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UK £8.99 IR €10.99 INC VAT

ISSUE 9

STAR WARS™

BUILD YOUR OWN X-WING



A SUPERB MODEL OF LUKE SKYWALKER'S 'RED FIVE' STARFIGHTER

DeAGOSTINI

ALSO INSIDE

CREATING A STARSHIP FLEET
RECREATING THE X-WING
STARTING *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

STARFIGHTER ACES
ANAKIN SKYWALKER

CONTENTS ISSUE 9

STAR WARS™
BUILD YOUR OWN
X-WING

CREATING A STARSHIP FLEET 2
RECREATING THE X-WING – STARTING THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

The phenomenal success of *Star Wars* meant that within a few months, plans for its first sequel quickly started coming together.

STARFIGHTER ACES 6
ANAKIN SKYWALKER – JEDI PADAWAN

In the 10 years that followed Anakin becoming Obi-Wan's apprentice, there were occasional reminders of his natural piloting ability.

BUILD THE X-WING 12
UPPER STARBOARD ENGINE MOUNT

This issue's main component is the angled section of the wing root onto which the first of the X-wing's four sublight engines will be fitted.

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PUBLISHING INFORMATION

ISBN 978-1-4439-4615-5 BYOXWN09 19 02 20 Printed in the UK
Editorial and design by Continuo Creative, 39-41 North Road, London N7 9DP

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Published by De Agostini UK Ltd, Battersea Studios 2,
82 Silverthorne Road, London SW8 3HE, UK

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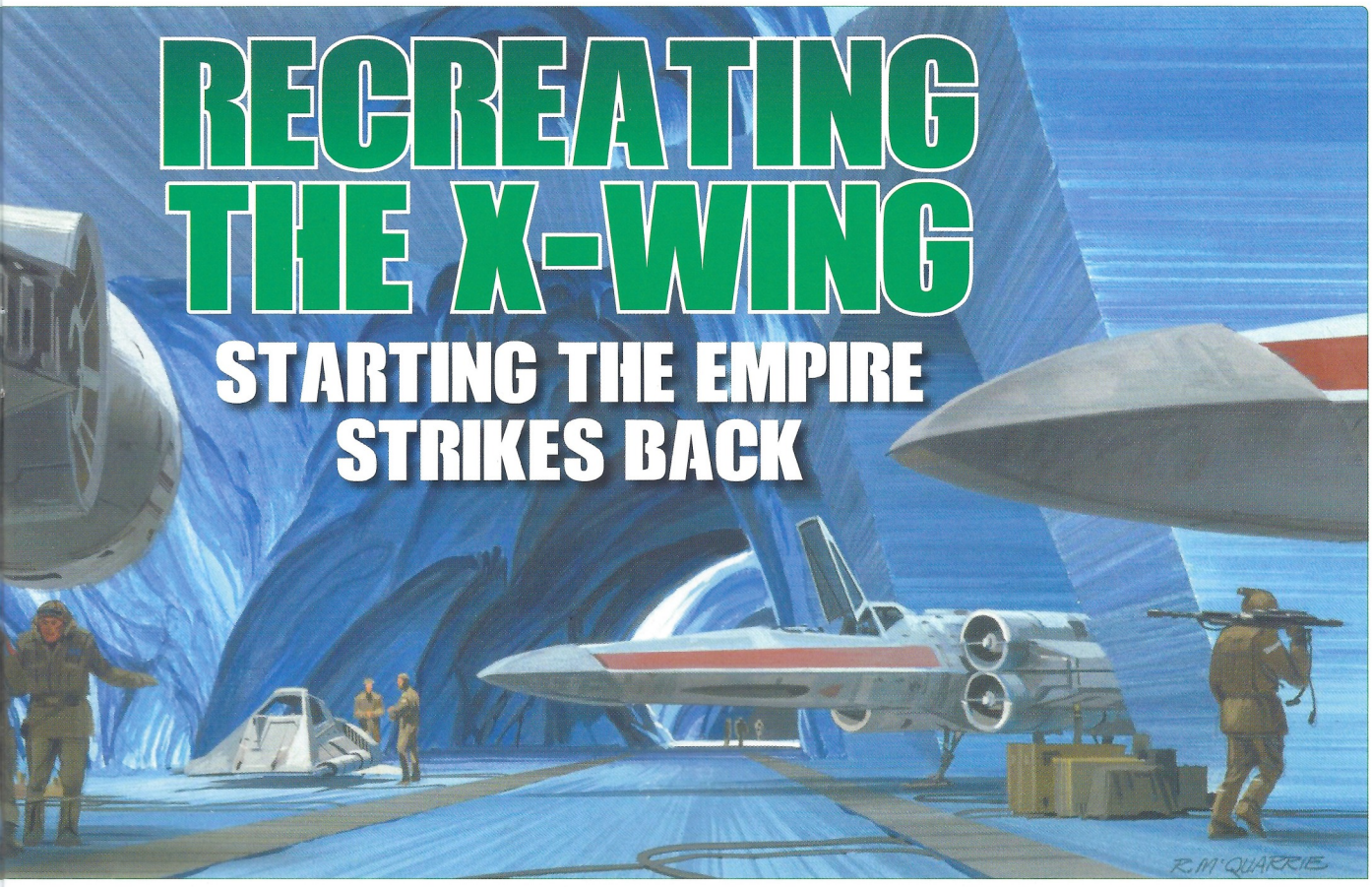
Ralph McQuarrie's 'Ice Cave' painting from May 1978 was created in response to George Lucas asking to see how the rebels could have adapted Hoth's natural tunnels to accommodate their ships.

None of the team that made *Star Wars* could quite believe how successful the movie was. Most of them had moved on to other projects by the time *A New Hope* started breaking box office records and George Lucas began getting asked when he would begin work on the follow-up. At the time, Lucasfilm was a tiny outfit with hardly any resources, and the director was so worn out by the four-year struggle to get the first movie made that rumours began circulating saying that he would only 'supervise' future films rather than taking personal charge of everything. Industrial Light & Magic, the groundbreaking visual effects outfit that had done so much to realise the extraordinary visions of the *Star Wars* galaxy, had completely closed down and disbanded by June 1977.

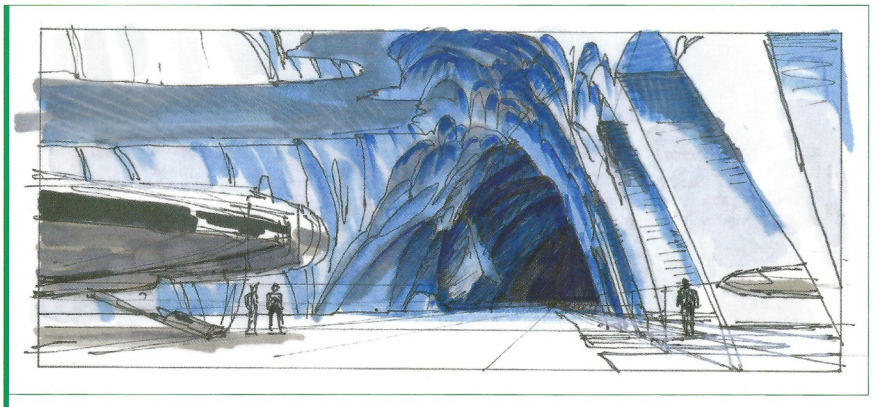
Not only the people had gone, but so had much of the physical material that had been created. Nobody had anticipated the rollercoaster success of the first movie, so much of what had gone into making it had had to be scrapped. As Lucas himself explained, 'We can't afford to keep the sets

RECREATING THE X-WING

STARTING THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



around any longer because it costs a lot of money'. Yet it was clear that a sequel would have to recreate much of what had been done before, including the extraordinary starships that had been such a feature of *A New Hope*. Those were practical concerns for the future. The first step (as Charlie Weber, who would be brought in to run Lucasfilm, said) was to take care of three basics: 'script, script, script'. Lucas had always envisaged the original as simply one part of a much wider story, and now started to sketch outlines for a complete saga spanning three chapters.



This looser preparatory sketch shows a similar layout to the one above, but emphasizes the *Millennium Falcon* and the tunnels in the ice at the expense of the rest of the rebel fleet.

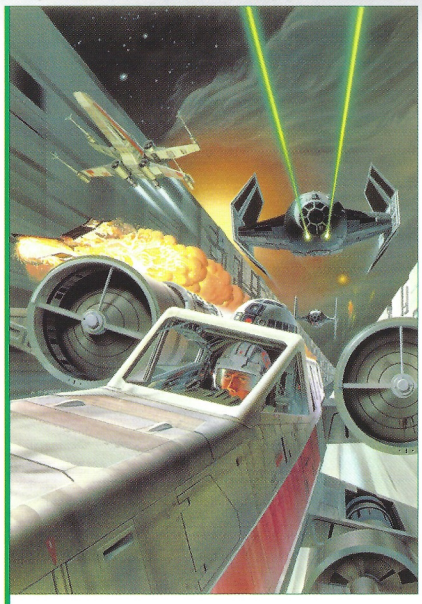
REBUILDING THE TEAM

As negotiations between Twentieth Century-Fox and Lucas began in earnest, it was obvious that the director would have to set up a more permanent film company, and that he would need to rebuild his visual effects team. With several of ILM's original team unable or unwilling to rejoin, calls started going out as early as August 1977. Key specialists were appointed to the crew, and Lucasfilm booked out as much of Elstree Studios as possible in advance, before a screenplay or even a firm outline had been set down on paper.

One of the early people to sign up was the man whose vision had helped the first movie to come to life: Ralph McQuarrie, who went to work on the sequel at the start of October. He had jumped at the chance to do more concept work, turning down an offer to do an animated *Lord of the Rings* in order to start sketching George Lucas's initial ideas for the Wookiee planet and Darth Vader's castle, neither of which would progress beyond the first drafts of the story. Another key team member, in terms of offering visual continuity, was Joe Johnston, whose detail work on the starships had done so much to make them look totally real. On October 12,

"Failure has a thousand explanations. Success doesn't need one."

Alec Guinness



Painted by Ralph McQuarrie in October 1977, this dramatic fan club poster reprised a favourite scene from the movie, depicting Luke Skywalker making his attack run, being fired on by Darth Vader.

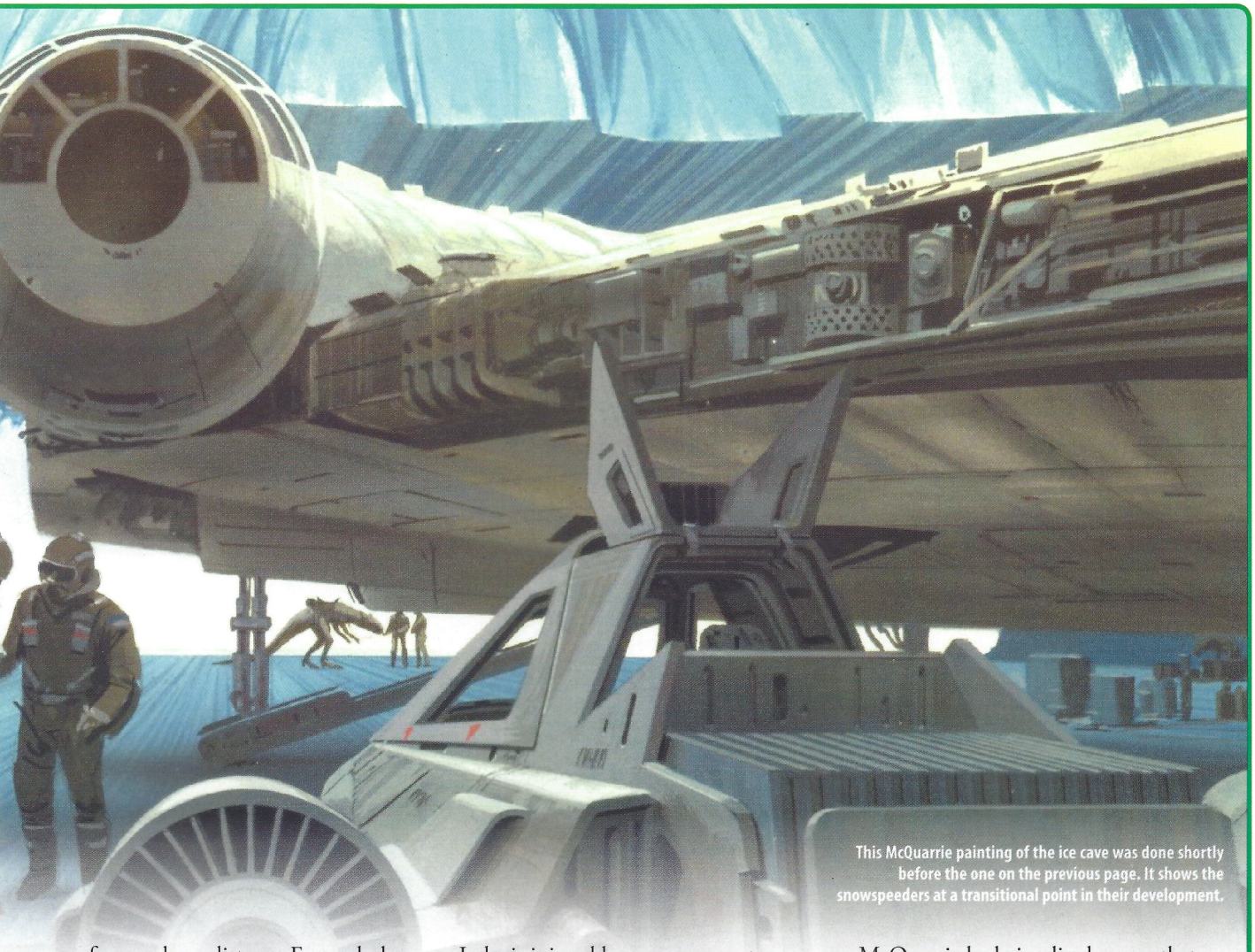
the entertainment trade magazine *Variety* carried a small announcement that work was to begin on the *Star Wars* sequel in January 1979.

SCRIPT CONFERENCES

In order for that to happen, Lucasfilm needed a script, and George Lucas was more than happy to bring in a writer to help him with a job that he hadn't enjoyed the first time around. Script conferences with veteran screenwriter and science-fiction author Leigh Brackett began at the end of November, and ideas began to flow back and forth, adding detail to ideas like the first mention of 'Minch Yoda', who would act as a teacher for Luke Skywalker. Soon, there was talk of a new rebel base, to be set on an ice planet, and separate story arcs for each of the key characters began to be plotted.

With *Star Wars*'s fan base growing steadily and special events being held, one of McQuarrie's first commissions was to paint a special poster that would go out to fan club members early in 1978. It featured a dramatic close-up of Luke in the X-wing cockpit during the final trench run, hotly pursued by his nemesis Darth Vader. Meanwhile, McQuarrie and Joe Johnston began sketching new starships. The very first script outlines had already brought back the *Millennium Falcon*, and mentioned an Imperial attack on the rebel base, from which everybody would need to escape. The first ideas for Cloud City had also begun to surface, and were loosely sketched up.

By February, Luke's X-wing had returned. In Leigh Brackett's first draft summary of the screenplay, Luke uses it to join the rebel evacuation, but Vader

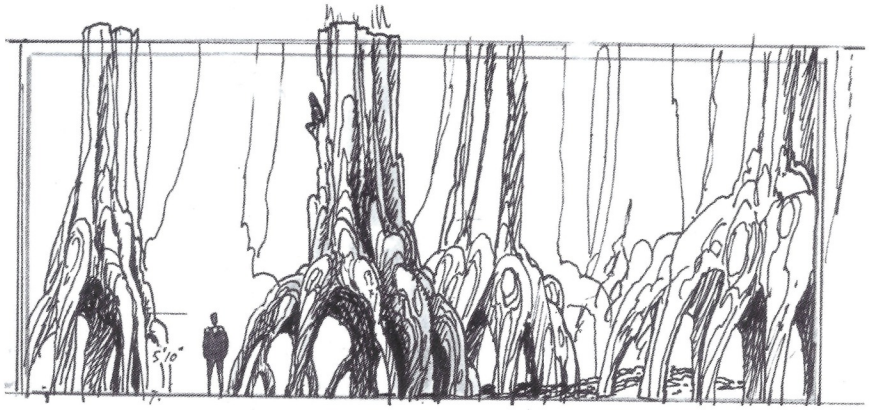


This McQuarrie painting of the ice cave was done shortly before the one on the previous page. It shows the snowspeeders at a transitional point in their development.

performs a long-distance Force-choke on him, forcing R2-D2 to take over the jump to hyperspace when his master passes out. They crash-land on a bog planet, where Luke meets Yoda. Many other elements of what would become *The Empire Strikes Back* were covered in the 128-page script, but Lucas was unhappy with numerous details and sections of dialogue. He would have discussed them with Leigh Brackett, but sadly she was hospitalised shortly after the screenplay was delivered, and died in hospital. With the production schedule locked in, Lucas had no option but to complete the second draft himself, and began working furiously, turning in the rewrite in just six weeks.

Now all the elements of the *Empire* story were there. The movie opens with the surviving rebels having found sanctuary on the ice planet Hoth, where Luke is injured by a snow monster. Escaping into a snowstorm, he collapses weakly, but sees a vision of Ben Kenobi, who tells him to seek out Yoda.

Within the month, Joe Johnston had sketched out storyboards for the opening sequences, and Ralph McQuarrie had visualised scenes that included the Imperial probe droid hunting the rebels, Luke's treatment in the base's medical centre and scenes inside a cavernous rebel hangar hewn out of the solid ice. The *Millennium Falcon* and the X-wing were back.



The Empire Strikes Back **would feature several completely new locations for which ideas were sketched up. One of these was the bog planet to which Luke would pilot his X-wing after escaping from the Battle of Hoth.**

ANAKIN SKYWALKER

JEDI PADAWAN

Leaving Tatooine and Naboo behind him, Anakin Skywalker took his place in the Jedi Temple on Coruscant as Obi-Wan Kenobi's Padawan. In the eventful 10 years that followed, there would be occasional reminders of his natural piloting ability.

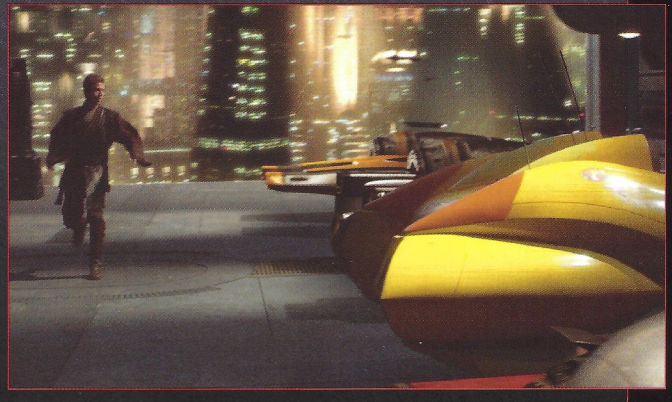


Just three years into his training, Anakin told Obi-Wan Kenobi that he wished to leave the Jedi Order. Things had been hard for the boy. Brought late to the Temple, he nonetheless exceeded the abilities of many of his peers, with much of the training coming easily to him. When a challenge did present itself, or when a teacher told him off, his frustration and resentment flared. The lonely young Initiate spent a lot of time alone, lost in repairing machinery that he found in the streets beyond the Jedi Temple.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SPEEDER

RESCUING KENOBI

Aware that Obi-Wan was clinging to a hostile droid hundreds of metres above Coruscant's streets, Anakin rushed down to the senatorial parking area, picked out the fastest open-topped speeder he could see, and hotwired it in seconds. He would later joke that he'd picked it for its 'gonzo colour', but Anakin knew the XJ-6 wouldn't let him down.



FLIGHT TRAINING

The airspeeder Anakin 'borrowed' belonged to Senator Simon Greyshade of the Vorzyd sector. Believing his pride and joy had been stolen, Greyshade called the authorities, but he was unable to pursue legal recourse after the speeder was returned to him unharmed.

XJ-6 AIRSPEEDER

An airspeeder was a high-altitude repulsorlift vehicle with a far higher flight ceiling than a regular landspeeder. The Narglatch AirTech XJ-6 was an enthusiast's dream, delivered to the customer in kit form and offering a raft of possible extras. Fortunately for Obi-Wan, the senator had gone for massive twin turbojet engines usually reserved for heavy transport speeders.



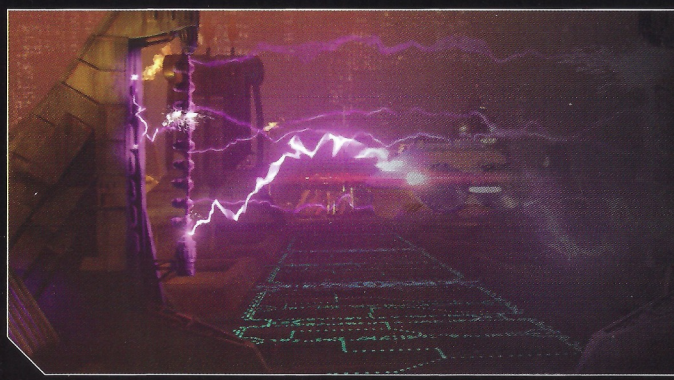
DESIGN	Narglatch AirTech
LENGTH	6.23 metres
SPEED	720km/h
AFFILIATION	Old Republic
WEAPONS	None

OLD FRIENDS, NEW RESCUES

Ten years on, the bond between Anakin and Obi-Wan was strong, and Skywalker had chosen to stay in the Jedi Order. Still, the frustrations remained. However, the Force had new tests for Anakin and his master. Senator Padmé Amidala, the former queen of Naboo, was targeted for assassination. Master Kenobi and his Padawan were assigned to protect her. That first evening, an assassin droid dropped poisonous insects into Padmé's room. Anakin killed them, while Obi-Wan leapt through a window and caught hold of the droid. Now, having saved Padmé, Anakin had to fly to Obi-Wan's rescue.

Obi-Wan Kenobi hated flying at the best of times. Although he must have been grateful for his rescue, the Jedi Master clung to his seat as his young Padawan hurled the open airspeeder around the skyscape of Coruscant.





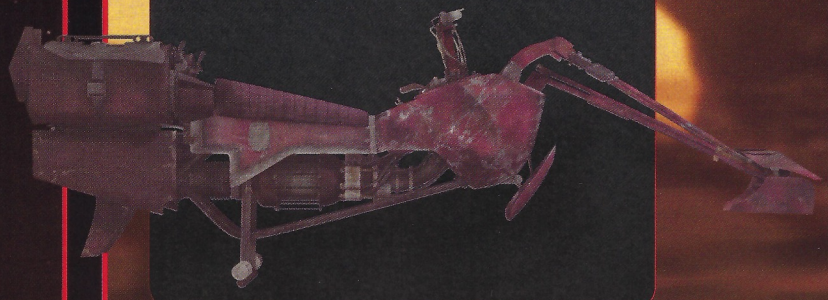
SHOCKING. POSITIVELY SHOCKING

The droid Obi-Wan was holding onto was shot out of the sky by its owner, bounty hunter Zam Wesell. Catching Kenobi as he fell towards the lower levels, Anakin set off after Wesell's speeder. The bounty hunter did everything she could to shake the Jedi – from driving into oncoming traffic to blasting power couplings of a generator plant, which then partially electrocuted her pursuers. None of this worked, and the Jedi eventually caught up with her.

PRACTICAL, NOT PRETTY

THE ZEPHYR-G SWOOP

Owen Lars bought a 20-year-old swoop bike that was famous with racers for its power and speed. In a move that was the opposite of nearly every other Zephyr-G owner, Owen converted it from a speedster to a workhorse, using its power to haul cargo for the farm.



RETURN TO TATOOINE

Anakin Skywalker's nightmares about his mother, Shmi, became increasingly unbearable. Although he was supposed to be guarding Senator Padmé Amidala on Naboo, she herself suggested that they travel to Tatooine together so he could continue to fulfil his duty to her. They took Padmé's H-type Nubian yacht, with the senator flying, from Naboo to Anakin's former home.

On the desert world, Anakin discovered his mother was no longer with their former owner, Watto. She had been bought by and later married Cliegg Lars, a moisture farmer. At his homestead, the young Padawan was horrified to learn from Cliegg that Shmi had been taken by Tusken Raiders. Despite the farmer's sorrowful warnings that Shmi was probably dead already, Anakin was determined to act.

Borrowing Cliegg's son Owen's swoop, Anakin was able to travel the deserts quickly, tracking

"I can feel her pain, and I will find her."

Anakin Skywalker



While Anakin was on Tatooine, he received a message from Obi-Wan Kenobi revealing that the Separatist enemies of the Republic had an army on Geonosis and were gearing up for war. Hearing Obi-Wan's capture,Padmé and Anakin went to the rescue, with Anakin at the controls of her starship.



The Zephyr-G swoop was built by Mobquet Swoops and Speeders. At nearly 4 metres long, it was nonetheless designed for one person, though a passenger could sit on the engine section at the back.

the Sand People back to their camp. Owen had modified the bike to survive the harsh desert conditions better, and its tough, powerful engine was reliable and well-maintained. Despite the bike's speed, however, Anakin was too late to save his mother, who died in his arms from the horrific torture she had endured. In his anger, Anakin slew the entire tribe of Tuskens. Devastated, the young man returned his mother's body to the Lars farm, draped over the back of the bike.

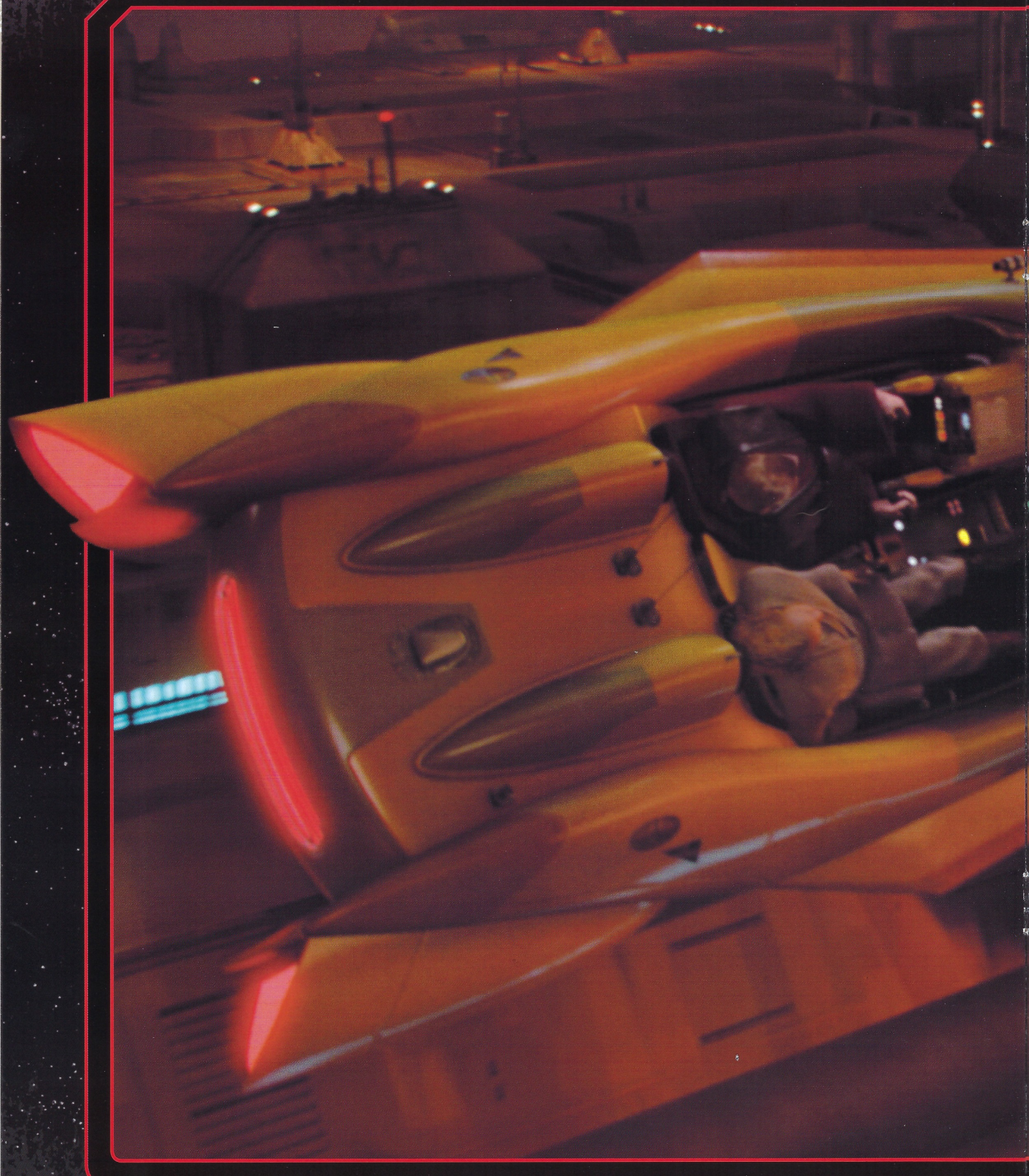
TECH / EQUIPMENT

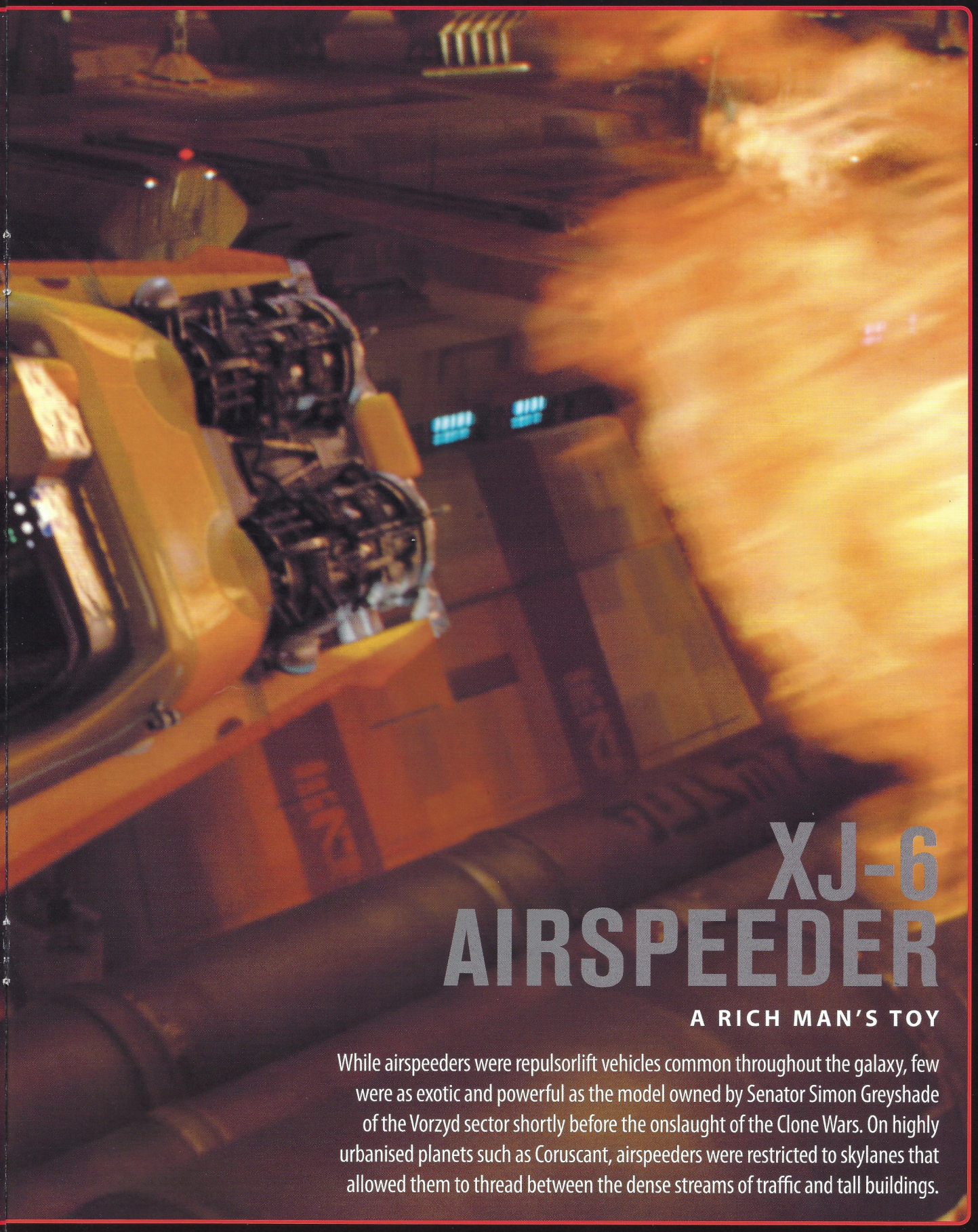


Anakin and Obi-Wan confronted Count Dooku on Geonosis. The Count had been a Jedi Master, and was one of the foremost duellists of the Jedi Order before he left. Even together, Anakin and Obi-Wan were no match for the Sith apprentice.

ANAKIN'S CYBERNETIC ARM

In a duel with Count Dooku, the leader of the Separatists and secret Sith apprentice named Darth Tyranus, Anakin was soundly beaten and his right arm was cut off below the elbow. The replacement, custom-built for the young man, used a synth-net neural interface to ensure the electrostatic impulses from the fingertips and other sensory pads could be interpreted as touch. The arm was stronger than Anakin's real one had been, and, of course, he tinkered with it to add upgrades.





XJ-6 AIRSPEEDER

A RICH MAN'S TOY

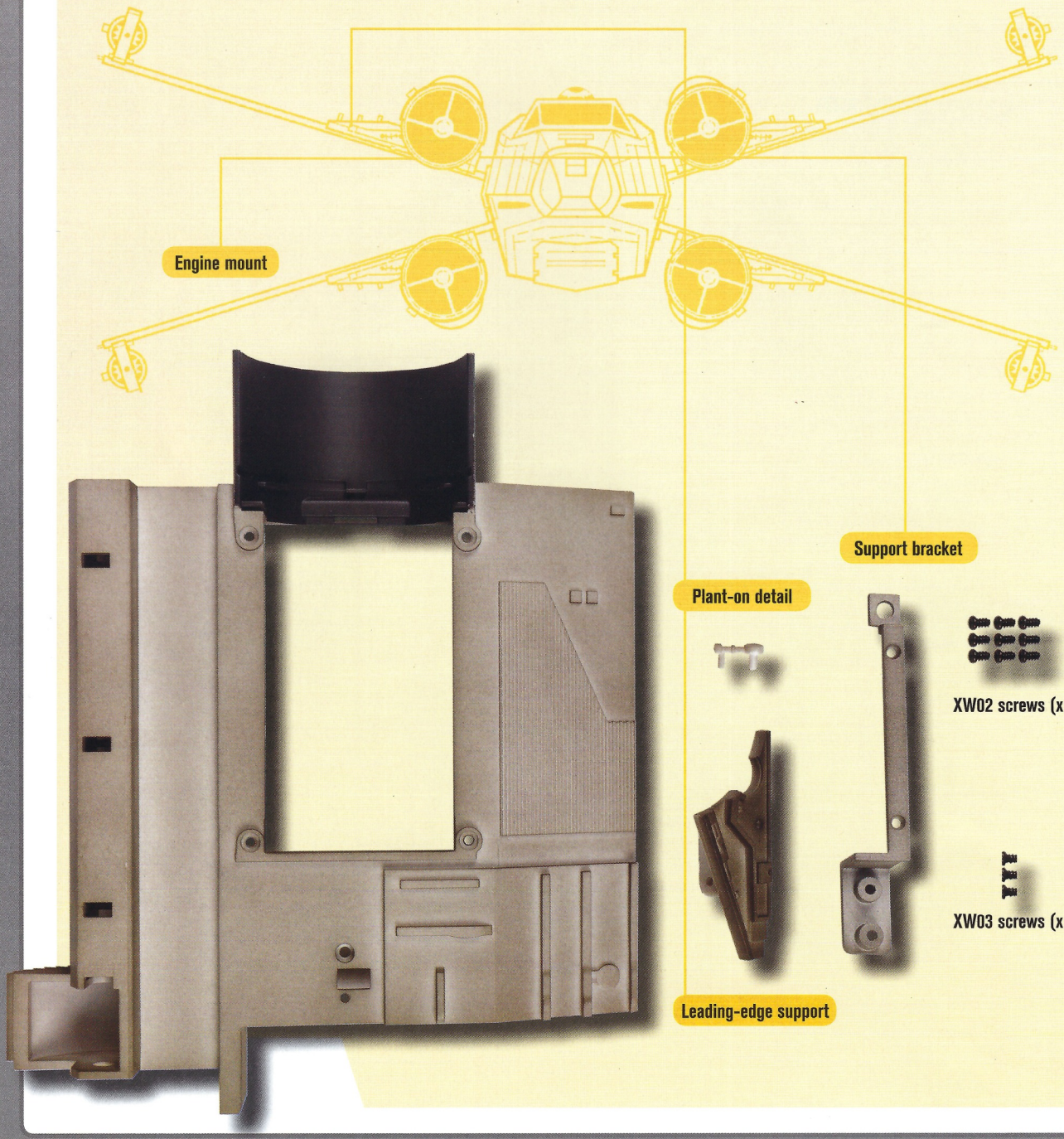
While airspeeders were repulsorlift vehicles common throughout the galaxy, few were as exotic and powerful as the model owned by Senator Simon Greyshade of the Vorzyd sector shortly before the onslaught of the Clone Wars. On highly urbanised planets such as Coruscant, airspeeders were restricted to skylanes that allowed them to thread between the dense streams of traffic and tall buildings.

Upper starboard engine mount

This issue's main component is the angled section of the wing root onto which the first of the X-wing's four sublight engines will be fitted. The inner end of the engine mount also carries part of the gear mechanism that will be used to open and close the S-foils.

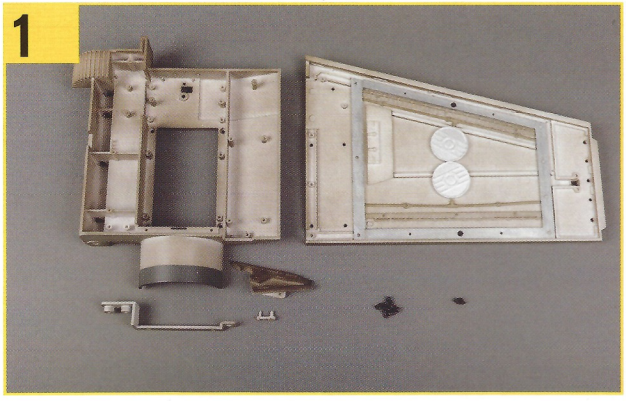
COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

Use this guide to check what parts you have received and where they fit on the model

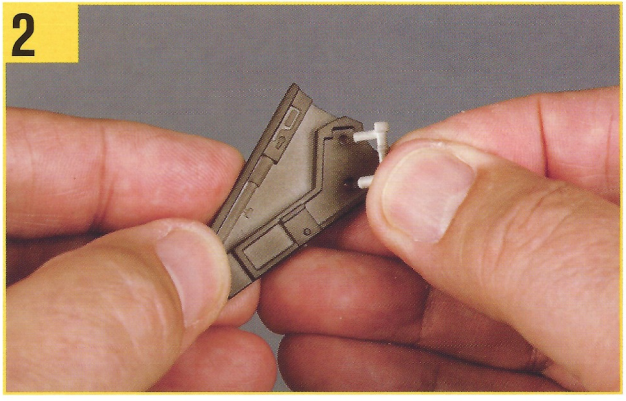


FITTING THE MOUNT

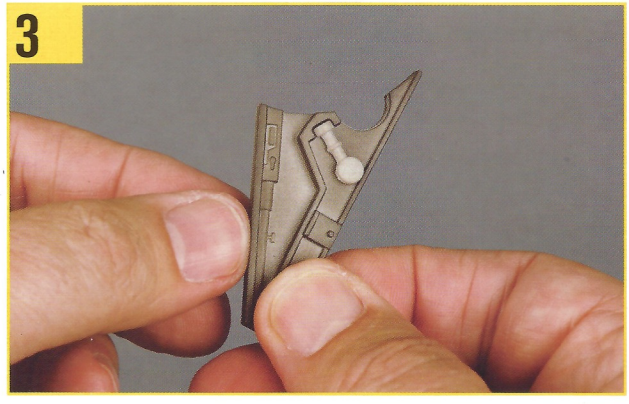
All four moulded components fit together and then screw to the wing assembly you have been working on.



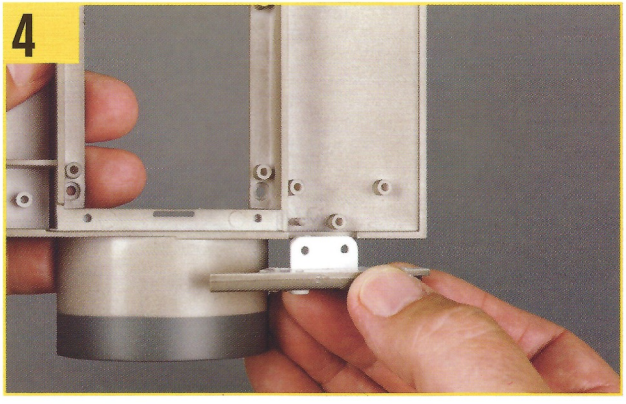
Take the assembly from Stage 8, together with all the components provided this time.



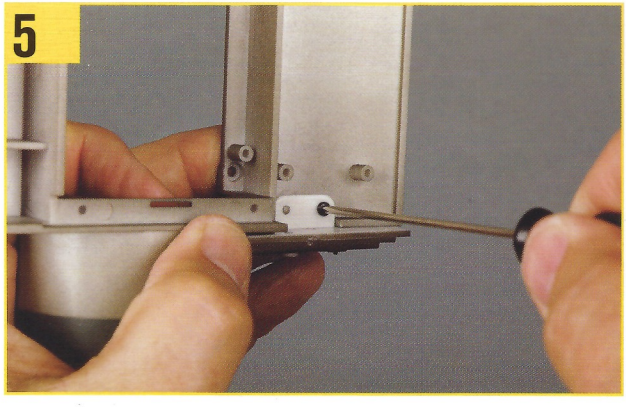
Fit the two pins on the back of the small plant-on detail into the holes in the triangular leading-edge support, this way up.



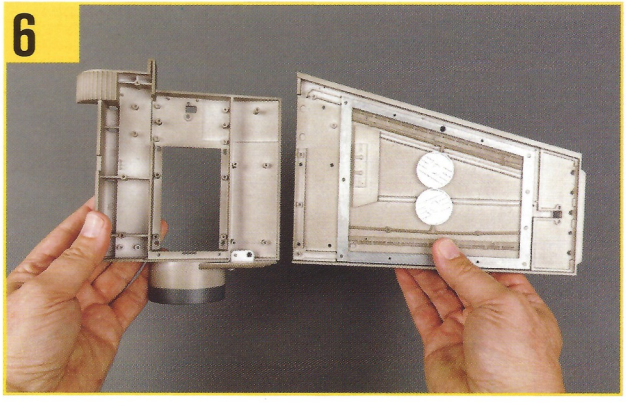
Press the detail into place so it fits flush.



Fit the bracket on the back of the leading-edge support to the engine mount in this position.

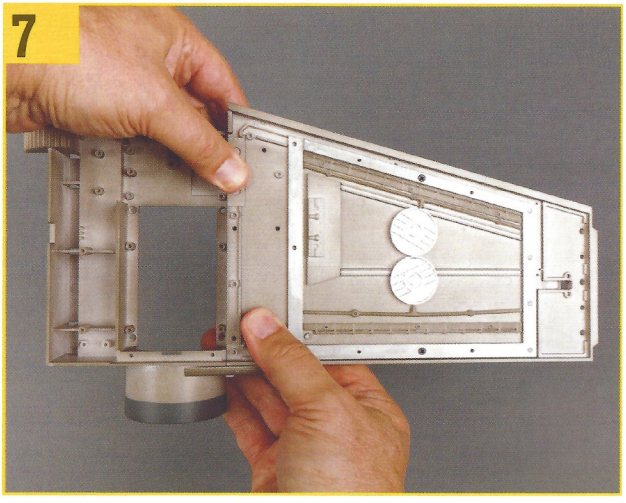


Press the left-hand hole on the bracket onto the locating pin and secure the other hole with an XW02 screw.



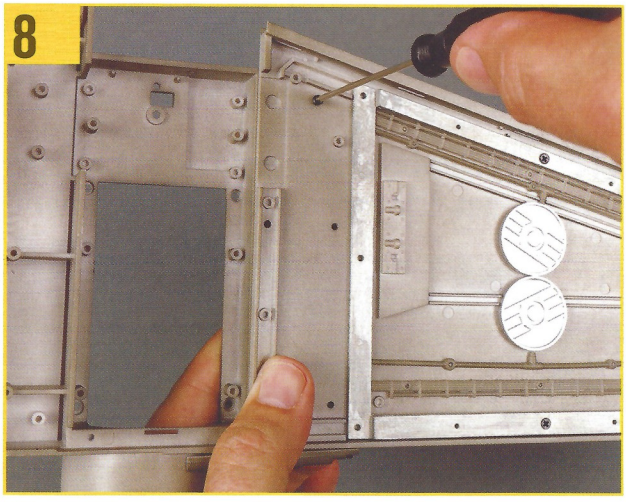
Align the engine mount with the end of the wing.

7



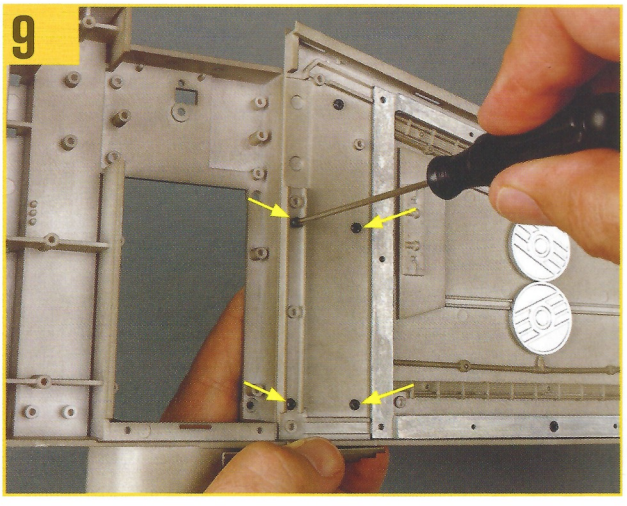
Fit the parts together, aligning the mounting holes shown in Steps 8 and 9.

8



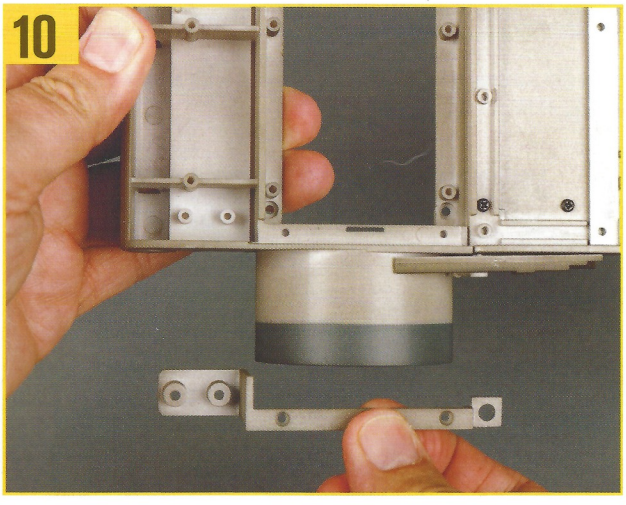
Start securing the engine mount with an XW02 screw in this hole.

9



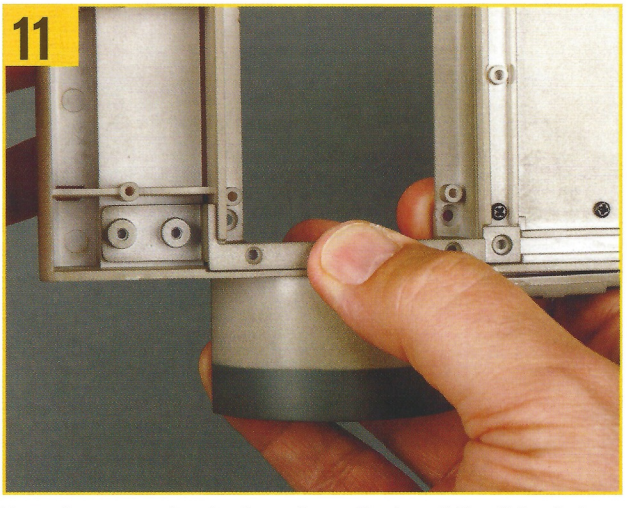
Add XW02 screws to these four holes to finish joining the parts.

10



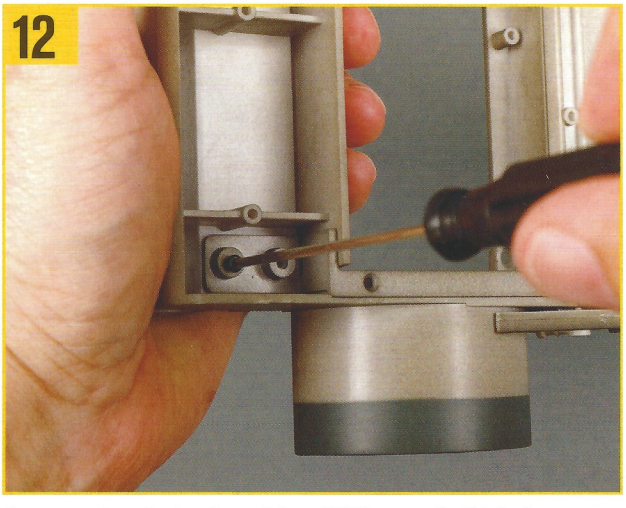
Align the support bracket with the engine mount in this position.

11



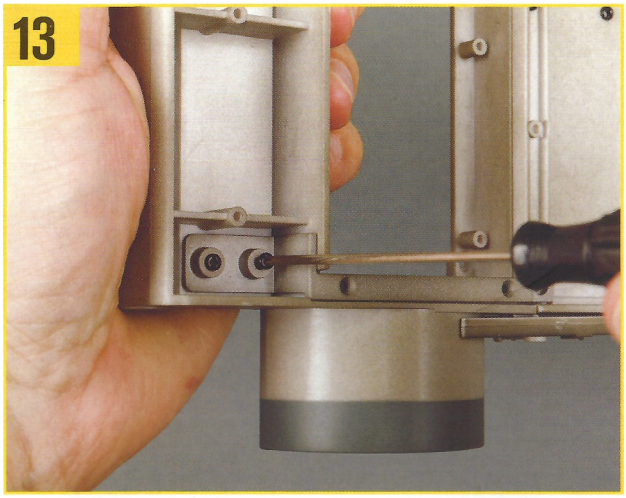
Press the support bracket into place, aligning all five fixing holes.

12



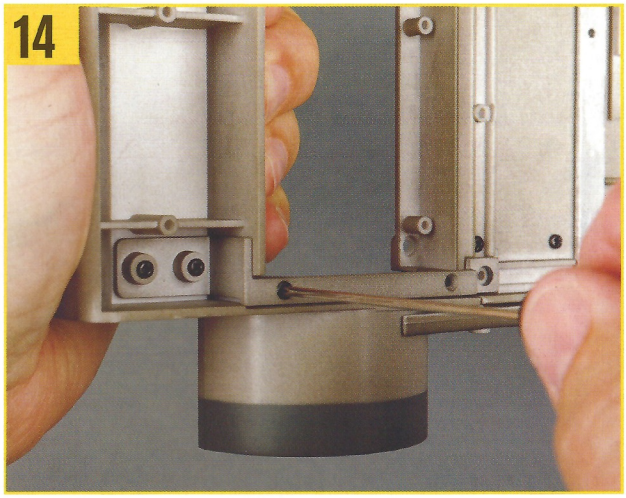
Start securing the bracket with an XW02 screw in this hole…

13



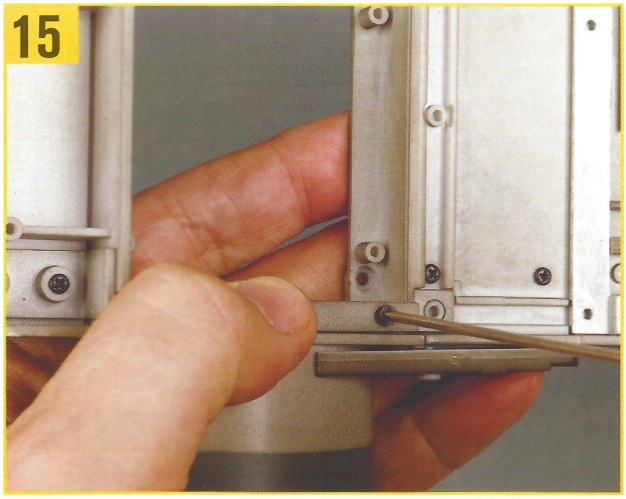
... followed by another XW02 screw in the hole next to it.

14



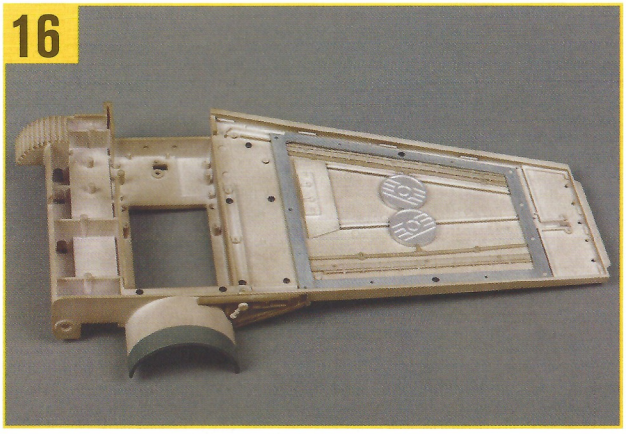
Secure this hole with a smaller XW03 screw...

15



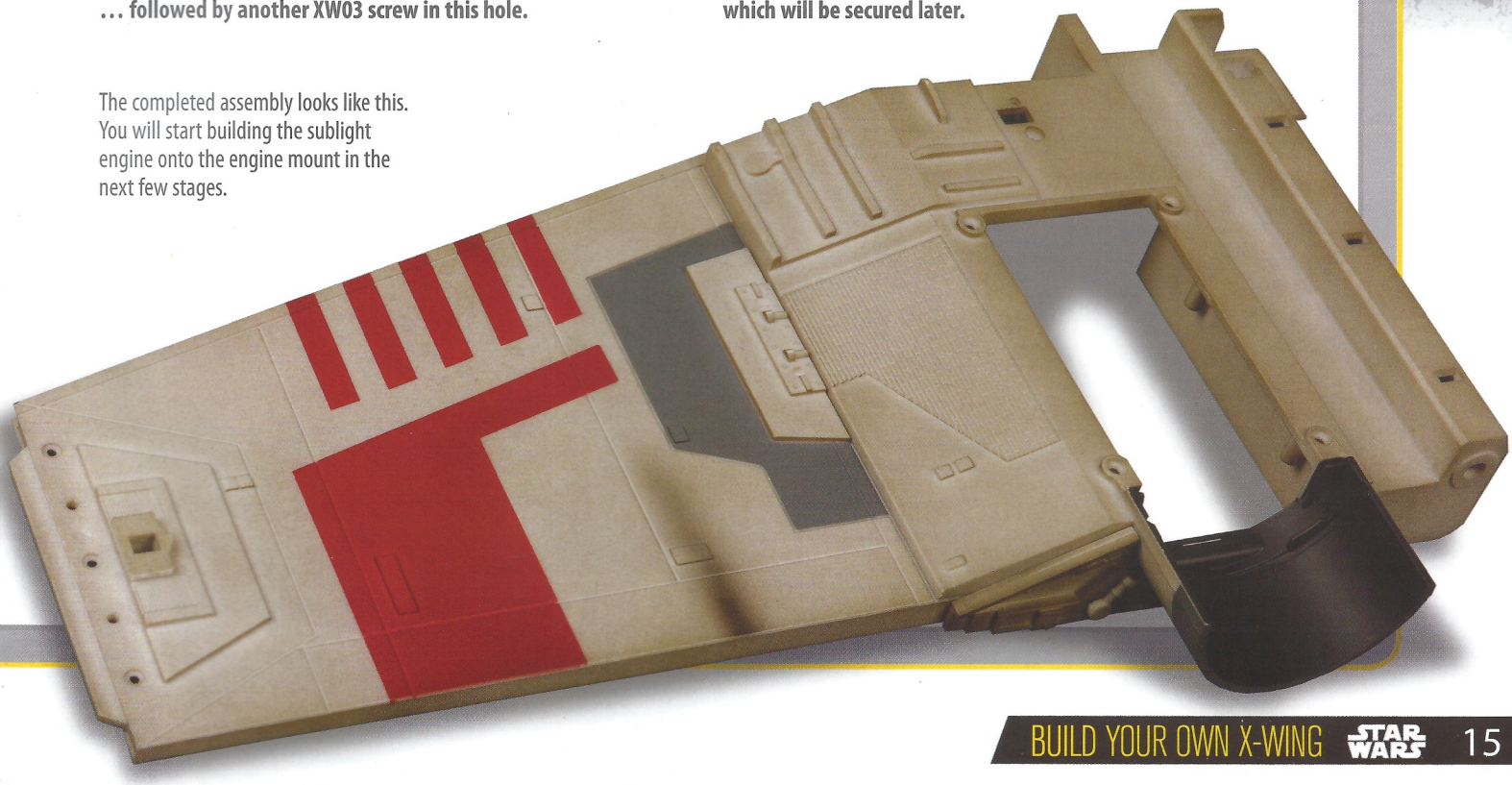
... followed by another XW03 screw in this hole.

16



That completes the assembly. Do not put a screw in the remaining hole in the support bracket, which will be secured later.

The completed assembly looks like this. You will start building the sublight engine onto the engine mount in the next few stages.



DON'T MISS OUT!

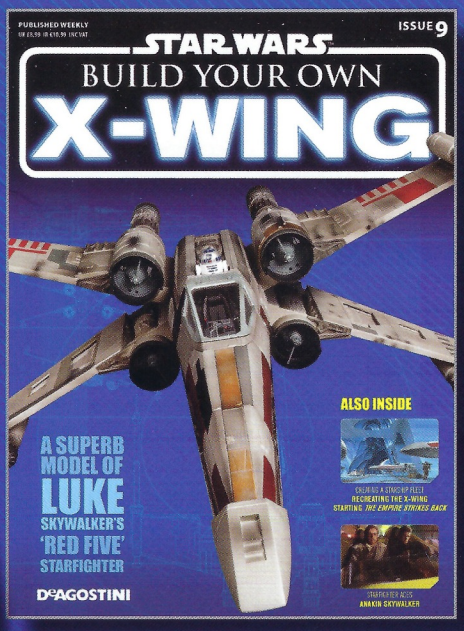
ISSUE 9

Creating a Starship Fleet
Recreating the
X-wing starting
The Empire Strikes Back

Starfighter Aces
Anakin Skywalker

Sublight engine mounting and details



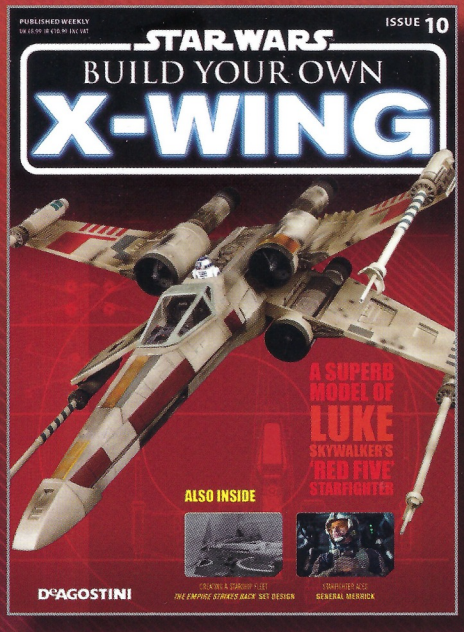


ISSUE 10

Creating a Starship Fleet
The Empire Strikes Back Set design

Starfighter Aces
General Merrick

Sublight engine mounting and details





Items may differ from those shown.

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