

AMBASSADOR-CLASS

Entered Service: 2325

Overview: The *Ambassador*-class starship was created as a replacement for the aging *Excelsior*-class vessels, which had been in service for almost four decades. As the Federation expanded in size, the missions of Starfleet vessels began to subtly shift, as more managing of local affairs was required by member planets, such as preventing wars, negotiating trade, and initiating new worlds into the Federation. The intent of the *Ambassador*-class was to create an exploratory vessel that could function equally well as a diplomatic transport and a front-line heavy cruiser. The prototype of the class, the *U.S.S. Ambassador*, experienced its first test-bed trials at Helaspoint Station near Tzenkethi space in 2319, supervised by Starfleet Admirals Los Tirasol Mentir and John Harriman, ostensibly as an intimidation-tactic against the volatile Tzenkethi Coalition. Between 2325 and 2360, the *Ambassador*-class was the primary capital ships of Starfleet until it was replaced by the larger, more resilient *Galaxy*-class starships. Despite being replaced, the class remained in service.

Capabilities: The *Ambassador*-class continued the classical configuration of its exploratory vessels with a large saucer section connected to its warp nacelles by a separated engineering section. Despite being somewhat larger than the *Excelsior*-class—with 33 decks spread across both hulls—increased computer automation allowed *Ambassador*ships to possess a smaller crew. A typically *Ambassador*-class vessel was operated by just 700 officers and enlisted personnel, increasing the space allotted per officer. Later in the service of the class, it was decided to permit families aboard *Ambassador*ships, but only those related to officers who had served on the ship for at least six months. Several innovations were included in the design, most notably for diplomatic and scientific missions. The scientific facilities of the *Ambassador*-class were equally well-equipped, and the ships contained the most powerful sensor arrays of its time. Twenty-eight dedicated laboratory facilities were included, along with facilities to convert three of the cargo bays into research areas if necessary. The ship maintained the high speed of its *Excelsior* predecessors, and was capable of achieving warp 9.4. The *Ambassador*-class was equipped with high-quality guest quarters and elaborate conference facilities, allowing the ships to host a wide range of diplomatic functions. Militaristic species, such as the Klingons, derided the class as being "luxury space hotels". Despite this reputation, the class introduced phaser arrays to Starfleet in place of the phasers banks or turrets employed by previous designs. This innovation increased a vessel's ability to fire sustained bursts, and reduced the phaser's recharge times. As the vanguard of the fleet, *Ambassador*-class ships engaged in a surprising number of combat missions, facing down both Romulan and Klingon vessels, and were heavily involved in the Federation-Cardassian War. Being three-decades old during the conflict with the Cardassians, many *Ambassador*-class ships were lost before a ceasefire was negotiated in 2366. The surviving ships have since received numerous refits, increasing their impulse speed and deflector strength and saw action during the Dominion War.

SYSTEMS

COMMS 09 ENGINES 08 STRUCTURE 09

COMPUTERS 10 SENSORS 10 WEAPONS 09

DEPARTMENTS

COMMAND +1 SECURITY - SCIENCE +1

CONN +1 ENGINEERING +1 MEDICINE -

SCALE: 5

WEAPONRY:

- Phaser Arrays
- Photon Torpedoes
- Tractor Beam (Strength 4)

TALENTS

Ambassador-class starships have the following Talents:

- Advanced Sensor Suites
- Diplomatic Suites
- Modular Laboratories

