2400 E05 LO-FI SCI-FI RPG • JASON TOCCI



RULES

CHARACTERS

PLAY: Players describe what their characters do. The GM advises when their action is impossible, requires extra steps, demands a cost, or presents a risk. Players only roll to avoid risks.

ROLLING: Roll a d6 skill die – higher if skilled, or d4 if hindered by injury, circumstances, or carrying over 1 bulky item. If helped by circumstances, also roll a d6; if helped by an ally, they roll their skill die (and your shared bond die, if any) and share the risk. Take the highest die.

- **1-2 Disaster.** Suffer the full risk. GM decides if you succeed at all. If risking death, you die.
- **3-4 Setback.** A lesser consequence or partial success. If risking death, you're maimed.
- **5+ Success.** The higher the roll, the better.

If success can't get you what you want (you make the shot, but there's a holo-shield!), you'll at least get useful info or set up an advantage.

ADVANCEMENT: After a mission, get 1 $credit(\mathcal{Q})$ and either raise 1 skill $(none \rightarrow d8 \rightarrow d10 \rightarrow d12)$, or choose a *talent* related to your skills (e.g., *Electronics* and *Engines* relate to *Jury Rigging*).

BONDS: Between missions, play out a scene with a crewmate to increase your *bond die* with them $(none \Rightarrow d4 \Rightarrow d6 \Rightarrow d8 \Rightarrow d10 \Rightarrow d12)$.

DEFENSE: Break an item to turn a hit into a brief hindrance. Broken gear is useless until repaired.

HARM: Injuries heal gradually, and faster in your ship's med bay. If killed, make a new character to be introduced ASAP. Favor inclusion over realism.

MODERATING: Lead group in setting lines not to cross in play. Fast-forward, pause, or rewind/redo for pacing and safety; invite players to do likewise. Present dilemmas you don't know how to solve. Move spotlight to give all time to shine. Test periodically for bad luck (e.g., run into hostiles) — roll d6 for (1–2) trouble now or (3–4) signs of trouble. Offer rulings to cover gaps in rules; on a break, revise unsatisfying rulings as a group.

► Choose your character's specialty.

COMMANDER: Skilled in *Inspiration* (d8), *Intimidation* (d8). Start with an *Influence* talent.

PSIONIC: Skilled in *Telepathy* (d8, sense surface thoughts), *Telekinesis* (d8, as strong as your arms), or pick one at d10. Start with a *Psi* talent.

SOLDIER: Skilled in *Shooting* (d8), *Hand-to-hand* (d8). Start with a *Combat* talent.

SPY: Skilled in *Stealth* (d8) and *Climbing* (d8). Start with an *Espionage* talent.

TECHNICIAN: Skilled in *Electronics* (d8), *Hacking* (d8). Start with a *Technology* talent.

► Take or increase 3 skills, using these or others.

Climbing, Deception, Electronics, Explosives, Hand-to-hand, Intimidation, Labor, Persuasion, Piloting, Reading People, Running, Shooting, Sleight of Hand, Spacewalking, Stealth, Tracking

► Take a holo-tool (smartphone + multitool), a pistol, vac-rated uniform, holo-shield projector (break as defense, recharges in a few minutes), and £1. Most items/upgrades cost £1. Ignore microcredit transactions (knives, meals, etc.).

TOOLS: Flamethrower (bulky), holo-tool welder, low-G jetpack, med scanner, mini drone, survey pack (climbing gear, flare gun, tent; bulky).

WEAPONS: Grenades (4 from EMP, flashbang, fragmentation, smoke), pistol, rifle (bulky), shotgun (bulky), stun-glove. Upgrade firearms with armor-piercing, auto, collapsible, scope, silencer.

UNIFORM: Upgrade with active camo, plating (bulky, break 3× as defense), self-healing fabric.

► The crew shares a *ship*. Upgrades cost **@**10.

comms: Includes deep-space sensors, escape pod, med bay, military-grade turrets, reentry-rated hull armor (break for defense), tachyon comm relay (no in-system lag, but up close, signal plays a split-second before you speak).

TALENTS

► Choose 1 as prompted by your specialty.

COMBAT TALENTS

- □ Close Protection: When you help someone, on a 1-4, you can take all consequences alone.
- Martial Arts: Follow any 3+ hand-to-hand roll with a grab, disarm, throw, trip, or the like.
- ☐ Sharpshooting: Fire trick shots or at multiple targets as easily as others pull a trigger.

ESPIONAGE TALENTS

- ☐ Blending In: Be effectively invisible in crowds, darkness, and ductwork, no roll needed.
- ☐ Intrusion: When bypassing security, treat disasters as setbacks, setbacks as success.
- ☐ Filching: Pickpocket or palm a small object in plain view, no roll needed.

INFLUENCE TALENTS

- ☐ Leadership: Give orders or a speech to allow allies to include your Inspiration die in a roll.

 You don't share any risk on that roll.
- Reputation: Ask the group what heroic or grim deed you're nicknamed for. This may help, hinder, or avoid risk in interactions.
- ☐ Sincerity: People may or may not believe you're right, but always believe you're honest.

PSI TALENTS

- ☐ Barrier: You have psychic protection against physical or mental assault; break as defense.
- ☐ Nosebleed: Accept or worsen a hindrance to amplify effects of a psychic skill roll.
- ☐ Hold: Concentrate to hold 1 target in place with Telepathy or Telekinesis, no roll needed.

TECHNOLOGY TALENTS

- ☐ *Holography:* Scan something to project it as an illusion from your holo-tool or mini drone.
- Jury Rigging: Make a broken item work just one more time before it's properly repaired.
- ☐ Sabotage: Use Electronics to attack remotely using targets' own gear (e.g., guns backfire, holo-shields overload, drones go berserk).

DETAILS

► Invent or roll for personal details.

NAME

1	Abara	6	Foster	11	Lowry	16	Ryan
2	Biggs	7	Gibbs	12	Mori	17	Sachs
3	Chavez	8	lm	13	Novak	18	Tsang
4	Denton	9	Jin	14	Ono	19	Wade
5	Eno	10	Kemp	15	Pace	20	Zoric

WHY YOU WERE PICKED FOR THIS

1	Aliens know of you	11	Made first contact
2	Bold peacekeeper	12	Noted scholar
3	Crewmate's mentor	13	Pioneering settler
4	Crewmate's spouse	14	Powerful friends
5	Grim determination	15	Promising rookie
6	Idealistic defector	16	Retired expert
7	Infamous penitent	17	War hero
8	Influential family	18	Young prodigy
9	Just lucky, you guess	19	"The best," once
10	Legendary mentor	20	Xenolith-touched

► Take 1 bond below, or with a player's character.

CREWMATES

- 1 Rayan Al-Ghazzawi, engineer, warm, but seems to always be tinkering with engines
- 2 Jae Dixon, telekinetic gunnery sgt, acts like a hardass, but like a big brother to rookies
- 3 Kiran Gadhavi, executive officer, very with-it with work, flustered in social situations
- 4 Alex Johannsson, big-hearted trooper, has been known to shout "Damn the regs!"
- 5 Nic Kasabian, rookie trooper, won't shut up about "the Xenolith conspiracy"
- 6 Dr. Desta Mwangi, brilliant physician, decent xenobiologist, huge nerd, loves old movies
- 7 Capt. Rin Oshiro, no-nonsense but not cold, widowed, son serves on another ship
- 8 João Vargas, communications officer, gentle, often sought for thoughtful personal advice
- 9 Dany Wright, stealth & recon specialist, easy smile, tired eyes, drinks alone
- 10 Kelly Wu, scrappy pilot, calls the *Eos* "her girl" ("but don't be jealous," if she likes you)

FIRST CONTACT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. We couldn't agree whether to send soldiers, explorers, or diplomats, so the crew of the Eos is expected to be all three. You go wherever Sol Command sends you, but your priorities are clear: Protect humanity unto the ends of the galaxy, make nice with the Council of Worlds, and prove our worth to the interstellar community.

► Astronomical objects

- The Block, high-tech station drifting in space to avoid laws against for-profit prisons
- COI-4711.03, disputed colony prospect, but hungry megafauna threaten all equally
- Delfino, dramatic tides recede kilometers for years, revealing hidden alien ruins
- The Dragon, 2,000-km-long body of a faceless, frozen reptile in space; actively studied
- Gree, diverse agrarian colony run by tree-folk who plant selves offworld to reproduce
- Jug'xi, gas giant, 8 moons, each hosting a different faction of religious civil war
- Market, station run by aliens who only interact via robots directed by shareholder vote
- Octogesimus, discharges from abandoned terraforming project mess with tech
- The Sphere, believed to be a planetoid-sized supercomputer, possible "virtual" inhabitants
- 10 Yahaz-3, low-gravity moon, "Bouncy House" habitats, popular family tourist destination

► Missions (and twists)

- Claim Xenolith artifact that unlocks psi power (dangerous; Council agents here to destroy it)
- Capture and interrogate suspected terrorists (claim to be from future, here to avert crisis)
- Investigate abandoned colony plagued by swarms (swarms are - were? - the colonists)
- Make first contact with peaceful world of AI & humanoids (made by AI after killing creators)
- 5 Mediate alien peace talks (one side, a powerful ally of humanity, is hiding grave misdeeds)
- Mercs seize space station while you're there 6 on leave (hired by enemies, looking for you)
- Offer guns, training to aliens facing xenocide (most will die if you follow orders not to fight)
- Save colony from planetoid collision (people refuse to leave, and that's no planetoid) Stop aliens attacking human colony (which
- hid that it illegally colonized inhabited world) Track down Kaz, roque Council agent (acting
- 10 to avert bizarre threat the Council dismisses)

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Be in direct sunlight 1

Be in crowds

Eat "dead" things

Escape stigma

Heal from burns

Live many years

Move if surprised

Read without touch 12

Hold grudges

Resist eating

Resist infection

"See" if it's noisy

Breathe air

Empathize

Get too wet

► An alien who looks like... Is naturally able to...

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7 Fish

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Avians

Cetaceans

Crustaceans

Flatworms

Lizards

Plants

Rocks

Rodents

Ruminants

Skeletons

Slime molds

Mollusks

Pachyderms

Frogs or newts

Humans, mostly

1 Arachnids or insects Bite through bone

Canines or felines 3 Camouflage Cephalopods 4 Climb quickly

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5 **Echolocate**

Burrow quickly

- 6
 - Exert great strength
- 7 Exude noxious gas 8 Fly or glide
- 9 Heighten fear/anger
- 10 Inherit memories
- 11 Mimic sounds
- 12 Move very fast 13 Read minds
- 14 Regrow limbs
- 15 Relive memories
- 16 Shock by touch
- 17 Spray caustic fluid
- 18 Stretch & squeeze 19 Survive a vacuum
- 19 Use electronics 20 Willingly do harm

But can't ...

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- Survive in high-G Tell humans apart
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- "Speak" to aliens 16
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- Leads combatants Lobbies the Council

 - Maintains a temple Practices medicine

And the one you meet...

Begs for credits

Cares for young

Cleans a station

Deals drugs

Does research

Fences goods

Grows crops

Helps refugees

Is a banker/lender

Herds beasts

Entertains crowds

Fights for credits

Crews a freighter

Brokers information

- 19 Surveys planets Trades goods
- 20 20 Use telekinesis **Tardigrades** Version 1.3 • Art by Beeple (Mike Winkelmann) • More 2400 at jasontocci.itch.io/2400