



Ariane V Launcher

The Ariane V is ESA's new heavy launcher, designed to replace the Ariane IV in operational service. The Ariane V has a much larger payload than its predecessor, allowing double or even triple launches of heavy satellites to geosynchronous orbit. This allows economies of scale.

To date, the Ariane V has made two launches. The first ended in a spectacular explosion due to a guidance problem; the second was a partial failure, as a premature first-stage shutdown led to the stranding of the payload in the wrong (but salvageable) orbit.

The Ariane V was originally designed to launch the Hermes minishuttle, as well as commercial payloads. With the cancellation of the Hermes project, only the commercial launcher remains.

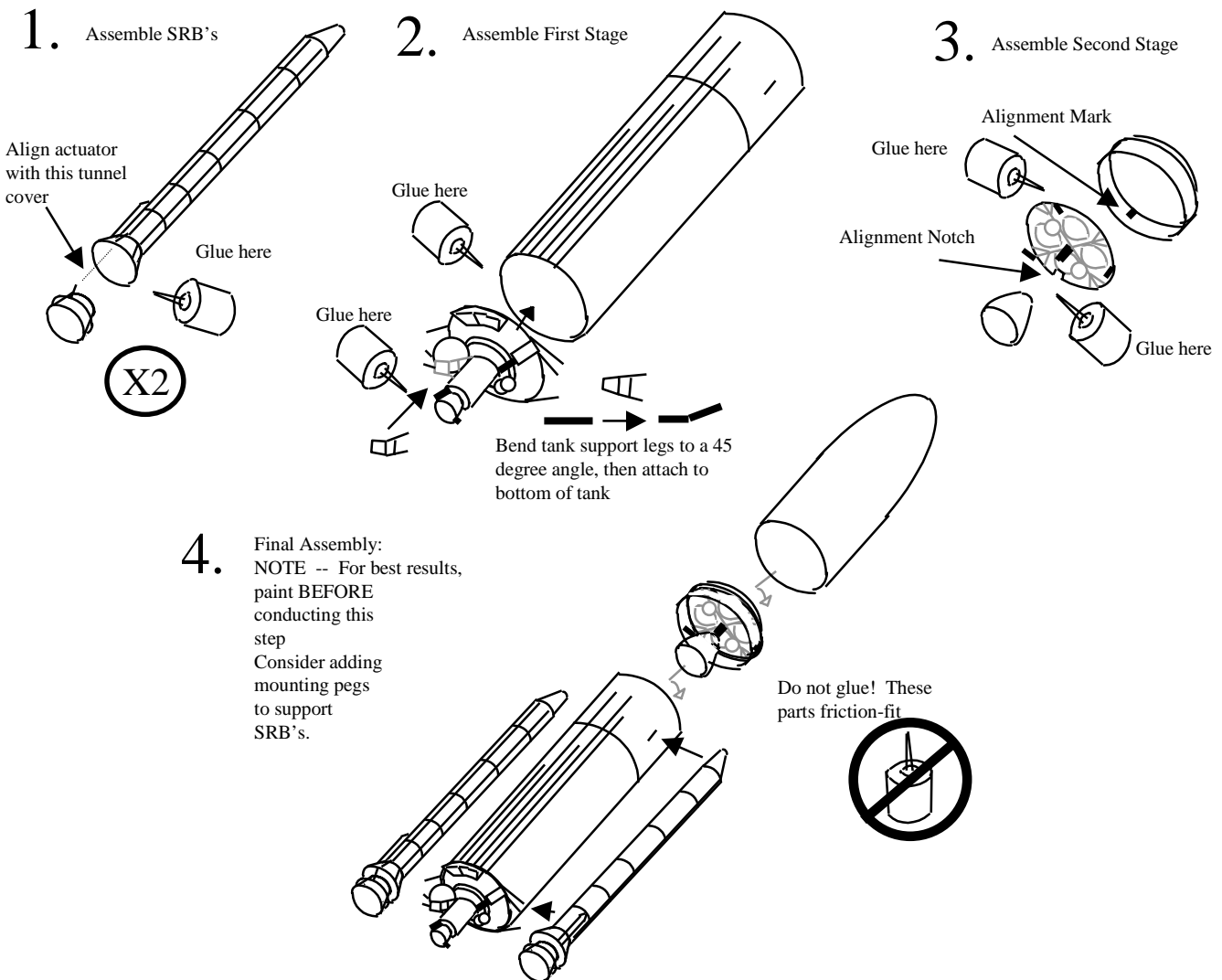
This kit is designed to reproduce the dual-launch version. A triple-launch version would be very similar, but with a slightly longer fairing.

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 Ariane V in 1/144. 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.

I've included some extra strip styrene as spare parts, in case some of the struts get broken and/or lost. I got a little over-ambitious with molding-in some of the struts....



Ariane V Painting/Decal Guide

The Ariane V is finished in six colors:

- White -- SRB's, Payload Fairing, engine bay, interstage, SRB nozzle ring
- Light Stone Gray -- Main tank insulation
- Dark Sand -- SRB nozzles, except ring
- Graphite -- Second Stage engine nozzle
- Black -- SRB segment joints
- Aluminum -- First Stage nozzle and turbine exhausts. Pressure spheres.
SRB actuator arms, hydraulic power unit, and interior parts (second stage, intertank interior, etc.)

Note the official Arianespace cutaway below gives a good idea of the overall layout, but is inaccurate in color and some surface details.

SRB decals are on each side (4 total)

Here is a shot of the second launch.

