

# A **STAR FRONTIERS** <sup>TM</sup> GAME

## Alpha Dawn

### EXPANDED GAME RULES

From the Producer of the **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**® Games



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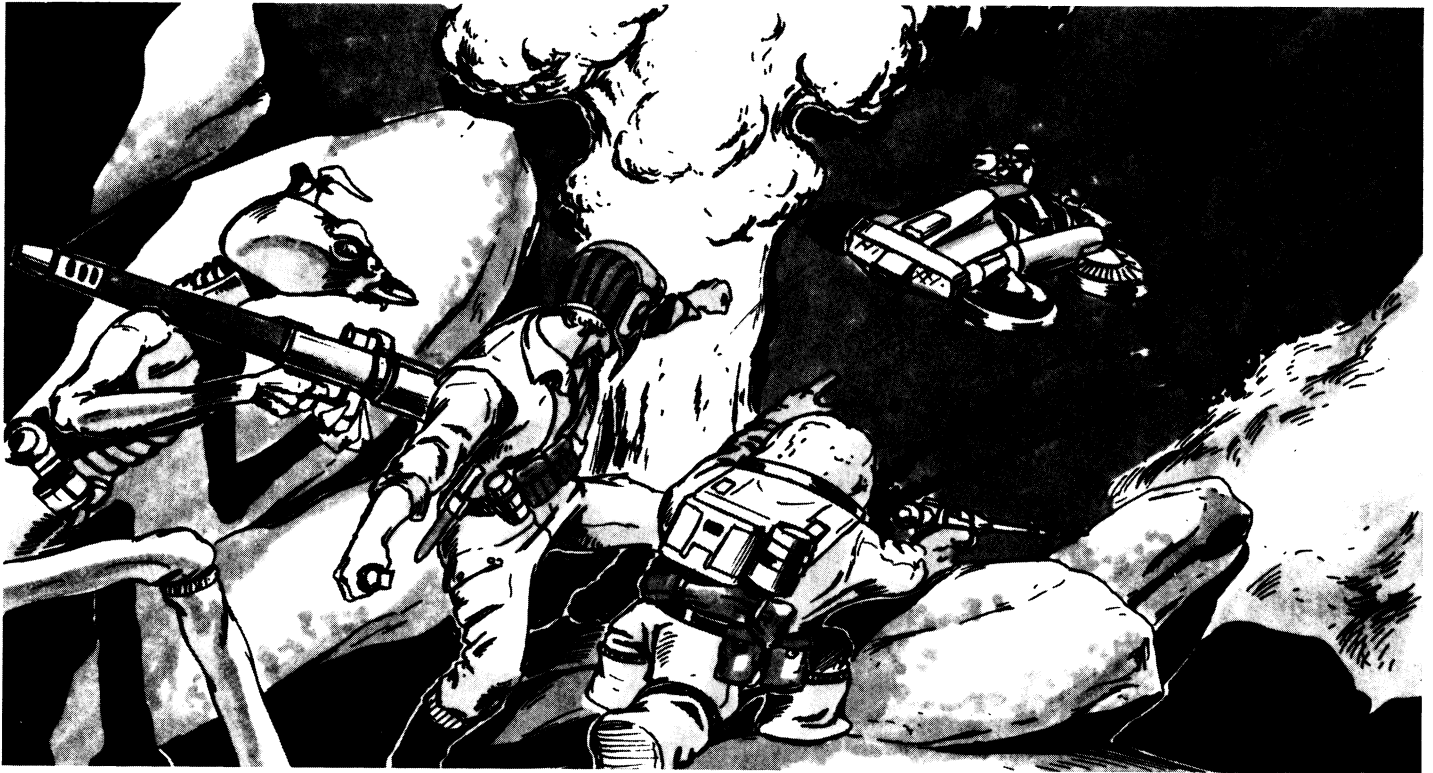
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# STAR FRONTIERS™

Science Fiction Game



## Expanded Rules

*Exciting Adventure on Alien Worlds*

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the STAR FRONTIERS™ Expanded Game rule book. This book adds more details to the Basic Game rules, and introduces new rules that widen the game's scope and make the game more challenging and more fun to play. If you have not read the Basic Game rules and played the basic adventures, you should do so before starting to read these Expanded rules.

### What Is A STAR FRONTIERS Game?

STAR FRONTIERS Science Fiction Game is a role playing game. In this type of game, each player controls an imaginary hero, making all his decisions and guiding him through heroic exploits: defeating villains, capturing criminals and exploring strange alien worlds.

Although the STAR FRONTIERS rule books contain detailed rules, the special quality of a role playing game is that players are not limited by the rules. Players are encouraged to use their imaginations and find creative solutions to the problems facing their characters. The rules are designed to help players see the effects of their decisions.

### Differences Between the Basic and Expanded Rules

The Expanded Game rules give more detailed explanations of character abilities, new rules for movement and combat, new equipment, and rules that allow characters to improve their ability scores and learn special skills.

The most important change in the Expanded game is the addition of a referee. A referee does what the reader did in the Basic Game, but he also creates the adventures and makes the final decisions about how the rules should be applied. If players are the citizens of a world in the future, then the referee is that world; he writes the laws, he creates the unexplored planets and alien races, and he controls everyone that is not a player character. The referee has the most important job in the game.

Because his job is so important, this book was written especially for the referee. It not only explains the rules, but teaches the referee how to apply the rules to special situations and how to handle situations that are not covered by any rules. Other sections on how to create adventures and how to control non-player characters are very important for novice referees.

The separate adventure, Crash on Volturnus, will help a new referee get started. It is intended to help the referee learn the expanded rules.

Anyone who has played STAR FRONTIERS game and is familiar with the rules can be a referee. If you like telling stories, springing surprises and making fast decisions, you will have a lot of fun as a STAR FRONTIERS game referee.

### How to Use the Components

To play a STAR FRONTIERS game you need these rules, two 10-sided dice, the map and counters included with the game, pencils, paper, a place to play, and your imagination.

**Counter Facing.** Players can use the counters to indicate which direction a character, creature or robot is looking. The top of the picture on the counter indicates which side is the character's front. Players can imagine the character standing upright on the counter, facing toward the top of the counter.

A character can see anything that is not behind him. He can attack anything that is in front of him, and can defend himself from any attack that comes from the front or the side.

**Maps.** Seven small maps showing different types of terrain are printed on the back of the Port Loren map. These were drawn for the Crash on Volturnus adventure, but they can be used in any adventure calling for that type of terrain.

**Map Scales.** In the Basic Game, distances were stated in terms of squares on the map of Port Loren. In the Expanded Game, distances are measured in meters. This makes it easy to play the game on maps with different scales. A referee could map the inside of a building using a map scale of 2 meters per square, map a city using a scale of 5 meters per square, and map the area around the city using a scale of 25 meters per square.

If the size of a map square does not divide evenly into a character's movement rate, counters can be placed on the lines between squares.

Players can draw maps with much larger scales, showing entire continents or even planets. These types of maps are used when characters must travel a long distance. The planetary map from Crash on Volturnus is this type of map.

**Playing Without a Map.** STAR FRONTIERS combats can be played on a table top, without using maps. Pieces of paper or other items can be used to show furniture, doors and other obstacles. Another possibility is to play on a sheet of plastic, using wash-away markers to draw obstacles on the plastic. Distances can be measured with a ruler; 1 inch should equal 5 meters.

**Miniatures.** Instead of using counters, players can use small metal or plastic figures painted to look like their characters. These can be purchased in many toy and hobby stores.

**Imagination.** After they are familiar with the game, players may decide it is easier to play simple fights without the maps and counters. The referee simply keeps track of ranges and obstacles in his head, and lets the players picture the situation in their imaginations. Besides being a lot of fun, this eliminates the need to draw a map for everything.

**Dice.** Some rules in the Expanded Game use a 5-sided die (abbreviated 1d5) to roll a number from 1 to 5. When a d5 roll is called for, the player should roll 1d10 and divide the result by 2, rounding fractions up. For example, a 6 becomes a 3 and a 7 becomes a 4.

## EXPANDED GAME CHARACTERS

Character generation is a bit different in the Expanded Game. A player can change his character's Ability scores by subtracting points from one ability and adding them to the other ability in the pair. Some races have special abilities that are unique to their species.

### How to Create A Character — Summary

1. Use the STAR FRONTIERS character sheet, or make a copy on a blank sheet of paper.
2. Roll d100 once for each ability pair. Find the ability base score on the table below.

ABILITY SCORE TABLE

DICE ROLL	01-10	11-20	21-35	36-55	56-70	71-80	81-90	91-95	96-00
BASE SCORE	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70

3. Decide which race your character will be. Add or subtract the appropriate modifiers from the Ability Modifier Table.

ABILITY MODIFIER TABLE

	STR/STA	DEX/RS	INT/LOG	PER/LDR
Dralasite	+5	-5	+0	+0
Human	+0	+0	+0	+0
Vrusk	-5	+5	+0	+0
Yazirian	-10	+5	+5	+0

4. If the character is a Human, the player can add 5 points to any one ability score. These points apply to only one ability, not to both abilities in a pair.
5. Players now can modify their ability scores by subtracting points from one ability and adding them to the other ability in that pair. No more than 10 points can be shifted this way. Example: A character has a Strength/Stamina base score of 50/50. The player decides he wants his character to be very strong. He can increase the character's Strength score to 60 if he reduces the Stamina score to 40.
6. Divide the character's Reaction Speed score by 10. If the result is a fraction, round it up. The final result is the character's Initiative modifier (IM).
7. Non-human characters have special abilities that should be noted on the character sheet. These special abilities are listed below. For more details, see the descriptions of the various races.  
  
Dralasites: Lie Detection (5%), Elasticity  
Vrusk: Comprehension (15%), Ambidexterity  
Yazirians: Battle Rage (5%), Gliding, Night Vision
8. If the character is a Human or Yazirian, decide whether he is right or left handed. Dralasites and Vrusk do not choose handedness; see their racial descriptions for more information.
9. Decide whether the character is male or female (unless it is a Dralasite) and give it a name.

10. Roll d100 and add the result to 250. The final result is the number of Credits the character has at the start of the game. The character can spend this money immediately on equipment, or save some of it until later in the game. Equipment prices are listed in the section on EQUIPMENT. To keep things simple, new characters can buy a standard equipment pack from the Basic Game for 250 Cr.

### ABILITY CHECKS

During STAR FRONTIERS games, players will want their characters to try doing many different things. It would be impossible to state rules covering every possibility. Instead, this section describes a very simple rule that can be used in almost any situation.

When a character tries to do something that is not covered by a specific rule, the referee should decide whether the action is something the character can do automatically or if there is a chance the character might fail. If the action is not something the character can do automatically, then the character must make an ability check. The referee decides which of the character's abilities is most important in performing the action. The player rolls d100 and, if the result is equal to or less than the ability score the referee chose, then the character succeeded at whatever he was trying to do.

**EXAMPLE:** A character who is alone in a room can easily pick up a gun from the floor. However, if he tries to grab the gun from the floor while being chased through the room, he could miss it or drop it. In this case, the character should make a Dexterity check to grab the gun.

**Modifiers.** The referee may decide an action is easier or harder than average because of an unusual situation. When this happens, the referee can tell the player to adjust his character's ability score by adding or subtracting a number, making the ability check easier or harder to pass. Most modifiers should not be more than plus or minus 30.

**EXAMPLE:** A group of characters is using a rope and spikes to climb a cliff. One of the upper characters knocks loose several rocks. The referee decides that the next character on the rope must make a Reaction Speed check to dodge the falling rocks. He also decides that, because the character is hanging on a rope, his Reaction Speed should be lowered by 20 for this ability check. The character's Reaction Speed is 55. Subtracting 20 gives him a modified Reaction Speed of 35. If the player rolls 35 or less on d100, the character avoids the rocks.

**Secret Checks.** If knowing the result of an ability check roll would tell a player something his character would not know, the referee should make the check secretly and tell the player only what his character sees, or what happens to the character.

**EXAMPLE:** A group of characters is traveling across an unexplored planet. Their Explorer was destroyed in a rockslide, and a group of native bandits stole most of their equipment. They need water, but the water in the pond they just found looks bright blue. One of the characters volunteers to taste it. The referee knows the water contains microscopic plants that will make the character sick 20 hours after drinking the water, if the character fails a Stamina check. He rolls the check secretly, and the character fails. The referee tells the player, "The water tastes a little strange, but it doesn't seem to be affecting you at all." Twenty hours later, however, the character will become sick.

### Ability Uses

All eight character abilities are listed below, along with typical actions that would require an ability check against that ability.

**Strength.** Strength determines a character's chance to break open doors, bend metal, shift heavy objects or anything else requiring brute force.

**Stamina.** A character's Stamina score is the number of points of damage the character can take before being killed. It is the character's percent chance to resist the effects of poison, gas, drugs, disease, extreme heat or cold, starvation and fatigue.

**Dexterity.** A character's Dexterity score determines his base chance to hit in combat. It also is his percent chance to sense things by touch, throw or catch an object, keep his balance, jump into a moving vehicle or perform delicate actions like cutting a wire without touching any surrounding wires.

**Reaction Speed.** A character's Reaction Speed score is his percent chance to react quickly, to avoid falling rocks, to catch something he knocked over before it hits the floor, to jump away from a skimmer that is racing toward him, to grab an animal or to dive through a door before it slams shut.

**Intuition.** A character's Intuition score is his percent chance to notice small details or hidden objects, to sense an ambush or trap and, at the referee's discretion, to make sense out of seemingly unrelated or illogical facts. When a character passes an Intuition check, the referee should tell the player that he notices something unusual, and describe what the character sees (or hears, smells, feels or tastes). The player must decide what to do with this information. Referees should urge players to figure out puzzles on their own; Intuition checks should not be allowed until after the players have tried (and failed) to solve the puzzle themselves.

**Logic.** A character's Logic score is his percent chance to follow complicated instructions, to figure out the best way to do something he has never done before or use something he is not familiar with, and to make accurate predictions from facts. The referee should roll Logic checks secretly. If the character fails the check, the referee can tell him either that he does not understand whatever he was studying, or can give him false information. A character's Logic score can be modified by the complexity of the situation and the amount of time the character spends studying it. The referee should encourage players to draw their own conclusions from information; like Intuition, Logic checks should be a last resort.



**Personality.** Personality affects how likely a character is to get a friendly response from a stranger and how long he can hold someone's attention. The referee should encourage players to role-play their attempts to use Personality and talk to NPCs.

**EXAMPLE:** Dreevale the Vrusk has just insulted a Gorlian thug by accidentally spilling a drink on him. The Gorlian is very mad. Dreevale decides to try talking his way out of the situation. "Oops, pardon me, my good fellow, how absolutely clumsy of me," the player says. "Here,

let me buy you a drink and let's forget about it." Dreevale's Personality score is 40. The referee notes that the Gorlian is mad and wet and itching for a fight. He tells Dreevale to subtract 20 from his score. Dreevale rolls 91, which is greater than his modified score of 20. The Gorlian punches Dreevale.

**Leadership.** A character's Leadership score reflects his ability to command with authority and have NPCs obey his orders. Leadership checks are needed only if a character orders an NPC to do something dangerous, or has mistreated the NPC. Under normal conditions, NPCs who work for a character will always obey that character. If characters try to give orders to strangers, the referee must decide how likely the stranger is to obey.

Leadership also is used to bargain with NPCs. The referee should not let characters with high Leadership scores trade junk for valuable merchandise, but a successful Leadership check will get a better deal for the character, or convince reluctant NPCs to deal with the character. Characters can bargain for information as well as merchandise.

More information about the effect of Leadership on NPCs can be found in the rule section on NPCs.

## IMPROVING CHARACTERS

Characters can increase their ability scores, and racial abilities, and gain skills through adventuring. As characters adventure, they learn from their experiences and improve themselves through practice. In STAR FRONTIERS games, this type of experience is recorded with experience points (XP). The referee hands out experience points at the end of an adventure to reward characters' performance and success. If a character performed beyond the expectations of his employer, he will receive more experience. If he failed miserably at his task, he will receive less experience.

### Improving Abilities

Players can increase their characters' ability scores by trading 1 XP to raise an ability score 1 point. No ability score can ever be raised above 100.

**EXAMPLE:** Rex Dexter earned 5 XP in his latest adventure. The player decides to spend 3 XP increasing Rex's Logic score from 50 to 53, and 2 points increasing his Personality from 65 to 67.

Certain Racial Abilities (Lie Detection, Comprehension and Battle Rage) also can be increased by trading 1 XP to increase the ability 1 point. Racial Abilities cannot be raised above 100.

Obviously, increasing a character's ability scores will improve his chances to perform special actions, will improve his chances to hit in combat by increasing Dexterity, and will increase his chances to survive by increasing his Stamina. Raising ability scores also can replace points lost permanently to disease or tissue deterioration in a freeze field.

### Skills

Characters can learn skills which allow them to perform special actions. Each skill has six levels of expertise. A character can raise his skill levels by spending experience points. Experience points can be traded to gain a level 1 skill or to increase a skill the character already has to the next level. The number of XP that must be traded for each skill and skill level is described in the SKILLS section.

## THE RACES

The five major races in the Frontier are described on the following pages. Players can choose to have Dralasite, Human, Vrusk or Yazirian characters. Sathar should be NPCs only.

These five races are not the only intelligent races living in the Frontier; there are many other races native to planets in the area. However, these five are the only races that have managed to build starships and explore and colonize other worlds.



# DRALASITES

## Physical Appearance and Structure

Dralasites are short, rubbery aliens that have no bones or hard body parts. Their skin is a flexible membrane that is very tough and scratchy. It generally is dull gray and lined with dark veins that meet at the Dralasite's two eyespots.

The internal structure of a Dralasite is very different from the other races. The Dralasite's central nerve bundle (brain), numerous small hearts and other internal organs float in a pudding-like mixture of protein and organic fluids. Dralasites breathe by absorbing oxygen directly through their skin, so they have no lungs. They are omnivores, but eat by surrounding their food and absorbing it, so they also have no digestive tract or intestines.

All Dralasites go through male, female and neutral stages during their lives (these phases can be controlled with medicines). Males release spores into the air, which drift until they become attached to a female. A young Dralasite then "sprouts" from its mother, eventually maturing and dropping off.

## Senses

The most important sense for a Dralasite is smell. They breathe directly through their skin, and the entire membrane is sensitive to odors. Their sense of smell is so keen they can identify persons by smell alone and can recognize familiar smells on objects or persons. The membrane also is sensitive to touch and to vibrations, allowing Dralasites to hear and feel.

Dralasites see only in black and white. They see shapes and light and darkness very clearly, and can see a difference between distinct colors (blue and green, for example) because one is darker than the other, but they do not see actual colors.

## Speech

Dralasites have a voicebox, but it works like a bellows because they have no lungs. A Dralasite's voice can vary from a soft whisper to a thundering roar and from a bass rumble to a piercing screech. Among themselves, they also use shapes, odors and touch to communicate.

## Society and Customs

Dralasites are philosophical and thoughtful. Their communities are small, and many Dralasites prefer to live alone. Dralasites do not care about wealth, power or status symbols. They judge themselves by the quality of their ideas and their ability to discuss important ideas wisely. Dralasites often hold large public meetings to discuss new ideas. Discussions and debates are among their favorite ways to relax.

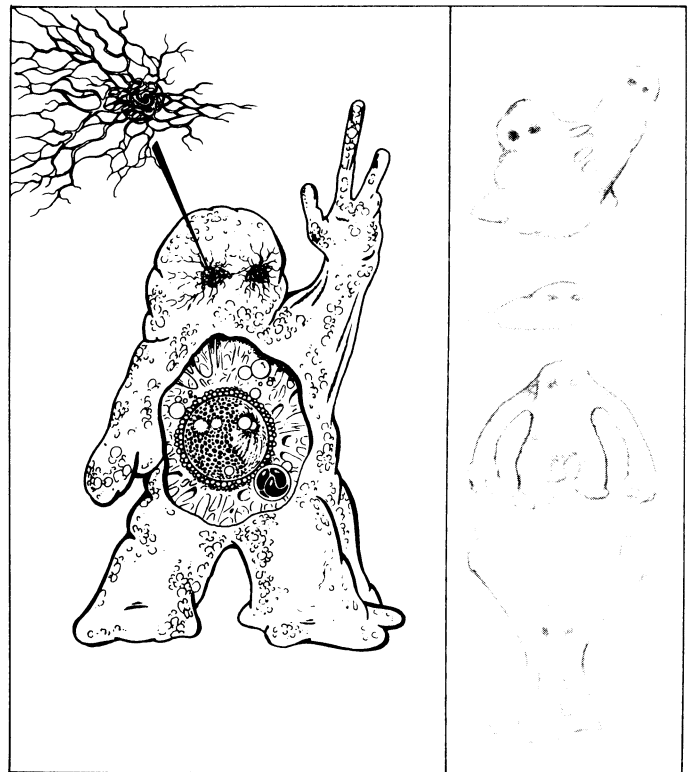
Steam baths are another favorite Dralasite recreation. They mix perfumes and intoxicants with the steam. These effect Dralasites the same way alcohol does a Human or Yazirian.

Dralasites are widely known for their strange sense of humor. They love old jokes and puns that make Humans groan. Many Human comedians who could not find work in Human cities have become rich performing on Dralasite worlds.

Dralasites do not normally wear clothing, because it makes breathing difficult and interferes with their sense of smell. They usually carry their equipment on web belts. When they must wear clothing to protect themselves, they use special materials that let air reach their skin.

## Attitudes

Dralasites are very fond of Vrusk, because they think Vrusk have funny shapes. They get along well with Humans but are careful not to upset Yazirians, who they consider too violent.



average size:	1.3 m tall, 1 m wide
average mass:	65 kg
average lifespan:	250 years
reproduction:	hermaphroditic, budding
body temperature:	30 C

## Special Abilities

**Elasticity.** A Dralasite's skin is stretchable and supported by a complex muscle structure. This allows them to change the shape of their bodies, within limits. They can "grow" arms and legs to use for walking and handling tools and weapons, and reabsorb limbs when they are not needed.

A Dralasite can have a number of limbs equal to its Dexterity divided by 10, rounded up. The player must decide whether a limb is an arm or a leg when it is grown. For example, a Dralasite with a Dexterity score of 45 can control up to five limbs. It could have three legs and two arms, two legs and one arm, no legs and five arms, or any other combination adding up to five or less.

Growing or absorbing a limb takes five minutes. Only one limb can be grown at a time. A limb can be up to 1 meter long, and no less than 10 cm thick. "Fingers" for handling items can be up to 10 cm long and no less than 1 cm thick.

Even though a Dralasite can have many arms, it can not fire more than two weapons at once. When a Dralasite player creates limbs, he must specify one as the dominant limb, the same way a Human must choose to be either right or left handed. Also, despite a Dralasite's stretching and shrinking, the pattern of veins and ridges on its skin does not change, so they have a permanent "fingerprint" for identification.

**Lie Detection.** All Dralasite characters have a 5% chance to realize when someone is lying to them. The Dralasite must be communicating face to face with the character, and the Dralasite player must tell the referee he is trying to detect a lie. The referee rolls d100 secretly. If the result is 5 or less, the Dralasite knows whether the person is telling the truth. If the die roll is 6 or more, the Dralasite does not sense that the person is lying. This special ability can be improved above 5% by spending experience points (see IMPROVING CHARACTERS).

# HUMANS

## Physical Appearance and Structure

Typical adult Humans are approximately 2 meters tall, and have two arms and two legs. They are warm-blooded omnivores with internal skeletons. Both hands have four fingers and one opposable thumb, which allows them to grip and use tools. Their arms are jointed at the shoulder, elbow and wrist. Their legs are similar, being jointed at the hip, knee and ankle. Humans walk upright.

Human skin color varies over a wide range, including pale white and pink, tan, pale yellow, red, brown and black. This color does not change as the Human matures. Most Humans have hair covering the top and back of the head, and males also have hair on their chins and throats. Hair color varies from white and yellow to red, brown and black, gradually changing to gray as the Human ages.

## Senses

Humans have color vision, sensing the spectrum between infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths. They have good depth and motion perception. Their hearing covers a range from 16 to 27,000 cycles per second, with good separation and direction-sensing qualities. Their skin is touch-sensitive. Their senses of taste and smell are not as highly developed as their sight.

## Speech

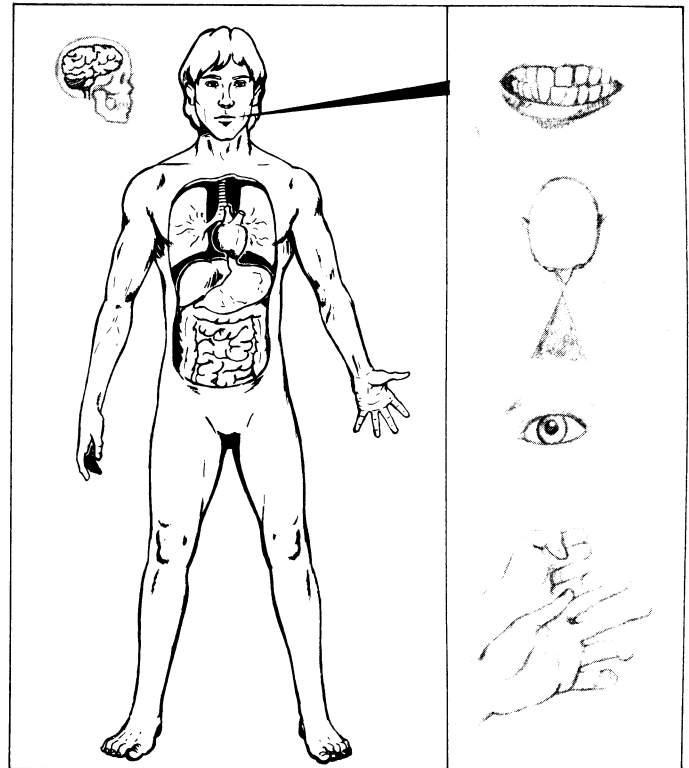
Humans speak by forcing air from their lungs through a larynx or voicebox and shaping sounds with their lips and tongue. They can create a wide range of sounds, and have no difficulty speaking Pan-Galactic and Yazirian languages.

## Society and Customs

Human society centers around the family. A family generally consists of a father, a mother and 1 to 10 children. Families usually group together into communities for mutual support and protection. Community size varies widely; several Human cities are known to have populations above 5 million.

Of all the star-faring races, Humans are the most varied. As a race they are not as warlike as the Yazirians, as businesslike as the Vrusk or as thoughtful as the Dralasites. Yet, individual Humans can be found who surpass even the most violent Yazirians, the most dedicated Vrusk and the most philosophical Dralasites. Humans tend to value individuality and personal freedom more than anything else, but they do not hesitate to work together to reach a common goal or to protect themselves from attack.

To members of the other races, the most puzzling aspect of Human behavior is their curiosity and love of adventure. Many Humans are willing to put themselves in great danger simply to see something new or go somewhere no one has ever gone before. Some Humans (a very small percentage) seem to actually enjoy being in danger, thriving on the excitement of a life-or-death situation. This type of behavior has never been observed in normal members of the other races. Even the Yazirians, known for their violence and fits of rage, try to avoid taking unnecessary risks. This spirit of adventure has served Humans well, however, as most major exploration missions organized by local governments or private companies are led by a Human.



average size:	1.9 m tall
average mass:	80 kg (male), 55 kg (female)
average lifespan:	200 years
reproduction:	heterosexual, viviparous
body temperature:	37 C

Many alien biologists have wondered how the Human race could have survived long enough to build a civilization and colonize new planets; compared to other creatures in the galaxy, Humans are not especially strong or quick, and are no smarter than the other races. However, Humans are very inventive and adaptable. They manage to survive and even flourish in areas other races consider uninhabitable, by adapting themselves to the new conditions with surprising speed. This and the Humans' love for gadgets and hardware led to the appearance of a popular saying among Vrusk, "Mr. Human and his Indestructible Junk Show." Despite this condescending attitude, Vrusk and the other star-faring races have learned to respect Humans.

## Attitudes

Humans are one of the most open and accepting of the known races. They get along very well with Dralasites, and their similarity to Yazirians usually is strong enough to overcome the usual negative reaction to a Yazirian's pushiness. Many Humans, however, are mildly nervous around Vrusk. Human psychologists blame this on the Vrusk's resemblance to a giant insect. (Many Humans dislike insects, and some are actually afraid of them.)

## Special Abilities

Humans emphasize training and education more than the other races, so players who are starting new Human characters get to add 5 to any one ability score. This bonus can be added to only one ability in an ability pair. For example, increasing a character's Strength score does not affect the character's Stamina score.

# VRUSK

## Physical Appearance and Structure

Vrusk look like large insects. Eight legs grow from their abdomen, four on each side. Their torso is upright in front of the abdomen. The torso is humanoid, with two arms connected at the shoulders. The head is above the shoulders. Vrusk hands are circular pads with five fingers spaced evenly around the edge. A Vrusk's shoulders are double-jointed, so they can rotate their arms in a full circle without straining any muscles. They can reach any point on their abdomen or behind their backs easily.

A Vrusk's body is covered by a carapace (hard shell). This shell is jointed at the Vrusk's elbows, hips, knees, etc. The carapace protects the Vrusk from bruises, cuts, scratches and other minor injuries. Unlike insects, Vrusk have an internal skeleton to support their bodies. Young Vrusk have a blue carapace with bright orange near the joints. As the Vrusk gets older, its carapace changes to dull green with yellow joints.

Vrusk have large eyes that are protected by a hard, clear covering. The mouth is surrounded by four eating mandibles. The two larger mandibles hold food while the small ones tear it apart and place it in the mouth. They are omnivores. Vrusk have lungs, and breathe through many small nostrils under their abdomens. This arrangement makes it difficult for Vrusk to swim.

## Senses

Vrusk have very good color vision, but they see more of the short wavelengths (blue and ultraviolet light) than Humans do, and less of the long wavelengths (orange and red). Their sense of smell is centered in their antennae, and is slightly better than a Human's. They also can touch with their antennae. Their hearing is about the same as a Human's.

## Speech

Vrusk speak by combining clicks produced by their mandibles and buzzes produced by a plate in their mouths.

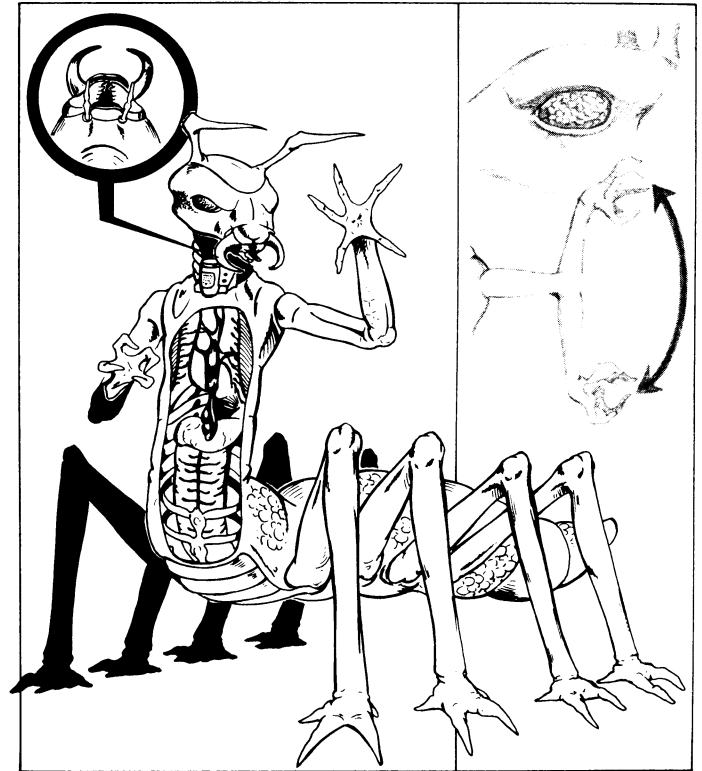
## Society And Customs

Vrusk are hard-working and practical. Their society is organized around independent corporations. To a Vrusk, the company he works for is his family and his nation. The company determines everything about the Vrusk's life; who he lives with, what his job is, where he travels, etc. Vrusk give their company name before their personal name.

Vrusk have two types of corporations: conglomerates and trade houses. Conglomerates have business interests in many areas. A single conglomerate might have divisions that build computers, operate farms, train lawyers and set up colonies. A Vrusk that works for a conglomerate usually works for only one division, and might not even know what other divisions the company owns. Trade houses, which are more common in the Frontier, specialize in one type of business. Because all Vrusk working for a trade house do the same work, trade houses usually work together. For example, a trade house that builds farming equipment would hire accountants from an accounting house to keep their financial records. Business between companies is regulated by laws that are so complex no one besides Vrusk have ever fully understood them.

Vrusk also love beauty, harmony and order. The goal of most Vrusk is to become wealthy, collect art and live in peace. Their love for beauty makes them unwilling to get into fights that do not involve their company. However, Vrusk that are defending their company will do anything to remove the threat permanently.

Vrusk adventurers, however, do not belong to a company. Some are independent businessmen, some are company employees who were



average size:	1.5 m tall, 1.5 m long
average mass:	85 kg
average lifespan:	175 years
reproduction:	heterosexual, ovoviviparous
body temperature:	38 C

fired and some are just too rebellious to put up with company rules. A few start their own companies and eventually become leaders in their communities.

## Attitudes

Vrusk get along well with the other three races. They respect the Yazirian custom of choosing a life-enemy, and feel at ease around Dralasites because they are careful and skillful planners (though they are annoyed by the Dralasites' sense of humor). They understand Humans the least because, to a Vrusk, Humans seem unpredictable and a little lazy.

## Special Abilities

**Ambidexterity.** All Vrusk are ambidextrous (they can use both hands equally well). Players with Vrusk characters do not need to choose whether their character is right or left handed. Vrusk can shoot weapons, throw grenades, write, catch or grip with either hand.

**Comprehension.** Because Vrusk have such a complicated society, they are able to understand all sorts of social dealings. All Vrusk characters start with a Comprehension score of 15. This score is the character's percent chance to figure out any type of social dealing that the player himself can not. For example, a Vrusk is following a Human he thinks is a spy for another company. He follows the Human into a bar and sees him talking to a group of rough-looking Yazirians, occasionally glancing over his shoulder. Then the Human hands some money to the thugs and leaves the bar. The Vrusk player is not sure what the Human was trying to do, so he tells the referee he wants to use his Comprehension ability. If he rolls 15 or less on d100, the referee will tell him that the Human paid the Yazirians to attack the Vrusk if he tried to follow the Human from the bar. A character's Comprehension score can be increased by spending experience points (see IMPROVING CHARACTERS).



# YAZIRIANS

## Physical Appearance and Structure

Yazirians are tall, thin humanoids. They have long arms and legs and slender torsos. Two large flaps of skin grow on either side of their bodies, attached along their arms, torso and legs. When a Yazirian raises its arms, this membrane is stretched tight and forms a sort of wing. Under certain conditions (explained under Gliding), Yazirians can glide short distances using these wings.

Yazirians have muzzles and high foreheads, giving them an animal-like appearance. Their heads are surrounded by manes and collars of hair, which varies in color from glossy black to pale yellow. Their skin color ranges from gray to light tan. Because their bodies do not sweat, Yazirians pant to keep cool. They are omnivores.

Yazirians have four knuckles (one more than Humans) on their fingers and toes. The inside toe is opposed like a thumb, allowing them to grasp things with their feet. The tips of their fingers and toes end in broad, ribbed pads, giving them an excellent grip. These characteristics, combined with their animal-like appearance, earned them the nickname "monkeys."

## Senses

Yazirians' senses of hearing, smell and taste are equivalent to a Human's. Because they evolved from nocturnal hunters, however, their eyes are adapted to seeing in dim light. They can not see in complete darkness. They usually wear dark goggles when they must work in sunlight. In bright light, Yazirians without dark goggles must subtract 15 from both their Dexterity and Reaction speed scores.

## Speech

Yazirians have no trouble speaking Human languages or Pan-Galactic. Their own language is a combination of Human-type sounds and snarls and growls.

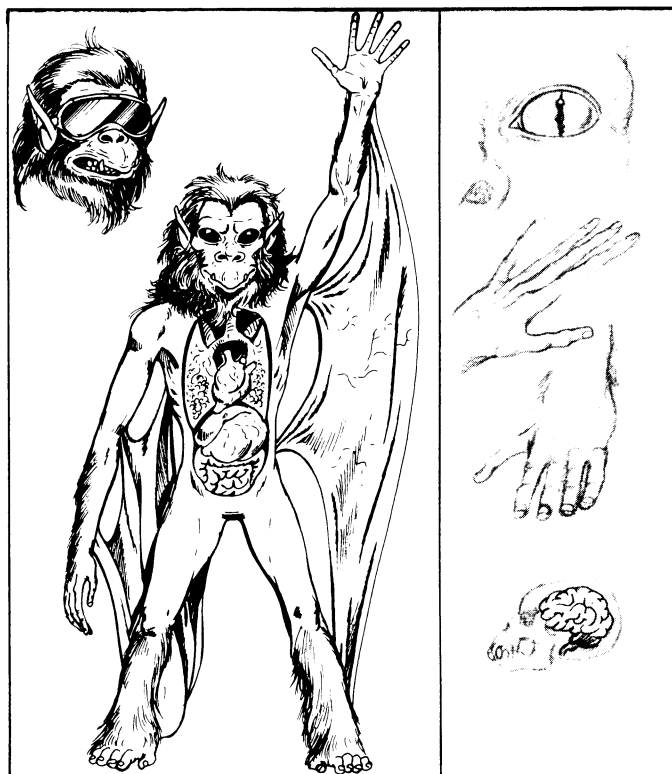
## Society and Customs

Yazirian communities are divided into large, loosely organized clans. All the members of a clan are related to each other. In the past, clan ties were very strong. The clans had traditional enemies and allies, and they struggled constantly for power and land. Since the Yazirians moved into space, they have learned to cooperate more and the clans have become less important. Despite this, Yazirians still have a reputation throughout the Frontier as proud, fierce fighters.

A custom Yazirians have kept intact is the selection of a life-enemy. When a Yazirian chooses a life-enemy, he dedicates his life to destroying, overcoming or outdoing that enemy as completely as possible. In the past, a Yazirian would choose an enemy clan or clan member as his life-enemy, but now the choice is much wider. A Yazirian scientist could name an incurable disease as his life-enemy, or a Yazirian trader could choose a competing company. The scientist would try to find a cure for the disease; the trader would try to build up his own company so it is more powerful than his enemy's, or even try to drive the other company out of business.

A Yazirian gains honor by striving to defeat his enemy. Yazirians with powerful life-enemies are respected and admired. A Yazirian that defeats its enemy does not need to choose another, but some Yazirians do. There is no set point in a Yazirian's life when he must choose a life-enemy, and some Yazirians never choose one. A Yazirian that dies without having chosen a life-enemy is considered unlucky.

Typical Yazirian clothing is a large, brightly colored cape and tunic, a waist belt and two belts crossed over the chest. Dark goggles are worn in the daytime. Yazirians do not like shoes, but when necessary they wear mitten-like shoes.



average size:	2.1 m tall
average mass:	50 kg (male), 60 kg (female)
average lifespan:	140 years
reproduction:	heterosexual, viviparous
body temperature:	39 C

## Attitudes

In general, Yazirians like Vrusk and Humans. They occasionally lose their patience with Dralasites, because they are slow and would rather discuss ideas than act on them.

## Special Abilities

**Battle Rage.** Yazirians train themselves to go berserk in battle. A berserk Yazirian gets a bonus of +20 to hit in melee. Yazirian characters start with a Battle Rage score of 5, and a 5% chance to go berserk at the start of a battle. This chance can be increased by spending experience points (see IMPROVING CHARACTERS) to raise the Battle Rage score. Battle Rage lasts as long as the Yazirian keeps fighting; it ends when the Yazirian rests for five minutes.

**Gliding.** Yazirians can glide short distances using the membranes along their sides. A Yazirian can glide 1 meter for every meter he is above the ground when he starts. He must start at least 10 meters above the ground. The maximum distance a Yazirian can glide depends on the gravity of the planet, as shown below.

Gravity	Max. Glide
.6	150 m
.7	100 m
.8	50 m
.9	25 m
1.0	10 m

Yazirians cannot glide on planets with gravities below .6 or above 1.

# SATHAR

## Physical Appearance and Structure

Sathar are long, worm-like creatures. Their bodies are divided into segments, like an earthworm's. They do not have a skeleton. Instead, they support their bodies hydrostatically, by pumping liquid into the segments so they become hard. A shiny, clear slime coats their skin. Scientists believe they are warm-blooded, but no live specimen has ever been studied.

A Sathar's head tapers toward its mouth, which is circular and ringed with teeth. Each of their two eyes has two pupils. Four tentacles, two on each side of the body, are arranged about 1 meter below the head. The first pair is slender and weak-looking, and about 1 meter long. These end in four smaller finger-like tentacles. The second pair of tentacles is stronger and about 1.2 meters long. Both of these tentacles end in a paddle-like pad. This second pair is used for heavy lifting, while the smaller tentacles are used for fine work and for holding small weapons.

A Sathar moves by slithering across the ground with the first meter of its body raised. They also can coil like a snake, raising 1.5 meters of their bodies from the ground.

The color of Sathar skin varies from yellow to brown. The tentacles are the same as the body, but with a slight greenish tint. The underbelly is pale pink. A pattern of dots, speckles and stripes decorates the back of the head. These patterns are natural on some Sathar, but are tattoos on others.

Some survivors of Sathar attacks have reported that Sathars are not effected by electrical shocks or doze grenades, but these reports have never been confirmed.

## Speech

The Sathar's double pupils give it very wide angle vision. They can see objects in front of them and to both sides at the same time. They smell through two pits in front of their eyes. The sharpness of their senses is not known, but UPF biologists assume their hearing, smell and taste is about the same as a Human's.

## Senses

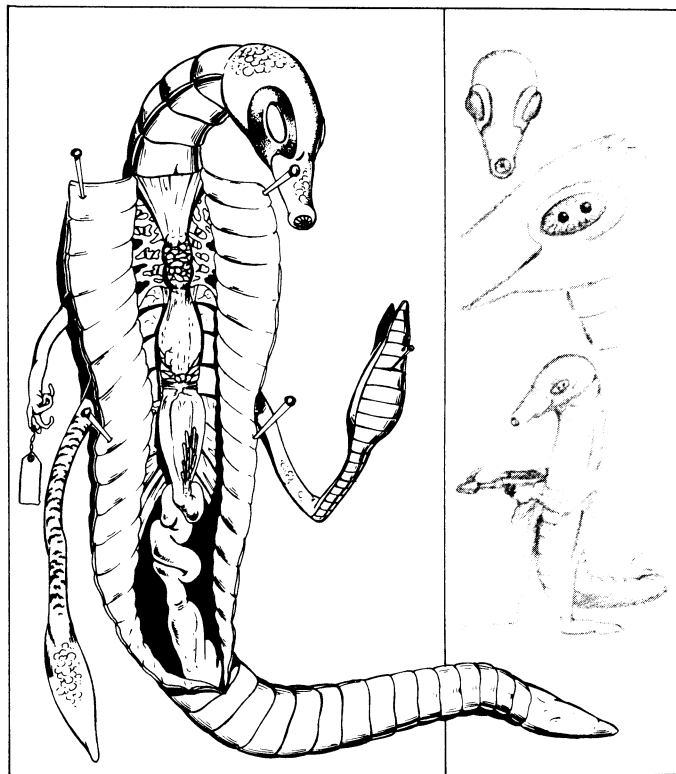
Captured recordings show that Sathar can speak Yazirian and Human languages as well as Pan-Galactic. They hiss and lisp when they speak. Their native language has never been translated.

## Society and Customs

Almost nothing is known about Sathar society. They have tried to kill every alien creature they have met in the Frontier, usually with alarming success. No one knows why the Sathar attack so viciously or what they hope to gain. All attempts to contact the Sathar peacefully have failed. No Sathar has ever been captured alive, because they kill themselves before they can be taken. In one case, an entire Sathar ship self-destructed to avoid being captured. Freeze fields have been applied to several dead Sathar in an attempt to have them revived, but biologists have not been able to find a revival technique that works on them.

Scientists have proposed several theories, based on reports from observers. The most widely accepted was written by Gdtlask Gltak, a Vrusk sociologist. Gltak's theory states that all Sathar belong to military units called cadres. The markings on the back of the Sathar's head identify its cadre. Each cadre trains its members as soldiers from the time they are born. Gltak theorizes that Sathar attack alien worlds because their military society would fall apart if there was no enemy to fight.

Readers are warned that this is only a theory. Until a Sathar is captured alive, their true motivation will not be known.



average size:	3.5 m long
average mass:	55 kg
average lifespan:	unknown
reproduction:	hermaphroditic, unknown
body temperature:	believed endothermic

## Attitudes

All Sathar should be considered hostile and dangerous. Citizens of the Frontier who encounter Sathar are required by law to report the incident immediately. If escaping is impossible, citizens are advised to attack on sight, as friendly approaches have always failed in the past.

Sathar also are known to use Dralasite, Human, Vrusk and Yazirian agents to overthrow Frontier governments, terrorize citizens and disrupt trade. Like the Sathar themselves, these agents are extremely dangerous. Suspicious beings should be reported immediately. Citizens are discouraged from attacking Sathar agents, as most are trained and experienced killers.

## Classified Information

The following information is secret, and should not be given to players until they discover it in the course of the game.

**Hypnotism.** A Sathar can hypnotize a character by talking to him in a non-combat situation. The character must make a Logic check; if he fails, he is hypnotized. A hypnotized character will think the Sathar is his friend, and will want to cooperate with it. He will see things the way the Sathar describes them, if his other senses do not contradict what the Sathar tells him. (For example, a character would not believe that a fire was a pool of water.) A Sathar can command a hypnotized person to do something at a specific time, and to forget that he has been hypnotized until that time. For example, a character could be commanded to turn off a security system at midnight.

**Sathar Ability Modifiers.** A Sathar's Leadership score must be 20 points higher than its Personality score. Their racial modifiers are:

STR/STA 0: DEX/RS -5: INT/LOG - 5: PER/LDR +10

## SKILLS

There are 13 different skills that player characters can learn. These 13 skills are organized into three Primary Skill Areas (PSAs): Military, Technological and Biosocial.

Military skills deal with combat. There are seven different Military skills: Beam Weapons, Demolitions, Gyrojet Weapons, Martial Arts, Melee Weapons, Projectile Weapons and Thrown Weapons.

Technological skills deal with various types of machines. There are three different Technological skills: Computer skill, Robotics and Technician.

Biosocial skills deal with the intelligent races and their surroundings. There are three different Biosocial skills: Environmental, Medical and Psycho-Social.

At the start of the game, each character must choose one Primary Skill Area as his career. The player then chooses two skills for his character. One skill must be from the character's PSA, but the other can be from any PSA. The character starts with Level 1 experience in both skills.

### Learning Skills

To learn new or higher-level skills, characters must spend experience points. The experience point cost depends on the skill's level and PSA. The Skill Cost Table shows the costs for each level of skill in the different PSAs. If the skill is from the character's Primary Skill Area, the cost is the number in the column. A character can learn skills from other PSAs, but must pay twice as many experience points for them. Doubled costs are shown in parentheses.

SKILL COST TABLE

	Military PSA	Technological PSA	Biosocial PSA
Level 1	3 (6)	4 (8)	5 (10)
Level 2	6 (12)	8 (16)	10 (20)
Level 3	9 (18)	12 (24)	15 (30)
Level 4	12 (24)	16 (32)	20 (40)
Level 5	15 (30)	20 (40)	25 (50)
Level 6	18 (36)	24 (48)	30 (60)

A character can learn only one skill level at a time. Skipping levels is not allowed, even if the character has enough experience points to do so.

**EXAMPLE:** Brango O'Bourke, a Human, has accumulated 10 experience points on adventures. The player decides to spend these experience points to increase Brango's Gyrojet Weapons skill from level 2 to level 3. Brango's Primary Skill Area is Military, so the new level costs him 9 experience points. The player increases Brango's Gyrojet Weapons skill level from 2 to 3 on the character sheet, and subtracts 9 from his experience point total. Brango has 1 experience point left.

**Training.** When characters learn new skills or increase a skill level, they must be trained somehow. Three methods are described below.

**HYPNO-TRAINING.** Hypno-training is a teaching system that involves hypnotism, memorization and the use of drugs that improve the mind's ability to learn. A character with enough experience points can learn a new skill or skill level at a hypno-training center in five days (100 hours) for 100 Cr.

**TEACHERS.** A character with enough experience points can learn a new skill or skill level from another character. The teacher's skill level must be at least two levels higher than the pupil's. A character can learn a new skill or skill level from a teacher in one month.

**PRACTICE.** Characters with enough experience points can learn new skills or skill levels simply by practicing. This is not always possible, however, especially with skills that require special equipment.

All three of these methods are optional. Some referees may want to ignore this rule, and simply allow players to pick new skills when their characters have earned enough experience points. Training is more realistic, but also more complicated.

### Using Skills

Each skill is divided into subskills. Subskills define exactly what types of things a skill lets a character do. For example, Demolitions skill has two subskills: set charges and defuse charges. This means a character with Demolitions skill can set and defuse explosive charges according to the rules listed under those subskills. When a character learns a skill, he automatically learns all of its subskills.

**Success Rates.** Each subskill has a success rate. The success rate consists of a basic chance to succeed, plus modifiers for the character's skill level. If the success rate for a subskill is "40% + skill level," then the character's chance to use the subskill successfully is 40% plus 10 × his skill level.

Some success rates have a second modifier, such as "60% + skill level – robot level." A character's chance to use this subskill successfully is 60% plus 10 × his skill level, minus 10 × the level of the robot he is working on.

### Repair

Computer, Robotics and Technician skills allow characters to repair damaged equipment. The success rates vary depending on what is being repaired, but the procedure is the same for all three skills.

If the damaged equipment is repaired in a shop, there is no chance it will break down again on its own. When a repair is made away from a shop ("in the field") with a personal toolkit, there is a chance that the device will break down again. This chance accumulates from day to day; a device has a 10% chance to break down in the first 20 hours, 20% in the second 20 hours, 30% in the third, and so on. When something breaks down, the referee must decide whether the damage is minor, major or total. A minor repair takes 1d10 minutes, a major repair takes 1d10 hours and a total repair takes 1d10 × 10 hours.

## MILITARY SKILLS

There are seven different Military skills. Five of them involve the use of weapons. Demolitions covers the use of explosives, and Martial Arts covers fighting without weapons or with melee weapons.

### Weapon Skills

*Success rate: ½ DEX + skill level*

All weapons skills work the same way. Each level of skill adds 10% to the character's chance to hit with that type of weapon. A roll of 96-00 always misses, however, no matter what the character's modified chance to hit is. Each type of weapon has its own skill, and characters must increase their scores separately in each. When a character uses experience points to increase one weapon skill, his other weapon skills are not affected.

**BEAM WEAPONS** skill applies to electrostunners, heavy lasers, laser pistols, laser rifles, sonic devastators, sonic disruptors and sonic stunners.

**GYROJET WEAPONS** skill applies to gyrojet pistols, gyrojet rifles, grenade rifles, grenade mortars and rocket launchers.

**MELEE WEAPONS** skill applies to axes, brass knuckles, chains, clubs, swords, electric swords, sonic swords, knives, sonic knives, vibroknives, nightsticks, polearms, shock gloves, spears, stunsticks and whips.

**PROJECTILE WEAPONS** skill applies to automatic pistols and rifles, bows, muskets, needler pistols and rifles, machine guns and recoilless rifles.

**THROWN WEAPONS** skill applies to all grenades and thrown axes, knives and spears.



## Demolitions Skill

There are two subskills to the demolitions skill: set charge and defuse charge. Only a character with demolitions skill can legally buy or use explosives or detonators. Tornadium D-19, sometimes called kaboomite, is the standard explosive.

### SETTING CHARGES

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

Only characters with demolitions skill can set charges. The number of turns needed to set a charge is the character's skill level subtracted from seven. At 1st level, a character needs six turns to set a charge, but at 6th level he needs only one turn.

If a character fails the skill check to set and detonate the charge, the charge has not exploded and must be re-set. The referee should feel free to have the charge explode prematurely or late.

Charges can be detonated by timer, radio signal or weapon fire. A timer lets the character set a time when the charge will explode. The timer can be adjusted to delay from 1 second to 60 hours. If a chronocom or subspace radio is available, charges can be set to explode when a particular signal is beamed at them. The chance to explode a charge with a radio beam is 10% less than normal. Demolitions experts also can set off a charge with a laser. If the expert hits the charge, it explodes.

### DEFUSING CHARGES

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level - skill level*

A demolitions expert can try to defuse a charge that was set by another expert. Defusing a charge takes one turn, no matter what level the expert is. The expert's chance to succeed is modified by subtracting 10 x the skill level of the person that set the charge. A character can defuse one of his own charges automatically.

## Martial Arts

*Success Rate: 1/2 DEX or 1/2 STR + skill level*

Martial Arts skill makes a character a better fighter in melee. A character with Martial Arts skill can add 10% per level to his basic chance to hit with his bare hands in melee. The skill also increases the damage caused by a successful bare-hands attack, adding one point of damage per level.

Martial Arts skill also gives the character three subskills: tumbling, defensive throws and nerve combat. Tumbling reduces damage from falling by -1 point of damage per skill level. Defensive throwing lets the character inflict damage when breaking out of a hold. When a character with Martial Arts skill breaks out of a hold, he automatically knocks his opponent down, causing damage equal to his punching score. Nerve combat increases the character's chance to knock out his opponent. The opponent must be one of the four major races. The attacker gains a +1% chance to knock out the opponent per skill level on each attack. Thus, a character with 4th level skill in unarmed combat and a Dexterity score of 40 would knock his opponent unconscious on a roll of 01-06, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60.

## TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS

There are three Technological skills: Computer skill, Robotics and Technician.

### Computer Skill

There are eight separate subskills to Computer skill: Operate Computer, Write Programs, Defeat Security, Bypass Security, Display Information, Manipulate Programs, Interface Computers and Repair Computers.

Computer programs have levels from 1 to 6, depending on their complexity. Computers also have levels from 1 to 6, depending on what programs they hold. These levels are explained in the descriptions of computers in the Equipment section.

Computer specialists get only one chance to try a subskill on a computer. Success is automatic for some subskills under certain conditions. If the computer was built by aliens (not Dralasites, Humans, Vrusk or Yazirians) the success rates for the subskills are modified by -20%.

### OPERATING COMPUTERS

*Success Rate: 100% + skill level - computer level*

Before he can use any other subskill, the computer specialist must be able to operate the particular type of computer he is working on. The chance to successfully operate a particular type of computer is 100% plus 10 x the expert's level, minus 10 x the computer's level. A roll of 96-00 is not automatic failure. Once a specialist has operated a computer successfully, he can operate that computer anytime, unless it is modified.

### WRITING PROGRAMS

*Success Rate: special*

Computer specialists learn to write their own programs. For every skill level the specialist gains, he learns how to write one computer program. The player should pick a program from the list of programs in the Equipment section. When a specialist writes a program, its level is the same as his current level, no matter when he learned the program. For example, a computer specialist that learned the Installation Security program at 1st level can write a 4th level Installation Security program when he reaches the 4th skill level. A specialist can continue learning new programs after he reaches 6th level; each additional program costs 4 experience points to learn.

A specialist that knows how to write a particular program can buy that program at half-price for his own computer. He gains a 20% bonus when trying to manipulate that program or detect security on it in any computer.

### DEFEATING SECURITY

*Success Rate: 60% + skill level — program level*

If a computer has a Computer Security program, characters must break or bypass this program before they can perform any other subskill except repair. Defeating a security program involves a decoding process that can take a long time. Characters trying to break security must spend 1-10 hours working at the computer.

Also, before a specialist tries to manipulate a program, he must find out whether the program itself has any security overrides. A security override will sound an alarm if anyone tries to run, alter or purge the program without first defeating or bypassing the security override. A security override is the same level as the computer's security program. The referee should make the roll to detect a security override secretly, since many programs have no overrides on them.

### BYPASSING SECURITY

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level - program level*

A computer specialist can bypass a security program manually by rewiring the computer. This takes only 1d10 minutes, but has several disadvantages: the chance for success is lower, it requires a robcomkit, and failing the roll will set off every alarm the computer has.

### DISPLAYING INFORMATION

*Success Rate: 80% + skill level — computer level*

A specialist can use this skill to display any information in the computer's memory. It is especially useful for getting lists of programs that are stored in the computer, personal records, and raw, unprocessed data that is loaded and waiting to be fed into a program. A specialist gets a +20 modifier if he is trying to display information about a program he knows. He can automatically display information about programs he wrote in the computer. If a specialist displays an item successfully, he never needs to roll to display it again.

## MANIPULATING PROGRAMS

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level – program level*

A computer specialist has a chance to successfully run a program, change it or purge it from the computer. The normal chance of success is 50% plus 10 × the character's level, minus 10 × the program's level. If the program is one that the character has learned, he gets a +20% bonus.

A specialist can run a program automatically if it is one he programmed into the computer himself, or if he has run it successfully in this computer before.

A specialist may want to alter a program before running it. For example, a life support program will not let someone shut down the life support system or release a poison into the air. The program could be altered, however, so it would let the operator do either of those things. The referee should note that a character usually must run the program successfully after altering it before the changes will have any effect.

This subskill also lets a specialist try to wipe out a program from a computer's memory, either to destroy the program or to make room for a different program. A character can purge a program automatically if he wrote it in the computer.

## INTERFACING COMPUTERS

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level – computer level*

This subskill lets a character try to link two computers together, either by connecting them with wires or through some communication system such as phone lines or a radio link. Once the two computers are linked, the computer specialist can perform all subskills (except bypass security and repair) from either computer. The chance to successfully interface two computers is 30% plus 10 × the specialist's level, minus 10 × the highest of the two computers' levels.

## REPAIRING COMPUTERS

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level*

When computers break down or are damaged, they can be repaired only by a computer specialist. The level of the computer does not affect the specialist's chance to repair it. Computers are repaired according to the standard repair rule.

## Robotics Skill

A robotics expert specializes in robots. Robots are complex, mobile machines that are designed to perform specific jobs. Many types of robots are available. Eight common types are described in the Equipment section. The referee can create new types if he wants them.

The robotics skill has nine subskills: Identify, Add Equipment, Repair, Activate/Deactivate, Remove Security Lock, List Functions, Alter Function and Alter Mission.

If the robot is an alien design, then the robotics expert has a -20% modifier on his rolls to perform these subskills. A character must have a robcomkit to work on a robot.

**Robot Levels.** There are six levels of robots. A robot's level indicates how complex it is. High-level robots can perform more complicated jobs.

**Level 1** robots can do only simple jobs. They have been pre-programmed for some specific job and usually can not do any other job. They can not communicate, and often are nothing more than moving, self-operated appliances. An example of a level 1 robot is a maintenance robot that washes and waxes the floors of a building each night.

**Level 2** robots can handle several simple jobs. They can receive and follow radio commands in binary machine language sent from some other machine, such as a robot brain or a computer. An example of a level 2 robot is a heavy machine that digs into and smashes up rock, then separates out flecks of gold.

**Level 3** robots can do more complicated jobs. In addition, all robots that are level 3 or higher can talk and follow verbal instructions. If these instructions disagree with the robot's programming, it will ignore the orders.

**Level 4** robots can act semi-independently. Their programs are flexible, letting the robot accomplish specific goals using different methods. When asked, "How do I get to the starport?" one level 4 service robot might give verbal directions, while another might photocopy a city map and mark the proper route on it.

**Level 5** robots can act independently and give orders to other robots (level 6 robots can do this also). For example, a level 5 security robot might decide to stop chasing a criminal because the criminal left victims tied up in a burning house. The robot could organize a rescue mission of other robots.

**Level 6** robots are self-programming. They can change the methods they use and even their goals to account for changing conditions. They are almost, but not quite, living machines. A robot brain that runs an automated manufacturing plant and alters the manufacturing process in response to changing economic conditions is an example of a level 6 robot.

**Missions.** All robots have a mission. A mission is a set of rules that tell the robot what its job is. A robot's mission is the most important order it has, and overrides any orders that conflict with it.

**Functions:** All robots have several functions that tell them how to accomplish their missions. Low-level robots can not make decisions, so their functions must be very specific statements. Higher-level robots can make decisions for themselves, so their functions can be more general statements.

For example, a level 3 security robot might have the mission: "Stop all unauthorized personnel from entering this building." Its functions could define "stop" as giving intruders a warning, then using the Restrain program to keep them from entering. "All unauthorized personnel" could be defined as any person or machine that is not wearing a special badge. The robot must be given a function that defines "this building," and another that tells it what areas it must patrol to look for intruders. Another function could instruct it to call the police and report the break-in after an intruder has been restrained.

## IDENTIFICATION

*Success Rate: 100% + skill level - robot level*

A robotics expert has a chance to determine a robot's type and level simply by looking at the robot. The chance is 100% plus the specialist's level × 10, minus the robot's level × 10. Once a robot has been successfully identified, the expert can always identify that robot (unless its appearance is changed).

## ADDING EQUIPMENT

*Success Rate: 100%*

A robotics expert can install new equipment on a robot himself and save the 10% installation fee.

## REPAIRING ROBOTS

*Success Rate 40% + skill level - robot level*

Only robotics experts can repair robots. Robots are repaired according to the standard repair rules.

## ACTIVATE/DEACTIVATE

*Success Rate: 100%*

A robotics expert can deactivate (turn off) a robot regardless of its level. The expert also can activate robots that have been deactivated.

However, before a robotics specialist can deactivate the robot, list its functions, remove its security lock or alter its functions or mission, he must get at the robot's internal circuitry. This requires removing a protective plate, which takes one turn. (The plate can be removed in one turn even if the robot is fighting the character, but the character probably will take damage before he gets the plate off.) Once the plate is off, the robot can be deactivated in one turn.

## REMOVING SECURITY LOCKS

*Success Rate: 70% + skill level - robot level*

If a robot has a security lock, the lock must be removed before someone can list the robot's functions or alter its functions or mission. A robot can be deactivated before the security lock is removed. Once a security lock has been removed it can not be used again.

## LISTING FUNCTIONS

*Success Rate: 90% + skill level - robot level*

A robotics expert can learn a robot's exact mission and functions, as well as get a list of all the programs in the robot, by using this subskill.

Once a character has successfully listed the robot's function's, he can always list that robot's functions.

## ALTERING FUNCTIONS

*Success Rate: 60% + skill level - robot level*

A robotics expert can change one of a robot's functions at a time. The character must roll separately for each function altered. Changing an altered function back to the original also requires a new roll. Changing a function takes 1d10 minutes. If the new function violates the robot's mission or requires programs the robot does not have, the robot will ignore the new function.

## ALTERING MISSION

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level - robot level*

A robotics expert can try to alter a robot's mission. This takes 1d10 minutes plus the robot's level. Changing the robot's mission does not affect its functions; these must be altered individually. Once a mission has been changed, changing it back to the original mission requires another roll. If the new mission requires programs the robot does not have, the robot will still try to follow its new mission however it can.

## MALFUNCTIONS

If a character fails a roll to remove a security lock or alter a robot's function or mission, the robot can malfunction. When this happens, the referee should roll d100 on the Malfunction Table.



## MALFUNCTION TABLE

Die Roll	Effect
01-25	No Malfunction
26-50	Program Destroyed
51-75	Short Circuit
76-90	Haywire
91-00	Explosion

*No Malfunction* — The robot continues to function normally.

*Program Destroyed* — One of the robot's programs (picked randomly by the referee) has been destroyed. The robot can not perform any functions requiring that program. If all the programs in a robot are destroyed, the robot shuts itself off.

*Short Circuit* — The robot is still operating, but has been damaged. For example, a robot with a short circuit might stop suddenly every other turn, or rattle and spark while it works.

*Haywire* — The robot is completely out of control. It might attack at random, spin in circles, recite the Gettysburg Address, or do anything else the referee thinks fits the situation.

*Explosion* — The robot's parabattery explodes, causing 2d10 points of damage multiplied by the parabattery's type to the robotics expert.

### Technician Skill

There are five Technician subskills: Operate Machinery, Repair, Detect Alarm/Defense, Deactivate Alarm/Defense and Open Locks. A techkit is needed for all these subskills except Operate Machinery.

### OPERATING MACHINERY

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level*

Operating a vehicle includes starting it, driving it and using it to do anything it was designed to do. The chance to succeed includes the possibility that the technician may need to bypass a locked ignition to start the vehicle. Obviously, if the vehicle is damaged or out of fuel, it will not start until it is repaired or refueled.

A technician gets one chance to operate an unfamiliar vehicle. If the technician has driven this type of machine before, he can start it and drive it automatically. A technician can try to operate any ground or water vehicle, regardless of his level. At 2nd level he can fly a jetcopter. At 4th level he can fly an aircar, and at 6th level he can operate rocket-powered machines.

### REPAIRING MACHINERY

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level*

Technicians can repair vehicles, large and small machines, and electrical equipment (including video and communication devices). They can not repair computers or robots. Technicians use the standard repair rule.

Besides repairing vehicles that have been damaged in combat, the referee can include mechanical breakdowns on random encounter tables. This is recommended if the characters are on a long cross-country journey, where a breakdown is likely and the nearest repair shop is several hundred kilometers (or light-years) away. When a vehicle breaks down, roll 2d10 on the following table to determine what has happened:

## VEHICLE BREAKDOWNS

Dice Roll	Problem
2	broken axle or hoverfan*
3-5	broken driveshaft or transmission*
6-10	minor engine failure
11-15	minor drive train failure
16-17	broken suspension
18-19	major engine failure, repairable*
20	blown engine, unrepairable**

\* This breakdown takes twice as long to repair as a normal breakdown.

\*\* A blown engine can not be repaired in the field. In a shop, it takes four times longer to repair than a normal breakdown.

### DETECTING ALARMS/DEFENSES

*Success Rate: 60% + skill level - alarm level*

Technicians have a chance to detect security alarms and defenses. The following table lists the types of alarms and traps and their levels. This same table is used with the Open Lock and Deactivate Alarm/Defense subskills.

### SECURITY DEVICE LEVELS

Device	Level
Simple Mechanical and Electrical	1
Motion and Pressure Sensitive	2
Infra-red Beams and Sound Sensitive	3
Video	4
Heat Sensitive	5
Personalized Recognition Devices (fingerprints, voice patterns, etc.)	6

### DEACTIVATING ALARMS/DEFENSES

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level - alarm level*

Once a technician has detected an alarm or defense, he can try to deactivate it. If the character fails, the referee must decide whether the alarm goes off; if the roll was missed by only a small amount, the alarm might not have been triggered.

### OPENING LOCKS

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level - lock level*

A technician can try to open locks without the necessary "key." The level of a lock usually is the same as the level of any nearby security devices, but the referee may change this. The referee should reduce the chance to succeed if the lock is on a safe or security vault.

### BIOSOCIAL SKILLS

Biosocial skills involve the sciences, life and health. There are three Biosocial skills: Environmental, Medical and Psycho-Social.

#### Environmental Skill

Environmental Skill deals with relationships between intelligent life and nature. An environmental specialist has training in astronomy, biology, botany, chemistry, ecology and geology. There are nine Environmental subskills: Analyze Samples, Analyze Ecosystem, Find Direction, Survival, Make Tools/Weapons, Tracking, Stealth, Concealment and Naming.

When an environmentalist is dealing with an alien or unknown environment, he has a -20 modifier on his rolls to analyze samples or the ecosystem, find direction, track or use survival.

## ANALYZING SAMPLES

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level*

An environmental specialist can analyze atmospheric, biological or geological samples.

An environmental specialist can use a vaporscanner to analyze atmospheric samples. If the analysis succeeds, the vaporscanner will indicate whether the air is breathable or poisonous, and what gases are present.

The specialist needs a bioscanner to analyze a biological sample. If the analysis succeeds, the bioscanner will indicate what type of plant or animal the sample was, and whether it is edible or poisonous.

A geoscanner can be used to analyze geological samples. If the analysis succeeds, the geoscanner indicates what minerals are present in the sample and the possibility of finding rich ore or gas in the area.

## ANALYZING ECOSYSTEMS

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

An ecosystem is the combination of all the plants and animals that make up the local environment, and their relationships to each other. If an ecosystem is upset or thrown out of balance, entire species can become extinct and whole regions devastated by floods, droughts or other natural disasters. One of the environmental specialist's jobs is to analyze local ecosystems and determine whether they are balanced and, if not, to determine what can be done to restore balance. An environmentalist must spend at least 200 hours studying the area to use this subskill.

## FINDING DIRECTIONS

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level*

An environmental specialist can try to find directions in a wilderness without a compass or other aid. If the specialist makes a map or marks a trail (by cutting notches in trees or lining up rocks), his chance to find a direction on that path is increased 30%.

## SURVIVAL

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level*

This subskill gives a specialist a chance to do several things related to survival: find food or water (if any is available in the area), find or improvise shelter, and set or avoid traps. If a trap is set in a built-up area (city, farm community, etc.), there is a 50% chance it will be noticed. This subskill also lets the environmental specialist make a special Intuition check to predict natural disasters.

## MAKING TOOLS/WEAPONS

*Success Rate: 100% if materials are available*

An environmental specialist can make tools and weapons out of stones, sticks, cords, and other natural materials. Only bows, axes, clubs, knives and spears can be made. Only the spear can be balanced well enough to use as a thrown weapon. The referee may allow an environmentalist to improvise tools and weapons from wreckage and scrap parts.

## TRACKING

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

An environmental specialist has a chance to follow a creature, person or machine by watching for its trail. This skill works only in the wilderness, not in settled areas. The specialist also can use this subskill to cover his own tracks.

## STEALTH

*Success Rate: 20% + skill level*

Stealth is the ability to move without being seen or heard. This ability is useful for stalking animals, but also can be used to sneak up on guards or follow suspects.

## CONCEALMENT

*Success Rate: 10% + skill level*

Concealment is the art of hiding in natural cover. Once concealed, there is an 80% chance the specialist will not be seen as long as he does not move or make noise.

## NAMING

*Success Rate: 100%*

One of the benefits of being an environmental specialist is that when he discovers a new plant, animal, mountain range, sea, etc., he is allowed to name the new discovery.

## Medical Skill

A character that has Medical skill is called a medic. Medics need a medkit to use their skill. Medics diagnose ailments, heal wounds, control infections, neutralize poisons, cure diseases, wake up unconscious individuals and prevent tissue deterioration.

There are nine Medical subskills: Administer Drugs, Diagnosis, First Aid, Minor Surgery, Major Surgery, Control Infection, Cure Disease, Neutralize Toxins and Activate Freeze Field.

If a patient is treated in a hospital or sick bay all Success Rates are increased 20%. If the patient is an animal or an unfamiliar alien, all Success Rates are reduced 20%. These two modifiers are cumulative, so the chance to perform major surgery on an unfamiliar alien at a hospital is normal.

## ADMINISTERING DRUGS

*Success Rate: 100%*

Three drugs are covered under this subskill: stimdose, staydose and telol.

A medic can use one dose of stimdose to wake up an unconscious or stunned character, or to restore 10 Stamina points to a character that was poisoned or contracted a disease or infection. Stimdose can only be given by a medic. If more than one dose is given in a 20-hour period, the second dose has no effect.

A medic can use one dose of staydose to place an individual in a state of arrested animation. A character whose Stamina has been reduced to 0, but not below -30, will be brought back to life by the drug if it is injected within one minute (10 turns) after death. The staydose slows down the character's heartbeat and breathing so he can survive with no Stamina points. If the character's Stamina is brought back above 0 within 24 hours, he will live. If not, the character dies. Only one dose of staydose can be given to a character, until his Stamina is raised above 0.

Telol is a truth drug. Only a medic can administer it correctly. There is an 80% chance the telol will work. If it does, the injected character will answer up to five simple questions, using simple answers. An injected character passes out for 1d10 hours, whether the drug works or not.





## DIAGNOSIS

*Success Rate: 60% + skill level*

A medscanner will give a medic a brief diagnosis. This diagnosis will outline the patient's general symptoms and will identify the ailment as a wound, a disease, a poison or an infection.

Once the medic has a general diagnosis, he can use this subskill to get a specific diagnosis. If he passes the skill check, the medic knows exactly what the ailment is. With this information, the medic can use one of his other subskills to heal the wound, control the infection, cure the disease or neutralize the toxin.

Without a specific diagnosis, a medic can not use a subskill to treat a victim. However, the medic can use the medscanner's general diagnosis as a guide to which drug the victim needs. After the medic gives the injection, the victim must roll his current Stamina or less on d100 to overcome the effect of the poison, disease or infection. If the victim fails this roll, the drug has no effect. A second dose given within 20 hours automatically has no effect.

## FIRST AID

*Success Rate: 100%*

A medic can heal 10 points of wound damage automatically by using one dose of biocort plus any appropriate items from the medkit (local anesthetics, plastiflesh spray, etc.) Only one shot of biocort can be given to a character in a 20-hour period. If a second shot is given within 20 hours, it has no effect. If a character suffered more than 10 points of damage, the medic must use major or minor surgery to heal him completely. Biocort has no effect on poisons, infections or diseases.

## MINOR SURGERY

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level*

Minor surgery can heal up to 20 points of damage. This is in addition to the 10 points that can be healed with first aid. For every 10 points of damage (or fraction of 10 points) that is healed, an additional dose of biocort is required. Minor surgery also uses one dose of anesthetic. If the surgery fails, the patient does not recover any Stamina points and one dose of biocort is used.

## MAJOR SURGERY

*Success Rate: 20% + skill level*

Major surgery can heal any amount of damage to a character. For every 10 points of damage (or fraction of 10 points) healed, a dose of biocort is used. The only limit to the amount of damage that can be healed is the patient's original Stamina and the supply of biocort. If the operation fails, the patient does not recover any Stamina points and one dose of biocort is used up. The medic can try minor surgery on the same patient, if he has not already. Major surgery also requires one dose of anesthetic.

Major and minor surgery are effective only on wounds. They can not be used to heal damage from infections, diseases or poisons.

## CONTROLLING INFECTION

*Success Rate: 50% + skill level*

Controlling infection requires a dose of omnimycin. If the attempt fails, the omnimycin is used up and the infection is out of control. Infections are rated by their infection strength (S) and duration (D). The infection causes a specific amount of damage every 10 hours. For example, an S6/D8 infection causes six points of damage every 10 hours for 80 hours if it is not controlled.

## CURING DISEASES

*Success Rate: 40% + skill level*

Curing a disease requires a dose of antibody plus. If the attempt fails, the antibody plus has been used up and the disease has not been cured. Diseases are rated according to how they modify ability checks, how long the modification lasts and whether the disease is fatal. The modifier is a negative number and the duration is in 10-hour periods. If the duration is followed by an exclamation mark, the disease will kill anyone it has infected after that length of time unless the disease is treated at a hospital. For example, a -10/D10! disease modifies every ability check the character makes by -10 for 100 hours. The victim will die after 100 hours unless he is treated successfully at a hospital.

## NEUTRALIZING TOXINS

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

Neutralizing a poison inside a victim's body requires a dose of antitox. Poisons are rated like infections, according to how much damage they cause and for how long. Poison damage is inflicted every turn instead of every 10 hours, and the duration is in turns. An S7/T9 poison will cause 7 points of damage every turn for 9 turns. Neutralizing a poison stops the poison from causing any more damage, but does not heal damage the poison caused on earlier turns

## ACTIVATING FREEZE FIELDS

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

A freeze field is a device that places a body in stasis and preserves it until it can be revived. Only a medic can activate a freeze field correctly. A freeze field must be activated within two minutes (20 turns) after death, or the body can not be revived. Activating the field takes five turns. The process can be interrupted, as long as the field is completely activated within the two-minute time limit. If the medic does not pass his skill check and there is at least one minute left in the time limit, he has two options: he can make a second attempt to activate the field, or he can inject the body with staidose. If the second attempt to activate the field fails, the body can not be revived.

## Psycho-Social Skill

Psycho-Social skill gives a character an advantage when dealing with individuals or groups of intelligent beings. The skill can be used when dealing with any of the major races as well as any other intelligent species the character encounters.

There are five Psycho-Social subskills: empathy, persuasion, communication, hypnosis, and psycho-pathology.

**Racial Bonuses.** Because Vrusk have the racial ability of Comprehension, they gain +5% on all rolls involving Psycho-Social skill. Dralasites get a bonus of +10 when using empathy, because of their racial ability to detect lies. These modifiers apply only if the character has Psycho-Social skill.

## EMPATHY

*Success rate: 10% + skill level*

Empathy allows a character to get a general impression of the mood and intentions of individuals or groups. In order to use this skill, the specialist must be able to see or hear the individual or group.

The information that a character gains by using this skill is very vague and non-specific. The referee should use descriptions like hostile, curious, cautious, helpful, neutral, etc.

Empathy can be used by a character only once per encounter. If two characters in the group have Psycho-Social skill, each can try to use their empathy subskill.

## PERSUASION

*Success rate: 10% + skill level*

Persuasion lets a character try to convince a person or group to follow a reasonable course of action suggested by the character. The character must explain his plan to the group or person being persuaded. If the character must use a translator, he has a -10% modifier.

A character can try to persuade a group or individual only once. If the character misses his roll by 50 points or more, his audience will get mad and might try to do something that is the opposite of what the character wanted.

## COMMUNICATION

*Success rate: 40% + skill level*

This subskill can be used when a character must communicate with a creature whose language he does not speak or understand. If the character uses this subskill successfully, he can communicate using very simple messages. The referee might force players to use simple messages by restricting them to two-word phrases.

## HYPNOSIS

*Success rate: 15% + skill level*

In order to hypnotize a character, the hypnotist must be able to speak to the subject in a common language without a translator.

If the person being hypnotized is willing, this is the only requirement. If the subject does not realize he is being hypnotized, he gets to make an Intuition check. If he passes the check, the subject realizes what is happening and can not be hypnotized. If he fails the check, he can be hypnotized normally. No one can be hypnotized against his will if he realizes he is being hypnotized.

A character may try to hypnotize only one subject at a time. Hypnotizing someone takes 1d10 minutes. The hypnotist can try to hypnotize a willing subject a second time if the first attempt fails. If the subject is unwilling, the hypnotist gets only one chance to hypnotize him. If the attempt fails, the subject gets to make another Intuition check to realize what has happened.

Hypnosis can be used to give a character a +10 modifier on all rolls to hit in melee. This effect lasts one hour, and can be used on a character only once every 20 hours.

Hypnosis also can be used as an anesthetic. A wounded character that is hypnotized can ignore the wound modifier in combat. This effect lasts 1d10 hours and can be used on a character only once every 20 hours.

A hypnotist's most powerful ability is suggestion. A hypnotized subject will believe almost anything the hypnotist tells him. The hypnotized character will not do something that is against his moral code or religion, but he can be tricked into doing things he would not normally do. The hypnotist must give the subject a good reason to do something unusual, or convince him that the situation is not exactly as it seems. For example, a hypnotized guard will not let unauthorized persons into a restricted area. If the hypnotist tells the guard that he is authorized but has forgotten his pass, the guard will let him in.

## PSYCHO-PATHOLOGY

*Success Rate: 30% + skill level*

Psycho-pathology subskill lets the specialist try to help characters or creatures that are psychologically disturbed. Extreme fright, isolation, or even unusual air and food chemistry can seriously affect an explorer's mental condition. A psycho-pathologist can help characters recover their confidence or forget their traumatic experiences. The specialist also can determine what will reassure or frighten an alien or primitive.



## MOVEMENT

The Movement Table below shows movement rates for the different races. The hourly rate assumes the character is walking and resting periodically. The movement rate per minute is 10 times the rate per turn. The movement rate per day is the hourly rate multiplied by the number of hours the characters traveled.

MOVEMENT TABLE

RACE	Walk/Turn	Run/Turn	Per Hour
Dralasite	5 m	20 m	3 km
Human	10 m	30 m	5 km
Vrusk	15 m	35 m	6 km
Yazirian	10 m	30 m	4 km
Sathar	10 m	20 m	3 km

**Endurance.** A character can run at top speed for a number of minutes equal to his Strength score divided by 10, rounded up. The character then must rest for 10 minutes before running again. If characters walk for more than 10 hours, they move at half speed and their Dexterity scores and Reaction Speeds are reduced by half until they sleep.

### Terrain

The type of terrain a group is crossing affects how fast the group can travel. The TERRAIN EFFECTS TABLE shows how various types of terrain affect speed. The types of terrain are described below.

**Clear** — Any area that allows easy, unobstructed movement. Includes plains, prairies, salt flats, dirt roads and fields.

**Broken Ground** — Any area with obstructions or a loose, shifting surface. Includes steep hills, sand dunes, ice or snow fields, forests and gravel slopes.

**Rugged** — Any area that requires travelers to pick their path carefully, or that channels them into a few unblocked passes. Includes mountains, canyons, jungles, cratered plains and caverns.

**Bogs** — Wet areas with lush vegetation, shallow, open water and soft ground that impedes movement. Includes swamps, marshes, mud flats, mineral terraces and slush.

**Open Water** — Large areas of water such as lakes, rivers and oceans.

**Highway** — An artificial or natural path that is smooth, flat and generally straight.

**Hazardous** — Any area that cannot be crossed without a specially modified vehicle. Includes molten lava, acid pools, lime pits and frozen nitrogen or methane plains.

To find a character's or vehicle's movement rate over different terrain, multiply its normal movement rate by the number shown on the Terrain Effects Table for the terrain being crossed. The result is the character's or vehicle's top speed in that type of terrain.

TERRAIN EFFECTS TABLE

Travel Mode	Terrain						
	Clear	Broken	Rugged	Bog	Water	Highway	Hazard
Walking	1.0	.8	.2	.6	*	1.0	—
Slithering	1.0	1.0	.4	.8	*	1.0	—
Flying**	1.0	.9	.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	.4
Hovercraft	1.2	.6	—	.8	.9	1.4	.8
Groundcar	.8	.6	.2	.4	.4	1.2	—
Track-mobile	1.0	.9	.4	.2	—	1.0	—
Explorer	1.0	.8	.4	.6	.2	1.2	—

\* See Swimming.

\*\* These limits apply only if the creature or vehicle is flying or gliding within 100 meters of the ground. If flying more than 100 meters above ground obstacles, all terrain is 1.0.

**EXAMPLE:** A Sathar war party is tracking a group of adventurers through mountains. The Sathar normally move 3 km/hour. The group of adventurers normally moves 5 km/hour.

The Sathar move by slithering, so their speed is  $\frac{3}{.4} = 7.5$  km/hour. The group of adventurers moves by walking, so its speed is multiplied by .2. The result is 1, so the adventurers can travel 1 km/hour.

**Animals.** The movement speeds given for animals are adjusted to match the animal's native terrain, so no further modifications are necessary.

### Encumbrance

There is a limit to how much weight a character can carry. This limit is equal to the character's Strength score, in kilograms. If the weight a character is carrying is more than half of his Strength score, he is encumbered. The movement rate of an encumbered character is cut in half in all terrain. A character can pick up an object that weighs up to twice his Strength in kg, but can carry it only a few meters.

## Stacking

A character can stand in a space 1 meter square. This means a map square that is 5 meters across can hold up to 25 characters. If the characters are fighting, however, only eight can be in a 5-meter square and only two can be in a 2-meter square. Only two characters can shoot out one side of a 5-meter square, only one can shoot out one side of a 2-meter square.

## Wounds

A character whose current Stamina is one-half or less of his full Stamina can move at only half speed, and his carrying capacity is cut in half.

## Mixed Parties

A party that contains a mixture of races can travel 5km/hour if it does not include Yazirians, 4 km/hour if it does. (Because of their high Stamina, Dralasites can keep up if they must.)

## Special Situations

**Leaping and Vaulting.** A character can leap up to 2 meters horizontally without a running start. If the character can run 15 meters in a straight line before leaping, he can leap up to 5 meters.

A character trying to leap across an obstacle must make a Strength check. A character who fails the check has lost his balance and can not move for 1 turn. A character who tries to leap farther than the distance has a -20 modifier on his Strength check for each additional half-meter. Failure means the character falls short of the distance.

A character with a 15 meter running start can vault over an obstacle that is 2 meters high, or grab something that is up to 4 meters above the ground.

**Falling, Jumping and Diving.** Characters who fall from buildings, ledges or other heights suffer 1d5 points of damage plus 1 point for every meter they fall. For example, a character that falls 10 meters suffers 1d5 +10 points of damage.

If a character suffers 15 or more points of damage in a fall, he has sprained a leg. His movement speed is reduced by half. If the character suffers 25 or more points of damage, he has broken a bone or a torn a muscle. The player must roll 1d10; on 1-8, the character injured a leg, on 9 or 10 he injured an arm. A character with a broken leg can not move until the leg is splinted, and then moves at half speed. A broken arm can not be used. (Dralasites can spend 10 minutes absorbing the old limb and growing a new one; this does not heal the damage, but does remove the penalty.)

If a character suffers 30 or more points of damage, he may be knocked unconscious. The player must roll 1d100; if the result is equal to or less than the damage the character suffered, then the character is knocked unconscious for 1d10 minutes.

**JUMPING.** A character can jump down 5 meters without being hurt. If the character jumps more than 5 meters, he will suffer injuries the same as if he had fallen, but the distance is reduced by 5 meters.

Example: Lklekt (a Vrusk) jumps from a jetcopter that is hovering 15 meters above the ground. He will suffer 1d5+10 points of damage, the same as if he had fallen 10 meters.

**Swimming.** All characters can swim 10 meters/turn, or 1 km/hour. After swimming for one hour, characters start losing 5 Stamina points every 30 minutes they continue swimming.

Characters can hold their breath for a number of turns equal to their Stamina score divided by 5. A character who tries to hold his breath longer than this takes 2d10 points of damage every turn.

Dralasites do not float naturally. They can swim, but if knocked unconscious they will drown. A Dralasite can float if it spends 5 minutes forming an air pocket in its body before entering the water.

**Climbing.** A character can climb a rope at a rate of 2 meters/turn. The character must make a strength check with +30 modifier at the halfway point of the climb and at the top. A roll of 96-00 is automatic failure. Failing the roll means the character falls.

A character can climb a vertical surface at a rate of 1 meter/turn, if there are handholds and footholds on the wall. He must make a Dexterity check with a +30 modifier at the halfway point of the climb and at the top. A roll of 96-00 is automatic failure. Failing the roll means the character falls. These rolls are not necessary if the surface the character is climbing slopes less than 60 degrees.

A character can climb a ladder at his normal walking speed.

**Dangerous Movements.** A character is making a dangerous movement if slipping could cause injury: inching along a ledge and swinging on a rope across a pit are two examples. A character must pass a Reaction Speed check to complete a dangerous movement safely. Failing means the character slips. The referee must decide whether the character has a chance to catch himself, and what happens if he falls.

**Doors.** Open doors and doors that open automatically do not affect movement. To move through a closed door, a character must stop next to the door. On the next turn the character can move through the door at half speed. To open a pressure door or hatch, a character must stand next to the door for two turns, and can move through the door at half speed on the third turn. A character can perform other actions while waiting for a pressure door to open, but can do nothing else while opening a hatch.

**Vehicles and Riding Animals.** Getting into or out of a vehicle takes half of a turn, and the vehicle must be stationary. Mounting or dismounting a riding animal takes one complete turn, during which the character can do nothing else.

**Picking Up and Dropping Objects.** Picking up an object that weighs more than 10 kg takes one turn. Picking up an object that weighs 10 kg or less takes half of a turn. Dropping an object takes no time at all.

**Gravity, Weight and Mass.** The strength of gravity on a planet depends on the planet's size. Increasing or decreasing gravity can affect characters several ways. These effects are explained below. (This rule is optional. Referees who do not want the added detail can ignore it and assume all adventures happen on planets where gravity equals 1 g.)

For every tenth of a gravity (.1 g) less than 1.0

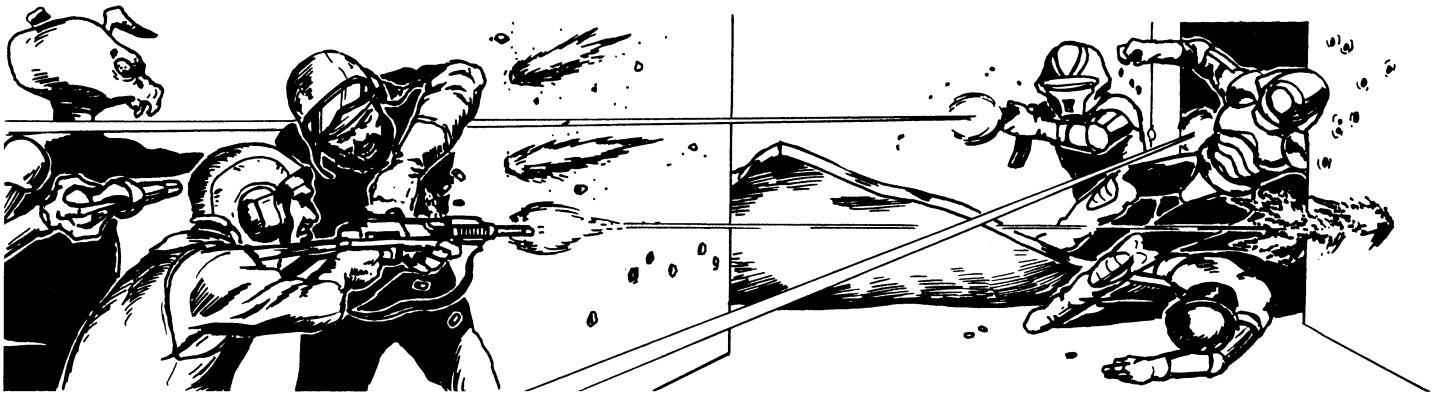
- a character's carrying capacity is increased 5 kg
- the distance a character can leap and vault is increased 5 m
- the distance a character can jump safely is increased 1 m
- the damage a character suffers in a fall is decreased 2 points

For every tenth of a gravity (.1 g) above 1.0

- a character's carrying capacity is decreased 2 kg
- the distance characters can leap and vault is decreased .5 m
- the distance a character can jump safely is decreased 1 m
- the damage a character suffers in a fall is increased by 2

**Weightless Movement.** Moving in an area where there is no gravity is different than normal movement. Handholds are built into the walls of most space stations and spaceships, so characters can pull or push themselves along in freefall. Once a character starts moving, he will not stop until he bumps into a wall or grabs another handhold and stops himself. Characters moving this way can move at walking speed. They must follow a wall or, if they move across an open area, they must move straight at a constant speed until they reach the opposite wall. Some ships have velcro strips along the hallways, so characters wearing special boots can walk normally. Characters walking this way can move at one-half their usual walking speed.

Characters can move outside ships or space stations using space suits. Space suits have magnetic boots so characters can walk on the metallic surface of the ship or station at one-half their usual walking speed. Characters can connect themselves to the ship with a tether; if they are knocked off the ship they can simply pull themselves back along the tether.



## EXPANDED COMBAT

The expanded combat system uses a different turn sequence and gives characters many more options, as well as introducing a wide variety of new weapons.

### Combat Sequence

The sequence of events in combat is outlined below.

1. Check to see if characters are surprised.
2. Roll for initiative. (Throughout this section, the side that gets initiative will be called side A and the side without initiative will be called side B.)
3. Announce what each character will do. Side B declares first.
4. Side B moves. Characters on side A may be able to shoot at opponents who move through their field of fire.
5. Side A moves. Characters on side B who did not move may be able to shoot at opponents who move through their field of fire.
6. Side A resolves any wrestling attempts, remaining weapon fire, grenade tosses and melee. Wrestling attempts are resolved before other types of attacks.
7. Side B resolves any remaining attacks.

### SURPRISE

If there is a chance characters will be surprised by an attack, the referee should let characters make Intuition checks. The referee must decide which characters get to make checks. For example, only the last character in a marching line has a chance to notice a sneak attack from behind.

If a character fails the check, he does not suspect anything and will be surprised. When a character or group is surprised, it automatically loses initiative for the first turn of combat and can do nothing that turn except move and take cover.

If a character passes the check, he notices something unusual: footsteps behind him, a gun barrel poking around a corner, or anything else appropriate to the situation. The player must decide how to react to this information. If he makes a bad choice, he may still be surprised. For example, a group of adventurers is driving down a dirt road with tall grass on both sides. Suddenly, a flock of flying lizards takes off ahead of the vehicle and flies away. The characters decide the animals were frightened by their Explorer and continue driving. Within moments, a group of rebels hidden in the fields opens fire on the ATV.

### Spotting Distance

When characters have an encounter, one factor that will affect whether they can be surprised is how far they can see. A character standing on flat, level ground can see a man-sized object up to 1 km away, but can not see any details about the object. A character can see details at a distance of about .5 km. Binoculars, magnigoggles and telescopic sights will multiply these distances by three. Weather conditions such as fog, rain, blowing dust or heat shimmers can

reduce these distances to half or less. A character can see farther if he climbs to a higher elevation, but the distance at which he can see detail does not change with elevation.

### INITIATIVE

One player on each side rolls 1d10 and adds the highest Initiative modifier on his side to the result. The side with the highest total has initiative and is side A this turn. If the results are tied, the side with the highest modifier has initiative.

If there are more than two teams in a fight, simply add more sides (C, D, etc.) to the sequence as they are needed. The side with the lowest initiative roll always moves first, with the other sides following in order. If only a few characters are involved in a fight, the referee can treat each character as a separate team and have everyone roll their own initiative.

**Holstered and Slung Weapons.** If a character's weapon is in a holster or slung over his shoulder, the character must subtract 3 from his Initiative modifier when rolling for initiative. If the character is rolling initiative for a group, the modifier applies to the entire group.

### DECLARATION

All characters must decide what they will do at the start of each turn, and declare their intentions before the first move. Side B must declare first, allowing side A to react to side B's moves.

Declarations should be as realistic and specific as possible. For example, instead of saying, "I will throw a grenade," the player should say, "I will throw a doze grenade at the Yazirian, and then duck back behind the rock wall." Characters must declare how many shots they will fire, what power settings they will use and whether they will fire a burst (see Rate Of Fire, Variable Power Settings and Bursts).

If opposing sides in a fight can not see each other, the referee may ask for declarations before the roll for initiative. This forces players to act without knowing what their opponents will do.

### Sighting

A character must be able to see his target in order to shoot or throw a grenade at it. A character can see his target if a straight line from the center of his square to the center of his target's square is not blocked by a building, a cliff or some other obstacle. If the character is in a position where he can lean around the obstacle to shoot, it does not block his sight.

### MOVEMENT

Characters on side B move first. If a character moves through an opponent's field of fire, the opponent may be able to shoot at him as he moves. (Everything in front of a character is in his field of fire; see Opportunity Shots.) Side A moves after side B. If a character from side A moves through an opponent's field of fire, and the opponent did not move this turn, the opponent may be able to shoot as the character moves.



**Melee Distance.** If a character started the turn within 2 meters of an opponent who declared he would attack in melee, the character can not move. If both characters declare they will attack in melee, the character on side B gets to move into his opponent's square.

**Dodging.** Dodging is a special type of movement. Instead of running straight across an opponent's field of fire, a dodging character ducks, weaves and zigzags through a dangerous area. Dodging makes a character harder to hit, but also slows him down; characters who dodge move at one-half their running speed.

RANGED WEAPONS

Any weapon that can be used to attack someone from a distance is a ranged weapon. In STAR FRONTIERS games, ranged weapons include lasers, gyrojets, needle guns, automatic rifles and pistols and grenades. Bows and arrows, spears and knives also can be used, but are common only on primitive planets.

Ranged Weapon Combat Procedure

1.

The basic chance to hit equals one-half of the firing character's Dexterity, rounded up.

1/2 DEX
2.

Add 10% for each level of skill the character has with that weapon.

+10 per skill level
3.

Add or subtract the appropriate range modifier. The range is reduced by one class if the attacker is using a telescopic sight.

Point Blank

Short

Medium

Long

Extreme

0

-10

-20

-40

-80
4.

Subtract movement modifiers. (All movement modifiers except "Stationary" can be applied to both target and attacker.)

Stationary (target only)

Walking

Running

Dodging

+10

0

-10

-20

If the target is a running animal, use these animal modifiers.

Medium

Fast

Very Fast

-10

-20

-30

If the target is a moving vehicle, subtract 10.

Moving Vehicle

-10

If the attacker is riding in a vehicle, subtract 10. If the vehicle is moving faster than 150 meters per turn, subtract 20

Attacker is in:

Slow Vehicle

Fast Vehicle

-10

-20

5.

Add 15 if attacker is standing still and aiming carefully.

Careful Aim

+15

6.

Add 20 if firing a burst.

Firing a Burst

+20

7.

Subtract cover modifier.

Soft Cover

Hard Cover

-10

-20

8.

Add or subtract target size modifier

Tiny

Small

Medium

Large

Giant

-10

-5

0

+5

+10

9.

Subtract 5 if target prone.

Prone Target

-5

10.

Subtract 10 if attacker's Stamina is reduced to half or less by wounds.

Attacker Wounded

-10

11.

Subtract 10 if using wrong hand.

Using Wrong Hand

-10

12.

Subtract 10 if attacker is firing two weapons.

Firing Two Weapons

-10

Skill Modifiers

Characters get a bonus on their chance to hit if they have been trained to use their weapon. Characters learn weapon skills by spending experience points for them (see SKILLS). Skills for beam, gyrojet, projectile and thrown weapons must be learned separately. A character gains a +10% bonus on his chance to hit for each level of skill he has with the weapon he is using. For example, a character with level 3 beam weapon skill and level 1 gyrojet weapon skill gets +30% to hit with beam weapons (lasers, sonic disruptors, etc.) and +10% to hit with gyrojet rifles and pistols. A character does not need a weapon skill to use a weapon.

Heavy Weapons

Heavy lasers, sonic devastators, recoilless rifles, grenade mortars and rocket launchers are heavy weapons. When a character fires a heavy weapon, he must subtract 1 from his skill level with that type of weapon. A character with no training for that weapon has a -10 penalty.

EXAMPLE: A character has level 3 skill with gyrojet weapons and no other weapon skills. He gets a +20 bonus when firing a grenade mortar or rocket launcher, but has a -10 modifier when firing a heavy laser, sonic devastator or recoilless rifle.

Range

Range modifiers in the Expanded Game are the same as those in the Basic Game. The Expanded Game, however, adds elevation differences to range. If the attacker and his target are at different heights, the range is found by comparing the horizontal distance between them and the difference between their heights. The shorter of these two distances is divided by 2 and added to the other. Their sum is the distance to the target.

EXAMPLE: A Star Law marksman on the ground is trying to shoot a sniper that is on the roof of a building. The marksman is 20 meters from the base of the building, and the building is 50 meters tall. The shorter distance is 20 meters, and half of that is 10 meters. The range to the target is 50 + 10 = 60 meters.

**Telescopic Sights.** Telescopic sights, called "scopes," are small telescopes that magnify distant targets, making them easier to aim at. Using a scope lets the attacker use the range modifier for the next closer range; for example, extreme range becomes long range. Telescopic sights can not be used at point blank or short range. A character using a scope can fire only one shot per turn.

Careful Aim

A character can get a +15% bonus on his chance to hit if he does not move during the turn and takes only one shot. The character must steady his weapon on some kind of solid surface. If he is shot or hit in melee during the turn, the character loses the bonus. This bonus does not apply to bursts or thrown weapons.

Cover

A character has cover if more than half of his body is hidden by a wall, a rock, a clump of bushes or anything else that can protect him from enemy fire or hide him from his opponent's sight. In the Expanded Game, there are two types of cover: hard and soft. Hard cover will stop or deflect bullets and energy beams. Soft cover hides the character from the enemy, but will not stop enemy fire. Examples of hard and soft cover are listed below.

Hard Cover	Soft Cover
Brick, stone or metal wall	Plastic curtain
Metal vehicle	Darkness
Large tree trunk	Smoke or fog
Hills, sand dunes, rocks	Tall grass

Sometimes the referee must decide whether cover is hard or soft. For example, a wooden wall that is made of heavy logs is hard cover, but a wooden wall made of thin planks is soft cover.

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Darkness does not affect an attack if the attacker is using an infrared or light amplification device. Infrared devices allow the user to see through smoke, haze and fog as well.

### Bursts

Machineguns and automatic rifles and pistols can fire a burst of 10 bullets in one shot. A burst can be aimed at up to five adjacent characters in an area up to 10 meters wide, or at just one character. Only one die roll is needed to hit all the characters aimed at. If the burst is aimed at one character it causes 5d10 points of damage. If it is aimed at more than one character, it causes 5d10 points of damage plus 1d10 for each additional target. These points are divided as evenly as possible among all the targets. Any leftover points of damage are lost.

EXAMPLE: A character fires a burst from an automatic rifle at a group of five pirates charging toward him. All five are hit, so the player rolls 9d10 for damage. The result is 49 points of damage. These are divided evenly among the pirates, resulting in 9 points of damage to each. The extra 4 points are lost.

### Target Size

Size modifiers apply mostly to animals, but the referee can allow bonuses or penalties for other targets if he wants. All of the character races are medium sized. The animal size ratings are described in detail in the section on Creating Creatures.

### Prone Targets

A character who is lying on the ground is harder to hit than someone who is standing up, so 5% is subtracted from the chance to hit a prone character. This combines with the soft cover modifier, but not with the hard cover modifier. For example, anyone shooting at a target that is

lying prone in tall grass has a -15 modifier to hit. Anyone shooting at a target that is lying prone behind a heavy log has a -20 modifier to hit.

### Wounds And Anesthetics

If a character's Stamina has been reduced to one-half or less of his uninjured score, all of the character's attacks have a -10% penalty and the character can fire only one shot per turn. Anesthetic drugs, which reduce pain, will cancel this modifier. One dose of anesthetic lasts five hours.

### Firing with the Wrong Hand

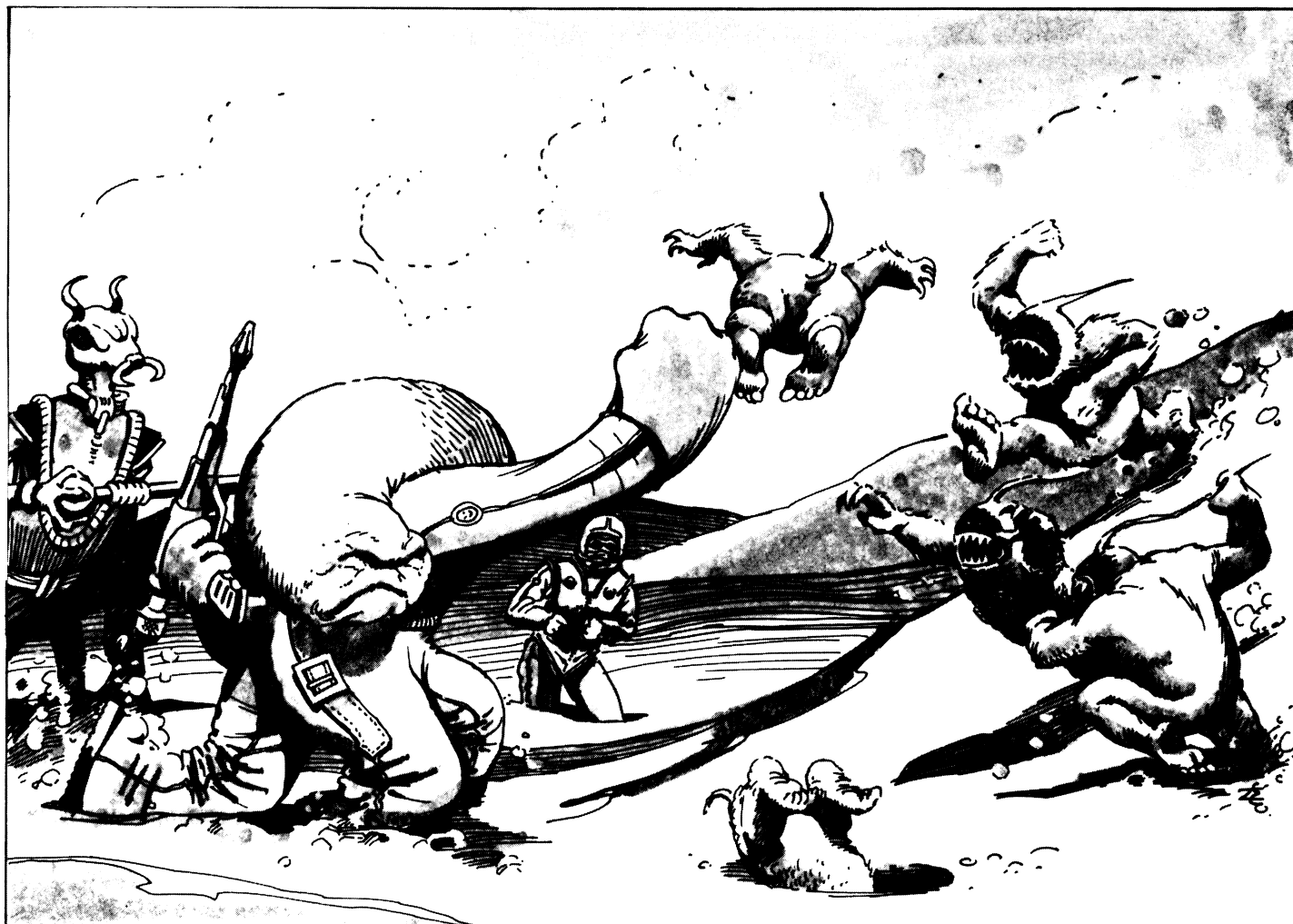
Every player-character race except the Vrusk have "handedness"; either their right or left hand (or paw or pseudopod) is stronger and more coordinated, and is used more often. If a character shoots a pistol with his weaker hand for any reason, the shot has a -10% modifier. Vrusk are ambidextrous and can use either hand with no penalty.

### Firing Two Weapons

Characters can fire two pistols at once, but they must take a -10% modifier on each shot. This is in addition to the -10% modifier for shooting with the wrong hand. These guns can be fired at different targets, if the targets are adjacent to each other.

### Rate Of Fire

Some weapons can be fired more than once during a turn. (This is different from a burst, which is considered one shot.) Characters must declare how many shots they will fire at the start of the turn. The attacker must roll to hit separately for each shot. The most common weapons and their maximum rates of fire are shown on the table below. Rates of fire for all weapons are shown on the Weapon Table.



Weapon	Rate of Fire (shots per turn)
Automatic Pistol	3 single shots or 1 burst
Automatic Rifle	3 single shots or 1 burst
Electroshunner	1
Gyrojet Pistol	3
Gyrojet Rifle	3
Laser Pistol	2 (1 if energy setting changed)
Laser Rifle	2 (1 if energy setting changed)
Needler Pistol	3
Needler Rifle	3
Sonic Disruptor	1
Sonic Stunner	1
Thrown Weapons (grenades and knives)	1

### Opportunity Shots

Characters can fire opportunity shots while their opponents are moving, if the opponent moves through the attacker's field of fire. (Anything in front of a character is in his field of fire.)

A character can fire an opportunity shot at a running or dodging target if the target moves at least 5 meters while in the attacker's sight. A character can fire an opportunity shot at a walking target if the target moves at least 2 meters while in the attacker's sight. Characters can not fire opportunity shots at targets that are not moving.

A character that declared he would fire two shots during the turn can fire only one opportunity shot. A character that declared he would fire three shots during the turn can fire one or two opportunity shots. A character that declared he would fire one shot, and all characters with weapons that have a rate of fire of 1, can not fire opportunity shots.

**Area Fire.** Characters who are firing more than one shot during the turn can aim at an area instead of an opponent. This area can be no more than 5 meters wide. If an opponent moves through the area, the aiming character can fire opportunity shots at him. This tactic is useful if opponents are hidden at the start of the turn.

### Automatic Hits

There are two kinds of automatic hits. The first is a shot that can not miss. An example of this is a character who holds a gun next to a canister of compressed air and pulls the trigger; there is no way the character can miss the canister. The referee must use his common sense to decide when a shot can not miss.

The second type of automatic hit happens when a player rolls 01 through 05 on his roll to hit; a shot always hits on these rolls, no matter what the character's modified chance to hit is. Referees should be careful to prevent their players from abusing this rule, however. If automatic hits are always allowed, it is no harder to shoot an insect at extreme range than it is to shoot a Sathar at extreme range. Some shots are just impossible to make. The referee must use his common sense to judge these situations.

**Automatic Misses.** Any shot will miss on a d100 roll of 96-00, no matter what the character's chance to hit is. This rule applies even to shots the referee has decided can not miss; the player must roll the dice anyway, and on a roll of 96-00 his weapon has malfunctioned and failed to fire.

### Shooting At Targets In Crowds

If a character fires a gun at someone who is standing in a crowd, the target is treated as if it had soft cover (-10 to hit). If the shot misses, there is a 25% chance it will hit someone else. The referee decides who the shot hits. This rule also applies to shots at targets that are in melee and attempts to shoot past someone who is partially obscuring a target.

### Ammunition

Players must keep track of their character's ammunition. Weapons that require powerpacks can be operated from powerclips or from power beltpacks or backpacks. Beltpacks and powerpacks can power other equipment besides weapons, however, so players must keep accurate records on their power supply.

**Reloading.** A character can reload a weapon with a fresh clip or attach it to a different powerpack in one turn if he does not run or dodge. A weapon can not be fired on the turn it is reloaded.

### Grenades

Grenades (and other thrown weapons) are treated as ranged weapons when determining hits and misses. A character's chance to hit his target with a grenade equals one-half of his Dexterity score plus 10 × his Thrown Weapons skill level. The only other ranged weapon modifiers that apply to thrown weapons are range, movement, wrong hand and wound modifiers. Other modifiers should be ignored.

**Grenade Bounces.** When a grenade misses its target, it still goes off somewhere. The player should roll 1d10 and check the Grenade Bounce Diagram to see which direction the grenade rolls.

Range	Bounce
Short	5 meters
Medium	10 meters
Long	15 meters
Extreme	20 meters

### Grenade Bounce Diagrams

2,3	4	5
1	*	6
10	9	7,8

1	2,3	4
10	*	5
9	7,8	6

10	1	2,3
9	*	4
7,8	6	5

Direction of Throw  
\* is target square

The distance the grenade bounces depends on how far it was thrown. The table below shows how far grenades will bounce if they are thrown from different ranges:

### Explosives

Characters can throw up to 500 grams of explosives as though it was a grenade. Anyone inside the blast radius takes full damage. Anyone within twice the radius of the blast must pass a Reaction Speed check or be stunned for one turn. More information on explosives is given in the Skills section and Equipment section.

### Structural Damage

The amount of damage caused by ranged weapons when they are used against doors, walls or other structures is shown below.

Weapon	Structural Damage
Automatic rifle/pistol	5 points per shot
Gyrojet rifle/pistol	10 points per shot
Laser rifle/pistol	5 points per SEU
Needler rifle/pistol	no damage
Fragmentation grenade	15 points (30 if placed instead of thrown.)

The structural points of various doors, walls and vehicles are shown on the table below.

#### STRUCTURAL POINTS

25 + d10	50 + 2d10	100 + d100	200 + 2d100
Heavy Door Interior Wall	Fortified Door Exterior Wall Light Vehicle	Safe Fortified Wall Heavy Vehicle	Vault Armored Vehicle

**Doze Grenades.** Very large creatures can not be knocked out with only one doze grenade. The number of doze grenades needed to knock out a creature is equal to its current Stamina divided by 50, rounded down (but never less than one). For example, an animal with a Stamina of 120 could be knocked out with two doze grenades. If its Stamina was reduced to 90 by wounds, it could be knocked out with one doze grenade.

**Grenade Effects.** Grenades affect areas 6 meters in diameter. Every living creature in the area is affected, but damage is rolled separately for each. This means a grenade can seriously injure one character and have very little effect on others.

**EXAMPLE:** A fragmentation grenade explodes and catches three characters in its blast radius. The grenade causes 8d10 points of damage to each character. The first rolls 40 points, the second rolls 63 points and the third rolls only 17 points.

#### MELEE

Fighting hand-to-hand or with non-ranged weapons is called melee. Characters must be within 2 meters of each other to engage in melee.

##### Basic Chance to Hit

Players can use either one-half of their Strength or one-half of their Dexterity, whichever is higher, as their basic chance to hit in melee. A player need not use the same ability all the time.

##### Melee Procedure

- The basic chance to hit equals one-half of the attacking character's Dexterity or Strength (character's choice), rounded up.  $1/2 \text{ DEX or STR}$
- Add 10% for each level of skill the character has for his attack.  $+10\% \text{ per skill level}$
- Add the weapon modifier, if a weapon is being used (see Melee Weapons Table).  $+ \text{ weapon modifier}$
- Add 20 if the target is being hit from behind or is stunned.
 

Attacking from Behind	+20
Target is Stunned	+20
- Add 20 if the attacker is a Yazirian in battle rage.  $\text{Battle Rage} \quad +20$
- Add 10 if target is encumbered.  $\text{Target Encumbered} \quad +10$
- Subtract 10 if the attacker is encumbered.  $\text{Attacker Encumbered} \quad -10$
- Subtract 10 if attacker's Stamina is reduced to half or less by wounds.  $\text{Attacker Wounded} -10$
- Subtract 15 if the target is defending itself.  $\text{Target Defending} \quad -15$

#### Number Of Attacks

A character gets one bare-hand attack for each arm-leg pair he has. Humans, Vrusk, Yazirians and Sathars always get to make two attacks. A Dralasite can attack twice if it has four or five limbs, three times if it has six or seven, etc. A character using a weapon in melee gets only one attack per turn.

#### Damage

The amount of damage a character inflicts with his bare hands (or claws or pseudopods) depends on the character's Strength score. The Punching Table shows the damage caused by characters with different Strengths. This damage is constant.

#### PUNCHING TABLE

Strength Score	1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-00
Points of Damage	1	2	3	4	5

**Knockouts.** As in ranged combat, any roll to hit of 01-02 knocks a character unconscious. In addition, an opponent is knocked out if he was hit with a blunt weapon (including bare hands) and the number that was rolled ended with a 0. For example, a character is attacking with a club. He can hit his opponent with a roll of 35 or less. A roll of 01-2, 10, 20 or 30 will knock the opponent unconscious. A character that is knocked out will stay unconscious for d100 turns.

**Stunning.** Characters can be stunned with sonic stunners and electrostunners. A stunned character can not attack, move or defend himself for as long as he is stunned. Anyone who attacks him gets a +20 modifier to hit.

#### Melee Weapons

Many different weapons can be used in melee. The most common ones are described on the Melee Weapons Table. The referee can use these as guides if characters use other items as weapons.

The "Damage" column shows how many points of damage the weapon causes. The attacker's normal punching damage is added to the amount rolled. However, characters using shock gloves, sonic knives, sonic swords or stunsticks just roll damage, and do not add their punching score. The numbers under "Modifier" are added to or subtracted from the attacker's chance to hit.

#### Special Actions

Besides simply hitting an opponent, characters can try to pin him to the ground, take away his weapon or defend themselves from an attack.

**Wrestling.** A character can try to grab an opponent and pin him down by twisting his arm, throwing a headlock, etc. Wrestling is resolved after movement but before other attacks. The attacker can not use a weapon when wrestling. If the attack succeeds, the character can maintain his hold automatically each turn, and automatically inflict points of damage equal to his punching score each turn. A character can release a hold whenever he wants.

The character who was pinned can not do anything except try to break out of the hold. To do this, he must wrestle his opponent; a successful roll means the character has twisted free, but has not grabbed his opponent.

A character or creature can only wrestle opponents that are the same size or smaller than itself. Only one wrestling attempt can be made per turn.

**HITTING A PINNED OPPONENT.** A character who is being held can be hit by up to two other characters automatically each turn.

**Disarming.** A character who tries to force his opponent to drop a weapon must make a roll to hit with a -20 modifier. If the attack succeeds, the opponent drops the weapon but does not take any damage. Either character can try to pick up the weapon; doing so requires a d100 roll that is equal to or less than the character's Dexterity score.

**Defending.** A character who does not attack can defend himself. The player simply declares that he is defending himself, and anyone trying to hit, grapple or disarm him automatically has a -15 modifier on his chance to hit.

### Battle Rage

Yazirians have the special ability to work themselves into a fighting fury, gaining a +20 modifier on their chance to hit in melee. A Yazirian must roll a number less than or equal to its battle rage score on d100 to enter battle rage. A Yazirian can try to enter battle rage once per combat.

### Skills

There are two skills that apply specifically to melee: martial arts and melee weapons. These are explained in detail in the section on SKILLS.

### Number Of Attackers

A character can be attacked by up to three opponents at once, if the opponents are the same size as the character. If the attackers are larger or smaller than their opponents, the referee must decide how many of them can attack at once.

### Guns

A character who is involved in melee can shoot a pistol at an opponent that is in melee with him, but can not shoot at anyone that is not involved in the melee. Rifles also can be fired in melee, but there is a -30 modifier to hit.

## WEIGHTLESS COMBAT

Whenever a character in freefall attacks with a ranged weapon or in

melee, he must make a Reaction Speed check. If he fails the check, the character has lost his balance and is spinning out of control. A spinning character can do nothing until he regains control.

To regain control, the character must pass a Reaction Speed check. The character can make a check at the end of every turn, starting the turn after he loses control. If he passes the check, he has regained control and can move and attack on the next turn.

Characters who are wearing magnetic or velcro-soled boots and characters who are firing beam weapons never lose control.

## FIGHTING ANIMALS AND ROBOTS

### Animals

Combat with animals usually will start with ranged combat. If an animal has a special ability that lets it attack from a distance, it follows normal ranged combat rules. If the animal is still alive when it reaches melee distance, the normal melee rules are used. All animals are given an attack number, which is their basic chance to hit in melee or ranged combat.

### Robots

A robot's basic chance to hit is 30% plus 10 × the robot's level. This number is used in both ranged combat and melee. A robot's Initiative modifier is its level plus three. Other modifiers apply as usual.

Remote weapon systems usually are controlled by computers using Robot Management programs. They have a basic chance to hit of 30%, plus 10 × the program's level. Their Initiative modifier is their level plus three.

More details on robots in combat is given under EQUIPMENT: Robots.

*Damage* lists the amount of damage the weapon causes.

*Modifier* is the number that is added to or subtracted from the attacker's chance to hit.

*Ammo* and *Power* show what type of ammunition or energy the weapon uses.

*SEU* lists the number of standard energy units used in one attack (if the weapon uses energy).

*Rate* is the maximum number of shots the weapon can fire in one turn. Numbers in parenthesis indicate a burst. 1/2 means the weapon can be fired once every second turn.

*Defense* indicates what sort of suit, screen or action will protect the target from damage.

The ranges (*PB, Short, Medium, Long, Extreme*) are in meters.

*Mass* is the weapon's weight in kilograms.

*Cost* is in Credits, and does not include ammunition.

## MELEE WEAPONS

Weapon	Damage	Modifier	Defense	Power	SEU Use	Mass	Cost
Axe	2d10	+5	Inertia			1	15
Bottle/Mug	1d5	+0	Inertia			1	
Brass Knuckles	1d10	+0	Inertia				10
Chain/Whip	1d10	-5	Inertia			1	20
Chair	1d10	-15	Inertia			1	
Club	1d10	-5	Inertia				
Electric Sword	4d10 or stun*	+10	Gauss/A-S	20 SEU clip	2/hit	2	150
Knife	1d10	+5	Inertia				10
Nightstick	2d10	+5	Inertia			1	20
Pistol Butt	1d10	-10	Inertia				
Polearm	4d10	-10	Inertia			4	40
Rifle Butt	2d10	-5	Inertia				
Shock Gloves	2d10	+0	Gauss/A-S	powerpack	2/hit		50
Sonic Knife	3d10	+10	Sonic	20 SEU clip	1/hit	1	50
Sonic Sword	5d10	+15	Sonic	20 SEU clip	2/hit	1	300
Spear	2d10	+15	Inertia			1	
Spray Hypo	special**	-20	STA check			1	10
Stunstick	3d10 or stun*	+5	Gauss/A-S	20 SEU clip	2/hit	1	75
Sword	3d10	+10	Inertia			2	30
Vibroknife	2d10	+5	Inertia	20 SEU clip	1/hit	1	25

\* If set on stun, the target is stunned for d100 turns unless he rolls his current Stamina or less on d100. Stuns have no effect on anyone with an anti-shock implant or a gauss screen.

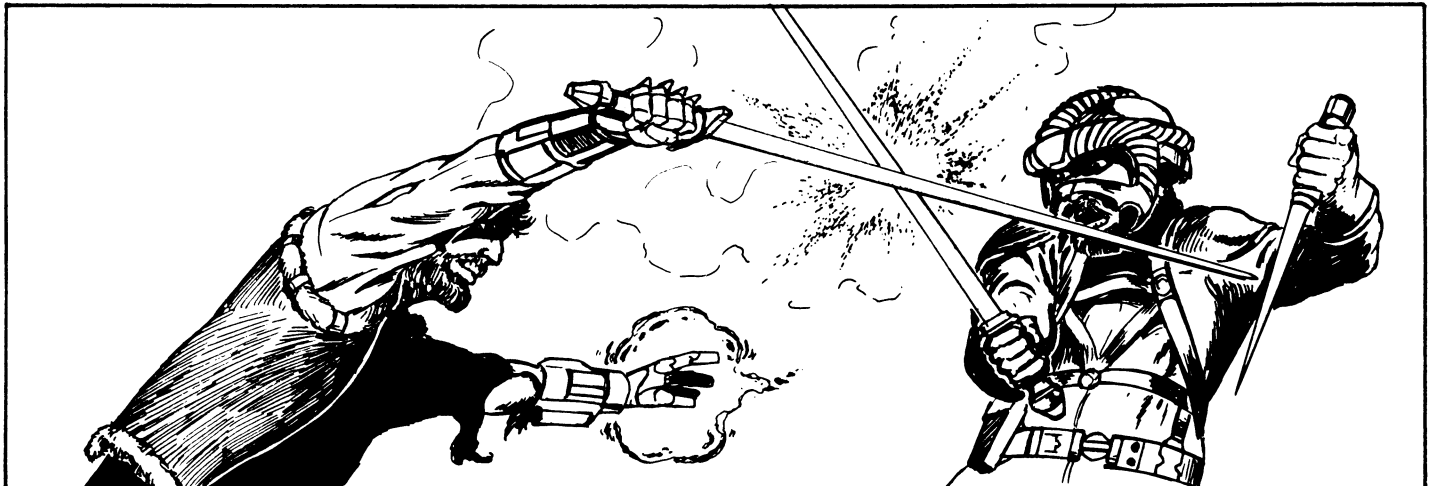
\*\* The effect depends on the drug used; see Skills; Medkit.



## WEAPON TABLE

Weapon Type	Damage	Ammo	SEU	Rate	Defense	PB	Short	Medium	Long	Extreme
<b>Beam Weapons</b>										
Electrostunner	4d10 or stun*	20 SEU clip	2	1	Gauss/A-S	0-5	11-15	—	—	—
Laser Pistol	1d10 per SEU	20 SEU clip	1-10	2	Albedo	0-5	6-20	21-50	51-100	101-200
Laser Rifle	1d10 per SEU	20 SEU clip	1-20	2	Albedo	0-10	11-40	41-100	101-200	201-400
Sonic Disruptor	6d10/4d10/ 2d10/1d10	20 SEU clip	4	1	Sonic	0-2	3-10	11-20	21-40	—
Sonic Stunner	stun*	20 SEU clip	2	1	Sonic/A-S	0-3	4-10	11-20	21-30	31-50
Heavy Laser	1d10 per SEU	100 SEU pack	5-20	1	Albedo	—	0-100	101-500	501-1km	1001-2km
Sonic Devastator	20d10/15d10/ 10d10/5d10	100 SEU pack	10	1	Sonic	0-5	6-25	26-50	51-100	—
<b>Projectile Weapons</b>										
Automatic Rifle	1d10/5d10	20 rounds	—	3(1)	Inertia	0-10	11-40	41-100	101-150	151-300
Automatic Pistol	1d10/5d10	20 rounds	—	3(1)	Inertia	0-5	6-15	16-30	31-60	61-150
Needler Pistol	2d10/1d10 + sleep*	10 shots	—	3	Inertia	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-40	41-100
Needler Rifle	3d10/1d10 + sleep*	10 shots	—	3	Inertia	0-10	11-20	21-40	41-75	76-150
Machine Gun	10d10	10 bursts	—	1	Inertia	—	0-70	71-200	201-500	501-1000
Recoilless Rifle	12d10	1 shell	—	1/2	Inertia	—	0-150	151-1km	1001-2km	2001-3km
<b>Gyrojet Weapons</b>										
Gyrojet Pistol	2d10	10 rounds	—	3	Inertia	—	0-5	6-50	51-100	101-150
Gyrojet Rifle	3d10	10 rounds	—	3	Inertia	—	0-5	6-75	76-150	151-300
Grenade Rifle	as grenade	1 bullet	—	1/2	RS check	—	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-200
Grenade Mortar	as grenade	1 shell	—	1/2	RS check	—	100-200	201-500	501-1000	1001-2km
Rocket Launcher	15d10	1 rocket	—	1/2	Inertia	—	0-70	71-200	201-500	501-1000
<b>Grenades</b>										
Dose Grenade	Sleep	—	—	1	STA check	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-50
Frag. Grenade	8d10	—	—	1	RS check	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-50
Incendiary Grenade	4d10 +1d10 × 3 turns	—	—	1	RS check	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-15	26-60
Poison Grenade	S5/T10	—	—	1	STA check	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-60
Smoke Grenade	-10 to hit	—	—	1	IR**	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-60
Tangler Grenade	entanglement	—	—	1	RS check	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-60
<b>Archaic Weapons</b>										
Axe	2d10	—	—	1	Inertia	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	20-25
Bow	1d10	1 arrow	—	1	Inertia	0-10	11-30	31-75	76-150	151-300
Knife	1d10	—	—	1	Inertia	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	20-25
Musket	1d10	1 shot	—	1	Inertia	0-5	6-15	16-40	41-70	71-100
Spear	2d10	—	—	1	Inertia	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40

\*Roll current Stamina or less to avoid sleep or stun. \*\*Infra-red goggles will allow the wearer to see through smoke.



## DAMAGE

Whenever a character is hit in ranged combat or melee, the character suffers damage. The amount of damage caused depends on the type of attack. The Ranged Weapons and Melee Weapons tables show how much damage each weapon causes.

Damage reduces a character's Stamina. If a character's Stamina score is reduced to zero or below, the character is dead. Defensive suits and screens can protect characters from injuries, and a freeze field or staydose injection will preserve a dead character's body so it can be revived at a medical complex.

**Shock and Unconsciousness.** Whenever the roll to hit in combat is 01-02, the target is immediately knocked unconscious for d100 turns. Stimdose can awaken the character sooner.

**Variable Power Settings.** Laser pistols, laser rifles and heavy lasers can be adjusted to fire shots that cause from 1 to 200 points of damage. Players can change the setting at the beginning of every turn. More information on variable power settings is included in the descriptions of laser weapons in the Equipment section.

**Burns.** Acids, fire and extreme heat cause burns, which are very painful. If a character suffers damage from burns that is more than half his Stamina score, the character is completely incapacitated and unable to do anything until treated at a hospital. Wounds caused by lasers are not burns.

### Avoidance Rolls

Characters can avoid or reduce the effects of some weapons by leaping or twisting away from the attack, or by resisting its effects. When a character is attacked with one of the weapons listed below, he gets to make an avoidance roll on d100. If the result is equal to or less than the indicated ability score, the character has avoided or resisted the attack.

Weapon	Avoidance Roll	Result
electrostunner	current STA or less	no effect
sonic stunner	current STA or less	no effect
stunstick	current STA or less	no effect
anesthetic needles	current STA or less	no effect
doze grenade	current STA or less	no effect
tangler grenade	RS or less	no effect
fragmentation grenade	RS or less	½ damage
incendiary grenade	RS or less	½ damage

A character who passes an avoidance check against a fragmentation, incendiary or tangler grenade must move 3 meters to get out of the blast area. If the character has nowhere to move to, he can not try to avoid the blast. A character can try to avoid only one grenade per turn.

### Defenses

Two types of defensive armor are available in STAR FRONTIERS games: suits and powerscreens. Only one suit and one screen can be worn at the same time. Each suit or screen protects the wearer from one type of weapon. The effects of these suits and screens are summarized below. (They are described in more detail in the Equipment section.)

**Albedo Suit.** An albedo suit can absorb up to 100 points of laser damage. When it is hit by a laser, the damage is subtracted from the suit's total of 100 points. The suit is destroyed and does not protect the wearer after it has absorbed 100 points of damage.

**Albedo Screen.** Like an albedo suit, the screen absorbs laser beams. Absorbing a laser beam uses a number of SEU equal to 1/5 the number of damage points caused by the beam, rounded up. For example, absorbing a beam that caused 11 damage points would use 3 SEU.

**Skinsuit.** Skinsuits absorb one-half of the damage caused by projectile and gyrojet weapons, fragmentation grenades, explosives and melee weapons. The suit is destroyed when it has absorbed 50 points of damage.

**Inertia Screen.** Inertia screens do the same thing skinsuits do. The screen uses 2 SEU every time it is hit.

**Gauss Screen.** A gauss screen absorbs all the damage caused by electrostunners, shock gloves, stunsticks and other electrical attacks. It uses 2 SEU every time it is hit.

**Sonic Screen.** Sonic screens act as sound barriers, absorbing all sound that hits the screen. They absorb all damage from sonic stunners and disruptors. Absorbing a hit uses 2 SEU, and the screen itself uses 1 SEU every minute it is on.

### Recovering From Wounds

Wounds heal naturally at a rate of 1 point for every 20 hours the wounded character spends resting. Resting means doing nothing more strenuous than taking short walks. A hospital can heal up to 20 Stamina points per day, at a cost of 1 Credit per Stamina point healed, plus 50 Cr per day.

**Biocort.** Biocortizone is a healing drug. An injection of biocort heals 10 points of damage immediately, when it is given by a medic. (Biocort has no effect if given by a non-medic.) Only one dose of biocort can be given in a 20-hour period; additional doses have no effect unless given during surgery.

**Field Surgery.** A medic can perform minor or major surgery on a wounded character to heal more than 10 points of damage. Surgery is described in detail under SKILLS:Medical.

**Stimdose.** Stimdose is a stimulant. If given by a medic to an unconscious character, the character will wake up immediately.

In the Expanded Game, a stimdose will restore 10 Stamina points if the points were lost to poison, disease or infection. These 10 points are restored even if the character is unconscious. If the character's Stamina has been reduced to -10 or less, however, the stimdose will not save him, because only one dose can be given effectively in a 20-hour period. The stimdose will not restore Stamina points unless the poison, disease or infection has been neutralized or cured with the proper drug, or has worn off.

### Life-Saving Drugs and Equipment

A character whose Stamina has been reduced to 0 or less is dead, but he can be revived if his Stamina has not gone below -30. The body can be preserved with drugs or a freeze field, and revived at a hospital.

**Staydose.** An injection of staydose will bring a dead character back to life, but will slow down the body's functions so it can survive with 0 or fewer Stamina points. Staydose must be given within one minute (10 turns) of death or it will not work. A staydose injection will keep a character alive for 20 hours. After 20 hours, the body can not be revived and further injections will have no effect. Only a medic can administer staydose effectively.

**Freeze Field.** A freeze field is a device that places a body in stasis, a sort of suspended animation. The device is fastened directly to the body. Only medics are trained to activate freeze fields correctly.

A freeze field must be activated within two minutes of death, or the body can not be revived. Activating the field takes five turns. Each freeze field device contains enough power to operate for 200 hours. If the power runs out, the body can not be revived.

Freeze fields can be removed safely only at hospitals. A hospital charges 200 Credits to remove the field. The character then must pay normal costs to be healed.

**Biocort.** Biocort can be used to bring a character's Stamina score back above 0 if his score was not reduced below -9.

**Field Surgery.** Field surgery can save a character whose Stamina was not reduced below -30 if a staydose was used to preserve the character; surgery will not help a dead character.

# VEHICLES and VEHICLE COMBAT

## VEHICLE DESCRIPTIONS

The following standard vehicles are available on STAR FRONTIERS worlds.

### Ground Car

Cost: 5,000 Cr (rental — 50 Cr plus 50 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 100 kph/60 kph  
Passengers: 6  
Cargo Limit: 150 kg, 1 cubic meter

A ground car is a wheeled vehicle similar to cars in use today, except it runs on a parabattery instead of gasoline. Because ground cars run in contact with the ground, they are very maneuverable. A ground vehicle can cross almost any type of terrain if it has enough ground clearance. However, they are not as fast as hover vehicles on level ground or roads.

### Ground Transport

Cost: 15,000 Cr (rental — 75 Cr plus 100 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 75 kph/60 kph  
Passengers: 3  
Cargo Limit: 10,000 kg, 30 cubic meter

Ground transports are heavy, wheeled trucks. They can have open or enclosed cargo areas.

### Ground Cycle

Cost: 2,000 Cr (rental — 25 Cr plus 25 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 120 kph/60 kph  
Passengers: 2  
Cargo Limit: 20 kg, .5 cubic meter

Ground cycles are similar to today's motorcycles. They are fast and very maneuverable.

### Hover Car

Cost: 8,000 Cr (rental — 50 Cr plus 75 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 150 kph/60 kph  
Passengers: 6  
Cargo Limit: 100 kg, 1 cubic meter

A hovercar or "skimmer" is a car that floats on a cushion of air 30 centimeters above the ground. A pair of turbo fans propel it through the air. In general, hover vehicles are faster than ground vehicles, but are less maneuverable and are limited to traveling on fairly level surfaces or calm water.

### Hover Transport

Cost: 20,000 Cr (rental — 75 Cr plus 150 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 150 kph/90 kph  
Passengers: 3  
Cargo Limit: 10,000 kg, 35 cubic meters

A hover transport is a heavy truck version of a skimmer.

### Hovercycle

Cost: 2,000 Cr (rental — 25 Cr plus 25 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 100 kph/80 kph  
Passengers: 2  
Cargo Limit: 20 kg, .5 cubic meter

Hovercycles are two-man hover vehicles similar to motorcycles. They are easier to ride and control than a ground cycle, but are not as maneuverable at high speeds.

### Explorer

Cost: 20,000 Cr (rental — 75 Cr plus 200 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 90 kph/50 kph  
Passengers: 6  
Cargo Limit: 2,000 kg, 6 cubic meters

Explorers are heavy, four-wheeled vans built for traveling and exploring in rugged areas. They are very maneuverable and reliable. Each wheel has its own motor, and the extra-wide tires make it very stable. Explorers are air-tight and have a retractable rudder so they can cross open water, but they can be capsized by high waves.

### Glijet

Cost: 3,000 Cr (rental — 75 Cr plus 50 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 100 kph/30 kph  
Passengers: 1  
Cargo Limit: 15 kg, .1 cubic meter

A glijet is a combination rocketpack and hang glider. The rocketpack is used to fly to high altitude, where the glider wings are extended. The user can glide slowly with the wings, or use the rocketpack to fly at higher speed. The chemical rocket pack weighs 2 kg and costs 50 Cr to refill.

### Jetcopter

Cost: 40,000 Cr (rental — 100 Cr plus 80 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 350 kph/50 kph  
Passengers: 4  
Cargo Limit: 500 kg, 5 cubic meters

A jetcopter is a helicopter with jet engines. They can be flown like normal helicopters at up to 50 kph. Using the jet engines allows them to fly at speeds up to 350 kph.

### Aircar

Cost: 50,000 Cr (rental — 100 Cr plus 100 Cr/day)  
Top/Cruise Speed: 900 kph/400 kph  
Passengers: 4  
Cargo Limit: 1,000 kg, 2 cubic meters

An aircar is a vertical take-off and landing vehicle, or VerTOL. It takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like an airplane.

### Parabatteries

All of the vehicles described above, except the glijet, are powered by parabatteries. Parabatteries range in size from fist-sized to 1 cubic meter. The following four types are used in vehicles:

Type 1 ( 600 Cr): groundcycles and hovercycles  
Type 2 (1,200 Cr): groundcars and hovercars  
Type 3 (2,300 Cr): trucks, hovertrucks and explorers  
Type 4 (4,500 Cr): aircars and jetcopters

**Range.** All vehicles listed above can travel 1,000 km on a new parabattery before it is out of energy and must be recharged. A glijet does not use a parabattery; its range varies with fuel use, altitude and air currents.

## GROUND VEHICLE MOVEMENT

### Speeds

Vehicle speeds are given in meters per turn (meters/turn). To find out how many map spaces a vehicle moves in one turn, divide its speed in meters/turn by the size of a square on the game map. For example, a skimmer traveling at 50 meters/turn on a map with 5-meter squares will move 10 squares per turn.

Conversions from meters/turn to kilometers/hour and miles/hour are shown on the Vehicle Movement Table.

VEHICLE MOVEMENT TABLE

Meters/turn	kph	mph	Meters/turn	kph	mph
5	3	2	90	54	34
10	6	4	100	60	38
20	12	8	125	75	47
30	18	11	150	90	56
40	24	15	175	105	66
50	30	19	200	120	75
60	36	23	250	150	94
70	42	26	300	180	112
80	48	30	350	210	131

### Acceleration

A driver can increase the speed of his vehicle at the start of every game turn. To do this, the player decides how much faster he wants to move, and adds this number of meters/turn to his current speed. There is a limit to how much a vehicle's speed can be increased in one turn. This limit is the vehicle's acceleration rate. The Vehicle Data Table shows acceleration rates for all the ground vehicles in meters/turn.

**EXAMPLE:** During its last move, a skimmer traveled 40 meters/turn. Its acceleration rate is 80 meters/turn. At the beginning of its next move, the driver of the skimmer can increase its speed to 120 meters/turn ( $40 + 80 = 120$ ).

### Deceleration

A driver can slow down his vehicle at the start of each game turn. To do this, he subtracts the amount he is decelerating from his current speed; the result is his speed for this turn. If the result is 0, the vehicle has stopped and it does not move this turn. The amount a vehicle can slow down in one turn is limited by its deceleration rate. Deceleration rates for ground vehicles are shown on the Vehicle Data Table.

**Emergency Stopping.** A vehicle can come to a complete stop from any speed in one turn by making an emergency stop. The vehicle moves one-half of its starting speed. At the end of the turn its speed is 0. The driver must make a Reaction Speed check to keep the vehicle under control. If he fails the check, he loses control; see Crashes, below.

### Maximum Speed

No matter what its acceleration is, a vehicle can not move faster than its maximum speed. Maximum speeds are listed on the Vehicle Data Table.

### Backing Up

A vehicle can drive backward at up to 50 meters/turn. A vehicle that is moving forward must come to a complete stop before moving in reverse. A vehicle's acceleration rate in reverse is one-half its normal acceleration.

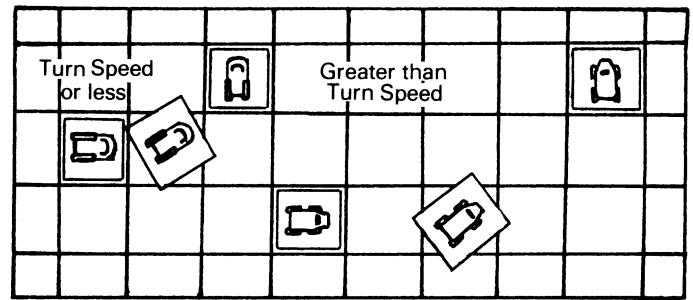
### Turn Speed

The Vehicle Data Table shows turn speeds for the ground vehicles. A vehicle can turn 45 degrees to the right or left in every 5-meter square it enters if its speed in meters/turn is equal to or less than its turn speed. If the vehicle is traveling faster than its turn speed, it must move straight at least 10 meters after making a 45 degree turn before it can turn again. This information is summarized on the table below. See the diagram for examples.

Vehicle Traveling at	Distance Between Turns
Turn Speed or less	5 meters
Greater than Turn Speed	10 meters

Straight movement from the previous turn can be counted toward these requirements.

A driver can turn a vehicle more sharply than indicated above, but risks losing control or crashing; see Short Corners.



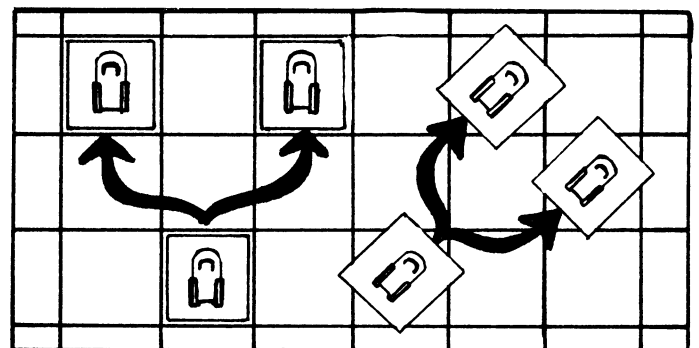
VEHICLE DATA TABLE

Vehicle	Accel. (m/turn)	Decel. (m/turn)	Top Speed (m/turn)	Turn Speed (m/turn)
Ground Car	60	40	175	80
Ground Transport	40	30	125	50
Ground Cycle	100	40	200	100
Hover Car	80	40	250	70
Hover Transport	60	30	250	40
Hover Cycle	100	40	175	90
Explorer	60	40	150	100

### Special Maneuvers

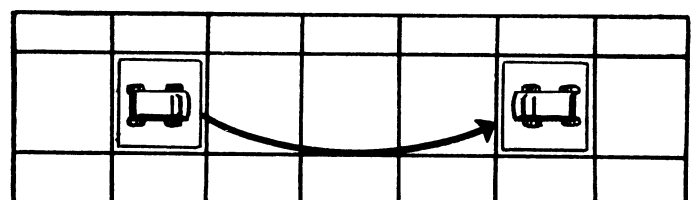
Besides driving straight and turning corners, vehicles, can perform special maneuvers. These include slips, pivots, skid turns, bumps and stunts.

**Slipping.** Slipping is similar to "changing lanes"; it allows a vehicle to swerve to the right or left without changing its direction of travel. Any type of vehicle can slip. A slipping vehicle moves 10 meters ahead and 5 meters to either side. This counts as only 10 meters of movement. A vehicle can not turn while slipping. A vehicle can slip once for every 10 meters it moves.



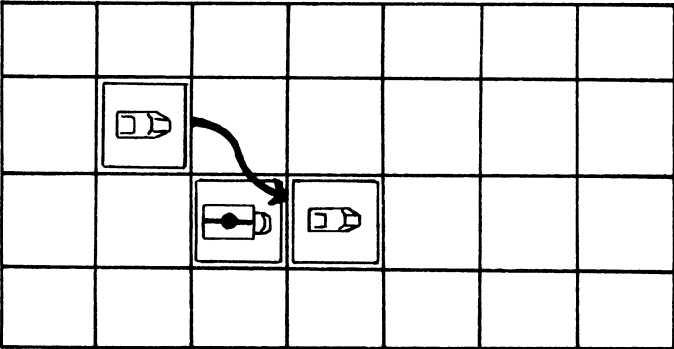
**Pivot.** A pivot is a turn of up to 360 degrees performed in one spot. Only hover vehicles and Explorers can pivot. A vehicle must be stationary at the beginning of the turn to pivot. The pivoting vehicle stays in the same square, and the driver can rotate it so it points in any direction.

**Skid Turns.** A skid turn is done by slamming on the brakes while turning so the vehicle skids around 180 degrees. Only ground cars, ground cycles and Explorers can perform skid turns. The vehicle must be traveling from 60 to 80 meters/turn. It actually will move only 20 meters during the turn, and have a speed of 0 at the start of the next turn.



The driver of the vehicle rolls percentile dice. If the result is less than or equal to his Reaction Speed, the driver performs the skid turn safely. If the result is higher than the driver's Reaction Speed, the vehicle will point in a random direction when it stops skidding. When this happens, move the vehicle as if it had skidded successfully. Now roll 1d10 and turn the vehicle 45 degrees clockwise a number of times equal to the number rolled.

**Bumping.** A driver can try to make another vehicle crash by bumping it. In order to bump, the driver or his team must have initiative for the turn. The driver must slip directly in front of the other vehicle. Both drivers then make Reaction Speed checks. The driver who performed the slip makes a normal check, but the driver whose vehicle was bumped has a modifier of -15. If either driver fails the check, he loses control of his vehicle (see Crashes).



**Stunts.** Drivers can perform other stunts, such as jumping their vehicles over bridges, at the referee's discretion. Things to consider when setting up a stunt are the type of vehicle being used, the amount of open space the vehicle has to work with, and the vehicle's condition and cargo.

**Short Corners**

A driver can try to turn his vehicle tighter than its speed allows, but risks losing control of the vehicle and crashing.

A driver shortens a corner if he tries to turn 5 meters before he should. For example, a ground cycle has a turning speed of 100 meters/turn. If the cycle is traveling 150 meters/turn, it must travel straight 10 meters after making a turn before it can turn again. If the driver tries to make the second 45 degree turn after traveling straight only 5 meters, he is shortening the corner by 5 meters.

Whenever a driver shortens a corner, the player must roll d100. If the result is less than or equal to the driver's Reaction Speed, the driver makes the turn safely. If the result is higher than the driver's Reaction Speed, the driver loses control during the turn (see Crashes).

**CRASHES**

**Losing Control**

When a driver loses control of his vehicle, the player must roll d100 and check the Control Table to see what happens to his vehicle. The die roll is modified by adding the vehicle's speed in meters/turn to the result.

CONTROL TABLE

Die Roll	Result
02- 79	Reduce Speed 20 meters/turn
80-139	Reduce Speed 50 meters/turn
140-199	Skid
200-259	Spin
260-349	Roll
350-450	Roll and Burn

**Explanation of Results**

**REDUCE SPEED.** The vehicle immediately reduces its speed by the indicated amount. If this is more than half of the vehicle's current speed, the vehicle slows down to one-half its current speed. The vehicle finishes the move at this new speed.

**SKID.** The vehicle is skidding out of control. Divide its speed in meters per turn by 10, rounding fractions up. Move the vehicle this number of meters in the direction it was moving before it went out of control. If the vehicle skids into a building or other obstacle, treat it as a collision (see Collisions). Otherwise, the vehicle continues moving from its new position.

**SPIN.** The vehicle is skidding out of control and spinning. Divide its remaining movement by two. Move it that many meters in the direction it was traveling before it started skidding. Now roll 1d10 and turn the vehicle 45 degrees clockwise a number of times equal to the number on the die. On the next turn the vehicle will skid to a stop. Move it one-half of its speed in the direction it was traveling before it went out of control and roll 1d10 again to determine how much it spins.

**ROLL.** The vehicle is rolling out of control. Treat this the same as a spin, but do not roll 1d10 to determine the vehicle's facing. Instead, each passenger in the vehicle suffers 1d10 points of damage. When the vehicle stops rolling, roll 1d10; if the result is 1, 2 or 3, the vehicle is right-side-up. Otherwise it is on its side or top. The vehicle will run again in 1d10 turns if it was traveling at its turn speed or less.

**ROLL AND BURN.** This is the same as a roll, but the vehicle is burning also. Each passenger suffers an additional 1d10 damage from the fire at the start of each turn he is in the vehicle. A character can get out of the vehicle in one turn if it has stopped rolling. If a character tries to get out of the vehicle while it is rolling, he must make a Reaction Speed check. If he passes the check, he has escaped from the vehicle. If he fails the check, he has not gotten away from the vehicle and he suffers an additional 1d10 damage immediately.

**Collisions**

If a moving vehicle hits a building, rock, other vehicle or obstacle of any type, it has had a collision. The vehicle stops moving immediately.

**Damage to Vehicles.** If the vehicle was traveling faster than its turn speed, it will not run again without extensive repairs. If the vehicle was traveling at its turn speed or slower, it can be driven again after 1d10 turns. However, its acceleration and turn speed are reduced by 20 meters/turn.

**Injury to Passengers.** When a vehicle crashes, divide its speed in meters/turn by 20, rounding fractions down. The result is the number of d10 that are rolled to determine how many points of damage each character takes. Add 2 points to each die result if the character was riding a ground or hover cycle, and subtract 2 from each die if the character was riding in an Explorer (no die roll can be modified below 0). This information is summarized on the table below.

CRASH INJURIES

Per 20 meters/turn of vehicle's speed	1d10
Riding on ground cycle or hover cycle	+2 per d10
Riding in Explorer	-2 per d10

**ARMOR.** Skeinsuits and inertia screens will absorb half of the damage a character suffers in a crash.

**Crashing Through Obstacles.** If characters try to drive through a barricade or obstacle, the referee must use his discretion to decide how badly the vehicle is damaged, whether it keeps running, and whether the passengers are hurt. A vehicle may be able to smash through obstacles that are less solid than concrete posts or parked vehicles.



## VEHICLE COMBAT

This combat section covers only personal weapons fired from or at vehicles. Vehicle-mounted weapons are not covered in this set of rules.

### Firing From Vehicles

A character who fires a weapon from a moving vehicle has a -10 modifier to hit. If the vehicle is moving faster than 150 meters/turn, the modifier is -20.

### Shooting At Passengers

A character can shoot at a passenger inside a vehicle. There is a -20 modifier because the passenger has hard cover, and a -10 modifier if the vehicle is moving. Needlers can injure passengers only if the vehicle's windows or top are open.

### Firing At Vehicles

If a character fires a weapon at a moving vehicle, he has a -10 modifier to hit. This modifier does not apply if the vehicle is moving directly toward or directly away from the firing character. Needlers and gas grenades have no effect on vehicles.

**Damaging Vehicles.** Whenever a vehicle is hit by gunfire, an exploding grenade or a thrown explosive, the attacking character must roll 2d10 on the Vehicle Damage Table. The number of dice of damage caused by the attack is added to the result. This number is modified by the type of vehicle. A separate roll is made for each successful attack.

VEHICLE DAMAGE TABLE

Die Roll + Damage	Effect
2-19	No Effect
20	Turn Speed -15
21	Acceleration -20
22	Top Speed -30
23	Steering Jammed Straight
24	Steering Jammed Left
25	Steering Jammed Right
26	Speed -20/Turn
27	Spin
28	Vehicle Burning
29	Roll
30+	Roll and Burn

Modifiers:

-- Target is ground or hover cycle	+2
-- Target is Explorer	-2

### Explanation Of Results

**TURN SPEED -15/ACCELERATION -20/TOP SPEED -30.** The vehicle's turn speed, acceleration or top speed is reduced by the indicated number of meters/turn.

**STEERING JAMMED STRAIGHT/LEFT/RIGHT.** The vehicle's steering mechanism has been jammed. If straight, the vehicle can not turn. If right or left, the vehicle must turn 45 degrees in the indicated direction after each 20 meters of travel. For example, a skimmer traveling at 80 meters/turn with its controls jammed in a right turn must turn 45 degrees to the right after traveling 20, 40, 60 and 80 meters during its next move. The skimmer can decelerate or accelerate, but can not change its direction.

**SPEED -20/TURN.** The vehicle must reduce its speed at least 20 meters/turn until it is stopped. It can decelerate more than this if the driver wants, but it can not accelerate.

**SPIN.** See Control Table results.

**VEHICLE BURNING.** The vehicle has caught fire. Each passenger will suffer 1d10 points of damage at the start of every turn they are in the vehicle.

**ROLL.** See Control Table results.

**ROLL AND BURN.** See Control Table results.

*Example:* BliCluet the Dralasite is shooting its laser pistol at a street punk that has just stolen BliCluet's hover cycle. Its Dexterity is modified by -10 because the target is a moving vehicle, and by -20 because the cycle is at medium range. BliCluet has a modified Dexterity of 15 for this shot. One of its two shots hits the cycle. BliCluet had the laser set for 7d10 damage. The player rolls 2d10 and gets a 16. Adding 7 for the damage and 2 because the target was a cycle gives a modified result of 25; the cycle's steering is jammed to the right.

## FLYING MOVEMENT

Characters can fly using glijets, jetcopters and aircars. The movement rules for these vehicles are different than those for ground vehicles.

### Glijets

A glijet is a combination rocketpack and hang-glider. The rocketpack is used to get the wearer up into the air. The chemical fuel tank holds enough fuel to burn for 20 turns (two minutes). A character can climb 50 meters straight up every turn he burns fuel. The rocket can be turned off at any time. When it is shut off, the wearer can open the collapsible wings and glide. The rocket usually is shut off when gliding, but it can be left on to increase speed.

**Speed and Distance.** If there is no wind, the wearer can glide 5 meters horizontally for each meter he drops vertically. A gliding character drops 10 meters/turn, with or without using the rocket. If the rocket is used in level flight, the speed increases to 100 kph. Characters can travel much farther and stay aloft much longer if there is wind or if they are riding on rising air currents. This is subject to the referee's discretion, but favorable winds and air currents can multiply the distance traveled and the time spent aloft by as much as 10.

**Landing.** A character that does not use the rocket to land must pass a Dexterity check in order to land on target. If he fails the check, he misses his target square by 2d10 meters in a random direction.

**Tactical Movement.** A character that is gliding with the rocket off can make one 45 degree turn per game turn. Using the rocket allows the character to turn up to three times at any point in his move.



Jetcopters and Aircars

**Tactical Movement.** Jetcopters and aircars can make up to six 45 degree turns in one game turn. These turns can be made at any point in the vehicle's move. Aircars and jetcopters can accelerate or decelerate up to 100 meters/turn each turn. If they are stopped, these vehicles can hover in place and turn to face any direction. They can increase or decrease their altitude by 20 meters/turn.

When scouting, jetcopters and aircars fly at or above the level of the treetops, 50 to 100 meters above the ground. To stay out of sight they can fly very close to the ground, following the contours of the hills and valleys. This is called Nap Of the Earth (NOE) flying. NOE flying limits a jetcopter to its cruising speed and an aircar to 100 kph (175 meters/turn).

Aerial Combat

The following modifiers should be used when flying vehicles are involved in combat.

- Attacker is using glijet or riding in moving jetcopter or aircar -20
- Attacker is riding in jetcopter or aircar that is hovering -10
- Target is using glijet or riding in moving aircar or jetcopter -10
- Target is hovering jetcopter or aircar 0

Other modifiers are used when they apply. Jetcopter passengers can not shoot unless the side doors are open. Aircar passengers can not shoot unless the canopy is open. This exposes the passengers and the pilot to fire, and reduces the aircar's speed to 80 meters/turn.

**Damaging Glijets.** The only way to shoot down a glijet is to knock out or kill the user. Shooting at the wings has no effect.

**Damaging Jetcopters and Aircars.** When a shot hits a jetcopter or aircar, the attacker rolls 2d10 and adds the number of dice of damage caused by the attack. This number is found on the Flying Vehicle Damage table.

Die Roll + Damage	Effect
2-20	No Effect
21-24	Acceleration -30
25-28	Turns -2
29-31	Forced Landing
32-34	Loss of Control
35 +	Vehicle Burning

Explanation of Results

**ACCELERATION -30.** The vehicle's engines were damaged, reducing its acceleration by 30 meters/turn.

**URNS -2.** The vehicle's control and steering equipment was damaged, reducing the number of turns it can make per game turn by two.

**FORCED LANDING.** The vehicle's fuel tank or parabattery was hit, leaving it with enough fuel to fly for 10 more minutes (100 turns). If the vehicle does not land within 10 minutes, it will crash.

**LOSS OF CONTROL.** The cockpit was damaged by the attack. The pilot must pass a Reaction Speed check to keep the vehicle under control. If he fails the check, the vehicle immediately loses d100 meters of altitude. If the vehicle loses more altitude than it had, it crashes.

**VEHICLE BURNING.** The vehicle is out of control and burning. It will crash in two turns. Characters can jump from the vehicle (see Movement: Jumping) or use a parawing. A parawing is a small, emergency glider, similar to a glijet with no rocket. A parawing will not work if the character was less than 10 meters above the ground when he jumped.

Crashing

Passengers in a vehicle that crashes suffer 1d10 points of damage for every 10 meters the vehicle fell, plus 1d10 points of damage for every 20 meters/turn it was traveling. This damage is doubled if the character is not strapped into a seat. When dividing the vehicle's altitude by 10 and speed by 20, round fractions down. If the vehicle is burning, the character suffers an additional 1d10 points of damage at the start of every turn he is in the vehicle. The crashed vehicle will not fly again without extensive repairs.

**EXAMPLE:** A jetcopter is traveling 75 meters above the ground at 30 meters/turn when an attack damages the cockpit. The pilot fails his Reaction Speed check, so the copter drops d100 meters. The die roll is 83, meaning the vehicle drops 83 meters. This is more than its altitude, so it crashes. One passenger jumps using his parawing, but the pilot does not have one. When the copter hits the ground he suffers 7d10 damage because it fell 75 meters and another 1d10 because it was traveling 30 meters/turn.

OTHER VEHICLES

Many other means of transportation besides those described above are available in STAR FRONTIERS games. The systems and vehicles listed below will not be used in combat very often, but players may find ways to work them into their adventures.

Public Transportation

**Monorails** are the most common mass transit systems on Frontier worlds. Monorail cars can hold up to six passengers and travel at 70 to 100 meters/turn. Monorail passengers usually pay 1 CR per day for an unlimited number of rides. Occasionally, monorails are built underground and called subways.

**Cabs** of many types are common. Ground cars, skimmers and even cycles are used as cabs. Some are operated by drivers while others are piloted by robots or computers. A typical price is 2 Cr for the first km traveled and 1 Cr for each km after that.

**Moving Walkways,** also called peplemovers or sliders, are sidewalks that are built like conveyor belts. A person simply steps onto the slider and it carries him, her or it along at 10 meters/turn. Using a slider does not cost anything.

Flyers

**Super-Sonic Transports,** or SSTs, are large jet-powered aircraft capable of flying at very high altitudes at several times the speed of sound (sound travels 1,988 meters/turn). They are used as luxury passenger planes flying between large cities, as large cargo haulers supplying cities under construction, etc.

**Orbital shuttles,** often called orbiters, are a cross between an airplane and a space ship. They are powerful enough to fly into orbit around a planet, and sturdy enough to re-enter the atmosphere and land on the surface. They are commonly used to carry supplies and passengers to orbiting space stations and spaceports. An orbiter can reach an orbiting space station in one to two hours.

Water Vehicles

**Ships** of many varieties are found throughout the Frontier. Players can find anything from three-masted sailing ships to luxury liners and supertankers. Hovercraft are used commonly in areas where the sea is relatively calm. Skimmers can be used over water if the waves are not more than 40 cm high.

**Submarines** are used on worlds where the seas are very rough, covered with ice or otherwise unsuited to surface travel. They are common around underwater cities and sea-bottom mines.

Animals

**Riding Animals** and beasts of burden are used on many planets where the local technology is not advanced enough to build other vehicles. They also are used to get into areas that are too rough for ground vehicles, or where their natural abilities to sense water or danger are needed more than a vehicle's speed and reliability.

# CREATING CREATURES

During an adventure, creatures as well as intelligent alien races may be encountered. Because there is such a great variety of creatures on one planet and so many different worlds to adventure on, it is impractical to give a list of all known creatures. The referee must create the creatures in his adventures.

When creating creatures for STAR FRONTIERS adventures, the referee should give each creature a purpose in the adventure, and should have a reason for designing the creature in the form he gives it. Referees may find a basic reference book on zoology or biology a helpful source for making believable creatures.

A step-by-step procedure is given below to help the referee create new creatures.

## 1. What is the Creature's Purpose?

The referee should decide why the creature is needed in the adventure. Is it to fight the player characters? To mislead them? To be a nuisance to them? To give them important information? To give them a mystery to be solved? Or to set the stage for future encounters? Knowing a creature's purpose will make it easier for the referee to fill in the details about a creature.

When deciding on a purpose for a creature, the referee should consider these other questions:

- Where does the creature live, and where is its lair?
- What lifeform is the creature? (bird, reptile, worm, etc.)
- How does the creature live? Does it have any special habits? (living alone, moving only at night, hanging upside down, shrieking at strangers, etc.)
- Does the creature have any special weaknesses? (poor vision, slow movement, powerful natural enemies, etc.)

## 2. What Type of Creature Is It?

A creature's type is determined by its size, what it eats and how it obtains its food. Eating habits can divide animals into three basic groups: herbivores (plant eaters), carnivores (meat eaters) and omnivores (plant and meat eaters). After placing the animal in one of these groups, the referee should decide what specific foods it eats and how it gets this food. For example, a creature might eat small rodents that it digs out of the ground with sharp claws.

**HERBIVORES** are normally timid, but will protect themselves if they are attacked. They usually are adapted to avoid or repel attackers. Some, like bulls, may even counterattack. Herbivores obtain their food by grazing, harvesting, digging, filter-feeding or growing their own.

**CARNIVORES** may eat any type of meat, but usually prefer only one kind, such as fish or insects. They almost always have effective natural weapons, such as claws, fangs or poisons. These natural weapons make them more dangerous than most herbivores. They may catch their food by hunting, pouncing, or luring prey into traps.

**OMNIVORES** may or may not be dangerous, but they usually are curious. Many have natural weapons, but these are often less effective than the carnivores' and are used mostly for catching small prey and discouraging predators. Omnivores usually obtain their food by foraging, hunting and scavenging. Most intelligent life forms are omnivores.

**Size.** A creature's size effects how dangerous the creature is. For game purposes, creatures are divided into five different size groups—tiny, small, medium, large and giant.

**TINY** creatures weigh less than 5 kilograms. They can be up to 25 centimeters long.

**SMALL** creatures weigh from 5 to 20 kilograms and may be 25 centimeters to 1 meter long.

**MEDIUM** creatures weigh from 20 to 200 kilograms and are between 2 and 5 meters long.

**LARGE** creatures weigh from 200 to 1,500 kilograms and are between 2 and 5 meters long.

**GIANT** creatures weigh more than 1,500 kilograms and are more than 5 meters long.

If the referee wants to create creatures that do not fit into these general categories, such as parasites, waste feeders and energy creatures, he should try to answer the same questions about these creatures that he would for regular creatures.

## Examples of Creature Types.

**HERBIVORES:** rabbits, squirrels, small fish, sloths, sparrows, goats, deer, kangaroos, horses, cattle, camels, tortoises, moths, elephants, hippopotomuses and brontosaurus.

**CARNIVORES:** frogs, piranhas, shrews, owls, rattlesnakes, wolves, seals, tigers, sharks, crocodiles, tyrannosaurs, squids, spiders and sperm whales.

**OMNIVORES:** ants, armadillos, porcupines, rats, monkeys, crows, turtles, pigs, chimpanzees, ostriches, bears and whales.

## 3. How Many of These Creatures are Found Together?

The referee should decide whether the creatures travel alone or in groups. The number in a group depends on the type of creature and the amount of food each needs. Large carnivores usually hunt alone or in small groups, while herbivores tend to travel in herds for protection. The referee can control the effect the creatures have in the adventure by adjusting the number of creatures in a group. A small carnivore is not much of a challenge, but a pack of 100 small carnivores is.

## 4. How Fast is the Creature?

The referee must decide how fast a creature is and how it moves. Movement is a very important part of combat. Creatures are specially adapted for maximum speed in their native terrain and are not affected by terrain movement modifiers. There are five categories of movement for creatures: very slow, slow, medium, fast and very fast. Player characters fit in the slow category.

**VERY SLOW** movement is 15 meters/turn or less. The average very slow speed is 10 meters/turn.

**SLOW** movement is 16 to 45 meters/turn. The average slow speed is 30 meters/turn.

**MEDIUM** movement is 16 to 75 meters/turn. The average medium speed is 60 meters/turn.

**FAST** movement is 76 to 105 meters/turn. The average fast speed is 90 meters/turn.

**VERY FAST** movement is more than 105 meters/turn. The average fast speed is 120 meters/turn.

The referee should decide how the creature moves and whether it has any special way to move. For example, a creature might have wings, fins, a prehensile tail or many legs, allowing it to fly, swim, swing through trees or burrow into the ground. The referee also should note any limits on a creature's movement. For example, some creatures might spend their entire lives in one spot, waiting for their prey to come to them.

## 5. What Are the Creature's Ability Scores?

The referee must choose the creature's ability scores. Only three of the scores used by characters are needed for creatures: Stamina, Reaction Speed and the Initiative modifier. When selecting ability scores, the referee should be sure they fit the purpose of the creature.



A good way to determine the scores is to consider how a similar animal on Earth compares to a Human. Intelligent alien creatures should be treated as non-player characters. The referee should assign scores for all eight of their abilities and for any special abilities.

#### 6. How Does the Creature Attack?

The referee should decide how the creature attacks, what its chance to hit is and how much damage it causes. If the creature has an unusual attack, the referee must decide its effects.

When deciding how a creature attacks, the referee should consider the creature's type and its purpose. In general, carnivores attack to kill, herbivores attack to protect themselves and omnivores attack for both reasons. Carnivores can have claws, teeth, horns and other offensive weapons. Herbivores are more likely to have weapons like quills, repulsive odors or horns.

Most creatures can attack only one target, so the amount of damage a creature causes should be a combination of all its attacks. The referee should consider an animal's size, type and purpose in the adventure when deciding how much damage it causes.

The referee must give the creature a basic chance to hit, called its Attack score. This value should depend on the creature's speed, size and purpose, and also on the abilities of the player characters. A creature's Attack score should never be greater than 100. If the creature can attack several targets at once, this number is used for all attacks.

If the creature has any unusual attacks the referee should record what their effects and limitations are. Unusual attacks include poison, acid, shooting darts and electric shocks. If an attack shoots something, the referee must assign ranges to the attack.

#### 7. How Does the Creature Defend Itself?

The referee should decide whether the creature has any defenses and how they affect combat. Defenses should fit the creature's type and purpose. Defenses are designed to escape or discourage attackers or protect the creature from damage, and are often adapted to the terrain the creature lives in. Some examples are bounding away from attackers, natural camouflage, a thick hide or a protective shell.

#### 8. Does the Creature Have Any Special Abilities?

The referee must decide if the creature has any special abilities or adaptations to the terrain, and their effects in the game. Some examples of special abilities are glowing in the dark, spinning webs, making honey, building crude bridges or homes, changing color or shape, etc. Special adaptations include fur to keep warm in winter, fins to keep cool in the desert, etc. Special abilities make creatures interesting and alien, but referees should not make them too common or players will come to expect them.

#### 9. What Does the Creature Look Like?

The referee should decide what the creature looks like. The answers to the earlier questions will help determine the creature's appearance.

#### How to Create A New Creature (Summary)

1. What is the purpose of the creature in the adventure?
2. What type of creature is it?
3. How many of these creatures are usually found together?
4. How fast is the creature?
5. What are the creature's ability scores?
6. How does the creature attack?
7. How does the creature defend itself?
8. Does the creature have any special abilities?
9. What does the creature look like?

### CREATURE REACTIONS

A creature's reaction to a character depends on the creature's temperament and what the character does. The creature may be naturally timid, curious or aggressive; it may be hungry, or it might have just eaten. A character can affect the creature's reaction by ignoring it, coaxing it with food, or frightening it with fire, loud noises or flashes of light. The referee must use his judgement in these cases, but several things to consider are outlined below.

**Intelligence.** Intelligent creatures will not be frightened by a burning torch, clanging frying pans, etc. Creatures with low intelligence, however, might be easily startled or frightened away by these actions.

**Experience.** A creature is less likely to be afraid of something it has seen before, unless the previous experience was very painful or frightening.

**Size.** Large creatures often are harder to frighten than small ones.

**Type.** Carnivores tend to be more aggressive and harder to frighten than herbivores, which tend to be timid. Omnivores tend to be curious.

**Temperament.** If a creature is naturally aggressive, it may attack creatures much larger than itself with very little fear. Timid creatures try to avoid fighting whenever they can.

**Motivation.** Any creature that fights has a reason for fighting. Even naturally shy and weak creatures may fight savagely to defend their lair, their territory or their young. Creatures that are cornered or wounded, sensing that they must fight or die, often fight ferociously and without fear.

## CREATURE DESCRIPTIONS

After a referee designs a creature, he should write the information about it in a standard format. The information should be listed in the following order.

**TYPE:** the creature's size and eating habits.

**NUMBER:** the number of creatures usually found together.

**MOVE:** the creature's movement category. The referee can include the actual rate per turn. If the creature can be ridden, its rate per hour should also be included.

**IM/RS:** the creature's Initiative Modifier and Reaction Speed.

**STAMINA:** the creature's Stamina points

**ATTACK:** the creature's base chance to hit.

**DAMAGE:** the number of dice that are rolled to determine damage when the creature attacks.

**SPECIAL ATTACKS:** a brief note on the effects of special attacks and ranged attacks. More detail is given in the description.

**SPECIAL DEFENSES:** brief note on special defenses. More detail is given in the description.

**NATIVE WORLD:** the planet where the creature is found and the terrain it normally inhabits.

**DESCRIPTION:** a brief description of the creature and notes on habits. Includes how the creature moves, an explanation of its attacks, and any special abilities or defenses.

## AVERAGE CREATURES

Average values and ranges for each of the standard creature types are listed below. When a range is listed, the referee should choose a number in that range. The referee can use these tables when he needs a new creature quickly. The scores can be used as they are listed, or modified to produce creatures with above or below average statistics. Special Attacks, Defenses and Abilities are not listed. These are left to the imagination of the referee.

### Herbivores

TYPE:	Tiny	Small	Medium	Large	Giant
NUMBER:	1-100	1-20	10-100	1-20	1-10
MOVE:	Medium	Fast	Very fast	Fast	Slow
IM/RS:	8/75	7/65	6/55	5/45	4/35
STAMINA:	1-10	5-20	20-100	50-150	100-300
ATTACK:	30	35	40	45	50
DAMAGE:	1d2	1d5	1-2d10	1-3d10	2-6d10

### Carnivores

TYPE	Tiny	Small	Medium	Large	Giant
NUMBER:	1-50	1-20	1-10	1-5	1-2
MOVE:	Fast	Fast	Medium	Medium	Medium
IM/RS:	7/65	6/60	6/55	5/50	5/45
STAMINA:	1-10	10-20	20-120	75-200	100-400
ATTACK:	55	65	75	65	55
DAMAGE:	1d5	1d10	1-3d10	2-5d10	3-10d10

### Omnivores

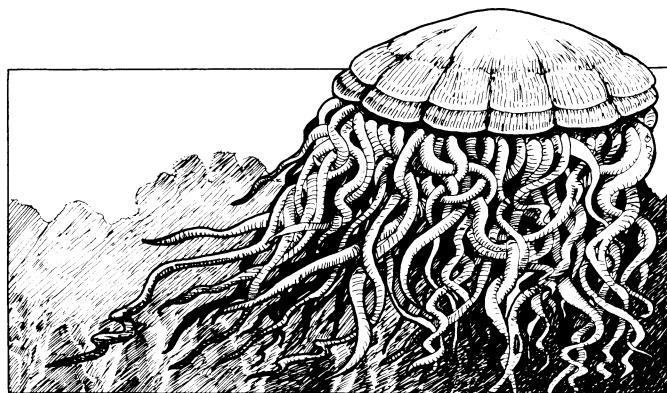
TYPE:	Tiny	Small	Medium	Large	Giant
NUMBER:	1-20	1-10	1-5	1-5	1-3
MOVE:	Medium	Medium	Slow	Slow	Slow
IM/RS:	7/70	6/60	5/50	5/45	4/40
STAMINA:	1-10	5-20	20-100	50-150	150-300
ATTACK:	45	50	55	60	65
DAMAGE:	1d5	1d10	1-2d10	1-5d10	2-8d10

## SAMPLE CREATURES

All of the following creatures are found on the planet Volturnus, the setting for the module enclosed with the game.

### Strangler Chutes

TYPE:	Large Herbivore
NUMBER:	5-20
MOVE:	Slow (10 meters/turn on ground) or Windspeed (in air)
IM/RS:	3/25
STAMINA:	150
ATTACK:	None
DAMAGE:	3 points/turn
SPECIAL ATTACK:	Accidental attack (See below)
SPECIAL DEFENSE:	Electrical shock stuns for 1d10 turns if touched
NATIVE WORLD	Volturnus - wooded areas



**DESCRIPTION:** Strangler chutes look like giant jellyfish floating in the air. They are 10 meters wide, but weigh only 50 kilograms. They move by rising on warm air and drifting through the skies. They communicate with each other by changing colors, and see with many eyespots located along the edge of their canopy.

Strangler chutes eat the leaves of trees by draping their bodies across the branches and releasing digestive fluids. Animals caught inside the chute automatically take three points of damage each turn. If a character is in or underneath a tree when a strangler chute lands on it, he must make a Reaction Speed check to escape. The body and tentacles of a strangler chute are electrified and any character that touches one must pass a Reaction Speed check or be stunned for 1d10 turns. If characters use ranged weapons to attack a chute that has entangled a companion, there is a 20% chance that any hit on the chute will cause equal damage to the trapped character.

## Army Rats

TYPE: Small Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 2-20 per character; 1,000 or more in a pack  
 MOVE: Fast (90 meters/turn)  
 IM/RS: 6/60  
 STAMINA: 5  
 ATTACK: 40  
 DAMAGE: 1d5 bite + disease  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: None  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: Volturnus - mountains

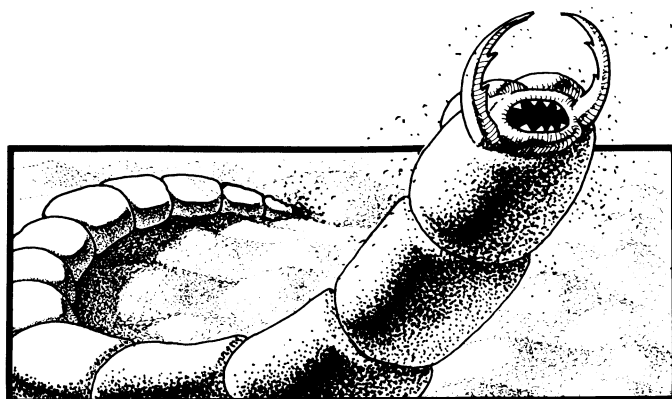


**DESCRIPTION:** Army rats are furry brown creatures that resemble large rats. They have powerful hind legs and can leap up to 1 meter to attack. Army rats swarm in packs of 1,000 or more, and will attack any animal in their path. They are cunning and attack in waves, some sprinting after prey while others follow at a loping stride. When one wave of sprinters falters, another wave takes their place until the prey finally tires. A medium-sized creature caught by a swarm will be attacked by 2-20 army rats, while the rest pass by seeking other food.

Any creature bitten by an army rat has a 50% chance of being infected by a disease that attacks the central nervous system. A creature only needs to roll once per encounter with army rats. Unless a victim is given a dose of Antibody Plus within 12 hours, he will become hostile and paranoid and might even attack or desert his companions. Every 20 hours after being bitten the victim can make a Stamina check. If the character succeeds, he has recovered. If not, another 20 hours must pass before the victim can try again.

## Funnel Worm

TYPE: Giant Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 1  
 MOVE: Slow  
 IM/RS: 4/35  
 STAMINA: 200  
 ATTACK: 45 (on surface)  
 DAMAGE: 3d10 bite  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: Automatic hit if prey falls in funnel  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: Will not be noticed unless it attacks  
 NATIVE WORLD: Volturnus - desert



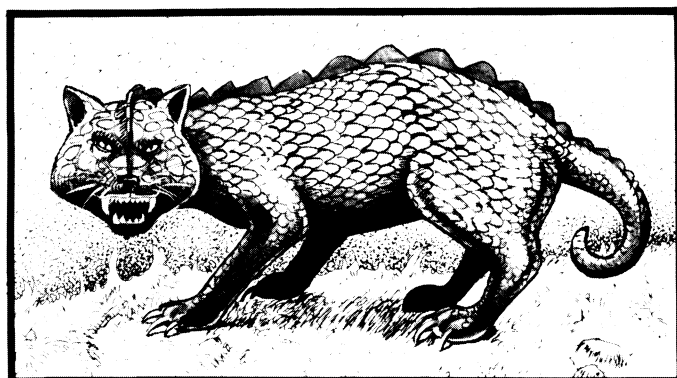
**DESCRIPTION:** The funnel worm is a burrowing creature 5 to 7 meters long, with a segmented body and two large compound eyes which are also pressure-sensing organs. It has a pair of large mandibles and its mouth is filled with a ring of sharp teeth.

Funnel worms are solitary creatures. They lurk 5 to 10 meters beneath the surface waiting for prey to pass overhead. When it senses the vibrations of a creature passing, it quickly expands its body, swallowing the sand and forming a 10-meter-wide funnel of sand. The prey slides down the funnel into the worm's mouth. Any creature caught in the funnel must make a Reaction Speed check to leap aside. If the check is failed the creature will slide down the funnel and into the funnel worm's mouth in 2 turns. The funnel worm can automatically bite anything that falls into its mouth, causing 3d10 points of damage per turn to each victim until it dies. A funnel worm's mouth is wide enough to hold and bite up to three medium-sized creatures at once. Characters can be rescued if someone throws them a rope and pulls them out.

While in its burrow, a funnel worm can not be attacked by most weapons. Grenades and explosives are the most effective means of attack. They hit automatically when rolled down the funnel, but cause only half damage. The funnel worm will burrow to the surface and attack if it is wounded. A funnel worm's Attack score is 45 when out of its burrow.

## Megasaurus

TYPE: Giant Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 1  
 MOVE: Fast (90 meters/turn)  
 IM/RS: 5/45  
 STAMINA: 350  
 ATTACK: 50  
 DAMAGE: 7d10 bite and claws  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: None  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: Volturnus - dry plains, swamp

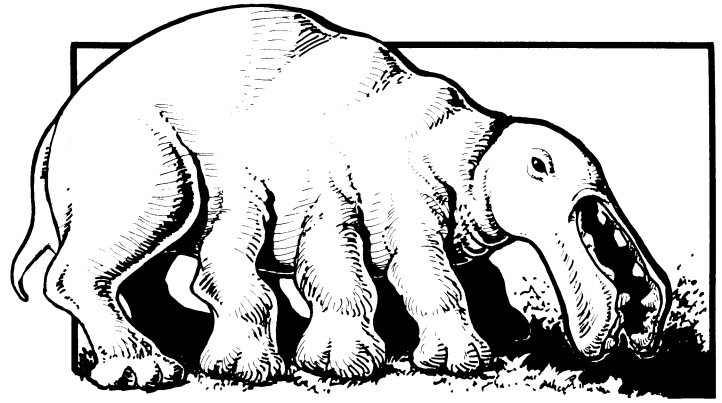


**DESCRIPTION:** A megasaurus is 10 meters long and stands 5 meters high at the shoulders. It looks like a giant reptilian cat with a thick tail. It has huge claws and a massive mouth filled with sharp teeth, and can leap up to 50 meters to attack.



## Land Whale

TYPE: Giant Omnivore  
 NUMBER: 1  
 MOVE: Medium  
 IM/RS: 3/25  
 STAMINA: 300  
 ATTACK: 65  
 DAMAGE: 1d10 bite  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: A successful bite will swallow prey; a swallowed victim can not attack  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: Voltumnus - dry plains

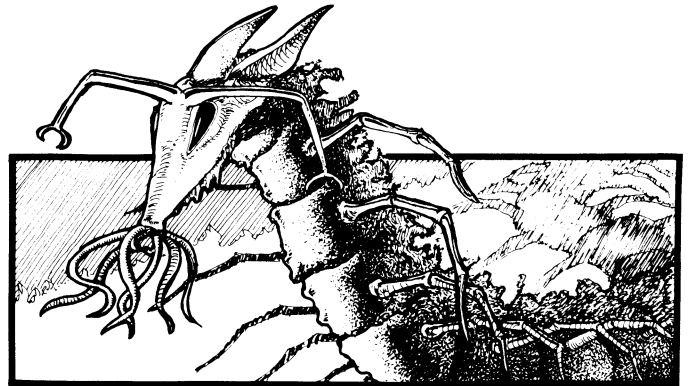


**DESCRIPTION:** A land whale looks like a 10-meter-long whale with eight short legs. Its jaws are hinged sideways. A land whale will swallow anything in its path, moving until its large mouth is full before stopping to digest the food. Land whales travel alone. They can move swiftly, but start slowly. They can start moving at a speed of 10 meters/turn, and can accelerate 10 meters/turn until they reach their top speed of 60 meters/turn.

A character bitten by a land whale must roll his Reaction Speed or less to avoid being swallowed. A swallowed character will automatically take 1d10 points of damage each turn until cut out of the land whale.

## Slither (Sathar Attack Monster)

TYPE: Giant Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 1  
 MOVE: Slow (10 meters/turn)  
 IM/RS: 5/45  
 STAMINA: 400  
 ATTACK: 30  
 DAMAGE: 6d10 tentacles and bite  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: Camouflage may surprise victims  
 Can attack two creatures at once  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: None - salt flats and near water



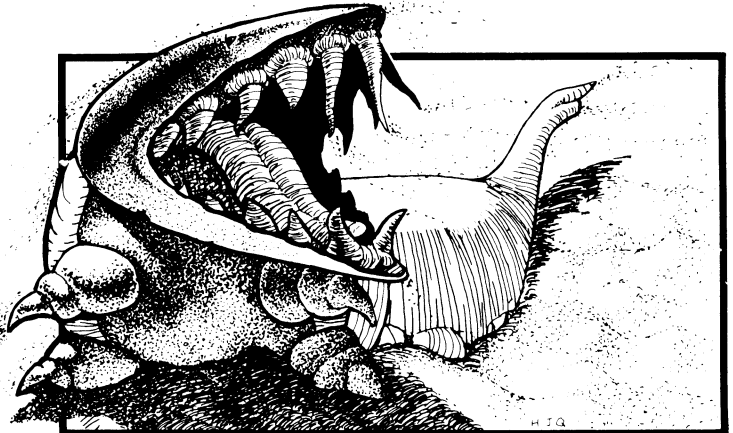
**DESCRIPTION:** A slither is 20 meters long and 2 meters wide. It resembles a giant-sized cross between a worm and a centipede. It is part plant and part animal; plants grow from its back, providing camouflage and some nourishment from photosynthesis. It can only see moving objects, but can sense salt and water. One often lurks near pools of water or salt licks, waiting for prey.

When lying still, a Slither is often mistaken for a mound of plants, allowing it to attack with surprise. Its gnashing, grinding mandibles are surrounded by 2-meter-long tentacles. Slithers also secrete an oily fluid that causes burns on touch. They attack by lashing out with their tentacles, by biting with their jaws and by coiling around prey and burning it with their secretions. They must re-coil and make a new attack roll each turn to coil about prey. A slither can attack two creatures on the same turn, one with its tentacles and bite and the other by coiling around it. This makes them very deadly in combat.

Slithers are Sathar attack monsters. The Sathar, in their efforts to destroy peaceful worlds, have genetically altered a number of creatures into "monsters" which they set free on various worlds. Slithers and other Sathar attack monsters can be encountered on many different planets.

## Sand Shark

TYPE: Large Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 1-2  
 MOVE: Medium  
 IM/RS: 5/50  
 STAMINA: 80  
 ATTACK: 50  
 DAMAGE: 2d10 bite  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: None  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: Immune to needler weapons  
 Has hard cover when attacking from burrow  
 NATIVE WORLD: Voltumnus - deserts

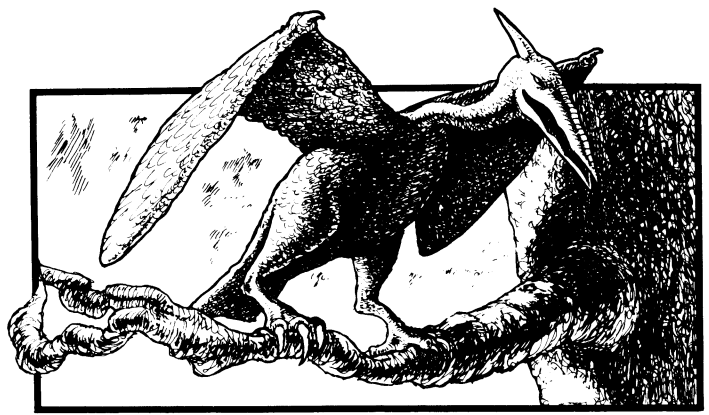


**DESCRIPTION:** The sand shark is a burrowing creature. It is 3 meters long, has a wedge-shaped head, thick, abrasive, leathery hide and twelve pairs of short legs. A sand shark has no eyes; it detects things by vibration, and smells through two rows of sensory organs and two sensory pits in the head. A sand shark burrows just beneath the surface of the sand, leaving a telltale ripple in its wake. Only explosives will affect it when it is beneath the sand, and they cause only half-damage. It reveals itself when it erupts at the feet of its target to attack. It attacks by biting. Its large mouth is filled with three rows of jagged teeth.

The sand shark can cross rocky areas by slithering across the surface, but its movement rate is reduced to Slow.

## Winged Rippers

TYPE: Small Carnivore (scavenger)  
 NUMBER: 4-40  
 MOVE: Fast  
 IM/RS: 6/55  
 STAMINA: 30  
 ATTACK: 60  
 DAMAGE: 1d5 beak  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: None  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: Voltornus - all terrains

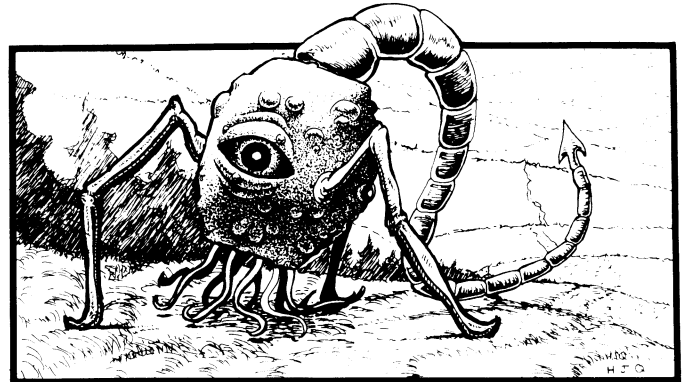


**DESCRIPTION:** Winged rippers are scavenger birds that gather in great numbers around any carrion. A ripper looks like a cross between a vulture and a hummingbird. Their brownish-gray feathers look tattered, and have a distinct odor of decay.

Winged rippers are impatient and may attack small animals or sick or injured creatures. A large number of winged rippers (more than 20) may attack healthy creatures of man-size or larger. When they attack, the entire flock swoops at the intended victim. As they pass, 1d10 of the creatures will slash with their razor-sharp beaks. Winged rippers are basically cowardly, however, and if more than one-tenth of the flock is killed, all the rest will flee.

## Queequeg

TYPE: Large Carnivore  
 NUMBER: 1-5  
 MOVE: Fast (90 meters/turn)  
 IM/RS: 6/60  
 STAMINA: 180  
 ATTACK: 50  
 DAMAGE: 3d10 harpoon  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: Harpoon can strike victim up to 5 meters away.  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: Chitinous exoskeleton acts as skeinsuit, reducing damage from non-energy attacks by half  
 NATIVE WORLD: Voltornus - forest

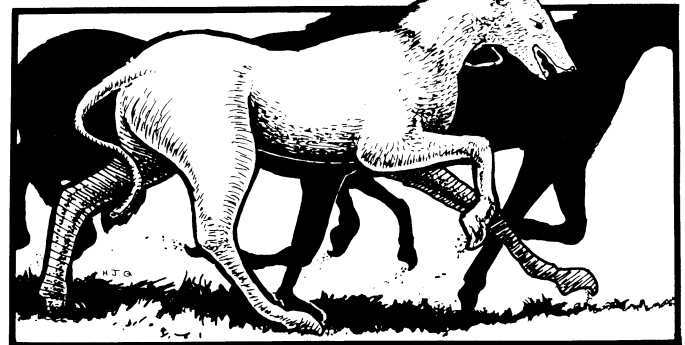


**DESCRIPTION:** Queequegs have barrel-shaped bodies with three jointed legs arranged like a tripod, and three eyes spaced evenly around the body so it can see all directions at once. They have a hard exoskeleton that matches the color of the plants where they live, providing a natural camouflage. Its mouth is in its underbelly, surrounded by small tentacles. A single 5-meter-long tentacle grows from the top of the body. The long tentacle tapers to a point with a razor-sharp barb.

The queequeg attacks by whipping this tentacle at its prey like a harpoon. Once the tentacle hits a target the sharp barb makes it difficult to pull out. The queequeg then pulls the victim to its mouth in one turn, and holds the prey with the filaments while devouring it. A character that is being eaten automatically takes 2d10 points of damage each turn until rescued. The victim can not fight back once he is held in the small tentacles. If characters attack the harpoon tentacle and cause 20 points of damage, the tentacle is severed.

## Tomar's Horses

TYPE: Large Omnivore  
 NUMBER: 1-100  
 MOVE: Fast (90 meters/turn)  
 (25 km/hour)  
 IM/RS: 6/60  
 STAMINA: 120  
 ATTACK: 40  
 DAMAGE: 3d10 bite and hooves  
 SPECIAL ATTACK: Stampede Attack score 70, 8d10 damage  
 SPECIAL DEFENSE: None  
 NATIVE WORLD: Voltornus - dry plains



**DESCRIPTION:** Tomar's horses look like a cross between a horse and a jackal. They stand 1.6 meters tall at the shoulder and weigh about 400 kilograms. Tomar's horses eat seeds, nuts, grains, berries and meat. They will eat carrion, but prefer fresh meat.

Tomar's horses are cunning. They may stalk their prey, taking advantage of cover to hide their approach. They try to herd their prey into traps so it can not escape. Individual Tomar's horses attack by pawing with their hooked hooves and biting.

A herd of Tomar's horses can attack by stampeding and trampling its prey. When a hungry herd sights prey it will charge the creatures and attempt to trample them. Their Attack score for a stampede attack is 70. Characters are safe from a stampede if they find hard cover to hide behind. If no cover is available, the character can try to stun or kill one of the lead animals and hide behind its body. There is a 75% chance the herd will charge again if the prey survived the first stampede. If more than one horse was killed in a stampede, there is only a 25% chance they will attack again. A trampled character takes 8d10 points of damage.

## EQUIPMENT

WEAPONS			Ammunition			
Weapon	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)	Type of Ammunition	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)	Energy/Rounds
<b>Beam Weapons</b>			<b>Beam Weapon Ammunition</b>			
Electrostarter	500	1	Powerclip	100	—	20 SEU
Laser Pistol	600	1	Power Beltack	250	4	50 SEU
Laser Rifle	800	3	Power Backpack	500	10	100 SEU
Sonic Disruptor	700	4	<b>Gyrojet Ammunition</b>			
Sonic Stunner	500	1	Pistol Jetclip	10	—	10 rounds
Heavy Laser	6,000	20	Rifle Jetclip	20	—	10 rounds
Sonic Devastator	5,000	15	Grenade Bullet	3	—	1 round
<b>Projectile Weapons</b>			Grenade Shell	8	—	1 round
Automatic Pistol	200	2	Rocket	15	4	1 round
Automatic Rifle	300	4	<b>Projectile Weapon Ammunition</b>			
Needler Pistol	200	1	Bistol Bulletclip	2	—	20 rounds
Needler Rifle	400	3	Rifle Bulletclip	5	—	20 rounds
Machine Gun	2,000	20	Pistol Needleclip	10	—	10 rounds
Recoilless Rifle	4,000	20	Rifle Needleclip	20	—	10 rounds
<b>Gyrojet Weapons</b>			Machine Gun Belt	50	4	200 rounds
Gyrojet Pistol	200	1	Recoilless Shell	10	1	1 round
Gyrojet Rifle	300	4	<b>Archaic Weapon Ammunition</b>			
Grenade Rifle	700	4	Arrow	2	- 20 arrows	
Grenade Mortar	2,000	15	Powder and Shot	10	1 20 rounds	
Rocket Launcher	5,000	15	<b>DEFENSES</b>			
<b>Grenades</b>			Type of Defense	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)	Energy Def. Against
Doze Grenade	10	—	<b>Power Screens</b>			
Fragmentation Grenade	20	—	Albedo Screen	2,000	2	1 SEU/min lasers
Incendiary Grenade	20	—	Gauss Screen	1,000	2	2 SEU/Hit electric stun
Poison Grenade	30	—	Holo Screen	1,000	2	1 SEU/min
Smoke Grenade	10	—	Inertia Screen	2,000	3	2 SEU/hit ballistic melee
Tangler Grenade	25	—	Sonic Screen	2,000	2	1 SEU/min sonic 2 SEU/hit
<b>Archaic Weapons</b>			<b>Defense Suits</b>			
Axe	15	1	Albedo Suit	500	1	100 points laser
Bow	50	—	Military Skeinsuit	300	1	50 points ballistic/melee
Knife	10	—	Civilian Skeinsuit	500	1	50 points ballistic/melee
Musket	100	2	<b>TOOLKITS</b>			
Spear	20	1	Toolkit or Refill	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)	
<b>Melee Weapons</b>			Techkit	500	12	
Brass Knuckles	10	1	Robcomkit	500	10	
Electric Sword	150	2	Medkit	500	10	
Nightstick	20	1	Antibody Plus	5	—	
Polearm	40	4	Antitox	5	—	
Shock Gloves	50	1	Biocort	10	—	
Sonic Knife	50	1	Omnimycin	5	—	
Sonic Sword	300	1	Staydose	5	—	
Stunstick	75	1	Stimdose	5	—	
Sword	30	2	Telol	10	—	
Vibroknife	25	1	Envirokit	500	10	
Whip	20	1				

## ROBOTS

### ROBOTIC DESIGN COST TABLE

Body Types	Levels
Standard . . . . .	2,000 Cr
Heavy Duty . . . . .	5,000 Cr
Anthropomorphic . . . . .	3,000 Cr
Level 1 . . . . .	200 Cr
Level 2 . . . . .	500 Cr
Level 3 . . . . .	1,000 Cr
Level 4 . . . . .	2,000 Cr
Level 5 . . . . .	4,000 Cr
Level 6 . . . . .	8,000 Cr
Extra Limbs	Special Programs
Standard Pair . . . . .	800 Cr
Heavy Duty Pair . . . . .	12,000 Cr
Anthropomorphic Pair . . . . .	1,000 Cr
Restrained (2) . . . . .	500 Cr
Self Defense (2) . . . . .	500 Cr
Attack/Defense (2) . . . . .	1,000 Cr
Search&Destroy (4) . . . . .	3,000 Cr
Computer Link (4) . . . . .	4,000 Cr
Security Lock (1) . . . . .	500 Cr
Altered Movement Modes	
Hover . . . . .	2,000 Cr
Rotor . . . . .	5,000 Cr
Rocket . . . . .	10,000 Cr

The number in parenthesis under special programs indicates the minimum level of a robot that can use that program.

Robots can use all the weapons and defenses that characters can use. Any piece of miscellaneous equipment marked with an (r) also can be added to a robot for the cost of the equipment plus a 10% installation fee.

## STANDARD ROBOT COST TABLE

Type of Robot	Cost Per Level (Cr)					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maintenance Robot	2,200	2,500	3,000	4,000	—	—
Heavy Duty Robot	5,200	5,500	6,000	7,000	—	—
Combat Robot	—	3,500	4,000	5,000	—	—
Security Robot	—	3,500	4,000	5,000	7,000	11,000
Service Robot	—	—	4,000	5,000	7,000	11,000
Cybernetic Robot	—	—	—	5,000	7,000	11,000
Warbot	—	—	—	—	12,000	16,000
Robot Brain	—	—	—	—	—	17,000

## PARABATTERIES AND POWER GENERATORS

Battery	SEUs	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)
Parabattery type 1	500	600	25
Parabattery type 2	1,000	1,200	50
Parabattery type 3	2,000	2,300	100
Parabattery type 4	4,000	4,500	200
Generator	SEUs/hour	Cost (Cr)	Maintenance
Generator type 1	500	10,000	100 Cr/day
Generator type 2	1,000	20,000	200 Cr/day
Generator type 3	2,000	40,000	400 Cr/day
Generator type 4	4,000	80,000	800 Cr/day

## COMPUTERS

Level	Function Points	Mass (kg)
1	1-10	3
2	11-30	8
3	31-80	20
4	81-200	100
5	201-500	300
6	501+	800+

### Computer Programs

Function Points for Levels						
Program	1	2	3	4	5	6
Analysis	1	2	4	8	16	32
Bureaucracy	2	4	8	16	32	64
Commerce	3	6	12	24	48	96
Communication	3	6	12	24	48	96
Computer Security	2	4	8	16	32	64
Industry	3	6	12	24	48	96
Information Storage	2	4	8	16	32	64
Installation Security	3	6	12	24	48	96
Language	1	2	4	8	16	32
Law Enforcement	4	8	16	32	64	128
Life Support	4	8	16	32	64	128
Maintenance	2	4	8	16	32	64
Robot Management	2	4	8	16	32	64
Transportation	3	6	12	24	48	96

cost =  
# of  
function  
points  
x  
1,000 Cr

## MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Item	Cost (Cr)	Mass (kg)
Allweather Blanket	20	—
Anti-Shock Implant (r)	2,000	—
Chronocom (r)	100	—
Compass (r)	10	—
Everflame	5	—
Exoskeleton*	2,000	5
Flashlight	5	—
Freeze Field	1,200	4
Gas Mask	30	—
Holoflare	5	1
Infra-red Goggles (r)	300	—
Infra-red Jammer* (r)	500	1
Life Jacket	10	1
Machete	30	3
Magnigoggles (r)	200	—
Parawing	200	3
Poly-vox	1,500	1
Radiophone (r)	500	4
Rope	2	1
Solvaway	10	—
Standard Equipment Pack	150	1
Subspace Radio	20,000	100
Sungoggles	2	—
Survival Rations	2	—
Tornadium D-19	50	1
Toxy-Rad Gauge (r)	20	—
Variable Timer	5	—
Vitasalt Pills	1	—
Water Pack	4	4

\* This item must be plugged into a powerpack to operate. It uses 1 SEU/minute while in operation.

(r) This item can be added to a robot at its cost plus a 10% installation fee.

## WEAPON DESCRIPTIONS

### Beam Weapons

**Electrostunner.** An electrostunner looks like a large pistol. It is a short-range weapon. It fires an arc of electrons that looks like a lightning flash. It is commonly called a zapgun because of the noise it makes when fired. An electrostunner has two settings, stun and blast. A blast causes 4d10 points of damage. A stun can knock a creature unconscious for d100 turns. Anyone hit by a stun beam can resist the stun by rolling a number less than or equal to its current Stamina. A zapgun uses two SEU per shot. It holds a 20 SEU clip, but can also be connected to a backpack or powerpack with a 1.5 meter powercord. A gauss screen will block the electrostunner's beam. An anti-shock implant will nullify a stun but not a blast.

**Laser Pistol.** A laser pistol is a large handgun. It fires a pulse of bright light. Laser pistols are commonly called blasters. A laser pistol has a dial that can be set from 1 to 10 to control how many SEU are fired by each shot. Each SEU fired causes 1d10 points of damage. For example, when the dial is set at 3, the shot uses 3 SEU and causes 3d10 points of damage. Players must tell the referee what setting they are using before rolling the dice to see if the shot hits. Laser pistols use 20 SEU clips but can be attached to backpacks or powerpacks. An albedo suit or screen halves the damage from lasers.

**Laser Rifle.** A laser rifle is a rifle-sized version of a laser pistol. It has a longer range and the SEU dial can be set from 1 to 20 instead of 1 to 10.

**Sonic Disruptor.** A sonic disruptor is a type of rifle. It is commonly called a disruptor. A sonic disruptor generates a focused sound beam. The damage it causes depends on the range. At closer ranges, it causes more damage. It causes 6d10 at point blank range, 4d10 at short range, 2d10 at medium range, and 1d10 at long range. It has no extreme range. It uses a 20 SEU clip but can also be attached to a backpack or powerpack. A disruptor uses 4 SEU per shot. Only a sonic screen can stop its deadly beam.

**Sonic Stunner.** A sonic stunner is a type of pistol. It is commonly called a stunner. It will stun a victim for d100 turns. The victim can avoid the effect of the hit by rolling his current Stamina or lower. One shot uses two SEU. It uses a 20 SEU clip, but can be attached to a backpack or a powerpack. A target with an anti-shock implant can not be stunned. Otherwise, only a sonic screen can stop the stunner's sound beam.

**Heavy Laser.** A heavy laser is about the size of a machine gun. It must be mounted on a tripod or a swivel mount to be fired. It has longer range than a laser rifle, and a minimum SEU setting of 5. Otherwise it operates the same as the laser rifle.

**Sonic Devastator.** A sonic devastator is a heavy weapon that must be mounted on a tripod or a swivel mount to be fired. Except for its greater range and damage, the sonic devastator operates just like the sonic disruptor.

### Projectile Weapons

**Automatic Pistol.** An automatic pistol is a refined version of the submachine gun. It looks like a heavy pistol, with a folding metal wire stock. The gun can be fired like a pistol when the stock is folded, or fired from the shoulder when the stock is extended. An automatic pistol can be set to fire single shots or bursts. Up to three single shots or one burst can be fired in a turn. A single shot causes 1d10 points of damage. A burst fires 10 bullets, and has a +20 modifier to hit. It can be aimed at up to five adjacent targets in a 10-meter wide area. A burst causes 5d10 points of damage, plus 1d10 for every additional target after the first. Only one roll is needed to hit all the targets, but any negative modifiers that could apply to one target apply to the entire group. For example, if one target has soft cover, all of them are considered to have soft cover. The damage from a burst is divided as evenly as possible between all the targets. Skeinsuits and inertia screens reduce bullet damage by half. If a skeinsuit and an inertia screen are used together, damage is reduced to one-fourth the amount rolled.

**Automatic Rifle.** An automatic rifle is similar to the automatic rifles being used today. It is basically a heavier, longer version of the automatic pistol. It can fire up to three single shots or one burst.

**Needler Pistol.** A needler pistol is a handgun that uses an upright disc clip. It makes only a very soft, coughing noise when it is fired. Needler pistols magnetically propel a cluster of needles at high speed. Two types of needles can be used: barbed needles that cause 2d10 points of damage per shot, and anesthetic needles that cause only 1d10 points of damage but can put the victim to sleep for d100 turns. An individual can resist the anesthetic by passing a current Stamina check. Needles will not penetrate skeinsuits or inertia screens. Neither the suit, screen, or individual is damaged.

**Needler Rifle.** A needler rifle is a rifle-sized version of a needler pistol. It has a longer range than a needler pistol and its barbed ammunition does more damage (the longer barrel gives the needles more velocity).

**Machine Gun.** A machine gun is a fully automatic heavy weapon that must be mounted on a tripod or a swivel mount to fire. A burst fires 20 bullets. Except for its greater damage and range, it operates just like an automatic pistol.

**Recoilless Rifle.** A recoilless rifle is a heavy weapon that must be mounted on a tripod or a swivel mount to fire. It fires an exploding shell that causes 12d10 points of damage if it hits. Only one shell can be fired per turn, and loading another shell takes one turn. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage.

### Gyrojet Weapons

**Gyrojet Pistol.** A gyrojet pistol is a large handgun. It shoots miniature, self-propelled rockets that cause 2d10 points of damage when they explode. A gyrojet pistol is not effective at very short range, because the rocket is still accelerating. Thus the short range modifier is used even at point blank range. Skeinsuits and inertia screens absorb half the damage from a gyrojet rocket.

**Gyrojet Rifle.** A gyrojet rifle is a rifle-sized version of a gyrojet pistol. It has a longer range and causes 3d10 points of damage per shot.

**Grenade Rifle.** A grenade rifle resembles a shotgun. It fires hand grenades that are fitted into special grenade bullets. Any type of grenade can be used. It can fire one shot per turn, and then must be reloaded, which also takes one turn. If a shot misses, the grenade does not scatter. Depending on what type of grenade is being used, all the usual grenade saving throws apply.

**Grenade Mortar.** A grenade mortar is a hollow tube that is attached at an angle to a large base plate. It can fire any type of grenade, using a special shell called a grenade shell. It operates like a grenade rifle, except for the greater range. Because it lobbs grenades in a high arc, it has a minimum range of 10 meters.

**Rocket Launcher.** A rocket launcher is a long, hollow tube that is fired while resting across the firer's shoulder. It fires a large, long-range rocket. It must be reloaded after every shot, and reloading takes one turn.

### Grenades

Grenades can be thrown or fired from a grenade rifle or mortar. Characters can avoid or resist the effect of a grenade by passing an ability check that applies to the grenade. Grenades can be set to explode in two ways: on impact or with a timer that is adjustable for 1 to 10 turns. All grenades have a blast radius of 3 meters. Any character or creature within 3 m of a grenade when it goes off can be affected.

**Doze Grenades.** A doze grenade releases a cloud of fast-acting knockout gas. All creatures within the blast radius will fall asleep for d100 turns unless they pass a current Stamina check. A shot of stimdose will revive a sleeping individual immediately. The doze gas is effective only on the turn that the grenade goes off.

**Fragmentation Grenade.** When a fragmentation grenade explodes it throws hundreds of small, sharp pieces of metal in all direction.

Fragmentation grenades are commonly called frag grenades. Any creature or character in the blast radius suffers 8d10 points of damage. This damage is cut in half if the individual passes a Reaction Speed check. Inertia screens and skeinsuits also reduce damage by half. All of these modifiers are cumulative.

**Incendiary Grenade.** An exploding incendiary grenade scatters sticky, flaming liquid across everything in the blast radius. Incendiary grenades are commonly called fire grenades. A fire grenade causes 4d10 points of damage on the turn it explodes. The burning liquid sticks to the victim, causing an additional 1d10 points of damage on the second, third and fourth turns after the explosion. A character that passes a Reaction Speed check takes only half damage. Anyone in a spacesuit takes no damage from an incendiary grenade.

**Poison Grenade.** A poison grenade releases a cloud of poisonous gas. Anyone in the blast radius will be poisoned by the gas. The gas is effective only on the turn the grenade explodes. The gas acts as an S5/T10 poison. A character who passes a current Stamina check will not be affected, nor will anyone in a gas mask. A shot of antitox will neutralize the poison so that no further damage is taken.

**Smoke Grenade.** A smoke grenade produces a thick cloud of smoke that both blocks vision and acts like tear gas. Smoke grenades are available in colors so they can be used as signals. Anyone in the blast radius on the turn the grenade explodes must make a current Stamina check. If the character fails the check he has a -10 modifier on all ability checks for 1d10 turns, due to coughing and blurred vision. The smoke will continue to spread 3 meters/turn for five turns, when it will cover an area 30 meters in diameter. The smoke cloud gives soft cover to anyone behind it or inside it. The smoke screen will last for 10 minutes.

**Tangler Grenade.** An exploding tangler grenade throws out hundreds of strong, sticky polymer threads. These threads stick to everything within the blast radius. An entangled individual can not move until the threads decay (in 30 minutes) or until solvaway is spread over the threads. Any creature with more than 100 stamina points can break out of tangle threads in one turn.

### Archaic Weapons

**Bow.** For simplicity, all bows (crossbows, longbows, composite bows, etc.) are handled the same. An arrow causes 1d10 points of damage. Reaching another arrow takes one full turn. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage from an arrow.

**Musket.** Muskets include all muzzle-loading firearms, such as arquebuses, blunderbusses, and flintlock rifles. Muskets use black gunpowder and lead bullets (powder and shot). Loading a musket takes two turns, so a musket can be fired only once every three turns.

### Melee Weapons

**Axe.** An axe is actually a tool, but it can be used as either a thrown or melee weapon. If used as a thrown weapon, all the usual ranged weapon modifiers apply. Inertia screens and skeinsuits will halve the damage from an axe.

**Brass Knuckles.** Besides actual brass knuckles, this category includes any improvised weapon that increases the damage caused by someone's fist. Examples are rocks, coin rolls, sword or dagger handles, etc. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage from brass knuckles.

**Chain/Whip.** Besides chains and whips, this category includes any flexible weapon, such as flails, nunchuks, weighted ropes, etc. Inertia screens and skeinsuits absorb half the damage caused by these types of weapons.

**Club.** Any blunt weapon used like a club is considered a club. This includes chair legs, metal pipes and bottles. Inertia screens and skeinsuits reduce club damage by half.

**Electric Sword.** This is a light-weight metal rod that contains a battery in the handle. It delivers an electrical shock when it strikes someone. It can be set to shock or stun. When set on stun, a successful hit causes no damage but can stun the victim for d100

turns. The victim can resist the stun by making a successful current Stamina check. An electric sword can be hooked into a backpack or powerpack with a power cable. A successful hit by an electric sword uses 2 SEU. Individuals wearing gauss screens or with anti-shock implants are not affected by electric swords.

**Knife.** This category covers any knife that is big enough to fight with. If thrown, the usual ranged combat modifiers apply. Inertia screens and skeinsuits will absorb half of the damage caused by a knife.

**Nightstick.** A nightstick is a weighted plastic club. This category also includes improvised weapons that are more effective than simple clubs, like chairs, baseball bats and quarterstaves. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage from a nightstick.

**Polearm.** A polearm consists of a long pole with a heavy blade at one end. Typical polearms are halberds, partisans, naginatas and glaives. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage from a polearm.

**Shock Gloves.** Shock gloves are silvery gloves that deliver an electrical shock to anything they touch. They must be connected to a backpack or powerpack to work. Shock gloves will not affect anyone protected by a gauss screen or an anti-shock implant. Shock gloves use 2 SEU each time they hit.

**Sonic Knife.** A sonic knife looks like a golden tube, 15 cm long and 4 cm in diameter. This tube is actually only the weapon's handle. When a small button on the side of the tube is pressed, a powerful "blade" of focused sound is created at one end of the tube. The sound blade is about 20 cm long, and is invisible. It emits a high-pitched whine, however. The blade is turned off when the button is released. The knife is powered by a 20 SEU clip, but can be hooked into a backpack or power pack. A sonic knife uses 1 SEU when it hits. Anyone wearing a sonic screen can not be injured by a sonic knife. Unlike a regular knife, a sonic knife cannot be thrown.

**Sonic Sword.** A sonic sword looks like a sonic knife, but the blade is 1 m long when it is turned on. A sonic sword causes 5d10 damage and uses 2 SEU when it hits.

**Spear.** Any pole with a knife-like blade on the end is a spear. Bayonets and pikes are included in this category. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve the damage from a spear.

**Stunstick.** A stunstick is a copper-colored tube 30 cm long and 3 cm in diameter, with an insulated grip. It has two settings: shock and stun. When set on shock, a successful hit causes 3d10 points of damage. When set on stun, a successful hit will stun the victim for d100 turns. A character can resist the stun by making a successful check against his current Stamina. A successful hit uses 2 SEU. A 20 SEU clip can be fitted into the handle, or the weapon can be connected to a backpack or powerpack. A character with an anti-shock implant is immune to the stun setting.

**Sword.** Any long-bladed, hand-held weapon is a sword. Examples are broadswords, machetes or rapiers. Inertia screens and skeinsuits reduce the damage from a sword by half.

**Vibroknife.** A vibroknife has a 20 cm saw-toothed blade. When it is turned on, the blade vibrates at high speed. It uses 1 SEU with each successful hit. A 20 SEU clip can be plugged into the handle, or the weapon can be connected to backpack or powerpack. Inertia screens and skeinsuits halve vibroknife damage.

## AMMUNITION

### Beam Weapon Ammunition

**Powerclip.** The standard 20 SEU powerclip is a sturdy plastic box about the size of a cigarette pack. A powerclip will fit any weapon that can use a powerclip. Players must keep track of how many SEU are in the clip. Powerclips can not be recharged.

**Power Backpack.** A power backpack is a 20 cm x 8 cm x 5 cm plastic box that attaches to a character's belt. It comes with three different powercords that can be plugged into three distinct outlets in the side of the unit. One port is for weapons, one is for screens and one is for



auxiliary equipment such as scanners or radios. Only one weapon and one screen can be plugged into a backpack at the same time. Backpacks can be recharged at a cost of 5 credits per 1 SEU recharged. Recharging can be done at any weapons shop, hardware store or fuel station.

**Power Backpack.** A power backpack is worn on a harness that slips over the shoulders. Special adapters are available for Dralasites at no additional cost. A backpack has two weapon ports, one screen port and three auxiliary ports. Only two weapons can be connected to the same backpack. Backpacks can be recharged for 5 credits per 1 SEU recharged. It takes two turns to plug in or unplug a powercord from a power backpack.

### Projectile Ammunition

**Bulletclip.** A bulletclip is a plastic, spring-loaded rack of bullets, 5 cm x 2.5 cm x 15 cm. It holds 20 bullets for either an automatic pistol or rifle. Rifle and pistol clips are not interchangeable.

**Needleclip.** A needleclip is a drum-shaped canister 10 cm in diameter and 5 cm thick. It holds 10 clusters of needles. Two varieties of needles are available: barbed and anesthetic. Rifle and pistol needleclips are not interchangeable.

**Machine Gun Belt.** Machine guns use a disintegrating belt of 200 bullets (nothing is left of the belt after all the bullets are fired except individual shell casings). If someone is working with the firer, ammo belts can be linked together so the gun can keep firing without stopping to be reloaded.

**Recoilless Rifle Shell.** A recoilless rifle shell looks like a 15 cm long artillery shell. It is essentially a giant bullet.

### Gyrojet Ammunition

**Jetclip.** Jetclips are loaded with 10 miniature rockets. The clip is inserted into the weapon's ammo chamber in front of the trigger. Pistol and rifle jetclips are not interchangeable.

**Grenade Bullet.** A grenade bullet looks like a shotgun shell. It is used to launch a grenade from a grenade rifle. It has no effect if fired without a grenade.

**Grenade Shell.** A grenade shell looks like a mortar round. It must be loaded into a grenade mortar in order to fire a grenade.

**Rocket.** Rockets are 25 cm long cylinders, with no fins. The rocket's exhaust is vented out the back of the launcher when fired. Anyone standing directly behind the launcher will suffer 5d10 points of damage from the blast.

### Archaic Weapon Ammunition

**Arrows.** Arrows can be bought in quivers that contain 20 arrows. Characters with Environmental skill can make crude arrows in an emergency.

**Powder and Shot.** One package of powder and shot includes 20 lead bullets and enough black gunpowder to fire them.

## DEFENSES

### Power Screens

All powerscreens except the chameleon screen are worn like belts around the waist. Special adapters are provided for Dralasites at no extra cost. Only one powerscreen can be worn or used at one time. Putting on or taking off a powerscreen takes five turns. When a screen runs out of power, it has no effect.

**Albedo Screen.** An albedo screen projects a silvery aura that absorbs laser damage. This aura completely surrounds the person wearing the screen. For every 5 points (or fraction of 5 points) absorbed, 1 SEU is drained from the power source. For example, absorbing 11 points of damage drains 3 SEU. The person wearing the screen will take no damage from lasers as long as the power holds out. A person can fire a laser weapon out of an albedo screen.

**Gauss Screen.** A gauss screen generates an invisible barrier that protects the wearer from electrical attacks (electro stunners, electric swords, shock gloves, stunsticks). The screen drains 2 SEU every time it absorbs an attack. There is a quick flash of light when the screen is hit. As long as the power holds out, a character wearing a gauss screen is immune to electrical attacks.

**Holo Screen.** A holo screen projects a 3-dimensional image around its wearer. The image is projected from a holo disc, a small cassette that slides into the top of the holo screen control unit. The holo disc contains complete holographic information on one person or thing. For example, a holo disc could project the image of an adult male Yazirian in civilian clothes. The holo screen is only 80% effective. On a roll of 81-00 an onlooker will notice something is wrong. The holo image is limited to roughly the same size and shape as the wearer. For example, a Vrusk could not masquerade as a Human. Personalized holo discs can be ordered for 5,000 Cr. A personalized holo disc contains holo information on a specific individual. Producing a personalized holo disc takes 1d10 months, because it requires detailed (and very illegal) holo-filming of the desired subject. If the subject is willing, the filming can be done in one day. A camouflage feedback loop can be added to the holo screen for an additional 1,000 Cr. The camouflage loop adjusts the holo image to match nearby surroundings, giving the wearer an 80% chance to be "invisible" to onlookers.

**Inertia Screen.** An inertia screen defends against all projectile weapons, gyrojet pistols and rifles, fragmentation grenades, explosives and all melee weapons except electrical or sonic weapons. When hit by one of these weapons, the screen uses 2 SEU and absorbs one-half of the damage caused by the attack. The wearer takes the other half of the damage. If the damage can not be divided evenly, the character takes the smaller half.

**Sonic Screen.** A sonic screen is also known as a hush field, because no sound can cross it, either coming in or going out. The screen also absorbs all sonic attacks that hit it. It uses 1 SEU of energy every minute it is on and 2 SEU every time it absorbs a sonic attack. A character inside a sonic screen can communicate only with a radio or hand signals.

### Defensive Suits

**Albedo Suit.** An albedo suit is made from a special shiny flexible material. It will reflect the damage from a laser attack. For each point of damage reflected, the suit takes 1 point of damage. When it has accumulated 100 points of damage or more, the suit becomes useless.

**Skinsuit.** A skinsuit is made of light ballistic cloth. It absorbs damage just like an inertia screen. It also can be used along with an inertia screen. A character wearing both a skinsuit and an inertia screen would take only one-fourth damage from ballistic attacks. The suit is ruined when it takes 50 points or more of damage. Two types of skinsuits are available: military and civilian. Military skinsuits are camouflage green. Civilian skinsuits look like regular clothing.

## TOOLKITS

If a starting character chose a skill that requires a toolkit, the character gets the toolkit automatically along with the skill. Characters who learn skills by spending experience points for them must buy their own toolkits. None of the Military skills require toolkits.

### Technological Toolkits

All characters with Technological skills need a toolkit to make repairs.

**Techkit.** The technician's toolkit contains all of the tools needed to make field repairs on vehicles and other equipment. Because plasteel is used to make so many items that formerly were made of steel or iron, the kit weighs only 20 kg and can be carried in a backpack. A techkit contains.

Socket wrench — adjustable from 5 mm to 5 cm  
Open end wrench — adjustable as socket wrench  
Electrodrive — rotates all shapes and size of screws and bolts

Insulated wire — 10 meters  
 Uninsulated wire — 25 meters, can support 2,000 kg  
 Prybar — 1 meter plasteel rod, collapses to 10 cm  
 Jack — 5,000 kg capacity, .5 meter lift, collapses to 200 cm cube  
 Hammer — large ballpeen high-impact head  
 Ion Bonding Tape — 10 cm wide x 5 m long, bonds directly to any metal  
 Plastibond — tube of plastic filler, bonds to any plastic surface in one minute; five applications  
 500 nuts, bolts, clamps, screws and nails  
 10 hoses of assorted sizes  
 Electrosnips — powered metal-cutting shears (sheet metal only)  
 Magne grips — electromagnetic vicegrips  
 Spray lubricant — 10 applications of pressurized synthoil  
 Spray waterproofing — will insulate circuits, cloth, etc., from moisture; five applications

**Robcomkit.** The robcomkit is another highly specialized assortment of tools. It weighs only 15 kg and, like the techkit, is designed to be carried in a backpack. A robcomkit contains:

Electrodriver, ion bonding tape, insulated wire, spray lubricant, electrosnips, spray waterproofing — all the same as those in the techkit.  
 Lasoldering iron — pen-sized laser soldering iron  
 Solder — 1-meter roll of conductive soft metal  
 Magnetic by-pass clips — 10 small connectors used to short-circuit wiring  
 Breadboard circuits — 5 standard boards for mounting robot circuitry  
 Demagnetizer — electrical tool to demagnetize fouled circuits  
 Spray cleaner — spray solvent to remove dirt from the robot's works; 10 applications  
 Miniature flashlight — 20 hours of light; magnetized handle  
 Calipers — capable of taking measurements as small as .001 mm  
 Needlenose pliers — similar to 20th century tool  
 Sonic Scalpel — tool for cutting plastic, metal or flesh; makes a smooth, bloodless incision up to 5 mm deep  
 Components — box of transistors, diodes and computer chips for robot circuits  
 Oscilloscope — miniaturized viewer which displays information on electrical flow and other aspects of circuitry

### Biosocial Toolkits

A medic needs a medkit and an environmentalist requires an envirokit to be most effective.

**Medkit.** A medkit has specialized equipment the medic needs to perform his or her job. It weighs 10 kg and can be carried as a backpack. The medkit contains:

Local Anesthetic — 10 hypo doses to relieve pain  
 Plastiflesh — 5 cans of spray which closes up wounds and heals burns  
 Omnimycin — 10 hypo doses to control infections  
 Acid neutralizer — 1 bottle of liquid to neutralize acids  
 Antiseptic — 5 cans of spray to clean and disinfect a skin area  
 Microforceps — adjustable, used to remove shrapnel and bullet fragments from wounds  
 Medscanner — an electrical instrument used to diagnose ailments  
 Spray hypo — syringe used to give shots without a needle  
 Biocort — 20 hypo doses to stimulate very fast healing  
 Telol — 10 hypo doses of truth serum  
 Stimdose — 10 hypo doses to revive unconscious individuals  
 Staydose — 10 hypo doses to sustain a dying character for 20 hours  
 Sonic scalpel — same as in robcomkit  
 Laser scalpel — used to make deep incisions  
 Electrosurgeon — a small machine that keeps wounds open and controls bleeding during surgery.  
 Autosurgeon — a special device that allows a medic to operate on himself  
 Antibody plus — 10 hypo doses that increase the body's ability to recover from diseases  
 Antitox — 10 hypo doses to neutralize poisons

**Envirokit.** An envirokit contains only three items, but they are very sophisticated pieces of equipment. The entire kit weighs 5 kg, and can be fastened to a belt or placed in a backpack.

**Bioscanner** — This device consists of a network of straps and electrodes connected to a readout gauge. When attached to a plant or animal, living or dead, it can determine what type organism is being examined and whether it is edible or poisonous.

**Vaporscanner** — A vaporscanner is a small device that contains sensitive gas analyzers. It will report on a digital screen what gaseous elements are present, their quantities and whether breathing them is dangerous.

**Geoscanner** — The geoscanner can break down up to a first-sized sample of rock or soil and analyze it. It will report what minerals the sample contains and whether there are likely to be valuable ore, gas or oil deposits nearby.



## COMPUTERS

A computer is a sophisticated electronic machine that can receive and analyze information. A computer works by running programs. Every program is available in six levels. The higher levels are more complex and able to handle more information. Each program requires a certain number of computer function points in order to operate. A function point is a measurement of a computer's ability to process information. Higher-level programs have a higher function point requirement. The Computer Program list shows the number of function points a program needs.

When a character buys a computer he actually is buying individual programs and the hardware needed to run them. For example, when a character buys a level 1 Analysis program (1 function point), he gets not only the program, but also a computer circuit module that can process a 1-function point program. A computer's level is determined by totaling all the function point requirements of the various programs and finding this number on the Computer list. If more programs are added to the computer later, its level may be raised.

**EXAMPLE:** A small inter-stellar business run by "Slingshot" Simmons buys a computer to keep track of its finances. Simmons buys a level 2 Analysis program (2 function points), a level 2 Commerce program (6 function points) and a level 1 Information Storage program (2 function points). The computer needs a total of 10 function points, making it a level 1 computer. It costs 10,000 Credits. If Simmons later adds a level 2 Robot Management program (4 function points), his computer has 14 function points, making it a level 2 computer.

**Structure Points.** A computer's weight in kilograms also is its number of structural points. Thus a level 4 computer that weighs 100 kg could take 100 points of damage before it stopped working.

**Power Sources.** Level 1 to level 4 computers are powered by parabatteries of the same type as the computer's level. Level 5 and 6 computers use power generators type 1 and 2, respectively. Computers will operate for at least one year before their batteries must be recharged. Power sources must be bought separately.

### Computer Programs

The standard computer programs listed below can be purchased by anyone in any store that sells computers or computer parts and equipment. A program's cost is the number of function points it requires, multiplied by 1,000 Credits.

**Analysis.** An Analysis program allows a computer to perform mathematic calculations and computations. Level 1 is basically a sophisticated calculator. At level 3 the program can do advanced algebra and calculus. At level 6 it can do all known mathematical calculations, including theoretical math.

**Bureaucracy.** A Bureaucracy program coordinates other programs. For example, a city could use the Bureaucracy program to coordinate Commerce, Communication, Industry, Law Enforcement, Life Support, Maintenance and Transportation programs. A Bureaucracy program can coordinate a number of programs equal to its level x 3. It is not needed unless the programs being coordinated are level 3 or higher.

**Commerce.** A Commerce program enables a computer to handle business transactions. Commerce covers such areas as banking, stocks, market trends, bookkeeping, imports and exports. A level 1 program could be used by starship computers to record the cargo manifest, passenger records and ship's books. A level 6 program could be used to coordinate all commerce in a city.

**Communication.** A Communication program deals with all aspects of communication, including news, entertainment and public service announcements. It can control radio, holophones and holovision communication devices. Higher program levels can handle more complex systems. A level 1 communications program might be used to handle communication and to provide packaged entertainment on a starship. A level 6 program could monitor all communication in an entire city.

**Computer Security.** Computer Security programs protect a computer against both physical and program tampering. A Computer Security program must be defeated or bypassed before a computer specialist can change any programs or interface two computers. Computer Security programs can also control physical defenses guarding the computer. A level 1 Computer Security program is simple code words that lock other programs, plus a simple recognition code such as a fingerprint reader. A level 6 security program sets up a complex system of codes and special directions, and guards the computer with robots or remote guns.

**Industry.** An Industry program deals with turning raw materials into products. It can be used for both agriculture and manufacturing. At level 1 an Industry program could run a starship's hydroponics system and machine shop. At level 6 the program could coordinate many large factories and farms.

**Information Storage.** The Information Storage program is passive. It is simply a record-keeping system. A level 1 Information Storage program could be used by a business to record its yearly sales data. A level 6 program could store an entire university library.

**Installation Security.** An Installation Security program coordinates the defense of an area. Higher-level programs can defend larger areas. A level 1 Installation Security program could lock a building's doors at a certain time and call the police if an alarm is set off in the building. A level 3 installation Security program would not only lock the doors and call the police, but could control pressure plate sensors, I-R scanners, holovision cameras, special weapons, etc. At level 6, the program could defend an entire city or starport.

**Language.** The language program enables a computer to translate known languages into each other and, at higher levels, to translate unknown languages into known languages. Higher level programs can translate more languages. Translating an unknown language requires at least a level 3 program.

**Law Enforcement.** The law enforcement program is used to coordinate the efforts of all law enforcers in an area. Higher level programs can control a larger area. The program can handle police calls, schedule patrols, monitor trials, control riots and scan for developing crime trends. A level 1 program could monitor traffic flow and patrol routes in one precinct, while a level 6 program could run an entire city police department.

**Life Support.** The life support program controls lighting, temperature control, weather prediction, heating and power plant control. A level 1 program can control the life support system on a starship. A level 6 program could handle all the life support functions of an enclosed city.

**Maintenance.** The Maintenance program handles standard janitorial functions such as cleaning, painting and basic repair. It can also coordinate services such as garbage collection, fire inspection and sewage removal. A level 1 program could maintain a starship. A level 6 program could coordinate maintenance for an entire city.

**Robot Management.** The Robot Management program lets a computer control robots. Higher level programs can control more robots. This program often is used along with the Industry, Security, Law Enforcement and Maintenance programs. The Robot Management program must be at least as high a level as the robots it is controlling. The number of robots that a program can control equals its level multiplied by its number of function points.

**Transportation.** The transportation program allows a computer to control a mass transit system, including traffic control and distribution of products. A level 1 program could control mechanized sidewalks, elevators and escalators in a building. A level 6 program could run all of the monorails, buses, subways and traffic control signals in a city.

## ROBOTS

When a robot is built, the designer must give it a body type, a way to move, a way to manipulate objects and programming. Special items can be added at additional cost.

## Body Types

**Standard Body.** Standard robot bodies come in all shapes. They are about the size of an average character, weigh 100 kg (without a parabattery) and have 100 Stamina points. A standard body is powered by a type 1 parabattery.

**Heavy Duty.** Heavy duty robot bodies also are available in any shape, but they are about the size of a ground car and weigh about 500 kg (without a parabattery). A heavy duty robot has 500 Stamina points, and is powered by a type 2 parabattery.

**Anthropomorphic.** Anthropomorphic robot bodies look like one of the four major races. They weigh roughly 100 kg (without battery) and have 100 Stamina points. They are powered by a type 2 parabattery.

## Robot Movement

All three body types can be equipped with wheels, tracks or mechanical legs, whichever the designer wants.

**Limbs.** All three body types come with two manipulative limbs. These can be mechanical arms, tentacles, or specialized limbs for digging through rock or mounting tools.

Under normal conditions, most robots move 10 meters/turn. They can travel much faster, however. Top speeds for various types of robots are shown on the table below.

Robot	Top Speed
cybot, heavy duty, service, brain	30 meters/turn
maintenance	60 meters/turn
security	90 meters/turn
combat, warbot	120 meters/turn

**Altered Movement.** Robots with hover movement move the same as hover cars. Robots with rotor movement move the same as jetcopters and robots with rocket movement move the same as aircars.

## Robot Levels

Robot levels are described in the Skills section under Robotics.

## Customizing

A robot can be given additional arms and legs, a different means of movement, special equipment or special programs. Every two additions picked from the Special Program, Altered Movement or Extra Limbs tables increase the size and cost of the robot's body by 10%

**EXAMPLE:** Sheeta Starfox is customizing a combat robot. Her standard combat robot has a standard body (2,000 Cr), the attack/defense special program (1,000 Cr) and is level 4 (2,000 Cr). It originally cost 5,000 Cr. Sheeta wants to add the Computer Link and Search and Destroy programs, rotor type movement and two additional pairs of standard limbs. The size and cost of the robot's body must be increased 30% (to 2,600 Cr). The Search and Destroy program costs 3,000 Cr and the Computer Link program costs 4,000 Cr. Rotor movement cost another 5,000 Cr and the additional arms cost 1,600 Cr. The customized robot will cost Sheeta 19,200 Cr (14,200 Cr more than the standard robot). The robot weighs 130 kg (without its battery), but still has only 100 Stamina points.

## Robot Programs

**Restrain.** The robot can both defend itself and attack, but can not use any lethal weapon.

**Self Defense.** The robot can fight back if attacked in melee.

**Attack/Defense.** The robot can fight using the same type of weapons as a character, and can be equipped with an albedo suit and a screen (with its own power supply). The robot can use lethal weapons.

**Search and Destroy.** The robot can perform combat missions that include tracking down its target. A robot must have the Attack/Defense program to use this program.

**Computer Link.** This program enables a robot to communicate directly with a computer using a tight-beam long-range communicator. This gives it access to all the information in the computer.

## Robot Attacks

A robot gets one melee attack for every pair of limbs it has. If the robot uses a weapon, it causes whatever damage is normal for that weapon. If the robot attacks without a weapon, standard and anthropomorphic limbs cause 2d10 points of damage and heavy duty limbs cause 6d10 points of damage.

A robot using a ranged weapon is treated exactly the same as a character, and is subject to all the ranged combat rules.

A robot can not attack unless it has a restrain, self-defense or attack/defense program.

## Standard Robots

**Combat Robots.** Combat robots have standard bodies and the attack/defense program. They are limited to levels 2 to 4. Combat robots serve as active combat soldiers.

**Cybernetic Robots.** Cybernetic robots (cybots) have both mechanical and organic parts. They can perform any job other robots of their level can perform. Cybots can have any body type, but usually are anthropomorphic. They are limited to levels 4 to 6.

**Heavy Duty Robots.** Heavy duty robots do heavy excavating, crop harvesting, rock quarrying, etc. They have heavy duty bodies and are limited to levels 1 to 4.

**Maintenance Robots.** Maintenance robots clean areas, oil machines, watch for breakdowns and malfunctions, etc. They use standard bodies and are limited to levels 1 to 4. They can not do actual repairs.

**Robot Brains.** Robot brains are robot managers. They usually command other types of robots. They have heavy duty bodies plus the computer link program. All robot brains are level 6.

**Security Robots.** Security robots serve as both guards and police. They have standard bodies and the restrain program. They are limited to levels 2 to 6.

**Service Robots.** Service robots are used as servants. They work as store clerks, information sources, gardeners, tailors etc. Service robots have anthropomorphic bodies modeled after whichever race they serve. They can not be mistaken for a living person, however. These robots are limited to levels 3 to 6.

**Warbots.** Warbots are intelligent war machines. They often command combat robots. They have heavy duty bodies and the attack/defense and search and destroy programs. They are limited to levels 5 to 6.

## PARABATTERIES AND POWER GENERATORS

Parabatteries are used in vehicles, computers and robots. They vary in size from a few hundred cubic centimeters to one cubic meter. The cost to recharge a parabattery is equal to the amount of the SEUs being recharged.

Power Generators are much larger than parabatteries. A power generator produces a certain number of SEU every hour it operates. However, there is a maintenance cost to run the generator, and it needs an outside force of some kind: solar, nuclear, hydrodynamic, thermal, etc.

## MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

**Allweather Blanket.** This 3m x 3m blanket has a layer of soft pseudowool on one side, and a layer of smooth waterproof plastic on the other. The blanket will keep a character warm in temperatures down to 0° C (freezing temperature). The blanket can be used to carry water. If the blanket is used to line a pit in the desert, it will collect 1 liter of dew overnight.

**Anti-Shock Implant.** This is a small device that can be implanted in the back of a character's neck, making the character immune to stun attacks. A-S implants must be installed at a hospital.

**Chronocom.** Chronocom is short for chronograph/communicator. A chronocom is a combination wristwatch, calculator and communicator. It has a range of 5 kilometers.

**Compass.** A compass is used to find direction. A compass can be deceived so it points away from magnetic north by the presence of nearby magnetic rocks, electrical generators or other powerful magnets or large metal deposits.

**Everflame.** An everflame is a permanent, waterproof, windproof lighter guaranteed to last 20 years.

**Exoskeleton.** An exoskeleton is a mechanical, metal frame that is worn on the outside of a character's body. It follows the body's movements and increases the strength of its wearer. Each joint has its own miniature motor. An exoskeleton must be specially fitted to the character that will wear it, and can not be worn by anyone else. Getting into or out of an exoskeleton takes 1d10 +10 minutes. A character in an exoskeleton can move twice as fast as normal, can jump 5 meters straight up (in 1g), gains a bonus of +20 to hit in melee and does +10 points of damage in melee. An exoskeleton provides no protection to the wearer. It can be worn along with a powerscreen and defensive suit.

**Flashlight.** The flashlight is about the size of a pencil. It contains enough power to operate for 200 hours. Its beam will shine up to 100 meters.

**Freeze Field.** Each freeze field device contains 20 SEU. The field uses 1 SEU every 10 hours. Another power source can be attached if the power runs low, but if it ever runs out the body can not be revived. A character loses one point from one of his ability scores for each full 10 hours he spends in a freeze field. The player can subtract these points from any ability or abilities he chooses. A freeze field device can be reused, but it must be recharged and re-tuned at a hospital or shop, at a cost of 100 Cr.

**Gas Mask.** A gas mask fits over the wearer's face and filters out all hazardous gases as the character breathes. It will not allow a person to breathe underwater or in a vacuum, or anywhere there is not enough oxygen to keep a character alive.

**Holoflare.** A holoflare is a small, solid, ball-shaped device. When lit, the flare rockets about 200 meters into the air and hovers there for 10 minutes. The flare will illuminate an area 1 km across with a dim light.

**Infra-Red Goggles.** Infra-red (IR) goggles allow a character to see heat images in total darkness. They can be used to spot characters that are hidden in light foliage or darkness, or that are using a holo belt.

**Infra-Red Jammer.** An IR jammer hides the wearer from infra-red sensors, including IR goggles.

**Life Jacket.** A life jacket is an inflatable vest that will keep a character afloat for any length of time. It comes folded into a package about the size of a person's fist.

**Magnigoggles.** Magnigoggles are goggles that magnify visual images the same way binoculars do. They triple the distance at which a character can identify a man-sized object. They do not work like telescopic sights, and a character wearing magnigoggles can not aim a weapon.

**Machete.** A machete is a short sword used for chopping through soft jungle growth or grass.

**Parawing.** A parawing is a disposable glider used as an emergency parachute. A character can jump with a parawing from any altitude. The wing is opened automatically by small solid-fuel jets, and the frame glues itself open. The character then floats to the ground. The wing can not be refolded to be used again.

**Poly-vox.** A poly-vox is a specialized computer that can be worn around the throat. It translates a message that it hears in one language into another language, and then repeats it. It can learn an unknown language if it can be programmed with key phrases, and then exposed to the language for 1-100 hours (see Language). A character does not need computer skill to use a poly-vox.

**Radiophone.** A radiophone is a short-wave communicator with a 1,000 km range.

**Rope.** This is a 25-meter coil of braided plastic rope that will support up to 500 kg.

**Solvaway.** Solvaway is the only solvent that will immediately dissolve tangler grenade threads. It must be applied by someone other than the person who is tangled in the threads. One vial of solvaway contains enough liquid to dissolve the threads from one tangler grenade. It will not dissolve anything but tangler grenade threads.

**Subspace Radio.** A subspace radio is used for sending messages between distant planets and star systems. Subspace communicators send coded tachyon beams that must be broadcast from very carefully aimed dish antennas to hit their target planet or system. A subspace message crosses one light-year in one hour. The radio uses a type 1 parabattery. Sending a message uses 100 SEU.

**Sungoggles.** Sungoggles are high-quality sunglasses.

**Survival Rations.** A box of survival rations contains four airtight foil-wrapped packets. Each packet holds a food concentrate that looks like crumbly dust. When water is added, the dust quickly becomes a delicious meal of protein and vitamin-packed mush. One packet will feed one character for one day.

**Tornadium D-19.** Tornadium D-19 ("kaboomite") is the standard plastic explosive. It can be bought legally only by someone with Demolitions skill. A 50-gram charge of TD-19 will cause 5d10 points of damage to anyone and anything within 1 meter of the explosion. Each additional 50 grams causes an additional 25 points of damage. Anyone farther from the explosion than 1 meter, but within the blast radius, takes one-half damage. The blast radius is 1 meter for every 100 grams of TD-19 used. A thrown charge does full damage to living creatures, but only one-half damage to structures.

**Toxyrad Gauge.** A Toxy-rad gauge is a special device that is worn on the wrist like a watch. It will alert the wearer to several types of danger. There are three colored lights on the device. If the red light flashes, it indicates that the oxygen content of the surrounding air is dropping to a dangerously low level. If the blue light flashes, it indicates that there is dangerous radioactivity nearby. If the yellow light flashes, it means that the sensor has encountered some substance that is poisonous to Humans, Dralasites, Yazirians or Vrusk. A small dial on the face of the gauge indicates the degree of danger to a character.

**Variable Timer/Detonator.** Variable timers are used to detonate Tornadium D-19. A timer can be set for 1 to 60 seconds, 1 to 60 minutes or 1 to 60 hours.

**Vitasalt Pills.** Vitasalt pills are special pills containing vitamins and minerals, including salt. They help reduce a character's need for water in dry areas.

**Water Pack.** A water pack contains eight one-liter plastic bags of water. Each bag has a reclosable seal. The water bags come packed in a lightweight plastic frame. The frame can be converted into a simple backpack in 5 minutes.

# FRONTIER SOCIETIES

## THE FRONTIER WORLDS

STAR FRONTIERS adventures take place in an area of space called the Frontier Sector, or simply the Frontier. The Frontier contains 17 inhabited star systems, with a total of 23 colonized planets. Some of these planets have been claimed and settled by only one of the four races, while others were set up in cooperation and have mixed populations.

Besides these settled areas, the sector contains 21 unexplored star systems that could have habitable (or inhabited) planets. No one has explored the routes to these stars for navigational hazards, so no one knows whether these stars even have planets. Even the settled systems are not fully explored. There are many moons, asteroid belts and uninhabited planets that are largely ignored in the day-to-day business of earning a living in the Frontier. These areas could hold lost alien treasures or rich deposits of precious metals and gems. Because they are isolated, these spots quickly become hiding places for outlaws and space pirates.

Many of the settled planets themselves are not fully explored. Most have been mapped by spaceships and satellites that take pictures from orbit. Very few have been explored on the ground. When adventurers travel more than a few hundred kilometers from a settlement, they are entering an area where very few people have ever been. They could be the first people ever to cross that land, or they could be walking in the footprints of a race that built a civilization and then collapsed, leaving its relics to be discovered centuries later.

### The Frontier Map

A map of the Frontier Sector is provided for the referee and the players. The map shows the location of all the settled systems, unexplored systems, neutron and binary stars and dust clouds. Each square is 1 light-year across.

Each inhabited planet is described below. Six characteristics are given for each planet: Colonizers (Col.), Population and Trade (Pop.), Gravity (Grav.), Moons and Length of Day.

**Colonizers** indicates which of the four races settled the planet. This race will be the most common on the planet, and will control the government. Abbreviations are used to indicate which race colonized the planet: D = Dralasites, H = Humans, V = Vrusk, Y = Yazirians, \* = a mixture of several races.

**Population and Trade** indicates how many intelligent beings live on the planet and what their major trade is. This information is given in a two- or three-letter code. The first letter describes the population, and the second and third describe the major trade. The abbreviations are:

H — Heavy population. The planet has many large cities that are very crowded, and hundreds of smaller cities. Individual cities may cover hundreds of square kilometers.

M — Moderate population. The planet has several large cities and numerous smaller cities, but they are not overcrowded.

L — Light population. The planet has only a few cities, and most would be considered small on a planet with a Heavy population.

O — Outpost. The planet is a small outpost or new colony. It has only one city, but there may be small settlements scattered nearby.

I — Industry. Most of the planet's economy is based on manufacturing. Cities are built around factories and processing plants, and most of the inhabitants work in these factories. Raw materials may be mined on the planet or shipped in from other planets.

R — Resource Mining. The planet is rich in natural resources like metals, fossil fuels, gems, crystals or radioactive materials. Most of these raw materials are shipped to Industrial planets because there are not enough factories to process them where they are mined.

A — Agriculture. The planet's economy is based on farming. Any renewable resource can be farmed: grain, lumber, livestock, fish, fruit, textiles, etc.

Some planets have more than one major trade item. The trade item that is listed first is most important.

**EXAMPLE:** Pale, the first inhabited planet at Truane's Star, has a Pop. code of MRI. This means the planet has a moderate population, and its major trade is mining natural resources. The planet also has some industry, but not enough to process all the materials that are mined.

**Gravity** is simply the strength of gravity on the planet. It is measured in multiples of 1 g, which is considered normal gravity. The effects of gravity are described in the section on Movement.

**Moons** indicate the number of moons orbiting the planet. Many planets have small moons that have never been fully explored. Some large planets have moons that are big enough to have atmospheres. Planets can also have rings.

**Length of Day** is the number of hours the planet takes to complete one rotation, or the number of hours from sunrise to sunrise.

The color of the star that the planet orbits also is listed. This has no effect on the game, but the referee can use it to add to his descriptions.

Some planets have additional notes following the table. These describe unusual cultures or planetary features. The referee can make up any other information he needs about the planets when he designs adventures to place on them.

## SPACE TRAVEL

Starships can travel between star systems at speeds many times faster than the speed of light. A trip that would have taken hundreds of years in a spaceship could be made in only a few days in a faster-than-light (FTL) starship. Because of their cost, however, most starships in the Frontier are owned by large corporations, planetary governments or starship travel companies.

The established travel routes are marked on the Frontier map. These are the only explored routes that have been mapped and certified as safe for starships to use. When adventurers travel, they are limited to scheduled or chartered trips following these routes.

### Travel Time

The length of each route in light-years is printed on each route. Because FTL ships travel one light-year per day, this number also is the number of days needed to travel this route. This time includes take-off and landing, maneuvering in orbit, passenger loading and all other normal procedures. For example, the route from Prenglar to Cassidine is 7 light-years. A starship traveling from Prenglar to Cassidine, or from Cassidine to Prenglar, would take 7 days (140 hours) to reach its destination.

Most starships never land on a planet. Passengers board shuttles on the ground that take them into orbit, where they board the starship. When the starship reaches its destination, shuttles again take the passengers either to the planet's surface or to an orbiting space station where they can wait for another flight.

### Starship Tickets and Costs

Travelers can buy three types of starship tickets: First Class, Journey Class and Storage.

**First Class.** First Class tickets are the most expensive, but First Class passengers get the best food, the biggest cabins and on-board entertainment. A First Class passenger can bring along up to 1 metric ton of cargo at no extra charge. The First Class section also is closest to the starship's lifeboats and emergency spacesuits, so First Class

passengers have the best chance to survive a catastrophe. A First Class ticket costs 200 Credits per light-year traveled. For example, a First Class ticket from Prenglar to Cassidine costs 1,400 Credits.

**Journey Class.** Travelers with Journey Class tickets get smaller cabins, poorer-quality food and no entertainment. A journey Class passenger can bring along up to .5 metric ton of cargo at no extra charge. In addition, they are farther from the lifeboats than First Class passengers. A Journey Class ticket costs 100 Credits per light-year traveled.

**Storage.** Passengers traveling Storage Class ship themselves as cargo. The passenger is frozen and stored in a special berth. The frozen passengers are revived at their destination. A Storage Class ticket costs 30 Credits per light-year traveled, and includes up to 100 kg of cargo.

#### Schedules

Starship flights are not always scheduled at convenient times for the adventurers. If the referee does not have a specific flight in mind for the characters, he can roll 3d10 and subtract 3. The result is the number of days the adventurers must wait before the next scheduled flight leaves for their destination. If the result is 0, a starship is leaving that day.

#### Layovers

If characters must travel through several star systems to reach their destination, they probably will make layovers at each star system along the way. Unless the starship they are traveling on is continuing along the same route, the characters must stop and wait for another scheduled flight to their next destination. If the characters are working for a company that is flying them to their destination, their ship probably will not stopover in a system for more than one or two days: just long enough to pick up supplies, fuel and news.

**EXAMPLE:** Justin Balinar and Sh’Kree Kir must travel from Cassidine to Athor. Their ship takes seven days to reach Prenglar. When they arrive, the referee rolls 3d10 and subtracts three days to see when the next ship leaves. The result is an 8, so Justin and Sh’Kree must spend eight days on Prenglar before leaving for Athor. They can look for a temporary job, see the local sights, or perhaps get involved in a short, surprise adventure that the referee has prepared for them.

#### Customs, Duties and Taxes

The referee may want to add local baggage inspections and special visitors’ taxes on some planets. These are not standard, and are left to the referee’s judgment. However, they can lead to interesting adventures if the characters are trying to smuggle goods onto a planet or hide from the law. Local duties and taxes also are a good way to relieve rich characters of some of their extra cash. If players ask, the referee should tell them what sorts of inspections and charges they can expect at their destination.

#### Notes

**Hentz** (Araks) is ruled by a religious clan, the Family of One. Everyone who lives there wears a uniform showing his job and position.

**Triad** (Cassidine) is a major industrial planet where very high technology items are manufactured and sold.

**Inner Reach** (Dramune) has an unusual local custom. The Dralasites that live there dye their skin various colors to show their mood for the day. The dyes wash off easily.

**Outer Reach** (Dramune) is a gathering place for criminals and outlaws of all types. People there do not ask strangers how they earn their livings.

**Terledrom** (Fromeltar) is ruled by a council of Vrusk companies and elected Dralasites. The companies control all trade with other planets,

#### THE FRONTIER WORLDS

System/Planet	Col.	Pop.	Grav.	Moons	Day	Star
Araks Hentz	Y	HI	.7	0	25	Yellow
Athor Yast	Y	MA	1.0	2	15	Orange
Cassidine Rupert’s Hole Triad	H *	MIA HI	.9 1.1	0 1	20 30	Orange- Yellow
Dixon’s Star Laco	H	O	1.4	1	60	Green- Yellow
Dramune Inner Reach Outer Reach	D *	MAI MIR	.8 1.0	1 5	20 35	Orange- Yellow
Fromeltar Groth Terledrom	D D/V	LA HI	1.2 1.0	0 3	45 60	Yellow
Gruna Goru Hargut	Y	HR	1.1	1	20	Yellow
K’aken-Kar Ken’zah Kit	V	MA	.9	0	25	Red- Orange
Kizk’-Kar Zik-kit	V	MIR	1.0	0	65	Yellow
Madderly’s Star Kdikit	H	MIA	1.0	5	30	Yellow- Green
Prenglar Gran Quivera Morgaine’s World	* H	HI O	1.0 1.5	0 4	15 40	Yellow
Scree Fron Histran Hakosoar	Y Y	O LAI	.6 .9	7 5	25 50	Orange- Red
Theseus Minotaur	H	HI	1.2	0	15	Yellow- Orange
Timeon Lossend	H	LFI	.7	0	70	Green- Yellow
Truane’s Star Pale New Pale	* H	MIR LA	.9 1.4	3 0	55 20	Orange- Yellow
White Light Gollywog	H	HR	1.0	0	50	Red- Orange

and consider smuggling a serious crime. The planet has rings that are visible from the ground during the day.

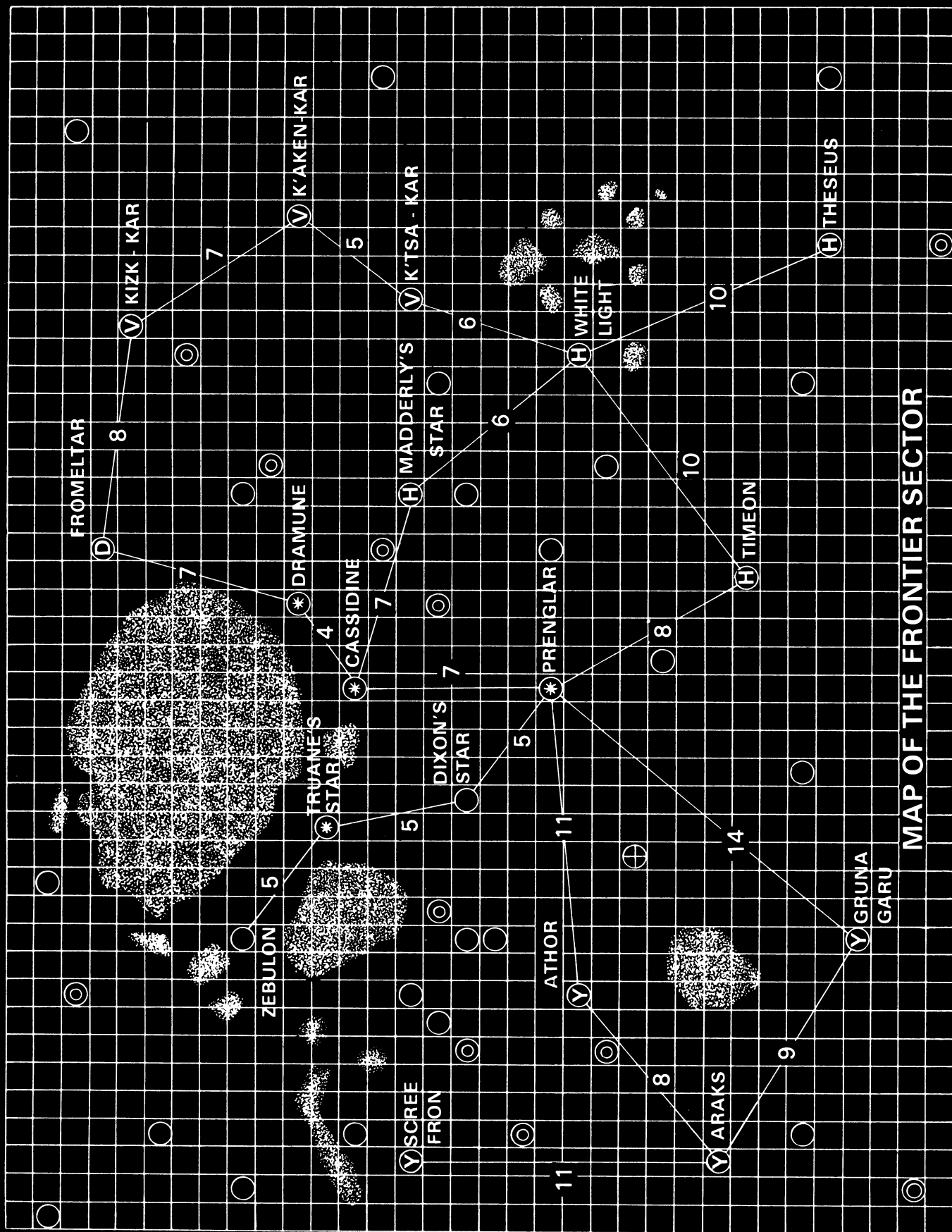
**Zik-kit** (Kizk’-Kar) has very rich mineral deposits. These are exported mainly to Terledrom for manufacturing. Zik-kit is controlled as a colony by the Terledrom government.

**Gran Quivera** (Prenglar) is the hub of the Frontier Sector. The Star Law Rangers, Pan-Galactic Corporation and United Planetary Federation all have headquarters at Port Loren, the major city.

**Morgaine’s World** (Prenglar) is a UPF and Star Law base. The planet has rings.

**Pale** (Truane’s Star) is the starting point of the only possible starship route through the Xagyg dust clouds. The route to Zebulon was just recently opened.







## TIME

Galactic Standard Time (GST) is the most popular time system in the Frontier. The GST system uses hours, minutes and seconds. An hour is 60 minutes long, a minute is 60 seconds long. A second is defined as the length of time needed for a beam of light to travel 300,000 km through a vacuum.

One year in Galactic Standard Time is 8,000 hours long. A standard year is divided into 400 20-hour days. Each day is divided into a 10-hour work period and a 10-hour rest period. These standardized days and years are used mainly for record-keeping.

Besides Galactic Standard Time, many planets have their own local time system. These local systems use GST seconds, minutes and hours, but the length of the day and year varies from planet to planet. The length of a local day is the time it takes for the planet to rotate through one complete day/night cycle. A local day usually is divided into equal periods of light and darkness, although these can vary if the planet's axis is tilted in relation to its orbit. A local year is the length of time the planet takes to make one complete revolution around its star.

**Game Turns.** A STAR FRONTIERS game turn is six seconds long. There are 10 turns in one minute. The referee should not break the game down into individual turns until the characters get into a fight, a chase or some other situation where a difference of a few meters or a few seconds can be important. When the characters are not under pressure, the referee should ignore game turns. He can either run the game in real time or use his own judgment to decide how much time the characters spend doing something.

## LANGUAGES

**Pan Galactic.** All intelligent races in the known galaxy have a native language. In order to simplify interstellar trade, the Pan-Galactic Corporation created Pan Galactic, a language of sounds and gestures that can be spoken by almost any intelligent, speaking creature. It does not sound quite the same when spoken by members of different races, but anyone who speaks Pan Galactic can understand a creature speaking Pan Galactic. Because of its usefulness, Pan Galactic is spoken on almost every world that has contact with the Pan-Galactic Corporation or one of the four major races.

**Alien Languages.** The referee can decide that the natives of some planets do not speak any language but their own. Aliens that have

never met adventurers or Pan-Galactic traders certainly will not know how to speak Pan Galactic. This will create problems for adventurers when they must find a way to communicate with the aliens.

**Learning New Languages.** At the start of the game, all player characters speak their native language and Pan Galactic. Learning a new language is like learning a new skill. Each level costs 3 experience points. At level 1, a character will understand about half of what anyone says in that language, and has a 50% chance to make someone else understand what he says. This increases 10% at each level above 1.

**Polyvoxes.** A polyvox is a small, computerized device that translates what it hears in one language and repeats it in another language. Polyvoxes and language tapes for all known languages can be bought wherever general computer equipment is sold. A polyvox also can learn a new language if it can be programmed with key phrases, and then hear the spoken language for d100 hours. More information on polyvoxes is given in the section on EQUIPMENT.

**Other Barriers.** Knowing an alien language or having a polyvox does not guarantee that a character can talk to an alien without having problems. Characters who are speaking an alien language can be confused by words that sound alike but have different meanings, and can have difficulty forming strange sounds. They can easily offend an alien creature by violating one of its traditions, customs or systems of etiquette. The referee should feel free to use language barriers as obstacles for players and to add excitement or even humor to the game.

## THE COST OF LIVING

Instead of keeping track of many small expenses, the referee should assume that characters spend one-half of all the money they earn on food, clothes, rent and other miscellaneous items. This is the same on every planet. Unless there are unusual circumstances, players always will have enough money to pay for these and other mundane items not included on the Equipment List.

The referee can adjust the cost of living to fit the circumstances in the game. For example, if the referee thinks the player characters have too much money, he can raise taxes, raise the price of traveling between planets, declare that a drought is increasing food prices, etc. If the characters are having trouble saving enough money to buy equipment they need, the referee can declare a special tax refund to celebrate a prince's wedding or some similar event.

# HOW TO REFEREE

The referee is the most important person in a STAR FRONTIERS game. He runs the adventure; he must know the rules and be able to interpret them when necessary; he must determine the chances and effects of any special actions. The referee must prepare the adventure, get the players started, and then tell the story of the adventure. Most important, he must make sure that everyone has fun during the game.

If you plan to referee a STAR FRONTIERS game, this section explains your responsibilities and gives you tips on how to get started. Sections on how to create your own adventures and how to create non-player characters and creatures are included.

## How to Prepare for Play

As referee, you have three main tasks when preparing to play:

**1. Know the Rules.** You must be familiar with all of the STAR FRONTIERS rules. This does not mean you must memorize the rules, but you should know how to use them in play and where to look in the rulebook when players have questions.

**2. Know the Adventure.** Study your adventure thoroughly, so you know in what order events are supposed to happen. Review the maps so you will know at a glance how the setting changes as the characters move through the adventure. Try to think about how players will react to a situation and how you should respond to their actions.

You may want to make notes about the important points of an encounter and what effect the encounter should have on the players. Then you can describe things to the players in the order characters would see them, and add descriptions that help convey the mood of the encounter. For example, you could make players nervous by telling them, "As you finish cutting through the door hinges, the door falls and snaps a power cable. You can't see anything in the darkness, but you can hear a faint shuffling sound coming from the ship's hold."

**3. Be Prepared to Make Decisions.** Players will try to do things you did not expect, and you must be able to decide what their chances to succeed are and what effects their actions have. Knowing your players' characters, their abilities, skills and equipment will help you make your decisions.

## Being a Referee

A referee is many things in a STAR FRONTIERS game. To be a referee you must be a judge, a storyteller, an actor and a leader. The referee's goal is to make the game the most fun for everyone by performing each of these jobs well.

**Be a Judge.** The referee's job in any game is to ensure that the rules are followed at all times and that everyone is treated fairly, and to settle questions and problems that come up during the game. These are also your jobs as referee in a STAR FRONTIERS game.

**Be a Storyteller.** The players usually will not have a board or map to study where all of their challenges and choices are visible. Instead, they must make their decisions based on your descriptions of what they can see and hear. You are the players' eyes and ears, telling the basic story, but then letting the players decide which direction it will go by their choices. It is a challenge to tell the players only as much as they need to know to make a decision, but not so much that you make decisions for them. Tell them only what they could see at a glance, and describe things further only if they ask specific questions.

**Keep the Game Exciting.** Make your story dramatic, with descriptions of an approaching storm, an ancient alien spaceship and the life on alien worlds. Add mystery and intrigue to your story. Not knowing what everything is or why something happens will drive players on in search of the answers. There is excitement in solving a puzzle and overcoming suspense to accomplish your goal. Don't let the game become boring with too much detail. When things start to move too

slowly, move the characters on to the next challenge in the adventure. Don't make the players spend a lot of time buying supplies, traveling from one place to another or searching for clues where there are none; tell the players they finish what they are doing to their satisfaction and lead them on to the next challenge.

**Play the Extra Characters.** The referee acts the part of each non-player character and creature encountered. Playing these parts is a good chance to entertain and create fun for everyone. Each character is different and reacts differently. It is your job to determine how each character would react in a situation. Encourage the players to talk to you as if you were the characters they meet and answer them as each would.

For example, the player characters are trying to find someone who might know something about a missing PGC scientist. They want to question several NPCs who were in the area when the scientist disappeared. One is an old woman whose mind wanders and who never quite answers the questions. Another fellow has had too much to drink and wants the players to drink with him. The third is a bully who won't help anyone and wants to start a fight. The last is a policeman who warns them that strangers are not liked here; but he does remember seeing the scientist with two people the night he disappeared. You can make up an entire, interesting dialogue as the NPCs talk to the player characters.

**Be a Leader.** Make sure everyone participates. Give every player a chance to make decisions but don't let everyone talk at once. You might ask the group to choose one player to be its leader. When the players reach decisions, the leader explains their plans to you. This reduces the confusion that can result when everyone talks at once. When characters are acting independently, as in combat, you can ask each player what his character is doing. Make sure no one is forgotten.

## Controlling the Adventure

As the referee, you must control many actions during an adventure. You must start the game and control the direction of the story; you must make decisions on special actions, determine any modifiers, decide on non-player character and creature reactions, conduct combat and keep track of time. Advice on handling each of these tasks is given below.

You start a game by telling the players the background of their mission, describing the setting and discussing how much they will be paid if they succeed. Be prepared to answer any questions and give further descriptions as the players investigate. Let the players make their own decisions and try not to force choices on them. If they make a bad choice or bypass an encounter, let them; they may return to the encounter later. What you should try to do is make sure players understand what effects their decisions might have.

**Make Decisions.** During the adventure you must decide what happens when characters try unusual things, and how likely they are to succeed. This might include deciding whether a building blows up, or if a skimmer is damaged by driving across a rocky field. You may have decided before the game what will happen when certain things are done, or you may have to make a decision during play. Your decisions should be based on what you think would happen in real life. A character who tries to leap from one roof to another may make it, but if he fails he probably will fall and get hurt.

If a character tries an unusual action, you probably can link his chance to succeed to one of his ability scores. Then you can have the player make an ability check to see if the character succeeds in his attempt. If an action can not be linked to an ability, you should just assign a percentage chance from 1 to 100, based on how likely you think the action is to work.

When players ask if they can do something, don't answer them "yes" or "no." Tell them to try and see what happens. Letting players try

anything will make the game more unpredictable and full of surprises for everyone.

Most important, you should make your decisions quickly. It is more important to keep the adventure moving and the players interested than to consider every possibility.

**Using Modifiers.** As referee you will need to determine how easy or difficult an action is and how this will affect a character's chance to do something. You must use modifiers to reflect the difficulty of an action. If an action is easy you can let the player add 5 to 30 points to his chance of success; if it is difficult, you could tell him to subtract points.

To determine whether a character should get a positive or negative modifier, you can compare the action being attempted to the character's normal limits. For example, a character can leap 5 meters with a running start. If a character tries to leap 5 meters without a running start or with a heavy pack on his back, his chance to succeed should be reduced. If the character is jumping with a strong wind at his back or from a higher to a lower surface, his chance to succeed should be increased.

Your own judgment is very important when deciding whether to assign a modifier, but you always should have a reason for choosing the modifier you assigned.

**NPC Reactions.** You will need to decide how non-players characters and creatures react to player characters when they are encountered. NPCs should act intelligently and react according to their personalities (are they friendly, suspicious or hostile) and on the basis of what they know and how the characters act. Creatures usually react according to their instincts and the characters' actions. You may decide ahead of time how they will react or you can decide randomly, using the rules for character and creature reactions in the sections on Creating NPCs and Creating Creatures.

**Conduct Combat.** Combat will occur many times during the game between player characters and NPCs, creatures or robots. It is the referee's job to see that the combat sequence is followed and that everyone gets a chance to do something. He must also decide whether character's are in a position to attack. Ask players what they are doing one at a time, so no one is missed. It is important that you do not forget any of the opponents, either; they deserve to have a fair chance. You must keep track of any damage the NPCs and creatures take so you know when they are killed.

**Keeping Track of Time.** The referee must keep track of how much time character's spend on an adventure. Time effects how much energy gets used, how far characters can travel and how often characters must rest. Time also determines how long characters' food lasts, and how many points of damage they heal. Graph paper can be used to keep track of time. Decide how much time each box represents (6 seconds, 10 minutes, 1 hour or 5 hours are convenient) and then simply cross off boxes as the adventure moves along.

### AN EXAMPLE OF PLAY

The Pan-Galactic Corporation has hired four player characters to find and capture the leader of a band of space pirates. There is one player character of each race in the group. Their search has led them to a run-down part of the city. Everyone the characters have talked to so far has been unpleasant or gruff. The group is walking down a street toward a cheap tavern, looking for a short, overweight man.

**REFEREE:** You are about 30 meters from the tavern when you see a short, fat, dark-haired Human wearing a skinsuit. He is across the street, about 25 meters away and moving toward you.

**JARDIN (Human):** Hey, that guy looks like the slug we're trying to find!

**YALUA (Yazirian):** Let's grab him!

**DARTHA (Dralasite):** Wait, you two. We're not close enough to see if it's him. This description could fit a lot of Humans.

**YTTL (Vrusk):** Darttha is right. Let's just keep walking casually down the street until we get behind him. Then we can follow him and see where he goes. I want to watch him carefully, in case he talks to anyone.

**REFEREE:** He doesn't talk to anyone, but you do notice that he is wearing a red scarf around his neck.

**DARTHA:** Didn't the other pirates wear red scarves?

**YALUA:** That's gotta be him! Let's go!

**JARDIN:** I'm going to go to the right, cut through the alley and try to sneak up in front of him so we can't lose sight of him.

**REFEREE:** Okay. The rest of you manage to cross the street and get behind the man without him seeming to notice you. You follow him for about 60 meters, and then he ducks inside a restaurant.



YALUA: We'll follow him in.

REFEREE: Jardin hasn't gotten through the alley yet and doesn't see the man go in the restaurant. He'll have to spend three minutes finding out where you went. You walk in the door and know immediately that this is not a normal, law-abiding place. The furniture is shabby. The lighting is bad, so you can't see into the far corners. The customers look pretty rough. When they see you, they stop talking.

YALUA: Never mind all that. Where's the guy we were following?

REFEREE: You don't see him anywhere.

YTTL: Are there any other entrances or exits that we can see?

REFEREE: There's a back door directly across from the entrance where you're standing.

DARTHA: Okay. Let's check it.

OTHERS (all together): Right!

REFEREE: As you approach the door, two very large Yazirians step in front of you and lean against the door. They are looking at you with nasty smirks on their faces. One of them has one hand hidden behind his back.

YALUA: Is he holding a blaster?

REFEREE: You can't tell. Do you want to draw your weapon?

YALUA: Not yet.

REFEREE: The Yazirian with his hand behind his back says [with a sneering, gruff voice], "Well, lookee what we got here. A dumb bug, a blob and one of our big, bold brothers. You fellas wouldn't be looking for someone, would you? We don't like nosy people in here."

DARTHA: What are the other customers doing? How big is this place?

REFEREE: The restaurant is about 9 meters wide and 18 meters from front to back. You are standing about 2 meters from the back door. There are about 20 customers in the place. Most of them have gotten up and are heading for the front door, but five of them are slowly forming a ring around you. (to Jardin): You arrive at the front door now.

JARDIN: I'll sneak in while the customers are leaving.

YALUA: It's a trap. I'm going for my blaster!

REFEREE: Okay. Roll for initiative...

The referee then shifts to combat turns, and the players resolve the fight.

## Pay and Experience Points

**Pay.** At the start of each adventure, player characters will be hired to undertake a job. Before accepting a job, characters will want to know how much they are going to be paid. You, as referee, will have to decide.

Pay should depend on the skills of the character and how much danger they will face. Characters with high skills earn more, and dangerous jobs pay more. Payment is given as pay per 20-hour day (10 hours of work). The typical work week is five days of work with three days off. One way to determine how much to pay is to pay 10 credits per level of skill per day plus 10 to 100 credits per day depending on the danger. You probably should pay no less than 20 Cr/day and no more than 500 Cr/day.

Pay does not have to be just credits. You may agree to pay for medical care, or you could provide equipment with the understanding that characters get to keep it when they finish the job. You should always provide free transportation to the starting point of the adventure.

At the end of an adventure, the characters will return to their employer to collect their pay. You should pay them according to their degree of success, paying less if they failed to complete an important part of the mission, or paying a bonus for excellent work or delivering more than was expected. In this way, you can use pay to encourage players to complete a job. Remember that half of their pay should go to cost of living. If a character is unemployed during any week, he can find a job that will cover his cost of living and give him an additional 5 Cr per week.

**Experience.** A character learns things and improves himself through his experience on adventures. At the end of an adventure a character gains experience points (XP) which he can use to raise his ability scores, to gain new skills or improve old skills.

The referee awards experience points at the end of an adventure or evening of play, based on how well the person played during the adventure. This reward encourages good play. Experience points are awarded for accomplishing each goal of an adventure. A character who survived but did not contribute anything to the group's success should receive only 1 XP for that goal. If a character accomplished his job and nothing more, he should receive 2 XP for the goal. If a character did an excellent job or contributed greatly to the group's success he should receive 3 XP for the goal. On the average, player characters should be receiving about 3 to 7 XP each during an average evening of play. The referee should never award more than 10 points for one adventure.

## Be a Good Referee

A good referee never tries to beat the players, but tries to create exciting challenges for them to overcome. You must match these challenges to the abilities and resources of the player characters. If the challenges are too easy, players will lose interest. If they are too hard, player will be frustrated and no one will have fun.

Be fair when you make decisions, and treat all characters the same. You must be flexible; if players are having a hard time with the adventure or are missing important information, adjust the situation so they still have a chance to succeed.

A good referee takes notes during an adventure. You must remember anything that can affect the course of the adventure: did the characters turn off the alarms on their way in? Have they seen these poisonous trees before? How did they treat this NPC the first time they met?

**Is it hard to be a referee?** Your ability to be a fair, decisive, thoughtful referee probably is better than you suppose, for you already have a number of tools you can use. You can use your imagination to create interesting events and to deal with unpredictable actions by your players. You can use your players' imaginations too. Listen to the things they say during the game; they might give you some ideas to use later. You can also get ideas from stories you read and movies you see.

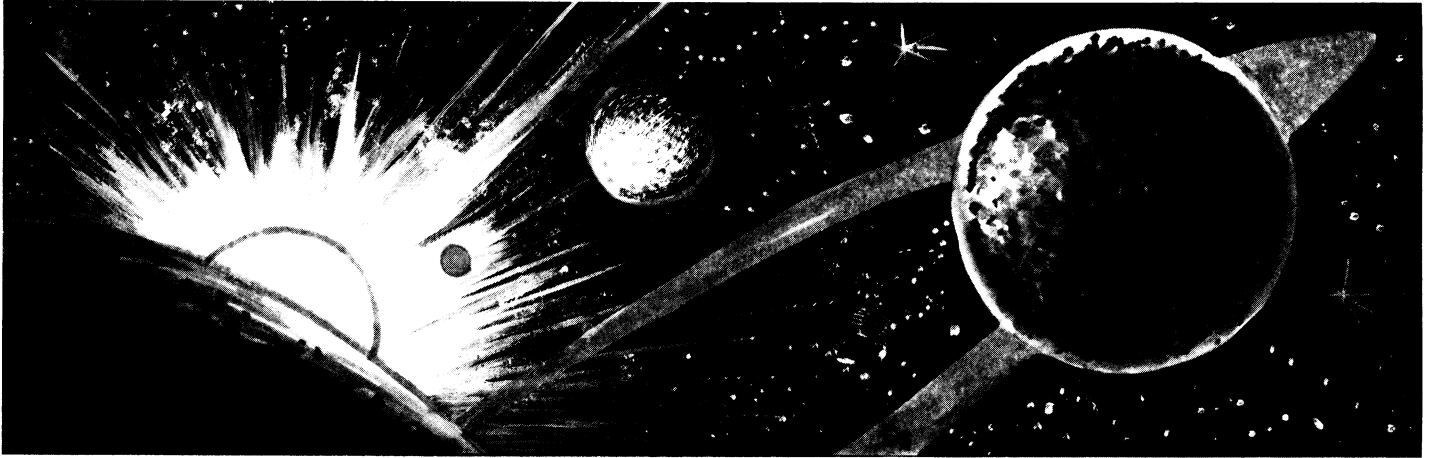
As the referee you are the final authority in the game and you can use that authority to make decisions and settle arguments. You also can control the game so that it is fun for everyone; don't let dice rolls decide how the game should be run if it just slows the game. Use your own judgment about what is fair. You can use your knowledge of how things happen in life to help you make decisions about the game.

As referee you also control how the characters will be rewarded, and you can use rewards to encourage good, thoughtful play. If they succeed through good decisions, you can give them extra experience points or a pay bonus.

Remember that you have a major advantage over the players. You know everything there is to know about the adventure and just why something happens. The players know only what their characters have discovered. You can use this knowledge to create mystery and to make fast decisions when your characters do something unexpected.

Finally, a good referee tries to make the game fun for everyone.

# HOW TO CREATE AN ADVENTURE



The first thing you must do as a referee is create adventures for your players. Adventures can be as simple or as complex as you want to make them. You can design them completely from your imagination, or take ideas from books and movies.

There are six steps to creating an adventure:

1. Choosing a theme or basic story and the goal of the adventure.
2. Selecting the settings where the story takes place;
3. Designing the events that lead to the goal, and the obstacles that must be overcome to reach the goal;
4. Creating the non-player characters and creatures that the characters will meet, and deciding how they will affect play;
5. Writing any special rules that are needed for unusual events;
6. Writing a final outline of the adventure to guide the referee through the action.

## Theme

When choosing a theme for your adventure, you should consider these three things:

- What has happened before that led to this adventure?
- What must the characters do to complete their job?
- What sorts of obstacles do you want the players to face during the adventure?

Some suggestions beginning referees can use to create simple adventures are listed below:

- **Explore a New World:** The player characters are hired to explore an undeveloped planet. This theme can be used many times by creating new planets with new challenges.
- **Obtain Information:** The player characters must search for special information about a place, group or thing and return to their employer with the information.
- **Retrieve a Stolen Item:** The player characters are hired to locate and bring back to their employer something that has been stolen - perhaps secret plans or an invention.
- **Catch Criminals:** The player characters must find and capture space pirates, thieves or other criminals.
- **Rescue Someone:** The player characters must locate and rescue someone who is being held prisoner — a hostage, kidnap victim or a person in prison.
- **Mad Scientist:** The player characters must prevent an evil scientist from taking over a planet, setting loose terrible robots or performing some other evil.

These are only a few examples of possible adventures. You could even combine several of these themes into one adventure. You could also

create an adventure based on something discovered by the player characters in an earlier game. This adds excitement as players use information they have found in earlier adventures to solve the riddles of another.

## Settings

The settings or locations of an adventure determine the events that can take place and what animals and events can be encountered; guards and robots can be encountered while searching a secret outpost, but wild creatures and dangerous terrains are more likely if characters are exploring a new planet. Your settings can be as big or small as you want to make them. An entire adventure could take place in a single building, or it could require the characters to travel halfway around a planet.

The settings you select should have a purpose in the adventure. The players should be able to complete some part of their objective at each place. For example, when searching for someone lost in the wilderness, searchers can find important clues at the spot where the lost person was last seen, at the site of an old campfire, at a spot where they find a dead beast with a trail of blood leading away, etc. At each setting, players can discover the direction the person traveled, how long ago he was there and what has happened to him.

When designing a setting, you should try to answer these questions:

- What is the setting's purpose? When during the adventure will the characters arrive there? What information are the characters supposed to find there?
- What does the setting look like? What are the most important features: where are trees and streams, doors and furniture?
- What types of creatures, characters and events will the characters meet there? Are there any important plants or weather conditions, alarms or robots? These are not necessarily challenges to the players. They can be used to identify the area.
- Are there any other important features about this setting? Does it limit movement in some way or hide things from sight? Does it have obstacles the characters must overcome?

As you decide on each setting, write it down, including all special information about the setting.

## Events

Once you have chosen the theme and settings for an adventure, you must design the adventure itself. An adventure is divided into several smaller challenges that the players must overcome. Each of the challenges must be placed in a specific setting.



When designing an adventure, first determine what events or challenges you want. Each event should provide an obstacle to overcome, a lesson to be learned or an opportunity to gain something that will aid the characters in reaching their goal. Events should always be exciting or provide a puzzle that the players must overcome with their wits. Follow each of these four steps when designing events.

- Decide what purpose the event will fulfill. Is it an obstacle to fight or overcome? A puzzle to solve? A chance to gain something helpful? Or an event just to add excitement?
- Determine all the elements needed in the event. Will the player characters encounter NPCs, creatures, robots, foul weather, physical obstacles or security systems?
- Decide how NPCs, creatures or robots will react to the player characters, and what actions they will take.

**Random Events.** Sometimes, referees may want to set up encounters or events that occur randomly, instead of being pre-planned. Usually, random encounters are tied to die rolls that are made at certain time intervals or when characters enter an area. For example, the referee could decide the characters have a 20% chance of being attacked by wild animals every night they spend in the mountains, or a 30% chance of meeting a criminal in a seedy part of town.

Random events should be created when the adventure is designed. If you have only one random event, you can simply give it a percentage chance of happening. If you have more than one random event, you can arrange them on a table and assign a percentage chance that one will happen. Then, if there is a random event, you roll a second time to see which specific event happens. If you have more than one event, you can let each one happen only once, or let an event happen whenever it is rolled up.

**EXAMPLE:** A referee wants to set up random encounters for characters that are searching for a missing caravan in a region with thick forests. He decides the chance for a random event is 20% every five hours. If the searchers have an encounter, he rolls 1d10 on the Random Events table he made up.

#### RANDOM EVENTS

Die Roll	Event
1-2	Attacked by 5 flying shriekers
3-4	Heavy rainstorm, the searchers must stop moving
5-6	Attacked by 2 tree-cats
7-8	Ground-monkeys steal a piece of equipment
9-0	Searchers meet forest nomads

**Arranging Events.** Once you have designed your events you must determine their order in the adventure. The events should lead step-by-step to the goal. However, the order does not have to be strict and unbreakable. Players may be able to reach their goal using several different paths through the events. Some events may not lead anywhere, and players will need to return to an earlier encounter to find the right path.

#### NPCs and Creatures

After you have chosen the events that will lead your players to their goal, you must create the NPCs and creatures that will be encountered in the game and write down any information you will need to know about them to use them in the game.

Determine the purpose of each NPC and creature in the adventure. Make sure they fit the purpose of the adventure and decide what they need to fill that purpose. For example, a guard needs a weapon and a technician needs a toolkit. You should try to make your creatures and NPCs fit the adventure and the setting. A gentleman would not live in a shack and wild creatures do not roam the city streets.

#### Special Rules

If any of your events involve special situations that are not covered in the game rules, you should think about them before starting to play the adventure and decide how you will handle these situations when they arise. You may want to design special rules for new equipment, alien devices, general skills, weather, strange terrain or anything else called for by the event. Try to keep your special rules simple. Write down any special rules you make up, so if that situation ever comes up again, you can handle it the same way.

#### Write a Script

When you have decided the order of the events, you should write all the information you need to play in a script that shows when things should happen. It is best to write down everything you need to know about each event so that you do not forget to give players important clues that will affect their decisions. Number each event, so that you will know its order. You can put the number of the event on a map so you can see where the event is to take place. Each written event should include the following information:

1. A description of what the characters can see.
2. A description of what happens when characters enter the setting, including NPC and creature reactions.
3. Ability scores for any NPCs or creatures that will be encountered in the area.
4. Any special rules for the event.
5. Random event probabilities.
6. Notes about what the characters can discover from the event.
7. Notes on what should happen if the characters succeed, if they fail, or take some other course of action.

Read your script several times, putting yourself in the position of a player trying to move through the adventure. Make different choices to see whether you accounted for the most likely possibilities. Make sure your challenges are not too easy or too difficult. Players should need to use reason and judgment to overcome the challenges. However, you cannot think of everything before the game, so try to be flexible and make sure each event challenges the players.

#### Creating Maps

Once you have finished creating the adventure you should make the maps you will need during the game. There are two types of maps that are very useful: a guide map to show the overall layout of the adventure and playing maps that are used during combat.

**Guide Maps.** Guide maps show the area where the adventure takes place in small scale. They do not show much detail, but can be used to mark areas where characters will have encounters, and show the types of terrain characters must travel through. A guide map typically has a scale of 1 to 20 km per hex or square.

**Combat Maps.** Combat maps are drawn on half-inch square grids and used with the counters during fights. The scale on these maps typically is 2 to 10 meters per square. They can show any amount of detail that the referee wants. Important features like doors, windows, security devices and natural dangers should be shown.

**Indexing the Maps.** Listing information about all of the important encounter areas directly on a map would be very confusing. Instead, encounter areas should be coded with a number or letter, and an explanation recorded on a separate sheet of paper. This way, the referee can see at a glance where the important areas are on his map. The maps included with the adventure SFO, Crash on Voltarnus, are good examples of how to set up both combat and guide maps. The sample adventure on the next page also includes two very simple maps, one a guide map with a scale of 1 kilometer per hex and the other a combat map with a scale of 2 meters per square.

**Players' Maps.** In many adventures, characters will want maps of their own. The referee should prepare these maps himself, and let the players keep them. Generally, these should be about the same as the referee's guide map, but without the notes and indications of where important information can be found. The players' map should include only the information that would be included on a regular map (unless the characters have found a hand-made treasure map or something similar).



## SAMPLE ADVENTURE

This sample adventure was designed to show referees how to make simple adventure maps and key the events to them.

**Mission.** A ship that has been missing for several days is believed to have crashed into the planet. The characters must locate the ship, rescue any survivors and find out why the ship crashed.

**Start.** An aerial search spotted a grove of barren trees that might have been burned in a fire started by the ship. The ship could not be seen from the air. The characters are landed near the barren trees and given a homing device that can detect the ship's emergency beacon. The aircar will return in 20 hours.

**1. Barren Trees.** The trees in this area are bare and look as though they were burned. Smaller trees, low plants and shrubs are not damaged, however. The homer will pick up the ship's beacon to the southeast, where the characters can see something that looks like billowy clouds just above the trees.

**2. Radio Beacon.** The ship's emergency beacon is snagged in a tree, 10 meters above the ground. After the characters find the beacon, five strangler chutes will blow into the area and one will settle on the tree that holds the beacon. If any character fails to evade the chute's filaments, he is caught and must be freed by his companions. The wind is blowing from the southwest, so the beacon could have drifted from that direction.

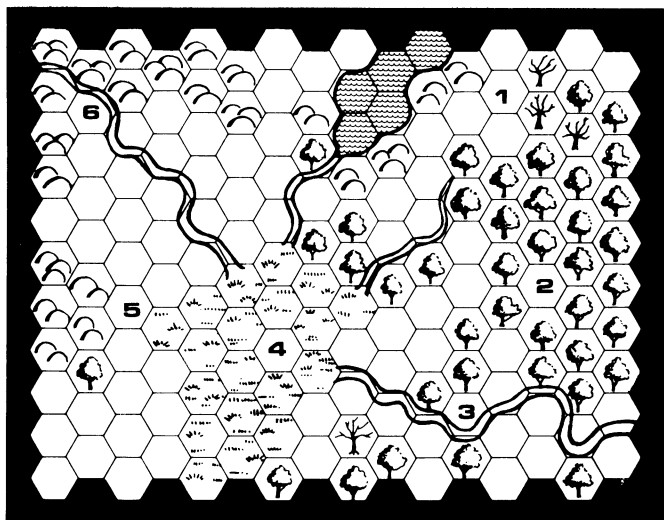
**3. Stream.** This stream is 5 meters wide. Characters will notice an oil slick on the opposite side, drifting downstream.

**4. Mire and Slither.** Large patches of oil are floating on top of the muddy water in this swamp. There are several dry mounds of land the characters can stand on, but one of them is a slither. The characters can see a flock of winged rippers circling over the trees to the west.

**5. Bodies.** The bodies of two Yazirians in Hepplewhite, Inc., work uniforms are lying here. They have been dead for several days. Thirty winged rippers will attack if the characters approach the bodies. The Yazirians' medkit still contains three doses of biocort, two stimdoses and one dose of omnimycin.

**6. The Spaceship Wreck.** The wrecked ship is crashed into the side of a hill and buried beneath vines and plants. Oil and vapors are leaking from the exposed engines. The entry hatch is blown open, but is hidden beneath churned-up plants and vines.

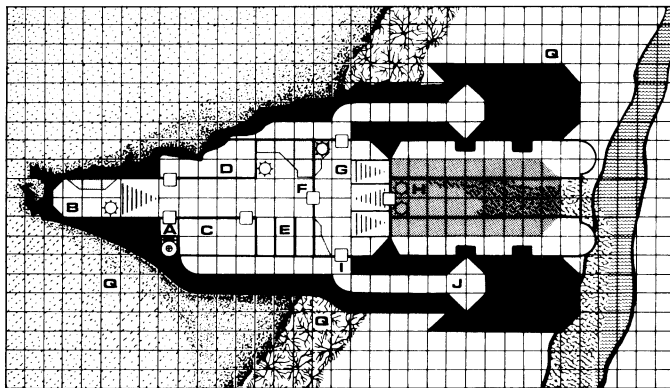
**A. Entry Lock.** The inner hatch is locked. Any tampering will activate a recording that says, "Only authorized Hepplewhite, Inc., employees are allowed past this point. Please enter your security code." The door has a level 1 security lock. It must either be opened by a technician or blown open with explosives.



**B. The Cockpit.** A short ladder leads up to the cockpit. The body of a Human pilot is strapped into the seat. All of the instruments are scorched and ruined, but beneath the pilot's seat is a black box labeled "Flight Record" that seems undamaged. If the characters play the tape, they will hear a Yazirian saying, "There's been an explosion! Dierba is dead. I'm sealing off the engine compartment. Has anyone seen Rinny?" There is a fire extinguisher on the wall and an odd, slimy trail on the floor.

**C, D. Wrecked Cabins.** The room to starboard is caved in and contains nothing of value. A black trail of slime covers the plastic floor in the port room. There is a child's toy on one of the bunks. The crash weakened the floor, so anyone walking into the room must make a Reaction Speed check or fall through the floor, taking 1d5 +2 points of damage.

**E. Storage.** All three storage lockers on the right are open and empty. There is a fire extinguisher on the wall and many black slime trails on the floor.



**F. Rear Hatch.** If the characters open this hatch, they will find dangling wires that are throwing sparks. Touching the wires will cause 2d10 points of damage and stun the character for 1d10 minutes. To enter this area, characters must use an insulated tool to move the wires out of the way. Two doors leading down to the cargo area are blown open. A ladder leads up to the engine pods, and the hatch is badly scorched. An access panel in the port wall is open. More slime trails criss-cross the floor.

**G. Engine Pod.** The body of a dead Yazirian is slumped in a control chair. The engines are cracked, and acid and oil are collecting in pools on the floor. There is a 10% chance each minute that a fire will start in this compartment. If a fire starts, characters will realize that the ship's remaining fuel will explode in about two minutes (20 turns). The fire extinguishers in the ship will not stop the fire, but each turn the fire is sprayed delays the explosion for one turn. An extinguisher will last five turns. The character using the extinguisher takes 1 point of damage per turn.

**H. Cargo Hold.** Nothing is left here but wreckage and slime on the floor. The slime was left by a small omnivore, a slime bug, that is hiding in the wreckage (Move slow; IM/RS 6/55; STA 35; ATT 55; Dm 2d10). It looks like a flat bug with razor-sharp claws. Characters move at half-speed in the slime.

Any character with Demolitions skill can find enough evidence in the hold to prove that a bomb was planted in the cargo. Otherwise, the players must figure this out themselves.

**I. Service Passage.** The characters can hear the sound of crying from this passage, but hot wreckage blocks the crawlway. A fire extinguisher will cool the wreckage so characters can get past.

**J. Wheel Well.** A small Yazirian child, Rinny, is trapped in this landing wheel well. He is crying and scared, but unhurt.

# NON-PLAYER CHARACTERS

## CREATING NON-PLAYER CHARACTERS

In a STAR FRONTIERS adventure, any character played by the referee and not controlled by a player is called a non-player character or NPC. Non-player characters are the opponents, friends, sources of information and randomly encountered characters in an adventure. Once the referee has outlined the adventure, he must create the NPCs. Non-player characters can be any of the four major races, or an intelligent alien being.

If an NPC has a major role in the adventure, the referee should design him carefully, giving him all of his ability scores as well as a personality and temperament. Minor NPCs do not need to be as detailed. The following step-by-step method can be used to create either type of NPC.

### What is already known about the NPC?

You already know some things about a character that will help determine what other information is needed to use the NPC. You know the character's purpose in the adventure — to fight the player characters, to help them or to annoy them. You also know how the character will act when encountered. You should know the character's race. A character's race will alter his abilities, give him special abilities and affect the way he reacts.

### Why does the NPC act the way he does?

NPCs always should have a reason to do the things they do. A guard stops intruders because that is his job. A criminal tries to avoid police because they will put him in jail. Townspeople want to be left alone because they feel threatened by strangers.

An NPC's motive should be closely related to his purpose in the adventure. Sathar NPCs usually are used as enemies that must be fought, so their actions will be based on their hatred for the other races. More complex motives add interest and mystery to a character; a man might have become a pirate to find his kidnaped sister and get revenge, and he may be willing to help the player characters.

### How will the NPC react to the player characters?

An NPC's reaction to player characters can be based on his purpose in the adventure and his motives. The referee should decide beforehand how major NPCs will react. He can use the rules for random NPC reactions described under NPC Reactions for minor NPCs.

### What are the NPC's ability scores?

In many cases, the referee does not need to know all of an NPC's ability scores. Sometimes, none of them are needed. The only ability scores that matter in combat are Stamina, Dexterity and Initiative modifier. Logic, Personality and Leadership are almost never needed for NPCs. The referee can create these scores on the spot as they are needed. If the NPC is a major character, however, knowing all of his ability scores will help define his personality.

Average ability scores for all eight abilities and all five races are shown on the table below. These can be used to create NPCs quickly.

	STR/STA	DEX/RS	INT/LOG	PER/LDR	PS	IM
Human	45/45	45/45	45/45	45/45	3	5
Dralasite	50/50	40/40	45/45	45/45	3	4
Vrusk	40/40	50/50	45/45	45/45	2	5
Yazirian	35/35	50/50	50/50	45/45	2	5
Sathar	40/40	40/40	45/45	45/65	2	4

### What skills does the NPC have?

In many situations this question can be ignored because the NPC will not have a chance to use a skill. In combat or other situations where

an NPC has a chance to use a skill, skills and levels should be assigned.

The typical colonist or clerk will have little or no skill with weapons. Police, government agents and other people who commonly carry weapons will have level 2 skill with them. Leaders will have higher skill levels or skill with several types of weapons. Only about 1 in 10 characters will have any skill with melee weapons or in martial arts. Other skills can be assigned based on the needs of the encounter. In general, though NPCs with high-level skills should be rare.

### How is the NPC equipped?

Sometimes the referee will need to decide what equipment an NPC has. This decision should be based on the NPC's job and his purpose in the adventure. For example, police need weapons and characters with special skills need toolkits. Some NPCs may have things that would be useful to the player characters. If an NPC has a piece of equipment that uses energy, the referee should decide how much energy the item contains. This also applies to weapon ammunition and medkit drugs.

### Does the NPC have anything the player characters need?

Depending on the NPC's purpose in the adventure, he might have or know something that will give the players a clue, a missing bit of information or an important piece of equipment. The referee also must decide how the player characters can get what they need from the NPC.

### Creating NPCs (Summary)

1. What is already known about the NPC?
2. Why does the NPC act the way he does?
3. How will the NPC react to the player characters?
4. What are the NPC's ability scores?
5. What skills does the NPC have?
6. How is the NPC equipped?
7. Does the NPC have anything the player characters need?

### NPC Reactions

During an adventure the referee must decide how NPCs react to the player characters. NPC reaction should be based on the NPC's purpose in the adventure and his motives. NPC reactions can be modified by the actions of the player characters, the NPC's past experiences with the player characters and the NPC's and PC's races. The referee should keep in mind that each NPC is different and might react differently.

If the referee does not determine the NPC's reaction ahead of time, his reaction can be determined randomly. The player character that is encountering the NPC must make a Personality check. If this check is successful, the NPC will react in a favorable or friendly manner. If the check fails, the NPC will be hostile, unfavorable or non-committal. The referee can give the character a positive modifier if he thinks the player character is being especially friendly or if the NPC is an easy-going person. The referee also can give the character a negative modifier if the player character is being rude or has mistreated this NPC before, or if the NPC is surly or unfriendly or simply too busy to be bothered. An NPC always will be unfriendly on a roll of 96-00.

Reaction rolls can be modified by the player characters' and the NPCs' races. The Racial Reaction table lists these racial reaction modifiers. Find the race of the NPC, and then find the race of the player character that he is reacting to; then adjust the player character's Personality score by the value listed.



This table adds some complexity to the reaction system, so its use is optional. Referees must decide whether they want to use it in their campaigns.

### RACIAL REACTION MODIFIERS

	Player Character Race				
Race	Human	Dralasite	Vrusk	Yazirian	Sathar
Human	0	0	-10	-5	-20
Dralasite	0	+10	+5	0	-20
Vrusk	-5	0	0	0	-10
Yazirian	-5	-10	0	0	-30
Sathar	-20	-30	-10	-20	0

### Hiring NPC's

At some time, player characters may want to hire NPCs to perform special jobs. The referee should allow this only if the party is weak and needs a more rounded selection of skills to complete the adventure. The referee controls hired non-player characters. The referee must remember that employees do not like being used as targets or bait, and should not let the players make NPCs take the player characters' risks for them.

**Availability.** The referee must decide whether NPCs are available with the skills the players want. If the referee thinks a level 6 Demolitions expert would give the players' team too much power, he should simply tell them that none are available. NPCs with high skill levels are very rare. If there is no reason to restrict the availability of NPC hirelings, the table below can be used to determine whether an NPC with a specific skill level can be hired.

Skill Level	1	2	3	4	5	6
Chance Available	90%	75%	60%	45%	30%	15%

**Wages.** An NPC's wages depend on his level of skill and his field of expertise. The NPC Wages table shows suggested daily pay rates for different skills. If an NPC has several skills, his wage is determined by finding the skill that pays the most and adding 10 Cr/day for each additional level of skill. For example, a level 3 Roboticist/level 2 Sharpshooter/level 1 Medic would be paid 110 Cr/day (80 + 20 + 10 = 110).

When player characters hire NPCs, add the levels of all of the player character's skills. Compare this to the total of all of the NPC's skill levels. If the player character does not have at least twice as many skill levels as the NPC he is hiring, he must pay 20 Cr/day extra.

The referee can create pay requirements for any other specialists he desires.

### NPC WAGES

Skill	Skill Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Credits per Day					
Computer Operator	70	80	90	100	110	120
Demolitions Expert	50	60	70	80	90	100
Environmental	60	70	80	90	100	110
Martial Artist (unarmed)	40	50	60	70	80	90
Medic	70	80	90	100	110	120
Non-skilled	20	—	—	—	—	—
Psycho-Sociologist	80	90	100	110	120	130
Roboticist	60	70	80	90	100	110
Sharpshooter (projectile)	20	30	40	50	60	70
Space Marine (beam)	40	50	60	70	80	90
Star Soldier (gyrojet)	30	40	50	60	70	80
Technician	50	60	70	80	90	100
Weaponeer (melee)	40	50	60	70	80	90

**Loyalty.** NPCs are not like player characters, who face danger and death constantly without worry or fear. There will be times during an adventure when the loyalty of a hired character must be checked to see if he wants to reconsider his employment. Typical situations where an NPC's loyalty should be checked are:

- The first time an NPC's life is put in danger.
- The NPC sees that his team is losing a fight or in some other dangerous situation
- The NPC is offered a bribe that is at least twice his weekly pay.
- The referee thinks the player characters are taking unfair advantage of the NPC.

When an NPC's loyalty must be checked, the player character that hired the NPC makes a Leadership check. This check can be modified by the size of a bribe, the danger of the immediate situation, the treatment the NPC has received from the characters and the NPC's personality. If the check is successful, the NPC remains loyal. If the check fails, the NPC will ask for more pay, refuse to follow orders, run away or quit; the referee should decide the specific action based on the situation. If the NPC's employer dies or is killed, the NPC will quit unless another character tries to rehire him.



## READING FOR FUN AND IDEAS

The following list of books contains suggestions for reading that is relevant to the STAR FRONTIERS game. The more a player or referee reads for fun, the more ideas he will have to use during play or in creating an adventure.

The books listed below are only a few of the many good science and science fiction books available. Most of the authors listed have written many more books than can be shown here, so this list should be used as a starting point.

### NON-FICTION

Asimov, Isaac — *Extraterrestrial Civilizations*  
Bylinsky, Gene — *Life in Darwin's Universe*  
Dole, Robert — *Habitable Planets for Man*  
Feinberg, Gerald and Robert Shapiro — *Life Beyond Earth: An Intelligent Earthling's Guide to Life in the Universe*

### FICTION

Anthony, Piers — *Macroscopic*  
Anderson, Poul — *Ensign Flandry* series  
Asimov, Isaac — *Foundation* trilogy; *I, Robot*; *The Gods Themselves*  
Asprin, Robert — *The Cold-Cash War*  
Bester, Alfred — *The Stars, My Destination*  
Blish, James — *Cities In Flight*  
Bradbury, Ray — *The Martian Chronicles*  
Brown, Frederick — *What Mad Universe*  
Brunner, John — *Stand On Zansibar*  
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