

# MERCURY GEMINI APOLLO

**FNC-39a-b-c**

**SCALE: 1:50-ish**

*Assembly Instructions*

## **GENERAL TIPS:**

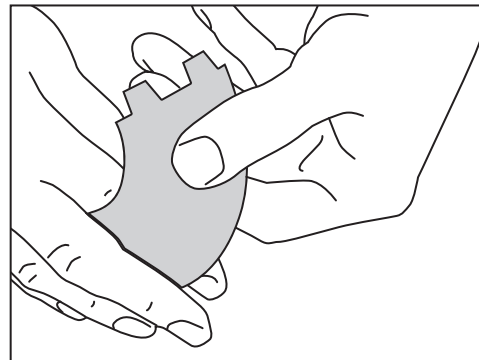
01. Take your time!
02. Each piece is labeled with a letter; follow the assembly diagram in alphabetical order for easiest assembly.
03. Punch out pieces only when directed; some models have similar-looking pieces that are not interchangeable. (See Fig. 1)
04. Gently rolling curved pieces between your fingers will help loosen the paper fibers, giving you a smoother curve for a better-looking model. (See Fig. 2)
05. Be careful not to tear any tabs or slots when punching out pieces. Do not bend tabs unless instructed to do so.
06. Prying open the slots a bit with a craft knife (after curling) makes assembly much easier. (See Fig. 3)
07. Most pieces are rotationally symmetrical, but keep the seams to one side of the model so they can be hidden in Instagram photos (tag 'em "#fieldnotesspaceprogram" and "#nailedit").
08. You might want to start with Apollo, it's only three pieces.

## **GLUE or TAPE:**

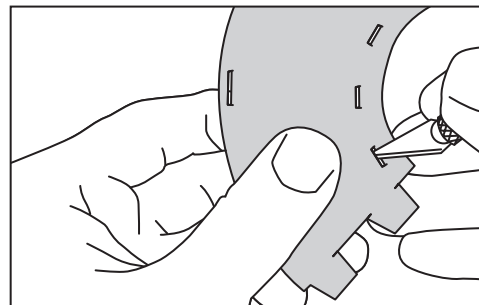
01. Glue or tape is not necessary, but will make your model more durable.
02. Any common glue or tape designed for paper should work well.
03. Use a minimal amount, and be careful to not obstruct any slots. Allow glue to dry between steps for best results.
04. Some specific gluing notes are included below, but you may wish to glue all the connections, whether instructed or not.



**Fig. 1** Punch out pieces gently, in the correct order as directed.



**Fig. 2** Curl pieces with your fingers before assembly for a neat appearance.



**Fig. 3** Pry open slots with a craft knife, pushing them inwards from the printed side, with one exception noted in instructions.

**BETWEEN 1958 AND 1972**, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) captivated America and the world with a series of three spaceflight projects. Project **MERCURY** (1959-1963) successfully launched the first American into space, then the first human into orbit, with the final mission circling Earth 22 times in a day and a half. **GEMINI** missions added a second astronaut, extended the flight time to two weeks, and tested extra-vehicular activity and docking procedures. All this was amazing in its own right, but **APOLLO** raised the bar even farther by landing on the moon and safely returning to Earth, a seemingly impossible feat.

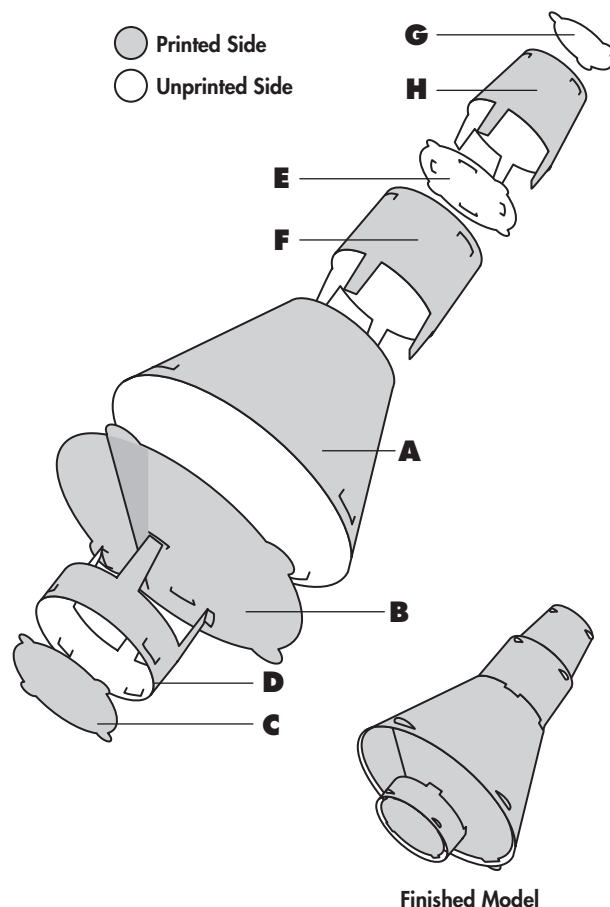
The **FIELD NOTES** Paper Models Series allows you to experience the excitement of early space travel with (roughly) 1:50 scale models of the crew capsules from these three historic missions.

## MERCURY



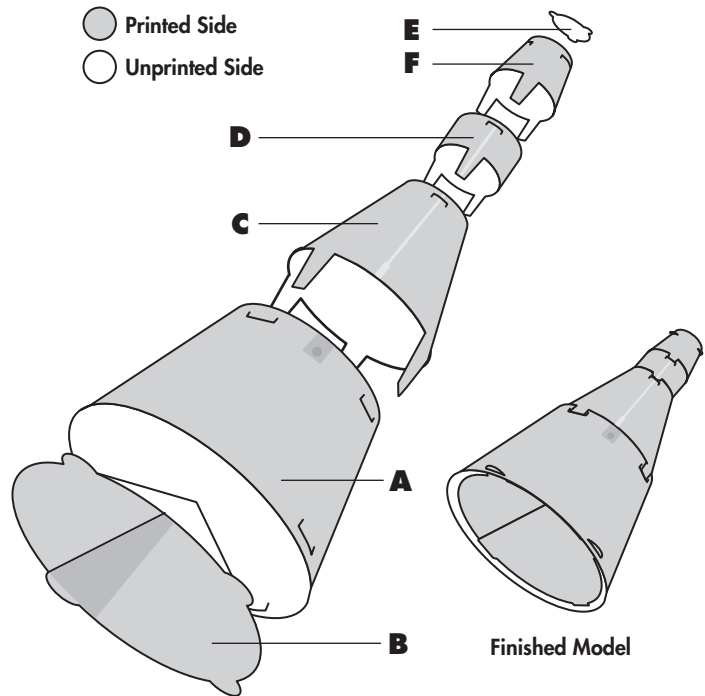
## Assembly Instructions

01. Punch out **A** and curl between fingers as shown in Fig. 2.
02. Gently pry open slots inward with a craft knife, then hook **A**'s two tabs into their opposing slots to form a conical tube.
03. Punch out **B** and curl into a cone with the printing facing out. Tuck the edge labeled "TUCK" under the opposing edge. The four tabs should be equidistant when curled. Gluing the overlapping area together will make the seam neater, but be sure the tabs are spaced to match **A**'s slots before gluing.
04. Gently pry **B**'s four slots inward, then insert its four tabs into the four slots along the bottom edge of **A**. (If you're gluing, it may be easier to leave **B** off for now, and glue the other parts together through the bottom of the capsule, but then it may be difficult to get **B** back in place — your call.)
05. Punch out parts **C** and **D**. Curl **D** into a cylinder, then pry slots inward.
06. Hook **D**'s tab into its opposite slot while holding **C** in position, aligning **C**'s four tabs into **D**'s bottom slots.
07. Insert **D**'s four tabs into the four slots in **B**. You can use a toothpick to bend/glue/tape the tabs from the small open end of **A**, or temporarily remove **B** to glue **D** in place.
08. Punch out **E** and pry slots inward. Punch out **F**, curl, and bend slots inward, then assemble **F** with **E** in place as you did with **C** and **D**. Insert **F**'s four tabs into the four slots in the top of **A**. (If you're gluing, don't glue these tabs yet!)
09. Punch out **G** and **H**, curl **H**, and assemble. Hopefully you're getting the hang of this by now. **H**'s four tabs insert into **E**. If you're a gluer, and you read the instructions and didn't glue **F** to **A**, pull that apart and glue **H**'s tabs to **E** from the inside, then reassemble **F** and **A** with glue.
10. Imagine you're strapped into this tiny capsule, not much bigger than you, spinning around Earth for a 34 hours, with Earth 160 miles to one side of your tiny window, and the blackness of space to the other.





01. Gemini is similar in assembly to Mercury, with fewer pieces but a couple of important differences, so pay attention!
02. Punch out **A** and curl between fingers, pry slots inward, and insert large tab into large slot to make a tubular cone. Or is it a conical tube?
03. Punch out **B** and curl, with the printing on the *inside* of the cone. Tuck the edge labeled "TUCK" under the opposing edge. The four tabs should be equidistant when curled. Gluing the overlapping area together will make the seam neater, but be sure the tabs are spaced to match **A**'s slots before gluing.
04. Insert **B**'s four tabs into the four slots along the bottom edge of **A**. (If you're gluing, it may be easier to leave **B** off for now, and glue the other parts together through the bottom of the capsule, but then it may be difficult to get **B** back in place — your call.)
05. Punch out, curl, and pry tabs of **C**, then assemble, as you did with **A**. Insert **C**'s four tabs into the slots on the top of **A**, ensuring that the single red dot in the center of **A** aligns with the white line in the center of **C**.
06. Punch out, curl, and pry slots of **D**, and insert **D**'s single tab into its opposing slot to make a cylinder. Insert three tabs into **C**, ensuring that the white line in the center of **D** aligns with the white line of **C**.
07. Punch out **E**, then punch out **F** and assemble the same way as **D**, but with **E** aligned in place in **F**'s top tabs. Slide **F**'s three slots into **D**, with the seam aligned with the other pieces.



08. Congratulations, you're finished! Take a 21-minute walk outside, then practice docking with the Field Notes Paper Model Series FNC-39d Agena Target Vehicle (sold separately).



01. Unlike the Apollo missions, which were exponentially more complicated than Mercury or Gemini, assembling your paper Apollo capsule is fairly simple. Punch out **A**, curl to form a cone. In this case, use your craft knife to pry the bottom slots *inward* and the upper slots *outward*. Insert the large tab into the large slot to make a cone.
02. Punch out **B** and curl it into a cone with the printed side on the outside. Tuck the word "TUCK" under the opposing edge, so it's hidden. Be sure the tabs are spaced to match **A**'s slots before gluing.
03. Insert **B** through the bottom of **A** and push it up until **B**'s tabs pop through the slots in the top of **A**.
04. Punch out **C** and make another cone, printed side out, and glue if desired (again, make sure the tabs align properly). Tuck the tabs into the slots at the base of **A**.
05. Find two friends and take a two-week road trip. The driver must stay in the car the whole time, but the passengers can get out and walk around for a few minutes halfway through the trip.

