

Explorer 1 (The first U.S. satellite and the first satellite to carry science instruments).



Explorer 1 was the first U.S. satellite and the first satellite to carry science instruments. The satellite was launched on Jan. 31, 1958, from Cape Canaveral, Fla. onboard a Jupiter C rocket. Explorer 1 followed a looping flight path that orbited Earth once every 114 minutes. The satellite went as high as 2,565 kilometers (1,594 miles) and as low as 362 kilometers (225 miles) above Earth.

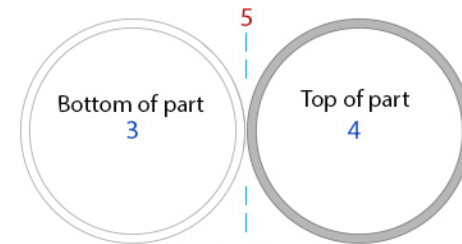
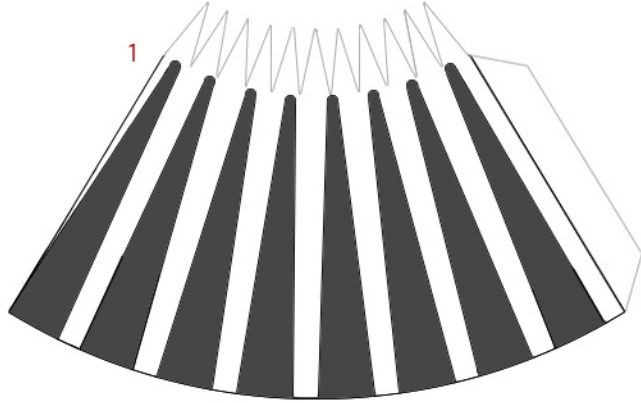
The first scientific discovery from space

Explorer 1 carried the very first scientific instruments into space. The primary payload was Dr. James van Allen's cosmic ray detector – a Geiger counter. It was designed and built by van Allen, who headed the University of Iowa's physics department.

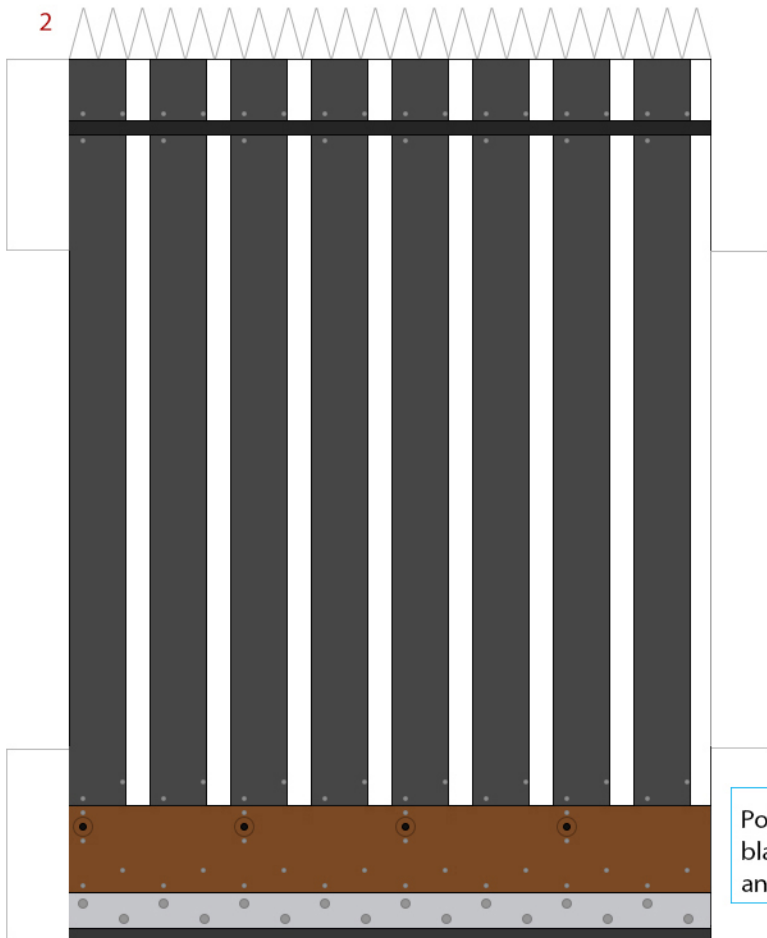
Van Allen's science instrument led to a significant discovery – a belt of intense radiation trapped by Earth's magnetic field. The Explorer 3 mission helped to confirm his belt theory, and later missions like Explorer 4 and Pioneer 3 provided more data that helped van Allen to discover a second, outer radiation belt. Together, these belts were named the Van Allen radiation belts, after the man who discovered them.



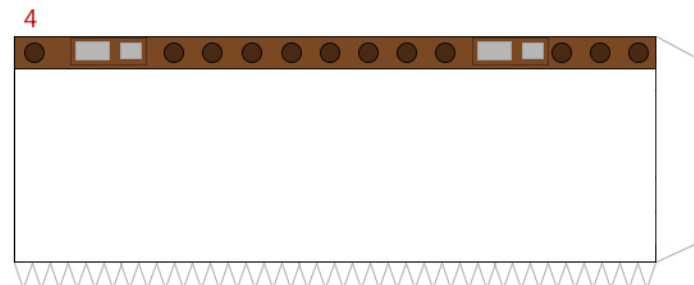
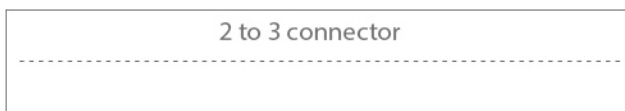
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Fold, glue back-to-back



Poke pin holes on the four
black dots on part 2 for the
antennas

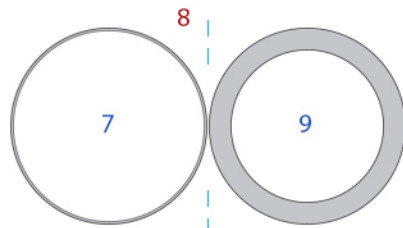


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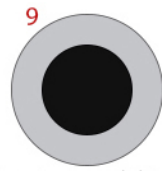


Part 6 bottom
former, glue to
cardstock

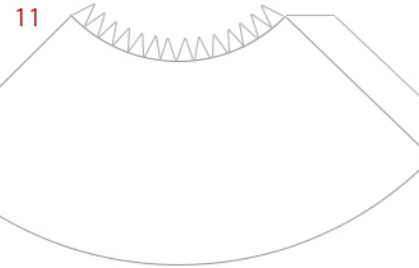
Part 7 top
former, glue to
cardstock



Fold, glue back-to-back



Glue to two (2) layers
of cardstock



Cut a Fishing wire, Nylon guitar string or similar material the same length as the line above for the antennas - colored light grey or silver - make two (2) of these.