

Europa Launcher

The Europa launch vehicle was Europe's first attempt at an indigenous European launcher. A product more of politics than engineering, it used a stage each built by Britain, France, and Germany. The British first stage was the Blue Streak IRBM (by then cancelled). The French Coralie second stage and German Astris third stage, and the fairing, completed the launcher.

Alas, developmental problems and bad luck plagued the project. Two two-stage suborbital tests failed when the second stage failed to ignite. Then, three orbital attempts were foiled when the third stage failed; and the last time, the fairing failed as well.

Britain dropped out, but provided the last two Blue Streak stages. These were used as the basis for the Europa II, which was externally identical but included a fourth stage and was launched from Kourou for more payload. In front of the world's press, the first Europa II launch ended in disaster when the guidance failed and the rocket was self-destructed.

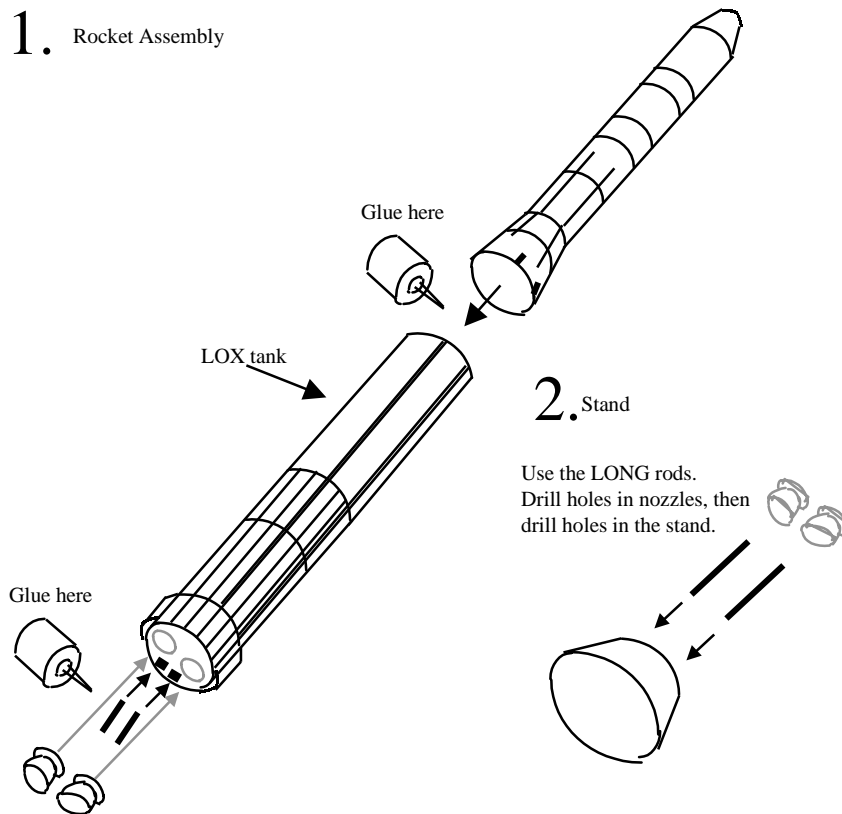
The project was cancelled, and the final Europa II broken up. Eventually, the Ariane project replaced it.

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 Europa. 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
- Fairing - White
- Three small cuts on fairing side - Black
- First stage LOX tank (upper tank) - Frost-covered (White when fueled)

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

There is a tiny circular Europa emblem on the third stage of some vehicles, but I know no more details. Again, this decal is not included.

This is the only useful picture I have.