

156

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U.S.S. MELBOURNE  
**NEBULA CLASS**

TYPE: STARSHIP

LAUNCHED: 24th C

LENGTH: 442 METERS

MAX SPEED: WARP 9.5



# U.S.S. MELBOURNE NEBULA CLASSES

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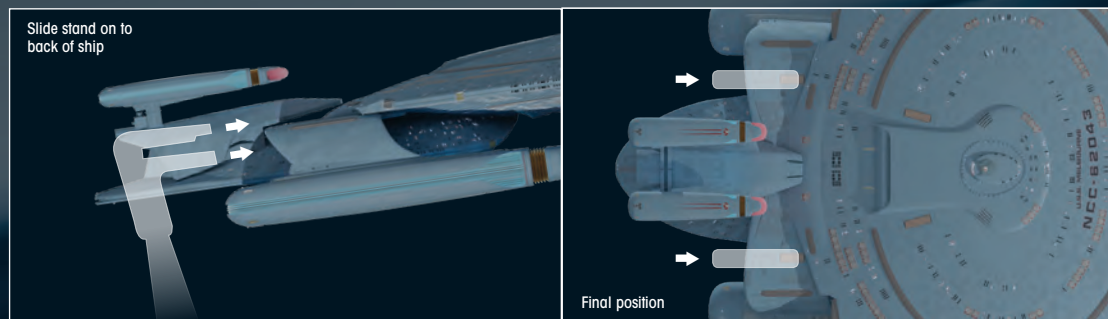
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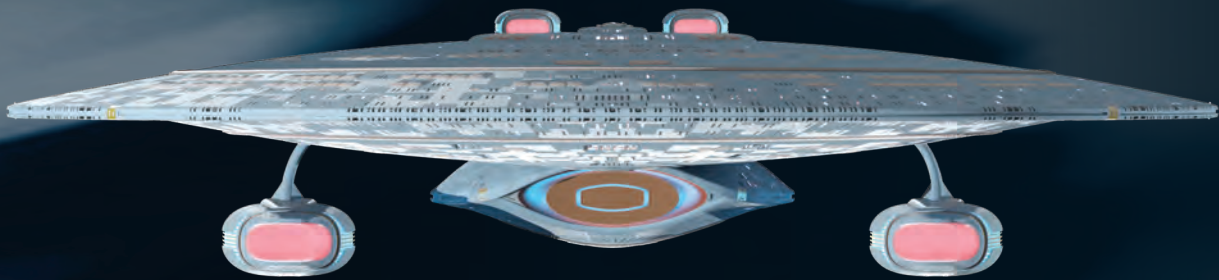
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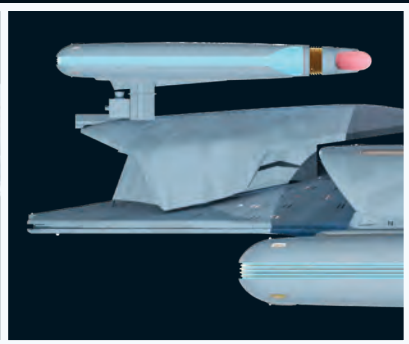
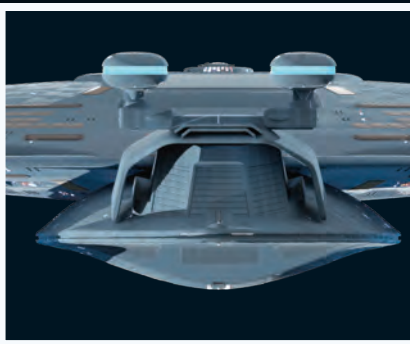
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# U.S.S. MELBOURNE NEBULA CLASS

## SPECIFICATION

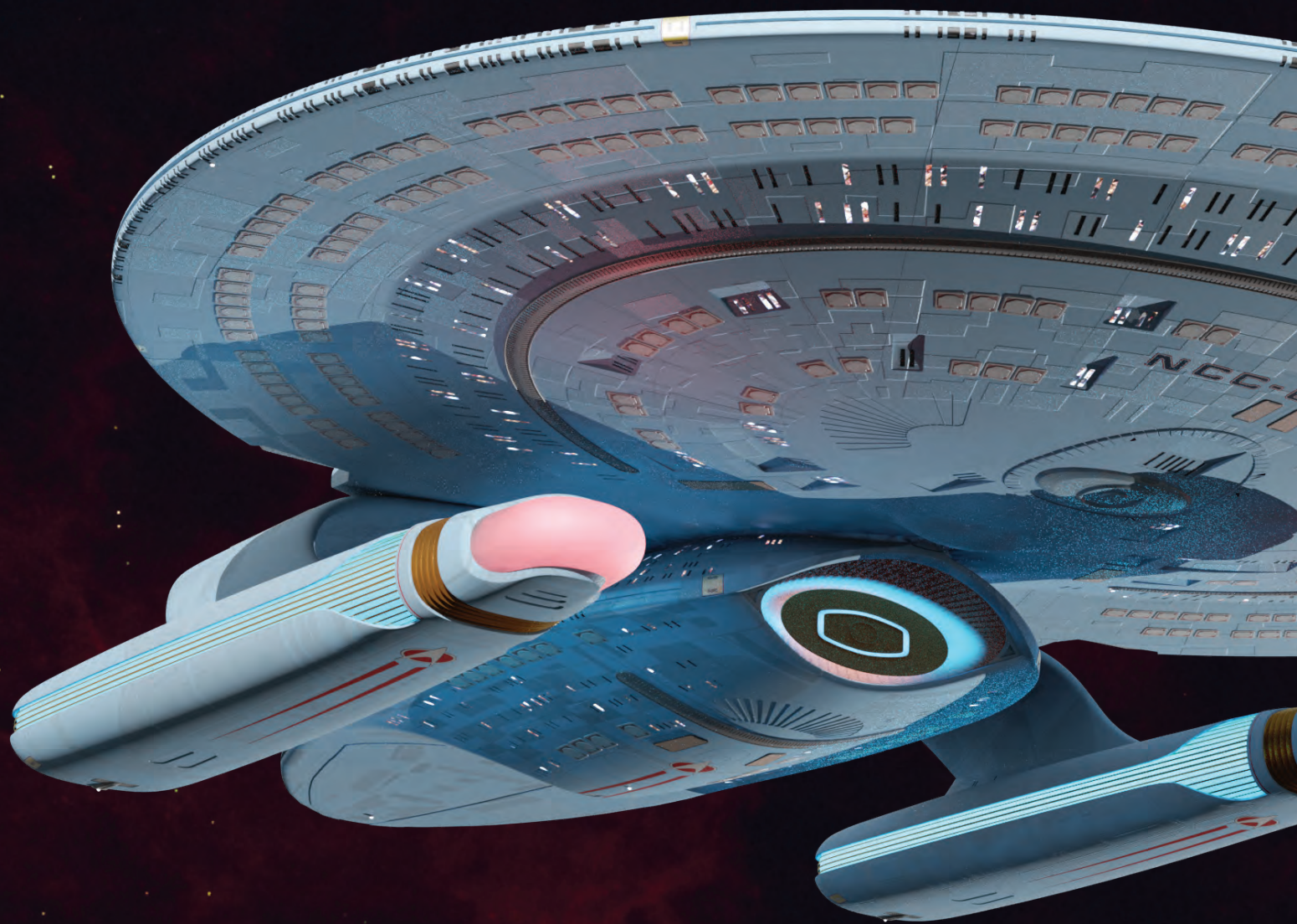


TYPE:	STARSHIP
AFFILIATION:	FEDERATION
LAUNCHED:	24th CENTURY
LENGTH:	442 METERS (APPROX.)
MAX SPEED:	WARP 9.5
WEAPONRY:	PHASERS, PHOTON TORPEDOES
DESTROYED:	CIRCA STARDATE 44002.3





▼ The *U.S.S. Melbourne* NCC-62043 was a variant of Starfleet's *Nebula* class, which was operational in the 24th century. It was thought to be a prototype developed during the *Nebula*-class program.



*U.S.S. MELBOURNE*

**NCC-62043**

The *Nebula*-class prototype *U.S.S. Melbourne* was deployed against the Borg at the Battle of Wolf 359.





On stardate 43996.2 in 2366, the *Galaxy*-class *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701-D engaged a Borg cube in Federation space between Zeta Alpha II and Sentinel Minor IV. It was the first incursion by the Borg into Federation territory, leading to one of the darkest hours in Starfleet history.

Several days later, following the loss of Captain Jean-Luc Picard to the Borg, 40 Federation starships came together at Wolf 359 to make a stand against the Borg. Among the ships standing between the Borg and Earth was the *Nebula*-class *U.S.S. Melbourne* NCC-62043. The Battle of Wolf 359 marked its final operation as a Starfleet vessel.

#### NEBULA-CLASS PROTOTYPE

The *U.S.S. Melbourne*'s configuration marked it out as part of the design lineage of the *Nebula*-class development program. Sharing some commonality with its *Galaxy*-class counterparts, such as warp nacelle design and construction of the primary saucer section, the *Nebula* class was designed as a more compact starship. Its configuration and warp nacelle placements appeared to be a logical progression of the long-standing *Miranda* class, examples of which were still in active service by the mid-24th century.

The *Melbourne* appeared to display an atypical variation of the *Nebula* class' overall construction, and may have represented an earlier, in-service prototype model. This variation was most evident in the placement of additional warp nacelles. In addition to the main port and starboard nacelles



◀ The *U.S.S. Melbourne* was part of a hastily assembled fleet of 40 Starfleet vessels under the command of the experienced Admiral Hanson. The fleet engaged the Borg in combat at Wolf 359, but the fight did not go well. Hanson contacted the pursuing *U.S.S. Enterprise* during the battle, but his communication was abruptly cut off.





▲ The design of the *U.S.S. Melbourne* diverged from the standard *Nebula*-class configuration. This was denoted by two dorsal-placed warp nacelles above the saucer section. Standard *Nebula*-class ships displayed an extraneous upper sensor pod in this location as opposed to nacelles.

placed beneath the saucer section, the *U.S.S. Melbourne* featured twin, smaller nacelles above the engineering section and directly behind the main saucer. By contrast, later examples of the *Nebula* class, such as the *U.S.S. Phoenix* NCC-65420, replaced the dorsal warp nacelles with an upper sensor pod.

The exact nature of the dorsal warp nacelles on the *Melbourne* was unclear. However, it was likely to have been an experiment in increasing the efficiency of warp field harmonics with a quad nacelle arrangement. This earlier design route does not appear to have progressed beyond this proto example of the *Nebula*-class.

#### COMPACT CONFIGURATION

The placement of warp nacelles aside, the configuration of the *Melbourne* adhered largely to the standard *Nebula*-class design. The primary

saucer section was analogous with that of a *Galaxy*-class starship, such as the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. This included similar placement of phaser banks encircling both dorsal and ventral surfaces of the main saucer. As with many examples of Starfleet design, the bridge was located centrally on the dorsal surface of the saucer, above the main shuttlebay.

The most startling difference between the *Nebula* class and contemporary *Galaxy*-class starships was the absence of a connecting dorsal section between the saucer and engineering sections. The rear of the saucer tapered to connect directly with main warp nacelle pylons, which swept down to port and starboard to secure the nacelles. The engineering section nestled between the lower-slung nacelles, their orange-glowing bussard collectors extending just forward to either side of the main deflector dish.

► The *U.S.S. Enterprise* made first engagement with the Borg, giving Admiral Hanson time to assemble a fleet of 40 starships. The *U.S.S. Melbourne* was part of this fleet.

▼ The *U.S.S. Enterprise* arrived at Wolf 359 to find the fleet decimated by a relentless foe. Captain Riker and his crew looked on in horror at the wreckage left behind in the wake of the Borg's progress to Earth.



### STARFLEET'S LAST STAND

Prior to the Battle of Wolf 359, the operational status of the *U.S.S. Melbourne* is unclear. Following the *U.S.S. Enterprise's* failed attempt to halt the Borg cube's progress toward Earth, the *Melbourne* joined a hastily assembled fleet under the command of Admiral Hanson. In the intervening period, Captain Picard was declared a casualty of war after his capture by the Borg.

As the United Federation of Planets faced its potential end, Hanson's fleet rendezvoused in the Wolf System near Wolf 359 and prepared for the coming battle. It was a battle the Federation could not hope to win. On engaging the Borg, the fleet was decimated within minutes. Hanson ordered a withdrawal in an attempt to regroup the fleet, but the single Borg cube's devastating capabilities were too great. The battle was lost and the Borg proceeded to Earth.

On arrival at Wolf 359, the *Enterprise*, now under the command of William Riker, found the burning wrecks of the fleet, including the *U.S.S. Melbourne*. 39 ships were lost that day, with thousands of lives given in the fight against the Borg. The crew of the *Melbourne* were among that number, their sacrifice giving the *Enterprise* a last chance to defeat the Borg. They would never be forgotten.

▲ The *Enterprise* moved through the battle wreckage. Among the destroyed ships, the *U.S.S. Melbourne* was seen to be burning, its hull ripped apart by the Borg weaponry.



### DATA FEED

Two starships named *Melbourne* were present at the Battle of Wolf 359 – the *Nebula-class* prototype, and an *Excelsior-class*. Neither survived the battle. In 2366, Comander William Riker turned down the captaincy of the *Melbourne*, but there is some doubt as to which of the two this was. A Romulan plot later placed Riker in a holodeck simulation of his potential future. Among the decoration in his ready room was a model of the *Nebula-class Melbourne*.



**SISKO'S BATTLE**

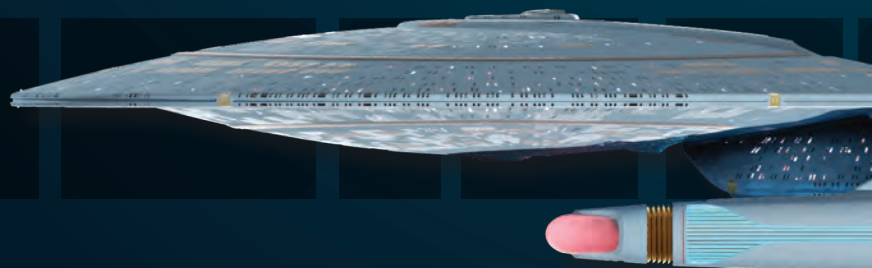
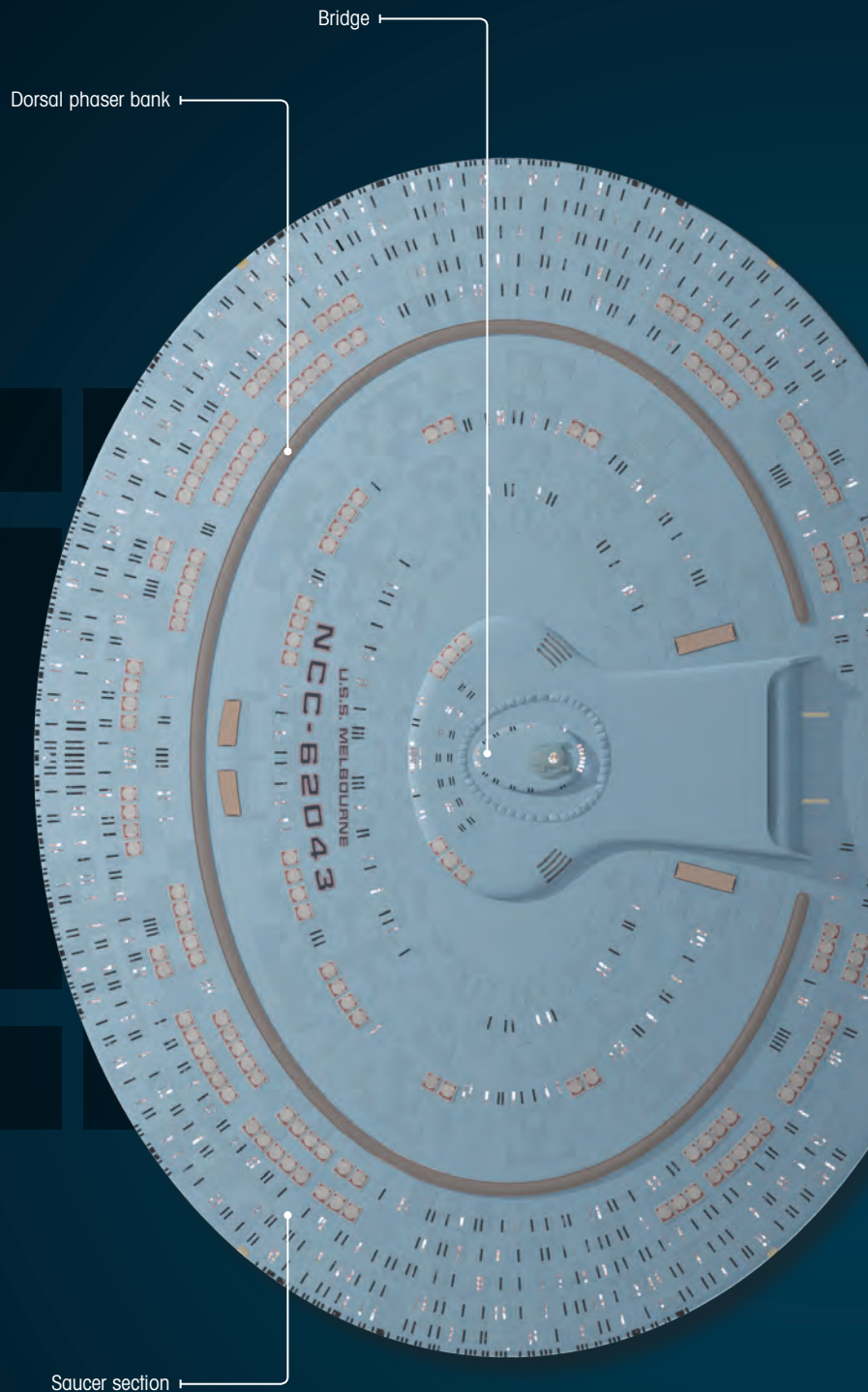
Joining the *U.S.S. Melbourne* at the Battle of Wolf 359 was the *Miranda-class U.S.S. Saratoga* NCC-31911. The *Saratoga* was caught in the attacking Borg cube's tractor beam within seconds of engaging. Shields failed almost immediately, allowing the Borg to breach the hull of the *Saratoga*, causing critical damage and threatening a warp core breach. His captain killed, the *Saratoga's* first officer, Lt. Commander Benjamin Sisko took command, ordering immediate evacuation of Starfleet personnel and civilians in available escape pods.

The *Saratoga* was no longer a threat and the Borg cube turned its attentions to other attacking Starfleet vessels. With a warp core breach just minutes away, Sisko battled through the ship to reach his wife and son, who were on board. He was too late – his wife Jennifer had sustained critical injuries and died, but young Jake was alive.

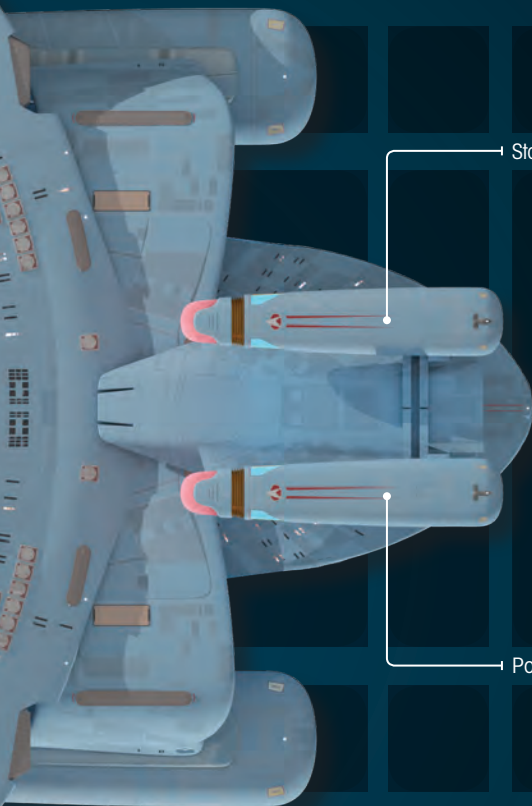
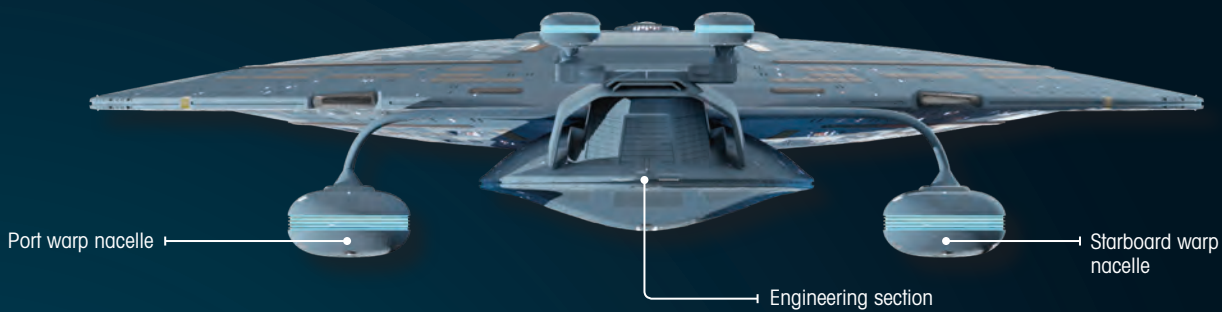
As the battle continued around the stricken ship, Sisko had to be physically dragged away from his wife to an escape pod. The pod launched with the warp core seconds away from a full breach. Before the *Saratoga* detonated, the future commander of *Deep Space 9* saw the full horror of the battle. The *Nebula-class U.S.S. Melbourne* was among the wrecks, spinning in the void near the cube.



▲ Commander Benjamin Sisko was among the survivors of Wolf 359. As his escape pod ejected from the *Saratoga*, the *U.S.S. Melbourne* was clearly visible as a floating wreck in space.

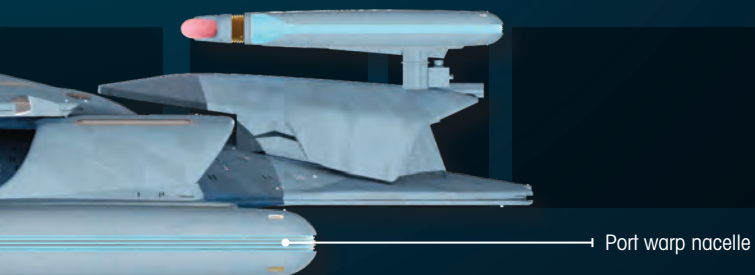
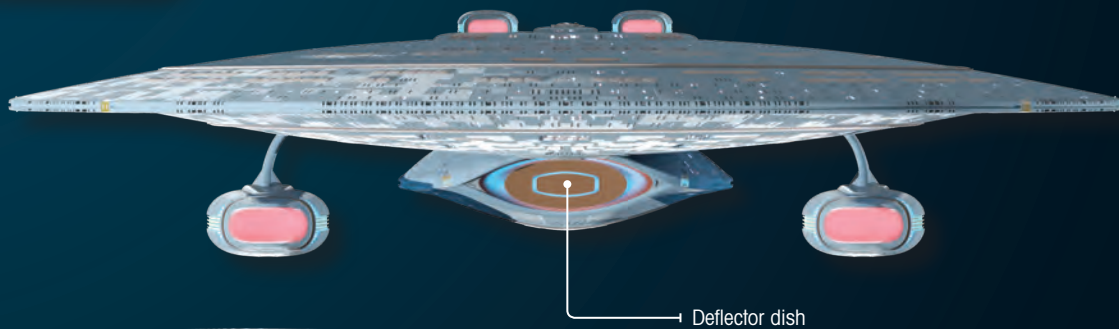






### DATA FEED

Other examples of *Nebula*-class starships included the *U.S.S. Phoenix*, the *U.S.S. Sutherland*, which was briefly commanded by Lt. Commander Data, and the *U.S.S. Farragut*. The *U.S.S. Bellerophon* NCC-62048 was also among the ships destroyed at Wolf 359 alongside the *Melbourne*.







# ED MIARECKI

▲ Ed Miarecki working on a full restoration of the original *U.S.S. Enterprise-E* filming miniature in 2009. (Picture: Gary Kerr)

*U.S.S. Melbourne* designer Ed Miarecki followed his dream to work as a model and prop maker on *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*.

Born in 1953 in New England, Ed Miarecki is a life-long *STAR TREK* fan who contributed as a model maker and prop builder to episodes of *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* and *STAR TREK* movies.

"Ed was a machinist," says Gary Kerr, Consultant to the 2006 remasters of *STAR TREK: THE ORIGINAL SERIES* and friend of Miarecki. "He knows his way around a workshop and how to perform electrical

work." Miarecki's skills brought him to the attention of the *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* art department.

"Ed is one of the unsung heroes of *TNG*," believes *THE NEXT GENERATION* scenic art supervisor Michael Okuda. "When we were in a bind for a model that had been overlooked – or which I hadn't been able to convince our producers of the need – Ed was one of the folks I'd turn to."



▲ Model maker Ed Miarecki (Picture: Michael Okuda)





▲ Working on a restoration of the original Klingon D7 cruiser in 1991 (Picture: Gary Kerr)



▲ Restoring the original U.S.S. Enterprise filming miniature in 1991 for the Smithsonian. The restoration was completed in a month with limited access to detailed photographic reference (Picture: Gary Kerr).

Along with model-making partner Tom Hudson, Miarecki formed Science Fiction Modelmaking Associates. In 1990, Miarecki and Hudson were contracted to construct the *Galor*-class Cardassian warship. Based on Rick Sternbach's 'The Wounded' and has been described by Hudson as "the most complex" project the pair ever collaborated on.

In 1991, Miarecki embarked on a major project, restoring the original

11-foot filming miniature of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* seen in *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* for the Smithsonian "I knew Ed casually through a mutual friend," recalls Kerr. "One of my friends (Richard Shafer) and I drove out to Ed's shop in Springfield, Massachusetts, just before the restoration began. I spent several days documenting the 11-footer. At one point, Richard and I held the saucer while Ed unscrewed the attachment bolts, and we performed a 'saucer separation'."

In the mid-1990s, Miarecki was hired by Industrial Light & Magic, working on *FIRST CONTACT* builds for the *U.S.S. Enterprise-E*, the Borg cube, Borg sphere and *Phoenix*. He later worked on major Hollywood movies 'Starship Troopers', 'Judge Dredd' and 'X-Men'.

Working as a self-employed model maker from the early 2000s, Miarecki carried out restoration work on original *STAR TREK* screen models for noted collector Adam Schneider.

In recent years, ill health has unfortunately curtailed his work, but Kerr is keen to emphasise Miarecki's contribution to *STAR TREK*. "Ed is easy-going and willing to bend over backwards to share information," he says. "When I was drawing plans of the *Enterprise* for *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s 'Trials and Tribble-ations', I needed more measurements of the 11-footer. I flew out to Ed's place and he dug out all the data that he had from 1991-92.

"Ed never got rich building models," concludes Kerr, "but he was lucky enough and talented enough to follow his dream – something that many others have failed to do."



▲ Restoring the Enterprise E in 2009, 13 years after helping construct the original (Picture: Gary Kerr).





### U.S.S. MELBOURNE, NEBULA PROTOTYPE

(TNG: 'The Best of Both Worlds, Part II')

One of Ed Miarecki's early contributions to *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* was a 'kit-bashed' study model of a ship that gained the name *U.S.S. Melbourne*.

"When Rick Sternbach and I were trying to persuade our producers to do a ship that was a cousin of the *Galaxy-class Enterprise-D* (in other words, not a re-use of one of the movie ships), Ed was the guy I called," says Michael Okuda, scenic art supervisor for *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*. "He was our secret weapon. I asked him to kit-bash new designs that were based on *Enterprise-D* components. Ed came up with a bunch of study models, including the concept that eventually became the

*Nebula-class* ship." Seen in 'The Best of Both Worlds Part II', this early prototype of the *Nebula-class* would reappear in the *Wolf 359* sequences of 'Emmisary', the opening episode of *DEEP SPACE NINE*. It gave Miarecki's battle-damaged model the distinction of being the only ship to appear in both depictions of the Battle of *Wolf 359*.

"The rest of his study models ended up on screen, too," continues Okuda. "They were used in the 'starship graveyard' scene in 'The Best of Both Worlds, Part II,' for the aftermath of the battle of *Wolf 359*."

These additional starships were the *U.S.S. Kyushu*, *U.S.S. Buran*, *U.S.S. Ahwahnee* and *U.S.S. Chekov*. (Picture: Rick Sternbach).

### ROMULAN HOLODECK

(TNG: 'Future Imperfect')

For 'Future Imperfect', Commander Riker's future as captain of the *Enterprise* was revealed to be a holodeck environment created by the Romulans to gain vital intelligence from Riker. When the plot was uncovered and the simulation deactivated, the Romulan holodeck seen in the background behind actors Jonathan Frakes and Andreas Katsulas was a miniature provided by Miarecki and Science Fiction Modelmaking Associates. According to Miarecki, the holo-emitter on the ceiling of the miniature was a replica of the *Jupiter 2* spacecraft from the 1960s science-fiction series 'Lost in Space'.



# ED MIARECKI

# DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

From kit-bashed starships to tricorders and restoration work, Ed Miarecki's contribution to *STAR TREK* spans 30 years of work.



## RESTORATION WORK

Over the years, Miarecki carried out restoration work on many original *STAR TREK* miniatures bought at auction by collectors such as Adam Schneider, who found himself the owner of nine studio models in 2006. Through mutual acquaintances, Miarecki's skills were recommended as a restorer. "Ed and I met at my house with the collection in crates," recalls Schneider. "It became immediately clear that he had an eye for what needed to be done, rapidly identifying what work had to be done, how to display a piece to do it justice, and how best to create, or recreate the lighting. His knowledge and expertise were palpable. The results were magnificent: he had a love of fine craftsmanship and an ability to tease out what was best for each piece. In all cases – all – he took a model



that was undisplayable and made it a thing of beauty. He rebuilt the Drydock (400 pounds, the size of a car), the *Enterprise-E*, the *Enterprise-C*, *Deep Space 9*, and many others." (Picture: Adam Schneider)



## CARDASSIAN GALOR-CLASS WARSHIP

(*TNG*: 'The Wounded')

Along with Tom Hudson (pictured above), Miarecki was contracted to construct the model for the *Galor*-class Cardassian warship in November 1990. The final miniature was approximately 37 inches long and took Miarecki and Hudson two weeks to construct, delivering the finished model on 5 December 1990. "It was probably the most fun two weeks of my life," Hudson later said on his website. The *Galor*-class was among the final physical studio models built for *STAR TREK* before the widespread use of CGI, and would feature in many episodes.

## ENTERPRISE D MAIN SHUTTLEBAY

(*TNG*: 'Cause and Effect')

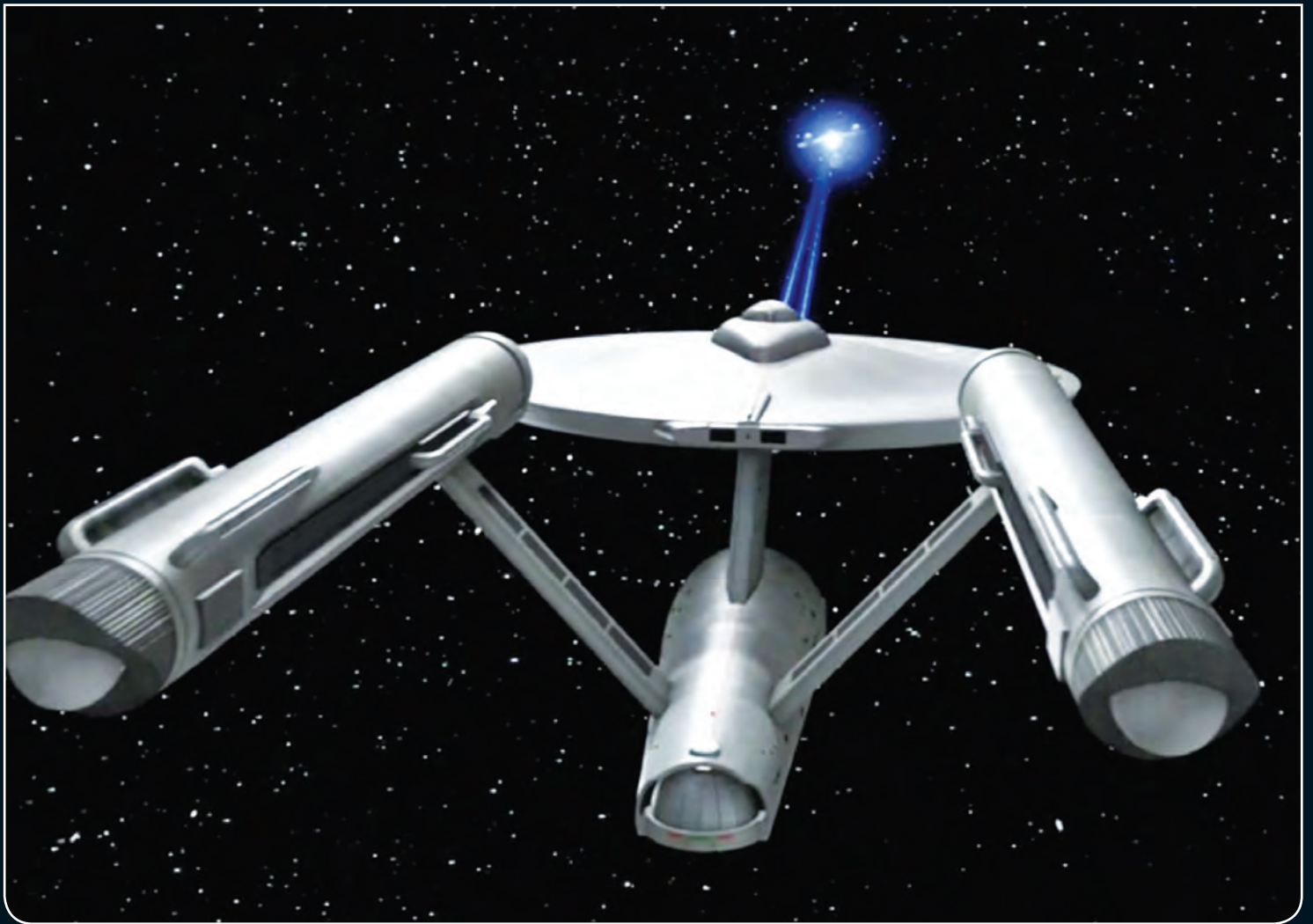
Located on the dorsal surface of the saucer section, the *U.S.S. Enterprise-D*'s main shuttlebay was rarely seen in the entire run of *THE NEXT GENERATION*, but for season four's 'Cause and Effect', a close-up of the bay door opening and interior was required. Ed Miarecki's Science Fiction Modelmaking Associates were contracted to supply a miniature. The finished maquette measured 9"x48"x57" and was built in five days, with a door powered by an electric drill. The two shuttlepod miniatures seen in the interior were named for *TNG*'s executive producers Rick Berman and Michael Pillar.



## 24TH CENTURY PROPS

(Various)

As part of his ongoing work on *THE NEXT GENERATION*, Miarecki provided various props. Among his contributions were the early Type 2 phasers from season one, affectionately dubbed the 'dustbuster'. Later prop work saw him supply vintage phasers worn by the crew of the *U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-C* in 'Yesterday's *Enterprise*'. These phasers were vac-formed props based on the phasers seen in *STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN*. For season three's 'Transfigurations', new medical tricorders debuted. "Ed became *TNG*'s principal supplier of tricorder props!" says Michael Okuda.



**RULES OF**

**ENGAGEMENT**

The Battle of Wolf 359 was Starfleet's darkest hour, but other starships have engaged in battles taking them to the edge of destruction.

▲ Starfleet versus Starfleet: under computer control, the *U.S.S. Enterprise* attacks another Federation starship in 'The Ultimate Computer'.

Starfleet's overriding mission was one of peace, diplomacy and scientific discovery, but there were periods when Federation starship commanders had no choice but to engage enemy vessels in ship-to-ship combat. Starfleet's defeat against the Borg at the Battle of Wolf 359 was one of the darkest days in Federation history, an event

that took years to recover from. Other battles and conflicts also took a devastating toll. Even Starfleet's most powerful starships were not indestructible, and every captain feared the day they must issue an order to abandon ship. What follows is a selection of the most devastating and dangerous battle actions engaged by Starfleet ships.



## 'AZATI PRIME'



In the midst of planning a suicide mission to destroy a Xindi weapon from being deployed, Captain Jonathan Archer was captured, leaving the *Enterprise NX-01* under the command of first officer T'Pol. Before the *Enterprise* could launch an effective rescue plan for its captain, four Xindi battleships engaged the starship, unleashing a barrage of weapons fire. The *Enterprise* was barely able to return fire on the enemy before major systems began to fail, taking the ship to the brink of destruction. Hull plating failed, engineering was evacuated due to hazardous coolant leaks, and major hull breaches led to the tragic loss of crewmembers in action. The Xindi hammered home their advantage on the Earth starship, overwhelming it with a constant hail of fire, leaving it drifting with critical damage.



## 'THE CHANGING FACE OF EVIL'



In the latter stages of the Dominion War, the Federation and its allies suffered heavy defeat in battle following a new alliance between the Dominion and the Breen. News reached Captain Sisko at *Deep Space 9* that the Breen had broken through Federation lines at Chin'toka. Sisko spearheaded the retaliation aboard the *U.S.S. Defiant*, leading a combined fleet of Federation, Klingon and Romulan ships. In the midst of heavy ship-to-ship fire on all fronts, the *Defiant* scored critical damage against Breen warships, before taking a blast from a Breen energy dampener that crippled one of Starfleet's most powerful battle assets. Its hull breached and systems failing, Sisko had no choice but to abandon the *Defiant* before it was destroyed by the Breen. It was just one of hundreds of allied ships lost that day.



## 'THE JEM'HADAR'



After the capture of Captain Sisko, Jake, Nog and Quark by the Jem'Hadar in the Gamma Quadrant, the *Galaxy-class U.S.S. Odyssey* was deployed through the Bajoran wormhole to assess the threat posed by this dangerous new enemy. Accompanied by *Deep Space 9* personnel in Starfleet runabouts, the *Odyssey* was engaged by three powerful Jem'Hadar attack ships. While a rescue attempt for Sisko was initiated, the *Odyssey* and two runabouts kept the enemy ships at bay, but it was a one-sided battle. Using phased polaron beams, the Jem'Hadar penetrated the starship's shields, inflicting heavy damage. With Sisko's group safely rescued, the Starfleet ships moved to retreat, but the *Odyssey* was destroyed when a Jem'Hadar craft rammed the Starfleet ship in a suicide run. All hands were tragically lost.



## 'SACRIFICE OF ANGELS'



Having learned the replicating minefield preventing Dominion forces from using the Bajoran wormhole was on the verge of being deactivated, Captain Benjamin Sisko embarked on an audacious plan to retake *Deep Space 9*. Operation: Return launched a fleet of 600 Federation ships against an alliance of Dominion and Cardassian forces outnumbering the Federation by two to one. The operation ranked among the biggest engagements in Starfleet history and was almost a disaster as Sisko and Cardassian commander Gul Dukat played tactics against each other to gain the upper hand. Only a last second intervention by the Klingons gave Starfleet the advantage it sought, but as the wormhole minefield fell, Dominion reinforcements were only seconds away...





## 'THE ULTIMATE COMPUTER'



Not all battles engaged by Starfleet were against enemy ships. Extreme situations pitted Starfleet against Starfleet. In 2268, the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701 was the subject of a field test of Dr Richard Daystrom's M-5 multitronic unit, an advance in autonomous starship control. The test went disastrously wrong during war game scenarios when the M-5 malfunctioned and displayed self-

preservation instincts. The battle became real as the *Enterprise* fired on its sister ships, and efforts to disconnect the M-5 failed. The *U.S.S. Excalibur* was severely damaged, all hands lost, while the *U.S.S. Lexington* lost 53 crew. The *Lexington's* commander, Commodore Wesley, received orders to destroy the *Enterprise*, but the M-5 was deactivated before this step was taken.

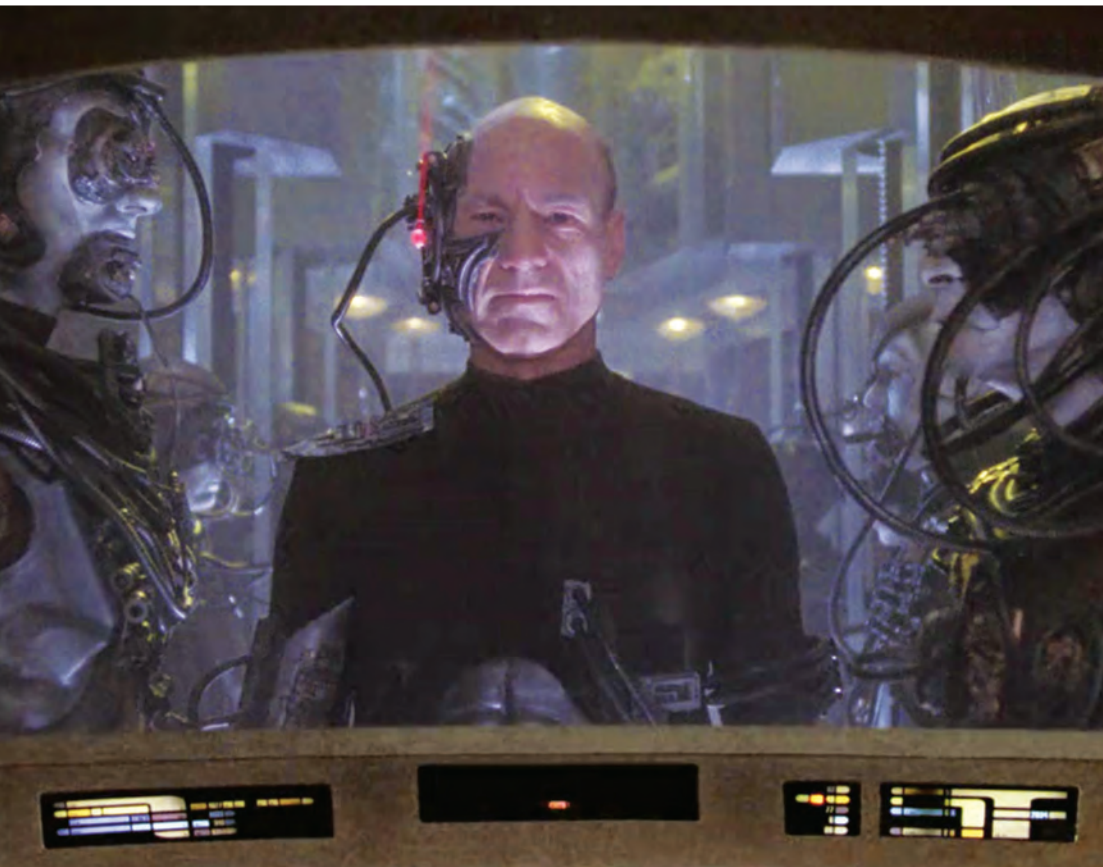
## 'YEAR OF HELL, PART II'



Temporal fragments from an alternative timeline showed the *U.S.S. Voyager* was destroyed in a major battle to stop temporal scientist Annorax from restoring the Krenim Imperium to power by erasing civilisations from history. *Voyager* had endured extreme damage by the time Captan Janeway led a coalition of Mawasi and Nihydrons with the intent to destroy Annorax's weapon ship. The

weapon ship erased two Nihydron ships, but when the vessel's temporal core was deactivated, it gave Janeway her chance. *Voyager* was damaged, a Mawasi ship colliding with the primary hull with Janeway still onboard. With no choice left, Janeway rammed Annorax's ship, destroying *Voyager*. With temporal shielding deactivated, this final heroic act restored the timelines,

# ON SCREEN



## TRIVIA

Starfleet officer Commander Shelby was played in 'The Best of Both Worlds' by Elizabeth Dennehy [pictured below]. The role was among her earliest television work, and one she approached with caution. "I was very haughty," Dennehy told StarTrek.com in 2012. "Not disdainful, but I was a classically trained Shakespearean actress. But then, look at Patrick Stewart. I went in and it was lots of dialogue, and I was ultimately just so pleased to be chosen."



John Noah Hertzler played the *Saratoga's* Vulcan captain in *DEEP SPACE NINE's* opening episode, 'Emissary'. The actor would become well-known for playing another *DS9* character, Klingon General Martok, but under the more recognisable name of JG Hertzler. He would appear in a total of 30 episodes of *STAR TREK*, including *VOYAGER* and *ENTERPRISE*.



The opening crawl of *DEEP SPACE NINE: 'Emissary'* established that Captain Picard's ordeal as Locutus of Borg commenced on stardate 43997, and lasted for a total of six days before his rescue and Borg defeat.

- FIRST APPEARANCE:** 'THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, PART II' (TNG)
- TV APPEARANCES:** STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE
- DESIGNED BY:** ED MIARECKI

### KEY APPEARANCES

#### STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

##### 'The Best of Both Worlds, Part II'

Captain Jean-Luc Picard has been taken by the Borg and altered to become Locutus of Borg. With the *Enterprise* critically damaged, Starfleet makes a desperate attempt to stop the Borg cube from reaching earth, but the fleet is destroyed at Wolf 359 in a one-sided battle.

Only an audacious plan by the *Enterprise's* new captain, William Riker, stands any chance of retrieving Picard and preventing the Federation falling to its most dangerous enemy. But will resisting the Borg prove futile?

#### STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

##### 'Emissary'

Starfleet's darkest hour is upon it as 40 ships engage the Borg at Wolf 359. As first officer of the *U.S.S. Saratoga*, Benjamin Sisko is one of the few to survive the ensuing massacre, his wife Jennifer a casualty of war.

Several years later, Sisko takes up his new post as commander of *Deep Space 9*, a former Cardassian outpost in orbit of Bajor. Still grieving for his wife and bringing up his son Jake alone, Sisko has a difficult task ahead, and finds an unexpected destiny as the Emissary of the Bajoran people.



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