

A futuristic space station with multiple levels and glowing lights orbits the Earth. In the foreground, a sleek spaceship is flying towards the viewer. The scene is set against a backdrop of a blue and white Earth, a dark blue sky with stars, and a large, cratered asteroid in the lower left corner.

INTERSTELLAR AMBITIONS

Achieve your ambitions to earn your place amongst the stars!

An interstellar card-based strategy game by Ed Fowler

Introduction

Over 50 years ago, your civilisation discovered you were not alone in the universe. The intellectuals pondered; would these other advanced civilisations come in peace, or come for conquest? The revelation caused excitement – and fear. Countless years of strife followed, fuelled by the petty differences between nations, religions and ideologies over how to deal with this looming threat.

Fear proved the strongest emotion, and slowly, though inevitably, your civilisation galvanised itself under one government with one goal – to survive.

Being free from internal conflict and with unimpeded focus, your civilisation has learnt how to travel to distant solar systems through faster than light travel.

This achievement has just coincided with your successful election as leader of this now spacefaring civilisation.

What do you do?

Do you seek to colonise the distant stars and peacefully expand your civilisation? Do you focus on research and internal growth, only fighting when forced to? Or do you plan to strike first at these other civilisations and take their planets by force. By some bizarre coincidence, you know they have just developed faster than light travel too. The choice is yours.....

Game Summary

Interstellar Ambitions is a card-based strategy game for **3 - 6** players in which each player strives to build and develop their spacefaring civilisation to fulfil their ambitions, whilst competing against other players.

Each game is played over a series of **Player Turns** during which players will colonise and develop planets into powerful worlds, whilst researching technologies, building fleets, raiding, invading, stealing and sabotaging other enemy civilisations to further their own ambitions and thwart their enemies.

Object of the game

The object of the game is to be the player with the most victory points at the end of the game, earned by expanding their civilisation and fulfilling ambitions. Four of these ambitions will be the same every game and two will be different for each play through, adding variation and different tactics needed to win!



GAME SET-UP

Central Play Area Set-up

- Shuffle all the Passive Ambitions, and place 3 at random in an Ambition slot.
- Shuffle all the Active Ambitions and place 3 at random in an Ambition slot.
- Shuffle Shadow Cards and place deck on board face down.
- Separate planet cards into 4 stacks based on resource production type and place each stack face up into respective planet slots.
- Separate 6 START Tech Cards and set aside for now. Shuffle remaining Tech cards and place one card face up into empty Tech slots. Place remaining deck on board face down.
- Place Ship Cards in respective slots, face up.
- Shuffle Merc cards and place one card face up in empty Merc slots. Place remaining deck on board face down.
- Shuffle Emergency! cards and place deck on board face down.
- Shuffle Colony Events and place deck on board face down.
- Place Markers & Medals.
- Place the 6 START Tech cards set aside in step 5 onto Tech Tracker.
- Form piles of resource counters in easy reach to side of the board.
- Place DICE in easy reach to the side of the board.
- Place ACTION TRACKER in suitable position (not shown below).
- Proceed to **Player Area Set-up** on next page.

1 & 2: Place Ambition Cards

3: Place Shadow Cards

4: Place Planet Cards

5: Place Tech Cards

6: Place Ship Cards

7: Place Merc Cards

8: Place Emergency! Cards

9: Place Colony Events

10: Place Markers & Medals

11: Place START Tech cards on Tech Tracker

12: Place Resource Counters

13: Place Dice

14: Place ACTION TRACKER

15: Proceed to Player Area Set-up on next page.

Ambitions

Active Ambition

- Cosmic Overlord**: Capture a Planet from an opponent.
- Shadow Master**: Earn 4 SHADOW Medals.

Passive Ambition

- Relic Finder**: Own 3 planets with special effects (Red Background).
- Development Guru**: Total 15 Development Levels across all your planets.
- Science Haven**: Produce 12 SCIENCE in a single PRODUCE action.

Shadow

Shadow Card

Standard Ships

- Strike Craft**: If a marker of 6 is rolled during combat to fight against a HEAVY SHIP and 2 damage instead of 1.
- Destroyer**: "Red action interrupting"
- Cruiser**: Reduces opponent's ship combat die rolls by 1.
- Battleship**: Role an additional die against HEAVY SHIPS.
- Devastator**: Does not roll any dice or deal any damage to LIGHT SHIPS.

Tech

- MEGA COLONISERS**: When taking a COLONISE action, you may buy 1 additional SHADOW Card during a SHADOW action.
- SHADOW CARTELS**: You may buy 1 additional SHADOW Card during a SHADOW action.
- AUTOMATED SHIPYARDS**: You may buy 1 additional build action taking a SHIP action. In addition, your BASIC SHIP action can build HEAVY SHIPS.
- THE ENEMY WITHIN**: You gain +2 to ALL SHADOW Check rolls.

Colony Events

Colony Event

Emergency!

Emergency! Cards

Tech Tracker

Colony Event Markers

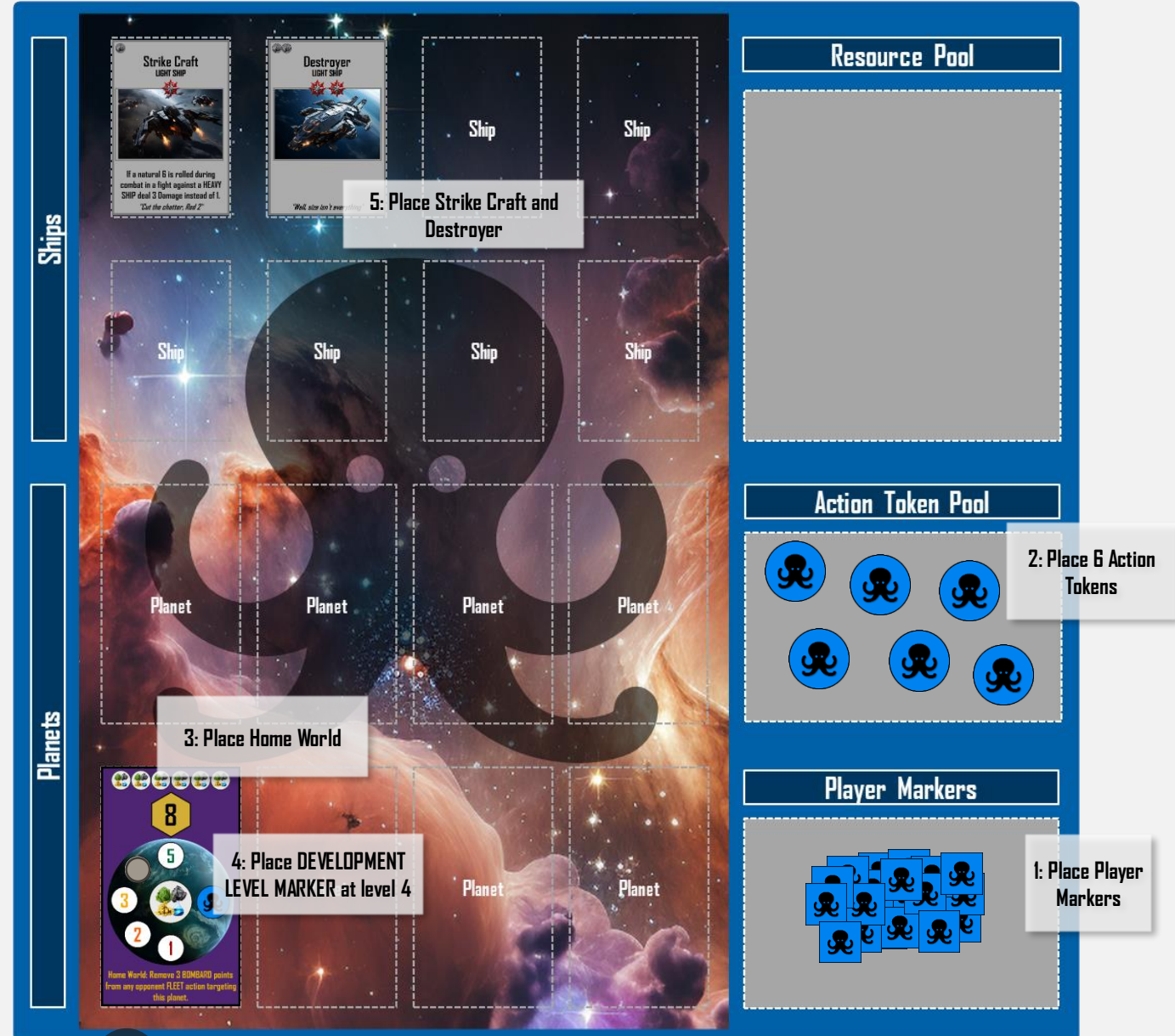
Fleet and Shadow Medals

Development Level Markers

Combat Damage Markers

Player Area Set-up (Repeat for each Player - Blue Player Example Shown)

1. Place Player Markers in the Player Marker Section.
2. Place 6 Player Action Tokens in the Action Token Pool.
3. Place Player Home World in a planet slot of the Player Board.
4. Place the DEVELOPMENT LEVEL MARKER on 4 on the Home World.
5. Place 1 Strike Craft and 1 Destroyer in the ship slots.





GAME CONCEPTS

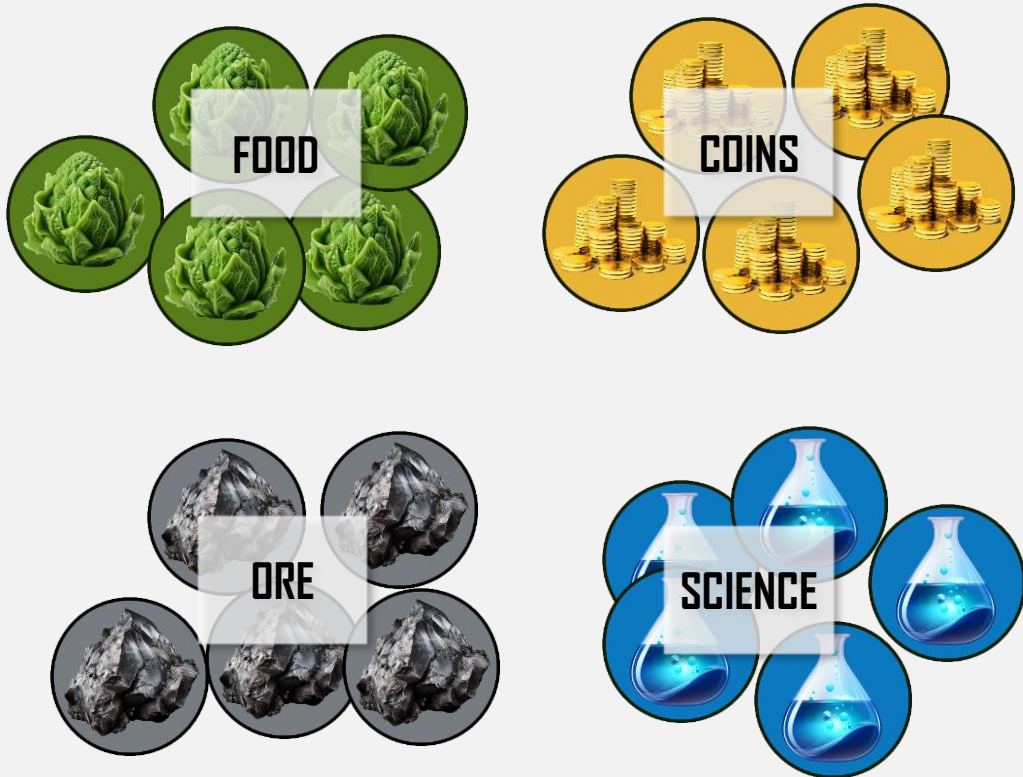
Resources

Resources are used to pay for the many different actions in *Interstellar Ambitions*, from building ships, colonising planets, researching technologies – or even engaging in the nefarious world of shadow activities.

Maintaining a healthy supply of resources is vitally important or your civilisation's expansion will be impaired.

There are 4 resource types – **FOOD**, **ORE**, **SCIENCE** and **COINS**. In general, **FOOD** is used to found colonies, **ORE** is used to build Ships and found Colonies, **SCIENCE** is used to research technologies and **COINS** are used for **Shadow Activities** and hiring **Mercenaries**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Resources can be exchanged at any time during your turn at a 3:1 ratio. This is expensive but gives you some flexibility.

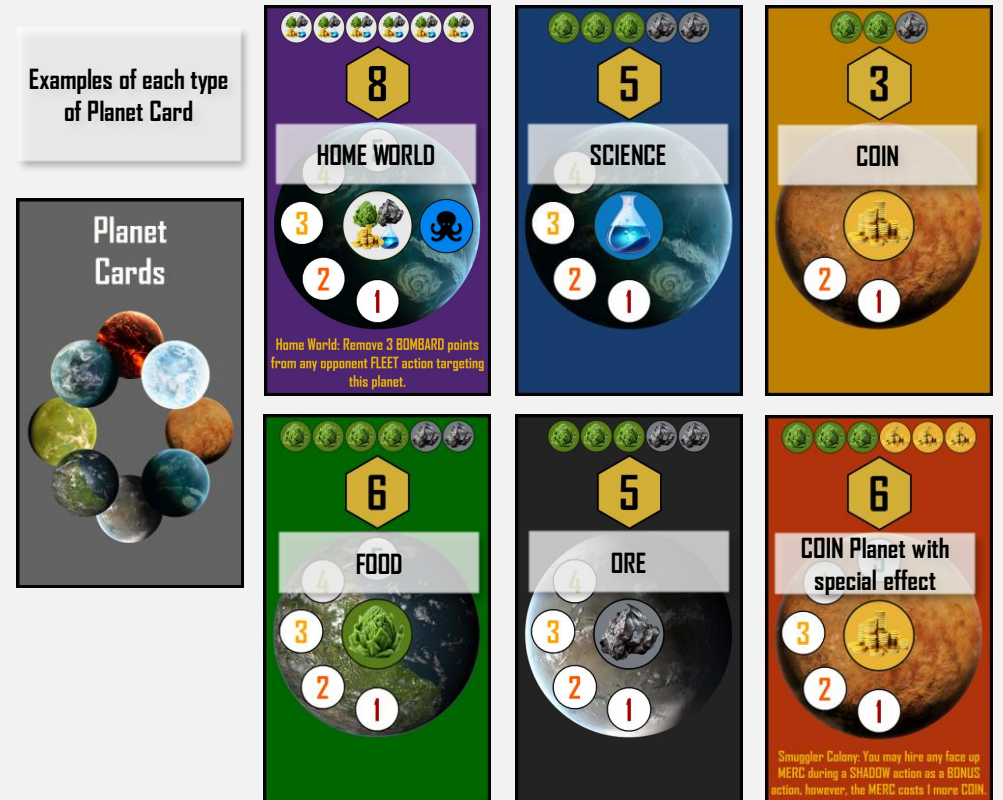


Planets

Planets are critical to your civilisation. Planets provide living space and infrastructure for your population and allow you to produce the resources you need to fulfil your ambitions. They also gain you valuable victory points that are needed to win the game!

Aside from your starting **HOME WORLD**, there are several types of planets available for you to colonise during the game. These are **FOOD**, **ORE**, **SCIENCE** and **COIN** types. Each can produce their corresponding **RESOURCE TYPE**. **HOME WORLDS** are very valuable as they give you a choice of what to produce. There are some special planets that are rarer and often have a beneficial effect to your civilisation just by owning them, but still produce one of the 4 basic resources.

In *Interstellar Ambitions*, you are limited to 8 planets at a time, so choose wisely! One example of each planet type is shown below.



Planet Attributes

Planets have many attributes as follows:

- **Colonise Cost:** This is the cost in resources to COLONISE the planet.
- **Victory Point Value:** This is the potential number of Victory Points (VPs) gained by owning the planet at Game End. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** You only gain these VPs if the planet is at its maximum **Development Level**. You will gain zero points if it is only one level lower than its maximum.
- **Development Levels:** This shows the development levels the planet can support, from level 1 through to level 5. Planets supporting up to level 5 are expensive to Colonise and expensive to Develop, but they have the potential to produce a lot of resources and score a high number of VPs.
- **Resource Type:** The type of resource produced times **Development Level** during a **PRODUCE** Action.
- **Home World Symbol:** Denotes the original player's Home World.
- **Special Effects:** Any special effects of the planet – these always supersede the rules.

Example Planet Card Detail View. This example is the Blue Player's HOME WORLD



COLONISE cost. This example is 6 of any resource.

VP value (8)

Develop levels are arranged in a semi-circle around the planet. In this example, the planet has 5 levels, and is currently at level 4.

Home World Symbol. As this is the Blue Player's symbol, this denotes the planet is a HOME WORLD originally belonging to the Blue Player

The RESOURCE TYPE of the planet is shown as the large symbol in the centre of the planet. In this example, the type is ANY resource. This is because this is a HOMEWORLD which is very flexible. Other planets will only have a single RESOURCE TYPE.

Home World: Remove 3 BOMBARD points from any opponent FLEET action targeting this planet.

Any Special Effects are explained here. In this HOME WORLD example, the planet reduces the BOMBARD value from enemy fleets, making it harder to damage and / or capture.

Planet Development Level

Maximising the **Development Level** of the planets in your civilisation is very important to increase your power and economy, and vital to realise the full potential of the planet to score Victory Points. Thematically, the **Development Level** of a planet signifies a combination of its population and infrastructure.

In game terms, a planet will produce one resource type times it's Development Level. Therefore, higher development levels across your planets means more resources produced. Planets have various potential development levels, ranging from level 1 to level 5.

In addition, your planets can only be captured if they are at **Development Level 1**, so increasing their level is vitally important to help protect them against capture from an aggressive enemy.

Planets ONLY score end game Victory Points if they are at the maximum level that planet can support.

Development Level is signified on your planet using **Development Level Markers**. A couple of examples are shown below.

This planet has the potential to reach level 3. It is currently at level 2, so room to grow!



This planet has already reached its maximum development level of 4.



Colony Events

Colony Events are triggered during the COLONISE action when a player Colonises a Planets.

These **Colony Events** can be beneficial or detrimental, although they are usually beneficial. Many of these cards are marked "Use and Discard" – simply act on the effect then place the card in the Colony Event discard pile.

Some **Colony Events** have a permanent effect on a planet and are marked "Place Marker and Keep". When these are drawn, the card is retained, and a special game counter is used that is placed on the planet and kept with the planet wherever it moves. **NOTE:** If the planet is ever discarded, then the card is finally discarded also, and the counter returned to the pool.

A few examples are shown below.

NOTE: **Colony Events** are only ever triggered the first time a planet is colonised.

Example Colony Event Cards

<p>Valuable Resources</p> <p>You find valuable resources that you can sell easily. You immediately gain 3 COINS from the pool.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Use & Discard</p>	<p>Runaway Greenhouse Effect</p> <p>Unfortunately, the previous inhabitants polluted this planet badly. Discard the planet card and replace with the lowest VP planet card from the face up planets - the opponent to your right chooses if any are tied for lowest.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Use & Discard</p>	<p>Delicious Aliens</p> <p>The planet is densely populated with large, slow, and docile aliens, that simply taste delicious. This planet now gains a +2 FOOD Bonus if activated during a PRODUCE action.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place marker & Keep</p>
<p>Example Beneficial Effect</p>	<p>Example Detrimental Effect</p>	<p>Example Permanent Effect with Game Counter</p>

Technology

Technology or TECH gives important bonuses to a civilisation in their efforts to fulfil their ambitions.

TECH is gained by two primary methods – performing a **RESEARCH Action**, or through attempting to steal a **TECH** through a **SHADOW Activity**, if a player prefers nefarious means to expanding their knowledge. They can also be taken as a reward for winning space combat.

All Player's **TECH** is tracked centrally on the **TECH Tracker**. **The player to first Research a TECH is always the OWNER**, and one of their player markers will be placed in the owner box in the bottom left of the **TECH Card** which can never be removed. In addition, **the Owner will get a VP bonus at the end of the game**.

Any player that acquires a **TECH** that is already owned by a player will add one of their player markers to the **TECH Card**, to the right of the Owner's player marker. This signifies they know and understand that **TECH** and gain the same game play effect as the owner, **but NOT the VP bonus at the end of the game**.

Starting technologies are available at the start of the game, with each player owning 1 starting **TECH** card before they begin. Some examples are shown below.

<p>This signifies a START TECH</p>	<p>TECH Cost (6 SCIENCE)</p>	<p>TECH Cost (8 SCIENCE)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">START PLANETARY ECONOMICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You gain 2 BONUS COIN when taking any PRODUCE action.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">+2</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">1</div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEGOTIATION MASTERY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reduce the HIRE cost and UPKEEP cost of MERCS by 1 COIN. HIRE and UPKEEP costs can never be reduced to zero.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">4</div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">HEAVY WEAPONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">During a BOMBARD action, reduce the planet a number of DEVELOPMENT LEVELS equal to the BOMBARD strength divided by 2 instead of 3.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">6</div> </div>
<p>Owner slot (Filled)</p>	<p>This TECH is owned by Blue Player</p>	<p>This TECH is not yet researched!</p>
<p>Example START TECH, boosting economy</p>	<p>This TECH is great if you want to hire a lot of MERCS!</p>	<p>This TECH is useful if you plan to capture planets!</p>

Ships

Ships are vitally important for protecting a player's civilisation from attack or for going on the offensive against an opponent. **All owned Ships form a player's Fleet** and are represented by Ship Cards placed in the Ships section of their player board. **Ships** are mobilised for attacking another player using the **FLEET** Action. **Ships** come in three types:

- **STANDARD Ships:** These are built through the **BUILD** action and require **ORE** to build but have the advantage of always being available to build and have no upkeep costs.
- **MERC Ships:** These are hired through the **SHADOW** action and always have some kind of special effect. However, they require upkeep, and you can only hire **MERCS** that are available at the time.
- **EMERGENCY Ships:** These are gained when you are attacked and have inferior numbers in your fleet. They are often flawed.

Ship Attributes

In addition to the type of ship (**STANDARD**, **MERC** or **EMERGENCY**), each ship has the following attributes:

- **COST & UPKEEP:** This is the amount in **ORE** or **COINS** to build or hire the ship, and any upkeep costs.
- **CLASS:** This is the class of ship **LIGHT SHIP** or **HEAVY SHIP**. Only **LIGHT SHIPS** can participate in **RAIDS**.
- **COMBAT VALUE:** This is how much Combat Value the ship contributes to space combat, and how many dice it rolls in combat.
- **BOMBARD POINTS:** This is how many **BOMBARD** points the ship contributes if the space combat victor chooses a **PLANETARY BOMBARDMENT** Victory Spoil.
- **VICTORY POINTS:** This is how many **VPs** the ship is worth if in your fleet at the end of the game.
- **SPECIAL EFFECTS:** Any special effect of the ship is explained.

NOTE: A player can never have more than 8 ships in their fleet. If they have 8 and wish to build / draw more, they must discard a ship first.

NOTE on FLEET Composition Strategy: A variety of ships is advisable. If you have 8 **HEAVY SHIPS** with high **COMBAT VALUE** but no **BOMBARD POINTS**, you may win every space combat, but you may not be able to do much damage. You would also be **very susceptible to being RAIDED** by **LIGHT SHIPS**.

COMBAT DAMAGE
During space combat, your ships may suffer damage, these are marked by **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**. Each damage marker reduces the **COMBAT VALUE** and **BOMBARD POINTS** of the ship by 1, and if a ship ever has **MORE** damage than it's starting **COMBAT VALUE** it is destroyed.



Cost & Upkeep
(Cost: 4 ORE Upkeep: 0)

Ship Class (HEAVY SHIP)

Battleship

HEAVY SHIP

Combat Value (4)

Worth 2 VPs!

Example STANDARD Ship

Bombard Points (2)

Rolls an additional die against HEAVY SHIPS.

Special Effect - This ship is better at fighting other Heavy Ships

A FLEET Medal
These can be earned by Ship Combat.



This symbol denotes 1 COMBAT VALUE

This symbol denotes 1 BOMBARD POINT

Cost & Upkeep
(Cost: 0 Upkeep: 0)

Unstable Cruiser

HEAVY SHIP

Ship Class (HEAVY SHIP)

Combat Value (3)

Example EMERGENCY Ship

Bombard Points (0)

Defence ONLY. Roll a combat die before any battle. On a 1 or 2, return this ship to the discard pile.
"You came in that thing? Braver than I thought."

A not-so-great special effect!

Cost & Upkeep
(Cost: 4 COINS Upkeep: 2 COINS)

Ship Class (LIGHT SHIP)

Captain Rogers

LIGHT SHIP

Combat Value (3)

Worth 2 VPs!

Example MERC Ship

Bombard Points (0)

Destroy an enemy ship named **STRIKE CRAFT** before any battle starts.
"Darn, he's good." Lt. Phillips, Decade 50

A very nice special effect!

Shadow Activities and Shadow Cards

Once per turn, or in special circumstances, players will have the opportunity to engage in **Shadow Activities**. These activities are the work of spies, saboteurs, assassins or worse!

The activities are represented by the playing of **SHADOW cards**. Players start with 2 of these cards (decided from a choice of 4) and can buy more during the game through a **SHADOW action**.

There are 3 types of **SHADOW card**, which are always played during the **Shadow Activity** part of a player's turn:

- **STANDARD:** These tend to manipulate the **ACTION TRACK** and have weaker effects against other players – they always succeed, but do not earn a **SHADOW Medal**.
- **SABOTAGE:** These are strong effects involving the destruction of something or someone in an opponent's civilisation. They always require a **SABOTAGE SHADOW CHECK** (see Player Turns section) and earn the player a **SHADOW MEDAL** if they succeed.
- **INFILTRATE:** These are strong effects involving the stealing or abduction of something or someone in an opponent's civilisation, with the most common being the stealing of **TECH**. They always require an **INFILTRATE SHADOW CHECK** (see Player Turns section) and earn the player a **SHADOW MEDAL** if they succeed.

Some example **SHADOW Cards** are shown opposite.



A **SHADOW Medal**

Example Shadow Cards of each type

<p>Exchange Plans</p> <p>Swap ANY of your ACTION TOKENS on the ACTION TRACK with ANY opponent's ACTION TOKEN on the SAME ACTION TRACK.</p> <p>STANDARD</p>	<p>New Opportunities</p> <p>Refresh the face up RESEARCH, PLANET OR MERC cards from the deck.</p> <p>STANDARD</p>	<p>Planetary Plague</p> <p>Target an opponent's PLANET. Perform a SABOTAGE SHADOW CHECK. If you succeed, reduce the planet's development level by 2 steps.</p> <p>SABOTAGE</p>	<p>Ship go BOOM BOOM!</p> <p>Target an opponent's SHIP. Perform a SABOTAGE SHADOW CHECK with a penalty to the die roll as follows: -1 if the combat power is 3, -2 if the combat power is 4 or greater. If you succeed, DESTROY the SHIP.</p> <p>SABOTAGE</p>
--	--	--	---

STANDARD
Shadow Cards

SABOTAGE
Shadow Cards

<p>Acquire Secrets</p> <p>Target an opponent's TECH. Perform an INFILTRATE SHADOW CHECK with a penalty as to the die roll as follows: -1 if the cost is 6, -2 if the cost is 8. If you succeed, AQUIRE the target TECH.</p> <p>INFILTRATE</p>	<p>Siphon Production</p> <p>Target an opponent's PLANET. Perform an INFILTRATE SHADOW CHECK. If you succeed gain resources from that planet as if it had PRODUCED. That opponent cannot produce goods from that planet on their next turn (use a DAMAGE TOKEN to mark this)</p> <p>INFILTRATE</p>
---	---

INFILTRATE
Shadow Cards

Ambitions

Ambitions are key to winning the game. They are accomplished by a player meeting that condition during their turn and they are claimed (optional) at the end of a players turn.

When a player has claimed their third **Ambition**, the Game End is triggered – timing of this is important....a player may not wish to claim their third **Ambition** even if they could, if they think they are behind on points. However, they risk not being able to claim it in the future if they no longer meet the **Ambition**!

Being the first player to achieve an **Ambition** will score the player 12 **Victory Points**. The 2nd player will score 6 **Victory Points**, and any subsequent players will score only 3 **Victory Points**. These are marked directly on the card using **Player Markers**.

A player **NEVER** removes their marker from a claimed **Ambition**, even if they no longer meet the condition, **nor** can a player ever claim the **SAME** **Ambition** more than once.

Every game starts with 3 **Active Ambitions** and 3 **Passive Ambitions** being drawn from the pool.

Passive Ambitions tend to be **Ambitions** that have little direct impact on other players and are more inwardly facing.

Active Ambitions tend to be **Ambitions** that impact or interfere with other players civilisations.




This will make every game unique as players figure out the synergies between the **Ambitions** and plot their path to victory!

Some example Ambitions are shown opposite.

ACTIVE Ambitions

Active Ambition
Space Dominator
Earn 4 FLEET Medals.

12 6 3

This Ambition has been claimed by Green player in 1st place (12pts), Red player in 2nd place (6pts) and White player in the others slot (3pts)

Active Ambition
Cosmic Overlord
Capture a Planet from an opponent.

12 6 3


1st 2nd Others

This Ambition has yet to be claimed by any player.

PASSIVE Ambitions

Passive Ambition
Relic Finder
Own 3 planets with special effects (Red Background).



12 6 3

 2nd Others

This Ambition has only been claimed by Blue player (12pts). The next player to achieve this ambition will claim 2nd place and 6pts.

Passive Ambition
Development Guru
Total 15 Development Levels across all your planets.

12 6 3

  Others

This Ambition has been claimed by White player in 1st place (12pts) and Green player in 2nd place (6pts).

Action Track

As with almost everything in life, actions are often stronger and more predictable the more thoroughly they are planned.

The **Action Track** is at the heart of the **Interstellar Ambitions** game and tries to simulate this by having players place **Action Tokens** in slots starting at a **BASIC Planning Level** that will progressively increase in strength when they are **ADVANCED**.

Each turn players will have the choice to **PRODUCE** resources or **ADVANCE** three different Action Tokens of their choice. This signifies their empire focusing on producing resources or spending time and effort planning for more powerful effects.

This often a difficult choice.....do you **PRODUCE** now and take a less powerful Action? Or do you **ADVANCE** and plan for more powerful **ACTIONS** later? Or are you forced to **PRODUCE** due to lack of resources?

Notice that there is a very powerful **ULTIMATE** slot on each Action Track. This is the only slot which has limited spaces, all the other planning level slots have unlimited space. If a player doesn't take that **ULTIMATE** Action swiftly, they may find themselves the target of **Shadow Activities** to remove their Token - Be warned!

After this step, players will then have a choice of removing an Action Token and taking that Action, or placing all their current Action Tokens in their pool at the **BASIC Planning Level**.

Taking an Action may be great in the short term, but if you are running short of Action Tokens on the Action Track, you will be limited on which Tokens you can advance the following turn. You need to carefully plan which Action Tokens you have on the Action Track at any time - ensuring you can maximise your **ADVANCES**, but also take the right action when you need to.

On top of this, you never know what curve ball your opponent's may throw your way.....by a surprise attack or a well-played Shadow Card to really disrupt your plans!

Careful management of the Action Track will be the key to having a successful game. Successfully deciding when to **PRODUCE** resources or **ADVANCE** and Take Actions or Place Action Tokens is crucial to winning or losing!

The ACTION TRACK Filled with ACTION TOKENS

Action Track

	BASIC	MODERATE	STRONG	ULTIMATE
COLONISE Pay Colonise Cost Printed on PLANET	COLONISE 1 PLANET (MAX VP Value 3 - DEV LVL 2)	COLONISE 1 PLANET (MAX VP Value 5 - DEV LVL 2)	COLONISE 1 PLANET (ANY VP Value - DEV LVL 2)	REPLACE + COLONISE 1 PLANET + STARTS AT DEV LVL 4
DEVELOP Pay 2 x Planet Resource Type per Dev Lvl	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 3	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 4	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 5	DEVELOP 3 PLANETS up to DEV LVL 5
BUILD Pay BUILD Cost Printed on SHIP	REPAIR + 1 BUILD (LIGHT SHIP Only)	REPAIR + 2 BUILDS (ANY)	REPAIR + 3 BUILDS (ANY)	FREE REPAIR + 4 BUILDS (ANY) at -1 (MIN 1 PER SHIP)
RESEARCH Pay RESEARCH Cost Printed on TECH	RESEARCH 1 TECH (MAX VP Value 2)	RESEARCH 1 TECH (MAX VP Value 4)	RESEARCH 1 TECH (ANY VP Value)	REPLACE + RESEARCH 2 TECHS at -1 EACH (MIN 1 PER TECH)
SHADOW Pay 1 per CARD Pay HIRE Cost Printed on MERC	BUY up to 2 SHADOW CARDS	BUY up to 3 SHADOW CARDS or HIRE 1 MERC	BUY up to 4 SHADOW CARDS or HIRE 2 MERC	BUY up to 5 SHADOW Cards or REPLACE + HIRE 3 MERC
FLEET No Cost	Perform a RAID only	Perform a RAID at +2 or INVADE	Perform a RAID at +4 or INVADE at +2	Perform a RAID at +6 or INVADE at +4
Planning Level:	BASIC	MODERATE	STRONG	ULTIMATE

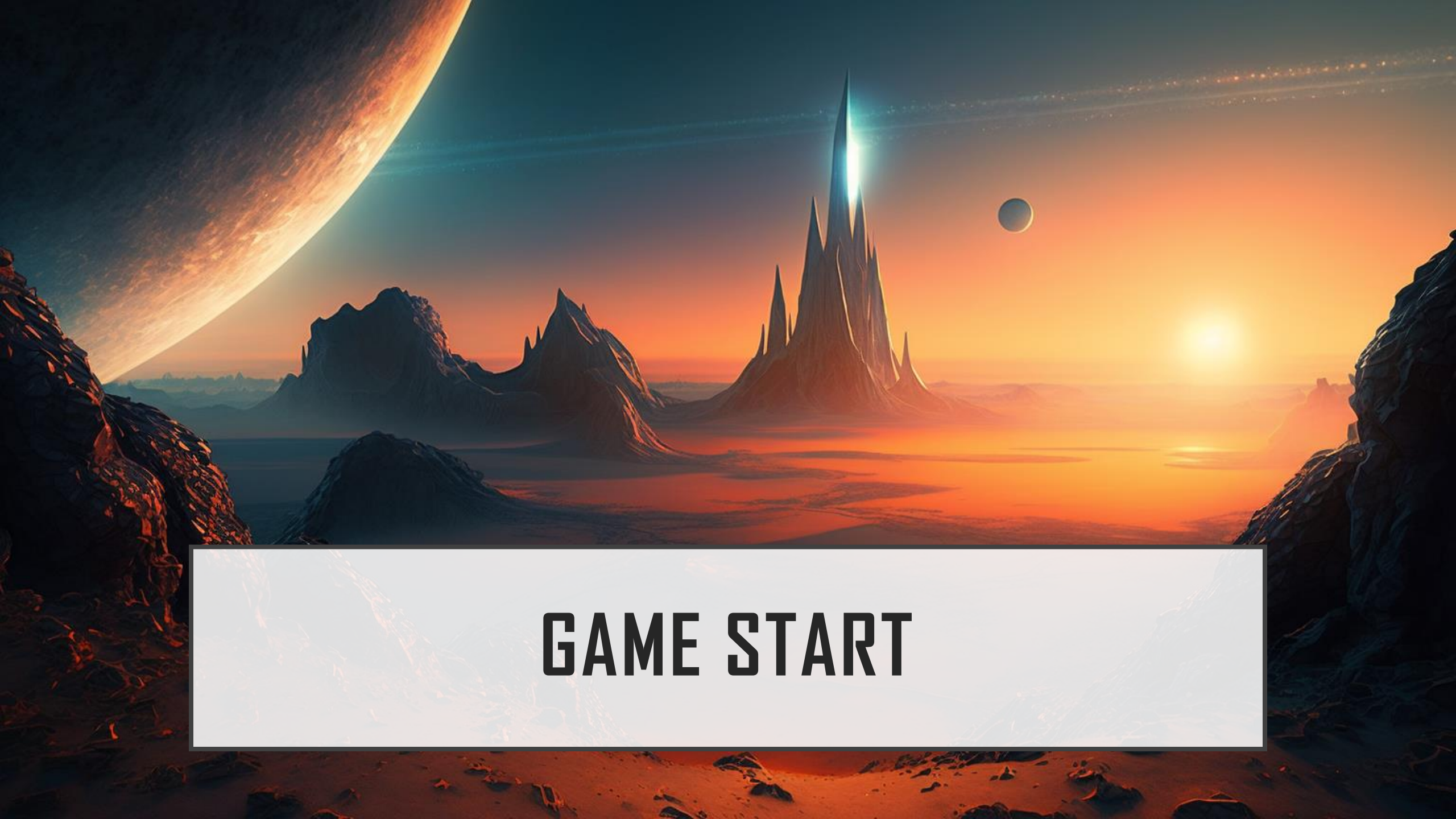
ACTIONS are represented in rows

PLANNING LEVEL increases from Left to Right

Effects get stronger the higher the PLANNING LEVEL

Action Tokens are placed at the BASIC Planning Level, which has basic effects.

ULTIMATE Actions have limited spaces - only 1 slot in a 3 player game, 2 slots in other games.



GAME START

Game Start

1. Randomly determine a start player. Turns will proceed clockwise from the starting player.
2. Deal each player 4 Shadow Cards. Each player chooses 2 to keep and discards the other 2.
3. Starting with the last player, and continuing in reverse player order, players select a single starting Tech from the Tech Tracker by placing their player marker in the Owner slot. Any unclaimed techs are shuffled into the Tech Deck.
4. Starting with the first player, and continuing in player order, players place an Action Token in any Basic Planning Level slot on the Action Tracker. This is repeated until all players have placed their Action Tokens.

5. Each player takes 2 Resources of each type (Food, Ore, Coins and Science).
6. As players later in the order are at a slight disadvantage, players are adjusted as follows:
 - Player 2 takes one Resource of their choice.
 - Player 3 Advances one Action Token of their choice and takes one Resource of their choice.
 - Player 4 Advances one Action Token of their choice and takes 2 Resources of their choice.
 - Player 5 Advances two different Action Tokens of their choice and takes 2 Resources of their choice.
 - Player 6 Advances two different Action Tokens of their choice and takes 3 Resources of their choice.
7. The start player now begins to take their first turn and players continue to take turns until the end game condition is met (see Game End section).

4: All players have placed their Action Tokens at the BASIC Planning Level, however, Players 3 (Yellow) and 4 (Green) have advanced one Action Token (step 6)

Action Track

Planning Level:	BASIC	MODERATE	STRONG	ULTIMATE
COLONISE Pay Colonise Cost Printed on PLANET	COLONISE 1 PLANET (MAX VP Value 3 - DEV LVL 2)	COLONISE 1 PLANET (MAX VP Value 5 - DEV LVL 2)	COLONISE 1 PLANET (ANY VP Value - DEV LVL 2)	REPLACE + COLONISE 1 PLANET + STARTS AT DEV LVL 4
DEVELOP Pay 2 x Planet Resource Type per Dev Lvl	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 3	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 4	DEVELOP 1 PLANET up to DEV LVL 5	DEVELOP 3 PLANETS up to DEV LVL 5
BUILD Pay BUILD Cost Printed on SHIP	REPAIR + 1 BUILD (LIGHT SHIP Only)	REPAIR + 2 BUILDS (ANY)	REPAIR + 3 BUILDS (ANY)	FREE REPAIR + 4 BUILDS (ANY) at -1 (MIN 1 PER SHIP)
RESEARCH Pay RESEARCH Cost Printed on TECH	RESEARCH 1 TECH (MAX VP Value 2)	RESEARCH 1 TECH (MAX VP Value 4)	RESEARCH 1 TECH (ANY VP Value)	REPLACE + RESEARCH 2 TECHS at -1 EACH (MIN 1 PER TECH)
SHADOW Pay 1 per CARD Pay HIRE Cost Printed on MERC	BUY up to 2 SHADOW CARDS	BUY up to 3 SHADOW CARDS or HIRE 1 MERC	BUY up to 4 SHADOW CARDS or HIRE 2 MERC	BUY up to 5 SHADOW Cards or REPLACE + HIRE 3 MERC
FLEET No Cost	Perform a RAID only	Perform a RAID at +2 or INVADE	Perform a RAID at +4 or INVADE at +2	Perform a RAID at +6 or INVADE at +4

An Example Game Start for a 4-Player game

Tech Tracker

Player	1 (Blue)	2 (Red)	3 (Yellow)	4 (Green)
RESEARCH FORCES	Claimed			
ADVANCED SCOUTING		Claimed		
EVANESCING MATERIALS			Claimed	
FERTILITY CLINICS				Claimed
Empty Slot				
Empty Slot				
Empty Slot				
Empty Slot				
Empty Slot				

3: In this example, each player has claimed 1 START Tech Card as the owner. The 2 that were not claimed were shuffled back into the Tech Deck.



PLAYER TURNS

Player Turns

Player turns are how the game is played and continue until the Game End conditions are met (see Game End section). Below are the steps that the Player must follow during their turn, and they must be performed in this order.

Player Turns Summary

FIRST TURN ONLY: NO SHADOW CARDS CAN BE PLAYED or FLEET ACTIONS TAKEN – the universe starts in peace.....at least for one round!

1. **SHADOW ACTIVITIES:** Play **ONE** Shadow card and act on any effects.
2. **PRODUCE or ADVANCE Plans.** The player may either:
 - a. Take a **PRODUCE Action OR**
 - b. **ADVANCE Plans** – Player may **ADVANCE** up to **3 different ACTION TOKENS** on the **ACTION TRACK**
3. **TAKE ACTION or PLAN ACTIONS:** The player may either:
 - a. Remove an **ACTION TOKEN** from the **ACTION TRACK** and take that **ACTION** at the planning level OR
 - b. Place any number of their available **ACTION TOKENS** onto the **BASIC planning level** of the **ACTION TRACK**
4. **CLAIM AMBITION:** Player may claim **ONE** ambition by placing a player marker on any ambition for which they meet the criteria.

NOTE: A player may exchange resources at any time during their turn at a 3:1 ratio.

1. Shadow Activities

The player may play a single **Shadow card**. The card played may be of any type - STANDARD, SABOTAGE or INFILTRATE.

STANDARD Shadow cards will almost always work, but their effect on other players is generally not so severe and considering there is no risk, they **do not earn you a Shadow Medal**.

SABOTAGE and INFILTRATE cards will always instruct the player to perform a Shadow Check of the appropriate type. These are riskier actions that generally have a chance of failure, especially if your opponent opposes them. However, if you succeed the check, you will receive a Shadow Medal that are worth VPs at the end of the game and, if you accumulate enough, you may be able to claim an Ambition.

Performing a Shadow Check

To perform Shadow Check, go through the following steps:

- Player plays the Shadow Card and targets an opponent
- Total any bonuses and penalties (from TECH or circumstances explained on the card) to make it clear to both sides what the current modifier is. Note: Some TECH only modify certain types of Shadow Checks, not all.
- Player decides whether to discard up to 3 SHADOW Cards to boost the roll by +1 for each SHADOW Card discarded.
- Opponent decides whether to discard up to 3 SHADOW Cards to reduce the roll by -1 for each SHADOW Card discarded.
- Player rolls a single die and adds or subtracts the current modifier. If the result is 4 or higher, the Shadow Check succeeds, the player earns a Shadow Medal and the effect of the card is enacted. If the result is 3 or less, the check fails and there is no effect but a bruised ego!

2. PRODUCE or ADVANCE Plans

During this step, the player must either:

- a. Take a **PRODUCE Action** OR
- b. **ADVANCE Plans** – Player may **ADVANCE** up to 3 *different* **ACTION TOKENS** on the **ACTION TRACK**

Please familiarise yourself with the concept of the Action Tracker (see Game Concepts section) before reading the rest of this section.

Take a PRODUCE Action

The player simply takes a PRODUCE Action (see Actions Section).

ADVANCE Plans

The player may **ADVANCE** up to 3 different owned **ACTION TOKENS** on the **ACTION TRACK**. To do this, the player moves each selected **ACTION TOKEN** one Planning Level slot to the right on the same **ACTION TRACK**.

NOTE: When moving from a **STRONG** Planning Level to the **ULTIMATE** Planning Level, the **ULTIMATE** slots are limited according to the number of players, with only one **ULTIMATE** slot in a 3 player game and two **ULTIMATE** slots in a 4 – 6 player game. If a slot is not free, the **ACTION TOKEN** cannot be moved.

3. TAKE ACTION or PLAN ACTIONS

During this step, the player must either:

- a. **TAKE ACTION:** Remove an **ACTION TOKEN** from the **ACTION TRACK** and take that **ACTION** at the planning level OR
- b. **PLAN ACTION(s):** Place any number of their available **ACTION TOKENS** onto the **BASIC** planning level of the **ACTION TRACK**

Take Action

The player simply takes one of their Action Tokens from the Action Tracker (returning to their Action Token Pool) and performs the appropriate Action (see Action section for detailed descriptions of each Action). The strength of the action is modified by the planning level (i.e. how advanced their Action Token is on the Action Tracker).

Plan Action(s)

At some point, the player will run low (or even run out) of Action Tokens on the Action Tracker and they will need to place more. To do this, the player takes all their current Action Tokens from their Action Token Pool and places them in any available **BASIC** planning level slots on the Action Tracker.

Note on Strategy: Deciding when to take an Action or when to Plan Actions is a key part of the game. It is obviously most efficient to place many Action Tokens at once to avoid missing out on an Action the fewest times possible. However, if the player does not have Action Tokens on the Action Tracker, then during the Advance Plans step their Action Tokens will not be able to advance. This means they may take more Actions, but they will generally be weaker. Some players may prefer a strategy of keeping at least 3 Action Tokens on the Action Tracker at all times. They may take less actions, but in general their actions will be stronger.

4. Claim Ambition

The player may make ONE claim for an available Ambition card. The player must meet the condition for that Ambition during their turn.

To claim the Ambition, they simply place one of their Player Markers onto the Ambition card on the appropriate slot (1st, 2nd or Others). The 1st player to claim an ambition will score 12 VPs at game end, 2nd will score 6 VPs, with any other subsequent player fulfilling the ambition claiming 3 VPs at game end.

Once a Player Marker is placed, it cannot be removed even if the Player no longer meets that condition.

A player **CANNOT** claim a single Ambition more than once.

A futuristic sci-fi landscape. In the foreground, a person in a dark, futuristic suit stands in silhouette, looking towards a large, dark, multi-tiered structure that resembles a space station or a massive alien building. The structure is illuminated from within, with glowing orange and red lights. In the background, a large, orange, cratered planet dominates the sky. A small, dark, star-shaped object is visible in the sky to the right. The overall color palette is dominated by oranges, reds, and dark blues, creating a dramatic and atmospheric scene.

ACTIONS

PRODUCE Action

This action is used to produce resources by stimulating planets to produce resources.

The PRODUCE Action is the only action not to have a planning level, and the only action where the player does not remove an Action Token from the Action Track.

The Player simply produces resources from all their planets.

To calculate what each planet produces, simply times their **Development Level** by their **Resource Type**. For example, a SCIENCE Resource Type Planet at Development Level 4 would produce 4 SCIENCE.

NOTE: HOME WORLD Planets are very special – their **Resource Type** is **Any Resource**. They can produce any resources of the player’s choice up to a total of their Development Level. For example, a level 5 HOME WORLD can produce any 5 resources in any combination (e.g. 2 SCIENCE, 1 FOOD, 1 DRE, 1 COIN). This makes HOME WORLDS very flexible and should be always protected!

Then add any bonus resources from **Technology** or **Colony Event Markers** or other special effects.

Repeat this for every planet the player selects to produce.

MERC UPKEEP

At the end of the PRODUCE action, the player must pay MERC upkeep (see Game Concepts).

Any MERCS not paid are discarded.

COLONISE Action

This action is used to colonise planets – vital to increase the scale and productivity of the players civilisation.

The player targets a planet that is available to them to Colonise. The planets that are available to them depends on the planning level of the Action. For example, it takes a **STRONG** Colonise Action to colonise the most desirable planets.

To colonise, the player pays the colonise cost for the planet (top of card), places the planet in an empty slot in their play area and then draws a COLONY EVENT card.

The player acts on the instructions of the COLONY EVENT card, then, if the COLONY EVENT allows for successful colonisation, places a **Development Level Marker** on the appropriate **Development Level** slot of the planet, according to the planning level.

NOTE: A player has a limit of 8 planets. If they already have 8 planets and wish to colonise another, they must first give a planet of their choice to the player with the fewest planets (player chooses on a tie). If all other players have 8 planets, the planet is instead discarded. This is done AFTER paying the colonise cost, but BEFORE drawing the COLONY EVENT card. The current **Development Level** of the planet is maintained after it is transferred.

After the colonise action is complete, fill the empty slot from the PLANET deck.

If the deck is ever exhausted, shuffle the discards to form a new deck.

COLONISE Planning Levels

BASIC – Colonise 1 planet (Max VP value 3) – Starts at **Development Level 2**.

MODERATE – Colonise 1 planet (Max VP value 5) – Starts at **Development Level 2**.

STRONG – Colonise 1 planet from any slot – Starts at **Development Level 2**.

ULTIMATE – The player may first discard any face up planets from the decks (optional) then Colonise 1 planet from any slot and start the planet at **Development Level 4** (if possible).

DEVELOP Action

This action is used to **DEVELOP** planets by increasing their **Development Level**. This is vital to increase production and score end game points for each planet (see **Game Concepts – Development Level** and **Planet Attributes** section).

To perform this action, the player targets a planet and pays **2 RESOURCES** equal to the **RESOURCE TYPE** of the planet being developed. This resource cost is paid for each Development Level that is increased.

For example, to increase a **FOOD** planet from **Development Level 2 to Level 4** (2 levels) would cost 4 **FOOD**. To increase a **SCIENCE** planet from **Development Level 1 to Level 5** (4 levels) would cost a total of 8 **SCIENCE**.

Once the player has paid the appropriate resources, they simply move the **Development Level Marker** to the newly acquired **Development Level** for the planet.

NOTE: The number of planets that can be targeted and Development Level that can be achieved through this **DEVELOP** action is limited by the Planning Level.

NOTE: If developing their Home World, a player can pay **ANY 2 RESOURCES** per Development Level.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The player can **NEVER** exceed the printed maximum **Development Level** of the planet - if the slot is not printed on the planet card, it cannot be achieved.

DEVELOP Planning Levels

BASIC – DEVELOP 1 Planet up to **Development Level 3**.

MODERATE – DEVELOP 1 Planet up to **Development Level 4**.

STRONG – DEVELOP 1 Planet up to **Development Level 5**.

ULTIMATE – DEVELOP 3 Planets up to **Development Level 5**.

BUILD Action

This action is used to repair and build ships, that are vital to protect and expand your civilisation.

The player may first repair their ships, at the cost of 1 **ORE** per 2 **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS** removed (round up).

For each build allowed (depending on the planning level), the player may build a Ship.

To build a Ship, the player pays to cost of the ship in **ORE** and places the ship in Ship Slot on their player board.

NOTE: You may be limited on the type of ship that can be built according to the planning level.

NOTE: A player has a limit of 8 Ships. If the player has 8 Ships and wishes to build another, they must first discard a Ship.

BUILD Planning Levels

BASIC – REPAIR + 1 Build – Light Ships ONLY.

MODERATE – REPAIR + 2 Builds – Any Ships.

STRONG – REPAIR + 3 Builds – Any Ships.

ULTIMATE – FREE REPAIR + 4 Builds – Any Ships at -1 **ORE** cost each, Min 1 **ORE** cost per Ship.

RESEARCH Action

This action is used to research technology, which has a number of uses and advantages for your empire.

To take this action, the player targets a TECH in one of the TECH slots, noting the VP value limits according to the planning level strength. The player then pays the cost in SCIENCE for the TECH (minus any discounts, but always a minimum cost of 1 SCIENCE per TECH), places on the TECH TRACKER and adds a Player Marker into the OWNER slot of the TECH to signify the player owns the TECH.

The player immediately gains all benefits of the effect explained on the TECH card.

NOTE: There is no limit to the number of owned TECHS.

After the research action is complete, fill the empty slot from the TECH deck.

If the deck is ever exhausted, shuffle the discards to form a new deck.

RESEARCH Planning Levels

BASIC – Research 1 TECH (Max VP Value 2)

MODERATE – Research 1 TECH (Max VP Value 4)

STRONG – Research 1 TECH (Any VP Value)

ULTIMATE – The player may first replace any TECH card they wish to and Research 2 TECHS at -1 SCIENCE cost each.

Min 1 SCIENCE cost per TECH for all planning levels.

SHADOW Action

This nefarious action is used to gain Shadow cards and hire mercenaries. This can be a way of hindering your opponents who can't be easily hindered through conventional methods! A lot of COINS are needed to maintain a Shadow Organisation!

The Shadow action can be performed in one of two ways: **Buy Cards** or **Hire Mercs**.

SHADOW – BUY CARDS

The player may buy any number of SHADOW cards up to the specified buy limit. Those not bought are discarded face up.

Each SHADOW card costs 1 COIN to buy.

NOTE: There is a limit of 7 SHADOW cards in a player's hand. If a player has 7 cards and they wish to buy more, they must first discard a SHADOW card.

SHADOW – HIRE MERCS

The player may hire 1 or more MERCS from any face up slot by paying the hire cost in COINS and placing MERC card in an empty ship slot. The number of MERCS available to hire depends on the planning level of the action.

NOTE: MERCS are ships and count towards a players 8 ship limit. If a player has 8 ships and wishes to hire a MERC, they must first discard a Ship.

After the Shadow action is complete fill any empty MERC slots from the MERC deck.

If the SHADOW or MERC decks are ever exhausted, shuffle the discards to form a new deck.

SHADOW Planning Levels

BASIC – Buy up to 2 SHADOW cards.

MODERATE – Buy up to 3 SHADOW cards OR Hire 1 MERC.

STRONG – Buy up to 4 SHADOW cards OR Hire 2 MERCS

ULTIMATE – Buy up to 5 SHADOW cards OR Replace any face up MERCS (optional) and Hire 3 MERCS.

FLEET Action

This action is used to dominate your opponents – through military might.

The **FLEET** action is performed in one of two ways: **RAID** or **INVADE**. Which action is available to be taken depends on the planning level, which may also give penalties or bonuses to the action.

FLEET - RAID

The **FLEET-RAID Action** is a method of using fast light ships to steal resources from your opponents. It can be effective to bypass the defences of a player with many slow heavy ships.

To initiate a raid, the Player targets an opponent. The player becomes the **ATTACKER** and the target opponent becomes the **DEFENDER**. Proceed through the following steps.

- If **DEFENDER** has less **LIGHT SHIPs** in their fleet, they draw and play an **EMERGENCY SHIP** card. If a **HEAVY SHIP** is drawn, discard and draw again until a **LIGHT SHIP** is drawn. Civilians provide some help from being raided!
- **ALL LIGHT SHIPS** from both players **MUST** participate in the fight.
- If either player has **NO DAMAGED LIGHT SHIPs**, each player secretly arranges their **LIGHT SHIPs** face down in **COMBAT ORDER**. When both players have placed, all **LIGHT SHIPs** are **REVEALED** by turning them face up. The order of placement indicates the **COMBAT ORDER**.
- If either player has **ANY DAMAGED LIGHT SHIPs**, the process is the same as above, but the **DAMAGED LIGHT SHIPs** must remain face up (with **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**) on them, and the **ATTACKER** arranges first.
- **SHIP TO SHIP COMBAT** begins, starting with the **ATTACKER** and **DEFENDER** ship that is first in **COMBAT ORDER**. The **ATTACKER** and **DEFENDER** roll **DICE** equal to the **COMBAT VALUE** of their respective ships. This step is **SIMULTANEOUS**. For each die result of 4 or higher, a **HIT** is scored on the opposition ship. Mark **SHIP** damage using **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**. This is repeated for every **MATCHED** ship in the **COMBAT ORDER**. Also note any special effects on either ship that may impact the combat.
- **ATTACKER** or **DEFENDER** may now have their **UNMATCHED SHIP(s)** join the fight! This is only applicable to player with the larger fleet size. To do this, the player selects the next ship in the **COMBAT ORDER** & targets **ANY** enemy ship. Dice are rolled & damage allocated. The opposing ship does not return fire. This step is repeated in **COMBAT ORDER** until all **UNMATCHED SHIPs** have rolled & allocated damage.

- Now Total all the remaining **COMBAT VALUES** of each player's **LIGHT SHIPs**, reducing each **SHIP's COMBAT VALUE** by the number of **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**.
- Modify each player's **TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** by any modifiers, potentially from **TECHNOLOGY** or from the strength of the **FLEET PLANNING LEVEL**.
- If **ATTACKER** has **MORE TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** than the **DEFENDER**, the **ATTACKER** is **VICTORIOUS** and may take **RESOURCES** from the **DEFENDER** equal to the margin of **VICTORY**. For example, if the **ATTACKER** has **15 TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** remaining, and the **DEFENDER** has **7 TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** remaining, the **ATTACKER** may take up to **8 RESOURCES** – Ouch a hefty **RAID!**
- If **ATTACKER** has **EQUAL OR LESS TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** then the **DEFENDER**, then the **RAID** has failed. Apart from the bragging rights of the **DEFENDER**, there is no additional effect.
- **IMMEDIATELY** Destroy any **SHIP** with **MORE COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS** than its original **COMBAT POWER**.
- The **DEFENDER** may immediately **REPAIR** damaged ships at the cost of 1 **ORE** per 2 **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS** removed. This advantage comes to the **DEFENDER** as their ships are in friendly space, with repair facilities readily available, but the damaged **ATTACKER** ships must limp home.....which takes time!

A worked example of a **FLEET-RAID** action is shown on the next page.

FLEET Planning Levels – Affecting RAID Action

BASIC – A RAID can be performed (no modifiers)

MODERATE – A RAID at +2 Combat Value can be performed.

STRONG – A RAID at +4 Combat Value can be performed.

ULTIMATE – A RAID at +6 Combat Value can be performed.

FLEET – RAID Worked Example

1. Spotting a weakness in Ade's fleet, Carl takes a **STRONG RAID** Action against Ade. The **STRONG** effect will give Carl +4 Combat Value when determining the outcome.

3. Carl has 4 Light Ships participating in this raid, with a nice **MERC** effect boosting his two Strike Craft.

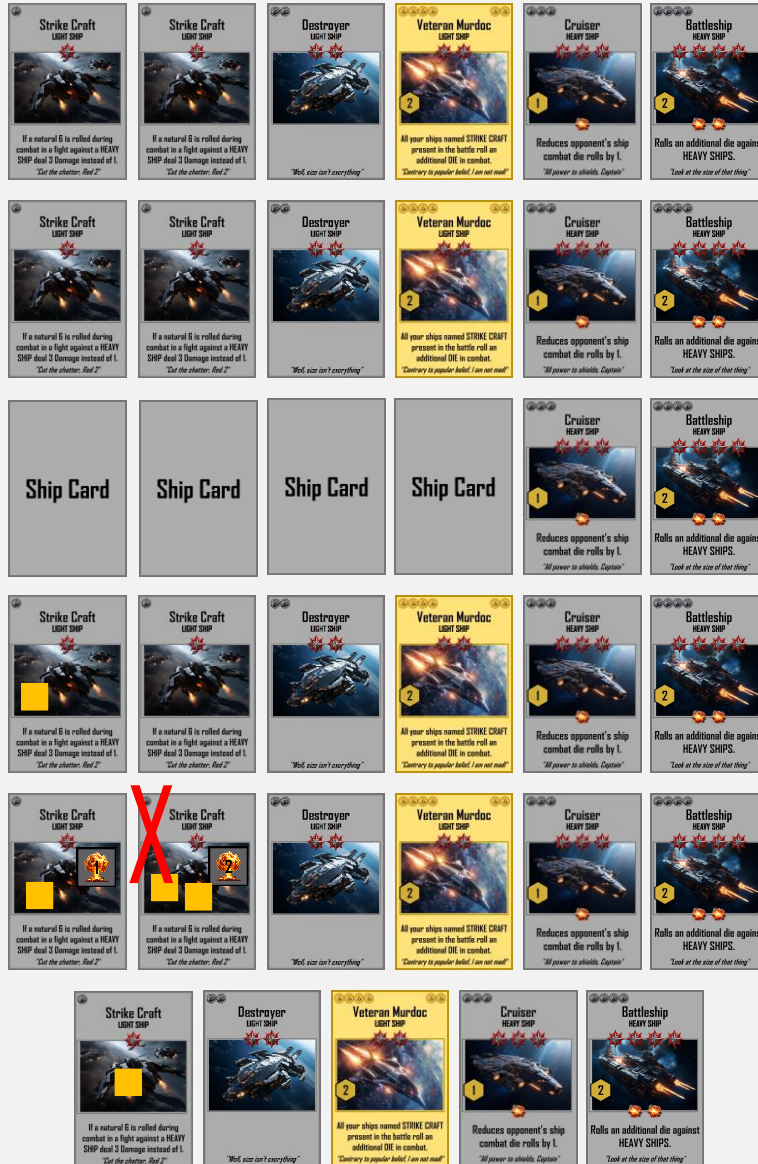
5. Carl now secretly arranges his **LIGHT SHIPS** FACE DOWN.

7. The 1st fight begins. Each ship rolls one die per combat power. The **MERC** effect boosts Strike Craft to roll two dice! Carl rolls a 4 and a 6 – Two hits! Carl puts 2 damage markers on Ade's ship.

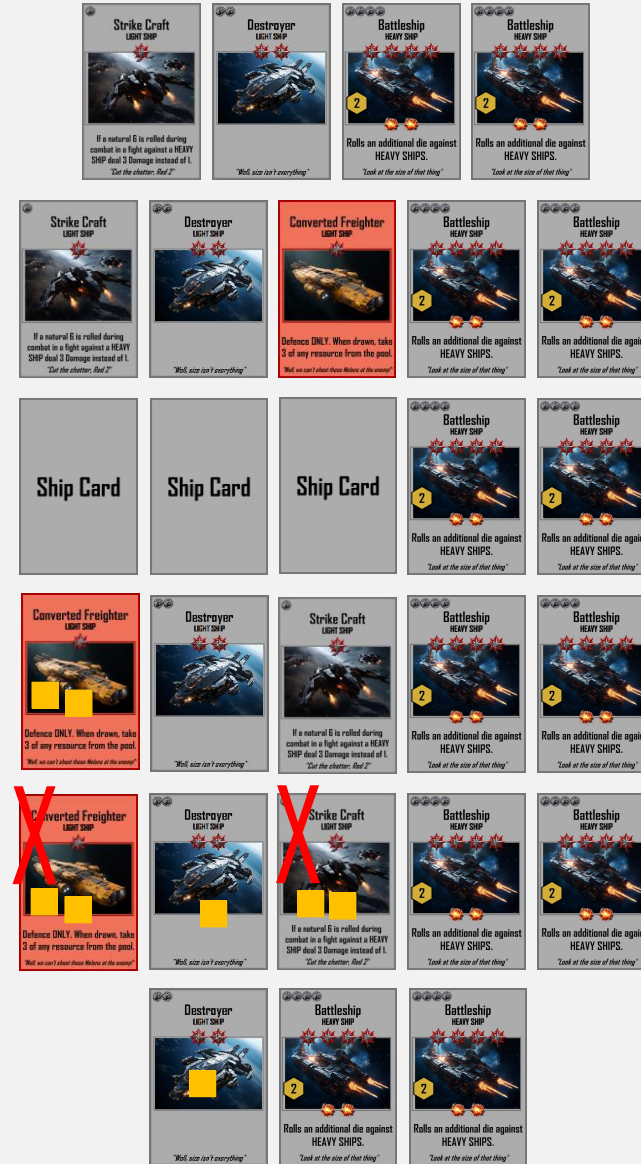
9. This continues until all paired ships have fought their battles. As Carl's 4th Ship is not paired, he decides which ship to fight against – a big advantage.

11. Now, both sides total their **LIGHT SHIP** combat power, removing one power for each damage marker on each ship. Carl has 4 Combat Power remaining and Ade has just 1 for his damaged Destroyer.

Carl's Fleet (Attacker)



Ade's Fleet (Defender)



2. Ade is worried – although he has two impressive battleships, he only has 2 light ships that are fast enough to intercept the raiding fleet.

4. As Ade only has 2 Light Ships to Carl's 4, he immediately draws an **EMERGENCY** ship. He draws a **CONVERTED FREIGHTER**. **Note:** If Ade had drawn a Heavy Ship, he would draw again.

6. Ade now secretly allocates his **LIGHT SHIPS** (face down). All face down ships are then revealed in the next step.

8. Ade now rolls for his **Converted Freighter** and rolls a 5. A hit! Ade puts a damage marker on Carl's first Strike Craft.

10. At the end of the fight, any Ships that have more damage markers than combat power are destroyed. Carl loses 1 Ship and Ade loses 2.

12. Carl also adds +4 due to the **STRONG RAID** action and is the winner with 8 points to 1, a 7 point difference. Carl can now take up to 7 resources from Ade!

NOTE: As Ade is the defender, he may now **REPAIR** his fleet for the cost of 1 DRE per 2 damage markers removed. However, Carl chose to steal all his DRE, so he can't this round! As the attacker, Carl can't repair.

FLEET Action

FLEET - INVADE

This is a method for players to use their entire fleet (including **HEAVY SHIPS**) to invade an opponent, potentially reducing planets development levels, disrupting plans, acquiring **TECH**.....even capturing planets.

To initiate an **INVADE**, the player targets an opponent. The player becomes the **ATTACKER**, and the target opponent becomes the **DEFENDER**. Proceed through the following steps.

- If **DEFENDER** has less **SHIPS** in their fleet, they draw and play an **EMERGENCY SHIP** card. Civilians living in a player's civilisation really do fear **INVAISON** and will do everything to help prevent it!
- **ALL SHIPS** from both players **MUST** participate in the fight.
- If either player has **NO DAMAGED SHIPS**, each player secretly arranges their **SHIPS** face down in **COMBAT ORDER**. When both players have placed, all **SHIPS** are **REVEALED** by turning them face up. The order of placement indicates the **COMBAT ORDER**.
- If either player has **ANY DAMAGED SHIPS**, the process is the same as above, but the **DAMAGED SHIPS** must remain face up (with **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**) on them, and the **ATTACKER** arranges first.
- **SHIP TO SHIP COMBAT** begins, starting with the **ATTACKER** and **DEFENDER** ship that is first in **COMBAT ORDER**. The **ATTACKER** and **DEFENDER** roll **DICE** equal to the **COMBAT VALUE** of their respective ships. This step is **SIMULTANEOUS**. For each die result of 4 or higher, a **HIT** is scored on the opposition ship. Mark **SHIP** damage using **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**. This is repeated for every **MATCHED** ship in the **COMBAT ORDER**. Also note any special effects on either ship that may impact the combat.
- **ATTACKER** or **DEFENDER** may now have their **UNMATCHED SHIP(s)** join the fight! This is only applicable to player with the larger fleet size. To do this, the player selects the next ship in the **COMBAT ORDER** & targets **ANY** enemy ship. Dice are rolled & damage allocated. The opposing ship does not return fire in this case as it has already fired earlier in the round. This step is repeated in **COMBAT ORDER** until all **UNMATCHED SHIPS** have rolled & allocated damage.

- Now Total all the remaining **COMBAT VALUES** of each player's **SHIPS**, reducing each **SHIP's COMBAT VALUE** by the number of **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS**.
- Modify each player's **TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** by any modifiers, potentially from **TECHNOLOGY** or from the strength of the **FLEET PLANNING LEVEL**.
- If **ATTACKER** has **EQUAL OR MORE TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** than the **DEFENDER**, the **ATTACKER** is **VICTORIOUS**. The **ATTACKER** immediately takes a **FLEET MEDAL** and can claim **ONE VICTORY SPOIL** (see **VICTORY SPOILS**).
- If **DEFENDER** has **MORE TOTAL COMBAT VALUE** than the **ATTACKER**, then the **DEFENDER** is **VICTORIOUS**. The **DEFENDER** immediately takes a **FLEET MEDAL** and there is no additional effect.
- **IMMEDIATELY Destroy** any **SHIP** with **MORE COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS** than its original **COMBAT POWER**.
- The **DEFENDER** may immediately **REPAIR** damaged ships at the cost of 1 **ORE** per 2 **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS** removed. This advantage comes to the **DEFENDER** as their ships are in friendly space, with repair facilities readily available, but the damaged **ATTACKER** ships must limp home.....which takes time!

A worked example of a **FLEET-INVADE** action is shown after the **FLEET-INVADE** Action description.

VICTORY SPOILS!

The successful **ATTACKER** may choose to claim **ONE** of the following **VICTORY SPOILS**:

- **DISRUPT PLANS** – To hamper the opponent and potentially prevent them from rebuilding.
- **AQUIRE TECHNOLOGY** – To forcibly acquire one of the Defender's **TECHs**.
- **PLANETARY BOMBARDMENT** – To reduce development levels and potentially capture the Defender's planet.

The effects of these are described below.

FLEET Action (Cont.)

VICTORY SPOIL – DISRUPT PLANS

The **ATTACKER** may move up to 3 of the **DEFENDER's ACTION TOKENS** back to the **BASIC** planning strength level on the **ACTION TRACK**.

VICTORY SPOIL – ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY

The **ATTACKER** simply places a player marker on any **TECH** the **DEFENDER** owns or has acquired. The **ATTACKER** immediately gets the full benefits of that **TECH** card.

VICTORY SPOIL – PLANETARY BOMBARDMENT

The **ATTACKER** targets one of the **DEFENDER's** planets and totals the **BOMBARD** points across all remaining ships. Each **COMBAT DAMAGE MARKER** reduces **BOMBARD** points for the ship by 1.

For every 3 **BOMBARD** points, reduce the planet's development level by 1.

NOTE: 3 Whole **BOMBARD** points are required to reduce a planet's development level by 1, if the **ATTACKER** had 8 **BOMBARD** points, the planet would be reduced by 2 Development Levels.

If the planet is reduced to development level 1, the **ATTACKER** has the option to **CAPTURE** the planet. To **CAPTURE** the planet, the **ATTACKER** must pay the **COLONISE** cost of the planet, and simply takes the planet and places on their player board.

NOTE: No Colony Event card is ever drawn when a planet is captured.

NOTE: The 8 planet limit still applies to the **ATTACKER**. If they already have 8 planets, they must follow the same rules as colonising a planet whilst owning 8 planets (see **COLONISE** action).

NOTE: If the last planet of a player is captured, that player immediately takes a planet of their choice from the face up planet cards (any slot) and sets the development level to 4 (if possible).

FLEET Planning Levels – Affecting INVADE Action

BASIC – **INVADE** cannot be performed.

MODERATE – An **INVADE** can be performed (no modifier).

STRONG – An **INVADE** at +2 Combat Value can be performed.

ULTIMATE – An **INVADE** at +4 Combat Value can be performed.

WIP

A character in ornate, dark armor with glowing blue accents stands with their back to the viewer, looking out over a ruined, futuristic city. The city is filled with debris and skeletal remains of buildings. In the background, a bright, hazy light source, possibly a sunset or sunrise, illuminates the scene. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and oranges. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the image, containing the text "GAME END" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

GAME END

Game End

The Game End is triggered as soon as any player claims their 3rd Ambition.

Each player, including the player that triggered the Game End, takes one more turn.

NOTE: It is possible for a player to finish with 4 Ambitions claimed!

Players now total their VICTORY POINTS to see who is the winner.

Victory Points

Total Victory Points as follows:

- **PLANETS:** Only score the printed VP value of the planet **IF you achieve the max printed Development Level on the planet**. Also score any VP bonuses from any **special** planets. **Gain a 12 VP bonus** if you **score** at least 1 of each RESOURCE type planet (FOOD + ORE + COIN + SCIENCE). Note: This does not include your HOME WORLD.
- **TECHS:** Score VP as printed on the TECH card if OWNER.
- **SHIPS:** Score VP as printed value on the SHIP.
- **MEDALS :** Score 1 VP per FLEET or SHADOW Medal
- **AMBITIONS:** Score points according to any Ambitions you claimed according to your position.

If there is a tie for VPs, then the player with the most total ship combat value at game end wins. If this is also tied, then the players share the victory!

Credits

A big thanks to my gaming and buddies Fergs, Carl, Kim, Ian, Ade & Jason for ideas, early (and sometimes rather disastrous) playtesting, proof reading and most of all for inspiring me into writing a game that I think they might enjoy!

REFERENCE CARDS & FAQs



FAQs

WIP

WIP

Game Start

1. Randomly determine a start player. Turns will proceed clockwise from the starting player.
2. Deal 4 SHADOW CARDS to each player. Each player chooses 2 SHADOW CARDS to keep and discards the others.
3. Starting with the last player, and continuing in reverse player order, players select a single starting TECH from the TECH TRACKER by placing their player marker in the OWNER slot. Any unclaimed techs are shuffled into the Tech Deck.
4. Starting with the first player, and continuing in player order, players place an Action Token in any BASIC Planning Level slot on the Action Tracker. Continue until all players have placed all their action tokens.
5. Each player takes 2 of each resource. Perform player position adjustments (see rules).

Player Turns

FIRST TURN ONLY: NO SHADOW CARDS CAN BE PLAYED OR FLEET ACTIONS TAKEN

1. **SHADOW ACTIVITIES:** Play ONE Shadow card and act on any effects.
2. **PRODUCE or ADVANCE Plans:** The player may either:
 - a. **PRODUCE** - Take a PRODUCE Action **OR**
 - b. **ADVANCE Plans** - Player may ADVANCE up to 3 *different* ACTION TOKENS on the ACTION TRACK
3. **TAKE ACTION or PLAN ACTIONS:** The player may either:
 - a. **TAKE ACTION** - Remove an ACTION TOKEN from ACTION TRACK and take that ACTION at the planning level **OR**
 - b. **PLAN ACTION(s)** - Place any number of their available ACTION TOKENS onto the BASIC planning level of the ACTION TRACK
4. **CLAIM AMBITION:** Player may claim ONE ambition by placing a player marker on any ambition for which they meet the criteria.

Game End

The game end is triggered as soon as a player claims their 3rd Ambition. Each player (including the one that claimed their 3rd Ambition) takes another turn. VPs are then totalled, and the Victorious player decided.

Victory Points

- **PLANETS:** If you achieve the max printed dev. Level on the planet, score points equal to printed VP value. Also score any VP bonuses from any special planets. **Gain a 12 VP bonus** if you score at least 1 of each RESOURCE type planet (FOOD + ORE + COIN + SCIENCE).
- **TECHS:** Score VP as printed on the TECH card if OWNER.
- **SHIPS:** Score VP as printed value on the SHIP
- **MEDALS :** Score 1 VP per FLEET or SHADOW Medal
- **AMBITIONS:** Score points according to any Ambitions you claimed according to your position.

Player Actions Reference

PRODUCE: For each planet, take goods equal to the development level of the planet, then add any planet bonuses (e.g. from colony event markers or TECH cards). **Then the player must pay any MERC Upkeep or discard the MERC.**

COLONISE: Pay the colonise cost of the target planet from a slot that is available to you. Draw a COLONY EVENT and act on any effects. If you succeed on colonising the planet, place a DEVELOPMENT LEVEL MARKER on appropriate DEVELOPMENT LEVEL.

DEVELOP: Pay the appropriate cost to develop one or more planets according to the planning strength level.

BUILD: Pay the cost for the Ship and place on your player board. Repeat per the number of build actions. There is a limit of EIGHT Ships. During any BUILD action, the player may **REPAIR** ship damage at the cost of ONE ORE per TWO damage removed.

RESEARCH: Pay the cost in SCIENCE and take a TECH from a slot that is available you. Place this on the TECH TRACKER with your player marker in the owner slot.

SHADOW – BUY CARDS: BUY SHADOW CARDS at a cost of 1 COIN per card according to the PLANNING LEVEL. There is a 7 SHADOW CARD hand limit.

SHADOW – HIRE MERCs: Hire mercenaries from the available MERC slots by paying the hire cost printed on the card.

FLEET – RAID: Target an opponent, they become the DEFENDER, you are the ATTACKER.

1. If DEFENDER has less LIGHT SHIPs in their fleet, they draw and play an EMERGENCY SHIP card. If a HEAVY SHIP is drawn, discard and draw again.
2. Both players place LIGHT SHIPs face down in COMBAT ORDER & REVEAL. If any damaged ships on either side, they remain face up & Attacker places first.
3. Begin SHIP TO SHIP COMBAT. Starting at the first ships in order. Mark SHIP damage using COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS.
4. ATTACKER or DEFENDER allocate any UNMATCHED SHIP(s) – Applicable to player with the larger fleet size and roll for additional damage.
5. After reducing each SHIP's COMBAT VALUE by # COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS, total remaining COMBAT VALUE on both sides. Add any applicable bonuses.
6. If ATTACKER has more COMBAT VALUE than the DEFENDER, the ATTACKER is VICTORIOUS and may claim **RAIDING SPOILS**. Note the margin of victory.
7. Destroy any SHIP with more DAMAGE MARKERS than its original COMBAT POWER. DEFENDER may immediately REPAIR damaged ships (DEFENDER ONLY).

RAIDING SPOILS: STEAL RESOURCES – Take a number resources from DEFENDER equal to margin of victory.

FLEET – INVADE: Target an opponent, they become the DEFENDER, you are the ATTACKER.

1. If DEFENDER has less SHIPs in their fleet, they draw and play an EMERGENCY SHIP card.
2. Both players place SHIPs face down in COMBAT ORDER & REVEAL. If any damaged ships on either side, they remain face up & Attacker places first.
3. Starting in COMBAT ORDER, begin SHIP TO SHIP COMBAT. Mark SHIP damage using COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS.
4. ATTACKER or DEFENDER allocate any UNMATCHED SHIP(s) – Applicable to player with the larger fleet size and roll for additional damage.
5. After reducing each SHIP's COMBAT VALUE by # COMBAT DAMAGE MARKERS, total remaining COMBAT VALUE on both sides. Add any applicable bonuses.
6. If ATTACKER has equal or more COMBAT VALUE than the DEFENDER, the ATTACKER is VICTORIOUS. They claim a **VICTORY SPOIL** and gain a FLEET MEDAL.
7. If DEFENDER has more COMBAT POWER than the ATTACKER, the DEFENDER is VICTORIOUS and gains a FLEET MEDAL.
8. Destroy any SHIP with more DAMAGE MARKERS than its original COMBAT POWER. DEFENDER may immediately REPAIR damaged ships (DEFENDER ONLY).

VICTORY SPOILS: DISRUPT PLANS – Reset up to 2 of DEFENDER's ACTION TOKENS back to BASIC level on the ACTION TRACK.

ACQUIRE TECH – Acquire any TECH known by DEFENDER. **PLANETARY BOMBARDMENT** – Reduce planet's DEVELOPMENT LEVEL by 1 per 3 BOMBARD points remaining in attacking fleet. If reduced to DEVELOPMENT LEVEL 1, you may pay the COLONISE COST to capture the planet (draw no new COLONY EVENT card).