BIRD-OF-PREY LAUNCHED: 22nd C
LENGTH: 130 METERS
WEAPONS: DISRUPTORS

ROMULAN
BIRD-OF-PREY (2152)
Contents

P04: ROMULAN BIRD-OF-PREY

P10: DESIGNING THE SHIP

P14: THE ORIGINAL ROMULANS

P18: ON SCREEN

ROMULAN BIRD-OF-PREY

OPERATED BY: ROMULAN STAR EMPIRE

CONSTRUCTED: 22ND CENTURY

LENGTH: 130 METERS

DEFENSES: CLOAKING DEVICE

WEAPONRY: DISRUPTOR CANNONS

Stand assembly:

www.startrek-starships.com
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 Bird-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.

**SHIP PROFILE**

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.

**ROMULAN 22ND CENTURY BIRD-OF-PREY**

The Romulan Bird-of-Prey was a tactically advanced ship used to aggressively protect the race’s borders.
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 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 seconds before two Birds-of-Prey swooped in to finish them.

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.

The Enterprise was monitored closely by a Bird-of-Prey as it made its way 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 to finish them.

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

**DATA FEED**

The Enterprise NX-01 was equipped with quantum beacons that were mounted on the ship’s grappling arms. 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.
ROMULAN BIRD-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 Bird-of-Prey that chased the Enterprise NX-01 from its birth 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.

ROMULAN STARFLEET OVERVIEW

Warp nacelle
Main bridge
Support wing
Stabilizer fin
Deflector grid
Impulse engine
Stabilizer fin
Main bridge
Disruptor emitter
Warp nacelle
Observation windows
Support wing
Data feed
Cloaking technology
Avian motif
Max velocity
Short path to war

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.
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 STAR TREK: 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.”

Eaves also added a bird-of-prey graphic to the underside of the ship in one of his illustrations in homage to Chang’s original design. “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 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 people would go for their honor. It was a morally 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 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 – 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.

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.

**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 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 goat: 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 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 command. This would be interesting and would be a good face-off for Kirk and Spock – someone strong, 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 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 goat: 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 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

\[\text{In} \ \text{terms} \ \text{of} \ \text{history}, \ \text{Rome} \ \text{had} \ \text{a} \ \text{fairly} \ \text{strong} \ \text{matriarchal} \ \text{society},\] \text{said} \ \text{Fontana.} \ \text{“and} \ \text{I} \ \text{was} \ \text{thinking} \ \text{that} \ \text{because} \ \text{the} \ \text{Romulans} \ \text{were} \ \text{loosely} \ \text{based} \ \text{on} \ \text{Rome}, \ \text{a} \ \text{woman} \ \text{could} \ \text{have} \ \text{command}. \ \text{This} \ \text{would} \ \text{be} \ \text{interesting} \ \text{and} \ \text{would} \ \text{be} \ \text{a} \ \text{good} \ \text{face-off} \ \text{for} \ \text{Kirk} \ \text{and} \ \text{Spock} – \ \text{someone} \ \text{strong,} \ \text{a} \ \text{woman}\]
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 too much power that it put too much strain on the ship, and one of them was destroyed in an antimatter containment failure. It would then be decades before the Romulans managed to solve the problem.

Key appearances
STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE
‘Minefield’

In-depth profile of the Maquis Fighter

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.

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!”

Inside your magazine
● In-depth profile of the Maquis Fighter
● The Federation ship used by the Maquis against the Cardassians
● The story behind Jim Martin’s design for the Maquis fighter craft
● Introducing the Maquis to the STAR TREK universe

www.startrek-starships.com