

The G.N.U. - "Les Pionniers de l'Espérance" - 1/24 scale

28/03/2020 — Standard Techniques



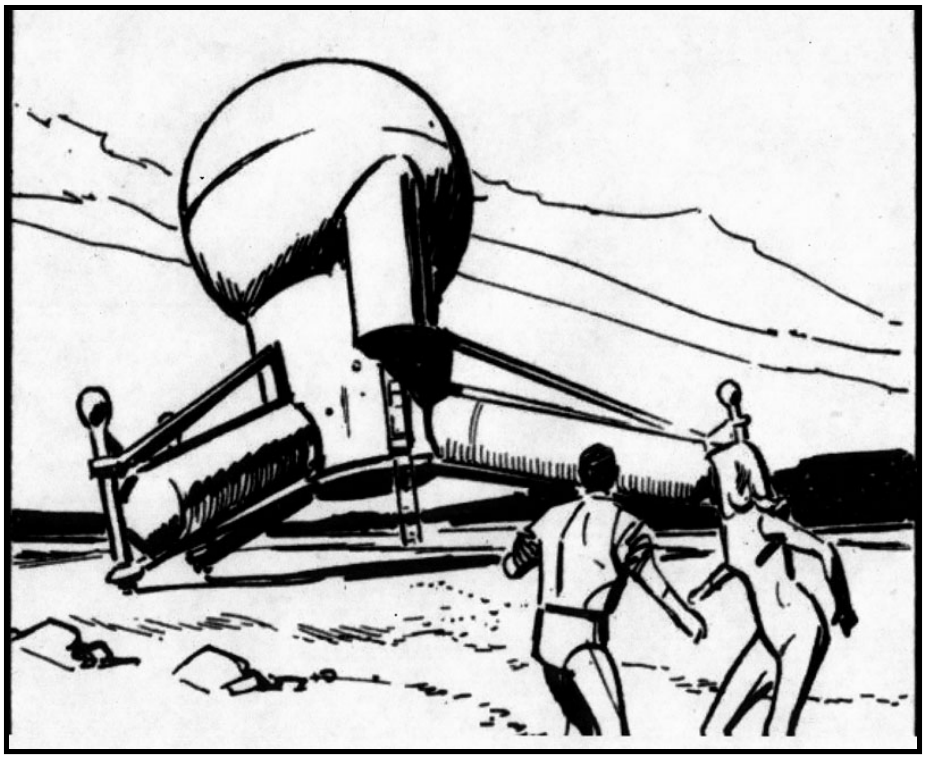
Contents

1. Painting
2. The Setting

Les Pionniers de l'Espérance ! La première bd de sci-fi française ! Leur astronef s'appelait "l'Espérance" et était bien plus grand. Plus tard, nous retrouvons le couple principal - les deux agents de l'E.M.C. - Thanga et Maud - qui se promènent d...

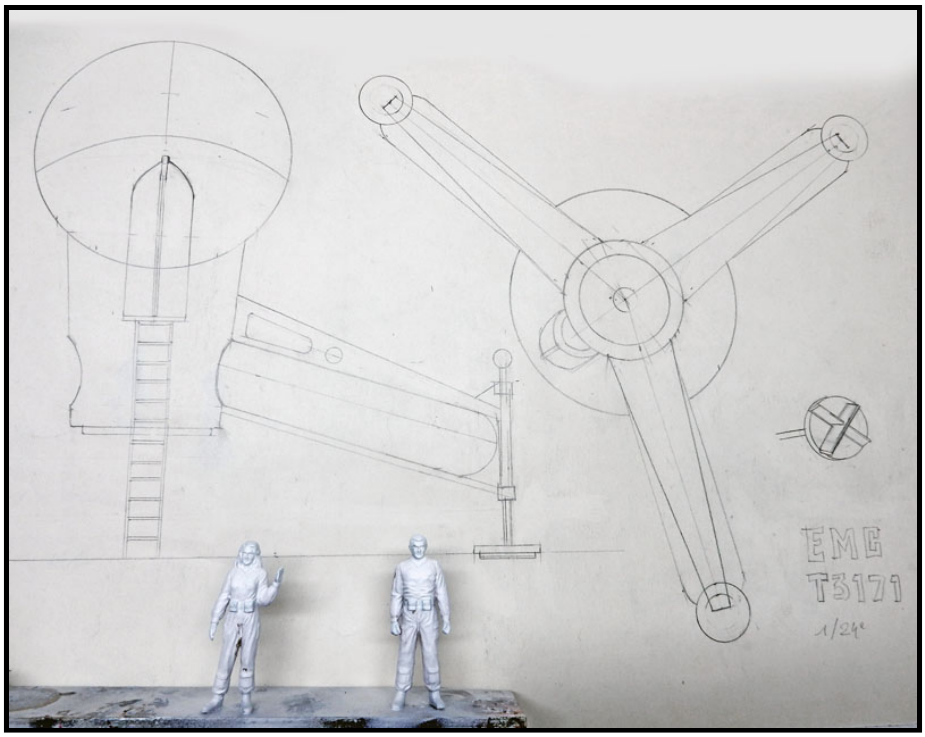




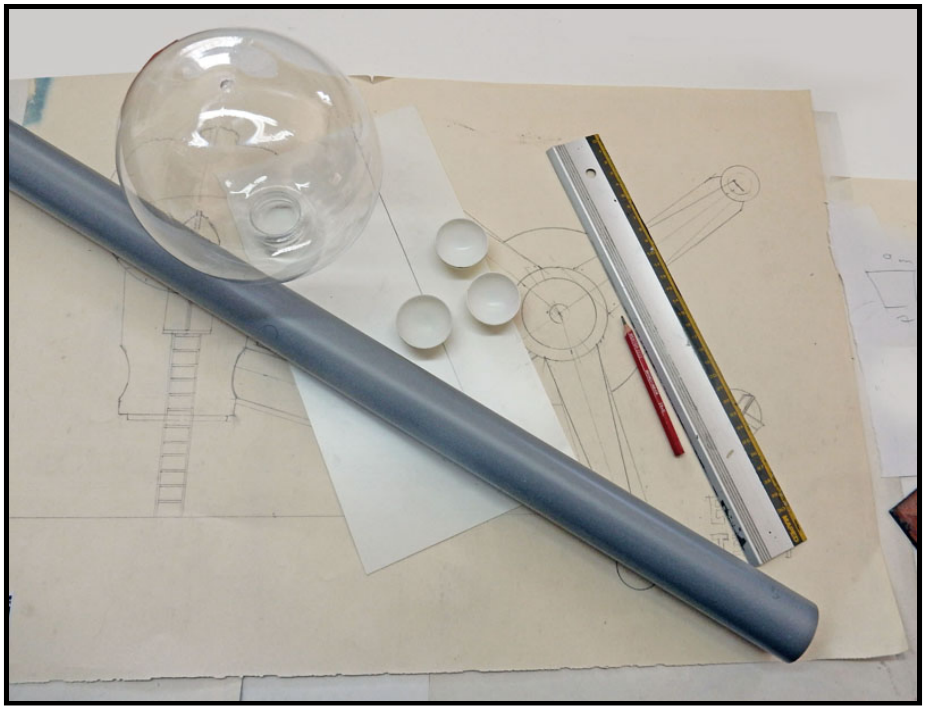


The Pioneers of Hope! The first French sci-fi comic! Their spaceship was called “L’Espérance” and was much larger. Later on, we meet the main couple—the two E.M.C. agents, Thanga and Maud—who travel the galaxy aboard the G.N.U. and carry out various missions (well, well... No, no, I didn’t say Valérian and Laureline...)...

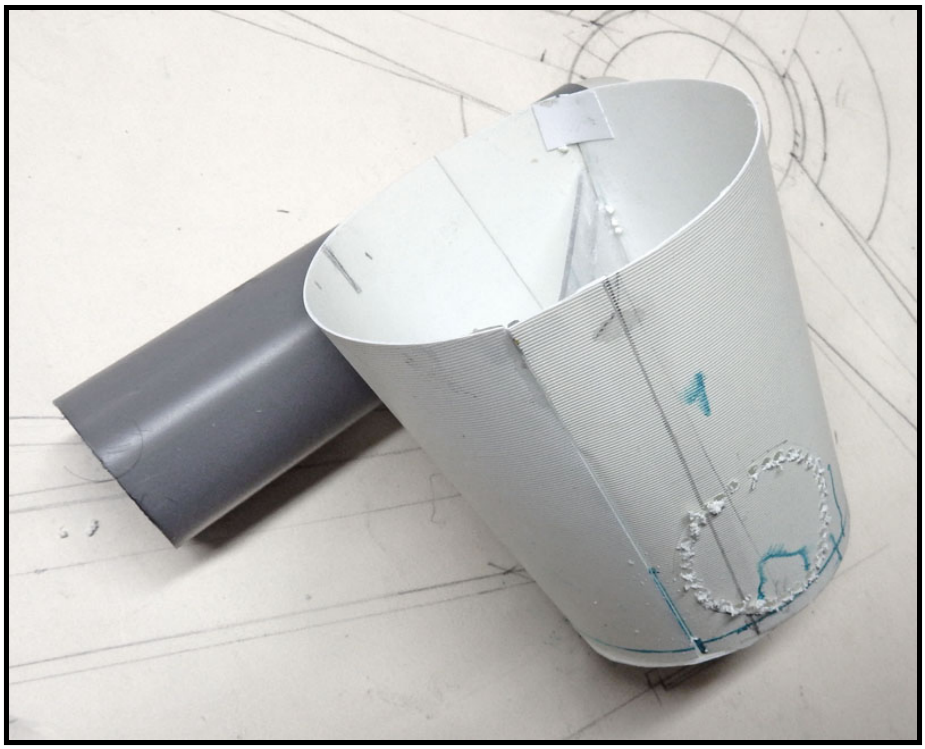
In short, the spaceship is fun to build, not too complicated, and there are no model kits available for this comic—which is virtually unknown to the general public, except among a few longtime readers of *Pif Gadget*—though it’s worth noting that some of the stories were reissued a few years ago...



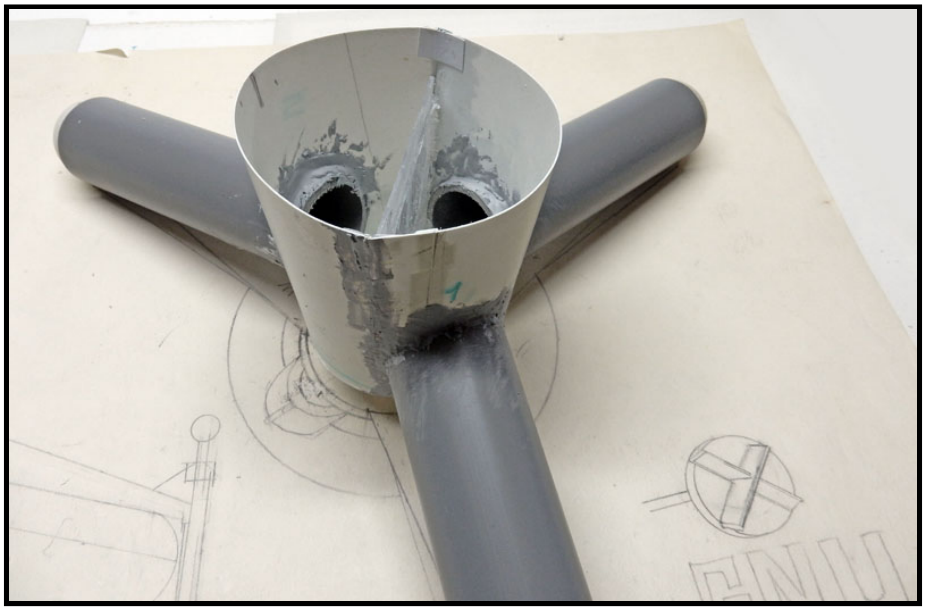
A model was built on a 1:24 scale based on the comic book illustrations and two figures salvaged from the 007 Moonraker kit...



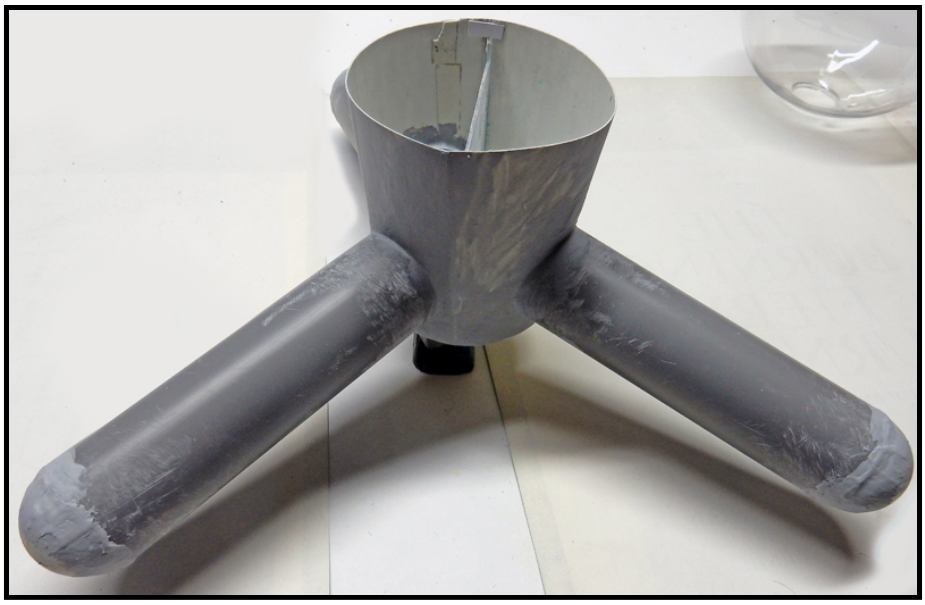
First thing: find the materials... In the right size... A "light bulb" from a decorative plastic chandelier found at a big-box store, PVC plumbing pipes, ping-pong balls, plastic card...



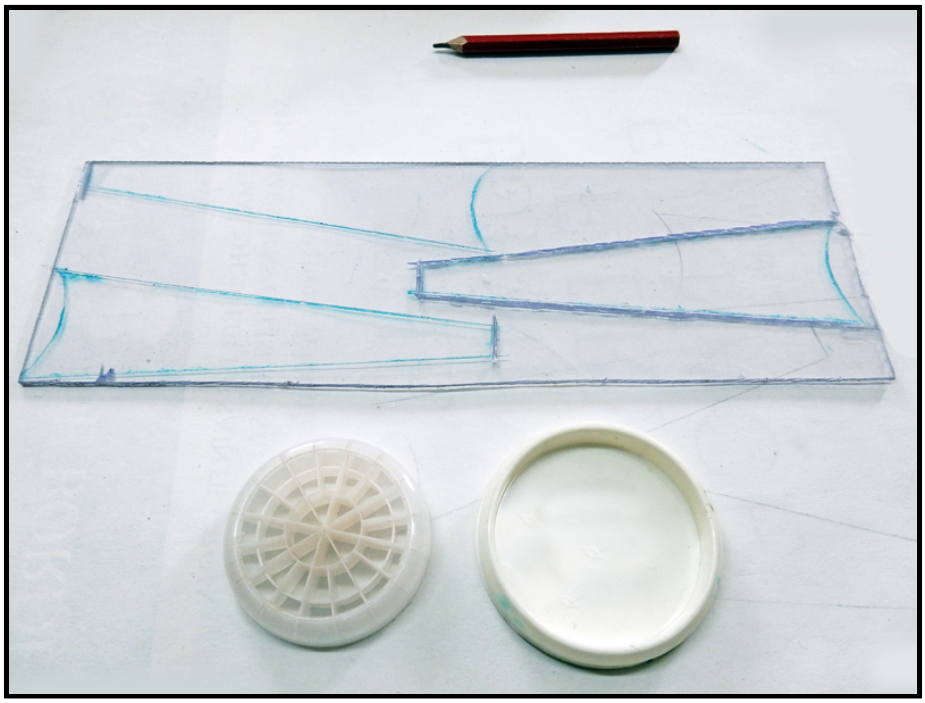
The cone-shaped body of the craft is made of plastic card. It is reinforced on the inside. Three holes are drilled for the future mounts...



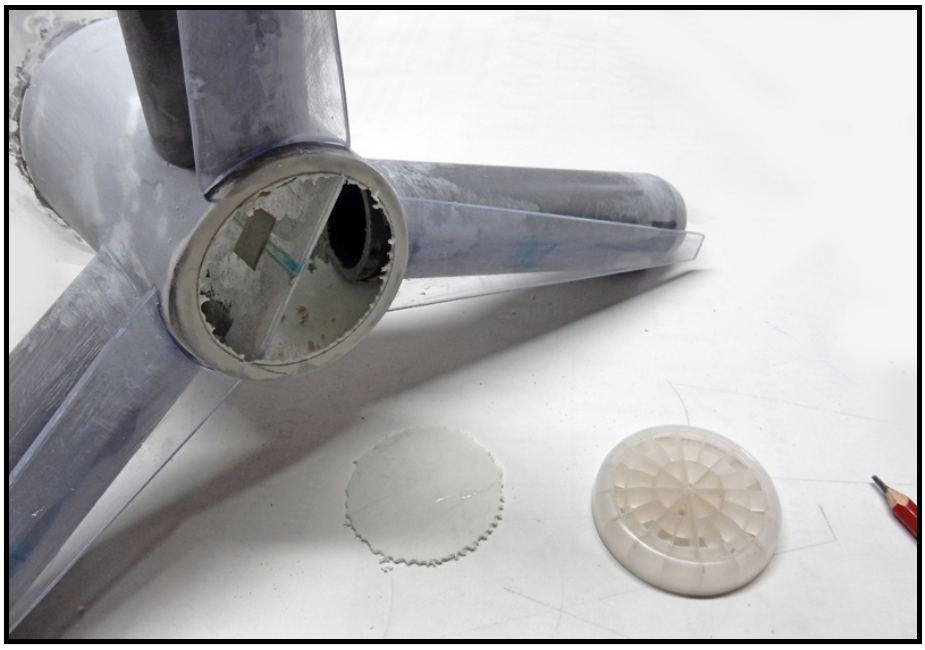
Assembly and verification of proper symmetry...



Ping-pong balls are cut in half and attached to the ends...



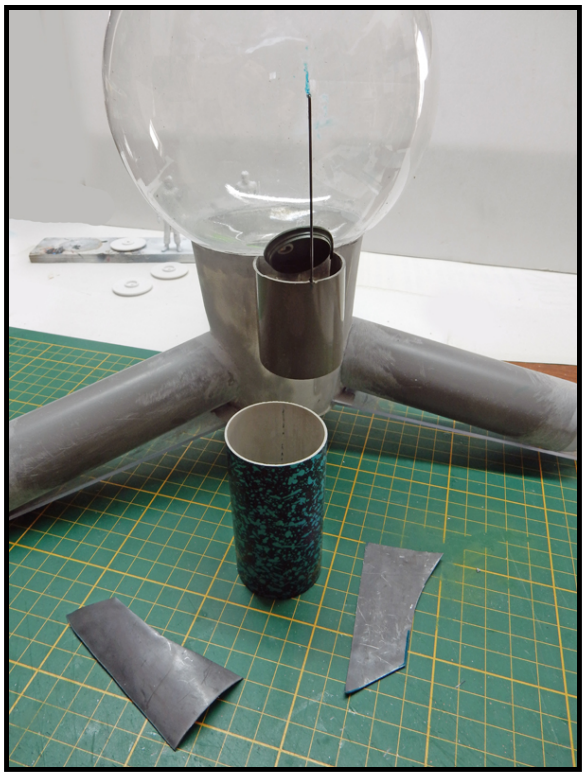
Cutting out the base supports and installing the nozzle. It comes from a cappuccino capsule...



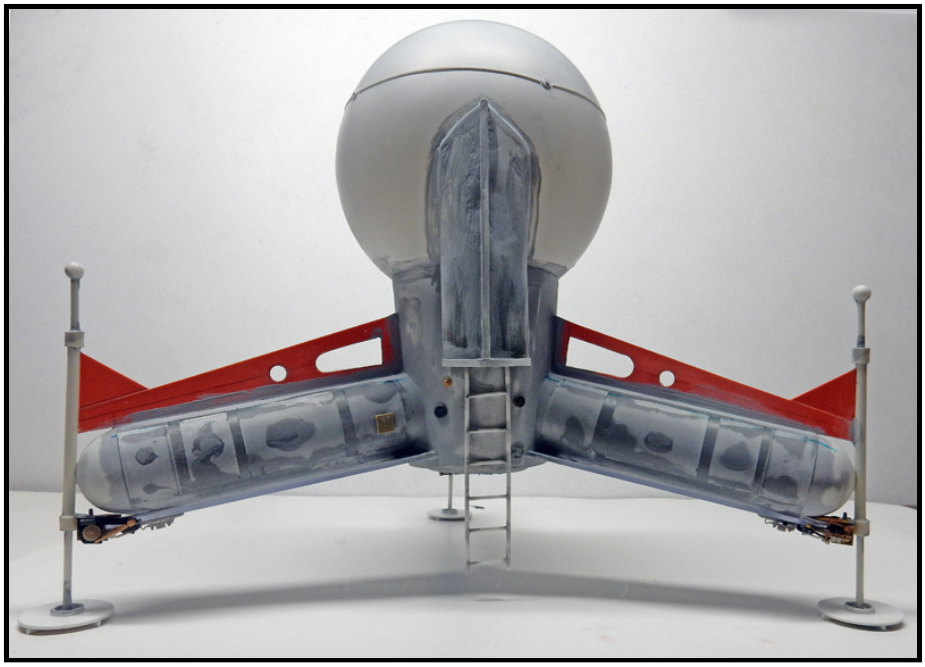
Drilling and installing the nozzle...



Gluing the plastic "light bulb" to the body...



Securing the airlock using a plastic cylinder and a sheet of lead...



Making decorative fins out of plastic card. To scale...

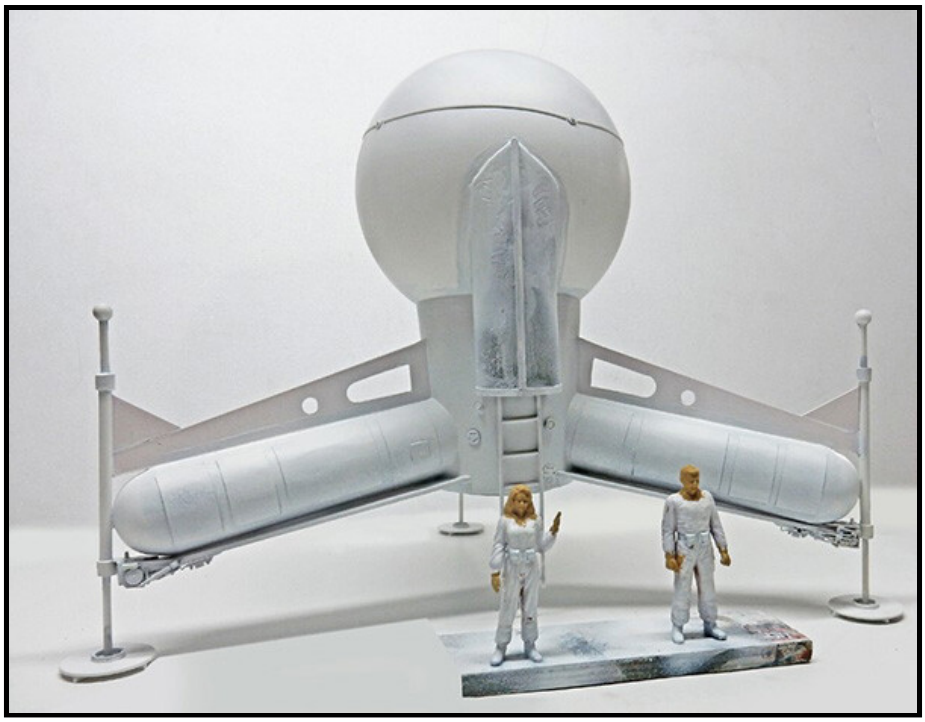
Model of the G.N.U. with a white sphere mounted on four legs, resting on the ground

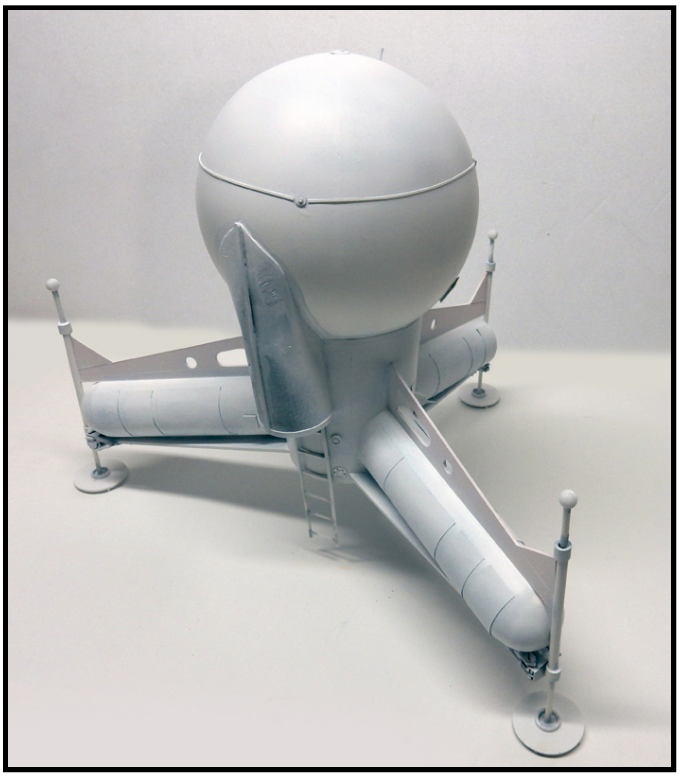
Model of the G.N.U. with a white sphe

Manufacturing the legs and their supports...

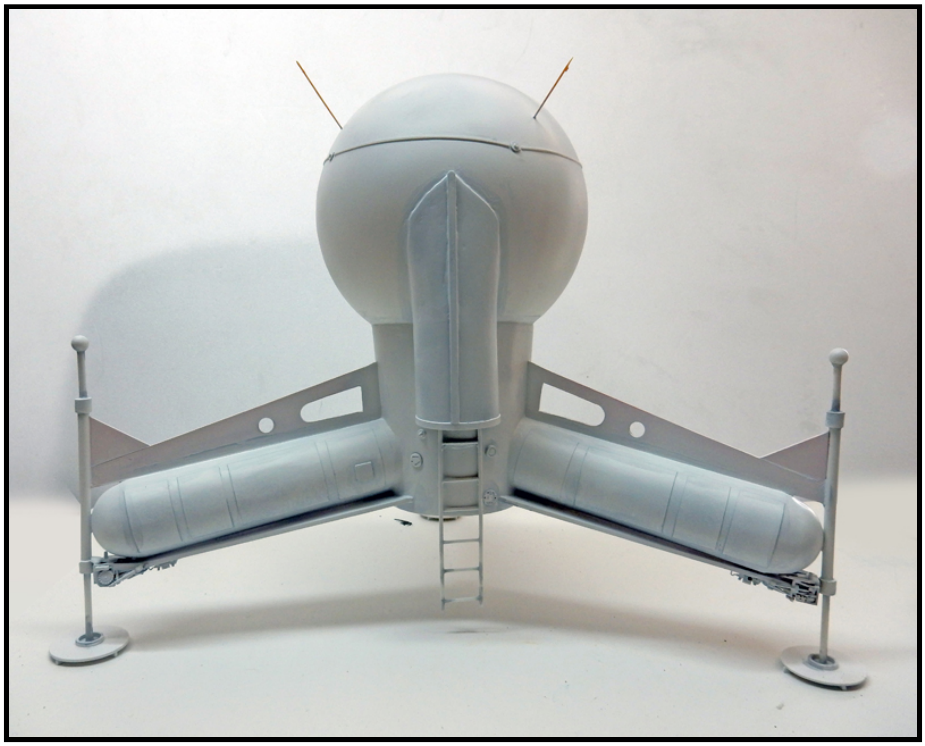
... The suspension systems are upgraded using the surplus box...

Painting

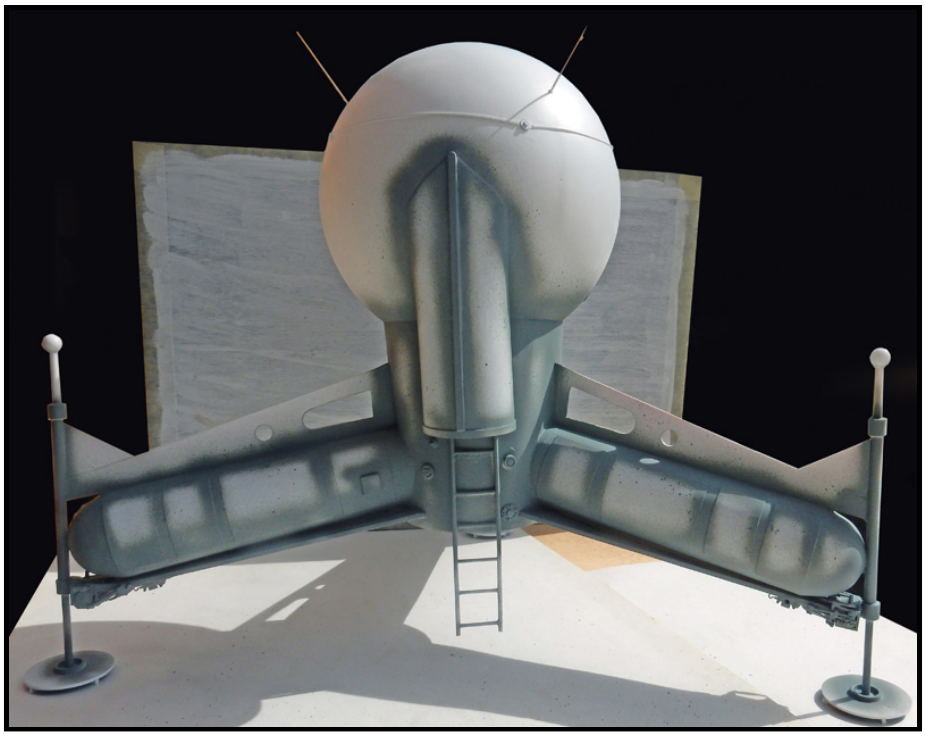




First coat of primer to reveal any defects...

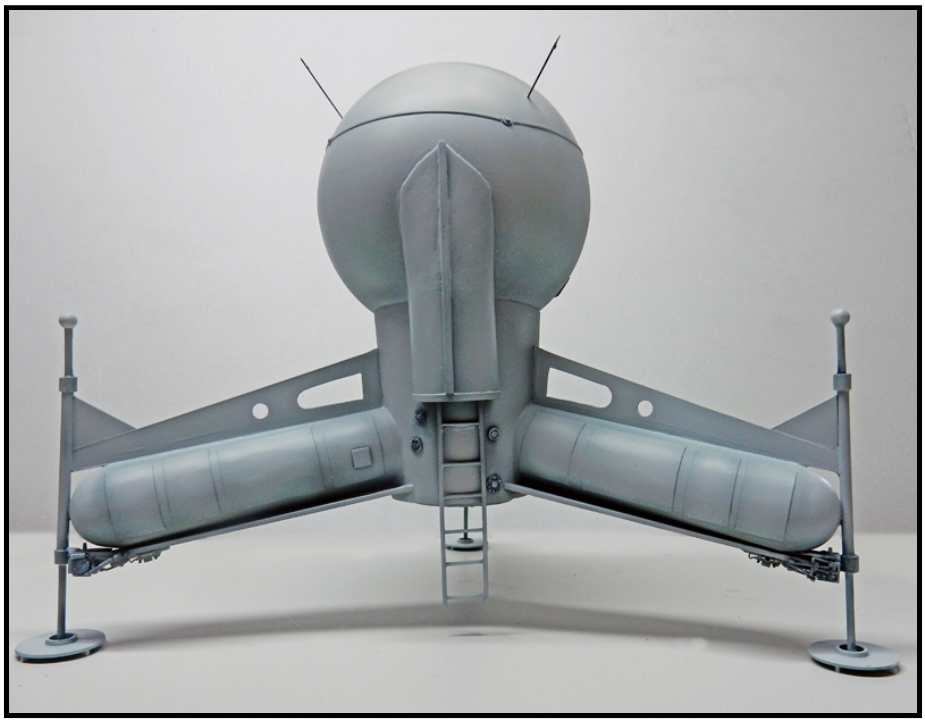


Retouching and finishing...

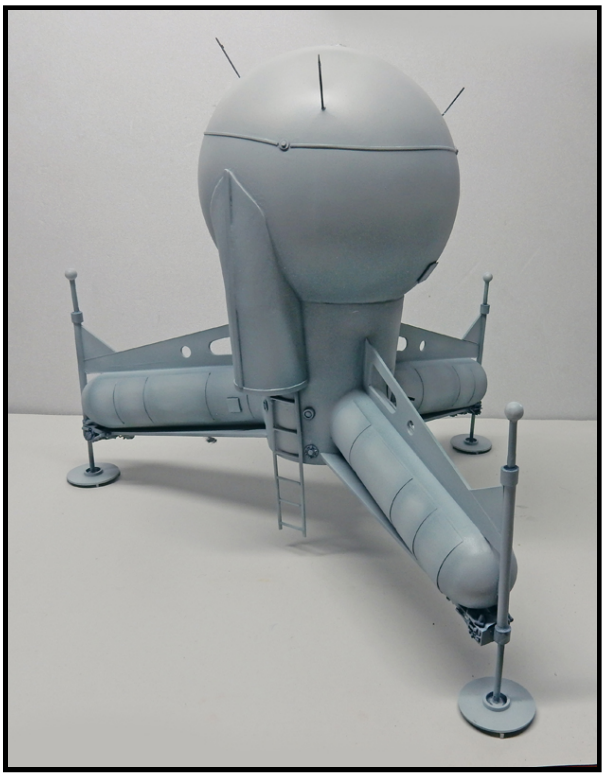


The painting—just like the ship itself—won't be complicated.

It is painted with acrylic paint. The shaded areas are done with Hobby Color's "Tire Black" (a very dark gray)...



Next up is Tamiya's "light blue" XF23...

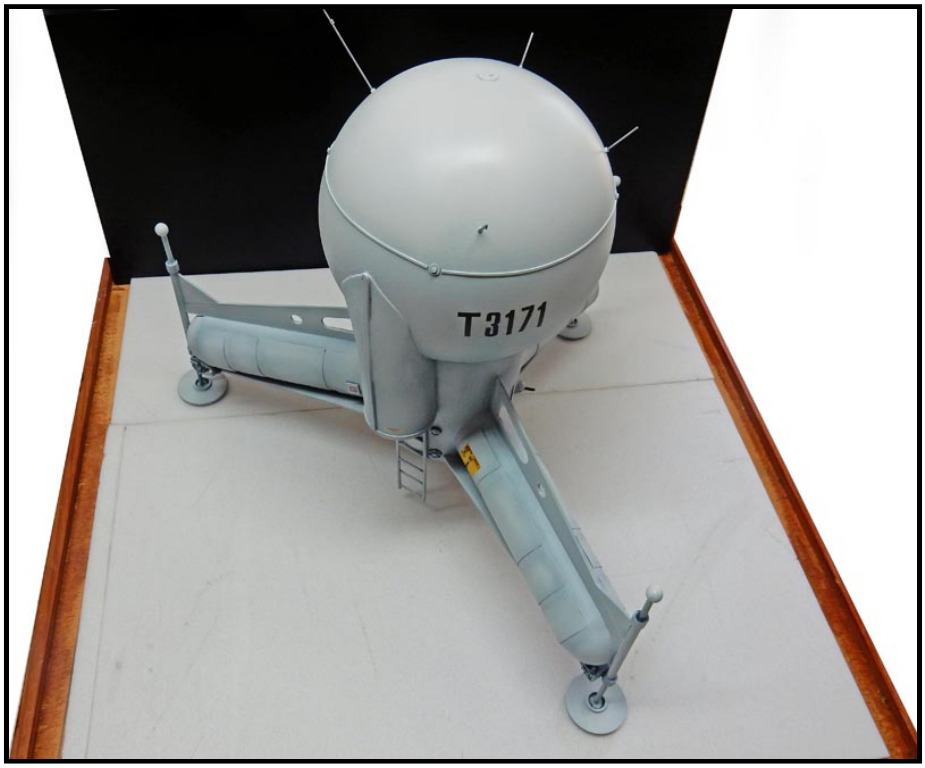




Added a white halo to brighten the whole image...



Applying the decals...





The Setting



The miniatures are painted with Winsor & Newton for the flesh tones and Humbrol for the rest of the uniform...



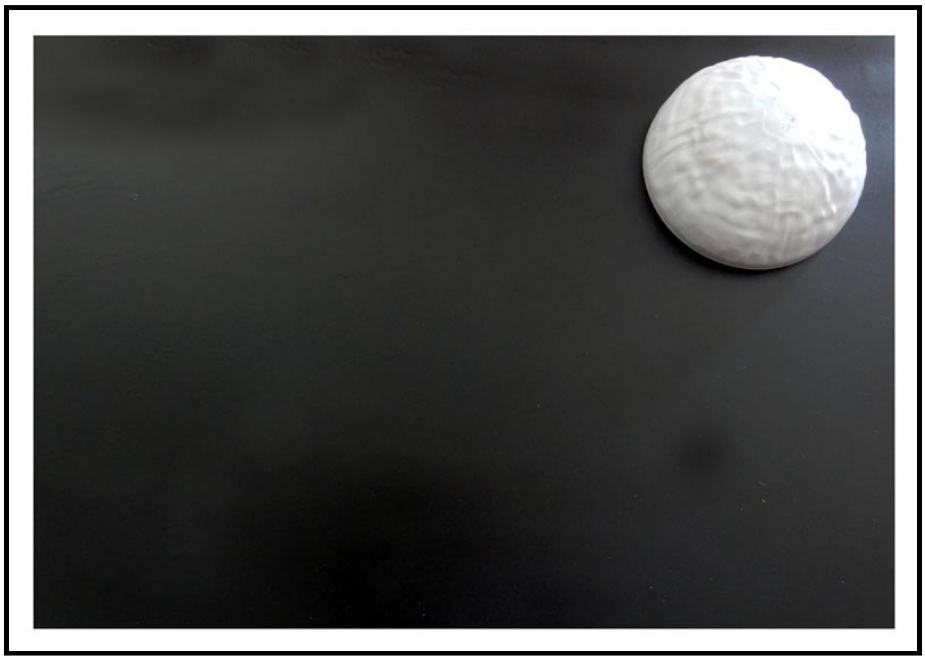
A 57 cm x 52 cm plywood panel will serve as a base...



Extruded polystyrene is used to create the runway, along with a few plastic sheets...



Painting polystyrene with acrylic paint and plastic sheets with oil paint...



The background. To emphasize the "space-like" feel of the comic, a raised background will be created to enhance the scene. A piece of hardboard that has been coated with a layer of matte black...



The planet is a plastic half-sphere—originally used as chocolate packaging—that has been painted with acrylic paint and coated with a layer of white primer...



The galaxy and the stars are painted with acrylics...



...brush and airbrush...



All in all, a completely original diorama—for just a few euros and a few hours of work...



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