

THE DM'S TOOLKIT

the ten tools running the best tables right now — and what each one is actually for

There are a hundred D&D tools and you need about ten. This is the working set: what each one does, when it earns its place, and the honest tradeoff nobody puts on the landing page.

#	TOOL	JOB	COST
1	Loreify	Session notes, written for you	Free trial
2	D&D Beyond	Character sheets & official rules	Freemium
3	Foundry VTT	Full-power virtual tabletop	One-time
4	Owlbear Rodeo	Lightweight maps & tokens	Freemium
5	Roll20	Browser VTT & game finding	Freemium
6	Kobold+ Fight Club	Encounter balancing	Free
7	Inkarnate	World & region maps	Freemium
8	Dungeon Scrawl	Fast battle maps	Free
9	donjon	Generators for everything	Free
10	Dungeon Alchemist	3D map generation	Paid

1. LOREIFY — [LOREIFY.AI](https://loreify.ai)

Press record when the session starts; a few minutes after the table breaks, clean structured notes are waiting — quests, NPCs, promises, loose threads, all searchable. It's the tool on this list that gives you back the most hours, because it does the job everyone at the table keeps volunteering someone else for.

2. D&D BEYOND — [DNDBEYOND.COM](https://dndbeyond.com)

The official home of digital character sheets, rules lookup, and content sharing across your party. The free tier covers basic sheets; the real value is one player owning the books and sharing them with the whole campaign.

3. FOUNDRY VTT — [FOUNDRYVTT.COM](https://foundryvtt.com)

The power-user virtual tabletop: dynamic lighting, automation, and a module ecosystem that can run almost any system. One-time purchase for the DM, free for players — but budget real setup hours before your first game.

4. OWLBEAR RODEO — *OWLBEAR.RODEO*

The opposite philosophy: open a browser tab, drop a map, drag tokens, play in ninety seconds. If Foundry is a cockpit, this is a steering wheel — and most in-person-but-remote-friendly tables need only the steering wheel.

5. ROLL20 — *ROLL20.NET*

The most-used VTT on the internet, which makes its game-finder the single best place to join or recruit a table. The interface shows its age, but the network effect doesn't.

6. KOBOLD+ FIGHT CLUB — *KOBOLDPLUS.CLUB*

Pick your party, pick your monsters, and get an honest difficulty read before your "medium" encounter accidentally becomes a TPK. Free, fast, and the sanity check every new DM should run before session night.

7. INKARNATE — *INKARNATE.COM*

Drag-and-drop world maps that look hand-painted — continents, regions, cities. The free tier is enough to fall in love; the paid tier is where the asset library lives.

8. DUNGEON SCRAWL — *DUNGEONSCRAWL.COM*

Sketch a clean, classic-style dungeon battle map in minutes, free, in the browser. When the party goes somewhere you didn't prep, this is the tab you open while the rogue is still arguing about the door.

9. DONJON — *DONJON.BIN.SH*

The ugliest site on this list and possibly the most useful: random generators for dungeons, treasure, calendars, star systems, inns, and names, all free. Bookmark it and thank the ancient internet.

10. DUNGEON ALCHEMIST — *STEAM*

Describe a room and watch it furnish itself in 3D, then export straight to your VTT. It's the prep tool that feels most like cheating — priced accordingly as a one-time purchase.

THE HONEST STACK

You don't need all ten. A complete table runs on three: something to run the game (Owlbear or Foundry), something to balance it (Kobold+), and something to remember it (Loreify). Everything else is delight, not necessity.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

AUTOMATE YOUR SESSION NOTES

Nine of these tools help you prep and run the game. Only one works while you play — and hands you the whole session, organized, a few minutes after the table breaks.

Loreify listens to your session and writes the notes for you: every betrayal, every promise, every loose thread. Captured, organized, searchable.

Your first session is free. No card needed.

LOREIFY.AI

you make the world. we take the notes.

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