

STAR COMMANDER



Welcome to Star Commander

Star Commander is a card game of exploration, commerce, and conflict. In a single game, you are racing against other would-be empires vying for control of star systems, in order to grow your own influence across the galaxy.

Game Components

This game includes:

- Three 30-card Domain decks (Industry, Statecraft, and Science)
- One 28-card Systems deck
- 106 Ship cards (4 Scouts, 20 Strike Fighters, 18 Corvettes, 14 Frigates, 12 Destroyers, 10 Cruisers, 8 Battleships, and 20 Defense Stations)
- Four sets of 25 colored cubes (Red, Blue, Yellow, and Green)
- 20 1-credit tokens, and 20 5-credit tokens
- This rulebook



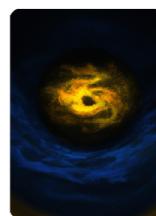
Industry



Statecraft



Science



Systems



Ships

Card Types

There are five card types in the game. Throughout play, you will be interacting with each of these at some point, so it's good to familiarize yourself with them.

Ship



There are four ship types - Fighter, Small, Medium, and Large. Each has a cost, attack, hit points, and speed. Some ships have other abilities written on them. Ships are the only cards that can move between systems.

Ships are built in your Homeworld or in Capital Systems, and are placed on the side of the system

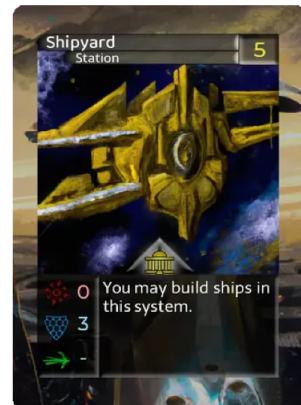
card closest to you. Ships are placed on the board with their text facing their controller. Ships can move (jump) between systems equal to their speed; a ship with a speed of 1 can jump to another system once per turn.

You can only control a number of ships equal to the total number of developments you control. If your number of developments is equal to or less than the number of ships you control, you cannot build more ships.

Station

Stations act just like ships, but cannot move between systems. Stations can be built in any system you control. You may only build a number of stations equal to the number of developments in that system.

If a station with no attack remains in a system after it has been conquered by another player, that player gains control of it.



System



Systems are the backbone of your empire. They provide resources to build ships and play other cards. Systems also have a domain (see Domains) and a maximum development number.

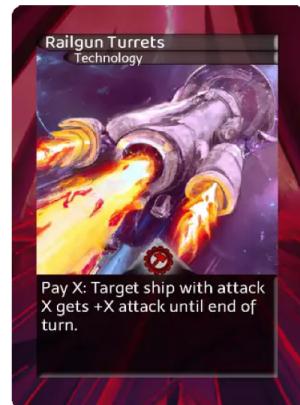
This number, located in the top right of the card, represents the total number of development counters that can be placed on the system at any time.

Technology

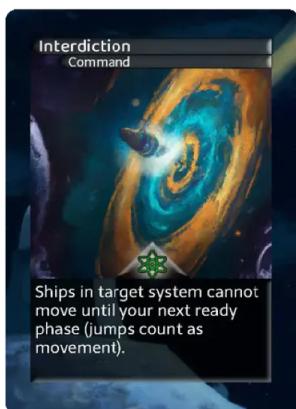
Technology cards allow for additional, long-lasting abilities.

Technology cards are placed in the Technology row closest to the player.

Some technologies provide static abilities, like increasing ship stats or drawing additional cards each turn, while others have abilities that can be activated when needed by paying a cost.



Command



Commands are cards that allow you to perform a one-time action. You reveal them from your hand, perform the action on the card, then put them in the discard pile. Commands can be played on any player's turn, but if it is not your turn they can only be played as a response (see Responses).

Domains

There are three domains - Industry, Statecraft, and Science. There is one deck for each domain. These domains reflect the focus of your nation, and will provide you with different cards that reflect that focus.

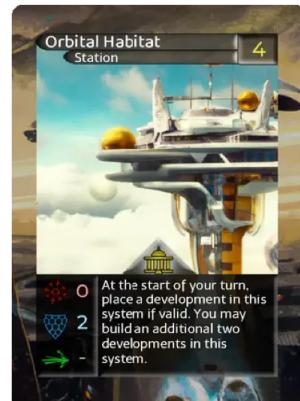
Industry



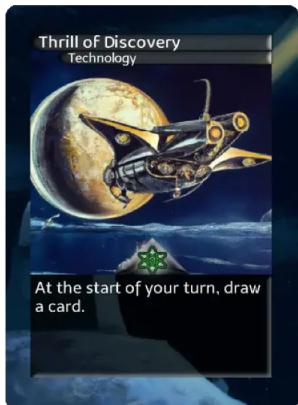
Industry is primarily focused on getting the most out of your resources. If you focus on the industry domain, you will be earning more credits, building the largest ships, and dealing the most damage. Industry wants to build out large, powerful fleets and overwhelm their opponents.

Statecraft

Statecraft focuses on defensive play. Statecraft cards provide ways to protect the systems you control, and build up your developments in an efficient way. It also provides cards that can influence the game outside of combat, by either destroying their ships or giving you an extra turn.



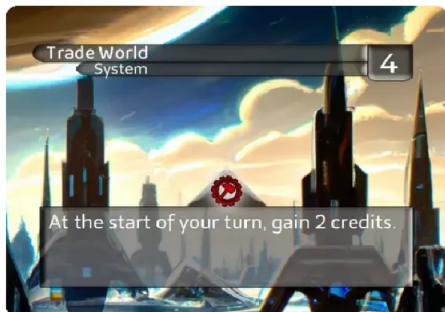
Science



Science is all about finding new ways to get an advantage over your opponents. Science cards help you draw more cards, move your ships around faster, and prevent your opponent from destroying your ships. Getting an edge over everyone else is what science does best.

Systems and Domains

Most systems are associated with a domain. You can see which domain a system is associated to by the colored symbol in the center of the card.



- A red gear and hammer represents Industry.
- A golden building represents Statecraft.
- A green atom represents Science.

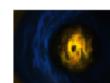
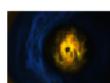
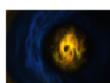
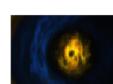
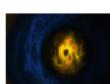
If you control a system with a domain, you are considered to control that domain. Whenever you draw a card, you may only draw a card from a domain that you control.

Setup

Shuffle the three Domain decks and the Systems deck, then lay out a grid of Systems (3x3, 4x4, and 5x5 grids are recommended), with a corner system with a Homeworld starting system for each player. Place a Scout ship adjacent to each Homeworld. Cards should face their owners when possible.

Place the shuffled Domain decks to the side, within reach of each player. Place all ship cards in piles of each type, face up, near the playing field. Each player chooses a set of development counters, and receives 3 credits. Place 1 development counter on the homeworld you control.

Technology Row



Technology Row

Objective

Star Commander is a competitive game where players are attempting to dominate a region of space. The objective of the game is to build the most developments in their systems before the game ends. You can do this by building a strong defensive position, or by being aggressive and preventing your opponents from establishing their own empires.

The game ends when a player's homeworld has been conquered, or when one of the Domain decks no longer has any cards in it.

At the end of the game, whichever player has the most developments wins!

Game Overview

First, determine who goes first by some random method. Then, going clockwise, each player takes a turn that proceeds with the following phases:

- Ready Phase (skip on first turn)
 - Gain credits
 - Draw a card
 - Perform Start of Turn actions
- Command Phase
 - Move Ships
 - Explore
 - Build Ships and Stations
 - Develop Systems
 - Trade
- Combat Phase
 - Initiate Combat
 - Assign Damage
 - Resolve Damage
 - Retreat
- End Phase
 - Conquest
 - Cleanup

Ready Phase

Do these in order.

Gain Credits

Gain 1 credit for each development you control in systems that are not under siege (see Siege). Gain credits as stated on other cards you control.

Draw a card

Draw a card for one of the domains you control. Draw any additional cards as stated on other cards you control. If you already have five cards in your hand, you must skip drawing a card.

If you draw the last card in a deck, the game ends. See Game End.

Perform Start of Turn Actions

Perform any other actions on cards you control that take place at the start of the turn.

Command Phase

Do these in any order

Move Ships

Ships that you have controlled since the start of your turn are able to move (or jump) to another adjacent system. Ships may only jump according to their speed. For example, a Corvette has a speed of 1, and so can only jump once per turn. A Fighter has a speed of 0, and so cannot jump.

Some cards (like Jump Nexus) can increase a ship's speed, which allows for additional movement actions. The only time a Fighter can jump while having a speed of 0 is if a Carrier is in the same system as the Fighter and it jumps to another system.

You cannot move a ship from an opponent's system to another system that player controls.

Explore

Whenever a ship enters a system with a face down System card, you must immediately flip it over. This is called Exploring. Some systems may have effects when they are explored, which are to be resolved before play continues and cannot be responded to.

Build Ships and Stations

You may build any ships or stations that you can afford. Stations can be built in any system you control, while ships can only be constructed in starting systems and capital systems. There are some restrictions on when you can build ships or stations:

- You can only build a number of stations in a system equal to the number of development counters in that system. If a system only has one development counter, it can only have one station.
- You can only build a number of ships equal to the total number of developments you control.
- You cannot build a ship or station in a system that is under siege (see Siege) or in a system where combat has taken place since your last turn, and opposing ships are still in the system. The exception is your starting system, where you can always build ships (but not stations).

Develop Systems

You may build developments in systems not controlled by other players. If you control a non-Fighter ship in an uncontrolled system, you may pay 1 credit to build a development. This gives you control of the system. You may build additional developments by paying the number of developments on the system plus 1. (In order to go from 1 development to 2, you must pay 2 credits).

Systems can only have a number of developments on them equal to their maximum development value, located in the top right corner of the card.

Play Commands

You may play Commands by revealing the card and performing the action on the card. Other players may respond with their own abilities or Commands (see Responses). Discard the card afterward.

Trade

You may do any of the following:

- Pay 3 credits to draw a card. If you already have five cards in hand, you may not take this action.
- Discard two cards, then gain three credits.

You may also trade with players. These trades may include credits, cards in your hand or in play, and systems or vessels you control.

If you trade a system to a player, remove all of your development counters and replace them with an equal number of that player's development counters. All stations in the system also change control to the new controller of the system.

Combat Phase

Do these in order for each system

Look at which systems the active player and at least one other player has vessels. The active player then chooses the order that combat will be resolved in those systems.

Assign Damage

The active player assigns all damage being dealt by vessels they control. Players are not required to select targets for all valid vessels. Going clockwise, each other player involved in combat assigns all damage being dealt by vessels they control.

Resolve Damage

Damage is resolved. All assigned damage is dealt to assigned targets. If a vessel has received damage equal to or greater than its hit points, it is immediately destroyed.

Retreat

Starting with the active player and going clockwise, any ships that have not used their full movement this turn may jump into another system that player controls.

Playing Commands During Combat

After each of these steps, starting with the active player and going clockwise, each player may play any commands or abilities they choose. If a ship is destroyed before the Resolve Damage step, it does not deal damage.

End Phase

Do these in order

Conquest

For any system under siege (see Siege), remove development counters from it equal to the number of non-Fighter ships the non-controlling player controls in that system.

When the last development counter is removed, the besieging player has conquered the system, and places one development counter on the system. Any stations that remain in the system change control to the player who now controls the system.

Cleanup

End of turn effects end. If any player's Homeworld has been captured, the game ends.

Game End

The game ends when either:

- A player's Homeworld has been conquered.
- The last card of a Domain deck has been drawn.

When one of the above conditions happens, the game immediately ends. Each player counts their total developments. The player with the most developments wins!

Additional Rules

Drawing Cards

Whenever a card or an action directs you to draw a card, you may only draw from a deck that matches a domain you control.

Fighters

Fighters are small, single-occupant ships, so there are some rule restrictions on what they can do.

- Fighters are unable to participate in a siege (see Siege).
- Fighters cannot be used to build the first development in a system.
- Fighters start with a base speed of 0.

Hand Limit

You may only have up to five cards in your hand at a time. If you attempt to draw a card with five cards already in your hand, you must skip your draw. At no time should you have more than five cards in hand.

Responses

Whenever, during either the Command or Combat Phases, a player plays a card, uses an ability, or takes an action, it can be responded to. In each case, the active player chooses whether to use another card or ability, then each other player may choose, going clockwise from the active player. When all players pass, the sequence of cards and abilities is resolved. These actions are resolved in "last on, first off" order.

Siege

A system is considered under siege when an opponent has non-Fighter ships in that system, and the controlling player has no ships or stations with attack values. Systems that are under siege do not generate credits from developments, and players cannot build ships or stations in systems that are under siege. Effects of that system do not trigger and abilities cannot be used.

Note that for the purposes of drawing cards, a player may still choose the domain of a system under siege.

Turn Order

If there are more than two players in a game, players will take turns in a clockwise order. The same applies for performing any actions, such as playing Commands, taking turn actions, or activating abilities (see Responses).

Vessels

Some cards refer to vessels. A vessel is either a ship or station. A card referring to a vessel refers to both.





UNDER THE SILIS PROJECT, humanity built its first interstellar ship, capable of reaching a neighboring star. After hundreds of years of travel, the generation ship reached its destination, and found a planet already terraformed to sustain human life. A crashed alien ship led to the next major discovery - the Jump Drive. Engineers from the generation ship repaired the alien vessel, then returned home to Earth - only to discover humanity's birthplace in ruins, its children scattered across the Sol system.

The colonists shared their discovery with the survivors of Sol, and began to ferry people to their new home - Silis Major. The exodus from Sol allowed humanity to spread across the stars. New ships were built, new nations established, and humankind thrived.

Since then, space has only become more dangerous. The larger governments have come into conflict with each other, creating an arms race to weaponize space. Raiders, pirates, and mercenaries have taken shelter on the outskirts of civilization, interrupting trade for the outer systems. Some search for more advanced technology, seeking out any advantage they can find, while others use an ever-growing network of spies to manipulate events around them. With tensions rising, it will be up to the local governors and commanders to decide whether peace will last, or if war will prevail.

Meanwhile, a strange signal has been picked up in the Sol system.

