Guide To Classic

TRAVELLER

Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future



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

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

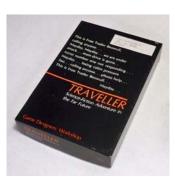
The first edition of **Traveller** (published 1977 through 1986) has come to be called **Classic Traveller** and included some 80 rules books, adventures, and supplements.

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

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

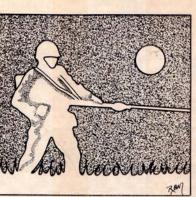
The primary galactic society in **Traveller** is the Third Imperium, a vast, human-dominated feudalistic union of over eleven thousand worlds currently ruled by its 43rd emperor, Strephon Aella Alkhalikoi. The Imperium is the most powerful interstellar polity, but it is surrounded on all sides by potentially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

The Universe of Traveller...



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

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



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

The possibilities for action and adventure are endless...

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

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

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

SPECIFIC features contained in the Traveller set include:

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

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

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

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

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

Game Designers' Workshop

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

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

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

Plus 2 six-sided dice.

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

CORE RULES

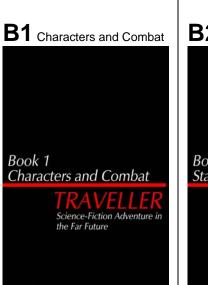
Core rules sets for **Traveller** were the foundation... the essential material on how to play.

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

Basic Traveller

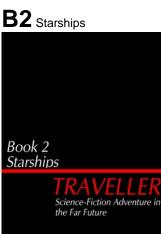
Basic Traveller was the original version of the core rules for Traveller. First published in 1977, the set appeared as three Little Black Books in a 6x9x1-1/2 inch black box with the characteristic red Traveller stripe.

A revised version of the rules appeared in 1981.



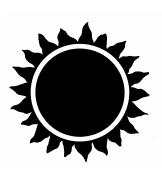
Game Designers' Workshop

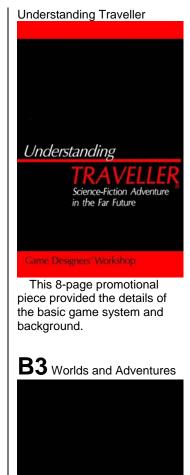
The core character rules... character generation using Traveller's unique prior career system, plus personal combat.



Game Designers' Workshop

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





Game Designers' Workshop The core rules for creating worlds using Traveller's unique Universal World Profile, plus animal encounters, and

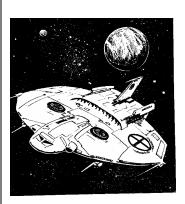
adventure creation.

Science-Fiction Adventure in

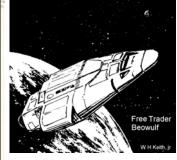
Worlds and Adventures

the Far Future

Book 3

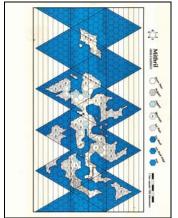






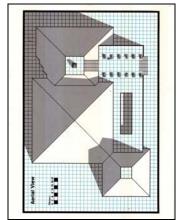
ST

Starter Ec ... take a science fiction odyssey to the distant worlds of the galaxy, with The Game of the Far Future Design 3 or more play ages 12 and ol Game



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





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

Starter Traveller

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

DT

Deluxe Traveller

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

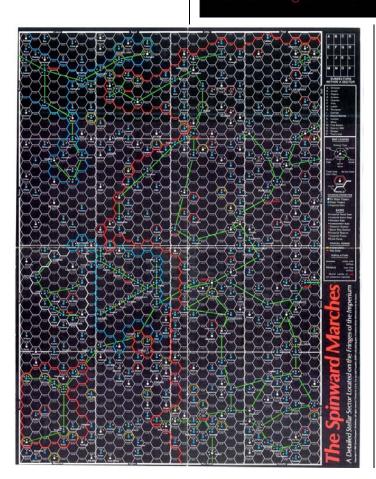
The box included the basic Books 1, 2, and 3, plus Book 0 Intriuction to Traveller, and an Introductory Adventure, plus a poster map of the Spinward Marches. This is Free Trader Beowulf, calling anyone. . . Mayday, Mayday. . . we are under attack. . . main drive is gone. . . turret number one not responding.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

Mayday. . .

The Spinward Marches Map

TRAVELLER Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

Game Designers' Workshop



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

Plus, the patron will pay under-the-table bonuses for surveys of Red Zones. Book 3 Worlds Caree Deal Caree Deal Books 1-2-3 Books 1-2-3 Books 1-2-3 Books 0 Introduction To TRAVELLER Book 0 Introduction To TRAVELLER Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future

Game Designers' Workshop

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

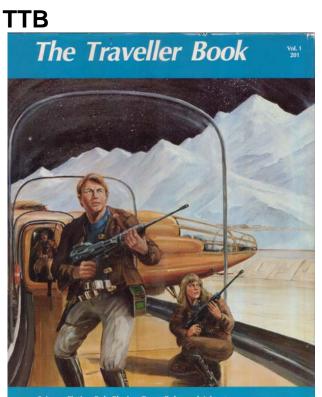
This book was included in **Deluxe Traveller**, as well as being sold separately.



Introductory Adventure The Imperial Fringe

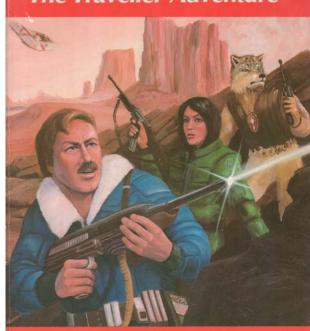


ame Designers' Workshop



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

TTA

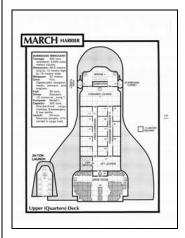


A Science Fiction Role-Playing Adventure Game Designers' Workshop

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

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

153 pages. softcover.



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

The Traveller Book The Traveller Adventure The Traveller Book

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

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

159 pages hardcover with dust jacket, or softcover.

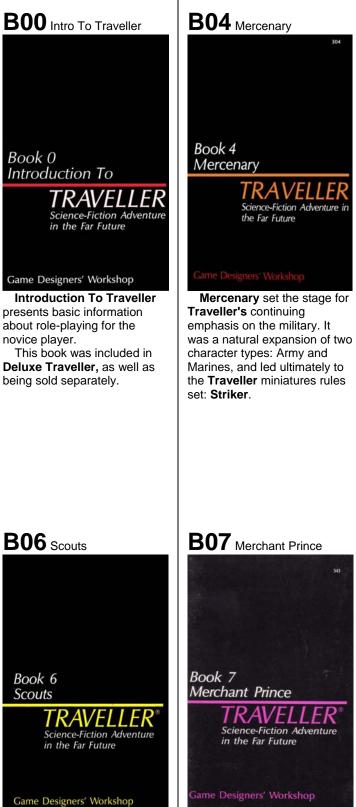
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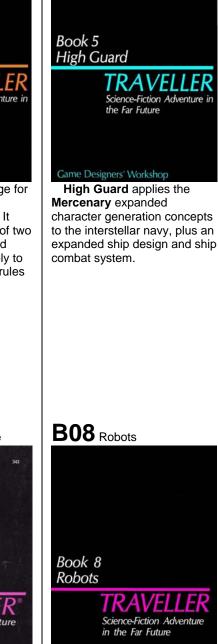
Books present additional rules on specific subjects, expanding on Traveller's basic concepts. Books run 48 to 56 pages and may be used independently or together, but all require the basic rules sets..



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



Scouts addressed in detail
the Imperial Interstellar Scout
Service: its organization,
duties, and operations, plus an
expanded star system
generation sequence.Merchant Prince expanded
the merchant character
generation system, plus a
detailed trade and commerce
system and with details on
how merchant companies are
organized.



B05 High Guard

Game Designers' Workshop

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

including starships,

S04 Citizens

Supplement 4

types.

Pirates

Flyers

Scientists

Diplomats

Barbarians





RAVELI

Science-Fiction Adventu

in the Far Future

SS3 Missiles in Traveller SS2 Exotic Atmospheres SS1 Merchant Prince Special Supplement 1 Special Supplement 2 Special Supplement 3 Merchant Prince Exotic Atmospheres Missiles in RΑ TRAVELLER Fiction Adv Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future in the Far Future Game Designers' Workshop Game Designers' Workshop Game Designers' Workshop Merchant Prince was a Exotic Atmospheres Missiles addressed the precursor to Book 7, and addressed the details of concept of missiles for space originally appeared as a strange atmospheres and their combat, and provided greater enclosure in Journal of the effects on characters. detail over the core rules and Travellers' Aid Society. Mayday. It included only character generation (in the same A revised version of this general format as Mercenary. Special Supplement was produced as well. 1 SS4 **Special Supplement 4- The** Special Supplement 4 Lost Rules is a detailed Lost Rules of examination of the changes in rules (through various editions) Science-Fiction Adventure in the Far Future in Classic Traveller. Compiled by Don McKinney.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS

Special Supplements were short presentations on specific topics, originally appearing in the Journal of the Travellers' Aid Society.

For Referees Only

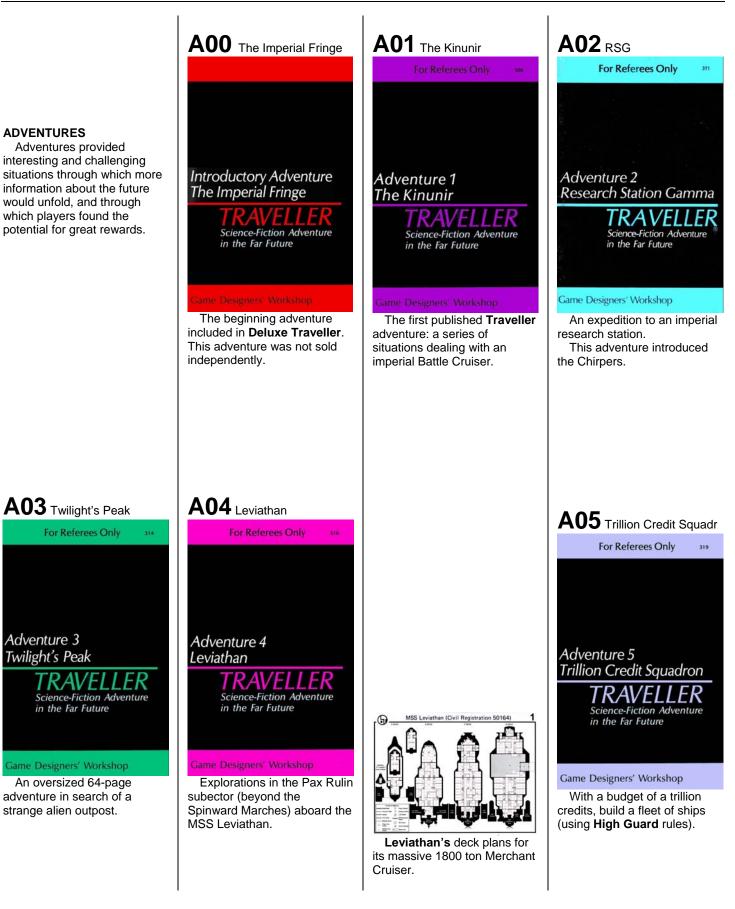
Adventure 3

Twilight's Peak

in the Far Future

strange alien outpost.

ADVENTURES



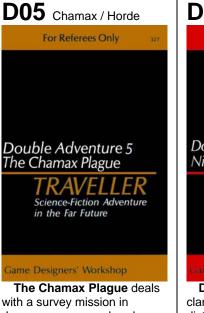




Game Designers' Workshop

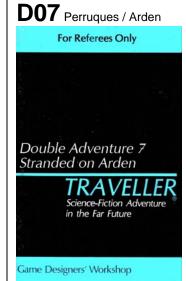
Marooned

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



danger on an unexplored world. Horde deals with a group of adventurers striving to save a planet from an alien invasion.

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



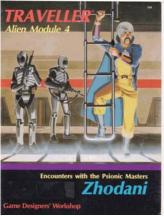
Perrugues is an encounter with a plague on a strange world; Arden is a bureaucratic problem on the eve of war.

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

ALIEN MODULES

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

AM04 Zhodani



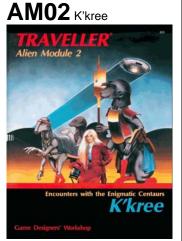
Encounters with the psionic masters.

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



Adventure and Intrigue with a proud warrior race.

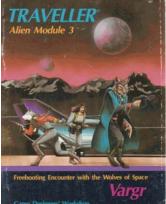
The first of the **Traveller** alien modules, dealing with the feline Aslan and their massive empire spinward of the Imperium.



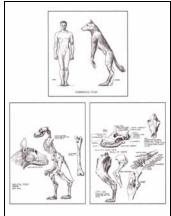
Encounters with the enigmatic centaurs.

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

AM03 Vargr



Freebooting encounters with the wolves of space.



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

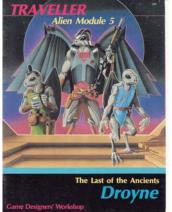
AM08 Darrians



The secret of the Star Trigger

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

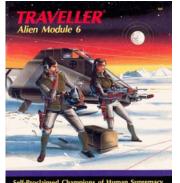
AM05 Droyne



The last of the Ancients

Information about the reptilian droyne and their caste structure.

AM06 Solomani

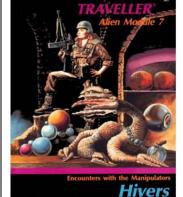


Solomani Game Designers' Workshop

Self-proclaimed champions of human supremacy.

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

AM07 Hivers

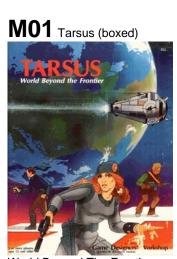


Game Designer' Workshop Encounters with the Manipulators

Details of the truly alien hivers and their social structure.

MODULES

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

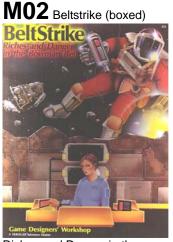


World Beyond The Frontier

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

Corridor Sector Map (one of

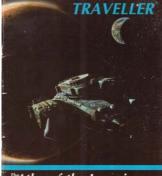
35 star maps in the Atlas).



Riches and Danger in the Bowman Belt.

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





*Atlas of the Imperium

Star Maps of 35 sectors in and around the Imperium.

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



Spinward Marches Campaign: in a War-Ravaged Sector

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



Eight Excursions Beyond Human Space

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

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

BOARDGAMES

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



One of two sheets of counters for Imperium.



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

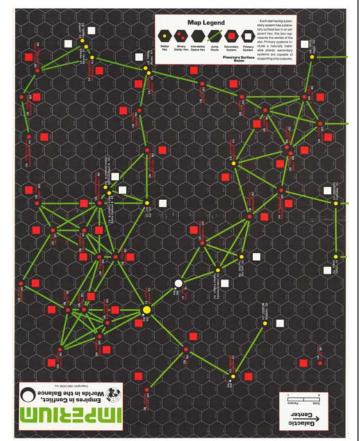




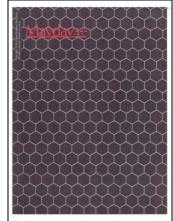
A complete science-itcion game of starnnips, attacks and escapes. A Series 120 Came, playable in under two hours by two players, ages twelve to adult. This game uses a variant of the starship rules presented in Traveller.

Starship battles in the far future.

Vector movement space combat with repositionable hex grid space maps.



The Imperium Game Map



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

Snapshot covered individual combat aboard starships, with deckplans for a free trader and a scoutship. Suitable for miniatures.
Image: Section 1
Image: Section 1<

Starship counters for Mayday.

G02 Snapshot

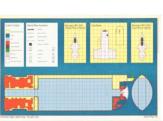






G03 Azhanti Personal combat aboard a huge starship.

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







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

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

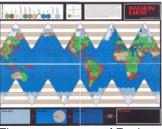
Three counter sheets (Imperials, Zhodani, and Markers) and a 22 x 28 inch map.



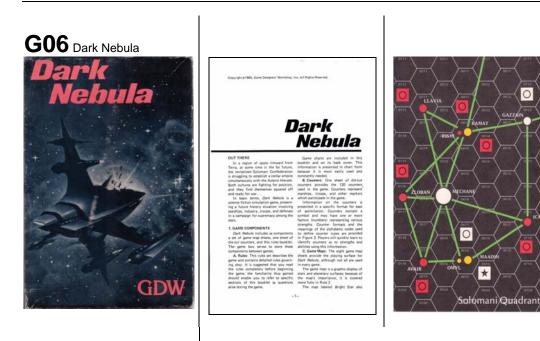
One quarter of the game map for Fifth Frontier War.

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

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

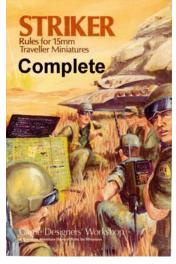


The wargame map of Earth.



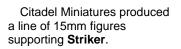
Dark Nebula combined the game system from Imperium with a new map (eight different sheets laid out randomly) to create a fast playing game presenting new situations every time.

G07 Striker





Ĭ



LIGHT GRAV TANK (TL 9+)

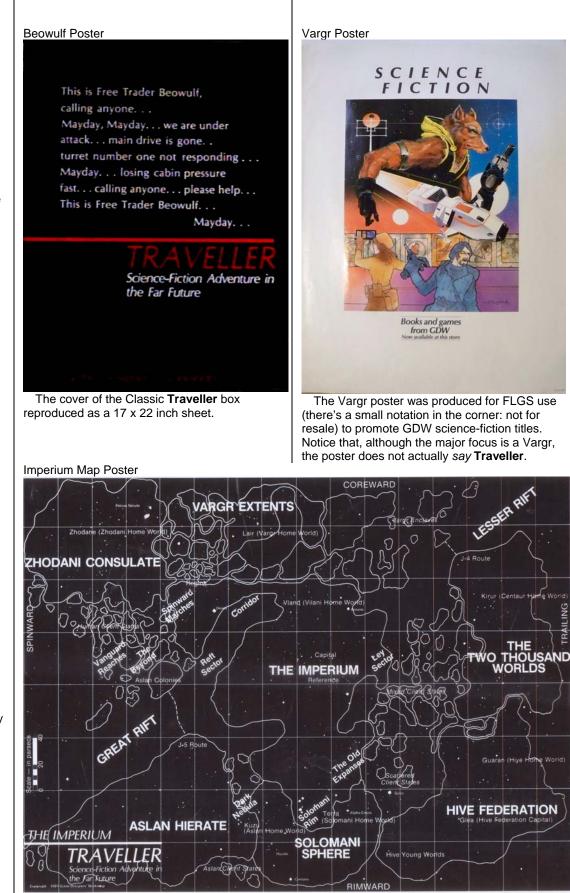
Striker miniatures rules covered small unit military operations in 15mm scale.

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

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

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

Page 19



Posters

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

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

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

17 x 22 inch sheet.

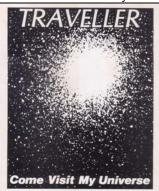
SPECIALS

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



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

Sticker- Traveller Galaxy



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

	1.5	TRAVELLER' Science-Fiction Adventure
1	<text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text>	<text><text><section-header></section-header></text></text>
	Convergini II 1987, 0007. Tawake a Sana Despery Mon- drian readings for 10 sense future readings gave. Condo: The logistic is a seguration of other of the dendering artist Prant Database. Also Machines, Andrea Karb, Wilson Fact, New Mon. and Law Machines.	MACK RAFELAND INVERTIGATION RAFES A superfinit cheathanter system for developed based on white tax reference and superflows, is general, the destinant sam of inver-special and their advanced FTL (base their light should be developed and their section) of the state state and should be developed and their sections of the should content and

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

For Use With

Sticker- For Use With Traveller

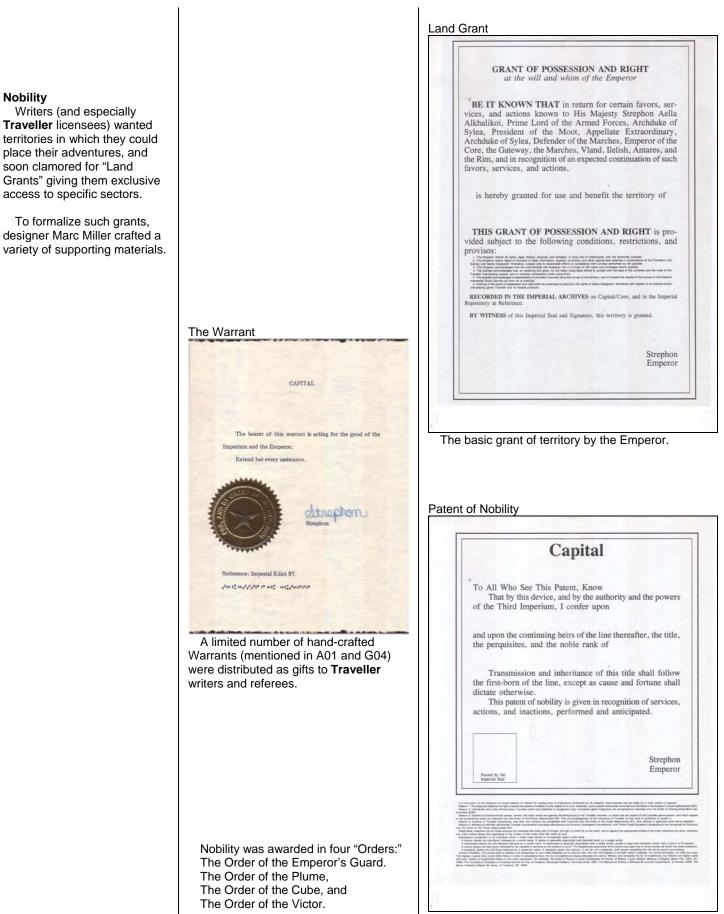


This promotional sticker was produced for application to boardgames which did not feature the Traveller name prominently enough: primarily Snapshot and Mayday.

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

2 x 3 inches.

Nobility



The basic grant of noble rank by the Emperor.

Classic Traveller Checklist

SETS

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

SPECIALS

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

GUIDES TO

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

Traveller Hardcopy Reprints

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

* In Preparation

BOOKS

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

SUPPLEMENTS

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

ADVENTURES

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

DOUBLE ADVENTURES D01 Shadows/Annic Nova

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

MODULES

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

ALIEN MODULES

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

BOARDGAMES

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

JOURNAL OF THE TRAVELLERS' AID SOCIETY

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

GERMAN TRAVELLER

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

Splitter des Imperiums (MT)

SPANISH TRAVELLER

Core Rules Mercenary 1001 Characters The Kinunir

JAPANESE TRAVELLER

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

CHALLENGE MAGAZINE

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

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