STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY



THE *FALCON'S* CIRCUITRY BAY

F219FSC014

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STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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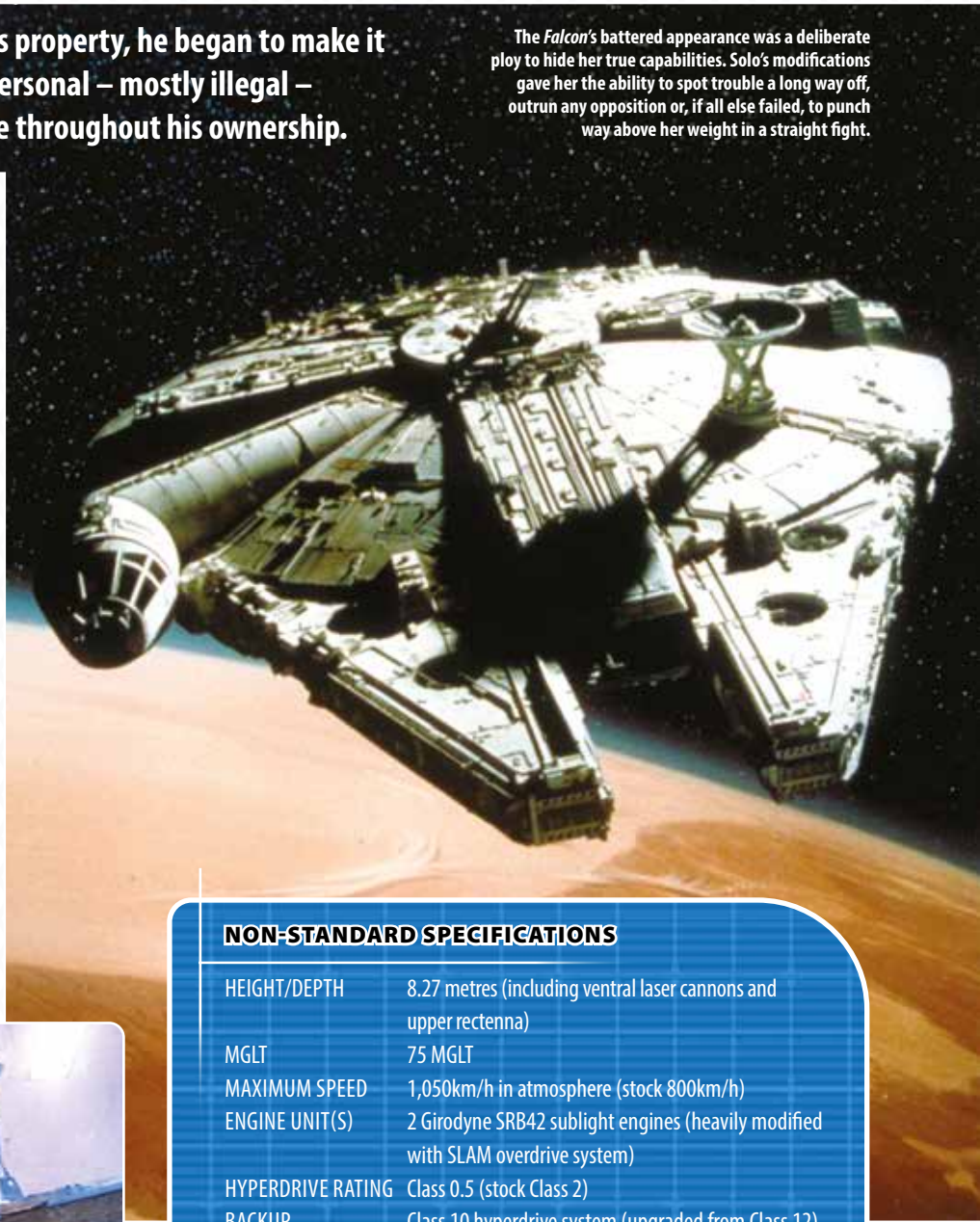
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CUSTOMIZED SMUGGLING VESSEL

UPGRADES AND MODIFICATIONS

After the *Falcon* became Han Solo's property, he began to make it his own, beginning the series of personal – mostly illegal – modifications that would continue throughout his ownership.



The *Falcon's* battered appearance was a deliberate ploy to hide her true capabilities. Solo's modifications gave her the ability to spot trouble a long way off, outrun any opposition or, if all else failed, to punch way above her weight in a straight fight.

Professional gambler Lando Calrissian should have known that there is no certainty in sabacc. Nevertheless, he was sure he held a winning hand in the last round of the Cloud City Sabacc Tournament. Short of credits, Lando boldly threw in his marker, saying that it was good for any ship in the used spacecraft lot he owned on Nar Shaddaa.

Han Solo, the only other player left in the contest, quietly accepted the wager, knowing (which Lando had overlooked) where his opponent had left his personal ship. When Solo won, a magnanimous Calrissian offered him an almost-new YT-2400 – but to Lando's horror, the smuggler claimed the *Falcon* on the technicality that 'any ship' included one Lando had forgotten.

As soon as he had collected his winnings, Solo ran a very successful smuggling trip to Kashyyyk, before starting to add to the *Falcon*'s



Despite the *Millennium Falcon's* rough edges and sometimes temperamental performance, Han Solo was very proud of his ship, and became expert at upgrading her systems or making essential repairs with limited facilities.

NON-STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT/DEPTH	8.27 metres (including ventral laser cannons and upper rectenna)
MGLT	75 MGLT
MAXIMUM SPEED	1,050km/h in atmosphere (stock 800km/h)
ENGINE UNIT(S)	2 Girodyne SRB42 sublight engines (heavily modified with SLAM overdrive system)
HYPERDRIVE RATING	Class 0.5 (stock Class 2)
BACKUP	Class 10 hyperdrive system (upgraded from Class 12), Avatar-10 hyperdrive (original), Isu-Sim SSP05 hyperdrive generator (heavily modified), later upgraded to a Series 401 hyperdrive motivator
POWER PLANT	Quadex power core (modified) Incom N2I-4 power converter Koensayr TLB power converter CEC emergency power generator Cryogenic reserve power cells



HYPERDRIVE UPGRADES

The speed of a hyperdrive is rated on a decreasing scale; the faster it is, the lower the rating. By the end of the Clone Wars, most military starships had Class 2 or 3 hyperdrives, but by the time of the Rebellion, this had increased to Class 1 or 2. Freighters generally had a Class 3 or 4, while civilian ships were usually Class 5 or above. The stock YT-1300 was already fast at Class 2, but although tampering with the technology of a hyperdrive was considered inadvisable – if not downright dangerous – Doc and Solo's modifications increased the *Falcon*'s rating to Class 0.5.

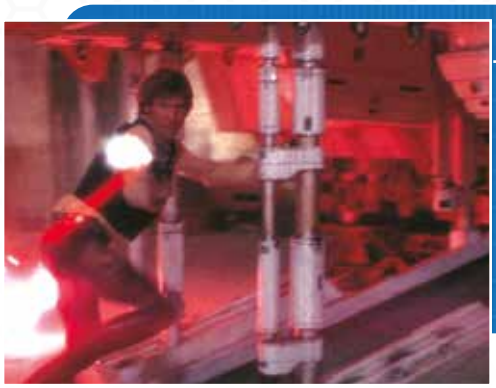
collection of non-standard fittings with a whole series of modifications that suited his personal needs. He did much of the work himself, with the aid of Chewbacca, and the master technician and starship mechanic Shug Ninx.

UPGRADE PROGRAM

Over a few months, Solo added fake compartments under the decking, upgraded the ship's sensors, sensor jammers, and engines, and added extra armor and more powerful weapons. Solo's enhancements were designed to ensure that the ship could detect trouble long before he encountered it, and gave him the option of hiding from any likely opposition or outrunning it. If he was forced into a straight fight, the *Falcon* had the defenses and firepower to defeat anything short of a capital ship. Solo had no intention of losing his new pride and joy to a lucky shot from an Imperial fighter, like the one that had destroyed his previous vessel, the small *Starmite*-class freighter *Bria*.

Not everything went to plan. The first time Solo turned on his jammer, the strength of the pulse overpowered the *Falcon*'s own internal communications, meaning that the cockpit was unable to send control signals to the ship's systems. It could have spelled disaster, as Solo was in the process of ducking into a planet's gravity well in a bid to shake off a pursuing Imperial frigate. The *Falcon* hurtled towards the upper atmosphere (where it would soon have burned up) and was already grazing the first wisps of gas when the jammer luckily burned out, letting Solo regain control.

Han learned how to defend himself at an early age, but in addition to his natural abilities, he had an Imperial military training.



OUTSIDER BY NECESSITY

Orphaned at an early age, Solo was forced to live on his wits on the fringes of the law. His education was patchy, but he learned to fight and he learned to fly. Looking to change his fortunes, Solo was accepted for military training and honed his skills as an Imperial pilot. He graduated top of his class, but his service career was cut short when he refused to persecute a helpless Wookiee, and he returned to a life as an outlaw.

ESCAPE FROM TATOOINE

'SHE'S GOT IT WHERE IT COUNTS'

Desperate to pay off his debts, Han Solo drove a hard bargain with the old man and farm boy who wanted to charter the *Falcon* for a journey to Alderaan, and wasn't too worried by the increased Imperial activity around Mos Eisley. Solo was stung by the boy's reaction to his prized ship, but there was no time to argue, and the arrival of a band of stormtroopers forced a quick take-off. The approach of three Imperial capital ships with laser cannons blazing proved that Solo's passengers were even more valuable cargo than he suspected, but he knew that what Skywalker called 'a piece of junk' had the capability to outrun them once he could make the jump to hyperspace...



Pursued by an overwhelming Imperial force, Han wanted to wait for the nav computer to calculate the jump to lightspeed, but once the *Falcon* lost its deflector shield, they had no time to spare.

EXPERT ASSISTANCE

Shug Ninx had already expertly upgraded the hyperdrive, but even as he accepted Solo's praise, he admitted that there was an outlaw tech known as 'Doc' who could boost the *Falcon* to another level. When he had a chance to work the Corporate Sector (where Doc lived), Solo jumped at it. First, the master tech (whose real name was Klaus Vandangante) upgraded the hyperdrive until it would make point-five past light speed, and then, when Doc was captured and sent to prison, his daughter Jessa offered some extras to encourage Solo to rescue her father.

First, Jessa repaired the damage from a fight with a Corporate Sector Authority fighter, fixing the *Falcon* up with an all-new sensor suite and dish, and when Solo successfully broke into Star's End prison and released Doc, Jessa further repaid him by repairing all the hull damage and installing a new guidance system.

The *Falcon* was in the best shape that she had ever been, and Solo even considered having a new coat of paint put on her. He decided against it, as he realized that the *Falcon*'s beaten-up appearance was a huge advantage in getting opponents to underestimate her. Nobody expected such an obvious hunk of junk to have a military-grade hyperdrive augmented with the best tech in the business, or to have a state-of-the-art jamming capability and all the other tricky little extras that Han had installed. It would have been perfect if she hadn't also been a little cranky, occasionally needing a whack or two with a hydrospanner before she would cooperate.

Unfortunately for Han, he wouldn't have long to enjoy his newly refurbished ship before a smuggling trip that went wrong put a price on his head and made him so desperate for money that he was prepared to take on a highly risky ferry job to Alderaan.



Like Han Solo, Chewbacca was an expert mechanic who understood the *Falcon*'s peculiarities.

BEHIND THE SCENES

REVISING HISTORY

Published in 2016, scripted by Marjorie Liu and illustrated by Mark Brooks, the Han Solo comic book miniseries shows us a Corellian who is learning to live as a member of the Rebel Alliance, but lives in a constant struggle to maintain his former identity as a rogue and smuggler. The story centers on the Dragon Void Race, a competition that every pilot dreams of participating in at one time or another. As an undercover agent of the Rebel Alliance, Han signs up to rescue several rebel spies. Although Solo is clear about his mission, he doesn't know whether to take the race seriously... If he were to abandon the mission, he'd have a chance of winning the race...



THE FALCON'S ADD-ON CIRCUITRY BAY



When the *Falcon*'s crew were forced to try patching up the ship during the escape from Hoth, Princess Leia lent a hand from the circuitry bay leading off the main hold.

Like most starships, the YT-1300 has a power core that keeps the entire vessel running and energises the hyperdrive. Being able to control the power distribution is so important that one of the *Millennium Falcon*'s owners decided to duplicate the circuitry bay that makes this possible.

The *Millennium Falcon*'s circuitry bays provide maintenance access to all the essential power distribution systems on board. In a stock YT-1300, the only circuitry bay is located near the ship's high-output Quadex power core, in the central hub area, behind a bulkhead that backs straight onto the power core. The Quadex provides the power that runs the entire ship, so this layout is designed to keep the crucial equipment at the heart of the vessel – which is also its best-protected area. The normal YT-1300 circuitry bay is housed in a small cubicle accessed from the ring corridor opposite the entrance to the rear port cargo hold/passenger compartment, and the floor includes a removable panel that gives access to the systems routed through the lower parts of the ship.

The *Millennium Falcon* still has this setup, but at some point in the freighter's checkered history, one of her owners or operators decided to add a second circuitry bay, which is accessed through a narrow slit doorway opening off the main hold. While this addition (and the extra section of corridor running around it) has cut down the amount of cargo space on board, the duplication of several essential systems does make the ship simpler to operate and service. For even easier access, there is a secondary hatch linking the bay to the corridor on the port side.

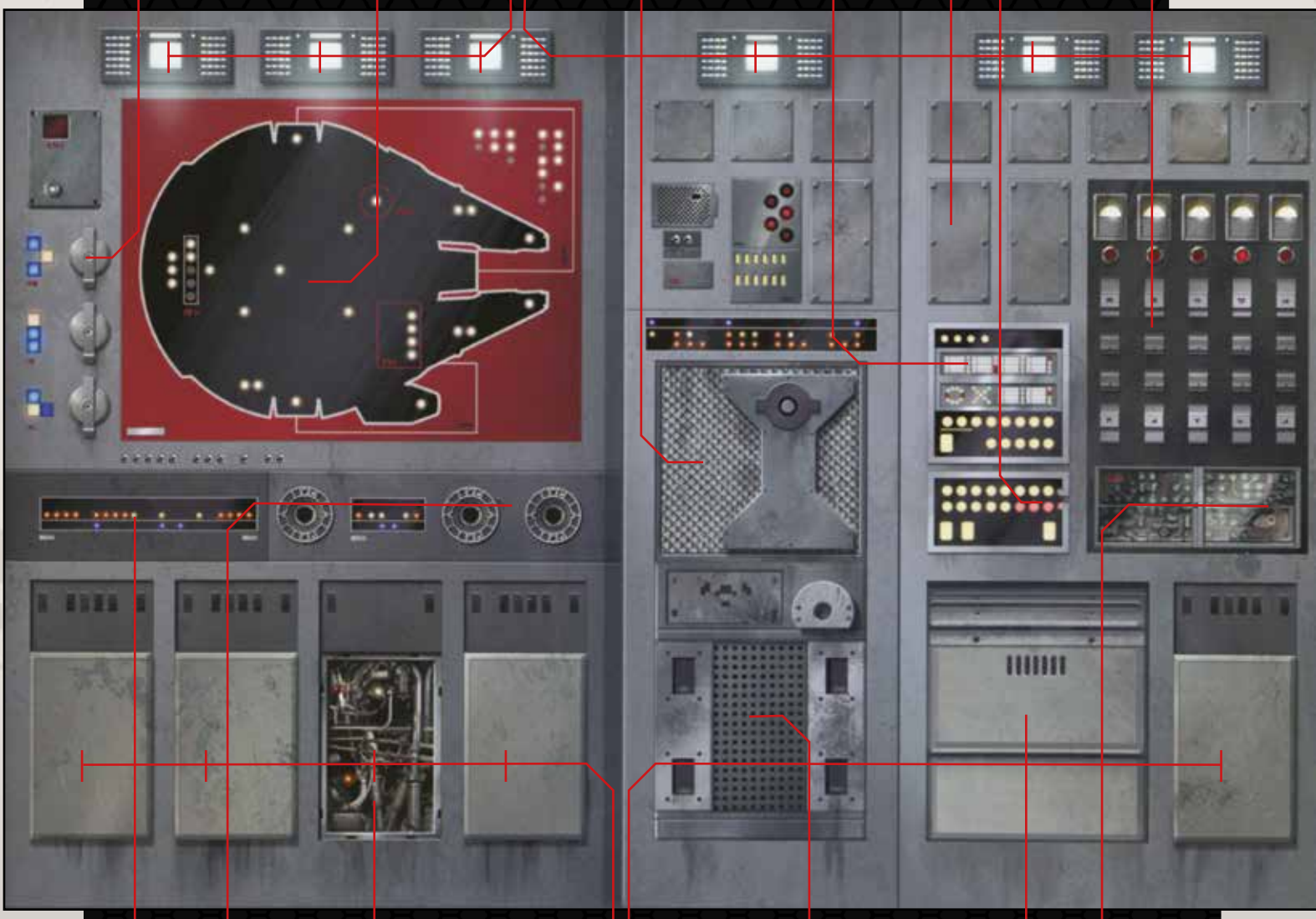
DUPLICATED SYSTEMS

The extra circuitry bay gives easy access to the *Falcon*'s power conduits and backup systems, while a partial recess in the floor allows the crew or maintenance engineers to work on the systems in the lower part of the ship. Both the circuitry bays are linked to allow one to back up the other, and

CIRCUITRY BAY LAYOUT

The metal panels in the extra circuitry bay are organized into two main halves. The large display at top left shows the status of the ship's systems, using a series of colored lights to indicate problems or malfunctions. Grouped around it are power distribution adjuster controls, more indicator lights, and data/diagnostic ports. Below the status display is a series of removable access panels covering the main circuit connections.

To the right of the main display is a large lighting distribution board, above a static charge dissipator panel and an air-cooling intake. On the extreme right is a panel with multiple displays, fuses, and connectors for the electrical systems, and a bank of sensor relays. Two key panels control the life-support systems and the artificial gravity compensator, while removable blanking plates allow access for maintenance and repairs.



there are automatic shutdown controls in case one is damaged or malfunctioning. But like most of the *Falcon*'s systems, there is plenty of evidence of quick fixes that were never updated or replaced.

HURRIED REPAIRS

During Han Solo's early ownership of the *Millennium Falcon*, he spent some time earning a precarious living smuggling goods and avoiding the authorities. During this period, often far from any maintenance facilities or sources of spare parts, some of the *Falcon*'s control circuitry had to be replaced with temporary adapters and interface routers, allowing Han and Chewbacca to use gas and fluidic components as a temporary solution until they could replace these inferior fittings with properly shielded circuits.

These temporary 'modifications' continued to cause trouble for a long time and made servicing and maintenance very tricky. After their escape from the Imperial invasion of Hoth, Leia attempted to fix a valve in the circuitry bay but needed Han's help to shift it in the cramped compartment, leading to their first openly romantic encounter and kiss.



The tight confines of the circuitry bay meant that there was little room for two to work. When Han offered to help Leia with a stuck valve, she tried to rebuff his advances, but was unable to resist when he moved to kiss her.

BEHIND THE SCENES

A VERY TIGHT FIT

The nature of film-making means that it is often necessary to have access for cameras, lighting and reflectors in what has to appear on screen as a cramped, confined space. In traditional theatre, sets are normally constructed with an open front, so that the audience is looking into a three-sided box and the audience mentally supplies the 'fourth wall'. In film-making, where characters have to move around, it often isn't possible to do this, although sometimes, when the action can be covered by edits, parts of the set can be made movable to make it possible to change the camera angle. In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Leia is seen from outside the circuitry bay, working in what appears to be a very confined space, which is all that would fit inside the cramped interior of the *Falcon*. However, the camera then cuts to shots taken from alongside Leia, where there is supposed to be a solid bulkhead. In the most extreme example in this sequence, the camera is positioned well below the actors' feet, in the area below floor level that was constructed to allow Han and Chewbacca to get down under the gratings, and for R2-D2 to fall into a maintenance void.



The circuitry bay is a small, confined space which gives Leia no room to move away from Han (below). However, the camera is able to take a reverse-angle shot from a long distance away (right). While this does not really fit with the layout of the ship, the extreme low angle of the shot does suggest that it could be taken from where the circuits snake through the lower levels of the ship.



YOUR NEXT PARTS

This issue includes the final wall for the hold, plus more parts for the bottom of the hull, which you will be assembling at a later stage. First, it's time to complete the hold, after adding details to the port wall.

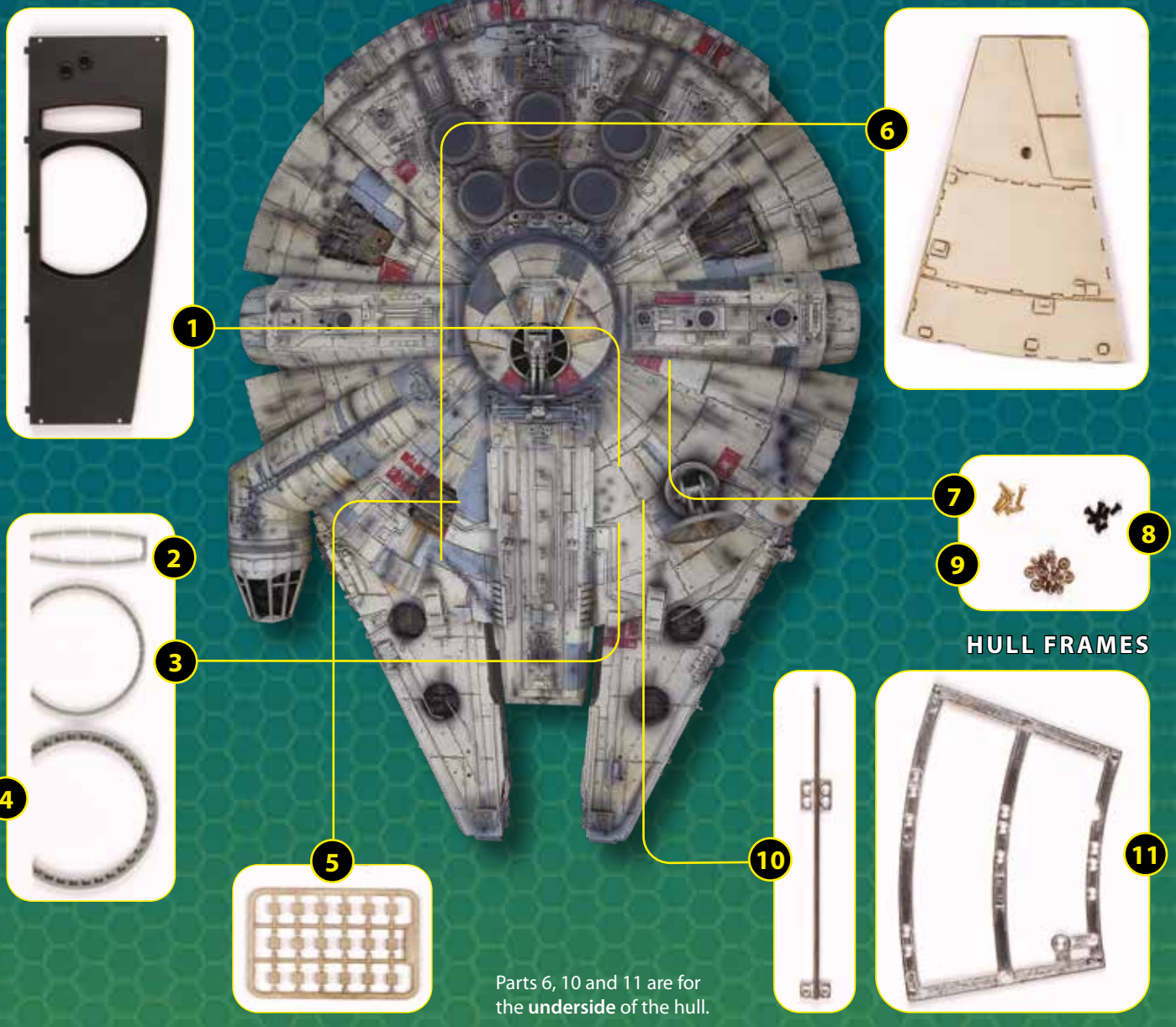
Keep the new framing and panel for the bottom of the hull until you receive some more parts that will brace the structure. Stage 14 of the assembly completes fitting out the hold, for which you will need the wall and small components provided with this issue.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Hold port wall
2. Circuitry bay door lining
3. Hold door liner (inner)
4. Hold door liner (outer)
5. Hold door pads (18 on sprue)
6. Hull plating BP-6
7. Fixing screws (x 4, plus spare)
8. Fixing screws (x 5, plus spare
9. Fixing screws (x 13, plus spare)
10. Radial stiffening rib
11. Hull frame BF-17

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

INTERNAL DETAILS



HULL EXTERIOR

HULL FRAMES

Parts 6, 10 and 11 are for the **underside** of the hull.

LINING THE HOLD DOOR OPENINGS

The port wall has a round opening into the corridor, which has a built-up lining that will be familiar from Stage 10. There is also a slit entrance door into the circuitry bay, which has a one-piece liner.

01



Take Part 2 from this issue, the lining for the circuitry bay door. Try it in the slit in the wall, so that the side with the molding marks is against the wall.

02



Carefully glue the edges of the lining into the slit.

03



Take the outer door liner (Part 4) and test-fit it in the round opening.

04



Glue the outer liner into the opening as you did in Issue 10, page 13.

05



Take the inner door liner (Part 3) and the sprue containing the door pads (Part 5).

06

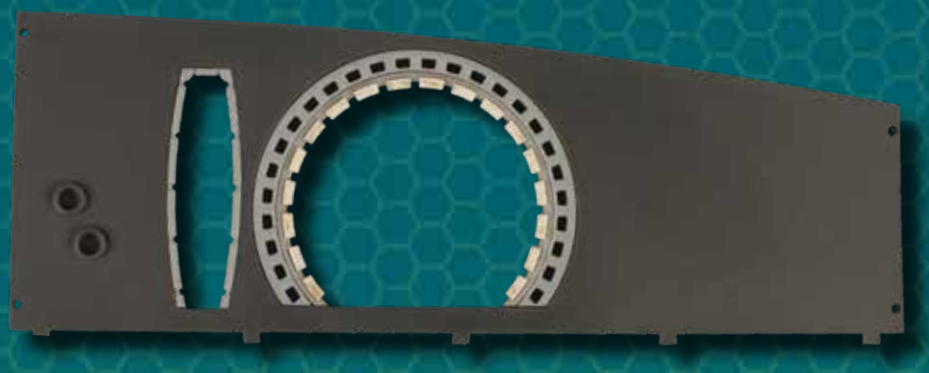


Remove all the pads from the sprue, trim and glue them to the inner liner as you did in Issue 10, page 12.

07



Glue the inner liner into the opening as you did in Issue 10, page 13.



FITTING THE PORT WALL

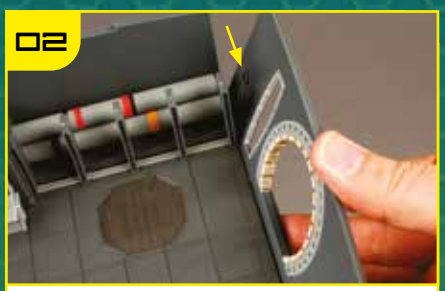
As with the other walls, the port wall is held by dovetail joints along the bottom edge and brass self-tapping screws (provided as Parts 7) at the corners. The assembly is slightly more complicated than before, because you will need to make sure that the pipes next to the alcove line up correctly.

01



Take the hold assembly that you completed in Issue 13, and line it up with the port wall.

02



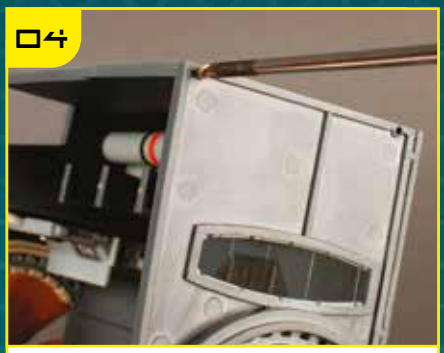
Slot the dovetails together, holding the corner near the alcove open slightly, so that the circles on the wall near the slit entrance (arrowed) clear the pipes.

03



Rock the wall forward so that the two circles engage with the ends of the two pipes.

04



Put a screw into the upper corner of the port wall first, as this will keep the pipes in place.

05



Add three more screws to complete the hold assembly.



This completes the main hold assembly, to which you will be adding the corridors later.

DESIGN PARALLELS

While the *Millennium Falcon*'s other interior doorways are round and padded to match the internal corridors, the slit door into the circuitry bay (which is an addition to the stock ship) is closely based on the narrow, angular cockpit doorway drawn up by concept artist Nilo Rodis-Jamero and Steve Cooper. This allowed set details to be recycled, and kept a family likeness between the different design elements.



This close-up of the kiss between Han and Leia shows a clearer detail of a retracted sliding door on the left of the opening.



Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher standing in the set before a take, showing the different profiles of the doors into the hold.

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