

Review: 75144 - Snowspeeder

By Iluisgib

Images by Iluisgib and LEGO® System A/S

Set: Snowspeeder

Set number: 75144

Parts: 1703

Contains: 2 minifigs and a plaque with the characteristics of the model

Price: 199,99€ / \$199,99



The new Star Wars UCS set, which will hit the stores on May the 4th, recovers the essence of these great ship models which fascinate us so much. They are detailed models, almost always from the original trilogy, that make a great addition to our display cases with the most incredible and eye-catching designs. The second UCS Snowspeeder is an excellent model, with some interesting functionality and aesthetics that visually take us straight to Hoth.

The assembly is divided into 13 stages. The instruction book is quite thick, and it is really nice that it's a single book. In addition, there is a sticker sheet. Of course, there are stickers (35 of them). Most of them are justified, although in some cases I would have preferred to have the images printed on the element. If you are not extremely careful when you place them, the whole model looks off. But we'll get to that part later.

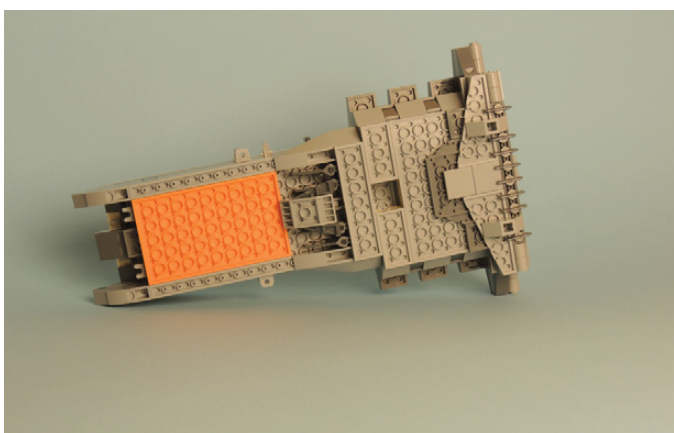
In the first stage the rear part of the chassis of the speeder is built.



The second stage adds the front of the chassis.

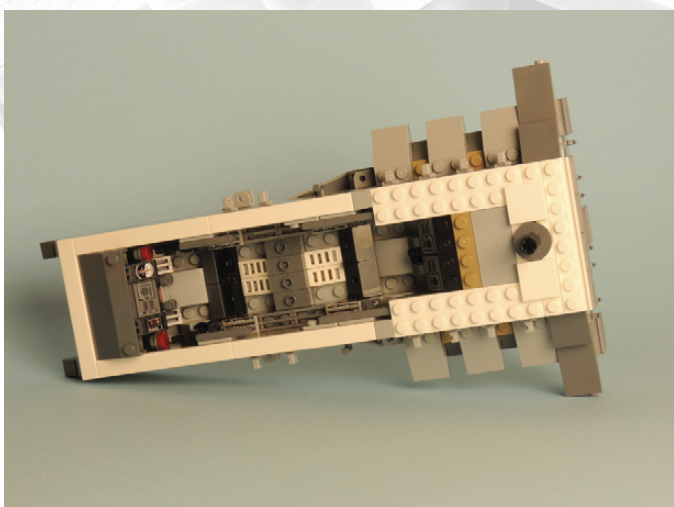


These two stages aren't very interesting since basically you are building infrastructure, using a lot of parts to provide rigidity without adding much to the aesthetics. Anyway, there is a point here which demonstrates the level of detail that went into the design of the model. In the rear of the chassis there are ice skates (minifig accessories) serving as small spoilers to redirect the air.

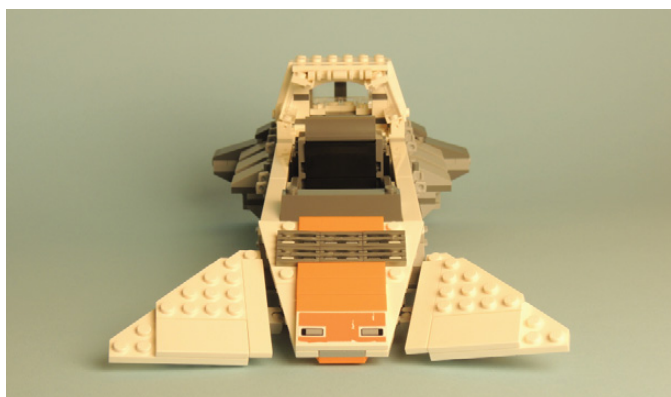


This attention to detail is always present during the construction of this model and it is what I like most when building UCS sets.

With the following stage the model starts to look like a Snowspeeder. The cockpit starts to take shape, and you can see the control panels for the pilot and the gunner. There is also a small mechanism allowing you to aim the rear harpoon launcher with a small joystick inside the cockpit.



After that you add the rear of the canopy, which is fixed to the chassis and the front, together with two appendages that are fixed to the wings. At this stage these appendages don't have a fixed position since they are connected with ball-joints. In stages 9 and 12 these are connected to the spoilers.



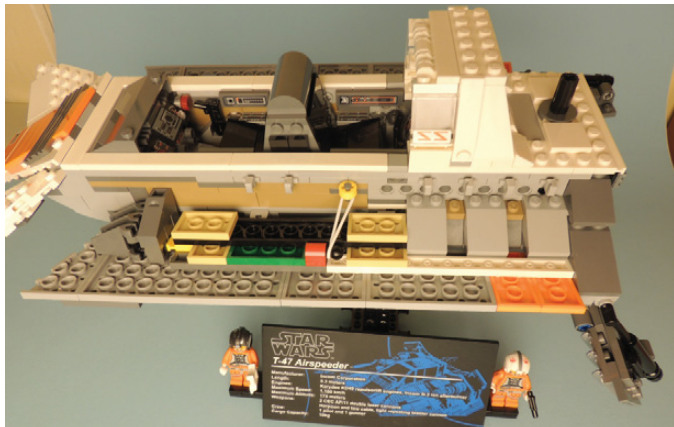
At this stage in the process we take a break to build the support stand for the model. The stand is black, made with Technic elements, and is partially foldable. Just like in other UCS sets, there is a plaque with the characteristics of the model.



This is also when the two included minifigs appear: a pilot and a gunner. Except for the helmet and the accessories (a laser pistol and pair of binoculars), the two minifigs are identical, sharing the same head, torso and legs.

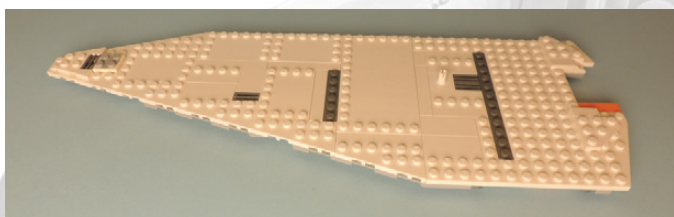


Next up you build the bottom of the sides. Once the model is finished, these are connected to the sides with ball joints. In order to keep them at an angle of approximately 30° there are a couple of rubber bands connecting to the side of the chassis. The two rear spoilers are also added to the model at this point. These spoilers are foldable, and are integrated into the fuselage when retracted.

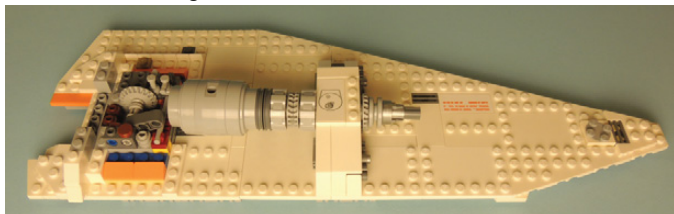


Stages 7, 8 and 9 serve to build the left side. The process is repeated in stages 10, 11 and 12 for the right side. Each side is built over three stages since this is the most complex part of the build.

First you build the spoiler. A series of plates are strategically placed to provide the right shape and required rigidity. As you can see in the image, the construction is totally flat and a combination of white and orange is used. There are no outstanding details in these stages, as those are all added later.

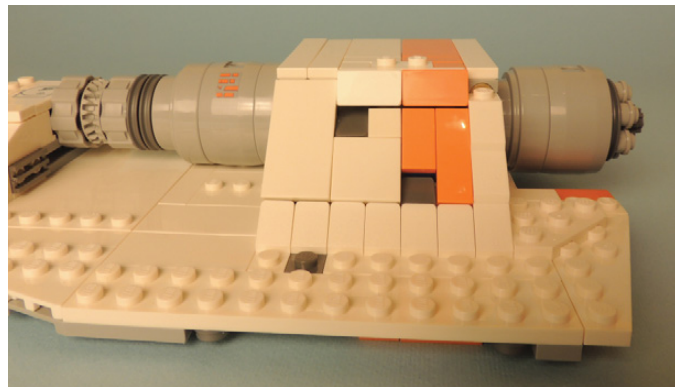


One of the most recognisable parts of the Snowspeeder is the engine over each wing. The engines of course provide propulsion, but their casings also include the flaps used to steer or brake the ship as necessary. There is a small mechanism for lifting these flaps by turning the exhaust nozzles of the engines.

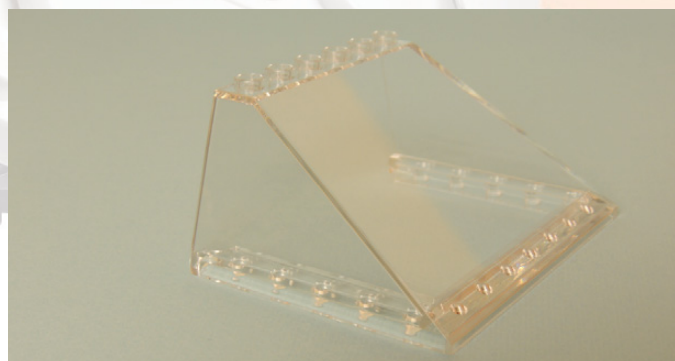


The cannons are placed on the wings, with one on each motor casing. This is quite a long construction that extends beyond the front of the wing. The cannons are set at a slight inward angle in order to concentrate the shots of both cannons towards the same point in front of the ship. I found the way this

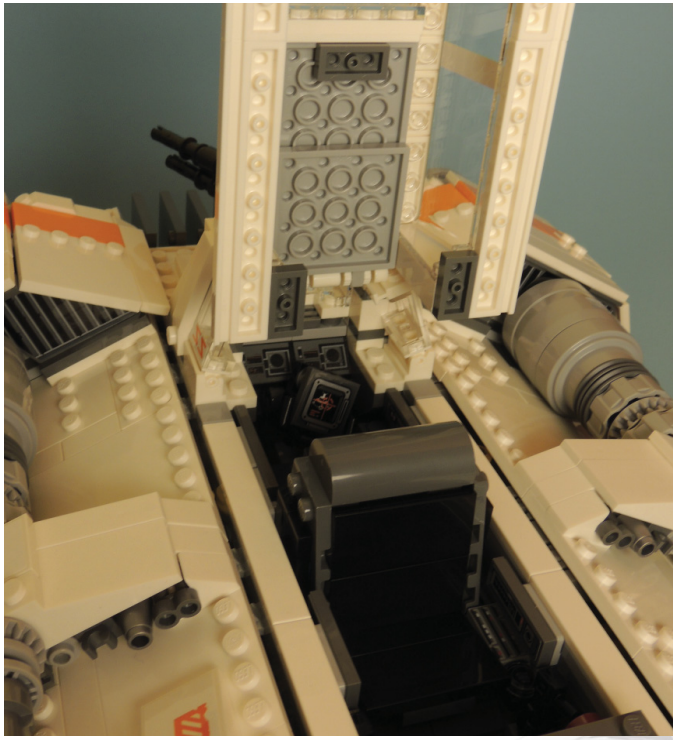
slight displacement was achieved to be quite interesting since you hardly notice it. There is just enough slack in the parts to allow for this small adjustment without compromising the model.



After adding both spoilers only one stage is left to complete the model: the canopy. This stage includes the only new element in this set, which is a new front windshield piece.



Several stickers need to be placed on this element, and at this point I believe there should have been printing rather than stickers. In my case I have been applying stickers to LEGO models for many years, and I have a certain technique for putting them on right. Someone with less experience could easily ruin the model by not applying these stickers correctly. The windshield element is placed between the side windows and the beams that provide rigidity, and is connected to the fixed part of the cockpit. As was to be expected, the canopy can open and you can see the inside of the cockpit.



You also build the rear harpoon and the cooling fins.



Finally the model is completed. It looks spectacular and is quite heavy. This makes me wonder whether the stand – made with Technic elements – will stand the test of time.



The model is also a little fragile. You can see that it was meant primarily for display (and admiration). If you want to ‘swoosh’ it you will have to go easy, as there are several parts that may come off easily.

Overall, the model is fantastic. The building process is very entertaining and there are some interesting techniques. The designers have paid a lot of attention to detail, with small gadgets that we fans love and which make it much more than just a static model. The price per element for this set is not bad for a Star Wars set at 11.7 cents/piece.

I would like to thank the LEGO AFOL Relations & Programs Team for providing the set for review. However, LEGO® does not approve nor endorse the opinions we publish about their sets.

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