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ROMULAN

BIRD-OF-PREY (2152)

BIRD-OF-PREY

LAUNCHED: 22nd C

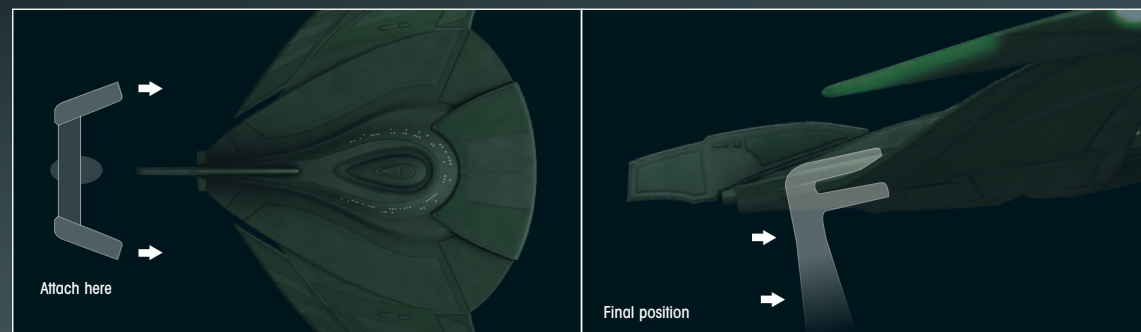
LENGTH: 130 METERS

WEAPONS: DISRUPTORS

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Stand assembly:



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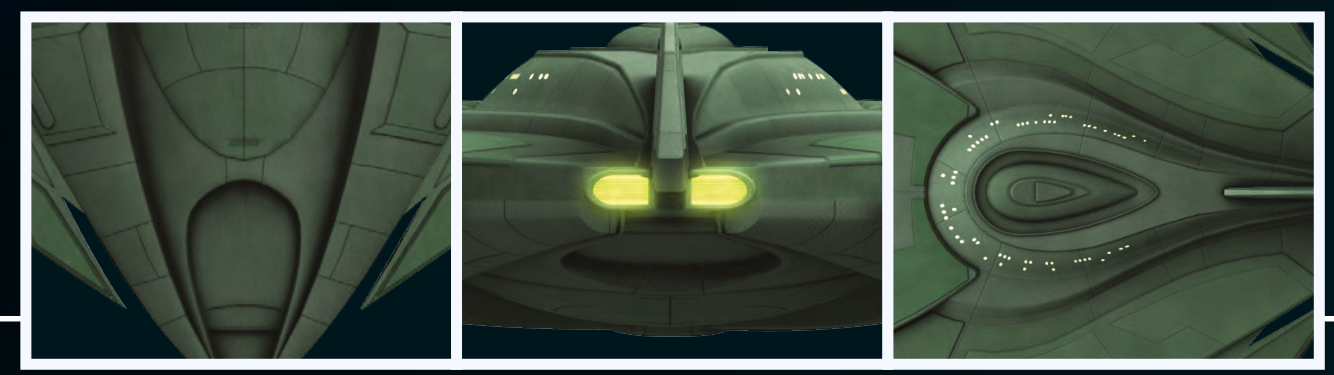
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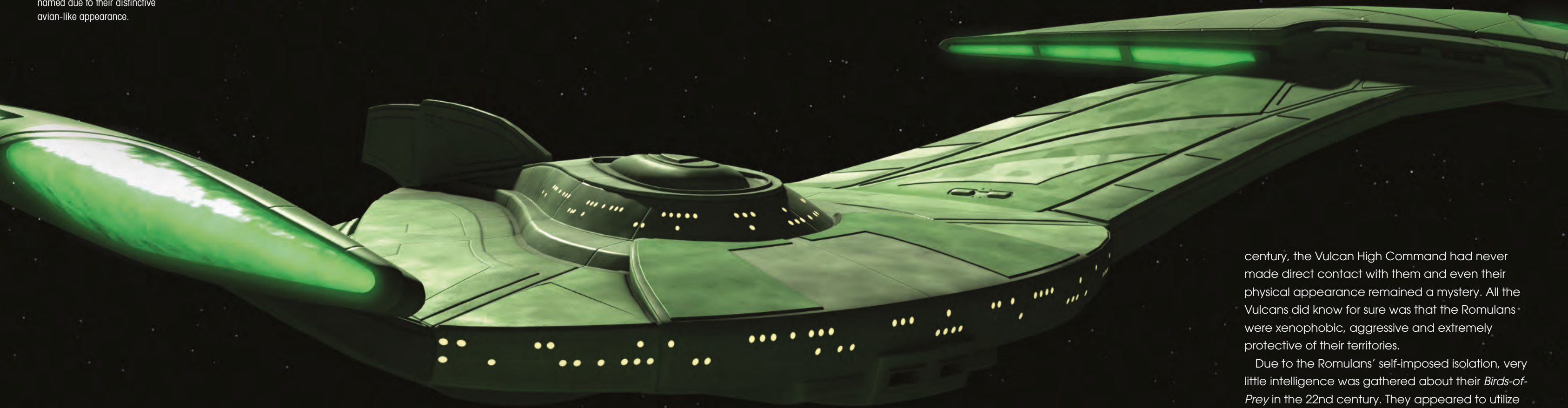
ROMULAN *BIRD-OF-PREY* SPECIFICATION



OPERATED BY:	ROMULAN STAR EMPIRE
CONSTRUCTED:	22 ND CENTURY
LENGTH:	130 METERS
DEFENSES:	CLOAKING DEVICE
WEAPONRY:	DISRUPTOR CANNONS



▼ Romulan *Birds-of-Prey* had an aggressive appearance and were so named due to their distinctive avian-like appearance.



The Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* of the 22nd century was a warp-capable starship equipped with disruptor banks and advanced cloaking technology. Its name was derived from its distinctive appearance that closely resembled a giant predatory bird.

The avian styling of these ships was probably influenced by the Romulans' origins. They began as a revolutionary group of Vulcans who refused

to accept the Vulcan philosopher Surak's teachings of complete suppression of emotions, and they became known as "those who march beneath the raptor's wings." The raptor, or bird-of-prey, thus became an iconic symbol and was a recurring motif in Romulan design.

At approximately 130 meters in length, the Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* was composed of a single hull shaped like an elongated saucer with upswept

warp nacelles mounted on either side. The ship was colored dark green and the warp nacelles gave off an intense green glow. The command center appeared to be located in the middle of the dorsal side of the saucer and a raised fin ran behind it all the way to the rear of the ship.

The Romulans operated in extreme secrecy and had a near-paranoid reticence to reveal any information about themselves. By the mid-22nd

century, the Vulcan High Command had never made direct contact with them and even their physical appearance remained a mystery. All the Vulcans did know for sure was that the Romulans were xenophobic, aggressive and extremely protective of their territories.

Due to the Romulans' self-imposed isolation, very little intelligence was gathered about their *Birds-of-Prey* in the 22nd century. They appeared to utilize them mainly to patrol and protect their borders. Any ships that intruded into their territory were intercepted and ordered to leave immediately.

FIRST ENCOUNTER

This was certainly the case in 2152 when the *Enterprise* NX-01 unintentionally entered a cloaked minefield in orbit of a Romulan-claimed planet. While the crew of the *Enterprise* were trying to deactivate a mine that had attached itself to the hull of the ship, a cloaked Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* was able to approach completely undetected.

ROMULAN 22ND CENTURY

BIRD-OF-PREY

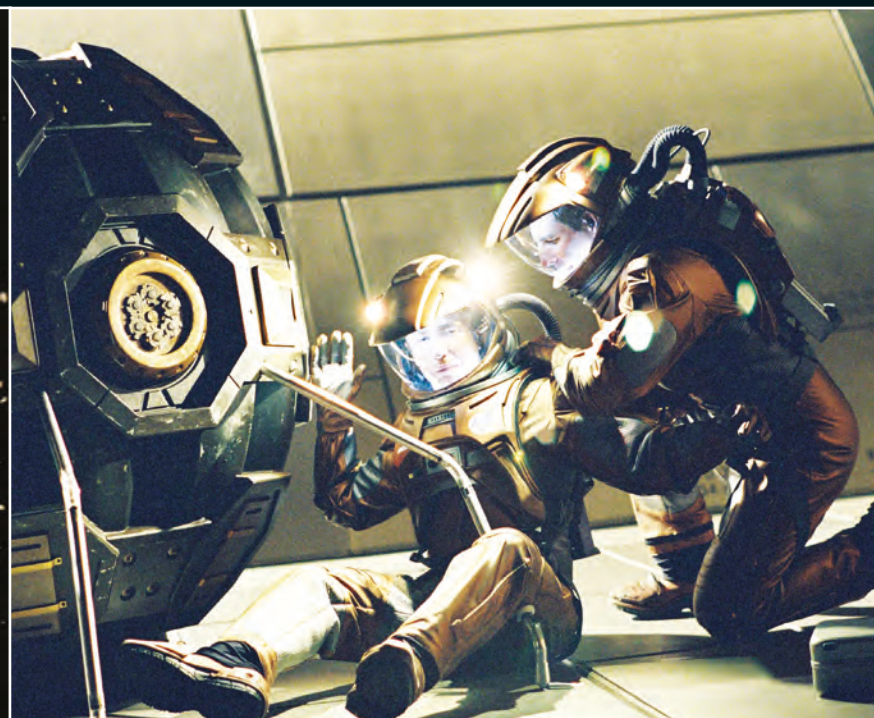
The Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* was a tactically advanced ship used to aggressively protect the race's borders.



DATA FEED

In addition to the *Bird-of-Prey*, the Romulan fleet of the 22nd century was known to include the larger Romulan *Warbird* and Romulan drone-ships.

◀ The Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* encountered in 2152 was equipped with advanced cloaking technology that rendered it completely invisible to the *Enterprise* NX-01's sensors. Even when the *Bird-of-Prey* was not cloaked, it reflected the *Enterprise*'s sensors so no information was recorded about its interior or capability.



◀ As Lieutenant Reed was trying to disarm the mine, a spike shot out and went straight through his leg. Captain Archer attempted to free him before the Romulans returned.

▶ In addition to the *Bird-of-Prey*, the Romulan fleet in the 22nd century also consisted of powerful drone-ships that could be remotely piloted from their homeworld.



▲ When the *Enterprise NX-01* hit a mine, it created a thermo-kinetic explosion that caused a breach in the ship's hull.



◀ The *Enterprise* was monitored closely by a *Bird-of-Prey* as it made its way carefully out of the vast minefield that surrounded the planet.

▶ The *Enterprise* just managed to rescue Archer and Reed and jump to warp seconds before two *Birds-of-Prey* swooped in for the kill.



▲ Disruptor fire from a Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* took the form of a green bolt of light. It was likely that just a few direct hits from these disruptors would have been enough to destroy the *Enterprise*.

The *Enterprise* had managed to modify its quantum beacons to reveal the cloaked mines, but they were unable to detect the *Bird-of-Prey*. This indicated that the Romulan ship used a more advanced form of cloaking technology than the mines, giving it a huge tactical advantage. Once the Romulan ship had decloaked, it hailed the *Enterprise*, but the universal translator was unable to decipher their communication. It soon became abundantly clear what the Romulans wanted, however, as they charged their disruptors and fired a couple of warning shots within 20 meters of the *Enterprise* before cloaking again.

It was evident from this exchange that the *Bird-of-Prey* had to decloak before it could fire its weapons. This was because the cloak required huge amounts of power to work effectively. The

ship simply could not safely generate enough energy to power both its cloak and its weapons at the same time without risking a catastrophic overload of the engines.

FINAL WARNING

Despite activating the ship's cloak again and disappearing from view, the Romulans continued to closely monitor the *Enterprise*. When it had still not left the system a few hours later, the first *Bird-of-Prey* had been joined by a second Romulan ship. In a show of strength, they decloaked simultaneously and ordered the *Enterprise* to leave immediately or be destroyed.

The *Bird-of-Prey* scanners were sophisticated enough to tell exactly how many crew members were on board the *Enterprise* and that one of them

-Lieutenant Reed -was impaled to the hull of the ship by one of the supports on their mine. Their scans also showed that the *Enterprise* crew had made preparations to detach the hull segment surrounding the mine if it proved necessary.

The Romulans did not care about Lieutenant Reed's plight, but were more concerned that the *Enterprise* was engaged in espionage. It was clear that the *Birds-of-Prey* were capable and fully prepared to destroy the *Enterprise*. Fortunately, Reed was rescued and the ship jumped to warp before the Romulans could fire their weapons. The *Birds-of-Prey* made no attempt to pursue them.

This encounter marked the first incident between a Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* and a ship from Earth, but there would soon be many more in the Earth-Romulan War that was fought between 2156-2160.

DATA FEED

The *Enterprise NX-01* was equipped with quantum beacons that were mounted on the ship's grapples. This sensor technology was provided by Daniels, a temporal agent from the 31st century, to unmask cloaked Suliban stealth-

cruisers. By shifting their phase variance to the gamma spectrum they also revealed the cloaked Romulan mines. They were, however, unable to penetrate the more sophisticated cloaks used by the Romulan *Birds-of-Prey*.



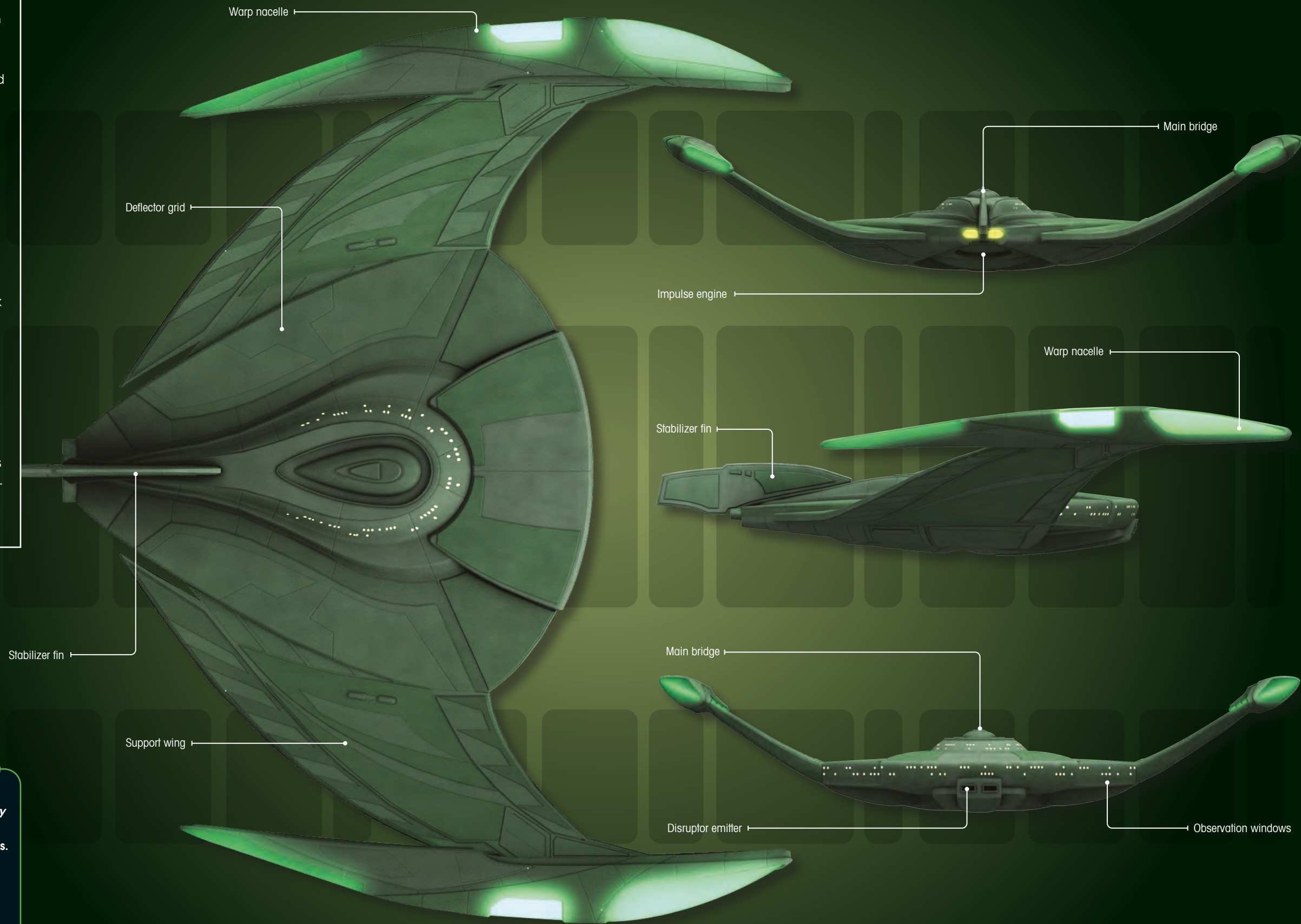
CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY

The Romulans were the first known race to independently develop cloaking devices. The *Enterprise NX-01* had previously encountered Suliban ships that used cloaking devices, but this technology had been given to them by a mysterious benefactor from the 29th century.

The Romulan cloaking device was tied into a ship's deflector grid and worked by selectively bending the light around it to render it invisible to the electromagnetic spectrum. It took a long time for the Romulans to develop this stealth technology, and it was still not perfect even a century after it was first used. In 2266, the *U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701* was able to pick up a blip on its tracking sensors to detect a cloaked Romulan *Bird-of-Prey*. This blip only appeared when the *Bird-of-Prey* moved, but it was enough to locate the vessel.

DATA FEED

It is possible that Romulan *Birds-of-Prey* were equipped with more powerful weaponry in addition to their disruptors. Certainly by the 23rd century they also carried massively powerful plasma torpedoes that were capable of obliterating outposts buried a mile deep on solid iron asteroids.

**AVIAN MOTIF**

The emblem of the Romulan Star Empire depicts a large bird of prey clutching the worlds of Romulus and Remus. An avian motif would be painted on the underside of later Romulan ships.

MAXIMUM VELOCITY

While the top speed of Romulan *Birds-of-Prey* of the 22nd century remained unclear, the Romulan *Warbird* of the same era could attain a speed of Warp 5.

SHORT PATH TO WAR

The Romulan *Birds-of-Prey* that chased the *Enterprise NX-01* from their territory in 2152 marked the first recorded encounter between humans and Romulans. Just four years later, in 2156, all-out war erupted between the forces of United Earth and the Romulans, and would continue until 2160.

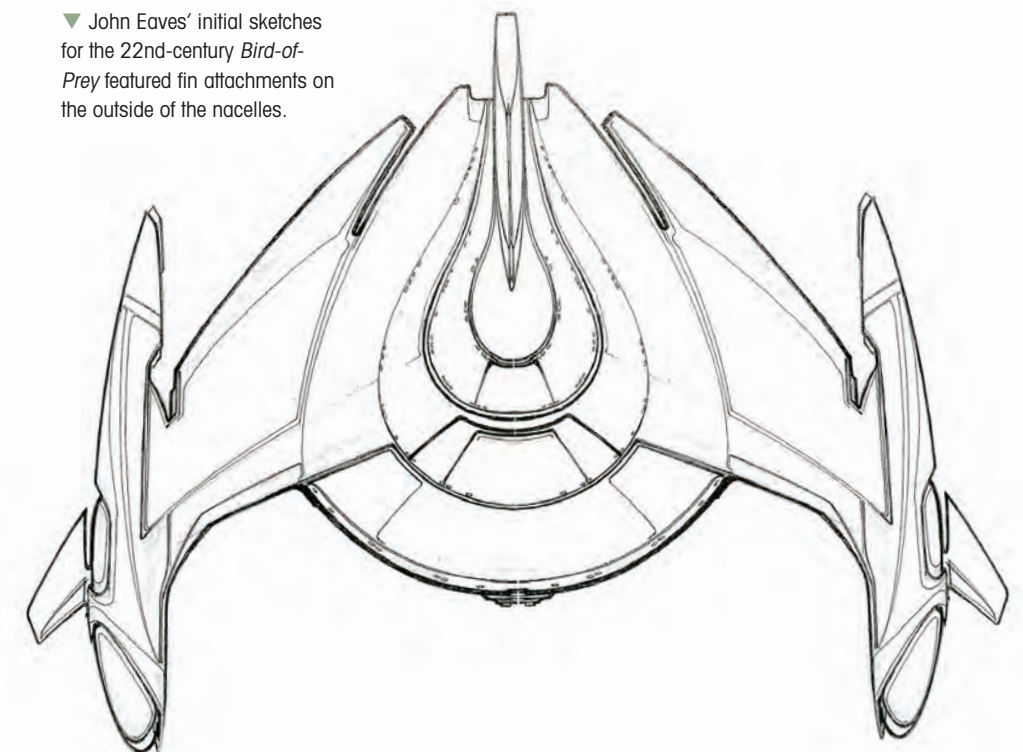
▲ It never appeared on screen but *ENTERPRISE* VFX artist Rob Bonchune still created this version of the *Bird-of-Prey*, with the bird design on the underside as John Eaves had intended.

► *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* studio model was designed and built by Wah Chang in just two weeks. It was delivered unpainted and the bird graphic was added later.

► Chang's *Bird-of-Prey* model was constructed out of vacuum-formed plastic, plaster and metal parts. It featured internal wiring for the lighting and measured approximately 2.5 feet in width.



▼ John Eaves' initial sketches for the 22nd-century *Bird-of-Prey* featured fin attachments on the outside of the nacelles.



DESIGNING THE ROMULAN BIRD-OF-PREY

The Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* was the first new Romulan ship to feature in *STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE*. Production illustrator John Eaves was responsible for developing the design of this 22nd-century ship, and, as with the earlier Klingon vessels he had developed for *ENTERPRISE*, he was enormously excited to envisage a new starship for one of *STAR TREK*'s classic races.

"The art department was again filled with glee at the prospect of bringing in a legendary adversary to the latest version of *STAR TREK*," said John Eaves.

"Immediately the consensus was to retro-out Wah Chang's original design for our episode, as we had done with Matt Jefferies' Klingon battle cruiser that featured in the episode 'Unexpected.'

DESIGN LEGEND

One of the reasons that Eaves was such an ideal candidate to take on this task was that he was thoroughly acquainted with the history of *STAR TREK* design. He knew that Hawaiian designer and sculptor Wah Ming Chang was one of the great unsung heroes of

THE ORIGINAL SERIES. Largely unknown at the time, Chang had contributed numerous props and creature designs to the classic series, some of his most iconic creations being the phaser, the communicator, the tricorder, the Gorn and the tribble. Chang also designed and built the 23rd-century Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* that appeared in the episode 'Balance of Terror.'

Eaves knew that the *Bird-of-Prey* he was designing for *ENTERPRISE* had to pay homage to Chang's celebrated creation. "The Wah Chang ship was

always a favorite," said Eaves, "so I didn't want to veer too far from it, but I wanted to do a phase prior to *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* version. I followed his lines a little bit, and then added more segregation on the parts of the hull."

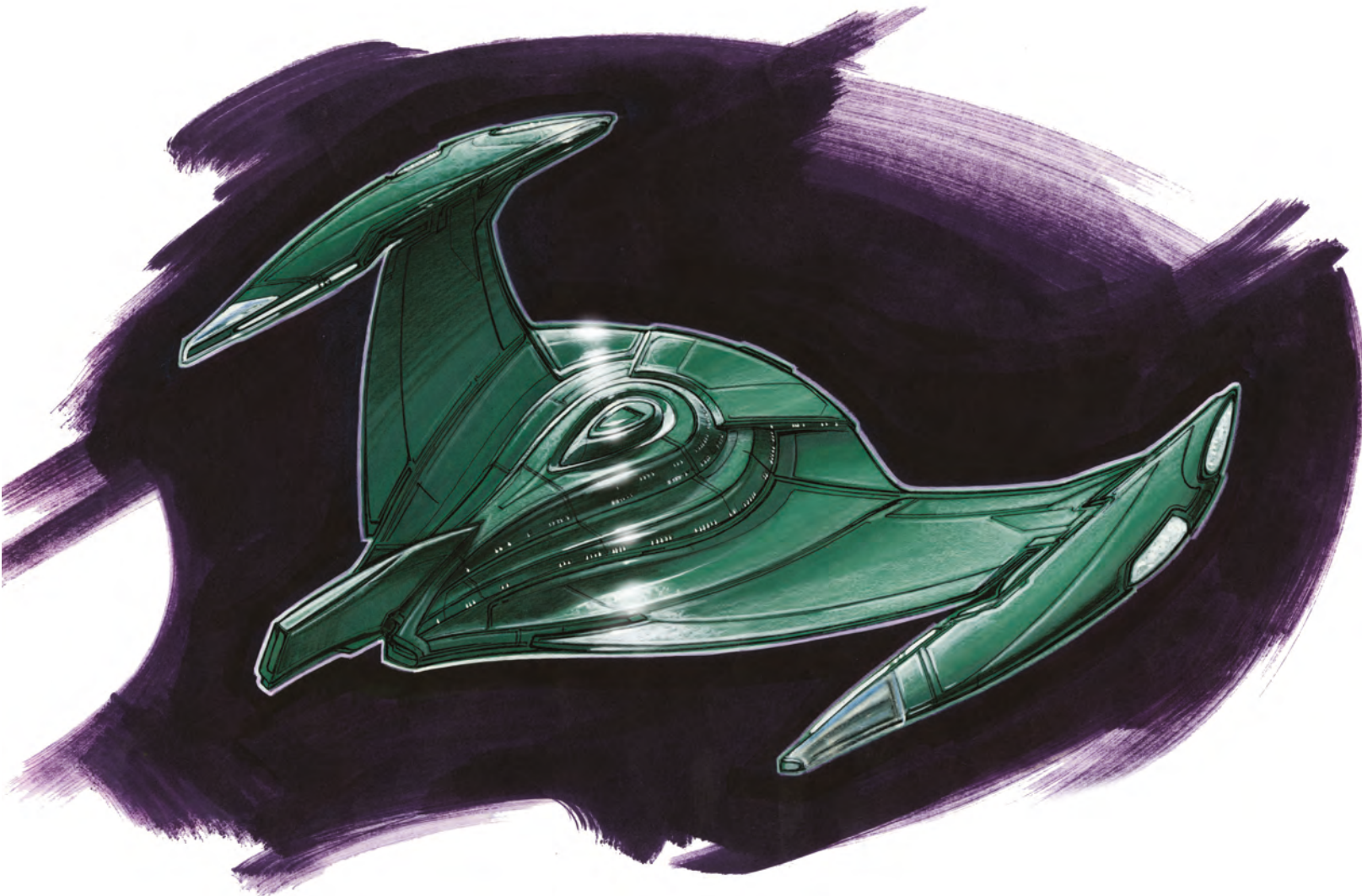
Segmenting the different parts of the ship – where one section can be seen joining to another section – was a key aspect of a successful design for Eaves as it made the ship look slightly older, but also dynamic. Besides, the smooth hull appearance of Chang's 1960s design would not have worked with

modern visual effects. "With today's technology," said Eaves, "you can't go to the old 1960s style because the ships just wouldn't look right. You always have to design something that

matches today's visual-effects style. The VFX guys always wanted deep shadows and detail lines to help make the ship look authentic on screen. Something that was completely

smooth, like Chang's design was, would never make it through the approval process today."

One of the details that Eaves added in his initial designs was little wing fins



on the side of the nacelles. These can be seen in an early black-and-white sketch he drew as he experimented with different looks for the ship. "Those little wings tips were added detail," said Eaves, "but after I'd done a couple of versions of it, I abandoned them. I decided I'd taken it too far past where the design architecture had been established."

THREATENING LOOK

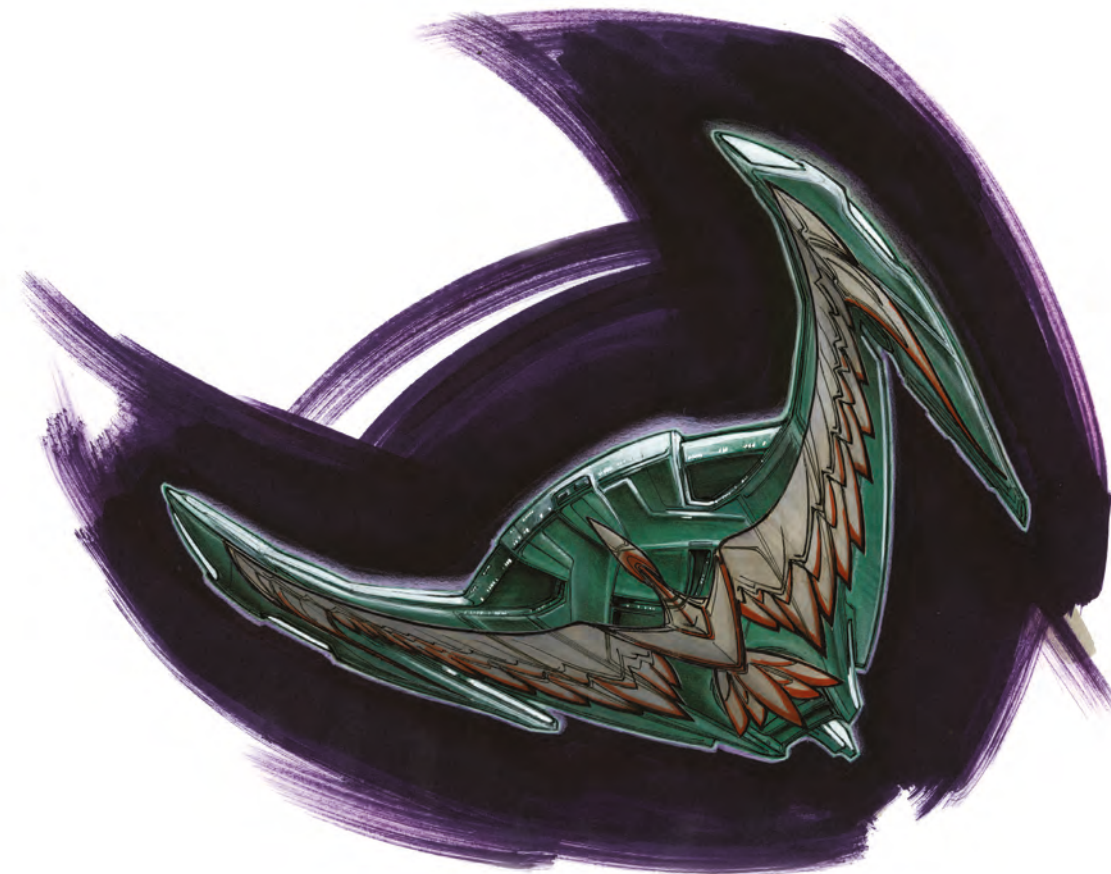
Eaves also made changes to the nacelles themselves as he sought to

create a style more in keeping with the sinister Romulans. "The nacelles on the early black-and-white drawing seemed a little bit too rounded," said Eaves, "so that's why they evolved into jagged points. I thought the early design had too much of a soft, friendly look for an aggressive ship. That's why they go from the rounded tips to the more bull-horn-type points that I did in the colored drawings."

As a final nod to Chang's original design, Eaves drew a bird-of-prey graphic on the underside of the ship.

"I was trying to mimic that beautiful drawing Chang had on the bottom of his design," said Eaves. "I was trying to take his drawing back a little in time as well, but make it fit the new shape."

Unfortunately, this aspect of the design was vetoed. "It didn't make it through approval at all," said Eaves. "In fact, it got rejected brutally. I was hoping it would make it through because it was a neat way to pay homage to Chang's ship. But I understood that it had to go, as *ENTERPRISE* was set in a different era."



◀ The finished design of the Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* featured more pointed nacelles to help give it a more aggressive look. Eaves also added plenty of surface detail, as this helped to make the ship look more realistic when it was turned into a CG model.

◀ Eaves added a bird-of-prey graphic to the underside of the ship in one of his illustrations in homage to Wah Chang's original design. While Eaves hoped this graphic would make it onto the CG screen version, it was ultimately decided that it did not fit in with the overall design ethos that had been established on *ENTERPRISE*.



THE ORIGINAL

ROMULANS

▲ From their first appearance in the episode 'Balance of Terror,' it was obvious that the Romulans were based on the Roman Empire.

The Romulans are *STAR TREK*'s oldest recurring villains, but they are also one of the most mysterious. It is easy to forget that they appeared in just two episodes of *THE ORIGINAL SERIES*.

The Romulans first appeared in 'Balance of Terror,' which was *STAR TREK*'s ninth episode. They were created by freelance writer Paul Schneider, who clearly based their society on the ancient Roman Empire.

"Creating the Romulans was a matter of developing a Romanesque set of admirable antagonists that were worthy

of Kirk," said Schneider. "I came up with the concept of the Romulans, which was an extension of the Roman civilization to the point of space travel, and it turned out quite well. I had the concept of this battle in space and this battle over a neutral zone."

'Balance of Terror' was also a story about prejudice and how it fed on ignorance. The audience got to learn much more about the Romulans than Kirk and his crew. The commander and his centurion seemed to be honorable men, who had devoted their lives to

serving the Romulan Star Empire fighting a number of enemies – presumably on the other side of the Neutral Zone.

It is worth noting that while the Romulans were secretive, they were also depicted as being honorable, and not the devious and duplicitous characters they would become later. Commenting on the face-off between Kirk and the Romulan commander, Vincent McEveety, the director of 'Balance of Terror' said, "They were very heroic characters pitted one against the other, and it dealt with the lengths to which



▲ The Klingons took over from the Romulans as the major villains because their makeup was cheaper.



▲ The *Bird-of-Prey* was digitally inserted into the remastered version of 'The Enterprise Incident.'

people would go for their honor. It was a morality fantasy play, but terribly gripping."

EAR TROUBLE

The production team were very pleased with the Romulans, but their pointed ears made them too expensive for *STAR TREK*'s very limited budget. Fred Phillips, the chief makeup artist, had to make ears specifically for each actor, as that was the only way to get them to fit



▲ The cost of producing custom-fitting pointed ears for all the Romulans was prohibitive, especially as they could only be worn once. The producers got around this problem by having many of the Romulans wear helmets.

properly. The cost of the prosthetics was why most of the Romulan commander's crew wore helmets that covered up their ears.

The Romulans might well have become the main recurring villains of *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* had it not been for their expensive ear issues. Instead, writer/producer Gene Coon introduced a new race of villains, who had a cheaper and simpler makeup – the Klingons. It is also worth highlighting that

the Klingons would later replace the Romulans as the race most associated with honor.

THE ORIGINAL SERIES had not yet quite finished with the Romulans, and in the third season writer Dorothy Fontana brought them back in 'The Enterprise Incident.' This time the Romulans had formed an alliance with the Klingons, and developed a more sophisticated cloaking device that posed a deadly threat to the Federation.

ROMULAN HONOR

In their first appearance, the Romulans were portrayed as an honorable race, who were prepared to do their duty for the glory of their empire. Even though he had grave misgivings about his mission, the Romulan commander was still prepared to carry out his orders and went as far as to destroy his ship rather than be captured alive.





▲ D.C. Fontana, pictured here in the 1960s, wrote the second *STAR TREK* episode to feature the Romulans.

In a daring attempt to steal the cloaking device, Kirk crossed the Neutral Zone and the *Enterprise* was surrounded by three Romulan ships. Significantly, the Romulans were commanded by a woman, who was very highly placed within the Empire. By now the Romulans and the Vulcans seemed to know a little more about their shared history, as the Romulan commander prepared a Vulcan meal for Spock. However, their knowledge was clearly less than perfect since she was foolish enough to believe that she could seduce Spock.

The immediate inspiration for 'Balance of Terror' came from current affairs. "We'd had the Pueblo incident (when



▲ D.C. Fontana felt her story would have been better served if the cloaking device had been smaller.

an American spy ship was caught off the coast of North Korea) as a true-life incident about a year before," said Fontana, "and I was thinking about that, and also I thought it may be time to revisit the Romulans. We hadn't seen them in two seasons, and it was time to come back and look at them again, because they were mysterious. They were behind the Neutral Zone, and I thought about doing what was essentially a kind of a Pueblo incident, but with a real spying incident with a real goal: steal the cloaking device."

BORROWED ELEMENTS

Fontana also decided to borrow elements from 'Mission: Impossible,' which was filmed on the stages next door to *STAR TREK*, and added the notion that the Federation would deny their involvement with the entire mission. On the whole, she was pleased with the story, but she did have a few reservations about the finished episode.

"It worked out reasonably well as far as the story we were telling," said Fontana. "Production-wise, I thought it was rather foolish for Kirk to be running around with this thing (the cloaking device) the size of a lamp. My original thought was that it should be something rather small, some piece of equipment that Kirk could put in a pouch."

Fontana was also unhappy about the romantic relationship between Spock and the Romulan commander, which she felt was out of character for both of them. When she decided to make the Romulan commander a woman, nothing was further from her mind.

"In terms of history, Rome had a fairly strong matriarchal society," said Fontana, "and I was thinking that because the Romulans were loosely based on Rome, a woman could have command. This would be interesting and would be a good face-off for Kirk and Spock – someone strong, a woman



◀ Just as in Roman society where women held important positions, the female Romulan commander was written to be a formidable opponent and every inch the equal of Kirk.

character, an equal commander who would be just as efficient and militarily directed as Kirk."

Fontana also felt that the Romulans would know enough about Vulcans not to be taken in by Spock's insistence that he could not lie, and that neither character was likely to become deeply involved with the other so quickly.

Fontana said, "There was enough that the Romulans would have known, based on their previous history, that they could have projected and understood about the Vulcan way of life.

"It seems to me that both Romulans and Vulcans might be somewhat standoffish people anyhow; they don't mix easily with others. And I would certainly be suspicious if a captured prisoner suddenly came on to me!"

◀ D.C. Fontana was against the romantic scene as she thought it was out of context and that the Romulan commander would not have been so easily fooled by Spock.

ROMULAN RETURN

Despite these reservations about the episode, Fontana felt the Romulans were immensely intriguing and lobbied for their return in *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*. Gene Roddenberry had initially decided that the Romulans would not play a major part in the new series, but this did not stop Fontana proposing them when they were trying to invent a new antagonist. "I sent him (Roddenberry) a memo, suggesting, 'How about the Romulans?' After all, they hadn't been developed all that much in *THE ORIGINAL SERIES*, and they were a glamorous, attractive enemy."

Thankfully Roddenberry agreed with Fontana and the Romulans continued to play a major role in the *STAR TREK* universe, greatly enhancing the political machinations of the Alpha Quadrant. Their intriguing backstory that had begun in *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* was full of potential for great drama. In particular, it was their militaristic society coupled with their innate secrecy and paranoia of outsiders that made them such interesting and compelling villains.

◀ The Romulans very nearly did not make it beyond *THE ORIGINAL SERIES*, but they held a strong appeal for D.C. Fontana and she advocated their return in *THE NEXT GENERATION*.

ON SCREEN



TRIVIA

The fact that the *Birds-of-Prey* in 'Minefield' have cloaking technology apparently contradicts earlier *STAR TREK* continuity. An explanation for this inconsistency is given in the non-canon novel 'The Good That Men Do.' The book explains that the *Birds-of-Prey* were prototype vessels that ultimately proved unsuccessful. The cloaking technology required so much power that it put too much strain on the ships, and one of them was destroyed in an antimatter containment failure. It would then be decades before the Romulans managed to solve the problem.



In keeping with continuity established in *STAR TREK: THE ORIGINAL SERIES*, the Romulans in 'Minefield' are only heard and not seen. Romulans are not seen by humans until 'Balance of Terror' set in 2266.



Parts of the *Enterprise* NX-01's hull had to be specially built for 'Minefield' but were discarded thereafter. "We had to throw the pieces away," reflected production designer Herman Zimmerman. "We just didn't have any room to store them, they were so large!"

- FIRST APPEARANCE: 'MINEFIELD' (ENT)
- TV APPEARANCES: STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE
- DESIGNED BY: John Eaves

KEY APPEARANCES

STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE

'Minefield'

While exploring an uncharted system, the *Enterprise* NX-01 unwittingly stumbles into an area of space containing cloaked mines. One of the mines detonates, blasting a hole in the port forward quarter of the hull. If that were not bad enough, another malfunctioning, active mine attaches itself to a critical area of the ship's hull. Realizing that if this mine explodes the *Enterprise* would probably be ripped apart, Lieutenant Reed is forced to don an EV suit and attempt to disarm it from outside the ship.

Complications arise when a Romulan *Bird-of-Prey* suddenly decloaks nearby and hails the *Enterprise*. The universal translator is unable to decipher the message, but it becomes clear what the Romulans want when their ship begins firing warning shots at the *Enterprise*.

Captain Archer orders Travis Mayweather to move them out of harm's way, and he carefully threads the ship through the minefield. However, the movement causes one of the legs on the mine to shoot out and penetrate Reed's leg, pinning him to the hull. Archer must find a way to get rid of the mine and save Reed before the Romulans run out of patience.

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