

Bard Class

In any world where most people do not travel far, the Bard is the walking newspaper and often times judge and jury. In most places Bards are considered sacred due to their store of knowledge and history. A bard's knowledge, her ability to perform stories, song, and poetry virtually guarantees a nights lodging in any inn as long as they are willing to perform. A bard will always have some type of instrument with her, even just a small whistle.

Base Attributes

This section provides the base attributes for a Bard of each level. With the exception of life points, these values are immutable and can never be permanently changed.

Weapons and Armor

The damage table below provides base damage by weapon class. Damage is not cumulative – you cause only the damage listed for your current level. The armor table provides base values for each armor type.

Weapon Usage – Any two weapon types except great sword, or great axe

Non-Proficiency Base Damage – 1 point

Armor – Leather Armor or Chain Mail

Shield – No

Damage				
Level	Melee Damage	Marginal Archery Damage	Critical Archery Damage	Thrown Damage
1	1	1	3	1
2	2	2	4	2
3	3	3	5	2
4	4	4	6	3
5	5	5	7	4
6	5	5	7	4
7	6	6	8	5
8	6	6	8	5
9	7	7	9	6
10	7	7	9	6

Armor				
Level	No Armor	Leather Armor	Chain Mail	Plate Mail
1-10	0	1	2	NA

Life and Spell Points

The Life and Spell Point table below provides base life and spell points for each level. Life and spell points are not cumulative – you receive only the points listed for your current level.

Life and Spell Points				
Level	Points in Each Limb	Points to Unconsciousness	Points to Death	Spell Points
1	3	11	19	25
2	3	14	22	30
3	3	17	25	35
4	4	20	28	40
5	5	23	31	45
6	6	26	34	50
7	7	29	37	55
8	8	32	40	60
9	9	35	43	65
10	10	38	46	70

Bard Spells

A Bard should obtain and carry some type of instrument with them at all times. This instrument is the primary focus for a bard's music, even if it is just a small whistle to help set their tone. Bards tend to use grand gestures while performing but the true power of the bard lies in her voice. All the bardic abilities can be invoked by voice alone.

Innate Ability:

Instrumental Focus

A bard must select upon character creation one of the following musical instrument types as her instrument of choice: Brass, Harp/Keyboard, Percussion, String, or Woodwind. A bard can use any musical instrument to cast her spells but she can only specialize in 1 type. However, when the bard uses an instrument of her chosen type, she can gain a slight advantage when casting certain spells. These advantages are considered base for the Bard and can be stacked with spells such as **Invoke** or **+2 LI**. The bard must have that type of instrument on her person to gain the advantages of Instrumental Focus. This ability is base for the character and cannot be acquired by a magic item.

In addition to the advantages gained on certain spells, a Bard may cast **Legend Lore** for free on an instrument of her chosen type that she can see or if she hears the name of a famous instrument. Subject to GM knowledge.

Brass: +1 outgoing LI when casting **Counter Song: Dispel Magic** and can target an additional victim with her **Stunning Song: Stun** for an additional 3 SPs.

Harp/Keyboard: +1 outgoing LI when casting **Lullaby: Crash Time**, and **Soothing Song: Earth Calming** can affect 1 additional creature.

Percussion: +1 outgoing LI when casting **Discordant Song: Confusion** and inflicts an additional -1 whenever casting **Wracking Song: Pain Strike**.

String: +1 outgoing LI when casting **Beguiling Song: Enthral** and **Silent Song: Mute**.

Woodwind: +1 casting level when casting **Dirge** and can extend her **+1/+2 vs Charm** to all allies within 30' for 5 mins per level or 1 combat. A bard can use the Charm ability ½ times per level, each day, round up (min 1).

Fluency

Range: 10 feet

Area: Self

Duration: 5 minutes/level

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 0

Due to their travels a Bard can converse in and understand all non-magical languages spoken around her, similar to the spell **Speak Easy** (Magic User 1). In addition, the Bard has the ability to translate written text like the spell **Read Language** (Magic User 1).

1st Level

Fog Brain

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target per level

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI, Rev.

Cost: LI

This spell will cause the target to forget everything that occurred in the previous 5 minutes. If a target of **Fog Brain** has a logical reason to believe that she has been affected by a **Fog Brain**, then she will be aware that she has a memory lapse. Logical reasons might include missing gold or items, unexplained damage, foreign surroundings, or missing information, but are ultimately governed by GM discretion. Spells already in effect will continue to be in effect for their normal duration. The reverse of this spell can be used in one of two ways, at the discretion of the caster: it can either cause the target to clearly remember the information and events of the previous 5 minutes, or it can reverse the effects of the most recent **Fog Brain** cast on the target. Reverse **Fog Brain** need only be cast at the level of the affected individual. The effects of **Fog Brain** and reverse **Fog Brain** are permanent, unless the target is otherwise affected. This is an LI spell.

Healing Potion

Range: Touch

Area: 1 Potion

Duration: Game Day or until used

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: Var.

The Bard can brew a **Healing Potion** that will heal himself or another character for 2 life points per ability point expended. The Bard may expend up to her level in ability points per **Healing Potion**.

Legend Lore

Range: Self

Area: 1 Target

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 1

With this ability, the Bard can determine the legends and history surrounding any famous object, location, historical event, or legend; the Bard will not learn magical abilities of the item with this ability. The Bard need only hear the name or something unique about the target of a **Legend Lore**, and does not have to be in possession of an item to learn about it. If any other types of lore, such as nature, heraldic, or religion, exist for the target, the Bard will know the type of lore available but not its specific content

In addition to the advantages gained on certain spells, a Bard may cast **Legend Lore** for free on an instrument of her chosen type that she can see or if she hears the name of a famous instrument. Subject to GM knowledge.

Lullaby: Crash Time

Range: 30 feet

Area: 5-foot radius

Duration: 5 minutes/level

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Cost: LI

This spell will cause all affected targets within a 5' radius circle to fall asleep. Affected targets will be unable to use SAS or activate magic items, although spells already in effect will continue to be in effect for their normal duration. **Crash Time** affects each target separately, and lasts for a duration of 5 minutes per level of effect or until a target is awakened; measures taken to awaken a target will only work for that target.

Noise or damage will not cause a target to awaken. Arcane methods that can awaken a target include **Awaken** (Magic User 2) and a white **Flower of Avalon** (Druid 8). The only physical means that can be used to wake the affected targets is to lightly shake the targets for 15 seconds. For the first 15 seconds after waking up, the target can do nothing but defend himself. The Bard will not be slept by her own spell unless she chooses to be. This is an LI spell.

Pick Locks

Range: Touch

Area: 1 Target

Duration: Special

Stacking: NA

Misc.: Material Component

Uses: ½ Level per lock, minimum of 1

This skill provides the Bard with the ability to pick a lock, as described in Chapter 8, and allows the Bard to accurately gauge the type and difficulty of a lock by inspecting it. A Bard must have an IFGS lock pick, which must comply with the guidelines in Chapter 8, and she may carry as many lock picks as she wishes. A Bard may attempt to pick a particular lock a number of times equal to half her level rounded up; the Bard must start at the beginning of the lock with each new attempt. Material component: Lock pick.

2nd level

Beguiling Song: Enthral

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target per level

Duration: 5 minutes/level

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Cost: LI

This spell will cause an affected target to regard the caster as an important friend and ally, and to trust and believe whatever the caster says. Under no circumstances will an affected target act to harm the caster, and he will give consent to have additional non-damaging spells cast on him by the caster. The target will not do anything that goes against his own basic nature or that seems dangerous to him, with the exception that he will do his best to defend the caster against attack. If the caster attacks the target, the **Enthral** will immediately end. This is an LI spell.

Inspiring Song - Fanfare

Range: Special **Area:** 10 Targets **Duration:** 5 minutes or 1 Combat
Stacking: Damage **Misc.:** NA **Costs:** 2

Inspiring Song Fanfare allows all targets to add +1 point for every two bard levels to their armor (rounded up). Each target affected by the spell is considered to have the spell in effect on an individual basis; therefore, when the duration of the spell ends for one target, it is not necessarily over for other targets that were affected by the spell. This spell can also be dispelled on an individual basis. The Bard may specify up to 10 individuals, including himself, to be the targets of this spell; each target must each be within 30' of the Bard at the time the spell is cast. The duration of this spell is one combat or one game day, whichever comes first.

Major Lore

Range: Self **Area:** 1 Target **Duration:** Instantaneous
Stacking: NA **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 2

With this ability, the Bard will learn all of the lore surrounding any lore target; the Bard will not learn magical abilities of the target with this ability. All information provided by the following SAS will be revealed, with all stipulations of each SAS: *Battlefield Lore* (Fighter 1), *Heraldic Lore* (Knight 1), *Legend Lore* (Monk 1), *Nature Lore* (Ranger 1), *People Lore* (Thief 2), and *Religion Lore* (Cleric 1). The ability points will not be spent if there is no lore information available.

Savvy

Range: 1 inch **Area:** 1 Target **Duration:** Instantaneous
Stacking: NA **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 2

This ability can be used on a magical target, and will provide the Bard with information regarding the target's magical properties. The information provided by this ability is defined in game design, and will often be comprised of multiple pieces of information. Each use of this ability will provide 1 property of the item, and will also identify the number of unknown properties (up to 10) that remain. If there are more than 10 unknown properties, the caster will only be informed that more than 10 additional properties exist. *Savvy* does not usually give information regarding curses, but can do so by game design.

3rd level

+1 vs. Charm Effects

Range: Self **Area:** Self **Duration:** Permanent
Stacking: BASE **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 0

At 3rd level, the Bard gains +1 to her resistance versus LI effects centered around charm, *Enthrall* (Magic User 1, Druid 2), *Simon Spell* (Cleric 2), *Crashtime* (Magic User 2), *Awe* (Cleric 10). This skill is a base of the character class and may not be placed in a magic item.

Bardic Curse I

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 5 minutes or 1 Combat

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 3

With this spell, the Bard can cause a single target within 30 feet to be cursed at minus 1 LI. The target is effectively 1 level lower to all incoming LI spells. For example, a 4th level Ranger targeted by this spell would be affected by a Magic User's Crashtime cast at 3rd level. The Bard should call out "**Curse -1 LI, Target**". This spell may be countered by a **Remove Curse** (Cleric 3), **Battlefever** (Fighter 3+), or **Confidence** (Knight 7).

Elemental Damage

Range: 1 inch

Area: 1 Weapon

Duration: 1 Combat

Stacking: Damage

Misc.: NA

Cost: Var.

With this spell, the Bard can enhance a weapon with elemental damage. The affected weapon will cause 1 additional point of magical damage for every 2 spell points expended by the Bard, and the Bard can spend up to her level in spell points. The Bard must specify at the time of casting whether the additional damage will come from Earth, Fire, Ice, or Lightning. When the weapon is used, the wielder should call the total amount of damage per strike and the specific type of elemental damage, for example "8 magic, Fire". The duration of the enhancement is one combat or one game day, whichever comes first.

Elemental Protection

Range: 1 inch

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 5 minutes/level

Stacking: Damage

Misc.: Material Component

Cost: Var.

This spell will protect the target from one element of the caster's choice (Earth, Fire, Ice, or Lightning). The Bard may expend up to her level in spell points, and the amount of protection received is 3 points per spell point expended. A character can only have one **Elemental Protection** in effect at any given time. Material component: Blue flag.

Memory

Range: Self

Area: Self

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Uses: Level

When a Bard uses this skill she can remember up to 5 minutes of verbiage or 1 page of text for up to one game day. This could be used to remember information including directions, a list, a map, names, a riddle, or an answer. The Bard must study the target text for at least 10 seconds or clearly hear the verbiage, and the Bard must state to a GM or SK that she is using this skill within 5 minutes of studying the text or hearing the verbiage. The Bard does not have to be able to understand the text or verbiage in order to remember it.

4th Level

Counter-song: Dispel Magic

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Spell

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Cost: LI

With this spell the Bard can negate the spell of any caster, cast up to the level of the Bard. Only spells with a duration can be dispelled (instantaneous spells cannot be dispelled). The Bard should call out “**Dispel**” followed by the name and level of spell that she is trying to negate (for example, an 8th level Bard could call out “Dispel **Physical Protection**, 6th level”). To negate one of her own spells before the end of its duration, the Bard must also use **Dispel Magic**. When this spell is used in conjunction with **LI Enhancement +1 or +2** (Magic User 3 & 6) the Bard can affect levels higher than her own. This is an LI spell and costs 1 spell point per 2 levels that the caster is attempting to dispel (round up).

Discordant Song: Confusion

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 5 minutes

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Cost: LI

This spell will cause the target to lose the ability to focus his thoughts enough for spell casting. The target of the spell cannot cast spells or activate magic items for the duration of this spell; however, autoactivated magic items will still be triggered as normal. This is an LI spell.

Identify Glyph

Range: 50 feet

Area: 1 Glyph

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 4

With this spell, the Bard can point to a single visible glyph and determine its name and properties. This spell will not identify what action will trigger the glyph.

Inspiring Song - Battle

Range: Special

Area: 10 Targets

Duration: 1 Combat or 1 Game Day

Stacking: Damage

Misc.: NA

Costs: 4

Inspiring Song - Battle allows all targets to add +1 point for every two bard levels to their damage (rounded up). Each target affected by the spell is considered to have the spell in effect on an individual basis; therefore, when the duration of the spell ends for one target, it is not necessarily over for other targets that were affected by the spell. This spell can also be dispelled on an individual basis. The Bard may specify up to 10 individuals, including herself, to be the targets of this spell; each target must each be within 30' of the Bard at the time the spell is cast. This spell stacks in the Damage group but does not affect No Defense damage in either form. The duration of this spell is one combat or one game day, whichever comes first.

Plant Attack

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 5 minutes

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Cost: Var.

When this spell is cast, plants will animate and grow to entangle and damage the target. The target will take 2 points of damage to her torso per level of the Bard, and may also become entangled and immobilized. The entangling portion of this spell is LI; if the target is affected, she will be unable to cast spells, activate items, or fight. An unaffected creature may free the entangled target by chopping at the plants with a weapon for 15 seconds. Once freed, the target can fight only defensively for the next 5 seconds while she role-plays disentangling herself. The Bard must expend her level in spell points, and must call out the appropriate damage and level of effect; for example, a 6th level Bard would call out "**Plant Attack**, 6th level, 12 points of damage" for a cost of 6 spell points.

5th Level

Bypass Glyph

Range: Self

Area: Self

Duration: Special

Stacking: NA

Misc.: LI

Uses: Level

This skill allows the Bard to bypass glyphs of her level or less, but only if she knows the name of the glyph to be bypassed. No invocation is required; however, the Bard must state the name of the glyph prior to touching the item or entering the area protected by the glyph and then touch the glyph within one minute. This must be done each time the protected item or area is touched, passed, or entered. If the name stated by the Bard is incorrect, the glyph will discharge immediately. If the Bard fails to touch the glyph within one minute, then the glyph will go off normally if the Bard is still interacting with the protected area or item. The glyph can still be triggered normally by any other creature, even during the Bard's 1-minute grace period. This is an LI skill.

Swashbuckler

Range: Self

Area: Self

Duration: Permanent

Stacking: BASE

Misc.: NA

Cost: 0

A bard wielding a single weapon gains an innate point of damage. The bard may not be holding anything in their off hand. For the purposes of this ability, staves and bows are considered single weapons.

Wathit

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: Var.

By observing a creature for 10 seconds, the Bard can gather information about its natural properties. Natural properties of a creature include information such as how much damage the creature does, what special attack the creature has, approximately how many life points the creature has, whether the creature is natural or special, what the creature's major weakness or major strength is, and other properties defined by the game design or GM. The Bard cannot use this ability to determine a creature's level or class. The Bard will learn 1 property of her choice for every 2 ability points expended, and can spend up to her level in ability points for each use of Wathit.

Wracking Song: Pain Strike

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 1 Combat

Stacking: Damage

Misc.: NA

Cost: Var.

For every 2 spell points expended by the Bard, this spell causes the target creature to subtract 1 point of damage from all melee, thrown, and propelled attacks. The Bard may expend up to her level in spell points. This spell should be called out as "***Pain Strike***, minus X points to damage". A ***Resist Pain*** (Knight 5) will counteract the effects of this spell if it is used as an immediate counter or if a character has the ability already in effect. This spell is not LI.

6th level

Dirge

Range: 50 feet

Area: 5-foot radius

Duration: Instantaneous

Stacking: NA

Misc.: KD5

Cost: 6

A Bard can focus energy through sound to perform an attack using her voice. The attack will cause 2 points of damage per level of the Bard and a 5-second Knockdown. The Bard must call out "***Dirge***, x points, 5 second Knockdown" after identifying the targets. This attack is not considered to be magical, and cannot be countered by an SAS such as ***Spell Defense*** (Magic User 4) or ***Evade*** (Movement Monk 7).

Inspiring Song - March

Range: Special

Area: 10 Targets

Duration: 1 Combat or 1 Game Day

Stacking: Damage

Misc.: NA

Costs: 6

This spell allows all targets to add +5 hit points to their totals. This spell will not stack with ***Invoke*** (Cleric 7). This spell will allow an individual to go over his or her max points. All damage done to the individual is applied to these temporary hit points first – if at the end of the spell's duration, the loss of these additional life points causes the target to fall unconscious or to drop to or below 0 life points, then the target will be unconscious or dead; this effect stacks in the Damage group. The duration of this spell is one combat or one game day, whichever comes first. ***Invoke – Life Points*** (Cleric 7) or ***Life Enhancement*** (Cleric 7) cannot be in effect simultaneously with ***Inspiring Song - March*** on any individual.

Soothing song: Earth Calming

Range: 30 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 5 minutes/level

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 6

This spell causes the calmness of the earth to pervade the target. This spell will negate the effects of any of the following (magically induced or not) for the duration of the spell, regardless of their levels of effect: fear, drunkenness, insanity, frenzy, nightmare, ***Battle Fever*** (Fighter 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9), ***Spook*** (Magic User 2), and any type of intense emotion. This spell does not induce a docile nature or alter the intent of the recipient, it only causes calmness. The effects of this spell can be removed by a ***Dispel Magic*** (Magic User 4, Cleric 5, Druid 5, Bard 4) cast at 6th level.

Summon Elemental Essence:

Range: Special **Area:** 10 Targets **Duration:** 5 minutes or 1 Combat
Stacking: Damage **Misc.:** NA **Costs:** 6

The bard may summon the essence of an elemental and have it grant an elemental damage type to the team. This damage type is the same for each individual but must be fire, earth, water, or lightning.

7th Level

+2 vs. Charm Effects

Range: Self **Area:** Self **Duration:** Permanent
Stacking: BASE **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 0

At 7th level, the Bard gains +2 to her resistance versus LI effects centered around charm *Enthrall* (Magic User 1, Druid 2) *Simon Spell* (Cleric 2), *Crashtime* (Magic User 2), *Awe* (Cleric 10). This increase is not cumulative with the +1 gained at 3rd level. This skill is a base of the character class and may not be placed in a magic item.

Bardic Curse II

Range: 30 feet **Area:** 1 Target **Duration:** 5 minutes or 1 Combat
Stacking: NA **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 7

With this spell the Bard can cause a single target within 30 feet to be cursed at minus 2 LI. The target is effectively 2 levels lower to all incoming LI spells. For example, a 5th level Ranger targeted by this spell would be affected by a Magic User's *Crashtime* cast at 3rd level. The Bard should call out "*Curse -2 LI, Target*". This spell may be countered by a *Remove Curse* (Cleric 3), *Battlefever* (Fighter 3+), *Confidence* (Knight 7).

Silent Song: Mute

Range: 30 feet **Area:** 1 Target **Duration:** 5 minutes
Stacking: NA **Misc.:** LI **Cost:** LI

With this song the Bard can prevent the target from making any sounds with his mouth or throat, which will prevent the target from casting, talking, and similar actions. The creature can still make noises with his body as normal, such as clapping, and can call damage in combat because calling damage is a game mechanic. This is an LI spell.

Stunning Song: Stun

Range: 50 feet **Area:** 1 Target **Duration:** Instantaneous
Stacking: NA **Misc.:** KD10 **Cost:** 7

The target of this spell is knocked down for a full 10 seconds. The caster should call "*Stun, 10-second Knockdown*"

8th Level

Discern Person or Creature:

Range: Special **Area:** Special **Duration:** 5 minutes per level
Stacking: LI Group **Misc.:** NA **Costs:** 8

By invoking this ability, a bard may study a person or creature and for the next 5 minutes she will be able to detect any lie or falsehood that he/she/it tells. The Bard must be in reasonable (GM Discretion) proximity to the person being observed and able to both see and hear the person. Additionally, this will tell the bard if the target is under any type of enchantment, compulsion, disguise, or possession but not the specifics. This is an LI spell.

Inspiring Song - Trance

Range: Special **Area:** 10 Targets **Duration:** 5 minutes or 1 Combat
Stacking: LI Group **Misc.:** NA **Costs:** 8

This spell allows all targets to add a +1 LI to either their outgoing LI or incoming LI for spells. Each target of the spell may choose to apply the +1 to either outgoing LI or incoming LI, not both. Each target affected by the spell is considered to have the spell in effect on an individual basis; therefore, when the duration of the spell ends for one target, it is not necessarily over for other targets that were affected by the spell. This spell can also be dispelled on an individual basis. The Bard may specify up to 10 individuals, including himself, to be the targets of this spell; each target must each be within 30' of the Bard at the time the spell is cast. The duration of this spell is one combat or one game day, whichever comes first.

9th Level

Become One with the music

Range: Self **Area:** Self **Duration:** 5 minutes or 1 Combat
Stacking: Var. **Misc.:** NA **Cost:** 9

This spell allows a Bard to become one with her music. For the duration of this spell (1 minute) all bardic spells take only 5 seconds to cast and their cost is reduced by ½.

Fascinate

Range: 30 feet **Area:** 10' radius **Duration:** Instantaneous
Stacking: LI **Misc.:** LI **Cost:** Var.

This spell will cause all affected targets within a 10' radius circle to be affected by a 10 second paralysis, unable to do anything except look and listen to the Bard. If the target is attacked, the paralysis ends immediately. The bard must speak for the entire 10 seconds to keep their attention. This is an LI spell.

10th Level

Final Lament

Range: 50 feet

Area: 1 Target

Duration: 10 Seconds

Stacking: NA

Misc.: NA

Cost: 10

This ranged spell causes the target creature to immediately lose ½ of his total life points to death. Damage is based on the number of life points the target has when she is fully healed, and is taken to the torso. This damage can only be healed after the target rests out of combat for 5 full minutes. The target can only be affected by one ***Killing Attack*** at a time no matter the source. This damage cannot be reduced or avoided except by a ***Concentration*** (Magic User 6) while casting or an ***Evade*** (Movement Monk 7). If the spell is evaded, the spell is still used and the points are expended. A Bard may only deliver one ***Killing Attack*** every 5 seconds, regardless of the source.

Inspiring Song - Bardic Epic

Range: Special

Area: 10 Targets

Duration: 5 minutes or 1 Combat

Stacking: Var.

Misc.: NA

Costs: 10

This spell allows the bard to combine any 2 of the lower level ***Inspiring Songs*** spells and cast them as a single 10th level spell. For example, a Bard may cast both ***Inspiring Song - Fanfare*** and ***Inspiring Song - Battle*** granting up to 10 people both a bonus to damage and to armor.