

Runesmith 197

Chapter 197: New field of study.

Name :

Roland Arden L 126

Classes:

T2 Runesmith Lord L50 [Secondary]

T2 Runic Engineer L1 [Primary]

T1 Mage L25 [Tertiary]

T1 Runic Mana Scribe L 25 [X]

T1 Runic Blacksmith L 25 [X]

HP

6106/6106

MP

14921/14921

SP

8955/8955

Strength

161

Agility

127

Dexterity

195

Vitality

165

Endurance

177

Intelligence

230

Willpower

211

Charisma

18

Luck

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11

There was a limit of how many passive class buffs he could select, with the Runesmith Lord one and the new one he needed to make a decision. After some consideration, he decided to go with his first mage class. It gave him a big boost to mana and mana regen while the Runic Blacksmith went for stamina. There was a lot of overlap between the Runic Blacksmith the Runesmith Lord and his new Runic Engineer class when skills were considered.

Runic Engineer

Class

Increases stamina by 30% and stamina regeneration by 20%. Lowers mana consumption while inscribing runes and using them by 15%.

The passive buffs that this class was giving him made it seem that it was focused on work. The stamina increase and regeneration along with all the passives would allow him to work for longer without getting tired.

His mana reserves didn't get much of a boost after attaining this class, mostly due to the Runic Blacksmith mana increase not being there anymore. But with how large his mana pool already was he wasn't all that worried. Then he also got a decrease in using runes which would probably still offer him more uses from them in the long run.

After going through the list of new abilities of his new job he did want to give out a sigh. All of these skills would allow him to work more and get tired less. His initial goal was to work less not more but this system was just pelting him with abilities tailored to just that, working more.

The stamina increase wouldn't only help him swing a heavy hammer for longer, it would also aid his dungeon runs greatly. The heavy armors that he wore did drain his stamina during battles and the increasing heat only added to it. Still, it was mostly a manufacturing class so there would probably not be many skills that would directly aid him during battles.

'Will the increase in stamina help me with this?'

Roland's status screen flickered away while he looked to his hand. A small leather satchel was there with one of the simplest spatial enchantments that he owned. The item he was holding was something that he once found in the dungeon. It probably belonged to a new adventurer that either died or ran away from monsters.

The enchantment on it was quite faint, there wouldn't be space for many items but it was still better than bringing a backpack to a fight. Now the big question on his mind was, could he copy the spatial enchantment with his Runic Eye of Truth.

He placed the small leather satchel down on the workbench while standing in the mostly empty room. His head was already starting to hurt after the memories of the previous activations of this skill flooded it. The experience that he went through was truly uncomfortable and even after all of them the skill didn't level up once.

Thus he could do two things now. Either he waited for this new skill to go through a couple of levels while he examined simple runes or go through with it now. The first choice was the more logical one as the success increased and the strain on his body would probably be reduced.

Yet, for someone that didn't know what the next day could bring this might not be an option. Even though he might have gotten the stress resistance skill this didn't mean that Roland didn't worry about his future. Now even more after he was slowly getting attached to other people around him.

If he was able to create a spatial rune then his work would be taken to another level. There would be so many new possibilities, perhaps he wouldn't even need to use the bulky golem on his mining attempts. Instead he could inscribe a rune onto his armor that could house some of his creations.

This was quite a lofty goal as even the large spatial bags that he owned had their limits. Their size limit was mostly to about four to five square meters. Which was enough for cut up monster parts, ores and his golems.

How difficult to recreate one bag would be he could only speculate, then he would need to worry about the implementation. These magical bags didn't seem to need any mana to work but this didn't mean that the runic variant wouldn't.

While normally a person became more restrained this didn't apply that much to Roland. After going through many experiments he was willing to put his body through pain to achieve his goals. It would be the same now as he didn't want to wait months or years for this skill to level up.

To prepare himself for this test he decided to bring along some of the leftover healing and mana potions. These were now slowly running out as he had been having to douse his face with them to make the pain go away. The pain numbing ones were the first one that he used while hoping that he could get through this.

Resilience was his newest skill but he wasn't sure how it worked. It didn't seem that it would lower his pain threshold but instead let him recover faster from difficult situations. But he wasn't sure if willpower would help him with the pain but it might help him keep a cool head to note down the runic structure.

Next to the satchel that he was going to examine was a stack of blank sheets of paper. Instead of a pen he would be using a pencil as he wasn't sure if he could keep his hand steady so the ink would not spill over.

While he was confident in his memorization skills he wasn't sure what he was in for. This could be a new runic spell structure that was altogether different from the ones he had witnessed. The plan was to peek

at it for a few seconds and then quickly deactivate the eye skill, then he would just need to scribble down what he had seen and continue.

‘Well then, here goes nothing.’

Roland nodded to himself before placing the satchel on the workbench. There was nothing else around it besides one of the clear paper sheets and his pencil. After sitting down on a stool he steeled his resolve before activating the Runic Eye of Truth.

“Ugh...”

One of his eyes started glowing to indicate that he was using this special ability. It took about a second but soon he started noticing glowing blue runes appearing on the spatial bag that he was looking at. This as before was followed by a throbbing pain to his eye but he powered through it.

Seconds started passing and while holding his breath he continued to look at the runes before him. The structure was truly unique, it didn’t seem to resemble any elemental spell that he had seen before nor any of the illusion ones either. It looked like a totally different field of study, spatial magic.

This field of magic was already wide spread through this kingdom yet it was a lot more difficult to get into than elemental magic. It required the mage to alter the space around them and the most prominent form of this field was spatial storage.

His only contact from the magical academy would not explain much even when he asked. After more time had passed Roland started speculating that either the Professor was stingy or he didn’t know as much as he would let him believe. Now after witnessing the runic structure before him he understood that perhaps he was right in not offering him an answer.

“...”

Within a few seconds, he was already sweating bullets and forced to halt his attempt. His hands continued to work though, every runic structure was noted down along with any speculations on how it might work. Yet there was quite a bit to decipher from this, the skill was somehow translating the enchantment into runic but didn’t explain anything. Already he was seeing shapes that he had never seen before. Both at the circuitry and the software level of his knowledge.

After the peak, Roland had to lean against the workbench while taking a few minutes to rest. His head was hurting as always but it was not a level that he could not continue. He wasn’t sure if it was due to the Resilience skill but he found the pain going away somewhat sooner than before. Thus after feeling better the noting down continued until a certain point where his hand started to shake.

Finally, after the third activation, he seemed to have reached his limit. A lone droplet of blood dribbled down onto the white paper that he was writing on. It was clear that if he continued past this point he risked injuring himself greatly. Yet there was a small reward that followed after this punishing act.

You have gained a new skill, Pain Resistance L1

Pain Resistance L1

Passive Skill

Anyone possessing this skill gains a resistance to pain, this skill is affected by the willpower stat.

The moment the skill was added to his repertoire he started feeling better. With his abnormally high stats and the tier 2 multiplier, the pain resistance skill was boosted.

“Pain resistance huh?... I need to be careful with that...”

Roland grabbed a healing potion from the side along with a mana potion. While the skill seemed good it was a double-edged sword. Pain was just a mechanism through which the body showed a being where it was injured. It alerted of the presence of the problem that could potentially cause harm and without it, a person would be unable to tell before it was too late.

If his body became numb to any form of pain then he could let injuries fester. He could become unaware of an injury that he might have suffered. But it also would help him push through pain in dangerous situations thus he would need to be careful to not endanger his own body.

‘Would be nice if I could use those priest spells...’

While resting his eyes he thought back to the time he saw Sister Kassia use her healing miracles. The healing potions were somewhat inferior to the divine magic a priest could perform. They were slower working and their potency was also lower at a base level.

Buying high grade elixirs would shorten the gap but those were hard to come by in a place like this. This was why bringing a cleric for prolonged dungeon runs was always a must. While the potions would run out the healer could recharge their mana with time and offer aid for a longer period of time.

“I should probably stop for now...”

Roland mumbled while looking at the notes that he made. Even though he could only glance a couple of times he had managed to draw up partial schematics of some of the new runes. For now, he had focused on the elements that he didn't know, then later he would be able to perform some tests.

Yet he wasn't sure if he should be performing tests on spatial magic quite yet. What if he created a miniature black hole or got his limbs sucked into the warped space that these spatial spells created. This was a dangerous field of magic that had already caused some old Archmages to vanish from the face of the world.

While he wanted to continue, his body was feeling sluggish again. For the time being, he didn't receive another debuff but if he continued past this point he felt that it would appear again.

Thus he decided to postpone his spatial rune research. There were other pressing matters that he needed to attend to, one of them was the golem that he promised to construct for the lord. It would be his re-entrance into the world of auction houses and a chance for his brand to be released into the world once more.

But before that, he also had another skill that needed testing, the Runic Restructuring skill. Thus he grabbed the notes that he had made and headed towards the main workshop area. There he rummaged through the shelves to find an old gauntlet made from regular steel. It was an old product that didn't have much worth now but he could use it to test this new skill.

This gauntlet had an old rune that could produce a mana bolt from the palm area. With it, he headed towards the testing area where all of the previous ranged tests took place. Even before arriving there, he could hear sounds of spells being discharged.

“Oh hey boss, finished with your tinkering?”

It was Bernir and in his hand, he had the runic rifle. While the two girls didn't take the gun training too seriously his assistant did. He always took some time from his day to shoot up the training dummies. Regretfully he wasn't gaining any marksman related skills even due to firing this weapon daily.

“Somewhat, I just want to test something, don't mind me.”

Roland just nodded at Bernir while entering as he didn't want to bother him in his training. The old metal glove that he was wearing didn't go unnoticed but he wasn't barraged with any questions as his assistant knew that he was busy.

While Bernir was shooting up the place Roland tested out if his old creation still worked. After taking aim at a free wooden target he released a bolt of condensed mana. With his current stats, the weapon was enhanced and delivered a devastating hit to the poor wooden dummy.

It didn't go unnoticed by him that the regular steel that this glove was lined with was deteriorating fast, even more, when he increased the output. But he was not here to congratulate himself on his improvements, it was time to test his new skill.

Runic Restructuring was activated. It was a strange feeling but he needed to somewhat focus on the runic structure of the mana bolt spell. For his first try, he decided to go with something easy, shifting the mana bolt spell to something similar which would be a mana arrow.

While looking down at the glove he witnessed the skill activating. The runes started glowing in a blue light while altering themselves before his eyes. The mana drain on him wasn't that big all things considered and after about five seconds the spell had restructured itself into the new one.

He held out his hand before the target again and activated it again. This time around instead of the bolt of mana an arrow shot out. But after one shot he noticed the drop in power along with one in quality. From the highest, it went down to high along with burning through some of the material it was inscribed on.

The testing continued for a bit longer as he continued to alter between other mana styled spells. Soon enough the runic structures started deteriorating into the lowest grades and finally into something that could not be used anymore. The old glove had gone past a point where a quick skill could mend it back into its old form.

‘It's just at the first level so I expected this much, perhaps if I combined it with the Rune Mending skill it would last through more punishment. It's not that I can't change the rune structure myself but this skill allows me to do it with little to no focus it's also much faster this way...’

While Roland deliberated on the validity of using this skill in combat Bernir had completed his aiming routine. He had walked over to where his boss was standing and mumbling to himself. Soon Roland felt a tap on his shoulder that caused him to lose his train of thought.

“Hey boss, not sure if it’s the right time but I’ve finished with those golem parts that you wanted.”

“Oh? Good job.”

“Yeah, they are in the first workshop.”

It seemed that Bernir had managed to get through his durasteel smelter practice, now it was up to Roland to combine the parts into a golem that he wouldn’t feel embarrassed about.

Chapter 198: Back to work.

“Most of it looks to be in order, he is improving but there is still room for improvement.”

After practicing his new skills and taking some time to bounce back from using his new eye skill Roland was now looking over the golem parts that Bernir prepared for him. While he had not abandoned the ways of the blacksmith he somewhat preferred assembling the parts than making everything himself.

Bernir was quite skilled with his hands and had a lot of drive. It was clear that he had a chip on his shoulder and wanted to prove to the dwarves that rejected him that he could be just as good as them at crafting. His current class was Armorsmith but he was leveling up quite fast, soon he would be level hundred.

But this was not the time to worry about his assistant’s progress. He had already wasted enough time on fashioning the new smelter and running into the dungeon to get more materials. This had allowed him to level up faster but he still needed to prepare something special for the coming presentation.

The young lord seemed a bit suspicious but he was the best way of fighting back against the dwarven union. With his help they would not be able to go against him, at least not in this city. They had already wasted some profits in banning him from buying the resources that they could offer.

In reality, a more symbiotic relationship with the union would bring both parties more profits in general. Besides not earning anything from offering him base materials they were in a constant price battle with each other. This was a good thing for the adventurers that could buy cheaper magical equipment but bad for the stores and craftsmen making them.

The only reason to continue on this path was that they wanted to monopolize everything. While they could earn more by directly working with him they could get more out of it later if they managed to remove him from the chessboard. When he disappeared they could increase the prices exponentially and not one would be able to do anything about it.

“Playing the long game huh?”

Roland mumbled while placing the familiar spider golem parts on the workbench. What he was going with would be more of the same yet after going through his last class change he wasn’t sure if this would be enough. His creativity was quite generic and the number of C grades he received for his creations was staggering.

While it was clear to him that outer appearance didn’t matter that much when it concerned weapons he was still selling a product. If the golem that he created didn’t seem unique enough for the rich merchants they would probably be inclined to pay less for it.

This was not a weapon that a poor adventurer slowly saved up for, it was a premium product for the rich. His buyer base was different and he needed to think about who he was targeting this golem with. Would this be a toy a rich merchant gifted to their son or would it be something more?

He somewhat decided on this part already after giving Bernir the order to make the parts out of durasteel. This was a material that was reaching into the upper echelon of magical alloys. It could produce weapons that Gold and Platinum adventurers would use. This was in the ballpark of tier 3 which he needed to take seriously.

‘While I have to limit myself to my old design this doesn’t mean that I can’t change it...’

While some time had passed he still had enough to apply changes. This was not the time to be sloppy and he still had some leftover materials from his last dungeon run. Thus he decided to leave the completed parts here while he returned to his office to draw up some schematics.

It was somewhat a strange feeling to go through his past designs. The drawings started to lack something, he could not put his finger on it but everything started to seem bland and uninspired. Was it the effect of his new class or the skills that he picked up? He wasn’t sure but inspiration hit him hard.

The remainder of the day that he wanted to spend assembling the spider droid frame was instead spent on redrawing the golem schematics. There was much to correct and some of the parts would need to be thrown out or cut up to fit the new design he was going through.

This was not something Roland was familiar with as he found himself spending hours on the smallest details. Solutions that he didn’t previously see became quickly apparent to him as he continued to go through his old research papers. It all clicked into place and when he was giving his drawings the finishing touches he was roused from his trance by a knock on the door.

“... Are you okay?”

“Huh, what?”

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It was Elodia’s voice and it was followed by Bernir.

“See, I told you he was doing fine, it’s just a blacksmith thing.”

He could hear the two talking with each other as if there was something wrong. Then he also noticed it, the whole room that he was in was a mess. There were old torn-up schematics everywhere with the new ones pinned to the board on which he finished working on.

“I’m coming in.”

Elodia opened the door that was unlocked with a concerned look on her face. Bernir peeked from behind him with a sorry look on his face, as if he was apologizing for letting her in.

“You really need to take a break, you’ve been in this room for four days, get some sleep!”

“Huh? It has been four days?”

Roland was shocked at the revelation that he had been cooped up in this workshop office for that long. There weren't any windows here to help him tell the time and he decided to not place any clocks either. Then he had also made sure to make the walls thick enough to not let any sound in from outside as Bernir's constant hammering could get annoying.

"Look at this place, how can you work in this kind of mess? You didn't even eat the food I placed outside..."

Elodia looked at the room that was turned upside down, it seemed that the situation was serious as she never really came to the workshop. She knew that he liked to work long hours but even then he never spent this much time without coming out to see the light of day. It seemed that with his new class he really didn't feel fatigued as much and only now when they mentioned it he started feeling sleepy.

"Ah... I'm sorry I must have not heard you but I was finishing up anyway, I just need to"

"You want to continue working?"

Roland flinched a bit as he noticed the change in Elodia's voice. Her eyes narrowed while a glare appeared over her normally cute face. It seemed that if he continued with working he would probably anger this lady. It was a strange feeling to be stared down by a small woman that shouldn't pose any threat to his life but for some reason, he felt apologetic for making her worry.

"Okay, I'll do it tomorrow..."

He slowly placed the pencil on the desk next to him while Elodia followed his hand movement with her gaze. Then slowly while moving the old schematics out of the way he started going towards the exit where her and Bernir were standing.

"Ah don't worry about this, I'll organize them later."

"Sorry boss, I saw you working hard so I told the Mrs. that you were busy but I couldn't stall her for longer..."

When he was out of the room Bernir whispered into his ear. Now it all made sense why she was mad. His assistant fed her some excuses while he remained locked in his workshop. Not coming over for the usual meals that she prepared probably gave it away. The whole situation just made him smile a bit as he was not particularly mad for being disturbed.

"No that's fine but we're not ..."

The only part that he wasn't sure about was that Bernir made it seem that the two were married. It did seem like that from an outside perspective as she did spend a lot of time in his house and even cleaned it from time to time. There was not that much of a dating culture in this world and not everyone went through with a proper wedding.

"Don't need to be shy, well I'll leave you alone."

After giving Roland a hard smack to the shoulder Bernir left the workshop. When back in his home above only now did he notice that he had really worked through almost four days. The sun was already setting and even Agni served him with a hard tackle as if he didn't see him for weeks.

His previous concerns of him becoming some kind of workaholic robot were slowly starting to become true. Even though he had managed to prepare a nice schematic for his product it was not something he wanted to repeat. There was more to this life than being stuck in the workshop; a middle ground needed to be reached.

Elodia's food was quickly gobbled up by him which caused her to halt with the glaring. Their time was short spent as she forced him to take a bath. After working for that long he was beginning to smell and she clearly didn't want any part with that. Then after managing not to fall asleep in the bathtub for once he rested.

On the dawn of the next day, it was time to finish up with his drawing and organize, it was finally time to prepare the modified spider golem. It would be about the same size as the older model but it would come with some modifications and a new frame. The parts that would be reused would be the legs and some of the inner components but the main chassis needed an overhaul.

"So, this part is going to be the abdomen and this is going to be the thorax."

Back in the office, he had Bernir and his wife follow the new plan. The previous spider drones were made out of a single part and more egg-shaped while this new one would be a double part. While making it composed of more parts would lower the golem's structure integrity it would add some other features.

"Back to the drawing board, I see, well what are we waiting for then, let's get to work!"

Bernir didn't seem perturbed by the idea of working more. The main reason was probably that he was grinding those levels and the more he worked on the smelter the faster he would hit that threshold. His larger-than-life wife was also very interested in the new design, not many craftsmen had the pleasure of working on magical golems as they did.

So they did, everyone followed the drawn out schematics that Roland had created. All of the parts that were needed had a separate page along with the dimensions that needed to be kept. Roland was still a proper Blacksmith, while he had less experience than these two he did not trail behind by that much. Having high stats was also on his side as both of them could only dream about having the amount of dexterity to aid them in their craft.

The process was slow and cumbersome. Some of the runic repairs that he performed had to be postponed while he tried to reach the deadline created by the lord named Arthur. Perhaps he was trying too hard for his first real auction reveal but he wanted to leave a lasting impression.

If he failed there was a possibility that the lordling could decide to pull back his aid and Elodia would be left out to dry as well. If the lord deemed it so he could instantly remove her from that building that was apparently breaking some old laws that no one really followed.

This time around he made sure to take some breaks, the eight-hour working limit that he placed on his workers was somewhat ignored to a point. Bernir and his wife had no problem working ten or twelve hours a day as they knew what was at stake. With the increase of stats, it was possible for them to power through more without the mental and physical stress being overwhelming for their bodies.

But even if that was the case Roland was apprehensive about making them work for that long as he did not want to repeat what his old boss did to him. So when the ten-hour mark was reached he made sure to kick the both of them out.

The days started passing and the new forge along with the new smelter had gone through a rough period. Luckily it did not break and the runic structures didn't deteriorate even after many hours of work. The difference in material was apparent as this new equipment would last him for years to come.

Finally, after weeks of rigorous crafting, all the required parts were produced. Assembling them together came soon after but after the extensive practice Roland gained during his class change quest this didn't prove that difficult.

The spider droid 'Head' was connected to the thorax and it was circular in nature. On this somewhat flat head he placed three golem eyes that would work as the main cameras. The head could slide around the circular axis it was placed on. Thanks to this solution even if one of the small eyes was damaged the golem would still be able to compensate.

The abdomen that it had behind its head made it look like a proper spider. It was a bit taller than the head part at the front and could also open up as it was meant to function as a storage. Inside would be enough space for a spatial bag and a few replacement parts. Then in the front below the head came the most difficult component to manage, two smaller looking robotic arms that had multiple uses.

"Well then... now I just need to revamp the whole operating system of this thing..."

He had spent designing this for some days and made sure that the whole construction was structurally sound. The hardest part was the weight distribution as the abdomen was a bit bulkier than the head part. But with the two multipurpose appendages on the front, he managed to equal it out.

While the exterior of the golem was mostly in order now came the tough part. He needed to connect everything to the golem core. Instead of his own batteries, he went for a more traditional solution with a compartment for mana fluid.

"This might take a while..."

It might have seemed that he only needed to push the on switch and everything would be finished but this was far from over. All the new armaments needed to be tested, if the golem ended up shooting someone at the auction house it would be his head that was on the line. Probably another month of work was waiting for him which would cut it close to the previous agreement that he had with the young lord.

Thus he almost barricaded himself in his own workshop for the remainder of the day that he had. This time he was sure to inform Elodia that he would be working for longer than usual. Only after promising her that he would take a longer break after the auction house visit was finished did she relent.

He did not forget to slowly draw up the spatial rune from the small satchel he found in the dungeon. With each headache, he was getting closer to something that would allow him to slim down some of the current creations. Soon the days were passing rapidly and the moment of truth was upon him, it was time to show his newly gained creation to the masses.