

A full-page background image featuring the droid R2-D2 standing in the center of a long, curved, metallic tunnel. The tunnel's walls are composed of large, rectangular panels with visible rivets and seams. A bright light source at the far end of the tunnel creates a strong lens flare and illuminates the scene. R2-D2 is facing away from the viewer, looking towards the light. The overall color palette is dominated by cool blues and greys, with the warm light at the end of the tunnel providing a focal point.

VICTOR'S R2-D2

R2-D2

R2 FAQs - QUICK OVERVIEW

- How much does R2 weigh?
 - Roughly 130-140lbs
- How much did he cost to make?
 - Don't know, but I have a pile of receipts at home that I'm afraid to total
 - Probably \$5,000 of used material, possibly another \$2,500 of unused material
 - + used Honda Element to get him around to his events
- What is he made out of?
 - Plywood
 - Aluminum
 - PVC
 - Some medium density fiberboard (MDF), resin, styrene, steel
- How long did he take to build?
 - 1 year, 10 months, 17 days continuous work (July 3, 2005 – May 19, 2007)
- Why??
 - I love Star Wars and especially R2
 - Charity appearances/Volunteer work

CONSTRUCTION - FRAME

- Internal frame scratch-built from plywood



CONSTRUCTION - LEGS

- Legs are scratch-built from five layers of birch plywood each



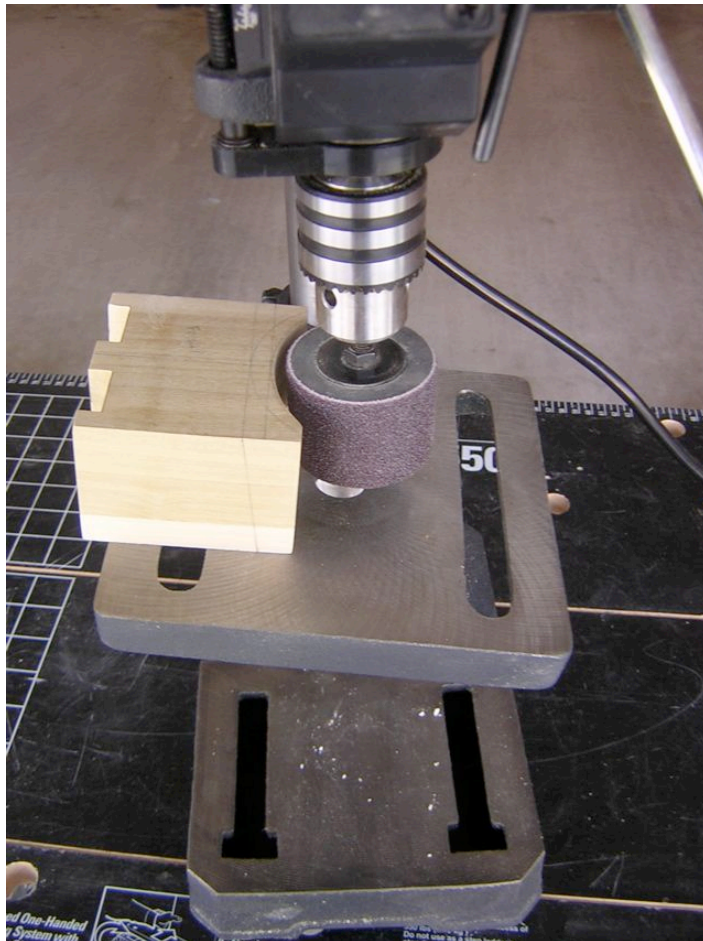
CONSTRUCTION - SHOULDERS

- Shoulders scratch-built from eight layers of MDF each



CONSTRUCTION - BOOSTER COVERS

- “Booster covers” (blue areas on legs) scratch-built from poplar



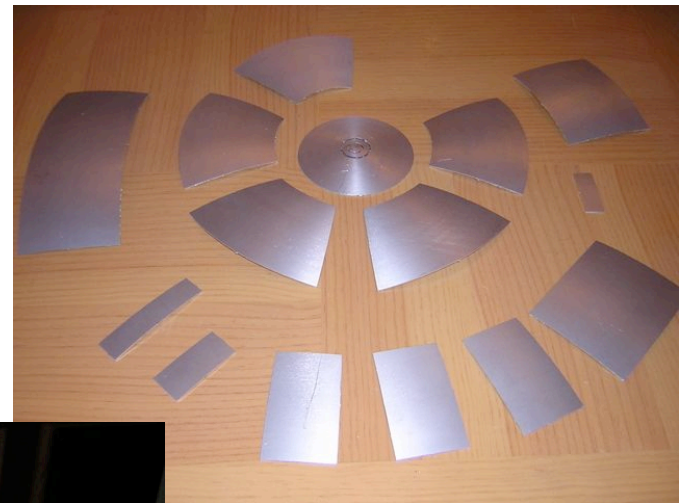
CONSTRUCTION - SKINS

- Skins are aluminum, rolled & laser-cut from a machine shop



CONSTRUCTION - DOME

- Dome is spun aluminum, laser-cut from a machine shop



CONSTRUCTION - DRIVETRAIN

- Drivetrain is scratch-built from aluminum, feet powered by modified Saturn windshield wiper motors(!). High torque, rated for continuous use



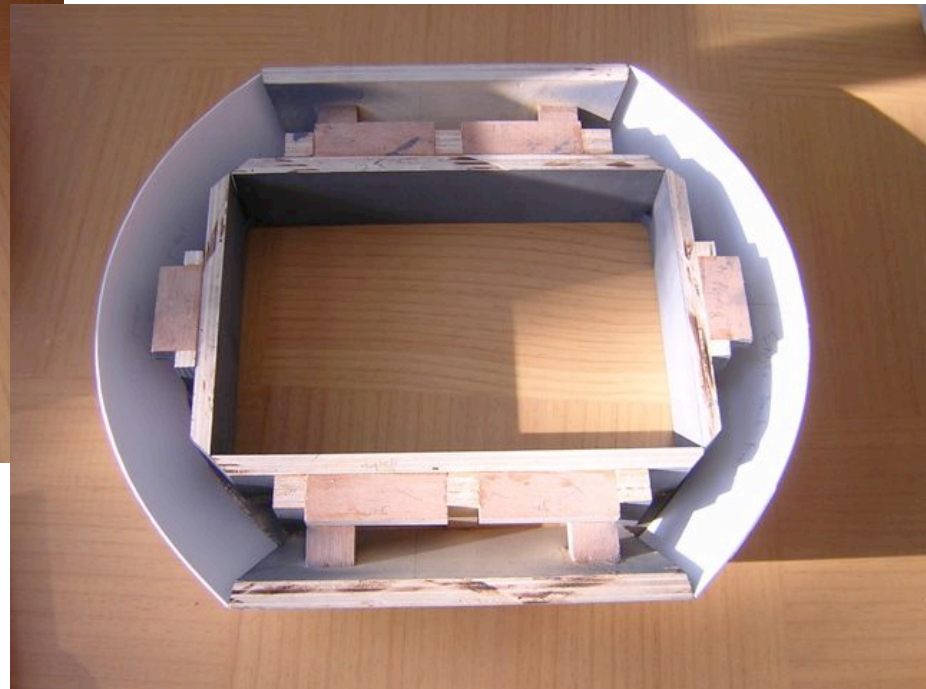
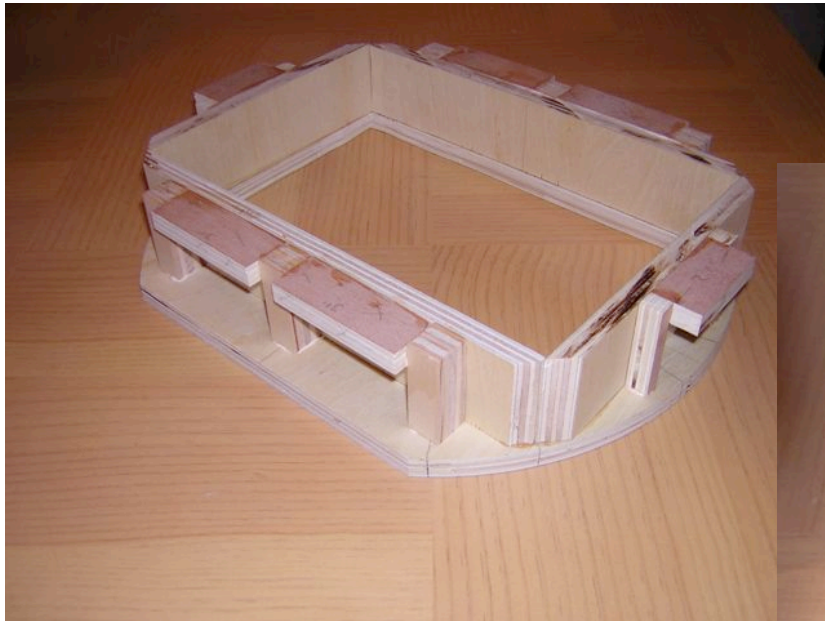
CONSTRUCTION - FOOT SHELLS

- Foot shells scratch-built from flat sheets of gray PVC (painted white)



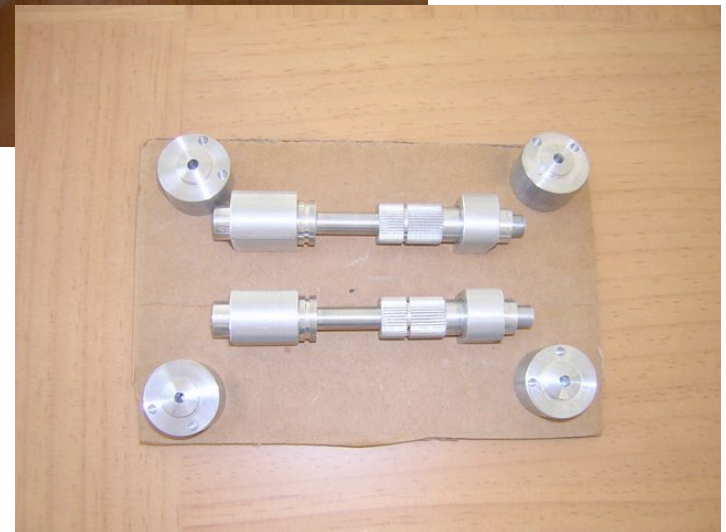
CONSTRUCTION - SKIRT

- Skirt scratch-built from plywood & styrene



CONSTRUCTION - ALUMINUM DETAILS

- Various aluminum details from machine shop(s)



CONSTRUCTION - SOUND

- Sound card commercially available, sounds from CF card



CONSTRUCTION - BATTERIES

- Four 6-volt, 12 amp-hour batteries supply 24 volts to motors



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

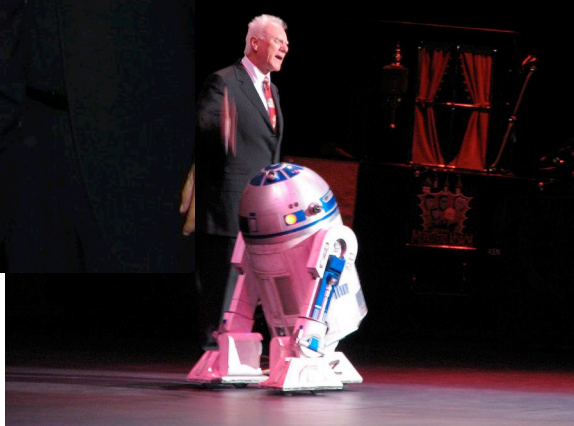
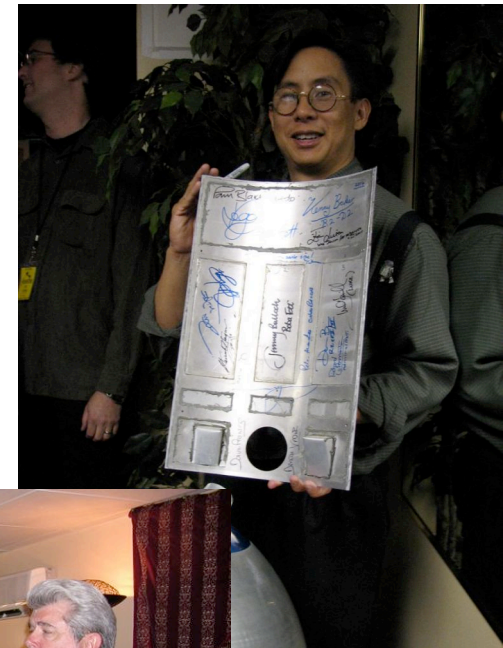
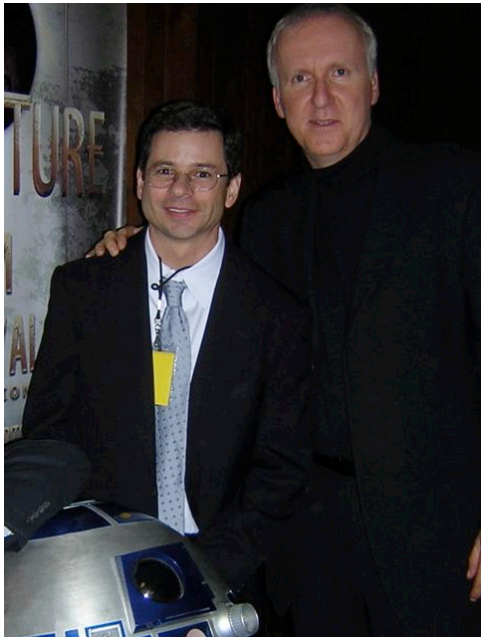
- Met an R2 Builder at Walmart promotional event
 - Mike Senna, who mentored me in my build
 - Mike's R2 has done official appearances for Lucasfilm over the years



- Yahoo R2 Builders group (over 5000 members, hundreds active)
 - Blueprints measured from real prop
 - Don Bies of Lucasfilm (in charge of R2) is a member and helps us
 - Members do occasional aluminum “part runs” at cost
 - No profiteering allowed, or Cease & Desist letters will materialize
 - Scratch-building encouraged where possible

COOLNESS - SHRINE AUDITORIUM

- Jules Verne Adventures Awards at Shrine Auditorium
 - Honoring George Lucas, Harrison Ford, others
 - Behind curtain on largest stage in US



COOLNESS – RALPH MCQUARRIE

- Invited to meet Ralph McQuarrie at his home in Berkeley
 - Original Star Wars artist created look of all the characters (R2, C-3PO, Darth Vader, Chewbacca, Luke, Leia, Ben Kenobi, etc.)



COOLNESS - STAR WARS CELEBRATION IV

- Star Wars Celebration IV at LA Convention Center
 - Over 60 R2 units on display in R2 Builders room
 - Met Kenny Baker, actor inside R2
 - Thousands of visitors over 5 days in May 2007



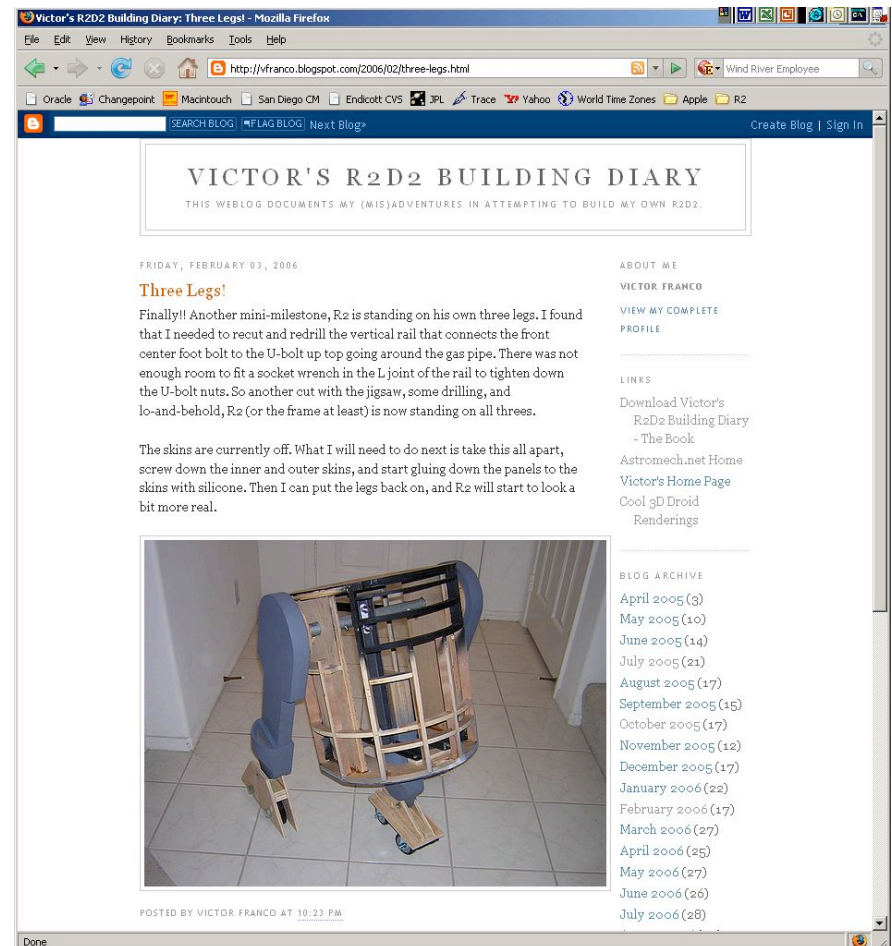
COOLNESS – CHARITY EVENTS

- Several Charity Events
 - American Cancer Society – Character photo opp
 - International Child Abuse Network – Bowling event (yes, R2 bowled)
 - Autism Speaks – Walkathon



MORE INFO

- Victor's R2-D2 Building Diary
 - <http://vfranco.blogspot.com>
 - Documents every day of building
- R2 Builder's Group Home Page
 - <http://www.astromech.net>



THE END