

CHALLENGER-CLASS LIGHT CRUISER

Entered Service: 2358



Dimensions

Length: 390 meters

Beam: 233 meters

Draft: 105 meters

STAR TREK ADVENTURES

BY CHRISTIAN "SU-TEHP" FERNANDEZ-DUQUE

Overview: While the usual Starfleet convention is to mount two warp nacelles in a horizontal configuration on starships to maintain a steady warp field, Starfleet has been known to experiment with unconventional warp nacelle configurations. Starfleet had experimented with a dual vertical nacelle configuration on the *Wilkerson* and *Ticonderoga* classes in the 23rd century, but the *Challenger* class was the first time Starfleet utilized this configuration in the 24th century. In fact, the *Challenger* was a near duplicate of the shape of the *Ticonderoga*'s superstructure (a saucer section with a long, thin secondary hull extending from the aft of the saucer and the nacelles in a vertical configuration extending from the secondary hull). Utilizing the same style of saucer section and warp nacelles as the *Galaxy* and *Nebula* classes, the *Challenger* was an earlier contemporary of its sister classes. The *Challenger* was designed primarily for diplomatic and exploratory missions, though it could be adapted to other mission profiles if needed.

Capabilities: The *Challenger* class carried a crew of roughly 300 officers and crewmen. It had a cruising speed of Warp 8 (MCU) as well as a maximum speed of Warp 9.6 (MCU). It was armed with 2 phaser arrays (1 dorsal and 1 ventral) and 2 torpedo launchers (1 fore and 1 aft). Similar to the NX class, the navigational deflector was located in the center fore of the saucer section. The shuttlebay was located at the aft of the secondary hull underneath the dorsal nacelle. Just as with the *Ticonderoga* class, the shuttlebay of the *Challenger* class was capable of carrying anywhere from 10 to 12 shuttlecraft (though only a maximum of 6 could be actively maintained at any one time) that could, among other missions, render assistance to stricken spacecraft, act as transportation for dignitaries and diplomats, provide additional firepower as makeshift fighters or deploy Starfleet Security personnel for commando raids.

Systems

Comms	9	Engines	10	Structure	10
Computers	9	Sensors	10	Weapons	9

Departments

CMD	+1	SEC	+1	SCI	--
CONN	+1	ENG	--	MED	--

Scale: 4

Author's Note: According to *Star Trek Shipyards: Starfleet Ships 2294-The Future* published by Eaglemoss/Hero Collector as well as the Eaglemoss/Hero Collector jpeg file of the Federation starships (found [here](#) in the upper right corner), the *Challenger* class has a length of 390 meters. According to [my Scale system](#), the *Challenger* class is clearly Scale 4.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Jim Stevenson for maintaining the [Starship Schematic Database](#).

Attacks

- Phaser Arrays
- Photon Torpedoes
- Tractor Beam (Strength 3)

Talents

Challenger-class starships have the following Talents:

- Advanced Sensor Suites
- Diplomatic Suites
- Extensive Shuttlebays