



1:24 SCALE • PLASTIC ASSEMBLY KIT • SKILL LEVEL 3 AGES 15 & UP

# THE CHARIOT™

## FROM THE CLASSIC TV SERIES LOST IN SPACE®

In 1965, after his success with transferring his science fiction adventure movie *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* into an hour-long weekly TV series a year earlier, producer Irwin Allen concocted an equally ambitious series format about a family of space colonists who become “Lost in Space” aboard their saucer-shaped spacecraft the Jupiter 2. Initially titled *Space Family Robinson*, the series took the form of an elaborate black-and-white pilot that depicted the Robinsons blasting off from earth, encountering a meteor storm that throws them off course, investigating a derelict alien spacecraft and eventually crash-landing on a desolate and dangerous planet where they confront cyclopean giants, earthquakes and extremes of temperature that freeze an initially storm-tossed inland sea.

While the centerpiece of the pilot was the Jupiter 2 (originally called the Gemini 12), the pilot, and later series, featured another high-tech vehicle that was in its way equally impressive: the Chariot.

Unlike the Jupiter 2, which was a standing set represented by miniatures for the film’s visual effects sequences, the Chariot was a real, functioning vehicle. Built on a treaded Morton Thiokol snow-cat chassis, the 15-foot-long Chariot was operated like a tank, with left and right levers that controlled the speed of the segmented tracks on either side of the vehicle, allowing both speed, braking and steering to be accomplished with those simple controls. (A Thiokol snow-cat was seen in Allen’s 1963 pilot for the *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, “Eleven Days to Zero,” and it’s logical to assume that this same snow-cat was modified to become the Chariot.) The upper body of the original snow-cat was removed and replaced by a metal and Plexiglas cabin, with details like hand grips, a sliding bubble top hatch, radar and microwave antennae, and headlights and spotlights. The result was a craft that looked futuristic and convincing, especially in some spectacular location photography shot in rocky desert locales a few hundred miles north of Los Angeles. The Chariot’s large size in relation to the Jupiter 2 was explained by having it be capable of being disassembled for storage, and the practical vehicle was driven into the soundstages at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox to show it parked next to and disembarking from the Jupiter 2 standing set.

Most of the Chariot sequences were shot using the full-size operating prop vehicle, but sev-

eral specialized sequences required miniatures built by the Fox special effects department under the supervision of department head L.B. Abbott. The “hero” Chariot miniature was around thirty inches in length at approximately 1/6 scale, and was built largely of metal; it was used primarily for the Cyclops sequence which showed an actor in a creature costume designed by Paul Zastupnevich towering over the Chariot and heaving boulders at it until it is downed by fire from a laser rifle. Two smaller Chariot models, around 15 inches long and 1/12 scale, were used for long distance miniature shots of the vehicle traversing alien terrain. One of the most impressive sequences shows the Chariot driving down a rocky beach and directly into a surging, frothy inland sea as the vehicle demonstrates amphibious capabilities. For these scenes the miniature was pulled by wires and then run along a submerged track that allowed the craft to make convincing progress against the agitated waves pounding against it. The larger scale miniature was used for most of the water sequences since achieving convincing scale water with smaller models is so difficult, but for an impressive shot of the Chariot becoming caught in a vast, swirling whirlpool the smaller miniatures were employed, and they were also likely used for some long distance shots of the Chariot negotiating the same inland sea after it has been frozen over by temperature extremes on the planet.

Irwin Allen had the forethought to film most of the second unit and miniature sequences done for the *Lost in Space* pilot in color, so this footage was reused even in the later color seasons of the show. The pilot footage provided so much action that it was broken up in serialized form for the first four or five episodes of the show, amortizing the great cost of set construction and visual effects shooting. Despite this the Chariot was used infrequently after the show’s first black and white season and no new miniature footage of the vehicle was shot.

After *Lost in Space* ceased production the snow-cat chassis was sold back to the ski lodge from which it had originally been purchased and converted back to its original purpose: log hauling. But in recent years a collector in Southern California has repurchased the vehicle and worked to restore the Chariot to its original glory. It remains one of the most interesting and convincing futuristic vehicles ever constructed for television.



# ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LOST IN SPACE® CHARIOT™

## List of tools and materials:

Hobby Knife, Sprue cutters, Fine tooth hobby saw, Masking tape, Plastic Cement or Cyanoacrylate glue, Paints suitable for use with styrene plastic.

## Assembly notes

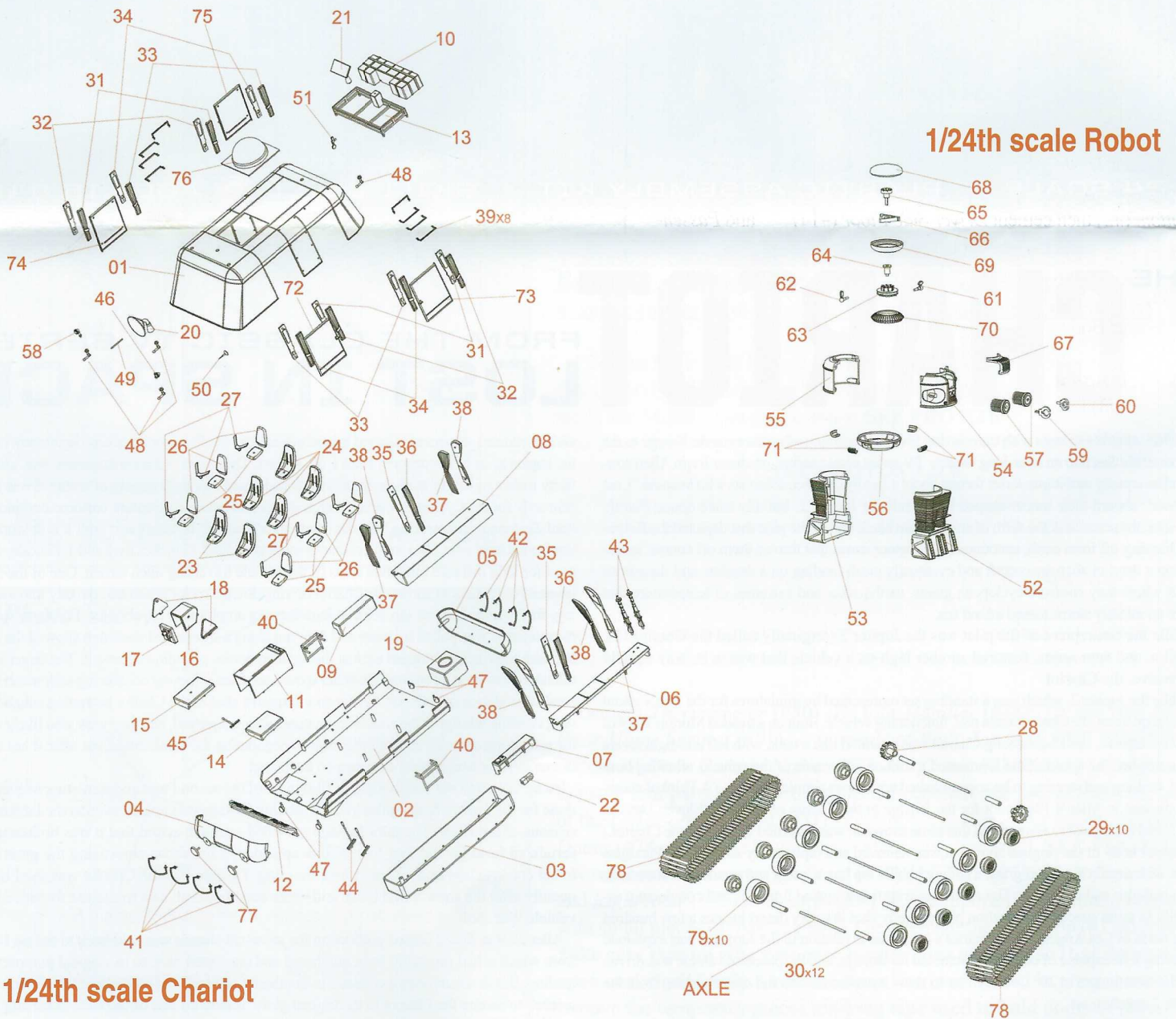
Before you start your Chariot kit, take time to read the instruction sheet and check to make sure that you have all the parts. Some time spent reading the instruction sheet and planning the best way to proceed will make your model building experience more enjoyable.

As you assemble your kit, cut parts off the sprue with a sprue cutter or sharp hobby knife do not break parts off the sprue. Be especially careful with clear parts as they are brittle and easily damaged. Be especially careful removing the mold sprue from the hole in the *Body Top* (part #1) cut it with a fine tooth hobby saw or scribe it with a knife; cutting it with sprue cutters may cause the *Body Top* to crack. Take time to test fit parts before gluing them.

## Painting Note

If you wish to paint your Space Chariot model, it is wise to begin by painting many parts and subassemblies before you cement them in place. Take time to familiarize yourself with the paint color codes found on the instruction sheet and determine which parts you will need to paint before you begin assembly of your model.

Paint color code letters can be found next to part numbers through out the written instructions, and on the photos. It is generally wise to wash parts that you will be painting with warm water and detergent to remove any mold release agent from the parts. We have tried to provide accurate painting information, however if you wish to find better information you can research the Chariot on various internet site, or find episodes of *Lost in Space* that feature the Chariot on DVD.



1/24th scale Chariot

1/24th scale Robot



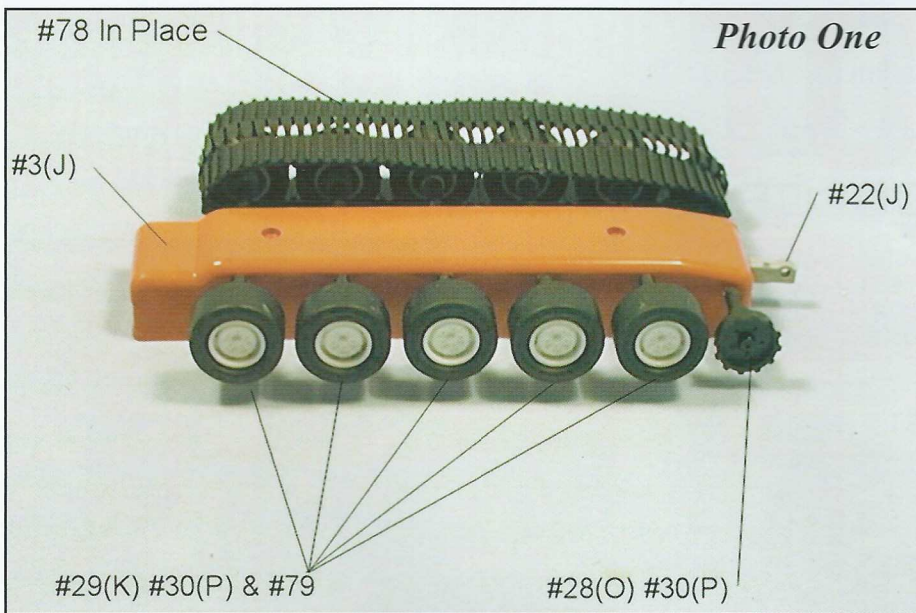


Photo One

## STEP 1 RUNNING GEAR

**NOTE:** the Tires (#79) will be much easier to press onto the Wheels (#29) if they are heated slightly; this is best accomplished by dropping the Tires into hot water for a few minutes before pressing them onto the Wheels.

Assemble ten sets of Wheels (#29) (K) and Tires (#79), then cement one Axle Cover (#30) (P) into the back of each Wheel and Tire assembly and set them aside to dry.

Cement Axle Covers (#30) (P) into Drive Sprockets (#28) (O) and set them aside to dry.

Insert a Metal Axles into the rear most holes of the Chassis (#3) (J) and press one Drive Sprocket (#28) (N) onto each end of that Axle. Then insert Axles into each of the remaining holes and press Wheel Assemblies (#29) to both ends of the each Axle.

Assemble two Tracks (#78) over Wheels and Drive Sprockets. Cement the Tow Hook (#22) (J) to the rear of the Chassis (#3) **SEE PHOTO 1.**

## STEP 2 BOTTOM OF BODY

**Painting note:** The lower body interior is Orange (J) with Flat Black (O) upholstery. The lower body exterior is Metallic Gray (C) with Orange (J) foot well boxes and Bright Silver (B) trim. The narrow bright silver trim can be masked and sprayed, or brush painted, we recommend using Bare Metal Foil as the easiest way to achieve good results.

Cement Dash (#12) (C) to Body Front (#4) then cement Body Front (#4) to Body Bottom (#2) cement Body Rear (#5) to Body Bottom (#2) then cement Driver Side Floor (#14) (O) and Passenger Side Floor (#15) (O) in place.

Cement Driver Side Console (#7) (C) and Passenger Side Console (#9) (C) in place followed by Center Console (#11) (C) Finish the Lower Body assembly by cementing Left Long Interior Bench (#6) (O top J sides) Right Long Interior Bench (#8) (O top J sides) and Robot's Box (#19) (C) into Body Bottom (#2) Attach completed Chassis (#3) to bottom Body Bottom (#2) using two small Phillips head screws provided. **SEE PHOTO 2**

Set this assembly aside.

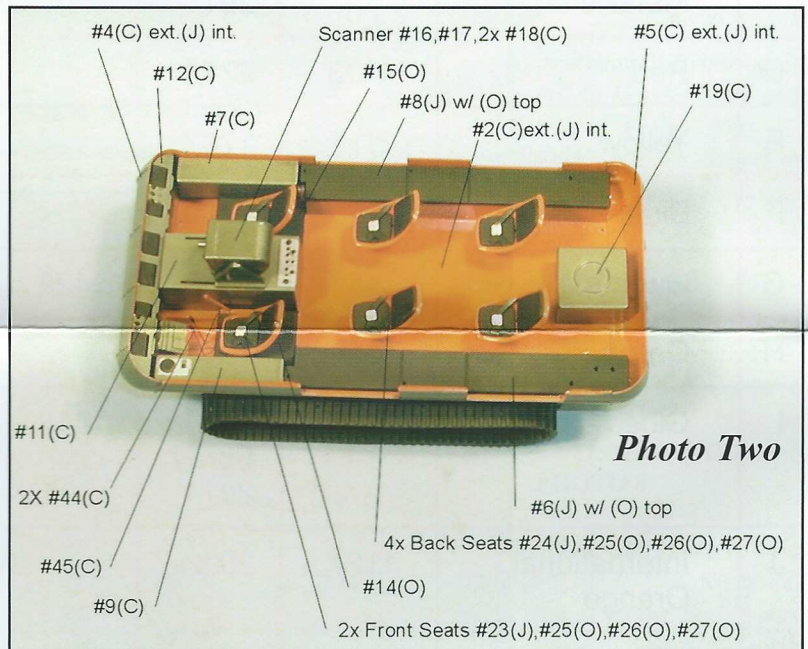


Photo Two

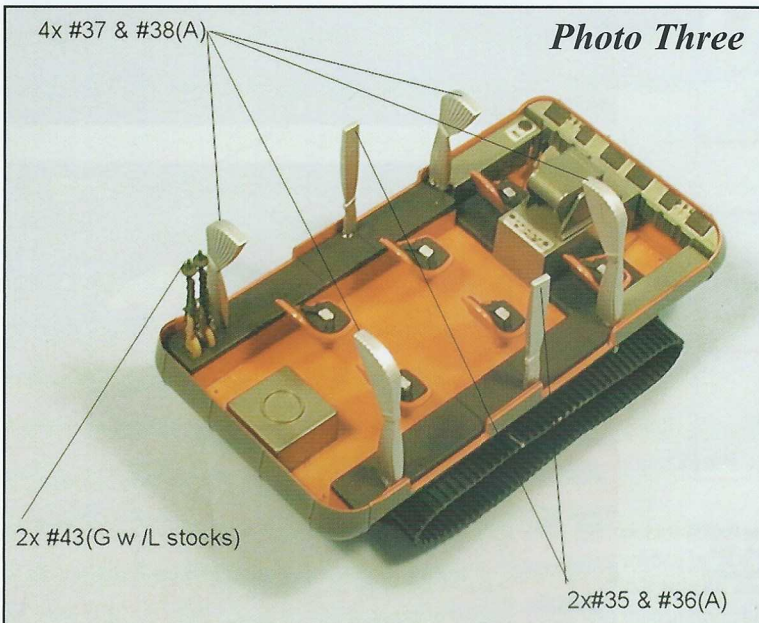


Photo Three

## STEP 3 CHARIOT INTERIOR

Cement four Seat Back Cushions (#26) (O) four Seat Bottom Cushions (#25) (O) and four Seat Belts (#27) (O w/ B buckles) to four Back Seats (#24) (J) set aside to dry. Cement the two remaining Seat Back Cushions (#26) (O) two Seat Bottom Cushions (#25) (O) and two Seat Belts (#27) (O w/ B buckles) to two Front Seats (#23) (J) set aside to dry. Cement the Scanner Front (#17) (C) to the Scanner Body (#16) (C) cement the two Scanner Sides (#18) (C) into the holes on either side of the Scanner Body (#16) set aside to dry.

Cement two Control Levers (#44) (J) to Body Bottom (#2) cement Transmission Lever (#45) (J) to Driver Side Floor (#14) cement Front Seats (#23) and Rear Seats (#24) in place then cement the Scanner Assembly (#16) to the Center Console (#11).

Cement four sets of Transverse Curtain Halves (#37 and #38) (A) together, set aside to dry. Cement two sets of Side Curtain Halves (#35 and #36) (A) together, set aside to dry. Cement two Laser Rifles (#43) (G w/ L stocks) to Body Bottom Assembly. Cement the Transverse Curtains and Side Curtains into the assembled Body Bottom. **SEE PHOTOS 2 & 3** Set the assembly aside for now.



## STEP 4 THE ROBOT

Determine if your *Robot* will be in the *Chariot* or standing beside it. If you are going to install the *Robot* in the *Chariot* you can discard the bottom parts of the *Robot* (#52 and #53), as those parts will not be needed.

Cement *Robot Bottom Halves* (#52 and #53) (**M legs / I bottom section / O tracks**) together, and then set them aside.

Cement *Small Clear Parts* (#71) (**Q**) into *Lower Ring of Body* (#56) (**A**) cement *Enunciator* (#67) (**Q**) into *Body Front Half* (#54) (**I**) cement *Body Halves* (#54 and #55) (**I**) together, then cement *Bottom Ring* (#56) (**I**) in place.

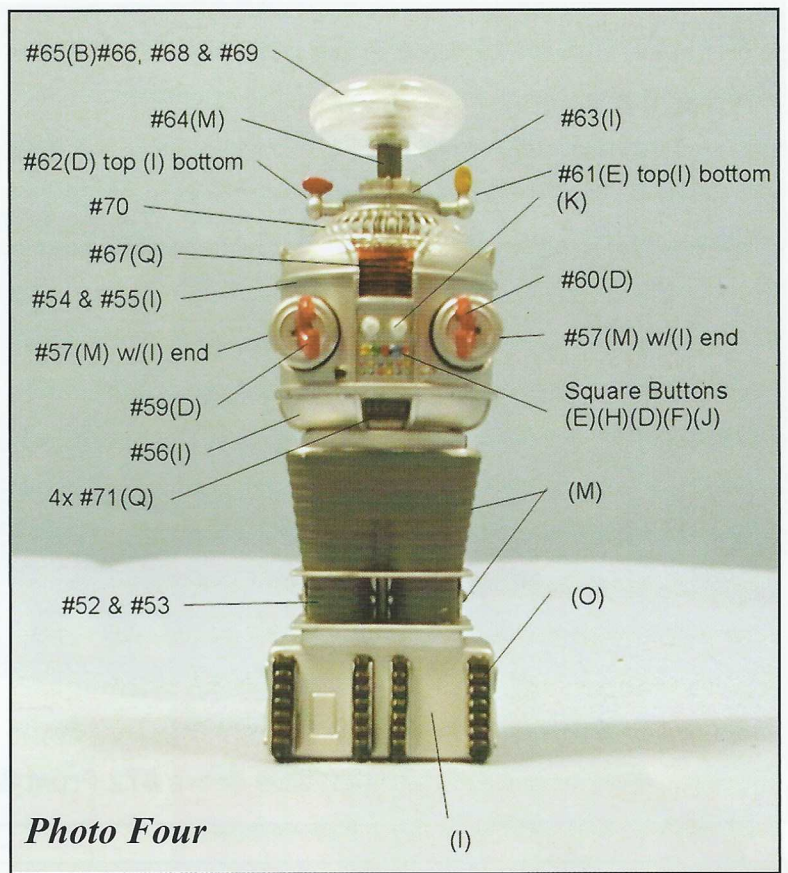
Cement *Left Telemetry Sensor* (#61) (**E top w/ I bottom**) (and *Right Telemetry Sensor* (#62) (**D top w/ I bottom**)) to *Neck* (#63) (**M**) cement *Neck* (#63) to *Visual Sensor* (#70) and cement that assembly to the top of the body assembly (52 and #53).

Cement *Neck Top* (#64) (**I**) to *Neck* (#63) then Cement the *Small Antenna* (#65) (**B**) to the *Triangular Sensor* (#66) and use that assembly to attach the *Dome Bottom* (#69) to the *Neck Top* (#64) carefully cement the *Dome Top* (#68) to the *Dome Bottom* (#69).

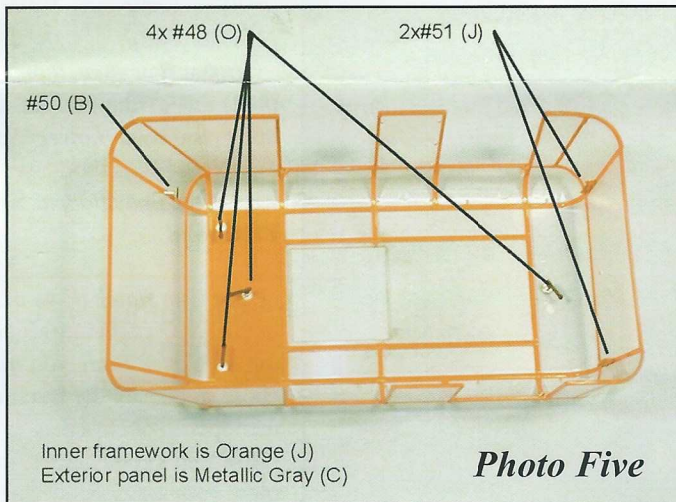
Cement *Extendable Arms* (#57) (**M w/ I ends**) to the front of the *Robot's Body* (#54) then cement the *Left Manipulator Claw* (#59) (**D**) and *Right Manipulator Claw* (#60) (**D**) to the *Extendable Arms* (#57). **SEE PHOTO 4**

If you are installing the *Robot* in the *Chariot*, cement the assembled *Upper Body* of the *Robot* to the *Robot Box* (#19).

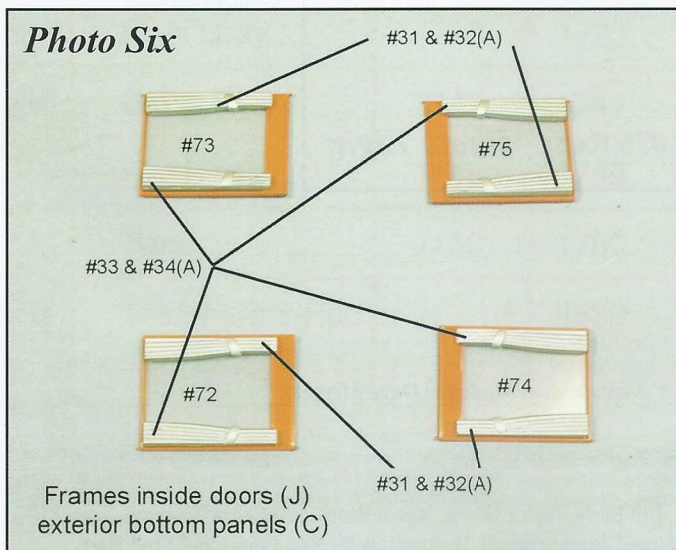
If you wish to display the *Robot* outside the *Chariot*, cement the *Lower Body* (#52 and #53) to the *Upper Body* of the *Robot*.



**Photo Four**



**Photo Five**



**Photo Six**

## STEP 5 TOP OF BODY

**Take your time and work carefully with these clear parts, use cement sparingly to avoid damaging the surface of the clear parts. Remove mold sprue from the hole in Body Top (#1) by cutting with a fine tooth hobby saw or careful scribing with a hobby knife – cutting with a pair of sprue cutters or diagonal cutters may result in a cracked part!**

**Painting Note:** The framework inside the *Top of the Body* and *Doors* is Orange (J) Solid panels over driver seat and *Door* bottoms is Orange (J) interior and Metallic Gray (C) exterior. **SEE PHOTO 6**

The three curved panels above the doors on each side are aluminum (I) with Orange (J) interior. **SEE PHOTOS 7 & 8**

The best way to paint the *Top of Body* and *Doors* is to mask the interior framework first and paint it Orange, then remove the masking on panels above the *Doors* and add the Aluminum followed by the Orange interior. To finish, mask the exterior for the Metallic Gray over the Driver's seat and *Door* bottoms. The narrow Bright Silver (B) beading on the exterior is done last, it can be masked and sprayed, or hand painted, we recommend Bare Metal Foil as the easiest way to achieve good results.

Cement *Thermometer* (#50) (**B**) four *Handles* (#48) (**N**) and two *Rear Door Hinge Springs* (#51) (**J**) to inside of *Body Top* (#1). **SEE PHOTO 5**

Cement *Door Curtain Halves* (#31 & #32 and #33 & #34) (**A**) together to make four pairs of *Door Curtains* then cement one pair in place on each of the *Left doors* (#72 and #73) (**J interior C exterior lower panel**) and *Right Doors* (#74 and #75) (**J interior C exterior lower panel**). **SEE PHOTO 6**

Now, locate the doors, *Left Front* (#72) *Left Rear* (#73) *Right Front* (#74) and *Right Rear* (#75) to *Body Bottom* (#2), temporarily hold them in place with small pieces of masking tape. Then cement the *Body Top* (#1) in place. **Take care that no glue gets onto locator pins of doors so that doors will open and close freely.** Once the *Body Top* is cemented in place, carefully remove the temporary pieces masking tape used to hold doors in place.



**Photo Seven**



Left side doors #72 Front & #73 Rear

**STEP 6  
EXTERIOR DETAILS**

Cement two *Headlight Lenses* (#77) in place, and then cement four *Front Bumpers* (#41) (J) to the front of the body and cement two *Lower Spotlights* (#47) (J body w/ B lens) to the *Body Bottom*.

Cement one *Lower Ladder* (#40) (J) to each side of the body and four *Upper Ladder Rungs* (#39) (J) to each side of the *Upper Body* (#1)

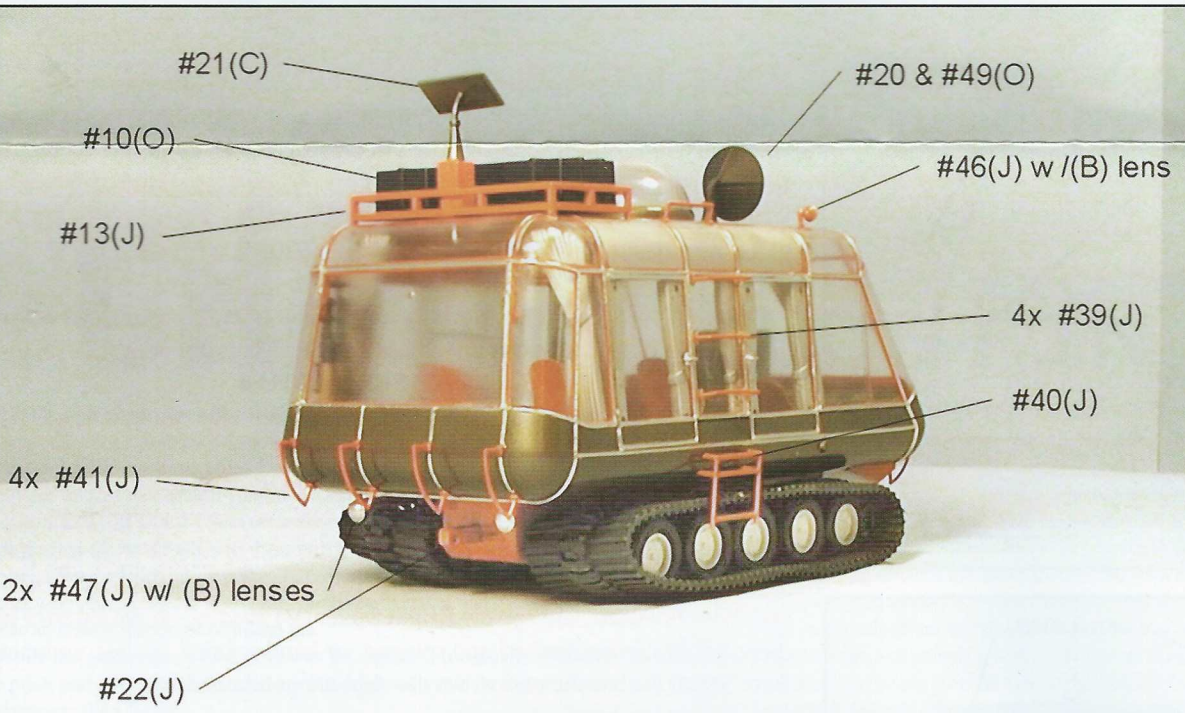
Cement *Cargo Rack* (#13) (C) to *Upper Body* cement *Cargo* (#10) (O) into *Cargo Rack* (#13) then cement *Solar Scanner* (#21) (C) to *Cargo Rack*  
**SEE PHOTO 7**

Cement *Dish Antenna* (#20) (O) to *Handle* (#48) cement *Center Probe* (#49) (O) to *Dish Antenna* then cement *Left Spotlight* (#46) (J body w/ B lens) and *Right Spotlight* (#58) (J body w/ B lens) to *Handles* (#48).

Cement four *Rear Bumpers* (#42) (J) to the rear of the body and two *Lower Spot Lights* (#47) (J body w/ B lens) to the *Body Bottom*. **SEE PHOTO 8**

Place *Gun Hatch* (C w/ clear bubble & C inside surface) on top of *Upper Body* you may chose to display the hatch either opened or closed.

Now find a good place to display your completed *Space Chariot* model!



Right side Doors #74 front & #75 Rear **Photo Eight**



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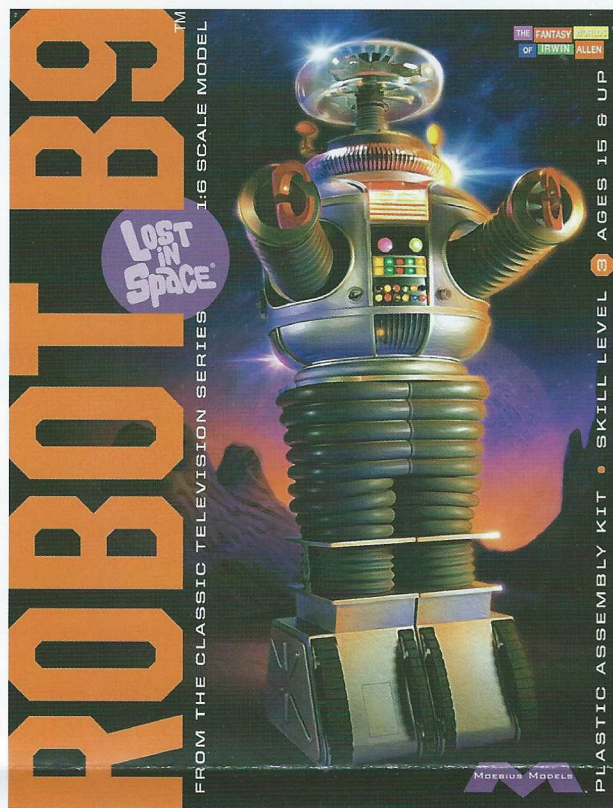


# THE CHARIOT™

## SUGGESTED PAINT COLORS

COLOR CODE	COLOR DESCRIPTION	TESTORS ENAMELS	TESTORS MODEL MASTER ENAMELS	TESTORS MODEL MASTER METALIZERS
A	Flat Aluminum	1181	1781	
B	Bright Silver	1146	1790	
C	Metallic Gray Anthracite Gray Metallic		2711 Spray 2911	
D	Red	1103	2718	
E	Yellow	1114	1707	
F	Blue	1110	2032	
G	Gunmetal		1795	1423
H	Green	1124	2028	
I	Gloss Aluminum		2714 Spray 2914	1418
J	International Orange	1127	2022	
K	Gloss White	1145	1745	
L	Wood	1141	1735	
M	Dark Gray	1163	1723	
N	Gloss Black	1147	1747	
O	Flat Black	1149	1749	
P	Steel	1180	1780	1420
Q	Transparent Red		4630 Testors Model Master Acryl	

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