

As it is quite clear that a u is a much more negative and derisive letter than an e, the spelling with the u should apply to the latter while the spelling with the e should apply to the former. Your future adherence to this policy will be greatly appreciated.

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PASSAGE DEFINITION by Spelunger

Each cavern of the deep, dark underworld has a personality all its own. "Ya seen one, ya seen'em all," doesn't hold. Cavers have long tried to express, record and possess the feeling a cave gives. Pictures and maps are probably the best way to "visit" a cave without being there. What does your cave map look like--a road map? How many caves have smooth level walks with regular, predictable intersections, devoid of any interesting features? Caves are not bland and their maps should not be. For this reason, line or parallel line maps are not adequate when trying to convey a cave.

Scale The first and most important decision you will make is the scale of your map. This is determined by the amount of cave to be displayed. Reproduction processes normally available to the caver usually limit the maximum size of a map to 24"x36" for blacklines and 36"x144" for blue-lines. Realistically, larger maps cannot be easily stored or handled. Working maps are usually drawn 50'=1" and sometimes smaller (10'=1") if detail warrants. I have cave maps as small as 1 mile=1" and as large as 0.1'=1" (used to show a beetle's "cave" within a cave.)

Remember this essential point; the scale of your map is the limiting

factor on the detail and complexity you can show. One cannot adequately show Grand Central Station (Sloan's Valley) on less than a 20'=1" map if any significant detail is desired.

Entrances Now, where do you start? The entrance is the most logical place. But where? Many times solution channels are exposed along cliff faces but these are not surveyed as caves, except in very unusual circumstances. If a cave is an underground cavity caused by or as a result of any natural solutioning or abrasive process, then these solution channels, when covered by earth (non-organic), can be defined as a cave. A further clarification is added if one limits a map to those portions of a cave behind the dripline. Usually, the drip line is short, will provide a good reference point, and will not over-exaggerate the size of the entrance.

Vertical drop entrances are easily handled by showing a double line around the entrance with blacked in "teeth" (triangles) pointed inward. The size of the pit is usually determined by either the point where the drop becomes completely vertical or the contact line between dirt and bed-rock.

Walls Where does one draw the walls of a cave? Should that little undercut be shown? Caves (limestone) are formed in part by the forces of solutional development. If the space is visible to the eye, then it belongs on the map, whether or not one is physically able to go there. Remember, you can see through air, and sometimes water to the limits of the wall, but not through mud, breakdown or debris choke. Show only what can be seen, not what you want to be seen.

The solid wall line only pertains to surveyed passage. If the passage continues as a tight canyon, use dashed lines to represent the walls to the extent you can see. Unsurveyed come-arounds can also be shown in this manner.

Passage which is passable but unsurveyed is usually noted by a question mark, as it will be surveyed later. Sometimes it helps to cross hatch a pillar on the center of a comearound to add clarity.

A passage which crosses below another causes no real problem. A series of unconnected dots always represents the lower level. This dotted line should extend at least two dots past the wall line of the upper passage. This eliminates any confusion as to whether the passages interconnect. If they do, the wall lines touch each other.

Shafts Vertical passages, commonly called shafts, come in three basic variations; pits, domes and domepits. These shafts must be included on a map as they represent interconnection between various levels and are a significant feature of passage development.

Pits are depressions below the

main level of the passage caused primarily by the action of water finding access to a lower level. This can be shown by drawing a line around the pit opening (a line represents a vertical wall) and some short dashes touching the line and pointing toward the center. A dome, which is a hole in the ceiling caused by water breaking into the survey level, is similarly handled. This time the dashes are outside the line and radiating away from the center.

Domepits are handled by drawing dashes through the line representing the vertical passage. This means that the vertical shaft not only extends above, but also below the level of the surveyed passage.

TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES!!!!

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS!!!!

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