

# SCREAMSHEET

YOUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE STREETS

## Drones, drones, DRONES!

You've seen them, most probably someone you know have been killed by one. And you wonder, how I could use those wonderful tools of butchery and mayhem in my benefit?

Welcome to this new article, where we will teach exactly what you need to terrorize the streets of Night City and beyond!

*"It's like playing a videogame, you line up the target and ... waka waka waka."*

- Rodríguez, Voodoo Boy

Let's begin with this, first thing you'll need is a CD (Control Deck), some skill chips and a drone.

## Remote Control Systems

To control your remotes, you'll need a control system. They vary from size, to portability and range, to how easy is make it to operate the remote:

**Basic manual system:** 300 ed

*Control modifier:* -2

A basic manual system with LCDs to help with the driving maneuvers of the drone.

**VR version (helmet & gloves):** 500 ed

*Control modifier:* -1

This more advanced version takes the help of a head up display and gloves to improve handling and maneuver making it a bit more intuitive.

**Cybernetic control deck (CCD):** 800 ed

*Control modifier:* +0

*Requires:* [MLNK]

The cybernetic option lets you plug in into your drone and make it close and personal.

*Those are the generic entries for each category, but you may find specific entries for each vendor each with various ranges of prices and quality.*

*Good manufacturers are able to obtain an extra +1 control modifier for its control decks.*

## How far it can go?

You may be wondering, what is the range on those puppies? Well, stations have an operational range of up to 100km that obviously can be affected by weather, interference and general area where you are.

Metroplexes with all its interference, radio signals, electronics and giant buildings, tend to hit hard on those ranges.

Then you have the portable devices that live up to 15km of range.

On top of that, you can buy repeaters at 100ed the piece that may add up to 50km of range to your device.

## The skills you'll need

So, you bought one of the last CCD, and it is on your desk, waiting your command. Now what?



The skill you're searching for is called **[Remote Systems Operation]** from Chr.Bk2 (page 30). This skill uses the average of [INT] and [REF] as stat.

If you're a Netrunner you can feel lucky. The **[Interface]** special ability also serves to control these beauties.

## Detecting an RPV

Remote Piloted Vehicles (RPV) are normally made out of radar-absorbent plastics, with a neutral infrared signature. Some of the bigger ones can have chameleon covering, so the normal method of detecting remotes is visual or auditive.

To make visual contact, you'll roll **[Awareness / Notice]** vs. **[Remote Systems Operation]** with the following modifiers:

+5 Difficulty vs. normal-sized remotes.

+10 Difficulty vs. small-sized remotes.

But to hear an RPV things are quite easier. You barely can do something from the CD to hide the sound.

*Difficulty 10 for normal-sized drones.*

*Difficulty 15 for small-sized drones.*

That is if the drone is flying. Ground drones does not suffer from this "problem" as legs or wheels can be made silent.

Both those difficulties can be altered by other circumstances like fog, city noise, distance, contamination, firefights and others.

Some difficulty modifiers as example:

-2 Silent night (audio)

+3 Nearby firefight (audio)

+2 Loud music (audio)

+3 Heavy pollution or rain (visual)

-2 Silhouetted (visual)

+2 under shadows (visual)

+1 every 100 mts

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## Active defenses vs. Remotes

A good way to mess with RPV is with ECM. A good generator can ensure nobody is going to use one of those toys against you as it interfere with communications.

Problem is that most cities considere the use of those devices quite illegal, as they interfere with emergency services and corpo agencies.

*And you don't want to be the guy that fucked up an Arasaka black-op, don't you?*

Roll 1D10 every minute a remote is on operation in a high ECM environment; on a roll of 1-2, the remote's operation is interrupted and it returns to base (its normal default programming).

Apply the following modifiers:

- 3 if within ECM generator's radius.
- +1 if using an [INT] enhanced drone.
- +1 if using wired connection.
- +1 if using direct microwave conn.
- +1 if using laser guidance conn.

Of course, a direct EMP pulse (from a weapon or grenade) will fry the little bugger.

## Programming remotes

Most RPV's are directly piloted by a live or AI operator. But they may be programmed in the event that they lose contact with the CD. To program a drone the instructions must consist of no more than three sentences, each with only one verb and subject, in ascending order of precedence.

Example:

"Fly navigation course A"

"Get out of sight of detected enemies"

"Return to navigation course A when detected enemies are evaded"

Take into account that vague (and sometimes not vague) orders may be misinterpreted.

*And they will. In the worst moment.*

Advanced drones with R-Brains or similar may fare quite better in those instances. But don't be a fool, those drones aren't smarter than a dog.

## Chroming up!

Of course, there is always a way to get an edge over the competition, to upgrade yourself and reach where no one has before. To get that extra mile you'll need.

Take a look:

**Cybernetic adaptation:** Convert your CCD to a cyberlimb built in. Which will let you connect to your remote device on the spot, whenever you are.

The system will also take care of your body like the Cybermodem does, so you don't piss over yourself or drool like a brain-dead body.

This also means that if someone hacks your remote, it will have direct connection to your CCD. What are the chances?

Price: Base cost x2.  
Humanity Loss: 1

**IEC Remote Control Assistant:** Available as a body implant or a cyberlimb built in. The IEC-RCA is an R-Brain connected to your neuralware.

It will follow your last order the best of its ability, giving you a sort of handsfree ability to operate your drone.

Because the R-Brain isn't directly wired to the remote, it has a -2 control modifier (but benefits from your CCD control deck).

Requires: [MLNK]  
Price: 3,000ed  
Humanity Loss: 2D6

### What is an R-Brain

You may have heard that term before, but what it is? An R-Brain is a technology developed by Arasaka (which they stole from Adrek Robotics).

It is some sort of smaller AI for drones so they can act and take actions on their own, albeit in a reduced scope.

Drones equipped with an R-Brain (or Adrac own secret technology) are supposed to have an 2 [INT] for decisions and [REF] & [INT] around 6 for skill checks.

Their micro brains use a combination of circuitry and living tissue that makes them little monsters of nightmare.

*Sweet dreams!*

## What else you may need?

Drones of course! But that will be on another installment of Screamsheets, where we will collect a nice list of toys for you to play.

From old knowns as the Adrek Tarantula, to new surprises like the Bel RC-8X mini remote or the IEC Ryze.

*See you in the next number choomba!*

