# 24000 LO-FI SCI-FI RPG • JASON TOCCI

## RULES

**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 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* ( $\mathscr{Q}$ ) and either raise 1 skill (*none*  $\Box d8 \Box d10 \Box d12$ ), 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*  $\Box d4 \Box d6 \Box d8 \Box d10 \Box d12$ ). Use when you *help* each other, by action or inspiration.

**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 like-wise. 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.

# CHARACTERS

### ► 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.* 

### $\blacktriangleright$ The crew shares a *ship.* Upgrades cost (10.

**COMMS:** Includes *deep-space sensors, escape pod, med bay, military-grade turrets, reentryrated 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.
- General 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.

### **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).

### **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.

# DETAILS

### Invent or roll for personal details.

### NAME

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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
  - Bold peacekeeper 12 Noted scholar
  - Crewmate's mentor 13 **Pioneering settler**
  - Crewmate's spouse Powerful friends 14
    - Grim determination 15 Promising rookie
    - Idealistic defector Retired expert 16
  - Infamous penitent 17 War hero Influential family
    - Young prodigy 18
  - Just lucky, you guess 19 "The best." once
- Xenolith-touched 10 Legendary mentor 20

### 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
- Jae Dixon, telekinetic gunnery sgt, acts like 2 a hardass, but like a big brother to rookies
- Kiran Gadhavi, executive officer, very with-it 3 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"
- Dr. Desta Mwangi, brilliant physician, decent 6 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 1 to avoid laws against for-profit prisons
- 2 COI-4711.03, disputed colony prospect, but hungry megafauna threaten all equally
- Delfino, dramatic tides recede kilometers for 3 years, revealing hidden alien ruins
- The Dragon, 2,000-km-long body of a face-4 less, frozen reptile in space; actively studied
- Gree, diverse agrarian colony run by tree-folk 5 who plant selves offworld to reproduce
- Jug'xi, gas giant, 8 moons, each hosting a 6 different faction of religious civil war
- 7 Market, station run by aliens who only interact via robots directed by shareholder vote
- Octogesimus, discharges from abandoned 8 terraforming project mess with tech
- 9 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

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

- 1 Arachnids or insects 2 2 Avians 3 Canines or felines 3 4 Cephalopods 4 Cetaceans 5 5 6 Crustaceans 6 7 Fish 7 8 8 Flatworms 9 9 Frogs or newts 10 Humans, mostly 10 11 Lizards 11 12 Mollusks 12 13 Pachyderms 13 14 Plants 14 Rocks 15 Rodents 16 Ruminants 17 Skeletons 18 19 Slime molds
  - 1 Bite through bone Burrow quickly Camouflage Climb quickly Echolocate Exert great strength Exude noxious gas Fly or glide Heighten fear/anger Inherit memories Mimic sounds Move very fast Read minds Regrow limbs Relive memories Shock by touch Spray caustic fluid Stretch & saueeze

- Missions (and twists)
  - 1 Claim Xenolith artifact that unlocks psi power (dangerous; Council agents here to destroy it)
  - 2 Capture and interrogate suspected terrorists (claim to be from future, here to avert crisis)
  - Investigate abandoned colony plaqued by 3 swarms (swarms are - were? - the colonists)
  - Make first contact with peaceful world of AI & 4 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)
  - 7 Offer guns, training to aliens facing xenocide (most will die if you follow orders not to fight)
  - Save colony from planetoid collision (people 8 refuse to leave, and that's no planetoid)
  - 9 Stop aliens attacking human colony (which hid that it illegally colonized inhabited world)
  - Track down Kaz, rogue Council agent (acting 10 to avert bizarre threat the Council dismisses)

### But can't...

- Be in direct sunlight 1
- Eat "dead" things 4
- 5
- 6
- Get too wet 7
- 8 Heal from burns
- 9 Hold grudges
- 10 Live many years
- 11 Move if surprised
- 12 Read without touch 12
- 13 Resist eating
- **Resist infection** 14
- "See" if it's noisy 15
- 16 "Speak" to aliens
- 17 Survive in high-G
- 18 Tell humans apart
- Use electronics 19
- 20 Willingly do harm

- And the one you meet...
  - Begs for credits
  - 2 Brokers information
  - 3 Cares for young
  - 4 **Cleans a station**
  - 5 Crews a freighter
  - 6 Deals drugs
  - 7 Does research
  - 8 Entertains crowds
  - 9 Fences goods
- Fights for credits 10
- 11 Grows crops
  - Helps refugees
- Herds beasts 13
- Is a banker/lender 14
- 15 Leads combatants
- 16 Lobbies the Council
- 17 Maintains a temple
- 18 Practices medicine
- 19 Surveys planets
- 20 Trades goods

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- 15
- 17
- 18
- 19

Tardigrades

- 16

20

- Survive a vacuum
- Use telekinesis 20

- 1
- 2 Be in crowds
- 3 Breathe air

### Empathize

Escape stigma