

Titan IVB - Last of the Titans



Last Titan 4 rocket blasts off from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base October 19, 2005.

On October 19, 2005, a rocket blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base – the last Titan rocket. Carrying a payload for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the successful Titan IV B launch brought to a close the Titan program whose first launch was in 1959. Originally designed as an intercontinental ballistic missile, the Titan rocket ultimately evolved into a heavy lift workhorse, launching defense, commercial and scientific payloads to Earth orbit and beyond. In fact, many historic space explorations began with Titan launches, including manned Gemini missions, the Viking missions to Mars, the Voyager tours of the outer solar system, and the Cassini spacecraft now orbiting Saturn. Cassini's probe Huygens accomplished the most distant landing on another world, while Voyager 1 is now humanity's most distant spacecraft.

Titan IVB, first flown on 23 February 1997, was an improved version of the Titan-IVA. The Titan IVB featured a pair of upgraded solid rocket boosters (SMRU). At launch, only the solid rockets ignite. The first stage LR-87-AJ-11 engines ignite shortly after two minutes into the flight, just before the SMRUs burn out. When their fuel is exhausted, the SMRUs separate and, with the aid of several small staging rockets, fall away from the core rocket.

The core stage, as well as the second stage, are fueled with storable hypergolic propellants.

The rocket could be configured with a Centaur upper stage, an Inertial Upper Stage, or no upper stage, depending on payload requirements.

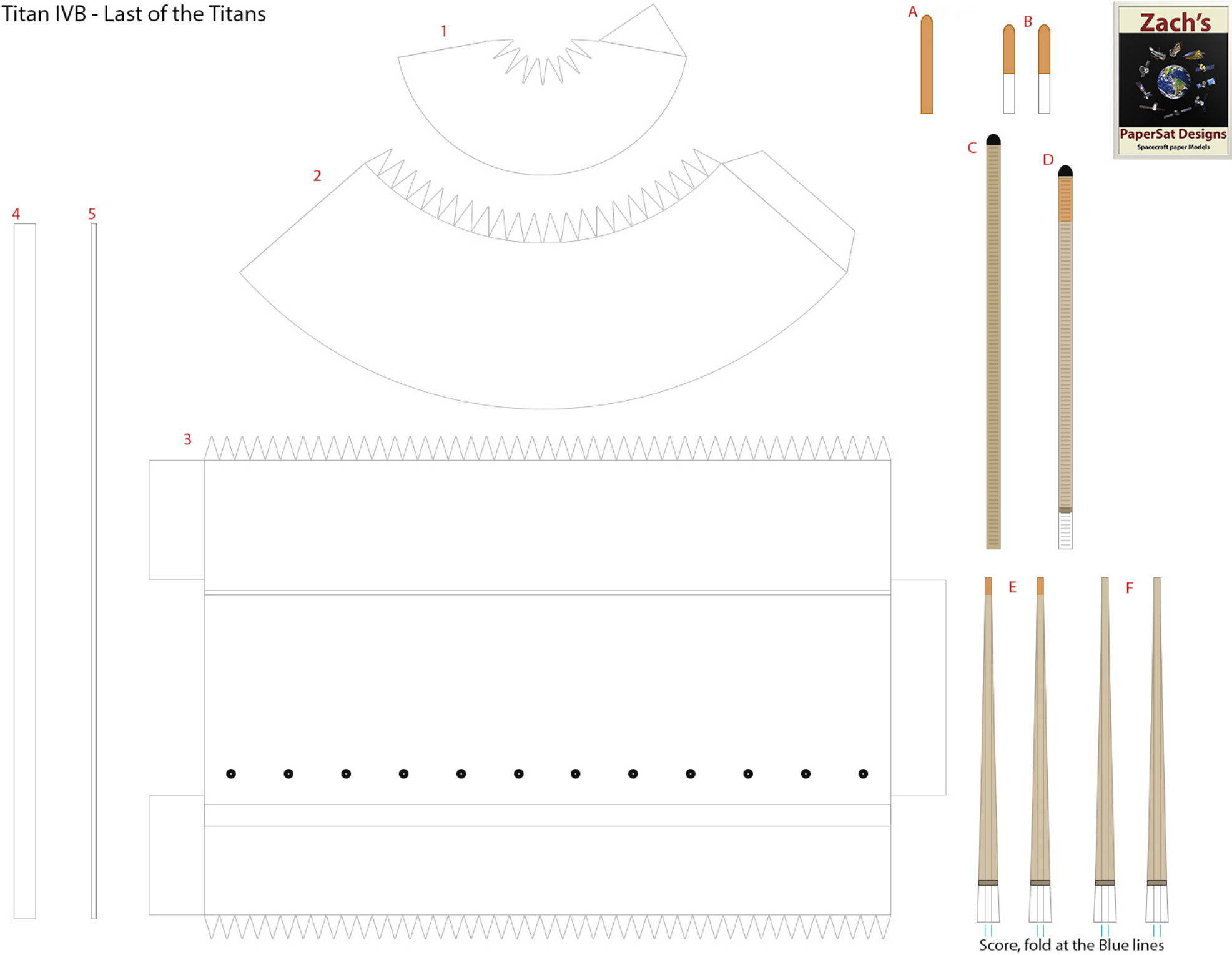
Payloads included the Cassini/Huygens Saturn mission, launched on 15 October 1997, and several military payloads.

The last Titan IVB rocket launched on 19 October 2005. A total of 17 Titan IVB rockets were launched, with two failures.

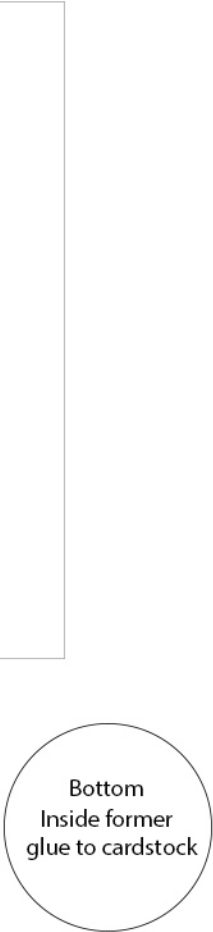
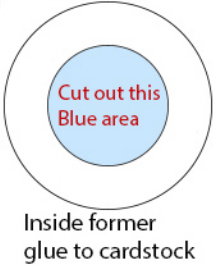
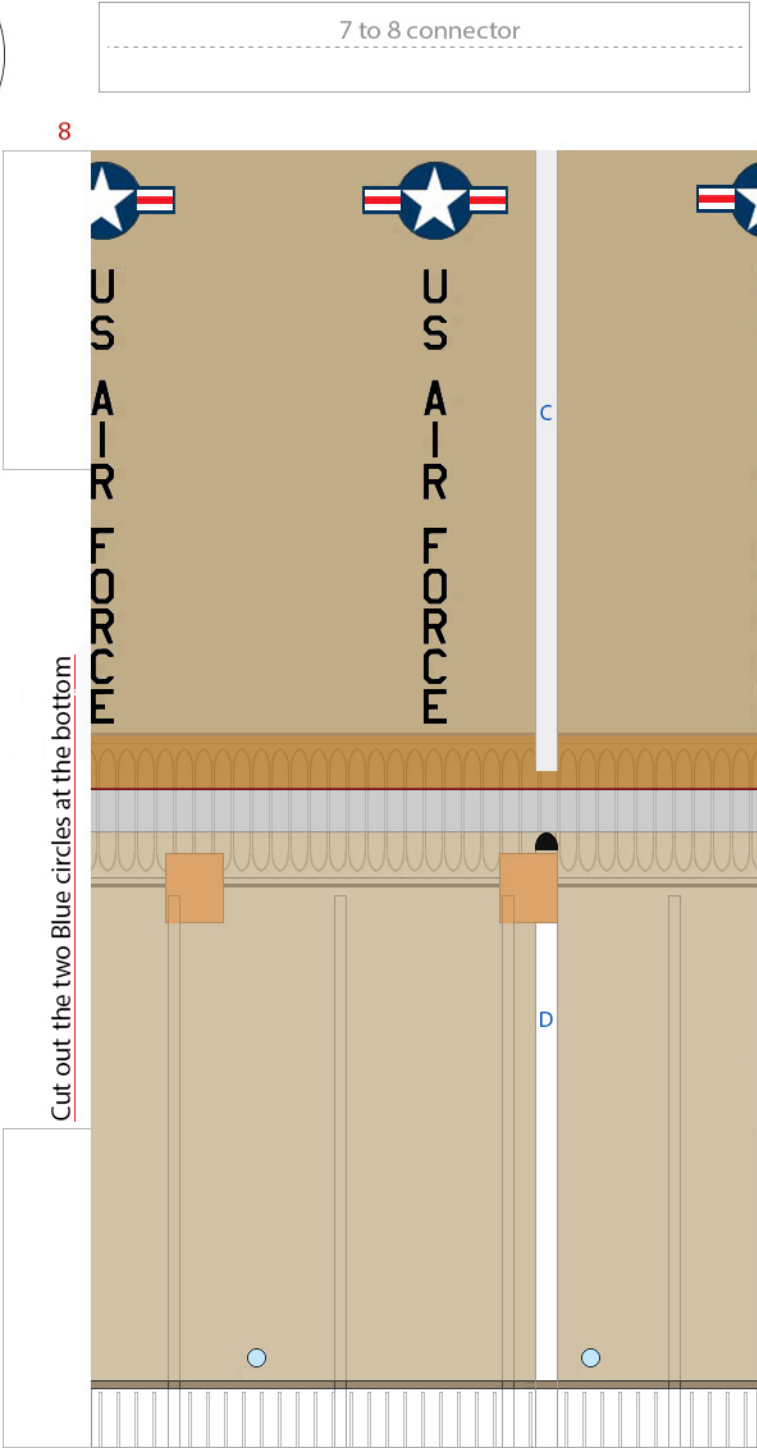
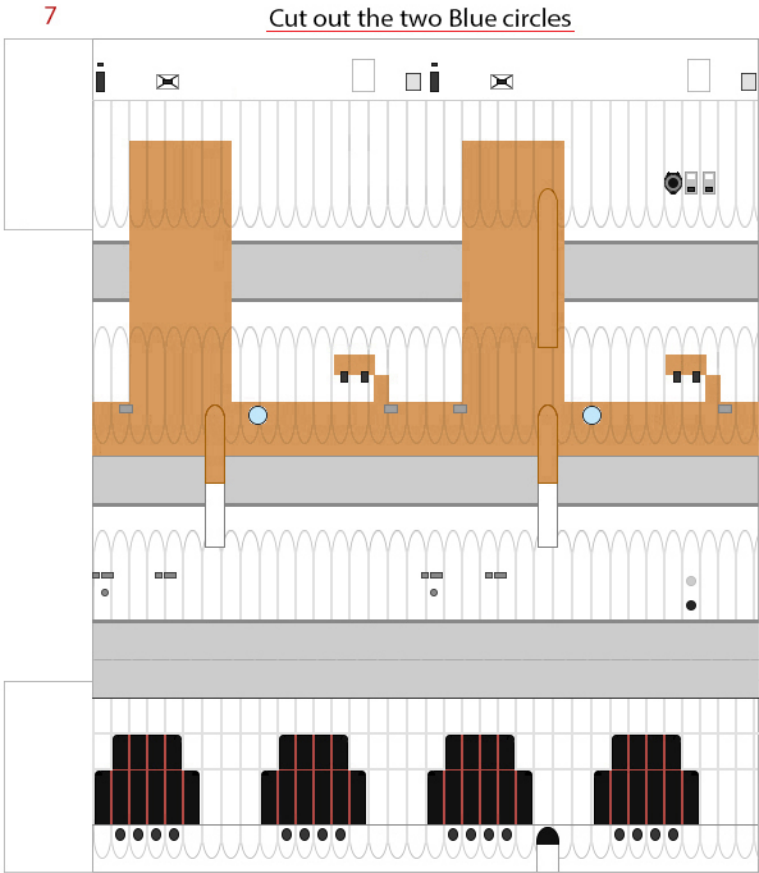
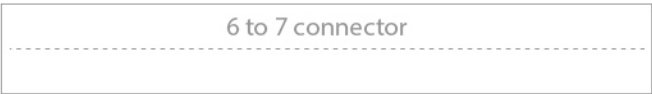
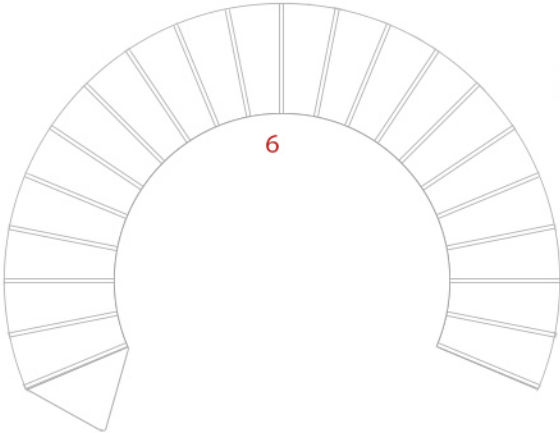
This is the model of the last Titan rocket to fly



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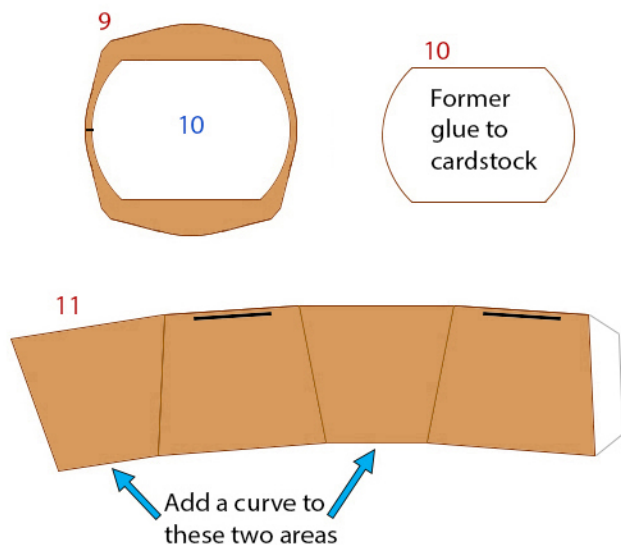


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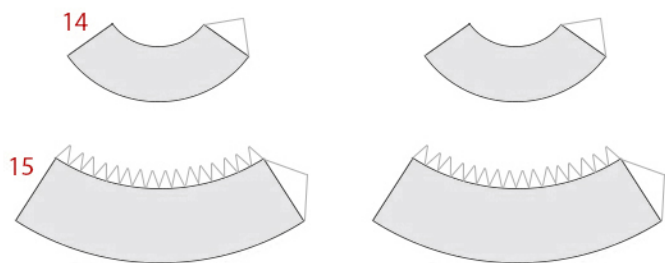
Cut two (2) tooth pics the same length as the line above for the booster support rods



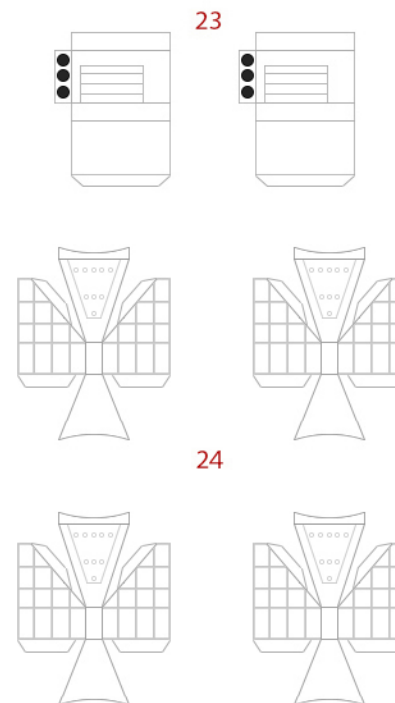
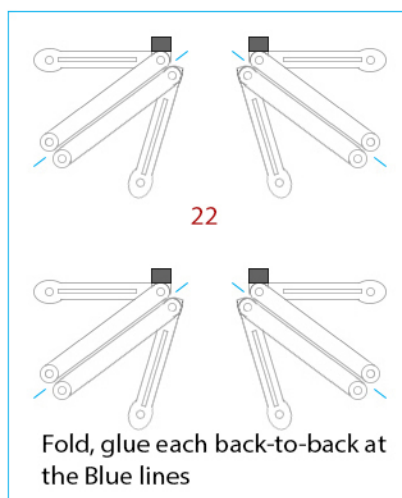
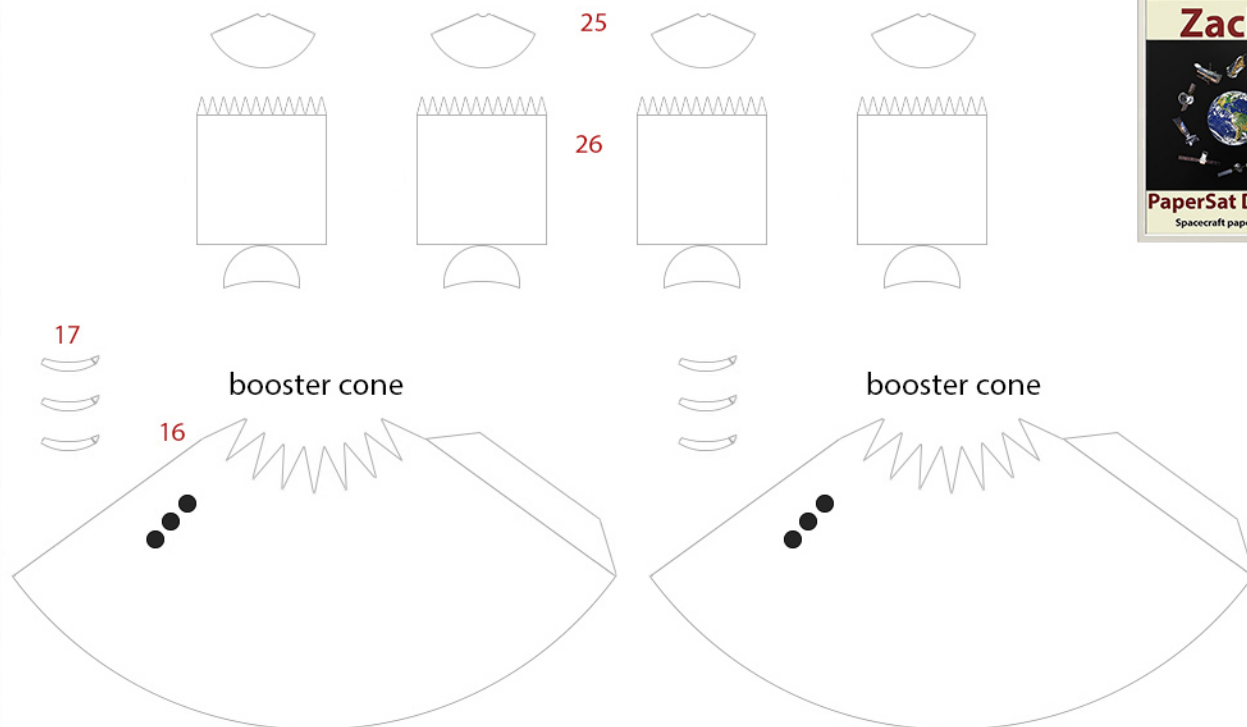
12
Inside former
glue to cardstock



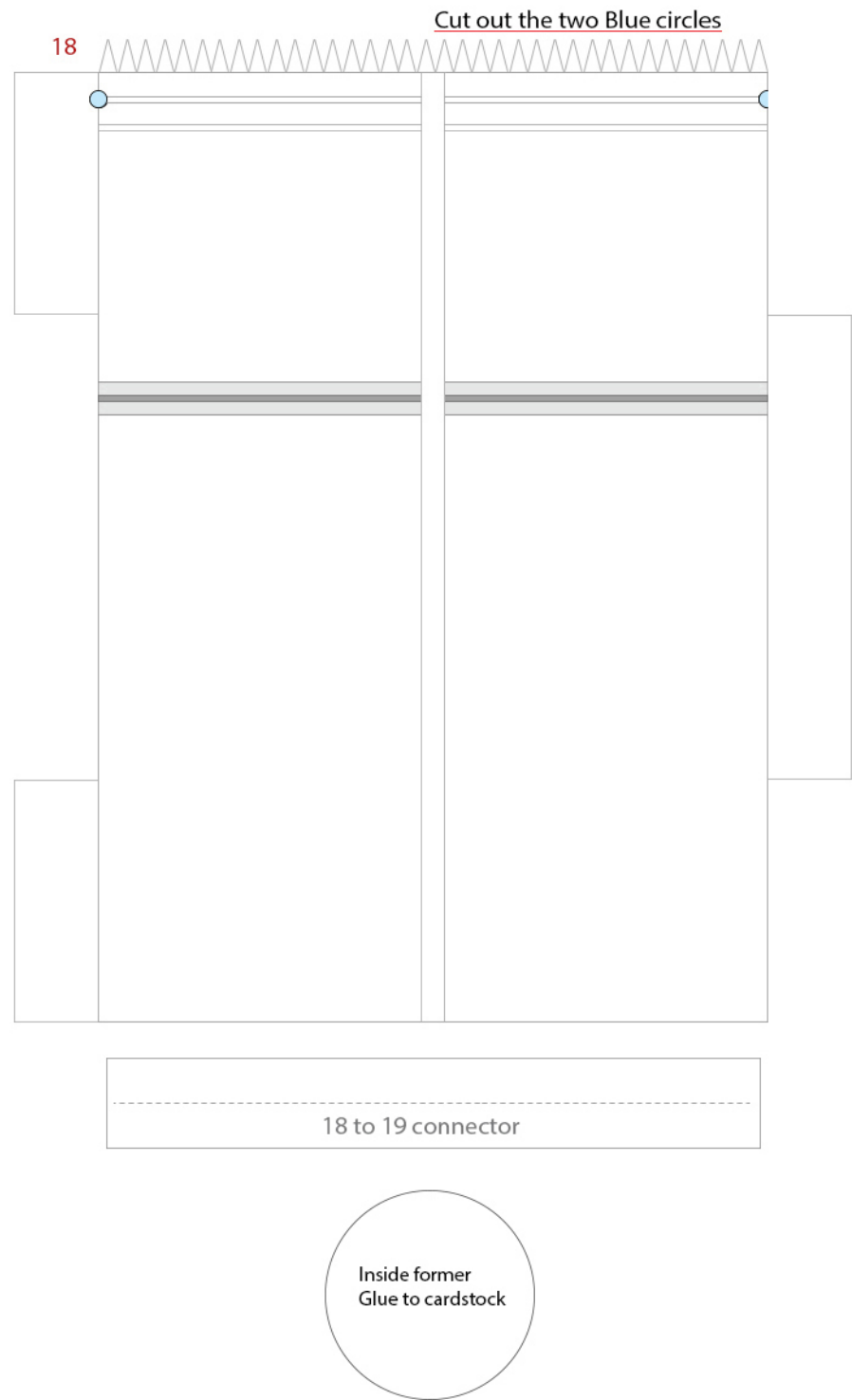
13a



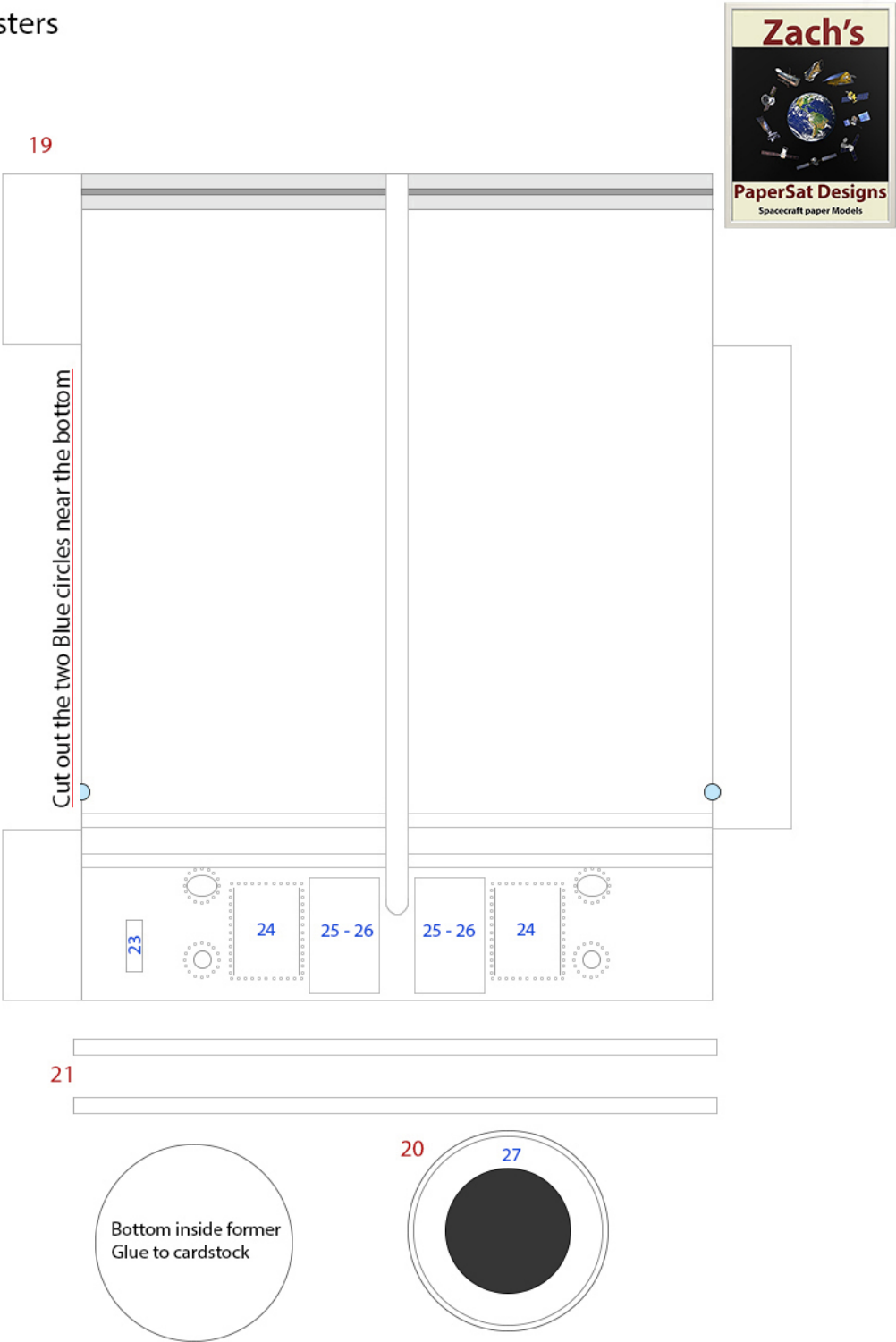
Color back Dark Red



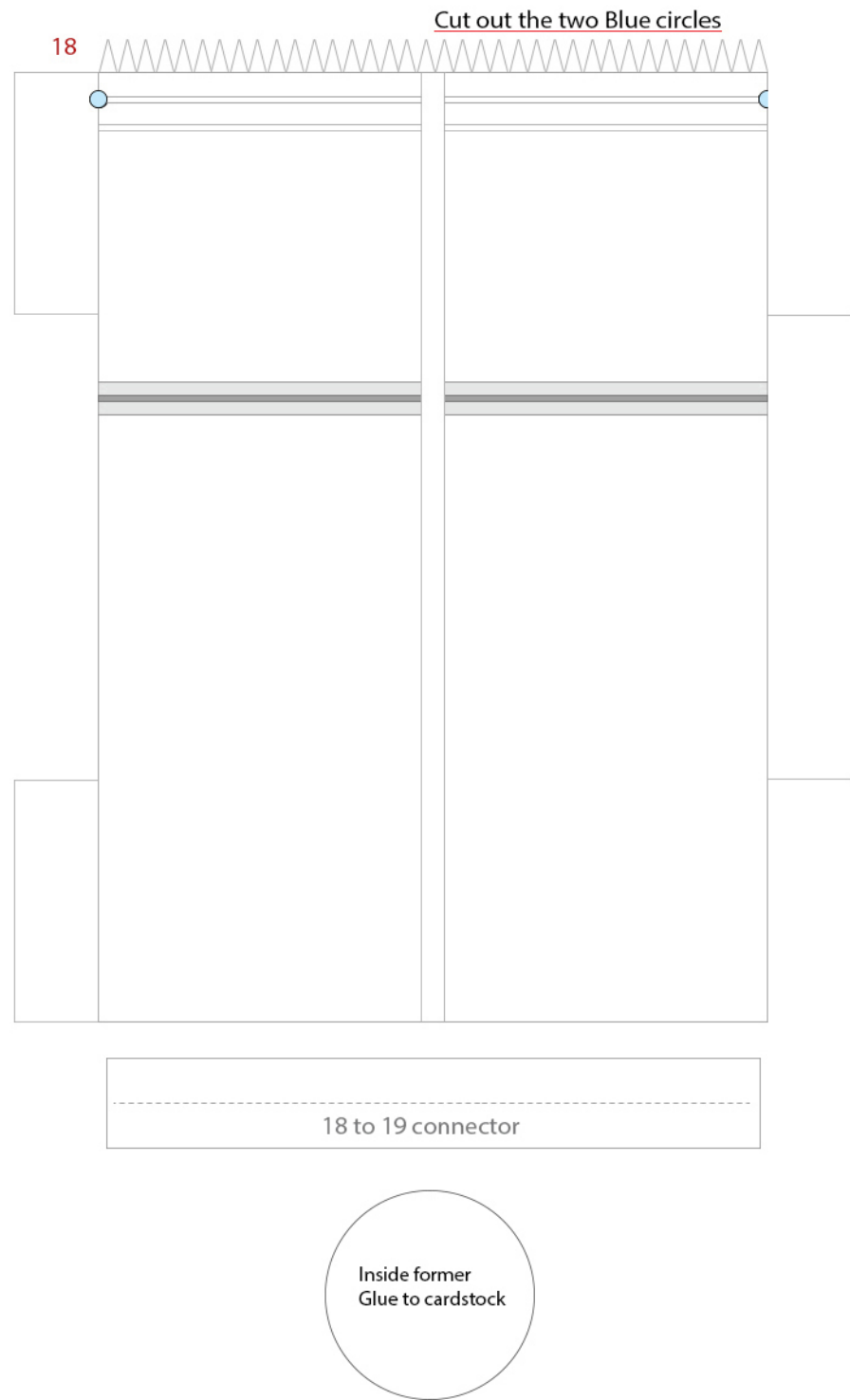
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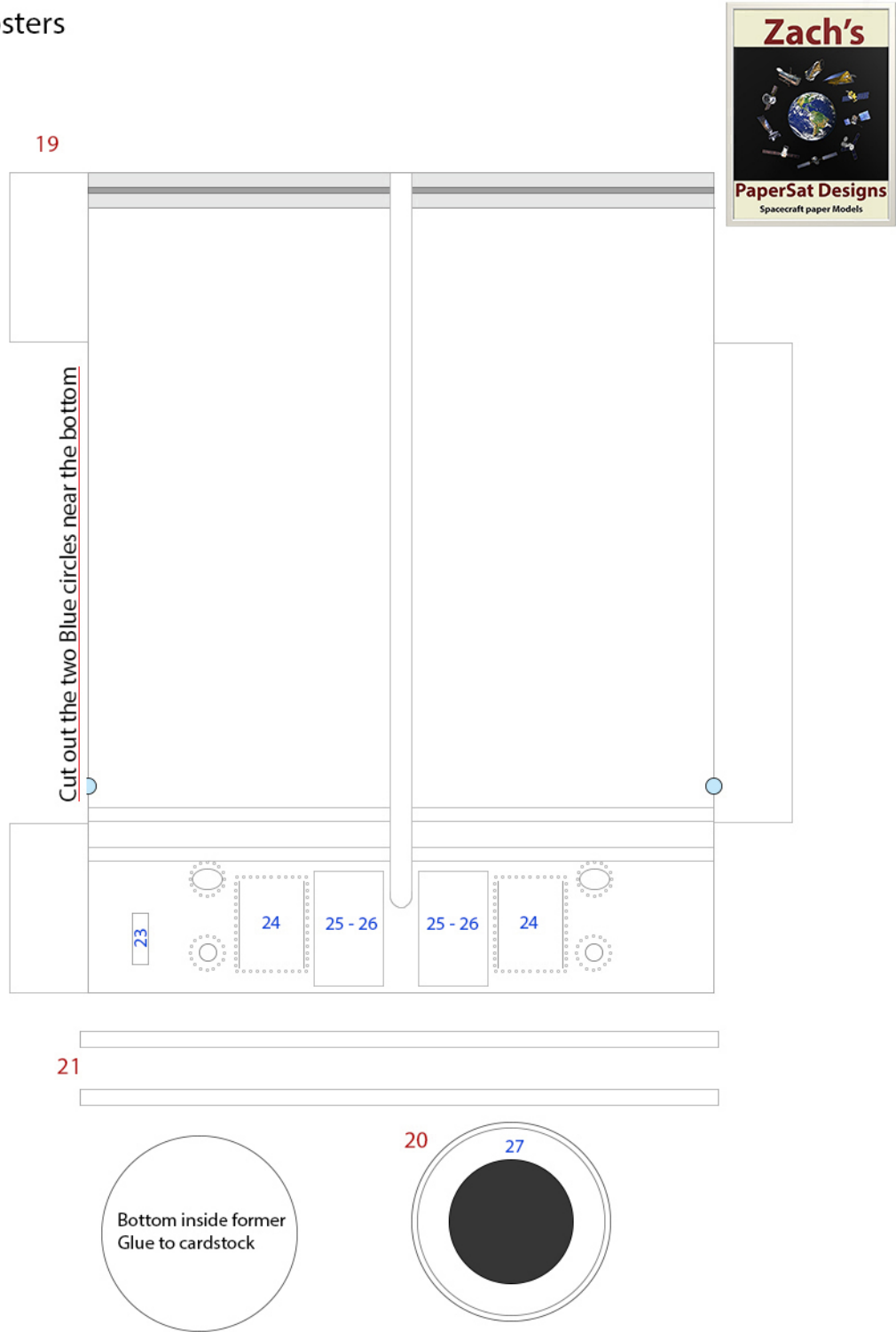
Boosters



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