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Solicitors
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31.12.3199

To whom it may concern,

It is our duty to inform you of the death of your grandfather Commander Peter Jameson. The wreckage of his ship was found in the Reidquat system on November 11th 3199. He was presumed killed in combat after a 'misunderstanding' over some stolen goods according to the local press. A last will and testament was prepared on February 3rd 3198 and section 4.1 below has been circulated to all living grandchildren as instructed by our late client. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact us. The normal fees of fifty Credits per hour (including service tax) apply.

Yours sincerely,

(Dia ++ of an unreadable signature)

Mr Edmond Sneer

Section 4.1 Last Will and Testament of Commander Peter Jameson.

Welcome to life on the Frontier!

A way of life that is very different to the dull, planetbound existence you have probably led up to now. It is a way of life that I loved and want you to experience. I want you to feel the freedom of flying your own ship and being able to explore the vast galaxy. Whatever your aims in life (I settled for wealth, power and fame) there is an occupation for you. Try your hand at trading, following established trading routes or making your own. Maybe doing odd jobs is more your style, buzzing from one place to the next, never working for the same person twice. What about mining? later perhaps. I know that some of you will succumb to a criminal existence, so I may as well say that piracy, bounty hunting and mercenary work will suit you. I won't tell you to place your allegiance with the Federation, the Empire or the Independents but be careful; they all use you for their own aims. No amount of treaties will change the fact that they dislike each other.

Space has changed a great deal since I was your age. No, I am not going to harp on about everything being cheaper and friendlier in the past; people were just as bad then as now but we now have better technology and humans have spread further, so there is more scope. Your abilities as a pilot will be tested to the full, especially in combat, so before you upset anybody, get in some practice.

I want to give you the best start I can. As there are so many of you, my resources have been spread thinly. Each of you will receive an Eagle Long Range Fighter and one hundred credits. The ship has been delivered to your local starport but the documents are enclosed with this letter.

Above all, enjoy yourself and BE WARY!

THE EAGLE LONG RANGE FIGHTER

Congratulations on buying the **Eagle Long Range Fighter**, clearly the purchase of a discerning pilot!

As you will no doubt have noticed, our continual quest for excellence has resulted in this, the culmination of the search for the most advanced technology and ergonomic design, embodied in one ship. We are proud of the individualistic style married with functional superiority, as we continue the Falcon De Lacy pedigree. The What Spacecraft magazine was moved to say, "sure to make heads turn anywhere in the galaxy!" and Autopilot said, "design was obviously their fourth dimension!"

As you are obviously a cut above the common space traveller, the understated styling of the interior will have impressed you. A dynamic spacehound such as yourself will not have time for unnecessary frills, so we have styled the interior with the minimum of fuss, just like the exterior. Particularly pleasing though, are the lines of the pilot's seat made of revolutionary Silastoplaston, a material that stays dry at all times. It really gives the message that you're in control! It feels as though you are immersed in water while it protects you from dangerously high acceleration forces.

Always mindful of necessity we have included the 1MW Phlaschgyt pulse laser weapon. The laser is noted for being compact, economical and again understated - the hallmark of this craft. As if that is not enough, we have installed the latest Manolife one man life support system, that keeps you cooking at the right temperature and nasty gases at bay.

We have been accused of madness for giving away lots more as part of a limited period offer, just look at the specifications list!

Whether on the run or just cruising, feel that tight gyroscopic control. You will be so thrilled with the Eagle that you will want to purchase accessories, available from all good shipyards.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The Hull

You have a 25 tonne ship with 20 tonne hull capacity packed with an amazing 15 tonnes of equipment included in the price leaving you with a 5 tonne capacity cargo bay with 1 tonne of fuel.

Atmospheric Shielding for heat protection on entering atmospheres **Free**.

Dual main thrusters capable of a blistering peak acceleration of 25g or 0 to 1000 km per hour in only 1.13 seconds.

Weaponry

1 Megawatt Pulse Laser (front mounting only).

2 Missile Mountings giving you a choice of missiles.

Drive

Class 1 Hyperdrive with a range of 8 light years and a **Free** 1tonne of hydrogen fuel, giving you 8 light years travel.

Autopilot included **Free**

Controls

Scanner incorporating the Galactonav system.

Environmental Control

Manolife life support system.

Silastoplaston pilot's seat.

ICONS



This is a guide to using the console to control your ship. There is also a summary sheet which summarises use of the icons.

The icons are activated by pressing the left hand button of the mouse, or using keyboard shortcuts (which are F keys the number of which is shown at the bottom right of the icon).

The four main icons to the left of the scanner (F1-F4) select the current type of display. Those on the right (F7-F10) on the right change depending on the mode you are in. All icons give an indication of what will happen if that icon is selected. They do not show the current mode.

VIEW ICON (F1)



This icon allows you to cycle through a choice of views of the space through which you are travelling. They are: Front, Rear and External (and Turret if fitted). The current view is shown on the top right of the console.

Front View



This gives the view in the direction in which your ship is pointing. It is not necessarily the direction in which you are travelling. If you have a gun at the front, a sight will be positioned on the screen in the shape of a cross.

Rear View



A view in exactly the opposite direction to the front view. A sight will only be visible if you have a gun mounted on the rear.

External View



An external view is simulated by your onboard computer and can be useful for aligning your ship. Some landings are particularly pleasing if viewed in this mode.

Use the **arrow keys** to change the angle of view, the **- key** to zoom in and the **+ key** to zoom out. This can be used for general surveillance of the surrounding space.

It needs to be borne in mind that the view is locked to the orientation of the ship. For example if you are looking at the craft from the side and it is rolling, you will not see it roll, but the space around it will appear to move and the craft will stay still.




Turret View



If you have top or bottom turrets on your ship this icon will become available and is needed in order to fire lasers from turrets. If you have two turrets (top and bottom) and you select this icon, the view presented will come from the turret you were using last. Use of the right mouse button will move the angle of view, not the orientation of the ship. If, when using the mouse, you dip below the level of the turret, the view automatically changes to the other turret if you have one.

Flight Control icons (F7)



This icon on the right side of the display is operational in View mode only. It switches between "engines off"  and "manual flight." . If you have an autopilot and have selected a target (See page +), then the Flight Control icon will cycle through "autopilot"  too. When you are landed, the vertical take-off icon is the only option available.



Hyperspace icon (F8)



While in View mode select this icon to make a hyperspace jump. See Navigation and Flight section page + for details.



Undercarriage icon (F9)



In View mode use of this icon raises or lowers the undercarriage. The Autopilot does this automatically when landing, but in manual flight you must operate it yourself.  **raises** the undercarriage and  **lowers** the undercarriage.



Text icons (F10)



In View mode this names all identified objects on your display to aid navigation as the name can sometimes be seen before the body itself.  switches the names **off** and  switches the names **on**.

MAP ICONS (F2)



These icons cycle through two map pages, Galactic Map  and Current System map . A detailed description will be given in the Navigation and Flight section (page +) but also see the quick reference chart. Note that the functions of icons F7 to F10 are not always the same in Galactic Map and Current System Map, see below.

1. Galactic Map

A grid map of all the star systems in the galaxy is displayed and the following options are available:

Data icon



F6 Gives geographical and physical data on the selected system if it has been explored. This is only present if a system has been selected.

Economy icon



F7 Gives data on imports, exports and illegal goods for the selected system.

Social structure icon



F8 Gives data on government type, population etc. for the selected system.

Orbital map icon



F10 Provides a diagram of the orbits of all bodies within a system. They can be seen in motion using the **forward** and **rewind icons**, see below. For closer observation of bodies use the **Zoom icons** (F7 & F8).

Zoom icons



F7 and F8 Allow the view to be magnified or reduced, (except in Data mode (F6) where F7 and F8 are redefined for other uses).

Tools icon



The galactic map can be redefined for easier and faster use. The **Tools icon** activates icons 7 to 10 which function as follows:

Stalks icon



F7 Turns height indication stalks on the galaxy grid map on or off.

Grid icon



F8 Turns grid on the Galactic Map on or off.

Trade routes icon



F9 Turns trade routes on the Galactic Map on or off.


Text icon




F10 Some text on the Galactic Map can be turned on or off.

Galactic View icon



F10 Shows a creator's eye view of the galaxy to remind you of how small you are. The brightness of each pixel depends on the number of stars in the area covered by that pixel. Use the **Zoom icons** (F7&F8)  to adjust the view.

2. Current System Map

 shows an orbital map of the system through which you are travelling. Again, bodies can be seen in motion or at close range. The following options are available:

Zoom icons

F8 and F9  


Allow view as above to be magnified or reduced.

Tools icon


F9 

The orbital map can be redefined for easier and faster use. The **Tools icon** (F9) activates icons 9 and 10 which function as follows:

Orbit icon

 **F9** Turns orbital lines on or off.

Text icon

 **F10** Turns names of bodies on or off.

Target icon

F10 

Enables you to select targets for combat or the autopilot. Do this by activating this icon, then clicking on the body to be targeted. See the Combat section on page + and the Navigation and Flight section on page +.

INVENTORY ICONS (F3)



If activated, this icon will cycle through six information pages, in order: Ship's Equipment (Shipyards section page +), Commander Profile (Combat section page +), Crew Roster (Trading section page +), Cargo on board (Trading section page +), Passenger Roster (Trading section page +) and Mining Installations (Mining section page +). If there is no information on a page it will not be displayed.

COMMUNICATION ICON (F4)



The effect of this icon is different depending on whether you are landed (or docked) or in flight.

Communication while landed.

When this icon is selected a list of options will appear, for example Stock Market (Trading section page +), Bulletin Board (Trading section page +), Traffic Control and Services (Navigation and Flight section page +) and Shipyards Services (Shipyards section page +).

Communication in flight

A list of messages to be broadcast will be superimposed on the main display. Options include a request for landing or docking clearance and sending messages to others. Some will provide a further list of communications, for example "Broadcast message to all in range..." which allows you to send distress calls or demands for surrender. See sections on Trade page +, Combat page +, and Navigation and Flight page +.

FORWARD AND REWIND ICONS



They are only displayed when orbital maps are in use (Navigation and Flight section page +), and are used to show the position of bodies at different points in time. The simulated time is displayed at the bottom left of the screen.

TIME CONTROL ICONS



These allow the pilot to alter the apparent speed of time. The single arrow means real time and the others to the right increase the passage of time by ten to ten thousand times. The icon on the far left is a pause button to halt *everything*. See sections on Navigation and Flight page + and Trading page +. The pilot should realise that his enemies are similarly sped up, so using these icons will only make a dodgy problem worse.

THE WEAPON CONTROL PANEL



Select the Weapon control panel by clicking on the scanner area. Some items of equipment do not have icons because they work automatically. Those that do have an icon which needs to be activated in order for them to function are illustrated in the


grey boxes. In the bottom right of the icon, the letter for the keyboard short-cut is shown. The seperate icon guide will list the weapon and equipment icons. See also the Combat section on page + for details of use of weapons and the Shipyard section on page + for technical details of weapons and equipment.

TRADING

Trading is a simple process thanks to an agreement between the Empire and the Federation that allows free trade within all systems via the stockmarkets. After all, the cold war has to be supplied and fuelled by something. There are also private markets which may be more lucrative, but are sometimes risky. Each will be explained in turn.

TRADING ON THE STOCKMARKET

You need to go to a city or space station in order to trade on the stock market. You cannot trade in flight but at least you will be safe whilst trading.

1. Select the **Communication icon** (F4)  at the bottom of your console, and a list of options will appear.
 2. Select **"Stockmarket"** from the menu, and you will be presented with a selection of items. Click on the down "more" arrow and any remainder of the list will be given.
 3. The screen displays buy and sell buttons, price per tonne, stock on the market and the amount of cargo (in tonnes) that you have at present in your hold.
- Before trading read the information on the items below. Note that only legal items will be listed. For illegal goods you will have to use the private market (see section on the Bulletin Board on page +) .

Buying

1. To buy one tonne of a chosen item, activate the button corresponding to the item of your choice in the "buy" column. Your console will show the item you have selected. One click will auto-load one tonne into your hold. Holding down the button will buy multiple tonnes at an accelerating rate.
2. If you want to revise your transaction, the "sell" button will subtract from your stock. There is no charge for changing your mind during trade but you must make a decision reasonably quickly.

Unsuccessful transactions

You will be unsuccessful if :

- a) Your cargo hold is full (indicated at the bottom left of the screen under "cabins"). See also section on Ship's Inventory below.
- b) You have insufficient money (indicated at the bottom left of the screen under "cash").
- c) The stock is not available.

Information on all situations will be displayed on your console.

Selling


1. This is a similar operation to buying, but using the "sell" button. Your stock level will be automatically decreased as you sell. A mistake can be changed using the "buy" button, for which there is no charge but if you delay too long, someone else may buy first.
2. You will be unsuccessful if your own stock runs out, which will be shown on your console. See also the section on Ship's Inventory below.

Stock and prices

The stock level indicated on the console is that on the stockmarket, not the private market which has its own separate holding. Prices are brought to you by Zebulon

Intergalactic Trading Corporation (ZITCO), and are updated each midnight Galactic Mean Time (GMT). Galactic time was adopted after the signing of the treaty between the Empire and the Federation. Hostilities between them cannot be conducted if one party does not turn up because they have calculated the time incorrectly. If the stock level falls due to demand, the local price may rise. If a ship arrives with a large cargo of grain, say, when it sells this onto the market, the price of grain may fall at the next midnight price adjustment.


Trading using the Stardreamer time control unit

Prices are changed every midnight which may be a bit frustrating if you are in a hurry. Use of the **Time Control icons**  activates the Stardreamer which will appear to speed up time. There is a description of this device in the Navigation and Flight section on page +. Remember that your enemies are also going to be sped up so only use this when it is safe to do so, though even on an open-air station, you will be protected by the stations own defences. Remember also that the station makes a small charge every midnight for your stay.

Choosing what to trade

Systems all have their own production and consumption, imports and exports. Generally the price of imports will be higher than the Galactic average and that of exports lower than average. For example a farming area will have cheap grain, so it will be a good place to buy in order to sell to an area that has no grain production. A listing of imports and exports for a given system can be found in the System Data and Economy section (see Navigation and Flight page +). Information on illegal goods will also be found there.

Choosing where to trade

The Galactic Map (**Galactic Map icon** (F2) ) shows a number of recommended trade routes (lined in pink) updated by ZITCO in 3195. Faulcon De Lacey take no responsibility for any inaccuracies for this reason. A map with the trade routes has also been supplied with this manual.

It is always worth looking at the political and economical details of a system before possibly wasting fuel (see the Navigation and Flight section on page +). Items that are in abundance in a star system will be relatively cheap to buy. Conversely, items that are in short supply will be more expensive and worth selling there.

Cash

Your funds are indicated under "cash" at the bottom left of the screen. They are safe if your ship is destroyed thanks to an automatic banking system. If you run out of cash you could sell your ship for a smaller one or sell off a piece of equipment. It may be worth looking for offers of insurance from the Bulletin Board.

JETTISONING AND SALVAGING GOODS

This is an illegal practice but is occasionally necessary. Certain goods are damaged by this act and this needs to be taken into consideration when salvaging such cargo.

The following changes will occur:


Live animals will become animal meat.

Slaves die and are officially used as fertilizer but rumour has it that the bodies are finding their way onto the animal meat market.

Liquor, luxury goods, grain, fruit and vegetables are all turned into rubbish.

Sometimes containers will explode unpredictably when released due to irregularities introduced during their manufacture.

Jettisoning

1. Select the Inventory icon (F3)  and cycle to the cargo inventory section, which displays jettison buttons. Activate the button next to the goods which will be ditched one tonne at a time.

Salvaging

You cannot salvage jettisoned goods unless you have bought a Fuel Scoop and a Cargo Scoop Conversion. If you have such equipment, you merely skim over the top of the drifting cargo which is automatically scooped up.

TRADE ITEMS

The following is a list of trade items, which are always sold in units of one tonne.

Water - H₂O, usually needed by small, industrial settlements and those with no natural water supply.

Liquid Oxygen - Needed mainly by settlements on airless worlds for life support systems.

Grain - One of the only foodstuffs that is both traditionally grown and not too expensive.

Fruit and Vegetables - This can seem like a loose term looking at some of the produce that comes under this classification. One could be forgiven for taking up a shovel and disinfectant when faced for the first time with the Oosli from the Fomalhaut system.

Animal Meat - Real meat from an animal. A delicacy, but the market for this is growing as a revolt against synthetic meat. People have become unsettled by the thought of their food growing in vats of seething, viscous fluid, the stench of which is indescribable. The idea that real animal meat once felt the sun on its back and frolicked in a meadow feels more wholesome and natural and such meat is claimed by many to taste better. Given that the amount of meadow available is far exceeded by the hooves to roam it and that factory farming is unfashionable, the meat is rare and widely sought after. Trading in animal meat is illegal in some places.

Synthetic Meat - This is the most common form of protein to be found, so it is relatively cheap. Grown in vats, this meat is in no way derived from animals, though most would agree that it tastes exactly the same as real meat. It is sold in one flavour, called Original, which is fairly bland and unexciting. Individual flavours are added by the user, for example Earth beef, Lava hog from Biggs Colony or Brog buck from Homeland around Beta Hydri (for those who like their meat to bite back).

Liquor - Covers all intoxicating drinks from interesting local hooches such as the Bourbon from the system of Epsilon Indi to unexciting brews made by large industrial companies. An example is Splag, which is akin to watery Old Nova, but some have been less generous in their appraisal.

Narcotics - The most common is Lyrae weed. Narcotics are readily available on some large corporate manufacturing complexes to induce a sense of well-being in such appalling conditions. Occasionally a few workers are killed due to insensibility or hallucinations, but it is considered that they are better off that way and there are plenty more where they came from. Illegal in many places.

Medicines - Drugs are, as always, big business as people would rather be reassured by a drop of something that tastes foul, rather than examine their way of life that more often than not causes the ill health. However, the most healthy person can still fall foul of bugs such as black hole fever (well known but seldom talked about, except in jest

with references to escape velocity usually being made).

Fertilizer - Fertilizers are usually manufactured in vast chemical plants, but organic waste is often used to supplement this.

Animal Skins - This covers the skins of all sorts of animals and parts of them. It seems that the more that go into a garment, the more prized it is. A ridiculous extreme is a coat woven from eyelashes of the Sweetums Scroblet, an ugly animal with a bad temperament and no endearing qualities other than colourful, luminescent eyelashes.

Live Animals - Used for meat, exhibition or recreation or just companionship. Your hold must have a life support facility to carry them.

Slaves - Consider carefully where you are going to trade because slave trading is illegal in many systems, where it is seen as unacceptable. Life support needed.

Luxury Goods - Many items are classed as luxury goods, for example perfumes, jewellery, artefacts and fabrics. The most treasured are generally produced on esteemed worlds like Earth.

Heavy Plastics - Have a variety of uses especially in high temperature environments, like rocket engines. Manufactured in large industrial complexes.

Metal Alloys - They have hundreds of uses, one example is the production of foam metal, valued for its lightness and use as electromagnetic shielding.

Precious Metals - Mainly used for adornment and trying to maintain stability in unstable financial systems. Generally cheaper in the outer systems, where precious metals have not yet been mined out.

Gem Stones - They come in all colours and different levels of sparkle. Fashions come and go, but the current gem to be seen wearing is the Zublic, a colourless stone that is totally reflective. It is very easily mimicked but only the real stone is non-irritant to body, so those who are status conscious have them sewn into their skin.

Minerals - There is little to say about minerals. Mined on rocky planets by machinery except on planet Major (van Maanen's star) where the Guardians of the Free Spirit exhume it with only a hammer and chisel. They believe in severe hardship and live underground. It is thought that money (left over after buying necessities like oxygen) is burned in ceremonies intended to purify the soul. The worshippers think of all the luxuries, such as a salve for their bleeding hands, that the money could have bought, causing great anguish which is thought to be cleansing.

Hydrogen Fuel - The normal four star fuel for spacecraft. All the waste products are used as reaction mass in the thrusters. It can also be obtained by scooping it from stars and gas giants (see Fuel Scoops in the Shipyard section page +).

Military Fuel - Very high energy per unit weight. It is manufactured and consists of an engineered molecule with anti-matter atoms suspended in it. It is not always available and is expensive. You need to weigh up the advantages of greater range and speed with the fact that it is converted to radioactives when consumed.

Hand Weapons - Firearms. Many cultures regard them as a necessary accessory and feel 'naked' without one. Illegal in many systems.

Battle Weapons - These are the heavy weapons used on the battlefield and are usually illegal.

Nerve Gas - Expect the police in most places to take up a chase if you trade in this.

Industrial Parts - Everything from fusion motors to nuts and bolts.

Computers - Mostly used for administration and as components for automated machines like space craft, though some advanced cultures use them a great deal for interactive entertainment systems.

Air Processors - Devices used in life support systems to remove unwanted gasses from the air. These are vital to many mining establishments, keeping the air in the huge underground complexes breathable.


Farm Machinery - Machinery used to, erm...farm.


Robots - This covers a whole range of automata. Generally they are intricate machines used to do everything from serving canapes to use as assault troops. They are illegal in a few cultures, mainly because of the violation of their work ethic, but also the extreme techno-fear some people experience.


Radioactives - Radioactive materials for example Plutonium and Tritium. Note that this item has a negative trade value, in other words, you have to pay for someone to take it off your hands. Some make a living out of being paid to take this waste away and deliver it to reprocessing plants (i.e.anywhere that has Radioactives as a major import). More unscrupulous and irresponsible characters will prefer to jettison it instead, risking prosecution. This is a highly illegal practice and locals are usually vehemently opposed to this act. Police often don't bother with questions but deal with you there and then, as this not only saves on police time but court fees as well.


Rubbish - Again, this has a negative price, so you must pay to dispose of it. Some cargo items when decompressed (by being jettisoned) will turn into rubbish.


SHIP'S INVENTORY


This gives a more detailed account of your cargo and passengers, and is obtained by using the **Inventory icon** (F3) . Clicking on this icon cycles through six pages of information for your perusal including:


 **Ship equipment status** - Lists weapons and equipment currently fitted to the ship. See Shipyard section on page + for details of individual items.

 **Commander profile** - Lists awards and grading. See section on Combat on page +.

 **Crew roster** - Lists any crew members (on larger ships only). See the Shipyard section on page +.

 **Cargo inventory** - Your cargo is listed if you have any. Jettison one tonne of any item by clicking on the relevant button.

 **Passenger and small items** - This lists the names of your passengers or clients, the number of persons on board, any small packages and the destination and how much money you are still owed from the deal.

 **Mining Installations** - Lists the locations of all active mining installations owned. Note: The pages will not be shown if there is nothing on them.

BULLETIN BOARD

This is a collection of small advertisements for trading, services and requests for passage, amongst other things. You will find other types of advertisements so it is worth a browse.

Trade in legal items


Some individuals trade on the Bulletin Board in preference to the Stockmarket, and taking a risk with them may benefit you. There may be ads for specific items which a person needs urgently that cannot be bought on the stockmarket, so they are prepared to pay over the odds for them. You may earn more money this way than simply selling directly on to the stockmarket.

1.Select the **Communications icon** (F4) .

2.Select "Bulletin Board" and look for advertisements stating, "Wanted."

Trading in illegal items

Of course being a law abiding citizen you will not be engaging in this, but in order to understand the criminal mind better you ought to know the typical procedure.


1. Select the **Communication icon** (F4) .
2. Select "**Bulletin Board**" and look for advertisements stating, "**Goods bought and sold**". Though there may not be any in a particular place or that day. The "more" arrows will allow viewing of the ads which on a given day don't fit on the screen.
3. Click on the button for the "**Goods bought and sold**" ad you are interested in and a list will appear of all the illegal goods available.
4. Trade in a similar way to the stockmarket.

The police, although aware of this practice, will not shut it down. Not only do they take a cut in profits but they often use it to their advantage. Traps are laid in the form of advertisements and the astute criminal will get to know their characteristics. Once successful trading has taken place, there is always the threat of customs officials, not that you will ever have anything to hide of course.

Carrying passengers

People may place ads asking for passage for themselves or a group to a stated destination. If you want to do this, you need sufficient cabin space on your ship, which may mean extra outlay for you. See the section on Shipyard on page +, where upgrading your ship is explained.

Taking up a request

1. On the bulletin board via the **Communication icon** (F4) , look for the appropriate advert and select it.
2. Choose one of the responses presented to you, for example one response might ask why they are prepared to pay so much.
3. The answer comes up on the console at the bottom.
4. If you want to make a deal, click on "O.K. agreed" at the top of the list of responses.
5. The passengers will appear on your passenger list.

Payment is normally made on arrival at your clients' destination, although some will pay half up front or even all!


Carrying packages

To act as a courier, negotiate in the same way as for passengers after finding adverts for transporting packages. A package is deemed to take up negligible space in your cargo hold and of course does not need a life support system.

Taking on crew

If you ever buy a larger ship, it may require extra crew which are also obtained through the Bulletin Board small advertisements. More details about your contract with them can be found under New and Reconditioned Ships in the Shipyard section on page +.

TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES



Information can be obtained about the ships currently in dock, except those ships in dry dock and, for security reasons, military or police ships. This information may help you to decide what sort of trade to conduct and what destination to choose. Use the **Communication icon** (F4)  and select "Traffic Control and Services," followed by "Ships in Dock."

You can also find out what scheduled flights are due in the next week, by selecting the Communication icon, "Traffic Control Services," then "Information on Scheduled Services."


You may wish to fly with a large ship, for protection, so it may be worth waiting for a scheduled service to leave. They do however, rarely feel duty bound to protect a small trader, but may come to your rescue if your ship is crippled.

NAVIGATION AND FLIGHT

NAVIGATION



One part of your ship that *is* impressive, is the Galactonav space navigation facility, built in to all space craft. You have a number of facilities at your disposal by using the **Map icons** (F2)  . Those icons cycle through two maps; the map of the galaxy and a current map of the system in which you are travelling. Depending on which map you are viewing, the icons on the right of your console have different functions. Refer to the Icon Summary (Page +).

VIEWING THE GALAXY IN DETAIL USING GALACTIC MAP

1. Select the **Galactic Map icon** (F2)  to obtain a map of all the star systems in the galaxy, thanks to the Galactic Survey of 2817. The positions of all 100,000,000,000 stars (approximately) were mapped as soon as technology provided telescopes sophisticated enough to do the job. A grid is drawn through the plane of the galaxy to aid visual orientation and provide navigational coordinates. The galaxy is divided up into sectors. Since the galaxy is thin and flat, sector coordinates are only two dimensional with a sector measuring eight light years along each edge and containing all the stars above and below it. Sector boundaries are shown in bright green on the map, and their coordinates are given relative to the Solar system, for historical reasons. From Sol's sector "east" and "west" coordinates are represented by the first coordinate, "east" being a positive and "west" a negative number. Similarly, "north" and "south" are represented by the second number, with "north" positive. Up to nine sectors are displayed at once on the screen and the coordinates of the central sector are displayed at the bottom left. Each star is shown coloured according to type e.g. red for a red giant, blue for a hot blue star, and with a line indicating its height "above" or "below" the galactic plane.





You will notice that there are pink lines linking systems, these are recommended trade routes in case you feel you need some guidance to start with. They were compiled by the Zebulon Intergalactic Trading Corporation five years ago.


Moving around the grid

1. To move around the grid, use the **arrow keys**. The system in the centre is highlighted in green and a small amount of information on it is shown on the console. The system you are currently travelling through is highlighted in pink.
2. To change the angle of the grid itself, to see the relative positions of systems more clearly, hold down the right button and move the mouse.
3. You can zoom in and out with the **zoom icons** (F7)  and (F8) .
4. You can re-centre the map by pressing the **C key**.

Manipulating the Galactic Map




Once familiar with the grid, faster operation can be achieved by electing to discard certain features.

1. Operate **Tools icon** (F9)  and four different icons become available which enable you to adjust certain features of the grid.
 - a) **Stalk icon** (F7)  will turn the distance lines on or off.
 - b) **Grid icon** (F8)  will turn the grid on or off.
 - c) **Trade icon** (F9)  will turn the trade routes on or off (See page +).

d) **Text icon** (F10)  will remove the incidental and other details like "Core System." As you elect to do any one, the four icons disappear but can be brought back again with the **Tools icon** (F9).


Obtaining data on a system

a) Astronomical data

1. From the grid map, select the system you are interested in by using the **arrow keys** to move it into the middle of the screen where it will be highlighted in green.
2. Use the **Data icon** (F6)  and a schematic summary of all astronomical bodies in the system will appear, if the system has been explored.
3. Use the mouse to pick out individual bodies on which you require geographical and physical data including:
 - a) Average surface temperature.
 - b) Major starports
 - c) Orbital period (which is the sidereal period measured in Earth days).
 - d) Average orbital radius.
 - e) Orbital eccentricity and inclination, measured relative to the rotational plane of the central body.
4. Clicking away from the text returns you to the general system data, alternatively click on another body.
5. If you want to return to the grid map of the galaxy, use the **Data icon** (F6)  again or the **Galactic Map icon** (F2) .

When in Data mode (F6) the icons F7, F8 and F10 have new functions, as follows:

b) Data on economy of selected system


The **Economy icon** (F7)  gives a breakdown of imports, exports and illegal goods. Exports tend to be cheap and imports expensive.

c) Data on social structure and coordinates.

The **Political icon** (F8)  gives relevant details on:

Government type, economy, allegiance and population. Sector coordinates in the galactic map are also given here.


d) Configuration of orbits of the selected system

While still in System Data mode (F6), use of the **Orbital map icon** (F10)  will allow you to see the orbital configuration of the system you selected.


Altering the viewing angle

Use the right mouse button and move mouse.


Viewing orbits with respect to time


This map shows a 'snapshot' of the positions of bodies. Select the **Forward** and **Rewind icons**  on the right of the view screen to predict the positions at different times. The time and date shown at the bottom left of the screen will change. The real time is displayed underneath it.


Viewing a specific body


Click on a body which will then become central on the screen and use the **Zoom in and out icons** (F7 & F8) .

Manipulating the selected system orbital map





1. Operate **Tools icon** (F9)  and two different icons become available which enable you to adjust the features of the grid.

a) **Orbits icon** (F9)  removes or replaces the orbit lines.

b) **Text icon** (F10)  removes or replaces the text on the screen.





To get out of the orbital map, use the **Map icon** (F2)  to return to the galactic map.

The Galactic view

This feature can be used to get an idea of perspective. While in Galactic map mode, click on **Galactic view icon** (F10)  and a Creator's eye view of the galaxy is shown. At maximum zoom (showing 500 light year scale) each pixel represents a single sector. To zoom in and out use **Zoom icons** (F7 and F8)  . Note that the resolution is best while not zooming. When you stop zooming, improvement of the first, coarse picture is made as quickly as possible by the onboard computer. The **Galactic Map icon** (F10)  can be used to return to the Galactic Map.

USING THE CURRENT SYSTEM MAP


Viewing the configuration of orbits

1. Select **Map icon** (F2)   twice and a map of the system you are currently in is displayed, showing the configuration of the orbits.
2. Zoom in and out with the **Zoom icons** (F7 and F8)  .



Altering the viewing angle

Hold down the right mouse button and move the mouse as for the Galactic map.

Viewing orbits with respect to time


This map shows a 'snapshot' of the positions of bodies. Select the **Forward** and **Rewind icons** on the right of the view screen  to predict the positions at different times. The time and date shown at the bottom left of the screen will change. The real time is displayed underneath it.


Viewing a specific body

Click on a body which will then become central on the screen and use the **Zoom in** and **out icons** (F7 & F8)  .

Note that the Autopilot can be targeted using the current orbital map, (see below).


Manipulating the System Map

1. Operate **Tools icon** (F9)  and two different icons become available which enable you to adjust certain features of the map.

a) **Orbital icon** (F9)  will remove the orbital paths.

b) **Text icon** (F10)  will remove names of the bodies.

OBTAINING PERMITS

Some systems, such as those with a prison colony, require visitors to have permits in order to land anywhere. Any such requirements for a system will be shown on the console when using the Galactic Map. They are not widely available and you will find that they can only be obtained indirectly. This means that you must do business involving the system in question, for example delivering a package, so that the client must give you a permit. Details of licenses you possess are given with the Commander Profile information after selecting the **Inventory Icon** (F3)  until the Commander Profile is displayed. Once granted, a permit will last forever but can be revoked at any time.

FLIGHT

Your ship has three basic modes of flight: Autopilot, Manual and Engines Off which can be selected by using the **Flight Control icons** (F7)    in **View mode**.

The autopilot is by far the easiest way to control your craft but does not give you a sense of achievement. Manual flight may take some getting used to, but is more rewarding. Flying with engines off does not get you very far, but has some advantages as you will see.



THE AUTOPILOT

This most useful device, although not usually fitted as standard, has been included with your Eagle. It can be bought and fitted at a shipyard if ever you need another one. Your autopilot, the Robocruise automatic navigation system superseded the Celestial Pathfinder which was less reliable.

The autopilot can only be used to select a destination in the system through which you are currently travelling. For longer journeys, a hyperspace jump needs to be made.




Operating the Autopilot in View Mode

The Autopilot can only be used when in flight.

1. Whilst in a View mode (use the **View icon** (F1)  if you are in another mode), target a planet or space station which is on the screen by clicking on the centre of the target. Note that you will find it easier to find a target, for example, a city, if the name is on screen. If names have been turned off, select the **Name icon** (F10) .

Clicking where there is no potential target deselects any previously selected target.



When it is selected a sight will come up with targeting squares and the range in astronomical units or kilometres. If the target goes off the screen an arrow will appear pointing in its direction. If it is behind then "Target behind" will be displayed.

2. Use the **Flight Control icon** (F7) and cycle through **Manual flight**  and **Engines off**  to **Autopilot** . The Autopilot icon will not appear if a target is not selected.

Operating the Autopilot in Current System Map Mode

This mode can be used when the desired destination is too far away to be visible.

A target can be selected even while landed or docked but the Autopilot can only be engaged while in flight.

1. Use the **Map icon** (F2)   twice to obtain the **Current System Map**.





2. Use the Current System Map controls until you can see the desired destination on the screen.

3. Click on the **Targeting icon** (F10) .

4. Click on the centre of the desired destination.

5. If you wish to change the target, click on the Targeting icon before selecting another body. Clicking on bodies without selecting the Target icon will merely move that body to the centre of the screen.

6. If you wish to deselect the target click on an area which is blank, this will also disengage the Autopilot if it is currently in control.

7. Return to view mode using the **View icon** (F1) which will appear as one of the following     depending on which view mode you are in. Targeting squares, looking like a tunnel leading to the destination, will be visible, if in front or rear view.

8. If you are in flight click on the **Flight Control Icon** (F7) and cycle to Autopilot to engage it.


To return to manual flight, use the **Flight Control icon** (F7) and cycle to manual flight or engines off.

The Robocruise will automatically plot and maintain the course to your destination. It will also lower the undercarriage and dock or land for you, having automatically asked for clearance, while you freshen up. Some pilots find it disorientating when the Robocruise engages, and swings the ship round. The true Spacehound knows that it is only locking on to the new course.

Remember you can only trade and do business in cities or at space stations. If you do land anywhere else the console will indicate "landed (rough)".

The Robocruise really comes into its own when used in conjunction with the Stardreamer Time Control unit which is fitted as standard on all ships due to regulations regarding Wilbron's psychosis. This condition is known to afflict the space traveller who endures lengthy, uneventful journeys. Boredom becomes so intense after all leisure pursuits have been exhausted that pilots have been known to fly their craft into the odd star or planet just to liven things up a bit.

Using the Stardreamer Time Control

This can be used with the Robocruise or in manual flight. Use the **Time Control icons**  (after targeting your destination if using the Robocruise) to select rate of time acceleration. Time appears to increase in steps of ten from ten times to ten thousand times, depending on the icon selected. Return to real time by selecting the single arrow.

Sit back and a combination of a Zilman field and ultrasonic waves induce a semi-hypnotic state which renders you unaware of the passage of time other than seeing the range indicator change rapidly in front of you. This effect was discovered by Dr.Rabbne by accident when he realised why his projects were running over time for no apparent reason. Reassuringly, if your ship is attacked or hailed or you have arrived at your destination, the Stardreamer will restore you to full consciousness and real time. Don't forget that your enemies may be operating in real time and hence will seem to be sped up enormously.


HYPERSPACE JUMPS


Space is BIG and hyperspace jumps are necessary to access different systems quickly. Hyperspace jumps can be made using either Standard Hyperdrive or Military Hyperdrive engines which can be bought at the shipyard and come in different sizes with varying ranges. Refer to the Shipyard equipment list on page + for a description of them. A hyperspace jump causes a disturbance resulting in a glowing field at the entry and exit points. A Hyperspace Cloud Analyser can determine the destination of the jumping ship (see the Shipyard equipment list). Before attempting your first jump, it is recommended that you read the whole of this section.

Range

The range is determined by two things, fuel and the type and class of engine. Details of these are given in the Trade section for fuel on page + and the Shipyard section for engines on page +. Briefly the engine's range depends on its class as well as the size of the ship.

Engine ranges are displayed in two ways:

1. On the Inventory page select the **Inventory icon** (F3)  until the Ship Equipment appears where the engine's range will be given.

2. On the Galactic Map (Galactic Map icon (F2) ) , displayed in pink at the bottom left corner. If your engine is not up to jumping to the destination selected, it will say, "Out of Range."

Fuel range

1. The amount of fuel required for a jump is displayed at the bottom left of the Galactic Map.


If you have insufficient fuel then "Insufficient fuel" will also be displayed otherwise the fuel which will be used will be shown.


2. On the Galactic Map, a pink circle will surround the system you are currently in and this shows your maximum range for hyperspace in a single jump.


Jump Duration

Although the perceived duration of a jump is very short, the actual time is much greater. It takes a week to make the maximum range jump for any engine. For example an engine with a maximum range of 10 light years will take a week to jump that far or 3.5 days for a 5 light year jump, and so on. A ship with a maximum hyperspace jump range of 4 light years will take half a week to jump only 2 light years. This has implications for piracy because a pirate ship with a Hyperspace Cloud Analyser and a lighter ship can 'overtake' you and lie in wait. Contact in Hyperspace is not possible.

Operation

1. Target a system using the **Galactic Map icon**  (F2) , by placing the required destination in the centre of the screen with the **arrow keys**. That system becomes highlighted in green.

2. Return to View mode using the **View icon** (F1) .

3. Select the **Hyperspace icon** (F8)  (it will not show if you have no hyperspace facility or a valid jump is not selected) and cross your fingers. If you like you can set your destination, go about your business and be able to make a quick exit at any time if things hot up a bit. Alternatively, if you use the **H key** you can make your jump without going into View mode first.

Remember that the evidence of your hyperspace jump will be visible to anybody in the vicinity of your exit or entry, as it leaves a glowing area of disturbance in space. The destination can only be ascertained with a Hyperspace Cloud Analyser, available at shipyards.

There are a number of reasons why the Hyperspace icon may not appear, they are as follows:

1. You are too close to a planet. Regulations were laid down after the first few decades of hyperspace jumping. Sudden above average recordings of mutations around starports occurred a few years after jumps became routine. It was discovered that the intense radiation caused by the jump was affecting the population below. It became a requirement by law (on all sides) that all ships have a cut-out system built into the Hyperdrive which is activated if you try to jump from near to a planet or space station.

2. A valid destination is not selected.


3. You do not have enough fuel for a jump to the selected destination.

4. Engine is damaged or destroyed.


5. You don't have a Hyperdrive engine!

Mis-jumps

Hyperdrives almost never go wrong, but if you are unfortunate enough to suffer a spontaneous mis-jump, you can get into serious trouble. You will emerge somewhere

other than your planned destination, which may be out of range for your remaining fuel. It is even possible to mis-jump beyond the maximum range of your drive. If indeed your fuel reserves are too low or the Hyperdrive is broken, your only hope is to call for help (**Communication icon** (F4) ) and risk pirates responding. It is not entirely understood why mis-jumps happen but an unserviced Hyperdrive is a likely culprit. There are no reliable statistics available on the occurrences of mis-jumps as most ships are never found. A missing ship could just as easily be the result of piracy.

Forced Mis-jumps

Faulcon De Lacey do not condone this practice as it has an unpredictable effect on the Hyperdrive. It is the equivalent of blindly jamming a screwdriver into the works. We feel that it needs to be mentioned as a warning because foolish pilots do use it as a last resort to escape pirates. If they are being pursued by a larger pirate ship with a Hyperspace Cloud Analyser they force a mis-jump by pressing the **Shift key** while activating the **Hyperspace icon**  or the **F8 key**. The pirates follow them into hyperspace only to find that their quarry is nowhere to be seen and is in fact somewhere else, frantically trying to work out exactly where they are. The Hyperspace Cloud Analyser cannot distinguish a mis-jump from a normal jump.

Waste Products

Unfortunately, the convenience of hyperspace travel is blighted with the problem of waste products if you use military fuel. Due to the processes in the Hyperdrive, every tonne of military fuel is converted to one tonne of radioactives which you will need to dispose of on the stock market. See the Trade item list in the Trade section, page +, for more information. Standard Hyperdrive engines powered by hydrogen fuel do not produce problematic waste products.

USING MANUAL CONTROL

Due to the marked improvement of engineering technology the engines of the craft are not controlled by the pilot directly, but by the onboard computer in response to the pilot. This 'fly by wire' facility has enabled many to take to the cockpit who would not have had the skill to do so. The main problem for beginners is that they are usually accustomed to driving surface based vehicles in reasonable gravity, or have only used poor quality space flight simulators. What needs to be borne in mind is that when direction is changed, the experience is rather like skidding. If your ship is travelling in one direction, changing course will mean that the nose will turn but you still have momentum in the direction you were originally going. The engines will compensate for this but there is a lag, the duration of which will depend on the type of ship. For example the response rate of a fighter will be faster than that of a heavy cargo ship. This *must* be borne in mind at all times.

Controls in flight

To make the ship **dive** - Use the A key, push the joy-stick forward or move the mouse forwards while holding down the right button.

To make the ship **climb** - Use the Z key, pull the joy-stick back or move the mouse backwards while holding down the right button.

To go **left** - Use the < key, move the joy-stick left or move the mouse left while holding down the right button.

To go **right** - Use the > key, move the joy-stick right or move the mouse to the right while holding down the right button.

THE FRONT SCREEN

In **front view mode** (See page + for a reminder) you will see two crosses on your screen. One is a **gun sight** cross which shows which way you are facing, and the other is a diagonal cross, the **velocity sight** which indicates the direction in which you are travelling. When the two are in line it means that you are moving in the direction you are pointing. If they are separate, it means that your velocity is in the direction of the diagonal cross and you are pointing in the direction of the gun sight because, for example, you have suddenly changed course. You will hear the engines fire until alignment is achieved. You may see the velocity sight disappear when your direction of travel is not within the area of the screen if, for example, you veer wildly and the engines have not yet compensated enough.

To summarise, the gun sight shows the orientation of the ship and is controlled by the pilot; the velocity sight indicates the direction of travel and is controlled by the onboard computer.

Your ship's internal gyros enable it to rotate, much like those in the ancient Earth satellites, good examples of which are now in the space museum in Apollonius City on the Moon. While greatly superior now, the gyros still have a limit to the rate at which you can turn, so don't expect to spin 'on a sixpence' (small coin used in Britain on Earth, about 1200 years ago).

Speed



Speed is controlled with the **Return key** to accelerate and the right **Shift key** to decelerate. Two speed values are displayed on the screen, set speed and actual speed. The first is the requested speed, set by the keys above and the second is the speed relative to the most important body in your vicinity. This important body can be a planet, star or a space station or very large spaceship, and is selected by the onboard computer. If you fly away from it and the computer then designates another, the "actual speed" will change, as will the velocity. You will notice that the velocity sight will move as the onboard computer adjusts your speed relative to the new body. For those who are happy to point your ship at something and go, this is all you need to know. Pilots wishing to be accomplished in flight theory should refer to Appendix one.

Altitude

An altitude reading in metres will be displayed on the screen when in close proximity to a planet or star. It will give your distance above the average ground height of the body. For pilots who prefer other units of measure see the separate preferences sheet provided with this manual.


Launching

Surface take off

1. If you are landed anywhere other than a starport ("landed rough") you do not need to ask for clearance. If you are in a starport select the **Communication icon** (F4)  followed by "Traffic Control Services". Click on the "Launch Request".
2. In view mode, activate the **Flight control icon** (F7)  for take-off, this gives you vertical thrust. The console will display "Take Off."
3. This can seem quite slow so a faster ascent can be made if you tilt the nose up once you have left the ground and thrust forward with the **Return key**. Using the rear view will display a pleasing panorama.
4. Once you have used forward thrust (**Return key**) the vertical thrust is turned off and the console will display "Manual Control."

5. Bear in mind that gravity will always pull you back down. If you wish to fly in the atmosphere you must give the ship some lift by pointing the nose up slightly thereby providing a small vertical component to the thrust.

Launch from a dock

1. Activate the **Communication icon** (F4)  and select "Traffic Control and Services", followed by "Launch Request".
2. Accelerate forwards using the **Return key**.
3. You must leave the area promptly because your clearance expires.

Running with engines off

If you are economising, turning off the engines has obvious advantages and your engine flares will not be visible to your enemies. It can make manoeuvring easier when strafing a target. For example you can aim to fly across a target and turning off the engines means you can point at it, go sideways and shoot without the engines firing to propel you forward into it.

Sling shot orbits

This technique for gaining speed was important in the early days of space flight, but now it is unnecessary due to advances in space technology. The only reasons to do this are because it can be visually pleasing to sweep past a planet or sun so that you can say you've done it. A sling shot uses to your benefit the gravity of large bodies to 'sling' your ship in the direction of its travel. Your engines need to be turned off otherwise they will compensate for any effect and it saves fuel as well.


Loss of engines



If an engine is disabled, the autopilot will not function properly and only very experienced pilots will be able to fly the ship manually.

LANDING AND DOCKING

Landing manually at a city with a breathable atmosphere (an outdoor city)

Executing a manual landing will require practice, so try it in a relatively safe area. You may find it easier to make your view mode "External" to align the ship. Remember though that the ship will appear to be stationary and the ground will seem to move. You may also find it helpful to use the targeting squares, obtained by setting your destination as a target (see the Autopilot section above or the Combat section on targeting).

Normally the Autopilot flies to an area 20km above the target and descends vertically. You can set the controls to "manual flight" using the **Flight Control icon** (F7)  at any point in this operation. Alternatively you can fly the entire approach and land manually.


The easiest method is to make a pass over the port while waiting for clearance (**Communication icon** (F4) ) and lowering the undercarriage (**Undercarriage icon** (F9) ). If the undercarriage has not been lowered you will crash-land. When you have been told which landing pad to use, aim to be more or less at zero speed when you come to rest above it. If you turn the engines off, gravity will take you down, with the on board computer stabilising the ship. If there is little or no gravity, you may have to thrust slightly with the nose down to start with, but be careful.

Landing at a city with no breathable atmosphere

Follow the same guide-lines as for an outdoor city with a breathable atmosphere. The only difference is the appearance of the landing area, covered with a hexagonal airlock

door. When clearance is granted, the aperture will open to reveal the landing pad. Don't ask for permission too early or you will find that the clearance will be withdrawn and the airlock shut. Again, the targeting squares may be helpful by providing a 'tunnel' through which you can fly (see the Autopilot section above or the Combat section on targeting).

Docking at a space station

Request permission for docking (**Communication icon** (F4) ) and wait until the red flashing light turns white and orange homing lights are visible - it is illegal to approach prematurely. The onboard computer matches your roll with that of the station so you do not have to make difficult calculations in order to dock.

Position the ship immediately in front of the docking entrance and proceed in slowly. The dock's vehicle arrest mechanism will halt the craft provided your speed is not excessive.

MINING

If you prefer a solitary life, then mining is for you. This occupation entails travelling from place to place collecting ore. There are two types of mining, Asteroid Mining and Surface Mining, both have their merits and drawbacks.

Asteroid Mining


Asteroid mining is an old method but it is tried and tested. It is the easiest and cheapest way of obtaining ore and requires you to have a 30MW Mining Laser, Fuel Scoop and a Cargo Scoop Conversion. You simply blast an asteroid with the laser then fly over the bits of asteroid and the Scoop collects as much ore as you can accommodate in the cargo bay. Not all asteroids are mineral rich though, so you may end up with a bay full of rubbish.

Surface Mining

Once you are established, this type of mining is a more predictable means of getting ore. It does, however, demand a large initial outlay in order to acquire the installations and possibly a larger ship (minimum of thirty tonnes of free cargo space) to transport them. The only recommended device is the MB4 Mining Machine which, alas, is still not widely available. The MB4 is impressive in that it not only mines but also refines the material, so you put it in place, leave it and come back to pick up the results. The MB4 can mine, separate and refine minerals, alloys and even on occasions precious metals and gem stones.



The disadvantage is the risk of mining others' claims, resulting in an aggressive response to your activities. In some areas it is illegal to mine and police, depending their mood, may not be too interested in maintaining a public image of fairness and understanding and may blast you to pieces.

Setting up your MB4



1. Choose a mining site with a temperature below 200 degrees Centigrade. The most likely suitable locations will be on systems' inner planets which are more likely to be mineral rich. Ones which humans have hardly touched are more likely to be mineral rich as machines like the MB4 and its predecessors are very thorough, and will have scoured most of the surface of core worlds by now. To test the composition of the crust, you need to land.
2. Land at the chosen site and select the Weapons Control Panel by clicking on the Scanner.
3. Activate the **Unload Rig icon**  which will cause the mining rig to be unloaded whereupon it will analyse a sample of the crust and relay the results to your onboard computer. If the prospects are good it will bed itself in and begin drilling immediately. You may then take off and come back later once it has mined the full capacity of 10 tonnes.

Finding the MB4 again


All the mines have a beacon which has your own coded signal allowing the computer to pin-point its position. If you pick up someone else's rig, your computer will automatically register the code of the owner. All other rigs belonging to them, in this star system will then be shown on your inventory page. This means that stealing ore is possible, however the same can be done to you. A safeguard is to avoid placing numerous rigs in one system, so that they are not so easily found should one of your rigs be purloined. Your beacons will use a different code in each system.

1. Select the **Inventory icon** (F3)  and cycle through until you come to the Mining Installations page . It will list your rigs and their location.
2. Fly to the star system in which a particular rig is situated.
3. Set up the Mining Installations page again and use the button next to the rig you wish to find.
4. The onboard computer will then set it up as your current target. You may then fly to it manually or with the Autopilot. You can deselect the target as before by placing the pointer away from the target and using the left mouse button.

Collecting the ore

1. Land near to the installation and select the Load Rig icon  with one click. This will remotely instruct the machinery to off load ore into your hold until it is full. It will be no more than ten tonnes at a time because that is the maximum capacity of the MB4's hopper.
2. If there is no ore to collect the first selection of the icon will load the rig onto the ship, if you have space.
3. Your cargo inventory (**Inventory icon** (F3) ) will show the minerals on board.

Collecting the MB4 Mining Machine

1. Land next to the installation and click on the Load Rig icon  twice so that the rig and the contents of its hopper are taken on board.
2. As stated above, the rig will be loaded after the first click if there is no ore in the hopper.
3. The rig may be left for further mining. There is no need to bring it on board if you intend to deposit it in the same place.
4. If you want to move the MB4 to another location on the same surface because a site is 'mined out,' it is worth moving it a good distance. This is because the MB4 probes quite a large area with its underground drills.
5. If your MB4 had found a rich seam of minerals, do not move it as the seam may be a long way below ground and the MB4 may not be able to find it again.

Appendix 1 - The Mechanics of Space Flight

WARNING - NOT FOR THE TECHNICALLY FAINT HEARTED!

(You do not need to read this to fly your ship)

Fly by Wire

As starship designers through the ages have found, space craft have so many potential degrees of freedom they are impractical for a mere human to control to the full unaided. Logically a free flying combat craft has at least five independent directions (or vectors) to control. Those vectors are:

- (1). Facing vector (unit magnitude) **F**
- (2). Velocity vector **V**
- (3). Thrust vector **T**
- (4). Camera viewing vector **C**
- (5). Weapon vector **W**

It is clearly logical to combine some of these, but the more they are combined, the more functionality is lost. Faulcon de Lacy (and indeed most ship manufacturers) combine (1), (4) and (5) and control (2) and (3) automatically, leaving the pilot to control only (1), with the option of disabling the automatic control of (2) and (3) when necessary. Even this seems a handful for a species evolved to move in only two and a half dimensions (up and down are very much secondary to north, south, east and west).

The pilot is assumed to have a desired velocity vector **D** along his or her facing vector, the magnitude of which is the desired speed *s* they have set.

Hence: $\mathbf{D} = s\mathbf{F}$

& thrust to achieve vel. **D** $\mathbf{T} = mf(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{V})$

where *f* is a factor chosen for fuel efficiency.
and *m* is the mass of your craft

A maximum value is given to *f* (about 1), to avoid wasteful thrusting and possible oscillations. This is why your craft will slowly settle down over the landing pad even with a zero set speed. At higher speeds the limits of the power of the thrusters effectively restrict the value of *f*. The desired thrust is resolved into components along each of the ships working thrusters and if any of these cannot provide sufficient thrust then the value of *f* is reduced appropriately (preserving the direction of thrust is more important than its magnitude).

Frames of Reference

The problems of the fly-by-wire technique are further complicated when considering the frames of reference in which velocities are measured. When a vehicle moves slowly along a street, say, the driver does not want to know that both the street and the vehicle are moving sideways at many thousands of kilometers per hour (due to the velocity of the planet around the star, and the rotation of the planet). Indeed, if the vehicle were to face the way it is travelling, then its motion along the road would be

almost irrelevant. What the driver wants is to face along the direction of travel *in the frame of reference of the planet*, which is both moving and rotating.

Hence: $\mathbf{D} = s\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{R}$ where \mathbf{R} is the velocity of the frame of reference
and ideal thrust $\mathbf{T} = m\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{V})$
 $\mathbf{T} = m\mathbf{f}(s\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{V})$

Your onboard computer automatically selects the body you are most likely to want to define a frame of reference for your motion. This is usually a planet or moon, but can also be a space station or large ship. It also decides whether it would be more intuitive to use a rotating frame or not. For space stations, it is only sensible to use a rotating frame in the docking tunnel - otherwise your ship continually thrusts to attempt to move in a circle in time with a similar point on the station.

Choice of Frames of Reference


The body used to define your current frame of reference is shown on the bottom right of your head-up display. This is chosen by a weighting function. For planets and stars, this is based on mass, thus a star's sphere of influence generally extends way beyond its planets. For other bodies it is based on their dimensions.

You may well notice your ship's engines suddenly starting to thrust when a different frame of reference is chosen. This is not a fault with your ship but is because your set speed has suddenly appeared to change as it is now measured relative to the new body.


AN INTRODUCTORY JOURNEY

If you want to be guided through a mission before going out on your own, read on! You are at Sirocco Starport, on Merlin, a planet orbiting a gas giant which in turn orbits Ross 154, 9.35 light years away from Earth. What you can see on the screen is the front view from your ship with the ringed gas giant, Aster looming in the sky. The time of day and the date are given at the left of the console.


1. First take a look at the system you are in.


a) Select the **Galactic Map icon** (F2)  and you will see a map of all the stars in your vicinity. Ross 154 is in the middle, highlighted in green.

2. Find out details about the system.


a) Select the **Data icon** (F6)  and a diagram of your system will be shown.

b) Count two bodies from the star, Ross 154. This is Aster. Now click on the planet below it and information on Merlin will come up.

c) Select the **Economy icon** (F7)  to get trade details for the whole system. Notice that major exports are animal meat (this is fish on Merlin) and liquid oxygen so both should be relatively cheap.

d) Select the **Political icon** (F8)  to get information on the social structure. This system is under Federation control so should be reasonably safe.

3. Find a place to sell the goods you buy at a reasonable price.


a) Go back to the grid by using the **Galactic Map icon** (F6) .



b) Use the arrow keys to move the map until Barnard's Star (look up and then right) is in the middle of the screen and highlighted in green.

c) Select the **Data icon** (F6) .

d) Click on the bodies until you find the space station orbiting Birminghamworld, it is called Boston Base.


e) In the same way as steps 2c and 2d, check the economy and social structure. You will see that animal meat and liquid oxygen are imports. The system is a corporate state and it should be reasonably safe, so you could trade here.

f) You can see the orbits of the system's bodies by using the **Orbital Map icon** (F10) .

g) If you want to take a closer look, you can use the **Zoom In icon** (F7)  and the **Zoom Out icon** (F8) . Click on the body to place it into the centre of the screen and then use the icons.

4. Buy some fish and liquid oxygen at Merlin.

You can only trade while in dock so now is the time to do it.

a) Select the **Communication icon** (F4) , and you will be presented with a list of options.



b) Choose "**Stockmarket.**"

c) A list of items with buy and sell buttons is now displayed so locate animal meat and liquid oxygen. You can afford to buy two tonnes of animal meat and three of liquid oxygen.




d) Click on the **Buy button** for animal meat twice and liquid oxygen three times so that two tonnes of animal meat and three tonnes of liquid oxygen will be autoloading into your hull. If you buy too many by mistake, simply click on the sell button until you have the right amount. The console will display the amount of cash and cargo space you have left.

5. See if there are any packages to take to Barnard's star.






This sort of thing is what makes money but there is some risk involved. The good thing about packages is that they take up negligible cargo space and do not require cabins or life support.

- a) Click on the **Communications icon** (F4)  again followed by "Bulletin Board".
- b) Scroll through the advertisements using the up and down "More" arrows.
- c) There may not be a suitable advertisement but if there is one, click on it. If there isn't go to step 6.
- d) A list of replies will be presented to you from which you must choose one to send by clicking on it. The brave will click on "agreed" with no questions asked.
- e) The package will be autoloaded into your ship.
- f) You can check that it is on board by clicking on the **Inventory icon** (F3)  until the page showing passengers and small packages is displayed.




6. Take off for Barnard's Star system.





- a) Go back to the front view by using the **View icon** (F1)  and click on it until "Front View" is displayed on the right of the console.
- b) Select the **Communication icon** (F4)  and you will be given a list of options. Click on "Traffic Control and Services," followed by "Launch Request."
- c) When clearance is indicated on the console, select the **Flight Control icon** (F7) . This will cause your vertical thrusters to engage, lifting you slowly upwards.
- d) Tip up the nose of the ship by moving the mouse backwards whilst holding the right mouse button down.
- e) Activate the thrusters using the **Return Key** for a couple of seconds and you will begin to fly out of the atmosphere. You now have manual control.

7. Make a hyperspace jump to Barnard's Star.


- a) Use the **Galactic Map icon** (F2)  and make sure Barnard's Star is in the middle of the screen where it will be highlighted in green.
- b) Return to View mode by using the **View icon** (F1) .
- c) Activate the hyperspace engine with the **Hyperspace icon** (F8) . After your journey through hyperspace you can see the effects of the disturbance. Use the **View icon** (F1)  to get a the rear view in order to see it. This hyperspace cloud behind you is visible for an enormous distance and may attract pirates, so it is wise to leave it as soon as possible by pressing the **Return key** to thrust you forward. Click on the View icon again until you get back to the front view.
- d) Select the **Name icon** (F10)  which will overlay names onto the systems bodies which may not yet be visible to the naked eye.
- e) If you wish to look around then you can do so by holding down the right mouse button to swing the ship round. This is not essential to get to your destination.

8. Fly to Birminghamworld by using the Autopilot and Stardreamer Time Control.

- a) Take a look at the system structure by using the **Galactic Map icon** (F2)  and then the **Current System Map icon** (F2)  to obtain an orbital map of the current system.
- b) Zoom in using the **Zoom icon** (F7)  until you can see Birminghamworld clearly.
- c) Put Birminghamworld in the middle of the screen by clicking on it then zoom in until it is clearly defined and the orbital lines almost cover the width of the screen.
- d) When you can see the space station name (Boston Base) move the mouse while holding down the right mouse button so that you can see the space station clearly.

- e) Set up the destination for the Autopilot by using the **Targeting icon** (F10) .
 - f) You will be instructed by the console to select a target so point at the space station and click on it and a homing square will be displayed. If you take too long doing this you may have to use the Targeting icon again.
 - g) Return to View mode with the **View icon** (F1) .
 - h) Engage the Autopilot with the **Flight Control icon** (F7)  by activating it until "Autopilot" is displayed at the top right of the console. The ship is no longer under manual control.
 - i) You will see targeting squares looking like a tunnel leading to Boston Base. As you get closer they will come towards you more rapidly, indicating that you should slow down as you approach. Ideally, these should pass by at a constant rate.
 - j) Even though you are relatively close to Boston Base it will still take a long time to get there so use the Stardreamer Time Control to make time appear to pass more quickly. Further details of its function are given in the Navigation section.
 - k) Locate the **Time Control icons** . The single arrow sets normal time and each icon to the right increases the apparent rate of passage of time by ten times. Select 1000 times normal time (four arrows) or 10,000 times normal time (the last icon on the right) as you wish. When you approach the space station the onboard computer will return you to normal time for docking.
- The docking process is handled by the Autopilot including obtaining clearance from Traffic Control. If you do not wish to watch the docking then you may operate the time control again.

9. Sell your goods

- a) Once docked select the **Communication icon** (F4)  and choose "Stockmarket" again.
- b) Sell your goods by using the sell buttons, ie.click on the sell button for meat twice and the liquid oxygen three times.
- c) The money shown under "**cash**" at the bottom left of the console should now be a greater sum than you started with, unless you have been very unlucky with the stockmarket prices.
- d) Remember to refuel by buying at least one tonne of Hydrogen fuel.

COMBAT

USING YOUR WEAPONS

Welcome to the manual! (in case this is the first page you have turned to).

While Faulcon de Lacy do not condone offensive combat, it is often unavoidable. The best defence is always to run away if at all possible (though many cultures reject this as "cowardly"). Combat is very dangerous, and rarely ends up without expensive repairs being necessary.

Weapons (like missiles) may be controlled via the Weapon Control Panel of your ship, which may be selected by clicking on the scanner area with the left mouse button, or pressing the **F5 key**. This display replaces the scanner display (if fitted). The scanner may be restored by clicking on the area again (away from any icons) or by pressing F5. It should be borne in mind that keyboard shortcuts to the Weapon Control Panel icons can still be used *even if the Control Panel is not currently selected*.



As additional weapons and equipment are fitted to your ship, their icons appear along the bottom of the panel. The icon boxes will remain blank until you have obtained the equipment. As you buy missiles and mines, they will be illustrated next to the icon boxes as shown above. It is recommended that you read the equipment list in the Shipyard section on page + for more technical information before buying anything.

Targeting

Targeting is used for both long range navigation (See Navigation and Flight page +) and combat. One target can be set at a time.

1. Using the screen in front, rear or external view mode (see the Icons section, page + if you are not clear about this), click on the centre of the ship to be targeted.
2. If you are in external or turret view a sight on the target will appear together with the range.
3. If you are in front or rear views you will be presented with the Targeting Tunnel on your headup display. This is displayed as a series of contracting squares along the path to the target, and looks like a tunnel. The range of the target is given in Astronomical Units (AU) or kilometres (km).
In order to pursue the ship you fly down the tunnel. As you get closer to the target the squares will be shown closer together, thus the squares will come towards you faster. If you are approaching a stationary target then ideally the squares should pass at a constant rate, as you slow down on the final approach.
4. If the target goes off the screen, an arrow will indicate the direction in which it lies, or, if it is behind your ship, "target behind" will show.
5. To deselect the target, click on a blank area that is not a potential target.
6. You may also select another target at any time by clicking on another object.

Some pilots may find the 'tunnel' an annoyance. If you are one of these refer to the Preferences sheet supplied separately from this manual.


Offensive Weapons

Quite often, the best form of defence is attack, hence Faulcon de Lacy do provide what may be considered offensive weapons. It should be made clear that they should only be used in a defensive capacity against an attacker - Faulcon de Lacy in no way condone any other use.

Pulse Lasers and Beam Lasers

One laser (or other gun) can be mounted at the front of your ship and, for ships with a rear mounting, one at the rear. Some larger ships are fitted with turrets, which can each take a single weapon. There is a wide range to choose from (see the Shipyard section page +), though the full range will only be available at the biggest shipyards. It is rumoured that the military of both sides have developed additional weapons for their own use, but this is usually denied.

A Pulse Laser fires a single high energy laser pulse about once a second, while a Beam Laser fires a continuous beam, so is far more devastating.

Lasers are fired by pressing **both mouse buttons together**, the **spacebar** on the keyboard or the fire button on the **joystick**. The front mounted laser will fire if you are in front view mode (**View icon** (F1) ), the rear laser if in rear view mode, and the appropriate turret laser if in a turret view mode. If you are in external view, then the front laser will be used, irrespective of any other lasers fitted.

Even small lasers are reasonably effective up to 10km range, but their effectiveness decreases with distance, as the beam spreads slightly. It is recommended that you get your shots in at as short a range as possible, for maximum efficiency.

Beware of laser reflections from certain types of surface, especially when at a glancing angle. Though the beam may have lost much of its energy it can still cause serious damage. There are also words that the Imperial Navy are developing reflective armour, which reflects much of a laser's energy back along the incoming path, though this is strongly denied.



It is quite common for lasers to overheat, particularly with more excitable pilots and with the higher power beam lasers. It is unlikely you will do your laser any damage by this as it is protected by an automatic cut-out to prevent it burning out, but it may stop working for a few seconds.

Laser Cooling Booster

This reduces the problem of lasers overheating at that vital moment. It supplements the built-in cooling system of your currently selected laser, causing it to cool more rapidly. It does not affect Plasma Accelerators.

Missiles and Mines

If you want a quiet life, be careful who or what you use as target practice. When the time comes to use one of these devices:


1. Arm the missile of your choice by clicking on one of the **missile icons** . The console will show the type of missile or mine you have armed. You can arm only one missile at a time, so if you click again on a different missile, you will be arming that one and disarming the previous one.
2. A **Fire icon**  also appears. Clicking on this or pressing the **M key** on the keyboard fires the armed missile at your target, but it is important to remember that you can only fire if a target has been selected.

3. Disarming is simply achieved by clicking on the missile in question or clicking on another weapon.

All types of missile will home in on their selected target as rapidly as their incredible 65g acceleration ZX34 Short-Burn engine will allow. Nevertheless they have limited fuel (enough for about one minute of flight) so pilots do sometimes evade them. It is best to fire the missile from as close to the target as you dare, ideally while facing it. If the target is behind, the missile will turn around, but this will waste precious flight time, and give the target ship more time to use ECM if it has it. The missile will detonate on hitting any solid object (including the ship that fired it) but will attempt to avoid such non-target objects if possible. It does not need to hit the target in order to detonate - it may detonate in close proximity and do almost as much damage. Due to an international treaty it will also detonate when it runs out of fuel. A small village was once destroyed by a missile which had been flying through space for months, following the battle in which it was fired.

Mines operate just like missiles, but without drive systems. They need to have an assigned target since they also will detonate in the proximity of that target without necessarily hitting it. Mines are also susceptible to detonation by ECM. Dummy Mines are a relatively recent innovation, and still contain machinery internally in order to fool radar scans, hence their weight. They are also visually indistinguishable from normal mines so, although they are safe to scoop back up again, beware of accidentally scooping a live mine instead, as the scoop mechanism will cause it to detonate.

Energy Bomb


Generally only of use against smaller ships. This causes the main reactors of all small ships' drive systems (within a range of about 100km) to resonate and overload. It is linked to the drive of the ship using it, so will not cause that to detonate. Operated with the **Energy Bomb icon**  on the Weapon Control Panel, or from the keyboard with the B key.

Large and Small Plasma Accelerators


These are very large weapons, usually carried by large naval cruisers and battlestations, and are sometimes carried by large trading ships and passenger liners in the more dangerous regions of space. They are used in the same way as lasers, and take up a gun mounting, but because of their size they cannot be fitted in a turret. After firing, they take a few seconds to recharge. Two sizes are commonly available, imaginatively named "Large" and "Small". Even a Small Plasma Accelerator will destroy a well armed hundred tonne ship with a single shot. The large version has been known to be used as a planetary assault weapon, destroying selected areas of cities from orbit. This has a devastating effect on the local population, because the terrifying noise of the beam cutting through the atmosphere can be heard for hundreds of kilometres, and will deafen anyone unprotected in the vicinity.

Defensive and Other Equipment

ECM System

This destroys all active Mines and Homing Missiles in the vicinity (within about 100km). It is operated with the **ECM icon**  from the Weapon Control Panel, or with the **E key** from the keyboard. Do not be alarmed if it causes interference on your main display.

Naval ECM System

A superior version of the standard ECM system, which can also destroy Smart Missiles, and has a greater range (about 200km). This may also cause interference on your main display. This is operated with the **Naval ECM icon**  from the Weapon Control Panel, or with the **E key**. If both ECM systems are fitted, then Naval ECM is used in preference. The only slight advantage in having both systems fitted is that if the Naval ECM breaks down or is destroyed, then you can use the standard unit.

Automatic Hull Sealing

All hulls have an automatic sealing system, fitted as standard, thanks to Faulcon Hermeseal. It is comprised of two separate layers of resin under high pressure in the hull. When the layers are breached the substances expand and mix to form a very durable foam-like patch. This prevents the whole hull being explosively decompressed from a single shot.

Hull Automatic Repair System

This gradually completely reverses hull damage, but it is so big that only larger ships can have one fitted. See the Shipyard section on page +.

Shield Generator

This will protect against energetic weapons like lasers and missiles. It is not much good with collisions. If a ship that has a Shield Generator is hit by a weapon, the field will glow in a colour depending on the strength of the shield. At full charge, the field will glow a bluish white but will progress through to yellow, orange and finally red as it is discharged. While the shield is active, no damage will get through to the hull. If your ship has shields, they work automatically and the percentage of the charge remaining, if not 100%, will be indicated on the top left of the screen. More than one Shield Generator may be fitted to a ship at once, and their shielding effect is additive.

Energy Booster Unit

This large unit increases the rate that all Shield Generators currently fitted to your ship recharge. Only recommended for larger ships with a large number of Shield Generators, because of its size.

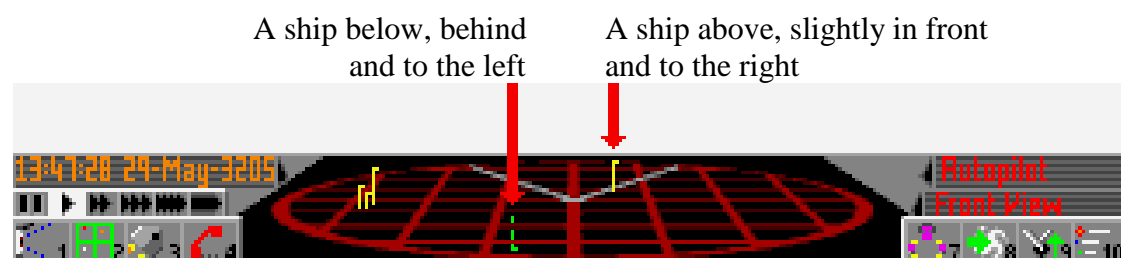
TACTICS AND PLANNING

It is vital to know what your enemy is up to, so you can avoid getting into combat with them. There are several different ways of doing this.

Checking up on the competition



Scanner

This device, usually provided as standard by Faulcon de Lacy, shows the relative positions of ships and other objects in your vicinity. The holographic display shows the other objects as coloured blobs above or below the plane of your ship, with a coloured line drawn to that plane. The plane of your ship is shown as a red circle with a grid on it (seen in perspective when viewed from the pilot's seat), with two lines drawn on it to show the extremity of your front view.






Radar Mapper

This provides you with additional information about your current target, such as the number of Shield Generators it has fitted, their current charge level, and the ship's maximum hyperspace range. It will also check if the ship matches any on the Wanted Criminals list, and if so will show any bounty that is offered. This bounty will be paid into your account automatically, when the destruction of the ship is recorded by your onboard computer. No bounty will be paid for a ship if the Radar Mapper has not first identified it, since proof of identity is needed. To operate the Radar Mapper:


1. Make sure you are in View mode by using the **View icon** (F1) .
2. Target a ship by clicking on it using the left mouse button. If the selected target is not a ship then no information will be shown.
3. Select the **Radar Mapper icon**  on the Weapons Control Panel and information will be displayed at the top right of the headup display on your target until the Radar Mapper is deselected.
4. To deselect this facility, use the icon again.
5. To deselect the target, click away from the ship where there is no potential target.

Hyperspace Cloud Analyser

This device is commonly used by pirates to identify the destination of their quarry, and also by police forces and bounty hunters. If your ship has a greater hyperspace range than the one you are chasing (use the Radar Mapper and your Ship Equipment Inventory page to determine this), then you will arrive at the destination before them. It gives their hyperspace destination and the approximate Galactic Mean Time and date at which they will arrive.

1. Make sure you are in View mode by using the **View icon** (F1) .
2. Target a hyperspace remnant by clicking on it using the left mouse button. If the selected target is not a hyperspace remnant then no information will be shown.
3. Select the **Hyperspace Cloud Analyser icon**  on the Weapons Control Panel and information will be displayed at the top right of the headup display until the Hyperspace Cloud Analyser is deselected.
4. To deselect this facility, use the icon again.
5. To deselect the target, click away from the ship where there is no potential target.
6. To follow the ship, use the **Galactic Map icon** (F2)  to jump to the same destination (see Navigation section page +). As long as you enter hyperspace not too long after your quarry then you will leave hyperspace at a similar position.
7. Once out of hyperspace, use the Stardreamer Time Control (See Navigation section on page +) to wait until the likely time of arrival of your quarry. The Hyperspace Cloud Analyser information is quite accurate, so if the predicted time has been exceeded by about a minute, then your quarry will not arrive. They must have mis-jumped (whether intentionally or not) and there is no way you can find them.

Local Traffic


While docked, you may wish to find out information about the other ships currently in dock with you. To do this select the **Communication icon** (F4) , followed by "Traffic Control Services," and then "Ships in Dock." The list will include neither craft in dry dock nor police and military ships for security reasons.

Scheduled Services

A list of scheduled services of passenger liners and freighters (departures and arrivals) for the following week might be of interest depending on your aims. These tend to be

big, heavily armed ships and you can get the information by selecting "Traffic Control and Services" as above then "Information on Scheduled Services."


Broadcasting messages

While in flight you can hail other ships using the **Communication icon** (F4) . A range of messages for broadcasting will be presented on your headup display. For example, you can demand surrender if you are fortunate enough to be in such a position. If your ship is on the receiving end of aggression you can call for assistance, but there is a risk. Some pirates listen for a call of distress and will home in on it like a spider to a fly. If you have broken down the dilemma is the same, but calling for help may be the only option open to you.

Making a Run For It

You will discover that there are many bigger and more heavily armed ships than yours and a ship to ship fight may be foolish. Faulcon De Lacey do not advocate illegal evasive measures and feel that going down in a blaze of glory is more memorable for your loved one than a prison sentence. If posthumous praise is not appealing, an escape capsule could be your answer.

Escape Capsules

An escape capsule is not fitted as standard and needs to be obtained from the Shipyard (page +). It is not a capsule as such but is a modification that allows your cockpit section to break off as a separate craft, unfortunately leaving any crew members, passengers and cargo behind. It flies to the nearest starport under a cut down autopilot, and can be used only once. For this reason, it comes with an insurance policy which is automatically cashed in for a basic Eagle Long Range Fighter to replace your abandoned ship. The capsule has no weapons or hyperspace facility. You may ask why your enemy isn't going to shoot at you. It is considered to be extremely bad form to shoot at escape capsules because they are much too easy a target, and most pilots realise that some day they may need to use one. It has been known though, that some pilots are not bothered by image and will pick you off anyway. Another problem is ships scooping up escape capsules and selling the occupant into slavery. This is severely frowned upon by both the Elite Federation of Pilots and the Federation itself. To release the capsule, you select the **Escape Capsule icon**  on the Weapons Control Panel, or use the **X** key on the keyboard.

Hyperspace


Jumping into hyperspace is often sufficient to evade pirates, but a pirate with a fast ship may use their Hyperspace Cloud Analyser to chase you into hyperspace and, if they have a faster ship, may even arrive at your destination before you do.

Illegal and Risky Practices

You may notice others committing offences in order to remain alive and we feel compelled to explain their erroneous behaviour in order to discourage you from copying them. One tactic is the highly risky **Hyperspace Mis-jump** and this can be found in the Navigation and Flight section page +. Another is to **jettison cargo** in the hope that any ship following will give up the chase in order to scoop it up. This is explained in the Trade section on page +. Remember - it is illegal to jettison any cargo.

COMBAT AND SERVICE RATINGS

Elite Rating

Your rating as a pilot is displayed if you use the **Inventory icon** (F3) , and cycle through to "Commander Profile". You are given a rating by the Elite Federation of Pilots which is calculated from the number and type of kills recorded by the onboard computer. For example, shooting up a heavily armed ship will amass a large number of points. Many have disapproved of using kills in order to calculate this rating as it can lead to illegality. In older times much store was set by this as you had to be able to fight to survive, so shooting down others was seen as a mark of skill and bravery. Great respect is still held for the rating in the outer systems, where the way of life still reflects that of the past of the inner, now more civilised, systems. For historical reasons therefore, the method of rating has been preserved. The categories are as follows, in order of merit:

- Harmless
- Mostly Harmless
- Poor
- Below Average
- Average
- Above Average
- Competent
- Dangerous
- Deadly
- ELITE

Medals

If homicide is not your scene, medals are awarded for particularly heroic deeds by the Federation or the Empire. They include the humble Certificate of Valour and the highly respected Imperial Celestial Warrior medal. These are also shown on the Commander Profile page of the Inventory.

Military Rank

Both the Federation and the Empire give military ranks for services rendered. An individual can gradually progress up the ranks even from purely mercenary missions, receiving promotions after sustained loyal service. Usually these ranks are mutually exclusive as each of the superpowers does not tolerate its officers working for the other power (though work for the independent worlds is usually allowed).

Legal Rating

Before you start shooting at everything that moves in order to improve your rating, consider your legal status. Data is collected by the three police forces: The Federal Security Service (of the Federation), the Imperial Guard (of the Empire) and Interpol (that of the Independent Systems). The latter was set up after the Federation and Empire became established as superpowers, and the world leaders that wished to remain free of both got together and decided to set up their own police force. This was largely to avoid the independent worlds becoming a dumping ground for criminals. Remember, what you do and who you work for will almost certainly be noticed by someone.

