DON'T PANIC

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO FLEET OPERATIONS

Version 3.14 as compiled by Dominus Noctis (For Patch 3.0.7)
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(Pilfered from Douglas Adams' Five Part Trilogy)

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About The Guide

The first thing you will notice about this Fleet Operations Guide is that it is composed of six distinct sections. The Basics of Fleet Operations is designed to give you a good introduction into what makes this real time strategy game unique from Armada II, as well as numerous tips and general working strategies. Since many people seem to have trouble figuring out how to get online a "Getting Online" section has been added. The next major division consists of the Fleet Operations multiplayer strategy guide itself:

First and foremost, the strategy portion of the guide is designed to cater to those who play human versus human multiplayer matches. This is not to say that certain strategies that are listed here will not work against the AI, but that these strategies have been tested over and over again against human players. Thus, strategies discussed in this guide will probably not be best against an AI that does not care whether you harass—to say the least.

It is also important to mention that this guide in general is not intended to teach you the extreme basics of playing Fleet Operations. Instead the suggestions described here are best used by someone who is "somewhat" familiar with the units, resources, and game-play for Armada II. As I have tried to avoid being redundant, information that is useful early in the strategy sections of the guide is not repeated later on. For instance, if a particular unit is discussed in depth for the first avatar of a faction, the information will not be repeated for the second avatar. Thus, in order to get the most out of this guide, it is highly recommended that you read each section in the order that they are listed. Hopefully this will help you to learn an opponent's strategies in order to come up with your own and thus become a better tactician.

The segments called Unit Overviews are dedicated to giving you all the statistics you've always wanted to know about for each vessel that you will be commanding. Vessel size is given by the terms Small, Medium, and Large. Small roughly equates to scouts, freighters and destroyers, while Medium is equivalent to cruisers and support vessels (starships with three special abilities), and Large to stations and battleships. Weapon types are Beam, Torpedoes, or Pulses and are abbreviated as B, T, or P within this section. Weapon range can either be Short, Medium, Long, or Artillery (abbreviated as S, M, L, or A). Officer rank five abilities have been included. Note that mixed-technology units receive their own special mixed-tech benefits, and thus the Mixed-Technology Unit Overviews in this guide are completely self-sufficient (avatar bonuses do NOT stack with normal mixed-tech units). Italicized abilities are those that were gained from mixed-technology.

Remember that this is a static guide: you are responsible for finding out how to juggle replacing your destroyed mining and construction ships with continuing to build up. Thus, it is really the early game build order that is

most heavily detailed, because a bad beginning will often cause much more grief than experimentation later in a game. That being said, never be afraid to test new strategies, even if you might lose: it is always good to explore new possibilities because you might discover a winning tactic.

Additionally, this guide contains a cooperative multiplayer guide (coming soon), which is designed to help you bring together what you have read about the strategies available to each individual faction.

A thorough map making section is included to help you to create those perfect multiplayer battlefields you have always dreamed about.

Last but not least, the unofficial "official" stories and explanations behind the vessels, avatars, and factions of Fleet Operations is also included—as gleaned from posts that the Developers have made over the past six years.

If you wish more information, the guides created by Zebh, Le_Deimos (recently removed), Svarsmannen, and Dircome (Ship Profiles: currently unreleased) are good material.



The Basics of Fleet Operations

Etiquette

Etiquette is probably one of the more important aspects of the game. Always respect your opponent. In a 1v1 if your opponent is not very good, give friendly advice (if they want it) and be gentle. Do not smash them from the get go even, but show them how your tactics are superior. Typically if your opponent is a new player they are not usually prepared for fast rushes. Thus it is a good idea to ask whether they are okay with being rushed, or whether they'd prefer a longer build up. In matches it is generally proper etiquette to establish rules beforehand. For instance, if there is the possibility for contested mining in a 2v2, 3v3 etc, decide who gets what mining so that there are no squabbles later (unless you all agree to duke it out). If someone tells you to stop doing something, do what they say. It is no fun to play if both sides are not enjoying the match. When you record a game for the purpose of releasing it on a forum (or on YouTube), be sure to ask your opponent for permission to avoid later squabbles.

Above all else, refrain from exploiting bugs. In version 3.0.7 this includes B-5 Fighters, C-11 Cascade Feedback, Matrix Teleport being used on enemy vessels, A-20 Attack Destroyer (ramming the first two into construction ships), the "cloak-following" bug etc. Using these and other bugs to your advantage is not a valid strategy, but merely shows one to be a poor player who enjoys abusing flaws. If you find a new glitch, be sure to report it on the Fleet Operations forums so that it can be fixed.

Do not complain that a faction or unit is underpowered / overpowered just because you have been beaten/have



beaten another with that faction before playing a sizable number of multiplayer games. Likewise, please do not complain that a particular vessel is underpowered simply because "it isn't like it was in the shows".

Note that playing against the AI will not teach you effectively about balance and tactics, but can help you learn the roles of the

individual units. Finally, because Fleet Operations is about fleets, comparing a particular unit from one faction to another faction's unit will never give you a good idea of how balancing is accomplished in this RTS.

New Features of Fleet Operations

Avatars

Each faction features two avatars that you can choose from. The avatar is chosen the first thing in the game. Different avatars offer different bonuses and ships which are only available to that specific avatar. Depending on the avatar, you can adopt a wide variety of different strategies.



Mixed Technology

In the original Armada II game, by capturing a construction ship of a different faction you would get the ability to build the whole technology tree of this other faction. Since it would be quite implausible to see a Klingon warrior of the Empire captaining a Dominion V-13 Battleship, in Fleet Operations this feature has been removed.



Instead, in Fleet Operations there are certain ship classes that can only be acquired by building a mixed tech yard. There are two methods to gain access to a mixed technology facility. If you have an ally that is of a different faction, you can build a mixed tech facility with your own construction ship immediately. The second method available to build a mixed tech structure is

to capture a construction ship (which needs to be of a different faction) and build a mixed technology facility with it. Each faction has its own mixed tech station. After building this special facility, you must research Analyze Alien Technology before you can build any mixed technology starships. If you have multiple allies (or multiple captured alien construction ships), you only need to Analyze Alien Technology once to gain access to all of the units from each shipyard. Note that the Borg need only build their Adaption Matrix to gain access to mixed-technology benefits. Once this is built, the Adaptor chassis can be outfitted with Adaption Modules.

Mixed tech vessels can be completely new classes or simply improved designs that you have already seen in

your other shipyards. Usually the improved designs are more expensive than the regular ones and are slower to build. Each brand new *class* of mixed technology unit (the Romulan Saeihr, Federation Miranda II, and Klingon E'Djen) consumes one mixed-tech slot out of a maximum of 20, except for the Dominion V-15 Dreadnought, which consumes 10 slots out of a possible 20 (each faction's yard counts separately towards this

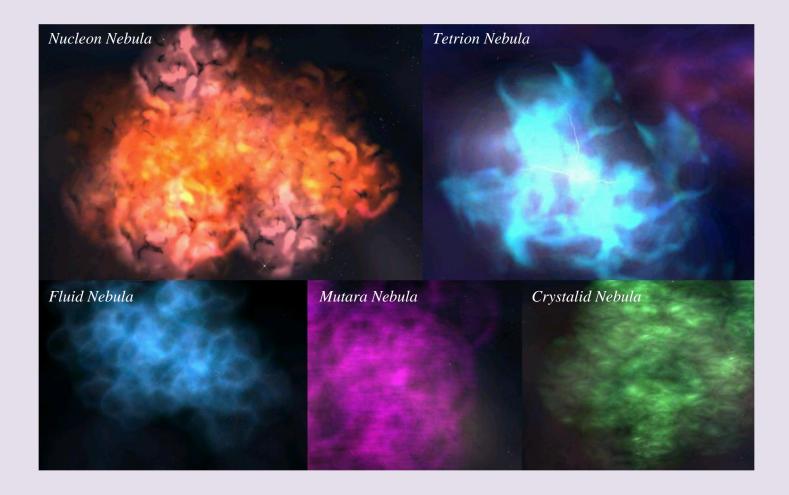


limit). Thus, for instance, you may build two Borg V-15 Dreadnoughts and an unlimited amount of mixed technology T-15s.

Notice that while Dominion, Federation, Romulan, and Klingon mixed-technology facilities do not have repair bays, the Borg Adaption Matrix grants you the ability to repair any assimilated vessels.

Nebulae

There are 5 different types of nebulae in Fleet Operations. The types of nebulae are: **Crystalid** (a green nebula that disables cloak and regenerates shields), **Fluid** (a blue nebula that disables cloak and shields, hides vessels inside), **Tetrion** (a blue nebula with lightening that disables cloak and causes damage), **Nucleon** (a sickly red nebula that disables cloak and causes damage), **Mutara** (a purple nebula that disables shields, sensors and cloak, and hides vessels inside).



Note that there can be different types of nebulae all in the same place. The effects of those nebulae are the combination of every nebula's effects.

Upgrading and Refitting

In Fleet Operations it is possible to upgrade several stations as well as a number of ships.

Each faction's main base structure (starbase) may be upgraded two times to power up the defense of your starbase and make it less vulnerable to enemy weapon fire and two times to improve the weapon systems of to deal increased amounts of damage with every shot. The costs and added values of upgrading the starbase is same for each faction.



The offense upgrade costs 600 dilithium and 50 tritanium and each increases the offensive value by 60. Additional offensive upgrades may also add new weapons or multi-targeting weaponry.



Defensive upgrades cost 50 dilithium and 600 tritanium and each increase the defensive value by 20.

Note that your starbase's build queue must be empty if you want to upgrade your starbase.

The Dominion Perimeter is the only non-starbase station that can be upgraded.

Ship refitting is mainly a Romulan ability, but other factions may gain refitable ships via mixed tech or a research such as the Klingon Call to Arms.

Economy

Resources

The resource system of Fleet operations differs somewhat from Armada II. To start with, the officer limit and crew pool have been removed from Fleet Operations.

In Fleet Operations there are 3 different types of resources: Dilithium, Tritanium, and Supply. Dilithium and tritanium are mined from unlimited moons.







Spare parts, replicator proto material, nanites or Romulan Ale—all things a starship requires to operate. In Fleet Operations such goods are simply called "Supply". When a starship leaves the yards, its loading bays have been filled with all the supplies it will need during its journey.





You will have to pay the supply units required to construct a ship along with the dilithium and tritanium costs at the beginning of construction. Supplies are required for the construction of vessels, turrets, and some types of research.

The Federation, Klingons, Romulans, and Dominion can acquire the Supply resource from their respective starbases. The Dominion and the Borg have a different way to get supplies. In addition to buying supplies from the starbase, the Dominion can also mine supplies directly from dilithium and tritanium moons after having built a Ketracel Synthesizer to deposit the mined supply. The only way the Borg can gain supplies is by building Incubation Centers, which slowly generate the resource over time.

Mining Operations

For the Federation, Klingons, Romulans and Dominion (before building the Ketracel Synthesizer), the most effective mining combination is three miners and one mining station per moon. However, occasionally depending on the setup of your mining facility, two miners can be in synchrony (pay attention to the load/unload cycles). Generally, you should notice a small gap when a miner is collecting dilithium or tritanium if you have only two freighters—this is what the third miner is for.

Note that a three miner set-up usually is not supremely efficient, as one of the three freighters will be idle for a

short while so that you don't really gain three times as many resources as if you had only one freighter per moon. Consequently, it is wise to move freighters from moon to moon when you anticipate needing more resources of a particular type, rather than investing in three freighters for every moon you own. Although it might appear as if you can save your resources by only building



one mining station per moon couplet at first (with two or three miners per moon), this setup quickly produces a backlog, so that a player with two mining stations will recoup his/her resources within the next minute and proceed to out gather you. Likewise, even though building three miners seems more wasteful at first, the extra miner will pay for itself within the next few loads, and thus that player will begin gaining resources faster than one who has only built two freighters very quickly.

The Dominion has an additional mining station, the Ketracel Synthesizer. This facility processes supplies mined by miners. Dominion miners can be set to two different mining modes: the regular dilithium and tritanium mining mode and the supply mining mode. Although mining supplies is faster than regular mining, it has a much slower unloading time. Generally speaking, the Dominion has the most efficient mining system when there are two miners and one supply miner per moon and two mining stations and one Ketracel Synthesizer per moon pair.

The Borg have a slightly different resource system. Borg resource processing nodes are built by the freighters themselves. Borg freighters also have a huge capacity and so only two freighters are needed to archive optimal mining conditions per moon, as these vessels will then be in synchrony.

Resource Management

It is vital that you keep an eye on your resource situation at all times—especially when making a build queue or constructing new stations. You should use your resources as efficiently as possible and try to maintain constant ship production and research. Always plan ahead for how much resources you will need to build that brand new station or to hire that glitzy new research team while keeping shipbuilding relatively stable.



Even though the guidelines state that three miners are best per moon, be sure to adjust your mining according to



your needs. Although in the early stages of a game you will likely want to maximize your resource intake by having the largest feasible number of miners per moon, later in the game you may need fewer freighters. Since you usually use less tritanium then dilithium it is wise to shuffle your miners so that you can maintain production. Do not decommission miners, as this

only wastes time. If you get a resource imbalance, try to use the situation to your advantage. You can always research expensive global technologies (for the Borg these are quite dilithium heavy, while for the other factions they are very tritanium expensive) or change ship classes in your build queue. Note that support vessels are more tritanium expensive than your normal ships of the line.

Ideally you should never horde resources unless you are planning on researching a costly technology or are trying to build a new yard or an expensive class of vessels. When you are not preparing to do new research or fabricate stations, ship production should leave you with negligible amounts of dilithium and tritanium. If you start



to accumulate resources faster than you can spend them, it is time to build or do more research (in other words, tech up). Don't forget to build more shipyards as you expand.

Alternatively, if you overextend yourself or your mining operations are damaged, it is not the end of the world. Stop production of bigger vessels and stations, and concentrate on rebuilding and producing more of your cheaper vessels. Even though low-priced vessels (usually early game warships) are usually less cost efficient then larger vessels, if you are suffering from a lack of resources it is wiser to produce a few of these then to wait a long time until you have the necessary funds for that expensive Sovereign class battleship.

Never forget the 95th Rule of Acquisition: *Expand or Die*! Even if you are "winning", if you forget to expand and invest in mining facilities and freighters, you will eventually be out produced. Conversely, if you expand quickly enough that you cannot build shipyards and vessels fairly consistently early on you will lose—even despite that resource advantage. Usually for non-Borg factions it is wise to expand as your construction ships become idle (generally within five minutes). By that time you should have a few ships to protect your construction ships. If your mining is destroyed, do not be afraid to re-expand again and again, otherwise you will never be able to regain your footing.

Decommissioning and Cancellation

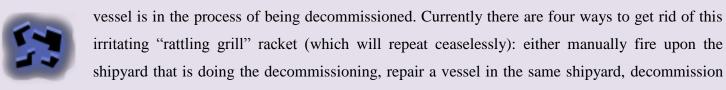
You can cancel production of any vessel or station at any point in time before it finishes and get all of your funds back. Likewise, by canceling a research before it is acquired you will regain all resources back as well. This includes tritanium, dilithium, and supplies. This can obviously be useful if a construction ship is under attack while building a station. Generally it is wise to let a construction ship finish a turret if there are only a few seconds remaining until fabrication is complete as you can usually frighten off any enemy forces with just the threat of a nearly completed defense structure.



Many ships and stations also have the ability to be decommissioned. Structures can be decommissioned in the field, but vessels must return to a yard. Although decommissioning a station is a good way to regain some of your resources if you are under attack and have no way of protecting the structure, rarely is it wise or necessary to decommission a warship. The dematerializing vessel will prevent all other ships from being

able to be repaired at that shipyard and because the process is sluggish, this will slow down your recuperation significantly. Keep in mind that only *half* of the initial dilithium cost will be returned to you should you decide to decommission a structure or unit. Any supplies or tritanium are simply lost to the ether.

One thing to note is that there is a glitch which causes a hang up with the sound file which indicates that a



the station, or simply delete the .wav file that generates the sound.

Unit System

The Ship Values

In Fleet Operations starships have three values which describe a ship's capabilities in relation to other vessels. Some passive abilities may also affect some values. These values are visible in the unit tooltips.

Offensive value:

The offensive capabilities of a starship or station. Units with higher offensive values can deal higher amounts of damage or have faster reload times. Many factors are taken into account, like the rate of fire or special weapon characteristics (Torpedo Weapons for example have a chance to miss). Generally speaking, if you look at it from an abstract view, the Offensive Value defines the damage per second a unit deals with all weapons.

Defensive value:

The defensive capabilities of a starship or station. Units with higher defensive values can sustain higher amounts of damage before getting critically damaged or destroyed. Defensive Value adds additional shield and hull hit points and also has some basic influence on shield and hull regeneration rates. Defensive Value will also make vessels subsystems more resistant to being damaged by weapon fire.

System value:

The special system capabilities of a starship or station. Units with higher system values can recharge their shields and repair their hulls faster and will gain resistances against subsystem-disabling weaponry, like many special weapons. If a target ship has a high system value, the smaller the chance of disabling the subsystem. The system value also defines the special weapon energy recharge rate and the maximum amount of special energy a vessel may have. Higher System Values will make a vessel a bit more durable

too and allows it to recover faster after combat, but Defensive Value will still have the largest influence on durability.

It is always important to remember to check the tooltips, because there could be some passive abilities which may improve damage done to certain vessel types and/or the ship may have extra resistances against some particular types of weaponry or ship classes.

The Damage System

Each weapon type does damage differently depending on the damage type, ship size, nature of the weapon, and

specific abilities of the targeted ship.

Beam weapons do equal damage to all ship classes and always hit.

Torpedoes do equal damage to all ship classes, yet they miss 40% of the time against small targets and 20% against medium targets.

Pulse weapons do only 80% of their damage against medium targets and 60% of the total damage against big targets.



Note that these are only general rules, as some pulse and torpedo weapons have special hit chances and several ships have reduced hit chances from pulses, torpedoes, and beams as well. Throughout the guide ships will generally be categorized using the "small, medium, large" nomenclature, because these are the general rules for Fleet Operation weapons (note that ship classes such as "scout" or "support" listed in the odfs are *usually* only for the purposes of creating the Admirals Log). Nonetheless, as was stated earlier, Small roughly equates to scouts, freighters and destroyers, while Medium is usually equivalent to cruisers, and support ships, and Large to battleships or stations. Stations are considered a separate category for certain types of damage calculation.

In Fleet Operations you will also encounter area of effect weapons. The only area of effect weapons that do



damage to friendly units are the Hyperspace Artillery and the BortaS's Artificial Ion Storm. All other area of effect damage weapons do a maximum amount of damage which is then split between all receiving enemy units within the particular zone. Consequently, the more units within the affected region, the less damage each individual unit receives (the total amount of damage dealt remains the same). Note that the

Sovereign's Engine Overload ability deals damage which is not spread in this manner.

The Experience System

The experience system makes it possible for ships to gain experience in battles and thus improve their offensive, defensive, and system capabilities. There are four different experience levels:

Rank 1

= Rank 2

Officer Rank 1

Officer Rank 2

Veteran Rank



Each rank can increase the vessel's Offensive, Defensive and/or System values. The precise bonuses per rank are different for each vessel. Once a warship has reached an officer rank it will also gain a new special upgrade unique to its class. This can be a new weapon, a passive ability, or a change in the behavior of its native special weapons. Of course these bonuses will be more powerful once the vessel has reached the second officer rank (the effects of this bonus will usually double upon reaching Officer Rank 2).

After attaining the second officer rank it is possible to upgrade the ship to veteran rank. The amount of veteran rank warships is limited to 25 slots and different ship classes require varying amounts of slots to be upgraded to a veteran rank.

Note that the Borg do not have an experience system.

General Strategies and Tactics

Keep Your Eyes Open

Always Scout! Always. If you don't scout you will lose because you won't know what ships your opponent is building/hiding and where his/her shipyard, mining, and starbase(s) are being built. Usually it is wise early

game to set your scout to a "fleet" of its own, and then use the minimap to set it exploring so that you can pay attention to it at the same time as building your base (as you will also be able to quickly access it by tapping the correct fleet number).

Cloaking Devices

Cloaking is a great advantage that the Klingons and Romulans have (as well as the Dominion Breen Cruiser). Cloaking ships can be used to spy on your opponents and to make surprise attacks. When you have been playing a game for a long time, surprise attacks on mining and shipbuilding



operations are not often as feasible because cloak detection has probably been researched by then. Cloak can be used for cunning ambushes, map surveillance and escaping from battle. After cloak detection is researched, cloak will not become useless, but it will limit the possibilities, as retreating from battle under cloak will become almost impossible.

One problem that cloak has is that it is possible to ping cloaked vessels from your starbase, which will tell the positions and numbers of all cloaked vessels. However, the Ping ability costs a significant amount of resources, which limits its viability.

If you use cloaked vessels for surveillance, it is often a good idea to move them from sector to sector or have those ships patrol some area as it will make revealing them with the Tachyon Scan much more difficult. You can also use cloaked scouts to shadow your opponent's vessels (this can be made easier by using the guard command) to extend the sensor range of your other warships.

When researching cloak detection, always consider your resource situation as well as your current battlefield position. For instance, if you have confined your opponent to his or her base or your opponent is always on the defensive, it is unlikely that you will need to research any form of cloak detection.



If someone is trying to retreat from battle using cloak, you can force them to decloak by using the starbase's Tachyon Scan ability (this must first be researched, except for the Borg). To counter this you can set your fleet to explore mode (by pressing E) while cloaking. That will scatter your fleet and minimize loses. This works only when the enemy can't use other cloak detecting mechanisms.

Take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves: if you see a cloaked fleet that is not moving, attack it before the ships get a chance to decloak and regain shields. Romulan ships may recloak almost immediately (2 seconds, or 1 second with the upgraded Tavara), but Klingon ships take 4 seconds to recloak.

Mining Operations Strategies

A good strategy, although cruel (so refer to etiquette) is to simply attack your opponent's mining and leave without having a firefight with enemy ships. If you are planning to raid some of your enemy mining operations, the main objective should be the destruction of your opponent's mining vessels. If you succeed to destroy all of them, it will take quite some time for your opponent to recover, because the income



of your opponent has been decreased and building new mining vessels takes time and resources of course. This will give you superior resources as it forces your enemy to rebuild, without losing your own fleet. You can imagine that this is best performed with factions that can cloak. The Dominion can recover a bit faster than other factions because they can change their construction vessels to mining vessels.

This tactic can also work against you, as you will be sending your ships out to attack leaving your own research and mining defenseless. Consequently, when you expand to a second set of moons as a non-Borg faction you should usually build one or two defense platforms surrounding each moon (building Borg platforms will tie up your constructor too much so that you can't build Collective Uplinks etc). This especially holds true if your opponent has access to cloaking units and thus has the power to easily strike where you are not. Early in the game, any faction's defense platform can handle several destroyers and because you are limited on ships (and perhaps not on resources), you can often not afford to spread ships between your expansions and wherever else you'd like your fleet to be. Thus the defense platform—while a static defense—offers you the chance to protect your mining and discourage your opponent from attacking with weakly shielded units until your fleet returns.

To further ensure that you are able to protect your weak freighters, place your first non-Borg shipyard close to your moons, making sure to carefully note where ships will enter for repairs (so as to better position your shipyard). Make sure that your shipyard is still right up against your starbase so that it is still protected as well. By carefully placing shipyards in such a fashion you can repair your slow freighters (and even defending destroyers) when they are attacked with little fear of them being outright destroyed.

Likewise, you might choose to immediately build a second shipyard at this mining outpost to allow an easier defense against rushes (especially if you have pulse-based Rhienns or B'rels going up against a Descent),

because you can continually cycle your ships to repair at the facility and then attack again. As non-Borg shipyards have strong shields, usually there is little worry that your opponent's destroyers will be able to destroy it this early in the game. Against the Federation Warp-In, this strategy contains severe risks due to the powerful units that will arrive.

Countering the Federation Warp-In Rush

Go for killing Steamrunners first because they will do the most damage to buildings with their special and normal attack, but are relatively weak compared to the other Warp Ins in terms of defense. Nebulas should be killed next because their pulse weapon will murder the freighters. Kill Excelsiors next because although they have a weak attack, they attack the fastest and killing them will reduce your opponent's firepower faster. Last go for Galaxies as they do the most damage through torpedoes, but which will often miss your ships and the freighters. Against the Ambassador-class, pay close attention to the defensive value of this vessel. If it suddenly increases to 45, do not attack this cruiser, but



concentrate on the other Warp-In ships until the Ambassador's defense drops back down to 30 (to allow easier



destruction). If it is a Descent, it is pretty self explanatory: just kill it! Take advantage of the fact that your opponent most likely is not micromanaging these units so that he can keep building, so cycle your ships into repairing, and trick your enemy into letting his ships fly next to your starbase by taking the freighters/ships he is attacking, and retreating them into range of the starbase. Note, that although this is a risky

maneuver, you can also try to capture these vessels after their shields goes down by using any nearby base structures to transport crew.

Nebulae Tactics

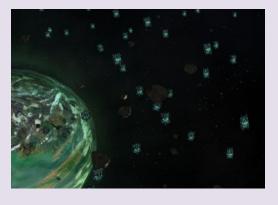
If you want to get a look in a nebula without sending all of your ships within it, simply place a scout in a periphery of the nebula. Of course, this works both ways: you can put a scout on the outside of a nebula that disables sensors in order to increase your sensor range to allow you to target ships outside of the nebula. Note that the blue Fluid Nebula and the purple Mutara Nebula cause all ships firing from the outside of the nebula to be unable to actively target the ships inside (phasers, torpedoes, and pulse weapons will simply miss), *even if*

you can see those vessels. Area of effect weapons will obviously still damage ships within these nebulas. The ships in these nebulas will have no trouble killing those on the outside however, so you must either draw the ships out or risk going into the nebula yourself. Note that the color of the nebulas and player color can be combined to be tactically useful: the dull green will hide you effectively in Crystalid nebulae and the light blue will hide your ships in a Fluid nebula (using purple is pointless, as Mutara nebulae kill sensors anyway). This is only really effective against a player who is casually glancing at the nebula or who relies on the minimap to see if enemy forces are present.

Remember to read the tooltips on nebulae carefully. For instance, if you are Borg, do not stay within the light green Crystalid Nebulas that regenerate *only* shields, as these will put you at a disadvantage if your opponent is non-Borg. Nebulas that disable shields and cloaking are the most effective ways to ensure survivability of Borg units while Nebulas that decloak and regenerate shields are best for non-Borg units. Make sure to read the tooltips for nebulas before sending in your ships.

Getting Rid of Mines

To get rid of Romulan mine fields (or Klingon Mixed-Tech Defiant anti-matter mines) you can build a few scout vessels and send them one at a time into the middle of the fields. As mines will only be attracted to a ship which has not already physically *blown up*, the fastest scouts you can build are ideal because they will cover the most area and thus attract the most mines—in fact continuing to attract mines until they complete the actual explosion animation.



Consequently, even if these scouts have lost all their hull points and are no longer controllable, they will continue moving forwards for quite a ways because of their momentum. As a result, they will draw even more mines.

Base Operations

The Klingons, Dominion, Federation and Romulans all start off with two construction ships and one scout after selecting an avatar. The Borg begin with one construction ship and one scout (Detector). Generally this is as many construction ships that you will need throughout the game.

You should never build Mixed-Tech facilities as your first shipyard (despite the facilities being initially cheaper



than a normal shipyard) as they take far too long to build, research, and finally produce units (the mixed-tech shipyards produce units slower than normal vessels). Usually you will build a Mixed-Tech facility after you have a defensible position. For instance, as Helev Romulans, you can build such a structure after having insured you have the upper hand by harassing with

Rhienn-class vessels and when you are deciding whether to move onto constructing Griffin and Generix-class starships. Thus, you will usually build a Mixed-Tech facility as either your second or third shipyard in your normal build order. Consequently, the early game phase of a game is typically over by the time these special units enter the stage. Factor this into your game play accordingly.

Always build your research and shipbuilding stations as close as possible to the starbase, to allow it to defend your miners and stations. You can lure non-micromanaged ships that are attacking your miners by sending them closer to your starbase.



Once you do attack your opponent's base, do not engage main starbases first, but try to micromanage to attack from out of range. Against the Federation destroy Starfleet Command initially to prevent instant reinforcements. Against the Borg destroy the Conduction matrix (no more Collective Uplinks). When attacking the Klingons, attack the central small squarish portion of the most basic yard to destroy the entire expanded station at once. Against Dominion, try to destroy prototypes. In general go for shipyards and then research stations.

Near the end of a game, if you go in for the kill, some players will ignore their dying base to attack you and hopefully destroy you faster. Make sure that if you gamble with this strategy, you can still win. Even if you end up destroying your opponent's base, if you don't get all the construction ships and their scattered warships, they might still end up winning by building another base.

Having a Long Game

Many (often potential) players will complain that they do not enjoy rushing (in other words, harassment early on with few numbers of units) and feel that it prematurely ends the game. Unfortunately, this reasoning does have some merit. If you attack and *destroy* the research structures and mining structures of your opponent early on (within the first 10 minutes), your rival will rarely be able to recover and the game will effectively be over. However, if you destroy merely fleets of vessels and mining and construction ships, you can neuter your opponent without actually completely destroying their ability to rebuild. Thus, if you prefer the quick paced action of early game harassment and continuous fleet action, but also like to experience the thrills of seeing large vessels destroy each other, perhaps it is wise to not destroy your opponent's stations immediately but to give your opponent a chance to rebuild.

Vessel Management

Don't Waste Warships

This should be self-evident to any player. Fleet Operations is not a real-time-fleet-building game, it is a real time *strategy* game. This becomes very clear in the early game. When the battles are between small fleets of early game vessels, you often have a way to get a damaged starship out of a battlefield alive. There is no point to wait and see how your ship explodes if you can prevent it (Oo, pretty colors!).



Repair your ships if they get damaged and recrew them: ships that have crew in the "yellow" or "red" zone will fire more slowly, repair more slowly, and obviously succumb to the Borg (or to crew killing weapons) much more quickly. Hitting the "R" key when a unit is selected will force that unit to immediately head back to a shipyard to begin repairs (Tapping "R" a second time will cancel the order to repair). This can be useful in the midst of a battle when you don't wish to tediously click through the "Orders" menu in order to send your vessels to repair. Pressing "R" while selecting a Borg unit (which cannot go to a repair facility)--or a unit that acts like a station such as the Tavara—will additionally cause that unit to begin recrewing in the field of battle. When a battle is going on, try to send badly damaged/decrewed vessels to a shipyard to be repaired and move new and repaired vessels from the yard into battle.

Support Vessels

Each faction has a few support vessels at their disposal. These warships are not usually very good in battle on their own, but they will be a huge boon to any fleet they are added to. Support vessels are often dismissed by new players because of their often weak offensive capabilities. They can carry powerful special weapons that can turn the tides in battle for your victory. You can recognize these vessels by the fact that most have a maximum of three unique support abilities.

Support vessels are an important part of any fleet and that is even more true when playing against a human player. They should not be left in the yard's main computer.

Delay Construction Buttons

Instead of canceling ship production if you want to get funds returned, simply click on the 30, 60, or 90 second "pause construction" button. This will save time and allow you to keep your initial queue.



Ability Ranges

You can see the range of weapons and sensors by holding your cursor over the sensor and weapons indicator on each ship (the place where it says at what capacity these ship functions are operating at: obviously, it is normally at 100% effectiveness). You can see the range of special weapons by holding your cursor over the appropriate special weapons button.

Alert Levels

There are three alert levels available to your vessels and stations. All units are initially set to Red





Alert and thus your units will engage the enemy upon sight. Units that are set to Yellow Alert will proceed with their orders unless they are attacked. If



fired upon, the unit will then engage the enemy forces. On Green Alert, units will not

fire weapons without an explicit order.

Autonomy Levels

All of your ships are initially built with medium movement autonomy (meaning they will move to intercept passing ships, but will go back to their original spots) and low weapons autonomy (meaning that they will not use their special weapons unless you direct the unit to). High movement



autonomy means that the ship will follow an enemy ship all across the map and high weapons autonomy will



mean that the unit will use its special weapons anytime it gets the required amount of special energy recharged. Medium weapon autonomy indicates that a unit will only fire a special weapon when more than half of its special energy is recharged.

You can set all your construction ships to high/medium/low weapon autonomy and/or high/medium/low movement autonomy to build shipyards and Collective Uplinks so that the units that are built will have the same autonomy level as the construction ship that built them. Likewise,



by doing the same to individual shipyards (or to Starfleet Command) the vessels that are built from them will have the same settings as the mother shipyard.

Using Hotkeys

Autonomy Hotkeys

These are accessed by your keyboard's number pad.

Autonomy Level	Low	Medium	High
Alert Levels	7	8	9
Movement Autonomy	4	5	6
Special Weapon Autonomy	1	2	3

Hotkeying Fleets

Select units, hold down control and press a number. To deselect a unit from a fleet, have the fleet selected, hold shift and click the desired unit. Now hold control and press the same number of the fleet. You can also remove a ship from a fleet by selecting it and pressing control and the minus key. Also, you can add a ship to a fleet by selecting the ship and then pressing shift plus control plus the fleet number. To ensure that units immediately enter your fleet from the shipyard, you can also hotkey shipyards.

You can issue waypoints for ships by holding tab and clicking. The vessel will begin moving as soon as you release the tab key.

Command Hotkeys

- **S** *Orders the ship to the current action (attack/guard/patrol/explore/transport...)*
- **A** Orders unit(s) to attack
- **T** Transport. Start transporting to a target (Note: the target's shields must be down).
- **P** Set your selected vessels to patrol between their current location and the target location.
- G Set your selected units to guard a friendly target. The selected units follow the ship that is set to be guarded and attack any hostiles which are threat to it.
- E Set your units to "explore mode", which essentially scatters your units.
- **K** Sets units to search and destroy mode. The ships will scatter around the map and attack any enemy target they find.
- R Repair. Send the ships for yard for repair and recrew. If the ship is missing crew and is recrewable, this hotkey will recrew the vessel first instead of sending it to a yard for repair.
- **Shift+R** *Priority repair is same as the repair, except that the ship will ignore other orders/enemy vessels until it is fully repaired.*

Delete Decommission selected units

Unit Selection Hotkeys

Double clicking a ships icon or a fleet number will center your camera directly on that ship/fleet.

Ctrl+A Select all your vessels that are visible in your screen

' *Select the next idle non-combat ship*

Station Hotkeys

R *Recrew station. Stations can't be recrewed when under attack.*

Starbase

C Build constructor

F Build freighter

Shift+S *Extend supply routes*

Research Stations and Shipyards

Ctrl+C Cancel current ship/research

B *Open the build/research list*

P Set the rally point

Interface Hotkeys

Alt+G *Show/Hide grid*

Alt+Enter Switch between fullscreen and windowed mode

Ctrl+I *Hide user interface parts (cinematic window/ unit list/ minimap and menus)*

PrintScreen *Take screenshot with user interface visible*

Ctrl+Alt+P Take clean screenshots without user interface.

Game Setup

The first thing you will notice upon creating a game is a heck of a lot of different buttons and tabs. Most are self

explanatory, but some have a few hidden features as well or are difficult to locate.

Under the "Teams" heading in the Game Setup window you can select a team number from 1-8, as well as the "Observer" feature. This special feature allows you to watch a game, but you will not be able to interfere in anyway (you will however be able to see all of your opponent's forces simultaneously).



Where you can select the map, you can also make the minimap visible in the window and enable/disable fog of war and shroud. There are also buttons for random and fixed start positions.

If you hit the "Advanced" button you will gain access to a wide range of additional Game Settings. In this



window you might notice that there are several speed options available for game play. Default is game speed three, which allows a fair amount of micromanagement and still allows you to see ships move faster than the snail on your desk (incidentally, this is also the speed which is also used for reference in this strategy guide). Four is sometimes preferred online because it allows faster games. However, you will also notice that battles tend to last quickly enough that micromanagement is definitely

much more difficult. Some players will also play on speed two, which ideally gives you great micromanagement skills, but will have the unfortunate effect of leaving you bored stiff on occasion (as the early game will be drawn out so long as to leave you wondering when that friggin' freighter will finally unload so you can build your second destroyer).

Selecting the "Cease Fire" option will prevent all attacks, as well as stop vessels from cloaking (anything that

uses the weapon subsystem, including Warp-In).

Deselecting the "Special Weapons Auto" box will make it so that every single special weapon has to be micromanaged in order to be fired.

Setting the "Non-Player Races" to "on" will activate the Ferengi feature, whereby neutral Marauders (which cannot be captured) will tow away any ships that have disabled/destroyed propulsion systems. This option also



enables/disables other possible map units, like derelicts and computer controlled (NPC) units.

You will probably notice that some settings are also located both in the advanced settings window and in the main window, such as the initial amount of resources you start with ("normal" is used for reference in this strategy guide).

Multiplayer Specific

When two players are set to the same "Armada", they jointly control everything. Resources and units are all held in common, which means that both players can move and use the same vessels for instance.

Setting the "Game Open" button to "Closed" will do just that. No other players will be able to join unless you select "Open" again.

If you want to play an Alliances game, where you can choose allies and enemies whenever you please, you can select it from the same window where you select the map. It is a slightly obscure switch (see image).



If your host has selected a map that you don't have, you can download it by clicking the download map button (located near the advanced settings). Sometimes you will not be able to see the minimap of a map downloaded in this manner, but to rectify this situation you can always reboot Fleet Operations. Vista's user access control (UAC) may also occasionally prevent you from downloading maps in this manner.

In multiplayer games with teams or alliances, the players often wish to have the Ally Trading and "Give Units" options enabled. They can be enabled/disabled in the advanced settings tab.

Miscellaneous

Playing Cooperative Multiplayer

You can upgrade each yard you make (for resource costs) to allow your allies to repair their vessels at the yard. You will have to research Service Contract on each yard you want your allies to repair at your yard.



Know your opponent well, but make sure you know your teammate much better. In order to succeed, you must know what build order your teammate is using, how good he/she is with using particular units and micromanaging in general. It is good idea to reduce some unnecessary costs if possible. The Borg and Romulans have their own specialties in cloak detection. It should not be necessary for every player to research cloak detection, if one player in a team researches it.

Retreat and engage in unison so as to minimize losses. Likewise, by bringing the most force to bear on one opponent you stand the greatest chance of winning.

Choosing a Map

Larger maps (those with more than two to three moon pairs per player) reward non Borg factions, as the Borg expand very slowly. Likewise their units are plodding and thus cannot get to new expansions quickly, nor can these vessels retreat successfully. If a Borg player cannot "contain" a non-Borg player, the game is most often lost. Conversely, if a Borg player can wipe out the first expansion of a non-Borg opponent, usually this adversary will have a rather difficult time preventing his or her defeat (as the Borg player can both expand and prevent expansion at this point).

There is always of course at least one exception, and in this case the mixed-technology Dominion V-15 Dreadnought is much better off fighting on a small map then on a large map. As the opponent's fleet will not be able to maneuver very well on a small map it can be easily caught by the "Polarize Hull" ability. Likewise, the slow moving Dreadnought can also easily bear the brunt of such attacks on a small map in order to attack the foundries and research stations of an opponent.

Large maps tend to also heavily reward cloaking factions and warp-in strategies. As cloaking factions can easily evade scouts and warp-in can appear anywhere you have explored, it is very difficult to prevent early game attacks. Of course, if you play aggressively, your warp-in/cloaking opponent will have no choice but to engage you where you choose—and thus the cloak and warp-in advantage might be lost.

Developer Cheats

To enter in a cheat of any kind in game, all that is needed is to hit the enter/return key to bring up the chat bar. Consequently, without further delay, here are a few cheats, some useful... some useless:

welcometothebrightsideoflife Reveal map

welcometothedarksideoflife Un-reveal map

elim Eliminates selected player

cine Disables your interface (including the cursor!). Makes it easier to take a

FRAPS video. To get the interface back you have to activate the chat with the enter key and type 'cine' blindly again (as you have no chat

input to see)

levelup Promotes a vessel to the next rank

fps Shows frames per seconds and other stuff, type again to disable.

crash Self evident...

showmethemoney Gives you 10,000 dilithium

version Shows what version of Fleet Operations you are using

expl Destroys the selected unit or station

In Game Options

You can share resources, ally chat, or give ships in a multiplayer game by using the communications menu

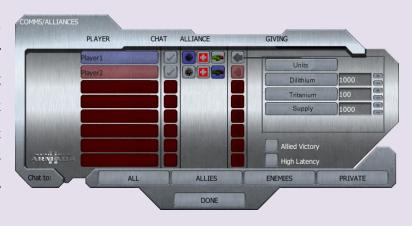


(third button to the left at the top right of the screen). To be able to give vessels or trade resources, the option must be enabled in advanced settings,

before the game has begun.

Once in game you can select how many resources you wish to give (either Dilithium, Tritanium, or Supplies) in increments of 100. To give resources to a player you must check the appropriate arrow which points to the particular competitor. In order to give ships you must have selected the vessels before pressing the "give vessels" button. You cannot share limited units, or any buildings or civilian vessels (construction and mining ships). You also cannot share any units or resources with enemies.

In most team games players will request (or will assume) that you have secured your communications so as to prevent plans from being overheard. You can select who you want to talk with by either using the preset toggles located at the bottom of the communications menu, or by manually checking the appropriate boxes under the "Chat" heading.



In multiplayer Alliance games you can also change your stance (neutral, ally, or enemy) towards each player in the game using this menu. The "Allied Victory" button is related to this type of game. If it is selected and all allies survive to the end, then the game ends with their victory. If on the other hand "Allied Victory" is not selected, then victorious allied players must defeat each other once their previous enemies have been destroyed.

You might have also noticed the "High Latency" button. When selected, all players will get higher response and execution times (aka lag will increase), however the game will become "smoother" (less frame stuttering). Consequently, in games that have slow response times to begin with, this option should not be turned on, as lag will increase further.



Introduction to the Factions of Fleet Operations

The Romulan Star Empire



Romulan ships have the best system values in the game. All Romulan ships start out with cloaking devices except civilian ships.

Romulans have two special stations: the Intelligence Center and the Cloaking Generator. The Intelligence Center makes it possible to spy on or sabotage enemy operations. The Cloaking Generator allows stations to cloak and use weapons while cloaked. When using the stationary cloak the yards and research facilities are not able to build vessels or research until the cloak is dropped.

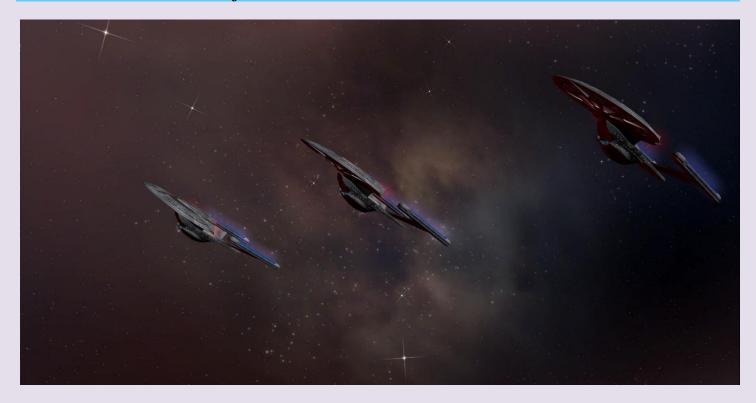


The Romulan Intelligence Center is the only station in the game that can gain experience. The Intelligence Center gains experience through the success of the sabotage/plant sleeper agent special abilities.

The Romulan unique shipbuilding style is vessel refitting. You can research a refit at both the Research Institute and the Tal'Shiar Academy research stations, which makes it possible to refit some existing ships classes. The refits have better ship values and may have access to new special abilities or passive abilities.

To get more advanced Romulan ships, you must build research stations. All refits and special abilities are researched at research stations. The universal upgrades are researched at the Upgrade Facility.

The United Federation of Planets



The Federation is a defense orientated faction. Their ships have high defensive values and have decent special abilities which compensate for their lack of firepower compared to the other factions.



To get more advanced ships, a Federation player need only research chassis upgrades at Starfleet Engineering. The special abilities for ships are researched in shipyards, except for support vessels. A support ship's special abilities are researched at the Starfleet Science station.

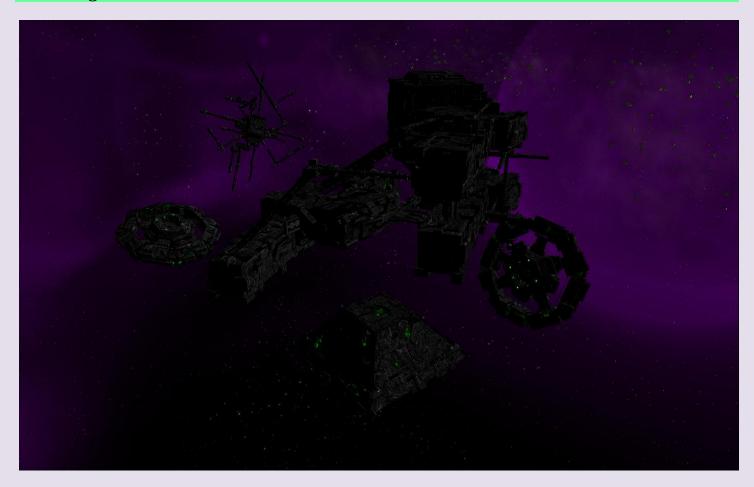
The Federation has a special station, Starfleet Command, which can call a small group (three vessels) of ships with the standard Warp-In feature. There is also an Experimental Warp-In vessel which can also be called anywhere on the map. The amount of the vessels you can call is limited. The ship classes you get with the regular warp-in are random, but as there is only one experimental ship class which always warps in a Descent class vessel. Note that warp-in vessels may only warp in to an open location (no nebulas or asteroid belts)

The Federation is the only faction that can build repair ships. It is also possible to upgrade Newton class repair starships with field diagnostics, which will increase the defensive capabilities of the vessel and the repair rate.

Ship and station improvements are researched in Starfleet Engineering (shields and weapons) and Starfleet Science (sensors).

The Federation turret and sensor station system is different from other factions. Instead of building a specific turret or sensor station, the Federation player must build a platform first. After building a platform, a turret or sensor station is selected.

The Borg Collective



Borg game-play differs a lot compared to other factions. Instead of big fleets, the Borg use small fleets of very powerful vessels. The ship capabilities are assigned by the player and chosen based on the chassis type.

The Borg do not build mining stations. To mine a moon, you must first build a mining ship. After you have your mining ship next to a moon, you can place a resource node with your mining ship. The mining node works like a mining station.

Borg have an extra resource called Collective Connections. Collective Connections slowly accumulate over time and building vessels uses a certain amount of Collective Connections. The generation rate of Collective Connections can be increased by researching the appropriate researches at the

Conduction Matrix.

To build Borg ships (except constructors, mining ships and probes) you need only the Conduction Matrix. After that the construction ship must build a collective uplink, which is used to build a Borg vessel. Only one vessel may be built with one uplink.

A Borg player has huge freedom to customize the vessels to design them for each situation. Each Borg vessel must be equipped with a certain amount of modules (depending on the chassis type). The modules can be, for example, beam, torpedo, holding beam and regeneration modules. There is a limit how many same modules can be attached to a certain vessel. Each module type improves and/or adds different ability or system value. Some special abilities require certain modules, like the auto-assimilator beam or regeneration special abilities. The costs of the module depend on the avatar, researched collective features and chassis type.

Borg vessels do not have any shielding. Their hull strength is, on the other hand, extremely high. The Borg do not have repair facilities for their own ships, but their ships regenerate quite quickly. A captured construction ship of a non-Borg player can build an Adaptation Matrix that serves as a repair yard for assimilated vessels. It also unlocks new modules for the Adaptor.

All Borg vessels have the ability to be re-crewed like stations.

New special abilities for Borg vessels can be researched at the Transmission Matrix. The research is free, but the amount of new technologies you can research is limited by ten slots and each research uses a differing amount of slots. Some abilities may be only for a certain ship class, but most are available for many different Borg chassis.

To get supplies, a Borg player simply needs to build incubation complexes. Those who selected the Optimize avatar have the possibility to increase an Incubation Complex's efficiency.

The Dominion



Dominion shipbuilding depends on expensive prototypes. To get a new ship class into production, a Dominion player must first build a prototype for most vessels. After that, the ship class is available to construct for reasonable costs. When a prototype is destroyed, a new prototype must be constructed if the player wishes to continue constructing that specific ship class. It is not very wise to take prototypes in your fleets. Prototypes cannot gain experience or use special abilities, and the destruction of a prototype can cause severe problems as they are quite expensive. It is probably safest to keep prototypes near starbase and use them as a last ditch defense force.

All Dominion special ability researches are researched in Technology lab and general upgrades are researched in Ketracel White Facility.

Dominion construction ships and mining ships can switch tasks. A construction ship can be changed into a mining ship and vice versa. This makes it possible for a

Dominion player to expand his or her mining very quickly. It also helps a Dominion player to recover from attacks on his or her mining.

Dominion ships cost much more supply than other factions and mining is a bit different when compared to other factions too. The Dominion has access to the Ketracel Synthesizer station which can process supplies. There is a

button available at the mining ship to switch it from mining dilithium/tritanium to supplies. The time spent unloading at the Ketracel Synthesizer station is longer than at the mining station, but the supply resource is mined faster than the other resources.

The Imperial Klingon Empire



The Klingons are an offense orientated faction. Their ships have higher than average offensive values (but weaker shields) compared to other factions. Most Klingon vessels have a cloaking device. Klingon cloaking device haves high cloaking times (four seconds), and are not very useful in dishonorable retreats midbattle.



The first Klingon yard, the field yard, has a unique expansion possibility. By selecting the middle section of a field yard you can expand your yard to up to three building yards. This is cheaper than building a new field yard and makes fast ship production possible in early game. The second yard (Battle yard) and third yard (Imperial yard) cannot be expanded.

The Klingons have the highest amount of different manned stations compared to other factions (probably demonstrates the inefficiency of Klingon research--Klingons after all are warriors, not scientists!). It is important to notice this in your base building. This can be used to your advantage in different ways. You can easily build yards in different expansions and decentralize your base operations. This can also bring problems when too many stations in your base may force you to build expensive research stations in tactically unsound locations.

To get more advanced Klingon ships, you must build research stations. All special abilities are researched at research stations. General weapon, shield and vessels speed upgrades are scattered throughout the different research stations.

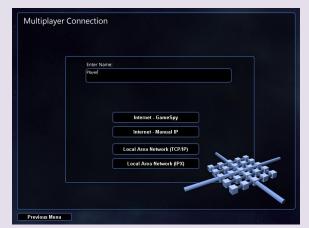
Klingons have a special station that can greatly improve the battle efficiency of all vessels for a short time.

Getting Online

An Introduction

Currently there are three popular methods to arranging a match online: GameSpy, Hamachi, and Wippien. Gamespy is built in feature in Fleet Operations. Hamachi and Wippien are free VPN software that can be used to play FO.

The first thing that you will see when you open the multiplayer menu is the name field and connection type.



You can set the player name that others can see in the name field. GameSpy is used only for games via GameSpy. For Manual IP connection you need to know your host's IP address. The Local Area Network (TCP/IP) is used only when you wish to use a local area network (LAN), or Hamachi, Wippien or some other vpn software to set up a game. The LAN IPX connection is only used for LAN games. Do not become alarmed if Fleet Operations freezes for a few seconds/minutes after you have selected the

connection type. It is recommended that you have FO set to windowed mode before clicking the connection button, so that you can still do other things on your computer while trying to get online with Fleet Operations.

After you have selected the connection type, the lobby screen will open (or if you have selected GameSpy, the login screen will be before that. For more details see the GameSpy chapter). There you can see current games, create a new multiplayer game, or join games that have not yet begun. Games that have not commenced and that you can join will be displayed in white font in the large box in the top left. If games appear in yellow script, this indicates that you have a different version of the game (or



the player's game has been modded). Remember to keep up to date with new Fleet Operations patches. Games that appear in red lettering have already begun.

About Firewalls & NAT Routers

If you have software firewalls, you probably need to set the software firewall to allow both incoming and outgoing traffic for the Armada2.exe and for the Direct Play 8 server.

If you have a NAT router you most likely need to do some adjustments for the port forwarding configuration. You can set your computer to DMZ, which will solve almost all connectivity problems, Although DMZ is easy to configure, it opens all ports to your computer so you need to rely more on your software firewall. If you do not have a NAT router or have disabled the NAT, you don't need to worry about configuring it.

Always remember to consider the possible security issues when configuring your firewall and NAT or using a vpn!

NOTE: IF MULTIPLAYER ALREADY WORKS, THERE IS NO NEED TO CHANGE ANY SETTINGS.

Using GameSpy

You do not need any extra software to use GameSpy, so you can select it straight from the multiplayer connection menu. After you have selected GameSpy, the log-in screen should appear. All you need to do is to enter a nickname (some symbols may cause errors however) and click "log in". You do not need to register if you do not wish to. You will enter the GameSpy lobby nearly instantly after you have pressed log in. Chat is possible by using the narrow rectangular box in the bottom left of the window.

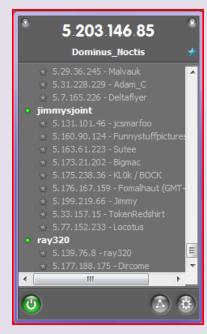
Note that you might encounter problems with hosting or joining may occur simply through the routing paths, by no fault of your own.

About Firewalls & NAT Routers

GameSpy and Direct IP internet games require some ports to be opened (See NetHelp.txt in the Fleet Operations' data folder or click the "Help" button in the multiplayer lobby), or your computer needs to be set to DMZ. Consult your NAT router and firewall manual to see how to apply these changes.

Using Hamachi

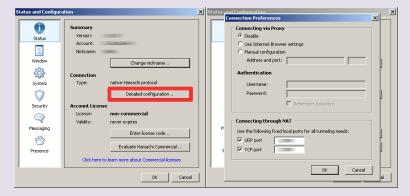
The second method works through the free vpn (virtual private network) service called Hamachi. This program is available for download at this site: https://secure.logmein.com/products/hamachi/vpn.asp?lang=en. Sadly, each network—although easy to set up and use—can only support a maximum of 16 (or 40 using the commercial feature) players. All that is required to use Hamachi is to create a network and password (or join an already existing network) and distribute the information to friends. You can create a new network by clicking the triangular button at the bottom left of the program. Unfortunately Hamachi users will often experience significant lag with more than two players.



To actually play games use the "Local Area Network (TCP/IP)" connection and proceed as usual.

About Firewall & NAT Routers

Hamachi will need only one UDP and one TCP port to be forwarded to your computer. You can select any port you wish from the Hamachi settings. If you have enabled UPnP for your router you can set Hamachi to automatically forward the required ports when needed. If you use a software firewall, remember to allow Hamachi traffic for



both directions. Again, consult your firewall and router manuals to see how to apply changes, if necessary.

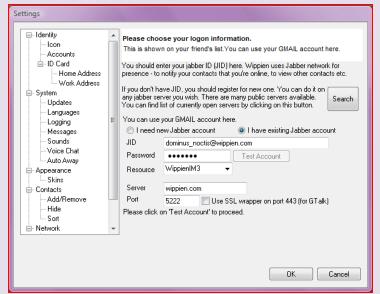
For more detailed information about Hamachi and its features, visit the web page of logmein Hamachi.

Using Wippien

The third method is through the completely free (and open source) vpn service called Wippien. To download this software, visit www.wippien.com. 64 bit drivers can be found on the Wippien website as well if you use 64-bit operating system.

To use Wippien you can simply create a new Wippien account within the program or you can also use a free Gmail or any XMMP (aka Jabber) account if you wish. Creating a wippien.com account is the best option, as this allows everybody who has a Wippien account to use the Fleet Operations chat room (on the wippien.com server) and thus arrange games more easily.

When you run the program for the first time, go to the "Settings" tab. There you can either create a new account

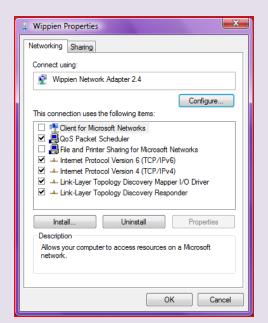


or use an existing account of yours. If you wish to create a new account, check the bubble called "I need new jabber account" and fill in the information, or, if you chose to use an existing account of yours, enter that account information and click the "I have jabber account" bubble. You may leave the "Resource" and "Server" lines as is, if you don't need or know how to use them (they will fill up automatically with the necessary information). Under the "Port" line, you may check the box titled "Use SSL wrapper..." if you wish to have a secured

connection for the chat. I recommend secured connections at all times (For those who use Gmail accounts it is necessary to use a secured connection). The port for unsecured connections is almost always 5222. For wippien.com the port for secured connection is 5222 too, but the port can vary between different service providers (for jabber.org the port for secure connection is 5223 and for Gmail it is 443).

After creating your account you will need to correctly set up Wippien. When using any Windows Operating System, go to Network Settings and right click on the Wippien adaptor (or click "View Status"). Select "Properties". In the tab titled "General" there will be a list of which you can unselect "Client for Microsoft Networks" and "File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks" as this will improve security (those services should not be accessible via Wippien in any situation anymore).

Next you should select an item titled "Internet Protocol (IP/TCP)" (in XP) or "Internet Protocol v4 (TCP/IPv4)" (in Vista). When the entry is selected, click properties and a window will pop up. In the blank space titled "Default Gateway" type the



numbers 5.0.0.1. Click the "Advanced" button in the lower right of this window and a new window titled

Dominus Noctis 43

"Advanced TCP/IP Settings" will be brought up. Uncheck the box titled "Automatic Metric" in the bottom left of the window and type in the number "1500" to the right of the box. You can now close out of these windows. Note, for XP users, an additional step is required: Run the command prompt (available from the start window or by the hotkey "win key-R") and type in "route -f" (with the space). Now restart your computer.

If this explanation was not clear enough, the following You Tube link should provide adequate instructions: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRk62qHAQqQ

To add people to your network, simply hit the green "plus" button in the Wippien program. Add your friend's accounts (Fleet Operations player's accounts are all available on the Fleet Operations website) and wait until they accept your offer. All XMMP accounts work with wippien, even if they are on different domain than you are. After they have accepted your offer, they will be able to join your games and vice versa. Note that it is necessary for all relevant players to have each other's accounts in order to join a specific game. Again, to actually play games using Wippien, you must use the button "Local Area Network (TCP/IP)" in the multiplayer menu for Fleet Operations—just as you did for Hamachi.

Note that if you already have Hamachi installed, to use Wippien you must disable the Hamachi network adaptor when you plan to use Wippien by going into Network Settings and right clicking on the Hamachi adaptor (in Manage Network Settings) and selecting "disable".

To join the Fleet Operations chat room, hit the button next to the "add" button. Enter the chat room name



(FleetOperations@conference.wippien.com) and now you can communicate with everybody who is signed into the room.

Although Wippien is a bit more complicated to install than Hamachi, much less lag is experienced with players who have correctly set up the program. Likewise, unlike GameSpy, router issues are unheard of.

Personally I recommend installing and using Wippien if you want to play online, as too many players (myself included) have issues using GameSpy. Likewise this is the most reliable way to find players as you will know instantly when people are online and thus you can arranged games. Note however that

Wippien does display your true IP address to the people on your network.

The current list of Wippien users can be found at this link at the Fleet Operations website:

About Firewall & NAT Routers

If you use software firewall, remember to allow Wippien traffic for both directions. If your NAT supports UPnP and you have it enabled you should not have any problems. If you do not have UPnP the only option probably is to set your computer to DMZ, because Hamachi allocates its ports dynamically. Consult your firewall and router manuals to see how to apply changes, if necessary.

The Romulan Star Empire



Things to Note

When playing as the Romulans it is very important to have scouts scattered across the map--preferably at choke points--so that you can attack ill protected freighters, construction ships, and scattered vessels as they move between fleets/mining bases. It is preferable to place cloaked scouts in places where your opponent will not think to look, or locations that are difficult to get at. For instance, the corners of nebulas or the peripheries of asteroid fields (especially sharply concave areas) are perfect places to hide scouts. Generally players do not use cloak detect near these locations. Even if your opponent does manage to spot your scout, it is difficult to see it onscreen before move it and recloak the vessel, as it tends to blend in with the surroundings due to its size. Even on the minimap, a single pixel of [insert color] is quite hard to pick out when there is a large green/blue/red nebula blob or grey asteroid field practically on top of the scout. Lastly, place your scouts on "green alert" so they do not immediately dart off and attack your opponent if he/she manages to decloak them.

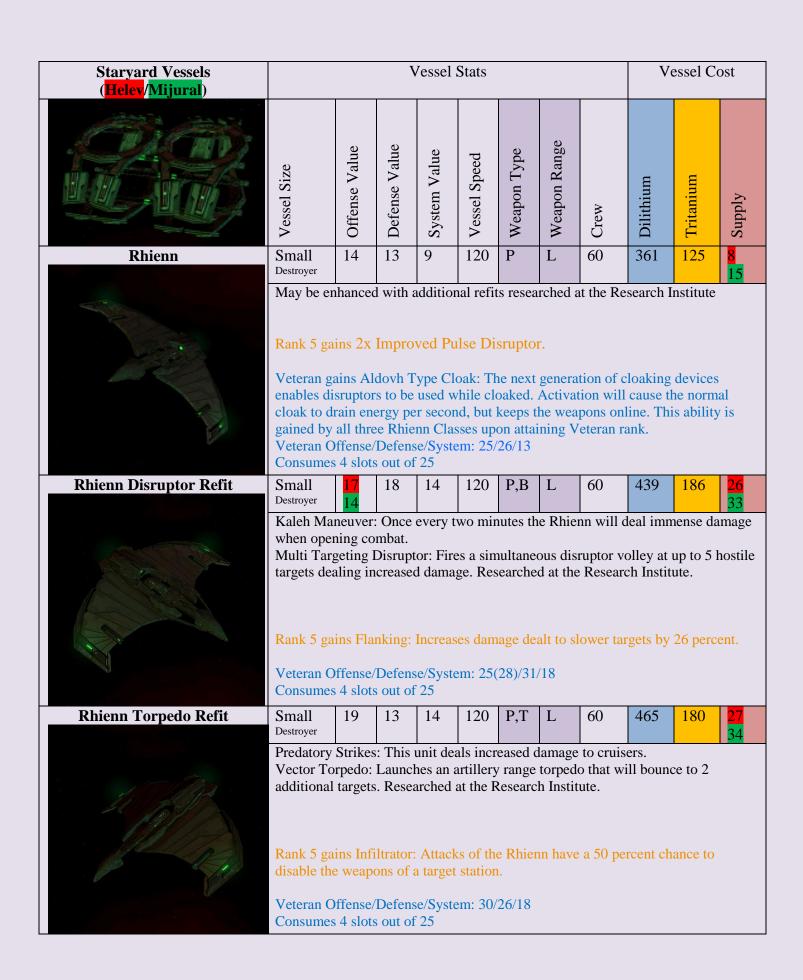
Keep your ships cloaked near your base and expansions so that your enemy's spies cannot tell how many ships you might have. If your opponent does use tachyon scanning to try and find your ships, he/she will most likely scan areas that are next to your shipyards, or within your mining expansion (instead of farther away). If you are playing in a large map, keep your ships cloaked half way between your base and your opponents, so as to maximize your opportunities to strike when your opponent least expects it. Sometimes however, it is possible to leave some of your ships uncloaked to serve as a warning to your opponent. They will not be sure how many ships you have, and thus those few uncloaked ones might be a strong enough deterrent to prevent an attack in the first place. Often times your opponent will guard his/her mining expansion heavily, and leave the main base open to attack--believing that the Starbase offers enough protection. Use these opportunities to first attack mining ships and then shipyards in the region.

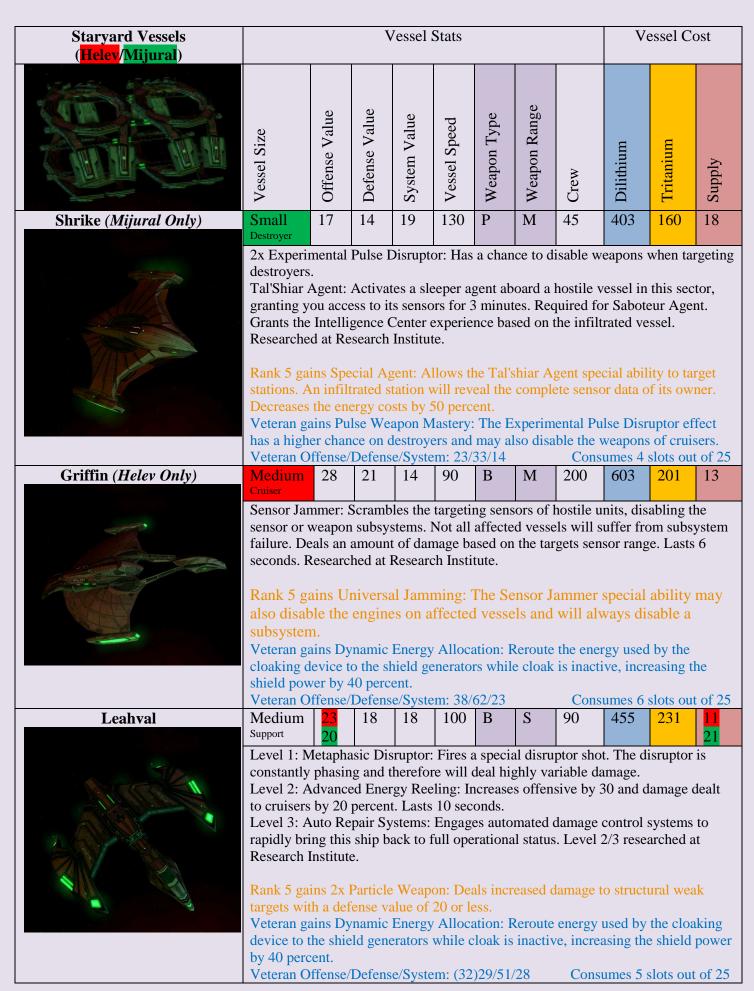
All Romulan war-vessels, with the exception of an upgraded Tavara (which takes one second), take two seconds to cloak and decloak. Special weapon energy does not regenerate while cloaked. All Romulan vessels--save the Mogai-class and Fakairu-class--can cloak (the Fakairu gains this ability once the Cloaking Generator is built).

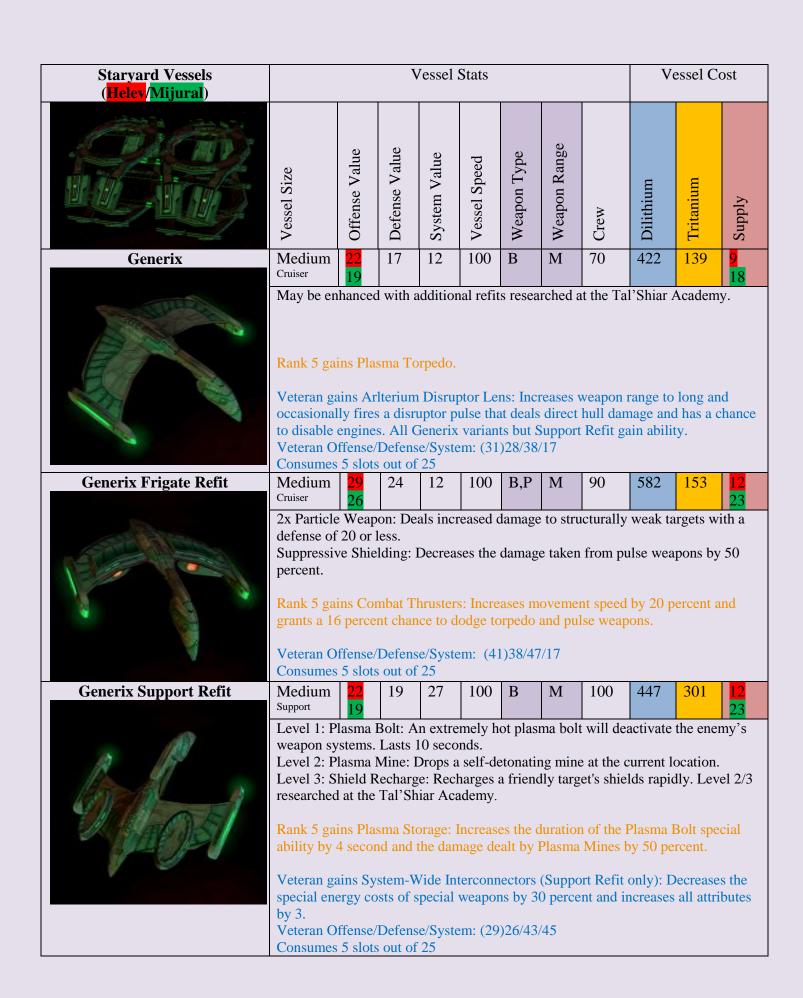
Remember that all Romulan weapons discharge more rapidly at the onset of battle and fire more slowly over time. Your strategy should *always* revolve around fast hit and run attacks to make the most of your initially superior firepower. Consequently, destroy your opponent's mining vessels at every chance and retreat to recharge your quick firing capabilities.

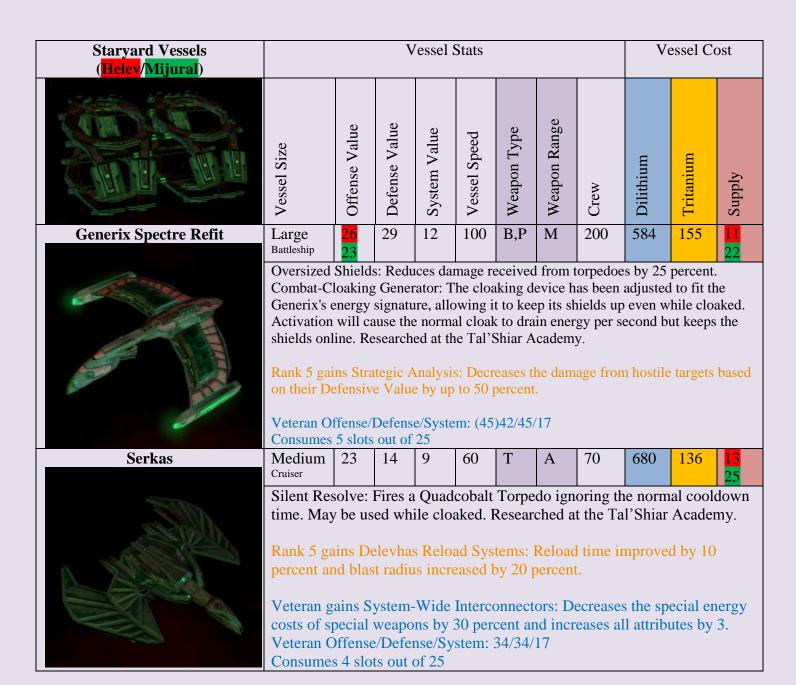
Romulan Unit Overview

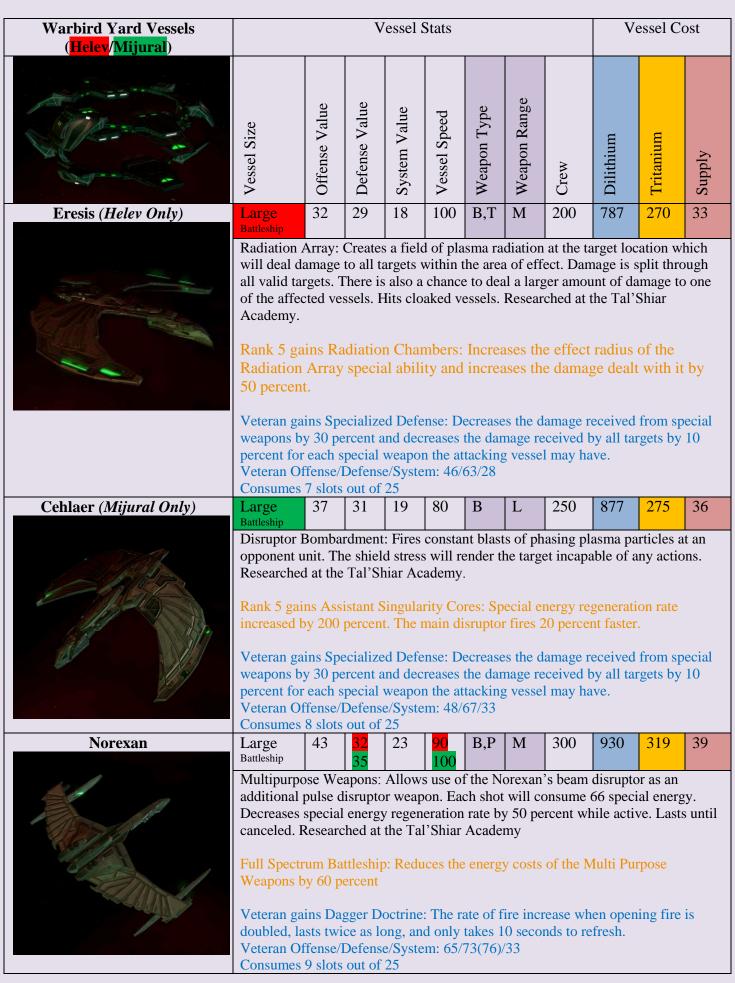
Starbase Vessels	Vessel Stats							Vessel Cost			
(Helev/Mijural)	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Mogai	Medium Construction	0	22	15	50	NA	NA	100	262	185	14
	Constructs all Romulan Star Empire stations Construction ships cannot level up.										
Fakairu	Small Freighter	0	13	9	50	NA	NA	75	139	98	7
	Stationary Cloaking Device: Stationary cloaking generators are much more efficient, allowing stations and freighters to keep the shields and weapons online. Available upon building the Cloaking Generator station. Mines Dilithium and Tritanium: Dilithium capacity: 150 Tritanium capacity: 100 Freighters cannot level up.										
Talon	Small Scout	6	5	4	160	P	S	10	128	54	6
	Large sens May be enl Scouts can	hanced	with tl	he Sens	oor Ref	it. Rese	earched	l at the F	Researc	h Institu	te.
Talon Refit	Small	7	6	5	160	P	S	10	214	87	10
	Large sensor radius. Tachyon Detection Grid: equips the Talon-class with a passive detection grid which reveals cloaked vessels passing through its sensor range. Researched at the Research Institute. Scouts cannot level up.										

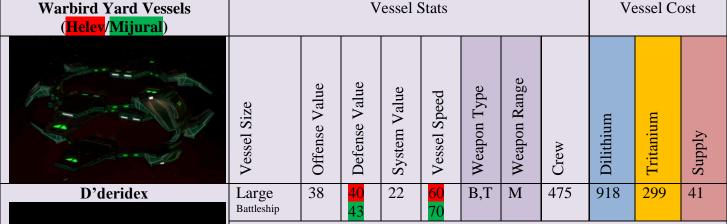


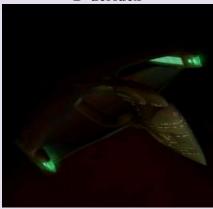












Majestic Flight: Defensive increased and allows 20 percent of the special energy regeneration rate to regenerate shields

Stealth Field: Bombards the space around this unit with subspace transmissions, making it impossible for the enemy to clearly target your fleet. Decreases the damage dealt by hostile units by 25 percent. Lasts 15 seconds. Long range. Researched at the Research Institute.

Rank 5 gains Plasma Charge: Torpedoes deal up to 160 percent additional damage. Bonus damage is based on the distance to the attacker.

Veteran gains Specialized Defense: Decreases damage received from special weapons by 30 percent and decreases the damage received by all targets by 10 percent for each special weapon the attacking vessel has.

Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 52/84/35

Consumes 9 slots out of 25

Tavara



Large	73	69	44	70	В,Р	M	800	1211	418	50
Battleship		72		80	T,					

Rei'karansu Covert-Ops team. Transports 75 Romulan marines on the target vessel. They will immediately try to board it. Artillery Range. Researched at the Tal'Shiar Academy.

Rei'karansu Marines: Increased boarding party strength and may be recrewed like

Upgrade Offense: Improve the weapon systems of the Tavara to deal increased amounts of damage with every shot. Plus 20 offense

Upgrade Defense: Power up the defense of the Tavara to make it less vulnerable to enemy fire. Plus 40 defense.

Upgrade System: Reduces the special energy costs for cloaking to 0. Reduces the delay for cloaking and decloaking to 1 second. Plus 20 system Build limit of one with Helev and two with Mijural.

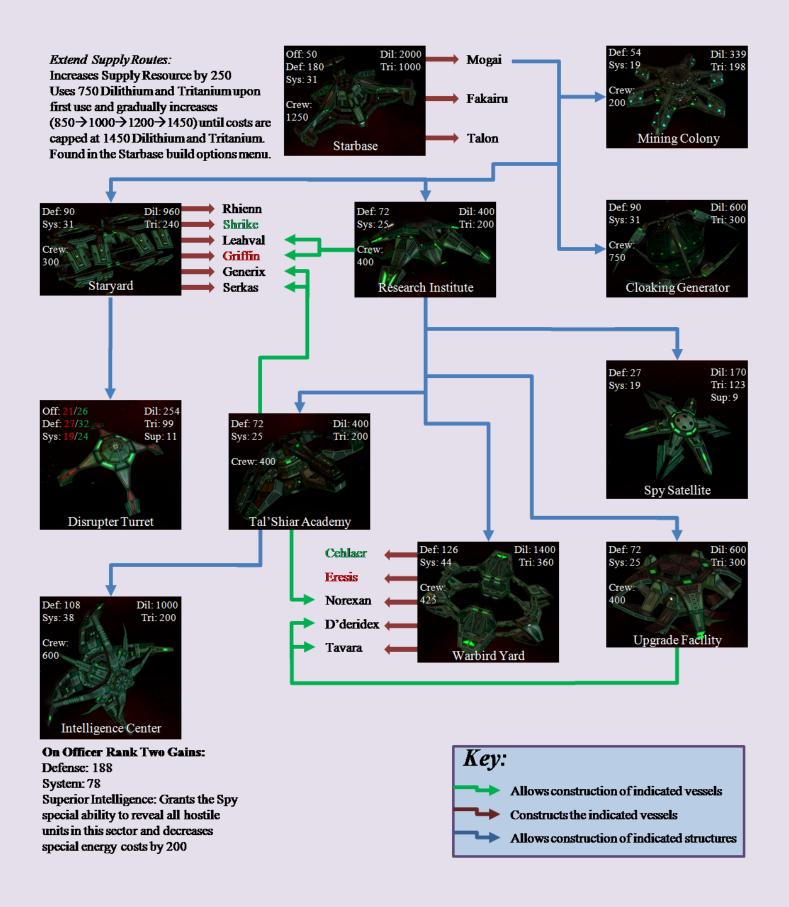
Rank 5 gains Modularization: Increases attribute bonuses gained from upgrades by 40 percent.

Veteran gains Matriarch Warbird: The Tavara gains the special abilities of all other Warbirds, if researched.

Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 107(108)/148(152)/68

Consumes 18 slots out of 25

Romulan Technology Tree



Romulan Strategy

General Build Order: You will start with two Mogai-class construction ships and a Talon-class scout ship. Immediately select one of the two construction ships and begin building the Staryard parallel to your Starbase. Select the second construction ship and begin building a mining station for the dilithium moon. At the same time, queue up four mining freighters, two for each moon type. At the same time you should use your cloaked Talon to scout the nearest available moon pair, followed by your opponent's most likely point of expansion and then your opponent's base itself (make sure to leave your scout far enough away from the Starbase that if they do research cloak detect, and you have not realized that, your scout will not be destroyed).



General Helev

Gives access to two new units:

- Eresis class
- Griffin class

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Increased Offensive Value for all vessels with beam-type disruptors by 3.
- The Intelligence Center will gain more experience and levelup faster
- Reduced the Supply costs by 50%

After the shipyard is completed, begin building the Research Institute and queue up about ten Rhienn-class vessels. Make sure to set weapon autonomy to high for this shipyard. The other construction ship should be almost done with the mining station. When it is finished, begin building a mining station next to the tritanium moon. When the construction ship that was building the Research Institute is done, send it to the nearest



expansion point and begin constructing a turret to defend your expansion (but only if your opponent is aggressive). Follow this by building additional freighters (only 3 this time, as you will probably not need that much more tritanium at this point) and two mining stations. At the Research Institute research the Disruptor Refit and the Multi-Targeting Disruptor. This will not only give your Rhienn the Kaleh Maneuver passive ability, which causes the

Rhienn to do immense damage every two minutes, and also the special energy ability to damage up to five targets at once when the ability is used. Consequently, this refit is much better against factions that use many weak ships at once. It is generally not advisable to set these Rhienns on high weapon autonomy until enemy vessels are well within range of your Multi-Targetting disrupter (this way you do not waste this firepower). Only research the Torpedo Refit and the Vector Torpedo if you are facing off against the Borg (the torpedoes

will rarely miss the generally large Borg vessels). This will grant the passive ability Predatory Strikes (which causes the Rhienn to do more damage to cruisers) and also the special energy ability to launch a torpedo that hits up to three targets when the ability is used. Make sure to set these Rhienns to high weapon autonomy if you do not wish to control the special weapons constantly. *Do not refit your Rhienns until your first mining expansion is built.* If you do, you will definitely have a much slower start. If you are facing against the Romulans or the Klingons (or Dominion Breen Alliance) you should also build several more scouts and research the Talon refit as soon as possible (this is much cheaper than using the Research Institute to research the Simple Detection Grid for your Starbase and the Tachyon Detection Grid for your fixed sensor stations). This will increase your sensor range for the scout and allow the detection of cloaked ships (for the Breen, this is in the form of Breen Cruisers). Note that if cloaked ships enter your sensor range, it is often wise to pretend as if you did not see these ships if they are not close to your mining or main base. Take your own ships, setting them to "green alert" (or better yet, cloak them) for the moment, and casually move them by only to attack your opponent's cloaked ships when your fleet is nearly on top of them (to prevent escape). If you see cloaked scouts, it is best to set some ships to "green alert" and then capture the unassuming scout.

At this point you should have at least three Rhienns. Make sure to refit them (note that all refits must decloak to

be refitted and they can be refitted anywhere on the map) and begin making hit and run attacks against your opponents' mining. To do this, cloak your ships and using your scout as an aid, choose mining that is the farthest away from your opponent's fleet and turrets. Many players will build turrets at their expansion, thinking that their main base structure is enough to defend their primary mining



facilities. Of course, if you micromanage well with low movement autonomy, you can destroy freighters without ever getting within range of these powerful structures. Also keep a tab on what ships they are building, as it is crucial to do as much damage as possible to disrupt their efforts to build a fleet. For instance, if you can see that Federation Norways are being built, attack your opponent's tritanium mining ships as Norways are very expensive in terms of tritanium. Likewise, destroy hugely expensive Dominion prototypes when you get the chance. Attack freighters first, followed by construction ships. Stations simply have too high of a hull/shield rating to bring down quickly. If your enemy sends ships against you and you have superior firepower, destroy them. The Rhienn does not have heavy shields, but it can retreat and still fire (as it is a fast, long ranged destroyer). Unfortunately its pulses are forward and side firing only. Accordingly, to use the brunt of your firepower you must keep your face or flank to the enemy. If you wish to avoid engagement with superior forces when attacking a mining station, you must cloak your ships when the enemy fleet is nearly upon you and play cat and mouse: simply move your cloaked ships to your opponent's unguarded mining and rinse and repeat. In general, if a Rhienn loses shields and a tiny bit of hull it is best to cloak the Rhienn (as it takes a second or so before enemy forces can no longer attack the cloaking unit) and send it back to the shipyard for repairs.

Against the Dominion (Early Game)

• When facing the Dominion, you will most likely encounter A-20 Attack Destroyers (commonly called "Bugs") initially. If you are facing the Puretech avatar, these attack ships will outnumber you quickly, because the avatar gets a reduced construction time. Although these ships only have a medium weapons range, they will be able to keep up with you and thus can still destroy your ships if you don't keep them out of range.





Likewise, these vessels have the ability to ram your ships, potentially destroying them instantly. Thus it is of the utmost importance to keep your distance. In general, it is highly recommended that when facing equal or superior firepower you continue moving your ships around to take advantage of the Rhienn's superior range. Later in the game you will most probably face S-2's which are short range, but bolster the

attack of nearby ships by 45%. Simply maneuver at long range around them to defeat these ships. Against the Breen Alliance, you will face fewer numbers of Bugs (A-20 Attack Destroyers) because of a decreased build speed, but you will encounter the Breen Cruiser. The cruiser has long range, a 360 degree firing arc, and a powerful torpedo attack that does increased damage against small vessels, but is slower than the Rhienn. However, because Breen Cruisers are armed with torpedoes they will miss quite a lot, and thus it is not even necessary to maneuver your Rhienns at long range. Instead, make certain that when your destroyers lose shields to retreat them under cloak (also make sure that your Rhienns are always facing the Cruisers to make the best of your pulse weapons).

Against the Klingons (Early Game)

• When facing Martok avatar Klingons, you will be attacked with pulse-based B'rels early on, which cannot retreat and fight because their weapons are forward facing. Thus your best bet in a full engagement is to split your Rhienn fleet into two sections, the first travels in front of the B'rels as they try to keep up and fire their short-ranged weapons and the second Rhienn group travels behind them, taking advantage of their forward pulse weapons (and the lack of B'rel firepower from that angle). It is also possible that the Klingon player will throw forward firing



also possible that the Klingon player will throw forward firing K'Vorts at you. Although these have stronger offense/defense, they are slower and turn slower as well. Be fearful of their ability to cloak and

strike without warning using Shield Breaking Torpedoes (which may be fired while cloaked). Against the TaQ'Roja avatar, both Bird of Prey classes get short range torpedoes, so it is important not to let these units close with your Rhienns. Retreating is probably best when facing these units (as they could turn quickly into your following Rhienns and kill them much faster using the torpedoes if you used the above Martok strategy). Against Veqlaragh vessels, it is best to open fire only when you are in the midst of them to prevent them from retreating and firing (and thus perhaps escaping). As Klingons have the



ability to rapidly produce early game units such as B'rels, you will probably be attacked early on—perhaps even when you are planning an attack of your on. It is best to build around one to two Plasma Turrets at your expansion's mining facilities to allow you to defend your resources while you are away. As the turrets are cost effective and long ranged, they will at the very least offer a strong deterrent to the short ranged

Klingon forces you will initially face.

Against the Federation (Early Game)

 When facing the Mayson Federation avatar, you will encounter Norways or Canaverals and long-range Sabers. Norways are the bane of the Romulans existence (these cruisers are anti-destroyer/cruiser and Romulans predominantly rely on these two classes). Their area of effect attack, Plasma Coil, can heavily damage a Rhienn. It is highly



important that you trick your opponent into using the special ability prematurely. By splitting your Rhienns into several fleets and spreading them far enough apart, you can uncloak one of your *moving* fleets (the damage is done over time) and Norways will likely fire upon them. Immediately uncloak the remainder of your fleet, and, keeping them moving in separate groups, attack and destroy your opponents Sabers (they have superior speed and so are hard to keep up with) and your opponent's now defenseless Norways (they take about a minute to recharge their special ability). Against the Risner avatar you will only face Sabers and Canaverals armed with Sensor Blackout and slightly later, the short-range anti destroyer Monsoon. Try to always destroy Canaverals first, and if hit with Sensor Blackout, disengage so that you regain your firepower. With both Federation avatars you must be prepared to defend against the dreaded Warp-In rush. It is best to build one or two relatively cost effective turrets next to your mining facilities to protect them. Make sure to keep your vessels at maximize range and send units to repair when damaged by using your cloaking abilities generously. If your opponent has unleashed a Steamrunner's triloader capabilities on your mining station and you do not think you can kill the artillery vessel in time, be sure to decommission the station so you can regain

some resources. Retreat your mining vessels in different directions if the station is lost, and remember that if you are not building something with your construction ship, send it back to your main base.

Against the Borg (Early Game)

• When facing the Borg Optimize avatar you will most likely be attacked by Probes and perhaps even short range Scout Cubes (armed with anti-destroyer Interception Modules). You might also be attacked by a single medium range Sphere. These vessels are slower and shorter ranged than the Rhienn, but still make sure to keep moving in a straight line and separate your ships into separate fleets to avoid taking losses (Rhienns must slow



down to turn it appears, so strafing runs are best done by letting your flank face the enemy). Against the Assimilate Avatar you must expect an early rush of at least one very powerful Assimilator. The Assimilator has long range for its heavy hitting torpedoes and beam (if outfitted with these) as well as its assimilation beam. Be careful to keep your Rhienns at the outward limit of the Assimilator's range and to recrew them often—even if it means lowering the shields of your other vessels to keep a Rhienn from being captured just long enough to get it out of range. In general, against the Borg it is wisest to seek battle with them constantly, both to distract your opponent from building more modules, and to whittle down their forces so that you can still out micromanage them and not worry about a rush into your base where you are forced to make a stand (and thus where you will lose many ships). Often it is a wise decision to have your Talon scout guard a Borg warship so that you can utilize your superior range as well as keep an eye out for where their vessels are at all times.

After you have built roughly ten or so Rhienn vessels, you should have enough resources floated to build

another Staryard. Promptly begin producing Griffin-class vessels and research their special ability Sensor Jammer. This ability grants the Griffin the chance to disable the weapons or sensors of all vessels within range for six seconds. It is recommended that you use the Griffin to close with the enemy to best exploit the effects of its special weapon. Even though it appears as if the Griffin is much more expensive than comparable vessels, its special ability allows you to quickly render your



opponent's forces useless, so that your Rhienns might pound them without fear of retribution. You should produce between 3-6 Griffin-class vessels at this stage in the game, making sure to keep them on low weapon autonomy so that you might use utilize their special most efficiently. Griffins can also be used to allow your

forces to retreat if you are beginning to lose a battle. By triggering their Sensor Jammer and then cloaking, you can ensure that your forces will take the least amount of damage possible. Now that you have given your Rhienns some much needed support, construct a Tal'Shiar Academy and begin producing Generix-class vessels at your two Staryards. At this point in the game, you will need to decide what refit is best to use for these Romulan cruisers.

Against the Borg (Mid Game)

Against the Borg, the support refit is best to start with because the level 1 ability, Plasma Bolt will prevent the relatively small numbers of Borg ships from firing for 10 seconds. Micromanage this ability by setting these cruisers on low movement autonomy so you do not waste special energy. Likewise, after you research the Plasma Mine special ability, you will have the ability to lay vast minefields which do tremendous damage against the hull-based Borg vessels. As more ships are better against the Borg early to mid game (for if they have the Devastating Attack and Slicer upgrades they can easily shred your few battleships), after you have roughly a fleet of 16 cruiser Support refits, research the Spectre refit for the Generix (this gets a 25% reduction in incurred torpedo damage due to the Oversized Shields passive ability, but becomes a battleship and thus is never missed by torpedoes). Note that later game, when the Borg have Diamonds and Cubes, they can use the Nanite Collective Feature, which will decimate destroyers (and cruisers to a lesser extent). Thus it is still wise to build battleships late game—and the Spectre counts as one! Since the Borg rely heavily on torpedo modules to do damage (or on assimilation to remove your firepower), the Spectre refit is quite good as it takes much less damage from torpedo hits and has a high crew compliment (200). Do not bother to research the Spectre's special ability against any of the factions, unless you have extra resources that you don't know what to do with. Note that against the Borg it is extremely important to begin building support refits as soon as possible. Thus, if you anticipate that you will not be able to make hit and run attacks against your Borg opponent's base (perhaps they have built too many turrets for defense), do not build the customary ten Rhienns, but instead tech up to Griffins much sooner (perhaps at around only five or so Rhienns). Griffin-class warships have 200 crew and thus will be quite difficult to assimilate this early in the battle. In addition, their weapon/sensor disabler will do wonders against the limited numbers of Borg units you will face.

Against the Klingons (Mid Game)

Against the Klingons, it is best to go with Frigate refits first if your opponent is still utilizing B'rel and
K'Vort vessels. The Frigate refit takes 50% less damage from pulse-based weapons with its Suppressive
Shielding passive ability and deals increased damage to targets with a defense less than twenty (due to
particle weapons). Thus they are perfect against Klingon Bird of Prey and even the K't'inga and its more

powerful cousin, the K'beajQ. If your Klingon opponent has already advanced up to Vor'chas and is not extremely aggressive, you are best suited to go with Support refits first, making sure to research both the secondary and tertiary support abilities of the Generix (Mines and Shield Recharge respectively). Shield Recharge will ensure that your small numbers of Rhienns and Generixes will be able to withstand powerful strikes from the Vorcha cruisers and heavier Klingon ships.



Make certain not to bunch up your ships when facing off against a Martok avatar opponent, as the Lu'Spets Field of Fire ability is area of effect and will make quick work of your smaller Romulan vessels. Eventually it is a wise idea to also build Generix Spectre Refits, as these vessels will take 40% less damage from pulse based weapons (as they are battleships) and they take 25% less damage from the torpedo heavy Klingon warships.

Against the Romulans (Mid Game)

• Against the Romulans you should tech up as quickly as possible to Frigate refits due to the overreliance



on Rhienns at the beginning of a match. It may be necessary to suicide a scout to make sure you aren't behind your opponent in Frigate construction (click on their research building to see what they are researching if you don't see any Frigates). Frigates will remain powerful later in the game as many Romulan warships rely on pulse-based weapons. Spectre refits are not at all useful against the Romulans, because Romulan warpships do not have a heavy reliance on torpedo

weapons.

Against the Federation (Mid Game)

• Against the Federation, Support refits are probably best against both avatars as you will not be facing



many pulse based weapons (only the Saber gains a quantum pulse upon officer rank, and the Canaveral begins with one). Likewise, Generix Support refits will become even more useful with their Shield Recharge late game as you field powerful D'deridex and Norexan vessels that will become the focus of enemy attacks. Since the Federation is heavily reliant on torpedo weapons, it is also wise to upgrade to the Spectre refit after you have a fair number of Support refits (roughly a fleets worth).

Against Mayson, be careful not to keep all your Support refits in one fleet, as it becomes excessively easy to heavily damage them with well placed Plasma Coil shots. Likewise, beware of both avatars' Canaverals, as their tertiary ability, Sensor Blackout, is an extremely large area of effect weapon which will decrease your rate of fire by 75% for 25 seconds. Thus always split your vessels up into well spaced out fleets of six or so vessels in order to minimize collateral damage. Make sure to micromanage your support refits to disable the weapon systems of any Descents that are flung into your mining (as these are battleships, they take 40% less damage from pulses, which means that your Rhienn's will generally not be enough to take these behemoths down).

Against the Dominion (Mid Game)

• If the Dominion builds T-15s or (rarely) Troop Transports, which are pulse based, it is again best to build Frigates first. Likewise, as the Dominion relies heavily on Bugs with a defense of eleven, Frigates will do quite nicely against them. However, in all games, you should eventually research the Generix Support refit, as it will instantly make your fleet much more powerful by not only disabling your opponent's firepower on their larger and expensive battleships, but by recharging



your own shields. In between battles, it is often wise to lay down minefields to protect mining outposts that you can't guard constantly. In general, against all factions, you should have at least one fleet of Support refits to ensure rapid recharge of shields and the ability to lay minefields effectively. Likewise, your leftover early game Rhienns should be kept as far as possible from your opponent's weapons, because although they do deal a good deal of damage, they are nowhere near as hardy as the Generix refits.

Against all Factions (Late Game)

Upon acquiring a fair mix of Generix Support and Frigates/Spectre (or possibly just Support), it is best to build



the Warbird Yard and start building Norexan-class vessels and research Multipurpose Weapons at the Tal'Shiar Academy. These are your fastest battleships, and are quite powerful. Notice that these ships also fire forward firing pulse weapons which are quite useful against the remnants of your opponent's destroyers. Used in combination with Generix Support, they can last a long time. All Norexans should be set to high weapon autonomy to make the best of their multipurpose weapons. If for any reason you begin to gain resources faster than you can spend them (you should still be building a few

Generix for some additional Frigates/Spectre refits as you lose them), build an Upgrade Facility and research a weapon upgrade to universally increase your firepower.

At the same time, start building D'deridex-class vessels and research their Stealth Field special ability. This is an area of effect weapon that decreases the amount of damage enemy warships cause to you. These vessels have

a very high shielding, but are very slow and cannot perform quick strikes like a fleet of Rhienns and Norexans. If you do send them into battle, you must ensure that you have superior firepower, as there will be no retreat with these ships. Manually targeting their special ability one by one will ensure that your



opponent's fleet is chronically underpowered. Note that against the Borg it may be wisest to stick with small vessels (Generix refits and Leahvals—which are addressed in the below paragraph) because the Borg can easily dispatch large vessels in a few hits by using Devastating Attack and Slicer and thus remove more of your firepower at one time. Using small vessels thus ensures that the Borg wastes its special weapons on incrementally lowering your firepower.

I have not mentioned the Eresis class. This vessel is decent in terms of firepower, but its special area of effect weapon does almost no damage to even a single isolated unit. Since a Helev avatar player will already have built a Tal'Shiar Academy, it is much wiser to build Norexans instead (with their much more useful Multipurpose Weapons). Likewise, although the Serkas is artillery range, because of the rate at which enemy forces close with you, it has a tendency to strike your own vessels with its area of effect torpedoes. This ship is



best used in small numbers (3-4) to "crack" Starbases and long range defenses, as otherwise these warships will move into range of your opponent' stationary defenses. Thus set these ships to "green alert" and low movement autonomy to prevent them from moving within range of enemy defenses. Remember, the blast radius extends the usable range of this torpedo slightly beyond artillery. You can also manually target a chokepoint to possibly goad your opponent into

striking your main fleet. Using its Silent Resolve special weapon, you may fire one of its torpedoes while cloaked. This is best used if you can manage to catch an opponent's fleet off guard. By moving a large quantity of Serkas-class vessels in range, and then using this ability, you have the potential to soften your opponent's fleet so that your main fleet may attack. Since it is quite probable that your opponent will immediately use Tachyon Scan to decloak your Serkas (having seen your torpedo shots), it is necessary to engage your opponent with other starships before your artillery ships are slaughtered. Note that this tactic becomes even more

powerful against opponents who cloak their fleets because if you use your Talon refit to find a cloaked fleet and strike with Silent Resolve, you can quickly eliminate these *unshielded* enemy vessels.

The Leahval, while quite powerful in its own right, has a weak hull and is not fast enough to strike with your Rhienns. I prefer to use this vessel in a support role in my Helev fleet by building these after I have already started construction of Norexan-class vessels (because they deal all their damage at once with their special weapon, they are good at preventing warships from escaping). Due to the large amount of ships involved in later game action, it is not necessary to



upgrade to their second or third abilities, as they will most likely not get a chance to use it (and are thus better off with using their special energy for the Metaphasic Disruptor). However, when using Leahvals alone, the Energy Reeling special ability (which is quite cheap for such a powerful ability) is excellent at making these ships last in combat (increases Offensive Value by 30 and damage dealt to cruisers by 20% for ten seconds). These ships have good shielding for being low in the technology tree, and work well with tying up units with their close-in weapon systems while Rhienns bombard your opponent from afar. However, you must keep in mind that the Leahval's weapon systems are short-range, which means that you must either ambush your enemies by decloaking amidst them, or you must close with the enemy using a screen of Generixes and heavier ships. It is not wise to engage an opponent's fleet with only Leahvals, unless his/her fleet is also limited to short or medium range weaponry.

Special Ships and Stations

Last but not least is the Tavara. This battleship can be upgraded to increase defense, offense, and its cloaking

abilities. Generally if you do manage to build one of these, it is wise to upgrade just its defense and offense at first (to get the most firepower, as Generix Support Refits should be recharging your shields). If you do have a glut of resources, try to upgrade the System Value as well, because the 20 extra points cause the Tavara to regenerate shields and armor that much faster. As it does not cost much more than the D'deridex, requires the Upgrade Facility, and does a great deal of damage for its cost, this is a good ship to get after a few



D'deridexes. Most players upon seeing a Tavara will send all their ships to target it. Thus the Tavara acts as a magnet for your opponent's firepower. Used in combination with Generix Support Refits, it can last a long time even under this sort of barrage, while allowing the rest of your ships to meanwhile escape unharmed and continue the assault. In this regard, it serves the same purpose as a Borg Cube.



The Intelligence Center is essentially spending a Generix in terms of supplies to get a 50:50 chance to destroy an opponent's ship (using sabotage costs 10 supplies while planting a sleeper agent costs 3 supplies). This is probably best used later game if there is a build up with few battles, because mostly larger and thus more expensive warships will be built (destroying one of those is well worth the cost in supplies). The Intelligence Center can gain rank. When it reaches officer rank you get the ability to spy on all of your opponent's fleets

and bases. Note that against the Borg this station is incredibly powerful and thus is a must for getting rid of those pesky Tactical Cubes cheaply and quickly. You are limited to one Intelligence Center. Its construction precludes you from building a Cloaking Generator.

The Cloaking Generator could actually be useful due to its ability to cloak all structures (and freighters) that are not researching or building units—without dropping their shielding. This means that when facing the Borg's Devastating Attack or the Remore's Precision Volley (both of which destroy shields very quickly), the Starbase and any other cloaked defenses will continue being able to fire (and will remain cloaked) because your opponent's units will not be able to target the cloaked structure (unless of



course cloak detect is used). With the Borg this can be more of a gamble, as they can very easily drop a Sensor Relay to see your cloaked base. Non-Romulan factions will have to use the cloak detect over and over again (and eventually run out of energy), because you can keep recloaking your base. At any rate, this will buy you a bit more time to retaliate. You are limited to one Cloaking Generator. Its construction precludes you from building an Intelligence Center.



General Mijural

Gives access to two new units:

- Shrike Class
- Cehlaer Class

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Equips Disruptor Turrets with Plasma Torpedoes and all attributes increased by 5.
- Increased Offensive and Defensive Values for all Warbirds by 3 and increased their movement speed.
- You may build two Tavara Type Warbirds.

Against the Romulans, Klingons, Dominion, and Federation (Early Game)

After the Staryard is completed, queue up the yard with the Shrike-class vessels. These starships are not only cheaper and faster than fully refitted Rhienns, but they are armed with the Experimental Pulse Disruptor, which is a special anti-destroyer weaponry that has a chance to disable the weapons on an opponent's destroyers. Sadly, Shrikes are medium-range vessels and because they are armed solely with pulse disruptors, they have a limited forward firing arc. Consequently, upon



encountering your opponent's ships you should make sure that you attack from maximum range and that you can perform strafing runs where your pulse based weapons will still fire. Accordingly, it is important to shadow your opponent's destroyers while cloaked and destroy a few before recloaking to avoid return fire. If you notice that your opponent is attacking one Shrike and damaging it severely, make sure to start moving that Shrike away. This will not only allow you to avoid unnecessary casualties, but your opponent will probably so fixated



on killing that one heavily damaged Shrike that he/she will try and chase after it (thus neglecting your other starships while the very fast damaged ship makes its escape). As Mijural does not receive the same bonus as Helev does in terms of supply costs, you must plan on buying supplies much quicker. Consequently, Mijural is more limited early game because you do not wish to incur unnecessary costs for fear of being unable to buy more supplies and continue ship production. Thus it should not come

as a surprise that you should not build a Research Institute after completing your Staryard. Instead, immediately begin your expansion as you would with the Helev avatar. Notice that this will give you the added benefit of accruing resources early game more quickly than Helev. As Mijural does get the advantage of more powerful (and thus more cost effective) turrets, building two or three at your expansion is recommended, and perhaps even one supporting each of your main base mining facilities if you are facing a particular aggressive opponent.

Note that later in the game, if you are not expecting to use a shipyard for a *long* period of time, it is probably a wise decision to research Prefine Components so that the cost of your Spy Satellites and Disrupter Turrets are reduced by 20% and the construction time is shortened by 35%. Mijural's Disrupter Turrets are armed with plasma torpedoes, which will cause them to be useful through late game. In combination with a Cloaking Generator, each turret can be made to last more than twice as long by cloaking each turret as it is being attacked (the turret will thus recharge special energy after the cloak has failed and while the shielding is being hit, thus allowing you to make the best use of this capability).

Middle Game

Similarly to Helev, when you have around ten or more Shrikeclass vessels, you should be floating enough cash to build another Staryard, as well as a Research Institute, without slowing down your shipbuilding. At this middle point in the game, your opponent is probably on the cusp of building cruisers. As Shrikes have anti-destroyer weaponry (only on officer rank do they gain anti-cruiser weaponry), cannot retreat and fire, and have relatively weak shields, you will be hard



pressed to use these starships against cruisers. Consequently your best option is to begin building short-ranged Leahvals. These cruisers will become the mainstay of your fleet because you cannot afford to build a Tal'Shiar Academy and begin building Generix Refits due to Mijural's excessive supply costs. However, this is not to say that Leahvals are weak. On the contrary, they have good shielding and deal an incredible amount of damage all at once due to the Metaphasic Disruptor, which does not require any research. As these vessels are a good deal slower than your Shrikes, it is best to use them to tie up your opponent's forces. Likewise, if your Shrikes encounter superior firepower, you can retreat these vessels across the path of cloaked Leahvals, and as soon as your opponent is in range, decloak and attack. At the same time, wheel your Shrikes around at maximum range. Although you can set your Leahvals to high weapon autonomy when you have only a few of these starships, after getting more than three or four this is not advisable. Because the Metaphasic Disruptor deals all its damage at once, if you allow your Leahvals to constantly use this ability, several ships will undoubtedly use the disruptor on a weak destroyer, thus wasting an incredible amount of firepower that could have been targeted singly at stronger vessels. Thus, as you get more and more Leahvals and it becomes harder to micromanage, you should probably hotkey a couple as different fleets so that you can ensure that you still make the best of their special weapons but waste the least possible amount of firepower.

After you have a few Leahvals, it is also wise to research Energy Reeling which increases Offensive Value by 30 and damage dealt to cruisers by 20% for ten seconds. Obviously, this is perfect for the middle game where cruisers dominate the field of war. Due to the amount of special weapon energy that Leahvals carry and the fact that Energy Reeling disables the Leahval's special weapons when triggered, it is wise to activate Energy Reeling on all Leahvals only after using their Metaphasic Disruptor once. This will ensure that you have just enough special energy to make the most of the Leahval's weapons. As Energy Reeling does not increase the Leahval's defense, there is a good chance that these cruisers will be destroyed while using this ability. Thus, engaging the Metaphasic Disruptor once before using Energy Reeling allows them to deal the maximum amount of damage possible. Although the Auto Repair special ability is very good (it allows a heavily damaged

Leahval to repair all of its hull and half its shields in a matter of seconds), it is highly unlikely that you will have the chance to use this ability in combat as you will be using the special energy for the other two special weapons. Consequently, unless you expect that a great many of your ships will lose their engines and still be able to cloak and hide during combat, it is not wise to research this ability as you will not be able to get much use out of it. Leahvals *must* be supported by other vessels due to their slower speed and their short ranged weaponry. If you do not provide a distraction with your Shrikes, it is highly unlikely that your Leahvals will be able to close with the enemy as most other faction's vessels are medium or long range (obvious examples of exceptions are the Klingon's K'Vort and B'rel, and the Dominion's S-2 Escort Cruiser) or simply faster.

Following creation of an appreciable number of Leahvals (probably around 10 or more) from your two



Staryards, it is time to build a Warbird Yard to give you access to Mijural's powerful late game. The rather slow Cehlaer will be the first vessel available from the Warbird Yard, and does not require you to build an expensive Tal'Shiar Academy. As this vessel is armed with beam weaponry, it deals equal damage to all ship classes. In addition this vessel is long range. For this reason, usually your opponent will have to close with this vessel in order to deal damage, which allows your Leahvals in turn to enter combat range with your

opponent's fleet.

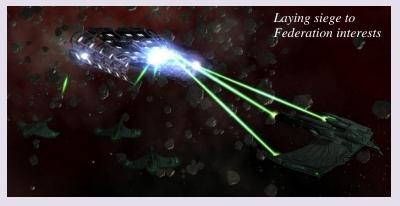
Late Game

After you have secured a handful of these warbirds, it is a good idea to build the Tal'Shiar Academy to allow you access to Generix Refits as well as special weapons for your warbirds. Accordingly, it now becomes important to mention the special ability of the Shrike—the Tal'Shiar Agent. This ability randomly gives you access to an enemy vessel's sensors for 3 minutes. Unlike for Helev, the Tal'Shiar Agent special ability is required in order to use the Intelligence Center's Saboteur Agent (the Intelligence Center requires the construction of the Tal'Shiar Academy). The use of the Shrike's Tal'Shiar Agent also grants the Intelligence Center experience based on the infiltrated vessel (again, however, only late in the game when battleships are fielded should you begin investing in using the Saboteur's ability to destroy costly ships for the price of around a dozen supplies).

If you notice that your opponent is fielding mainly battleships (or big defensive structures such as starbases and Dominion Perimeters), the first thing you should research is Disruptor Bombardment, which allows the Cehlaer to keep a target from moving, using special abilities, firing, or transporting for about ten seconds. This will allow well micromanaged Cehlaers to keep these high priority targets from doing anything, while your Leahvals and Shrikes engage your opponent's ships. If on the other hand your opponent is building mainly small or

medium sized vessels the Disruptor Bombardment research is useless (you will simply be swamped with small

starships). Consequently, following the same guidelines set up by the Helev avatar strategy section, you should begin building Generixes and the appropriate refits. Although it might seem like a good idea to build Norexans, as they are armed with both beam and pulse based weaponry (thus meaning that they are strong against small



vessels), these ships are quite expensive and cannot support your already built Cehlaers (note the Support Refits Shield Recharge) or provide strong fire support against weak defensive units (note the Frigates passive abilities). However, eventually you must build the relatively fast Norexan-class and research its special abilities to supplement your fleet of Generix Support Refits. At this point in the match game play becomes similar enough to Helev that following the late game guidelines that were discussed earlier is advisable.

Against the Borg

Unfortunately Shrikes are almost useless against the Borg. Most Borg units do not count as destroyers (only the Probe and Detector do), and Borg units are highly resistant to sub-system failure. Likewise, you will never be able to engage the Borg head to head, so having long range units is a necessity. Accordingly, you must use the



exact same strategy early game as Helev for Against the Borg (Early Game). Thus, after building up and harassing with Rhienn Torpedo Refits, you must attempt to build a Tal'Shiar Academy to gain access to Serkasclass artillery starships as soon as possible. Upgraded with their Silent Resolve special ability, these vessels will be able to fire one quadcobalt torpedo without the normal cool down. This will greatly increase the offensive

capabilities of your otherwise weakly armed and armored vessels. These vessels have artillery range weaponry, and although they are slow, they are perfect for destroying the few numbers of Borg units you will encounter. When attacking your opponent's Borg vessels, you must keep your Serkas vessels retreating. However, because Borg vessels still might be able to move out of the central blast zone of the quadcobalt torpedo, it is generally wise to manually target ahead of a Borg vessel, so that it flies into and through the blast radius. Likewise, due to their ability to cloak and fire while cloaked (thanks to the special ability), you can sneak these starships into the back of your Borg opponent's base to destroy his/her Conduction Matrix to halt ship production.

To increase these vessels performance dramatically, if you have the necessary fund, it is advisable to build a Warbird Yard right after building the Tal'Shiar Academy. Once this is accomplished, immediately queue up Cehlaer-class starships and research Disruptor Bombardment at the Academy. The long range Cehlaer is very powerful against the Collective, with its reliance on a few powerful ships. This warship will disable movement and weapons for a long time with its special weapon, Disruptor Bombardment (roughly 10 seconds), allowing your Serkas vessels to always hit their Borg Adversaries. By micromanaging each Cehlaer's special weapon against the relatively few numbers of Borg units you can make quick work of larger Borg vessels without taking much damage.

Furthermore, it is relatively easy to make hit and runs with a combination of Serkas starships and Cehlaers by cloaking your vessels and using the Serkas special weapon before engaging in battle. Once engaged, rapidly decloak out of range and use each Cehlaer to incapacitate a target and destroy it with your Serkas artillery. After Disrupter Bombardment runs out of special energy, let your vessel recharge enough to recloak, and send your

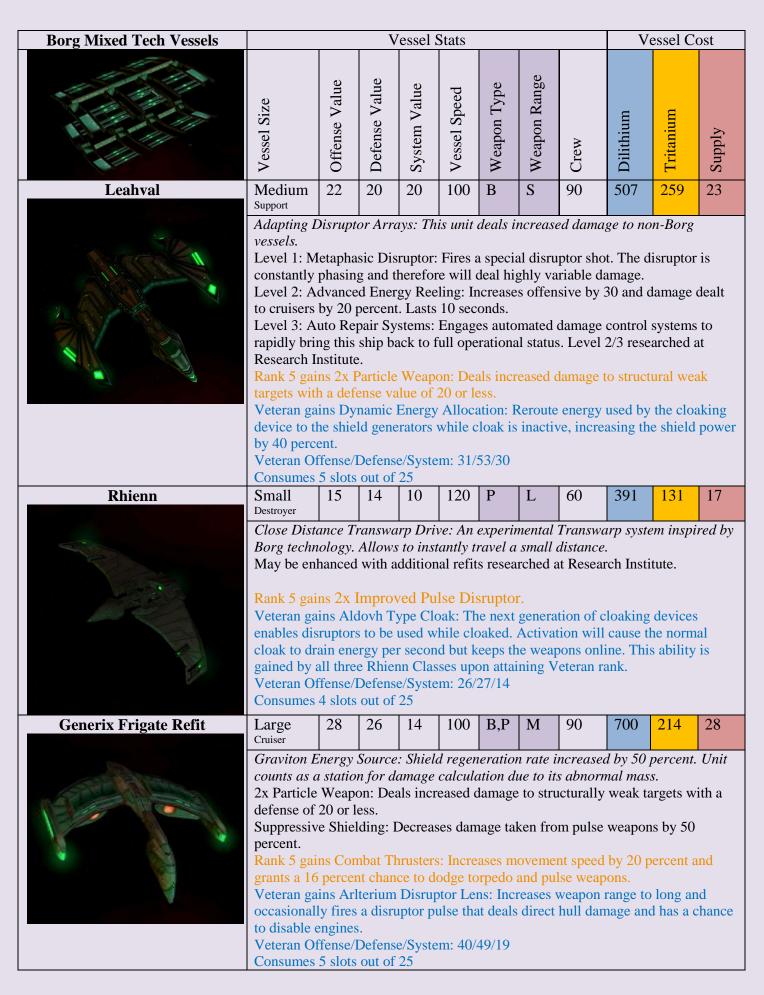


vessels out of combat. Eventually it is highly advisable to produce Generix Support refits to allow you to more easily disable Borg weapon systems as well as recharge the shields of your allied vessels.

Of course, if your Borg opponent has hotkeyed his or her Assimilation Matrix, it is very easy to decloak your vessels, but since all of your vessels are faster or as fast as the Spheres and Assimilators that you will be encountering at this stage, you should still be able to make a clean getaway.

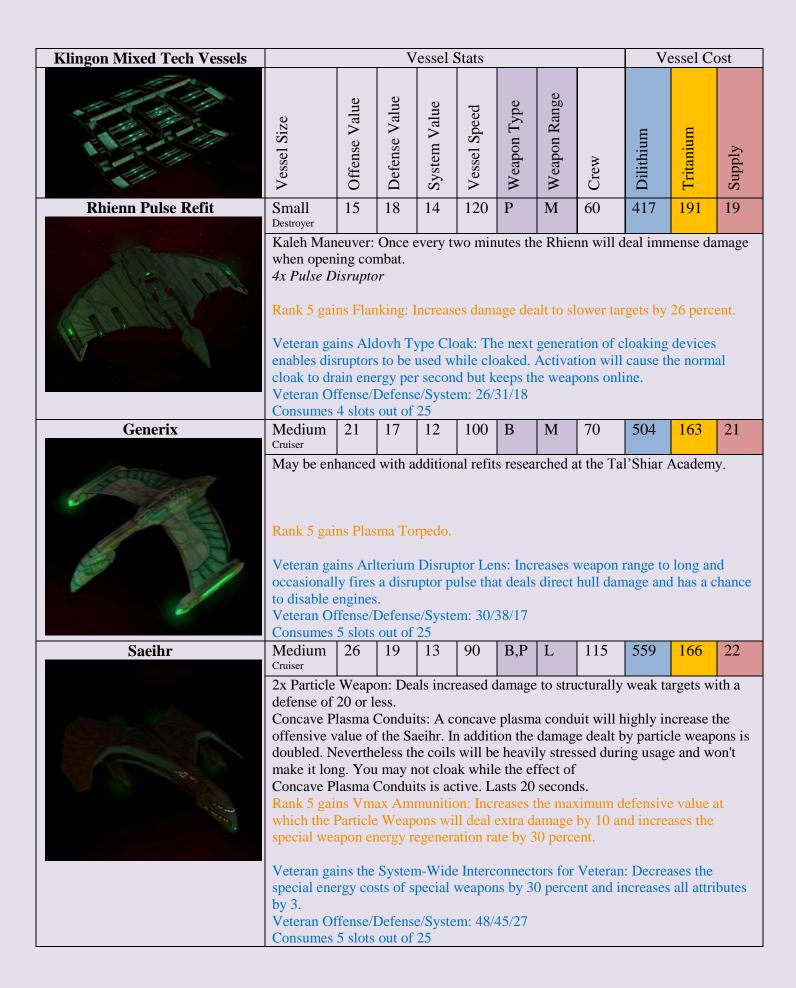
Without the Conduction Matrix, a Borg opponent can no longer build any true combat worthy vessels, so if you think your opponent has plenty of resources, and can continue building protected Collective Uplinks, destroy this large structure first. Remember to attack Borg tritanium Resource Assimilators when playing against an Assimilate Directive player (the auto-assimilator costs a great deal of resources, and is the only thing truly effective against the Generix Support refits Shield Recharge ability) or dilithium freighters when fighting against an Optimize Directive opponent (usually the Spheres and Diamonds you will see are extremely dilithium heavy).

Romulan Mixed Technology Unit Overview



Federation Mixed Tech Vessels			V	essel S	Stats				V	essel C	ost
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Talon Repair Refit	Small	7	7	5	160	P	S	10	383	135	16
	Repairs vessels and stations Scouts cannot level up.										
Generix Frigate Refit	Medium	26	26	12	100	В,Р	M	90	665	188	26
Leahval	oveme and pureases direct	nt speed lse weapon hull dan	by 20 poons. range to	percent a long and has a d	and nd chance						
	Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 38/49/17 Consumes 5 slots out of 25 Medium 22 20 18 100 B,T S 90 504 235 22 Equipped with Burstfire Torpedoes. Level 1: Metaphasic Disruptor: Fires a special disruptor shot. The disruptor is constantly phasing and therefore will deal highly variable damage. Level 2: Advanced Energy Reeling: Increases offensive by 30 and damage dealt to cruisers by 20 percent. Lasts 10 seconds. Level 3: Auto Repair Systems: Engages automated damage control systems to rapidly bring this ship back to full operational status. Level 2/3 researched at Research Institute. Rank 5 gains 2x Particle Weapon: Deals increased damage to structural weak targets with a defense value of 20 or less. Veteran gains Dynamic Energy Allocation: Reroute energy used by the cloaking device to the shield generators while cloak is inactive, increasing the shield power										
	by 40 perce Veteran Of Consumes	ffense/			m: 31/	53/28					

	Vessel Stats Vessel Cost											
Dominion Mixed Tech Vessels			V	essel S	Stats				V	Vessel Cost		
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply	
Serkas	Medium Cruiser	26	14	9	60	T	A	70	798	160	29	
	Blast radius of the Quadcobalt Torpedo increased. Silent Resolve: Fires a Quadcobalt Torpedo ignoring the normal cool down time. May be used while cloaked. Researched at the Tal'Shiar Academy. Rank 5 gains Delevhas Reload Systems: Reload time improved by 10 percent and blast radius increased by 20 percent. Veteran gains System-Wide Interconnectors: Decreases the special energy costs of special weapons by 30 percent and increases all attributes by 3. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 37/34/17 Consumes 4 slots out of 25											
Leahval	Medium	20	16	23	100	В	S	90	424	279	22	
	Level 1: Metaphasic Disruptor: Fires a special disruptor shot. The disruptor is constantly phasing and therefore will deal highly variable damage. Level 2: Advanced Energy Reeling: Increases offensive by 30 and damage dealt to cruisers by 20 percent. Lasts 10 seconds. Level 3: Cascade Feedback replaces Auto Repair System: Causes a meta-static fluctuation at the targeted area. Cascading energy wave will rip through the systems of all hostile vessels in the area causing heavy damage to their systems with a chance to lose special weapon energy. Damage dealt and the chance to lose special weapon energy are based on the maximum number of special abilities a unit may carry. Rank 5 gains 2x Particle Weapon: Deals increased damage to structural weak targets with a defense value of 20 or less. Veteran gains Dynamic Energy Allocation: Reroute energy used by the cloaking device to the shield generators while cloak is inactive, increasing the shield power by 40 percent. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 29/49/33											
Rhienn Torpedo Refit	Small	20	13	14	120	P,T	L	60	503	190	22	
	Tetryon Pr Predatory S Vector Tor additional t Rank 5 gaidisable the Veteran gaenables discloak to dra Veteran Of Consumes	Strikes: pedo: I targets. ns Infil weapo ins Ald ruptors ain ene ffense/I	This unancharacteristics and trator: ns of a lovh To be rgy per Defense	Attack target ype Cloused w r secon e/Syste	Is increased in the R s of the station bak: The hile cloud but k	e Rhier e next e aked.	lamage torpede h Instit un have genera Activat	to cruise to that winte. a 50 per tion of crion will	ll bound recent challoaking cause the	ance to		



Romulan Mixed Technology Unit Analysis

Borg Mixed Tech Vessels

- Leahval: Gains the Adapting Disruptor Array passive ability which deals more damage to non-Borg vessels. The class has one less offense and two more defense than the Helev Leahval. For Helev, this ship is not worth it because not only will you will still have to research its special abilities, but the supply costs are double.
- Rhienn: Gains the aptly named Close Distance Transwarp Drive, which consumes a significant amount of special energy (when refitted you can only use this ability twice before needing to recharge special energy). This is absolutely *not* worth it for either avatar because you should always be using the special abilities of the Rhienn (Vector Torpedo or Multi-Targetting Disruptor) and thus you can never use the *extremely* short-range transwarp. Likewise, because it is mixed-tech you will not get any avatar bonuses and yet it will be more expensive and less useful.
- Generix Frigate Refit: This class gains two more defense and one less offense. The passive ability Graviton Energy Source is added which grants a 50% increase in the shield regeneration rate. The ship also counts as a station for damage calculation purposes. Thus, torpedoes always hit this ship and pulse weapons will deal 40% less damage to it. As this Generix is built already refitted, in the strategies that you would normally build Frigate Refits, you can use this vessel instead to supplement your Generix Support Refits and save yourself the research efforts.

Federation Mixed Tech Vessels

• Generix Frigate Refit: This vessel gets less offense but higher defense as well as the special ability Critical Shot. This ability disables an enemy ship's weapons for ten seconds. Since normally a Frigate gets *no* special abilities, this is a nice way to get some additional use out of Generix Frigate Refits. This ship should be built for both avatars (especially when facing against the Borg where it should be micromanaged to disable high priority targets such as Diamonds and Cubes). When playing the Helev avatar you should only build a few of these vessels and micromanage them, but with Mijural this ship should probably completely replace using and upgrading your own Generix Frigate refits to save on research costs and to give you a great deal more early game firepower (as well as to allow your normal Staryards to continue building Generix Support Refits).

- Leahval: This class gets burstfire torpedoes and one less offense, but one more defense than Helev's Leahval. The torpedoes make it much better at staying useful late game against battleships and stations. With Helev this ship is definitely not worth it due to its extreme supply costs.
- Talon Repair Refit: Although this ship has very weak stats, it has the same repair weapon as the Federation Newton vessel (and is also limited to three ships, sadly). Consequently if you can keep it out of battle, it will be able to repair the systems and hull of any ships that are stranded, as well as any stations. Build these only if you have extra funds because of their outrageous costs.

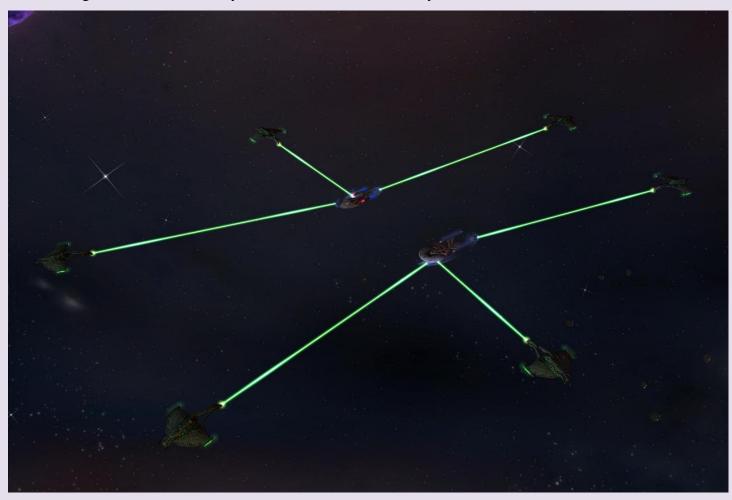
Dominion Mixed Tech Vessels

- Serkas: This expensive class gets a sizeable boost in offense and a slightly larger blast radius. Consequently you need less to do more damage in the field which is always good. As these ships are generally not used in mainstream combat, only build a mixed-tech facility if you are planning on building the other available ships as well (otherwise the costs are not worth it).
- Leahval: This vessel gets the Cascade Feedback special ability in lieu of Energy Reeling. This ability damages enemy units based on the amount of special abilities they have. Consequently this unit is rather powerful against your opponent's support vessels and thus quite effective against factions that rely heavily on support units (the Federation for instance). Unusually, this ship is actually cheaper than the one available from the Staryard. For both avatars this should supplement your normal fleet when facing the above situations (although energy Reeling must still be researched to gain access to Cascade Feedback).
- Rhienn Torpedo Refit: The offensive value has been boosted by one although the defense has been decreased by one as well. The class gains the Tetrion Precharge passive ability which enables it to do more damage to stations. Likewise the amount of special energy reserves has been increased which allows you to fire several more Vector Torpedoes before running out of special energy. For the Helev avatar this ship is not worth it due to the excessive costs and the fact that it comes so late game.

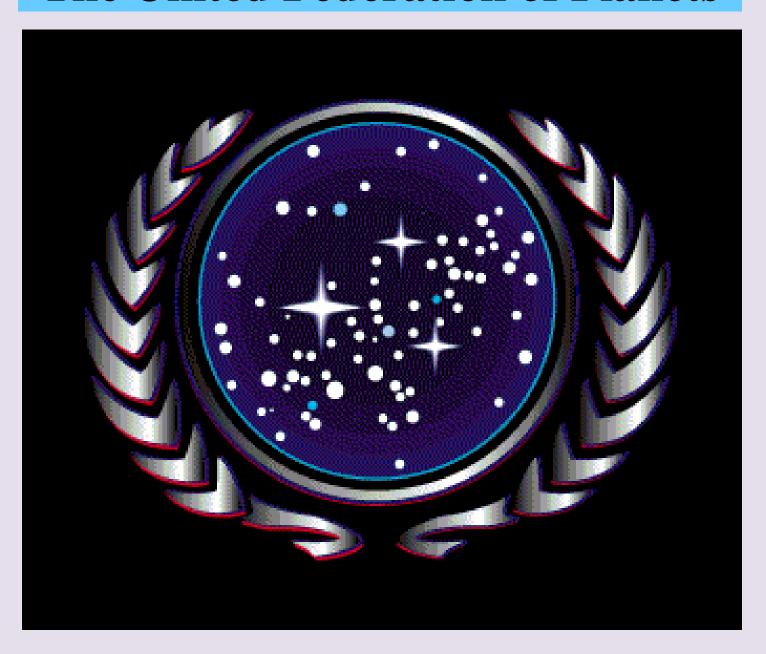
Klingon Mixed Tech Vessels

• Generix: This unrefitted ship has one less offense then the Helev avatar and yet is oddly more expensive. Obviously not a good choice for either avatar (it will only give plus two offense for Mijural, which is still not worth the extra hundred dilithium you will be spending).

- Rhienn Pulse Disruptor Refit: This ship comes equipped with a 4x Pulse Disruptor and the Graviton Marker (which will slow down enemy vessels until they are repaired), but does not have a very high offense (less than both Helev refits and the same stats as the Disruptor Refit for Mijural). Likewise it can only fire from the front and from the sides. Combined with its medium range weaponry, it is only good for killing destroyers and could potentially be useful for support due to the Graviton Mines if it were not so weak defensively. Building a few of these later game and using their mines before setting ambushes is *potentially* powerful (especially for allowing your units to catch up to long range and moderately fast ships like Excelsior II's).
- Saeihr: This ship comes equipped with the Concave Plasma Conduits special ability which gives the class plus ten in offense for ten seconds at the cost of one supply per usage. In all other regards it has the same passive abilities as the Generix Frigate Refit (and is roughly the same cost). Although the Concave Plasma Conduits ability gives it a sizeable offensive increase over the Generix Frigate Refit for a short time, its defense is considerably weaker (and its normal offense is slightly weaker than the Helev refit). The supply costs for special weapon usage are negligible (equivalent to only single digit values of dilithium and tritanium). For Mijural this is a much more useful ship. Probably it is not wise to build a Klingon Mixed-Tech facility at all for Helev due to the tiny benefits involved.



The United Federation of Planets



Things to Note

Most players will look at the Federation as a thoroughly defensive faction, what with their heavy shielding and generally weaker weaponry. However, do not let this obscure the truth. The Federation has an abundance of fast ships with long range weapons—all of which make the Federation a great faction for quick hit and run attacks. Likewise, many Federation vessels have 360 degree firing arcs, which means that you can continue firing at chasing ships (which are generally slower) until these vessels are forced to break off their attacks for fear of destruction. Always keep your vessels firing at maximum range.

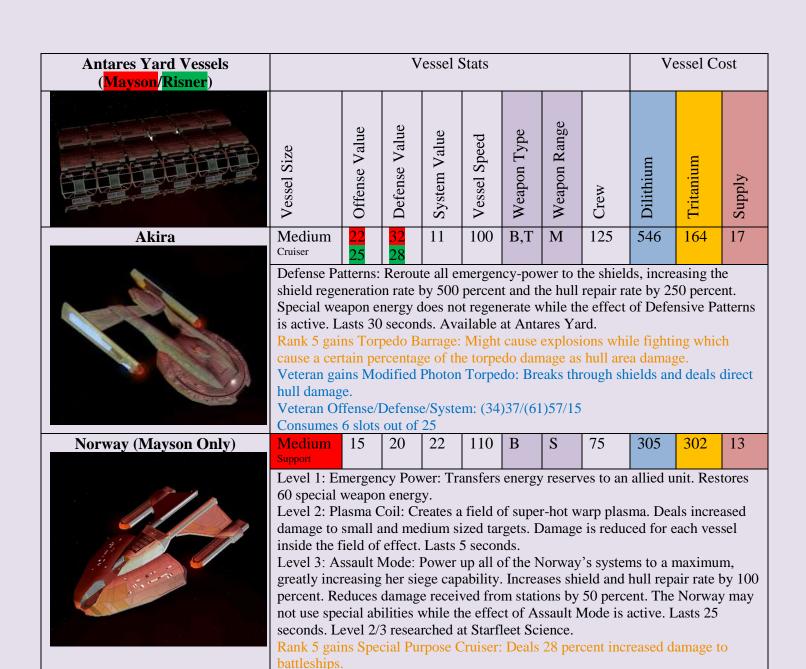
When playing as the Federation it is important to immediately explore the map, beginning with all moon pairs (preferably the moon pairs your opponent is most likely to expand to) as well as the spaces in between moon pairs as this will offer you the opportunity to use your "free" Warp-In capabilities to strike anywhere later in the game (again, the ideal harassment technique). Scouting early game is always the easiest because there are no enemy destroyers or turrets to harass your scout, so you can go almost anywhere you please. As your opponent expands, do not forget to investigate his/her expansions as this will give you the best idea of undefended territory. Usually your opponent is so focused on protecting his/her expansions from attack that they leave their base undefended. This of course gives you the perfect opportunity to Warp-In ships to attack their main-base mining with impunity (as long as you do not let your ships get too close to your opponent's starbase). If you use your Warp-In aggressively you can cause normally offensive sneaky factions (such as the Romulans) to become defensive by fear of losing valuable mining ships and stations if they do not leave behind vessels or defensive structures. Note that the Federation relies heavily on support units to the extent of often having more support vessels than main battleships and cruisers. Your main offensive power early game relies on the Warp-In, so it is important to get access to this ability as soon as possible.

After building Starfleet Command, make sure to give it a hotkey to allow you to call reinforcements in the midst of battle. Note that any Normal Warp-In vessel upon reaching officer rank (rank 4 and 5: either one gold bar or two) will no longer count for a Warp-In slot. When an Experimental Warp-In reaches officer rank the player will gain back one Warp-In slot. Accordingly remember not to not keep your Warp-In slots in reserve, but use them immediately to bolster your fleet (as there is the off chance that they may get promoted and free up slots anyway). If all else fails, you can always target your own Warp-In vessels (or if you are feeling lucky, Warp-In more vessels—excess non officer rank vessels will leave the sector) to free up some slots for that late-game Descent-class.

Federation Unit Overview

Outpost Vessels		Vessel Stats									Vessel Cost		
(Mayson/Risner)				CSSCI	Juis				**	CSSCI C	ost		
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply		
Mediterranean	Medium Construction	0	28	12	60	NA	NA	100	274	190	11		
	Constructs all United Federation of Planets stations												
Mandril	Construction Small	0	16	7	50	NA	NA	75	142	99	6		
	Mines Dilithium and Tritanium: Dilithium capacity: 150 Tritanium capacity: 100 Freighters cannot level up.												
Venture	Small Scout	6	7	3	160	P	M	10	145	56	5		
	Large sens												
Newton	Small Repair	5	18	8	100	В	M	90	434	238	16		
	Field Diagroperate morepair rate Repairs ver	ore effe by 3%. ssels ar	ctively Resear nd stati	in con ched a ons.	ıbat. Ea	ach of t	the thre	e upgra	ograde s des incre	everal ti	imes to		
	Repair ship	os may	not lev	ei up.									

Antares Yard Vessels			V	essel S	Stats				Vessel Cost			
(<mark>Mayson</mark> /Risner)												
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply	
Saber	Small Destroyer	11	15 12	5	120	В	L	40	288	83	10	
THE THE PARTY.	Evasive Maneuvers: Decreases the chance to be hit by torpedoes and pulse weapons (51% hit chance by torpedoes). Hyper Impulse Drive: Engage the Hyper Impulse Drive to greatly increase the movement speed (to 140) and dodge chance of this vessel (42% hit chance by torpedoes). Lowers the Offensive Value by 2. Lasts until canceled. Researched at Antares Yard. Rank 5 gains Light Quantum Pulse: Deals increased damage if the target is neither a cruiser nor a battleship. Veteran gains Type XV Phaser: Deals up to double damage. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 18/(30)27/6											
Monsoon	Consumes Small	14	21	7	120	В	S	60	293	95	9	
	Proximity torpedo is easier to d Rank 5 gain by 24 perce Veteran ga from bean percent an Veteran O Consumes	not se amage as Sixtent. ains On weard dam offense	t on the small h Generation by age from the constant of the co	e norral and f eration ed Shi y 30 po om tor nse/Sy of 25	mal det ast ves Shields ield Ge ercent, pedoes stem:	conate- sels. Fulse eometr dama s by 10 19/(43	on-im Research e and B ry: Rec ge from 0 perce)40/8	eam we luced dam pulse ent.	tting, m the Ant apon da amage	taking it ares Yamage re	ard. educed	
Intrepid	Medium Cruiser	19 22	24 20	9	110	В,Т	S	85	372	123	12	



Canaveral



 Consumes 6 slots out of 25

 Small Support
 13
 17 14
 25
 110
 B,P
 L
 40
 321
 344
 14

Level 1: Probe: Launches a sensor probe in the direction this unit is facing. The probe will reveal all areas it passes by. Lasts 20 seconds.

Level 2: Tachyon Scan: Decloakes all enemies nearby. May only be used once every 30 seconds.

Level 3: Sensor Blackout: Overloads the enemies targeting systems on all hostile units at the target area decreasing their rate of fire by 75 percent. Lasts 25 seconds. Level 2/3 researched at Starfleet Science.

Rank 5 gains Strategic Support: Weapon range and area of effect for all special abilities increased.

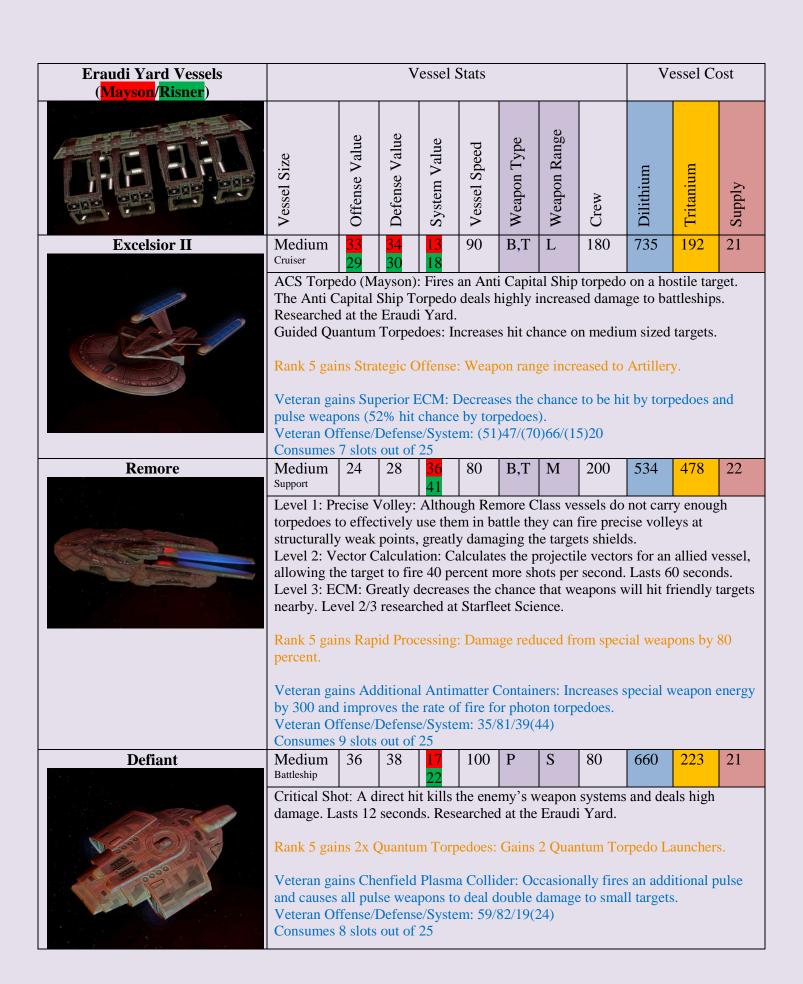
Veteran gains Type XV Phaser: Deals up to double damage.

Veteran gains Type XV Phaser: Deals up to double damage.

Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 23/52/26

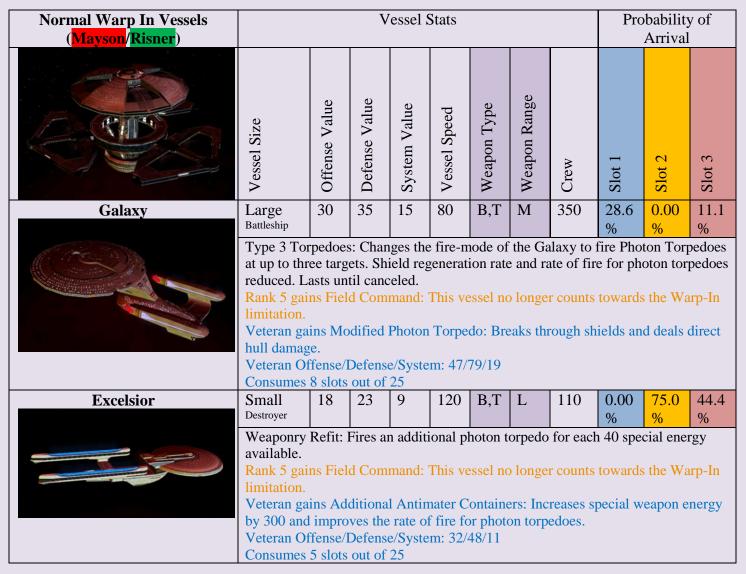
Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 17/(55)52/31

Consumes 6 slots out of 25



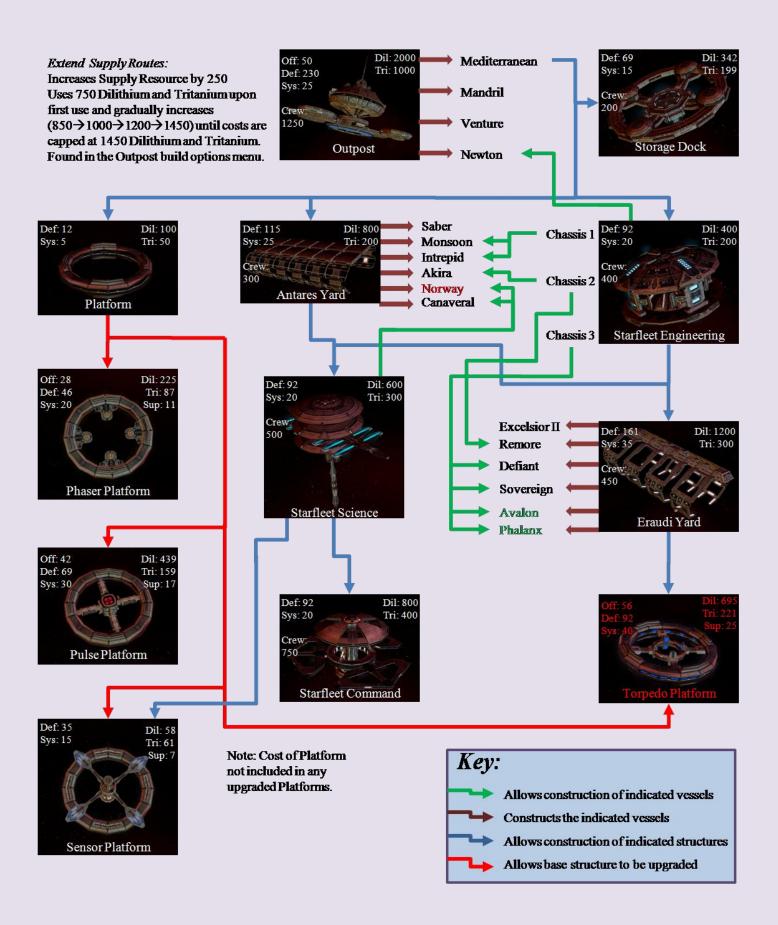
Eraudi Yard Vessels (Mayson/Risner)			V	essel S	Stats				Ve	essel C	ost
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Sovereign	Large Battleship	36	46	18 23	80	В,Т	M	400	887	263	27
	Distortion Field: Creates a field of zero-energy fluctuation. The engines of all nearby enemies will stop functioning. Engine overload effects will deal a portion of damage to the affected units based on their movement speed Lasts 6 seconds. Researched at the Eraudi Yard. Rank 5 gains Flagship: Damage reduced from vessels which did not yet reach an officer rank by 32 percent. Veteran gains Starfleet Engineers: Shields, hull and subsystems repair twice as fast. Subsystem durability increased and reduces the duration of all subsystem disabling effects by 25 percent. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 52/97/23(28) Consumes 9 slots out of 25										
Avalon (Risner Only)	Large	32	37	21	70	В	L	200	799	211	23
	Launch 3 Peregrine Fighters (Offense/Defense/System): 5/6/2. Armed with Fighter Pulse Phaser. Launch 3 Peregrine Bombers (Offense/Defense/System): 5/6/2. Armed with Fighter Quantum Torpedo. Build limit of five. Rank 5 gains Elite Squadrons: Decreases the time it takes to ready up the fighter hangars by 40 percent. Veteran gains Starfleet Engineers: Shields, hull and subsystems repair twice as fast. Subsystem durability increased and reduces the duration of all subsystem disabling effects by 25 percent.										
Phalanx (Risner Only)	Consumes Large	8 slots 44	46	25	70	В,Р	L	335	1087	293	33
	Magnan Pr fire several Magnan Pr Researched Build limit Rank 5 gair Phaser by 3 Veteran gar and causes Veteran Of Consumes	shots naser R I at the of sev ns Emp 30 perc ins Cho all pul ffense/l	with the echarge Eraudien. powerement. enfield se weal Defense	e Magi e rate r i Yard. d Magi Plasma pons to	nan Pha nan Pha nan Pha a Collid	aser Ar l to 20 j	ray in verent	very sho Lasts t s damage	rt amou intil can e dealt b	nt of tin aceled.	ne Iagnan

Experimental Warp-In Vessels (Mayson/Risner)			V	essel S	Stats				Probability of Arrival			
(Mayson Alsilet)	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Slot 1	Slot 2	Slot 3	
Descent	Large Battleship	35	74	18	70	В,Т	M	600	100 %	NA	NA	
	Shield Resshield ener Rank 5 gai limitation. Veteran gareduced the Veteran Of Consumes	rgy and ns Fieldins Bate e cool of ffense/I	the shid Comments. ttle-Testlown of Defense	elds of mand: ' sted Te f Shiel e/Syste	Fall alli This ve chnolog d Reset	essel co gy: All t by 60	sels neansume	arby. s one slo	ot less o	f the Wa	arp-In	



Normal Warp In Vessels (Mayson/Risner)			V	essel	Stats				Probability of Arrival			
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Slot 1	Slot 2	Slot 3	
Steamrunner	Medium Cruiser	21	16	7	80	Т	A	150	0.00	25.0 %	22.2	
	Light Tricobalt Torpedo: Deals double damage to buildings. Tricobalt Triloader: Three separate automated reload systems increase the rate of fire for Light Tricobalt Torpedos to one volley per second. Decreases the movement speed of this vessel. Lasts 6 seconds. Rank 5 gains Field Command: This vessel no longer counts towards the Warp-In limitation.											
	Veteran gains Modified Light Tricobalt Torpedo: Breaks through shields and deals direct hull damage. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 34/32/9 Consumes 4 slots out of 25											
Nebula	Medium Cruiser	25	29	18	80	В,Р	M	250	14.3	0.00	11.1	
	Full Scan: Power up the Nebula's sensor system. Greatly increases the sensor range but reduces Offensive Value by 23. Lasts 30 seconds Rank 5 gains Field Command: This vessel no longer counts towards the Warp-In limitation. Veteran gains Superior ECM: Decreases the chance to be hit by torpedoes and pulse weapons (65% hit chance by torpedoes). Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 34/66/25 Consumes 6 slots out of 25											
Ambassador	Medium Cruiser	29	30	13	90	В,Т	S	215	57.1	0.00 %	11.1	
	Energy Retimpact of eand greatly does not reseconds. Rank 5 gair limitation. Veteran gaweapons by from torped Veteran Of Consumes	reduce genera ns Fiel ins Op y 30 pe does by ffense/l	d Communication of the control of th	creases lamage e the e mand: I Shield damage reent.	Defense receive receive ffect of This ve	sive Va ed from Energo essel no metry: F pulse v	alue by n torpe y Rero longe	15, reduction 15	and prepuces more ecial we active. I	pares for vement eapon en Lasts 20 s the Wa	speed ergy urp-In	

Federation Technology Tree



Federation Strategy

General Build Order: You will start with two Mediterranean-class construction ships and a Venture-class scout ship. Immediately select one of the two construction ships and begin building the Antares Yard parallel to your starbase. At the same time, queue up four mining freighters, two for each moon type. Select the second construction ship and begin building a mining station for the one of the two moons. Whether you mine dilithium or tritanium will depend on your avatar choice and faction you are facing, which is discussed below.



Admiral Ben Mayson

Gives access to two new units:

- Norway class
- Torpedo platform

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Increased Defensive Value for all Antares Yard vessels.
- Reduced construction time for all stations by 25 percent.
- Increased Offensive and Defensive Value for Excelsior II Class by 4 and allows her to be equipped with the ACS Torpedo special ability

Against the Dominion, Klingons, and Romulans (Early Game)

The first viable strategy relies on your initial mining station being for tritanium, as this strategy is heavily reliant on tritanium. Consequently you should have two and maybe three tritanium miners before putting any freighters on your dilithium moon. Once the Antares Yard is complete, set special weapons autonomy to low and begin constructing the Starfleet Science technology facility. You can skip building Starfleet Engineering because the upgrades to get to higher chassis (and thus more powerful ships) are cost prohibitive against these factions this early in the game. With your free construction ship you should begin building another mining station. As soon as you have a free construction ship, begin building Starfleet Command. Upon the completion of Starfleet Science, you will be able to begin building Norways. Make sure to research Plasma Coil at Starfleet

Science. This ability is area of effect and deals increased damage to small and medium vessels. Consequently, in numbers (4-8) the Norway is great for softening up your opponent's ships, when used in conjunction with Warp-In support. As the weapon's effects last for five seconds, this means that enemy



vessels which fly by will also receive damage. Although a favorite tactic by Klingon players is to use the K'Vorts Shield-Breaking Torpedo to snipe Norways while cloaked, simply pay attention to where the torpedoes are coming from, and use Plasma Coil to destroy these unshielded ships.

Note that although this strategy will leave you helpless for the first few minutes of the match (as you will not have any Sabers built) you will soon have powerful ships in the form of Warp-Ins. Upon completion of Starfleet Command, send your construction ships straight away to begin expanding. Usually it is wise to build one or two un-upgraded turrets at your expansion to cover both moons, this way you can quickly upgrade them to powerful Pulse Turrets when attacked. Against factions which rely on cloak, it is sometimes better to have at least one already upgraded as a deterrent and because your opponent's ships will probably be able to uncloak and attack/destroy your un-upgraded turret faster than you will be able to upgrade it (likewise, the turret will get a minimum two second window to fire on unshielded destroyers). Against cloaking factions make sure that you begin researching Tachyon Scan and the passive detect cloak ability for your sensor turrets as soon as you have established your mining colonies for your expansion (you need something worth defending in order to waste money on it).

If the map is a small one and you know exactly where your opponent's least defended expansion is, immediately use the Normal Warp-In ability at your Starfleet Command and send your first one or two Norways to aid (your opponent should have just begun building a mining outpost as well). If you should be so



lucky as to receive a Steamrunner vessel, immediately target your opponents' mining (or if there is a shipyard preset, target this expensive target first) and use its Triloader ability to let loose a storm of tricobalt torpedoes to quickly destroy the station (the tricobalt torpedoes do double damage against buildings). Note

that the Steamrunner is slow and its weapon is only forward firing, so there is no retreat. Make sure to use your Norway's Plasma Coil ability on any defending destroyers, and, if you have dispatched these quickly enough to not rely on the Plasma Coil, use the special weapon on your opponent's mining freighters to destroy them more quickly. As the Plasma Coil does not use up all of your special energy for the Norway, use the Emergency Power ability to transfer special energy to your Steamrunner to enable it to launch another volley of tricobalt torpedoes at any remaining buildings. If your opponent begins decommissioning his stations and sends his/her freighters and construction ship fleeing, target the stations first as your opponents ships are likely too slow to

evade destruction. If you receive a Galaxy-class *battleship*, set it to use its Type-3 Torpedoes ability *in battle* (when out of combat, deactivate the ability). Even though its shield regeneration rate and weapon reload rate for torpedoes will now be lower than normal, the Galaxy's torpedoes will do damage to three ships at once (the torpedoes will not always hit though). Obviously this will



work wonders against the low shielding of your opponent's destroyers and freighters and allow you to do much more damage at once. If the map is small enough, make certain to repair any Warp-In vessels that you have called in as these really are your heavy support this early in the game (Excelsiors are especially easy to repair as

they are very fast and thus can retreat from battle and return to it quickly). The Ambassador-class is short range and only slightly faster than a Galaxy-class, which means that you must close with the enemy to make the most of its weapons. Its Energy Rerouting ability, which lasts 20 seconds, allows it to withstand torpedo attacks much better and also increases its defensive value by 15. Only use this ability when the vessel is being attacked. Often it is a good idea to send this vessel in first to allow it to soak up damage and allow your other Warp-In vessels to continue their assault. Nebula class vessels do fair damage against destroyers with their pulse and phaser weaponry. Even though you might think that their slow movement speed is crippling, this can easily be used to allow your other accompanying vessels to escape if things get rough, as most opponents will stop or slow down to destroy your Nebula. Note that using an early Warp-In rush against the Dominion can often end in disaster as 1-2 A-20 Attack Destroyers are sufficient to kill each of your powerful distress call ships with their Collision special ability. Thus it is usually recommended to wait until you have a few more Norways (and hence firepower) so that you can destroy many of the Bugs before they can reach your starships.

Note that although it may be tempting to Warp-In a Descent-class using the Experimental Warp-In feature, this



is generally not advisable early game. The Descent--while having a great staying power with a defensive value of 74 with the special ability to recharge its own shields and those of vessels surrounding it (at the cost of 20 supplies)-- is primarily torpedo based in terms of damage output, and thus will miss its small freighter and destroyer targets quite often. Likewise, it is somewhat slow and will not be able to retreat effectively if your own mining has been attacked

and you need reinforcements. For cloaking factions it is often possible to simply recloak a damaged destroyer and repair it when attacked by a Descent, while for the other non-Borg factions it might even be possible to run away and repair (though this is unlikely for Dominion A-20 Attack Destroyers as they are weak defensively and have medium weapons range). In fact, again the Dominion's Bugs, the Descent will prove useless early game, as only a few of these vessels ramming directly into the Descent's hull will be enough to destroy it. Thus the Descent turns out to be more of a nuisance against most players rather than a verifiable threat. The Normal Warp-In might be less durable and chancy (you could end up getting two easily damaged Steamrunners), but you will always get a higher total offensive value with this choice and thus any destroyer that loses shields will

have a very low likelihood of escaping. On the other hand, the Descent can also be used defensively if your first mining outpost is attacked. Not only will you frighten away destroyers, but if your slow construction ship (and/or miners) is fleeing the scene, you can use the Shield Reset ability to give it a chance to return to base unharmed. Late game however, the Descent is powerful



due to its high shielding and since you will be facing many large vessels, its quantum torpedoes will almost always hit.

Once you have built around five Norways, you should begin researching the second level ability of the Canaveral, Tachyon Scan, at Starfleet Science. Once this research is completed, begin building Canaverals and tech up to its tertiary ability, Blackout, which is an area of effect weapon which decreases enemy firepower by 75% for 25 seconds. By the time this ability is researched, your first Canaverals should be ready for battle. Note that the Canaveral is also equipped with a quantum pulse weapon, which is quite good at dealing with destroyers (specifically the Light Quantum Pulse deals increased damage if the target is neither a cruiser nor a battleship). At this point you should be producing maybe one or two Norways for every Canaveral to supplement your raiding force of Warp-Ins. Upon encountering your opponent's fleets, use your Norway's Plasma Coil first to reduce enemy numbers (preferably one usage at a time to reduce the chance of overkill and thus wasting your special energy), followed by using the Blackout ability at the proper intervals to ensure that your small tritanium expensive fleet will always have superior firepower. Note that against the Federation, you will likely also face Sensor Blackout, so make sure to spread your vessels out tremendously so that at least some of them can fire at a normal rate. Remember to use the Norway's Emergency Power if you really need to use Blackout against ships and stations that are well fortified against Plasma Coil (battleships, defense turrets, starbases). When not in combat, you can use the Canaveral's Probe ability to spy on your opponent's fleets and buildings, or at the very minimum, scout ahead.

If you still have a sizeable amount of Norways and Canaverals left over from skirmishes, you should begin building an Eraudi Yard. Note that this yard is still more cost efficient than building Starfleet Engineering and researching chassis upgrades to bring out more powerful ships (however, to build the Eraudi Yard, you will still have to build Starfleet Engineering first). Set the Eraudi Yard's weapon autonomy to high and make certain that you research the Anti Capital Ship (ACS) torpedo upgrade for the Excelsior II. Begin building Excelsior II's to remove your glut of dilithium. Not only are these ships effective with a decent offense and defense, but they are cruisers and thus withstand pulse-based weapons better (only 80% of normal damage). Accordingly, due to their



Guided Quantum Torpedoes passive ability, they have an increased hit chance on medium sized targets, which is good for the midgame when these vessels should first be introduced. Likewise, they are useful late game as well due to the ACS torpedo and thus should remain the backbone of your fleet.

Middle Game

After building the Eraudi Yard, however, it will become clear that you have enough Norways and Canaverals (probably roughly 16 or more vessels). At this point in the game, support is not enough for the Federation, and you need some cheaper heavier hitting vessels. Consequently, now is the time to research the first two chassis upgrades so that you can begin building Akiras. At the same time, you should research the Defensive Patterns ability so that as soon as you can build Akiras they will already have their ability researched. The Defensive Patterns special ability lasts 30 seconds and regenerates the Akira's shields 500% quicker and the hull 250%

faster. Micromanaged well, this allows your Akiras to withstand an assault much better, as your opponent will most likely be focusing his/her fire on one ship only (and a ship which has Defensive Patterns activated will withstand an assault for quite a while). Therefore, do not simply activate this ability for all selected Akiras, but pay attention to which ones are being damaged so as to not waste the ability on fully shielded and hulled vessels. Note that unless you are



planning a last base assault or a quick hit and run attack, it is not wise to build the short-range Intrepid (the Intrepid is slightly faster than the Akira). Although these vessels are quite powerful against buildings with their artillery range Tricobalt Torpedo ability (it deals double damage to buildings), they do not have as significant a staying power as Akiras (Intrepids have roughly 10 less in defensive stats) and must close with the enemy to do damage with their phaser and torpedo. This means that they must bear the brunt of your opponent's assault even if they are one of your more weakly shielded units. Accordingly they are best used in a supporting role against non-Borg factions to quickly deal damage to buildings (the tricobalt torpedo does double damage to buildings) and large targets such as battleships, whereupon they should immediately retreat to allow them to recharge their special energy. As most Federation ships have 360 degree firing arcs, you can easily retreat to join up with other ships (or with your shipyards) and continue firing.

After you have begun to supplement your Excelsior II's with Akiras you should begin building Remores which are available with the chassis upgrades you used to get to the Akira. Remores come standard with the Precise Volley ability which deals immense damage--but only to shields (it can lower the shields of most cruisers with



one use). The Remore is an excellent counterpart to your slower Akiras and Excelsior II's as this basic special ability set on high weapon autonomy can quickly kill the shields of your opponent's vessels to allow your other ships to make quick work of them. A single Remore even poses a threat to the strong defenses of a powerful warship such as the Descent or Tavara-class, as it will quickly reduce the shields of these vessels with only a few volleys. Thus, it is possible to use Remores set

on either low or high weapon autonomy based on the situation. If you know that your enemy will be sending you high-priority vessels (such as the battleships described just before) you should manually use Precise Volley to allow your other vessels to kill the hull of these few capital ships. However, when faced with a great number of ships, it is best to use Remores set on high weapon autonomy to allow you to micromanage your Canaverals and Norways (which will make quick work of enemy hulls with Plasma Coil once shields are down). However, all of the Remores abilities have a great deal of use. Unfortunately this is problematic with the way special weapons autonomy works. If you are playing on a game speed above three, it is rather difficult to micromanage each of the Remores abilities, and thus it is tempting to place the Remore on high-weapons autonomy. This means that a great of Remores end up firing off one of their abilities at the same target, thus depleting their special energy rather quickly and needlessly. Consequently it is wise to keep a few of your Remores on low weapon autonomy as a "special fleet". The second level ability, Vector Calculation, allows the Remore to target an allied vessel to allow it to fire 40% more shots per second for 60 seconds (imagine targeting a Descent or Steamrunner). The last ability available to the Remore is Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) which is an area of effect weapon which decreases the chance that enemy weapons will hit ships in the vicinity of the Remore. This ability lasts for roughly 10 seconds as it consumes 70 special energy per second. It is recommended that you keep many of your Remores on low weapons autonomy so that you can set one Remore after another to use this ability (as well as being able to target high priority targets such as the Romulan Tavara or Dominion Dreadnought with the Precise Volley). In the end, when the Federation fleet is engaged in battle, the outcome will often depend on a great deal of micromanagement using Plasma Coil, Blackout, and the Remore's abilities. Often it is best to retreat your Canaverals and Norways from battle after using their Sensor Blackout and Plasma Coil abilities as both all have relatively low defense and offense. Remores, however, can be left in the midst of battle due to their surprisingly quick special energy regeneration and their ability to be left unattended on high weapon autonomy.

Late Game

If you have not yet won or lost at this point, you might consider upgrading your chassis level yet again. This



will give you the ability to build what essentially amount to heavy support: Sovereigns and Defiants. By cycling the Defiant's special ability, Critical Shot, you can disable the weapon systems of high priority targets such as Tavaras, Dreadnoughts, or starbases for twelve seconds for each shot, while allowing

your Defiants to use their pulse canons against remaining destroyers and cruisers. The Sovereigns special ability, Engine Overload, is best used against short range vessels or ships that have small firing arcs (most pulse-weapon based ships) as this allows you to attack your opponent's ships from range with impunity and/or to attack from behind without receiving fire for those six seconds. Consequently, as the Romulans and Klingon rely heavily on pulse based weaponry while the Dominion and Klingons have limited firing arcs or short range, the Sovereign can often render the fleets of these factions useless. Likewise, the Engine Overload ability does damage: the faster the ship, the more damage it receives (a handful of Sovereigns using Engine Overload can do a large amount of damage to destroyers and even cruisers).

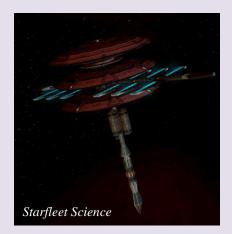
After a battle is over you can use a Newton to quickly repair hull and subsystem damaged ships or buildings in the field, thus allowing you a greater resilience than other factions. As the Newton is a weak ship it should not be sent to the frontlines as it will simply be cannon fodder. Any smart player will quickly target these ships first, or simply switch targets much faster than you can get to that next vessel to repair it.

The second strategy available to a player fighting against the Dominion, Romualns and Klingons (and the Federation as well) initially involves more micromanagement. In this strategy you should begin with a dilithium mining outpost. Once your Antares Yard is complete, queue up the Hyper-Impulse Drive speed upgrade (this is optional) for the Saber and begin building Sabers. This ability will allow your long range Sabers to outrun the now slower Klingon short range B'rels and K'Vorts, as well as the medium range Dominion



Bugs (A-20 Attack Destroyers) and the short range Norways that your Mayson Federation opponent will probably field. Note that if your Federation opponent encounters this strategy, most likely he/she will start building Sabers to counter it. Based on the avatar, a Puretech Dominion opponent can attempt to tech up as quickly as possible to long range T-15's (available at the second yard) to counter your Sabers. If your opponent has chosen the Breen avatar, they can begin building long range Breen Cruisers relatively quickly as they are available at the first Dominion yard. Note that although both of these units have long range and are excellent destroyer-killers with their pulse or torpedo based weapons, the T-15 has a limited firing arc and the Breen Cruiser will miss quite often. As long as you can outflank these fleets, or possibly force a retreat with the Canaveral's Blackout, you will avoid most of your opponent's firepower. A Klingon opponent will have great difficulty defeating this tactic, as most early game units are short range (TaQ'roja's weakly defended Veqlaragh is an exception, but as it fires torpedoes it will often miss your destroyers). Thus the main advantage to either

Klingon avatar is to set ambushes of cloaked units or to snipe Cananverals using the K'Vort's Shield Breaking Torpedo (while cloaked). Consequently, it is a good idea to keep your Tachyon Scan ability hot keyed (available at the starbase) to allow you to quickly decloak attacking Klingon K'Vorts.



With the Antares Yard complete, begin building Starfleet Science (and as soon as you can, Starfleet Command) and tech up to the Canaveral's Blackout ability after building around five Sabers. As Canaverals are long range, quite quick, and have very fast shield regeneration rates (and an anti-destroyer quantum pulse weapon to boot), they are the perfect companions for your Sabers when battling against Klingon and Dominion short/medium range destroyers and cruisers. Essentially you will be able to annoy your opponent to death by constantly making strafing runs where you fire from maximum

range at nearby freighters, mining stations, and research stations. Consequently, make sure that your units are set to low movement autonomy so that they do not move into range of your opponent's units. The only possible way that your opponent can defeat this strategy is to build superior long range units, trap you, or build defense turrets. However, all of these scenarios are expensive and can usually be dealt with by carefully using the Blackout ability. By the time that your opponent has figured out a way to corner these harassing units for good, you should have built up a sizeable armada of Excellsior II's, Akiras, etc as described in the above paragraphs. This strategy is not truly feasible against the Romulans, as the early-game Rhienn is long range, nimble, and has a 360 degree firing arc for its disruptor/torpedo refit.

The third tactic deviates substantially from the previously described strategies and is best used against the short range Klingons, medium ranged Dominion, and even the long range Romulans (though it can also be used effectively against the Federation). Begin by constructing an Antares Yard and a dilithium mining station. Queue up four freighters as you normally would. Send the first two to the dilithium moon and the third to the tritanium moon (the fourth will be sent to your dilithium moon expansion). After beginning construction of your tritanium mining station, begin building an additional Antares Yard. When your first Yard is done, queue up as many Sabers as possible. In the second Yard queue up two Sabers, followed by the Hyper Impulse Drive and finally more Sabers. The Hyper Impulse Drive will increase the likelihood that torpedoes and pulse weapons miss your Sabers when turned on, as well as amplify their maximum velocity. Note that even without the Hyper Impulse Drive activated, Sabers have a good chance to avoid pulse based weapons. Remember to set both yards to low movement autonomy to further ensure that Sabers will engage your foes at maximum range.

When your constructors become idle, have one go to your expansion and immediately construct a platform next to a dilithium moon. Since this strategy is initially quite dilithium expensive, you will need at least two Dominus Noctis 96

dilithium mining colonies to keep up full production. The other construction vessel should probably begin construction of a platform(s) near your main base moons. Group Sabers in small groups of three to four and eventually five to seven. Now you will make use of the "Saber Dance". When attacking your foes, always keep them at maximum range and attack from different angles to insure no chance of escape. Use your Hyper Impulse Drive when attacking your opponent's warships to avoid pulse and torpedo damage as well as to increase your overall speed and agility. If you are attacking defenseless mining vessels, construction ships, and stations, turn off the Hyper Impulse Drive so that you can bring more firepower to bear. Attack different expansions with separate groups of Sabers to annoy and frustrate your opponent. Note that whenever you are trying to get to your destination, turn on the Hyper Impulse Drive.

When you have enough resources (normally this will occur after having produced about 11-14 Sabers) you should begin construction of Starfleet Science. Begin mining more tritanium so as to allow production of Canaverals and the more tritanium expensive vessels that you will require later on. From here on the stratagem becomes linear with the two other previously mentioned lines of attack.

Due to the weaker early vessels (as well as increased build times) available to Admiral Risner, it is recommended that you do not make use of this strategy when under her direction. It must be noted, however, that you can use this strategy to tech up slightly faster with her if you build Starfleet Engineering before building Starfleet Command.

Against the Borg (Early Game)

When competing against an Optimize Directive opponent, scouting is of the importance. If your opponent appears to be building Scout Cubes and Probes (select your opponent's Assimilation Matrix or Conduction Matrix to see what crafts they are building/researching), once your Antares Yard is complete, queue up the Hyper-Impulse speed upgrade for the Saber and begin building Sabers. This ability will allow your Sabers to



outrun Optimize's already slow short ranged Probes or even Scout Cubes with ease (it also reduces how much micromanaging you must do because of the increased turn speed and ability to always stay at maximum range), although your phasers will do even less damage when the ability is turned on (it also reduces the hit chance for torpedoes, but this is unimportant until your opponent gets to at least Assimilators). As Scout Cubes are short

range, you should have no trouble making hit and run attacks with your Sabers. Your first mining station should thus be harvesting dilithium, as Saber production is more reliant on dilithium then on tritanium. With the Antares Yard complete, begin building Starfleet Science (and as soon as you can, Starfleet Command) and tech up to the Canaveral's Blackout ability after building roughly five or six Sabers. As Canaverals are long range, quite quick, and have very fast shield regeneration rates, they are the perfect companions for your Sabers when battling against the Borg. As your Sabers do not deal much damage per second, using the Canaveral's Blackout ability evens the odds nicely. Against the Borg, the Norway's Plasma Coil is relatively useless unless you are able to amass great quantities of Norways (16 plus against Scout Cubes), which is obviously cost prohibitive. However, if you wish to gamble on the fact that you may receive a Steamrunner from the Normal Warp-In, it is useful to build at least two Norways in order to use their first ability, Emergency Power, to keep Steamrunners firing their Triloader special ability.

Note that if your Borg opponent seems to be going for one heavy ship (either a Sphere for the Optimize Directive or an Assimilator for the Assimilate Directive) it is extremely important that you begin building Canaverals equipped with Sensor Blackout very rapidly to combat this significant threat. Consequently it is possible to initially skip building the Saber altogether and immediately begin constructing a tritanium heavy Canaveral once you have completed construction of Starfleet Science. As always, make sure that you have Sensor Blackout researched just as you get your first Canaveral.

It should be noted that when fighting against the Borg, your Warp-In ability is primarily defensive this early in the game. You will be facing Scout Cubes, Probes, Spheres and/or Assimilators which are not easy to dispatch (or ignore) like the destroyers from other factions. Consequently, these Warp-In vessels become much more valuable, so remember to retreat and repair them when they get damaged. Conservation of *all* your units is a must if you wish to defeat the Borg. Note that if you are facing the Borg, keep the Galaxy firing its singlet torpedoes as the multi-targeting capabilities will go to waste as the regenerative capabilities of the vessels will prevent you from doing any significant damage with the spaced out torpedo volleys.

Unlike the previous strategy used for non-Borg factions, it is generally not wise to build an Eraudi Yard yet and build Excelsior II's. At this point your Borg opponent will most likely have researched Devastating Attack (which will be able to lower the shields of your precious expensive Excelsior II's in a few hits) and Slicer, which will cut your unshielded ships to ribbons. Instead, it is much better to go with hit and run attacks, which is more in line with how you have used Sabers and Canaverals thus



far. Accordingly, it is wise to build Starfleet Engineering and research the first chassis. At the same time,

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research the Tricobalt Torpedo ability for the Intrepid-class. This ability is artillery range and thus perfect for devastating hit and runs on the (generally) short or medium range Borg vessels. As Intrepids have short-range torpedoes and phasers and are quite weak defensively, you should triple check that these ships are set on low movement autonomy to prevent them from flying in range of Borg heavy weapons. These ships are quite fast and agile, and will easily outmaneuver most Borg vessels—unless they get in range. Consequently it is best to wait until the Tricobalt Torpedo ability is fully charged and then perform strafing runs on Borg mining operations with full weapons autonomy. Be sure to make small fleets (6-10 vessels) of Intrepids so that you can micromanage each one so that they do not all waste their ammunition on one lowly Scout Cube.

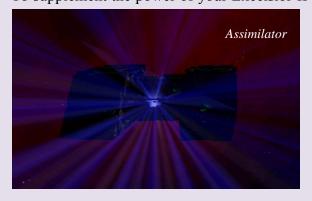
Against the Borg (Middle/Late Game)

When resource production begins to outstrip ship production, build another Antares Yard and continue constructing more Intrepids. These will be your main units for whittling down your Borg adversary due to their very heavy hitting artillery. However, eventually you should begin building an Eraudi Yard to bolster your fleet with the long range relatively fast Excelsior II vessels, which will excel at killing large Borg units with their ACS torpedoes and quantum torpedoes.



Likewise, upon gaining rank Excelsior II's will become artillery range. Accordingly, their speed and 360 degree firing arc make Excelsior II's quite good at chasing after retreating Borg vessels, as well as "strategically" retreating from most Borg vessels (only Diamonds and Assimilators have long range weapons). They are more difficult to assimilate due to their higher crew count of 140 (destroyers have much less than 50 usually). Note that you should keep on taking the offensive against your Borg opponent and never let them build up a large fleet, so that you will not have to worry about a rush that will prevent you from micromanaging your fleets effectively. Instead, you will have to deal with a few strong units which you can maneuver around much more easily and thus defeat.

To supplement the power of your Excelsior II's it is also wise to build Remores (available at chassis level two)

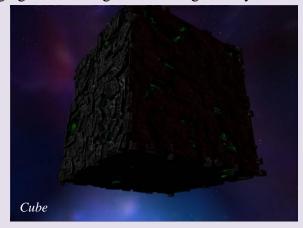


and research their second and third level abilities. If this should prove too costly (as you will not be using the first ability of the Remore, as the Borg have no shields), it might be better to upgrade to the next chassis level in order to build Defiants and Sovereigns instead. Defiants have a low crew count so make sure not to send them against Auto-Assimilator equipped Assimilators (or Holding Beam vessels) as they will be quickly

captured and used against you. Although the ship itself is quite powerful, its special ability, Critical Shot, is the best use of this ship against Borg vessels. Thus, by carefully cycling Defiants to fire Critical Shot at very high priority targets such as Tactical Cubes (or the next rarest heavy hitter in the Borg lineup), and then retreating them, you can take out the weapon systems of two vessels for 12 seconds at a time. Note that as the Defiant is expensive and represents a significant fraction of your firepower, taking Defiants to the rear lines usually only works if you already have an advantage against your Borg adversary.

The Sovereign's Engine Overload special ability (which lasts six seconds) can also be used to allow your long or artillery range units to pound Borg units again and again as these immobile units will not be able to either close with your forces or retreat. Thus in many ways, micromanaging the Sovereign's short range ability allows

you to worry less about keeping your Intrepids and Exelsior II's moving because your Borg opponent will not be going anywhere as long as you keep on using Engine Overload. However, you must be prepared to lose your Sovereigns if these are the only vessels that you send close in to engage the Borg. In general it should be noted that as soon as your Borg opponent has researched any Collective Features (most particularly Devastating Attack and Slicer) you should be very careful not to



get within close or medium range with Borg vessels and thus it is wise to set all of your ships to low movement autonomy to prevent them from closing with the enemy.

You might notice that I have not mentioned the Monsoon. Although this vessel has the potential to be an



excellent destroyer, the Norway is better in all regards. The Monsoon lacks an area of effect weapon and has weaker defense and offense to boot. Likewise, even though the Norway is more expensive in terms of tritanium, it is roughly the same cost in dilithium. The Monsoon's special also does less damage to single units and thus for the Mayson avatar there is no real point in building Monsoons.

Note that you will get the option of being able to upgrade un-upgraded turrets to Mayson's *extremely* powerful artillery-range Torpedo Turrets after building the Eraudi Yard. It is by no means advisable to sacrifice overall ship production to make these turrets (they are expensive and cannot move after all), but a few well placed Torpedo Turrets upgraded with the Organize Defense ability (which decreases nearby enemy ship's rate of fire by 40% for ten seconds) will enable your fleet to take out high priority targets with less fear of retaliation. Note that Organize Defense must be manually targeted on your opponent's ships and that you cannot choose which

targets the Torpedo Turret will attack. Instead, the turret will spread its torpedoes across all in range warships. Building these turrets will also allow you to very easily prevent harassment from cloaking factions or even opposing Warp-In attacks.



Admiral Jane Risner

Gives access to two new units:

- Phalanx class
- Avalon class

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Increased Offensive Value for Intrepid and Akira Class vessels by 3.
- Increased System Value for all Eraudi Yard vessels by 5.
- Reduced research costs for all Starship Chassis by 25 percent.

Against the Federation, Klingons, Romulans, and Dominion (Early Game)

Due to the lack of Norway support, this avatar tends to play in a similar manner to the second strategy listed for Mayson. As Admiral Risner does not get improved defensive capabilities for her Antares Yard vessels, it is



extremely important to begin producing Canaverals armed with Sensor Blackout as soon as possible to reduce the damage that your starships will take. Consequently, it is best to begin with a tritanium mine as Canaverals and their associated research are quite expensive in relation to this resource. Thus, your first few freighters should be mining tritanium before dilithium. As soon as your Antares Yard has finished construction, begin building

three Sabers. Select your Mediterranean-class construction vessel and begin building Starfleet Science. By the time this structure is assembled, two Sabers should have finished, and you can queue up about four Canaverals. At the same time, begin researching the Canaverals Level 2 ability, Tachyon Scan, at Starfleet Science.

Accordingly, after Starfleet Science is complete, begin construction of Starfleet Command and send your other construction ship to your expansion point--much as you would when playing as Admiral Mayson. To protect your expansion, it is best to build a cheap un-upgraded platform adjacent to the Storage Dock so that it can easily protect your freighters and their station once upgraded. Leave this platform not upgraded to save resources unless you are rushed at this expansion. As you are most likely to be attacked during the early game phase, it is best to upgrade the platform to become a Pulse Turret, which suffers no reduction in damage output

against your opponent's destroyers. Later in the game turrets lose their importance because you will have many moveable fleets to engage foes before they are able to attack your mining (unless they are cloaking factions and you have not been able to build any sensor stations with a passive tachyon detection grid).

Notice that in general building construction times are much longer. For this reason, when Starfleet Command is ready to receive orders, use your Warp-In ability defensively. Thus, instead of warping in vessels to your opponent's mining facilities, send them to your base instead. As your opponent most likely has already finished construction of their expansion and perhaps even a defensive turret, they almost certainly have a few destroyers ready to defend as well. Consequently, making a



Warp-In raid will not be nearly as productive as you will probably lose vessels much faster, which makes your attack even weaker. Likewise, as your vessels already lack significant defense, if a Warp-In raid were to fail, you might find it quite difficult to protect your assets with only low defense Sabers. It is best to choose the normal Warp-In and not the Experimental because you will need the extra early game offense, and the Descent will not do enough damage to opposing destroyers to make the starship worthwhile.

At this point you should have at least one Canaveral and your three starting Sabers. If you receive Excelsiors group them with your equally fast Sabers to form a raiding team as soon as Sensor Blackout is researched. Keeping the Canaveral(s) in a separate fleet to keep your destroyers from being slowed down, attack your



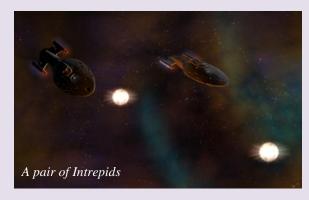
opponent's mining quickly. Note that if you have merely a single Canaveral armed with its Level 3 ability and you notice only defensive structures around the mining facilities and no destroyers, only use Blackout on them if you are fairly certain that your opponent's destroyers will not be able to make it there in time before your ability recharges (this takes roughly five seconds after the first usage), as the opening shots are crucial (especially

when confronting Romulan vessels, whose damage output decreases over time).

If you still have several Canaverals from your initial queue, construct additional Sabers (or Canaverals if you lost all of them) until you have enough funds to build Starfleet Engineering without having to stop ship construction. Risner's main strength lies in her ability to tech up much more quickly, so it is imperative that you pursue this course. Once the structure is finished, immediately research Chassis Level 1. This will grant you access to short-ranged Intrepid-class starships, which are granted additional offense by this avatar. At this point, if you have enough funds begin constructing an additional Antares Yard while proceeding with the research. Likewise, research the Intrepid's special ability, Tricobalt Torpedo, at your sole Antares Yard. Immediately

begin building Intrepids at both Antares Yards as soon as possible and group them as a new fleet (the research should be completed roughly around the time the facility is ready to construct warships). When you have a few Intrepids built, use their artillery range Tricobalt Torpedo (which deals double damage to structures and will not miss) to destroy any defensive structures at your opponent's mining followed by his or her actual mining facilities. Make sure to keep Intrepids on low weapons autonomy this early in the game to allow you to make the best use of these torpedoes. This will allow your delicate Sabers and Canaverals to destroy freighters from afar without being damaged by long range weapon platforms. Although you can use Intrepids in combat (to allow them to fire their short ranged torpedoes and phasers), make sure to retreat each of them as soon as they suffer significant damage so that you do not lose your artillery support.

With that being said, notice that Chassis Level 1 also grants the ability to produce Monsoon-class destroyers. If you are not keen on using predominantly anti-structure Intrepids and instead wish to field some anti-destroyer fire-power, the Monsoon is the starship to produce. Instead of researching the Tricobalt Torpedo while constructing the additional Antares Yard, research the Proximity Torpedo. This will grant your short-range Monsoons



the ability to fire a torpedo which deals a large amount of damage to fast and small vessels. Due to the large drop in defensive value for Risner's Sabers, these Monsoons will become your early game backbone, as they do not experience nearly as strong a defensive loss as the Sabers. Likewise, since they have the same speed as the Saber without the Hyper-Impulse Drive, they will be able to assist your Sabers on quickly destroying your

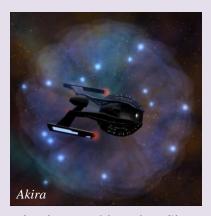


opponent's freighters with their Proximity Torpedo. Similarly, the Monsoon's speed and relatively high shielding allows it to close with enemy destroyers, so that even despite its short range weaponry it will still be moderately effective. Note however that its proximity torpedo cannot be fired while retreating, even though the Monsoon's short range phasers have 360 degree mounting.

Middle Game

When you accumulate enough resources so that you can upgrade to Chassis Level 2 while still maintaining Intrepid *or* Monsoon production, research this technology at Starfleet Engineering. This will give you access to Akira-class cruisers at the Antares Yard, and Remore support vessels at the (not yet built) Eraudi Yard. Immediately begin researching the Akira's Defensive Patterns special ability at the Antares Yard, making sure to cancel any Intrepids that are preventing the research from going through. As soon as you have reached Chassis Level 2, cancel all Intrepid production and begin constructing Risner's strengthened Akiras as well as

some additional Canaverals as needed (each fleet should contain between two and three Canaverals for Blackout support over the course of a single battle). Akiras will accordingly become the core of your fleet, while your Intrepids (or Monsoons) and Sabers maintain their role as harassers. Remember to only trigger an Akira's Defensive Patterns ability when it has been targeted by enemy fire to ensure that the Akira lasts as long as possible.



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At this point, you will probably notice that dilithium usage is much higher than tritanium at this point. Since building additional anti-destroyer Canaverals will become wasteful after entering the cruiser constructing phase of the game (not to mention that you can only use Sensor Blackout so many times as the effects last 25 seconds), it is wise to build an Eraudi Yard. This will allow you to begin producing the Remore, which--like all Risner Eraudi Yard vessels--gains a significant systems value increase. As this Remore has faster shield regeneration and much more special energy, it will last longer in combat and be able to support your forces more effectively. Research its level one and two abilities as soon as possible. Since you will relying on these support vessels much more heavily, it is advised to keep groups of these ships in separate fleets so that you can use their special weapons independently. For instance, placing a few Remores for each group of Akiras will allow you to use ECM and know for certain that those Akiras will be protected by the ability. Make sure to use Vector Calculation on your already very powerful Akiras as often as possible.

You may notice that I did not yet mention building Excelsior II's. This is because although they are still effective long range cruisers, they lack the Anti-Capital Ship Torpedo and are actually slightly less cost efficient than the Akira, which still gets a special ability. Likewise, while you could build Excelsior II's, instead it is much better to build Remores to back up your Akiras and use up your tritanium.

Late Game

After you have built up a sizeable core armada of Akiras and Remores (at least a fleet's worth), you should think about building battleships. Thus, if you have enough resources available, upgrading to the next chassis level is a good idea. By researching Chassis Level 3 you will gain access to Defiants, Sovereigns, and the Risner specific Phalanx and Avalon. Due to Admiral Risner's ability to tech up much faster than Mayson, you will probably still be faced by your opponent's cruisers. Consequently, building the rather cost effective, short ranged Defiant is a perfectly reasonable decision. Its pulse weaponry will still do a decent amount of damage to cruisers (80% of full), and its rather fast speed and strong shielding will enable you to make daring runs into your opponent's mining to take out small freighters quickly and then retreat without being destroyed by stationary turrets. As a result, building a small fleet of these vessels is extremely important to maintain your ability to harass with impunity (no other faction can hope to harass in this manner without losing ships through

these actions). If your opponent wishes to stop such attacks, he or she will be forced to build more turrets and place more ships to defend the mining vessels. It should be noted, that if you decide to harass your opponent's main base mining it is best to put your vessels on low movement autonomy so that they do not move within range of the starbase and get destroyed. Furthermore, if you wish to make your low weapon autonomy Defiant's even more effective at harassment, research Critical Shot so that you can disable the defense platforms of your foes for twelve seconds. This will obviously also prove useful when you actually do engage in fleet wide battles and you want to disable your opponent's highest powered vessels.

requires more testing Depending on resource availability, you should also attempt to build an additional



Eraudi Yard and construct powerful (but limited) Phalanxes and eventually Sovereigns. Since the Phalanx is armed with pulse phasers, an area of effect Magnan Array, and a phaser, it is best suited for combat with your opponent's cruisers and destroyers. Since cruisers and destroyers tend to bunch up on each other, the Magnan Array likewise has a chance to hit several of these

vessels at one time. To improve the effectiveness of your Phalanxes it is greatly recommended that you research the Magnan Phaser Array. This will allow you to set your Phalanxes to trigger this special ability in combat, have all Magnan Phaser shots fire, and then disable the special weapon to allow the Phalanx to recharge the Magnan Array to in turn enable you to trigger the ability again. Although this is micromanagement intensive, this is a great way to get out a large volume of high damaging shots very quickly. It goes without saying that if you really want to make your Phalanxes effective cruiser killers, use the Remore's Vector Calculation on them whenever possible. Since Sovereigns do a large portion of their damage with their quantum torpedoes, they are primarily station and battleship killers. Consequently a combination of Phalanxes and Sovereigns does quite well. Likewise, because Admiral Risner's Sovereign has much more special energy than Mayson's, you can use the Engine Overload special ability two times in quick succession to heavily damage your opponent's quicker cruisers and even leftover destroyers (remember that the faster the vessel, the more damage it takes from the special ability). Engine Overload also gives you the ability to keep your opponent's forces in place while you choose small targets with your Phalanxes to allow them to do the most damage possible.

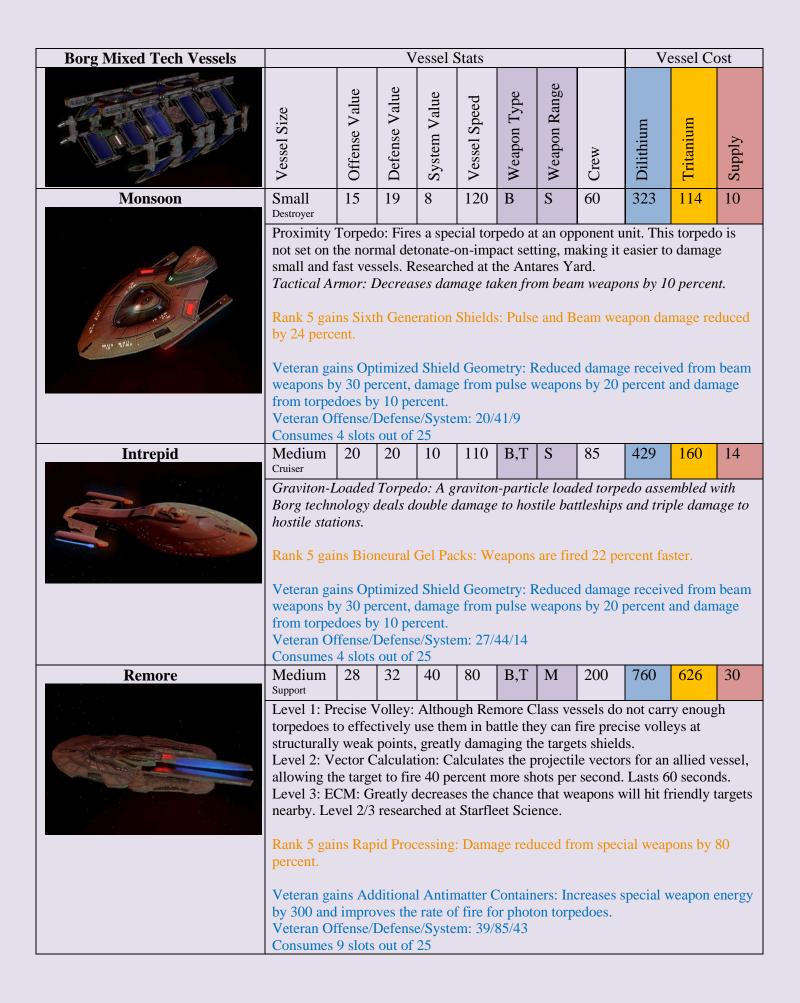
I have not mentioned the Avalon for the reason that this unit seems to only have two real uses for its fighters. One, it may be used to provide instant defense by deploying its fighters if you happen to be floating a considerable amount of funds, or two, it can be used to provide instant offense on big base assaults where most of your fleet is involved. As a standalone vessel, it has roughly the same cost effectiveness as building an

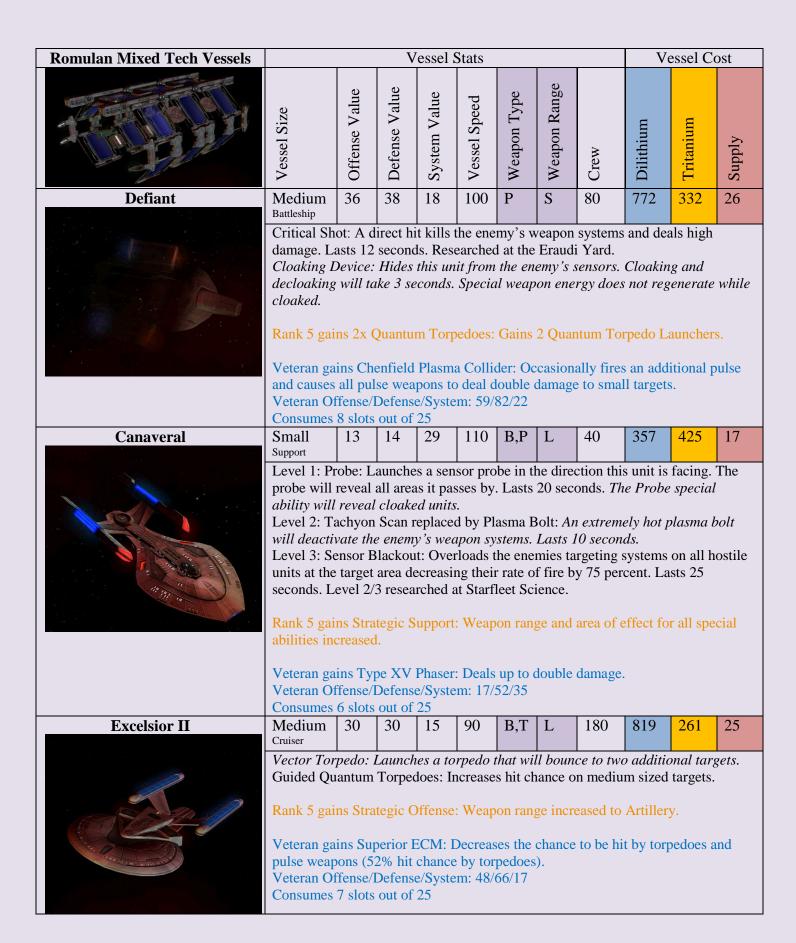
Excelsior II for the same avatar, and like the Excelsior II, it also has long range. However, the Avalon also is very slow which makes it much less effective at supporting your fleet. Since you would not normally build the Excelsior II (Akira's being more cost effective in this case), why build the Avalon?

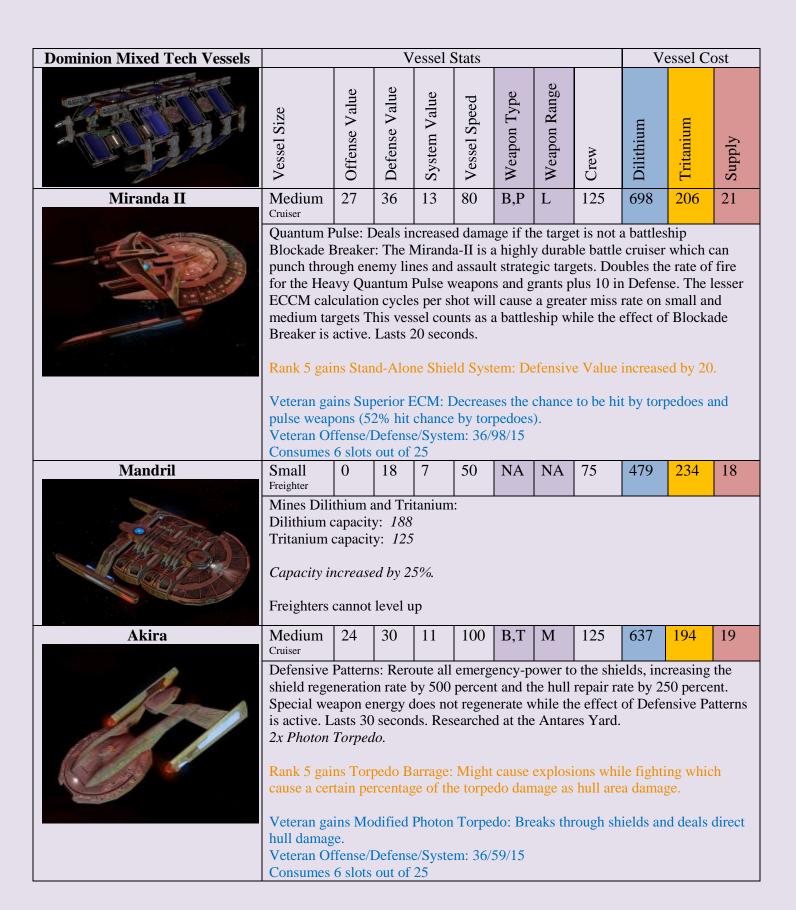


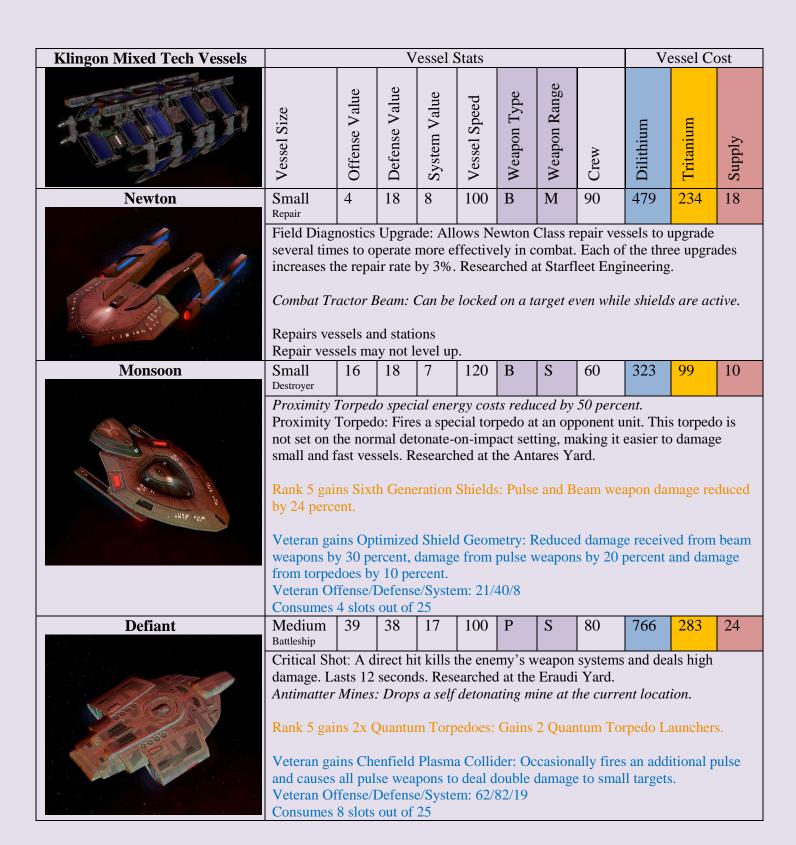
Against the Borg

In this regard Risner's strategy is much more simplified than Mayson's. Since you should be building Intrepids to counter the Collective, just prolong the period during which you build these pseudo artillery vessels and continue building them even when you upgrade your chassis. Do not under any circumstances build the short-ranged anti-destroyer Monsoon. Other than these minor details, you should be using the same build order that you would normally use while playing under Admiral Risner's tutelage.









Federation Mixed Technology Unit Analysis

Borg Mixed Tech Vessels

- Monsoon: This vessel is slightly more expensive, but gains the Tactical Armor passive ability which allows the Monsoon to take only 90% of beam weapon damage. Although this would seem to be a bargain, due to the fact that mixed-technology only comes into play after the destroyer phase and this is a counter-destroyer, this version becomes useless for both avatars—unless you are planning on not using the Intrepid-route for Risner. Accordingly, the normal Monsoon is not often used and this version does not offer an immense bonus to change this fact.
- Intrepid: This vessel comes equipped with the graviton-loaded torpedo which allows the vessel to deal double damage to hostile battleships and triple damage to hostile stations. Since the Intrepid class's Tricobalt Torpedo is normally used to make strafing runs on battleships (as the chance to miss is greatly reduced) and stations, the fact that the Intrepid's special weapon has been made so much stronger makes this unit an absolute beauty. This mixed-tech Intrepid is not cost prohibitive, and its offensive, defensive, and system values are right between those of Risner and Mayson. Furthermore, you won't be tying up your normal yards and so you can concentrate on building other classes. Likewise, as normally it is inadvisable to introduce the Mixed-Technology yards early in the game, the fact that you can build this yard mid-game when cruisers (and soon battleships) are being put out in full force means that this version of the Intrepid is indispensible for both avatars.
- Remore: This vessel gains no special abilities apart from its normal counterpart, but it does get plus four in offense, defense, and system. Of course, the mixed-technology Remore also gets a large hike in cost. For Mayson, this version of the Remore is much more worth it because of the plus four in system—not only giving it a faster shield regeneration, but also much more special energy. Due to the stat increases, the Remore also becomes more combat worthy. Since this Remore has a greater build time, it is best to supplement Mayson's normal Remores with these (as they build slower). Probably this vessel is not worth it for Risner as the cost of the Mixed-Tech Yard and research is prohibitively expensive when you will be relying mainly on Akiras and Remores (which have a higher system value then the Borg mixed-tech version) as the core of your fleet.

Romulan Mixed Tech Vessels

• Defiant: This battleship gains a cloaking device and a cost increase of 100 dilithium and tritanium, but also a decrease in overall stats. However, because you will not have to research the next chassis level to

gain access to this ship, this mixed-tech Defiant becomes quite a bit more attractive. The cloaking device allows this vessel not only to be able to survive battles much more easily (cloak the vessel after shields are down, and it will be able to escape due to the strong hull), but combined with its speed and pulse-based weapons, the Federation can now do effective hit and runs on freighters and destroyers with this rather powerful battleship.

- Canaveral: For a rather negligible increase in resources this vessel gains an even more impressive shield recharge rate and an additional extremely useful ability—Plasma Bolt. Replacing Tachyon Scan (which is now added to the Probe ability), the Plasma Bolt will disable enemy weapon systems for 10 seconds. Although you will probably have finished building the handful of Canaverals at your Antares Yard by the time a mixed-tech facility is built, this version of the Canaveral will bolster your fleet (and replace your obsolete regular Canaverals) as you can micro its new special ability to disable the weaponry of high priority targets such as Borg vessels, Romulan Tavaras, and Dominion Dreadnoughts. Due to its high system value, the Canaveral can use its Sensor Blackout ability more often, allowing you to depend on less Canaverals overall.
- Excelsior II: This vessel gains the special ability Vector Torpedo, which launches a torpedo that will bounce to two additional targets. This ability does not need to be researched. The Excelsior II also gains a modest increase in offensive and system values. As Mayson already gets a much improved Excelsior II which costs less and is armed with the ECS, this vessel is not worth it when placing this avatar. However, for Risner, this vessel gives the player the ability to use the Excelsior II's special energy which is definitely worth the 100 extra dilithium. As Risner's Excelsior II's are not all that powerful (and thus will stop your Eraudi Yard from producing the Remores and Sovereigns that you should be building), the only version of this vessel that should be built when playing as this avatar is the mixed-tech vessel.

Dominion Mixed Tech Vessels

• Miranda II: This vessel is around the cost, offense, and defense of the Defiant but gains enormous defensive boosts upon leveling up. Likewise, the Miranda II has the Blockade Buster ability which gives it plus 10 in defense and doubles the fire rate of its anti-destroyer and anti-cruiser Quantum Pulses for 20 seconds. As the Miranda II also counts as a battleship while the ability is active, this vessel is extremely resilient versus ships that rely on pulse-based weaponry. However, all torpedoes will now hit due to the change in vessel-class. For both avatars this vessel is a must and can easily replace Akiras and Excellsion

II's as the mainstay of your fleet. However, be careful, as this ship is not armed with torpedoes and does very little damage against structures and the Borg.

- Mandril: This freighter gains plus two in defense and a 25% boost in storage capacity, which means that this vessel gathers more and slowly boosts your economy. The excessive costs are hard to deal with early on so that it is recommended that you build these freighters if your other freighters are being attacked and you are in danger of losing them. Note that you will still need three freighters per moon.
- Akira: This warship gains the 2x Photon Torpedo Launcher, which means that this vessels firepower is more concentrated around its torpedoes. Thus, this vessel is better suited to combat with battleships due to the zero miss chance (for most battleships). The vessel's stats also lie between Risner and Mayson with only a modest increase in vessel cost. As Mayson's normal Akiras get a slightly greater defensive boost, it is probably wise to only build these mixed-tech vessels when playing as Risner. However, you must note that these Akiras do not require the chassis upgrades, and because Mayson relies more heavily on Excelsior II's, if you are not planning on upgrading to Akiras, it is best to go with the now cheaper mixed-tech variant. As Risner relies on Akiras for the core of her fleet's strength, the ability of these vessels to attack larger class vessels is good. Likewise, this mixed-technology Akira only has one less in offensive stats, but two more in defense, which is a decent boon to Risner's Akira forces.

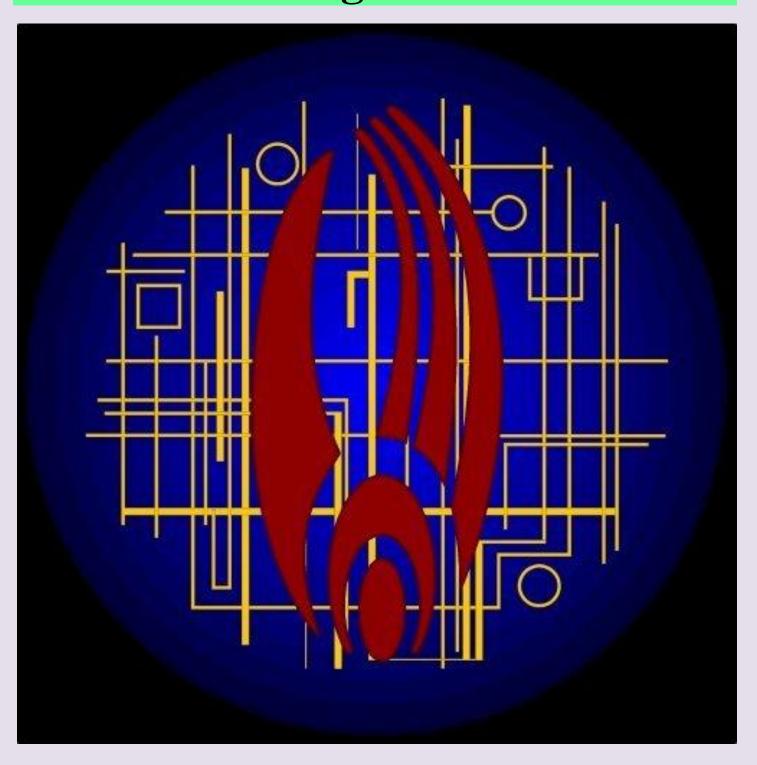
Klingon Mixed Tech Vessels

- Defiant: This battleship gains the Antimatter Mines special ability, which allows the Defiant to drop a mine which can nearly lower the shields of a B'rel (for comparison). The system value is increased by three. This ability need not be researched, and even though the costs of this vessel are greater than a non-mixed tech Defiant, you do not have to research the additional chassis levels to begin producing this ship. Consequently it is wise to begin producing this vessel for both avatars, as it allows you to field Defiants earlier and more cheaply.
- Monsoon: This destroyer's Proximity Torpedo costs 50% less special energy per usage, which actually allows the Monsoon to fire several powerful anti-destroyer torpedoes. The cost increase is rather small and the Monsoon even gets plus two in offense. For Risner, who gets no defensive bonus for Antares Yard vessels, this vessel is much more worth it than for Mayson (who also has access to the much more formidable Norway). However, because destroyers are being phased out when the mixed-tech facilities are being built, if you wish to build this unit, it depends heavily on how many destroyers and cruisers your opponent is fielding.

• Newton: This vessel gains access to the medium-ranged Combat Tractor beam which allows the Newton to lock an enemy vessel into place even if its shields are still up. The Norway also gains plus one in offense. Since your Newtons should not be in combat in the first place, the only way this ability is useful is if you spot a construction ship or a high priority target and need to lock it down for a few seconds. Thus, even despite the relatively small cost increase, this vessel just isn't worth it for either avatar (and no, it does not stack with the normal Newtons to allow you six repair vessels).



The Borg Collective



Things to Note

Clump your units together so they minimize your radar profile and look much less menacing to your opponent. This is especially important with Scout Cubes and Assimilators, because they will spread out considerably when placed in a fleet. Likewise, putting units close together will ensure that the enemy has to approach all of your vessels at the same time. Thus you expose enemy ships to the maximum possible amount of firepower. When hiding in nebulas, it becomes even more important to minimize your radar profile because the nebulas are small. However, it is important to note that minimizing the radar profile of a large fleet can have the repercussion of area of effect special weapons hitting all your ships at once, so keep a lookout for enemy warships.

To make the best use of all non long range Borg units (aka, most of them), you must close with the enemy. Slicer is a short-range ability while Devastating Attack is medium-range, and many Borg units have Beam Modules that are shorter range than their torpedoes as well. Likewise, because Borg units are slow and big, by practically appearing on top of your opponent's fleet it means that his/her units will have little to no chance to retreat and it will also be hard to micro individual units because they are being obscured by huge Borg vessels.

Often near the beginning of a game you will start being attacked by your opponent's destroyers (Rhienns, B'rels, Dominion Bugs, or Sabers). If you only have one Scout Cube, it is usually inadvisable to send it alone against your opponent's forces if they outnumber you by more than three to one, even if they are damaging your mining expansion. It is best to wait until you have at least two Scout Cubes, so you can destroy



destroyers before they have a chance to retreat. Although Borg buildings and Resource Assimilators are quite durable, a sustained attack by Klingon, Dominion, Romulan, and Federation forces will still end up destroying them. Thus it is unwise to leave yourself undefended, no matter how tempting it is to tech up quickly.

Although the Refresh Cycle ability available to all Borg units may not appear to have much use, remember to use it when attacked by gravity mines and other special weapons that last indefinitely.

Note that unlike other factions, you can use the Tachyon Scan to decloak your opponent's ships from the get-go (no research required). This tool is available at the Assimilation Matrix so it is a wise idea to hotkey your Assimilation Matrix in order to have this ability at hand when you really need it.

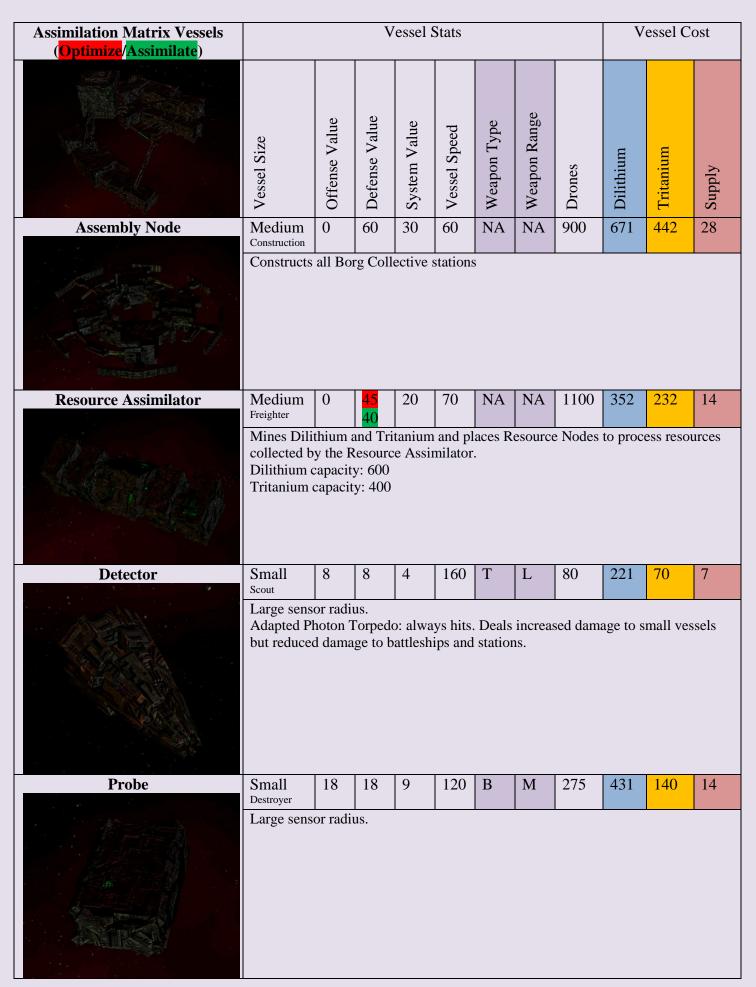
As most Borg vessels build slowly and are slow once built, it is highly advised that you move your Assembly Node close to expansion points or points of interest to build additional Collective Uplinks. If there are nebulas nearby, make sure that you place your Assembly Node within nebulas which render your ship invisible, to ensure your opponent does not find your lone constructor. Likewise, make sure that you build Collective Uplinks out of the way so that your opponent does not find them while attacking your expansion (or flying through space as normal).

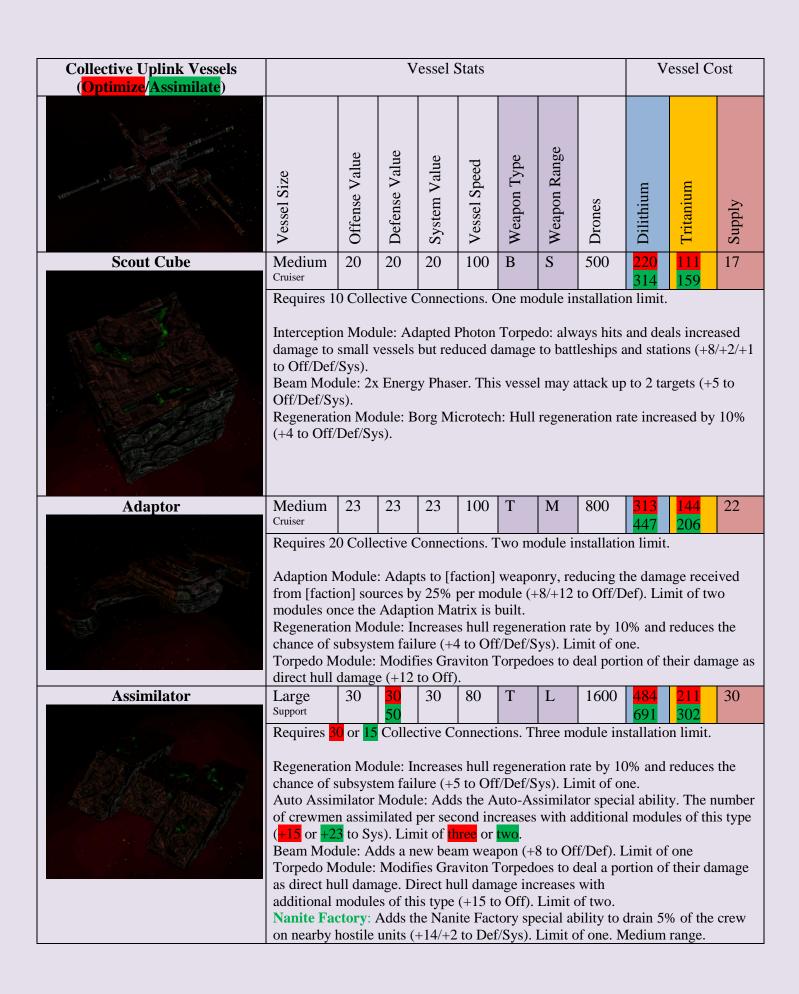
If your first Conduction Matrix is destroyed, you cannot build more Collective Uplinks. Protect it well. You will not lose already researched Collective Features if the Transmission Matrix is destroyed.

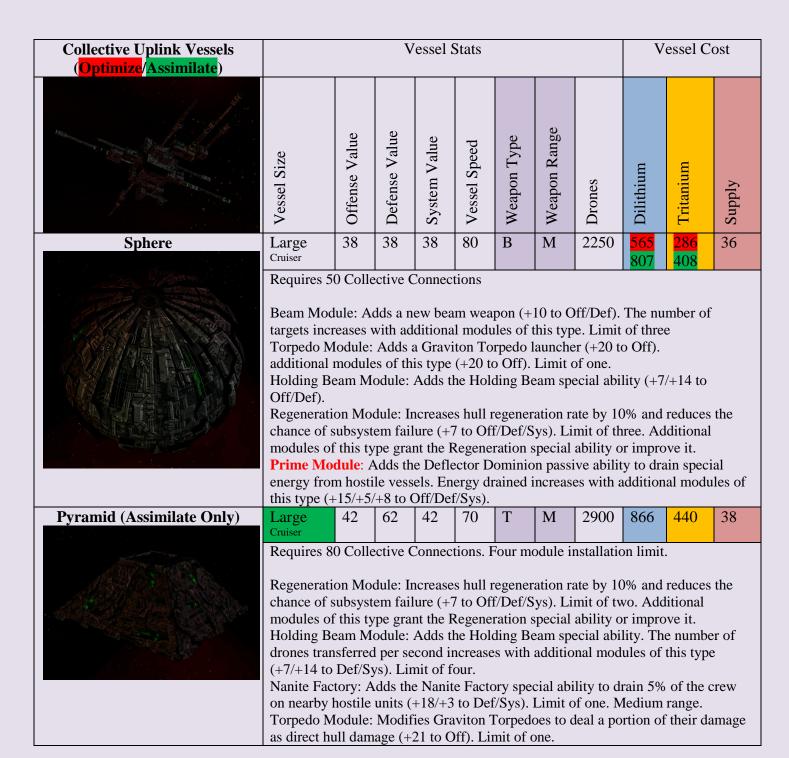
If you are "starving" for resources because you just want to finish that last Torpedo Module, you can always dock your freighters manually to allow them to dump their dilithium/tritanium prematurely (this works because they have huge capacities compared to the other factions). However, this has the ramification that because your freighters are very well synchronized (so that one is unloading while the other is gathering resources) you will upset the balance and will gain resources slower until the next load (as the Resource Assimilator that just unloaded half or more of its load will have to wait for the other freighter to finish gathering).

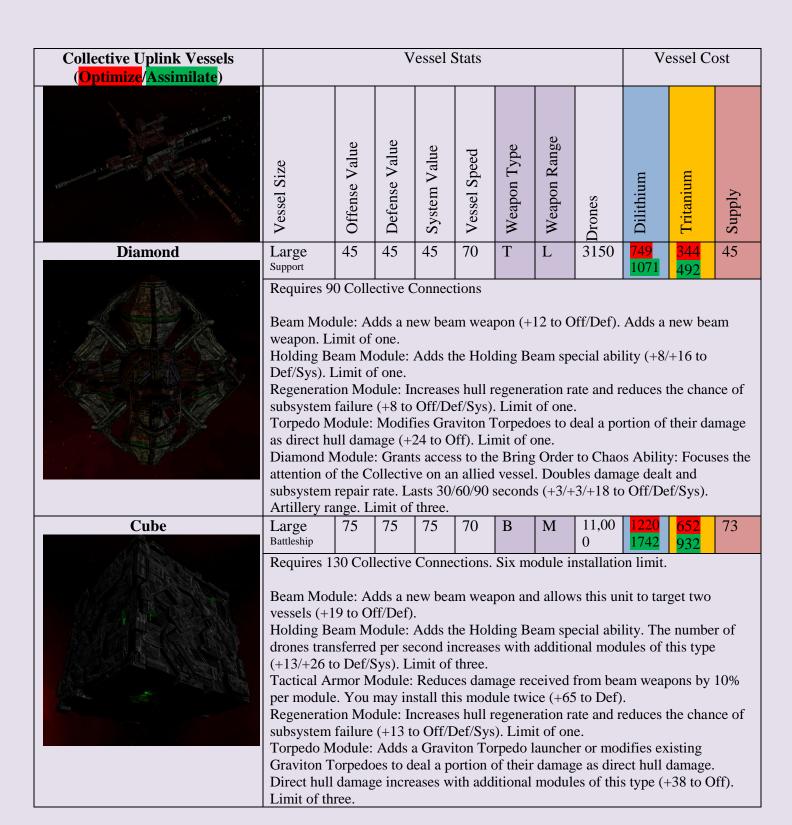


Borg Unit Overview (note that Borg units do not level up)

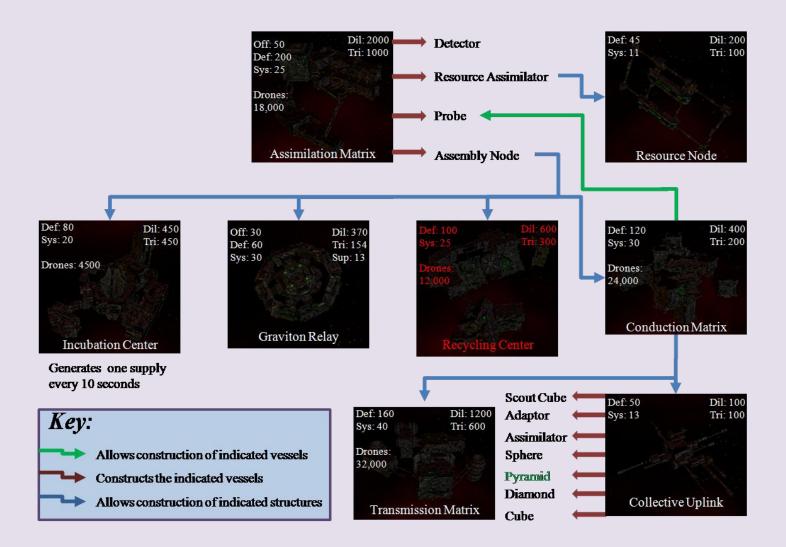








Borg Technology Tree



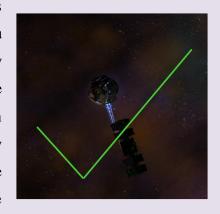
Collective Features Overview (available at the Transmission Matrix)

Devastating Attack	Fires a medium range torpedo at a hostile target. The torpedo will have a devastating influence on the targets shields. Damage dealt increases with chassis size—medium range. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 1 slot out of 10.
Sensor Relay	Places a permanent Sensor Relay nearby this Borg vessel. The Sensor Relay will detect all cloaked vessels nearby. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 1 slot out of 10.
Station Holding Beam	Starts the assimilation of a unit. Transfers 4 Borg drones per seconds to the target vessel. Locks the target vessel in place. Medium range. Affected Stations: Assimilation Matrix, Transmission Matrix, Conduction Matrix. Uses 1 slot out of 10.
Partial Adaption	Increases the damage of all Borg units by 10 percent. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 2 slots out of 10.
Nanites	Creates a field of Borg nanites in space. The nanites will cause constant damage to all hostiles within the area Damage is split across all valid targets. There is also a chance that a hostile unit might be infected with the nanites, causing this players GUI to be disturbed. Special Energy cost decreases with chassis size. Hits cloaked vessels. Lasts 25 seconds. Long range. Affected Units: Diamond, Cube. Uses 2 slots out of 10.
Slicer	Fires a high energy cutting beam that will slice the enemy's hull apart. Deals double damage to small sized targets. Total damage dealt increases with chassis size. Short Range. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 2 slots out of 10.
Transwarp Coil	Engage the Transwarp coils of this unit to maximum, allowing it to instantly travel to the target location Maximum distance decreases with chassis size. Affected Units: Detector, Probe, Scout Cube. Uses 3 slots out of 10.
Data Mining	Combine the minds of the collective to increase the sensor range of all Borg vessels by 30 percent. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 3 slots out of 10.
Perfect Logistics	Grants the Resource Assimilator the ability to refine dilithium or tritanium, slowly generating additional resources over time as well as giving +20 to Defensive Value. Affected Units: Resource Assimilator. Uses 4 slots out of 10. Only 4 Resource Assimilators may be upgraded with this ability. The upgrade costs 150 Dilithium, 150 Tritanium and 20 Supply.
Boarding	Transport Borg drones through the enemies shields as long as the ship does not have full crew. The boarding party size increases with chassis size. Long Range. Affected Units: Probe, Scout Cube, Adaptor, Assimilator, Sphere, Diamond, Cube. Uses 4 slots out of 10.

Borg Strategy

General Build Order: Start off by building a Conduction Matrix so that it is adjacent to the Assimilation Matrix, but on the side farthest from your opponent (this gives you a small degree of added protection, so that your opponent's ships have to go around your main base to attack this defenseless structure). At the same time, queue up 4 Resource Assimilators immediately. The first Resource Assimilator should go to the tritanium moon. If at all possible, instead of placing two Resource Assimilators per moon at the beginning, try and space

them out so that you have one per moon (4 moons and four freighters total) as this way you will gain resources slightly more quickly at the beginning. You should be advised, however, that this tactic is less defensible--especially against Warp-In rushes--so this is useful if both moon pairs are extremely close to each other. Since your freighters are faster than any other factions', you can also go out and collect resources at far-flung moons, only to return to the safety of your base and drop off the collected goods. Note: to avoid Resource Assimilators being unable to dock with their mining station, wait until the



Resource Assimilator is perpendicular to the moon, then click the option to place the Resource Node. The



station should now be far enough from the moon and thus accessible to the Resource Assimilator. This method always works (except when you are right up against the edge of the map). As Resource Assimilators take a long time to collect and drop off resources, the optimum early game set up is to place your first freighter on one moon, and the second freighter on the second moon (making sure to drop down mining stations for both moons). This method allows you to begin collecting resources immediately for dilithium and tritanium. At the

same time use your Detector to scout the nearest available moon pair, followed by your opponent's most likely point of expansion and then your opponent's base itself. As your Detector is more powerful than all other scouts, you should try and use it to hunt your adversary's scouts and cut off his or her eyes and ears quickly in this stage of the game so that he or she cannot tell what modules you are using.



Directive - Optimize

Gives access to two new units:

- Recycling Center
- Prime Module Sphere

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Reduces the construction costs of selecting a Borg chassis by 30 percent
- Allows you to upgrade the productivity of Incubation Centers
- Increased Defensive Value for Resource Assimilators by 5

As soon as the Conduction Matrix is completed, purchase Energy Nodes Level 1 to increase the rate by which Collective Connections are generated. At the Assimilation Matrix begin constructing one additional Detector after your first four Resource Assimilators are done. Note that this strategy is extremely defense oriented and your first four freighters should be mining resources at your starting resource nodes so that your Assimilation Matrix can protect them somewhat.

After your Detector is completed, use its long range and extreme speed to make raids into your opponent's mining operations. Be sure not to let your opponent retaliate and destroy them, as these Detectors will prove crucial throughout the early phases of the game. The Detector's Adapted



Photon Torpedo deals increased damage to small targets (but almost none to structures), which is perfect for harassing freighters and even enemy destroyers. Your opponent will thus be forced to waste valuable time either assigning turrets or ships to his or her mining areas to prevent your brazen attacks. Note also that the Detector, like all Borg vessels, has a 360 degree firing arc.

When you finally have enough resources to allow uninterrupted construction of those initial freighters and scouts, research Resistance is Futile to instantly gain 20 Collective Connections (probably when you have about 10 to 15 Collective Connections). As you approach roughly 45 Collective Connections, select your Assembly Node and construct a Collective Uplink behind and as close as possible to your Assimilation Matrix to protect it from assault. The reason you build the Collective Uplink so late is to avoid any chance that your opponent will be able to destroy it ahead of time, or be able to figure out where you are building your vessel. Note that you will have plenty of time before reaching this point, so use your Detectors to harass your opponent's mining

constantly. As soon as you reach 50 Collective Connections, you will have enough to build a Sphere. Select the chassis and equip it with three Regeneration Modules and a Prime Module. The three Regeneration Modules

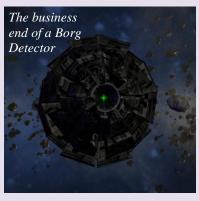


will grant you the special ability Regenerate, which uses special energy to quickly restore your vessels subsystems and hull. At 100 special energy per second, you can sustain Regenerate for over 18 seconds. Although the Prime Module does not grant as much offense as the Torpedo Module, it gives a sizeable system and defense value boost which will enable your medium range Sphere to regenerate faster and take less damage overall. Likewise, the Prime

Module sucks up special energy from its primarily target. Multi-targeting (granted by upgrading the Sphere with a Beam Module) is not the most efficient layout because it is best to maximize your regenerative capabilities as well as focus your Sphere's weaponry on one target to ensure the unit's destruction before it can retreat and repair. If you know that your opponent is *extraordinarily* aggressive, it is wise to construct a Graviton Relay early on instead of the extra Detector to protect this frail structure while it builds your vulnerable Sphere. Although this will delay you from getting out a Sphere earlier, a very aggressive Federation or Romulan opponent could potentially destroy the Collective Uplink while it is constructing your Sphere. Note that this scenario is rather unlikely.

After beginning construction on this Sphere, build two additional Detectors to allow you to harass even more effectively and annoyingly. After these vessels are completed your Sphere should also be finished. Build another Resource Assimilator and send it to the nearest dilithium moon to harvest the crystal.

Depending on the size and shape of the map this first Sphere will allow you at last to conclusively bring the fight to the enemy. If there is only one route to



your base, this Sphere can be used to advance along the corridor and decimate your opponent. If, on the other hand, your opponent's base is spread out, it is likely that he or she will attack your mining, Assembly Node, or Conduction Matrix while you are attempting to destroy your opponent's mining or research facilities. However, by doing this your opponent will have sacrificed their mining expansion unnecessarily. To avoid misfortune, it is absolutely necessary to use your Detectors to scout ahead and see if your opponent has constructed defenses so that you can try to avoid taking unnecessary damage.

Against the Klingons (Early Game)

Against a Klingon TaQ'roja player you must be careful to keep a close lookout for the slightly faster
 Klingon Veqlaragh-class artillery range vessels, which can be equipped with torpedoes which will

disable your propulsion for a few seconds and ensure that you never reach them. If your enemy is a skilled opponent, he or she will likely be using these Veqlaragh destroyers in combination with cloaked scouts to enhance their effective weapon range (by increasing the sensor radius). Simply have the Assimilation Matrix hotkeyed in order to decloak the Klingon scout and thus destroy it. Likewise make sure to use your Detectors to destroy any Veqlaragh at long range as your Sphere will have a difficult time getting within weapons range of these vessels.



Additionally, keep on the lookout for B'rel bird of prey and keep your Detectors out of their path. These short ranged Klingon vessels have pulse weaponry which will very quickly destroy your scouts. The class can also be enhanced with the Graviton Marker special ability, which lays a mine that will cling to nearby enemy vessels and slow down their movement speed dramatically. Since your best method of



ensuring a Detector's survival is to retreat it from battle as soon as it gets hit by weapons fire, the Graviton Marker will allow your opponent to easily dispatch your weakly armored scouts with their pulse-based weapons. Against a Martok opponent you will most likely encounter the short ranged, but very fast, SuS'a' destroyer. Keep your Sphere

moving at all times to make use of its superior range and use your Detectors to alternately draw fire by moving in close, and then retreat to damage these destroyers at long range. Note that if your Klingon adversary has constructed a very cost effective long range Heavy Weapons Platform at his or her expansion, it is still possible to successfully attack the mining installation. By attacking the weak freighters or the mining station from a point that is furthest away from the Klingon turret, you will be able to successfully destroy the expansion despite the Sphere being only medium range.

Against the Romulans (Early Game)

when facing off against either Romulan avatar, you will encounter around five Rhienn Torpedo Refits and perhaps even early Helev Griffin support (this vessel can be upgraded with the Sensor Jammer special ability which will disable either sensor or weapons on your vessels for a short time). While the Rhienns are long range and quite powerful, a Sphere will last an incredibly long time against these destroyers and you will be easily



able to take out your opponent's expansion. Slower Griffins should not pose much of a difficulty because their special weapon and main weapons are only medium range. After your Sphere has been in the field for a few minutes longer, you might even be faced with Generix Support Refits. These vessels will be the trickiest enemy vessel that you must deal with due to their weapon disabler special weapon. However, because you will be facing relatively few of these slower medium range starships initially, you should be able to destroy them easily enough and your Prime module will drain their special energy fast enough that Plasma Bolt will only hit a few times. As usual, it is important to keep on moving so that you only have to face one or two of the slower ships at a time to allow you to more easily destroy them. Make certain to keep your Assimilation Matrix hotkeyed, as damaged Rhienns will most likely try to cloak to escape. Carefully use your Detectors to take out these damaged warships when you decloak them to allow your Sphere to concentrate on its next victim. Note that Romulan freighters are especially weak and make choice targets for harassment.

Against the Dominion (Early Game)

Against both Dominion avatars you will encounter A-20 Attack Destroyers. However, a Puretech opponent will be able to produce these in significantly larger quantities, and will likely crowd the destroyers around your Sphere to allow a damaged destroyer to easily ram you and knock out your engines (thus preventing your slow vessels from escaping). Thus it is extraordinarily important to keep your Sphere retreating and have your Detectors pick off any damaged Bugs that are heading straight for that vessel. It is extremely imperative not to stall your initial attack against the Dominion, for if you do not attack quickly enough your opponent can begin mass producing long range A-26 Bombers and keeping you out of range with Bug collisions. A Breen Alliance adversary can choose to produce either Bombers supplemented by far fewer numbers of A-26 Attack Destroyers (which means that not only will Bomber production be more limited, but the amount of Bugs your opponent is able to ram will be significantly less), or they may probably even tech up immediately to Breen Cruisers, as these alien warships have a 360 degree firing arc with their long range torpedo based attacks. Likewise, the Cruiser is a fair bit faster than all Borg units, asides from Scout Cubes, Adaptors, and Detectors. Since the amount of Breen Cruisers you will face initially will be small, you will probably be able to shrug off these attack easily enough, but it is wise to follow the vessels and thereby use your Sphere as a shield so that your Detectors can pick off Breen warships at long range.

Against the Federation (Early Game)

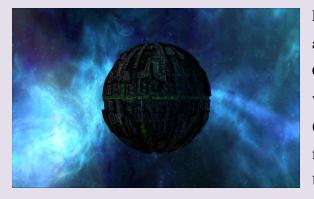
When invading the Federation with your first Sphere you must expect to be attacked by Sabers,
 Canaverals armed with Sensor Blackout, and vessels available from the Warp In. If you let your

Federation opponent gain enough resources, you will also be attacked by the artillery range tricobalt torpedo from Intrepids. As most of the Warp In vessels are medium range and/or slow (except for the relatively weak Excelsior), even if you are hit by Sensor Blackout (which decreases your rate of fire by 75% for 25 seconds) you will easily be able to dispatch one or even two combined Warp-Ins. Make certain to target the Canaverals first, because the Prime Module will stop the vessels from using their special ability again. If you are facing very few numbers of Federation ships, it is best to keep your Sphere moving around so that you can pick of the more agile Federation vessels, while the lumbering Warp-Ins struggle to reach you in time. Note that a Mayson opponent will be able to get Warp-In vessels slightly earlier than Risner, but a Risner opponent will be able to produce Intrepid-class vessels sooner.

Note that against all of these non-Borg factions, if you find that a Sphere is more than adequate for dispatching your opponent's forces, use your four Detectors to destroy mining vessels while your Sphere is punishing their main force and thereby push aside any hopes of fighting back effectively. It is also important to mention that if, on the off chance, your opponent has not expanded when you have finished construction of your first Sphere (you should check by scouting), do not think this means you have won. For instance, a Martok opponent can easily produce enough SuS'a's to overwhelm your Sphere--even without expanding--if you do not go after his or her mining at the main base with both the Sphere and Detectors.

After the Resource Assimilator that you queued up after the two Detectors is complete you should be approaching 30 or so Collective Connections. Continue harassment and do not let your opponent build up a large force. Note that your Detectors can quite easily deal with most faction's destroyers and even many cruisers due to their ability to fire from long range as well as get out of harm's way very quickly. When you reach 50 Collective Connections, build another Sphere with the same layout as the first and construct an additional two Detectors and a Resource Assimilator to mine Tritanium. At this point you should have a total of six Detectors (assuming that you have lost none) and have produced two Spheres total.

While building this tritanium Resource Assimilator you should accumulate just enough funds to purchase



Energy Nodes Level 2. Do so immediately. These actions will allow you to begin accumulating the necessary funds and Collective Connections to build even more powerful Borg vessels later on. When you have roughly 1600 dilithium (tritanium is unlikely to be your limiting factor if you have been following this build) you should create another Collective Uplink and build your third Sphere with three Regeneration

Modules and one Prime Module. You should have roughly 10 Collective Connections at this point. Note that

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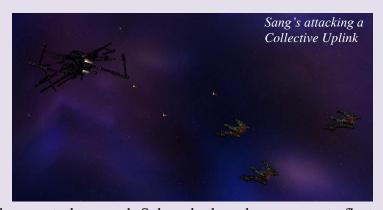
while a Sphere that has an additional Prime Module will be able to quickly weaken special weapons units, the Regeneration ability becomes roughly half as powerful (even despite the slight boost in offensive cababilities and special energy reserves). Later in the game this type of Sphere is somewhat feasible, but this early your best bet is the three Regeneration and one Prime Module Sphere.

Queue up an additional Detector and then another Resource Assimilator to mine dilithium. At this point you should have just around 59 supplies. Before the Resource Assimilator begins construction, use your Assembly Node to build an Incubation Center (pause construction at the Assimilation Matrix if necessary). Upgrade the Incubation Center to produce supplies more quickly and construct an additional Center. This will allow you to gain enough supplies to build more Borg vessels.

If you have not already defeated or been defeated by your opponent at this point, you should start to see a greater influx of cruisers and anti-Borg bombers. As usual against factions that use cloak, have the Assimilation Matrix hotkeyed to decloak any retreating vessels.

Against the Klingons (Mid Game)

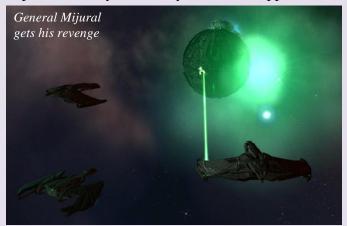
 When playing against a TaQ'roja opponent you will most likely face either many more Veqlaragh artillery vessels, or a combination of B'rels armed with Graviton Markers (to slow down your Spheres and prevent escape), powerful medium range K'beajQ cruisers and fast, long range Sang' vessels. At this point,



surrounding your opponent becomes key. Make sure to have each Sphere hotkeyed as a separate fleet and use each one to target an approaching B'rel separately. This will prevent any of these destroyers from using their Graviton Markers, as the first hit from a Prime Module will drain their energy much too quickly. When going after the torpedo based Sang's, try to box them in. Instead of following them with all two to three Spheres, have each one approach from a different direction and use your Detectors to aid. If your opponent has very few Sang's you can also simply chase them around with your extremely resilient Spheres (retreating any that are heavily damaged so that if the Sang's wish to follow, they must suicidally go through your other Spheres). In the meantime, use the Detectors to cruelly destroy any remaining Topmey mining vessels. Against Martok you are unlikely to enter combat with any long range unit—other than the very fast Sang' cruiser which is available to both Klingon avatars.

Against the Romulans (Mid Game)

When playing against a Helev avatar foe you will most definitely face Generix Support refits. If you have been harassing constantly, you will not have to deal with many Rhienns or Griffins. Simply follow the guidelines that were described in the Romulan early game section. Depending on how often you have attacked, you must expect to also encounter minefields laid by the Support refits and even shield recharging capabilities. Minefields will become your undoing, so try at all costs to stay away from them. Sometimes however, it will become unavoidable, so sacrifice a Detector or two to allow you to in turn annihilate their expansion or main base structures. Towards the end of the middle game, you should also encounter Generix Spectre refits which will be much more resistant towards torpedo weaponry. It is very important that you destroy Generix Support refits first, followed by Griffins and the other vessels.



Remember that Generix refits and Griffins are medium range, so keep your Spheres retreating so that they cannot get locked on by mines and so that they are attacked by as few Romulan vessels at one time as possible. Against Mijural you will likely face Serkas class artillery vessels and long range Cehlaer warbirds. This combination is extremely powerful against the Borg, but Serkas

warships are extraordinarily weak. If you keep your Detectors moving (well away from the beam based Cehlaers) you should have no trouble avoiding their slow area of effect quadcobalt torpedoes while you destroy these slow starships. Cehlaer starships can be upgraded to carry a special Disruptor Bombardment weapon which will completely incapacitate one of your Borg vessels for ten seconds. Make sure to keep your Spheres following these Cehlaers closely, so that they don't simply incapacitate you at range and prevent you from closing in and firing. To limit the time with which these Cehlaers can use their special weapons, have all of your Prime Module equipped Spheres target the same warbird.

Against the Federation (Mid Game)

• When playing against a Mayson adversary you will most likely face a significant quantity of short ranged Intrepids armed with their artillery range tricobalt torpedo as well as the beginnings of a fleet of long ranged Excelsior II's. These Eraudi Yard cruisers will most likely be armed with the Anti Capital Ship Torpedo, which does a great deal of damage against your Borg vessels. Likewise, you will undoubtedly face Blackout equipped Canaverals. Target the Canaverals first to prevent them from ever using their debilitating special ability again. Make sure that none escape by using your Detectors to pick them off carefully. Note that as most Federation units are long range and have beam weaponry, if your

opponent is quite skilled, you should not introduce your scouts into the combat zone as they will undoubtedly be quickly destroyed. Instead, it is best to target unprotected mining vessels while your Spheres engage your opponent's fleet. As usual, retreat damaged Spheres (usually those that are suffering about 25% hull damage). Most players will try to chase after the Sphere, and if you coordinate your other two vessels appropriately, those previously long ranged Federation vessels will have to fly past your medium ranged Spheres first. Try to destroy the Intrepids first, as they will have to close within short range to use their weaponry, while relatively fast Excelsior II's (with their thick shields) can retreat before you destroy them. When facing off against a Risner challenger you will most likely face greater numbers of more powerful Intrepids as well as medium ranged Akira warships (and of course Canaverals).

Against the Dominion (Mid Game)

• With a Puretech foe you will face more medium ranged A-20 Attack Destroyers, as well as A-26 Bombers, short range S-2 Escort Cruisers, C-11 Interception Destroyers, and possibly some C-17 Seige Cruisers. The extremely weak C-11 Interception Destroyers can increase the attack range of friendly vessels and the S-2's will power up the offensive capabilities of nearby vessels. Consequently, when you first engage your foe it is best to outright destroy these support ships first to dramatically lessen the potential firepower being leveled at you. Since most of the long range Dominion vessels that you will face are not beam based, using your Detectors to help destroy potentially suicidal Bugs as well as the C-11's (both destroyers) will work quite well. Against a Breen opponent you will face more and more Breen Cruisers (and perhaps a few S-2's and C-11's to increase their firepower and weapon range). Cornering these vessels is a must, so make sure to have your Spheres approach from different directions, otherwise you will never be able to take out these warships.

If you have made substantial gains (having destroyed many of your opponent's vessels) but you feel that an all out push would cause you to lose a Sphere to more long ranged forces or station defenses, retreat your Spheres but continue to harass with Detectors. The next vessel you should be aiming to produce will be a Diamond—your "official" support unit. The Diamond has four Module slots available to it.

When you gain almost 90 Collective Connections, construct another Collective Uplink and select the Diamond Chassis. This long ranged vessel is best equipped with a Regeneration Module, a Beam Module, and two Diamond Modules. This setup will allow your Diamond to deal damage to both large targets with its built in torpedo and small targets with its infallible beam weapon. While your three Spheres are attacking at the front lines, the Diamond will engage vessels from a safe distance. The Diamond Modules will allow you to target

each of your Spheres once before running out of special energy with the Bring Order to Chaos special ability. Lasting for one minute, this doubles the subsystem repair rate as well as the damage dealt by each of your Spheres. As the special energy recharge rate is quite quick, you can keep casting the Diamond's ability with relatively small interruptions.

After beginning construction of the Diamond, select your Assembly Node and construct one Collective Uplink. Immediately begin construction of a Transmission Matrix with your constructor. By building the Collective Uplink before the Transmission Matrix, you will have ensured that when you have enough priority you will be able to continue building units. At this point the Borg strategy reaches a bifurcation. If you are doing very well and would like to wait for some additional shields you can pass the time until you get an additional 50 Collective Connections, whereupon you will build another Sphere. If on the other hand you would like some long range firepower you should immediately construct an Assimilator as soon as you reach 30 Collective Connections.

If you go the Assimilator route, you should base your module selection on what your opponents forces consist of. Most likely since you are entering late game you will be facing more base defenses as well as the beginnings of battleships. If this is what you feel you will need to destroy, arming your long range Assimilator with two Torpedo Modules and a Regeneration Module is best. This will give you some limited regenerative capabilities, as well as extremely powerful destructive powers. If alternatively you are still facing many cruisers and destroyers, producing an Assimilator armed with one Beam Module instead of the second Torpedo Module will increase your defense and allow you to always deal damage to an enemy vessel. To allow continued production of these vessels, building a third fully upgraded Incubation Center after your second Assimilator is necessary. If you choose to build Spheres, you will not need the third Incubation Center for awhile.

Note that it is important that you always keep your long range Assimilators and Diamonds behind your medium range Spheres, as they are not nearly as good at soaking up damage. Assimilators tend not to bunch up very well (as opposed to Spheres) so you must individually micromanage them to insure that they fit together very well. Putting all of your long range units on low movement autonomy is advisable.

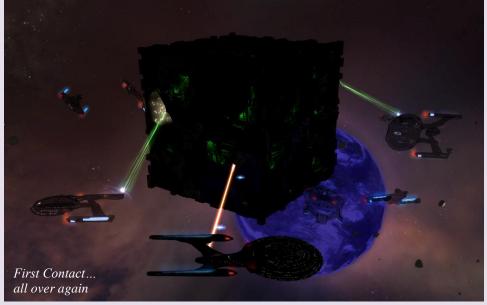
Against all Non-Borg Factions (Late Game)

When the Transmission Matrix has finally finished construction you should build another Collective Uplink if you have chosen to build additional Assimilators. At the same time select the Transmission Matrix and prepare to begin research on Borg Collective Features. If your opponent does not have a huge fleet (maybe around 10 or so total vessels), the first feature you should begin researching is Nanites. Used solely by your Diamond, this

ability casts a large swarm of tiny machines that will disrupt the GUI of your opponent as well as cause a great deal of damage to small and medium vessels that enter the field. However, as the damage dealt is split between the units in the effect radius, the later in the game this ability is used, the more worthless it becomes. Thus, if you are encountering large fleets, it is best to research Devastating Attack first (which will quickly remove the shields of your opponent's ships), followed by Partial Adaption, and Slicer. In no particular order Station Holding Beam and Sensor Relay (to allow you to detect incoming fleets as well as spot cloaked units and respond to them with your albeit slow moving vessels) should follow. The Station Holding Beam will allow you to surely capture any would be harassers due to the incredible energy reserves available. If you plan on constructing Auto-Assimilator equipped Assimilators, it is best to research Boarding (to let you quickly recrew captured enemy vessels, as well as more efficiently take over your opponent's ships) instead of Slicer. One strategy that can be employed to use the Sensor Relay in combat is to select all Borg vessels and drop a Relay in the midst of your opponent's forces and then withdraw slightly. If he or she is not intensely micromanaging the warships, those vessels will target the Sensor Relays instead of your vessels and give you a few seconds without weapons fire.

If on the other hand you would prefer to have some late game efficient harassment options, instead of researching Station Holding Beam and Sensor Relay, research Transwarp. As you will undoubtedly accrue more dilithium and tritanium than you can use, build additional Detectors. Since these small vessels can use transwarp to travel an extremely long distance (many screens away), you can easily jump right into your opponent's mining from practically anywhere on the map and wreak havoc with the Detector's adapted photon torpedoes.

At this point Borg build order and fleet composition becomes very dependent on the whims of the player. After



building an additional three to four assimilators or another Diamond (highly recommended to allow you to continually use Bring Order to Chaos) and at least one Sphere instead of any Assimilators (or a combination of these vessels) you will no doubt have an incredible amount of funds, but very few Collective Connections. Consequently, research Energy

Nodes Level 3, build another maximized Incubation Center, and prepare to build an extremely cost effective

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Tactical Cube. Armed with three Torpedo Modules, two Tactical Armor Modules (reducing beam damage by 20%), and a Regeneration Module, this vessel just refuses to die, while meting out incredible punishment. This layout will cost about 4000 dilithium and is available after 130 Collective Connections have been acquired. Set on full weapons autonomy with all Collective Features researched, it will never run out of special energy. Most players will specifically target the Cube and ignore the other units because they believe that it will ensure their victory. This is actually not the case. The Cube represents an example beingly powerful.

victory. This is actually not the case. The Cube represents an overwhelmingly powerful defensive unit. To attack it and ignore the relatively weak (defensively speaking) Spheres, Assimilators, and even Diamonds will spell your end. Being less durable, these units are more easily taken out, but are often ignored in lieu of the Cube. Hence, if you can afford one Cube it



is often best to build one to redirect the firepower of an enemy's fleet in the wrong direction. The Cube has six Module slots available to it.

If you still find yourself not lacking for funds, but running out of Collective Connections, you should begin constructing cost effective Graviton Relays around your mining facilities as well as your Conduction Matrix and Incubation Centers. This will stop harassment, as well as give you added firepower if you ever need to retreat. However, be sure not to overdo it, as an extra Sphere or other large Borg vessel is much more useful. Remember, turrets do not move!

Notice that I have not mentioned building Scout Cubes, Adaptors, or Probes. Although Scout Cubes and Probes



equipped with the Transwarp Collective Feature might seem like excellent harassment vessels, the Detector is much more useful due to its speed and long ranged Adapted Photon Torpedo. Scout Cubes are short range, do not bunch up well, and are incredibly costly for their usefulness. Even though Probes are medium range and quite a bit faster, they are also much less durable, deal less damage and are *more* expensive than a Scout Cube. Adaptors are medium range and torpedo based. Consequently

they do not do well early game because they miss destroyers too often, and late game they are not cost effective enough and are only medium ranged. If you really do have too many resources, but yet not enough Collective Connections you can produce Probes.

Special Stations

The Recycling Center allows you to convert supplies into dilithium and tritanium over time. Although this sounds impressive (given that if you build a fourth Incubation Center you will never want for supplies again), in

actuality the structure is completely useless. It will take 41 minutes for you to gain back the resources on that structure, and at that point the negligible resources you will gain from its continued use will prove futile.

Against the Borg

Against an Optimize Directive adversary, after the Conduction Matrix is completed, research Resistance is Futile which instantly gives you 20 Collective Connections. Using your Assembly Node, construct a Collective Uplink and build an Adaptor immediately. Although it might be tempting to go for a powerful long-range Assimilator instead (which require 30 Collective Connections), the Adaptor fires its torpedo much more quickly than the Assimilator and you can build more of the Adaptors (they fill up with only two Modules and are also, as a result, cheaper). Similarly, although a number of small, short ranged Scout Cubes equivalent to the same resource costs as a medium sized Adaptor will actually do more damage, the Adaptor has medium range weaponry. This combined with the fact that it has the same movement speed as a Scout Cube means that you can usually keep Adaptors out of range of Scout Cubes as well as get off the opening shots. Finally, this is also the first Borg vessel that you can build that has a Torpedo Module, meaning that if your foe should try and build an Assimilator, you will hit it a hundred percent of the time.

After the first Adaptor is completed you must research Establish Energy Nodes Level 1 at the Conduction Matrix to slowly increase the rate at which Collective Connections accumulate over time. At the same time, you should attempt to expand to gain a resource advantage early on. Construct your second Collective Uplink and build another Adaptor. Upon starting construction of your fourth Adaptor, begin researching Establish Energy Nodes Level 2 to further increase the rate at which Collective Connections accumulate over time. As your expansion should be generating resources faster than you can consume them, Collective Connections will be your limiting factor until you research this upgrade.

If your opponent is using the same strategy as you, it is of the utmost importance to build a Transmission Matrix as soon as possible (in other words, before they do). Although this will initially slow down vessel construction (and thus you must insure you have a slight advantage before undertaking this task) it is imperative to tech up to a Transmission Matrix because of the large increase in firepower it gives your vessels. Do this by building at least two Collective Uplinks before beginning construction on your research center. Depending on how fast you gain resources, you should build more or less to insure that you have just enough resources to finish more adaptors (that way you can continuously field vessels, even as your Assembly Node is busy with the research station). If you have two moon pairs, generally you can build two Collective Uplinks and upgrade them into Adaptors by the time your Transmission Matrix finishes construction. Against the Borg, Devastating Attack is useless. Thus, it is wisest to research Slicer, and then Partial Adaption. This will leave you with six additional

slots. Data Mining, Nanites and Sensor Relay are your best bets. Sensor Relay when combined with Data Mining can allow you to keep tabs on enemy movement without sacrificing fleet strength by leaving Adaptors at crucial points on the map. Nanites involves more long term planning as you will only be able to use this feature upon building Diamonds and Cubes (it will essentially do no damage to most Borg units, but merely serve to disrupt your opponent's GUI). Since Adaptors have relatively large special energy reserves, they will be able to use Slicer up to three times before having to recharge. Consequently, since you wish to do the most damage immediately, Slicer is the best Collective Feature to purchase initially.

Since Adaptors will be your most effective unit against the Borg, there is no real need to build any other unit until you accumulate more than 50 Collective Connections. At this point you should begin building Spheres to supplement your force of Adaptors. To get the most out of

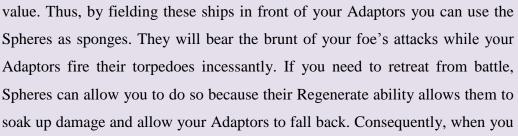


Prim

these Spheres, you should outfit them with three Regeneration Modules and a

Prime Module. Not only will this grant you access to the Sphere's special ability Regenerate,

but the Prime Module will grant you much more special energy to use the ability, as well as a sizeable increase to offensive





have fewer resources, but more Collective Connections, you should save up for a Sphere. Conversely, when you have more resources but much less than 50 Connective Connections, you should continue producing Adaptors.

As you gain more resources and expand, be sure to research the additional upgrades at the Conduction Matrix. As long as you have a large force of Adaptors and Spheres it is important that you try to accumulate enough Collective Connections (90) to produce Diamonds. These vessels are outfitted from the start with a graviton torpedo, and are perfect against other large Borg vessels. Likewise, Diamonds will still be



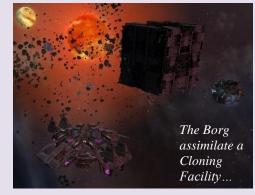
useful because of their ability to use Nanites, their long range weaponry, and their special Module, the Diamond Module. This grants the ability Bring Order to Chaos,



which enables the Collective to focus its attention upon a specified ship and to greatly increase the rate of subsystem regeneration and doubles the offensive power. Keep your few expensive long range Diamonds back so that they can use the Bring Order to Chaos special ability on your relatively weak Adaptors, while pounding your opponent's ships from afar. If you want your Diamonds to act as artillery support, outfit them with one Torpedo Module and the rest as Diamond Modules. If you expect them to engage in combat more frequently (or realize that your opponent might target them exclusively), add a Regeneration Module in lieu of one of the Diamond Modules.

Upon gaining 130 Collective Connections, you can decide to use Cubes. These are the ultimate hitters for Borg

versus Borg warfare. There is little risk of overkill when using their Torpedoes and these ships have extremely good armor and are great at getting in close to enemy ships and using a very powerful Slicer beam on them. Upgrade these ships with two Tactical Armor Modules, three Torpedo Modules, and one Regeneration Module to ensure longevity. These vessels are great distractions, even against the Borg, and will be the focus of enemy firepower. However, they are very difficult to get,



and it is most likely better to gain additional Spheres, Diamonds and Adaptors which will be able to deal more damage (and decrease your firepower by less when they are destroyed). Remember, there is nothing worse than running out of dilithium and tritanium on trying to complete a Tactical Cube when you could have done so much more damage with around nine much more maneuverable Adaptors.

Note again that when your supplies descend to around 100 it is necessary to start building Incubation Centers if you are expecting an extended game. Otherwise you can continue building until zero supplies, save the resources and hopefully win. Thus, you must build two Collective Uplinks (assuming two moon pairs) before beginning construction on an Incubation Center. This allows you to continue building vessels while your Assembly Node is busy manufacturing the facility. Once it is complete, immediately upgrade it to allow the Incubation Center to generate more supply.

Against an Assimilate Directive challenger you will be extremely hard pressed to win. Since an Assimilator opponent will be able to build much stronger Assimilators when getting 15 Collective Connections, they will have less trouble gaining adequate Connections and thus be forced to spend fewer resources on the upgrades. Thus it is of the utmost importance that you gain the upper hand in scouting. Make sure that you either prevent your opponent from scouting your base with his or her Detector by trying to lure it to its death or keep a very close eye on what sort of Assimilator your opponent is building.

If your opponent has built an Assimilator armed with two Torpedo Modules and a Nanite Module, do not build Adaptors, for these will be easily destroyed. Instead, begin building a Probe (which requires no Collective Connections) immediately after your first four Resource Assimilators are completed, and build as many Scout



Cubes outfitted with Regeneration Modules as possible. In between Assimilator torpedo strikes, these Scout Cubes will be able to regenerate much faster than normal, and thus actually dispatch your foe's Assimilator. Using Interception Modules is not a good idea, because these modules will actually get a damage penalty against the large-sized Assimilators. It is important

to note that the small size of the Scout Cube ensures that 40% of the Assimilator's torpedo strikes will actually miss. Thus because you cannot compete with the sheer firepower being leveled at you, going for avoidance is your best chance at survival. Note that you should continue building Resource Assimilators as needed after the first Probe and three Scout Cubes are done, making sure not to slow down additional Scout Cube production too much.

If on the other hand your opponent builds Assimilators armed with a Beam Module, Regeneration Module, and Nanite Factory Module, build Adaptors. Beam Modules will always hit your Scout Cubes and Probe and thus be able to destroy them much faster. Using Adaptors

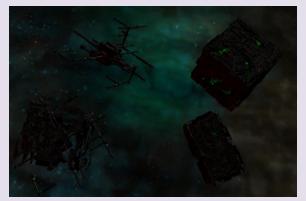


is thus beneficial because their higher defense and offense guarantees their survival against this Assimilator layout. Any other combination of modules leveled against you can be dispatched be either Adaptors or Scout Cubes (unless you face two Torpedoes and a Regeneration Module Assimilator: this should be dealt with by the Scout Cube combination again). Ideally you should begin expanding (and thus constructing additional Resource Assimilators) right after completing the second Adaptor, to maintain a resource advantage against your Assimilate opponent.

By the time your Assimilate opponent has constructed an Assimilator, you should have either built almost two Adaptors (one will be constructing) or one Probe and nearly three Scout Cubes (one will still be constructing). Note that because these two methods are quite unforgiving and thus incompatible with each other, it is extremely important that you have scouted well. To build Adaptors, you must first research Resistance is Futile at the Conduction Matrix and proceed to build the first Adaptor. While the second Adaptor is building, research the Establish Energy Nodes Level 1 upgrade. To build Scout Cubes, simply research Establish Energy Nodes Level 1 at the outset and you will gain enough resources at about the same rate that you will have enough Collective Connections. Note that in either case, it is very likely that your Assimilate foe has already begun constructing an additional Assimilator, so build quickly.

If you survive the initial onslaught of mindless Assimilator spam, you can proceed in the same fashion as you did against an Optimize opponent with a few minor caveats. If you have used the Scout Cube route, it is best to continue producing additional Scout Cubes and Probes and upgrade to the Level 2 Energy Node when you begin obtaining resources faster than Collective Connections. If you are left with surviving vessels after each encounter (you should press your opponent if they do not attack you at the onset because a lone Assimilator is

much less dangerous than two because your Scout Cubes will have a greater chance to regenerate then) you



should consider constructing a Transmission Matrix and researching Transwarp immediately (followed by Partial Adaption, Slicer, Sensor Relay, and Nanites). Consequently, when your Scout Cubes are badly damaged, simply Transwarp them out of range of the Assimilators, ensuring that you are constantly cycling new Scout Cubes into battle to wear down your opponent. If you do use this method, make sure that Scout

Cubes that are being attacked are not using their special weapons automatically, otherwise they will not have enough special energy to be able to use Transwarp. If you have gone with the Adaptor route, research Slicer first (followed by Partial Adaption, Data Mining, Sensor Relay, and Nanites). Your eventual goal should be to begin producing Spheres armed with three Regeneration Modules and a Prime Module, as you did in the Optimize versus Optimize strategy.

Note that if you can survive until at least middle game (when initial supplies have dropped to less than 100) against your Assimilate Directive opponent, you will most likely win. Since Optimize Incubation Centers are upgradeable, you will be able to continue producing for much cheaper. Thus a valid strategy with Optimize is to simply try to create a war of attrition with your adversary.



Directive - Assimilate

Gives access to two new units:

- Pyramid
- Nanite Factory Module Assimilator and Pyramid

Gives access to the following benefits:

- The Assimilator Module reaches its maximum capacity with just 2 modules installed
- Assimilator collective connections costs reduced by 50 percent and increased Defensive Value of Assimilators and Pyramids by 20
- Equips Assimilation Matrixes with the Matrix-Teleport special ability which allows you to transport drones from your Assimilation Matrix to any friendly vessel in the sector (teleports 150 drones per usage. The target's shield may remain active during the transport).

When you play as this avatar, you will notice very quickly that it is extremely simple to get very high powered units early in the game. While Scout Cubes and Probes were useful for the Optimize Directive, for an

Assimilate player, these two types of vessels are close to useless. As the long range torpedo-based Assimilator only requires 15 Collective Connections to be constructed, you can build this vessel before even medium ranged Adaptors. Consequently, when playing as Assimilate this vessel is a must. Likewise, because this Assimilator gets a boost of 20 in defensive value, it is much more cost effective to start off by building an Assimilator and even ignore Scout Cubes.

This being said, you should begin by using the general build order which was laid out in the first section of Borg Strategy. After the Conduction Matrix is completed construct your first Collective Uplink and research Establish Energy Nodes Level 1 to slowly increase the rate at which Collective Connections accumulate over time. When you have enough Collective Connections, you should also have almost enough resources to select the Collective Uplink and build the Assimilator chassis. Now comes the crucial step—choosing modules. If you have done well and scouted your opponent's base to know exactly what units he or she is building you can choose the appropriate modules with which to configure your Assimilator.

Note that as Resource Assimilators are fairly expensive, it is wisest to wait until you have built your second Assimilator before expanding to a second moon set. Although this will hurt you later in the game, this will allow you to get out these two powerful vessels more quickly and cripple your opponent's weak expansions early on.

To defeat non-Borg factions, it is highly recommended that your first Assimilator is constructed with assimilation in mind. Your opponent will undoubtedly be fielding many destroyers in this stage of the game and thus it is much easier and useful to try and capture these vessels because



of their low crew complements (most of these starships have less than 50 crewmembers). Consequently, you should attempt to outfit your early Assimilators with two Auto-Assimilator Modules and a Nanite Module. This layout will give your Assimilator the ability to assimilate roughly 185 individuals before running out of special



energy. Even though a Regeneration Module might seem to be better than a Nanite Module because of the 10% increase in hull regeneration and extra special energy, it is most definitely not. A Nanite Module gives the Assimilator plus 14 in defensive stats and the extra three system value from the Regeneration Module only allows you to assimilate five or so extra crew

members. To gain the advantage when playing this avatar, it is very wise to immediately go on the offensive. As soon as your first Assimilator is completed, send it into battle as your opponent will likely have very few destroyers with which to counter it. Likewise, because every non-Borg faction will have begun to build expansion mining facilities, you run a very good chance of coming across a relatively undefended mining outpost—which can be assimilated very quickly.

When you finally sally forth to assimilate your opponent, be careful that you have set your special weapons autonomy to low so that your Assimilator does not discharge its Nanite Factory ability and waste a third of your special energy. To make the best use of your assimilation skills, it goes without saying that you should control your assimilation beams and assimilate the lowest crewed vessels first as you will then be able to rapidly deplete your opponent's firepower as well as gain some yourself. To save yourself some time, only transport a few of your drones onto these captured vessels (from the Assimilator) and keep the Assimilation Matrix hotkeyed to an easily reachable key. With good coordination, you can thus use the Matrix-Teleport special ability from the Assimilation Matrix to instantly fully recrew the weakly crewed vessels you just captured (the ability teleports 150 crew to any friendly vessel in the sector). Likewise, as Matrix-Teleport does not lower the shields of the targeted vessel, you can keep your assimilated starships from being destroyed more easily.

Since you will be likely attacking your opponent's expansion mining first there is a good chance that a mining outpost, miners, and a construction vessel will be present. If a construction ship is building a turret, try to destroy it first as another weapon attacking you is the last thing you need. The high crew compliment (around 100) however makes it less efficient to assimilate. Next, concentrate on your opponent's destroyers, as these vessels will have the lowest crew of all ships but scouts. Of course, there are always some special circumstances and exceptions to every rule:

Assimilating the Klingons

• Against the Klingons assimilate Topmey class freighters only if they are the lowest crewed vessel on the



scene. Since these ships have the ability to jettison their cargo holds and become fairly weak K't'inga class destroyers, if you cannot find any B'rels (30 crew!) to capture, the Topmey is probably your prey of choice. Note that if you are facing Martok Klingons and your opponent is spamming SuS'a's, the best chance you have to defeat these units is to initially build Assimilators armed with a Regeneration, Nanite, and Beam Module. This will also allow you to attack slightly earlier as dilithium

accumulates more rapidly than tritanium and thus you will be able to take out these destroyers before they reach critical mass.

Assimilating the Dominion

• When attacking the Dominion with your first Assimilator, pick your assimilation targets carefully as the

closest A-20 Attack Destroyers are also the most likely to ram you. Consequently, pay attention to those Bugs that aren't attacking you with polaron beam weaponry, but are instead heading straight for your Assimilator. Unless these vessels are far enough away that you think you can assimilate their 55 odd crew members (about 5 seconds),



ignore them. They will ram your Assimilator, crushing its engines for a short while. Consequently, although it seems as if you should stop this from occurring, in all likelihood the only thing you will gain by trying to assimilate these particular kamikaze fighters is lost special energy. Instead, concentrate on assimilating the other Dominion Attack Destroyers. The next Dominion vessel you will likely be attacked with will be the *forward firing* A-26 Bomber. Used in conjunction with suicide Attack Destroyers, your opponents can keep your Assimilators at maximum range from their extremely fragilebut long range—Bombers. However, at this point you should have at least two Assimilators in the field. Try to use these to intercept potentially suicidal Bugs and assimilate them before they have a chance to ram you. These additional vessels will make quick work of the A-26 Bombers. Since the Bombers are armed with torpedoes, it is generally not very wise to assimilate these vessels. Even though they do the most damage to your Assimilators, they will not be very good at defeating the remaining enemy destroyers due to their 40% miss rate.

Assimilating the Federation

• If you are engaged in a struggle with the Federation, you will most likely be attacked by Canaverals

armed with Sensor Blackout. Do not bunch up your Assimilators, otherwise they will all be affected by the special weapon. Likewise, Assimilate these vessels first (it is unlikely your torpedoes will destroy these vessels before they can reach medium range and use Blackout) because the Federation relies on its support vessels heavily and thus they represent the greatest threat to your forces.



Assimilating the Romulans

• The Romulans will have several tactics that will be difficult for you to counter. Romulan Generix Support Refits will be introduced into battle shortly, and you must attempt to destroy or assimilate these



high of a crew complement.

vessels (they have a crew of 90) before they get within range of your vessels and disable their weapons. As special weapons have used from a single vessel have a delay of five seconds before they may be used again, do not allow too many of these vessels to accumulate, otherwise they will be able to keep your small fleet permanently weapons free. Similarly, the Griffin's Sensor Jammer can disable your weapons or sensors, but you should not try to assimilate this ship as it has much too

You might have noticed that an Assimilator decked out with two Auto-Assimilator Modules is quite tritanium expensive. Thus it is unlikely that you can continue to build this sort of Assimilator indefinitely. Depending on the amount of expansions that you control, eventually you will begin to accumulate more and more dilithium and run short on tritanium. If this happens after your third or so Assimilator, you should build an extremely dilithium heavy Assimilator which is outfitted with one Beam Module, a Regeneration Module, and a Nanite Module. Although a Torpedo Module (or two) would give your vessels greater overall firepower, the Beam Module allows your starship to always do some damage to destroyers and cruisers (which are still likely to be built at this stage), as well as improving defense. Likewise, the Regeneration Module allows your vessels to quickly recover from damage and last an incredible amount of time due to the already quickened hull repair rate due to the increase in system value from the Nanite Module. Note that you can move these vessels into the front lines, trigger the burst of nanites, and retreat to lower the crew of your opponent's vessels into the "yellow" zone. Ships that have their crew depleted to this amount will fire more slowly and repair at a snail's pace, allowing your vessels to take even less damage.

If on the other hand you control enough expansions that you only begin to run out of tritanium after building many Assimilators (probably around six or seven) you should invest your resources in constructing a Transmission Matrix to give your forces some much needed middle game power. If you are good at micromanaging your forces, researching Boarding first is best. At this point the Nanite Module's special ability, Nanite Factory, becomes quite useful. Able to kill 5% of the crew of all ships within the blast radius, this ability

used even just once can become combined with the Boarding Collective Feature to allow you to quickly capture enemy vessels. Since Boarding allows you to transport dozens of drones to any of your opponent's starship which lack even one crew member, every single vessel which is affected by Nanite Factory is potential prey. Likewise, using Boarding is more special energy efficient than using the Auto-Assimilator. Next, research



Devastating Attack so that you can take out the shields of vessels that have high crew counts in order to assimilate them with the good old fashioned transporter. Partial Adaption, Sensor Relay (if you are facing factions capable and willing to use cloaking vessels), and Nanites should follow. Sensor Relay allow you to drop a Relay for a small sum in order to provide a large sensor range, while revealing cloaked ships as well (I recommend dropping these stations

from a bunch of ships in the middle of battle to cause enemy ships to automatically target these instead of your vessels). The Nanites ability is only available to Diamonds and Cubes and does an incredible amount of area of effect damage to small and medium size ships while also giving the chance to scramble your opponent's GUI (which is downright irritating when you are trying to coordinate battle and base). Thus, if you are not expecting to field either of these two vessels at some point and would rather have some earlier short range power, research Slicer instead.

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to merely transport/assimilate crew the conventional way—or even outright

destroy them—researching Devastating Attack, Partial Adaption, Slicer is a good order. Note that if the map is big and there is a good chance that your opponent will try to take out your research or production facilities while your fleet is engaged elsewhere, also researching the Station Holding Beam is a wise



decision. This will give your Assimilation Matrix, Transmission Matrix, and Conduction Matrix a virtual 100% chance to assimilate an opponent's vessel which strays within medium range of these stations. Researching Perfect Logistics may seem like a good thing as it promises that *four* of your Resource Assimilators will generate additional dilithium and tritanium on their own, but in actuality the resource accumulation is extremely slow. If all four freighters are upgraded, you will have spent 600 dilithium, 600 tritanium, and 80 supply only to recuperate these funds *ten minutes later*. As you can imagine, the benefits do not outweigh the costs—even despite the increased durability of these four Resource Assimilators.

Eventually, however, you will run out of tritanium, and thus you must build Assimilators that do not rely on tritanium. If your opponent has begun building battleships (don't forget Romulan Generix Spectre Refits) it is

best to outfit your Assimilator with a Torpedo Module and the usual Nanite and Regeneration Modules. The extra Torpedo Module will always hit against those large targets, not to mention destroying them much quicker as each graviton torpedo deals a portion of its damage as direct hull damage to your opponent's vessels. Note that this does very well against Romulan battleships which are backed up by Generix Support Refits (which can otherwise rapidly recharge the shields of allied vessels).

Note that while you can continue producing Assimilators at about the rate you gather resources for the first few vessels, inevitably your resource production will overtake the rate at which you accumulate Collective Connections. Consequently, research the additional Establish Energy Nodes Level # when you gain enough resources for the next research level, but cannot gain Collective Connections fast enough. Do not research Resistance is Futile, because this will deplete your supplies (at the cost of 100 supplies) much more rapidly than the Assimilation avatar can hope to regain them.

Eventually you will either begin gaining Collective Connections faster than you can make use of them (with two to three pairs of moons, that is usually after the seventh or eighth Assimilator) or will want some greater staying power in your fleet. Although Spheres (available at 50 Collective Connections) look attractive—no euphemism intended—they are not worth the cost for the Assimilate Directive. This avatar's Assimilators are nearly as powerful as Spheres, and in actuality a good deal more useful. Instead, wait until you gain



80 Collective Connections in order to produce the Pyramid. This vessel has four slots available to it and can actually be set up to behave like Spheres. Outfit it with two regeneration modules (to gain the Regeneration special ability), a Nanite Module, and a Torpedo Module. This combination will allow your Pyramids to close with the enemy without taking significant damage, use Nanite Module to whittle down the crew of affected vessels, and finally employ Boarding to capture these starships. Although the decreased system value from not using a Holding Beam means that Regeneration cannot be sustained for as long, the graviton torpedo now deals part of its damage as direct hull damage and thus will cripple the battleships (and defense stations) that your foes are now likely to field.

Like the Optimize avatar, eventually you should try to horde 90 Collective Connections to produce a Diamond or even 130 Collective Connections to produce an extremely expensive Cube. Both of these vessels will allow you to very quickly destroy your opponent's cruisers and leftover destroyers with the Nanite special ability (if you researched it). Generally it is wise to attempt to produce one of these extremely powerful vessels only if you are not constantly being besieged and thus can bide your time.

It should be noted that later game it is a necessity to build more Incubation Centers over the course of the battle, although the Assimilation avatar's ability to rush out Assimilators means that it is possible to take a gamble in a one on one battle and build up extremely quickly without building any Incubation Centers in the hopes of garnering a quick victory. Do not let your supplies drop much below 120, otherwise it will become incredibly difficult for you to produce enough Incubation Centers to allow a reasonable uninterrupted rate of construction. Remember to produce extra Collective Uplinks before beginning Incubation Center construction. You will need six or more Incubation Centers in order to satiate the Assimilator deities.

Against the Borg

Against the Borg you have two module configurations that are useful. If your Optimize Borg opponent is constructing Adaptors to combat your forces, your Assimilator should be outfitted with two Torpedo Modules and the Nanite Factory Module to boost your offense and defense significantly. As torpedoes only miss 20% of the time against Adaptors, the extra direct hull damage given by the second Torpedo Module will do wonders against medium and large vessels. Although the Regeneration Module looks attractive, it does not offer significant benefits in this configuration, and will fall quicker than the Nanite Module which boosts defense by 14. If on the other hand you realize that your Borg adversary is building Scout Cubes and Probes, the above configuration will do poorly. Instead, you must use a Beam Module, Regeneration Module, and Nanite Module. As the Assimilator is primarily armed with a torpedo, the Beam Module will allow your vessel to always do some damage, which is extremely vital against these small torpedo evading vessels. An Optimize opponent can construct at most three

At this point, it is important to begin constructing additional Resource Assimilators to allow you to continue production. Your two Assimilators should at this time be more than enough to handle your opponent's forces as long as you keep whittling them down and staying on the offensive. Following the same guidelines as against the other factions, continue researching Energy Nodes and produce the same Pyramid, Cube layout etc.

Scout Cubes and a Probe by the time your first Assimilator is built. If your Assimilator is outfitted with the

Modules described above, it will be able to survive this attack and thus your second Assimilator should have no

problem helping you to secure your opponent's resources.

Borg Mixed Technology Unit Overview

Collective Uplink Vessels (Optimize/Assimilate)	Vessel Stats								Vessel Cost		
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Drones	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Adaptor	Medium Cruiser	23	23	23	100	Т	M	800	313 447	144 206	22
	Requires 20 Collective Connections. Two module installation limit. Adaption Module: Adapts to [faction] weaponry, reducing the damage received from [faction] sources by 25% per module (+8/+12 to Off/Def). Limit of two modules once the Adaption Matrix is built. Regeneration Module: Increases hull regeneration rate and reduces the chance of subsystem failure (+4 to Off/Def/Sys). Limit of one. Torpedo Module: Modifies Graviton Torpedoes to deal portion of their damage as direct hull damage (+12 to Off).										



Borg Mixed Technology Unit Analysis

Although Adaptors do not serve much of a purpose against non-Borg opponents (a few Scout Cubes will do a better job), mixed tech Adaptors are quite useful for the Optimize Directive (for Directive: Assimilate, Assimilators are *much* better). After you capture an opponent's construction ship you will get the option to construct an Adaption Matrix. Unlike other factions which must



research their captured alien technology, all you need in order to build mixed-tech Adaptors is to build the Adaption Matrix. When you accumulate 20 Collective Connections for both avatars you will notice that upon selecting an Adaptor for construction, a new module can now be selected. This Adaption Module gives your Adaptors a 25% reduction in damage incurred by the faction for which you built the Adaption Matrix. In other words, if you build an Adaption Matrix for the Dominion, a fully "adapted" Adaptor will take 50% less damage from Dominion forces.

Likewise, despite still only having a graviton torpedo as its basic weapon (which often misses against the earlygame destroyers) the Adaptor becomes more cost effective than upgrading to an Assimilator, or downgrading to Scout Cubes (especially when Collective Connections are of concern). With two Adaption Modules, the base defense of the Adaptor becomes 47, which exceeds that of the Assimilator for substantially less resources. For the Adaptor it is always better to equip each

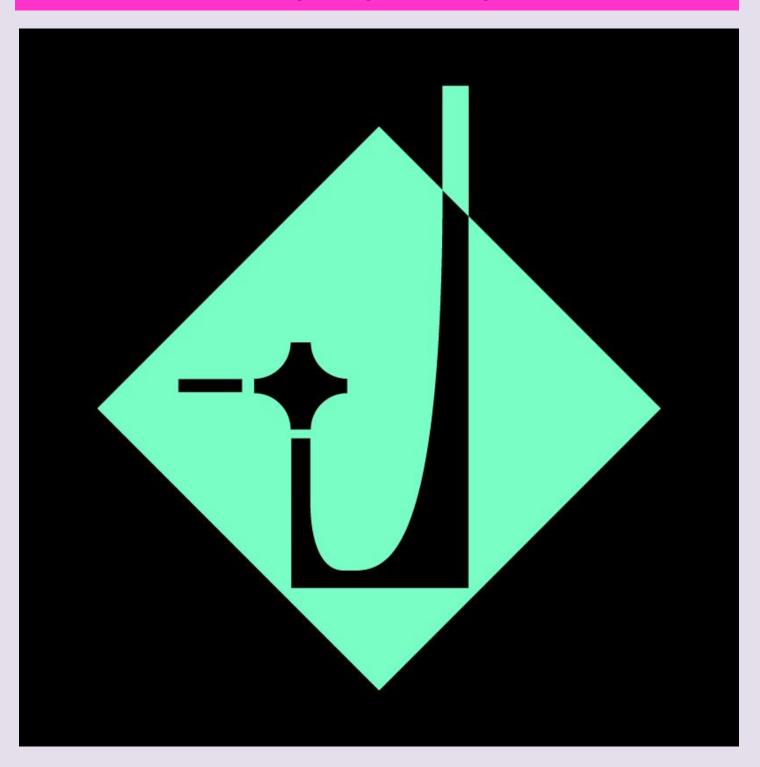




vessel with two Adaption Modules as the damage decrease far makes up for the loss of a slightly greater boost in regenerative capabilities. Early, mid-game, and even late game a mixed-tech Adaptor is very powerful. However, the Adaptor with its quick firing torpedoes is best used against your opponent's cruisers (due to the decreased miss chance) and battleships.

Consequently, it is best to begin building these vessels only after you are being harangued by your opponent's cruisers. Mixed-tech Adaptors also retain their avatar bonuses (so for the Optimize avatar, they still have a 30% reduction for cost on the Adaptor chassis). With their large special energy reserves, it is of the utmost importance to build a Transmission Matrix to allow these vessels to make use of Slicer up to three times in quick succession, for instance. If nothing else, these mixed-tech vessels will serve as damage soaking shields for your Scout Cubes and other non adapted vessels. Note that an Adaption Matrix will give your assimilated vessels the ability to be repaired and recrewed there.

The Dominion



Things to Note

Dominion game play is an exciting and unique experience compared to the Federation, Klingons, and Romulans. Stations and chassis upgrades are not required to unlock new ships. Any ship can be built from a yard, so long as its prototype has been built. Prototypes are vessels with the same stats, but without the special abilities of the vessel you want to build. Keep this ship safe, because if it is destroyed, you will no longer be able to build new ships of this type until you rebuild your prototype. However, any ships of the prototype's design in the building queue will still be constructed even if the prototype is lost.

It is important to scout early and everywhere, because it is best for the Dominion to attack as soon as possible with its A-20 Attack Destroyers to cripple enemy expansions. Also, the Puretech Hyperspace Sensor System requires that an area be explored before it can be used, and it is easier to scout during the first few minutes of the game.

The Dominion has one of the most complicated economies in Fleet Operations. What sets them apart is their heavy need for supply, which simulates the production and distribution of Ketracel-white. For the Federation, Klingons, and Romulans, supply is simply something bought at the starbase when it gets low. It is a soft limit for ship construction, nothing more. But it is a major resource for the Dominion, as important as Dilithium or Tritanium. To confirm how important supply is, the Dominion has been given a new type of mining station, the Ketracel Synthesizer, to mine supply directly from any moon. This process only takes a few seconds, and is very efficient because most factions have a small two to three second window where no mining occurs when only using 2 miners. Supply miners then become the perfect fit. Unloading supply at the Ketracel Synthesizer takes a longer period of time in order to balance out the speed at which miners can gather supply from these moons.

The standard way to place Ketracel Synthesizers is to have one between two moon pairs, after you have built your dilithium and tritanium Space Refineries. At your expansions, have one of your tritanium miners switch to construction mode to build the Synthesizer, rather than wait for a construction ship from your Cloning Facility, while creating replacements for your tritanium gathering. An alternative way to place Synthesizers is to eventually have up to four surrounding one tritanium moon. This is useful on large maps when you want to lay in heavy defensives in one place, such as your main base, to protect your supply income.

Playing the Dominion well means becoming comfortable with the more complex economy they need to have and maintain. It is important to build Ketracel Synthesizers as soon as possible, but not at the expense of shutting down ship production.

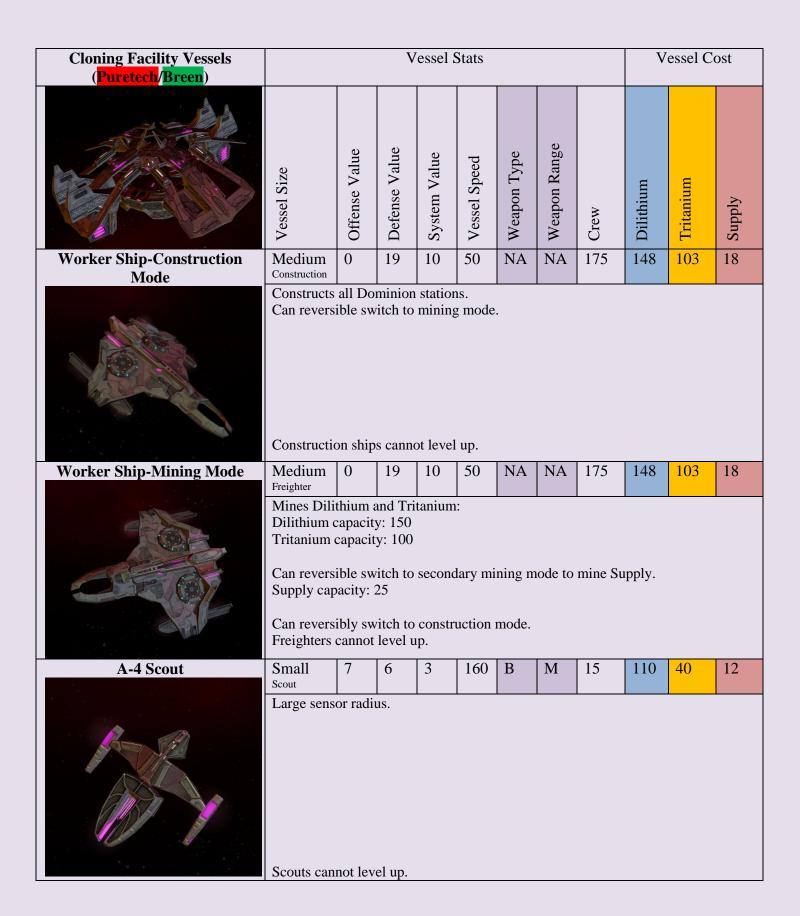
A-20 Attack Destroyers (also known as "Bugs") are an incredibly cost effective ship. While a decent destroyer stat wise, they are most useful in their dying moments. Using collision, a bug can ram a vessel, doing direct hull damage. Any non-Borg vessel with a defense less than 30 will be instantly destroyed. Any vessel not destroyed will have their engines disabled for 10 seconds, with major hull damage and possible damage to one of their subsystems.

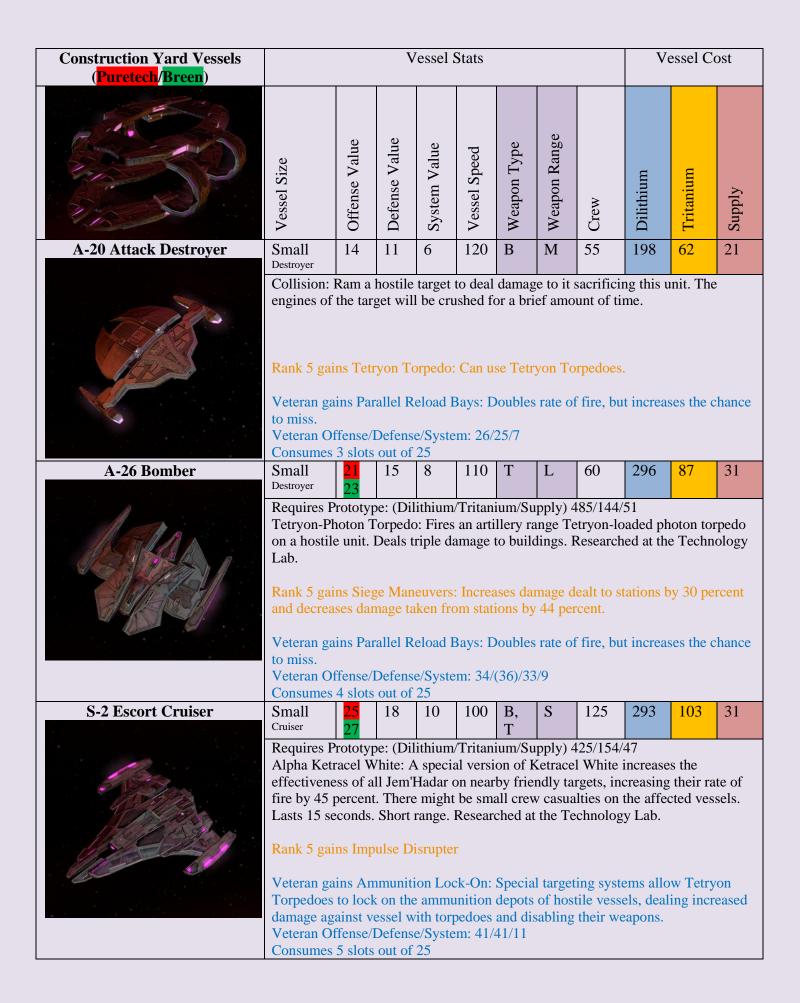
It is best for your ships to be set to low special weapon autonomy, as many of the Dominion's abilities are situational, and should be controlled by the player.

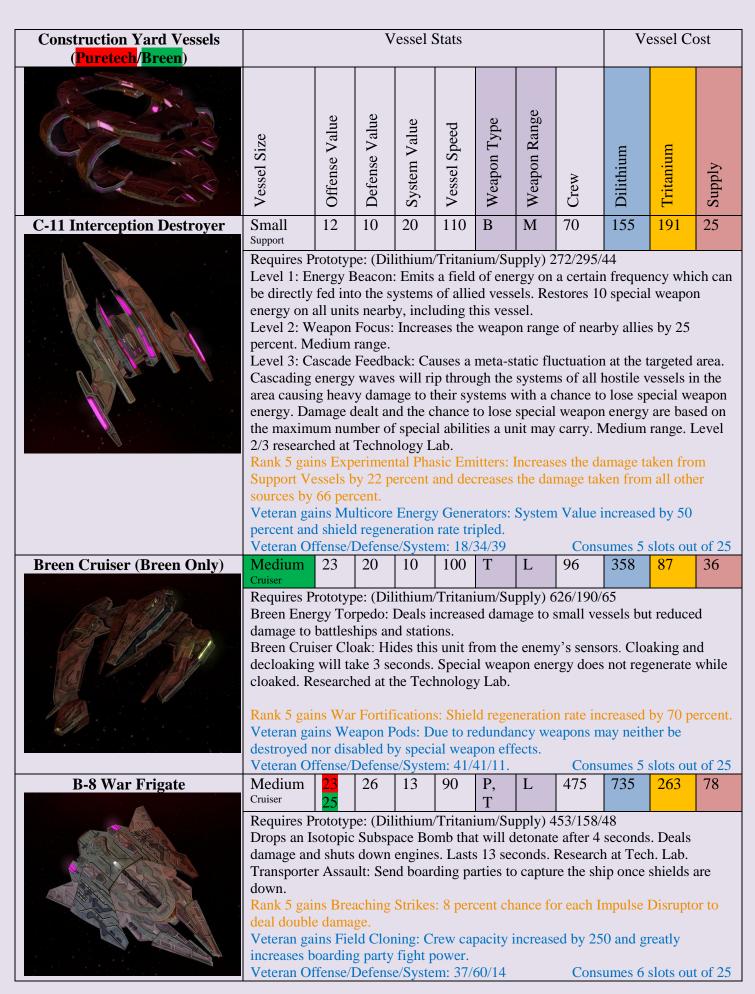
Dominion workers act as both construction ship and miner. Due to this flexibility, there is rarely any need for a dedicated construction ship, as there is always a task for a Worker Ship to do. Miners can also be pulled off of duty temporarily to construct something near a base or expansion, if needed. Also, send one miner away if your main base gets attacked. If your base is destroyed, that one Dominion worker can replicate more workers by constructing Space Refineries, quickly rebuilding your economy and eventually a new base from which to strike.

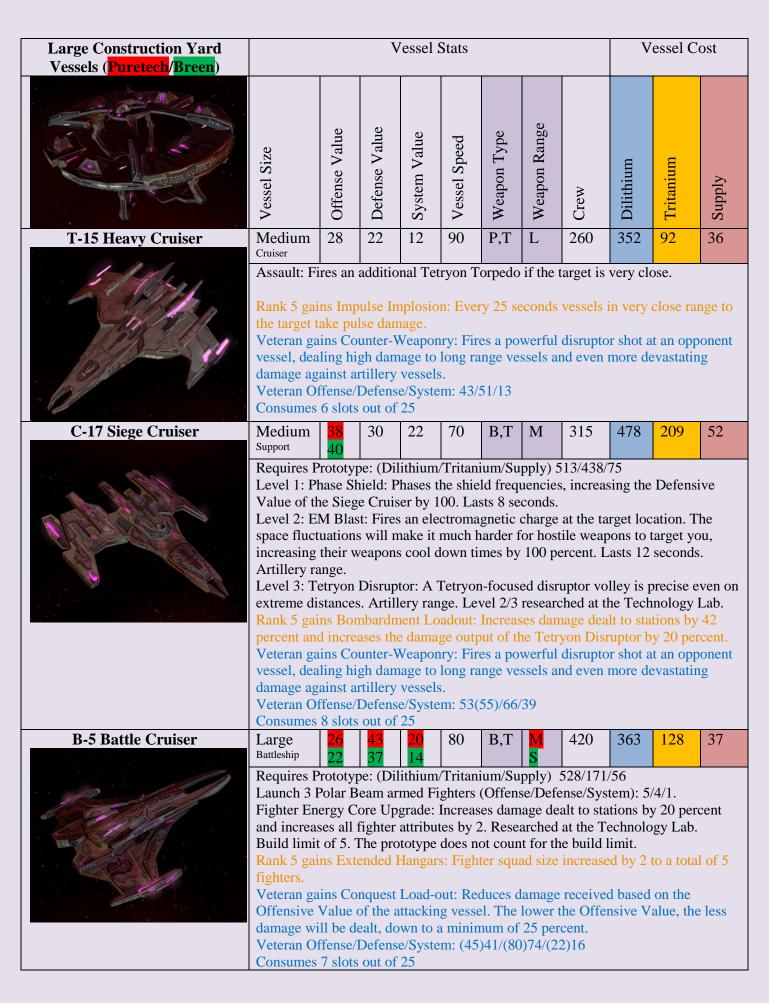


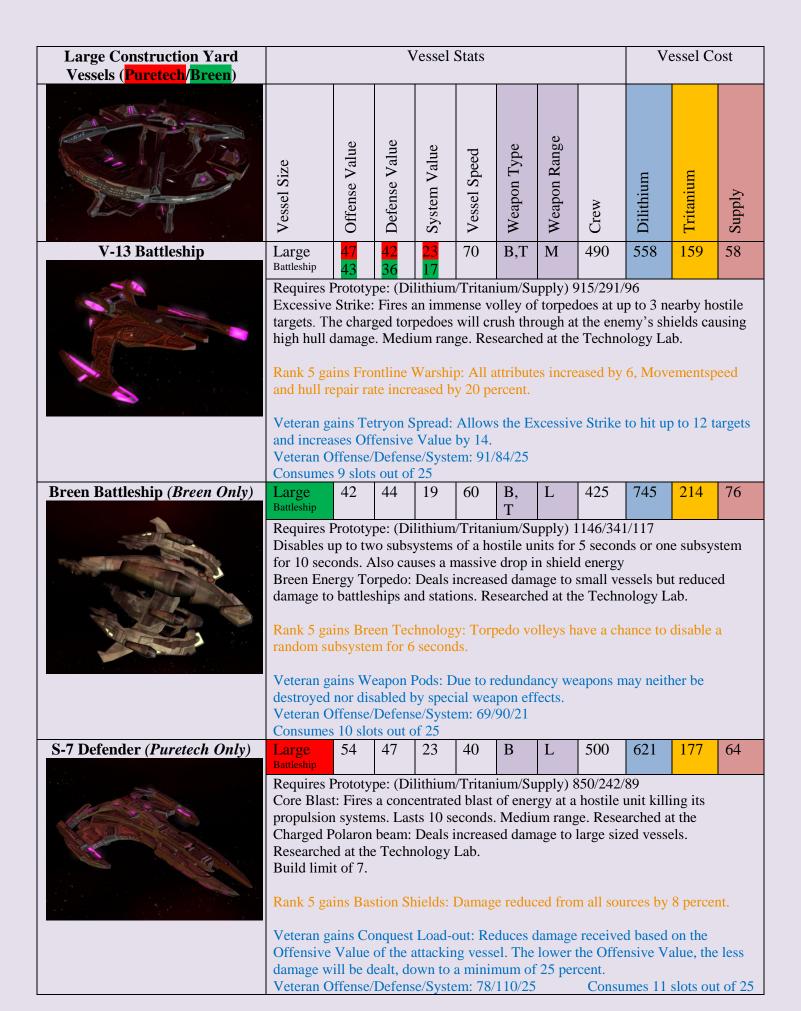
Dominion Unit Overview (note that prototypes can't use special abilities)





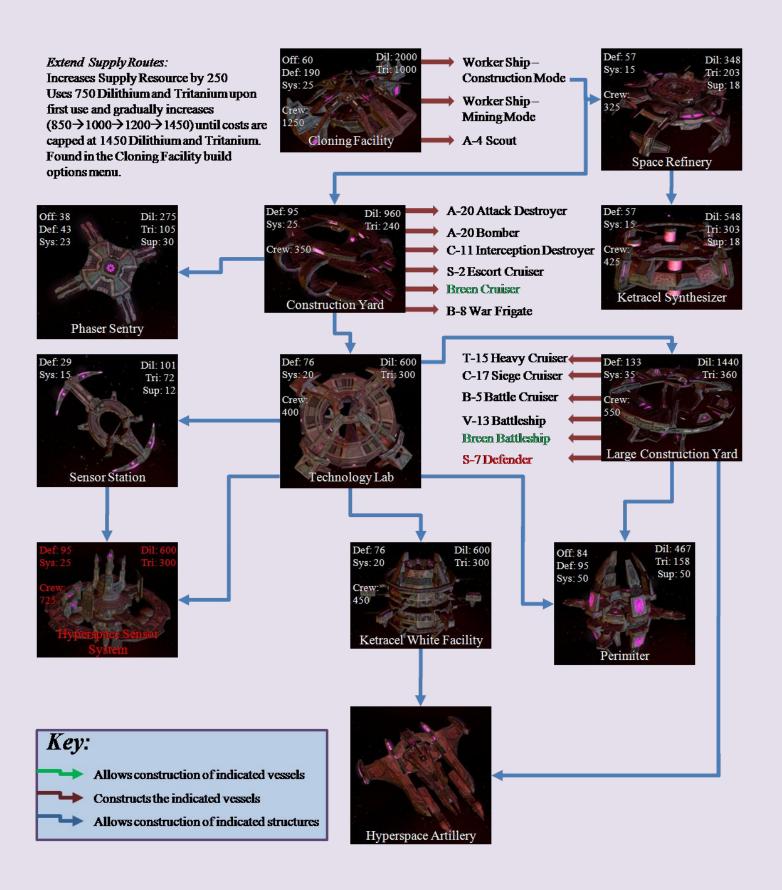






Vessels built by the Worker Ship in Construction Mode (Puretech/Breen)	Vessel Stats							Vessel Cost			
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Hyperspace Artillery	Large Battleship	72	38	20	50	NA	>A	490	490	300	100
	Fires the hyperspace artillery at the selected coordinates, leaving nothing but destruction behind. Gives a five second countdown to all units on the battlefield and then fires. Units in the center of the explosion will suffer additional direct hull damage for 10 seconds. Deals double damage to buildings. Hits cloaked vessels. Range is more than artillery. Build limit of one with Breen Alliance and two with Puretech Cannot level up.										

Dominion Technology Tree



Dominion Strategy

General Build Order: You start with two Worker Ships in construction mode and an A-4 Scout. Order one worker to build a Construction Yard while the other builds a Space Refinery at the nearest dilithium moon. At the same time queue up two construction ships at the Cloning Facility. The first worker you actually build will then construct a Space Refinery at the nearest tritanium moon, while the second will head off to the nearest dilithium expansion. It is important to note that any Worker Ship constructing a Space refinery will then switch to mining mode and become the second miner for each moon.

Once you construct your first yard, have your worker construct a second yard next to it, while producing four bugs from the first yard. Have the second yard produce three bugs when it is finished, and send that worker to the nearest tritanium expansion. This should leave just enough resources to build Space Refineries at the

expansions. Once both dilithium and tritanium expansions are constructed, full bug production can resume. This works extremely well on maps where the moon expansions are far away. To maintain a constant flow of Attack Destroyers, it is usually best to allow the supply count to reach the low thirties, relying on at least the first supply purchase at the Cloning Facility to maintain ship production. Once you have enough

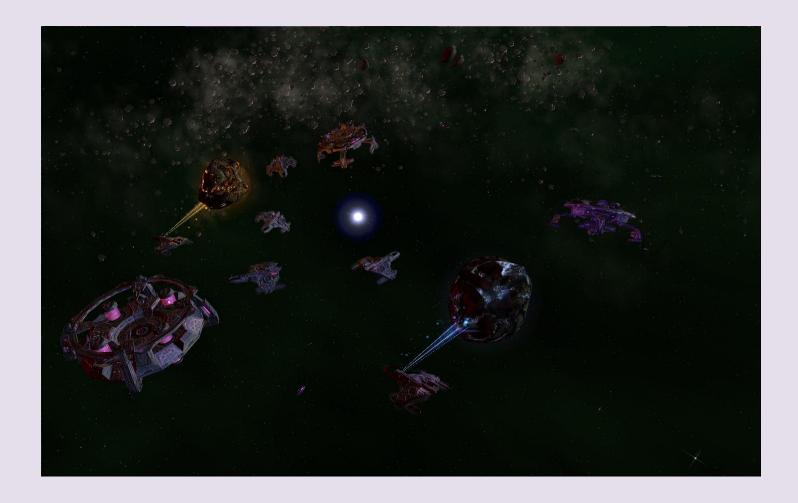


resources to build them and are still able to build ships, Ketracel Synthesizers may then be constructed between moon pairs. It is important to do this before your supply drops below 100 after the first supply purchase, because if you are late in building Ketracel Synthesizers, you may encounter supply deficiencies, and force you to purchase supplies again at the Cloning Facility, which is counter-productive. First, produce a Synthesizer by diverting one of your tritanium miners at your base to begin construction. When it is done, have the worker selected for supply mining. This is done by selecting the worker's mining button, then selecting the Storage Configuration button. The worker will then indicate that it is ready to mine supply, most noticeably by having a supply icon and the words "Empty" in red. Order this miner to mine whichever moon is not being mined by the worker that came with the Ketracel Synthesizer. The supply miners only need to mine for a few seconds, and will quickly fill in the small gap left by the two workers mining the moon's natural resource. Now construct a second Ketracel Synthesizer at your expansion, following the same procedure. Once it is finished, build two Worker Ships in mining mode to replace the former tritanium miners that are now mining supply.

Once you have about three bugs, send them off to attack your enemy's mining. (While it is very possible to send the first bug you build to collide with an opponent's non-Borg construction ship as it heads off to its first

expansion, this is usually considered poor etiquette and should be agreed upon before the match begins to ensure that it is allowed.) Once the enemy responds to the attack, retreat your ships before they can reach you. Then send the other four finished A-20s to meet them halfway and engage their forces again, returning to their expansion once you have defeated their defending ships. This style of hit, run, and regroup with reinforcements works very well, because it does not allow the enemy to recover, constantly forcing them to pay attention to attacks and not to the construction of their own base. If the enemy places turrets, sending in your bugs to simply collide with the miners will slow their production down significantly.

It is important to point out a few things about Attack Destroyers. They have a low dilithium and tritanium cost, but as all Dominion vessels, cost a great deal of supply. This allows you to pump out a fleet quickly in the beginning to gain the advantage, as it takes large numbers of them to do significant damage. Always keep them moving, as they turn very fast and can do considerable damage before your opponent's defenses catch up. Sometimes, however, you will want to use the Collision ability with your damaged destroyers to gain the edge in a skirmish. The decision to use this ability is an economic one, as well as strategic. While powerful, simply using all your ships as live bombs will be counter-productive in the end. You will still need a strong core of Attack Destroyers to be effective, especially when assaulting structures, and eventually the opponent's starbase.





Puretech

Gives access to two new units:

- S-7 Defender
- Hyperspace Sensor System

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Reduced construction time for all Construction Yard vessels by 25 percent.
- You may build two Hyperspace Artilleries.
- Increased all attributes of the B-5 Battle Cruiser and the V-13 Battleship by 6 and increased the weapon range of the B-5 Battle Cruiser to medium range.

Against the Klingons (Early Game)

Klingons produce slightly faster in the early game compared to the Dominion. You will usually encounter swarms of B'rels. As birds of prey are cheaply constructed, it is best to not try and collide with any of them until a bug is low on shielding, and then ram the healthiest nearby ship. Victory against a B'rel swarm is usually a numbers game, as they are faster, making micromanagement or retreat not much of an option. Paying attention to which ship is getting hit and when to



use collision will end up being one of the only tactics involved. Some players will immediately build K'vorts. These are far easier to deal with as they are slower and can be outmaneuvered with the Attack Destroyer's superior range and speed. Against Martok, you might see more K'beajQs. These can simply be rammed into by a damaged bug, as K'beajQs are rather costly to produce and relatively slow to construct compared to other destroyers.

Against the Romulans (Early Game)

You will most likely encounter Rhienns with the disruptor refit in the early game against the Romulans. Since the Romulans rely on ships that are more costly, yet more powerful, using healthy bugs for collision becomes an incredibly cost effective tactic. A disruptor-refitted Rhienn costs 241 dilithium, 124 tritanium, and 5 supply more than an Attack Destroyer, making it an easy exchange, especially for the Dominion who can quickly replace the loss of one of their ships. Rhienns share the same speed, but have a longer range than bugs and can cloak, so it is best to come straight at them and "hug" their vessels at all costs, keeping up with their course

changes while continuing to ram into their highly expensive ships. It is a good idea to split your fleet into two or three groups. Retreat with whichever group the Rhienns are focusing on, while the other groups move in the opposite direction that the Rhienns are headed, in an attempt to flank them. Then stop retreating with the main group in an attempt to ram. The Rhienns will have to retreat or be killed. If done correctly, the other groups will have boxed them in. If you encounter Shrikes from Mijural, remember that they are only a little more expensive than an unfitted Rhienn and have twice the rate of fire. However, they are not quite as powerful as a refitted Rhienn. What gives them their strength are the experimental pulse disruptors they employ, which have a high chance to shut down the weapons of destroyers for ten seconds. A weapons-disabled bug cannot collide with a ship, which means it becomes useless and will soon die. Send it to be repaired, hoping it will make it back to base, while ramming several shrikes in the opening attack to try and thin their numbers.

Against the Federation (Early Game)

You will usually face a strong force of Warped in ships, Sabers, and a Canaveral or two. If your fleets make



contact, immediately move your ships away from the Canaveral, sending two A-20s (the extra one is backup if the primary fails) to collide with any Canaverals. Sensor Blackout will end the battle quickly if it hits your fleet, so avoid it at all costs. If your fleet is affected, move them away and **do not** engage until the effect wears off. Your next target should be Excelsiors and Ambassadors, as they have a defensive value just high enough to be tough against destroyers, but not enough to avoid being one shot

by collision. All other targets can be attacked and rammed as a bug's health gets low.

Also, while Sabers, Excelsiors, and Canaverals are all fast and have a long range, Galaxy, Nebula, and Ambassador Class starships have a medium/short range and are slower. For a Federation fleet to be effective, it has to move as one unit, so it is possible to have the faster ships "chase" your ships just enough to be out of range of the slower cruisers and battleships. The Steamrunner is slow as well, and can be quickly picked off due to its low defensive value. Sometimes you will encounter the Warp In rush, which means your opponent will send warp in ships directly into your expansion or main base. If the Federation player does this, he is splitting up his forces, meaning his main fleet is nowhere near as powerful as it could be if all his ships were together. As a Puretech player, you will always have destroyers at your shipyards, which can be sent in time to defend your mining, by attacking and then ramming any warp in ships attacking your mining, while your main fleet deals with the weaker defense Sabers and Canaverals provide.

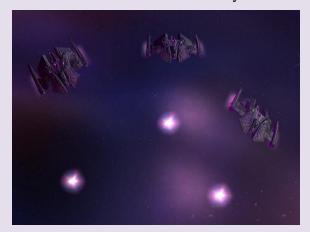
It is also possible to encounter Norways if playing against Mayson. If plasma coil is going to be used against your ships, it is important to bunch them together as much as possible, so that all your ships take minimal damage, as opposed to a few taking heavy damage or end up being destroyed.



It is important to focus on attacking a Federation's tritanium mining in the early stages of the game, because so much of their strategy relies upon support ships and special weapon upgrades.

Against the Borg (Early Game)

Build a few Attack Destroyers, whose sole purpose will be to ram ships in order to break up the Borg fleet. Then build A-26 Bombers once your economy is up and running. Against Scout cubes, you can use your



superior bomber range to take them out while ramming into healthy Scout Cubes with your destroyers to keep them from advancing. A similar strategy can be used against Assimilators, even though they have a long range as well, taking out the engines of some, while firing on the lead vessel. Here you can make use of the bomber's special, the Tetryon Photon Torpedo. The artillery range damage will help even the odds against the large, slow moving Borg. Having vastly superior numbers is

important, so remember to only engage the Borg when your fleet is very large, even if it means losing your expansion's space refineries to buy the time you need to be ready. Note that bombers are restricted to a forward firing arc only.

Attack Destroyers will still comprise the bulk of your fighting force as the game moves to its middle phase. Once you have produced about 16 bugs and have Ketracel Synthesizers up, build an S-2 Escort cruiser prototype and eventually an A-26 Bomber prototype and a C-11 Interception Destroyer Prototype. When building prototypes, it is usually best to build them alone, as they end up costing almost double compared to the final production model, which will tie down resources significantly. Remember that as Puretech, your production time is three-fourths that of other players, so small pauses in production to gain the resources for structures and to build prototypes does not affect the Dominion significantly. Also, begin building a technology lab, and research the S-2's Alpha Ketracel-White special ability. This will increase the fire rate of all vessels in its range by 45% for 15 seconds, while killing a small portion of the crew. Construct about four S-2s, which will boost your Attack Destroyer fleet significantly. S-2s are essentially support cruisers which are mainly built for

their special ability, but have powerful offensive capabilities in their own right. The effect has a short range, so it is best that you have your S-2 right in the middle of your fleet when you activate it, to get the most of your ability. Your choice to build either bombers or C-11s will be based on what you can expect to fight. Bombers are great when facing an enemy who is building a lot of defensive turrets or heavy cruisers, or battleships. Their Tetryon Photon Torpedoes will do triple damage to enemy buildings making them indispensible against enemy structures. Set these (and every unit attacking a base structure) to low movement autonomy so that they will fire from their maximum range.

C-11s are useful against enemies who rely on multiple support vessels. Their Cascade Feedback ability must be



researched, but it is an area effect attack that does extra damage to ships based on how many special abilities they can have. It also has a chance to drain special energy from all ships in the blast radius, forcing the enemy to lose any edge they may have had. Also, its stock ability, Energy Beacon, is very useful when used in groups to fully or partially recharge your fleet's special abilities instantly, allowing your ships to quickly gain the

advantage with superior firepower. While Weapon focus is not used very often, it is useful for ships that already have a long range, such as bombers, by increasing their fire range by 25%. This is useful for assaulting turrets and starbases, as it will allow some ships to attack without being fired upon. Interception Destroyers have a defense of 10, the lowest in the game next to scouts, so keep these away from the fight if possible. Set their movement autonomy to low so that if they do attack, it is from maximum range.

Against the Klingons (Mid game)

At this point you should still be facing off against fleets of B'rels and K'vorts. The fire rate boost from your

new S-2s will give you the edge. You will also be facing a few ships from the battle yard as well. Most of these ships fire torpedoes only, and will miss your core of A-20s often. The Vorcha will not miss as it has a beam weapon, but mixing bombers with Alpha Ketracel-White will quickly take them down. Build at least 8 C-11s as well. Not only will they do powerful Area Effect damage, but several of them together will drain the special energy of all the ships affected, which will deny the Klingons the ability to cloak, as it takes quite a while for them to recharge their energy.



Against the Romulans (Mid game)

As with the Rhienn refits, all the Generix refits are nice, juicy targets for collision, as they are expensive ships that can be destroyed in one shot. The biggest problem you will now face are Griffins. Their sensor jammer ability will have a good chance of knocking out both your sensors and weapons for six seconds. It's best to build C-11s first instead of S-2s and use Cascade Feedback to drain the Griffin's and Generix Support's special energy, so that they can't use their special abilities.

Note: If the Romulans are using the Borg mixed-tech Frigate, it is considered a station and should not be rammed. You will only do about 10% of the damage of a normal ram. But the Tetryon Photon Torpedo from the A-26 Bomber will do triple damage to this ship.

Against the Federation (Mid game)

The average fleet mix for the Federation will be Akiras, a few Excelsior IIs or Remores, and more Canaverals, which certainly have sensor blackout at this point if they did not before. It is best to build C-11s before building S-2s this round, using Cascade Feedback on all the Canaverals to drain their special energy and damage them. Take them out before they have a chance to recharge their energy, and then proceed to tear into the other ships. Attack the few Excelsior IIs first, as they



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have close to the same defense as a Mayson Akira, but no defensive patterns and their guided quantum torpedoes will take out any S-2s you may have quickly.

Against the Borg (Mid game)

Simply follow the tactics for the early game, with some S-2s for support to overwhelm the Borg defenses.

Once you have a solid fleet of Attack Destroyers, S-2s, and C-11s, it is best to build almost exclusively C-11s from your Construction Yard. As C-11s have an incredibly low dilithium cost, funds can then be diverted to building more powerful battleships. If you find yourself running low on tritanium for some reason, switch to building bombers at the Construction Yard. At this time, build a Large Construction yard. Your first ship should be the C-17, which like the S-2 will become a support cruiser. You will only need about three to four of these. They have a high offense and a decent defense compared to the average support vessel. As it ranks up, it will



gain significantly more special energy. Research at least the EM blast ability, which will slow enemy fire rate by 100 percent for 12 seconds. It can be fired from artillery range and will provide a significant end-game advantage against your enemies. Also, if one of your C-17s is attacked, select the phase shields special ability, which will increase the defensive value by 100. If your opponent is not directing his fire, it will go to another ship. If he is, he will be attacking a hard to kill target, wasting firepower. Also, the Tetryon Disruptor is great for attacking targets from artillery range, making attacks on starbases and powerful ships.

Have some C-11s using energy beacon to recharge this ability, so they can be fired almost indefinitely.

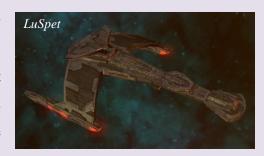
The V-13 Battleship is an incredibly powerful late game unit, especially for Puretech, which grants +6 to all stats, making it one of the more powerful Capital ships in the game. Due to the Dominion's prototype style tech tree, you will have V-13's up before any other faction can produce their end game vessel. Its Excessive Strike ability is able to bypass the shields and directly do hull damage to up to 3 vessels. On its own, the effect isn't too powerful. But a small fleet of V-13s can destroy most vessels in one strike if used in concert. Its rank 5 officer ability adds +6 to all stats again, plus a movement speed and hull repair upgrades.



Your endgame fleet should be a small collection of almost all the ships in the Dominion fleet. A strong core of V-13s, with three C-17 siege cruisers, four S-2 Escort Cruisers, a small fleet of C-11s and/or A-26 Bombers, and any remaining A-20 Attack Destroyers creates a balanced fleet that can handle any opposition that may come its way.

Against the Klingons (Late game)

It is rare to see Negh'Vars on the battlefield, but it happens every now and then, supported by Vorchas, Sangs, Luspets and Veqlaraghs. Bombers supported by Alpha Ketracel-White will do wonders against any Negh'Vars and Luspets, while the middle game strategy still applies to all the other ships. It is important to bunch up your ships so the



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Luspet's Field of Fire area effect attack will not be as effective against your ships. Also, scan the enemy's base with either a scout or the Hyperspace Sensor System to see if the Klingons are building any BortaS class ships from the Imperial yard. A trio of cloaked BortaS' can spell trouble for your fleet if they happen to appear right in the middle and use their Ion Storm special ability.

Against the Romulans (Late game)

The most important thing to remember when playing against the Romulans is to destroy/disable their Generix support ships first, as any decent Romulan player will have a small fleet of them to recharge the shields of their warbirds. Hit these with your C-11s' Cascade Feedback to damage them, while completely draining their energy. Then take them out quickly before they gain any energy. Then proceed to the warbirds. As with other games, it might be tempting to go for the large threatening target, but taking out the healer should be top priority.

Against the Federation (Late game)

You'll be facing off against a collection of Warp in, Excelsior IIs, Akiras, and some Canaverals, perhaps even a

few Norways. Always take out the Canaveral first, by hitting them with Cascade Feedback from your C-11s, then take one of your C-17 Siege cruisers and hit their fleet with EM Blast to give the Feds a taste of their own medicine and slow down their fire rate. There won't be many late game ships to ram with your bugs, due to the Federation's high defensive value. But combined with your fleet's Excessive Strike attack, there may be



a few that have weakened hulls that will be more susceptible. If you end up seeing Sovereigns, be careful that none of your cruisers or destroyers go near them, as Distortion Field will completely destroy them in a matter of seconds. It is best to use bombers at long range or Tetryon Disruptors to take Sovereigns out quickly before they become a threat.

Against the Borg (Late game)

Borg late game is very similar to the middle game. It is best to have many smaller units so as to overwhelm the Borg. Bombers backed up with Alpha Ketracel-White from your S-2s, and C-17s with EM Blast and Tetryon Disruptor will quickly halt almost any Borg advance.

There are a few ships that are not used as often for various reasons. First, the B-5 Battle Cruiser. While it too receives plus six to all stats from Puretech, and has a medium range, the fighters it employs are not especially effective, and it is extremely expensive to upgrade them. Likewise, this vessel is quite slow.



Also, there is the T-15 Heavy Cruiser. This is actually a great ship for mopping up destroyers, and even for



taking on cruisers at short range with its assault passive ability. But with early game units now costing more and having increased performance from before, it is not necessary to tech up to a large yard in the middle stages of the game. However, keep in mind that the officer level for this ship does area effect pulse damage to all ships every 25 seconds, and is really nice to have, especially if your opponent is still fielding a lot of smaller ships.

Having a handful of these isn't a bad idea if you don't need to be producing larger ships right away. Note that the T-15 has a forward firing arc only.

The S-7 Defender packs quite a punch, and is a cost effective end game unit due to its forward-firing beam weapon. However, it is quite slow, and so is not very useful to have in an attack fleet. It does make a great mobile turret, however. The core blast ability will knock vessels away for ten seconds, pushing back the tougher ships of an assault.

The Dominion's troop transport, the B-8 War Frigate, is a decent overall cruiser with a great special ability; however, it is far too costly to produce in numbers that would be sufficient for taking over ships or stations. If you can find it in your budget to build a few, the IS Bomb is worth it, as it disables the engines of all those in its blast for 18 seconds!



Special Ships and Stations

The Hyperspace Sensor System

This station is an excellent way to gather intelligence on fleet movements, especially on large maps. So long as an area has been explored, the station can scan it and get a glimpse of what is going on. The map is not revealed for long, but the cost of the special is cheap, allowing you to scan multiple areas rather quickly. It's useful for finding out where your enemy's ships are at while you are out on maneuvers, and can help your allies see what

they face as they go to attack. It will detect cloaked ships if the tachyon detection grid upgrade has been purchased, and can research the ability to de-cloak ships in a wide area around the station.

The Perimeter

Available once the Large Construction Yard is operational; this station is the mother of all turrets. Its artillery range can protect a wide area, and it can be upgraded similar to a starbase with offensive and defensive bonuses. Also, it can receive the AT-Charges upgrade, which will give it an area effect attack that will do impressive damage against small vessels. Only three can be built at a time, and it is usually best to have all three in the same location, either protecting your main base, or a vital expansion. It too can detect cloaked vessels once it receives the proper upgrades.



The Hyperspace Artillery

Sometimes you just need a range that is more than artillery. This ship is built by a worker ship and is an



incredible boost to the Dominion's Arsenal. A five second timer shows up in the middle of the blast radius, warning ships to retreat out of the zone or be destroyed. Despite this warning, there will usually be ships that do not clear this. Most destroyers will be taken out in the blast, and cruisers will be heavily damaged. With Puretech, there are two artilleries available. A double blast will completely destroy the average cruiser and guarantee the destruction of any destroyer in the area.

One tactic is to use these when your fleet is engaged with another, targeting right on top, yet slightly to the rear of their fleet. This forces them to worry about moving their ships and not about micromanaging their fleet, allowing you to destroy important targets without much reprisal. Any forward firing units they may have are not firing at you, and any ships that don't make it out of the blast are either completely destroyed or severely crippled. With their fleet in disarray, picking off their ships one by one becomes easy while they try and regroup.

This unit also does double damage to stations, meaning it can hit vital targets without having to go near any defenses. It can also one-shot any miners at any moon expansion, wiping out all the miners that a player may

have had at that location. As miners are slow, it is unlikely that many--if any--will get out of the blast radius in time.



Alliance - Breen

Gives access to two new units:

- Breen Cruiser
- Breen Battleship

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Increased Offensive Value for all vessels with Tetryon Torpedoes by 2
- Reduced research costs for all Dominion system upgrades by 20 percent.
- Allows you to upgrade movement speed at the Ketracel White Facility.

Against the Romulans, Federation, Klingons, and Dominion

The general build order is the same as Puretech's, except for you won't need to purchase supplies at the Cloning Facility. The slower build speed means that you will be able to concentrate on constructing Ketracel Synthesizers, which you should build once you are down to about 100 supply. You will need to be more careful in the opening phases, as you do not have the ships to lose with this avatar. Once you have built about 16 bugs, and have your economy up and running, begin to produce Breen Cruisers. These ships have a long range and a 360 degree fire arc, making them effective against any vessel it comes across. While the tooltip states that they do less damage against larger ships, Breen Energy Torpedoes have the same damage per second no matter which vessel it attacks, with damage being greater against smaller vessels to adjust for the torpedo miss rate. Once you have ten or more cruisers, build a technology lab and then a Ketracel-White Facility and research the Breen Warp Coil upgrades, which will speed up all your vessels by 10 and 20 percent. It is then good to continue purchasing the other upgrades as well, due to the reduced cost this avatar provides. Then build several S-2s to increase the fire rate of your cruisers and begin to mass produce Breen Cruisers once again. As great as the Breen cruiser is, it has two drawbacks. First, it has a low defensive value of only 20, meaning they are relatively easy to destroy if concentrated on. They have to rely on micromanagement and range to stay alive, but when cornered, vessels with the same range can take them down quickly; these ships have to keep moving. Also, the Energy Torpedoes do only about 2/3 damage against stations, so they are not especially effective against turrets or starbases. Luckily, the Breen Alliance increases the offensive value of all ships with tetryon torpedoes by two, meaning the A-26 bomber is even more effective than normal against stations.

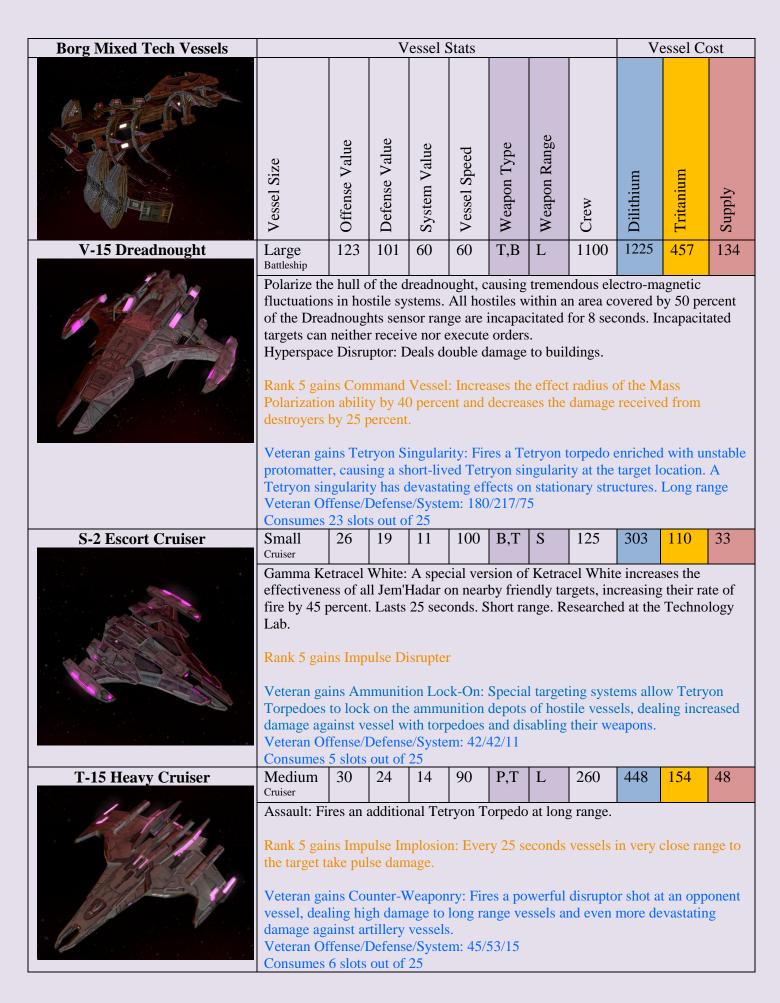
During the later game stages, when you need a vessel with more staying power, choose the Breen Battleship, which is significantly more powerful. Its special ability, "Dampening Missile", also disables up to two subsystems for five seconds, or one for ten seconds, and does high shield damage.

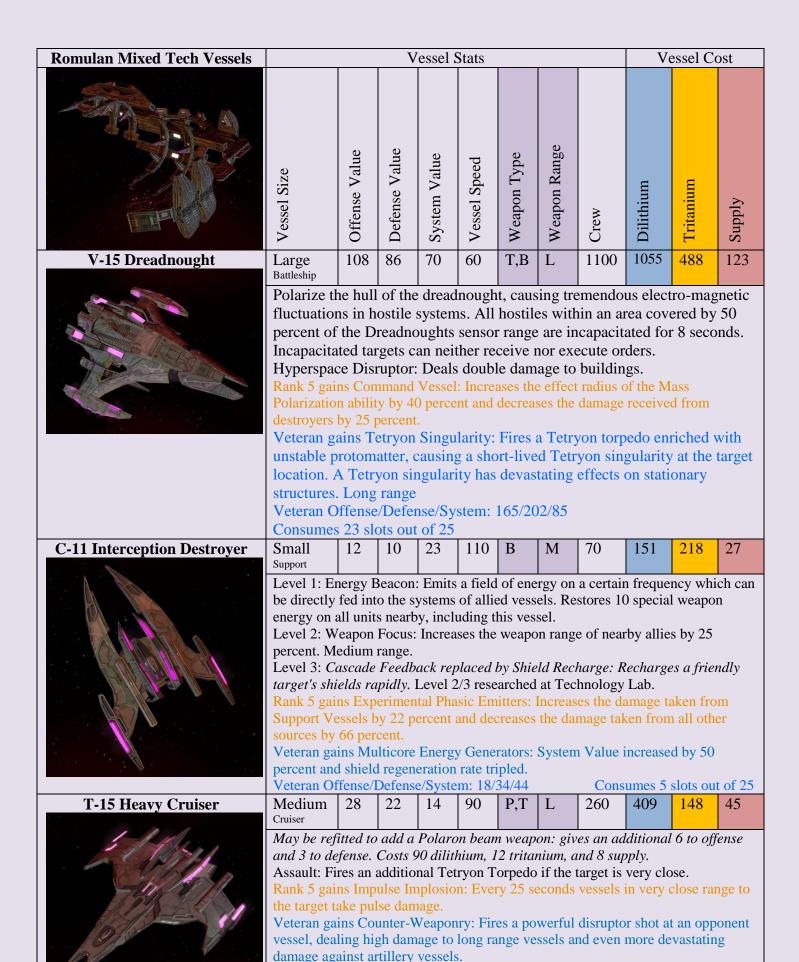
Against the Borg

The Breen Cruiser is an incredible vessel against the Borg. It does increased damage against the Detector and Probe, and base damage to all Borg ships except for the Cube. Its long range and ability to attack while retreating make this vessel an ideal ship to use against the Collective. A combination of Breen Cruiser, some S-2s for fire rate support, and A-26 Bombers, with their increased offensive value, should be all that is required to make resistance possible.



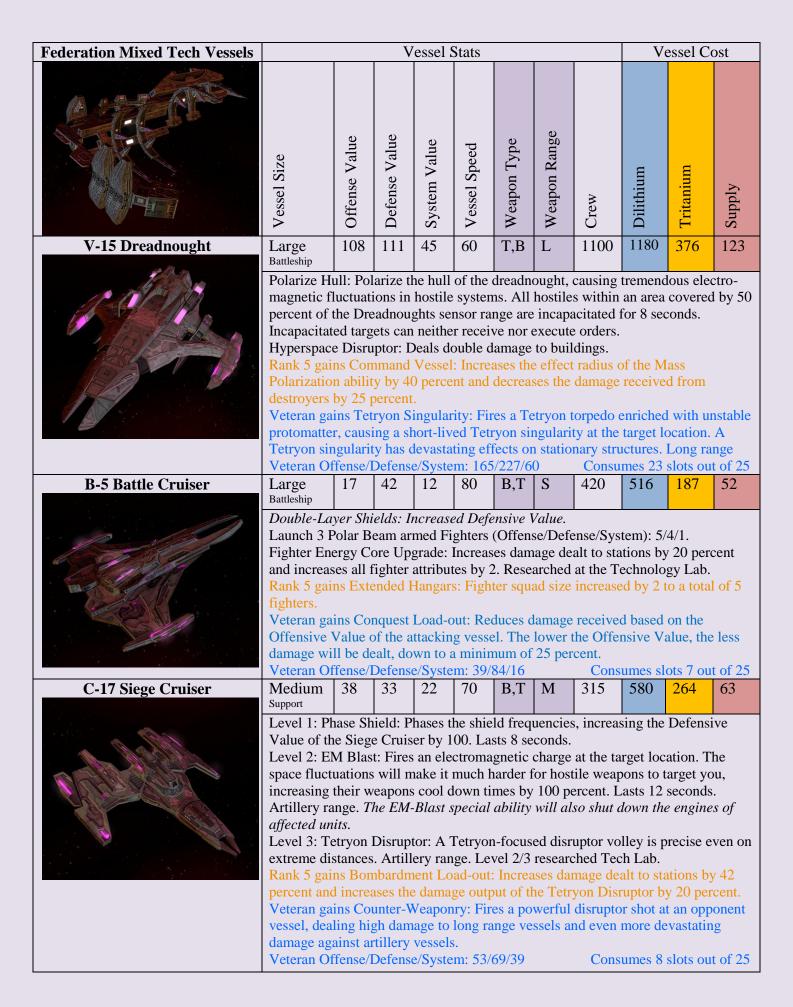
Dominion Mixed Technology Unit Overview

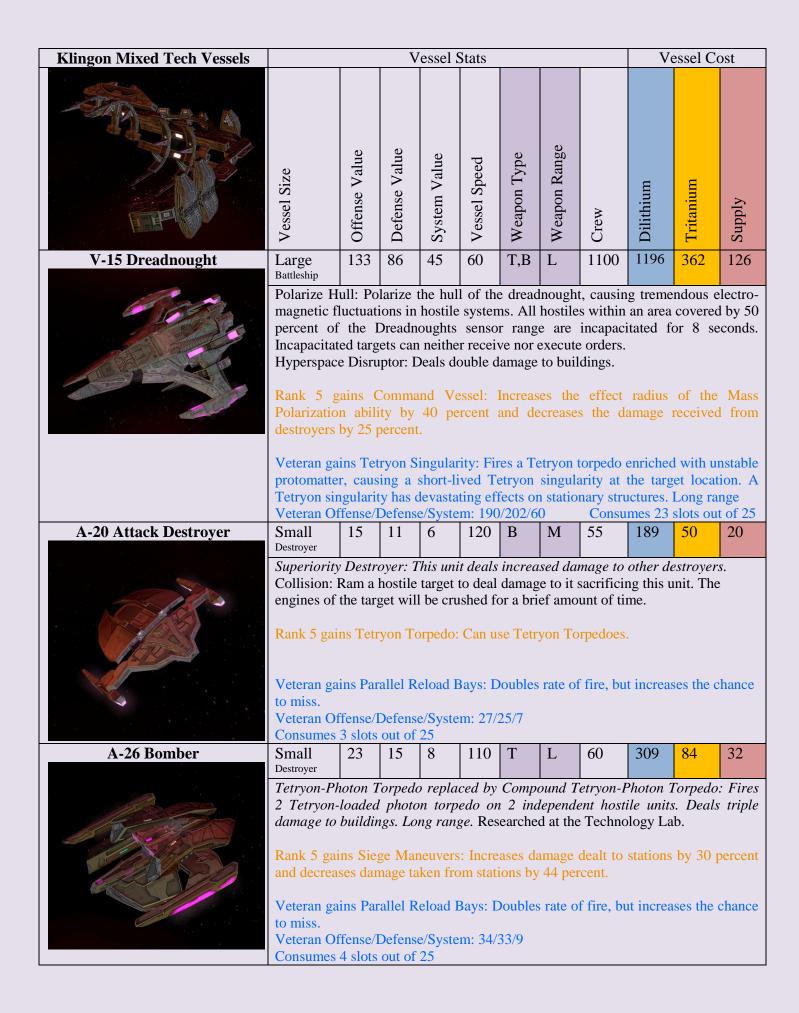




Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 43/51/15

Consumes 6 slots out of 25





Dominion Mixed Technology Unit Analysis

Borg Mixed Tech Vessels

- V-15 Dreadnought: Just to see this vessel on the battlefield instills terror in your opponent's forces, but wait until they see its 6 Tetryon torpedo launchers unloading. Although the cost of this vessel may seem exorbitant, in actuality, for its firepower and shielding, it is quite cheap. With the ability to polarize its hull once, it can paralyze nearby enemy forces for eight seconds. As it is armed with mainly torpedoes, it is best to use this vessel against stations and battleships. Thus it is quite fitting that this starship is also armed with the Hyperspace Disruptor which allows the vessels' weaponry to deal double damage to buildings. Due to the strength of this vessel's shields, you can easily send it into the midst of your opponent's forces without fear, in order to use its special ability effectively. Likewise, you can use this ability in conjunction with the Hyperspace Artillery, as the V-15 Dreadnought can effortlessly withstand the assault. This vessel is a must for both avatars.
- S-2 Escort Cruiser: This vessel comes equipped with the ability to be fitted with Gamma Ketracel White, which is a superior version of Alpha Ketracel White. There are no crew casualties associated with this drug, and the period of time over which it acts is greatly increased. Thus, if need be you can set this vessel's special ability to high or medium weapons autonomy without fear of losing crew unnecessarily. The vessel also gains a modest increase in all its values with a very small increase in resource cost. The starship, like all mixed technology vessels, also does not require a prototype to be built. Hence, it is wise to skip the prototype for the normal S-2, and instead concentrate on building more A-20 Attack Destroyers, C-11 Interception Destroyers, or A-26 Bombers from your Construction Yard. For both avatars, this vessel is of the utmost importance.
- T-15 Heavy Cruiser: The Assault passive ability of this starship has been changed to allow the Heavy Cruiser to fire a Tetryon torpedo at long range. This greatly increases the durability of this vessel, as you will not have to move it in close to get that additional firepower. Despite being pulse armed, the Heavy Cruiser will remain useful later game due to this long range torpedo. Likewise, the cruiser gains an increase in all statistics by 2. Of course, the mixed-technology T-15 also gets a large hike in cost. Despite this sizeable increase, the fact that you will be building this facility to get access to the V-15 Dreadnought (at the very least), and the cost of the Large Construction Yard is not conducive to this action, building T-15's from the mixed-technology facility is much advised. Not only will you be saving time and resources early on by not building the expensive main yard, but later in the game you can

continue producing T-15's at this yard to counter destroyers and cruisers, while building heavier vessels at the Large Construction Yard.

Romulan Mixed Tech Vessels

- V-15 Dreadnought: Again, we witness the appearance of this mighty battleship. However, contrary to common belief, the Romulans do not believe in superior firepower, and have instead gone for enhanced system value. Thus this ship is armed with a sole Tetryon torpedo as well as its standard polaron beam weaponry. Everything else about this vessel is roughly the same as the Borg mixed-technology Dreadnought. However, with the huge system value, this vessel has the ability to polarize its hull twice in quick succession. As its weaponry is well distributed between beam and torpedo weaponry, it can be used against medium and large targets more readily. Again, this vessel is a must for both avatars.
- C-11 Interception Destroyer: For a small increase in tritanium costs, instead of its normal third level ability Cascade Feedback, the C-11 gains the ability to recharge a friendly vessels shields. Although this ability requires research at the Technology Lab, once again, no prototype is required. Although Cascade Feedback is quite handy, it is suggested that you build C-11s throughout the game from the mixed-technology yard, as it will grant your units incredible shield durability. Likewise, as the C-11 is quite fast and small, you can easily fly this ship into combat, recharge shields, and escape without much fear of losing these vessels. The vessel gets an appropriate increase in system value.
- T-15 Heavy Cruiser: This vessel gains the ability to be refitted with a long firing polaron beam. Although there are large cost increases associated with producing the un-refitted T-15 (with only plus 2 to the system value) once the vessel is refitted, it gains a significant increase of 6 in offense and 3 in defense for a little more than 100 extra dilithium than the normal cruiser. Likewise, for the same reasons that a Borg mixed technology T-15 was useful, the fact that you will be building this facility to get access to the V-15 Dreadnought (at the very least), and the cost of the Large Construction Yard is not conducive to this action, building T-15's from the mixed-technology facility is much advised for both avatars.

Federation Mixed Tech Vessels

V-15 Dreadnought: Again, we witness the appearance of this mighty ... hmm, I think I've said this
before. As you might have realized by now, every faction gives the Dominion access to the almighty
Dreadnought. The Federation's version is armed with a sole Tetryon torpedo, as well as its standard
polaron beam weaponry. Like all things Federation, upon promotion this vessel gains large boons in

shield strength. Everything else about this vessel is roughly the same as the Borg mixed-technology Dreadnought. As system value is considerably less than the Borg's version, this V-15 is forced to wait a rather long time before polarizing its hull a second time. As its weaponry is well distributed between beam and torpedo weaponry, it can be used against medium and large targets more readily. Again, this vessel is a must for both avatars.

- B-5 Battle Cruiser: This vessel gains the Double Layered Shields passive ability, which gives it greatly increased defensive value (especially upon leveling up). Again, it is a fighter carrier, but sadly its weaponry is short ranged. This starship gets a phenomenal increase in costs, and yet lacks the offensive force of the normal vessel for both avatars. This is probably the only relatively useless Dominion mixed-technology vessel you will come across, as fighters currently are quite useless and the defensive boost is simply too small to make a difference. For neither avatar is this a useful vessel.
- C-17 Siege Cruiser: In addition to its normal abilities, this cruiser can shut down the engines of its targets for 12 seconds at artillery range. For a small increase in resource costs this vessel gains a slightly improved defensive value. Once again, as no prototype is required for construction of this vessel, this starship becomes quite attractive for both avatars. Obviously you should be maintaining production of Large Construction Yard T-15s or V-13s while producing the Siege Cruiser at your mixed-technology facility.

Klingon Mixed Tech Vessels

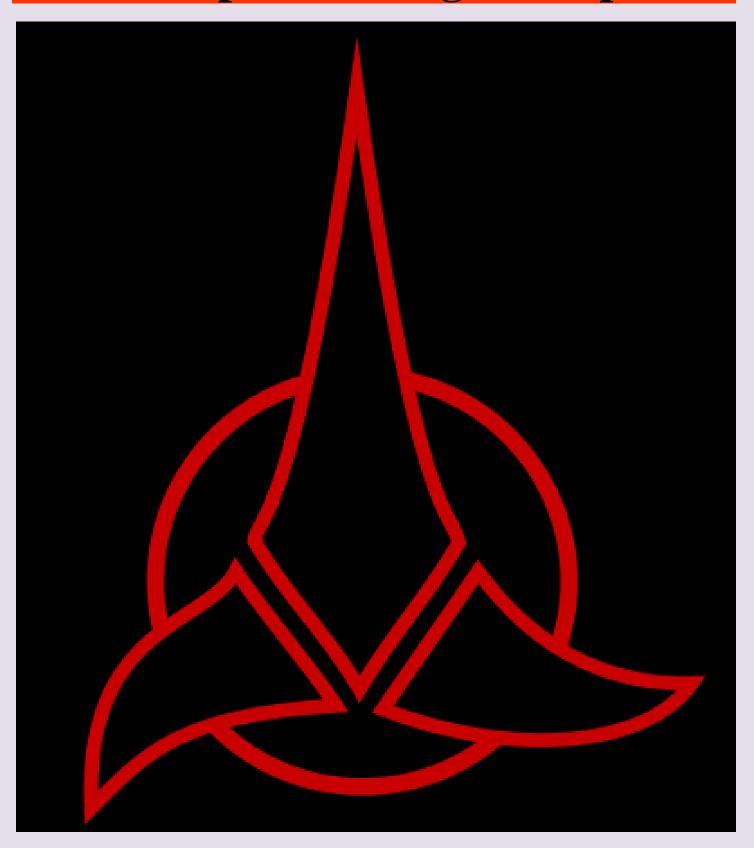
- V-15 Dreadnought: Like all things Klingon, the V-15 gained from pillaging Klingon construction ship technology grants you an armament composed of 6 Tetryon torpedo launchers. As to be expected, the shields on this behemoth are a bit... lacking, coming in at around 86 defensive value. Everything else about this vessel is roughly the same as the Borg mixed-technology Dreadnought. As system value is considerably less than the Borg's version, this V-15 is forced to wait a rather long time before polarizing its hull a second time. As it is armed with mainly torpedoes, it is best to use this vessel against stations and battleships. Again, this vessel is a must for both avatars.
- A-20 Attack Destroyer: Even though normally the early game aspect of the game would have ended and
 destroyers would have been phased out by the time you have constructed a mixed technology yard, the
 Dominion's strength relies on these so-called bug ships for much of the battle. Likewise, unlike most
 mixed tech vessels which are more expensive than their normal counterparts, the Klingons have kindly
 countersigned for the insurance for these vessels (or perhaps due to poor manufacturing), and thus they

are available a bit more cheaply than normal. Likewise, the A-20 Attack Destroyer gains an increase in one of offensive value, and deals increased damage against your opponent's destroyers. This vessel thus becomes a must have for both avatars.

• A-26 Bomber: The Tetryon-Photon Torpedo is replaced by Compound Tetryon-Photon Torpedo, which independently targets two vessels and deals triple the damage to enemy structures. Sadly, the Klingons do not favor cowardly artillery range strikes, and thus the special is limited to long range only. This vessel is available without need for a prototype, and has the same statistics as the Breen avatar version of the Bomber (with a small increase in cost). Against all factions but the Borg, this vessel is appropriate as you will likely be building them later in the game to punish the structures and battleships your opponents have been building (which will not be missed by the normal torpedo attack). Against the Borg, however, the decrease in firing range could prove dangerous, as it allows long range Assimilators and Diamonds to target your Bombers with ease. Likewise, since you will need A-20 Bombers early against the Borg, you will likely have to still build a prototype and only be able to supplement (rather than replace) your existing Bomber forces with these mixed-tech destroyers. Regardless, for both avatars, this vessel is quite worth it.

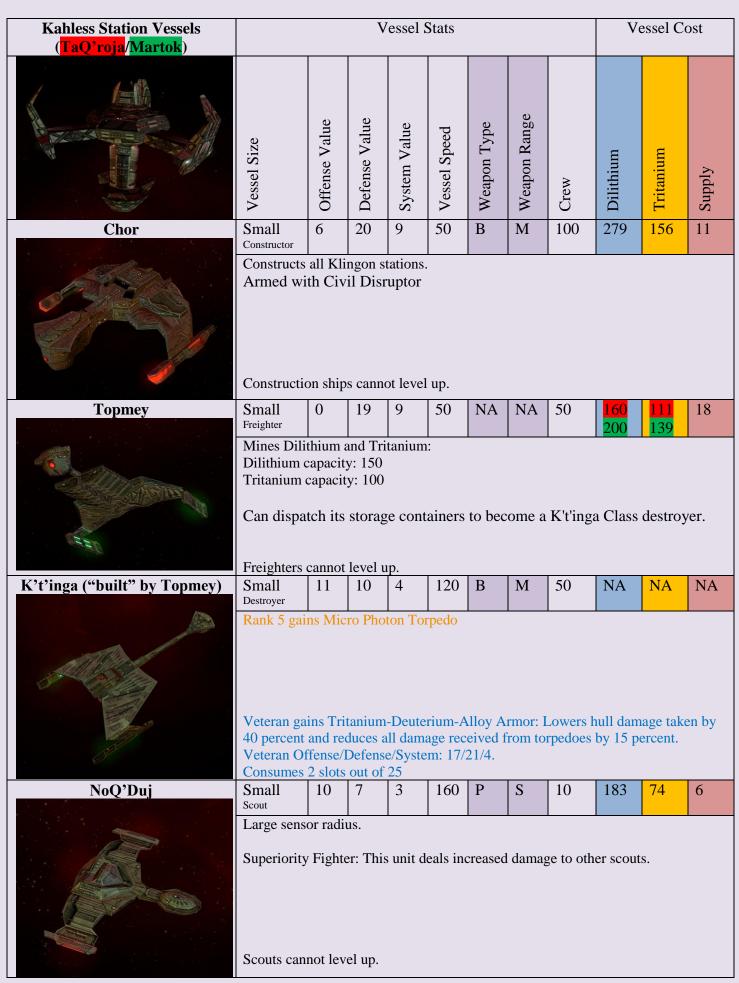


The Imperial Klingon Empire

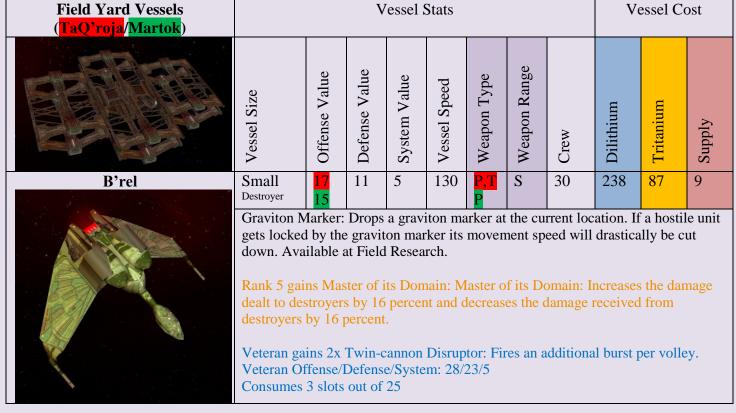


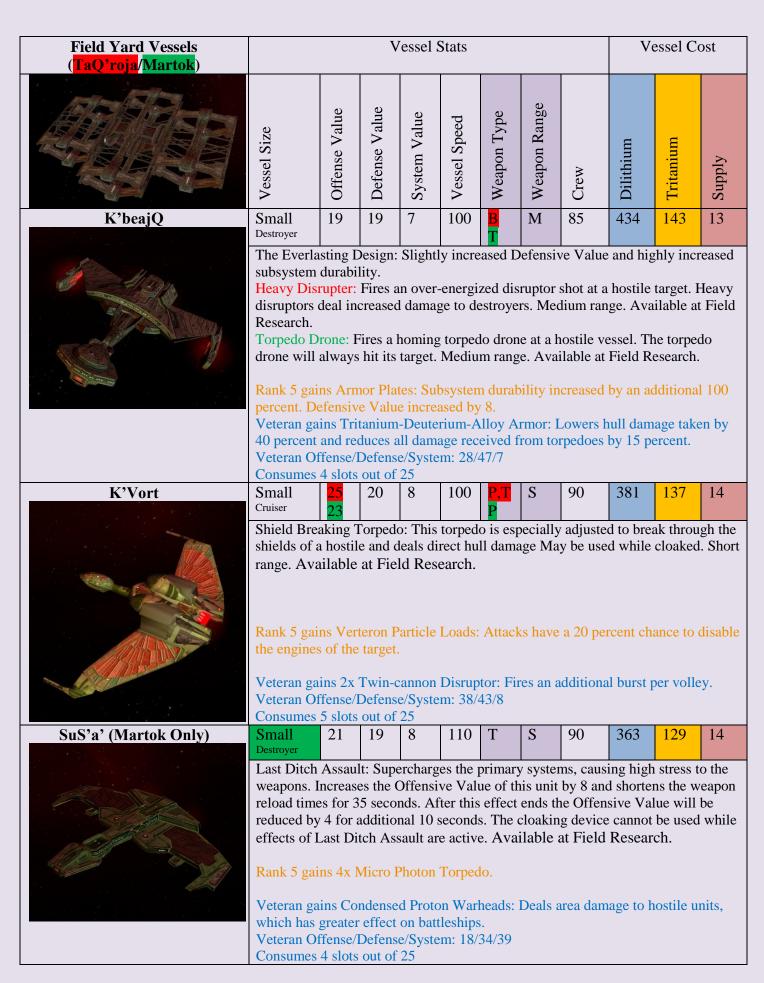
Things to Note (Note: Under construction)

The micromanager's dream or nightmare
Disclaimer: the reason this section remains incomplete is due to the upcoming 3.0.8 patch. This patch will redo quite a bit of Klingon gameplay, as the Klingons are currently the most difficult faction to play (as they are also unbalanced at the moment). Stay tuned for a redone Klingon strategy section.
(All vessels but the Chor, Topmey, Negh'var and Cho'naQ may cloak)
Klingon Unit Overview

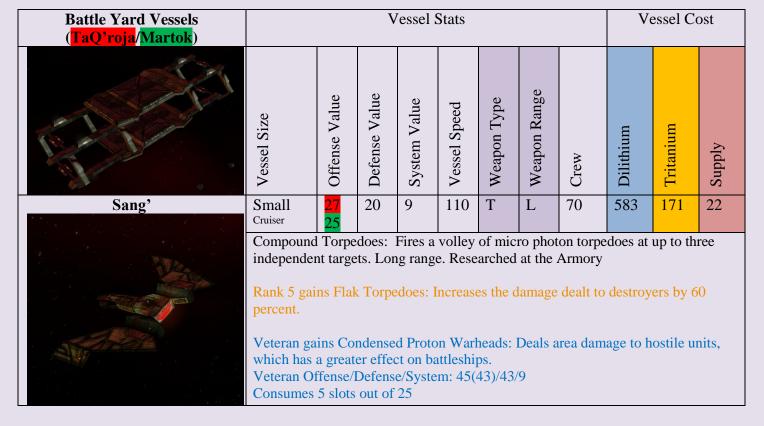


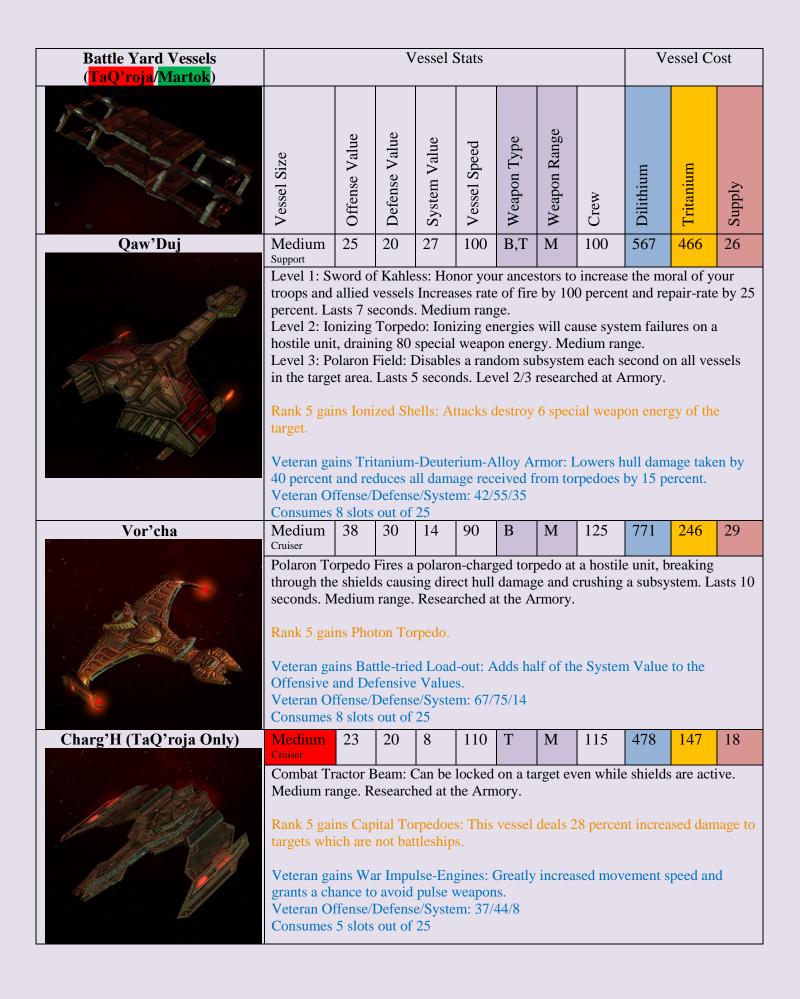
Kahless Station Vessels (TaQ'roja/Martok)	Vessel Stats Vessel Cost						ost				
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
K'beajQ	Small Destroyer	19	19	7	100	B	M	85	434	143	13
	The Everlasting Design: Slightly increased Defensive Value and highly increased subsystem durability. Heavy Disrupter: Fires an over-energized disruptor shot at a hostile target. Heavy disruptors deal increased damage to destroyers. Medium range. Available at Field Research. Torpedo Drone: Fires a homing torpedo drone at a hostile vessel. The torpedo drone will always hit its target. Medium range. Available at Field Research. Rank 5 gains Armor Plates: Subsystem durability increased by an additional 100 percent. Defensive Value increased by 8. Veteran gains Tritanium-Deuterium-Alloy Armor: Lowers hull damage taken by 40 percent and reduces all damage received from torpedoes by 15 percent. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 28/47/7 Consumes 4 slots out of 25										

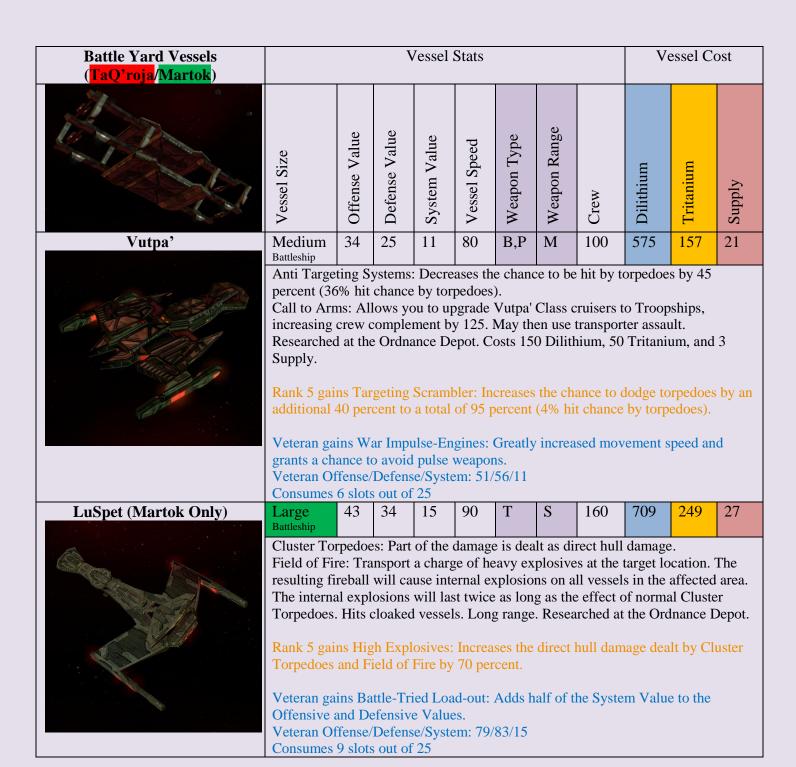


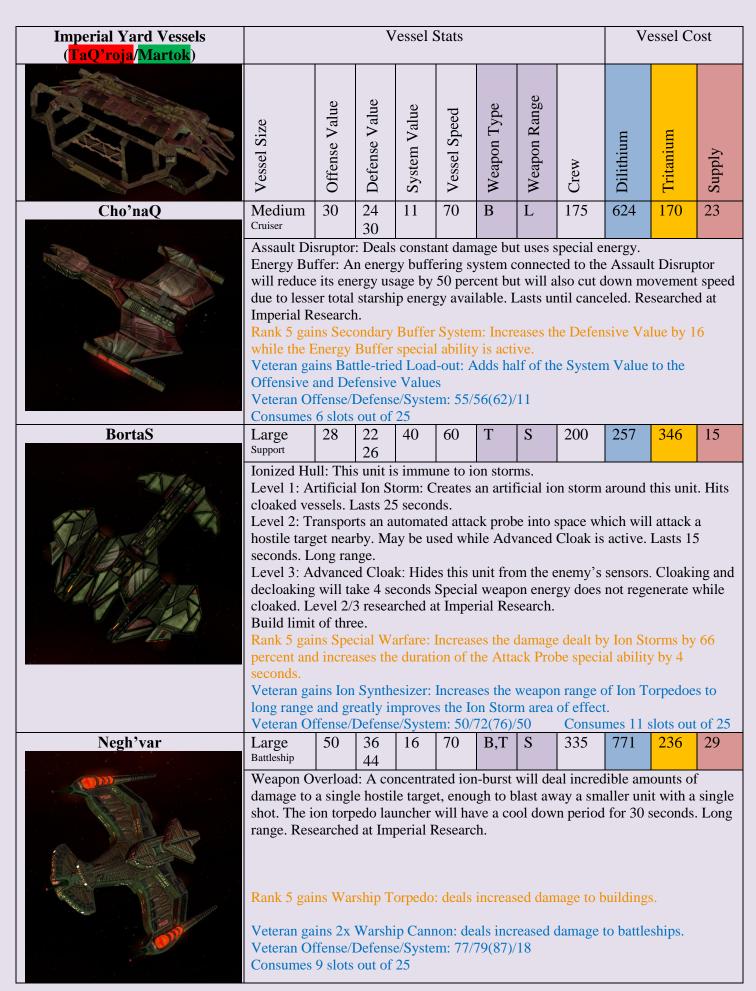


Field Yard Vessels (TaQ'roja/Martok)	Vessel Stats Vessel C						essel Co	ost			
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
Veqlaragh (TaQ'roja Only)	Small Destroyer	23	12	5	90	T	A	95	492	94	18
	Alternate Armament: Alternative ammunition will increase the time between shots by 250 percent but attacks will cause the target to lose its engines Lasts until canceled. Available at Field Research. Rank 5 gains Armor Piercing: Increases damage dealt by an amount equal to 0.8 percent of the target's total hit points. Veteran gains Condensed Proton Warheads: Deals area damage to hostile units, which has greater effect on battleships. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 35/25/5. Consumes 3 slots out of 25						ts until				

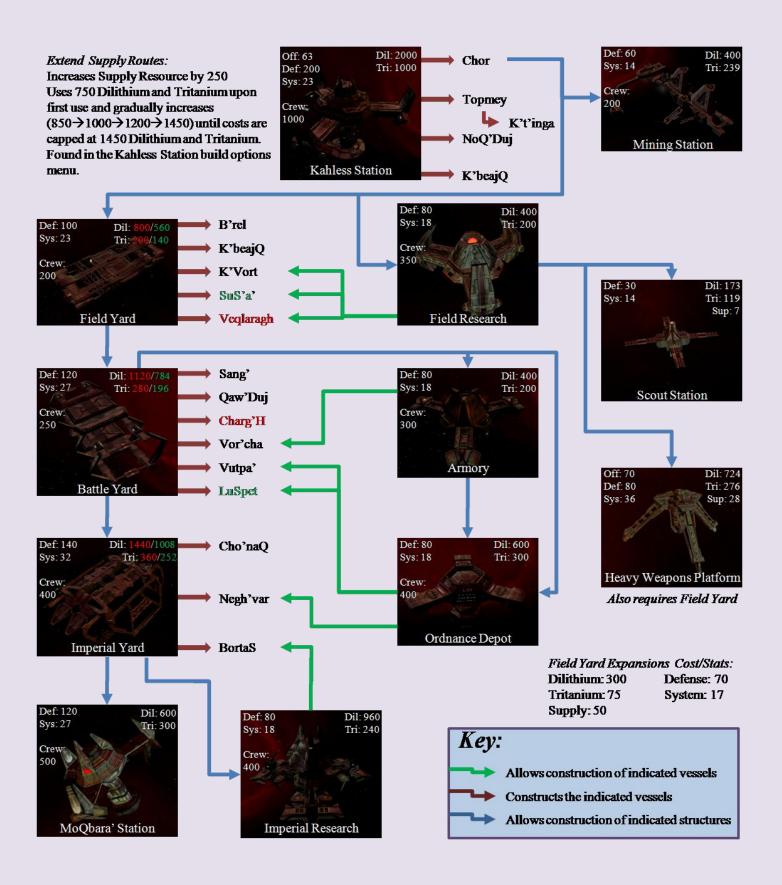








Klingon Technology Tree



Klingon Strategy



TaQ'roja

Gives access to two new units:

- Veqlaragh class
- Charg'H class

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Equipped B'rel and K'Vort Class Vessels with Photon Torpedoes and increased the Offensive Value of B'rel, K'Vort and Sang' Class vessels by 2.
- Reduced construction costs for Topmey class vessels by 20 percent.
- Replaced Torpedo Drone weapons by Heavy Disruptor weapons.

Against the Dominion, Klingons, Romulans, and Federation

Queue up four Topmey freighters. Begin by building a dilithium mining station and a Field Yard. Next build your tritanium mining station and send one constructor to build a dilithium mining station at an expansion to minimize the chance of losing both construction ships at once. Send two of the constructed Topmey miners to the dilithium moon and one to the tritanium moon at your main base. Send the fourth to the expansion and begin constructing an additional Topmey as soon as construction of your expansion is complete.

Expand the Field yard both times as soon as possible and immediately begin constructing B'rels out of each sub-yard. Group B'rels by gives (and as you get more B'rels, group in slightly larger numbers), set them to low movement autonomy, and begin harassing your opponents mining vessels and construction ships. What you will ideally want to do is spread your B'rel fleets out. Thus you will attack both your opponent's expansions and main base mining (mainly just mining vessels and construction ships) so as to minimize the chance of aggregate losses as well as make it very difficult to protect mining ships. Stay on the lookout for enemy ships that are approaching, and keep attacking until they are a few seconds away—then cloak. Try to minimize all losses due to how hard it is to set up and maintain the Klingon economy. Wait for construction ships and mining ships to be well away from warships in order to keep your losses at a minimum. If you have not prevented your opponent from expanding successfully, you will need an additional scout to pick vulnerable targets for your B'rels.

Always stay on the offensive and do not let your opponent *ever* get enough time to gather forces to mount a counter offensive. If you attack continually your opponent will most likely never leave his or her base for fear

of losing more mining vessels. If your opponent has gathered a large number of ships, gather a large number of B'rels (each in separate fleets), decloaking one fleet after another to minimize special weapon damage (if the weapons do not affect cloaked ships of course). Target support ships first, such as Canaverals. When attacking enemy vessels that are retreating, click ahead of your opponent's ships, don't click "attack" on the enemy vessels (your B'rels will stop moving ... and quickly be outranged despite their superior speed—awful path finding to blame I guess). Anticipate the actions of your opponent and always start moving your B'rels so that they remain always in point blank range with your opponent's vessels. It is extremely important that you keep track of damaged ships. Ships that almost lose shields should be sent straight away to be repaired, and to ensure that you do not command them into battle again, remove them from the fleet in question.

After you have produced about twelve B'rels you should halt production and produce a Battle Yard. Build it where necessary (you might have to build it in your expansion to avoid suspicion or to help your valuable Topmey freighters recoup from hit and run attacks) and begin producing Sang' cruisers. Produce a few more B'rels (maybe until you have produced 16 or so total) and then begin construction of a Field Research station. Now produce Veqlaraghs. Make sure to produce an additional Topmey mining vessel (or switch around mining ships) to allow you enhanced tritanium production.

You should have about two to four Sang' at this point. Always engage at maximum range (and if necessary produce more scouts to allow you to increase their maximum sensor range by guarding enemy vessels) and always move around and goad your enemy into following you. Micromanagement is truly key with everything Klingon, so if necessary, have undamaged Sang's stop moving to goad your opponent's ships to stop following your damaged Sang' (so that they can cloak and repair). Note that at this point it has probably become close to impossible to harass your opponent effectively. Thus, if you still have B'rels left and would like to get some use out of them, research the Graviton Marker ability. Send a few B'rels to your opponent's mining stations and try to destroy a few freighters. If any B'rels are about to explode, or if your opponent begins to attack you, quickly use the B'rels to attack all freighters in range with the Graviton Marker. Now your opponent's mining vessels will have great difficulty in unloading resources due to a greatly reduced velocity. The only way the mining vessels can regain their original speed is to enter a shipyard for repairs (if your opponent even notices Graviton Marked freighters). It is important to mention that this strategy can become quite effective if you still have yet to eradicate any well defended expansions. Simply send your B'rels in uncloaked (to save special weapons energy for the Graviton Marker) and quickly "mark" all the freighters and leave to minimize losses. The mining vessels will take forever to actually return to the main base shipyards so either way this strategy can be used to great effect.

Keep annoying your opponent with Sang's and eventually produce about ten or so. At this point you should also have about a fleet's worth of Veqlaragh artillery vessels... and usually the game will be over. If it is not, begin producing the medium ranged torpedo launching Charg'H (they will become your battleship destroyers in addition to the Sang') and eventually Vor'cha's equipped with Polaron Torpedoes. At the same time as producing Charg'H class warships, you should also begin construction of K'beajQ destroyers at your Kahless station and at the Field Yard (in lieu of more Veqlaragh vessels). If you have enough tritanium research the K'beajQ's special weapon and set any K'beajQ on high weapons autonomy. Although you can tech up to the Imperial Yard for Neg'var or BortaS class vessels instead of producing Vor'cha, this is not recommended unless you have a large fleet already. This strategy will severely drain your resources without much immediate reward. Keep in mind that three BortaS's can do considerable damage to an opponent's fleet OR base, especially if you position your Sang' class vessels on the opposite side of an Ion Nebula and force your opponent's fleet to go through it to attack you.

Note that the B'rel beginning is not very effective against a Federation opponent who relies on an early warp in strategy.

Against the Borg

The first strategy: beginning in a similar fashion as to when you fought non-Borg, construct a dilithium mining station and a Field Yard to begin with. Produce a Field Research right at the same time as the tritanium mining station. Then begin producing Veglaragh artillery vessels and expand the Field Yard once to begin with (and again later on once your economy is steady. After two to three Veglaragh you should research Alternate Armament, which is a special weapon that causes your torpedoes to knock out the engines of your opponent's vessels for a few seconds, although at the expense of firing rate. Setting a few Veglaragh to use this ability all the time will allow you to always engage from maximum range. You must produce at least one additional scout to increase your sensor range for these vessels... but be careful not to keep it too close to the Borg ships otherwise you will lose it very quickly (free decloak). You needn't expand against the Borg until later in the game when you have killed a few of their ships... otherwise you risk unnecessary early game losses. Eventually you can choose to either tech up/down to Sang's (San's really are less necessary due to the power of the Veglaragh) or B'rels armed with Graviton Markers. You will need about five to ten B'rels with Graviton Markers, as you will undoubtedly lose one to two of them per engagement (as you can't decloak and use the marker I think). A good trick is to go behind enemy lines and use the Marker on freighter and force the Borg freighters to either lose production for 25 seconds, or enter the mining node much more slowly. You can also stay in your base comfortably and try to harass with 1-5 Veglaragh to kill freighters... as Borg warships are slow and will be unlikely to catch your ships in time. Keep your scouts prowling ahead and behind your

Veqlaragh to always ensure that Borg ships are far away. Remember that because the Borg get the free Tachyon Scan ability you should always have Veqlaragh scatter after cloaking so as to minimize potential losses if Borg vessels are present in the area.

The second strategy (also works against a Federation player who utilizes early warp in): build a dilithium mining station and a Field Yard to start with. Begin producing K'beajQ class destroyers from your Kahless Station (after your Topmey mining vessels have completed construction) and Field Yard. Against the Borg it is not wise to expand this early, so instead only produce three Topmey mining vessels (two will go to the dilithium moon). Begin construction of a Battle Yard and the tritanium mining station at the same time. Start constructing Sang' class vessels. If you need additional resources for more Sang's, halt production of the K'beajQs. Always engage the Borg at maximum range, and always retreat your heavily damaged ships to prevent their assimilation or annihilation. After about twelve Sang's (or if resources permit) produce a Field Research station and begin Veqlaragh construction. If you have the tritanium reserves, research Alternate Armament.



Chancellor Martok

Gives access to two new units:

- LuSpet class
- SuS'a' class

Gives access to the following benefits:

- Increased Defensive Value for all Imperial Yard vessels
- Reduced the construction costs for Field Yard, Battle Yard and Imperial Yard by 30 percent.
- Increased Crew boarding strength for Vor'cha, Vutpa', LuSpet and Negh'var class vessels

Against the Dominion, Romulans, and Klingons

You must use the same primary strategy as TaQ'roja uses. Keep in mind though that your B'rels are less expendable though. Instead of producing more B'rels after your initial 14-16 begin constructing K'beajQ destroyers as you begin to tech up to your long range Sang' class vessels.

Against the Federation

There are two semi-successful tactics that exist to combat a Federation player who uses a tactic reliant on an early warp-in. Begin by building a dilithium mining colony and a Field Yard. Next construct a tritanium mine and a Battle Yard at the same time. Begin building Sang' and K'beajQ vessels. Note that this is the same tactic

that is used in the second strategy listed for TaQ'roja against the Borg. You most probably will not be able to expand early with this strategy if the Federation player warps in at your expansion point.

A second strategy that works decently against a quick warp-in player is to go for Sus'a' destroyers early on. Instead of the Battle Yard as your third structure, build a Field Research station and expand the Field Yard once. Start constructing Sus'a' and research the Last Ditch Assault as soon as possible (If you wish, you can manage to build 1-2 K'beajQ before the Field Research is up: this is sometimes a good idea because of the ranged weaponry and greatly increased subsystem durability). You should have about three to four Sus'a' by the time the first warp-in comes. You must absolutely stay at point blank range with the Sus'a' for them to be effective, but the best way to win such an engagement is to engage the Federation player at your base (to make use of your repair facilities). After building these and harassing with them (maybe about six-eight) you should go with the more practical K'beajQ for fleet engagements (the beam weaponry and special weapon is a must) and eventually the Sang' when resources permit. You should definitely be able to expand initially if you use this strategy.

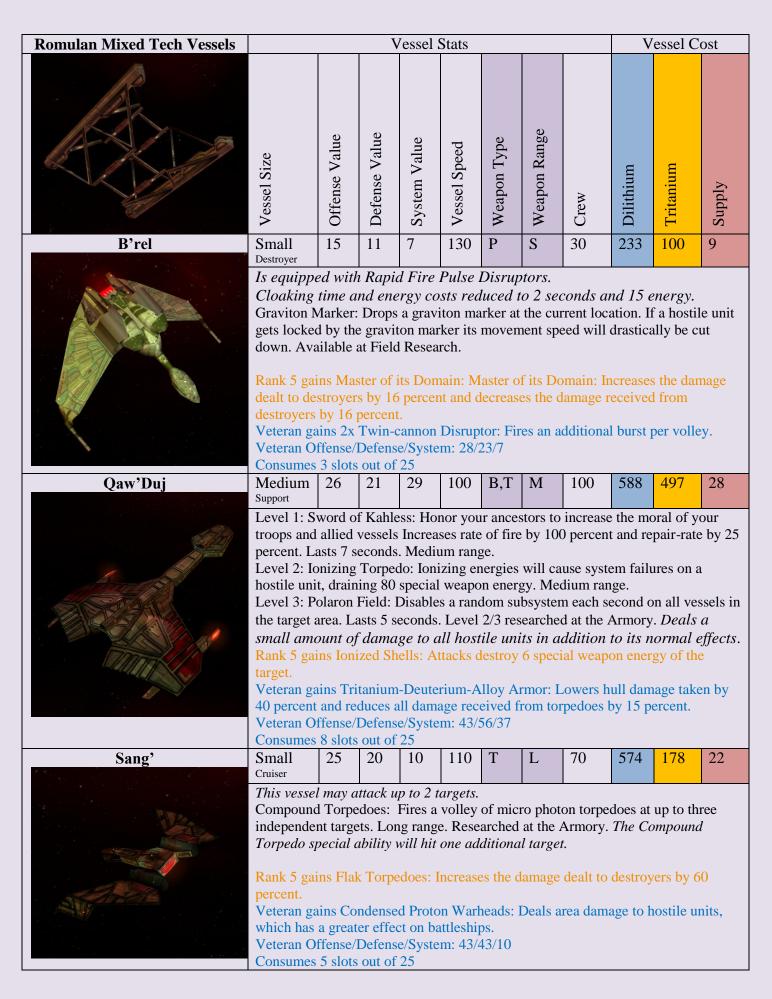
Against the Borg

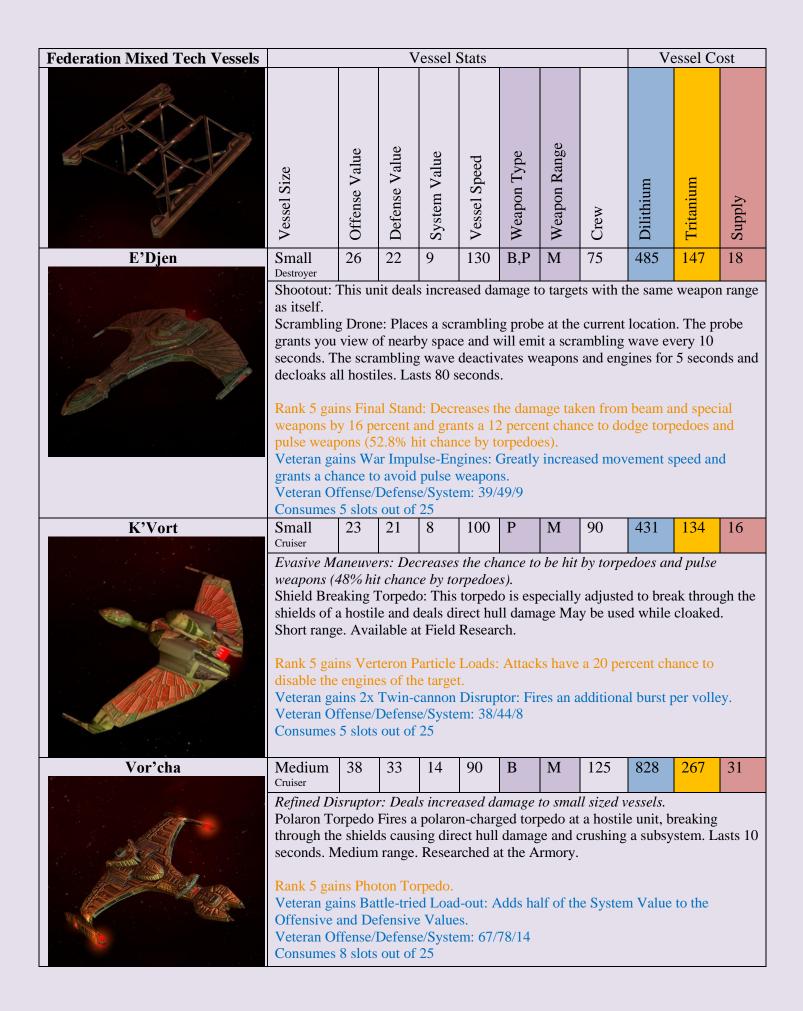
Begin by constructing a dilithium mining station and a Field Yard. After these structures are complete you should construct a tritanium mining station and a Field Research structure. Queue up four Topmey mining vessels. You needn't expand yet, as this will merely give your Borg opponent the chance to destroy or assimilate a large amount of resources early on. Produce Sus'a' destroyers upgraded with their Last Ditch Assault and expand the Field Yard once to start with and again when you gain enough resources to maintain continuous production (only if you manage to expand to another moon pair). Attack the Borg when they come to you (or when you have at least six to eight Sus'a'). Like the B'rels, keep moving forwards and don't actually click on Borg vessels to attack (unless of course the enemy is distracting you with Probes... then you must click on the Sphere or Probe to get rid of it... very tricky). Another method of fighting the Borg is to use the same tactic as the second strategy for TaO'roja.

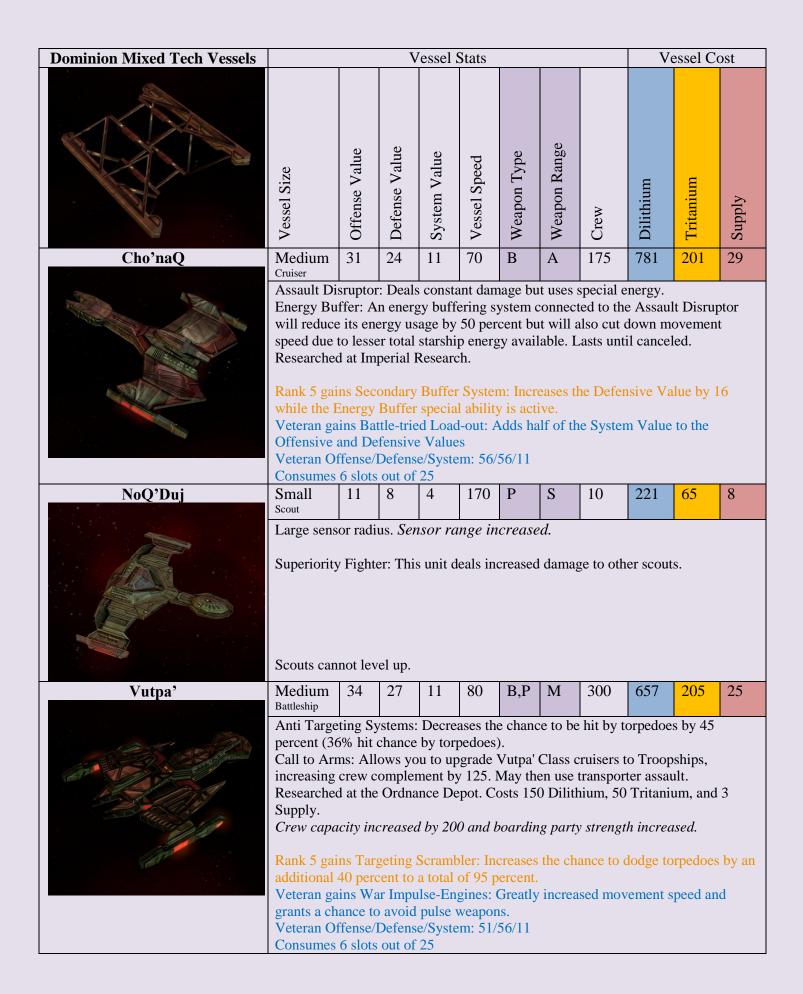
I sincerely apologize that the strategies listed for either Klingon avatar are not complete or fleshed out. Hopefully with the arrival of 3.0.8 the Klingons will once against show themselves to be the mighty artisans of war that they truly are. Against non Borg I have yet to find a full proof way of winning... though the Kbeaj'Q starting strategy listed for TaQ'roja seems to work better on occasion then.

Klingon Mixed Technology Unit Overview

	V 10.										
Borg Mixed Tech Vessels	Vessel Stats Vessel (essel Co	ost			
	Vessel Size	Offense Value	Defense Value	System Value	Vessel Speed	Weapon Type	Weapon Range	Crew	Dilithium	Tritanium	Supply
B'rel	Small Destroyer	16	12	6	130	P	S	30	257	87	10
	Is equipped with the Regeneration special ability: regenerates hull and subsystems at 15 special energy per second. Graviton Marker: Drops a graviton marker at the current location. If a hostile unit gets locked by the graviton marker its movement speed will drastically be cut down. Available at Field Research. Rank 5 gains Master of its Domain: Master of its Domain: Increases the damage dealt to destroyers by 16 percent and decreases the damage received from destroyers by 16 percent. Veteran gains 2x Twin-cannon Disruptor: Fires an additional burst per volley. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 29/24/6 Consumes 3 slots out of 25										
Qaw'Duj	Medium	27	22	29	100	B,T	M	100	616	501	29
	Level 1: Sword of Kahless: Honor your ancestors to increase the moral of your troops and allied vessels Increases rate of fire by 100 percent and repair-rate by 25 percent. Lasts 7 seconds. Medium range. Level 2: Ionizing Torpedo: Ionizing energies will cause system failures on a hostile unit, draining 20 special weapon energy per second. Lasts 8 seconds. Medium range. Level 3: Polaron Field: Disables a random subsystem each second on all vessels in the target area. Lasts 5 seconds. Level 2/3 researched at Armory. Rank 5 gains Ionized Shells: Attacks destroy 6 special weapon energy of the target. Veteran gains Tritanium-Deuterium-Alloy Armor: Lowers hull damage taken by 40 percent and reduces all damage received from torpedoes by 15 percent. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 44/57/37 Consumes 8 slots out of 25										
Sang'	Small Cruiser	26	21	10	110	T	M	70	535	176	20
	Multidimensional Targeting: Reduces the miss chance of torpedo weapons. Compound Torpedoes: Fires a volley of micro photon torpedoes at up to three independent targets. Long range. Researched at the Armory Rank 5 gains Flak Torpedoes: Increases the damage dealt to destroyers by 60 percent. Veteran gains Condensed Proton Warheads: Deals area damage to hostile units, which has a greater effect on battleships. Veteran Offense/Defense/System: 44/44/10 Consumes 5 slots out of 25					0					







Klingon Mixed Technology Unit Analysis

Borg Mixed Tech Vessels

- e B'rel: This destroyer gets an all around plus one in values and the addition of the Regenerate special ability. This Borg adapted technology allows you to regenerate 50% of the hull within the few seconds the B'rel can sustain Regenerate. For all intents and purposes the ability is fast enough to almost immediately completely repair damaged subsystems. Consequently, the Regenerate ability is a great boon for the otherwise easily damaged subsystems of the B'rel (often, even if the B'rel is not critically damaged, its engines or life support go offline, leaving your otherwise quick ship adrift). Depending on whether you choose a Martok Klingon strategy that has you building B'rels middle game or early game, you should choose to purchase this vessel or not, respectively speaking. For TaQ'roja, her own B'rel is simply too powerful to warrant the acquisition of the mixed-technology version.
- Qaw'Duj: For a rather small increase in resource costs, this vessel gains plus two to defensive, offensive, and system values. Likewise, the effects of the Ionizing Torpedo special ability become doubled. Building this support vessel from the mixed tech yard for both avatars will free up your Battle Yard to continue producing the large number of standard forces you need.
- Sang': This starship gains slightly increased stats over the Martok Sang', a reduced cost, and will almost always hit cruisers (96% hit chance) with its standard torpedoes. Unfortunately, all of this had to come at a price and so the Sang' is now medium range. As the main advantage of the Sang' is that you can lead enemy forces around while striking at them with little fear of having the favor returned, the range decrease is a deal breaker—unless of course you are planning on using these vessels in fleet action *only*. This vessel is thus useful for both avatars if you plan on using them in this manner.

Romulan Mixed Tech Vessels

• B'rel: This version of the Klingon Bird of Prey gains what amounts to a Romulan cloaking device as well as fast firing pulse disruptors for a slight increase in tritanium. If hit and run attacks are made with this mixed-technology starship you can be sure that the B'rel will survive much more regularly due to its ability to cloak and decloak quickly. For both avatars it is highly advised to build at least a few of these vessels so as to allow you a traditional Romulan strategy: strike swiftly and silently and then get the hell out of Dodge!

- Qaw'Duj: This mixed-technology vessel gains a slight boost in stats for a trivial increase in resource costs. The Polaron Field special ability has also been altered to deal a small amount of damage to all affected units. Hey, every little bit counts you know! Like the Borg Qaw'Duj, building this support vessel from the mixed tech yard for both avatars will free up your Battle Yard to continue producing the large number of standard forces you need.
- Sang': For a *decrease* in resource costs, this ship gains plus one in system value and the ability to hit two units at a time with its torpedoes. Accordingly, the Compound Torpedo ability now can hit four separate targets. This ship should without a doubt supplement your normal Sang' class vessels or even replace them if you wish to concentrate on building Vor'cha/Qaw'Duj classes at the same time. Even the fact that TaQ'roja's own Sang' gets higher offense should not stop you from building this mixed-tech version.

Federation Mixed Tech Vessels

- E'Djen: Although this vessel is a destroyer, the fact that this starship comes standard with the Scrambling Drone special ability is enough to ensure its usefulness throughout a long game. This ability lasts 80 seconds, is area of effect, and will deactivate weapons, engines and cloaking for five seconds. Of course, the ship also has rather decent shields and offense for being so small. In terms of resource costs, the vessel is a steal when considering Klingon vessels of comparable power. Likewise, the E'Djen is faster than almost all of your conceivable opponent's destroyers and has medium range to boot. For both avatars this mixed-tech vessel should be a staple of your fleet as a few well placed Scrambling Drones will allow the rest of your ships to easily overpower--or retreat from--your opponent's forces.
- K'Vort: The mixed tech K'Vort gets a slight bump over Martok statistics and an increase of about 50 dilithium in costs. The vessel also gains the Evasive Maneuvers passive ability which grants the K'Vort an increased rate of torpedo and even pulse weapon avoidance (0.48 chance of hitting). Since there is a good chance that you will still be using these ships to take out lone vessels or miners with the Shield Breaking Torpedo (while cloaked), it is advised to supplement and eventually replace existing K'Vort forces for Martok. As TaQ'roja's K'Vorts gain additional torpedo armament (good against cruisers and even battleships) and a boost to offensive capabilities, there is no real need to build the mixed-tech variant (despite the passive ability).
- Vor'cha: This iconic vessel gains the Refined Disruptor, which allows its main armament to do increased damage to destroyers. Due to the fact that you will undoubtedly produce Vor'chas this mixed

tech variant fits very well in the unit lineup. Since a mixed tech yard will probably have been built nearing the end of early game (especially in multiplayer) a mixed-tech Vor'cha which can deal with mopping up the last of your opponent's destroyers while taking decreased damage from pulse based weaponry (being a cruiser) is quite helpful. Since this version of the Vor'cha also gets increased defensive capabilities for a minor increase in costs (without having to build the Armory to build these ships in the first place) this should probably replace building Vor'chas at your Battle Yard so that you can concentrate on building Sang's and Qaw'Duj classes.

Dominion Mixed Tech Vessels

- Cho'naQ: Due to the cowardliness of Dominion technology, this disrupter wielding vessel becomes artillery range. Of course, the starship also receives a small boost to ship values and a substantial increase in resource costs. However, since you are unlikely to build many vessels of this class in the first place, the range of this version is what counts. As the Klingons are rather short on artillery or even long range vessels, this Cho'naQ could be quite useful to bust starbases and defensive structures from afar. Likewise, since Cho'naQ construction normally requires you to build many research facilities and the Imperial Yard, this version is a much better buy for both avatars if you need an artillery range vessel earlier on as even despite the increased vessel costs, you will be saving resources by not building all the extra structures.
- NoQ'Duj: This scout receives a speed boost, sensor boost and gets an increase of one to all values plus a
 small increase in resource costs. If you still need forward scouts at this stage in the game, this is the ship
 to buy. Although slightly more expensive than the normal class, the increased sensor range makes up for
 this as you will need less vessels to scout out your opponent. Consequently this starship is potentially
 useful for both avatars.
- Vutpa': This battleship gains plus two in defensive value with a decent increase in costs. The ship also become more powerful at boarding (and more difficult to board) due to its increased crew size and their enhanced fighting skills. However, unless you plan on upgrading these vessels to use their troopship capabilities, it is pointless to construct these from the mixed-technology yard. Considering that any vessel with its shields down is asking to be destroyed, capturing vessels is highly unlikely despite the addition of the Transporter Assault ability. Instead, it is better off to construct these ships at the Battle yard, because you will probably be using them as destroyer and cruiser mops while evading torpedo barrages.

Cooperative Multiplayer

Work in Progress, so excuse the inane organization... Coming soon to a guide near you!

Now that you have read and hopefully digested the basics of one on one game play for Fleet Operations, it is an opportune time to address cooperative multiplayer. Easily the most favored form of online play, many people find this aspect of Fleet Operations the most relaxing and enjoyable form of game play.

It is of course one thing to be good at playing against a single player, but to anticipate the capabilities of two opposing players—or more—you must be aware of what your teammate(s) strengths and weaknesses are and how to cooperate with them. The best team is generally only as good as its weakest member, and even if you might be the stronger player, you could very well lose because *you* do not lend a hand when it is most needed.

Although it is fairly obvious, it deserves to be said again: communicate often with your ally. Ask them when they are prepared for an attack, if they need back up, and whether they need resources (if you have enabled this option at the start of the game of course). Let them know if you have found an unattended unit of theirs, and give advice if you can.

A good team is also one which has generous members. Remember that you can give most units (if the option is enabled), but those vessels will not have the Level 2 or 3 abilities once transferred (or any universal upgrades).

Above all else, pay attention to the mini-map. If your opponent is engaged in a battle, they are likely incapable of taking the time to type out exactly what they need. Think ahead and don't wait for frantic pleas of assistance. For instance, if told to guard the base, do not stop attacking altogether for all eternity (unless expressly told to). Use your brain.

The early game phase of a cooperative multiplayer game can play much like a one on one match. Usually you can thus begin by building your shipyard(s), destroyers, and mining in the same manner. However, if you have determined that mixed tech units are worth it, generally your second or third shipyard should be a mixed tech yard.

If you capture units that are available to the same faction (and generally avatar) as of your ally, give them as then your ally will gain access to the special abilities of those units and thus they will become more combat effective (aka, capture a Rhienn, give to ally, ally is Romulan, now ally can upgrade them and give them special weapons).

Make joint attacks. Join you ally's fleet for an attack or attack someplace else to spread your opponent's fleet. A combined attacking force will obviously limit your potential losses *if* you know exactly where your opponent's fleets are. If you can just barely win an engagement on your own, try to wait for your ally to join you before engaging. Risking your fleet is just the sort of thing which will weaken you so much that you will not be able to recuperate. You can also have an ally attack one opponent and retreat so that you have an opening to harass the other opponent. Draw your opponent's fleet into the waiting jaws of your ally's vessels. Remember, you cannot win a team game by building turrets and staying within your base: if your ally falls, you will too. It is only a question of when.

Pairing Advantages and Failings

Although I am a big believer in setting the faction selection to "random," certain factions naturally have better couplings then others:

Federation and Dominion get the advantage of V-15 Dreadnoughts, Miranda II warships, and Newton vessels for repairing the strong hull of damaged V-15 Dreadnoughts.

Federation and Borg can take advantage of the hull only armor for Borg vessels and early Newton repair vessels. Mayson Norways can also be used to power Borg regeneration/assimilation capabilities.

Federation and Romulans will get a considerable boost in staying power due to already powerful Federation shields being kept operable for long periods of time by Shield Recharge.

Romulan and Borg get the advantage of a strong Borg early game which must be countered by building torpedo armed vessels. Romulan Shrikes and Rhienns can easily and efficiently destroy these types of vessels.

Romulan and Klingon get the advantage of quick debilitating hit and run attacks on mining using cloaking, but generally have less staying power than other combinations of factions due to the weak shielding of Klingon vessels.

Romulan and Dominion get the advantage of Shield Recharging keeping Dreadnoughts alive forever.

Mirror matches (when allies are all of the same faction) get no mixed technology. Federation and Federation however get the advantage of dual warp ins which can devastate any chance for the opposition to expand if both warp ins are sent to the same location. Borg mirror matches are especially weak because while individual Borg vessels are powerful, each one lost is a huge set back. Likewise, most Borg vessels are slow and rather monolithic in their task structure (an Assimilator can assimilate, it can't harass) and thus the Borg should always be mixed with non Borg to allow more flexibility in tactics.

More Specific Advice

When paired with a Romulan teammate and your opponents can use cloak, it is absolutely necessary that the Romulan player research the Talon class refit and give you at least one of these refitted vessels so that both players do not have to research decloaking technology. These refitted talons should be built and outfitted after about 8-10 Rhienns/Shrikes. If your ally is strong and the map is big you can continue building a few more Rhienns/Shrikes throughout the game to continue maintaining your hit and run attack force. Five of these vessels per attack force is generally enough to destroy mining vessels quickly enough without that great of a risk.

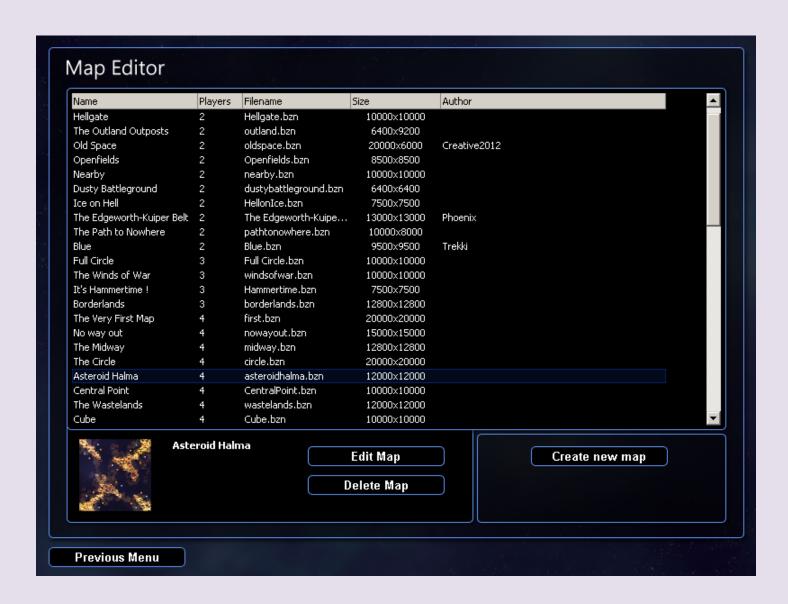
As the Dominion you have arguably the strongest mixed technology (in the form of the Dreadnought) available no matter the combination of factions. Thus you should try to build a mixed tech facility quickly. Consequently, after your economy is somewhat stabilized due to the construction of the Ketracel Synthesizer stations, you should build a mixed technology yard. This will cut down significantly on the other vessels that you can build, so if your ally is not very offensive in his or her strategies, this shortcut will likely fail. You should always expect to build the normal amount of A-20 Attack Destroyers as well as start production of Breen Cruisers/S-2's depending on the avatar.

As the Borg if your ally is strong offensively, after you have gained a toehold, (probably after your first three to four major vessels) try to research an additional Priority Level and begin hording resources. When possible, have your ally send you additional supplies and resources to quickly construct a high tier unit. In teams of three and above however, begin researching Priority Level 1 and 2 as soon as possible—perhaps even immediately. When you reach the required Collective Connections, have your allies send you the necessary amount of resources to allow you to quickly build a very powerful unit—ideally an early Pyramid, Diamond, or even a Tactical Cube. Another perfectly acceptable strategy for the Assimilate avatar is to have your ally mine more tritanium than usual in exchange for you trading him or her dilithium. Construct *only* full assimilation Assimilators why letting your ally take most of the dilithium to build dilithium heavy units. Often this strategy works best with dilithium expensive units, such as the Saber, K'beaiO, etc.

Map Editing

Introduction to the Map Editor

In Fleet Operations the Map Editor can be accessed directly from the main menu. There is a nice list where you can select the map you want to edit or even create a whole new map.



Design

Designing a New Map

The most important thing to do when making a new map is planning ahead. It is very useful to have a clear idea of what kind of map you are going to make, for how many players it will be for, whether it can be played with

teams, how big it will be, what kind of map objects, asteroids and nebulae there will be, where they are located and where there any derelicts or non player units.

It is usually good idea to have some sort of plan drawn on paper so that you know where the starting locations, the resource moons, nebulae and asteroids are going to be.

If possible, try to place some interesting areas in the map that could have significant risks and bonuses, like resource moons in dangerous areas or in battle zones.

Balancing

Probably the hardest thing in map making is balancing the map. In multiplayer it is necessary that every player/team has equal chances by map design. Almost everything in the design affects the balance.

The easiest way to make a map balanced is by making it symmetrical for each player. Thus every side has the same advantages and disadvantages. The problem with this type of design is that the map can easily become too predictable to play.

When the map is asymmetrical, balancing requires much more effort. Each starting location should have similar advantages and disadvantages to other starting locations. Also, if the map is designed to be played with teams that are not equal in numbers, the smaller team should usually have some sort of map advantage to be able to fend off the bigger team.

You should always test the map balance prior to using the map in multiplayer or before you release it.

Making a Map

Map Editor Interface

The map editor interface works mostly with a keyboard. The map object menu is used with the function keys (F1 to F6 and F10)

F1	Map objects
F2 to F6	Factions
F10	Non playable units (and triggers)
Tab	Return to previous level in map object menu
Delete	Delete a map object

Shift+Up/Down	Switch player
Ctrl+R	Open map settings window
Ctrl+S	Open the save dialog

The map objects can be dragged to different locations by selecting the object and holding down the left click button and they can be rotated by holding down the right click button. If you want to change the object's placement in the Y direction, it is recommended that you follow the instructions given in the Advanced Settings section. Note that if you want to avoid placing objects off the playable map, you should activate the grid feature by pressing Alt + G. This will show you the map boundaries.

You can save your map by pressing Ctrl+S. To be able to play the map, you must save it to bzn folder in Fleet Operation's Data folder.

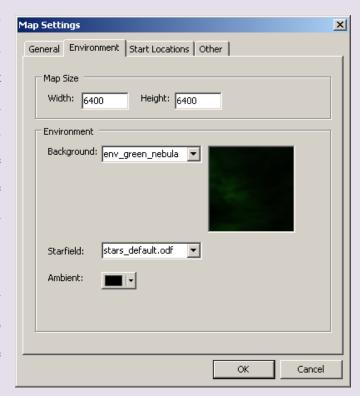
The map editor may crash occasionally, so remember to save your map often.

Basics

Map Size

The first thing that should be done when making a new map is to choose the size. You should not make maps smaller than $6,400 \times 6,400$ units, because in a map of that size, you will be right next to your opponent, and in smaller maps there could even be very serious problems with building stations (especially as the Borg). On the other hand, a map larger than $50,000 \times 50,000$ can be unstable, so it is unwise to create battlefields that exceed this size.

To set the map size, open the map settings window by pressing Ctrl+R. Select the Environment tab. Set the map size and press OK. The editor will ask if you want to save and reload the map. You should click OK.



Placing Map Objects

After you have chosen the appropriate map size, you should put in the "terrain": asteroid fields and nebulae. The resource moons and wormholes can also be placed after setting the map size, but it is probably easier to add them after the asteroid fields and nebulae.

Asteroid fields will not block ships from moving through them. The visual layer and the blocking layer have been separated in Fleet Operations. First you should place the visual layer using the map objects menu (F1). After that you can place the blocking triggers (F10 Non Player Races \rightarrow F2 Trigger \rightarrow F1 Blocking). Blocking triggers should be placed as an unbreakable chain in the asteroid field. You can add blocking triggers at any time, if you prefer not to place them right after the visual layer.

Nebulae and resource moons are placed just by selecting them from map objects menu.

When you place resource moons, it is often a good idea to check that their Y coordinate is 0 (more information about coordinate systems is in the Advanced Section)

Wormholes must be placed in pairs. The first wormhole leads to the second wormhole and the third wormhole leads to the fourth wormhole and so on.

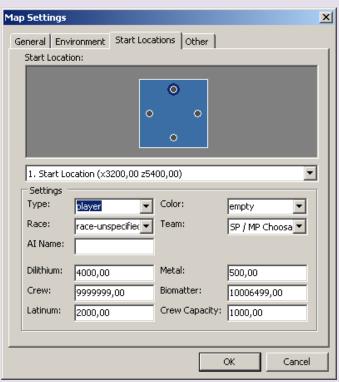
To delete map objects, simply press delete when the object or objects are selected. If the map object places a red "non buildable area", just ignore the footprint if you move or remove the map object. The next time when you

load the map the area is placed correctly.

Adding Starting Locations

When your map's basic structure is created you can add the starting locations. You shouldn't put the starting points too close to each other or too close to other map objects.

Press Alt and left click the location where you want the starting point. Double click the point that you just created and a new window should appear. Rename the point to Camera_1 [replace the number for each player (Camera_1, Camera_2, Camera_3...)]. Make one point



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for each player. Remember, when you rename the starting points, be sure to capitalize the word "Camera".

After you have placed the starting points for each player, open the Map Settings window (Ctrl+R) and select the Start Locations tab. If the map is for less than 8 players, select each unused player number from the list and set the type for unused player to empty. It is recommended that you check that each used player slot is set to player. When ready, press OK. After that you should check that the start locations are placed correctly.

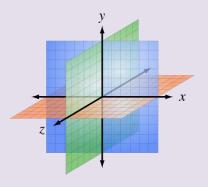
Minimap

After you are finished with your map, you probably want to put the minimap with your map so that you can see it in the map selector. One way to do this it to move your screen in the left or right corner of the map, zoom in all the way, take a screenshot and crop the minimap out of it. Make sure to save the minimap image as a BMP in the bzn folder. The minimap image shares the map's name so that they both have the same filename (but a different file extension).

Advanced

Map Object Settings

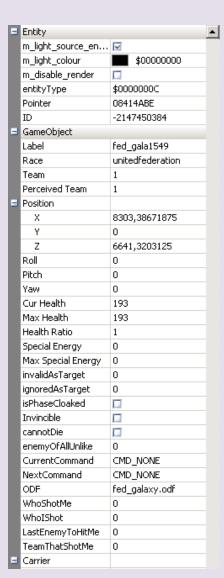
When you double click a map object you will get the advanced map object options list on the left side of your screen/window. You can change many settings in here like the object's exact coordinates, pitch and yaw. If the object is ship or station, you can change its attributes using this tool.



There are three coordinates in Fleet Operations, but the height or Y-axis has been removed from Fleet Operations. The Y coordinate for most map objects (especially for those that have a purpose in game play) should be set to zero. X and Z coordinates are for map object placement in horizontal and

vertical directions. The Y coordinate can be used however for decorative map objects like planets and stars that do no interact with your war games.

If the object is a ship or a station, you can change its shield capacity/level, hull strength and health, player, crew level, and subsystem status.



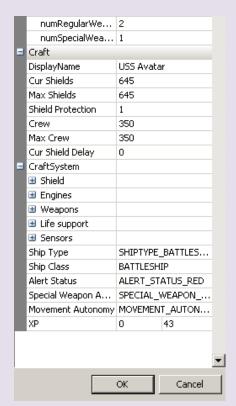
The yaw and the pitch values are in degrees (0 to ± 180).

Note that for Vista and Windows 7 users, it is often best to use the Map Editor in windowed mode, as sometimes the Advanced settings window will not appear when in fullscreen mode.

Decorating

Map Objects

There are several map objects that have only decorative purposes. You can place stars and planets on your map to adorn them. You can also put dust fields in your map, and some larger asteroids. If you place stars and planets, don't put them too high (in the Y direction), because it may create some unwanted side effects.



Background

You can set different backgrounds in your map in the Map Settings's Environment tab. The small preview box works for most of the background textures. If you can't see the change, check that you have your graphics details at the highest value in the Graphics settings.

Lights

In almost all maps, there is at least one light source in the map. When the map is first created there is a light source in the middle of the map. You can rotate it like any other map object if you want to change the direction from where light illuminates the map. If you want to add more light sources, they can be put in via the Map Objects menu. To change the color of the light coming from the source, double click the light source and select the color from the Advanced Settings. If you want to change the ambient light, it can be changed via the Map Setting's Environment tab.

The location of the light source does not affect the light. Only the direction of the light source affects the direction where light comes.

Be careful when editing the lights. The map is not very nice to play with if it is too darkly lit.

Non Playable Units and Derelicts

If you want to place units that are always on the map, but are not controlled by any player, put the unit on the map, and set its player number higher than the maximum numbers of players on the map by one. To create a derelict, create a unit in a similar way, but set its crew compliment to zero.

Fleet Operations Apocrypha

Taken from DOCa Cola and Optec's Musings

An Introduction to the Fleet Operations Universe

The Fleet Operations Universe splits off somewhere during the show Voyager. The events of Fleet Operations



themselves take place at the turn of the next century, around 20 years after the Dominion War (between 2390-2395). Romulus is still the heart of the Romulan Empire in 2392, where most of the "Eraudi incident" begins that starts much of the Alpha-Quadrant relevant story part of the Fleet Operations Universe. The differences between canon Star

Trek and Fleet Operations emerged because the story of Fleet Operations was written and planned while Voyager was on TV in Germany. The Developer Team included some aspects of newer films and shows as the storyline evolved. The FO Universe emerged out of a scenario that was made up and developed long before Voyager found its way home—that is why the FO Universe and the Star Trek Universe have some differences in the Post-Dominion-War time. Some events were included, but some were not.

Species 8472 plays an important role in one or two events, too, but they no longer invade normal space. The FO Storyline is focused around the Alpha, Beta and Gamma Quadrant and Species 8472 does not play a major role in those areas. Besides that the Developer Team thinks it's much more interesting to have map events where fluidic gates open and super powerful ships jump out.

In the final version there will be four admirals for each faction, including Special Agent Lewitt, from the Star Fleet Intelligence, who has some 'uncommon' weapons. Perhaps there will be Janeway or someone from Section 31, but Section 31 is meant to be an NPC faction.

The mirror universe is not part of the Fleet Operations storyline and there will not be inter-dimensional/universe travel. Perhaps some strange-painted ancient Federation derelict will appear here and there on some maps...

Note that the FO storyline will change a little from what is portrayed here. The Developer Team would like to use this story one day for a campaign, but there will be much space for newly developed scenarios, such as alternative timelines or events from the past.

The Campaign

The first idea is to have four campaigns with the eight playable factions (in some scenarios you would get NPR allies like the Tholians):

- A Federation / Klingon Campaign, where you follow some strange events happening in the Alpha Quadrant.
- A Romulan / Ciadan Campaign, where you meet the Romulans and initiate an epic alliance as well as some conflicts that won't be revealed yet.
- A Borg / Iconian Campaign, where you first siege the Iconian Home system thousands of years ago and then, far in the future, return with the Iconians...
- A Noxter / Dominion Campaign, where you lead the Noxter through the Gamma Quadrant and rebuild the Dominion Order.

Non Playable Factions

The Developer Team plans to include 3 categories of non playable (NP) factions.

• Major Non Playable Factions

These factions - like the Cardassians for example - are fully intact small races. They usually have fewer vessels then a playable race and no avatars, but they have all that a player would need to control them. Starbases, Mining Stations, Yards, Support Ships and so on. They can also be found as complete intact AI forces on several maps

• Minor Non Playable Factions

Smaller factions - like the Orion Pirates for example - do not have a full building spectrum. They usually have just a few key buildings which can appear on maps: like a Yard, a Trading Post or something of that sort.

• Single Units

A few "factions" do just consist of a single or a few units, like Species 8472, the Crystalline Entity and stuff like that. They usually will appear on maps with special events, like Fluidic Rifts etc.

Intelligence Report: The Noxter

The Noxter are a space-living organic species who evolved in a large Bio-Mass-Expanse (also referred to as the

Biogen Nebula, although it's not exactly a Nebula) in the Gamma Quadrant millions of years ago. The six large condensed matter structures which served as spawning grounds for most young Noxter would later be called "Mothers". They lived in peace (well basically in ignorance because they didn't know any other life form, they never went to planets and the like). However, at some time, another space-traveling species of shape-shifting beings evolved in the Gamma Quadrant. This species - later known as the Founders - thought of the



Noxter as abominations and killed most of them who left the Biogen Nebula. As time went by, the Founders started to analyze dead or captured young Noxter and were very interested in the rapidly-morphing genetic structure of the Noxter--something they are still quite unique for in the 24th century. The Founders realized that this aspect of the Noxter comes very close to their own beings. Quite the narcissists, they began to fear and love that at the same time. In the following war the Noxter population was reduced to about 10 percent and the mothers finally decided to leave the Gamma Quadrant and made their way out of their Nebula into the dark depths of the galaxy. Nobody knows where the six Mothers are now or if they are still alive. The Biogen Nebula vanished over time, only some small remains can still be found today.

With their first - and only - enemy gone the Founders begin to feel god-like and started to play with life itself. They analyzed the captured Noxter and remains of the Bio-Gen Nebula and learned much about manipulating the basics of life. A few centuries later they injected control-mutated Noxter DNA in the gene pool of several planets. One of the planets evolved a species that was easy to manipulate - later known as the Jem'Hadar. So



basically, the Jem'Hadar are the only thing that remains of the Noxter's appearance in history - until now! Today the Jem'Hadar don't carry much Noxter DNA, but some very basic elements for their genetic code are still Noxter. There are rumors about "free" Jem'Hadar, where Noxter genetic remains were activated and rapidly changed their host organisms. They are rumored to live with the Noxter Swarm now, but well, that's just a rumor, isn't it?

The Cardassians are very important to the Noxter, as they actually "discovered" them upon their return, and there are links between the Cardassians and the Noxter... well, not all Noxter, but at least a few. The Noxter society is not very stable. There are some groups of Cardassian fanatics that cooperate with some

Noxter later on in the FO story (around 2400) but there is no real alliance, as the Noxter do not share the same values as most "humanoid microbes".

In the years after the Dominion War many Federation member planets (Alpha Centauri to name the most popular) started a program to support civil programs on Cardassia and other planets in the Cardassian Union. Supported by Starfleet, a large-scale reconstruction program of the ruined union began. One could say that it was not only a gesture of good will, but also the attempt to bind Cardassia closer to the Federation and – in long term thinking - to make it a potential Federation member.

The resources to rebuild the cities and civil facilities of Cardassia were planned to come from the Noxadion asteroid belt, a large expanse of variable gravity which once was a solar system at the border of Cardassian space. The Noxadion sun went supernova centuries ago, leaving nothing but a giant asteroid belt. The Cardassians already mined there during their first expansion phases--where the Union was founded. Federation engineers were quite confident that modern mining systems could get enough resources out of the system and Starfleet promised logistic support as well.

Only one year after the first mining operations began, some freighters reported strange mass changes in the inner asteroid belt systems. The first scans of unknown space-living organisms populating the asteroid belts were reported by a Starfleet vessel a few weeks later. All mining operations were frozen and a large Federation-wide discussion was kicked off. Should the Prime Directive apply to space-living organisms as well? Many of the criteria of the Prime Directive clearly did not fit. With the Federation mining operations stopped, the Noxadion system soon became a target for many black-market and Ferengi miners who exploited the asteroid belt to its limits. As they went deeper and deeper into the system, the space-living-life forms--named the Noxter after the asteroid belt--became much more active.

The first black market transporters were lost within a few weeks. The USS Kentery found a Ferengi Marauder, badly damaged with most of its armor biologically digested. The Kentery scanned the freighter and towed it out of the belt, as its hull suddenly broke and several Noxter larvae escaped back into the belt.

Scans were made of the wreckage and the organic remains were analyzed. The whole system was put under quarantine by Starfleet and attempts were made to communicate with these strange life forms. So far, all attempts had failed and with growing fears Starfleet watched the Noxter expand throughout the asteroid belt, unsure of what the future would hold.

The Noxter themselves do neither understand technology as we humans are used to it, nor was anybody able to

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communicate with a Noxter. Popular Federation scientists do still see them as a very interesting and unique stellar life form, but not as a real stellar and intelligent power. Let's see what the future holds.

Their vessels are impossible to assimilate because the Noxter *are* the vessels. Also some species became part of the swarm during their voyage (for example the macro virus..). The Noxter Swarm has mostly small vessels (no need for crew space or corridors) and plays very aggressively. The Noxter have a hierarchy and a social structure and will play as if you are controlling a giant ant swarm.

The Noxter are planned to have a very unique game style. That already starts with 'vessel' construction: living beings are not built--they are born and grow up. Something similar will be done for the Noxter. Special organisms, called Breeders, may consume small Noxter eggs - called Seeds - that contain genetic information, the "blue-print" of a new species. Once a Seed has been consumed, a complex metamorphosis is triggered, completely changing the behavior of the Breeder. It starts to constantly reproduce new Noxter, according to the seed's structure. As such extensive protein synthesis consumes large amounts of energy, a breeder can only survive within the swarm and must be fed, consuming resources.

Once a Breeder has consumed a seed its genetic information morphs, so the process is irreversible and it can no longer consume other seeds. However, a Breeder may halt evolution for a bit (a few in-game minutes probably) without eating something (consuming resources) but basically, once you have a Breeder you have to take care of it until the bitter end.

Of course you can think of a Breeder being consumed by the swarm again. The Noxter don't favor cannibalism, but Breeders are not expected to be sentient or intelligent, so they act more like tools and... well... might be consumed if the swarm is running low in food. Basically every Noxter would sacrifice itself to save its mother.

From the current point of development the Noxter will use the same resources as all other races - dilithium and tritanium - but won't use supply at all, as Noxter are supplied by the swarm and don't need spare parts or Romulan ale. Mining however will be different, as the Noxter use bacteria to synthesize bio-tech metals. That will also define the look of the Noxter. Unlike Beta 2 they will look less dark, with white or silver and semi-transparent parts. Other elements like purple or orange will be there of course, too.

Those unique concepts of economy give a Noxter player some very special things to take care of. Once a Breeder has absorbed a seed and begins evolving new beings, you have a constant supply of organisms at hand. But once your resources run low, your Breeders may die of hunger! The priority to hold a stable and secure home base - the swarm - is probably much more important for the Noxter, then for any race. That fits to the

organic character, as the swarm contains the thing that is most valuable for a Noxter - its mother! To underline that, there are many interesting things planed for the swarm.

They will have organic elements, but there will also be a good part of technology for them and thus will utilize some technological weaponry... The avatars for the Noxter are different mother-entities, so basically different genetic lines or families.

The average Noxter is indeed sentient and intelligent, but those capabilities vary highly from species to species. Perhaps it is necessary to define the term "Noxter" here a bit closer, as the swarm does not consist of just one species. The "Noxter" is really the name of a space-based ecosystem, or a special kind of evolution of life. All Noxter share the basic way of encoding genetic information (they don't have a DNA like humanoids do) and they roughly consist of the same proteins and their bodies work similar. That's also true for humans and dogs.

The most capable Noxter - mental wise - is the Mother. She is not only capable to forge genetic seeds, she also acts as some kind of communications hub. The Mother emits hormones into the swarm. Nebulae serve as bases for chemical communication between the Noxter. Besides that, they don't have a known language, and nobody was able to communicate with a Noxter, although the Federation tried for quite some time. The Noxter are not controlled by an "Overmind" or super entity, as - in theory - every Noxter can decide for itself if it wants to execute the chemical information package it has received. Their intellectual capabilities are similar to humans, but they have a very different view of the Universe, physics, technology and goals for life in general, so usually there are no conflicts. However, who knows what the future will bring--what with so many strange, metal ships flying around!

Intelligence Report: The Ciadan

The home world of the Ciadan (called Kaseidron) had been shifted to subspace (a kind of reverse dimension filled with energy) by a very unique anomaly (a subspace shockwave) caused by the collapse of its sun. It was originally in the delta quadrant of our galaxy, what is today Borg space. This special shockwave--unique to the

whole Universe—caused the nearly completely water covered planet Kaseidron to break out of its orbit and shift into subspace. This was how Kaseidron began his lonely travel through subspace. This happened before the Ciadan evolved on Kaseidron, so the Ciadan have always lived with subspace radiation and subspace particles filling their atmosphere. The Ciadan society lived peacefully in their... very special way (also looking very similar to humans, their behavior



is quite strange.. some call it naive, some crazy, some ...) until they found out that Kaseidron will end its travel

in some time and drop out of subspace. This was the time when they realized, that their true home system was very far away. Kaseidron ended its travel in the Andromeda galaxy.

The Ciadan, only being a 1000 year old race, had impressive technological capabilities. They developed a special medicament which allows them to survive in 'normal' space. After 300 years of development, exploration and expansion (Andromeda itself is quite empty) the Ciadan began an impressive project. They constructed a giant spaceship to travel to our galaxy and discover their true home system. Because of their sub space warp drives they reached our galaxy 400 years later...However, they were unable to locate the location of their true home system, therefore they settled on a planet in the deep Alpha Quadrant, which they call Herdantron. They constructed a giant Dyson Sphere around it, using the Mothership as a basic platform.

The Ciadan are scientists. They have their own very special reason to research: simply trying, like a child playing with bricks. They are like kids somehow, playing with the small ant until killing it, but basically they are innocent, they don't plot evil plans to decimate populations-it just happens accidentally! It wasn't their fault! This technique was very successful till now, so the Ciadan can access a large field of very highly advanced technology and have a very complex research hierarchy. For instance no Ciadan vessel has its single energy source. All vessels are linked through subspace with a special "battery", which provides the necessary energy to operate it. The Ciadan computer network, called a "database" is a similar construction, but the Ciadan use organic processors, as they would call them, to process all the information. These "organic processors" are simply humans, Vulcans, Romulans or even Borg, whatever sentient beings they find in the Universe. Scientists are planned as a special resource for the Ciadan faction, because they assign them to their research projects.

The Ciadan can survive in subspace and most of their technologies are based on subspace particles. For example they use a "subspace warp drive" which allows them to travel extremely fast and unseen, because the existence of material objects in subspace disprove what the federation and most other races know about subspace. The Ciadan can't survive in "normal space" for a long time and have to take a special medicine to stop the subspace particles in their cellular structure from decomposing).

The area their home planet was in during its journey—subspace--does not follow the same physical rules. Of course the Ciadan have a strong link to subspace. They, for example, were for a long time the only ones who managed to transfer mater to subspace (something the Vulcans proved to be impossible) and relocate mater within subspace. This in turn gives them a really fast method of traveling. And something to keep the Vulcans busy. The Ciadan can access the ability to shift to subspace and travel there. This will be a special ability of one or more Ciadan Vessels. All Ciadan vessels are relatively fast. You should also have to know that, besides the giant generation ship which won't be a buildable unit, all Ciadan ships are relatively small. Most battleships are

smaller than 400 or 500 meters. The Ciadan also have a quite unique hull construction method. They build - or better said--replicate their ships with dilithium hull plating, which renders there ships immune to most sensors and also makes them damn expensive and rare. But well, the Ciadan never had a real sense of economy. The only resource this species will use will be dilithium.

The Ciadan themselves follow the same rules of physics as we humans do. In fact they don't look that different from us. A bit smaller, physically much weaker with an alcohol based body and a bit too much silicon in their "organic" material. They also have no hair--something they really like on mammalian-based species. The Ciadan don't have much crew for their vessels or stations, and because they lack any type of sexual instinct their population is very low (one child born in a month or something of the sort). Their physical strength is also quite low. In Fleet Operations their vessels will have less crew and their fighting abilities are low. There won't be a steady crew loss, because of the medicine which allows them to survive in normal space. As their body strength is very weak they can easily be boarded. To avoid this, the Ciadan have developed several starships which are run without crew, but through a database uplink, so they cannot be boarded.

Only the Ciadan can build "Dyson Spheres" (they don't call them Dyson Spheres though). These facilities are automated, so they don't have crew. However, if you assimilate or board the necessary Ciadan ships you can build up one yourself. If there is a "Dyson Sphere" around a resource moon, no other player can mine from this moon. Of course the sphere can be destroyed like every mining station.

The Ciadan will be able to upgrade their stations (all Ciadan Stations are armed: they do not have a defense turret). They will be able to even equip their stations with special weapons (it is advised to set the stations to maximum special weapon autonomy then, or you will have to trigger the weapons yourself). The Ciadan will also probably get a greater variety of mine fields.

The Ciadan are a highly advanced race, specialized in developing artificial and cybernetic intelligence, with a very unique character and point of view. The Ciadan hacking capabilities are thus very impressive and they can override most starships for a short time or, under usage of special techniques, even permanently. The Ciadan make use of Holo Emitter technology as well (as do the Iconians).

The Ciadan wont harvest "people" in Fleet Operations, as a database complex is usually built in subspace or in a far corner of the galaxy where they clone, breed or "salvage" their CPUs, but it is no common military strategy. They don't attack planets because they need new brains, as they don't have a steady need for them. However, they have been seen to connect prisoners to the database, in the attempt to gain information from them via

virtual simulations, or direct "brain-hacking" (which is not that successful, due to the large variance of neuro-structures). This method is similar to the Romulan neuro-probes.

Essentially the Ciadan are not brutal. They don't "kill off" whole populations--like the Borg would do. They just don't think of all the consequences their actions might have, especially if it's not them who have to live with the consequences. There are even some Ciadan serving as CPUs in the Database...

We changed our design plan for the future a bit, so the Ciadan will probably have their first appearance as a NP Race, just to get them a bit early to you so more info on them will follow.

Intelligence Report: The Iconians

The Iconians are an ancient and forgotten race with a much deeper understanding of the Universe then other species can even hope to get close to. A highly advanced species which lived in the Alpha Quadrant thousands of years ago, they are a bit arrogant one could say, referring to us "new" species as children! Yes, they are humanoid, but are not as close to us humans as for example the Romulans or the Klingons. From what the Federation knows today they were the first interstellar empire in this part of the galaxy. In the Fleet Operations Universe this faction escaped destruction using time and timeline travel.... All Iconian holdings were abandoned in this timeline 40,000 years ago. You can still find a few Iconian ruins in both Federation and Romulan controlled space. What the Federation knows is that the Iconians had a war with an unknown enemy and were destroyed.



The Iconians had several conflicts with the Borg Collective, which tried to assimilate them, but failed because of the Iconian psionic capabilities. Therefore the Iconians where classified as a threat to the Collective. The war ended with a large Borg Fleet, trying to invade the Iconian Home system. The Icoians used a giant psionic shockwave to cripple the invading vessels. The war was won...

However, the shockwave had also disturbed the sun of the Iconian system and it began to collapse. The Iconian's Dynasty attempted to evacuate through time itself. Their knowledge of time and time travel allowed them to settle in another timeline. There the Iconians began to expand and prepare for vengeance...

The Iconians are the most advanced race in the Fleet Operations Universe. They have a good knowledge of the timeline and use temporal and psionic weapons. Being a species near evolutionary transcendence, they use a variety of supernatural psionic abilities, like rendering their vessels completely invulnerable for a period of time. The Iconian's technology is split into two sectors. On the one hand, they have psionic and transcendent

capabilities. On the other, they can access highly advanced technology like time travel or chronoton disruptors. The Iconians are arrogant, psionic sorcerers who plot revenge and seek to dominate their home galaxy again.

As the Iconians have lost their presence in this timeline, they warp in their vessels from the future or parallel Universes, where they dominate the galaxy. Therefore the Iconians have no need for collecting resources. Their only resource--if you want to call it that--is time and their vessels do have the longest "construction" times. The longer a game takes, the more vessels you can you expect. Most Iconian station upgrades and vessels take long to build.

The Iconians don't build a base. An Iconian base only consists of a giant main structure, which has been warped through time in this realm of the space time continuum. This station can open additional gateways through time to warp in Iconian vessels. This structure is a yard, command center and science station all in one. Notice that Iconian vessels cannot be repaired or boarded, and they cannot board enemy vessels. The Iconians can summon a hero to aid their fight.

Intelligence Report: The Klingon Imperial Empire

If you are wondering why the Negh'var has no cloak in the game it is because in the Fleet Operations Universe the average Negh'var lacks a cloak and of course because of game play issues. Since the Romulans are supposed to be the cloakers, it would look odd if all the Klingons' ships had cloaking devices as well—just of an inferior design.

TaQ'roja: House of Duras (survivors)

A clone of the Duras sisters, TaQ'roja was "born" on a Ciadan ship. Designed to be a "biological processor" (a CPU for the Ciadan ship) the ship was damaged in battle with a Klingon vessel and TaQ'roja awoke from her endless sleep within the computer core. When the vessel was salvaged by Orion pirates, she knew nothing of the universe, the Klingons—not even her own self. She grew up as the wife of an Orion pirate leader and did not know anything about her people for a long time. As she heard from her species and the House of Duras, she began to underhandedly assemble the old (and now dishonored and cast-away) allies of the House of Duras. Thus she attempts to fight for her place in the empire (the Klingon High Council) - and life in general. She's not the average Klingon, so Toral might still have supporters...

Martok: House of Martok

With his success in the Dominion War and the support of nearly all Houses in the Klingon High Council, the House of Martok became the strongest political faction in the Klingon Empire. Some of the major problems General Martok now has to face include rebuilding the fleet as well as resolving the economic problems that have shaken the Empire. His friends and allies--the United Federation of Planets-- are always happy to lend a hand, although they too suffer the same problems.

LuSpet

The Klingon LuSpet Class is a heavy short-range Cruiser. Its very impressive shielding allows a vessel of this type to sustain massive damage and protect the weaker long-range vessels of your fleet. The vessel is also equipped with a very special weapon: the cluster torpedo launcher. These unique projectiles break through the enemy shielding and detonate within the hull of the targeted vessel. Now they explode in smaller explosives which cause additional hull damage in the next seconds by damaging the interior.

Intelligence Report: The United Federation of Planets

The Galaxy program was already closed at the outbreak of the Dominion War. There were only a few Galaxy Class vessels in service and a hand full of space frames that had been rapidly put together to make them "war ready" (without most of the civil interior like holodecks, labs and other such things). Just for the time scale, the USS Galaxy began its first 5-year-mission around 2360.

Galaxy Class vessels are rare and Galaxy Class vessels are no longer in their production phase. That makes them ideal Warp-In vessels. It's nice for a player to get something popular from time to time, which is what makes the Galaxy Class feel special. Galaxy saucer separation might make it in as a last minute emergency maneuver—but *not* as an enhancement to the Galaxy's offensive or defensive power.

Admiral Jane Risner: Starfleet Command

Before Fleet Admiral Risner was promoted to the rank of commander, she was the first officer aboard the USS Alamo, which was destroyed in the first conflict with the Dominion. She soon got her own command during the war, but this also ended in tragedy. Her ship, the USS Churchill, was ambushed by the armed forces of the Dominion, shortly after the space station Deep Space 9 was conquered. She was one of the few survivors, but still capable of destroying two Dominion Attack Destroyers with nothing more than a Type 9 Shuttle.

Although some in Starfleet Intelligence reported her to have links with the illegal "Section 31", she was still appointed to the position of Admiral shortly after Dominion War. Admiral Risner swore that she would defend and preserve the Federation and her followers for any price – perhaps in part to render honor to the Federation's friends and officers who had fallen during the war.

There are some links between Section 31 and the Admiral, but nothing that is official or free from doubt. Section 31 plays no major role in the Fleet Operations storyline, and therefore won't be honored with their own avatar any time soon.

Phalanx Weapon Systems

The Magnan Phaser is not named after a scientist, but after the Planet Magnan Erethos IIV. The Sun of the Magnan Erethos System had a very unique fate. It was passed by a black hole, which nearly consumed the entire mass of the sun and triggering a giant chain reaction within the Magnan Erethos system. A small Starfleet observation outpost on Magnan Erethos IIV and a few brave scientists who declined evacuation were able to get complete and detailed sensor scans of this galactic disaster. It was one of the major scientific events in the 2260s.

Among many unique sensor readings there was one kind of particle emitted by the dying sun which never got completely analyzed. The so called "Magnan Particle" remained a mystery, until 2371 where suddenly someone found a way to create Magnan Particles without killing a sun each time. While the technological details of the Magnan Phaser remained secret, its firepower soon became well known. Many people - including Federation Council members - still wonder why the Magnan Particles were used as a weapon in the first place, why there is no record of the research with them, and why they get only installed on Phalanx Class vessels. But well, what would the universe be without little secrets...?

The Magnan Phaser Array is still called an array even if it is just a forward firing cannon. The name Array defines the way energy is charged (in this case in a special coil similar to normal phaser arrays).

The Avalon

The USS Avalon is one of the newest Starfleet designs and the first vessel of its class left the San Francisco Yards almost on the same day when Voyager went through the Borg Transwarp Hub back to the Alpha Quadrant. As the quickly produced Federation fighters showed good performance during the Dominion War, Starfleet decided to keep a constant number of Attack Fighters in service even in times of peace. With great support for the project from Admiral Risner, the Avalon Class was designed as a mobile command center for

fighter operations. The vessel can also acts as a logistics center for evacuation or routine missions, it is however not equipped with sufficient labs for scientific tasks.

Quantum Pulse

The Quantum Pulse (or better called "Quantum enhanced Photon Impulse Weapon") is one of the newer weapon systems that were developed by Starfleet. Combining the effectiveness of both Quantum Torpedos and Pulse Phasers it became one of the most powerful weapon systems in the Star Fleet arsenal. Also the Canaveral Class is only equipped with a light version of this weapon you can expect larger Quantum Pulse cannons on avatar vessels in future Fleet Operations releases...

Admiral Ben Mayson: Starfleet Engineering

Fleet Admiral Ben Mayson is a typical star admiral of the fleet. His affection for the ideas of the Federation and the Federation itself never seem to fit better than with the Starfleet bureaucrats of the 24th Century. With this realization, it is easy to understand that the war against the Dominion was a real nightmare for Ben Mayson. He was one of the first to appeal for a possible peace treaty after the Dominion Conflict. Furthermore, he also was able to make peace with the Tholian Assembly—a minor Alpha Quadrant Power which had been allied with the Dominion during the war.

With a rich and successful history, one could say that Star Fleet Admiral Mayson is more a diplomat than an Admiral of years past. If his plans to unite the Alpha Quadrant are be successful, then it will be a peaceful and bright future.

Plans

The Nova will most likely appear in both the "normal" and the modified version seen in Voyager: Endgame. Precise balancing and the ship's exact role are not yet set. The vessel will probably appear under Special Agent Lewitt, a Star Fleet Intelligence Avatar planned for a future version, as many long-term stealth or espionage missions are not much different from deep space missions in terms of contact with "friends". In the Fleet Operations universe the Nova only exists in small numbers.



Intelligence Report: The Borg Collective

The Borg do not have admirals like the other factions. The Collective is divided into different unimatrixes which fulfill different aspects to serve the Collective's needs. For example, one unimatrix (a unimatrix is not a building but a section of the Collective. It can contain multiple uni complexes and "fleets") could be specialized on assimilation, and another one on destroying vessels which exceed the assimilation capabilities. Therefore you select "directives" for the Borg.

In the Fleet Operations Universe, the Borg Cubes that were present in the battles of sector 001 (TNG: Best of Both Worlds and Star Trek VIII: First Contact) were Command Cubes. These are vessels designed for Command and Assimilation and are extremely powerful and large with some limited adaption features. The Cubes seen in Voyager on the other hand were your normal Cubes—hence the greatly reduced scaling and weaker firepower and armor.

Directive-Optimize: Unimatrix 001

The first and most important directive in the Collective has always been to attain perfection. A primary Borg fleet follows this rule in order to destroy enemies or to assimilate them using a minimum of resources and time.

Directive-Assimilate: Unimatrix 008

While our primary goal remains to perfect ourselves, we had yet to learn that many of our enemies were able to resist. Species 8472 and the humans showed us that perfection requires a lower relevance. Rather, we are now after technologies that can be exploited to seek and to assimilate to our advantage. Perfection through assimilation--many species and their technologies were thus added to the Collective.

The Pyramid

Chassis 703, vessel signature: combat, directive: assimilation. That could be the Borg designation for this giant vessel in the shape of a pyramid. While the Borg Cube was and will always be the standard vessel for most tasks the collective adapted after an attempt to assimilate border space of the dominion. The Pyramid is the result of this adaption.

Intelligence Report: The Dominion

The Cardassians are no longer part of the Dominion, as they quit and betrayed the Dominion and will never be part of the Dominion any time soon. Most of their economy is crushed, their home world devastated by orbital bombardment. The Dominion itself has a non-aggression-pact with the Federation - and the Alpha Quadrant itself - but there were far too many cruelties in the past for either the Federation or any other Alpha Quadrant power to accept an enduring peace treaty or even an alliance. Odo will do its best to solve that.

As the Cardassians are no longer a major stellar power and are not directly involved in the Fleet Operations storyline (they are important for the Noxter, therefore they will be major NPC faction) they are not included as a playable faction.

In the Fleet Operations timeline the Dominion began to build large yard complexes in Breen space, in order to commence their long-term goal of dominating the Alpha Quadrant. Repair, refit and construction yards were required. The Breen units buildable under the Breen avatar are thus the results of a Founder sent to the Breen home world to assist the Breen in building up a fleet capable of controlling the Alpha Quadrant after it had been conquered - notice that at this point they did not even think of the possibility of defeat during the Dominion

War. For this reason, Breen Technology is much more integrated into the Dominion yard structure than any other faction would be. The next avatar will probably feature its own yard complex for allied vessels.

When it became clear that the Dominion might lose the war, the Breen fall back to their favorite hobby--and one that the Romulans would be proud of: isolation. They attacked every ship which entered their space, no matter if it was civilian or military. Therefore information - as every other trading good - passed to their worlds quite slowly. They didn't even notice that the Dominion and the Federation had started negotiations. They still reinforced their yards to produce a second invasion force.

Before the end of the War a small Dominion Fleet (Jem'Hadar and Vorta ... even a Founder) was send to Breenthe home world of this exotic race--to start deeper negotiations and prepare them to become a part of the
Dominion. Even though the Dominion and the Federation had signed a non-aggression-act by now, the yards
orbiting Breen planets started constructing Breen starships suited for war - still not officially informed that the
war was actually over. As a result of this quite special situation, the Dominion-Breen avatar units might not
exactly "feel" like you think they should from the series. The Breen battleship model, is still a placeholder and
will be replaced by a new design. The Breen frigate as you know it from the shows will come in as a separate
NPC unit.

Alliance-Breen

Since the end of the Dominion War, the Breen maintained their isolationist policies. They attacked any ship that was within their territorial space--whether civilian or military. In this way, the Breen gained information—as well as trade goods—and their home worlds became steadily more powerful. They did not even notice that the Dominion and the Federation were in peace negotiations. The Breen rebuilt their yards and began to produce a second invasion fleet. Before the end of the war, a small Dominion Fleet arrived at the home world of these exotic aliens and began negotiations to prepare them for the new Dominion to be...

The C-11 Interception Destroyer

The C-11 Interception Destroyer is a quite modern and agile Dominion design. It was constructed to bring several new technologies and weapons into the field rather than being a deadly combat vessel like most other Dominion vessels are. It is equipped with a single Polaron Disruptor and light shielding. During several post-Dominion-War conflicts the Founders utilized these vessels to support their fleets and access a deadly variety of combat measures.

The Hyperspace Artillery

The Hyperspace Artillery is a weapon of mass destruction. The main body is giant subspace-particle generator. These particles are focused through several complex force field chambers. Finally a micro wormhole is generated for a few seconds to transport the charged hyperspace burst at its target location where it will implode and generate a shockwave which is capable of destroying whole fleets and especially stationary objects like starbases or defense platforms.

The first Hyperspace Artillery was constructed in the Gamma Quadrant during the Dominion war. This unique weapon was meant to destroy all relevant military starbases of the Federation and its allies in the alpha quadrant. Unfortunately the artillery never made it through the Bajoran wormhole before it collapsed and vanished forever.

The Hyperspace Artillery does also bring some unique elements into the gameplay. The first thing you will notice is the large attack range, which is even greater than all other artillery-range units. The second thing you will notice is the delay between the moment you gave the attack order and the final impact. As soon as you order an artillery strike a marker is displayed at the target location. A countdown of 5 seconds begins which gives the targeted player a short time window to evacuate starships from the bombarding position - if he or she is fast enough. 5...4...3...2...1... and then you get a big explosion and hopefully many enemy vessels fading away in a burst of hyperspace particles. The Hyperspace Artillery is also the only vessel which is not built from a yard but by the construction ship.

T-15 Heavy Cruiser

The T-14 Cruiser is a relatively old Jem'Hadar vessel design. It was in service for about 200 years until it was replaced by the popular V-Type Battle Cruiser series. The T-15 Heavy Cruiser is a complete remake of the T-14 Cruiser which has been equipped with additional shielding, armor plating, and a very powerful Impulse Disruptor weapon--which is extremely deadly against destroyers, fighters and other small, unarmored targets.

Today the T-15 is a very common design within Dominion space. Its powerful offensive and defensive capabilities make it a standard vessel for every escort or patrol mission.

Plans

The Son'a will appear as the third avatar for the Dominion.

Intelligence Report: The Romulan Star Empire

On the Remans: what do you think those lovely, democratic Romulans would do with the Remans after the Shinzon conflict? Do you believe they will write the Remans an admonishment and that's that? In the Fleet Operations Universe, the Romulans executed all Remans who held leading positions within the Empire and increased the brutality of Reman slavery on Remus. No Reman will ever see a starship again. The Remans (and the Scimitar) will be on some maps, but not buildable or part of the Romulans, and so will become an NPC faction and part of the campaign. For the fun part of the mod there will be a map object Scimitar that rips your base apart someday, just because we'd like to equip that vessel with some nice bad-ass weapons.

In the Fleet Operations timeline, the Ciadan have since allied with the Romulans. Consequently the Alpha Quadrant has become a bit destabilized since the Ciadan arrived. The Iconians don't help very much in stabilizing it as you might imagine.

General Mijural: Tal'Shiar High Command

Specializing in massive firepower, this is the general who initiated the Tavara project. A lively heroine, commander Selene i-Mijural celebrated with her people on becoming the captain of the t'Jarok flagship. Some historians believe that she and her crew are the Romulan counterpart to James T. Kirk and his own crew.

The facts are that General Mijural is the most important voice of the Tal'Shiar. It was this general who brought the Omega Core back to Romulan space (given by the Ciadan in fact), and it is now this core which is the source of energy for the Tavara class. Likewise, it was she who succeeded in creating a stable and effective alliance with the Ciadan Tecra. For the next few decades, Romulan history will definitely be influenced by General Mijural's chosen path...

The Shrike

The Shrike Class is a very fast Romulan destroyer which was designed for all kinds of espionage and stealth tasks. Its cloaking device has perfectly been adjusted to its energy signature, allowing a Shrike Class to pass through every enemy fleet without being seen. Of course Tachyon Scans will still detect its cloak signature.

The Shrike Class can be produced at the Staryard if you have chosen Mijural as your avatar. It has quite impressive shielding and armor for a vessel of its size. The Dual Rapid Fire Pulse Disruptors installed in Shrike Class vessels can beat up most destroyers easily, but a good Shrike Commander will avoid direct conflict and

try to continue its mission stealthy. The Tal'Shiar Agent special ability will allow you to send and intelligence operative onboard an enemy vessel or station and grant you complete line of view of the targeted unit.

The Cehlaer

The Cehlaer was a sister project of the Norexan Class warbird which is known for its technological advanced computer system design, a new type of hull plating and weapon power. The Cehlaer has all advantages the Norexan design has except that it's impulse engine and warp drive capabilites have been reduced to deliver a powerful arsenal of weapons for the Romulan Star Empire. General Mijural of the Tal'Shiar has had great influence in the development of the project and later also placed the Cehlaer Class into the Romulan defense fleet.

The reduction of speed relying on the lesser powerful engines makes the Cehlaer a powerful siege vessel. Its massive disruptor array can bring an impressive degree of destruction to the enemy. A commander of a Cehlaer type warbird said after a weapons test that the caehlar class is powerful enough to take on a borg cube. A good starship captain should always avoid to let one of these giant flying disruptors in the shape of warbird come into weapon range.

General Helev: Tal'Shiar Inner Security

Although both Romulan generals come from the Tal'Shiar, General Helev is the head of many Romulan intelligence operations. General Helev was the head of the secret operations behind most of the Tal'Shiar during the last hundred years. He is one of the most experienced and most intelligent Tal'Shiar generals in all of Romulan history. His Tavara and Generix projects were both glowing successes.

Even if Mijural remains "the" heroine to the public, Helev represents nothing more than the Commander of the Romulan defense fleet and a personal adjutant of the Praetor himself. His Spies and Agents will definitively play an important role in defeating every future danger the Romulan Star Empire may face in the Alpha Quadrant. The general will definitely remain an important figure in Alpha Quadrant power plays.

The Eresis

The Eresis Warbird is some kind of counterpart to the mighty Cehlaer Type Warbird. While the Cehlaer is equipped with massive weaponry and armor, but has low speed, the Eresis Warbird is the fastest battleship in the Romulan fleet. To complement the role of a deadly strike-and-retreat battlecruiser the Eresis Class can access a new weapon system: The Radiation Array.

The Saeihr

The Saeihr Class is the "Star Class", a prototype of a deep space, escort or scout vessel, equipped with weapons using replicable or mineable ammunition (projectile based weapons) instead of plasma or antimatter based weapons.

Plans

Admiral Sela may or may not become a Romulan avatar in a future version.



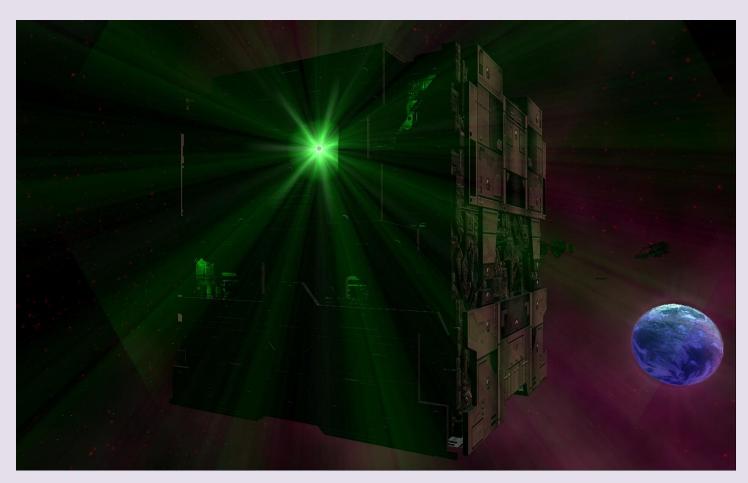
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...with all that having been said, get out there, play some multiplayer games and give me some feedback.

Above all else, have fun, and don't forget your towel!



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