Final Fantasy VII Low Level No Materia FAQ/Walkthrough

by GarlandG

* 3.3 <> Cosmo Canyon

Updated to v3.0 on Apr 12, 2007

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- Important	Stuff 				Boss	& Battle List
1.1 <> Copy	right				в02:	Guard Scorpion
					в03:	Smogger x2
1.2 <> Intro	O				B06:	Air Buster
					B07:	Aps
	na Info					F.
1.3 <> Gamin	119 11110				B08:	
						Mighty Grunt x3
		EXP Guide			B09: B10:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:HO512
		EXP Guide			B09: B10:	Mighty Grunt x3
1.4 <> Battl	le Plan & E	EXP Guide			B09: B10: B11: B12:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner
1.4 <> Battl	le Plan & E	EXP Guide			B09: B10: B11: B12: B13:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus
1.4 <> Battle	le Plan & E gh: Midgar				B09: B10: B11: B12: B13: B14:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus Motor Ball
1.4 <> Battle	le Plan & E gh: Midgar				B09: B10: B11: B12: B13: B14: B15:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus Motor Ball Bottomswell
1.4 <> Battle - Walkthrough	le Plan & E gh: Midgar First Missi	.on			B09: B10: B11: B12: B13: B14: B15: B16:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus Motor Ball Bottomswell Jenova-BIRTH
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- Walkthrough	le Plan & E gh: Midgar First Missi Second Miss	on			B09: B10: B11: B12: B13: B14: B15: B16: B17: B18: B20:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus Motor Ball Bottomswell Jenova-BIRTH Dyne Stinger Gi Nattak
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- Walkthroug 2.1 <> The I 2.2 <> The S 2.3 <> Back	le Plan & Egh: Midgar First Missi Second Miss	on			B09: B10: B11: B12: B13: B14: B15: B16: B17: B18: B20: B21: B22: B23:	Mighty Grunt x3 Sample:H0512 Hundred Gunner Heli Gunner Rufus Motor Ball Bottomswell Jenova-BIRTH Dyne Stinger Gi Nattak Materia Keeper Palmer Foulander x2
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B39: Jenova-DEATH

- * 3.4 <> Nibelheim & Rocket Town
- * 3.5 <> Wutai & Gold Saucer Area
- * 3.6 <> The Temple Of Ancients
- * 3.7 <> Searching For Aerith
- 4 Walkthrough: Disc Two & Three

- * 4.1 <> Adventures In The Snow
- * 4.2 <> The Time Without Cloud
- * 4.3 <> Junon Underwater Reactor
- * 4.4 <> Rocket Town & More
- * 4.5 <> Yuffie, Diamond Weapon & Wutai
- * 4.6 <> Return To Midgar
- * 4.7 <> The Northern Crater
- * 4.8 <> The Final Battles
- 5 Additional Info

- * 5.1 <> Challenge Suggestions
- * 5.2 <> Contacting Me
- * 5.3 <> Version History
- * 5.4 <> Credits
- * 5.5 <> Final Words

- B40: Attack Squad x2
- B41: Ultimate Weapon
- B42: Submarine Crew x2
- B44: Submarine Crew
- B46: Undewater MP x2
- B47: Carry Armor
- B50: Submarine Crew x3
- B53: Senior Grunt & Attack S.
- B54: Rude & Attack Squads
- B55: Senior Grunt
- B56: Yuffie aka Mystery Ninja
- B57: Diamond Weapon
- B59: Attack Squad x3
- B60: Rapps
- B61: Proud Clod
- B62: Hojo
- B63: Hellectic Hojo
- B64: Lifeform Hojo NA
- B65: Mover x3
- B67: Jenova-SYNTHESIS
- B68: Bizarro Sephiroth
- B69: Safer-Sephiroth

1 - Important Stuff ______

I know that a lot of people skip this part, but do yourself a favour and read it. I strongly encourage you to do so, because you will find tons of very important info here and questions you might have will most likely be answered.

1.1 <> Copyright

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consider it an ethic violation and breaking of moral. It also shows lack of respect for other people's work. And most importantly, don't forget that copyright violations are illegal and you might come in conflict with the law.

All of this guide is my work and all the strategies have been made up by me, based on my own experiences when playing the game. The only other source of information I have used in the process of making this guide is Terence's Enemy Mechanics FAQ, something he is given credit for in the credits section. I have also received helpful tips from other people that made some strategies easier, but credit has, of course, been given.

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1.2 <> Intro

Low Level No Materia is a challenge for the more advanced players. If you have already beaten a regular Low Level Challenge and want something harder, this is the challenge for you. It's nowhere near the most difficult challenges out there, but more than enough for a regular player. It's recommended to have completed a regular Low Level challenge before you attempt this, but you can also start here if you want to. That'll make the challenge a lot tougher, but maybe that's what you want? But now, let's take a look at the rules.

- LL You may never exceed level 28 at any point during the game. If a character should reach level 29, you have failed at maintaining the lowest level.
- NM Any use of Materia is strictly prohibited, and you may never have Materia equipped in battle unless the game forces you to.

You should know the game pretty well if you want to take on this challenge; you should know where to go and what to do in order to proceed with the story, so you won't find a detailed walkthrough in this guide. That's what the regular walkthroughs are for. What you will find is the necessary info you will need in order to complete this challenge, like boss strategies, lists over items to pick up, buy and sell and other important things. The walkthrough part is divided into areas and for each new area you will find a complete list of items you must pick up here. Most of them are easy to find and you should know where they are, but I will give you a clue in cases where they are hidden or difficult to find, so don't worry about that.

Some times you may wonder why we're using a certain party for a certain fight. I'm fully aware that we're not using the optimal party in some cases, but in a lowest level game, we can't just use the characters we want to all the time. To make sure no one exceeds level 28, we have to swap back and forth between the characters and make sure they all receive less EXP than what's required for level 29. Simply put: You need a battle plan. The battle plan lists all the boss battles, forced battles and other battles you have to fight and win

throughout the challenge, like battles to obtain crucial items. It's not an easy task to create a battle plan, but you don't have to worry about that, as I have already made one for you. Jump down to section 1.4 and you'll find it.

1.3 <> Gaming Info

THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT, AND I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO READ AND UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE YOU START PLAYING YOU WILL FIND THE MOST IMPORTANT INFO

UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE YOU START PLAYING. YOU WILL FIND THE MOST IMPORTANT INFO YOU NEED IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME HERE, SO YOU HAVE tO READ IT, NO MATTER WHAT.

Rules

- * LLNM is the golden rule for this challenge, and the two parts of it are explained above. Break any of the rules and you have failed the challenge.
- * No Materia means No Materia. As I said above, you may not equip materia at any point in the game. You may not equip materia to boost stats and you may not have materia equipped in battle to gain AP and then sell them for a higher profit. There are only two exceptions where you are forced to have materia equipped in battle, and these will be explained below.
- * You're allowed to sell materia. Many people say you shouldn't because it's a No Materia Challenge, but I disagree. I get the point though, but I'll stick to my opinion and allow it.

Exceptions

- * When you start the game, Cloud is equipped with a Lightning and Ice Materia, and there's nothing you can do with it as you don't have the "Materia" menu yet. Therefore, you're forced to have materia equipped in the first two battles. Don't use the spells. Period. Remove the materia as soon as you get access to the "Materia" menu in Sector 7.
- * Red XIII joins the party for the first time in the battle with Sample:HO512, and he's equipped with a Sense Materia and an All-Fire combination. Don't use any of them. Period. Remove the materia as soon as the battle is over.
- * No other exceptions. Cheaters are losers. Gameshark is a banned word.

- * To receive as little EXP as possible, we can only have one character survive battles. The other two must be taken out an be KO'd before you can have the survivor finish off the enemy.
- * And to further reduce the amount of EXP, we will have Aerith survive all the battles during disc one. Yes, we can take advantage of her death in low level challenges, as her EXP will die with her. Level 28 is still the limit though, but don't worry, she will only reach level 22.

- * The survivor of a battle receives the amount given.
- * Characters KO'd at the end of a battle will not receive any EXP.
- * Characters that don't participate in a battle will receive half of the amount given, even if they are KO'd.
- * Cloud and Tifa will not receive any EXP while they are in Mideel.
- * Yuffie will not receive any EXP during the Wutai quest.

This is something most people find out the first time they play the game, that limit breaks have priority before anything else. When you have a character use a limit break, it will always be used right away, no matter whose turn it is.

Usually, when fighting a single opponent, your characters get one turn each before it's the opponent's turn again, but by taking advantage of the limit break system, you can have a character act twice before the opponent's turn. If all three characters have limit breaks, you can get a total of six turns between the opponent's turn and thus save time. Let me explain how to do this.

Let's say your party is Cloud, Barret and Cid and you're fighting Proud Clod, using S-mines to deal damage. Proud Clod attacks Cloud and he gets a limit break. You now have an opportunity to get four turns before it's Proud Clod's turn again and to make this work, you must have Cloud act first. Then have the others act. Let's say you have Barret act second and then Cid. Cloud will throw an S-mine first and his ATB bar will start filling up again when it's Barret's turn. Then Barret throws an S-mine, and by the time he's done, Cloud's ATB bar should be full. Then it's Cid's turn, and now it's time to activate Cloud's limit break. Just make sure you don't activate it too early, or he will use it before Cid's turn. Do it when Cid starts moving and you see the text "S-mine" at the top of the screen. After Cid is done throwing the S-mine, Cloud will use his limit break and you successfully got four turns in a row.

That's how it works. Test it out in a regular battle and you'll easily learn how to handle it. It's not very complicated after all. When you're fighting at the highest battle speed, you don't necessarily have to let the character who got a limit break act first. Since the ATB gauge fills pretty fast, you can let this character act second and still be able to use the limit break before it's the enemy's turn again. On the lowest battle speed, however, you must have the character who the limit break act first.

The difficulty of battles can be adjusted with the ATB and Battle Speed setups.

* If you set ATB to "Wait", time will stop as soon as you enter the item menu, meaning that you can take all the time in the world to select an item and use it. Unless the emeny already started attacking when you entered the item menu, nothing will happen until you leave the menu or use an item.

- * If you set ATB to "Active", time will run all the time and the enemy will act as soon as it's his turn, no matter what you're doing. If you spend too much time looking for an item, the enemy might even attack again. But of course, you can always pause the game if you need some time to think.
- * If you set ATB to "Recommended", time will stop during attacks, but not when you're selecting items. The ATB gauge will also stop during attacks and that's really annoying, so I recommend NOT using this setup at all. Why the hell did they call it "Recommended" anyway?

In most cases, it doesn't make any huge difference what setup you use, unless you're really slow when selecting items. In the toughest battles, however, it will make a difference. If you're having trouble with a boss and you're using "Active", switching back to "Wait" may do the trick. Well, you're free to use whatever setup you like, but in the battle with Schizo, you're forced to use "Wait". Of course, using "Active" all the time serves more bragging rights.

Battle Speed will in most cases not make any huge difference, unless you're really slow again, something you really shouldn't be if you want to take on this challenge. As opposed to ATB, there are many battles where you're forced to use a certain Battle Speed. In some battles, you have to put up a Barrier or MBarrier and to make sure these last as long as possible, you have to fight on the lowest battle speed. In other battles, you have to poison the enemy and to make sure the enemy takes damage from the poison status as often as possible, you have to fight on the highest battle speed. As with ATB, battle speed will make the hugest difference in the toughest battles and especially if you're using "Active", as you will get more time to select items. Again, do whatever you like, but fighting on the highest speed serves more bragging rights.

- * All random battles must be escaped.
- * Save as often as possible.
- * Make backup saves in case you screw up.
- * Pick up all the items I tell you to.
- * Give all Sources to Cloud as you find them.
- * Don't use any items unless I say so.
- * Don't buy or sell anything unless I tell you to.
- * Don't heal characters in the fields, unless it's absolutely necessary.
- * Phoenix Downs and Hi-Potions are not to be bought before Nibelheim, but don't worry, you're more than fine with the ones you find/win before that.
- * Find a calculator. You have no access to Sense in this challenge, and you must keep track of many bosses HP.
- * Be patient and never give up. This challenge may be tough, but it has been beaten by several people, so it's not impossible.
- * SAVE OFTEN. It can't be stressed enough. I've heard many stories about people

1.4 <> Battle Plan and EXP Guide

Here's the battle plan, and I believe it doesn't need any further explanation. As you can see, I have divided it into three parts and these are Midgar, disc one and disc two. Hojo is the last battle you receive EXP from.

EXP	Enemies	Survivor	KO
32	MP x2	 Cloud	
100	Guard Scorpion	Cloud	Barret
64	Smogger x2	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
	Smogger x2	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
	Smogger x2	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
180		Barret	Cloud, Tifa
240	Aps	Aerith	Cloud, Tifa
290	Turks:Reno	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
150	Mighty Grunt x3	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
300	Sample:HO512	Cloud	Tifa, Nanaki
250	Hundred Gunner & Heli Gunner	Aerith	Barret, Nanaki
240	Rufus	Cloud	
440	Motor Ball	Aerith	Cloud, Tifa
550	Bottomswell	 Aerith	Cloud, Tifa
680	Jenova-BIRTH	Aerith	Cloud, Tifa
600	Dyne	Barret	
290	Stinger	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
290	Stinger	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
1400	Gi Nattak	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
3000	Materia Keeper	Aerith	Cloud, Barret
1800	Palmer	Aerith	Cloud, Barret
880	Foulander x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
880	Foulander x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
880	Foulander x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
880	Foulander x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
1040	Garuda x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
1040	Garuda x2	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
420	Flapbeat x3	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
420	Flapbeat x3	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
420	Flapbeat x3	Aerith	Cloud, Nanaki
3500	Red Dragon	Aerith	Cloud, Cid
3800	Demon's Gate	Aerith	Cloud, Cid
4000	Jenova-LIFE	Cloud	Barret, Tifa
500	Icicle	Barret	Cloud, Cid
500	Icicle	Barret	Cloud, Cid
500	Icicle	Barret	Cloud, Cid
4400	Schizo	Cloud	Tifa, Nanaki
6000	Jenova-DEATH	Cloud	Tifa, Nanaki
600	Attack Squad x2	Cid	Nanaki, Cait Sith
	Submarine Crew x2	Cloud	Tifa, Nanaki
	Submarine Crew x2	Cloud	Tifa, Nanaki
	Submarine Crew	Barret	Cloud, Tifa
1700	Submarine Crew x2	Barret	Cloud, Tifa
1640	Underwater MP x2	Barret	Cloud, Tifa

5700	-	Carry Armor		Cid	Cloud,	Cait Sith	
1700	-	Submarine Crew x2		Cid	Cloud,	Cait Sith	
1700		Submarine Crew x2	-	Cait, Cid	Cloud,		
2550		Submarine Crew x3	-	Cid	Cloud,	Cait Sith	
600		Attack Squad x2	-	Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
600		Attack Squad x2	-	Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
1530		Attack Squad x2, Senior Grunt	-	Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
4000		Turks:Rude	-	Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
930		Senior Grunt	-	Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
160	-	Yuffie		Cid	Cloud,	Nanaki	
35000	-	Diamond Weapon		Cloud	Barret,	Cid	
600	-	Attack Squad x2		Cait Sith	Cloud,	Tifa	
900	-	Attack Squad x3		Cait Sith	Cloud,	Tifa	
3200	-	Rapps		Cait Sith	Cloud,	Tifa	
7000	-	Proud Clod		Barret	Cloud,	Cid	
25000		Нојо	-	Yuffie	Cloud,	Cait Sith	

Then we have the EXP guide. Here you can see exactly how much EXP each of the characters have at any point in the game. Some of the numbers have marks behind them, and here's what they mean:

- * Survivor of battle
- KO'd at the end of battle
- s Starting value
- x doesn't receive any EXP from this battle
 doesn't participate (no mark)

The limit you can see at the bottom is the highest amount of EXP a character can have before leveling up to 29. You should check the table regularly after each battle to make sure that you have the correct amounts, but as long as you escape from all random encounters and you make sure to follow the battle plan, you should have nothing to worry about.

		Disc One Battles						
	Cloud	Barret	Tifa	Aerith	Nanaki	Cait	Cid	
Start	610s							
MP x 2	642*	395s						
Guard Scorpion	742*	395-	102s					
Smogger x2	806*	395-	102-					
Smogger x2	870*	395-	102-					
Smogger x2	934*	395-	102-					
Air Buster	934-	575*	102-	6s				
Aps	934-	695	102-	246*				
Reno	1224*	695-	102-	391				
Mighty Grunts	1374*	695-	102-	466	961s			
Sample:HO512	1674*	845	102-	616	961-			
Hundred & Heli Gunner	1799	845-	227	866*	961-			
Rufus	2039*	965	347	986	1081			
Motor Ball	2039-	1185	347-	1426*	1301			
Bottomswell	2039-	1460	347-	1976*	1576			
Jenova-BIRTH	2039-	1800	347-	2656*	1916	977s		
Dyne	2339-	2400*	647	2956*	2216	1277		
Stinger	2339-	2545	792	3246*	2216-	1422		

Stinger	2339-	2690	937	3536*	2216-	1567	
Gi Nattak	2339-	3390	1637	4936*	2216-	2267	
Materia Keeper	2339-	3390-	3137	7936*	3716	3767	
Palmer	2339-	3390-	4037	9736*	4616	4667	5909s
Foulander x2	2339-	3830	4477	10616*	4646-	5107	6349
Foulander x2	2339-	4270	4917	11496*	4646-	5547	6789
Foulander x2	2339-	4710	5357	12376*	4646-	5987	7229
Foulander x2	2339-	5150	5797	13256*	4646-	6427	7669
Garuda x2	2339-	5670	6317	14296*	4646-	6947	8189
Garuda x2	2339-	6190	6837	15336*	4646-	7467	8709
Flapbeat x3	2339-	6400	7047	15756*	4646-	7677	8919
Flapbeat x3	2339-	6610	7257	16176*	4646-	7887	9129
Flapbeat x3	2339-	6820	7467	16596*	4646-	8097	9239
Red Dragon	2339-	8570	9217	20096*	6396	9847	9239-
Demon's Gate	2339-	10470	11117	23896*	8296	11747	9239-
Jenova-LIFE	6339*	10470-	11117-	R.I.P.	10296	13747	11239
		Disc Tw	o Battle	S			

	Cloud	Barret	Tifa	Yuffie	Nanaki	Cait	Cid
Icicle	6339-	10970*	11367		10546	13997	11239-
Icicle	6339-	11470*	11617		10796	14247	11239-
Icicle	6339-	11970*	11867		11046	14497	11239-
Schizo	10739*	14170	11867-		11046-	16697	13439
Jenova-DEATH	16739*	17170	11867-		11046-	19697	16439
Attack Squad x2	16739x	17470	11867x		11046-	19697-	17039*
Submarine Crew x2	18439*	18320	11867-		11046-	20547	17889
Submarine Crew x2	20139*	19170	11867-		11046-	21397	18739
Submarine Crew	20139-	20020*	11867-		11471	21822	19164
Submarine Crew x2	20139-	21720*	11867-		12321	22672	20014
Underwater MP x2	20139-	23360*	11867-		13141	23492	20834
Carry Armor	20139-	26210	14717		15991	23492-	26534*
Submarine Crew x2	20139-	27060	15567		16841	23492-	28234*
Submarine Crew x2	20139-	27910	16417		17691	25192*	29934*
Submarine Crew x3	20139-	29185	17692		18966	25192-	32484*
Attack Squad x2	20139-	29485	17992		18966-	25492	33084*
Attack Squad x2	20139-	29785	18292		18966-	25792	33684*
AS x2, Senior Grunt	20139-	30550	19057		18966-	26557	35214*
Rude, Attack Squad x2	20139-	32550	21057		18966-	28557	39214*
Senior Grunt	20139-	33015	21522		18966-	29022	40144*
Yuffie	20139-	33095	21602	10765s	18966-	29102	40304*
Diamond Weapon	55139*	33095-	39102	28265	36466	46602	40304-
Attack Squad x2	55139-	33395	39102-	28265x	36766	47202*	40604
Attack Squad x3	55139-	33845	39102-	28265x	37216	48102*	41054
Rapps	55139-	35445	39102-	28265x	38816	51302*	42654
Proud Clod	55139-	42445*	42602	31765	42316	54802	42654-
Нојо	55139-	54945	55102	56765*	54816	54802-	55154
Final	55139	54945	55102	56765	54816	54802	55154
Limit	56298 	57847	56298	57071	57071	57847	57847

Once again I have managed to get the final numbers very even. I didn't have to do this, but the perfectionst living inside me wants it that way. The more even the numbers are, the better it looks, and here I managed to get everyone except Yuffie within a range of 352. Yuffie doesn't count, as her battle plan can't be changed whatsoever.

2 - Walkthrough: Midgar

You ready? Well, then my only suggestion for you is to fire up the game and select "new game". Sit back and watch the intro while thinking about all the fun that's waiting for you in this challenge.

2.1 <> The First Mission

Assault Gun (Guard Scorpion)

Potion (Sector 8)

Ether (Sector 7 Slums)

LLNM EXCEPTION 1: Cloud starts with an Ice and a Lightning Materia equipped, and you can't do anything about it until you reach Sector 7 and get access to the Materia system. What can I say? Don't use the spells. As simple as that.

Before moving on, you might want to do some configurations in the menu. Do what you want with the ATB setup, but I strongly recommend you to set all the speed gauges to the fastest. That'll make it much easier to escape battles and it'll take shorter time to skip all the dialogues, unless you want to pay attention to the story.

Search the fallen guard for two Potions and then make your way to the bottom of the reactor while picking up the items on your way. Yes, you have to fight two MPs on the platform, but I'll let you handle this battle on your own. If you have any trouble with this battle, you should take a hint and never touch the game again. Ah well, after placing the bomb, you know who's waiting for you...

B02: Guard Scorpion

HP: 800 Dif: 2/10

Note: You need a calculator for this battle.

Attack with physical attacks and limit breaks until he's down to 100 HP or less and make sure not to attack when the tail is raised. Heal Cloud if his HP should fall below 100, but don't bother healing Barret, as he's to die anyway. Well, after taking out Barret, you can let Cloud end Guard Scorpion's pitiful life with a limit break.

Tip: You can take advantage of the Tail Laser to kill Barret. Have Cloud defend and let Barret attack while the tail is up.

Now save your game and leave the reactor. You could equip Barret with his Assault Gun, but it isn't really necessary, as it doesn't make any significant difference. Equip it if you want to, but I will tell you to sell it in Sector

5. Cloud will easily be able to survive the random battles on the way up, unless his HP is very close to zero. Give him a Potion if that's the case.

There's not much to do in Sector 8. One Gil won't make any huge difference, so buy a flower from Aerith if you want to. Just make sure to choose "later" when you run into the Shinra guards. If you don't, you'll have to fight them and you can't escape the battles. You have to do this three times before Cloud jumps on the train that will take you to Sector 7.

Not much to do here either. Just enter the bar and proceed with the story until it's time to leave for another mission. That's when you get access to the "Materia" menu, so REMOVE THE ICE AND LIGHTNING MATERIA from Cloud before you do anything else. When it's done, you can stop by at the Weapon shop and buy 6 Grenades. There's no need to sell anything yet. Just make sure to pick up the Ether on the second floor. Yes, you have to pick up the All Materia first, but don't worry, just picking up materia ain't illegal. Stop by at the Item Shop and buy 8 Potions as well. That's all there is to do here. Save your game and enter the train when you're ready to move on.

2.2 <> The Second Mission

Ether (Plate area)
Potion (Plate area)
Tent (Plate area)

Ether (Reactor)
Titan Bangle (Air Buster)

There are a couple of things to do on the train. First, when the alarm goes off in the first car, run over to the other side of the car (where you came in) and talk to the man lying on the right side. He'll give you a Phoneix Down. Now hurry over to the next car and talk to the man standing at the left side by the entrance to the third car. Tell him you want the item, and he'll give you a Hi-Potion. Then, in the third car, a man will steal money from you if you run through the car. Instead of running, just stop and stand still when the man passes you. I don't remember how he looks, but you will know him as he is the only person who walks slowly in the opposite direction.

After getting out of the train, you can just continue on until you've placed the bomb in the reactor. Then save your game, because now it's time to get some Deadly Wastes. Some bosses are vulnerable to Poison and poisoning them will make the battles much easier. We need three, for Bottomswell, Materia Keeper and Red Dragon, but the only battle where we really need one is against Materia Keeper, so you can get only one if you want the battles with Bottomswell and Red Dragon to be tougher.

The Deadly Wastes are won from Smoggers and to make sure we get as little EXP as possible, you can only fight a group of two Smoggers. There can be no other enemies in the battle. Just two Smoggers. It's possible to win two Deadly Wastes in one battle, but since the chances for that are very low, I decided to allow a total of three battles. That way, you can get one in each battle. And besides, you only get 64 EXP per battle and that's something we can easily afford. If you should get two in one battle, or if you decided only to get one, I still suggest that you fight three battles, so that your EXP values will

correspond with the EXP table.

To find the Smoggers, you have to climb up to the next screen. You know, the one similar to where Jessie stuck her leg in the first reactor. The Smoggers can appear with different enemies, but as I said, only fight the battle if there are two Smoggers only. Before climbing up, you should get into a battle and kill off Barret and Tifa. By doing that, you won't have to kill them off in the first Smogger battle over and over again if you should fail to receive a Deadly Waste.

B03: Smogger x2

HP: 90 Dif: 1/10

Just throw two Grenades and the battle will be over. If Cloud should get a limit break in one of the battles; don't use it. You have to save it for Air Buster. Don't bother healing him either.

If you receive a Deadly Waste, you can climb back down and save. If not, then hit the reset button on the console. If you do that, you'll most likely get one the next time. If you just soft-reset, you most likely won't. Trust me, I've done this so many times and it hardly ever fails. Anyway, when you receive the third one, you can just proceed to the top and save your game when you reach the save point.

Another boss battle lies ahead and this one can be very simple if we do the right preparations. First, revive Barret and give him a couple of Potions. Then enter a battle and make sure both Cloud and Barret get limit breaks. Keep Cloud in front row all the time, but move Barret to back row when his limit bar is full. Have him defend as well. Now, wait until Cloud's HP falls below 35 and then escape. All you have to do now is to heal Barret back to full HP. When that's done, you can go and fight...

B06: Air Buster

HP: 1200 Dif: 1/10

To win this battle, you can simply just hold down the action button. This is what will happen: First, Barret and Cloud's limit breaks will be activated in that order. Air Buster counters both of them and his Rear Gun will kill Cloud. Then Barret will attack regularly. This attack might kill Air Buster, but if it doesn't, his next limit break will. This strategy cannot fail, unless some of Air Buster's attacks go critical.

That's it for the reactors. We're going back to the slums again.

Items: 5 Gil (Sector 5, steal from the kid)

Ether (Sector 5)
Potion (Sector 5)
Phoenix Down (Sector 5)

Ether (Wall Market)

Hyper (Wall Market, behind Corneo's bed)

Phoenix Down (Aps)
Potion (Sewers)

Hi-Potion x3 (Train Graveyard)
Potion x3 (Train Graveyard)
Echo Screen (Train Graveyard)
Ether (Train Graveyard)

Ether (Reno)

Phoenix Down (Coreno's Mansion)

Ether (Use the Battery)

Alright, the first thing to do is to escape the church. The Titan Bangle you won from Air Buster is even less useful than the Assault Gun, so don't bother equipping it. When Reno and his men attack, have Aerith "RUN" the first time. Now head up to the uppermost barrel and wait there until the second soldier blocks Aerith's path. Tell her to "Hold on" and then push the barrel to take him out. Then have her "RUN" again the last time. As simple as that.

When you reach town, enter the house to the far right and check out the Turtle's Paradise flyer. You should also steal the little boy's 5 Gil. If you don't, he'll give you a Turbo Ether later and they sell for only 1 Gil. Hurray, 4 Gil earned! In case you don't know, you have to talk to him first and then open the hidden drawer between the drawer on the dresser by the stairs. Leave the house when you're done and go pick up the Ether in Aerith's garden, but don't enter the house just yet. It's time to do some shopping!

Enter the weapon shop and sell off all of your Materia, all the Ethers, the Assault Gun and the Titan Bangle. Then buy 66 Grenades. Now, you should have just above 300 Gil left (can't remember the exact number), which is more than enough for the Wall Market. You need exactly 280 Gil for some various stuff you have to buy there. If you for some reason should have less than that, you have only yourself to blame and you'll have to sell off some of the Grenades you just bought. Anyway, just head for the Wall Market when you're done.

Alright, we're gonna have Corneo choose Cloud as his date for tonight. To make that happen, we have to get a few more items than usual and many things have to be done in order to get them. To make this easier, I'll make a list with all the things to do, point for point with numbers. Don't screw this up now.

- 1. Go ask the man in front of the Honeybee Inn about Tifa.
- 2. Head over to Corneo's mansion and talk to the man by the front door.
- 3. Enter the Botique (clothing store) and talk to the girl behind the desk.
- 4. Enter the Bar and talk to her father. Make sure to select a dress that feels soft and shimmers.

- 5. Head back to the Botique and talk to the owner. You receive the Silk Dress.
- 6. Enter the Materia Shop, talk to the man and agree to do the favor.
- 7. Go eat at the Restaurant and tell them the food was all right. You'll be given a Pharmacy Coupon.
- 8. Enter the Pharmacy and exchange the coupon for the Digestive.
- 9. Go sleep at the Inn and buy the drink for 200 Gil.
- 10. Head back to the Materia Shop and give him the drink. He'll grant you the Diamond Tiara.
- 11. Save if you're not sure you'll win the squat contest.
- 12. Enter the Gym and win the squat contest. Your prize is the Blonde Wig.
- 13. Enter the Bar and give the Digestive to the woman at the toilet. You'll get the Sexy Cologne as a sign of her appreciation.
- 14. Head back to the Botique and enter the dressing room. Cloud will now change into miss Cloud and it's time to pay a visit to Don Corneo.
- 15. Save your game. Period.

Now head over to Corneo's and proceed with the story until you get to control Cloud in the sewers. Another boss battle awaits, but don't talk to the girls just yet. First enter the menu and place Cloud and Tifa in front row. They're too die in the battle anyway, so we want them to take as much damage as possible. Aerith must be in back row, of course, something she already is, unless you moved her. And most importantly, place the Grenades at the top of your item list. That'll make them as accessable as possible.

B07: Aps HP: 1800 Dif: 2/10

Have everyone throw Grenades on their first three turns. Aps will open the battle with a Sewer Tsunami that hits him from behind and then he'll either use Lick or his tail attack on his next two turns. The tail attack is only used on Aerith, but she's got more than enough HP to survive two of them, so keep your fingers away from the Potions. After all the nine Grenades are thrown, have Aerith defend while you let Cloud and Tifa throw Grenades at themselves. Aps will now use a Tsunami that hits him from behind and Cloud and Tifa's HPs will be further reduced. Cloud still has a lot more HP than Tifa though, so have both Cloud and Tifa attack Cloud regularly now. This will even out their HPs. Now, Aps will use the Tsunami that hits the party from behind and there's no chance Cloud and Tifa will survive this one, unless it misses one of them. After this Tsunami, Aps will have less HP than the minimum damage of a Grenade, so if both Cloud and Tifa are dead, you can now have Aerith throw the last Grenade to finish him off.

Give Aerith a couple of Potions if she's badly hurt, but don't bother reviving the others. She can easily make it back to Sector 7 on her own, and once you get there, the party will be fully restored anyway, so that would be a complete waste of two precious Phoenix Downs. You can also use Healing Wind in battle.

Anyway, just get back to Sector 7 and make sure to save once you reach the Train Graveyard, in case something should happen. Also, make sure to place Cloud in back row and the others in front row before the battle with...

B08: Reno HP: 1000 Dif: 2/10

Reno has 1000 HP and that means you have to throw 8 Grenades at him to take him out. Reno will open the battle with trapping one of the characters inside a Pyramid, but you know how to take them out. After throwing 7 Grenades, you can have Tifa and Barret throw Grenades at themselves while Cloud defends. Now, they shouldn't have much HP left, so just let them attack themselves regularly until they die. Just make sure Cloud isn't trapped inside a Pyramid when that happens. Also, take note that characters trapped inside a Pyramid at the end of the battle will receive EXP, so don't let that happen to Barret or Tifa.

Again, don't bother reviving the others and don't sleep at any Inns before the Shinra HQ. Cloud is more than fine on his own and by letting Barret and Tifa stay dead, you won't have to kill them off in the next battle.

When you reach Sector 5, you have to do some shopping again. Sell your Ethers and buy 29 Grenades. Now, you should have just above 300 Gil again, or exactly 300 if you bought a flower from Aerith and didn't take the little boy's 5 Gil on your first visit here. Anyway, you need exactly 300 Gil for the Batteries, so don't spend any more money after buying those 29 Grenades.

When you're done shopping, you can just proceed with the story until you reach the Shinra HQ. Make sure to stop by at Corneo's mansion to pick up the Phoenix Down (and the Hyper if you didn't take it the last time) and don't forget to use the last Battery to get the Ether when you climb up. An Ether is worth 750 Gil and you need all the money you can get.

2.4 <> Shinra HQ

Items: Elixir (Stairs, fifth area)

Elixir (62nd floor, guess Domino's password on second try)

Star Pendant (63rd floor, exchange all coupons) Four Slots (63rd floor, exchange all coupons)

Phoenix Down (64th floor) Ether (64th floor)

Talisman (Sample:HO512) Potion x4 (68th floor) Mythril Armlet (Heli Gunner)

Protect Vest (Rufus)

Star Pendant (Motor Ball)

We're taking the stairs, as you'll be forced to fight a group of Grenade Combatants if you enter through the front door. Also, you'll get your first Elixir if you climb the stairs. There's a battle with three Mighty Grunts waiting on the 59th floor, but as I said, don't revive Barret and Tifa. Just make sure Cloud has more than 200 HP and you'll be more than fine.

B09: Mighty Grunt x3

HP: 230 Dif: 1/10

Throw six Grenades and the battle will be over. Make sure to take them out one by one and they'll be totally harmless. Cloud only lost about 100 HP the last time I fought this battle.

If you're not sure you can sneak by the guards on the 60th floor, you should take the elevator back down and save first. In case you don't know, you have to fight a group of two Mighty Grunts, attacking from both sides if you get caught and there's no escaping those battles. If you know you can handle it, then just proceed until you reach the 62nd floor. Also, don't bother healing Cloud, as there won't be any random battles until you get to sleep on the 64th floor.

Mayor Domino will give you an Elixir if you guess the right password on the second attempt, so you have to find out what the password is. Use the libraries if you know how, but in case you don't know or you don't want to, you can use the save trick explained in the paragraph below.

First go talk to him, but don't talk to him again after he stops talking the first time. Instead take the elevator back down to the first floor and save. Then head back up and guess the password-alternatives until you find out what the right one is. Now, SOFT-RESET and load the file. Don't reset the console, or the password will change. Then head back up again and tell him the right password on the SECOND attempt. Oh, and don't forget to check out the second Turtle's Paradise flyer while you're on the first floor. It's in the back of the hall, on a wall to the right of the elevator.

Next we have the 63rd floor and you want to get the items here so that you can sell them later. If you don't know how to get all the Coupons, you can use the explanation I borrowed from Apathetic Aardvark's FAQ:

Run to the room with the computer terminal [one room south of the stairs]. You will be allowed to open three doors to get all the prizes which you want. Head to the back right corner of this floor. Run left and open the first door that you come to. Head left again until you come to another door. Do NOT unlock this one, instead, open the other door at this intersection [it is below you]. You will now be able to run into a normal room and grab the prize [coupon A]. In this small room, head into the ventilation shaft. Inside of the shaft, head down, right and then up at the first chance you get. When you

get out of the shaft, grab the prize [coupon B]. Exit this room by heading down and make a left. Use your final door key to unlock the door in front of the very middle room. Grab the prize in there [coupon C] and head back the way you came to the computer terminal. Exchange your coupons for an: All Materia, Star Pendant, and Four Slots.

There are some items on the 64th floor too, but the most important thing to do here is to get some sleep. After sleeping, just proceed until you reach the save point on the 67th floor. Equip Cloud with the Four Slots armor and the Star Pendant, move Tifa to front row and then save.

LLNMIENA EXCEPTION 2: Red XIII will join your party in this battle and he is equipped with an All-Fire combination and a Sense Materia. Simply put, don't use the Materia. That's the second and last exception.

Note: For the rest of the guide, I will only call him "Red". I hate to type in that ugly XIII. I always call him Nanaki in the game anyway.

B10: Sample:HO512

HP: 1000 Dif: 2/10

Note: Don't attack the Sample: HO512-opts (the small guys).

1000 HP = 8 Grenades. Just throw seven and make sure Tifa and Red are dead before you throw the last one. Thanks to the Star Pendant, Cloud can't get poisoned by Shady Breath, but Tifa and Red most likely will. It's actually a bad thing if it misses one of them, as you'll have to spend more time killing this character later. Still, this battle is more than easy. When Cloud is the last standing caracter, you can have him finish the battle with a limit break, something he most likely has by now. If not, just throw a Grenade.

Form a party of Cloud, Aerith and Barret after the battle and give the Four Slots armor and the Star Pendant to Aerith. Don't bother healing anyone, as your party will be fully restored after sleeping in the cell. Just proceed with the story until you get to control Aerith after talking to Rufus. Now place Aerith in back row and the others in front row before you enter the elevator for the battle with...

B11: Hundred Gunner

HP: 1600 Dif: 1/10

This battle is a joke. Just throw Grenades and use limit breaks until you've taken him out. Healing shouldn't be necessary at all.

B12: Heli Gunner

HP: 1000 Dif: 3/10 Note: You need a calculator for this battle.

Less HP, but more powerful attacks and he can inflict both poison and sleep to your party members. Aerith has the Star Pendant, so she can't get poisoned, but she can still be put to sleep. That doesn't happen too often, though. Anyway, have Aerith defend as soon as the battle begins and let the others throw Grenades. You will get limit breaks in this battle and you can use them as long as you take advantage of the limit break system, as explained in the intro.

You will most likely have to heal in this battle, but don't use any Potions. One Healing Wind should be enough. If you're lucky with Hundred and Heli's attacks, you won't have to heal at all. When you reduce Heli's HP to below 250, his defense will increase and Grenades won't deal more than ~125 damage, so make sure he's got less than 120 HP when you have Aerith throw the last one. Of course, Barret and Red must be dead first.

Then it's Cloud's turn. Equip him with the Mythril Armlet first.

B13: Rufus HP: 500 Dif: 1/10

Note: Don't attack Dark Nation.

Another joke of a battle. Throw four Grenades at Rufus and the battle will be over. Dork Nation might cast some Bolt-spells on you, but there's no need to heal whatsoever. You simply can't lose this battle.

Heal Cloud if he's badly hurt, in case you should run into a battle on your way down to the save point. Next up is the motorcycle minigame, but you get the chance to form a party and open the menu before it starts. We'll use Cloud and the girls this time and make sure to place them all in FRONT row. Then do your best to protect the girls during the game. I'm no expert at this myself and you might do a lot better than me.

B14: Motor Ball

HP: 2600 Dif: 3/10

Note: You need a calculator for this battle.

This battle is really easy when you know how Motor Ball fights. Just start throwing Grenades and use Cloud and Tifa's limit breaks when you get them, as long as you take advantage of the limit break system. There's no need to heal yet. After two turns where he uses Arm Attacks, Motor Ball will pack himself together and use Twin Burner, a fire-elemental attack that deals around 80 damage to your party. If Aerith didn't already have a limit break, she will get one now and now is also the time to use it.

Then just continue throwing Grenades. After three more turns, Motor Ball will pack himself out again and prepare for his most deadly attack, Rolling Fire, which deals around 200 damage to your party. However, if you manage to reduce his HP to below 325 before the point where he uses the attack, he'll use Twin Burner instead. By throwing Grenades at every opportunity and using Cloud's limit break at least once, you will easily be able to do this and prevent the use of Rolling Fire. You might even have to stop throwing Grenades, or else you'll kill him too early.

And that concludes your first visit to Midgar. It's been pretty easy so far, but Midgar is almost always easy in these challenges, so that doesn't mean anything. An entire world is waiting for you out there and after a while it'll get really, really tough. Hell yeah!

3 - Walkthrough: The Rest Of Disc One

Okay, we're out of Midgar, but we can't start having fun yet. First we have to stop by at Kalm and do the lovely flashback, or Boredom World 1 as we like to call it in the challenge community. If you do as me and put on some music while

playing, it's really not bad at all.

3.1 <> The First Continent

Ether (Mythril Mine)
Tent (Mythril Mine)
Mind Source (Mythril Mine)
Elixir (Mythril Mine)
Hi-Potion (Mythril Mine)

Power Wrist (Bottomswell)

5000 Gil (Junon, get more than 50% on marching)

Mind Source (Junon)
Luck Source (Junon)
Guard Source (Junon)
Power Source (Junon)
Speed Source (Junon)
1/35 solider x2 (Junon)

Force Stealer (Junon, get 100 points or more when posing for Rufus)

Ether (Shinra Boat)
Wind Slash (Shinra Boat)
White Cape (Jenova-BIRTH)

There's nothing to do in Kalm except for the flashback and picking up all the items. Check the locker on the second floor of the Inn five times to get the Megalixir. Form a party of Cloud, Barret and Red before heading for Junon and place Cloud in back row.

How to catch a chocobo without materia? That's impossible, but who needs a chocobo when you can simply use the save trick? Start running into the marches and make sure to pay attention. You have to push the menu button as soon as the Midgar Zolom appears on the screen. If he gets too close, he will get you, even if you already pused the button. Save your game when you successfully manage to open the menu and then exit the menu again. The battle will start immediately now, but you can just escape and then soft-reset. When you load the file now, the Midgar Zolom will be on a different location and you can safely continue over to the other side. Just be aware that you may have to save twice, as he can still be pretty close. You can also be lucky and reach the other side without having to save at all, but that doesn't happen too often.

When you eventually reach the other side, you can just proceed until you reach Junon. When you get there, form a party of Cloud and the girls and place Cloud and Tifa in front row. Your next opponent is...

B15: Bottomswell

HP: 2500 Dif: 2/10

It's time to use the first Deadly Waste. Yes, you must restart if it doesn't inflict Poison to the enemy. Guess you understood that. When you successfully Poison him, have Aerith defend and then just stand there. Never attack him again and you will never have to deal with Moonstrike and the infamous bubbles. Cloud and Tifa will die after a while, so there's no need to worry about them, but you have to make sure Aerith's HP never falls below 60. Healing Wind heals around 150 HP, but she needs to take around 225 HP to get a limit break again, so you have to use a Potion now and then. Just make sure to defend again after each time you heal.

Enter the shop and make sure you have 30 Grenades. You should have more than enough money to afford that, so there's no need to sell anything, and if you poisoned Bottomswell, you only need to buy a few anyway. I had to buy five. After shopping, you can just proceed until Cloud is wearing a Shinra uniform.

It's time to do some marching and this time you have to get a higher score than 50%. Your reward for that will be 5000 Gil and since money is important in this challenge, you really want those 5000. I know there are many people out there who can't handle the marching, but I have come up with a strategy that can't fail, unless you screw up somehow.

Note: If you have changed the controls, so that X isn't cancel and O isn't confirm, you should change them back to default before the marching. Thundaka normally uses X for the confirm button and O for the cancel button and he said that when the controls are inverted like this, Cloud won't raise his weapon in time to the others.

Many people screw this up because they do like the other soldiers and run to the back to reach the open spot. Well, you can't do that. Instead you must run straight ahead, "through" the other soldiers. Simply put, just hold X and the direction down button when you get to control Cloud and he will run straight into the open spot. Now let go of the X button and hold the direction left button and Cloud will start marching in the same tempo as the others. Now, the number "1" will pop up on the screen and you can start tapping the action button to increase the percentage. If you do this right, you should have no trouble getting 50% or more. My personal record is 65%! Do some practice and you will find out that it's easier than you ever imagined.

When you eventually get 50% or more, you can keep playing. To find all the items in Junon, you only have to enter door 4 and 7 on your way to the docks. Knowing that will save you some time. You should also stop by at the Item Shop behind door 3 and buy some Echo Screens. They will make the Jenova-DEATH battle a bit easier. 15 is enough. When you reach the docks, you have to do some posing for Rufus, but this is piece of cake compared to the marching. All you have to do is to push the right button. You suck if you can't get more than 100 points here. No offense. Enter the boat after receiving the Force Stealer.

There's nothing to do on the boat before the battle with Jenova, so just talk to Tifa, Red, Aerith (twice) and then Barret and things will start happening. Form a party of Cloud and the girls, place everyone in back row, equip Cloud with the Force Stealer and the Power Wrist and give the Hyper you found behind Don Corneo's bed to Aerith. There is a treasure box in the room where you fight Jenova, but wait until after the battle, as there are enemies here now.

B16: Jenova-BIRTH

HP: 4000 Dif: 3/10

Throw Grenades and use limit breaks to deal damage and have Aerith heal as soon as her limit bar fills up. With Fury, she only needs to take around 125 damage to get a limit break, so there's no need to use any Potions unless Jenova hits the same character twice in a row with W-Laser. Thankfully, that doesn't happen too often. She'll most likely open the battle with Stop and after Stop, she always takes a break for two or three turns, so that you get to deal a decent amount of damage before she starts hurting you. Also, Stop only lasts for about three turns on the highest battle speed, so you will have a fully functionable party again by the time she starts attacking. Stop seems to miss quite often, though, so you might not have to deal with stopped characters at all.

Move Cloud and Tifa to front row when Jenova has less than 130 HP left. She will be more than happy to take them out, so there's no need for you to do anything. Things can still go wrong, though. Jenova might use W-Laser twice on Aerith and the chance for that increases after one character is dead.

Now you can climb up the ladder and pick up Yuffie's Wind Slash. Then leave the boat. A new continent awaits outside.

3.2 <> The Second Continent

Items: Power Source (Costa del Sol)

Motor Drive (Costa del Sol)

Fire Ring (Costa del Sol)

Wizard Staff (Mt. Corel, fall and go left)

W Machine Gun (Mt. Corel)

Star Pendant (Mt. Corel, fall and go right)

Turbo Ether (Mt. Corel)
Tent (Mt. Corel)
Mind Source (Mt. Corel)
Power Source (Mt. Corel)

Note: Don't sleep at an Inn or remove Fury from Aerith before Cosmo Canyon.

All the items in Costa del Sol are located in the basement of the first house. There's nothing else to do here, but you should stop by at the item shop and buy a couple of Softs for Demon's Gate. Leave for Mt. Corel when that's done. You should replace Tifa with someone alive first, though. Two party members is better than one. Reviving Cloud isn't necessary and since Aerith still has Fury, she can easily maintain the party's HP. Also, remove her Star Pendant and give her the Fire Ring instead.

Then get through Mt. Corel and make sure you go both left and right when you fall through the railroad tracks. Don't equip any of the equipment you find. When you finally reach North Corel, it's time to do some shopping again. Sell off all the Ethers and all the equipment in your inventory except for the Bronze Bangle. Then buy 20 Molotovs and 50 Tranquilizers. Since Molotovs is the main item for dealing damage now, you can place them at the top of your item list and move the Grenades further down. Next up is the Gold Saucer, but you should leave town and save on the world map before you move on.

As you may have guessed, there's nothing to do here either, so just follow Barret to Wonder Square, welcome Cait Sith to your party and then enter Battle Square to trigger the sequence that will lead you down to Corel Prison.

When you get there, head for the save point as quickly as possible. You don't want to run into the Bandits and get something important stolen from you. Should it still happen, you have no choice but to load up and start playing from North Corel again. A good way to prevent getting a battle before the save point is making sure you get a battle just before you enter North Corel, so do that if you have to load up. When you successfully reach the save point, you can remove the Transform Materia from Cait Sith, equip him with a Bronze Bangle and give his Silver Armlet to Cloud. Then enter the house, save again and go beat Dyne. There's no need to spend more time than necessary here.

B17: Dyne HP: 1200 Dif: 1/10

1. Molotov

2. Molotov

- 3. Hi-Potion
- 4. Molotov
- 5. Hi-Potion
- 6. Molotov

That's your strategy. If one of his attacks misses, you only have to use one Hi-Potion and there is a small chance you won't have to heal at all.

Now just proceed with the story until you're back on the world map. Equip Aerith with the Silver Armlet you just won before moving on. Next up is Cosmo Canyon and you know how to get there. Just stay away from Gongaga, as you don't want to fight the Turks.

3.3 <> Cosmo Canyon

Items: Elixir (Inn)

Ether (Cave of Gi)
Black M-phone (Cave of Gi)
Fairy Ring (Cave of Gi)
Wizer Staff (Gi Nattak)

This is such a lovely place. First go pick up the Elixir at the Inn. It's on the left side of the screen, between the bed and a table or something. You'll find it. Make sure to check out the Turtle's Paradise flyer while you're there as well. Just don't sleep there. Then you can just proceed with the story until it's time to enter the cave. Form a party of Cloud, Aerith and Red and place the boys in back row. Oh, and don't forget to check out the Turtle's Paradise flyer by the Weapon Shop!

Inside the cave, don't enter any of the small caves in the first area except for the one you have to enter to open the entrance to the next area. You know, it's to the left of where the opening is. There are no items in the first area, so just move on. When you reach the third area, you have to take out a couple of spiders that are in the way...

B18: Stinger HP: 2200 Dif: 2/10

First have everyone throw Molotovs. Then have Cloud and Red throw Molotovs in that order and have Aerith defend. The Stinger will now counter both of them and they will get limit breaks. Now have Cloud activate his limit break before Red finishes throwing his Molotov, to make sure he gets to use it before the Stinger attacks again. Cloud and Red won't have much HP left by now and since the Stinger likes to attack often, they will soon be dead. Have Aerith throw the final Molotov when she's alone. You most likely won't have to heal in this battle, unless Aerith gets attacked a lot. Use Healing Wind after Cloud and Red are dead if possible, but if not, you can give her a Hi-Potion.

Revive Cloud and Red before the next battle and heal them back to full health.

You may use Hi-Potions if you don't have enough Potions. If you don't want to use items, you can enter a battle and use Healing Wind. Aerith should still have Fury after all. Before Gi Nattak, you only have to heal Aerith. Reviving the others is completely pointless.

B20: Gi Nattak
HP: 5500

Dif: Elixir/10

Just throw an Elixir at him and the battle will be over.

Equip Aerith with the Wizer Staff before you move on. After all the scenes, you get to form a party. Make it Cloud, Tifa and Cate Sith and give Tranquilizers to all of them. Then set your course for Nibelheim.

3.4 <> Nibelheim & Rocket Town

Items: Luck Source x2 (Nibelheim)
 Elixir (Nibelheim)
 Turbo Ether (Nibelheim)
 Platinum Fist (Nibelheim)

Magic Source (Shinra Mansion) Silver M-phone (Shinra Mansion) Twin Viper (Shinra Mansion) Enemy Launcher (Shinra Mansion)

Rune Blade (Mt. Nibel)
Plus Barrette (Mt. Nibel)
Powersoul (Mt. Nibel)
Elixir (Mt. Nibel)
Sniper CR (Mt. Nibel)

Power Source (Rocket Town)
Drill Arm (Rocket Town)

Yoshiyuki (Rocket Town, talk to man in front of item shop twice)

Edincoat (Palmer)

Nibelheim. That means it's finally time to buy some Hi-Potions and Phoenix Downs, but go pick up all the items in town first. All the items inside the mansion are found on the first and second floor, so you don't have to enter the basement. Also, give Cloud back his Buster Sword, so that you can sell the Force Stealer. He'll get a new weapon soon anyway. Then enter the shop and sell of all the equipment, all the materia and the Ether you found in Cosmo Canyon and buy 25 Hi-Potions and 25 Phoenix Downs. Head for the mountains when you're done shopping, but make sure to save first. You might get an attack from both sides on the bridge and there's not much to do but hitting the restart button if that should happen.

Find your way to the cave and enter pipe number two when you get there. Then save. Heal Cloud if he gets hurt during random battles, but don't bother healing Tifa and Cait, as you're not going to use them against Materia Keeper.

Since there's an Elixir and a weapon in the caves below here, you have to take the exit next to Materia Keeper and then follow the path Cloud & Co took to the reactor five years ago. You know. Also, make sure to equip Cloud with the Rune Blade when you get it.

Then it's time to kick some Materia Keeper ass. Form a party of Cloud, Aerith and Barret, give Tranquilizers to them and place them all in back row. Make sure to heal Cloud back to full health as well.

B21: Materia Keeper

HP: 8400 Dif: 3/10

This is the toughest battle so far, but he's not as tough as you might have thought he'd be. If he opens the battle with Trine, you can just forget about it. If he doesn't, you can have Aerith throw a Deadly Waste on him and hope he gets poisoned. It doesn't seem to work very often, so unless you're lucky, you will have to restart a lot of times.

When you eventually manage to poison him, you just have to wait until his HP reaches zero while making sure the party stays alive. But wait a minute. Won't he start casting Trine again after a while? How the hell are we supposed to survive that? Well, you can't, but fortunately there's a way to avoid the use of both Trine and Cure2. Remember Bottomswell and how you avoided Waterpolo by not attacking him? Well, it's the same deal here. NEVER EVER ATTACK HIM and he will never use Trine and Cure2. As easy as that. If Cloud has a limit break when the battle begins, you can use it as soon as Materia Keeper has gotten poisoned, but that's it. No other attacks or limit breaks after that.

With Trine and Cure2 out of the picture, you only have to deal with Big Horn and an occasional Hell Combo now and then. After poisoning him and/or using Cloud's limit break, you can just have everyone defend for now. As soon as Aerith's HP falls below 150, you must have one of the guys heal her. Make sure to defend again after healing. As long as the guys are alive, they can heal Aerith, but once they're gone, she's on her own. Use Hi-Potions or Healing Wind every time she gets attacked. If one of Materia Keeper's attacks should miss, you can have her heal and then wait until she's taken two attacks before you heal again. The only thing that can kill her on full HP is a critical Hell Combo, but that doesn't happen very often. Eventually, Materia Keeper will die and the battle will be over.

Quickly head back to the save point and save. Then leave the cave and head for Rocket Town. As usual, there's no need to revive the others. Aerith is more than fine on her own, and it doesn't matter if she actually should die on the way to Rocket Town, as you just saved anyway.

Enter town when you get there and pick up all the items. They're both in houses on the right side of town, so there's no need to check the ones on the left side. Talk to the man outside the Item Shop to get the Yoshiyuki and equip Cloud with it immediately. Go find the Tiny Bronco in Cid's backyard after picking up the items and then go talk to Cid inside the rocket. Then leave town and save. Your next opponent is Palmer, the tougest boss in the history of Final Fantasy.

B22: Palmer HP: 6000 Dif: 1/10

Many people make fun of Guard Scorpion for being such an easy boss, but if anyone should be made fun of, it's Palmer. I have yet to play a challenge where he deserves anything more than 1 out of 10 on the difficulty scale.

Palmer's only attack is Mako Gun and he can only use it ten times before he runs out of MP. With Sadness, it deals just above 300 damage each time, so just use a Hi-Potion every time Aerith gets hit. You can also use Healing Wind every third time. When he's out of MP, you can move Aerith to front row and simply attack until he dies.

Next, we're going to take a break from the main story to acquire some items.

3.5 <> Wutai & Gold Saucer Area

Items: Magic Shuriken (Wutai)
Hairpin (Wutai)
Dragoon Lance (Wutai)

Elixir (Gold Saucer)

Okay, it's time to take a trip to Wutai. We have to go there to get some Lightand Lunar Curtains. Certain bosses are impossible without these items, so you kinda have no choice. Switch Barret for Red before you start the journey and equip Aerith with the Edincoat. Make sure Red dies on the way to Wutai and keep Aerith's HP above 300 all the time.

The first thing you can do when you reach town is to pick up the items. Two of them are located in hidden rooms inside Godo's house. Yes, you can sleep for free here, but why would you sleep? Aerith has Sadness status and she's the only one alive and that's exactly what you want. The Dragoon Lance is located in the "fire cave" at Da-Chao. Head back to the Item Shop after picking it up. Sell off all the equipment and buy 6 Swift Bolts. That's all for now.

After shopping, it's time to go hunt for some Foulanders, the enemies you win Lunar Curtains from. Head for Da-Chao and take the first right. Now run back and forth here until you encounter a group of TWO Foulanders. Escape anything else. Healing Aerith isn't necessary.

B23: Foulander x2

HP: 800 Dif: 1/10

Throw a Swift Bolt and the battle will be over. Since Aerith is wearing the Fire Ring, she cannot be hurt by their Flame Dance attack.

Head back to the save point, heal and save if you receive a Lunar Curtain. If you don't get one, you can try soft-reseting first, but if that doesn't help, reseting the console most likely does. After reseting the console, I almost always get two in a row before I have to reset again, but that might be just me. Anyway, repeat this process until you have 4 Lunar Curtains, but if you should be lucky and get two in one battle, I still suggest fighting 4 battles to keep up with the battle plan. Take note that you might also win Fire Veils from these guys and that's a good thing, as we're going to use them in the Garuda battles. As long as you also get a Lunar Curtain, of course.

Next we have the Garudas. They are more dangerous than the Foulanders and you have to revive Cloud and Red. No need to heal them, though. Make sure you have four Fire Veils before you head back to Da-Chao again and don't forget to save first. To find the Garudas, you have to go right twice, to a hand that points to the right of the screen. The battle we want is a group of two Garudas, so escape everything else. Just be aware that they can also attack from both sides, but you can just let them kill you if that happens.

B27: Garuda x2

HP: 1400 Dif: 4/10

This is much worse. First of all, they have more HP, so you have to throw two Fire Veils to kill them. They absorb lightning, so that's why we're using Fire Veils. Guess you understood that. Garuda has four attacks. Ice2 and Bolt2 will cause about 300 damage, so watch out. Dance will only remove MP, so you can ignore that one. The last one is a physical attack, but you don't have to worry much about it, as it deals crap damage.

Garuda is a unique enemy. They can drop four different items: Light Curtain, Mute Mask, Ice Crystal and Bolt Plume. The chance of getting a Light Curtain is the third highest, but it's lower than the chance of getting a Lunar Curtain from a Foulander, but thankfully, we only need two of them. You need three Swift Bolts or Fire Veils for the upcoming Flapbeat battles, but you can also use Ice Crystals, in case you should get one in addition to the Light Curtains. If you don't get any, you can simply buy 3 more Swift Bolts, so that you have a total of 5.

After getting 4 Lunar Curtains, 2 Light Curtains and enough items for the Flapbeat battles, you can set your course back to the Tiny Bronco. We're using the same party for the Flapbeat battles and Aerith can easily handle them on her own, so don't bother reviving Cloud and Red. Park the Tiny Bronco south of the desert and start looking for Flapbeats in the grassy area. A battle with three of them is what you want. Also, make sure Aerith has more than 450 HP before each battle, in case all of them use Flying Sickle.

B29: Flapbeat x3

HP: 330 Dif: 1/10

You know how this works now. Restart if you don't get anything, keep fighting if you do and fight three battles even if you should get two in one battle. When you have three T/S Bombs, it's time to take the second trip to the Gold Saucer. Cloud is already dead, so the battle arena fight will end before it starts. Pick up the Elixir in the closet after the date and check the Turtle's Paradise flyer at the hotel. Form a party of Cloud, Aerith and Cid and equip Cid with the Dragoon Lance, Aerith with a Silver Armlet and Cloud with the Edincoat. Back in North Corel, it's time for some shopping again. Make sure you have 25 Molotovs, 25 Phoenix Downs and 25 Hi-Potions before you leave town. Next up is the temple.

3.6 <> The Temple of Ancients

Items: Trident

Mind Source Silver Rifle Rocket Punch

Princess Guard (Clock, door IIII)
Ribbon (Clock, door V)
Trumpet Shell (Clock, door VII)
Megalixir (Clock, door VIII)

Work Glove

Dragon Armlet (Red Dragon)
Gigas Armlet (Demon's gate)

We're here. The Temple of Ancients. An infamous battles takes place here, but first you have to pick up all the items. They should be easy to find. Make sure not to fall down in the clock room, as the Ancient Dragons on the bottom will slay you. Also, there's no need to enter any other rooms than the ones listed above. Rest before you enter the room with the murals, equip Aerith with the Princess Guard and give tranquilizers to everyone. Red Dragon awaits inside.

B32: Red Dragon

HP: 6800 Dif: 5/10

Note: You need a calculator for the next two battles.

It's time to use the last Deadly Waste. Have Aerith throw it and pray he gets poisoned. Red Dragon seems to be the toughest boss to poison, so don't be surprised if you have to restart many times. I poisoned him on my 4th attempt this time. And yeah, I know, it sucks to go through all that talking before the battle over and over again, but it really helps to put on some music.

This battle is not that difficult in the matter of staying alive, but you can

have a hard time making sure only Aerith survives to take the EXP. You also have to keep track of his HP and that can be tricky with poison status. You can easily overlook one damage now and then, so that he dies too early on you. Pause the game whenever he takes damage, and you should be fine.

Have Cloud defend on the first turn, unless he's got a limit break. Red Dragon can be paralyzed, so use Cross-Slash if he does. Enemies still suffer poison damage when paralyzed, something you probably found out if you used Cross-Slash on Materia Keeper. If Cloud gets killed on the dragon's first attack, just have Cid revive him. Aerith will survive anything except for a critical bite attack.

Have Aerith defend on her second turn, and don't have her do anything else as long as the guys are still alive. She won't get killed when defending, but you have to have the boys heal her if she gets attacked. Also make sure the guys heal and revive eachothers when they get attacked and killed, but don't bother healing them again once they get killed, as they no longer have Sadness then. This is your strategy for survival, and it can't fail unless you screw it up.

When Red Dragon's HP falls below 1000, you have to make sure Cloud and Cid die for good. Unless the dragon takes care of it, you must have each of them kill themselves with Molotovs. When they're gone, just make sure Aerith stays alive. The battle will soon be over, but she will take a few attacks. Heal with Hi-Potions when that happens, and pray he doesn't get a critical hit with the bite attack when she's not defending.

Next up is Demon's Gate, but before taking him on, you should rest, return to the mural room, get into a battle and fill up everyone's limit bars. That'll make the Demon's Gate battle a bit easier. When it's done, you can Rest and equip Cloud with the Dragon Armlet and Aerith with the Ribbon. Then give Tranquilizers to everyone and turn the battle speed all the way down. Also make sure Molotovs are at the top of you item list, followed by Hi-Potions, Potions, Light Curtains, Phoenix Downs, Softs and Tranquilizers in that order. Then save and go get Demon's Gate.

B33: Demon's Gate

HP: 10000 Dif: 7/10

Demon's Gate isn't as tough as you might have expected. Fighting him is actually very easy when you have full control over the battle, but things can easily go wrong if you don't pay attention. One small mistake can end the battle way too early. Another thing that makes the battle tougher is luck. Demon's Gate gets more criticals than any other boss and these criticals are the reason for at least 1 out of 2 game overs. Also, you really can't waste your time in this battle. I really suggest that you read and understand the strategy before you take him on, as you can't just enter the battle and look in the guide for what to do next.

First of all, you should know how he fights. From my experience, I have learned that his main attack, Rock Drop, is used in series between Cave-Ins. These series usually consist of two Rock Drops, but he might drop only one or as many as three as well. He also has the ability to drop two rocks in one attack, meaning that you can't do anything but to sit down and watch the characters being tormented. His third attack, Demon Rush, will be used when you get his HP below 7500, 5000 and 2500, so you will see this attack at least three times.

Before Demon Rush, he always starts waving his arms and then he waits for at least one turn before he uses the attack. Your characters will get three to five turns before the attack is used. His last attack, Petrif-Eye, isn't used very often, but if he uses it, it most likely happens in the beginning or after a Cave-In. He can also open the battle with any attack.

When you enter the battle, have the character who gets his or her turn first use a limit break. Yes, even Aerith's. Then activate the others. Of course, you don't have to use Aerith's if Clour or Cid get their turns first. If the ATB gauge is more than 75% full, there is a good chance that you get to act before the enemy, and this way you can deal ~1000 damage to him before the battle even begins. However, Demon's Gate might get to attack before the limit breaks are used, but it doesn't matter as long as Cloud isn't killed by a Rock Drop. Restart if that happens. If the others are hit by rocks or he uses Cave-In, Healing Wind should be more than enough to recover for another attack. If the limit breaks are used before Demon's Gate gets to attack, then hope Cloud isn't killed afterwards.

If you successfully get to use the limit breaks before he attacks, which is the most likely occasion, then wait and see what happens next. If Aerith or Cid is hit by Rock Drop, just have the first character give the victim a Hi-Potion, the second throw a Molotov and the last character use a Light Curtain. Once the Barrier is up, you will be safe for a while. If he uses Cave-In and Aerith hasn't used Healing Wind yet, have her use it. If she already used it, you must give Cloud a Hi-Potion. The others will throw a Molotov and use Light Curtain in that order, either way. You must have the last character use the Light Curtain for the Barrier to last as long as possible. If he uses Petrif-Eye or starts waving his arms, just have the first two characters throw Molotovs and the last use the Light Curtain. When the Barrier is up, you can start fighting.

The defensive strategy is pretty simple. Use a Hi-Potion to recover from Rock Drop and save Healing Wind for Demon Rush. There's usually no need to recover from Cave-In, unless somebody's HP should fall below 300. In that case, just use a Hi-Potion. Give a Potion to Cloud if his HP falls between 200 and 300 after this attack. You don't want to waste a Hi-Potion.

For the offensive part, you must throw Molotovs on every opportunity and use limit breaks when you get them. And make sure to take advantage of the limit break system. I explained how this works in the "Gaming Info" section. The more damage you deal to him, and the less he deals to you, the better. Never attack regularly. It's a complete waste of time, as you will deal crap damage to him.

Never allow a character to die during the battle. Not only do you have to revive, but the fallen one doesn't have Sadness any longer, and will therefore take more damage from attacks. Also, the reviving process takes time, and the Barrier doesn't last forever.

When Petrif-Eye is used, you can just give the target a Soft and the counter will go away. If it's used on Cloud or Red near the end, you can just let them get petrified. That's actually a good thing, as he can still attack petrified characters with Rock Drop. Oh, and don't worry, characters who are petrified at the end of the battle will not receive EXP.

You can take advantage of the fact that Demon Rush is used after his HP drops below 7500, 5000 and 2500 HP. If he drops a rock and he's got less than 900 HP above one of these numbers, you can have everyone throw Molotovs to trigger Demon Rush. Doing this will save you some time and time is important in this battle, as the Light Curtains don't last forever.

The time will come when you have to use the second Light Curtain, but that's

easier said than done. First of all, you must wait until the Barrier is gone before you can use the other Light Curtain, but you can't just use it as soon as the Barrier guage goes empty. The Barrier doesn't wear off at the exact moment when the gauge reaches zero, but it lasts for one more unit, if you know what I mean. As you know, the gauge is built up by units, starting at full. After a certain amount of time, it goes down by one. Let's say that certain amount of time is 5 seconds. If so, then the Barrier will still last for 5 more seconds after the gauge goes empty. Understand? Good. If he attacks when you have one or zero units again, you can heal, throw a Molotov and use the Light Curtain in that order. If he attacks when you have two units left, you should just heal and wait until he attacks again. The best situation would be if he started waving his arms for the 5000 HP Demon Rush when you have one or zero units left. If the Barrier is about to run out and he's got less than 5900 HP, you can have everyone throw Molotovs to trigger Demon Rush. The battle is likely to fail here, but if you successfully put up another Barrier on the party, you can just keep fighting until you get his HP below 300.

The killing process is probably the most fatal part of the battle. Many things can go wrong here and you must hope for some luck. The worst thing that can happen is that he starts an Aerith killing spree. Anyway, move Cloud and Cid to front row and have Aerith defend. If he drops a rock on one of the boys, the target will die. If he drops a rock on Aerith, you can have Cloud give her a Hi-Potion and Cid throw a Molotov on himself. Aerith must defend and have her turn ready, so don't ever let her do anything. When defending, she can survive anything, but a critical or a double Rock Drop will kill her if the Barrier should wear off, something that will happen if the killing process takes too long. If she should get killed when one of the boys is still alive, you can just revive her and hope she doesn't get attacked again the next time. Revive her again if that happens, but if Cave-In is used and the other guy is low on HP, the battle will be over. If both of the guys should get killed, you know what to do. Have Aerith throw the last Molotov ASAP when she's left alone.

That's it. You might find the battle very difficult at first, but when you get control over it and you learn how to handle the different situation, you will find out that it's not that tough after all.

With Demon's Gate out of the way, you'll have some cut-scenes to watch before you wake up in Gongaga.

3.7 <> Searching For Aerith

Water Ring (Sleeping Forest)

Guard Source (Forgotten Capital)
Aurora Armlet (Forgotten Capital)
Magic Source (Forgotten Capital)
Elixir (Forgotten Capital)

Wizard Bracelet (Jenova-LIFE)

Barret and Tifa are now in your party, and this is our party of choice for the rest of disc one. Enter the Tiny Bronco and set your course for Bone Village. The Lunar Harp is located on the upper level, on the left side of the tent.

Place three searchers and you should find it.

After finding it, you can just proceed with the story until you reach the place where a certain character's life ends, but don't forget to turn the battle speed back up first. Escaping random battles on the lowest battle speed can be really painful. When you get there, you can equip Cloud with the Gigas Armlet and the Water Ring. Then go kick some Jenova butt!

B34: Jenova-LIFE

HP: 10000, but it doesn't really matter at all.

Dif: Water Ring/10

Do I really have to write a strategy? Alright, move Cloud to front row and hold the action button and hold it until Jenova dies. Barret and Tifa will die before that happens. Could it be any harder? If you want a tough Jenova-Life battle, you can try the LLNMIENA Challenge.

That concludes disc one, and you're more than halfway through the quest, but it's far from over. There are still some tough battles ahead of you.

4 - Walkthrough: Disc Two & Three

Alright, you're ready to move on? Well, I ain't gonna stop you. You start disc two in the Forgotten Capital, and it's time to head further north, but take your time to recover the party before you move on. Just sleep in the little house you slept in before the infamous event. It's free after all...

4.1 <> Corral Valley Cave -> Great Glacier

Items: Viper Halbred (Corral Valley Cave)
 Bolt Armlet (Corral Valley Cave)
 HypnoCrown (Corral Valley Cave)
 Megalixir (Corral Valley Cave)

Power Source (Corral Valley Cave)

Vaccine (Icicle Inn) Hero Drink (Icicle Inn) X-Potion (Icicle Inn)

Ribbon (Gaea's Cliff)
Javelin (Gaea's Cliff)
Elixir (Gaea's Cliff)
Fire Armlet (Gaea's Cliff)
Megalixir (Gaea's Cliff)
Enhance Sword (Gaea's Cliff)
Dragon Fang (Schizo)

Hi-Potion (Whirlwind Maze)
Kaiser Knuckle (Whirlwind Maze)
Ether (Whirlwind Maze)
Reflect Ring (Jenova-DEATH)

Alright, you know where to go. When you reach Icicle Inn, you can buy some more Hi-Potions. Sell all the weapons in your inventory and make sure you have 25 of them. There are some items you can find at the Great Glacier as well, but they are far from important, so don't waste your time on them. That's all, really, so you can just proceed until you reach Mr. Holzoff's hut at the bottom of Gaea's Cliff. Form a party of Cloud, Barret and Cid after sleeping, equip Barret with the Aurora Armlet and give him a Tranquilizer.

First find your way to the area with the save point. It's after the second climbing session. Don't bother healing Cloud and Cid if they get hurt in the random battles. It's just fine if they die. Place T/S Bombs at the top of your item list when you reach the save point and then save. Next up is the Icicle battles. If Cloud or Cid are still alive, you must kill them in a battle on your way up. Heal Barret back to full health when you get there and turn the battle speed all the way down before you enter the first battle.

B35: Icicle HP: 3000 Dif: 1/10

Have Barret toss a T/s Bomb at the Icicle as soon as his ATB bar is full. There is a small chance that the Evilheads can kill Barret, but it's not very likely to happen.

Jump down and save if you want to, but I suggest that you just heal Barret back to full health and move straight on to the next Icicle. You only have to defeat three of them, but you have to engage in a battle with the last one and then escape if you want the "Last Elixir" on the other side. Heal Barret back to full health and turn the battle speed back up before you do that. You have to enter the battle and escape it again to get back and after that you will be given the option to jump down. The chance of being killed in these battles is close to zero. Save and switch Cid for someone alive before you move on.

When you reach Schizo's lair, you must do some preparations for the battle. Remove Barret's Aurora Armlet and form a party of Cloud, Tifa and Red. Equip Cloud with the Bolt Armlet and let one of the others have both the Fire Ring and the Aurora Armlet. Then use the healing spring and save. Schizo is waiting in the next room!

B38: Schizo HP: 18000 each

Dif: 1/10

 Don't head back to the save point after the battle. If you get into a random battle before you leave this screen, you will, due to a glitch, not be able to run away. The game apparantly thinks that you're still in the boss battle, so logially enough, it won't let you escape. Instead, leave the cave through the closest exit, but don't head back yet. You might run into a Blue Dragon before you reach the save point and they can easily slaughter your party with Great Gale. Instead, just proceed to the next save point.

Then proceed to the next battle. Be careful when crossing the whirlwind areas, as you have to fight a Wind Wing if you should fail. That's right, you cannot escape those battles. When you reach the screen where the Jenova battle takes place (the one after the second whirlwind crossing), replace Cloud's Bolt Armlet with a Bronze Bangle and give him the Fire Ring. Then go get Jenova!

B39: Jenova-DEATH

HP: 25000, but who cares?

Dif: Fire Ring/10

Then we have reached the end of the road and Boredom World 2 awaits. Have fun.

4.2 <> The Time Without Cloud

Items: Elixir (Mideel)

We're back in Junon, to the most boring part of the game in my opinion. There's only one thing to mention here and that's the battle with two Attack Squads that Barret and Cait Sith will be forced into, but unlike all the other Attack Squad battles, this one can be escaped. Other than that, you can just proceed with the story until the Highwind is yours.

Fly over to Mideel and find Cloud. Just let Tifa find the dog and things will happen automatically. After ten more tons of blablabla, Cid will be crowned as the leader of your party and you will have to form a new party. Make your party Cid, Red and Cait Sith and then head for Fort Condor.

Here, just climb up and get the minigame started. You have to talk to the man by the table first. Turn the speed all the way up when the minigame starts and just let the enemies reach the shack. Don't place any soldiers. When the enemy reaches the shack, you will be forced to fight CMD. Grand Horn, but you can just let him destroy your party. Yes, you will see the words "Game Over" on the screen, but after the screen goes black, your party will wake up on the bottom with 1 HP. Heal Cid back to full health, equip him with a Ribbon, give him a Tranquilizer and head over to North Corel.

Find your way to the reactor and make sure Red and Cait Sith die on the way. Well, the only have 1 HP each, so that shouldn't be a problem. Save when you reach the save point and heal Cid back to full health. A battle with two Attack Squads awaits in front of the reactor.

B40: Attack Squad x2

HP: 1300 Dif: 1/10

Now, Cid will hijack a locomotive and go after the train with the Huge Materia. Five battles take place on this train, but these can easily be avoided by letting the timer run out. As soon as the timer appears on the screen, you can just put the controller away and wait until the timer hits zero. Soon after, you will be back in North Corel.

Okay, it's time to go back to Mideel and get Cloud back. Revive Cait, equip him with the Reflect Ring, give him a Tranquilizer and heal him to full health. That's all. Then enter Mideel and pick up the Elixir in the house on the left side before you go back outside and save.

B41: Ultimate Weapon HP: Doesn't matter

Dif: 1/10

Ultimate Weapon has three attacks: Quake2, a physical attack and Ultima Beam and he uses them in that order before he takes off. No exceptions. Cait Sith will reflect Quake2. Use a Lunar Curtain on the first turn and a Hi-Potion when he gets hit by the physical attack. Ultimate Beam will only deal around 600 damage and Cait Sith will easily survive.

And then it's time for Boredom World 3. Form a party of Cloud, Tifa and Red afterwards and equip them with the three elemental armors (Aurora, Fire and Bolt Armlet). Make sure the other characters have Bronze Bangles and remove the Ribbon from Cid. Red is still dead from the Ultimate Weapon battle, but don't bother reviving him.

From now on, it's likely that you'll run into financial trouble. If I tell you to buy something and you can't afford it, you're pretty much screwed and you have no choice but to restart the challenge. No, don't worry, I'm just kidding. You can use the Mythril Trick to get more money. As you most likely know, the sleeping man in the cave near Junon will give you a Mythril if the number of battles you have engaged in ends with either 11, 33, 55, 77 or 99. If it ends with 22, 44, 66 or 88, he'll give you a Bolt Ring, which can be sold for 4000 Gil. Well, first find out how many battles you've fought. If he doesn't tell you how many battles you've fought, you can just go outside and fight another battle before you go back in. When you eventually find out, you can go outside and fight until the number of battles you've fought ends with 11, 33, 55, 77 or 99. Then go talk to the man and he will give you a Mythril. Now, fly over to the house near Gongaga, give the Mythril to the weapon smith and he'll let you open one of the boxes. Open the huge box on the first floor to receive a Gold Armlet. These can be sold for 1000 Gil. Then fly back to the sleeping man and talk to him again and he will give you another Mythril. I guess you can figure

out how this works now. Repeat this process until you have so much money you need. Just make sure to park the Highwind as close to the cave and the house as possible, as you don't want to get into a random battle.

It's shopping time. Head over to Wutai and sell off all Ethers and equipment except for the Fire Ring, Poison Ring, Dragon Armlet, Gigas Armlet and the Ribbons. Buy 60 Swift Bolts and make sure you have at least 25 Hi-Potions, 25 Phoenix Downs and 50 Tranquilizers. Then head over to Costa del Sol and buy 25 S-mines. Make sure to place S-mines and Swift Bolts at the top of your item list. These will be the main sources of damage form now on. When you're done, you can cross the sea to Junon.

4.3 <> Junon Underwater Reactor

Items: Battle Trumpet

Scimitar God's Hand

Find your way to the elevator. Two forced battles take place here. Place Tifa in front row and give a Tranquilizer to Cloud before you enter.

B42: Submarine Crew x2

HP: 1500 Dif: 1/10

You need two Swift Bolts to take out two Submarine Crews. You'll have a total of five battles with two Submarine Crews here, so I'll only say this once. Of course, Tifa and Red must be dead before you throw the second one.

Form a party of Cloud, Barret and Tifa when you reach the next save point and give Red's elemental armor to Barret. Then place Cloud in front row and give a Tranquilizer to Barret. Then continue on until you reach the bottom. More small battles await here. Make sure not to run past the first soldier, or else the three Submarine Crews in this room will attack you from both sides. Just talk to the first soldier and you'll get to fight him alone.

B44: Submarine Crew

HP: 1500 Dif: 1/10

Throw an S-mine and then finish him off with physical attacks or a limit break if you have one. Needless to say, Cloud must be dead first.

The next battle is with two Submarine Crews and you already know how to handle that. Revive Cloud and Tifa after this battle, but don't bother healing them.

B46: Underwater MP x2

HP: 1000 Dif: 2/10

Don't go back and save just yet. Instead, move on to the next area and watch the Huge Materia being taken out of the reactor. Then proceed to the docks and watch it being placed in the submarine, but make sure not to approach Reno yet. If you move just an inch forward, you will trigger the battle with Carry Armor and you don't want to get screwed by him now and fight the last three battles over again. First head back to the save point and form a party of Cloud, Cait Sith and Cid. Give them the elemental armors, give Tranquilizers to everyone, heal everyone to full health and turn the battle speed all the way down. Then you can head back to the docks and kick Carry Armor's shiny metal ass.

B47: Carry Armor

HP: 24000 Dif: 5/10

No, that's not a typo. Carry Armor is easy, but you need some luck. At least the strategy is very simple. You should be grateful this is not a Lowest EXP Challenge, so that you're allowed to take out the arms. When they're gone, the battle becomes a 1/10.

Carry Armor has the ability to use Lapis Laser as a Sneak Attack and you know what the result of that is. There's only a 1/3 chance that'll happen, but there's also a 1/4 chance he'll use it on his first turn, before you get to do anything, so he will open the battle with this attack at least half the time. My record is five times in a row and lolo's is 11! Curse him. When he's got more than 18000 HP, there's a 1/4 chance he'll use Lapis Laser each turn. Then it increases to 1/3 and then 1/2 below 12000 HP. Below 6000 HP, he uses it on every turn.

The battle consists of two phases. First you have to take out the arms, which requires exactly 11 Swift Bolts. In the beginning of the battle, there's a 1/16 chance he'll use Arm Grab, but this decreases to 1/128 once you throw the first Swift Bolt. However, after throwing 8, it increases to 1/2. Hurray! Just pray he doesn't grab you. Arm Grab is an instant game over. There's a chance you'll survive if you get grabbed before the last Swift Bolt is thrown and the target has enough HP, but in any other case, you can just hit the reset button.

Since there's a small chance he'll use Lapis Laser when he's still got a lot of HP, you can gamble and don't use the Lunar Curtain immediately. That'll make the battle a little more luck requiring, but it'll be easier, as the one Lunar Curtain will last for the rest of the battle. Use it on the 12th turn, or in other words, after the last Swift Bolt. Then use a Megalixir on the next turn, so that the party can survive Lapis Laser.

When the arms are gone, you are almost guaranteed victory. Only clumsiness can ruin the battle for you now. 15 S-mines are needed to destroy the main body and make sure you don't lose count. He will most likely use Lapis Laser two or three times before you kill him. Use a Megalixir the first time, but the second time, you only have to give a Hi-Potion to Cid. If he's got less than 100 HP, you must give him two. Then just keep throwing S-mines until you've thrown 14 and wait until he uses Lapis Laser again. This will take care of Cloud and Cait Sith and you can have Cid throw the last S-mine.

Unfortunately, you can't go back and save after this battle, so you have to move on and fight three more battles before you get access to the save point inside the submarine. The first two battles are with two Submarine Crews and you know how to handle them. Make sure to equip Cid with the Scimitar and heal him back to full health before the first battle. Also, equip Cait Sith with the Battle Trumpet. The third battle, however, is with three Submarine Crews that attack from both sides and Cid has no chance to survive this battle on his own. On top of that, you don't get to open the menu between the second and third battle, so you have to let Cait Sith survive the second battle too. Revive him before the second battle, give him a Tranquilizer and heal both to full health. There's no need to heal in the second battle. You can keep the battle speed at the lowest for these battles.

B50: Underwater MP x3, attack from both sides

HP: 1000 Dif: 2/10

The Submarine Crews will start attacking as soon as the battle begins. Someone might get killed, but don't worry about that even if it's Cid. Just throw the Dragon Fang at the group of two as soon as possible and you'll be more than fine. If Cid is dead, you can revive him now. If Cait is dead, there's no need to revive him. Heal Cid if his HP is low. Have Cid throw an S-mine at the last enemy and then finish him off with a physical attack or a limit break as soon as Cait is dead.

And then you can finally save. Make sure to take the guys inside the control room prisoner before the minigame and make sure to win the minigame. When you return to the surface, you should get back into the sub and go pick up the Key to the Ancients. Just take the sub as far to the north as you can get and then enter the underwater cave here to find it.

Next up now is Rocket Town, but you have to do a few things before entering. First PHS Tifa into the party and equip her God's Hand. Then form a party of Cloud, Cid and Red and give a Ribbon to Cid. Red should still be dead after the battles in the Underwater Reactor and that's good. Don't revive Cloud either. Finally, heal Cid to full health and turn the battle speed back up.

4.4 <> Rocket Town & More

Items: Fourth Bracelet
 Guard Source

Both items are located at the shops. Sell off any weapons in your inventory and any Shinra Betas you may have won from the Submarine Crews. Then make sure you have at least 25 Hi-Potions and head back to the world map and save.

B51: Attack Squad x2

HP: 1300 Dif: 1/10

Just throw two Swift Bolts to take them out.

B52: Attack Squad x2

HP: 1300 Dif: 1/10

Throw a Swift Bolt, use a Hi-Potion and then throw another Swift Bolt.

B53: Senior Grunt & Attack Squad x2

HP: 2600, 1300

Dif: 2/10

Next up is Rude, but you can't go back and save before taking him on. Cid could use some help in this battle, so revive the other guys, heal them back to full health and give Tranquilizers to them. Also give the second Ribbon to Cloud.

B54: Rude & Attack Squads

HP: 9000 Dif: 4/10

You have to find the calculator again to keep track of Rude's HP. He's able to heal himself with Cure2, so you can't just throw an exact number of S-mines.

On your first turn, throw two Swift Bolts and use the last Lunar Curtain. The Swift Bolts will take care of the Attack Squads. Then start throwing S-mines to deplete Rude's HP. Don't bother healig anyone but Cid, as the battle will be over after a short time. If Rude doesn't kill Cloud and Red, you must have them use S-mines on themselves when his HP is below 1300. Then you can have Cid throw the last S-mine. That is, unless Rude uses Cure2 on himself in the meantime. Depending on his HP, you might have to throw two S-mines.

Just heal Cid back to full health before the next battle.

B55: Senior Grunt

HP: 2600 Dif: 1/10

Two S-mines should take care of him, but if not, you can just attack regularly until he dies. There's no need to heal in this battle.

And then it's time for another Boredom World. This one consists of a trip to Outer Space and a second visit to Cosmo Canyon and the Forgotten Capital.

4.5 <> Yuffie, Diamond Weapon & Wutai

Items: Elixir

Swift Bolt

Peace Ring (Rapps)

Power Source
Mind Source
Speed Source
Magic Source
Guard Source
Luck Source
Megalixir

When you try to enter the Highwind after the visit to the Forgotten Capital, Diamond Weapon will show up and march straight towards Midgar. We can't fight him just yet, though. First we have to recruit a new member to the party. We'll use the same party for the battle with Yuffie, so just head over to Mideel and start looking for her. As you most likely know, she only shows up in forests.

B56: Yuffie (aka Mystery Ninja)

HP: 600 Dif: 1/10

Throw a Swift Bolt and the battle will be over.

Don't use the save point and don't open the menu. Just give her these replies and she will join the party:

"Not interested"

"petrified"

"Wait a second!"

"That is right."

"Let us hurry on."

That's it. Yuffie is now an official member of your almighty party. Now let's go kick some Diamond Weapon ass. Well, some preparations are needed first. Form

a party of Cloud, Barret and Cid and give the Fire Armlet to Cloud, Fire Ring to Barret and Dragon Armlet to Cid. Then rest inside the Highwind and give Tranquilizers to everyone. Then just fly around until Diamond Weapon reaches land and then save just next to him. Just make sure you don't go too close. You don't want to enter the battle too early.

B57: Diamond Weapon

HP: 30000 Dif: 3/10

This is too easy. The only thing you have to do here is throwing 26 Swift Bolts and heal each time someone is attacked by his Foot Stamp attack. Never use limit breaks, as you don't want to trigger the Countdown to Diamond Flash. Sounds simple? Well, it's a bit more complicated than that.

Diamond Weapon has two attacks: Fire Ball and Foot Stamp. They don't have names, but that's what they are, so let's call them that. Fire Ball will heal Cloud, deal zero damage to Barret and about 250 to Cid, so this one is pretty much nothing to worry about. Foot Stamp deals up to 800, though. Cloud doesn't but Foot Stamp is always used on the character with the highest current HP, so he's fine as long as you make sure Cid or Barret always have more HP than him. And of course, more than 800 HP.

Heal Barret and Cid back to full health and move them to front row when you only have one Swift Bolt left to throw. They can't survive Foot Stamp now. Just make sure they always have more HP than Cloud and nothing can go wrong. Have Cloud throw the last Swift Bolt as soon as both Tifa and Cid are dead.

That was way too easy. How come all the mandatory Weapon battles are so easy? Ultimate runs off after three attacks and Diamond certainly doesn't live up to his Weapon-name. Anyway, go check out the crater after all the cut-scenes, but don't head back to Midgar yet. First, we have to take a trip to Wutai and do the infamous Wutai Quest. The main reason is to make the Turks battle in Midgar optional, but we also have to do the quest to be able to buy more Swift Bolts and Fire Veils later. Form a party of Cloud, Tifa and Cait Sith, place Cloud and Tifa in front row, give a Ribbon and the Fourth Bracelet to Cait Sith and then rest inside the Highwind.

When you first enter Wutai, you will not enter town, but Yuffie will come and steal our materia. OH NOES! She stole our materia! What the hell are we gonna do without our materia? We're doomed for sure. You will also be forced to fight a couple of scary Attacks Squads. I'll let you handle this battle on your own. Cait Sith is the survivor. Make sure to heal him again after the battle, but don't revive the others. Then you can enter town and let the sidequest begin. In case you don't know what to do, I'll guide you through the quest like I did at the Wall Market.

- 1. Go talk to Godo at his house. Yuffie will appear and run off. DON'T sleep in the beds here.
- 2. Go talk to the Turks at the Turtle's Paradise.
- 3. Enter the weapon shop and open the box with the MP Absorb Materia. Yuffie will appear and run off with it.

- 4. Enter the house right next to the entrance. You will find Yuffie, and she will run off again.
- 5. She's now hiding hiding inside a big pot outside of the Turtle's Paradise. The others will block the paths for her and you will catch her. She'll then take you to her house.
- 6. Pull the lever when Yuffie tells you to and Red and Cait Sith will be trapped inside a cage. You guessed it. She runs off again. Pull the lever once more to free the characters. Make sure to check out the last Turtle's Paradise flyer here before you go after her.
- 7. Switch Cait Sith for Tifa and head back to the upper area of town. Now enter the small house thing to the left and use the bell to open a secret door. Enter the door and say hello to our good friend Don Corneo.
- 8. Pick up the items from the boxes and follow him. You will end up in Godo's house and you'll be forced to fight three Attach Squads. Yikes!

B59: Attack Squad x3

HP: 1300 Dif: 1/10

Why did I bother creating a box for this one? Ah well, just throw a couple of Swift Bolts and the battle will be over.

Now you can go sleep in the beds. Head back to the save point after talking to the Turks and give Cait Sith a Tranquilizer before you save. Then it's time to head for Da-Chao. There's no need to pick up the items in the fire cave, so just ignore it and go find Corneo.

B60: Rapps HP: 6000 Dif: 3/10

Only 6000 HP, but he can easily kill your characters with Aero3. First throw four S-mines and use a Phoenix Down every time someone gets killed. Then make sure Cloud and Tifa are dead before you throw the last S-mine.

After the battle, we finally get the materia back. Yay! Stop by at the Item Shop and buy so that you have 99 Hi-Potions before you leave town. Buy some Phoenix Downs as well, if you're running short on them. 20 should be enough for now. You can also sell the Peace Ring you just won from Rapps. And before you leave, don't forget to stop by at the Turtle's Paradise and claim your prize for finding all the flyers.

Before you can enter Midgar, you have to stop by at Costa del Sol and make sure you have 99 S-mines. Use the Mythril Trick if you can't afford it. Then form a party of Cloud, Barret and Cid, give elemental armors to Cloud and Cid and the

Fourth Bracelet to Barret. As for accessories, give the Ribbons to Cloud and Barret and the Poison Ring to Cid. Then fly over Midgar. Your party will be healed before you jump, so don't use any Tranquilizers before you land.

4.6 <> Return To Midgar

Items: Elixir x3
 Megalixir
 Aegis Armlet
 Starlight Phone

Max Ray Glow Lance

Ragnarok (Proud Clod)

Mystile

Power Source (Hojo)

Give Tranquilizers to the party before you save. The enemies here can be very nasty, so make sure to heal after every random battle. Give the Aegis Armlet to Cloud and the Max Ray to Barret as you find them.

The Turks will show up in the tunnel as usual, but since you did the Wutai quest, you will be given a choice if you want to fight them or not. If you really want to test your skills, you can try to defeat them. It's possible, but you will need a lot of luck. Especially if you don't have a Deadly Waste. Anyway, before going after Proud Clod, we're gonna take a short trip back to the Shinra HQ. There's a weapon for Cid here that can be sold for 8000 Gil. Go right in the first intersection and then left to get there. Take the elevator up to the 63rd floor and you'll find it. After picking it up, you can head back down and save at the save point by the entrance. Don't bother healing your party until you reach Sector 8, where the battle with Proud Clod takes place. Go left in the first intersection to get there.

B61: Proud Clod

HP: 60000 Dif: 4/10

Note: Don't attack Jamar Armor.

Proud Clod? More like Pity Cloud. This huge guy here is even more harmless than Diamond Weapon, so he doesn't have anything to be proud of. Just start throwing S-mines and heal whenever someone loses more than 500 HP and you'll be fine. As long as you keep everyone's HP above 800, you can only be killed by a double machine gun attack where one of the attacks goes critical. Because the damage of the S-mines vary, it's kinda dangerous to just throw an exact number, so use the calculator to keep track of his HP.

About halfway through the battle, he'll start using Beam Cannon. That's a good thing, as he wastes two turns sitting down on his knees before the attack and then one turn standing up again afterwards. Beam Cannon deals up to 800 damage, so make sure the party has more HP than that before the attack. When the attack is used, you can spend two turns using Hi-Potions to recover. This is such an easy battle anyway, so there's no need to waste Elixirs.

Barret is supposed to survive this battle and you can use Beam Cannon to kill

off Cloud and Cid. If Beam Cannon is used when he's got less than 15000 HP left, you can just heal Cloud and Cid with one Hi-Potion each after the attack. No problem at all. Make sure Proud Clod has less than 900 HP left before the next Beam Cannon and you can have Barret throw the last S-mine when Beam Cannon kills Cloud and Cid.

Revive Cloud and Cid before you move on, as you might run into a Grosspanzer on your way to the save point. These enemies would have slayed Barret if you had sent him into a battle on his own. When you reach the save point, remove Barret and Cid's accessories and give a Bronze Bangle to Barret. Then form a party of Cloud, Yuffie and Cait Sith. Give Ragnarok and the Gigas Armlet to Cloud, the Mystile to Yuffie and the Starlight Phone and the Fourth Bracelet to Cait Sith. As for accessories, you can give the Power Wrist to Cloud and the Ribbons to Yuffie and Cait Sith. You should also do some arrangements in the item list. Place S-mines at the top, followed by Swift Bolts, Hi-Potions, Phoenix Downs, Tranquilizers, Elixirs, X-Potions and then Vaccines. Well, Vaccine, since you only have one of them. Then give Tranquilizers to everyone, save and move on. Make sure to heal if you should lose HP in a random battle on your way up.

B62: Hojo HP: 13000 Dif: 1/10

Note: Don't attack Poodler Sample and Bad Rap Sample.

This is just a warm up battle. First give the Vaccine to Cloud and then start throwing S-mines. Save limit breaks for the next battle. 12 S-mines are needed to take him out and healing shouldn't be necessary until you've thrown 11. Heal Yuffie if her HP should fall below 400 before that and make sure the party has as much HP as possible when you throw the 12th one. Then let's see how the make juice is reacting...

B63: Hellectic Hojo, Left Arm, Right Arm

HP: 26000, 24000, 5000

Dif: 5/10

Note: Don't attack the head with limit breaks.

The major threat in this battle is the Right Arm. Its attack deals 600 damage through Sadness and he's capable of using it twice in one attack. Not good for Yuffie with her 900 HP, but she's got the Mystile, so it'll miss at least half the time. We'll use Swift Bolts in this battle and you only need six of them to kill the Right Arm. When the Right Arm is still alive, you can heal with a Hi-Potion whenever someone gets attacked, but don't bother reviving Yuffie if she gets killed. Instead, focus on killing the arm and then hope he doesn't revive it right away. As soon as you kill it, you should make sure to heal your party back to full health again. Also, you can never allow Cloud to die during the battle, as that will remove his invulnerability to negative statuses, something you really need in the last battle.

Hellectic Hojo will kill himself when both arms are dead, so use any limit breaks on the Left Arm. Cloud will deal major damage with Cross-Slash, so it shouldn't take that long to deplete its HP. Just take note that he might revive

the Right Arm when the Left Arm only has a little HP left. That way, the battle will last a little longer, but that's really not a big deal.

B64: Lifeform Hojo NA

HP: 30000 Dif: 4/10

Note: You need the calculator again in this battle.

Be grateful for your invulnerability to negative statuses in this battle. Just throw S-mines, use limit breaks and heal when necessary. That's pretty much it.

And that concludes disc two. The end is near. This was also the last time you received EXP in this challenge, so that's one less thing to worry about.

4.7 <> The Northern Crater

Items: Heaven's Cloud (Crashed Gelnika)

Megalixir x2 (Crashed Gelnika)

Escort Guard (Crashed Gelnika)

Conformer (Crashed Gelnika)

Spirit Lance (Crashed Gelnika)

Outsider (Crashed Gelnika)

Save Crystal (first path)
Guard Source x3 (first path)
Power Source x2 (first path)
Elixir (first path)
Mind Source x2 (first path)
Magic Source (first path)
Megalixir x2 (first path)
Hero Drink (first path)

Magic Source (left-up path)
Remedy (left-up path)
Hero Drink (left-up path)
Vaccine (left-up path)
Imperial Guard (left-up path)

Turbo Ether x2 (left-down path)
Speed Source (left-down path)
X-Potion x2 (left-down path)
Vaccine (left-down path)
Remedy (left-down path)
Elixir (left-down path)

Mystile (right path) Elixir (right path)

Tetra Elemental (right path)
Speed Source (right path)
Megalixir x2 (right path)

Luck Source (bottom)

Mystile (Tifa)

Megalixir (Yuffie)

Elixir (Cait Sith)

Mind Source (Red XIII)

You have to do a couple of things before you can descend into the crater. First get into the submarine and find the Crashed Gelnika. It's near the Gold Saucer. Pick up all the items here. Just take note that the enemies here deal som serious damage, so make sure to heal between all random battles and save every time you pass the save point, in case you should get killed.

When you return to the world map, you can form a party of Cloud, Barret and Cid and equip them with the Mystile, Aegis Armlet and Fourth Bracelet. Give the Ribbons to Cloud and Cid. Make sure the other characters are equipped with Bronze Bangles and no accessories. Then head to Costa del Sol and sell off all the equipment in your inventory and then buy 18 S-mines. If you have more than 10 Phoenix Downs, you can spend the rest of your money on Hi-Potions. Then give Tranquilizers to the party and head back to the crater.

Find your way down to the area where you meet up with the others. You don't have to pick up all the items on the second and third screen now, as you can do that on your way back up. Yes, we have to leave the crater again to do some more shopping, but before we can do that, we have to get some more money. When you get there, send Cloud, Barret and Cid to the left and Tifa, Yuffie, Cait Sith and Red down the right path.

On the next screen, send everyone up and then go there. This is the swamp area. Just get through here and pick up all the items. When you reach the bottom, you must place the Save Crystal. Think of this area as a clock and place it at 8. Don't go any further, or you'll enter the next screen. If that happens, you won't get the bonus items from the other characters, which means that you won't get three Mystiles. You don't want that to happen.

Head back up after saving. Yup, there's only one way. Then take the right path back down to get the rest of the items. When you reach the bottom again, you can enter the last area and talk to the others to get the bonus items. There you go: three Mystiles. Equip Cloud, Barret and Cid with them right away and give Tetra Elemental to Barret.

Then it's time to acquire some money. Head back to the swamp area and start looking for Movers. The chance for them to appear is only 1/8, but you only have to fight two battles, so it won't take that long. However, if you run into a group of two Allemagnes that attack from both sides, you're screwed. There's no escaping that battle. Thankfully, there's only a 1/16 chance you'll get that battle. Just pray you don't get that battle.

B65: Mover x3 HP: 3000 Dif: 2/10

Note: These enemies give away 0 EXP!

Three S-mines are needed to take out on Mover and make sure to take out one at the time. Healing shouldn't be necessary if you enter the battle with close to full HP, but as any other enemies, these are also able to get critical hits.

Head back to the surface after two battles, but consider saving at the bottom first. You never know what might happen. t's shopping time again and I'll simply make a list over all the items you need. You should know where to find these items by now. You can sell of any equipment in your inventory.

99 S-mines

75 Swift Bolts

50 Hi-Potions

50 Phoenix Downs

25 Tranquilizers

If you have any money left afterwards, you can spend them on some extra Swift Bolts, although you most likely won't need them. And if you for some reason shouldn't have enough money, you know what to do. That's it. Now you can head back down and make your final save. When I first did this challenge back in 2003, my final save time was 17:26.

4.8 <> The Final Battles

Yes, it's time to end this. Find your way down to the very bottom, where the showdown takes place, but make sure to heal everyone back to full health and turn the battle speed all the way down before you enter the final area.

B67: Jenova-SYNTHESIS

HP: 60000 Dif: 4/10

We're using Swift Bolts in this battle. Use every opportunity to throw one and make sure to take advantage of the limit break system. Since all the characters are wearing Mystiles, at least 50% of her attacks will miss. The only thing that could happen is that Barret could get poisoned by Bio2, but that's really not a big deal. If it happens, you can just let him die, revive him and heal him. Once you kill the arms, the battle is pretty much over. She will revive them now and then, but you will always be able to kill off one of them before it gets to attack. Stop throwing Swift Bolts as soon as the countdown starts and pray Ultima misses at least one of the characters. It most likely will.

And on we go to the next one. We're using the same party, Cloud, Barret and Cid, and make sure to heal them back to full health.

B68: Bizarro-Sephiroth

HP: 40000, 10000 (core), 4000 (arms), 2000 (head)

Dif: 5/10

This is only difficult in the beginning. You have only one attack to fear in this battle, and that's Stigma. Stigma is used on the fourth turn if both the head and the Core are alive. After that, it's only used every eighth turn.

Start the battle by having everyone throw S-mines at the right arm. Bolt3 will then be used, and it's most likely to miss Cloud or Cid if used on them. Barret will be healed. Have Cloud and Cid throw S-mines at right arm again either way and wait and see what happens. If nobody gets killed, you can have Barret heal if someone has been hurt by Sephiroth's physical attack. If not, let him throw a Swift Bolt. If either Cloud or Cid gets killed by Bolt3, you must have Barret revive the fallen, and have this character throw an S-mine at the right arm when he gets his turn. The right arm will now die.

No matter what happened, you must now start throwing Swift Bolts at every opportunity, as the Core will soon use Stigma. Don't worry, you should easily make it, even if someone gets killed by Quake3. The head will die after three Swift Bolts and the left arm after five, and when both arms are destroyed, you no longer have to worry about the level 3 magic attacks. Just keep throwing Swift Bolts until the Core is defeated and heal when necessary. When you finally take out the Core, the rest is piece of cake.

With the Core out of function, you can start throwing S-mines at the main body, and heal whenever it's necessary. The head will be revived now and then, but that's nothing to worry about. Just throw three Swift Bolts to take it out again. He might cast Heartless Angel when the head is alive, which reduces the party's HP to 1, but just use a Megalixir if that happens.

B69: Safer-Sephiroth

HP: 80000 Dif: 4/10

What makes Safer-Sephiroth so easy is his pattern of attacks. You will always know what's next, so there's no need to live in fear for a certain attack. When you learn this pattern by heart and get full control over the battle, it gets really, really easy. This is his pattern:

- 1. Wall
- 2. Shadow Flare
- 3. Wing (regular physical attack)
- 4. Ascend to back row
- 5. Pale Horse
- 6. Super Nova
- 7. Break (Heartless Angel when HP is below 20.000)
- 8. Decend to front row
- 9. DeSpell
- 10. Deen
- 11. Wing
- 12. Ascend to back row
- 13. Pale Horse
- 14. Super Nova
- 15. Break
- 16. Decend to front row
- 17. Back to start

Shadow Flare, Wing, Pale Horse and Break are all single target attacks that

will kill the target. All these attacks except for Pale Horse can miss and Break will heal Barret. Wing is always used on the character with the highest current HP. Super Nova deals 93,75% of a character's current HP, which means it's completely harmless. It might inflict some statuses to Barret, though, but that can be prevented if you use a Vaccine first. Heartless Angel still reduces the party's HP to 1, so this attack is also completely harmless. The only attack to worry about here is Deen, which deals up to 1100 damage to the party through Sadness. The only time you have to heal in the battle is before this attack. That's all you need to know about the attacks.

Sephiroth starts the battle by casting Wall on himself, and this protective spell will reduce damage dealt by limit breaks and physical attacks with 50%. But what about S-mines? They still deal full damage to him. That's why S-mines are our main source of damage in this battle. On the lowest battle speed, it will last for a long while, so we're just throwing S-mines for now.

Well, have everyone throw S-mines on the first turn, and have the first character to get his turn again throw one. Then wait and see what happens with Shadow Flare. If someone gets killed, you must have one of the others revive the fallen. If not, just keep throwing S-mines.

Next comes Wing, which hits the character with the highest current HP. In other words, you will always know who he's going to use this attack on and that makes preparations for the attack easier. If it hits, the target will die, so then you must have one character revive him while the last character throws an S-mine. If it misses, you can just throw S-mines.

Then he will ascend to back row and use Pale Horse. Have your turns ready for this attack and make sure someone revives the fallen at once. This attack won't miss. Have the last character give a Vaccine to Barret and then have everyone throw S-mines before Super Nova. Just keep throwing S-mines after Super Nova.

Break is next, and it's basically the same as Shadow Flare and Wing, but this spell will heal Barret, so you have an even smaller chance of getting killed now. Revive the fallen if someone gets killed and then use a Megalixir. If no one gets killed, you can throw two S-mines and use a Megalixir. If no one gets killed and Cloud has a limit break, you can have Barret and Cid give him the Hero Drink and then unleash the limit break. It will deal around 7000 damage!

After descending, Sephiroth will use DeSpell. Have everyone use Tranquilizers afterwards, so that you can survive Deen. Deen will never miss, so you kinda have to make sure you survive it. After Deen, have everyone throw S-mines and follow up with limit breaks by taking advantage of the limit break system.

That's how you deal with every single one of Sephiroth's attacks. Very simple. When you run out of Vaccines (DeSepll and Barret getting killed will remove the Vaccine's function), Barret might get confused by Super Nova. If you enter the menu and select a Remedy during Super Nova, near the end of the animation, you can see if Barret will get any statuses or not. If he gets Confusion, you must prepare one of the others to use a Remedy on him.

All in all, this is a very simply battle, but because of his high amount of HP, it will take a while to defeat him.

That's it. If you managed to complete the challenge, I can only say congrats on your accomplishment. If you think it was too easy, you can move on to LLNMIENA, which is one of the toughest Low Level challenges out there.

Anyway, the challenge is over. Let's go home proud.

5 - Additional Info

The final chapter of this guide, with challenge suggestions, info on how to contact me, version history, credits and some final words.

5.1 <> Challenge Suggestions

This is an idea I got from KADFC. He's got a list with all the challenges he's beaten in his FAQs, but I thought I'd do something more out of it and add some info about the challenges. In other words, turn it into a challenge suggestions section. If you want to do a challenge, you can read through all the challenge

descriptions and fine the challenge that suits you the best.

When a challenge has LL in its title, as most of the ones below have, it means that the level limit is 28. This rule is explained in the intro, but simply put it means that you cannot exceed level 28 at any point in the game. Also, all the LL challenges have the unwritten "Level 1 Limit Breaks Only" rule. It's not a part of the title, but you're not allowed to learn any other limit breaks than the level 1 ones. And finally, don't forget that all the LL challenges require a battle plan. I explained this in the intro as well.

This is the first challenge I did and it was more than challenging enough back then. There's no level limit in this challenge; the only rule is that you must escape all the random battles you get into. You can use whatever party you want and you don't have to kill off any charaters before the end of the battle. By using the same party all the time, you will end up with a level 39 party before the last boss. My highest level when I first did this challenge was 36, but I didn't use any characters with a higher level than 34. I defeated Sephiroth with a level 34-33-33 party of Cloud, Barret and Cid, if I remember correctly.

Difficulty: 1/10

Toughest bosses: Demon's Gate, Carry Armor, Turks in Midgar (optional)

The only rule in this challenge is that you cannot use Materia. You may level up as much as you want and use anything else the game has to offer. Of course, the difficulty depends on how much you level up. This was the second challenge I did, after two Low Level Games and my highest level was 50. Still, it was pretty easy and I didn't have any serious trouble with any bosses. I wouldn't really call this a challenge if you don't keep your levels as low as possible.

Difficulty: Depends on your level, but 1/10 above level 40.

Toughest bosses: Carry Armor, Turks in Midgar

Same rules as above, except for the level limit. You're not allowed to have anyone exceed level 28 at any point in the game. Because of that, you must always kill off two character before the end of battles and that means you need a battle plan. You may use whatever the game has to offer in this challenge, but getting KotR is too cheap. Since you have more than enough EXP to "spend" before the characters reach level 29, you can learn several Enemy Skills, like Magic Hammer, Big Guard and White Wind to make it easier.

Difficulty: 2/10

Toughest bosses: Demon's Gate, Turks in Midgar

Pretty much the same challenge as Lowest Level, but as the title says, you must reach the end of the game with the lowest amount of EXP possible. Because of that, you can no longer learn Enemy Skills and that will make some battles A LOT tougher. Carry Armor is the best example, as you can't drain his MP to prevent Lapis Laser and you can't use Big Guard to take less damage. Other than that, the challenge isn't very much different from a regular Lowest Level Game. By the time I did this challenge, I had already done some of the toughest ones and several Speed Runs, so I managed to reach the bottom of the crater in less than 12 hours. 11:59, to be exact.

Difficulty: 3/10

Toughest bosses: Carry Armor

So, after completing the too easy No Materia challenge, I decided to combine it with LL to at least make it challenging. You can no longer use Materia, but that doesn't mean it gets very much tougher. You simply have to make up for the lack of Materia by using items and items can be very powerful when you know how to use them. Also, you can still equip new weapons, armor and accessories to make the magic using bosses harmless. This is a very good challenge for the more advanced player. If you think the regular LL or NM were too easy, you should try this one. I have also written a FAQ about this challenge.

Difficulty: 4/10

Toughest bosses: Carry Armor

Oh yeah. Now we're talking. You can no longer equip armor and accessories to make the magic using bosses harmless and that's the major difference between LLNM and this one. The magic using bosses are namley the toughest bosses in this challenge and they will make you want to pull your hair out. You will also notice the lack of Ribbons in battles with enemies who uses statuses. Hojo is the best example of this and his final form, Lifeform Hojo NA is also one of

the toughest bosses in this challenge. This is, in my opinion, the best FFVII challenge there is, as it depends mostly on skills, knowledge and strategy and not luck. Many challenges require a lot of luck and that takes away much of the fun. This is one of the toughest challenges out there, so it's recommended for experts only. I also wrote a FAQ about this challenge once. Check it out! :p

Toughest bosses: Schizo, Jenova-DEATH, Lifeform Hojo NA, Bizarro Sephiroth

Difficulty: 8/10

The same rules as LLNMIENA, except that No Materia has been replaced with No Items. Using Materia instead of items makes the magic using bosses much easier than in LLNMIENA, as you can both use Magic Hammer to reduce their MP and you can use Elemental Materia to reduce the damage from their attacks. The same goes for the status using enemies, as you can use Added Effect to protect against statuses. However, you no longer have access to powerful items, so you must depend on materia and limit breaks to deal good damage. Magic Hammer will help maintaining your MP in many battles, but you will really notice the lack of items against bosses with low MP. Demon's Gate and Hojo are the best examples of this. Compared to LLNMIENA, this challenges is tougher in the beginning, but it gets too easy after a while. Also, some of the battles require a lot of luck (like Lifeform Hojo NA) and that ruins some of the fun. It's still a good challenge though, with some very tough battles, but it's too easy if you have already done LLNMIENA, like I had. Thundaka has written a great FAQ about this challenge. Check it out!

Toughest bosses: Demon's Gate, Lifeform Hojo NA

Difficulty: 6/10 (but 10/10 for Lifeform Hojo NA)

Same rules as LLNIIENA, but now you can only use Command Materia. Should make the challenge tougher, right? Oh yes. This isn't a challenge you can just take on and then see what happens when you reach a certain points. This challenge requires careful planning from beginning to end and you can easily get stuck if you do one single mistake. This challenge doesn't have the most difficult boss battles, but because of all the preparations you have to do, it rank as one of the toughest challenges out there. This is also a unique challenge, as the level limit is 29 and not 28 and you're allowed to learn more limit breaks than the level 1 ones. The reason why the level limit is 29 is simply because it's impossible to beat this challenge on level 28. In order to beat certain bosses, you must learn Cloud and Aerith's level 3 limit breaks and there's no way you can do that without leveling up to 29. This challenge is really for experts only and especially if you aren't going to follow Thundaka's FAQ. Yes, he wrote a great FAQ about this challenge too. Check it out!

Toughest bosses: Motor Ball, Rapps, Hojo, Safer-Sephiroth

Difficulty: 9/10

This is the most recent challenge I did and most likely also the last FFVII challenge I'll ever do. Just like LLNIIENACMO, this challenge requires careful planning from the very beginning, or you might get stuck on a boss. As in LLNIIENACMO, that careful planning includes learning Meteorain, Aerith's level 3 limits, but this time you also have to learn Ungarmax in order to destroy Dyne. Other than that, this challenge is pretty similar to LLNIIENACMO, but some battles are easier because you can use equipment and some battles are harder because you don't have the Enemy Skills you relied on in LLNIIENACMO. As you proceed, you get more and more powerful weapons (and even ultimate weapons) and that makes a huge difference in battles that were very tough in LLNIIENACMO. Espcially versus Proud Clod and Lifeform Hojo, where you could only deal a few hundred damage at the time. However, there is one HUGE obstacle in this battle: Carry Armor. At first, he was thought to be easy, but then I learned that Blood Fand and Dragon couldn't drain his MP. With no way to survive Lapis Laser and no way to drain his MP, he was labelled impossible and I put the challenge on hold. Then, five months later, I came up with a genius strategy. It required many hours of preparations and a lot of luck, but I managed to defeat him eventually and I could proceed with the challenge. However, there is another however. Safer-Sephiroth is most liekly impossible in this challenge. The main reason is that you cannot change equipment between Bizarro and Safer. Even getting to Bizarro is a feat. I managed to defeat Jenova once, but then I lost to Bizarro and I haven't touched the challenge since then. lolo26 has an idea that might work, but I'm not testing it until I have an emulator, so that I can use save-states. Needless to say, this one is for experts only.

Toughest bosses: Carry Armor, Hellectic Hojo, Jenova-SYNTHESIS

Difficulty: 8/10 (but 15/10 for Carry Armor)

Speed Run

A Speed Run is very different from all other challenges, as it doesn't really have any rules. You can do whatever you want in order to beat the game as fast as possible. You should beat it in less than 12 hours for it to be considered a Speed Run, though, but it doesn't really matter. It's up to you to decide how fast you want to beat the game and the challenge is only as difficult as you want it to be. This is, in my and lolo26's opinions, the best challenge ever, as everyone can do it, no matter how good you are. You're allowed to save in a regular Speed Run and play parts of the game over and over again until you're satisfied with the result. It is recommended to have done a regular Low Level Game before you start a Speed Run, though, as you have to escape all random encounters in order to save time. My current record is 8:57:59 after beating the final Sephiroth, but that record was set during a test run. I have written a Speed Run FAQ. Check it out if you want to do a Speed Run.

Toughest bosses: Depends.

Difficulty: Depends.

This is not just a Speed Run. You have to beat the game in less than 12 hours, but you're not allowed to save, and you can't take breaks. From the moment you start a new game, you have exactly 12 hours to beat Safer-Sephiroth. And that's

in real time and not on the game clock. You must start a stopwatch the exact moment you select "new game" and you're not allowed to stop it whatsoever. Anything you do in the meantime, like eating and bathroom visits will be included in the final time. It's a very good challenge, but you should at least have beaten the game regularly in less than 10 hours before you take it on. You need some luck though, as some bosses can destroy you, no matter what your leveles are. An attack from both sides can also be very fatal. In other words, it's a bit risky, and you might end up wasting 10-11 hours.

Toughest bosses: Carry Armor can be a threat with Lapis Laser and Arm Grab.

Difficulty: Let's just say it's a very tough challenge.

These are the challenges I have beaten, but there are many more challenges out there. In addition to LL challenges, there are many different Single Character challenges, but I'm not a huge fan of these. I like to use the entire party in my challenges, so that's why most of the challenges I've done are LL ones.

5.2 <> Contacting Me

If you need to contact me, you can send an email to garlandg@online.no. You can

ask me anything regarding challenges or FFVII in general, but don't bother asking me simple questions that can easily be found in the FAQs. Also let me know if you find typos, grammar errors or bad language that must be corrected. English is still my second language after all. Just be aware that I'm a busy (read: lazy) man and it might take a while before I reply.

Any tips or suggestions for the guide is appreciated, but please, professionals only. Don't send me a mail unless you know what you're talking about. And don't bother asking me how the hell it's possible to beat the game under these restrictions. It's possible and several people have done it. Do you honestly think I've spent hundrets of hours writing a joke FAQ? If you can't understand how it's possible, I suggest that you start a new game, follow the FAQ and beat the challenge yourself. You might end up having fun. I highly recommend it if you think FFVII is too easy.

You can find me on the FFVII message board as well. I'm not very active, but as long as I'm doing the perfect speed run, you can find me in the Speed Run Discussions Topic. Due to lack in activity, I decided to stop making the General Challenge Discussions Topics. If you want to do this challenge, you can post a topic about it and I'll most likely drop by.

5.3 <> Version History

Simply a list over current and earlier versions of the guide. Current version is always on top.

Version 3.0 -> April 12th, 2007 (165 kB)

Re-wrote the FAQ completely again. If you think it looks very similar to the LLNMIENA FAQ at times, it's because I copy/pasted all the text from where the challenges are similar.

The main difference this time, except for being re-written, is that some of the bosses have gotten easier strategies. That's pretty much it.

Version 2.01 -> November 12th, 2005 (140 kB)

Fixed some typos and small errors. I actually did this a few weeks after the last update, but I forgot to submit it. Ah well, no harm done.

Version 2.0 -> June 2nd, 2005 (140 kB)

Re-wrote most of the guide with better language, fixed more typos, made a new battle plan and many bosses have gotten easier strategies. I also added the challenge beaten by author/challenge suggestions section.

Version 1.02 -> October 17th, 2004 - (116 kB)

Fixed more typos and small errors. More people helped out this time, so I made a list for people finding such smaller mistakes.

Version 1.01 -> September 27th, 2004 - (116 kB)

Less than 24 hours online, and things had to be fixed. I didn't notice I had used tabs in my EXP Guide, but they are gone now. Other random mistakes and typos have been fixed as well. Thanks to FeuFeu for finding most of them.

Version 1.0 -> September 24th, 2004 - (114 kB)

Well, this is the first version of this guide. It's complete, with all the info you should need to finish this challenge. Let me know if you find mistakes, typos, grammar error or whatever needs to be fixed.

5.4 <> Credits

Giving credits to whoever helped out is a golden rule here on GameFAQs and this is the section where that will be done. I would like to thank the following:

Terence: The AI info in his Enemy Mechanics FAQ made it possible for me to create easier strategies.

Apathetic Aardvark: I borrowed the explanation on how to get all the items on floor 63 from his FAQ/Walkthrough. I hate explaning that part.

Thundaka: For discovering the Mythril Trick.

People helping out finding small errors and typos: FeuFeu, Mr. YonaZ, Prince, iamthemissinglink, lolo26, essentialism.

CJayC and GameFAQs: CJayC created GameFAQs, the best place to go when you're

contributors either, so thanks to everybody who put their time and effort into making all the FAQs.
Squaresoft: For creating many of my favorite games. Keep up the good work!
5.5 <> Final Words
Now that the very first LLNM Walkthrough is up, I hope this challenge will get more attention and that more people will play it. I think it's a very good challenge for the more advanced players that want to continue on after the regular LLG, and it's a shame so few people have played it. This is a very simple challenge, with only two restrictions, and it's just as difficult as it should be.
I hope this guide will motivate you to play the challenge, and I hope it will be helpful if you do. Of course, the best thing is to play independent from guides and figure out the strategies for yourself, but that's your choice. I did write the guide after all, so don't hesitate using it if you need help.
Cheers!
(c) Audun Arnseth (GarlandG), 2004 - 2007

stuck in a game, needs tips or strategies or just want to discuss a game with people from all around the world. This FAQ would most likely not exist if CjayC hadn't created GameFAQs. Of course, GameFAQs wouldn't exist without the FAQ

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