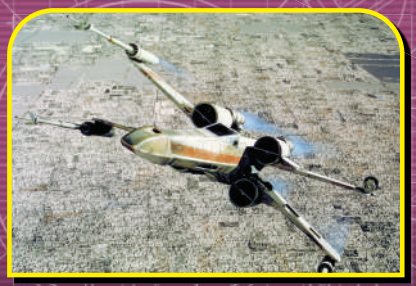
STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY



F219FS0004



X-WING: ICON OF THE REBELLION



THE *FALCON*'S HULL FRAMES AND PLATING

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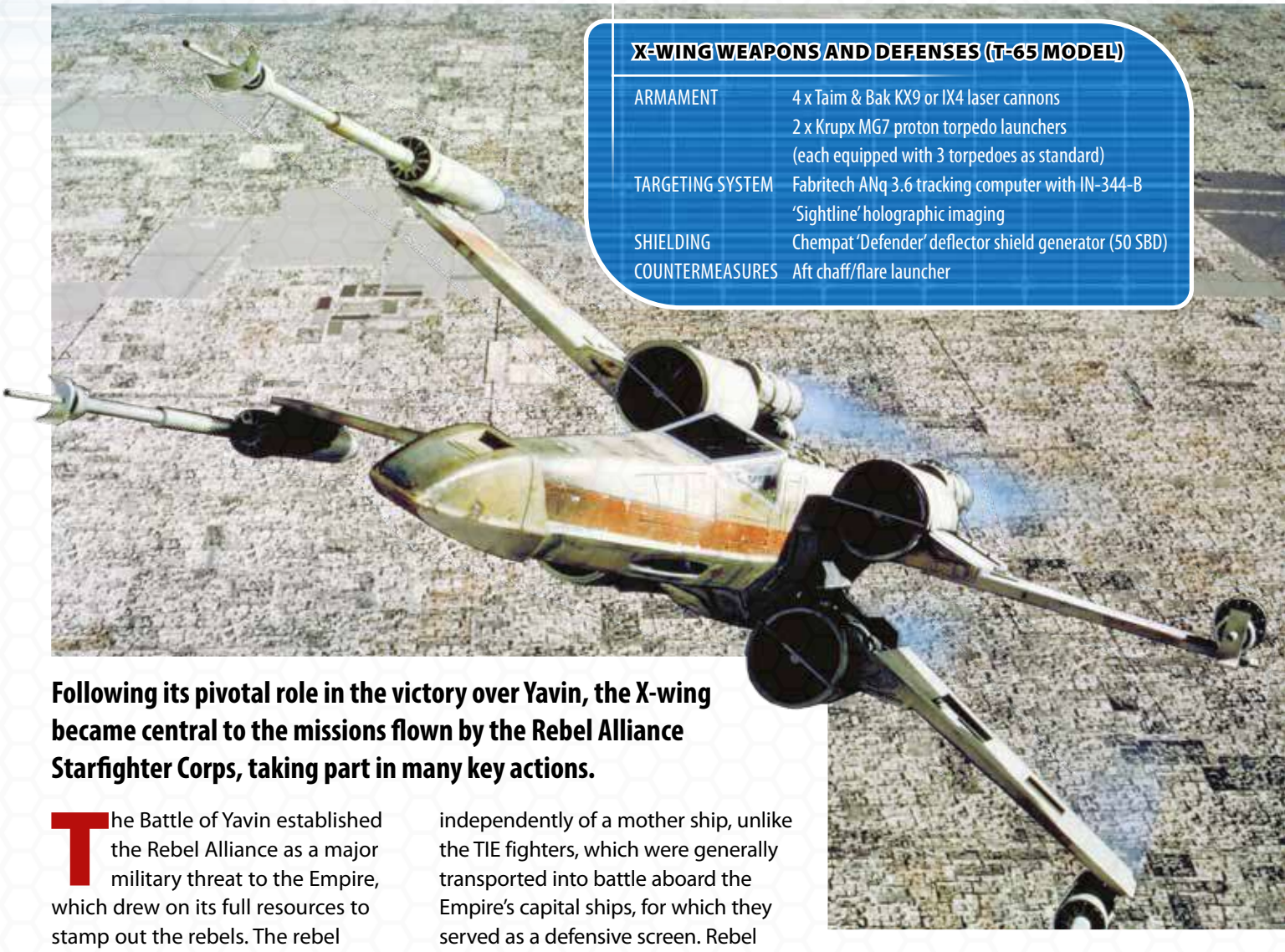
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THE REBEL ALLIANCE'S ULTIMATE FIGHTER

X-WING: ICON OF THE REBELLION



X-WING WEAPONS AND DEFENSES (T-65 MODEL)	
ARMAMENT	4 x Taim & Bak KX9 or IX4 laser cannons 2 x Krupx MG7 proton torpedo launchers (each equipped with 3 torpedoes as standard)
TARGETING SYSTEM	Fabritech ANq 3.6 tracking computer with IN-344-B 'Sightline' holographic imaging
SHIELDING	Chempat 'Defender' deflector shield generator (50 SBD)
COUNTERMEASURES	Aft chaff/flare launcher

Following its pivotal role in the victory over Yavin, the X-wing became central to the missions flown by the Rebel Alliance Starfighter Corps, taking part in many key actions.

The Battle of Yavin established the Rebel Alliance as a major military threat to the Empire, which drew on its full resources to stamp out the rebels. The rebel command quickly laid plans to evacuate its Yavin base, even as Darth Vader and the 501st Legion established a blockade and laid siege to the planet.

During the struggle that followed, rebel pilots, including Luke Skywalker, ran covert missions aimed at finding suitable new headquarters. Unlike most of its main opposition, the Imperial TIE fighters, the X-wing was equipped with a hyperdrive. This made it able to travel in hyperspace and operate independently of a mother ship, unlike the TIE fighters, which were generally transported into battle aboard the Empire's capital ships, for which they served as a defensive screen. Rebel tactics could, therefore, be based on a hit-and-fade form of attack, with fighter squadrons striking out on their own.

ASTROMECH ASSISTANTS

Hyperspace calculations were one of the functions normally provided by an astromech droid (commonly the R-series), carried in the X-wing's external socket. An astromech could even fly the ship without the need for a pilot, but would usually operate in a support role, monitoring the status of



The X-wing's hyperspace capability allowed it to travel across the galaxy independently of larger support ships. As well as using it to fly long-range strikes.



X-WING CONFIGURATION

X-wings were versatile starfighters, thanks to the two pairs of wing-like strike-foils (or S-foils) at the rear of the craft. Each pair of foils locked flush against each other for maximum performance or to conserve energy during hyperspace travel. In combat, however, the S-foils were folded out to increase the spread of the laser cannons at their tips, giving the craft its distinctive 'X' profile from the front or rear. The cannons on some earlier models could not be fired with the foils in locked position.

the craft and, if necessary, making emergency repairs. On long missions, the astromech would act as a co-pilot, allowing the pilot to take rest breaks.

During one of his missions, Luke stumbled upon Hoth and convinced the Alliance High Command that this was the perfect new location. The survivors on Yavin evacuated the old base and dispersed, making their way separately to Hoth. One key to their escape was the creation of Renegade Squadron by Han Solo. The squadron flew in defense of the refugee ships and then carried out other daring missions that harried the Imperials.

ESCAPE FROM HOTH

Some months later, Luke Skywalker and Wedge Antilles formed a fighter group, which, known as Rogue Squadron, would go on to become the most famed in the galaxy. Their many victories against the Imperials made their X-wings prime targets, but time and again, they struck at the Empire and disappeared into deep space.





R2-D2

The little droid is a veteran and hero of so many conflicts, it is easily forgotten that his primary function was once that of any other astromech. When plugged into the droid socket of an X-wing, he functions as an automated mechanic and co-pilot, as well as a substitute nav computer – roles which he can still carry out extremely efficiently.

THE BATTLE OF ENDOR

ROGUE SQUADRON

Wedge Antilles was one of the few X-wing pilots to survive the Battle of Yavin, after which he founded Rogue Squadron with Luke Skywalker. Together, they built Rogue Squadron into a formidable fighting unit, and when Luke renewed his Jedi training after the Battle of Hoth, Antilles took command. At the Battle of Endor, the Rogues took the name Red Squadron in honor of the earlier heroes, and flying as Red Leader, Antilles struck the blow with Lando Calrissian that destroyed the second Death Star.



Antilles's X-wing's proton torpedoes struck the second Death Star's power regulator, setting off a series of explosions.

Things would turn in favor of the Empire when a probe droid revealed the rebels' secret base on Hoth. Although the Rogues counter-attacked the Imperial strike force, snowspeeders proved more effective at countering the AT-AT walkers, and the X-wings joined the evacuation. As the final rebel ships departed, Luke Skywalker's X-wing was one of the last to flee.

Directed to Dagobah, Luke almost lost his fighter in a bog, but it was retrieved by his new Jedi Master, Yoda. Rashly, when Luke felt Han Solo and Leia's suffering on Bespin, he took his craft to rescue them. Taking on Darth Vader directly, Luke was nearly killed and himself had to be rescued, and it would be some time before he rejoined the Rogues and renewed his Jedi training.

In his personal X-wing, Luke played a key part in the mission that uncovered news that a second Death Star was being constructed over Endor.

MISSION TO ENDOR

It was agreed that Luke would join a ground attack, while the X-wings and the *Millennium Falcon*, commanded by Lando Calrissian, mounted a space assault that aimed to destroy the Death Star from inside. Rogue Squadron was directly attached to the Mon Calamari Cruiser *Home One*, flagship of the fleet, and fought a desperate battle while the Death Star's shield was still active. Once the X-wings were able to enter the battle station, they helped the *Millennium Falcon* to destroy it, gaining the ultimate rebel victory.



After Luke landed his X-wing on the dangerously unstable terrain of Dagobah, it sank into a bog – where Luke believed it would be lost forever.

BEHIND THE SCENES

MODEL X-WINGS

The models used to film the X-wings in flight for the Battle of Yavin were quite small, although they were packed with wiring that lit up the engines and lasers. When it came to filming *Return of the Jedi*, the original script featured Luke's X-wing flying much closer to the camera, so the model would need much more detail, as well as an articulated model pilot. Fortunately, it turned out that two ILM model makers had been building a 1.2m version in their spare time, so the company commissioned them to complete it for filming. The big model was duly filmed and looked very convincing on screen, but its scenes were cut from the movie.



The original filming models of the X-wing were fully articulated. They were built around hollow tubing that carried wiring and cooled the glowing lights.

HULL FRAMES AND PLATING





Rusted, bent and battle-scarred, the *Falcon*'s hull gave little hint of the ship's speed, firepower and resilience. At first glance, she was just another of the tired old freighters tramping the Outer Rim.

The *Falcon*'s hull was reinforced with a patchwork of armor plate, scavenged from the wreck of an Imperial bulk cruiser and welded roughly into place. But Han Solo and Chewbacca had many occasions to thank this lash-up from getting them out of the scrapes that left their marks on the hull.

Luke Skywalker's first impression that the *Falcon* was a piece of junk was shared by most of those who looked no further than her battered exterior, with its rusty plating dented by space debris and carbon-scored by laser bolts. This suited her captain just fine: it paid to be underestimated by the opposition.

The *Falcon*'s appearance was both a testament to her colorful past and a deliberate ruse on the part of her owners. As Han Solo said, the *Falcon* had got it where it counted, including massively uprated engines and firepower, but the beaten-up shell was also much tougher than it looked.

Like many a basic spaceship, the stock YT-1300 hull was based on a reinforced frame with a series of radial ribs and concentric spacers. But the Corellian Engineering Corporation knew its business, as the subtle outward curves of the upper and lower hull added to the strength of the structure.

On top of the hull frame was a layer of durasteel plate. This immensely strong metal sheeting was an alloy of carbon, carvanium, lommite, meleenium, neutronium, and zersium. Able to withstand intense heat or cold, and shrug off physical damage even when formed into a thin sheet, durasteel was the metal of choice for most spacecraft hulls, although it was still prone to corrosion, and required regular maintenance in service.

YEARS OF SERVICE

Over her years of hard use, the *Falcon*'s hull had been patched and repaired many times, even before she became the property of smugglers. Shortly after the Clone Wars, a collision had caused extensive damage to the YT-1300's whole frame, which saw the ship being sold for scrap. However, the wreck was salvaged and extensively rebuilt by an enterprising spaceship engineer, using parts from another damaged hull – and it was in this form



Inside the ship, the structural beams supporting the plating were visible in open areas such as the main hold.

that the *Falcon* (then renamed the *Second Chance*) began a career on the wrong side of the law.

A series of owners continued adding their own special modifications, but it was not until the ship came into Han Solo's ownership that she took on her final external appearance. The hull was in remarkably good shape, and Solo was determined to keep it that way. He and Chewbacca welded and fused extra armor plates across the most vital sectors of the ship, giving the crew areas and engines a level of protection which approached that of a purpose-built warship.

While CEC had offered an upgrade for its hull plating, according to legend the duralloy plate Han used came from a derelict Imperial *Neutron Star*-class bulk cruiser, the *Liquidator*. Designed during the Clone Wars to serve as a second-line patrol ship or armed freighter, the slow and inefficient *Neutron Star*-class vessels were soon outdated and

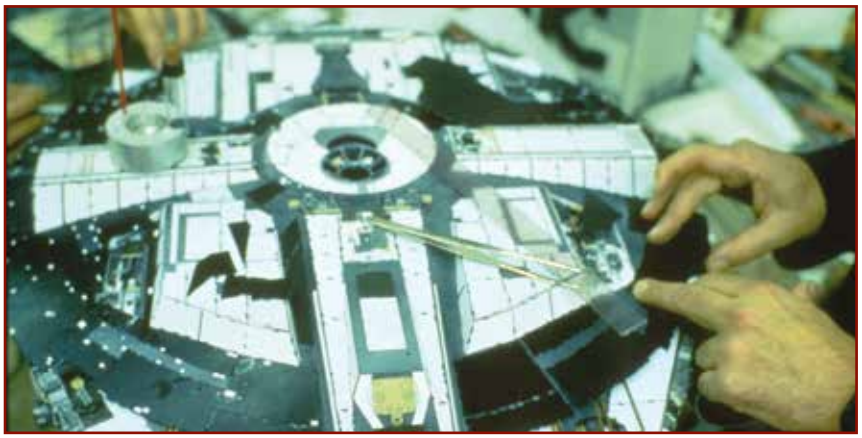
CREATING THE ARMOR

The plating on the original filming miniature was made from Plastruct polystyrene modeling sheet. Sections were cut into around a dozen different geometric shapes and notched with a tool that nibbled small rectangles out of the edges, before the panels were pieced together over the curves of the main hull.

A similar method had been used to create the full-size *Falcon*, with sheets of plywood used to simulate the panels of armor plating.



On the finished model (above), the separate pieces of Plastruct sheet (below) were covered with hundreds of parts from model kits, breaking up the outlines.





LAYERED STRUCTURE

Like many starships, the *Falcon*'s hull was based on a sturdy frame of radial beams and concentric cross-members, clad with a thin layer of durasteel plate. That was fine for a freighter, but to fit the ship for her smuggling career, the plating was covered with military-grade armor, leaving only chinks to reveal the original structure beneath.

LAYERED CONSTRUCTION

out-gunned by later ships. The *Liquidator* was sent as part of the Imperial strike force deployed against the smugglers of Nar Shaddaa. During the rout that followed, she was put out of action by Mako Spince's *Dragon Pearl* and a Y-wing fighter escort. The damaged hulk of the *Liquidator* plummeted towards Nal Hutta, the homeworld of the Hutts. However, while the ship was destroyed, the hull's tough spaceframe, built by Rendili StarDrive, proved to be a useful source of scrap, including the salvaged sheets of plating that were acquired by Han Solo in his smuggling days.

The military-grade armor was made of thick duralloy. Shaped to fit the original vessel's hull, the panels had notched, interlocking edges. While Solo selected the plates to fit the curvature of the *Falcon*'s hull as closely as he could, inevitably there were numerous gaps, and some of the sheets already bore the evidence of battle damage. Despite this, the combination of the armor and military-grade shielding made the *Falcon* all but impervious to any ordinary attack.

YOUR NEXT PARTS

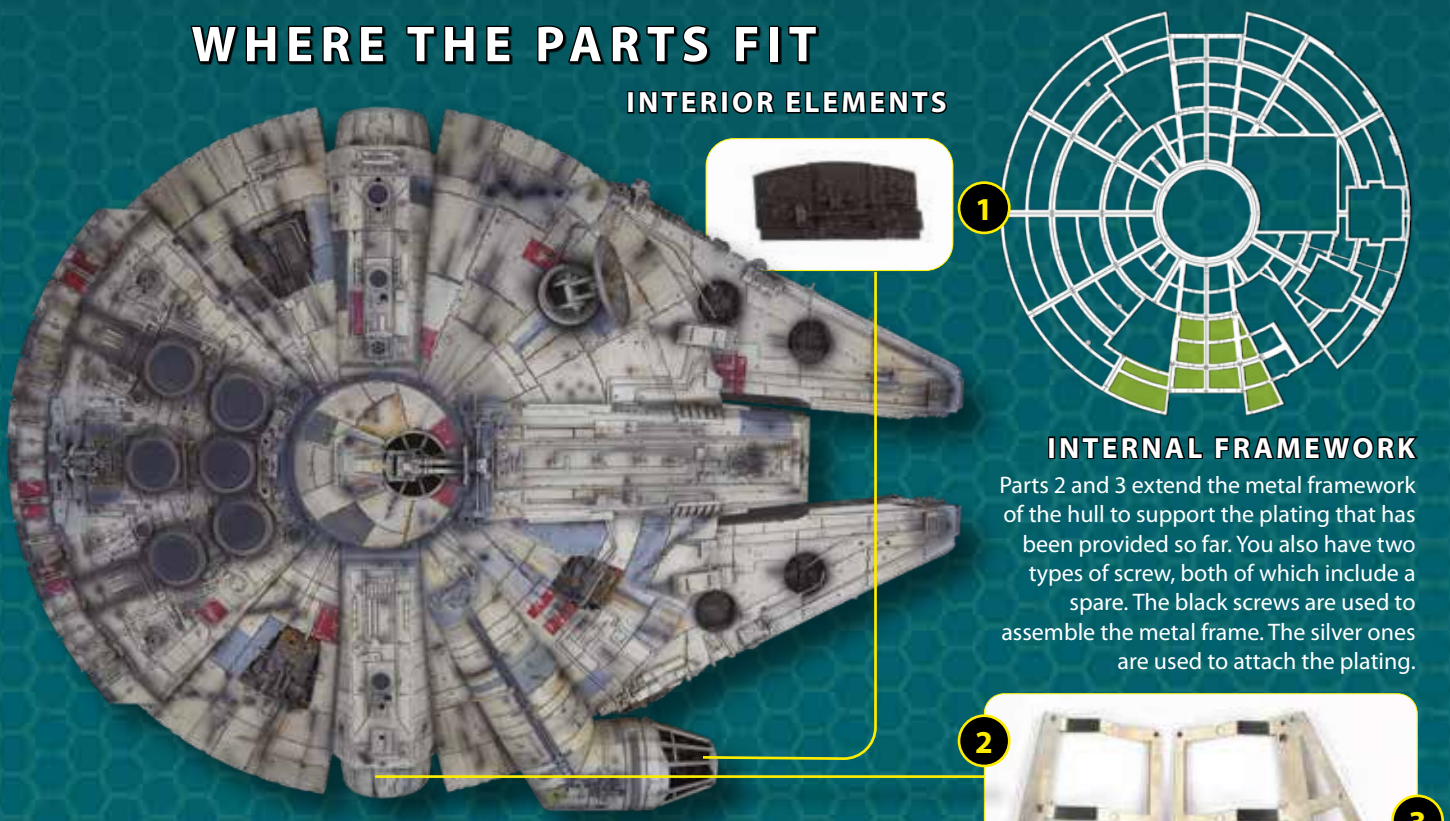
This issue brings you a selection of parts to continue assembling the *Millennium Falcon*'s hull framework. Once these have been added to the existing frames, you can attach the first of the two pieces of hull plating you have already received.

Your parts also include an extra panel to complete the front of the instrument console, the assembly of which began in Issue 3.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Cockpit console front panel
2. Hull frame TF-5
3. Hull frame TF-6
4. Frame fixing screws (x 10, plus 1 spare)
5. 4-hole connectors (x 2)
6. Panel fixing screws (x 8, plus 1 spare)

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

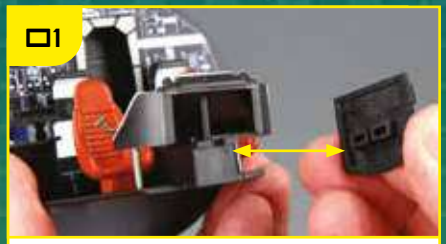


INTERNAL FRAMEWORK

Parts 2 and 3 extend the metal framework of the hull to support the plating that has been provided so far. You also have two types of screw, both of which include a spare. The black screws are used to assemble the metal frame. The silver ones are used to attach the plating.

COMPLETING THE COCKPIT CONSOLE

Fitting the cockpit console front panel provided this time will finish off the front of the pilots' control panel.



Take the cockpit console front panel (Part 1) and the cockpit interior that you assembled in Issue 3. Align the two tabs and slots (as shown by yellow arrows).



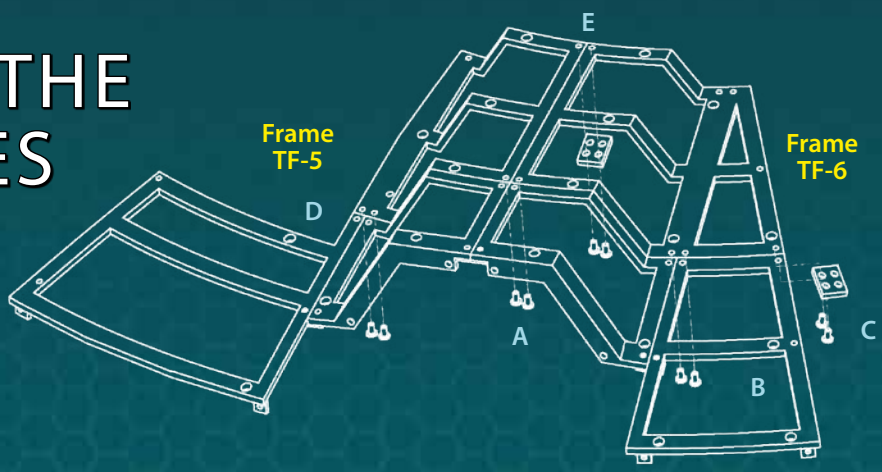
Press the front panel back into position so that its top edge fits under the instrument panel, as shown.



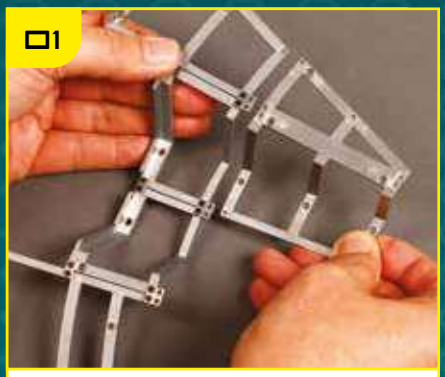
This completes the front of the cockpit.

EXTENDING THE HULL FRAMES

The basic techniques for joining the hull frames provided this time are the same as you used in Issue 2. You will need the two 4-hole connectors supplied with this issue, plus the black fixing screws used to assemble them.

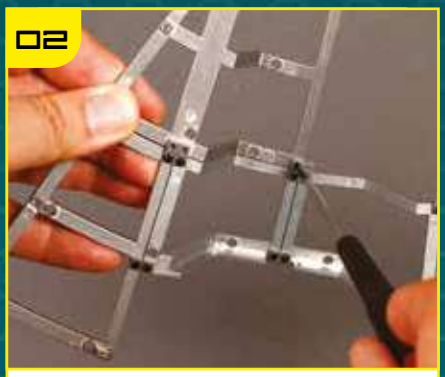


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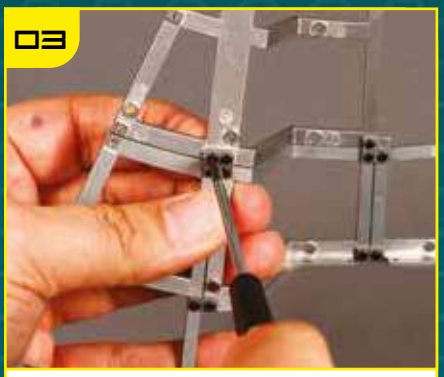
Take the framework you assembled in Issue 2, and line up Part 3 (hull frame TF-6) with the end of it, as shown.

02



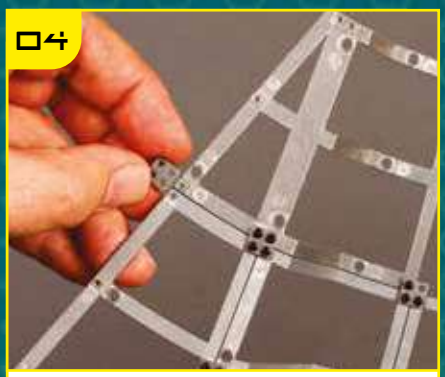
Holding the parts together, insert one black fixing screw at point A in the diagram. Do not tighten it fully yet.

03



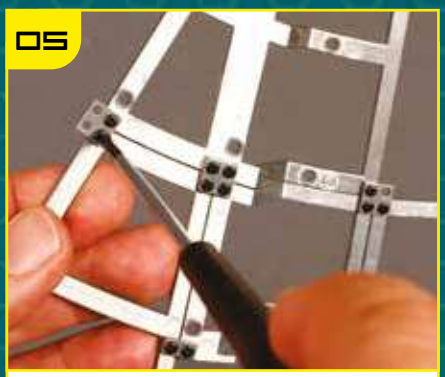
Use two fixing screws to secure TF-6 to the spare holes in the 4-hole connector at point B. Do not tighten them fully.

04



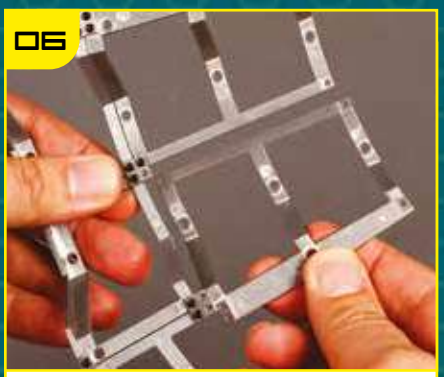
Take a 4-hole connector and line it up with the assembly at point C as shown.

05



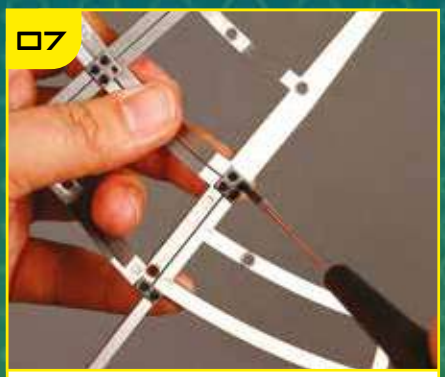
Use two screws to secure the connector across the joint between the frames.

06



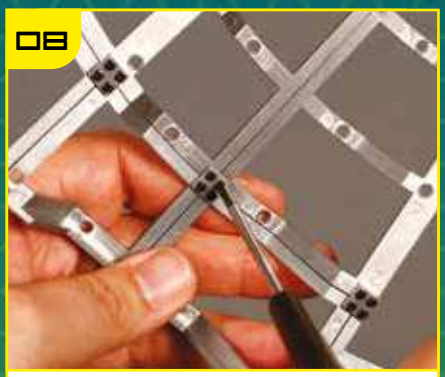
Position Part 2 (hull frame TF-5) against the framework, as shown.

07



Holding the frames together, insert two fixing screws loosely to secure the connector at point D.

08



Use another fixing screw to secure the joint to the connector at point A. Do not tighten it fully yet.

09

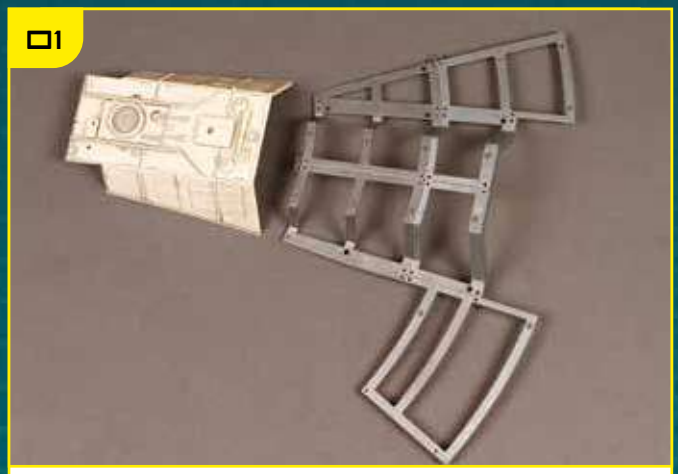


Fit the second connector at point E, as shown. Then tighten all the screws just enough to hold the frames firmly.

FITTING THE HULL PLATING

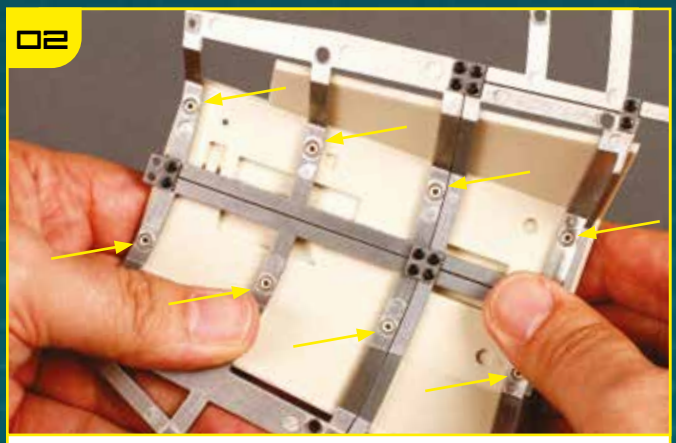
There is no need to attach the hull plating permanently until you have completed the whole of the metal framework, but now that you have completed a large section, you can fit the panels supplied with Issue 1 and 3 to see the principles involved.

01



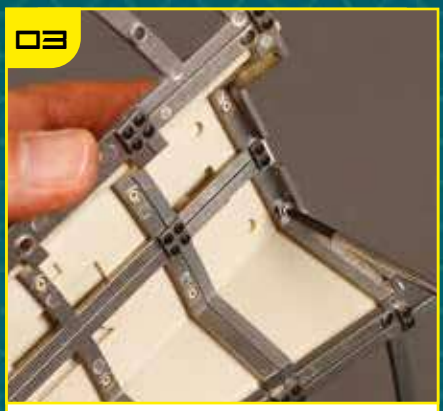
Take the frame assembly, plus Part 10 (hull plating TP-1) from Issue 1. You also need the silver screws supplied this time.

02



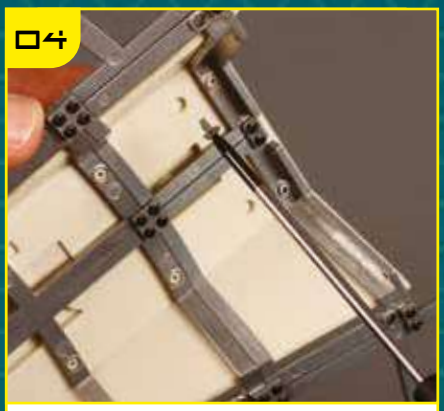
Fit the plating over the frame assembly as shown, checking that the eight lugs on the plating (arrowed) have all fitted into the matching holes in the frames.

03



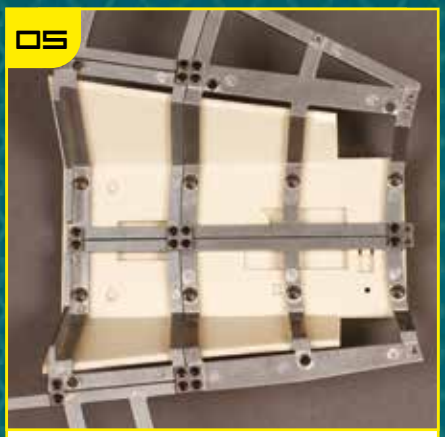
Fix the plating with the silver screws supplied. They cut their own threads, so be careful not to overtighten them.

04



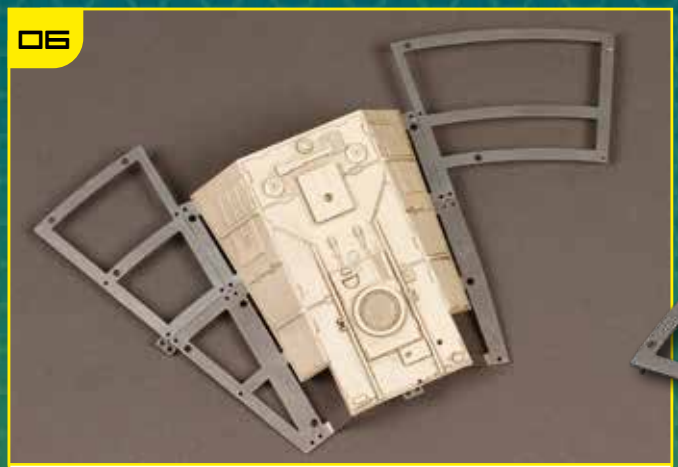
As the screwdriver is magnetic, you may find it easier to use it to pick up and position the screws.

05



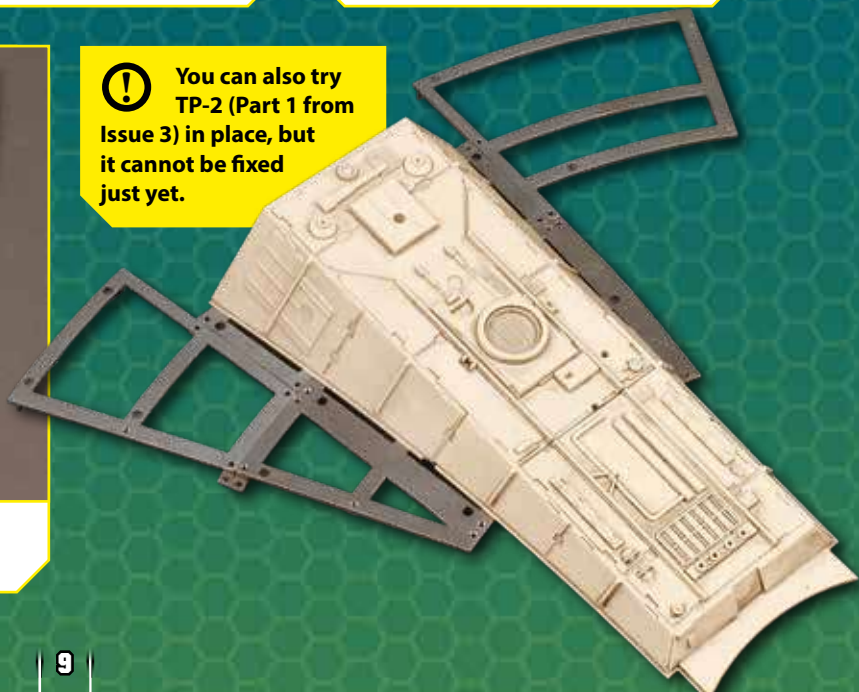
Continue until you have fitted all eight fixing screws.

06



The completed assembly looks like this. Store it carefully until it is time to continue building the hull.

You can also try TP-2 (Part 1 from Issue 3) in place, but it cannot be fixed just yet.



STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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