

# BARTON

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*Dare to know*

### Steampunk Comics

*Science fiction comics set in the 19th century that feature steam-powered machinery and related technologies extrapolated from the science of that era.*

A sub-genre that is generally set in the Victorian or Edwardian eras, and involves the application of steam power as advanced technology. There is minimal scientific detail, and the gadgets are often best described as retro-futuristic. These stories draw inspiration from the aesthetics of Victorian science fiction (e.g., H. G. Wells or Jules Verne), and simultaneously re-envision the capabilities of modern technology and speculate on possible futures. Thus, they create an alternate history. The term “steampunk” was coined in the 1980s by author K. W. Jeter, and steampunk comics are a medium of that wider form. Artists have able to develop a distinctive visual style that melds modern technologies with design styles of the Industrial Revolution.

### Common Elements

Steam power
Airships
Analog computers
Automata

Clockworks
Copper or brass fittings
Victorian-style clothing, especially corsets

Goggles
Absence of plastics or synthetic materials

### Graphic Novel Examples

<i>The Adventures of Luther Arkwright Book 1: Rat Trap</i> (1982) by Bryan Talbot
<i>The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects</i> (2010) by Mike Mignola
<i>Atomic Robo Volume 1: Atomic Robo and the Fightin’ Scientist of Tesladyne</i> (2008) by Brian Clevinger and Scott Wegener
<i>Calamity Jack</i> (2010) by Shannon Hale, Dean Hale, and Nathan Hale
<i>Captain Swing &amp; the Electrical Pirates of Cindery Island</i> (2008) by Warren Ellis and Raulo Caçeres
<i>Daisy Cutter: The Last Train</i> (2005) by Kazu Kibuishi
<i>Doctor Grordbort’s Contrapulatronic Dingus Directory</i> (2008) by Greg Broadmore

<i>Dr. Frankenstein’s Monster</i> (2020) by Fred Perry
<i>Edge of Empire Volume 1</i> (2014) by Rod Espinoza
<i>Girl Genius Volume 1: Agatha Heterodyne and the Beetleburg Clank</i> (2001) by Phil Foglio and Kaja Foglio
<i>Grandville</i> (2011) by Bryan Talbot
<i>Iron West</i> (1996) by Doug TenNapel
<i>Lady Mechanika: The Mystery of the Mechanical Corpse</i> (2010) by Joe Benitez
<i>League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Volume One</i> (1999) by Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill
<i>League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Nemo: Heart of Ice</i> (2013) by Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill

<i>Monstress, Volume 1: Awakening</i> (2016) by Marjorie M. Liu and Sana Takeda	<i>Steam-Age Wasteland</i> (2018) by Antarctic Press
<i>Muse: Oversized Deluxe Edition</i> (2013) by Denis-Pierre Filippi and Terry Dodson	<i>Steam Punk: Manimatron</i> (2001) by Joe Kelly, Chris Bachalo, and Richard Friend
<i>Rise of the Zelfhire Book One: Of Bark and Sap</i> (2020) by Karim Friha	

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