Bajoran Freighter

Class: Antares

In Operation: 24th C

Type: Freighter

Length: 250 Meters
BAJORAN FREIGHTER

SPECIFICATION

OPERATED BY: THE BAJORANS
CLASS: ANTARES
TYPE: FREIGHTER
IN OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 250 METERS (APPROX.)
PROPULSION: SUBLIGHT & WARP ENGINES
WEAPONRY: POLARON BEAM WEAPONS

Stand assembly:

Stand assembly:

BAJORAN FREIGHTER

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BAJORAN FREIGHTER

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The Bajoran freighter was an Antares-class vessel that was approximately 250 meters in length, and it was used for transporting cargo and passengers. By the 2360s, it was considered an antiquated vessel and many examples did not even feature warp drive. As a result, many of these ships were used to merely ferry goods and people between Bajor and Deep Space 9.

The Bajorans first developed space flight in the 14th century, but it appeared that their starship technology did not advance as quickly as that of many other species. By the 24th century their starships were obsolete compared with the vessels used by Starfleet. This was largely due to the fact that Bajor had spent decades under Cardassian occupation, and the people had suffered greatly. The advancement of their starship-building program was hardly their top priority when they were struggling to find enough to eat and survive.

Some of the freighters were used by the Bajoran resistance during the occupation. Orta, the leader of a Bajoran resistance splinter group, made use of a Bajoran freighter from his base on the third moon of Valo I. The fact that this freighter was used to transport Orta’s followers on and off this moon indicated that the ship was capable of making planetary landings.

In 2368, this Bajoran freighter was used to mislead Cardassian forces into attacking what they believed was Orta’s cell traveling from Valo I to Valo III. In fact, the ship was empty and was being remotely controlled from the ground, with communications handled through a subspace relay aboard the ship. Two Cardassian warships intercepted the freighter during the journey and destroyed it, believing that they had killed Orta and his followers. In fact, the whole situation had been staged in order to prove that Admiral Kennelly had been collaborating with the Cardassians.

Even after the occupation of Bajor had ended in 2369, there were still much more urgent issues...
to address than building new ships. Instead, the Bajorans used their ingenuity to keep the ships that they did have flying. Bajoran freighters made frequent trips between Bajor and Deep Space 9, bringing with them supplies and passengers from the surface of the planet. As teenagers, Jake Sisko and Nog spent many idle, but enjoyable hours watching Bajoran girls board and disembark these vessels at Deep Space 9.

In 2369, a Bajoran criminal named Ibudan arrived at Deep Space 9 on a Bajoran freighter that had come from an Alderaan spaceport, suggesting that this particular vessel was warp powered. He had booked quarters on the ship that included a bunk bed and a computer terminal, which allowed him to make entries in a personal calendar. In this diary, Ibudan had noted a ship’s concert and an appointment for tennis on a holodeck, indicating that the ship had recreational facilities.

**Freighter Accident**

In 2371, a Bajoran freighter transporting Vedek Bareil Antos and Kai Winn Adami to peace talks with the Cardassians had to make an emergency stop at Deep Space 9. A micro-fracture ruptured in one of its warp plasma conduits and the entire relay system exploded. Vedek Bareil was badly injured, and a radiation leak from a loose plasma coil prevented him from being beamed to the infirmary aboard Deep Space 9, forcing the freighter to dock before he could be treated. Dr. Bashir was able to bring Bareil back from the point of death, but he later succumbed to his injuries after he insisted on helping Winn with the peace talks rather than having further treatment.

In 2375, several freighters were part of a small Bajoran fleet that set up a blockade to prevent Romulan Warbirds from delivering launch sequencers for plasma torpedoes to Derna, one of Bajor’s moons. The Romulans had secretly been stockpiling weapons on the moon, and when the Bajorans found out, they were furious. Colonel Kira organized the blockade, even though the Bajoran ships were no match for the Warbirds. At the last moment the Warbirds turned away after Admiral Ross was forced to intervene and threatened to use Starfleet forces to stop the Romulan ships from reaching the moon.

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A common sight at Deep Space 9 was a Bajoran freighter attached to one of its docking arms. These ships brought supplies and people to the station several times a day.
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Several Bajoran freighters were part of the blockade that Colonel Kira set up to stop Romulan Warbirds from delivering weapon supplies to Derna, one of Bajor’s moons.
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A Bajoran freighter, like most Bajoran ships, was rather ungainly, and featured many systems, conduits and other paraphernalia that were stuck on top of the hull in a rather haphazard fashion. It may have been that many of these accoutrements were added later to keep the ships running, as they were so old.
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DATA FEED
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Ibudan was arrested by Odo for killing a Cardassian during the occupation. He was later freed by the Bajoran provisional government, and arrived at Deep Space 9 on a Bajoran freighter with plans for revenge against Odo. He faked his own death using a clone of himself, and did it in such a way that the evidence pointed at Odo. Fortunately, Dr. Bashir found proof of the clone aboard the freighter that exonerated Odo.
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Odo searched for clues in Ibudan’s quarters aboard the Bajoran freighter he arrived on, hoping to find evidence of who killed him. The room featured a bunk bed, tables, chairs and a computer terminal.
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A Bajoran freighter and the docking arm it was attached to. These ships brought supplies and people to Deep Space 9 several times a day.
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Several Bajoran freighters had been co-opted by the Cardassians, and they were part of a convoy that was delivering medical supplies and relief workers to Pentath III, where an outbreak of Rudellian plague had struck.

The U.S.S. Defiant NX-74205 was assigned to protect the convoy as this was at a time when the Cardassians and Klingons were at war. It was feared that because the Pentath system was close to Klingon territory, the convoy would be at risk.

This proved to be the case as two Klingon ships decloaked and attacked. Worf, who was in command of the Defiant, returned fire, but during the engagement a Klingon civilian transport ship decloaked and was inadvertently destroyed by the Defiant.

Later, the Klingons tried to extradite Worf for being reckless and killing the civilians who were on the ship. Fortunately, it was proved that the Klingons had staged the whole scenario in the hope of forcing the Federation to stop escorting the Cardassian convoys.

Artistic Race
The Bajorans did have accomplished starship engineers, but as a race they were more renowned for their achievements in art, music, architecture and philosophy.

Lunch Meeting
Upon investigating Budan's quarters on the Bajoran freighter, Odo found that the Bajoran had noted a lunch appointment with Della Santina in his personal calendar file on the ship's computer. Della Santina was named for STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE unit production manager Robert della Santina.

It appeared that the Cardassians also used Bajoran freighters after perhaps appropriating them during the occupation. In 2372, at least one of these ships was part of a Cardassian convoy that was taking medical supplies and relief workers to Pentath III, where an outbreak of Rudellian plague had struck.

The U.S.S. Defiant NX-74205 was assigned to protect the convoy as this was at a time when the Cardassians and Klingons were at war. It was feared that because the Pentath system was close to Klingon territory, the convoy would be at risk.

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Who says models have an easy life? The studio model used to depict the Bajoran freighter certainly didn’t, and was reused numerous times.

**The Bajoran freighter**
The Bajoran freighter appeared in several episodes, beginning with *The Next Generation* episode *Ensign Ro*. It was adapted by model maker Greg Jein from the Jovis, which is a modified version of the Husnock warship. Jein added a hammerhead-shaped nose segment and a hexagonal pod above the rear section to turn it into the Bajoran freighter. A CG version was created later for *Deep Space Nine* episode *Shadows and Symbols*.

**Husnock warship**
This is where it all began. The model was created by Tony Meininger, who would go on to create many of the studio models used for *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager*. The model of the Husnock warship was seen in *The Next Generation* episode *The Survivors*. It was Meininger’s second contribution to the franchise, and he was only used because Greg Jein was busy working on *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* and *The Hunt for Red October*.

**Jovis**
Greg Jein modified the Husnock warship and turned it into the Jovis, Kivas Fajo’s Zibalian freighter seen in *The Next Generation* episode *The Most Toys*. The wings that used to hold the weapons on the Husnock warship were cut off, and the color of the hull and the lighting was changed. Stock footage of the Jovis was used to depict the Kallisko freighter from *Silicon Avatar*, and a Valtese freighter from *The Perfect Mate*.

**Kaelon warship**
The next outing for this studio model was as the Kaelon warship in *The Next Generation* episode *Half a Life*. The model does not appear to have been modified in any way since its last venture on to the screen as the Jovis, but new footage of the ship looks like it was shot. The only changes to the ship were how it was lit, as the hull color looked darker and the opening from which the weapons protruded was green instead of blue.

**Smuggler’s combat vessel**
Several wing-like panels were added to the main body of the model by Jein for its appearance as an unidentified smuggler’s ship in *The Next Generation* episode *Unification, Part I*. This helped make it look quite different from its earlier screen outings, as did changing the color of the hull to a metallic dark gray. Stock footage of the model in this configuration was used to depict an Ilari warship from the *Voyager* episode *Warlord*.

**Ship in ‘The Void’**
Once a CG version of the studio model had been created for an appearance as a Bajoran freighter in *Deep Space Nine* episode *Shadows and Symbols*, it was used unchanged in two *Voyager* episodes. A couple of CG versions could just be seen as spectator ships lined up to watch the Antarian Trans-stellar Rally in the episode *Drive*, but it was seen much more clearly as one of the ships that escaped an anomaly in *The Void*.

**Kantare supply ship**
As if the ship had not appeared enough, it nearly made a clean sweep of all the *Star Trek* series when the CG version appeared in a couple of *Enterprise* episodes. The first time was in *Oasis* when one was used to depict a Kantare supply ship that was suitably weathered after crashing into the surface of a planet three years earlier. The second time was when the ship was used to represent an Xantoras evacuation ship in *The Breach*. 

**THE HARDEST-WORKING MODEL IN STAR TREK**

The studio model used to depict the Bajoran freighter certainly didn’t, and was reused numerous times.
CREATING STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

The show’s creators talk about their early plans for STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE, and the elements they put in place to create drama.

EXECUTIVE producers Rick Berman and Michael Piller decided to build a large part of STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE’s backstory on elements that they had already introduced in STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. Specifically they concentrated on the Bajorans and Cardassians, and the relationship between the races was first established in the episode Emissary. The series bible (a reference document for the screenwriters) explained the background situation in more detail: “A century ago, the Cardassians conquered the planet Bajor, an ancient society with a dedication to spiritual pursuits. The mysterious orbs that have arrived each century are among the fundamental sacraments of the Bajoran religion.”

In Emissary, Bajor was occupied by the Cardassians, a situation that would change for the start of DEEP SPACE NINE. “Bajoran terrorism ... has been a significant problem for the Cardassians. Just before our series begins, the Cardassians have ... decided to unilaterally withdraw from Bajoran space ... “They have not left quietly – in revenge for the years of terrorism, the Cardassians ravaged the planet, poisoned wells, scorched the ground, and striking at the heart of the Bajoran people, have desecrated the ancient monastery ...”

“The Bajorans desperately need help. They have asked for membership in the Federation and have been granted preliminary acceptance. But the political situation on the planet is terribly unstable.” The Starfleet officers’ mission was to spearhead the diplomatic and scientific efforts that were involved in Bajor’s application for Federation membership. However, the task was not going to be easy. “Due to the turmoil on the planet, it is deemed unsafe to create a Federation base on the surface so, at the request of the provisional government, Starfleet takes command of a recently abandoned Cardassian space station in orbit of Bajor. During the first episode, the station is towed to the Denoris Asteroid Belt near the mouth of the newly discovered wormhole. It still belongs to Bajor but is administered by Starfleet ...”

NEW VISION

After some of the backstory had been outlined, the challenge faced by Berman and Piller was how to keep the vision of STAR TREK true to the one created by Gene Roddenberry, while also coming up with something new and different. One of the suggestions that was offered was The Aftennon in space – where a lone man would raise his son while taming the wild frontier of space. According to Piller, “Taming the wild frontier of space isn’t quite what Roddenberry had in mind. We could have created a sort of a Dodge City in space, but we didn’t quite go that far. Instead, we wound up with an interesting collection of characters, alien and human, who had different points of view, different moral and ethical agendas, and created the kind of conflict that we hadn’t had in THE NEXT GENERATION. It made the basis for good dramatic storytelling each week, because that’s what conflict does. And at the same time it would be true to Roddenberry’s vision of humanity for the future.”

After Piller and Berman had created the basic scenario, they worked on who should be the regular and recurring characters. Piller had created the character of Ro Laren for STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. He and Berman had been very impressed with Michelle Forbes, who played the part, and wanted to bring her on to the show. “We very impressed with Michelle Forbes, who played the part, and wanted to bring her on to the show. We could have created a sort of a Dodge City in space, but we didn’t quite go that far. Instead, we wound up with an interesting collection of characters, alien and human, who had different points of view, different moral and ethical agendas, and created the kind of conflict that we hadn’t had in THE NEXT GENERATION. It made the basis for good dramatic storytelling each week, because that’s what conflict does. And at the same time it would be true to Roddenberry’s vision of humanity for the future.”
Ensign Ro Laren had already been introduced on TNG as someone who had problems with authority, and it was felt she would make an interesting officer on DS9. As a Bajoran, Ro cares passionately about her people’s independence. That’s why she volunteered for duty aboard the station. Sisko originally refused to accept her transfer — he didn’t want to have anything to do with someone with her undistinguished service record and reputation. But during the first episode, she proves her value to him and becomes his first officer.

The bible continues, “As noted, Ro is a woman with a troubled past; she does not trust authority and does not follow orders well. In one situation, her failure to do so apparently led to the deaths of an away team under her command. She was court-martialed and imprisoned.”

LOOSE CANNON
The bible said, “A former member of the underground, who, upon liberation of Bajor, was granted the rank of ‘Major’ in the newly formed provisional forces. She has been assigned as the Cardassian torture her father until he died ... She has a reputation as a loose cannon, ... a reputation she uses to her advantage whenever she can .... There is conflict at every turn between Ro and by-the-book Starfleet officers.”

As it turned out Michelle Forbes decided not to take the part, and a new character, Major Kira Nerys, was created. Many of her character traits were similar to Ro’s, but she was given a somewhat different backstory.

RECIPE FOR TROUBLE
Ro was therefore destined to find herself in conflict with almost everybody and would have used some unconventional tactics.

The bible also stated, “She loathes the Cardassians. She was forced as a child to witness her father’s torture until he died. Behr said, “Once we discovered that Kira was the angriest dog in the Galaxy — she was so angry, and so combative — could you imagine if we’d played Sisko that way as we originally
Sisko was given a backstory that tied him into one of STAR TREK's most popular villains as his ship was destroyed by the Borg at the Battle of Wolf 359. His wife was killed on board the ship during the encounter, and it left him something of a broken man.

Sisko had to confront some inner demons in the series pilot as he let himself towards Captain Picard for his role in his wife's death as Locutus. But in the first episode, Sisko was given a new mission in life. So I never intended, and I don't think Rick Berman did either, that Sisko would be an outlaw.

BREAKING THE RULES

"Nevertheless," he continued, "if you look at the seven years, I think he was far more of an outlaw than any other STAR TREK hero, and I think primarily that evolved out of both the actor’s approach to the role and from some of the decisions that Ira made, perhaps reflecting his own feelings about the rules and regulations of Starfleet. Sisko broke a lot of them.

"We used to struggle and say, ‘Who is Sisko? What is his role on DEEP SPACE NINE? What’s he doing on the station?’ We finally decided that other guys go out and do things, but he’s the one that comes in afterwards and builds on what has been found. He was not the intrepid explorer on the team; he was the guy who was trying to build a society, a culture, a community that survives and flourishes.”

Piller was also happy with the way Bajoran religion took its place as a major element of the various story arcs. He said, “The idea of putting this space station near a planet that was deeply religious and spiritual gave us an immediate opportunity to explore the relationship between Gene Roddenberry’s humanist vision and a very different vision. It’s perfectly acceptable within a Roddenberry universe to have a spiritual race. How does humanity of the 24th century deal with an ally who has a different spiritual foundation?”

NO DOMINION

The Dominion did not feature in any of the early proposals for DEEP SPACE NINE. Both Piller and Behr acknowledged that it was some time before DEEP SPACE NINE gained widespread audience approval, and that certain elements took a while to become established and understood. “People kept asking what the Gamma Quadrant was,” said Behr. “At the start, to us it was just a place on the other side of the wormhole.”

Piller went on to add, “We never really expected as much as we ultimately did to go through the wormhole and explore into the Gamma Quadrant. The wormhole was originally just meant to be a kind of Gibraltar or Suez, the idea of building an outpost way deep in space.”

The first two seasons concentrated on Starfleet’s relationship with the Bajorans and the Cardassians. Only a handful of shows, such as Battle Lines and Parades, were set in the Gamma Quadrant, but the writing staff did discuss the idea of the Dominion at an early stage, feeling that the show would need a major ongoing conflict. "That was one of the very first things we talked about," Behr said. "We got this idea for doing this three-pronged thing. I said to [writer] Robert [Hewitt Wolfe], ‘Give me three villains: the brains, the warriors, and the overseers.’ He came back with the Vorta and the Jem’Hadar, and I have to say that was all planned out pretty darned well.”

The idea that the intiater new enemy should turn out to be Odo’s people was a classic case of great minds thinking alike. Piller said, “I believed that we had exploited the hell out of the Cardassians and we’d exploited the Maquis, and we exploited the evil people down on Bajor for the first two seasons, and we’d started exploring Odo’s backstory. And at the time, at least where I was sitting, we had not made any link between Odo’s origins and where and we might take them in the course of the series. But I remember that Ira and Robert Wolfe worked on coming up with a new villain – a new powerful villain that would create some new excitement for the series.

BRILLIANT IDEA

“I don’t know the origins of why we decided to go there,” continued Piller. “It might have been, ‘Let’s make the wormhole more active.’ But I remember the document that they came in with, describing the Dominion structure and the Founders and the relationship between the Vorta and the Jem’Hadar. It was all very clearly spelled out. Then one day I said to Ira, ‘I’ve got an idea for you. You’re going to love it. What if the Founders that you talk about are shape-shifters? What if they’re Odo’s people?’ And he said, ‘We’ve been talking about the same thing’ So that really set the course for the next several years.”

The writers discussed the idea of a new enemy very early on, but they were not introduced until the end of the second season. Producer to Steven Behr wanted a three-pronged enemy that consists of the brains, the warriors and the overseers. This is how they writers came up with the Vorta, the Jem’Hadar and the Founders that together would represent the Dominion.
ON SCREEN

TRIVIA
Scenes of the Bajoran encampment seen in the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode Ensign Ro were filmed at Bronson Canyon in Los Angeles. This area was a popular location for STAR TREK filming and it appeared in many productions. These included THE ORIGINAL SERIES episodes The Side of Paradise and Bread and Circuses, as well as THE NEXT GENERATION episodes Darmok, The Inner Light, Attached and Homeward.

FIRST APPEARANCE: ENSIGN RO (TNG)
TV APPEARANCES: STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION.
STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE.

KEY APPEARANCES
STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
Ensign Ro
Ensign Ro is assigned to the Enterprise-D in order to track down Orta, a Bajoran terrorist leader. When they find him, he claims not to be responsible for a recent attack on a Federation colony. Captain Picard is inclined to believe him, as the Bajoran freighters Orta and his followers use don’t even have warp capability, let alone the means to stage an attack. Picard and Ro therefore hatch a plan that exposes the Cardassians as being behind the attack on the colony in order to get Starfleet to flush out the whereabouts of Orta.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE
A Man Alone
After arriving on Deep Space 9, Ibudan, a Bajoran murderer recently released from prison, tangles with Odo. Later, Ibudan is found murdered in a holosuite, and the evidence points to the security chief as the guilty party. So an angry mob comes looking for justice and Commander Sisko is forced to relieve Odo of duty. Meanwhile, Dr. Bashir finds the remains of a biological sample in Ibudan’s quarters aboard the Bajoran freighter he arrived on. He decides to grow the sample in a culture dish and the results may prove Odo’s innocence.

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• In-depth profile of the Klingon D5-class battle cruiser that was in service during the mid-to-late 22nd century
• John Eaves explains how the Klingon D5-class battle cruiser was designed after he was asked to come up with a small, but menacing Klingon ship
• A look at Klingon society and why for them it is better to die on the battlefield than grow old

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