

TUESDAY, MAY 01, 2007

Drilled, Pinned & Installed New Motor, Finished Redoing Door Holders

This morning I drilled and pinned the replacement motor for the right foot. I'm starting to get proficient at this, which isn't necessarily a good sign.



During the day, I called ACS. I ordered a new sound card, and I will send the old one in for repair (minimal or no charge). I'll find something to do with the second card, or I can always sell it someday if I don't need it.

In the evening, I mounted the motor back on R2, and he works again! Yea.

Matthew Henricks and Roy Powers dropped by to discuss various droid-building matters shortly after R2 was up and running again, so they got to see him in action.

Later, I finished redoing my door holders. The bottom holders on the outer doors were moved a bit to avoid the gears on the wheels. I also replaced the nails that hold the pivot pieces in place, with notched nails that are less prone to falling out.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:24 PM 0 COMMENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 03, 2007

Battery Box Primer, Started Tying Down Wires

This evening I applied three coats of primer to the battery boxes and the doors that were cut from them. I plan to lightly sand them and apply three more coats tomorrow, and then hopefully paint them during the weekend.



I also started tying down the various cables that are running around loose in my droid. I didn't get very far, I've only screwed down three wire clamps. It's a bit tricky working inside of R2 nowadays.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:05 PM 0 COMMENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 04, 2007

More Battery Box Primer, More Wire Clamps

More of the same from yesterday, almost an exact replay.

I lightly sanded the primer on the battery boxes, and then reapplied some new coats in the morning. In the evening, I lightly sanded again. I think another coat or two of primer tomorrow, and they should be ready to paint.



I screwed down three more measly wire clamps in the evening too. Still a few more to go.



posted by Victor Franco at 10:32 PM 0 COMMENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 05, 2007

Painted Battery Boxes & Half Moons, Holders for Receiver Battery & Switch, Circuit Breaker, Center Foot Washers, Pipe Clamps, Battery Rails, Switches

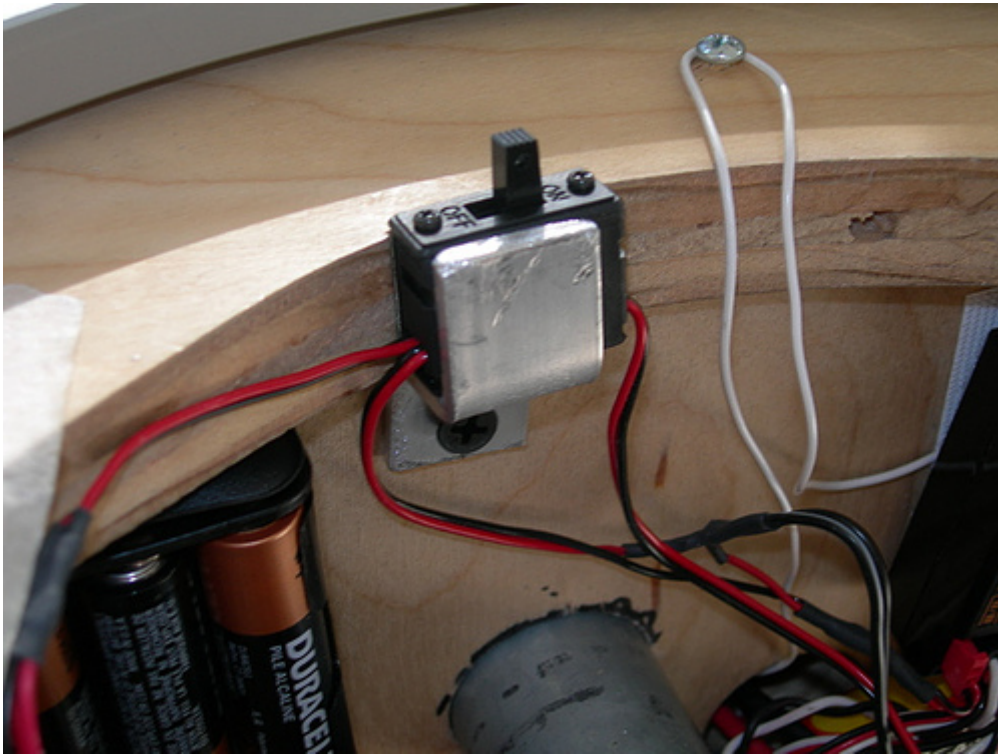
With Celebration IV just over two weeks away and breathing down my neck, I need to get in gear and finish the many details that have to get done.

For the first time in a long time, I did some painting. The battery boxes and half moons each got two coats of Rustoleum Satin White today. I may add another coat later on, depending on how these look after they have dried completely.



I cut and bent some aluminum bar to help hold the main receiver battery in place, as well as the switch that determines which receiver battery pack is selected (main or auxiliary).

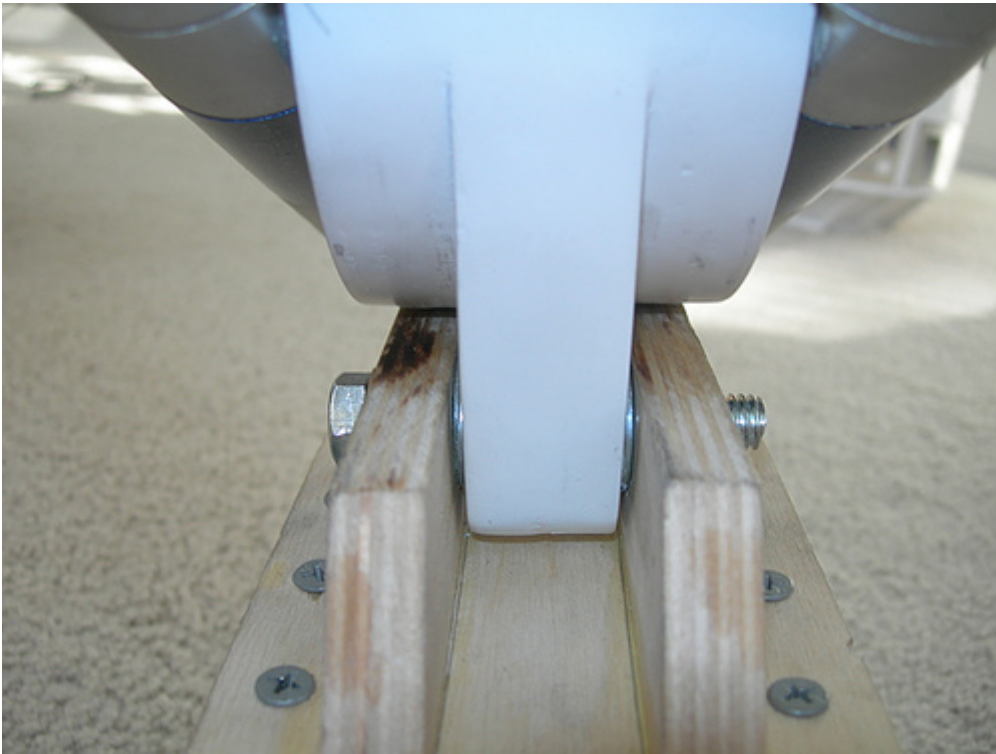




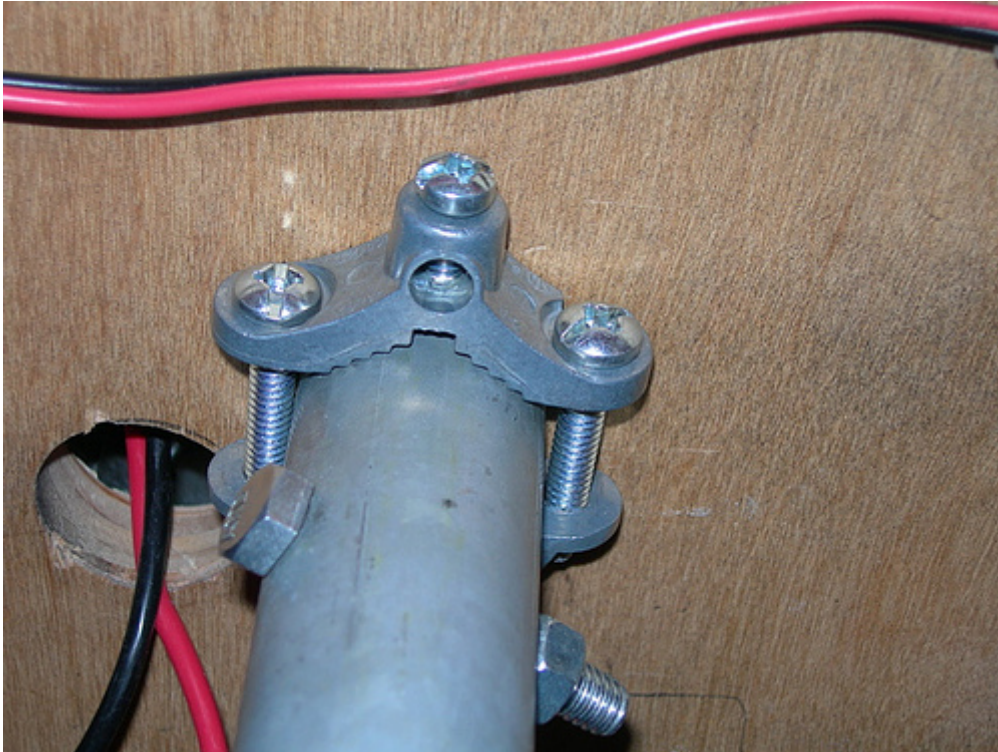
I used Velcro to fasten the main circuit breaker to the underside of the top of the frame.



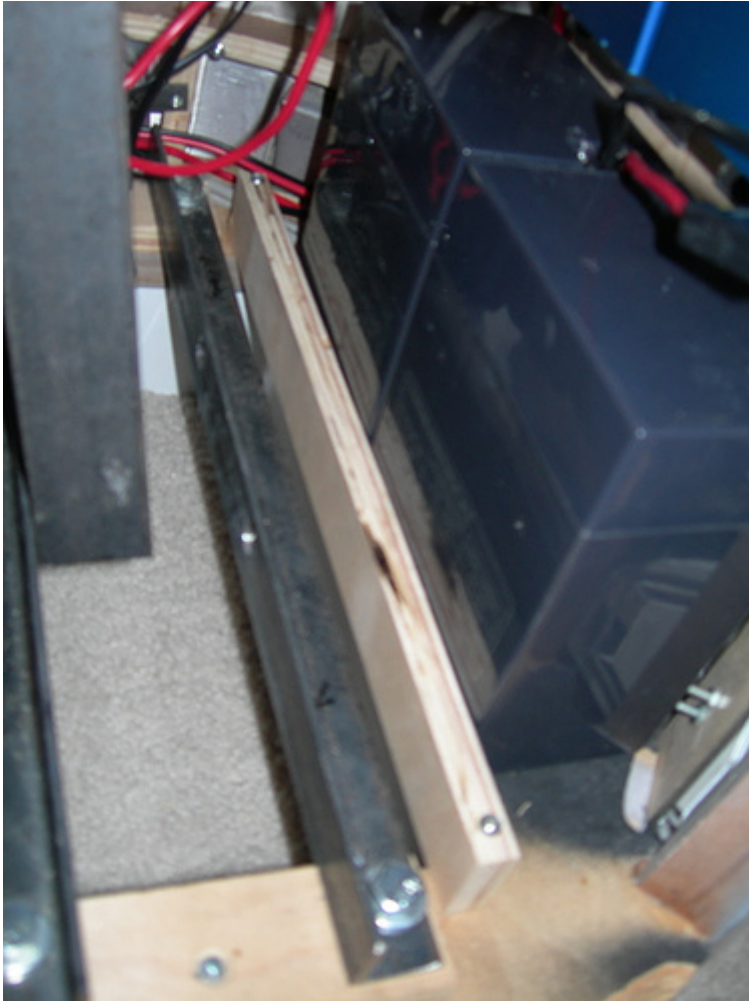
My center foot needed a couple of washers between the tip of the ankle and the inside of the wooden channel pieces to keep it firmly in place, so I added those today as well.



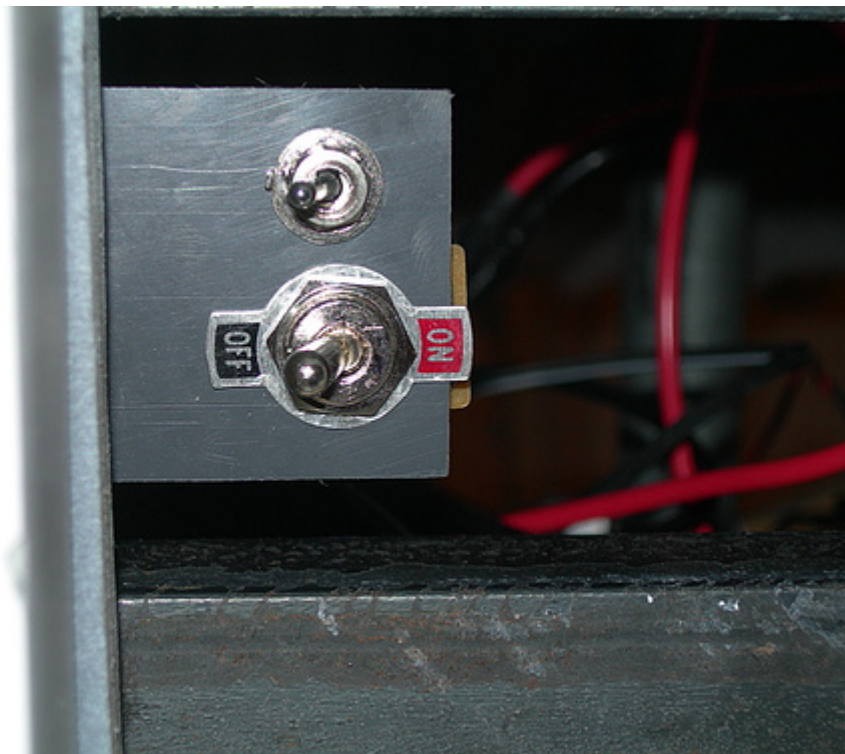
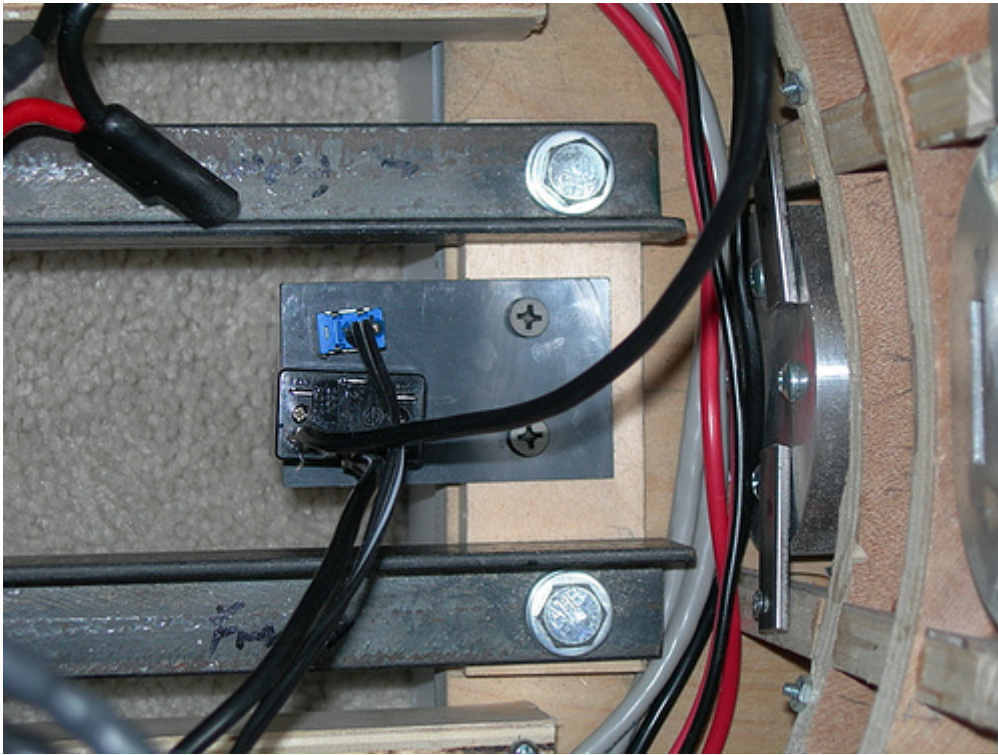
I screwed down gas pipe clamps to keep R2's body centered on the gas pipe. There's one clamp on the left, another on the right.



I installed wooden rails to keep the main batteries in place. I still need to cut and install some short pieces toward the rear, to keep the batteries from sliding back when R2 is tilted back.



Finally, I secured R2's on/off switches to a piece of PVC, and attached that to the bottom of the frame, accessible from the front of the skirt. One switch powers up the main batteries, the other switch powers up the receiver battery.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:35 PM 2 COMMENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 06, 2007

Center Ankle Hacking, Gluing & Stabilizing, Foot Shell Wiring Holes, Finished Battery Railing

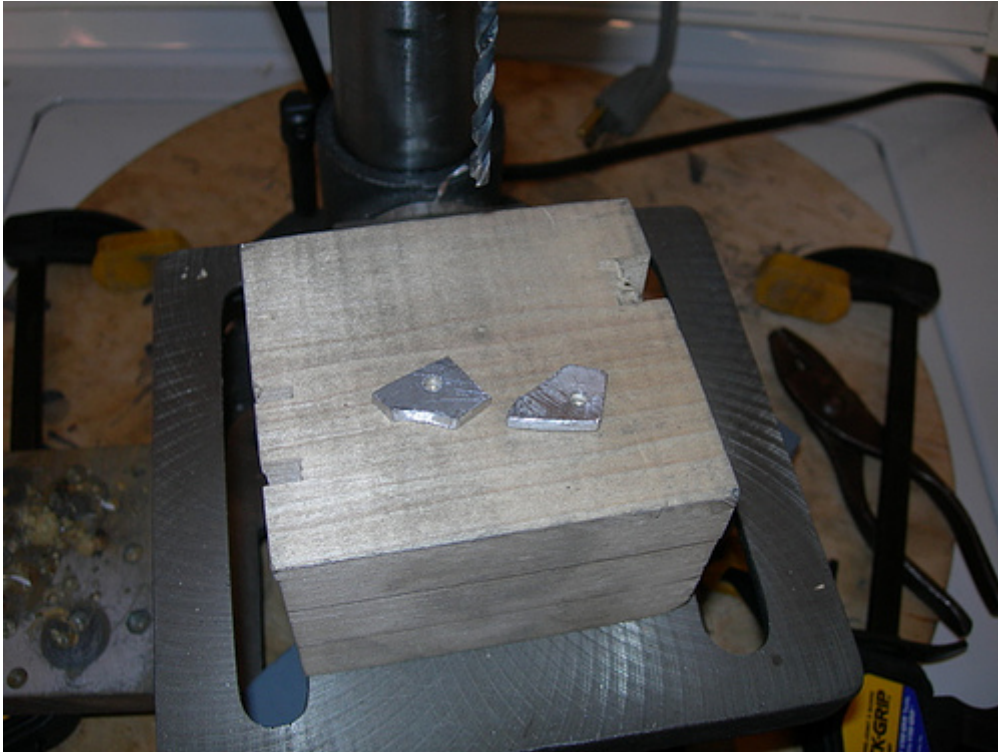
I really, really hated to do this, but I had to. I had to hack on the center ankle with the Dremel in order to get the center leg to tilt the specified eighteen degrees. With this hacking, the leg can now tilt up to twenty degrees.

The root cause of the problem is that the ankle bolt hole needs to be closer to the tip. I've done all I can to the foot to get more clearance for the leg tilt, but it still wasn't enough. The curve on the ankle had to be sanded down. I will probably use a paint brush to apply primer and paint. I hated to do this so much that I may rebuild a new center leg some day. The tape-ease cylinder is a pain, but the rest of the center leg is a pretty easy build.

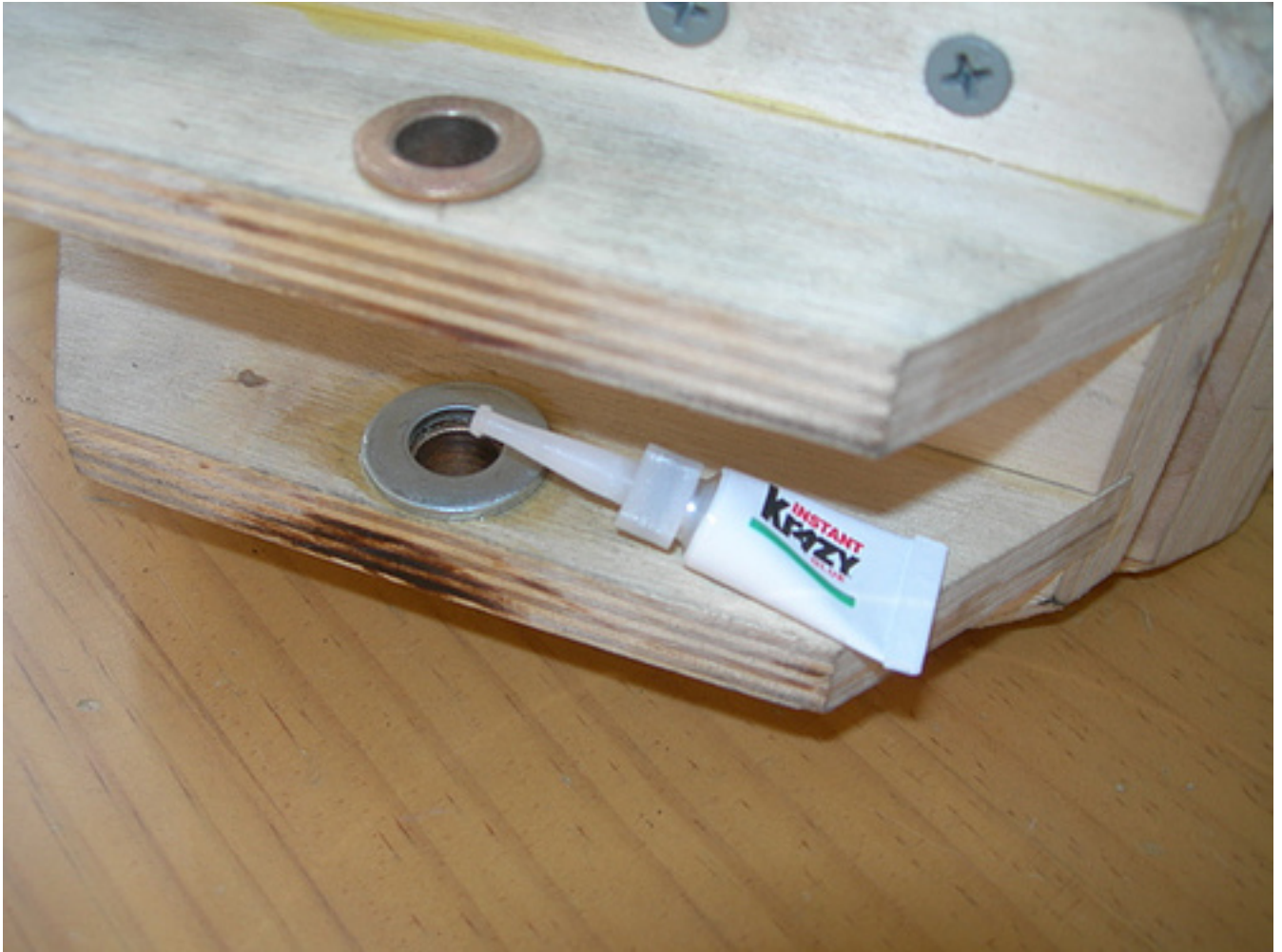
Man, I hated to do this. (Ok, I'm over it. It's in the past now.)



I cut some center foot stabilizers that get screwed onto the center ankle. This way, when R2 backs up, his foot won't jump up like a spooked horse, as it is currently prone to do.



I used Krazy Glue to glue affix the washers from yesterday for the center foot, to keep it stable when bolted to the ankle. This eliminates any wiggle room. I didn't know if this would actually work, but so far the washers are holding tight.



One last cut on the outer foot shells, as I opened up a small rectangle with the Dremel and drill to allow wiring to pass from the ankle on down into the foot.



Finally, I finished up the main battery railing, I installed stubby pieces at the ends of the rails. Now the batteries won't slide around at all.



posted by Victor Franco at 10:47 PM 0 COMMENTS

MONDAY, MAY 07, 2007

Primer for Foot Shells & Center Foot, Finished Painting Half Moons, Foot Doors, Battery Boxes, CIV Badges, Battery PVC, Painted Skin Screws

Mostly primer and painting today. In more-or-less chronological order:

In the morning I gave the foot shells one last coat of primer and a sanding, in preparation for painting tomorrow.



I also applied primer to the channel area of the center foot; that area needs to be painted white, as it shows to the outside world.



One last coat of Rustoleum Satin White on the half moons, foot shell doors, and battery boxes. They are done being painted (as far as I can tell).



My Celebration 4 stuff arrived in the mail today, along with my replacement CFSound III board. I will mail back the damaged sound board for repair tomorrow. The new board works just fine, and I was able to verify that the original Contact Sense 24 was undamaged.



The main batteries' terminals were exposed, so I glued down some PVC covers to keep anything from shorting the positive and negative leads together.



I wrapped up by brushing on a dab of white paint on each of the skin screws. Hey, where'd they go??



posted by Victor Franco at 11:09 PM 0 COMMENTS

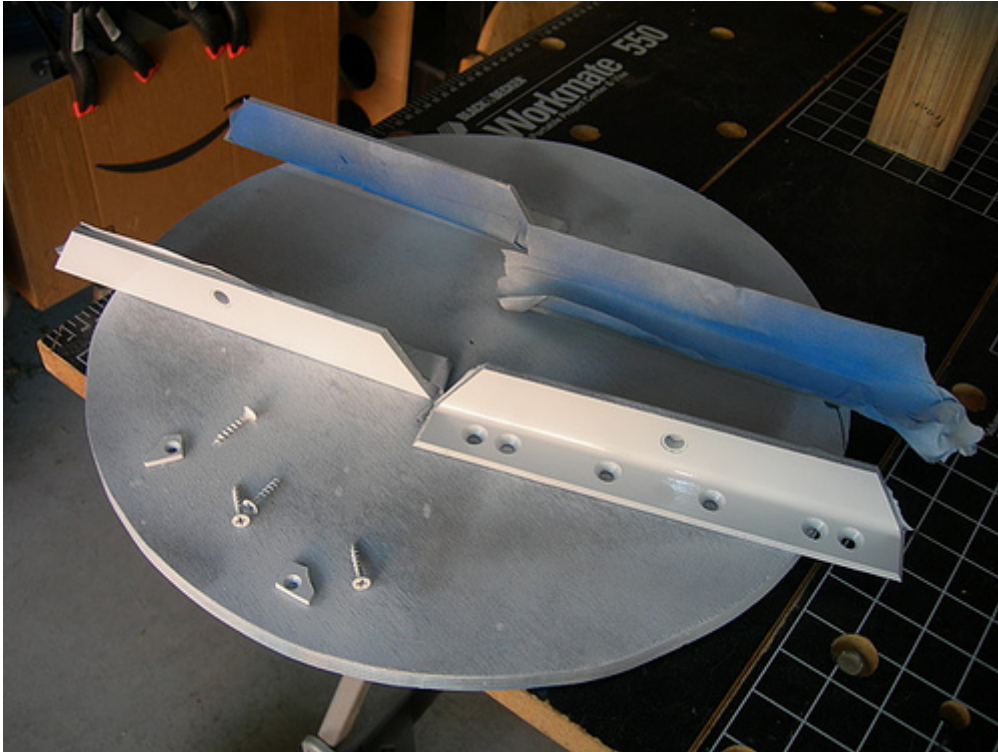
TUESDAY, MAY 08, 2007

Painted Foot Shells, Center Foot & Drivetrain Channels, Center Ankle, Silicone for Shoulder Flange, T-Shirts

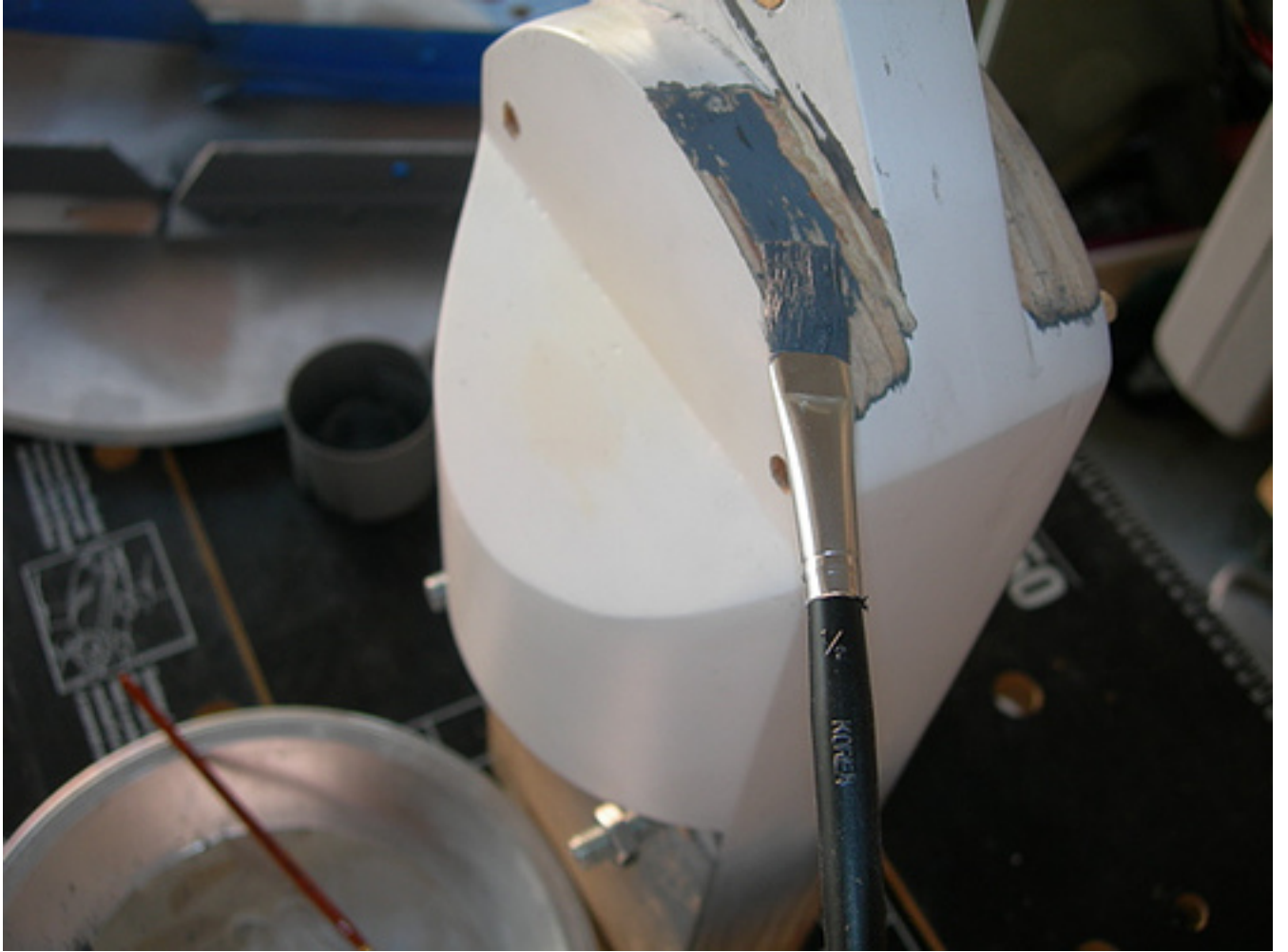
This morning I painted the foot shells white. I think these three coats are going to be enough.



In the evening, I painted the channels on the center foot and drivetrain. I disassembled the drivetrain and only painted the channel pieces, I did not want to risk getting paint on the chain or gears, and I didn't feel like masking the whole thing. I think I'm done with the spray can now, just a little touch-up painting here and there with a brush.

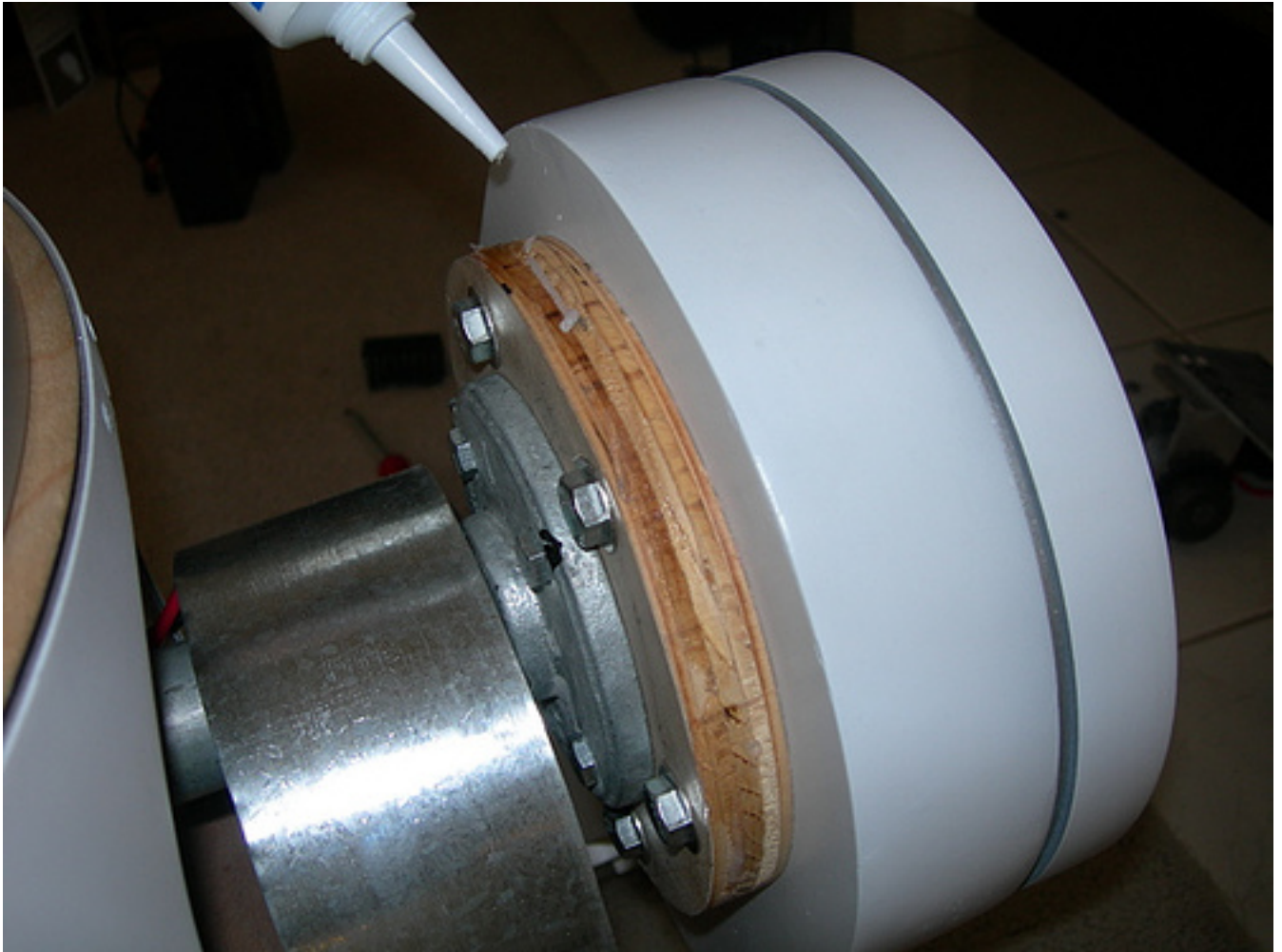


I brushed on primer, and later, paint, to finish the repair on the center ankle from this weekend. It looks pretty darn sloppy, more impetus to rebuild the center leg one day in the future. Keep in mind that most of this does not show though, as this portion of the ankle is facing down, toward the top of the foot shell.





I applied silicone to the wooden hub that holds the shoulder flange in place, so the flange piece won't move around and expose the wood underneath. There is also a single wood screw that holds the flange in place from underneath, but the top part had a tendency to shift.



Finally, I went to Mike's, but for once, it wasn't to do any building. I dropped off some screws for Mike, that he needed in order to mount his back door brackets. His R2 #2 is coming along very nicely, it should be done any minute.



More importantly, I picked up my super-duper, one of a kind, collector's item t-shirts. I have both a short sleeve version and a long sleeve version. These will be the envy of CIV.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:32 PM 0 COMMENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 09, 2007

More Center Ankle Paint, Installed Rear Power Coupler, Started Cutting Wheel Padding

My brushed-on paint for the center ankle from yesterday looked atrocious, so I sprayed on a little more paint tonight. Now it just looks bad, which is an improvement.



At long last, I installed the rear power coupler tonight. The power coupler frame is siliconed onto the back door, while the power coupler itself is held onto a small piece of wood with Velcro.

I attached the rear door, and then placed the small piece of wood with the power coupler attached to it such that the power coupler was perfectly placed within the coupler frame on the door. Then I glued down the piece of wood to the bottom of the frame.



Later, once the glue had dried, I removed the door to see how it all looked.



The door goes back on just right, and the power coupler still fits within its frame. The Velcro allows me to make minor adjustments if necessary, and I can also remove the coupler for repainting should the need arise.

I wrapped up by cutting some strips of rubber that I may or may not attach to the wheels of the outer feet. Those wheels are pretty expensive, and the layer of rubber would provide some protection. However, I would need to hack on the wheel housings of my drivetrain in order to get this extra layer to fit, and I'm not sure I want to do that. I'll think about it...



posted by Victor Franco at 11:27 PM 2 COMMENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007

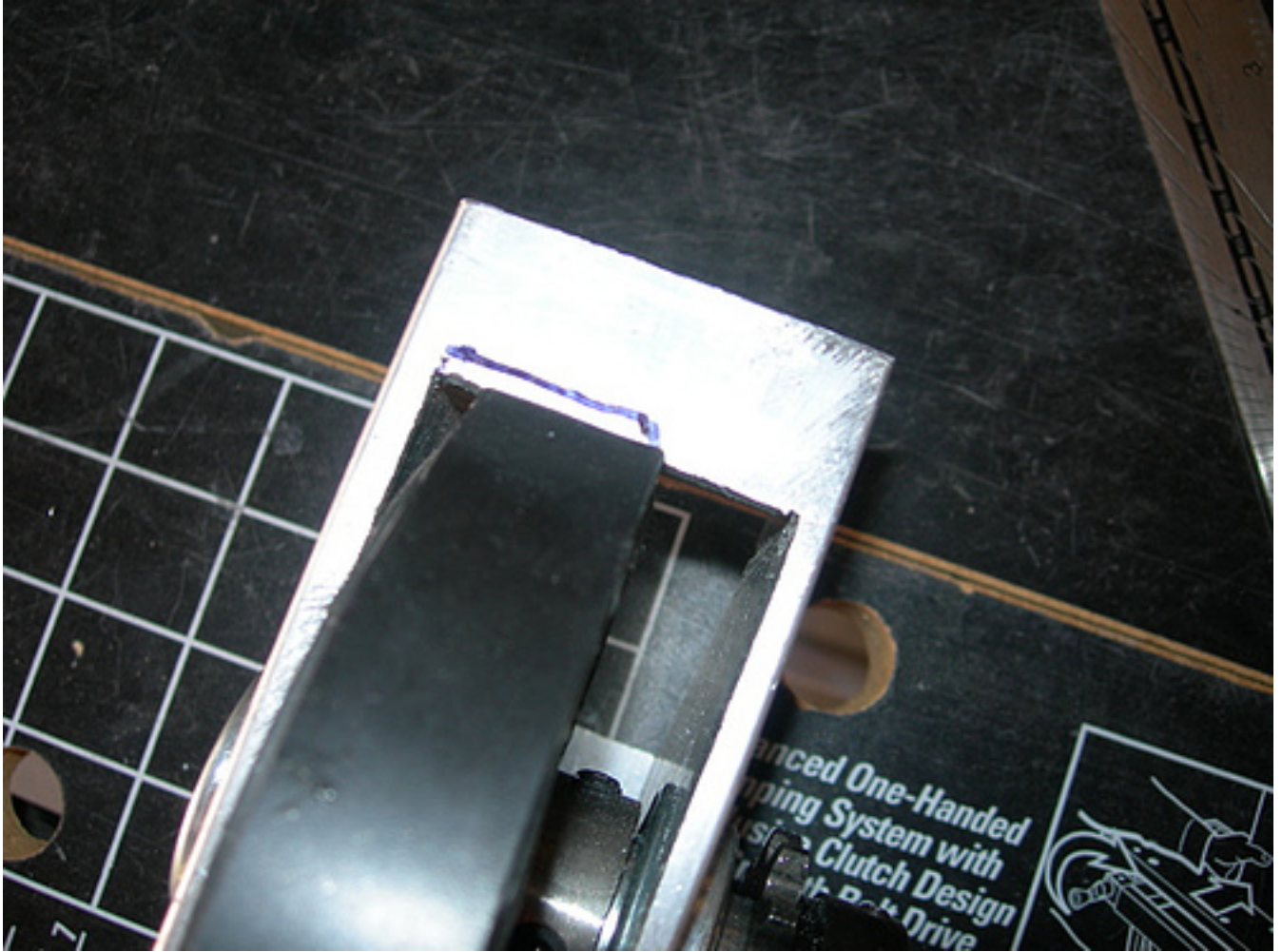
Voltage Converter Arrives, Wheel Housing Cuts, Painted Foot Shell Window Details

The [voltage converter](#) that I ordered from Aircraft Spruce arrived today. This will convert 28/24 volts down to the 12 volts that the CFSound III card requires. I haven't tried it out yet, but I will test with a multimeter first, you can bet on that. Thanks to Chris Romines for finding this. There are similar products out there, but this is the one I ended up going with.

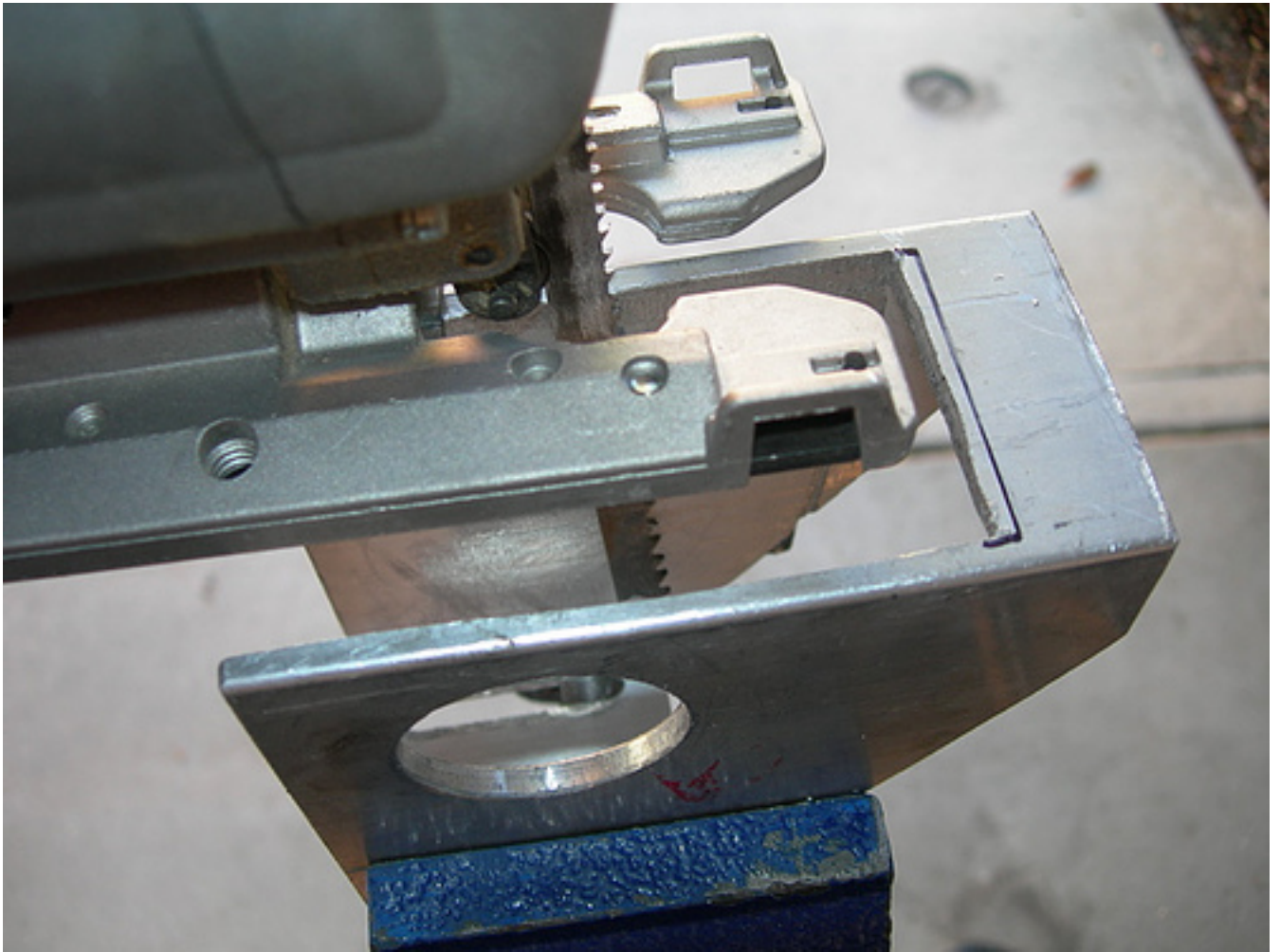


I decided to go ahead and open up the wheel housings on the drivetrain to allow a 1/4" layer of rubber that I may glue to the wheels to pass through the edge of the housing. Without this trim, there wasn't enough room for that extra material.

I placed one of the rubber strips I cut last night on top of the wheel to get a feeling for how much material needed to be removed.



I used a jigsaw to hack away at the wheel housing, and I used a file to clean up the cut.





I wrapped up by hand painting the hard-to-reach areas of the foot shells, where the little windows are. I'm not sure if this really mattered, but I decided to do it anyway.



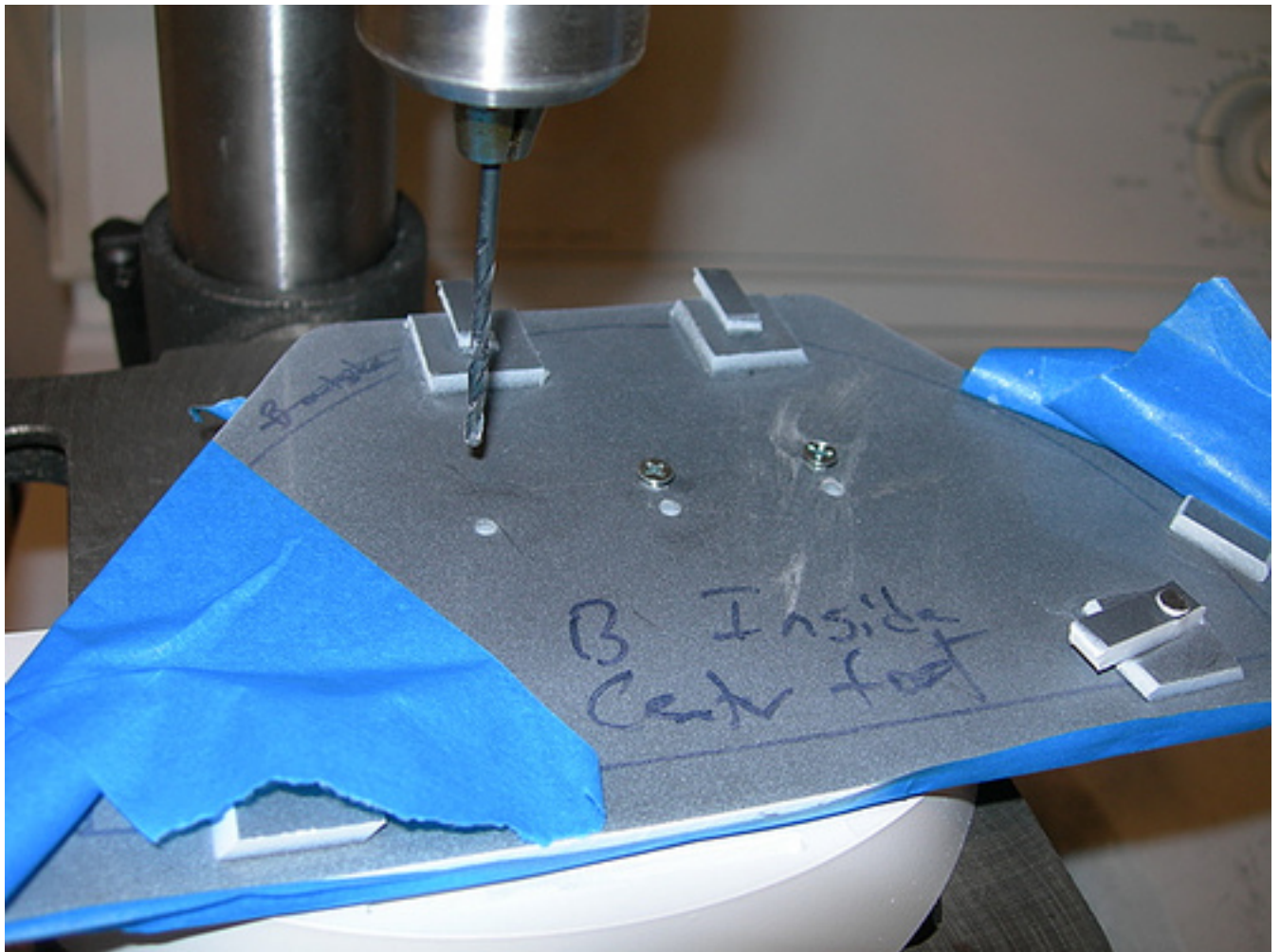
All the painting I did this week should be thoroughly dry by the weekend, so I'll be putting R2 back together again soon, and adding the finishing touches early next week. The end is near.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:08 PM 0 COMMENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

Redrilled Holes for Half Moon, Foot Shell Assembly, Finished Cutting Wheel Padding, Helped Roy, Installed Battery Harnesses

I wasn't happy with the location of the half moon on one of my center foot shell doors, so I drilled three new holes and remounted the half moon.



Then I assembled the center feet, with the doors and half moons attached. I'm pretty happy with how these turned out.



I finished cutting out the last of the rubber layers for the wheel padding. Right now I think I'm going to leave these off for a little while. One reason is that if I install this layer of rubber on the wheels, then the threaded end of the knurled cable fittings will need to be further chopped down on the end that fits inside the foot shell, or else they will run into this layer of rubber.

I prefer not to shorten the thread end of the fittings, because I won't have enough room on the fittings to secure them from behind with nuts. And if I can't do that, then I can't secure the front foot strips without drilling them and using screws to secure them, as I did with the rear foot strips. I will probably do that eventually.



Roy Powers came by for a while to discuss some drivetrain trouble, and to get his dome drive controller finished.



I wrapped up the evening by using silicone to glue down the battery harnesses onto the battery boxes.



Tomorrow I plan to start putting R2 back together again. For the first time he'll have his painted battery boxes and foot shells on, and there will be very little work remaining.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:16 PM 0 COMMENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007

Building at Mike's, Reassembled Drivetrains

Chris Romines and Roy Powers had some droid building to do at Mike's, and Mike said he thought he could revive a couple of non-functional Saturn motors of mine.

Mike was all laughs when he found out I was testing the motors with the covers off. I learned today that you can't do that. I did have a broken solder joint in one of the motors that was repaired, but it looks like the other motor was never bad in the first place. At any rate, both motors are running now, and I put one of them

on my droid when I got home, as it had a superior shaft adapter attached to it, compared to the one that I was using on my right foot.



Meanwhile, Mike and Chris worked on Chris' wire-up, while Roy fought with his drivetrain.



By the end of the day, Chris' droid was moving via R/C. Two droids have taken their first steps in the last three weeks at Mike's.



When I got home, I spent quite a while putting my two drivetrains back together.

Every piece had been taken apart, so they didn't go back together quickly. I placed the drivetrains in their respective foot shells, ready to go back on the legs tomorrow.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:57 PM 0 COMMENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

Back on Three Legs, Left Motor Troubles, Sound Card Troubles

R2 is back up on three legs again, this time with his painted battery boxes and foot shells installed.



He was running for a few minutes, and this time the left motor decided to stop working. I'm betting it's the solder joint in the motor again, but I haven't had a chance to properly diagnose the problem. It's always something.

I'm worried that I may have damaged my second CFSound III card. I don't know what I did wrong, as I'm pretty sure I've applied no more than 12 volts to it, but every time I power up the card, all I get are a pair of solid red and green LEDs. This happens whether I use the wall adapter that came with the sound card, or if I use a 12 volt battery.

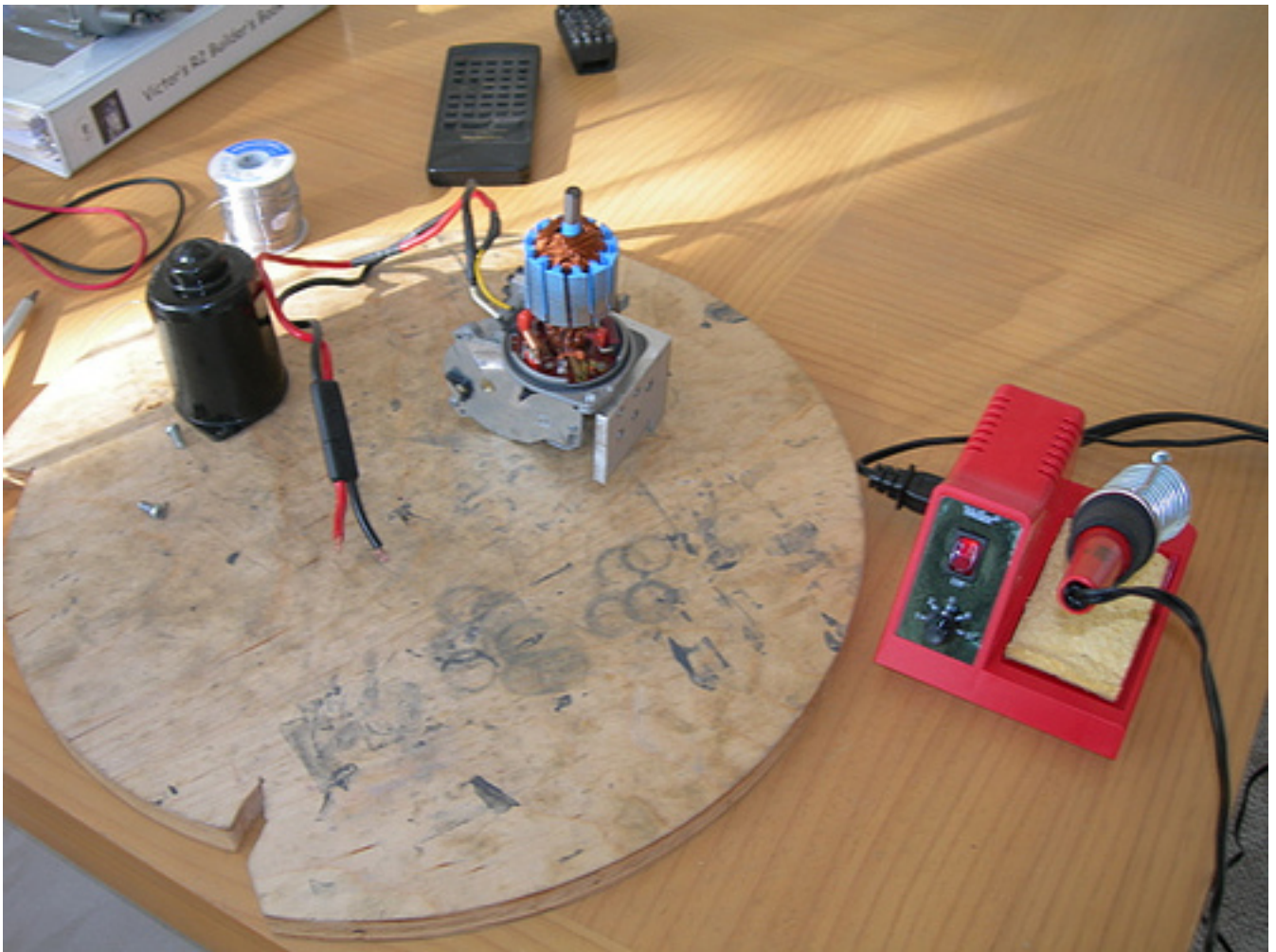
The FAQ says the two LEDs lit solid can indicate low voltage, but I don't think that's the case here. I will call ACS tomorrow and ask them if they can help, but I have a sickening feeling that this board is dead too. (I wonder how the repair is coming along on my first board?)

posted by Victor Franco at 11:10 PM 0 COMMENTS

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

Fixed Left Foot Motor, Cutting Board for Outer Feet

I fixed R2's left motor tonight. Again, I guess the solder job on the 24 volt conversion must have been inadequate, although the solder joint seemed okay when I opened the motor. I resoldered, and now the motor works again. I hope this problem doesn't keep happening.



I used Mike's trick of chopping up some cutting board for the outer ankles to keep

the outer feet firmly on the ground. I used a cheapo cutting board from Target, R2 is not picky.



With the battery boxes in place this is barely noticeable, and the power and antenna wires are almost completely concealed.



R2 was happy to be up and moving around again.



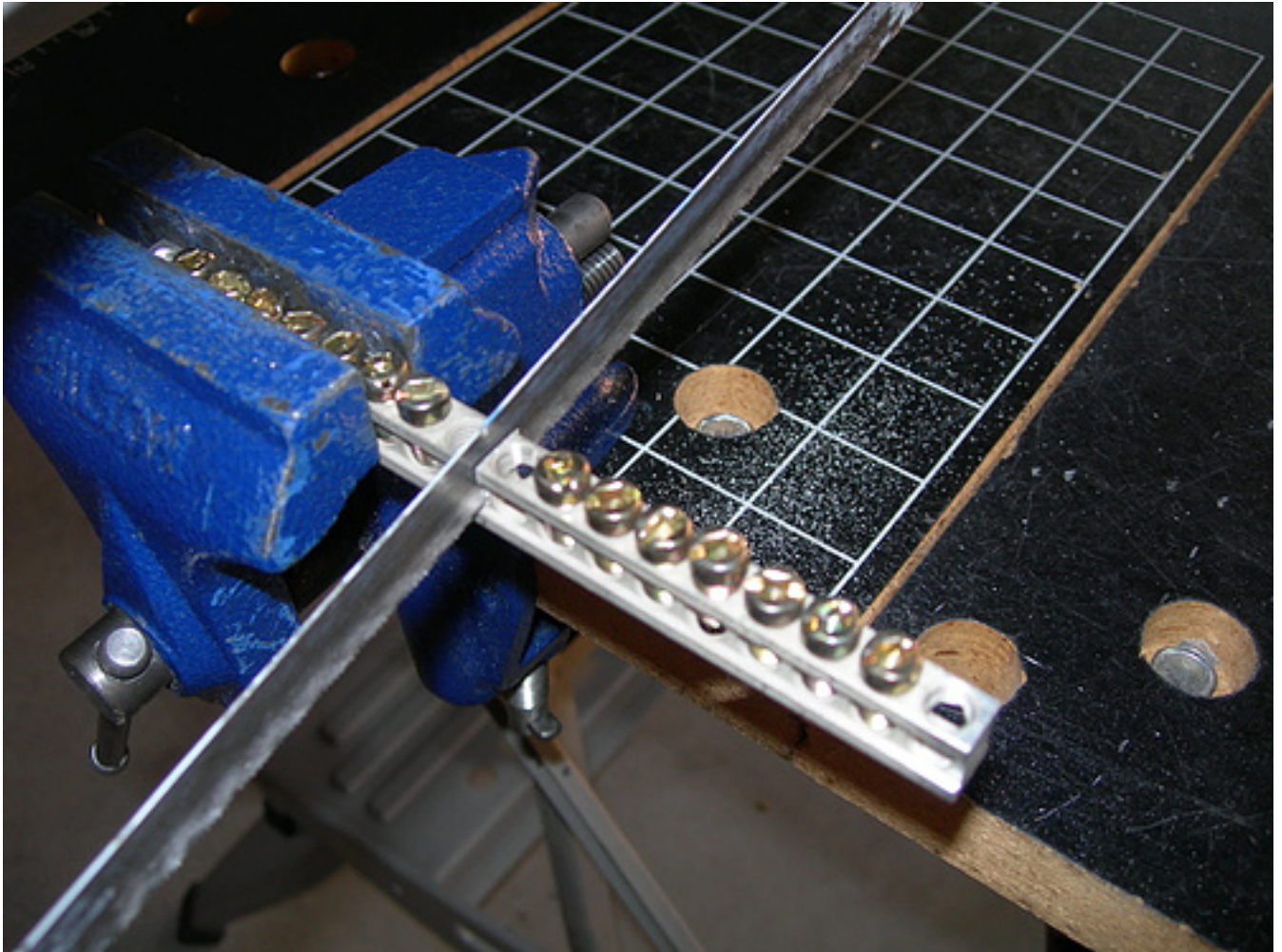
I still have a few minor things to do. First, ACS is kindly sending me (yet) another sound card, the most recent one is going back to them soon. I should have the new card by Thursday. I will do my best not to harm it. Second, I need to make the outer leg cylinder holders a bit smaller and reattach them. I also need to do some housekeeping on the internal wiring, and make a 12 volt power bus for the Keycoder and CFSound III boards. There are some other small things to do, but that's the bulk of it.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:21 PM [1 COMMENTS](#)

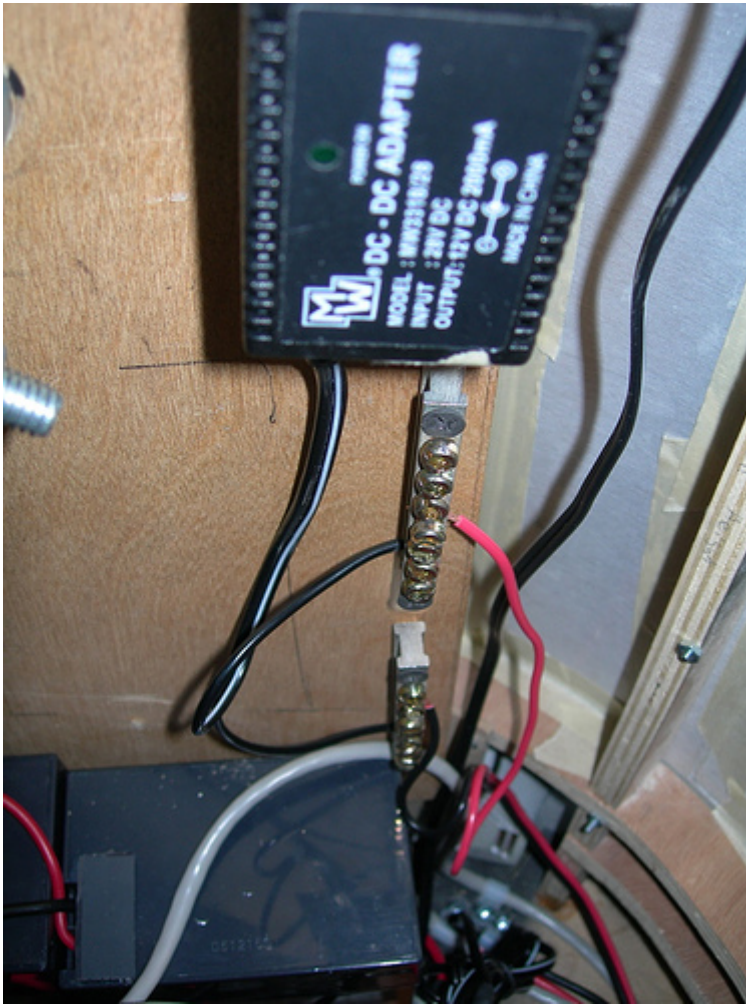
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

Started Working on 12 Volt Power Bus

Tonight I cut a ground bar in half, and drilled some mounting holes for use as +12 and ground connectors for my 12 volt devices (namely the Keycoder and CFSound III card).



I hooked up the 12 volt input signals, and the Keycoder. The CFSound III replacement board(s) should be here by Thursday, so *hopefully* everything will work correctly now that they will be sourced from the same 12 volt power supply.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:50 PM 0 COMMENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007

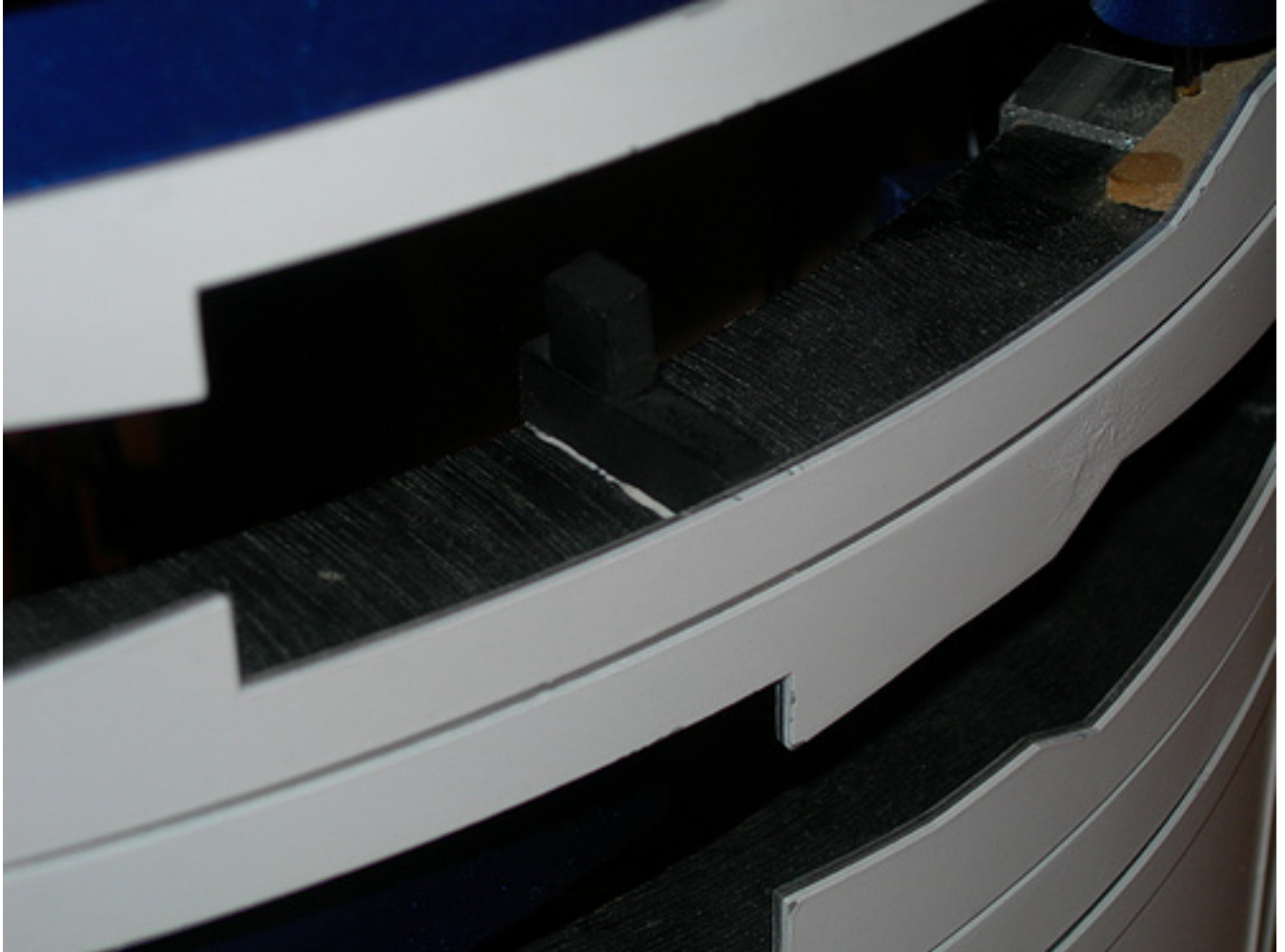
Glued Down Ankle Bracelet Strips & Utility Arm Backstops, Painted Drivetrain Screws, Installed Speaker

I wrapped up a few more of the remaining details tonight.

I used model glue to glue down the strips that go on the back of the ankle bracelets.



I used wood glue to attach the backstops for the utility arms. The backstops are painted black.



I painted the drivetrain screws that are externally visible, so they'll blend in better with the white channel.



Finally, I installed the speaker behind the lower front vent. I don't have a working sound system just yet, but I should have one by this time tomorrow. Hopefully the speaker will sound okay mounted there. I'll know soon.



I must be getting close to the end, I managed to finish this post before 11:00pm.
posted by Victor Franco at 10:51 PM [3 COMMENTS](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007

New Sound Card Installed & Working, Sanded Down & Primed Cylinder Holders

My repaired CFSound III card arrived today, and it works perfectly and is now installed in my droid. R2 is beeping and chirping like a happy droid should.



I sanded down the cylinder holders using the belt sander in the evening.

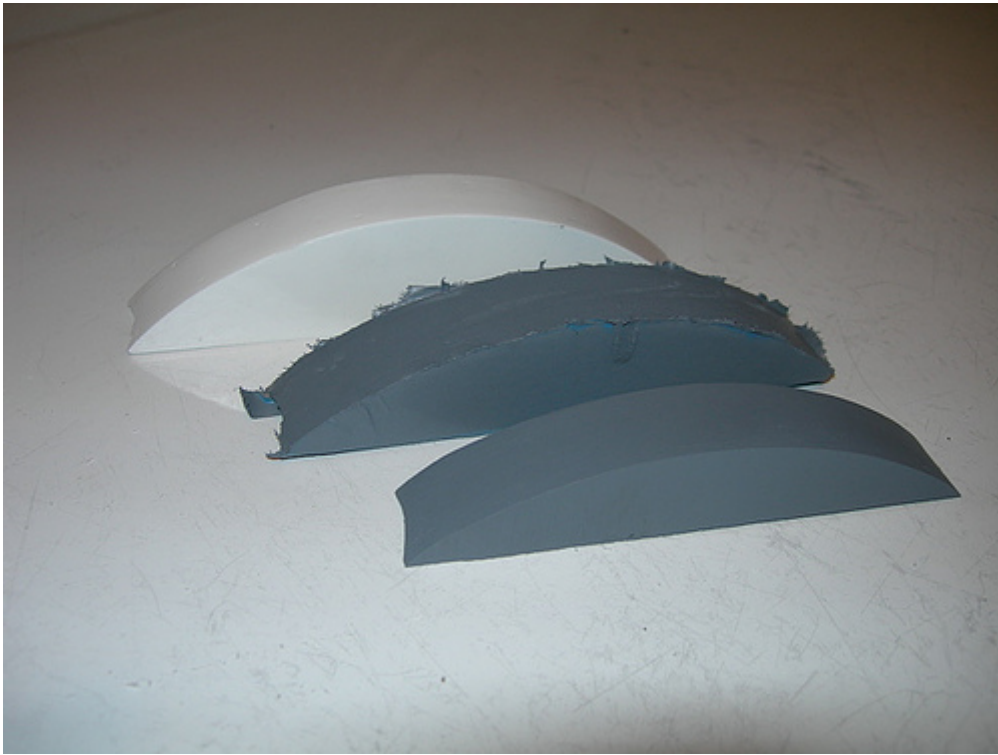


Later, I applied primer.

I modified one of my original wooden cylinder holders, and a resin one that Mike had. (I figured resin would sand faster and smoother than wood.) I masked my pre-existing wood cylinder holder, but the resin piece required complete coverage.

Compared to my other original wooden cylinder holder, the modified wooden holder had to be sanded down by about 20% to fit on the left leg, and the resin holder had to be sanded by at least 40% to fit on the right leg.

It won't be beautiful, but I have no choice; I have a slightly irregular droid.



posted by Victor Franco at 11:31 PM 0 COMMENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007

Painted Cylinder Holders

This morning I painted the cylinder holders. I'll let them dry for about 24 hours, then I will install them with silicone. This will be the last step for my initial build.



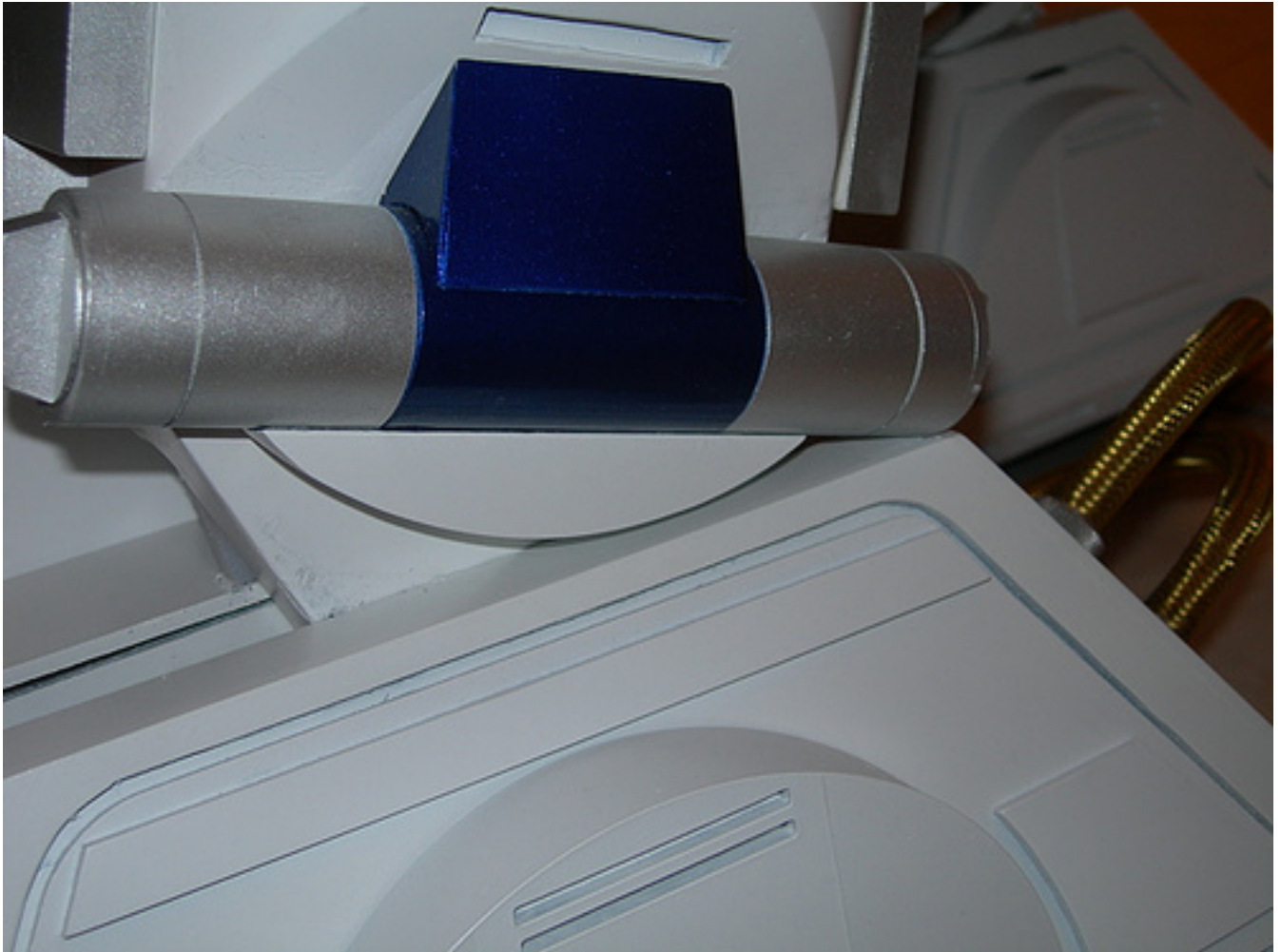
posted by Victor Franco at 10:59 PM 0 COMMENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007

Glued in Cylinder Holders, Built Manual Droid Lift, Reattached Rear Coin Return

Today was supposed to be the day I crossed the finish line with R2, but I hit a small stumble. More on that in a moment.

In the morning I glued the cylinder holders in place with silicone. They seem to be holding well.



During the day, I built the "manual droid lift." This consists of pipe, pipe connector, U-bolts and bars. The idea is to hook two U-bolts around the main leg pipe in body, attach that to a couple of bars on one end, and then have a pipe at the top that runs above R2, attached with two more U-bolts to the bar. He can then be lifted by two people, into a van for example.



Unfortunately, as I was fitting the droid lift onto R2, I dropped one of the U-bolts, and it whacked the right rear coin return from behind and knocked it clean out of the back door. I applied JB Weld and reattached the coin return, and by morning it should be good.



Tomorrow is R2's big day. I'll have more to say about that soon.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:55 PM 0 COMMENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007

R2's Big Day

R2 is done.

Wait, let me rephrase that.

R2 IS DONE!!!

Today was R2's big day, the day of his unveiling. I have managed to keep R2 a secret from my folks and one of my two brothers the entire time I've been building R2, and that was no easy feat. (I couldn't keep such a secret from everyone, so I let the other brother in on it.)

Today, R2 was completed, and just in time. My folks were invited to come and see the unveiling of "The Project" this afternoon, while I had one of my brothers on-line for a video conference from Berkeley.

I queued up the 20th Century Fox fanfare, followed by the opening blast of the Star Wars main theme. As that first note hit, my buddy Kelvin and I threw off the

cover on R2, and my parents were quite surprised! I hope to post some video of this shortly.



They couldn't believe I actually built R2-D2. I am a bit dumbfounded by it myself, but there he was.



I showed them my Builder's Notebook, and told them all about how he came to be. I even created a short "Making of R2" video, that speeds through 1881 slides in 4 minutes, all to the tune of "Duel of the Fates." (I'll now admit I've taken over 10,000 pictures of my build - you read that right.)



And then... it was time for R2 to go away.

In preparation for transportation to CIV, I needed Mike Senna to come by and pick up R2 and take him to his house, where he will leave for the LA Convention Center on Wednesday. But not to fear, I will probably see R2 at Mike's tomorrow.

Using the new manual droid lift, Mike and I loaded R2 into Mike's van, and I waved bye.



So R2 is done, but is he ever really *done*? I plan to add servos for the utility arms to allow them to open via remote control, and I also want to add the mist-spray effect. I may also add a layer of rubber to the wheels before CIV, if possible.

I do plan to slow down a bit on the blog, so updates may not be as often as they have been. I expect I'll still have things to share in the lead-up to CIV, as well as during the event itself.

Thanks to everyone that has been following my build, and I know there are a lot of you "regulars" that check this blog frequently. I appreciate your interest and support, and all the suggestions and encouraging words you've provided.

-Victor

posted by Victor Franco at 9:53 PM [1 COMMENTS](#)

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007

First Modification - Rubber for Drivetrain Wheels

Ha. Just when I thought I'd slow down with the blog...

First, there's a short video of my R2's unveiling at:

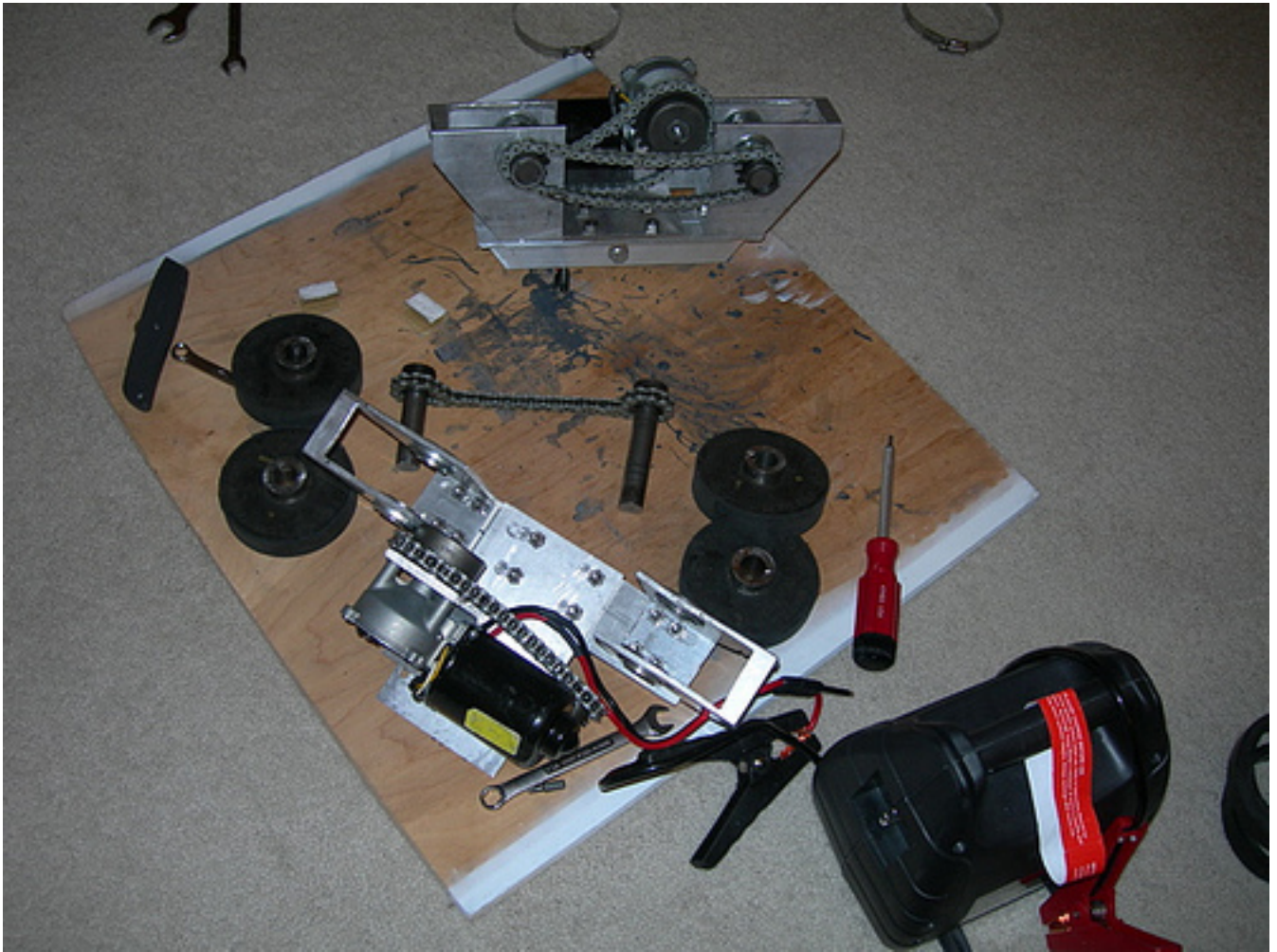
<http://pw2.netcom.com/~r2/R2Debut.html>

The unveiling was done in my garage. R2 was under wraps, with my folks waiting outside the garage. I opened the garage, cued the Star Wars theme, and did the the reveal.

Back to today's activity. I've decided that I want to go ahead and put a layer of rubber on the drivetrain wheels, so I swung by Mike's and grabbed the drivetrains for the wheel modification.

I cut the rubber out (yet again, the prior efforts were from 4" diameter pipe couplers, I needed 3"), and took the wheels off the drivetrain. Tomorrow I'll install the layer of rubber with contact cement.





We're picking up the 17' U-Haul truck tomorrow to transport out-of-town droids to the convention center. That could be an adventure all by itself.

posted by Victor Franco at 10:39 PM 0 COMMENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

U-Haul Truck, Rubber Layer for Wheels, R2's First Event

And the CIV craziness begins.

Mike and I picked up the 17' U-Haul truck we are using to lug stuff to CIV, that was shipped by various other builders around the country.



On the way to the U-Haul location, Mike managed to glue down the rubber layer to each of my four outer foot wheels while I drove. Things were so hectic I didn't manage to get a picture of them.

When we got back, Mike started loading the truck, while I made a Home Depot and Staples run to pick up stuff for the Builders Room.

Then, we loaded my R2 into Mike's van for R2's first public event. GenCon and Lucasfilm hosted a reception at the Bonaventure hotel in downtown Los Angeles, and various costumers were asked to come out, along with R2. Unfortunately, R2's feet and battery boxes were completely removed, and wheels off when we started the drive to the hotel.

I assembled the greasy, oily drivetrain in the front passenger seat, while wearing my dress clothes. Good thing I brought lots of paper towels. I managed to get the drivetrain together, and Rick Thames helped me to get R2 back on all three legs. We made it into the room, and R2 posed for pictures with the crowd.



Later, I met Steve Sansweet, Lucasfilm Vice President of Fan Relations. We posed with R2.



This is just the start of what promises to be a crazy, exhausting, and fun-filled week.

posted by Victor Franco at 10:37 PM 0 COMMENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2007

CIV Setup

The R2 Builders room quickly filled with droids galore today, CIV Setup Day.

Craig Smith had a new surprise for us, a Mustafar droid. Craig's beautiful droid with brass accents was also on display.





Andy Schwartz brought his mini R7 droid.



Kelly Krider had a very cool surprise for us, a Ralph McQuarrie concept droid. Keith Henry's beautiful color-shifting droid was between Kelly's droids.



William and Nikki Miyamoto's HAL droid was on display, and the dome is something to behold. One of the most original domes you will ever see.



Even out-of-towners got into the act.



Local media came by the room, and did interviews with Wayne Orr, Tom Jozwiak, and Don Bies, among others.



Guy Averett's beautiful R2-A6 showed up.



The rebel blockade runner set was mostly set up, just a bit more to do. In the opposite corner of the room (near my droid), there was a new Death Star set.



More droids, including a couple of Senna's (Pink 5's droid is on display), along with the Craig Smith collection.



Finally, I scored the Ralph McQuarrie concept droid action figure set.



Tomorrow's the big day, the opening of the room to the public at noon.
posted by Victor Franco at 11:19 PM [1 COMMENTS](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007

CIV Day 1

I'm not even going to attempt to narrate today's activities at CIV, except to say it was a great day, many hundreds (if not thousands?) of people came through the room throughout the day, and everyone loved the droids.

A bunch of pictures are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/84159971@N00/sets/72157600263490311/detail/>

I will need to update the URL to a different location in the future, my free Flickr account only supports photosests that include the last 200 uploaded pictures.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:56 PM 0 COMMENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2007

CIV Day 2 - A Good Kind of Tired

I think all of us attending CIV are becoming acquainted with the true meaning of exhaustedness. We're tired, but it's a good kind of tired.

The day started with a visit to the R2 Builders Room by Kenny Baker and his companion. Kenny was given his honorary membership plaque, as well as a hat, book and shirt.





Mike competed in the droid races with his customized drivetrain, but even his Speed Racer outfit wasn't enough to win.



I got to hang out for part of the day with some of the guys, along with Chris Bartlett as C-3PO. Chris is a *great* C-3PO. In order to get Chris, er, I mean 3PO, around from place to place, we used a cart.





Later, we crashed in on Anthony Daniels' autograph area, and he had fun with us.



G4 was broadcasting live from CIV, and dragged R2 and 3PO onto the show. After 20 minutes of not showing them, R2 and 3PO got up during a commercial break and left! We had better things to do.



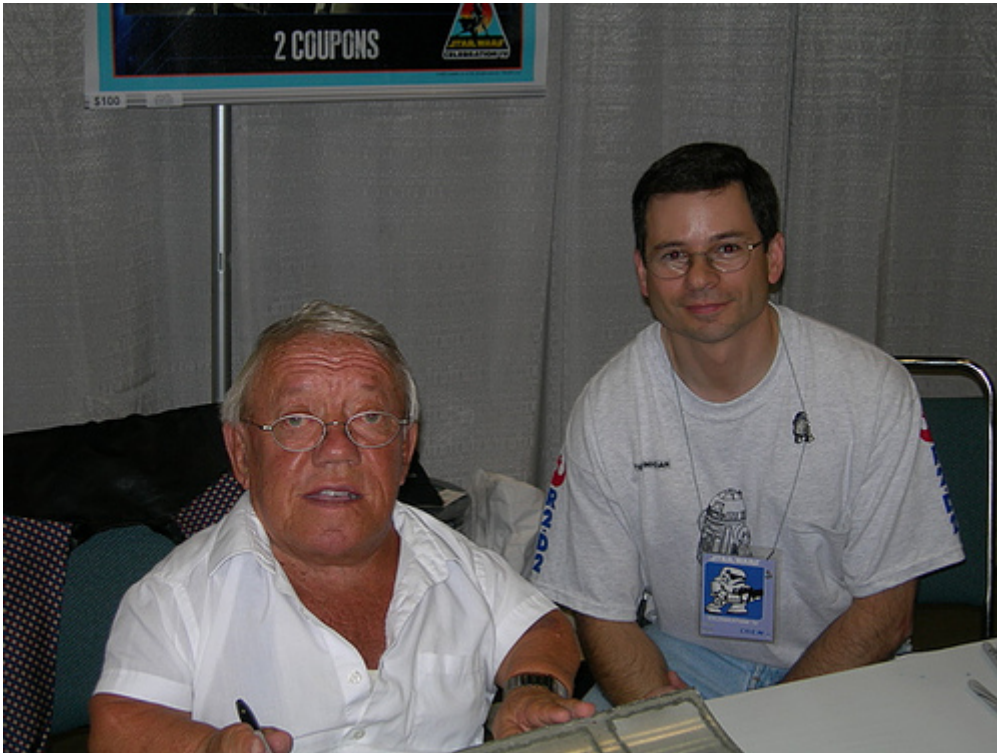
We had fun with various Star Wars celebrities, and Mike let them take a turn driving with R2 and posing for pictures.





Much to my delight, I was able to have Kenny Baker sign my back panel.





Finally, we returned to the R2 Builders room, where Don Bies caught up with Chris Bartlett for a short chat.



We wrapped up by showing some video we shot during the day.



As I said, a very tiring day, but lots of fun.

posted by Victor Franco at 10:03 PM 0 COMMENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007

CIV Day 3

Once again, I'm too exhausted to narrate pictures, a bunch more are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/84159971@N00/sets/72157600271198160/detail/>

Some quick highlights:

In the morning before the doors opened to the public, we had a gaggle of Princess

Leias come in to be photographed with the R2s.

I did booth duty for a little over an hour at the Hasbro booth with my R2, it was quite enjoyable.

The ILM droid and Daniel Deutsch's Disney droid joined our droids in the room.

Mike finally got the last autograph he needed for his back door - Carrie Fisher.

Time for sleep.

posted by Victor Franco at 11:41 PM 0 COMMENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2007

CIV Day 4

The fourth day of CIV included the R2 Advanced Building session, with Guy Vardaman, Doug Dixon, Mike Senna, Jim Shima and Craig Smith.





Mike's kids dressed up in their Ewok costumes and drew quite a crowd. Several of the celebrities, such as Daniel Logan (young Boba Fett), left their autograph tables to take photos with them.



Don Bies dropped by the R2 Builders room and kindly signed my back panel.



One more day to go (not counting tear-down, that is...).

posted by Victor Franco at 11:57 PM 0 COMMENTS

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007

CIV Day 5

Today was the last day of CIV. Tomorrow is tear-down day, and then we're completely done.

At noon we had the big droid parade around the main lobby of the convention center. Hundreds of people lined the parade route. Once we arrived to the main Star Wars banner, we stopped and had group pictures with us and our droids taken.





Some of us played a quick game of laser tag in the afternoon.





ILM model maker Lorne Peterson stopped by to check out our room, and I was able to get a picture with him.



At 3:00pm, the doors closed to the public, and it was time to start tearing down the room. A few droids still remain (including mine) and will spend one more night. We will take apart the blockade runner set tomorrow, and Mike and I will truck it back to his house, where it will await one more special trip. It is destined to become part of Steve Sansweet's private collection this summer.



posted by Victor Franco at 9:51 PM 0 COMMENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

CIV Tear-Down

One last trip to the Los Angeles Convention Center, to finish up the CIV R2 Builders Room tear-down.

The room was emptied of the remaining contents, including the Blockade Runner set.



Mike, Roy and I loaded up the set into the U-Haul.



Hey! Look what's stacked next to our truck, the Lucasfilm archive exhibit! It would have been a shame if we had accidentally loaded it up with our cargo, eh?



Daniel Deutsch's landspeeder gets ready to make the long drive back to Orlando.



And then there was one...



And then there were none. CIV is over-over. I can't recall as many consecutive days where I got so little sleep, but had such a good time making new friends. It was a great experience, one that I won't forget.

posted by Victor Franco at 4:46 PM [0 COMMENTS](#)
