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Site Policies and Guidelines

Benchmarks

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Rationale

For players who prefer to build their own characters using the point buy system, or just those who want to get into a "who would win?" type of argument, it may be helpful to have some benchmarks relating ICONS ability scores and power levels to established comic-book superheroes.

Method

In the ICONS rulebook, Steve Kenson seems to have actually included—but not called out explicitly—some conversion benchmarks in the "Optional Name" column of the scale (p. 5). The benchmark tables offered here coordinate those "Optional Names" with the descriptors in the old TSR Marvel Super Heroes RPG (of FASERIP) fame, ignoring endurance and mapping the other attributes pretty much straight across. Marvel characters' benchmark ratings comes straight out of MSH supplements; DC characters' benchmarks draw on [writeups by Tystates](#) . Of course, one can quibble with some of these numbers, and characters' ability levels fluctuate sometimes in the comics. Still, these benchmarks may prove helpful for players who use the point buy system and understand "fights as well as Batman" better than "fights at level 8."

Ability Score Benchmarks

Prowess		
Level	Marvel	DC
1	May Parker	
2	Mary Jane Watson	
3	Havok	Lex Luthor, Penguin
4	Magneto, Mr. Fantastic	
5	Cyclops, Nightcrawler	Killer Croc
6	Spider-Man	Catwoman
7	Daredevil, Wolverine	Ra's Al-Ghul
8	Captain America, Punisher	Batman
9	Galactus	Wonder Woman
10	Thor	Black Adam

Coordination		
Level	Marvel	DC
1	Kree Supreme Intelligence	
2	Juggernaut	
3	Mr. Fantastic	Lex Luthor, Penguin
4	Thing	
5	Punisher, Thor	
6	Black Widow, Wolverine	Martian Manhunter
7	Captain America, Daredevil	Batman, Catwoman
8	Nightcrawler, Spider-Man	
9	Silver Surfer	Superman, Wonder Woman
10	Quicksilver	Flash


Strength

Level	Marvel	DC
1	May Parker	
2	Alicia Masters	Penguin
3	Mr. Fantastic, Nightcrawler	Lex Luthor
4	Punisher, Wolverine	Catwoman
5	Captain America	Batman
6	Beast	Aquaman
7	Iron Man, Spider-Man	Cyborg, Metamorpho
8	Ms. Marvel, Rogue	
9	She-Hulk, Thing	Martian Manhunter, Wonder Woman
10	Hulk, Thor	Superman

Intellect		
Level	Marvel	DC
1	Hulk (brutish)	Solomon Grundy
2	Lizard	Killer Croc
3	Daredevil, Thor	Harley Quinn
4	Captain America	Metamorpho
5	Spider-Man	Aquaman, Two-Face
6	Curt Connors, Norman Osborn	Wonder Woman
7	Iron Man, Professor X	Batman, Riddler
8	Dr. Doom, Mr. Fantastic	Lex Luthor
9	Mephisto	Darkseid
10	The Watcher	Braniac

Awareness		
Level	Marvel	DC
1		
2	Juggernaut, Vanisher	
3	Colossus	Killer Croc
4	Magneto	Lex Luthor
5	Mr. Fantastic, Punisher	Green Lantern (Hal Jordan)
6	Cyclops	Wonder Woman
7	Captain America, Dr. Doom	Martian Manhunter
8	Professor X, Spider-Man	Batman
9	Daredevil, Wolverine	Superman
10	The Watcher	Phantom Stranger

Willpower		
Level	Marvel	DC
1		
2	Norman Osborn, Rogue	
3	Iron Man, Punisher	
4	Captain America	Killer Croc
5	Nightcrawler	Lex Luthor
6	Cyclops, Mr. Fantastic	Martian Manhunter
7	Spider-Man, Wolverine	Ra's Al-Ghul
8	Dr. Doom, Thor	Superman, Wonder Woman
9	Professor X	Green Lantern (Hal Jordan)
10	Phoenix (Jean Grey)	Braniac, Phantom Stranger

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