

The cover art for the board game 'Mansions of Madness: Forbidden Alchemy' depicts a dark, gothic mansion at night. In the foreground, three investigators are shown: a man in a brown trench coat and hat looking towards the mansion, a woman in a green coat and hat to the left, and a man in a dark coat and hat to the right. The mansion's towers are illuminated with a green, eerie light, and a large, multi-tentacled alien creature is visible on the roof. The sky is dark purple with lightning bolts. The title 'MANSIONS OF MADNESS' is at the top in a stylized, metallic font, and 'FORBIDDEN ALCHEMY' is in the center in a white, distressed font. 'RULES OF PLAY' is at the bottom in a gold, serif font. The entire scene is framed by ornate, dark metal pillars with glowing lanterns at the top.

# MANSIONS OF MADNESS

FORBIDDEN ALCHEMY<sup>TM</sup>  
EXPANSION

RULES OF PLAY



*The one unbroken lamp in the ransacked laboratory illuminates a small, slug-like creature wriggling on a glass dish. The notes next to it are covered with a bizarre mix of mathematical formulae and arcane symbols. Suddenly, a thick stream of ichor falls across the notes from somewhere above you. Your blood chills as you unholster your revolver. Something growls at you from the rafters.*

Welcome to *Forbidden Alchemy*, an expansion for *Mansions of Madness* that presents investigators with three new tales of scientific horror! In addition to the new stories, this expansion includes new investigators, monsters, items, spells, Obstacle cards, Lock cards, Mythos cards, Trauma cards, Combat cards, and map tiles. It also introduces brand new rules and components for Alchemy puzzles, Side Effect cards, mutations, crawling hands, and time travel. Open the laboratory door if you dare and discover what horrors lurk within!

## Component List

- This Rulebook/Investigator Guide
- 1 Keeper Guide
- 4 Investigator Figures
- 4 Monster Figures, consisting of:
  - 2 Byakhees
  - 2 Crawling Ones
- 140 Small Cards, consisting of:
  - 53 Exploration Cards
  - 11 Spell Cards
  - 8 Starting Item Cards
  - 16 Trait Cards
  - 5 Lock Cards
  - 6 Obstacle Cards
  - 14 Mythos Cards
  - 12 Trauma Cards
  - 12 Side Effect Cards
  - 3 Time Period Cards

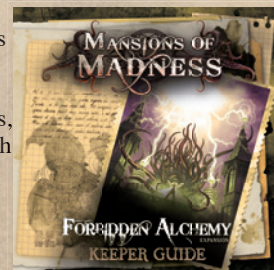
- 83 Bridge-sized Cards, consisting of:
  - 43 Combat Cards
  - 4 Character Cards
  - 15 Event Cards
  - 10 Keeper Action Cards
  - 11 Objective Cards
- 6 Sheets of Punchboard, consisting of:
  - 6 Map Tiles (3 medium, 3 small)
  - 5 Horror Tokens
  - 4 Monster Tokens
  - 1 Alchemy Puzzle Setup Tile
  - 12 Alchemy Puzzle Pieces
  - 10 Mutation Tokens
  - 6 Crawling Hand Tokens
  - 1 Seeds Marker
  - 1 Time Period Marker

## Component Breakdown

This section describes all of the components new to the *Forbidden Alchemy* expansion. Other components are described in the base game of *Mansions of Madness*.

## Keeper Guide

This separate guide book contains the information required for the keeper to set up the three stories including the clues, keeper actions, monsters, and objectives used each time the game is played.





## Investigator Figures

Each of these figures corresponds to one of the characters available for investigator players to choose. The figure is placed on the map tiles to indicate the current space occupied by the character.



## Monster Figures

These figures represent the nightmarish creatures the keeper may be able to place on the map during the game. Each figure has a corresponding monster token that must be placed in the base before playing the game. Monster figures are placed on the map tiles to indicate the current space occupied by the monster.



## Side Effect Cards

These cards represent the bizarre changes that affect investigators as a result of encountering dangerous experiments.



## Time Period Cards

In certain circumstances, investigators may be able to travel through time. These cards indicate the different times that investigators might visit.



## Alchemy Puzzle Pieces and Setup Tile

Investigators might encounter cards that require them to solve an Alchemy puzzle in order to proceed. Alchemy puzzles are similar to the three main types of puzzles (described in the rules of the base *Mansions of Madness* game) and are solved by using a number of random puzzle pieces to complete the puzzle's objective.



## Mutation Tokens

These tokens represent strange alien growths on an investigator, monster, or corpse. The keeper can occasionally use the presence of one or more mutation tokens in play to his advantage.



## Crawling Hand Tokens

These tokens represent severed hands, animated through diabolical means. The keeper may use these tokens to harass and fluster investigators when the keeper uses the "Crawling Hands" Keeper Action card.



## Seeds Marker

This marker is used by the "Seeds" Exploration card in the "Lost in Time and Space" story.



## Time Period Marker

This marker is placed on one of the Time Period cards to indicate in which time period the investigators are currently located.



## Forbidden Alchemy Expansion Icon

All cards in this expansion are marked with the *Forbidden Alchemy* expansion icon on their front to allow easy distinction from the base game of *Mansions of Madness*.



*The Forbidden Alchemy Expansion icon*





## Replacement Cards

Eleven cards in the base game of *Mansions of Madness* needed to be reprinted to correct errors in their text. (Depending on which printing of the game you have, some of your cards may not have errors.) These cards are:

- Dark Ritual Keeper Action Card
- Uncontrollable Urges Keeper Action Card
- Witchcraft Keeper Action Card
- Eldrich Combat Card: “*You stand unflinching...*”
- Story 1: Fall of House Lynch Objective Card 1A
- Story 1: Fall of House Lynch Objective Card 1C
- Story 1: Fall of House Lynch Clue Card 1A
- Dynamite Starting Item Card
- Suitcase Obstacle Card
- Blood Pact Spell Card
- Strange Skies Mythos Card

Replacement versions of each of these cards are included in the *ForbiddenAlchemy* expansion and are marked with a small “R” in their lower right corners. Dispose of the original versions of these cards and only use the replacement (“R”) versions.

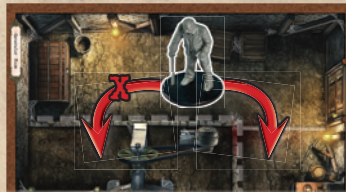
When playing one of the stories from the *ForbiddenAlchemy* expansion, players should first make sure that the monster figures included in this expansion have been attached to their bases as instructed in the base game of *Mansions of Madness* and that each monster figure has a matching monster token slotted into its base.

Additionally, when playing one of the stories from the *ForbiddenAlchemy* expansion, players should add the new Spell decks to the collection of existing Spell decks and set the Side Effects deck near the Trauma deck. When making separate piles of puzzle pieces, sorted by type, players should make a separate pile of the Alchemy puzzle pieces.

The Keeper should use the new Exploration, Lock, Obstacle, Event, Objective, and Keeper Action cards as instructed in the Keeper Guide. Each story may also use additional components as instructed in the Special Rules section in the Investigator Guide.

## Impassable Borders

Some of the map tiles in *ForbiddenAlchemy* feature areas separated by a dashed white line. A dashed white line indicates an **IMPASSABLE BORDER**. Investigators may not move across an impassable border unless allowed to by a specific game effect. However, an impassable border does not interrupt line of sight.



*An example of an impassable border*

## Using This Expansion

While some of the new cards and tokens provided in this expansion are only used when called for by one of the stories, others may be used when playing any story, including those from the base game of *Mansions of Madness*.

Players should add the Investigator figures, Character cards, Starting Item cards, Trait cards, Mythos cards, Trauma cards, Combat cards, and horror tokens from this expansion to the components of the same type from the base game of *Mansions of Madness*, regardless of which story they are using.

Note that a **FLYING MONSTER** is *allowed* to move over impassable borders. A flying monster is any monster that has the flying icon on its token. (**Additionally, treat all mi-gos from the base game of *Mansions of Madness* as flying monsters.**)



*An example of a flying icon*



## Alchemy Puzzles

Alchemy puzzles are a new type of puzzle introduced in *Forbidden Alchemy*. Like Wiring, Lock, and Rune puzzles, investigators use puzzle actions to move and replace pieces of the puzzle. However, to complete an Alchemy puzzle, an investigator must pass a special test after attempting the puzzle.

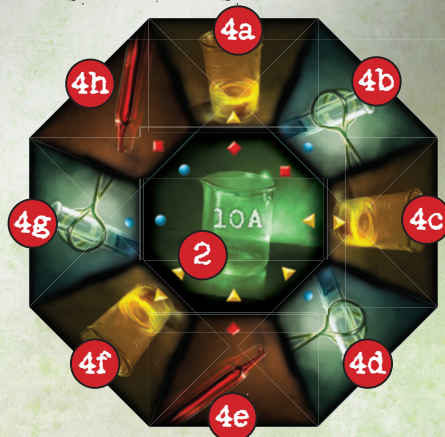
### Alchemy Puzzle Setup

When a player encounters an Alchemy puzzle, he resolves the following steps. The puzzle pieces are always placed in front of the player, never on the game board.

1. **Place Setup Piece:** The player places the appropriate Alchemy puzzle setup piece on the table in front of himself.
2. **Shuffle Puzzle Pieces:** The player then randomizes the pile of unused Alchemy puzzle pieces.
3. **Deal Puzzle Pieces:** The player then draws puzzle pieces one at a time and places them along the edges of the setup piece, starting with the top edge and proceeding clockwise until a puzzle piece has been played along each edge.

Note that each Alchemy puzzle piece has one edge featuring a colored shape (a blue circle, red diamond, or yellow triangle). When placing the puzzle piece, **this edge is always placed along the edge of the setup piece.**

### Alchemy Puzzle Setup Example



1. While exploring a room, a player reveals a card that requires him to attempt Alchemy Puzzle #10A.
2. He first places the “10A” puzzle setup tile faceup in front of himself.
3. Next, he shuffles the pile of facedown Alchemy puzzle pieces.
4. He then draws random puzzle pieces, placing them along the edges of the setup piece, starting at the top edge and proceeding clockwise. For each puzzle piece, its edge featuring a colored shape is placed along the edge of the setup piece. In this example, 4a is drawn and placed first, then 4b, then 4c, and so on.



## Attempting an Alchemy Puzzle

As with other types of puzzles, a player attempting an Alchemy puzzle receives a number of puzzle actions equal to his investigator's Intellect. He may use these to do the following:

- Spend one puzzle action to swap two adjacent puzzle pieces. Puzzle pieces are adjacent if they are touching each other.
- Spend two puzzle actions to replace an Alchemy puzzle piece. The player **first** chooses a piece to replace and discards it. He then draws a random Alchemy puzzle piece from the pile of unused pieces and replaces the discarded piece with it.

Note that with other types of puzzles, when a player spends puzzle actions to replace pieces, he draws the new piece first and then chooses which piece to replace. With Alchemy puzzles, the player chooses the piece to replace *before* drawing the new piece.

The player may continue taking puzzle actions until he chooses to stop or until he has used all of his puzzle actions. In either event, the player must then make a test to complete the puzzle.

## Completing an Alchemy Puzzle

After a player has either used all of his puzzle actions or does not wish to use any more puzzle actions, **he then must make a test using the number of correctly-placed puzzle pieces**. A puzzle piece is considered to be placed correctly if the shape on its edge **matches** the shape on the edge of the setup piece the puzzle piece is touching. (For example, if a puzzle piece with a yellow triangle is touching an edge of the setup tile with a yellow triangle, the puzzle piece is placed correctly.) Like an attribute test, the player rolls a ten-sided die and compares the result to the number of correctly-placed puzzle pieces. If the result is equal to or less than the number, the investigator passes the test. If the result is higher than the number, the investigator fails the test. Note that investigators **cannot** use skill points when making a test to complete an Alchemy puzzle.

If the investigator passes the test, he completes the puzzle. The effects of completing an Alchemy puzzle are defined on the card that initiated it. Completing the puzzle usually discards the card from play, allowing the player to continue moving or exploring.

If he fails the test, he does not complete the puzzle. **Any time an investigator fails an Alchemy test, he must draw a Side Effect card.** In addition, the card that initiated the puzzle may list other effects for failing.

Regardless of whether the player passed or failed the test, all puzzle pieces are placed facedown on the bottom of the Alchemy puzzle piece pile. Important: unlike other puzzles, if the player fails to complete an Alchemy puzzle, the pieces *do not* remain on the table in their current configuration.

## Other Alchemy Puzzle Rules

All rules regarding resetting a puzzle, using skill points during a puzzle, secrecy, and cheating apply to Alchemy puzzles in the same way they do to other puzzles. Note that while a player may use a skill point during an Alchemy puzzle to add his Luck to his Intellect, he may **not** use a skill point when making the test to solve the puzzle.

## Side Effect Cards

When a player is instructed to draw a Side Effect card, he takes the top card from the Side Effect deck and places it faceup next to his Investigator card. The text on the card takes immediate effect. Some of the Side Effect cards instruct players to immediately discard the card after its effect is resolved. If the card does not instruct players to immediately discard it, the card remains in play until the end of the game or until an effect specifically instructs the player to discard it.

Like Trauma cards, some Side Effect cards are marked with the multi-investigator icon. If an investigator draws one of these cards when only one investigator is playing, he discards this card and draws a new Side Effect card.



Example of a Side Effect Card

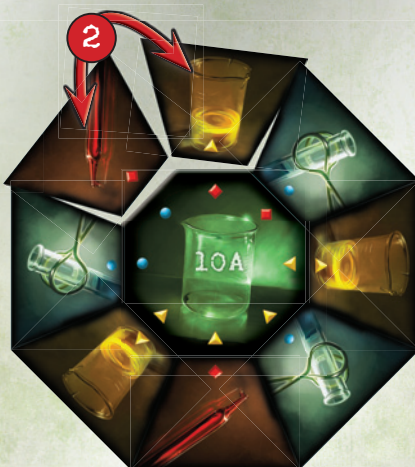


Example of a multi-investigator icon on a Side Effect card





## Attempting an Alchemy Puzzle Example



While exploring a room, Jenny Barnes reveals a card that requires her to attempt Alchemy Puzzle #10A. After setting up the puzzle (see diagram on page 5), she may now attempt the puzzle as part of her explore action.

1. Jenny has an Intellect of 4, so she has four puzzle actions.
2. She uses her first puzzle action to **swap** the position of two adjacent pieces.
3. She uses her second and third actions to **draw** a new puzzle piece. She **first** chooses a puzzle piece to discard (3a), then draws a new piece (3b) to replace it (3c).

4. She decides not to use her last puzzle action and must now test the number of correctly-placed puzzle pieces (4a), in this case 4. She rolls a die and gets a result of 7. Since this is greater than the number of correctly-placed pieces, she has not completed the puzzle and must draw a Side Effect card (4b). She then consults the card that initiated the puzzle to determine any additional effect of failing the test.

The player then shuffles the puzzle pieces facedown into the Alchemy puzzle piece pile



## Epilogues

Each of the stories in *Forbidden Alchemy* includes **EPILOGUES**. An epilogue provides a resolution to the story and lets players know the consequences of the investigation. The keeper reads the appropriate epilogue to all players after a game in which either the keeper or the investigators won. There are no epilogues for games in which all players lose.

After a game in which at least one player won, the keeper looks at his #1 story choice marker and notes the choice. He then consults the Keeper Guide and finds the “Epilogues” section for the story being played. Finally, he reads aloud the text that corresponds to the #1 story choice marker that was selected and whether the keeper or the investigators won.

## Other Rules

This section contains a number of rules additions to those in the base game of *Mansions of Madness*.

## New Weapon Type

*Forbidden Alchemy* introduces a new type of weapon—“sharp and blunt melee weapon.” This weapon is considered to be both a sharp melee weapon and a blunt melee weapon. When drawing Combat cards for an investigator’s attack using this weapon, resolve the first card drawn that lists an effect for a “sharp melee weapon,” “blunt melee weapon,” or “melee weapon.”

## Secrecy and Byakhees

Unlike other monsters, investigators do not look at the bottom of byakhee monster tokens when the monster deals damage or is dealt damage. (Note that Darrell Simmins may look at the bottom of the token using his “Keen Eye” ability.) When a byakhee deals damage or is dealt damage, only the keeper examines the bottom of the token.

When the byakhee makes its special attack, the keeper reads the initial question printed on the bottom of the token aloud, but does not reveal the results of the answers. After the investigator being attacked responds, the keeper then reads the result corresponding to that answer aloud (but does not reveal the results of the other answer).

## Combat Cards

In *Forbidden Alchemy*, each Combat card has two numbers printed at the bottom. The first is a unique number identifying the individual card and the second is the total number of cards of that type in this expansion. These are for reference only.



*Example of reference numbers on a Combat card*

## Combat Cards with Multiple Attack Types

Some Combat cards in *Forbidden Alchemy* list two different types of attacks for investigators. When an investigator attacks and the keeper draws one of these cards, resolve whichever of the two attack types matches the weapon the investigator is using. If neither of the listed attack types matches, the keeper continues to draw Combat cards until he draws one that matches the type of weapon being used by the investigator.



*Example of a Combat card with multiple attack types*

## New Combat Card Tests

The Combat cards in *Forbidden Alchemy* include new types of tests, described in more detail below.

**Either/Or Tests:** Some Combat cards instruct an investigator to test either one attribute or another, for example, “Test either Dexterity or Marksmanship.” In these cases, the investigator chooses one of the two listed attributes and tests it.

**Non-Attribute Tests:** Some Combat cards instruct a player to test something aside from an attribute for example, “Test your remaining sanity.” In these cases, the player determines the number indicated, rolls a ten-sided die, and compares this result to the determined number. If the result of the roll is equal to or less than the number, the player passes the test. If it is more than the number, the player fails the test.





**Conditional Modifiers** Some Combat cards instruct players to modify an attribute test based on other conditions, for example, “Test Marksmanship (–1 for each horror you have).” In these cases, modify the attribute by the appropriate amount as indicated by the text on the card before rolling. Remember that when making a test, if the player rolls a 1, he automatically passes the test and if he rolls a 10, he automatically fails the test.

**Multiple Tests:** Some Combat cards instruct players to make two tests, for example, “Test Marksmanship, then choose an investigator in your room to test Dexterity.” In these cases, make both tests in the order they are mentioned in the text. Then consult the card that initiated the test to determine the effects for passing both, failing both, or passing only one test.

## Threat Effects

Some Trauma cards and Side Effect cards in *ForbiddenAlchemy* have effects that are triggered by the keeper spending threat tokens. The rules regarding these effects, as well as when the keeper may spend threat tokens to resolve the effect, are described on the individual card.

These cards can be identified by their threat cost, which looks similar to the threat cost listed on Keeper Action cards.



*An example of a Trauma card with a threat effect*

## Escaping

When investigators or a monster must escape to win, rather than moving through an unsealed door, they may instead move across a white line along the edge of the room they must escape from, provided that the edge does not connect to an adjacent room.

## Hiding

While an investigator is hiding, he cannot be chosen as the target of a Keeper Action (for example, the Take Sample Keeper Action card). However, the investigator is still subject to any status effects affecting the room (Fire or Darkness, for example) and must still make a Horror check if a monster enters his room.

When a card or effect allows an investigator to choose another investigator in his room, he may choose a hidden investigator in his room. By using the Mists of Releh spell, an investigator may move while remaining hidden. In this case, if he moves into a room with a monster, he must make a Horror check as normal.

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