



MINBAR SYSTEM FOR ORBITER

Introduction

This is a recreation of the planet Minbar from *Babylon 5*. There's not much to see really, just the planet, its moons, and its stars. The planet orbits the binary star Chi Draconis, located approximately 26 light-years from Earth. As for this add-on, I promise you won't be disappointed. Enjoy!

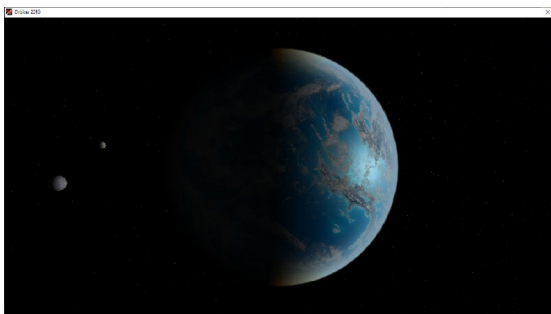
Required add-ons

***White Star*, *Advanced White Star*, and *Blue Star* by stevecast**

Minbari Battle Fleet by Buck Rogers

System contents

Chi Draconis is a binary star system located approximately 26 light-years from Earth. The central star is a yellow-white dwarf similar in mass to Sol but slightly more luminous, while its companion is an orange dwarf of lesser mass and luminosity.



Minbar

Type: Terrestrial

Diameter: 12,404 KM

Rotation period: 20 hours, 47 minutes

Distance from parent star: 180 million KM

Orbital period: 475 days

Moons: 2

Habitability: Habitable, temperate climate, breathable atmosphere, approximately 1 standard Earth gravity, extensive polar wastelands
Affiliation: Minbari Federation

Overview

Minbar is the seventh planet of the Chi Draconis system, located in Sector 120 about 26 light-years from Earth. Its atmosphere is similar in composition to Earth's, producing a light blue sky. About a quarter of the planet's landmass is covered by its northern polar ice cap, and its climate is overall colder than Earth's. Minbar is characterized by its vast crystalline deposits, with most major cities carved directly from these crystals. The planet's habitable landmass consists primarily of a few major continents broken up by large seas, with large peninsulas and trailing, dense archipelagos. This configuration means that some areas are very isolated from others, with overland travel somewhat impractical and sea travel downright dangerous on occasions.

The Minbari themselves are a humanoid species characterized by their distinctive antler-like rear head bones. The bones are actually two separate, distinct ridges which grow in stages as the individual matures. In their natural state, the bones' structure is smooth, interrupted only by subtly layered ridges in a pattern resembling tree rings. However, the Minbari choose to style and sculpt the ridges into certain styles via laborious carving and ritualized binding. From a cultural standpoint, this practice is akin to the human and Centauri practice of hair-styling or the Narn practice of buffing their spots. Minbari ears are small compared to those of humans and are located at the base of the neck, just below the mandibular angle. Because of the extra weight of their head bones, Minbari consider sleeping in a horizontal position to be a veritable death sentence, and as a result Minbari beds are always tilted at a 45-degree angle.

Minbari are taller on average than humans and lack facial hair, although due to a genetic throwback some males are able to grow beards. It's also been speculated that these individuals may have inherited this trait from Valen's offspring, who had human DNA. Minbari physiology is extremely resilient and able to keep functioning after injuries that would incapacitate or even kill a human, such as substantial blood loss or multiple loss of limbs. This at least partially stems from their robust metabolism and the high levels of endurance they have evolved to survive on their cold, mountainous world, allowing them to survive in low-oxygen environments and go without food for as long as two weeks without starving. However, their unique biochemistry means Minbari cannot ingest alcohol without suffering a drastic psycho-chemical reaction leading to violent, homicidal rage and psychosis.

Minbari do not perspire the way humans do, rather they secrete a kind of fluid in their sleep that serves a similar function. As a result, Minbari do not bathe but instead ritually use a chemical that strips away the outer layers of their skin each day. While the Minbari reproductive system is similar to that of humans, their internal anatomy is otherwise quite different. One of the more notable differences is that Minbari females do not menstruate, or at least in the same way humans do. Minbari are a long-lived race, with lifespans typically reaching 120 years or more. They are also among the many species known to have been bred telepathic abilities by the Vorlons. While their abilities are generally weaker than those of their human counterparts, Minbari telepaths are nevertheless well-trained and extremely disciplined in a manner typical of Minbari society. Culturally, psi ability is considered a gift and a blessing, and by tradition Minbari telepaths are freely trained and provided for so they can openly offer their services to those in need.

The Minbari are a deeply spiritual, ritualistic, and disciplined people, seeking conformity and enlightenment over all other pursuits. Honour is everything to the Minbari, and they do not lie except when absolutely necessary to save another or help another save face, and to accuse one of lying is a deadly insult. From birth to adulthood, they are taught to be selfless and learn the importance of service to all aspects of life. Because their way of life is rooted in spirituality and discipline, Minbari are less likely than humans to act on their passions. Their sacred law forbids the killing of a Minbari by another Minbari, a rule which has held since the time of Valen.

Minbari society is divided into three castes – worker, religious, and warrior. Each individual is born into a particular caste but may join another if they feel their calling in life lies there. The castes are in turn divided into clans which have their own leaders and family houses, or “Fanesh.” The ruling body of the Minbari is known as the Grey Council, comprised of nine individuals — three from each caste — and based in the city of Yedor. Since the time of Valen, the three castes have coexisted peacefully with one another, although there has at times been friction, particularly between the religious and warrior castes. In general, the number three is considered sacred and consequently appears frequently throughout their culture, while their counting system is in base 11, using ten fingers and a head. Minbari religious beliefs hold that the universe is both alive and conscious and that it manifests in all forms of sentient life, giving all individuals a piece of itself. Their beliefs could therefore best be classified as a form of pantheism or pandeism. While Minbari do not worship individual gods, they do have a representation of a higher being known as Valeria. Minbari humour is based largely on puns and on failure to obtain enlightenment.

The Minbari are the oldest of the younger races, and as such their technology is among the finest and most advanced of said races, although it is still considerably behind that of the Vorlons. The written record of Minbari civilization dates back many thousands of years, with much of their early history characterized by civil wars stemming from caste rivalries and factional violence. The Minbari first achieved space flight around the 13th century C.E. and quickly established themselves on an interstellar scale. As with the majority of the younger races, they did not invent the Jumpgate technology themselves but instead found the already existing gates as their civilization expanded out into space. Around the year 1260 C.E., the Minbari became embroiled in the First Shadow War and allied themselves with the Vorlons in their fight against the Shadows. When the war took a turn for the worse with the destruction of their main base of operations, a replacement suddenly appeared out of nowhere at the last minute, accompanied by a mysterious Minbari named Valen. In fact, the space station *Babylon 4* had been sent back in time from the 23rd century to serve as the replacement base of operations, and Valen was actually a human named Jeffrey Sinclair who had been transformed into a Minbari using a mysterious piece of technology known as a Chrysalis Device. As such, he became known as “the first Minbari not born of Minbar.”

The arrival of Valen brought forth a new age of enlightenment in Minbari society, with a series of societal reforms finally putting an end to centuries of civil warfare. The Grey Council was founded during this time, giving all three castes equal representation and power and laying down the foundation for rule by wisdom rather than war and violence. The warrior caste was mandated to defend Minbar against outside threats rather than against their own people, and the organization known as the *Anla'Shok* or “Rangers” was created to watch out for the Shadows. For the next 900 years or so, the Minbari developed into one of the most peaceful and progressive civilizations in the galaxy, making great strides in technology that far exceeded other races. Their culture became highly refined and ritualistic, with everyone dedicated to the service of one another. However, aside from a few dealings with outsiders such as the Vorlons and Centauri, the Minbari largely kept to themselves and avoided contact with other species.

In 2245, Grey Council leader Dukhat, upon hearing about humanity's presence via the Centauri and at least partially aware of his species' past connection to them, urged the council to make first contact. The encounter soon went disastrously wrong when, following their tradition of open respect, the Minbari approached the Earthforce fleet with their gun ports open. Believing the Minbari's intentions to be hostile, the humans panicked and fired on Dukhat's ship, killing him. In a fit of rage, council member Delenn cast the deciding vote with the council and declared a holy war on Earth, thus setting in motion the Earth-Minbari War. The conflict was brutal and lasted for three years, with humanity hopelessly outmatched with the Minbari technologically. Eventually, the Minbari reached Earth fully prepared for an orbital bombardment, kicking off what would become known as the Battle of the Line. It was there that the Minbari learned of a special connection with humanity via examination of one human in particular. That human was none other than Jeffrey Sinclair. With this discovery, the religious caste ordered an immediate surrender and retreat, to the anger of many in the warrior caste and the bewilderment of the humans.

Following the end of the war, the Babylon Project was initiated with the goal of preventing another war by, in Sinclair's words, creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. The first three Babylon stations, however, were destroyed while under construction and the fourth was sent back in time to fight the First Shadow War, leaving the fifth station as the last and only truly functional member of the series. By the late 2250s, tensions had begun to reemerge between the warrior and religious castes, with the former eventually usurping the latter's position on the Grey Council by appointing a warrior named Neroon to replace the seat originally intended for a religious caste member. During the crisis caused by *Babylon 5's* secession from the Earth Alliance, the warrior caste-dominated Grey Council refused to intervene on the station's behalf. Disgusted by this state of affairs, Delenn, now the Minbari ambassador to Earth, disbanded the council, leaving the Minbari a divided people once again. The *Anla'Shok* and religious caste, with the support of the worker caste, took part in the final Shadow War, while the warrior caste stayed out of the conflict.

Following the end of the Shadow War in 2261, the peace between the worker and religious castes finally broke, and civil war quickly erupted. The conflict only came to an end with Neroon sacrificing himself in the Starfire Wheel, an ancient Minbari tradition designed to determine the worthiness of their leaders. Following his sacrifice, the Grey Council was re-established, but with a ratio of five worker caste members to two each of the religious and warrior castes. Under this new arrangement, it was hoped that religion and war would exist to serve the people rather than the other way around. With the civil war over and their world re-united, the Minbari were among the first to join the newly-formed Interstellar Alliance, with the city of Tuzanor chosen to serve as the Alliance's capital. Centuries later, following the Second Earth Alliance Civil War which culminated in an event known as the Great Burn, reducing humanity to a pre-industrial state, the Minbari began slowly re-introducing advanced technology to Earth via the *Anla'Shok*, eventually succeeding in their goal of bringing humanity out of the dark ages and back to the stars. The final fate of the Minbari was revealed over one million years later, with the species having evolved into being of pure energy similar to the Vorlons alongside humanity.