EDUCATION

Star Trek Action Figure Price Guide

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Navigating the Final Frontier of Collectibles: Your Star Trek Action Figure Price Guide

For decades, **Star Trek** has inspired generations of fans with its vision of a hopeful future. Beyond the television episodes and blockbuster films, a vast universe of merchandise has allowed collectors to bring a piece of that future home. Among the most popular and enduring collectibles are Star Trek action figures. Whether you are a seasoned collector or just beginning your journey, understanding the current market is crucial. This comprehensive **Star Trek action figure price guide** will help you determine the value of your figures, identify rare finds, and make informed purchasing decisions. We will explore the factors that influence pricing, from the iconic MEGO figures of the 1970s to the detailed Playmates line of the 1990s and beyond.

Understanding the Core Factors of Value

Before diving into specific figures, it is essential to understand what drives the price of any action figure. The value of a Star Trek collectible is rarely arbitrary; it is determined by a combination of key elements that every collector should know.

Rarity and Scarcity

The most significant driver of high prices is simply how difficult a figure is to find. Figures produced in limited quantities, those released only in certain regions, or those that were part of a short-lived production run command a premium. For example, a prototype figure or a manufacturer's sample can be worth thousands of dollars because only a handful exist.

Condition: The King of Collecting

Condition is paramount in the world of action figure collecting. A figure that is still sealed in its original packaging (MOC - Mint On Card) is almost always worth significantly more than a loose, played-with figure. Collectors use a grading system to evaluate condition:

- Mint (M): A perfect, unopened figure with no flaws on the card or bubble. This is the holy grail for many collectors.
- Near Mint (NM): A near-perfect item, perhaps with a faint crease or a tiny bubble rub.
- Excellent (EX): Shows minor wear, such as a slightly scuffed card or a small crease.
- Good (G): Noticeable wear, a damaged card, or a loose figure with intact joints and minimal paint loss.
- Fair (F): Significant damage, missing accessories, or broken parts.

For loose figures, having all original accessories, a correct phaser, communicator, or tricorder, dramatically increases the value. A loose Captain Kirk without his phaser is worth a fraction of a complete figure.

Era and Manufacturer

The era of production and the company that manufactured the figure are huge price determinants. The market

generally values older, more nostalgic lines higher than newer ones, but there are exceptions. The major players in Star Trek figures include **MEGO** (1970s), **Playmates** (1990s), **Art Asylum / Diamond Select** (2000s), and **Quantum Mechanix (QMX)**(2010s). Each has a dedicated following.

A Detailed Look at the Major Star Trek Figure Lines

The Legendary MEGO Era (1974-1978)

When most people think of vintage Star Trek figures, they think of MEGO. These 8-inch cloth-costumed figures are the cornerstone of any serious collection. MEGO produced two distinct series: the first series featuring James T. Kirk, Spock, Dr. McCoy, and a Romulan, and the second series adding a Klingon, a Gorn, a Sulu, and a Salt Vampire (though the Salt Vampire was ultimately unreleased).

Price Guide for MEGO Figures:

- Captain Kirk (Mint on Card): $800 - $1,500. High condition examples can exceed $2,000.
- Spock (Mint on Card): $600 - $1,200.
- Dr. McCoy (Mint on Card): $400 - $800.
- The Gorn (Mint on Card): $1,500 - $3,500. This figure is highly sought after and commands top dollar.
- Loose, Complete MEGO Figures: A loose Kirk with all accessories and a good body can fetch $150-$300. Be cautious of reproduction clothing and accessories, which are common.

It is also crucial to distinguish between MEGO figures and the cheaper, less detailed competitor figures from companies like **Johnny Lightning** or **Lincoln International**, which, while interesting, generally have lower values.

The Iconic Playmates Line (1990s)

The Playmates line, launched in 1992 alongside *The Next Generation*, is perhaps the most extensive collection of Star Trek figures ever made. They produced hundreds of figures across multiple series, including *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager*, and the original series. The standard 4.5-inch scale figures are common, but the value is in the details.

Price Guide for Playmates Figures:

- Common Figures (e.g., standard TNG uniform Picard, common Klingons): $8 - $20 MOC. Loose, they are often $5 or less.
- Rare Chase Figures (e.g., Cyrano Jones, the Zaldan, or figures with ‘green tag’ errors): $50 - $150 MOC.
- Prop Toys and Large Items (e.g., the USS Enterprise Bridge playset, the 18-inch figures): The Bridge playset in good condition can sell for $150 - $400. The large-scale figures (such as the 18-inch Locutus of Borg) can fetch $100 - $250 MOC.
- Gold Card Variants: Some figures were released with special ‘Gold’ collector’s cards. These can add 20-50% to the base value.
- The ‘Trouble with Tribbles’ 3-pack: This set, which includes Kirk, Spock, and a tribble-laden box, is highly sought after. Mint condition sets can sell for $150 - $300.

The Playmates line is excellent for new collectors because many figures are still affordable, allowing you to build a large collection without breaking the bank. However, patience is key to finding the rare variants.

Beyond the Big Two: Other Notable Lines

Art Asylum / Diamond Select (2000s)

Known for their highly detailed likenesses and improved articulation, the Art Asylum (later Diamond Select) line is a favorite among adult collectors. They produced figures in the 7-inch scale, often including intricate diorama pieces. The *Star Trek: The Next Generation* figures from this line are particularly praised for their facial sculpts.

Price Guide for Diamond Select Figures:

- Standard Figures (e.g., Picard, Data, Worf): $20 - $40 MOC.
- Rarer Figures (e.g., Sulu in his original series uniform from the TOS line): $40 - $80 MOC.
- Two-Packs and Wave Variants: Some two-packs (like the Captain Kirk and Gary Mitchell set) can sell for $60 - $120.

A notable strong suit of this line is the **Starship Enterprise Bridge Environment**, which is a highly detailed playset for the 7-inch figures. A complete bridge environment can cost $200 - $500.

Quantum Mechanix (QMX) and Modern Era (2010s-Present)

QMX brought a new level of premium detail to Star Trek figures with their *Star Trek: The Next Generation* line. These 6-inch scale figures feature impeccable likenesses and high-quality paint applications. However, the line was short-lived, which has driven up prices.

Price Guide for QMX Figures:

- Captain Picard (standard release): $40 - $80 MOC.
- Data and Geordi La Forge: $60 - $120 MOC.
- Q (the omnipotent being): $100 - $200+ MOC. This figure is notoriously hard to find.

Newer lines, such as the **McFarlane Toys** 5-inch scale line from the 2020s, are still finding their market value. Initially, they are selling at or slightly above retail ($15-$30), but time will tell which figures become the rare gems of the future.

Spotting a Hidden Gem: Rare and High-Value Figures

While the standard releases are fun, the real thrill for collectors is finding a rare variant or a long-lost treasure. Here are a few figures that consistently command high prices on the secondary market.

Prototypes and Test Shots

These are pre-production figures used for quality control or marketing. They are often unmarked, made in different colors of plastic, and are exceptionally rare. A MEGO prototype Kirk can easily sell for $5,000 or more. A prototype Playmates figure (such as a clear plastic test shot) can sell for $300-$800.

Error Figures and Variants

Production errors can make a common figure valuable. Look for:

- Misprinted cards: A figure with a picture of a different character on the card.
- Wrong accessories: A figure packed with the wrong phaser or a different character's communicator.
- Repaint variants: Some figures were accidentally painted with the wrong insignia or uniform color. For example, a Playmates Voyager figure in a wrong-colored uniform can be worth three times the standard version.

International Exclusives

Figures released exclusively in other countries can be highly valued in the American market. Canadian-exclusive Playmates figures, often on bilingual cards, are popular. European releases sometimes had different packaging or included exclusive accessories. A Japanese-exclusive MEGO-style figure from the 1970s, such as a rare variant of the Romulan, can be a major prize.

Where to Buy, Sell, and Verify Values

Knowing where to trade is as important as knowing what to collect.

- eBay: The most accessible marketplace, but be wary of shipping damage and counterfeit items. Always

check the seller's feedback. Use the "Sold Items" filter to see actual recent sale prices, not just asking prices.

- Collector Forums and Facebook Groups: Communities like Star Trek Collectors or specific MEGO forums offer a more trustworthy environment. You can ask for price opinions (OPOs) and get accurate valuations from experienced collectors.
- Specialized Action Figure Retailers: Websites like BigBadToyStore or Entertainment Earth are great for new figures. For vintage, look for dedicated vintage toy dealers who authenticate their items.
- Price Guide Books: While the internet has largely replaced printed guides, books like Tomart's Price Guide to Star Trek Collectibles can provide historical context and a baseline for value, especially for MEGO and early Playmates figures.

Preserving Your Investment

Once you own a valuable figure, proper care is essential to maintaining its worth.

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