

MIRANDA

CLASS HEAVY FRIGATE



A cornerstone of Starfleet's Linear Warp upgrade program, the *Miranda* class was born out of the tumultuous period of the 2270's. With Starfleet having to expend considerable resources putting down the Kzinti Incursion in 2272 and facing continued low level hostilities from the Klingons & Romulans, the need for a heavily armed ship capable of patrol, interdiction and combat missions was made quite clear. The continued delays in the Perimeter Action Ship program only served to highlight this further.

To fulfill these requirements, Starfleet proceeded to embark on a complete modernization of its frigate force beginning in 2273. As ships of the *Surya* (FF 1850) class were upgraded to form the new *Knox* (FF 1940) class, so to were ships of the *Coventry* (FH 1230) upgraded to form the *Miranda* (FH 1830) class.

Entering service in 2275, these new heavy frigates featured limited scientific/exploratory capabilities in proportion to the larger *Enterprise* (CH 1701) class heavy cruisers, but were comprehensively armed for their size. 6 Type VII Phaser Banks were supplemented by 4 2nd Class Torpedo Launchers and 2 Pulse Phaser Cannons (sometimes referred to during this era as 'Megaphasers') in an overhead-mounted rollbar assembly.

The latter weapons were an evolutionary development of those first featured on the *Kiaga* class perimeter action ships which played a pivotal role during the Four Years War. They packed a heavy punch roughly akin to a photon torpedo—firing short, sustained bursts of energy that eclipsed the output levels of standard phaser emitters. These weapons also had a high power cost—necessitating the installation of direct-feed conduit lines between the cannons themselves and the horizontal intermix chambers which fed into the warp nacelles.

Miranda class ships most often found themselves patrolling the Klingon & Romulan Neutral zones as well as throughout various border systems on the edge of Federation space. Along with *Kearsarge II* (CL 1500) class Light Cruisers, they were also the first choice for escorting other convoys and starships for which smaller destroyers and corvettes could not provide adequate protection.

In late 2285, the *Reliant* (FH 1864) was assigned to support the top secret *Genesis Project*. Pursuant to the project's Stage IV objectives, the ship—under the command of Captain Clark Terrell—was searching for a lifeless planetoid on which the *Genesis Device* could be tested. Arriving at what they thought was Ceti Alpha VI (but was in reality, Ceti Alpha V), Terrell and Commander Pavel Chekov unknowingly made contact with the exiled tyrant Khan Noonien Singh. Quickly capturing the two officers, Khan and his followers hijacked the *Reliant* and set off for Space Station Regula I, where they intended to steal the *Genesis Device*. The *Reliant* was intercepted and engaged by the Starship *Enterprise* (CH 1701) however, which had diverted from a routine training cruise to investigate. After a fierce, running battle, the *Reliant* was hopelessly crippled and eventually destroyed in the Mutara Nebula.

Not more than a few months later in early 2286, the *Saratoga* (FH 1867) was on patrol in sector 5 near the Klingon Neutral Zone when she was disabled by the mysterious alien probe responsible for the *Whalesong Crisis*.

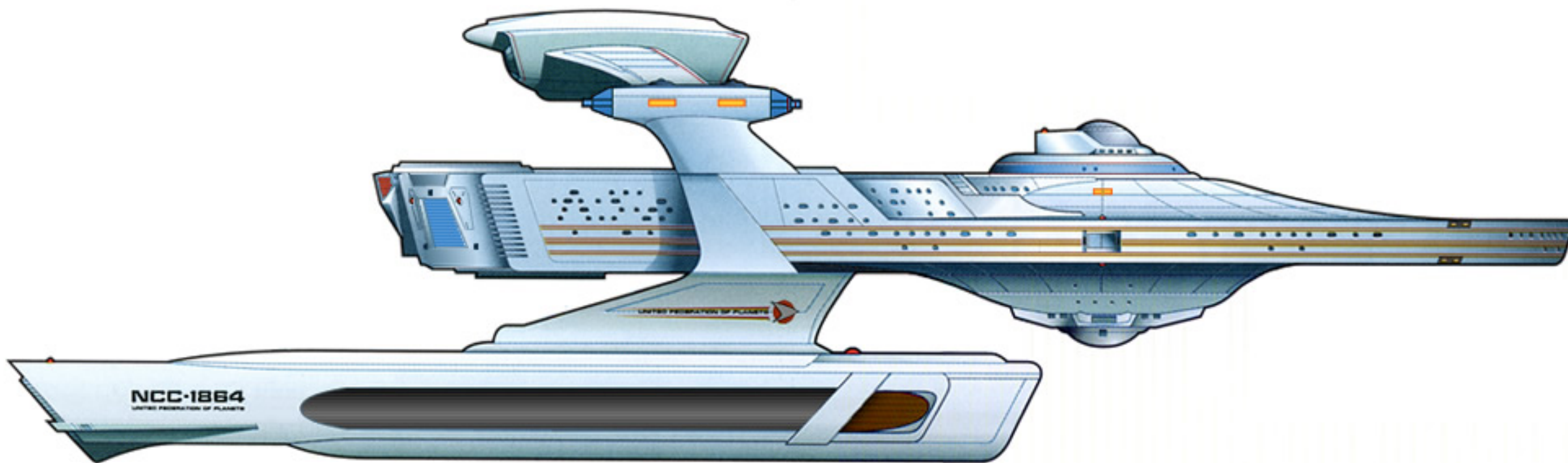
A variant was spun off in 2297, used for short-medium range transport. It lacked the rollbar and had a good deal of its internal spaceframe gutted and subsequently replaced with cargo bays and other storage facilities. This variant, which retained the same dimensions, but was some 50,000 metric tons lighter, had its crew compliment

reduced to 26. Finding moderate success in service, this variant was eventually supplanted by the *Mediterranean* (FG 43830) class beginning in 2350.

During the Dominion War, due to the sheer number of examples still active, the *Miranda* class was utilized extensively—filling the escort and close fire support roles. Their age though counted against them and in many instances, they were simply outgunned. As part of *Operation: Return* (sometimes referred to as the *Battle of Bajor*), the *Sitak* (FH 33921) and *Majestic* (FH 31060) flew in escort formation with the starship *Defiant* (DDX 74205) at the center of a Federation fleet attempting to reclaim Starbase Deep Space Nine and the Bajoran System from Dominion control. Their phaser cannons and quad torpedo launchers proved invaluable against Dominion Attack Ships and the various Cardassian forces arrayed against them—but their gradual success attracted the attention of a Dominion Battlecruiser, which destroyed both ships with its heavy polaron cannons as the Dominion's own lines slowly began to crumble.

In the war's aftermath, it was discovered that the few surviving *Mirandas* had begun to develop stress related hull fractures. While not entirely unexpected, the fractures themselves were so severe that the only course of action available was the replacement of entire hull components. With the class itself just passing the century mark in service, rather than undertake this arduous, time consuming procedure on just a handful of vessels, Starfleet formally retired the *Miranda* class—with the *Miranda* (FH 1830) herself being fully restored for inclusion in the fleet museum.

The class was replaced in service by the *Centaur* (FF 42043) class and later, the *Lancer* (FH 74900) class, whose design borrows heavily from *Miranda*.



Class Miranda
Classification Heavy Frigate

Service 2275-2377
Number Active 0

Length 243m
Beam 150m
Height 63m
Decks 18

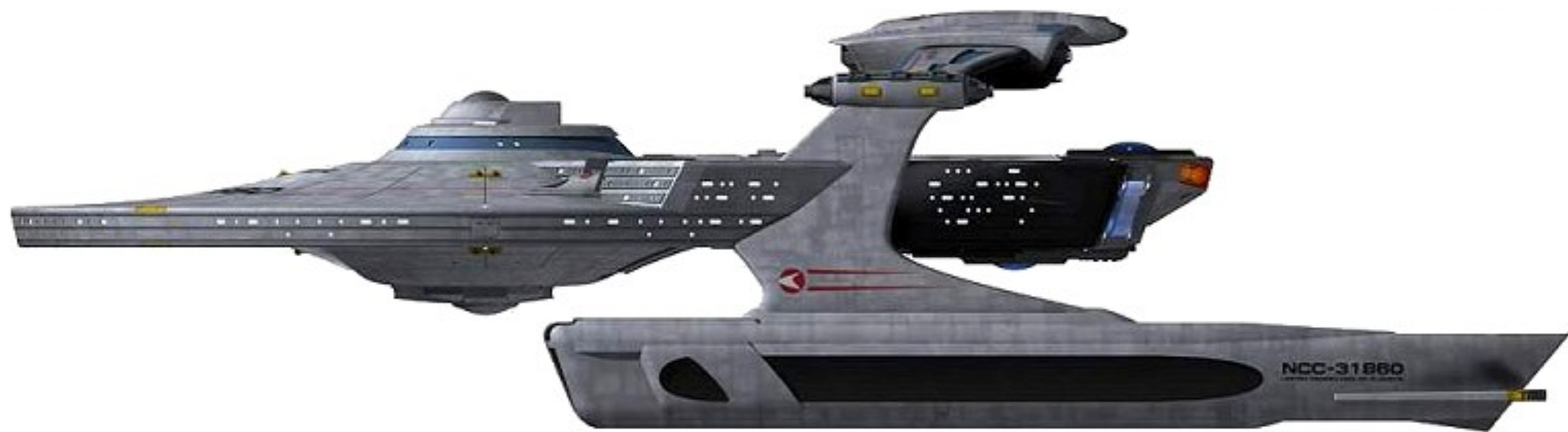
Mass 655,000 metric tons

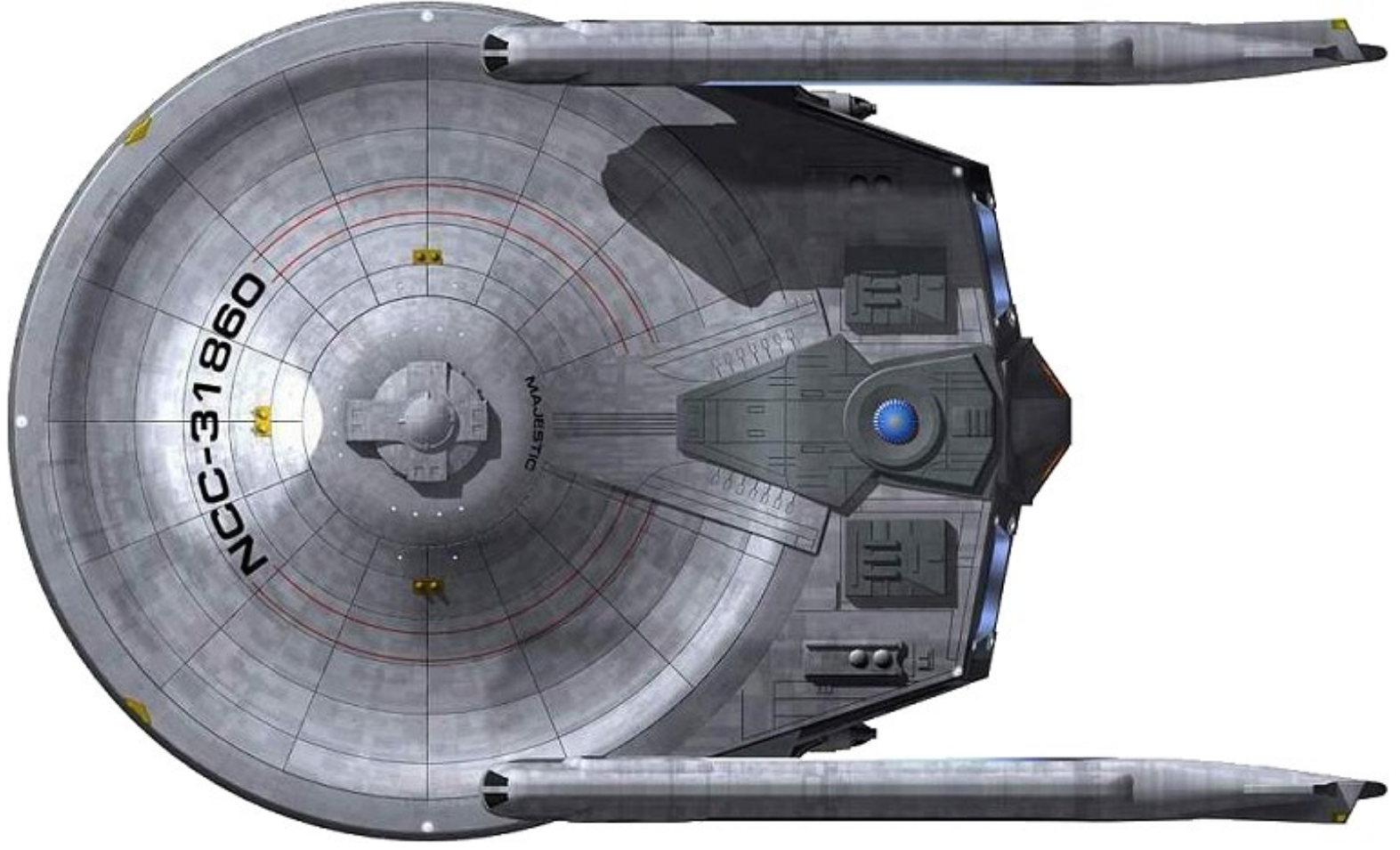
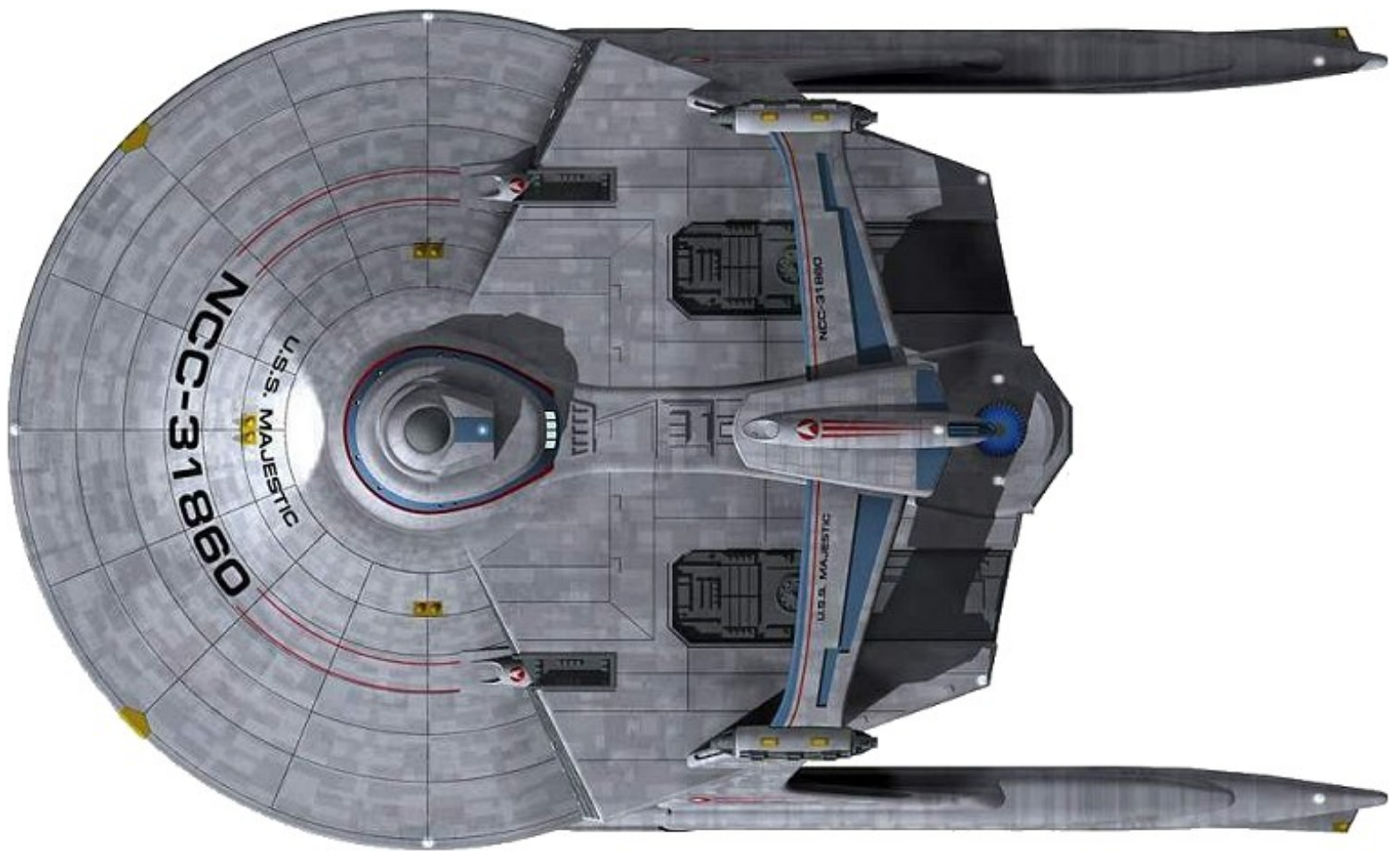
Compliment 280

Armament 6 Type VII Phaser Banks
 2 Pulse Phaser Cannons
 4 2nd Class Torpedo Launchers

Defense Systems Standard Deflector Shield System
 total capacity 621,000 TerraJoules

Standard Duranium Single Hull





Editor's Annotations

For a supposedly canon ship design, the *Miranda* class sure has one hell of a confusing background—its development, classification and even the very name of the class causing a good bit of controversy in many corners of the fandom universe. This will hopefully sort out some of the confusion.

1) The Wiki site **Memory Alpha** has a detailed entry on the real world background of the *Miranda* class ([click here](#)). Some things to take note of from that entry:

-The name '*Miranda*' was never mentioned on screen. The **TNG** art department bestowed the name on this design and used it for several pieces of on-screen signage. It was subsequently used in the **Star Trek Encyclopedia** (the presumable source of fandom's widely-held acceptance of the name).

-An early design drawing was sent to Harve Bennett (executive producer of **Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan**) that featured the warp nacelles above the saucer and the weapons pod/rollbar beneath it (similar to the depiction below)



Bennett reportedly viewed the drawing upside down however and subsequently signed off on the design. The FX team, citing time constraints, declined to send the drawings back to Bennett (in the correct orientation), as he was out of the country at the time.

- 2) Some sources have various pre-production documents (including the aforementioned drawings?) from the movie, referring to the ship as the '*Avenger*' class. I've been unable to find any concrete evidence substantiating these claims however.
- 3) The non-canon tech manual **Ships of the Starfleet, Volume One** refers to the *Miranda* design as the *Avenger* class as well, as do various other online sources. It is unclear whether this can be attributed to any RPG sources of the day (FASA, SFB/ADB). It is more likely though that this originated with the dedicated fans who stood by the original *Avenger* class nomenclature (see #2).
- 4) The name *Miranda* has been used in the **Star Trek: Vanguard** series of novels, which is set firmly in the TOS era. However, it's unknown as to what *Miranda* class ships of this era (most notable, the USS Bombay from **VAN: Harbinger**) look like. The video game **Star Trek: Legacy** presents us with one possibility, but this depiction conflicts with the aforementioned tech manual in #3—which depicts a possible **TOS** era design in more detail as both the *Surya* and *Coventry* classes.

Many sources—mostly canon—classify the *Miranda* class as a cruiser. Non-canon/'fanon' sources on the other hand, have the *Miranda* classified as a Heavy Frigate and many of the class histories/backgrounds written support this. Personally, I think that while the armament may be just fine for a cruiser, the original intended uses for the *Miranda*—patrolling borders/'hot spots', interdiction, fire support etc. (plus all the others mentioned elsewhere) add more credence to the heavy frigate classification.

Bibliography

Logo—'Viperaviator' ([DeviantART](#))

Design—Joe Jennings/Mike Minor/Lee Cole

Schematic—Bernd Schneider ([Ex Astris Scientia](#))

Orthographic Views—Unknown ([Neutral Zone Starship Database](#))