91

STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

BUILD THE MODEL – EXPLORE THE GALAXY





STAR COMMUTER SHUTTLE

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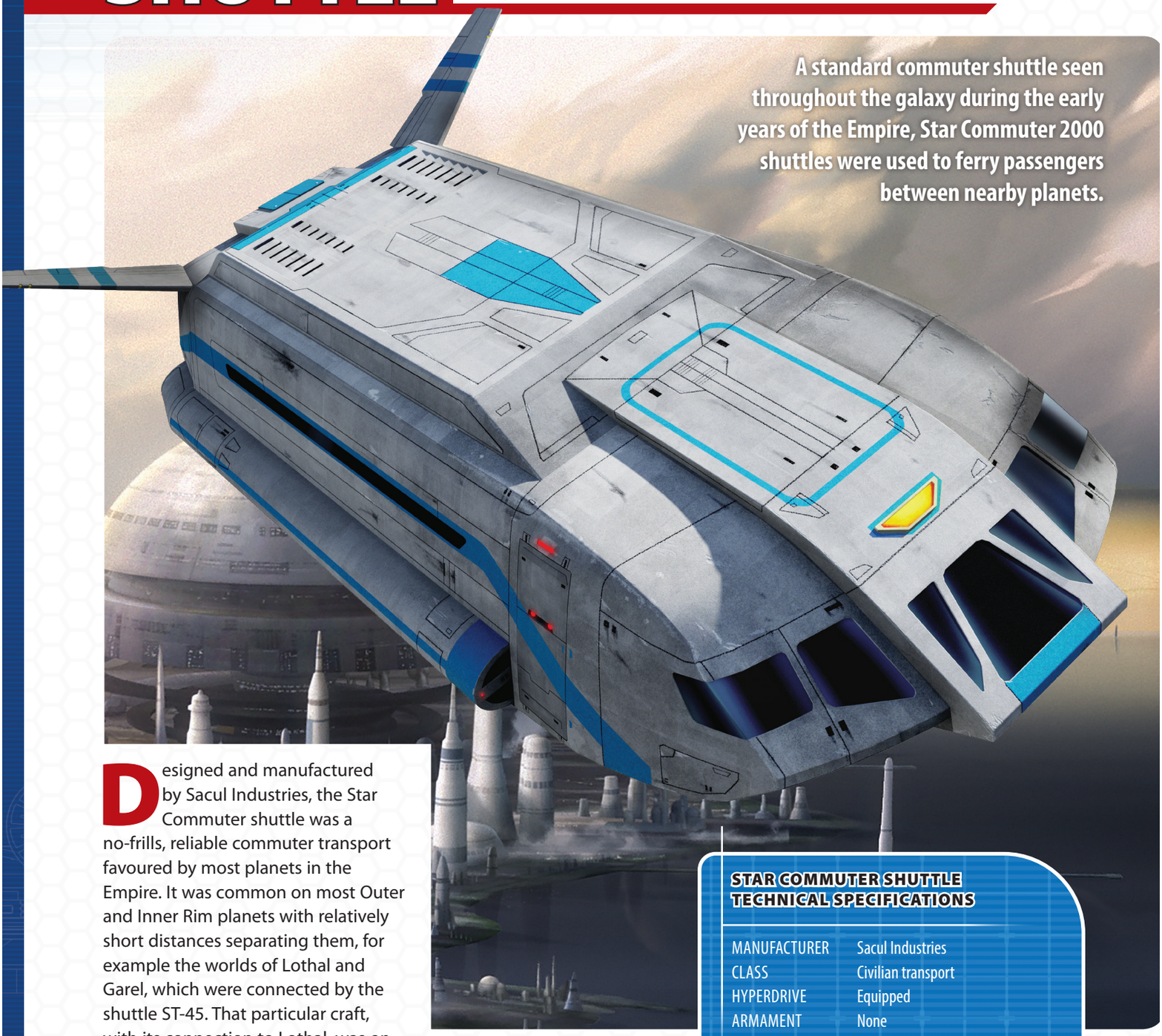
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CIVILIAN TRANSPORT

STAR COMMUTER SHUTTLE



A standard commuter shuttle seen throughout the galaxy during the early years of the Empire, Star Commuter 2000 shuttles were used to ferry passengers between nearby planets.

Designed and manufactured by Sacul Industries, the Star Commuter shuttle was a no-frills, reliable commuter transport favoured by most planets in the Empire. It was common on most Outer and Inner Rim planets with relatively short distances separating them, for example the worlds of Lothal and Garel, which were connected by the shuttle ST-45. That particular craft, with its connection to Lothal, was on occasion used by rebels based on the world for covert missions, as the commuter shuttles were mostly ignored by Imperial patrols.

One of the best indicators that the Star Commuter shuttles were designed exclusively for short-range travel was that they had no conveniences for the passengers. This seldom mattered, as they could travel between worlds, and even systems, in minutes.

STAR COMMUTER SHUTTLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER	Sacul Industries
CLASS	Civilian transport
HYPERDRIVE	Equipped
ARMAMENT	None
CREW	1 x RX-series pilot droid
PASSENGERS	24
USE	Passenger transport

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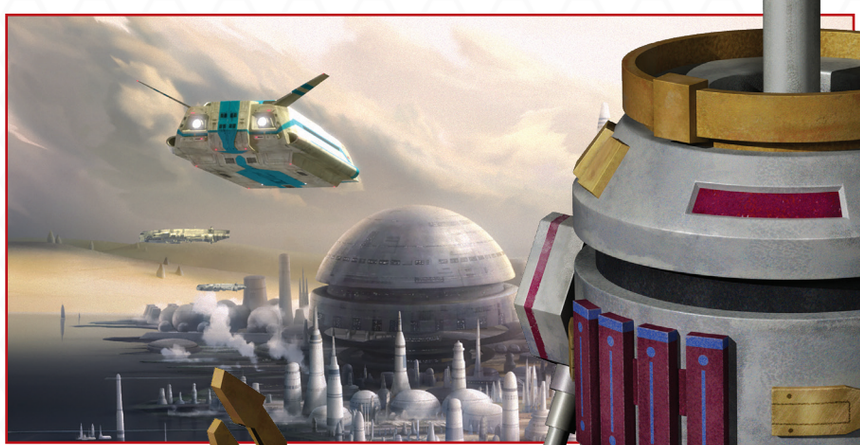
GET ON THE BUS

In a vast galaxy, distances were made far smaller by fleets of inter-system and system-to-system short-range shuttles, with hyperspace capability. Using these cheap and cheerful buses of the spacelanes, civilians could easily commute to jobs on other worlds and be back home in time for the nuna-ball match that evening. Typical of these workaday travel options were the shuttles that linked Lothal and Garel, two star systems in relatively close proximity, and served by Star Commuter and GX1 shuttles that made the journey in minutes.

STAR COMMUTER LINE

The SC 2000 shuttles were part of the Star Commuter line, and were built exclusively for shorter trips between nearby planets and systems. While equipped with a hyperdrive, the shuttle was certainly not comfortable enough for longer voyages – it was in essence just a big, open 'space bus'.

The shuttle was boarded most often from one of two gently sloping ramps at the front of the vessel. It was rare that both were used at once, as this tended to create a bottleneck just inside the cabin on busier journeys. Passengers were led directly past the pilot droid, generally an RX-series model, allowing the droid to check tickets against an internal manifest. There was a ramp to the rear, though this tended to be used only rarely and then more to allow passengers to load or unload larger items of luggage, or even droids, which could be stored in a more open space to the rear of the ship.



Commuter shuttles were a common sight in the skies above Inner and Outer Rim worlds, as they ferried workers from one planet to another.



RX-SERIES PILOT DROID

The RX-series pilot droid was an integrated unit fixed aboard a starship in place of an organic pilot. Their role was two-fold: they piloted the ships they were fitted to, but they also served a second, equally important function, as passenger liaison. Most usually serving aboard short-range, hyperspace-capable shuttle craft with open interiors, such as the Star Commuter 2000 or the GX1 Short Hauler, they greeted boarding customers, checked tickets, issued safety instructions and travel information, and kept order during the trip.

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LOTHAL

SPIES AND SHUTTLES

ST-45, the Star Commuter shuttle that ran frequently from Lothal to Garel, was to become the venue for some high-level espionage during the Galactic Civil War. On one occasion, Lothal politician Minister Maketh Tua accompanied an Aqualish weapons dealer, Wabo, to Garel to take official ownership of cases of ion disruptor weapons on behalf of the Empire. Seeking to steal the shipment was the rebel crew of the *Ghost*. They had Minister Tua's translator droid sent to the back of the ship, allowing one of the rebels to pretend to be a senior Imperial Academy student, and to mistranslate his words for Tua. The rebels got the real location of the weapons and, once the shuttle arrived at Garel, stole them from right under Minister Tua's nose.



ST-45 inadvertently played its part in the Galactic Civil War, when it hosted a rebel plot to steal Imperial weapons.

An RX-series pilot droid was responsible for flying the Star Commuter shuttles to and from their various destinations, as well as checking passengers' tickets.

There were six rows of seating, divided down the middle by a wide gangway. Two seats were placed side by side in each row, each with enough legroom that even larger passengers, such as Wookiees or Ithorians, would be relatively comfortable. Each seat had a basic seatbelt – a lap strap rather than a full flight harness – and there were no repulsorlift fields to hold passengers in place. This ensured that passengers felt every bump of the journey. The seats could recline slightly for comfort, but this was generally considered 'bad etiquette' by seasoned travelers.

ENJOY THE VIEW

There were wide viewports at the front of the ship, more for the benefit of the passengers than the droid pilot, and a long and thin viewport on each side. There was strong interior lighting provided by strips on the walls, ceiling and floor of the shuttle. To allow the passengers to acclimatise a little to conditions at their destination, the cabin temperature was slowly adjusted during the flight.

BEHIND THE SCENES

STAR TOURS

The ST-45 shuttle was inspired by the shuttle used in the original incarnation of the Star Tours ride attraction at Disney theme parks all over the world – where they represented the first feature to include designs not produced by Disney. The shuttle gets its name from Star Tours Flight 45, and the ship was part of the StarSpeeder 3000 line. The name of that shuttle's droid pilot, RX-24, was also used for the droid pilot of the ST-45 shuttle seen in the Droids in Distress episode of *Star Wars Rebels*.

Star Tours was a popular attraction in Disneylands worldwide, and was referenced in the design of the Star Commuter shuttle seen in *Rebels*.



The Star Commuter shuttle was fairly utilitarian in its design, with thin side viewports and single seatbelts for passengers in place of full flight harnesses. These had no repulsorlift fields to secure passengers further, making for a somewhat bumpy ride.

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YOUR NEXT PARTS

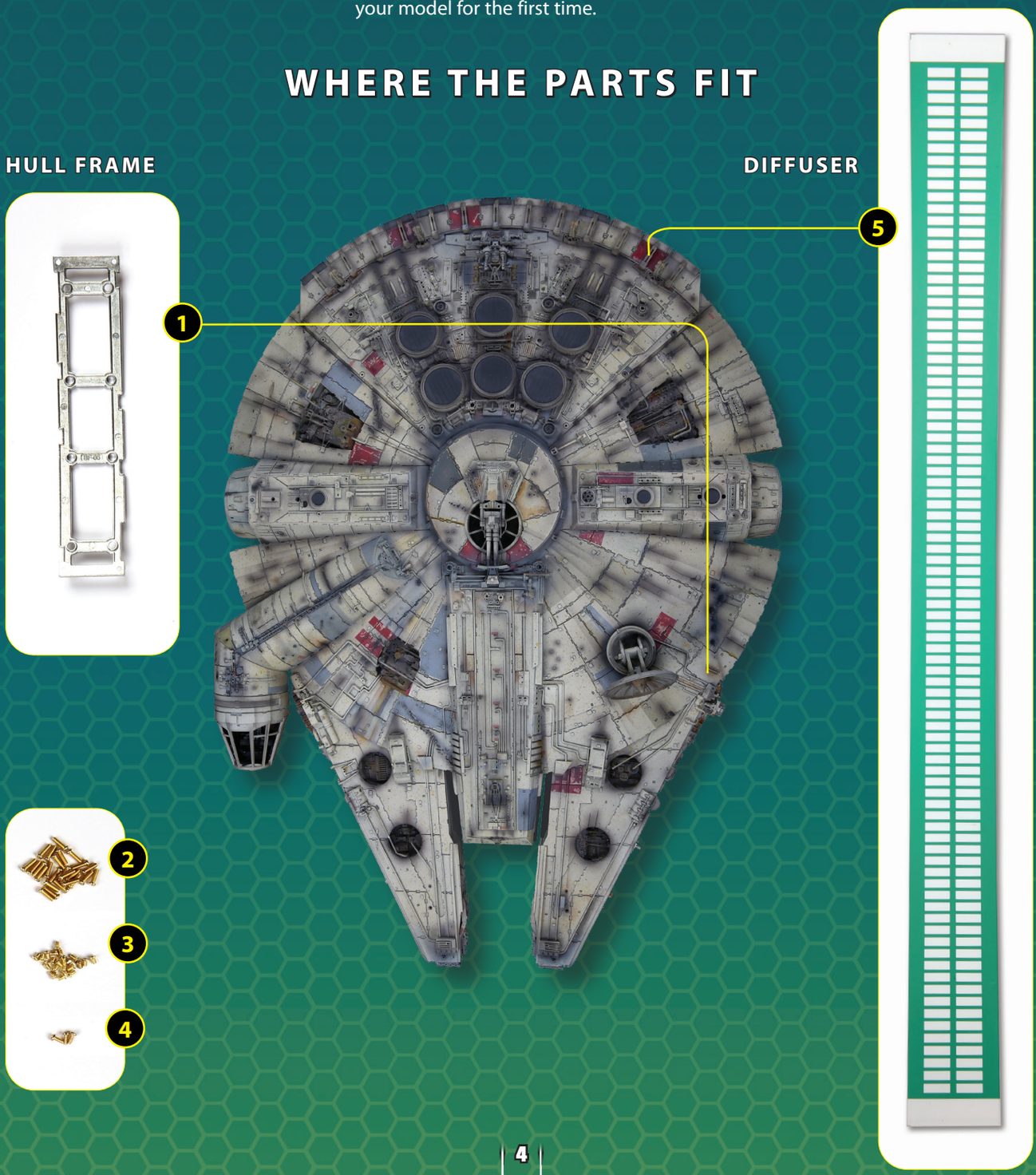
COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

1. Side frame SF-05
2. Fixing screws x 25 (including spare)
3. Fixing screws x 21 (including spare)
4. Fixing screws x 3 (including spare)
5. Diffuser strip

This issue's parts include another inner side frame and fixing screws, but the first component to fit is the long strip that surrounds the sublight engines.

Fitting the diffuser strip will complete a quarter of the side of the hull. Then, if you have decided to customize your model, it's time to start painting the mandibles as shown on pages 10-11. With that done, you can add the mandibles to the front of the hull and see the full length of your model for the first time.

WHERE THE PARTS FIT

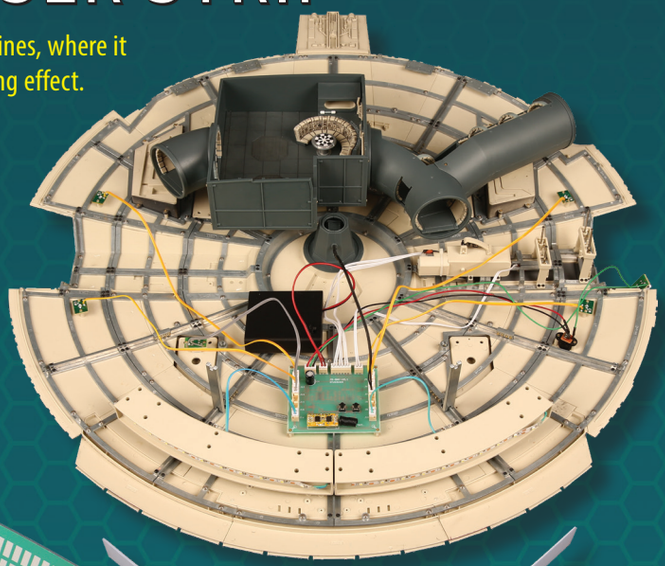


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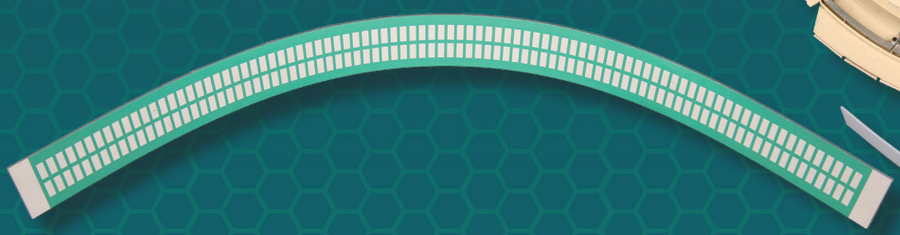
FITTING THE DIFFUSER STRIP

The diffuser strip fits around the curved housing for the sublight engines, where it will conceal the array of individual LEDs and give an authentic glowing effect.

You only need the strip itself and the lower hull assembly, as the diffuser is a push-fit and no adhesive or fixings are necessary.



The strip has a grid on the inside (as shown enlarged below), while the outer side is translucent white.

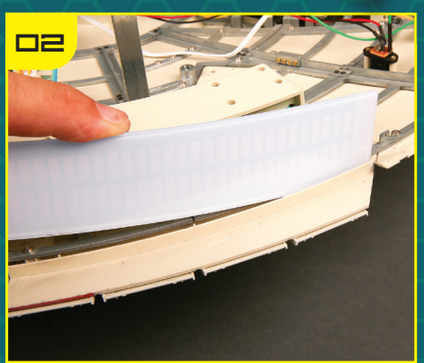


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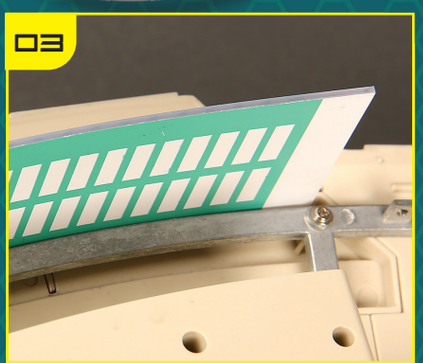
Carefully peel off the protective plastic film from the strip.

02



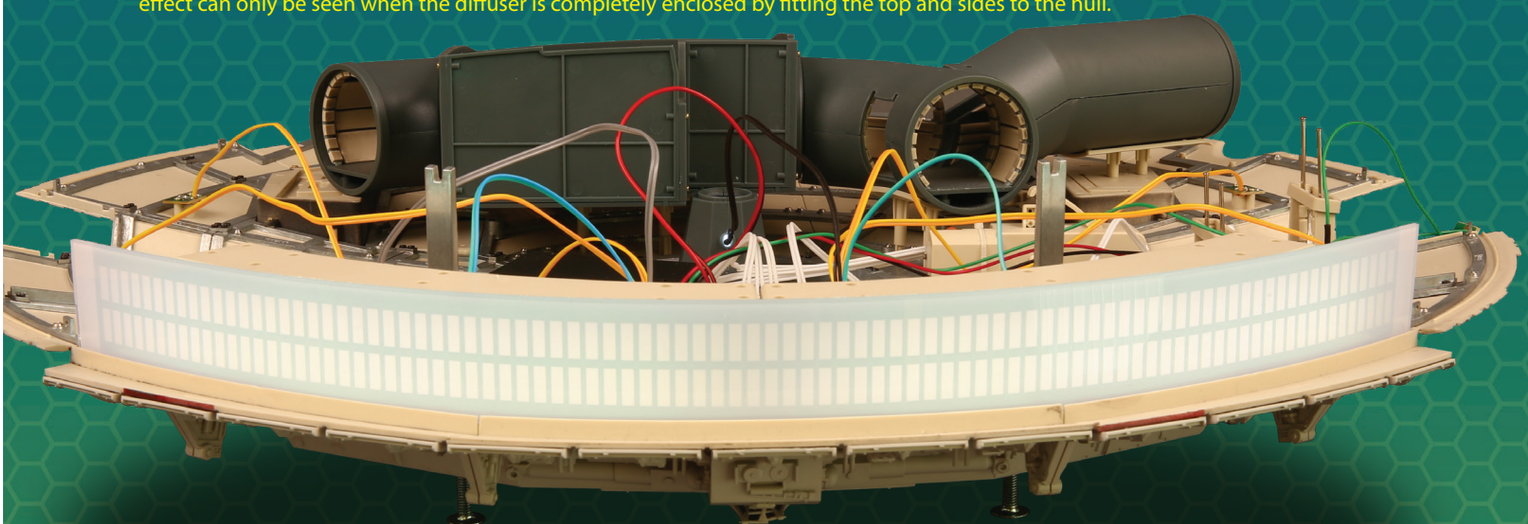
Slot the strip into the curved groove around the engine, plain side out.

03



The ends of the strip should butt up to the ends of the slot, as shown.

After fitting the strip, it should look like this. You can test the engine lights now if you want to see the diffuser in action, but it will be tested later in this stage, after fitting the mandibles. Please note that the full effect can only be seen when the diffuser is completely enclosed by fitting the top and sides to the hull.



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CUSTOM PAINTING YOUR MILLENNIUM FALCON WITH STEPHEN DYMSZO

PAINTING THE MANDIBLES

If you decided to customize your model as shown in Stages 48-52, you will need to paint the mandibles, using the references provided. Most of the painting techniques you need will be familiar from before. Some of the details will be added later, but it is easier to apply a basecoat and start painting the underside of the mandibles before fitting them, as shown in the following steps.

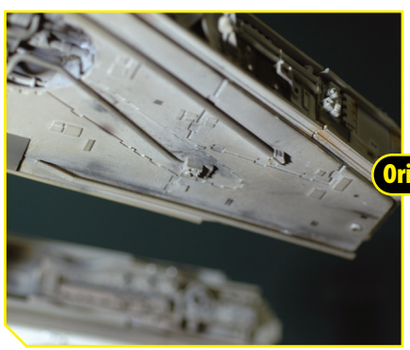
You are about to join the mandibles to the main hull, which will make some areas inaccessible – so these parts need to be painted before fitting. You only need to add the weathering and details to the underside and inner faces of the mandibles, as you can paint the outer edges and upper side at the same time you do these parts of the main hull.

This brief guide should be read alongside the detailed information on paints, materials and techniques that appears in Stages 48-52.

The reference images on this page show a *Millennium Falcon* model that has been painted using the techniques described. This replica is intended to provide a convenient reference guide for painting your model, but **this is not the original filming miniature from *The Empire Strikes Back***. It is not possible to take a comparable photograph showing the underside of the mandibles of the ILM model. However, readers who want to paint the model can consult our website for more details.

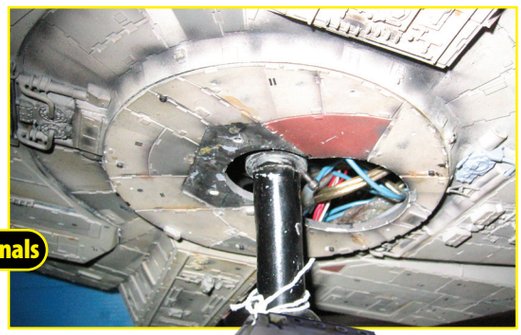
As before, we are providing reference photos of the 32" model held in the Lucasfilm archive. These images will be clearly marked so you can tell whether you are looking at the original or a replica.

Each of the downloadable reference photos of the original only covers a small area, so you may need to compare two or three shots to work out exactly how you should paint a particular detail. Remember, too, that colors may vary in different lighting.

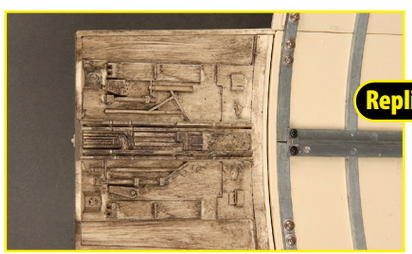


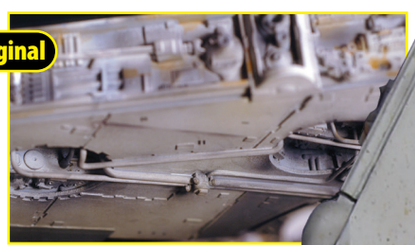


Some details of the underside and inner faces of the mandibles were visible when *The Empire Strikes Back* movie prop was filmed for the action sequences.



The original filming miniature is now mounted on a low stand that makes it hard to view or photograph the underside in its entirety.



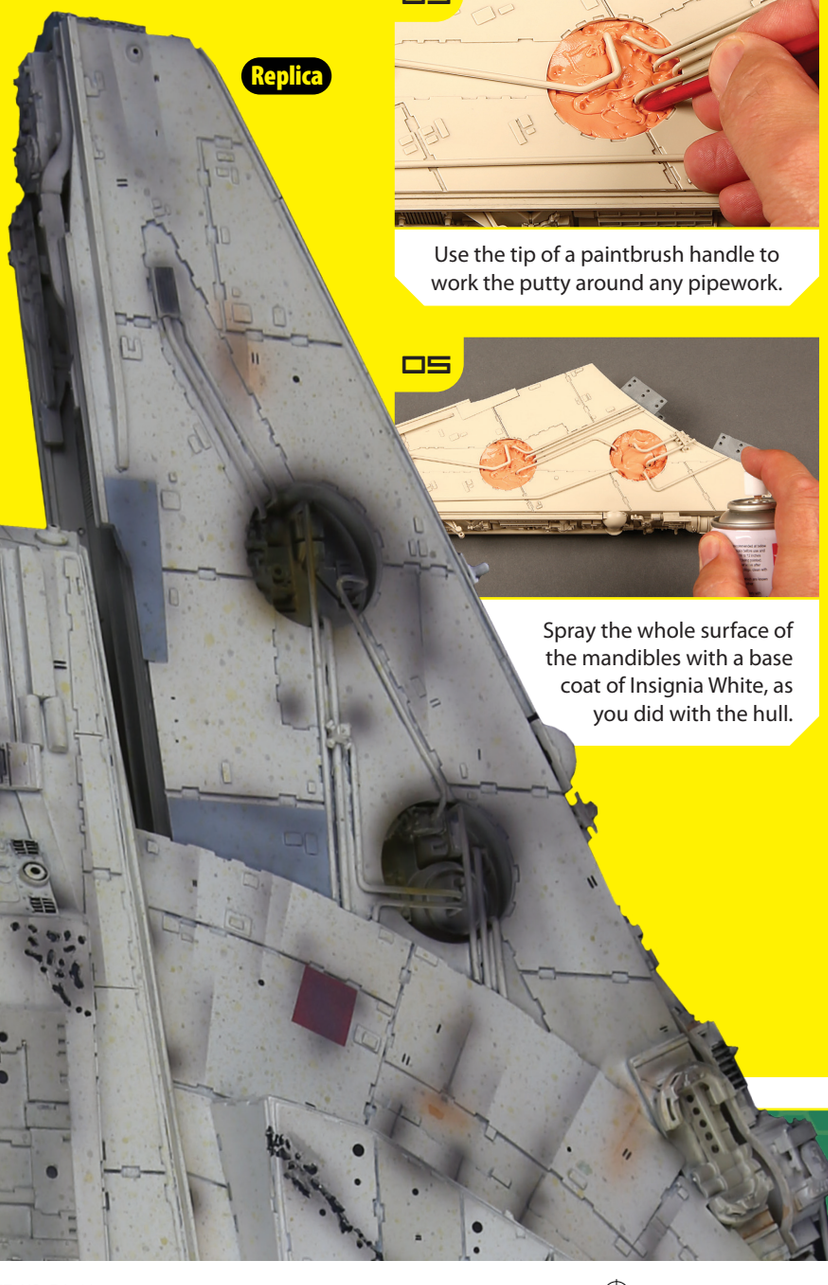


You will need to add paint to simulate weathering in the area between the mandibles and in front of the forward hold, which is not visible on the original prop.

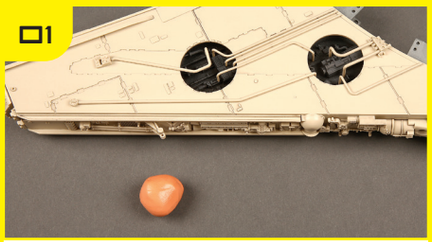
Masking the mandibles

The outer surface of the mandibles can be painted in the same way as you did the lower hull, but as you have already painted the recesses and fixed them in place, they will need to masked off first. The best way to do this is to use some children's Silly Putty, which will cover the surface without leaving any residue or marks.



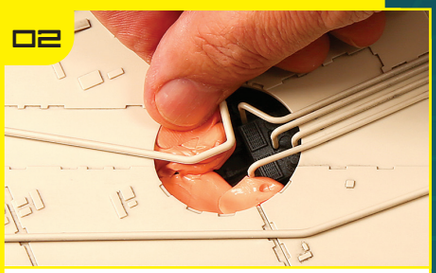


01



A ball of Silly Putty can be used to mask off the recesses and other complex shapes, where applying tape is not practical.

02

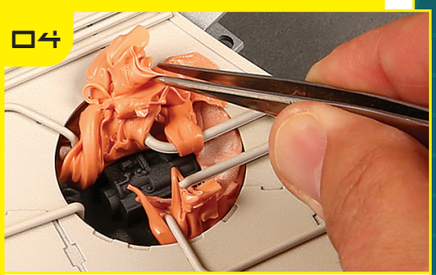


Gently work the putty into the recesses, a blob at a time

03

Use the tip of a paintbrush handle to work the putty around any pipework.

04

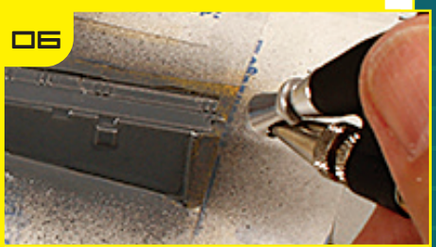


After painting, you can carefully pick the putty out without leaving a residue.

05

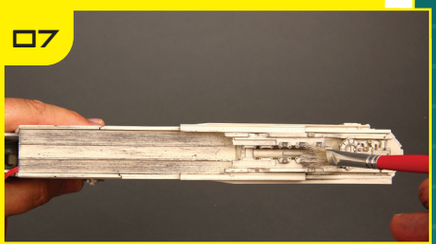
Spray the whole surface of the mandibles with a base coat of Insignia White, as you did with the hull.

06



Mask off and spray the solid gray patches with Neutral Gray paint. Add the streaks of grime with freehand airbrushing.

07



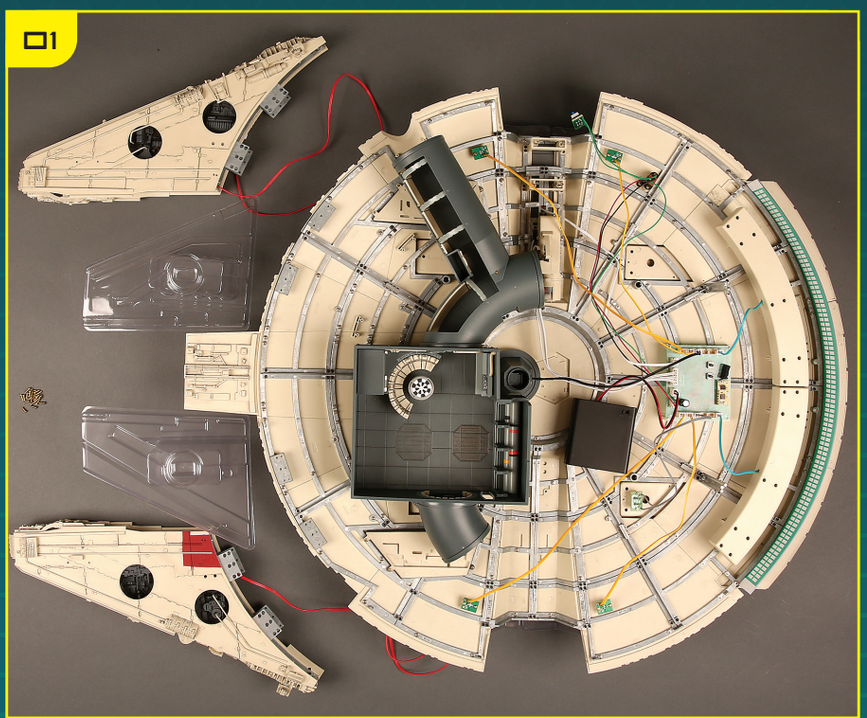
The inner faces of the mandibles will also be inaccessible after fitting. Use a dry brush to apply dirt and grimy streaks.

FITTING THE MANDIBLES

Each of the mandibles is screwed to a pair of mounting plates at the front of the metal framework. The temporary jigs designed to support the tips of the mandibles can be used to prevent strain on the joints until you fix the top of the hull.

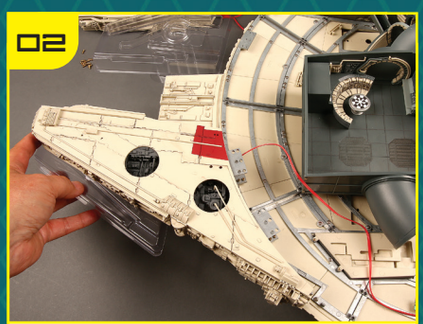
In addition to the two mandibles, you will also need 24 brass screws to fix the mandibles to the frame, and two of the cable clips from Issue 88 to keep the wiring tidy. To help align the assembly, use the support jigs you assembled in Stage 80 and stand the hull on the four support bolts supplied with Issue 54, as the latter will allow you to fine-tune the height and angle of the mandibles.

01



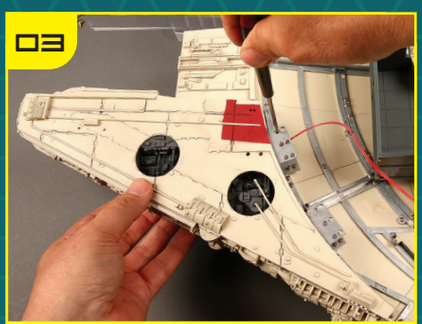
Lay out the mandibles like this, with the two supports in position near the hull.

02



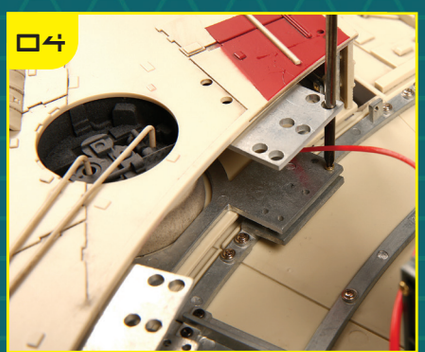
Fit the port mandible in place, with the support jig under its tip. Use the four support bolts to level the assembly.

03



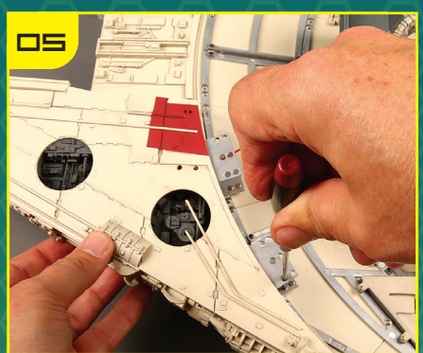
Align the fixing holes on the mandibles with the plates on the main framework and start inserting screws loosely.

04



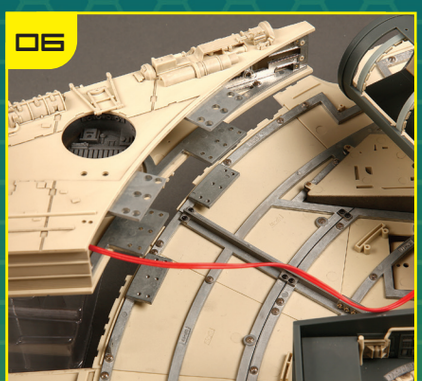
The larger upper holes give clearance for the tip of the screwdriver to fit through.

05



Fit screws loosely to all 12 holes first, then tighten them securely.

06



Now align the starboard mandible.

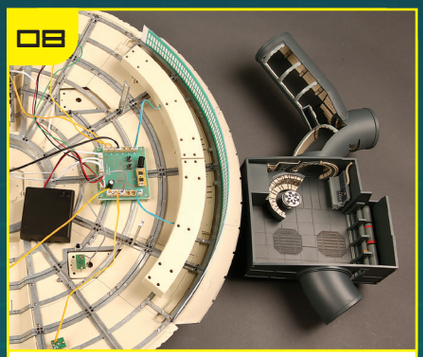
07



Attach the mandible using 12 screws as you did with the port one.

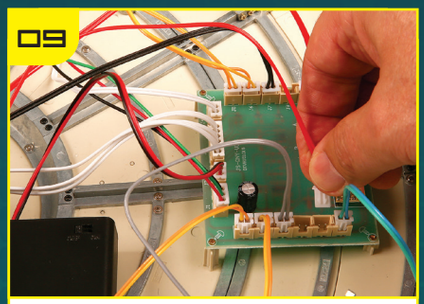
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08



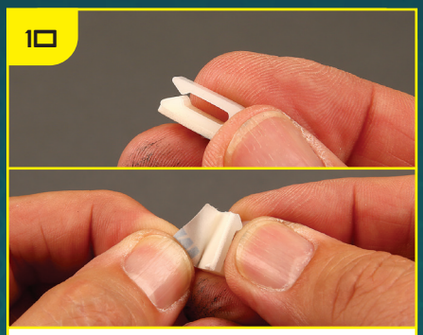
Lift out the interior details that you fitted temporarily in Stage 89.

09



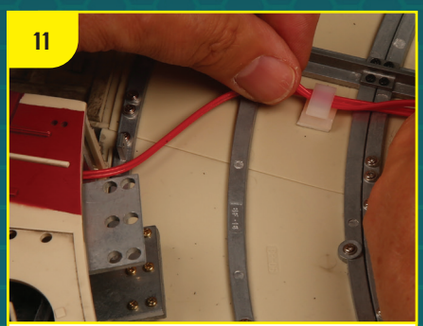
Feed the two leads from the mandibles back to the control board. Plug the starboard headlight into socket J9, and plug the port one into socket J15.

10



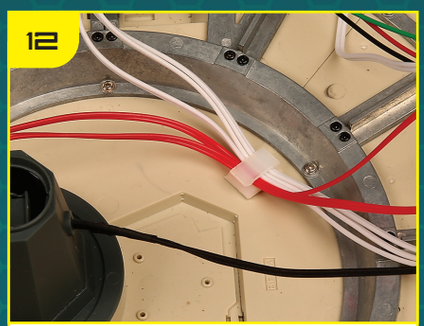
Take two of the three self-adhesive plastic cable clips provided with Issue 88, and peel off the backing paper.

11



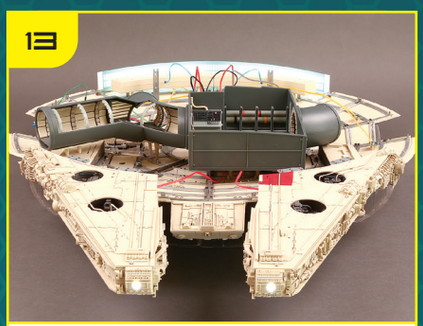
Stick the first clip to the hull panels between the mandibles and use it to secure the leads from the mandibles.

12

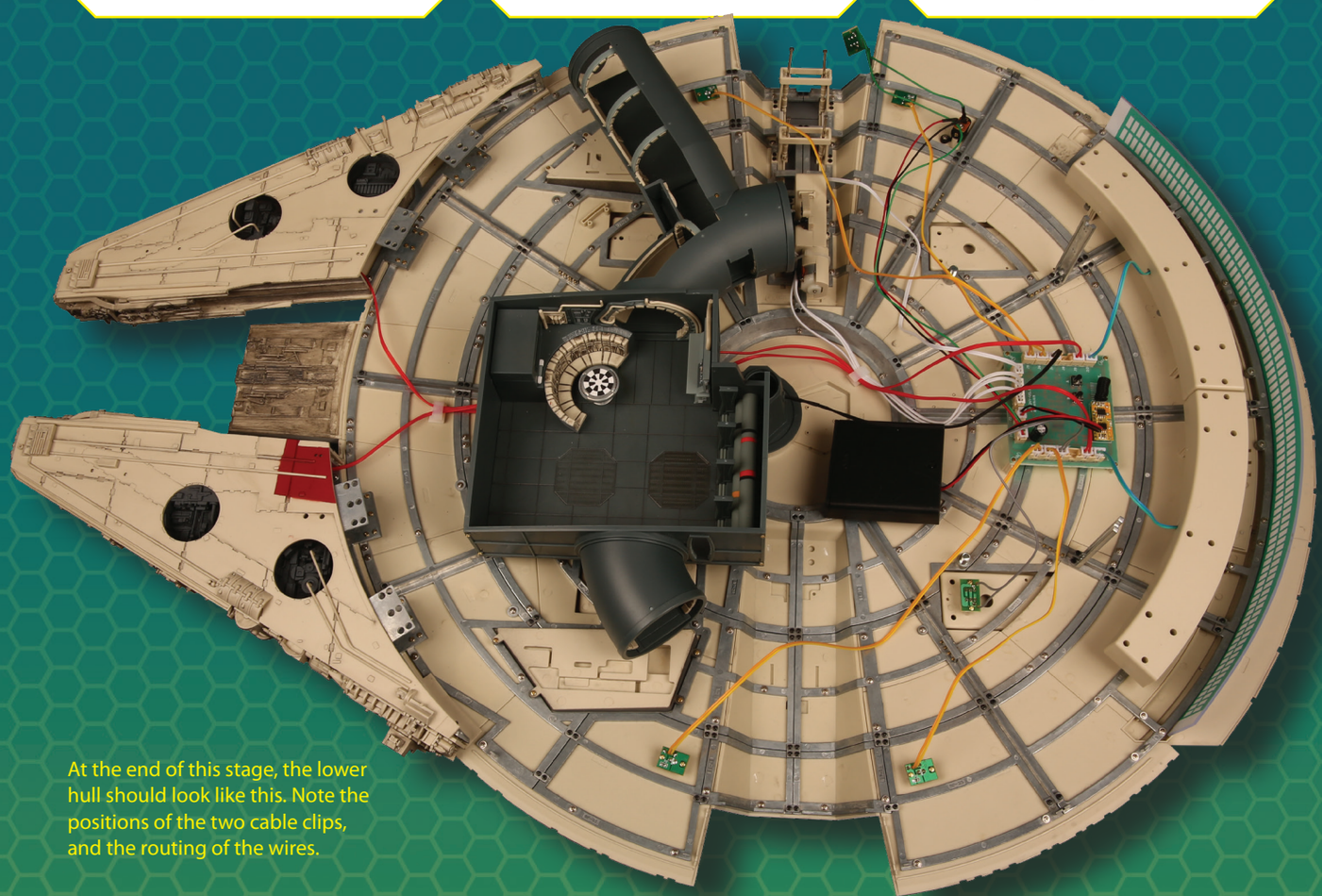


Stick the second clip to the rear part of the turret and use it to secure the leads from the mandibles and the ramp.

13



You can now refit the interior. Press test button B to check that the headlights and engine lights come on.



At the end of this stage, the lower hull should look like this. Note the positions of the two cable clips, and the routing of the wires.

MF_91_2ED_BTF_US_B.indd 9 07/10/2024 15:37

STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON

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