

= Mon Calamari cruiser =

Mon Calamari cruisers are starships in the fictional Star Wars universe . These starships were first depicted in Return of the Jedi as part of the Rebel Alliance fleet that attacks the second Death Star . Industrial Light and Magic designed the vessels to visually contrast the Imperial Star Destroyers . Various Mon Calamari cruisers also appear in literature and video games of the Star Wars expanded universe . Replicas , toys and other depictions of the ships have been released by several merchandise companies .

= = Origin and design = =

Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) created two Mon Calamari cruiser designs : the cylindrical Home One command ship and a " winged " model identified in the Expanded Universe as the Liberty , which would have its wings removed and thrusters modified to portray another subtype . The ships were designed to be as aesthetically different from the Imperial Star Destroyers as possible , although the filming crew disliked the " pickle ships " due to the models ' unflattering angles . The ships ' design precluded ILM 's modelmakers from kitbashing other models to create the ships ; the model was largely vacuformed . Internal neon lights provided lighting , and detail was painted on by using the second Death Star model 's exposed framework as a makeshift frisket .

= = Depiction = =

According to Expanded Universe material , the peaceful Mon Calamari converted their passenger liners into warships to support the rebellion against the Galactic Empire . Expanded Universe texts state that the ships are crewed almost entirely by Mon Calamari due to the ships ' Mon Calamari @-@ oriented controls and interface . The primary opponent of Mon Calamari cruisers are the Imperial Star Destroyers . Although Mon Calamari cruisers are roughly the same size as most Imperial Destroyers , in head @-@ to @-@ head engagements the Mon Calamari cruisers are usually at a disadvantage , due to their thinner armor . Even so , Mon Calamari cruisers are still a formidable threat to the Imperial fleet ; their large numbers of fighter squadrons , modular weapons systems and overlapping shields make them ideal for hit @-@ and @-@ run attacks on Imperial ships , bases , and military outposts . In Return of the Jedi , Admiral Ackbar (Timothy M. Rose) leads the Rebels during the Battle of Endor from the Mon Calamari cruiser Home One ; although that ship survives , the Death Star 's superlaser destroys other Mon Calamari cruisers , including the Liberty . The franchise 's books , comics , and video games describe and depict other Mon Calamari cruisers and successor designs , such as the Mediator @-@ class battle cruisers and Viscount @-@ class Star Defenders in R.A. Salvatore 's Vector Prime .

= = Merchandise = =

A 1994 Micro Machines three @-@ pack included a winged Mon Calamari cruiser toy , and a 1996 three @-@ pack included the other variety . Hasbro in 2003 planned to release a Mon Calamari cruiser as part of its Action Fleet collection but they cancelled the line before producing it . Decipher and Wizards of the Coast published Mon Calamari cruiser cards for the Star Wars Customizable Card Game and Star Wars Trading Card Game , respectively . In 2006 , Wizards of the Coast created a Mon Calamari Star Defender miniature as part of its Star Wars Miniatures Starship Battles game . Mon Calamari cruisers are player @-@ controllable units in LucasArts ' Empire at War real @-@ time strategy .