FEDERATION TIMESHIP

AEON

TYPE: TIMESHIP
LAUNCHED: 29th C
CREW: ONE
LENGTH: SIX METERS
Stand assembly:

Stand the stand over the back of the ship.

FEDERATION TIMESHIP AEON

SPECIFICATION

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<th>TYPE</th>
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<tr>
<td>AFFILIATION</td>
<td>FEDERATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAUNCHED</td>
<td>29TH CENTURY</td>
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<tr>
<td>LENGTH</td>
<td>SIX METERS (APPROX.)</td>
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<td>CREW</td>
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<td>TOP SPEED</td>
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<td>WEAPONRY</td>
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The Aeon was a small Federation timeship from the 29th century. At approximately six meters long, it was a single-seater craft and its cockpit had barely enough room for the pilot. The Aeon was equipped with a hyper-impulse drive, but it was also capable of traveling to any time and place in the universe. By emitting a specialized kind of pulse through its navigational deflector beneath the nose of the ship, it could open an artificial spatial rift. This was a distortion in the space-time continuum – a kind of rip or tear in space – through which the craft could enter and emerge in a particular time and place that had been set by the pilot.

Policing the Timeline

The Aeon was part of the Temporal Integrity Commission, an agency set up by the Federation in the 29th century. Its purpose was to protect the timeline from any changes caused by time travel. This organization believed that the U.S.S. Voyager NCC-74656 was responsible for a monumental catastrophe in the 29th century in which a temporal explosion destroyed all of Earth’s Solar system, taking billions of lives in the process.

In order to prevent this disaster from happening, Captain Braxton was ordered to take the Aeon and travel back in time to the Delta Quadrant to destroy Voyager. The Aeon emerged from a spatial rift in 2373 directly in front of Voyager. Without explanation, Braxton immediately charged his ship’s sub-atomic disruptor and fired at Voyager. Despite the Aeon’s small size, its
Back in the 20th century, Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok and Paris donned appropriate clothing and beamed down to California to search for the Aeon. Their investigations revealed that although the Aeon had entered the rift just seconds before them, it emerged in 1967. Almost 29 years before them, it emerged halfway across the galaxy in orbit over Earth. It was not all good news though. While they emerged absolutely no effect on the Voyager's shields, Voyager's molecular structure began to come apart under the attack, and Janeway was forced to be more inventive in fighting back.

Captain Janeway and her crew eventually tracked the Aeon to a secret room in Henry Starling's building. He created a microcomputer revolution by cannibalizing the ship's powerful sub-atomic disruptor. TheAeon's 29th-century advanced weapon took out Voyager's shields and knocked helm off-line with just one shot. Voyager tried returning fire with full phasers, but they had absolutely no effect on the Aeon's 29th-century shields. Voyager's molecular structure began to collapse and pulled both ships inside. Voyager's deflector beam was adjusted to match the frequency of the Aeon's disruptor, thus this overloaded its emitter. The subspace rift began to destabilize, pulling both ships inside. In an instant, they emerged halfway across the galaxy in orbit of Earth, it was not all good news though. While they had finally reached home, the year was not 2373, but 1966. The Voyager crew later learned that although the Aeon had entered the rift just seconds before them, it emerged in 1967. It transpired that Braxton had been forced to perform an emergency beam out before his ship crashed in a remote mountain range. Before he could get back to the Aeon, it was taken by a young man named Henry Starling. He created one of the wealthiest and most influential people on the planet.

It transpired that Braxton had first encountered the Aeon back in the 20th century. Janeway had her crew later learned that although the Aeon had entered the rift just seconds before them, it emerged in 1967. Almost 29 years before them. Braxton had first encountered the Aeon when he kept the ship. Once in orbit, Starling jumped to warp one and initiated the Aeon's temporal core. The ship's powerful sub-atomic disruptor was located in the nose. The Aeon had a large cockpit canopy that was opaque, while its wings had semi-spherical rad data built into the top and bottom of them. The ship's powerful sub-atomic disruptor was located in the nose.

Meanwhile, Braxton realized that it was not Voyager that caused the huge catastrophe in the 29th century, but his own ship. He knew that if someone unfamilar with the Aeon's controls tried to fly it into the future without recalibrating the temporal matrix, it would cause a massive explosion that could destroy the Solar system. This was exactly what nearly happened. Starling tried to stop Starling, but he managed to elude them. Eventually, he activated the Aeon's hyper-impulse drive and smashed through the top of a skyscraper where he kept the ship. Once in orbit, Starling jumped to warp one and initiated the Aeon's temporal core. Just as he was about to enter the subspace rift, Voyager fired a photon torpedo that hit the Aeon, blowing it to pieces and closing the rift. A few moments later, the rift opened and the Aeon appeared. Captain Braxton opened communications with Voyager, but he had no knowledge of what had just happened. For him, the timeline where he travelled to the 20th century and Starling had been a computer mogul never happened. He was there because his ship's sensor had alerted him to Voyager's presence in the 20th century and he had been sent to correct that anomaly. Janeway asked if he could return them to Earth in the 24th century, but this was against the temporal prime directive. Instead, he opened a rift back to the precise time and location in the Delta Quadrant where Voyager had first encountered the Aeon.

When Captain Braxton first found himself in the 20th century, he tried to confront Henry Starling and get his ship back. Unwilled to the customs in late 20th-century California, Braxton was out of his depth. No one in authority listened to him and he was dismissed as a mad man. Eventually, he was confined to a mental institution and pumped full of antipsychotics. By the time Captain Janeway found him he was living on the streets and really had become mentally ill. By the time Captain Janeway found him he was living on the streets and really had become mentally ill. By the time Captain Janeway found him he was living on the streets and really had become mentally ill.
In 1967, Henry Starling was just a young man when he witnessed the extraordinary sight of a strange object crashing to the ground in the High Sierras of California. Upon investigation, he found the Aeon, largely intact.

Over the next 30 years, Starling used his primitive understanding of the Aeon’s technology to launch numerous computer innovations to the market. This made him a very wealthy man as he built a corporate empire called Chronowerx Industries.

Like many of his time, Starling’s greed knew no bounds and he wanted more wealth and more acclaim. He planned to launch the Aeon and travel to the future, where he could acquire more technology. He could then bring it back to his own time and exploit it to make more money.

When Captain Janeway tracked the Aeon down to Starling’s building, she tried to convince him that if he did not precisely calibrate the temporal matrix in the Aeon, it would cause a massive explosion when it emerged in the 29th century. Starling refused to believe her, or just did not care, and would not give up the ship.

Eventually, Starling paid with his life as the crew of Voyager managed to blow up the Aeon seconds before it entered a spatial rift to the 29th century. This reset the timeline and Starling never discovered the Aeon or became one of the most powerful magnates on the planet.

Thanks to his discovery of the Aeon, Henry Starling was able to use its 29th-century technology to develop a number of computer innovations in the late 20th century that made him a wealthy man.

There is some debate about whether it should be U.T.S. Aeon or U.S.S. Aeon. U.T.S. stood for United Time Ship. The ship itself had no markings on it indicating its official name, but other vessels encountered from the 29th century still displayed the U.S.S. prefix, such as the U.S.S. Relativity.

When Captain Braxton was trapped in the 20th century, he called a police officer a “quasi-Cardassian totalitarian.” This comment was perhaps why he was sent to a mental institution.

Captain Janeway said that the area around Santa Monica beach in L.A. sank under 200m of water after the Hermosa quake of 2047. It then became one of the world’s largest coral reefs, home to thousands of marine species.
This concept of the Aeon was one of the first that senior illustrator Rick Sternbach drew up. At this point, he envisaged that it would be approximately 15-20 meters in length, but it was still a one-man craft. Many of its details would make it through to the final design.

These line drawings showed the Aeon at its amended size when it was reduced to about six meters in length. One of the reasons for this was that it had to be in scale with the cockpit interior that had been built by the set crew.

Rick Sternbach was faced with a tough task when asked to design a ship even more advanced than usual, but he was up to the challenge.

FIRST THOUGHTS

"I don’t recall exactly how the Aeon was described in the script, but I’m pretty certain it was always a single-seat craft," said Sternbach. "My initial doodles were influenced by sleek fighter aircraft, particularly stealth fighter concepts and the more dart-like exo-atmospheric research aircraft designs. My first finished sketch included an ejectable cockpit module, but that was eliminated when the ship was reduced in size, and a few different takes on the smaller ship were inked up."

Normally, Sternbach would not have much time to design a ‘ship of the week’ on STAR TREK: VOYAGER as production rolled relentlessly on to the next episode, but he was given slightly more time for the Aeon. "The time between the first story synopsis and the various script drafts to the final sketches was likely a few weeks," said Sternbach. "In the case of the Aeon, we had to build the cockpit interior as a practical set, so I had some time to redraw the ship to better reflect what the set designers were doing, and get those sketches..."
"Pushing STAR TREK designs past an already futuristic style presented some challenges," said Sternbach. "But the fact that the Aeon was a Starfleet craft helped narrow the focus of the first sketches. I wanted to include some elements that might be seen as reminders of Starfleet tech, so I took the typical glowing red Bussard collectors, turned them 90 degrees and set them into the wings, as if the nacelles were routinely blended into starship hulls. It was the same with the reaction control thrusters, deflector and the impulse exhaust vents. These were just little bits that people had seen before, even if they didn’t work exactly the same as back in the 24th century.

**NEW DESIGN ELEMENTS**

"The temporal emitter was obviously something that I had to include and that was new," continued Sternbach. "I put that in the nose of the ship. Also, some of my early sketches contained notes about nanotechnology built into the skin, which could have been done with animated globs or small morphing details. These were just suggestions in case the producers wanted to see something exotic happening.

"Of course, once the drawings leave my desk, many other people get involved in the decision-making process. In this instance, the final look of the Aeon was a simpler stealthy dark tone, which was fine by me. The bigger timeship, the U.S.S. Relativity from the later season five episode, actually received an intricately textured hull that could have indicated advanced shielding or other technology."

**BUILDING THE CG MODEL**

Once Sternbach had refined and finished his sketches of the Aeon, they were sent off to the visual effects house Foundation Imaging, so the artists there could build the CG model and the animation. They also supplied life-like renders of the Aeon, which were composited into the live action footage of a laboratory that had been filmed in Long Beach, California for the scene where it was viewed in the Chronowerx Building.

Sternbach was very pleased with how the Aeon turned out on screen and was also happy that they decided to rescale it. "I think the final smaller size of the Aeon was a better fit than the 16-20 meter craft I had originally envisioned," said Sternbach. "Although, the tech side of me really wonders how Starfleet managed to pack all of the necessary systems into such a little package. But it was 29th century tech, so why not?"
The Aeon was from the 29th century, but what do we actually know about the STAR TREK universe beyond the 24th century? Not that much, but there were a few episodes that hinted at what might be taking place.

One of the first mentions was in the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode ‘A Matter of Time.’ In it, a man named Berlinghoff Rasmussen claimed to be from the 26th century, and arrived in the 24th century in a time-travel pod. This future vessel was only about five meters in length and was constructed from a plasticized tritanium mesh, a material that 24th-century sensors were unable to scan inside. It produced a temporal distortion when traveling through time.

Rasmussen was originally going to be played by the late Robin Williams, but a scheduling clash prevented him from taking the role as he had already committed to play Peter Pan in the movie ‘Hook.’ Rasmussen claimed to be a historian who specialized in early interstellar history. In fact, he was an inventor and a con artist from the 22nd century, and his motives for traveling through time were similar to those of Henry Starling, who would later appear in STAR TREK: VOYAGER.

Rasmussen had stolen the time-travel pod from a 26th-century researcher, who had gone back to the 22nd century. Rasmussen used it to travel to the 24th century, where he hoped to steal technology and artifacts, including Lt. Commander Data, before returning to his own time where he would claim that he had invented these devices. Rasmussen was eventually found out and he was taken into custody at Starbase 214, while the time-travel pod was returned to the 22nd century for the researcher.

CRUCIAL BATTLE
In one possible timeline, the 26th century was also seen in the STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE episode ‘Azati Prime.’ Captain Archer was taken there by Crewman Daniels to see the Battle of Procyon V from the observation deck of the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-J. This was the final battle between the Federation and the Sphere-Builders that resulted in a decisive victory for the Federation, as the Builders were driven back into their trans-dimensional realm. Other ships that were seen in the form of graphics on a computer screen were Dauntless, Nova and Prometheus-class ships.

In the 28th century, the Temporal Accord was drawn up. This was an interstellar treaty signed after the development of time travel, prohibiting its use to change history. It was in force by 2769 according to the STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE episode ‘Cold Front,’ and time travel was only permitted for scientific research purposes, as long as it did not contaminate the timeline.

Much more was known about the 29th century thanks to the STAR TREK: VOYAGER episodes ‘Future’s End, Part I & II’ and ‘Relativity.’ We learned that time travel had become common enough that the Temporal Integrity Commission had been set up. This Federation agency protected the timeline from any changes caused by time travel. Vessels such as the Aeon and the U.S.S. Relativity NCV-474439-G used their sensors to stop any changes to the timeline caused by time travel.

The U.S.S. Relativity was from the 29th century, and was one of the few ships seen in STAR TREK built after the 24th century. It was designed to stop any changes to the timeline caused by time travel. The Temporal Agent known as Daniels took Captain Archer to the 26th century and showed him that the Federation would win the war against the Sphere-Builders at the Battle of Procyon V.

STAR TREK: BEYOND THE 24th CENTURY
A few STAR TREK episodes touched upon events after the 24th century, and it seemed most of them centered on the concerns of time travel.
The Enterprise NX-01 crew discovered a 31st-century time-travel pod. At first, they were unable to exist in any environment and not just on a holodeck where there were permanent holo-emitters. Technologies, could beam an individual to a precise moment and location anywhere in the universe. To get inside it, but when they did, they found it was larger on the inside than it was on the outside. The U.S.S. Relativity was equipped with a temporal transporter which, in conjunction with other temporal beacons, had a time-distorting and disorienting effect on those in close proximity. STAR TREK HISTORY

Commander Tucker managed to reactivate its temporal beacon and within seconds it had vanished, presumably having been retrieved by its owners from the future.

TEMPORAL TECHNOLOGIES

Both the Aeon and the Relativity were able to travel to a specified time and place. As the Relativity was much larger than the Aeon, and stood a greater chance of being discovered, it was able to send a single person to a particular time and location using a temporal transporter. The Relativity was equipped with temporal communications that allowed them to stay in audio contact with an operative, who had been sent through time. It also possessed a number of holomatrix rooms, the 29th-century equivalent of holodecks, that allowed them to run simulations before operatives were sent into action. While hardly anything was shown about the 30th century, there were various episodes of STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE that alluded to the 31st century. By this point, time travel was so commonplace that a temporal agent needed only a few minutes of training to scan throughout spacetime for any possible infractions. If they found one, their task was to correct it.

Of course, it was during the U.S.S. Voyager’s encounter with the Aeon that the Doctor picked up a very useful piece of 20th-century technology. This was the self-sustaining mobile holo-emitter that allowed him to exist outside the holodeck for the first time and go where he pleased.

In 2152, Enterprise NX-01 discovered a time-travel pod from the 31st century in the episode ‘Future Ten.’ The exterior of the pod was just six meters long, but due to some kind of spatial phenomenon it was much bigger on the inside. The hull was composed of a number of materials, one of which was in a semi-fluidic state, and it had no visible means of propulsion. It was equipped with organic circuitry and could absorb electromagnetic radiation, meaning it did not register on sensor technology of the 22nd century.

The Enterprise crew found a tone plot inside the craft who had died, while the pod was emitting temporal radiation that had a time-distorting and disorienting effect on those in close proximity. Commander Tucker managed to reactivate its temporal beacon and within seconds it had vanished, presumably having been retrieved by its owners from the future.

FUTURE WAR

We also learned from several STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE episodes such as ‘Shockwave, Part II’ that there was some kind of Temporal Cold War going on in the 31st century. This was a conflict fought between several time-traveling factions, each trying to manipulate history for their own benefit.

They were opposed by a group of Federation temporal agents, such as Daniels, who were trying to protect the timeline. Daniels first appeared aboard the Enterprise in 2151, posing as a steward. He appeared at various times over the next few years as he tried to help Captain Archer and his crew fight Cold War factions, such as the Sphere-Builders, the Vosk and the Na’kuhl. Daniels utilized a host of 31st-century technology to help him carry out his task. This included a Temporal Observatory, a mind-boggling holographic representation of the time stream. The display was projected by a space-time scanner and it allowed him to view the activities being carried out by various time travelers.

Other technology Daniels had access to included a holographic database that contained a huge amount of information including schematics of starships over numerous centuries. He also had an interphase device that allowed him to pass through solid objects.

FUTURE WAR

The 31st century was as far in the future as the 20th century was in the past. Parts of the 31st century were much different, and the universe would collapse in on itself, bringing an end to all history – STAR TREK or otherwise.

Hoping to make the situation clear, Daniels showed Captain Archer a Temporal Observatory. This was a display depicting where all the temporal agents were in time, and how their actions were helping to preserve the integrity of the timeline.

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ON SCREEN

TRIVIA

In the STAR TREK: VOYAGER episode ‘Future’s End, Part I’, Chakotay comments that one of his ancestors from the 20th century worked as a school teacher. Captain Janeway replies that she did not know what any of her ancestors were doing around the turn of the 21st century. This contradicts the later episode ‘11:59’, in which Janeway said she was inspired to join Starfleet by her ancestor Shannon O’Donnell (pictured below). She was an aerospace engineer and trained to be an astronaut with NASA in the late 20th century. She later became a consulting engineer on the Millennium Gate project that was completed in 2012.

STAR TREK: VOYAGER
‘Future’s End, Part I’
Back in the 20th century, Paris bonds with Rain Robinson, an astronomer, and the rest of the crew attempt to track down the Aeon. They find that it has been stolen by Henry Starling, who saw it crash land in 1967. In the following years, he utilized its technology to start a high-tech empire, which made him one of the wealthiest people on the planet. He now plans to travel to the 29th century in the Aeon to acquire more technology, but it is this act that will cause the annihilation of the sol system, unless Janeway and her crew can stop him.

First appearance: FUTURE’S END, PART I (VOY)
TV appearances: STAR TREK: VOYAGER
Designed by: Rick Sternbach

VULCAN
VAHKLAS

First appearance: FUTURE’S END, PART I (VOY)
TV appearances: STAR TREK: VOYAGER
Designed by: John Eaves

With minor changes, the cockpit interior of the Aeon was later reused as the pilot’s compartment for Kovin’s starship in the season four episode ‘Retrospect.’ It was also used as the cockpit for Kes’ shuttle in the season six episode ‘Fury.’

Inside your magazine
• In-depth profile of the Vahklas, a Vulcan civilian transport ship of the 22nd century, whose crew did not believe in repressing their emotions
• How designer John Eaves came up with the design for the Vahklas
• A look at the Vulcans in the 22nd century including their fleet, their planet and their society

Key appearances

STAR TREK: VOYAGER
‘Future’s End, Part I’
A spatial rift opens directly in front of the U.S.S. Voyager NCC-74656. The Aeon, a 29th-century timeship commanded by Captain Braxton, emerges and opens fire. When Captain Janeway retaliates in defense, Braxton declares his mission is to destroy Voyager as it is responsible for the destruction of the sol system in his era. Janeway does not back down and the Aeon is damaged. This pulls both ships into the rift and back to Earth, but the Aeon emerges in 1967, while Voyager arrives in 1996. Janeway and her crew then set about trying to find their way back to their own time.

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