

Pathfinder Summoner Guide

Pathfinder Summoner Guide: Mastering the Art of Summoning and Control The **Pathfinder Summoner Guide** aims to provide both novice and experienced players with a comprehensive understanding of this versatile class. The summoner is a unique spellcaster that specializes in summoning powerful creatures and spirits to fight alongside them. Whether you're looking to dominate the battlefield with a variety of summons, customize your companions to fit your playstyle, or learn optimal strategies for maximizing your summoner's potential, this guide will cover everything you need to become a master summoner in Pathfinder.

Understanding the Summoner Class

Before diving into tactics and build suggestions, it's essential to understand what makes the summoner unique within the Pathfinder universe.

What Is a Summoner?

The summoner is a hybrid spellcaster that combines spellcasting with the ability to conjure and control a variety of summoned creatures called Eidolons. These Eidolons serve as both weapons and companions, evolving over time to become formidable allies.

Core Features of the Summoner

1. **Summon Monster Spells:** The primary method of bringing allies into the fight, with a flexible selection of creatures.
2. **Eidolons:** Unique, customizable creatures that develop as you gain levels, acting as your primary combat partner.
3. **Spellcasting:** Access to a broad range of spells, including utility, defensive, and offensive options.
4. **Versatility:** The summoner can adapt to various roles, from tank to damage dealer to support caster.

Building a Powerful Summoner

Creating an effective summoner involves choosing the right race, feats, spells, and Eidolon customization options.

Choosing the Right Race

The race you select can significantly influence your summoner's capabilities. Consider these options:

1. **Human:** Offers an extra feat at first level, providing flexibility for early optimization.
2. **Kasatha:** Excellent for mobility and tactical positioning, especially with their racial traits.
3. **Half-Elf:** Good for versatile skill options and adaptability.
4. **Gnoll:** Provides a natural bonus to Strength and Constitution, beneficial for melee-focused Eidolons.

Key Feats for Summoners

Feats can enhance your summoner's summoning prowess, survivability, or versatility.

1. **Augment Summoning:** Boosts the stats of your summoned creatures, making them more durable and effective.
2. **Extra Summon:** Allows you to summon more creatures per day, increasing battlefield control.
3. **Improved Initiative:** Acts faster in combat, giving your summons and Eidolon an edge.
4. **Combat Casting:** Ensures you can cast spells even when threatened or in melee.
5. **Spell Focus (Conjuration):** Improves the effectiveness of your summoning spells.

Choosing Spells

Your spell selection should complement your summoning tactics, focusing on utility, control, and damage.

1. **Summon Monster I-V:** Core spells for summoning creatures suited to various situations.
2. **Mirror Image:** Defensive spell to protect yourself while summoning.
3. **Haste:** Boosts the speed and combat effectiveness of your Eidolon and summons.
4. **Dimension Door:** For quick repositioning or escape.
5. **Fly:** Grants mobility to your Eidolons or yourself.
6. **Grease, Entangle, or Web:** Crowd control spells to control the battlefield.

Summoner Eidolon: Customization and Growth

The Eidolon is at the heart of a summoner's power. Proper customization and understanding how to develop it are crucial.

Eidolons: The Basics

Eidolons are unique creatures that evolve over levels, gaining new abilities and changing appearance. They start as simple beings but grow into powerful allies.

Choosing an Eidolon Type

Eidolons can be tailored to your preferred combat style:

1. **Melee Focus:** Choose the "Brute" or "Leech" Eidolon types for high durability and damage output.
2. **Ranged or Control:** Opt for "Caster" or "Summoner" types that focus on spellcasting support abilities.
3. **Hybrid:** Mix melee and spellcasting to maintain versatility.

Eidolons' Development Tips

1. **Focus on Key Abilities:** Prioritize Strength, Constitution, and Dexterity based on your Eidolon's role.
2. **Use Evolution Points Wisely:** Invest in evolutions like "Bite," "Claws," or "Tail" for combat prowess, or "Enhanced Speed" for mobility.
3. **Enhance Appearance and Abilities:** Evolving your Eidolon's form can unlock powerful new evolutions, especially at higher levels.

Synergy Between Eidolon and Summoner

Ensure your tactics leverage the bond:

1. Position your Eidolon for optimal attacks or control.
2. Use spells and evolutions to complement your Eidolon's strengths.
3. Coordinate attacks and movements to maximize battlefield control.

Summoner Combat Strategies

Mastering combat as a summoner involves balancing spellcasting, creature management, and positioning.

Battlefield Control

Use your summons and spells to manipulate the battlefield:

1. **Summon Creatures:** Use summon spells early to occupy enemies and create choke points.
2. **Control Spells:** Cast Web, Entangle, or Grease to restrain foes and protect your allies.
3. **Positioning:** Keep your Eidolon and summons in advantageous locations to intercept enemies.

Maximizing Eidolon Effectiveness

Strategies to optimize your Eidolon's contribution:

1. Develop evolutions that suit your Eidolon's role—damage, tanking, or support.
2. Use spells like Haste to increase attack and movement speed.
3. Coordinate your Eidolon's actions with your spells for synergy.

Spellcasting Tips

- Cast utility and defensive spells pre-battle to prepare your team. - Use offensive spells when enemies are grouped for maximum impact. - Remember to keep some utility spells for emergency or exploration situations.

Advanced Tips and Tricks for Summoners

For seasoned players, these tips help push your summoner to the next level.

Multiclass Considerations

- Combining summoner with classes like Fighter, Rogue, or Bard can expand your tactical options. - Multiclassing into a martial class can give your Eidolon a boost in melee combat.

Using Items and Equipment

- Equip items that boost your spellcasting ability, such as Wands, Scrolls, or Headbands of Inspired Wisdom. - Use items that enhance your Eidolon's evolutions or grant resistances.

Party Synergy

- Coordinate with party members to cover weaknesses—your summons can tank while casters deal damage. - Share control of battlefield area to maximize your summoner's influence.

Optimizing Summoner Progression

- Focus on feats and evolutions that enhance your preferred playstyle. - Regularly update your spell list and Eidolon evolutions as you level up.

Conclusion

The **Pathfinder Summoner Guide** provides a foundation for creating a flexible and powerful character capable of summoning, controlling, and evolving creatures to dominate the battlefield. By carefully selecting your race, feats, spells, and Eidolon evolutions, and employing strategic combat tactics, you can tailor your summoner to fit any role within your party. Whether focusing on raw power, battlefield control, or utility, mastering the summoner unlocks a versatile and rewarding gameplay experience. Embrace the art of summoning, and watch as your summoned allies turn the tide of any encounter.

Pathfinder Summoner Guide: Mastering the Art of the Summoner in Golarion

In the vast and diverse world of Pathfinder, the summoner stands out as a truly unique and versatile spellcaster. Combining powerful arcane magic with the ability to conjure, command, and bond with otherworldly creatures, the summoner offers a playstyle that is both strategic and deeply customizable. Whether you're seeking a pet-centric combatant, a versatile mage, or a blend of both, mastering the summoner can dramatically enhance your character's effectiveness and enjoyment. This comprehensive guide aims to walk you through everything you need to know to excel as a summoner, from core mechanics and class features to optimal builds and strategies.

What is a Pathfinder Summoner?

Before diving into specifics, it's important to understand what sets the summoner apart from other spellcasters. The summoner class was introduced in the Ultimate Magic Advanced Class Guide and is a hybrid of sorts—combining aspects of a caster, a martial combatant, and a summoner of creatures called eidolons. Summoners are defined by their unique Eidolon mechanic, which is a customizable, shape-shifting creature bonded to the summoner.

Core Features of the Summoner

1. **Eidolon Bond:** The summoner creates and bonds with an eidolon, a highly customizable creature that grows and evolves alongside the summoner.
2. **Spellcasting:** As a full caster, a summoner can access a wide array of spells, making them flexible in many combat and non-combat situations.
3. **Eidolon Evolution:** The eidolon can be customized through evolutions, allowing for tailored combat roles like tank, damage dealer, or utility support.
4. **Summon Monster and Other Spells:** They have access to summoning spells, further expanding their control on the battlefield.
5. **Versatility:** Summoners can adapt their eidolon and spell choices to fit various roles, from frontline fighters to spellcasters supporting from the backline.

Building a Strong Pathfinder Summoner: Class Features and Progression

Key Class Features

1. **Eidolon:** The centerpiece of the class, customizable and vital for combat.
2. **Bonded Object:** The summoner starts with a bonded object (usually a unique item) that grants them special abilities.
3. **Spellcasting Progression:** Gains access to 9 levels of spells, similar to other full casters.
4. **Eidolon Evolutions:** As they level up, summoners can choose evolutions to enhance their eidolons' stats and abilities.
5. **Summon Monster Spells:** Access to summoning spells at various levels, summoning creatures to fight alongside them.

Level Progression Overview

| Level | Features | Notes |

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| 1 | Summoner, Eidolon, Spellcasting | Starting customization begins |

| 2-4 | Additional evolutions, spellcasting | Growth and increased versatility |

| 5 | Improved Eidolon (Advanced Evolution) | Significant boosts to eidolon power |

| 6-10 | More evolutions, spellcasting, feats | Customization peaks |

| 11+ | Greater eidolon evolutions, higher-level spells | Endgame power, mastery of eidolon and spells |

Choosing the Right Summoner Archetype and Build

Core Archetypes

While the base summoner is highly customizable, several archetypes modify or enhance specific aspects:

1. **Eidolon-Focused:** Emphasizes eidolon evolutions and combat prowess.
2. **Incorporeal Summoner:** Focuses on summoning incorporeal creatures and ethereal tactics.
3. **Summoner with a Focus on Spells:** Prioritizes spellcasting and less on eidolon customization.

4. Hybrid Builds: Combining summoner with other classes like fighter or rogue for multiclass versatility.

Optimal Race Choices

Certain races synergize well with the summoner:

1. Human: Bonus feat and flexible ability score increases.
2. Half-Elf: Good versatility and extra skill points.
3. Aasimar: Bonus to Charisma and spellcasting, plus thematic flavor.
4. Tiefling: Charisma boost and thematic infernal heritage.
5. Gnome: Enhanced spellcasting and thematic flavor.

Ability Score Priorities

1. Charisma (CHA): Primary for spellcasting and eidolon abilities.
2. Constitution (CON): For survivability and maintaining concentration.
3. Dexterity (DEX): For AC and initiative.
4. Strength (STR): Less critical but useful depending on your eidolon build.
5. Intelligence (INT) & Wisdom (WIS): Secondary, for skill points and perception.

Creating an Effective Eidolon

The eidolon is the summoner's most defining feature. Properly customizing and evolving your eidolon can turn it into a formidable combat partner or utility creature.

Basic Tips for Building Your Eidolon

1. Choose a Role: Decide whether you want your eidolon to tank, deal damage, or provide utility.
2. Evolutions: Select evolutions that complement your role. For example:
3. Tanking: Toughness, DR (damage reduction), or reach evolutions.
4. Damage Dealer: Improved natural attacks, flurry, or energy attacks.
5. Utility: Flight, invisibility, or spell-like abilities.
6. Stat Distribution: Prioritize Strength and Dexterity for physical combat, or Charisma if your theme revolves around spellcasting or control.

Advanced Evolutions and Growth

1. Greater Eidolon: Available at higher levels, significantly boosts the eidolon's stats and evolutions.
2. Eidolon Feats: Special feats that enhance eidolon capabilities, like Eidolon Mastery or Eidolon Resilience.
3. Customization: Use evolutions to adapt your eidolon as your campaign progresses, responding to threats and opportunities.

Spellcasting Tips for Pathfinder Summoners

Key Spells to Focus On

1. Summoning Spells: Summon Monster, Summon Nature's Ally, Greater Summon Monster.
2. Control Spells: Hold Person, Wall of Force, Grease.
3. Buffs: Greater Magic Weapon, Bull's Strength, Haste.
4. Utility: Fly, Invisibility, Detect Magic.

Spellcasting Strategy

1. Preparation: Choose spells that complement your eidolon's role.
2. Concentration: Maintain focus on vital spells during combat.
3. Spell Use: Use summoning spells to augment your eidolon or control the battlefield.

Combat Strategies and Tactics

Frontline or Support?

1. Tank Role: Use your eidolon with defensive evolutions to absorb damage.

- 2. Damage Dealer: Focus on evolutions that boost attacks, or summon additional creatures.
- 3. Support: Cast spells that buff allies or manipulate enemy actions.

Positioning

- 1. Keep your eidolon near you to maximize synergy.
- 2. Use terrain and spells to control enemy movement.
- 3. Leverage flight and mobility spells for strategic positioning.

Synergy with Party

- 1. Summoners excel when working with melee allies who can benefit from your buffs and summoned creatures.
- 2. Coordinate with casters for chain spells and combined effects.
- 3. Use your summons to flank enemies or distract threats.

Final Tips for Mastering the Pathfinder Summoner

- 1. Customization is Key: Regularly evaluate and adjust your eidolon evolutions to adapt to new challenges.
- 2. Balance Spells and Eidolon: Don't neglect your spellcasting; a well-rounded summoner can handle almost any situation.
- 3. Know Your Limits: While powerful, summoners can be vulnerable if caught off-guard; proper positioning and teamwork are essential.
- 4. Experiment: Try different eidolon builds and spell selections to find what suits your playstyle best.
- 5. Engage with the Lore: The rich world of Golarion offers numerous thematic options for your summoner—embrace them for added flavor and roleplaying depth.

Conclusion

The Pathfinder summoner is a deeply flexible and powerful class that rewards strategic thinking, creative customization, and teamwork. By mastering the art of summoning, evolving your eidolon, and selecting the right spells, you can craft a character that is both resilient and versatile—able to adapt to any challenge the campaign throws your way. Whether you prefer to be the battlefield controller, the frontline tank, or the arcane strategist, the summoner offers a toolkit to realize your vision. With patience and experimentation, you'll unlock the full potential of this captivating class and become a true master of the summoning arts in Golarion.

Questions & Answers About pathfinder summoner guide

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the best Eidolons for a summoner in Pathfinder?	Popular Eidolons include the Dragon, Serpent, and Crane, each offering unique benefits. The Dragon Eidolon provides strong offensive capabilities, while the Serpent offers versatility and control. Choose based on your build and playstyle.
2	How can I optimize my summoner's Summon Monster spells?	Focus on spells that enhance your Eidolon's abilities, such as 'Summon Monster IV' for versatile summons, and consider feats like Augment Summoning to improve their durability and power. Positioning and timing are also key to maximizing their impact.
3	What feats are essential for a summoner to enhance their gameplay?	Key feats include Augment Summoning, for stronger summons; Extend Spell, to prolong summon effects; and Extra Evolution, to gain additional evolutions for your Eidolon. These greatly improve your summoner's effectiveness.
4	How should I multiclass my summoner for optimal performance?	Common multiclass options include Fighter for better armor and combat feats, or Sorcerer for more spellcasting versatility. Be mindful of delaying summoner progression, as it can impact Eidolon development.
5	What are some strategies for managing your Eidolon's evolutions?	Adapt evolutions to suit the encounter—use offensive evolutions in combat and defensive ones for survivability. Keep an eye on your Eidolon's health and resources, and switch evolutions as needed for situational advantage.

6	Which archetypes or variants enhance the summoner class?	The 'Eidolon' archetype allows more customization of your Eidolon, while the 'Summoner' variant grants additional evolutions and abilities. These options provide greater flexibility in tailoring your summoner to your preferred playstyle.
7	How do I effectively use the Summon Monster spells during combat?	Deploy summons to flank enemies, distract foes, or control the battlefield. Coordinate their actions with your party and focus on summoning creatures that complement your strategy and cover your weaknesses.
8	What are common pitfalls to avoid when playing a summoner?	Avoid neglecting your Eidolon's health and positioning, over-relying on summons without supporting your character, and ignoring spell or feat synergies. Managing resources and adapting to encounters is crucial.
9	Can I customize my Eidolon's appearance and abilities effectively?	Yes, through evolutions and feats, you can customize your Eidolon's appearance, abilities, and role. Focus on evolutions that enhance desired traits, and select feats that complement your summoning and combat style.
10	Are there any recommended mythic options for summoners?	Mythic tiers like Mythic Mastermind or Mythic Beast Rider can add powerful abilities and enhancements to your summoner, such as increased Eidolon strength or additional evolutions. Choose mythic paths that synergize with your summoner build for maximum effectiveness.

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