

## SKILL RATINGS TABLE (CONTINUED)

### Rating 4 Veteran

Very good at what you do; can handle difficult tasks with ease.

*Athletics Example:* Minor leaguer: NCAA Division I, AAA baseball or other farm team

*Firearms Example:* Riot control cop, combat veteran, superior regular force (Marines, Airborne)

*Technical Example:* Mid-career professional (4 or more years experience)

*Social Example:* Politician, diplomat, socialite, senior manager

*Vehicle Example:* NASCAR or Formula One driver, regular military combat pilot, go-gang boss.

*Knowledge Skill Example (Academic):* Bachelor's degree (basic 4-year university degree)

*Knowledge Skill Example (Street):* Grew up in Seattle, or has run the shadows for at least a year.

### Rating 5 Expert

Star status: your expertise gives you a reputation.

*Athletics Example:* Athletic star: most major pro sports athletes (NFL, NHL, MLB, NBA, etc)

*Firearms Example:* SWAT team, elite military (Rangers, Special Forces)

*Technical Example:* Top scientist. Published in peer-review journals.

*Social Example:* Incumbent politician, Grand Tour regular, corporate vice president.

*Vehicle Example:* Ancients go-ganger. Military combat pilot with combat experience.

*Knowledge Skill Example (Academic):* Master's degree

*Knowledge Skill Example (Street):* Ran the Seattle shadows for 5+ years.

### Rating 6 Elite

The "best of the rest." Maximum skill level for "rank-and-file" unnamed NPCs and starting characters.

*Athletics Example:* Athletic superstar: Peyton Manning, Roger Clemens, Shaquille O'Neal, David Beckham

*Firearms Example:* Individual superstars amongst elite forces. Ghost-Who-Walks-Inside, Hatchetman, Matador

*Technical Example:* Wiz-kid. Has more than one patent to their name. The Wright Brothers.

*Social Example:* Presidents and other heads of state, CEOs

*Vehicle Example:* Blue Angel stunt pilot.

*Knowledge Skill Example (Academic):* Doctorate degree

*Knowledge Skill Example (Street):* SPD, Smiley, Findler-Man, and other old-school Seattle runners

### Rating 7 Legendary

The "best of the best" Someone whose expertise outranks all others in all of known history. Can only be achieved with the Aptitude Quality (p. 77).

*Athletics Example:* Athletic legend: Michael Jordan, Babe Ruth, Pele, Wayne Gretzky, Joe Montana

*Firearms Example:* "Wild Bill" Hickock, James Bond, Thunder Tyee

*Technical Example:* Thomas Edison, Nicholai Tesla, FastJack

*Social Example:* Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Damien Knight

*Vehicle Example:* The Red Baron, Evil Knievel

*Knowledge Skill Example (Academic):* Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein

*Knowledge Skill Example (Street):* Wolfgang Kies, Dr. Raven, Captain Chaos



The unmodified skill rating assigned at character creation or purchased during game play is considered to be the character's *base* skill rating. Some spells, abilities and implants may provide bonus dice to a skill, creating a *modified* skill rating, but this does not change the base skill rating. These extra dice are listed in parentheses after the base skill, as in Spellcasting 4 (+2). A modified skill cannot exceed the base skill rating x 1.5 (making 9 the maximum possible rating, or 10 with the Aptitude Quality).

The Skill Ratings Table on pp. 108–109 describes the levels of knowledge and ability that accompany different skill ratings.

## SPECIALIZATIONS

Players can choose to have their characters specialize in a particular form, style or sub-set of a base skill. Specializing means that the character has allocated a large chunk of her study and practice time to mastering a specific aspect of a skill rather than the skill as a whole. By narrowing the focus this way, the character becomes much more proficient in the specialized application of that skill.

Specializations add 2 dice to any tests made for that skill when the specialization is applicable to the test. Each specific specialization may be taken only once per character. A charac-

