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**INTRODUCTION**

**GURPS High-Tech** covers the technology available from the late 18th century (TL5) to the present day and relatively near future (TL8). It’s crammed with guns, explosives, entry tools, climbing kit, scuba gear, radios, vehicles, and everything else that a group of adventurers might need – whether they’re exploring trackless wastes, pulling off a heist, or running a spy ring. Most of the items it describes are based on specific, historical devices . . . but the treatment is intentionally *generic*, making the equipment useful even in non-historical campaigns.

**High-Tech** doesn’t simply list technical specs and game stats for the items it describes, though. It gives you everything you need to use them in play. There are notes on how to purchase equipment (legally and illegally), guidelines for building and modifying gear, and new firearms rules, techniques, and perks to support both ultra-realistic and cinematic gunplay.

Most important, **High-Tech** is a book for heroes: dangerous men and women on secret missions . . . intrepid explorers slashing a path through a sweltering jungle . . . iron-tough adventurers braving the steely knives of an arctic blizzard. It provides the finishing details that distinguish one mercenary or super-spy from another. Attributes, advantages, and skills may define the hero, but his possessions can be just as important. A “Mare’s Leg” Winchester or a LeMat revolver instead of the predictable Colt Peacemaker can make an Old West gunslinger stand out from his peers!

Distinctive clothing, gear, and weapons can also help make an adventurer an instantly recognizable *icon* in the campaign world. Fiction is packed with examples of personality going hand-in-hand with possessions: Indiana Jones’ fedora and bullwhip; Thomas Magnum’s Hawaiian shirt and Ferrari 308; James Bond’s tuxedo and Walther PPK. In each case, unique belongings support and complete the persona of a quirky and memorable protagonist.

Thus, **High-Tech** takes the view that an adventurers’ kit should be a reflection of his background and character traits – a symbol of his upbringing, attitude, and personality – and not just a collection of game stats and bonuses. Colombo wears a grimy overcoat in balmy California; Sherlock Holmes has his deerstalker cap and drop-stem pipe (details added not by Doyle but by illustrators and actors later on). Such touches make it easier to visualize characters who live only in the players’ imagination, and provide “hooks” that the GM can use throughout the campaign.

**PUBLICATION HISTORY**


The current volume is a new work, not a revision of any of the above – they served primarily as sources of concepts, references, and terminology, not text.

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Shawn Fisher has a master’s degree in education and is currently a technical writer with a major IT company. A former teacher and infantryman, he has over a decade of experience in private security and is a certified law-enforcement firearms and defensive-tactics instructor. His previous works include **GURPS WWII: Dogfaces** and **GURPS WWII: Hand of Steel**, and contributions to **GURPS Best of Pyramid 1**, **GURPS Who’s Who 1**, and Amarillo Design Bureau’s **GURPS Module Prime Alpha**. Shawn has been an avid gamer since the early 1980s, and devotes his spare time to camping and recreational shooting. He lives in Searcy, Arkansas with his wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel.

Mike Hurst served as an artilleryman in Viet Nam. He has also been a security officer (both uniformed and undercover); a tank commander in the Texas National Guard; and Captain of the Guard of the Barony of Bryn Gwlad. He is an NRA-certified firearms instructor and holds a Texas Reserve Police Officer certification. He possesses two dogs, an undetermined number of cats, and several thousand books, mostly history and science fiction. He has been a wargamer and miniatures gamer for more than 20 years, and shows no sign of reforming. On the other hand, his beloved wife, Brenda, who shoots ambidextrously, insists he had better quit playing and commence writing.

Hans-Christian “Grey Tiger” Vortisch, M.A., studied languages in Berlin and London, and is currently pursuing a law degree. He began writing for **GURPS** as a freelancer in 2001. He was author or co-author of **GURPS Covert Ops, GURPS Modern Firepower, GURPS Special Ops, Third Edition, GURPS WWII: Motor Pool**, and several e23 publications on military topics. He wrote additional material for numerous other **GURPS** books; translated, edited, or contributed to several German *Call of Cthulhu* products; contributed to **d20 Modern Weapons Locker** and **d20 Mecha Military Vehicles**; and published many articles in American, British, and German gaming magazines. Hans has been an avid gamer since 1983. His non-gaming interests include science fiction, history, cinema, and punk rock. He lives in Berlin.
The clerk didn’t look up from his paperwork as the trio approached, grunting under their heavy loads. As they placed armloads of gear on the table, he said, “Name. ID. Branch.”

The big Inuit dressed in sealskin trousers and a heavy wool sweater stepped forward first. He cleared his throat and replied, “Nat Hunter. 098679-1898HL. Intervention. Special Operations.”

“Inventory?” demanded the clerk.

Nat motioned at the pile of weapons. “Winchester Model 1876 carbine in .50-95, Super Redhawk Alaskan, two MK II fragmentation grenades, titanium combat folder.”

The clerk looked up and slid a clipboard across the table, between two small mountains of expedition gear, electronics, and body armor. “Are any of you carrying personal weapons on this mission?”

Nat shook his head no and signed the form.

“Next.”

The middle-aged man with the eye patch spoke up. “Morton Locke. 098679-1886HL. Penetration. Intelligence.”

He wore traditional Inuit garb and a fur-trimmed parka, with a pistol belt slung low around his waist.

“And?” the clerk intoned, with more than a slight indication of impatience.

“Auto-Ordnance M1921 with drum, two Colt .38 Super Automatics.”

“Next?”

The young blond man unslung his rifle from his shoulder and held it at port arms. “Airk Heimdall. 098679-1901HL. Penetration. Contact.” Quickly, he added, “Model 70 in .458 with thermographic sight, cut-down Ithaca Model 37, Beretta 93R, tomahawk.”

The clerk finished his paperwork and then motioned toward a set of double doors. “Through those doors; motor pool’s on your right.”

This chapter presents an overview of the technological timeline covered in *High-Tech*, along with some general rules regarding equipment use, availability, and pricing.
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