STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY



ATMOSPHERIC ASSAULT LANDER

F219FSC080

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FIRST ORDER TROOP TRANSPORT

ATMOSPHERIC ASSAULT LANDER



The First Order's Atmospheric Assault Lander, or AAL, is a troop transport designed specifically to deliver squadrons of stormtroopers to the surface of planets during invasions.

The Atmospheric Assault Lander, also known as the AAL or First Order Transport, followed in the footsteps of the Republic gunships that were used to transport clone troops during the Clone Wars.

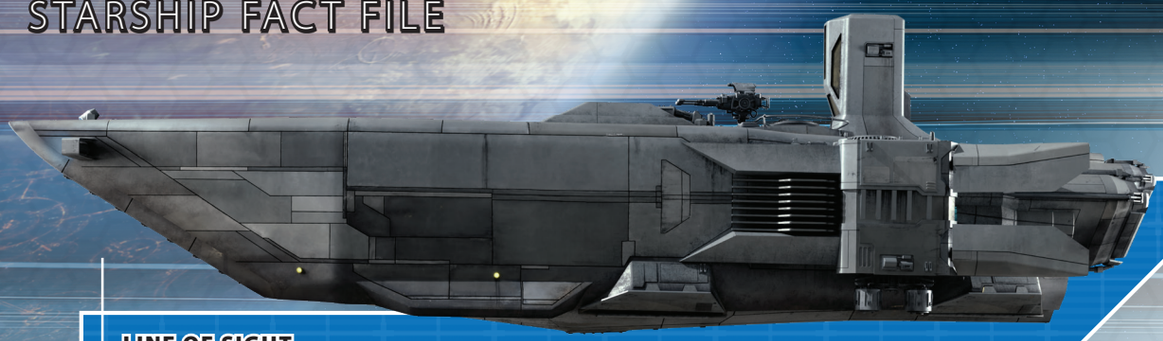
Like most of the First Order's vehicles and starships, the AAL was built in secrecy in the Unknown Regions by the military engineers of Sienar-Jaemus Army Systems, one of a number of new manufacturers to be established after the signing of the Galactic Concordance.

Designed on brutal, functional lines, the Atmospheric Assault Lander was a straightforward vehicle, but it was successfully used by the First Order to move large numbers of troops and inspired terror on its approach.

ATMOSPHERIC ASSAULT LANDER TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL	Atmospheric Assault Lander (AAL)
CLASS	Troop Transport
MANUFACTURER	Sienar-Jaemus Army Systems
SIZE	17.83 m (58 ft 6 in)
ENGINES	4x SJAS-210 sublight ion engines
WEAPONS	1x SJAS F-Z0 antipersonnel blaster cannon
CREW	2 (1 pilot and 1 gunner)
PASSENGERS	20 (2 squads)
AFFILIATION	First Order

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LINE OF SIGHT

So as to be able to see the Atmospheric Assault Lander's landing and disembarkation zones clearly, the pilot was positioned atop the craft's hull, standing up in a reinforced chamber containing the flight controls and a viewport. The gunner was similarly elevated, though without external protection, standing on a footplate that could raise or lower the trooper as required. Inside, light was kept low to preserve the units' night vision and prevent their being 'night-blinded' as they rushed out onto the battlefield.



The Atmospheric Assault Lander's powerful SJAS-210 sublight ion engines were typically left powered up throughout the duration of an assault, to allow for a rapid extraction of troops from ground level when needed.

A coldly functional transport with a trapezoid shape, the Atmospheric Assault Lander was designed to ferry squads of First Order stormtroopers to a designated location targeted for assault. There, the transport would deliver its complement of troopers, before leaving the battlefield, returning when the mission had been completed. Though in many ways a simple and straightforward vehicle, the AAL is nonetheless mercilessly successful in its role – as the unfortunate inhabitants of many worlds have discovered.

STORMTROOPER TRANSPORT

The AAL is 17.83 m (58 ft 6 in) in length, but isn't very tall. To enable a shock assault from the point of landing, each AAL is equipped with multiple searchlights that can dazzle enemies. Its front section consists entirely of the troop compartment. Each transport can carry two squads of First Order



Like the troopers of the Empire before them, First Order stormtroopers were coldly anonymous in their armor. Individual rank was distinguished by pauldrons on the right shoulder.



STORMTROOPER SQUADS

First Order stormtrooper squadrons consist of 10 troopers, including one or more specialist unit, depending on the mission. Such specialists can be flametroopers, heavy assault troopers or riot-control troopers, with the regular troops drilled to protect them at all cost. As standard, First Order stormtroopers are armed with a large Sonn-Blas F-11D blaster rifle and a smaller Sonn-Blas SE-44C blaster pistol; either weapon can be holstered at the right hip onto their betaplast armor.

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ASSAULT ON TUANUL

JAKKU STRIKE

As soon as Kylo Ren and the First Order got word of the whereabouts of legendary traveler and Church of the Force follower Lor San Tekka, the Star Destroyer *Finalizer* set course for Jakku. Four Atmospheric Assault Landers were launched from the vast battle cruiser to seize the old ally of the Resistance – who held crucial information on the location of the missing Luke Skywalker. The transports landed in Tuanul, one of Jakku's holy villages, which was known to be harboring Lor San Tekka. Some villagers tried to defend themselves, but the brutal strength of the First Order quickly erased any hopes of opposition. San Tekka refused to help the First Order, causing Kylo Ren to slay the old man before ordering the massacre of the rest of the villagers. The carnage complete, the troops returned to the *Finalizer* on their AALs.



The First Order's assault on Tuanul was a perfect example of the AAL in action, with stormtroopers disembarking and overwhelming the settlement in quick order.



stormtroopers – a total of 20 troopers. In the rather cramped compartment, the troopers await their debarkation in a standard two-abreast formation. The compartment is barely lit during flight, and features a broad exit ramp.

Set between the troop compartment and the aft section are the small quarters for the pilot and the gunner. A First Order pilot, typically a TIE fighter veteran, steers the AAL from a vantage position that offers maximum visibility of the terrain. If this cabin becomes damaged, the AAL can also be piloted from a back-up system inside the ship, though that does limit the pilot's view. The transport's gunner controls the Sienar-Jaemus F-Z0 antipersonnel blaster cannon. The gunner can use a platform to reach a top-cover position, situated partially outside the AAL, but the weapon can also be fired from within the vessel.

The aft section of the Transport features the reactor, life support, acceleration compensator, electromagnetic thrust vectoring fins, heat exchanger fins, and four SJAS-210 sublight ion engines.

ATTACK MODE

An AAL is launched from an orbital position towards a planetary surface and a drop zone. Both the pilot and the gunner cooperate to enable a smooth landing, preferably one close enough to the drop zone, but still outside of the enemy's range. The gunner, who's able to rotate the AAL's weapon 240°, also functions as a spotter for potential threats during the landing maneuver. As soon as the ramp is lowered, the stormtroopers exit the ramp in pairs and create a perimeter around the vessel until all troops have disembarked. The two squads are able to leave the AAL within thirty seconds and this quick exit allows the ship to retreat and return after the mission has been completed.



Powerful searchlights allowed the AAL to land in darkness, as well as to further the 'shock tactic' used in assaults by blinding those below them.

BEHIND THE SCENES

TOY STORY

The final design of the Atmospheric Assault Lander was reached around October 2014, and was worked on primarily by Doug Chiang, one of the main conceptual artists of the prequels and production designer of *Rogue One*. Their overall design and function harks back to landing craft that were used to storm occupied beaches during the Second World War, while also taking inspiration in-universe from the Clone Wars-era Republic dropships. Hasbro turned the Assault Lander into a miniature ship for their Micro Machines line, while LEGO also released the AAL as the First Order Transporter, in a set that includes figures of Captain Phasma and two flametroopers. The AAL's interior and lowering ramp appeared in both the first and second teaser trailers for *The Force Awakens.*



LEGO's popular *Star Wars* range includes a First Order Troop Transport, which comes in a set along with stormtroopers, flametroopers and a Captain Phasma figure.

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YOUR NEXT PARTS

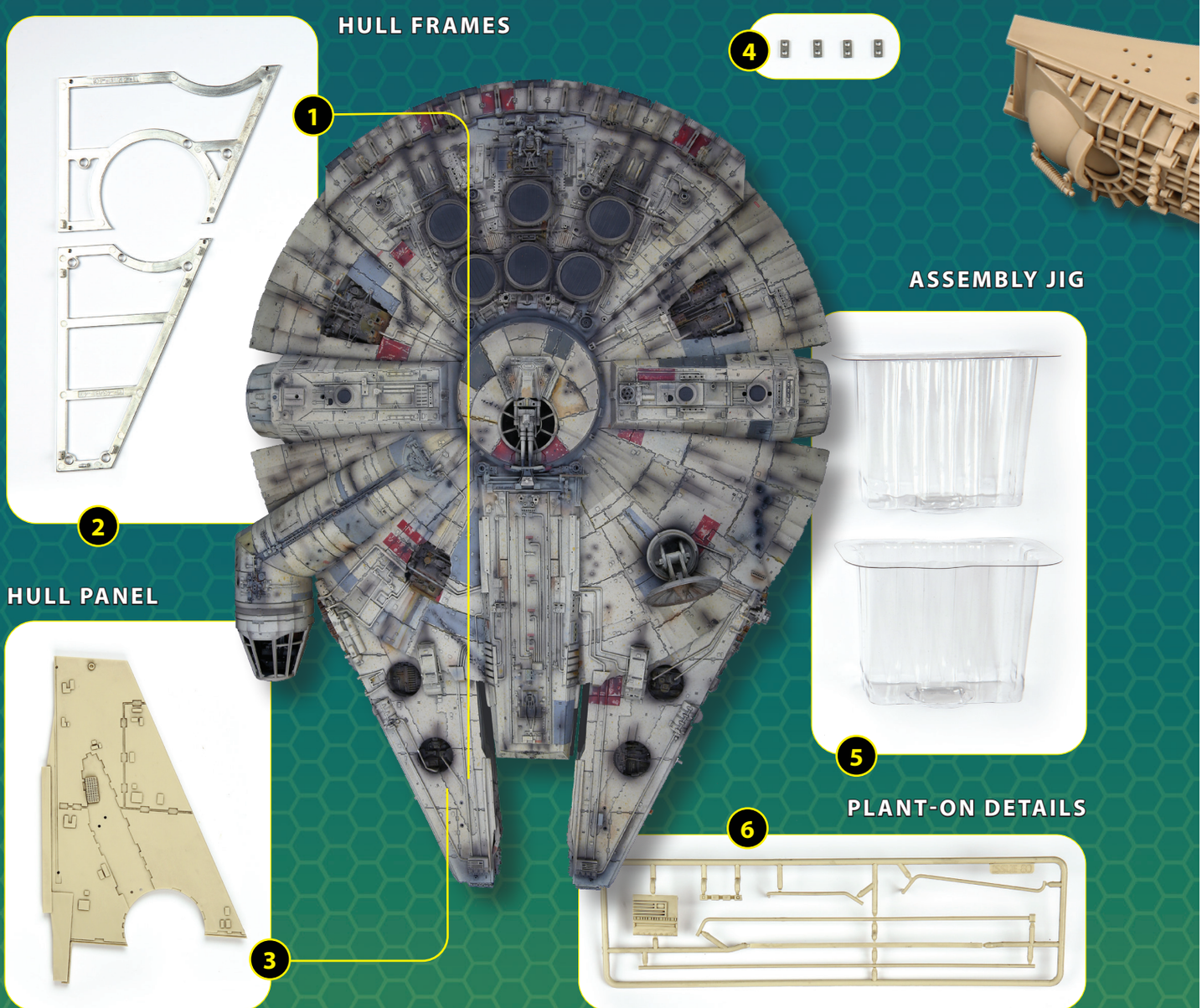
COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Bottom frame BF-46 (mandible)
2. Bottom frame BF-47 (mandible)
3. Bottom panel BP-35 (mandible)
4. 2-hole connectors (x 4)
5. Jig support pillars (x 2)
6. Plant-on details (seven on sprue)

This issue's parts include the next set of frames for the port mandible, plus part of the plating. There are also plant-on details to add to the starboard mandible, plus parts for the assembly jigs that support the mandibles.

In this stage, you will continue to add details to the starboard mandible and start to assemble the frames and plating for the port one. You will also be able to see how the mandibles are attached to the main hull.

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

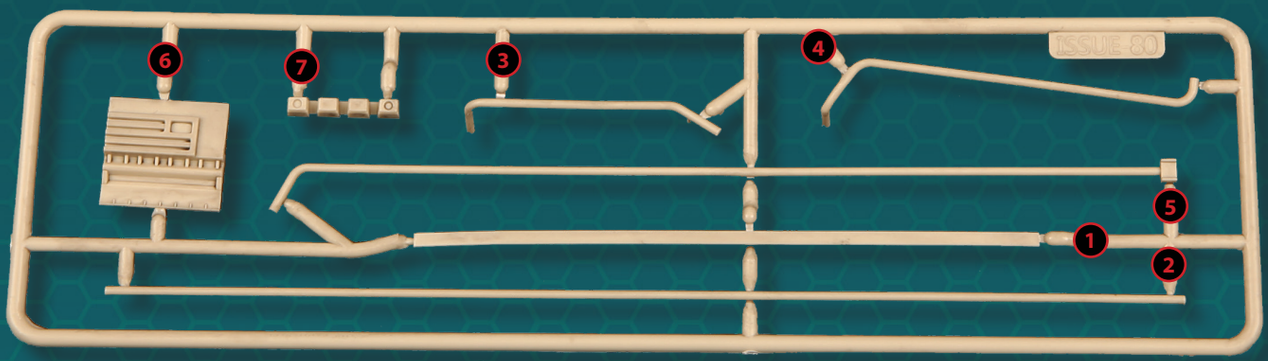


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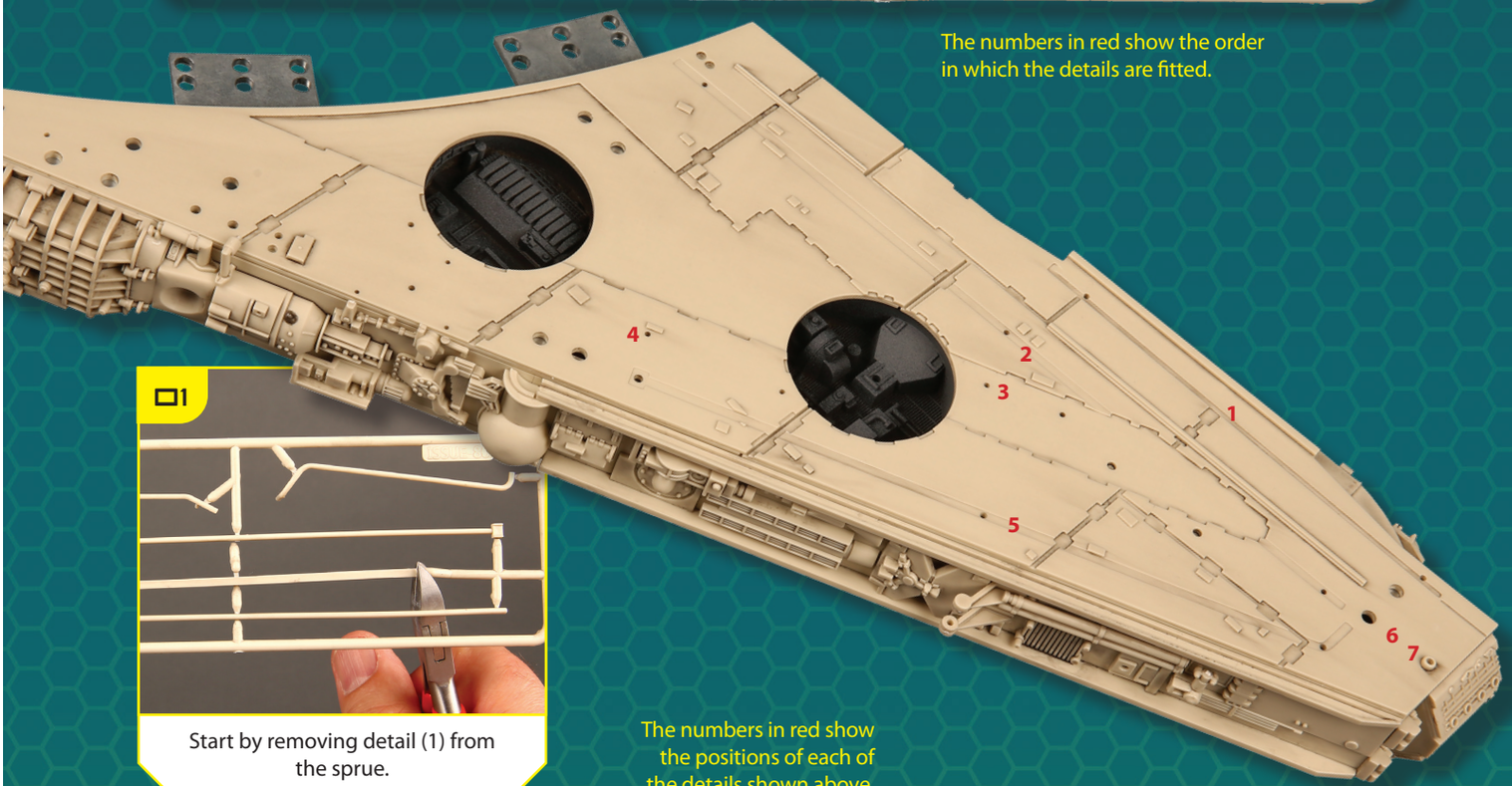
ADDING DETAILS TO THE MANDIBLE

The sprue provided with this issue includes external details for the top of the starboard mandible.

All seven parts on the sprue are fitted to the top of the mandible. Follow the numbers below to identify which parts fit where.



The numbers in red show the order in which the details are fitted.

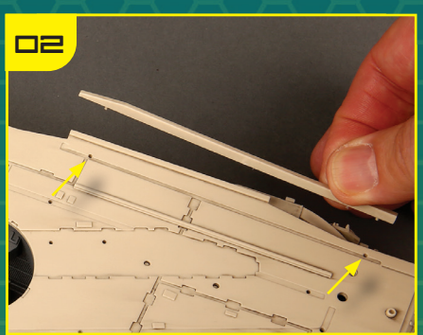


The numbers in red show the positions of each of the details shown above.

01

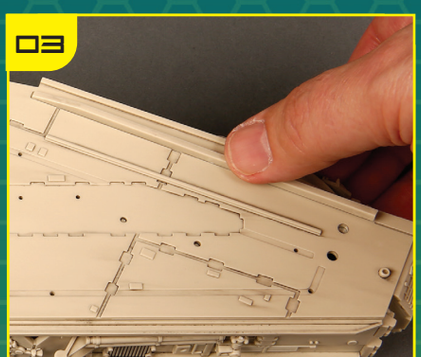
Start by removing detail (1) from the sprue.

02



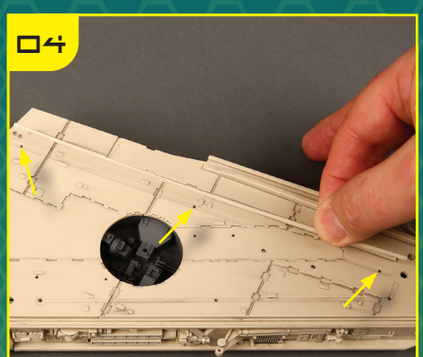
Glue the pins on (1) into these two holes. Make sure that the tapered end faces the wider end of the mandible.

03



Make sure that the edge of the strip is seated in the long recess.

04

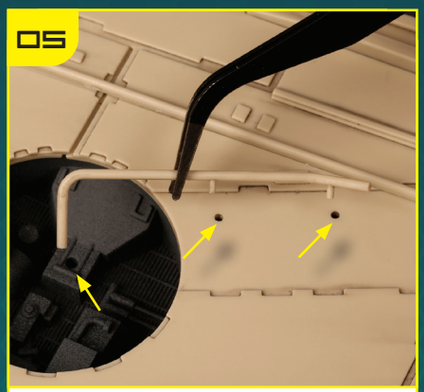


Glue the pins on (2) into these three holes.

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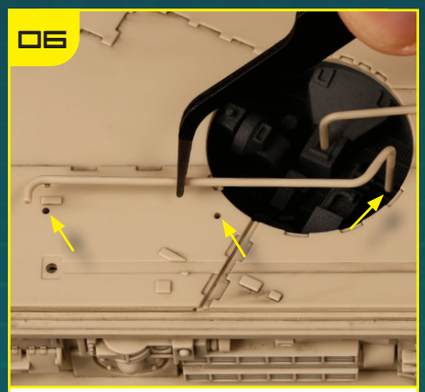
STAGE 80 ASSEMBLY

05



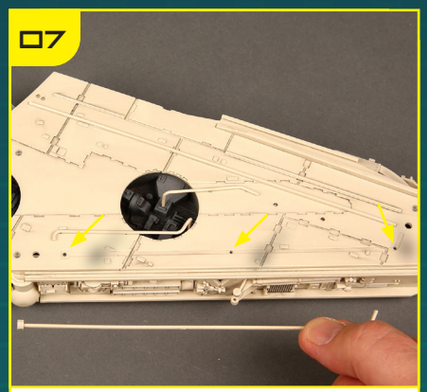
Glue the end of (3) and its two locating pins into these three holes.

06



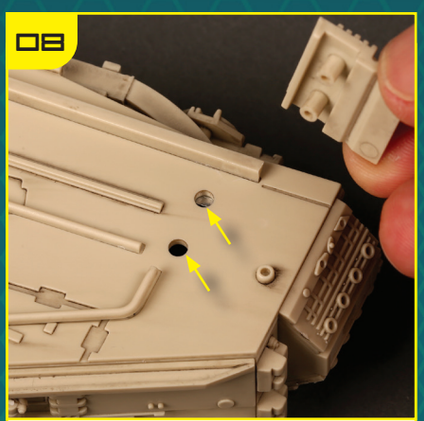
Glue the end of (4) and its two locating pins into these three holes.

07



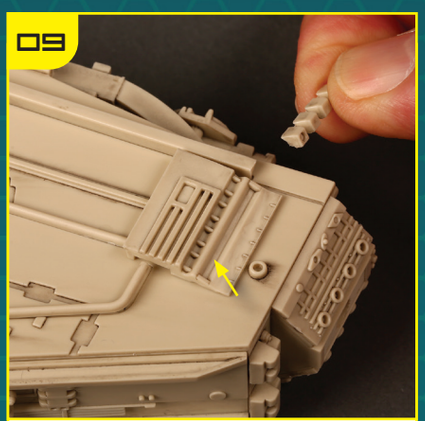
Glue the locating pins on (5) into these three holes in the long recess.

08



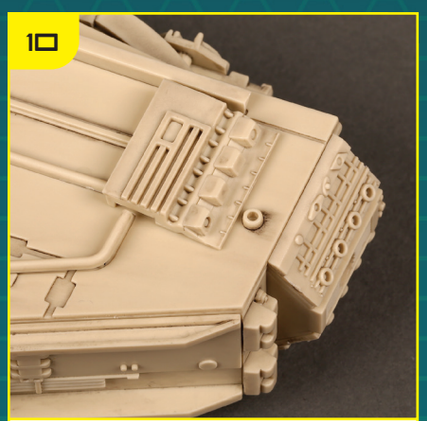
Glue the pins on (6) into these holes.

09

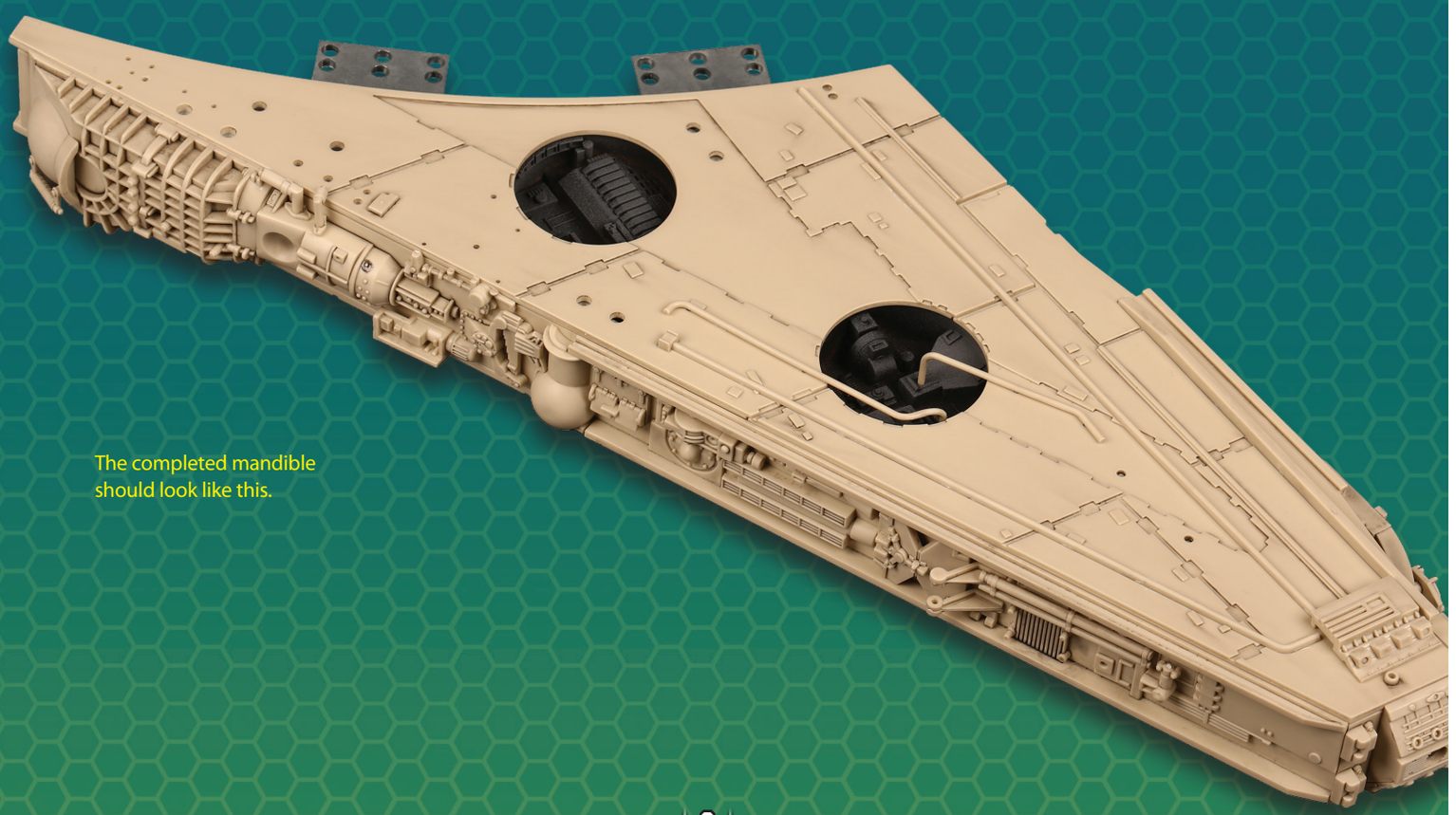


Glue (7) into the recess in (6)...

10



... so that it fits like this.



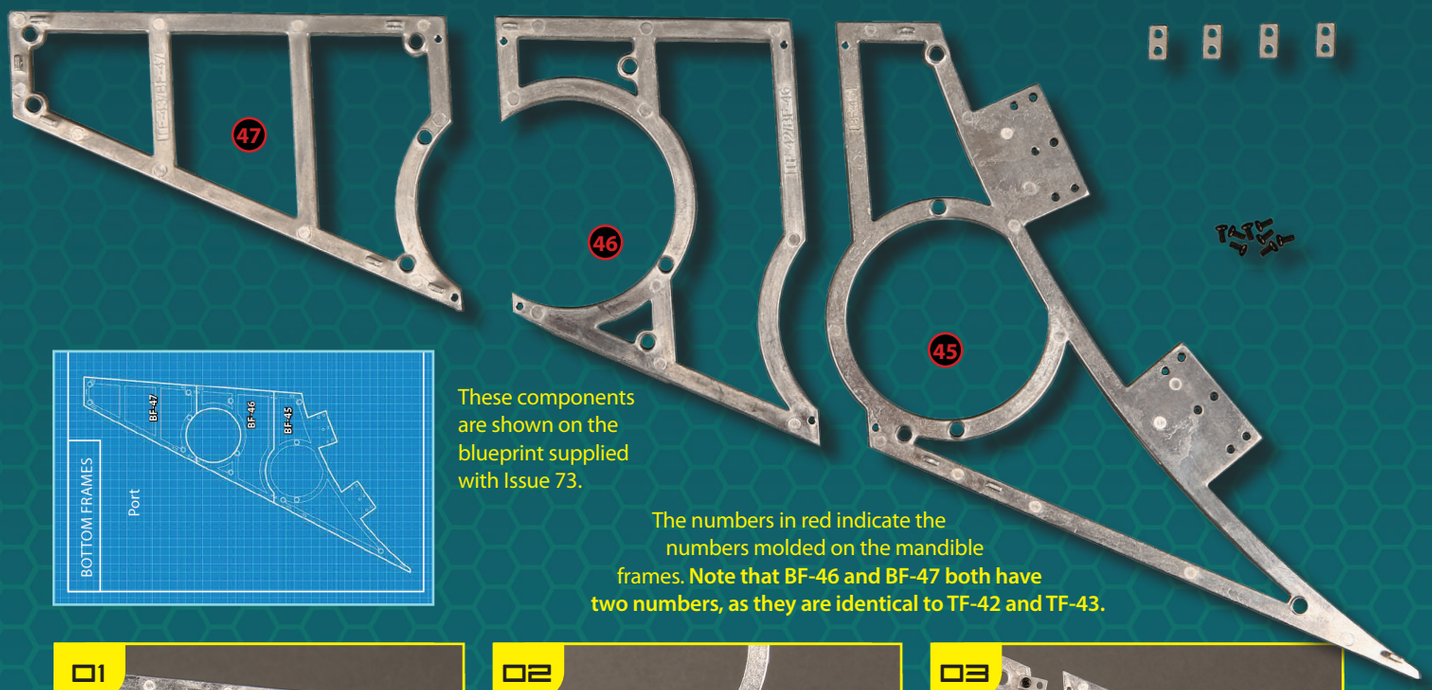
The completed mandible should look like this.

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ASSEMBLING THE PORT MANDIBLE

The port lower mandible framework is made in a similar way to the lower frame from Issue 73, which it mirrors.

The parts for this stage include the two frames and four 2-hole connectors supplied with this issue, as well as the frame from Issue 79. You also need eight black screws to join the frames.

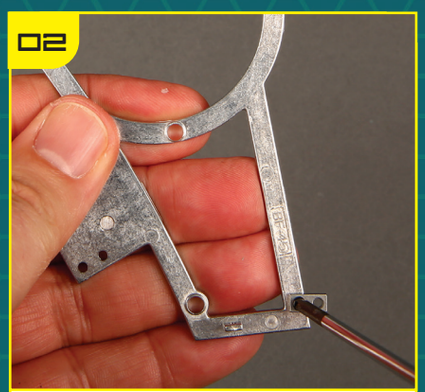


These components are shown on the blueprint supplied with Issue 73.

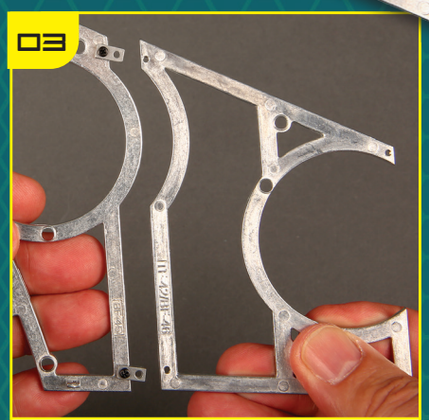
The numbers in red indicate the numbers molded on the mandible frames. **Note that BF-46 and BF-47 both have two numbers, as they are identical to TF-42 and TF-43.**



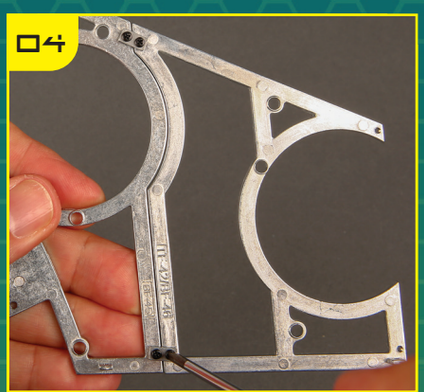
Screw a 2-hole connector to this corner of mandible frame BF-45.



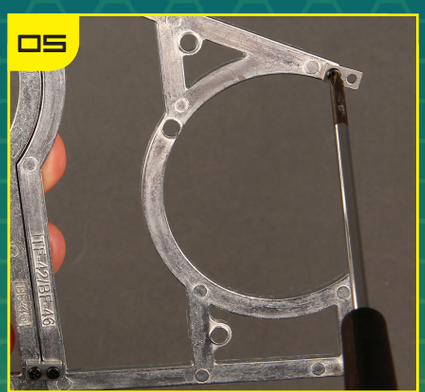
Add another 2-hole connector to this corner of BF-45.



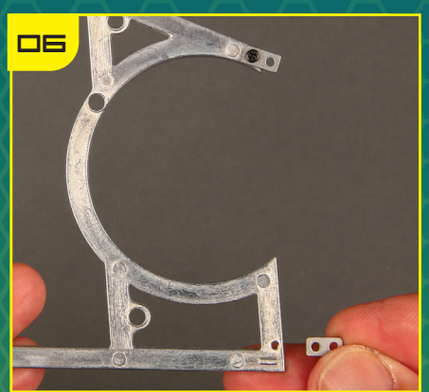
Align BF-46 with BF-45.



Use two screws to join BF-46 to the two connectors.



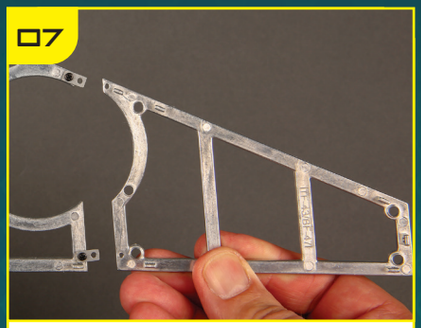
Screw a 2-hole connector to this corner of frame BF-46.



Add another 2-hole connector to this corner of BF-46.

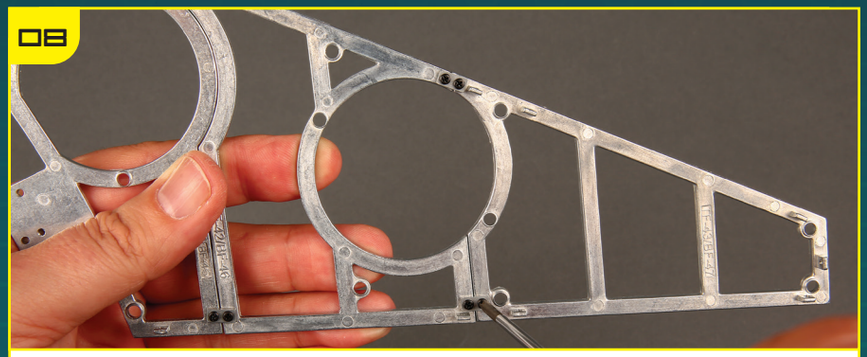
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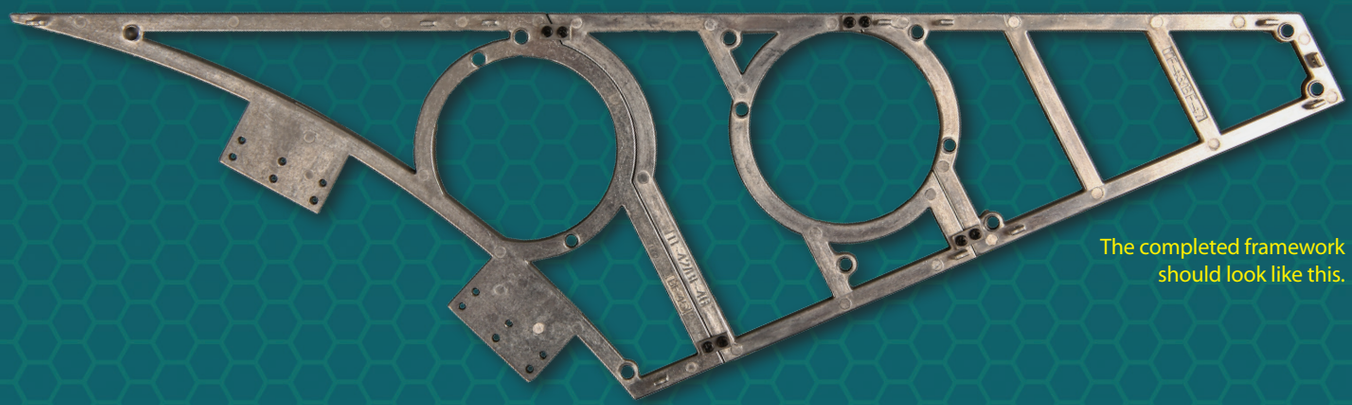


Align BF-47 with the end of the assembly.

08



Secure BF-47 with screws in each of the connectors.

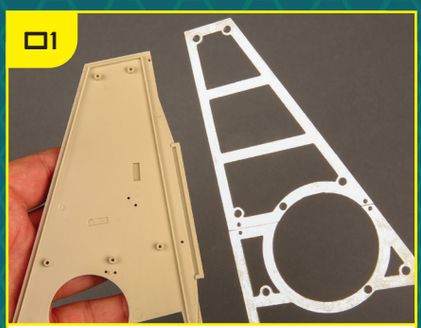


The completed framework should look like this.

ADDING THE PLATING

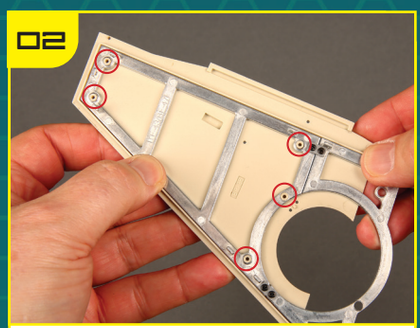
With the lower framework complete, you can attach the first piece of plating, supplied with this issue.

01



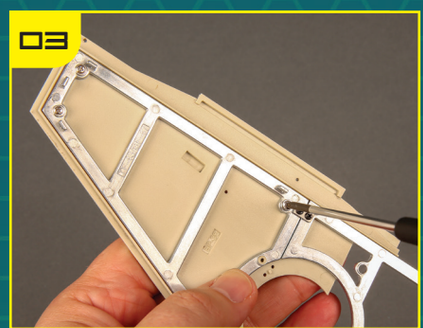
Line up panel BP-35 to the frame assembly, as shown.

02

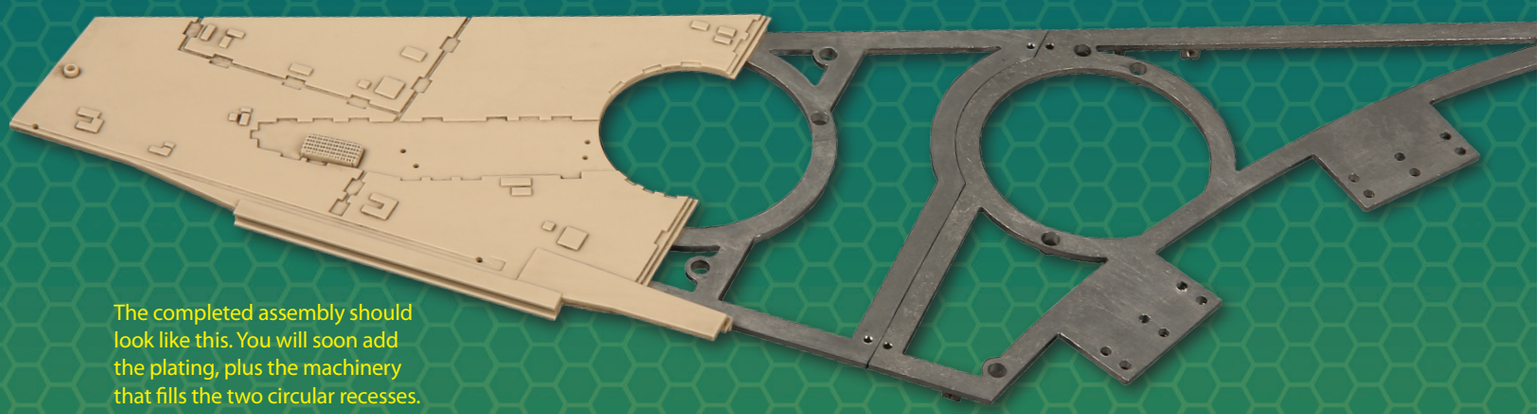


Fit the frame into the panel, making sure the five circled lugs are set in their holes.

03



Drive screws into the four lugs nearest the corners to secure the panel.



The completed assembly should look like this. You will soon add the plating, plus the machinery that fills the two circular recesses.

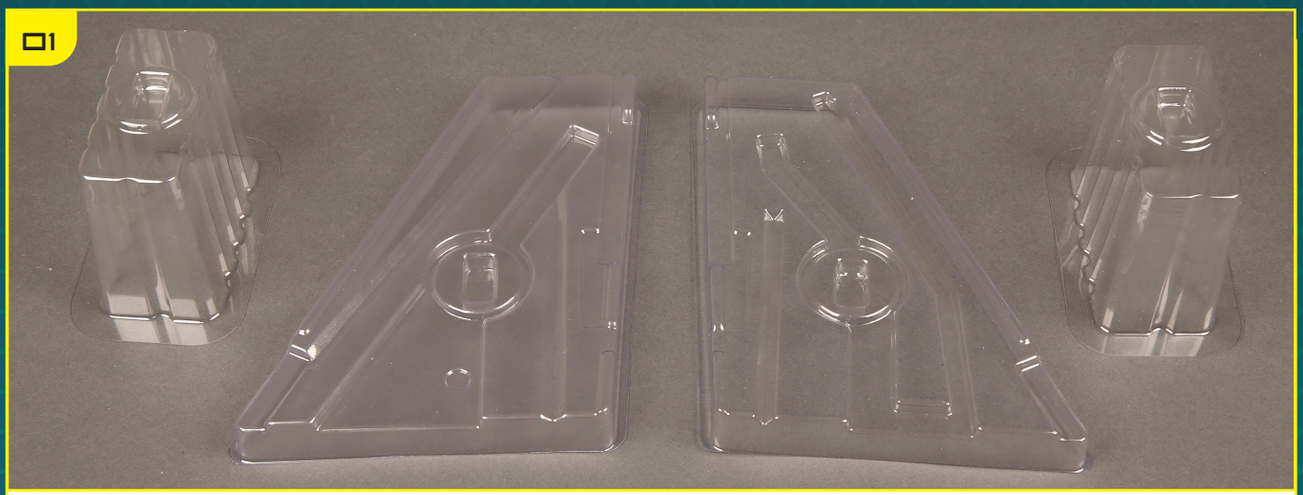
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SUPPORTING THE MANDIBLES

The two support pillars you received this time are used together with the assembly jig to hold the mandibles level while they are being fitted to the main hull.

You won't be screwing the mandibles to the hull until both have been completed, but you can test-assemble them at this stage to see how the ship will come together.

01



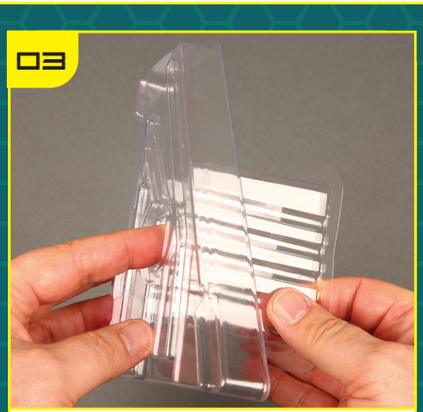
Lay out the two support pillars and the jigs from Issues 72 and 73 as shown.

02



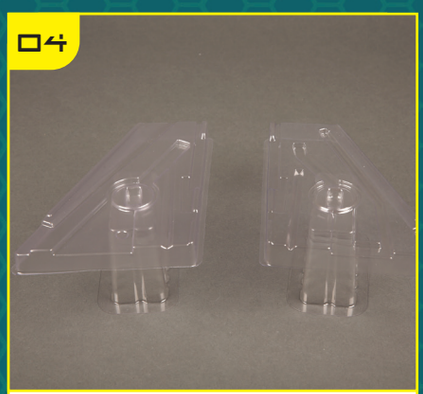
Align each jig with its support pillar, like this.

03



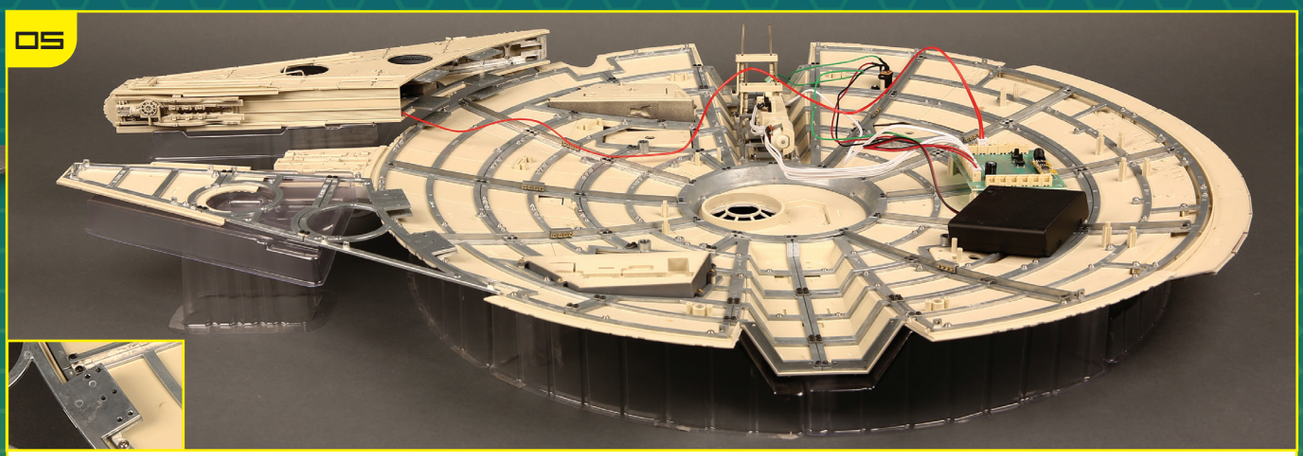
Press the two parts together so that the circular joint locks in place.

04



The two completed support jigs should look like this.

05



With the lower hull held on its circular jig, the two support jigs will hold the mandibles at the right level for the pair of mounting lugs on each one to line up as shown in the inset, but **do not be tempted to screw these together at this stage**.

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STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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