Starship Identification Designation Codes

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The Identification Designation Code

Each individual space-faring vessel, no matter what it is, be it a free trade vessel, military fighter, or even a Generation-ship, all of them have one thing in common; that of an unique Identification Designation Code, or IDC, that details the specifics of any ship registered. The hull class of the ship, what nation the ship originates from, what service the ship falls under, and even if it is a variation of a base model can all be found within the IDC of the ship.

With this document I hope to detailed, reliable, and simple method to create unique and varied ID designations for all kinds of space vessels. As an example I will be using the Star Drive setting to show how this method actually works and looks it when complete.

Initial Setup

The initial setup of the Identification Designation Code is composed of five separate parts, excluding the name of the ship.

1. The Nation or Star System the ship belongs to.
2. The Service of the ship, be it civilian, military, or an independent vessel.
3. The code for the Hull Class of the vessel.
4. The unique number code for each individual ship.
5. The last step is an unofficial one, the name of the ship. The name of the ship isn't always listed within the IDC itself, but many do include the ship's name when sending their IDC to their destinations when beginning their docking procedures.

Extras to the IDC

Some vessels might have extra numbers or letters tagged on to represent the different types and variations of a particular model. Others might have some numbers to represent the squadron or fleet they belong to or even what specific task the ship was originally made to do, like a ship built for mining asteroid belts, or even designate if the ship is in the experimental stages of development.

Table 1A: Stellar Nation IDC Tag

IDC Tag	Stellar Nation
AO	Austrin-Ontis Unlimited
BR	Borealis Republic
GC	Galactic Concord
HC	Haitre Community
IN	Insight
ND	Nariac Domain
OL	Orion League
OT	Orlamu Theocracy
RC	Rignumor Star Consortium
SM	Star Mech Collective
TE	Thuldan Empire
US	Union of Sol
VC	Voidcorp
XX	Independent

Table 1B: Verge System IDC Tag

IDC Tag	Verge System
AE	Aegis
AL	Algemron
AR	Argos
COR	Corrivale
COU	Coulomb
END	Endomar
HS	Hammer's Star
IG	Ignatius
KA	Karnath
LU	Lucullus
MA	Mantebron
OB	Oberon
PT	Ptolemy
RI	Rinstoke
TC	T'sa Cluster
TEN	Tendril
TER	Terivine
TY	Tychus
VI	Vieron

Working with the IDC

Now we will take a look at each individual parts that make up the IDC and apply them to the Star Drive setting step-by-step. First up is the IDC tags for the various Stellar Nations and Verge systems.

1. Home System: Each Stellar Nation and Verge system has their own particular IDC tag. Below is a table showing each of their particular IDC tag.

Those vessels who either don't belong, reject, or otherwise independent of the Stellar Nations often use the IDC tag of XX in place of the normal tags. It has been used so much so that it has unofficially the tag for any independent ship. Those that are outside the Stellar Nations or wanted by authorities often provide false IDC registrations or try to completely avoid such situations that require them.

2. Service: This part shows which Service the ship belongs to, be it civilian, military, or an independent. With further extrapolation, this could be expanded to include a variety of different areas, like public transportation vessels, merchant ships, private vessels, etc.

3. Hull Class: The next step is the Hull Class. This takes into account the size and design of the hull of the ship. With such a vast range of hull classes, each is given a separate code composed of a three-digit number.

4. Number Code: The final step is a six-digit (or longer) set of random numbers that is unique to each individual ship. In no situation will there ever be two ships with the same IDC Number Code. And because this is a random set of numbers, it can be used indefinitely by increasing the amount of numbers used within the IDC.

Table 2: Service IDC Tag

IDC Tag	Service
AR	Armed Forces
NA	Naval Forces
MA	Marines
AF	Air Force
SF	Space Force
RE	Reserves
DF	Defense Forces
CV	Civilian
XX	Independent

Table 3A: Civilian Class IDC Tag

Civilian Classes	IDC Tag	Hull
Launch-class	000	Launch
Courier-class	005	Courier
Trade-class	010	Trader
Light-class	015	Light Freighter
Transport-class	020	Transport
Medium-class	025	Medium Freighter
Clipper-class	030	Medium Transport
Tanker-class	035	Tanker
Liner-class	040	Liner
Heavy-class	045	Heavy Transport
Super-class	050	Super-Freighter
Colony-class	055	Colony Transport

Table 3B: Military Class IDC Tag

Military Classes	IDC Tag	Hull
Fighter-class	060	Fighter
Cutter-class	065	Cutter
Scout-class	070	Scout
Gunboat-class	075	Attack
Escort-class	080	Escort
Corvette-class	085	Corvette
Frigate-class	090	Frigate
Destroyer-class	095	Destroyer
Cruiser-class	100	Light Cruiser
Armor-class	105	Heavy Cruiser
Battle-class	110	Battlecruiser
Attack-class	115	Battleship
Fleet-class	120	Fleet Carrier
Dreadnought-class	125	Dreadnought
Carrier-class	130	Super-Carrier
Capital-class	135	Capital Ship
Fortress-class	140	Fortress Ship

Full IDC Example

Now we take a look at a fully formed IDC registration number on the Galactic Concord Heavy Cruiser known as the 'Betty-Bell'. Below is a breakdown of the IDC of the Betty-Bell.