

# GAMER GUIDE

## Hades 2 Edition

Step into the stylish boots of Melinoë and dominate the Underworld.





# WHAT IS HADES 2?



After more than a year in Early Access, developer Supergiant Games unleashed Hades 2 on 25 September 2025 for PC, Nintendo Switch 1 & 2. The highly anticipated follow-up to the critically acclaimed rogue-like hit all the right notes, becoming an instant classic by building upon what made the original so good in the first place.

At its core, Hades 2 is a rogue-like dungeon crawler, boasting endless replayability due to the procedurally generated battlefields, where every single run is unique and engaging.

Stepping into the stylish boots of Melinoe, the immortal Princess of the Underworld, Hades 2 tasks players with vanquishing the forces of the Titan of Time, Chronos. It's a game seeped in fantastical mythos, featuring gods old and new, ghosts, and monsters aplenty.

A dramatic, expanding story will keep you entertained throughout, while the rogue-like dungeon crawling experience is both enjoyable and challenging. No two runs are ever alike, as Hades 2 challenges players to adapt and overcome. You'll perish over and over again, and get stronger with each run.

Our Hades 2 Gamer Guide doesn't hold your hand, but instead, assists players in getting the most out of the fantastic experience from Supergiant Games, focusing on gameplay aspects that must be mastered, and beginner's tips to set yourself up for success.



# EXPLORE THE UNDERWORLD AND BEYOND

In Hades 2, players start in the Underworld and later, the heavens above, using sorcery to slay their foes and overcome many obstacles. This time around, you are controlling Melinoë, Zagreus's sister, intending to slay Chronos.

While going into more detail might spoil the story, just know that you'll meet dozens of divine characters along the way. There are many secrets to discover, and tidbits of interesting information around each corner.

The world of Hades 2 is vast and expanding, increasing to infinity thanks to procedurally-generated areas. You'll start in Erebus and venture through the Underworld's Oceanus, Mourning Fields, and more.

Each region offers new challenges, enemies, and bosses (Guardians), side quests, allies and native resources. Keep a close eye on ally encounters, from NPCs to animal Familiars.

Pro tip: If a region is too harsh, there's no shame in going on several farming runs to increase your strength before tempting the game's toughest challenges





# BEST GODS OF HADES 2

In Hades 2, the divine characters, aka gods, are the most impactful component of any run. Nearly every run will begin with players equipping a god's Keepsake (more on these later), thereby choosing their desired core Boon.

Curses and Boons are so potent in Hades 2 that they are more critical than your Nocturnal Arms (weapons). Choosing the best gods for your runs is therefore of the utmost importance, leading to changes in core gameplay. Some gods work well with all character builds, while others have unique Boons built for specific situations, so choose wisely!

While the best gods in Hades 2 might change slightly over time, we've picked our top five suggestions to try.

## ZEUS

The god of gods, Zeus, is our top pick in Hades 2. His many Boons increase players' raw power and speed and work well with any weapons. Our favourite, however, is Shocking Loss, allowing players to clear rooms in most regions 25% faster. Don't miss out on the Blitz ability either, which generates incredible single-target damage to take down bosses with ease.

## HERA

If you are looking for high offensive capability and scaling, look no further than Hera. This powerful god provides one of the most substantial damage percentage boosts in the game, perfect for scaling up high into the endgame. Hera's Curse, Hitch, will blow enemies away, with 30% of damage dealt also inflicted to other enemies, creating a chain reaction. Hera is the god of choice for area-of-effect (AOE) damage.

## APOLLO

The God of Light is not to be trifled with, with some of the best complete Hades 2 builds centring around Omega Cast. This mechanic adds light-based damage and tonnes of synergies, allowing for explosive damage and fast Magick regeneration. Pair Apollo with the Aspect of Charon, and thank us later!

## PRO TIP:

Always be on the lookout for balance changes to Gods and their Boons/Curses from developer Supergiant Games, and adjust your picks accordingly.



# BEST KEEPSAKES IN HADES 2

In Hades 2, Keepsakes are one of the core mechanics that stay with the player from run to run. For smooth early progression, players must collect as many Keepsakes as possible.

These items provide passive skills when equipped, and you get them by giving Nectar to NPCs. Equip a Keepsake by accessing the crystal case next to the Silver Pool to get started. To get off to a solid start in Hades 2, we recommend first giving Nectar to Dora (Listless Shade) to get the Ghost Onion Keepsake for an early boost to self-sustaining healing.

We also recommend getting your hands on the Gold Purse from Charon, allowing you to start a run with 200 Gold Crowns, which enables the ability to purchase a nice critical item from Charon at the start of each run, such as an upgrade or rare Boon.





# BEST KEEPSAKES IN HADES 2

## ENDGAME SURVIVAL KEEPSAKES

In the final regions of Hades 2, you'll want to have the best Keepsakes that will help you survive the deadly enemies and bosses. Three stand out above the rest.

### **Lucky Tooth (Schelemeus):**

Gives an extra Death Defiance, which is crucial when fighting one of the final bosses for the first time. Lucky Tooth often replaces Ghost Onion for many players.

### **Evil Eye (Nemesis):**

While this Keepsake is situational, it helps immensely when you are stuck against a mighty foe. The Evil Eye applies a debuff to the last enemy that killed you, including bosses. This debuff allows you to deal +20/25/30/40% damage.

### **Knuckle Bones (Odysseus):**

If you are looking for extra damage mitigation from bosses and facing a strong foe, then Knuckle Bones is the Keepsake of choice. Using Knuckle Bones means the next Guardian you face loses 5/10/15/25% health, and you take 10% less damage from all Guardians.

## PRO TIP:

Give Nectar to as many NPCs as possible and unlock a bunch of Keepsakes. These are, after all, permanent additions to your arsenal, so experiment to find the perfect fit.



# BEST WEAPON ASPECTS

A critical factor in Hades 2 is your Nocturnal Arms (weapons), which are bolstered by Aspects. These Aspects fundamentally change your playstyle and Melinoe's ability to scale, dealing increased damage and dispatching of foes in the underworld. Check out the top three Aspects in Hades 2.

## **Aspect of Medea (Argent Skull):**

After fully upgrading the Aspect of Medea, you get a massive 90% damage boost to both Specials and regular attacks. It's perfect for high-speed playstyles thanks to a Dash/Special combo, but its ability lacks invulnerability frames. This weapon Aspect is perfect for those who've mastered the basics of combat in Hades 2 and is regularly used in speedruns to break records.

## **Aspect of Circe (Witch's Staff):**

As the name might suggest, the Aspect of Circe is the perfect choice for spellcasting builds. Thanks to its powerful Double Cast and Psychic Leash, you can deal non-stop damage. Use with Boons such as Smolder Ring or Storm Ring for the best effect, and clear waves of enemies in seconds.

## **Aspect of Melinoe (Witch's Staff):**

Our second pick for the Witch's Staff (your starter weapon) is Aspect of Melinoe, thanks to its high versatility and highly effective bonus, and extraordinary power. Combine this Aspect with Sworn Flourish for a percentage-based damage boost, or with Heavenly Strike for those massive hits to take down Guardians.

After you've forged the first four Nocturnal Arms, the Aspects of Night and Darkness Incantation is unlocked at the Cauldron. Don't forget to upgrade your Aspects!

## **PRO TIP:**

There are hidden Aspects of each weapon that you can unlock by using rare endgame materials and following conversations with specific NPCs after reaching upgrade level 5.



# BUILD YOUR ARCANA CARD DECK

Arcana Cards is another primary permanent power source for Melinoe to leverage. It's an essential part of pre-run strategy building, akin to that of Keepsakes or unlocking Aspects. Players can build their Arcana Card decks, unlocking and then choosing from dozens of options.

Arcana Cards are arguably the most substantial permanent source of character progression and power spikes. Use Ashes to unlock/upgrade cards, and Psyche to increase your Grasp capacity, which allows you to equip more cards.

We've got four suggestions that we've found to be essential to success in Hades 2.

## **The Sorceress (I):**

Costing only one (1) Grasp, this card provides a base 20% increase to Melinoe's Omega channel speed. It is considered mandatory for 99% of all run attempts, as it drastically reduces the vulnerability window and increases the overall DPS of Magick-focused Aspects.

## **Swift Runner (XI):**

Also costing just one (1) Grasp, this card increases Melinoe's Sprint speed and enables the crucial mechanical ability to dash through larger enemies and Guardians. This is essential for mobility, positioning, and safety in high-density fights.





# BUILD YOUR ARCANA CARD DECK

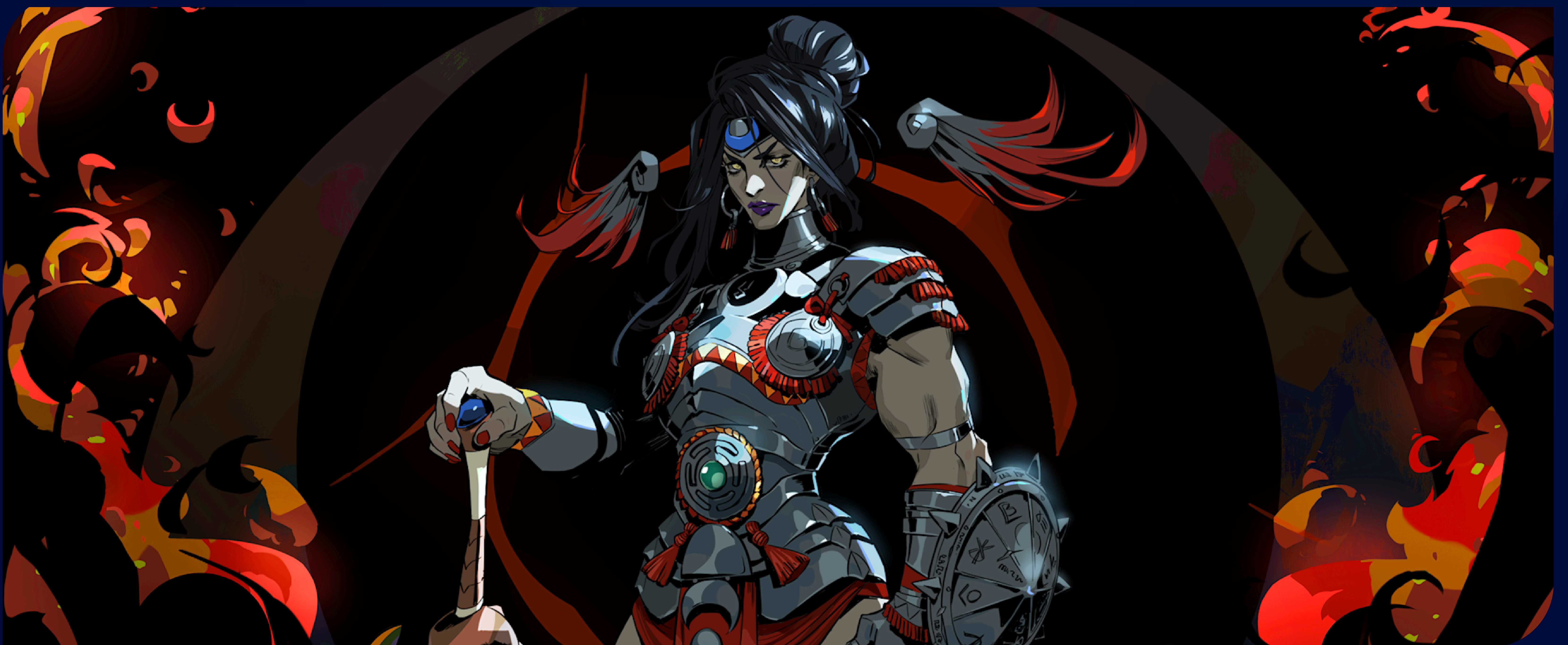
## **Persistence (VII):**

A low two (2) Grasp cost. It provides significant increases to base Max HP, which, when at max ranked, can more than double Melinoe's starting health pool. This dramatically improves the effectiveness of all healing sources and Death Defiance refills, creating a highly durable build foundation.

## **Death (XII):**

The single most fantastic survival tool in Hades 2. It provides three Death Defiances, which can be refilled via various means in the Underworld. The Arcana Card is the ultimate insurance policy for Guardian encounters.

Try as many Arcana Cards and combinations as possible. Honourable mentions go to The Furies (VI), The Wayward Son (II), and Origination (XIV).





# THE VALUE OF HEXES



May Selene's moonlight guide your way!

Hexes are incredibly powerful and unique Boons offered by the Moon Goddess, Selene. These powerful Boons function separately from your god pool choices, and charge up as you spend Magick in combat.

There are dozens of Hexes to choose from, with unique Path of Stars upgrade trees and Magick costs.

## BEST DEFENSIVE HEXES

If you want to bolster your defences or enable more crowd control mechanics that regularly outweigh pure damage output, we've got two suggestions for the best Hexes to pick.

### **Wolf Howl (80 Magick):**

Ranked S-Tier because its primary value lies in its extensive invulnerability frames and fast charge time. With a low 80 Magick cost, it functions as a highly accessible defensive clutch, allowing Melinoe to bypass incoming lethal damage and reposition, while still dealing substantial damage on the resulting slam. Choose the Tenacity upgrade for a temporary armour increase.

### **Phase Shift (150 Magick):**

This relatively high-cost Hex slows all enemies, including Guardians and bosses. Phase Shift is an invaluable tool for creating crucial windows of opportunity—for repositioning, safe Omega channelling, or executing complex combos against fast, high-damage, deadly enemies.



# THE VALUE OF HEXES

## BEST DEADLY OFFENSIVE HEXES

There are some incredible Hexes that allow for massive damage output while spending large amounts of Magick. While these are risky choices, requiring channelling, using them can destroy nearly any enemies with relative ease.

### **Lunar Ray (120 Magick):**

Fires a powerful, continuous laser beam, but Melinoe is locked in place while firing. High-investment builds can make Lunar Ray exceptionally powerful, achieving constant shielding and high damage, but only if channelling time is consistently reduced via Path of Star upgrades. An alternative is to use Hermes's Boons to reduce channelling time further.

### **Total Eclipse (200 Magick):**

This is the highest Magick cost Hex in all of Hades 2, which unleashes a massive, delayed attack. Total Eclipse boasts high maximum Scorch damage (up to 999) but is limited by its high cost and the requirement that the target remain within the AOE for the full four-second duration to maximise damage.





# FAMILIARS: YOUR UNDERWORLD COMPANIONS

As you progress through the sprawling world of Hades 2, you will come across and ultimately unlock Familiars. These are loyal, beastly assistance that accompany Melinoe on her travels.

Familiars boast various unique abilities both in and out of combat. The only caveat is that you can only bring along one Familiar per run. There are a total of five Familiars to unlock in Hades 2.

- Frinos, the Toad
- Toula, the Cat
- Raki, the Raven
- Hecuba, the Hound
- Gale, the Polecat.

Frinos is the first Familiar you'll meet in Hades 2, found at the spawn point in the Crossroads. Frinos, the Toad, is also considered one of the best in the game, due to its gathering abilities and the fact that Frinos provides you with an extra 40 starting max health. That's a big deal early on in Hades 2.

To unlock the Familiar system in Hades 2, you must perform the Faith of Familiar Spirits Incantation at Hecate's Cauldron. From here, Melinoe can bond further with her little beastly helpers, offering them Witch's Delight to strengthen the bond. This will improve your Familiar's rank, thereby increasing its passive effects.



# BEGINNER TIPS TO THRIVE IN HADES 2

A Gamer Guide to Hades 2 wouldn't be complete without some beginner's tips to put you on the right path. We've already provided you with an overview of the core mechanics and upgrades, but now it's time to bring it all together.

## **Come to terms with death**

Melinoe is an immortal, which means she can overcome death an infinite number of times in Hades 2 and still respawn, ready to jump straight back into the fight. The first aspect of gameplay that beginners must come to terms with is the reality that, no matter your skill level, you'll die over and over again in Hades 2. With each run, however, you get strong and stronger, which brings us to the next tip.

## **Farm for permanent upgrades**

The more you farm for permanent upgrades, the easier your next run will be. We recommend gathering as many significant resources as possible. Specifically, focus on Ashes and Psyche. Ashes unlock Arcana Cards, and Psyche increases the Grasp capacity to equip the Arcana Cards, which is the most considerable boost you can give Melinoe.

## **Master Melinoe's movement flow**

Practice makes perfect! As a top tip for beginners, we suggest practising until you've mastered the unique movement aspects of Melinoe, which is quite different from the protagonist in the original game. Melinoe's dash is slightly slower than Zagreus's and is imperative to avoid enemy attacks.

Furthermore, learn to integrate Omega Moves (charged attacks) into your hacking and slashing. While Melinoe is vulnerable while channelling these powerful attacks, a well-timed Omega Move can make all the difference.



# BEGINNER TIPS TO THRIVE IN HADES 2

## **Get those Keepsakes early**

The best way to survive the Underworld is to build relationships with NPCs and collect their Keepsakes. We recommend that beginners give Nectar to every single new NPC they meet to unlock the corresponding Keepsake. Prioritise the Ghost Onion Keepsake for healing by giving a Nectar to Dora, which will significantly increase your sustainability in runs.

## **Enjoy the relaxing side activities**

Hades 2 might be a very intense rogue-like experience that will challenge you to no end, but that doesn't mean you can't take a breather and enjoy some relaxing side activities. We suggest picking up a Rod of Fishing and heading to a body of "water" in the Underworld to relax, or taking up gardening with the Silver Spade, digging up plant seeds in the process.

*This comprehensive Gamer Guide to Hades 2 should set you off on the right path in the Underworld. Good luck, and most importantly, have fun!*







# THANK YOU

The best page