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Deep Cuts Cheat Sheet

Go back to Blades in the Dark

Threat roll

When you face a negative consequence from a dangerous opponent or challenging situation, make a Threat Roll to see if you can avoid it.

- The GM must clearly state the threat before the roll
- The failure of an action is also a Threat

Standard roll

The default check is risky, and the effect is standard. Make an **Action** roll or an **Attribute** roll:

- 6 6 **Triumph**: You avoid the threat
 - ∘ And gain **Edge**
- 6 Success: You avoid the threat
- 4/5 **Peril**: suffer a reduced consequence
 - Or push yourself to prevent the effects entirely
- 1-3 Threat: You suffer the consequence
 - Or push yourself to reduce the consequence

Controlled position

- No roll needed.
- If you want to achieve more-ask for Devil's Bargain.

Desperate position

- 6: Success: You avoid the threat.
- 1-5 Threat: You suffer the consequence.
 - Or push yourself to reduce the consequence
- Mark XP

Additional Threats

The GM can add additional threats depending on the situation:

- Add +1d for every additional Threat
- Assign roll result for every Threat

Push yourself

When you suffer a consequence, you can choose to push yourself to avoid or reduce it

- Make a roll using the related Attribute to
 - improve result of Threat roll
 - increase effect of the action you take
 - activate certain abilities
- Mark stress according to the result of the roll:
 - o 6 6: 0 stress
 - ∘ 6: 1 stress
 - ∘ 4/5: 2 stresses
 - ∘ 1-3: 3 stresses

Edge

Edge can be gained on a Threat Roll when you roll more than one 6.

- Edge can be:
 - Spent immediately to increase the effect of an action.
 - Carry forward to add +1d to future roll.
- While assisting teammate you can spend an Edge on their roll.
- Edges can be accumulated.
- Any remaining Edge you have is lost when Downtime begins.

Effects & Consequences

Effects and Consequences are categorized by levels of impact:

- Limited 1 (ticks, heat, harm, etc.)
- Standard 2 (ticks, heat, harm, etc.)
- Great 3 (ticks, heat, harm, etc.)
- Extreme 4 (ticks, heat, harm, etc.)

Devil's Bargain

The way to achieve something for a cost or **facing the threat**.

- Pay the cost (from minor to major)
 - Mark stress (or ask to push)
 - o Tick a clock
 - Spend coin
 - Suffer harm
 - Lose item

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- ∘ Take heat
- Lose rep
- Lose faction status

Face the threat

- Or to try a different approach
- If is **already facing a threat** and making a roll, player can ask for a Devil's Bargain to add **+1d** and an **additional threat**

Teamwork

For a teamwork characters need to be in fictional position to do so or take Devil's Bargain to get into position.

Assist

- Benefits when help or protect teammate, or set up they action:
 - ∘ Add +1d to roll
 - Reduce the severity of a consequence
 - Improve effect or position
 - More details or questions when they gather info
- While Assisting teammate you can spend an Edge on their roll

Cover

- An action you take so your teammate doesn't have to face a particular threat. GM tells you what need to be done:
 - You just accomplish it
 - You need to do to get into position first
 - You need to take a Devil's Bargain to do it

Coordinate

When the team coordinates, designate a leader - they can push themselves on behalf of any other character who's acting with the team (in addition to the Scoundrel pushing themselves).

Group action

- Everyone faces the same threat
- Each player rolls individually
- A benefit from a group action can be an increase in scale

• Divide & Conquer

- Team faces a variety of threats
- Each tackles a threat with their own action

Harm

Harm Levels

If you suffer Harm at a level that has all instances filled, the Harm advances to the next highest level of severity.

• 1. **Temporary Condition** (unlimited number)

- Temporary negative conditions that can impede your character
- If you suffer the same condition twice, bump it up to level 2 but no further if all 2 level instances are filled
- Go away with time and doesn't require treatment for recovery
- Some conditions might require an action to remove
- Some conditions are removed when it makes sense in the fiction, or invoked couple of times
- Remove all conditions when Downtime starts
- 2. Lasting Harm (2 slots)
 - Serious injuries, ailments, or impairments
- 3. **Severe Harm** (1 slot)
 - Major wounds which can incapacitate a character
 - Wound what may become fatal if not treated

• 4. Fatal Harm

- A mortal wound or instant death, depending on the situation
- If not instantly lethal, you may survive if someone can treat the wound and stabilize you within a few minutes
- Remains and must be dealt with during a recovery activity
- Record a Scar: a permanent injury, it may be invoked like Harm

Invoking Harm

The GM may invoke harm to impede the character, creating a problem or limitation for them

- Invoke Harm to
 - Introduce a bad outcome or new problem for the character
 - Reduce an Action and/or Attribute rating for a roll
 - Reduce the character's position or effect
- Mark XP when Harm is invoked
- Tough it Out
 - take 1 Stress per level of the Harm and draw a line through it.

Trauma

When you need to mark Stress, but all your boxes are marked, gain a Trauma condition for your character

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- Mark one of your Trauma boxes
- Remove all your Stress
- Describe your character's Trauma reaction

Invoking Trauma

Each of your characters Trauma conditions can be invoked once per session to create a problem or complication for them

- Mark XP when Trauma is invoked
- This replaces the end-of-session xp award for trauma
- Only the player may invoke their character's trauma

Retirement & Recover

- When you mark your fourth Trauma box, your character retires
- Before that, you may be able to recover from Trauma
 - Work with the GM to create a long-term project

Load

Before the score choose your character's load style:

- Conspicuous
 - 6 item boxes
 - Choose and mark heavy items before the score
- Discreet
 - o 6 item boxes
 - You may not bring any heavy items

If you pick something up during a score, count it as a marked load box

- if you mark a **5th box**, your character becomes conspicuous
- If you mark a **7th box**, your character becomes encumbered
 - o can no longer climb, run, or swim unless they drop enough
- You can't carry more than 9 boxes worth of load

Gathering information

- Tell obvious information, including
 - what they know
 - what they intuit
 - what they suspect might be true
- Base information on the appropriate aspect of a character
 - playbook
 - background

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- heritage
- special items
- special abilities

If there's more to discover, ask them what they do to find out. Based on their action choose one:

- Offer a Devil's Bargain
 - o a cost: Coin, Heat, Stress, or ticking a clock
 - a threat
- Give them a lead
 - They know person, place or thing what gives them opportunity to get the information
- Ask to start a long-term project to investigate the information

Advancement Clocks

Draw four 6-segment advancement clocks for character playbook and crew playbook. Whenever you would mark xp, tick a clock instead.

- If all clocks filled, extra xp isn't lost. Just make an additional clock Cost of advancement in clocks:
- 2 New special ability from your playbook or crew sheet
- 3 Veteran special ability
- 1 Crew Upgrade (per box)
 - If using Downtime module only Cohorts cost XP advances
- 1-4 Action or Attribute dot
 - Depends on filled dots in Attribute or Skill rating

Downtime: Crew Phase

- First, each cohort heals one level of Harm.
- Then resolve
 - Fallout
 - Payoff
 - Entanglements
 - Development
 - ∘ Heat & Hold.

Fallout

The GM assesses the fallout from the score in the form of faction Status changes and the amount of Heat gained.

- Adjust the crew's Status with factions affected by the score
 - +1 if the score significantly helped the faction.
 - +2 if the score was a major boon for the faction.
 - -1 if the score hurt the faction.

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- -2 if the score was a major problem for the faction.
- ∘ -3 Set Status to -3 if the crew initiated war with a faction.
- Assess base Heat, plus any additional Heat from the score
 - Base 0 for a smooth, low exposure operation.
 - **Base 2** for a standard criminal operation.
 - ∘ +1 Heat per crew Tier.
 - +2 for a high profile or well-connected target.
 - +2 for open combat, destruction, or mayhem.
 - +2 if you're at war with another faction.
 - +4 if death occurred in connection to the score.
 - +2 if there are witnesses that can be questioned
 - +4 if specific crew members were identified.

Payoff

Determine the payoff from the score, rep gained, and any additional Coin from seized assets.

- Payoff
 - 1 Coin per PC, plus Coin equal to the target's Tier x3
- Rep
 - 1 Rep for every 2 Heat generated by the score.
- +1 Rep per Tier of the target above the crew's Tier
 - Seized Assets
 - Take +4 Coin if you seize a load of cash.
 - Very valuable stolen items can be fenced for 2-8 Coin (but you take 1 Heat for every 4 Coin of value).
 - Tithe
 - o If you're Tier 2 or lower, pay a tithe to your ward boss
 - **Tithe**: 1 Coin for every 4 Coin you earned from the score
 - As GM to go for debt, favor or trouble instead

Vaults and Banks

• In addition to the crew's vaults and the Scoundrel's stashes, you may deposit Coin in a bank. When your crew has wanted levels, you lose access to all funds in the bank until you remove all your wanted levels (or devise a way to gain illicit access). Some legitimate business transactions (like a legal purchase of a property deed) may require funds in a bank to complete

Entanglements

Play entanglement if Heat is 6+ or when the fiction demands

- When gains a Wanted level, mark crew xp and pick Bluecoats
- **Bluecoats**: assail crew with a severity of your Wanted Level (adjusted down by your positive faction Status with the Bluecoats).
 - 4: Lethal force, arrests, loss of lair and all assets.

- 3: Severe Beatings (Harm 3), an arrest, destruction of assets.
- 2: Serious Beatings (Harm 2), interrogation, seizure of assets.
- 1: Beatings (Harm 1), demands, observation/tailing.
- 0: Questioning, harassment, threats, observation/tailing.
- They can be bought off for Coin equal to your Wanted level +4.
- Devilry: A spirit or other supernatural entity is drawn to the crew
- Favour: A +2 or +3 Status faction asks you to do a job for them.
 - Agree to do it or lose 1 Status with them
- Flipped: one of contacts switch allegiances
 - Remove them as an ally until you get that worked out.
- Rascals: A cohort or contact causes problems for the crew.
 - Make amends or lose Status with aggrieved faction
- Show of Force: A negative Status faction moves against you.
 - Make them an offer (Coin or a Claim) to back off or go to war.
- Under Their Thumb: An authority forces you to do their dirty work
 - o Or Bluecoats entanglement, as if your Wanted Level 1 higher
- **The Usual Suspects**: The Bluecoats questions your connections.
 - Make a Fortune Roll based on their resilience and loyalty
 - The crew suffers 3 Heat minus the highest die.

Development

These crew upgrades cost Coin instead of crew advances:

- 6 coins
 - Camouflage, Rigging, or Underground Maps & Passkeys.
- 8 coins
 - o Composed, Hardened, Ordained, or Steady (per box) Ironhook Contacts, Ritual Sanctum.
- 10 coins
 - Barge, Lair Upgrade, Quality, or Training Mastery (per box)
 Upgrade a Cohort to Elite quality.

Heat & Hold

- Reduce Heat
 - For each +2 Status with a Tier 3+ faction, reduce Heat by 1.
 - Reduce Heat by 1 for each Coin or Rep they expend
 - Ask the GM if there's anything else you can do to reduce Heat
- Assess Hold
 - Hold on their Tier is measured by your number of turf claims
 - Strong hold: number of turf claims greater or equal your Tier
 - Weak hold: number of turf claims is lower than your Tier

Downtime: Scoundrel Phase

Restore your Armour and Special Armour

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- Remove all level 1 Harm.
- Add 1 tick to your **Healing clock** if you have a safe place to rest.
- The rest of the downtime consists of **Vice** and **Activities**.
 - Each player can do these in any order
 - Each pursuit includes a question or two to prompt roleplaying and future game play possibilities.

Vice

When indulging vice, spend 1 Coin and clear all of your Stress

- If your stress level was 6 or more, you **overindulge**:
 - 1 **Get Wild**: Damage property; terrify citizens.

Take -1 Status with the appropriate faction or citizenry

- 2 Big Spender: You indulge lavishly; spend +1 Coin
- 3 Brag about your exploits: +1 Heat
- 4 Attract Trouble: Face entanglement
- 5 Tapped: Your purveyor cuts you off. Find a new one
- 6 Wasted: Your Vice costs a downtime activity
- Instead of overindulgence, you can choose to be lost to your vice. Play a different character until this one returns.

Debt

You may go into debt with a provider if they agree.

- Note the initial Coin you owe
- Make a 4-segmented clock and tick it every Downtime
- If the clock fills, the provider takes steps to get their money back
- To remove a tick:
 - pay Coin equal to half the initial amount (round up)
 - or do a favor
- Resolve your debt: pay the initial amount and have no ticks

Supply Clocks

Clock to track acquired supplies or other acquisitions:

- Example applications:
 - Product stockpiles
 - Blackmail secrets
 - Promised favors
 - Provision in the deathlands
- For a significant expenditure, tick the clock multiple times.

Activities

Each Scoundrel may pursue **two free activities** during downtime.

- Additional activities cost 1 Coin or 1 Rep each.
- If you have level 3 Harm or survived a mortal wound, you must use at least one of your downtime activities to Recover.

Acquire

Gain temporary items, services, vehicles, or cohorts for the crew.

- Make a 4-segmented supply clock for the acquisition
 - tick each time it's used in a consequential way
- Pay 1 Coin for every level of Quality higher than the crew's Tier.
- Pay +1 Coin for a special feature
- If the acquisition is very rare, restricted, or prohibited, ask the GM:
 - how much extra Coin and/or Heat is required to get it
 - or if you'll need to acquire it with a score
- Acquire a personal item in the same manner, comparing its Quality to your Lifestyle rating.

Recover

- When you recover in a safe location:
 - gain ticks on your healing clock equal to your crew's Tier+1.
- When your healing clock fills
 - reduce each instance of Harm you have by one level.
 - when you remove all Harm, clear your healing clock.
- With services of a Physicker:
 - remove an instance of Harm with a level equal to or less than their Quality
 - Physickers on the playbooks (like Sawtooth) are Quality 2
 - For each Coin you pay, increase the Physicker's Quality by one
- · Stay in a private hospital:
 - remove all of your Harm
 - then choose: Take 1 Heat and pay 2 Coin -or- pay 3 Coin
 - there are no public hospitals in Doskvol

Train

Use this activity to spend xp to get an advance for your character. (You don't advance instantly as in standard Blades)

- Acquire an instructor if you don't already have one
- Act as an instructor in an area of your expertise
 - When you're an instructor, you may spend xp to advance.

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Work

- Accomplish a simple project
- Quick side job
 - ∘ earn 1 Coin
 - o ask the GM if you can charge more for your work
- Work on long term project
 - make an 8-segment clock
 - When you spend an activity working on it, mark a number of ticks equal to your Action rating
 - Add +1 tick if you have a workshop or special advantages
 - Elaborate projects require multiple clocks to complete.

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