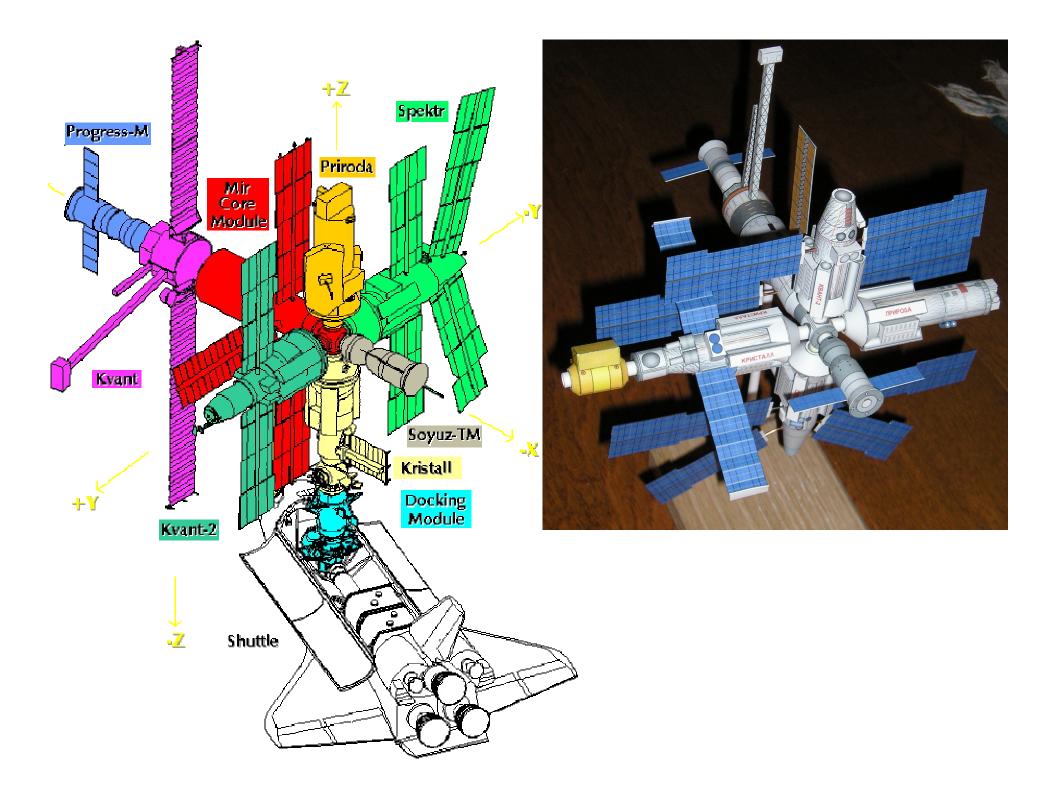


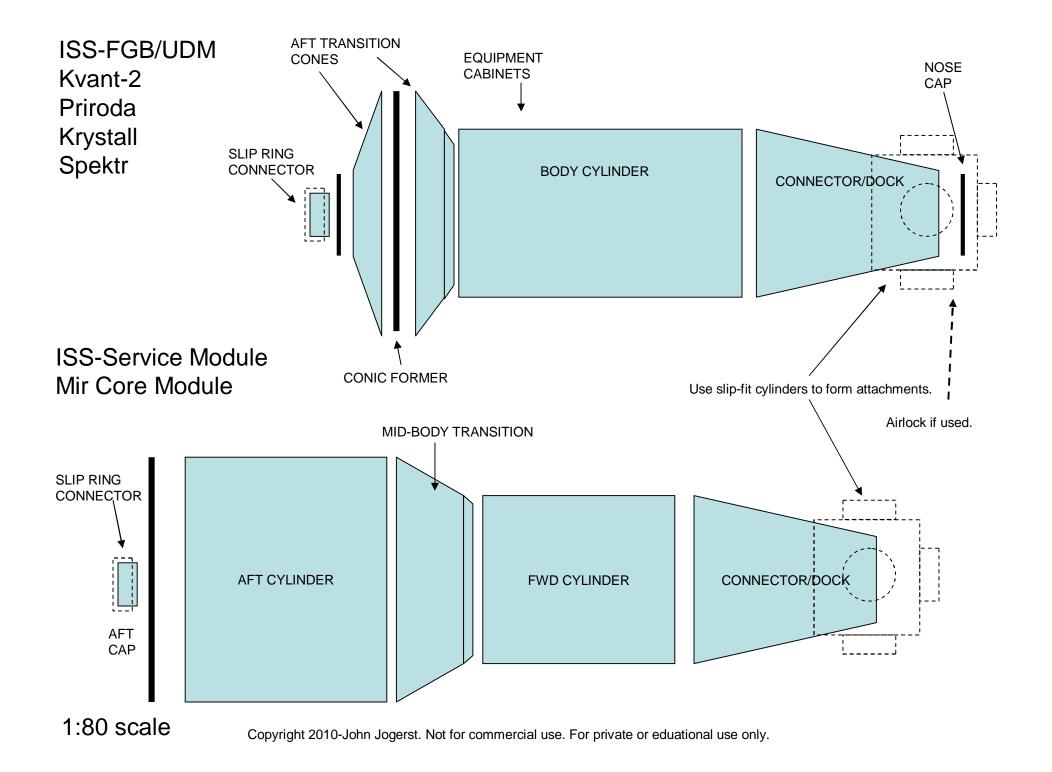


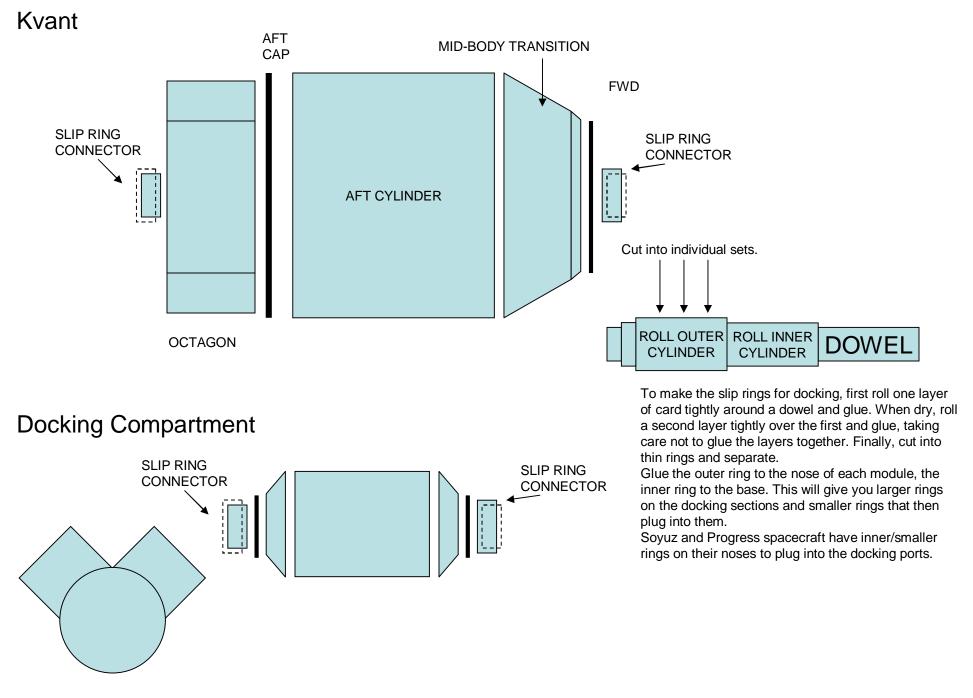
MIR Space Station - learning to build and live in space

1:144 scale

The first element of the Mir space station was launched by the USSR in 1986. Over the next ten years, six more modules were launched to complete the station. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the last three modules were launched by Russia with assistance and funding from the US-NASA. In November 1995, the US space shuttle Atlantis docked with Mir in the second joint US-Russian space visit (first was the Apollo-Soyuz test project in 1975. After 15 years in space, Mir was de-orbited and reentered the atmosphere on 23 March, 2001. Over its lifetime, Mir hosted 102 astronauts and cosmonauts. Normal crew complement was 2-3 people. Investigations performed aboard the station included space technology experiments, remote sensing and environmental monitoring, life science and biological research, astrophysics studies, material processing tests, and medical and biotechnology experiments.







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