

The Mk 5 Transportulatronbot

The Mk 5 Transportulatronbot is a miraculous new creation from the Efficiency wing of R&D, designed to safely transport a team of troubleshooters while allowing full 360° firing arcs in case of traitorous attack. The open-air nature of the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot's cab ensures that all five of a Troubleshooter's senses can be put to use. Simple, single-control driving means even the dumbest of Troubleshooters will be able to operate the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot while still leaving most limbs available for other critical tasks.

Description

It's a golf cart. There are four seats, two in front, two in the back, with a canopy on top. Clever readers will notice at this point that a full team of Troubleshooters involves *six* citizens, not four. This is why the Efficiency wing of R&D has the reputation it does among Troubleshooters. R&D managed to come under budget by 33% but now two of the team need to figure out how to ride the thing. More on that later.

“Single-control driving” means that there's one of each kind of control. One pedal, one knob, one switch, one steering wheel (that only turns in one direction). All of these are on the “dashboard” of the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot and are easily reachable from the driver's seat. If an enterprising (aka treasonous) player attempts to disassemble the dashboard to figure out which controls go where, they'll discover that absolutely none of the controls are hooked up to anything. They may also discover that the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot is tamper-proof, and rigged to explode if anyone attempts to gain access to the internals.

[Author Note: The antitamper rigging doesn't need to be explosive in nature. It could also be a hive of bees, spring-loaded chocolate (delicious but well above the team's clearance level) or a note that says “TODO: Add antitamper device”]

Finally, the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot must always be referred to by its full name. If a player uses only part of the name or pronounces the name incorrectly, they receive a treason star and/or a static shock, depending on how feisty the GM is feeling.

Running the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot

I like to throw the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot at players immediately after briefing. [ed. “Throw” is metaphorical there]. It's a great chaos seed, for many reasons. Who will be the driver? Which seat is the safest? How will the two players who lose this round of musical chairs stay with the team? There's many answers, and all of them are wrong. As the GM, I'll set the scene and let the worst instincts of the players take over as everyone scrambles to figure out just where they'll be seated.

There's several ways the outboard troubleshooters may ride along. They could sit on the hood (and "accidentally" block the driver's vision), strap themselves to the roof, or even hang on to one of the pillars. In any case, during extreme maneuvers, they'll need to make a Violence + Athletics roll to continue hanging on (if not otherwise attached via straps/glue/underpants). Troubleshooters choosing to jog alongside the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot will quickly discover that the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot only has two modes: stopped and fast. Speaking of...

The Mk 5 Transportulatronbot already has its destination pre-programmed in. All the troubleshooters need to do is start it with a Mechanics + Operate roll. On a successful result, the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot zips along at incredible speed towards wherever it thinks the Troubleshooters need to be. If a computer result shows up, the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot still zips along to its destination but does so backwards. Any Troubleshooters not on board will be left behind, slowly collecting treason stars for abandoning their team.

The core of the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot is incredibly resilient and can take a lot of punishment before it is no longer operable. The same cannot be said of the seats or canopy.

Mk 5 Transportulatronbot FAQ's

Which seat is the safest?

All seats have been certified by R&D as 101% safe.

Why are there insufficient seats for the team?

The Efficiency wing of R&D has determined that there are enough seats aboard the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot, while still remaining 33% under budget. (Any further questions along this line just earn treason stars).

How do I start this thing?

R&D's groundbreaking single-control system has streamlined the operation of the Mk 5 Transportulatronbot to the point where operation is so simple, no operating manual is needed.