

= TIE fighter =

TIE fighters are fictional starfighters in the Star Wars universe . Propelled by twin ion engines ( hence the TIE acronym ) , TIE fighters are fast , fragile starfighters produced by Sienar Fleet Systems for the Galactic Empire . TIE fighters and other TIE craft appear in Star Wars films , television shows , and throughout the Star Wars expanded universe . Several TIE fighter replicas and toys , as well as a TIE flight simulator , have been produced and sold by merchandise companies .

= = Origin and design = =

Industrial Light & Magic 's ( ILM ) Colin Cantwell created the concept model that established the TIE fighter 's ball @-@ cockpit and hexagonal panels design for Star Wars ( 1977 ) . Star Wars creator George Lucas liked the basic design consisting of two panels connected by a stick with a ball @-@ shaped cockpit , but the Cantwell 's concept had few details . Joe Johnston created additional details , such as the cockpit window and the attachment points between the solar panels and the hull .

Initially given a blue color scheme , the TIE fighter models for the first film were grey to better film against a bluescreen ; TIE fighters in *The Empire Strikes Back* ( 1980 ) and *Return of the Jedi* ( 1983 ) shifted back to being a muted blue . Sound designer Ben Burtt created the distinctive TIE fighter sound effect by combining an elephant call with a car driving on wet pavement . Combat scenes between TIE fighters and the Millennium Falcon and Rebel Alliance X @-@ wing fighters in Star Wars were meant to be reminiscent of World War II dogfight footage ; editors used World War II air combat clips as placeholders while Industrial Light & Magic completed the movie 's special effects . Darth Vader 's distinct TIE fighter in Star Wars was designed to make it instantly recognizable , and the TIE interceptors developed for Jedi were designed to look fast , deadly , and frightening .

The Jedi starfighter , created for *Revenge of the Sith* ( 2005 ) , was designed to bridge the appearance of the Jedi starfighter in *Attack of the Clones* ( 2002 ) and the TIE fighter design from the original trilogy . The V @-@ wing starfighter , seen at the end of *Revenge of the Sith* , also makes the distinctive TIE fighter sound when flying by a Star Destroyer . Dark Horse Comics ' Sean Cooke designed the TIE predator for *Star Wars : Legacy* ( 2006 ) , set 130 years after the events of Star Wars , to appear both reminiscent of and more advanced than the original TIE fighter .

Designers for *The Force Awakens* ( 2015 ) had numerous discussions about how much to " update " the TIE fighter for the first sequel film set 30 years after *Return of the Jedi* . They retained the starfighter 's design but altered its aesthetic to suggest improvements to the vessel 's manufacturing process and materials .

= = Depiction = =

Star Wars literature states that Sienar Fleet Systems manufactures TIE fighters and most TIE variants . TIE fighters ' solar panels power a twin ion engine ( TIE ) system that accelerates gases at a high speed along almost any vector , affording the ships tremendous speed and maneuverability . Described as lacking a hyperdrive , life support , or shield generators , the fragile TIE fighters are deployed in large numbers from bases or larger ships ; a Star Destroyer carries a wing of 72 various TIE craft . Expanded Universe material holds that TIE fighter pilots , who undergo intense physical and psychological testing , are trained to be intensely loyal to Emperor Palpatine and the Empire , willing to sacrifice themselves and their wingmates to accomplish their mission . TIE pilots were seen as expendable assets , as it was far cheaper to manufacture a great deal of standardized spacecraft in overwhelming numbers than it was to fully equip the craft . Although Expanded Universe material often describes TIE fighters as lacking an ejection seat , the player can eject from TIE craft in LucasArts ' TIE Fighter flight simulator . During the events of *The Force Awakens* , the First Order sees the value in its TIE pilots and equips its TIE fighters with shields to protect their

occupants . A TIE fighter stolen by Poe Dameron and Finn in The Force Awakens has an ejection seat , allowing both characters to survive a crash .

== Other TIE craft ==

In addition to the TIE fighter , a variety of other TIE craft appear throughout the films . Darth Vader flies a TIE Advanced in Star Wars . The Empire Strikes Back introduces a TIE shuttle and TIE bombers , which ferry Captain Needa ( Michael Culver ) to Darth Vader 's Super Star Destroyer and bomb asteroids in the hunt for the Millennium Falcon , respectively . Both TIE craft have a design that stems from an unused " TIE boarding craft " concept developed for A New Hope . The TIE bomber 's double @-@ hull design led ILM 's modelmakers to dub the ship a " double chili dog " fighter . TIE interceptors ? faster TIE fighters with dagger @-@ shaped wings and four laser cannons ? appear at various points in Return of the Jedi . Two scales of TIE interceptor models were used during filming . The Force Awakens features TIE / FO starfighters that have deflector shields and special operations TIE / SF fighters with heavier weapons , a hyperdrive , and shields . " Flatter , fang @-@ like " TIE Striker interceptors will appear in Rogue One ( 2016 ) .

Additionally , LucasArts Star Wars video games introduce several TIE variants , such as the TIE Hunter starfighter in Rogue Squadron III and the TIE Mauler surface vehicle in Empire at War . The TIE Advanced ( nicknamed " Avenger " in @-@ game ) and TIE Defender ? heavily upgraded derivatives of previous craft seen in the Star Wars universe ? first appear in TIE Fighter as player @-@ piloted craft . The plot of Rebel Assault II revolves around destroying the Empire 's ability to manufacture the cloaking TIE Phantom starfighter , and a campaign in X @-@ Wing Alliance centers on destroying experimental remote @-@ controlled TIE fighters . Star Wars Rebels saw the introduction of another TIE Advanced model used by certain high @-@ ranking Imperials .

Star Wars literature also introduces TIE varieties . Corran Horn flies a TIE clutch in I , Jedi and TIE raptors attack Rogue Squadron in Solo Command . TYE wings ? TIE fighter and Y @-@ wing hybrids ? appear both in I , Jedi and Rogue Squadron : Masquerade . Dark Horse 's Dark Empire introduces both the droid @-@ piloted TIE / D and the TIE crawler " century tank " . West End Games ' roleplaying sourcebooks introduce varieties that include the TIE / fc fire @-@ control support ship , the TIE / gt ground @-@ attack fighter , the TIE / rc reconnaissance vessel , and the TIE scout .

== Cultural impact ==

A TIE fighter model used in filming the climax of Star Wars sold at auction for \$ 350 @,@ 000 . Fans built a 16 @-@ foot @-@ by @-@ 20 @-@ foot , 1 @,@ 000 @-@ pound TIE fighter float to commemorate Star Wars ' thirtieth anniversary as part of the 2007 Crystal Lake Gala Parade . A Wired editor 's creation of a TIE fighter model out of Starbucks cups and stirrers prompted the magazine to create a contest for its readers to submit their own art out of similar Starbucks material. io9 mocked the variety of TIE fighters in the franchise , listing four TIE models on its list of the eleven " silliest " Star Wars ships .

Kenner released TIE fighter and TIE interceptor toys during the original Star Wars trilogy 's theatrical release , and Kenner 's die @-@ cast TIE bomber is a rare collector 's item . Hasbro also released TIE fighter , TIE bomber , and TIE interceptor toys . Both Kenner and Hasbro also manufactured TIE fighter pilot action figures . Lego manufactured TIE fighter , TIE bomber , TIE interceptor , TIE defender , and TIE advanced models . One of eight Lego mini @-@ kit vehicles released in 2002 is a TIE advanced , and the pieces to all eight can be combined to create a TIE bomber . Lucasfilm members had access to a limited @-@ edition mini @-@ kit TIE fighter . Decipher and Wizards of the Coast published various TIE starfighter and TIE @-@ related cards for the Star Wars Customizable Card Game and Star Wars Trading Card Game , respectively . In 2012 , Fantasy Flight Games released Star Wars : X @-@ Wing Miniatures Game , a miniatures game with pre @-@ painted and to scale miniature X @-@ wings and TIE fighters . In 1994 , LucasArts released the TIE Fighter flight simulator , which casts the player as an Imperial pilot flying a variety

of TIE starfighters . TIE starfighters and their variants are also playable in third- or first @-@ person spectives in several Star Wars titles .