

9

STAR TREK™

THE OFFICIAL STARSHIPS COLLECTION



U.S.S. DEFIANT
NX-74205

DEFIANT CLASS

LAUNCHED: 2370

LENGTH: 170.68 METRES

MAX SPEED: WARP 9.982

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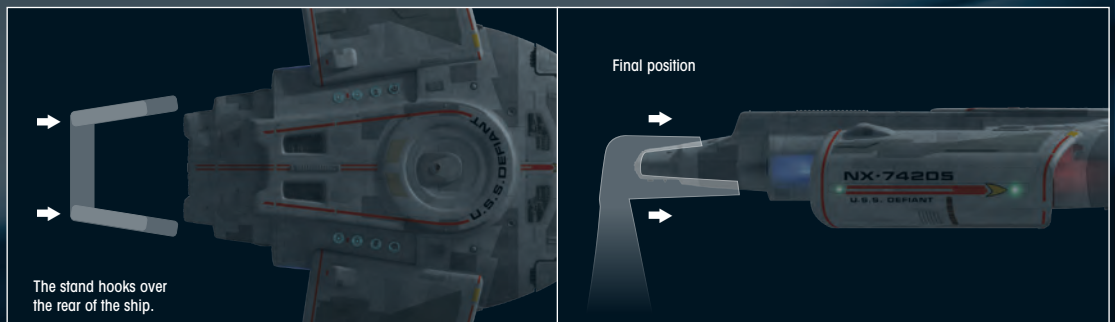
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U.S.S. DEFIANT
NX-74205

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U.S.S. DEFIANT NX-74205

SPECIFICATION



REGISTRY:	NX-74205
CLASS:	DEFIANT
CONSTRUCTED:	ANTARES FLEET YARDS
LAUNCHED:	2370
LENGTH:	170.68 METRES
DECKS:	4
CREW:	40
TOP SPEED:	WARP 9.982
WEAPONRY:	FOUR PULSE PHASER CANNONS 6 TORPEDO LAUNCHERS
CAPTAIN:	BENJAMIN SISCO



▼ The *Defiant* may have been small, but was one “tough little ship” as Commander Riker once described her. Designed in response to the Borg threat, the *Defiant* was a no-frills battleship and the most offensively powerful ship in Starfleet.

U.S.S. DEFIANT

NX-74205

The *U.S.S. Defiant* was built for battle and was armed with pulse phaser cannons, quantum torpedoes, and a cloaking device.

DATA FEED

The *U.S.S. Defiant* was the first Starfleet ship to be equipped with ablative armor plating. This was a type of protective skin that covered the hull plating. It was designed to disperse the energy from weapons fire, thus protecting the ship even if its shields were not up. Ablative armor was added to the *Defiant* after its deployment to *Deep Space 9* and the technology was so secret hardly anybody in Starfleet knew it had been installed.

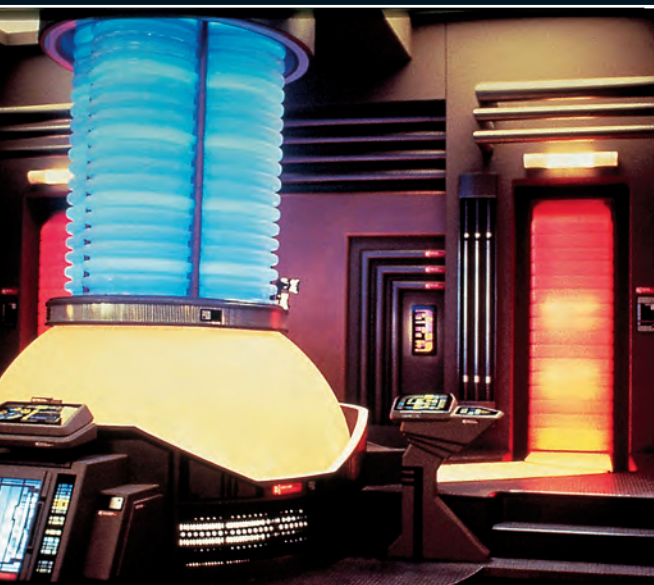
Officially classed as an escort ship, the *U.S.S. Defiant NX-74205* was a prototype vessel designed to be Starfleet's first dedicated warship. Developed in response to the threat of a Borg invasion, the *Defiant* was a heavily armed, highly manoeuvrable, stripped-down vessel designed for combat rather than exploration.



At just 170.68 m long and with a standard operational crew of 40 people, the *Defiant* may have been small but it packed a considerable punch. Armed with advanced quantum torpedoes, as well as Mark-VIII and Mark-IX photon torpedoes, plus four twin-pulse cannon phasers, the *Defiant* was the most destructively powerful ship Starfleet ever produced for its size.

In addition to its formidable weaponry, the *Defiant* was covered in ablative armor, a protective skin on the hull of the ship that dissipated the energy of weapons fire. This was an extra layer of defense that meant even if the conventional shields failed, the ship still had some protection.

◀ Although it still had design flaws, the *Defiant* was assigned to *Deep Space 9* in 2371. The spacestation's commander, Benjamin Sisko, who had worked on the development of the *Defiant*, requested its use to help protect the station from the threat posed by the Dominion.



◀ The class-7 warp core ran up through three decks of the ship, while a Master Systems Display was located on the wall of main engineering.

▶ Despite the *Defiant's* relatively small size, it had provision for several shuttlecraft, which were launched from a circular hatch on the ventral side.



▲ After Starfleet lost control of *Deep Space 9* to Dominion forces in late 2373, the *Defiant* was reassigned to the Second Fleet, which operated out of Starbase 375. This facility acted as a base of operations for the *Defiant* for several months until a combined Federation force retook *Deep Space 9* and the *Defiant* was once again assigned the task of protecting the station.

The *Defiant* marked a radical change in policy by Starfleet in that it had previously only designed ships for exploration, peace-keeping or scientific purposes. The *Defiant* was a response to the threat posed by the Borg after their invasion of the Alpha Quadrant and the massacre at the Battle of Wolf 359 in which Starfleet lost 39 ships and 11,000 lives.

TOO POWERFUL

Development of the *Defiant* began in 2367 with the then Lieutenant Commander Sisko assisting in the design work and flight tests. Launched in 2370 from the Antares Shipyards, the *Defiant* proved to be over-gunned and overpowered for its size and the structural integrity field struggled to prevent the ship from tearing itself apart in battle drills.

Despite the *Defiant's* enormous potential, after several years of development its design flaws had still not been overcome and the project was mothballed, especially as the perceived threat from the Borg was considered less urgent.

It was not until the *Defiant* was assigned to *Deep Space Nine* in 2271 at the now Commander Sisko's request that its design faults were ironed out and it became a vital component in the station's defenses against the Dominion and its allies.

Once assigned to *Deep Space Nine*, the *Defiant* was granted special dispensation to be equipped with a Romulan cloaking device. The Romulans agreed to supply the cloaking technology in return for all intelligence gathered on the Dominion.

The *Defiant* was equipped with a class-7 warp



▲ Like the rest of the ship, the bridge on the *Defiant* was configured for maximum efficiency in battle, with the flight control and operations stations combined into one console.

▶ The sickbay was extremely rudimentary, much to Dr. Bashir's annoyance. It contained just four standard biobeds and was ill-equipped to do much more than stabilize a seriously injured patient.



drive and the core spanned three decks in the aft section of the ship. It was extremely powerful for a ship of this size and it could propel the ship at speeds of warp 9.5 for extended periods and even reach warp 9.982 for limited bursts.

NO-FRILLS STARSHIP

As a combat vessel, the interior of the *Defiant* was extremely functional and had no provision for families or recreational activities. Even the science and medical facilities on deck 2 were extremely limited. One of the few communal areas of the ship was a mess hall where the crew could gather and eat meals dispensed from replicators.

The main bridge was the nerve center, but unlike on other Starfleet ships, it was sunk into the center



DATA FEED

A special amendment to the Treaty of Algeron allowed the *Defiant* to be fitted with a Romulan cloaking device. The treaty stipulated that the Federation could not develop cloaking technology. In this instance, the Romulans loaned the *Defiant* a cloaking device, provided it was used only in the Gamma Quadrant and that its operation was overseen by Subcommander T'Rul (pictured). In return, Starfleet shared all intelligence the ship gathered.



◀ In one of the pivotal battles of the Dominion War, the DEFIANT led a combined Starfleet and Klingon force in an attempt to win back control of DEEP SPACE NINE. Despite the Dominion having twice the number of ships, the operation was successful and Captain Sisko was once again back in charge of the station.



▲ The Borg's second major incursion into Federation space culminated in the Battle of Sector 001 when the *Defiant* and about 30 other Starfleet ships engaged a *Borg Cube*. The fleet was successful in destroying the cube, and although the *Defiant* took heavy damage it was ultimately salvageable and soon back in service at *Deep Space 9*.

of the vessel where it was afforded more protection than it would have been if it was exposed on the top of the ship.

LAST RESORT WEAPONRY

In addition to all the *Defiant's* state-of-the-art weaponry, as a last resort the entire front 'nose' section, which contained several torpedo warheads, could detach and be used as a missile. If this function was deployed, the main body of the ship could then no longer travel at high speeds, but it was equipped with landing gear so it could set down on a planetary surface in an emergency.

The *U.S.S. Defiant NX-74205's* active service began in early 2371 when it was assigned to *Deep Space 9* to help protect it from the escalating

threat posed by the Dominion. Their genetically engineered army, the Jem'Hadar, had recently destroyed a *Galaxy-class* ship, the *U.S.S. Odyssey NCC-71832* and Sisko felt that the station needed an extra line of defense.

It was not long before Chief Miles O'Brien managed to iron out most of the *Defiant's* flaws and the ship proved vital both in the defense of *Deep Space Nine* and in the later Dominion War.

BATTLING THE BORG

In 2373, the *Defiant* was forced into action for the purpose for which it was originally designed when the Borg returned. While many Starfleet ships were destroyed early in the engagement, the *Defiant* managed to keep fighting for some time, inflicting



▲ The Breen entered the war on the side of the Dominion at the Second Battle of Chin'toka. The Breen's energy dampening weapon proved decisive in the battle as it completely disabled all of the Allied ship's primary systems, leaving them sitting ducks. The Allied force was wiped out, and even the DEFiant was destroyed, although the crew managed to eject in escape pods.

heavy damage on the *Borg Cube*. Unfortunately, the *Defiant* took serious fire, leading to a loss of main power and it was left adrift in space, but not before the crew were beamed to safety aboard the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701-E.

THE DOMINION WAR

The *Defiant* was soon repaired and later the same year was used to mine the Bajoran Wormhole to stop the Dominion's military build-up in Cardassian space. Although this prevented more Dominion forces from entering the Alpha Quadrant, it could not prevent the Dominion from taking control of *Deep Space 9* and all-out war soon followed.

For the next several months, the *Defiant* fought as part of the Second Fleet, operating out of

DATA FEED

The *U.S.S. Sao Paulo* NCC-75633 was almost identical to the *Defiant*. It was, however, upgraded with redesigned deflector shield generators to counteract the Breen energy dampening weapon, which was responsible for the destruction of the first *Defiant*. The bridge was also modified as some of the consoles were redesigned and the aft operations table was replaced with a free-standing console.

Starbase 375. The fighting was long, arduous, and at times seemingly hopeless, but the *Defiant* continued to survive against the odds and won many vital engagements during the war. In mid-2374, the *Defiant* led a force that retook control of *Deep Space Nine* and the by the end of the year the war finally seemed to be turning in their favour when the *Defiant* led another fleet to victory in the First Battle of Chin'toka.

DEFiant'S DESTRUCTION

Unfortunately, in 2375 a new alliance between the Dominion and the Breen swung the war back in their favour and the *Defiant* was among 311 Federation Alliance ships destroyed in the Second Battle of Chin'toka.

A new *Defiant*-class vessel, the *U.S.S. Sao Paulo* NCC-75633 was assigned to *Deep Space 9* and Captain Sisko received special dispensation from Starfleet Chief of Operations to rename the ship after its illustrious predecessor. This second-generation *Defiant* was upgraded with new deflector shield generators that counteracted the Breen energy dampening weapon that had decimated the allied fleet at Chin'toka.

This *Defiant* participated in the final battle of the Dominion War in late 2375 when the Federation Alliance launched an invasion of Cardassia where the Dominion had centered its operations in the Alpha Quadrant.

The *Defiant* found itself in the thick of the action and, despite taking heavy fire, managed to help the Alliance forces to punch a hole through the Dominion's defensive perimeter. The Alliance lost more than a third of its fleet in the battle, but the *Defiant* survived and the Dominion was defeated as they declared an unconditional surrender of all their forces in the Alpha Quadrant.



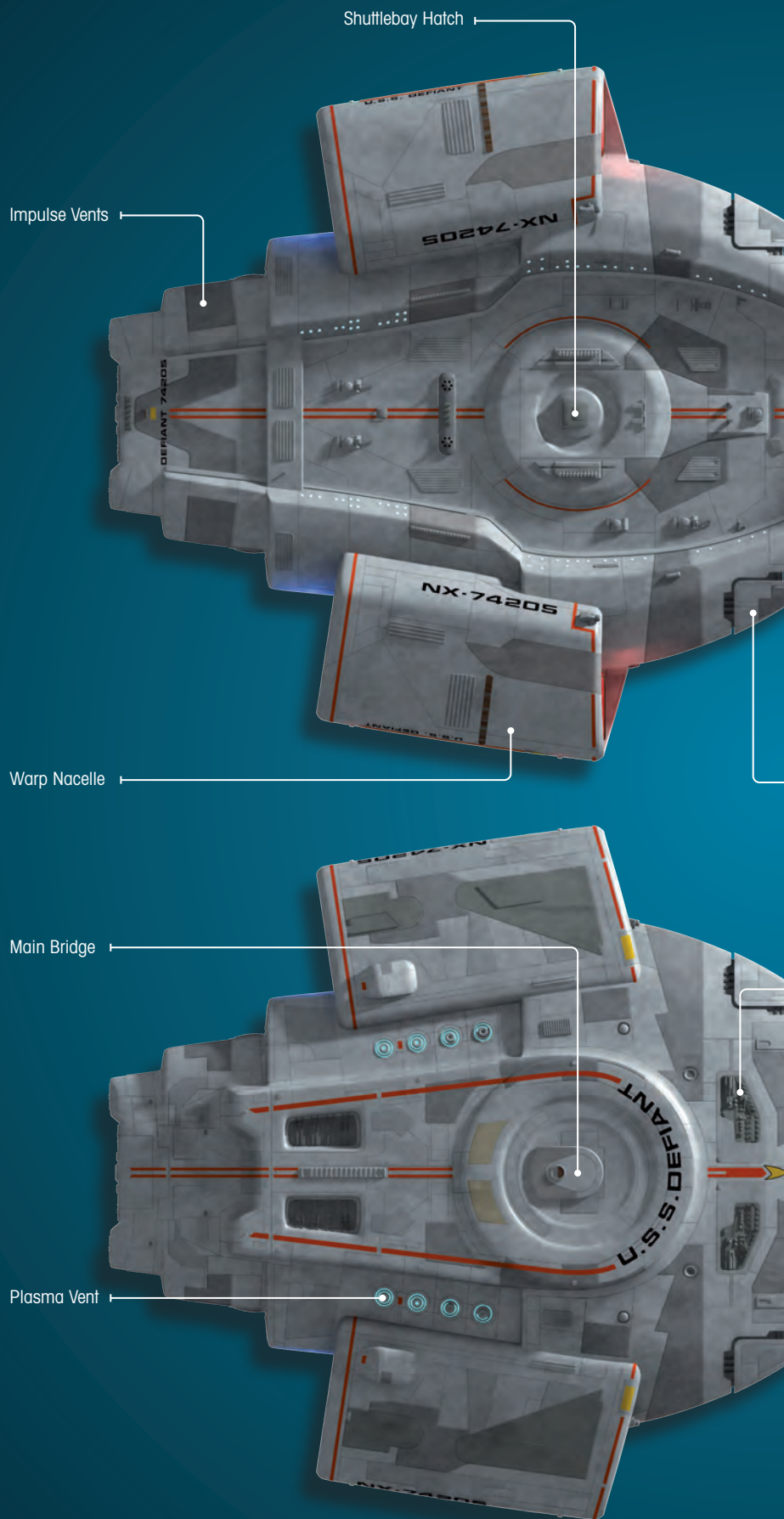
WEAPONRY AND FIREPOWER

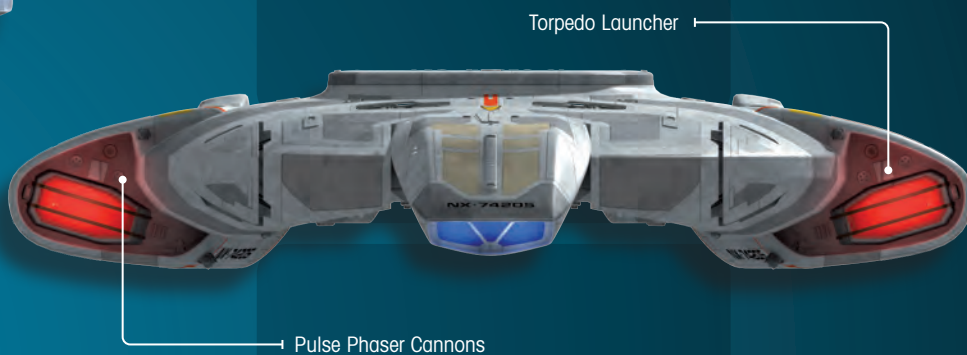
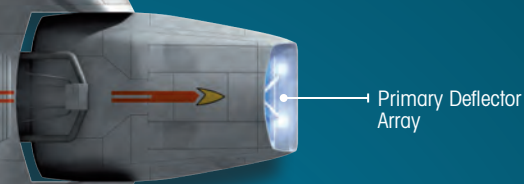
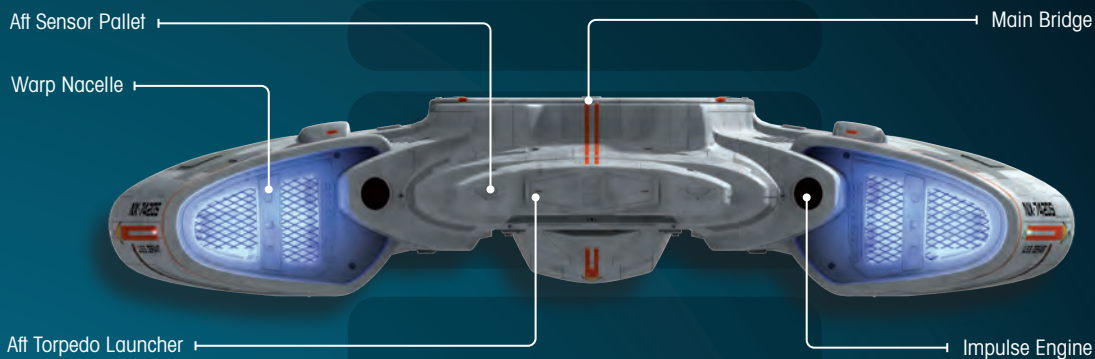
Because its original purpose was to defend the Federation against the Borg, the *U.S.S. Defiant* was very heavily armed. It was equipped with four forward-facing phaser cannons with two located each side of the ship on the nacelles. They were usually deployed in short rapid-fire bursts, but they could also be fired as a continuous beam. In addition to these cannons, the *Defiant* featured conventional phaser emitters as found on other Starfleet vessels.

The *Defiant* was also equipped with four forward-facing and two-aft facing torpedo launchers. These could be used to fire photon torpedoes or quantum torpedoes. The latter contained a plasma warhead and were more effective than conventional antimatter explosives in penetrating deflector shields.



▲ The *Defiant* was the most heavily armed vessel in Starfleet and it played a vital role in numerous battles during the Dominion War.

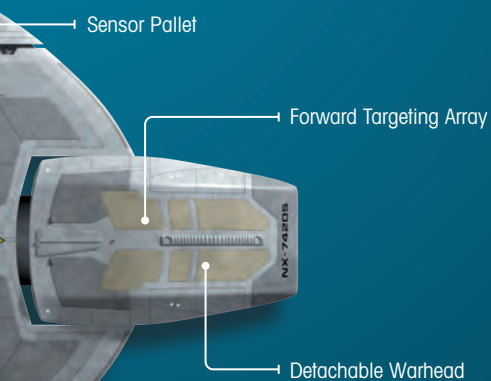




Targeting Sensors

DATA FEED

As the *Defiant* was permanently assigned to *Deep Space 9*, it had no specific or dedicated crew. The vessel was manned by station personnel and its crew complement varied by mission. At various times Sisko, Dax and Worf all commanded the *Defiant*.



DEFIANT-CLASS SHIPS

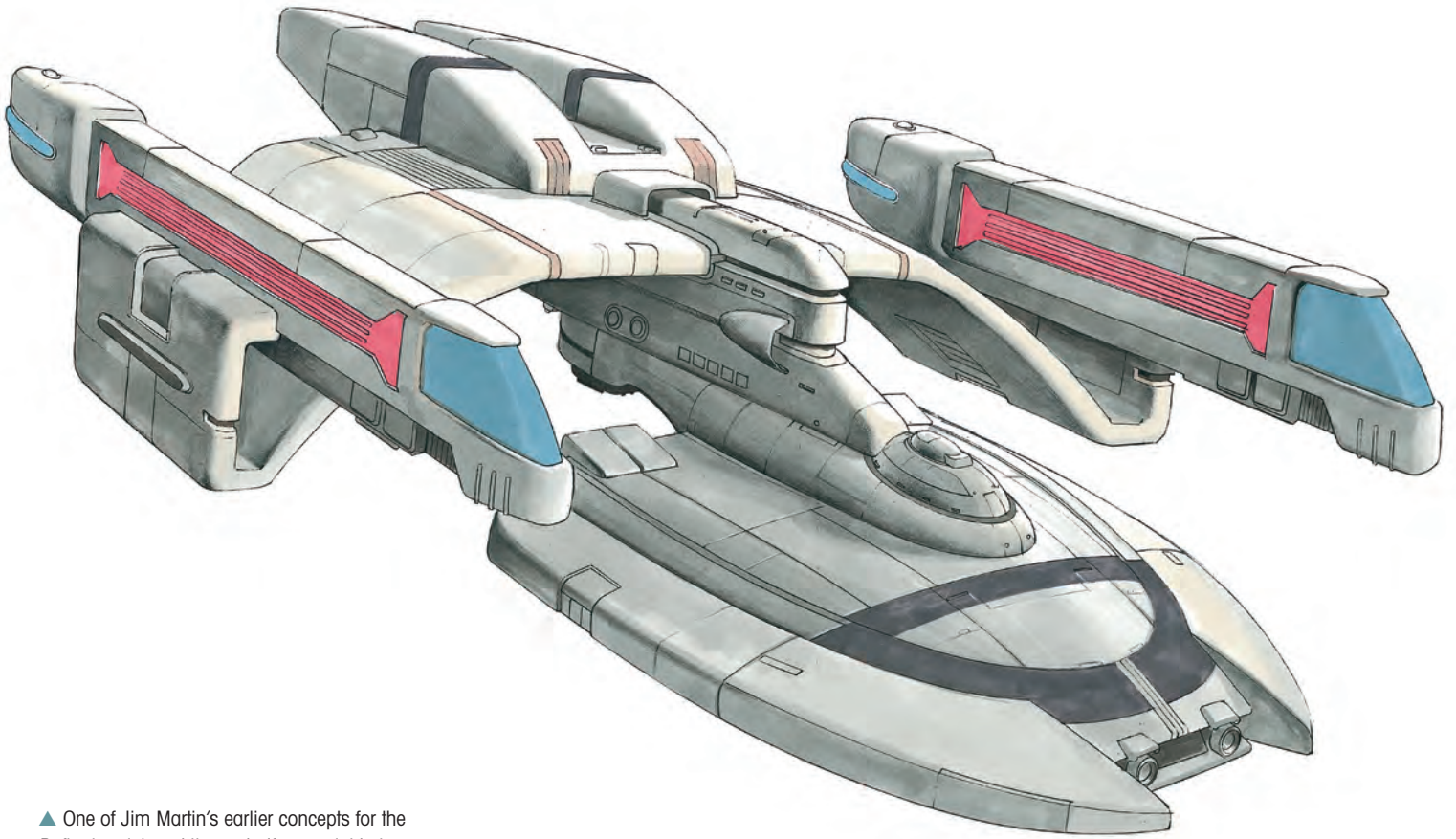
According to one of *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s writers and producers Ronald D. Moore, the *Defiant* class had entered full-scale production by 2373. Although only the *Defiant*, its replacement, the *Sao Paulo*, and the *Valiant* were named, several more *Defiant*-class vessels were seen in the episode, 'A Call To Arms'.

LANDING GEAR

The *Defiant* was equipped with landing gear in the form of four retractable struts built into the underside of the hull. This meant it was capable of landing on a planetary surface in an emergency.

LIVING ON BOARD

Worf found it difficult to adjust to life aboard *Deep Space 9* after he accepted a post there as strategic operations officer. To help him adjust, Sisko granted him permission to live aboard the *Defiant* while it was docked at the station.



▲ One of Jim Martin's earlier concepts for the *Defiant* envisioned it as a halfway point between a fully-fledged starship and a Runabout.

DESIGNING THE

U.S.S. DEFIANT

The design of the *U.S.S. Defiant* started off as a 'beefed-up' runabout, but evolved into a new shape that looked both fast and aggressive.

When Ira Steven Behr took over as executive producer and show runner at the beginning of season three of *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*, he decided to pick up the action level of the show and include more hard-hitting, exciting battle sequences. The Dominion had been introduced as the show's villains, but the protagonists on *DEEP SPACE NINE* really did not have anything appropriate with which to fight them.

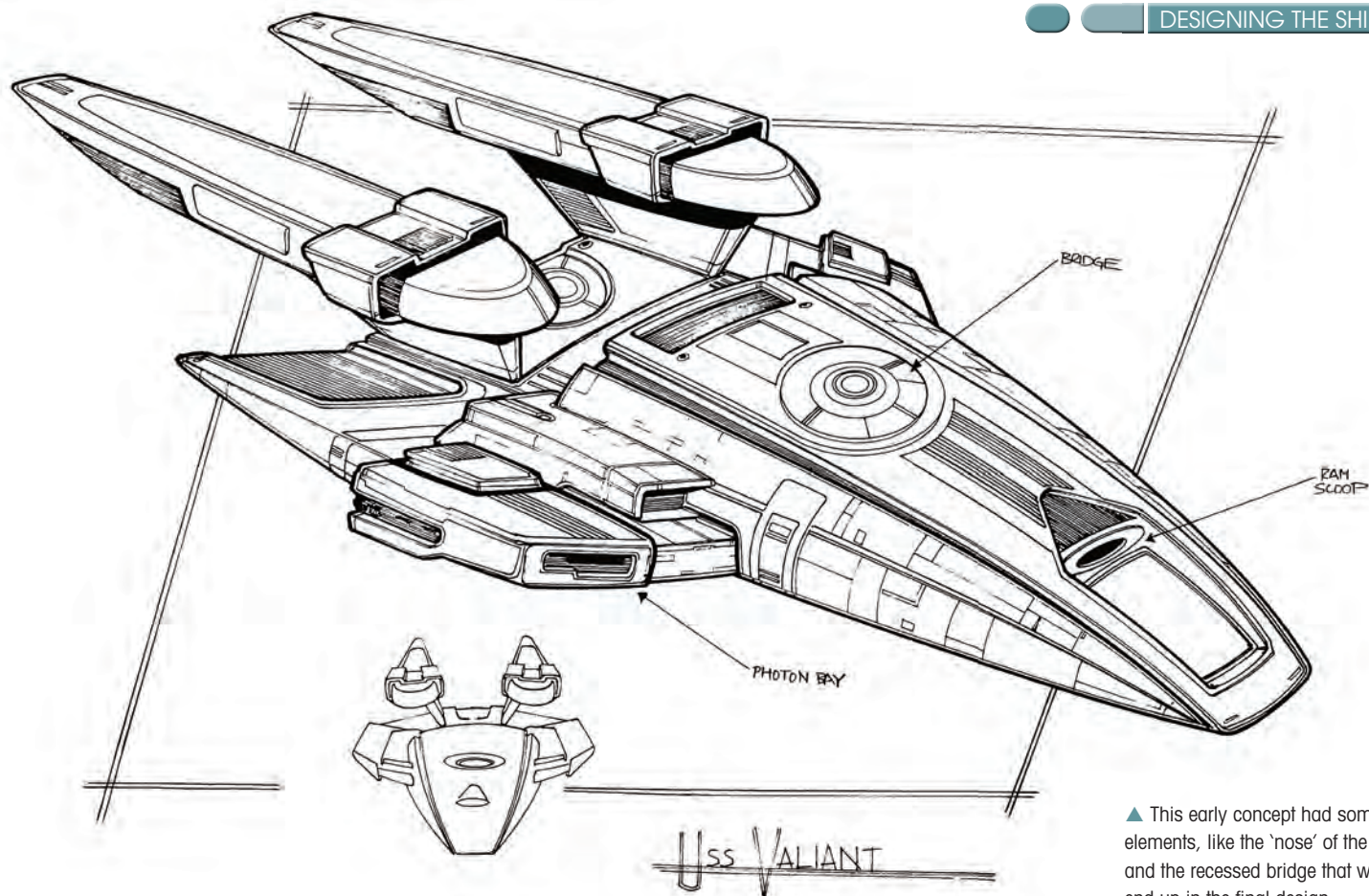
As Behr explained, "We had all these plans for the Dominion... and what were we going to go after them with? Shuttlecrafts?! It just seemed ridiculous."

A new, more powerful starship that could realistically meet the threat posed by Dominion was needed and it would give the writers an opportunity to have more direct conflict. The task of envisioning this new Starfleet vessel fell to illustrator Jim Martin, who was working under the supervision of production

designer Herman Zimmerman.

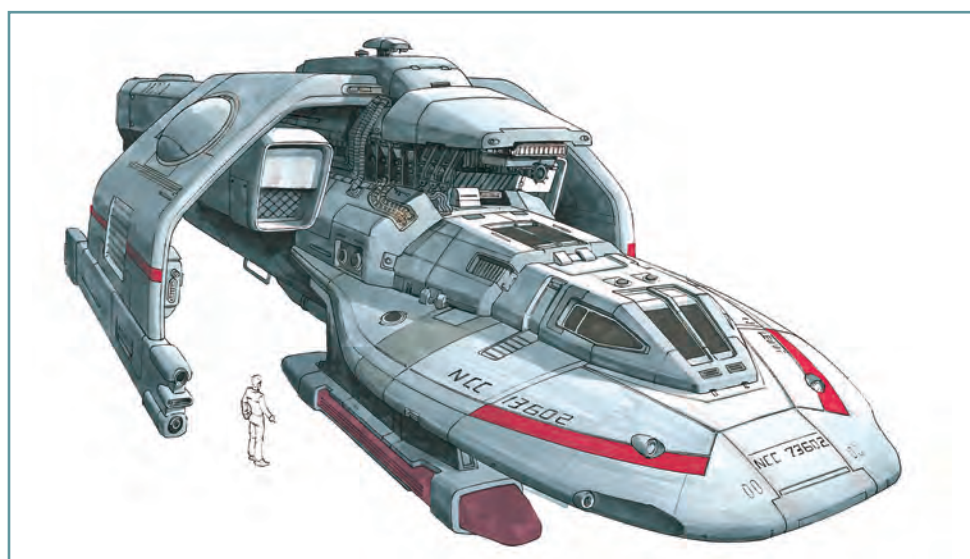
The brief they were given instructed that the ship could not look like any other class of Starfleet ship seen before. They were also told that it should be small, but so powerful and scary that no one would mess with it, so Martin began by working on designs that looked like 'beefed-up' runabouts.

These early designs were rejected by the producers so Martin came up with a new design direction that was more



▲ This early concept had some elements, like the 'nose' of the ship and the recessed bridge that would end up in the final design.

► This design was another that looked as if it was based on a runabout, while also having some recognisable full-size starship elements, such as the warp nacelles. Ultimately, the producers wanted it to look more impressive.



of a cross between a starship and a runabout, but this was rejected too.

In the end, the design the producers chose came about rather by chance as Martin explained, "Working on the show you have a lot of ships of the week. A new race is coming to the station so you do a new space ship design to accommodate them. The *Defiant* started as one of these ships of the week. It was an illustration I had done, I think, as a cargo ship and it was kind of a sporty thing. We threw it in with three or four other drawings and submitted them to (executive producer) Rick Berman and that

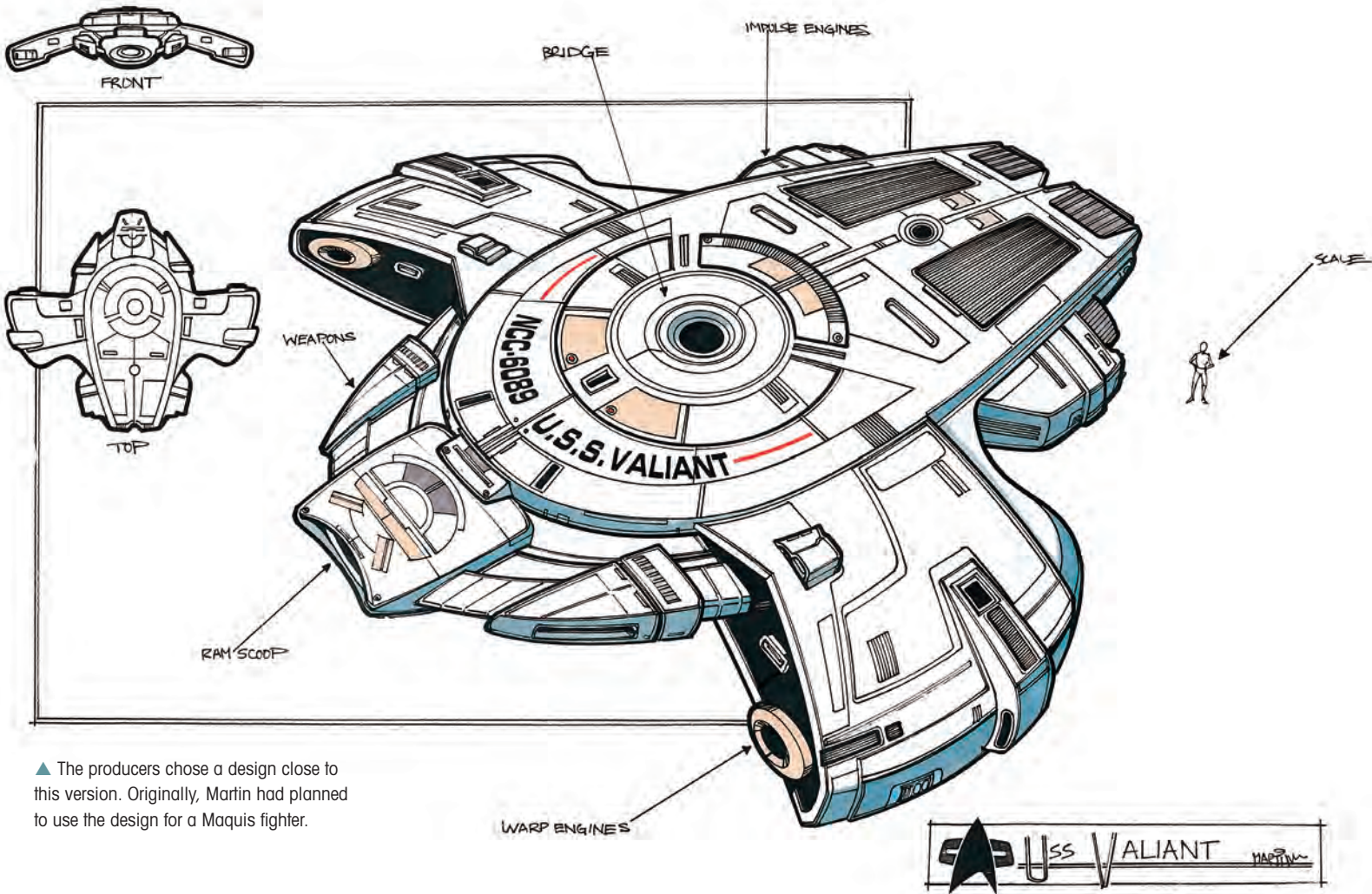
was it. He keyed in on that and we started tweaking it from there."

These illustrations were then passed on to modelmaker Tony Meininger, who worked with visual effects supervisor Gary Hutzel, to refine the look further. As Hutzel explained, "We went to Tony Meininger and I said to him that it's got to have speed - it has to look fast."

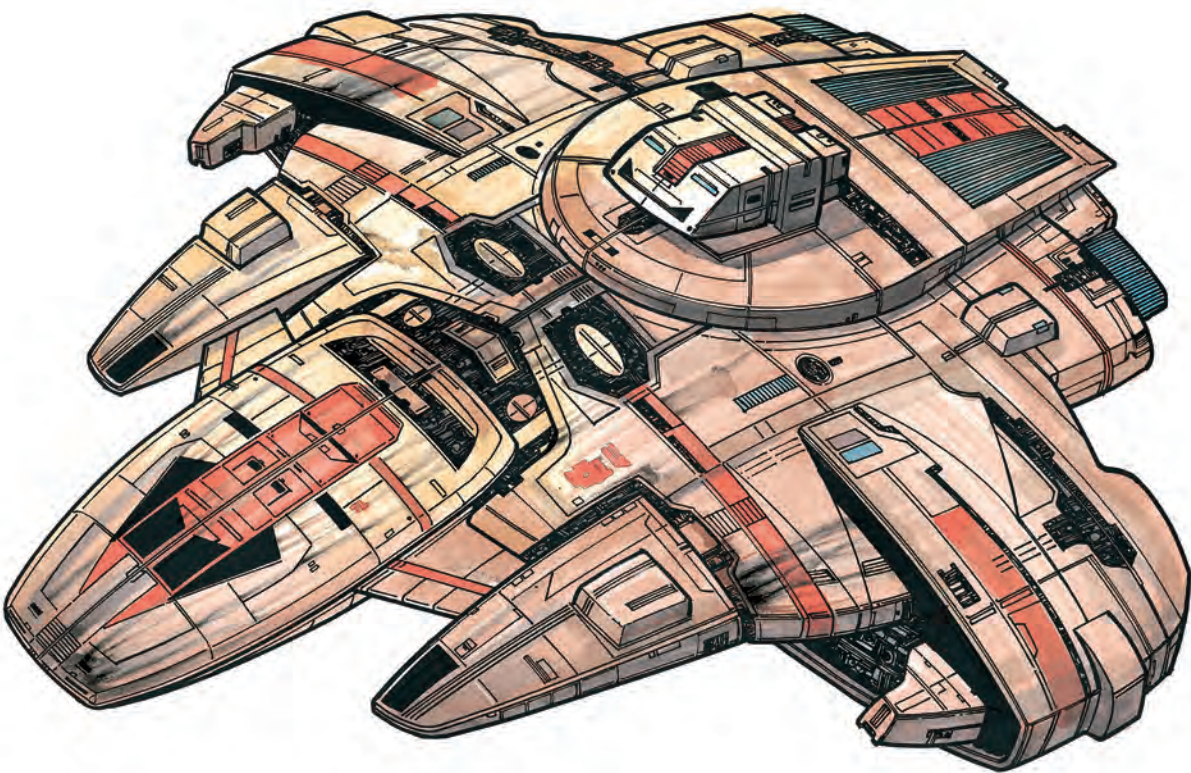
Taking inspiration from exotic sports

cars, Meininger added additional design elements that completed the final look.

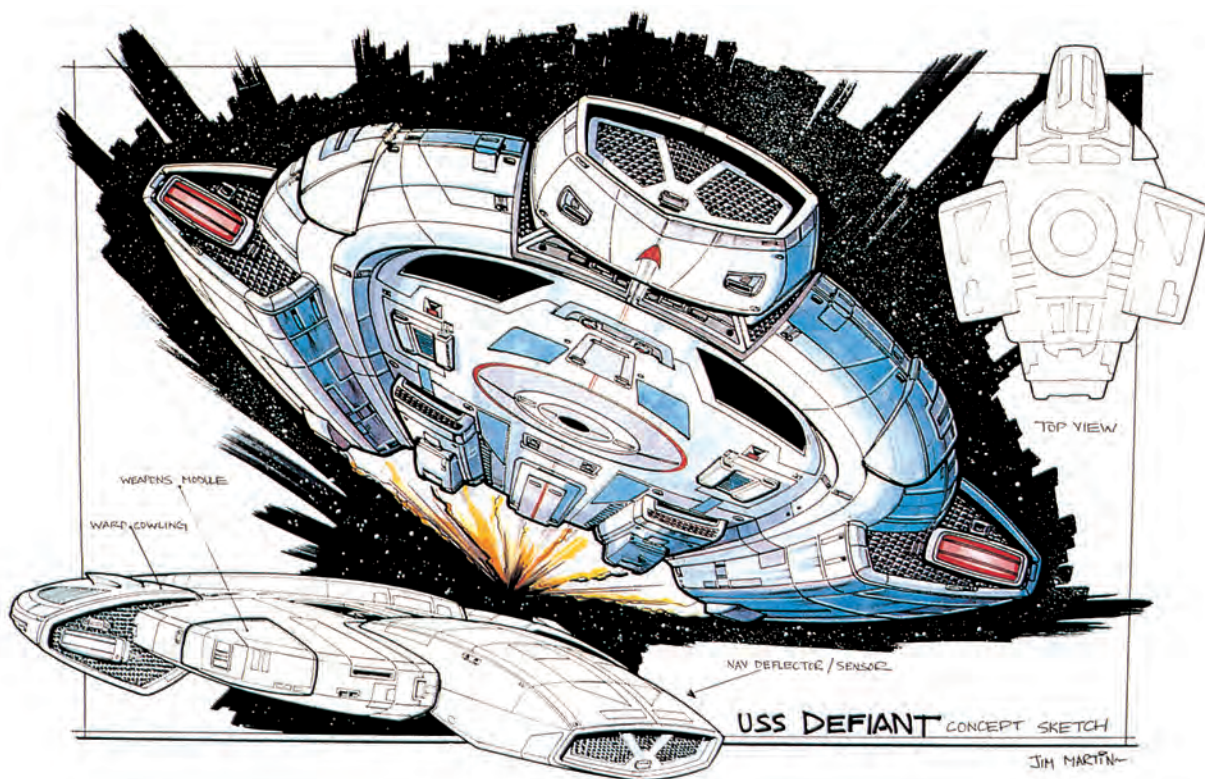
Everyone was pleased with the final result, not least Jim Martin, who said, "That was my favorite thing to draw for the show. It's kind of like a sports car, very compact and very contained in a shell. We joked in the art department that it was the 'Battle Turtle'."



▲ The producers chose a design close to this version. Originally, Martin had planned to use the design for a Maquis fighter.



◀ The 'Maquis fighter' design was refined further, so it looked sleeker and more recognisably of Starfleet origin. Initially, the *Defiant* was going to be called the *U.S.S. Valiant* hence the markings on the illustration.



▲► Once the basic approach to the design had been agreed upon, Jim Martin produced the above sketch which shows the completed design for the *Defiant*, including his call outs, identifying the warp nacelles, deflector and weapons pods, most of which had a different design to the ones on conventional Starfleet vessels. He also created the fully-colored version on the right.



Among the names inscribed on the *Defiant*'s dedication plaque is a Starfleet officer by the name of Ira Steven Behr – the same name as the executive producer of the show. He wrote or co-wrote 53 episodes of *DEEP SPACE NINE* – more than any other writer.

The producer and writer Ronald D. Moore was given the task of 'inventing' the capabilities and features of the *Defiant*. Originally he wanted to call the ship the *Valiant*, but he was told he could not name it with anything beginning with "V" as *STAR TREK: VOYAGER* was about to debut and no-one wanted two shows that starred ships starting with the same letter.



DATA FEED

Production illustrator Jim Martin first professional job after leaving university was on *DEEP SPACE NINE*. He went on to work on the pilot of *STAR TREK: VOYAGER*, *STAR TREK GENERATIONS* and *STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE*. Apart from designing the *Defiant*, his other *STAR TREK* creations include the Bajoran Solar Sailor and the Jem'hadar fighter.

After leaving *STAR TREK* in 1995, Martin became a freelance production illustrator and has worked on many blockbuster movies, including *Alien: Resurrection* (1997), *Spider-Man* (2002), *The Matrix Reloaded* (2003), *Captain America: The First Avenger* (2011) and *Oblivion* (2013).



▲ The studio model of the DEFIANT was built at Brazil-Fabrication & Design by Tony Meiningner, who also contributed to the design.

CREATING and FILMING THE U.S.S. DEFIANT

III The *U.S.S. Defiant* started out as a highly-detailed studio model and was later joined by a more adaptable CGI version.

The studio model of the *U.S.S. Defiant NX-74205* was built by Tony Meininger and his team at his modelling shop, Brazil-Fabrication & Design in Los Angeles. Meininger's first involvement with *STAR TREK* had come several years earlier when he had designed and built the Delta Rana warship seen in *THE NEXT GENERATION* episode, 'The Survivors'. This was one of the first starships seen on *STAR TREK* that had not been designed by a member of the *THE NEXT GENERATION* art staff and Meininger did such a good job that he went on to become the main supplier of studio models for *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*.

In addition to the *Defiant*, Meininger also built studio models of the *Danube*-class runabouts, the miniatures for *STAR TREK: VOYAGER*'s debut episode, 'Caretaker', and most notably, *Deep Space 9* itself.

Meininger and his team built the model of the *Defiant* based on the concept drawings created by Jim Martin, but visual effects coordinator Gary Hutzel encouraged him to add his own ideas to the design. In particular, Meininger was told that the *Defiant* had to look fast, so he pinned up some posters of fast cars for inspiration. By adding additional elements, Meininger was able to impart a feeling of speed into the design of the *Defiant* that it had previously lacked.

The finished miniature of the *Defiant* ended up measuring 37" x 27" and was convincingly realistic. It was then taken to the visual effects company, Image G, where it was filmed using a motion control camera.

The studio model was soon joined by a CG version of the *Defiant*, which was built by visual effects company Vision Art Design & Animation in 1994. This CG version of the *Defiant* was co-built by visual effects artists Daniel Kramer and Carl Hooper. It was first used for a shot of the ship going to warp in the episode called, 'Defiant', and from the beginning of the fourth season onwards it featured in the title sequence of *DEEP SPACE NINE*.

An upgraded CG version of the *Defiant* was later built by effects house Digital Muse after it entered into a joint venture with Vision Art, as the series moved away from practical models. This version allowed the VFX team to create much more elaborate and complicated shots, which would have been impractical using traditional model and motion control photography.

The new CG version allowed for some stunning sequences, such as the *Defiant* flying alongside a fleet of other starships or doing an aerobatic loop-the-loop in the final episode, 'What You Leave Behind' – shots that just a few years previously would have been impossible.



▲ The original version of the *Defiant* was a practical model that was introduced in *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s third season. A variety of CG models were then created and upgraded over the show's remaining years, and there are subtle but noticeable differences between them.

ON SCREEN



TRIVIA

The decision to destroy the *Defiant* in the episode 'The Changing Face Of Evil' was not taken lightly. As executive producer Ira Steven Behr explained, "The ship had become a character that had caught on in people's hearts and minds." It was felt, however, that the Breen had to make a formidable impact and this could best be done by destroying the *Defiant*. As Behr said, "We wanted to kill the *Defiant* as a statement on how tough the Breen were. We thought that would rock the characters and the audience."



The studio model of the *Defiant*, measuring 37" x 27" was sold at the '40 Years of *STAR TREK*' auction in October, 2006 for \$85,000.

FIRST APPEARANCE:

THE SEARCH, PART I (DS9)

FILM & TV APPEARANCES:

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT

DESIGNED BY:

Jim Martin, Tony Meininger

KEY APPEARANCES

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

'The Search, Part I'

The U.S.S. *Defiant* NX-74205 is assigned to *Deep Space 9* to help protect it from the escalating threat posed by the Dominion. Its first mission is to head into the Gamma Quadrant and find the Founders in order to convince them that the Federation is not a threat. Initially, the *Defiant's* cloaking device appears to work well, but it is still detected and drawn into a fire-fight with several Jem'Hadar ships. The *Defiant* is eventually overwhelmed and the crew are captured, leading to their first encounter with the mysterious Founders.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

'The Changing Face Of Evil'

The Federation and its allies, who had appeared to be gaining the upper hand in the war, find themselves on the back foot once again after the Dominion's new allies, the Breen, launch a devastating attack on Earth. The *Defiant* is ordered into battle when it looks like the Federation is going to lose the Chin'toka system, which it had only recently won from the Dominion. In the ensuing battle, the Alliance fleet, including the *Defiant*, is first neutralised by the Breen's energy-dampening weapon and then destroyed.



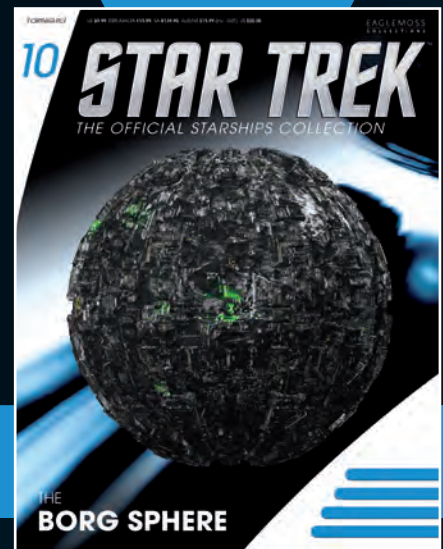
Early drafts of the *STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT* script featured the destruction of the *Defiant* at the hands of the Borg. Ira Steven Behr objected to his show's ship being destroyed, arguing it would cause problems for the writers. The *Defiant* was thus allowed to survive the battle and a line was added to the script revealing that it was "adrift, but salvageable."

COMING NEXT

THE **BORG SPHERE**

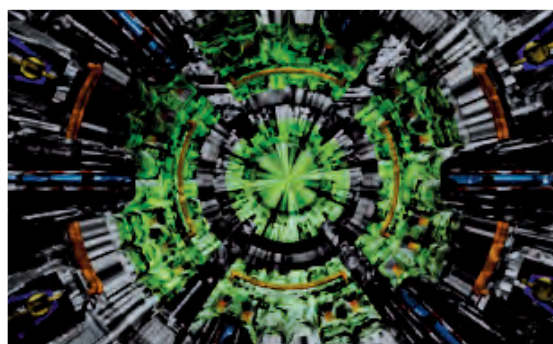


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- In-depth profile of the *Borg Sphere*, the command vessel that was carried inside a *Borg Cube*
- The story behind the design of the *Borg Sphere* for *STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT*
- How Industrial Light & Magic created the studio model of the ship



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