

Compact Space Shuttle Paper Model Instructions

By Glenn Alvord



While surfing the Internet on the space shuttle, I downloaded this picture (Left) of what I called "Compact Space Shuttle" someone did for fun.

It depicts the shuttle without the cargo bay area and it's comical to look at.

As a joke I thought, if NASA was to build a new shuttle fleet under a tight budget, It would look like this and it would be a unique paper model to enjoy.

I've built several paper models of the space shuttle, but the best ones you can find is at

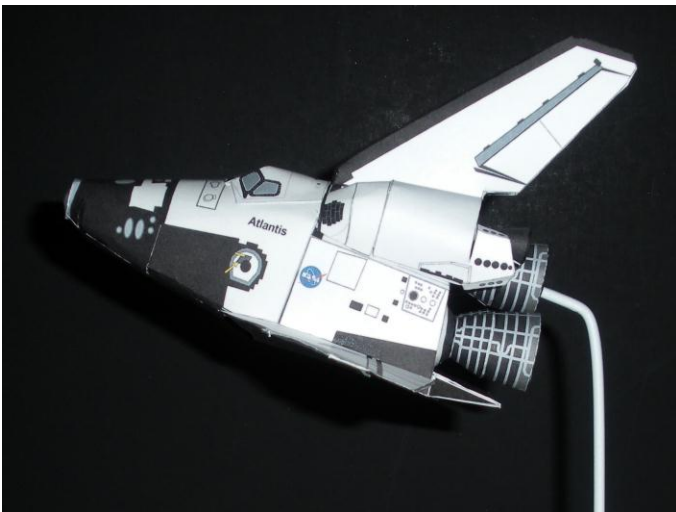
<http://www.axmpaperspacescalemodels.com/>.

You can download and build a configuration for every flight and in beautiful detail and accuracy.

You can also get models of the International Spacestation and various launch vehicles.

I Downloaded the parts for the Atlantis space shuttle and built it with the external tank and boosters.

Months later, I looked at the picture the the Compact Shuttle thinking, maybe I'll try to create a paper model of this.



I gather the files from the Atlantis space shuttle, removed the parts required for the cargo bay area, altered the wings, belly and some internal framework. After some trial and errors, I come up with this paper model of this "Compact Shuttle" (Left).

All the original parts were from the Axmpaperspacescalemodels website so all credit goes to Alfonso for the design of the models found there.

All I did was to alter a couple of parts for this model; I hope this is OK.

The only part I designed is the wing support which adds some thickness and strength to the wings.

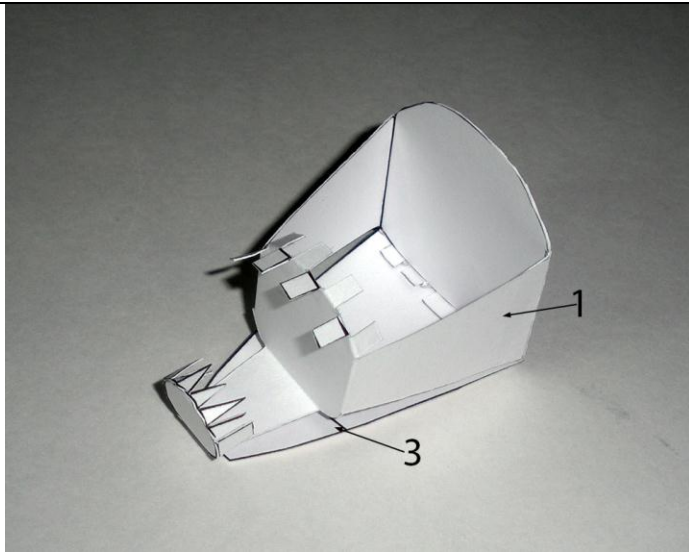
The wings may look a bit small as compared to the body from the top view.

I had to remove about 70% of the wing because of the missing cargo bay area and it was very difficult to maintain its shape and look of that of the original space shuttle wing design. But I think it looks good.

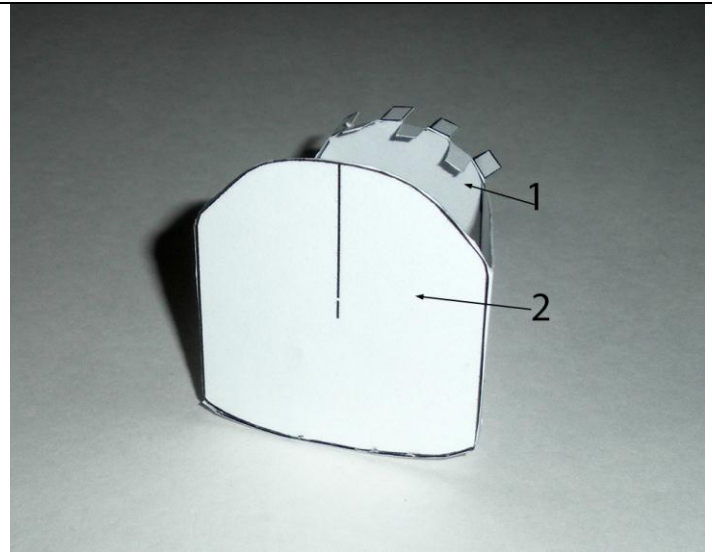
This "Compact Shuttle" paper model is not perfect for my designing skills are not as advanced as other paper model designers.

If you need more detail instructions, go to the axmpaperspacescalemodels website to download them.

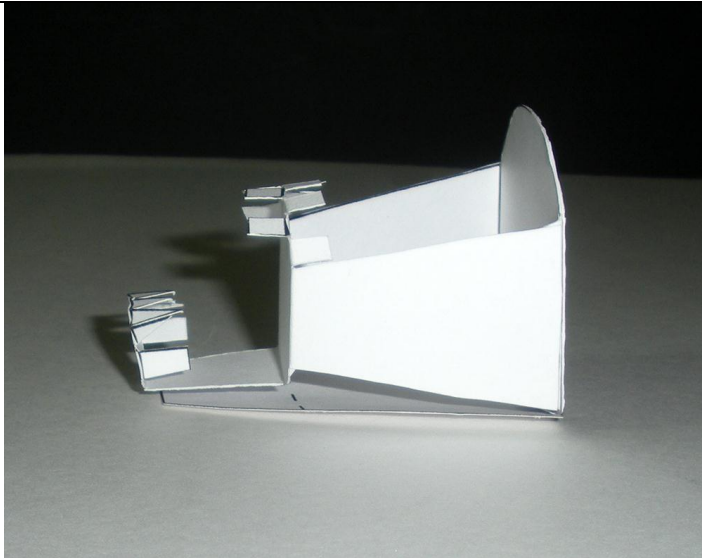
I hope you enjoy this unique "space shuttle" model.



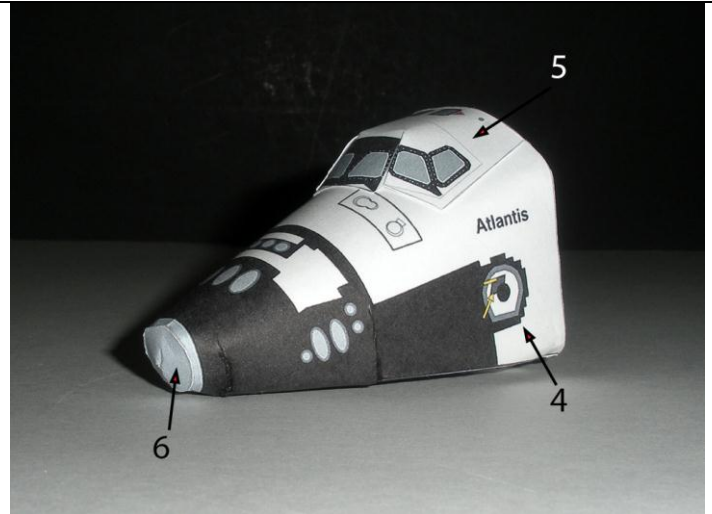
Fold 1 as shown. Glue to 3. **Only glue 1 to 3 at the larger end only, the rest just floats over part 3.**
The bottom of 3 should have a curve, not a flat surface (Forgot to do this while writing these directions).



Glue 2 on the back as shown with the line on the outside.



This is how it should look

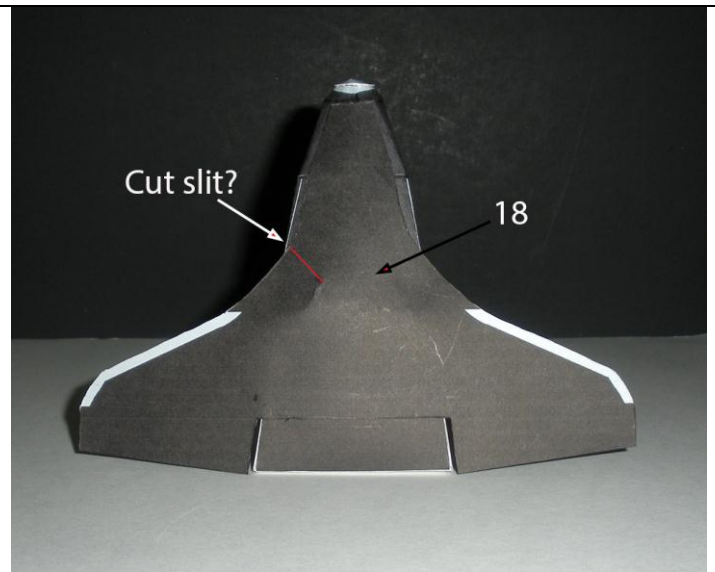
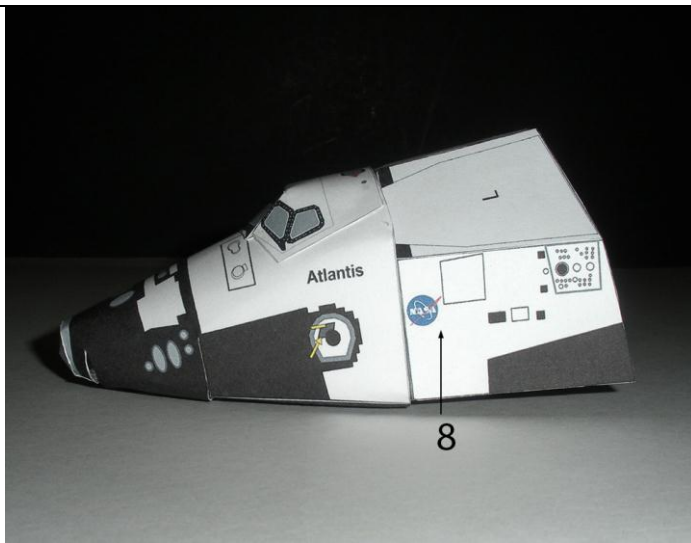
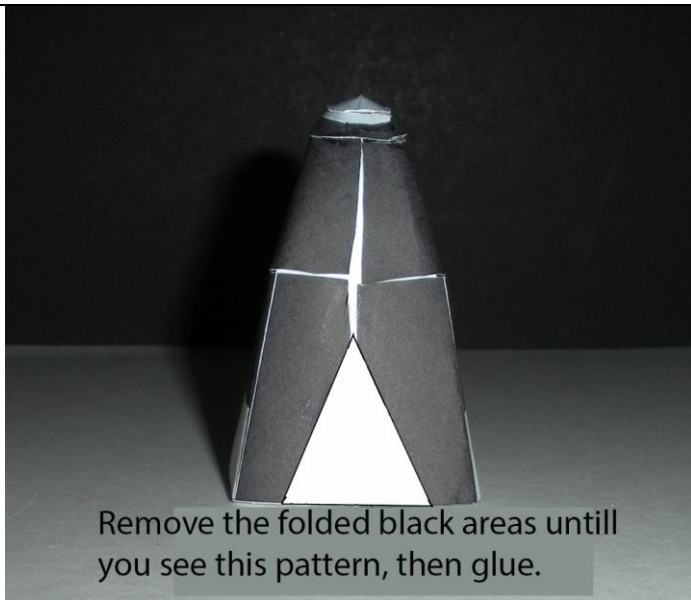


Color all edges of the black areas of part 4 black.

Pre-roll and fold 4 into shape. Glue to the inter framework. I start with the backside at the top matching the two lines on 4 and 2. Then down the sides.

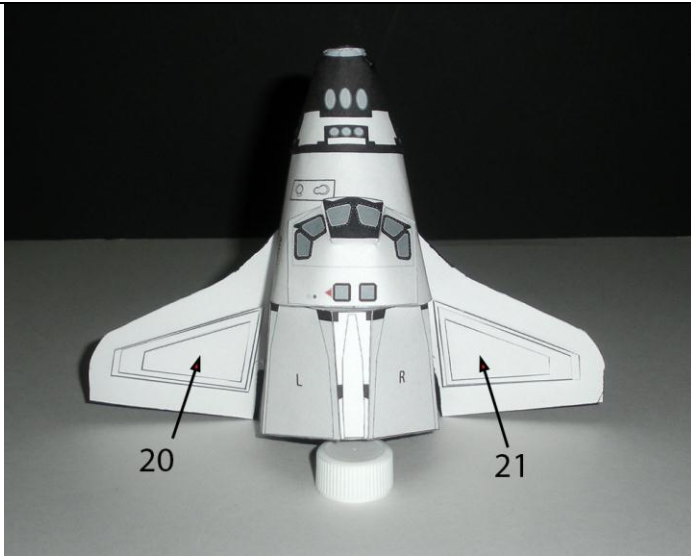
Cut, fold and glue 5 into place.

Roll 6 into a small shallow cone and glue into place. May need to trim around the edges to shape.



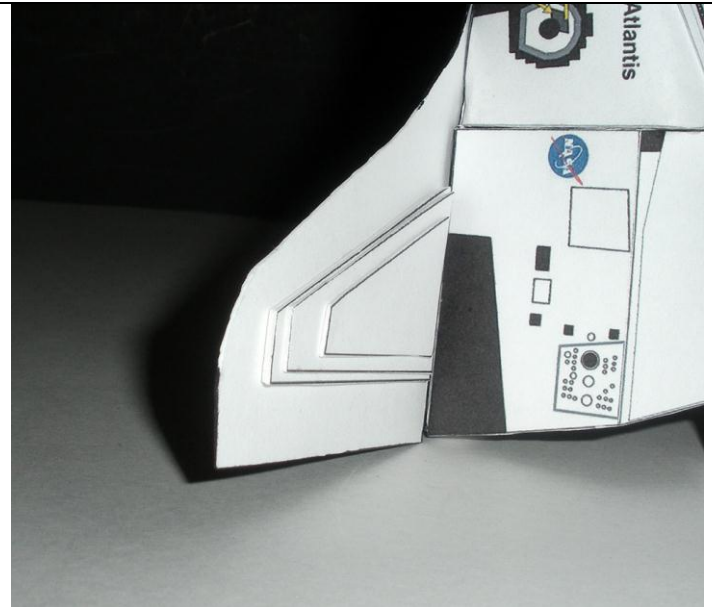
Cut, fold and glue 8 as shown.

Color all edges of part 18 black.
Stand the body on the table as shown and glue 18 into place, working from the bottom to the top.
May need to cut a slit (shown in red) about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long at an angle to help glue 18 flat under the body.



Glue the large piece of 20 and 21 to TWO LAYERS of thick cardstock.

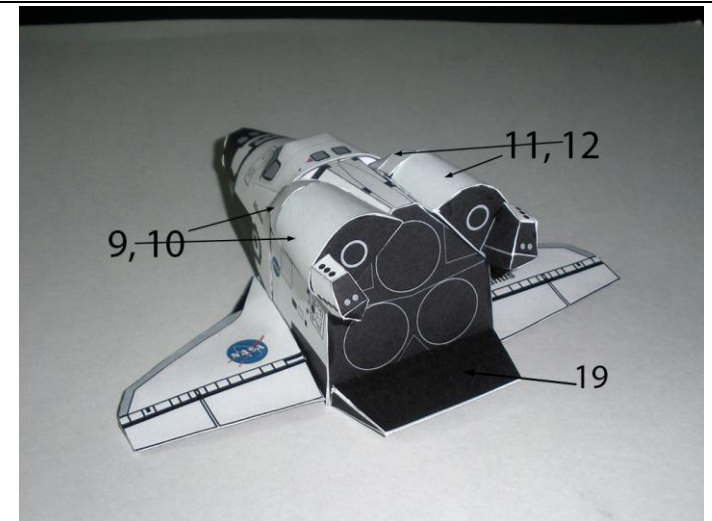
Glue the other two pieces of 20 and 21 to one layer of thick cardstock. Glue on top of each other and glue onto the wings as shown.



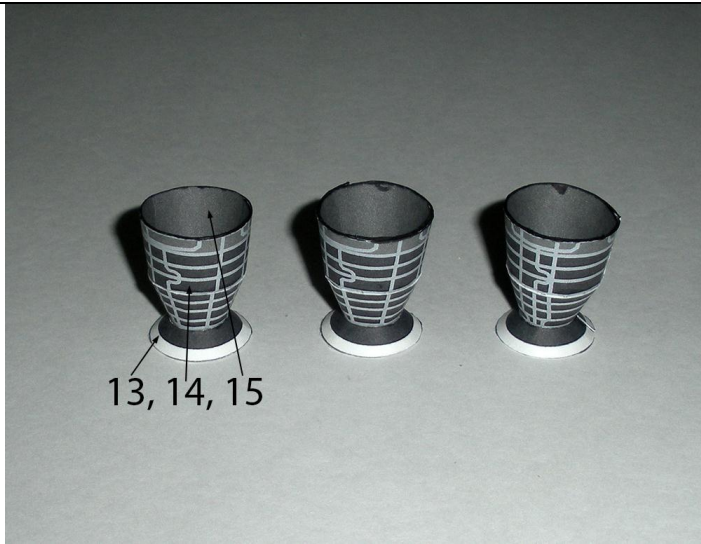
When gluing on top of each other, they should be glued so the top angled edges are flushed with each other (Not shown here).



Glue the wings...I start with the bottom making sure they are even with part 18, pressing against the shuttle's body. Then glue the tabs over on the front edges.

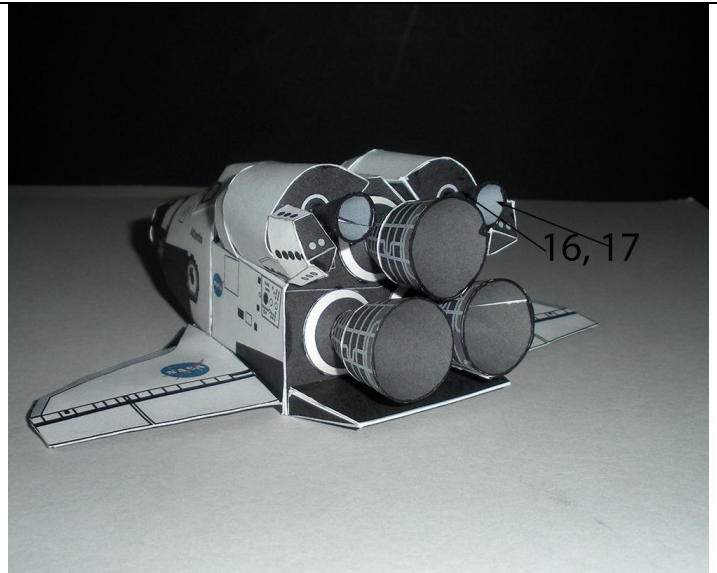


Fold and glue above parts as shown.

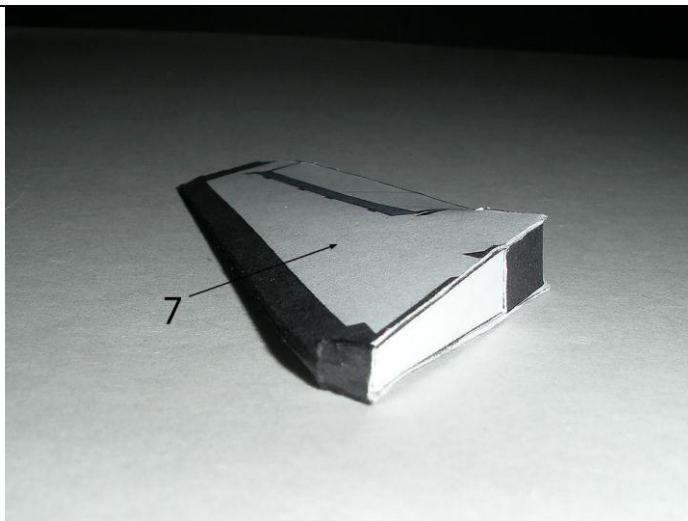


Color all edges black.

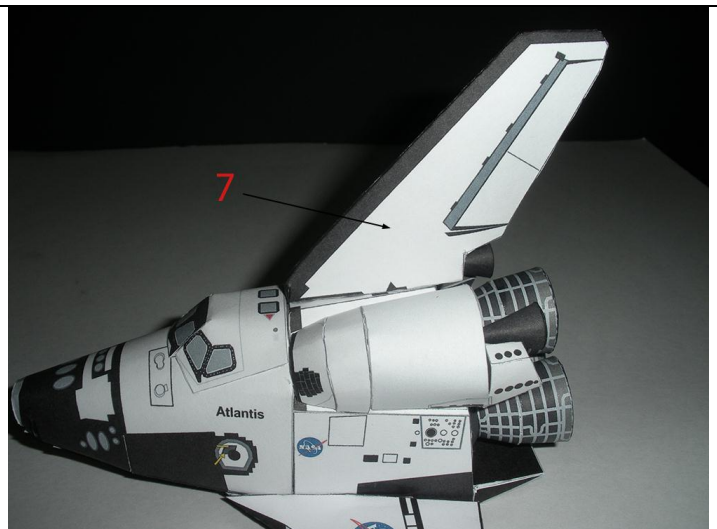
Assemble the main engines above. One of these need to have an angle (Shown on the right). This will be glued on the top center at the backside of the spacecraft – angled downwards.



Assemble 16, 17 and glue shown above.



Last part, the tail.
Color the front edge black.



Glue shown above.
Congrats! Your compact space shuttle is done.
Looks different and unique, huh.

