

ELEMENTAL METALS



Karma

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COMBINING scientific facts with medieval folklore and New Age mysticism, *Elemental Metals* provides you with information to help you customize weapons, armor, tools, and other magical items. Each metal's listing includes its relative availability, elemental affinities, and an overview of its magical properties. Us as a companion along with [Elemental Gemstones](#) to design your dream weapons, armor, or artifacts.

This product is designed to be usable with any roleplaying system, however it will be of the most value when used with the [Karma Role-playing System](#).

BASE METALS

Base metals are those metals that are most common and easily available. But just because they are common and inexpensive, doesn't mean they are not valuable to magic users. The key to magic item creation isn't always in using the most precious metals, but the ones most in tune with the elements the magic user calls upon. While base metals can be used with any element, they have certain affinities that make them more potent when used correctly.

Aluminum

Element: Earth, Air, Metal

Availability: Common

Aluminum is a commonly found metal with a variety of uses from mundane items such as cooking utensils and aluminum foil to high tech products like electronics and CDs. It's also used in housing construction for windows, doors, and siding.

Aluminum is a good metal for magical items that transmute one thing to another, as well for magical items that are responsible for teleportation and magical movement. Modern magic users employ aluminum in magical alarms.

Aluminum in the soil interferes with the growth potential of plants, and as such is often used in magical items that destroy plants and wooden items. The metal is also used by some necromancers when creating items or weapons that leech health or strength from living creatures.

Copper

Element: Earth, Water, Wood, Lightning, Metal

Availability: Common

Copper is an essential trace nutrient for animal and plant life. It is also one of the most common metals and has excellent electrical conductivity, making it highly useful for electronics. Copper resists corrosion from water, but is slowly oxidized in by oxygen in the air.

Copper is the metal of choice when employing emeralds into magical items. It has a strong affinity with the gem, and conducts the gem's power well. Healing wands and staves are often made of copper.

The combination of copper and emerald also creates potent charms to attract or protect wealth.

Iron

Element: Earth, Fire

Availability: Common

Iron is an abundant, heavy metal used in a wide range of items. It is perhaps the most important metal in civilization, because of its wide range of uses.

Iron is rarely used magically in anything but weapons and armor. It is too heavy to be a practical metal for most jewelry or smaller magic items. It also is magically resistant. While it will take quickly to enchantments employing the earth or fire elements, it resists use by all other elements (including, surprisingly, metal). Raw iron has long been considered a talisman against magic in general. Iron nails were used in coffins to prevent the dead from being reanimated, and they were driven into the footprint of alleged witches to "bind" the witch in place and prevent her from using magic. Iron shackles are used on captives with magical abilities to block their magical power. The only metal with more anti-magic properties than iron is lead.

Lead

Element: Earth

Availability: Common

A heavy, malleable blue-white metal that is also highly toxic. Lead is primarily used in batteries, pottery glazes, weights, and lead glass. Lead is also used in items that shield or protect from radiation.

With the exception of magic that employs the earth element, lead cannot be used to store magical power. A thin sheet of lead is enough to block most mental and psionic powers, and even the presence of a large amount of lead nearby can cause a magic user problems.

ALLOYS

Nickel

Element: Air, Earth

Availability: Common

Nickel is primarily used with other metals to create alloys. In magic use, nickel is primarily used in items that involve transmutation. Nickel has a strong affinity with citrine, and nickel and citrine fetishes are often carried by crafts persons to assist them with their work, since crafts persons do in a way “change” a base material into something else.

Tin

Element: Air, Aether

Availability: Common

Tin is primarily used with other metals to create alloys. Tin bonds well to iron, and is often used to prevent corrosion. Pure tin breaks down in cold temperatures, turning into powder.

In magic, tin is primarily used in divination. Scrying bowls are often lined with tin. Tin-plated stands are used to hold crystal balls. Tin wire is wrapped around staves and wands employed for divination or communing with ethereal or divine beings.

Zinc

Element: Water, Wood

Availability: Common

Zinc is a blue gray metal that is susceptible to tarnish and burns easily. Zinc has a variety of uses, from paints to batteries to the treatment of burns and rashes. In it commonly used with other metals as an alloy. Zinc is an essential trace nutrient for most life forms, and as such is one of only two metals that has an affinity with the Wood element.

Zinc is generally not used in magical items, but in the preparation of magical items. Wooden staves and wands are often soaked overnight in a bath of spring water and zinc to enhance their power. It has a particular affinity with petrified wood, and significantly increases its power.

All of the metals listed in this product are real metals. In the case of some of the truly rare or unique metals (such as the alloy Duralumin) feel free to assign its properties to a fictional metal found in your current campaign world for consistency.

Alloys are either man-made or naturally occurring combinations of base and noble metals that have their own distinct properties. Alloys are often excellent choices for powerfully magical items when noble metals are not easily (or affordably) available.

Brass

Element: Air, Fire

Availability: Difficult

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. Brass is naturally germicidal, and as such makes it a common metal for use in door handles, rail guards, and even cookware. Brass has exceptional acoustic properties, making it a logical choice for instruments as well.

Brass is the metal of choice when crafting magical instruments and items designed to enhance charisma or performance. Brass has a strong affinity with carnelian, and the two are often used together in such items. Brass also has an affinity with aventurine, particularly when used in items to promote luck and prosperity.

Bronze

Element: Earth, Fire, Metal

Availability: Difficult

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin. Bronze has been used for everything from weapons and armor to household decorations. Bronze is actually stronger than wrought iron, but weaker than steel. However it resists corrosion better than steel and conducts heat better.

Bronze is most commonly used in magical weapons and armor. Bronze has an affinity for ruby, and is often the metal of choice when crafting staves to channel the full destructive power of the gem.

Duralumin

Element: Earth, Air, Lightning

Availability: Rare

A man-made alloy made of aluminum, copper, and magnesium. It's primary use is in the creation of rigid, lightweight frames used for aircrafts, and in heavy machinery. As strong as steel and half the weight, the process for creating this alloy is complicated. It is not generally sold to the general public, and so one either needs the equipment and knowledge to make it himself, or have access to commercial sources of the material.

Modern magic users prize duralumin when crafting robots, flying machines, and similar devices. The material would be almost unheard of in most fantasy settings*

*While a man-made metal, it is the modern equivalent of mithril, and might be known as such in a fantasy setting.

Electrum

Element: Earth, Water, Fire, Metal, Aether, The Void

Availability: Rare

Electrum is a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver, with trace amounts of copper. Electrum is commonly used in coinage, as it is more durable than true gold. The first known true minted coins were in fact created from electrum, not gold, though gold coins became more common as the ability to process gold improved.

Electrum Coins

The Lydians were the first to actually mint true coins, sometime around 600 B.C.. The most common denomination of coin was the *trite*, a 4.76 gram electrum coin. Three trites equaled a Strater (Standard). The Strater was the equivalent of a month's pay for the typical soldier.

Electrum is often used in magical jewelry, ritual items, wands. It has a natural affinity with Imperial Topaz and black, blue, and red spinels.

Hepatizon (Shakudô)

Element: The Void

Availability: Rare

A once highly prized alloy of mostly copper with some gold and silver, it is chemically treated and results in a deep bluish-purple patina. It is generally used in statues. While it is referenced by many of the scholars of antiquity, there are no known samples available today, and the exact process of creating it has been lost to modern science. However, a process that produced similar results was developed in Japan during the 15th century. That alloy is called Shakudô.

The creation process behind this alloy makes it an amazing conductor of void energies. It is used in magical items that summon, repel, or command void creatures.

Pewter

Element: Earth, Water, Metal

Availability: Common

Pewter is comprised of 85-99% tin and resembles silver when polished. It serves mostly a decorative purpose in eating utensils, vases, statuettes, etc. The use of pewter diminished after the refinement of glass making made glassware a practical alternative.

While it is useful in low power magical items, it is mainly used by magic users to fleece unsuspecting buyers. Because it resembles silver when polished, it can be mistaken for such by unsuspecting buyers.

Rose Gold

Element: Air

Availability: Difficult

A gold and copper alloy used primarily for jewelry and decoration due to its pinkish-red color. It is primarily used in magical items such as charms, as well as items to enhance charisma, diplomacy and performance.

Speculum

Element: Aether, The Void

Availability: Rare

Speculum is a specific type of copper/tin alloy used in early telescope creation and mirrors. It is exceptionally strong, but requires constant polishing to avoid tarnish. It is rarely used today, but would be an important alloy in fantasy settings for those who wish to create magical items that can scry, see across great distances, or perform divinations.

Steel

Element: Earth, Fire, Metal, Lightning

Availability: Common

Steel is an alloy of mostly iron and carbon, and is the most commonly used metal in weapons and armor. It is commonly used in magical weapons, armor, shields, and wands.

Tumbaga

Element: Air

Availability: Difficult

A unique alloy of gold and copper used to create the impression of solid gold. Tumbaga can be treated with base acids (such as that found in vinegar or lemon juice) to dissolve metal content on the surface of the item. This leaves an almost pure gold finish on the surface, while the item retains the strength advantages of the alloy.

For magic users, tumbaga is an impressive metal for use in illusionary magical items, as well as items that are made to look like one thing, but then transform into something else.

NOBLE METALS Rhodium

Element: Earth, Aether

Availability: Rare

Noble metals, also known as precious metals, are the rarest and most prized of all metals. Long ago, they were prized solely for their rarity and beauty, but modern science has found a variety of important scientific uses for them. All noble metals are highly valuable to modern magic users, particularly those that dabble in the creation of magically enhanced robots, flight, or who wish to master planar travel.

An extremely rare, hard silver-white metal that is highly reflective, rhodium is usually only found in platinum, silver, and gold ore, and is often used as an alloy to strengthen platinum and palladium. Rhodium is also used to electroplate other metals to add strength, durability, and beauty. It is corrosion-resistant, and its chemical properties make it an excellent choice in a variety of highly specialized scientific equipment. It is primarily used by modern magic users to magically enhance their own laboratory equipment.

Gold

Element: Air, Fire, Aether

Availability: Difficult

The most malleable of all the metals, gold is also highly prized for its beauty. It also blends easily with other metals to create alloys. Gold originally came into vogue for coins because it is unaffected by moisture, oxygen, heat, and most corrosive agents, making it the perfect metal for coins. Gold is rarely used in its full purity, however, because it is too soft. Most gold is blended with a small amount of a base metal first to strengthen it for use.

Gold is an excellent choice for items that enhance charisma, leadership, diplomacy, but has good all around properties for a variety of magical items. It is too soft for weapons and armor, and when found on such magical items is generally only decoration.

Silver

Element: All

Availability: Difficult

A soft white metal, silver has the highest electrical conductivity of any metal. Silver has the peculiar quality of being antimicrobial, and can be safely consumed in minute quantities by humans to treat certain diseases of the intestinal tract caused by microbes.

Silver is the only metal with a true affinity with all of the elements, which is mostly the reason for its strong association with magic.

Palladium

Element: Air, Aether, the Void

Availability: Rare

A rare, soft, silver white metal, palladium has the unusual characteristic of being able to absorb up to 900x its volume of hydrogen. Palladium is most widely used in catalytic converters.

Magic Users use palladium in items designed to promote planar travel, as well as those items that protect travelers through the Outer planes. Palladium has an affinity with jade. It is also used in items to increase speed and enhance endurance and constitution.

Tantalum

Element: Earth, Fire, Lightning, The Void

Availability: Rare

An amazingly corrosion-resistant metal with an exceptionally high melting point, tantalum is a valuable metal found in everything from nuclear reactors to cell phones. It has a blue-gray appearance.

Like Palladium, tantalum is used in magical items designed to explore the Outer planes. It is also the most powerful metal for protection, literally doubling the power of defensive enchantments applied to it!

Platinum

Element: Water

Availability: Rare

Platinum is a rare heavy, malleable, gray-silver metal. Like its close cousins Palladium and rhodium, it is highly resistant to corrosion. Platinum has some strange healing properties, and is used in the treatment of certain cancers and tumors. Platinum has an affinity with hematite, and the pair are responsible for some of the most potent healing staves ever created.

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