

BATTLECHAT

BETWEEN THE WHEELS

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To re-fresh everyone's memory, in 1996, FASA made the conscious decision to remove any image not originally and specifically contracted for use in a *BattleTech* product. This led to the removal of numerous images (mostly 'Mechs, but included a vehicle and aerospace fighter) from *Technical Readout: 3025*, *Technical Readout: 3050* and *Technical Readout: 3055*.

Now, eight years later, the decision has been made that any image not generated in house or by a contracted individual (i.e. not another company), must be removed. This has nothing to do with a specific company, or any legal situations which previously occurred, but is a decision based upon trying to avert problems in the future.

Now, I've always been one to think 'glass half-full' and I'm always trying to see how getting spun under the wheel can actually lead to something cool. With that in mind, I've already got a new product under way, which will take care of the 'real world' issues, while hopefully providing the fans something we've not done before.

With that in mind, here's the current back cover copy for *Classic BattleTech Technical Readout: 3055 Upgrade*, scheduled for a November release:

THE CHANGING FACE OF BATTLE

In 3055, a new breed of Inner Sphere BattleMech started rolling off assembly lines—specifically designed to counter the Clan Invasion—while additional second-line Clan 'Mechs began to appear. Now, twelve years later, those designs have become a staple of the modern battlefield, giving rise to notable MechWarriors and new variants, while the demands of the ever-popular Solaris VII Games has resulted in a plethora of new dueling 'Mechs using prototype technology.

For the first time, *Classic BattleTech Technical Readout: 3055 Upgrade™* presents 'Mechs built using technology from *MaximumTech, Revised™*, as well as *MapPack: Solaris VII™*. Upgraded in appearance and technology, the designs first presented in the *Solaris VII* box set and *Solaris: The Reaches* are now back in print, along with several new Solaris VII designs. Additionally, as well as the upgraded appearance of selected Clan designs, all the art work for *Technical Readout: 3055 Upgrade* is new, providing fresh illustrations of now classic Inner Sphere BattleMechs.

Now, what does that back cover copy actually say?

Well, all the Inner Sphere designs and Clan OmniMechs originally in *Technical Readout: 3055, Revised* will stay unchanged, but Matt Plog will be drawing all of them again, giving us a fresh look at these designs.

Next, all of following Clan second-line 'Mechs (Baboon, Vixen, Peregrine, Hellhound, Goshawk, Galahad, Viper, Behemoth and Kraken), as well as the following Inner Sphere designs from *Technical Readout: 3058* (Nexus, Raijin and Grand Crusader), will have their images redone per the template of Project Phoenix for inclusion in this product.

Additionally, the following *Solaris VII* designs (Koto, Mantis, Longshot, Tsunami, Daedalus, Ronin, Paladin, Morpheus, Onslaught, Cudgel, Juggernaut and Colossus), as well as the following *Solaris: The Reaches* designs (Copperhead, Werewolf, and Sasquatch) will also have their images redone per the Project Phoenix template. Furthermore, since Solaris VII is traditionally a test bed for prototype technology, all of these designs (as well as several brand new Solaris 'Mechs), will be designed using *Maximum Tech, Revised* and *MapPack: Solaris VII* Level 3 technology; the first time such technology has seen print in a *Technical Readout*.

In addition, since this is an Upgrade and not a Revised Edition, all of the text will be updated to reflect the passage of the last twelve years, which will include a few new variants where appropriate, as well as Notable MechWarriors across the board (after all, the designs are no longer new; hence why such a feature was not included the first time).

As an aside, the Clan OmniFighters found in this product will be cut in preparation for an aerospace fighter technical readout to be published in the future.

Finally, I've already been in contact with Iron Wind Metals and in their usual strong support for the *BattleTech* line and community, they are already making plans to release not only miniatures for the redone Clan 'Mechs, but also for the Solaris VII 'Mechs as well!

Well, I think that just about does it for now. Type at you next month!

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