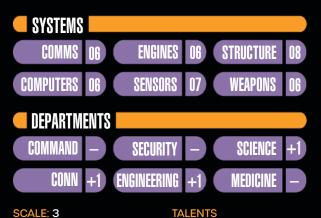
COLUMBIA-CLASS

Entered Service: 2161. NX-class ships became the Columbia-class with the addition of a second hull

Overview: Conceived in the early 22nd century, the NX-class was the first ship constructed with the warp 5 engine, allowing Humanity to explore beyond neighbouring star systems for the first time. The Enterprise NX-01 was the first NX-class starship built, and launched ahead of schedule in 2151, to transport a Klingon courier to Qo'noS. After a series of successful early missions, Starfleet decided to build further NX-class ships and by 2151, three more NX-class ships were in the early design stages. The Columbia was completed in late 2153, followed by the Excalibur and Constellation, which both launched in 2155. Several months later, the Atlantis, Endeavour, and Lexington entered service. During the Earth-Romulan War of 2156-2160, the NX-class saw heavy combat, and three NX ships were lost in the conflict. Following the war, the NX-class was initially decommissioned, but this was later rescinded and the class underwent a sizable refit, gaining a secondary hull below the saucer section, which included a navigational deflector dish and larger matter-antimatter reactor . When this refit proved successful, future NX-class vessels were designed to incorporate the secondary hull at launch, becoming the first Columbia-class vessels (named in honour of the Columbia, the first NX ship to be the lost in battle).

Capabilities: Starships of the Columbia-class were far more formidable than the J and Y class freighters that had preceded them. The Columbiaclass consisted of a habitable saucer module that contained eleven decks, numbered A through K, which housed it's 120 crew members. Below the saucer was the cylindrical secondary hull that contained the deflector array and main engineering. The space at the back of the saucer that formerly housed main engineering became additional crew quarters, freeing space for larger quarters for the senior staff. Columbiaclass ships achieved warp speed through two warp nacelles, which housed multiple pairs of warp coils, enabling the ship to reach a speeds approaching warp 6. Defense of the ship was handled through Andorian deflector shields, although the power requirements of the shields limited the ship to warp 3 while they were active. The design was also improved from the NX-class to incorporate Vulcan tractor beams and sensors. Like the NX-class, Columbia starships employed phase cannons as the primary weapons of the ship. While these were powerful weapons by Human standards, they were still considered to be "low-yield" particle cannons by the Klingons of the era. The ship's torpedo launchers were able to fire both spatial and photonic torpedoes. Located on E Deck was the launch bay, where the two shuttlepod were docked. A magnetic docking arm extended from the launch bay's ceiling to lower or raise a shuttlepod, which left through sliding doors in the side of the hull. Despite being approved for use with people, the transporter primarily still used for cargo and inorganic supplies.



WEAPONRY:

Phase Cannons

- Photonic Torpedoes
- Spatial Torpedoes

Tractor Beam (Strength 1)

Columbia-class starships have the following Talents:

Photonic Torpedoes
Rugged Design

