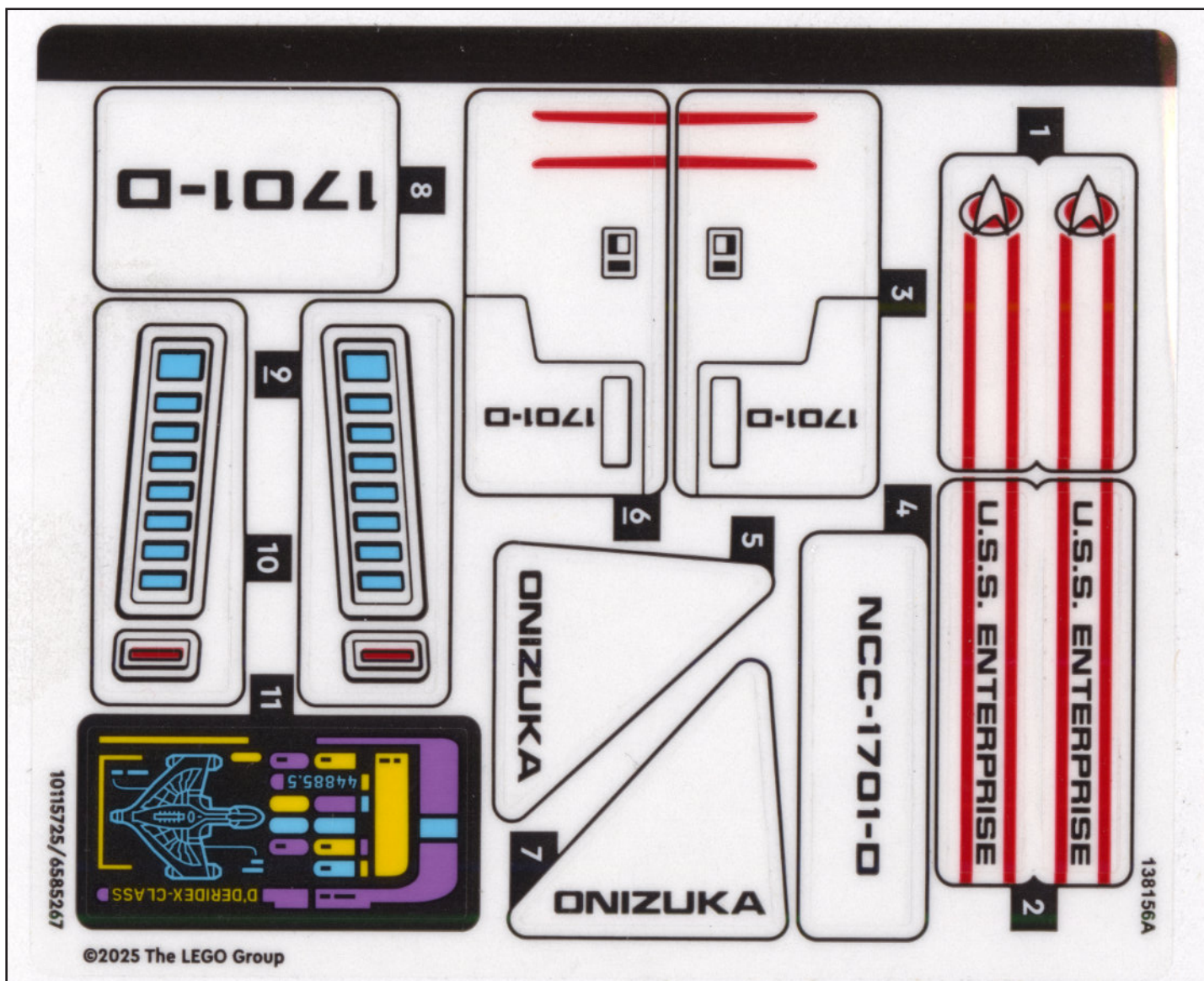




SHUTTLE POD STICKER SHEETS (AND PARTS LIST)

If you weren't one of the lucky ones to get the Star Trek Shuttlepod Gift with Purchase when the Enterprise set debuted earlier this year, we have something for you.

While we can't help you with a Ro Laren minifigure, we can help you with a parts list and some printable sticker sheets to create your very own mostly similar shuttlepod.

Stickers were redrawn based on the LEGO sticker sheet for the set, but also with reference to Star Trek fandom's Memory Alpha web site. Actual Star Trek fonts were referenced there, along with all the various shuttlepod names and series art, to provide a perhaps slightly more accurate and complete presentation of graphics, at least to the extent that the graphics can be shrunk down to scale and still be legible.

From a technical perspective there are two sheets, one full-page sheet with multiple copies of all the graphics and another 4x6 inch sheet that is crafted to industry standard kiss-cut specs. The full sheet is provided as an addendum in A4 and 8.5x11" Letter sizes.

The full sheet is suitable for printing at home or at your local service provider. The 4x6 is suitable

for submitting to websites such as Stickermule. If you decide to print yourself be sure that the printer setup is set to print at 100% and not "size to fit" or the stickers will print too small.

The 4x6 includes a CutContour layer which is visible as an orange outline but should not print if sent to a service provider; it serves as a guide for an inline stylus to cut the sticker. If you decide to print the 4x6 yourself, the orange outline is going to print.

The LEGO sheet of stickers is printed on a transparent sheet, presumably because of the "white" situation with LEGO plastic, the clear sticker would not contrast with the brick white (and/or yellowing as time goes on) where a white sticker reasonably could.

I got a print from a commercial source of an early iteration of the sticker sheet as a proof of concept. It was laser printed on a fairly heavy white sticker stock used for bumper stickers and had repositionable adhesive. I also laser (Brother model L3770) printed the large sheet at home on a business grade glossy clear sticker paper sourced online. I also went commercial to get an inkjet print which took a month to get, and when it

arrived it was laser and not inkjet printed. After trying to source an inkjet print for more than two months I threw up my hands and got an old 4x6 photo printer out of mothballs, ordered up some fresh ink, and printed the 4x6 sheet on an uncoated (not shiny) white Avery label and on the aforementioned glossy clear sticker paper. Note the glossy sticker paper used at home is not particularly glossy compared to the commercial sheets, but it does have a non-porous surface.

It will come as no surprise that the commercial printing produced better images; the colors were more accurate and the resolution was better. The home-printed versions were not bad, and if I didn't have the commercial jobs as a point of comparison I would think that the home brews were perfectly adequate. The photos accompanying the article should give you a point of reference for some of the notes that follow.

Inkjet ink being transparent, I would recommend that if you are printing with an inkjet that you do print on a glossy sticker and then give the sticker a thin spray of fixative or clear coat to prevent ink from running... and the spray might also help with color permanence. I found that



Above: Feynman is home laser print on clear glossy sticker paper, Campbell is commercial laser on white bumper sticker stock, Onizuka is LEGO clear sticker.

printing on a stock with a harder surface yielded better color reproduction as the ink sits on top of the surface as opposed to being absorbed by the paper fibers on a non-glossy surface. Black was particularly weak on the uncoated sticker. Note, your mileage may vary and I'm going to say "might" because there is a wide variety of inkjet printers out there, some using three inks and others with up to eight. Also note that consumer ink formulations continue to change and may vary by manufacturer. By comparison, commercial inkjet printers may use more than the standard CMYK tanks and offer white ink and a UV coating.

I suspected that inkjetting onto a clear sticker would likely result in see-through ink and, while most stickers in this exercise are applied to white bricks, I feared the color might appear relatively thin. I found, however, that the inkjet print on the glossy sticker looked just fine against the white bricks in practice.

I had concerns that the control panel sticker applied to the black curved brick would likely just look overall dark when applied, and sure enough that was the case. Neither the inkjet ink nor the

home laser toner had sufficient opacity to overcome the transparency of their colors. With professional production printing a layer or two (or more) of white ink is usually applied first and color is then applied on top to combat the transparency problem. Unfortunately the home lasers and inkjets do not offer a white ink option. It probably makes more sense to print the stickers on white sticker paper if the control panel is important to you, but in the grand scheme of things the control panel is buried deeply enough in the model that it may not be worth the bother.

Note the files we have created do not carry a white layer so if that is needed you will need to edit the file and add a spot color layer for white. Talk to your service provider. But for reasonable results in this instance you probably do not need to go all hardcore.

Some words of caution: if you intend to print at home on a laser printer, do make sure to get laser-friendly sheets as inkjet sheets may melt or crumple in a laser printer.

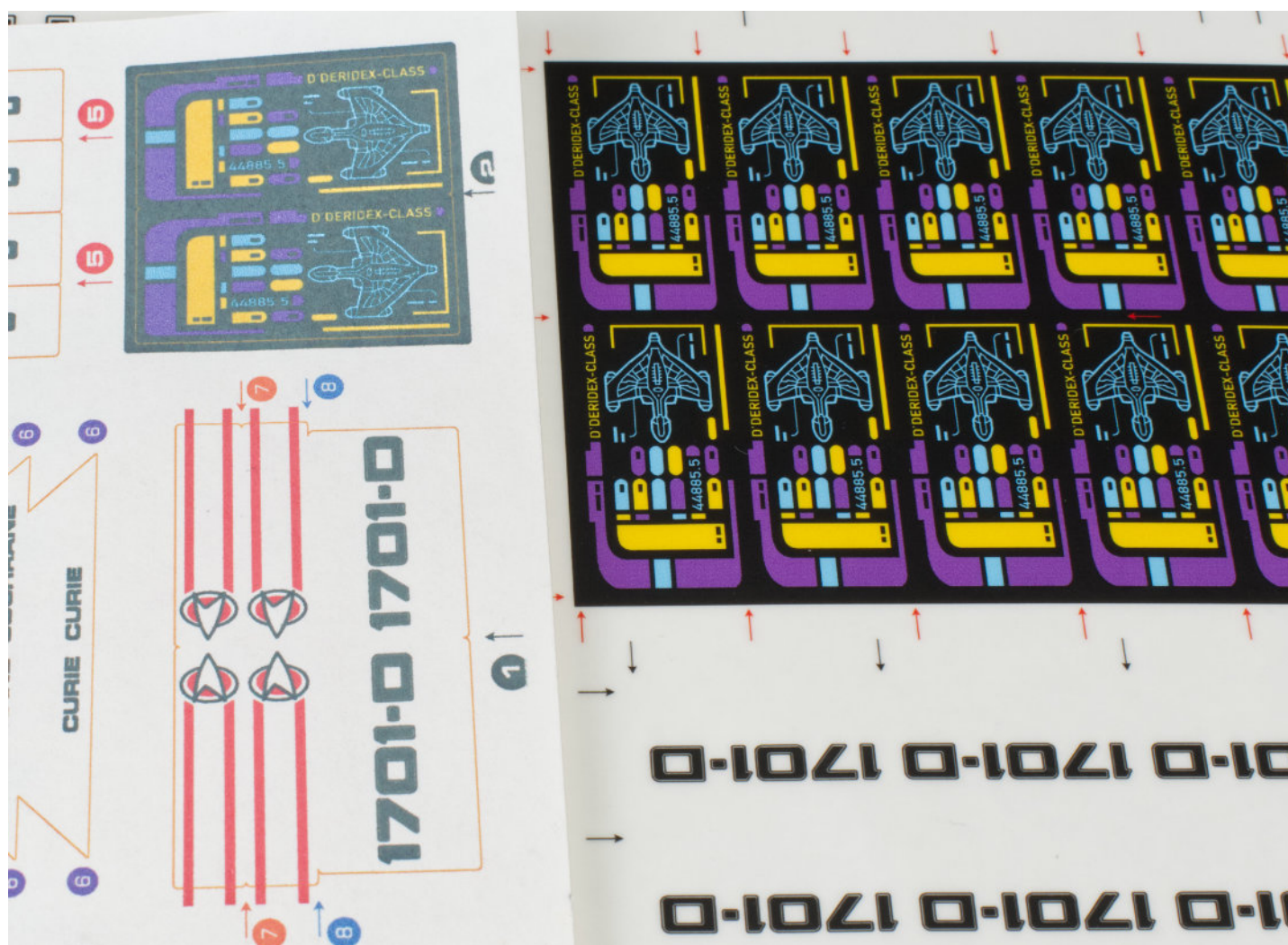
Now to the results when applied to the models. At average viewing distance I found the stickers

I had made actually read slightly better than the LEGO stickers. The LEGO printing process can result in a slight halo around the edges depending on how thick the ink may be with any one impression while laser and inkjet tend to be very sharp if the printer is capable of a resolution of 300dpi or above.

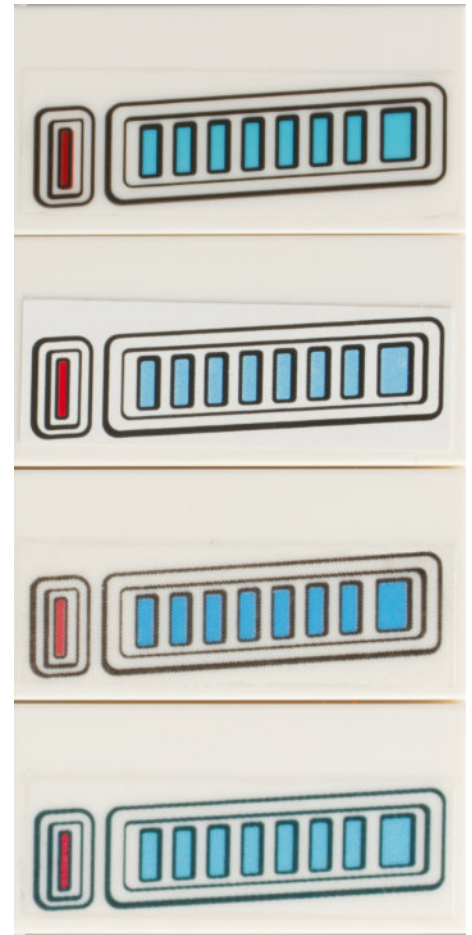
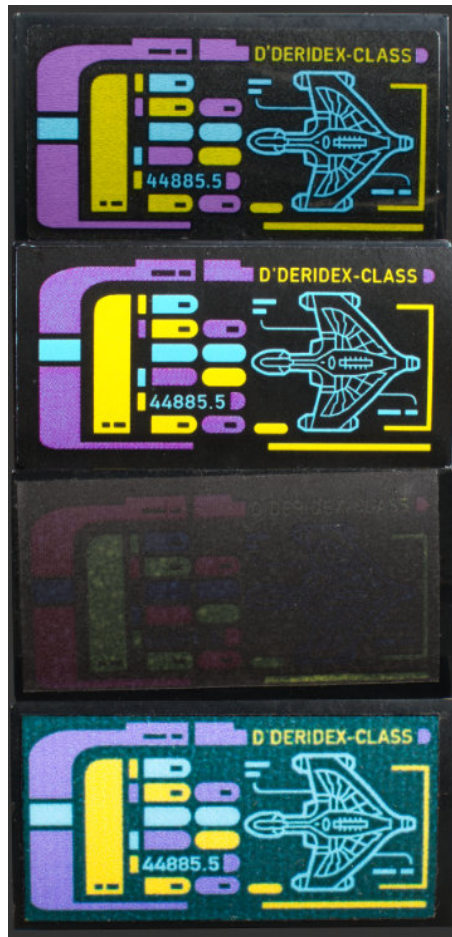
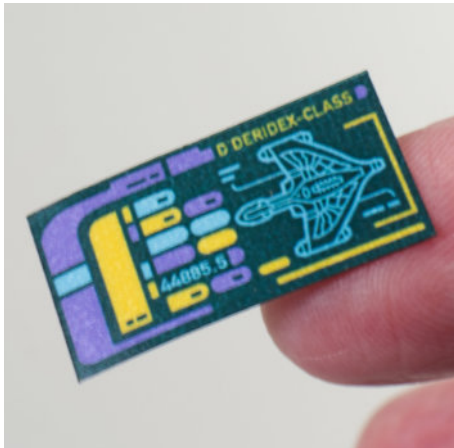
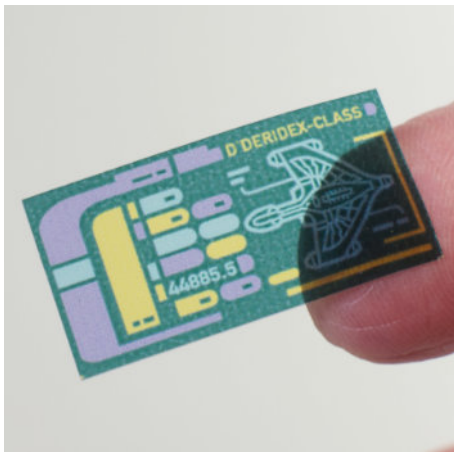
The letters on the side doors where U.S.S. Enterprise appears were definitely sharper and easier to read on the home brew stickers.

Color matching was close but not perfect. In my case, with a three-color (no black) ink cartridge in the inkjet printer, the blacks were weak. The inkjet did provide the appearance of a more uniform "solid" color where the laser displayed the usual halftone dot pattern where component CMYK colors are used to emulate blended solid ink colors. These specific traits are evident on close inspection, but at reading distance they are really not noticeable.

Following is comma-separated value (CSV) data for the entire LEGO 40768 Type-15 Shuttlepod set. You can copy the list from this page and paste into a text file and save with the .csv extension. The



Note the differences in color density. Above left is inkjet on uncoated consumer grade sticker stock, right is laser on glossy commercial stock.



Top: home inkjet on clear glossy sticker, note the transparency of the ink. Bottom: home inkjet on clear glossy sticker stuck on top of white sticker, note the apparent color density change.

Top to bottom: LEGO's sticker, commercial laser on white bumper sticker, home laser on clear glossy sticker, home inkjet on clear glossy sticker on top of white sticker.

Top to bottom: LEGO's sticker, commercial laser on white bumper sticker, home laser on clear glossy sticker, home inkjet on clear glossy sticker.

list is also included on the hispabrick.com web site under the HBM040 magazine listing.

The file has been tested on lego.com on the Pick a Brick page using the upload list button there. Note all elements may not be available. LEGO uses the column names Quantity,elementID.

The file has also been tested on brickowl.com on the wishlist page under the import tab. Brick Owl uses the column names Quantity,Item No.

The file was successfully tested on rebrickable.com using the LEGO column heads.

You are on your own to create a list for BrickLink which wants a .bsx, .ldr, .lxf, or .io file. Leave it to BrickLink to make uploading a wanted list a pain in the ass and require the use of third-party software. Remind me, how long has .lxf been dead?

Type-15 Shuttlepod Parts List:

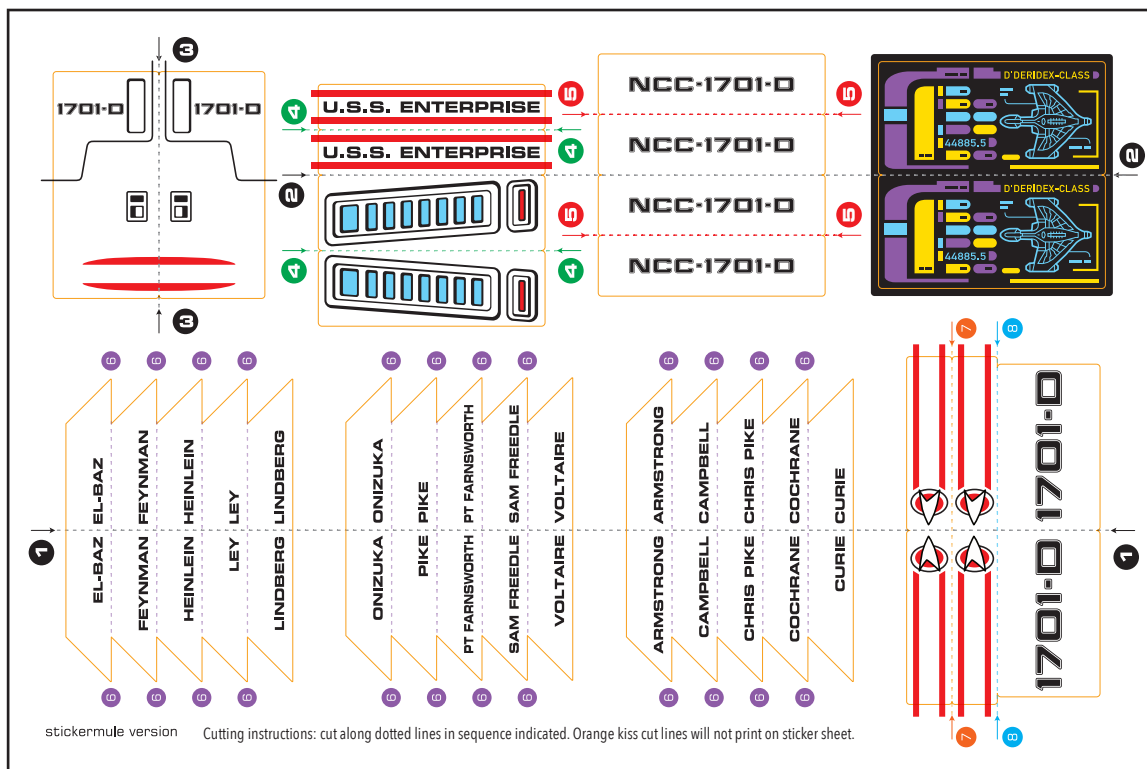
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The sticker sheets shown on this and the previous page are available on hispabrickmagazine.com under the HBM040 magazine listing as separate individual files as print-ready 8.5x11 inch letter, A4, and 4x6 inch CMYK PDF documents.