



Ariane 44LP

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The Ariane 44LP is a version of the Ariane 4 with 4 strap-ons; 2 are liquid strap-ons, and 2 are solid (powder, or P). Capable of placing over 18,000 lbs in LEO or 8,950 lbs in GTO, the AR44LP is a commercial space-launch workhorse that has no equal...except for the other Ariane 4 versions, of course.

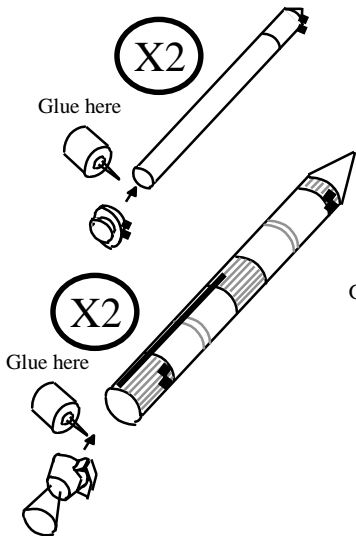
The AR44LP was actually the first version of the Ariane 4 to fly, on Ariane flight no. 22 (V22). Decals for this flight are included. Since the payload decals for that flight are rather plain, alternate decals are included -- for V42, an Astra DBS satellite and Meteosat weather satellite launch.

This kit is a resin kit. It is not up to the standards of professional mass-produced injection-molded kits; on the other hand, the only injection-molded Ariane kit in 1/144 is not of the 44LP, and lacks considerable surface detail, and hasn't been in stores for years. You will need to trim flash off of parts, sand parts to fit, and fill gaps and holes with plastic putty.

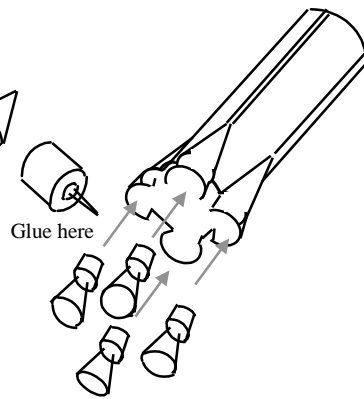
Before beginning, take inventory of your parts. Compare them with the kit instructions, and familiarize yourself with both. Now would be a good time to wash all resin parts in soap and lukewarm water, as this will wash off any "weeping" that may have come off the resin during shipping.

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

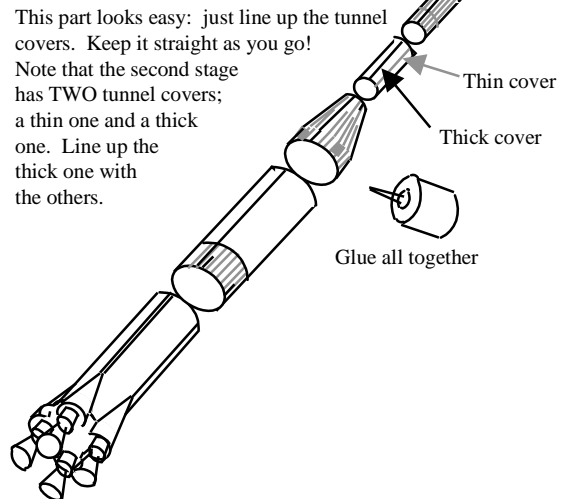
1. Assemble Strap-ons



2. First Stage Engine Bay

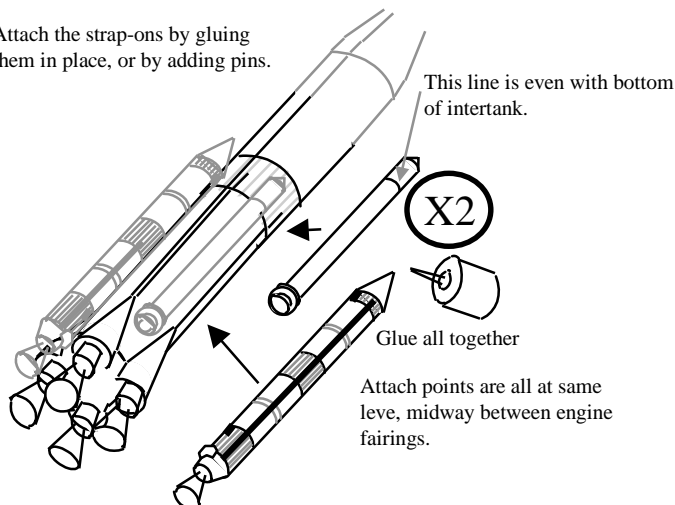


3. Assemble main body

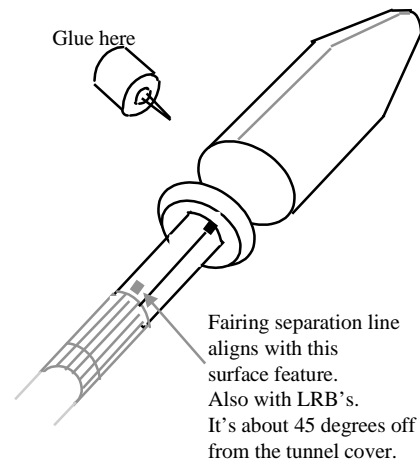


4. Add boosters

Attach the strap-ons by gluing them in place, or by adding pins.



5. Assemble fairing



Ariane 44LP Painting/Decal Guide

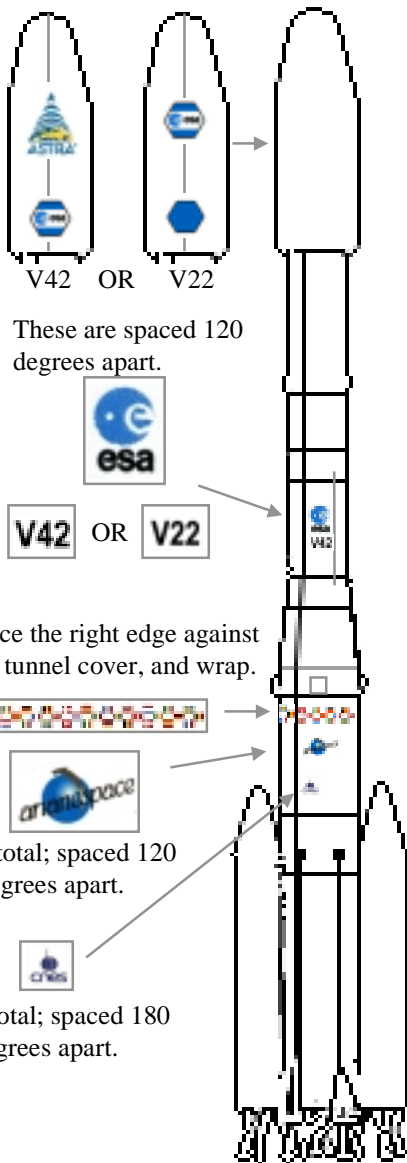
The Ariane 4 is finished in three colors:

- White -- Overall
- Brown -- Third Stage except for surface details
- Aluminum -- First Stage engines, LRB engines

Please forgive the line drawing below; it's traced over an official ESA drawing that was unfortunately too fuzzy to be usable. It's enough, though, to tell us where the decals go.

The decal sheets included can make either V22 (the first Ariane 4), or V42. The book "Rockets of the World: A Modeler's Guide" by Peter Always is highly recommended and has an excellent decal placement guide for V22.

Fairing rotated 90 deg.



Finally, here's two views (of V22) to help you put it all together:

