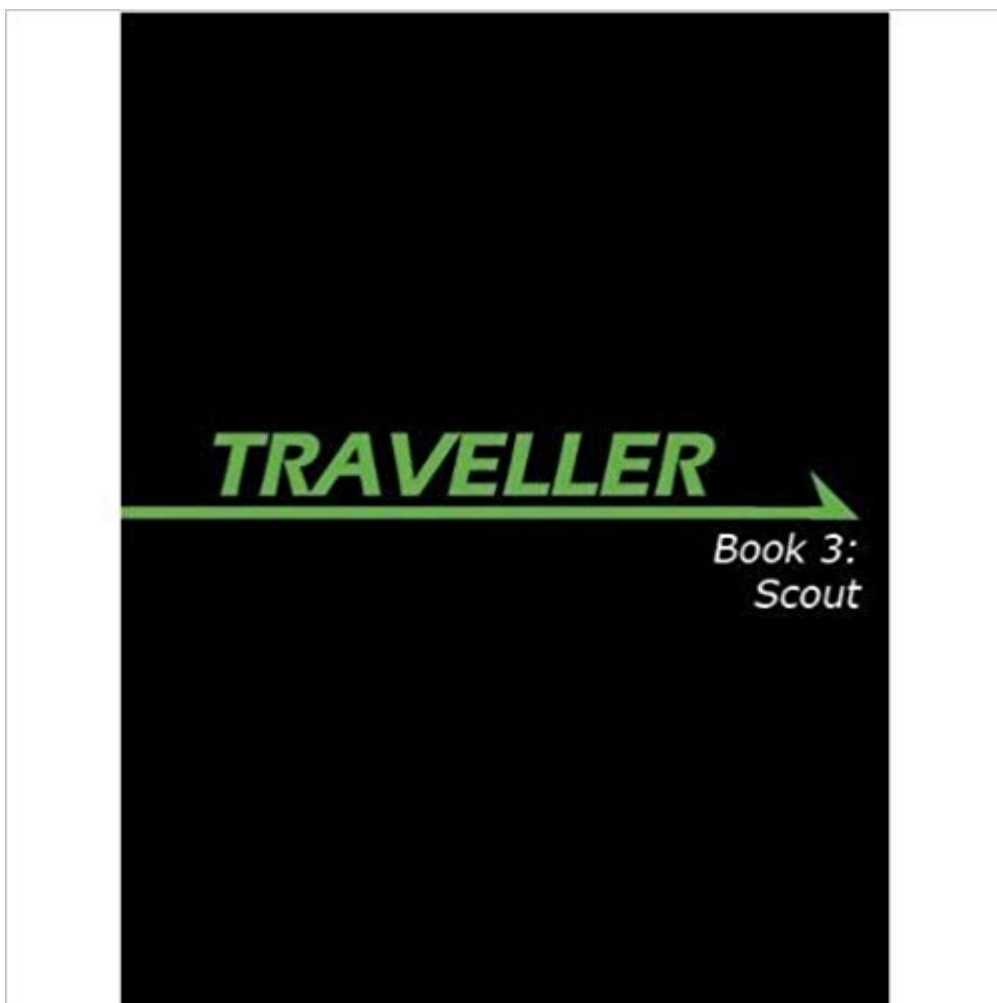




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Traveller Book 3: Scout (Traveller Sci-Fi Roleplaying)



Synopsis

Scout is a detailed expansion for the Traveller game, and continues the line of core books expanding the main rules to give you more options, and depth of play. This book is dedicated to Scout characters, providing them with new career options, equipment, and detailed exploration rules. Characters will be able to scan planets and asteroids to gain a wealth of detail about their surroundings, survive in the harshest environments, and explore mysterious worlds in the furthest depths of space - literally going where no one has been before!

Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Mongoose Publishing (February 23, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1906508003

ISBN-13: 978-1906508005

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.4 x 0.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,547,137 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Gaming > Traveller #56086 in Books > Sports & Outdoors

Customer Reviews

Again, like in High Guard, we find around a quarter of the book filled with character generation tables for various Scout careers. To some extent I am reminded of some of the products put out by various publishers during the time of d20 3.5; endless prestige classes and new feats that really don't add a great deal to the game and are easy to churn out to fill space. To waste 25 pages of paper and ink on something you will use only during character creation seems intellectually lazy. Creating a character is a fun part of the game, but Traveller is not a game with character classes. Mongoose has show some skill at filling pages with very little meat in the past with its Conan line of books, and this seems be falling back on bad habits. While new ships and deck plans are always welcome, I didn't like the art. The ships look too organic and do not have the right Traveller feel to it. In some cases, like on page 55, I wonder if the artist truly understands the scale of the ship he is drawing. From the picture it looks like a large ship with rows of windows; but that is only a 150 dt ship! I have similar complaints about some of the art (by the same artist) in Traders and Gunboats. There is also a lack of clarity in the statistics for each vessel. Going back to the ship above (the

Type SX Frontiersman) the table detailing it shows it being a Jump 2X1 ship. However one of its stated advantages is that it has Jump 4 range? Given its modular abilities, I am guessing that it has that extended range with a fuel module, giving it the ability to conduct Jump 2 X 2 with that module, but that is not entirely clear. The Terrapin class station on pages 62 & 63 is just plain odd. It makes me wonder if the art came before the concept of the ship, and they created a ship to fit the art? Unlike the original GDW Scout supplement, or even "First In" for GURPS Traveller, Mongoose's Scout does not have the detailed world creation rules that I, at least, have come to expect in such products. Granted, the world creation rules in the core rulebook are fairly complete, so perhaps there was not a need for that.

For the most part, this is a good book if you have any interest in playing a scout, or running a campaign with them. However, with that being said, there are some serious drawbacks. 1. A lot of this book is uninspired. I'd say a full half of it is. The survival section is boring, the scout adventures are not exactly interesting to run or play, the equipment has no great surprises. 2. Quality control is an issue, as it always is with Mongoose. Publishers much smaller than Mongoose can get it, why can't they? 3. The detailed system creation is nice, but, hard to read and doesn't make a whole lot of sense. It also doesn't seem to be based in science. Take a basic planetary astronomy course, THEN write this. Positives are few, but they are there. 1. Character creation tables for the most part is well done. It adds another layer of fun to that element of the game. However, some of these careers are very uninteresting. 2. The detail into the scout service is nice. Some of it is drivel, but it is useful to see the structure. Overall, I regret buying it, only because I could've bought something more useful for Traveller.

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