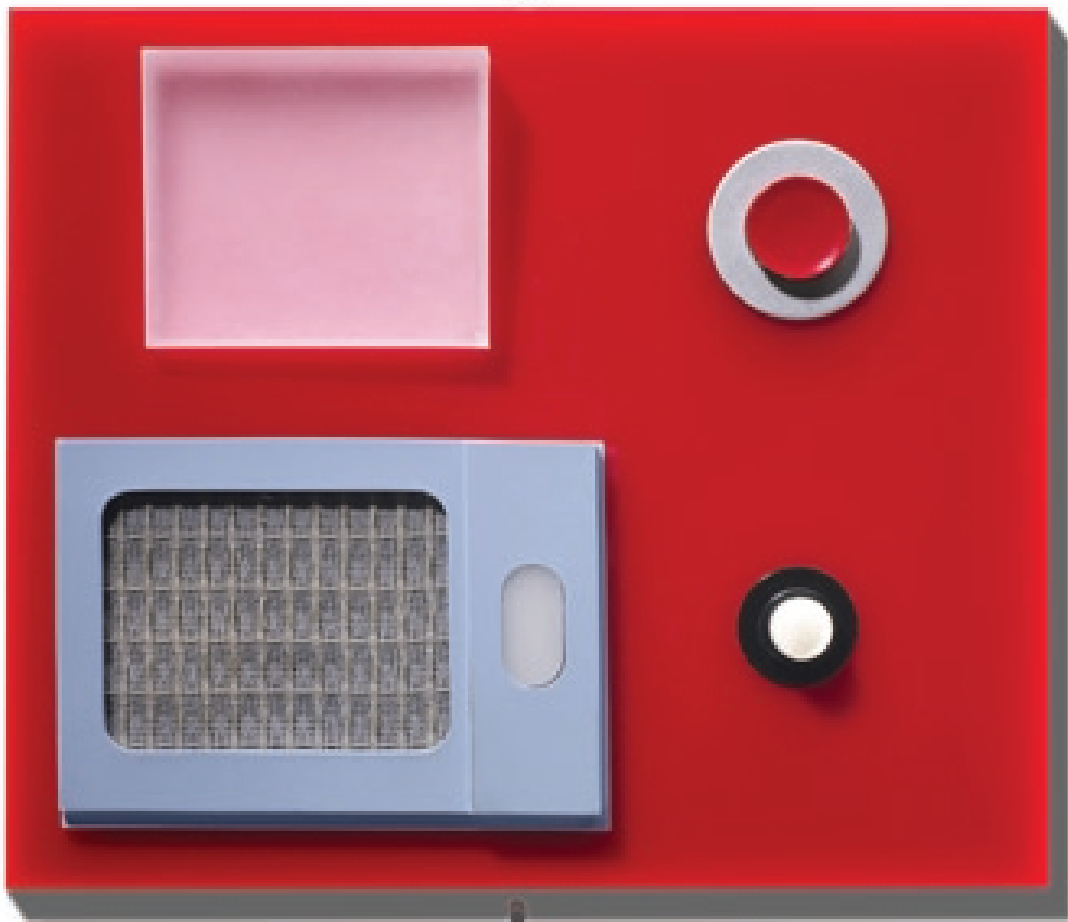




**RODDENBERRY.COM**

**#PRP1787**

# ***Star Trek TOS Wall Communicator*** **Prop Kit Assembly Manual**



Roddenberry.com presents for the first time as a prop kit the ***Star Trek Original Series Wall Communicator*** as seen throughout the *USS Enterprise* in the corridors. It is based on the prop made and used in the ***Deep Space Nine*** episode "Trials and Tribbleations." The Wall Communicator can be assembled with a minimum of tools, and it features accurate grill cloth and detailing for the ultimate in classic mid-23rd Century design.

***No electronics or electronic modification instructions are included with this kit.***

## PARTS INCLUDED IN KIT:

- 1 Wall Plate (laser-cut red acrylic)
- 1 Intercom Speaker Frame (resin-cast), with grill cloth
- 1 Grill Cloth Retainer
- 1 Intercom Light and backing plate (laser-cut)
- 1 Intercom Button and small button sleeve (resin-cast)
- 1 Alert Light (clear resin casting)
- 1 Alert Button, and large button ring (resin-cast)

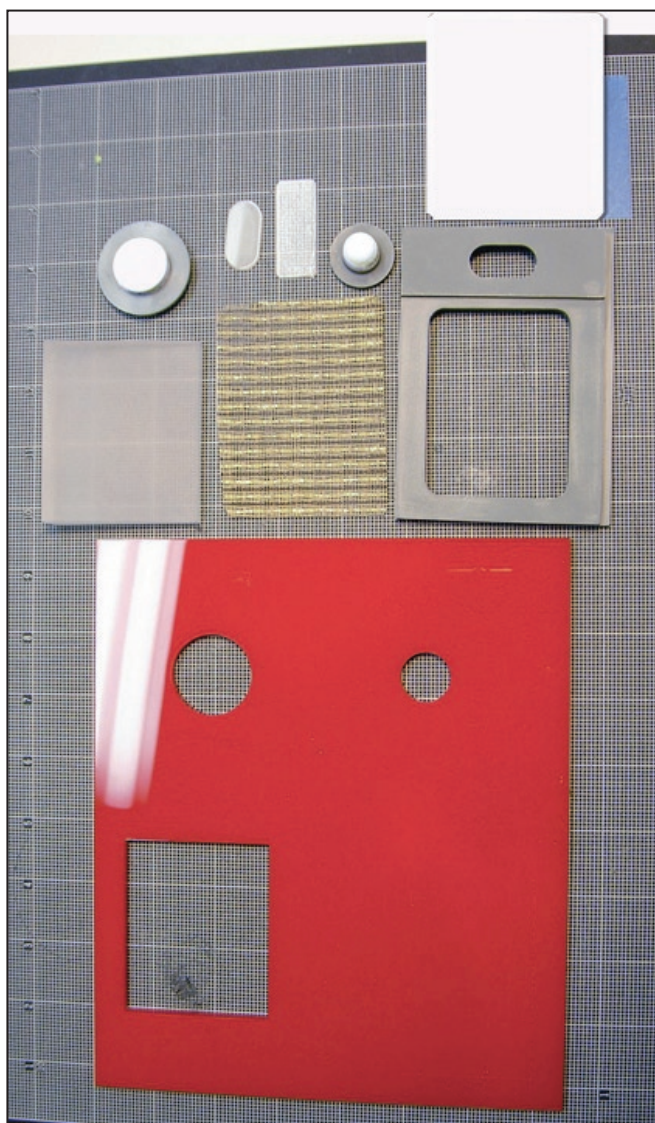
## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Sandpaper (220-320 grit rough sanding, 400-600 grit finish sanding)
- Bondo plastic filler and automotive or hobby spot putty
- 5-minute epoxy
- Testors Clear Parts Cement

## PAINTS NEEDED

### [SPRAY PAINTS UNLESS NOTED]:

- Primer (sandable-type recommended) -- you will want to get a darker primer like Krylon #1318 and a lighter one like Krylon #1314 Platinum Gray
- Rustoleum Slate Blue, or Krylon Colonial Blue (may be discontinued), or other "sky" or "baby" blue shaded paint with a hint of gray
- Chrome Silver, or Bright Silver
- Gloss Black
- Gloss Red (use Krylon Banner Red if you're spraying the wall plate, it may also be used for the alert button)



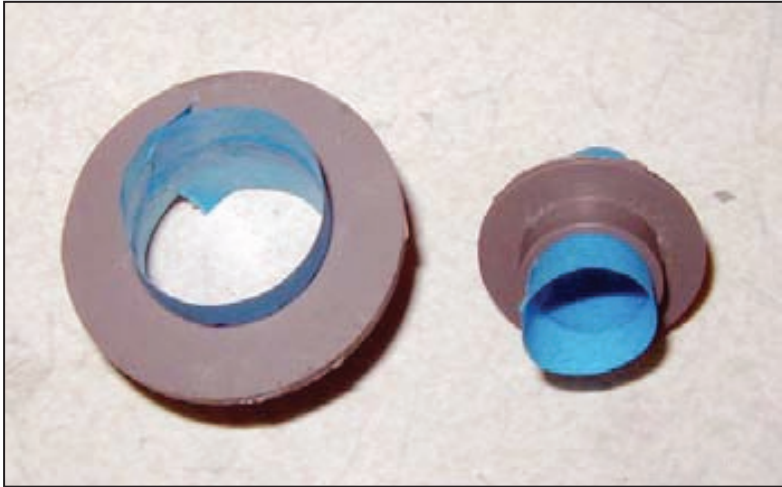
## OPTIONAL MATERIALS AND PAINTS:

- Masking tape
- Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue
- Small hobby paint brush
- Transparent Red (brush-on or spray can) or red stage lighting gel or mylar sheet
- White (brush-on or spray can)
- Clear matte finish spray paint
- Aluminum tape or aluminum foil
- Hot glue
- Foam double-stick tape, or double-stick weather-stripping tape, available in hardware stores



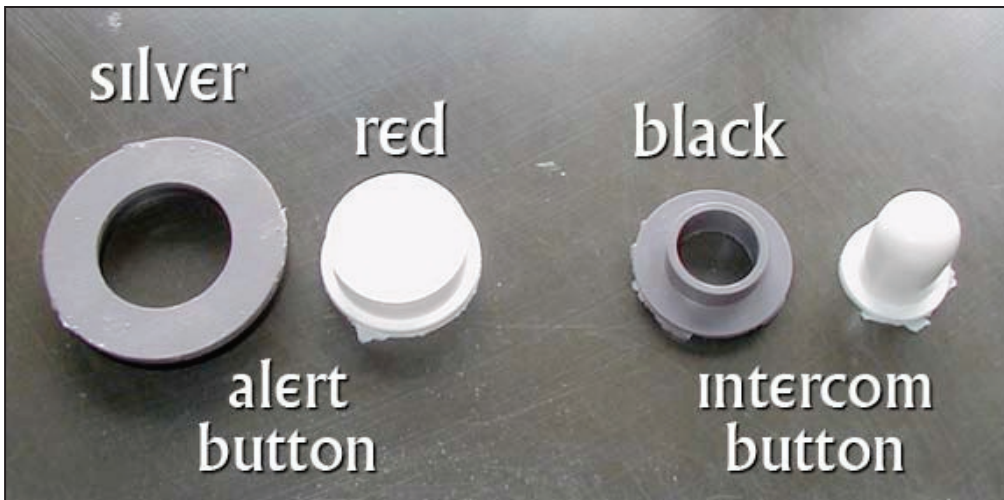
**Step 1:** Wash all the resin parts (not the clear or acrylic parts, or the cast gloss white intercom button!) with chlorine based cleaner like Comet or Ajax to clean off any traces of mold release. Sand the mold lines off all the resin parts (speaker frame, intercom and alert buttons and rings) with 400 grit sand paper. Fill any imperfections/pinholes with Bondo plastic filler or spot putty where needed and sand until smooth.

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**Step 2:** With masking tape, mask any parts you shouldn't have paint on; these mostly consist of the insides of the large and small button rings -- if you are adding light effects to your wall-comm, it is important you have freedom of movement for the buttons to push in on your switch without scraping the eventual paint finish off the sides of the buttons.

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**Step 3:** Paint the resin parts with primer. The small domed intercom button is cast in white so painting it is not necessary, but you do primer and paint the alert button. Fill any imperfections that show up with spot putty, sand until smooth, and primer again until you have parts you are happy with.

Paint with Chrome Silver the large alert button ring and Gloss Red/Banner Red for the alert button itself. Paint the small button ring Gloss Black.

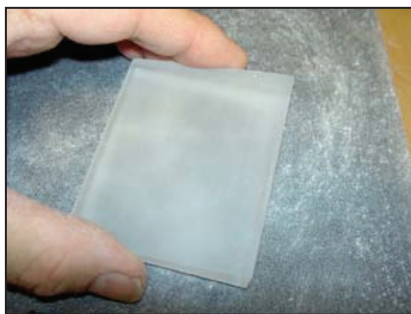




**Step 4:** Paint one side of the plastic screen retainer dark gray, using Krylon Gray Primer #1318 or some other dark gray.

Paint the speaker frame with a medium to light pale blue such as Rustoleum Slate Blue. Krylon Colonial Blue may be used, but as of the time these instructions were written, it may have been discontinued.

The red wall plate can be used as is, or you can fine sand it with 400 grit sandpaper and primer and paint it with Krylon Banner Red spray paint. If desired, you may also use a clear matte finish spray on either the raw red acrylic or the red painted surface if you want to tone down the glossiness.



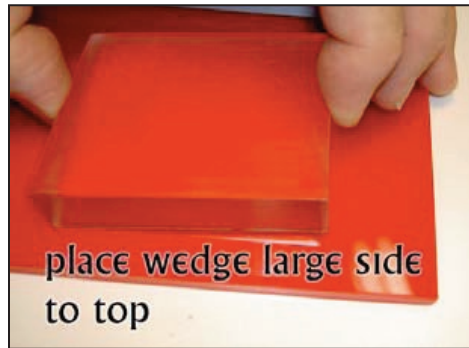
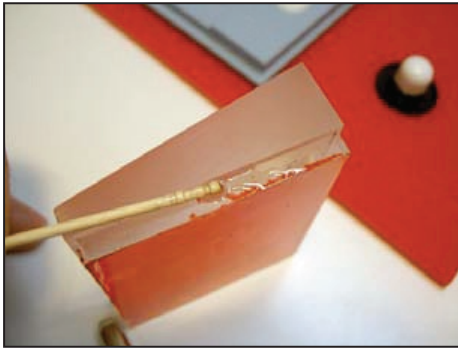
**Step 5:** Cut or sand the sprue off the casting and sand the back (400-grit) to even the surface.



**Step 6:** The Alert Light wedge may be left as is in clear, or it can be masked to expose the back surface (photo on the left) and lightly misted with Transparent Red paint (photo on the right), or you may use a piece of red stage lighting gel like an original set piece would use. These had a light bulb flashing behind it, and the gel was placed a little distance behind the wall so the alert light when seen from the front is white-clear, yet it lights up red -- if you put too heavy a coat of red paint on or place your gel against the surface, it may make the whole wedge appear red. If desired, you may add a piece of aluminum tape or ordinary aluminum foil to the back (with or without the red) to make it appear to "light up."

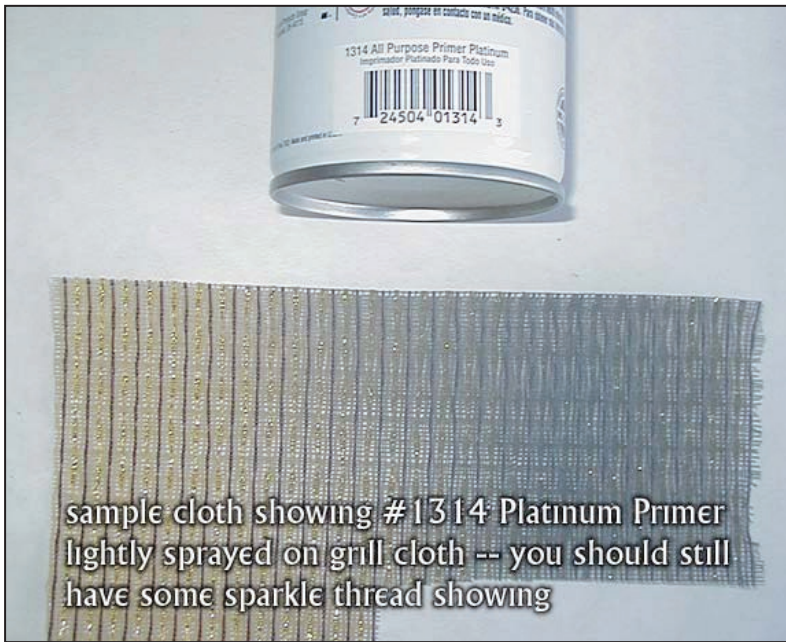


*Assembly of the Wall Communicator may be done in any order.*



**Step 7:** Use 5-minute epoxy to attach the two button rings, and the clear alert wedge light (large side to top) -- just add glue to the edges that fit into the holes without getting any on your visible surfaces (figs. 8 and 9). If you have some glue pushed out, you can wait until the glue is starting to harden up (yet soft) and pull it off with a toothpick or your fingernail.

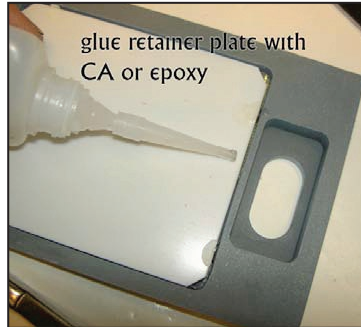
**Optional:** If you are making a static wall display without working push buttons, glue the buttons in place in their respective sleeves with epoxy or CA -- note that you probably won't be able to get them back out if you change your mind and want to put in working lights later.



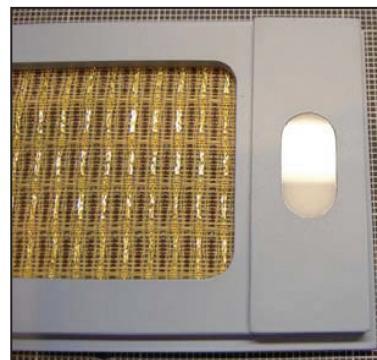
**Step 8:** The speaker cloth material can be used as is or you can mist a very light coat of light gray paint on it to tone down the bright gold (or silver) color. The original speaker cloth used on set looked grayish in color, though some of the speakers looked brown and some were silverfish in color, so you may make your cloth look any way desired. If you're painting, be sure you only spray enough so you still have some metallic sparkle in the cloth. After the paint has dried, trim the cloth with scissors to fit into the back rectangle hole of the speaker.

*Most of these instruction pictures show assembly with the cloth as it comes in the kit not painted, but the finished prop pictured has the cloth painted.*

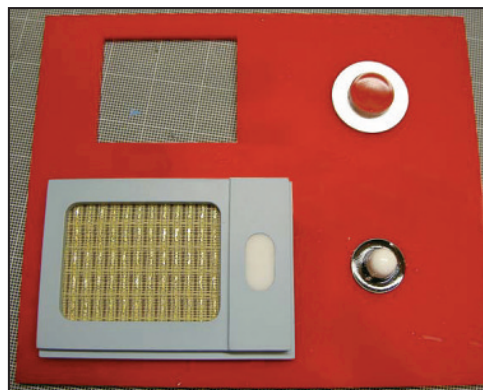
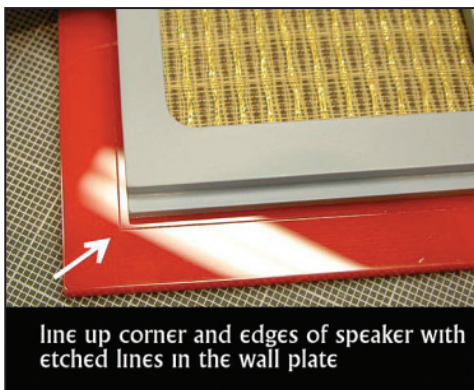




**Step 9:** Use hot glue or 5-minute epoxy to attach the cloth to the frame. Insert the backing plate to the frame to hold the cloth into place, making sure you put the painted part of the backing plate towards the cloth.



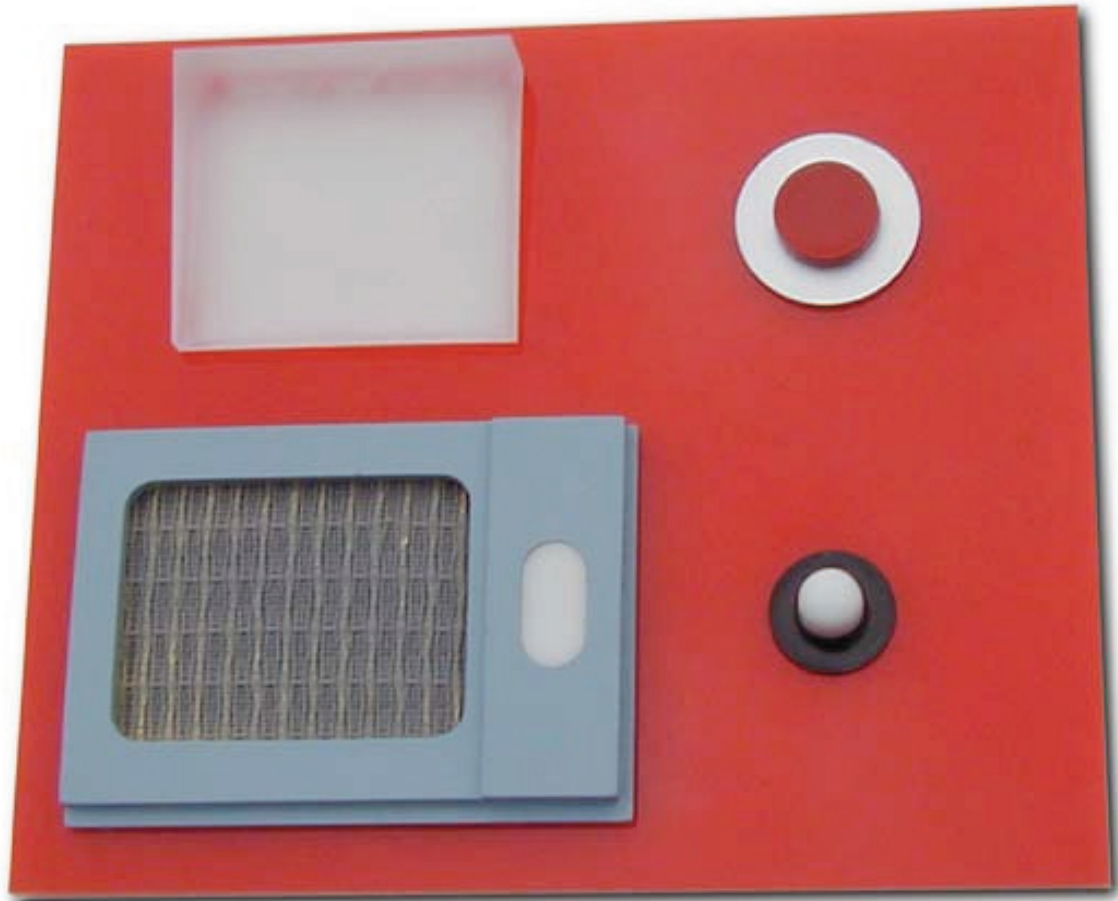
**Step 10:** Glue with 5-minute epoxy or CA the clear plastic backing plate into the back rectangle hole on the backside of the speaker grill (left photo). Make sure you don't have dried glue inside the oval hole, then glue the milk plex oval part into the oval hole onto the clear backing plate you just glued in the previous step using Testors Clear Parts Cement or epoxy.



**Step 11:** There is a fine line shaped like an "L" etched into the wall plate; this is a guide for you to line up the speaker grill into place (left photo). Scuff up the plastic wall plate where the speaker grill will sit on with sandpaper, and take care you don't sand where it will show around the grill -- if you put your speaker where you want it and put some masking tape around your speaker, it will help greatly in not damaging the finished surface when scuffing.

Attach the speaker grill to the plate with 5-minute epoxy, using the "L" guidelines to place the speaker (right photo). Be careful not to squish out the glue around the edge that shows -- if this happens, wait until the glue is almost dry and pick it away with a toothpick. If you have painted the wall plate, you will need to scrape away or sand the area to be glued, as glue does not stick too well to a painted surface.





Congratulations, your Roddenberry.com Star Trek TOS Wall Communicator is finished!

If you want to hang your finished wall-comm on a wall, you can use some double-sticky foam tape (thin weather-stripping tape or other) for this purpose, but bear in mind this will likely rip paint off your wall if you remove your wall-comm later, so you may want to consider another means of display or use something that won't damage your wall.

For a related prop kit that will look great on display with your wall-comm, Roddenberry.com recommends the *Star Trek* TOS Desktop Communicator #1788.

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### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

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