

2024 Christmas Ornament

NIKE-HERCULES (MIM-14B)

P/N 91128



To honor our biggest release for the past several years, there was no question that our 2024 ornament would be a Nike-Hercules. The well-known surface-to-air missile guarded the skies through the Cold War and has always been a popular – if difficult-to-build – design in the modeling world. With the release of the 1:10.25 scale Apogee Nike-Hercules, we are stepping into the ring with a stunning reproduction of the ordinance. Simple and quick to build, this ornament brings that same presence to your Christmas tree or other holiday celebrations.



PART LIST:

P/N 91127 Christmas Ornament 2024 LC Sheet

REQUIRED TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- Hobby Knife
- Medium and Thin CyA adhesive

OPTIONAL TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- Damp Paper Towel
- Fine (400 grit) Sandpaper
- Painting Supplies

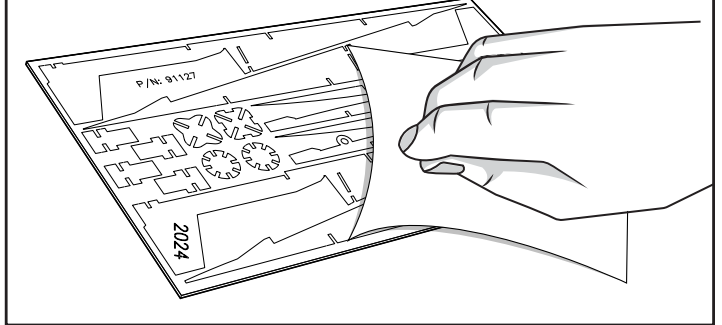
HISTORY OF THE MIM-14B:

The MIM-14B Nike-Hercules missile was an advanced surface-to-air interceptor developed by the U.S. Army to counter Cold War aerial threats, including high-altitude bombers and some short-range ballistic missiles. Emerging in the late 1950s, it was an upgrade from the Nike-Ajax system, featuring extended range, higher speeds, and a powerful warhead option, including nuclear capability. Its radar-guided technology allowed it to intercept targets up to 150 miles away and altitudes over 100,000 feet, making it a formidable deterrent. Nike-Hercules was deployed both domestically and with U.S. allies abroad, where it formed a critical part of air defenses. By the 1980s, however, advancements in missile technology and shifting defense strategies led to its decommissioning in favor of more advanced systems like the Patriot missile.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

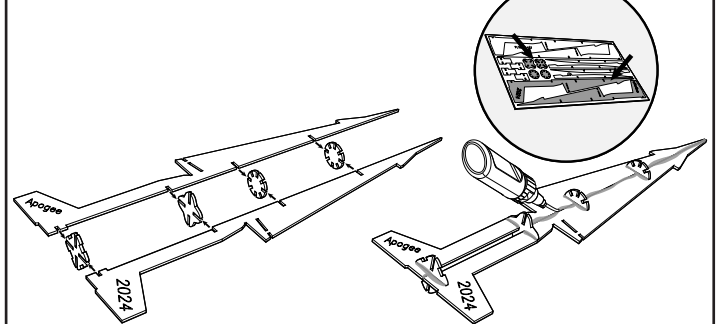
1. Optional: If the ornament is to be unpainted, clean laser-cutting debris from the parts sheet using a damp paper towel and fine (400 grit) sandpaper.

STEP 1

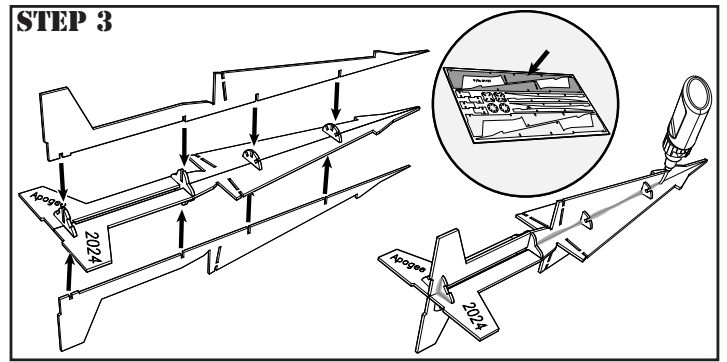


2. Remove the two body sections with laser-cut text and the four rings from the parts sheet. The two circular rings are identical and fit into the forward (Hercules) section while the two remaining rings form the booster (Nike) section. The forward booster ring is shaped like a four-leaf clover and the back ring is square with notches out of the sides. Assemble the parts **WITHOUT GLUE**. Ensure that the two body pieces meet in the middle. Apply thin CyA adhesive to the joints as well as the body centerline.

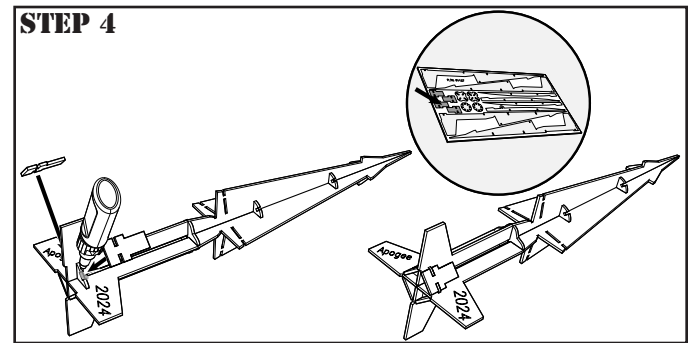
STEP 2



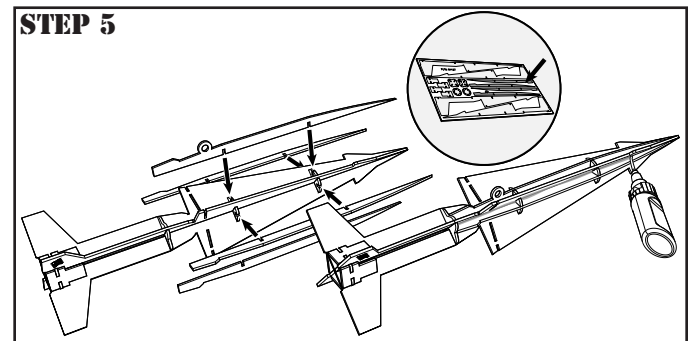
3. Remove the two remaining side pieces from the parts sheet. **WITHOUT GLUE**, install each piece at a right angle to the assembled body pieces. Press the body piece firmly against the assembled body and secure it with a small amount of thin CyA adhesive.



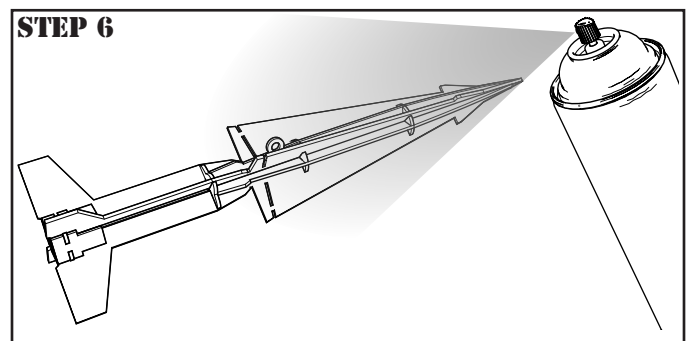
4. Remove the four small booster shroud pieces from the parts sheet. Apply a small spot of medium CyA adhesive to the aft ring then place the booster shroud into place.



5. Remove the final four parts from the parts sheet. These sustainer filler parts fit into the rings between the body pieces. Three of the filler parts are identical. The fourth filler includes a hanging loop that can be oriented to make the engraved text on the fins visible. Install the filler parts **WITHOUT GLUE** then tack into place with thin CyA adhesive.



6. **Optional:** The ornament can be enjoyed as is or painted, for that extra festive spirit. To paint, only a light coat of primer needs to be applied. A light sanding with fine (400 grit) sandpaper should then be all that is required to prepare the surface for the paint.



7. Your Nike-Hercules ornament is now complete!

APOGEE NIKE-HERCULES KIT (P/N 05071):

<https://www.apogeerockets.com/Model-Rocket-Kits/Skill-Level-5-Model-Rocket-Kits/Nike-Hercules>