



Luna 2 (E-1A series) or Lunik 2 was the second of the Soviet Union's Luna programme spacecraft launched to the Moon. It was the first spacecraft to reach the surface of the Moon, and the first man-made object to land on another celestial body. On September 13, 1959, it hit the Moon's surface east of Mare Imbrium near the craters Aristides, Archimedes, and Autolycus.

Luna 2 was similar in design to Luna 1, a spherical spacecraft with protruding antennas and instrumentation. The instrumentation was also similar to Luna 1, including scintillation counters, geiger counters, a magnetometer, Cherenkov detectors, and micrometeorite detectors. There were no propulsion systems on Luna 2 itself.

The Soviet Union's Luna 2 spacecraft intentionally crashed into the moon on September 14, 1959, becoming the first manmade spacecraft to reach the moon.

Luna 2 was actually the Soviet Union's second attempt to reach the moon. Luna 1 had missed its target by about 3,700 miles after it launched in January of the same year.

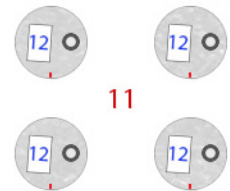
Other facts...

Russia wanted the world to know that they had reached the Moon. They did this by providing the details of Luna 2's trip to Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, England. At the time, Jodrell Bank was the world's largest radio telescope and just about the only one capable of tracking Luna 2 from Earth to the Moon. Jodrell Bank began receiving signals from Luna 2 after take-off. When the signals stopped, this was confirmation that Luna 2 had reached the surface of the Moon as the impact would have destroyed the spacecraft. Impact happened at 21:02:24 GMT on 13th September 1959. Several astronomers confirm that at around the same time, they spotted a flash of light on the Moon's surface.

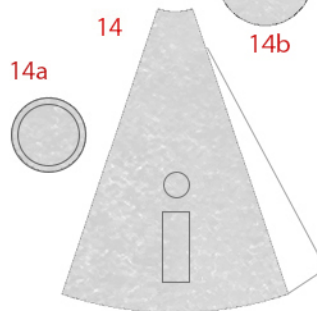
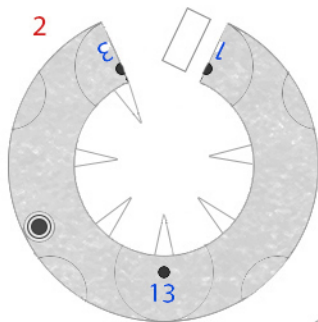
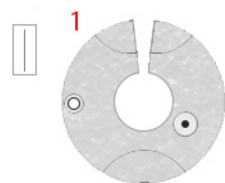
While it was making its journey, Luna 2 released sodium gas. This gas reacted with radiation from the Sun which made it glow. This made Luna 2 easier to spot and basically turned the spacecraft into a man-made comet.

Luna 2 was launched from Launch Pad 1 - also now as Gagarin's Start - at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 06:39:42 GMT on 12th September 1959. The Baikonur Cosmodrome is the world's oldest and largest spaceport and the area it takes up is leased by Kazakhstan to Russia.

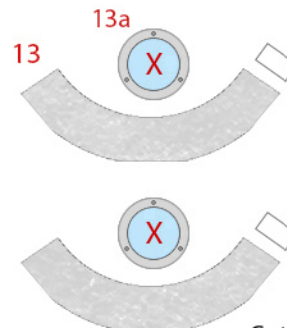
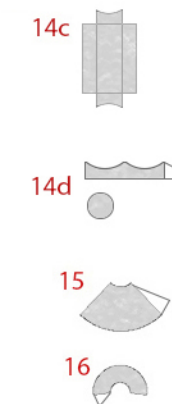
luna-2



Poke small holes on the circles on the square tabs.
Need four plastic broom straws or similar material cut at 62 mm long, colored light grey or silver.

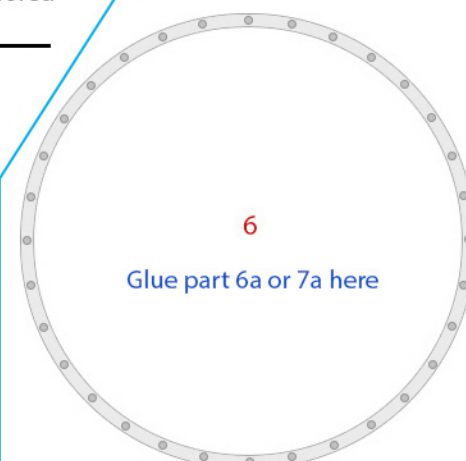


Need plastic broom straw cut at 80 mm long, colored light grey or silver.



Cut out the blue circles

Need four tooth pics - similar material cut around 6 mm long, colored light grey or silver - **OR** use these parts below.



Glue part 6a or 7a here

Glue one of these to cardstock, then glue both back-to-back



Glue part 6a or 7a here

Optional detail parts...

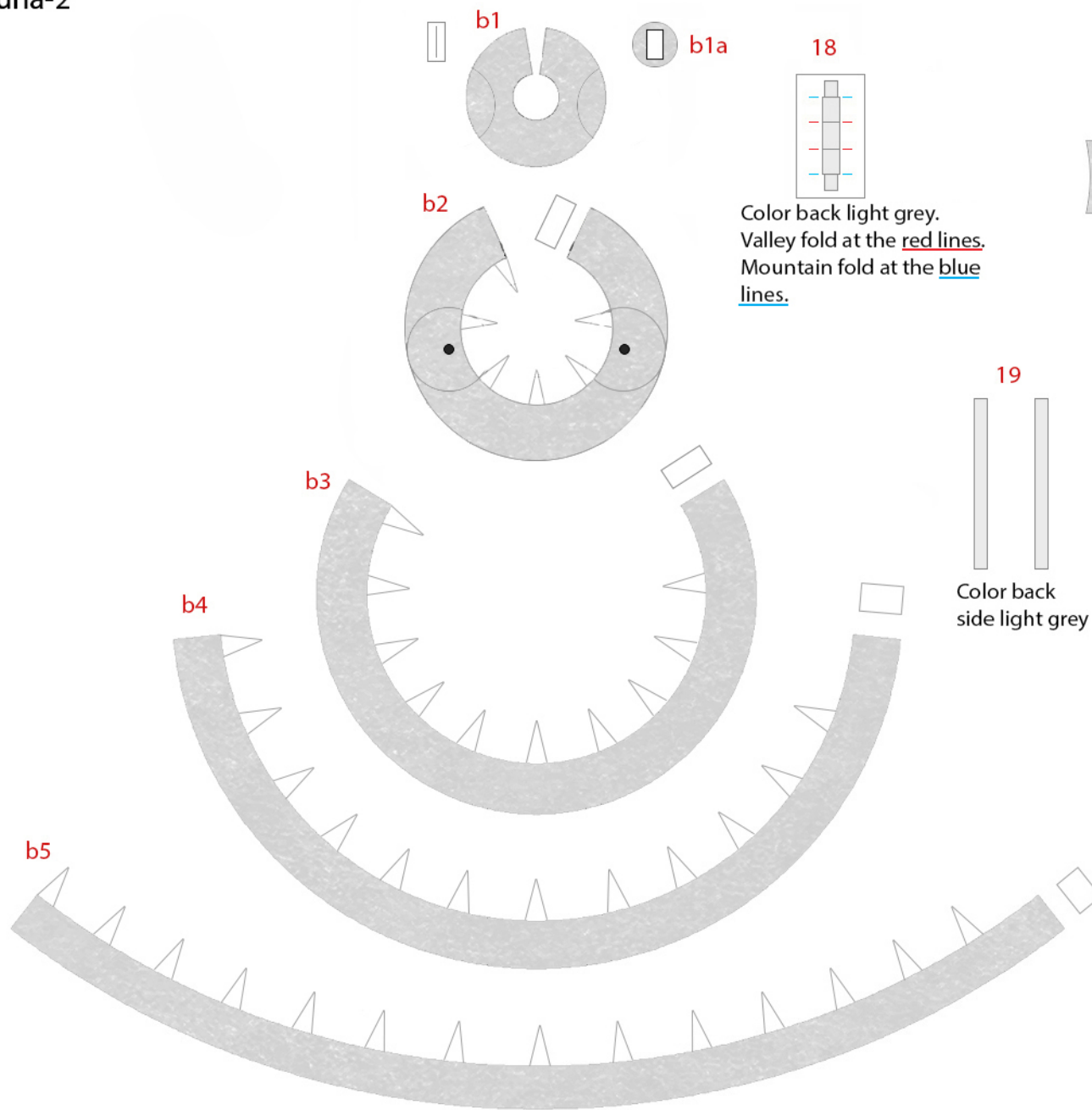
Can use these instead of the four tooth pics as stated above.

Roll these to tight solid rods, glue on the black dots in the circle marked "13" after gluing parts 13 and 13a in place.

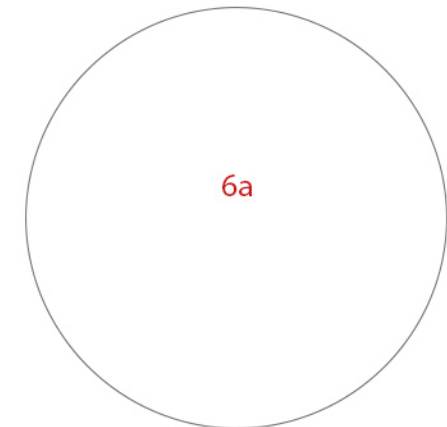
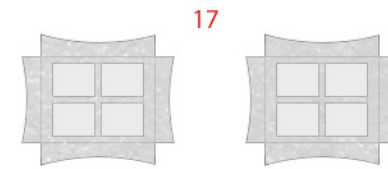
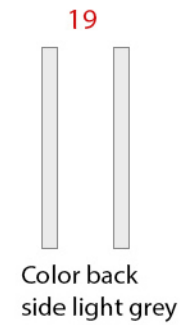


Zach's





Color back light grey.
 Valley fold at the red lines.
 Mountain fold at the blue lines.



Glue each to cardstock, then glue each one to one side of parts 6 and 7 for easier assembly.

