

## PERSONAL ACCESSORIES

The right accessories are vital when dressing to impress. Some of these items are worn or carried; others are used to straighten up before stepping out. All are marks of the neat, the stylish, and the well-heeled, and are likely to take advantage of *Styling* (p. 10).

*Belt* (TL5). A belt can be *incredibly* useful. It can retain holsters and sheaths (pp. 153-154, 198), conceal money or a survival kit (pp. 58-59) in its lining (+4 to Holdout), or act as an improvised climbing harness (p. 55). The buckle can hide a dagger, a push knife (p. 197), or a small gun. \$10-\$50, neg. LC4.

### Don't Forget Your Towel!

A towel is valuable to any adventurer – interstellar or not. Besides being useful when bathing, it can serve as a blanket, a fire tender, clothing, or a head covering. Attached to a stick, it's a legionnaire's pack – or a sail. It's a privacy screen, a signaling device, or a cushion for an uncomfortable seat. Lashed to a foot and stuffed with newspapers, it's a passable arctic boot. A soldier can use it to keep body armor from chafing or to cushion his helmet, or cut it into strips for bandages or a weapon sling.

At TL5-6, a 2'x4' towel is \$5, 1 lb. At TL7-8, a 2'x4' microfiber towel – quick-drying and highly absorbent – is \$30, 0.25 lb.

*Cane* (TL5). A walking stick – possibly with ornate carvings, exotic woods, a sculpted or silver handle, etc., all of which would count as styling. It's useful for pointing, poking, and, if necessary, fighting (for *rifle canes*, see p. 98; for *sword canes*, see p. 197). \$5, 2.5 lbs. LC4.

*Cigar or Cigarette Case* (TL5). Holds half a dozen cigars or 20 cigarettes, a box of matches, a cigar cutter, etc. Ulysses S. Grant was known to smoke 20 or more cigars a day. \$30, 0.1 lb. LC4.

*Collapsible Cup* (TL5). Usually pewter or steel. \$3, neg. LC4.

*Grooming Kit* (TL5). A leather Gladstone, vanity, or toilet bag holding comb, hairbrush, razor, toothbrush, soap, aftershave, shoe-polish kit, etc. \$25, 0.5 lb. LC4.

*Handbag or Waist Pack* (TL5). A woman's purse, a doctor's medical bag, or a day-hiker's fanny pack. Holds up to 10 lbs. \$10, 1 lb. LC4.

*Hip Flask* (TL5). Holds 1 pint. Holdout -1. \$10, 1 lb. (full). LC4.

*Mirror* (TL5). Handy when applying makeup – and for peering around corners and signaling. At TL5-6, it *will* break if dropped! At TL7-8, it's made of nearly indestructible plastic. \$5, neg. LC4.

*Pocket Watch* (TL5). The pocket watch is a TL4 invention, but it isn't

until TL5 that it's accurate to within a minute a day. The second hand becomes common at TL6, by which time watches sometimes include other features, such as calendars and moon-phase indicators. Other innovations at TL6 are the so-called “perpetual,” which is self-winding, and the ultra-reliable “railroad” watch, which is certified as being accurate enough for train engineers. A good-quality pocket watch is \$100, neg. LC4.

*Pocketknife* (TL5). A small knife with one or more short, folding blades. The largest pocketknife blade *might* count as a small knife (p. B272) at -1 to damage; the shortest aren't useful weapons. See *Multi-Function Knife* (p. 26) for a more utilitarian alternative. \$5, neg. LC4.

*Religious Symbol* (TL5). A small crucifix, rosary, ankh, etc. \$1, neg. LC4.

*Sewing Kit* (TL5). Travelers and soldiers have long carried a “housewife” to mend torn fabric. This includes a needle, several colors of thread, a thimble, etc. It counts as basic equipment for sewing. \$1, neg. LC4.

*Tobacco Box* (TL5). Holds 1-2 oz. of tobacco. The removable lid on 18th-century Hudson's Bay Company models has a built-in burning glass for lighting a smoke in sunny weather! \$20, neg. LC4.

*Umbrella* (TL5). A folding umbrella keeps the rain off and is useful for prodding suspicious items. \$5, 1 lb. LC4.

*Attaché Case* (TL6). A briefcase with a simple lock. \$20, 2 lbs. LC4.

*Wristwatch* (TL6). Initially, the “wristlet” – a small watch worn at the wrist – is a lady's accessory. At mid-TL6, though, soldiers fit pocket watches to leather wrist straps in order to keep their hands free in combat. These “trench watches” feature leather or pierced-metal “shrapnel guards” to protect the crystal face under harsh conditions. A TL6 wristwatch might be self-winding or waterproof, have luminous hands or a date function, or show the time in several time zones, but a given watch seldom has multiple features – pick two, if it matters. The best mechanical watches lose 10 seconds a day through TL6; “synchronizing the watches” is an important part of military operations. At TL7, battery-powered quartz watches appear; digital displays follow. This is the first time a watch can be said to be accurate to within a second, day after day. A good basic watch is \$25; a luxury watch, such as a Rolex, can go as high as \$40,000! Weight is negligible. LC4.

### Propane (TL6)

Propane gas cylinders commonly fuel barbecue grills (p. 32) and camp stoves (p. 57). They're also potent field-expedient explosives. To set one off, it's necessary to rupture the cylinder near a flame (like the ever-popular hand flare, p. 58). If *any* non-crushing damage penetrates the cylinder's DR 6, the cylinder will rupture and ignite into a huge fireball. The explosion does burning damage, calculated according to *Demolition* (p. B415) using the cylinder's full weight and assuming a REF of 0.5. Fragmentation from the cylinder alone is 1d cutting.

*Small Cylinder* (TL6). A disposable tank for camp stoves, lanterns, etc. (4d x 2 burn ex). \$5, 1 lb. LC4.

*Large Cylinder* (TL6). A bulk tank, often found under a barbecue grill or on the exterior of a camper trailer (6d x 5 burn ex). Swapping an empty tank for a full one at a retailer costs about \$8; a brand new tank is \$45, 14 lbs. LC4.