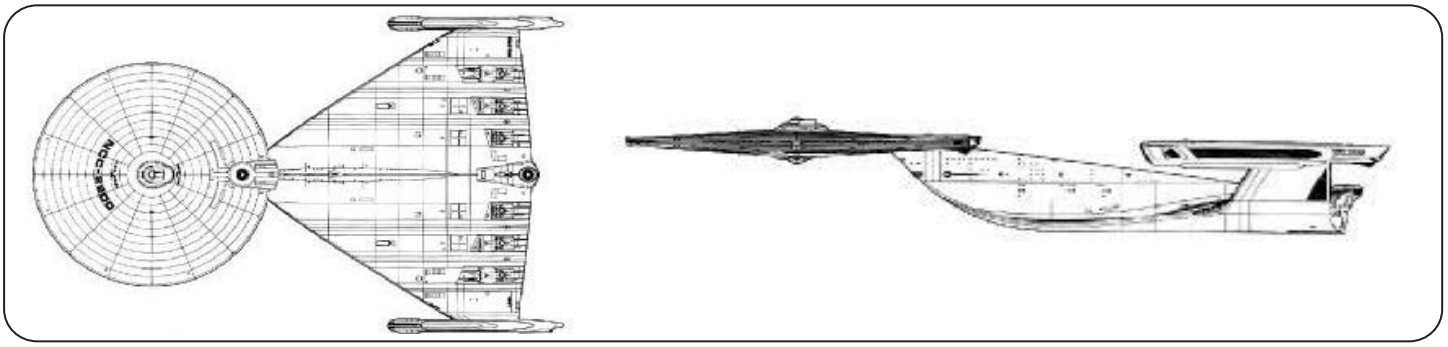
ARIEL CLASS XVIII SHUTTLECARRIER



CONSTRUCTION DATA:	XVII	XVII
Class -	Mk I	Mk II
Model -	2276	2301
Date Entering Service -	4	4 (converted)
Number Constructed -		
HULL DATA:	168	146
Superstructure Points -	C	C
Damage Chart -		
Size	496.1 m	496.1 m
Length -	316.1 m	316.1 m
Width -	79.2 m	79.2 m
Height -	400,651 mt	430,795 mt
Weight -		
Cargo	1,843 SCU	1,882 SCU
Cargo Units -	91,690 mt	94,080 mt
Cargo Capacity -	None	None
Landing Capacity -		
EQUIPMENT DATA:	M-6a (x3)	M-7 (x3)
Control Computer Type -		
Transporters -	13	13
Standard 6-person -	38	38
Combat 22-person -	19	19
Emergency 18-person -	60	60
Cargo -		
OTHER DATA:	2,379	2,472
Crew -	750	720
Troops -	1,000	1,000
Passengers -	98	90
Shuttlecraft -		
ENGINEERING:	84	164
Total Power Units Available -	7/1	7/1
Movement Point Ratio -	FWG-2	FWJ-1
Warp Engine Type -	2	2
Number -	26 ea.	38 ea.
Power Units Avaliable -	H/K	D/F
Stress Chart -	Warp 8	Warp 9
Max Safe Cruising Speed -	Warp 9	Warp 9.9
Emergency Speed -	FIF-3 (x2)	FIH-3 (x2)
Impulse Engine Type -	20 ea.	44 ea.
Power Units Available -		
WEAPONS AND FIRING DATA:	FH-11	FH-11
Beam Weapon Type -	18	18
Number -	4 f/p, 4 f, 4 f.s	4 f/p, 4 f, 4 f/s
Firing Arcs -	2 p/a, 2 a/ 2 s/a	2 p/a, 2 a, 2 s/a
Firing Chart -	Y	Y
Maximum Power -	10	10
Damage Modifiers		
+3	(1-10)	(1-10)
+2	(11-17)	(11-17)
+1	(18-24)	(18-24)
Torpedo Weapon Type -	-	FP-4
Number -	-	6
Firing Arcs -	-	4 f, 2 a
Firing Chart -	-	S
Power To Arm -	-	1
Damage -	-	20
SHIELD DATA:		
Deflector Shield Type -	FSP	FSQ
Shield Point Ratio -	1/4	1/4
Maximum Shield Power -	16	26
COMBAT EFFICIENCY:		
D -	318.2	410.8
WDF -	192.6	292.8

NOTES:
Known Sphere of Operation: Federation Wide Boarders

The Ariel Class have their origins in proposals for Heavy Cruiser redesign. In its original form the great delta winged Starship was to be much smaller, with only one flight deck at the stern. Tests revealed that the warp dynamics of this shape were greatly enhanced with a much larger "belly" area however.

Accordingly the size and purpose were thus changed. As built the shuttlecarrier can act as the focal point for fleet operations, on detached Task Force duty, or alone as a means of emergency re-supply or evacuation. It carries a complement of 80+ embarked craft, and has capacity to carry cargo equal in mass to an entire small Starship.

What is most intriguing about the design is its shape, which is so Warp dynamic it initially need only slightly modified FWG-2 warp engines to create a Warp Field for a Starship far larger than such engines are usually attached to. As such, it may prove to be the shape which will eventually succeed the Heavy Cruiser to the title of most versatile starship.

Star Fleet has been pressing for the development of deep space exploration Starships externally similar to the Ariel design. It may be that a new generation of huge delta winged Starships will soon open the door to intergalactic travel.

Unfortunately the sheer size and cost of these ships provoked controversy, and Star Fleet was unwilling to jeopardize these ships on independent duty except deep within the treaty zone. Any operations near the frontier were always as part of a fleet. The reason was that despite their great size, and massively strong structure they were underpowered, and incapable of moving at a respectable speed and maintaining fire at the same time.

These weaknesses were addressed in the 2301 refit, when new FWJ-1 warp engines were fitted, along with the FIH-3 impulse drive. The engine power output was almost doubled, as were the Ship's cursing and maximum speeds. Photon Torpedoes were also fitted at this time, at the expense of some hanger capacity and armor.

The other notable feature of the class was that is was the first operational vessel with two impulse systems in use at once, the great size of the ship removed the problem with interference with the warp drive. One ship of this class was pulled from reserve and lost in the battle of Wolf 359.

VESSEL	REGISTRY	DISPOSITION
USS Ariel	NCC 2200	2276 / R 2301
USS Ichkeul	NCC 2201	2278 / R 2302
USS Manna	NCC 2202	2279 / R 2304
USS Adjuvant	NCC 2203	2280 / R 2306, D 2367