STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY



THE *FALCON'S* LAYOUT

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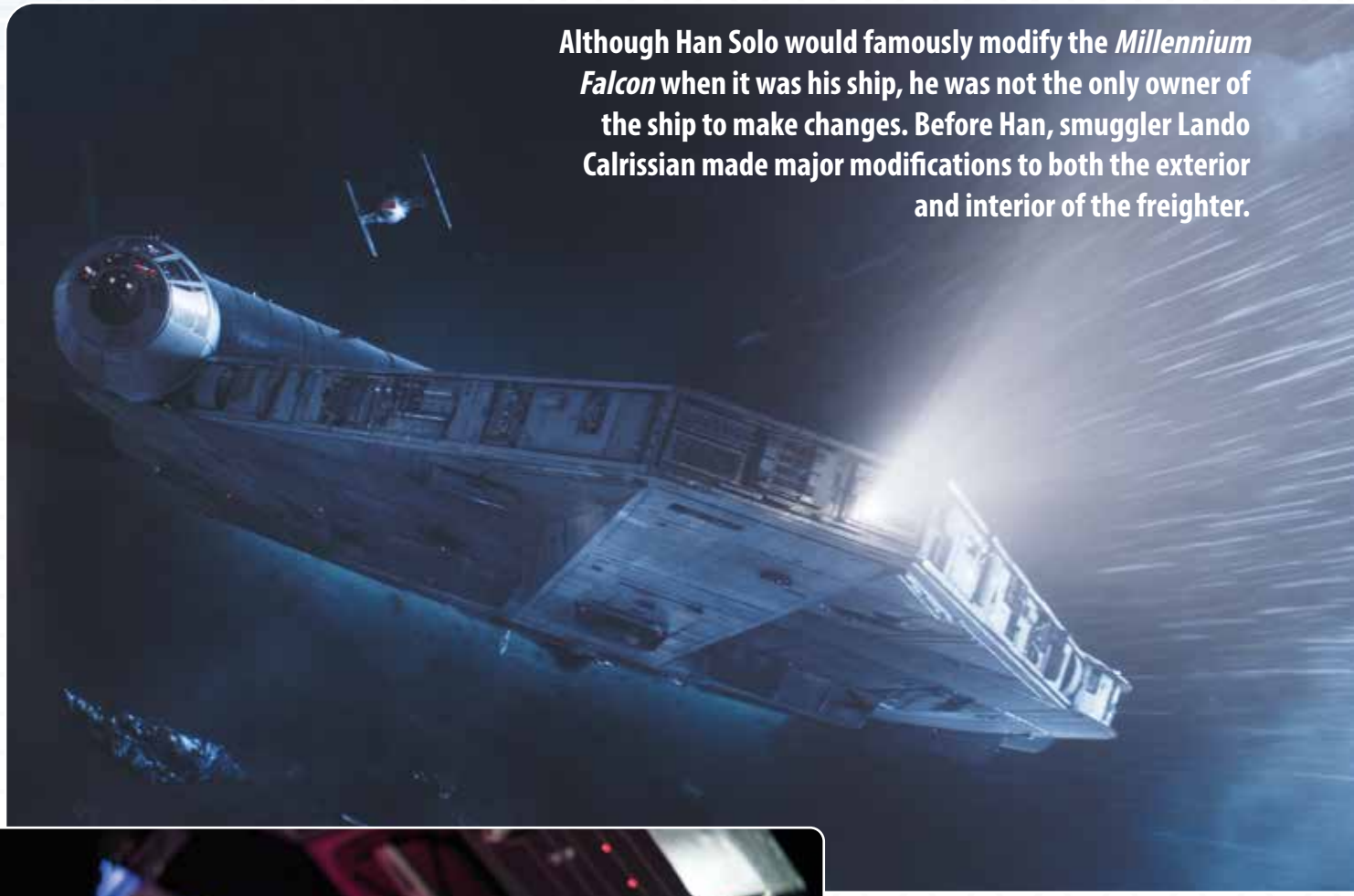
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THE LEGENDARY MILLENNIAL FALCON

LANDO CALRISSIAN'S MODIFICATIONS

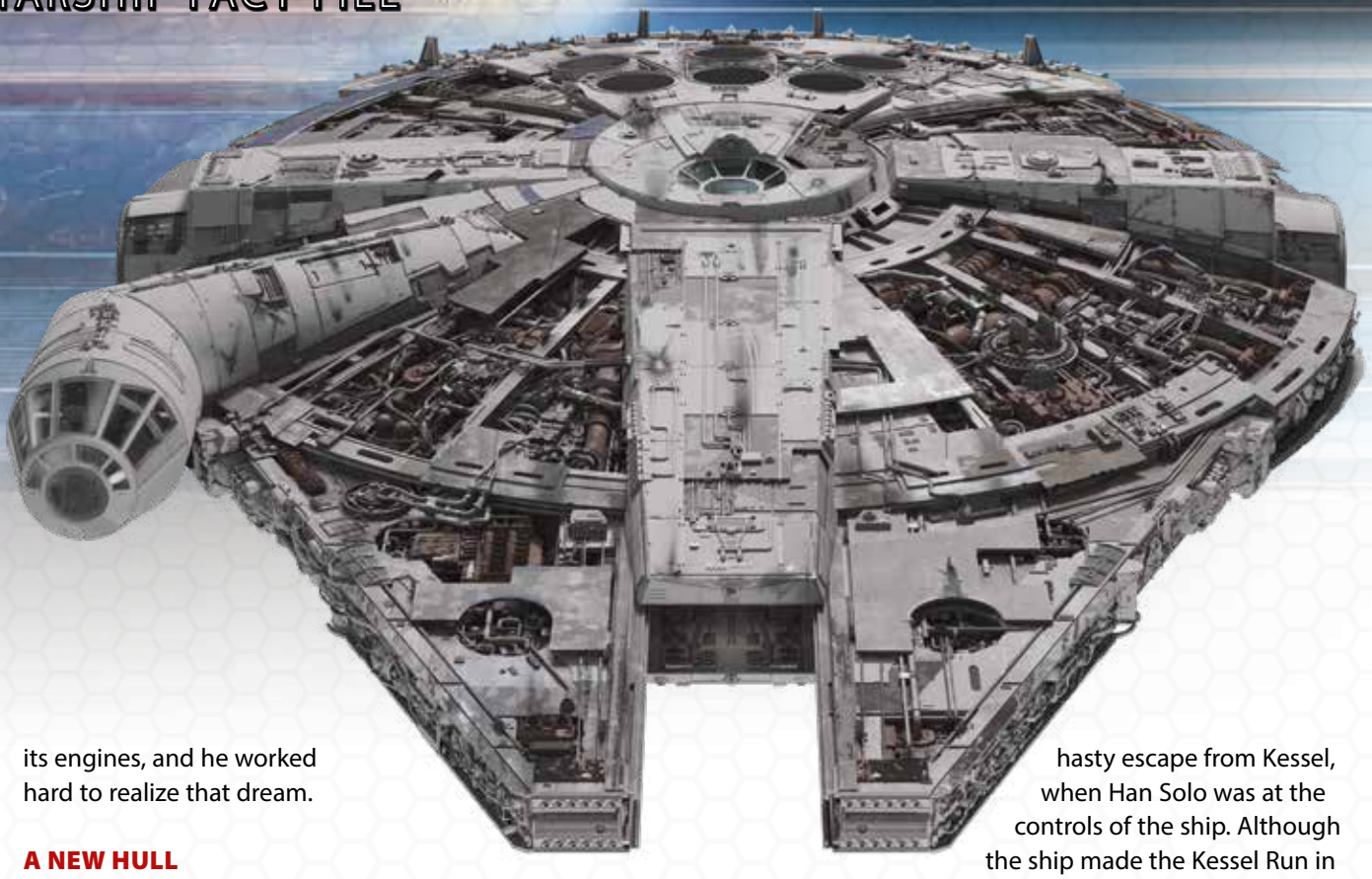


Although Han Solo would famously modify the *Millennium Falcon* when it was his ship, he was not the only owner of the ship to make changes. Before Han, smuggler Lando Calrissian made major modifications to both the exterior and interior of the freighter.



Before it came into Lando's hands, the *Falcon* had already been heavily modified. However, the charismatic smuggler wanted to give it his personal touch.

Lando Calrissian was a rogue, somewhat in love with himself, and from the very beginning he decided that his beautiful ship should also reflect his outgoing and dynamic personality. While the *Falcon* belonged to Lando, it would be turned into a ship with a sleek, modern exterior, and concealed within was a power and versatility that few could have imagined from a humble YT-1300 freighter. Lando imagined the *Falcon* as a sporting vessel that would make the most of the considerable power of



its engines, and he worked hard to realize that dream.

A NEW HULL

One of the most visible changes that Lando made was to the outer hull of the ship, which were covered with panels painted in alabaster-7791, with details in grey-anodazul-7255, colors usually associated with Lando's shipbuilders. Lando was also responsible for a significant reduction in the volume of the hull, which was customized and constructed from dura-steel. The new hull was not only better looking, more streamlined, and aerodynamic, but it was also much stronger than the old one, ideal for the fast getaways that Lando (and later Han Solo) often found themselves having to make. The smooth surface also improved the effectiveness of the ship's signal-jamming equipment.

Unfortunately, much of the *Falcon*'s external paneling and some other exterior elements were lost during the hasty escape from Kessel, when Han Solo was at the controls of the ship. Although the ship made the Kessel Run in record time, the damage nearly destroyed the *Falcon*, and the exterior would never again be as sophisticated as Lando had intended.

A REFINED INTERIOR

Lando's aesthetic was also in evidence inside the ship, which was decorated in a much more refined style than a standard YT-1300. Much of the furniture was upholstered in yellow,



The *Falcon* was a fast ship even before it belonged to Lando, but his improvements made it one of the most famous ships in the galaxy.



The *Falcon*'s interiors had a refined and elegant look that reflected Lando Calrissian's style.

Calrissian's signature color, which featured prominently in his wardrobe. So the bunks, the cabins, and the furniture in the forward compartment, where the crew would relax or play dejarik during the longer space voyages, were all decked out in yellow. In this communal area there was not only a holotable, but also a bar, and even a sound system.

COUNTERMEASURES AND WEAPONRY

However, Lando's improvements went beyond aesthetics: the experienced pilot also optimized the *Millennium Falcon*'s armaments, adding more firepower by installing two powerful RM-76 Tomral heavy laser cannons, one in the ship's ventral turret and one in its dorsal turret, turning an unarmed standard issue freighter into a force to be reckoned with.

Lando also optimized the ship's countermeasures to avoid unwanted problems in confrontations with other ships across the galaxy. The final touch was changing the hyperdrive from the Class 2 Avatar-10, that came standard with the YT-1300, to the Isu-Sim SSP05, a Class 1 drive that allowed it to compete with ships much smaller and faster than the *Falcon*. Han Solo would upgrade the hyperdrive even further, making it a Class 0.5.

THE YT ESCAPE POD

One of the more curious improvements introduced by Lando involved the YT Dart tug that came standard on many YT-1300 freighters, and which was usually fitted between the front mandibles. Lando transformed the front socket into a docking and launching point for ships, and also converted the small tug into a two-person escape pod by sealing the front visor and installing a hyperdrive and a more powerful sublight engine. When encased in the forward jaws, the YT Dart seemed to extend the *Falcon*'s bow, giving the ship a more imposing presence.

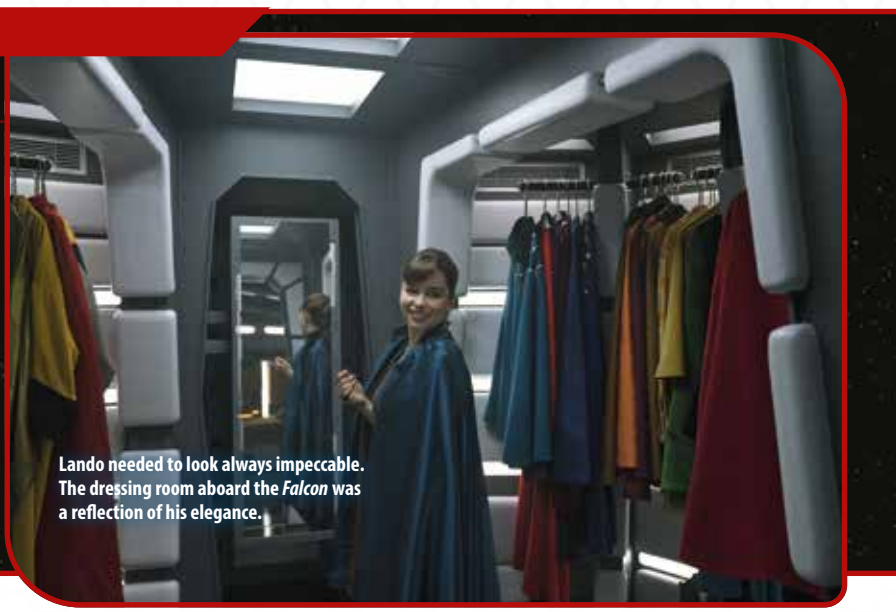


THE WALK-IN WARDROBE

CLASS AND ELEGANCE

Lando Calrissian had a narcissistic side: he took care of every aspect of his attire and appearance down to the smallest detail, and few places on the *Millennium Falcon* expressed that quirk better than his personal wardrobe, where he kept his dazzling collection of suits and capes. The dressing room was a spacious area located near the crew quarters, and opposite an unusually wide bunk (also furnished in yellow) on the other side of the communal area.

Qi'ra visited the dressing room during the *Falcon*'s journey to Kessel, and even tried on some of Lando's clothes, before having a heartfelt conversation with Han Solo, with whom she had recently been reunited.



Lando needed to look always impeccable. The dressing room aboard the *Falcon* was a reflection of his elegance.

THE FALCON'S LAYOUT

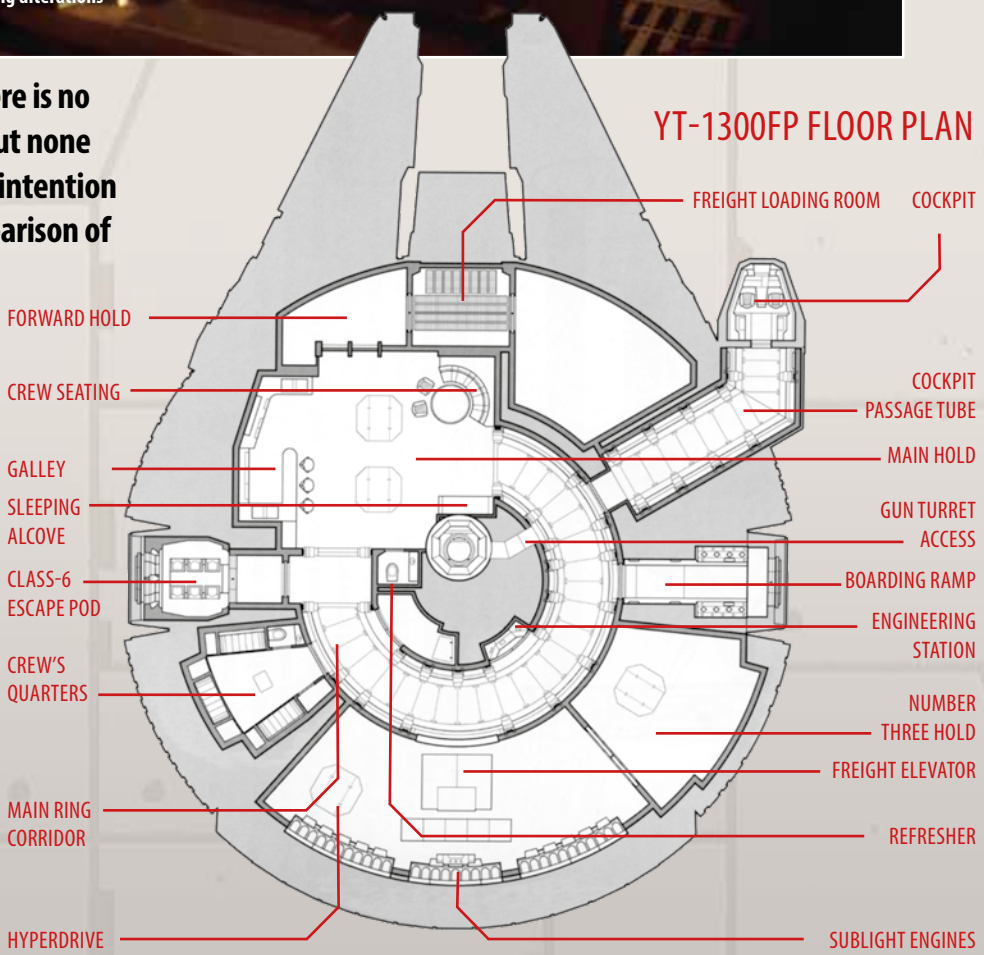


While the *Millennium Falcon*'s main hold is based on the stock YT-1300, this area has had its seating moved and modified, making alterations to the sleeping alcove and installing a technical station.

It has been said many times that there is no such thing as a 'standard' YT-1300, but none has departed so far from its maker's intention as the *Millennium Falcon* – as a comparison of deck plans vividly reveals.

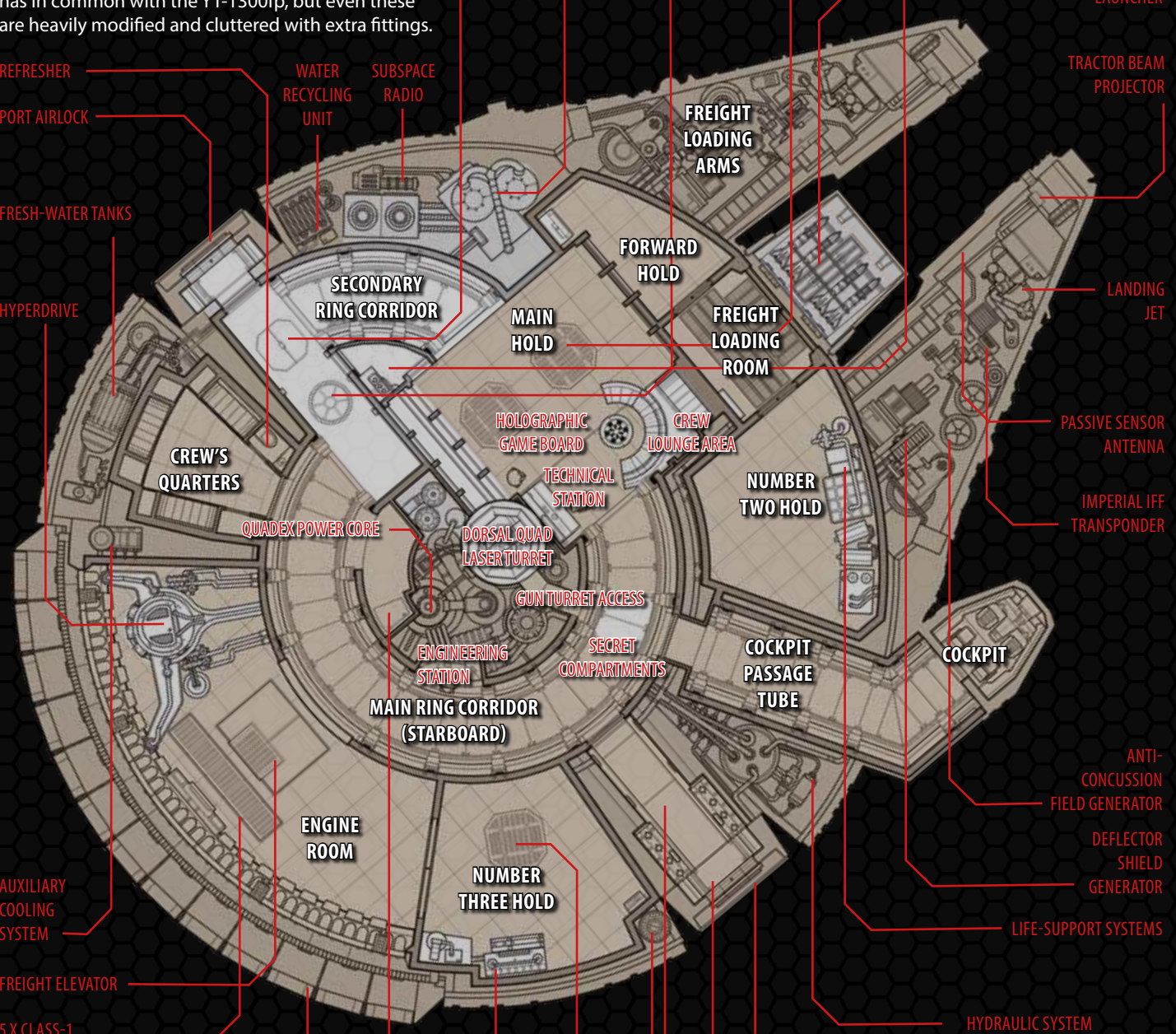
Even though every freighter sold is fitted out to the customer's specifications, some shipwrights and CEC dealers refer to the catalogue YT-1300fp as the 'stock' version of the YT-1300. What this really means is that most customers are happy enough with the overall layout and tend to switch the odd module or pick some of the wide range of extras, rather than making major adjustments to the specifications. Those who want more cargo capacity or more passenger accommodation tend to start with one of the other YT-1300 base models.

In this, as in so many things, the *Falcon* is an exception – which a look at its floorplan shows. While the starboard



MILLENNIUM FALCON FLOOR PLAN

Comparison with the layout on page 7 reveals just how far the *Falcon* is modified, in the port quarter in particular. The colored area shows which modules it has in common with the YT-1300fp, but even these are heavily modified and cluttered with extra fittings.



Note that this diagram only shows how the floor plan differs from standard and does not color-code all the additional equipment that is only accessible through maintenance accessways.

side is quite close to stock, two-thirds of the port half is unlike almost any other YT-1300 ever made.

HEAVILY MODIFIED

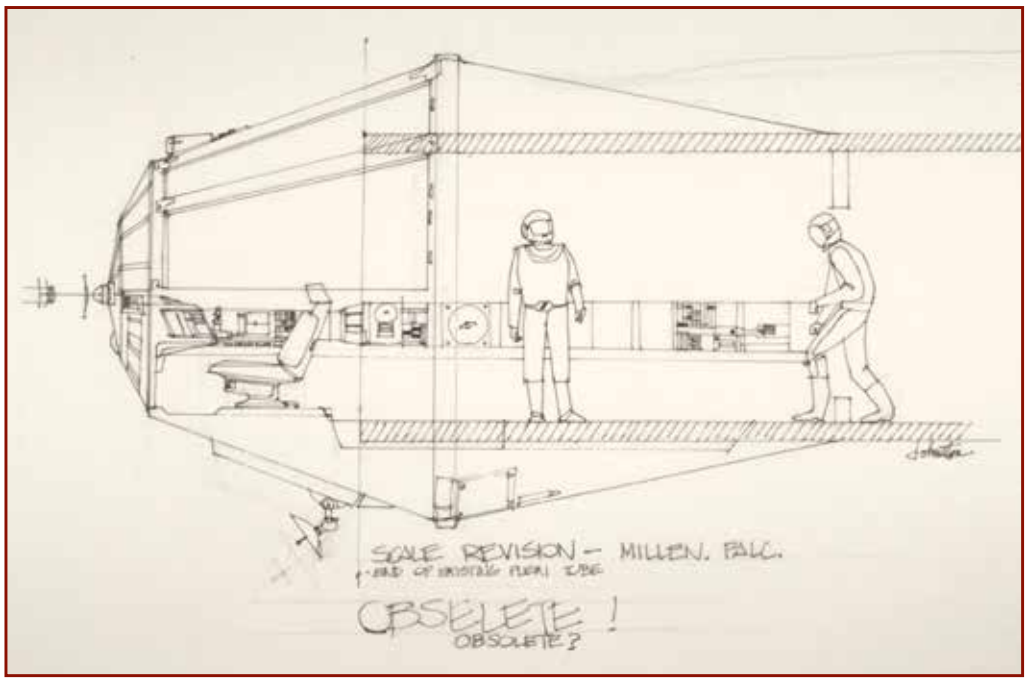
The most obvious departure from stock is the secondary ring corridor from the port airlock, together with the inner bypass that forms an additional circuitry bay. This whole slice of the ship was replaced, cutting off part of the main hold and replacing the section of the port corridor that normally gives access to an escape pod.

Less obvious, but equally radical, are the large pieces of extra equipment filling corners of the engine room and holds. When a ship is this heavily modified, it is easy for the casual visitor to become disoriented – which is ideal for a smuggler with things to hide.

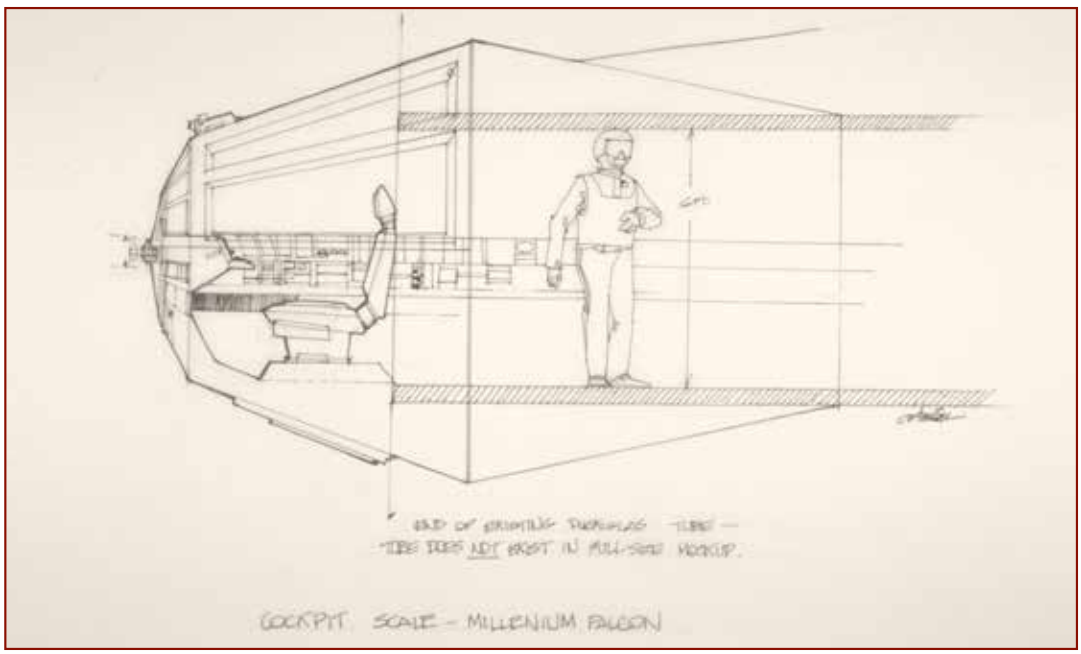
BEHIND THE SCENES

DESIGN EVOLUTION

George Lucas's last-minute decision to change the shape of the *Falcon* meant that its internal layout had to be developed very quickly. With no firm funding to make any movies beyond Episode IV, the designs initially only had to satisfy the set-ups that were planned for the storyboards of *A New Hope*, and some of the early concept sketches show how radically the team had to adjust their ideas. It was only later, after *Star Wars* proved hugely successful, that the interior of the *Falcon* came under intensive scrutiny and the long process of giving it a believable layout and detailed backstory began – ultimately taking over 30 years to settle on the accepted floor plan.



This pair of drawings by concept artist Joe Johnston shows how the scale of the *Falcon* evolved. In the first version (*right*), which is marked 'obsolete', the passage tube appears to be over 2.5m in diameter, with a correspondingly large cockpit.



In Johnston's second drawing (*left*), the overall shape of the exterior is similar, but the scale has been reduced so much that the *Falcon*'s crew members barely have enough headroom to walk along the passage tube – the height of which is now indicated as being 6ft (1.8m). The cockpit is similarly cramped.

YOUR NEXT PARTS

This issue includes the starboard corridor from the main hold, for which you received three padded arches with your last set of parts. You also have another frame and section of plating for the bottom of the hull.

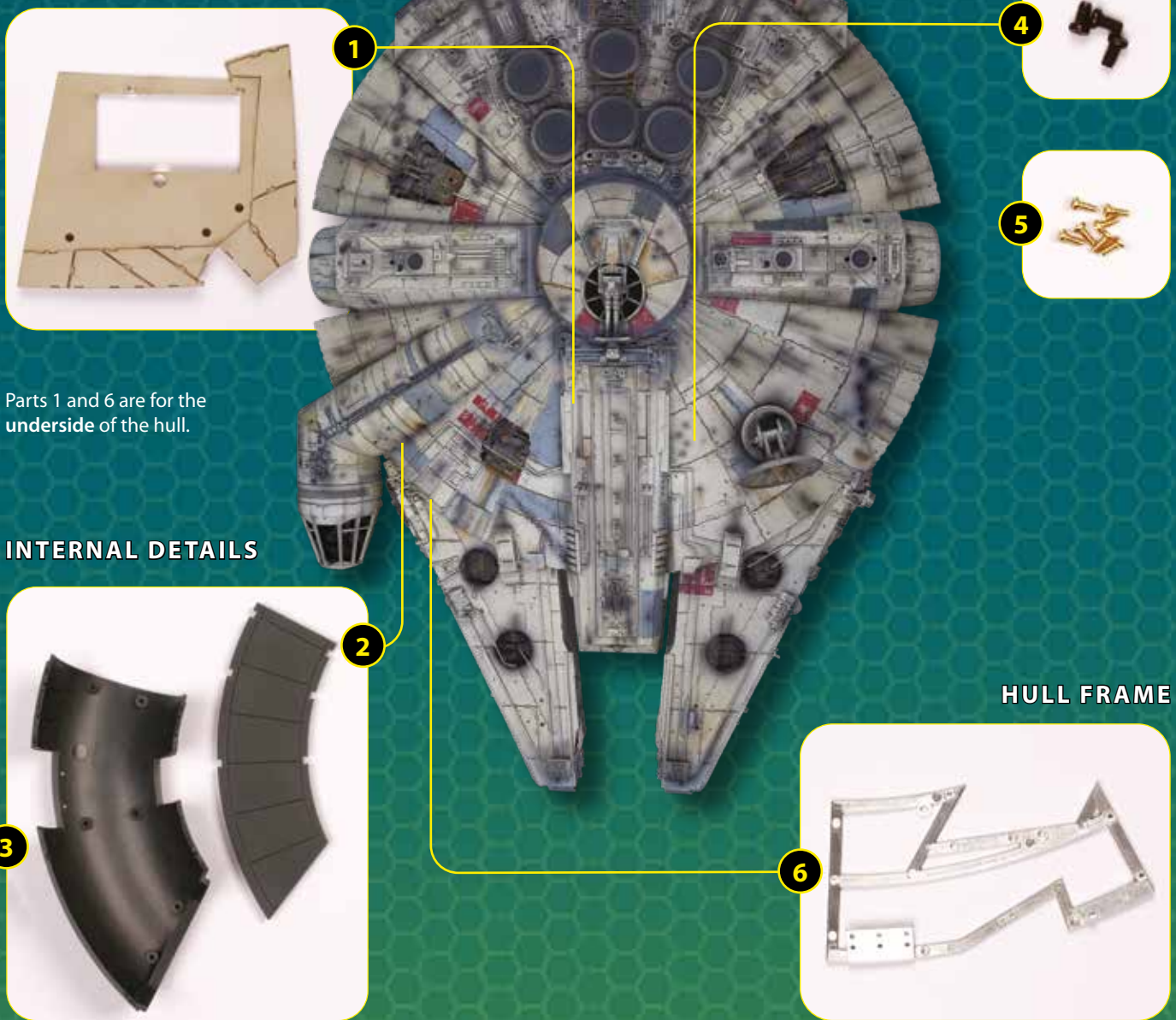
Now that you have completed the hold, you can start assembling the rest of the interior detail. The curved starboard corridor will attach to the hold doorway, and includes two entrances where the passage tube to the cockpit and the gun turret access will branch off.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Hull plating BP-5
2. Starboard corridor floor
3. Starboard corridor base
4. Fixing screws (x 2, plus spare)
5. Fixing screws (x 6, plus spare)
6. Hull frame BF-19

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

HULL EXTERIOR



Parts 1 and 6 are for the **underside** of the hull.

INTERNAL DETAILS

HULL FRAME

ASSEMBLING THE CORRIDOR ARCHES

Start by assembling the three corridor arches that you received with Issue 15 (Part 9). They are all lined with cushion pads in the same way as the door liners you have previously assembled (this process was covered in more detail in Stage 10).

01



Take the three sets of pads on their sprues and the three arches.

02



Trim all the cushion pads from their sprues and glue them to the arches, as you did in previous assemblies.

Complete all three arches before moving on to the next stage of the assembly.



ASSEMBLING THE CORRIDOR

The parts provided are for the bottom of the main ring corridor. You need six of the shorter (4mm) brass self-tapping screws (Part 5) to assemble them. You will be receiving the upper half and more internal details later on – so for now, you will only fit the corridor arches temporarily.

01



Fit the floor of the corridor (Part 2) into the base (Part 3) this way round.

02



The floor has six lugs underneath that line up with holes in the base. Start by inserting a screw at one end, but do not tighten it fully yet.

03



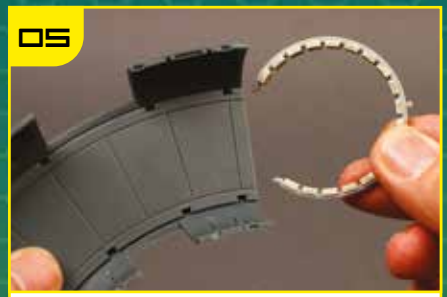
Insert the remaining five screws, then tighten them all.

04



The completed assembly should look like this.

05



Take the first corridor hoop and align it with the end of the corridor, as shown.

06



The ends of the arch have dovetails that fit the matching sockets in the floor.

07



Press the ends of the second arch into place as shown.

08



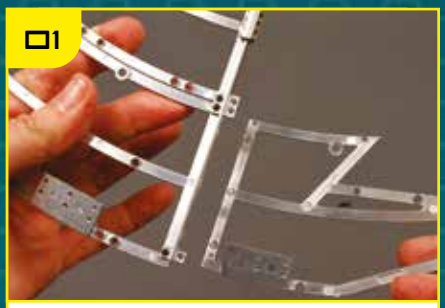
Press the ends of the third arch into place to complete the assembly.



EXTENDING THE FRAME

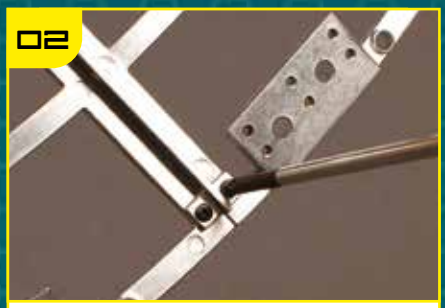
If you choose to add the next section (Part 6, frame BF-19) to your existing framework, be careful how you store the assembly, as the extra frame will only be supported by two screws until it is cross-braced by other sections. You may prefer to wait until Stage 18, when you can add three sections at once, making a complete 'slice' as you did before.

01



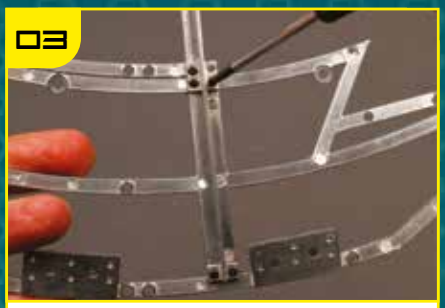
Take frame BF-19 and align it with the radial rib, as shown.

02



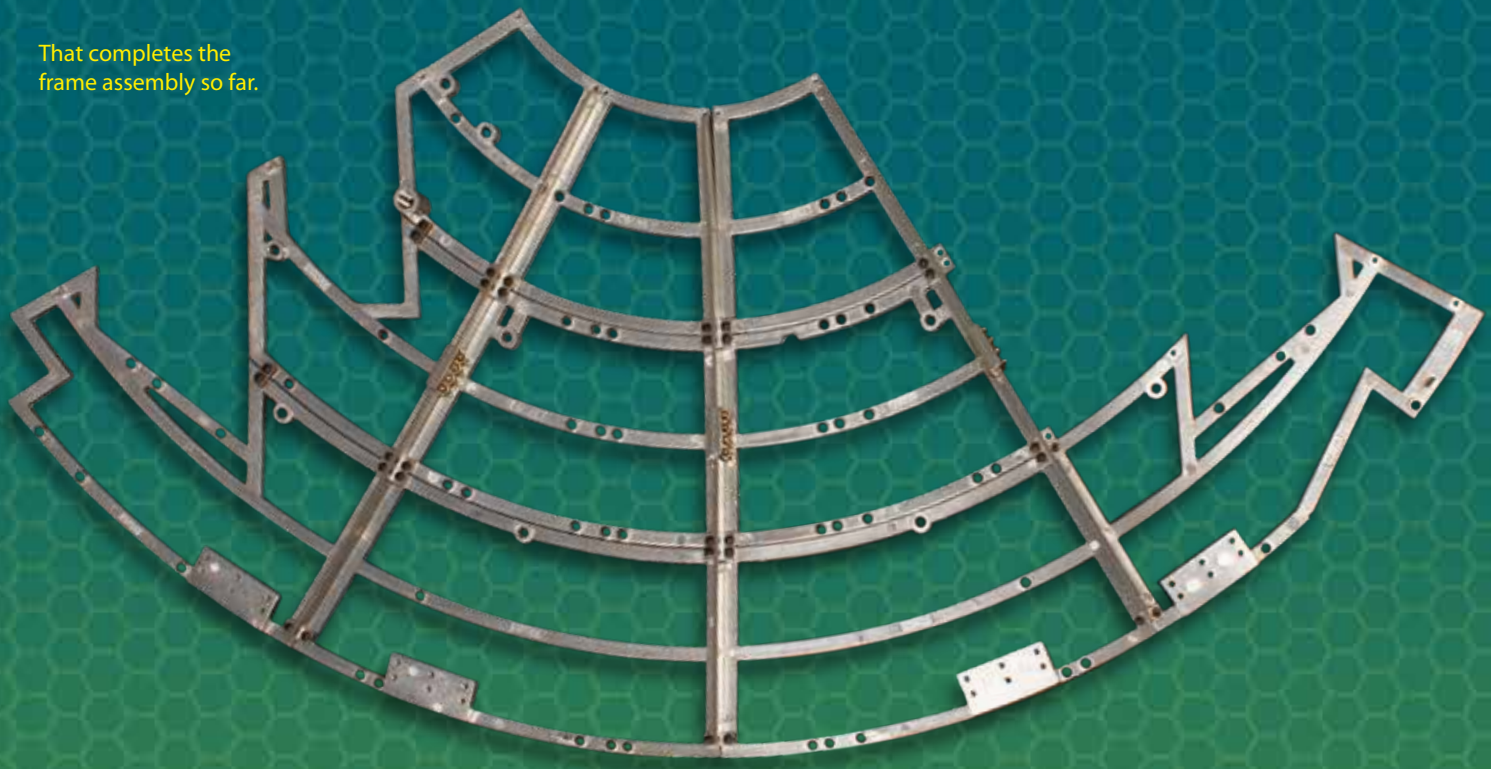
Attach frame 19 with a screw (Part 4) through the outer 2-hole flange.

03



Add a screw through the hole in the 4-hole flange.

That completes the frame assembly so far.



HOW THE HULL PLATING FITS

As in Stage 15, you can turn the completed hull frame over and test-fit the next piece of lower hull plating (BP-5) to see the structure building up.

01

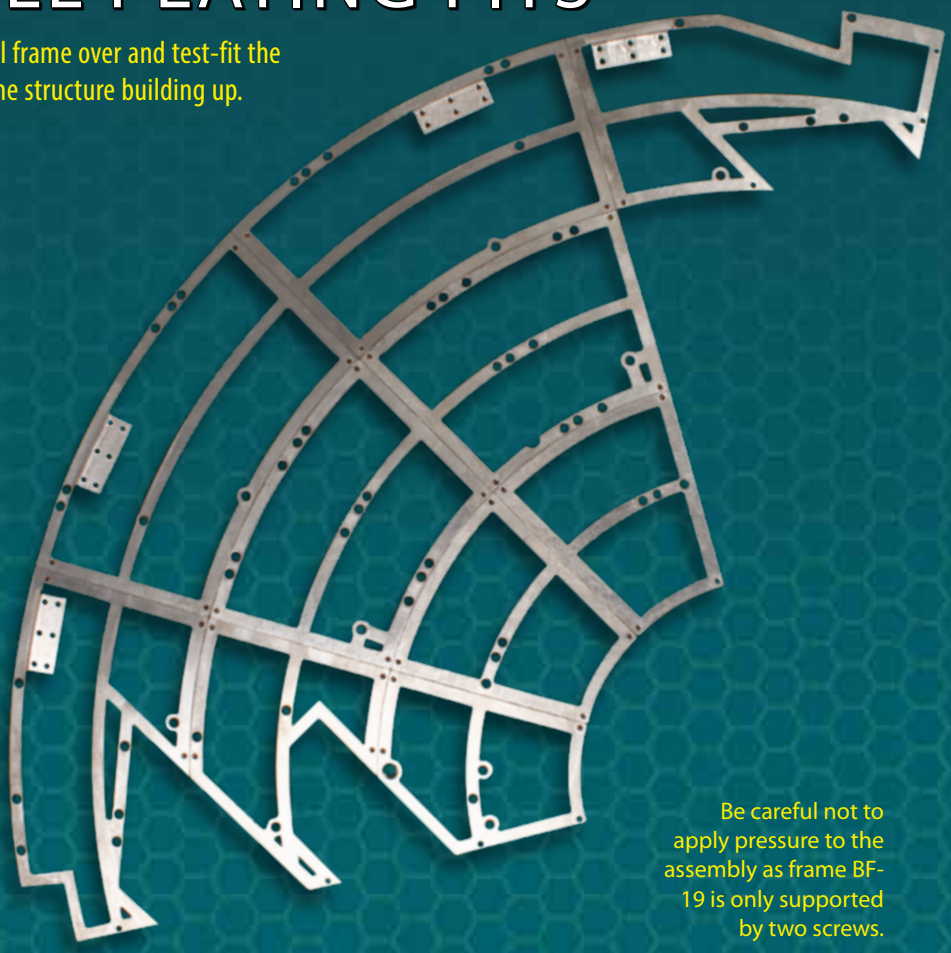


These are the panels that you previously fitted in Stage 15, showing BP-5, the right way round, against them.

02



You can temporarily fit BP-5 in place, although it is not yet fully supported by sections of the metal framework.

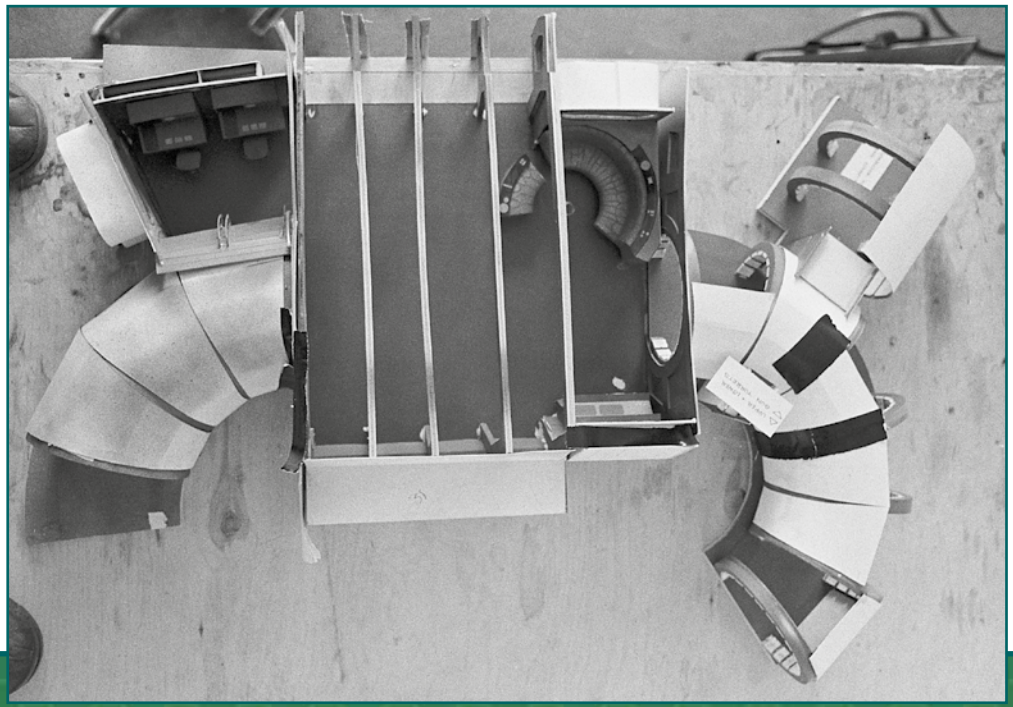


Be careful not to apply pressure to the assembly as frame BF-19 is only supported by two screws.

BEHIND THE SCENES

CORRIDOR DESIGN

The fact that the sets from *A New Hope* would not really fit comfortably inside the outer shell of the *Falcon* caused the production team some headaches, especially over the layout of the corridors. Set designer John Barry explained that the shape of the corridor was a way to resolve questions about the structure of the *Falcon*: 'The interior of the pirate starship had to appear to fit the exterior, so it had to have an apparently curved design, a circular corridor'. Panels also had to be removable, so special effects expert John Stears could operate the remote for the scene where Luke practices with a lightsaber, and so that the crew could get the lights into the area. Some of the design was still unresolved by the time the second and third movies were made, as these had to show some areas not previously featured.



A card maquette showing the main hold and curved corridors, plus a forward hold area that never featured. One of the notes indicates the access to the laser cannon turrets.