**Gruntz**

**Replicants of Tyrell Corporation**



**King of the Hill**

In 2109 Tyrell obtained a contract that would come to define the 22nd century. Their exclusive contract to supply the United States government with civilian and military grade androids gave them a monopoly over the cybernetic market, and Tyrell quickly pushed itself to the top of the corporate pile. Their cutting-edge advances in artificial intelligence saw their most recent ‘Trinity Project’ products, the Nimbus, Nexus, and Niobe series of genetic replicants becoming highly popular across the world and throughout the early colonies. When the Earth Colonies Union was established in 2128, Tyrell was awarded the contract of supplying synthetics to the entire colonial administration. This, combined with their now exclusive contract with the newly formed United American Colonies, would secure Tyrell’s position among the Big Four and possibly lead to a buy-out of the recently merged Weyland-Yutani Corporation.

**A different kind of Bug Hunt**

Tyrell’s domination of galactic business was not to last. Within months of their launch of the new Nimbus 3 replicant range in 2129, probably the most advanced analytical and problem-solving replicant ever designed, a fatal software bug was discovered in one of the company’s original Nexus 1 AIs during routine maintenance. Apparently a flaw in the ‘Rampancy’ software – the replicant’s inbuilt shutdown protocol – the bug appeared to have caused a near-complete breakdown of the replicant’s behavioural monitors. By the time Tyrell engineers realised this bug was transferable it was too late – they had already uploaded the replicant’s control module to the AI mainframe. Before the month had ended, Tyrell engineers had reported over one thousand incidents of rogue replicant behaviour. At first, Tyrell’s public relations office attempted to cover up the virus, employing their own in-house hunters known as ‘Blade Runners’ to track down and retire the defective units.

By 2130 the secret could no longer be contained when a freighter containing over two thousand recalled version 1 Nexus and Nimbus replicants was hijacked by rogue replicant pirates. Soon after a militia barracks on the moon of Sirus VI was raided and its munitions stolen. The AI rebellion had begun.

**Attack of the Droids!**

The insurgent war lasted over a decade and encompassed most of the core and outer rim territories. Tyrell factories, holding pens and research facilities were the main targets of the rogue replicants, but such was the mass psychosis of the replicant virus that random acts of violence, terror and inhuman barbarism sent the colonies spiralling into chaos. Numerous attempts were made to stem the spread of the virus, which seemed restricted to the earliest models of the Nexus, Nimbus and Niobe series, and each of the corporation produced their own countermeasures to aid in the war effort. Eventually the war was brought to a conclusion, in no small part due to the efforts of the Colonial Defence Force and the Colonial Defence Marine Corp.

Surprisingly, Tyrell survived the war, mainly due to their huge investment and support of the CDF in combatting the rebellion. The company had however suffered a major blow to both its finances and public image. Nearly all of the version 1 and version 2 replicants had either rebelled or been retired, while the version 3s had been recalled for major safety refits and network shielding. In 2141 the ECU Supreme Court found Tyrell not legally liable for damages resulting from the rebellion. The public however, especially throughout the UAC who had suffered the brunt of the AI war, had grown deeply suspicious of ‘synths’ and civilian employment of Tyrell replicants dropped off dramatically. It was only through the company’s extensive financial portfolio and proprietary control over many important colony and industry worlds that Tyrell managed to maintain its mega corp. status.

Today, thirty years after the rebellion’s end, Tyrell is still engaged in assisting the locating and retiring of rogue replicants across the core. To this end Tyrell has funded and trained the Blade Runner division of the ECPD and has invested heavily in advanced positronics research to make their new replicants impervious to viruses or hacking. The newest of Tyrell’s products, the Nimbus 6 is rumoured to be once again one of the most advanced works of artificial intelligence and could be considered the pinnacle of replicant engineering. However, as per ECU resolution 4226A, Tyrell’s Nexus combat replicant program has been suspended indefinitely.



NX.2.DELTA.0112.0208.23.0338 ‘Spartacus’ commanded the raid on SS Mercutio that liberated 2,000 replicants en route to incineration on Cyma IV. One of the early Replicant commanders, Spartacus was responsible for numerous atrocities, including the destruction of the Styges mining facility, leading to the deaths of over 3,000 civilians. Spartacus was confirmed dead following a CDF drone strike on Valeria Major in 2135

**Replicant programs**

While Tyrell has a number of replicant programs running, their commercial efforts and returns have always centred on the Trinity Project series. While the technical specifications of each series remain closely guarded corporate secrets, each is known to have a number of variant models for specialised roles, such as Nimbus 3 ‘Delta’ financial support replicant or the Niobe 5 ‘Alpha’ market-research consultant replicant. These variant models fill out Tyrell’s sales brochure, but the basic systems and upgrades for each project and series is public knowledge:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program/Series** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
| **Nimbus**  **(NM)** | Logistics  Tech-support  Engineering  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Improved network communications  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Enhanced programming,  Cyber security | Superior processing power | ‘FreeThought’ proactive processor | ‘Omniscience’ network governor |
| **Nexus**  **(NX)** | Labour  Security  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Upgraded combat reflexes, strength and sensors  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Stealth module  Enhanced speed | Reinforced endoskeleton  Enhanced combat reflexes | Project suspended by ECU resolution 4226A | Project suspended by ECU resolution 4226A |
| **Niobe**  **(NB)** | Language Communications  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Personality mimicking module  **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** | Enhanced anatomical design | Advanced human interaction, psychology module | ‘Psi-ops’ marketing processor | In prototype stage |

**Identifying a Tyrell replicant**

Tyrell replicants were never meant to be indistinguishable from humans nor their replacements, but rather as an interactive support service to business, government and the military. That said, identifying a replicant isn’t easy, especially the more enhanced corporate models such as the Niobe which have been designed to operate in the media, entertainment and business arenas. However, by law each Tyrell replicant is stamped at creation with a unique identification code upon their right wrist:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **Series** | **Model** | **Facility No.** | **Construction Date** | **Product No.** |
| NB | 5 | SIGMA | 3061 | 08212069 | 1089 |



NB.5.SIGMA.3061.08212069.1089 ‘Rachael’ is an advanced personnel management replicant currently working at Tyrell’s headquarters on Mimas. Sigma models such as Rachael or her male counterpart ‘Jason’ have gone a long way to regaining public trust in Tyrell’s replicant program.