STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY





MILLENNIUM FALCON

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STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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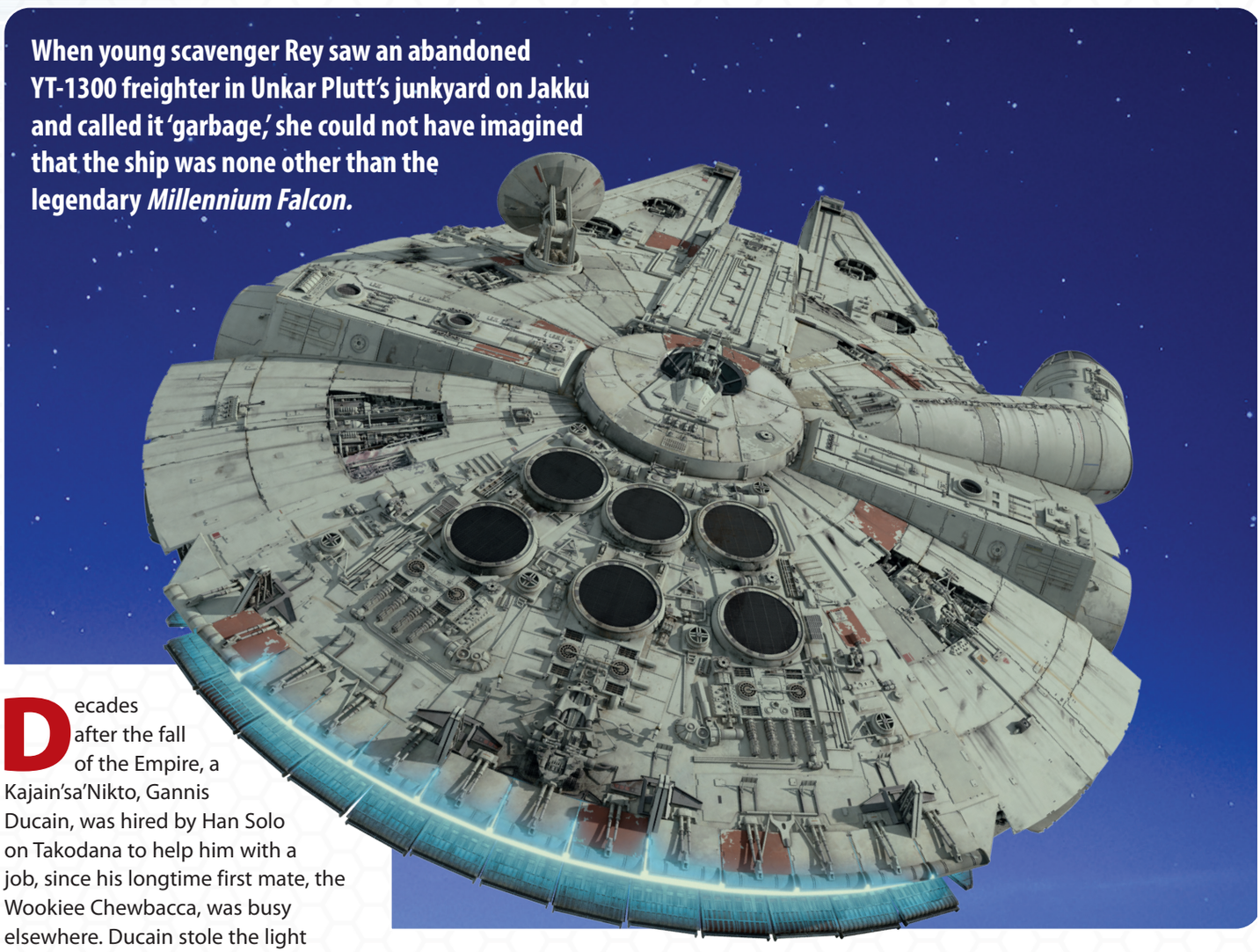
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YT-1300 FREIGHTER

MILLENNIUM FALCON

When young scavenger Rey saw an abandoned YT-1300 freighter in Unkar Plutt's junkyard on Jakku and called it 'garbage,' she could not have imagined that the ship was none other than the legendary *Millennium Falcon.*



Decades after the fall of the Empire, a Kajain'sa'Nikto, Gannis Ducain, was hired by Han Solo on Takodana to help him with a job, since his longtime first mate, the Wookiee Chewbacca, was busy elsewhere. Ducain stole the light freighter from Solo. The legendary craft then passed hands a few times, until it ended up with the Jakku scrap dealer, Unkar Plutt. The male Crolute left the ship among his other vehicles while he waited for a buyer to come foward.

Then, however, a young scavenger named Rey, a renegade stormtrooper called Finn, and the droid BB-8 stole



The *Falcon* had undergone multiple modifications since Han Solo lost it, but in essence, it was still the same old Corellian freighter.

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the *Falcon* to escape an attack by the First Order, and took the ship off the planet. The fact that they left Jakku's orbit allowed Han Solo and Chewbacca, who had been searching for their ship for years, to detect the *Falcon*'s systems with their current frigate's sensors, and soon they were back aboard their old ship. At first, Han and Chewie regarded the two young strangers as thieves, but they eventually agreed to work with them to complete a map that would lead them to Jedi Master Luke Skywalker, who had been missing for years.

A NEW PILOT FOR THE *FALCON*

Han was pleasantly surprised by Rey's mechanical skills, and this was one of the reasons that the smuggler decided to collaborate with her, and even offered her a position on his ship. All these plans changed, however, when the First Order kidnapped Rey. Han died at the hands of Kylo Ren, who was in fact his son Ben,

After Han's death, Chewbacca and Rey continue to use the legendary freighter to battle the First Order.

BEHIND THE SCENES

THE RETURN OF THE *FALCON*

In 2014, the American website TMZ leaked images of the reconstruction of the *Millennium Falcon* set. For the filming, both the interior and exterior were built entirely at Pinewood Studios in London, and, as with previous installments, different parts of the Corellian freighter were built separately. For *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the full-size exterior version, the interior of the ship, and at least two sets of cockpits, designed to allow filming from different angles, were used.

Different versions of the cockpit set were built, which allowed scenes in flight to be filmed more realistically.



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In spite of the young strangers on board, when Han entered the *Falcon*, he felt that he was home again.

while trying to rescue Rey from Starkiller Base, and it was Chewbacca who had to take the controls of the *Falcon* to enable the rescuers to escape.

With Han's death, Chewbacca accepted that the ship was now in Rey's care, although he remained first officer. After finding out that Luke was on Ahch-To, Rey traveled there in the *Falcon*, and while she searched for the Jedi, Chewbacca repaired the damage the ship had sustained over the years.

Soon after, during the Battle of Crait, the *Falcon* proved key to the survival of the Resistance, first by distracting the First Order's TIE fighters, and later, by helping Resistance members to escape the planet.

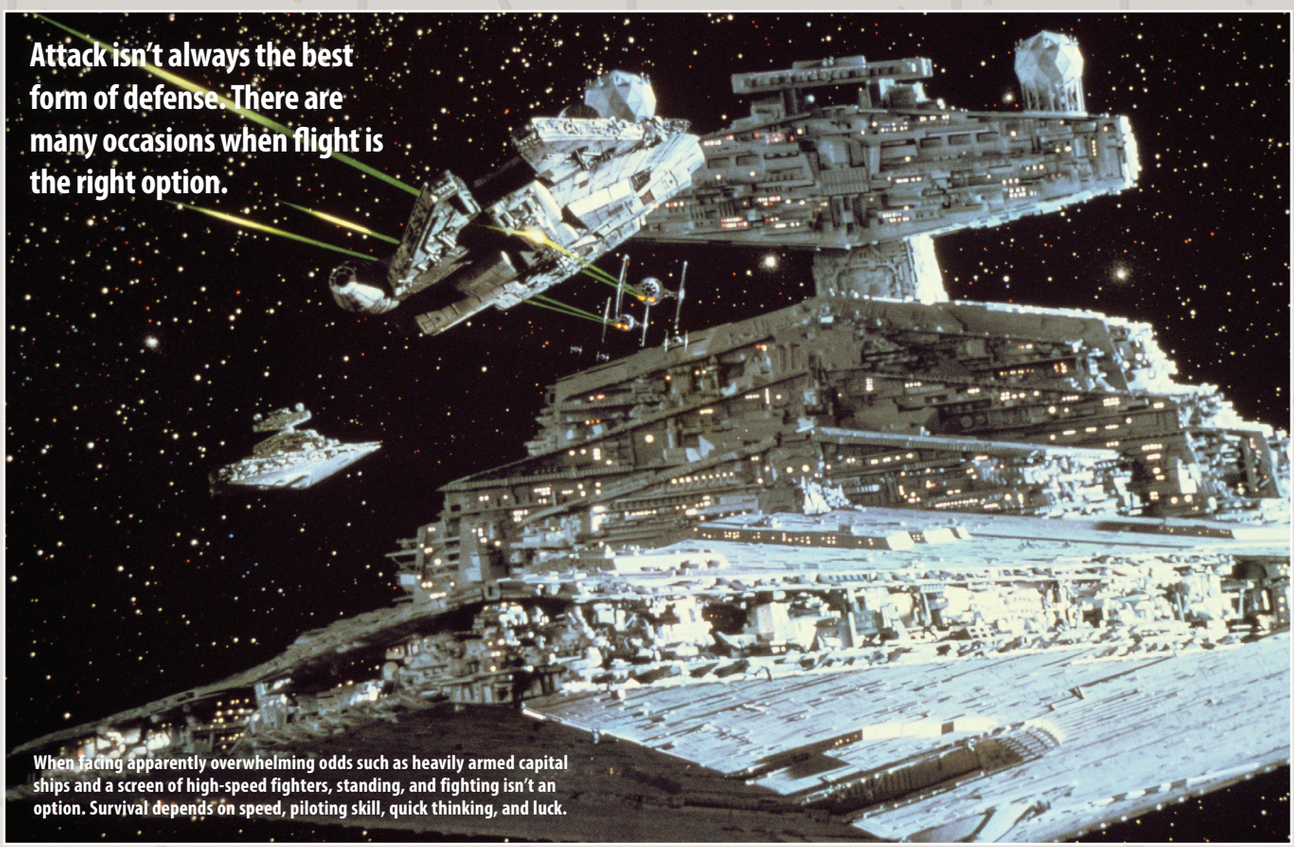
On another occasion, while Rey was focused on her Jedi training, pilot Poe Dameron took the controls of the *Falcon* for a mission that forced the old freighter to perform rapid lightspeed skipping, much to Rey's displeasure. Despite this, the *Falcon* was still fit to traverse the galaxy. The Resistance followed clues to find the location of the resurrected Emperor Palpatine and the ship led the fleet against the Final Order. After the epic final fight, Rey traveled with Chewbacca in the Millennium Falcon to Luke Skywalker's old home on Tatooine. There, she buried Leia and Anakin's lightsabers.



Finn took the controls of the *Falcon*'s gun to repel the TIE fighters that pursued them during their escape from Jakku.

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COMBAT TECHNIQUES 3: EVASIVE MANEUVERS



Attack isn't always the best form of defense. There are many occasions when flight is the right option.

When facing apparently overwhelming odds such as heavily armed capital ships and a screen of high-speed fighters, standing, and fighting isn't an option. Survival depends on speed, piloting skill, quick thinking, and luck.

For most starship pilots, 'evasive maneuvers' mean something as simple as not getting caught up in anything that could put their vessel in the crosshairs of an armed starship. Most hope that going about their business legally will prevent them being boarded by officers or troops from either local or galactic police and military vessels.

But then there are those who consider smuggling contraband under the noses of the captains and crews of such vessels to be a particular challenge. These fly-by-nighters consider themselves free, independent traders who shouldn't have to operate within the boundaries of local or galactic laws. Rules, after all, are meant to be broken. For starship captains and crews like this, evasive maneuvers mean something entirely different. Their very survival depends on knowing when to risk allowing officials to board, relying on one piece of contraband remaining undetected among 100 other items of cargo. They remain in business for decades because they also know when to risk it all and engage in blatant evasive maneuvers that will give their game away to anyone in authority or, in many cases worse, to rival criminal gangs and pirates.

Taking evasive action against another starship usually raises suspicion on board your opponent's vessel and will probably guarantee they will give chase. This happened when Han Solo uncharacteristically lost his nerve while flying a stolen Imperial shuttle through the Moddell Sector on a mission for the Alliance, taking pre-emptive evasive action just as an Imperial patrol was about to give him clearance. The lesson is that before taking such action, you had better be sure you can outrun or outgun your opponent in a firefight. And even if you do escape their tractor beams and guns, cutting and running is likely to ensure your starship appears on a system-wide, and sometimes galactic, most-wanted list.

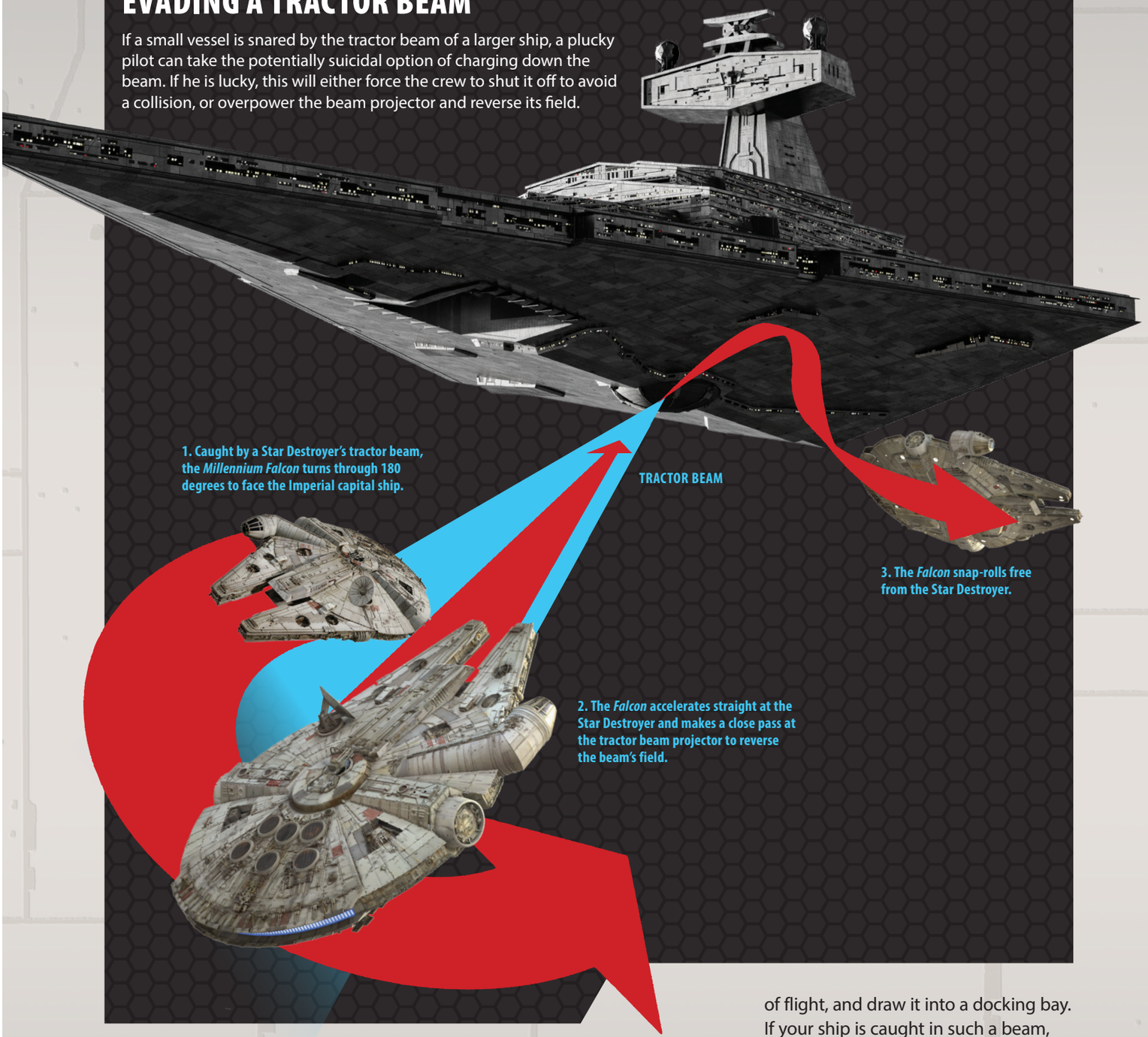
CUTTING AND RUNNING

Han Solo and Chewbacca had become masters of knowing when to take evasive maneuvers in the many years that they flew their aging, heavily modified YT-1300 Corellian freighter on clandestine missions. Staying sharp,

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EVADING A TRACTOR BEAM

If a small vessel is snared by the tractor beam of a larger ship, a plucky pilot can take the potentially suicidal option of charging down the beam. If he is lucky, this will either force the crew to shut it off to avoid a collision, or overpower the beam projector and reverse its field.



with a close eye on what the ship's instruments are telling you is usually the best way to keep out of trouble. Normally, they were quick to spot Imperial patrols or capital ships, such as the Star Destroyers that formed a blockade over Tatooine.

Their modified YT-1300 freighter had the advantage of possessing uprated sensors to spot a threat at long distance, plus the speed to outdistance more lumbering ships, with Solo relying on Chewbacca to take over as he got coordinates from the navigation computer for the jump to light speed. Once in hyperspace, they were relatively safe from any threat of being followed.

EVADING A TRACTOR BEAM

It isn't always necessary for a pursuing ship to catch up with its target, as tractor beams can pluck a starship out of flight, and draw it into a docking bay. If your ship is caught in such a beam, you have three choices: surrender, attack what is probably a much more heavily armed opponent, or persuade them to release you.

Surrender is not a word that is in the vocabulary of most free, independent traders, and is almost unheard of among military pilots. Depending on the opposition, surrender can lead to interrogation, imprisonment, or even death. Attack usually offers the best

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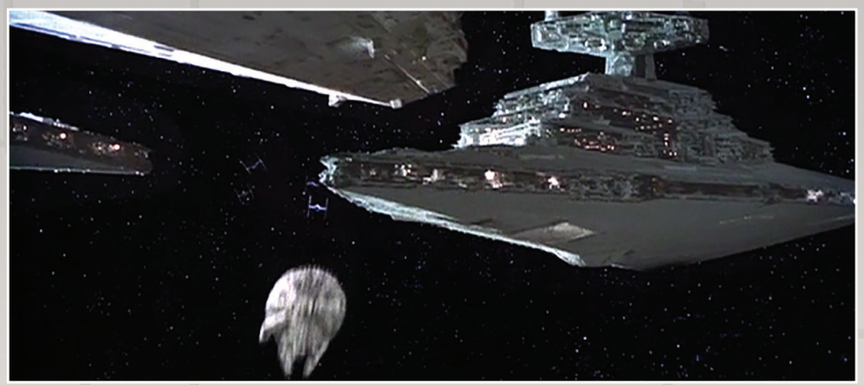
BEHIND THE SCENES

SCALE SIZE

The acrobatic twists and turns that the *Millennium Falcon* would have to execute to realize George Lucas's vision of the evasive maneuvers in *The Empire Strikes Back* were the main reason for the creation of the smaller, more manageable '32-inch' filming miniature. This was able to appear in action sequences on its own or against a variety of backgrounds. It was also used in the final sequence where Han conceals it behind the Star Destroyer's conning tower, 'landing' on a scaled-up section of the Imperial ship. For some of the sequences where the *Falcon* is seen escaping from the Star Destroyer, ILM made a tiny, palm-sized filming miniature that would appear to be in scale with the model of the complete Imperial capital ship – even though that was a massive 2.4m long.



Setting up a blue screen shot for the end of the chase sequence in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

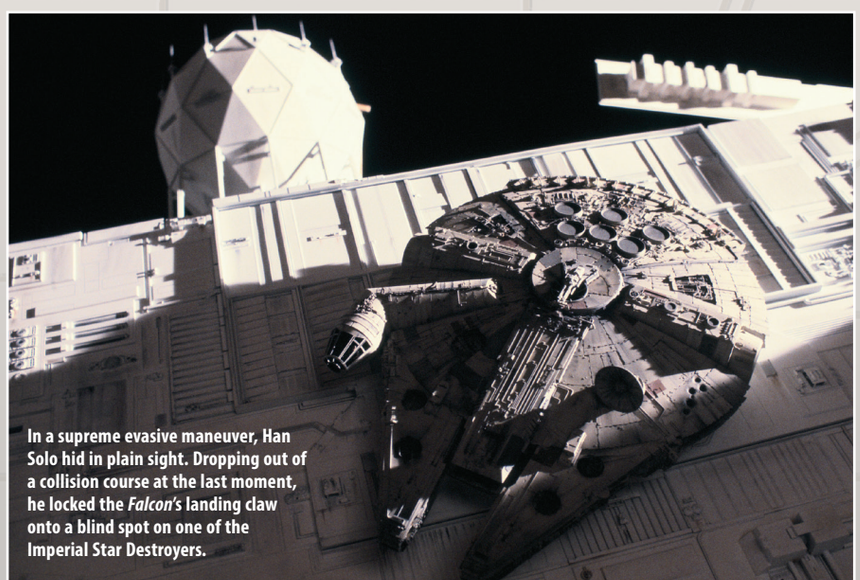


During the escape from the blockade of Hoth, Han Solo found that the *Millennium Falcon*'s hyperdrive would not engage. To buy time, he set three pursuing Star Destroyers on a collision course and headed for an asteroid field.

chance of survival against an inferior opponent. Against a superior opponent, such as a heavily-armed capital ship, a well-aimed laser shot at the tractor beam projector may get lucky through the element of surprise, but there is a likelihood of return fire that will disable or destroy your vessel.

Alternatively, you can accelerate head-on at your enemy in the hope that he shuts off the tractor beam to avoid a collision, allowing you to fly free at the last moment. It is also possible to snap-roll free of a beam by rotating to face the tractoring ship and increasing thruster and shield power for a close pass trajectory. The ship can then accelerate past the projector, go into reverse and fly to safety.

This is only practical when you have strong shields and are dealing with an opponent who cannot bring a second tractor beam projector to bear on a particular vector. Knowledge of your opponent's available options is vital – especially when one of those options might include bringing a wing of escort fighters into the action.



In a supreme evasive maneuver, Han Solo hid in plain sight. Dropping out of a collision course at the last moment, he locked the *Falcon*'s landing claw onto a blind spot on one of the Imperial Star Destroyers.

COLLISION COURSE

It is possible for nimble, quick ships, such as snub fighters or the *Millennium Falcon*, to outmaneuver larger, lumbering opponents – or even trick them into maneuvers that will set them on a collision course. This takes some quick thinking and seat-of-the-pants flying, but it served Han Solo and his crew well in the aftermath of the Battle of Hoth.

When Solo found himself going up against an Imperial blockade of Star Destroyers without the option of jumping to hyperspace, he set his course straight towards one of the capital ships. As another two Star Destroyers converged on his location, the *Falcon* veered away, leaving the three Imperial ships on intercepting trajectories and in danger of crashing.

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Using the environment to your advantage is another good tactic, especially when it gains you time. However, the *Falcon* was nearly destroyed when Solo flew into a field of thousands of spinning asteroids to evade Imperial capture, which led to the destruction of several less-skilled pursuing Imperial TIE fighters.

For his final evasion, Solo emerged from the edge of the asteroid field at breakneck speed, flew straight at a Star Destroyer, then killed the engines and locked his landing claw onto a blind spot on the Imperial vessel. The crews of the Star Destroyer and her sister ships assumed Solo had vanished into hyperspace, and stopped the search.

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YOUR NEXT PARTS

The underside of the hull has two deep recesses in the outer plating, the first of which you assembled in Stage 19. Now, it's time to make the second.

As before, in addition to completing the recess, you may also wish to finish it with paint. This is not essential, but will add greatly to the realism of this area of the hull. If you decide to do it, it needs to be tackled before installing the recess in the plating.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

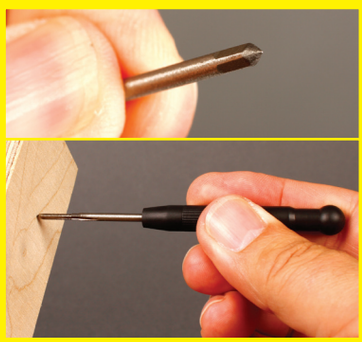
1. Hull plating BP-12
2. Thread-cutting tap
3. Starboard hull recess
4. Plant-on details (8 on sprue)

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

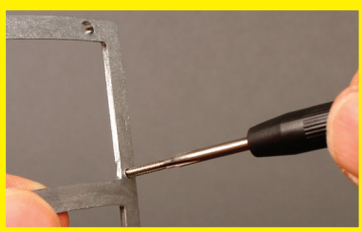


THREAD-CUTTING TAP

The thread-cutting tap has been provided to help readers who have tried inserting a screw into one of the threaded holes in the metal frames and found it is too tight to go in easily. If you have not experienced this problem, there will be no need to use the tap.



The tap comes in two parts: the metal blade itself and a handle. To assemble these, gently fit the square end of the tap (top picture) into the matching socket inside the end of the handle, and push it home using a piece of scrap wood to press against the sharp point. The hardened steel is brittle, so be careful not to bend it.

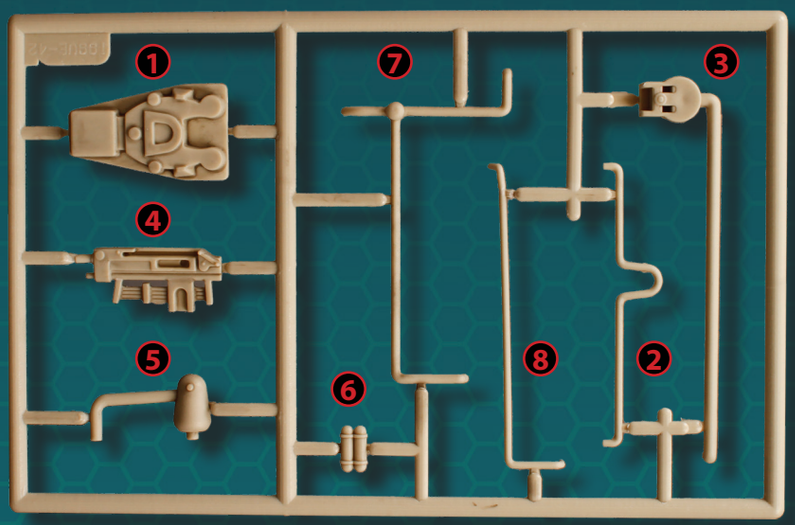


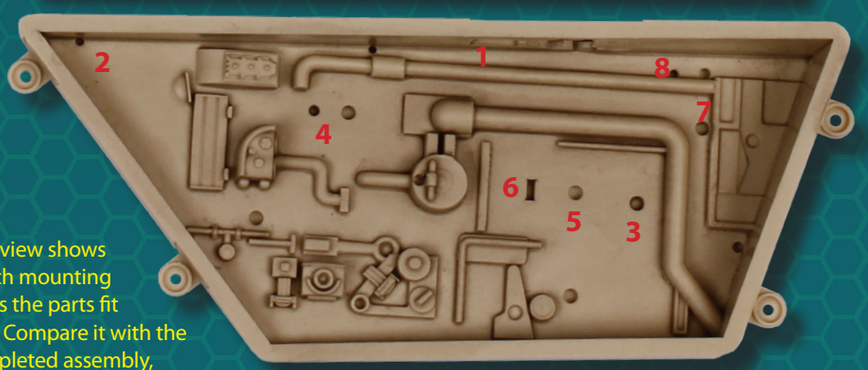
To ease a screw thread, insert the pointed end of the tap into the hole and turn the handle lightly clockwise, as if you were putting in a screw. Make sure it is at right angles to the surface. To prevent the tool jamming, stop every couple of turns and reverse the tap a quarter of a turn or so.

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DETAILING THE RECESS

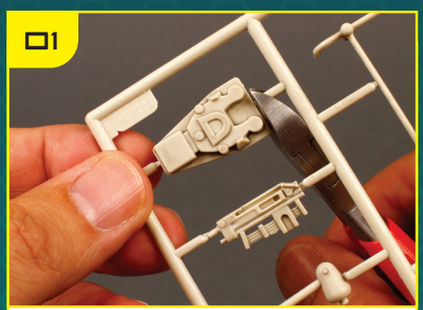
The recess is filled with pipework and other equipment, which is provided as plant-on details on the sprue. As some parts overlap each other, it is important to fit them in the order shown.





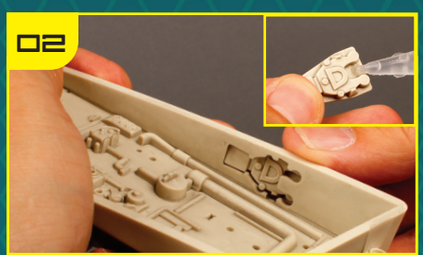
This view shows which mounting holes the parts fit into. Compare it with the completed assembly, shown opposite.

01



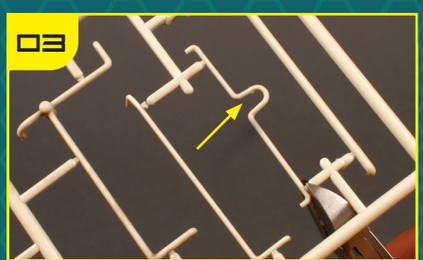
Start by trimming (1) off the sprue.

02



Test-fit (1) through the hole in the side of the recess, then fix it in place with a little superglue on the flat surfaces that make contact with the recess.

03



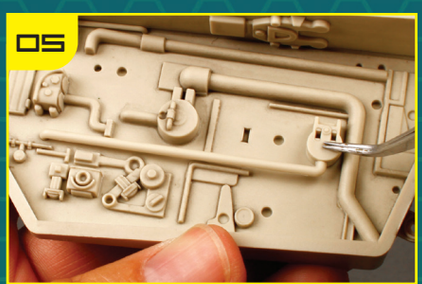
Trim (2) off the sprue carefully, as it is very thin. Note that the arch indicated is nearer one end than the other.

04



Holding (2) this way round, glue the pins on each end into the small holes close to the walls of the recess.

05



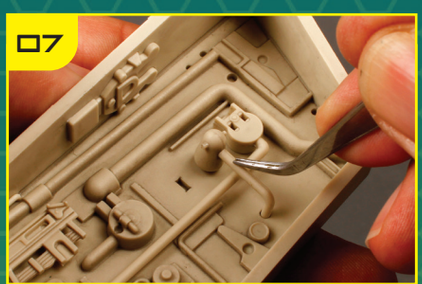
Glue the pins on the ends of (3) into the matching holes in the base of the recess.

06



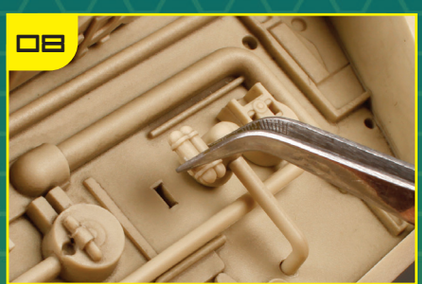
Glue the two pins on the back of (4) into the matching holes.

07



Fit (5) over (3) and glue the two pins on the ends into the matching holes.

08



Glue the long tab on the back of (6) into this matching slot.

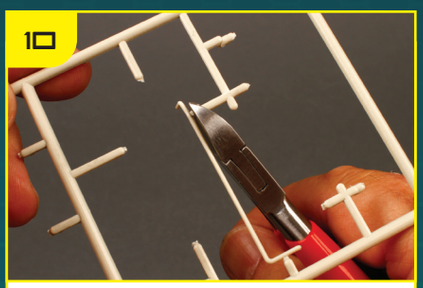
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09



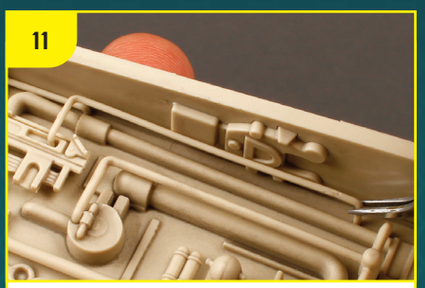
Glue the four pins on the back of (7) into the matching holes.

10



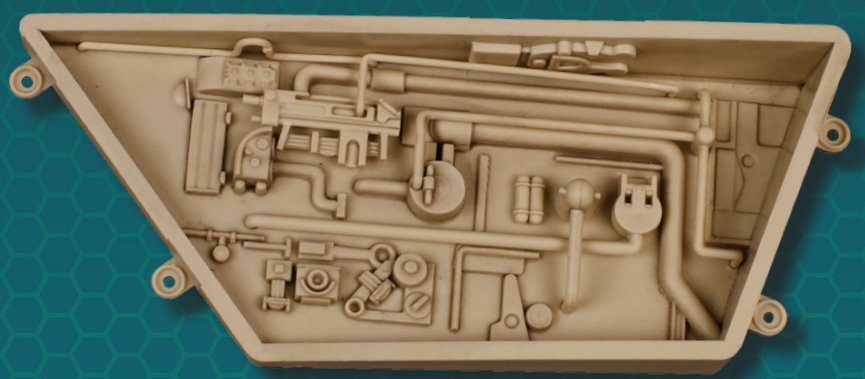
Be careful when you trim (8) off the sprue and remove any flash, as it is very thin.

11



Glue the two pins on the end of (8) into the matching holes.

The finished assembly should look like this.



PAINTING THE RECESS

Like the recess you assembled in Stage 19, paint will add a used appearance. Refer back to the earlier example – although it is not important to match it exactly. While you can use a brush, spray paint will give better results. You will need three colors of matte acrylic modeling paint: black, mid-gray and light gray. Always follow the maker's instructions, take note of the safety warnings and cover your work area with dust sheets and paper to protect it from over-spray.



01



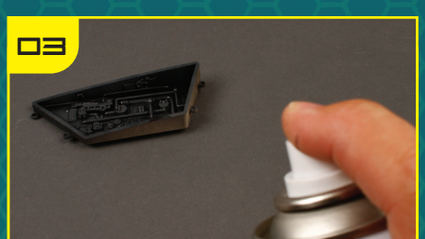
Start with matt black. Shake the can well to mix the color, and spray the recess lightly from a short distance away.

02



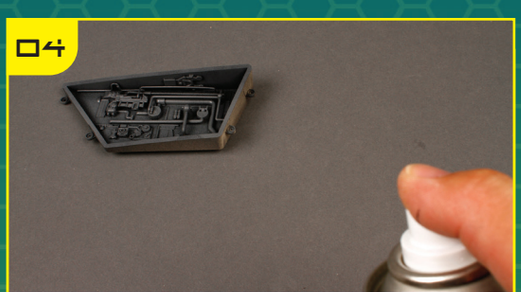
Do not apply the paint too thickly. A degree of spatter is acceptable, provided the black has penetrated the deepest areas.

03

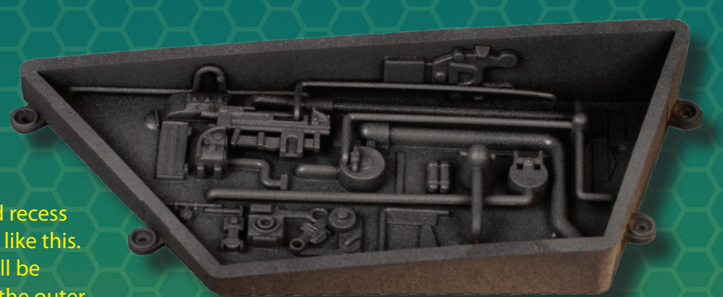


Switch to mid-gray and spray a thin coat lightly across the surfaces at an angle, so the paint only touches the high spots, leaving the depths black.

04



Repeat Step 3, switching to light grey to pick out the surface detail. Spray the color very lightly, checking the effect as you go.



The finished recess should look like this. Its edges will be covered by the outer plating, and more paint detail will be added on the surface when the hull plates are customized a little later in the build.

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