

Blue Streak IRBM

The Blue Streak IRBM was Britain's bold entry into the space age. A large (10-foot diameter) LOX/kerosene missile, the Blue Streak could both serve as a home-built nuclear deterrent to the Soviets, and as the first stage of a British or European launcher (which it later did, as part of Europa).

The project was initiated with considerable U.S. help, especially in the areas of the warhead, and in engine design (the RZ.2 was aided by study of Rocketdyne's Atlas booster engines.).

The project was overtaken by obsolescence. A LOX/kerosene missile took too long to fuel, and was too vulnerable; a storable-fuel missile (like the Titan II) or a solid-fuel (like Minuteman or Polaris) would be far superior.

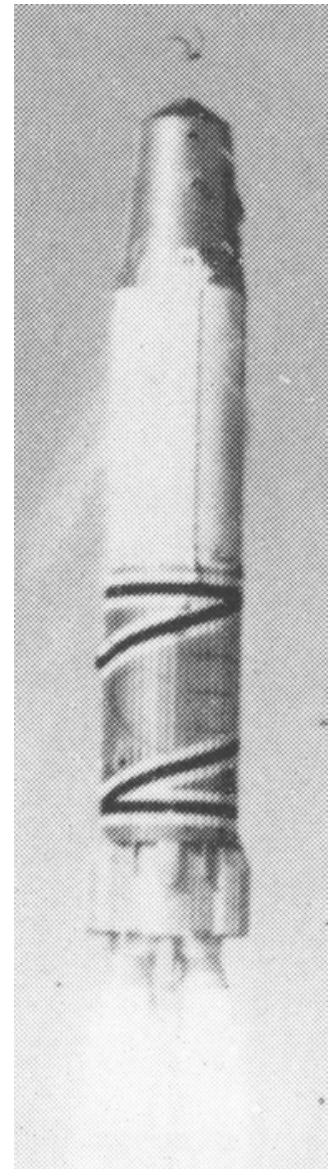
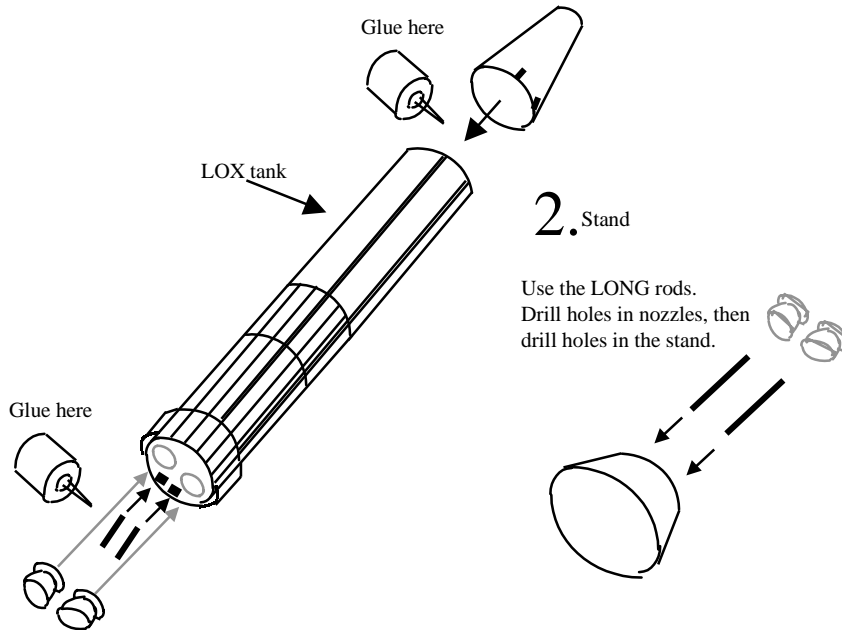
Eventually, the project was shelved in favor of the Skybolt air-launched missile, then, when that was cancelled, Polaris. Blue Streak tests were carried out at Woomera, Australia in support of the Europa program.

This kit is a resin kit. It is not up to the standards of professional mass-produced injection-molded kits; on the other hand, there are no such kits of the Blue Streak. You will need to trim flash off of parts, sand parts to fit, and fill gaps and holes with plastic putty.

Before beginning, take inventory of your parts. Compare them with the kit instructions, and familiarize yourself with both. Now would be a good time to wash all resin parts in soap and lukewarm water, as this will wash off any "weeping" that may have come off the resin during shipping.

Use of a cyanoacrylate glue (Super Glue) or a fast-setting epoxy is recommended.

1. Rocket Assembly



Painting Guide

- Overall - Aluminum
- Warhead tip - dark gray
- First stage LOX tank (upper tank) - Frost-covered (White when fueled)

Striping pattern must be applied with masking; sorry, there is no decal.

This is the only useful picture I have. An operational IRBM would probably replace the tracking stripes with a roundel (British insignia) and vehicle number.