VICTOR’S R2-D2
How much does R2 weigh?
  • Roughly 130-140 lbs
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
• Legs are scratch-built from five layers of birch plywood each
• Shoulders scratch-built from eight layers of MDF each
“Booster covers” (blue areas on legs) scratch-built from poplar
• Skins are aluminum, rolled & laser-cut from a machine shop
• Dome is spun aluminum, laser-cut from a machine shop
• Drivetrain is scratch-built from aluminum, feet powered by modified Saturn windshield wiper motors(!). High torque, rated for continuous use
• Foot shells scratch-built from flat sheets of gray PVC (painted white)
• Skirt scratch-built from plywood & styrene
• Various aluminum details from machine shop(s)
• Sound card commercially available, sounds from CF card
• 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
• Jules Verne Adventures Awards at Shrine Auditorium
  • Honoring George Lucas, Harrison Ford, others
  • Behind curtain on largest stage in US
• 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.)
• 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
• Several Charity Events
  • American Cancer Society – Character photo opp
  • International Child Abuse Network – Bowling event (yes, R2 bowled)
  • Autism Speaks – Walkathon
• 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