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soulsilver rock smash

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Unlocking the Power of Rock Smash in Pokémon SoulSilver

Pokémon SoulSilver, the 2009 Nintendo DS remake of the classic Pokémon Gold and Silver, offers players a rich, immersive world filled with diverse creatures, challenging trainers, and an array of moves that can turn the tide of battle. Among the most iconic moves in the game's arsenal is **Rock Smash**, a powerful Rock-type attack that has captivated players for decades. Whether you're a seasoned veteran looking to refine your strategy or a newcomer eager to master the game's mechanics, this guide will walk you through everything you need to know about Rock Smash in SoulSilver.

What Is Rock Smash?

Rock Smash is a **Rock-type** move with a base power of 70, an accuracy of 100%, and 20 PP (maximum 40). It was introduced in Generation II and remains a staple in many Pokémon's move sets. Unlike other Rock-type moves, Rock Smash has a unique **"break" effect**: it can break through barriers such as the *Protect* move, *Reflect*, and *Light Screen*, and it also has a chance to break the opponent's held item.

Key Mechanics

- Type Effectiveness: Rock Smash is super effective against Fire, Flying, Ice, and Bug-type Pokémon.
- Break Ability: When used against a Pokémon that has a held item, Rock Smash has a 10% chance to break that item.
- Barrier Interaction: Rock Smash can hit through Protect, Reflect, and Light Screen, making it invaluable in both single and double battles.
- No Secondary Effect: Unlike moves such as Earthquake, Rock Smash does not have secondary effects like causing flinching or lowering stats.

Learning Rock Smash in Pokémon SoulSilver

In SoulSilver, you can acquire Rock Smash through several methods, each with its own strategic advantages.

TM Rock Smash (TM42)

TM42 is one of the most sought-after Technical Machines in the game. You can obtain it from the **Pokémon Center in Sootopolis City** after you receive the *Pokémon League* trophy. Once you have TM42, you can teach Rock Smash to any Pokémon that can learn it. The TM is a single-use item, so choose your target carefully.

Level-Up

Some Pokémon learn Rock Smash naturally as they level up. Notably:

- Golem learns Rock Smash at level 42.
- Rhyhorn learns it at level 28.
- Magneton learns it at level 34.
- Houndour learns it at level 38.

These Pokémon are excellent candidates for a Rock Smash-focused team because their stats complement the move's strengths.

Hidden Ability: Rock Head

While not directly linked to learning Rock Smash, the **Rock Head** hidden ability prevents recoil damage from moves like *Self-Destruct* and *Flamethrower*. It's an excellent synergy for Pokémon that use Rock Smash in combination with other high-damage moves.

Pokémon That Can Learn Rock Smash in SoulSilver

Here is a comprehensive list of Pokémon that can learn Rock Smash in SoulSilver, along with a brief note on why they're good choices.

1. Golem – High Attack and Defense, great for absorbing hits.
2. Rhyhorn – Fast and bulky, ideal for early-game support.
3. Magneton – Electric/Rock typing provides a unique coverage combo.
4. Houndour – Fast attacker with good Special Attack, useful for dual-type coverage.
5. Steelix – Steel/Rock typing, high Defense, and can learn Rock Smash via TM.
6. Jumpluff – Grass/Flying, surprising choice for coverage.
7. Arcanine – Fire-type with high Speed; Rock Smash offers a type advantage.
8. Gengar – Ghost/Poison, high Special Attack; Rock Smash adds a physical option.
9. Dragonite – Dragon/Flying, high stats, and can learn Rock Smash via TM.
10. Alakazam – Psychic, high Speed, and can use Rock Smash for a surprise attack.

When building a team, consider the type matchups and how Rock Smash can fill gaps in coverage.

Strategic Use of Rock Smash in SoulSilver

Rock Smash's unique attributes make it a versatile tool in both casual and competitive play. Below, we'll explore how to maximize its potential.

Breaking Barriers

One of the most valuable aspects of Rock Smash is its ability to break through *Protect*, *Reflect*, and *Light Screen*. In double battles, many trainers rely on these moves to protect their team. A well-timed Rock Smash can negate that protection and deliver a crushing blow.

Item Break Chance

Rock Smash has a 10% chance to break the opponent's held item. While the probability is low, it can be a decisive factor in battles where items like the *Choice Band* or *Choice Scarf*give an edge. Using Rock Smash against a Pokémon holding a valuable item can level the playing field.

Type Coverage

Rock Smash is super effective against Fire, Flying, Ice, and Bug types. Pairing it with a Pokémon that has a complementary coverage move (like *Earthquake* or *Ice Beam*) can create a formidable attack combo. For example, a Golem with Rock Smash and Earthquake covers a wide range of opponents.

Synergy with Status Moves

Combining Rock Smash with status-inducing moves such as *Thunder Wave* or *Will-O-Wisp*can set up a powerful strategy. While Rock Smash deals damage, the status move can cripple the opponent, making it easier to secure a victory.

Rock Smash vs. Rock Slide: Which Should You Choose?

Both Rock Smash and Rock Slide are Rock-type moves, but they differ significantly in terms of mechanics and strategy.

- Rock Slide – Base power 75, accuracy 90%, 15 PP. It has a 30% chance to cause flinching.
- Rock Smash – Base power 70, accuracy 100%, 20 PP. It can break barriers and items.

In most scenarios, Rock Smash is preferred for its reliability and barrier-breaking ability. Rock Slide is more useful when you want a chance to flinch the opponent or when you're targeting a specific type that benefits from the higher power.

Rock Smash in Competitive Play

While Rock Smash may not dominate the metagame, it holds a niche in certain competitive formats, especially in the Pokémon Battle Revolution and Pokémon Colosseum communities. Here's how it performs:

Bulky Setup Teams

Bulky Pokémon like Steelix or Golem can use Rock Smash as a safe attack while setting up items or status moves. Because Rock Smash is 100% accurate, it's a reliable choice when you need a guaranteed hit.

Double Battles

In double battles, Rock Smash shines as a barrier breaker. Many teams rely on *Protect* or *Reflect*to shield their slower Pokémon. A Rock Smash from a fast attacker can bypass these defenses and deliver a decisive blow.

Item Break Strategy

In high-level play, items such as the *Choice Band* or *Choice Scarf*can give a significant advantage. Using Rock Smash to attempt to break these items can level the playing field, especially against teams that rely heavily on item-based advantages.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1. Overreliance on Rock Smash – While powerful, Rock Smash has no secondary effect. Don't rely solely on it; pair it with complementary moves.
2. Ignoring PP Management – Rock Smash has a moderate PP. Use it strategically, especially in longer battles.
3. Using Rock Smash Against Non-Barrier Opponents – If the opponent isn't using barrier moves, consider a higher-power move like Earthquake.
4. Neglecting Type Matchups – Remember that Rock Smash is weak against Water, Grass, and Ground types. Have a backup plan.
5. Forgetting Item Break Potential – The 10% item break chance is often overlooked. Use it when the opponent holds a key item.

Tips for Maximizing Rock Smash

Here are some practical tips to make the most of Rock Smash in your SoulSilver battles.

Choose the Right Pokémon

Opt for Pokémon with high Attack and decent Speed. Golem, Steelix, and Rhyhorn are top choices. Their bulk allows them to survive the hit and continue dealing damage.

Pair with Complementary Moves

Consider moves like *Earthquake*, *Ice Beam*, or *Thunderbolt*to cover Rock Smash's weaknesses. A dual-type move

set can handle a wide range of opponents.

Use Items Wisely

Items such as *Choice Band* or *Choice Scarf*can boost Rock Smash's effectiveness. However, be mindful of the limitations of these items (e.g., inability to switch moves).

Leverage Status Moves

Moves like *Thunder Wave* or *Will-O-Wisp*can cripple the opponent, making Rock Smash more effective. A well-timed status move can reduce the opponent's speed or damage output.

Practice Timing in Double Battles

In double battles, timing Rock Smash to hit a protected opponent can be game-changing. Learn to predict when your opponent will use *Protect* or *Reflect* and counter with Rock Smash.

Rock Smash in the SoulSilver Storyline

Rock Smash isn't just a battle tactic; it also appears in the storyline and key battles

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