

11

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U.S.S. RELIANT™
NCC-1864

MIRANDA CLASS

LAUNCHED: 23 C

LENGTH: 233 METRES

MAX SPEED: WARP 9.2

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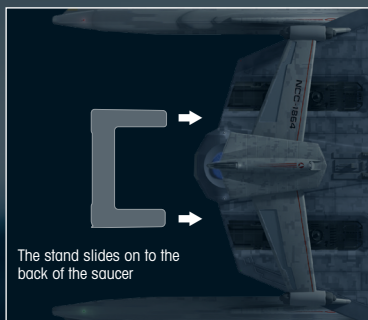
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Development Director: Maggie Calmels

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U.S.S. RELIANT
NCC-1864

U.S.S. RELIANT NCC-1864

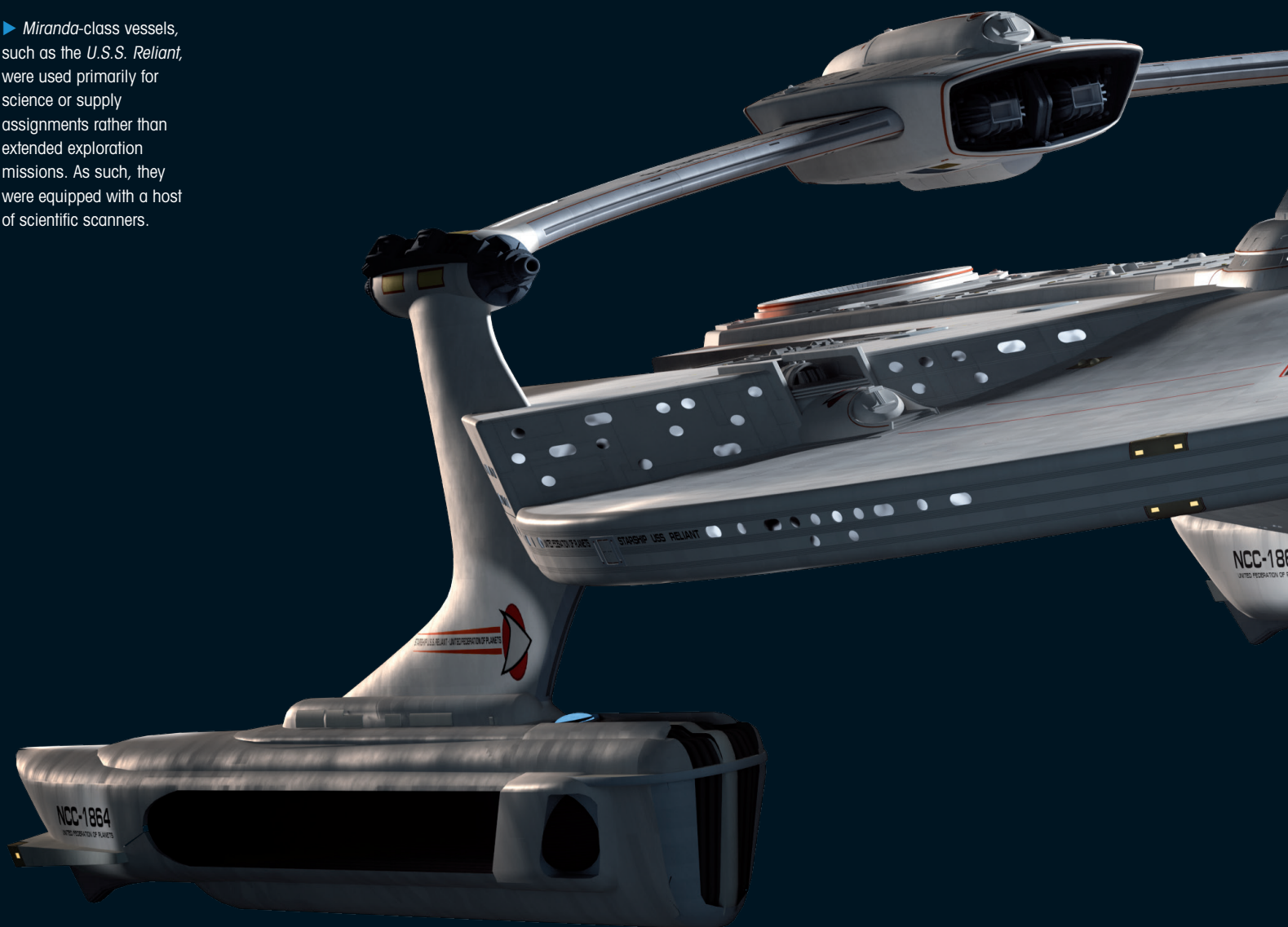
SPECIFICATION



REGISTRY:	NCC-1864
CLASS:	MIRANDA
PREFIX CODE:	16309
DESTROYED:	2285
LENGTH:	233M
DECKS:	11
TOP SPEED:	WARP 9.2
WEAPONRY:	Photon Torpedo Launchers x 4
	Type 7 Phaser Arrays x 6
	Phaser Emitters x 4
CAPTAINS:	Clark Terrell



► *Miranda-class* vessels, such as the *U.S.S. Reliant*, were used primarily for science or supply assignments rather than extended exploration missions. As such, they were equipped with a host of scientific scanners.



► In 2285, the captain of the *Reliant* was Clark Terrell, seen here with his first officer, Pavel Chekov. The ship was assigned to finding a suitably lifeless planet that could be used to test the Genesis device, a radical new technology that could completely rewrite the energy matrix of a planet, creating new life but destroying the old.





DATA FEED

When Khan said, "I'll chase him round the moons of Nibia and round the Antares maelstrom and round perdition's flames before I give him up," he was paraphrasing Ahab, the protagonist of *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.

U.S.S. RELIANT NCC-1864

The *U.S.S. Reliant* entered the history books when it was hijacked by Khan, a madman obsessed with revenge.

The *U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864 was a *Miranda*-class starship, a type of vessel employed by Starfleet from the late 23rd century until the late 24th century. There were several slight design variations within the *Miranda* class, but they were used primarily as science or supply vessels, although they were employed in combat against the Borg and during the Dominion War.

At 233m long and with a crew complement of around 200 personnel, the *Reliant* was over 50m shorter than the refitted *Constitution*-class vessels, like the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701. Unlike many other Starfleet ships, the *Miranda* class did not

have a secondary engineering hull, but consisted of a single saucer section with two warp nacelles that were mounted below. The enlarged area at the rear of the saucer section was normally used for cargo, while at the very rear, on either side of the impulse engines, were two shuttlebays, numbered '1' and '2'.

Some *Miranda*-class vessels, including the *Reliant*, were equipped with a weapons 'roll bar' that extended above the rear section of the saucer. This greatly enhanced its firepower as it was fitted with two forward and two aft torpedo launchers in the middle and two tubular phaser banks on



► The *Reliant* was fitted with a 'roll bar' that was positioned on top of the squared-off area at the rear of the saucer section. This structure housed additional weapons, greatly improving its offensive capabilities.

► Khan and his followers took control of the *Reliant* after they were accidentally discovered on Ceti Alpha V. Khan was obsessed with having his revenge on Kirk for leaving them stranded on the planet.



▲ Unlike many other Starfleet ships, *Miranda*-class vessels did not have an engineering hull. Their "cut-down" design was reminiscent of earlier Earth vessels such as the NX class that had been in service over 100 years earlier.

each side. Other *Miranda*-class ships, such as the *U.S.S. Bozeman* NCC-31911 upon which Benjamin Sisko served, did not have this 'roll bar', but did have extra cylindrical sensor pods fitted on either side of the saucer section. All *Miranda*-class vessels had six type-7 phaser emitters, three mounted on top of the saucer and three below, while there were also two single phaser emitters at the rear, located just below the impulse engines.

The *Reliant* had a vertical-installed warp core that was the same design as those fitted to the *Constitution* class. It spanned several decks and was capable of propelling the ship to a top speed of warp 8.

In common with most other Starfleet vessels, the bridge of the *Reliant* was located on Deck 1 at the top of the saucer section. The layout was very similar to that on *Constitution*-class ships with helm and navigation stations at the front

and the captain's chair in the middle. On the *Reliant*, the tactical station was slightly behind the captain's chair on his left, while the science and communications stations were on his right on the other side of the bridge.

SOPHISTICATED SCANNERS

As a vessel used primarily for scientific research, the *Reliant* had sophisticated scanning equipment, including a dyno scanner, which was powerful enough to detect microbes, or even a particle of preanimate matter, on a planet surface.

In 2285, the *Reliant* was under the command of Captain Clark Terrell when it was assigned the task of finding a completely lifeless planet to satisfy the stringent requirements necessary for a top secret test of the Genesis Device.

The crew of the *Reliant*, which included Commander Pavel Chekov and Commander



◀ There were two large shuttlebay doors clearly marked with a '1' and a '2' on the rear of the saucer section on either side of the impulse engine pod. The warp engines were attached to the outer edges of the saucer and had no direct connection to the roll bar above, which was not fitted to variants of the *Miranda* class such as the *Soyuz* class.



Kyle who had both previously served aboard the *Enterprise*, eventually discovered what they believed to be a suitable planet for testing the Genesis Device in the Ceti Alpha system.

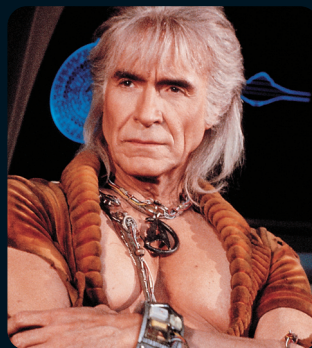
Unfortunately, it turned out to be the planet where Captain Kirk had marooned the genetically enhanced Khan Noonien Singh and his followers 18 years earlier after they tried to take control of the *Enterprise*. The planet had subsequently become almost uninhabitable after the destruction of a nearby planet. Embittered that Kirk had never checked on his fate, Khan seized control of the *Reliant* and lured Kirk and the *Enterprise* to him so he could have his vengeance.

When the unsuspecting *Enterprise* arrived, Khan launched a surprise attack, very nearly destroying the *Enterprise*. It was only Kirk's intimate knowledge of Starfleet ships that saved them as he used the *Reliant*'s prefix code – 16309 – to

take control of their systems and lower the ship's shields. The *Enterprise* was then able to target the *Reliant*'s weapons and warp drive, rendering them temporarily inoperative.

The heavily damaged ships later re-engaged and fought a tense battle inside the Mutara Nebula in which Khan was killed and the *Reliant* destroyed, although victory came at the cost of Spock's life.

▲ The *Reliant*'s impulse engines were positioned at the rear of the saucer section in a similar position to the ones on the *Constitution* class.



DATA FEED

Khan Noonien Singh was a genetically engineered human, who possessed enhanced strength and intelligence. He had tried to take control of Earth during the Eugenics Wars of the 1990s, but instead was overthrown and forced to flee in a sleeper ship. He remained in stasis until 2267 when he tried to take control of the *Enterprise*, but he was thwarted and exiled to Ceti Alpha V.



Battle of the Mutara Nebula

The denouement of *STAR TREK: THE WRATH OF KHAN* featured an epic and tense battle between the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701 and the *U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864 in which Kirk and Khan faced off against each other in a battle of wits.

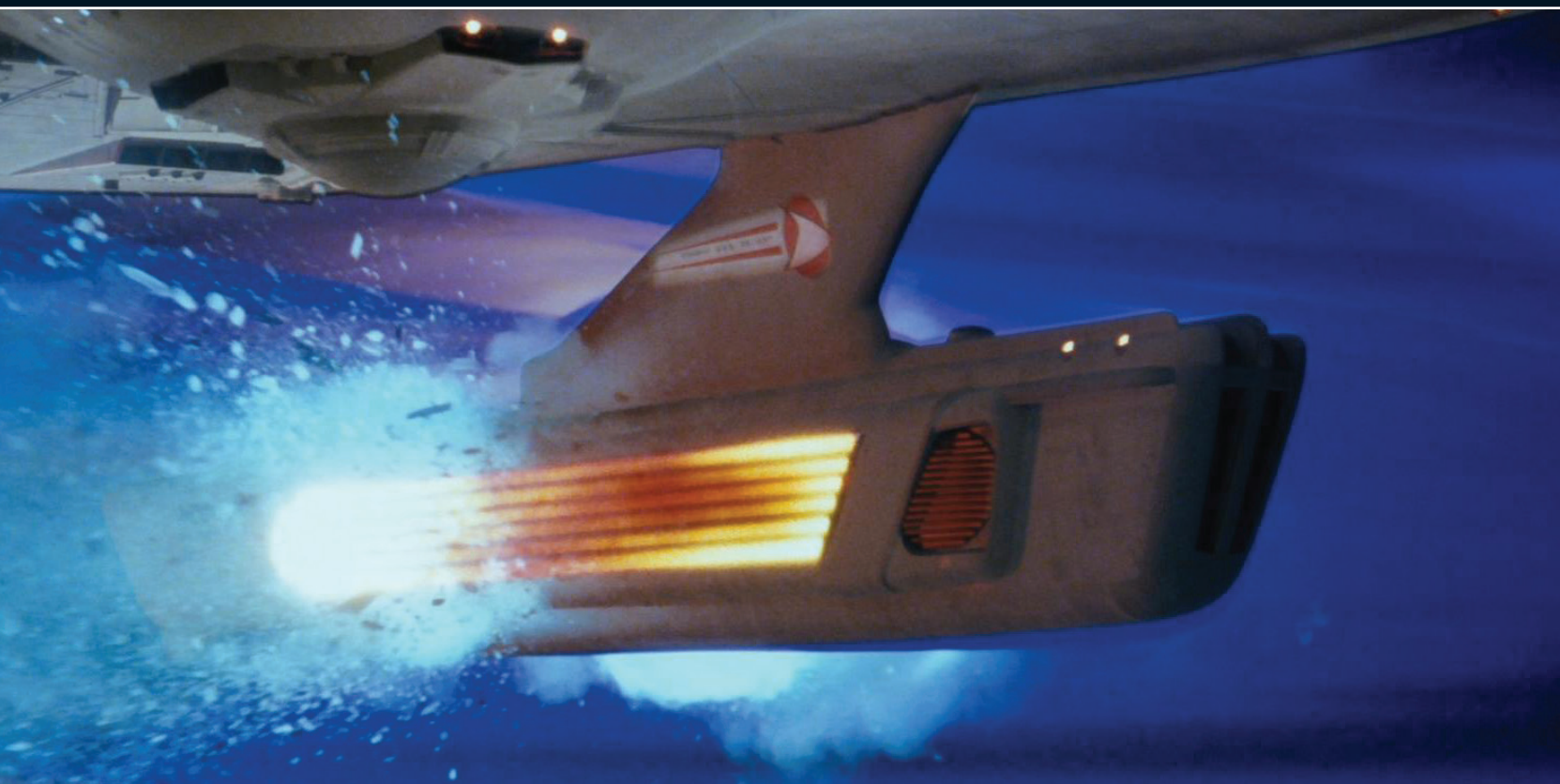
After both ships were damaged during their first skirmish, they withdrew to make repairs, but by the time they re-engaged, the *Enterprise* was in much worse shape than the *Reliant*. It was outmatched in terms of firepower and speed, so Spock advised that they proceed to the nearby Mutara Nebula to help even the odds. This was a swirling, luminescent interstellar dust cloud interlaced with unpredictable electrical charges that rendered both ships' sensors and shields inoperable.

Realizing the limitations of fighting within the nebula, Khan initially refrained from entering until Kirk opened communications and taunted Khan into pursuing the *Enterprise*, knowing he could not resist the opportunity for vengeance.

In the tradition of the best submarine movies, what followed was a battle of wits and cunning as both ships 'blindly' stalked each other, suddenly emerging from the purple haze to fire wildly before disappearing back into the gloom.

Despite having the tactical advantage over the *Enterprise*, Khan ultimately lost the battle due to his lack of strategic experience operating a starship. Spock noted that although Khan was intelligent, his critical weakness was his inexperience with space

► With the port nacelle completely destroyed, the *Reliant* was a sitting duck, but still the severely injured Khan would not surrender.



battle – his attack pattern indicated just “two-dimensional thinking”, not considering attacking from above or below, only on the same plane.

DECISIVE MANOEUVRE

Kirk ordered the *Enterprise* to descend vertically and stand by on photon torpedoes. Once the *Reliant* had passed over them, the *Enterprise* rose up from behind and began a relentless onslaught that destroyed much of the ship’s upper weapons pylon and finally its port nacelle.

Even with the *Reliant* dead in space, Khan refused to accept surrender against his old foe.

Mortally wounded, Khan used his dying breath to set the Genesis Device for detonation, knowing that without warp power, the *Enterprise* would be unable to outrun its blast and his nemesis Kirk would die too.

Thanks only to the supreme sacrifice of Spock, who entered the radiation-contaminated engine compartment to reconnect power to the warp engines, the *Enterprise* just managed to escape before the *Reliant* was completely obliterated by the explosion caused by the Genesis Device. Kirk had defeated Khan, but it had come at a terrible cost: the death of his dearest friend, Spock.

▲ Taking advantage of Khan’s lack of experience in fighting space battles, the *Enterprise* scored a series of decisive phaser hits on the *Reliant* when it firstly took out its weapons ‘roll bar’ (above, far left) and then its port warp nacelle.





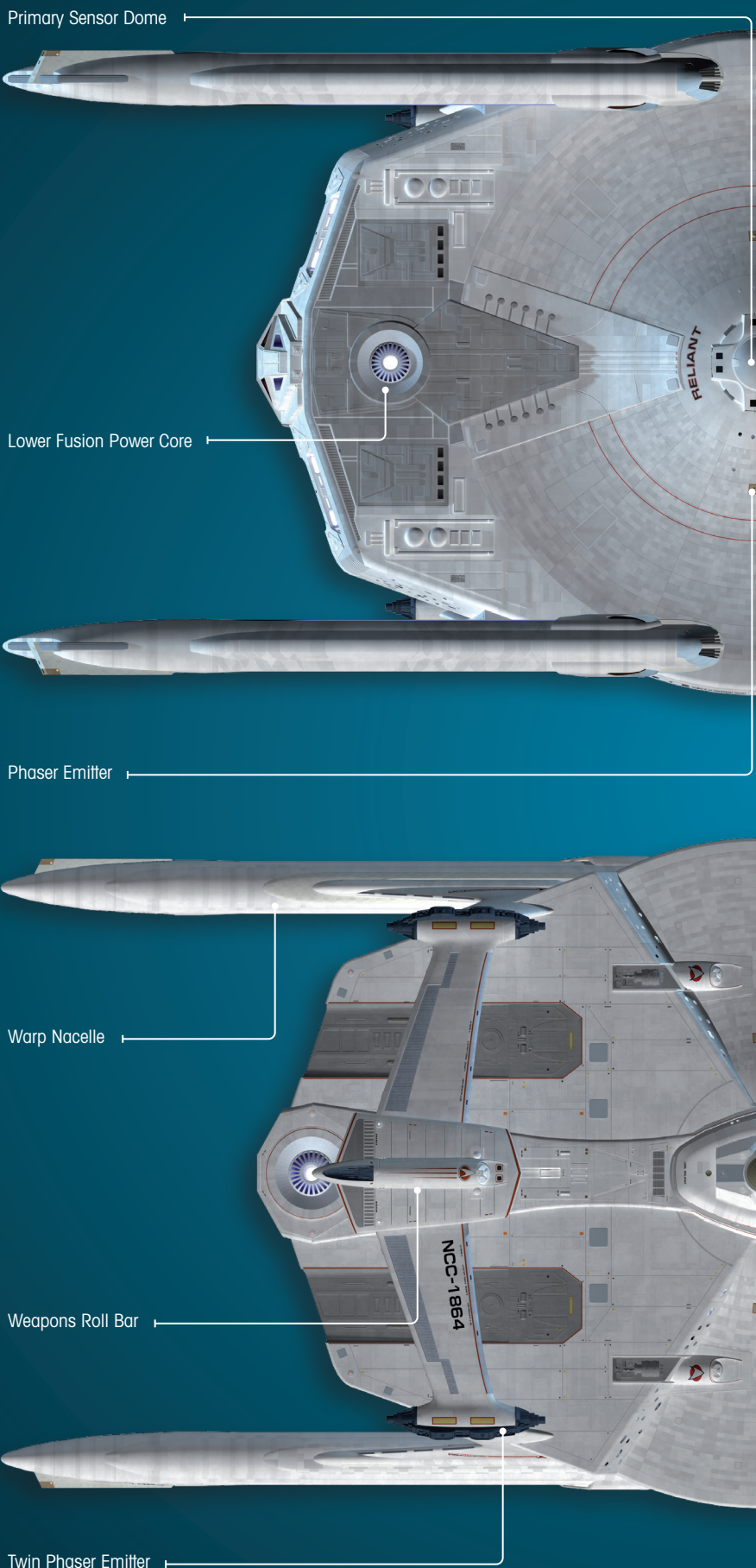
ADDITIONAL WEAPONS

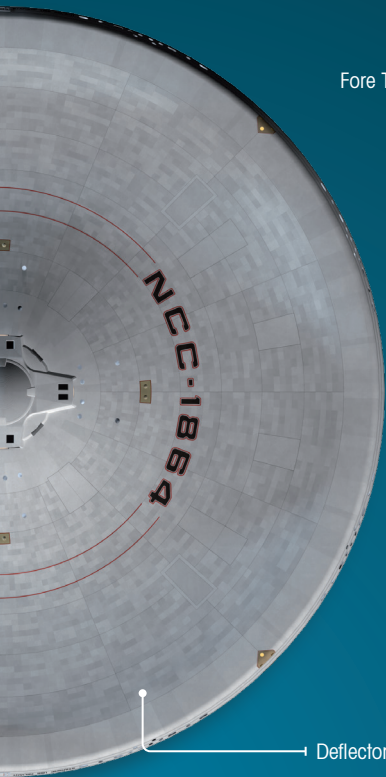
Designed to be used primarily as science research or supply vessels, *Miranda*-class ships were typically not well-armed. In the latter half of the 24th century, for example, the *Miranda*-class *U.S.S. Lantree* NCC-1837 was known as a Class 6 Starfleet supply ship. It was not fitted with the weapons 'roll bar' and was equipped with just basic class 3 defensive armaments.

Other *Miranda*-class vessels, like the *U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864, were equipped with the 'roll bar' and this greatly enhanced their offensive capability. The middle of the 'roll bar' featured a pod containing two forward and two aft facing torpedo launchers, there were also twin phaser emitters located on each 'shoulder' of the 'roll bar'. This made them more than useful in combat situations.

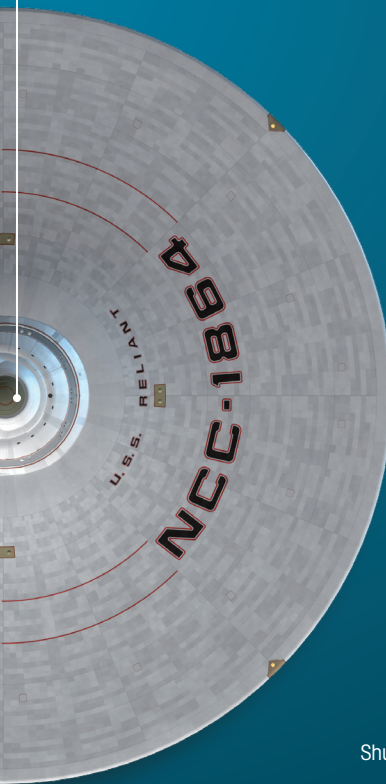


▲ The *U.S.S. Reliant* had standard Starfleet weapons, such as a phaser strip just below the main bridge (top picture), as well as the weapons 'roll bar' that provided additional armaments.

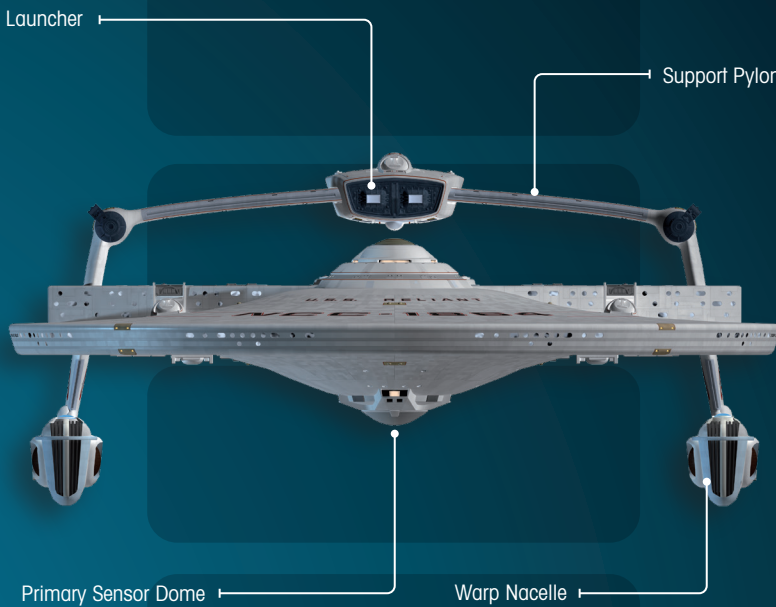




Deflector Grid



Main Bridge



Fore Torpedo Launcher

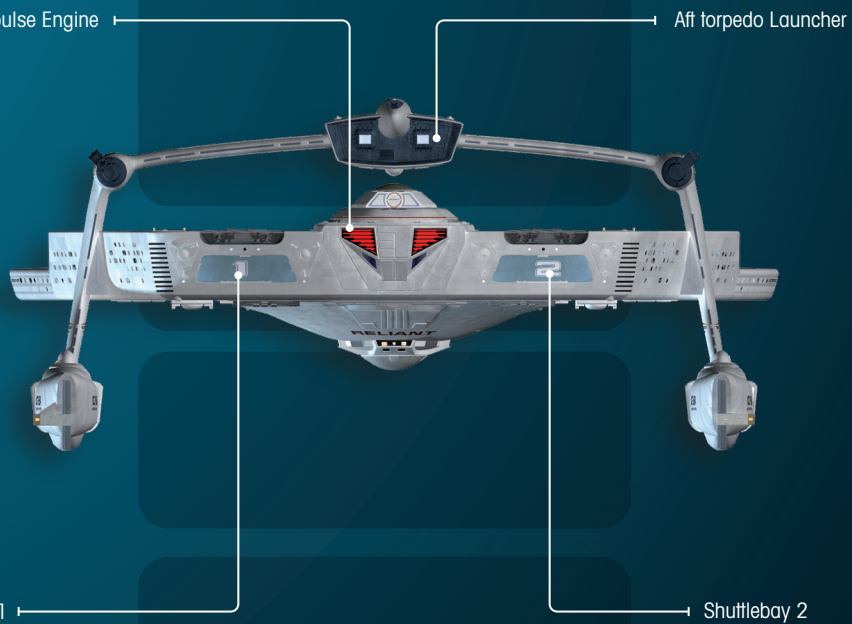
Support Pylon

Primary Sensor Dome

Warp Nacelle

DATA FEED

There have been two *Miranda*-class vessels named the *U.S.S. Saratoga*. The first was the *U.S.S. Saratoga* NCC-1887 that encountered the whale probe in 2286. The second was the *U.S.S. Saratoga* NCC-31911 that was destroyed by the Borg in 2367.



Impulse Engine

Aft torpedo Launcher

Shuttlebay 1

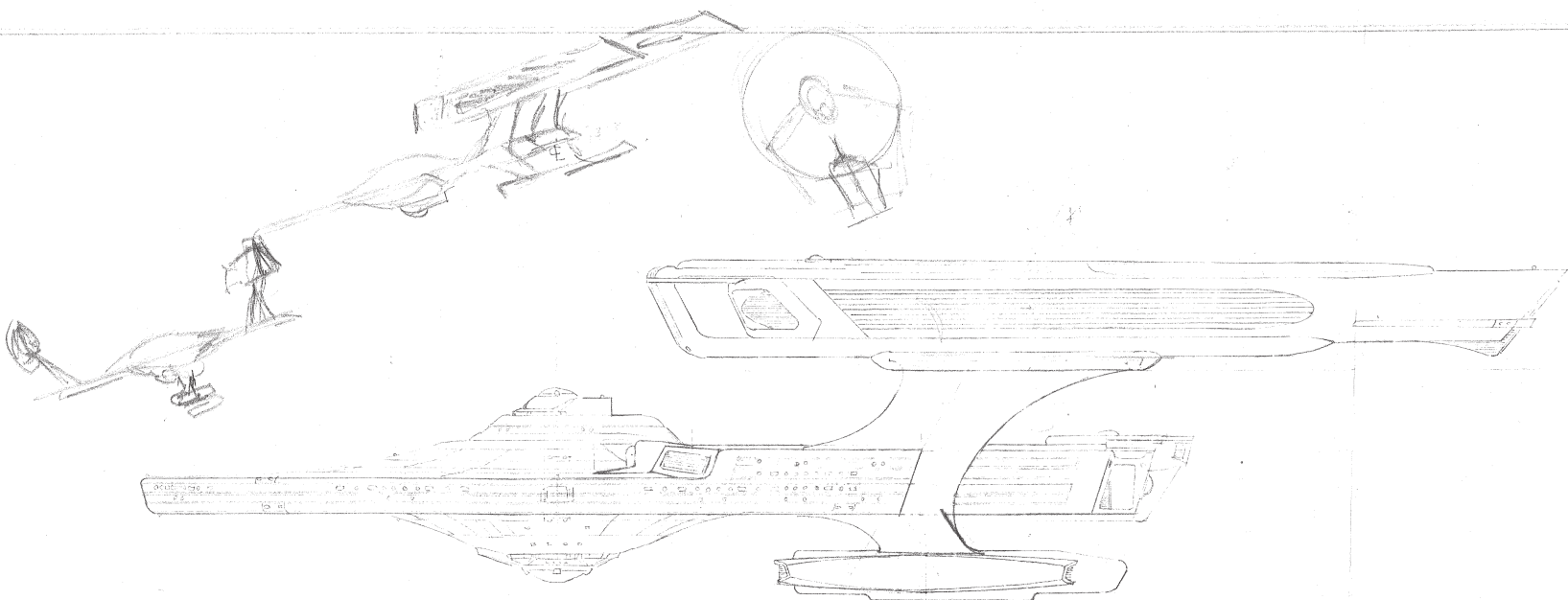
Shuttlebay 2

REDRESSED BRIDGE

The *Reliant* had an identical design of bridge to the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. They were essentially the same except the chairs were given brown upholstery and an extra ceiling piece was added.

COMBAT ACTION

Miranda-class vessels took part in several major battles in the 24th century. They were present in both engagements with the Borg in the Alpha Quadrant and also saw action in numerous Dominion War battles.



▲ The original concept for the *Reliant* shows its origins as a cut down version of the *Enterprise*, with a saucer and nacelles, but no engineering hull.

OUT BOARD 1 PROFILE - PORT SIDE

DESIGNING THE

U.S.S. RELIANT

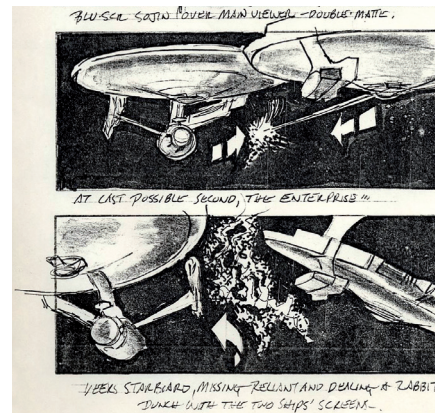
The designers relished the opportunity to create the *U.S.S. Reliant*, the first new Starfleet ship to be seen on screen since the *U.S.S. Enterprise*.

When the *Miranda-class U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864 appeared in *STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN*, it was, surprisingly, the first time a Starfleet starship had been seen on screen that was not actually a redressed *Enterprise* model.

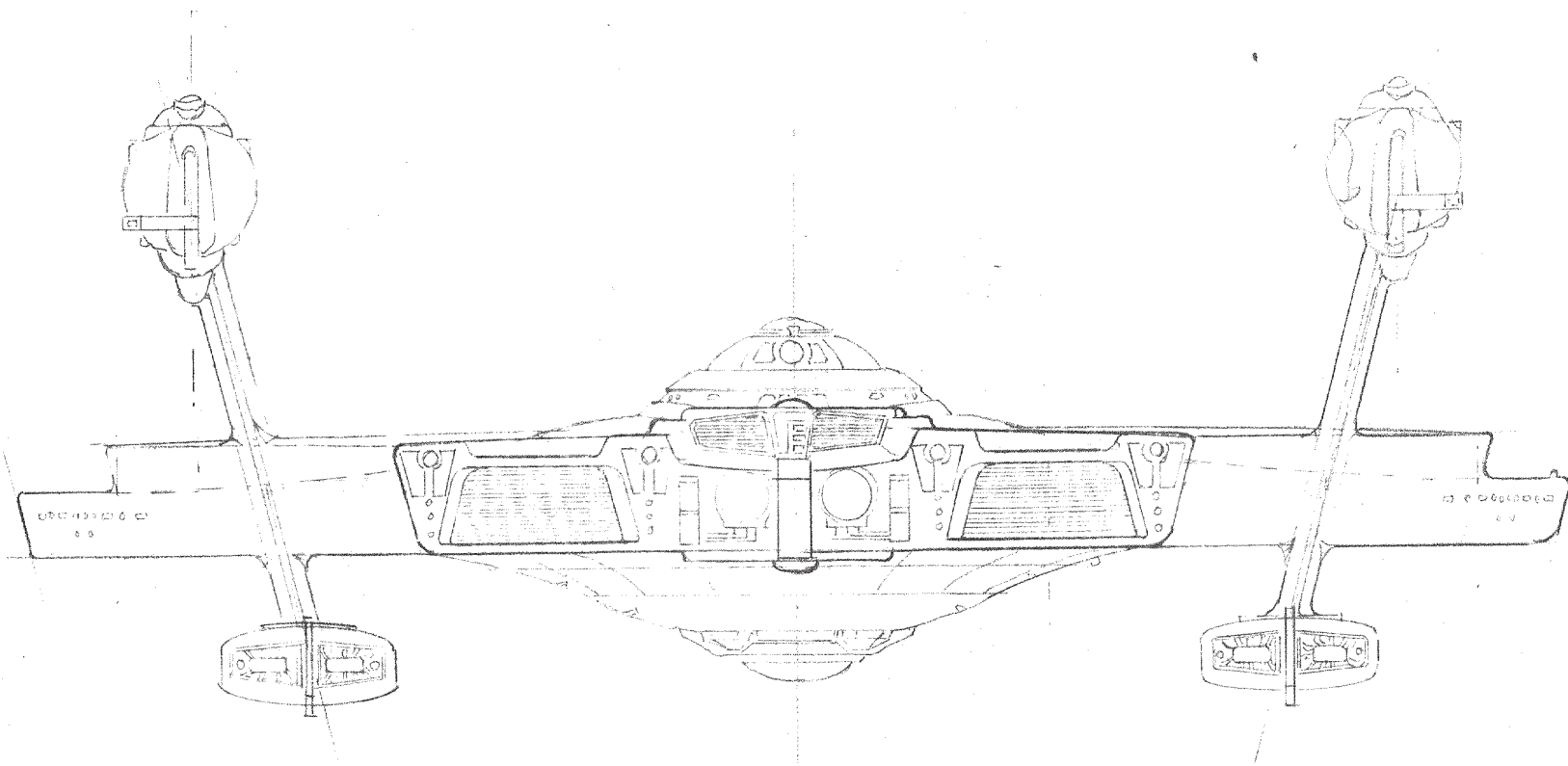
The design of the *Reliant* was mainly the work of two people, production designer Joe Jennings and art director Mike Minor, with contributions by graphic designer Lee Cole.

They set out to make the *Reliant* look distinctly different from the *Enterprise*, but at the same time to make it instantly recognizable as a Starfleet ship, so that it would appear to have come from the same technologic background.

In the earliest scripts of *STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN*, the *Reliant* was described as a *Constitution-class* ship, albeit an older and more worn example than the *Enterprise*. The producers, however, decided that a new design

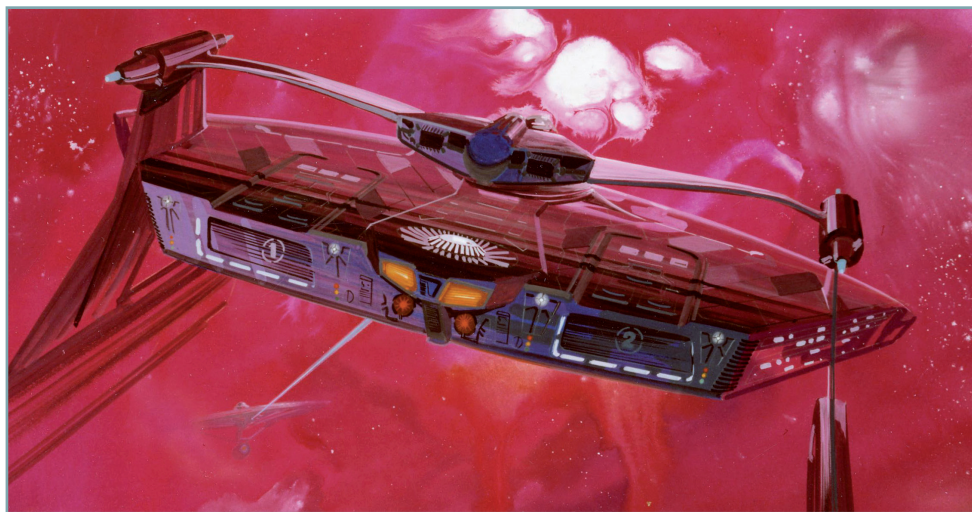


▲ An original storyboard shows the early version of the *Reliant* battling the *Enterprise*.



▲ In these early construction drawings the *Reliant* is shown with the nacelles above the saucer and no roll bar.

► By the time this full-color concept artwork for the battle in the Mutara Nebula was produced the *Reliant* had been reconfigured into the layout that would become familiar.



was needed because they were worried that audiences would struggle to tell the two ships apart, especially during the key battle sequences.

DISTINCT DESIGN

"In the dogfight you had to instantly recognize which ship you were looking at, so they had to look different," said Joe Jennings. "At the same time, you had to make them look like they came from the same culture and had the same technology."

The fact that there was going to be a new design of starship also meant that there was going to be a new studio

model for filming, news that went down particularly well with the people working on the special effects. Ken Ralston, the special effects supervisor, was especially delighted as he had found the *Enterprise* studio model from *STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE* cumbersome and thus difficult to film.

Jennings and Minor relished the challenge of coming up with a brand new design of Starfleet ship and

Jennings later elaborated further on the thinking and process behind the design, explaining, "It was the first time a new spaceship had been designed since the Klingon battle cruiser. That was a lot of fun. (The *Reliant*) was supposed to be a coastal and geodetic survey ship, like a buoy tender. She would be armed perhaps, but only lightly; she wasn't a lion ship like the *Enterprise*. Also remember, the *Enterprise* was supposed

to be an exploratory vessel, where the armament was secondary. That was even more true for the *Reliant*; she was supposed to just stick around in the known universe and take care of things that everybody already knew about. It was fun to try to make it look identifiably different; we had long postulated that the circular saucer said, 'This is Starfleet Navy,' and it uses engines that looked pretty much like those on the *Enterprise*."

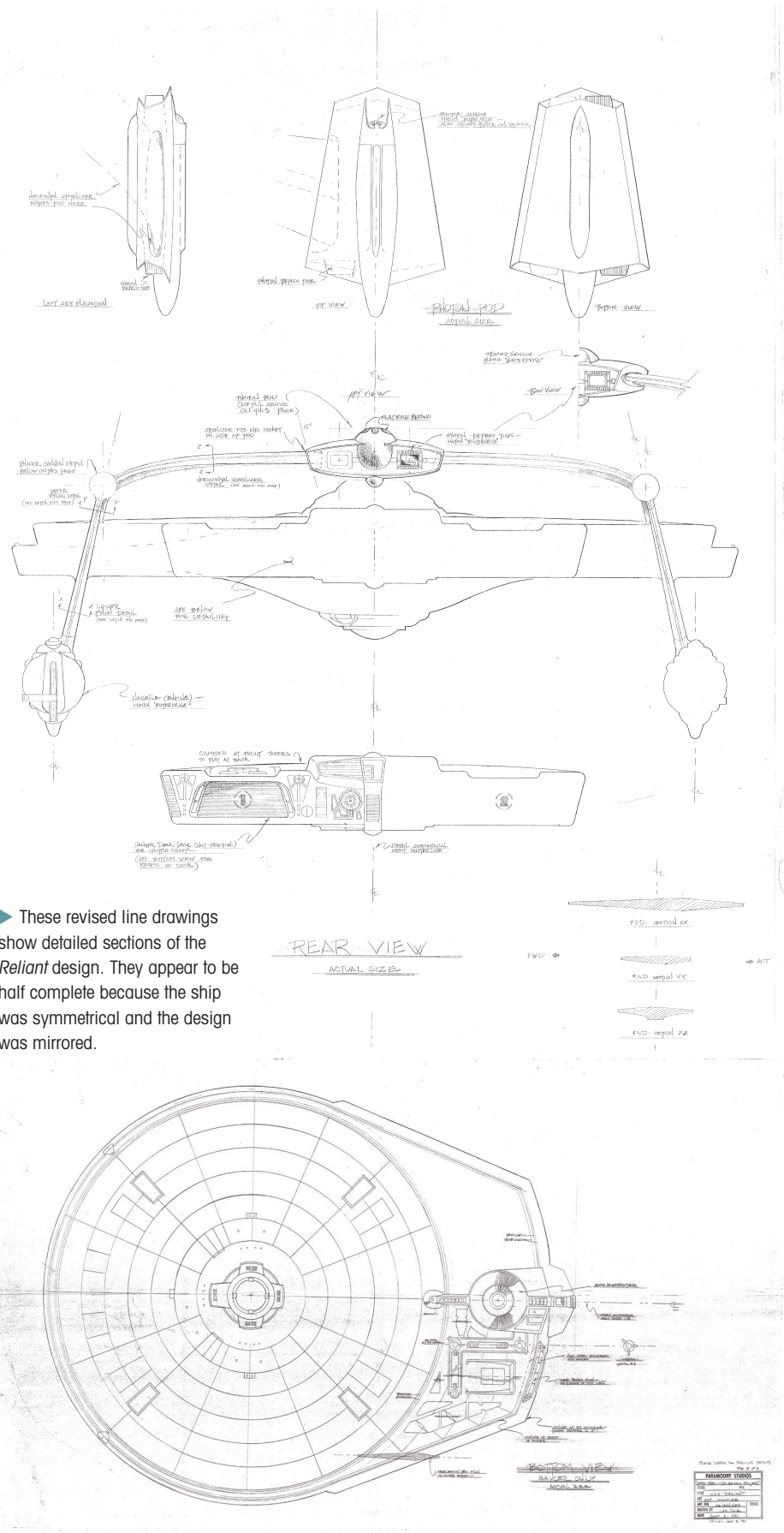
ACCIDENTAL ARRANGEMENT

The original design drawings of the *Reliant* actually featured the warp engines raised above the saucer section on outwardly slanted pylons, similar to how they were on the *Enterprise*, with two counterbalancing torpedo launch pods below the dish. These designs were sent to producer Harve Bennett, who approved them and returned them to the production crew. When they looked at the returned illustrations, however, they discovered that Bennett had been looking at them upside down and signed them off in this inverted state; he had, in effect, approved an upsidedown ship.

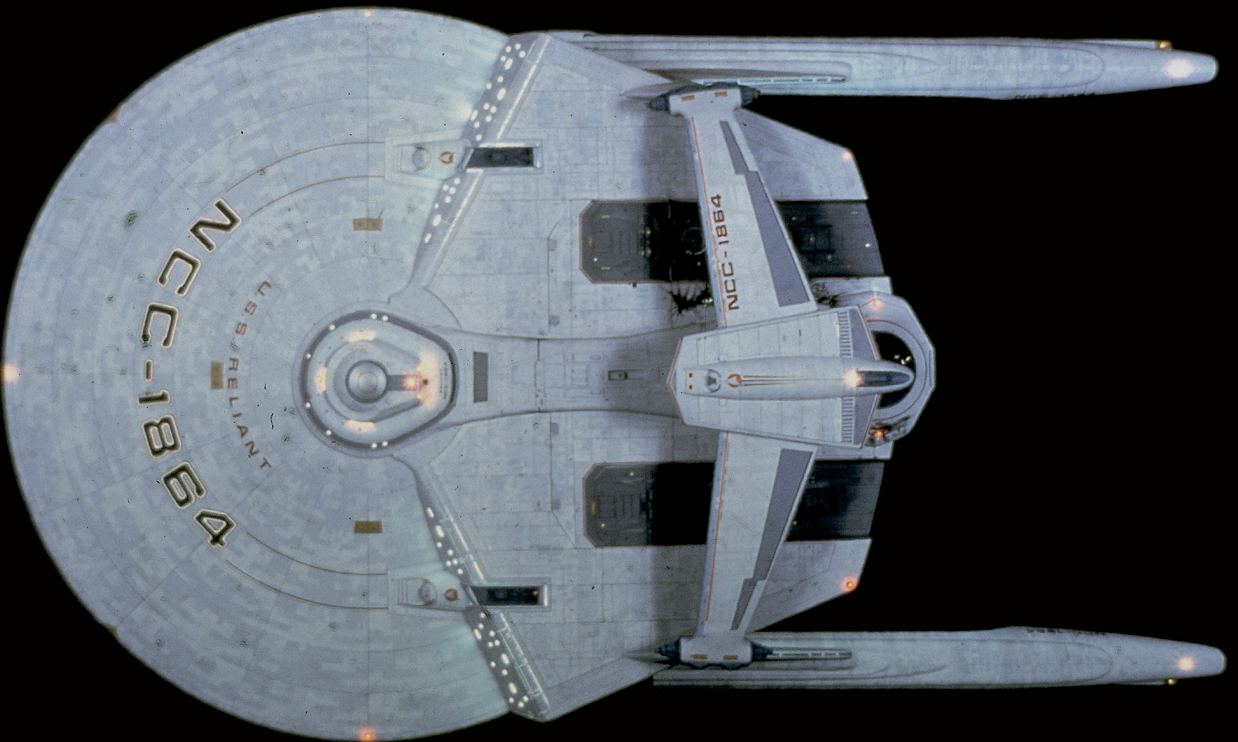
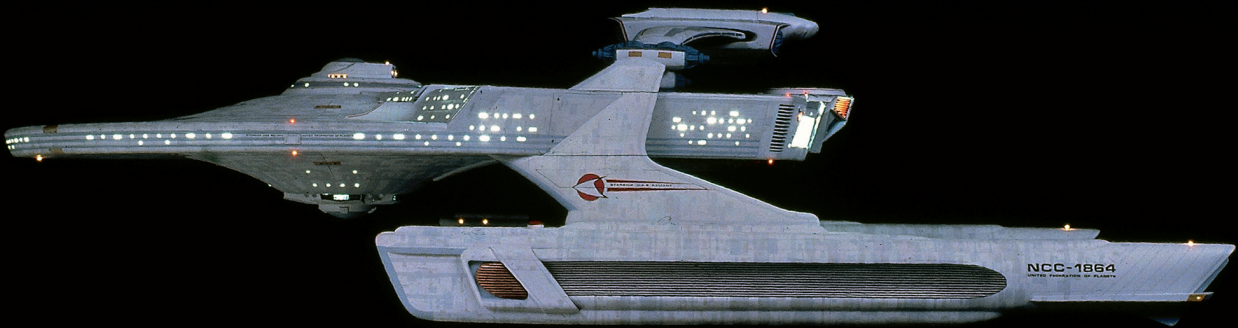
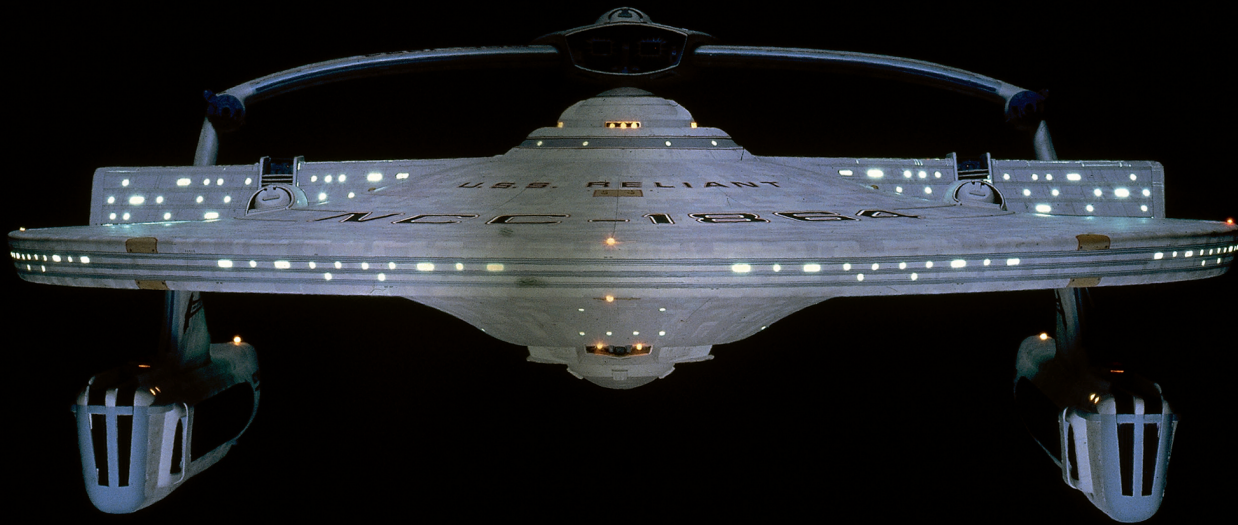
By the time everyone had realized what had happened, Bennett had left the country on another project and there was no time to resubmit the drawings to him in their proper orientation to get his approval.

Instead, it was decided to move the *Reliant*'s warp nacelles below the saucer based on Bennett's approved design. To help balance out the hanging nacelles, a substantial weapons structure was then added in the form of a roll bar above the saucer.

Ironically something similar had happened with Matt Jefferies' original designs for the *Enterprise*, which at one point had nacelles that hung below the saucer. Despite the last minute confusion, the design of Starfleet ships had come full-circle.



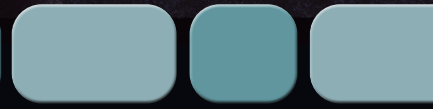
► These revised line drawings show detailed sections of the *Reliant* design. They appear to be half complete because the ship was symmetrical and the design was mirrored.



◀ These pictures show the studio model of the *Reliant* that was built at Industrial Light & Magic based on the design illustrations provided to them by the Paramount art department. The blue coloring shown in these photographs was altered by the filming process which left the ship a lighter gray color



BUILDING & FILMING THE



RELIANT

III The model of the *U.S.S. Reliant* took four painstaking months to build, but proved to be extremely easy to work with and film.

The main task for the Industrial Light & Magic visual effects team on *STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN* was the construction of the *U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864 studio model. Built from scratch under the watchful eye of supervising modelmaker Steve Gawley, it took a whole team of skilled modelmakers approximately four months to complete.

One of ILM's main goals was to make a model that was easy to work with. The eight-foot-long model of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* that had been made for the previous film had proved difficult to film because it was large and cumbersome, and had a complicated, highly-reflective paint scheme. ILM did not want another model that was so difficult to work with.

As a result the model of the *Reliant* was made at three-quarters scale compared with the *Enterprise* and constructed from vacuum-formed sections over an aluminium interior frame, which made it very light. It had numerous mount points, meaning it could be filmed from multiple angles, while the interior wiring was kept as simple as possible, limited only to what was required as it was written in the script.

Visual effects supervisor Ken Ralston, who was in charge of filming the *Reliant* model, was delighted with the results. Interviewed after the completion of the movie, Ralston commented "It's a gorgeous model, perfectly constructed for shooting. It's light,

highly detailed, non-reflective and could be easily mounted from all sides for any possible setup."

The biggest challenge the ILM team faced was that the script called for the *Reliant* to be hit by multiple weapons fire, but they did not want to damage the model. To get round this they created larger versions of different parts of the ship that could be destroyed. The weapons 'roll bar' had already been constructed as a removable piece to make the model even easier to handle, but for the scene where it was hit by phaser fire another battle-damaged duplicate was constructed.

Another piece that was built in a similar way was the port nacelle. "One of the engine pods blows up," remembered Ralston. "We couldn't blow up the whole pod for some reason, so I built a shape similar to it and it was more like glass blowing out of the warp nacelle. We shot that as a separate element and then printed that on top of the actual model for the *Reliant*, with other pieces blowing off of it. Then, when the whole nacelle blows off, that was just a bunch of explosions and a separate arm that we shot using motion control."

All-in-all the model of the *Reliant* proved a huge success and went on to appear in several more *STAR TREK* movies and TV episodes redressed as different ships. This original studio model was sold at auction in 2006 for \$50,000 and is currently held by the Science Fiction Archives in France.



▲ The script called for the weapons 'roll bar' to be destroyed so to avoid damage to the original model a second 'roll bar' was created.



▲ The studio model of the *Reliant* was extremely easy to set up for filming thanks to its light weight and multiple mounting points.

ON SCREEN



TRIVIA

Kirstie Alley would go on to have a hugely successful career in both film and television, but her portrayal of Saavik marked her first big screen appearance. Director Nicolas Meyer thought she was a natural for the role, commenting, "She said as a child she wanted to be Spock and that she was so in love with the role that she wore her ears to sleep."



Actor Paul Winfield, who played Captain Terrell in *STAR TREK II: WRATH OF KHAN*, would later guest star as Captain Dathon in the *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* episode, Darmok.



The RELIANT is officially a Miranda-class vessel, but its class name was never mentioned in *STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN*. In fact, the name was not used until it was seen on screen in an episode of *THE NEXT GENERATION* on several pieces of signage. According to *The Star Trek Encyclopedia*, the class was "named for Prospero's daughter, a character in William Shakespeare's play, 'The Tempest'".

- FIRST APPEARANCE:** STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN
- MOVIE APPEARANCE:** STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN
- DESIGNED BY:** Joe Jennings and Mike Minor

KEY APPEARANCE

STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN

Under the command of Captain Clark Terrell, the *U.S.S. Reliant* NCC-1864 is assigned to look for a suitable lifeless planet to test the Genesis Device. This radical new terraforming technology can both create and destroy worlds.

The crew of the *Reliant* find what they believe is a suitable planet in the Ceti Alpha system, but it turns out to be home to a small group of refugees from the Eugenics Wars of 1990s Earth led by Khan Noonien Singh. Captain Kirk had left them stranded on the planet 15 earlier after they tried to take control of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701. In

the meantime the neighboring planet had exploded, leaving their world a wasteland.

Using his genetically-enhanced intelligence, Khan is quickly able to take control of the *Reliant* and the Genesis Device before plotting his revenge against Kirk for leaving him and his people marooned on a dying planet.

Khan manages to lure the *Enterprise* to him and the two ships become embroiled in a deadly game of cat and mouse inside the Mutara Nebula. This culminates in Khan detonating the Genesis Device and Spock is forced to make the ultimate sacrifice to save the *Enterprise* and her crew.

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- In-depth profile of the *Akira Class* and its role in defending Earth from the Borg during the Battle of Sector 001
- A look at the artwork and story behind the design of the *Akira Class*
- Creating the CGI version of the *Akira Class* for the big screen



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