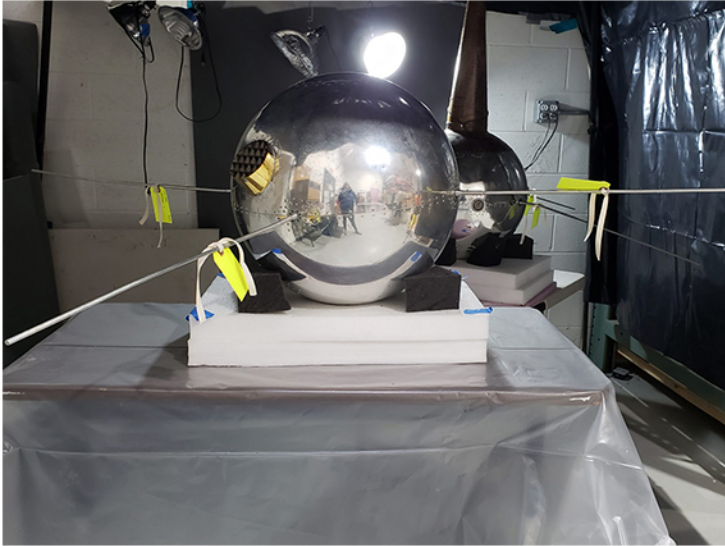


Vanguard 2



Vanguard 2: NASA's First Successful Satellite Launch

After the string of four failures that followed the launch of Vanguard 1 in March of 1958, the project team and its industrial partners had much work ahead of them to improve the reliability of the Vanguard launch. After a five month stand down, the former-NRL team was ready to launch their first satellite under NASA management. By early 1959, the components of SLV-4 (Satellite Launch Vehicle 4) had been exhaustively tested and assembled at Launch Complex 18A at the Eastern Test Range in Florida.

At 10:55 AM EST (15:55 GMT) on February 17, 1959, SLV-4 smoothly lifted off and headed towards space. Once the third and final stage had burned out, the 10.8-kilogram Vanguard 2 was in a 557 by 3,319 kilometer orbit inclined 32.9° to the equator. After a string of three unsuccessful Moon.

NASA finally had its first successful launch into space. As the first weather satellite (TIROS-1 was the first full-scale weather satellite) and one of the first orbital space missions, the launch of Vanguard 2 was an important milestone in the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

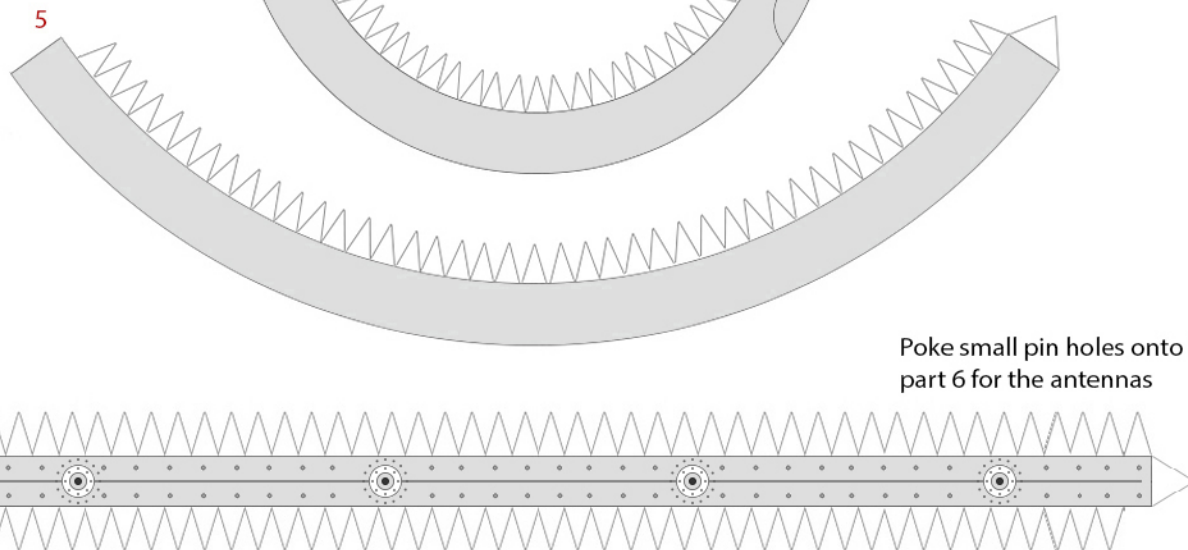
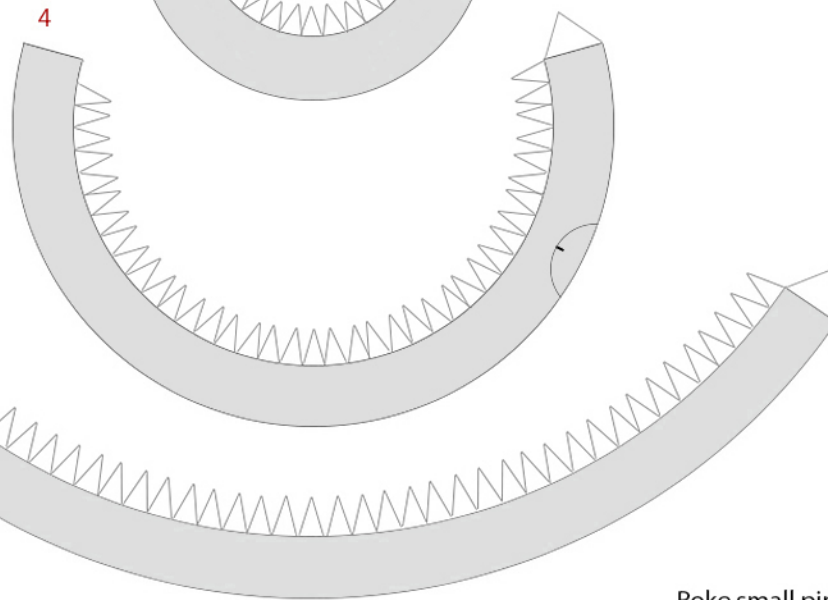
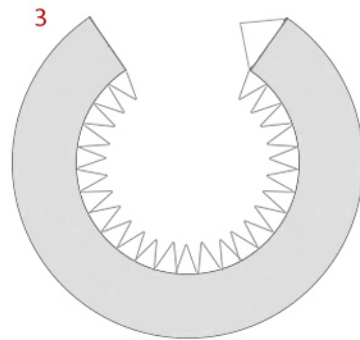
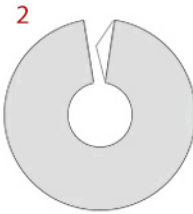
It was designed to measure cloud cover and resistance, but a poor axis of rotation and its elliptical orbit kept it from collecting a notable amount of useful data.

After the scientific mission ended, both Vanguard 2 and the upper stage of the rocket used to launch the satellite became derelict objects that would continue to orbit Earth for many years. Both objects remain in orbit. As Vanguard 1, Vanguard 2, and Vanguard 3 are still orbiting with their drag properties essentially unchanged, they form a baseline data set on the atmosphere of Earth that is over 60 years old and continuing. Vanguard 2 has an expected orbital lifetime of 300 years.

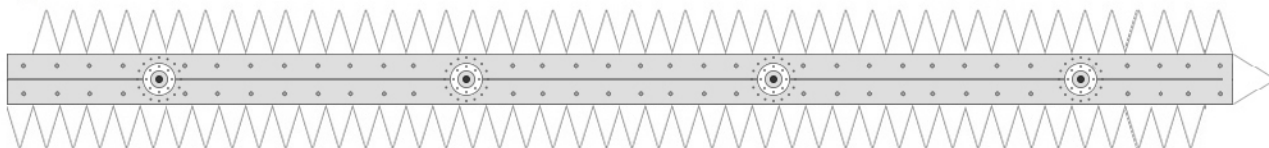


Vanguard 2

TOP



6



Poke small pin holes onto the four black dots on part 6 for the antennas

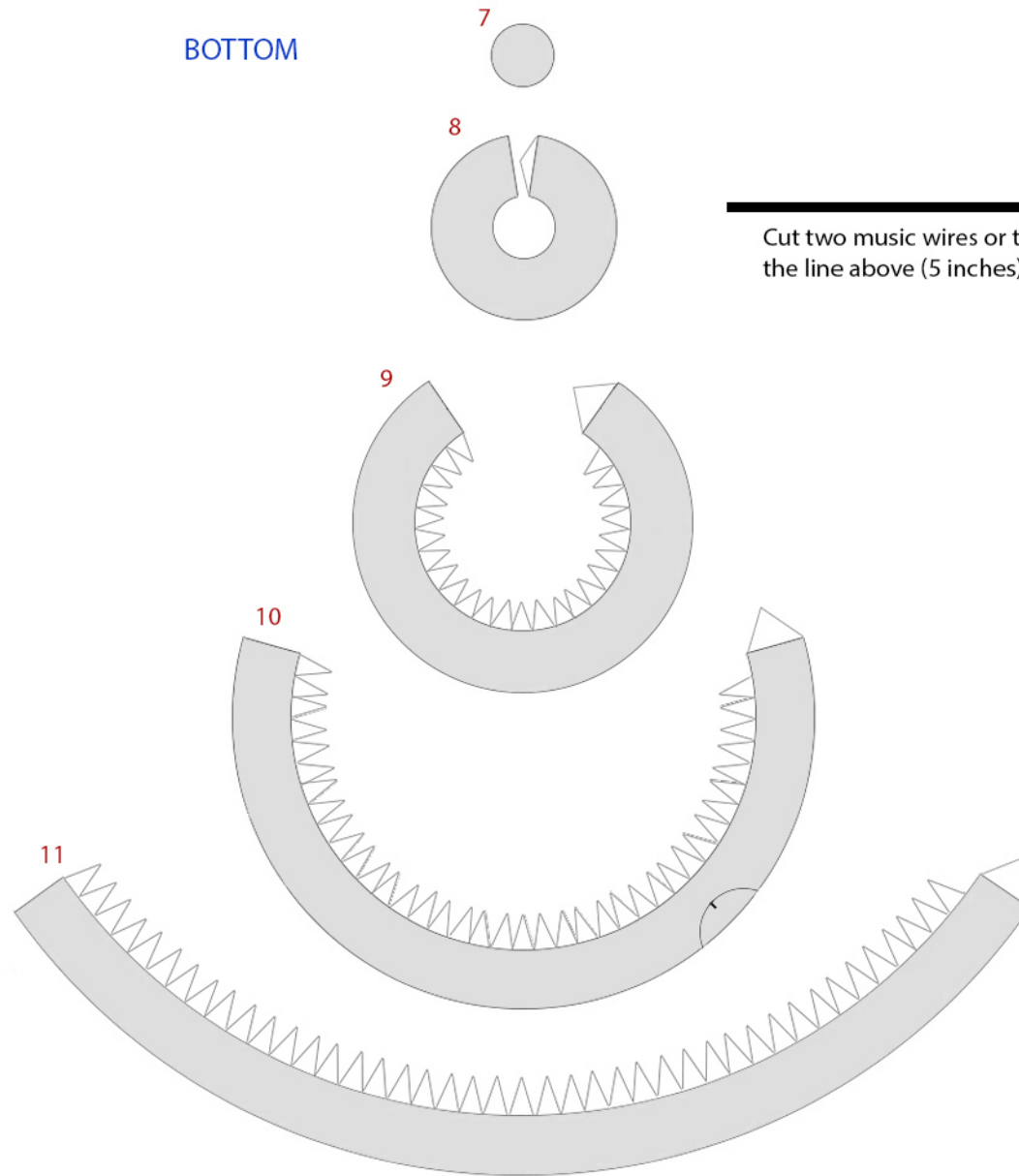
12



13



BOTTOM



Cut two music wires or thin-stiff wires around 1mm diameter, the same length as the line above (5 inches) colored light grey or silver for the antennas.

Important: Mark the center of the antenna with a marker

Cut a music wire or thin-stiff wire around 1mm diameter, the same length as the line above (10 inches) colored light grey or silver for the antennas.