DAEDALUS CLASS

TYPE: EXPLORER
LAUNCHED: 22nd C
CREW: 229
LENGTH: 140 METERS
Stand assembly:

Slide the stand over the nacelle support struts.

Contents

04: DAEDALUS CLASS

10: DESIGNING THE SHIP

12: THE STAR TREK HISTORY OF SPACE EXPLORATION

18: ON SCREEN

DAEDALUS CLASS

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: EXPLORER

AFFILIATION: FEDERATION

LAUNCHED: 22nd CENTURY

LENGTH: 140 METERS (APPROX.)

CREW: 229

TOP SPEED: Warp 7

WEAPONS: PHASER EMITTERS, PHOTON TORPEDO LAUNCHERS
Daedalus-class starships were Starfleet vessels that entered service around the same time that the Federation of Planets was formed in 2161. Their most obvious distinguishing feature was a spherical primary hull, while the engineering hull was tubular in shape. The warp nacelles were also cylindrical and fitted above and away from the secondary hull on pylons for safety reasons.

Daedalus-class vessels were approximately 140 meters in length and normally operated with about 230 crewmembers. Around 2161, the NX class of ships, like Enterprise NX-01, were decommissioned and the Daedalus class superseded them as the ‘next generation’ of starship design. They in effect became the primary vessels of deep space exploration and research used by Starfleet.

Whereas the NX class had a top speed of warp 5, Daedalus-class ships were capable of reaching warp 7 for short periods of time. They were also fitted with deflector shields, phaser emitters and photon torpedoes.

ON THEIR OWN
Communications were extremely limited at this time, and as a result Daedalus-class ships were often out of contact with Starfleet for extended periods. They were equipped with subspace transmitters and transponders which could signal their position, but in the event of trouble they were sometimes forced to rely on radio waves to transmit messages, which could take as long as 100 years to reach Federation space.
The limitations of 22nd-century communication systems meant that Daedalus-class vessels were much more independent than their later counterparts. With no nearby support, life on these missions could be extremely dangerous, and many of these ships were lost in action.

For example, the Daedalus-class U.S.S. Archon NCC-189 disappeared in 2167 while visiting the planet Beta III. It was pulled from orbit by a planetary computer system called Luranu, and its crew was either killed or "absorbed" into Beta III's society. The fate of this ship was not discovered until the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701 was sent there a century later, and when the Enterprise went to investigate, it found that Luranu society had split into territories ruled by mob bosses. The Enterprise was responsible for contaminating the natural development of the non-warp society on it. Cultural contamination like this led Starfleet to introduce the Prime Directive – a policy of non-interference in pre-warp civilizations.

Δ The limited crew of the Daedalus-class U.S.S. Horizon NCC-176 classified the M-class moon of the gas giant planet called Mab-Bu VI.

The Horizon was last sighted in 2168, but the highly imitative Iotians proceeded to use the book as a blueprint for their society. The Iotians had been lured to a moon by condemned prisoners from a system called Ux-Mal. Hundreds of years earlier, these prisoners had been separated from their physical bodies and left to drift in the storms on the moon. They tried to escape on the Essex, but it could not pull free from the violent atmosphere and crashed.

The prisoners had another chance to escape when the Enterprise-D arrived in 2368, and three of them claimed they had been part of the Chicago mobs of the Twenties. The Iotians came to Chicago in the 1920s. The Iotians had been lured there by condemned prisoners from a system called Ux-Mal. Hundreds of years earlier, these prisoners had been separated from their physical bodies and left to drift in the storms on the moon. They tried to escape on the Essex, but it could not pull free from the violent atmosphere and crashed.

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Δ The ship profile of the Daedalus-class U.S.S. Essex NCC-173. The Essex was responsible for contaminating the natural development of the Iotians, a pre-warp society. The crew of the Horizon left behind several books, including one entitled Chicago Mobs of the Twenties. The Iotians came to Chicago in the 1920s.

Δ An away team from the Enterprise-D were killed by a moon by non-corporeal criminals, who somehow took over their bodies. They later claimed to be from the crew of the Daedalus-class U.S.S. Essex.
In 2167, the Daedalus-class USS Essex NCC-173 was under the command of Captain Bryce Shumar. His first officer was Commander Steven Mullen and the ship’s security chief was Lt. Morgan Kelly. The Essex, along with its 229 crew members, went missing in a region of space that was overseen by Starbase 12. The Essex’s subspace transponder signal was picked up 201 years later coming from the moon of Mab-Bu VI by the USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D. It transpired that the Essex had been investigating the moon when non-corporeal criminals from Ux-Mal, who had been imprisoned there centuries before, attempted to escape by possessing the Essex crew. The prisoners were somehow able to superimpose their neural patterns over the Essex’s crew and took control of their ship. They then attempted to escape, but the Essex was caught in a violent electromagnetic storm and the ship was ripped apart. The Essex’s crew was killed, but the consciousness of the prisoners survived as anionic energy and they could remember everything about their human hosts.

The criminals remained stranded on the moon for nearly another two centuries before luring the passing USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D there by broadcasting the Essex’s signal. Three of these life forms took over the bodies of Troi, Data and O’Brien before they were eventually found out and separated from their hosts’ bodies. The criminal entities were then exiled back to the surface of the moon.

The only other type of Starfleet vessel with a spherical main hull, apart from the Daedalus class, was the 24th-century Olympic-class medical vessel from an alternate future.

The Bussard ramscoops on Daedalus-class vessels featured spikes in the front of them, as did the USS Enterprise NCC-1775 when it was under the command of Captain Christopher Pike in 2254.
At Michael Okuda’s request, a Daedalus-class model was built by Greg Jein based on a design Matt Jefferies had for the original Enterprise.

Greg Jein, who built many Star Trek studio models and whose company was the primary supplier of the ship miniatures used during the entire run of The Next Generation, was asked to construct a Daedalus-class model for a publication Michael Okuda was working on. The model was based on a design that Matt Jefferies had come up with in the 1960s when he was noodling ideas for the look of the U.S.S. Enterprise (NCC-1701). Initially, Jefferies did not want to use a saucer shape in the design of the Enterprise because of the term “flying saucer,” and the fact that it had become a hackneyed term when talking about space ships. Thinking about what other shapes he could use, Jefferies considered using a sphere. This made sense from a physics point of view because this shape would make the best possible pressure vessel for use in a vacuum. Jefferies therefore started playing with the shape and sketched out a few designs that used a spherical-shaped primary hull. In the end, he felt that the design just looked too bulky and was not working. Instead, he flattened out the design and wound up with a saucer shape in the end anyway.

PERFECT FIT
The spherically-shaped ship design by Jefferies may have ended up just as a footnote in the creation of the Enterprise, but then Okuda felt the look of it would make it the perfect candidate to represent a Daedalus-class ship entry in the Star Trek Chronology book he was working on.

As the ship model was not going to be filmed for an episode, its detailing and “fit and finish” were not quite up to the standards of Jein’s studio models, but he still did an impressive job.

Before photographs of the Daedalus-class model, weathering effects were added to bring out the panel detail, and it appeared as a black and white photograph in the first edition of Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future published in 1993. The Daedalus-class model subsequently appeared in color photographs in later editions of the Chronology and in The Star Trek Encyclopedia, where it was also used to depict the U.S.S. Exeter.

Castsings of the Daedalus-class model built by Jein were later taken and an additional model was created that featured in actual Star Trek episodes, although not as a “real” fully-functioning spaceship. It appeared instead as a background desktop decoration in Sisko’s office and in the Keiko O’Brien's classroom in several episodes of Deep Space Nine.

CG UPDATE
More reference photographs of the Daedalus-class model were recently taken and sent to digital artist Fabio Passaro, so he could create CG images of the ship for this publication. Due to the fact that the model was never intended to feature on screen, it was missing some of the finer details that Passaro had to fill in.

Passaro had the following to say about the CG images he created of the Daedalus-class ship: “Firstly I built the fundamental structure of the ship as close to the reference pictures as possible. Then I set about bringing in more detail and integrating missing components in a logical fashion.

“There was the suggestion of deflector dish components in the equatorial sensor ring, but it was soon apparent that these would not actually be able to project any sort of field to clear debris in front of the vessel because the large spherical hull in front was simply in the way.

FUNNY FACE
“It was decided, therefore, to incorporate a deflector component on the front of the main sphere section instead. Unfortunately, having a visible round or elliptical dish on the front of the craft made it look like it had a big clown face and a huge nose! A variety of different deflectors were experimented with until it was decided that the best choice aesthetically was to use a semi-translucent panel at the front of the sphere to hint that there was a deflector behind it. The old small dishes on the front of the engineering hull were now relabeled as simple communication or even possibly transporter emitter arrays. The phaser emitters were designed to mimic the ones seen on the TOS Enterprise, but were recessed within the hull as much as possible so as not to make it a purely aggressive ship, but to hint that it could protect itself if necessary.

“Impulse engines – which were missing from the original studio model – were placed at the rear of the sphere once approved by Mike Okuda.

And finally the all-important iconic photon torpedo launchers were added. The front launcher was behind horizontally opening doors right at the center of the equatorial sensor ring, while a rear launcher was placed at the very bottom of the shuttle bay section. “In the end, I felt I came very close to being totally faithful to the original shape and design of the studio model. But, I also incorporated a more modern look, with components added that definitely hinted at a transitional phase between Captain Janeway’s Enterprise and Captain Kirk’s Enterprise.”
The history of space exploration in the latter half of the 23rd century and the 24th century was pretty well documented in the STAR TREK universe, and the exploits of Captain Archer’s crew in the 22nd century also helped to fill in some gaps. But what about humankind’s first forays beyond Earth and the early days of the Federation with the adventures of Daedalus-class vessels?

Certainly much less is known, but there have been some references to this period of space travel history in all the STAR TREK franchises.

**SUPERMEN’ EXPELLED**
The 20th century had ended tumultuously with the Eugenics Wars in the 1990s, when a group of genetically engineered ‘supermen,’ including the infamous Khan Noonien Singh, had tried to take control of Earth. However, they were overthrown by 1996, and forced to flee Earth in a DY-100-class interplanetary sleeper craft Khan christened the S.S. Botany Bay.

Meanwhile, the millennium ended on a note of optimism with the completed construction of the Millennium Gate. This was built in Indiana, North America, and was a model for the first colony on Mars. Although a specific date was not mentioned, the ENTERPRISE episode Terra Nova confirmed that Mars was colonized before 2069 with the building of a settlement on Utopia Planitia.

It was so large it could be seen from orbit, and was designed as a self-contained ecosystem. It helped scientists learn how to protect the environment and recreate it on other worlds. The film STAR TREK: GENERATIONS informed us that among the pioneers who settled the first colony were some of Captain Picard’s ancestors. This project was of great importance to those who were intent on the exploration of space, and helped pave the way for others.

**FINAL FRONTIERS**
Just after the turn of the century, in 2002, the interstellar Nomad probe, designed by noted scientist Jackson Roylekirk, was launched from Earth; it was the first probe to be built with the express purpose of seeking out other life in the Galaxy, but was presumed destroyed in flight by a meteor collision. In fact, as we learned from THE ORIGINAL SERIES episode The Changeling, Nomad encountered an alien probe named Tan Ru in deep space, and the two units merged, resulting in a hugely powerful machine. By 2267, it was on a self-appointed mission to destroy anything that it perceived to be imperfect.

In 2009, Shaun Geoffrey Christopher commanded the first successful starship mission from Earth to Saturn. Meanwhile, his father Captain John Christopher had an encounter with the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701 when it was thrown back in time to 1969 in the episode Tomorrow Is Yesterday.

Beginning in the 20th century, we map the progress of humanity’s attempts to leave Earth and explore space in the STAR TREK universe. Including the Vulcans made first contact with humans after their survey ship spotted Zefram Cochrane’s ship, the Phoenix, making humans’ first warp flight. This encounter encouraged further space exploration.
The efforts and achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA, were also particularly noteworthy in the space race. The VOYAGER episode One Small Step revealed that the spacecraft Ares IV made humanity’s first mission to Mars in 2032. Unfortunately it was lost, along with its commander, Lt. John Kelly, in a graviton ellipse that eventually ended up in the Delta Quadrant in 2376. The loss of the Ares IV could have signaled the end of manned missions into space, but the event instead provided inspiration for generations to come.

NOT GOING TO PLAN

Attempts to reach beyond the solar system, however, proved more problematic. The NASA spacecraft Charybdis, launched in 2037, was the third attempt to pass Pluto. The ship lost contact with Earth, but unknown to NASA it succeeded in its mission to leave the solar system. Eventually, it arrived at the Theta 116 system in 2044, and its commander, Colonel Steven Richey, lived there in captivity until his death in 2082 as revealed in THE NEXT GENERATION episode The Royale.

While mankind continued to try and make strides into space, the situation on Earth itself was often far from ideal. In 2053, the event many humans had dreaded since the development of the atom bomb finally arrived with the start of World War III.

RISING FROM THE ASHES

Six hundred million people died in the hostilities and most major cities were destroyed. The previously flourishing technological societies of Earth were thrown back to a barbaric state more like the Dark Ages of the medieval period over 1,000 years earlier. Humanity came close to annihilating itself, but Zefram Cochrane, who was born in 2030, helped changed all that with his invention of mankind’s first warp powered vessel – the Phoenix.

This pioneering flight attracted the attention of a Vulcan ship, the T’plana-Hath, on a survey mission through Earth’s solar system, and humans met aliens for the first time. This historic event paved the way for a better, more equal and civilized society, and during the next 50 years, poverty, disease and war were eradicated on Earth.

BEYOND THE STARS

With the advantage of warp speed, the human race began to explore space at a phenomenal rate, and as early as 2065 human ships such as the S.S. Valiant were already capable of reaching the edge of the Galaxy. In fact, the Valiant was swept out of the Galaxy, and when it tried to return six crew members were killed. Another member experienced a mutation, leading the captain to self-destruct the ship to prevent the dangerous crew member, who had developed godlike powers, from escaping. Just prior to its destruction, the Valiant ejected its own disaster recorder, which was eventually picked up by Kirk’s Enterprise in 2265 as was seen in THE ORIGINAL SERIES episode ‘Where No Man Has Gone Before.’

In 2067, the United Earth Space Probe Agency launched a deep space probe named Friendship 1. This was just four years after first contact, and humanity was keen to find other intelligent lifeforms. The probe contained a great deal of information about humans and how to communicate with them. Contact with the probe was lost in 2248, but the VOYAGER...
A remnant of the Chelybids, an explorer ship from the mid-21st century, was located aboard the Enterprise-D in 2365. The Chelybids was Earth’s first attempted attempt to travel beyond the solar system, but contact was lost. The debris found near Theta VII proved that it had definitely achieved its goal.

**HUMAN COLONIES**

While some vessels had ventured far from Earth, other ships, such as the S.S. Constellation, were helping to set up colonies just 20 light years from home. The ENTERPRISE episode “Terra Nova” revealed how the Constellation left Earth in 2069 with 200 colonists commanded by Captain Mitchell. Traveling at just over warp 1, it took nine long years to reach Terra Nova, but once there, the ship was dismantled and used to form the colony’s initial structures.

In 2123, the S.S. Mariposa NAR-7678, a DY-500-class ship, left Earth with two groups of settlers on a colonization expedition to the Ricas sector. After travelling for decades, the Mariposa reached Brungal V, where a group of Irish Neo-Transcendentalists set up a low-tech colony. The Mariposa then continued on its journey for half a light year to the planet Mariposa, where a group of scientists planned to set up another colony. Unfortunately, the ship’s hull breached during the descent to the planet and only five people survived. These scientists then used cloning to build up their numbers on the planet. THE NEXT GENERATION episode “Up The Long Ladder” revealed that both colonies were forgotten on Earth until the colonists on the planet appeared to have had an unfortunate appearance. The probe dye 430 and -DY-950 on Uxal in the Delta Quadrant. Eventually the probe landed on the planet.

**STARSHIP EXPANSION**

In the ENTERPRISE episode “First Flight” we learned that humans broke the warp 2 barrier in 2143 with Captain A.S. Robinson at the controls of the NX-Alpha spacecraft. This led to a whole host of new ships that were developed at this time that had a maximum speed of no more than warp 2. A list of Earth launches between 2123-2190 was seen on Captain Picard’s desk monitor in THE NEXT GENERATION episode “Flashback.” These included the Daedalus-class ships, and they were engaged in various types of mission including deep space exploration, colonization, stellar mapping and diplomatic assignments.

The ENTERPRISE episode “First Flight” also established that warp 3 was first achieved by Commander Duval pilot during the NX-Delta.”

**STAR TREK HISTORY**

This was the period when Daedalus-class ships were in operation, and it appeared to be a dangerous time, both for the Starfleet crews and the worlds they visited. The Prime Directive was not yet in place, and Daedalus-class crews appeared to have had an unfortunate influence on pre-warp societies.

But, it was also an exciting time for exploration. As Captain Janeway said to Harry Kim in the VOYAGER episode “Flashback: “Imagine the era they lived in: the Alpha Quadrant still largely unexplored... Humanity on the verge of war with the Klingons, Romulans hiding behind every nebula. Even the technology we take for granted was still in its early stages... Their ships were half as fast. No replicators. No holodecks. You know, ever since I took Starfleet history at the Academy, I’ve always wondered what it would be like to live in those days.”

“Space must have seemed a whole lot bigger back then. It’s not surprising that they had to bend the rules a little. They were a little slower to invoke the Prime Directive, and a little quicker to pull their phasers. Of course, the whole bunch of them would be booted out of Starfleet today. But I have to admit: I would have loved to ride shotgun at least once with a group of officers like that.”
ON SCREEN

TRIVIA

Although the Daedalus class was mentioned in both STAR TREK: THE ORIGINAL SERIES and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, it was never actually seen. In fact, it was only ever seen on screen as a scale model in STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE. It appeared in various episodes as the U.S.S. Horizon NCC-176 in Benjamin Sisko’s ready room and in the school run by Keiko O’Brien aboard Deep Space 9.

Something rarely seen in the STAR TREK franchise appeared in the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode Power Play. As the shuttlepod Campbell made its way through the turbulent atmosphere of the moon of Mab-Bu VI, the occupants could be seen strapped into their seats with seatbelts.

Marina Sirtis playing Counselor Troi broke her coccyx while performing a stunt in Power Play in which she was flung back by the force of a storm. Sirtis later said that her face was barely visible during the shot, and that “it could have been Worf in Troi’s costume and we wouldn’t have known.”

Inside your magazine

- In-depth profile of a Bajoran Freighter, an antiquated transport vessel used by the Bajorans in the 24th century
- How the Antares-class Bajoran Freighter started life and how it was altered to depict many other ships
- A look behind the scenes at how STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE was created and how some of the main characters were developed

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