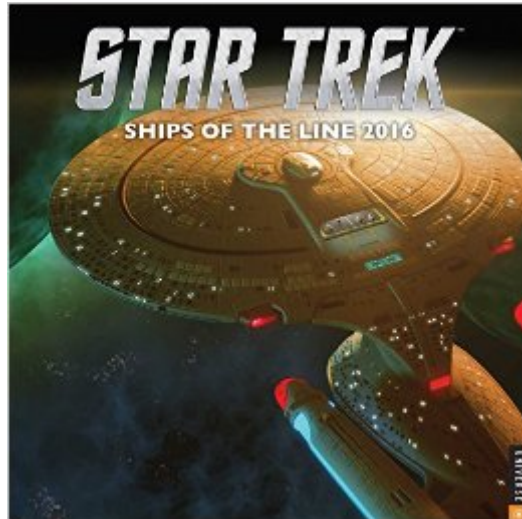


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Star Trek 2016 Wall Calendar: Ships Of The Line



Synopsis

A longtime favorite among hardcore Trekkers and sci-fi fans, Star Trek: Ships of the Line 2016 Wall Calendar is a unique collectors addition celebrating the landmark 50th anniversary and gives aficionados something they cannot get elsewhere - spectacular original illustrations showcasing the franchise's most famous starships and vessels. The characteristic horizontal format maximizes detail in the up-close views of each ship and puts the viewer right in the center of the iconic moments from Star Trek history, but remains a practical addition to any workspace.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (56 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I've bought this calendar since its inception and every year I eagerly look forward to it. Anyone who's familiar with SotL knows that it's less of a calendar and more of an annual art showcase. In fact, I don't even hang my copies. I keep them on a bookshelf. 2016 seems to be a mixed bag as far as quality, and I don't mean in the sense that I have an issue with what ships were chosen or which series get represented, I literally mean image quality. About half the images are well done and high resolution. The other half? Well... Some images appear grainy or run through too many filters. For January (a CG image of two Enterprises next to a star) one of the ships has highly visible surface distortions. A couple other images appear to be photos of model kits photoshopped over a background, yet the two don't blend very well or just look out of scale. In fact, the cover itself is a photo of Diamond Select Toys' Enterprise D with a background and the main shuttlebay photoshopped in. Honestly, it LOOKS like exactly what it is: a photo of an 18 inch toy run through Photoshop... and therein lies my problem with this iteration of the calendar. In past years SotL was a

fantastic showcase of high-quality "what if?" images that, in most cases, looked as if they could have been pulled from some unseen or lost Star Trek episode. The quality that went into that sort of suspension of disbelief seems to have fallen this year. I don't mind shots of models, I mean... that's what the "real" Enterprise is after all, but when the finished product looks like someone dropped a toy into Photoshop, made some selections and added the "outer glow" filter, it's bound to show to some degree.

Ships of the Line is a long running Star Trek calendar series, with a new scene of Star Trek spacecraft for every month of the year. A word to the unfamiliar, an SotL calendar is NOT an ordinary wall calendar! There are no boxes for writing in appointments and events, the art takes up the full spread of each page. Only a small box is set aside to display the days of the week and the dates of the month. (This is a relatively new feature for SotL calendars, many earlier calendars just had the numbers for the days of the month in two long lines...!) The calendar has more in common with a coffee-table art book than a wall calendar. What I look for in SotL images, besides interesting starship designs and compositions, are rendering and image processing techniques which disguise the fact that the images are computer generated. It's very easy to produce imagery that looks flat, with plain untextured surfaces, hard-edged shadows, perfectly smooth gradients, and perfectly crisp geometry. But the real world doesn't look perfect: camera lenses introduce lens flare, digital cameras have background noise, bright areas cause overexposure, metal has grain, shadows have soft edges and are often indistinct, everything has texture. Ironically, the way to make computer rendered images look more realistic is to intentionally introduce flaws (see Wall-E and its production featurettes for an interesting rundown on this)! Other problems that can pop out in a computer generated image include: mismatch between the lighting and colour of a ship versus the scene its set in, and jarring changes in the level of detail (e.g. highly detailed components on the surface of a ship, where the hull is a flat colour).

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