	2	3
Frost-forged Steel	0.08	10	30 (30)	75	417562.5	2	3
Living Steel	0.08	15	35 (35)	50	278375	3	3
Mithral	0.08	15	30 (30)	500†	1952000	2	3
Force Field	-	30	20 (-)	-	40,000	1	1
Magically Treated**	-	X2	X2‡	X2	X2	-	-

*: 0.25 feet is 3 inches, 0.08 feet is 1 inch, 0.04 feet is 1/2 inch, 0.02 feet is 1/4 inch, 0.0025 is 1/32 inch

** : This may be applied to any of the other wall types.

s: Viridium is an extremely dangerous building material. Unless the wall is also a composite wall made of lead, anyone who stays inside the room for 24 hours contracts leprosy (no save). This time does not have to be consecutive.

†: Mithral weighs half as much as iron, and costs 500gp per lb of an equivalent iron object.

‡: Or an additional 50 hit points, whichever is greater

Note: Materials without a cost are generally not obtainable by trade and must be obtained from the natural environment.



BUILDINGS

Buildings are combinations of rooms which are physically connected. The term “building” in these rules applies to the entire collection of rooms as a whole. Like rooms, buildings can be constructed of different materials, typically more durable than the interior construction. Further, buildings may have augmentations which apply to the entire building.

CALCULATING THE APPROXIMATE SIZE OF A BUILDING

Many players will want to precisely map out the exact detail of their buildings, the placement of each room within it, which floor the rooms are on, and where the hallways and corridors run. Some would rather estimate the precise details, rather than getting involved in that level of detail.

METHOD TO CALCULATE APPROXIMATE SIZE

Sum the squares used for all rooms on one floor of the building, multiply by 4, and take the square root of that number, rounding up to the nearest whole number. This is the number of 10' wall sections the build.

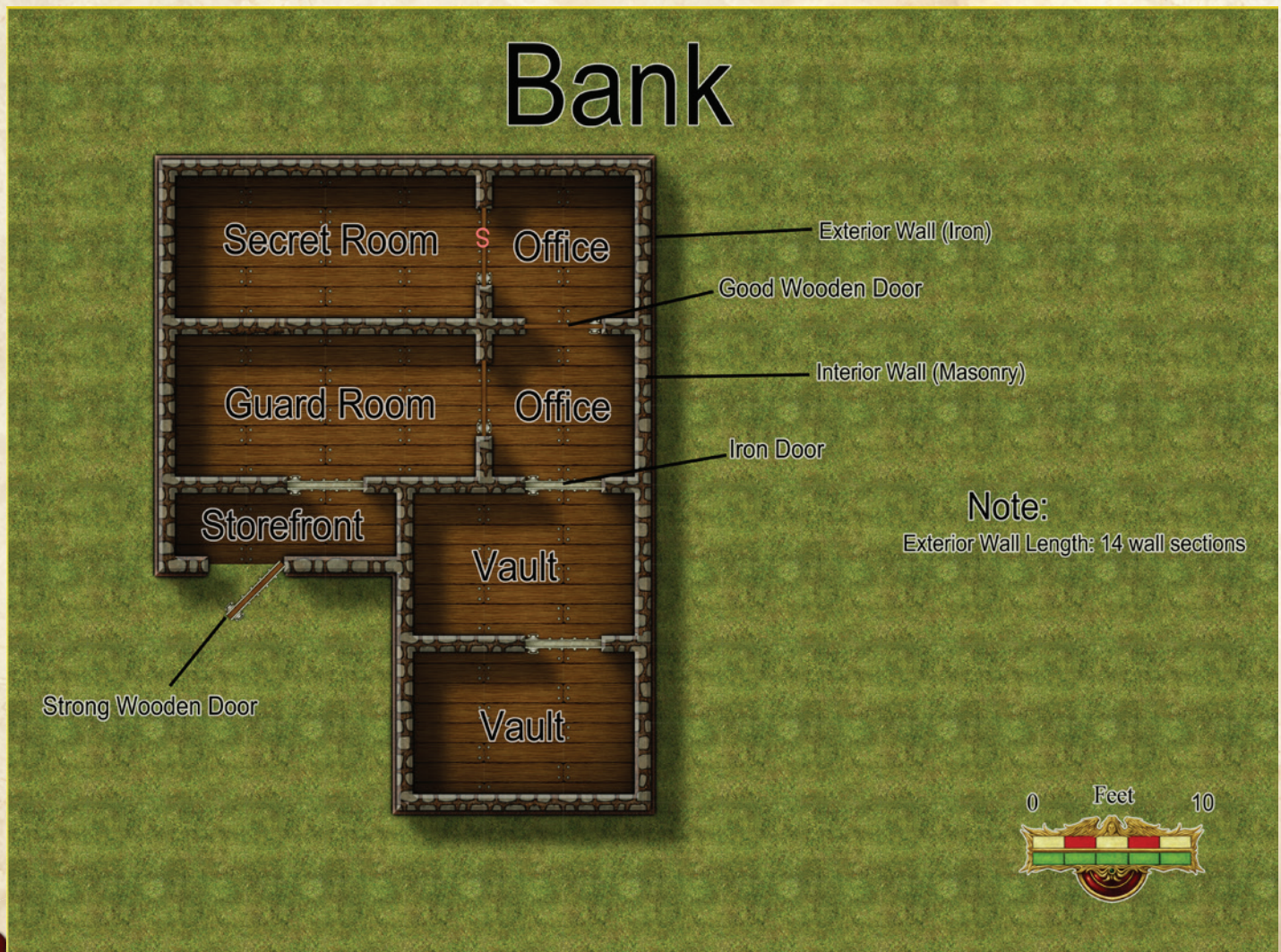
Example: Rhys has decided to get into commerce, but rather than a bank, he's looking to set up his own guild, so he's designing a guildhall. Looking that building up, he sees that a basic guildhall has 1 common room, 1 kitchen, 1 lavatory, 2 offices, 1 secret room, 1 sitting room, 2 storages and 3 workstations. Rhys doesn't want to precisely plan the layout, but decides that every room is going to be very largely. He decides his building will be 99 squares. Multiplying that by 4 is 396, and the square root of that is 19.899, rounding up to 20.

BUILDING FEATURES

Buildings as a whole are classified by the material of the exterior construction, the type of windows, and their augmentations. It is also possible for buildings to have defensive fortifications (see **Fortifications**, p. XX - link).

MATERIALS

The exterior walls of a building may be constructed of the same materials as the interior walls, but it is common for the outside of a building to be made of stronger materials than the inside.



NEW ROOMS

These new room types are included to expand the options for buildings and to tie them into the rules for attacking and defending buildings in Part 2.

EXTERIOR WALL

Cost: Special

This "room" provides no benefit to the building beyond protection from attack and the environment. It should only be used if the exterior wall of the building is made of a different material to the interior walls, and is considered to be a composite wall (see below). If the player would rather not have the additional protection of a composite wall, they may reduce the cost of the exterior wall by the cost of the interior walls it replaces.

To simplify matters, each floor of a building is considered to have the same material on all sides. This material may differ from floor to floor (such as stone at ground level and wood above). The only restriction being that the hit points of a supporting wall must equal or exceed the total hit points of all the wall sections directly above it.

ROOF

Cost: Special

This room functions like an Exterior Wall room, but covers the top of the building. Treat it as a composite wall (see below) made of the roof material and the material of whatever room is underneath the roof section (if a roof section spans two rooms of differing material, use the stronger material). A roof does not count against the hit points needed to support walls.

A roof provides protection from the environment and indirect fire attacks.

EXTERIOR WALL AND ROOF AUGMENTATIONS

Buildings can be constructed with a number of augmentations:

Battlement: The top of a building may be crenelated with merlons to provide cover to defenders (anywhere from half cover to total cover, depending on the creature's size and position). This cover does not apply

against creatures on or above the structure. This adds 10% to the cost of a roof.

Battlement, Embrasure: This battlement features pierced merlons and hinged shutters between them that provide three quarters cover to defenders (total cover if prone). This adds 15% to the cost of a roof.

Battlement, Parapet: This uncrenelated lip or railing of stone provides half cover to defenders atop a wall (three quarters cover if prone). This adds 5% to the cost of a roof.

Buttress: The interior of the structure is architecturally reinforced, increasing its hit points by 10%. This increases the cost of the exterior wall by 25%

Hoardings: Roofed shelters added to a battlement to give protection and cover against attacks from above. Hoardings function as an additional roof section

that sits above a structure or wall, providing total cover from attacks from above. A hoarding must be breached or destroyed before a building's own roof can be attacked. Hoardings are a separate Roof room which are not considered a composite wall.

Reinforced Core: Masonry or stone may include a core of metal plating or rebar. This strengthens the wall's structure, increasing hp and SP by 25% and also blocks spells that cannot penetrate metal. This adds 25% to the cost of the exterior wall.

Splay: The base of the structure is reinforced with a sloping glacis to deflect incoming attacks. Any melee attack or direct fire ranged attack against the structure's bottom section inflicts half damage. If the structure becomes damaged, melee attack damage is reduced by only 25%. If the structure is breached, the splay provides no further protection. This adds 10% to the cost of the exterior wall.



COMPOSITE WALLS

To allow taller and more elaborate constructions, composite walls (made of layers of different materials) may also be constructed, which has the double advantage of being able to support heavier walls above and provide more defense against attack. To construct

a composite wall, simply treat the exterior wall of the building as if it is made of each of the materials (and each must be paid for) and add together their hit points to determine how much they can support.

WINDOWS

Windows on a building serve two primary purposes – to let in light, and to allow those inside the building to see out. They also allow those outside the building to see in, but when it comes to building defense, that is something of an unintended consequence.

For the purposes of most effects and game rules, windows are treated as a 5-foot by 5-foot vertical square, though the window is not necessarily that large in reality – at the GM's discretion, smaller windows may have different game effects.

Windows can be added to any building, and are usually one of the following types, though it is possible for a window to have more than one type (for example, glass windows with shutters and blinds are possible). There is not usually a cost for including windows as part of a building's construction (except glass windows, as noted in their description), but the GM may wish to add a small cost if a player decides to add new windows to an existing building.

GLASS WINDOWS

Glass windows allow light to pass through while offering protection from weather to the room. A single glass window costs 160 gp, while all other window types can be added free to a building. Glass windows prevent weather effects from entering the building, and do not block light. Glass windows do not block line of sight, but block line of effect. Glass windows have an AC of 5, damage threshold of 2 and 1 hit point. Glass windows are automatically destroyed by any siege weapon attack which strikes the wall segment they are on. Treat the window as an Open window until it can be repaired.

SHUTTERED WINDOWS

A shuttered window has sturdy wooden screens which can be opened or closed depending on the needs and desires of the inhabitants. They can be locked from the inside to prevent them being opened by unscrupulous individuals (a dexterity check at DC 10 will unlock most shutters). When closed they prevent weather effects passing into the building, but also block light. Closed shutters block line of sight, line of effect, and have an AC of 5, damage threshold 5, and 3 hit points. A window with shutters which are not closed is treated as an Open window (see below).

OPEN WINDOWS

Open windows are simple holes in the exterior walls of a building. They do not block weather effects or light, and do not block line of sight or line of effect. A

character standing next to an open window has half cover from attacks from the other side, and passing through an open window is considered moving through difficult terrain.

DEFENSIVE WINDOWS

Arrow slits (often tall narrow openings wider on the interior than the exterior) provide three quarters cover to anyone standing at the opening on the inside of the building but the level of light from outside is reduced by one step (to a minimum of darkness). Defensive windows do not block weather effects entering the building. They do not block line of sight or line of effect.

CURTAINS/BLINDS

Curtains are fabric hangings used to cover window openings from the inside. Blinds are horizontal or vertical strips of material (cloth or wood being the most common) that serve a similar purpose. The primary effect of curtains and blinds is to block line of sight and light from passing through the window, so are less frequently seen on shuttered windows than other types. Curtains or blinds may be added to any window type with no extra cost.

BUILDING AUGMENTATIONS

The possible list of augmentations for buildings as a whole are almost limitless. Below are some of the most common augmentations.

MOBILE BUILDINGS

This building can move, either by walking, rolling, hovering, flying, swimming, teleporting, or even across the planes. The following table shows the base speed of each movement type, how much it costs to add the type of movement to a building, and any additional information or restrictions which apply to the type of movement. A building may have multiple movement types added, each one must be paid for separately, but only one may be used at any one time. It is also possible to increase the speed of a movement type, with the cost of each additional 10 feet of movement given in the table.

CONCEALED

Benefit the building isn't usually noticed by casual observers

Create 640 gp; **Time** 32 days

This building is hidden from view, whether through *invisibility* or more mundane means (such as being cleverly designed to look like the surrounding terrain). A DC 15 Wisdom (Perception) check will allow someone to notice that the building is there, otherwise it goes unnoticed. Every additional 640 gp increases the DC by +1 to a maximum of 25.

DIMENSION-LOCKED

Benefit teleportation into and out of the building is impossible

Create 128,000 gp; **Time** 128 days

It is not possible to use spells to teleport into or out of this building (it is possible to teleport from one place to another within the building, however). Any augmentation providing a teleportation effect (such as a *teleportation circle*) that allows travel outside the building costs 50% more than normal. This extra cost must be paid, even if this augmentation is added later.

DISGUISED

Benefit this building appears to be something it isn't

Create 300 gp; **Time** 60 days

This building appears to be something else, usually another kind of building. A DC 12 Intelligence check is required to determine the actual purpose of the building.

DUMBWAITER

Benefit small items may be easily moved from floor to floor without someone having to carry them

Create 12,000 for magical or 220 gp for mechanical; **Time** 12 days

A dumbwaiter is a small elevator system commonly used to transport food or small items between floors of a building. A tiny or smaller creature can fit into a dumbwaiter's compartment without difficulty, but larger creatures are unable to do so (however they may be able to use the shafts for hidden movement within the building).

A mechanical dumbwaiter requires maintenance, just like an elevator, costing 2 goods and 5 labor (70 gp) every 6 months. Replacement of the system, if needed, takes 2 days.

ELEVATOR

Benefit a method moving from one floor of the building to another without using stairs

Create 24,000 for magical or 450 gp for mechanical; **Time** 24 days

This represents either a mechanical (pulleys, ropes or cables) or a magical (levitation or flying) elevator system. An elevator takes 1 round to ascend or descend a single floor (multiple floors take multiple rounds, and an action to select a destination).

A mechanical elevator system requires regular maintenance to ensure it keeps running smoothly. Every 6 months, 150 gp must be spent on maintenance, or there is a cumulative 5% chance per month that the system will break and require replacement for the full cost. Replacement in this manner takes 4 days.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SEALED

Benefit effects, weather, and spells cannot penetrate the building.

Create 200,000 gp; **Time** 200 days

An environmentally sealed building functions like an environmentally stable one, but also prevents any environmental effects penetrating the building. This means that the exterior of the building (including any windows) blocks line of effect for all conjuration spells and prevents such spells effects from entering the building unless physically carried by a living creature. This means that (for example) *cloudkill* spells cannot pass through open windows, and the building provides air for the inhabitants even underwater or in a vacuum.

ENVIRONMENTALLY STABLE

Benefit the interior of the building is comfortable, regardless of outside conditions

Create 8,000 gp; **Time** 8 days

The building magically maintains a comfortable temperature and climate for the inhabitants, regardless of the environmental conditions outside.

EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL

Benefit the building exists on a plane of its own.

TABLE 1-3: MOBILE BUILDING COST AND SPEED

TYPE	BASE SPEED	COST	SPEED INCREASE (+10 FEET)	NOTES
Walking	30 ft.	70,000 gp	30,000 gp	Cannot enter water greater in depth than the height of the building. A suitably powerful spellcaster must participate in construction.
Rolling	40 ft.	85,000 gp	50,000 gp	Cannot enter water greater in depth than half the height of the building. A suitably powerful spellcaster must participate in construction.
Hovering	0 ft.	30,000 gp	N/A	Does not reduce speed due to terrain and may pass over water. Maximum altitude is 30 feet. A suitably powerful spellcaster must participate in construction.
Flying	30 ft.	100,000 gp	60,000 gp	Clumsy maneuverability, may hover at any altitude. A suitably powerful spellcaster must participate in construction.
Swimming	30 ft.	70,000 gp	30,000 gp	Floats on the surface of the water unless the building has the environmentally sealed augmentation. A suitably powerful spellcaster must participate in construction.
Teleporting	Special	448,000 gp	N/A	Teleport the entire structure as <i>teleport</i> 1/day.
Planar-travel	Special	200,000 gp	N/A	Teleport the entire structure as <i>plane shift</i> 1/day.



Create 19,000 gp; **Time** 1 day

This building is in its own demi-plane. The entrance to the building must clearly be a doorway or archway, and the entrance must not be accessible from any other direction (for example, the doorway to the demi-plane could be the front door to a large blue box but couldn't be the archway at one end of an alley). Passing through the door transports any creature into the demiplane.

SPELL

Like rooms, buildings may have a spell augmentation. This costs twice as much as a room augmentation of the same spell, but a building may only have a single spell augmentation applied to it. This limitation does not prevent all rooms in the building being given the same spell augmentations. Anyone inside the building is affected by the spell augmentation when they enter the building, with spell resistance and any saving throws being attempted once when the creature first enters. The effect ends immediately when a creature leaves the building.

FORTIFIED BUILDINGS

Fortifications are defensive constructions that help the defenders of a building when it is under attack. They do not provide any benefits to the rooms within the building but affect how the building is used in siege warfare or if an army (or even a group of adventurers) attack it. The rules in this subsection describe creating fortifications. The creation costs assume using hired labor.

Permanent vs. Temporary Fortifications: Fortifications can be permanently emplaced, in which case they always provide their benefits and drawbacks, or temporary, which speeds their construction significantly, but also reduces their effect – each type of fortification has separate statistics depending on whether it is permanent or temporary.

DIFFICULT TERRAIN

Permanent

Create 100 gp; **Time** 4 days

Temporary

Create 40 gp; **Time** 1 day

Most often a temporary fortification when a known

attack is imminent, difficult terrain slows the advance of attackers and makes it impossible to make effective charges. It can take many forms, such as digging up the ground, scattering rubble around, or placing sharp plants in the way. Regardless of the exact method chosen, the effect on attackers is the same. Each difficult terrain fortification affects a 10-foot by 10-foot area and makes it difficult terrain for attackers.

Having a section of permanent difficult terrain that cannot be easily avoided on the approach to a building reduces the furnishings quality of all rooms in the building by 1 step.



MOAT

Create 120 gp; **Time** 2 days

A moat is a trench (see below) that has been made effectively watertight and filled with water. A moat may only be constructed as a permanent fortification. Moats are usually significantly wider than they are deep, and can be built to house dangerous wildlife and plants

A moat can be avoided in the same way a trench can.

RAMPART

Create 20 gp; **Time** 1 day

A wall of packed earth, a rampart is half the height but the same thickness as a normal wall. It has double the hit points of a sod wall and is immune to damage from ranged siege weapons.

A rampart may include a palisade, a wooden wall atop it with half the normal height, hp, and SP of a normal wooden wall.

SWITCHBACK

Benefit attackers must travel further to get to the entrance of the building

Permanent

Create 500 gp; **Time** 5 days

Temporary

Create 160 gp; **Time** 1 day

A switchback is a carefully constructed artificial modification to the lines of approach to the front door of a building, effectively increasing the distance required to travel as attackers approach the entrance. Each switchback affects a 20-foot wide section of the building's exterior and extends 20 feet away from the building. Multiple switchbacks can be placed to

extend the distance away from the building that is affected. A temporary switchback doubles the distance required to move in a straight line towards the building, while a permanent switchback triples it. A basic switchback only affects large or smaller creatures. Huge creatures can be affected if the switchback extends at least 3 switchback sections away from the building, Gargantuan creatures if it extends 4 sections away, and Colossal if it extends 5 sections away. Flying creatures are not affected by switchbacks unless the building and fortification are underground.

For the purposes of other game rules, a switchback fortification does not count as difficult terrain, nor does it affect the speed of creatures in it, but it is not possible to charge through a switchback.

TRENCH

Create 80 gp; **Time** 1 day

A trench is a section of ground (20 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 10 feet deep) that has been dug out to present a difficult barrier for attackers to circumvent. Almost all trenches have one or more straightforward paths to allow easy access to the building (an exception might be a temporary trench dug all the way round a besieged building which has a reliable source of food and water for the inhabitants), which represents a potential weak spot in the fortification (that path is likely to be heavily guarded by other means).

Wider and deeper trenches may be constructed by constructing additional trench fortification sections adjacent to the existing sections but must be at least as many sections wide as they are deep.

Flying attackers are not affected by trenches, and it may be possible for attackers to effectively circumvent trenches with Acrobatics checks to jump across them.

WALL

Create see Walls; **Time** 1 day (modified by material's time factor)

A defensive wall may be constructed in the same manner as any other wall and has appropriate statistics to match. It is common for defensive walls to be built with shelter and raised platforms for defenders to stand within, to allow them to make ranged attacks against attacking forces from positions of relative safety.

Flying attackers may avoid a wall by the simple method of flying over it, but until they have crossed the wall's position, the defenders still retain any advantages they have.

Walls do not have to be built a full 10-feet high – it is not uncommon for walls to be built 3- or 5-feet high, costing 1/3 and 1/2 the cost of a normal wall segment respectively, and requiring a similar proportion of time. 10-foot wall segments can only be built as permanent fortifications, but shorter segments can be temporary or permanent. The decision to make a wall temporary instead of permanent has no effect on the cost to create the wall, but temporary walls take 50% extra damage from siege weapon attacks and can be removed at no cost (but 1 day of time, regardless of material) later.

As with buildings, permanent wall fortifications may be constructed with windows.

It is common for a gatehouse room to be added to a permanent wall fortification. Other rooms may be added at the GM's discretion.

BUILDING LOCATION

Where a building is and how far away it is from the resources to build it (whether labor or materials) can drastically affect the cost of a building.

TABLE 1-4: MATERIAL COST BY LOCATION

TERRAIN	COST MULTIPLIER (WITHIN HEX)	1 HEX (12 MI.)	2 HEXES (24 MI.)	3 HEXES (36 MI.)	4 HEXES (48 MI.)	5 HEXES (60 MI.)	NOTES
Plains	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Hill	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1	1	Applies to stone and metal materials only
Desert*	+0.1						
Forest	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1	Applies to wood materials only
Marsh*	+0.2						
Mountain	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1	Applies to stone and metal materials only
Cavern**	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	Applies to stone and metal materials only
Water***	+0.5						

Notes: A suitable terrain improvement (commonly mine, quarry, or sawmill) provides a -0.1 multiplier

5 hexes of river, lake, or sea count as 1 hex of distance due to the ease of transporting goods on water (divide the water distance by 5, rounding down).

*: Desert and Marsh terrains are difficult to build on, and materials are almost always imported.

**: A cavern is considered to always be at least 1 hex away from any other source of material.

***: This is to actually build underwater, not just in a hex that has a river in it.





DISTANCE

Every hex (or 12 miles if not using hex-based mapping) away from the nearest settlement adds 20% to the labor cost of a building.

TERRAIN

The terrain in which a building is being constructed can affect the cost of materials – use the lowest applicable multiplier for the terrain and material being used.

PART 2: SIEGE WARFARE

A classic trope of fantasy warfare is the storming of a castle. Whether the PCs are leading brave and desperate defense of a lonely bastion against an overwhelming army of darkness, or leading the fight to overthrow the Evil Overlord and cast down his mighty fortress, a fight along the battlements can fire the imagination of a jaded player growing bored of one-on-one hacking. While historical sieges often depended more on disease and starvation for victory than anything else, the thrill for players is likely to come more in the way of bombardment and assault with an array of siege weapons, countering the massive engines of their enemies with their own.

STRUCTURES AND BUILDING MATERIALS

It is hardly possible to talk about siege warfare and siege weapons in detail without talking about the buildings they were built to destroy. The structural strength of buildings and the damage inflicted by siege weapons is expressed in terms of structural points (SP), and the same rules apply for attacks against vehicles and even other siege weapons. Siege weapons may instead inflict ordinary hit point damage if desired (and some are intended primarily as antipersonnel weapons), and normal attacks can damage structures and fortifications following the rules in the *5E SRD*, depending on precisely what part of the structure is being attacked. For resolving siege weapon attacks against structures and vehicles, however, structural points provide a quick and convenient method for tracking damage. Structural points and hit points should be tracked separately; the effects of damage to hp and SP to the same section overlap and do not stack.

Size: Buildings are typically comprised of sections, made up of 10-foot cubic spaces for most buildings. For SP purposes, the AC of a structure is determined by its size, regardless of its composition: Large 4, Huge 3, Gargantuan 1, Colossal -3.

Condition: An intact building offers total cover to any creature within, though they cannot attack. Those within a building may open doors or windows to attack those outside; they still gain cover, but those outside may attack them. One successful check against the building's break DC leaves it damaged, a second breached, and a third destroyed. Otherwise, it gains the listed condition when it suffers the appropriate amount of hp or SP damage (see Table 2-1).

Damaged: This section has numerous small cracks and holes. The AC, damage threshold, and break DC of this section are reduced by 2.

Breached: This section no longer provides total cover, though those within still gain cover from outside attacks. All adjacent sections of this building are treated as damaged.

Destroyed: This section collapses on those within; all adjacent sections of this building are treated as breached.

Catching on Fire: Structures of wood, hide, or thatch may catch on fire when they suffer fire damage.

Repairs: Damaged, breached, or destroyed building sections or siege engines can be repaired using appropriate skill checks or magic.

Material: The material the walls of the building are constructed from.

Thickness: A wall constructed of this material is typically this many feet thick.

Damage Threshold: The damage threshold of the material.

HP (HP per inch): The number of hit points a wall of typical thickness has, as well as the hit points per inch of thickness for the material, if a wall of differing thickness is used. This is the number of hit points for a wall to be breached. To calculate the number of hit points to damage the wall, divide the hit points by 2, and to calculate the number of hit points to destroy the wall, multiply the hit points by 2.

SP: The number of Structure Points (see Siege Weapons) for a wall of typical thickness to be damaged, breached, and destroyed.

Break DC: The DC for a Strength check to break through the wall. Each doubling of the standard wall thickness increases this by +2.

Climb DC: The typical DC for an athletics check to climb on a wall of this material. This may be modified by environmental conditions or other factors at the GM's discretion.

RANGED SIEGE WEAPONS

Siege weapons hurl massive projectiles in one of two ways: direct fire or indirect fire. Direct fire weapons launch their projectiles on a relatively flat trajectory, allowing them to more easily target moving creatures or pummel barriers directly in front of them. Indirect fire weapons launch projectiles in a high parabolic arc, typically much heavier missiles than direct fire weapons. They may batter fortifications or bypass them entirely, their missiles arcing over intervening walls to deliver solid shot, bursts of scatter shot, or even unconventional payloads, such as incendiaries or disease-ridden offal.

Direct-fire missiles use a normal attack roll. In addition, direct fire weapons suffer a -2 attack roll penalty per size category a weapon is larger than the creature aiming it.

Indirect-fire weapons have disadvantage on all attack rolls, hereafter referred to as a targeting roll, unless they or a spotter has line of sight to the target. Sight negates this disadvantage, but an indirect siege weapon can never gain advantage on the targeting roll.

Indirect Criticals: If the crew chief of a siege weapon rolls a natural 20 on his targeting check with an indirect fire weapon, or if a target of an indirect fire weapon rolls a natural 1 on its Reflex, the target suffers double damage and is knocked prone (a flying or swimming creature is instead treated as if pushed 1d6 x 10 feet, reduced by 5 feet per size category larger than Medium). In addition, if the target is smaller than the siege weapon, it is effectively entangled for 1d4 rounds as it is buried in rubble or pinned to the ground or adjacent objects. A creature can free itself from this condition with a DC 15 Strength or Dexterity check.

Assembling Siege Weapons: Siege weapons broken down for transport and can be reassembled on the battlefield, requiring the time and number of workers noted

below. Each assembly worker must make a DC 10 Craft (siege weapons) check; if untrained, they may not take 10. Assembly can be performed with at least half the required number of workers by doubling the time required. If fewer than half are available, the weapon cannot be assembled.



TABLE 2-1: WALL DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

MATERIAL	THICKNESS (IN FEET)*	DAMAGE THRESHOLD	HP (HP PER INCH)	SP	BREAK DC	CLIMB DC
Paper	0.0025	0	1 (12)	0/0/1	5	20
Glass	0.04	2	1 (2)	0/0/1	10	20
Viridium	0.04	7	7 (15)	0/0/1	10	15
Viridium (magically strengthened)	0.04	7	7 (15)	0/0/1	10	15
Cloth	0.02	0	3 (15)	0/0/1	20	10
Darkleaf Cloth	0.02	10	5 (20)	0/0/1	25	10
Griffon Mane	0.02	0	6 (30)	0/0/1	20	10
Hide	0.04	2	7 (15)	0/0/1	20	10
Angelskin	0.04	5	3 (5)	0/0/1	10	10
Dragonhide	0.04	10	5 (10)	0/0/1	15	10
Eelhide	0.04	2	3 (5)	0/0/1	10	10
Sod	1	7	60 (5)	2/5/9	20	15
	10	10	5 (10)	0/0/1	18	15
ThatchH	1	3	96 (8)	3/6/11	15	10
Wood	0.5	5	60 (10)	2/4/8	15	15
Darkwood	0.5	5	60 (10)	2/4/8	15	15
Greenwood	0.5	5	60 (10)	2/4/8	15	15
Whipwood	0.5	5	90 (15)	3/6/12	15	15
Wyroot	0.08	5	10 (10)	0/0/1	10	15
Unworked Stone	5	8	900 (15)	38/75/150	30	10
Hewn Stone	3	8	540 (15)	23/45/90	30	10
Drystone wall	1	8	90 (8)	4/8/15	15	10
Thin Masonry	0.5	8	45 (8)	2/4/8	25	15
Masonry	1	8	90 (8)	4/8/15	30	15
Superior Masonry	1	8	90 (8)	4/8/15	30	15
Reinforced Masonry	1	8	180 (15)	5/10/20	30	15
Blood Crystal	0.08	10	10 (10)	0/1/2	25	20
Iron	0.25	10	90 (30)	5/9/18	30	20
Lead	0.02	3	7 (30)	0/0/1	20	20
Adamantine	0.08	20	40 (40)	20/40/80	30	20
Alchemical Silver	0.08	8	10 (10)	0/1/2	30	20
Elysian Bronze	0.08	10	30 (30)	2/3/6	30	20
Fire-forged Steel	0.08	10	30 (30)	2/3/6	30	20
Frost-forged Steel	0.08	10	30 (30)	2/3/6	30	20
Living Steel	0.08	15	35 (35)	4/7/14	30	20
Mithral	0.08	15	30 (30)	3/6/12	30	20
Force Field	-	30	20	11/22/44	-	-
Magically Treated**	-	X2	X2‡	X2	+20	-

*: 0.25 feet is 3 inches, 0.08 feet is 1 inch, 0.04 feet is 1/2 inch, 0.02 feet is 1/4 inch, 0.0025 is 1/32 inch

** : This may be applied to any of the other wall types.

s: Viridium is an extremely dangerous building material infused with toxic radioactivity. Anyone climbing or touching a viridium wall (crewing a close assault siege weapon counts as touching the wall) receives an attack roll at +10 from the wall as if struck by a viridium weapon. Any attacker who is hit contracts leprosy (no save).

H: At the GM's discretion, wolves and dire wolves may make a breath attack as an action against thatch walls, automatically destroying them.

‡: Or an additional 50 hit points, whichever is greater

TABLE 2-2: SIEGE WEAPON ASSEMBLY

SIZE	TIME REQUIRED	WORKERS REQUIRED
Small	1 minute	1
Medium	10 minutes	2
Large	1 hour	4
Huge	2 hours	6
Gargantuan	4 hours	8

Constructing Siege Weapons: Siege weapons are complex devices requiring a DC 15 Intelligence skill check to build or repair. Gunpowder weapons increase the DC by 5.

Disabling Siege Weapons: Siege weapons are considered difficult devices to disarm, requiring 2d4 rounds of effort and a DC 15 Intelligence check.



Magical and Masterwork Siege Weapons: A siege weapon can be enchanted at twice the cost for a normal magical weapon. The enhancement bonus of a siege weapon applies to targeting rolls and SP damage, but other weapon enhancements apply only to attacks to inflict hit point damage.

Proficiency with Siege Weapons: Siege weapons are martial weapons.

Repairs: Siege weapons can be repaired using appropriate skill checks or spells.

Wheeled Weapons: Cannon and catapults usually have wheeled caissons or gun carriages to help move them into position. These wheels allow a team of draft animals to pull them at 20 feet if the weapon's weight is less than their combined heavy load.

Ballista: Resembling a massive crossbow, a ballista's power is provided by twisted skeins of animal sinew used as torsion springs driving a pair of adjustable arms. A string attached to both arms is winched back

and a projectile loaded into a grooved slider for release. Ballistae are direct fire weapons.

Heavy: These massive engines are commonplace in castle defenses and those attacking such places and on large warships.

Light: The most common type of ballista, also called an arcuballista, is fairly maneuverable and often mounted atop towers.

Wheeled: A mobile light ballista, also called a carroballista, is mounted on a metal-plated medium wagon. The weapon can be mounted forwards, facing over the draft team, or towed behind them facing rearward. Firing a carroballista while its team is attached requires a DC 15 Wisdom (Animal Handling) check unless the draft animals are war-trained to prevent them from bolting in a random direction for 1d4 rounds.

Cannon: Crafted of metal, some cast in one piece, others welded with iron bands, and either mounted in the ground or on wooden frames, cannons use gunpowder or its alchemical equivalent to propel their projectiles with great force. Cannons are direct fire weapon and have a critical modifier of x3.

Bouncing Shot: Solid shot can be fired from a cannon at a depressed angle, so as to bounce along the ground, affecting a 5-ft. wide line 20 feet long for a Small cannon, plus 20 feet per size category above Small. A DC 15 Dexterity saving throw halves damage. If a solid barrier in the area path is destroyed, it does not provide cover to creatures behind it. If not destroyed, the bouncing shot is stopped by the barrier. A bouncing shot requires the gunner to be proficient in the cannon's use and to make a DC 10 Intelligence check; the DC increases by 2 for every square in the line that does not have a solid surface under it.

Misfires: Cannons are somewhat unreliable, and a natural 1 on an attack roll (direct fire) or targeting roll (indirect fire) results in a misfire, expending the powder charge but not the ammunition for that shot.

TABLE 2-3: CANNON MISFIRE RESULT

D20	RESULT	EFFECT
1-8	Misfire	Cannon fails to fire and must be reloaded.
9-14	Backfire	As misfire, and the crew chief and other creatures adjacent to the cannon are struck by alchemist's fire. The cannon and all adjacent squares are affected by smoke.
15-18	Cracked	Cannon is broken. If fired, it now misfires on a natural 1 or 2, with a +5 modifier to future rolls to determine misfire results.
19-20	Explodes	Cannon destroyed. Every square adjacent to the cannon is struck by a falling object of the cannon's size and catches on fire (DC 10 Dexterity save halves damage and negates catching on fire), and every square within 10 feet is affected by smoke.

Mortars: A mortar is a short but very thick cannon designed for indirect fire. It may use solid or scatter shot but cannot perform a bouncing shot. Large or smaller mortars have a burst radius of 1; larger mortars have a burst radius of 2. Mortars have a minimum range of 100 feet.

Noise and Smoke: Cannons are smoky and noisy. Any creature adjacent to a cannon becomes deafened for 1 round after it is fired. If the cannon is larger than the creature, the duration is increased by 1 round per size category difference.

Sizes of Cannon: Cannons come in many sizes, as noted below:

Small: Also called a swivel gun, hand culverin, or pierrier, this small gun may be mounted or carried and fired from a tripod or brace but suffers a -2 penalty to hit if not braced for at least 1 full round prior to firing.

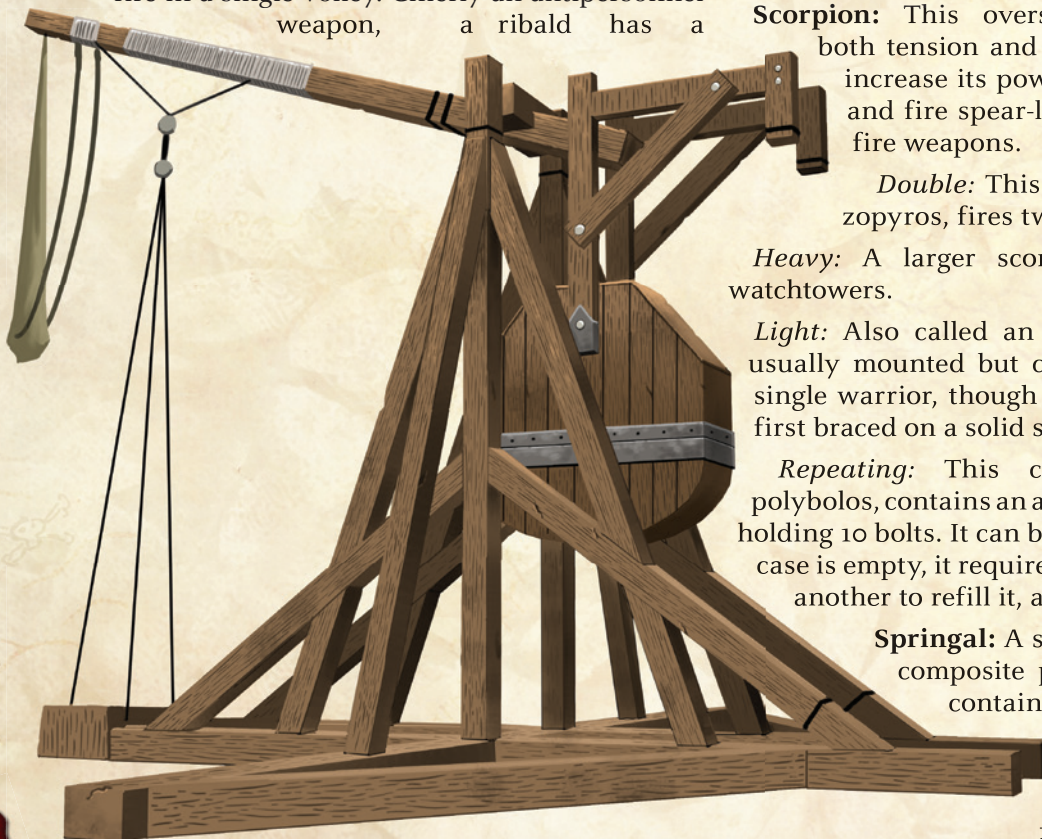
Medium: Also called a falconet, crapaudin, or demi-culverin, this light cannon is a staple weapon in the gunports of advanced warships.

Large: Also called a culverin or saker, this is the most common type of cannon.

Huge: Also called a culverin extraordinary or siege cannon, these are the largest cannon that can be mounted in naval gunports.

Gargantuan: Also called a bombard or true cannon, these heaviest of cannon can quickly reduce most fortifications to rubble.

Ribald: Also called an organ gun or ribaudkin, this large wooden frame mounts 12 small cannon, fused to fire in a single volley. Chiefly an antipersonnel weapon, a ribald has a



maximum range of 100 feet and affects all creatures in a 100-foot cone (DC 10 Dexterity saving throw for half within 50 feet, no damage beyond 50 feet).

Catapult: Though the historical divide between ballista and catapult is ambiguous, catapults here are stone-throwers powered by winched arms run through torsion skeins, either single-armed like the onager or double-armed tension-torsion hybrids like the mangonel, holding their payload in a sling or cup that swings up and over the weapon when released. Catapults hurl solid or scatter shot, the latter affecting all squares within 1 square of the target. Catapults are indirect fire weapons and have a minimum range of 100 feet.

Heavy: These large onagers are the largest form of mobile artillery on most battlefields.

Light: Smaller onagers such as these are often used on the decks of ships or in smaller fortifications.

Lithobolos: A primitive sling-armed catapult, also called a lithobolos or stone-thrower. It must be dismantled to move it and reassembled in place. Its sling is only capable of firing solid projectiles, not loose shot.

Mangonel: While most catapults use a single arm through a horizontal skein, a mangonel uses two vertical skeins with a pair of torsion bow arms harnessed to the mangonel's throwing arm for greater power.

Firedrake: This apparatus fires a gout of alchemist's fire in either a 60-foot line or 30-foot cone. Targets in the area suffer 6d6 points of fire damage (DC 12 Dexterity saving throw for half); those failing their saves also catch on fire. A firedrake that is destroyed automatically explodes if it is loaded.

Scorpion: This oversized crossbow incorporates both tension and torsion, often with pulleys to increase its power without increasing its size, and fire spear-like bolts. Scorpions are direct fire weapons.

Double: This specialized scorpion, called a zopyros, fires two missiles simultaneously.

Heavy: A larger scorpion mounted on ships or watchtowers.

Light: Also called an oxybeles, a light scorpion is usually mounted but can be carried and fired by a single warrior, though with a -2 penalty to hit if not first braced on a solid surface for 1 full round.

Repeating: This complex scorpion, called a polybolos, contains an automatic reloading mechanism holding 10 bolts. It can be reloaded as a move. Once the case is empty, it requires an action to remove the case, another to refill it, and another to replace it.

Springal: A springal uses a torsion- cranked composite paddle to strike a firing rack containing multiple bolts, which rain down in an arc over a burst area. A springal has a minimum range of 50 feet and can only use burst

ammunition and cannot target specific creatures. Springals are indirect fire weapons.

Heavy: A heavy springal affects all squares within 2 squares of the target.

Light: A heavy springal affects all squares within 1 square of the target.

Trebuchet: Trebuchets are similar in form to catapults, with the payload placed into a basket, cup, or sling at the end of a long lever, with a counterweight (often with crew or animals pulling attached ropes) close to the fulcrum. The leverage imparted by a trebuchet allows it to hurl massive missiles. Trebuchets are too bulky to move and must be assembled on the battlefield. Trebuchets have a minimum range of 150 feet. Trebuchets are indirect fire weapons.

Heavy: A heavy trebuchet using scatter shot affects all squares within 2 squares of the target.

Light: A heavy trebuchet using scatter shot affects all squares within 1 square of the target.

Cost: The price in gp to purchase the siege weapon.

Weight: The weight of the siege weapon in pounds (or tons).

Damage: Hit point damage is indicated before the slash, structural point damage after it.

Burst: When using ammunition that affects a burst, it affects the target square and all squares within the listed radius; e.g., a trebuchet using scatter shot would affect the target square and 2 squares surrounding it in all directions.

Range: This is the weapon's range as defined in the *PHB*.

Aim: This is the number of actions required to aim a siege weapon. A weapon with no aim number (-) does not need to be aimed.

TABLE 2-4: RANGED SIEGE WEAPONS

	COST	WEIGHT	DMG	RANGE	AIM	LOAD	SIZE	AC	HP	SP
Ballista										
Heavy	1000 gp	1 ton	6d8/1d6	150/600	1	4	Huge	3	150	8
Light	500 gp	400 lbs	3d8/1d3	120/480	1	2	Large	4	80	4
Wheeled	800 gp	400 lbs	3d8/1d3	120/480	1	2	Large	8	80	4
Cannon										
Colossal	50,000 gp	15 tons	10d12/5d6	200/800	10	5	Colossal	5	500	30
Huge	30,000 gp	7.5 tons	8d12/4d6	250/1000	3	3	Huge	7	300	15
Large	20,000 gp	2 tons	6d12/3d6	300/1200	2	2	Large	8	150	8
Medium	10,000 gp	500 lbs	4d12/2d6	200/800	1	1	Medium	9	80	4
Small	2500 gp	100 lbs	2d12/1d6	100/400	-	1	Small	10	40	2
Ribald	20,000 gp	1000 lbs	3d12/1d3	100/400	1	12	Large	4	80	4
Catapult²										
Heavy	800 gp	1.5 tons	6d6/2d6	150/600	3	3	Huge	3	150	8
Light	550 gp	1 ton	4d6/1d8	100/400	2	2	Large	4	80	4
Lithobolos	200 gp	1 ton	4d6/1d8	100/400	2	2	Large	4	80	4
Mangonel	1100 gp	2 tons	8d6/2d8	200/800	4	4	Garg.	1	300	15
Firedrake	4000 gp	1500 lbs	6d6	60/240	2	5	Large	4	80	4
Scorpion										
Double	750 gp	250 lbs	2d8/1d2	150/600	-	2	Medium	5	40	2
Heavy	350 gp	200 lbs	2d8/1d2	150/600	-	1	Medium	5	40	2
Light	150 gp	100 lbs	2d6/1	120/480	-	1	Small	6	20	1
Repeating	1250 gp	300 lbs	2d8/1d2	150/600	-	-(10)	Medium	5	40	2
Springal										
Light	600 gp	750 lbs	6d6/1	50/200	1	2	Large	4	80	4
Heavy	900 gp	1500 lbs	6d6/1	50/200	1	4	Huge	3	150	8
Trebuchet										
Heavy	3000 gp	10 tons	16d6/5d6	300/1200	30	5	Colossal	-3	500	30
Light	1500 gp	4 tons	12d6/4d6	250/1000	20	3	Colossal	1	300	15

¹ A double scorpion fires two projectiles, using separate attack rolls for each.

² Creatures with the rock throwing special ability or flying creatures dropping objects of their size may use indirect fire to inflict SP damage as a catapult of their size. Whether they can hurl ammunition other than solid shot is at the GM's discretion.

Load: This is the number of actions required to load the siege weapon.

Size: This is the size of the siege weapon.

AC: This is the weapon's AC if attacked. A siege weapon can also be armored.

Hides: Stitched hides and padded leather; **AC Bonus** +3; **hp** +15; **Cost** 20 gp; **Weight** 20 lbs.

Partial Plating: Metal plating over main structure. **AC Bonus** +6; **hp** +30; **Cost** 200 gp; **Weight** 40 lbs.

Full Plating: Metal plating over entire weapon. **AC Bonus** +9; **hp** +45; **Cost** 1000 gp; **Weight** 60 lbs.

HP: This is the number of hit points the siege weapon possesses. Unless otherwise noted, siege weapons are primarily constructed of wood and have damage threshold 5.

SP: This is the number of structural points the siege weapon possesses. If reduced to less than half its structural points, a siege weapon gains the broken condition.

AMMUNITION

Siege weapons typically fire blocks or balls of stone or spear-like bolts, but may use a variety of ammunition.

Bolt: A spear-like projectile for use with a ballista, scorpion, or springal, bolts inflicts half damage against objects or structures made of metal or stone.

Bolt, Burning: A burning bolt causes creatures or flammable objects (including wooden structures) to catch on fire (DC 10 Dexterity saving throw negates).

Bolt, Grappling: A grappling bolt is a metal-shod bolt with a multipronged hook attached. It inflicts only half damage, but a creature struck is entangled (DC 10 Dexterity saving throw negates). It can break free with a DC 15 Strength or Dexterity check. A stationary object or structure is automatically grappled. The grappling bolt can be cut (AC 5, damage threshold 10, hp 10, break DC 20), or if the target is able to reach the attached rope (which may require a reach weapon if the grappling bolt is attached to a ship, wall, or other structure) it may also be cut (AC 5, hp 2, break DC 15).

A pulley system can be attached to a grappling bolt. This enables heavy objects to be hoisted and halves the time required to use raise ladders and bridges attached to the grapple.

Shot, Burning: A sack or basket of incendiaries soaked with oil or pitch and lit or coated in quicklime. Burning shot acts like scatter shot, but creatures or flammable objects failing their Dexterity saving throw also catch on fire.

Shot, Canister: A packed container of small-sized shot for use in cannons inflicting half damage but

affecting a cone 20 feet long for a Small cannon, plus 20 feet per size category above Small. Damage is further halved with a DC 10 Dexterity saving throw.

Shot, Caustic: A barrel of acid inflicting half normal damage to all targets within the weapon's burst radius (full damage vs. metal objects), and creatures or metal objects failing their Dexterity saving throw also take 1d6 acid damage (ignoring damage threshold) for 1d3 rounds. Creatures damaged lose 1d6 maximum hit points until they take a long rest (DC 13 Constitution saving throw negates).

Shot, Fetid: Manure, offal, or corpses (or parts thereof), inflicting one-quarter normal damage, to all targets in the weapon's burst radius. Creatures taking damage contract a disease (GM discretion, DC 12 Constitution saving throw negates).

Shot, Powder: The propellant charge required when firing a cannon; this must be loaded along with whatever other shot is being used and inflicts no damage by itself.

Shot, Scatter: A sack, basket, or canister of small, hard, heavy objects rain down, inflicting half damage to the target square and all squares within the weapon's burst radius.

Shot, Smoke: A sack or basket of incendiaries stoked with green cuttings and alchemical residues designed to give off thick smoke. Smoke shot inflicts one-quarter damage and produces smoke within the weapon's burst radius.

Shot, Solid: A block of solid stone for use with a catapult or trebuchet. It inflicts the listed damage to all creatures and objects in the square struck. Creatures may attempt a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw for half damage.

TABLE 2-5: AMMUNITION

	COST ¹	WEIGHT ¹
Bolt	1 gp	6 lbs
Bolt, Burning	15 gp	8 lbs
Bolt, Grappling	25 gp	10 lbs
Shot, Burning	25 gp	20 lbs
Shot, Caustic	25 gp	20 lbs
Shot, Canister	50 gp	10 lbs
Shot, Fetid	1 sp	15 lbs
Shot, Powder	50 gp	2.5 lbs
Shot, Scatter	2 sp	20 lbs
Shot, Smoke	25 gp	20 lbs
Shot, Solid	1 gp	25 lbs

¹ For Small or Medium siege weapons; for larger siege weapons, adjust cost and weight accordingly.

CLOSE ASSAULT WEAPONS

While most siege weapons attack at range, some are used up close to directly undermine or batter through defenses or otherwise bypass them. Some close assault weapons are not even weapons per se, but instead provide means for assault forces to protect themselves or to circumvent fortifications without destroying them.

Bridge, Assault: An assault bridge is used to span a ditch, moat, or other gap. Raising a bridge requires one action per 5 feet of length; up to four creatures may cooperate to raise a bridge. The time required is doubled for each size category the bridge is larger than the creatures raising it.

TABLE 2-7: BRIDGES AND LADDERS

SIZE	WIDTH	LENGTH/HEIGHT
Large	5 feet	20 feet
Huge	5 feet	30 feet
Gargantuan	10 feet	40 feet

Corvus: A hinged counterweight system for mounting a bridge vertically on a vehicle, with a hooked end to grab onto a target vehicle or structure. Using a corvus requires a DC 10 Intelligence check; if failed, the corvus fails to catch on the target and must be reset (requiring 1 minute). A corvus targeted at a moving vehicle requires an opposed steering check to

get it into correct position, though no steering check is required if the target vehicle is grappled.

Ramps: A bridge constructed of packed earth and stone, a ramp has damage threshold 0 but triple the hp and SP of a wooden bridge. It requires 8 hours to construct a 5-foot cubic section of a ramp; multiple creatures may cooperate. A ramp can be flat or up to a 45-degree angle; however, a vertical ramp must have a base at least half as wide as its height. Ramps cost nothing, but the time required to build them is doubled if proper digging tools are not available.

Cauldron: Mounted atop a structure, a cauldron is a Medium-sized device used to dump harmful substances through a sluice onto attackers below. A cauldron uses shot ammunition (see Table X-5) and is an indirect fire weapon. Its scatter shot affects all squares within 1 square of the target, as well as a 5-foot wide vertical line between the cauldron and the target.

Water Tower: A Large wooden container to hold water to help fight fires, a water tower serves as fire precautions for all structures within 30 feet and can supply water for fire. A water tower can also be emptied upon creatures below, extinguishing nonmagical fires in the area and pushing creatures away creatures.

Gallery: A mobile temporary defense, a gallery is similar to a building made of hide or wood. Most are



TABLE 2-6: CLOSE ASSAULT SIEGE WEAPONS

	COST	WEIGHT	CREW	LOAD	HARDNESS	HP	SP	DMG
Bridge								
Large	1 gp	50 lbs	see text		5	10	1	-
Huge	10 gp	100 lbs	5		20	1	1	-
Gargantuan	50 gp	250 lbs	5		30	2	2	-
Corvus	500 gp	200 lbs	10		20	2	2	-
Cauldron	10 gp	125 lbs	1	2	10	60	3	2d6
Water Tower	50 gp	500 lbs	-	-	5	100	5	-
Gallery ¹								
Medium	100 gp	100 lbs	1	-	as hide or wooden structure			-
Large	250 gp	400 lbs	4	-	as hide or wooden structure			-
Huge	500 gp	1600 lbs	8	-	as hide or wooden structure			-
Gargantuan	1000 gp	3 tons	16	-	as hide or wooden structure			-
Siege Tower	x4	x2	x1	-	as hide or wooden structure			-
Hoist	^{200 gp} ²	500 lbs	2	-	5	80	4	-
Ladder, Escalade								
Large	1 gp	50 lbs	see text		10/5	20/10	1	-
Huge	10 gp	100 lbs	10/5		20/20	1	1	-
Gargantuan	50 gp	250 lbs	10/5		20/30	1	1	-
Sambuca	500 gp	200 lbs	10		30	1	1	-
Ram								
Large	500 gp	150 lbs	see text		5	20	1	2d6
Huge	1000 gp	1000 lbs			5	40	2	3d6
Gargantuan	2000 gp	2.5 tons	5		100	5	6d6	6d6

¹ For wooden galleries; cost and weight are halved for hide galleries.

² A hoist's price increases by 100 gp per point of Strength over 10.

of flimsy construction, but rare examples are more stoutly built. Galleries are almost always one building section plus one roof section (galleries made to house battering rams are an exception, and are typically two joined building sections and roof sections). Because a gallery is partially open, it does not provide the same cover as a normal building: A creature inside a gallery gains cover if he is the same size as the gallery, three quarters cover if he is one size smaller, and total cover if he is two or more sizes smaller.

Wooden galleries can be moved up on rollers at a speed of 10 with their full crew, 5 feet with at least half the required crew. Hide galleries have a base speed of 15.

Siege Tower: A wooden gallery of stout construction, a siege tower is comprised of two building sections arranged vertically, in addition to a roof section. The lowest section is used to propel the tower and provides total cover to those within. If it is breached, the siege tower moves at half speed. If it is destroyed, the entire tower collapses.

The upper section of a siege tower provides improved cover for a number of soldiers (see below) and may have pierced walls or gunports. The roof

section may have a battlement and may mount a siege weapon or corvus bridge up to one size smaller than the siege tower.

TABLE 2-8: SIEGE TOWER COMPLEMENT

SIZE	SOLDIERS
Large	5
Huge	20
Gargantuan	50

Hoist: Mounted atop a structure, a hoist is a Large winching mechanism for lifting cargo or passengers. A hoist has a base Strength of 10, but can have a Strength as high as 28. A hoist can raise or lower a light load at 15 feet per round, its heavy load at 10 feet per round. Operating a winch requires two actions; if only a single operator is available, it can be operated at half speed.

Ram Catching: The operator of a hoist can attempt to catch and disarm a ram with a readied action, after the ram attacks. The operator makes an Intelligence check plus the hoist's Strength bonus and the ram's wielder makes an opposed Strength check. If the operator's check succeeds, the ram is caught by the hoist. The hoist can then attempt Strength check to break the

ram; the DC is 15 for a Large ram, 20 for a Huge ram, or 25 for a Gargantuan ram. Alternatively, the ram can be lifted out of reach. If the ram remains in reach of the attackers, they may attempt to reclaim it with an opposed Strength check or by destroying the hoist or the chains or ropes it is using for catching the ram.

A hoist requires Strength of 22 to catch a Huge ram, 28 to catch a Gargantuan ram.

Ladder, Escalade: Escalade ladders have spiked bases for stability, and the upper 5 feet are metal-shod, with Damage threshold 10 and 20 hit points. The remainder of the ladder is wooden and has damage threshold 5 and hit points based on its size. Ladders otherwise follow the rules for assault bridges.

Sambuca: A sambuca is a counterweight and pulley system mounted at the base of a ladder that enables up to 20 creatures to cooperate in raising the ladder. Creatures may ride on the ladder as it is raised, provided there are two creatures of their size (or one larger creature) pulling the sambuca for each rider.

Rams: The most basic close assault weapons are iron-shod logs carried by one or more creatures to combine their strength. A ram can be used to inflict damage or to make a Strength check against the target's break DC.

Crew: A ram can be wielded by a single creature of its size or larger, plus up to five additional creatures of the same size to assist. Smaller creatures can substitute for the ram's crew, but the number required is doubled for each size category they are smaller than the ram; hence, 4 Small creatures could take the place of a single Large creature.

Ramming Charge: Rams require momentum to be fully effective. All creatures using the ram must use the dash action to gain its full effect. Otherwise the ram attack gains disadvantage.

Breaking: The wielder makes a Strength check with a +2 bonus, adding +2 for each crew member (or equivalent number of smaller creatures) assisting. The ram also provides a +4 bonus per size category above Medium.

Damage: The wielder makes an attack roll. A hit inflicts the listed damage, plus the Strength modifiers to damage of the wielder and all creatures assisting, regardless of their size. To determine SP damage, divide the hit point damage of the ram by 10.

Gallery Ram: A ram suspended from chains or ropes within a gallery. A gallery ram does not require a running start. In addition, by adding tethers to the back end of the ram, it allows four additional crew members to assist.

Improvised Ram: Any tree, log, or timber can be used as a ram with disadvantage.

Pick: A ram with a pick head adds a +2 bonus to Strength checks and attack and damage rolls against stone structures.

Screw: A ram with a screw head adds gains a +2 bonus to Strength checks and attack and damage rolls against earthen structures.

PART 3: BUILDINGS IN THE KINGDOM

In many cases, a building will be constructed as part of a kingdom. It is therefore important to know how a player-created building fits into the Kingdom rules if you are using those rules.

BUILDINGS IN SETTLEMENTS

If a building is being used in the Downtime rules it is important to determine the size of the building and the settlement attribute modifiers for the building.

BUILDING SIZE

Divide four times the longest dimension of the building by 750. You may choose to round up or down. Do the same for the shorter dimension (rounding the same way you did for the longer side). The result is the number of lots wide and deep the building occupies in the City Grid (no building should occupy more than 4 lots, but the GM may allow buildings to expand beyond this). If you rounded down and the number of lots for either dimension is at least 1, you may choose to make that lot impassable and if you rounded up, the lot can be made impassable only if the number of lots in a single dimension is at least 2.

SETTLEMENT ATTRIBUTES

The way a building modifies the settlement attributes is largely determined by the purpose of the building and lists one or more Kingdom Attributes. The building must provide a bonus to one of these Kingdom Attribute before any others (if more than one attribute is listed, the bonuses must be as even as possible).

Trade: Buildings focused primarily on tradesmen, guilds, and the buying and selling of goods. Economy, Alchemist, Bank, Black Market, Foreign Quarter, Guildhall, Lighthouse, Luxury Store, Magic Shop, Market, Pier, Shop, Stockyard, Trade Shop, Waterfront, Warehouse.

Residential: Buildings which are for permanent or transient residents of the settlement. Unrest, Loyalty, Caster's Tower, Herbalist, House, Inn, Mansion, Noble Villa, Palace, Stable, Tenement.

Bureaucratic: These buildings are administrative places of work, aiming to make the running of the settlement as smooth as possible. Assembly, Bureau, Courthouse, Mint, Town Hall, Stability.

Religious: Mostly places of worship for organized religions, but also centres of healing. Economy, Loyalty, Stability. Cathedral, Monastery, Sacred Grove, Shrine, Temple.

Educational: Institutions providing a formal education for the population of the settlement. Academy, Bardic College, Library, Magical Academy, Museum, Observatory, University, Loyalty.



Military: Training areas, equipment storage, and living quarters for military organisations, as well as defensive fortifications and locations for the settlement. Stability. Aerie, Barracks, Castle, City Wall, Garrison, Military Academy, Moat, Watchtower.

Manufacturing: a place where finished goods are made from raw materials. Brewery, Brickyard, Exotic Artisan, Foundry, Lumberyard, Mill, Smithy, Tannery, Windmill.

Entertainment: Social venues for various types of entertainments. Loyalty. Arena, Bordello, Dance Hall, Gambling Den, Menagerie, Tavern, Theatre.

Civil: These are buildings dedicated to the physical and emotional well-being of the citizens. Loyalty, Stability. Baths, Bridge, Cistern, Colossus, Crematorium,

Dump, Everflowing Spring, Granary, Graveyard, Hanging Gardens, Hospital, Jail, Magical Streetlamps, Monument, Orphanage, Park, Paved Streets, Sewer System, Tunnels, Watergate, Waterway.

Each building then applies modifiers to Kingdom Attributes (Economy, Loyalty, Stability, Unrest), Settlement Attributes (Corruption, Crime, Law, Lore, Productivity, Society), Base Value, and Magic Item slots.

To calculate the size of the bonuses a building has on the settlement and kingdom, total up the capital bonus that the building generates for each type of capital (including gp). Take the highest total as a number of points to spend on the following table. A negative attribute will give back points which are available to spend equal to half the cost of a positive point (rounded down).

EQUIVALENT BP COST

To calculate the equivalent BP cost of a building (either to allow a kingdom to build the correct building type, or for use with the bombardment rules in *Ultimate War*), take the building's gp cost under the downtime rules and divide by 100. Many other factors can modify this. Some examples include low wealth occupants decreasing the BP cost, and high wealth occupants increasing it. Buildings for which there will be only a limited number in any given settlement have an increased BP cost, whereas very common buildings have decreased cost. These modifications are at the GM's discretion, but should be carefully considered against the BP cost of existing buildings.

TABLE 3-1: KINGDOM AND SETTLEMENT ATTRIBUTES

KINGDOM OR SETTLEMENT EFFECT	POINT COST
Kingdom Attribute (Economy, Loyalty, Stability)	5 per +1
Unrest	10 per -1
Settlement Attributes (Corruption, Crime, Law, Lore, Productivity, Society)	1 per +1
Base Value	1 per +500 gp
Minor Magic Item	5 per item
Medium Magic Item	20 per item
Major Magic Item	40 per item

PART 4: EXOTIC STRONGHOLDS

Classic castles of stone with soaring parapets and open baileys where knights and soldiers tilt at the lists are iconic elements of medieval lore and literature, but in a fantasy campaign your castles can be so much more! The rules in Part 1 describe a wide variety of exotic materials that can be used for creating rooms, buildings, and fortifications, including cost, time, strength, and more. When you're creating a stronghold as part of an adventure, however, you don't necessarily need or want to go through the mathematical exercise of building a castle brick by brick. What is more important is the challenge such strange strongholds present for your PCs and how to use them as an organic and exciting part of the campaign.

TABLE 4-1: EXOTIC WALLS

TYPE	THRESHOLD	HP/INCH ¹	CLIMB DC	BREAK DC
Bone	5	5	15	20
Cloud	0	0	-	10 ²
Fire	0	(3)	-	-
Flesh	2	5	20	25
Ghostly	0	(3)	-	-
Glass	1	4	35	15
Ice	3	3	35	20
Insects	0	3	-	15 ²
Magma	4	5	-	20 ²
Ooze	0	3	0	15 ²
Water	0	(4)	-	15 ²
Web	0	2	20	15 ²

¹ Hit points per inch in parentheses indicate a wall that cannot be damaged by most forms of attack, but specific attacks listed in the wall's description can damage it. The wall still can be dispelled even if it cannot be damaged.

² This is the DC required to push through this semisolid wall, rather than to break it.

ELEMENTAL STRONGHOLDS

These strongholds form structures out of fundamental elements that are not usually solid and can be shaped and built only through magic or the intervention of powerful elemental beings. All elemental stronghold structures are held together by magic, and they can be unraveled with *dispel magic* that targets the elemental architecture spell that holds them together.

CLOUD CASTLE

Skyfaring wizards and priests of the storm may craft castles from the congealed mists of the air, and cloud and storm giants are famous for their constructs among the clouds.

Walls: Cloud walls are formed of thick, semi-solid banks of cloud or mist bounded in by churning sheets of wind. Most cloud castle walls are opaque, blocking line



of sight completely, but some might be semitransparent, only providing concealment to those behind the wall. A cloud wall affects creatures or objects entering it as a wind wall as well as blocking line of sight, and slowing movement to 5 ft. per turn.

Hazard: The semisolid vapors of a cloud castle wall are choking to air-breathing creatures trying to move through them. Creatures not holding their breath must succeed on a DC 15 Constitution saving throw or be nauseated with choking and coughing for 1d4 rounds after passing through the wall. Treat as the poisoned condition for the duration.

Sky Floor: The floors of a cloud castle are generally as strong as stone and cannot be pushed through like cloud walls can. However, the floor of a cloud castle can be made either opaque or transparent, showing the vast gulfs of sky below the floor.

Hazard: Creatures not native to clouds or lacking a natural fly speed become frightened (DC 10 Wisdom saving throw negates) and overcome with vertigo when faced with a transparent sky floor, remaining frightened for 1d6 rounds plus a number of rounds equal to the amount by which they failed their save. After this time, they can attempt a new save to overcome their fright.

FIRE

Red dragons, fire giants, mighty elementalists, priests of the burning gods, demons and devils who crave the ever-burning pyres love to surround themselves with

living fire and may ply their mastery of magic to craft a home framed in flame.

Damaging Fire Structures: Fire structures are immaterial and cannot be damaged by most effects; however, they can be damaged by water or cold effects, using the hit points listed above. Fire structures take full damage from magical cold effects and take 1 point of damage per gallon from water.

Walls: Walls constructed of flame block line of sight but shed bright light within 20 feet and dim light within an additional 20 feet. Walls of flame have physical substance but are soft and permeable, counting as difficult terrain.

Hazard: A creature entering or beginning its turn within a wall of or other structure made of flame structure takes 4d6 points of fire damage. A creature moving adjacent to a flame structure or beginning its turn adjacent to a flame structure takes 1d6 points of fire damage. Fire walls typically give off smoke

Floors: Magically solidified, fire floors cannot be passed through and are as hard as wood. However, they deal 1d6 points of fire damage per round to creatures entering or beginning their turn on an area of fire floor. A creature takes an additional 1d6 points of fire damage if it falls prone.

MAGMA

Molten rock can be shaped and formed into channels and sheets that flow in glowing sheets even as their surface cools into a smoldering crust only to crack and melt once again.

Damaging Magma Structures: Magma structures take half damage from most forms of attack, but they take full damage from cold effects. Water deals 1 point of damage per gallon to a magma structure.

Magma Walls: Walls constructed of magma are harder than fire walls, with chunks of solid stone floating and churning within them but are still only semisolid.

Dealing 30 or more points of cold damage (or damage from water) to a magma wall in a single round causes it to solidify into a solid wall of unworked stone, with the hardness and hit points of typical stone. However, as long as any magma sections remain adjacent to sections of solidified stone, they re-melt 5 feet of stone back into magma every 2d6 minutes.

Hazard: Touching or beginning your turn touching a magma wall deals 2d6 points of fire damage. It takes a DC 10 Strength check to push through. A creature passing through a magma wall takes 10d6 points of fire damage if they are able to pass through it on their turn with a single successful Strength check. Creatures remaining within a magma wall take 20d6 points of damage per round of exposure and must hold their breath or begin drowning.

Floors: Magma remains semiliquid when used as a floor, acting as difficult terrain and giving disadvantage on Acrobatics and Stealth checks for creatures moving through it. *Water walk* or similar magic allows a creature to step across the surface of a magma floor, taking only 2d6 points of fire damage each round they enter or begin their turn on an area of magma floor. A creature falling prone or beginning its turn prone on a magma floor takes 5d6 points of fire damage.

WATER WALLS

A wall of water may be a churning fluid mass held in place by elemental forces or a continuously renewing torrent cascading down in a perpetual waterfall.

Damaging Water Structures: Water structures take one-quarter damage from lightning damage, but creatures within the water wall take full damage from the lightning. Fire and force effects deal full damage to a water structure.

A section of a water structure that takes 20 or more points of cold damage in a single round becomes an ice structure instead; however, if there is still a liquid water structure adjacent to an ice structure it begins melting the ice back into liquid water at a rate of 1d6 hours for each 5-foot section.

A section of a water structure that takes 20 or more points of fire damage in a single round erupts in a cloud of steam that acts as fog cloud within 10 feet of the water structure. This steam lasts for 1d4 rounds.

Water Walls: A water wall offers obscurity to those behind it if it is less than 3 feet thick, or heavy obscurity for thicker walls. Water



walls cannot be climbed but can be ascended with a DC 20 Strength (Athletics) skill check. Moving through a water wall requires a successful DC 15 Strength (Athletics) skill check.

Hazard: The pounding torrent of a water wall deals 1d6 points of bludgeoning damage per round (DC 10 Constitution saving throw negates), and a creature failing its save is also knocked prone. Fire creatures such as fire elementals instead take 2d6 points of damage per round, with no save allowed. A water wall poses a potential drowning risk for creatures unable to move through it or escape from it.

Floor: A floor of liquid water gains solidity through magic, treating it as a slippery surface (granting disadvantage on Acrobatics checks). Most water floors are relatively static, but some may support flowing water, which causes the floor to act as difficult terrain for creatures moving against the flow of water. Medium or smaller creatures running or charging in flowing water, whether moving with, against, or across the current, must succeed on a DC 8 Dexterity saving throw or fall prone and be pushed 1d4 x 5 feet downstream by the current.

It is possible to create areas of open, non-solid water as part of a water floor. They are very difficult to distinguish from the surrounding water, requiring a successful DC 20 Wisdom (Perception) check, with advantage if detect magic is being used.

A *water walk* spell allows a character to move easily across a water floor without impediment, whether the water is still or flowing.

NATURAL STRONGHOLDS

These strongholds are formed from naturally occurring materials and substance that can be shaped into strongholds with ordinary construction or through the application of nature magic.

CRYSTAL PALACE

The branching facets of crystal growths can be cultivated to massive size and forged into glittering palaces by the power of earthen magic and loving artistry.

Damaging Crystal Structures: Crystal walls take full damage from bludgeoning weapons but only half damage from piercing and slashing weapons. They take no damage from acid but take full damage from cold, lightning and fire, and damage from thunder effects is increased by 50% against crystal structures.

Crystal Walls: Walls of crystal or glass are not particularly strong, but some races favor them for their beauty. Crystal walls are generally translucent rather than perfectly transparent, blurring and distorting vision through walls and granting obscurity to creatures on the other side of a crystal wall. Some crystal walls, however, may be as clear as glass and offer perfect visibility.

Hazard: Crystal walls typically are very slick and difficult to climb. While not difficult to break through, destroying a section of crystal wall causes it to shatter in a spray of shards. Any creature adjacent to a section of crystal wall when it is destroyed takes 2d6 points of slashing damage from razor-sharp fragments (DC 15 Dexterity saving throw for half), and all squares adjacent to the broken section are treated as if they were strewn with caltrops.

Floor: A crystal floor is generally very slick, granting disadvantage on Acrobatics checks, though they can be roughened to ease passage. A crystal floor is typically opaque or translucent, but a transparent crystal floor is clear as glass. If such a floor is used to bridge an abyss more than 100 feet deep, creatures traversing it that lack a natural climb or fly speed become frightened (DC 10 Wisdom saving throw negates) until they can reach solid ground once again, at which point they can attempt a new saving throw each round at the beginning of their turn to recover their wits. Creatures that dwell on cliffs, high mountains, or other exposed heights may gain a bonus on this saving throw or may be immune, at the GM's discretion.

HEDGE FORT

Plants can be cultivated into powerful defensive structures comprised of tangled vines, living trees and shrubs, prickling brambles, and leathery greenery.

Damaging Plant Walls: Plant walls take only half damage from piercing attacks and acid and cold effects. They take full damage from lightning and thunder effects, and fire effects deal full damage and ignore the wall's damage threshold. As long as ample sunlight and water are available, each section of plant wall regains 5 hit points per day, while a plant wall deprived of sunlight withers and dies over the course of several months. A *plant growth* spell can be used to repair all damage to one square of plant wall per caster level rather than having its normal effect.

Tiny creatures can pass through a hedge wall with a DC 15 Dexterity check, and creatures smaller than Small can usually pass through plant walls without difficulty.

Floor: The floor of a hedge structure may be simple earth or wood, using the standard rules, but also may be cultivated vines and branches woven together. Hedge floors are unstable and full of potential gaps and trips. Creatures can move across a hedge floor at half speed without difficulty, but those moving at full speed must succeed on a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw or trip and fall prone at a random point during their movement. Creatures using effects that circumvent the effects of difficult terrain do not risk falling prone. In addition, hedge floors tend to be quite noisy, imposing disadvantage Acrobatics checks on Stealth checks. These penalties do not apply to fey or plant creatures, nor to Tiny or smaller creatures.

HIVE WALLS

In the sweltering jungle and the desert depths, endless swarms of insects and myriapods can be trained in their teeming masses to form living fortresses, with the carapaces

of the dead merely adding to the bridges of the living as they continuously build and rebuild their mindless redoubts.

Damaging Crawling Walls: Crawling walls are made up of countless tiny insects and arthropods and can be damaged by effects similar to an enormous swarm. Crawling walls are immune to damage from weapons but they take 50% more damage than normal from area effects.

Crawling Wall: Walls formed of crawling bugs are not solid, requiring only a Strength check to force a way through. If a section of crawling wall is destroyed, the swarms that comprise it immediately begin to rebuild, extending the wall by 5 feet from any surviving sections each hour until it stretches back across the gap and reforms the wall.

Hazard: A creature climbing on a crawling wall or pushing through it is exposed to countless tiny bites, dealing 2d6 points of damage and becoming poisoned (DC 15 Constitution saving throw negates) for as long as they remain in contact with the wall and for 1d4 rounds thereafter.

Floor: A floor carpeted in crawling insects, whether it is an ordinary floor covered in swarms or a magically suspended floor comprised of nothing but bugs, is unpleasant and unstable. The crunching of bugs underfoot causes disadvantage penalty on Stealth checks, and an invisible creature's location is easily marked by bugs crawling up and around their legs or any body part adjacent to the floor. These swarming insects deal no damage, but a creature beginning its turn prone on a crawling floor must succeed on a DC 11 Constitution saving throw or become poisoned for 1 round.

ICEWALL

In areas of perpetual cold, glacial ice can be harvested and formed into permanent structures, and even in subarctic climes ice can be shaped and formed into strongholds in the depths of winter or through the frigid enchantments of cryomantic sorcery.

Damaging an Ice Structure: Ice structures take full damage from bludgeoning weapons and half damage from piercing and slashing weapons. They are immune to cold and take only one-quarter damage from acid but lightning and thunder attacks deal full damage. Fire effects bypass an ice structure's damage threshold and deal 50% greater damage than normal.

Walls: Ice walls can be translucent if carefully polished or only a few inches thick, but most ice structures are opaque.

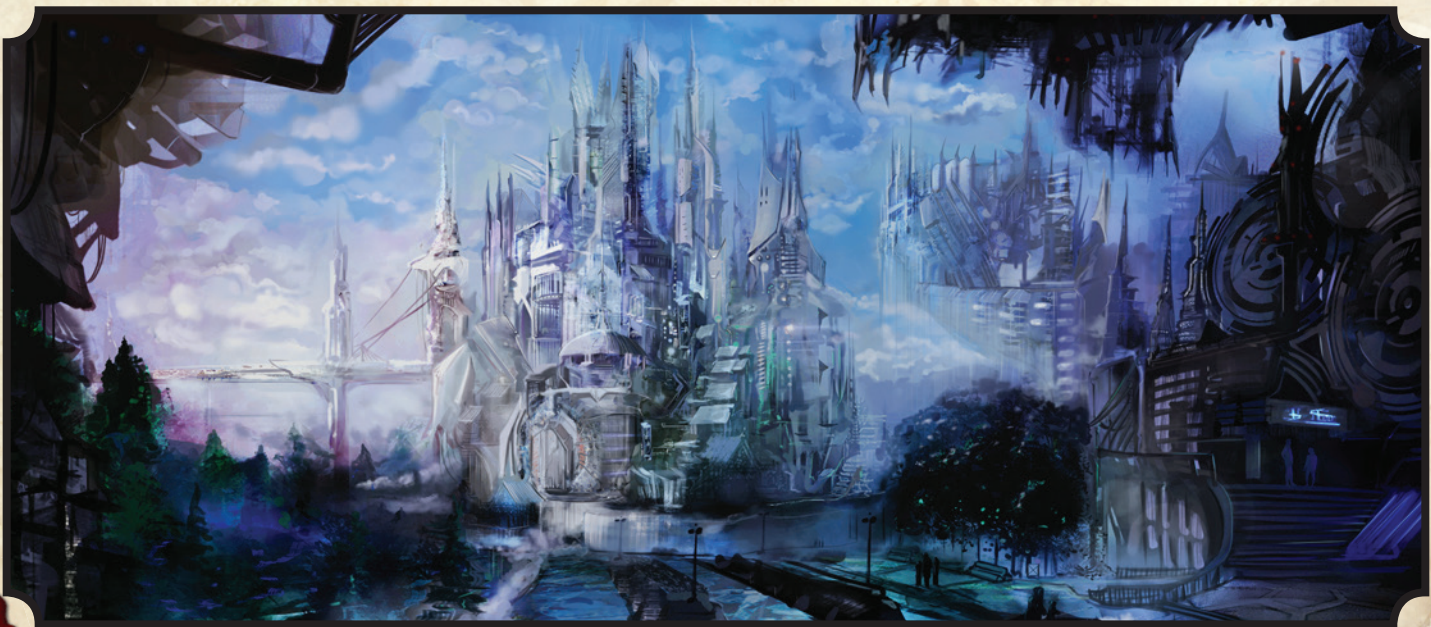
Hazard: An ice wall does not deal immediate damage on contact, but creatures spending more than 1 minute in contact with an ice wall or 5 minutes with only foot or other minimal contact with an ice floor must make a DC 12 Constitution saving throw (with a -1 modifier for each previous minute in contact with the ice surface) or lose 1d6 maximum hp until they take a short or long rest with adequate warmth. Cold resistance or immunity, or other significant protection from cold (including very warm clothing) negates the need for these saving throws.

Floor: An ice floor is a slippery surface giving disadvantage to Acrobatics and Athletics checks, though permanent structures built atop ice floors may be strewn with gravel, sand, straw, or other material to provide better footing. Direct contact with an ice floor is not inherently dangerous unless there is prolonged contact. Treat a creature prone on an ice floor as touching an ice wall.

WEB WALLS

In caves and forests, the same arthropod affinity that some use to force numberless insectoid hosts to form structures with their bodies can be applied to arachnids, silkworms, and similar spinners to weave massive structures of curtained webs. These web structures may be solidified with enzymes or interwoven with existing undergrowth to create sweeping bridges, chambers, and tangled corridors.

Damaging Web Walls: Web structures take half damage from bludgeoning and piercing weapons but take 50% more damage than normal from fire effects. A destroyed



section of web wall can be repaired within 24 hours by the innumerable tiny spiders infesting the web wall and spinning new webs constantly.

Web Walls: Web barriers typically provide obscurity and cover, but not heavy concealment or total cover, though some exceptionally thick web barriers may provide greater screening.

Hazard: A creature failing its Strength check by 5 or more when attempting to break through a web structure becomes stuck and entangled by the webs. Breaking free requires a successful DC 15 Strength or Dexterity check to escape back the way the creature came in, or a DC 20 check to break through to the opposite side. A trapped creature also can escape by dealing at least 15 points of slashing or fire damage to the webs.

Web Floor: A web floor may overlay an existing floor or may be a structure entirely made of webbing. In any case, its stickiness and unsteadiness makes a web floor difficult terrain. Creatures with tremorsense have the range of that sense doubled when in contact with web floors, and spiders and similar web-dwelling creatures ignore the penalties other creatures suffer when traversing web floors.

OOZE PILE

Oozes can be congealed through magical and alchemical processes into gelid piles of semisolid colloid. Ooze walls are often constructed by alien entities or mad scientists. They may be created to stand on their own or as sickening sheaths clinging to stone walls underneath. Structures made of deliquescent fungus are basically identical to those formed from ooze, though they also may hold poisonous or hallucinogenic spores.

Damaging Ooze Walls: Ooze walls take only half damage from bludgeoning and piercing attacks and are immune to acid. They take full damage from cold, lightning, fire, and thunder effects.

Ooze Wall: A wall of ooze is faintly transparent, revealing only vague shapes and shadows but providing heavy obscurity. DC 15 Strength check to push through. A creature forcing a way through an ooze wall opens a hole that lasts only 1d4 rounds before closing again. A destroyed section of ooze wall repairs itself after 24 hours and returns to its former shape.

Hazard: Creatures touching an ooze wall take 2d6 points of acid damage, with no save allowed.

Floor: An ooze floor is a deliquescent rubbery mass, prone to squelch and suck at the feet of those treading upon it as their feet sink in up to the ankles. Ooze floors can be overlaid on an existing stone floor or can be magically crafted out of distilled ooze. Ooze floors are treated as difficult terrain unless creatures have freedom of movement or water walking. The location of invisible creatures walking on an ooze floor can be clearly marked by their sunken footprints in the ooze.

Hazard: Creatures entering or beginning their turn on an area of ooze floor take 2d6 points of acid damage

per round. This damage does not increase if they enter multiple squares of ooze floor.

NECROMANTIC STRONGHOLDS

Some structures can be formed only by tapping into the dark arts of necromancy, binding flesh, bone, blood, and spirit into a grotesque mockery of classical architecture.

BONE KEEP

Simple bone structures are not uncommon among primitive societies, using collected bones for structure and for decoration, but the application of necromantic magic makes them far more dangerous.

Damaging Bone Structures: Bone structures take full damage from bludgeoning weapons and from radiant damage. They take only half damage from piercing and slashing weapons.

Walls: Crafted from innumerable skeletal remains, bone walls are infused with necromantic power.

Hazard: The semi-animate bony climbs of a bone wall writhe and grasp at creatures climbing on them. A creature ending its turn climbing on a bone wall has a 50% chance to become entangled (DC 15 Dexterity saving throw negates). An entangled creature can free itself with a DC 15 Strength or Dexterity check or can be freed by dealing 15 points of damage to the section of bone wall adjacent to the entangled creature. Dealing at least 15 points of radiant damage to a semi-animate bone wall suppresses this entangling effect for 1 minute.

Floor: A bone keep's floor is littered with skulls and bone fragments, typically a mix of light rubble and dense rubble, with many areas scattered with bony caltrops. Some areas may have grasping bones similar to those on bone walls.

FLESH PALACE

Necromancers, demons, and other corrupt and cruel creatures may build fortifications from tormented flesh, melding the carcasses of the dead into a gruesome half-life of pulsating muscles and pumping blood.

Damaging Flesh Structures: Flesh structures take full damage from slashing weapons but only half damage from bludgeoning and piercing weapons. They take full damage from acid, cold, lightning, fire, and thunder attacks, as well as necrotic damage. Flesh structures regenerate 5 hp per round, and even if a section is completely destroyed any adjacent sections can regrow at a rate of 5 feet for every 24 hours, growing together towards the other side of the severed gap.

Walls: Walls of flesh may look almost vital, pulsing with vital fluids and prone to bleed if attacked, or they may be gray and putrefied, scabrous and rotting yet losing none of their revolting resilience.

Hazard: Flesh walls have embedded eyes and ears and can sense nearby creatures with a +10 bonus on Perception checks and 60-foot darkvision. In addition, a flesh wall has tremorsense with respect to any creature climbing on its surface, and any creature ending its turn on a flesh wall has

a 50% chance to be attacked by gaping maw or tearing limb that reaches out from the wall (+10 attack bonus, dealing 1d12 points of bludgeoning, piercing, or slashing damage).

Floor: A flesh floor is often uneven and soft, with grotesque bulges in places and a quivering softness in others, along with lumps of tumors, bones, and sensory organs jut out. Flesh floors are equivalent to light rubble mixed with dense rubble, and they are reactive and prone to shift where the more difficult terrain appears. For true body horror, certain areas of a flesh floor might be so yielding and soft that they function like fleshy quicksand, and flesh floors also might contain mouths or limbs that reach out to attack nearby creatures just as fleshy walls do.

GHOSTLY REDOUBT

The most sinister fiends and necromancers extract the immortal essence of their victims and knit their soul-stuff together into a tragic and terrifying tower of tattered ectoplasm.

Damaging Ghostly Structures: Ghostly structures are comprised of ectoplasmic spirit-stuff and can be fully damaged only by magical weapons and effects, taking half damage from all such effects other than force effects and radiant damage (or attacks with magic weapons).

Ghost Walls: Ghost walls have no physical substance and cannot be climbed. Their opaque gossamer shrouds offer heavy obscurement but grant no cover against attacks through the wall. Dealing at least 30 points of radiant damage to a ghost wall in a single round quells the spirits within the wall for 1 minute, making it safe to transit that section of the ghost wall. A dispel magic spell suppresses the binding magic holding the spirits within the ghost wall for 1d4 rounds, making the wall itself safe to traverse; however, this also temporarily looses the spirits within the dispelled section of wall to rampage and swarm over creatures nearby. Each round, the spirits flood out in a 30-foot cone aimed in a random direction from the dispelled section(s) of wall, affecting creatures in that area as if they had passed through the ghost wall, though the power of the scattered spirits is dissipated somewhat, reducing the save DC to 10.

Hazard: A creature passing through a ghost wall takes 4d8 necrotic damage (DC 15 Constitution saving throw negates).

Floor: A ghostly floor is typically made of ectoplasmic force, which is weaker than a true force construct with the hardness and hit points of solid wood. Incorporeal undead creatures can pass through a ghostly floor without difficulty, as if it were normal stone.

A ghostly floor can be made either opaque or transparent. If a transparent ghost floor bridges an abyss more than 100 feet deep, creatures traversing it that lack a natural climb or fly speed become frightened (DC 10 Wisdom saving throw negates) until they can reach solid ground once again, at which point they can attempt a new saving throw each round at the beginning of their turn to recover their wits. Creatures that dwell on cliffs, high mountains, or other exposed heights may gain a bonus on this saving throw or may be immune, at the GM's discretion.

Hazard: Undead standing on a ghostly floor gain advantage on any allowed saving throws against radiant damage.

PART 5: SPELLS AND STRONGHOLDS

In a magical world, the use of magic to defend your stronghold is a necessity. A great many spells have obvious uses in creating fortifications, such as wall of iron, or wall of stone, or using spells like fabricate, or stone shape to make repairs to damaged buildings and fortifications. Other spells like arcane lock can make existing fortresses far more secure. In addition to these core spells, the spells in this section help armies and adventurers alike attack and defend fortresses in the course of a campaign.

Stronghold Spells: As an optional rule, many of the spells designed to defend a stronghold below may be ruled to function only in an area that is a fixed point of defense called your stronghold. For the purpose of a stronghold spell, your stronghold must be a specific location or structure you designate, no larger than a cube 30 feet per level on a side. If this covers only part of a larger structure or location, you may use stronghold spells only within the designated area. You must spend at least seven days focusing on your stronghold, meditating upon its every detail, placing magical marks that resonate with your personal magic.

You may have only one stronghold at a time. If you create and designate a new one, the benefits of the old one fade immediately. Your death does not alter your stronghold, and stronghold spells persist after your death to the extent of their normal duration.

SPELLS BY SCHOOL

Abjuration: *gate of the faithful, greater secure seal, secure seal, sky warning*

Conjuration: *elemental architecture, scalding cauldron, stout barracks, stronghold sanctuary*

Divination: *early warning, spellguard watchtower, stronghold status*

Enchantment: *stolen valor*

Evocation: *battering bolt, consecrated stronghold, desecrated stronghold, dusk fortress, fortress of light, spiritual pike wall*

Illusion: *haunted ruin*

Necromancy: *deathless defenders, invader's bane, necrotic architecture*

Transmutation: *animated artillery, castellan's call, entrenchment, hardened surface, natural architecture, tunneling*

SPELL DESCRIPTIONS

ANIMATED ARTILLERY

4th level transmutation

Casting Time 1 action

Components V, S, M (a braided rope)

Range 30 feet

Target one siege weapon

Duration 1 round/level (D)

Classes: cleric, sorcerer, wizard

This specialized version of *animate objects* targets a single siege weapon, allowing it to spring to life and perform attacks as if crewed by a number of invisible phantom artillerists equal to your caster level. The phantom artillerists are invisible and cannot attack or be attacked; their only function is to operate the siege weapon. Those unable to perceive invisible things see the siege weapon operating on its own. They load, aim, and shoot the siege engine just as a normal crew would, using your spell attack bonus to determine whether attacks with the siege weapon hit. You can command the *animated artillery* as a free action as long as you are within range, redirecting its attacks as you choose. If you are out of range, the *animated artillery* continues following your last command.

If actual living artillerists are present, you can command the *animated artillery* to simply allow itself to be operated by those people (during which time the spell has no effect), or you can command the animated artillery to work against them. In this case, living artillerists and phantom artillerists cancel each other out for the purpose of operating the siege weapon. Whoever has a larger number of artillerists has control of it and can load, aim, and shoot the siege engine, but only the number of artillerists that exceed those of the opponent count towards those required to operate it.

BATTERING BOLT

2nd level evocation

Casting Time 1 action

Components V, S, M (a carved ram's horn)

Range 30 ft.

Target one creature or object

Duration instantaneous

Classes: sorcerer, wizard

You create a bolt of force resembling a battering ram that strikes a single target you choose, dealing 1d6 points of force damage, plus one point per caster level when used to attack an object. The *battering bolt* deals full damage to objects. In addition, the force of the *battering bolt* allows you to push a creature struck unless they make a Constitution saving throw. If you target a door, wall, or similar structure, you can make a Strength check to break it down, but use your spellcasting ability in place of your Strength bonus.

CASTELLAN'S CALL

2nd level transmutation

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 minute/level (D)

Classes: bard, cleric, paladin

You empower the target with tremendous vocal prowess, enabling its voice to be clearly heard everywhere in your stronghold. It does not penetrate areas of magical silence or allow deafened creatures to hear the target's voice, nor does it overcome language barriers.

If the target has a bardic ability that requires audible components all creatures within the stronghold can benefit from that performance, to a maximum of the normal maximum targets.

Castellan's call can be used to counter or dispel a *silence* spell, even if you are not within your stronghold.

CONSECRATED STRONGHOLD

6th level evocation

Casting Time 10 minutes

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (four vials of holy water)

Duration 1 day/level

Classes: cleric

This spell functions as *hallow* (*everlasting rest*), but it can exclude only fiends and undead, and corpses within your stronghold can't be turned into undead while the *consecrated stronghold* persists, even if they are removed from the stronghold. Living creatures gain a +1 bonus on attack and damage rolls against undead and a +1 bonus to Armor Class and saving throws against attacks that deal necrotic damage.

If you use *deathless defenders* to animate skeletal or zombie defenders within



your *consecrated stronghold*, each of them gains one of the following spell effects: *aid*, *bless*, *shield of faith*. All undead you create gain the same benefit, which persists up to the spell's maximum duration without the need for concentration. The undead lose this additional spell effect if they leave your stronghold. If the *consecrated stronghold* spell is dispelled, this additional spell effect also ends.

DEATHLESS DEFENDERS

4th level necromancy

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 round/level

Classes: cleric, paladin, sorcerer, wizard

This spell functions as *animate dead* except as noted above, but the undead you raise can take no actions other than attacking creatures you designate. Your *deathless defenders* have the same alignment you do, and when you cast this spell the spell gains alignment subtypes to match your alignment.

Deathless defenders gain advantage on any saving throw against an effect that would move them. Any skeletons or zombies that leave the area of your stronghold begin crumbling to dust, taking 2d6 points of damage per round until they return to the stronghold or are destroyed. A corpse that has been animated with *deathless defenders* and then destroyed cannot be reanimated by this spell or by *animate dead*.

DESECRATED STRONGHOLD

6th level evocation

Casting Time 10 minutes

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (four vials of unholy water)

Duration 1 day/level

Classes: cleric

This spell functions as *hallow* spell that bars only celestials and fey. In addition, either fiends or undead (your choice) gain a +1 bonus on attack and damage rolls within your stronghold and a +1 bonus to Armor Class and saving throws against attacks that deal radiant damage.

Alternatively, you can use *desecrated stronghold* to automatically dispel any *hallow* spells within your stronghold. If cast in this way, no new *hallow* spell can be cast there while the *desecrated stronghold* persists unless the *hallow* spell's caster level exceeds yours, in which case the *hallow* caster must attempt a caster level check (DC 15 + your caster level) or the spell fails. Even if successfully cast, the *hallow* spell's duration is 24 hours instead of indefinite.

DUSK FORTRESS

4th level evocation

Casting Time 1 action

Components V, S

Range 30 ft.

Duration 10 minutes/level (D)



Classes: cleric

You cause all walls, towers, doors, and other surfaces within your stronghold to draw light into them, creating shadowy darkness and reducing illumination by one step within 60 feet. Normal light becomes dim light, and dim light becomes darkness. This does not stack with other forms of magical darkness and does not suppress or dispel magical light effects within the area. It can be used to counter a magical light spell of 4th level or lower if cast within your stronghold.

EARLY WARNING

3rd level divination

Casting Time 1 action

Range personal

Components V, S, F (a silver hourglass filled with diamond dust worth 500 gp)

Duration 1 hour/level

Classes: sorcerer, wizard

You gain a precognitive sense that presages the appearance of creatures teleporting into your stronghold, as long as they appear within 5 feet per level of your location. This distance is measured directly from you and does not require line of sight or line of effect, and it reveals to you the size, number, and location of creature arriving by teleportation effects, even if their arrival in your stronghold is unintentional. When your *early warning* is triggered, you cannot be surprised by the teleporting creatures. Your premonition enables you to take 1 round of actions before they arrive. If allies are present, you can quickly inform them of what is coming in general terms, granting them advantage on initiative checks when the teleporting creatures arrive, but they do not gain the other benefits of the *early warning*.

ELEMENTAL ARCHITECTURE

5th level conjuration

Casting Time 1 hour

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (100 gp of crushed corundum gems per 5-foot-square section)

Area one 5-foot-square section per 3 levels

Duration permanent

Classes: cleric, druid, sorcerer, wizard

This spell allows you to draw forth the elemental essence of the planes, shaping and forming it into a permanent structure like a section of wall or floor. You can create one 5-foot-square section for 3 caster levels, with characteristics as described in **Part 4: Exotic Strongholds**. You cannot create *elemental architecture* in an area occupied by creatures or objects, though minor obstructions like rubble and undergrowth do not interfere with its creation. Creating simple structures like straight walls, pillars, straight ramps, and floors requires a successful DC

5 Intelligence check, while more detailed structures like stairs, bridges, curved walls, arches, roofs, and simple idols require a DC 10 check. Moving structures like doors and drawbridges require a DC 15 check, as do statues or similar very detailed static objects.

Elemental architecture can be dispelled, but it is more difficult to do so than for a typical spell. A successful *dispel magic* suppresses the binding magic holding together a single 5-foot square of an elemental wall or floor, causing it to collapse for a number of rounds equal to the caster level of the *dispel magic* spell. For every 2 points by which the caster exceeds the DC, one more 5-foot square of the *elemental structure* can be suppressed. All squares affected by a single casting of *dispel magic* must be contiguous, and all must be within the area of effect of the *dispel magic* spell. The structure reforms 1d4 rounds later, and its reforming is slow enough that any creature able to move can get out of the way before it finishes reforming.

If the caster level check to dispel the *elemental architecture* exceeds the DC by 5 or more, the caster of *dispel magic* can instead choose to permanently destroy a 5-foot-square section of the structure, plus one more 5-foot-square for every 5 points by which she beats the DC.

An *antimagic field* suppresses all elemental structures for as long as their areas overlap.

In addition to the above general methods, many structures have additional methods for destroying, eliminating, or otherwise countering them, as described for each specific type of structure.

ENTRENCHMENT

4th level transmutation

Casting Time 1 round

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration instantaneous

Classes: druid, ranger, sorcerer, wizard

This spell excavates a trench 5 feet long for every 2 caster levels. The trench is 5 feet wide and 5 feet deep. Creatures in the area where the trench appears are knocked prone in the pit unless they make a successful saving throw. If they make a successful saving throw, they land on their feet in the pit, or on either side of it (creature's choice).

The dirt excavated by the spell is hurled up to form a 5-foot-high earthen berm along one side of the trench. This berm is of loosely packed soil, with 90 hit points per 5-foot section. Creatures in the area where the berm appears are partially buried and gain the restrained condition unless they succeed on a Reflex save. A successful save allows them to move into an adjacent square and avoid being restrained. A creature partially buried can free themselves with a successful DC 10 Strength or Dexterity check or can dig themselves out by dealing 15 points of damage to the berm.

FORTRESS OF LIGHT

4th level evocation

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 10 minutes/level (D)

Classes: cleric, druid, paladin

You cause all walls, towers, doors, and other surfaces within your stronghold to glow brightly, creating normal light within 80 feet, and dim light within 120 feet. This does not stack with other forms of magical light and does not suppress or dispel magical darkness effects within the area. It can be used to counter a magical darkness spell of 4th level or lower if cast within your stronghold.

GATE OF THE FAITHFUL

3rd level abjuration

Casting Time 1 minute

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 hour/level (D)

Classes: cleric, paladin

You infuse a door, gate, portal, or opening such as an archway or colonnade in your stronghold with a magical field that repels creatures that do not worship your deity. Creatures that share your patron or wear its holy symbol can move through the *gate of the faithful* without impediment, but other creatures attempting to enter the gate are pushed back 5 feet and stunned for 1 round (Constitution saving throw negates). Creatures failing their saves thereafter are poisoned for 1 round (Constitution saving throw negates) if they move or begin their turn within 10 feet of the *gate of the faithful*. Once a creature successfully saves against this spell, they can freely move through the gate.

HARDENED SURFACE

4th level transmutation

Casting Time 1 minute

Range touch

Components V, S

Duration permanent

Classes: cleric, sorcerer, wizard

You cause the surface of a permanent structure within your stronghold, such as a wall, door, or statue, to become harder and more durable, increasing its damage threshold by 1 per 2 caster levels and adding 2 hit points per caster level to each 5-foot square you affect. The *hardened surface* extends 1 foot deep into the structure. If you wish to harden the entire thickness of an object that is thicker than 1 foot, you can cast *hardened surface* repeatedly in the same area, with each casting increasing its depth by 1 foot. While this spell increases the surface's resistance to physical damage, it does not alter the fundamental characteristics of the material that makes up the structure. A wall of paper or straw still can be set aflame, a structure of snow or ice can melt, and so on.

This spell also can be used to harden structures made of snow and ice.

If you establish a new stronghold, any *hardened surface* spells you cast in your former stronghold begin to fade, ending after one day per caster level passes.



HAUNTED RUIN

4th level illusion

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 10 minutes/level (D)

Classes: bard, cleric, sorcerer, wizard

You shroud your stronghold in a macabre illusion, causing it to appear as a grisly abattoir, a place of despair and massacre. Illusory bloodstains are everywhere, as are hacked remains, broken weapons, scorch marks, and eerie noises like scratching scavengers, moving shadows, and distant, bloodcurdling

wails and moans.

The distraction caused by the *haunted ruin* causes enemies to gain disadvantage on Perception and Survival checks unless they successfully disbelieve the illusion. In addition, creatures spending more than 1 minute within the *haunted ruin* must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw once per minute or become frightened as long they remain within it and for 1d4 rounds thereafter.

INVADER'S BANE

3rd level necromancy

Casting Time 1 action

Range 120 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 round/level (D)

Classes: cleric, paladin, ranger

You name a single specific kind of creature and rebuke them for daring to invade your stronghold. You must designate the invaders specifically. You also could designate members of a specific religious or political group as your invaders. There must be at least five creatures of the designated type within your stronghold when you cast the spell or the spell fails.

Allies within your stronghold do an additional 1d6 damage against the designated enemies.

If your designated invaders are one of your favored enemies, the bonus this spell provides increases by 1.

NATURAL ARCHITECTURE

5th level transmutation

Components V, S, M (100 gp of rare herbs and essential oils per 5-foot-square section)

Classes: druid

This spell functions as *elemental architecture* but is used to create structures of crystal, ice, insects, plants, or webs. If you create a solid structure with this spell, that structure is 1 inch thick per two caster levels.

NECROTIC ARCHITECTURE

5th level necromancy

Components V, S, M (100 gp of crushed black onyx per 5-foot-square section)

Classes: cleric, sorcerer, wizard

This spell functions as *elemental architecture* but is used to create structures of bone, flesh, or spirit.

SCALDING CAULDRON

4th level conjuration

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 round; see text

Classes: sorcerer, wizard

You create huge cauldron atop a structure within your stronghold, which tips over and spills its burning-hot contents (such as oil, scalding water, ashes, sand, etc.) upon those below. The flow from the *scalding cauldron* must be adjacent to a wall, and all creatures failing their saves take 4d6 points of fire damage (Dexterity saving throw for half). In addition, the burning effluent from the *scalding cauldron* sticks to

creatures failing their saves for one round per three caster levels, dealing an additional 2d6 points of damage each round on your turn.

The scalding material created by the cauldron is not flammable, but it does make the floor at the bottom of the cylinder, as well as all walls adjacent to the cylinder and any rope, ladder, or similar item in the area, as slippery as a *grease* spell for three rounds.

SECURE SEAL

4th level abjuration

Casting Time 1 minute

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (gold dust worth 100 gp)

Duration permanent

Classes: sorcerer, wizard

This spell affects a portal or opening within your stronghold as *arcane lock*, but it additionally creates a magical trap on it. If the *secure seal* is forced open by any means, it explodes in a 20-foot radius burst, dealing 1d4 points of force damage per caster level (maximum 10d4). This burst does not harm the walls, floor, windows, or any other permanent furnishings or features of your stronghold. Spell resistance applies against this damage, A Dexterity saving throw is allowed for half damage. The *secure seal* can be detected as a magical trap. After a *secure seal* explodes, the spell ends. You can freely pass through your own *secure seal* without triggering its explosion.

You can cast this spell outside your stronghold, but its duration is reduced to 1 day.

SECURE SEAL, GREATER

7th level abjuration

Casting Time 10 minutes

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (gold dust worth 500 gp)

Duration permanent

sorcerer, wizard

This spell functions as *secure seal*, but it can be cast even on an opening without a door or similar barrier, such as an archway, alleyway, corridor, or similar opening, preventing creatures from passing through the sealed location. If cast upon an actual door, gate, chest, or similar object, it increases the object's damage threshold by 10, its break DC (if any) by 5, and increases its hit points by 5 per caster level. The warded object is always entitled to make saving throws as if it were you. A *greater secure seal* can be removed with *dispel magic*, but the caster level check to dispel gains disadvantage.

Like a *secure seal*, if the portal or opening guarded by this spell is destroyed or forced open, it explodes in a 20-foot-radius burst, dealing 1d6 points of force damage per caster level (maximum 20d6). Unlike a *secure seal*, this explosion does not end the spell, though it cannot explode again until 24 hours have passed.

SKY WARNING

2nd level abjuration

Casting Time 1 action

Range 120 ft.

Components V, S, M (a metal bell or gong)

Duration 2 hours/level (D)

Classes: ranger, sorcerer, wizard

This spell functions like an *alarm* spell, but its area extends 50 feet per caster level into the air, and it is triggered only by flying creatures, including creatures using *levitate*, *feather fall*, and any other magical effect that allows travel through the air. You may set your *sky warning* to trigger only by the entry of flying creatures of a certain size, and you may also choose to exclude flying creatures with Intelligence 2 or lower from triggering its alarm. If you choose the latter option, the alarm is still triggered if a more intelligent creature is mounted on a flying mount with Intelligence of 2 or lower.

SPELLGUARD WATCHTOWER

3rd level divination

Casting Time 1 action

Range personal

Components V, S

Duration 10 minutes/level (D)

Classes: cleric, sorcerer, wizard

Within your stronghold, you can perceive the flow of magical forces more easily and can counter their manipulation. You gain advantage on any check to identify spells. In addition, you can sense the use of any spell or (including spells created by magic items) being used within your stronghold if the caster or the spell effect is within 10 feet times your caster level of you, even if you have no line of sight or line of effect to the creature using the ability. You can attempt to identify the spell being cast.

If you have identified a spell being cast within your stronghold and you have line of effect to the creature casting it (even if you do not have line of sight), you can attempt to counter that spell as a reaction. This otherwise follows the normal rules for counterspelling. If you successfully counter the spell, your *spellguard watchtower* ends.

SPIRITUAL PIKE WALL

5th level evocation

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 round/level (D)

Classes: cleric

You create a pair of force constructs, each similar to a spiritual weapon. The *spiritual pike wall* must be created in two contiguous squares; it cannot appear in diagonal squares. Each construct bears a shield of

force and carries a long pike that grants it reach. While it takes the form of a pair of spectral soldiers, your spiritual pike wall is treated as a single effect for the purpose of being dispelled or otherwise destroyed. It makes one set of attacks as if using a reach weapon, when commanded using a bonus action on your turn.

In addition to its ability to attack, a *spiritual pike wall* uses its shields for defense. It grants a +2 bonus to AC against any attack made by your enemies that passes through its space. This does not affect attacks made by you or your allies.

As a reaction, you can direct your *spiritual pike wall* to adopt a defensive stance until the end of your next turn, during which they cannot attack but increases the bonus it provides to AC to +4.

STOLEN VALOR

3rd level enchantment

Casting Time 1 action

Range 30 ft.

Components V

Duration 1 minute/level

Classes: bard

You denounce your enemy as callow and feckless, unworthy of loyalty and shorn of hope. The target must make a Charisma saving throw or not count as an ally, nor count anyone else as an ally for abilities such as Pack Tactics. They also may not use the help action, and others will not use the help action on them. They may not cast beneficial spells on others, and others may not cast beneficial spells on them. If a creature would cast a spell that affects all allied creatures or all creatures in an area, the target of this spell is still excluded from that effect. A creature affected by this spell may use their action to make a new saving throw against this spell.

STOUT BARRACKS

5th level conjuration

Casting Time 1 round

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S, M (a small box of wood, stone, or metal and a bit of dried meat)

Duration 2 hours/level (D)

Classes: cleric, sorcerer, wizard

You create several simple but stout buildings. They must be created as a single contiguous building, though they can be shaped as the caster wishes. The *stout barracks* contains 40 bunks, two long tables with 10 stools each, and two fireplaces already lit when the spell is cast and with enough fuel to keep the stout barracks warm, as well as enough food to provide for up to 40 Medium-sized creatures for one day. The doors and windows are solid and secure and can be barred from the inside.

A *stout barracks* cannot be created in a space already occupied by other objects or creatures, though it can be created in an area of light rubble, light undergrowth, a gentle slope, or similar slightly cluttered or uneven terrain.

STRONGHOLD SANCTUARY

9th level conjuration

Casting Time 10 minutes

Range personal

Components V, S, M (a summoning circle inscribed with rare herbs and the blood of fiends – 500 gp)

Duration 1 day/level or until discharged

Classes: cleric, druid, sorcerer, wizard

This spell whisks you and all you carry back to your stronghold whenever a triggering condition is met. You may set up to 6 different triggers for the spell's activation. When any of them occur, you are immediately teleported back to your stronghold, appearing within the summoning circle you used as a component; this destroys the circle. This teleportation has no chance of error, even if you are on another plane, though you are still subject to effects that block teleportation. When your *stronghold sanctuary* activates, it brings you and what you are wearing or carrying, plus a single object of up to 10 pounds per level. If your familiar or animal companion is adjacent to you when the spell triggers, they also may accompany you, but otherwise no creatures can be brought along by the spell.

STRONGHOLD STATUS

5th level divination

Casting Time 1 minute

Range 120 ft.

Components V, S

Duration 1 hour/level

Classes: cleric

This allows you to monitor the status of every ally within your stronghold. You are aware of their general direction, if they are wounded, and any condition they suffer from. If an ally leaves your stronghold, you cannot perceive them with *stronghold status* until they return. You also cannot detect allies using magic to screen them from divinations.

TUNNELLING

5th level transmutation

Casting Time 1 standard action

Range 30 ft.

Components V, S

Duration instantaneous

Classes: druid

This spell creates an opening through earth, brick, wood, plaster, or stone barriers like *passwall*, but the effect is instantaneous. *Tunneling* also can dig through barriers made of ice or snow, but it cannot penetrate metal. If the barrier is thicker than the spell's area, it creates a partial tunnel. Repeated castings of the spell can continue to dig out a larger tunnel.

PART 6: THE CASTELLAN ARCANE TRADITION

A castellan is the true master of a castle. While a high and mighty lord or lady may think themselves ruler, a castellan knows they are but a figurehead when it comes to the day-to-day operation of the stronghold and all that it requires. The specialized knowledge and practical experience necessary to maintain the many things that go into the castle's upkeep is beyond what most noble dilettantes know or care to know, so the castellan sees to every detail, learning the necessary skills of mundane management as well as applying a bit of magic to make it all come together. The castle is your sanctuary, and those who intrude upon it without your permission must prepare to face your wrath. In truth, you study every detail of your stronghold so closely that you may be nervous and uneasy outside it where events are outside your control and leave you vulnerable and ready to return to familiar surroundings at your earliest opportunity.



CLASS FEATURES

The following are class features of the castellan.

INSPIRATION

Beginning at 2nd level, you can inspire others through stirring words. To do so, you use a bonus action on your turn to choose one creature other than yourself within 60 feet of you who can hear you. That creature gains one inspiration die, a d6.

Once within the next 10 minutes, the creature can roll the die and add the number rolled to one ability check, Attack roll, or saving throw it makes. The creature can wait until after it rolls the d20 before deciding to use the Inspiration die, but must decide before the DM says whether the roll succeeds or fails. Once the Inspiration die is rolled, it is lost. A creature can have only one Inspiration die at a time. A creature may not have an Inspiration die and a Bardic Inspiration die at the same time.

You can use this feature a number of times equal to your Charisma modifier (a minimum of once). You regain any expended uses when you finish a Long Rest.

STRONGHOLD MASTERY

At 2nd level, a castellan's familiarity with their stronghold is so complete that they know its entire layout from memory. While inside their stronghold, a castellan can move at normal speed even when unable to see, when in crowds, or in areas of difficult terrain that are relatively stable and persistent (such as an area of rubble from a fallen wall, but not including newly created obstacles or barriers). A castellan can open or close a door (including secret doors) as a free action and can bypass traps without triggering them, and as a bonus action when passing a trap can trigger it to go off 1 round after they move past it. If a castellan passes within 10 feet of anything that has been changed or disturbed, even a chair or book out of place or an area of dust that has been disturbed, they gain an automatic Wisdom (Perception) check to notice it. They gain advantage on such Perception checks and on Survival checks to track creatures within their stronghold.

DEVOTED DEFENDER

At 6th level, your will to protect the stronghold you steward is unconquerable. When in your stronghold you gain advantage on all opposed skill checks.

You can expend one use of your inspiration as a reaction to perform a counterspell.

CONSTANT MONITORING

At 10th level, a castellan can expend one use of inspiration to use *alarm*, *arcane eye*, *castellan's call**, *clairaudience/clairvoyance*, *early warning**, *invader's bane**, *sky warning**, or *spellguard watchtower**. These spells function only within your stronghold when cast this way.

Spells marked with an asterisk (*) are described in [Part 5: Spells and Strongholds](#).

STRONGHOLD SHIFT

At 14 level, twice per day a castellan can teleport to any location within their stronghold. There is no chance of error with this ability. The castellan can bring a familiar along when teleporting with this ability but cannot take other creatures or more than 50 pounds of objects with them.



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