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#PRP1796

Star Trek III: The Search For Spock™
Communicator Prop Kit Assembly Manual





PARTS INCLUDED IN KIT:

- Upper and Lower Main Body
- Etched Brass Antenna Grill (attached to upper body in kit)
- Speaker Grill
- Mid Plate (acrylic laser-cut)
- 2 @ 2-56 x 1/2" Allen screws
- 2 @ 4-40 x 1/4" button-head Allen screws
- 2 @ brass spacers
- 1 each green and red LED detail castings (actual LEDs not included in kit)

TOOLS NEEDED FOR ASSEMBLY:

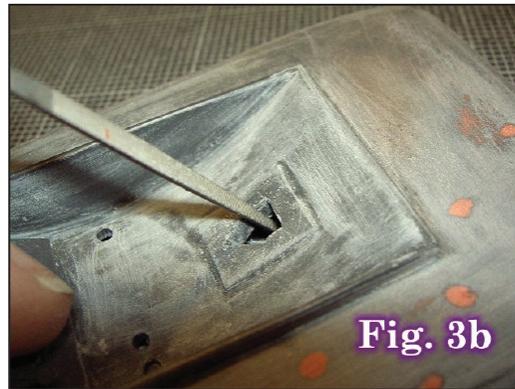
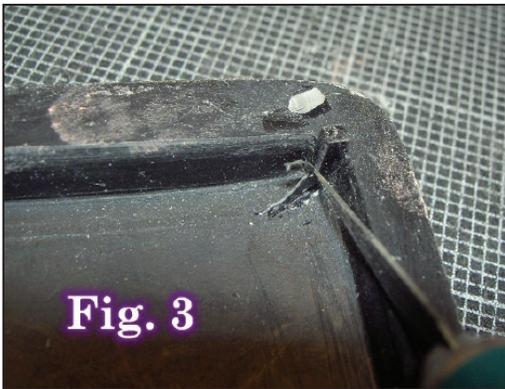
- 1/16" and 5/64" Allen wrenches
- Files -- small jeweler's file to get in the LED hole, wide file or sanding stick for general sanding and prep
- X-Acto knife
- Small-point pen or pencil
- Automotive spot putty
- 5-minute epoxy or JB Weld
- Sandpaper in 400 and 600 grit
- Masking tape (blue painter's tape recommended)
- Rubber cement

PAINTS NEEDED:

- Gold Metallic or similar gold finish paint OR Bare-Metal foil in gold OR Chartpak Gold Metallic Detail Tape 1/8" wide (found either by itself or in the Chartpak Deco-Tape six-pack)
- Chrome paint (not silver or aluminum) OR Bare Metal Foil in chrome
- Gray or black primer
- Gloss Black spray paint
- Model Master Racing Blue #2940 OR Tamiya TS10 French Blue OR any medium-blue spray paints
- Satin or Semi-Gloss White spray paint



Step 1: Start by preparing the two body parts; remove the brass grill from the upper body and set aside, then remove all mold lines and sprue protrusions from these and the cast speaker grill detail, and sand smooth (Figs. 1 and 2).



Step 2: Use your X-Acto knife to cut the edge sprue off as well as the interior wedges (Fig. 3). **DO NOT** cut off the four tabs on both the parts; they're necessary to align the body and the mid plate. Sand smooth the upper and lower body parts, use spot putty if you need it to fill in any objectionable areas and sand -- do not fill in any of the screw holes including the two on the lower body and the three holes on the upper body. Also prepare the interior holes of both speaker grill and the triangular/rectangle LED hole (Fig. 3b).



Step 3: The mid plate ships with tracing paper on and is slightly oversized. **The mid plate should stick out from the body approx. .030" (1/32") when you're done.** Cut the tracing paper middle out with your knife (Fig. 4), then using the bottom body half, locate the mid plate until it looks even.

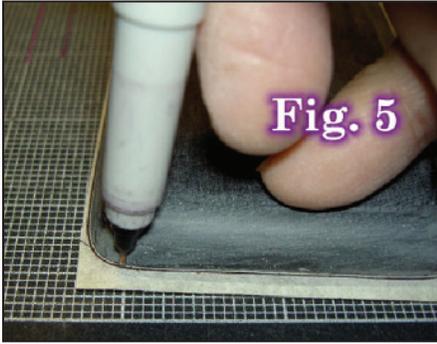


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

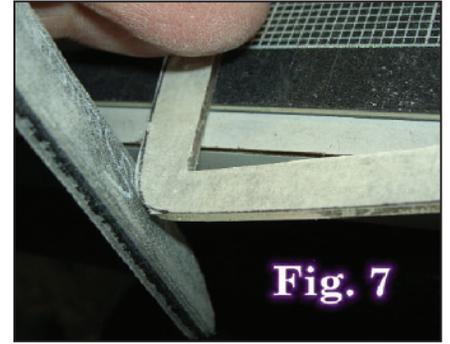


Fig. 7

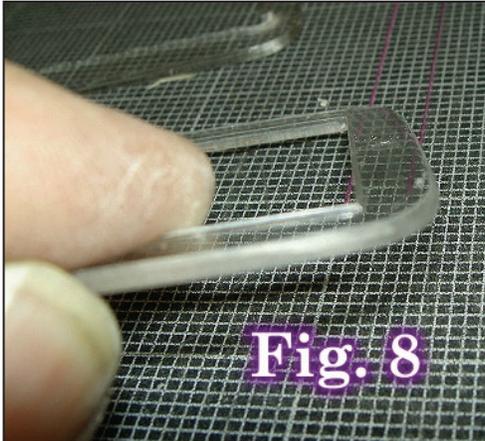


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

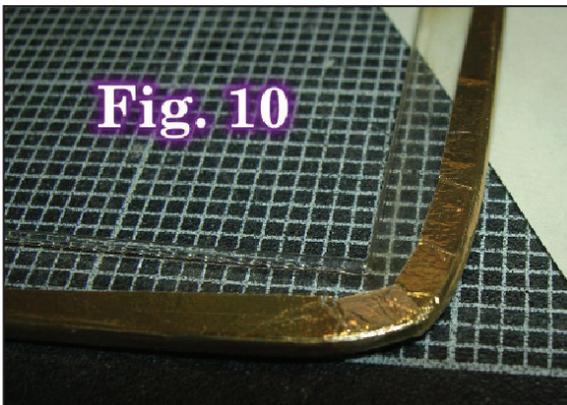


Fig. 10

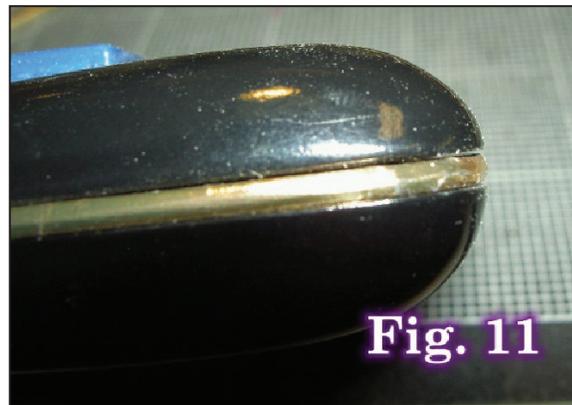


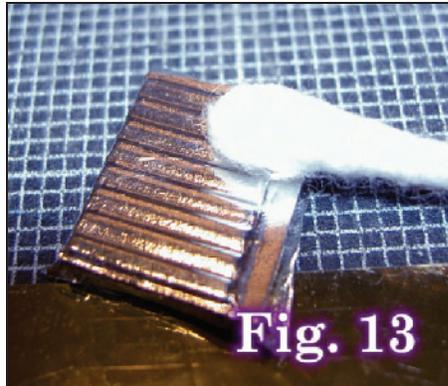
Fig. 11

Step 4: With a pen or pencil trace the edge on the paper (Figs. 5 and 6), then file or sand to the pen mark (Fig. 7) making sure your edge is rounded (Fig. 8 and 11), and try not to recess the plate within the body if you can.

These instructions offer several different finishing methods depending on your local availability of materials and skill comfort level. All materials and tools listed should be available at hobby stores.

You may finish the mid plate edge using a bright gold spray paint--primer first then spray with the finish color. But for a polished metal look, you can use Bare-Metal brand gold foil, which is lightly adhesive on one side and can be burnished to give a realistic polished metal finish. Cut a strip approximately 1/4 - 3/8" wide and wrap around the edge being careful you don't put on any wrinkles on the visible edge (Figs. 9, 10, 11). Another alternative is using a bright polished gold graphic tape such as what Chartpak sells, available at art supply stores--use the 1/8" tape.

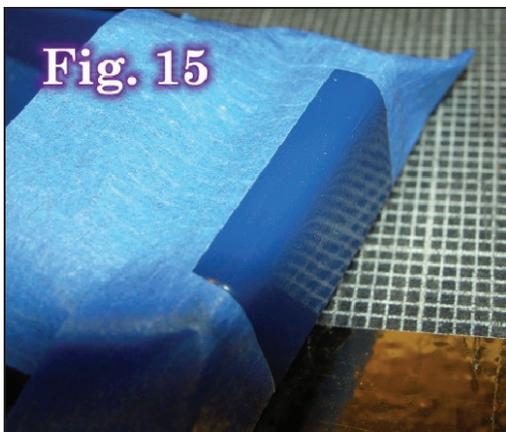




Step 5: Finish the speaker grill using either a chrome-finish paint (Krylon Chrome is a pretty good one), or by rubbing on with a Q-Tip a small square of Bare-Metal foil in polished chrome (Figs. 12 and 13). Set aside both mid plate and speaker grill.



Step 6: Paint the lower and upper body gloss black, then set aside the lower body. When hard enough to accept mask-ing tape, mask the black areas of the upper body so the raised middle is exposed, then paint it in gloss blue (Fig. 14). Model Master Racing Blue #2940 is probably the most accurate color for this, but you may also use Tamiya TS10 French Blue or any medium blue or blue-gray shade; don't go sky blue (too light) or navy blue (too dark).



Step 7: When the blue is dry, mask it so the back panel is exposed (Fig. 15), then spray this in semi- gloss white. When dry and cured, remove all the tape.

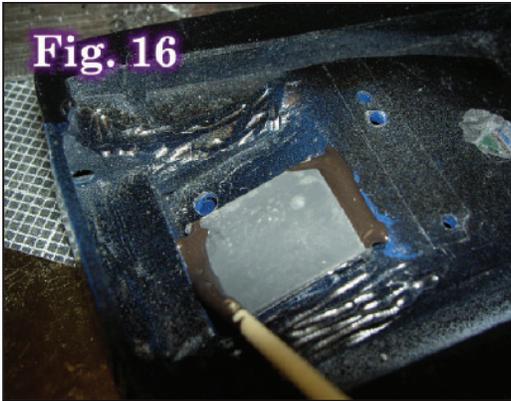


Fig. 16

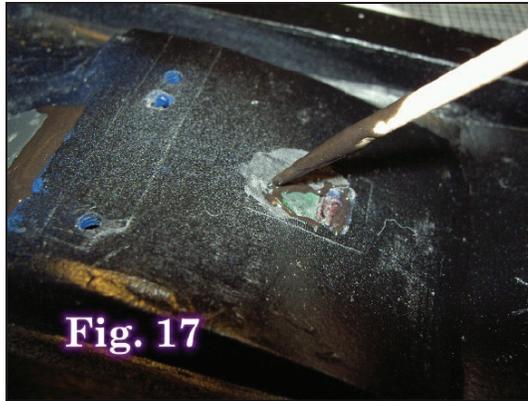


Fig. 17

Step 8: Using epoxy or JB Weld (recommended--it's available in slow or fast set), glue the speaker grill in place; it will fit on only one way to look right (Fig. 16). Glue the green and red LED parts in place (Fig. 17); these should stick out of the surface approximately .050 (or 1/16" max). If you're planning on putting lights in here, make sure the glue doesn't cover the bottom of the LED parts. (Optional: apply a little Bare-Metal foil to the bottom of the LEDs).



Fig. 18

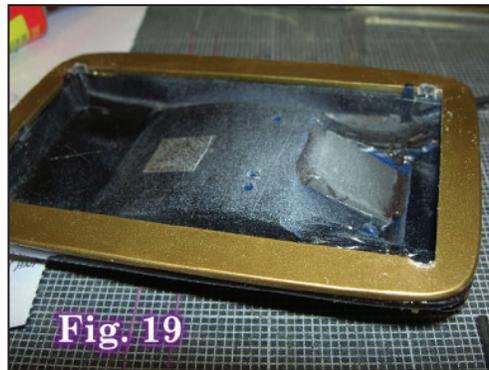


Fig. 19

Step 9: Align the mid plate on the upper body and remove, noting its proper orientation. Apply a small amount of rubber cement on the upper body (Fig. 18) and glue the mid plate on (Fig. 19--painted mid plate shown). Don't let it ooze onto your finished surface! This will make it easier to do the final assembly.



Fig. 20

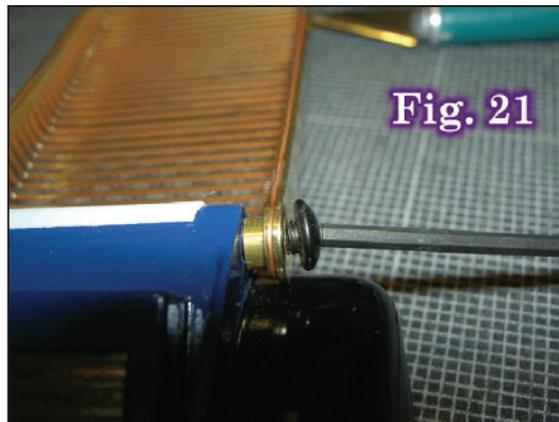
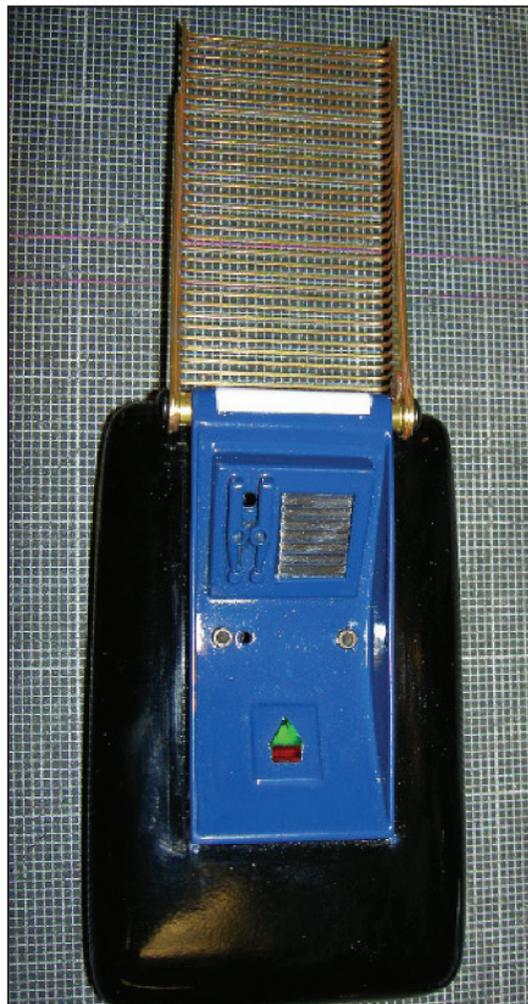


Fig. 21

Step 10: Place the lower shell on and screw it in place using the two 2-56 x 1/2" Allen screws (Fig. 20). Place the brass grill on and screw in using the two 4-40 x 1/4" button head screws and the two brass tube spacers (Fig. 21). Leave the screws loose so the grill will flip easy. Don't over-tighten.



Congratulations, your Star Trek III Communicator is finished!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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