

The Great 1952 Space Program That Almost Was

In 1952, Collier's magazine sponsored a gathering of the world's greatest space experts who, in a series of illustrated articles, outlined one of the first comprehensive scenarios ever conceived for the exploration of space.

The project started from the concern about the military use of the space, but it was focused on the peaceful use of the space to reach the terrestrial orbit, the moon and mars.

This could be an interesting science fiction tale, but the interesting part of the project was that they would like to define a way to go to space, Moon and Mars with the available technological knowledge at that moment.

Von Braun was involved, and he said: "Speculations regarding the future technical developments have been carefully avoided. While the [Collier's] designs may be a far cry from what Mars ships some thirty or forty years from now will actually look like, this approach will serve a worthwhile purpose. If we can show how a Mars ship could conceivably be built on the basis of what we know now, we can safely deduce that actual designs of the future can only be superior. Only by stubborn adherence to the engineering solutions based exclusively on scientific knowledge available today, and by strict avoidance of any speculations concerning future discoveries, can we bring proof that this fabulous venture is fundamentally feasible."

The excerpts of the symposium were published between March 22, 1952 through April 30, 1954 by the monthly magazine Collier's, and today are available [here](#).

I was ever fascinated by the illustrations of Chesley Bonestell and Rolf Klep, in particular the Ferry Rocket depicted by Klep, that was also the first step needed for conquer the space.

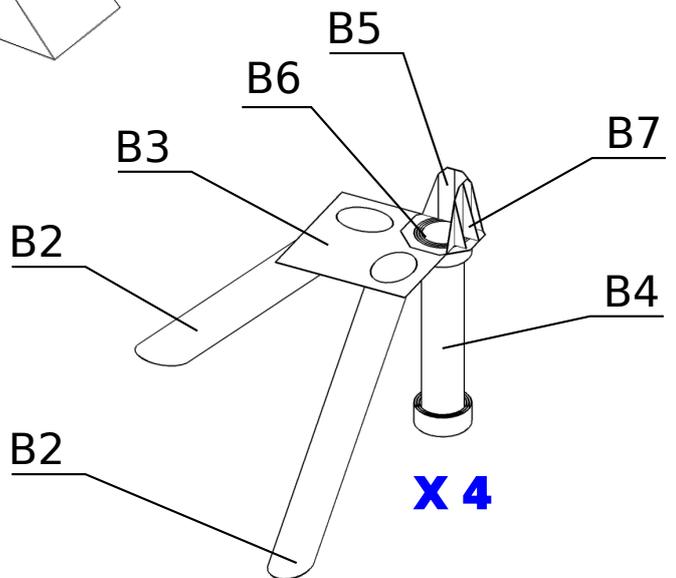
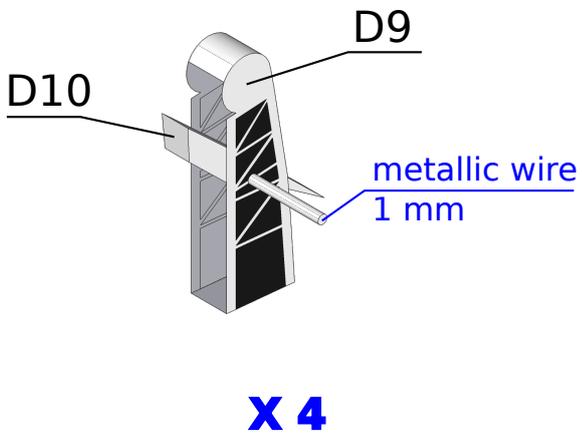
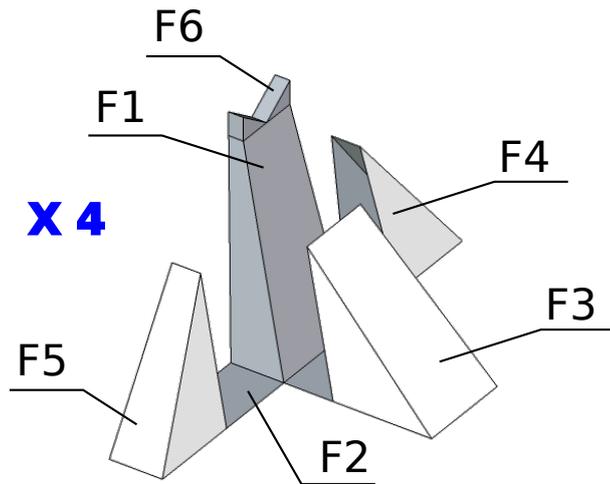
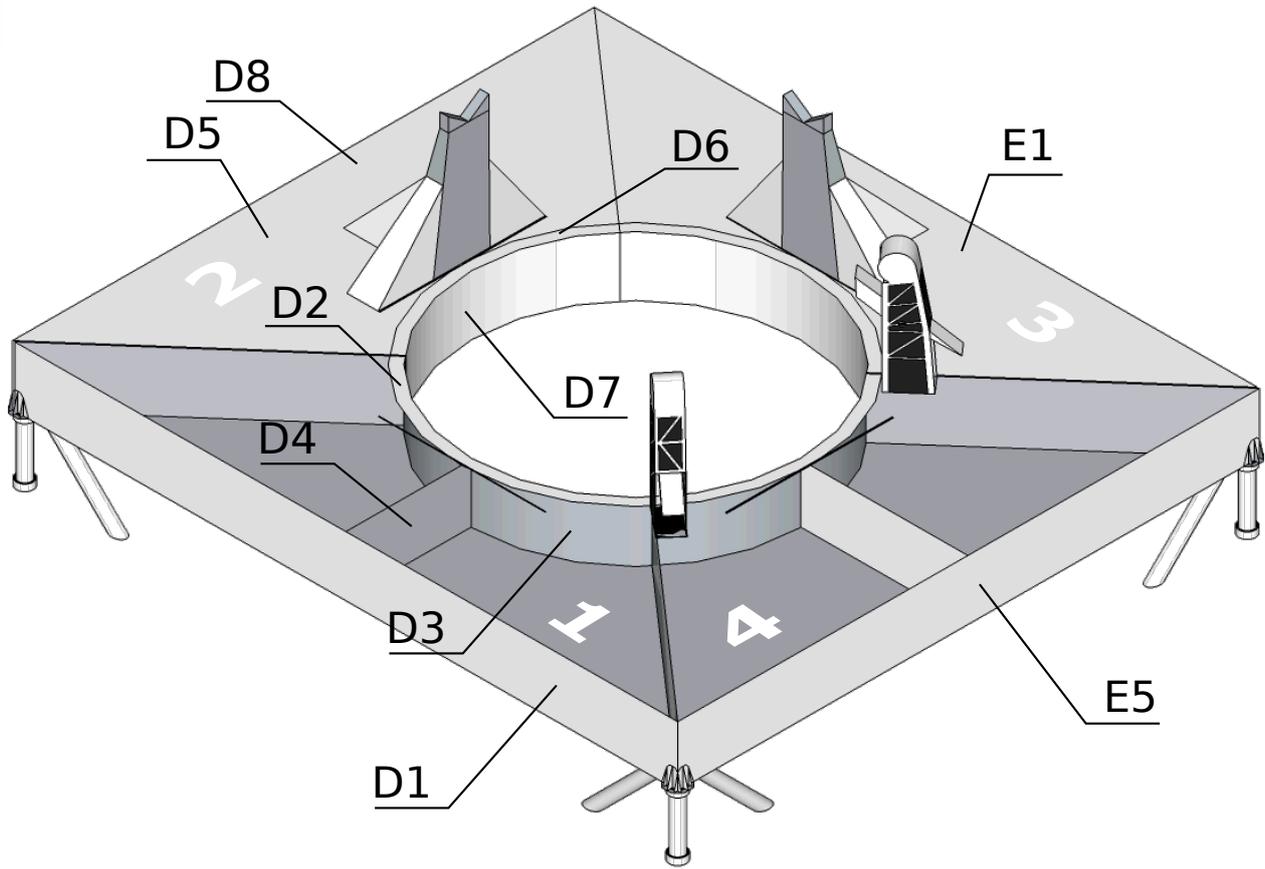
So I decided to design my own model.

More pictures of my model are available at the [Flickr album](#). More technical detail about the von Braun's project are available [here](#).

Enjoy!

Ferdinando Santandrea

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Collier's Ferry Rocket (1952)

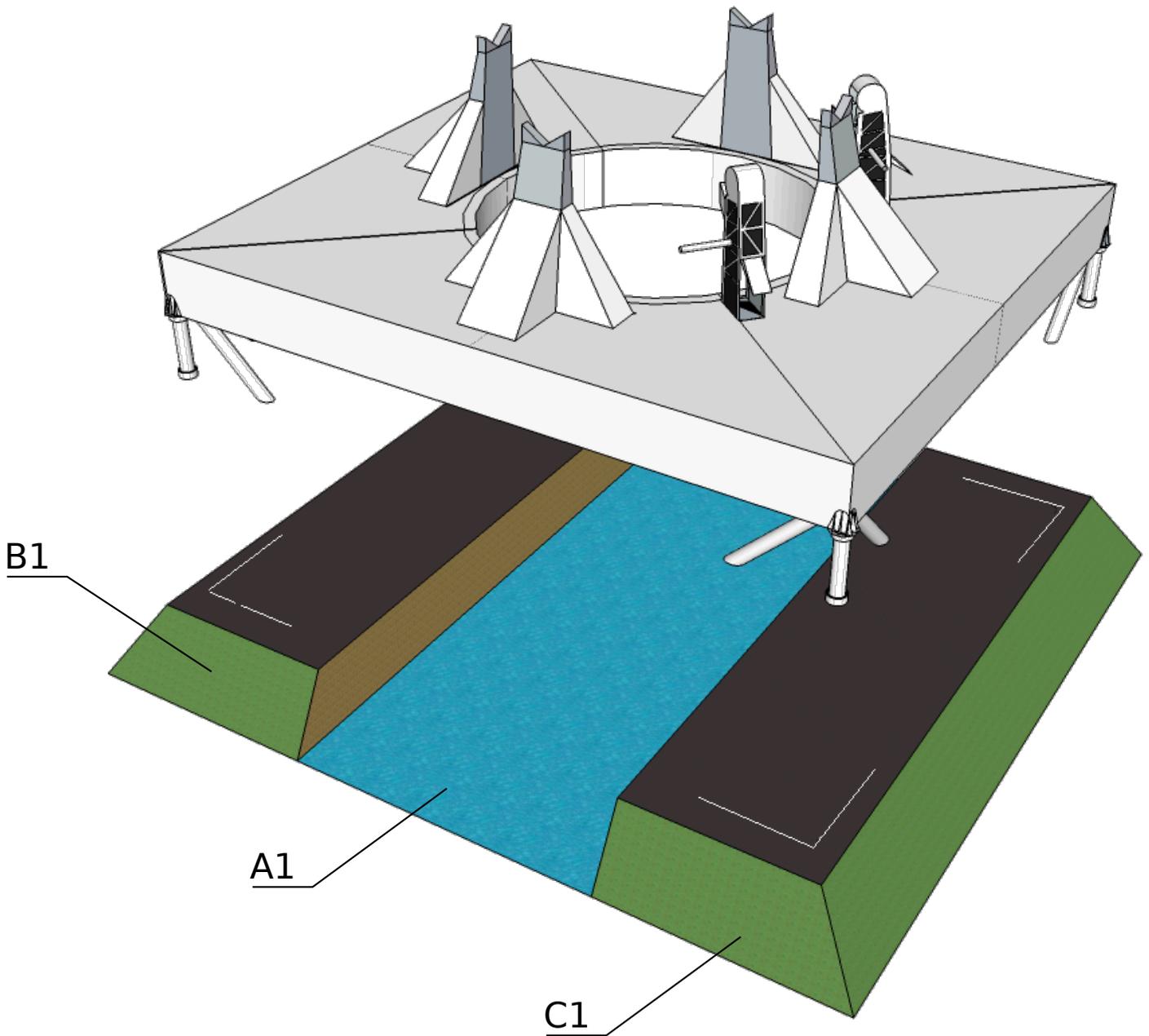
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Glue the base completed in all its parts on ramparts, using references to the corners



If you want you can insert a mirror on the bottom of the trench to show the bottom of the first stage with its engines



Collier's Ferry Rocket (1952)

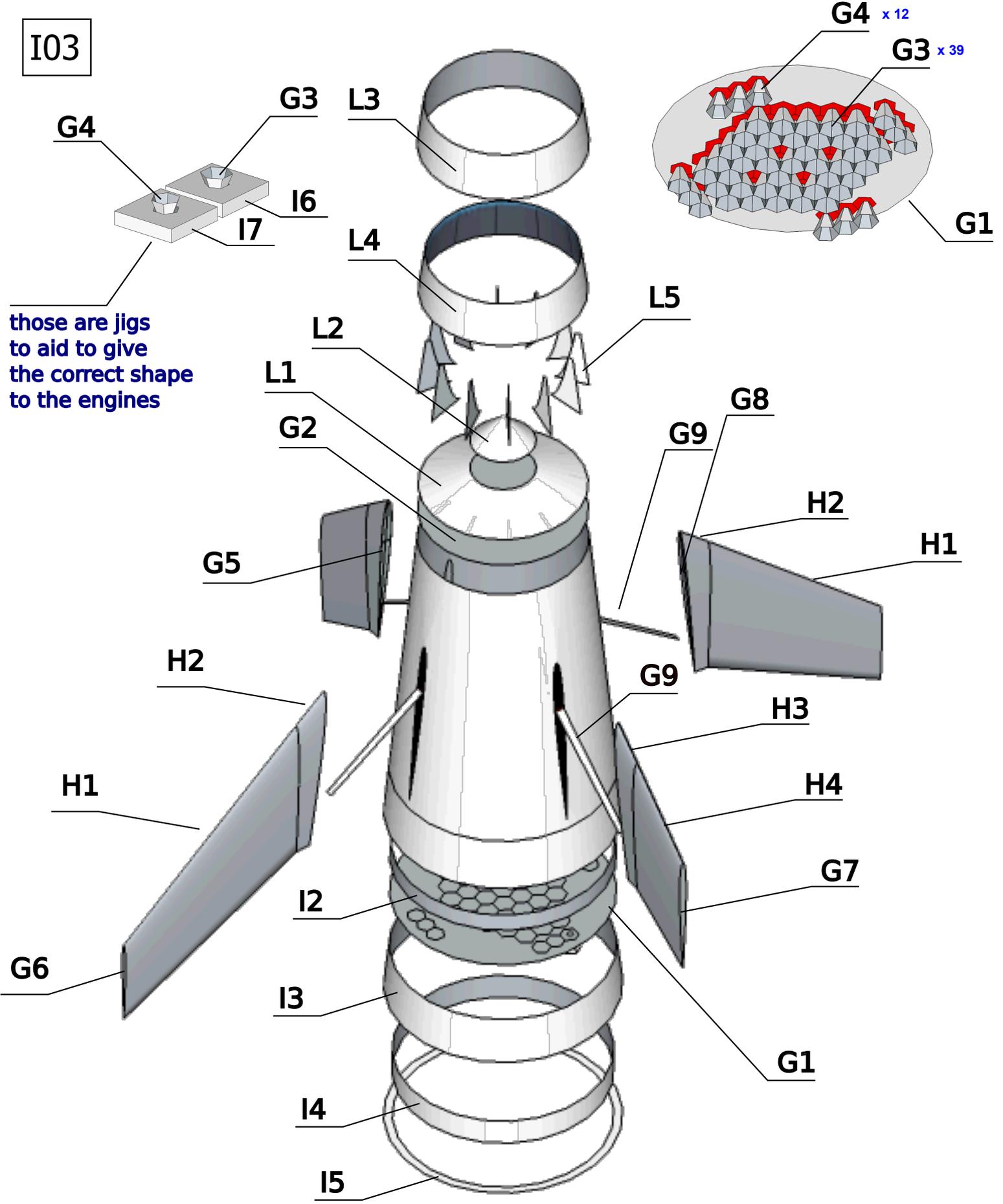
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those are jigs to aid to give the correct shape to the engines

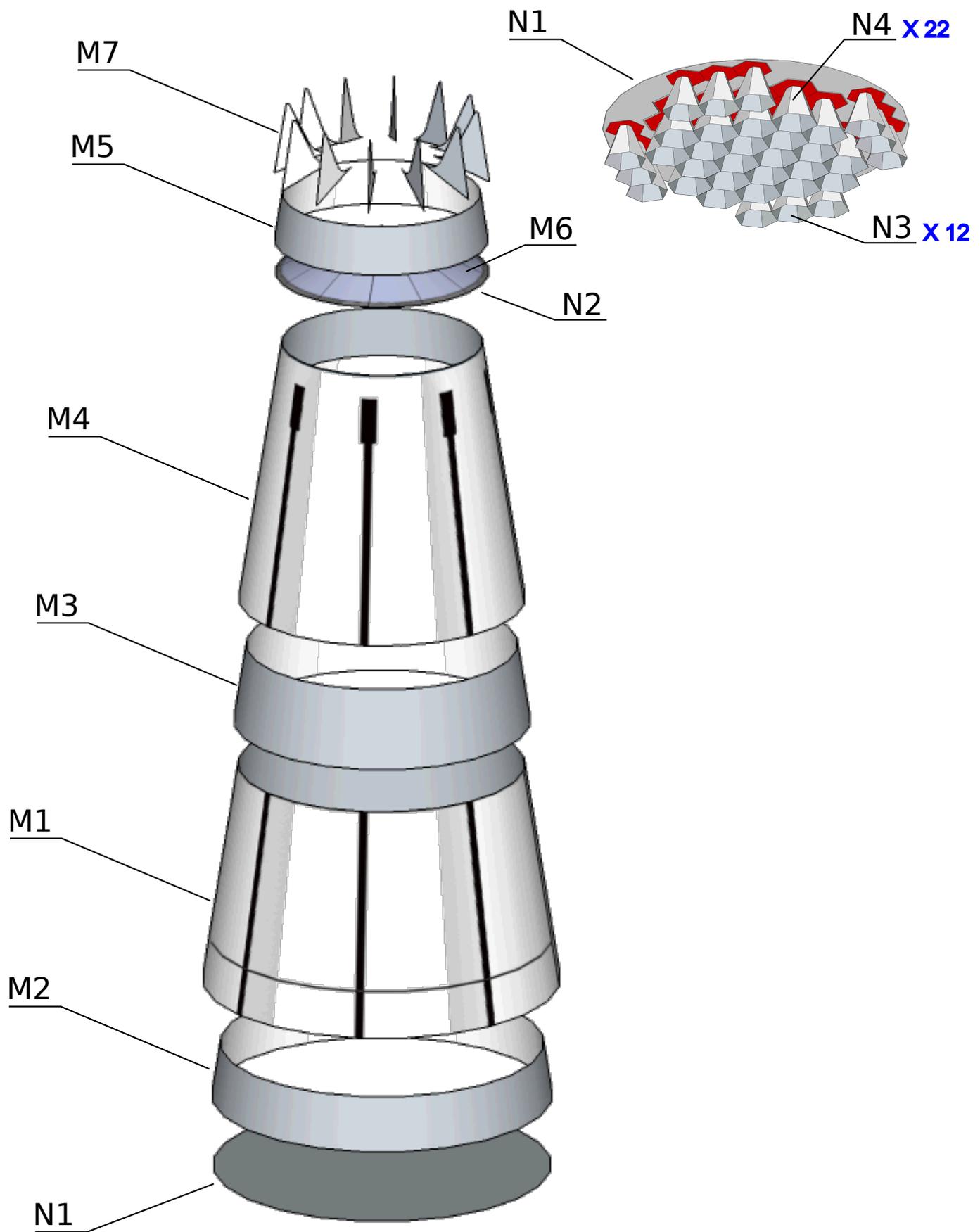


Collier's Ferry Rocket (1952)
 scale 1/300
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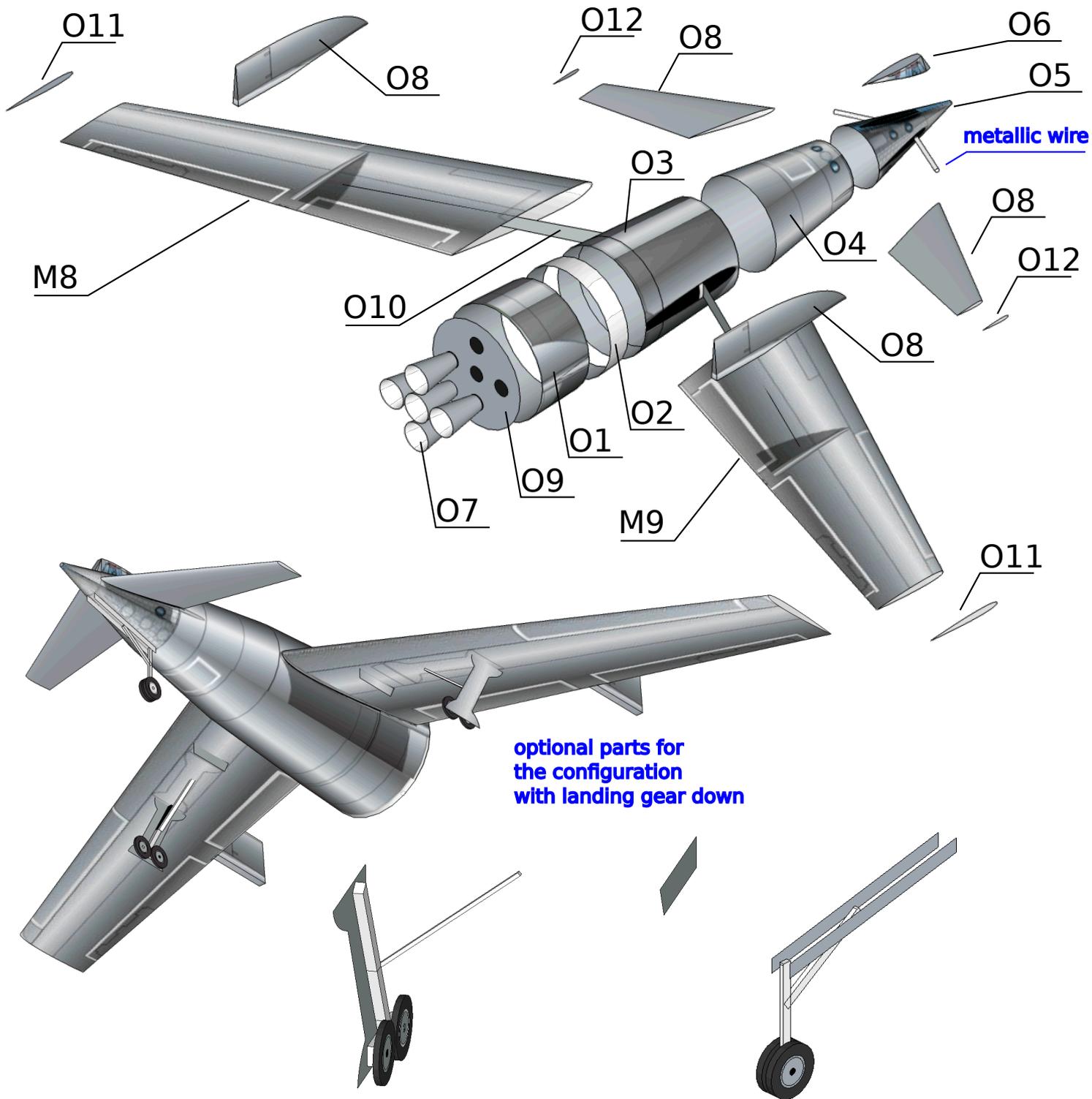
Collier's Ferry Rocket (1952)

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optional parts for
the configuration
with landing gear down



Collier's Ferry Rocket (1952)

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