



# Waterslide Decal Application Instructions

THE SPINDRIFT™ LAND OF THE GIANTS®  
SUBORBITAL TRANSPORT REPLACEMENT COCKPIT  
THE FANTASY WORLDS OF IRWIN ALLEN®



## REQUIRED TOOLS

- Small Sharp Scissors or X-Acto Knife
- Spray Bottle or Bowl of Clean Room Temperature Water (distilled water is preferred)
- Paper Towel
- Small Soft Brush

## OPTIONAL TOOLS

- One of the following clear coat sprays; Testors Glosscote\* or Testors Dullcote\* (many other clear coat sprays will work as well)
- Microscale Liquid Decal Film\*
- Microscale Micro Set\*
- Microscale Micro Sol\* or
- Walthers Solvaset\*

\*these products can typically be purchased from your local hobby store or

## WARNING!

Waterslide decals are extremely delicate and require care. If not applied properly the decal may scratch, rip or tear during application. It is suggested that you do testing before you apply your purchased product.

## APPLICATION

Application surface should be as smooth as possible. Make sure you have cleaned the application surface, insuring that it is free of any oils and debris. If you plan to clear coat the decal, it is recommended that you first apply a clear coat over the application surface and allow coating to dry. This will insure that the application surface is smooth and any previous pores are sealed.

If you would like to thicken the decal film before applying you may use Microscale Liquid Decal Film to do so. You can apply using a soft brush; let dry for 20 minutes. It is also beneficial to apply liquid decal film if you decals have been sitting for more than 2 years after receiving. Liquid decal film will also protect the printed ink from scratches and some chemical reactions from clear coats. Liquid decal film is not required or recommended if you are applying fresh decals and want best end results. Remove decal sheet from packaging gently. Cut out decal in square/rectangular/circular pattern using a sharp pair of scissors leaving at least 1/4-1/2" between the decal print and cutting edge. Store the remainder of the decal sheet in supplied packaging. This will prevent oils and moisture from coming in contact with sheet.

If you are applying your decal to an irregular surface and want to make the decal conform and adhere better; lightly brush on a coat of Microscale Micro Set to the application surface before applying the decal. This will soften the decal and make it more flexible when applying, eliminating air bubbles and giving you that painted on look. It will also provide better adhesion. Do not allow solution to dry before applying decal.

Fill a spray bottle with clean room temperature water. Distilled water will work the best. Place the cut out decal on a damp paper towel and spray decal backing until it is completely soaked. Flip decal so that the print side is facing up and spray lightly with water. The decal film will start to separate from the backing. This could take between 5-15 seconds. Once the decal has started to separate you may proceed to next step. You can also place the cut out decal in a bowl of clean room temperature water for 5-15 seconds, however you have less control when doing this.

Carefully place decal and backing on application surface where you want the decal to be placed. You may moisten the application surface with water first to assist you in decal placement after application. Carefully slide the backing paper out from underneath the decal film leaving the film on the application surface. You may use a small soft brush or your fingers to assist you in holding the film in place. Smooth out decal using a damp paper towel or soft brush. Using a paper towel or soft brush, carefully dab away excess water.

If you have an extremely irregular surface or you are seeing wrinkles or air bubbles under your decal you may use Microscale Micro Sol or Walthers Solvaset. These are more aggressive setting solutions which will cause the decal to conform and bond to the application surface. Apply a very thin coat on the decal using a soft brush. Do not apply a second coat, re-brush or touch an area of the decal where you have applied the solution. The decal will soften and start to conform; if you attempt to adjust or touch the decal during this process you will destroy the decal. You can also apply along just the edges of the decal film, this will blend the film to surface. Allow decal to dry.

Before any type of clear coating you must make sure that the decal is 100% dry both on top and underneath. It is recommended that you wait 24 hours for any remaining moisture to evaporate. You may speed up this process by using a hair dryer, do not use a heat gun. If there is any moisture present when you apply your clear coat you risk damaging the decal.

## CLEAR COATING

To protect decals after application, spray over decal and application surface with a clear coating spray. We suggest one of the previously mentioned sprays. We cannot guarantee the performance of any other clear coat. You must first apply 2-3 very thin mist coats over the decal; allowing it to dry each time. After you have sealed the decal with thin coats you may apply a heavier coat if you want.

If you are using enamel clear coat, automotive clear coat, acrylic clear coat, urethane or lacquer you must first use a thinned out coat. If you don't thin out the first coat it will dissolve the decal. Once the first coat has dried you may then apply a standard coat. Please make sure to request a test decal sheet and apply and test on scrap surfaces.

There are many different types of clear coats that can be used successfully. It is recommended that you always test a decal on scrap until you know what method works for you.

## OTHER REFERENCES

There are many YouTube videos and websites that have great tutorials on how to apply waterslide decals. They are all a little different but very helpful. If you have never applied waterslide decals it is recommend to do a little research online.

## FINAL NOTE

The application of waterslide decals requires a degree of dexterity, and concentration. If this is your first time applying waterslide decals, please try some samples first. We cannot be responsible for replacing decals that have been damaged during application.

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing ParaGrafix's replacement cockpit for the classic "Land of the Giants" Spindrift model. We have made every effort to ensure that these parts can be used successfully by a modeler of modest experience, but there may be items that require advanced modeling techniques. For a basic primer on the use of photoetch (PE), please visit <https://paragrafix.biz/video-instructions-1.asp> and other resources available on the web.

Please note, this set replaces the entire kit cockpit except the floor (kit part 1).

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

You will need scissors or a knife to remove individual pieces from the main photoetch fret, a file to remove material left from cutting.

Common hobby tools will be needed for the kit and resin parts (cast and 3D printed).

For assembling your parts, you will need CA glue (AKA cyanoacrylate / super glue) and/or epoxy cement. In addition, MicroScale Industries' Micro Krystal Klear (MKK) or Testors' Clear Parts Adhesive and Window Maker (TCP) will be needed.

## LIGHTING

In addition to the clear 3D printed parts, the photoetched parts are also set up for lighting. It is a good idea to fill the holes in the PE so that there is a backing for the decals to prevent them from sagging.

**TIP:** MKK and TCP can be colored using everyday food coloring prior to filling the holes. Alternatively, the MKK/TCP can be applied clear, then clear hobby paint\* added after it dries.

\* Tamiya, Testors, and many other hobby paint manufacturers make clear paints.

## KEY

Kit Part:	1
Photoetch	1
ParaGrafix Decal:	A
Back-Light Film:	A
CLEAR 3D Printed Part:	A
OPAQUE 3D Printed Part:	1

## PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

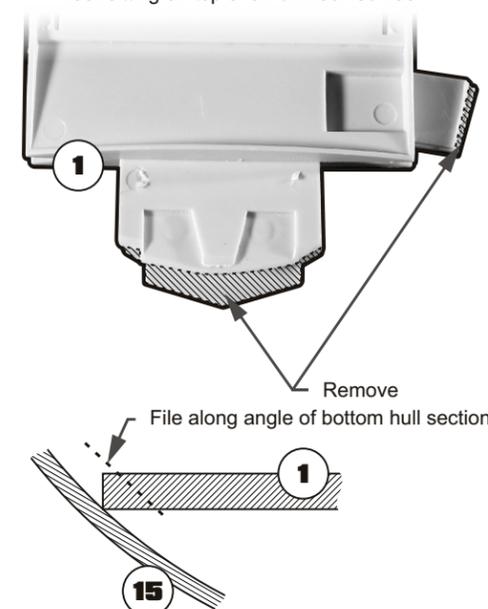
Cut to 14-3/4" wide.  
Fold in half three times  
to 3-5/8" by 5-1/2"

## MODIFY FLOOR

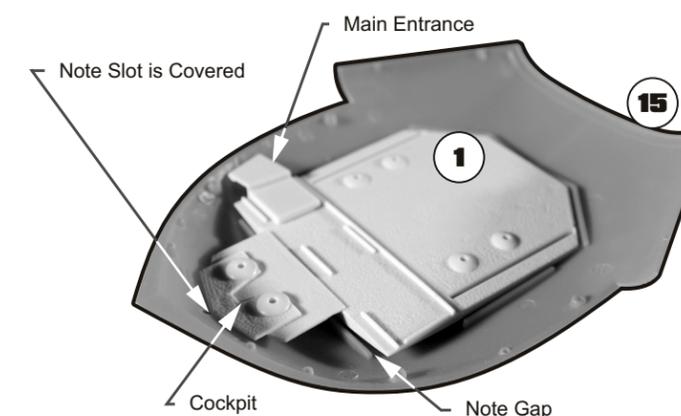
The kit's floor piece (part 1) must be modified so that it fits properly into the bottom hull section (part 15). This requires filing back the main entrance and cockpit areas (see the illustration). Remember to file at an angle to take into account the curvature of the hull.

## MODIFYING PARTS

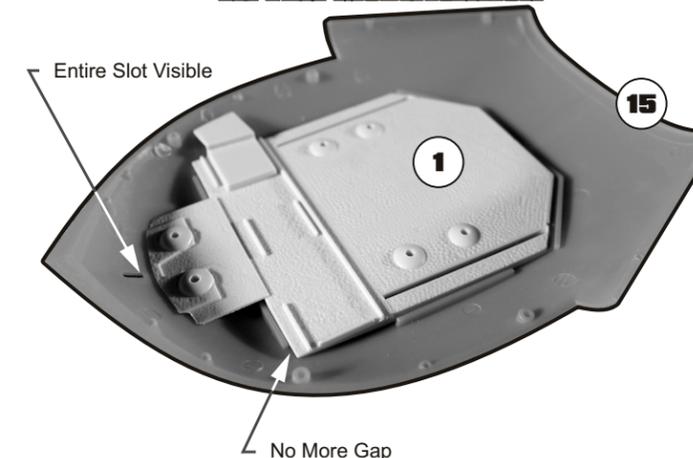
Note that this illustration shows the modified floor sitting on top of an unmodified floor.



## BEFORE MODIFICATION



## AFTER MODIFICATION



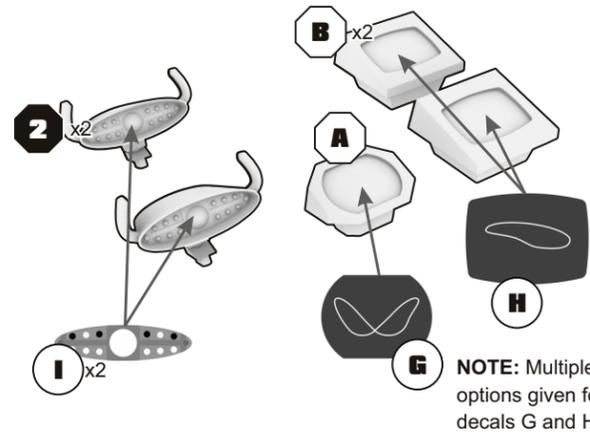
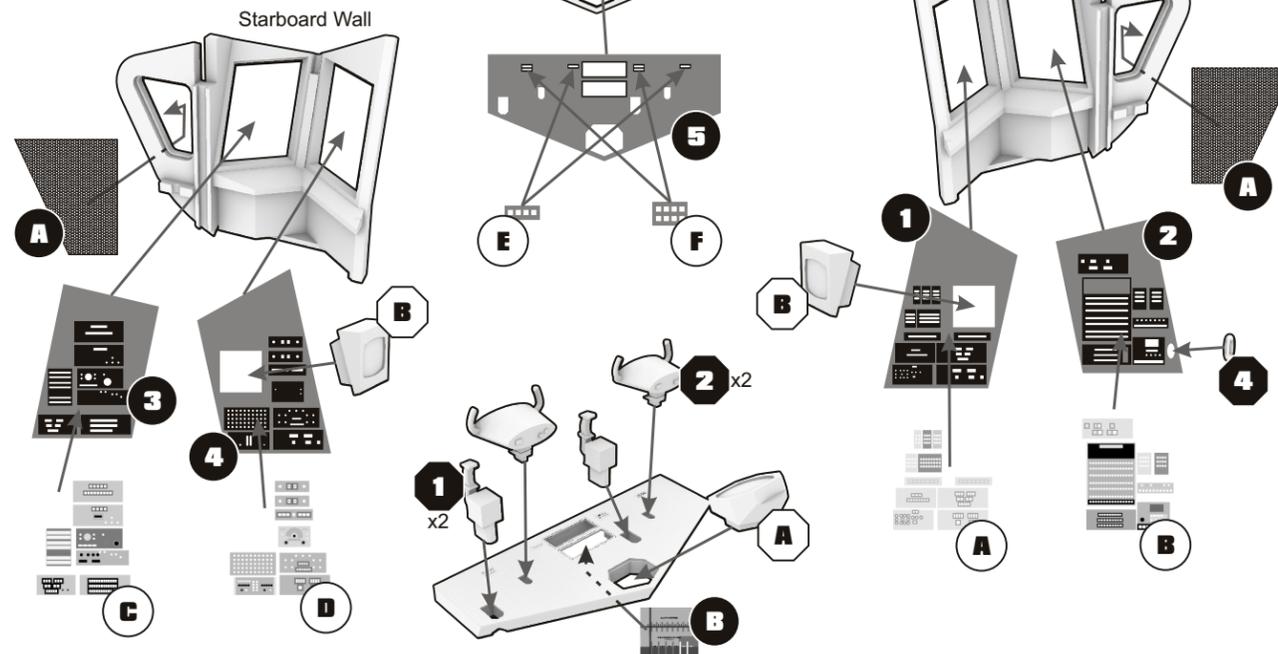
## PAINT AND APPLY DECALS

**NOTE:** The decals will be difficult to apply if you wait until the resin and/or etch parts are installed after assembly.

**NOTE:** Paint etched parts before applying decals.

**TIP:** Before applying decals, fill the small holes on the photoetched parts with Micro Krystal Klear (or equivalent) to provide support for the etch.

Use Micro Krystal Klear (or equivalent) to attach films to the *OUTSIDE* surface of the port and starboard walls.

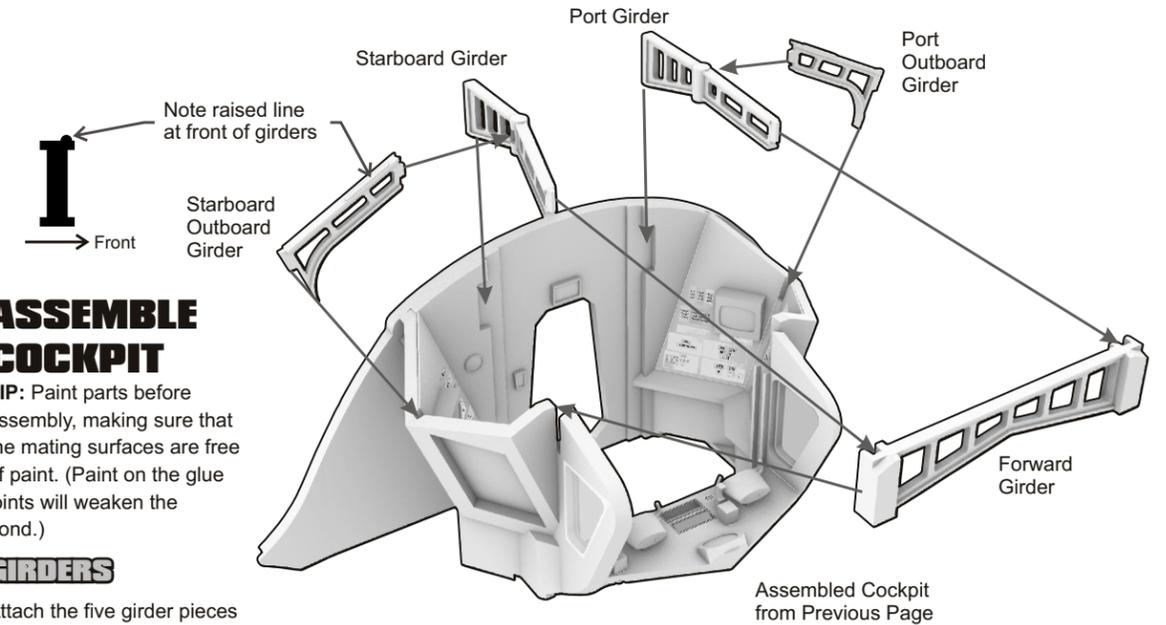


## ASSEMBLE COCKPIT

**TIP:** Paint parts before assembly, making sure that the mating surfaces are free of paint. (Paint on the glue joints will weaken the bond.)

### GIRDERS

Attach the five girder pieces to the cockpit structure. Make sure that the raised line on the two Outboard Girders face the forward edge.

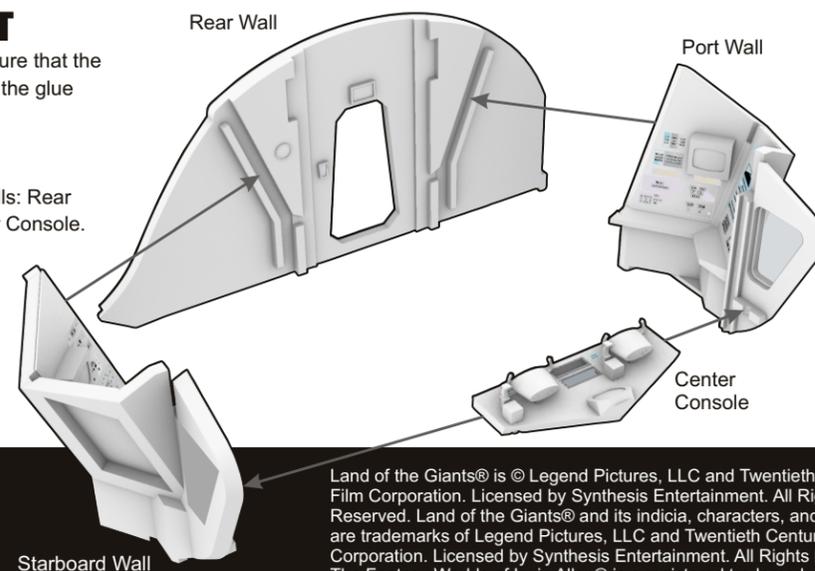


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**TIP:** Paint parts before assembly, making sure that the mating surfaces are free of paint. (Paint on the glue joints will weaken the bond.)

### MAIN STRUCTURE

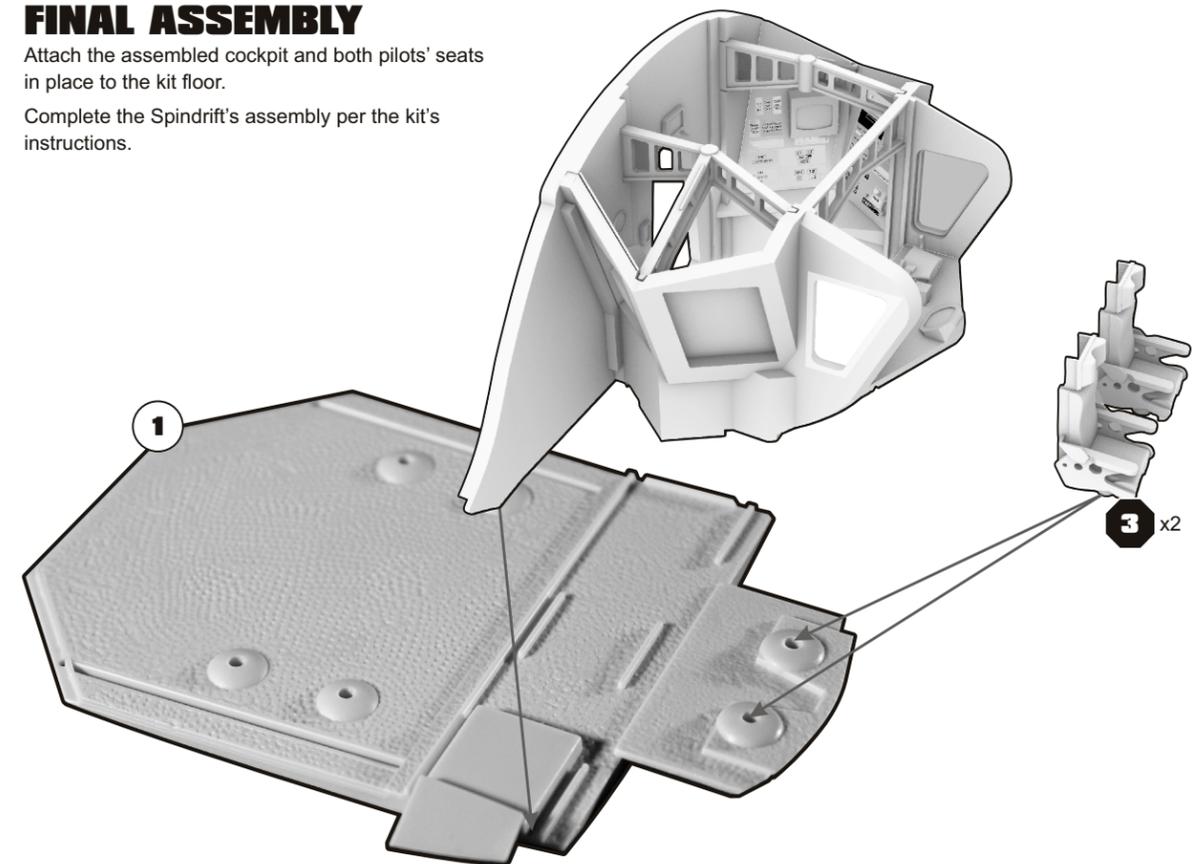
Assemble the four pieces of the cockpit walls: Rear Wall, Port Wall, Starboard Wall, and Center Console.



## FINAL ASSEMBLY

Attach the assembled cockpit and both pilots' seats in place to the kit floor.

Complete the Spindrift's assembly per the kit's instructions.



Special thanks to Doll & Hobby GA's Steve Iverson and Bob Plant for permission to use their box artwork for this product.

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