

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Educational Product

Teachers &  
Students

Grades 5–12

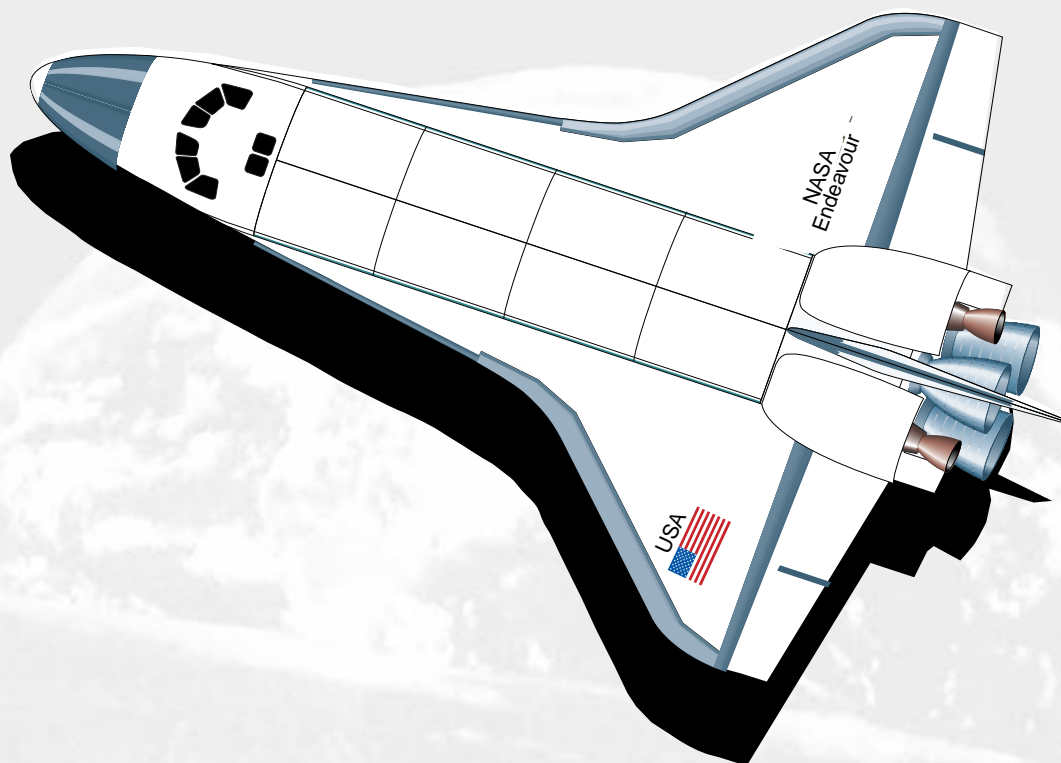
# Space Shuttle Glider Kit

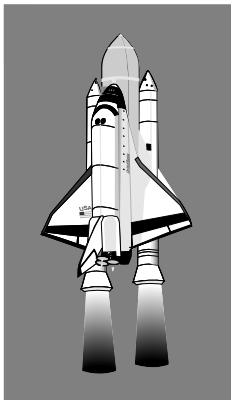
Your Space Shuttle glider is a 1:300 centimeters scale model of the U.S. Space Shuttle orbiter. The airplane-like orbiter can remain in Earth orbit for up to two weeks at a time. It normally carries a six- to seven-person crew—the mission commander, the pilot, and several mission and/or payload specialists who have specialized training associated with the payloads and experiments being flown on that mission.

The Space Shuttle system is very versatile in the types of missions it can perform. Some missions involve the deployment, servicing, or retrieval of payloads, like communication satellites or orbiting observatories such as the Hubble Space Telescope. Other missions may carry the pressurized spacelab module, which sits in the payload bay. Through an access tunnel, astronauts enter the spacelab where they conduct numerous experiments on the effects of weightlessness on various materials and human beings. Shuttle missions can also carry scientific instruments capable of making astronomical observations or studying the

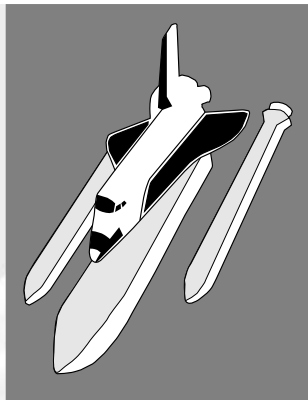
Earth's changing environment. At the end of a Shuttle mission, the orbiter is piloted back to Earth and lands like an airplane on an airstrip. It is then refurbished so that it can fly another mission. NASA anticipates that each orbiter will be able to fly at least 100 missions.

The orbiter and its engines are just part of the Space Shuttle system. The other parts (not modeled here) are the solid rocket boosters (SRBs) used for launch and the external tank that contains 1,900,000 liters of liquid propellant for the three Shuttle main engines. All of the parts are reusable, except the external tank, which is jettisoned just before the Shuttle achieves Earth orbit. This ability to reuse costly equipment, as well as the ability to conduct missions from Earth, will substantially decrease the cost of space operations. During our Earth-bound years we relied upon trucks, trains, and airplanes to provide transportation; now we rely upon the Space Shuttle to provide transportation to and from space.

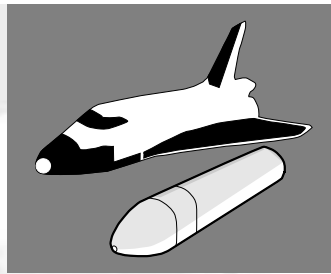




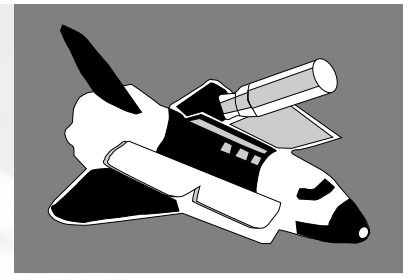
**LAUNCH**



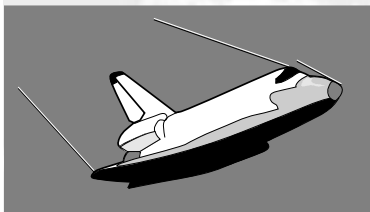
**BOOSTER SEPARATION**



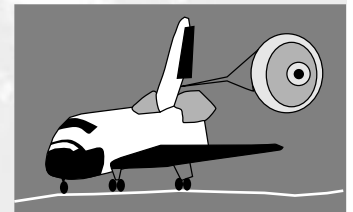
**EXTERNAL TANK  
SEPARATION AND  
ORBIT INSERTION**



**ON-ORBIT  
OPERATIONS**



**RE-ENTRY**



**AIRSTRIPE  
LANDING**

# Space Shuttle Glider Kit Assembly Instructions

## Space Shuttle Glider Assembly

### Tools Needed:

Scissors  
Ruler  
Dull knife (butter knife)  
Stick glue, or white glue  
Cellophane tape (optional)

### Procedure

- Step 1. Cut out the entire pattern on the outside lines. The more careful the cutting, the better the finished glider will look.
- Step 2. Line up the ruler with the dashed fold lines. Pull the dull knife along the lines to score them. This will make folding more accurate.
- Step 3. Fold the paper on all dashed lines. The dashed line will be up for a mountain fold and down for a valley fold. See figure 2 below for details on the folds.
- Step 4. Lightly cover both pieces of nose strut 1 with glue. Fold it over the nose of the glider to form a triangle shape. Bend nose strut 2 over and press to strut 1 until the glue holds. See figure 1.
- Step 5. Coat the inside of each wing with glue and press top and bottom together. Be very careful to line up the parts. See figure 2.
- Step 6. Coat the inside of the tail pieces with glue. Also coat the outside of the four flaps along the payload bay with glue. Bring the two sides of the payload bay together so that all flaps slide *inside* the glider. Lightly press the payload bay and the tail pieces together until the glue holds.
- Step 7. Coat the inside surface of the nose on each side with glue and press them to the struts until the glue holds. If you wish, strengthen the nose with a small amount of cellophane tape.
- Step 8. Put a small amount of glue on the inside of the tiny triangle at the nose of the glider. Bend it upward to close the hole. As the glue dries, the triangle will stay put.

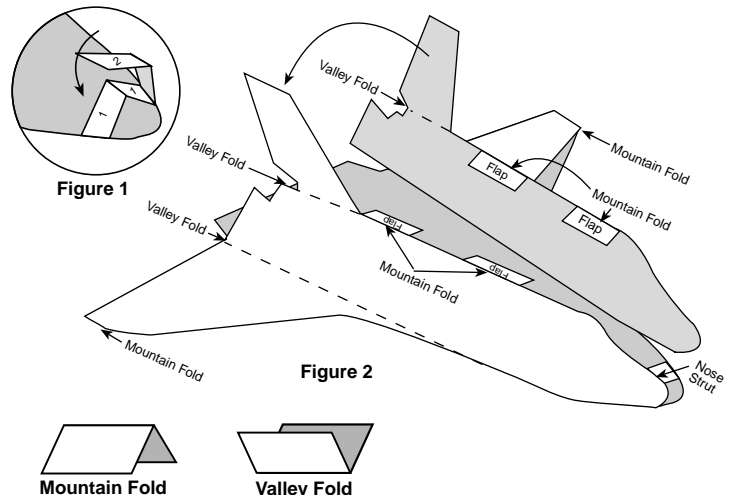
## Flying the Space Shuttle Glider

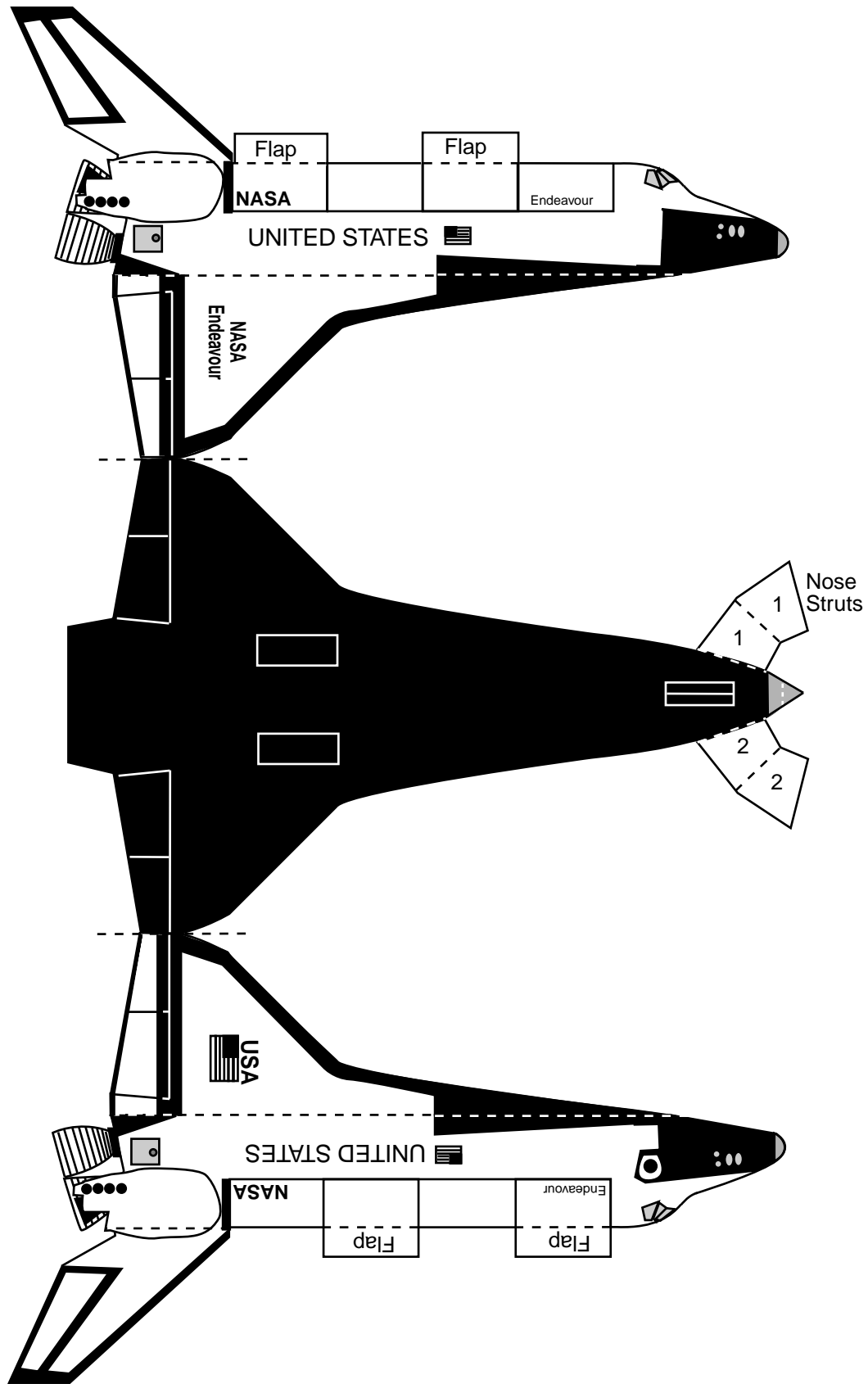
When the glue is dry, your glider is ready for flight tests. Depending upon how much glue you used, the glider may already be balanced for flight. Gently toss the glider forward with its nose slightly elevated. If it flies smoothly and lands flat on its bottom, the glider is ready. If not, it may be necessary to add a small amount of weight to its nose. Ball up a small piece of tissue paper and push it into the nose from the tail end of the glider with a pencil. Keep adding small pieces until the glider flies properly.

## Other Things to Do with the Space Shuttle Glider:

- The glider kit can be enlarged on a copy machine. This will change its scale. To determine the new scale, divide the length of the glider into the length of the real Space Shuttle (37 meters).
- Create a space diorama by suspending it inside a box that has been blackened.
- Create a space mobile with the Space Shuttle glider and other space-related objects (i.e., satellites, astronauts doing space walks, etc.).
- Use the glider as an ornament by coloring it and attaching a string to it for hanging.

Resource: Additional information on the Shuttle program can be accessed on the Internet at <http://shuttle.nasa.gov>





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