

Co-op

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Introduction

Co-op is a big component of the Online interaction available in Dark Souls. Other human players and a few specific NPCs can be summoned for cooperative play. A host can summon a maximum of two friendly phantoms from either white or gold summon signs. These signs are placed by other players using a white sign soapstone.

If summoned phantoms succeed in helping a host defeat the area boss, the phantoms are rewarded with souls, one humanity and perhaps a sunlight medal if one of the phantom(s) is a member of the Warrior of Sunlight Covenant.

Due to the co-op level matching schemes, it is necessary to choose areas in which to co-op based on your character's level. Leveling up too high or staying too low for certain areas can result in less frequent summons. If you enjoy co-op, you may choose to spend your souls upgrading equipment and buying consumables instead of leveling up, in order to continue helping other players through the earlier bosses.

Be warned that the conditions for allowing co-op also allow a host to be invaded by another player.

For PC players, turning off firewalls and Windows Firewall service is highly recommended.

Requirements

- The host must be in human form, which is achieved when the player uses the option to reverse-hollow at a bonfire.
- The area boss must still be alive for the host. The summoned phantoms do not need the boss in their game to still be alive.
- The phantoms must cast their sign using the white sign soapstone. They do not need to be in human form to cast their summon sign.
- The players must be within a certain level range of each other.

Special Area Requirements

A few specific areas require progression past a certain point before co-op is possible:

- In New Londo Ruins, the water must be drained (meaning you have access to Key to the Seal).
- In The Duke's Archives, the player must have escaped beyond the prison area.
- In the Demon Ruins (before Demon Firesage), the yellow fog gate needs to be cleared (you have obtained and placed the Lordvessel).
- In the Tomb of the Giants, the yellow fog gate also needs to be cleared.

Matchmaking Level Ranges

Tools

Level Range Calculator - Input any level to find out the level ranges of all multiplayer items.

Explanation

The level range for co-op is:

- The Phantom's Level, + / - (10 + 10% of the Phantom's Level)

For example: If a level 50 player uses the white sign soapstone, they can be matched with players between the levels of 35 - 65, because the math works out as follows:

- 10% of 50 = 5
- 10 + 5 = 15
- 50 +/- 15 = 35 - 65

This range can only be calculated by the player using the white sign soapstone (the phantom). If a host wishes to find out if a certain player is within their range, the other player should instead do the calculation to see if the host is found within *their* range. There is a slightly different level range for players who are hosts and players who are phantoms at the same level, but it's not a significant difference.

In instances where a decimal place is created by the 10% portion of the formula, the numbers always round down to whole number and never round up. For example, a level 15 player comes up with the numbers 10 + 1.5 (10%) to find out their range. The 1.5 rounds down to 1 before the rest of the formula is completed, meaning they add and subtract the number 11 to find out their range.

+ Show example level ranges - Hide example level ranges

Level (Phantoms)	Range of potential Hosts		Level (Hosts)	Range of potential Phantoms
1	1 - 11		1	1 - 12
10	1 - 21		10	1 - 22
20	8 - 32		20	10 - 33
30	17 - 43		30	19 - 44
40	26 - 54		40	28 - 55
50	35 - 65		50	37 - 66
80	62 - 98		80	64 - 100
100	80 - 120		100	82 - 122
120	98 - 142		120	100 - 144
200	170 - 230		200	173 - 233
500	440 - 560		500	446 - 566
713	632 - 713		713	640 - 713

Recommended Levels for Different Bosses

Consistent level bosses

The level at which people fight these bosses typically does not vary much.

Boss	Area	Common Summoning Location(s)	Level Range (Phantom)
Taurus Demon	Undead Burg	just outside the burg bonfire	1 - 15
Bell Gargoyles	Undead Parish	before the boar next to the staircase to the Black Knight; ¹ entrance to church nearest the blacksmith	10 - 20
Capra Demon	Lower Undead Burg	on the little circle near the entrance; right in front of the boss fog	15 - 25
Gaping Dragon	Depths	by the bonfire	25 - 40
Chaos Witch Quelaag	Blighttown	by the swamp bonfire; right in front of the boss fog	25 - 45

Iron Golem	Sen's Fortress	outside of boss fog; first room with the 2 serpent soldiers	25 - 45
Ornstein & Smough	Anor Londo	by the bonfire in the castle	45 - 65
Gwyn, Lord of Cinder	Kiln of The First Flame	on the landing at the level entrance	70 - 120

Inconsistent level bosses

The levels at which people fight these bosses varies greatly due to people encountering them at different parts of their play-through.

Boss	Area	Common Summoning Location(s)	Level Range (Phantom)
Pinwheel	Catacombs	by the first bonfire	
Great Grey Wolf Sif	Darkroot Garden	by the bottom of the steps; outside the boss room	
Crossbreed Priscilla	Painted World of Ariamis	by the bonfire	
Dark Sun Gwyndolin	Anor Londo	by the darkmoon tomb bonfire	
Ceaseless Discharge	Demon Ruins	by the fog gate	
Demon Firesage	Demon Ruins	by the bonfire near the capra demons	
Centipede Demon	Demon Ruins	by the fog gate	
Gravelord Nito	Tomb of the Giants	by the second bonfire	60 - 120
Seath the Scaleless	Crystal Cave	by the bonfire on the balcony	60 - 120
The Bed of Chaos	Lost Izalith	by the bonfire behind the illusory wall	60 - 120
The Four Kings	New Londo Ruins	by the doorway near the first bridge; before boss fog gate	60 - 120
Stray Demon	Undead Asylum	<i>n/a (offline location, co-op not possible)</i>	n/a
Sanctuary Guardian	Sanctuary Garden	by the bonfire	60 - 120
Knight Artorias	Royal Wood	by the stairs to Artorias's fog gate	60 - 120
Black Dragon Kalameet	Royal Wood	by the path to Kalameet's valley	60 - 120

Manus, Father of the Abyss	Chasm of the Abyss	by the bonfire; by the elevator	60 - 120
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Increase in Boss HP

Boss HP is increased when phantoms are summoned. It is increased by 50% with one phantom summoned, and doubled with two phantoms summoned. The increase to boss HP is typically negligible, as having other players to help will make most bosses easier. However, there are a few notable exceptions:

- It is sometimes recommended to attempt the Four Kings boss fight solo. Unless the summoned group has efficient DPS output (damage per-second), the extra health can make it take longer to kill each boss, sometimes causing the player to get swarmed by more kings as they spawn. This is especially the case when summoning the NPC Witch Beatrice, whose presence typically only makes the fight harder.
- NPC Solaire is typically unhelpful in the Gaping Dragon boss fight. Summoning him can be considered as a negative for potentially adding to the amount of HP you will have to remove from the boss on your own. Both he and Lautrec add minimal DPS to the fight and don't survive very well at all on top of adding to the dragon's HP.

Footnotes 1. Do not place your sign next to the bonfire, as many players will skip the dragon by passing underneath

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