STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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DOCKING FACILITIES

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STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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REPUBLIC ATTACK CRUISER

VENATOR-CLASS STAR DESTROYER

The *Venator*-class Star Destroyer, popularly known as the Republic Attack Cruiser, was of vital importance to the Grand Army of the Republic. These ships, designed to carry out a wide range of different mission profiles, became icons of the Clone Wars.



At the start of the Clone Wars, the Galactic Republic was equipped with *Acclamator*-class assault ships, but it soon became clear that these were most useful as cruisers that could quickly deploy troops and infantry vehicles. The Republic High Command needed a more versatile vessel that could also be used for ship-to-ship combat.

VERSATILE CONFIGURATION

The *Venator* was designed at Kuat Drive Yards by Lira Wessex, daughter of renowned engineer Walex Blissex. Her double-wedge design for the *Venator* would be the first of many triangular-shaped capital ships built by KDY.

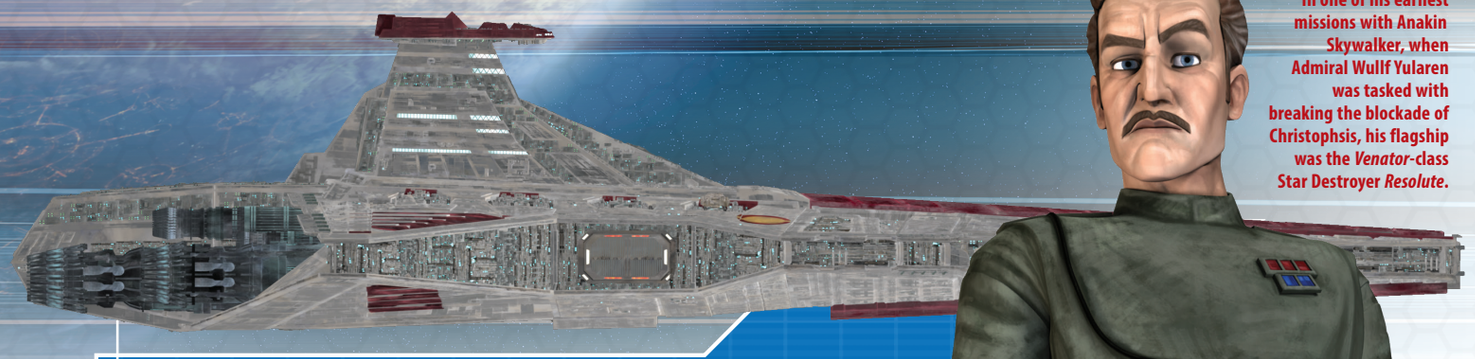
The *Venator*, which also became known as the Republic Attack Cruiser or Jedi Cruiser, was 1,137 m (3,730 ft) long and was one of the most powerful

Displaying the red markings of the Republic Navy and their own units' emblem, the multi-role *Venator*-class Star Destroyers became a common sight during the Clone Wars.

VENATOR-CLASS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER	Kuat Drive Yards
DIMENSIONS	Length 1,137m (3,730 ft), width 548m (1797 ft), height 268m (879 ft)
ACCELERATION	3000G
HYPERDRIVE	Class 1.0
CREW	7,400
PASSENGERS	2,000
ARMAMENT	8 x Taim & Bak DBY-827 heavy turbolasers, 2 x medium dual turbolaser cannons, 52 x point-defence laser cannons, 4 x proton torpedo tubes, 6 x tractor beam projectors
COMPLEMENT	420 x starfighters, 24 x AT-TE walkers, 40 x gunships, numerous additional shuttles
CARGO	20,000 tonnes
CONSUMABLES	2 years

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In one of his earliest missions with Anakin Skywalker, when Admiral Wullf Yularen was tasked with breaking the blockade of Christophsis, his flagship was the *Venator*-class Star Destroyer *Resolute*.

STAR DESTROYER

During the Clone Wars, the Republic Navy War College adopted a new classification system for capital ships, which soon became standard. The most controversial aspect was the use of the designation 'Star Destroyer'. Purists complained that this was a Kuat Drive Yards corporate brand, but the College noted that commanders had already begun using it for large Republic warships, and even CIS ones. The *Venator* would emerge as the first KDY Star Destroyer, but more designs were already in development.

vessels in the Republic Fleet. It was armed with 60 weapon emplacements, four proton torpedo launchers and six tractor beams. Designed to be self-sufficient and able to complete missions on its own (as it would in the Battles of Utapau and Kashyyyk at the very end of the Clone Wars) the *Venator* was fast for a capital ship, since it carried a Class 1.0 hyperdrive. Not only could it be rapidly deployed anywhere in the galaxy, it was also quick enough in real space to chase blockade runners.

STARFIGHTER CARRIER

There were only a few mission profiles that didn't fit a *Venator*-class, but its primary functions were as a starfighter carrier and as a cruiser for ship-to-ship battles, which made it the preferred command ship of the Jedi generals.

Basically a small city on its own, a *Venator* always bustled with activity. A lot of that occurred in its immense hangar and flight deck, which measured half a kilometer. As soon as the large dorsal bow doors opened, the ship could unleash any part of its massive complement of 420 starfighters, 40 gunships and 24 AT-TE walkers. Since a *Venator* could enter an atmosphere and perform a planetary landing, it had little problem deploying its walkers and gunships.

The large, central flight deck enabled starfighters to be deployed swiftly, and allowed them to leave as soon the doors were opened, although this procedure left the vessel rather vulnerable. This was compensated for with stronger deflector shielding near the entrance. Atmospheric containment shields protected both sides of the flight deck where pilots were briefed, maintenance was performed and additional ships waited to be deployed.



MANNING THE VENATOR-CLASS

Clone troopers made up most of a *Venator*'s crew, but these ships often became the temporary home of a Jedi general's army, which included the presence of a high-ranking Republic naval officer, such as Wullf Yularen, Barton 1 Coburn or Nils Tenant. Many of these officers established a valuable working relationship with their Jedi generals and with a particular ship.

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AMBUSH ON VANQOR

THE CRASH OF THE ENDURANCE

One of the most infamous incidents involving a *Venator* was the crash of the *Endurance*. In a bid to avenge his father's death by setting a trap for Mace Windu, the young Boba Fett sabotaged the *Endurance*'s reactor. The ship crashed on Vanqor, but its starboard bridge remained intact, enabling Fett and his bounty hunter allies to capture Admiral Kilian and Clone Commander Ponds. Fett set up a booby trap in the wreckage, which nearly crushed Mace Windu and Anakin Skywalker, but R2-D2 valiantly escaped and warned General Plo Koon, whose squad evacuated the two Jedi just before the wreck exploded. The bounty hunters were eventually caught on Florrum.



The *Venator*-class *Endurance*, flagship of Republic Admiral Shoan Kilian, ploughed into the surface of Vanqor after the young Boba Fett crippled the ship's reactor.



Attack Cruisers could perform a planetary landings, but more typically operated in a planetary atmosphere, from where they would deploy their complement of starfighters and gunships to descend onto the planet's surface.

EMBLEM OF THE CLONE WARS

Next to its easily identifiable triangular design, the other famous feature of the Attack Cruiser was its twin bridge. The port bridge was used as the starfighter flight control, while the starboard one was the helm and command bridge.

The hyperdrive generator, thrusters and main reactor were situated in the rear part of the ship, while the prow was taken up by the flight deck. A *Venator* also carried docking bays on its side to enable quick connections with space stations, mooring towers or larger transports for transfers of equipment or troops. A smaller ventral bay was used primarily to receive visiting craft from influential military or political leaders. On the initiative of General Skywalker, some *Venators* installed SPHA-T turbolasers near this area to augment their ventral firepower.

Characteristically outfitted with red markings and their proper armada's emblem, the *Venator*s became a common sight during the Clone Wars and emerged on the victors' side as symbols of the deadly conflict. Their part during the Battle of Coruscant – when they formed a shield against General Grievous' invading fleet – will never be forgotten by the people of the galactic capital.

The Imperial Tarkin Doctrine, and the subsequent introduction of Kuat's more powerful Star Destroyers, made the *Venator* nearly redundant during the reign of the Galactic Empire. However, Imperial Moffs did still use them in their private fleets, and they were also used at flight schools. Some *Venators* were still active while protecting the Sanctuary Pipeline leading to the Endor System when the second Death Star was constructed.

BEHIND THE SCENES

BACKSTORY

The triangular design of the Attack Cruiser is supposed to form a bridge between the look of the Republic's earlier dagger-shaped *Acclamator*-class assault ships, and the *Imperial*-class Star Destroyer used by the Galactic Empire. The name 'Star Destroyer' was never used during filming, but it stuck, due to the likeness of the *Venator* to the classic *Star Wars* design. A *Venator* is featured in the opening sequence of *Revenge of the Sith* when Anakin and Obi-Wan enter the battle over Coruscant, and the low rumble of the cruiser heard over that shot was actually the filtered sound of Niagara Falls. At the end of the movie, the red colour and the Republic markings of the cruisers were removed to show their inclusion in the Imperial Navy.

When Concept Design Supervisor Ryan Church discussed what he wanted the hangar of the Attack Cruiser to look like, the Echo Base interior from *The Empire Strikes Back* was cited as an example – and there are obvious similarities.



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DOCKING FACILITIES

Most starships are fitted with docking rings and hatches to enable them to link up to another ship, space station, or gantry. One secret of the YT-1300's versatility is that it has multiple provisions for docking.

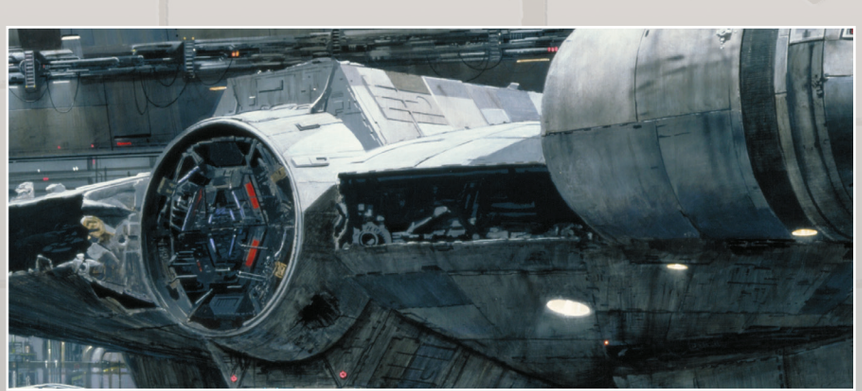


The *Millennium Falcon* has a small dorsal hatch near where the port corridor joins the main ring corridor, as used by Lando and Luke on Bespin. Further out to port, a floor panel gives access to the ship's ventral universal docking hatch, and at the extreme end of the corridor is the port airlock.

It's not always necessary for a ship to set down on a landing pad in order to load or offload passengers and cargo. Many spaceport facilities are designed for mid-air transfers from an aerial gantry via a docking ring or hatch, and this is also the normal way for two vessels to link up securely when they meet in the vacuum of open space.

Freighters are normally equipped with boarding/loading ramps and elevators to enable cargo or passengers to be transferred to and from ground level, but will also have a variety of other access points. The YT-1300, for example, has a total of four docking rings and hatches which enable the ship to rendezvous with other vessels while in orbit, or even on the move. These were mainly designed with capital starships and space stations in mind. However, these universal, standardized fixtures can be used with all manner of new and old space vehicles. They can also attach to transparisteel passenger gantries found at luxury spaceports.

It was because of this flexibility that the *Millennium*



The *Falcon*'s starboard docking ring has a sealed hatch with an external magnetic coupling. This provides a convenient access for transferring passengers or cargo.

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Falcon's docking rings and hatches more than proved their worth in the Rebellion era. As a successful smuggler, Han Solo commonly chose to forego landing at a spaceport and conduct his business in remote parts of space. The sealed hatches of the port and starboard docking rings became Solo's preferred way of transferring cargo to and from the ship out of sight of his rivals – or the prying eyes of the Imperial forces and their many spies.

Docking with another starship or a fixed facility requires a careful approach, matching the speed of the incoming ship to its target, followed by precise maneuvering to link up – although computers, proximity sensors and tractor beams help to ensure accurate alignment.

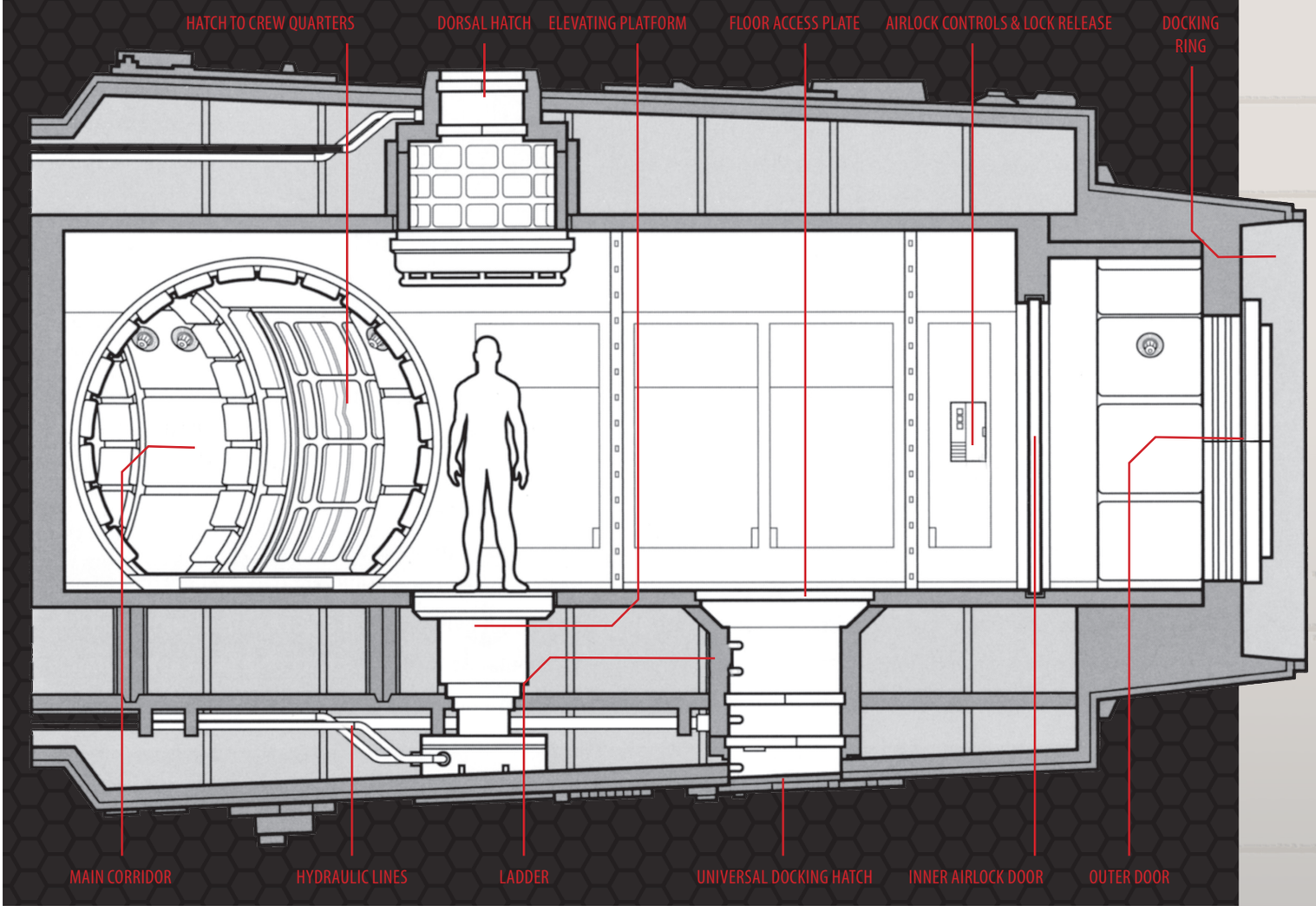
DOCKING RINGS AND HATCHES

On the YT-1300, passengers and cargo can be moved to and from the ship through port or starboard docking rings, which have direct access to the central ring corridor. Both sides use external magnetic couplings and hermetic seals to link to the docking rings of other starships, but the airlock attached to the port docking ring is much smaller than its starboard equivalent, due to its position close to the dorsal hatch.

This hatch and its ventral equivalent are often ignored, as it is much easier to move cargo in a straight line than it is to transfer it up or down via small openings in the ceiling and floor. However, Luke Skywalker owed his life to the foresight of the Corellian Engineering Corporation's engineers who decided to fit a hatch into the YT-1300's port corridor. This allowed the *Falcon*'s former owner, Lando Calrissian, to rescue Skywalker after he had thrown himself down the reactor shaft after battling Darth Vader in a

PORT HATCHES AND DOCKING RING

Although Han Solo prefers using the larger starboard docking ring or ramp for transferring both passengers and cargo, the port corridor has three provisions for access to the outside. The so-called 'universal' docking hatch in the floor is actually most suitable for hook-ups with older, smaller vessels that have narrow hatchways, while the port airlock and dorsal hatch are more convenient for passengers rather than cargo.



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Wearing a lifeline he hooked on for safety, Lando Calrissian brings an injured Luke Skywalker down from the dorsal hatch and into the ship's port corridor.

BEHIND THE SCENES

RESCUE

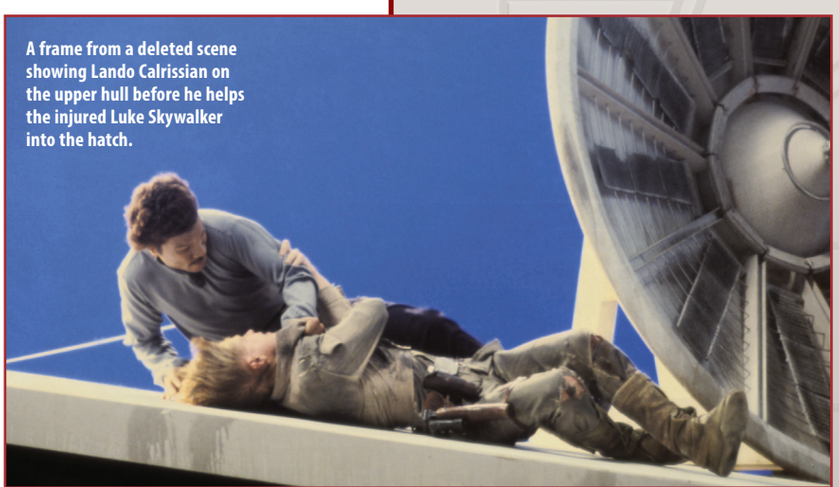
In the original release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Lando Calrissian appears on top of the *Falcon* just before the exhausted Luke falls from the weather vane under Cloud City, and the next shot shows Lando bringing Luke down into the ship. This scene was slightly altered for the *Special Edition*, because it looked as if Lando had gone through the top hatch twice. In the first clip (seen from inside the ship), Lando appeared to exit from the top of the ship as soon as the hatch opened. But the next shot (from an exterior point of view) showed the hatch opening before Lando came up through it. For the *Special Edition*, an extra, external airlock was added, so looking from inside, both hatches have to open up before Lando can leave the ship, and the cut to the exterior now blends in smoothly with the action. A series of bluescreen shots that never appeared in the movie showed Lando on top of the *Falcon* assisting Luke to the hatch. In these, Lando appears to be wearing the lifeline he hooked onto the ship on his way out of the top hatch.



In a deleted scene, a Sullustan rebel runs towards an internal screen shutting off the access from the main ring corridor to the starboard docking ring and ramp.

duel on Bespin's Cloud City.

Access to the *Falcon*'s upper hull is provided via an elevating platform in the corridor floor, which is hydraulically raised towards a tube in the ceiling that leads to the dorsal hatch. Its designers probably didn't have a mid-air rescue in mind, but Skywalker's life depended on this unorthodox method to recover him from the city's weather vane.



A frame from a deleted scene showing Lando Calrissian on the upper hull before he helps the injured Luke Skywalker into the hatch.

The layout of the YT-1300's ventral docking hatch almost mirrors the dorsal hatch and gives similar access to the bottom of the ship. However, instead of using an elevator, crew members must open a floor access plate and climb down a ladder built into the tube that leads to the docking hatch controls.

RESTRICTED ACCESS

The 'universal' hatch was actually designed for hook-ups with small vessels with restricted hatchways, but its fittings were standardized to allow them to lock onto most starship or starport docking rings and tubes. However, Solo hardly used the smaller hatches, and it's doubtful whether they would be wide enough to permit a Wookiee to pass through.

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YOUR NEXT PARTS

Continue building the hull framework by assembling the outer part of the cranked section that will support the boarding ramp mechanism.

In addition to the parts you need for this stage, you have received another section of plating for the underside of the hull, which has a recess for mounting the optional landing gear. You have also received part of the hull plating that fits between the mandibles, where the concussion missiles are mounted. Keep all the unused components until later on.

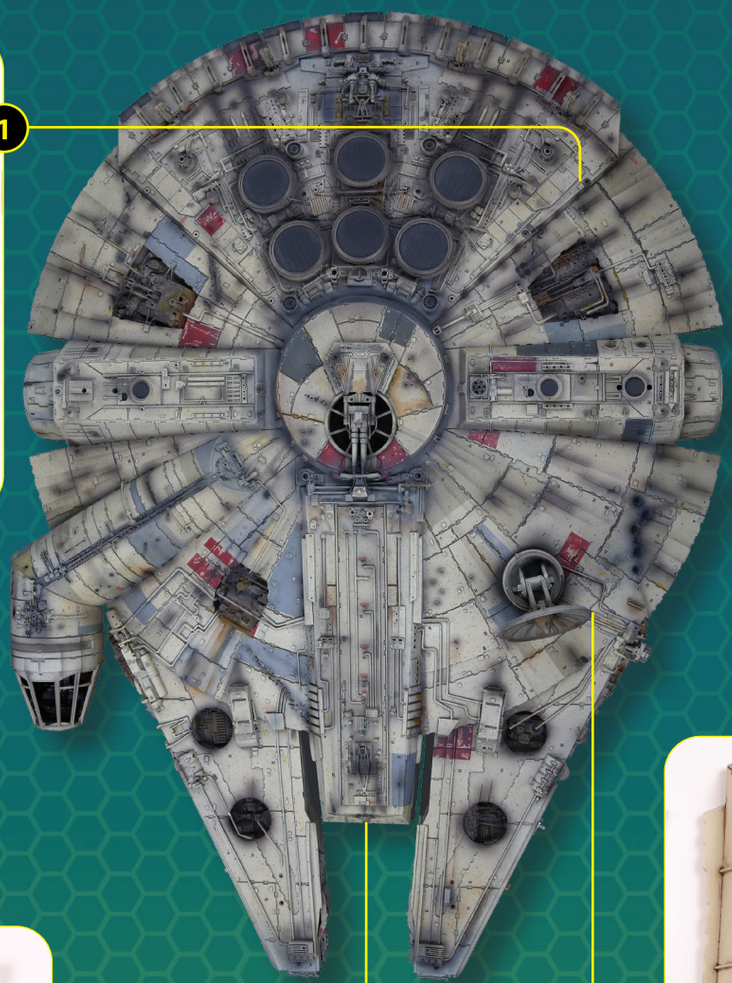
COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Hull frame BF-4
2. Hull frame BF-3
3. Concussion missiles mount
4. Radial stiffening rib
5. 4-hole connectors (x 2)
6. 2-hole connectors (x 2)
7. Hull plating BP-27

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

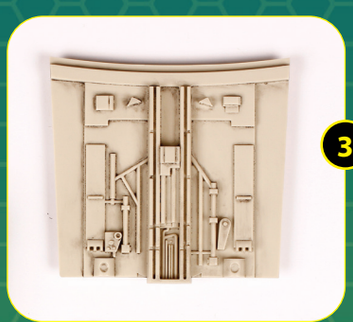
HULL FRAME







HULL PLATING



HULL PLATING



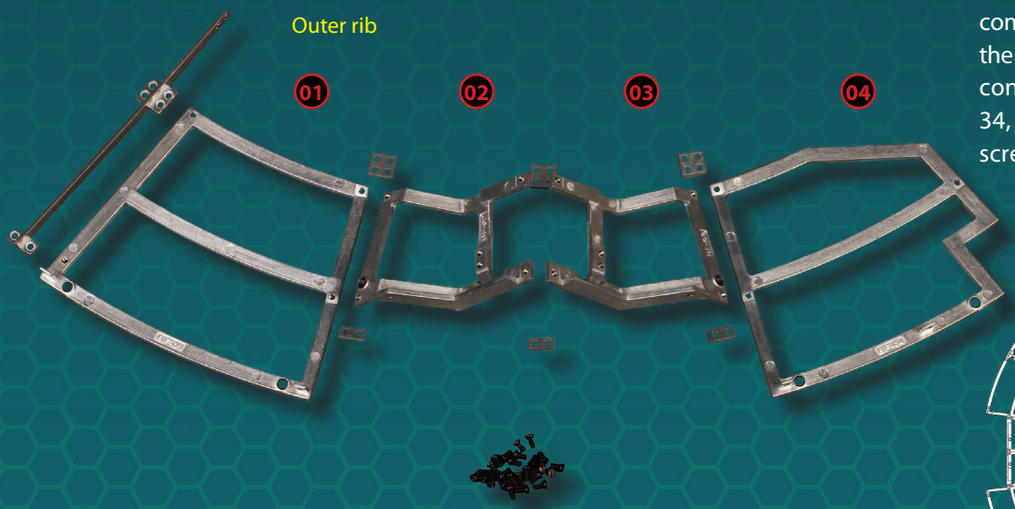
All parts are for the **underside** of the hull.

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ASSEMBLING THE BOTTOM FRAMES

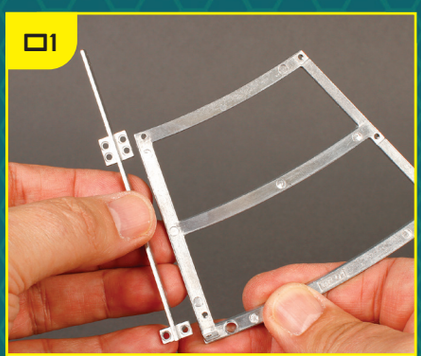
Joining the next four frame parts and radial rib (shown below) will form the first part of the support for the ramp mechanism, which you will put together over the next few stages. Later on, when this sub-assembly is added to the existing framework you finished in Stage 33, it will complete the full circle of the bottom of the hull.

Take the two bottom frame sections provided with this issue (Parts 1 and 2), and frames 1 and 2 from Issue 34, and lay them out as shown, following the frame numbering. To complete the assembly, you also need the radial rib and the 2-hole and 4-hole connectors from this issue and Issue 34, plus 14 short black button-head screws to join the frame sections.

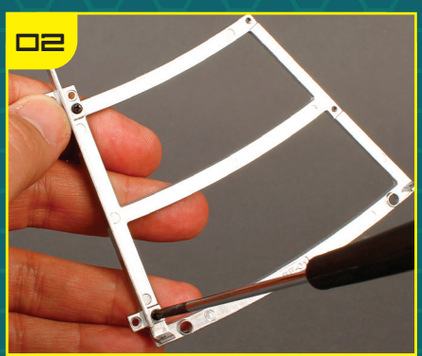




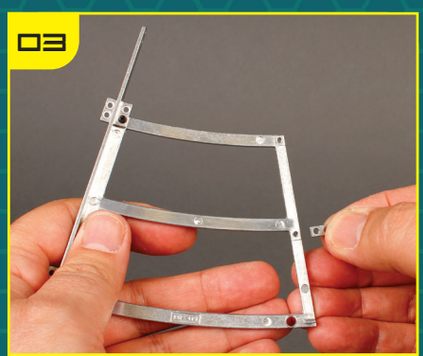
The frames shown have BF numbers (shown in red) cast into them for identification. The photo above indicates how they fit together, and the small diagram (right) identifies this area on the blueprint that came with Issue 1.



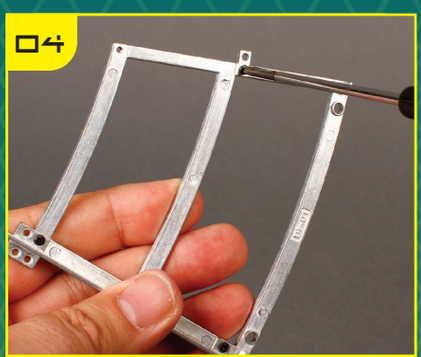
Align the radial rib with frame BF-01 as shown.



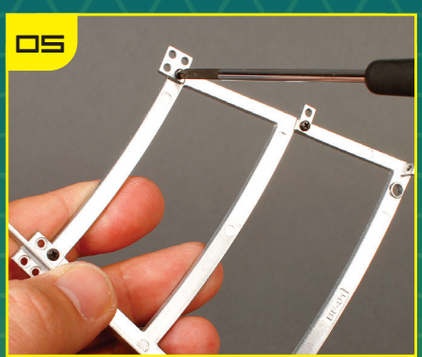
Secure the rib to the frame with two screws in the flanges shown.



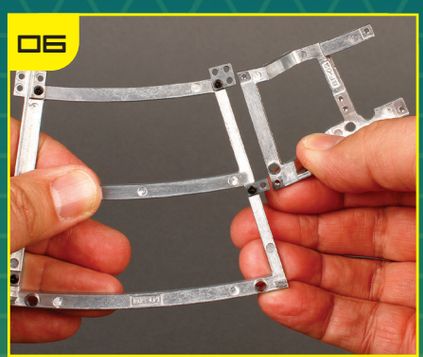
Take a 2-hole connector and line it up with the center hole in BF-01



Screw the connector to the frame with a single screw.



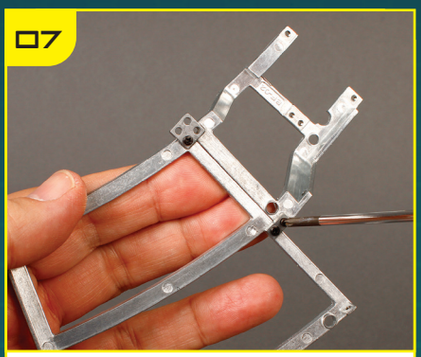
Screw a 4-hole connector to the corner hole in BF-01, using a single screw.



Align frame BF-02 with the two connectors as shown.

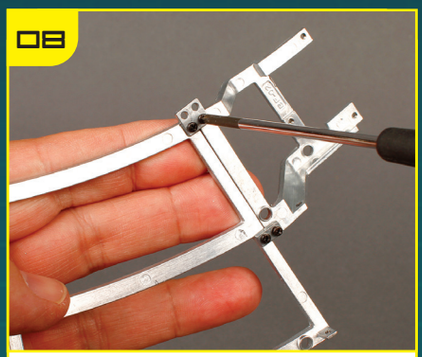
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07



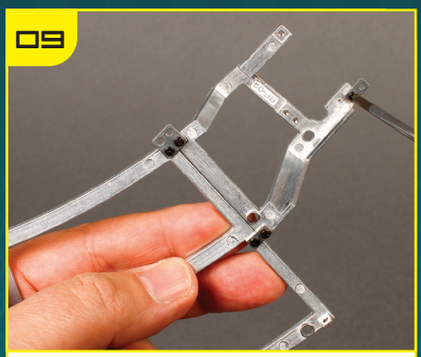
Screw BF-02 to the 2-hole connector with one screw.

08



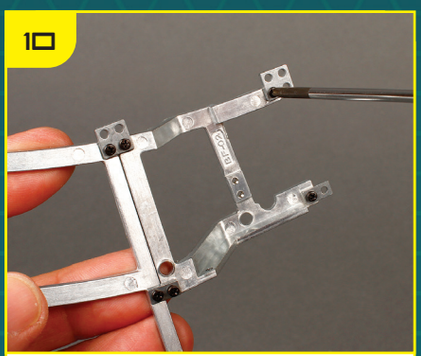
Use another screw to attach BF-02 to the 4-hole connector.

09



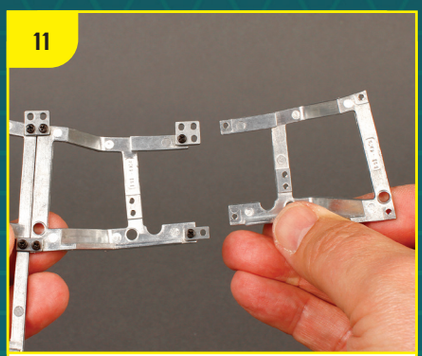
Screw a 2-hole connector to the outer hole in BF-02.

10



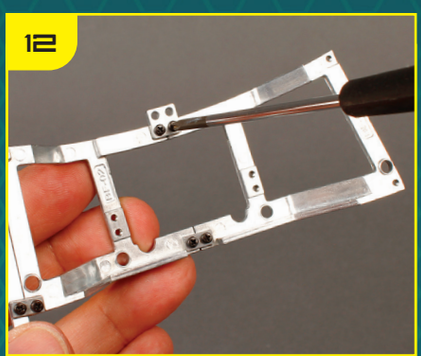
Screw a 4-hole connector to the other hole in BF-02, using one screw.

11



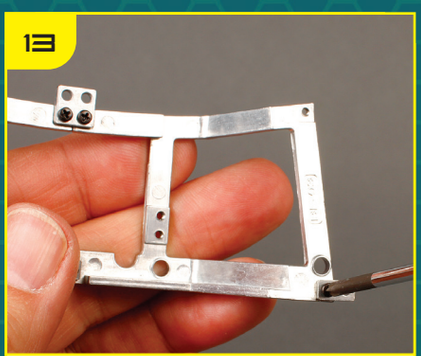
Align BF-03 with the two connectors as shown.

12



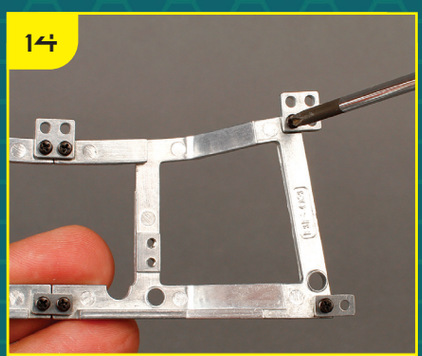
Now use two screws to attach BF-03 to the assembly.

13



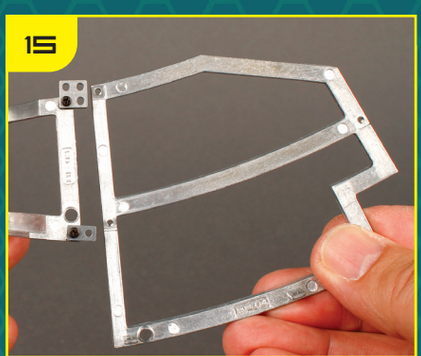
Screw a 2-hole connector to this hole in BF-03.

14



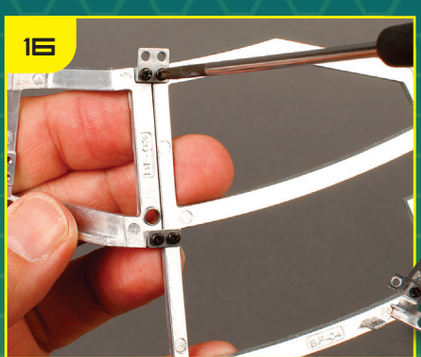
Screw a 4-hole connector to the other hole in BF-03.

15



Align BF-04 with the two connectors as shown.

16



Screw BF-04 to both connectors, using a single screw in each hole.

The completed assembly should look like this. Do not try to join it to the rest of the framework yet.



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STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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