

STELLAR 7



MANUAL

STELLAR 7™

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Gir Draxon, Supreme Overlord of the evil Arcturan Empire, is preparing to launch an attack on Earth. As Commander of Terran forces assigned to protect the planet, your mission is to reach the Arcturan star system and destroy Draxon before he can assemble his forces and capture Earth.

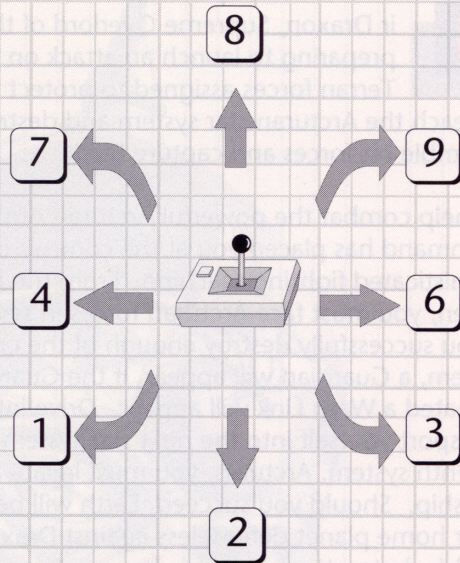
To help combat the powerful Arcturan Armada, Terran High Command has placed you at the controls of the Raven, Earth's most sophisticated fighting machine. From the command seat of the Raven, you must face Arcturan forces in seven different star systems. If you successfully destroy enough of the enemy forces in one star system, a Guardian will appear. If the Guardian is battled and defeated a Warp Link will appear. Drive into the Warp Link to transport yourself into the next star system. Upon reaching the seventh system, Arcturus, you must locate and destroy Gir Draxon's flagship. Should you succeed, Earth will be saved. Failure will leave your home planet defenseless against Draxon's assault and guarantee Earth's destruction!

This manual gives you a complete description of the Raven's awesome power. Refer to the **Capabilities** section to learn all about the best technology that Terran science has to offer.

Also, in the **Strategies** section, Terran designers and engineers have prepared a set of valuable hints and tips to help you gain the best use of the Raven.

The Arcturan Armada contains 12 known enemy vehicles. You can learn about each of them by studying the **Enemy Files** section of the manual. These files contain all of the information Terran High Command has gathered on each Arcturan vehicle. You can also get this information on-screen by selecting **Briefing** from the **Main Menu** before you begin your mission.

The Raven can be controlled by means of keyboard or joystick input. This diagram displays all possible movements and their equivalent keyboard keys or joystick direction.



Power Module activation Hot Keys

Power Module	Keyboard Hot Key
Inviso Cloak	I
Jump Thruster	J
RC Bomb	B
Cat's Eye	C
Eel Shield	E
Super Cannon	S
MP Thruster	T

Joystick Button 1	Fire Cannon
Space Bar	Fire Cannon
Joystick Button 2 (MS-DOS version)	Select Power Module
Tab Key	Select Power Module
Joystick Buttons	
1 & 2 simultaneously (MS-DOS version)	Activate Selected Power
Return Key	Activate Selected Power
F10 Key	Display Preferences Menu
F2 Key	Sound Effects & Music ON/OFF
ALT-S Keys	Sound Effects ON/OFF
ALT-M Keys	Music ON/OFF
ALT-J Keys	Joystick ON/OFF
ALT-C Keys	Joystick Calibration
ALT-D Keys	Mouse ON/OFF
P Key	Pause ON/OFF
Z Key	Zoom ON/OFF
ESC Keys	Abort Mission
ALT-Q Keys	Quit to DOS



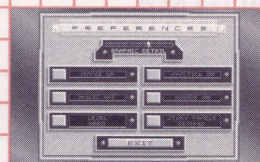
MAIN MENU



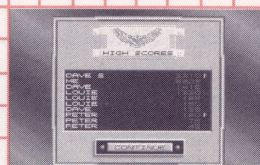
BEGIN



BRIEFING



PREFERENCES



SCORES

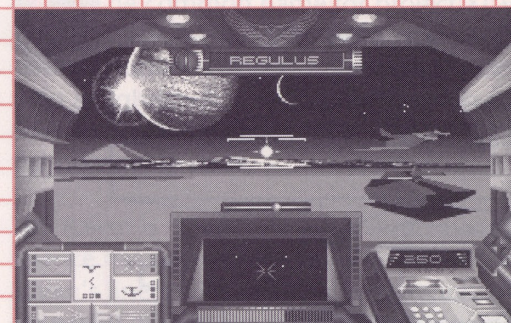
BEGIN:
Starts a mission.

BRIEFING:
An overview of Draxon's forces.

PREFERENCES:
Allows custom tailoring of your mission to suit nearly any experience level or machine speed. **The GRAPHIC DETAIL slider allows you to turn down the amount of detail in the game. This is useful on slower machines when game play speed may be slower.** Difficulty levels determine the number of Power Modules present at the beginning of game play and scoring.

SCORES:
View the top ten Raven master pilots.

EXIT:
Exits to DOS.



RAVEN'S COCKPIT



PREFERENCES



EXIT MISSION



QUIT GAME

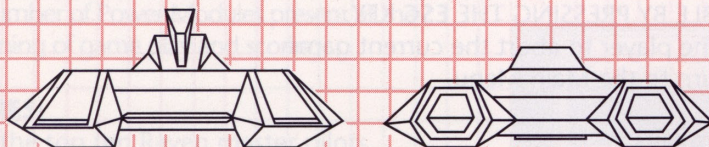
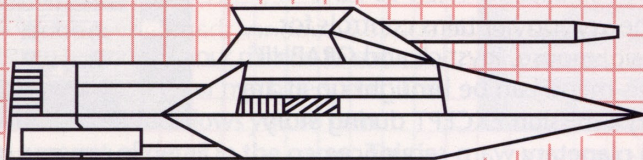
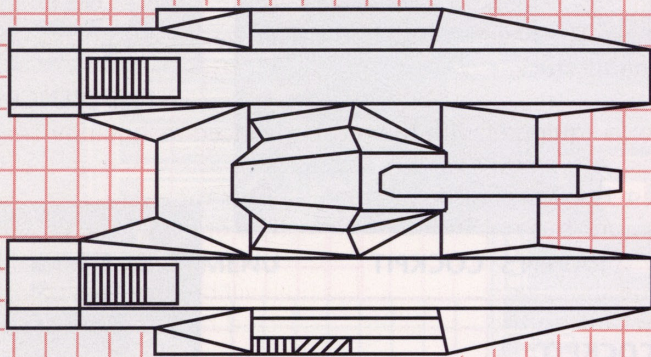
RAVEN'S COCKPIT:
Once in the Raven's cockpit there are several menu options available.

PREFERENCES:
AVAILABLE BY PRESSING THE **F10** KEY. The in-game version contains controls for sound, music, mouse, joystick and GRAPHIC DETAIL. This menu can be brought up at any time during a mission EXCEPT during story panels and planetary warp sequences.

EXIT MISSION:
AVAILABLE BY PRESSING THE **ESC** KEY. Allows the player to abort the current game and return to the Main Menu.

QUIT GAME:
AVAILABLE BY PRESSING THE **ALT-Q** KEYS. Aborts the mission and exits to DOS.

Technical Drawings: XCV AgI-2



The common name for project XCV AgI-2 was originally "The Nighthawk." However, a bad circuit garbled the Inviso Audio feedback, making the noise sound more like a raven than a nighthawk. Everyone involved in the project began to jokingly refer to it as "The Raven." The bad circuit was never replaced, and the new name stuck.

The Raven is equipped with the most advanced technology Terran science has ever assembled. The following is a description of the Raven's finer points and their operation. **This machine is extremely powerful, but it is not indestructible. The energy reserves must never reach total depletion.** Without power, the Raven's shields will fall and the ship's extremely delicate hull will be totally vulnerable. **One direct hit on the Raven's unprotected hull and the craft will explode.**

The Raven is equipped with the completely redesigned Anti-gravity Generator (Agrav Generator). The new Agrav design allows the Raven to sustain a clearance of one-half meter from the ground, permitting the craft to glide over nearly any surface. This ability also allows the Raven to carry heavier defensive weaponry than conventional assault vehicles without a sacrifice of speed.

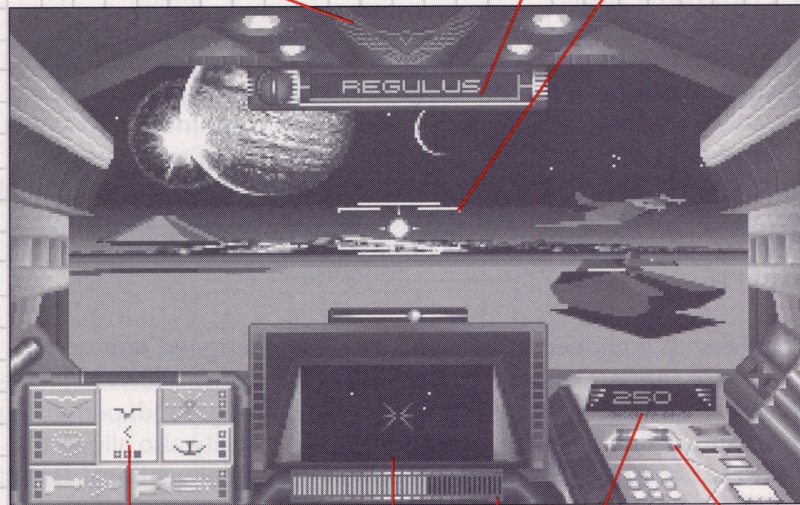
The Raven Cockpit

Inviso Cloak Indicator:

Glowes white while cloaking is active.
Flashes to indicate impending cloaking activation and deactivation.

Current Planetary System

Targeting Ring



Power Module Bank:

Display of:
-Currently active power (highlighted)
-Number of uses remaining for each power (glowing dots in icon).

Radar Screen

Game Score

Energy Level:

When the energy level reaches zero, the Raven's shields will fall.
One hit and she'll blow!

Cannon Ready Indicator:

Red indicates cannon ready.
Blue indicates cannon in reload process.

Standard Issue

PROTONIC SHIELDS.

Standard issue defensive shields, the Protonic units are capable of absorbing almost all forms of energy, including heat, kinetic energy, and radiation. They provide protection against shells, lasers, and high speed collisions. However, each time the shields are hit or impacted the system energy depletes slightly. As stated previously, complete energy depletion will result in shield failure and complete vulnerability. The next hit will be your last. A warning bell will sound when the energy levels go critical.

BI-PHASAL THUNDER CANNON

Standard issue defensive weapon fires shells armed with limited nuclear warheads. Each shell is capable of penetrating .1 meters of armor. The Cannon's fire rate is 2 shells per volley. Between volleys, there is a delay to allow the next 2 shells to be loaded and armed.

RADAR

The Raven is indicated by the stationary dot in the center of the scope and all scanned objects in front of the Raven will appear relative to this central dot. Objects in front of the Raven will appear at the top of the central dot while objects behind the craft will appear below the central dot. The Raven's radar is thermal, motion and electromagnetic sensitive. It can therefore distinguish between land masses, missiles and other vehicles. This also gives the Raven's system an advantage over more traditional radar detectors in that it cannot be fooled by electromagnetic tricks employed by cloaking devices.

ZOOM MAGNIFICATION

This device permits long-range scanning through the viewscreen. It is most useful for identifying distant objects. **Note that Zoom narrows the Raven's field of vision significantly, and should be used only for short periods of time.**

Power Modules

Along with a standard weapons and shield system, the Raven is capable of adapting to any environment by utilizing a modular defensive system in it's design. The craft is capable of acquiring and incorporating weapons systems from a variety of enemy vehicles to strengthen and enhance it's own defensive capabilities. NOTE: Each Power Module can be immediately activated with its keyboard Hot Key.



Hot Key "I"

Inviso Cloak Generator

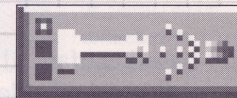
This device is capable of generating a negative electromagnetic field, rendering the Raven invisible to all electromagnetic sensory devises. When active, enemy units will be unable to track the Raven. They will, however, have a fix on the Raven's last visible location. Furthermore, the Raven's location will be temporarily revealed whenever the cannon is fired. The Inviso Cloak Indicator will begin to blink when invisibility is about to deactivate.



Hot Key "E"

Eel Shield

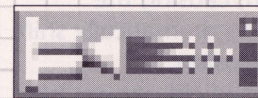
Capable of rechanneling an enemy's shield energy back into itself, the Eel Shield makes ramming an effective defensive maneuver. When contact is made with an alien craft, their shield is reversed, turning the protective field inward, compressing itself and destroying the generating vehicle. Even the most deflective shields will buckle after several contacts.



Hot Key "S"

Super Cannon

Capable of repeated firings without the reload time associated with a Bi-Phasal Thunder Cannon, the Super Cannon is capable of delivering a rapid fire volley of missiles. Its firepower is also more than double that of the Bi-Phasal.



Hot Key "T"

MP Thruster

The MP Thruster gives a short but powerful forward surge for situations when conventional speed will prove insufficient. NOTE: The MP Thruster cannot be used to maneuver in reverse.



Hot Key "C"

Cat's Eye

Though Terran technology is quite advanced, it is theorized that cloaking technology is possessed by others. Therefore, it became important to establish a defensive system for such possible "invisible threats" and the Cat's Eye was born. The system uses a particle tracking radar to reassemble the scrambled rays left by all known cloaking systems. With the Cat's Eye operational, the Raven's pilot will see a computer simulated image of any cloaked vehicle within the main viewing screen.



Hot Key "B"

RC Bomb

A throwback to ancient land based warfare, the RC Bomb is an advance on an old and reliable system. Small but deadly electrical discharge units are released by the Raven's rear deployment panel. These units remain inactive until an electrical field interrupts the RC Bomb's twelve meter scan radius. When the perimeter is broken, the unit explodes with a concentrated electron polarization beam, causing the invader's atomic structure to dramatically shift which leads to nuclear explosion.

NOTE: The Raven's electrical field pattern has been coded into the memory of all RC Bombs carried during your mission. Therefore, you can never accidentally activate a released mine with your own craft.



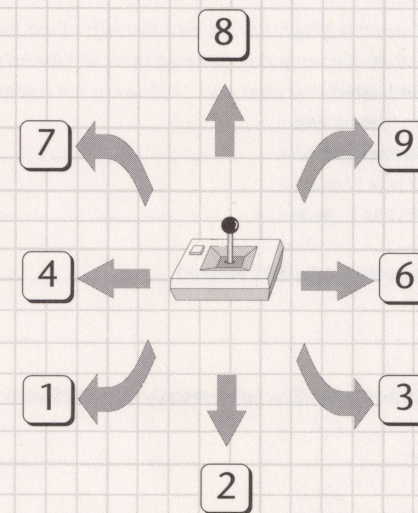
Hot Key "J"

Jump Thruster

The Jump Thruster enables the Raven to complete a sustained vertical lift for several seconds, increasing the Agrav Generator's usual clearance to several hundred feet. When activated immediately after the MP Thruster, the Jump Thruster can enable the Raven to literally "jump" over enemies or obstacles.

NOTE: Directional control will be lost while elevated by the Jump Thruster.

The Raven can be controlled by means of keyboard or joystick input. This diagram displays all possible movements and their equivalent keyboard keys or joystick direction.



The destruction of different enemy groups will yield different Power Modules. Following is a listing of available Modules, their accompanying enemy group and keyboard Hot Keys which instantly select and activate available Modules from the Power Module Bank.

Power Module	Enemy Group	Power Module Keyboard Hot Key
Eel Shields:	3 Prowlers	E
Jump Thrusters:	3 Skimmers	J
RC Bomb:	3 Seekers	B
Cat's Eye:	3 Stalkers	C
Super Cannon:	3 Assault Tanks	S
MP Thruster:	3 Sandsleds	T
Inviso Cloak:	Fuel Depot docking	I

QUICK START

STELLAR 7™

Smart Start™

In an effort to make game installation as painless as possible, we've created Smart Start™. Smart Start™ will automatically determine the graphics, sound, input devices and the speed capability of your computer system to optimize game characteristics. Smart Start™ will also take you step-by-step through the process of installing your game on a hard drive or making a backup copy. Don't be intimidated, just jump in and try it! In the example below it is assumed that you are using floppy drive A; if not please substitute all references to drive A: with the appropriate drive label.

Copying Stellar 7 to a Hard Drive

1. After booting, insert Stellar 7 disk 1 in Drive A:
2. Type A:
3. Type INSTALL
4. Select "Copy Stellar 7 to Hard Drive" from the Smart Start™ menu.
5. Follow the on screen instructions.

Making a Backup Copy

Stellar 7 is not copy protected and it is recommended that you do not play from the original disks. Smart Start™ has a built in facility for helping you to create a backup.

1. After booting, insert Stellar 7 disk #1 in Drive A:
2. Type A:
3. Type INSTALL
4. Select "Create backup copy of Stellar 7" from the Smart Start™ menu.
5. Follow the on screen instructions.

Setting Preferences

Smart Start™ will do its best in deciding what type of computer equipment you have, but sometimes it may make a mistake or you may wish to try other graphics modes, sound configurations, etc. To modify Smart Start™ preferences, follow these steps:

1. **From a floppy disk:** insert Stellar 7 disk #1 and type: a:
From a hard drive: go to the Stellar 7 directory on your hard drive.
3. Type INSTALL
4. Select "Change Graphics" or "Change Sounds/Music" from the Smart Start™ menu.
5. Follow the on screen instructions.

To run the game type "S7" from the Stellar 7 hard disk directory or floppy disk #1.

W

apon deployment is a vital element of the Raven's control system. Depending upon the input device being used, the Raven's weapons can be selected and activated in several ways. Following is a summary of possibilities.

Joystick Button 1	Fire Cannon
Space Bar	Fire Cannon
Joystick Button 2 (MS-DOS version)	Select Power Module
Tab Key	Select Power Module
Joystick Button's 1 & 2 simultaneously (MS-DOS version) ..	Activate Selected Power
Return Key	Activate Selected Power
F10 Key	Display Preferences Menu
F2 Key	Sound Effects & Music ON/OFF
ALT-S Keys	Sound Effects ON/OFF
ALT-M Keys	Music ON/OFF
ALT-J Keys	Joystick ON/OFF
ALT-C Keys	Joystick Calibration
ALT-D Keys	Mouse ON/OFF
P Key	Pause ON/OFF
Z Key	Zoom ON/OFF
ESC Key	Abort Mission
ALT-Q Keys	Quit to DOS

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Problem: My computer has at least 640K of memory, but I receive a message saying there is not enough memory to run STELLAR 7.

Possible Solution: Your computer may be running a "pop up" (TSR) program or it may be connected to a device such as a LAN that uses a portion of the memory. In order to run STELLAR 7, you will need to free up some of the computer's memory or select a different graphics mode from the Smart Start™ (Install) program.

Problem: The joystick is not working properly.

Possible Solution: Press **ALT C** to calibrate the joystick.

Problem: When playing from the keyboard strange things happen such as the cursor moving all around the screen.

Possible Solution: Press **ALT J** to turn off the joystick or **ALT D** to disengage the mouse. Also, joystick calibration, **ALT C**, may alleviate the problem.

Problem: Constantly playing music bugs me, but I still want to hear sound effects.

Possible Solution: Press **ALT M** to turn off the music or select "music off" from one of the two preference screens (**PREFERENCES** from the **MAIN MENU** or **F10** from the cockpit).

Problem: Graphics appear in a mode that I don't want.

Possible Solution: Type **INSTALL** then use Smart Start™ to select the type of graphics you desire.

Problem: When I run the program I get multiple small images or complete garbage on the screen.

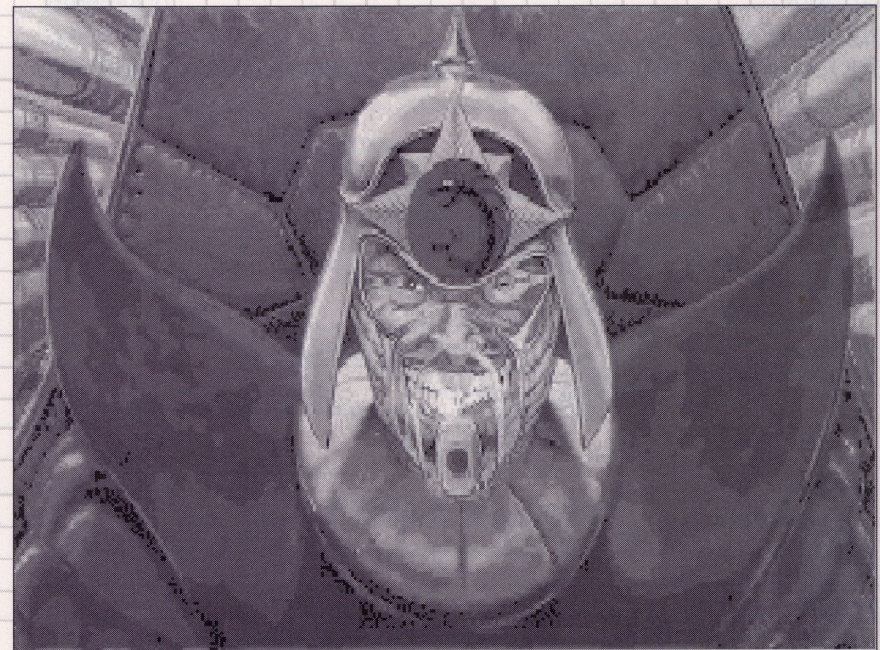
Possible Solution: You are probably using a VGA card which is not 100% register compatible. Select **MCGA** as the graphics option from Smart Start™

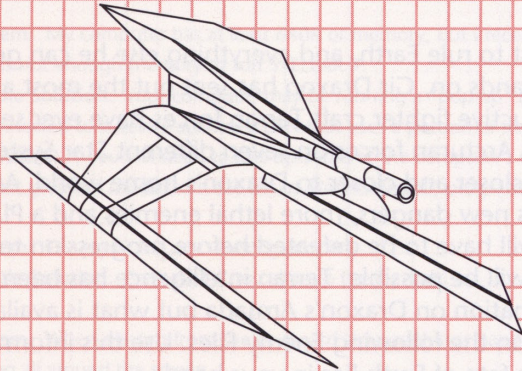
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(209) 683-8989.
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ENEMY FILES

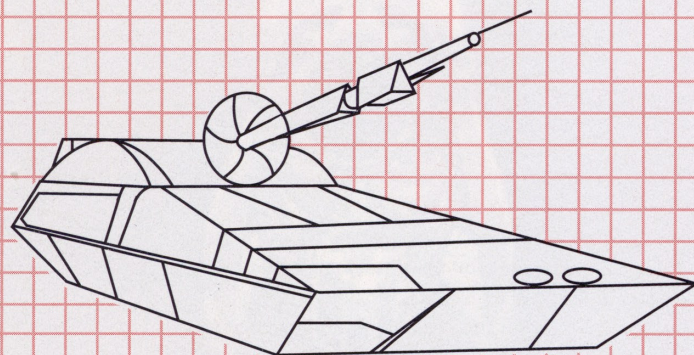
In his quest to rule Earth, and everything else he can get his metallic hands on, Gir Draxon has sent out the most advanced and destructive fighter craft Terran forces have ever seen. You will battle with his Arcturan forces on seven different Star Systems, making your way closer and closer to Draxon's home world, Arcturus. Each System holds new dangers, more lethal enemies and a Planetary Guardian which will have to be defeated before progression to the next Planetary System will be possible. Terran intelligence has been able to gather little information on Draxon's Armada but what is available is presented to you on the following Enemy Files. Use this information well and know that the fate of Earth lies in your hands...





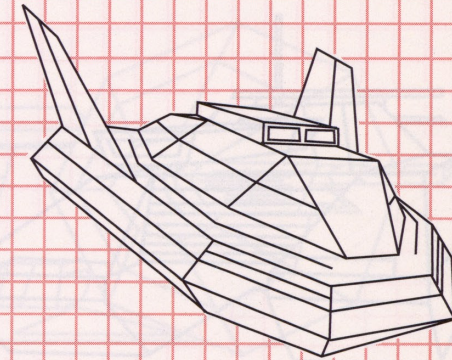
SANDSLED

Armament: Light laser 2 shots/round
Armour: 0.1 meters
Speed: 200 kph
 Runners restrict Sandsled to operate only on planets with a sandy or icy surface.



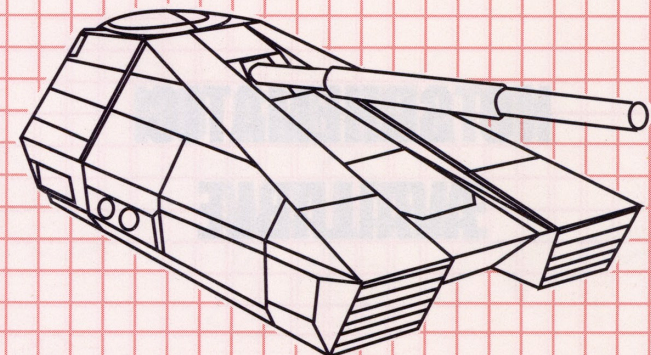
LASER TANK

Armament: Medium laser 1 shot/round
Armour: 0.2 meters
Speed: 128 kph



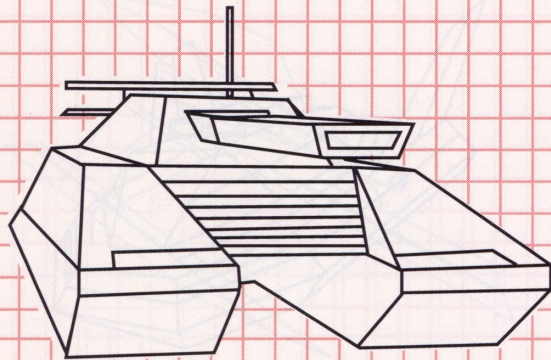
HOVERCRAFT

Armament: Light cannon 1 shot/round
Armour: 0.1 meters
Speed: 192 kph
 The Hovercraft is operational only on planets with an atmosphere.



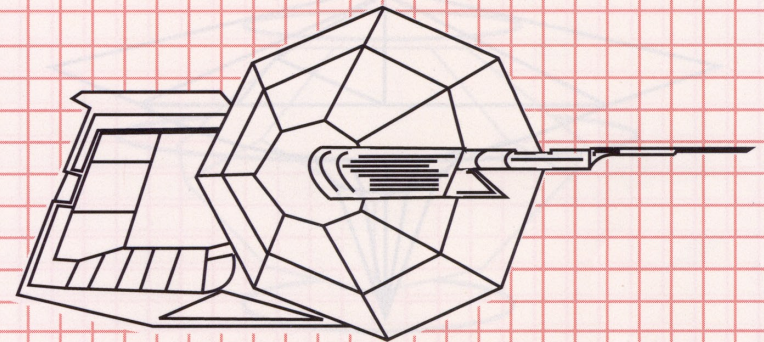
PROWLER

Armament: Light cannon 1 shot/round
Armour: 0.2 meters
Speed: 160 kph
 Beware! The Prowler is known to possess Eel Shields.



ASSAULT TANK

Armament: Medium cannon 2 shots/round
 Armour: 0.3 meters
 Speed: 120 kph



LASER BATTERY

Armament: High laser 2 shots/round
 Armour: 0.2 meters
 Speed: 0 kph
 Capable of long distance firing with a 360 degree turning radius.

**NO SCHEMATIC
 AVAILABLE**

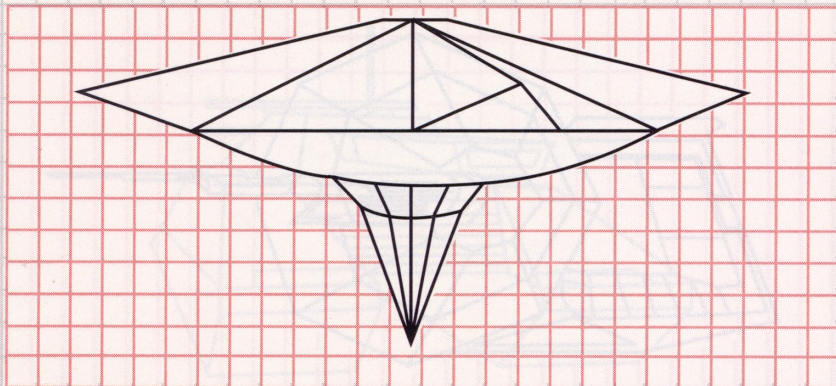
STALKER

Armament: ?
 Armour: ?
 Speed: ?
 No info. Some reports indicate possible Inviso Cloak capability.

**NO SCHEMATIC
 AVAILABLE**

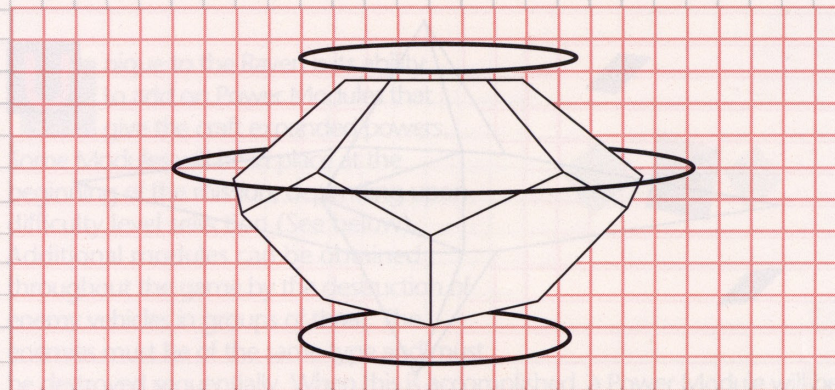
ASSAULT CANNON

Armament: Heavy Cannon ?
 Armour 0.1
 Speed: 0 kph



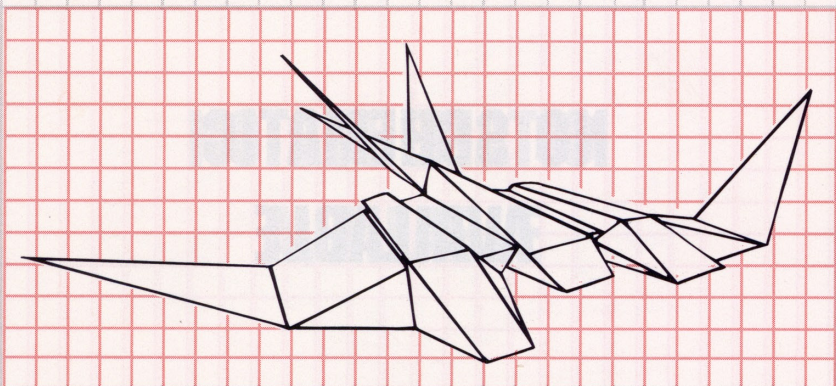
PULSAR

Armament: Laser? ?
Armour: ?
Speed: 0 kph
 Little is known about this recently deployed Arcturan robot unit.



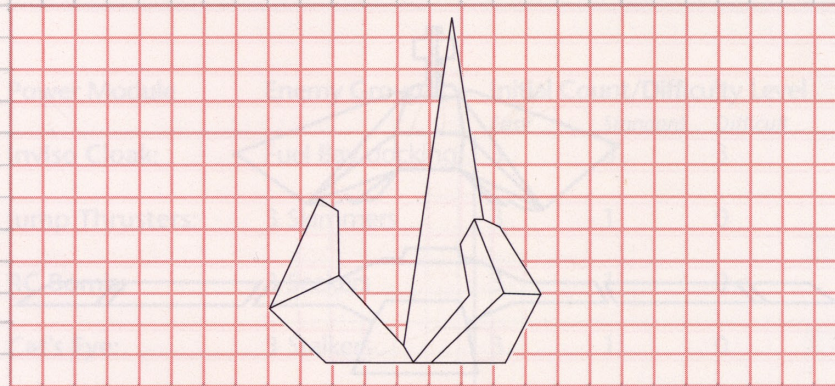
SEEKER

Armament: Fission bomb n/a shots/round
Armour: 0.1 meters
Speed: ??
 Seekers "home in" on their intended targets and detonate on contact.



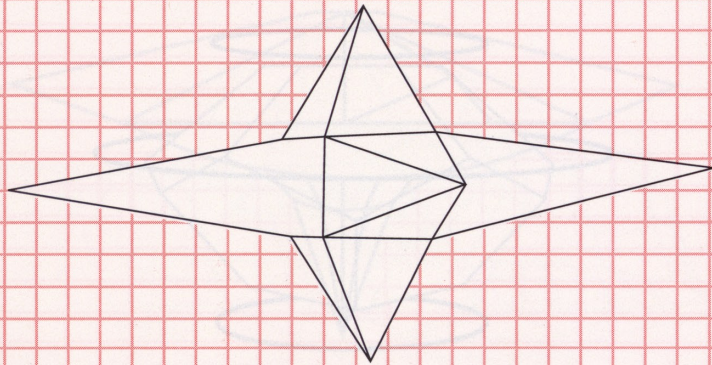
SKIMMER

Armament: Light cannon 1 shot/round
Armour: 0.1 meters
Speed: 240 kph



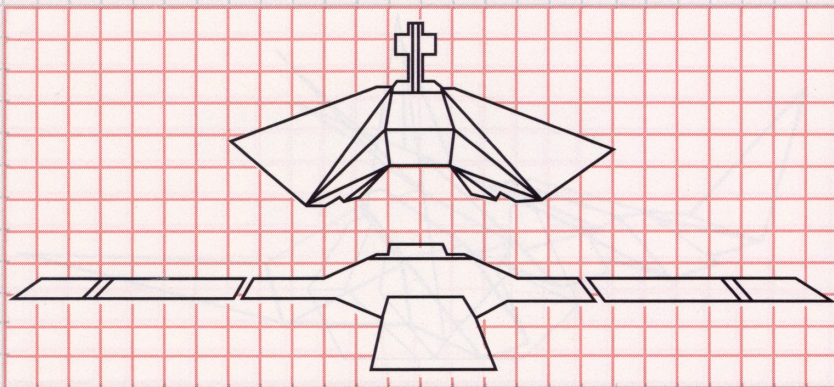
OBSTACLE

Obstacles will obstruct movement and block shells and lasers. They may appear in different forms from one star system to another.



WARP LINK

The Warp Link appears only after the Planetary Guardians have been destroyed. The links will take you to the next Star System.



FUEL BAY

Docking with a Fuel Bay will completely replenish the Raven's energy levels as well as bring the count of Inviso Cloak Modules to full.
NOTE: While cloaked the Raven cannot activate the Fuel Bay's docking system.

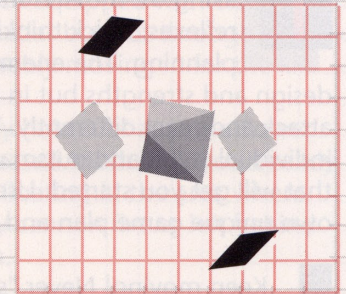
U

nique to the Raven is its ability to add on Power Modules that give the craft expanded powers.

Some Modules will be in place at the beginning of the mission, depending upon difficulty level selection (See below).

Additional modules can be obtained throughout the game by the destruction of enemy vehicles in groups of three. The enemies must be of the same type and must

be destroyed sequentially. When this is accomplished, a Power Module will be released. The Raven can collect released Modules by simply driving into them.



The destruction of different enemy groups will yield different Power Modules. Following is a listing of available Modules, their accompanying enemy group and the number the Raven begins with for varying difficulty levels.

Power Module	Enemy Group	Initial Count/Difficulty Level		
		Easy	Standard	Difficult
Inviso Cloak:	Fuel Bay docking	3	3	3
Jump Thrusters:	3 Skimmers	3	1	0
RC Bomb:	3 Seekers	3	1	0
Cat's Eye:	3 Stalkers	3	1	0
Super Cannon:	3 Assault Tanks	3	1	0
MP Thruster:	3 Sandsleds	3	1	0
Eel Shields:	3 Prowlers	3	1	0

Taking on the Arcturan Armada and winning will take sharp reflexes, quick thinking, practice, and above all, strategic planning. The enemies you will face are unique not only in design and strengths but in intelligence and tactics. Each enemy will attack and react differently. You must become familiar with their individual styles and outsmart your opponent. Following are a few tips that will get you started. Use them as building blocks to develop your own unique game plan and techniques.

- Keep moving! Never "sit and spin" while trying to get an enemy into your sights. Always remember that if you're trying to line up an enemy for the kill the enemy is probably doing the same thing to you.
- Never go "face-to-face" with an enemy. Such linear thinking will make you an easy target, placing you in the direct line of fire.
- Use your weapons if you need them. Conserving limited powers is only effective if you're around to use them.
- Learn the combinations of enemy destruction associated with the Power Modules. Knowing which vehicles to take out to get a specific power can make all the difference in desperate situations.
- Remember the locations of Fuel Bays and don't forget that they cannot be docked with when the Raven is cloaked.
- Look for weaknesses in the Planetary Guardians. Every Achilles has his heel.
- Learn to "lead" or shoot ahead of the enemy if they are moving rapidly at a distance. Anticipate how long it will take your shell to travel the distance of the enemy. Next, decide where the enemy will be in that amount of time and fire at that location.

- Remember that some enemies are also equipped with cloaking devices. If you can see a vehicle on Radar but not through the viewscreen, they're cloaked and probably moving in for the kill.
- Keep in mind that the Raven can only hold 3 of any one Power Module at a time. Wait to collect released Modules if you already have a full supply... they will remain floating in the area where released until collected, destroyed by cannon fire or left behind after warping to another Star System.
- Remember that the Story Panels which connect Star Systems can be turned off (**Main Menu Preferences**), skipped (pressing **ESC** during Panel Sequences) or fast forwarded (pressing **Space Bar** during Panel Sequences).
- As a convenience, a Continue feature is available. When Continue is used, you will begin on the same Star System as when your mission ended. You will have a full energy supply and the same Power Modules that you ended with but your score will be reset to zero.

The number of Continues available is dependent upon the difficulty level.

On **EASY** level you can continue 2 times.

On **STANDARD** level you can continue 1 time.

On **DIFFICULT** level Continue is deactivated.

NOTE: The Continue feature will reset your score to zero upon each use, so use it sparingly!

TECHNICAL HELP (MS DOS ONLY)

If you are having problems with a game disk, try these suggestions before assuming the disk is faulty:

If you receive any of the following messages:

1. "Insert Disk (#)" when you have already inserted that diskette, or have installed the game on your hard disk.
2. "Unable to Chain" or if the game locks up at any point.
3. "Disk Error".

Then you may have memory resident programs loaded into RAM. You will need to boot your system from a diskette containing your operating system only. Follow these instructions to create a "Dynamix Boot Disk."

FORMATTING FROM A HARD DRIVE

A) Place a blank disk in drive a.

B) At the C prompt, type: **format a:/s**

NOTE: If your **a:** drive is a high density drive and you are using double density disks, you will need to type: **format a:/4/s** (for 5.25" disks) or type: **format a:/n:9/s** (for 3.5" disks).

FORMATTING FROM A DISKETTE DRIVE

A) Place your DOS disk in drive a.

B) At the **a:** prompt, type: **format a:/s** (be sure to switch to a blank disk when prompted by the FORMAT program.)

NOTE: If your **a:** drive is a high density drive and you are using double density disks, you will need to type: **format a:/4/s** (for 5.25" disks) or type: **format a:/n:9/s** (for 3.5" disks).

C) Press [ENTER]

D) Respond to the DOS prompts.

Now you should create a CONFIG.SYS file on your Dynamix Boot Disk, with a files=20 statement. Follow these instructions to create this file:

A) Type: **a:** [ENTER]

B) Type: **copy con config.sys** [ENTER]

C) Type: **files=20** [ENTER]

D) Press [F6] [ENTER]

You should see the message: "**1 File(s) copied**". You will now have to re-boot your computer with your new Dynamix Boot Disk in the drive.

Turn your computer off then on or press [Ctrl-Alt-Del].

If booting your computer with your new Dynamix Boot Disk doesn't clear up the problem you are encountering, call (209) 683-8989 for technical help. Our technical staff will be happy to help you.

TECHNICAL HELP (ALL SYSTEMS)

Technical assistance is only a telephone call away. Call (209) 683-8989, 8 A.M.- 5 P.M. Pacific Time for convenient, person-to-person service, or if you prefer, you may request assistance by mail. If you choose to write to us with your request, please state your computer type and the nature of your problem.

If you find that you need to send for replacement diskettes, send the original disk 1 in the size you need (3.5" or 5.25") to:

Sierra On-Line
P.O. Box 485
Coarsegold, CA 93614
Attention: RETURNS

Be sure to include a note stating your computer type, and the size of diskette you need (5.25" or 3.5").

We will gladly replace your program free of charge for the first 90 days of ownership (please enclose a copy of your dated sales receipt with your request). After 90 days there is a \$5.00 charge for 5.25" diskettes, and a \$10.00 charge for 3.5" diskettes.

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