

I'm human





I'm not keen on the idea of having a red uniform. The original Star Trek series premiered in 1966, and now, in 2022, the franchise remains strong with multiple TV shows and films in production. As a child when Star Trek: The Next Generation debuted in 1987, I grew up with Captain Picard's crew being one of my earliest memories. Despite loving the show, the meaning behind their uniform shirts took me a while to grasp. Initially, I thought you just picked your favorite color outfit when joining a crew. However, after learning about the "redshirt" trope and the significance of each color in the Starfleet uniforms, it became clear that there's more to it than just aesthetics. The original series introduced a red uniform for Engineering, Security, and Communications personnel, while the Enterprise prequel followed suit. As I delve deeper into the history of the franchise, I find that each show has its unique uniform styles, but the color classifications have remained consistent across various series, from Deep Space Nine to Picard. In contrast to the original series, The Next Generation assigned red uniforms to Command Staff, and this template was followed in most future shows. Even as uniform styles changed, the color classifications stayed the same. However, each season would often feature at least one character who wore their own take on the standard Starfleet look, such as Deanna Troi from TNG, Odo and Kira Nerys from Deep Space Nine, or Seven of Nine in Voyager. Now that we've clarified the meaning behind each uniform color, which one would you choose? The color scheme for Star Fleet uniforms has undergone significant changes since the original series. Initially, it was clear that red signified ship services/security, gold indicated support services (engineering and security), and blue meant sciences. However, this distinction became less pronounced over time. In The Next Generation, command is represented by a muted burgundy (previously known as "command red"), while gold has taken on a mustard tone. Blue now signifies the wearer's affiliation with science or medicine. The uniforms themselves are primarily black, with contrasting colors used to distinguish between different roles. A common misconception is that there is no pattern to the color scheme in The Next Generation. However, it appears that red and gold have swapped roles from the original series. Data, as the operations officer, wears a gold uniform, which was previously associated with ship services/security. Geordi and Worf initially wore red uniforms due to their conn officer positions but later switched to gold when they became Chief of Engineering and Security. The counselor's attire seems to follow no specific pattern, while the captain and X.O. wear command-red (burgundy) uniforms. The doctor wears blue, indicating their affiliation with science or medicine. Star Trek Uniform Colors: A History The use of colored uniforms in the Star Trek franchise has a fascinating history, and while it may seem simple at first glance, there's more to it than meets the eye. The color-coding system was initially introduced in The Original Series, where red shirts were primarily worn by engineering, security, and communications personnel. This led to the infamous "redshirt" trope, where a character wearing a red shirt would often meet an untimely demise on away missions. However, when The Next Generation premiered, the uniform colors underwent a significant change: Red became associated with command staff, blue with science and medical, while gold was reserved for operations and security personnel. This shift set the template for future shows in the franchise. Despite these changes, the color classifications remained consistent across various series, including Deep Space Nine, Voyager, Discovery, Picard, and the animated show Below Decks. However, each season would occasionally introduce characters who wore their own unique take on the uniform, sometimes deviating from the standard Starfleet look. We've considered the connections to various Star Trek series characters and their respective uniforms. If we're now aware of the significance behind each color, which one would you prefer wearing?

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