

The Hobbit to Your First Magic Table

A calm, action-first turn rhythm, table script, jargon decoder, and HOB/HOC checkpoint for your first real game.

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Say the turn out loud

Slow is smooth. Announcing each phase makes response windows visible to both players.

1. Untap, upkeep, draw

Ready your cards, handle beginning-of-turn triggers, then draw.
2. First main

Play a land if you have not played one this turn; cast sorcery-speed cards.
3. Combat

Move through beginning, attackers, blockers, damage, and end of combat.
4. Second main

Cast remaining sorcery-speed cards and make the board you want to pass.
5. End and cleanup

Handle end-step effects, discard to maximum hand size when required, then pass.

Jargon that changes what you do

WORD	MEANS	DO THIS
Priority	Permission to act before the game moves on	Ask: Any response?
Stack	Spells and abilities wait here; newest normally resolves first	Keep objects visible until resolved
Resolve	Carry out the top spell or ability	Confirm responses, then follow it in order
Trigger	An ability beginning with when, whenever, or at	Announce your own trigger on time
Permanent	A card or token that remains on the battlefield	Keep it in a consistent zone
Mulligan	Replace an opening hand using the format procedure	Keep a functional hand, not a famous card
Mana curve	How your deck's costs are distributed	Check that you can act early
Removal	A card that neutralizes an opposing threat	Save it for what your plan cannot race
Precon	A ready-to-play preconstructed deck	Do not confuse it with a Bundle or booster box

The first-table script

- ☐ Set expectations — I am new and still slow on interactions and triggers.
- ☐ Name your deck — This is an unchanged preconstructed deck, or describe the format you built for.
- ☐ Make windows visible — Say May I move to combat? and Any response before this resolves?
- ☐ Ask for the rules desk — At an event, call a judge when the shared game state is unclear.

The Hobbit shelf decoder

MARK OR BOX	ITS JOB	BEGINNER RULING
HOB	Main set; check current format legality	The Standard-facing Hobbit lane
HOC	Commander release; new cards are not Standard legal	Use with its intended Commander product
Draft Night	Four-person Pick-Two draft kit	Best home experience purchase
Bundle	Packs, lands, promo, die, and storage	Collection start, not a deck
Collector Booster	Premium treatments and serialized chase possibility	Collecting lane, never the learning lane

Sources. Wizards of the Coast How to Play Magic beginner reference, current Magic Comprehensive Rules, The Hobbit release notes, product pages, and event guides.
Accuracy. Every figure on this sheet was read from the sources above on August 15, 2026. Prices and availability change; rules do not. Where this sheet and the rulebook disagree, the rulebook is right.
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