STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY





ALPHA-3 NIMBUS V-WING

F219FSC058

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REPUBLIC STARFIGHTER

ALPHA-3 *NIMBUS*-CLASS V-WING



Manufactured by Kuat Systems Engineering, the wedge-shaped compact Alpha-3 *Nimbus*-class V-wing starfighter was a faster and cheaper successor to its predecessor, the V-19 *Torrent* starfighter.

The Alpha-3 *Nimbus*-class starfighter – more commonly just known as the 'V-wing' – was developed to excel in battle against large numbers of enemies. This was a role for which the fast, agile V-wing was ideal. It was able to achieve an impressive maximum speed of 52,000km/h (32,311 mph), making it the only Republic ship able to match the Eta-2 and Delta-7 *Aethersprite*-class Jedi starfighters. However, to achieve this performance, the V-wing's wedge-shaped spaceframe was primarily designed for speed – an objective that was achieved by the omission of many

Primarily designed for speed, V-wings were short-range starfighters deployed by the Galactic Republic during the closing phase of the Clone Wars. They proved very effective in the Battle of Coruscant, alongside ARC-170s and Eta-2 interceptors.

ALPHA-3 *NIMBUS*-CLASS V-WING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

DESIGN	Kuat Systems Engineering
TYPE	Short-range starfighter
LENGTH	7.9m (25 ft 11 in)
SPEED	52,000km/h (32,311 mph)
MGLT	100 MGLT
HYPERDRIVE	None
WEAPONS	2 x twin laser cannons
SHIELDING	2 x deflector shield heat sinks
AFFILIATION	Republic
CREW	1 x clone pilot and 1 x astromech droid
PASSENGERS	None
CONSUMABLES	15 hours
CARGO	60kg (132 lb)

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LONG SERVICE

After the end of the Clone Wars, a small number of V-wings remained in service under the Galactic Empire – although these later incarnations of the starfighter omitted the astromech, leaving the craft to be flown by the pilot alone. These starfighters were eventually succeeded by the Imperial TIE fighter and its variants, but all of these ships incorporated elements of the V-wing into their designs.

on-board systems, including any form of life support.

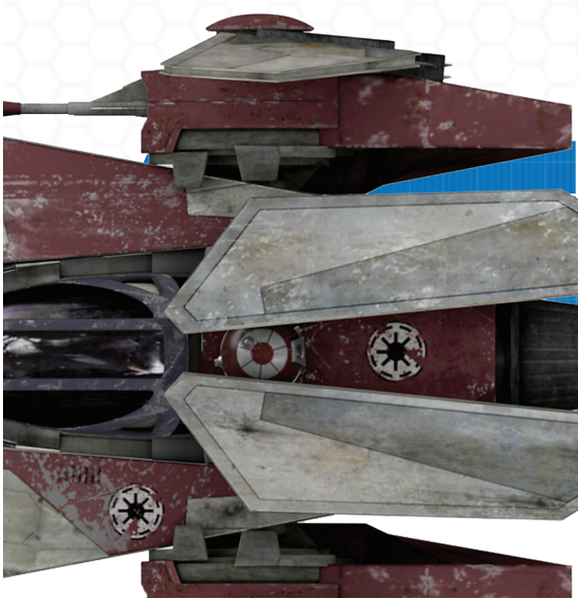
The were several respects in which the V-wing bore a resemblance to the Delta-7 *Aethersprite*-class Jedi starfighter. One key similarity was the lack of a hyperdrive unit – another sacrifice to speed. However, like the Jedi vessels, V-wings could dock with a booster ring to achieve long-distance travel when required.

BETTER BY DESIGN

The Jedi starfighters and the V-wings were both built by Kuat Systems Engineering, and designed by the renowned engineer Walex Blissex. When he laid down the design of the V-wing, Blissex was able to take advantage of his knowledge of the special modifications that Jedi Knights Anakin Skywalker, Plo Koon, and Saesee Tiin had made to their own Delta-7 starfighters – along with some new ideas of his own.

One reason that the Delta-7 starfighters were so fast was due to the highly skilled Jedi pilots who used the Force to help guide them. The lackluster speed of the bulky V-19 *Torrent*s could not match the Delta-7 starfighters, which had frequently led to the Jedi leaving their fighter squadrons behind, flying alone in a vulnerable and unprotected state.

Blissex understood this problem, and sought a way to resolve it, overseeing the creation of new computer flight systems based on complex tactical flight routines. When these systems were installed in the V-wings, they gave



PILOT AND DROID

The V-wing was configured to be flown by a single clone trooper pilot. He was assisted by a Q7-series astromech droid, which provided in-flight navigation, and maintenance skills. The droid socket was installed right behind the pilot's oval cockpit.

The lack of on-board life support systems meant that the clone trooper pilots required specially adapted helmets – which, like their flight suits, were fully sealed at all times.

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THE RESCUE FROM MUSTAFAR

CLANDESTINE MISSION

While he was still Supreme Chancellor of the Galactic Republic, Palpatine commissioned Kuat Systems Engineering to give a small number of V-wing starfighters an added hyperspace capability without the use of a booster ring. These specialized ships were modified to include an on-board hyperdrive unit, along with upgraded shields. When the self-declared Emperor flew to Mustafar to rescue the ravaged body of Darth Vader from the lava there, his shuttle was escorted by three of these V-wings, flown by highly trained pilots. The convoy then flew back to the Emperor's Surgical Reconstruction Centre on Coruscant, where a team of skilled medical droids operated on Vader, and placed him in a cybernetic suit in order to survive.



Escorted by three specially modified V-wings, Emperor Palpatine's shuttle docked at his Surgical Reconstruction Centre after a secret rescue mission to Mustafar.



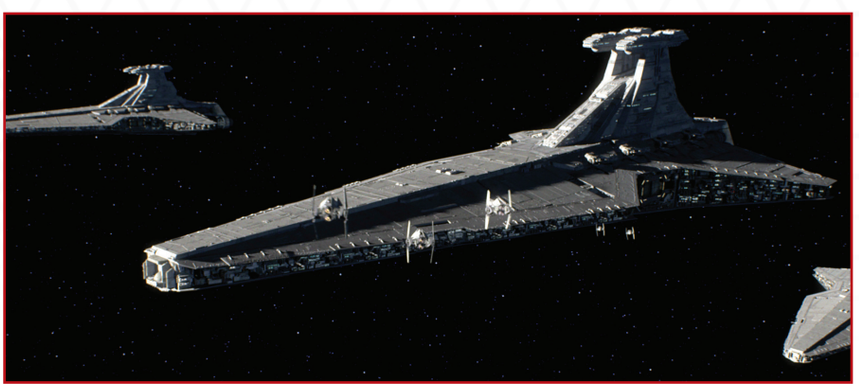
A final development gave a small number of V-wings the ability to travel in hyperspace. While this modification was carried out under the banner of the Republic, it was actually done to further the Emperor's secret master plan.

a boost to the reaction times of their clone pilots, allowing them to keep up with the Jedi at last.

On either side of the V-wing's hull were a pair of folding wings that extended above and below the vehicle. This unique feature was also used for landing, with the lower wings folding downwards to act as a form of landing gear. Towards the rear of the ship, located above the two vertically stacked ion drive thrusters, were two deflector shield heat sinks, which also provided extra protection for the pilot.

THE CLONE WARS

The V-wings were first deployed by the Republic in the final months of the Clone Wars, and quickly became the most numerous starfighters in the fleet, overtaking the older V-19 *Torrent*s. As they were unable to fly long distances due to their lack of an on-board hyperdrive unit, the V-wings were launched en masse from Republic capital ships. The standard tactic was to use their speed and agility in support of the more heavily armored ARC-170 starfighters, but V-wings were effective assault weapons in their own right. Their twin rapid-fire laser cannons were swivel-mounted on each of the two wing struts, providing a wide range of fire against their enemies.

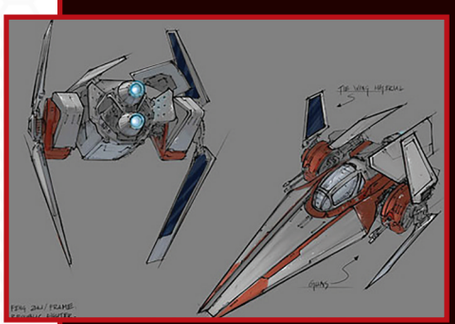


As V-wings had no hyperdrive, they were normally carried into the combat zone by capital ships such as *Venator*-class Star Destroyers.

BEHIND THE SCENES

TIE SUBSTITUTE

Rob Coleman, the special effects supervisor on *Revenge of the Sith*, originally considered showing Imperial TIE fighters at the end of the film. However, George Lucas decided to introduce the new V-wings instead, as the Empire would have almost 20 years of transition to building the TIE fighters that were first seen in *A New Hope*. However, to make it clear that the TIE fighter was a linear descendant of the V-wing, the new ships' engines were given similar sound effects.



Concept sketches for the V-wing starfighter. The rear view, in particular, shows how the design was intended to hint at the TIE fighter that would be developed two decades into the future.

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ENVIRONMENT SUITS

Most beings, including humans, can only survive in the vacuum of space unaided for a couple of minutes. This means that when there is a need to carry out a spacewalk – or an unexpected emergency causes depressurization – a protective suit will make the difference between life and death.



During the Clone Wars, Obi-Wan Kenobi used a spacesuit with a rocket pack to board Count Dooku's frigate, in a bid to capture the Separatist leader.



Spacesuits must be fully sealed against the vacuum of space and harmful radiation. The pressurized helmet is fed by a supply of breathable gas carried in a backpack.

Spacewalks can sometimes be the only way to inspect the outside of a starship following damage in flight – although it is always safer to send an astromech out to do it, or wait to carry out an inspection in the safety of a docking bay. Unfortunately, this isn't always possible in an emergency, which is when it is essential to have a good environment suit on board. On some freighters, which have unpressurized storage compartments for reasons of economy, a suit has to be worn for routine inspections of these areas.

When the damage is more serious, a spacesuit or enviro-suit can also act as a personal escape pod. Although it won't offer anywhere near the protection, even a basic suit can be a life-saver if the escape pods are inaccessible or have already been jettisoned.

SPACESUIT DESIGN

The form and function of environment suits vary from model to model, and depend greatly on the species they have been designed for. However, they all feature a helmet with a hermetically sealed pull-down visor, attached to a single pressure-garment with a life support unit installed. Together, these units create an independent, pressurized atmosphere for the occupant to survive in.

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ENVIRONMENT SUITS



Helmet designs vary. The one worn by Obi-Wan Kenobi during the Clone Wars was a fully transparent dome, but most only have a clear visor.

PRESSURE HELMET

PULL-DOWN VISOR

INTERNAL COMLINK

CHEST PACK STRAPS

HELMET LOCKING RING

SHIP REGISTRY PATCH

LIFE SUPPORT UNIT

FLAK VEST

PRESSURE SUIT

GLOVE LOCKING RING

GLOVES

GEAR HARNESS

BOOTS

SIGNAL FLARES

ENVIRONMENT SUIT FUNCTIONS

All enviro-suits protect the user's body from harmful aspects of the environment, but their functions vary according to the wearer's physiology.

Most species need to carry some of their own atmosphere with them for breathing and for maintaining pressure around their body. This is usually supplied from a high-pressure tank mounted on the suit.

Maintaining an even pressure inside the suit is very important. Most species' bodies have internal spaces filled with gases. When these are exposed to low pressure, the expansion of these gases can cause internal ruptures that could prove fatal.

The suit usually needs to maintain a comfortable temperature, insulating its wearer both from the absolute zero of deep space and the searing heat of nearby stars. Similarly, the suit fabric needs to seal out harmful radiation.

It is also essential for the suit to allow as much free movement as possible – although where suits are used in zero gravity, they are usually fitted with jetpacks or some other means of propulsion.



If a suit is to be useful during an operation in space, it is essential for the wearer to be able to move freely and handle equipment while wearing the sealed gloves.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

SURVIVAL IN SPACE

According to *Scientific American*, animal experiments in the 1960s and human accidents show that dogs, chimpanzees, and people can survive exposure to vacuum conditions for around a couple of minutes, and recover with few ill effects. A Johnson Space Center technician blacked out for 12-15 seconds after accidentally depressurizing his suit inside a vacuum chamber, but regained consciousness after 27 seconds when pressure was restored. He reported that the moisture on his tongue had begun to boil – and he lost the ability to taste for four days. 'In any system, there is always the possibility of equipment failure leading to injury or death. That's just the risk you run when you are in a hostile environment and you depend upon the equipment around you,' said Dartmouth Medical School professor and former NASA astronaut Jay C. Buckey (author of the book *Space Physiology),* adding, 'But if you can get to someone quickly, that is good. Often spacewalks are done with two spacewalkers and there is continuous communication. So if someone is having a problem, hopefully the other can go get them and bring them in.'



Payload Specialist Astronaut Jay Buckey MD is helped into his orange launch and re-entry suit by a technician during a Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test in 1998. This procedure was a regular practice for the Space Shuttle crews of the period.

Courtesy of NASA

The better suits take just moments to don, and most can usually sustain life for several days. The more expensive models include a built-in food and water supply, fed to the wearer via tubes to help extend the life-support functions of the suit.

Han Solo's spacesuit is carried in the *Millennium Falcon*'s starboard airlock wall locker. It is a worn but serviceable military-surplus LifeLine Technologies Immediac Model 10 (which has a number of similarities to a TIE fighter pilot's spacesuit). Solo practiced at being able to slip it on in under two minutes, climbing in through the rear, and safely securing all the locking rings that make it airtight. The Immediac Model 10 provides up to eight hours of life support – or four days if it is hooked up to larger air-supply tanks.

A separate gear harness makes it possible to clip on to the ship's exterior and carry out inspections and repairs securely. The spacesuit's integrated boots include electromagnetic grippers to ensure that the wearer stays on the ship's hull, and signal flares are mounted on the left boot in case its wearer gets into trouble.

MILITARY SPACEWALKS

Starship pilots and crew are used to the need for spacesuits, but they can also be donned by troops who have to work in space. During the Clone Wars, Republic clone troopers carried out several assaults on Separatist starships directly from space. For example, during the Battle of Coruscant, troops from the Star Destroyer *Impavid*, under the command of General Saesee Tiin, captured the Confederate *Providence*-class destroyer *Prosperous*. In a later era, squads of Imperial space troopers were trained in similar operations.



Stealth pilots were skilled clone trooper pilots who were chosen to test experimental Galactic Republic vessels during the Clone Wars. They wore advanced versions of the clone spacesuits.

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YOUR NEXT PARTS

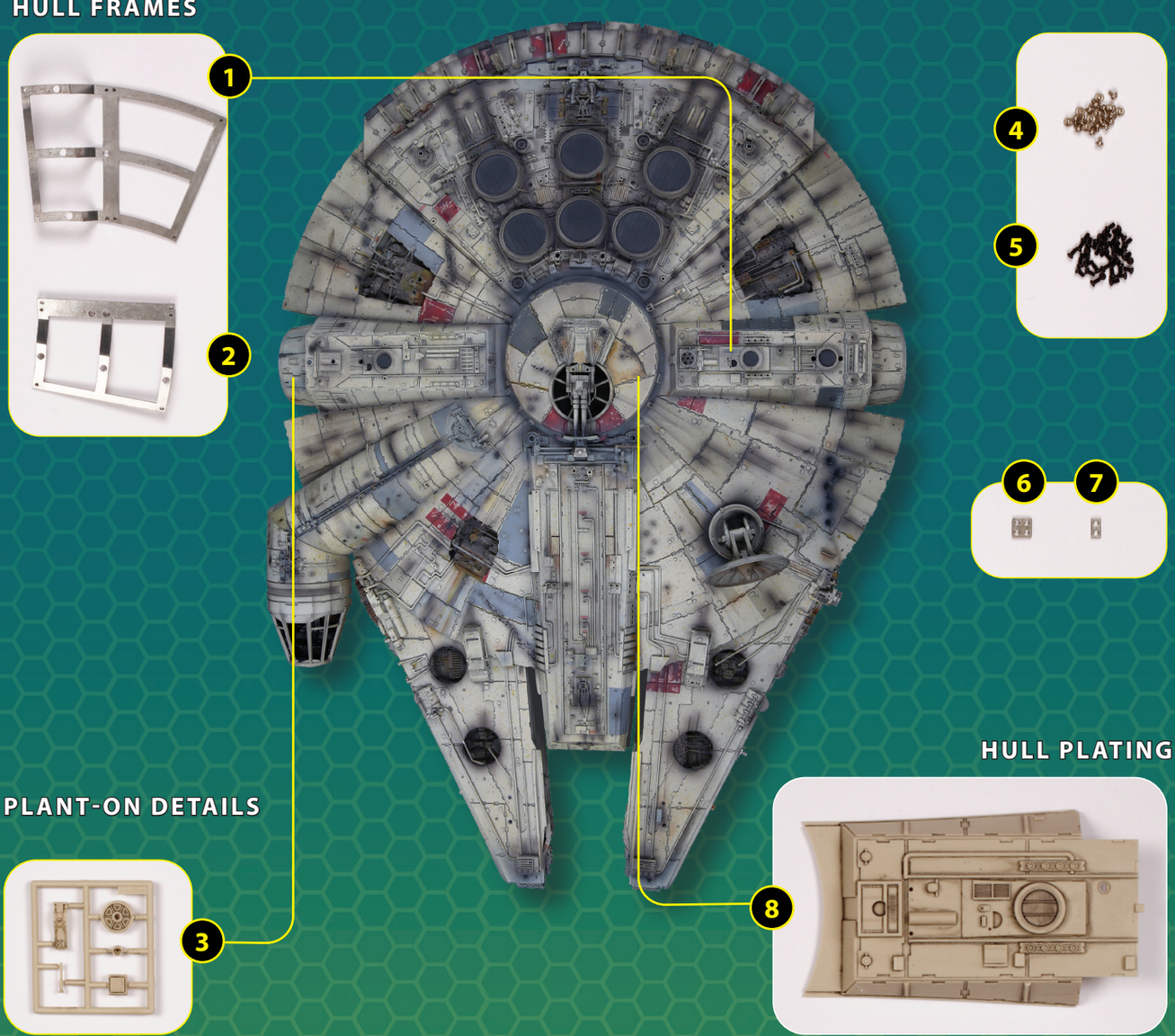
This issue's metal parts will soon be used to extend the upper hull framework, but first it is time to add some plant-on details to the upper hull plating.

Because of the large cutaway in the upper hull, you need a few more pieces before continuing to build the framework. However, this issue includes the second piece of the port corridor, which has several extra details applied, so it is time to fit these, together with the other parts for the port corridor which you have already received. There is also a detail to add to the rectenna mounting.

COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Hull frame TF-25
2. Hull frame TF-26
3. Plant-on details (5 on sprue)
4. Fixing screws (x 22, including spare)
5. Fixing screws (x 36, including spare)
6. 4-hole connector
7. 2-hole connector
8. Hull panel TP-18

WHERE THE PARTS FIT



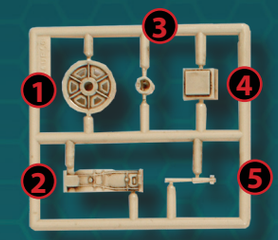
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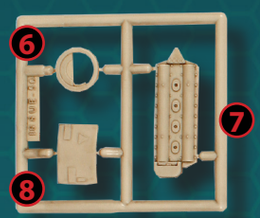
ADDING PLANT-ON DETAILS

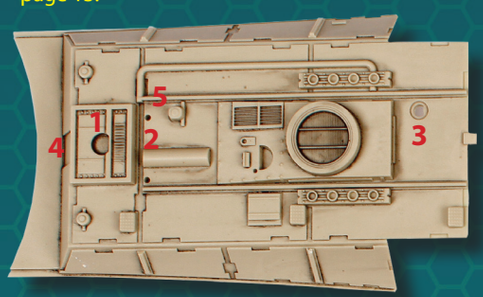
The upper port corridor plating is made up of two panels, the second of which is supplied with this issue. These have seven plant-on details, and one further plant-on is applied to hull panel TP-13 – the rectenna mounting.

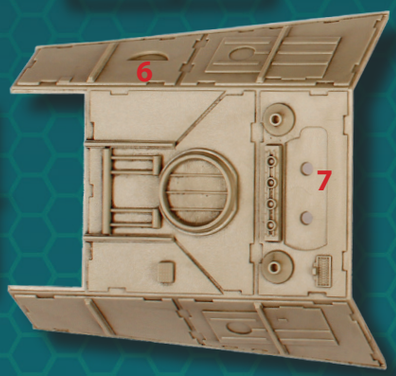
For this stage, you need the three hull panels provided with Issue 55 (TP-13), Issue 56 (TP-17), and this issue (TP-18), plus the sprues of two plant-on details provided here and with Issue 56.

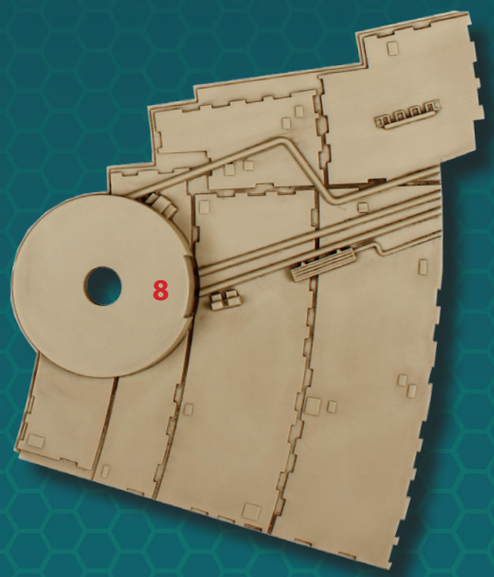
This shows where the eight details fit. Compare these with the completed assemblies, shown at the bottom of page 13.



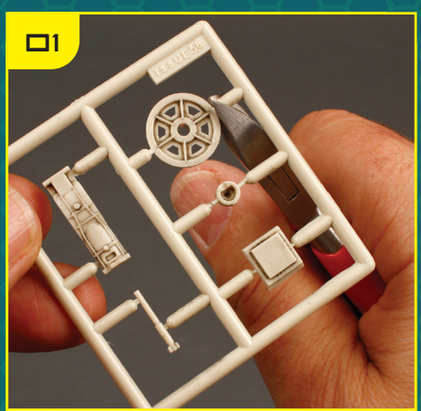






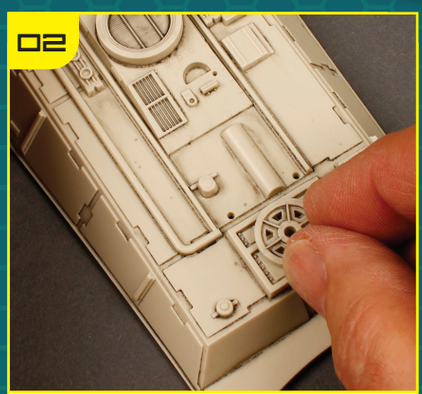


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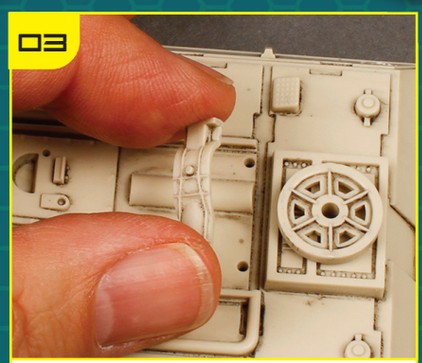
Start by trimming (1) off the sprue.

02



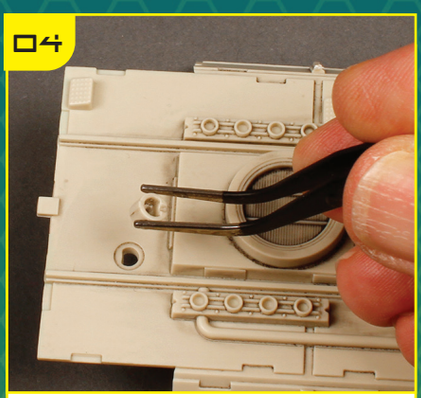
Glue (1) to TP-18. The D-shaped hole ensures it will only fit one way round.

03



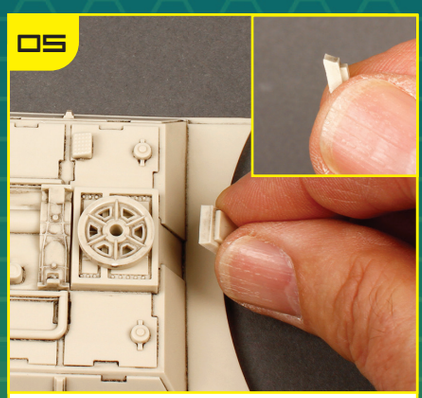
Glue (2) to the two holes on top of TP-18. It fits this way round, so that it bridges the curved molding.

04



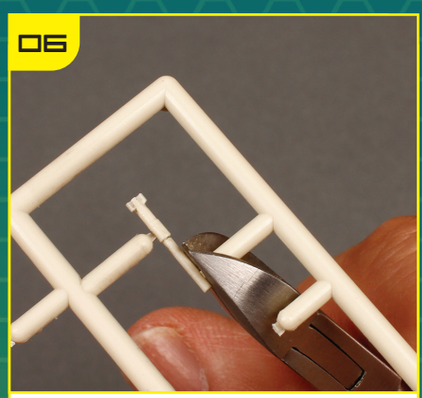
Glue (3) to TP-18. The D-shaped hole ensures it will only fit one way round.

05



Glue (4) to the recess on the end of TP-18 with the angled side uppermost.

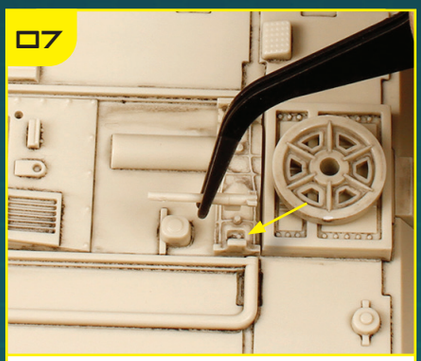
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Trim (5) carefully off the sprue, as it is very thin, and remove any surplus.

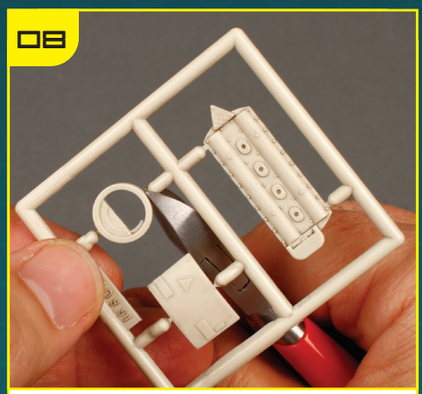
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07



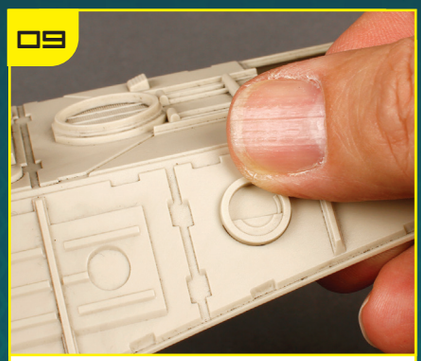
Glue the tab on (5) to the slot on top of (2), and where it touches TP-18.

08



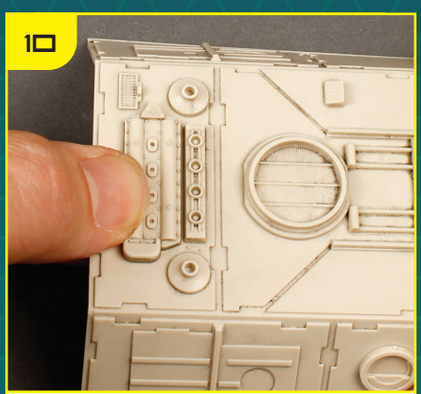
Cut (6) off the second sprue.

09



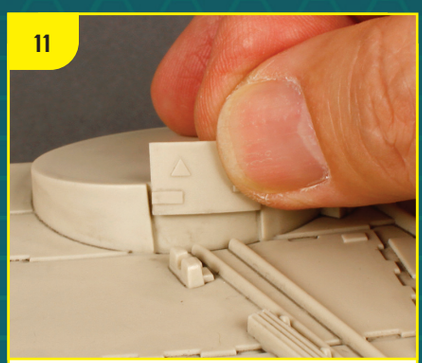
Glue (6) to the curved recess on the side of TP-17.

10



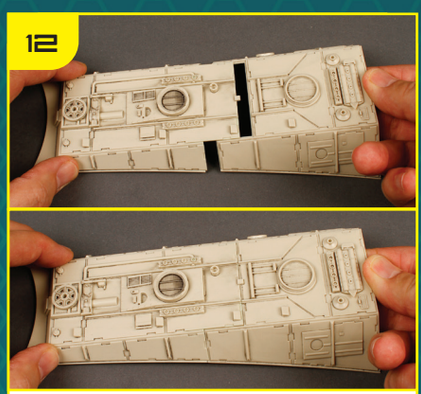
Glue (7) to the matching recess on top of TP-17.

11



Note which way round (8) fits and glue it to the matching recess in the side of the rectenna mounting on TP-13.

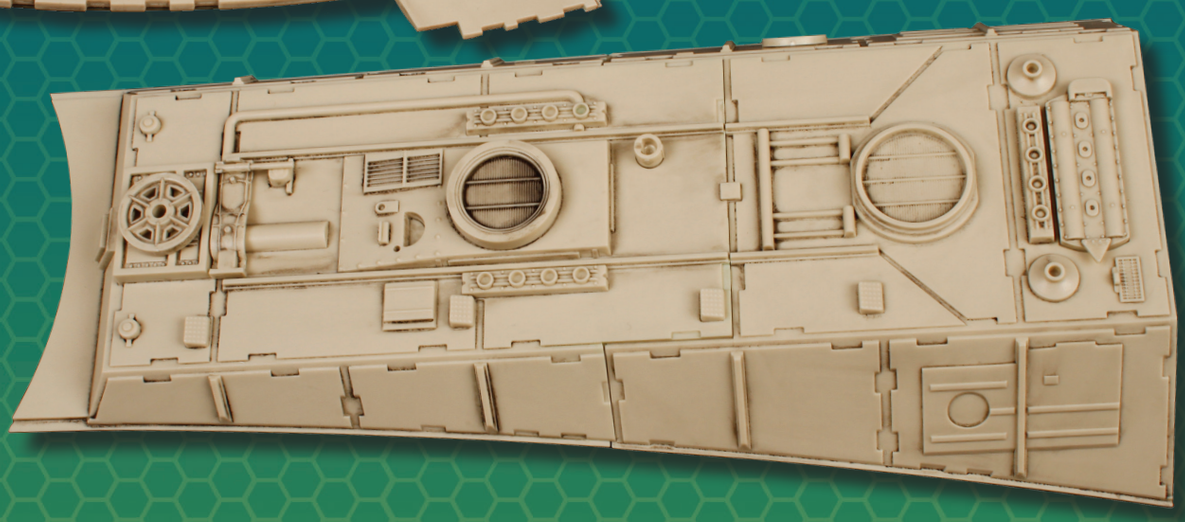
12



Test fit TP-17 and TP-18 together without glue to see the completed corridor top.



That completes the assembly for this stage.



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