

# The Steampunk Primer

So suddenly there's a lot of talk about "Steampunk" and while it might not be your thing, you rather wish there was a handy definition. How's this:

Steampunk started as a literary genre but has grown to include a sub-culture and an aesthetic spanning a broad range of society. Drawing from a Victorian foundation, it mingles history and elements of science fiction or fantasy.

## A little more:

Steampunk came to prominence in the late-1980s as a genre of science fiction incorporating elements of fantasy and alternate history. The unifying theme is a re-envisioning of the industrial revolution and transformation of the 19th Century Europe and America. Steampunk fiction and aesthetics include innovations Victorians might have envisioned based on their perspective in fashion, culture, architecture, art and weird science.

## Examples:

- Jules Verne (*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, etc.)
- League of Extraordinary Gentlemen – Capt. Nemo, Dr. Jekyll, and co fight to protect the Crown
- Wild Wild West (both TV series and Movie) – Western frontier sprinkled with retro gadgetry
- Hugo – A Parisian boy's struggle to find a place in the world by repairing an automaton

