



VIS SYSTEM[®]



2PCG[®]

THE CIVIL WAR BATTLES RULEBOOK

AGES 14+

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"We didn't come here to arrest you, Cap. I talked S.H.I.E.L.D. into offering you one final amnesty."

"You mean a surrender? Thanks, but I think I'd rather take my chances."

– Tony Stark and Steve Rogers, Civil War #3

The Story So Far...

For the past several years, players in Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®] have fought epic battles across the Earth and beyond – recruiting superheroes and supervillains as well as horrifying aliens, deadly hunters, government agents, supernatural monsters, and vampires! Now some innocent civilians have been caught in a superhuman crossfire, causing the United States government to attempt to identify and register all super-powered residents. Iron Man and Captain America find themselves on opposite sides of the dispute as we come to the ultimate battle over right and wrong - Marvel's Civil War!

What is the Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®]?

The Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®] is a card game where 2-4 players each build a deck of Characters, Plot Twists, Locations, and Equipment to try to defeat their opponents. Each Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®] product comes with a full playset of cards.

Game Contents

- 200 Cards
- Assorted Counters
- This Rulebook

The Best Place in the Multiverse to Learn How to Play Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®]

This product, called a Giant-Sized Issue, has been specially designed and developed to be an easy way to learn Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®]. The cards are simple, but still powerful, fun, and thematic, and feature some of the most popular characters in Marvel comics. We highly recommend using this Issue to learn the game or to teach the game to new players. The following two 55-card products, or

Issues, also feature Civil War and will ramp up the sophistication a bit. We suggest these cards as the first additional cards you sprinkle into your decks, when you're ready!

Giant-Sized Issues, like this one (200 card Issues), usually introduce new teams. Teams are either Good, like the Avengers () , or Evil, like Hydra (). You'll learn more about why teams matter as you read these rules.

This Issue adds two new Good teams: the Pro-Registration () forces of Tony Stark's Iron Man vs. the Anti-Registration () forces of Steve Rogers' Captain America!

Gameplay Overview

Each player starts with a Main Character, such as Iron Man or Captain America. During the game, you'll play resources and recruit Supporting Characters like Spider-Man or Black Panther. You'll organize your characters into a formation with your front row characters protecting back row characters. You'll make solo and team attacks against your enemies in order to stun and KO them. You'll play Plot Twists and Equipment to enhance your team or hurt your opponent's. You'll play Locations your characters can use for their Super Powers. Your Main Character will earn Experience Points and Level Up to dominate the battlefield. Finally, you'll KO your opponent's Main Character (or they'll KO yours).

Phew! Don't worry, we'll walk you through all of this. First let's go over the different card types in Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®].

The Card Types

Here is a brief introduction to the different types of cards. Don't stress the details, we'll get into those later. For now, just try to be able to recognize the different types of cards.

Main Characters

You start the game with a Level 1 Main Character. When it Levels Up during the game, you'll switch it with its Level 2 Version.



Supporting Characters

During your turn, you can recruit Supporting Characters into your front or back row.



Main Characters and Supporting Characters work the same way. They can attack, defend, get stunned, and take wounds. The only exception is some cards specifically refer to Main Characters or Supporting Characters.

Plot Twists

During your turn you can play Plot Twists from your hand that stir things up on the battlefield. Plot Twists always say when during the turn you can play them. You can only play a Plot Twist if you have a face-up character with the matching team affiliation.



Equipment

During your turn, you can put Equipment cards onto your characters to give them a little more kick. Equipment cards have a cost just like characters. You can only play an Equipment card if you have a face-up character with the matching team affiliation.

Note: There is no Equipment in this Issue, but there is some in the second and third Civil War Issues. For now, let's look at a previous Equipment:



Locations

During your turn, you can play one Location to your resource row. Most Locations have a power symbol. During the game, you can turn a Location with a power symbol face down to pay for a Super Power that requires that symbol. You may also discard a Location from your hand to generate that power symbol. There are two types of Locations: Basic Locations and Special Locations. Here are a couple of Basic Locations, which provide a single power symbol when used.



There are six power symbols:



Might



Intellect



Skill



Energy



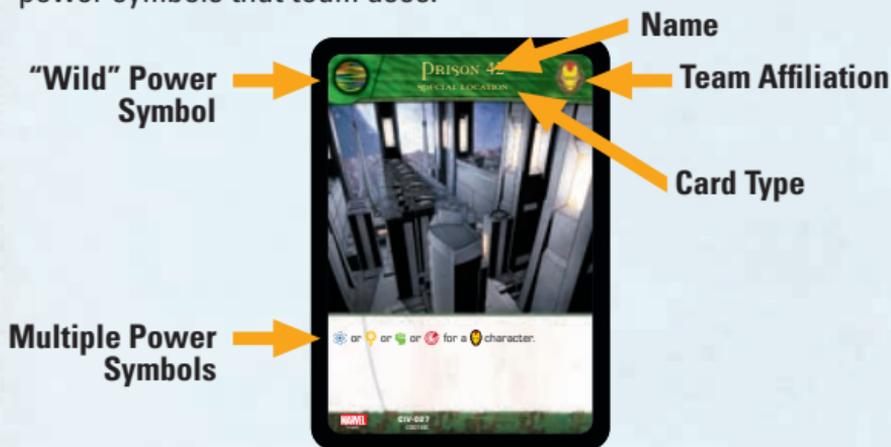
Humanity



Alien

Note: Humanity and Alien don't appear in this Issue.

Each team also has a Special Location which grants different power symbols that team uses.



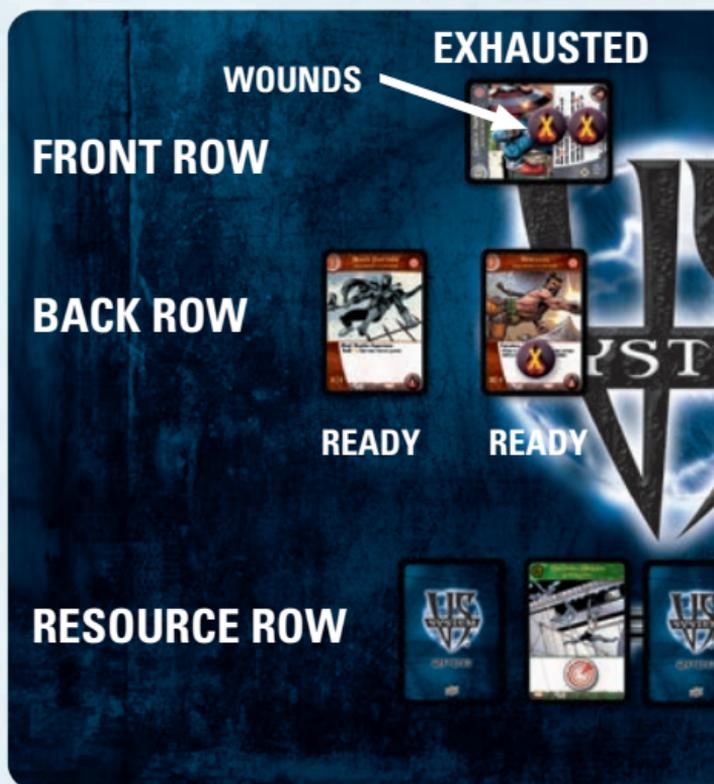
Some Special Locations do other things as well. Check out previous Issues for some examples!

Now let's introduce some game concepts. Don't worry, we'll discuss them in more depth later.

Basic Game Concepts

- **Deck:** Your deck must include exactly 60 cards, not including your Main Character or any cards that start outside the game.
- **Hand:** You start the game with seven cards and draw two cards each turn. There is no limit to the number of cards you can have in your hand at one time. If an effect tells you to discard a card, that means from your hand.
- **Level Up Zone:** This is where players put the higher level versions of their starting Main Characters that they will level up into with enough experience (XP).
- **KO Pile:** When a card gets KO'd or discarded, it goes into your KO pile next to your deck. The KO pile is face up, and any player can look through it at any time. The order of your KO pile does not matter.

- **Three Rows:** Each player has three rows: front row, back row, and resource row.
 - Each turn you may place a Location face up or another card from your hand face down into your resource row. Resources give you recruit points each turn which you'll use to play your Supporting Characters and Equipment.
 - When you recruit a character, it can go into your front row or back row. Characters in your front row are your melee fighters. They also protect characters in your back row. Characters in your back row are safer, but they can only attack if they have the  symbol.
 - Cards in any of your three rows are considered "on your side".
- **Ready/Exhausted:** A card in play is either ready (upright) or exhausted (turned sideways). Only ready characters can attack. Cards appear on your side ready.
- **Stun:** When a character is defeated in combat, or if its DEF is ever reduced to 0, it becomes stunned. Turn it face down, exhaust it, remove all +1/+1 and -1/-1 counters from it, KO any Equipment on it, and put a wound counter on it. Stunned characters can't be attacked, and they lose their powers until they recover. Some effects can cause a character to become directly stunned (without it being in combat).
- **KO:** When a character has as least as many wounds as its health, it's KO'd. (Put it into the KO pile.)
- **Recover:** When a character recovers from being stunned, turn it face up but leave it exhausted. It keeps its wounds.



Setting Up the Game

Next up, how to set up and start a game of Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®]:

1: Decks and Counters:

- Each player will have a deck that has one Main Character and exactly 60 game cards.
 - See pages 22-23 for which cards to include in your first deck.
- Put the wound, vitality, XP, +1/+1, and -1/-1 counters nearby.
 - **Note:** There are no vitality counters in this product.

2: Reveal Starting Main Characters

- Players reveal their Main Character simultaneously.



3: Determine Who Goes First

- Randomly choose a player. That player then chooses who will be the first player this game.
 - Turns will proceed clockwise from the first player.

4: Put Main Characters into Play

- Starting with the first player, then continuing clockwise, each player puts their Level 1 Main Character into either their front or back row. Then they place all the Level 2 and higher (if used) versions in their Level Up Zone where all players can see them.
 - A player's Level Up Zone should be on the table directly above their deck, next to where their front row will be.

5: Draw Opening Hand and Optional Mulligan

- Each player shuffles their deck and draws seven cards.
- Starting with the first player, then continuing clockwise, each player may mulligan one time if they don't like their hand.
 - To mulligan, shuffle your hand into your deck, then draw seven new cards. You must keep this second hand.
 - It's usually a good idea to mulligan if you don't have any Locations or any Supporting Characters that you can play in the first few turns.
- Each player places their deck on the table next to where their back row will be. (See image on page 10.)

After step 5, the game starts. The first player takes the first turn of the game.

Turn Sequence

Each turn has four phases played in order. Some phases or parts of phases are "automatic", meaning they just happen whether you want them to or not. Others are "optional", meaning you choose if you want to do anything in them.

1. Draw Phase (Automatic)

During this phase, any "At the start of your turn" effects take place. Then you draw two cards. **(If you're the first player and this is the first turn of the game, you don't draw any cards.)**

2. Recovery Phase (Automatic)

During this phase, if you have any stunned characters, they all recover. Then you turn each hidden character (see page 31 for more information) on your side face up. Then you ready all your characters.

3. Build Phase

During this phase, perform the following three steps in order. Anytime during these steps, even before any of them, or after all of them, you can play **Build** Plot Twists, and characters on your side can use their **Build** Super Powers.

Resource Step (Optional)

You may choose any one card in your hand and place it face down into your resource row. (It is now a resource.)

If you play a Location as a resource, you may place it face up. (It's still a resource.) Locations are not unique; you can have more than one with the same name. (See Uniqueness on page 36.)

Recruit Step

You now gain 1 recruit point for each resource you have, regardless if the resource is face up or face down. (Automatic)

You can spend any or all of your recruit points to play Supporting Characters and Equipment from your hand. (Optional)

When you play a character, put it into your front row or back row. When you play an Equipment, put it onto one of your face-up characters. We suggest you place the Equipment card partially beneath the character card you're equipping it to.

Note: You lose any leftover recruit points after this step.

Example: During Gwenn's Resource Step, she plays a Training Ground Location face up as a resource. She now has four resources, so during her Recruit Step she gains 4 recruit points. She spends them to play Prowler (who costs 1) into her back row and Storm (who costs 2) into her front row. She has 1 recruit point remaining but nothing to spend it on, so it goes away.



Formation Step (Optional)

You can now rearrange any or all of your characters between your front and back rows. Any character (including your Main Character) can go into either row.

In most cases it doesn't matter if a character is to the left or right of another character. However, it matters a lot who's in the front and who's in the back.

4. Main Phase (Optional)

This is the longest phase of the turn. During this phase, you can make any number of attacks, one at a time, until you choose to stop attacking or all your characters are exhausted.

Your front row characters can make melee attacks.

Your back row characters that have the  (ranged) icon can make ranged attacks.

Note: You *can* put a  character in your front row but it can only make melee attacks from there.

Anytime you're not attacking in this phase, even before you make any attacks, you can play **Main** Plot Twists and characters on your side can use their **Main** Super Powers.

Combat

Making a Melee Attack

Starting a Combat

- Exhaust one of your face-up and ready front row characters to become the attacker and choose a face-up front row enemy character to become the defender.
 - If an opponent has no face-up front row characters, your character can attack one of their face-up back row characters.

During Combat

- Once combat has begun you, as the attacking player, can do one of the following:
 - Play a “**Combat**” Plot Twist (see page 21)
 - Have a character use a “**Combat**” Super Power (see page 18)
 - Power Up a character (see page 20)
 - Pass
- Then your opponent can do the same. Then you go again, then they go, until both of you pass in a row. (If one player passes but the other player takes an action, that first player can then take an action.) When a player takes an action, it resolves immediately before the next player has a chance to take their own action.
- Finally, resolve the combat.

Resolving Combat

- To resolve the combat, the attacker now “strikes” the defender, and the defender simultaneously “strikes” the attacker.
 - Compare the attacker’s ATK to the defender’s DEF. If the ATK is greater than or equal to the DEF, the defender will be stunned. At the same time, compare the defender’s ATK to the attacker’s DEF. If the ATK is greater than or equal to the DEF, the attacker will be stunned.
 - So, there are four possible results to a combat: No one gets stunned, the attacker gets stunned, the defender gets stunned, or both characters get stunned.
 - When a character becomes stunned, turn it face down, exhaust it, remove all +1/+1 and -1/-1 counters from it and put a wound counter on it. You also KO any Equipment on it.

Making a Ranged Attack

Ranged attacks work the same way as melee attacks with the following exceptions:

- You choose one of your back row characters with Ranged () to be the attacker.
- The defender only gets to strike if it also has .

Note: If your character attacks from the front row, it is always a melee attack whether or not your character has .

Flight

Flight () allows a character to ignore face-up front row characters that don't have .

- Characters that have  may fly over an enemy front row to melee attack enemy back row characters unless there is a character with  in that enemy front row.

Ranged and Flight

- If your character has  and , it can attack from your back row and fly over an enemy front row (if there are no characters with  in that enemy front row) to attack enemy back row characters. This counts as a ranged attack so the defender will still only strike if it has .

Team Attacks

When one character attacks, it is a solo attack. Two or more characters that have the **same team affiliation, are in the same row, and can both attack from that row** can make a team attack against a single defender. Team attacks work just like solo attacks with the following exceptions:

- Choose two or more front row characters to make a **melee team attack**.
- Choose two or more back row characters that have  to make a **ranged team attack**. (Just like in a regular ranged attack, the defender gets to strike only if it has .)
- In both cases, if **all** of your attackers have , they can fly over an enemy front row to attack enemy back row characters (unless the enemy front row has a  character).

Resolving a team attack works like this:

- Add up the ATK of all your attackers and compare the total to the defender's DEF to see if the defender will get stunned.
- The defender (if it can strike) then chooses **exactly one** attacker to strike and compares the defender's ATK to that character's DEF to see if it will get stunned.

Example: Let's say three different 2/2 (2 ATK/2 DEF) characters melee team attack a 6/6 (6 ATK/6 DEF) defender. When the combat resolves, the attacker's total ATK is 6 which is enough to stun the defender (who has a DEF of 6). The defender picks one of the 2/2s to strike, compares its 6 ATK to the attacker's 2 DEF and stuns it. The other two 2/2 attackers survive the combat.

After Each Combat

After each combat resolves, you can make another attack, play a **Main Plot Twist**, or have a character use a **Main Super Power**. Otherwise, end your turn.

Ending the Turn

Once you're done attacking, playing Plot Twists, and using Super Powers, and you're ready to be done with your Main Phase, your turn ends. Resolve any "At the end of your turn" effects, and then the next player gets to take a turn.

Playing and Using Cards

Playing cards and using them are what Vs. System® 2PCG® is all about. Here are some more details about how and when to play and use different card types.

Locations

During the Resource Step of your Build Phase, you may play a Location from your hand to your resource row. Locations are mostly used by characters to pay for Super Powers. If a Location has a team affiliation, it can only be used by a character with that team affiliation.

Some Special Locations have special effects. Just follow the instructions on them to use them.

Characters

There are two types of characters in the game: Main Characters and Supporting Characters. You will start the game with a Main Character. If your Main Character is KO'd, you lose the game. You can play Supporting Character cards during your Recruit Step by spending recruit points equal to the character's cost.

When you play one, put it into your front row or back row.

Characters are Unique unless they have **Swarm**. (See Uniqueness on page 36.)

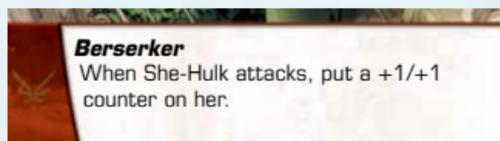
Character Powers

Characters on your side will make attacks and use their powers. Most characters have one or more "powers". There are three types of powers characters can have: Keyword Powers, Super Powers, and Level Up Powers.

Note: While a character is stunned, all their powers are turned off until they recover.

Keyword Powers

Keywords are powers with a name in bold, that often show up on more than one character. When a character has a Keyword Power, just follow the instructions in its text.



Flight and **Ranged** are the two most common Keyword Powers. They aren't represented by text though. They're represented by  and  instead.

Super Powers

Most Main Characters and some Supporting Characters have Super Powers. They look like this:

Defense Attorney = Name

 = The cost to use the Power

 = You can use this power on other player's turns

Combat = When you can use the Power

If She-Hulk is defending,... = The effect

Defense Attorney
 **Combat** : If She-Hulk is defending, she gets +0/+5 this combat.

Lawyer Up
Level Up (4) - When you play a plot twist on your turn, She-Hulk gains 1 XP.

Each Super Power has a different name and a different effect. **Unless otherwise noted, characters on your side can only use their Super Powers on your turn.** The words “**Draw**”, “**Recovery**”, “**Build**”, “**Main**”, and “**Combat**” tell you when they can be used. “**Draw**”, “**Recovery**” and “**Build**” Super Powers can be used any time in those phases.

Characters can only use their “**Main**” Super Powers during your Main Phase while there is no combat going on.

Characters can only use their “**Combat**” Super Powers **while they are in combat.**

A few characters have “**Any Combat**” Super Powers, which they can use during any combat, even if they’re not in it.

Characters on your side can normally only use their Super Powers during your turn. However, if the Super Power has the **Any Turn** (🌀) symbol, they can use that power during any player’s turn (including yours).

Note: 🌀 will only be found on **Combat** and **Any Combat** Super Powers.

Each Super Power has a cost of at least one power symbol. **To use a Super Power, the character must pay for it by turning one of your Locations with that symbol face down OR by discarding a Location with that symbol from your hand.** Some Super Powers require more than one power symbol. Characters must pay for all of them by turning matching Locations face down or discarding them from your hand, or a combination of both.

Example: She-Hulk is getting attacked. You want her to use her **Defense Attorney** Super Power (shown on page 17), so you turn an Academy in your resource row face down to pay the ⚙️ cost. You could have also discarded an Academy (or a Prison 42 Special Location) from your hand to generate the ⚙️.

Characters on your side can use any number of different Super Powers each turn, if they can pay for them. **However, a character can’t use the same Super Power more than once each turn.** (If

multiple characters have the same power, they can each use it once in the same turn.)

Some Super Powers are “**Reactions**” which trigger when a certain condition is met. When that happens, the character can pay the listed cost, and if they do, the effect occurs.

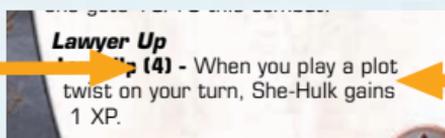
A **Reaction** Super Power can trigger on any player’s turn, and some can even interrupt an effect in order to cancel or change what it does.

Note: There are no **Reaction** Super Powers in the Civil War Arc.

Level Up Powers

Most Main Characters have a Level Up Power. These powers represent the character gaining experience (XP), and allow them to become more powerful.

4 = How much
XP She-Hulk
needs to
Level Up



When you play a
plot twist on your
turn...
= XP Condition
(how she gains
XP)

Gaining XP and Leveling Up

When you meet the XP condition, put an XP counter on the next Level of your Main Character in your Level Up Zone. Once you have XP equal to the number next to “Level Up”, remove the XP counters from the next Level of your Main Character and replace the current version of your character with its next Level version.

The new version of the Main Character is the same character, just more powerful. As such, it will retain the same orientation as the previous version (ready/exhausted and face-up/face-down). Put each wound, vitality, +1/+1 or -1/-1 counter, and Equipment that was on the previous version onto the new version.

Note: There are two different Spider-Man Main Characters in this Issue. One is 🦱 and one is 🇺🇸. Their respective Level 1s can only Level Up into the Level 2 of the same team.

Powering Up

Supporting Characters can be used another way while in your hand: to Power Up a character on your side.

If you have a card in your hand with the same name as a Main or Supporting Character on your side, you may discard it to Power Up that character: put a +1/+1 counter on the Powered-Up character.

You can Power Up a character either as a **Main** action or as a **Combat** action.

Example: You attack with your Main Character, Captain America. During combat, you decide to Power Up Cap, so you discard a Captain America Supporting Character from your hand and put a +1/+1 counter on your Captain America Main Character.

Equipment

You can play Equipment cards during your Recruit Step by spending recruit points equal to the Equipment's cost. Equip the Equipment onto any face-up character on your side. The character now has access to the Equipment's powers.

The Equipment will stay equipped to that character until the character turns face down (either by being stunned or hidden) or leaves play. At that point, the Equipment gets KO'd.

A character can only have one Equipment at a time. If you play a new Equipment on a character that already has one, the older Equipment gets KO'd.

If an Equipment has a team affiliation symbol, you may only play it if you have a face-up character with that team affiliation symbol on your side (including your Main Character). However, you can equip it to any character on your side.

Equipment is not Unique unless it says otherwise. (See Uniqueness on page 36.)

Plot Twists

When you play a Plot Twist, follow its instructions, and then put it into your KO pile.

Each Plot Twist will say when you're allowed to play it. If it says **"Draw"**, **"Recovery"** or **"Build"**, then you can only play it during that Phase. (You can play it before or after any part of those phases.)

If it says **"Main"**, then you can only play it during your Main Phase while there isn't a combat going on.

If it says **"Combat"**, then you can only play it during a combat on your turn. But if the word **"Combat"** has the **Any Turn** symbol () next to it, then you can play it during a combat on any player's turn.

Unless it says otherwise, you can only use a **"Combat"** Plot Twist to affect a character in the combat.

If a Plot Twist has two different times you can play it, you can play it at either of those times.

If a Plot Twist has a team affiliation symbol, you may only play it if you have a face-up character with that team affiliation symbol on your side (including your Main Character). However, you can use it to affect any character regardless of team affiliation symbol.

Ending the Game

The game ends when you KO your opponent's Main Character or they KO yours. If the final two Main Characters are KO'd at the same time (either because they're in combat with each other or through some card effect), the player whose turn it is wins the game.

In a 3 or 4 player game, the game ends when only one Main Character is left. When a Main Character gets KO'd, remove all cards that player owns from the game.

Building Your First Decks

For your first few games, we recommend building the following decks:

Iron Man (Main Character)

Supporting Characters (31)

- 2 Misty Knight
- 3 Superhuman Restraint Unit
- 3 Black Cat
- 2 Wasp
- 2 Bishop
- 2 Black Widow
- 2 Maria Hill
- 2 Nighthawk
- 2 Doc Samson
- 2 Spider-Man (🦸)
- 2 She-Hulk
- 2 Wonder Man
- 3 Ms. Marvel
- 2 Sentry

Plot Twists (9)

- 3 50-State Initiative
- 3 Hunt Them Down
- 3 We're Super Heroes

Locations (20)

- 4 Prison 42
- 4 Academy
- 4 Fortress
- 4 Laboratory
- 4 Training Ground



Captain America (Main Character)

Supporting Characters (31)

- 2 Falcon
- 3 Prowler
- 2 Dagger
- 3 Storm
- 2 Cloak
- 2 Spider-Man ()
- 3 Goliath
- 1 Ultragirl
- 2 Black Panther
- 2 Luke Cage
- 2 Cable
- 2 Hercules
- 3 Spider-Woman
- 2 Namor



Plot Twists (9)

- 3 Go Underground
- 3 On the Run
- 3 Secret Avengers

Locations (20)

- 4 S.H.I.E.L.D. Safehouse
- 4 Academy
- 4 Fortress
- 4 Laboratory
- 4 Training Ground

Seriously, You Can Stop Reading and Play!

You don't need to read the rest of this rulebook right now. Just keep in mind the Golden Rules:

1) Whenever a card contradicts a rule in this Rulebook, the card is correct.

2) If one effect says you can do something and another says you can't do something, "can't" beats "can".

In case you can't help yourself, here's what follows:

- **What's Next?**

Check out this section out after a few games with the decks we've listed. It will tell you how best to switch up Main Characters, the deck building rules (including the two "Universes" in the game), and even tips for building your own deck.

- **Rules Reference**

An alphabetical reference for when you need to know more or refresh your memory about parts of the game.

- **Alternative Game Modes**

Simple rules for how to play with 3 or 4 players.

Check these sections out as needed. But for now, have fun with your first decks!



What's Next?

Switching Main Characters

You can use any Main Characters with the suggested decks, but some are easier to use than others when you're learning the game. After your first few games with the above decks, next try using a different Main Character from the same team. We recommend experimenting with the Easy Main Characters, then the Medium Main Characters, then the Hard Main Characters.

Note: If you aren't using Iron Man or Captain America as your Main Characters, we recommend that you put their respective 7-cost Supporting Characters into the decks (swapping out each copy of Ms. Marvel and Spider-Woman, respectively).

Easy	Medium	Hard
Black Widow	Black Panther	Spider-Man (🦾)
Captain America	Namor	Spider-Man (🇺🇸)
Iron Man	She-Hulk	

Specific Card Clarifications

Namor (Level 2 Main Character)

When he uses his **Imperius Rex** Super Power, double his current ATK and DEF. If he gains ATK or DEF later in the combat, those gains won't be doubled.

Spider-Man (Level 1 and 2 Main Character)

His **Amazing** and **Spectacular** Super Powers allow him to strike before the time when characters strike at the end of combat. Apply his current ATK to the enemy character's current DEF. If the ATK is equal to or greater than the DEF, stun the enemy character. The enemy character does not strike Spider-Man when he uses these powers. Spider-Man still gets to strike at the end of the combat as normal. See page 34 for more on striking.

Building Your Own Decks

After you've played several games with these deck lists, you're ready to step into a larger world: building your own deck! You can build your own deck from this Issue, or you can get some other Issues to add in! (We suggest the next two Issues in the Civil War Story Arc.)

Deck Building Rules

- Your deck must include a Main Character and exactly 60 cards. Your Main Character doesn't count toward your mandatory 60 cards, and you can't put additional main characters into your 60 card deck
- You can only have up to four copies of any one card in your deck.
- **Exception:** Some Basic Locations have the same type (like ) but different names. **You can't include Basic Locations of the same type but different names in the same deck.** So if you want any Laboratories in your deck, you can't include other Basic  Locations.

- You can build either an **Illustrated** deck or a **Photographic** deck, but you can't mix cards between them. (See "Two Universes" in the next section.)
- You can put any Supporting Characters, Plot Twists, Equipment, and Locations in your deck. Just remember the following:
 - Characters can only team attack if they share a team affiliation (on the top right of the card).
 - If a Location has a team affiliation, it can only be used for a Super Power for a member of that team.
 - If an Equipment or Plot Twist has a team affiliation, it can only be played if you have a face-up member of that team.

Two Universes

The Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®] is split into two Universes based on the style of card art:

The **Illustrated Universe** includes cards with drawn or painted artwork. (Most cards, including the cards in the Civil War Issue, belong to this universe.)

The **Photographic Universe** includes cards with images from movies or TV shows. (This Universe boasts several different licensed properties from popular movies and TV shows thus far.)

When you build a deck, you can't mix together cards (including your Main Character) from the Illustrated Universe with cards from the Photographic Universe. However, you can play decks from one Universe against the other.

The two Universes only affect deck building. Once the game starts, it doesn't affect anything. For example, if you have an Illustrated deck, it's perfectly fine to play an effect that moves an opponent's Photographic character to your side.

Deck Building Tips

Getting Started

Building a deck can be intimidating. There are so many cards! Where do you start?

Well, in Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®] it all starts with your Main Character. It can be your favorite character, or a card with powers that look fun to you.

Now we just need 60 cards!

How Many of Each Card Do I Include?

Each deck and player is different. Some decks and players want a lot of Plot Twists. Some want to make sure they always have a Location to drop in their resource row each turn. Rest assured, you will change whatever ratios you first choose as you learn about your deck. There are a lot of other factors that might affect these numbers: your Main Character's Level Up power, the number of Super Powers you want to use, etc. Suffice it to say that these ranges are very general.

Supporting Characters (24-32)

First, you'll need to determine the teams you want to use. Team attacking can be particularly important in Vs. System[®] 2PCG[®], so first consider which Supporting Characters from your Main Character's team you want to include. You can stick to just one team in your deck (this is called a "Loyalty" deck). These decks have access to some immensely powerful effects from other Issues but have a small card pool to choose from.

But if you want to branch out to other teams, determine if you want to include another team in a big way (they will all be able to team attack with each other as well) or just go with the "good characters at each cost" plan. Or something in between.

The most important thing for the most important card type in your deck is to get what we call their "curve" correct. Line up the Supporting Characters you want to use by cost, starting with 1. You want to make sure you have at least several cards at each cost. And you want enough cheap Supporting Characters

that you get off to a good start, but not so many that you'll draw them later in the game when you don't want them. For expensive Supporting Characters, you don't need as many because by the time you get to 6 and 7 resources, you'll have drawn a bunch of cards, but you still need enough to make sure you can play big characters near the end of the game. For the mid-cost Supporting Characters, you'll want to find a happy medium.

Locations (12-20)

You usually want 4 of your Main Character's team's Special Location and 4 each of the Basic Locations your Main Character can use. After that, check your Supporting Characters' Super Powers and go from there.

Plot Twists (8-16)

This depends on your play style, but also on how you plan on winning, because Plot Twists can do a lot of different things. The most basic are **Combat** Plot Twists that will help you win fights. Maybe you need to make sure your Main Character gets some stuns while they're attacking. Or maybe you need your Main Character to survive so you can get to later turns. Most players like to have a few **Combat** tricks up their sleeves. But if neither thing is that important to your deck's strategy, you might want more **Main** Plot Twists, which have a lot more variety: drawing cards, placing -1/-1 or +1/+1 counters, etc.

Equipment (0-8)

There isn't any Equipment in this Issue, but the next two will both have Equipment you can use with these teams. Equipment is the card type with the least total amount of cards, but some of these cards can have the greatest impact on the game. Remember though, that Equipment gets KO'd when its bearer gets stunned, so have a plan for that:  characters, who can be protected in your back row and still attack, characters with high DEF, or characters who are hard to strike in other ways are more likely to survive and keep your equipment around for longer.

Rules Reference

+1/+1 and -1/-1 (Counters): Many effects put +1/+1 or -1/-1 counters on characters. These numbers alter a character's ATK and DEF until something removes the counters.

If a character ever has +1/+1 and -1/-1 counters at the same time, they cancel out. Remove one of each until the character only has one type.

If an effect gives a character "+1/+1" or "-1/-1" but it doesn't say "counter" then that effect is temporary: you don't add counters to the character.

AKA: Some characters have **AKA** and another name in their text box. This means that they count as having both names. This counts for uniqueness and Powering Up characters.

AKA is not a power and so it can't be copied or turned off by things that affect powers.

Any Turn Symbol : If a Plot Twist or Super Power has this symbol, you can play it, or a character can use it on another player's turn (as well as your turn).

Appears: When a card enters play it "appears" whether you recruited it from your hand, or another effect put it into play. If a card changes sides or turns face up, that does not count as "appearing."

ATK/DEF: The numbers on characters above the  and . During combat you compare your character's ATK to its enemy's DEF to see if you stun it.

Base ATK and DEF: Some effects refer to a character's Base ATK and DEF. This means a character's stats before any effects or counters modify them. A character's Base ATK and DEF are usually the same as their printed ATK and DEF. The only difference is that some effects might temporarily change a character's Base stats.

Cancel: If an effect cancels the current combat, the combat ends but no characters get stunned. Leave all the attackers and defenders as is. They don't ready. If an effect cancels a Plot Twist, discard the Plot Twist without resolving its effects. If an effect cancels a Super Power, don't resolve its effects. Locations turned face down or discarded to pay for the Super Power are **not** turned face up or returned to hand.

Daze: An effect that stuns a character without the character gaining a wound. It works like the character getting stunned in **all** ways except for adding a wound counter.

Discard: Taking a card from your hand and putting it into your KO pile.

Enemy: This applies to anything opposing you. An enemy player is your opponent. An enemy character is one on your opponent's side.

Enters combat: A character enters combat when they become an attacker or a defender.

Golden Rules: Whenever a card contradicts a rule in this Rulebook, the card is correct. And if one effect says you can do something and another says you can't do something, "can't" beats "can".

Good and Evil: Some effects refer to Good and Evil characters. A Good character is anyone on a Good team, and an Evil character is anyone on an Evil team. The  team and the  team are both Good. If a character is on a Good team and an Evil team, it is both Good and Evil.

Health (Maximum and Remaining): A character's maximum health is its printed health and any modifiers that increase or decrease it, like vitality counters. A character's remaining health is its maximum health minus any wounds on it.

Hidden/Hide: When a character hides, turn it face down but ready. Remove any +1/+1 or -1/-1 counters and Equipment from it. A hidden character can't attack or defend, doesn't protect anyone behind it, and loses its powers. It keeps its other information like name and team affiliation. Hidden characters do not satisfy team affiliation requirements for Plot Twists while face-down.

Keyword Power: A power on a character in bold text. Just follow the instructions on the card. Flight and Range count as Keyword Powers even though they're represented by icons ( and ).

KO: To put a card from play into its owner's KO pile. When a character has wounds equal to or greater than its health, it gets KO'd.

Locations: You may use a Location (by turning it face down in your resource row or discarding it from your hand) to pay for a Super Power. But you may not use the same Location card to pay for multiple Super Powers. Each Super Power must be paid for separately.

Once a Location turns face down, it will stay face down unless an effect turns it face up.

There are two types of Locations: Basic Locations and Special Locations. There are six Basic Location types, one for each of the six power symbols. Also, most teams have a Special Location that has a team affiliation symbol on the top right of the card. These Locations can produce your choice of several different power symbols, but only for a member of that team. There are also other Special Locations with other effects beside producing power symbols for Super Powers.

Note: Only four of the six Basic Location types are in this Giant-Sized Issue.

In different Issues (like comic or space adventure), Basic Locations may have different names. However, they still count as being the same Basic Location type (for example, one that makes 🖐️.) Your deck can include up to four copies of each of these Basic Location types, and all copies of it must have the same name.

Main Character Required: When a card says that it requires a Main Character with a particular team affiliation, you can't put that card in your deck unless your starting Main Character has that team affiliation.

Mantles: Some characters share the same title or "mantle" with other people in the game. In cases like this, the newer character will have one or more stars before and after its name to differentiate it from its predecessor. The card's full name includes the star treatment so it will count as a different character for the purposes of uniqueness. Since their names are different, they can't be used to Power Up each other.

Note: There are no characters with mantles in this Giant-Sized Issue.

Melee Combat: A combat that involves front row attackers.

Multiple Main Characters: Some card effects allow you to have more than one Main Character in play. In that case, your opponent must KO each Main Character to defeat you, unless the effect states otherwise.

On Your Side: The cards you have in play are "on your side." You control these cards. If a card gets moved to your side, you now control that card.

Owner: During the game you "own" your Main Character and all the cards that started in your deck. (This only matters if a card references "owner.")

Power Up: If you have a card in your hand with the same name as a Main or Supporting Character on your side, you may discard it to Power Up that character. Put a +1/+1 counter on the Powered-Up character. You can Power Up a character either as a **Main** action or as an  **Combat** action.

Protect: A face-up character in a player's front row "protects" face-up characters behind it.

A face-up character in a player's back row is "protected" if there is at least one face-up character in that player's front row.

A protected character can't normally be attacked.

Ranged Combat: A combat that involves back row attackers that have . In a ranged attack, the defender can't strike back unless it has .

Ready/Exhausted: A face-up character is either Ready (upright) or Exhausted (sideways). Only ready characters can attack. If an effect readies a character that is already ready, or exhausts a character that is already exhausted, just ignore that part of that effect (but do the rest of it).

Recover: Your stunned characters automatically recover during your Recovery Phase. Some card effects can also recover a character. When a character recovers, turn it face up, but leave it exhausted.

Note: Recovering a character does not heal any wounds from it.

Remove from the Game: Some effects say to remove a card from the game. When this happens, set it aside out of play (not in a KO pile). Usually, a card that's been removed from the game is permanently gone, but some effects could allow the card to come back.

Resource Row: Your resource row will consist of face-down cards and Locations. Cards in your resource row count as resources whether they're face up or face down.

You can rearrange your resource row at any time, as long as your opponent can see how many you have and which Locations you have.

You can look at your own face down resources at any time. You can't look at enemy face down resources.

Reveal: When a card tells you to reveal cards from your deck or hand, you must show them to each other player.

Running Out of Cards: If you need draw a card, but your deck is empty, you just skip those draws and play continues as normal. But if all players are out of cards and no one is willing or able to attack to put wounds onto Main Characters, the player with the fewest wounds on his Main Character wins the game. If two or more players are tied for the fewest wounds, the game ends in a tie between those players.

Searching and Shuffling: Whenever you search your deck, shuffle it after you've finished.

Strike: Characters strike when a combat is resolved. Compare the striking character's total ATK to the enemy character's DEF. If the ATK is greater than or equal to the DEF, stun the enemy character.

Characters can sometimes strike at other times than when resolving combat. In this case, the character being struck does not get to strike the striking character.

Stun/Stunned: When a character is defeated in combat, or if a character's DEF is ever reduced to 0 (whether from -1/-1 counters or some other effect), it's gets stunned. Remove all +1/+1 or -1/-1 counters from it, KO any Equipment on it, turn it face down exhausted, and place a wound counter on it. If it now has wounds greater than or equal to its health, it's KO'd and put it into its owner's KO pile.

A stunned character can't attack or defend, doesn't protect anyone in a row behind it, and loses its powers (until it recovers). It keeps its other information like name and team affiliation. (Its team affiliation doesn't satisfy requirements for plot twists while it is face down.)

If a character gets stunned by an effect during combat but before the combat resolves, it is removed from the combat.

Any player can look at any stunned character at any time.

Super Power: A power on a character that they use by turning a Location face down or discarding a Location from your hand.

Team Affiliation: Some cards have a team affiliation(s) in the upper right corner. Characters with the same team affiliation can team attack while in the same row, and you need a face-up character of a matching team affiliation to play Plot Twists and Equipment with that affiliation.

Timing: When you play a Plot Twist, use a Super Power, or Power Up a character, it resolves its effect before anyone can take an action. If a power "triggers" in the middle of another action, resolve that action first then resolve the power that triggered. If multiple powers trigger at the same time, the player whose turn decides the order to resolve them.

Tokens: Some character and Equipment cards are marked as 'Token'. Tokens are set aside at the start of the game as opposed to being in your deck. But some effects can put them directly into play. A Token works just like a regular card except that if it ever gets put into a KO pile or otherwise leaves play, set it aside again.

Note: There are no Tokens in this Giant-Sized Issue.

Uniqueness: You can only have one character with a specific name on your side at one time. If you play a character with the same name as one that's already on your side, then you must KO the first one. If they both enter play simultaneously, then you must pick one to KO. If the second one ends up on your side through some special effect (e.g., Mind Controlling an enemy character), then you still must KO the first character.

The only exception to all of this is your Main Character. You may never control a character with the same name as your Main Character. If an effect would cause that, ignore that part of the effect. You can't play a Supporting Character with the same name as your Main Character. Discarding a Supporting Character from your hand to Power Up (see page 20) a character on your side is not considered "playing" that character.

Note: You can have more than one character with a specific name if it has the **Swarm** keyword.

Wound(s): When a character becomes stunned, it gains a wound. If it has as many wounds as its health, it gets KO'd. Some card effects say to "wound a character." In this case put a wound counter on it, but it doesn't get stunned.

Alternative Game Modes

Free for All – 3 or 4 players

When you play with three or four players, all of the usual rules apply with a few exceptions:

- You win when **all** other Main Characters are KO'd.
- The player who goes first draws no cards on their first turn. The player who goes second only draws one card on their first turn.
- During your Main Phase you can have your characters attack any other player's characters using the normal Combat rules. You can make all your attacks against one player or spread them out against multiple if you want.
- During combat, each player (including players who don't have an attacker or defender) can play Plot Twists to influence the Combat.
- When a Main Character is KO'd, all the cards that player owns are immediately removed from the game. (This doesn't count as those cards getting KO'd.)

2 vs. 2

You can also play 2 vs. 2. In this case, you win when both enemy Main Characters are KO'd.

- Teammates should sit across from each other, so each turn belongs to a different team.
- The player who goes first draws no cards on their first turn. The player who goes second only draws one card on their first turn.
- You can't attack your teammate's characters.
- When a Main Character is KO'd, all the cards that player owns are removed from the game.

Credits

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Assoc. Brand Manager: Corrine Deng

Director of Game Development: Bubby Johanson

Product Manager: Mark Shaunessy

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Copy Editor/Writer: Anders Mattson

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Rules Management: Ben Cichoski, Danny Mandel

Director of Creative Services: Mike Eggleston

V.P. of Production and Logistics: Suzanne Lombardi

President, Upper Deck Company: Jason Masherah

Turn Sequence

Draw Phase

- Any “At the start of your turn” effects trigger.
- Draw two cards.

Recovery Phase

- Recover each stunned character on your side.
- Turn each hidden character on your side face up.
- Ready each character on your side.

Build Phase

- Resource Step
 - Choose a card in your hand and place it in your resource row.
- Recruit Step
 - Gain 1 recruit point for each resource in your resource row.
 - Spend recruit points on Supporting Characters and Equipment.
 - Lose any leftover recruit points.
- Formation Step
 - Rearrange each character on your side into either your front row or your back row.

Main Phase

- Make attacks with characters on your side.
 - Characters in your front row characters can make melee attacks.
 - Characters in your back row with  can make ranged attacks.
- While you're not attacking, characters on your side may use **Main Super Powers** and you may play **Main Plot Twists**.

