Guide To Classic

TRAVELLER

Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future



Classic Traveller (indeed, all of the **Traveller** editions including later editions) was inducted into the Adventure Gaming Hall of Fame in 1997 (on its 20th anniversary of its publication. Designer Marc Miller was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1982. **Games 100. Traveller** was featured as part of Games Magazine's **Games 100** in 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1991. **Traveller** is a series of related science fiction role-playing games, the first three editions published by Game Designers' Workshop and subsequent editions by various companies.

The **Traveller** rules draw inspiration from the classics of science-fiction literature. Acknowledged influences include: the Dumarest saga series by E.C. Tubb, the Foundation stories of Isaac Asimov, H. Beam Piper's Space Viking, Larry Niven's Known Space, Jerry Pournelle's CoDominium, and Poul Anderson's Polesotechnic League.

The first edition of **Traveller** (published 1977 through 1986) has come to be called **Classic Traveller** and included some 80 rules books, adventures, and supplements.

Originally game designer Marc Miller envisioned **Traveller** as a system for playing generic space opera themed science fiction adventures, in the same sense that **Dungeons & Dragons** is a system for generic fantasy adventures. However, as GDW began publishing materials beyond the core rules, a suggested setting called the Third Imperium emerged and has become the dominant background for the game.

The Third Imperium is in the distant future—over three thousand years removed from our own time. Interstellar travel is facilitated, and limited, by the use of a technology called the jump drive (known as a hyperdrive in other science fiction settings). Jump drives are capable of propelling a starcraft between one to six parsecs, depending on the individual drive's specifications. Regardless of the distance of a jump, the duration required for the trip is approximately one week. Communications are limited to the speed of travel; there is no "sub-space" or other form of FTL information transfer. This leads to a central principle of Traveller's original setting, that the restraint on the speed of information leads to decentralization and the vestment of significant power in the hands of local officials.

The primary galactic society in **Traveller** is the Third Imperium, a vast, human-dominated feudalistic union of over eleven thousand worlds currently ruled by its 43rd emperor, Strephon Aella Alkhalikoi. The Imperium is the most powerful interstellar polity, but it is surrounded on all sides by potentially hostile neighbors. Local nobility operate largely free from oversight, restricted by convention, feudal obligations, and the fear of being caught.

The Universe of Traveller...



The original Little Black Box edition of **Traveller**: a $6 \times 9 \times 1-1/2$ inch box (the same size as the original **Dungeons & Dragons** box).

(The sticker says that this was the fifth copy off the assembly line).



WELCOME to the exciting world of Traveller! Traveller is a new concept in science-fiction, guided by the principle of participation. Rather than simply having you read about a science-fiction adventure, Traveller invites you and your friends to actually take part in the action, using characters whom you control and guide through the many alien worlds of the galaxy.

The possibilities for action and adventure are endless...

Entire games can be patterned after any of the many science-fiction novels available, with the action following the story line, or diverging when something interesting happens. Explore unknown worlds; Establish a space trade line; Search for lost artifacts...

TRAVELLER'S three book set describes a complete, consistent, yet open-ended universe; within that framework, players lend their own imaginations, actually travelling and adventuring through the world of the future. The plots and structures of virtually all of science fiction become available to the players, to be altered or expanded whenever desired.

TRAVELLER is a role-playing game simulation; the individual players assume an alter ego, with unique abilities and skills. These may be defined by the player himself, or generated randomly in much the same manner as life does. Individuals then embark on campaigns, encountering the infinite universe in a series of adventures.

SPECIFIC features contained in the Traveller set include:

* STARSHIPS- Complete rules cover the design and construction of starships. How much they cost. What profits can be made in passenger service and trade. How they fight, using both simple systems and miniature figure battles.

* FIGHTING- Rules describe combat between individuals, from brawls and fist fights to small military battles. Weapons range from knives to laser carbines.

* WORLDS- Rules cover the characteristics of alien worlds, from the simple facts of atmosphere and size to the types of animals and people to be found there.

* SPECIALS- Additional rules cover the types of skills which can be gained. Special Psionic abilities and their use. Hints of the advanced artifacts which are available.

TRAVELLER consists of a set of three 48 page booklets detailing rules for campaigns in the far future. Each booklet indicates specific rules on a different, though related field. Together, the game allows the players complete freedom to travel and adventure throughout the universe.

Game Designers' Workshop

So begins the box back for **Basic Traveller**, leading the player to the three books (Books 1, 2, and 3) that were the original basis for the **Traveller** science-fiction role-playing game.

The original **Traveller** game rules were known as the Little Black Books (the LBBs): so named for their format as 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 digest-sized booklets with stark black covers. These easy-to-carry and easy-to-consult game books established a feel for the **Traveller** system that players and game masters remember even today. Individual books sold for varying prices (Supplements were \$4; Adventures were \$5; Books were \$6) with several appearing through the course of a year. Ultimately, there were nine Books and more than 30 other LBBs. HART REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Inside the Little Black Box were the first three Little Black Books: each 48 pages, $5-1/2 \times 8-1/2$ inches.

Plus 2 six-sided dice.

This guide is a tour through the materials that revealed the universe of **Classic Traveller** and established the foundation of the far-flung and information-rich environment for science-fiction role-playing that has resulted. The information in these books is still applicable today... providing insights and details of the universe for use with any of the **Traveller** editions.

CORE RULES

Core rules sets for Traveller were the foundation... the essential material on how to play.

The core Traveller rules came in four flavors: **Basic Traveller** Starter Traveller **Deluxe Traveller** TTB and TTA

Basic Traveller

Basic Traveller was the original version of the core rules for Traveller. First published in 1977, the set appeared as three Little Black Books in a 6x9x1-1/2 inch black box with the characteristic red Traveller stripe.

A revised version of the rules appeared in 1981.



The core character rules... character generation using Traveller's unique prior career system, plus personal combat.



Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

The core rules for starship design and operation, interstellar travel, and space combat.



Understanding Traveller Understanding Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future This 8-page promotional piece provided the details of the basic game system and background. **B3** Worlds and Adventures

Book 3 Worlds and Adventures Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

The core rules for creating worlds using Traveller's unique Universal World Profile, plus animal encounters, and adventure creation.









Starter Traveller

GDW produced **Starter Traveller** as an introductory version of the game. It included a book of core rules, a separate set of charts, and a book of adventures.





The other handout for the adventures in **Starter**.



One of the handouts for the adventure in **Starter**.

DT

Deluxe Traveller

GDW published **Deluxe Traveller** as a larger format boxed game (primarily to be more visible on the shelf in game stores).

The box included the basic Books 1, 2, and 3, plus Book 0 Intriuction to Traveller, and an Introductory Adventure, plus a poster map of the Spinward Marches. This is Free Trader Beowulf, calling anyone. . . Mayday, Mayday. . . we are under attack. . . main drive is gone. . . turret number one not responding. . . Mayday. . . losing cabin pressure fast. . . calling anyone. . . please help. . . This is Free Trader Beowulf. . .

Mayday. . .

TRAVELLER Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

Game Designers' Workshop



The Spinward Marches Map

The Introductory Adventure in **Deluxe Traveller** sends the players out to survey (or resurvey) the Spinward Marches sector. They will get Cr50,000 per world surveyed, plus a bonus of Cr10,000 per world if all 440 worlds are surveyed within 20 years!

Plus, the patron will pay under-the-table bonuses for surveys of Red Zones. Book 3 Worlds Book 2 Starship Book 1 Characters and Combat Characters and Combat Characters and Combat Characters and Combat Came Dear Game Dear Came Dear C

BO IntroductionTo Traveller

Book 0 Introduction To TRAVELLER Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

Game Designers' Workshop

Introduction To Traveller presents basic information about role-playing for the novice player.

This book was included in **Deluxe Traveller**, as well as being sold separately.



Introductory Adventure The Imperial Fringe



ame Designers' Workshop



Science Fiction Role-Playing Game Rules and Adventurese By Marc W. Miller Game Designers Workshop

TTA



A Science Fiction Role-Playing Adventure Game Designers' Workshop

The **Traveller Adventure** provided a massive adventure with multiple episoides set throughout the Spinward marches.

Notably, the adventure included Vargr character generation, details of Arami subsector, and a variety of library data.

153 pages. softcover.



The players in **The Traveller Adventure** were the crew of the Fat Trader March Harrier.

The Traveller Book The Traveller Adventure The Traveller Book

consolidated the core rules (Books 1-2-3) into a single 8.5 x 11 book and added additional material on how-to-play the game.

It also added the short adventures **Shadows** (from Double Adventure 1) and **Exit Visa**.

159 pages hardcover with dust jacket, or softcover.

BOOKS

308

TRAVELL

the Far Future

Science-Fiction Adventure



Books present additional

The first three Books 1-2-3 were part of Basic Traveller; the other books were expansions on specific subjects: the Navy, the Military, the Scouts, the Merchants, and Robots.



how merchant companies are

organized.

B08 Robots



Robots addressed an aspect of the future which Traveller had acknowledged, but rarely covered. Based on material in the first three issues of Travellers' Digest, it expanded and elaborated on the concepts.

generation sequence.

SUPPLEMENTS

including starships,

S04 Citizens

Supplement 4



types.

Pirates

Flyers

Scientists

Diplomats

Barbarians



Aid Society.

SS1 Merchant Prince SS2 Exotic Atmospheres SS3 Missiles in Traveller SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS Special Supplements were short presentations on specific topics, originally appearing in the Journal of the Travellers' Special Supplement 1 Merchant Prince Special Supplement 2 Exotic Atmospheres Special Supplement 3 Missiles in TRAVELLER TRAVELLER TRAVELLER® Science-Fiction Adventure Science-Fiction Adventure Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future in the Far Future in the Far Future Game Designers' Workshop Game Designers' Workshop Game Designers' Workshop Merchant Prince was a Exotic Atmospheres Missiles addressed the precursor to Book 7, and addressed the details of concept of missiles for space originally appeared as a strange atmospheres and their combat, and provided greater enclosure in Journal of the effects on characters. detail over the core rules and Travellers' Aid Society. Mayday. It included only character generation (in the same A revised version of this general format as Mercenary. Special Supplement was produced as well. SS4 Classic Traveller: The Lost Rules Classic Traveller: The Lost Rules This been over thirty years since Game Designers' Workshop first released Traveller to the gaming public. Due to the incredible playability of that original edition and its continued success. Furthure Enterprises released a series of Classic Traveller reprints, to allow games who were never able to purchase those original idems to get them easily. One of the problems with such as the time question of white editions to use in the reprints. For example, the Classic traveller reprints, to allow games who were never able to purchase those original idems to get them easily. One of the problems with such as the time question of white editions to use in the reprints. For example, the Classic traveller or the such as the site origination of white editors to use in the reprints. For example, the Classic this case, here are rules edeneets of retreest to the collector which would not be included. The original 1977 release of Traveller contained there books – Characters and Combat, Stantipa, and Workid and Adventures. This set of rules contains everything needed to play Traveller. However, in 1981, GDW took advantage of a need to report the core rules to also address and clean up the rules. This second edition' addated that appear onlyme additional material, including a special introduction for new players, two adventures, and additional details on what was becoming the "Traveller rules. This released Starter Traveller, intended al spiring a younger audience a streamined and simpler set of Traveller rules. This released Starter Traveller, intended al spiring a younger audience a streamined and simpler set of Traveller rules. This releases of pool some of the me complicated rules. In deal data is not released to streame and players of the Classic Traveller rules rules and the rules. This document is present, and other more Classic Traveller rules with the rules that be appear onlyme as great material, including a special intendee of the rules as in the rules. This document presents a collection of rules elements for purchasers of FFE's The Classic Books 0-8 to give them access to these "lost rules" rol available in the Classic Reputing Collection. **CMACTERS (Igno: 1)** Manual Market (1977): On the Service Skills table, and the unvesticited Advanced Education table, the 1977 Advanced the Market and Market Collection. Market **Special Supplement 4- The** Lost Rules is a detailed examination of the changes in rules (through various editions) in Classic Traveller. Compiled by Don McKinney. Classic Traveller: The Lost Rules. A supplement to FFE 001-The Classic Books 0-8. Comments and criticisms should be addressed to don.mckinney@gmail.com. 16-Nov-09 6:33 PM 1

ADVENTURES



Francis Greenaway (free product)

Adventure 3

Twilight's Peak

RAVE

in the Far Future



Double Adventures Double Adventures

combined two short

referee finished one





For Referees Only

Game Designers' Workshop

Marooned & Marooned Alone deal with a party of adventurers or solitary adventurer and their efforts to cross the trackless outback of a primitive world. 48 pages;



danger on an unexplored

world. Horde deals with a

save a planet from an alien

invasion

Divine Intervention is a clandesti mission to a religious dictatorship. Night of Conquest involves the group of adventurers striving to characters in a coup.

Science-Fiction Adventure



Perrugues is an encounter with a plague on a strange world; Arden is a bureaucratic problem on the eve of war.

This Double Adventure was planned but never saw publication in this format.

ALIEN MODULES

The **Traveller** Alien Modules each introduced a new alien race to players and referees, complete with character generation, history and background, language material, and an adventure.

AM04 Zhodani



Encounters with the psionic masters.

The Zhodani alien module profiled the vast human empire lying spinward of the Imperium.



Adventure and Intrigue with a proud warrior race.

The first of the **Traveller** alien modules, dealing with the feline Aslan and their massive empire spinward of the Imperium.





Encounters with the enigmatic centaurs.

The second alien module, dealing with the herbivore K'kree and their empire trailing the Imperium.

AM03 Vargr



Freebooting encounters with the wolves of space.



The third alien module addressed the Vargr: uplifted dogs from Terra.

AM08 Darrians



The secret of the Star Trigger

The history of the Darrians... high-tech humans in the Spinward Marches.

AM05 Droyne



The last of the Ancients

Information about the reptilian droyne and their caste structure.

AM06 Solomani



Solomani Game Designers' Workshop

Self-proclaimed champions of human supremacy.

Coverage of the humans of Earth and their Earth-centered empire.

AM07 Hivers



Game Designers' Workshop Encounters with the Manipulators

Details of the truly alien hivers and their social structure.

MODULES

Modules provided larger adventures... and additional materials... in a boxed format. Later, the format for **Modules** became a larger book similar to the **Alien Modules**.



World Beyond The Frontier

A detailed presentation of a single world in the Spinward Marches.



Riches and Danger in the Bowman Belt.

A detailed presentationof a single system in the Spinward Marches, including asteroid mining operations.





*Atlas of the Imperium

Star Maps of 35 sectors in and around the Imperium.

35 star charts showing the systems within sectors in the Imperium (and outside the Imperium).



Spinward Marches Campaign: in a War-Ravaged Sector

A bit error in a high priority transmission brands one of the player characters a traitor — to be shot on sight. It's all a foul mix-up, but explain that to sixteen plasma-gun-armed Marines in battle dress!



Eight Excursions Beyond Human Space

This module includes: **Deep Metal:** A zhodani diplomatic mission is charged with securing minerals for the Consulate. A local minor race, reputed to have psionic abilities helps uncover yet another deceitful Imperial plot. **Prosperity for the Taking First Son, Lost Son**

First Son, Lost Son Interdiction Zone The Last Patrol for humans No Credit Check for Vargr Ahriy Uprising for Aslan The Casteless for Droyne.

Corridor Corridor Sector Map (one of 35 star maps in the Atlas).

BOARDGAMES

Traveller publisher GDW was a boardgame publisher long before it started creating role-playing games, and many of its **Traveller** support titles were boardgames.



One of two sheets of counters for Imperium.



Empires in Conflict; Worlds in the Balance Imperium was conceived and designed independently of **Traveller** (curiously, at about the same time). Over time, **Traveller** looked to **Imperium** for inspiration and gradually the boardgame became part of the background history of the roleplaying game.

G01 Mayday



A complete scence-liction game of stanhips, attacks and escapes. A Series 120 Came, playable in under two hours by two players, ages twelve to adult. This game uses a variant of the starship rules presented in **Traveller**.

Starship battles in the far future.

Vector movement space combat with repositionable hex grid space maps.



The Imperium Game Map



Eight starmaps (all identical) for **Mayday**.

Snapshot covered individual combat aboard starships, with deckplans for a free trader and a scoutship. Suitable for miniatures.
Image: Section of the sectio

Starship counters for Mayday.

G02 Snapshot



Game Designers' Workshop





G03 Azhanti Personal combat aboard a

Personal combat aboard a huge starship.

This boxed game included 13 deckplan sheets, counters for crew and others, and Supplement 5.







G04 Fifth Frontier War The conduct of the Fifth Frontier War.

This boxed game was a detailed wargame simulation of an interstellar war in the Spinward Marches.

Three counter sheets (Imperials, Zhodani, and Markers) and a 22 x 28 inch map.



One quarter of the game map for Fifth Frontier War.

G05 Invasion: Earth The final battle of the Solomani Rim War.

This boxed game was a detailed wargame simulation of the final stages of the war between the Imperium and the Solomni Confederation: the invasion of Earth!



The wargame map of Earth.



Dark Nebula combined the game system from Imperium with a new map (eight different sheets laid out randomly) to create a fast playing game presenting new situations every time.

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G07 Striker









Striker miniatures rules covered small unit military operations in 15mm scale.

A key component of Striker was the design sequence which allowed the design of a combat vehicles.

Martian Metals produced a line of 15mm figures supporting Striker and Classic Traveller.

The Martian Metals line ambitiously included several 15mm scale vehicles.



Posters

GDW supported **Traveller** with a variety of posters. Posters always seemed like an innovative promotion, but the logistics (folded? unfolded? rolled? shipping tube? envelope? who get's them? stores? players? referees?) but they were never especially successful in bringing in new players.

The most successful of GDW's **Traveller** poster projects was the **Map of the Imperium**. Because it shows all of Charter Space and many unexplored sectors beyond, players and referees found it useful and informative.

Uncolored image shown; the widely distributed version had red accents.

17 x 22 inch sheet.

SPECIALS

Game Designers' Workshop produced a variety of support materials of Traveller... in advance of new titles, to promote Traveller in general, or just for fun.



Traveller red stripe. Marketing of the binders was limited, and many were used by staff for their own file storage.

Sticker- Traveller Galaxy



This promotional sticker was distributed to referees for their adventure materials. 4 x 4.75 inches.

| 1.1 | TRAVELLER Science-Fiction Adventure In the Far Future |
|---|--|
| <text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text> | <text><text><section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header></text></text> |
| Converge © 1889, GDN Toweller is Same Despery Rest- deary valences for to some future reliance of the program Desting. This tempter is a supportance offers of the dasheet and other Press Dasheets, Alth Headman, Analises Fact, Wilson Fact, Net Mine, and Laws Waterson. | MACK SAFELAND BIND BACKS A searchini cleathanian prents ha devicest hand o when the review and safety and search, the derivatives of inver-special as these shaft advance FTL these their up to and to fermionian, when the meaning of these their up of |

Society detailed some of the aliens in Traveller, designer Marc Miller decided a better reference was needed. He produced the 8-page Aliens with a one-page overview of each of the major alien races in the Traveller universe.

Sticker- For Use With Traveller



This promotional sticker was produced for application to boardgames which did not feature the Traveller name prominently enough: primarily Snapshot and Mayday.

They were also popular with referees and players when they could get them. Many were handed out at game conventions.

2 x 3 inches.



The basic grant of noble rank by the Emperor.

Writers (and especially Traveller licensees) wanted territories in which they could place their adventures, and soon clamored for "Land Grants" giving them exclusive access to specific sectors.

To formalize such grants, designer Marc Miller crafted a variety of supporting materials.

Classic Traveller Checklist

SETS

CT Classic Traveller ST Starter Traveller DT Deluxe Traveller TTB The Traveller Book TTA The Traveller Adventure

SPECIALS

History of the Imperium Alien Hand-Out Understanding Traveller Poster- Beowulf Poster- Vargr Poster- Imperium Map Map Sticker- Traveller Galaxy Sticker- For Use With Traveller Binder- Traveller Nobility

GUIDES TO

Classic Traveller FASA Traveller GameLords Traveller Judges Guild Traveller Grenadier Traveller Martian Metals Traveller Citadel Traveller Journal of the Traveller's Aid

Traveller Hardcopy Reprints

MegaTraveller The New Era Traveller4* GURPS Traveller* HERO Traveller* D20 Traveller* Mongoose Traveller*

* In Preparation

BOOKS

B00 Introduction To Traveller B01 Characters and Combat B02 Starships B03 Worlds and Adventures B04 Mercenary B05 High Guard B06 Scouts B07 Merchant Prince B08 Robots

SUPPLEMENTS

S01 1001 Characters S02 Animal Encounters S03 The Spinward Marches S04 Citizens of the Imperium S05 Lightning Class Cruisers S06 76 Patrons S07 Traders & Gunboats S08 Library Data (A-M) **S09 Fighting Ships** S10 The Solomani Rim S11 Library Data (N-Z) S12 Forms & Charts S13 Veterans SS1 Merchant Prince SS2 Exotic Atmospheres SS3 Missiles in Traveller SS3a Missiles in Traveller SS4 The Lost Rules

ADVENTURES

A00 The Imperial Fringe A01 The Kinunir A02 Research Station Gamma A03 Twilight's Peak A04 Leviathan A05 Trillion Credit Squadron A06 Expedition to Zhodane A07 Broadsword A08 Prison Planet A09 Nomads A10 Safari Ship A11 Murder on Arcturus A12 Secret of the Ancients A13 Signal GK

DOUBLE ADVENTURES D01 Shadows/Annic Nova

D02 Mithril/Bright Face D03 Argon /Death Station D04 Marooned/ Alone D05 Chamax Plague/Horde D06 Night/Divine Intervention D07 Perrugues/Arden

MODULES

M01 Tarsus (boxed) M02 Beltstrike (boxed) M03 Spinward Campaign M04 Atlas of the Imperium M05 Alien Realms

ALIEN MODULES

AM1 Aslan AM2 K'kree AM3 Vargr AM4 Zhodani AM5 Droyne AM6 Solomani AM7 Hivers AM8 Darrians

BOARDGAMES

G00 Imperium G01 Mayday G02 Snapshot G03 Azhanti High Lightning G04 Fifth Frontier War G05 Invasion: Earth G06 Striker Miniatures Rules G07 Dark Nebula

JOURNAL OF THE TRAVELLERS' AID SOCIETY

J01 Annic Nova J02 Victoria J03 Asteroids J04 Gazelle J05 Imperium J06 Scouts Champa Starpot J07 J08 Broadsword J09 WAR! Planet Building J10 J11 Striker J12 Merchant Prince J13 Hivers J14 Lawbreakers J15 Azun J16 SuSAG Atmospheres J17 J18 Without Jumping J19 Skyport Proloque J20 Vargr J21 J22 Port to Jumpoint J23 Zhodani J24 2000 Worlds

GERMAN TRAVELLER

Core I Basic Rules Core II - Söldner, Scouts und Core III Roboter Atlas des Imperiums Die Chamax-Pest/horde Die Spinwärts-Marken Kauffahrer und Kanonenboote Tierbegegnungen Infodata A-Z Forschungsstation Gamma Gefängniswelt Nacht der Entscheidung Nomaden des Weltenmeeres Safarischiff Schlachtkreuzer Kinunir

Splitter des Imperiums (MT)

SPANISH TRAVELLER

Core Rules Mercenary 1001 Characters The Kinunir

JAPANESE TRAVELLER

Traveller Mercenary High Guard Scouts Robot Manual Mayday Research Station Gamma Twilight's Peak Azhanti High Lightning Fifth Frontier War

CHALLENGE MAGAZINE

Challenge 25 Challenge 26 Challenge 27 Challenge 28 Challenge 29 Challenge 30 Challenge 31 Challenge 32 Challenge 33 Challenge 33 Challenge 34 Challenge 35 Challenge 36

And There's More...

The universe of **Traveller** continues to grow and prosper. The material from **Classic Traveller** (and from subsequent editions) shapes a consistent future universe with more twists and turns than anyone ever expected.

www.farfuture.net

with links to hardcopy reprints, CDROM collections, and DriveThruRPG instant ebook/PDF downloads.