# STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

## BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY





**TOPOGRAPHICAL SENSORS**

F219FSC055

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# STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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## SENATOR AMIDALA'S TRANSPORT

# J-TYPE DIPLOMATIC BARGE

**When Padmé Amidala became Senator of Naboo, three years before the Clone Wars started, she continued to serve her people and the galaxy with dignity and style. Her custom-built transport was a gleaming gift from the Naboo to aid their beloved former leader on her diplomatic journeys.**



When Amidala had served two terms as queen on Naboo, the people tried to amend the constitution so she could remain in office. Amidala herself was glad to step down from the throne, but she didn't abandon her people. Instead, the former monarch succeeded Horace Vancil as the new Senator of Naboo and the Chommell Sector, with the assistance of Jar Jar Binks.

Because Senator Amidala didn't choose to live permanently on Coruscant – as a lot of politicians did – she had to travel regularly around the galaxy. The Naboo provided her with

**Senator Amidala's official transport was plated in gleaming chromium, which was a mark of status on Naboo ships. Like other diplomatic vessels, the ship had luxurious reception chambers, spacious crew stations, and cabins for the senator's guards.**

### J-TYPE CUSTOM-BUILT DIPLOMATIC BARGE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| CLASS | Transport |
| MANUFACTURER | Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps and Nubian Design Collective |
| DIMENSIONS | Length 39m (128 ft), width 91m (298 ft), height 6.8m (22 ft 4 in) |
| HYPERDRIVE | Nubian 288 cores, S-6 generators (Class 0.7, range 80,000 light years) |
| MAXIMUM SPEED | 2,000 km/h (124 mph) in atmosphere |
| ACCELERATION | 2,500 G (in space) |
| CREW | 5 (pilot, co-pilot, navigator, comscan operator, shield operator), chef droid, and 5 x astromech droids |
| PASSENGERS | 4 x prestige passengers, 6 x guards |
| WEAPONS | None |



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## DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES

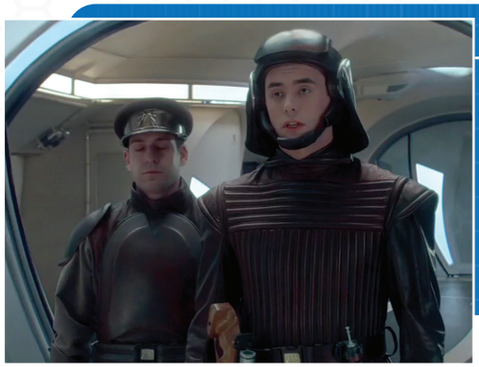
The Theed engineers were keen to correct flaws in the design of the Royal Starship that became apparent during the invasion of the Trade Federation, when Amidala barely escaped the blockade of her planet. The diplomatic barge was upgraded with a more powerful shield generator and high-capacity energy sinks. It also gained an additional hyperdrive generator – so that there was one hyperdrive core on each side of the cockpit.

the perfect starship to continue her fight against corruption, warmongering, and bribery in the political arena of Coruscant and elsewhere in the galaxy.

The Naboo senator's transport (technically known as a J-type custom-built diplomatic barge) was one of a kind. It measured 39 m (128 ft) long, with a height of just 6.8 m (22 ft 4 in), and an exceptionally broad wingspan of 91 m (298 ft). The design was the result of the combined efforts of the Nubian Design Collective and the artisans of Theed Palace Engineering, whose previous collaboration had resulted in the N-1 Royal Starfighter and the Royal Starship that had served the Naboo well during the invasion of their planet.

Several elements of the diplomatic barge recalled Amidala's former ship – including its full chromium finish. Under normal circumstances, this was only reserved for the royal starships, but as the Naboo regarded Senator Amidala with the highest esteem, she was also granted this privilege.

The J-type spaceframe, outfitted with four large magnetic turbines, was once again built around several crucial components from the Nubian Design Collective. The fast S-6 hyperdrive generators were Nubian, as was the sensor array, the deflector shield generators, and the sublight engines. Cooling grids and thermal-sink matrices were installed on the elongated wings, while the deflector shield generator, heat sinks, and cooling radiators could be found in the tail.



## EXTENSIVE RETINUE

The ship's upper deck housed the cockpit and crew quarters. The vessel could be flown by just two people in an emergency, but its normal crew consisted of a pilot, co-pilot, navigator, comscan operator, shield operator, five astromechs, and a chef droid. It also had an escort of N-1 starfighters flown by pilots such as Porro Dolphe, a veteran of the Battle of Naboo.

**When Amidala stepped down as queen and was appointed Senator, Captain Gregar Typho was named as her head of security – responsible for her safety on diplomatic missions.**



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## CRISIS IN THE SENATE

### ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

The Naboo Senator's diplomatic barge nearly met its end right before the start of the Clone Wars, when Amidala returned to Coruscant to vote on the vital Military Creation Act. As the ship landed, an explosion rocked the landing platform. Cordé and Versé, two of Amidala's handmaidens, perished in the assault, together with Lieutenant Theomet Danlé and Mett Habble from the Royal Naboo Security Forces, but Senator Amidala and Captain Typho escaped the same horrible fate, as they had traveled under cover in N-1 starfighters. Typho had foreseen the danger of the Senator's return to Coruscant, so Cordé had taken Amidala's place as her decoy during the journey. Eventually, the barge was repaired and used again in the Clone Wars by Amidala during missions to Mandalore and Alderaan.



As soon as the ship settled on the landing platform, its ramp powered down and the Senator and her escorts emerged. Suddenly, there was a shattering explosion.



Swooping down from space like an elegant bird, the Naboo diplomatic barge heads for Coruscant, the capital of the Republic. Like other Naboo ships, the J-type was clad in distinctive chromium.

### SPACIOUS INTERIOR

The three-deck interior layout of the ship was also adapted to its diplomatic profile. The front section was dominated by Amidala's bedroom, and a large conference chamber where the Senator could receive negotiators, diplomats or other politicians. The middle deck could house four passengers in luxurious cabins (often Amidala's handmaidens), and six guards in more modest compartments. The lower deck featured the main hold, for the ship's cargo and a maximum of five astromech droid stations.

Another Naboo tradition that was upheld in the ship's design was the absence of any weapons. The ship was unarmed and had to rely on its defensive shields, or on its flight escort of N-1 Naboo starfighters. The barge was outfitted with four recharge sockets where the starfighters could be docked during hyperspace travel.

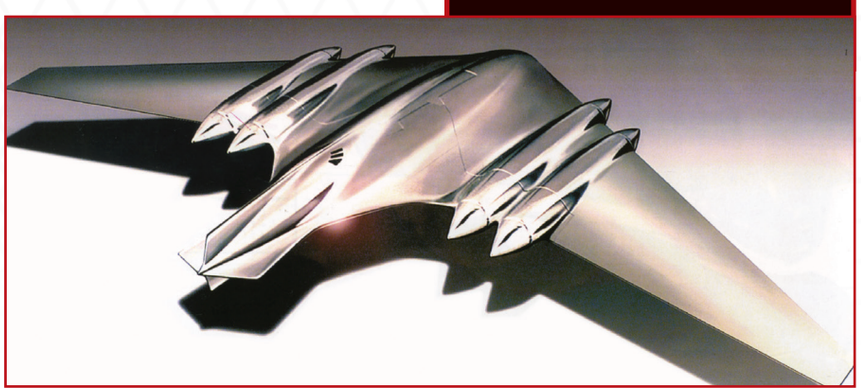
### NABOO PHILOSOPHY

Consistent with the Naboo philosophy, the diplomatic barge was an elegant, aerodynamic, and environmentally-friendly starship. The beautiful 'flying wing' shape was reminiscent of a gigantic flying creature, soaring through the sky. Its chromium finish was completed with so much care that only a couple of intentional decorative seams remained visible. Whenever and wherever the cruiser arrived – even on the most sophisticated Core Worlds – the beautiful ship continued to amaze the citizens of the galaxy. This was a perfect ship that served Amidala's needs perfectly as an emissary of her people, seeking diplomatic solutions in a galaxy in turmoil.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### DESIGN

The diplomatic barge first appeared in *Attack of the Clones* (although its design was reused for three episodes of *The Clone Wars*). Concept Design Supervisor Doug Chiang developed its lines, which were inspired by the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, an American warplane that first saw flight in 1989. Chiang also added the turbines of a B-52 bomber. The ship was created digitally, and the ramp was the only part of the vessel that was created on set in Australia for filming the scene where Zam Wesell attempts to blow up Senator Amidala. Mist, ladders, debris, and smoke were added by the film crew. Other elements, such as the N-1 starfighters and R2-H7 (the damaged green and white astromech), were added later in post-production. The powerful sound of the barge was a recording of a dragster truck, a leftover from the podrace in Episode I. Sound designer Ben Burtt remembers that it had a great, deep, and rumbling sound that he slowed down a bit.



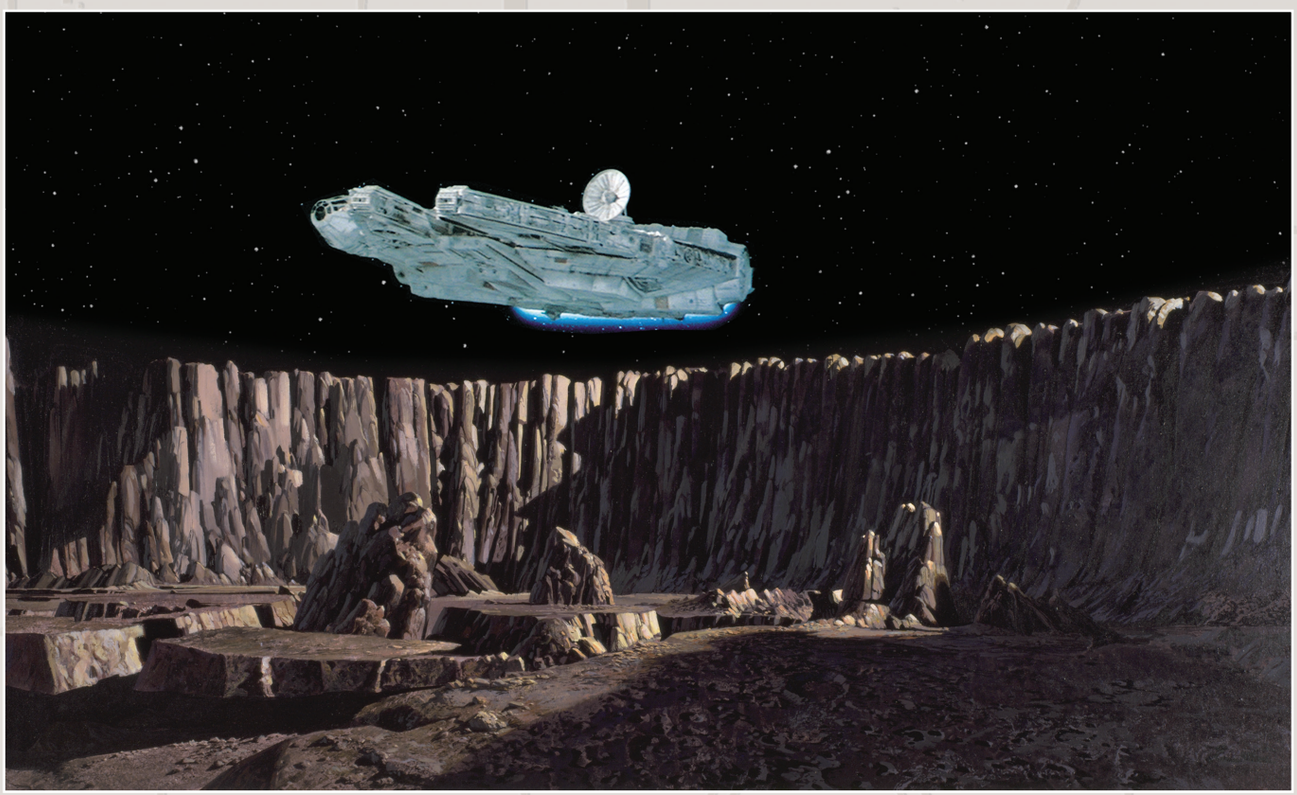
The sleek lines of the 'flying wing' were designed by Doug Chiang and were developed into a 3D digital model by ILM.



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# TOPOGRAPHIC AND TERRAIN-FOLLOWING SENSORS

**Topographical sensors help show a starship captain and crew the lie of the land (or other planetary surface) long before it is possible to do a visual scan from the ship's cockpit.**



The rocky and cavernous surface of an uncharted asteroid is exactly the sort of situation in which topographic and terrain-following sensors come into action. However, though the *Millennium Falcon* has a range of sensor technology, Han Solo paid little attention to these as he led chasing Imperials on a mad dash through one such asteroid in the Hoth belt.

The galaxy is full of opportunities for the discerning freighter captain – as many and varied as the worlds out there. A minority of planets (like the galactic capital of Coruscant, or the center of art and culture that is Naboo) have been thoroughly mapped, so that the details of their topographical features are available to every galactic traveler. But there are far more nameless and uncharted worlds in the Outer Rim of the galaxy that could hold riches beyond the dreams of the greediest Hutt crime lord.

## THREE DATA SOURCES

It's because of these almost infinite possibilities that specialized Terrain-Following Sensors (TFSs) were first developed for scout ships. Such sensor suites use a trio of different technologies to sense, in fine detail, the shape of the planetary terrain and display it on a shipboard datascreen in real time. Carefully calibrated optical, radiation, and sonic sensors collect the information and deliver it to the ship's navigational computer, which then processes the information and displays it as a three-dimensional image on the datascreen. Because of their triple sensing abilities they can read all known, and even unknown, elements and compounds.

## NAVIGATION AIDS

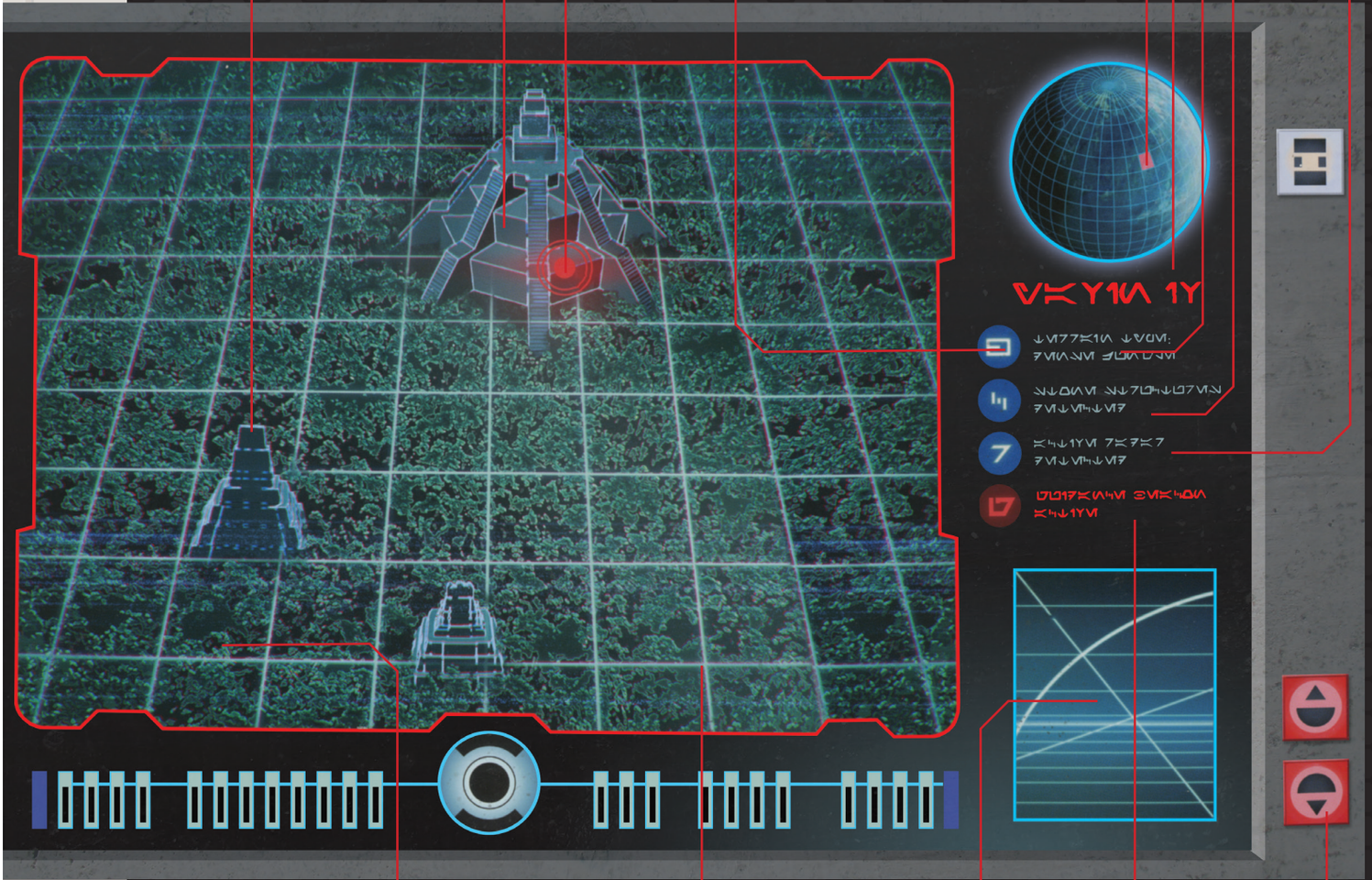
Topographical sensors are vital for delivering a heads-up on a new,



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# THE FALCON'S TERRAIN-FOLLOWING SENSOR (TFS) SYSTEM

A set of topographical sensors are fitted in the belly of the *Millennium Falcon* – as they are in all Corellian Engineering Corporation YT-1300 freighters. The TFS system is installed as part of the ship's sensor suite in the middle of the ship, just aft of the forward mandible, and forward of the ship's quad laser cannons. Together, the system automatically gathers optical, sonic, and radiation data, and compiles an integrated topographical display on the ship's datascreens. Even when a planetary surface is shrouded in mist or total darkness, the TFS system is capable of distinguishing between vegetation, land, water, and solid structures.




**As the *Falcon* flew towards the secret Rebel Alliance base on Yavin 4, its TFS system displayed a revealing picture of the jungle below. As welcome guests, the new arrivals were able to lock onto a coded beacon that helped to guide them to the ancient Massassi temple.**



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Despite the excellent forward view from the *Falcon*'s cockpit, the ship's sensors provided its crew with a wealth of information beyond the visible spectrum.

previously unexplored, world, long before a starship touches down. They can also be used as an 'extra pair of eyes' for flying a starship through the atmosphere of a world in inclement weather, such as cloud, fog, and mist, as well as other localized atmospheric conditions that makes visibility low to non-existent. Even where a highly developed planet is well mapped, the sensors can be used to help guide a pilot between buildings and other physical obstacles.

## SENSING LAND

Topographical sensors are also vital for identifying a good place to set down before the ship comes within meters of the planet's surface – whether that's solid terrain of any variety, water or an artificial landing pad or pontoon. The same facility is equally important for ground-based vehicles.

Most repulsorlift vehicles have topographic sensors – even if only basic ones – to help them monitor the ground they are travelling across. This helps the system to make micro-adjustments to the repulsorfield lifting the vehicle (largely unnoticed by the driver) to maintain a set altitude. The sensors also warn the driver in advance of obstacles the vehicle might have trouble traversing, such as walls it can't simply fly over, or deep holes that the repulsorlifts wouldn't be able to easily glide across.

## THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

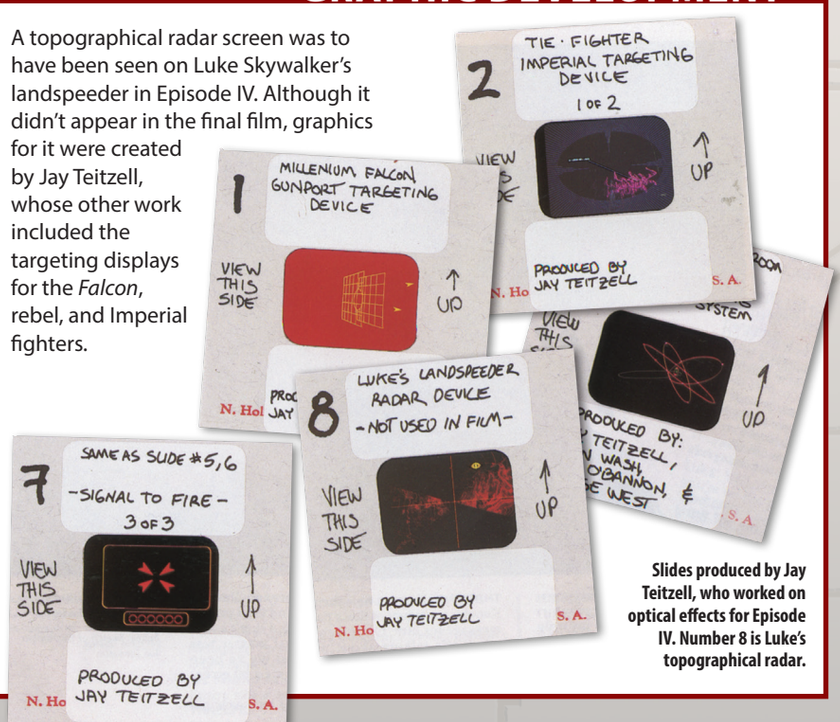
The *Falcon*'s terrain-following sensors have been used to guide the ship across the hostile terrain of hundreds of worlds, and to land the ship in obscure docking bays and landing platforms on many far-flung planets. When Han Solo fell in with the Rebellion, his ship's TFS system was vital for locating and landing at the rebel base on Yavin 4, and the hidden hangar of the Alliance's Echo Base on Hoth following the battle. They gave the *Falcon* a smooth landing at Cloud City on Bespin and helped Princess Leia, Lando Calrissian, and Chewbacca rescue Luke Skywalker from the underside of the city after a lightsaber duel with Darth Vader.

Dodging TIE fighters in the asteroid field off Hoth would also have been much harder without topographical sensors – although, as he led his pursuers through a deadly canyon on a small planetoid, Solo did not pay close enough attention to what his datascreen was telling him. Otherwise, he might not have landed the ship in the esophagus of a space slug, thinking it was merely a deep cavern.

BEHIND THE SCENES

## GRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

A topographical radar screen was to have been seen on Luke Skywalker's landspeeder in Episode IV. Although it didn't appear in the final film, graphics for it were created by Jay Teitzell, whose other work included the targeting displays for the *Falcon*, rebel, and Imperial fighters.




Slides produced by Jay Teitzell, who worked on optical effects for Episode IV. Number 8 is Luke's topographical radar.



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# YOUR NEXT PARTS

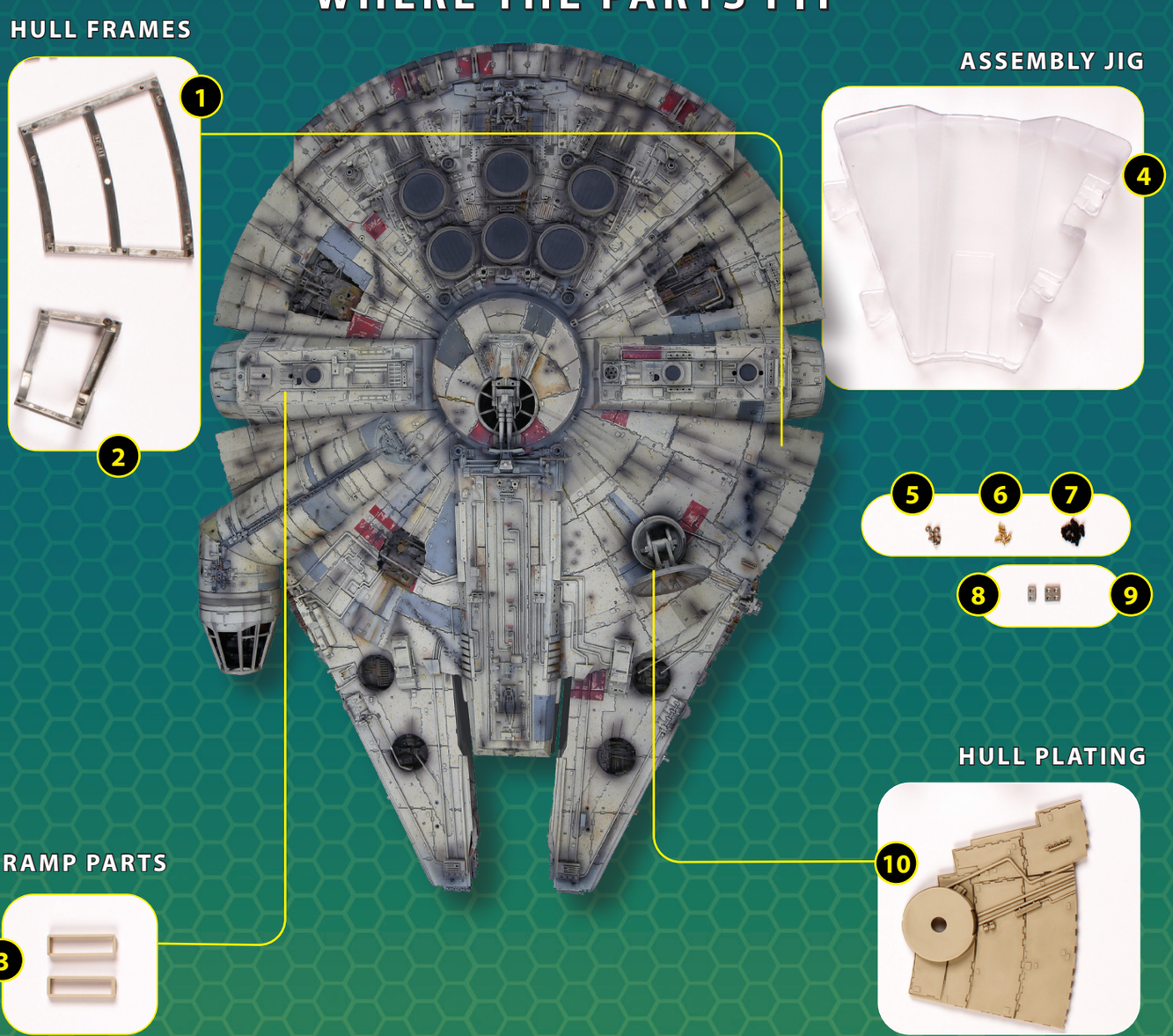
This issue's parts are used to extend the upper hull framework, and you have also received another section of the assembly jig to support the growing framework. There are also two braces for the ramp mechanism.

The steps on the next two pages add two more pieces to the top framework. You will also be bracing the ramp mechanism, which is almost ready to be tested. And with the optional paintwork on the underside completed, you can start to add the hull details that have not been fitted yet, beginning with the two recesses filled with machinery. The only part not used in this stage is the top hull panel, which has the mounting for the rectenna. Keep this safely until later.

## COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Hull frame TF-21
2. Hull frame TF-22
3. Ramp bracing straps (x 2)
4. Assembly jig (1 section)
5. Fixing screws (x 6 including spare)
6. Fixing screws (x 7 including spare)
7. Fixing screws (x 15 including spare
8. 2-hole connector
9. 4-hole connector
10. Hull panel TP-13

## WHERE THE PARTS FIT



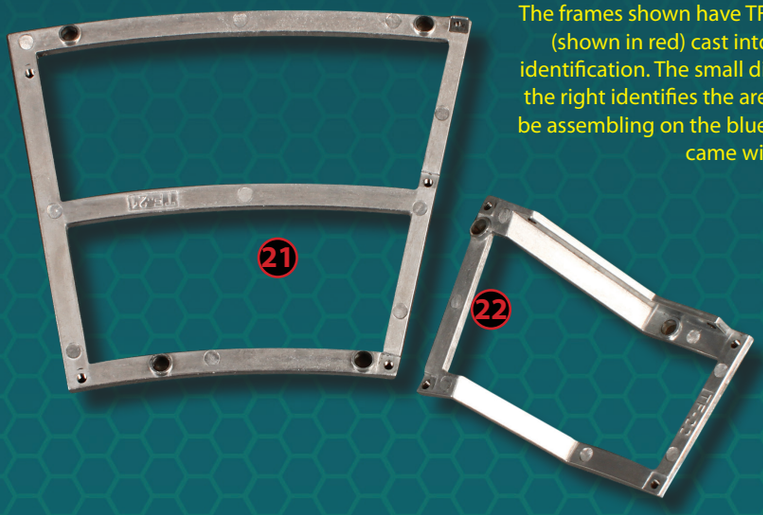



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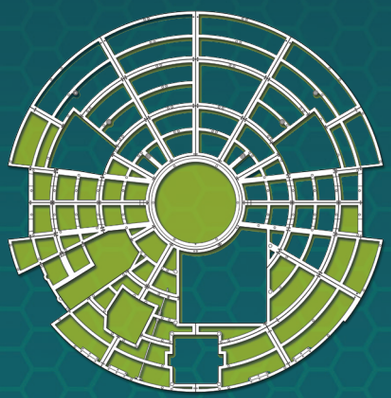
# ASSEMBLING THE TOP FRAMES

Adding the next two frame parts to the framework you assembled in Stage 54 will take you round to the start of the port corridor opposite the ramp. Because of the large opening for the cutaway, the frames will need supporting on the assembly jig until you have added more pieces to brace them.

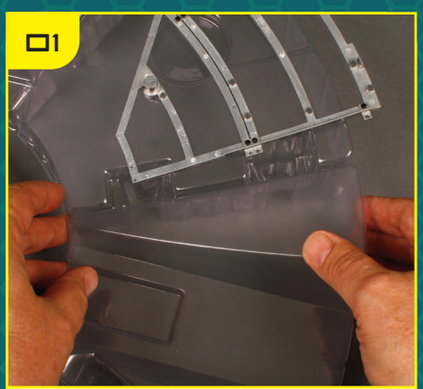
For this stage, you need the two frame sections provided with this issue, plus the 4-hole and 2-hole connectors, the radial rib section, and six short black button-head screws.



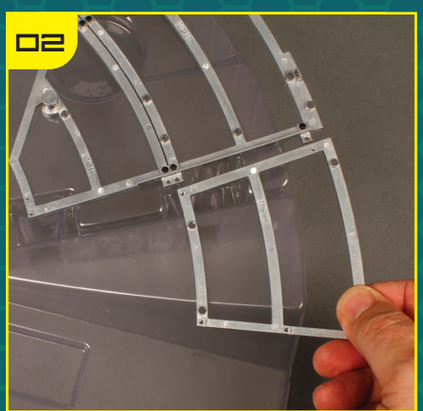

The frames shown have TF numbers (shown in red) cast into them for identification. The small diagram on the right identifies the area you will be assembling on the blueprint that came with Issue 1.



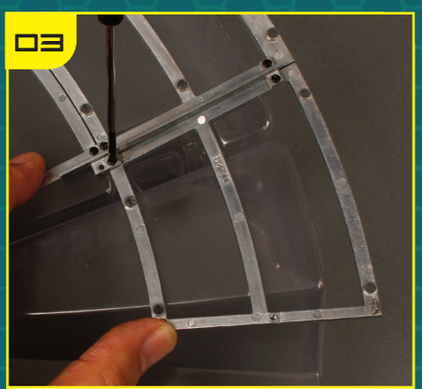




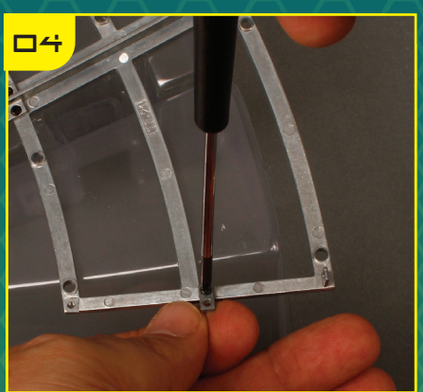

Fit this issue's assembly jig section to the end of the existing jig.



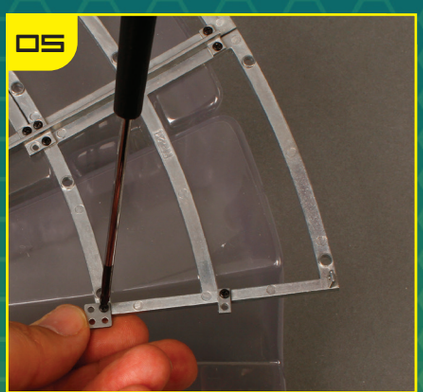

Fit TF-21 to the end of TF-19.



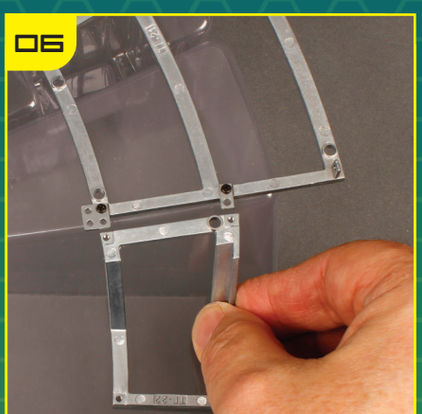

Screw TF-21 to both flanges on the radial rib.




Screw a 2-hole connector to the hole in the center of the end of TF-21.




Screw a 4-hole connector to the inner corner of TF-21 with one screw.

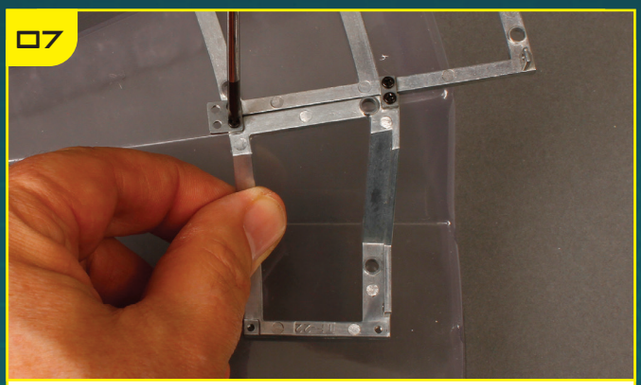



Fit TF-22 to the end of TF-21.



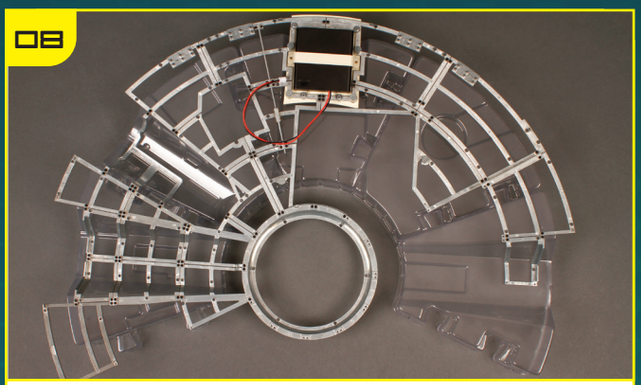
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07



Screw TF-22 to both connectors fitted in Steps 4 and 5.

08

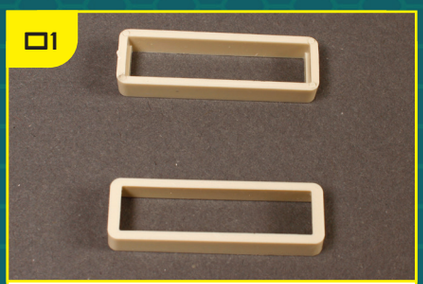


That completes the assembly.

# FITTING THE ACTUATOR BRACES

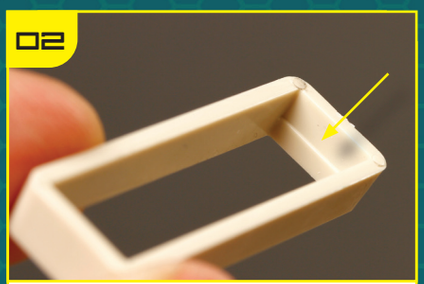
The braces supplied this time are fitted to the upper ends of the actuators you installed in Stage 39, to stabilize this part of the assembly as the ramp moves up and down. It is a good idea to do a dry run before gluing them in place.

01



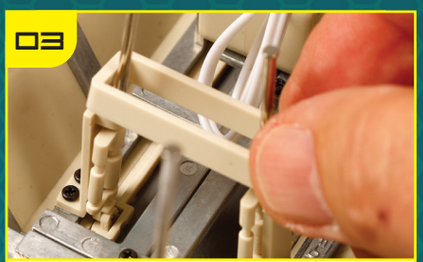
Take the two bracing straps supplied this time, which are identical.

02



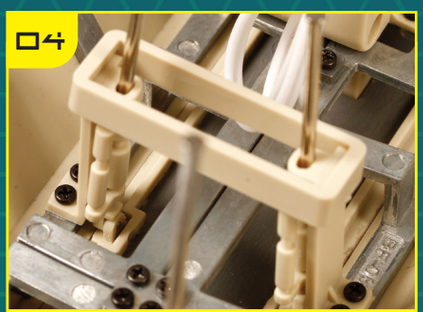
You will see that one side of both ends of the straps has a shallow recess.

03



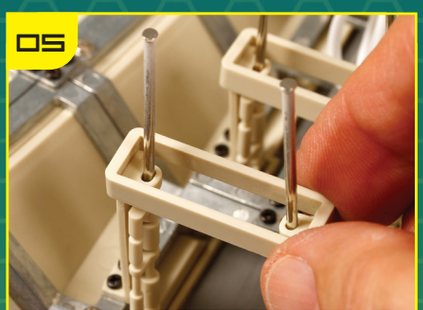
With the recess downwards, slide the strap over the actuator mounts until they stop against the edge of the recess.

04



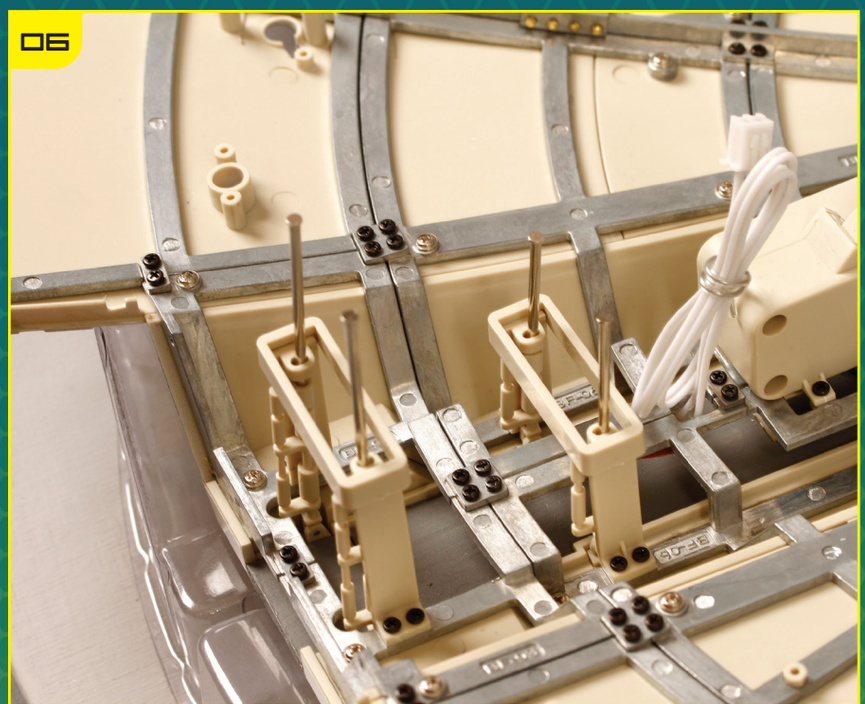
The strap looks like this after fitting.

05



Fit both straps in the same way.

06



That completes the assembly.

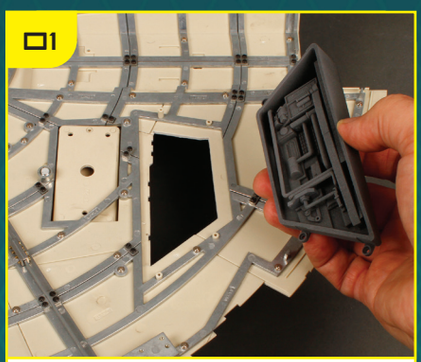


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# FITTING THE RECESSES

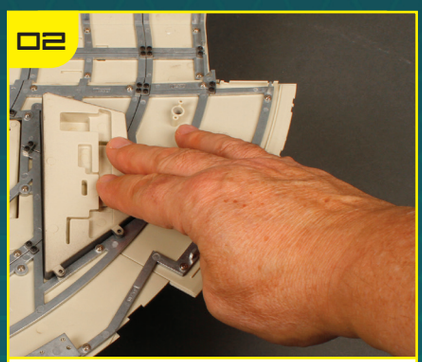
With the optional painting completed and the electronics about to be installed, you can start to finish off the lower hull plating by adding the two lower hull recesses you assembled in Stages 19 and 42.

01



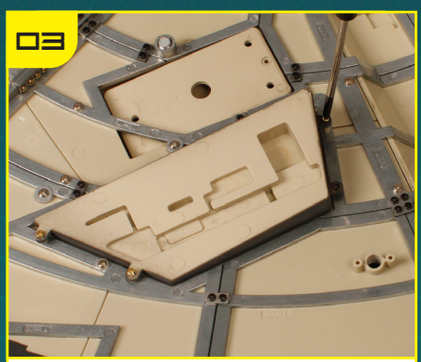
The recess from Stage 19 fits into the hole in the plating on the port side.

02



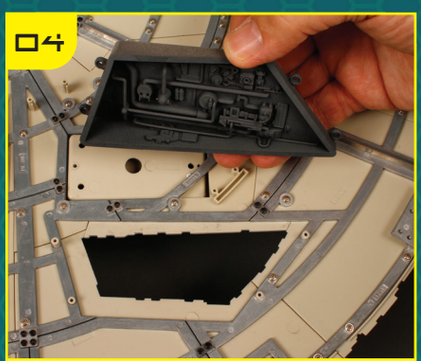
Press the recess into place, aligning the four projecting lugs with the screw holes.

03



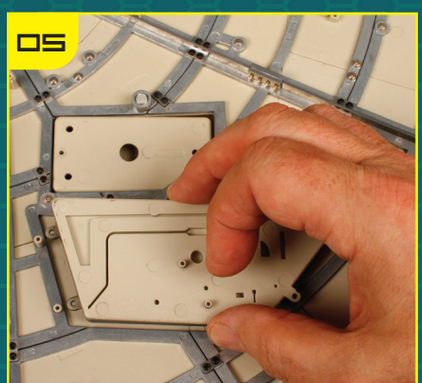
Fix the recess to the frame with four of the shorter brass self-tapping screws.

04



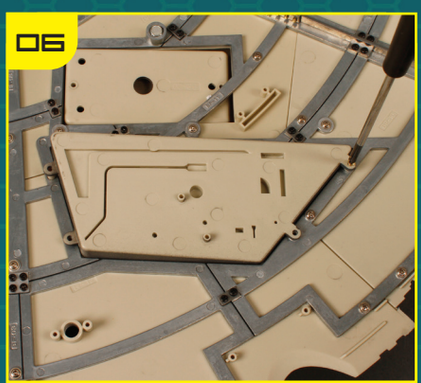
The recess you made in Stage 42 fits into the hole in the starboard plating.

05

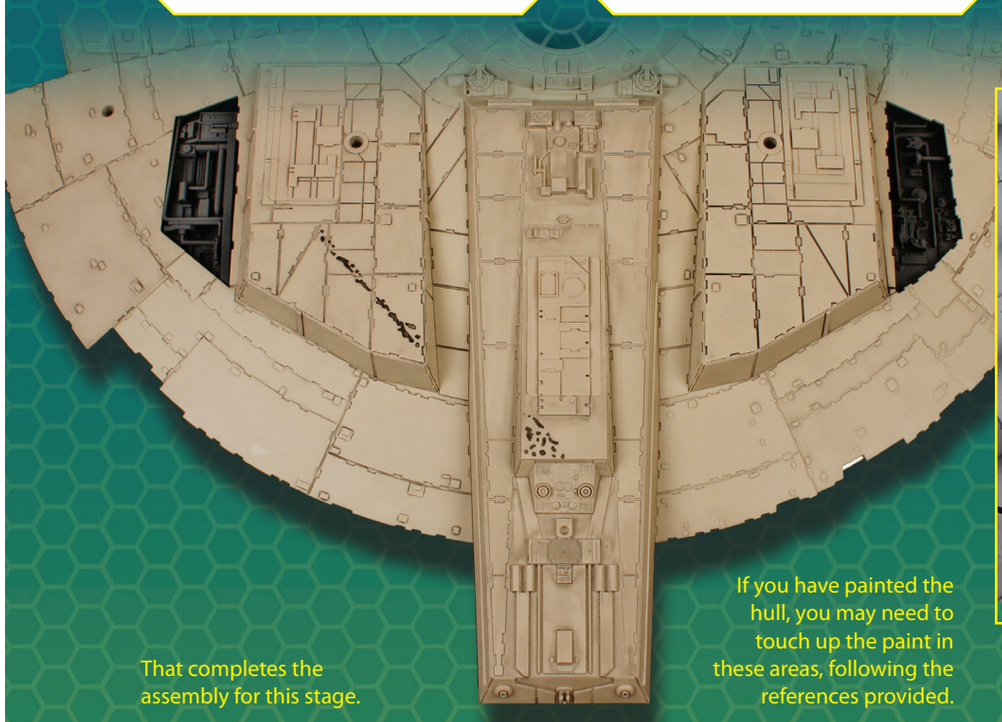


Align the fixing lugs as in Step 2.

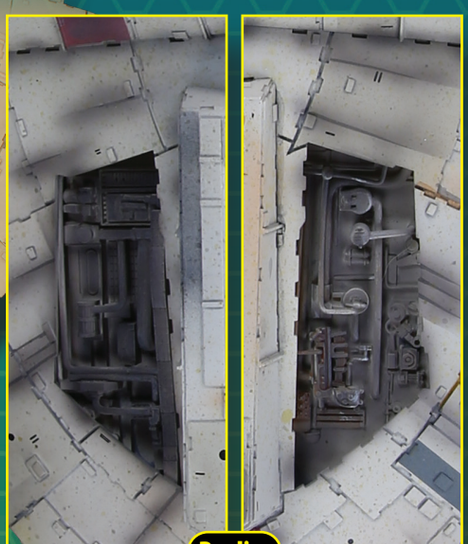
06



Screw the recess in place as in Step 3.



That completes the assembly for this stage.



If you have painted the hull, you may need to touch up the paint in these areas, following the references provided.



Replica

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