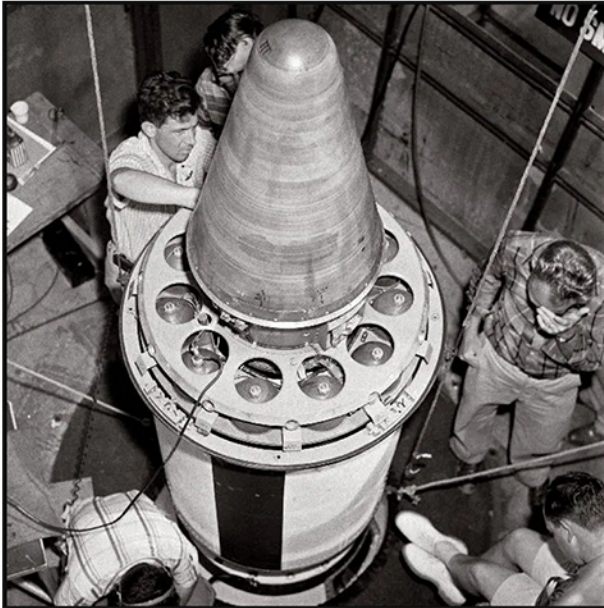


Jupiter - C (Redstone #40) Rocket

Launched the first man made object (nose cone) recovered from space



Nose cone installed on top of Jupiter -C



Recovered nose cone

The Jupiter-C was an American research and development vehicle developed from the Jupiter-A. Jupiter-C was used for three uncrewed sub-orbital spaceflights in 1956 and 1957 to test re-entry nosecones that were later to be deployed on the more advanced PGM-19 Jupiter mobile missile.

Engineers at the Ordnance Guided Missile Center at the Redstone Arsenal were quickly given authority to develop the Jupiter C to facilitate high-altitude re-entry tests of Jupiter missile components. The work was assumed by the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) upon its creation on February 1, 1956. Like the Jupiter A, the Jupiter C could have been correctly called a Redstone, but the name was changed to Jupiter C, or "Jupiter Composite", short for "Jupiter Composite Re-entry Test Vehicle."

A member of the Redstone rocket family, Jupiter-C was designed by the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA). Three Jupiter-C flights were made. These were followed by satellite launches with the vehicle designated as Juno 1, all were launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Each vehicle consisted of a modified Redstone ballistic missile (Both Juno 1 and Jupiter C employed a Redstone missile as first stage booster), with two solid-propellant upper stages. The tanks of the Redstone were lengthened by 8 ft (2.4 m) to provide additional propellant. The instrument compartment was also smaller and lighter than the Redstone's. The second and third stages were clustered in a "tub" atop the vehicle.

The third and last Jupiter C, bearing the letters "TX" (Redstone #40) was launched from Cape Canaveral Launch Pad 6 on August 8, 1957. This Jupiter C also carried a one-third scale Jupiter "ablative-type" nose cone, and marked an important "first" for rocketry. Even though the third stage initially failed to separate from the payload, it did break free during the harsh conditions of re-entry. The nose cone achieved a maximum altitude of 300 miles and impacted the ocean 1,160 miles downrange. **The nose cone was successfully recovered, marking the first time an object was recovered after flying in space.** The nose cone was found to be in excellent condition, proving that "ablative-type" nose cones were suitable for deployment aboard Jupiter missiles.

Classification: Research Rocket

Length: 68 feet, 7 inches (Carrying Inert Fourth Stage)

Length: 66 feet, 4 inches (Carrying 1/3-Scale Jupiter Nose Cone)

Diameter: 5 feet, 10 inches

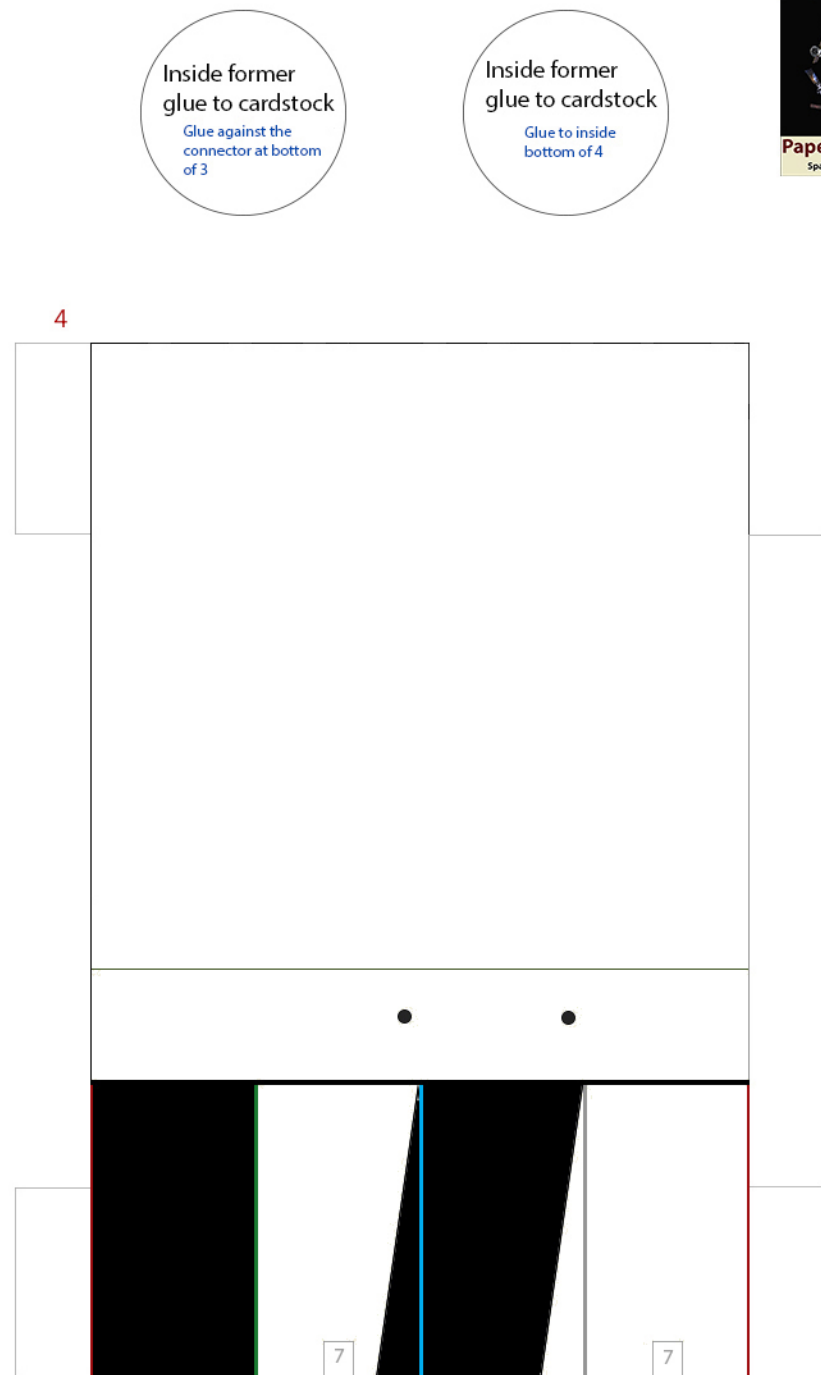
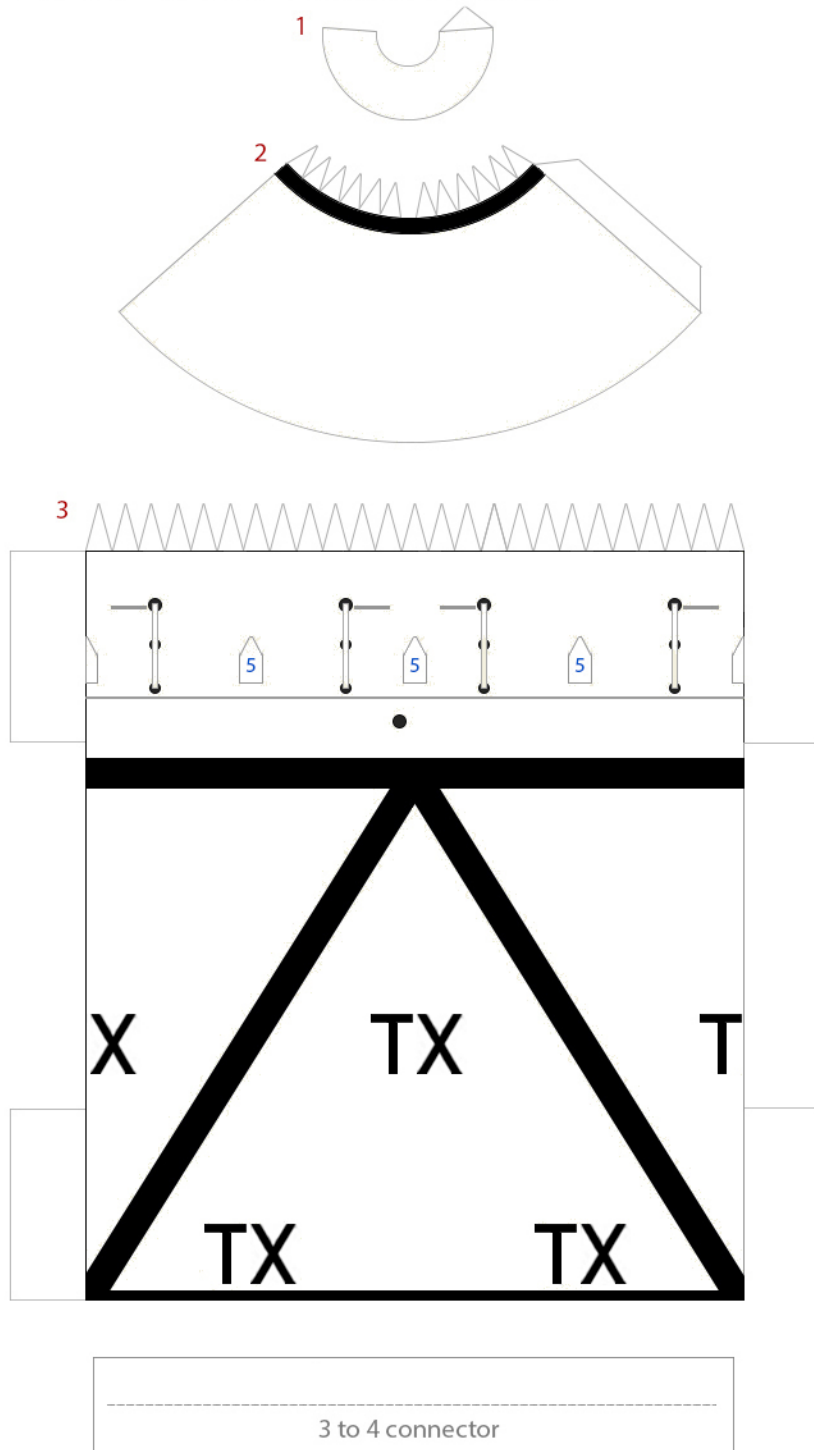
Finspan: 13 feet

Date of First Cape Canaveral Launch: September 20, 1956

Date of Final Cape Canaveral Launch: August 8, 1957

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