

## Characters

**Yags** is a generic game system designed to model most types of genres and settings. The character design process aims to provide you, the player, with many options when building your character, unlimited by class restrictions or poor die rolls. It also provides the Game Master with options for the level of the campaign, from fairly mundane people thrown into abnormal situations, to heroic larger than life characters who shape the world around them.

What is provided here can only define the mechanics around the character. As with any roleplaying game, it is up to you to provide the story and personality behind the character. *Yags* is fairly *crunchy*, so allows you to build your character on a solid framework that matches your expectations.

*Yags* aims for something close to realism, whilst still allowing for heroic characters. Even the greatest hero can be taken out by a single bullet or thrust of a sword, but they win against the enemy hordes through clever tactics, high skill and possibly some luck.

If you haven't already done so, it is suggested that you read the *Core Rules*, which provide a basic description of how the system works. The following however provides a summary of the Core Rules.

### The Rules in Brief

*Yags* uses a single d20 for all die rolls. When making a skill check, you determine which attribute and skill to use, and roll attribute x skill + 1d20. Most professionals will have an attribute of 3 and a skill of 4, so will be rolling 12 + 1d20.

A very easy task has a target difficulty of 10, a moderate task 20, a difficult task 30. You must roll the target difficulty or higher in order to succeed.

### Attributes

There are 8 primary attributes to define, and all begin with a score of 3 (which is average for an adult human). Anything outside of the range of 2-5 is considered to be very exceptional for a human, and attributes above 8 are unheard of amongst humans.

**Strength:** How strong you are, including your ability to lift and hurt things. If you have a high strength then you will tend to be larger as well.

**Health:** A measure of your physical fitness and stamina. Health is used in checks to remain alive after being seriously wounded.

**Agility:** Your agility represents your quickness, athletic prowess and balance. It is used for brawling, wrestling, sneaking, reaction tests and acrobatics.

**Dexterity:** Dexterity is your hand-eye coordination, sleight-of-hand and skill with melee weapons. Pistols also use dexterity, and rifles may use dexterity or perception.

**Perception:** How alert you are, and the general quality of

your senses. If perceptive, you are good at hiding and noticing things. Rifles and larger weapons use perception.

**Intelligence:** A measure of your wit, cunning, memory and intuition. Knowledges are based on intelligence, as are logic and reasoning skills.

**Empathy:** Empathy is your ability to understand others. It is used to make friends, convince people emotionally, or to tell if someone is lying to you. Empathy doesn't affect your intentions to be nice or nasty, but does affect how well you notice other people's feelings.

**Will:** Your Will is a measure of mental fortitude, being used to resist psi, instincts and emotions. A high Will makes you a good liar, a low Will means you are gullible and likely to give in to fear, lust and greed.

### Skills

Skills are abilities which are gained through study, experience and training. There are 8 basic skills (talents) which all being at a score of 2, all other skills are assumed to start at zero unless stated otherwise for your background.

A skill of 4 is considered to be a trained professional, 6 is an expert, 8 is elite and 10+ is a true master of the profession. Skills above 15 are pretty much unheard of.

### Speciality Techniques

Techniques are specialities bought within a particular skill. They enable you to perform actions that would be impossible or hard without it, or grant a bonus in certain situations (sometimes to related skills).

### Setting and Style

*Yags* does not try to cover all possible settings in one set of rules. What is provided here is a wide range of skills and background options, but only enough to cover the 'real world'. There are no options for magic, since how magic is learnt and used can differ from setting to setting. Likewise, there are no skills to cover piloting space craft or operating energy shields or matter transmitters, since again how these work differs between science fiction settings. Individual world books will contain the unique information necessary to build characters for these settings.

Finally, it is up to the Game Master to decide on the level of the campaign - *Mundane*, *Exceptional* or *Heroic*, and any other limits in place on the choice of characters and backgrounds.

# 2 Characters

## Character Building

Building a character for *Yags* is a relatively straightforward process. There are many choices available however, and as always it helps to have a good idea of your character concept before you start. The setting of the campaign will tend to limit this, and your GM may have some suggestions as to what type of characters will find a useful role to play.

*Yags* is point based, and the number of points you get to spend depend on the level of the game that the GM will be running. You get three point pools to spend from - **Attributes**, **Experience** and **Advantages**. Your first task is to prioritise these according to the type of character you wish to play. You must choose one pool as your *Primary*, one as your *Secondary* and the last as your *Tertiary* pool. The Primary pool gets the most points to spend, and the Tertiary the least.

Point Pools
The points you get to create a character with are divided into a number of different <i>pools</i> . This division serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps to focus character design into easier to understand chunks. Secondly, it helps to limit possible abuses of the design process.

The pools are not necessarily equal, but which are the most useful will depend on the type of campaign and the type of character that you wish to build.

### The Pools

#### Attributes

Your *attributes* define the raw potential of your character. A character with good attributes tends to be able to pick up new things reasonably quickly. They can be fit, healthy, intelligent and charismatic. Attributes are difficult or impossible to raise after character generation (depending on the campaign style), so can be more useful long term than experience or advantages.

Hollywood action heroes will tend to have high attributes. A character with high attributes and low skills represents the gifted amateur who learns to quickly supercede their mentors.

When you prioritise attributes, you define both how many extra points you get to spend, and the maximum level any single attribute can be. This is shown as +points/maximum in the tables below.

#### Experience

*Experience* represents skills and knowledge, generally gained through training and real world experience. A character with a lot of experience is probably older than those who lack it.

Academics, scientists and businessmen will tend to have a high experience. These are often the support characters in fiction - less heroic, but providing useful skills in specialised areas.

When you prioritise experience, you define both how many points you get to spend on skills and techniques, and the maximum level of any single skill. As for attributes, this is shown as points/maximum.

#### Advantages

Heroes often have some out of the ordinary feature which separates them from normal people. *Advantages* represent these features. By purchasing advantages, you can make your character special in a certain way, either through extremely good looks, large size, speed or luck.

Advantages also allow you to purchase certain background options, such as wealth or high status. An otherwise normal character can be extremely useful to a group by being able to provide large sums of money to fund their adventures.

When you prioritise advantages, you define how many points of advantages you may buy. You may always buy one further point of advantage by taking a point of disadvantage. For every full 3 points of advantages you are given, you may take an extra disadvantage to gain a further point.

### The Priorities

Before you can begin character generation, the GM will have set the level of the campaign. This determines how many points you get to spend on the three areas.

#### Mundane

Mundane campaigns are about normal people in abnormal situations (or even normal people in normal situations). In this type of campaign, characters are somewhat above average, but not significantly so.

This level of campaign is suitable for modern horror, or stories about young, inexperienced knights at the start of their careers. There is no reason that characters in such campaigns can't grow to become heroic, but the story is often about their progression rather than what they do once they become heroes.

The majority of people in the world will be of the *Mundane* level - indeed, most will have a *Tertiary* level in each of the three categories. Skilled professionals will tend to have Primary experience however.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+5/5	+2/4	0/4
Experience	50/6	30/5	20/4
Advantages	3	1	0

For a truly mundane game, characters may be limited to taking two *Secondary* and one *Tertiary* selections, or even a single *Secondary* and two *Tertiary*.

*Mundane* campaigns are best for horror, low fantasy or gritty science fiction. Characters will be young with their life (hopefully) ahead of them.

#### Exceptional

*Exceptional* campaigns begin with the characters well above average. You are highly skilled, and above average

# Characters 3

in your attributes however you prioritise your pools.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+8/6	+5/5	+2/4
Experience	100/7	75/6	50/5
Advantages	4	2	1

Exceptional characters will tend to be average in their weak areas, rather than actually weak. Having said this, they are not far above the norm in attributes, and may be the equivalent of highly skilled professionals (knights, special forces, experienced smugglers etc) who could pass themselves off as heroic with good planning and luck.

## Heroic

In a heroic campaign you have skills and abilities well above the majority of people.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+12/8	+6/6	+3/5
Experience	200/10	150/8	100/6
Advantages	6	3	1

Heroic characters are very, very good.

# 4 Characters

## Attributes

For player characters, attributes are generally rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with human PCs falling within the range of 2-8. Anything outside of the range 2-5 however is significantly unusual for an adult human, and a typical adult will have all their attributes at 3.

The number of points that may be spent on buying up an attribute depends on the priority you chose for attributes - 12 points for primary, 6 for secondary and only 3 for tertiary. This choice also limits the maximum you may buy an attribute up to.

Score	Cost and description
10	<b>Super alien.</b> The limit of what most aliens can achieve, and far ahead of any human.
9	<b>Super human.</b> Beyond what humans can achieve, and only found in a select few alien species.
8	<b>Amazing (+15 points).</b> At the limit of human ability, which only a few people in human history have attained.
7	<b>Outstanding (+10 points).</b> The best olympic athletes and the most renowned of academics will have this level of attribute.
6	<b>Superb (+6 points).</b> Far above human average, attained not by chance but through dedicated training.
5	<b>Exceptional (+3 points).</b> Obviously exceptional. Attributes higher than this are normally only attained through training and dedication.
4	<b>Good (+1 point).</b> Significantly above average for an adult. About 5% of the population has this level or above.
3	<b>Average (0 points).</b> Typical average for an adult. About 90% of the population.
2	<b>Poor (-2 points).</b> Significantly below average, the bottom 5%.
1	<b>Terrible.</b> Obviously impaired compared to a typical human. An attribute of this level is almost worthless.

Levels outside of the range 2-8 cannot be purchased, but are reserved for alien species. Some aliens get a bonus or penalty to a given attribute, and this bonus applies after you have purchased the attribute. You may not purchase an attribute to a level that would cause it to be shifted outside of the 1-10 range once species modifiers have been applied.

## Advantages

Advantages allow you to personalise your character by choosing traits which make the character stand out above the rest of their society. Most people will have no advantages.

### Advantages

#### **Ambidexterity (+1):**

You suffer no penalty for performing actions with your off hand.

#### **Animal empathy (+1):**

You have a natural ability to get on well with animals. All animals react well to you, and have their reaction shifted to one better category.

#### **Charisma (+3):**

You are good at getting on with people, and gain a +1 bonus to *Empathy* when trying to befriend or persuade a person.

#### **Eidetic memory (+3):**

You are very good at remembering things. The target difficulty for trying to remember something you have seen or heard is halved.

#### **Famous (+1, +3, +5):**

You are famous, and there is a good chance that people will recognise you - either by face, or at least by name. At level +1, you are known to a select group of people, either over a small area (such as a country) or to those with certain interests (such as Johnny Ball or Charles Stross).

At level +3, you are mildly famous across the world.

At level +5, you are really famous.

#### **Fit (+1):**

*Cannot take: Unfit.*

You have one more fatigue level than you would normally have from your *Health*.

#### **Good looking (+1):**

*Cannot take: Ugly.*

You are exceptionally beautiful, and gain a +1 bonus to your *Empathy* when trying to charm or persuade somebody who may be sexually attracted to you. Being beautiful also makes you easier to recognise.

#### **Graceful (+1):**

*Cannot take: Clumsy.*

You are graceful in your movements. Whenever you are trying to impress people with athletic feats, then upon a success you gain an extra level of success that goes towards making you look good. This covers dancing, gymnastics or even sword play. This has no effect on the practical outcome.

#### **Heavily built (+1):**

*Prerequisites: Strength 4.*

*Cannot take: Small.*

You are heavily built, being tougher and broader than normal. You get one extra level of *stun*, plus a +1 bonus to *Strength* for purposes of resisting knockdown, or being

tripped.

#### **Iron constitution (+1):**

You have a particularly hardy constitution, and gain +2 to your *Health* to resist all forms of poison, disease and other forms of illness.

#### **Keen hearing (+1):**

*Cannot take: Poor hearing.*

You have exceptional hearing, and gain a +2 bonus to your *Perception* when making hearing checks. When fighting in total darkness in close combat, your *Perception* has a minimum of 1.

#### **Keen vision (+1):**

*Cannot take: Poor vision, Missing eye.*

You have exceptional vision, and gain a +2 bonus to your *Perception* when making vision checks. It does not grant a bonus for ranged attacks.

#### **Large (+1):**

*Prerequisites: Strength 4.*

*Cannot take: Small.*

You are very large, being both tall and heavily built. You have a bonus of +1 to your *Size* (raising it to 6 for humans), which provides you with an extra level of wounds and stuns. You also have extra reach, and any reach 0 melee attacks are instead considered reach 1. You may not have a *Strength* below 4.

#### **Literate (+1):**

You may read and write any language you begin with. You may take a scribe skill in a language equal to your speak for that language for free. Languages gained during play are not affected. At the GM's option, this may not apply to some languages (especially those which have no known written form).

In a campaign where literacy is common, this advantage is had by everyone for free, unless *illiterate* is taken.

#### **Musical talent (+1):**

*Cannot take: Can't sing.*

You have a natural talent with music, and gain a +2 bonus to *Empathy* or *Intelligence* when playing a musical instrument, or composing for one.

#### **Need little sleep (+1):**

*Cannot take: Heavy sleeper.*

You don't need as much sleep as other people. You recover fatigue twice as quickly when sleeping, and only need 4 hours sleep to count as having a full night's rest.

#### **Night vision (+1):**

You have particularly good night vision. Except in total darkness, any penalties to your *Perception* are halved (round down) when either making vision checks, or when your *Perception* is used to cap other attributes.

#### **Reflexes (+1):**

You have a +1 bonus to *Agility* for purposes of initiative. See the combat rules for a description of how initiative works.

#### **Reserves of strength (+1):**

*Cannot take: Poor attribute (Strength).*

You may tap into reserves of strength at any time, allowing

# 6 Characters

to perform feats not normally possible. At any time, you may have +1 or +2 to your *Strength* for a single roll, though you gain one point of fatigue per point of bonus for doing so.

## Rich (+1, +3, +5, +7):

You are rich. Possibly stinking rich depending on the level to which you take this advantage. At level +1, you are comfortably well off, with a total worth of a few million pounds. You can probably afford to not work, as long as you don't live too extravagantly.

At a level of +3, you have tens of millions of pounds and can join the ranks of the idle rich if you so rich. Alternatively you can fund startups, give to charity or just spend it all on fast cars and pretty women.

At a level of +5 you have a worth in the hundreds of millions. You probably have some big expensive yachts, a private jet and several garages full of cars.

At a level of +7, you are a billionaire, and join the ranks of the richest people in the world. You probably own a small island somewhere, with a secret base, private army and a fleet of fast jets.

## Sexy (+3):

As well as being *good looking*, the way in which you walk, talk and dress comes across as very sexy to anyone who would be sexually attracted to you. Others will tend to flirt with you given a chance, and you may gain +2 to *Empathy* in such situations.

## Voice (+3):

You have a clear and pleasant voice, and gain a +1 bonus to *Empathy* when singing, orating or otherwise entertaining with the sound of your voice. This does not stack with *Beautiful*.

## Disadvantages

### Absent minded (-1):

You have a poor memory, and probably a reputation for being forgetful. The problem mostly manifests when trying to remember everyday mundane things, such as locking the front door, packing food or putting your clothes on in the morning. At inconvenient moments, the GM will secretly make an *Intelligence* check for you to see if you remembered doing something important.

If the *player* ever forgets something, then excuses of "but my character would have remembered" can be safely ignored by the GM.

### Addiction (varies):

The addict craves some drug which they need to stave off withdrawal symptoms. The cost of the addiction is measured by three factors - whether the substance is socially accepted (tobacco and alcohol normally are), whether it is expensive and/or difficult to get hold of (heroin), and whether it has any side effects which affect the character in game (alcohol and heroin would, though tobacco wouldn't, since the latter's side effects are too long term to have any effect in most games).

Side effects include anything which can be detrimental to you during the general course of play. Drinking yourself

into a stupor most evenings may have less effect on the game than being mildly drunk all the time.

Addiction	Cost
Your addiction is socially acceptable, reasonably cheap and has few short term side effects. Smoking is an example (you may get negative reactions in some places, but it's not illegal).	-1
Your addiction is either not socially acceptable, has bad side effects or is hard or expensive to get hold of. Alcoholism is an example.	-3
Your addiction suffers from two problems, or one very, very badly. Heroin is not sociably acceptable and is expensive, but most side effects are long term.	-5

### Albino (-1):

*Cannot take: Exotic appearance.*

You are an albino. Your skin and hair are white and your eyes are pink. You risk suffering sub burn in moderate sunlight, and may find that others react badly to you due to your unusual appearance.

### Animal enmity (-1):

You do not get on well with animals. The Reaction of animals to you is always one level worse than it would be otherwise.

### Bad back (-3):

You have a bad back, which at moments of physical exertion may fail you. If you ever roll a '1' when making an *athletics* check, or when wrestling or performing similar feats, then you put your back out. Your *Agility* and *Dexterity* is immediately reduced to one for the rest of the day.

### Bad habit (-1):

You have a bad habit which bothers most other people. It may be a manner of speaking, or something you do (such as picking your nose, or standing really close to people). If people have a bad reaction to you, then it is one step worse. People who have a neutral or better reaction can overlook it.

### Bad hangovers (-1):

You suffer from very bad hangovers the morning after a night of drinking. All penalties and effects of a hangover are doubled.

### Big mouth (-1):

You have a habit of spurting out the wrong thing at the worst possible time. If the player makes any snide comments, asides or other such utterances whilst a social situation is being roleplayed, then their character said it out loud.

### Cannot lie (-3):

You are a very bad liar. You do not necessarily have any moral objections to lying, but any attempts to do so result in your skill check being halved.

### Clumsy (-1):

*Cannot take: Graceful.*

You are clumsy and awkward, every movement you make looks like a disaster waiting to happen. Any attempt you make to look graceful or skilled is likely to fail, and the success of all such actions is reduced by one level.

**Combat paralysis (-1):**

You are fearful and indecisive, and react poorly in combat. You are unable to act in the first round of combat. If you have surprise, then you do not get any benefit from the surprise. A fumbled initiative means that you are indecisive for two rounds.

**Crippled (-5):**

You are crippled in one of your attributes. Choose one unmodified attribute and reduce its value to 1. It may never be improved. You may only take this disadvantage for a single attribute. You should explain why this attribute is so low as part of your background.

**Exotic looks (-1):**

*Cannot take: Albino, Noticeable mark.*

Your appearance is out of the ordinary. This does not mean that you are ugly or handsome (indeed, this advantage is compatible with other appearance affecting advantages), just that you are different and stand out in a crowd. You can be easy to recognise, and easy to blame because you look strange.

If you are exotically beautiful, then in some cases it may actually attract people to you, especially if there is plenty of more mundanely beautiful people to compete with. This will be quite rare however.

**Fragile (-3):**

You are susceptible to being wounded, and more likely to die from a serious injury. You suffer a -5 penalty to any rolls to remain alive or conscious after suffering a physical injury.

**Gullible (-1):**

You are particularly gullible and cannot tell if someone is lying, tending to take things at face value. You may well understand the concept of lying, and might be very good at it yourself, but can't spot when others are doing it.

Normally the you will automatically fail any attempts to detect lying. In really obvious situations, you may have a roll but the final result is halved.

**Ham fisted (-1):**

You are clumsy, suffering a penalty when trying to use fine motor skills. You suffer a -1 to *Dexterity* which performing such tasks as sleight of hand or lock picking.

**Heavy sleeper (-1):**

You sleep heavily, and find it difficult to awaken. When dozing, all perception checks are quartered (as if in deep sleep), and when actually sleeping your *Perception* is considered zero.

**Illiterate (-1):**

*Cannot take: Literate.*

You do not know how to read or right, and do not start with reading or writing skills in any language. This disadvantage can only be taken in a setting where literacy is the norm.

**Innumerate (-1):**

You have never learnt to count, and have great difficulty with numbers above ten (since you run out of fingers at this point). Arithmetic is very difficult, and estimating numbers of things is incredibly difficult for groups larger than three.

**Light drinker (-1):**

*Cannot take: Heavy drinker.*

You are easily intoxicated, and suffer a -1 penalty to *Health* when resisting the effects of alcohol and similar drugs.

**Loud (-1):**

You have a very loud voice, and have difficulty speaking quietly. If you have a need to keep your voice down, you need to make a *Will* check at a difficulty of at least 20 in order to do so. If you, the player, speaks loudly in a situation, then your character does as well.

**No direction sense (-1):**

You have no sense of direction. You automatically fail all but the simplest of navigation attempts. For very simple checks, your roll is halved.

**Non-combatant (-3):**

Either because you are a pacifist, or just because you are a coward, you have a distinct dislike of combat. Whenever you are in a real combat situation, you suffer a -1 to *Agility*, *Dexterity* and *Perception*, and your initiative roll is halved. You do not suffer this penalty in sporting events, so you can fence or perform target practise without penalty.

**Obese (-1):**

You are greatly overweight. Your *Strength* and *Health* is one less for purposes of encumbrance and fatigue levels. You also suffer a -1 to your attribute when performing any form of athletics.

**Poor hearing (-1):**

*Cannot take: Keen hearing.*

You are hard of hearing. All range penalties for hearing based checks are doubled. You suffer a -1 to *Perception* for purposes of blind fighting.

**Poor vision (-1):**

*Cannot take: Keen vision.*

You have poor eyesight. All vision penalties due to range are doubled. Penalties for ranged attacks are unaffected, but you may need to make a check to see if you can actually see the target.

**Sexually tantalising (-1):**

*Prerequisites: Good looking.*

Everybody you meet who could be sexually attracted to you will be. This may mean they react well to you, but in lawless situations it could be dangerous. Even when they are treating you nicely, people will view you as a sex object rather than as a person with meaningful opinions.

People who aren't sexually attracted to you will view you with jealousy, and probably react badly, especially if they think you are fooling around with their partner.

**Slow (-1):**

You suffer a -1 penalty to agility for purposes of initiative. Your basic move score is also reduced by 2 points.

**Small (-1):**

*Cannot take: Large, Strength 4+, Large, Heavily built.*

You are smaller than average, being both shorter and thinner. You have a *Size* of 4, and therefore have one less body level than normal. Reach of *short* and *medium* weapons is reduced by one level.

# 8 Characters

## **Smelly (-1):**

You have a very bad case of body odour. You suffer a -1 penalty to *Empathy* in social situations when people get close to you.

## **Ugly (-1):**

*Cannot take: Beautiful, Sexually tantalising.*

You are unattractive. Results of initial reaction checks from people are at one worse level. Seduction attempts etc are halved.

## **Unfashionable (-1):**

You have absolutely no sense of fashion. Anyone who cares about such things will react to you at one level worse than they would otherwise. Bad reactions will tend to be disdain, rather than hatred. You may not purchase any skills or techniques directly related to fashion.

## **Unfit (-1):**

You have one less fatigue level than you would normally have from your *Health*.

## **Weak (-1):**

You are weak, and incapable of doing much damage. Your *Strength* is considered to be one point lower for purposes of damage.

## **Wimp (-3):**

*Cannot take: High pain threshold.*

You are affected by pain more so than others. Penalties due to wounds and stuns are increased by one level (so you are at -5 for minor wounds, -10 for light wounds etc). Fatal wounds/stuns are unchanged. Penalties from fatigue are unaffected.

## Skills

Skills are those abilities which a character develops throughout their life, and tend to change a lot more regularly than attributes do.

How good a character is at a skill is rated as a value from zero upwards. A skill of four is acceptable for someone wanting to make a living with the skill. Higher skills are possible, though skills above six will be rare amongst the common population

Initial character development is divided into three broad categories - general skills, professional skills and adulthood. These should be worked through in the order given below.

## Types of Skills

### Standard skills

Most skills are considered to be *standard skills*. Such skills can be learnt relatively easily, including being self taught. They can also be used by a character who has a skill of zero, though such an attempt fumbles on a natural one or two.

### Talents

Talents are skills which are known by everyone from childhood onwards. They are treated just as standard skills, with the exception that all characters start with a skill level of two in all talents.

There are only eight talents, and are listed by default on the character sheet. Talents are sometimes marked with an asterix (\*).

### Knowledges

A knowledge is a special type of skill which cannot be attempted unless the character has a skill level of at least one. They can rarely be self taught, requiring a teacher or study aid (such as a book) to learn from.

### Languages

Language skills are treated on a scale from one to four, and are not normally 'rolled' like other skills. Instead, the level of skill gives a guide to how much of a conversation a character can understand.

**Level one:** The character can recognise the language and knows a few words, but cannot put sentences together.

**Level two:** The character can understand and form basic sentences. The character can probably get by in the market or in an inn.

**Level three:** The character has a good grasp of the language and can hold a decent conversation. They will obviously still be a foreigner however, and many unusual words will be beyond their understanding.

**Level four:** The character is fluent in the language. If they are a foreigner, then they may still have an accent, but they will not have any problems communicating.

**Level five and above:** If the character is a non-native speaker, then they can speak without an accent. This level and beyond gives detailed knowledge of different dialects and really obscure words, but is not of use in everyday conversation.

## Skill Rules

### Defaults

Some skills have a default - this will generally be one of the *talents*. If desired, the default can be used instead, but the result (after the die roll) is halved, plus the chance of fumbling is doubled.

A default skill may also restrict the type of tasks which are possible. For example, *Trade* defaults to *Guile*, but the latter can only be used to barter, and isn't much use if the character needs to know the real value of goods.

### Pre-requisites

A few skills have pre-requisites. Before this skill can be purchased at level one, all pre-requisites must be met. A skill like *Physics* might have a pre-requisite of *Mathematics-2* and *Science-2* for example, which means both skills must be known at level 2 before buying physics.

Further, the main skill may never be more than double the level of any of the pre-requisites. A physicist would have to raise their *Mathematics* and *Science* to at least 3, before raising *Physics* to 6.

A character cannot put points into a skill if the next level of skill is not allowed.

### Limited Skills

Under some genres, a skill may be *limited* by another skill. This concept is mostly limited to knowledge or science skills. When a skill is limited by another skill, the first skill may never be more than half the score of the second.

For example, during the *Enlightenment*, when *Science* was being discovered, the *Science* skill is limited by *Natural Philosophy*. If a character has a *Natural Philosophy* of 7, then their *Science* cannot be higher than 3 (since raising it any higher would make it greater than 3.5). Once the character's *Natural Philosophy* has been raised to 8, then they can begin to raise their *Science* to 4.

A character cannot put points into a skill if the next level of skill is not allowed.

### Skill Techniques

A *Technique* is a specialisation of a skill, and may provide bonuses or allow some particular special action to be attempted. A skill may have several techniques associated with it, and some techniques can be used with more than one skill. In the latter case, the technique only needs to be purchased once - it can then be used with any skill which uses it, as long as the skill is of sufficient level.

A technique has a cost associated with it, which is the number of experience points which need to be spent to buy it. A level 6 technique costs 6 points to buy. The cost of the technique is also the minimum skill level that must be

# 10 Characters

achieved before the technique can be purchased. If you do not have the required skill at a sufficient level, then the technique can't be bought.

Finally, a technique may have a prerequisite. These are the techniques which must be known before this technique can be learnt.

## Buying a technique

*Hard to kill is a level 2 technique which is based on the Brawl skill. To buy it, you must have a brawl of at least 2, at which point you can spend 2 points to buy Hard to kill.*

*Ignore pain is a level 4 technique which is based on Brawl and which has Hard to kill as a prerequisite. If you have a Brawl skill of 4 or more, and have already purchased Hard to kill, then you can spend 4 points to buy Ignore Pain.*

Some techniques will be based on a skill group rather than a skill. In this case the technique can be purchased when *any* skill in that group reaches the technique's level, but it can only be used with those skills of sufficient level.

## Skills

The following list of skills is not exhaustive, but covers the most common set of skills found in a low tech campaign setting. The following example shows what a skill entry looks like.

### Medicine Example (Knowledge)

SCIENCE, HEALING.

**Defaults to:** First aid

**Requires:** First aid-4

This skill can be used to try and make people better when they aren't feeling very well.

*Diagnosis*

Try to figure out what is wrong with someone.

#### Example difficulties

**10** - Cure a headache.

**20** - Put a leg back on.

The heading gives the name of the skill, followed by whether it is a *knowledge*, *talent* or *language* in parenthesis.

The second line displays all the skill groups that the skill belongs to. These are sometimes used for purposes of bonuses which apply to a category of skills.

Next is given the skill *default* and *pre-requisites* (if any). The score given for the pre-requisite is the minimum score that is needed in the required skill before this skill can be bought.

For skills which have *techniques* associated with them, then these will be listed as well.

The main body of text describes the skill - what it does and how it can be used. Some skills can be used in different ways for different tasks, and if these sub tasks are sufficiently different or important, then they will be

listed under a sub heading (for our Medicine example, Diagnosis is listed as a sub-task).

Finally, example skill difficulties may be given. These are suggested target numbers for achieving given tasks.

## Skills by Groups

The following lists all the skills according to various groups. Skills which belong to more than one group are listed multiple times. When designing a character that you want to be good at some type of thing, these grouping can give an idea about which skills to buy.

### Academic

**Anthropology(K)** - The study of Homonids.

**Archaeology(K)** - How to dig up ruins.

**Area lore(K)** - Knowledge about a given region.

**Astronomy(K)** - The study of the stars and planets.

**Biology(K)** (Science) - The science of biology.

**Botany(K)** (Biology)

**Chemistry(K)** (Science) - The science of chemistry.

**Criminology(K)** - The study of crime.

**Cryptography(K)** - Designing and using cyphers.

**Ecology(K)** (Botany, Zoology)

**Economics(K)** - Knowledge of financial matters.

**First aid** - Healing injuries and other ailments.

**History(K)** - Knowledge of the past.

**Law(K)** - Knowledge of the law.

**Mathematics(K)** - Geometry, aglebra etc.

**Medicine(K)** - Diagnosis and healing.

**Paleontology(K)** - The science of ancient life.

**Physics(K)** (Science) - The science of physics.

**Politics(K)** - Knowledge of politics.

**Religion(K)** - Knowledge about gods and cults.

**Research** (Any Academic skill) - Being able to find information.

**Science(K)** - Basic science, logic and reasoning.

**Surgery** (Medicine) - Performing complex surgery.

**Teach** - The ability to teach people.

**Theology(K)** (Religion) - Theoretical knowledge about religion.

**Vetinary(K)** (First aid) - Healing for animals.

**Zoology(K)** (Biology)

### Artistic

**Artist** - Painting and drawing.

**Calligraphy** - Writing beautifully.

**Dance** (Athletics) - Dancing with skill and grace.

**Musician** - Playing musical instruments.

**Perform** (Charm) - Oratory, singing and poetry.

### Business

**Accountancy** (Administration) - Managing finances.

**Administration** - Being able to manage people and paper.

**Current affairs(K)** - Current affairs.

**Economics(K)** - Knowledge of financial matters.

**Law(K)** - Knowledge of the law.

**Marketing** - Managing advertising campaigns and PR.

**Politics(K)** - Knowledge of politics.

**Trade** (Guile) - Bartering and other merchant skills.

### Combat

**Bow** - Using all sorts of bows, except crossbows.

**Brawl(\*)** - Punching, kicking, wrestling and dodging.

**Chain weapon** (Melee weapon) - Using chains, nunchuk or similar weapons.

**Crossbow** - Using crossbows.

**Heavy weapons** (Rifle) - Using heavy machine guns.

**Melee** - Using a melee weapon in combat.

**Melee weapon** (Brawl) - Using a sword, club or spear.

**Pistol** (Rifle) - Firing pistols, revolvers and SMGs.

**Rifle** (Pistol) - Firing rifles.

**Tactics** - Knowledge of combat tactics.

**Throw(\*)** - Using thrown weapons, and catching things.

## Craft

**Architecture**(K) - How to design buildings.  
**Cooking** - Preparing meals.  
**Handicraft** - Skill at various village crafts.  
**Scrounging** - Finding and fixing scrap.

## Criminal

**Burglary** - Breaking and entering.  
**Demolitions** - Blowing things up efficiently.  
**Forgery** - Forging credentials.  
**Gambling** (Guile) - Skill at playing card and dice games.  
**Intimidation** (Guile) - Scare someone into doing what you want.  
**Sleight**(\*) - Sleight of hand.  
**Stealth**(\*) - Hiding and moving quietly.  
**Streetwise** (Guile) - Dealing with the criminal underworld.  
**Surveillance systems** (Security systems) - Spying on people with electronic devices.  
**Torture** - Making people talk.

## Investigation

**Criminology**(K) - The study of crime.  
**Forensics**(K) - Finding clues at a crime scene.  
**Intimidation** (Guile) - Scare someone into doing what you want.  
**Streetwise** (Guile) - Dealing with the criminal underworld.  
**Torture** - Making people talk.

## Military

**Combat engineering** - Building things quickly.  
**Communication systems** - Using radios and similar communications gear.  
**Demolitions** - Blowing things up efficiently.  
**Gunnery** - Firing large vehicle mounted guns.  
**Intelligence analysis** - Analysing intelligence data.  
**Parachuting** (Athletics) - Safely using parachutes.  
**Sensor systems** - Using radar, sonar and other sensor systems.  
**Signal intelligence** - Using sensor and communications equipment.  
**Strategy** - Military strategy and logistics.  
**Surveillance systems** (Security systems) - Spying on people with electronic devices.  
**Survival** - Living in the wilderness.  
**Tactics** - Knowledge of combat tactics.  
**Torture** - Making people talk.

## Occult

**Alchemy**(K) - Knowledge of chemicals and magic.  
**Astrology**(K) - Knowledge of the heavens.  
**Herb lore**(K) - Knowledge of herbs and poisons.  
**Occult lore**(K) - Knowledge of stories and legends.

## Outdoor

**Falconry** - Training, caring and hunting with birds.  
**Farming** - Growing and harvesting of crops.  
**Hunting** - Training, caring and hunting with dogs.  
**Mining** - Working in and locating mines.  
**Ostling** - Training of horses.  
**Skiing** (Athletics) - Using skies.  
**Survival** - Living in the wilderness.

## Rural

**Animal husbandry**(K) (First aid) - Healing for animals.  
**Boating** - Handling small watercraft.  
**Farming** - Growing and harvesting of crops.  
**Ride** - Riding horses.

## Social

**Charm**(\*) - Being nice to people.  
**Current affairs**(K) - Current affairs.  
**Etiquette**(K) (Charm) - How to behave in polite company.  
**Gambling** (Guile) - Skill at playing card and dice games.

**Game** - Skill at a board game.  
**Guile**(\*) - Using and recognising deceit.  
**Intimidation** (Guile) - Scare someone into doing what you want.  
**Lip reading** - Understanding speech by reading lips.  
**Perform** (Charm) - Oratory, singing and poetry.  
**Politics** (Guile) - Intrigue and the knowledge of politics.  
**Sport** - Skill at a particular sport.  
**Teach** - The ability to teach people.  
**Trade** (Guile) - Bartering and other merchant skills.

## Talents

**Athletics**(\*) - Jumping, climbing and running.  
**Awareness**(\*) - General ability to notice things.  
**Brawl**(\*) - Punching, kicking, wrestling and dodging.  
**Charm**(\*) - Being nice to people.  
**Guile**(\*) - Using and recognising deceit.  
**Sleight**(\*) - Sleight of hand.  
**Stealth**(\*) - Hiding and moving quietly.  
**Throw**(\*) - Using thrown weapons, and catching things.

## Technical

**Communication systems** - Using radios and similar communications gear.  
**Computer operation** (Intelligence, Electronic operation) - The skill of using a computer.  
**Electrician** (Electronics) - Fixing electrical things.  
**Electronics** - Building electronic devices.  
**Engineering** - The science of building things.  
**Machinest** (Mechanics) - Building tools  
**Mechanics** (Engineering) - Fixing machines.  
**Security systems** - Using and evading security.  
**Sensor systems** - Using radar, sonar and other sensor systems.  
**Signal intelligence** - Using sensor and communications equipment.  
**Surveillance systems** (Security systems) - Spying on people with electronic devices.

## Vehicle

**Boating** - Handling small watercraft.  
**Drive** - Driving simple ground vehicles.  
**Gliding** - Piloting an unpowered aircraft.  
**Heavy weapons** (Rifle) - Using heavy machine guns.  
**Helicopter** - Piloting a helicopter.  
**Pilot** - Piloting a powered aircraft.

## Skill Descriptions

### Accountancy

BUSINESS.

**Defaults to:** Administration

Accountancy provides you with the knowledge of how to manage the finances of a business or organisation. It includes knowledge of tax laws, legal requirements and how to use common tools (including computers) needed to do your job.

With a *moderate* success you can meet all the legal requirements and ensure the figures are right. If you get at least a *poor* result, then failures can be fixed the following month. A *good* success allows you to perform some creative accountancy, whilst an *excellent* success allows lots of creative accountancy and making best use of tax laws.

### Example difficulties

- 10 - Managing personal finances.
- 20 - Managing the finances of a small business.
- 30 - Managing the finances of a large business.
- 40 - Managing the finances of a multinational corporation.

### Administration

BUSINESS.

# 12 Characters

The skill of managing an organisation, from dealing with people, basic finance, reception type duties and so on and so forth. You also know how to best short cut administration enforced by others, cutting through bureaucracy in the shortest possible times.

## Alchemy (Knowledge)

OCCULT.

Alchemy is the lore of non-living substances and how they interact. It may be used to identify substances, gives some knowledge of poisons, and provides a means to manufacture some simple effects - coloured smoke, invisible ink, bangs and the like.

After the *Enlightenment*, it is for all practical purposes superseded by *Chemistry*.

## Animal husbandry (Knowledge)

RURAL.

**Defaults to:** First aid

Looking after animals, especially on a farm. May be used to tend to sick or injured animals, in which case it may default to *first aid*.

## Anthropology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

This is the study of humans, including their origins, cultural and physical attributes, history and environment.

## Archaeology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

This skill is mostly about digging up the ruins of ancient civilisations, and covers the practical skills needed to find, recognise and preserve items, as well as basic management - social, equipment and legal. It does also include knowledge of how to identify and date ruins, as well as general knowledge of specific civilisations. However, detailed knowledge of ancient history requires the *History* skill.

## Architecture (Knowledge)

CRAFT.

The skill and knowledge required to design buildings, from simple houses up to huge cathedrals. Larger constructs may require knowledge of techniques in order to stand much chance of success. Some knowledge of *Law* may be needed to get all the planning regulations correct.

## Area lore (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

Knowledge of a given area, including geographical and political knowledge. The *Area lore* skill is used when checking to see if a character has heard of a person, place or organisation. Area lore is nearly always based on intelligence.

There is an area lore skill for each area, normally an area the size of a country, with the same culture. An area lore skill can give knowledge of surrounding areas, though such knowledge will be prejudiced by the beliefs of the original area the skill is for.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Knowledge that everyone knows, such as who the ruler is to the names of major cities.

## Artist

ARTISTIC.

The ability to draw or paint competently. Used with dexterity, or with intelligence to try and accurately draw some scene from memory.

## Astrology (Knowledge)

LORE, OCCULT.

Knowledge of the heavens, and how they affect the day to day life of mortals. This skill provides knowledge of the names of the stars and constellations, dates of the zodiacal calendar and what effect they have on those born under a sign. It may also be used to provide a detailed history/prediction for a person given knowledge of the circumstances of their birth.

In the real world, *Astrology* provides no useful information, though can provide a bonus when performing a *reading* on a person. Make an *intelligence x Astrology* check against the *intelligence x Science* of the target. If you succeed, you can add one fifth your roll as a bonus to the reading attempt.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Make a vague prediction which is compatible with Astrological thinking.

**20** - Make a detailed horoscope which is reasonably self consistent and fits within Astrological thinking.

**30** - Make an impressively detailed horoscope which will look good to other Astrologers.

## Astronomy (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

This is concerned with the study of stars and planets, their motions, positions and general behaviour. It does not provide full detail on their formation and physical makeup (that is left to *Astrophysics*).

## Athletics (Talent)

TALENTS.

**Techniques:** *Running, Sprinting, Sure footed, Climbing, Acrobatic talent, Contra gravity, Zero gravity, Swimming, Underwater swimming.*

This is a broad skill covering all forms of athletics, gymnastics and acrobatics. It is split into the following tasks.

### Running

Running represents a light jog which you can keep up for many minutes without too much difficulty. When running, you move a number of metres each round equal to your *move* score. A point of fatigue is gained every *health x athletics* minutes you are running.

### Sprinting

Sprinting represents an all out sprint, moving as quickly as you can. You cannot do anything else whilst sprinting, and most people can only sprint for a few rounds before becoming exhausted.

When sprinting, you may move a distance in metres equal to  $move \times 2 + athletics$  each round, and gain a point of fatigue each round.

### Jumping

Jumping represents both long jumps and high jumps.

### Climbing

Climbing things.

## Example difficulties

- 10 - Jumping onto a table
- 20 - Jumping over a table

## Awareness (Talent)

TALENTS.

**Techniques:** *Blind fighting, Light Sleeper.*

This skill is used by the character when there is a chance of noticing something which isn't obvious, such as someone trying to sneak around, people moving at a distance, or looking for a secret door. If the character is asleep, then any awareness rolls are quartered. If the character is only dozing (or day dreaming), then rolls are halved.

## Example difficulties

- perception x stealth** - See a hidden person
- agility x stealth** - Hear a sneaking person
- 10 - Hear people talking through a door
- 20 - Hear people talking through a wall
- 10 - Hear someone walking on gravel
- 15 - Hear someone walking on leaves
- 20 - Hear someone walking on grass
- 1/10m - See someone with casual glance
- 1/25m - See someone with careful look
- x2 range - Vision during dusk
- x4 range - Vision under moonlight
- x10 range - Vision under starlight

## Bicycling

SPORT.

**Defaults to:** Athletics

Riding a bicycle well. Most people in a modern setting probably learnt to ride a bike at some point, and so this skill defaults to *athletics*. If you have practised stunts or mounting biking in harsh conditions, then you probably have this skill however.

## Example difficulties

- 5 - Riding a bicycle in good conditions.

## Biology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

**Defaults to:** Science

**Requires:** Science-2

**Techniques:** *Genetics, Bioengineering, Biowarfare.*

Biology is a particular branch of *Science*, and covers the study of living things. It is closely related to *Chemistry*.

## Boating

VEHICLE, RURAL.

Being able to use a small oared boat. Based on intelligence for judging travel conditions, strength for speed or dexterity for fine navigation.

## Example difficulties

- 10 - Row a boat in a straight line in calm conditions.
- 15 - Row a boat in choppy conditions
- 20 - Row a boat in rough conditions (open sea)
- 30 - Very rough conditions
- 40 - Row in a storm

## Botany (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Biology

This is the study of plants.

## Bow

COMBAT, MISSILE.

The knowledge of how to use a bow such as a short bow, long bow or composite bow. For long bows, for every full four points of skill, the effective strength of the character is increased by one for purposes of determining the *pull* of

the bow that they can draw.

This skill can be used with crossbows, though reload times are doubled, and attacks fumble on a 1-3.

## Brawl (Talent)

TALENTS, COMBAT, MELEE.

**Techniques:** *Close combat, Disabling hold, Disabling attack, Dirty fighting, Brute force, Unarmed combat, Out of reach, Hard to kill, Ignore pain, Tough, Combat reflexes, Reflex dodge, Opportunity attack, Improved damage, Multiple attacks.*

A general purpose combat skill covering dodging, punching and wrestling. This is covered in more detail in the combat section. It allows the use of small weapons such as knives and daggers, as well as improvised weapons such as stones, bottles, sticks and chairs.

A character may always use the *brawl* skill to dodge even if they are using a weapon, but they don't get any bonuses from the weapon if they do so.

## Burglary

CRIMINAL.

You have experience in the various tasks involved in breaking into buildings. Opening basic locks, forcing doors and windows, and knowledge about how buildings are generally designed come under this skill.

## Example difficulties

- 10 - Very simple and basic lock.
- 20 - Typical key based lock.
- 30 - Good key based lock, typical combination safe.
- 40 - Excellent key based lock, good combination safe.
- 50 - Excellent combination safe.
- 10 - Most low tech unsecured doors and windows.
- 20 - Good quality mid-tech doors and windows.

## Calligraphy

ARTISTIC.

The skill of writing in a way that produces a work of art, as well as a record of knowledge.

## Chain weapon

COMBAT, ARMED MELEE.

**Defaults to:** Melee weapon

Using flexible chain melee weapons.

## Charm (Talent)

TALENTS, SOCIAL.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

A high *charm* allows you to appear friendly and sociable. It is nearly always based on *empathy*, and allows you to make a good impression and gain people's interest and trust.

*Charm* can be used to improve a second social skill test (such as *guile*, *trade* or *perform*). Make a charm check against the of the target to gain a +3 bonus for each level of success.

### Carousing

Used at parties and similar social gatherings. Can be used to find out information, flirt or try and talk to someone who might be otherwise difficult to talk to (such as a duke surround by hangers-on and aids who won't let anyone else near him). Generally not resisted.

### Chatter

Mindless chatter to try and draw information out of

# 14 Characters

someone, or to simply distract them. Generally not resisted, unless the target is being deliberately close mouthed about a subject.

## *Seduction*

Can try to seduce a person. Add appearance to *empathy* for purposes of seduction attempts, and resisted with the target's *will*.

## *Persuade*

If trying to change someone's mind by emotional arguments, resisted with the target's *will*.

### **Example difficulties**

- 10 - Not make a fool of yourself.
- 20 - Give a good impression.
- 30 - Be very likeable and understanding.
- 40 - Win friends and influence people easily.

### **Example difficulties (Carousing)**

- 10 - Survive a party.
- 20 - Make a good impression. Get to talk to someone important.
- 30 - Make a very good impression. People will remember the character favourably. Get to talk to someone important who doesn't want to talk to you.
- 40 - Most popular person at the party.

### **Example difficulties (Seduction)**

- 10 - Bad circumstances. Target of attempt is busy doing other things, such as working or is tired.
- 20 - Inappropriate circumstances. Target is on guard, or doing something else important.
- 30 - Highly inappropriate circumstances.

## **Chemistry (Knowledge)**

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Science

**Requires:** Science-2

**Techniques:** *Biochemistry*.

Chemistry is a particular branch of *Science*, which is concerned with the study of chemicals and elements.

## **Combat engineering**

MILITARY.

Most infantry has experience with digging trenches, building bridges and putting up sandbags. A combat engineer has a lot of experience doing this. This skill covers getting the job done in the minimum time, often so that's its good enough to do what it needs to do. It covers a wide range of tasks, from bridge building to tunnelling, and is more practical than theoretical.

Unlike 'real' engineering skills, this one assumes that the needed materials aren't readily to hand and that the people doing most of the heavy lifting are mostly unskilled infantry, so the result will often be simple and ugly. But it'll work.

## **Communication systems**

TECHNICAL, MILITARY.

This skill provides advanced knowledge of how to use communication devices such as radios. It does not just cover how to switch a device on and talk into it, since that is covered by basic *Intelligence*, but provides in depth knowledge of how to fix it when things go wrong, how to get around jamming, how to jam someone else's communications, and how to improve signal strength.

## **Computer operation**

TECHNICAL.

**Defaults to:** Intelligence, Electronic operation

**Techniques:** *System administration, Computer intrusion, Computer forensics, Computer security, Computer programming, Cryptanalysis, Sensors, Medical.*

This covers the skills needed to use a modern computer, from switching it on to finding files, sending messages and using common applications. At the higher levels, programming, system administration and network intrusion become possible. This skill covers a wide range of complex of tasks, which are detailed elsewhere.

### **Example difficulties**

- 10 - Looking for a particular file using easy criteria.
- 20 - Filtering information from a database and analysing it (producing graphs, finding correlations).

## **Cooking**

CRAFT.

The preparing, preserving and cooking of food. Includes some knowledge of herbs.

## **Criminology (Knowledge)**

INVESTIGATION, ACADEMIC.

You have studied criminals and the crimes they commit, in an attempt to better catch them. This is normally the domain of law enforcement.

## **Crossbow**

COMBAT, MISSILE.

Covers the use of all varieties of hand held crossbows. Skill in this provides accuracy, and also enables quicker reloading of the heavier versions of the crossbow.

The skill can be used with bows, though range penalties are doubled, and attacks fumble on a 1-3, due to the extra complexity of bows over crossbows.

## **Cryptography (Knowledge)**

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

**Requires:** Mathematics-2

**Techniques:** *Cryptanalysis*.

Using and designing cyphers.

## **Current affairs (Knowledge)**

BUSINESS, SOCIAL.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing*.

Represents upto date knowledge of what is going on in your society. This is a skill which is constantly changing, so if you loose contact with society, then you will be at a large disadvantage when you return. It also covers knowing how to get information and how to interpret it, so becoming upto date again is relatively quick for you.

## **Dance**

ARTISTIC.

**Defaults to:** Athletics

**Techniques:** *Courtly dancing, Folk dancing, Sensual dancing*.

With *Dance* you are able to impress people with your graceful dances. It allows you to know the common types of dances, as well as the ability to actually dance. With sufficient skill, you will be able to improvise new dances, and work with a partner to complement their improvisations.

The skill covers all forms of dancing, though you can buy techniques which provide bonuses in specialisations.

### **Example difficulties**

- 0 - You are clumsy and obviously unskilled. You will give a poor

impression to anyone who is watching.

**10** - Nothing special, but you don't make any big mistakes (though lots of little ones). People won't pay to watch you dance.

**20** - You dance with competence and some degree of grace. Your dancing will please most people.

**30** - Very good dancing, which will impress most people. You get a +1 bonus to the reaction level of people who saw you dance.

**40** - An excellent performance which will impress pretty much everyone. You can a +2 bonus to the reaction level of those around you. Probably a level of skill better than most people have seen.

**50** - An outstanding performance of skill and grace. You gain a +2 reaction bonus, or +3 if asking someone to share a dance with you.

## Demolitions

MILITARY, CRIMINAL.

Blowing things up is easy, but doing it with the minimum of explosives, at minimal risk to yourself, and in a way that causes maximum damage is somewhat harder. This skill provides everything you need to know about destroying things with explosives. You also know about the different types of explosives, how best to store, move and deploy them, and how to disarm other people's bombs.

## Drive

VEHICLE.

**Techniques:** *Stunt driver, High speed driving, Ice driving, Off-road driving, Driving familiarity.*

The skill of driving a car or similar land vehicle. This skill assumes familiarity with 4 wheeled powered vehicles, such as a family car, jeep, SUV or van. Other types of vehicles (e.g. HGVs, tanks, motorbikes or go-carts) you are assumed to be unfamiliar with, and must take a technique to be familiarised with them. Until you are familiar, you *default* to this skill (i.e., halve your roll).

As with most vehicle skills, it uses *Dexterity* but your attribute is capped to the *Agility* of the vehicle you are currently driving. A typical early 21st century family car would have an *Agility* of 3, a sports car an *Agility* of 6.

If you fail a *Drive* check, then immediately check again. If you succeed the second time, then you regain control but are forced to a stop. If you fail the second time, then you lose control and probably crash.

For high speed driving, most difficulties assume that you are travelling at a moderate speed. Each +10 you add to the difficulty puts your speed one step above this. You must declare the speed you are attempting before making the check.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Maintaining control in a tricky situation, such as a sharp bend, an emergency stop or avoiding a car that has pulled out in front of you.

**20** - Maintaining control in a difficult situation, such as a very sharp and narrow bend, or avoiding a car or pedestrian that has just done something really stupid.

**20** - Perform a basic stunt, such as a handbrake turn, or maintaining control after being rammed (or ramming someone else).

**30** - Perform a difficult stunt, such as sliding to a precision stop from high speed.

+5 - Wet conditions, or poor visibility.

+10 - Icy or slippery conditions. If driving fast in icy conditions, also add a further +10 for each speed step.

x1.5 - Difficult terrain. Any terrain which is difficult for this type of vehicle adds 50% to the final difficulty. A rough dirt track would be difficult for a typical car, but normal for off-road vehicles.

x2 - Unsuitable terrain. Any terrain which the vehicle is completely unsuited for. A trip cross country across hills would count as unsuitable for a typical car, but possibly only difficult for an off-road rally car or a tank. Unsuitable terrain doubles the final difficulty.

## Ecology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

**Defaults to:** Botany, Zoology

**Requires:** Biology-2, Zoology-2

This is knowledge of ecosystems, of the relationships between plants and animals living together in balance.

## Economics (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, BUSINESS.

Economics is the study of how the economy and financial world works.

## Electrician

TECHNICAL.

**Defaults to:** Electronics

The skill of fixing electrical systems when they break.

## Electronics

TECHNICAL.

**Requires:** Electronics operation-2

You have skill in building electronic devices, as well as a good understanding of how they work and the theories on which they are constructed.

There is a technique for each type of electronic device that can be built. Knowing the correct technique halves the difficulty for a task.

## Engineering

TECHNICAL.

**Techniques:** *Aircraft, Boats, Cars, Power plants, Sensors, Computers, Medical.*

The knowledge and skill of designing, building and repairing machines, buildings and other structures. Engineering tends towards the theoretical side of things, and does not necessarily cover the everyday maintenance of such items.

## Etiquette (Knowledge)

SOCIAL.

**Defaults to:** Charm

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult, Flirt.*

Etiquette is a knowledge of good manners and social behaviour. It is of much greater use amongst the higher classes than amongst the peasantry, where no-one really cares which fork they use to eat their meal with, as long as a meal is there to be eaten.

It may be used to know how to address someone of rank, how to flirt with a noble Lady without offending her, or how to behave at a joust or banquet. It is normally based on intelligence, but may use *empathy* (especially for courtly flirting or flattery).

*Flirt*

*Flirt* with a lady or gentleman in a polite and possibly discreet way.

## Falconry

OUTDOOR, ANIMAL.

The skill of training, caring for and hunting with falcons and similar birds of prey.

## Farming

OUTDOOR, RURAL.

The planting, caring for and harvesting of crops, the care and feeding of animals such as cows, sheep and chickens. The majority of people in rural areas will of course be

# 16 Characters

farmers and will have this skill to some level.

## Fencing

SPORT.

The sport of using light fencing weapons. It can be used in duelling and combat, though is primarily concerned with the use of fencing weapons as a sport. Because it is *not* part of the Combat group, it cannot be used with any of the standard combat techniques.

## First aid

ACADEMIC.

Provides care and treatment of wounds to stop bleeding and prevent infection. Once a wound has been successfully first aided, it may begin healing naturally. First aid checks are generally made with intelligence. First aid can also be used to treat stuns.

To treat a character's wounds, the base difficulty is 10. This is modified upwards by the total of the character's stun and wound penalties (a fatally wounded character (-15) would be difficulty 25 to treat). Success means that the wounds will begin healing naturally. If the roll was made by 10 or more, then one level of wound is also healed.

Stuns are a base difficulty of zero to first aid, again modified by total stun and wound penalties. Success heals one stun, and each 10 over that heals another level of stuns. Stuns do not need to be treated before they begin healing.

## Forensics (Knowledge)

INVESTIGATION.

You have experience in searching crime scenes for clues as to what happened, and who did it.

## Forgery

CRIMINAL.

The skill of forging identity cards and the like. You know how to obtain the materials necessary for creating forgeries, can detect a forged document or card, and can create them yourself as long as you have the necessary information. Some forms of forgery will require modifying database records, which will require *Computer operation* and similar skills which *Forgery* does not provide, however it will let you know what databases need to be changed.

## Gambling

SOCIAL, CRIMINAL.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

This is the skill of playing games of chance, such as card games or dice games. This is a generic skill, based around being able to spot patterns, work out probabilities, bluff, cheat and basic gaming tactics.

A high skill represents a good, broad, knowledge of all such games, and so a greater chance of knowing how to play any given game, or at least knowing enough about a similar game in order to be able to play well.

## Game

SOCIAL.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

Knowledge of, and skill at playing a game such as chess

or Hnefatafl. A skill is required for each game played, though similar games may allow half skill. This is based on intelligence.

The simplest way to find the winner for a game, is for both opponents to roll their skill, and the highest roll wins. If it is desired to play out the game in more detail, then proceed as follows.

Each opponent makes a skill check each turn of the game. If one exceeds the other by five or more, then they gain an advantage. Each advantage gained gives +3 to the skill check next turn. On gaining the fourth advantage, the player is considered the winner. If the player with the advantage loses a turn, then they lose a level of advantage.

## Example difficulties

10 - *Knowing the rules to a game*

20 - *Playing a game reasonably well*

## Gliding

VEHICLE, SPORT.

You have experience in flying gliders. This skill provides you with the ability to fly a glider, to know how to find and use thermals and geographic features for lift and how to look after and maintain a glider. You'll also have some knowledge of aviation law and etiquette.

## Guile (Talent)

TALENTS, SOCIAL.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Disguise, Cold reading.*

*Guile* allows a character to use and understand social methods of deception, through lying, body language and actions. A character can lie by making an opposed *will x guile* against the target's *empathy x guile*. Success means that the target is fooled, though the attempt may be modified by circumstances based on how probably the lie is.

*Will* is generally used when trying to hide a character's own emotions, *empathy* to understand another's and *intelligence* to think quickly when inventing a believable story.

### Disguise

The character can disguise either themselves or another person by using *guile*. Make an intelligenceguile check.

### Fast talk

When trying to invent a plausible story quickly, then an *intelligence x guile* check can often be called for, against the same for the target. If the target finds the story plausible, then opposed *empathy* and *will* checks may still be necessary in order to hide the lie.

### Taunt

Make someone mad. Opposed with *will*.

## Gunnery

MILITARY.

The *gunnery* skill covers the use of very large vehicle mounted or emplacement weapons, such as artillery and battleship main guns. Whereas *Heavy weapons* covers "barely man portable in a Hollywood action film" weapons, *Gunnery* is only for the really big weapons

which often require several crew members to operate. Will often use *Intelligence*, since doing the maths to plot the trajectory is generally more important than quick reflexes.

## Handicraft

CRAFT.

The making of baskets, embroidery and other similar village hand crafts not covered by other professional skills. It is generally seen as the province of women.

## Heavy weapons

COMBAT, FIREARMS, VEHICLE.

**Defaults to:** Rifle

**Techniques:** *Quick load, Multiple targets, Sharp shooter, Controlled fire, Improved automatic fire, Selective fire, Triple shot, Fire on the run, Awkward shot, Concentrated fire, Heavy fire.*

This skill provides you with knowledge of how to use heavy weapons such as vehicle mounted machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and mortars. Most non-man portable weapons fall into this category. Always uses *Perception* when firing weapons.

Very large weapons (naval guns, tank guns, starship mounted particle accelerators) come under the *Gunnery* skill. If it requires more maths than judgement, then it's probably *Gunnery*.

## Helicopter

VEHICLE.

The skill of piloting a helicopter.

## Heraldry (Knowledge)

LORE, LEGAL.

Knowledge of heraldic arms, flags and other symbols. A person skilled in heraldry can recognise nobles, understand and describe the code of heraldic arms, and make guesses as to who someone is allied with based on their coat of arms. Based on intelligence.

*Area lore* may be substituted, though all rolls are halved and it can only be used for recognition.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Recognise a major personality based on their arms, such as a principle member of the royal family, or a major duke or earl. Recognise that someone belongs to a major noble house.

**20** - Recognise a very important person, such as a duke or earl, or a secondary member of the royal family.

**30** - Recognise an important land owner, such as a powerful baron.

**40** - Recognise a baron or other low ranking land owner.

**50** - Recognise someone really obscure.

## Herb lore (Knowledge)

LORE, OCCULT, HOUSEHOLD.

Knowledge of herbs and their properties. Can be used to recognise, collect and prepare herbs and plants for use in remedies, poisons and potions. Based on intelligence.

## History (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

The study of historical events. As standard, it gives a knowledge of a broad range of recorded history without specialisation in any one area. Most people will know more about their own culture than others, so there's a +10 or +20 increase to the difficulty to know the history of cultures outside your own (note that some historical events, such as who built the pyramids, is popular knowledge even in non-Middle Eastern cultures).

There are many techniques which allow you to specialise in a period or culture. These are 4 points each.

## Hunting

OUTDOOR, ANIMAL.

The skill of training, caring for and hunting with hounds. If trained dogs are available, can be used instead of survival to track or hunt game.

## Intelligence analysis

MILITARY.

You have been trained to analyse intelligence data in order to understand what it means. You can look at troop movements or supply movements for example and determine what the enemy is planning.

## Intimidation

SOCIAL, CRIMINAL, INVESTIGATION.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

Being able to scare people, either with threats of simple physical violence, or by more subtle means. Can either be based on *Strength* or *Empathy*. When making an intimidation check, make an opposed roll against the target's *Will* (modified by any traits). Each level of success will shift the target's level of cooperation up by a category.

Modifiers to the target difficulty are given below. The level of apparent threat that you represent needs to be relative to any other threats that the target needs to consider. For example, you may have a hot poker, but the mob may apply a hot poker to him, and his entire family, if he betrays them.

### Example difficulties

**+30** - The target doesn't consider you any sort of threat.

**+10** - The target considers you a minor threat.

**-10** - The target considers you a reasonable threat.

**-30** - The target considers you a serious threat.

## Law (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, BUSINESS.

Knowledge of the legal system, including how it works, what the laws are, and how to bend or avoid them.

## Legend lore (Knowledge)

LORE.

Knowledge of legends and stories of heroes, places and artifacts. This skill provides knowledge of the stories about these subjects. Whether the stories are real or not will depend on the setting.

## Lip reading

SOCIAL.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

The skill of reading lips. Each 10 rolled gives an equivalent point of language skill. There may be penalties for distance, or partial visibility.

## Machinest

TECHNICAL.

**Defaults to:** Mechanics

The skill of building high tech tools. Though absolutely vital to a high tech society, most mechanics and engineers can get away with buying standard parts from a local shop. In a society where there isn't a ready availability of tools and parts, most (if not all) engineers will have some level of skill in *Machinest*.

# 18 Characters

## Marketing

BUSINESS.

**Techniques:** *Propaganda.*

Marketing, advertising and public relations skills.

## Mathematics (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

Mathematics is the knowledge of advanced mathematics. Simple arithmetic is considered to be basic intelligence. Mathematics covers geometry, algebra, set theory, probability and other branches of mathematics. Most children with a Western education will have some knowledge of Mathematics after leaving school, though it's likely to be only a couple of points.

## Mechanics

TECHNICAL.

**Defaults to:** Engineering

**Techniques:** *Aircraft, Boats, Cars, Power plants, Sensors, Computers, Medical.*

The skill of fixing mechanical devices when they break.

## Medicine (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

**Requires:** First aid-2, Biology-2

**Techniques:** *Cybernetics, Diagnosis, Poisons, Disease.*

The skill of diagnosing illnesses, and knowing what to do to cure an illness. Provides knowledge of the currently available drugs and how best to make use of them. Whilst first aid is focused on basic wounds (mostly cuts and bruises) and tends to be quite simple in its solutions, medicine provides a wide range of knowledge about how the body works, what drugs are available, and how best to diagnose illness and injuries.

If suitable drugs are available, then *Medicine* can be used in place of *First aid* to help someone recover from wounds. Before the weekly check, one *stun* is always recovered. A bonus is gained equal to the *Medicine* skill for each TL beyond 6 when the healing roll is made.

## Melee

COMBAT, MELEE, ARMED MELEE.

**Techniques:** *Combat reflexes, Reflex dodge, Opportunity attack, Improved damage, Multiple attacks.*

This is the skill of fighting with melee weapon. It can be used with pretty much any standard weapon type, including blades, spears, shields and clubs. Particularly exotic weapons may require *Techniques* to be able to use them effectively.

## Melee weapon

COMBAT, ARMED MELEE.

**Defaults to:** Brawl

The skill of using a simple melee weapon, such as blades, spears and clubs. This skill covers all such weapons, as their use with a shield or a second parrying weapon. Exotic weapons, such as chain weapons, aren't covered since they are used in a completely different way. Small weapons such as knives however are used with the *Brawl* skill.

Melee weapon is used with *Dexterity*.

## Mining

OUTDOOR.

Covers being able to locate new mines, and to construct

and work them safely.

## Musician

ARTISTIC.

The skill of playing musical instruments, whether they are a drum, a flute or a harp.

### Example difficulties

15 - *Play without sending people running for cover*

20 - *Play in tune with others*

30 - *Play very well*

## Occult lore (Knowledge)

LORE, OCCULT.

Knowledge of how to summon and deal with demons and other supernatural entities such as ghosts and angels. In the real world, such knowledge doesn't provide any special powers or abilities apart from possibly the ability to con people out of their money., though in a horror or fantasy setting where such creatures are real, it may be of far greater use.

## Ostling

OUTDOOR, ANIMAL.

The care and training of horses.

## Paleontology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

A science which investigates ancient life. It includes the finding, examination and care of fossils, knowledge of ancient lifeforms.

## Parachuting

MILITARY, SPORT.

**Defaults to:** Athletics

You have experience with free-falling and parachuting. It is *very easy* to land safely under ideal conditions.

## Perform

SOCIAL, ARTISTIC.

**Defaults to:** Charm

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Passionate speaker, Poet.*

A skill which covers many forms of social skills, including oratory, poetry and singing. It may be used to rouse a crowd, invent some poetry on the spot, or remember a poem or song well enough to recite or sing it.

The mood of the audience can be affected with either song, poetry or oratory. The performer matches their skill roll against the will of the audience. If the audience can be treated as a *crowd*, take the average will and roll once for the whole audience (a vocal few will tend to lead the silent majority). Success by the performer will mean the crowd listens to what the performer says, and will think about it, though their opinion isn't shifted greatly. For each full 10 the performer beats the will of the crowd, the crowd's mood is shifted one category.

When singing or reciting poetry, the mood of the audience can be shifted, sometimes considerably. This can be done subtly, though it takes an evening of performance to carry it out.

A more direct way to sway an audience is through oratory. This is quicker and more direct than by choice of song, but is also pretty blatant.

## Example difficulties

**10** - Sing without inflicting pain on listeners. Less than this may get the character forcibly removed from the stage.

**20** - Sing well enough to impress the audience, though not in a way that will be particularly remembered.

**30** - Sing very well. The singer will be well received, and probably kept around for more of the same. The mood of the audience can be shifted subtly.

**40** - The singer will be spoken of for months to come, and people will be most eager to please. The mood of the audience can be shifted noticeably.

**50** - All others will be compared (probably unfavourably) to the singer, who will be heralded as a master of their art. The singer pretty much has control over the mood of the audience.

## Physics (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Science

**Requires:** Science-2, Mathematics-2

**Techniques:** Nuclear physics, Quantum physics, Relativity, String theory.

Physics is a particular branch of *Science*, concerned with forces and motion, energy and matter at the smallest scales. Particular branches of physics are treated as *techniques* - not knowing the technique doubles the difficulty.

## Pilot

VEHICLE.

**Techniques:** Aircraft familiarity, Hotshot pilot, Top gun.

The skill of piloting a powered aircraft. By default it assumes a small low performance aircraft, such as a Cessna or Spitfire. Larger aircraft require familiarity similar to the *Drive* skill.

Piloting skill may be used to fire direct fire weapons which are mounted to fire directly ahead. Your *Dexterity* is not capped to the *Agility* of the aircraft when firing. Turreted weapons use *Heavy weapons* or (very rarely) *Gunnery* skill.

Air combat requires a mixture of manoeuvre and shooting. Make opposed *dexterity x Pilot* checks to gain the advantage each turn. If you have two levels of success in your favour, then you can shoot at half skill. If you have three or more levels, then you can shoot at full skill. The target always gets to dodge with their full *dexterity x Pilot* (though capped by the aircraft's *Agility*).

## Example difficulties

**10** - Land in ideal conditions.

**20** - Land on an aircraft carrier. Includes difficulties for moving deck and shortness.

**+10** - Land quickly without taking time to line up properly.

**+5** - Land on a short runway or narrow runway.

**+10** - Flying close to the ground, within 50m.

**+20** - Fly really close to the ground, within 10m.

## Pistol

COMBAT, FIREARMS.

**Defaults to:** Rifle

**Techniques:** Quick load, Quick draw, Multiple targets, Sharp shooter, Controlled fire, Improved automatic fire, Selective fire, Triple shot, Fire on the run, Awkward shot, Two guns.

You are skilled in firing pistols and similar small hand guns, including revolvers, automatic pistols and SMGs. This skill is most effective at short ranges and when in close combat with the target. It is always based on *Dexterity*.

At short range, you may normally add the attack bonus of the weapon to your attack roll unless you are making a *snapshot*.

## Politics (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, BUSINESS.

Knowledge of political systems and how to take advantage of them. It may provide some knowledge of the current political groups of your culture, but this is really covered by *Current affairs*, and any knowledge provided by *Politics* will be more long term and theoretical.

## Politics

SOCIAL.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** Seduction, Carousing.

The skill of dealing with the intrigues of a political arena. With it, it is possible to find out relationships within the arena, and to obtain information from people, or even to spread information without it being obvious that the plotter is trying to spread information.

Note that politics is as much knowledge of the local political situation as it is the ability to 'play' it. Knowledge of who the powerful people are, and what their strengths, weaknesses and allegiances are is gained with this skill.

## Example difficulties

**10** -

## Religion (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

Knowledge of the traditions, ceremonies, laws, gods, priests and mythology of a given religion. More broad or narrow the skill is depends very much on the culture and the level of knowledge required. In a monotheistic culture, especially where knowledge of other religions is discouraged (e.g. Medieval Europe), each religion will have its own skill, and this will give little knowledge of the others.

In a pantheistic culture, one skill can give knowledge of all the gods and cults, though only on a general level. Single skills will exist for each individual cult, which will also give knowledge of other cults, though that knowledge may be coloured by prejudice.

Where a religion actually grants supernatural abilities to its cult members or priests, these may be represented as *techniques* based on the cult's specific skill.

## Research

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Any Academic skill

The skill of being able to find information in books, on a computer system, or in any other knowledge source which doesn't require interaction with people (beyond standard dealing with librarians etc).

## Ride

RURAL.

The ability to ride, normally a horse. A different skill is needed for different types of animals (horses and ponies would be the same skill, a Griffin another skill). As well as enabling you to remain mounted, it grants a bonus to combat skills when mounted if the relevant techniques are known.

## Rifle

COMBAT, FIREARMS.

**Defaults to:** Pistol

**Techniques:** Quick load, Multiple targets, Sharp shooter,

# 20 Characters

*Controlled fire, Improved automatic fire, Selective fire, Triple shot, Fire on the run, Awkward shot, Marksman, Sniper.*

The use and handling of rifles, carbines, shotguns and the like. It is not very effective at very close range, but is designed for short to medium ranges. Can be used with either *Dexterity* or *Perception*. Add-ons to rifles such as an underslung grenade launcher may also be used with this skill instead of the more usual *Heavy Weapons* skill, but always use *Perception*.

At short range, you may normally add the attack bonus of the weapon to your attack roll unless you are making a *snapshot*.

## Science (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE.

Science covers basic scientific knowledge, logical reasoning and baloney detection. Most Western schools will teach *science* to some degree. The skill provides basic knowledge of the various sciences, an understanding of the philosophy of science, and the ability to tell the difference between a scientific theory and dodgy pseudo-science.

All scientists will have *Science* to a greater or lesser degree, as will those in science based professions such as engineering or mathematics.

## Scrounging

CRAFT.

Being able to turn useless scrap into something useful. Used with intelligence. Covers finding, planning and building, though skills such as *carpentry* or *blacksmith* may be needed as well.

## Security systems

TECHNICAL, ROGUE.

Provides knowledge of using and by-passing electronic security systems such as short range sensors, pressure pads, electronic locks, iris and fingerprint scanners etc. It can be used to forge ID to try and bypass such systems.

## Sensor systems

TECHNICAL, MILITARY.

Provides knowledge and experience with using advanced sensor systems, interpreting raw sensor data, knowing how to evade and block sensors, and how to make best use of an existing sensor network.

This provides far more knowledge than a person working in traffic control would have, and it is a skill normally only found in the military, in labs or amongst hackers.

## Signal intelligence

TECHNICAL, MILITARY.

You have been trained in the use of both communications and sensor systems. Anyone can talk into a microphone or watch a radar display, but you have indepth knowledge of how such things actually work, and how best to interpret data from them. You have been trained in the use of electronic warfare, how to get the best range out of communications gear, how to interpret poor quality signals, and how to make best use of signals intelligence.

## Skiing

SPORT, OUTDOOR.

**Defaults to:** Athletics

The skill of skiing. Includes practical experience, as well as knowledge of identifying poor conditions. The examples given below show the difficulty to ski down a run of particular difficulty. Success means you did it without falling over or getting stuck.

**Example difficulties**

10 - *Green run (easy slopes).*

15 - *Blue run (intermediate slopes).*

20 - *Red run (difficult slopes).*

25 - *Black run (most difficult slopes).*

## Sleight (Talent)

TALENTS, CRIMINAL.

**Techniques:** *Juggling, Pick pocket.*

Sleight of hand, from filching items on a market stall, to picking someone's pockets. Can also be used for anything which requires a great deal of fine dexterity.

## Speak language (Language)

LANGUAGE.

The ability to speak a language. Every character starts with a score of 4 in speaking their own language. This skill is rarely rolled, but instead gives an indication of the character's grasp of a language.

## Sport

SOCIAL, SPORT.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

Knowledge of, and skill at, playing a particular sport such as Cricket, Football or Squash. There is one version of this skill for each different sport. If you wish, you may take a generic *Sport* skill, which all others default to (i.e., you always halve your roll when trying something in a particular sport).

**Example difficulties**

10 - *Knowing the rules to a game*

20 - *Playing a game reasonably well*

## Stealth (Talent)

TALENTS, CRIMINAL.

**Techniques:** *Ambush, Combat ambush, Sudden death, Silent running.*

Moving quietly, hiding, and generally not being seen or heard. Based on agility for moving quietly, or perception for finding somewhere to hide.

## Strategy

MILITARY.

Unlike *Tactics*, which is concerned with small scale skirmishes, military strategy provides knowledge and experience of running a war, including making most effective use of troops, logistics and knowledge of large scale tactics.

## Streetwise

CRIMINAL, INVESTIGATION.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Shadowing.*

*Streetwise* is similar to *Politics*, though is more suited to life amongst the criminal classes. With it, comes knowledge of how to survive on the street, how to gain the trust of those who live on the wrong side of the law, as well as how to find them in the first place.

## Surgery

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Medicine

**Requires:** Medicine-4

This is a particular specialisation of medicine, focused on cutting people open and fixing their insides. It is considered to be quite a difficult skill, and failure can often be fatal for the patient.

If a person is wounded, and you have suitable medical equipment available to perform surgery, then a *dexterity x Surgery* check equal to 10 + half the wound penalty may be made. Success both stabilises the wounds and heals one wound level. It takes one hour per level of wound, and can not be performed again unless the patient receives new wound injuries. *Surgery* may be performed on a patient that has already recovered a wound from a *First aid* check.

Failure results in one further wound be gained. If this takes the patient beyond *fatal*, then they die. A fumble also results in the immediate death of the patient.

If you are performing *surgery* in the field without use of suitable equipment, then this counts as *First aid*, and uses that skill.

## Surveillance systems

TECHNICAL, ROGUE, MILITARY, CRIMINAL.

**Defaults to:** Security systems

You know how to spy on people, often using the latest in surveillance gadgets such as bugs, sound detectors, hidden video cameras and the like. You have been trained in how best to place such devices so that they gain maximum coverage with minimum chance of detection.

This skill also provides knowledge of counter surveillance, and can be used to find bugs or jam their signals. This skill is very much focused on the use of electronics to observe remotely - use of the mark I eyeball is covered by basic Streetwise or Awareness.

## Survival

OUTDOOR, MILITARY.

**Techniques:** *Direction sense, Hiking, Arctic survival, Desert survival, Jungle survival.*

With this skill, you are capable of surviving on many different types of terrain by foraging and hunting. There is a single skill, which covers all terrain types, though a number of techniques are needed to survive in harsh environments without penalty. *Survival* also covers tracking, finding shelter and travelling safely and quickly.

On coastal lands (where it is possible to fish), plains, woodlands and low mountain regions, the basic skill will suffice. In desert, arctic or jungle environments, then a technique is required. High mountains may count as arctic, swamps may count as coastal or jungle, depending on the exact environment.

### Foraging

When foraging for food, it takes four hours for each roll. Each five over the difficulty allows enough food to be found for another two people. If more food is found than is needed, then the forager has the option of stopping early as soon as enough food has been found. Assume that food is found at a consistent rate through the time period.

### Hunting

Similar to foraging, it takes four hours for each attempt to hunt game. Success indicates that suitable game has been found, and relevant combat skills are required to actually kill the animal. In this case, game is large game animals, such as deer.

### Navigation

Anyone with any survival skill can navigate by use of the sun and stars. This is unaffected by the terrain type and difficulty of surviving in that terrain. When attempting to navigate, use the character's highest survival skill.

### Tracking

Survival can be used to track others by their footprints and other signs. It is possible to estimate the type of animal, their number and how long it has been since the tracks were made. Of course, it can be used to track people as well.

### Example difficulties

10 - Base difficulty for woodland, plains or coastal regions.

20 - Base difficulty for mountain, swamp or jungle.

30 - Base difficulty for desert or arctic regions.

+0 - Find a suitable shelter

+0 - Forage for food for one person

-10 - Good conditions

+10 - Poor conditions

+20 - Very poor conditions (e.g. winter)

15 - Accurately determine direction, time of day or night according to the position of sun, moon or stars.

## Tactics

COMBAT, MILITARY.

**Techniques:** *Surprise attack, Tactical move.*

Tactics, strategy and leadership when planning and fighting a battle involving small groups. It can be used to choose a suitable site for battle, to determine weaknesses in the enemy's strategy and defences, and to plan the logistics of travel and supply.

## Teach

SOCIAL, ACADEMIC.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

The ability to teach another person, and train them in the use of a skill. See the Campaign section for details on training.

## Theology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Religion

The theory of religion, used by people who want to understand the why and how of religious beliefs. In many cultures doing this too critically can lead to charges of heresy, though good use of this skill will enable the character to argue effectively and *safely* with others.

## Throw (Talent)

TALENTS, COMBAT, MISSILE.

This is the ranged attack equivalent of the brawl skill, and is used for throwing rocks, spears, knives, axes etc at distance targets. The talent is perception based. For hurled improvised weapons, short range is considered to be four times strength, medium twice this, and long range twice medium.

This skill can also be used to catch items. When trying to catch an item, throw is dexterity based.

## Torture

# 22 Characters

CRIMINAL, INVESTIGATION, MILITARY.

This is the art of applying pain to someone in order to get them to cooperate.

## Trade

SOCIAL, BUSINESS.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing.*

Covers a multitude of skills involved with trading, including bartering, and having some clue as to the value of goods.

## Vetinary (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC, ANIMAL.

**Defaults to:** First aid

First aid for animals. The *first aid* skill may be substituted, though it takes twice as long, and no wounds and no more than one stun can be healed immediately, regardless of the roll.

## Zoology (Knowledge)

ACADEMIC.

**Defaults to:** Biology

This is the study of animals.

## Techniques

Techniques represent specialist training in a particular use of a skill. They can provide a bonus in certain situations, or allow you to perform an action which wouldn't otherwise be possible.

### Optional techniques

Techniques can be viewed as an optional part of the game system. They add a lot of flavour and detail to the skill system, and provide a means to differentiate between characters who simply have raw talent (high attributes and basic skill) and those who are highly trained (high skill with a lot of techniques). However, there can be quite a few to keep track of.

If you wish a simpler system, then ignoring techniques is perfectly possible without causing major problems. Adding them in later is also possible, simply by allowing players to start purchasing them.

The standard techniques are available below.

## Academic Techniques

The Academic techniques cover the sciences and other areas of knowledge. Generally, each is a specialisation within a subject - so the *Physics* skill will have techniques for *Nuclear Physics, Relativity* etc.

A specialisation technique halves the difficulty of tasks within the specialisation. If a technique for a specialisation doesn't exist, then make it up. Most academic specialisations are level 4. Those which are for cutting edge specialisations might be 6 or 8.

## Summary

**Biochemistry** (4; Chemistry) - *The chemistry of living organisms.*

**Genetics** (4; Biology) - *Advanced knowledge of genetics.*

**Bioengineering** (6; Biology) - *Advanced knowledge of cloning and tissue engineering.*

**Biowarfare** (4; Biology) - *Knowledge of biological warfare.*

**Cybernetics** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of cybernetics.*

**Diagnosis** (2; Medicine) - *Diagnosing an illness.*

**Disease** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of diseases.*

**Nuclear physics** (4; Physics)

**Poisons** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of poisons.*

**Quantum physics** (4; Physics)

**String theory** (6; Physics)

**Relativity** (4; Physics)

## Descriptions

**Biochemistry (Cost 4):** *Chemistry.*

A study of the organic chemistry of compounds and processes within living organisms, attempting to understand biology using chemistry.

**Bioengineering (Cost 6):** *Biology.*

*Prerequisites: Genetics.*

Building on your knowledge of genetics, you have considerable experience with the design and growth of artificial biological organisms, including clones, specifically bred tissues and bio-enhancements.

**Biowarfare (Cost 4):** *Biology.*

*Prerequisites: Biochemistry.*

You are experienced in the field of biological warfare, and have a good understanding of how biological agents can be 'weaponised', how they disperse through the environment, and how to combat them.

Can be combined with *Bioengineering* to make viruses which target those with a specific genetic identifier (races, families or even individuals).

**Cybernetics (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*

You are experienced in the medical field of cybernetics.

**Diagnosis (Cost 2):** *Medicine.*

You are especially experienced at diagnosing the cause of a patient's illness or injury based on knowledge of the symptoms.

**Disease (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*

You have specific knowledge of diseases and how they effect people. You are skilled at curing them (at least those there are cures for), and for plotting the spread of them through a population.

**Genetics (Cost 4):** *Biology.*

*Prerequisites: Biochemistry.*

You have a detailed knowledge of genetics. You understand the theory of DNA and genetic inheritance, as well as having experience in identifying and extracting DNA, and making modifications to the genetic information of living creatures.

**Nuclear physics (Cost 4):** *Physics.*

Specialist knowledge of the field of nuclear physics. You have experience in setting up and interpreting experiments in this field, and can perform such tasks as working out energy from nuclear reactions, how best to shield from and handle radioactive material, and how to design nuclear power stations and weapons.

**Poisons (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*

You have specific knowledge of poisons, including both on how to cure them, and how to administer them.

## Quantum physics (Cost 4): *Physics*.

You have a detailed knowledge of quantum physics, including the behaviour of particles at the quantum scales.

## Relativity (Cost 4): *Physics*.

Knowledge of both special and general relativity.

## String theory (Cost 6): *Physics*.

*Prerequisites: Quantum physics.*

Knowledge of the various versions of String theory. This isn't much practical use, though is useful if you have a job as a theoretical physicist.

## Combat Techniques

### Summary

**Ambush** (2; Stealth) - *Ignore unsuspecting foe's armour.*

**Combat ambush** (4; Stealth) - *Ambush someone in the middle of combat.*

**Sudden death** (8; Stealth) - *Ambush anyone even if they can see you.*

**Blind fighting** (4; Awareness)

**Brute force** (4; Brawl) - *Can use strength when making an attack.*

**Close combat** (2; Brawl) - *Bonus when grappling.*

**Disabling hold** (4; Brawl) - *Cause pain when grappling.*

**Disabling attack** (6; Brawl) - *Target loses their attacks.*

**Unarmed combat** (4; Brawl) - *Reduces the risk of free strikes.*

**Out of reach** (4; Brawl) - *Ignore some reach penalties.*

**Combat reflexes** (2; Brawl) - *Best melee skill adds to initiative.*

**Reflex dodge** (4; Melee) - *Increases base chance to be hit.*

**Opportunity attack** (6; Melee) - *Do not have to declare manoeuvres.*

**Improved damage** (8; Melee) - *Do more damage in your attacks.*

**Multiple attacks** (10; Melee) - *Two attacks a round.*

**Dirty fighting** (4; Brawl) - *Turn attack into stun attack.*

**Hard to kill** (2; Brawl) - *Bonus to staying alive.*

**Ignore pain** (4; Brawl) - *Reduce injury penalty.*

**Tough** (6; Brawl) - *Bonus to soak.*

**Surprise attack** (2; Tactics) - *Gain bonus in a surprise attack.*

**Tactical move** (4; Tactics) - *Initiative is based on skill.*

### Descriptions

#### Ambush (Cost 2): *Stealth*.

Allows the character to make an attack against an unsuspecting target, bypassing armour. If an attack is made with the *brawl* skill against a target who is both unaware of the attack and also not in combat, then the attack ignores all armour. If the target is wearing fully enclosed armour, and the attacker couldn't possibly get through the soak normally, then the *Ambush* has no effect. If the armour grants a vitals bonus, then each point of bonus raises the attack difficulty by +5.

An *ambush* is a slow attack, and the ambusher is considered to be using the *focused stance*. May be combined with other techniques and/or manoeuvres.

#### Blind fighting (Cost 4): *Awareness*.

The character is trained to fight in conditions where vision is restricted. Gain a +1 bonus to Perception for every four points of *Awareness* when it is used to cap skills in darkness. Automatic.

#### Brute force (Cost 4): *Brawl*.

When making an attack roll, you may use *strength* instead of agility. However, doing so uses up one defence slot and you may not use the *defensive stance*.

#### Close combat (Cost 2): *Brawl*.

When attempting a grapple or trip attack, you can ignore the *free strike* against you caused by such an attack (though still suffer strikes caused by reach or attacking an armed foe for example).

#### Combat ambush (Cost 4): *Stealth*.

*Prerequisites: Ambush.*

As for *Ambush*, but may be performed at any time the defender is not aware of the attacker (even if the defender is in combat).

#### Combat reflexes (Cost 2): *Brawl, Melee*.

You have a bonus to your *initiative* equal to your best of *Brawl* and *Melee*.

#### Dirty fighting (Cost 4): *Brawl*.

When making an attack with a martial weapon, after the damage roll you may opt to re-roll the damage and do *stun* damage at the same bonus. Represents hitting the target with the hilt of the sword, or head butting them, after the primary attack fails to get through their armour.

#### Disabling attack (Cost 6): *Brawl*.

*Prerequisites: Disabling hold.*

An attack which aims to temporarily disable a foe by striking at pressure points on the body. It is an open hand attack that does not use a weapon.

Must be declared with the aggressive stance, and requires a *good* attack. On a successful attack which causes damage, the target must make a *health x 4* check against  $10 + 5 \times$  stuns or lose the rest of their attacks and defences that round. On an *excellent* attack, the target also gains fatigue levels equal to the number of stuns taken and is unable to cry out.

#### Disabling hold (Cost 4): *Brawl*.

*Prerequisites: Close combat.*

When performing a grapple manoeuvre, you can apply pain to the target through knowledge of pressure points, preventing them from acting or crying out. Any time you inflict a -2 penalty to the target for the initial grapple check, then they are disabled and cannot act (even to try to escape or cry out) all the time you have them held.

#### Hard to kill (Cost 2): *Brawl*.

You gain a bonus equal to your *Brawl* skill to checks to remain conscious and alive because of being fatally wounded or stunned. This applies all the time, even when not using this skill.

Secondly, you get the option to re-roll any soak rolls you make, at the cost of one fatigue. A single soak test can only be re-rolled once, and you may take the highest of the two rolls.

#### Ignore pain (Cost 4): *Brawl*.

*Prerequisites: Hard to kill.*

You may reduce the penalty to actions caused by wounds and stuns (not fatigue) by one level each, so being fatally wounded will give a -25 penalty.

# 24 Characters

At a *Brawl* of 8+, the penalty is reduced by two levels for each of wounds and stuns.

## **Improved damage (Cost 8): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Opportunity attack.*

Automatic technique which allows you to focus your attacks in order to cause maximum harm to your foe. You may add your skill to any damage done for all melee attacks.

## **Multiple attacks (Cost 10): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Improved damage.*

Aggressive stance. You may attack multiple times each round with a penalty of -15 per extra attack to all attacks. The maximum number of attacks you can make is one per five levels of skill (so 2 attacks, or 1 extra attack, at level 10). When declaring use of this technique, the first attack is fast, the second slow and the third is normal.

## **Opportunity attack (Cost 6): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Reflex dodge.*

Your training enables you to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves, rather than having to plan ahead. Whenever you make a *good* attack or better, you may choose to use a *manoeuvre* as long as other requirements (such as stance) are met. Automatic.

## **Out of reach (Cost 4): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Close combat.*

You have some experience fighting against opponents who have a greater reach than you. For every four points of *Brawl* skill, you may ignore one point of reach of the defender's weapon when making an attack. This can never give you a bonus, but may reduce the penalties you suffer for attacking someone with a longer reach.

This technique is automatic, and applies whichever melee skill you are using.

## **Reflex dodge (Cost 4): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Combat reflexes.*

Automatic technique which raises the base target number to hit you by your best melee skill whenever you defend against an attack (i.e., it raises your minimum defence roll, but not the defence roll itself). If you don't declare a defence against that attack, then your base defence is unmodified.

Since your base 'to be hit' number is unaffected by the number of defences you make, or by attacks from missile weapons which halve your dodge, this technique is mostly of use when you are outnumbered or dodging arrows and bullets.

## **Sudden death (Cost 8): Stealth.**

*Prerequisites: Combat ambush.*

As for *Ambush*, but applies whenever your target is not defending against your attack, even if they are aware of you. May be used with either an *aggressive* or a *normal* stance.

## **Surprise attack (Cost 2): Tactics.**

When you have surprise against someone, you gain a bonus equal to your *Tactics* to all melee attack, defence and damage rolls. For ranged attacks, you have a bonus to your attack roll.

Secondly, you may exert yourself to gain the initiative. When you come to declare your actions for the round, you can gain a level of fatigue and double your initiative score for that round, changing both when you have to declare and when you act.

## **Tactical move (Cost 4): Tactics.**

*Prerequisites: Surprise attack.*

You are highly trained in combat, and can understand and react to events much better than people who don't have your training. When determining initiative, you may use your *agility x Tactics* instead of *agility x 4*.

You may also ignore a fumbled initiative roll, simply treating the result as a '1' rather than inaction in the first round.

## **Tough (Cost 6): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Ignore pain.*

You gain a bonus to your basic soak against *mixed* and *stun* damage equal to your *Strength*. This applies all the time, even when not using this skill.

If you have a *Brawl* of 8+, then the bonus applies against wound damage as well.

## **Unarmed combat (Cost 4): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Close combat.*

You have some experience fighting armed opponents using unarmed attacks. You may ignore the *free strike* caused by not using a martial weapon, though still suffer strikes due to reach or other circumstances. This technique is automatic as long as you are using *Brawl* or a skill associated with it.

## Firearms Techniques

### Summary

**Concentrated fire** (4; Heavy weapons) - *Very effective machine gun fire.*

**Heavy fire** (4; Heavy weapons) - *Precision shooting at large targets.*

**Quick load** (2; Firearms) - *Quickly load and fire a gun.*

**Quick draw** (2; Pistol) - *Quickly draw and fire a pistol.*

**Multiple targets** (4; Firearms) - *Fire at multiple targets.*

**Sharp shooter** (4; Firearms) - *Double the range increment of firearms.*

**Triple shot** (6; Firearms) - *Three shots to the head and heart.*

**Two guns** (6; Pistol) - *Fire two guns without penalty.*

**Marksman** (6; Rifle) - *Greater accuracy with aimed shots.*

**Sniper** (8; Rifle) - *Firing very accurately at long range.*

**Controlled fire** (4; Firearms) - *Fire controlled bursts at multiple targets.*

**Improved automatic fire** (6; Firearms) - *Ignore range penalty with automatic fire.*

**Selective fire** (6; Firearms) - *Select targets with automatic fire.*

**Fire on the run** (4; Firearms) - *Firing whilst running.*

**Awkward shot** (4; Firearms) - *Firing from awkward positions.*

### Descriptions

#### **Awkward shot (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can ignore a level of penalty for firing from awkward positions (such as whilst hanging on a rope, clinging to a windowsill, or on an unstable platform).

## **Concentrated fire (Cost 4): Heavy weapons.**

When using a *heavy weapon* to lay down automatic fire, damage bonus gained for hitting with multiple bullets can go above +10. The limit is raised by +5 for every 4 points of skill (e.g. 15 at 4, 20 at 8 etc).

## **Controlled fire (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

When using automatic fire to shoot at a single target, you can fire subsequent bursts at different targets. All targets must be declared at the start of the round, and each extra target gives you a -10 penalty to all bursts fired. The number of extra targets you can fire at is equal to 1 per 4 levels of skill.

## **Fire on the run (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can ignore the usual penalty of doubling target distance when firing a gun whilst running.

## **Heavy fire (Cost 4): Heavy weapons.**

When using a *vehicle scale* weapon you can lay down an accurate burst of fire, increasing the *Size* of the weapon by +5 for purposes of what you can damage.

## **Improved automatic fire (Cost 6): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Controlled fire.*

Using *automatic fire* against an area normally doubles the effective distance. With this technique, you can ignore this penalty.

## **Marksman (Cost 6): Rifle.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

With the *Marksman* technique you are specialised in firing accurately at long range, often with specialist sniper rifles. If you take an *aimed shot*, then you quarter the distance to the target (rather than thirding it).

## **Multiple targets (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

When firing multiple shots (as single shots, not using automatic fire), you may split your shots between multiple targets. For every full four points of skill, you may fire at one additional target each round. Each extra target gives you a -10 penalty to all shots fired, and the targets must be declared at the start of the round.

## **Quick draw (Cost 2): Pistol.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can draw and fire a pistol in the same round without any penalty, as long as it is readily available (e.g. in a holster or belt).

## **Quick load (Cost 2): Firearms.**

You can change the cartridge on an auto loading gun quickly and reliably. Reduce the load time of a gun by 1, plus a further 1 per full 4 levels of skill.

## **Selective fire (Cost 6): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Controlled fire.*

When using automatic fire against an area, the first target of each burst may be chosen from any of the available targets. Targets after that start from the nearest. That target is not selected a second time in the burst, even if they are the next nearest target.

## **Sharp shooter (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You are experienced with firing a gun accurately, and can double the range increment of your weapon when firing. This is separate from, and stacks with, the modifiers to the effective range for aiming or careful shots. Effectively, a careful shot is now effective out to four times the range, and an aimed shot out to six times.

## **Sniper (Cost 8): Rifle.**

*Prerequisites: Marksman.*

When making an aimed shot at medium or long range, you gain the attack bonus of the weapon, and reduce the fumble chance by your *Rifle* skill. The fumble chance can be reduced to less than 1, removing all chance of fumbling.

## **Triple shot (Cost 6): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

A technique involving three shots targeted at the target's vitals. It is a single attack which may be a *snapshot*, *normal* or *careful* shot. Only one *Triple shot* action may be made each round.

The effective distance to the target is tripled, and on success any wounds caused are tripled. Any *Health* checks must be made at +10 difficulty.

## **Two guns (Cost 6): Pistol.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

You can fire two guns at once without suffering the penalty of doubled distance.

## Physical Techniques

### Summary

**Acrobatic talent** (4; Athletics) - *Half athletics skill adds to other physical skills.*

**Arctic survival** (4; Survival)

**Climbing** (4; Athletics) - *Improved climbing.*

**Contra gravity** (2; Athletics)

**Desert survival** (4; Survival)

**Direction sense** (2; Survival)

**Hiking** (4; Survival)

**Juggling** (2; Sleight)

**Jungle survival** (4; Survival)

**Light Sleeper** (4; Awareness)

**Pick pocket** (4; Sleight)

**Running** (4; Athletics) - *Run faster with less fatigue.*

**Sprinting** (6; Athletics) - *Gain less fatigue when sprinting.*

**Silent running** (4; Stealth)

**Sure footed** (4; Athletics)

**Swimming** (2; Athletics) - *You can swim.*

**Underwater swimming** (4; Athletics) - *You can swim underwater.*

**Zero gravity** (2; Athletics) - *Zero-g experience.*

### Descriptions

#### **Acrobatic talent (Cost 4): Athletics.**

Your aptitude with athletics enables you to perform better at other physical skills. All melee combat attack and defence rolls, as well as stealth, dance, swim and ride gain an automatic bonus equal to half (round down) of your *athletics* skill. With an *athletics* skill of 8 or more, the bonus is equal to your full skill.

#### **Arctic survival (Cost 4): Survival.**

You have experience with surviving in arctic conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional

# 26 Characters

-30 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the arctic.

## **Climbing (Cost 4): Athletics.**

Double basic movement whilst climbing.

## **Contra gravity (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You have been trained in the use of a grav-belt or battlesuit, and can perform athletic manoeuvres whilst under contra-gravity conditions. This is similar to the *Zero gravity* technique, but assumes that there is a gravity field, you just happen to be mostly ignoring it.

## **Desert survival (Cost 4): Survival.**

You have experience with surviving in desert conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional -30 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the desert.

## **Direction sense (Cost 2): Survival, Navigation.**

You are an expert navigator, and halve all penalties due to bad circumstances when trying to determine position, or plotting a course.

## **Hiking (Cost 4): Survival.**

You are an experienced hiker, and can move across country at a faster pace. When walking long distances (using the overland movement rules), you can add your *survival* skill to their base movement.

## **Juggling (Cost 2): Sleight.**

You are adept at juggling. The difficulty to juggle simple objects such as balls is 5 \* number of balls. Add +5 to the difficulty for clubs, +10 for more complex objects. If you don't have the technique then halve your roll.

## **Jungle survival (Cost 4): Survival.**

You have experience with surviving in jungle conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional -20 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the arctic.

## **Light Sleeper (Cost 4): Awareness.**

The character is good at reacting to things when asleep. With this technique, awareness rolls are only halved when fully asleep, and unaffected if dozing. Automatic.

## **Pick pocket (Cost 4): Sleight.**

You are adept at lifting items from a person without them noticing. Use your *dexterity x Sleight* when making the attempt, generally against a static difficulty. If you don't have this technique, the base difficulty is the target's *perception x Awareness*.

## **Running (Cost 4): Athletics.**

You are an experienced long distance runner, and can add your *athletics* score to your total movement each round when running. You also gain less fatigue, and can increase the time between gaining fatigue by a multiple for every 4 points of *athletics* skill (x2 at 4, x3 at 8 etc). This technique does not affect sprinting.

## **Silent running (Cost 4): Stealth.**

You can move twice as quickly as normal before receiving a penalty for trying to be stealthy.

## **Sprinting (Cost 6): Athletics.**

*Prerequisites: Running.*

You are an experienced sprinter, and gain fatigue only

half as often as other people when sprinting.

## **Sure footed (Cost 4): Athletics.**

The character has a good sense of balance, and gets a bonus to athletic rolls when balancing on narrow ledges or when on uneven or unsteady surfaces. In such situations, their agility attribute gets a +1 bonus.

## **Swimming (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You have trained at swimming.

## **Underwater swimming (Cost 4): Athletics.**

*Prerequisites: Swimming.*

You have trained at swimming underwater, and only have to make fatigue checks at twice the normal interval.

## **Zero gravity (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You are experienced in operating in zero or micro gravity environments. You do not suffer space sickness and can ignore most penalties due to very low gravity environments.

## Social Techniques

### Summary

**Brainwashing** (4; Psychology) - *The art of altering personalities..*

**Carousing** (2; Social)

**Seduction** (4; Social)

**Flirt** (4; Etiquette)

**Hidden insult** (6; Etiquette)

**Cold reading** (4; Guile)

**Courtly dancing** (2; Dance)

**Disguise** (2; Guile)

**Fashion** (2; Etiquette)

**High fashion** (4; Etiquette)

**Scandalous fashion** (4; Etiquette)

**Folk dancing** (2; Dance)

**Passionate speaker** (4; Perform)

**Poet** (4; Perform)

**Propaganda** (4; Psychology) - *Selling ideas to a population.*

**Sensual dancing** (2; Dance)

**Shadowing** (4; Streetwise)

### Descriptions

#### **Brainwashing (Cost 4): Psychology.**

You know how to alter a person's personality to make them think and act in a certain way. Outlawed in many civilised societies, it is however sometimes taught by religious cults, terrorist organisations and, it is rumoured, some black ops agencies within the government.

#### **Carousing (Cost 2): Social.**

The character is a party animal, and gets on very well with people in a party environment. Any circumstance penalties such as the character not being welcome, or people the character wants to talk to being busy, are halved.

#### **Cold reading (Cost 4): Guile.**

A *cold reading* is when you give a person the impression of knowing far more about them than you actually do. Generally, you start with vague statements which are refined based on the reactions of the target. When using this technique, make an *empathy x Guile* > check against either a base difficulty of 10 if the target is cooperative (or has no reason to be suspicious), or against their *will x Guile* if they aren't.

On a *moderate* success, you don't make a fool of yourself, but aren't that impressive. On a *good* success, you can give the impression of knowing more than you should, and an *excellent* success is very impressive.

The difficulty is doubled if you don't have this technique. This technique is useful for conning people, but can be a useful interrogation technique as well.

### **Courtly dancing (Cost 2):** *Dance.*

Courtly dancing involves knowledge of, and the skill to perform, the type of dances favoured amongst the nobility and upper classes. With this technique, as long as you make a moderate skill check, you get a +1 reaction bonus in a courtly situation.

### **Disguise (Cost 2):** *Guile.*

When trying to disguise yourself you may use either *Intelligence* or *Empathy*, and anyone trying to see through the disguise may only use *empathy x Guile* to spot it. People only get a check to notice you if there is a good reason to do so (you don't have quite the right clothing, or you don't look like anyone they know).

The viewer gets half the original difficulty as a bonus, and even then only if you didn't have sufficient time to plan the disguise.

### **Fashion (Cost 2):** *Etiquette.*

You know what the latest fashions are, and how to make best use of them in order to look *good*. With this technique you are very unlikely to wear something which is either out of date or would cause embarrassment (unless of course you don't have a choice).

When you get a chance to dress for the occasion, then you get a +1 to your attribute for social skills against those that would be impressed.

### **Flirt (Cost 4):** *Etiquette.*

*Prerequisites:* *Carousing.*

Flirt with a person in a socially acceptable manner. This allows the character to make a seduction attempt in polite company, even if the spouse of the enticed is present, without other people really being sure about what is going on. In a court situation, flirting can be common and acceptable, as long as it doesn't actually lead to anything.

### **Folk dancing (Cost 2):** *Dance.*

Folk dancing gives knowledge of the types of dances performed in rural villages and the like, as well as the ability to dance them. This technique provides a +1 reaction bonus in such situations as long as a moderate skill check is achieved.

### **Hidden insult (Cost 6):** *Etiquette.*

*Prerequisites:* *Flirt.*

Insult someone in a way that is polite and difficult to respond to. If done cleverly, the target of the insult may not even be sure that they have been insulted, which makes it doubly difficult for them to respond.

### **High fashion (Cost 4):** *Etiquette.*

*Prerequisites:* *Fashion.*

You are at the cutting edge of fashion, always one step ahead of the crowd. When amongst those that would consider themselves *fashionable*, then any that try to

compete against you socially do not get the benefits of the *Fashion* technique, unless they also have *High Fashion*.

### **Passionate speaker (Cost 4):** *Perform.*

You are a gifted orator, and gain a +1 to your *empathy* when giving a speech.

### **Poet (Cost 4):** *Perform.*

You are a skilled poet, having the skill to invent new poems with wit and speed. Gain a +1 intelligence bonus when composing poetry.

### **Propaganda (Cost 4):** *Psychology, Marketing.*

You are skilled in the art of persuading entire populations of an idea.

### **Scandalous fashion (Cost 4):** *Etiquette.*

*Prerequisites:* *Fashion.*

You are on the bleeding edge of fashion, somehow managing to wear what on others would be scandalous but pulling it off with such style and grace that it actually looks good. This technique does not confer any direct bonus, but you will gain a reputation since your clothing style will be the talk of the town for a while to come.

If you are female, and have the *Good looking* or *Sexy* advantage, then you get a further +1 bonus if trying to seduce or attract someone. It's probably not so much what you're wearing, but what you're not wearing that draws attention.

### **Seduction (Cost 4):** *Social.*

*Prerequisites:* *Carousing.*

The character is experienced in talking people into going to bed with them. Any circumstance penalties are halved.

### **Sensual dancing (Cost 2):** *Dance.*

This provides the skill of dancing in an erotic and sensual manner, in an attempt to arouse those watching. Provides a +1 reaction bonus to those who find you sexually attractive as long as you make a moderate skill check. This bonus can be applied to later seduction attempts against the same people.

### **Shadowing (Cost 4):** *Streetwise.*

You are trained in following people without being noticed in an urban environment. Unlike pure stealth, where you try not to be seen at all, *shadowing* is about not being noticed. If you have this technique, you may use *Streetwise* instead of *Stealth* or *Awareness* to shadow someone or to spot someone shadowing you.

If you have this technique, and your target doesn't, then you only need to make a skill check if the target is specifically checking to see if they are being followed, or if the situation is difficult. If somebody is following you, and they don't have this technique, then they must use the lowest of their *Stealth* and *Streetwise*.

## Technical Techniques

### Summary

**Aircraft** (4; Mechanics) - *Repairing and building aircraft.*

**Boats** (2; Mechanics) - *Repairing and building boats.*

**Cars** (2; Mechanics) - *Repairing and building cars.*

**Computer programming** (4; Computer operation)

# 28 Characters

**Computers (2; Mechanics)** - *Experience with repairing computers.*

**Cryptanalysis (4; Computer operation)**

**Medical (2; Mechanics)** - *Experience with repairing medical equipment.*

**Power plants (4; Mechanics)** - *Experience with repairing fusion and fission plants.*

**Sensors (2; Mechanics)** - *Experience with repairing sensors.*

**System administration (2; Computer operation)**

**Computer intrusion (4; Computer operation)**

**Computer forensics (4; Computer operation)**

**Computer security (4; Computer operation)**

## Descriptions

**Aircraft (Cost 4):** *Mechanics, Engineering.*  
You have experience with repairing aircraft.

**Boats (Cost 2):** *Mechanics, Engineering.*  
You have experience with repairing boats.

**Cars (Cost 2):** *Mechanics, Engineering.*  
You have experience with repairing cars and other wheeled ground vehicles.

**Computer forensics (Cost 4):** *Computer operation.*

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

You have experience with examining computer systems for hidden or deleted files, examining logs for signs of messages or other evidence. You can also use this knowledge to hide information on a system so that it cannot be retrieved. Note that though encrypted information can be found, you may not be able to decrypt it.

**Computer intrusion (Cost 4):** *Computer operation.*

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

Knowledge of how to break security on computer systems, gain passwords and otherwise compromise a system's security. If you have this technique, then you can halve the difficulty of any tasks related to trying to compromise the security of a computer system.

**Computer programming (Cost 4):** *Computer operation.*

Knowledge of and experience with programming a computer system. Needs to be taken for each type of computer platform that can be programmed. If known, it halves the difficulty of programming related tasks.

**Computers (Cost 2):** *Mechanics, Engineering.*

Experience with fixing, maintaining or building the physical aspect of computer systems.

**Computer security (Cost 4):** *Computer operation.*

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

Knowledge of how to secure a computer network.

**Cryptanalysis (Cost 4):** *Computer operation, Cryptography.*

Knowledge of encryption and decryption software and methodology. Experience with such makes it much easier when trying to access encrypted data.

**Medical (Cost 2):** *Mechanics, Engineering, Computer operation.*

Experience with fixing, maintaining or building medical systems (life support, scanners etc).

**Power plants (Cost 4):** *Mechanics, Engineering.*

Experience with fixing, maintaining or building power plants.

**Sensors (Cost 2):** *Mechanics, Engineering, Computer operation.*

Experience with fixing, maintaining or building sensor and communication systems.

**System administration (Cost 2):** *Computer operation.*

Provides experience in the maintenance and design of a particular type of computer system. Allows networks to be configured and optimised, users to be managed and file systems and services to be configured.

In the modern world, this would need to be taken once for each of UNIX/Linux, Microsoft Windows, OS/360, VMS etc. All subtypes are covered. Having this technique halves the difficulties of any *Computer operation* tasks when administering a computer system.

## Vehicle Techniques

### Summary

**Aircraft familiarity (2; Pilot)** - *Familiarity with aircraft.*

**Driving familiarity (2; Drive)** - *Familiarity with a type of vehicle.*

**High speed driving (4; Drive)** - *Driving fast and safe.*

**Hotshot pilot (4; Pilot)** - *Skilled piloting.*

**Ice driving (4; Drive)** - *Driving on ice.*

**Off-road driving (4; Drive)** - *Driving in off-road conditions.*

**Stunt driver (4; Drive)** - *Skilled piloting.*

**Top gun (6; Pilot)** - *Combat piloting.*

### Descriptions

**Aircraft familiarity (Cost 2):** *Pilot.*

This technique needs to be taken to be familiar with anything other than the standard type of aircraft (small low-performance aircraft). This is a different technique for each type of aircraft.

**Large aircraft:** You have experience with flying large aircraft such as cargo planes or jumbo jets.

**Passenger jet:** You have experience with flying small passenger jets, such as a Learjet.

**VTOL:** You are familiar with VTOL aircraft. You need to be familiar with VTOL aircraft in order to avoid penalties when trying to make use of their VTOL capability.

**Supersonic:** You have experience with flying aircraft at supersonic speeds.

**Aerospace:** You have experience with flying aircraft at very high altitudes where the atmosphere is incredibly thin. You require this familiarity to properly control aircraft in such conditions.

**Driving familiarity (Cost 2):** *Drive.*

This technique needs to be taken to be familiar with anything other than the standard type of vehicle (small passenger car). There is a different technique for each type of vehicle.

**HGV:** You are familiar with driving large lorries, and do

not suffer a penalty when doing so.

**Tracked:** You are familiar with driving tanks, half trucks and other vehicles which use tracks. You do not suffer the familiarity penalty when driving such vehicles.

**Motorbike:** You are familiar with riding motorbikes and similar small unbalanced powered personal vehicles.

**Buggy:** You have experience with driving small powered vehicles such as go-carts, dune buggies or trikes. Anything which is little more than an engine with a seat and basic controls is covered by this.

**High speed driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You have been trained in driving fast in dangerous situations, such as along winding roads and whilst avoiding obstacles. Reduce the difficulty increase for each level of speed by 5 points.

Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Hotshot pilot (Cost 4):** *Pilot.*

Add +1 to the effective *Agility* of your aircraft when you are flying it. Only applies if you are familiar with the aircraft you are flying.

**Ice driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You have extensive experience with driving on ice. Halve all extra difficulties for driving on ice (only +5 normally, plus each speed step adds an extra +5 when on ice).

Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Off-road driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You are experienced with driving in off-road conditions. You can reduce the penalty for driving in *difficult* or *unsuitable* terrain by one level.

Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Stunt driver (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

Add +1 to the effective *Agility* of your vehicle when you are driving it. Only applies if you are familiar with the vehicle.

**Top gun (Cost 6):** *Pilot.*

*Prerequisites: Hostshot pilot.*

You are skilled at dogfighting in aircraft. When trying to manoeuvre for a clear shot, you can fire at half skill with a single success, and full skill with two or more successes.