

Building an End-Game LI from Scratch

You're almost to Level 100 with your character! Time to start preparing a great customized LI. Fair warning: building and managing your end-game LI is quite different from how you've managed LIs while leveling up.

This is a step-by-step guide to build a LI from scratch. It's not complete, especially regarding imbueement. For more details on imbueement, check [Dadi's guide](#) or [this page in Lotro-wiki](#).

Imbue or not to imbue?

An imbued item has far more potential than a non-imbued one in the long term. So it's not really a choice. However, you can't rush in and imbue a legendary item with no preparation and expect it to be a great LI. You need some preparation.

Important: Read the section on Imbueement *before* imbuing your LI.

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Anatomy of an imbued LI

Characteristics identical to a classical LI are not defined again.

1: The Overall Progress of your LI

Contrary to a classical LI, an imbued LI is not limited to 60 or 70 levels. More levels can be unlocked using star-lit crystals and scrolls of empowerment. There is still a hard cap, but even this might be increased in a future release. The idea is that the LI grows with your character.

Level and legacies are advanced directly by the iXP earned by the LI. There are no points to earn and spend.

Here 238 legacies tiers have been unlocked, and 236 tiers have been completed through iXP.



2: The Main Legacy

Upon imbuelement, the main legacy cap (soft cap, generally 21) will depend on the age of the weapon, the points spent in the legacy pre-imbuelement, and the star-lit crystals and Scrolls of Delving already used. You can further increase the cap using star-lit crystals (but not scroll of empowerment, up to 25 (hard cap at update 16, might be increased in a future release).

Here the hard cap of 25 for main legacy is reached, and therefore the xp bar is gold.

3: Secondary Legacy's Current Level

The level of a legacy depends on the iXP gathered by the item. iXP is equally shared among all legacies -- you don't get to choose which legacy gets iXP. (No points to spend, so no tiers as exist in classical LIs.)

After imbuelement, every secondary legacy will be at only level 1. This is why you need a lot of iXP runes to get it back at its previous level (pre-imbuelement strength).

Here the legacy is at level 29 and can still be improved using only iXP since its cap is currently 31.

4: Secondary Legacy Level Cap

Upon imbuelement, the secondary legacy cap will depend on the pre-imbuelement legacy tiers, the star-lit crystals and scroll of Delving already used.

After imbuelement, the cap can be further increased with scrolls of empowerment (or Mithril coins), up to a max cap of 35.

For this particular legacy, the cap of 31 is not reached, so its bar shows a blue progress bar. For all the other secondary legacies on this weapon, the xp bar is silver. Silver indicates that the current cap is reached, but not the max cap. More levels can be unlocked, to the max cap of 35.

Preparing a LI for imbuelement:

1. Obtain a First Age (FA) legendary item

You can do so by:

- . crafting it yourself if you are the appropriate guilded profession. For example, a guilded tailor can craft FA burglar tools, a guilded woodworker can make a FA lore-master staff, and so on.
- . asking a kinnie to craft it for you. However, the materials needed are expensive or difficult to obtain, so you need to provide them to the kinnie (a special symbol, emerald shards, and possibly other materials).
- . buying it at the AH, which is very expensive to do.

NB: Second Age (SA) and Third Age (TA) items can now reach the same level as FA items, but at a greater cost of crystals, scrolls and iXP.

2. Decide which 6 to 7 legacies you want.

Consult this thread to see which legacies are available for your weapon and class item.

Make sure to consider how the legacies will change upon imbuelement. Ask other players from your class for info about the new imbued legacies and what they are worth.

3. Identify, slot and level up your FA LI *only* to 30.

You will find out what are the item's six "native" legacies. As you level the item to 30, select the legacies you want from those proposed when reforging your LI at level 10, 20 and 30.

4. Replace native legacies you don't want with those you want.

In doing so now, you'll be able to upgrade the right legacies during the reforging process at level 40, 50, 60 and 70. This will save scrolls of empowerment. Otherwise, you might have to choose between 2 legacies you don't want.

To obtain desired legacies, you can:

- purchase them in the lotro store.
- barter statistics legacy such as Vitality, Might, Will or Fate for shards in the relics forging panel (not the best use of shards).
- slot TA items of the same level as your end-game LI (Level 100) or 5 levels below (down to Level 95), gather or apply iXP and reforge them up to level 30 (so you have 6 legacies to choose from, it's also the minimum level to be able to extract a legacy). Once at level 30, deconstruct to extract the legacy you want.

You can also buy a crystal of remembrance to add a seventh major legacy. It's better to do this now, as the tier of the 7th legacy will benefit from the upgrades described below. But if you don't have the specific legacy you want, it might be easier to postpone it until after imbuelement. You'll then get to choose directly among all possible legacies. You will have to

use more scrolls of empowerment to get it at the same tier level as the other legacies. You get scrolls of imbued legacy replacement from quests in Eastern Gondor.

5. Level up the FA LI to 70, using iXP runes and a Scroll of Delving.

Level normally with questing ixp, or speed the process by bartering for large runes from the skirmish camp, or from npc vendors (e.g., DA relics vendor).

At level 40, 50, 60 and 70, you'll be able to choose a legacy to upgrade. The upgrade is an increase of this legacy tier (you'll need to spend less points in this legacy to increase its ranks).

Upgrading a legacy is the same as increasing the legacy tier. Apart from the reforging process, it can be done with scrolls of empowerment.

The following steps can be done either before or after imbuelement, however the cost to level up legacies with scrolls will be higher post-imbuelement.

6. Upgrade the main LI stats using star-lit crystals.

You can use 3 star-lit crystals before imbuelement. Post-imbuelement, there's currently a limit of 25 for the main legacy (DPS, for example, or tactical damage rating for a LM staff). The star-lit crystals applied pre-imbuelement only will also increase the passive stats of 2-handed weapons for example.

7. Max out the legacies' tiers.

You need scrolls of empowerment to do so, available at skirmish camps or lotro store, and some reputation vendors. Make sure you have at least one legacy at maximum of 5 at time of the reforging at 70, to take advantage of a "free" tier upgrade.

NB: you can perform these upgrades with Mithril coins directly on the LI panel for imbued items. Also, during the epic quest line of Eastern Gondor, two scrolls are given as quest rewards. The epic may be run before the regional quests, to obtain the scrolls faster.

8. Choose the best relics for you.

- . The best relics for you depend on your array of stats, which reflect your virtues, jewelry, and your armour.
- . Some lower level special relics (Easternnet or Wildermore) have multiple stats, and therefore might be more beneficial than level 10 relics. However, special relics can be very expensive to meld (for example, requiring 11,000 shards and 3-4 relics of the same level).
- . Specific high-end relics, or relic bundles, are also available in lotro store.

9. Apply a title to add damage and/or protection.

- . Titles come as quest rewards, or from a barter vendor.
- . Once again, end-game titles might not always be the best. For champions, for example, they increase only secondary stats. A title available from Wildermore increases might.

Imbuement

This part is essential to read before imbuing an item.

On imbuement, make sure all points are distributed, especially max out the main stat legacy. This will have an impact on the main legacy level after imbuement.

Warning: After imbuement, only your main legacy will retain some item XP. The secondary legacies will start at level 1, far below their pre-imbued levels. So you need to have accumulated a number of iXP runes to apply to your imbued item immediately, if you want to obtain at least the same power as before.

Immediately after imbuement, you can still replace or add a legacy, but it will come at a lower tier level. However, it's important to do it before applying the following steps.

NB: iXP will be equally distributed through all legacies that have not yet reached their cap. Unlocking legacy tiers selectively is the only way to manage the way the iXP is spent.

1. Increase the potential of your LI

Increase the level cap of all or specific legacies.

- Apply star-lit crystals to increase the main legacy and
- scrolls of empowerments to increase the level cap of a specific secondary legacy (not the main one).

2. Power up your LI with iXP runes

Apply iXP rune to level up your legacies, at least until you reach the level you had pre-imbuement.

Be careful to open up enough legacy tiers before using large iXP runes, otherwise, if all legacies reach their max, all supplementary iXP will be wasted.

The amount of iXP you need to reach pre-imbuement levels is highly variable.

As a rule of thumb : for a FA age item fully upgraded before imbuement, you will need about 8 million XP to max out the legacies, at their post-imbuement level cap (no crystal or scrolls used post-imbuement). Your item will then be more powerful than pre-imbuement.

Once all these steps are done, you won't need to buy scrolls or spend mithril coins to max out your item, as it should already be more powerful than your non-imbued item. You can then work on improving it through your normal play, gathering iXP, marks and medallions for scrolls, TP for crystals, etc.

Remember to consult lotro-wiki.com and kinnies for more information, as LIs are complex creatures.