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NCC-9844

MIRANDA CLASS

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LENGTH: 233 METERS

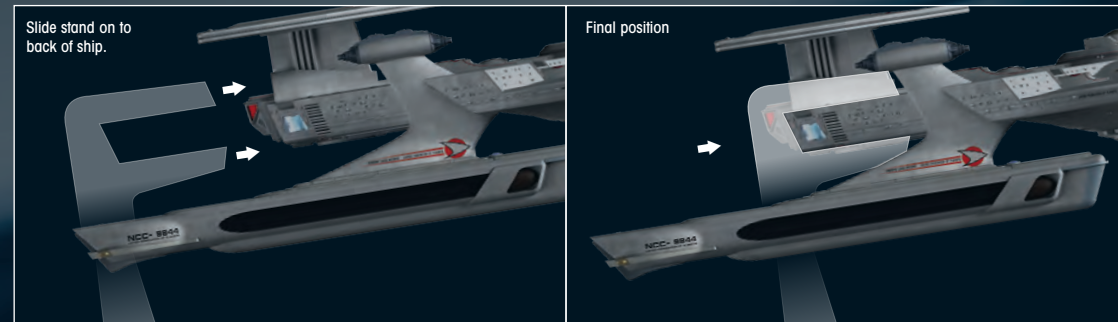
MAX SPEED: WARP 9.2

U.S.S. ANTARES
NCC-9844

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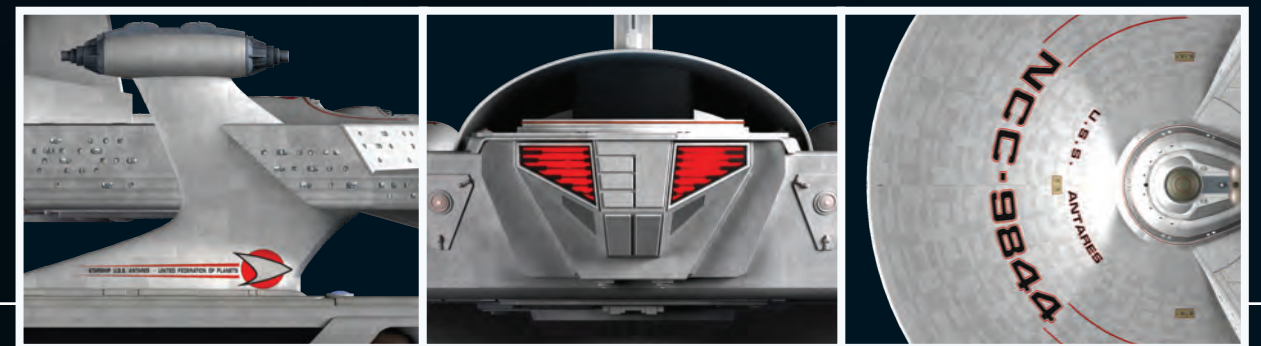
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U.S.S. ANTARES SPECIFICATION



TYPE:	MIRANDA-CLASS STARSHIP
REGISTRY:	NCC-9844
AFFILIATION:	FEDERATION
LAUNCHED:	24th CENTURY
LENGTH:	233 METERS (APPROX.)
TOP SPEED:	WARP 9.2
WEAPONRY:	PHASER EMITTERS, PHOTON TORPEDOES





U.S.S. ANTARES NCC-9844

The *U.S.S. Antares* formed part of the fleet that assembled to retake *Deep Space 9* during the Dominion War.

▲ The *U.S.S. Antares* was modeled on the classic *Miranda*-class configuration, featuring low-slung warp nacelles. However, the *Miranda*'s upper roll bar was removed and replaced with a sensor pod providing mission-specific functions.

The *U.S.S. Antares* NCC-9844 was a Federation starship that was operational in the mid-to-late 24th century. The *Antares* was an active participant in the Dominion War conflict fought between allied Federation forces and the Gamma Quadrant power known as the Dominion, from 2373 to 2375. At least three other starships of the same design as the *Antares* formed part of the mass fleet assembled by Captain Benjamin Sisko to retake the Federation space station *Deep Space 9* from the Dominion aggressors in 2374.

On first sight, the *Antares* appeared to be a classic *Miranda*-class starship configuration, an icon of Starfleet design since the mid-23rd century. However, more detailed examination revealed modifications to that class' compact design, highlighting the modular and adaptive nature of Starfleet vessels.

MIRANDA-CLASS MODIFICATIONS

As with other examples of the *Miranda*-class, the *U.S.S. Antares* possessed a single primary saucer section with the main bridge situated at the centre of the saucer's upper surface. The vessel's two warp nacelles were ranged below and to the rear of the primary hull, held in place by pylons securing them towards the extended rear of the saucer.

The standard *Miranda*-class starship saw the upper rear of the saucer section fitted with an overarching roll bar superstructure to house both phaser banks and photon torpedo launchers. However, this design element was absent from the *Antares* and its sister ships, the weaponry roll bar



◀ It is unclear as to exactly which fleet the *U.S.S. Antares* was serving with at the time of the Dominion War, but it responded to orders to rendezvous at Starbase 375 along with ships of the Second and Ninth Fleets. It fell into formation with three other vessels of the same class, standing off from the starbase with its sister ships.



► Over 600 ships left Starbase 375, en route for *Deep Space 9*. The fleet's numbers were heavily depleted due to the delayed arrival of the Ninth Fleet and no response from the Klingons for assistance.

▼ Sisko outlined his plan to retake *Deep Space 9* to Starfleet's top brass at Starbase 375. The operation made tactical sense, but Sisko's superiors were resistant to committing so many ships to the effort.



▲ *Miranda*-class ships had been in service to the Federation and Starfleet for nearly a century by the time of the Dominion War. Ships such as the *U.S.S. Antares* were compact and highly adaptable for a variety of mission objectives.

replaced by a large, raised pod dominating the rear of the dorsal primary hull.

MISSION SPECIFIC POD

The exact nature of this pod's function was unclear. Its design and positioning could be seen as analogous with Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) installed in military aircraft of the 20th and 21st centuries. Likely uses in different operational scenarios could see the pod utilised for long-range sensor or tactical combat functions.

The removal of the upper roll bar in favour of the pod left the upper portion of each of the *Antares*' warp nacelle pylons separate and isolated, housing either phaser banks or torpedo launchers.

To the rear of the extended saucer section, Shuttlebay 1 and Shuttlebay 2 were located to either side of the main impulse engines. Standard phaser banks and photon torpedo launchers were

located at tactical points across the primary hull. Although not one of Starfleet's fastest or most maneuverable class of starships, the *U.S.S. Antares* highlighted the adaptable nature of the *Miranda* class to carry out a variety of missions covering ship-to-ship combat, scientific investigation and cargo transport.

THE BATTLE FOR DEEP SPACE 9

Along with ships of the Second and Fifth Fleets, the *Antares* responded to Starfleet orders issued by Captain Benjamin Sisko to rendezvous at Starbase 375. The Second Fleet was pulled back past the Kotanka System, while the Fifth Fleet was diverted from hostilities along the Vulcan border. The Ninth Fleet was unable to join the efforts as ordered.

Sisko intended to launch an offensive to retake his former command, *Deep Space 9*. The station had been under Dominion-Cardassian control

since the evacuation of Federation forces months earlier. The tactical position of *DS9* in the vicinity of the Bajoran wormhole to the Gamma Quadrant made it an essential asset for the success of Federation efforts to turn the tide of the war. Word reached Starfleet that the minefield established by Sisko to prevent Dominion reinforcements using the wormhole prior to the evacuation of *DS9* was days away from being deactivated. The mission was now of the utmost urgency, but with no assistance forthcoming from the Klingons, the Federation forces would be massively outnumbered.

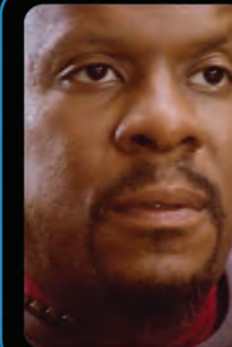
The *U.S.S. Antares* and its three sister ships joined the massed fleet, led by the *U.S.S. Defiant*, that disembarked from Starbase 375 to converge on *Deep Space 9*. En route, 11 ships, including the *U.S.S. Cortez*, were forced to fall out of fleet formation due to operational problems.

With the Dominion and Cardassian forces aware

of the fleet's approach, enemy ships totalling 1254 were deployed against the *U.S.S. Antares* and its fellow starships, outnumbering the Federation fleet by two to one. Aboard the *U.S.S. Defiant*, Captain Sisko recalled an old Earth saying: "Fortune favors the bold."

The battle for *Deep Space 9* had begun.

▲ Alongside the *Miranda*-class *U.S.S. Antares*, starships converging at Starbase 375 included *Galaxy*-class, *Excelsior*-class and various Federation fighter ships.



DATA FEED

Having carried out successful missions in the field against the Dominion during the war, by 2374 Captain Benjamin Sisko had been appointed as adjutant to Vice Admiral Ross. As the former commander of *Deep Space 9*, it was always Sisko's objective to retake the station. It was in this key role as Ross' adjutant that gave Sisko the opportunity to plan his dangerous operation to turn the tide of the Dominion War.

RESISTANCE EFFORTS

While the *U.S.S. Antares* assembled with the rest of the fleet at Starbase 375, urgent intelligence couriered from the resistance group operating on *Deep Space 9* made Captain Sisko's plan more urgent than ever.

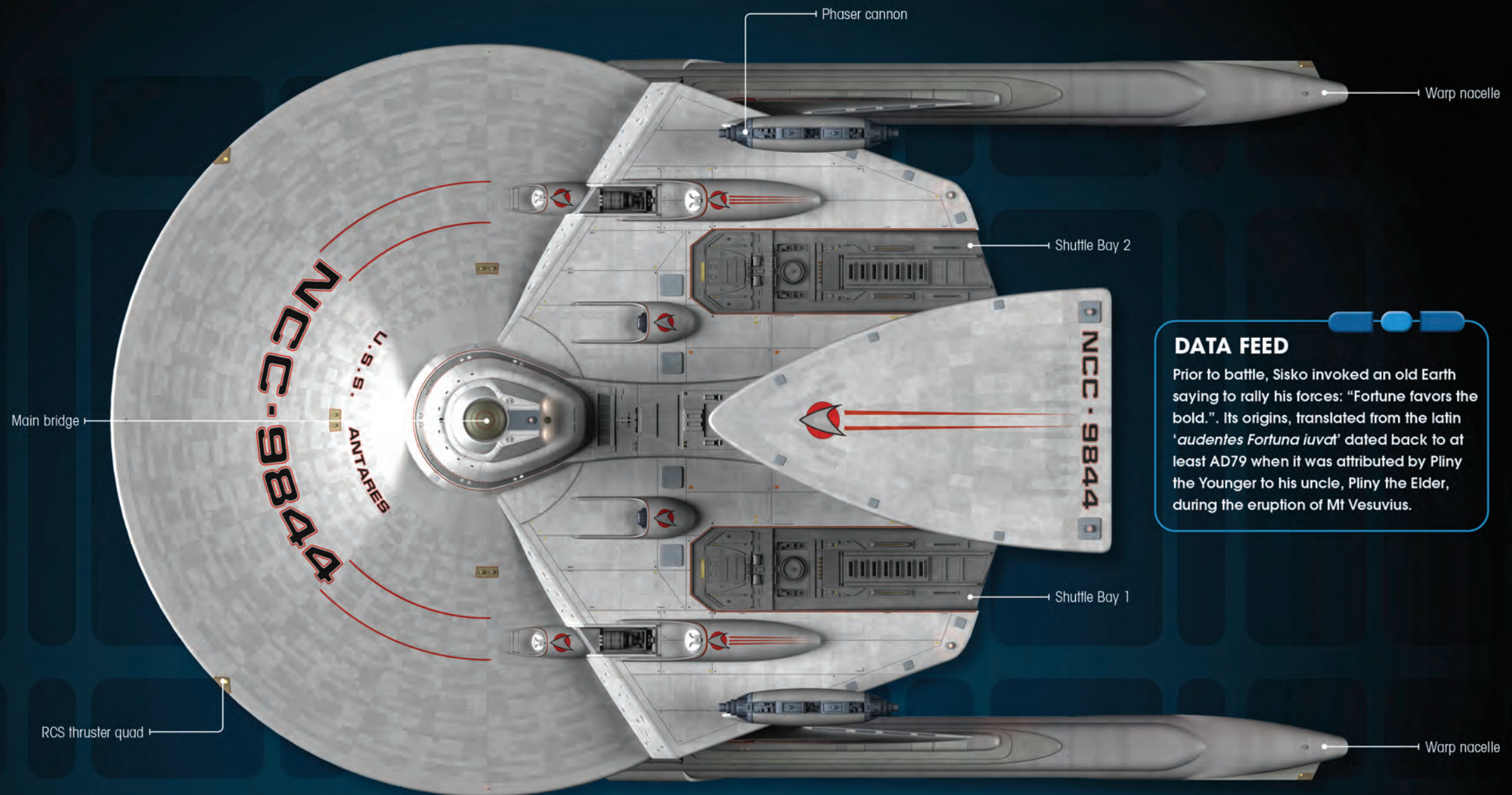
The Cardassian occupying forces on the station, led by Gul Dukat, had discovered the means to deactivate the field of self-replicating mines that prevented Dominion reinforcements from using the wormhole. Dukat oversaw the delicate operation to neutralise each mine's replicator unit one by one. Once the field was neutralised, Dominion reinforcements could arrive in vast numbers to completely overwhelm the Federation and its allies.

Leading the resistance, Major Kira Nerys and Ferengi bar owner Quark learned of the imminent deactivation of the minefield. With help from Jake Sisko, a coded message for Captain Sisko was smuggled off the station in a birthday gift by *DS9* resident Morn.

The intelligence received by Sisko was a blow to the Captain's plans. Only days remained before the final mine would be deactivated and the field detonated, bringing the operation to take *Deep Space 9* forward. Sisko's combined fleet left Starbase 375 with no support from the Ninth Fleet or the Federation's Klingon allies.



▲ On approach to *Deep Space 9*, the combined Federation taskforce found 1254 Dominion and Cardassian ships converging on their position, standing before their primary objective.

**DATA FEED**

Prior to battle, Sisko invoked an old Earth saying to rally his forces: "Fortune favors the bold." Its origins, translated from the latin '*audentes Fortuna iuvat*' dated back to at least AD79 when it was attributed by Pliny the Younger to his uncle, Pliny the Elder, during the eruption of Mt Vesuvius.

DELAYED ARRIVAL

As vital intelligence reached Starfleet that the wormhole minefield would be deactivated in three days, the taskforce left without the Ninth Fleet, which was still four days away.

COMBINED FLEET

Other ships in the combined fleet, which was led by the *U.S.S. Defiant*, were the *U.S.S. Cortez* and the *U.S.S. Sarek*. The *Sarek* took the place of the *Cortez* in the fleet formation when the *Cortez* had to pull back due to a port nacelle problem.

ATTACK FORMATION

With Dominion and Cardassian ships on an intercept course, Captain Sisko issued a command to the *U.S.S. Antares* and the rest of the fleet to assume attack formation Delta Two. The fleet obeyed orders and moved to engage the approaching enemy in combat.





DESIGN MYSTERY

The *U.S.S. Antares* appeared briefly on screen in *DEEP SPACE NINE*, but its behind the scenes design provenance is unclear...

▲ The *U.S.S. Centaur* entered battle in *DEEP SPACE NINE*: 'A Time to Stand'. The model was a 'kitbashed' creation built by visual effects co-ordinator Adam Buckner.

The *U.S.S. Antares*, as featured briefly on screen in the *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* episode 'Favor the Bold', is a starship design mystery. Among hundreds of ships featured across seven seasons of *DEEP SPACE NINE*, keeping a detailed record of individual starship models built quickly by members of the visual effects team was tricky.

The design and model build of the *U.S.S. Antares* has previously been attributed to Adam Buckner, visual effects co-ordinator on *DEEP SPACE NINE* from 1996 to 1999. However, Buckner has a different memory of events. "I wish I could take credit for it, but I can't," he says. "I don't really know the pedigree or provenance of the *Miranda*-based *Antares*. The information seems inaccurate as I have no memory of building it."

"I vaguely remember the ship," adds Dan Curry, *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s visual effects producer. "There were so many, but I don't think Adam built it."

Looking back over 20 years to production on *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s sixth season and the Dominion War arc, this highlights just how many starships were required to be on screen, even for just a split second. Both 'Favor the Bold', in which the *U.S.S. Antares* appeared, and the following 'Sacrifice of Angels' featured huge numbers of Starfleet vessels in an operation to retake DS9 from the Dominion. Often, when a ship had appeared in the far background, like the *Antares*, it's work was done. This led to some ship requirements being fulfilled with a quick miniature build, cannibalising parts from different model sources, including



▲ The original model build of the *Miranda*-class *U.S.S. Antares* that featured briefly on screen in 'Favor the Bold'. This 'kitbashed' model was built from various sources.



▲ Visual effects co-ordinator Adam Buckner with a kitbashed model of the unseen *U.S.S. Jupp*. Buckner was originally credited with designing the *U.S.S. Antares*.

commercially available kits. This practice was known as 'kitbashing'.

KITBASHING MODELS

"Kitbashing," explains Curry, "was a way to create Federation looking ships but giving each one a unique look."

Looking over pictures of the *U.S.S. Antares*, Buckner agrees that the model was likely to have been a kitbash. "As an observation," he says, "that top modification looks like a kitbash using a stand turned upside down and partially finished..."

Curry, along with Buckner and visual effects colleagues Judy Elkins and the late Gary Hutzel, all provided kitbashed models during this period of *DEEP SPACE NINE*. When previously describing his

work to construct the damaged *U.S.S. Curry* from season six's 'A Time to Stand', Curry said: "Since we wanted everything to have a Starfleet aesthetic, we used primarily pieces from *STAR TREK* kits, along with screens, crumpled aluminium foil and other materials to create the damage."

Along with other kitbashed ships such as the *U.S.S. Raging Queen* and the *U.S.S. Elkins*, the *Curry* joined a roster of hastily constructed ships that became known as the 'Frankenstein Fleet'. Buckner created the *U.S.S. Centaur* seen in 'A Time to Stand', as well as two other ships that were never used on screen – the *U.S.S. Bradford* and the *U.S.S. Jupp*.

As for the *U.S.S. Antares*, its visual effects provenance remains a mystery...



▲ Dan Curry's kitbashed model of the damaged *U.S.S. Curry* seen in 'A Time to Stand'. It was constructed from different commercially available *STAR TREK* kits.



▲ The kitbashed *U.S.S. Antares* was briefly seen on screen – with three sister ships – arriving with other ships at Starbase 375 in 'Favor the Bold'.



CHASE

MASTERSON

Chase Masterson looks back on her time as *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s Leeta, recalling her journey from Dabo girl to First Lady of the Ferengi...

▲ Chase Masterson became a popular recurring actor on *DEEP SPACE NINE*, appearing regularly as Leeta, a Dabo girl in Quark's Bar.

Chase Masterson arrived on *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* as Dabo girl Leeta in the third season episode 'Explorers' and made an immediate impression. Over the following seasons, Leeta became a popular part of *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s recurring cast, moving from Dabo girl to resistance fighter and eventual First Lady of the Ferengi. By the time the show reached season six's

'Favor the Bold', Leeta and Masterson were very much part of the *DS9* family.

"Being remembered for *STAR TREK* is something that continues to enrich my life," says Masterson happily, looking back to her time on the show. "Leeta was a lovely character and said a lot of great things that identify with the *STAR TREK* credos."

EARLY DAYS

After arriving in Los Angeles early in her career, Masterson was dead set on appearing in a *STAR TREK* show after encountering *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* guest actor Jonathan Del Arco – Hugh Borg in 'I Borg' and 'Descent Part II'. "Jonathan was in an acting class I had with 10 people," recalls Masterson. "Three of those people were Garret Wang from *VOYAGER*, Jonathan and me. Jonathan would come to class and tell us about doing the show and about these events where he met the fans. I thought, that's the show I want to be on. So I made it a point to meet the *STAR TREK* casting director. We had these 'pay-to-meet' showcases, where you could do a scene for a casting director, pay your \$30, hope they remember you and call you in for an audition. One showcase I took, very purposefully, to meet Ron Surma, casting director for *DEEP SPACE NINE*. I auditioned for him once and got down to the final two. It was between one other girl and me, and she got it. It was for the roll of a girl dating Jake Sisko." Masterson laughs at the memory. "Avery Brooks was directing that episode and he said, 'that girl is not going to date my son!' I heard later that they wrote the role of Leeta for me, based on that first audition. It was quite a gift."

Initially a love interest for Dr Bashir, Leeta's storyline developed in unexpected ways. "The journey that Leeta had was, for me, a very powerful journey. Being a Dabo girl and then going from that to a stepmother of Nog who was wounded, physically and psychologically, and then eventually the wife of the Grand Nagus. It's a lovely journey.

"That was a period where we were all realising the power we had in our hands with this show," says Masterson of the period of *DEEP SPACE NINE* during season six and 'Favor the Bold', set right at the heart of the Dominion War. "It was at the height of *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s popularity and we realised what we had, when we had it. A show that was highly charged about social issues. The cost of war. The impact war has on families and innocent lives, and the impact it has on soldiers. We knew we had something very

► Masterson made her first appearance as Leeta in 'Explorers', vying for the attentions of Dr Julian Bashir.

► In 'Explorers', Leeta displayed a devious side when she faked a cough to spend more time with Dr Bashir. It was the start of a beautiful friendship for the Dabo girl.

► Leeta became concerned for Rom in 'Bar Association', leading to growing feelings between the two bar workers.

► During the Dominion War, Leeta became involved with the resistance efforts, being incarcerated with Major Kira before the liberation of *Deep Space 9*.





▲ Masterson enjoyed her time working alongside co-star Max Grodénchik, who played Rom, developing their relationship over a number of episodes.

▲ After their affection grew, Leeta and Rom married in 'A Call to Arms', with Leeta becoming step-moogie to Nog. Leeta evacuated the station shortly after the ceremony.

▲ Leeta was fully behind Rom's battle against his brother Quark to gain better working conditions for all the bar workers in 'Bar Association'.

▲ The new family reunited after the Dominion War. Masterson felt *DEEP SPACE NINE's* depiction of the long-term effects of the war on station residents was important.

powerful, both as a show and as a megaphone for important issues."

FERENGI FAMILY VALUES

In 'Favor the Bold', Leeta's Ferengi husband Rom is in prison after carrying out sabotage against *Deep Space Nine's* Dominion occupiers. "That was an interesting episode," Masterson continues, "because there was a bonding between Quark and Rom and Quark vowed to do anything to get him out. That was a moment where we really got to feel for Rom. He's such a good man. Again, one of the innocents of war. His entire future was in jeopardy and yet he was more interested in the success of the resistance winning."

Scenes between Leeta, Quark and Rom gave Masterson a chance to work closely alongside Max Grodénchik (Rom) and Armin Shimmerman (Quark), something she was always keen to do. "My favourite person was Max. He was just lovely and focused and gentle. He's a really wonderful, committed actor, willing and excited to rehearse and just really genuine about his role. That's who he is to this day. I've never seen a whiff of ego from Max, never had a sense that anything was about him, it was really about Rom and the show, the script. You don't find that with every actor.

"Armin Shimmerman was lovely," she adds. "He made a really lovely effort to reach out to us as new members of the cast, which is very

rare. Armin did that, he reached out and said, 'Hey, welcome.' Having a sense of how a set works is something that every actor has to learn, and it helps when there's a seasoned actor who's there to help you learn it. We also had rehearsals at Armin's house. There isn't time on set to rehearse, so we gathered at Armin's house and did a round table read, which was a really nice opportunity to get to know the cast better."

INTENSE SCHEDULES AND BAJORAN NOSES

Masterson's time on *DEEP SPACE NINE* gave her invaluable experience with the pressure of the production schedule of a weekly television drama. "A show like *DEEP SPACE NINE*, which is

high concept, lots of characters, lots of storylines and lots of set pieces, has to go quickly. All television goes quickly, and we would shoot five to six pages a day and it would be an eight-day shoot. We had to work very quickly, and that would mean two takes, three takes for safety, then moving on."

As a Bajoran, Leeta sported the distinctive wrinkled nose piece, requiring Masterson to wear a prosthetic for her days on set. "Prosthetics can itch," she says. "Toward the end of a 12-hour day you can feel like you want to tear your face off. Not so much me, but you can imagine how René Auberjonois or Michael Dorn or the Ferengi must have felt." However, Masterson's time in



▲ Leeta's final appearance in *DEEP SPACE NINE* came in 'The Dogs of War', when she found herself married to the Ferengi Grand Nagus – her husband Rom!

▲ In her early days on *DEEP SPACE NINE*, Masterson found Armin Shimmerman (Quark) to be a welcoming presence on set for a new actor joining the show.

▲ "My favourite person was Max. He was just lovely and focused and gentle," Masterson praised her co-star Max Grodénchik. "That's who he is to this day."

▲ Leeta showed a harder side of her personality in 'Bar Association', standing up for herself and her fellow workers. Masterson was keen to show Leeta's development.



▲ The 'Bar Association'. Masterson found there was always a lot of activity on the *DEEP SPACE NINE* set, with a fast and busy schedule to get through every day.

▲ "I love Mirror Leeta!" In 'The Emperor's New Cloak', Masterson got to play a very different Leeta as action crossed over into the Mirror Universe.

▲ Leeta and Rom looked forward to a new future together as the first family of the Ferengi in Masterson's final series appearance. "We loved the show. We knew what we had when we had it, when everyone was committed and grateful and excited to come to work in the morning."

the make-up chair was more involved than simply having a single prosthetic applied. "It took three-and-a-half hours for hair, make-up and wardrobe. That was largely because of the beauty make-up and the body make-up. My make-up would take longer than the Ferengi! When you do the eyes, highlight the contour, the glitter, the lashes... Then the body make-up which is done with an airbrush, that's way different than putting on a mask.

"I would get to the Paramount lot before anyone else except my make-up person and Paramount security staff. It was amazing being at work at 3.30 in the morning in the darkness. The classic beauty of the Paramount lot with only the moon out and walking through that silence, reflecting on all that had taken place there. Those moments before work alone were incredible.

"It was really hard," recalls Chase of her final days working on *DEEP SPACE NINE*. "We loved the show. We knew what we had when we had it, when everyone was committed and grateful and excited to come to work in the morning. We knew what we had on our hands in terms of both entertainment and social empowerment. None of us knew if we'd ever have anything like that again."

MIRROR IMAGE

In the 20 years that have passed since the final episode of *DEEP SPACE NINE*, Masterson finds that *STAR TREK* is still very much a part of her life, regularly voicing Leeta and her Mirror Universe alter-ego for the *STAR TREK* Online game. "I love Mirror Leeta!" laughs Masterson. "It's a blast to play. It's also a blast because I've gotten to play Mirror Leeta concurrent with regular Leeta and Holosuite Leeta. It's fun to play them all concurrently."

Masterson also remains a popular figure on the convention circuit, fitting in appearances as often as her busy schedule of acting work will allow. "It's such a true honor, so every chance I get I show up to say thank you to the fans. It's their hearts and support that have made this franchise what it is and it's such a huge blessing."

One aspect of Masterson's post *STAR TREK* life is her charity work, of which conventions and fans are an important element. "The fans since

the very beginning have always been incredibly supportive of the charities that the actors put forth." In 2013, Masterson was the founder of the Pop Culture Hero Collective, a charity set up to fight bullying in all its forms. "This is the first ever organisation to make a stand for real-life heroism over bullying, racism, misogyny, LGBTQI+ bullying, cyber bullying and other forms of injustice, using these stories that we love. I truly think that Gene Roddenberry would be doing this kind of work if he were still around, because he made these shows

to be morality plays. So we're making that work in real life."

Chase Masterson continues to act and sing, regularly appearing in films and TV shows. Today she is happy with where the legacy of *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* sits in her life. "The beauty of *STAR TREK* is that it never really goes away," she smiles. "The show – other than showing up to work and getting to create new stories – is every bit a part of our lives as we could expect it to be, having wrapped it 20 years ago. How many other shows do that?"

► From Dabo girl to Ferengi First Lady... Chase Masterson thoroughly enjoyed her *DEEP SPACE NINE* journey.



◀ Leeta risked losing everything when she acted against the Dominion with fellow resistance members Quark, Jake Sisko and Major Kira in 'Sacrifice of Angels.'

ON SCREEN



TRIVIA

The sixth season of *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* was originally conceived as opening with a five-episode arc chronicling Captain Sisko's efforts to retake *Deep Space 9*. The arc was supposed to conclude with the fifth episode, 'Favor the Bold'. However when writers Ira Steven Behr and Hans Beimler found they had far too much action to fit into a single episode, a sixth episode was added, 'Sacrifice of Angels', forming a two-parter with 'Favor the Bold'.



In 'Favor the Bold', Captain Benjamin Sisko waxes lyrical to Admiral Ross about the beauty of Bajor and his desire to one day set up a home on the planet. According to co-executive producer Ronald D Moore, this emotive scene was added to the episode at the last minute to extend the running time as it was found to be under-running and required more material.



'Favor the Bold' featured a promotion for a regular recurring character. Starfleet cadet Nog earned the rank of Ensign aboard the *U.S.S. Defiant*, making him the first Ferengi to ever serve at a ranking level in Starfleet.

FIRST APPEARANCE:	'FAVOR THE BOLD' (DS9)
TV APPEARANCES:	STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE
DESIGNED BY:	UNKNOWN

KEY APPEARANCES

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE 'FAVOR THE BOLD'

After a successful combat mission against the Dominion, the *U.S.S. Defiant* is ordered to Starbase 375. On arrival, Captain Sisko informs Commander Dax of his intention to retake *Deep Space 9* from the Dominion. Sisko outlines his plan to Starfleet's top brass to launch a combined fleet offensive, but he is met with resistance.

On *Deep Space 9*, Major Kira Nerys and Quark continue resistance efforts to disrupt Dominion-Cardassian plans and free Rom from a death sentence for sabotage. Gul Dukat informs Weyoun that the replicating minefield

blocking the Bajoran wormhole will soon be deactivated, allowing Dominion reinforcements to arrive. Learning this devastating news, Kira and Quark send a message to Sisko via covert means.

As Kira and Quark navigate the ever-changing political situation on *DS9*, Sisko advances the operation to retake the station. Ships from the Second and Fifth Fleets arrive at Starbase 375, ready to strike at the Dominion. Dukat, informed of Federation ship movements, sends Dominion-Cardassian forces against the approaching Starfleet ships.

Aboard the *Defiant*, Sisko issues strategic orders to the fleet to prepare to engage their enemy - an enemy that outnumbers them two to one...

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