

MOTION PICTURE MINIATURES

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AMT 1/3200 Romulan Warbird Upgrade Parts

The following instructions are intended to be a basic guide for use of the parts. As these upgrades are either based on the original kit parts or are simple “plant-on” parts, the method of assembly should be almost the same as the stock kit instructions, with very little modifications required for the rest of the stock kit parts. The builder is encouraged to use their own best judgment on how to approach assembly of the parts, depending on their own specific goals of their project.

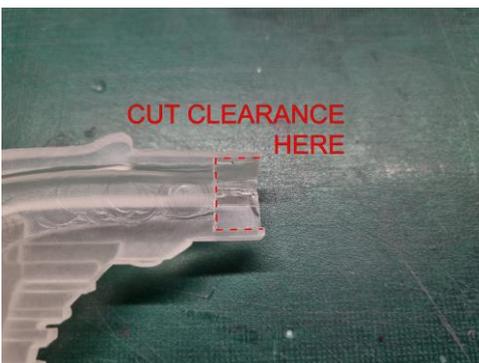
Preparation

Wash all parts thoroughly with dish soap / mild detergent to remove any remaining mould release agent before use. The parts are cast in urethane resin and may have bent or warped slightly during shipping. This is not uncommon for resin parts and is easily fixed by gently heating the part with hot water or hair dryer, then allowed to cool whilst being held in place or clamped straight, whichever is appropriate. Some parts have been cast as flat pieces attached to a larger “raft”. These parts should be roughly trimmed, then flat sanded from the back using sanding blocks or files until the surrounding “raft” or “flash” has been completely removed, and the part has reached the desired thickness.

Main “Head” parts

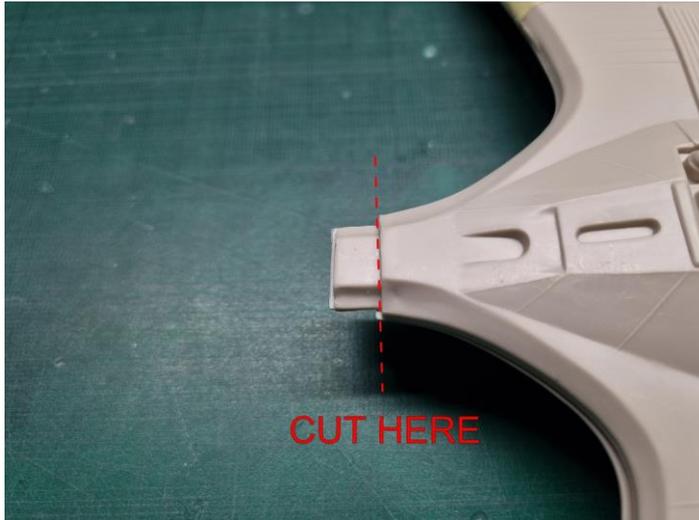


The main “Head” is divided into 2 halves with a recess machined into the parts to allow for easy installation of any lighting components and to pass wiring back into the main body assembly. The translucent resin transmits internal lighting extremely effectively. The easiest method for lighting the many hundreds of windows is to simply “lightblock” the **outer surfaces only** with primer and final paint layers, then carefully drill through those paint layers with a small drill bit (e.g. 0.3mm) to create the lit windows.



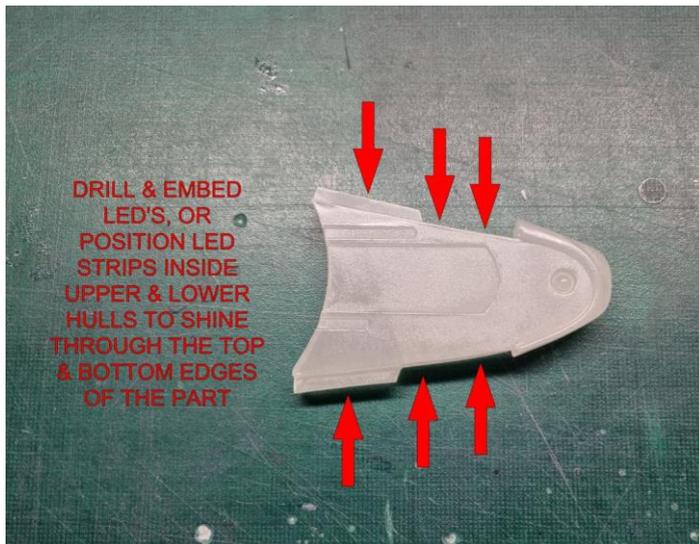
Some material can be removed where the upper hull part plugs into the “head” to provide a strong mechanical joint. Carve away material until the upper hull “plug” fits the head “socket.”





Alternatively, you can simply cut away the upper hull “plug” and use epoxy to butt-join the parts together without removing extra material from the “head” parts.

“Tail” part

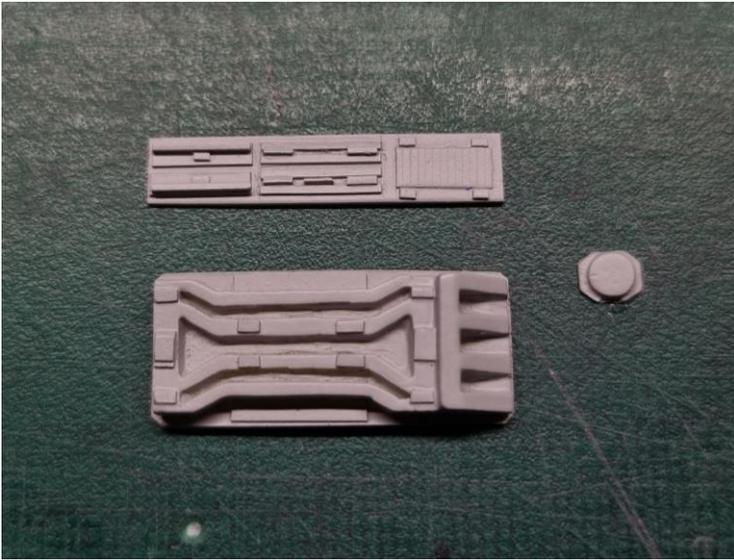


The tail has been cast as one solid translucent part. Lighting can be achieved by either drilling into the top and bottom edges and embedding LEDs, or positioning LED strips in the upper and lower hull parts to shine directly into the part. Again, lightblock from the **outside only** and then drill through the paint layers to create lit windows.

Plant-on details



The plant-on details are cast flat on supporting material, the outline of the parts can be seen as slightly raised from the “raft”. Roughly trim around the parts, leaving a small amount of the supporting “raft” material. Using a sanding block or file, flat sand the back surface of the part to remove the remaining support material and bring the part down to the desired thickness. The nacelle detail parts should be very thin, as should the round “fuel cap” details. The “mechanical foot” details need not be quite as thin. Check reference pictures online.



The trimmed and sanded parts should look like this (only one of each part is shown here)



The “mechanical foot” part needs to be bent slightly to match the curvature of the lower hull contour.

Warm the part in hot water, or with a hair dryer, until the resin feels pliable. Gently bend the part into a slight curve and glue into position using cyano-acrylate or 5min epoxy. Hold the part in place for a few seconds until it cools, it will then retain this shape. Repeat for the opposite side.



Place plant-on details into position as shown.



The nacelle detail is shown in some reference photos of the original filming model but missing in others (screengrabs etc). It's likely that this detail is only present on one side of the filming model. I've included 2 parts, so the choice is yours!