

5e

GADGET CROSSBOWS



52-IN-52

Owen K.C. Stephens

5e Compatible

CREDITS

Author: Owen K.C. Stephens

Editing: Rogue Genius Games

Illustration: Serhii

Project Management and Planning: Lj Stephens

Graphic Design and Layout: Lj Stephens

Bon Vivant and Planning: Stan!

Contents Copyright 2020 Rogue Genius Games

For more information about

Rogue Genius Games, follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RogueGeniusGames

on Twitter: @Owen_Stephens

All logos are the trademark of Rogue Genius Games, all rights reserved

Product Code: RGG5220Feb06

Published Under the SRD, OGL, and d20 (v 3)
License ©2000, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.

DESIGNATION OF PRODUCT IDENTITY:

The Rogue Genius Games (RGG) company name and logo; the “52-in-52” and “Gadget Crossbows” names and logos; all artwork, backgrounds, and logos; all trade dress, and graphic design elements.

DECLARATION OF OPEN CONTENT:

All game mechanics, proper names of classes, prestige classes, and class features, archetypes, feats, skills, spells, magic items, monsters, rituals, artifacts AND OR the names of abilities presented within this book are Open Game Content as described in Section 1(d) of the License.

GADGET CROSSBOWS

The crossbow is one of the earliest weapons most societies develop, generally shortly after gaining access to reliable metal production (often copper or bronze). It is also generally the first stocked weapon any given culture produces, and the first ranged weapon to store potential energy for later release without constant effort from the wielder. Though generally slower to fire and bulkier in design than comparable bows (and much bulkier than slings, though often with greater range), a crossbow is easy to learn the proper use of. Even after a military has access to early firearms, it often keeps crossbows in use for quite some time, and specialty uses of crossbows are sometimes maintained well into the era of developed firearms and even energy weapons.

And all that, of course, with without accounting for magic crossbows, crossbows made by mad geniuses, exceptional artificers, and the availability of mythological metals such as mithral and adamantine.

With entities of super-genius intellect, magic allowing direct communication with crafter gods, and mystic materials from dragonhide to world-oak wood to dire wolf sinew, the possible designs that could be created for crossbows (without even getting into crossbows that are themselves magical) is vast, and varied.

Welcome to the world of Gadget Crossbows!

GADGETS

Each gadget lists a percentage after its name. This is the additional cost added to a crossbow that has this gadget. This cost assumes the crossbow was built with the gadget included when first made. Adding a gadget to a crossbow later can be done, but takes an additional 20% of the crossbow's base cost. These costs are always based on the unmodified crossbow's original cost.

Armor Mount (+20%): The crossbow is mounted on a vambrace, hip armor, or shoulderpad of a suit of armor. The armor must be bought separately. The

crossbow can be fired with just one hand (though it still takes two to reload), and is ready for use as long as it's loaded, with no need to draw it out or put it away. Armor-mounted crossbows are less accurate, and take a -1 penalty to attack rolls.

Bayonet (+10%): The crossbow has a piercing weapon attached to it (which must be bought separately). The piercing weapon must be one that can be used 1-handed, and must weigh less than the crossbow. Attacks with the bayonet weapon take a -1 penalty for the awkward mounting of the weapon.

This is a stirrup gadget. A weapon can only have one stirrup gadget.

Blood Groove (+50%): The bolt channel has a notch in the far end and a clamp that presses bolts into it when they are fired, causing each to have a channel that runs from just behind the bolt head along the front third of the shaft. When this bolt strikes deeply enough, this causes initial blood-flow from the wound to be heavier than usual. If the initial damage roll is in the upper half of the damage range (for example, if a bolt that does 1d8 damage rolls a 5-8 on its damage), the target takes another 1d4 damage on the next round as it bleeds. The blood groove is not deep or long enough to keep the wound channel open after that. The bolt can be pulled free prior to this bleed effect, but that also deals 1d4 damage.

This is a stirrup gadget. A weapon can only have one stirrup gadget

Bolt Clip (+200%): A clip, rack, magazine, or similar system has been built into the crossbow to hold bolts. Each time the crossbow is cocked, a bolt is automatically stripped from the clip and properly seated. This has no effect on load time by itself, but can offer a significant time savings with combined with a lever action. Even without such a device, a bolt clip crossbow can be useful in that it can be fired without the need to draw bolts from some other location (allowing the weapon to be passed about multiple users without each having to carry a source of ammunition).

GADGET CROSSBOW



Bolt Drum (+300%): A bolt drum functions as a bolt clip, except the bolts are kept in a rotary system that can be dialed to load any bolt desired, rather than the bolts being loaded into the weapon in the order they were loaded into the bolt clip.

Breaching Piston (+10%): The crossbow has a small sliding mini-battering ram built into the stock that can be engaged by the string and prods to be driven forward by the crossbow's full force when a bolt is not loaded. It takes a full round to engage the piston and place the crossbow against a braced, stationary target (such as a door or chest), and hook it in place so the full force is applied to the object. If this is done and the attack is successful, the breaching piston does double the normal crossbow damage to the braced stationary target.

This is a stirrup gadget. A weapon can only have one stirrup gadget.

Breakdown Design (+25%): A crossbow with a breakdown design can be taken apart into multiple small pieces. While broken down, you gain advantage on Dexterity (Sleight of Hand) checks to conceal it, and it fits in spaces $\frac{1}{4}$ the size needed to store the crossbow normally. It takes 1 minute to take apart or reassemble a breakdown weapon.

Concealed Storage (+5%): A secret compartment, lined in a thin sheet of lead, is built into the crossbow, largely in the stock. It can store one item that weights no more than a pound, or two that weight less than a pound. The compartment is not obvious at a glance or even when the crossbow is used, but can be found with a dedicated search of the crossbow.

Corner Hinge (+5%): The crossbow is literally hinged in the middle, and can be bent at a 90-degree to fire around corners. If you are adjacent to an object that causes targets of your ranged attacks to receive cover, and nothing else grants them cover, the bonus to AC they receive from cover is reduced by 1.

Cross Shield (+25%): The crossbow has a shield built into the front of it, which must be bought separately. As long as the crossbow is wielded properly, the shooter gains the benefit of the shield. The crossbow's additional front weight causes attacks made with it to suffer a -1 penalty to their attack rolls. The shield cannot be used to make attacks, even if the wielder has an ability that would normally allow them to do so.

This is a stirrup gadget. A weapon can only have one stirrup gadget.

Custom Grip (+5%): A custom grip is carved to exactly and perfectly fit your hand. As a result it is uncomfortable and awkward for anyone else, who suffer a -1 penalty to attack rolls with your crossbow. Custom grips are exceptions to the rule requiring gadgets to be part of a crossbow's initial manufacture if an additional cost is to be avoided.

Dual-Action (+40%): A dual-action crossbow has multiple systems for recocking it. One is the standard crossbow mechanism, while the second is an action gadget bought at a separate cost. Each time the dual-action crossbow is reloaded, the wielder may decide which action to use, taking all its benefits and penalties.

Hair-Trigger (+15%): A hair-trigger is a system by which very little pressure need to be applied to the crossbow's firing mechanism (which may not be a literal trigger, depending on its design) in order for it to fire. If you are already wielding the weapon and get to act in the first round of a combat, you can choose to gain a +2 bonus to your initiative check. If you do, the first action you must take is to fire the hair-trigger weapon.

You cannot have both a hair-trigger, and a safety trigger.

Lever-Action (+40%): A lever-action crossbow has a single lever (generally mounted on the bottom or side, though top-mounted level-action crossbow designs exist) that combines all the mechanical

actions needed to prepare a crossbow to fire into a single open-and-return motion. Because a lever-action's total work is restricted by the travel distance of the lever, lever-action crossbows have lighter pull-weights than comparable crossbows of similar design, and suffer a -1 penalty to damage rolls (minimum 1 damage).

If the crossbow has a box or drum (see above), the level-action both cocks and reloads the crossbow, allowing it to be fired as quickly and easily as a bow or sling (it does not have the loading special property) until the box or drum is empty. If the crossbow does not have a box or drum the lever action only cocks the weapon, and a bolt must still be added manually.

This is an action gadget. A crossbow can only have one action gadget added to it, unless it is a dual-action crossbow (see above).

Multiple Bolt Track (+10%): A multiple bolt track crossbow has grooves for two crossbow bolts, rather than one, and it fires them simultaneously at the same target. Special double bolts can be bought (at 150% the cost of normal bolts) that are connected by a thin wax bridge that breaks off as they are loaded, allowing the crossbow to be loaded and fired in the same time as a normal crossbow. Otherwise, loading the crossbow takes as long as loading two crossbows of the same type.

Attacks with the multiple bolt track crossbow that fire two identical bolts gain a +1 bonus to the attack roll, as it is more likely at least one bolt will hit.

Potion Bracket (+100%): A potion bracket is a special bracket that can hold one spring-loaded clamp that can have a single potion, elixir, or similar item (see below) affixed to it. This bracket takes a full round to load with a clamp, and potion. Each clamp is a one-shot device that costs x10 as much as a single crossbow bolt. When a bolt is fired from the crossbow, a thumb-trigger can cause the clamp to be released from the bracket, attaching itself to the front of the bolt. If the attack roll is successful, the bolt shatters the potion, causing its contents to be spread on the target as if the potion had been applied to it. No other damage is done.

The clamp can be used to attach to a bolt a vial of acid, alchemist's fire, antitoxin, ball bearings (which cover one square you fire at within range),

GADGET CROSSBOWS

caltrops (which cover one square you fire at within range), holy water, oil, poison, or (at the GM's discretion) other similar consumable.

If a weapon has a potion bracket and a bolt clip or bolt drum, the bolt clip or bolt drum can also be loaded with clamps affixed to potions (or other allowable items) and reloaded when a bolt is reloaded.

This is a stirrup gadget. A weapon can only have one stirrup gadget.

Precision Targeting System (+25%): A spyglass, adjustable rangefinder, and multiple sites can be carefully adjusted to make the crossbow much more accurate than usual, but only in theoretical conditions. You gain a +1 bonus to attack rolls when not in combat.

Pulleys (+100%): Rather than just having recurved prods pulled back by a crank or leaver, a series of pulleys allow even more potential energy to be stored in the string. These pulleys rotate off-center as the string is drawn back, allowing the weapon to be cocked with the normal amount of effort to be fired as normal, or additional load time can be taken to add considerable additional draw weight. When the crossbow is already loaded, another full round can be taken to add that additional force, which is stored in the pulleys. When kept in this state, the crossbow does an additional 1d4 points of damage on a successful hit. However, the pulley system cannot maintain this additional draw for more than 1 minute. After that time, the additional power is lost as the string manages to go slightly slack.

Safety Trigger (+15%): The crossbow includes a safety, a small stud or lever that can be engaged to prevent the crossbow from firing, and that safety is tied into the firing mechanism, and requires a firm, long pull to deactivate the safety and fire the crossbow. If you are wielding a crossbow with a safety trigger, and confusion (or a critical failure effect if one is used) indicates you attack or damage yourself with the crossbow, you don't.

A weapon cannot have both a safety trigger, and a hair-trigger.

Sling Bolt (+5% cost): A sling bolt allows you to attach a shoulder sling strap to your crossbow (which is included with bolt cost, and has a negligible price to replace). The strap wraps around your torso and

one shoulder in a comfortable and convenient way. If you drop your crossbow, it simply falls against your body on the sling. This also happens if you are disarmed of the crossbow, unless the check to disarm you is 5 or more higher than required.

Stabilizers (+35%): Stabilizers are a set of long rods that are typically set up in a triangular configuration, extending out from the body of the crossbow. A stabilizer compensates for the fact that for a moment after the string is released, the bolt remains in contact with the crossbow for a fraction of a second, and it can be thrown off course by things that happen during that time. The stabilizers absorb vibrations and reduce shock, helping to keep the bolt on target. A crossbow with a stabilizer has a +1 bonus on attack rolls made at long range (though the attack is still at disadvantage).

Stock Sheath (+5%): The stock of the crossbow has been modified to act as a sheath for a smaller, lighter melee weapon.

Underslung (+50%): The crossbow is itself mounted beneath another stocked ranged weapon (normally another crossbow, though it is possible to mount a crossbow underslung a musket, if such weapons are available). The second weapon must be bought separately, and must be at least as heavy as the crossbow. The two weapons are loaded and fired separately, but can both be held ready at the same time. They are treated as two separate weapons in all regards except for being able to hold them both in a ready position at once.

An underslung crossbow that is mounted beneath a crossbow of the same type is often called a double crossbow.

Windlass-Action (+20%): A windlass-action crossbow has a full two-handled windlass built into the back of the weapon to allow a much stronger pull weight to be added to the prods, at the cost of making the weapon slower and more awkward to reload. It takes a full round to reload the windlass action, and attacks against you have advantage as you do so. A windlass-action crossbow gains a +1 bonus to attack rolls and to each damage die it has.

This is an action gadget. A crossbow can only have one action gadget added to it, unless it is a dual-action crossbow (see above).

OPEN GAME LICENSE Version 1.0a

The following text is the property of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. and is Copyright 2000 Wizards of the Coast, Inc ("Wizards"). All Rights Reserved.

1. Definitions: (a) "Contributors" means the copyright and/or trademark owners who have contributed Open Game Content; (b) "Derivative Material" means copyrighted material including derivative works and translations (including into other computer languages), portation, modification, correction, addition, extension, upgrade, improvement, compilation, abridgment or other form in which an existing work may be recast, transformed or adapted; (c) "Distribute" means to reproduce, license, rent, lease, sell, broadcast, publicly display, transmit or otherwise distribute; (d) "Open Game Content" means the game mechanic and includes the methods, procedures, processes and routines to the extent such content does not embody the Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art and any additional content clearly identified as Open Game Content by the Contributor, but specifically excludes Product Identity, (e) "Product Identity" means product and product line names, logos and identifying marks including trade dress; artifacts; creatures; stories; storylines, plots, thematic elements, dialogue, incidents, language, artwork, symbols, designs, depictions, likenesses, formats, poses, concepts, themes and graphic, photographic and other visual or audio representations; names and descriptions of characters, spells, enchantments, personalities, teams, personas, likenesses and special abilities; places, locations, environments, creatures, equipment, magical or supernatural abilities or effects, logos, symbols, graphic designs; and any other trademark or registered trademark clearly identified as Product Identity by the owner of the Product Identity, and which specifically excludes the Open Game Content; (f) "Trademark" means the logos, names, mark, sign, motto, designs that are used by a Contributor to identify itself or its products or the associated products contributed to the Open Game License by the Contributor; (g) "Use", "Used" or "Using" means to use, Distribute, copy, edit, format, modify, translate and otherwise create Derivative Material of Open Game Content; (h) "You" or "Your" means the licensee in terms of this agreement.

2. The License: This License applies to any Open Game Content that contains a notice indicating that the Open Game Content may only be Used under and in terms of this License. You must affix such a notice to any Open Game Content that you Use. No terms may be added to or subtracted from this License except as described by the License itself. No other terms or conditions may be applied to any Open Game Content distributed using this License.

3. Offer and Acceptance: By Using the Open Game Content You indicate Your acceptance of the terms of this License.

4. Grant and Consideration: In consideration for agreeing to use this License, the Contributors grant You a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license with the exact terms of this License to Use, the Open Game Content.

5. Representation of Authority to Contribute: If You are contributing original material as Open Game Content, You represent that Your Contributions are Your original creation and/or You have sufficient rights to grant the rights conveyed by this License.

6. Notice of License Copyright: You must update the COPYRIGHT NOTICE portion of this License to include the exact text of the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any Open Game Content You are copying, modifying or distributing, and You must add the title, the copyright date, and the copyright holder's name to the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any original Open Game Content you Distribute.

7. Use of Product Identity: You agree not to Use any Product Identity, including as an indication as to compatibility, except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of each element of that Product Identity. You agree not to indicate compatibility or co-adaptability with any Trademark or Registered Trademark in conjunction with a work containing Open Game Content except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of such Trademark or Registered Trademark. The use of any Product Identity in Open Game Content does not constitute a challenge to the ownership of that Product Identity. The owner of any Product Identity used in Open Game Content shall retain all rights, title and interest in and to that Product Identity.

8. Identification: If you distribute Open Game Content You must clearly indicate which portions of the work that you are distributing are Open Game Content.

9. Updating the License: Wizards or its designated Agents may publish updated versions of this License. You may use any authorized version of this License to copy, modify and distribute any Open Game Content originally distributed under any version of this License.

10 Copy of this License: You MUST include a copy of this License with every copy of the Open Game Content You Distribute.

11. Use of Contributor Credits: You may not market or advertise the Open Game Content using the name of any Contributor unless You have written permission from the Contributor to do so.

12 Inability to Comply: If it is impossible for You to comply with any of the terms of this License with respect to some or all of the Open Game Content due to statute, judicial order, or governmental regulation then You may not Use any Open Game Material so affected.

13 Termination: This License will terminate automatically if You fail to comply with all terms herein and fail to cure such breach within 30 days of becoming aware of the breach. All sublicenses shall survive the termination of this License.

14 Reformation: If any provision of this License is held to be unenforceable, such provision shall be reformed only to the extent necessary to make it enforceable.

15. COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Open Game License v 1.0a Copyright 2000, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.

System Reference Document Copyright 2000-2003, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.; Authors Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, Skip Williams, Rich Baker, Andy Collins, David Noonan, Rich Redman, Bruce R. Cordell, based on original material by E. Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson.

System Reference Document 5.0 Copyright 2016, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.; Authors Mike Mearls, Jeremy Crawford, Chris Perkins, Rodney Thompson, Peter Lee, James Wyatt, Robert J. Schwalb, Bruce R. Cordell, Chris Sims, and Steve Townshend, based on original material by E. Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson.

Eldritch Sorcery Copyright 2005, Necromancer Games, Inc.; Authors Patrick Lawinger, Scott Greene, and David Mannes, with Erica Balsley, Chris Bernhardt, Casey W. Christofferson, Bill Collins, Jim Collura, Chad Coulter, Patrick Goulah, Skeeter Green, Jeff Harkness, Lance Hawvermale, Travis Hawvermale, Richard Hughes, Robert Hunter, Al Krombach, Rob Mason, Matt McGee, Clark Peterson, Michael Proteau, Greg Ragland, Gary Schott, Joe Walmsley, and Bill Webb.

Advanced Player's Guide Copyright 2010 Paizo Publishing, LLC; Author: Jason Bulmahn.

Pathfinder Roleplaying Game Core Rulebook © 2011, Paizo Publishing, LLC; Author: Jason Bulmahn, based on material by Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, and Skip Williams.

Pathfinder RPG Bestiary © 2009, Paizo Publishing, LLC; Author: Jason Bulmahn, based on material by Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, and Skip Williams.

Pathfinder Roleplaying Game Ultimate Magic © 2011, Paizo Publishing, LLC; Authors: Jason Bulmahn, Tim Hitchcock, Colin McComb, Rob McCrea, Jason Nelson, Stephen Radney-MacFarland, Sean K Reynolds, Owen K.C. Stephens, and Russ Taylor.

Pathfinder Roleplaying Game Ultimate Combat © 2011, Paizo Publishing, LLC; Authors: Jason Bulmahn, Tim Hitchcock, Colin McComb, Rob McCrea, Jason Nelson, Stephen Radney-MacFarland, Sean K Reynolds, Owen K.C. Stephens, and Russ Taylor.

The Grand OGL Wiki, <http://grandwiki.wikidot.com> Copyright 2008-2009 Purple Duck Creations; Authors: Mark Gedak, Alex Schroeder, Joel Arellano, George Fields, Yair Rezek, Mike Whalen, Shane O'Connor, Mike Rickard, John Whamond, Bill Browne, Eric Williamson, Slatz Grubnik, Charles R. Wenzler Jr.

Se Options: Rogue Archetypes Shadow Warrior ©2015, Rogue Genius Games. Designers: Owen K.C. Stephens and Rich E. Howard.

Midgard Heroes © 2015 Open Design; Author: Dan Dillon.

Fifth Edition Feats, Copyright, 2016 Total Party Kill Games. Author(s): Brian Berg.

Unspeakable Knowledge Copyright 2018, Schwalb Entertainment, LLC. Author Robert J. Schwalb.

Gadget Crossbows, 5e © 2020, Owen K.C. Stephens; Author: Owen K.C. Stephens. Project manager and Planning: Lj Stephens. Bon Vivant: Stan!

TOSS A COIN TO YOUR WRITER ...

Industry veteran, Owen K.C. Stephens creates a LOT of content for the RPG community. In addition to being active on message boards and social media, he creates multiple posts every week at OwenKCSStephens.com.

Since writing is Owen's career and sole means of support, his Patreon is a way for the community to pay him back for this content and help to ensure he has enough time to continue producing free articles, tips, and useable game material.

Please consider supporting Owen at the cost of a latte or two per month.

Thank you.

AWESOME PATRON! \$3 PER MONTH

This is the basic support level, allowing me to try to maintain regular game or geek life posts to owenkcestephens.com.

If any free game material gets posted to other sites, an update will allow all my patrons to easily find it.

MEGA-PATRON! \$10 PER MONTH

Still awesome, but now much bigger!

At some point each month, mega-patrons get a (very simple, unremarkable) pdf compiling all the free material I released the previous month.

SPONSOR! \$35 PER MONTH

At this level, once a month I'll end one of my longer-ish blog posts with a specific thanks to you as a sponsor, along with a link to your own blog, store, or other online presence.

See more at:
[Patreon.com/OwenKCSStephens](https://www.patreon.com/OwenKCSStephens)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!