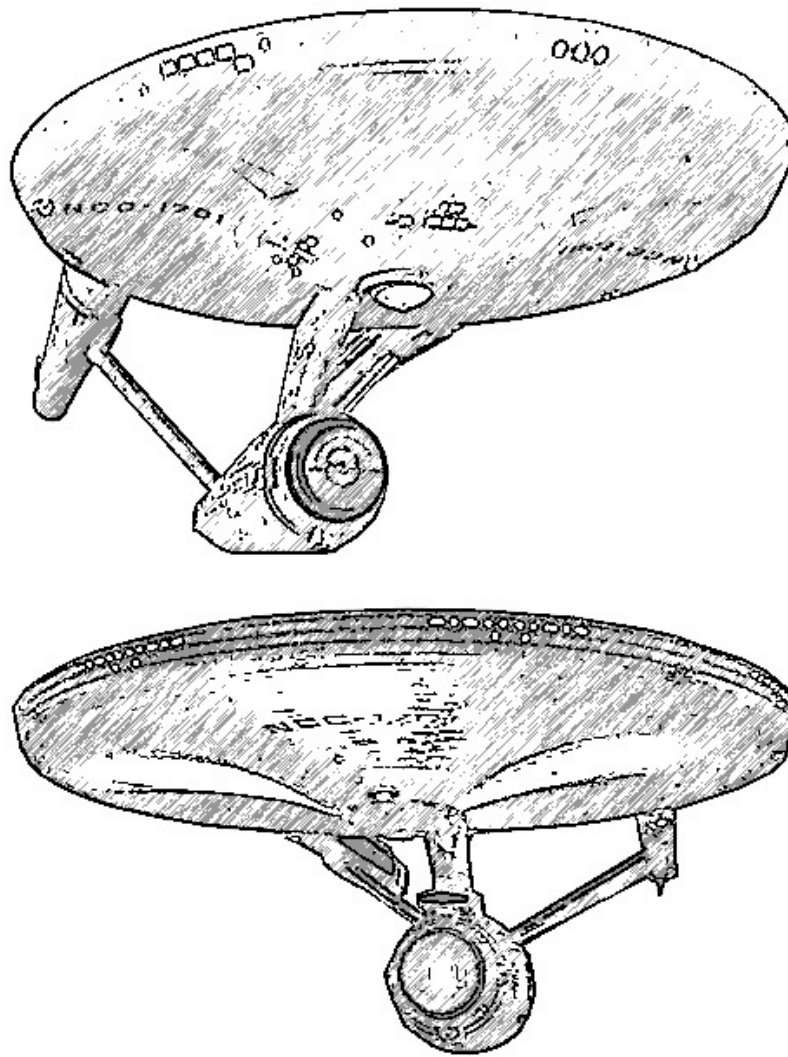


What If...



A study of the possible evolutionary paths
between the **Original Series Enterprise**
and
the **Enterprise of Star Trek: The Motion Picture**

Study by David Shaw
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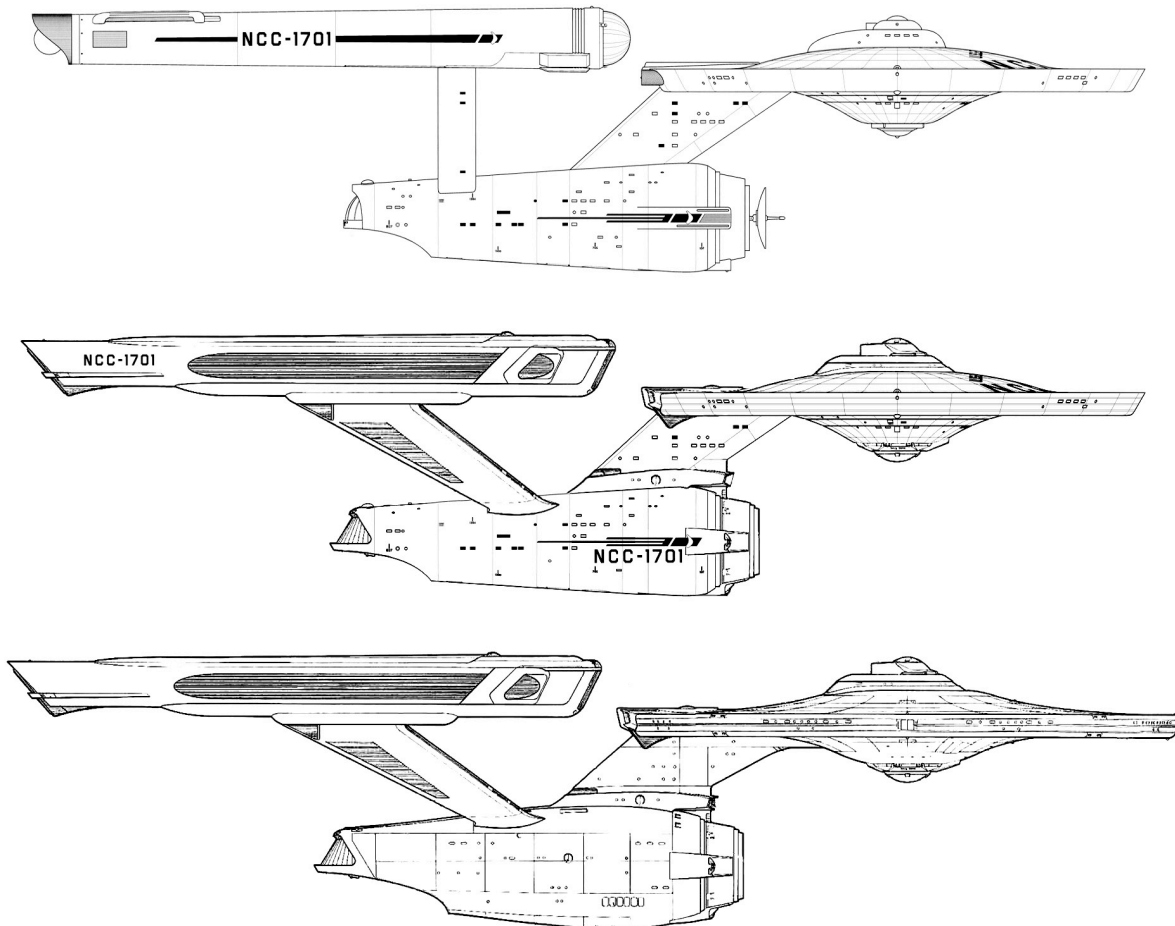
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11 foot Starting Point

What if the designers of Star Trek: The Motion Picture (TMP) had started with the plans of the original 11 foot model of the Enterprise from the Original Series (TOS)? Remember, in 1978 there were no accurate plans on hand when the movie version of the Enterprise was being designed, and from the over all form of the movie version, I would venture a guess that the designers started with Matt Jefferies Phase II plans of the Enterprise.

But what would the Enterprise have looked like had TMP technology been applied to the original TOS structure? This is a quick-n-dirty modification of the TOS Enterprise plans (using Charles Casimiro's plans of the 11 foot model) to illustrate what we might have seen.

Top is Casimiro's 11 foot plans, bottom is Kimbles plans of the TMP model, and center is the TMP technology applied to the 11 foot base structure.



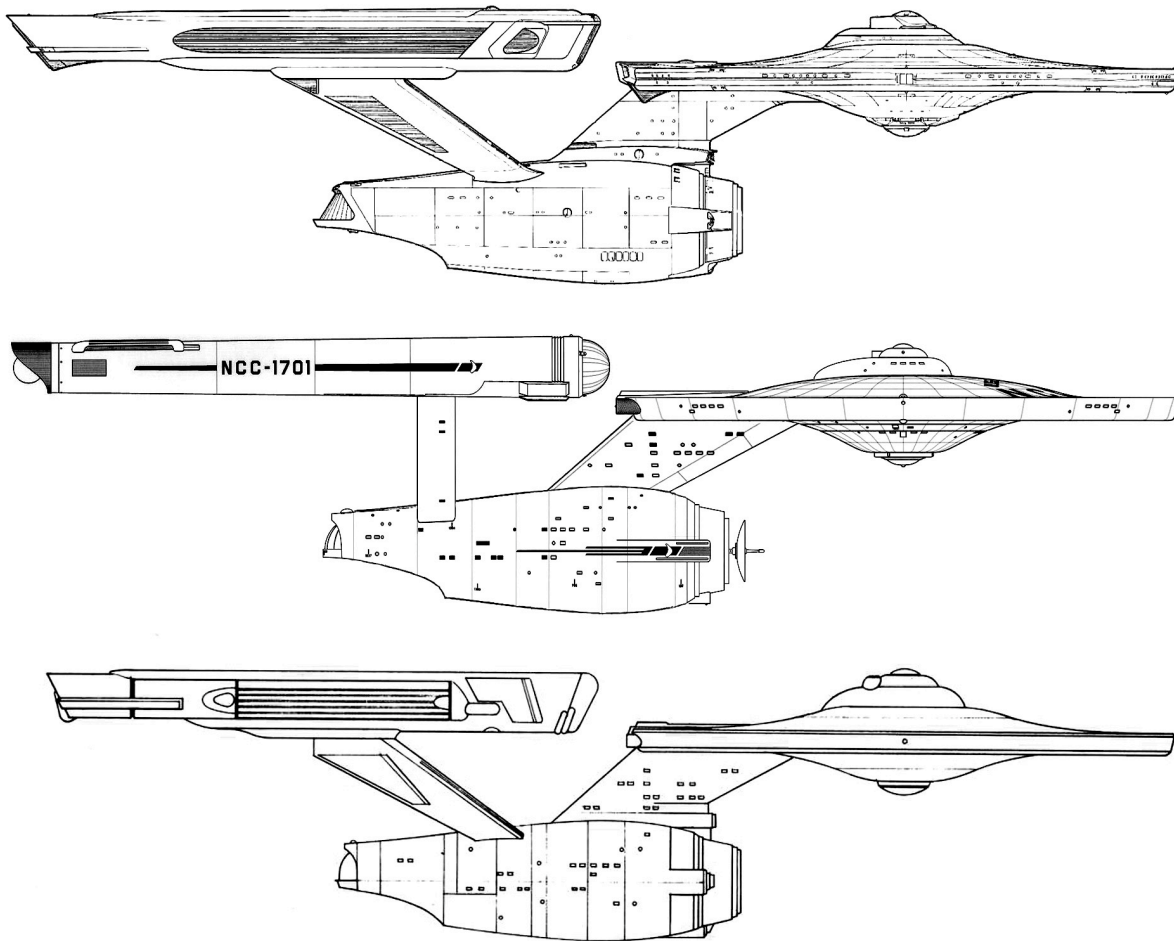
It isn't the best fit for what was added, but it does work none the less.

TMP Starting Point

What if we ran the evolution backwards?

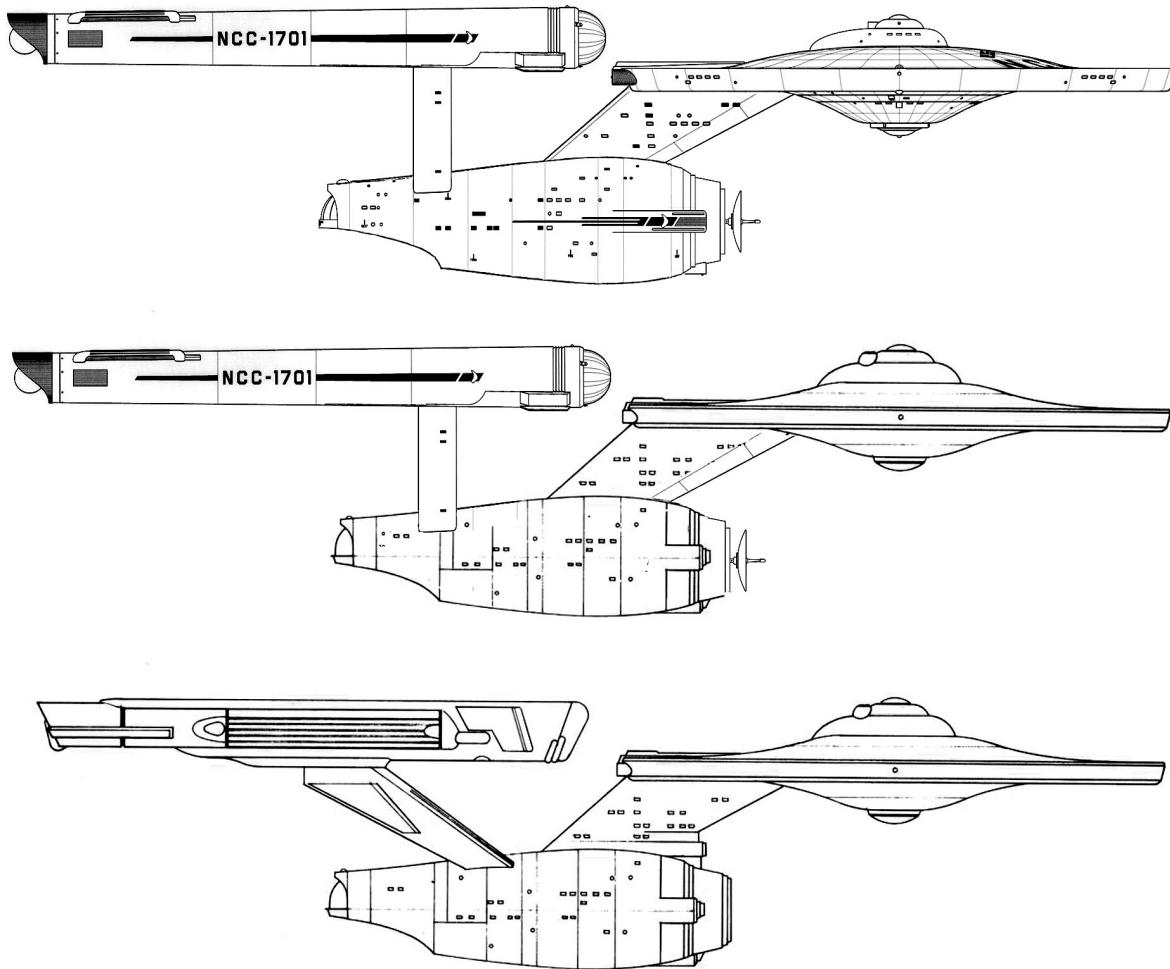
That is, what if we took the basic structure of the TMP Enterprise and worked backwards to see what a TOS version would have looked like? The results are actually surprising in that the modified Enterprise here bares a striking resemblance to Jefferies Phase II plans of the Enterprise (which was only supposed to have been a handful of upgrades from the original TOS Enterprise).

Top is Kimbles plans of the TMP model, bottom is one of Jefferies Phase II diagrams, and center is Casimiro's 11 foot plans with elements modified to match the relative dimension and shape of the TMP Enterprise.



We can look into this even further by reverting the Phase II diagram with a few elements from the TOS version to see how that version might have looked.

Top is Casimiro's 11 foot plans with elements modified to match the relative dimension and shape of the TMP Enterprise, bottom is one of Jefferies Phase II diagrams, and center is Jefferies Phase II diagrams with elements from Casimiro's 11 foot plans.

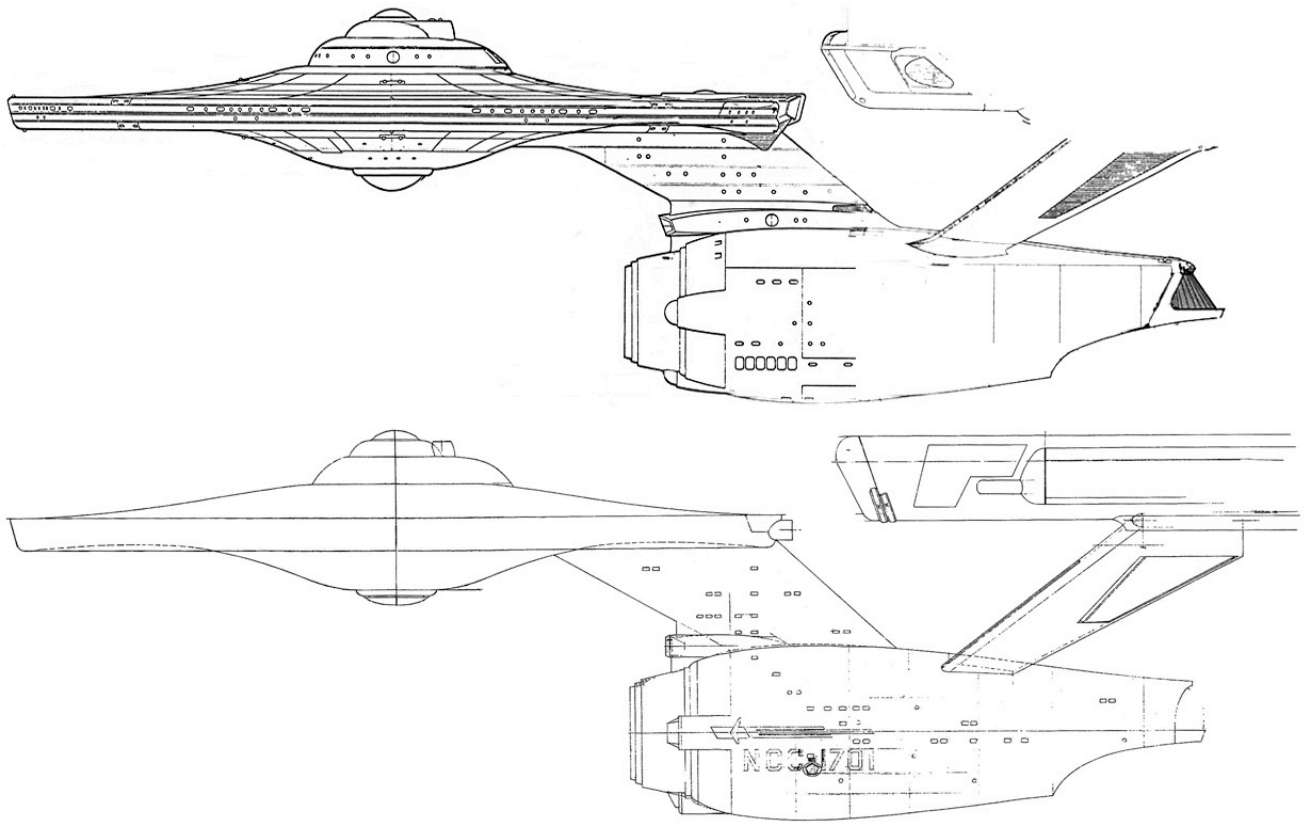


Early TMP and Phase II

As pointed out earlier, it sure seems as though the TMP Enterprise is actually an upgrade (or refit) of the Phase II Enterprise as drawn by Matt Jefferies.

I used a number of early drawings of the TMP Enterprise by Andrew Probert and worked them together to get a semi-complete view for the primary and secondary hulls. When compared with building plans for the Phase II Enterprise model, the basic shapes all match.

The top image is a composite of Probert's early TMP Enterprise, below it is Jefferies' Phase II building plans.



Conclusion

From what I've been able to find out, Matt Jefferies' Phase II Enterprise was supposed to be a slightly upgraded version of the starship we saw in TOS. The engines, navigational deflector, bridge, and torpedo areas were all upgraded. But beyond that, the rest of the structure of the ship was to have been considered unchanged.

By starting with Jefferies' Phase II plans, the designers of the Enterprise as seen in TMP further exaggerated changes that I believe Jefferies thought would actually be unnoticeable in the Phase II Enterprise.

The end result is that when the TMP Enterprise is held up next to the TOS Enterprise, we see no clear cut upgrade from one to the other. But when the Jefferies' Phase II changes are taken into account, the upgrade path becomes quite clear.

So yes, the TMP Enterprise is an upgrade/refit of the TOS Enterprise, only the production designers didn't start with the TOS Enterprise we saw in TOS to start this design evolution.

