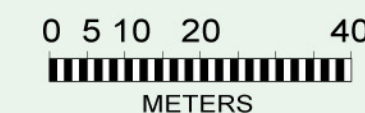


If printed 17 inches tall (from black-outlined edge to black-outlined edge) the scale of these drawings is 1/1000.



NOTES

After drawing blueprints of over a dozen Federation vessels I wanted to compare them to Romulan, Klingon and Gorn ships. We never saw the interior of a Klingon ship (except as used by the Romulans), and we never saw a Gorn ship (inside or out). I decided to start with the Romulan Bird of Prey (BoP).

There are three basic questions:

1. How big is this ship?
2. What are the shapes and proportions of the various components of the ship?
3. What do we know about the interior of this ship?

1. SIZE

The Michael McMaster drawings from 1977 state the length is 68.2 meters. Other drawings suggest a length of 100 meters. Size-comparison drawings showing "ships of the fleet" altogether suggest the BoP to be about 60% of the length of a Klingon D-7 Battlecruiser. In other words, the BoP would be about 122 meters. Yet other drawings show a length of 130 meters. The FASA Recognition Manual states the ship is 136 meters long. This is almost exactly twice the size stated in the 1977 drawings.

How thick should the floors be? How thick should the hull be? How many decks are in the ship? How would the decks be distributed within the given cross-section of the ship? Do the windows / sensors at the front of the hull (see Photo B, far right) provide a hint as to how many decks are in the ship? Notice their spacing is neither vertically nor horizontally symmetrical or even; this can be seen close to the main weapon.

The most efficient layout would be to ensure either 1, or 2, or 3 decks fit completely within the forward edge of the main hull. However, the spacing should also align with the top - and the bottom, if possible - of the entire hull.

On the next page are samples of the different deck distribution and alignment patterns.

2. SHAPES and PROPORTIONS

The studio model was about 2.5 feet (0.76 meters) wide. It was delivered with lighting but not painted with the bird motif (see photo C below). The whereabouts of the model is not known, but it is suspected the model was destroyed. The intended scale is not known. A few photos exist of the studio model prior to being painted. The first pattern was a darker (blue?) feather pattern (see Photo G on Page 3).

Then it was repainted with the more familiar orange bird pattern (see Photos H, I, and J on Page 7). This is how it was filmed for BALANCE OF TERROR. The same footage was used for THE DEADLY YEARS. It was not filmed with any other ships.

The remastered episodes of the original series include new views of the ship. A 3D model was created to match the original, physical model. This is how the remastered version of THE ENTERPRISE INCIDENT includes a Romulan Bird of Prey. A 3D model was also used in STAR TREK CONTINUES (see Photos D and E, below right).

Many variations exist in the details on all the drawings. For example: How high are the engines above the hull? Do the engines extend forward of the leading edge of the hull? How long is the "tail-pipe" on the engines? How tall is the fin? How thick is the wing, especially along its top where it connects to the hull?

2. SHAPES and PROPORTIONS (continued)

Many models exist of this ship, but they vary in size and shape as much as the drawings vary. Comparing them or referring to them probably won't help.

To the right are 7 drawings (from various sources) of the Romulan BoP. For this image, they are all scaled to be 68.2 meters long and are shown here at 1/1000 scale.

There are differences between all 7 drawings:

The fin is tall in #5 and #7. The engine nacelle is thin / short in #2. The engine nacelle is very far aft in #6. The engine's "tail-pipe" is thick in #3. That tail-pipe is short in #1 and #4. Drawing #8 is my interpretation.

Many blueprints exist but, for example, none show the tail correctly; it should have a triangular cross-section. See Photo F, at bottom right.

3. INTERIOR

The size of the ship could be inferred by the corridors, doors, etc. that we see inside the Romulan ship. However, we only see the Bridge in BALANCE OF TERROR. The Bridge set had doors 6.5 feet (2 meters) high and walls 10 feet (3.05 meters) high. The wall extends above the top of the door at least 3 feet (1 meter). See Photo A, at right.

A copy of the DESILU Stage plan for THE BALANCE OF TERROR is on Page 12. That drawing shows that the walls of the Romulan Bridge are 1 foot (0.3 meters) thick.

From dialogue we know there is also a Plasma Weapon, a Cloaking Device, Nuclear Devices (for self-destruction), and Disposal Tubes on the ship.

In THE DEADLY YEARS we never see the interior of the Romulan ships.

In THE ENTERPRISE INCIDENT we see the interior of a Klingon ship being used by the Romulans. This was a redress of the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE sets. The set walls were 10 feet (3.05 meters) high and the corridors were 8 feet (2.4 meters) wide.

Interior details will follow once the size, shapes, and proportions are determined.

SHIP'S POWER, ENGINES, FTL DRIVE

In BALANCE OF TERROR Kirk asked, "Can we engage them with a reasonable possibility of victory?" and Scotty replied, "No question. Their power is simple impulse." Scotty was discussing power output for battle, not power output for traveling faster than light. If the Romulans do not use Warp Technology, then of course Scotty would not detect any Warp signatures or Warp power outputs.

Indeed, in STAR TREK CONTINUES The Female Romulan Commander says to Spock, "Our Birds of Prey do not utilize what you refer to as Warp Power. We use other methods to travel faster than light." Spock responds, "Indeed, there is speculation that Romulans employ Confined Quantum Singularities to bend space." She responds, "I cannot confirm that."

