

pathfinder 2e summoner guide

pathfinder 2e summoner guide provides an in-depth exploration of one of the most dynamic and versatile classes in Pathfinder 2nd Edition. This guide covers the summoner's core mechanics, including the unique eidolon companion, class feats, spellcasting capabilities, and effective strategies for both combat and role-playing scenarios. Understanding the summoner's abilities and how to optimize them is crucial for players who want to create a character that excels in adaptability and teamwork on the battlefield. This article also delves into character creation tips, recommended ancestries, and how to synergize the summoner's spells with their eidolon's strengths. Whether a novice player or an experienced Pathfinder enthusiast, this comprehensive pathfinder 2e summoner guide aims to enhance gameplay and mastery of this compelling class. Below is a detailed table of contents to navigate the topics covered.

- Understanding the Summoner Class
- Character Creation and Ancestry Choices
- Eidolon Companion Basics
- Summoner Spellcasting and Abilities
- Class Feats and Advancement
- Combat Strategies and Synergies
- Roleplaying the Summoner

Understanding the Summoner Class

The summoner class in Pathfinder 2e is defined by its intimate bond with an eidolon, a magical creature that the summoner calls forth and commands during adventuring and combat. This class combines elements of spellcasting with the advantage of a powerful, customizable companion that can fulfill various combat roles. Summoners are versatile, capable of adapting to many situations by blending spellcasting with physical attacks through their eidolon. Their unique connection to their eidolon makes them stand out among other spellcasters and martial characters alike.

Core Mechanics of the Summoner

At the heart of the summoner class is the eidolon, which acts as both ally

and extension of the summoner's will. The summoner's abilities often enhance or depend on the eidolon's capabilities, making teamwork essential. The class also features innate spellcasting, primarily focusing on conjuration and transmutation magic that complements the eidolon's presence. Summoners have access to a range of class feats that improve eidolon customization, spellcasting efficiency, and battlefield control.

Role in the Party

Summoners excel in flexible roles based on how their eidolon is built and their chosen spells. They can serve as frontline combatants, support casters, or controllers, depending on their strategy. The eidolon often acts as the summoner's frontline fighter, soaking damage and dealing physical harm, while the summoner provides magical support from a distance. This versatility makes summoners valuable assets in any adventuring party.

Character Creation and Ancestry Choices

Creating an effective summoner character requires careful consideration of ancestry and background to complement the class's strengths. Certain ancestries synergize well with the summoner's need for good mental stats and moderate physical resilience. Choosing the right ancestry can impact hit points, ability boosts, and available ancestry feats that enhance survivability or utility.

Recommended Ancestries

Some ancestries naturally align better with the summoner's skill set and role. Popular choices include:

- **Human:** Offers versatile ability boosts and an extra general feat, which can be used to gain beneficial class or skill feats early on.
- **Elf:** Provides boosts to Dexterity and Intelligence or Wisdom, aiding in spellcasting and defense, along with keen senses to improve perception.
- **Half-Elf:** Combines the adaptability of humans and elves and grants access to versatile heritage options and dual-ancestry feats.
- **Gnome:** Boosts Charisma and Constitution, which are helpful for summoners focusing on spellcasting and durability.

Ability Score Priorities

Charisma is the summoner's primary ability score because it drives spell attack rolls and spell DCs, as well as some eidolon abilities. Secondary priorities include Constitution for hit points and some physical resilience, followed by Dexterity to improve Armor Class and initiative. Strength is usually less important unless the eidolon build or specific feats require it.

Eidolon Companion Basics

The eidolon is the defining feature of the summoner class, serving as a magical companion summoned from another plane. This creature grows and improves alongside the summoner, gaining new abilities, limbs, and special features through class feats and level progression. Proper customization and management of the eidolon are critical for maximizing the summoner's effectiveness.

Eidolon Types and Forms

Summoners can choose from several eidolon types, each with distinct forms and abilities. Common forms include:

- **Beast:** Focused on physical prowess and melee combat, often with claws, bites, and natural armor.
- **Dragon:** Emphasizes elemental damage, breath weapons, and strong defenses.
- **Fiend:** Specializes in debuffs, resistances, and sometimes fear-based abilities.
- **Angel:** Known for healing capabilities and defensive buffs.

Choosing the right eidolon type depends on the desired role in combat and the summoner's playstyle.

Customizing the Eidolon

Through eidolon evolutions and class feats, summoners can modify their eidolon's abilities, limbs, and special traits. Evolutions allow the eidolon to gain additional attacks, resistances, movement options, or utility abilities. This customization enables summoners to tailor their companion to fit specific combat roles or complement their spellcasting.

Summoner Spellcasting and Abilities

Summoners possess innate spellcasting focused on conjuration and transmutation spells that enhance their eidolon or control the battlefield. Their spell list includes a mix of utility, defensive, and offensive spells designed to work in tandem with their companion. Spellcasting is based on Charisma, and summoners have access to unique class spells not available to other classes.

Key Spells for Summoners

Several spells are essential for summoners to maximize their effectiveness:

- **Summon Eidolon:** The signature ability to call forth the eidolon, which can be dismissed and resummoned as needed.
- **Shield:** Provides temporary armor class bonuses to protect the summoner or allies.
- **Magic Weapon:** Enhances the eidolon's natural attacks with magical damage bonuses.
- **Haste:** Increases the eidolon's actions per round, improving its combat potential.
- **Dispel Magic:** Useful for removing enemy buffs or magical effects that hinder the party.

Spellcasting Strategies

Effective summoner spellcasting involves balancing defensive buffs, battlefield control, and offensive enhancements. Prioritizing spells that improve the eidolon's combat efficiency or protect the summoner allows for sustained engagement in battles. Since the eidolon acts as the primary damage dealer, spells that augment its capabilities create strong synergies.

Class Feats and Advancement

Pathfinder 2e summoners gain access to a variety of class feats that shape their eidolon's growth and the summoner's personal abilities. These feats unlock new evolutions, enhance spellcasting, and improve survivability. Selecting the right feats is essential for optimizing the summoner's performance throughout the campaign.

Important Class Feats

Key class feats to consider include:

- **Eidolon Evolution Feats:** Add new limbs, attacks, or resistances to the eidolon.
- **Improved Summon Eidolon:** Allows casting summon eidolon as a single action, increasing flexibility.
- **Shared Spellcasting:** Enables the eidolon to benefit from specific summoner spells or effects.
- **Quickened Casting:** Reduces the action cost for casting certain spells.
- **Protective Bond:** Grants defensive bonuses when the eidolon is near the summoner.

Advancement Tips

When advancing, focus on feats that enhance the eidolon's combat capabilities and survivability first. Later, invest in feats that improve spell versatility or offer new tactical options. Balancing between eidolon improvements and personal spellcasting growth ensures the summoner remains effective in all phases of gameplay.

Combat Strategies and Synergies

In combat, the summoner excels by leveraging the complementary strengths of their eidolon and spellcasting. Effective positioning, spell selection, and action economy management are critical for maximizing damage output and team support. The summoner's ability to summon and command a powerful companion provides unique tactical advantages.

Maximizing Eidolon Effectiveness

To optimize the eidolon in battle, focus on enhancing its durability and damage potential. Using spells like magic weapon and haste can significantly increase its lethality. Position the eidolon to engage enemy threats directly, drawing fire away from more vulnerable party members. Utilizing evolutions that grant resistances or special attacks further increases its battlefield impact.

Supporting the Party

While the eidolon handles frontline combat, the summoner can support allies through buffs, healing, and battlefield control spells. Spells that hinder enemies or protect teammates improve overall party survivability.

Coordinating with the team to exploit enemy weaknesses and control the flow of combat is a hallmark of skilled summoner play.

Roleplaying the Summoner

The summoner's bond with their eidolon provides rich roleplaying opportunities. This connection is often portrayed as a deep, mystical partnership, which can influence character motivation, interactions, and story development. The eidolon is more than a pet or tool; it embodies a part of the summoner's identity and power.

Character Themes and Motivations

Players can explore themes of companionship, responsibility, and the nature of magical bonds through their summoner character. The eidolon may represent a spiritual guide, guardian, or manifestation of the summoner's inner strength. Integrating these themes into roleplay adds depth and immersion to the gaming experience.

Interaction with the Eidolon

Roleplaying the relationship between summoner and eidolon can enhance storytelling. The eidolon may communicate nonverbally or through limited speech, showing loyalty, emotions, or even conflicting opinions. This dynamic can lead to compelling character development and narrative moments during the campaign.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best ancestries for a Summoner in Pathfinder 2e?

Popular ancestries for Summoners include Human for versatility, Elf for Dexterity and Intelligence boosts, and Halfling for their luck and agility, which complement the Summoner's playstyle.

Which eidolon evolution points should Summoners prioritize?

Summoners should focus on evolutions that enhance their eidolon's durability and utility, such as increased hit points, natural attacks, and mobility options like flight or burrow to maximize battlefield effectiveness.

What are the key feats to take for a Summoner in Pathfinder 2e?

Important feats for Summoners include "Eidolon Mastery" to enhance eidolon capabilities, "Summoner's Bond" to improve the connection with the eidolon, and general combat feats that boost survivability and control.

How does the Summoner class perform in solo vs. group play?

The Summoner excels in group play due to the eidolon's versatility and support capabilities but can also perform well solo by using the eidolon as an additional frontline combatant and utility tool.

What spell choices are recommended for Summoners in Pathfinder 2e?

Recommended spells include buffs like "Mage Armor," utility spells like "Detect Magic," and offensive spells such as "Magic Missile" or "Shocking Grasp" to complement the eidolon's melee abilities.

How can a Summoner effectively manage their eidolon in combat?

Effective eidolon management involves positioning to protect the summoner, using the eidolon's special abilities strategically, and coordinating attacks and abilities to control the battlefield and assist allies.

Additional Resources

1. Mastering the Summoner: A Comprehensive Pathfinder 2e Guide

This book delves into the core mechanics of the Summoner class in Pathfinder 2e, providing players with essential strategies to optimize their character. It covers eidolon customization, spell selection, and combat tactics to maximize effectiveness. Whether you're new or experienced, this guide helps you build a powerful and versatile summoner.

2. The Eidolon Companion: Enhancing Your Summoner's Bond

Focused entirely on eidolons, this book explores various archetypes and

evolutions available in Pathfinder 2e. Readers will learn how to tailor their eidolons to fit different playstyles, from tanky defenders to damage dealers. Detailed examples and roleplaying tips make this a must-have for summoner enthusiasts.

3. Pathfinder 2e Summoner Spells and Abilities Handbook

This handbook compiles and explains the best spells and abilities for summoners, highlighting synergies with eidolons and party roles. It includes advice on spell preparation, timing, and situational usage to keep your summoner effective throughout any adventure. The guide also discusses how to adapt your spell list based on campaign needs.

4. Summoner Tactics: Combat and Support Strategies in Pathfinder 2e

Designed to improve your tactical gameplay, this book covers positioning, teamwork, and action economy for summoners. It offers insights on how to use your eidolon and spells to control the battlefield and protect allies. Advanced tactics and encounter examples provide practical applications for players and GMs alike.

5. Character Building for Summoners: Optimizing Stats and Feats

This guide focuses on the character creation process, helping players choose the best ancestry, backgrounds, and feats for their summoner. It explains how to balance offensive and defensive capabilities while enhancing your eidolon's potential. The book also includes sample builds for different character concepts.

6. The Summoner's Role in Pathfinder 2e Parties

Exploring the summoner's niche within adventuring groups, this book discusses how to fulfill various party roles such as damage dealer, scout, or support. It provides strategies for effective communication and synergy with other party members. Readers will gain a deeper understanding of how to integrate their summoner into any campaign setting.

7. Eidolons and Beyond: Expanding Your Summoner's Reach

This book introduces optional rules, third-party content, and homebrew ideas to expand the summoner experience. It encourages creativity in eidolon design and offers suggestions for unique summoner archetypes. Perfect for players looking to push the boundaries of traditional summoner gameplay.

8. Pathfinder 2e Summoner Lore and Roleplaying Guide

Delving into the narrative aspects, this guide helps players develop rich backstories and motivations for their summoners. It explores the cultural and mystical origins of summoners and their eidolons. Roleplaying tips and story hooks make this a valuable resource for immersive gameplay.

9. The Ultimate Pathfinder 2e Summoner GM Toolkit

Aimed at Game Masters, this book provides tools to create engaging summoner-centric encounters and storylines. It includes custom monsters, eidolon variants, and encounter balancing advice. GMs will find inspiration for incorporating summoners and their eidolons into their campaigns effectively.

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