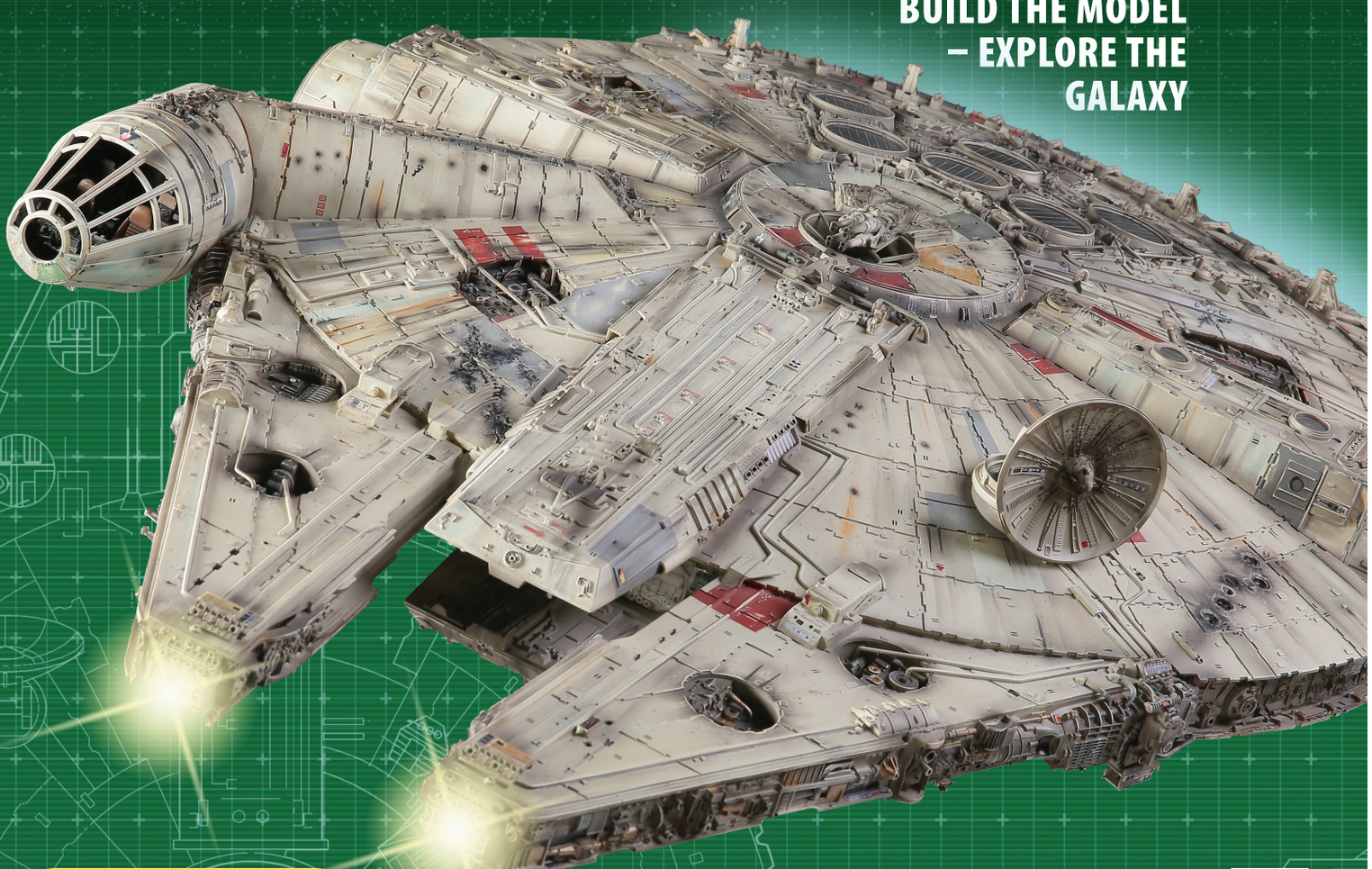
STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY





THE *FALCON'S* UPGRADES

F219FSC018

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THE FALCON'S UPGRADES

The *Falcon*'s floor plan was heavily modified from a standard YT-1300fp. But looking at the upgrades in more detail shows how the internal space had to be reorganized – as did some areas hidden under the plating.



The *Millennium Falcon* in the main docking bay of the rebel flagship, shortly before the Battle of Endor. Visits to such well-equipped facilities provided welcome opportunities to service the ship or repair her heavily customized systems.

One of the best reasons for basing a custom upgrade on a freighter is that a cargo ship has a lot of space inside which can be used to house extra equipment. And when the ship's intended 'cargo' is likely to consist of small items of valuable contraband, it does not greatly matter if access to the freight elevator is partly blocked by an uprated hyperdrive that originally belonged to a ship 20 times the size of a YT-1300.

This, at least, seemed to have been the reasoning behind some of the modifications that the 'fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy' had enjoyed over her eventful career. While most of the extra fittings were tucked away against the walls, they inevitably intruded on the usable space. Although the floor plan in Issue 16 shows where the *Millennium Falcon* differed from standard, the sheer bulk of some of the equipment becomes clearer when viewed in 3D, as shown overleaf.

One of the downsides of operating such a heavily modified ship is that there is no handbook or workshop manual which takes account of all the departures from standard. Routine maintenance has to be done by the owner, which can easily become a chore, while simple repair jobs can turn into protracted nightmares.



Harsh environments take a toll on any ship, and hasten the need for repairs and refits.

PAINT MAGIC

After *The Empire Strikes Back*, the full-size *Falcon* was stored for three years before it was used to film a sequence for *Return of the Jedi* that showed the heroes caught in a sandstorm after they destroyed Jabba's sail barge. This had to be cut from the finished movie, and as the *Falcon* proved too costly to move, in the rest of the film, her appearances in the live action were all achieved by using matte paintings (including the deleted scene below). The set was eventually broken up, and parts that could not be recycled went on a giant bonfire.

BEHIND THE SCENES

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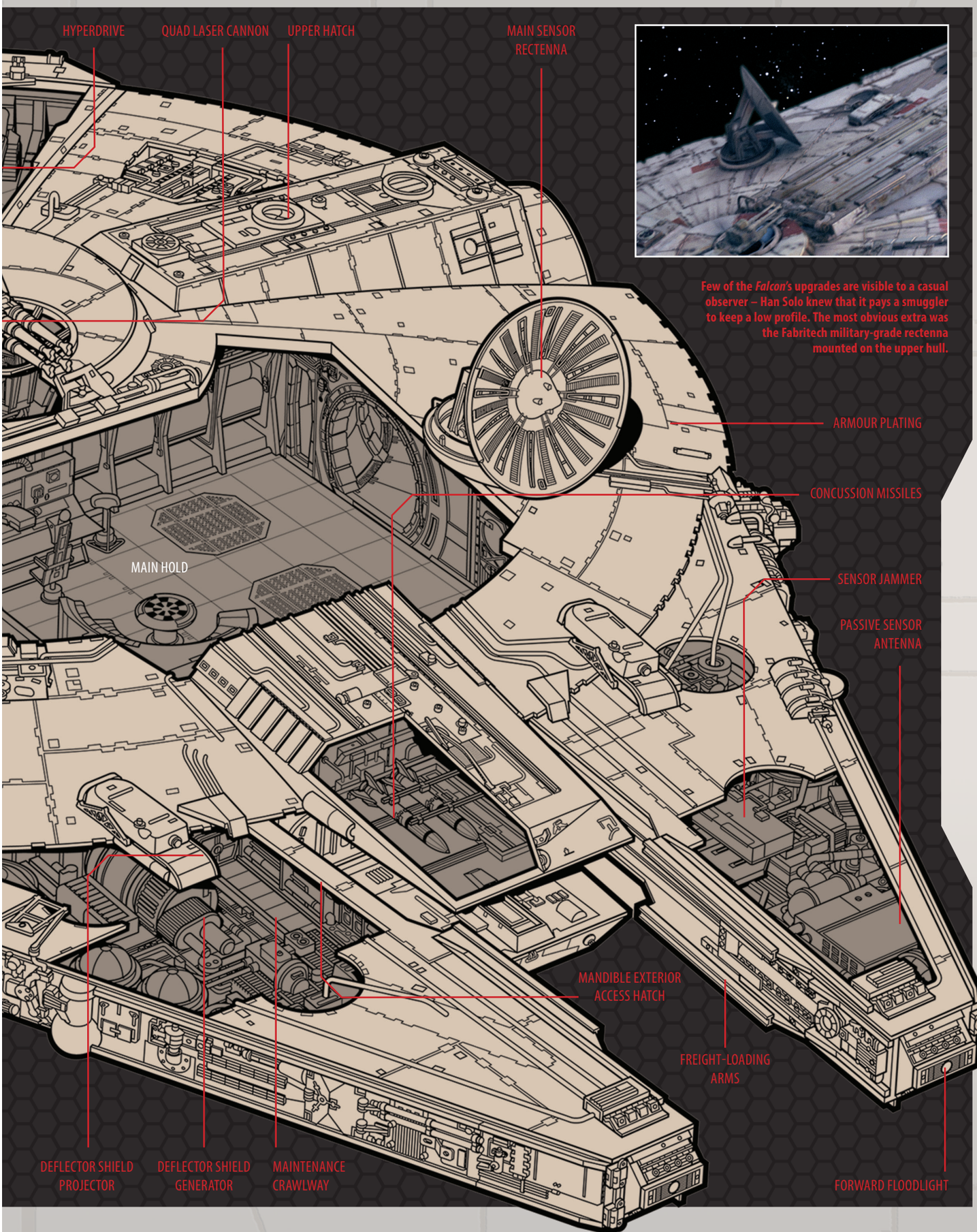


MILLENNIUM FALCON INTERNAL CONFIGURATION

This cutaway 3D drawing shows how the extra fittings and upgrades were crammed into most available corners of the *Falcon*'s internal spaces. The most prominent example is the massive hyperdrive installed in the engine room, but extra equipment is scattered all over the ship, with the systems inside the mandibles only accessible through awkwardly constricted maintenance crawlways and access hatches. Those not familiar with the *Falcon*'s layout would find confusion at every turn, and Han Solo was very careful who he let tinker with the mechanics – or even operate his ship.

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THE FALCON'S UPGRADES



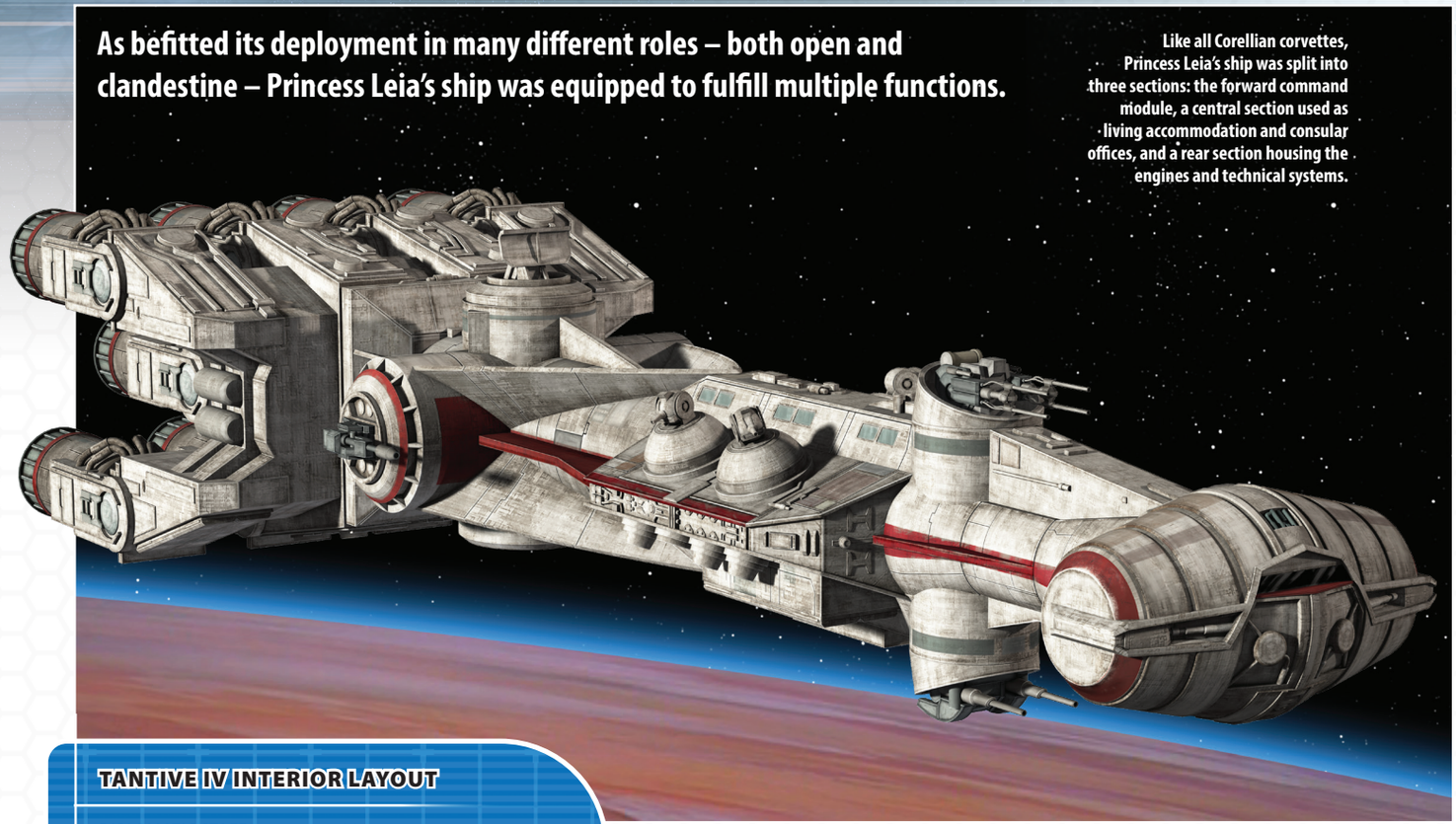
Few of the *Falcon*'s upgrades are visible to a casual observer – Han Solo knew that it pays a smuggler to keep a low profile. The most obvious extra was the Fabritech military-grade rectenna mounted on the upper hull.

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REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER

TANTIVE IV'S INTERIOR LAYOUT

As befitted its deployment in many different roles – both open and clandestine – Princess Leia's ship was equipped to fulfill multiple functions.



Like all Corellian corvettes, Princess Leia's ship was split into three sections: the forward command module, a central section used as living accommodation and consular offices, and a rear section housing the engines and technical systems.

TANTIVE IV INTERIOR LAYOUT

DIPLOMATIC STAFF	39
CREW	46
PASSENGERS	Variable
CONSULAR ACCOMMODATION	Princess's suite
	Princess's secret chamber
CONSULAR FACILITIES	Stateroom suite
	Formal state conference chamber
	Formal dining room
	Meeting room
CREW ACCOMMODATION	Captain's quarters
	Officers' quarters
	Crew's quarters
	Engineers' quarters
	Officers' common room
PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION	Passengers' quarters
	Lounges
COMMON FACILITIES	Library
	Sickbay
ESCAPE PODS	2 armed 12-seaters
	8 unarmed 3-seaters

The crew and passenger areas of Corellian corvettes are divided into three main sections, each of which has a different primary purpose.

At the front, a short barrel-shaped cockpit/command module houses the bridge, the officers' quarters and briefing rooms. Astern of that, a short cylindrical passageway links the command module to the main passenger accommodation, which also houses the armament (where fitted) and storage bays. From there, the main corridor leads back to the engineering section, which forms the final third of the ship. This section houses the shield generator, communications/sensor arrays and airlocks – all positioned ahead of the ship's 11 massive sublight power units, hyperdrive, fuel systems, life support and other functional equipment.

DUAL ROLES

Tantive IV followed this general pattern, although her additional weapons and defensive measures were appropriate fittings for a diplomatic vessel. Similarly, the offices, meeting rooms and luxurious accommodation were what would be expected of an Alderaanian consular ship.

Less obviously, she had also been adapted to her secondary role as a rebel blockade runner.

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The crew of Leia's consular ship took up defensive positions in the main corridor but were soon overwhelmed by Vader's stormtroopers, after which the Dark Lord's men began searching every deck.

FOUR-DECK LAYOUT

Princess Leia's ship was laid out over four decks, although only the middle ones ran continuously from one end of the ship to another. High-speed lifts ran from deck to deck in the center of the ship and the control area.

Deck 1 housed a luxuriously appointed consular suite, in which Princess Leia lived and received guests in private. Its rooms included living and office accommodation, as well as an expensively furnished stateroom and a formal dining room. This entire area was shielded with extra armour plating and had its own laser-armed escape lifeboats, which could each hold 12 passengers. A separate compartment ahead of this housed the dorsal twin turbolaser and its generator and control systems, while another engineering compartment further aft contained the power systems.

Deck 2 included key operational, living and reception areas. At the front of the ship, the cockpit on the bridge gave the crew a superb view through the forward slit window. Behind that were the officers' common room, plus computer rooms housing the controls for the weapons, power distribution and environmental systems.

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

The center of the living area included the formal conference chamber and dining room, library and meeting room. There was also a sickbay, science/medlab, and tech station.



PRINCESS LEIA

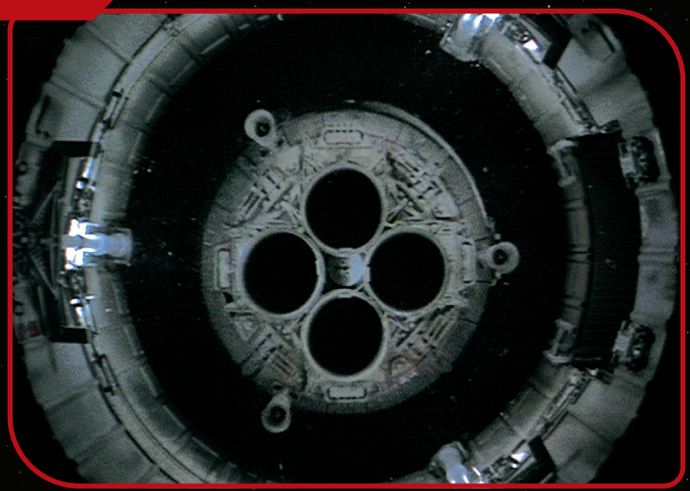
Shortly after becoming Senator for Alderaan, Princess Leia Organa joined the rebellion against the Empire, using the diplomatic status of the *Tantive IV* as cover for secret missions. However, when her ship was captured above Tatooine, Darth Vader brushed aside Leia's claim that she was a member of the Imperial Senate on a diplomatic mission. Taken for questioning under torture, she was the only survivor.

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ESCAPE FROM TANTIVE IV

R2-D2'S SECRET MISSION

When *Tantive IV* was captured and boarded by Darth Vader, Princess Leia hid the stolen plans of the first Death Star inside R2-D2 – a starship astromech. Acting on Leia's instructions, R2-D2 overrode the programming on one of the ship's Class-6 escape pods, as its computer normally restricted droids from entering. Together with his protocol droid companion C-3PO, R2-D2 blasted free in the pod. Their departure was tracked by the crew of the Star Destroyer, but as *Tantive IV* had already jettisoned other empty pods, and the scanners detected no life-forms on this one, the Imperials held their fire. When the pod crash-landed on Tatooine, R2-D2 and his reluctant counterpart set out on a mission that would change galactic history.



The exploding latches that held the escape pod into its housing fired, releasing the tiny capsule with the two droids inside.

Inside the engineering section were controls and instruments for the sublight engines and hyperdrive, the shields and screen systems, sensor and communications equipment, emergency systems, environmental control and power supply.

An access tunnel ran around the entire deck, linking the eight escape pods installed at this level. The main port and starboard airlocks connected to all the main corridors on this deck. When the airlock was blasted by Vader's stormtroopers, an automatic magnetic safety shield came into action to maintain atmospheric pressure.

Deck 3 housed cabins for most of the personnel, and the electronic systems that controlled the ship. Forward in the bridge module were the captain and officers' quarters. Amidships were the passengers' quarters and lounges, and Princess Leia's suite (which included a secret chamber and a private observation deck). Astern were the engineering crew's quarters. Towards the rear of this deck were the auxiliary override, environmental output controls, power distribution boards, and other secondary systems.

RUNNING THE SHIP

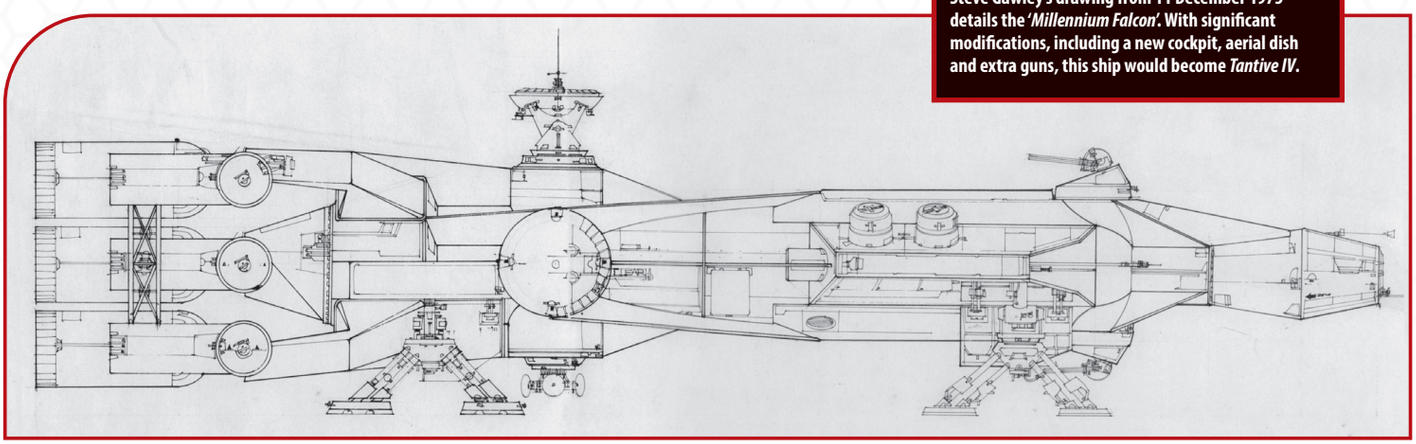
Deck 4 was mainly given over to the functioning of the ship, including hold space for supplies and equipment, as well as droid storage and maintenance bays. The engineering section included auxiliary, maintenance and monitoring systems. Direct access was provided via forward airlocks, as well as a speeder/skiff ramp leading to a workshop and storage facility. There was also a smuggling compartment, carefully concealed from the rest of the ship.

BEHIND THE SCENES

RECYCLING

The original *Falcon* had already been built as a highly detailed model (almost 2m long) when George Lucas decided that the design of Han's ship needed to change. While a new *Falcon* was being built, the existing model was altered to become Leia's ship, which was a much larger vessel. The small cockpit was removed and a 'hammerhead' module was added (tried out using a pair of paint buckets back-to-back). To change the scale, the parabolic dish on top was removed, and the upper escape pods had to become large, armed turrets, with much smaller pods installed underneath. The model's former star role meant that it was twice as long as the Star Destroyer that pursued it, and far more detailed! It would be modified yet again for *Return of the Jedi* (where it appeared as a gunship in the rebel fleet), but it was restored in the1990s to join a touring *Star Wars* museum show.

Steve Gawley's drawing from 11 December 1975 details the '*Millennium Falcon*'. With significant modifications, including a new cockpit, aerial dish and extra guns, this ship would become *Tantive IV*.



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YOUR NEXT PARTS

This issue includes two padded arches for the cockpit passage. There is also another section of plating for the bottom of the hull, so you can complete a full segment of the circle. Finally, you have the first part of an assembly jig, which you will be using to support the model.

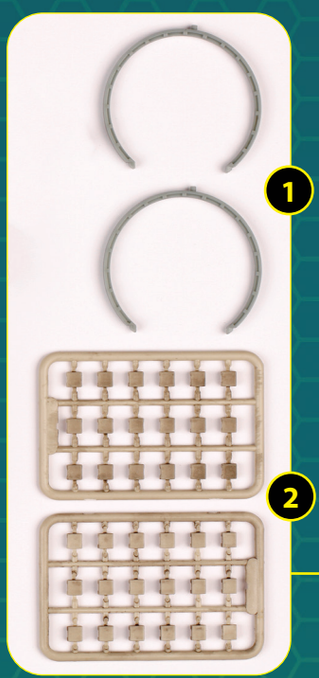
The techniques used during this stage should be familiar, extending the hull framework and starting work on the next corridor. Keep Parts 3 and 4 safely for now, until it's time to use them, as explained on page 10.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Corridor arches (x 2)
2. Cushion pads (x 2) – sets of 18 on sprue
3. Non-slip pads (x 2)
4. Assembly jig (1 section)
5. 2-hole connector
6. Fixing screws (x 3, plus spare)
7. Hull frame BF-21

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

INTERNAL DETAILS





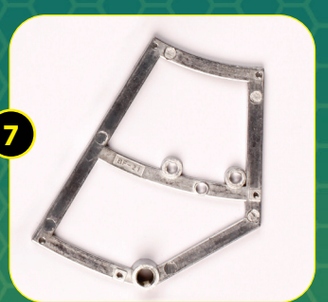


ASSEMBLY JIG



Part 7 is for the **underside** of the hull.

HULL FRAME

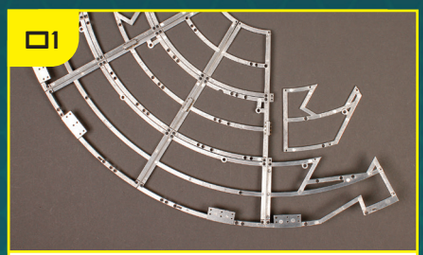


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EXTENDING THE HULL FRAMES

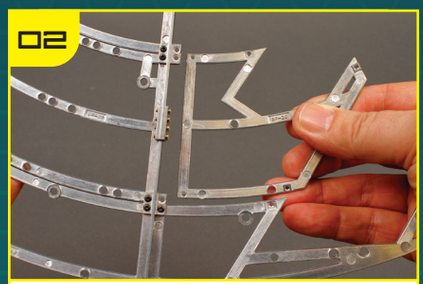
Part 7 (frame BF-21) completes the next segment of the circle, so you can fit this together with frame BF-20 from Issue 17. Before starting Step 1, you may need to add frame BF-19 from Issue 16 if you chose not to fit this already (as shown in Stage 16, page 9).

01



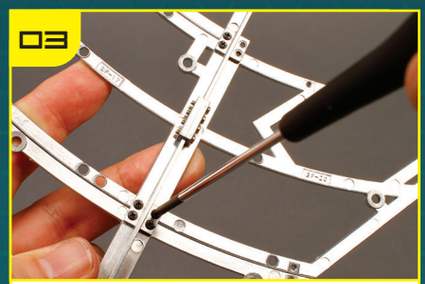
Take the frame assembly that you completed at Stage 16, together with frame BF-20 from Issue 17.

02



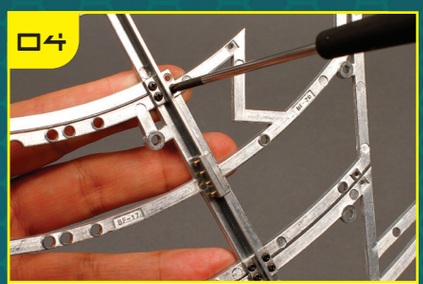
Align frame BF-20 with the two flanges on the radial rib, as shown.

03



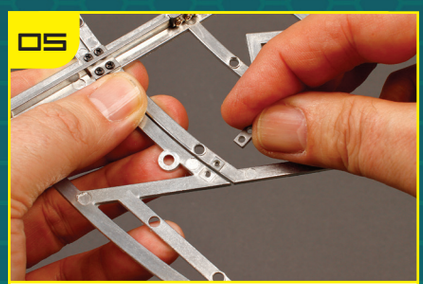
Attach the frame with a screw through the four-hole flange.

04



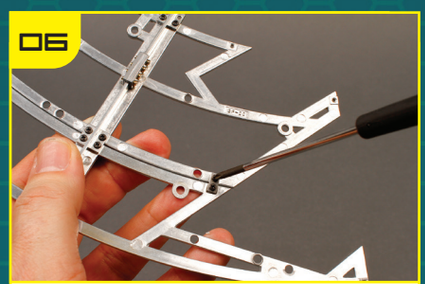
Secure the other corner with a screw through the four-hole flange.

05



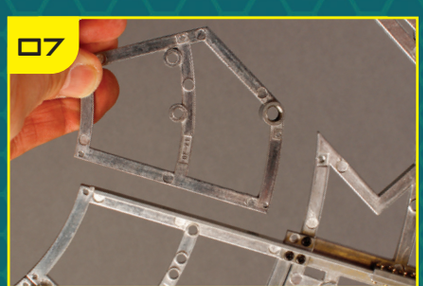
The 2-hole connector from Issue 17 is used to join frames BF-19 and BF-20.

06



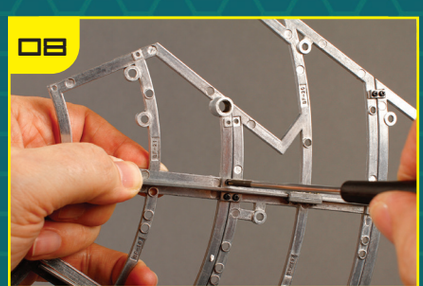
Fit the connector across the joint with two screws, as shown.

07



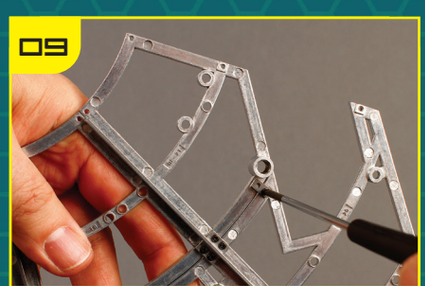
Align frame BF-21 with the assembly, as shown.

08

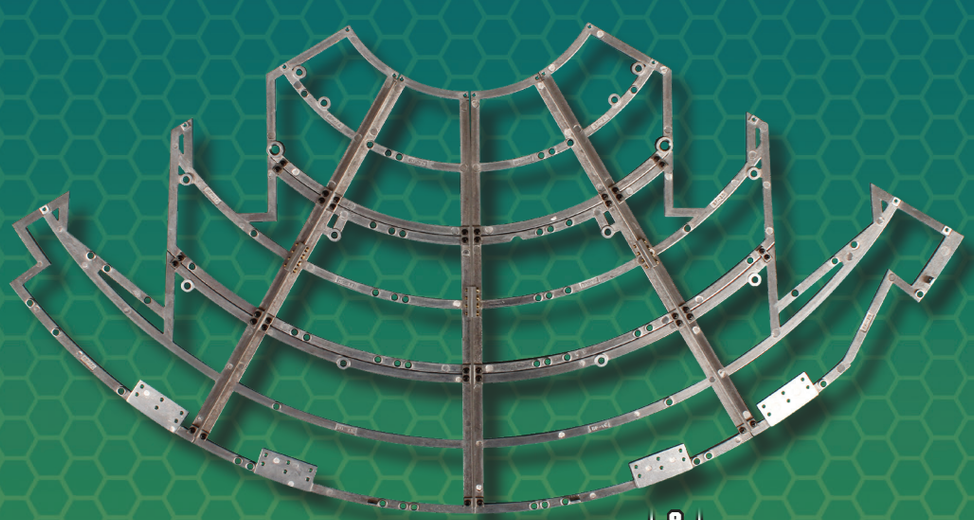


Secure the corner with a screw through the two-hole flange on the radial rib.

09



Use the 2-hole connector from this issue to join frames BF-20 and BF-21.



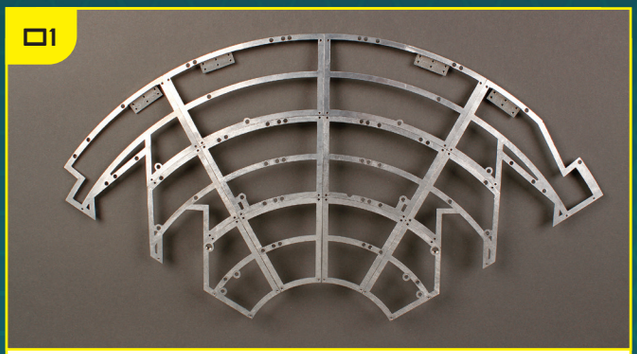
That completes the frame assembly so far. You now have one-third of the complete disc – the front of the lower hull. The four large flanges on the perimeter are where the forward mandibles are attached.

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HOW THE HULL PLATING FITS

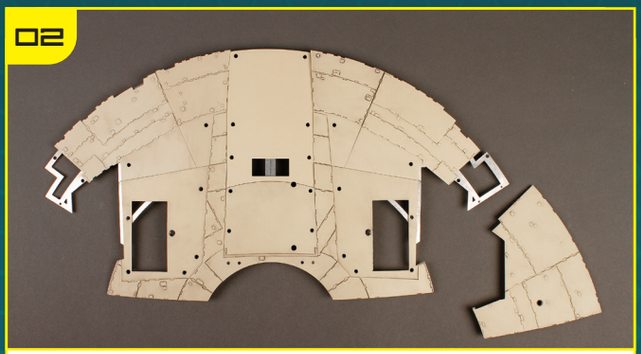
As in earlier stages, you can turn the completed hull frame over and test-fit the next piece of lower hull plating (panel BP-3 from Issue 17) to see the structure building up.

01

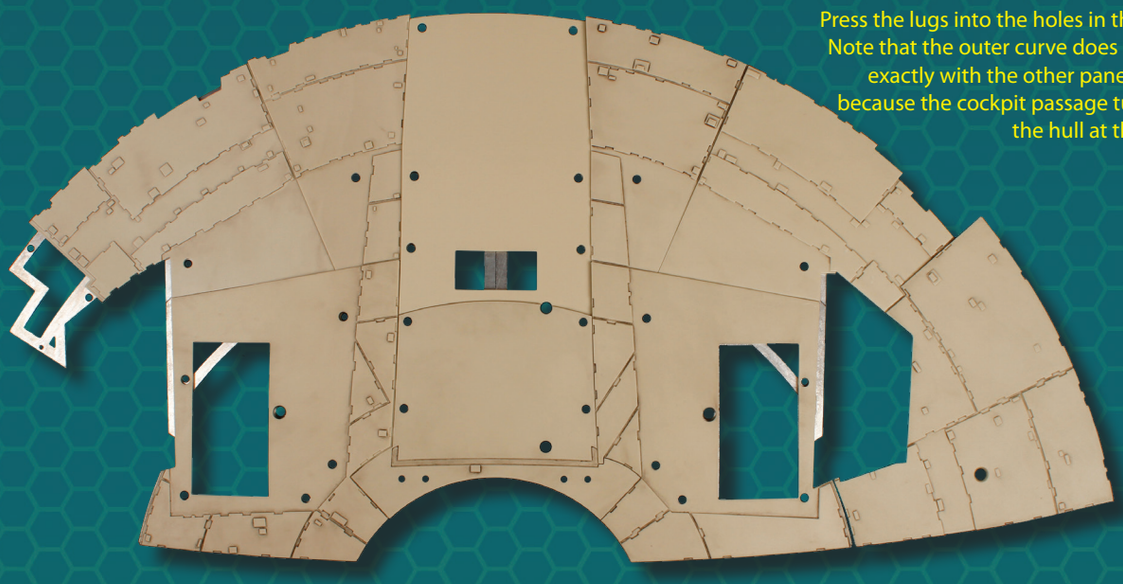


Turn the assembly over. Be careful not to apply pressure to it, as it will curve up from the work surface.

02



With the hull panels fitted as in Stage 16, this is the correct orientation of panel BP-3.



Press the lugs into the holes in the frame. Note that the outer curve does not align exactly with the other panels. This is because the cockpit passage tube joins the hull at this point.

ASSEMBLING THE CORRIDOR ARCHES

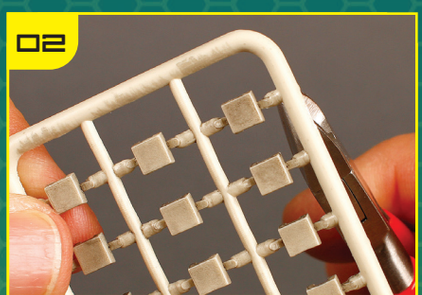
The two corridor arches are lined with padded cushion pieces in the same way as the ones you have previously assembled (this process was covered in more detail in Stage 10).

01



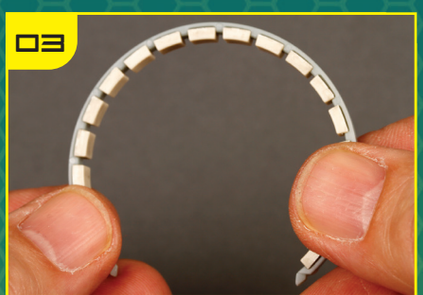
Take Parts 1 and 2 provided with this issue.

02



Carefully clip all the cushions from the sprues and trim off any excess plastic.

03

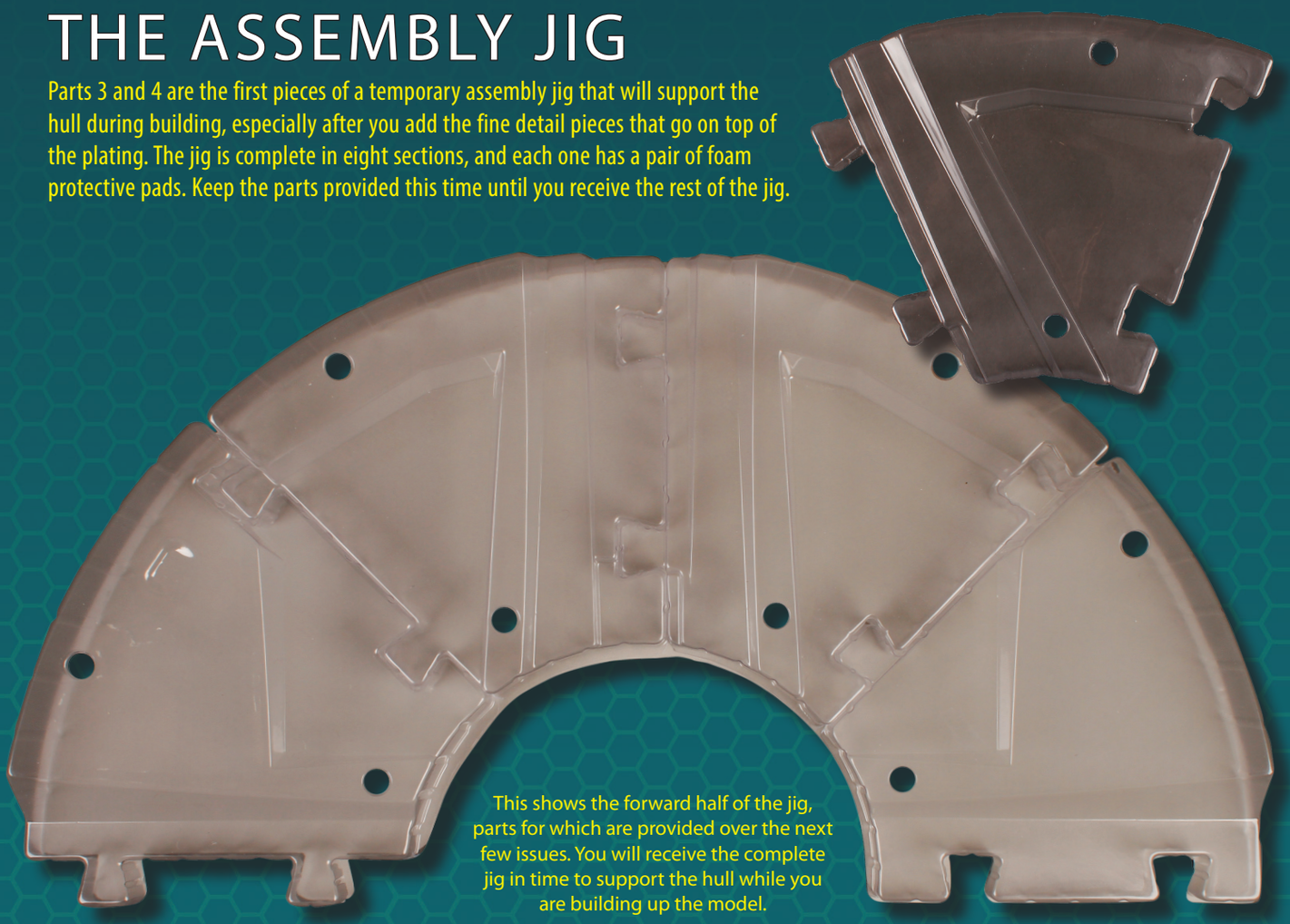


Glue the cushions all the way around the inside of each of the corridor arches.

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THE ASSEMBLY JIG

Parts 3 and 4 are the first pieces of a temporary assembly jig that will support the hull during building, especially after you add the fine detail pieces that go on top of the plating. The jig is complete in eight sections, and each one has a pair of foam protective pads. Keep the parts provided this time until you receive the rest of the jig.

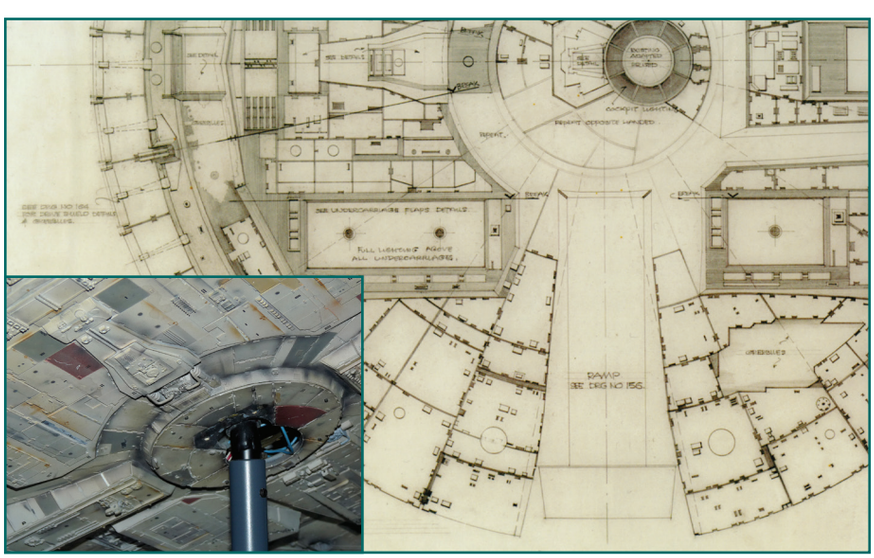


This shows the forward half of the jig, parts for which are provided over the next few issues. You will receive the complete jig in time to support the hull while you are building up the model.

BEHIND THE SCENES

UNDERSIDE DETAIL

The bottom of the *Falcon*'s hull is much less detailed than the top, and it is far less frequently seen in the movies. The design of the ship was based on the first filming miniature built by ILM, on which most of the small 'plant-on' details were applied to the top of the hull. (In many scenes featuring both this and the later miniature made for *The Empire Strikes Back*, the brackets used to mount the model during blue-screen filming were fitted underneath.) Just as when the original was made in the ILM workshop, the relatively smooth underside of the replica makes it far simpler to work on your model: almost all of the small, delicate components are fitted inside the recessed areas, where they are not so vulnerable to being damaged.



The underside of the *Falcon* was fully modeled in the filming miniature, but it is much less detailed than the top, and its turret was sometimes removed to fit a mounting bracket (*inset*). Richard J Dawking of the Elstree art department used the model as a reference when preparing these technical drawings for the full-size set in late 1978/early 1979.

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