

Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpb.com/>

Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpb.com/topic752.html>

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Author: **Shaw** [30 Jan 2011 19:17]

Post subject: **Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I'm curious how much interest there would be in a set of plans of the 18 inch Enterprise model kit. If (and a big *if*) I was to attempt such plans, I would do two versions... the original long box and the later retooled versions.

The reason I'm wanting to gauge interest in this is that it would require me to get a copy of each of those kits, and the older one could run as much as \$50 (with shipping). And if there isn't much interest, I'd rather not waste the money. 😞

Author: **aridas** [30 Jan 2011 20:58]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I'd be interested in your take on the original kit because of its connection with the Constellation as depicted. I have done some work with it and think your inquiries might end up showing me a few of the flaws in my illustrations.

Author: **Harry** [31 Jan 2011 04:35]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I'd be primarily interested in the version of the kit as used for filming: most prominently as the Constellation, but also later (a different model, allegedly still existing) as the Enterprise behind K-7.

The only drawings I know of are some pencil orthos by **Captain Robert April**, I myself traced my lines from grainy images of AMT models, half of which were probably the wrong version. So I suppose it's a nice addition to the three-footer data you researched and made available. That kind of thing really adds to our understanding of Star Trek.

Author: **aridas** [31 Jan 2011 10:17]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

This illustration was taken from direct measurements and contour tracings of an unbuilt 1966 model. This is supposed to be the ship in the 2230s, so some details

from the eventual DD model were changed. The saucer (sans bridge dome and impulse top), secondary hull (sans sensor/deflector emplacement) and dorsal are all AMT, however:

Image

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [31 Jan 2011 13:43]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I'd be interested for the same reasons mentioned above. There have been some really nice 'interpretive' drawings for the pilot and production Enterprise's over the past few years to resemble as closely as possible what they looked like onscreen, but not for Constellation really.

In recent years I've starting thinking of that ship as being from a different though similar class than Enterprise, so it would certainly add to our base of information.

Of course I'm sure you'd approach these as being plans for the real AMT kit and not the fictional vessel...just as you did with the 3 footer...but in this case I'd guess there wouldn't be as much a difference.

I've seen interest on this subject growing in other forums recently too, so I'm sure it would appeal to others besides just us.

Mark

Author: **Shaw** [31 Jan 2011 14:09]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Okay... I'll put some effort behind it then. I had put in a half-hearted bid on one on ebay a couple weeks ago (and lost), but at the time I wasn't quite sure why I would want it.

aridas, I had no idea that was where you had gotten those contours for that illustration. I'm so used to seeing the harsher curves of the B/C deck structure of the later kits that it hadn't occurred to me that that might have been your starting point.

Ahkyahnan wrote:

Of course I'm sure you'd approach these as being plans for the real AMT kit and not the fictional vessel...just as you did with the 3 footer...but in this case I'd guess there wouldn't be as much a

difference.

Yeah, I figure that if I do the models enough justice as models, then it won't take people too much effort to repurpose them into fictional projects.

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [31 Jan 2011 16:13]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Shaw wrote:

I had put in a half-hearted bid on one on ebay a couple weeks ago (and lost), **but at the time I wasn't quite sure why I would want it.**

I've frequently suffered from the same affliction. 😞 Regarding all manner of goods.

Mark

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [01 Feb 2011 20:56]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I would be so interested in this also 😊

Author: **publiusr** [05 Feb 2011 16:32]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

The area where SFB places the photon torpedos (Phasers for TAS) is very flat/bluff. In the old GEC, there was a James Lake who had that part down...

Author: **Shaw** [07 Feb 2011 23:12]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I just grabbed a first edition Enterprise, so I guess I'll be getting started soon.

My local model shop also has a 1983 version (in addition to the re-issues), so I might buy that one as well. The thing is, if the re-issued one is essentially the same model, I'd rather get it (with the nicer decal sheet) for 3 dollars less.

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Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

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Author: **aridas** [08 Feb 2011 03:53]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

It's not the same kit. Read this article if you haven't already. When I first read it many years back it fit my recollections:

<http://culttvman.com/main/?p=3665>

Author: **Shaw** [08 Feb 2011 07:34]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Well, that article was written back in 2000... before the re-issues. From [this article \(by the same person\)](#), the main difference between the current re-issue and the 1983 small box is the grid lines on top of the primary hull.

The thing is, the 1983 small box at my local hobby shop is going for about \$25.00 while the re-issued version is going for about \$22.00. And after spending about \$85.00 on a first edition, my wife isn't going to let me get both the 1983 small box *and* the re-issued version (she loves me, but not that much 🙄).

I'm leaning towards the re-issued version because I can save a couple dollars and get a nice decal sheet in the process (and I hated the previous decals with the weird machine font).

The big question for me is if there are any other significant physical differences between the 1983 small box and the re-issued version, as I'll be drawing up plans of the small box version of the model in addition to the plans of the original edition.

Author: **aridas** [08 Feb 2011 10:05]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I'm sorry. I thought you were comparing the 1966-69 issues with what came later. THOSE are most definitely different, with the first issue having vestiges of the 3 foot model along with some unique shaping that always made me wonder if they had had access to the original 12" model as well as all (or at least some of)

the plans.

I was given one of those special edition reissues in the metal box but I haven't studied it for differences beyond noting that it looked to be the same as the 80's releases.

Author: **Tallguy** [08 Feb 2011 10:37]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Sorry I missed this thread.

HELL YES! How else am I supposed to model my Constellation?

Looking forward to it.

Author: **Shaw** [08 Feb 2011 20:15]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

aridas wrote:

I'm sorry. I thought you were comparing the 1966-69 issues with what came later.

Oh... okay. I see what you were thinking.

Putting some thought into how to proceed, I think one of the things I'll do first is to do rubbings of the window areas of the primary hull, dorsal, secondary hull and supports. I'm not going to attempt to keep those raised windows when I later build the model, nor would I have cared to attempt to paint them if I had.

I'll use the rubbings to document the window positions, and later create decals of those windows for the model.

I'm already guessing that I'll be making new decals for this model as the ones that come with it are most likely too old to use. I'll scan the original sheet in and create new graphics tracing the old ones... and most likely get someone like JT Graphics to make me up new sheets of decals.

I'm planning on building this model as similar to how it might have been built back in the late 1960s. And back then, most people had little more than some of the publicity shots of the 33 inch and 11 foot model to work from. I'll also be looking at how the art department approached the building of both the

Constellation and the Enterprise AMT models for the show as well.

But yeah, a lot of this stuff will end up in the plans to document the model as best I can (so **Tallguy** can make a great Constellation model! 😊).

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [09 Feb 2011 00:36]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Shaw wrote:

But yeah, a lot of this stuff will end up in the plans to document the model as best I can (so **Tallguy** can make a great Constellation model! 😊).

Will be looking forward very much to both you and Tallguy's work!!

Mark

Author: **Tallguy** [09 Feb 2011 10:50]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Ahkyahnan wrote:

Shaw wrote:

But yeah, a lot of this stuff will end up in the plans to document the model as best I can (so **Tallguy** can make a great Constellation model! 😊).

Will be looking forward very much to both you and Tallguy's work!!

Mark

Damn, I'm on the hook now. Guess I'll have to remember how to model again.

Author: **davros_of_borg** [09 Feb 2011 17:14]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Quote:

Damn, I'm on the hook now. Guess I'll have to remember how to model again.

damn -- that one gave me a *really* surreal moment... : O

-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39YUXIKrOFk>

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [09 Feb 2011 20:30]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

~~~~~  
Yes so looking forward to this 😊

---

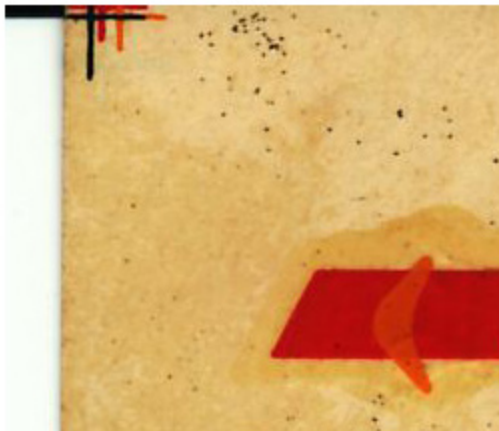
Author: **Shaw** [ 11 Feb 2011 16:56 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

~~~~~  
And we're off and running...

As of today I have both the 1966 AMT kit and the Round 2 re-issue kit.

The 1966 decals are (as expected) unusable, so I scanned them in and I'll get started on reverse engineering replacements. Even if the decals had been in great condition, the alignment of the screens used for printing them was off, so I most likely would have made replacements anyways.



Another thing I noticed was that the nacelle dome assembly doesn't actually fit the end of the nacelles. I was actually expecting this as I had noticed the issue on almost every build of the model I had ever seen. And this included the photo of the model used on the boxes of later releases. What the builder of that model did was to cut off the three box features to the edge of the rim of the dome piece so that they could get the domes to align on the end of the nacelles

correctly.



Also, the nacelles on both the old and the new kit have the same amount of taper and the same diameter ends.

Interestingly, the model came with three pairs of lights... so I guess AMT was worried about the small bulbs burning out rather quickly.

At any rate, this should be a fun project!

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Author: **aridas** [11 Feb 2011 20:43]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....

Have you checked to see if there is any evidence that they used the misaligned original domes on the Constellation model, or perhaps fabricated something (since they were only to depict exploded nacelle caps)?

Author: **Harry** [12 Feb 2011 06:10]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....

Maybe they are destroyed because they couldn't get the things to fit 😊

So, what else was an AMT model used for? The Enterprise behind K-7 in "Tribbles".. ([apparently seen here at some exhibition](#)) what was the Defiant in "The Tholian Web"?

Author: **Shaw** [12 Feb 2011 10:21]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....

aridas wrote:

Have you checked to see if there is any evidence that they used the misaligned original domes on the Constellation model, or perhaps fabricated something (since they were only to depict exploded nacelle caps)?

It looks like they avoided them altogether looking over the HD screen caps of the Constellation model (though it'll be easier to tell after I make some measurements). The Enterprise model shows it slightly, but it looks like they cut the domes off to add clear ones, so they obviously took a lot of effort in that area. Interestingly, one of the dome assemblies fits better than the other when test fitting them.

I'm still trying to get over the fact that these models are so small. I haven't seen an 18 inch kit since 1995, and these two models seem smaller than I remembered (of course I have three 22 inch model sitting around here, so I'm sure that has some effect on my perception).


I'll work out ideas on how I'll build this model as I draw up the plans. I know most of the short comings, so I'm sure I can address those issues.

Of course, like the plans, it'll be important to build this model as original as possible. I'll have to resist the urge to make it *more accurate* to either of the 11 foot or 33 inch models.

Harry wrote:

So, what else was an AMT model used for? The Enterprise behind K-7 in "Tribbles".. ([apparently seen here at some exhibition](#)) what was the Defiant in "The Tholian Web"?

Other than the re-use of the Constellation footage, it seems that the AMT models weren't used a lot. I got the impression from the amount of effort that was put into the Enterprise model they built that they wanted to do more with it than they did... but they just didn't get a chance. Plus I'm pretty sure that it was the amount of effort expended in making that model that made Jefferies save it after the end of the series.

But the Defiant was done with stock footage of the 11 foot model... in fact, I think that other than *Requiem for Methuselah's* shot of the 33 inch model, the Enterprise (in any incarnation) didn't make it in front of the cameras in season three. 

Author: **Shaw** [12 Feb 2011 18:17]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Here is something interesting...

Ever wonder why the nacelles on the original long box models didn't align very well (or at least as good as the later retooled versions)?

The angle on the lower end of the supports (where they meet the secondary hull) is too shallow. The later retooled versions fixed that angle and made the nacelles align better.

Should be an easy fix, but it explains a lot.

Author: **Captain Robert April** [14 Feb 2011 03:14]

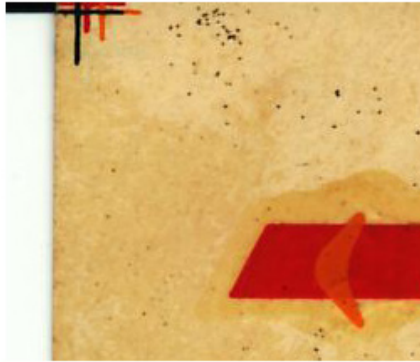
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Shaw wrote:

And we're off and running...

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The 1966 decals are (as expected) unusable, so I scanned them in and I'll get started on reverse engineering replacements. Even if the decals had been in great condition, the alignment of the screens used for printing them was off, so I most likely would have made replacements anyways.



Another thing I noticed was that the nacelle dome assembly doesn't actually fit the end of the nacelles. I was actually expecting this as I had noticed the issue on almost every build of the model I had ever seen. And this included the photo of the model used on the boxes of later releases. What the builder of that model did was to cut off the three box features to the edge of the rim of the dome piece so that they could get the domes to align on the end of the nacelles correctly.



Also, the nacelles on both the old and the new kit have the same amount of taper and the same diameter ends.

Interestingly, the model came with three pairs of lights... so I guess AMT was worried about the small bulbs burning out rather quickly.

At any rate, this should be a fun project!

Actually, the model photo is of the exceedingly rare '67 issue, which had lights in both the upper and lower sensor domes and the nacelles, with clear amber Bussards, with, for some unknown reason, shortened boxes on the domes. This also dates your model to somewhere between '67 and '74, since the '66 version had the same artwork on the box as the Round2 reissue (since yours has lights, I'd put it closer to '67, although apparently with the opaque Bussards. Why you got extra

lights is a mystery; I'd just chalk it up to luck).

This is all in that CultTVMan article, btw.

Author: **Shaw** [14 Feb 2011 08:08]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Captain Robert April wrote:

Actually, the model photo is of the exceedingly rare '67 issue, which had lights in both the upper and lower sensor domes and the nacelles, with clear amber Bussards, with, for some unknown reason, shortened boxes on the domes.

I have detailed photos of the amber nacelle domes... and they aren't that short.

Quote:

This also dates your model to somewhere between '67 and '74, since the '66 version had the same artwork on the box as the Round2 reissue (since yours has lights, I'd put it closer to '67, although apparently with the opaque Bussards. Why you got extra lights is a mystery; I'd just chalk it up to luck).

What dates what? 🤔

I didn't say that was the box art from my model... I was using that as an example of a 1960s build of the model (which doesn't have clear domes).

This is the box my model came in...



Quote:

This is all in that CultTVMan article, btw.

Which has been read by everyone here many times (I hope) by now. It seems like the problem was you assuming things that you shouldn't have been assuming.

But if anything isn't clear, please feel free to ask questions... I'll be happy to clarify things if anyone needs clarification on anything.

And to make it clear, this is a 1966 issue of the model that I'm working with, and I know how to tell the difference (or I wouldn't have started this project). One other aspect that dates my version as 1966 rather than anything later... my kit came with a clear stand, which was replaced by non-clear stands starting with the second release (with the amber domes).

By the way... welcome to the forums!

And how come you've never been around here before? 🤔

Author: **Tallguy** [14 Feb 2011 11:27]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

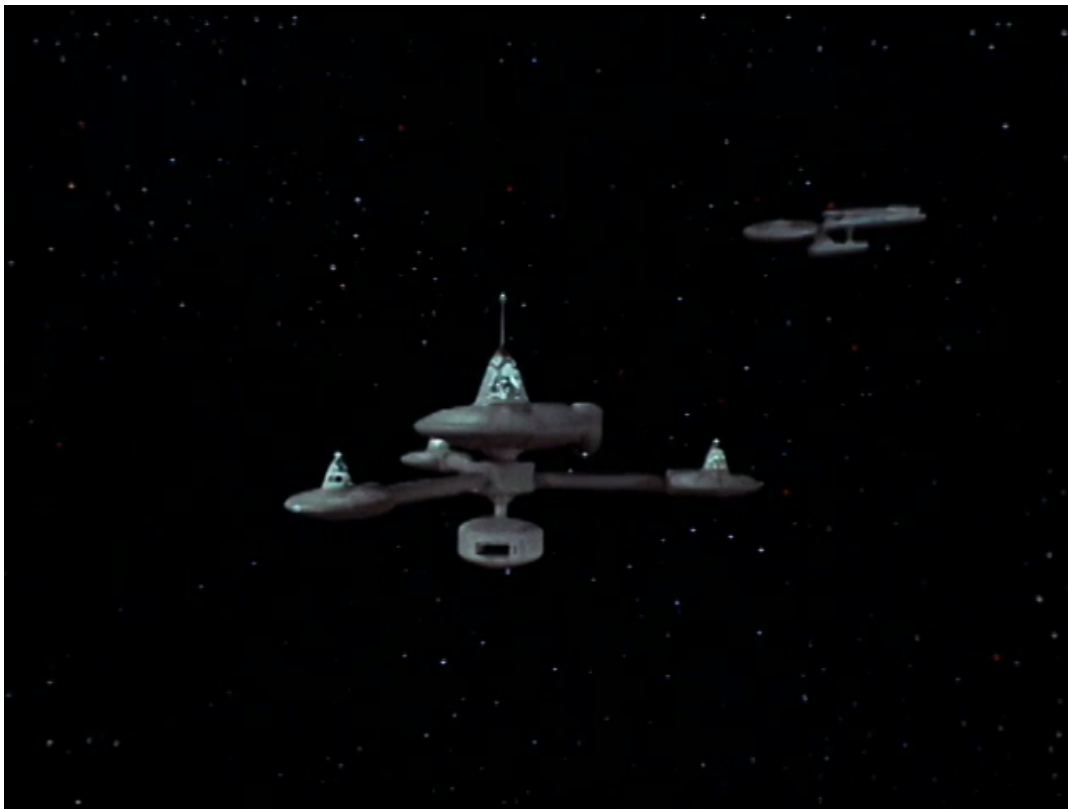
Shaw wrote:**Harry wrote:**

So, what else was an AMT model used for? The Enterprise behind K-7 in "Tribbles".. ([apparently seen here at some exhibition](#)) what was the Defiant in "The Tholian Web"?

Other than the re-use of the Constellation footage, it seems that the AMT models weren't used a lot. I got the impression from the amount of effort that was put into the Enterprise model they built that they wanted to do more with it than they did... but they just didn't get a chance. Plus I'm pretty sure that it was the amount of effort expended in making that model that made Jefferies save it after the end of the series.

But the Defiant was done with stock footage of the 11 foot model... in fact, I think that other than *Requiem for Methuselah*'s shot of the 33 inch model, the Enterprise (in any incarnation) didn't make it in front of the cameras in season three. 🤔

Near as I can figure the only shot outside of Doomsday that used the AMT kit was The Trouble with Tribbles.



No, there were no new FX shots of the Enterprise in Season 3. There was ONE shot that was never used before, but unless I get compelling evidence otherwise I refuse to believe that they pulled the ship out of storage and did a brand new shot for That Which Survives.

Author: **Nascence** [14 Feb 2011 18:00]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Tall Guy,

That's an interesting shot of the Enterprise behind the K-7 space station as I recall a similar shot where the Enterprise was moving in front of the camera with the space station in the background. I am pretty sure that shot of the Enterprise was of the 33 inch model. There was also a shot from Commander Lurry's office window of the Enterprise and I believe that was, also, a shot of the 33 inch model.

I had thought the 33 inch model was used throughout most of this episode, but your screen shot clearly shows that they definitely used an AMT model for this particular FX shot.

Wonder why they used a stock footage from The Doomsday Machine instead of using the 33 inch model they had been using throughout the FX process for this episode?

Maybe time constraint on the FX cut short the time needed to create an additional FX shot, so compositing different FX footages they already had?

Interesting.

Author: **Tallguy** [14 Feb 2011 18:08]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Nascence wrote:

Tall Guy,

That's an interesting shot of the Enterprise behind the K-7 space station as I recall a similar shot where the Enterprise was moving in front of the camera with the space station in the background. I am pretty sure that shot of the Enterprise was of the 33 inch model. There was also a shot from Commander Lurry's office window of the Enterprise and I believe that was, also, a shot of the 33 inch model.

I had thought the 33 inch model was used throughout most of this episode, but your screen shot clearly shows that they definitely used an AMT model for this particular FX shot.

Interesting.

Yo ho ho! I'm hijacking a thread!

[http://img.photobucket.com/albums/v176/ ... K7Near.png](http://img.photobucket.com/albums/v176/...K7Near.png)

This is the 11 footer actually, and it's a still photo to boot (the lights don't blink).

And I THINK the ship in window IS the AMT model. (Hey, look! Back on topic!)

Author: **Shaw** [14 Feb 2011 18:22]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I don't mind... I don't have a lot of interesting stuff to add yet anyways.

Oh... one thing, the lights below the hangar doors are represented on this model as raised windows. They are long since gone from the later kits, but were accurately represented in the first release. I was surprised to see them there. 🙄

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<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-30.html>

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Author: **Nascence** [14 Feb 2011 18:47]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Hey Hey Haaaaaay, Tall Guy?

How ja do do dat!

I am watching the original Trouble of Tribbles on You Tube.

I never realized that the close up shots of the Enterprise orbiting around the space station were of the 11 foot model.

I had always assumed they were shots of the three footer.

I see what you mean with the ship being lit, so it must FX of the full size model.

The shots of it the E in the background, orbiting behind the station are clearly the AMT model.

The shots of the ship from the interior of Lurry's office look like they could be the AMT model, but inn some shots it's hard to tell for sure? The nacelles look pretty straight on those model shots, but thus could just be me.

It's funny how you think something was one way, but, in fact, turns out to be different from what you remember or thought.

Author: **Tallguy** [14 Feb 2011 18:58]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Nascence wrote:

Hey Hey Haaaaaay, Tall Guy?

How ja do do dat!

It's funny how you think something was one way, but, in fact, turns out to be different from what you remember or thought.


I spent a small amount of time on this topic. 😊 <http://www.trekplace.com/tosfxcatalog.html>

Shaw - any chance of some pictures? I'm really unfamiliar with the AMT kits. I bought my first one from Doug Drexler's Federation Trading Post in 1977-ish when I was eight. When I was old enough to be serious about them I was daunted by how inaccurate it was to what was on screen and how much work it would take to make it "right". I had started reading this Federation Reference something or other by that time. I should have just built the damn thing.

Author: **aridas** [14 Feb 2011 19:41]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I think I spoiled the fun of a lot of people.

Come to think of it, I think I still spoil the fun of a lot of people. 



Author: **Shaw** [14 Feb 2011 21:53]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Tallguy wrote:

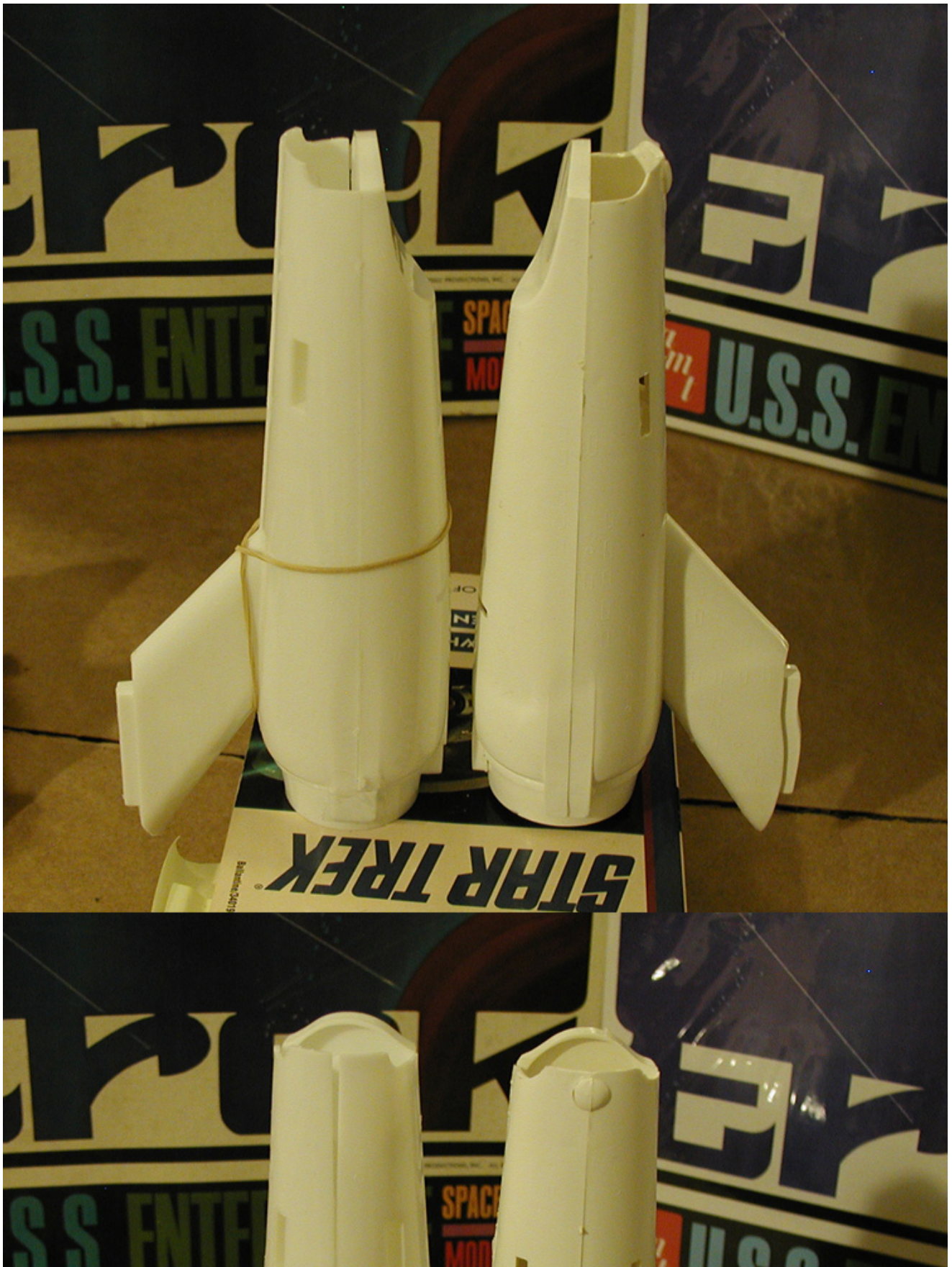
Shaw - any chance of some pictures?

Sure... just remember, I'm not a photographer.

Some shots of the front of the secondary hull and the original decal sheet...



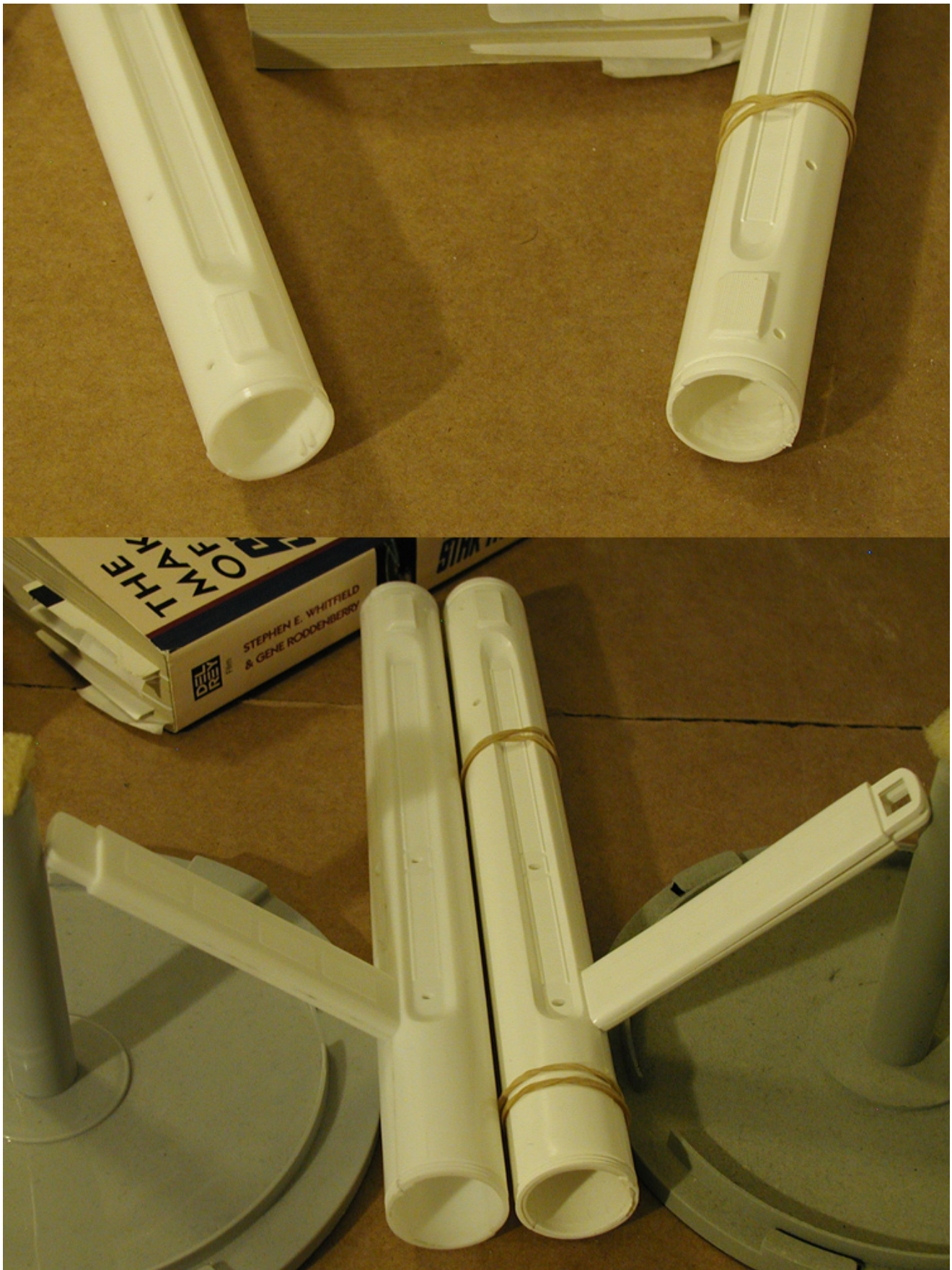
... more secondary hull comparisons with the R2 version (the milky white model)...



... and the primary hull...



... and nacelle elements.



I'm working on comparative measurements between the original Jefferies plans and the 1966 model (with the Jefferies measurements normalized to the model by primary hull diameter). I'll try to have that together in a day or so (I'm a little behind on my work today).

Author: **MLJames** [15 Feb 2011 03:58]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

God, it's been so long since I saw one of the original kits, I'd forgotten they'd changed the font on the hull lettering for the later reissues. I got one of those for my 8th birthday, and, although I'd started building models by then, my dad wound up building it for me because of the wiring for the lights. We painted it from the box pictures, though; I cringe now when I think how far off that was.

Author: **Harry** [15 Feb 2011 06:33]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Embrace the IDIC! Imagine how boring it would've been if they were exact replicas of the Enterprise filming model, or if the filming models were exactly the same, or if they never had a pilot configuration!

Also, [I found your next project](#) 😊. Is it bad to think that that compact secondary hull doesn't look that terrible? 🙄

Anyway.. good work (and another aside.. love the box art.. need to collect some more of those wacky vintage "Star Trek" title variations), looking forward to the eventual 2D construction plans, and how 'bad' the ship really is compared to the real thing.

Author: **Tallguy** [15 Feb 2011 10:29]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Thanks! Wait, the AMT saucer ALWAYS had grid lines?

For all of the talk of his taking references from the show, Franz Joseph HAD to have gotten his BC deck from this kit. It's just too distinctive.

aridas wrote:

I think I spoiled the fun of a lot of people.

Come to think of it, I think I still spoil the fun of a lot of people. 🙄



I recall I was having the time of my life. I just wasn't building models. So your mileage may vary.

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [15 Feb 2011 10:50]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

OMG! Dinky toys. Never had that one but remember it well.

We should start a thread to assemble images of all the really bad looking toys we had to live with in the 70's. Like the big light projecting phaser with the little ship silhouettes.

You know, it's funny, but that Dinky Enterprise isn't all that far off from some of Aridas's designs for pre-5YM cruisers that also featured smaller secondary hulls that evolved from earlier ships with drop-deck shuttlebays. Might be some "inspiration" of sorts there. 😊 Not the 'super-photon torpedoes' though.

Mark

Author: **aridas** [15 Feb 2011 13:43]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Tallguy wrote:

Thanks! Wait, the AMT saucer ALWAYS had grid lines?

For all of the talk of his taking references from the show, Franz Joseph HAD to have gotten his BC deck from this kit. It's just too distinctive.

aridas wrote:

I think I spoiled the fun of a lot of people.

Come to think of it, I think I still spoil the fun of a lot of people. 😊



I recall I was having the time of my life. I just wasn't building models. So your mileage may vary.

You have to recall that like FJ, I felt free to stake out my own take on things. "Fleet Commodores" and TWOK rank insignia and Entente and Mobile Ground Forces and the like. Then it was expanding horizontally and today it is expanding backwards in time. I think along with being received well by some it put(s) a bee in a few bonnets, if you know what I mean.

Not that it really matters.

Author: **Tallguy** [15 Feb 2011 14:02]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

aridas wrote:

You have to recall that like FJ, I felt free to stake out my own take on things. "Fleet Commodores" and TWOK rank insignia and Entente and Mobile Ground Forces and the like. Then it was expanding horizontally and today it is expanding backwards in time. I think along with being received well by some it put(s) a bee in a few bonnets, if

you know what I mean.

Not that it really matters.

Welcome to the "killing time waiting for updates" portion of our thread! 😊

I saw more "competing" publications adopting the SFPO / Mastercom stuff than otherwise (back when everybody kind of tried to get along). And other than one or two ranks (lt. / lt. jg?) I recall that you matched Fletcher's Wrath of Khan ranks far better than most. (Everybody got those SO wrong - it bugs me to this day.)

The only reason Entente is a problem is because of TMP. Otherwise the story behind it makes perfect sense. Hmmm - have to head over to "Starting from scratch" now...

Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-40.html>

Page 5 of 23

Author: **Tallguy** [15 Feb 2011 14:05]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Shaw, I just noticed Harry's drawing of the Constellation has no taper to the warp nacelles. Is it that way on the AMT kit?

Author: **Shaw** [15 Feb 2011 15:34]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Yes, there is a taper... the front of the nacelle body pieces is approximately 0.98 inches in diameter, while the rear is approximately 0.90 inches in diameter. The taper of these parts exactly matches that of the 2008 Round 2 re-issue parts. Had they used a scaled version of the Jefferies plans, the front nacelle would have been approximately 0.99 inches and the rear 0.79 inches (a slightly greater taper than the model kit).

From **JMChladek's** article...

"The rear nacelle endcaps more closely matched those found on the pilot versions of the Enterprise and didn't feature the large balls that were added to the series version. The cross section of the warp engines did not feature a pronounced taper from front to back that the studio models had."

- **Long box version one, Kit# S921-200**

and

"Detail wise, the warp engines didn't change much, but they are clearly a different mold from the long box ones. The bussard collectors were retooled as two piece units with slightly incorrect features and balls were added to the rear endcaps, those found on the series version of the Enterprise. A slight taper was added to the warp engine cross section making the engines slightly more accurate than the long box ones in general shape."

- **Small Box Version One, Kit # S951**

These two statements don't add up with measurements and comparisons on the nacelle taper issue.

I'll also be posting tracings and scans (parts laid out on a scanner) of various parts... most likely at 100 dpi (to make it easier for you guys to check measurements). I'll also try to have that put together in a few days (though some of the raw scans are already done... but at 300 dpi).

By the way, I liked the Dinky toys' Enterprise... it was a tough little ship! 😊

Author: **davros_of_borg** [15 Feb 2011 15:38]
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

updating the '*super-photon torpedoes*' makes all the difference... :)

Author: **Harry** [15 Feb 2011 17:48]
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Just FYI, my drawing of the Constellation really was only based on that small picture of the AMT-Enterprise in that display I linked earlier, and a few images from Starship Modeler builds that were likely to be later versions of the kit. It wasn't a big study or anything.

Author: **Shaw** [15 Feb 2011 17:57]
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

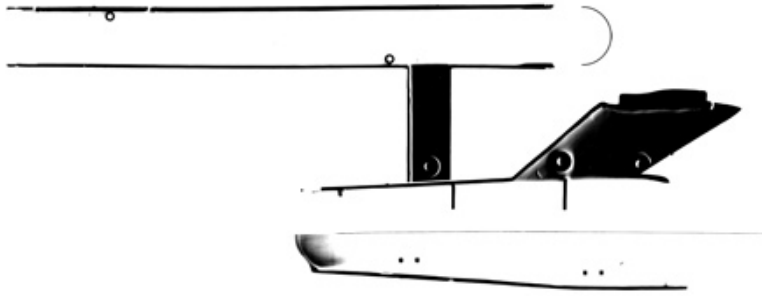
Here is the first set of comparative measurements between Jefferies' plans and the 1966 kit. These are early measurements, and may be further refined as the study progresses. The Jefferies numbers have been multiplied by 0.528.

Overall Length	17.82"	n/a (18")
Overall Width	7.92"	7.92"
Primary Hull Diameter	7.92"	7.92"
Primary Hull Thickness	2.079"	n/a
Bridge Diameter	0.8818"	0.875"
Secondary Hull Length	6.402"	6.4375"
Secondary Hull Diameter	1.716"	1.652"
Secondary Hull Center line below Primary Hull bottom edge	1.947"	1.875"
Secondary Hull top below Primary Hull bottom edge	1.089"	1.0"
Dish Diameter	1.353"	1.125"
Nacelle Length	9.57"	10" (approx.)
Nacelle Diameter (front)	0.99"	0.96"
Nacelle Diameter (rear)	0.792"	0.897"
Nacelle Dome Diameter	0.924"	0.875"
Nacelle Support Width	0.66"	0.6875"
Nacelle Support Thickness	0.165"	0.25"

Author: **Shaw** [15 Feb 2011 19:37]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Here is an example of some scans of the model parts...



[Click to enlarge](#)

... so that you guys can get an idea what I'm using.

Oh... and just assembling the scanned in parts I get an overall length of 17.74 inches (compared to 17.82 inches from the converted Jefferies measurements). Just in case anyone was curious.

Author: **Tallguy** [16 Feb 2011 13:18]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Shaw wrote:

Here is an example of some scans of the model parts...

... so that you guys can get an idea what I'm using.

Oh... and just assembling the scanned in parts I get an overall length of 17.74 inches (compared to 17.82 inches from the converted Jefferies measurements). Just in case anyone was curious.

Wow. Those nacelles look pretty close to "untapered" to me! I'm glad Harry won't have to re-do his Constellation.

I remember when I built my CG Enterprise that I had a lot of concerns from folks that I didn't taper the nacelles. So I posted an orthographic side view and all was fine. (You can't really make out the taper in a close perspective view, I guess.)

But these look just about cylindrical! Wow. Is that how Jefferies drew them? Or is that unique to the kit?

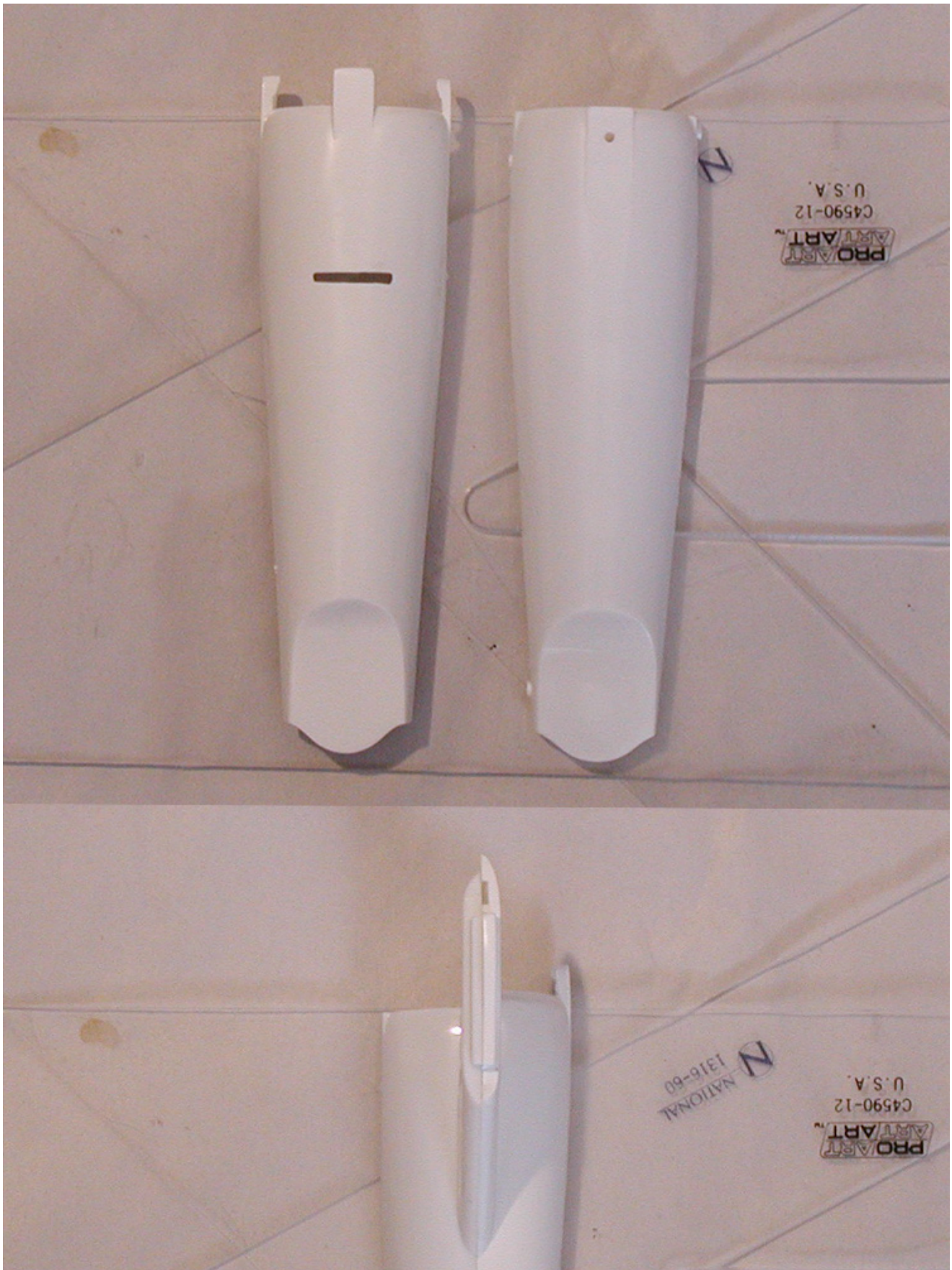
Author: **Shaw** [16 Feb 2011 13:47]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

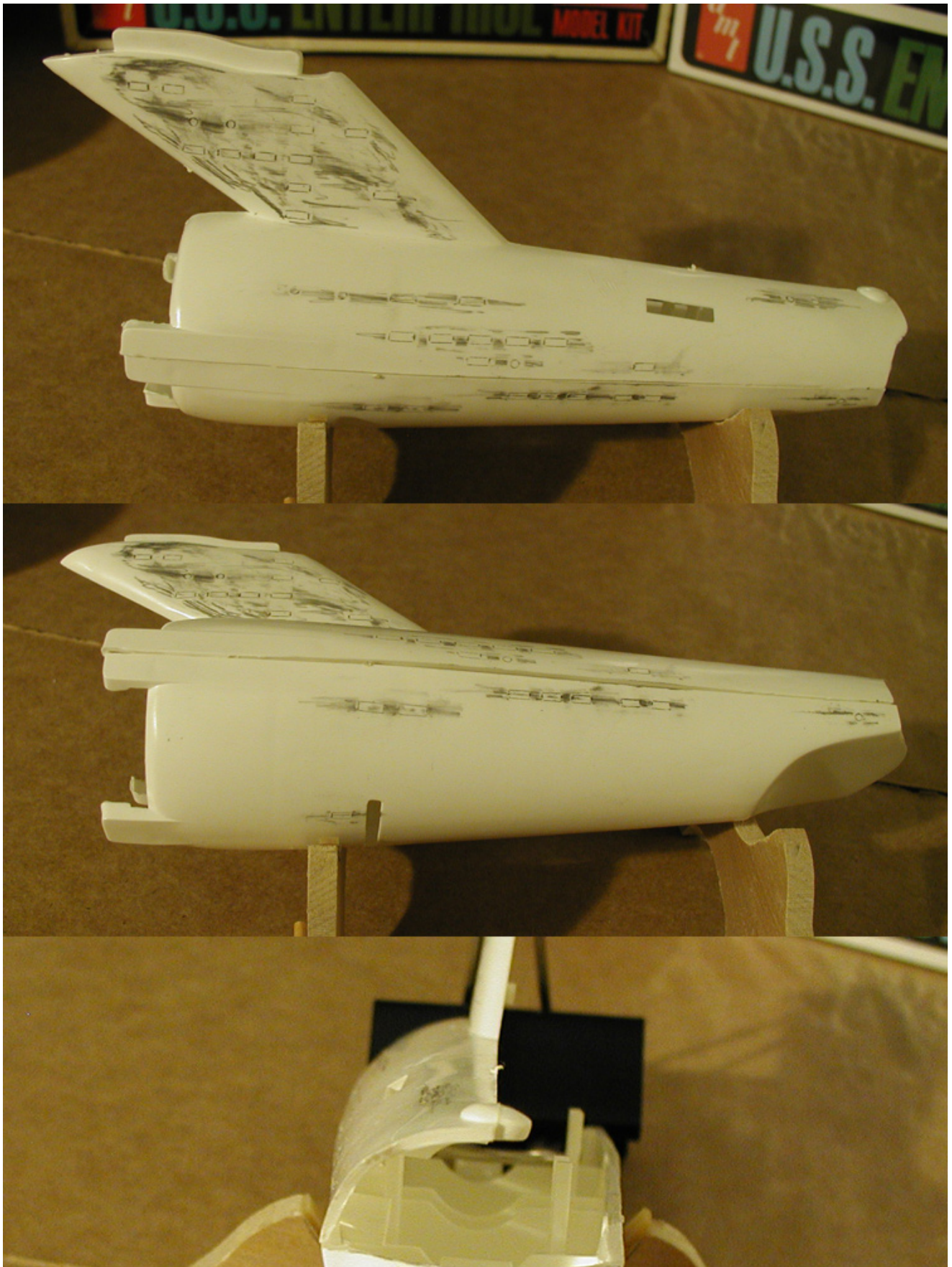
Well, the front diameter of the nacelles are pretty close to what Jefferies had drawn, but the rear diameter is about 1/10th of an inch too wide (or only about 1/10th of an inch narrower than the front of the nacelles).

With the pieces in hand, if you reverse the orientation of one side, the taper becomes apparent. But the taper (what there is of it) is the same between the original kit and the current version in the stores today.

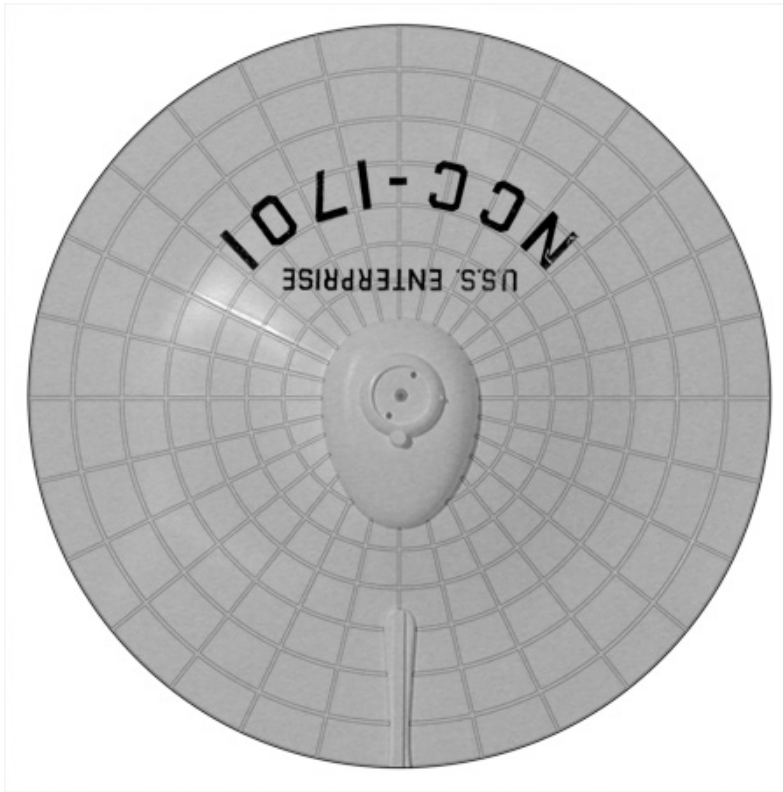
The real big difference comes with the secondary hull. You can't use the later secondary hull to approximate the original, some things are quite different. While the bottom pieces aren't too different (the newer piece is slightly longer), the upper pieces are very different. When aligned along the rear edge of the dorsal, the placement of the dorsal along the back and the connection points of the supports are in different spots. This would effect the overall length of the model when built (as on the original model the primary hull and nacelles are closer together than on later versions).



I also took the time to try to bring out the window features on the secondary hull so I could document them.
This isn't a replacement for the rubbings, I just don't currently have thin enough paper to do them yet.



And here is a top view of the primary hull, with an overlay of the illustrated grid lines and the decals (not cleaned up yet) all to scale with each other.



[click to enlarge](#)

Author: **Tallguy** [16 Feb 2011 13:59]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Those grids are intense! They make the TMP grids look understated!

This is the sort of thing I'd love to take back to 1964 just to make these guys go into a paralyzing shock. Or maybe 1969 to tell them it's not even close to over. 😊

"Yeah yeah yeah, forty year Hollywood veteran. Cool. Let me tell you what you're REALLY going to be remembered for!" 😡

Author: **aridas** [16 Feb 2011 16:19]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Because of the nature of this thread, I'm going to waive the "three post rule" that we instituted to avoid threads where no one appeared interested in what was going on but the thread kept hogging the top position. In this case it is quite clear that everyone is interested in what Shaw has to post, and he has so much to post that we can't get our replies in as fast as he comes up with new material. So post away, Shaw!

Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-50.html>

Page **6** of **23**

Author: **Tallguy** [16 Feb 2011 16:36]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

aridas wrote:

Because of the nature of this thread, I'm going to waive the "three post rule" that we instituted to avoid threads where no one appeared interested in what was going on but the thread kept hogging the top position. In this case it is quite clear that everyone is interested in what Shaw has to post, and he has so much to post that we can't get our replies in as fast as he comes up with new material. So post away, Shaw!

Heh. I'm amazed that that was even a consideration. But thanks for the clarification. Way to manage the shop, **aridas**!

Author: **Shaw** [16 Feb 2011 16:47]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Thanks **aridas**!

Tallguy wrote:

Those grids are intense! They make the TMP grids look understated!

I'm still playing with ideas on how to represent raised grid lines. The final plans might not be *that* intense.

Just playing around with the measurements, considering the placement of the dorsal and nacelle supports attachment to the secondary hull, the later re-tooled version of the model might be as much as half an inch longer overall than the long box versions. And what was odd was that I didn't notice the differences when I had the two secondary hulls assembled side by side... it was only when I put the halves from each model together that I could really see the effect. 🤖

Author: **davros_of_borg** [16 Feb 2011 19:12]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Quote:

"Yeah yeah yeah, forty year Hollywood veteran. Cool. Let me tell you what you're REALLY going to be remembered for!" 😏

and now you have discovered the true origins of time travel... ;)

Author: **Shaw** [17 Feb 2011 21:58]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Well, I got slammed with work from clients today, so I didn't get as much done as I would have liked.

I did up date the measurements list again...

	<u>Original Plans</u>	<u>1966 kit</u>
Overall Length	17.82"	17.74" (approx.)
Overall Width	7.92"	7.92"
Primary Hull Diameter	7.92"	7.92"
Primary Hull Thickness	2.079"	2.0625" (approx.)
Bridge Diameter	0.8818"	0.875"
Secondary Hull Length	6.402"	6.4375"
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Dish Diameter	1.353"	1.125"
Nacelle Length	9.57"	10" (approx.)
Nacelle Diameter (front)	0.99"	0.98"
Nacelle Diameter (rear)	0.792"	0.897"
Nacelle Dome Diameter	0.924"	0.875"
Nacelle Support Width	0.66"	0.6875"
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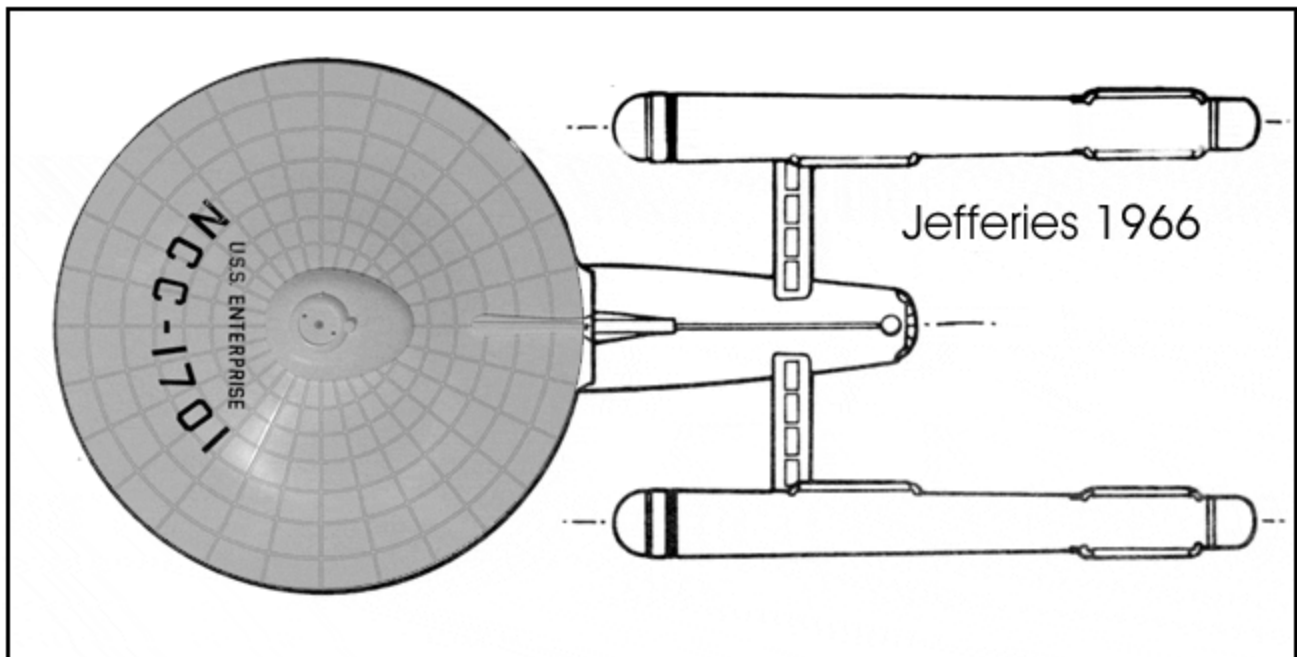
One of the interesting things to turn up was the thickness of the primary hull nearly matches that of the original Jefferies plans. The reason this is interesting is that the original Jefferies plans had the pilot bridge where as the 1966 kit has a lower profile bridge, so I wasn't expecting those numbers to be so close to one another.

In looking back at what I know and/or theorize about the history of how the original models

were built, I believe that because the construction plans were rushed (finished after the 33 inch model had been started), Jefferies might not have had any copies of those plans... but may have still had most of the measurements. The way things are looking, I'm starting to think that Jefferies redrew the Enterprise for AMT based on that information, and the writers guide drawings may have been based on those plans (which Jefferies might have been able to make copies of before turning them over to AMT).

Given that, I'm also going to redraw the Jefferies writers guide plans using a lot of the measurements from the original plans for fine tuning as an additional comparative source against the 1966 kit along with the Round 2 re-issue.

To give you guys an idea of how close the writers guide drawings are to the AMT kit, here is a quick over lay of the top of the primary hull.

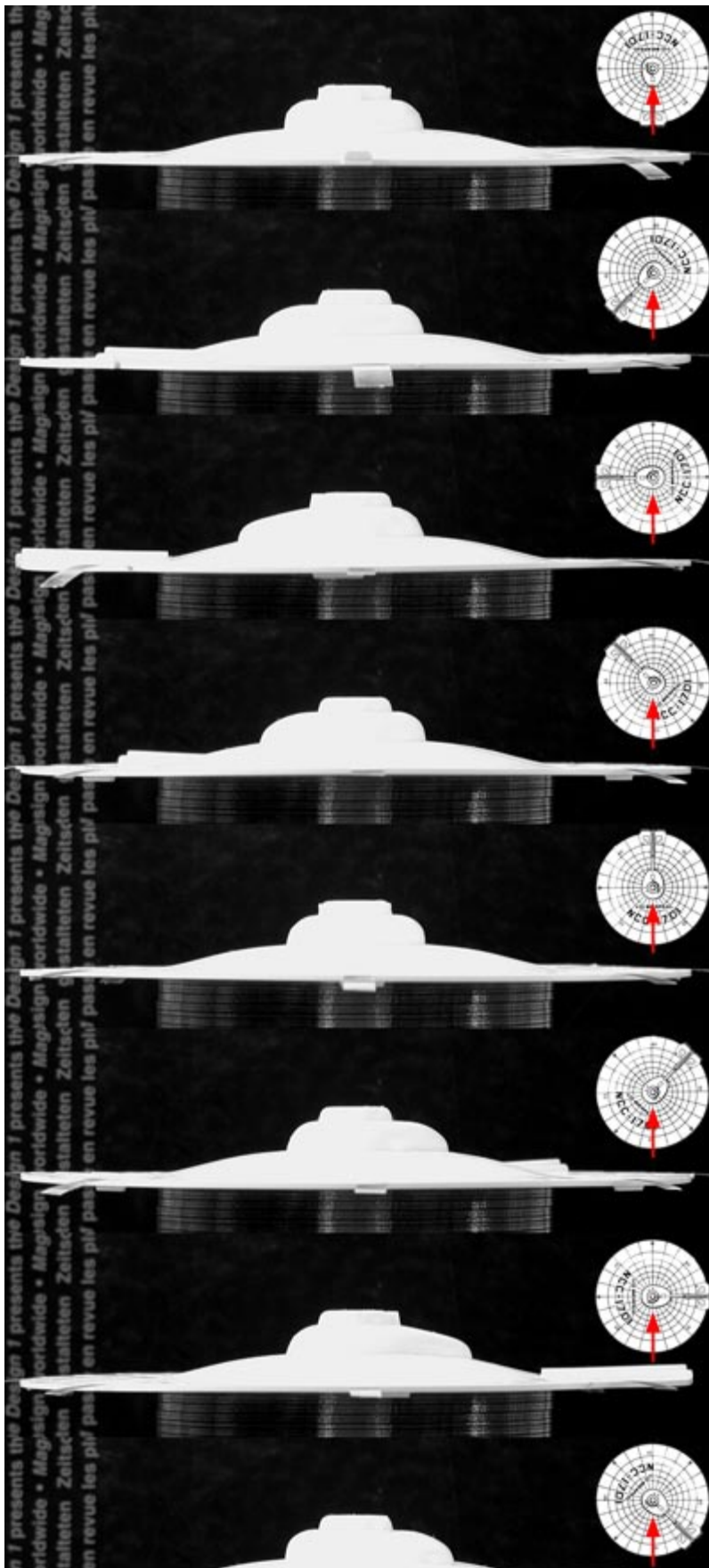


Hopefully I'll get a chance to put some more time into this tomorrow afternoon.

Author: **Shaw** [18 Feb 2011 02:39]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I put this together really quickly from a series of photos I took of the upper primary hull. The interesting thing to note in these images is that the B/C deck structure isn't uniform/symmetrical... which most likely implies that it was hand made. And yes, this is something that will be part of the final plans of the model (rather than an idealized version of that area).



[click to enlarge](#)

Author: **Tallguy** [18 Feb 2011 10:33]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

The more I'm looking at this and the more you're telling me about it's Jefferie's based origins I keep thinking:

"That Franz Joseph did a BANG UP job!"

BTW, I'm kind of amazed that nobody has done something like this before. I say LIKE this because I haven't run into someone with Shaw's particular brand of crazy before. And I mean that in a very caring way.

Author: **Shaw** [18 Feb 2011 15:54]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Tallguy wrote:

The more I'm looking at this and the more you're telling me about it's Jefferie's based origins I keep thinking:

"That Franz Joseph did a BANG UP job!"

With what he had access to at the time (and the tools available)... Franz Joseph did an amazing job. I still look at his blueprints and manual with a sense of awe at his workmanship.

Quote:

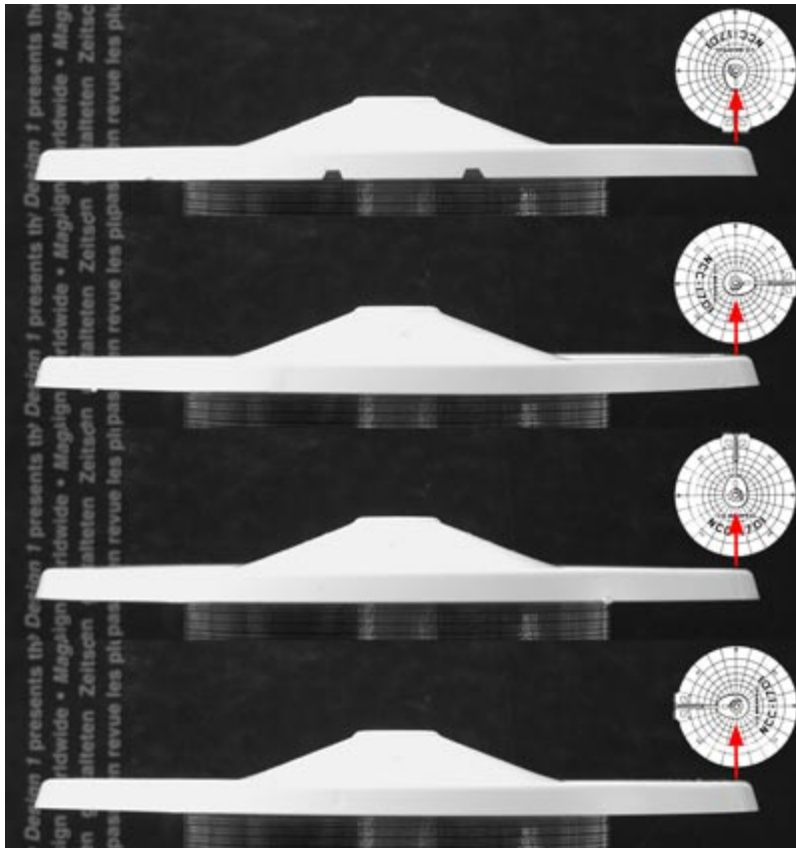
BTW, I'm kind of amazed that nobody has done something like this before. I say LIKE this because I haven't run into someone with Shaw's particular brand of crazy before. And I mean that in a very caring way.

Caring as in I don't need to worry about [men in white coats coming to take me away](#) in the near future? 🤔

Part of the reason I don't think anyone has done it before is that it has sort of been *hidden in plain sight*. The newer tooling *feels* much like the original, and with the newer ones generally available (now in quantity at most hobby stores), many people most likely think that having the model is like having a reference of the original.

I mean the best reference to date has been **JMChladek's** article, and even though I've read it dozens of times, I wasn't prepared for the amount of differences from the ones available today (and I might not have even known about those if I hadn't gotten a copy of the newer version for comparative purposes).

Here is another series of images, this time of the bottom of the primary hull. I wasn't as worried about this part as it was most likely turned, so should be symmetrical.



[click to enlarge](#)

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [19 Feb 2011 09:40]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

~~~~~  
This is getting more and more interesting 😊

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Author: **publiusr** [ 19 Feb 2011 17:25 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I wonder if the Enterprise as depicted on TAS was influenced by the nacelle supports moving...In one the shuttlebay seems just aft of the supports, in the other, not so much. Tack an even longer shuttlebay to the one with supports further aft and you have the TAS drawing. Slant the nacelle supports back like Vector did and do a 3/4 view of that and you have the still, were I to hazard a guess...

**Harry wrote:**

Embrace the IDIC! Imagine how boring it would've been if they were exact replicas of the Enterprise filming model, or if the filming models were exactly the same, or if they never had a pilot configuration!

Thank you so much for doing this, Shaw. Like Datin, the folks who did work for AMT also deserve their day--and you have elevated their work. Perhaps we will learn their names. The nice lady behind the Hallmark ornaments might also be a nice contact.

**Harry wrote:**

Also, [I found your next project](#) 😊. Is it bad to think that that compact secondary hull doesn't look that terrible?

I always looked at it as a smaller mass produced version of the Connie. So help me, and maybe I am remembering one of my book and toystore dreams where I wake up after I buy something--but I seem to remember some artwork of a dinky offering of a disk shooter but with the linear nacelles. Also, I think there were two versions of the Electronic Enterprise. The large version a Phase II design, like we see on the cover of Starlogs book SPACESHIPS, and a smaller Canadian version...at least from a post at <http://www.starshipmodeler.net> way back when. I purchased an FJ bridge section to fit over the small Thomas model 1/1000 version to get a true FJ. You would have to use some putty to fill out the lower bulge under the secondary hull... And you know, I actually *like* the older inaccurate decals...

BTW Orne Montgomery did a 1/350 TOS using vacuform, his old website was here:

<http://infinityreach.multiply.com/journal>

I really liked his charger concept.

One way to explain the AMT transition (apart from Aridas fine treatment of Constellation morphing into AMT specs) might be the novel Killing Time. I do seem to remember another novel where Enterprise is trashed then rebuilt.

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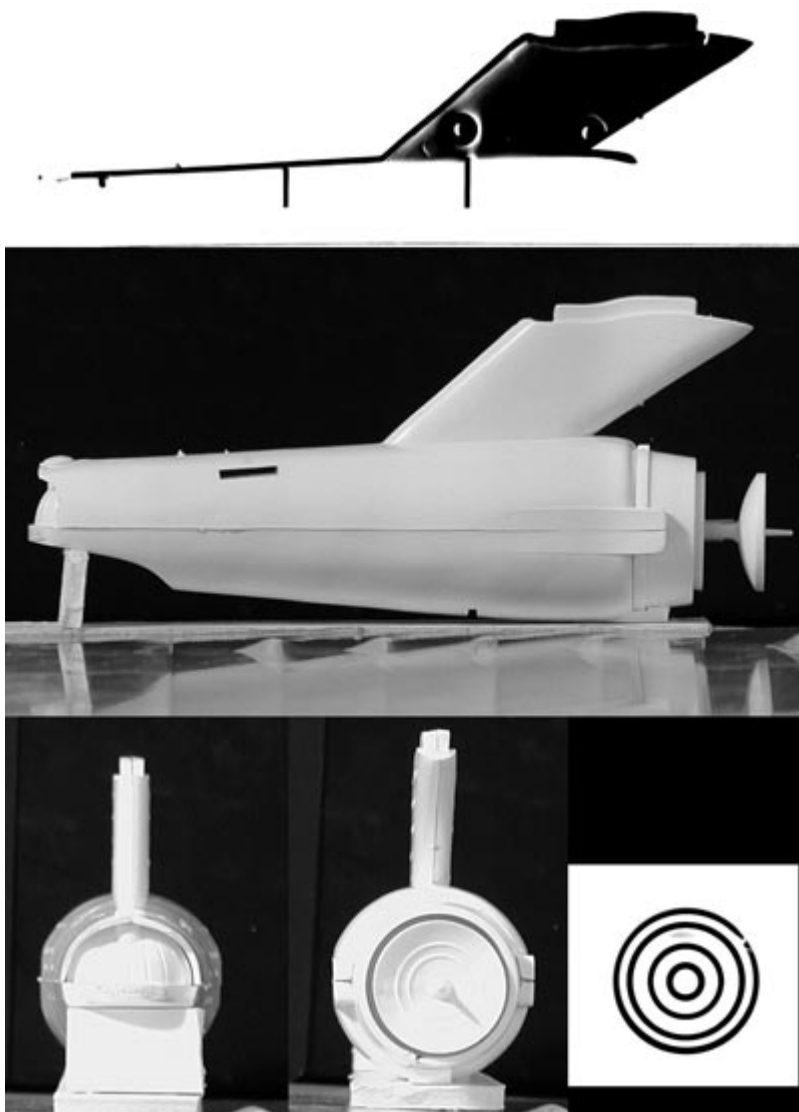
Author: **Shaw** [ 20 Feb 2011 01:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Sorry that this next image series took a little longer to set up and arrange.

There are 9 photos in the following image, 7 of which are merged together to give a semi-orthogonal side view of the secondary hull. I used the scan of one of the upper quarters of the secondary hull as a general guide to arranging them.



[click to enlarge](#)

Yes, I have a similar series for the other side of the secondary hull... no, I have not arranged them in the same way as yet.

**publiusr wrote:**

Thank you so much for doing this, Shaw. Like Datin, the folks who did work for AMT also deserve their day--and you have elevated their work. Perhaps we will learn their names. The nice lady behind the Hallmark ornaments might also be a nice contact.

I'd love to know who built the original AMT model that was used for making the dies. Odds are it would have been the same person/persons that built the Klingon models (and maybe even the Galileo miniature).

---

Small note...

Part of the reason for taking this much effort in documenting this model is that it gives me a chance to try out ideas I have had for how I would document the 33 inch model *if* it ever turned up and *if* I was given access to it to document it.

I can always hope. 😊

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-60.html>

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Author: **MLJames** [ 20 Feb 2011 06:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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#### publius wrote:

I always looked at it as a smaller mass produced version of the Connie. So help me, and maybe I am remembering one of my book and toystore dreams where I wake up after I buy something--but I seem to remember some artwork of a dinky offering of a disk shooter but with the linear nacelles.

If you're hallucinating, we're on the same wavelength, because I remember seeing that TMP-style Dinky toy twice. Once, right after the movie came out, in a hobby shop in El Paso, Texas, and the second time almost ten years later in a drug store in Merced, California. Where they managed to find one of them in 1988 (and they had only one), only God knows. And before anyone asks, no, I didn't buy it. I had just moved into a new apartment, and after shelling out for all the deposits I had nothing but moths in my wallet at the time.

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 21 Feb 2011 03:19 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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#### Shaw wrote:

##### Captain Robert April wrote:

Actually, the model photo is of the exceedingly rare '67 issue, which had lights in both the upper and lower sensor domes and the nacelles, with clear amber Bussards, with, for some unknown reason, shortened boxes on the domes.

I have detailed photos of the amber nacelle domes... and they aren't that short.

Well, they also botched the paint job, so who the hell knows...

#### Quote:

##### Quote:

This also dates your model to somewhere between '67 and '74, since the '66 version had the same artwork on the box as the Round2 reissue (since yours has lights, I'd put it closer to '67, although apparently with the opaque Bussards. Why you got extra lights is a mystery; I'd just chalk it up to luck).

What dates what? 🤔



I didn't say that was the box art from my model... I was using that as an example of a 1960s build of the model (which doesn't have clear domes).

After seeing God knows how many kits on eBay listed as "1968 edition" when it's obviously a mid 80's issue, it becomes a bit reflexive. I'm pretty sure, though, that the model in the picture *does* have lighted Bussards (and for some weird reason, the upper and lower sensor domes are painted over, but as noted above, the paint job is botched anyway, so what the hell...).

**Quote:**

This is the box my model came in...

Yup, that's a '66 box, all right.

**Quote:**

And to make it clear, this is a 1966 issue of the model that I'm working with, and I know how to tell the difference (or I wouldn't have started this project). One other aspect that dates my version as 1966 rather than anything later... my kit came with a clear stand, which was replaced by non-clear stands starting with the second release (with the amber domes).

Followed by no lights, the return of the opaque nacelle domes, the cradle stand, and the horribly inaccurate decals (the first one I got in the early 70's).

**Quote:**

By the way... welcome to the forums!

And how come you've never been around here before? 🤖

I was registered in an earlier incarnation of this forum, but not much was happening back then. Then a recent post over on TrekBBS pointed over to these parts, I followed my cyber nose a tad, and voila.

I must say I'm rather surprised at the secondary hull. I never noticed that many changes in the dorsal and the position of the nacelle struts (but then, I never did a side-by-side comparison of the parts).

As for the taper of the nacelles, here's an easy proof: Take the forward dome, and notice how easily it fits *over* aft end of the nacelle. Not sure how well it works with the early molding, but it works like a charm with the later version (which is essentially all the R2 version is; the only difference is the removal of the deflector grid and the thicker sprues).

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 21 Feb 2011 06:55 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Captain Robert April wrote:**

I was registered in an earlier incarnation of this forum, but not much was happening back then. Then a recent post over on TrekBBS pointed over to these parts, I followed my cyber nose a tad, and voila.

Glad to have you around!

Once I get the decals re-created and over to someone like JT Graphics, I'm sure he'd be willing to sell copies to anyone who wants a set. And other than color alignment (and the addition of windows), I'm planning on keeping them as authentic to what came with my model as possible.

The funny thing about the nacelles is that the front and back parts from the Round 2 version fit the original 1966 version. That means that third party nacelle parts would work with the earlier kits as well as the later ones.

But yeah, the secondary hull was way different than I had anticipated as well. There are a few more things I wanted to make notes on with it before moving onto the nacelles.

The big thing about the original nacelle bodies is how crisp the details are compared to the current Round 2 versions. Of course that was most likely what caused the wear-n-tear on the original aluminum dies.

I am going to eventually build this model, but I won't start until after I'm sure I've documented as much as possible about it (both inside and out). With the Round 2 model I'll most likely try out a number of ideas I've had on how to modify an 18 inch model. I saw some really nice replacement parts over on the JT Graphics web site (along with nice parts at DLM Parts and Federation Models).

Well, back to shoveling snow. 🌨

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 21 Feb 2011 23:57 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Ever since I started looking at the AMT kit as the starship class just prior to the Constitution class, I gave up on modifying them, especially when the Polar Lights version came out. At this point, I'm just trying to snag as many of the older versions as I can, as cheap as I can, so I can build a pre-TOS fleet of the puppies. Already have the Constellation (pre-planet killer), although it needs new decals and a couple of replacement intercoolers, and am planning on the Valiant, Republic, Yamato, Ranger, and Bonhomme Richard (the class ship). And maybe four to six other names, as soon as I can think 'em up. 😊

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Author: **Shaw** [ 22 Feb 2011 00:09 ]

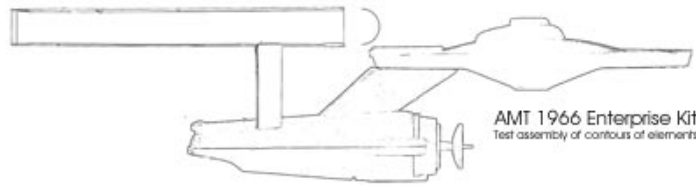
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Most of the long box kits I saw on ebay weren't extremely expensive (usually in the \$40 range). It is actually a nice looking model compared to the retooled versions, but I haven't had to deal with assembling the kit yet. 😞

Haven't gotten back to work on this yet, but hopefully I'll get started up again in the next day or so.

But I was curious where this was going, so I assembled the contours of some of the elements I have to see how things are looking...



[click to enlarge](#)

This isn't anything definitive... these aren't illustrations, I just wanted to get a feel for how it might look later on.

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 22 Feb 2011 11:00 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

This is really cool. Like I said, I'm not really that familiar with this model (compared to, say, the 11 footer). But this is really something to see. An amazing piece of documentation so far.

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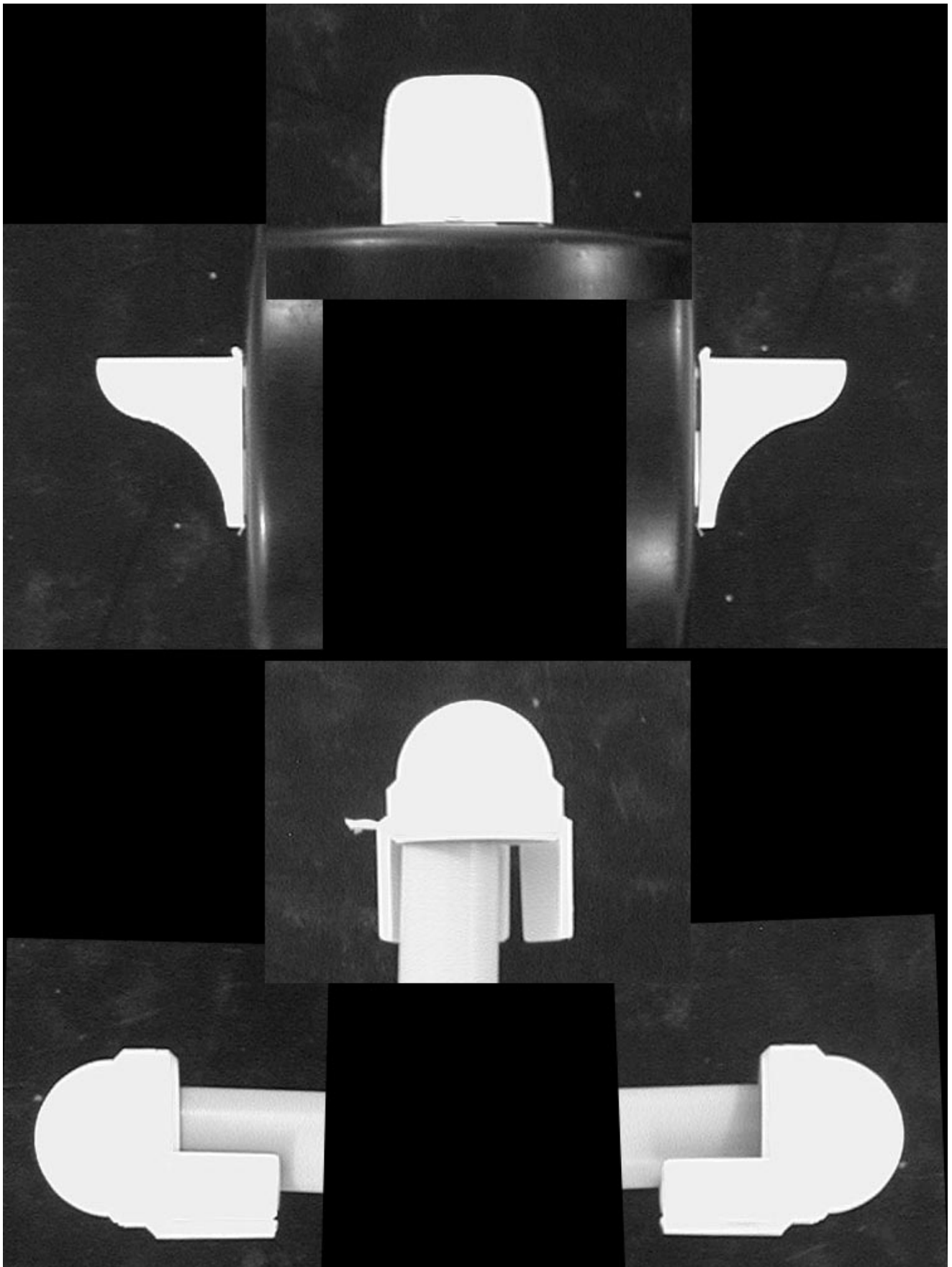
Author: **Shaw** [ 22 Feb 2011 21:29 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks!

I'm slowly getting back to my studies. I took a handful of images of the front and rear nacelle parts, mainly just to get their general curves.



---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 23 Feb 2011 00:50 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Looks like I'm gonna have to rework that AMT side view I've been throwing around. Not only is it off, but thanks to this thread, I've figured out why.

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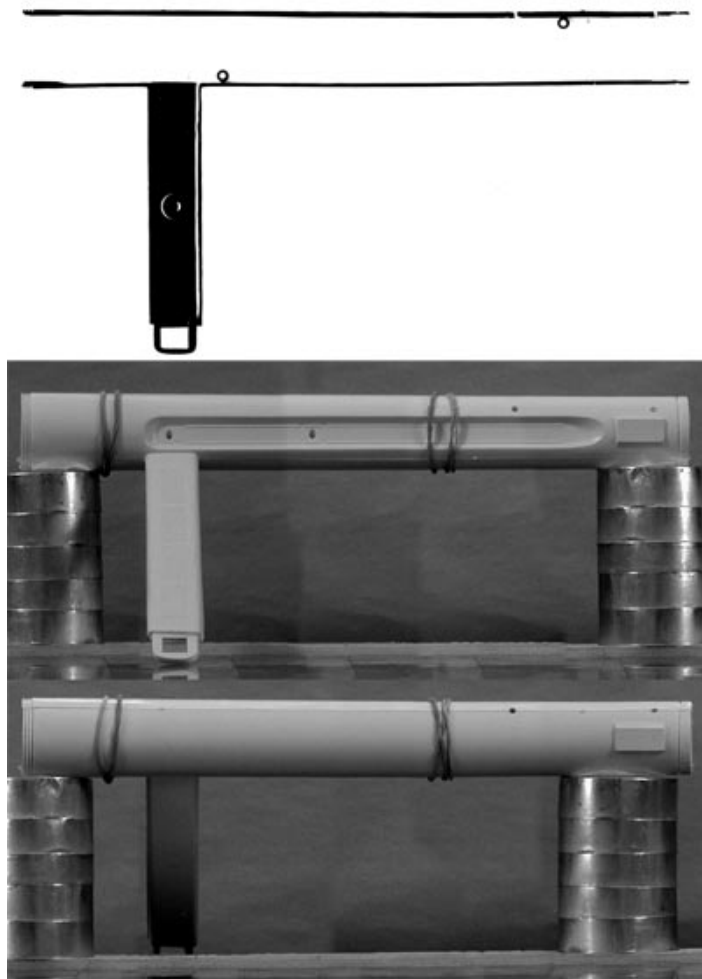
Author: **Shaw** [ 23 Feb 2011 01:32 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Yeah... looking at the Jefferies figures and those of the model, I'd be willing to bet that when they made the nacelle bodies, they weren't considering the additional part after the ridges before the dome. And rather than re-do both nacelles, they decided to move where the supports attach to the secondary hull back a little (while re-engineering *how* they attached).

I've done some more nacelle work... this is a collection of 12 images making up both sides of one of the nacelles (the lower set is flipped).



[click to enlarge](#)

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Author: **Harry** [ 23 Feb 2011 05:59 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Captain Robert April wrote:**

Looks like I'm gonna have to rework that AMT side view I've been throwing around. Not only is it off, but thanks to this thread, I've figured out why.

Same here. Also, it looks less ugly than I've always imagined it to be.

---

Page **7** of **23**

All times are UTC - 5 hours [ DST ]

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## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-70.html>

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 23 Feb 2011 12:29 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Notice how much simpler the shape of the inboard cutout is? Nobody tackles the 11 foot shape unless they are SERIOUS. 😊

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 23 Feb 2011 20:12 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Of course the guys who made the 11 foot model only had to do it once.

I'd love to know how it was originally drawn out by Jefferies in November of 1964. Seeing what he committed to paper verses what we saw on the 33 inch and 11 foot model would be helpful in understanding what he was going for.

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 24 Feb 2011 10:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

**Shaw wrote:**

Of course the guys who made the 11 foot model only had to do it once.

I'd love to know how it was originally drawn out by Jefferies in November of 1964. Seeing what he committed to paper verses what we saw on the 33 inch and 11 foot model would be helpful in understanding what he was going for.

Yeah, right after I wrote that I thought (regarding the 11) "and what POSSESSED them to do it THAT way?!?"

---

Author: **aridas** [ 24 Feb 2011 11:08 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

**Shaw wrote:**

I'd love to know how it was originally drawn out by Jefferies in November of 1964. Seeing what he committed to paper verses what we saw on the 33 inch and 11 foot model would be helpful in understanding what he was going for.

I suspect that examining the various renderings he did of the ship -- illustration on black board, technical drawing, sketches, etc -- after the shape had been pretty well settled, might give clues to what those construction drawings look like. The features common to his renderings but different on the model would in particular seem to cry out "this is how I intended it to look".

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 24 Feb 2011 23:14 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

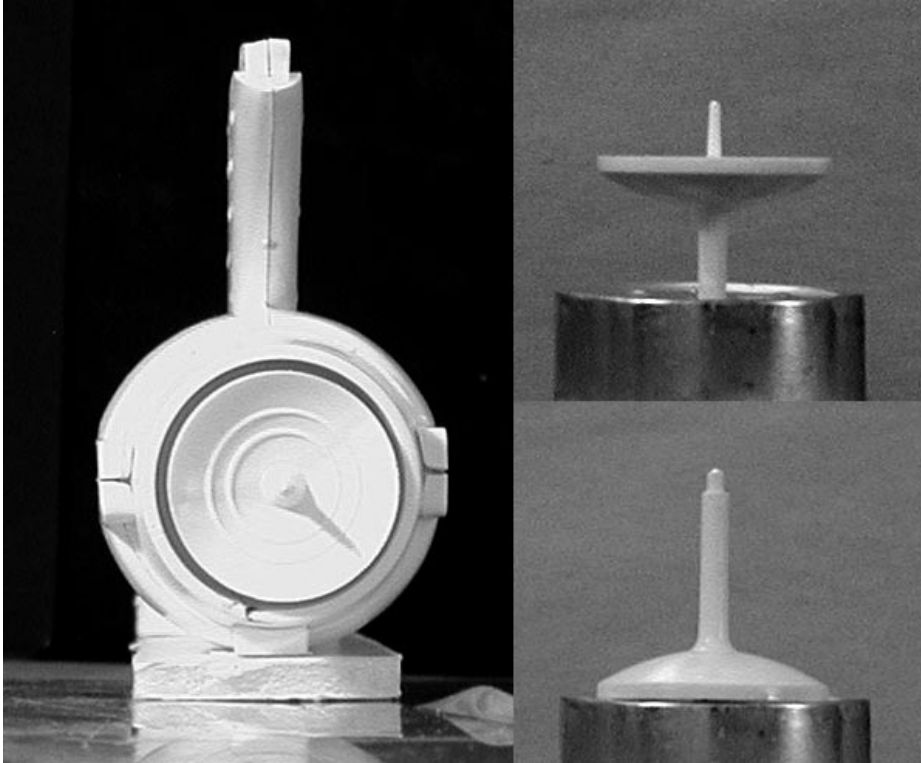
Yeah... it is always a good idea to go back to the original sketches. Specially when there is a question of intent. I know that the one sketch with the four vents on the outside of the nacelle supports (rather than facing inwards) made me feel that the idea that the nacelles might have switched sides during the original

building was a valid theory.

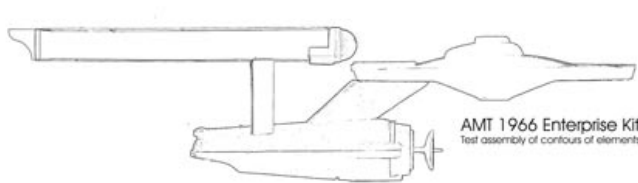
I think I need to get a copy of Jefferies' book so I can have a nice copy of the painting he did of the Enterprise that is on the cover. That might also help in seeing the Enterprise through his eyes.

I'm plugging away... slowly but surely.

I realized that the view of the sensor dish was obstructed a little by the tape I used to hold it in place on the secondary hull, so here are some views of that piece to give a clearer impression of it.



And here is another *quick-n-dirty* test assembly...



[click to enlarge](#)

... I'll most likely start the actual drafting process in the near future. I think I've collected more than enough data to get started. And as I run into gaps while drawing all this stuff out, I'll take more measurements of the model to fill them in.

In thinking about how I might build this model, I'm considering two references... the 18" Enterprise model as it has been seen in the last 10 years (in what few photos we have of it) and the Constellation model as seen during the series. Actually, with recent HD screen grabs, one can get a pretty good idea of how the Constellation model was painted (before being distressed).



---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 25 Feb 2011 02:00 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Keep in mind, if you go with the battle damaged look, it's incredibly easy to overdo it.

I should take some pics of my two Constellations (one damaged, one not)...

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 25 Feb 2011 02:03 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Here are the decals, traced and re-aligned...



[click for 300dpi version](#)

Because everything was traced (rather than using an existing font set), it may seem like some of the

same letters are different from each other... and it is because they were that way on the original sheet.

Haven't gotten around to doing the windows yet, but they are coming. As soon as I have them, I'll arrange everything onto a single sheet and talk to JT Graphics about getting them printed out. I'll also see if he is interested in making them available to others.

**Captain Robert April wrote:**

Keep in mind, if you go with the battle damaged look, it's incredibly easy to overdo it.

I should take some pics of my two Constellations (one damaged, one not)...

I won't be doing the Constellation... or damaging it. I was mainly trying to see how the art department approached the basic paint job. I figure the same guys most likely worked on both AMT models, so they would be similar in some ways.

But yeah... I'd love to see pictures of your models!

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 25 Feb 2011 02:18 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I suspect they painted 'em with gray primer and filmed them against a black background. No evidence, just a hunch based on the lighting and the look of the effects shots.

---

Author: **Harry** [ 25 Feb 2011 04:25 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

It also looks to me like they didn't paint the damaged parts at all. They are noticeably whiter than the secondary hull, aren't they?

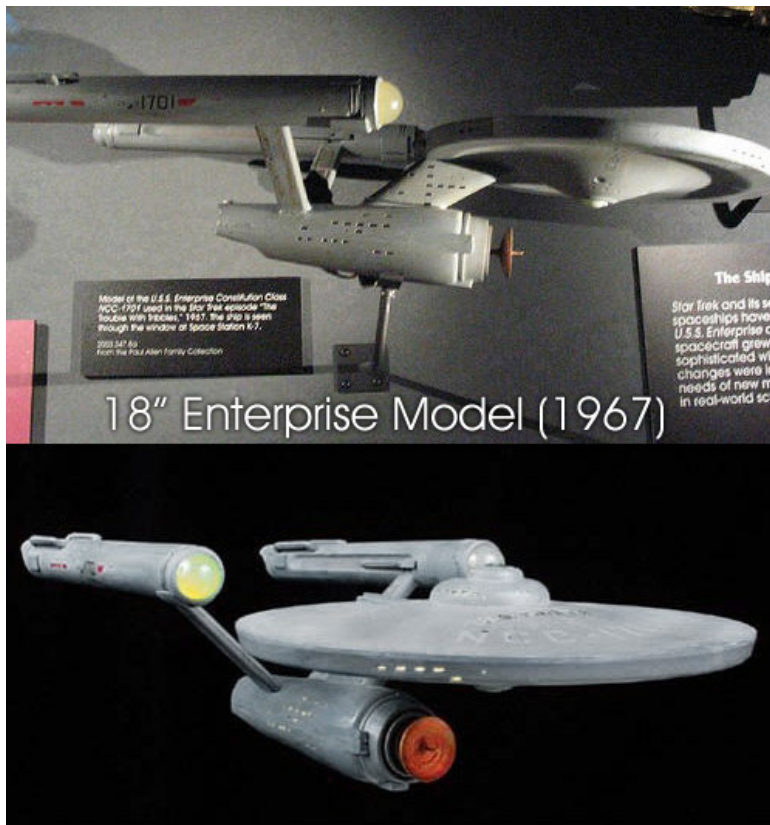
---

Author: **Shaw** [ 25 Feb 2011 07:16 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Well, I'd guess that it was uniformly gray over the whole model... I've noticed that under bright lights my models photograph as though they were white rather than gray.

One of the things I was noting was that the rings behind the sensor dish on the Constellation appear copper, while the same rings on the Enterprise model seem to be just gray.

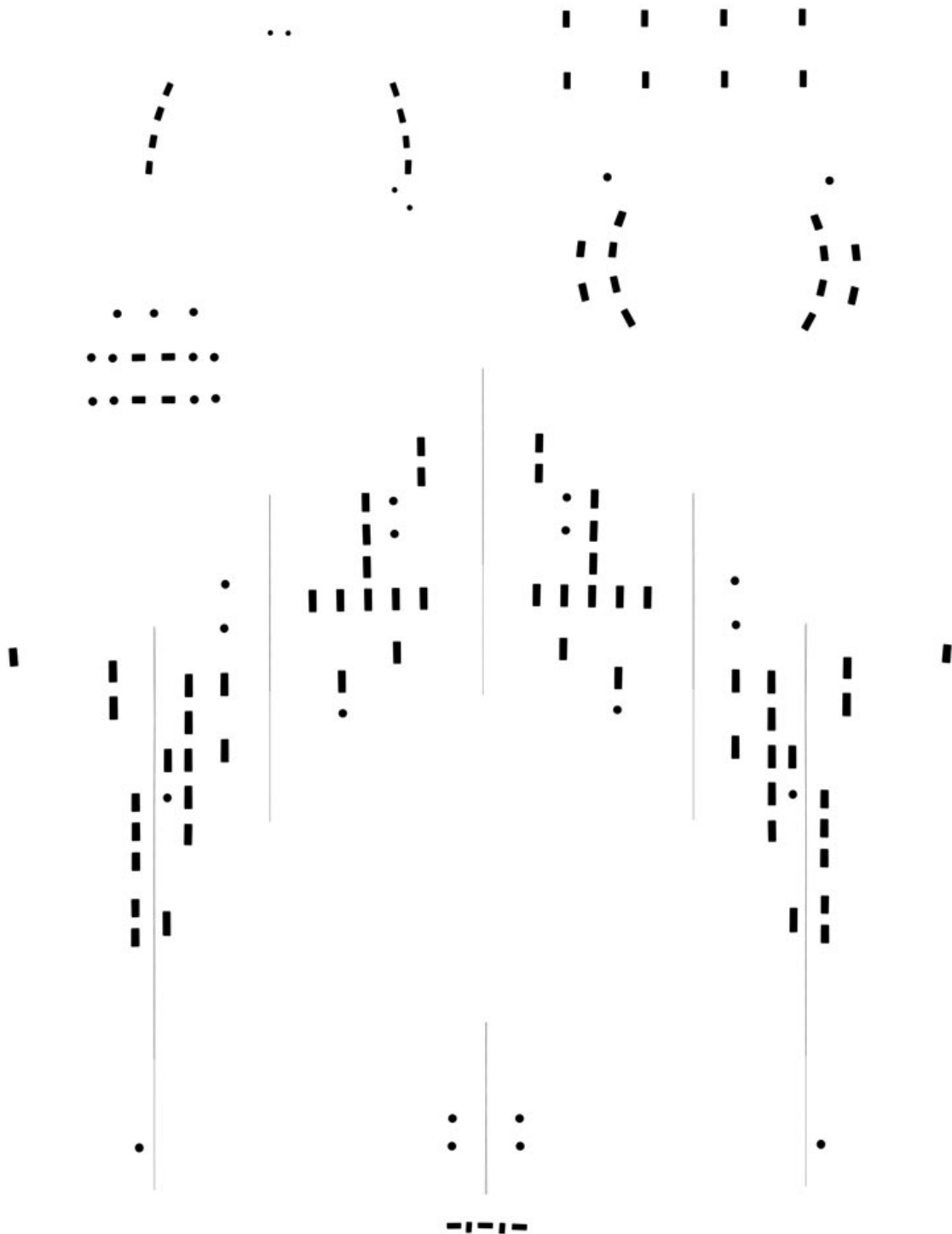


18" Enterprise Model (1967)

Of course the Enterprise model is over 40 years old in most recent images, so how it looked originally verses today might be hard to tell. Those rings may have faded over time.

On the decal front, I've mapped out all the windows... but haven't double checked them to make sure that they all align correctly (which I'd rather correct before spending the money to get them printed out if there is any issues).





[click for 300dpi version](#)

At least it is a starting point.

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-80.html>

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Author: **aridas** [ 25 Feb 2011 10:01 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I wonder if

1) Datin et al built these AMT models

2) They were painted with the same paint/hull color used on the 11 foot model

The first question shouldn't be hard to answer. The second might require inference.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 25 Feb 2011 15:20 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I think there is a good chance that Datin worked on those models... I know he did work on the K7 space station model.

Even if he hadn't, I think that the art department would have had a pretty easy time matching the hull color as it seemed like [the disassembled 11 foot model spent time in the art department](#). If the original hull color wasn't something easy to get, they could have gone with a nearest match.

Well, I knew I wasn't finished with the windows. It seems I forgot one of them... 🤖



---

Author: **Harry** [ 25 Feb 2011 17:58 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

K7! Another future project? 😊 I'm almost certain that [this is the Douglas model](#) that was gifted to Datin and/or Jefferies (as per Datin's website), and possibly actually modified to become K7. The relative sizes of the big collapsible space station vs the little ones seems to be exactly the same as on the Star Trek space station. Reusing that kind of model also seems like a perfect costcutting exercise (of course, I could be vastly wrong 😊)

Anyway.. back on topic. I'm liking it more and more. It's not really the ugly ducking I thought it was. One question about that typical AMT detail: the dimples on the lower saucer structure.. was that just some artefact of modelkit construction, you think?

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 25 Feb 2011 18:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Could've been the result of something thinking of putting lights there, then after the idea was nixed, nobody told the mold makers to lose the dimples. No way of knowing at this point.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 25 Feb 2011 19:54 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

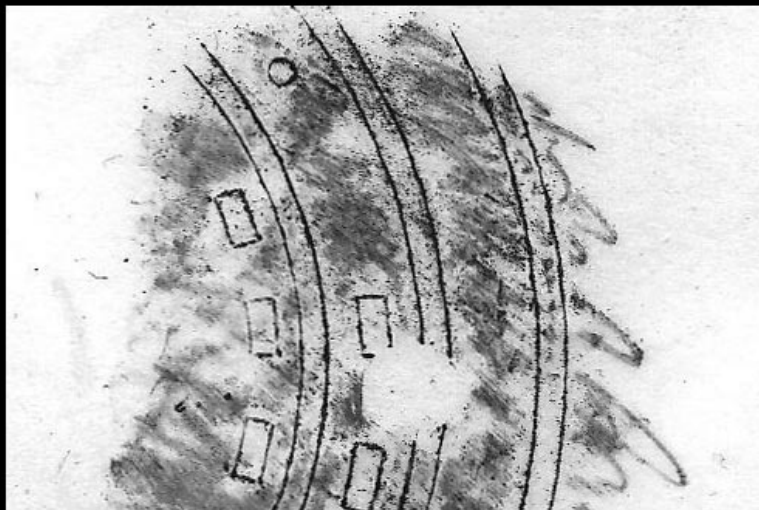
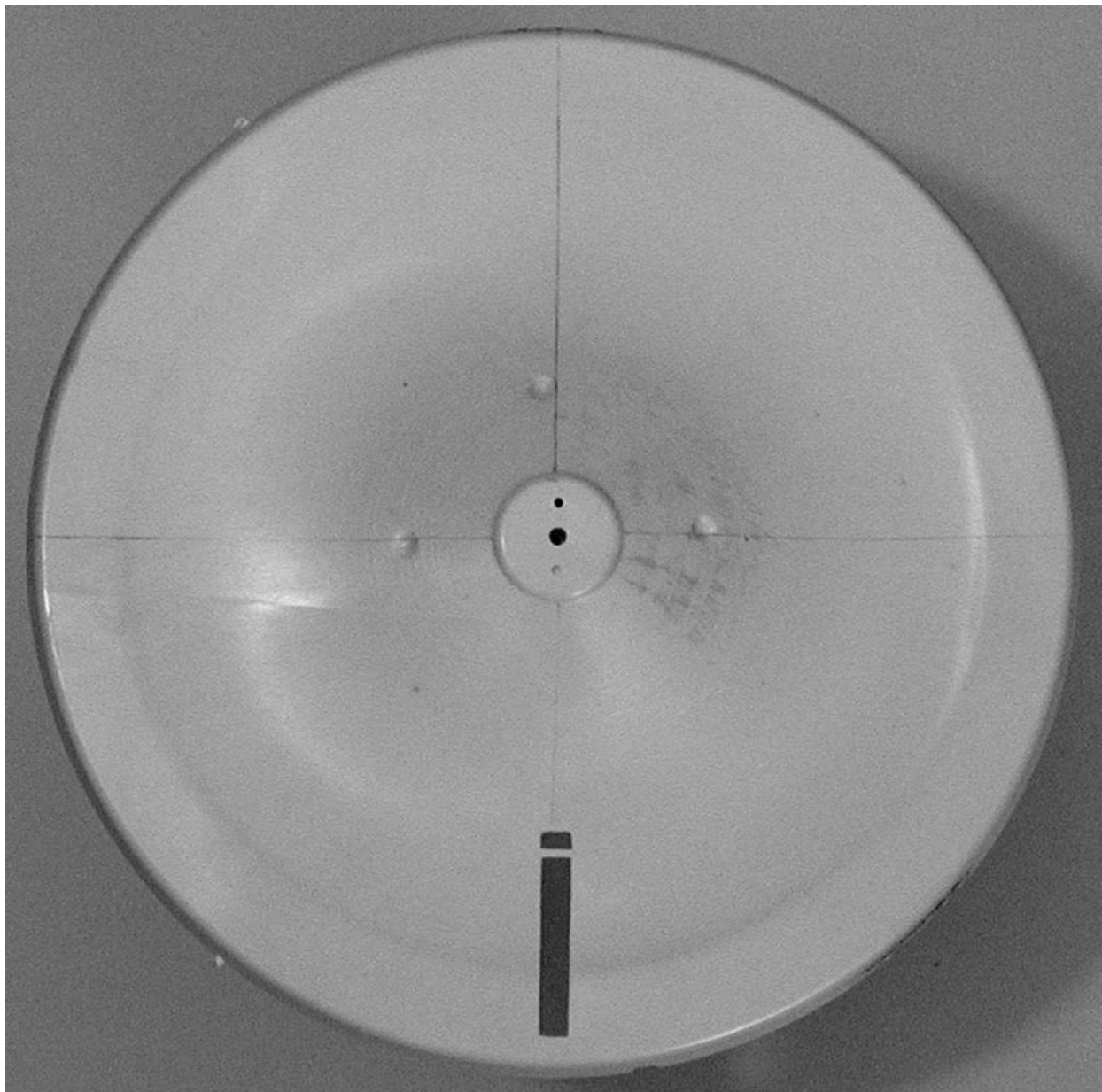
I would like to, one day, spend some time on the K7. Specially as Jefferies had originally started designing a space station before they ended up using the parts from that mock-up.

On the dimples... I don't believe that they were part of the original model that the molds were based on.

The later tooling covers this up quite a bit by having the dimples symmetric and nicely intersecting the middle set of underside rings. It makes it look like they are supposed to be there.

On the original model, they are not symmetric (the front one is way off centerline, while the two side ones are slightly rotated) and they run into windows and aren't aligned with the middle set of rings. They seem to have been thrown in as an after thought to solve some issue (maybe getting the parts to release from the die)... but they weren't part of the design for the model.

Below is a shot of the lower primary hull (I tried to draw lines on the hull to better illustrate the dimple positions) and a rubbing I made of some of the windows.



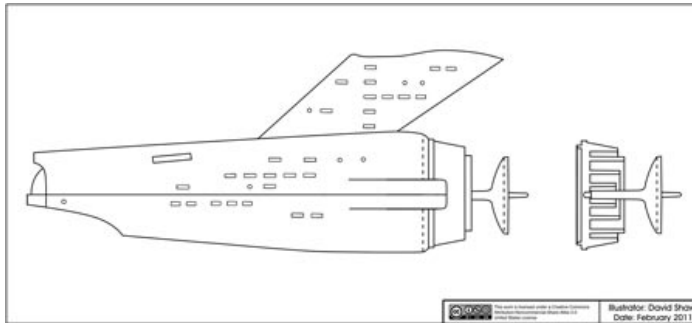
As for their purpose... it should be noted that Round 2 took a ton of effort to remove the grid lines from the top of the primary hull... but not the dimples from the bottom. They may not have been able to get rid of the dimples without introducing problems.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 26 Feb 2011 21:35 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Here is the start of the secondary hull...



[click to enlarge](#)

... I'm mainly trying to get a feel for the reference data I've collected, and how to make the best use of it.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 26 Feb 2011 22:03 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

David, that looks to be an excellent reduction of the 3d model to plan form. I'm impressed.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 27 Feb 2011 01:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Thanks!

I'm still trying to decide on how to draw certain details, but I hope that in the end I'm able to do the model justice and convey the level of detail put into it.

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 27 Feb 2011 13:05 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Here are some slightly older pics of my pre-Doomsday Machine Constellation...







Since these pics were taken, I've managed to locate, and reattach, two of the intercoolers, and a kind soul over on hobbytalk.com provided me with a new (and much more accurate) deflector dish.

---

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [ 27 Feb 2011 16:08 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

David  
Great work as always.

---

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# Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

## Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-90.html>

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Author: **Shaw** [ 27 Feb 2011 19:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

### Bernard Guignard wrote:

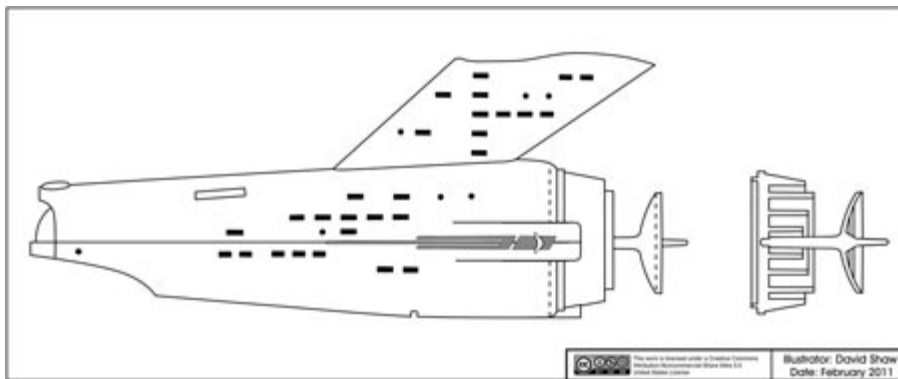
David

Great work as always.

Thanks! I appreciate that.

And thanks for posting those images **CRA!**

A few more example sketches...



[click to enlarge](#)



[click to enlarge](#)

I'm still not quite sure if that is the look I'm going for with the grid on the primary hull, so that may change in future test sketches until I get something I really like (or I get sick of playing around with it).

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 01 Mar 2011 13:50 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

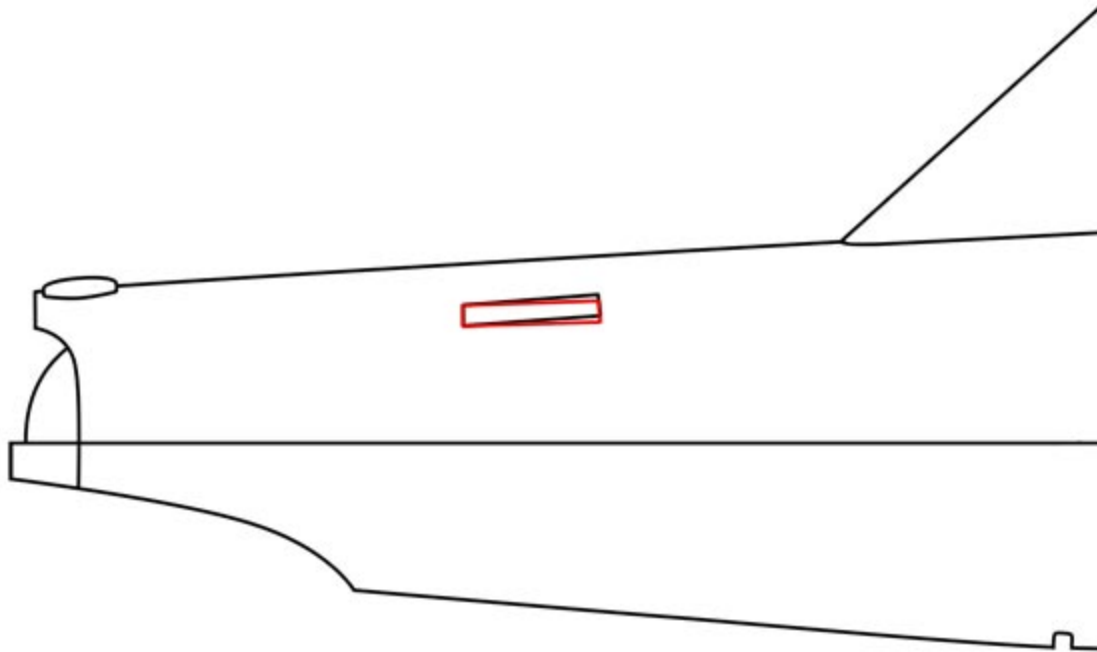
I really do love this model... it has so many interesting aspects to it.

The builders/designers of the kit took such care in adding in all sorts of little details, yet made some odd mistakes in the overall construction.

I'm surprised that no one has pointed out the odd angle of the hole for the nacelle supports on my drawing of the secondary hull. The top of the secondary hull is cone shaped (the bottom is not), so any plane that intersects that surface and includes the center line of the cone should intersect as a chord of the cone. The holes that are part of the model absolutely do not coincide with any chord of that surface.

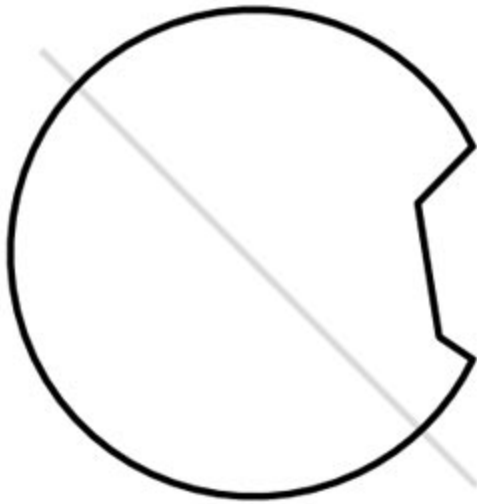
I think that when I build this model I'm going to change the position of the hole to

better align the nacelles.



I don't know if I'll make the change on the plans... though I may make a note of the discrepancy so that anyone building the model will have fair warning as to how to avoid nacelle sag.

Another interesting aspect to note is that the channel on the inner sides of the nacelles isn't a uniform depth... it is actually deeper at the top of the channel than the bottom. Strangely, this isn't the case on the later toolings.



## Nacelle cross-section

I've also been doing data collection on the impulse engines and found that it has a lot of additional details that are missing from the later toolings. On the 11 foot model a fabric was wrapped around the sides of the impulse engine housing... this has been replicated on this model but isn't part of the later (small box) kits.

---

Author: **Nascence** [ 01 Mar 2011 13:56 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

It's funny how your memory isn't always as you think.

I had this model back around 1973-74. My folks got it for me for Christmas along with the FJ blueprints and technical manual.

That was the best Christmas I remember! Ever!

It was a model in the long box.

I always thought that this model wasn't very accurate, and the details and proportions weren't right...especially the decal sheet.

But after seeing the model your working with and the resultant drawings, this model was rather good!

Not 100% accurate, but still a fairly good facsimile of the ship we saw on screen.

Just amazing.

Keep up the excellent work on this project Shaw.

It's really coming along 😊

---



Author: **Shaw** [ 02 Mar 2011 05:17 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I remember getting those plans back then. I took them to school with me and my friends and I would spread them out on the lunch tables during recess and study them.

It was great! 🧐

Another example sketch... this time the start of the nacelles.



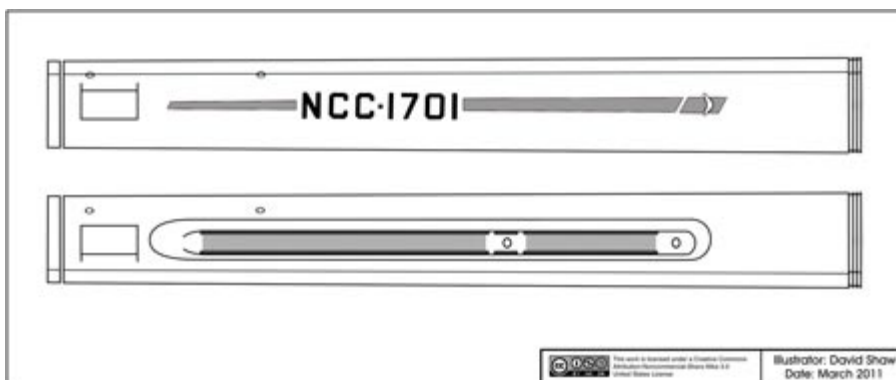
[click to enlarge](#)

Not a lot of detail yet, I needed to get the overall arrangement started first.

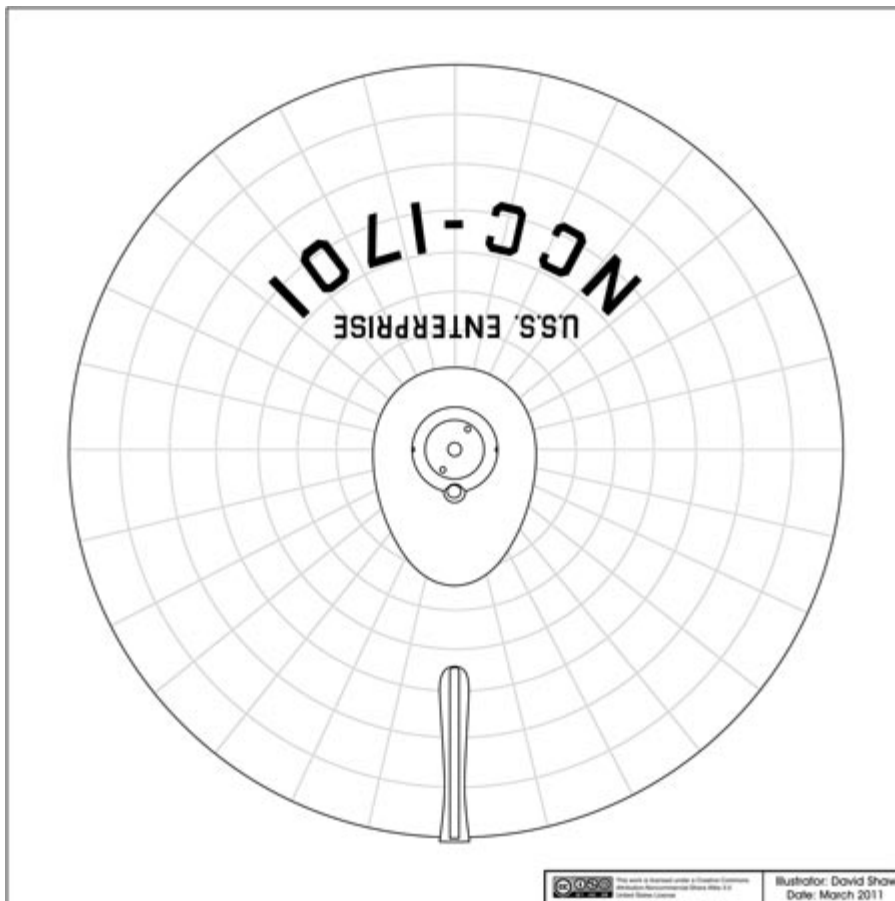
Author: **Shaw** [ 02 Mar 2011 16:19 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Few more small changes...



[click to enlarge](#)



[click to enlarge](#)

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 03 Mar 2011 03:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

What's the change in the primary hull drawing?

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 03 Mar 2011 11:21 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

The curve around the aft linear assembly... when I originally sketched that curve, I was more worried about anchor/adjustment points than exactly matching the actual shape. I went back and adjusted the curve to match the shape on the model in the newer image.

I debated putting up a replacement image (because it was such a small change), but in the end I didn't want anyone to use the bad curve in the first image I posted.

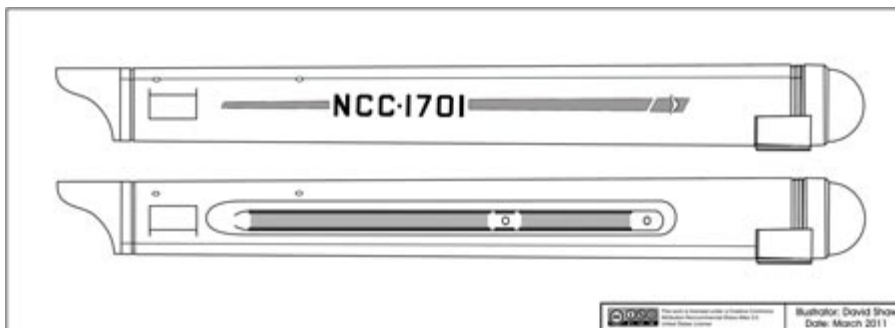
---

Author: **Shaw** [ 03 Mar 2011 16:15 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

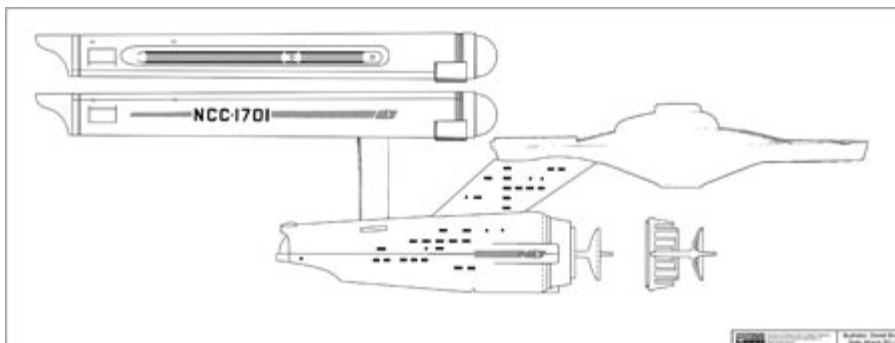
---

A little more progress...



[click to enlarge](#)

... and another test assembly (replacing some of the earlier elements)...



[click to enlarge](#)

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 03 Mar 2011 16:35 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Nice progress. Looking terrific as always.

What's this about the top and bottom of the sec hull having different curves?

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 03 Mar 2011 17:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

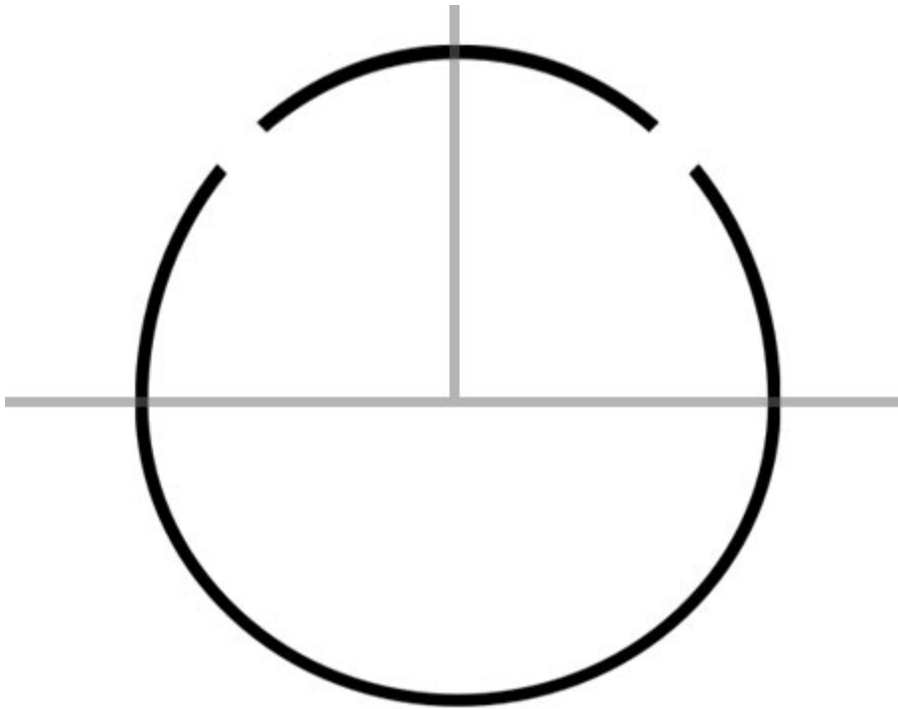
---

Thanks!

**Tallguy wrote:**

What's this about the top and bottom of the sec hull having different curves?

Actually, I got the description slightly backwards, but it is easier to show what is happening than to describe it.



## Approximate Cross-section of the Secondary Hull

(mid way through the nacelle pylon support holes)

I'm still working out the details though (I haven't invested a lot of time in the secondary hull recently). Sort of like the cross-section I did of the nacelle to show the channel's actual shape, I plan on doing the same type of thing for the secondary hull at a number of points.

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-100.html>

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 06 Mar 2011 04:57 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

So, the secondary hull is slightly egg shaped...

---

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [ 06 Mar 2011 09:07 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

The secondary hull shape, could that be a defect that was considered minor when the plastic left the mold ?

I wonder if you had a few more examples wether they would all show the same profile? I worked for a company

that made injection molding machines and I know how fast those things can spit out product I've seen them

testing the machines with molds from clients who were going to buy the machines.

Shaw I'm finding this all very interesting 😊 keep up the great work.

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 06 Mar 2011 12:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Probably had something to do with the battery placement and making the overall model balance out better on the stand, or something along those lines.

---

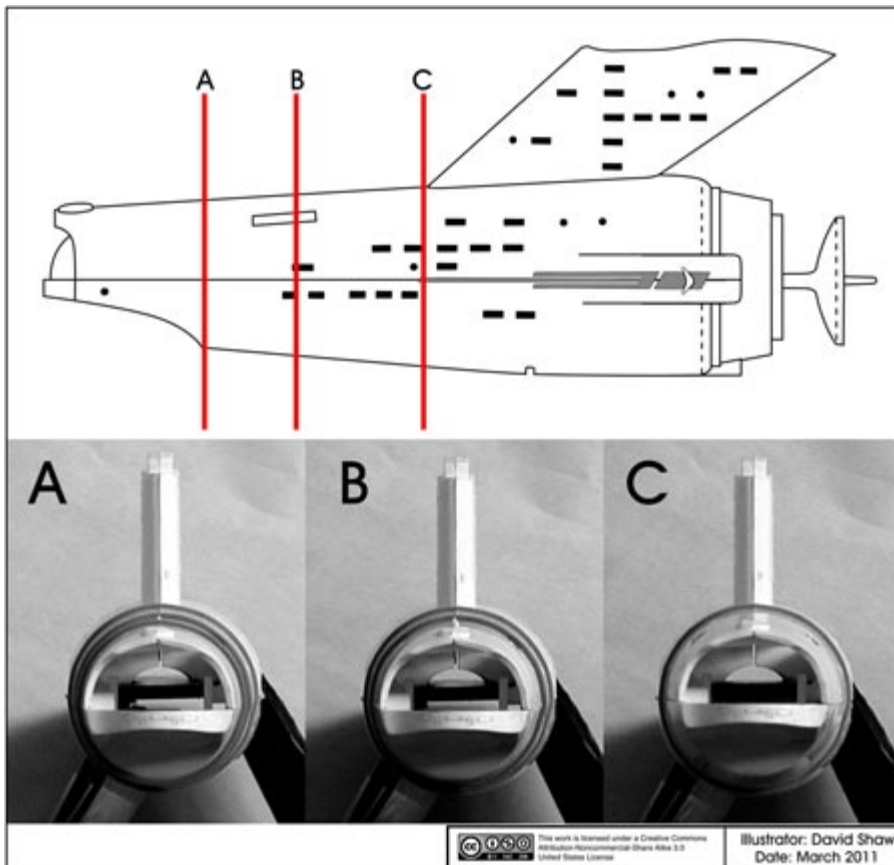
Author: **Shaw** [ 06 Mar 2011 17:25 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Well, that was an exaggerated illustration based on a couple measurements (but you can see that the top curve is further away from the center line seam than the bottom curve)... the best way to get the actual curves would be to have sections of the hull. Obviously I'm not planning on cutting up this model, so the next best thing I could think of was to use rubber bands and take photos from as far away as possible (while still getting a decent image to work from).

Here are three such images...



[click to enlarge](#)

I'll eventually trace similar curves and align/scale them to the rest of the drawings as a reference for anyone building a CG model. Right now the model is just snapped together (which is how it was designed, as the lower secondary hull was meant to snap off to allow replacement of the batteries), but I'll most likely tape the edges to get them better aligned and take these shots again.

So they aren't really egg-shaped... but they don't seem to be conic sections either (at least from a quick examination).

I've spent the last few days working on the primary hull... trying to get the curves and the measurements to align while also preserving the character of the shape. I'm really trying to do it justice and to document it as best I can.

---

Author: **MGagen** [ 06 Mar 2011 19:39 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Shaw,

I finally got around to joining this board. Didn't realize it had taken off until recently.

Just want to say "bravo!" toward your efforts to blueprint the original AMT E.

I have always had a love/hate relationship with this model: *Love*, from the day I was mesmerized by my first sight of it in a grade school lunch room back in the late 60s. We were waiting for the buses and a kid from another class was taking his back home after "show'n'tell." *Hate*, for all of its obvious deviations from the "real" Enterprise that were so darned hard to fix.

Anyway, I'm glad to see you turn your considerable talent and boundless industry to this worthy project.

Well done!

M.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 06 Mar 2011 22:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Welcome, MGagen!

Shaw, you might want to get yourself one of these:

[http://www.eagleamerica.com/product/400 ... and layout](http://www.eagleamerica.com/product/400...and_layout)

A fine molding profile gauge will help you pull lines off that model almost as well as a 3d scan.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 07 Mar 2011 05:48 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**MGagen wrote:**

I finally got around to joining this board. Didn't realize it had taken off until recently.

Just want to say "bravo!" toward your efforts to blueprint the original AMT E.

I have always had a love/hate relationship with this model: *Love*, from the day I was mesmerized



by my first sight of it in a grade school lunch room back in the late 60s. We were waiting for the buses and a kid from another class was taking his back home after "show'n'tell." *Hate*, for all of its obvious deviations from the "real" Enterprise that were so darned hard to fix.

Anyway, I'm glad to see you turn your considerable talent and boundless industry to this worthy project.

Well done!

Wow, thanks a ton!

I'm glad you joined up. **aridas** has put together a nice little corner of the net for us. I spend a ton of time browsing the forums looking at the great work by the artist around here. It has been quite inspiring for me.

**aridas wrote:**

Shaw, you might want to get yourself one of these:

[http://www.eagleamerica.com/product/400 ... and layout](http://www.eagleamerica.com/product/400...and_layout)

A fine molding profile gauge will help you pull lines off that model almost as well as a 3d scan.

That is an awesome idea! I'll order it right away.

I had improvised something similar (a folded piece of paper with a pin extending out the edge) to make depth measurements, but this should solve a bunch of issues I had been trying to figure out how to handle.

I'm just amazed that it isn't more expensive (not that I'm complaining).

---

Author: **aridas** [ 07 Mar 2011 10:08 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Just be careful with it. If it is like the finer metal gauges I've used, they can fall apart easily. Just don't let any of those metal teeth fall out or they all can fall out. 🙄

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 07 Mar 2011 21:38 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**aridas wrote:**

This illustration was taken from direct measurements and contour tracings of an unbuilt 1966 model. This is supposed to be the ship in the 2230s, so some details from the eventual DD model were changed. The saucer (sans bridge dome and impulse top), secondary hull (sans sensor/deflector emplacement) and dorsal are all AMT, however:

Image

I like how you use dimples for early phaser turrets. Some airsoft beads might work for that.

You know, seeing the secondary hull by itself with how much that sensor/deflector dish sticks out--well it reminds me of the Phaser two hand weapon...I actually like that design deflector better. It might not be what we see on screen, but it looks more of a true parabolic dish.

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 08 Mar 2011 11:46 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Welcome, **Mgagen**. This joint gets classier all the time!

---

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

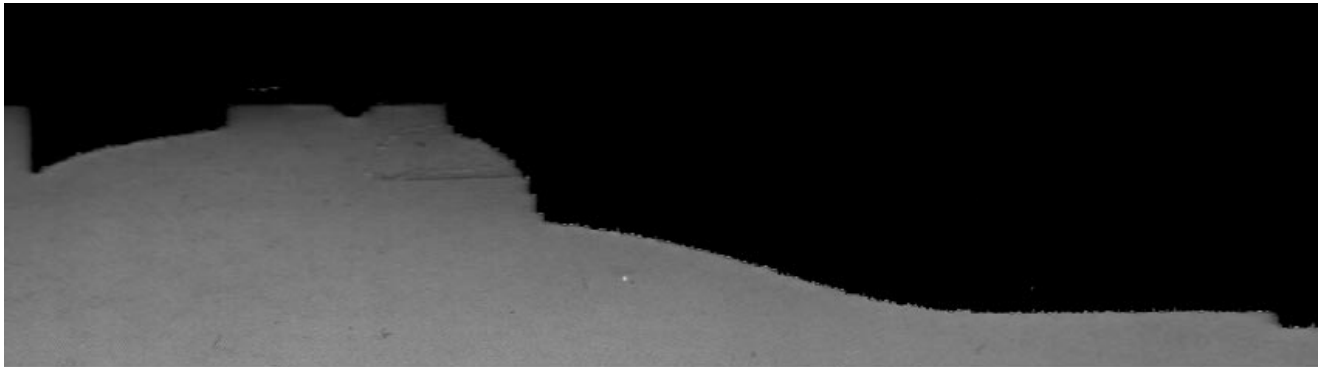
<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-110.html>

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Author: **Shaw** [ 12 Mar 2011 22:21 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

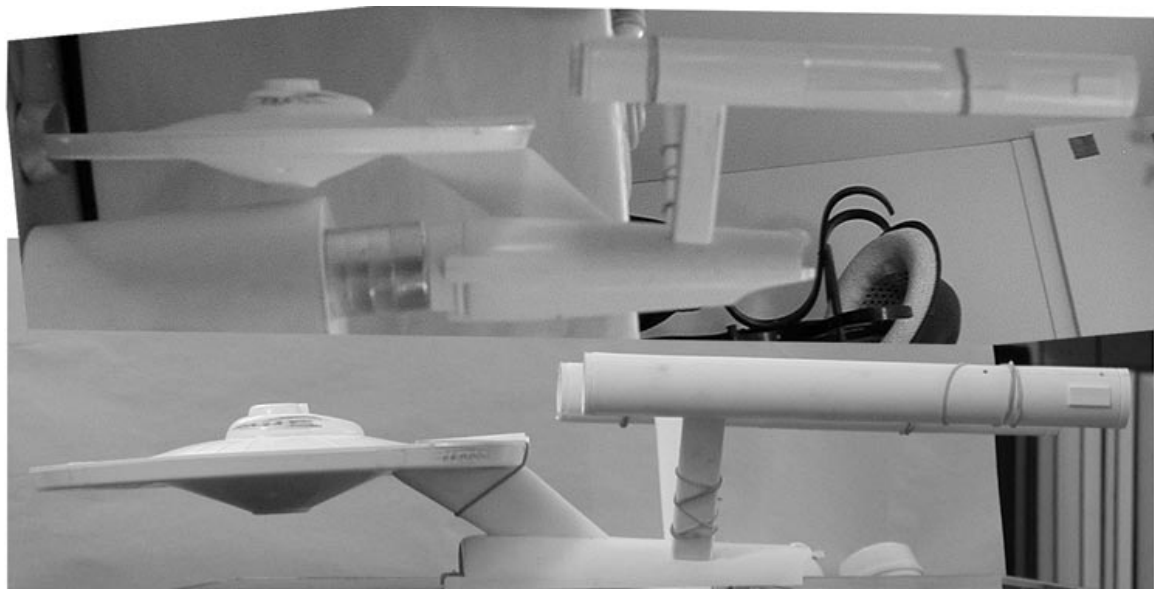
So the contour gauge showed up, and here is a quick first pull of a curve.



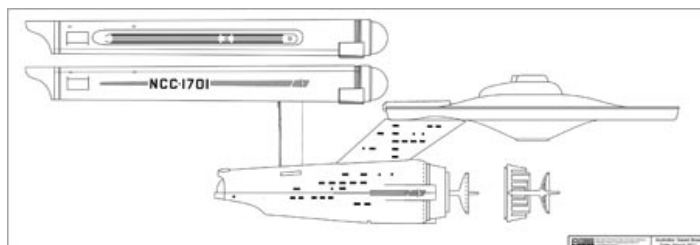
I think it'll be a helpful tool with the rest of the data collection (thanks **aridas**).

I'm sort of tied up working on projects for clients, but here are a few small updates.

First, it seems that the sagging alignment issue isn't just with the nacelles and their supports, the top curve of the dorsal edges the nose of the primary hull downwards as well. I took a few shots of the model assembled, including some with the model pointed down, and it seems pretty clear that the nacelle alignment issue has nothing to do with gravity.



And here is a small amount of progress on the rest of the drawings of the model...



[click to enlarge](#)

Hopefully I'll get back to this stuff in the next few days.

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Author: **Nascence** [ 14 Mar 2011 01:38 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
Assuming good accuracy, the shapes of all the component parts of this model aren't tool bad!

I'll go as far as to say the shapes are pretty good!

At least good enough for an inexpensive scale model kit from that timeframe.

If this model was rid of all the seams and painted and decorated as close as possible to what we saw on TV or detailed to match the three foot model with no modifications to any of the parts, I think this would make a pretty damn nice model!

I had this model as a kid, but I don't remember it looking as good as it is here.

It probably didn't help that I was only 9 or 10 at that time and was not a very good modeler at that age.

I didn't start to get good with building and detailing models until I was 14 and later.

Your work and attention to the smallest of details on this project is just amazing!

Really incredible job you are doing with this!

Looking forward to more



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Author: **Shaw** [ 14 Mar 2011 13:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Thanks!

Yeah, with so many years building the later releases, the curves of this model are actually quite pleasing.

I just hope it turns out nicely when I finally get around to building the thing. 😊

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 15 Mar 2011 00:40 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

It's been my experience that it's possible to manhandle the nacelles into the proper orientation, but it ain't easy, and not for those short of patience.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 15 Mar 2011 01:13 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

My plans for the 1966 model I own include making an inner disk from wood, plastic or resin, to sit within the secondary hull and support the pylons independent of the model's own support. I think that sidestepping the pylon's flaws as much as possible is the best way to achieve a satisfactory result.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 15 Mar 2011 03:12 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Yeah, that is along the lines of what I was thinking of too. I'm still considering doing the primary hull lights, but not via the batteries in the secondary hull. I'm going to build the secondary hull whole rather than to come apart (though the snap-together aspect has been quite helpful in my studies).

Additionally, I'm a little spooked by the fact that the model came with so many extra bulbs. I'm thinking it might be safer in the long run to go with LEDs. Even if I don't plan on having the model lit very often, I'd like to know that it'll work when I want it to.

The nacelle dome assemblies are another fun puzzle. I'll most likely use a hair dryer to help them fit a little better (one already fits better than the other). But in addition to that, I may thin the nacelle body's surface a little at the front end. I noticed that the Round 2 nacelle plastic is thinner than the original, and that the dome assembly sits better on them because of that. Shouldn't be that hard a fix (just curl up some sand paper), but I can see why they changed the design for the later toolings.

---

Author: **davros\_of\_borg** [ 15 Mar 2011 13:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

using LEDs would be easier to keep things cool - there's also fiber optics... ; )

did anyone ever get the aftermarket assembly manuals for the original *Enterprise* ?

i think the third one had lighting & fiber optics procedures

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 15 Mar 2011 19:46 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Well, I'm not planning on doing anything extra beyond the lighting that came with the kit originally. So I'm just thinking of replacing the bulbs intended for the primary hull domes with LEDs.

Odds are that I'll have them on once for photographing the model and rarely turn them on again after that. 😊

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 17 Mar 2011 00:25 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**aridas wrote:**

My plans for the 1966 model I own include making an inner disk from wood, plastic or resin, to sit within the secondary hull and support the pylons independent of the model's own support. I think that sidestepping the pylon's flaws as much as possible is the best way to achieve a satisfactory result.

Essentially, what AMT did with the subsequent modification of the mold, eliminated the tab/loop arrangement and replace it with a disc insert that corresponded with slots on the struts.

I'm currently trying to track one of those puppies down...

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Author: **MGagen** [ 17 Mar 2011 17:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Captain Robert April wrote:**

It's been my experience that it's possible to manhandle the nacelles into the proper orientation, but it ain't easy, and not for those short of patience.

I recall my own technique (as a juvenile modeler): Slather enough old-fashioned Testors orange tube on the "loop and losenge" pieces and the surrounding hull interior to soften up the whole area; quickly assemble the rest of the secondary hull; lay the model on it's back to make the nacelles vertically parallel; prop up primary hull with magazines to the right level and put a heavy book along side each nacelle to keep the ol' girl from doing the splits...

Ah, those were the good old days!

M.

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-120.html>

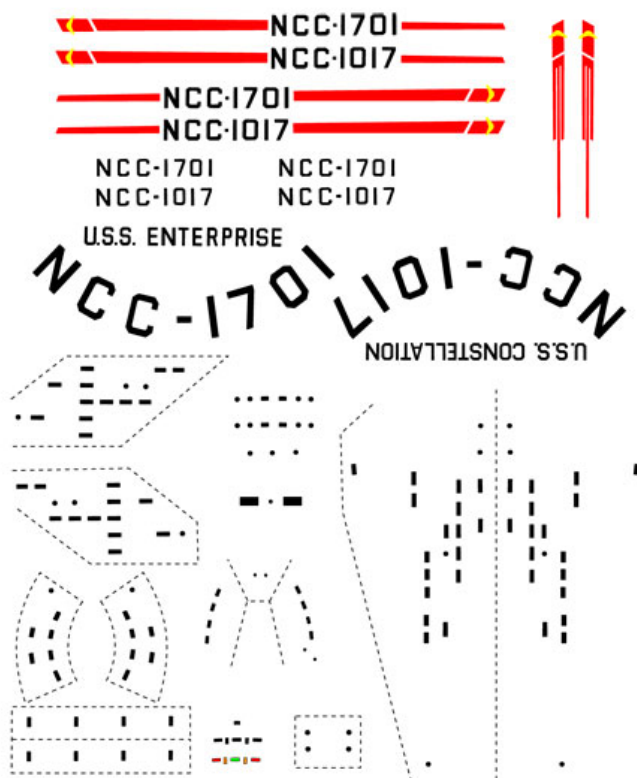
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Author: **Shaw** [ 18 Mar 2011 09:21 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Well, I'm considering including in the write-up for these plans tips on how to align the model correctly... maybe I'll include some of these ideas. 😊

Okay, so this is the finished decal sheet that I sent off to **JT Graphics**. Once I've had the chance to see the printed sheet (to make sure I don't need to make any additional changes) I'll let you guys know.



[click for 150dpi version](#)

Author: **davros\_of\_borg** [ 18 Mar 2011 16:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

which font did you use ?

Author: **Shaw** [ 18 Mar 2011 19:13 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

I didn't use any fonts... I hand traced both the original decal sheet and the rubbings I took from the surface of the model to get all that stuff. The Constellation's numbers are copies of the Enterprise tracings rearranged to



form "1017" (essentially the same way that the guys in the TOS art department did on the original model).

That is part of the reason that it took so long to get this sheet done... well, that and the fact that I had to go back and redo the arrangement to be a vector based graphic for *JT Graphics* (rather than the original arrangement I did in Photoshop).

I know that sounds like a lot just for some decals, but all this information will also go into the final plans as well. So just like I've been using a ton of different techniques to get the actual curves from the model itself for the plans, the windows and markings will be as accurate when I'm done.

... Which in turn is going to be important because I'll need a guide as to where to place the window decals after I build the model (as I'll be sanding down all the raised windows on the model's surface).

Plus I figure that there are most likely a few people out there with long box kits that either have unusable decal sheets or came with the later decal sheets (with all the different ship names) who might want to replicate the model as it could have been built originally. That is also why I did the Constellation markings and two versions of the hangar deck landing lights (one in color and one in just black). I think these models are rare enough these days that building them as original is as fun (and challenging) as modifying later kits to replicate the 11 foot model's features.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 18 Mar 2011 20:13 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

^I know I'm going to buy at least one!

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 19 Mar 2011 16:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Now in the comparison you had between the original and the repops, it seemed like the nacelle attachment points were even farther back. So would a side view of the repops look a bit different. Also I didn't mind how you initially depicted the field grid with aggressive lines, since that was accurate to the model from what I remember. I wonder if the ESTES flying model rocket decals were used on Constellation--or if it went that far back...

Misc

[http://www.culttvmanshop.com/StarFleet- ... p\\_261.html](http://www.culttvmanshop.com/StarFleet-...p_261.html)

<http://culttvman.com/main/?p=4561>

OT

<http://www.trekbbbs.com/showthread.php?t=138400>

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Author: **publiusr** [ 19 Mar 2011 16:40 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**publiusr wrote:**

Now in the comparison you had between the original and the repops, it seemed like the nacelle attachment points were even farther back. So would a side view of the repops look a bit different. Also I didn't mind how you initially depicted the field grid with aggressive lines, since that was accurate to the model from what I remember. I wonder if the ESTES flying model rocket decals were used on Constellation--or if it went that far back...

Misc

[http://www.culttvmanshop.com/StarFleet- ... p\\_261.html](http://www.culttvmanshop.com/StarFleet-...p_261.html)

<http://culttvman.com/main/?p=4561>

OT

<http://www.trekbbbs.com/showthread.php?t=138400>

I had forgotten about how the pylon actually ends just beyond the rim of the saucer...

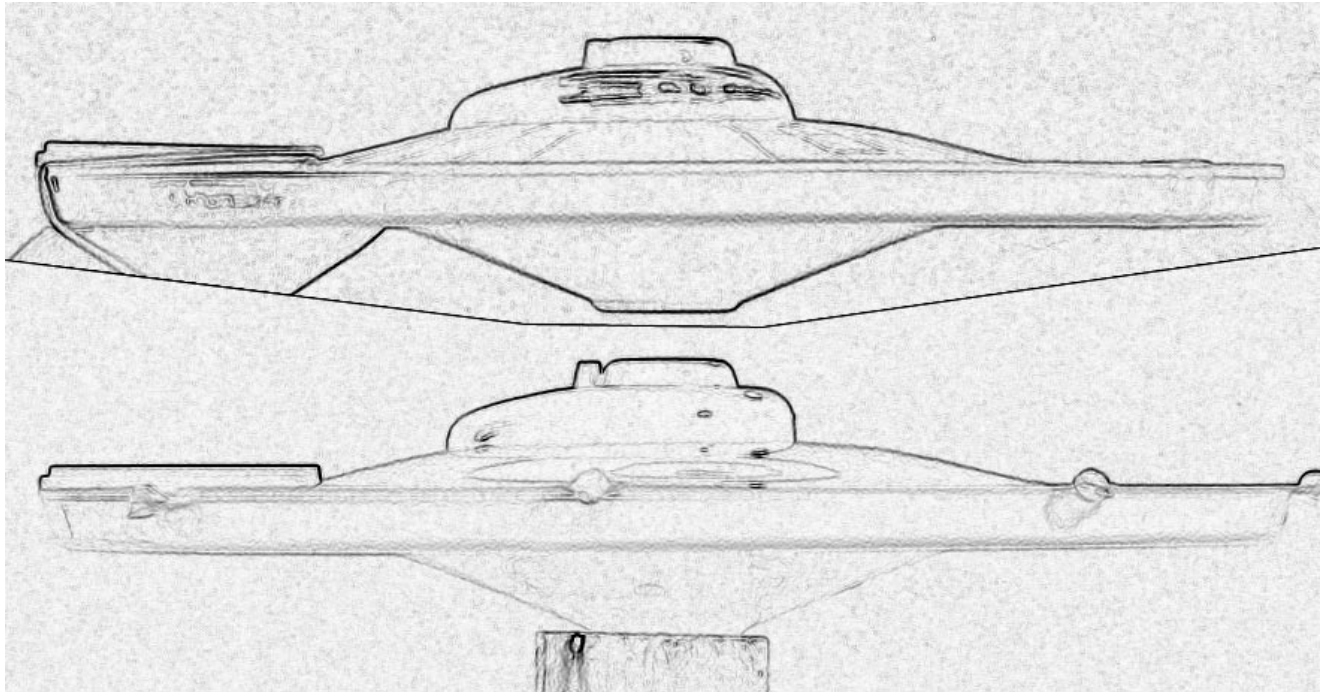
Author: **Shaw** [ 19 Mar 2011 18:15 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

**publiusr wrote:**

Now in the comparison you had between the original and the repops, it seemed like the nacelle attachment points were even farther back. So would a side view of the repops look a bit different.

Yeah, from the side view, the retooled models are about a half inch longer, with the nacelle supports back slightly further and the dorsal slightly forward on the secondary hull. And of course the upper primary hull profile is different...



**Quote:**

I wonder if the ESTES flying model rocket decals were used on Constellation--or if it went that far back...

The best information I have is that the Estes model came out in October of 1974.

I went through the supplied lighting pieces and after testing them, only one of the six bulbs supplied with the kit actually still worked. I'm not totally surprised by this (the kit is 45 years old after all).

So here is the one good bulb in action...



---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 21 Mar 2011 01:04 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Yes, the Estes rocket kit came well after the AMT kit, and long after TOS had wrapped.

However, the two ships were close enough in size that it was common practice to snatch up Estes kits for the decal sheets and other details, especially when dealing with a post '76 molding, with the smaller deflector dish and the lack of hangar deck homing beacon. I'd say a sizable number of the Estes Enterprise rockets purchased never even came close to being launched.

---

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [ 21 Mar 2011 13:05 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Is that a hand laser behind your keyboard? Expecting Romulan spies? 😊

Mark

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 21 Mar 2011 13:13 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Ahkyahnan wrote:**

Is that a hand laser behind your keyboard? Expecting Romulan spies? 😊

Mark

Is it paranoia if they ARE out to get you?

How many Roms does it take to change a lightbulb?

One to change the bulb, 200 to destroy the ship in dishonor.

---

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All times are UTC - 5 hours [ DST ]

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<http://www.phpbb.com/>

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-130.html>

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Author: **Shaw** [ 22 Mar 2011 00:10 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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In the neighborhood I live in, it is always a good idea to have my trusty hand laser within arms reach. 😊

Actually, I pulled one of the AA batteries from it to light the bridge dome.

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 24 Mar 2011 20:42 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

#### MGagen wrote:

##### Captain Robert April wrote:

It's been my experience that it's possible to manhandle the nacelles into the proper orientation, but it ain't easy, and not for those short of patience.

I recall my own technique (as a juvenile modeler): Slather enough old-fashioned Testors orange tube on the "loop and lozenge" pieces and the surrounding hull interior to soften up the whole area; quickly assemble the rest of the secondary hull; lay the model on it's back to make the nacelles vertically parallel; prop up primary hull with magazines to the right level and put a heavy book along side each nacelle to keep the ol' girl from doing the splits...

Ah, those were the good old days!

M.

Yeah! I can recall similar attempts in my youth to find a cure to "Sagging Warp-Bucket Syndrome" as PMN (Paul Mathew Newitt) described it.

and yes I have SFAM 1 and 3, what would you like to know?  
(Please keep in mind- until my own computer gets fixed I only occasionally get to use my mom's computer-so do not expect fast replies)

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 25 Mar 2011 17:41 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Man ,they really shaved the front of the B-C decks *flat*. I guess that wouldn't be a bad place for torp launchers now. Looks like the Monitor.

Of course, we can now look for this

<http://www.hobbytalk.com/bbs1/showpost. ... tcount=118>

<http://www.revell.de/index.php?id=210&K ... CHL=83&L=1>

<http://www.hobbytalk.com/bbs1/showthrea ... 7&t=322468>

<http://www.hobbytalk.com/bbs1/showthread.php?t=314579>

Now this is to have new tooling. Now what is often done is that folks in sales will bodge old kits together to get a ball park idea of what the product will look like to display at shows.

The nacelles don't look like they are about to run into the saucer--but the saucer itself seems a bit AMT, and one photo shows a strange lower dome <http://www.hobbytalk.com/bbs1/showpost. ... tcount=179>

It is probably too late to do this for Revell (maybe for round 2 1/350 offering--if any)--but you should convince one of these model makers to do a three-footer inspired batch of tooling. My guess is they don't know about the Datin/Jefferies nacelle mount disparity. As it stands, it has its own charm. That and the old cutaway might be future prospects for study.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 28 Mar 2011 15:52 ]

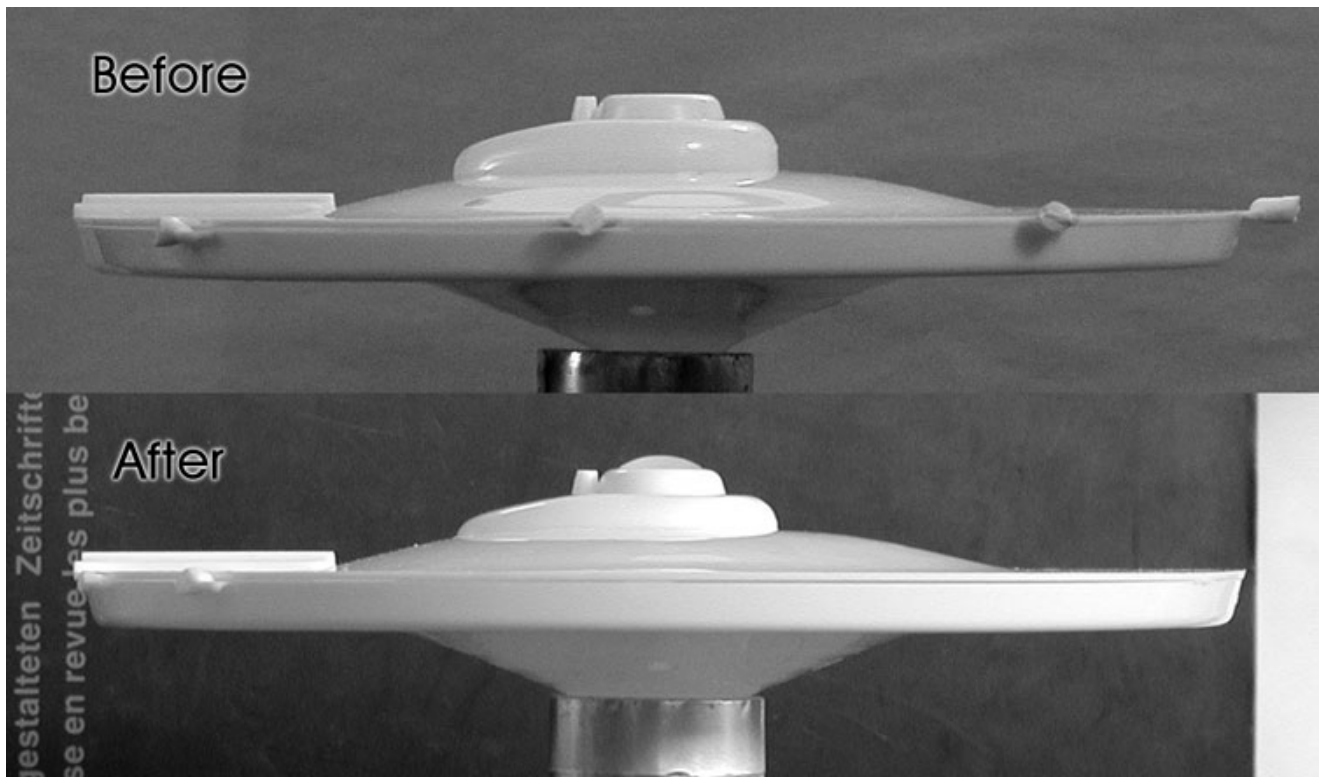
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I'd love for there to be a 33 inch primary hull option for those kits... unfortunately, most people aren't aware that the small model existed, or that there were many differences if they do know. And for many people, the only model of the Enterprise that is *the Enterprise* is the 11 foot one, so that is the audience these companies are aiming at.

I've been preoccupied with work projects in recent days, so I apologize for the lack of attention to this thread. The only thing of note I've done in the last week was modifying the Round 2 model (which I'll be building as a practice model before risking the 1966 model). I wanted the Round 2 model to retain many of it's *AMT features*, but I had always intended to fix some of the aspects that bothered me about the kit.

The bridge/B/C deck structure has always been something which rubbed me the wrong way, but it really had more to do with the profile than anything else. This is my fix...



I cut off the structure and glued it back on lower than before. I think this small change makes for an improvement in the overall feel of the primary hull.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 31 Mar 2011 05:20 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

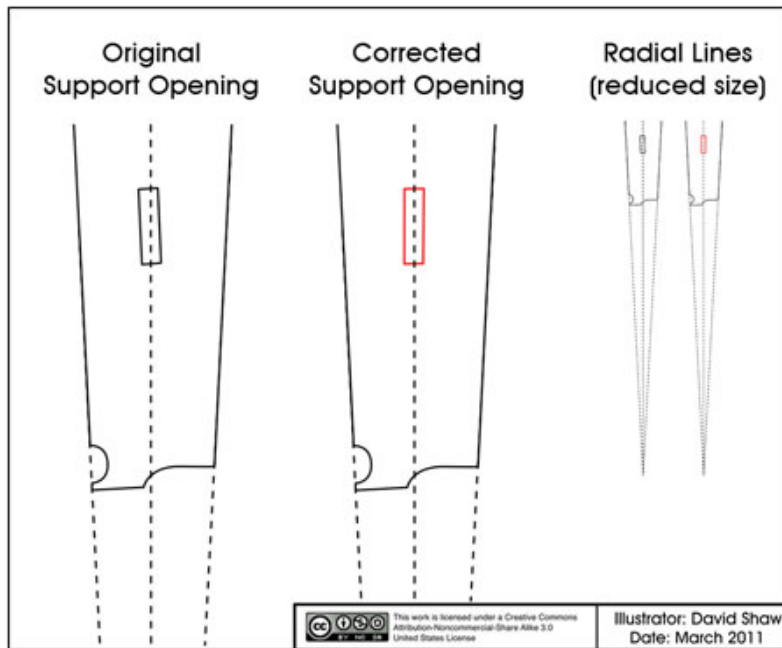
---

Because this is something that many people are facing, I wanted to put a little more effort into the nacelle alignment issue.

As I said earlier, the angle of the openings on the secondary hull were wrong on the long box model, which in turn forced the nacelles to appear to be druping. Fixing the angle of the opening should make it easier to align the nacelle center lines with the center line of the secondary hull.

This diagram was made from a surface rubbing (at the correct scale at 150 dpi), showing the original opening and a corrected one (in red).





[Click to enlarge](#)

When printed out at the right scale, the diagram could be laid on the surface of the part to be used as a guide for making the correction. This should be the least intrusive way to fix long box nacelle issues.

I'm putting this up in case someone wants to give it a try... but I'm hoping to get a chance to experiment (and perfect this) before anyone else needs to use it.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 02 Apr 2011 15:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

That's the only thing that really needs correcting. I actually don't mind the higher B-C decks because it is a little closer to the FJ blueprint set-they just didn't need to shave the front off. If you have time, could you reverse the FJ blueprints and have your AMT drawings overlap them? That might be interesting. I like drawings accurate to the model.

The nacelle support pylon error--that's too much. We can say that the sagging was damage to nacelles thrown out of alignment by the anti-proton beam weakening the hull. An accurate to the model drawing depicting the damage on screen to the model might be something for later. The actual openings on different models is a bit different too, so two side views might be nice.

Nice fix to the B-C deck by the way.

Here is a time line. Let's say that the (post-spherical-hull notion) Constellation (as planned) will be your fix to the AMT, kept model accurate in other respects. As-built/refit will be the Doomsday Machine footage. The taller B-C decks will hint towards Achernar with more equipment. Later warp dynamics will have secondary hull more teardrop shaped, as per Achernar

FJ

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=112779>

Cut-away Constellation

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=139644>

This post made me think of something: [topic752-110.html#p10232](http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=139644)

I wonder if anyone just left the nacelle supports be and shaved the saucer pylon off to line the saucer hull up with the rest. Yes, the shuttlebay would be a bit down hill, and the dish housing might have to be shaved the other way, but it might be an interesting modification, and perhaps less work.

So the question is, did the FX crew fix the nacelle problem for any later uses of the AMT, or go after the saucer pylon instead--what with that being an easier fix? By having the saucer fit better as I have described, it makes the secondary hull look to have a deeper chest--this might have been what inspired FJ to do his deep teardrop shape with the bottom of the secondary hull jutting downward. Perhaps both options can be explored at a later date.

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 03 Apr 2011 02:57 ]


Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I wish we could dispense with this notion that the Constellation originally had a spherical hull.



Anyway, I may be undertaking a restoration of my Constellation model soon, although instead of JT Graphics decals, I'll be making the best of the notoriously difficult PL/R2 decals that came with the repop.

So long as I remember to put down a good glosscoat first, it should work out....maybe....I hope.... 

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Author: **aridas** [ 03 Apr 2011 05:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Quote:**

I wish we could dispense with this notion that the Constellation originally had a spherical hull.

No offense taken. But since this is the Federation Reference site, and the FRS says *Constellation* started with a spherical hull, we'll give wide berth to the notion it started with a spherical hull. If you want to argue the point, that's fine. As long as you make a point in doing so and don't just roll your eyes and say you wish it was gone.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 04 Apr 2011 05:01 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I want to touch on this really quickly because I think I've seen some confusion in a number of threads I've been running about these projects. So this is just for clarification.

There are (essentially) three projects running concurrently that I am working on (with some getting more effort than others). These are...

- Plans of the 1966 AMT Enterprise model
- A build of the 1966 AMT Enterprise model
- A practice build of a Round 2 Enterprise model (as the Republic)

I bought the Round 2 model because I hadn't seen an 18 inch Enterprise model kit since 1994, so I needed a reference point to work with when my 1966 model arrived. Once I had become familiar enough with both models and their parts, there really wasn't any reason to keep the Round 2 model sitting around. But the 1966 model is still completely disassembled and will stay that way until I finish the plans.

The plans are being drawn with all the parts in proper alignment even though the parts don't actually go together that way. I'll be making notes of these elements and the *wheres* and *whys* of these spots and *hows* for fixing them without taking away from the authenticity of the original model.

On my model of the Republic, I am making some fun changes that I had long considered would be interesting to try on an 18 inch model. Some of the aspects I'll be doing look like they are from the pilot models and some from the series versions, I figure I can do a little mixing and matching as it isn't the Enterprise.

By contrast, the 1966 Enterprise model is going to be very stock. I'll be avoiding adding anything that didn't come with the kit, unless I'm replicating the feature (replacing bulbs with LEDs, replacing old decals with new exact replicas, replacing raised windows with decals replicating their exact placement). This is, from my point of view, a historical artifact that should be treated like a museum piece.

But yeah, the reason for the clarification is that what I'm doing to the Round 2 model isn't going to be done to the 1966 AMT model. And the main *practice* I need (that the Republic should be supplying) is with the placement of decals (which I'm not very good at). I plan on ordering three copies of the decal sheet I designed from JT Graphics (who is a little swamped at the moment) because I'm pretty sure I'll need the extra decals.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 09 Apr 2011 16:41 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I think the nacelle support error was done by thinking the nacelles should be parallel to the back of the secondary hull--thinking that was flat--straight back. To many, this made the nacelles look to droop. A neck fix was probably done by many hobbyists--also in error, so the centerline of saucer, the nacelles, and the top of the secondary hull were in line. This forced the secondary hull to be inclined down and to the front, with the mid-seam now inclined.

Then too, the neck would not reach out beyond the saucer that way, and you could always

say that the dish was pointed 'down' for planetary scans.

OT

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=139844>

McQuarrie

<http://trekbbs.com/showpost.php?p=4864917&postcount=140>

Realspace

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=134989>

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<http://www.phpbb.com/>

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-140.html>

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Author: **publiusr** [ 11 Apr 2011 19:01 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Harry had a pretty good guestimate of the AMT here up top:

[http://fleetyard.net/temp/trek/constitu ... riants.png](http://fleetyard.net/temp/trek/constitu...riants.png)

Also interesting

[http://s49.photobucket.com/albums/f252/ ... tution.png](http://s49.photobucket.com/albums/f252/...tution.png)

The electronic Enterprise in two versions:

[http://www.calormen.com/Star\\_Trek/SouthBend/index.htm](http://www.calormen.com/Star_Trek/SouthBend/index.htm)

[http://s519.photobucket.com/albums/u359 ... CF3492.jpg](http://s519.photobucket.com/albums/u359...CF3492.jpg) (Down, drat)

[http://good-times.webshots.com/photo/25 ... 3357WivPFE](http://good-times.webshots.com/photo/25...3357WivPFE)

[http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/s ... enterprise](http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/s...enterprise)

Canadian version

<http://www.megomuseum.com/startrek/sttmp.html>

Something for a later project...

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Author: **Shaw** [ 14 Apr 2011 01:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

#### **publiusr wrote:**

I think the nacelle support error was done by thinking the nacelles should be parallel to the back of the secondary hull--thinking flat--straight back. To many, this made the nacelles look to droop. A neck fix was probably done by many hobbyists--also in error centerline of saucer, the nacelles, and the top of the secondary hull were in line. This forced the secondary hull to be inclined do to the front, with the mid-seam now inclined.

Yeah, I've been comparing notes between how the Klingon D7 model was made and how the original Enterprise model was made. The D7 was built as a 2x model and pantographed down to the final kit e But it seemed that both the D7 models were finished whole and assembled (or at least the filming mo been assembled).

In contrast, I'm not getting the feeling that the Enterprise parts were ever test assembled before bein make the dies. And AMT didn't even consider addressing some of the alignment issues until they did t retooling in the early 70s.

Maybe they thought that since they were getting drawing straight from Jefferies, it should have all come together just like the filming models.

**publiusr wrote:**

The electronic Enterprise in two versions:

[http://www.calormen.com/Star\\_Trek/SouthBend/index.htm](http://www.calormen.com/Star_Trek/SouthBend/index.htm)

[http://s519.photobucket.com/albums/u359 ... CF3492.jpg](http://s519.photobucket.com/albums/u359...CF3492.jpg) (Down, drat)

[http://good-times.webshots.com/photo/25 ... 3357WivPFE](http://good-times.webshots.com/photo/25...3357WivPFE)

[http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/s ... enterprise](http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/s...enterprise)

The South Bend Enterprise is actually an important model/toy in that it was developed after the Enterprise model was originally finished and before it was altered (I believe at the request of Douglas Trumbull). The shape of the bridge/B/C decks, the lower sensor dome and the graphics in the decals are similar to how the TMP model was originally built.

I have a dozen or so shots of the TMP Enterprise as it was originally built and a nice image of the original sheet which I've been considering using to create replacement decals for the TMP Enterprise (when I have time).

I would love to find a South Bend Enterprise as I believe it is the same scale as the AMT TMP Enterprise and the bridge/B/C deck of the South Bend could be used to make a pretty accurate replacement part for the AMT model.

Back to the models...

I had always found that the rear end caps of the 18 inch model looked odd. They always seemed a little off and now I know that they are. When comparing them to Jefferies' drawings for the filming models, I found the ratio of the length to the diameter was off on the 18 inch model's parts. Where Jefferies' originals seem to be about 0.7/0.9, the parts on the 18 inch model are about 0.8/0.9.

To fix this on the Round 2 model, I shortened/reshaped the end caps.

Similarly, I shortened the nacelle body just behind the domes (which was too long).

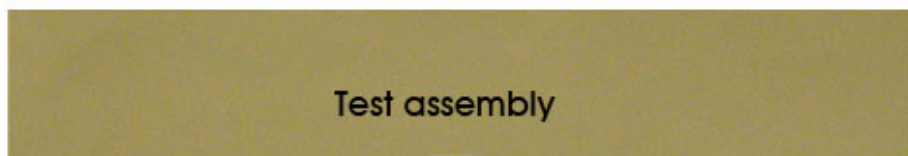
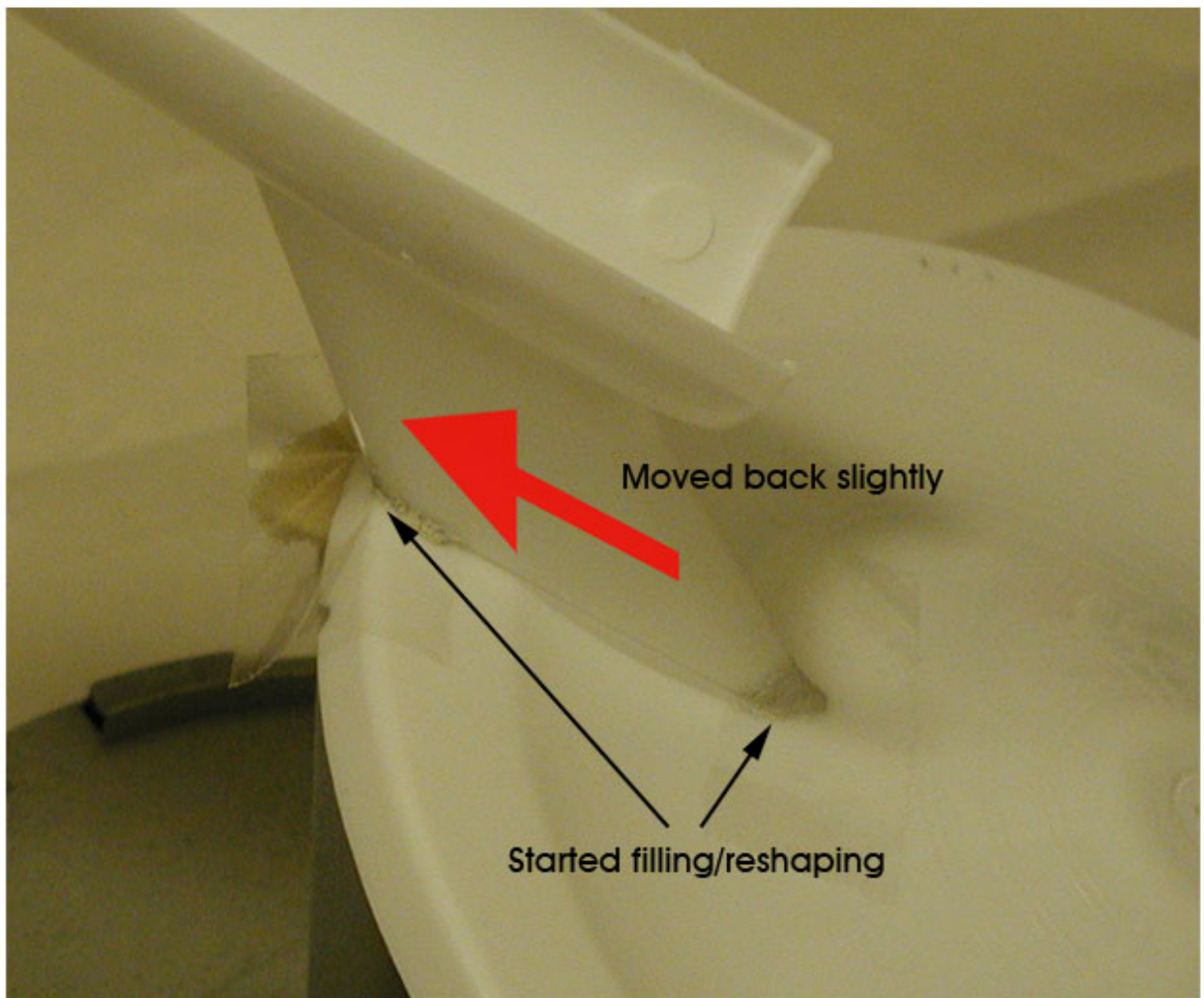
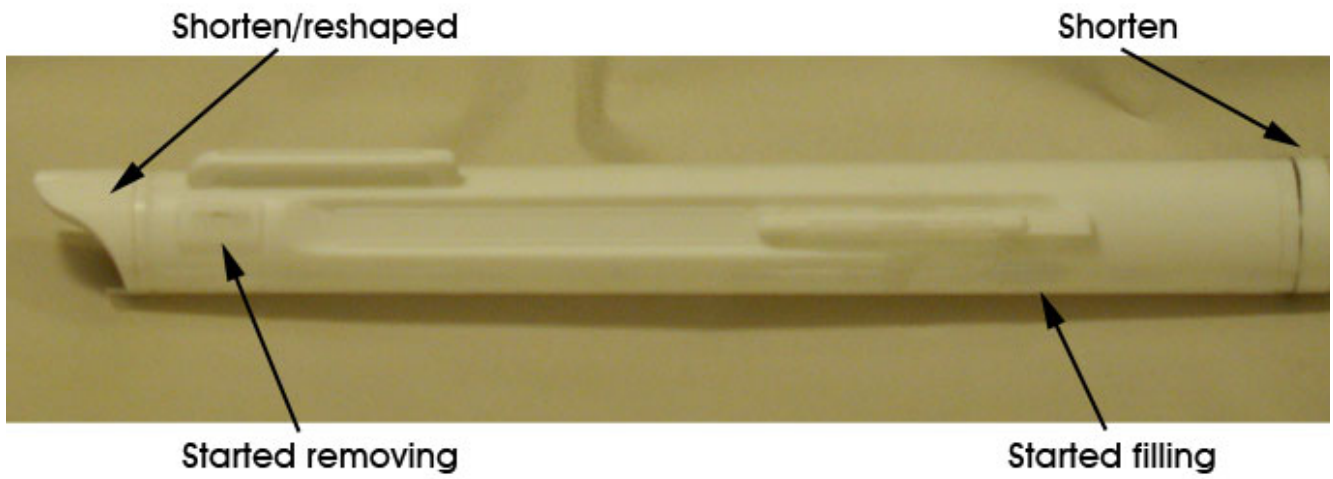
Both of these are small changes in the overall structure of the nacelles, but I think they'll contribute to the feel when the model is finished.

I also started removing the rear box features so that I can replace them, and started filling the holes where the supports originally met the nacelles. Those aspects are worked in with the sanding of the seams where the two halves came together as they are part of the overall finish of the nacelle bodies.

And an additional change I've made to the dorsal is to move the connection point back slightly so that edge of the dorsal will meet with the outer edge of the primary hull. I'm not sure this change will make difference at all, but I figured I'd try it out anyways.

Of course none of this (besides the fixing/cleaning of seams) will be done to the 1966 model, but I will have notes on the geometry of the rear nacelle caps in the plans.

Here are a couple shots of the progress to the Round 2 model.





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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 17 Apr 2011 13:14 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

On a side note, I just won that 18"er with the disc & slot setup, at a low enough price that I won't feel bad about building it.

Should make for an interesting comparison with the tab & loop attachment setup.

Yes, I'll be taking pictures.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 18 Apr 2011 20:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

My very first Enterprise was an early version, with the smooth aft nacelle caps. Knowing even then as a little rug rat that I couldn't do anything right, I convinced my Dad to put one together for me. For a jig he used stacks of Funk & Wagnalls. He actually seemed to enjoy this model. I think he even fixed the nacelle seating using a pocket knife.

My Dad was an amazing man. He never finished high school, and the only way he kept a roof over my head and my Mom was that he worked for the L&N (Seaboard System/ Family Lines/ Chessie the Cat) that became CSX and was a member of the UTU.

Once we had a grey cat that got a forelimb stuck in a chair, breaking it. Somehow, this man set its foreleg with two popsicle sticks and a curved metal brace/splint that went around my pinky that got caught in a door hinge at our old house in Inglenook, across from the old firestation that became a library:

<http://www.bplonline.org/locations/branch/Inglenook/>

[http://alabama.hometownlocator.com/al/j ... lenook.cfm](http://alabama.hometownlocator.com/al/j...lenook.cfm)

With a little tape and a lot of patience, the cat got full use of its leg.

---

I'm sure I pestered him: "That doesn't look right"-- but he made that model *gleam*.

Well, once on a visit to my Grandmother on my Mom's side in Vernon Alabama, around the time Guin got nailed in the '74 Superoutbreak, I took that model with me.

I was warned: "You'll break it."

"No I won't" I replied. Well, I had fun until my brat cousin Donny Tubbs showed up, all James Dean and crap. I tried to hide it because I KNEW what would happen. Then my Mom volunteered that I had the model.

"Let him play with it."

I lost it--I put it up--finally "No Grandma, he'll break it --I know he will."

Next thing I know the little hellion is running all over the house until such time as he hooks an ankle against my Grandmum's recliner that looked to date from the Precambrian. A sledgehammer could not have done more damage.

I think that's when I had a light stroke--and for once tough guy was scared of me. :0

"He broke it He broke it.I knew he would."  
Calm down they said.

I went through the things. One had a booksatchel thrown on it. I couldn't seem to keep one.

When driving back, my Mom said I told you so and blamed me.

I can look back on it and laugh now. Donny had a bad childhood, and everyone there is dead except for me--which is really the saddest thing. I knew better than to take any blueprints to school. Someone would have thrown chocolate milk on them.

I never had a model that good. The preacher's son had a newer one, with balls on the caps. I had the D-7 though. Later a kid played with it. He asked about the D-7 Cobra head: "Does this come off?"

Before I could say no--it did. Sigh.

That was the day I swore that, if I ever got near my guardian angel--I'd punch him in the face.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 19 Apr 2011 01:24 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

😄 Damn... that was a ride down memory lane. It brought back a lot of good memories. My dad built the first one with the smooth end caps for me as well, and I had it outside playing with it right away. He built Gemini and the Flying Cloud and helped me with the carrier Yorktown, but all those I left on the shelf. The Enterprise went outside, along with the D-7 and the Leif Ericsson.

I decided to make the desk in our living room into a starbase -- a place for the ship to come home to when we were done with our adventures. I figured that the whole crew would stand outside the ship while it was in dock at attention, like the crew of a Navy ship. So I decided to make all 430 crew out of spitballs painted red, gold and blue. That's right. 430 spitballs painted red, gold and blue. I hope that was the weirdest thing I did when I was little, but I doubt it.

I had a friend down the street that didn't have enough money to get the kit, so he

took paper plates and various paper towel / toilet paper tubes and made his own starship designs. Really cool, too. I think his ships were what got me thinking about different ways to go about designing these things.

Many years later my own son and I built the Polar Lights 1/1000 kit. He decided it needed an opponent a bit more badass than the Klingons, so he went to art class and built a Doomsday Machine. A little small, scale wise, but still a very cool looking plaster and wire model, all painted grey and with a fiery throat.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 20 Apr 2011 15:06 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Now those are good memories you are establishing. I bought some Johnny Lightning trek ships and give them away on Toy drives when I could. I can just imagine kids todays saying "What is this--a transformer."

In case any young sci-fi fans visit this site, and I hope many do to see what real sci-fi is supposed to be, Star Trek is a good role model. Two things from the series. How sharper than a serpents tooth it is to be a thankless child (My Mom liked to remind me of that one.)

And one saying that Kirk made to Charlie X, about how there is a million things you can have, and a million things you *can't* have.

In my case it was an intact model 😊

One of my later AMTs had duct tape on nacelles. I forget why. Perhaps to make up for my losses, I began to buy and hold onto models. "One day I'll" have it made, work on one, etc. I'll be dead and the closet of models and old sci-fi books that I purchased at yard sales to preserve them will probably be put in a dumpster if I don't get a will. One of my big mistakes early on is that I played not to lose and became perhaps, an overly careful person.

On one of my first days of school I sat near a small blond headed boy who had the tiny bowl of ice cream that comes with the wooden stick? I asked if I could share, and he refused. The next day, I bummed a quarter from my folks and this day, I had the ice cream and he didn't. He asked to share. Naturally, I said "You didn't share with me yesterday, so I'm not going to share with you today."

Right then, the teacher passed by and made me share that with him. "But, but"

"I don't want to hear it" she said. So the little tyke ate two bites and it was gone.

Now, as an adult, I can see--perhaps--that those might have been the *only* bowls of ice cream that kid might have eaten in his *life*. I remember him being small.

Perhaps he wasn't to live long. Perhaps his parents were poorer than mine-- something the teacher could have known and I didn't. When you are a child, you see as a child. That doesn't mean you have to lose a sense of wonder or models by the way.

So I made the worst mistake of my life. I swore that I would sit by myself in the lunchroom and no one would ever touch my food again. I got in the habit of taking food away from the table at home and going to my room with it, as if someone were going to take it away I guess. This act ruined much of my early school years.

My parents adopted me when they were up in years, so many of my memories were of going to hospitals, nursing homes and funeral homes, as their loved ones passed on. I haven't had grandparents since the mid-1970s. I don't know why I'm telling you all this, except that it soured my outlook, and watching Trek, MASH and Barney Miller allowed me to keep a sense of humanity and compassion. I credit Norman Lear for that. Other folks who have an interest in aerospace who were in my predicament became more reactionary.

I guess the reason I blew my top on that visit to my Grandmother in a way I wouldn't have, say, if Donny had just slapped an also replaceable glass of coke down out of my hand, was that it was more than a possession to me. It represented possibilities. When 2001 rolled around, we got 9/11, not the monolith that resembled one of the twin towers ironically. Then, an old AMT kit that I (later) gave to Thomas Sasser (who mastered the 1/1000 kit and lived not far from me) collected dust.

Now that 2010 came without Contact, all the benchmarks are gone and we are left drifting--and folks like you and the other blueprint makers, and Shaw and his fine resoration works--are all that is left of an age of optimism.

Old memories made new

<http://drexfiles.wordpress.com/2011/04/...rsday-414/>

<http://drexfiles.wordpress.com/2009/01/...sic-images>

FJ

<http://img291.imagevenue.com/galshow.ph...oramt=show>

A question: Didn't the impulse drive piece have different vents? You might have to do a pencil tracing over those. I swore I remember one with all the little doors on it.

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Author: **Shaw** [ 24 Apr 2011 10:00 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

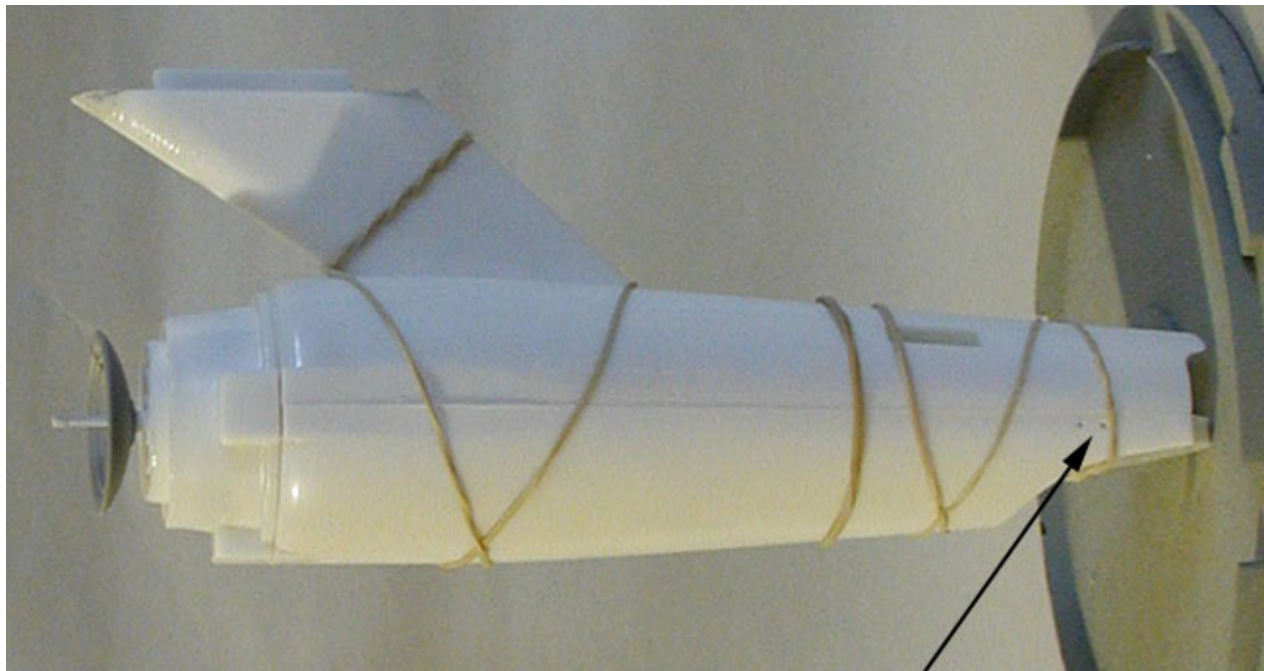
---

I have fond memories of my first Enterprise model. It was built by my older brother (who went on to major in art in college). But while I really liked that model (while it lasted), my favorite toy was something that he threw together while we were on vacation at Mammoth Mountain. I spotted the end of a 2x4 that had been cut off at an angle and said that it looked like the shuttlecraft. So my brother grabbed a saw and cut the end off for me and drew all the details on the surface of the wood. All I can remember from that vacation was playing with that wooden toy shuttlecraft.

Sorry I haven't been around lately... life has kept me busy. 🙄

I did get the decal sheets from JT Graphics, and they turned out great! So at this point, the only thing that is holding me back from starting the 1966 model is finishing up the plans for it (which I hope to get back to soon).

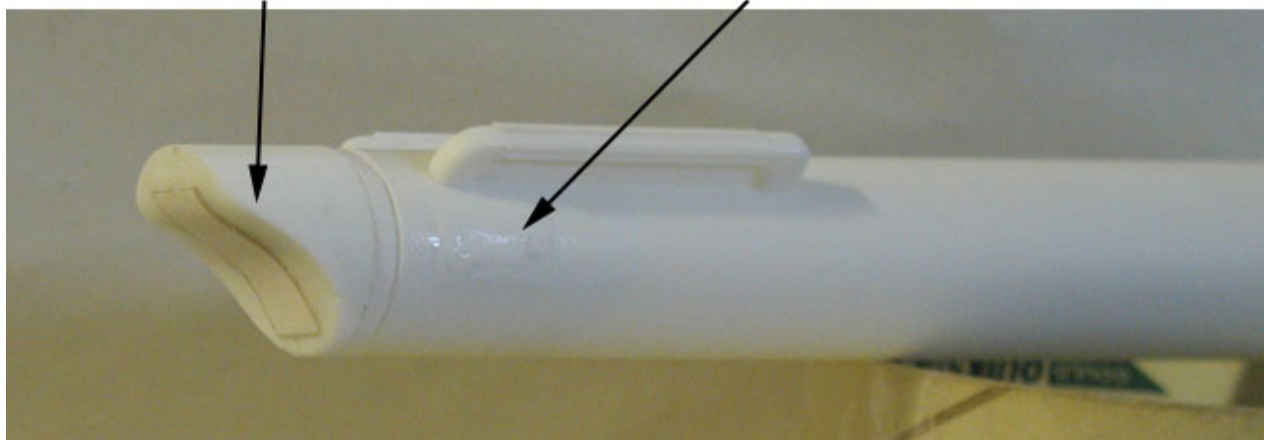
And I have made a little progress on the Round 2 model in the last few weeks. Here is a hand full of images of how things stand right now (including some shots of a test assembly of the major elements).



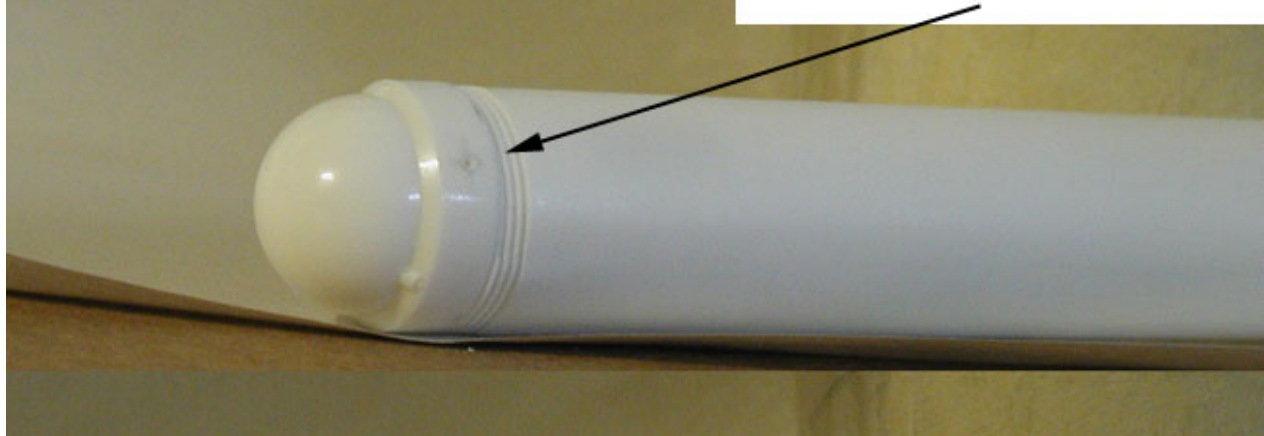
Added holes for marker lights

Added some end cap detail

Continued filling hole

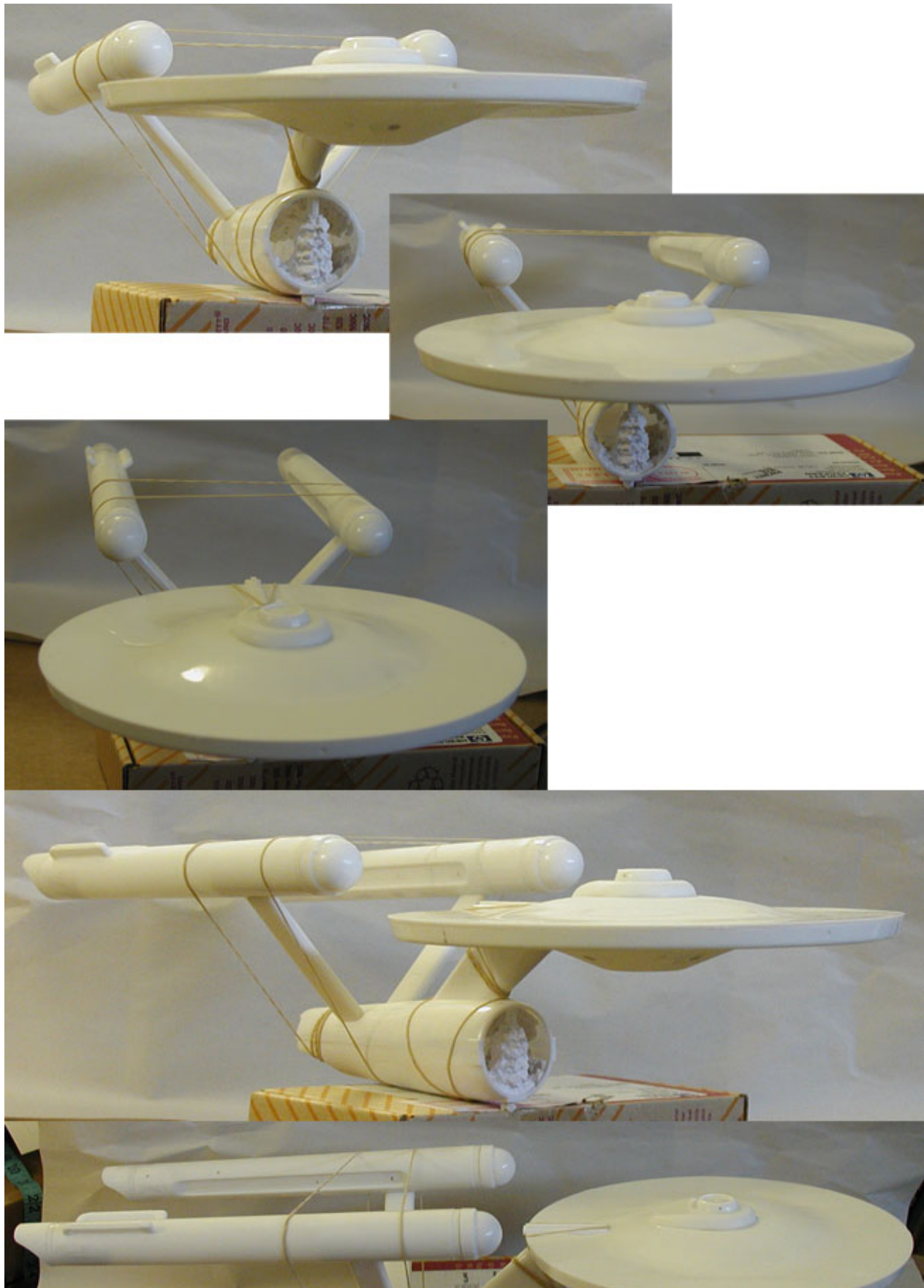


Added hole for marker lights



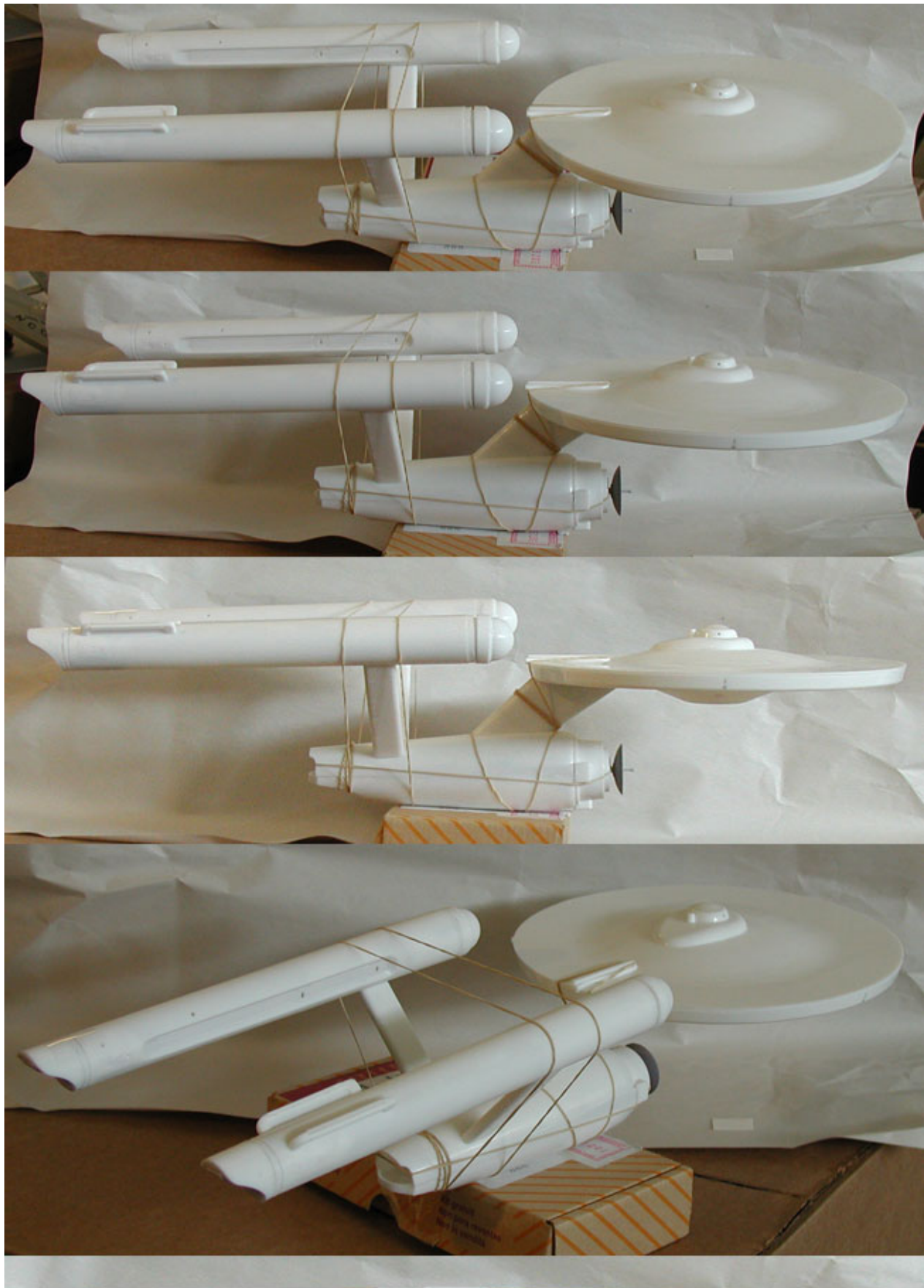












I'm pretty happy with how this model is progressing, but the part that I need the most practice on (applying decals) is still a ways off. Because I'm planning on replacing all the raised windows with decals on the 1966 model, I really need to get proficient at it before I start that build.

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 24 Apr 2011 11:17 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Got my disc/slot 18"er and have started fiddling with it. Some interesting tidbits:

- 1) It's my considered opinion that this version was the first short box version.
- 2) It's made of the same grade of plastic as the earlier editions, which is a good thing.
- 3) I'm gonna have to break out one of my older kits, but for the most part, the only thing that was changed in this molding was the nacelle setup. The saucer still has vestigial traits of its lighted ancestor. The only difference I've found so far, apart from the nacelle setup, is the lack of a peg end on the deflector dish, which is going to make attaching it a bit of an adventure.
- 4) The internal anchoring disc (really a half disc), when installed properly, **actually holds the nacelle struts at the proper angle and resolves the issue of apparent nacelle droop**. The key is putting it in straight; that edge isn't angled by accident. It's a pity they didn't keep with this mold a while longer.

Should be able to get some pics soon.

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Author: **Shaw** [ 24 Apr 2011 11:44 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Captain Robert April wrote:**

4) The internal anchoring disc (really a half disc), when installed properly, **actually holds the nacelle struts at the proper angle and resolves the issue of apparent nacelle droop**. The key is putting it in straight; that edge isn't angled by accident. It's a pity they didn't keep with this mold a while longer.

Too bad they didn't use that setup from the start. It would have made for happier modelers of the earlier kits. 😊

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 25 Apr 2011 10:49 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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I'm sure I've mentioned this before but I bought my first Enterprise kit from Doug Drexler's shop in New York [http://drexfiles.wordpress.com/2010/01/ ... post-east/](http://drexfiles.wordpress.com/2010/01/...post-east/). My brother got the AMT utility set (communicator, phaser, tricorder). My Mom was annoyed that we bought things that could have been purchased at Two Guys down the road from our house.

And yes, I too lost my Enterprise to some damn fool trying to fly it like a paper airplane.

Excellent work, Shaw. I'm glad you're still chugging along with this project.

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-150.html>

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Author: **publiusr** [ 25 Apr 2011 19:43 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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I would have loved to have visited there as a child in the 70's

By the by, seeing the rubber bands really holding those nacelles high made me think of Gwangi, or if the Tholians were really serious. The AMT model was more than just a model. It is different than any other kit in terms of its place in time--and the associations with it.

To me, the AMT was a summer with the old window unit air conditioner running--almost speaking--in its breathy susurrus as chimes on the porch blew in the warm breeze.

It was smell of paper and pencils--as they used to smell. The AMT kit was healthy parents, Apollo on all the television channels that forced everyone else to look up as we already did. And yet Trek was something special, something only a handful seemed meant to enjoy. It gave shelter, but pointed in its mature, responsibly cerebral fashion, towards the future adulthood that awaited us all.

It was never just a model. Those came later in their accuracy, good, but....

Expert modelers amazed us as we were welcomed into the Lodge.

Where the AMT was the warm fire in the hearth, later incarnations were just snuggles.

Now didn't the impulse exhaust vents on older ones look a bit more like the Franz Josephs blueprints with many more vents, or was it always two large ones?

Interesting difference of opinion about early kits at top here:

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=136069&page=3>

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 26 Apr 2011 03:03 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

They were always just the two vent version. Anything other than that came from a garage kit maker.

A follow up note that some might find interesting: While examining my new kit, and comparing it with a slightly older version (with the tab & slot setup), I noticed something interesting about the respective deflector dishes. While the older one, of course, has a bit of a peg end, the other one has a hole, same size as the peg on the earlier dish (as evidenced when I was able to connect the two dishes).

I'll have to check, but maybe the idea was that there's supposed to be a third piece, a peg all

on its own, that goes through the deflector mount hole, and onto which the dish attaches.

Or somebody at AMT just frakked up. Still not sure.

In other news, it turns out that one of my older kits, which I got half built, is just messed up enough that it's now going to be used for parts. So, the Constellation is gonna get those new intercoolers after all... 😞

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Author: **Ahkyahnan** [ 26 Apr 2011 22:43 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Shaw,

Those photos look awesome, even though they're just test shots and with so many parts missing. You always get such good angles of the ship. If I squint it could be the E in drydock.

Mark

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 28 Apr 2011 16:03 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks!

Yeah, I've found that the *squint test* is a very important tool early on in builds where I'm making some major changes. I figure that if I can get the overall feel to work right, then I'll have a good foundation for the smaller details later on.

I'm also relieved that the 18 inch kit has worked with some of the techniques I used on my previous 22 inch models. It is one thing to theorize that something should work the same way, but it is nice to actually see it working in practice. So I'm glad that the change in the connection point for the nacelles and their supports has worked out so far (at least they are working as good as the same modifications on the earlier models at the same stage).

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 28 May 2011 14:21 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Now here, at this site, the author notes he got actual filming model blueprints

Blueprint

<http://the-grey-ghost.com/wp-content/up ... awing1.jpg>

<http://the-grey-ghost.com/studio-scale- ... boldly-go/>

Quote

*I did a comparison to the Sinclair drawings. Are what I would call eyeball close, I'm sorry I can't post the comparisons. I wish I could but I'm sworn to keep the drawings out of the pubic eye*

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 28 May 2011 14:46 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Nice. But where IS Mr. Shaw?

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 28 May 2011 16:38 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I've wondered that myself. what with that other tornado outbreak...

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 28 May 2011 17:13 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**publiusr wrote:**

I've wondered that myself. what with that other tornado outbreak...

Man, now I'm not only worried about Shaw, but I'm worried about his MODELS!

---

Author: **aridas** [ 28 May 2011 18:28 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I thought the Twin Cities dodged the tornadoes? But I think they did get hail the size of tennis balls. 🤔

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 28 May 2011 22:34 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Most of the major weather stuff was north of me (thankfully).

I had started a new job with a school about 9 weeks ago and it ate up a lot of my free time. Now that the kids have gone home for the summer, I'm getting back to my Trek projects again. It shouldn't take me too long to get back into them and pick up where I left off.

And yes, the models are safe. See...



... no storm damage (the room always looks like a disaster area though). 😊





# Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

## Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-160.html>

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 31 May 2011 12:14 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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All good news. Looking forward to it.

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Author: **Nascence** [ 22 Jun 2011 13:48 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Hi Shaw! 😊

Glad to see you back!

Can't wait to see your updates and finish works on this project.

Your work on all of this has been great and look forward to seeing your continued progress on this!

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 26 Jun 2011 16:51 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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You know, the July Aug issue of the Trek mag noted elsewhere, the aft end of the nacelles are smooth. I can see no rectangular structures or lines there at all. (Datin model) AMT seems to have gotten it right all along.

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Author: **trekman1017** [ 23 Jul 2011 18:17 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Any progress on this?

---

Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 24 Jul 2011 01:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

### **publiusr wrote:**

You know, the July Aug issue of the Trek mag noted elsewhere, the aft end of the nacelles are smooth. I can see no rectangular structures or lines there at all. (Datin model) AMT seems to have gotten it right all along.

I think it's a safe bet that the eleven footer never got those rectangular thingies, i.e., it wasn't completely finished at the time of filming.

Which would explain why the three footer was used so damn much.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 24 Jul 2011 14:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Perhaps a reasonable compromise would be to draw the three-footer but with Jefferies placement of the nacelles. Have those end caps have the rectangles. This might be the Constellation-class, or Conestoga or whatever.

It is refit to match the Early Constitution class as represented by Datin's model, but not exactly. This Connie-to-Connie refit is then the early AMT kit, but with vents painted.

Then the short box version was to become Achernar (as planned) and the FJ plans were what was built.

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Author: **Captain Robert April** [ 24 Jul 2011 18:14 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Author: **davros\_of\_borg** [ 25 Jul 2011 00:15 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

wondering - just how often **do** they swap nacelles ??

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 25 Jul 2011 10:58 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I know the conventional wisdom around here is that the whole nacelle gets popped of and swapped out. But since the markings and weathering on the 11 footer are pretty much identical through the changes I think it might be the innards that get swapped (along with the domes and end caps). Leaving the "tubes" in place. IMHO.

EDIT: Now whether that happens while they still stuck on the ship is another matter...

---

Author: **aridas** [ 25 Jul 2011 12:10 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I think that just as you would replace a bolt in a Pratt and Whitney turbojet if a bolt needed to be replaced, or you would replace an entire engine if that was the more efficient thing to do, you might open up a nacelle and replace a part, or you might swap out the entire nacelle, depending on the situation. It wouldn't be an either/or thing, but both.

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All times are UTC - 5 hours [ DST ]

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<http://www.phpbb.com/>

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-170.html>

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 25 Jul 2011 12:32 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Now I see why my engine repairs have been so expensive! 😊

Shaw: You can get this thread back on topic at any time!

---

Author: **davros\_of\_borg** [ 25 Jul 2011 15:24 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

#### Quote:

Now I see why my engine repairs have been so expensive! 😊

and we haven't even mentioned whether Starfleet engineering works more like BuShips did during the Pacific Theater or like in the Gulf War... ; )

#### Quote:

Shaw: You can get this thread back on topic at any time!

and *that* would work, too... : )

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 24 Sep 2011 14:01 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Just an idea about how to do nacelle support corrections. There was this company called McDaniels models that did work on a Quindar uprate to the AMT.

[http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/6 ... -117063520](http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/6...-117063520)

Now, as with the ESTES, he used vacuforming. The secondary hull was still too weak on its own to support the resin nacelle supports, so there was this resin insert, this PLUG that would be at the heart of the model secondary hull.

Thus the tabs simply passed though the outer secondary hull, and fitted into this inert plug glued in place that was very sturdy.

Shaw might just assemble the struts, lub them up really good, have a jig to assemble them, and have them pass though the secondary hull at the proper angle.

Then fill a loosely assembled secondary hull (also lubed on the inside) with resin, and a plug that can be massed produced with the proper slots can be had

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Author: **publiusr** [ 08 Oct 2011 16:29 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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A little OT, but here are shots of the latest Revell offering  
[http://www.scalemodelnews.com/2011/10/s ... ts-of.html](http://www.scalemodelnews.com/2011/10/s...ts-of.html)

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 09 Oct 2011 03:39 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Damn. I thought Shaw might be alive.

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Author: **Max Nex** [ 09 Oct 2011 10:44 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

of these two new kits I think I like the Klingon ship better than the Enterprise.  
why is it they re-issue every kit except the original D-7?  
(I would like to do another one with lights)

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 10 Oct 2011 14:26 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

No, seriously, where is Shaw?

In the meantime, I got to meet an old girlfriend last week. I won't be replacing Mike Trice anytime soon, but here's mine:

[https://picasaweb.google.com/wpthomas00 ... directlink](https://picasaweb.google.com/wpthomas00...directlink)

---

Author: **davros\_of\_borg** [ 10 Oct 2011 15:20 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

wow - i never thought she was *that* weathered...

end of the 5 year mission, maybe she went through a few too many metal-rich nebulae and ion storms... ; )

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 10 Oct 2011 15:45 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**davros\_of\_borg wrote:**

wow - i never thought she was *that* weathered...

end of the 5 year mission, maybe she went through a few too many metal-rich nebulae and ion storms... ; )

Yeah, she hit the Miarecki phenomenon on the way home.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 16 Oct 2011 10:38 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Tallguy wrote:**

Damn. I thought Shaw might be alive.

I'm alive... just working two jobs at the moment (and enjoying both), so I haven't had a lot of free time recently for my personal projects. As it gets colder here, I'm sure I'll start having more time to get back to this stuff. But as you can see below, I'm very much alive and well!



# Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

## Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-180.html>

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Author: **aridas** [ 16 Oct 2011 11:10 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

You look good and fit and happy! That's great!

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 16 Oct 2011 16:33 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Everyone needs time off in the outdoors.

Here's a few baubles to tide things over

TOS

<http://www.modelermagic.com/?p=34888>

Modular bits

<http://www.modelermagic.com/?p=33944>

Misc here

<http://www.modelermagic.com/?cat=63>

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 16 Oct 2011 17:33 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Ahhhh, that mysterious realm: "The Outside". Looks like time well spent. Nice to hear from you!

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 16 Oct 2011 21:20 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

the Great Outdoors? what's that?

no, seriously -you looked like you were having tons of fun.

this type of healing is necessary to one's well-being.

this link

<http://www.modelermagic.com/?p=33944>

has a lot of potential - I see an Endeavour Class build in my future.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 25 Feb 2012 16:39 ]



Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

A little O/T, but here is an interesting find

<http://www.thereplicapropforum.com/f11/...ow-105214/>

<http://www.thereplicapropforum.com/atta...1296264358>

<http://www.starshipmodeler.net/talk/vie...hp?t=98525>

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 25 Feb 2012 21:15 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

And here I thought Shaw had returned from the dead.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 27 Aug 2012 07:04 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

So yes, I'm still alive and kicking.

And I've made some progress recently on my Round 2 practice build (putting in 20 minutes to a half-hour here and there each week for the past couple months). This included the first couple passes with primer and the addition of details to the underside of the primary hull...

[Progress Shots 1](#)

I also finished (finally) modifying some of the smaller parts...

[Progress Shots 2](#)

And this is about where I'm at now...

[Progress Shots 3](#)

I decided to go with Round 2's generic base that they sell (but I'm using a longer support rod on mine) for displaying the model.

[Progress Shots 4](#)

So I'll most likely start in on painting once my wife and I settle in after our recent move... so sometime in the next week or so.

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 27 Aug 2012 08:13 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

very nice !

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 27 Aug 2012 10:39 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Shaw wrote:**

So yes, I'm still alive and kicking.

OUTSTANDING. And here my first thought was "oh who's the bozo that bumped Shaw's thread, needlessly getting my hopes up?" Welcome back.

So is this Round 2's AMT kit or the 1/1000 TOS ship?

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 27 Aug 2012 12:35 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

**Tallguy wrote:**

So is this Round 2's AMT kit or the 1/1000 TOS ship?

This is the reissue of the 18" AMT kit that Round 2 released in 2008. I made some small modifications, but worked to keep as much of the original kit as possible. The only third party parts are the deflector dish, lower sensor platform (though I added a larger dome than the part had) and the flux chillers (the boxy features) on the nacelles. I lowered the B/C deck structure, moved the dorsal attachment to the primary hull back a little, cut out and extended the rings behind the deflector dish, changed the attachment point of the supports to the nacelles, modified the rear end caps, made my own intake sink field generators (the three features on the underside/front of the nacelles), shortened the bit of nacelle behind the domes, modified the control reactor loops, added texture (with gauze) to the sides of the impulse engines, added all the marker lights (as raised non-functioning details) and filled the three dimples and replaced underside surface details on the primary hull.

Other than that, it is pretty much stock.

I mixed and matched features from the different versions that I liked and I'll be finishing this model as the Republic. The model will have some weathering and the inclusion of some (random) grid/panel lines added using white pencil (it makes for a nice, understated effect). It's a practice model, so I figured I'd try

some stuff out on it.

---

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<http://www.phpbb.com/>

## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-190.html>

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Author: **Shaw** [ 05 Sep 2012 13:35 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Update on my progress...

While waiting for an opportunity to paint I added a few other last minute details and started in on painting some of the smaller parts...

[Progress Shot 1](#)

[Progress Shot 2](#)

The overall painting went pretty well...

[Progress Shot 3](#)

And this is a test fitting (basically just with the nacelles in place) after it had dried enough...



[Click to enlarge](#)

So it is still moving forward, but it'll be a little while before I start in on any weathering and decals.

Author: **Tallguy** [ 05 Sep 2012 15:18 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Very nice. Thanks for sharing, as always. How "screen accurate" are you trying to make her? The mesh on the impulse deck is impressive.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 06 Sep 2012 08:24 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks!

**Tallguy wrote:**

How "screen accurate" are you trying to make her?

Actually, I'm not really sure. Honestly, I've tried out a number of things on this model that I hadn't originally planned on. The mesh on the impulse housing came about after I notice that it had been included on the 1966 part. The addition of the raised details on the sides of the secondary hull, the spine above the impulse engines and the base of the triangles under the primary hull all came about fairly late in the build, and were actually done as practice for repairing/continuing the raised rings on the 1966 model after I fill in the three dimples on the underside of the primary hull (the dimples intersect the rings, and while I don't want the dimples I do want to keep the raised rings).

And some of the model is just meant to have fun with. As a mix of pilot and series elements, I wanted the ship to look like even though a lot of the old primary tech was left, it was still improved upon. So on the nacelles, even though I'm using the first pilot rear end caps, the loops have the ridges and screens from the series version. And the three elements around the domes are from the series version, but I added on plugs at the center of the domes where the spikes *used to be*. And the keeping of the larger deflector dish and the raised bow light from the pilot versions, but the inclusion of other running/marker lights from the series version are meant to display a "waste-not" attitude to her upgrades. Even the decals (the ones that came with the kit use the series types style for the Republic) and the painting (multiple shades of gray, specially on the nacelles) are intended to show a ship that would be current during (say) the second season of TOS (and maybe what the Constellation might have been like, before being damaged, also having a lower registry number).

What I am surprised at is that even though it was intended as a practice model, some of the changes turned out better than I had expected. Shortening the rear end caps of the nacelles and changing the attachment points of the supports made a bigger difference than I had expected... mainly because I couldn't *try out* the ideas first. The lowering of the bridge/B/C deck structure I was able to play with on photos of other people's models long before I had gotten this one, so I was pretty sure that would work, but some of the other stuff I've done I really wasn't that sure if it would make a difference.

It is funny, my previous "practice model" (my 22 inch Constellation) has had all sorts of things done to it to test ideas I've had (it has been my *guinea pig* model). I originally thought that this model would end up the same way, but now I'm really thinking it'll be a nice display piece.

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 06 Sep 2012 19:48 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I consider both of your models classic  
excellent job on both !

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 08 Sep 2012 13:26 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Great decision making process. Looks great. Can't wait for more.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 11 Sep 2012 00:38 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks guys!

So earlier in the week I added weathering and grid/panel lines. The idea was that they should be very subtle, and they are (to the point that most of what I did hardly shows up in photos.





This is another test assembly, with a few of the panel lines visible.



[click to enlarge](#)

And I've started in on adding decals. And no, the nacelles aren't glued in place in these images, they are just sitting in place for now. The impulse housing is glued on though.

#### [Progress 01](#)

---

Author: **aridas** [ 11 Sep 2012 08:34 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
You have an amazingly steady hand. May I ask what kind of straight edge and scribing tool are you using to engrave lines like the three underside rings and two triangles? Also, did you say the white lines were colored pencil? Technical pen with a fine nib loaded with white ink might work, too. The trouble is, IIRC white is a thicker ink and will clog if the nib is too small.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 12 Sep 2012 00:50 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
The under side rings were initially drawn on using a compass. I then drew similar circles on some card stock paper (but used the distance from the rings to where the top of the cone would have been had it been complete for the radius). I cut out about a quarter section cut to the edge of the circles and put some double sided tape on one side. I laid the piece on the surface of the model along the pre drawn rings and scribed the lines with the broken edge of an Xacto blade. I'd make a little progress, pull up the card stock piece and move it a little further along until I got all the way around.

The lines are still hard to see like that, so I went back over them with pencil to make them stand out better.

The triangles were done similarly, I cut the shapes out of card stock with one side covered with double sided tape, placed them and then scribed the outline using the point of a safety pin. But in this case, I left the card stock in place through a couple coats of primer before pulling them off the model (making them somewhat inset into the surface). Again they were hard to see, so like the rings I went back over them with pencil.

The raised feature at the base of each triangle is just a pin with both ends cut off to the right length

and then glued to the surface using liquid cement.

Because that worked so well, I used a similar technique on the sides of the secondary hull (where the top and bottom raised lines are also made from pins), but for the grill part I use 0.5 mm pencil leads glued side by side. That in turn works so well that I used the same thing to create the grooved feature on the top of the spine on the primary hull. I figured the whole model is really an experiment, so anything I'd have a reasonable chance of successfully doing I'd try.

The reason for using the white pencil was that I could rub it off (or down) so it wouldn't be very prominent. While I mapped out where all the panel lines would be on the model, I didn't actually draw all of them. I'd draw a fraction of a line here and there, skip large area, and then wipe over what I had put down to the point where it was barely visible. The idea was for the few lines you can make out to imply all the other lines (that aren't even there).

The weathering was also done with colored pencil (sanding them to get a fine dust). I used three colors: brown, dark gray (almost black) and dark green. The brown was used on all parts of the model as a general weathering. The dark gray was only used on the nacelles where the long term use of the engines might have produced weathering. And the green only appears towards the front of the secondary hull as a sort of weathering cause by the use of the deflector. Like the panel lines, it isn't supposed to be very visible... and what you can see should imply what isn't there.

---

Author: **aridas** [ 12 Sep 2012 03:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Fantastic. I was once told by the great dioramist Sheperd Paine that successfully implying what is there is a far more critical skill in modeling than actually executing what might be there. It is a skill that has been employed by painters and other artists to great effect for millenia.

The use of pencil leads blows my mind. I never would have thought of that one.

I'm amazed you are able to get the precision you are achieving using a paper product like card stock. I would have thought it wouldn't have the rigidity to resist pressures adequate to leave marks in the plastic. I'm sure some of the resulting work is attributable to your steady hand. 😊

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 12 Sep 2012 06:03 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks!

As it turns out, I'm better at creating physical details than at other aspects of model building (like decals, which is why I need the practice). So hopefully I'll have a steady hand for the stuff coming up. I've spent most of the time on the model today trimming the decals because I don't like the large reflective areas that some times show up (specially on the top of the primary hull). Plus if things are cut apart, if I mess up I'll have a better shot at fixing the problem (at least that is the theory).

I tried to get some images of the green weathering, but I think my camera isn't differentiating the green in the paint from the green weathering. It is pretty clear in person, but seems to nearly vanish in photos.

Anyways... a few more shots (the lower sensor platform has been added, and I put the deflector assembly in place for the first image).



[Progress 01](#)

---

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## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-200.html>

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Author: **Max Nex** [ 12 Sep 2012 15:48 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....  
perhaps take the pictures outdoors under natural daylight.  
indoor light is bad for properly reproducing colors.

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 14 Sep 2012 03:37 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....  
I'll have to give that a try this weekend. Hopefully it won't be as windy as it was earlier in the week.

A little more progress. I've been tied up on other (work) projects and have to split my spare time between my Trek pursuits and training (and training is a little more important right now).

I started in on the upper primary hull decals. As I had trimmed each of the registry numbers down to their edges and the numbers/letters represent the same size characters as NCC-1701, I tried to use the placement from the 11 foot model (within reason, as with a lot of this model, I actually sorta *eyeballed* the placement once I had the end characters where I wanted them).



---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 14 Sep 2012 11:42 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

.....  
That's lovely. Is the spine of the impulse engine from the AMT kit or is it custom?

I love the pilot marking scheme.

---

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [ 14 Sep 2012 18:04 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

That looks great. 😊

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 15 Sep 2012 12:01 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

Thanks guys!

**Tallguy wrote:**

Is the spine of the impulse engine from the AMT kit or is it custom?

Yeah, it is the stock part that is molded to the primary hull, but I lowered it slightly and added three pencil leads to the length to get the ribbed feel like the original studio model had. That was a last minute change done shortly before I was about to paint that part of the model.

I had a little time overnight so I applied a few more decals, so here are a few more shots of the model...

[Progress 01](#)

I'll see if I have some time later today to take some shots of it outside.

---

Author: **publiusr** [ 15 Sep 2012 16:25 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

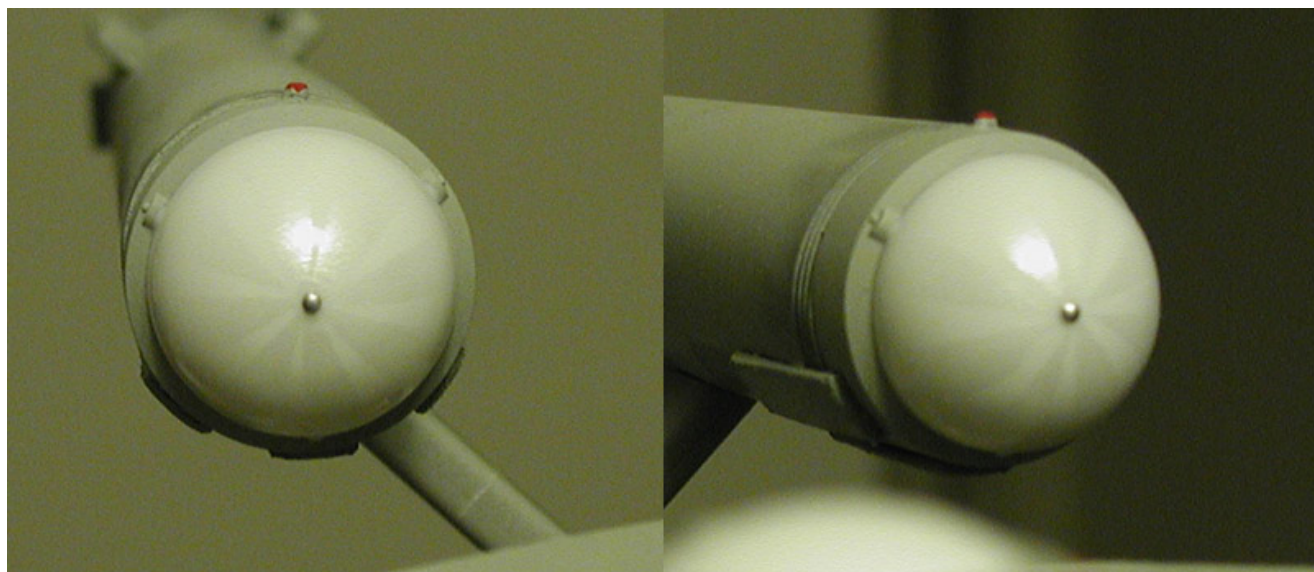
Gasps for breath..

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 26 Sep 2012 04:42 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

I've done a little more work on the model, including painting the nacelle domes. This was something I had been debating doing for quite some time, but I think I got the effect I was looking for.

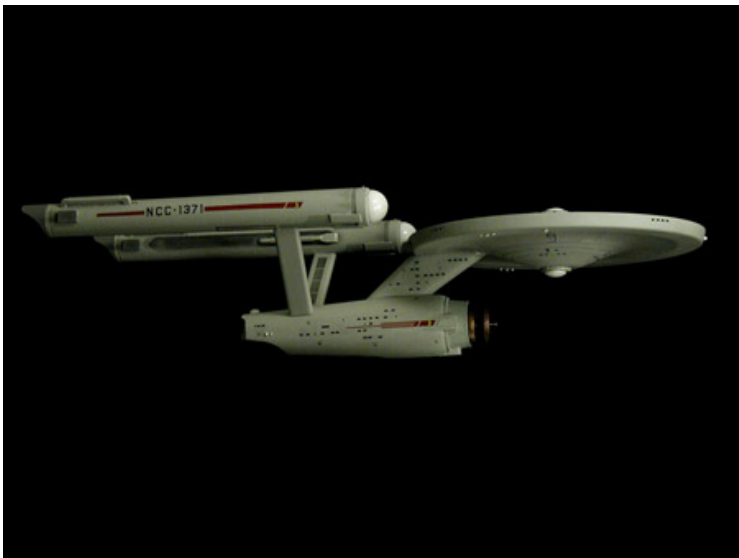
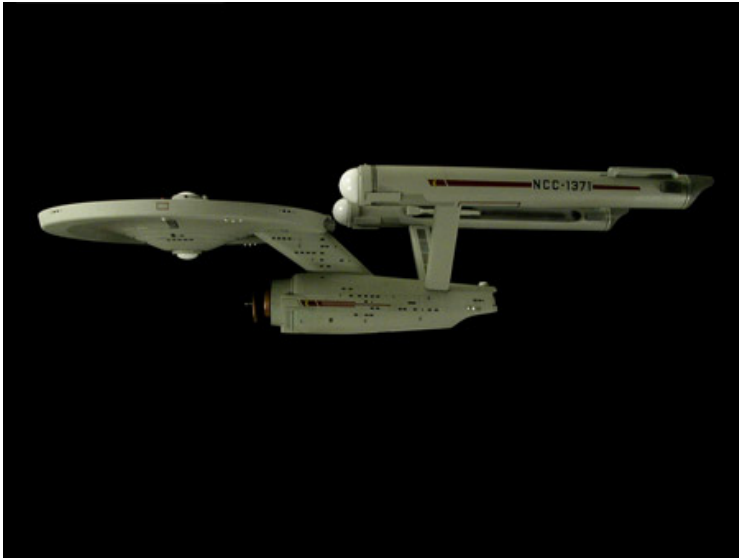


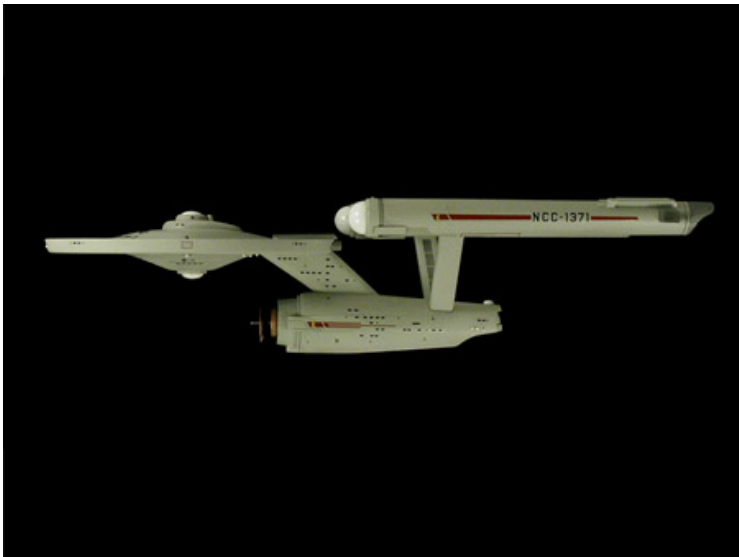
Okay, before looking at these images... please note that the model isn't done yet, these are just some test shots. I still need to apply some decals, a number of gloss coats, and a number of flat coats... plus it isn't even glued together yet.

I was just curious to see how it would look under these conditions and thought I'd share the results.









And I thought I'd take some test shots of the Enterprise (which has held up better than I expected over the last few years)...







These last couple shots remind me of how close (and how far away) I am from my goal of having a perfect replica of the 33 inch model.





---

Author: **Ahkyahnan** [ 26 Sep 2012 07:17 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
The model isn't done yet? Could've fooled me. It's looking great.

Mark

---

Author: **John N. Ritter** [ 26 Sep 2012 09:34 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
Very, very beautiful.

---

Author: **Bernard Guignard** [ 26 Sep 2012 17:04 ]  
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

-----  
Wickledly Awsome 😊 where is that thumbs up smily when you need it ? 😊

---

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## Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

### Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-210.html>

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 26 Sep 2012 17:55 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Looks terrific. I can spot some differences, sure, but nothing you haven't. And that saucer contour looks spot on!

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 26 Sep 2012 22:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

not done yet ???

I'm in the same boat as Mark...fooled.

I very much like the way you shot these.

it makes it look like it could have been used in effects on the original show. 😊

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 27 Sep 2012 12:19 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Thanks guys!

#### Tallguy wrote:

I can spot some differences, sure, but nothing you haven't. And that saucer contour looks spot on!

Yeah, most of what I learned from my first attempt went into version 2.0 of my 33 inch plans (unreleased... and unprinted, I mostly hand drew what I needed on my original printing) and was applied to the second attempt. What I learned from those two builds plus a fresh look at the reference images I've collected had led to the start of version 3.0 of my plans which I believe will be close enough to the original model to justify building a *one-to-one* scale replica. I have decided to make one compromise though... I just don't think building it in the same materials will be possible for me, and I'd rather spend that time and effort in replicating the appearance of the model.

#### Max Nex wrote:

I very much like the way you shot these.

it makes it look like it could have been used in effects on the original show. 😊

Thanks!

I was finally able to work out some of the issues I had originally had with photographing them in front of a black sheet (mainly the models appearing over exposed and the colors washed out) by applying a technique one of my graphic design/photographer clients gave me... putting white sheets of paper in the open areas behind the model.

Original Photo



Final Image



As it turns out, the original photo elements are nice enough without adjustment that I can quickly remove the background in about four or five steps in Photoshop and do it to a number of shots without having to put much work into them. So just making sure enough of those sheets of paper are in frame in each shot has meant that almost every shot is usable and that the final process takes half as long.

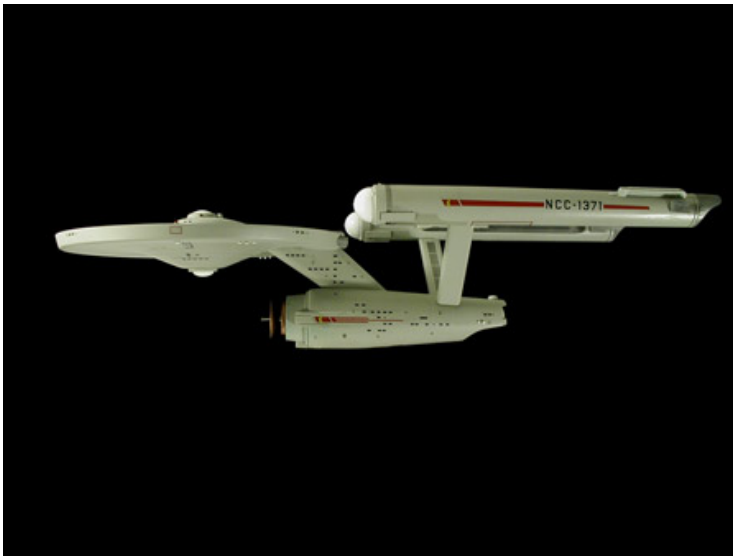
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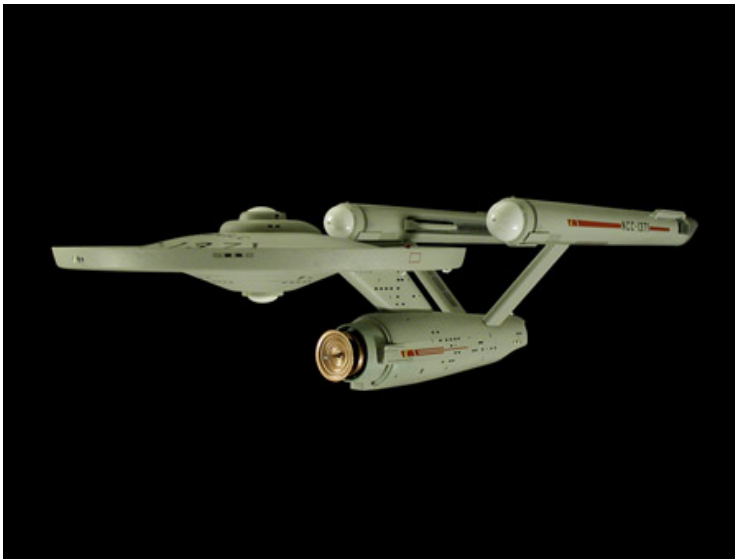
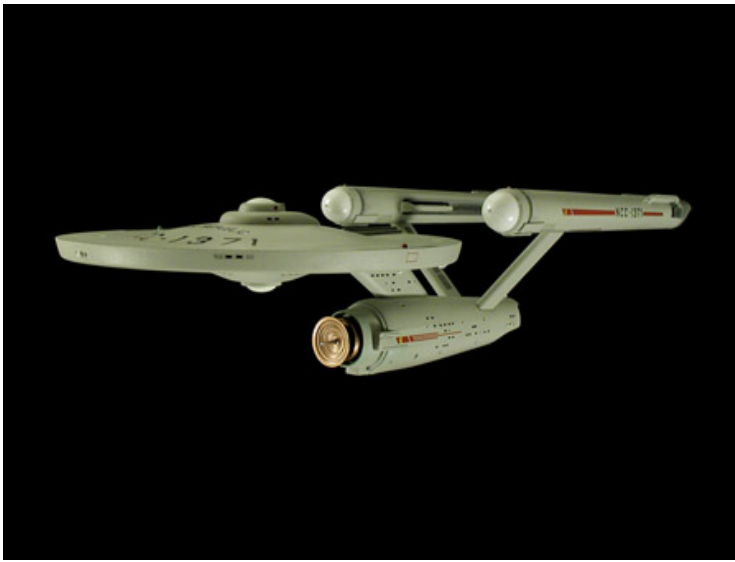
Author: **Shaw** [ 08 Oct 2012 02:48 ]

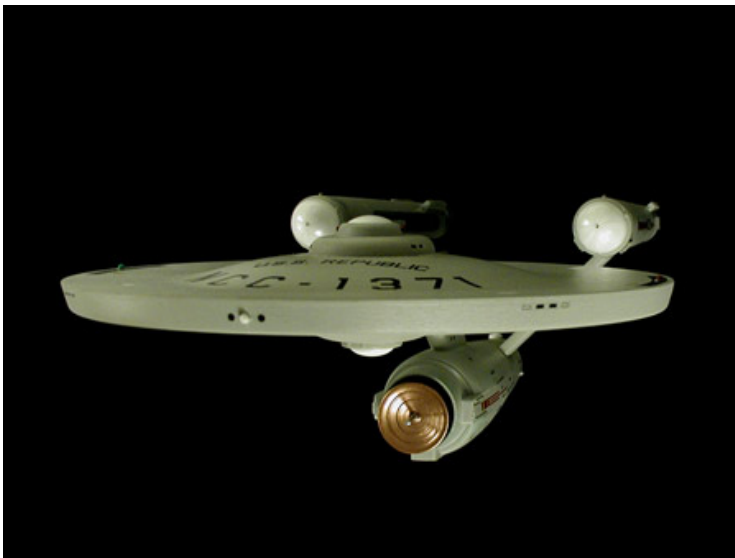
Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

=====

I haven't made any real change/progress to the model, these are just shots taken to get more familiar with my camera. Just thought I'd share them as long as I had them sitting around.









Hopefully I'll be able to finish off the few odds and ends soon.

---

Author: **John N. Ritter** [ 08 Oct 2012 07:41 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Hmmm. Thinking of the original stern ends of the nacelles, versus TMP's sternends, there are very similar to each other....

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 08 Oct 2012 09:23 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

---

What is that square on the port side of the saucer? Was that really on the model?

Shaw, aside from how nice the model looks, your photos are jaw dropping just from presentation!  
Wow!

---

Author: **Shaw** [ 08 Oct 2012 20:47 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

**John N. Ritter wrote:**

Hmmm. Thinking of the original stern ends of the nacelles, versus TMP's sternends, there are very similar to each other....

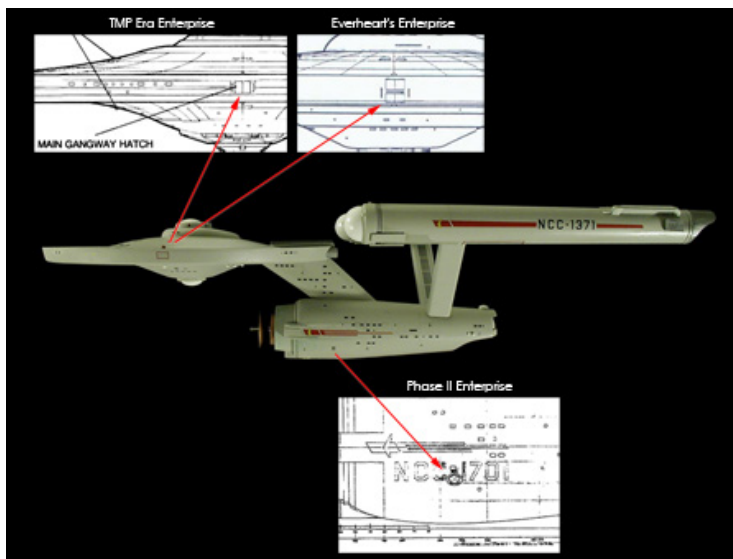
Yeah, I've always felt that the original Jefferies end cap design would hold up nicely in later Trek because it didn't feel like *thrusters* or *rockets* the way the second pilot end caps did. Of course there is a difference between having a theory that they'd work and actually putting it into practice, but I think they work nicely on this model without making it feel especially dated.

**Tallguy wrote:**

What is that square on the port side of the saucer? Was that really on the model?

No, it isn't on either of the studio models.

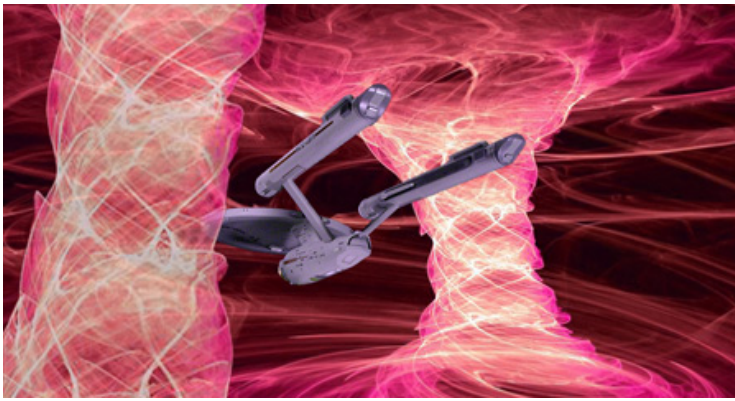
Well... so originally the idea was to show a starship that had been fully modernized back in the first pilot era and then got sporadic upgrades through to the series era. I sorta figured why stop there, so the port side of the saucer hatch is a nod to the TMP (and Everheart) design and there is a hatch on the port side of the secondary hull that corresponds to a hatch on the Phase II plans (though not the same shape, just similar location).



So the thought was what might be changed (like elements of the engines) for efficiency or compatibility, and what things might have been left in place (sort of an *if it ain't broke, don't fix it* approach). I'm not sure I'd go as far as to say this was supposed to be strictly a training vessel, but if the Enterprise had been refit with the best technology for her new role as an exploration vessel out on the frontier of Federation space in TOS, then maybe the Republic would be an example of a vessel that patrolled the more established parts of the Federation (where putting the most expensive technology on an older vessel might not have the same return on investment).

I mean it isn't like there would be any chance of the Republic being caught in the [Galactic Barrier](#)...





... where the pilot versions of the starships were out of their depth, but the series versions were capable of weathering such conditions.

Of course, in the end, this was just a practice model and the real motivations behind most of what I did was to see if the different modifications worked well together esthetically and made the venerable 18" model feel like it could fit into the TOS universe along side the original studio models.

**Tallguy wrote:**

Shaw, aside from how nice the model looks, your photos are jaw dropping just from presentation! Wow!

Thanks!

---

Author: **Max Nex** [ 09 Oct 2012 09:31 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

these new photos are as impressive as the earlier ones.

this one is my favorite : I think it is an excellent angle.

<http://www.shawcomputing.net/racerox/tre ... st-011.jpg>

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Author: **John N. Ritter** [ 09 Oct 2012 12:24 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

Well you have to respect that. Pilot Enterprise goes through barrier. StarFleet finds out about what happened, and does research into countering that threat - just in case. So by the time Enterprise pulls into the spacedock at Star Base 47 😊, a first generation solution has been found...

---

Author: **Tallguy** [ 09 Oct 2012 12:48 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

**Shaw wrote:**

**Tallguy wrote:**

What is that square on the port side of the saucer? Was that really on the model?

No, it isn't on either of the studio models.

Well... so originally the idea was to show a starship that had been fully modernized back in the first pilot era and then got

sporadic upgrades through to the series era. I sorta figured why stop there, so the port side of the saucer hatch is a nod to the TMP (and Everheart) design and there is a hatch on the port side of the secondary hull that corresponds to a hatch on the Phase II plans (though not the same shape, just similar location).

Heh. That was what I guessed. But if it turned out that the gangway was not an artifact of TMP and had really been there all along my mind would have been well and truly blown. It's a detail that just makes so much sense you wish it had always been there. Then again, has anyone ever shown the series E docked by way of the shuttle deck? Hmmmm...

Plus for some reason I always forget what side of the E wasn't finished.

# Federation Reference

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/>

## Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise

<http://federationreference.prophpbb.com/topic752-220.html>

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Author: **aridas** [ 09 Oct 2012 15:33 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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It's cool that the TMP guys located the main gangway hatch on the port side -- the term "port" having been coined because boats from the time before rudders pulled up to the port's dock on that side to avoid damaging the steering board on the other -- "starboard" side.

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Author: **Tallguy** [ 09 Oct 2012 15:35 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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**aridas wrote:**

It's cool that the TMP guys located the main gangway hatch on the port side -- the term "port" having been coined because boats from the time before rudders pulled up to the port's dock on that side to avoid damaging the steering board on the other -- "starboard" side.

That is cool. Here I was thinking it was cool that they did it that way because of the unfinished and unseen side of the original. Both work very nicely.

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Author: **John N. Ritter** [ 10 Oct 2012 09:17 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Author: **publiusr** [ 13 Apr 2013 16:27 ]

Post subject: **Re: Plans of the AMT 18 inch Enterprise**

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Just a request. You did a mold of your Phase II bridge. Could you do a mold of the original AMT Bridge/B/C descks similarly, so an accurate Constellation can be had?

Not accurate to the 11 footer (the 1/350 is that) but accurate to the old AMT, so as to bring back fond memories?

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