

Conestoga 1620 Launcher



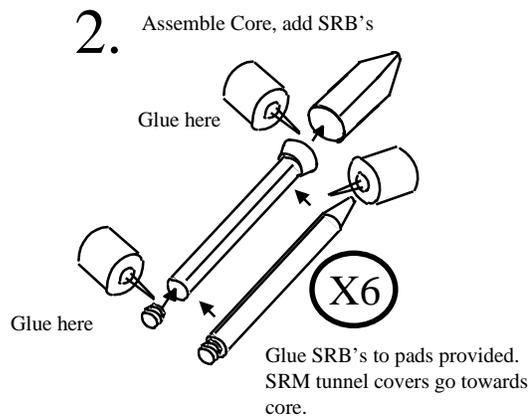
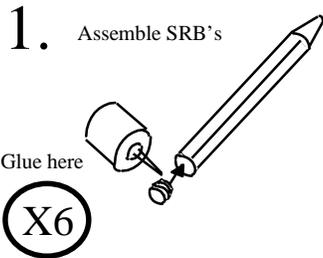
The Conestoga 1620 was developed by Space Services Inc. as a small satellite launcher. In 1990, EER purchased SSI and continued development. However, its only launch to date (in 1995) ended in failure due to a hydraulic actuator problem. Correcting the problem would require additional money, which does not appear to be forthcoming. At this writing, it appears the Conestoga's first flight was also its last.

The Conestoga 1620 consists almost entirely of off-the-shelf components, reducing development cost. The first stage consists of four Castor strap-ons, identical to those used on the Delta except for steerable nozzles. The second stage consists of another two Castor IV's, and the third stage is the single Castor IV of the core. A Star-48 motor provides a final kick into orbit. The six-foot-diameter composite payload fairing is the largest new component.

This kit is a resin kit. It is not up to the standards of professional mass-produced injection-molded kits; on the other hand, there are no such kits of the Conestoga. You will need to trim flash off of parts, sand parts to fit, and fill gaps and holes with plastic putty.

Before beginning, take inventory of your parts. Compare them with the kit instructions, and familiarize yourself with both. Now would be a good time to wash all resin parts in soap and lukewarm water, as this will wash off any "weeping" that may have come off the resin during shipping.

Use of a cyanoacrylate glue (Super Glue) or a fast-setting epoxy is recommended.



Painting Guide

This is the only launch photo of Conestoga of which I'm aware.

The Conestoga is overall base white. There is no definitive marking guide, but a black line exists at the base of the fairing, and a black square a quarter-inch above it.

Insides of the nozzles are probably gray.

The SRM's are apparently numbered. Sorry; I have not provided decals for the purpose.

