

## The 2005 RPG Holiday Guide

Hello, and welcome to our 2005 RPG Holiday Shopping Guide! We here at RPG Blog have taken some of the top products from the past few years and put them together to hopefully give some folks some new ideas for the gamer on their list (and perhaps a few ideas for their own list, as well).

A few notes: We are living in a period where we are seeing more exciting and innovative RPG products than ever before. We could never list all the fantastic stuff out there that deserves your support; the 2005 RPG Holiday Shopping Guide is merely a sampler, if you will, of the dynamic and exciting games that await anyone who shops around, takes a chance on the little guy, and above all, loves a good RPG.

We tried to list the home store for each product, and some products also have links to their listing on Amazon. Just click on the corresponding picture to the product you're interested in. It may be that with a little shopping around, you can find an even better bargain. If so, more power to you!

No profit was made by RPG Blog or its personnel from the listings contained herein. Our only goal is that some truly deserving games find some great homes this holiday season.

Happy Holidays,

Zachary Houghton   
RPG Blog  
<http://rpgblog.typepad.com>

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## Games for Beginners

### Dungeons & Dragons Basic Set (Wizards of The Coast)

Want to get into the world of Dungeons & Dragons, but not quite sure how to go about it? The Dungeons & Dragons Basic Set provides everything you need for your first foray into the classic roleplaying system. Included are dice, maps, pre-made characters, and miniatures, as well as the clear and concise rulebooks needed to run basic games and create starting characters. **\$16.49**



### The Big Night (May Contain Monkeys)

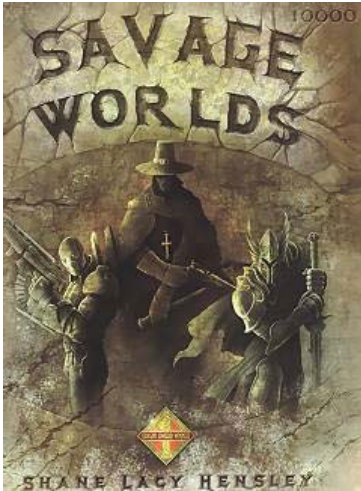
Perfect for introducing children to a world of imagination, The Big Night is a children's game with puppets. The players take the role of different Christmas-themed characters such as snowmen, elves, and stuffed animals as they attempt to help Santa on his Big Night. The game requires no dice, and with puppets to print and color, should be a wonderful adventure for children. **\$8, \$5 pdf**



## Action/Modern

### Savage Worlds (Great White Games)

Actually an entire system that can be adapted to any setting, Savage Worlds is perfect for no-holds-barred adventures, be they in the depths of the Yucatan, the corridors of a Black Ops agency, a desperate chase across Europe, or any other high-intensity idea your gaming group can come up with. Presents a system that lends itself to small-group and large-scale combat with equal ease. Fast, yet provides for in-depth character creation. A solid system for any adventure. **\$29.99**



### The Swing: Reality Guide

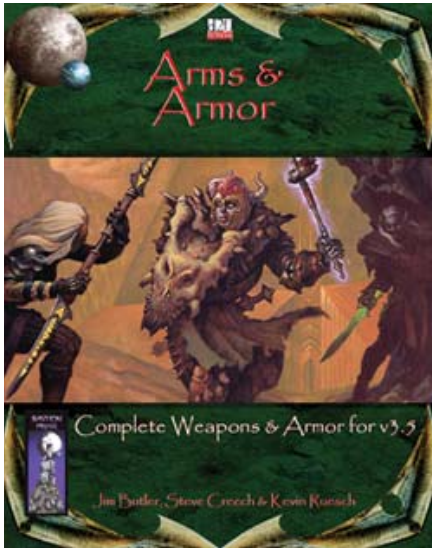
In 1904, the last of the Masters, immortal guides to man, left Earth. With the new millennium, they are back, and strange powers and events continue to shape our world. A mix of real world mechanics and mysticism, The Swing not only looks at how a character's Will can shape the world around him, but places it in a context filled with high conspiracy, magick, and a world unknown to most mortals. Learn more about the Men In Black, Ordo Templi Orientis, and other shadowy organizations. A great modern RPG for mystery, secrets, and the exploration of human potential. **\$19.99, \$10 pdf**



## All Things d20

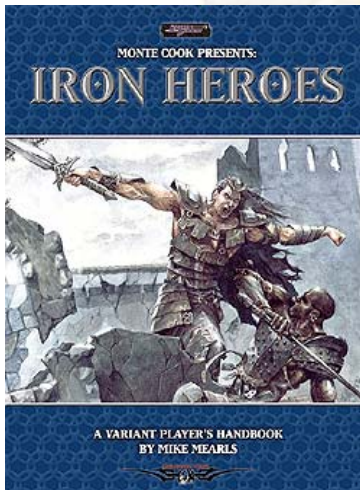
### Arms & Armor, v3.5 (Bastion Press)

Feel like expanding beyond the basic list of the same old weapons included in D&D? Arms & Armor v3.5 introduces you to 160 pages of historical, fantasy, and exotic weapons statted up and ready for your party to use in their latest swath of destruction. For use with the D&D Core Rulebooks. **\$29.95, \$14.99 pdf**



### Iron Heroes (Malhavoc)

Tired of mages running rampant? Looking for something grittier without leaving the d20 system? Look no further, because Iron Heroes is a low-magic fantasy RPG that will change your d20 system into one of incredible martial feats, fantastic swordplay, and concentration on skills & talents over the arcane cop-out. This variant player's handbook will completely change the way you play at your gaming table. **\$25.07 at Amazon, \$14 pdf**



## Iron Kingdoms (Privateer Press)

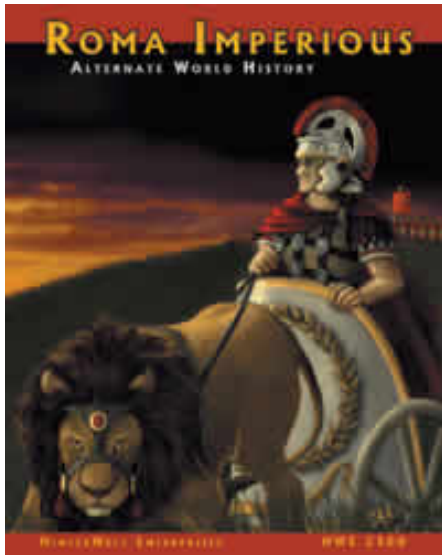
If your d20 campaign is looking for a well-written, intricately detailed setting full of both classic fantasy and incredible mystic machines, Iron Kingdoms is for you. An incredibly full, rich setting of a world where science and the arcane combine, Iron Kingdoms is the sort of setting that can give your gaming group ideas and adventures for years. Volume 1: Full Metal Fantasy Character Guide gives a group everything they need to dive into the Iron Kingdoms, and the IK World Guide presents more backstory, detail, and possibilities than ever before. For use with the D&D Core Rulebooks. **\$37.99 & 39.99 at Amazon**



## Alternate Settings

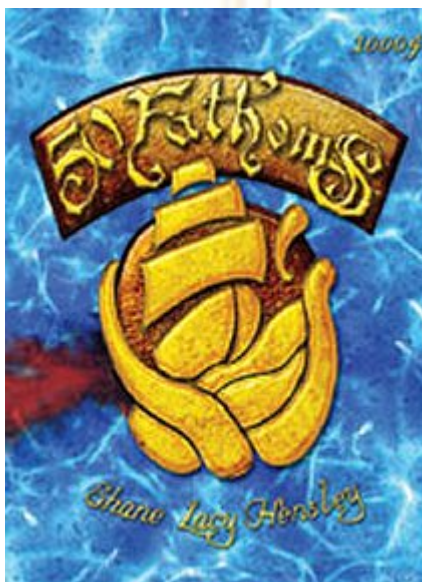
### Roma Imperious (Hinterwelt Enterprises)

What if the Romans had learnt of Druidic magic and the barbarians hordes pushed back? What if centuries later, the Roman Empire was still in place, challenged by mighty Norse warriors in the North and a venerable oriental dynasty to in the East? Roma Imperious explores this exciting alternate world in epic scope and grand detail. Not only is the daily life of the Empire charted, but history and world info is provided for all of Rome's far-flung provinces and enemies alike. Play a character from the varied social strata, from a lowly servant to a crafty Praetorian Guard to a power-hungry noble. As comprehensive a look at a divergent time path as one is likely to find. RI includes a full set of the Iridium system for immediate gameplay, but also separates it from the setting to make this book a great fit for any system. **\$39.99, \$12.99 pdf**



### **50 Fathoms (Great White Games)**

A pirate setting that combines fantasy with high adventure, 50 Fathoms is a unique, ready-to-go campaign setting for use with the Savage Worlds system. A full, diverse world awaits, filled with opportunities for pirates and privateers alike. Special Plot Points lead independent adventures to an epic meta-plot. Elemental magic, a host of ships, and a wide variety of cannon and guns along the way mark this setting as a unique challenge for any group. **\$19.99, \$19.95 pdf**



### **Weapons of the Gods (EOS Press)**

Bring the power of wuxia to your games! Set in mystic China, this long-awaited RPG is full of amazing kung-fu and strange magic. Based on the hit Hong Kong comic,

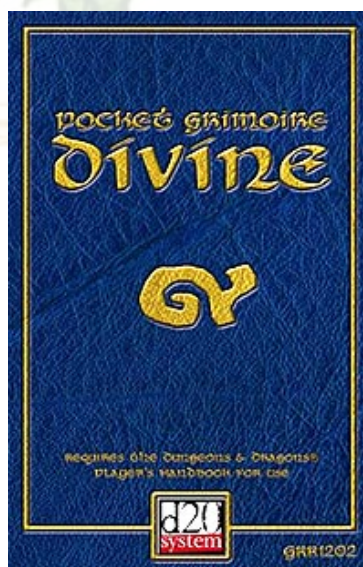
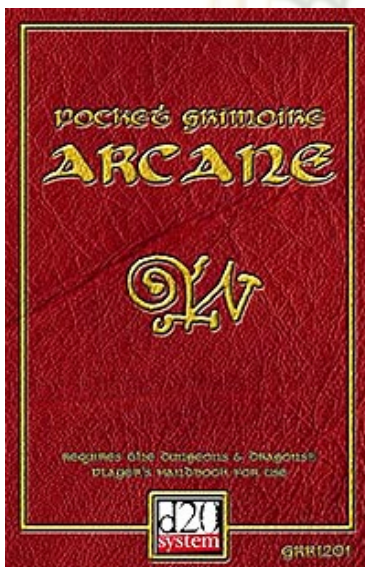
Weapons of the Gods encourages incredible feats and breathtaking action. Features a unique dice mechanic complimentary to its high style of Kung Fu action. **\$39.95**



## For The Gamer Who Has Everything

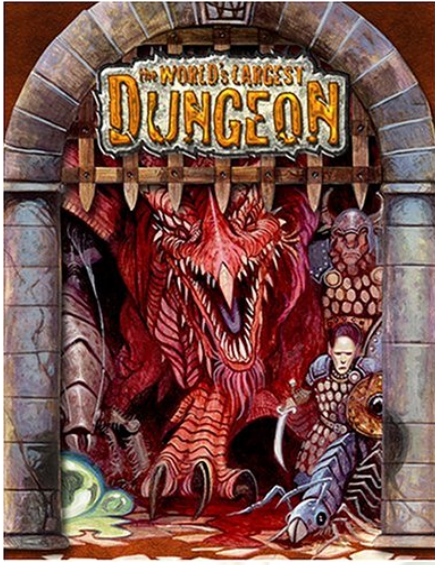
### Pocket Grimoire (Green Ronin)

Mages know spellbooks can be a burden to cart around. Good thing you won't have to worry about that with the Pocket Grimoire. This easily portable gaming resource is the size of a trade paperback, but you wouldn't know it from the huge contents. Featuring spells from the best in Open Gaming License material, the Pocket Grimoire is available in an Arcane Version for mage characters, and a Divine Version for clerics! For use with the d20 system. **\$14.95 ea.**



## World's Largest Dungeon (Alderac)

So that Ultimate Gamer on your list has beaten every challenge thrown at him, eh? Boggle his mind with the awe-inspiring World's Largest Dungeon from Alderac! Weighing in at 840 pages, complete with 100 maps of its endless dungeon, the World's Largest Dungeon has enough challenges, surprises, and twists to occupy the most battle-hardened of characters. For use with the D&D Core Rulebooks. **\$68.00**



## Dwarven Stones/Dwarven Metal Dice Sets (Crystal Caste)

Feel your old basic dice set isn't commensurate with your mighty status as a Slayer of Orcs, Maker of Kings, and Hero to Thousands (well, every gaming night, anyway)? Crystal Caste has your answer in the form of their Dwarven Bones individual piece and dice sets. Here, you can order dice made from obsidian, amethyst, megalodon, meteorite, actual bone, copper, and sterling silver, just to name a few. If you're feeling saucy, why not go for the gold-plated sterling silver set? No matter what your price range, Crystal Caste has unique dice for unique gamers. **From \$25 & up**



## Heavy-Duty Fantasy

### The Burning Wheel, Revised Edition (The Burning Wheel)

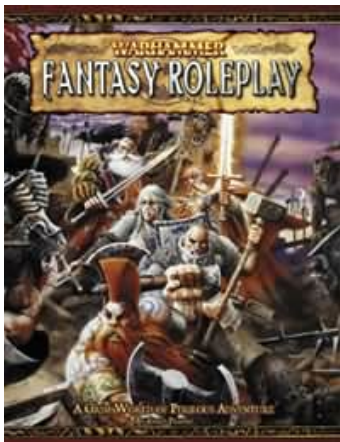
The award-winning game just keeps getting better! Burning Wheel uses innovative d6 mechanics as the framework for this game of classic fantasy. In BW, players play either Elves, Trolls, Dwarves, or Humans in a setting that recalls that best of Tolkien while allowing room for so much more. The Lifepath system allows for thousands of different character combinations, and the magic system presents different approaches based on race. Two books are included in this set: The Burning Wheel describes mechanics and gameplay, and the Character Burner gives you everything you need to make your characters. Loaded with free expansions and supplements online that allow play from Barbarians to Grief-stricken Dark Elves, the Burning Wheel should be on anyone's short list for the best in fantasy RPGs. **\$25/set**



### Warhammer Fantasy Roleplaying, 2d Edition (Black Industries)

WFRP has become a smash hit, and here's your chance to see why. As gritty as gritty gets, Warhammer Fantasy is the game for the anti-hero, the bleak, and the...well, if you like lots of gory combat, WFRP is right up your alley. With revised (but familiar) core mechanics and character options, Warhammer will provide your fantasy games a hard edge and a legacy of fun. Get in now on one of the fastest-growing games around.

**\$39.99, \$26.37 at Amazon**



## **A Game of Thrones RPG (Guardians of Order/Sword & Sorcery)**

Finally, George R.R. Martin's fantastic fantasy series is available in RPG form! A Game of Thrones RPG provides everything you need to start running games in this world of treachery, diplomacy, intrigue, and ancient evils. Choose your house, choose your allegiance, and decide whether your goals can be best-served by valiant battles or secret conspiracies. Full of exceptional art and high production values, A Game of Thrones Standard Edition is a modified d20 system that compliments the story and gameplay to a high degree of satisfaction. A November 28<sup>th</sup> release date will see this in your hands by the holidays. **\$49.95**



## **The Best of Fantasy**

### **Eldritch Ass Kicking (Mystic Ages)**

Play across the floating remnants of a world gone mad as a wizard dueling other wizards. This light-hearted game can be played as a single battle, or use given rules to stretch into a longer campaign. Featuring an entertaining, solid magic system, EAK has an underlying humor which adds to the fun of this very full RPG. Customizable magic and last-minute spells reward players who can think quickly. A must-have for those who love playing magic-users! **\$20**



## HARP (Iron Crown Enterprises)

HARP uses a simple percentile mechanic to make the one of the easiest systems out there to pick up. Players will find that skills, professions, and training packages are a snap to customize. Best of all, in HARP, nothing is impossible—with its open-ended rolls, your character will always have at least a chance of success. Combat is varied and straight-forward—no difficult calculations, just action and some often wild results! HARP combines all this into one affordable package to make this game a great alternative for anyone looking to for a new alternative in the fantasy RPG genre. **\$20, \$10 pdf**



## Iron Gauntlets (Politically Incorrect Games)

Get back to what matters in gaming—heroic quests, epic adventure, and brave new worlds. Iron Gauntlets offers 8 player races, 12 background options, and 17 vocations for you to come up with the perfect character for fantasy gaming the way it was meant to be. Easily customizable for different settings or for adding new races and vocations. Featuring one of the most versatile systems around, Iron Gauntlets can even be played diceless. The pdf is available now; the print version is due out NLT early November. **\$24.50, \$7.50 pdf**



## Horror

### Beyond The Supernatural, 2nd Edition (Palladium Books)

An all-time favorite is back in fine form. BTS 2e can handle anything from a straight-up horror campaign to the most bizarre conspiracy theory campaign. Retooled from the first edition, BTS 2e features developed character backgrounds as well as unique psychic classes unlike anything else you've seen. Compatible with the entire Palladium Megaverse, Beyond The Supernatural is a flexible RPG for all things concerning modern horror and the paranormal. **\$24.95**



### Unknown Armies (Atlas Games)

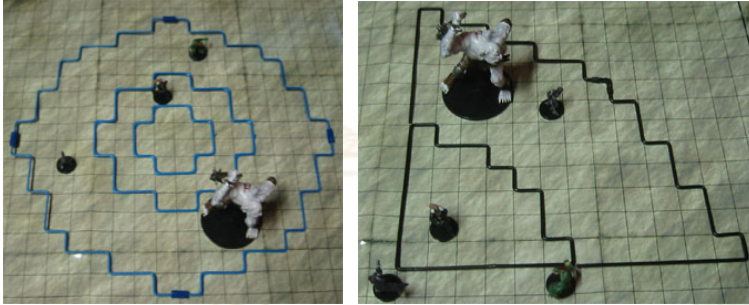
Atlas Games describes it “Pulp Fiction meets Hellraiser”. We describe it as “a whole lotta awesome”. Unknown Armies gives players the End of The World, action-packed pulp-style. With a huge amount of cults, sects, factions, and lone wolves trying to affect how the rebirth of the cosmos will pan out, UA provides the macabre and weird in equal portions to give a modern-day horror RPG that’s out of this world. For mature audiences. **\$39.95.**



## House and Table

### Area of Effect Packages (Steel Sqwire)

Ideal for displaying spell range, Area of Effect Packages are unobtrusive game aids that make making affect areas a snap. Both radius and varying cone effects can be displayed, with these durable templates. Fit in a sleeve designed for 3-ring binders. Comes in red, blue, and black. **From \$8 & up**



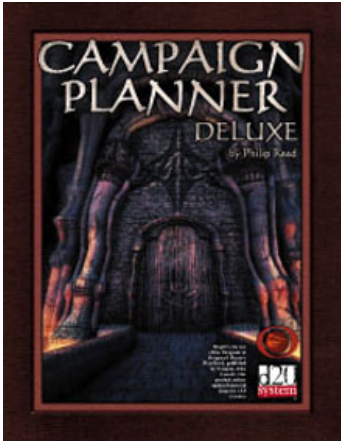
### Tact-Tiles (BC Products)

This alternative to the roll-up battle mat uses interlocking high-quality plastic tiles to create a modular mapping system for the gaming table. The dry-erase surface means no messy towels, and the entire map breaks down to a compact 10"x10"x2". Best of all, your map can easily evolve and tiles swapped out as your game evolves. Uses standard 1" squares. Basic set provides 30"x30" surface, but multiple sets fit together seamlessly. See why Tact-Tiles are the only gaming grid R.A. Salvatore uses. **\$41.75**



### Campaign Planner Deluxe (Ronin Arts)

The answer for organizing your RPG campaign. The Campaign Planner Deluxe features the best from Ronin Arts' best-selling Campaign Planner series. Find forms for organizing towns, religions, whole geographic areas, dungeons, adventure plots, and much more! Get your game back under control with easy-to-print modular pdf forms. For use with d20 systems. **\$20, \$15 pdf, \$21 for both**



### Rebecca's Custom Dice Bags

The perfect gift for the gamer who wants a unique look for their dice bag. Choose an assortment of ready-made bags, or pick from a wide variety of material and patterns. Make sure that your dice bag is the envy of the gaming table by choosing a great look that truly stands out. Each dice bag is hand-made, so order yours now in time for the holidays. **\$20**



### Indie RPGs

#### Lacuna Part I (Memento Mori Theatrics)

For over a year now, Lacuna has been tripping out players with its unnerving setting and quiet but disturbing mysteries. As an agent of “The Company”, explore a surreal dream city that seems to be a shared subconscious for humanity, or discover the depths of the Lacuna itself...where nightmares just may be born. Not just an RPG, but a puzzle that

seems to have no answer, Lacuna is perfect for the crowd that's looking for the unusual that will challenge both their roleplaying skills as well as their definition of a game.

**Print copies available again soon, \$5 pdf**



### **Run Robot Red (Wicked Dead Brewing Company)**

It's a totalitarian world where robots are trying to escape from a cruel overlord. Choose your robot, or design your own from the factories. Explore a gigantic worldship and try to find a way off before it's too late. See why this uniquely-premised RPG is a hit at conventions! **\$15, \$7 pdf**



### **a|state (Contested Ground Studios)**

A setting unlike any other, a|state takes place in The City, a place seemingly cut off from the normal world. An urban nightmare in which rotting slums and inhuman monsters blend elements of the Victorian, Cyberpunk, and Gothic to create a backdrop of improbable hope in the face of unnamable terror. Gaslight streets that seem to go on forever lead you to a unique a gaming experience in this offering by Contested Ground Studios. **\$40**



### **The Mountain Witch (Timfire Publishing)**

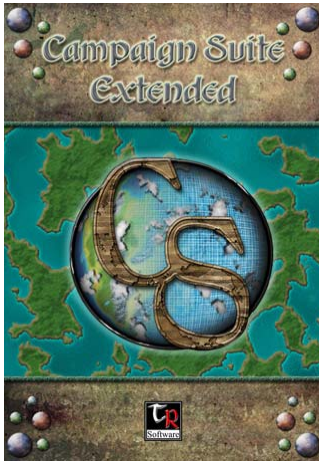
The Mountain Witch is an exciting new title blending the best elements of Japanese storytelling, modern horror, and film. Take control of a group of ronin samurai tasked with a terrifying mission—kill the Mountain Witch of Mount Fuji. A truly suspenseful game, The Mountain Witch uses Fate and Trust mechanics to shape a truly engrossing gaming experience. **\$24, \$15 pdf, \$35 for both**



## RPG Software

### Campaign Suite Extended (Twin Rose Software)

Campaign management software doesn't get any better than this! The Campaign Suite Extended offers everything needed to keep track, run, and customize your next campaign. Perfect for creating adventures, making your own character classes, organizing game play notes, generating towns and encounters, and much more! An incredibly complete program that covers every facet of gameplay. Primarily for use with d20 fantasy products. **\$34.95**



### Dundjinni

This easy-to-use software means mapping troubles are a thing of the past. An intuitive interface combines with excellent ready-made graphics to offer the user innumerable options in preparing both smaller and larger-scale area maps. Plot out your dungeon or take things overland! Dundjinni also allows you to create d20 adventures, but can be utilized by any gaming system. **\$39.95**



## Sci-Fi/Space

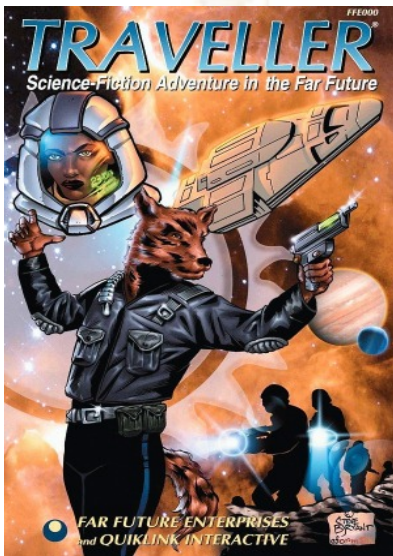
### **Bulldogs! (Galileo Games)**

See the game Gaming Report called “a must have for science fiction fans everywhere”. Bulldogs! contains the most action you’ll find in a space RPG. This self-contained d20 hit includes 10 character races, 6 new classes, and 20 pages of high-tech butt-kickin’ weaponry. Favorably compared to Star Frontiers, Bulldogs! is a fact-paced space gem where action rules! **\$24.95**



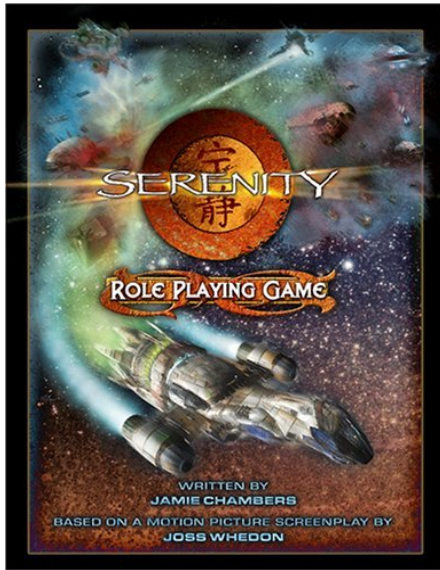
### **Classic Traveller (Far Future Enterprises/QuikLink Interactive)**

Own the game that was the granddaddy of all space RPGs. This edition of Traveller is a faithful reprint of the original rules, and not only provides loads of nostalgia; it’s still a blast to play. Explore the great distances between Imperial worlds, stake out a colony of your own, or soup up your spacecraft to take on baddies. You’ll see why Traveller still has so many loyal fans after all these years. **\$12.00**



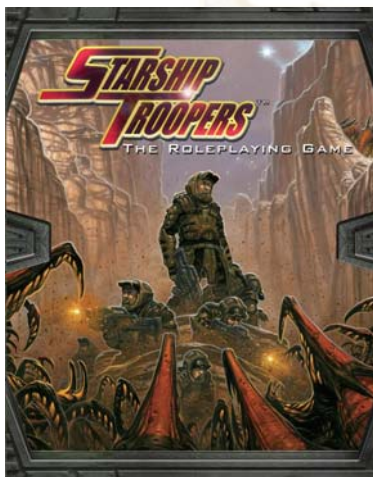
### Serenity (Margaret Weis Productions)

Calling all Browncoats, your RPG is here! Serenity is actually loads of fun for fans and non-fans alike of the resurgent movie & TV franchise. Fans of the Alternity system will find the dice size=skill level rules quite familiar, whereas newer players should have no difficulty picking them right up. Whether you want to dig deep into the aftermath of the War of Unification or explore new frontiers, Serenity strikes the right balance of space opera/western that helps makes this setting such a hit. **\$39.99, \$25.60 at Amazon**



### Starship Troopers (Mongoose Publishing)

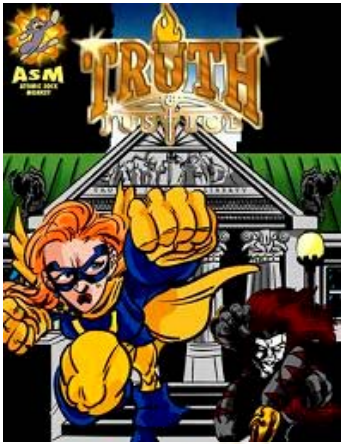
Time to join the Mobile Infantry and take part in the Bug War. The Starship Troopers RPG is based on both the movies of the same title and the original works of Robert A. Heinlein. Players can either take the part of a roughneck, or play a fleet officer in a world of politics and strategy. Whatever your choice, Starship Troopers provides a great backdrop for futuristic adventure. **\$44.95**



## Superhero Games

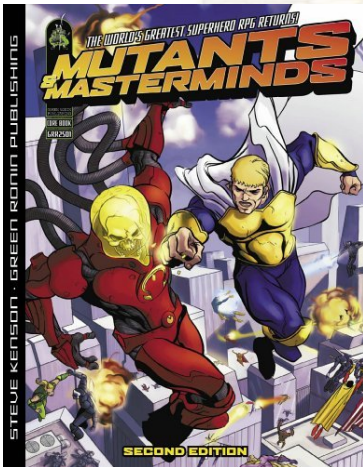
### Truth & Justice (Atomic Sock Monkey)

Up, up, and away! ASM's entry into the superhero genre, Truth & Justice, is a fantastic, stand-alone RPG that lets you create the perfect (and not-so-perfect) superhero with fast, flexible rules that make gameplay easy. T&J puts an emphasis on motivation and the human side of superheroes, not just their abilities. Better yet, different styles of superhero play are addressed, so your campaign can emulate a 60's four-color, a morning cartoon show, or a modern gritty urban tale with equal ease and enjoyment. **\$25 print & pdf, \$13 pdf only**



### Mutants & Masterminds, 2d Edition (Green Ronin)

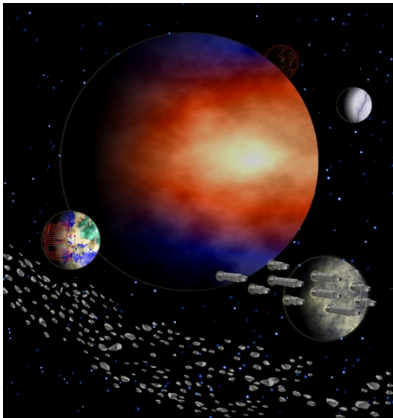
The most popular superhero game out there is back in a new edition. Mutants & Masterminds uses the d20 framework to make this RPG a seamless blend of action, cool new powers, and, of course, blowing stuff up. The character archetypes are loaded with options to ensure every superhero created in M&M can be detailed and original. Pre-made templates are also included so you can dive right in to the action. **\$32.95, \$26.37 at Amazon**



## The Gaming Frontier

### Equat10n (Hybrid Matrix Games)

One of the most intriguing experiments in gaming in some time, Equat10n is offered as a subscription service. When you subscribe, you can download any and all new source material, rules, and updates as they are produced. All supplemental material is optional, and only enhances the game, but is not strictly needed for it. Interestingly enough, this space/sci-fi setting that can also be run as a LARP. If you're looking for something new in the realm of gaming, visit Hybrid Matrix Games and pick up a subscription for Equat10n. **\$20 startup, \$5-7 monthly (optional)**



## For The Budget Gamer

### TriStat dX

Looking for a RPG system that works without hurting your wallet? Tri-Stat dX is an easy-to-learn product that can handle whatever setting you have in mind with equal ease. Rules-light, with a scalable system that lends itself to the gamut of roleplaying genres, Tri-Stat dX also gives an introspective look at getting the most out of your gaming system. Try the electronic version for free, but don't miss out on the bargain-priced print version! **\$9.95, free pdf**



### Disposable Heroes (Politically Incorrect Games)

Not a painter, huh? Don't want to collect random plastic minis in a booster pack? Try Disposable Heroes, the printable army that saves you money and time. With your purchase of Disposable Heroes, you'll have a set of fantasy characters that can not only be printed on demand, but can be customized so you only print the ones you want/need. Create an enemy horde in no time! Ensure your players don't "wander off" with your pewter masterpieces or plastic ultra-rares. Disposable Heroes are simple, easy, and a great way to go easy on your gaming budget. **\$4 & up**



### Stocking Stuffers

#### Pirates of The Spanish Main (WizKids)

While not an RPG, Pirates of The Spanish Main is too great of a game to pass up. Each pack contains two detailed pop-out constructible ships, treasure, and everything else needed to play this fun and addicting game. Choose whether to be a King's Admiral or a black-hearted pirate fiend. Outrun your opponents to reach buried treasure, or turn around and smash their masts with your mighty cannon. Rules are easy enough for kids to learn, yet gameplay is varied enough to provide lasting fun for all ages. **\$3.99/pack**



#### Reaper Learn to Paint Kit (Reaper Miniatures)

If you've wanted to get into painting and collecting miniatures but don't know where to start, Reaper Learn to Paint Kits are for you. This kit contains all the paint and brushes you need to start out, plus two miniatures and a learn-to-paint guide that teaches you step-by-step how to create a top-notch paint job. **\$23.36**



### Gamescience d100 (Game Science)

So unique among dice it's been patented, the "Zocchihedron II" is the answer for any and all percentage rolls. An improved model, this d100 rolls to a stop quicker than ever before and will give you unbiased results every time. Gamescience dice come in a wide variety of colors, and are the only dice guaranteed for 2 years.. **\$7.50 & up**



### Odds & Ends

#### Palladium Grab Bag (Palladium Books)

Palladium Books annually runs one of the best deals in all of gaming. Their Xmas Grab Bag contains a stunningly wide range of Palladium products, from the very new to the out-of-print. RPGs, supplements, t-shirts, original artwork and miniatures are just of the few items that may await you. Fill out a wish list or just go for some surprises. A great way to get a lot for relatively little. **\$32.00**



### “Otaku” Shirt (Nerd NYC)

Be proud of your consummate nerdiness. The “Otaku” shirt spells out the Japanese letters for “nerd”. Perfect for your next convention trip or just a night with your gaming group, the “Otaku” shirt is geek-cool at its finest. Sizes YL-L. **\$20**



### KoDT Subscription (Kenzer & Co.)

More than just a hilarious comic, each Knights of the Dinner Table issue is full of RPG and game reviews, game advice, material for your next game, and other great comics like the Fuzzy Knights. If you’ve got someone on your list who wants a fresh burst of gaming humor and ideas delivered to them each month, pick them up a subscription right away.

**\$45 for a 12 month subscription**

