

# *“The Ride with Father”*

*By Scot Hogan*

## The ship:

Sienar Fleet System’s Lambda-class T-4a Shuttle *Nexus*.

## Current Mission:

The young Jedi *Luke Skywalker* has just surrendered to Imperial Troops on the forest moon of *Endor*. *Darth Vader* is escorting him back to the *Death Star II* where the *Emperor* himself awaits to interrogate *Skywalker* and convert him to the dark side.

## The build:

This is the standard 1:89 scale AMT/ETRL (8783) Imperial Shuttle kit distributed in 1995. A framework was built on the inside to support the lighting system and mount the support rod, but otherwise it was built “out of the box”.

The main hull and wings were “preshaded” using flat black, then painted in multiple shades of gray using an “Aztec” technique. Final weathering was applied using ground charcoals and then all was sealed with dullcoat. Surface details on the forward and aft panels were painted by hand and then weathered with a grimy wash.

The lighting kit was built from scratch and includes four LEDs in the engine housings, one internal LED for the cockpit fiber-optics, and five mini-LEDs used for the flashing strobes on the wing tips and undercarriage. The timing of the strobes was set based on actual footage from *Return of the Jedi*. It all operates off of a removable 9v DC power supply.

The *Death Star II* is scratch-built. A 2-inch diameter super-ball was used to make the mold and a spherical resin casting was made. The detailing and areas under construction were then hand-carved using a Dremel tool with a fine grinding tip. Panel effects were created using preshading with a spherical template followed by two different coats of gray.

The *Endor* base is scratch-built. The *Endor* planetoid is solid cast resin and has roughly 20 layers of paint, starting with the deep blue sea. The first coats of paint were applied by airbrush and the remainder by hand. The black base is constructed from four thin plywood discs, with inner cavities cut out for the adapter plug, on/off switch and wiring. The support rods are clear acrylic.

Completed December 2010

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