

## **Star Wars Blaster Kits**

The late Mr John L Reade, then founder and owner of The Northern Model Supply Company of Lydiate, Merseyside, UK, (originally founded in 1945) made the mould (mold if you are an American) for dummy radial engine cylinders for the Model Aircraft Bournemouth Ltd (Veron) kit of the Hawker TomTit bi-plane in the early 1970's.

The Hawker Tomtit is a British training biplane from the late 1920s

The Kit was designed for Model Aircraft Bournemouth Ltd by Mr Phil Smith, their Chief Designer who sadly passed away a few years ago.

Each original TomTit model kit box contained 4 dummy cylinder kits, each comprising of a cylinder, cylinder head and two push rods.

Using the modellers own engine (aligned vertically downwards) to power the model, and the four dummy cylinders arranged radially at 72 degree spacing, the whole arrangement was a fair representation of the Armstrong Siddeley Mongoose engine, a radial five-cylinder type which was used to power the original bi-plane.

The Mould (mold) for the cylinder and associated components has now passed to John Reade's eldest son, Malcolm Reade, and his wife Carol who now run the business as Reade Models, of Northwich in Cheshire, UK.

Many dummy radial engine cylinders are still sold to modellers around the world who buy plans for the TomTit from Phil Smith's son Colin, who continues to sell them in memory of his late father.

The dummy cylinder kits soon found favour with Bapty & Co – the motion picture armourer who provided the majority of the weapons for Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back., and soon they were buying up as many TomTit Kits as possible solely for the cylinders which were used extensively for making the blaster guns and communicators featured in the movies.

The Mould is more than 40 years old and although certainly the worse for wear, still produces cylinders that are perfectly acceptable to both airplane modellers and Star Wars enthusiasts alike.

The cylinder kits are still in great demand today by Star Wars enthusiasts around the world who buy them to fabricate replicas of the original Star Wars blasters and communicators.

### **POSTAGE & PACKING**

The Cylinder kits cost £2.50 GB Pounds each + Postage and Packing. These items are bulky, and consequently posting them isn't cheap. This is why we ask on our web site that you contact us by e-mail so that you can advise us of how many you want to buy, and to where they are to be posted.

We aim to charge for Postage and Packing at cost.

To provide a rough indicator, a bubble pack of either 3, 4 or 5 cylinder kits posted to an American address is £4.50 GB Pounds. Of this, we pay £3.80 GB Pounds to the Post Office whilst the remaining £0.70 GB Pounds is absorbed by the cost of the bubble pack, poly bags and labels.

## PAYMENT

Payment may be made in 2 ways:-

- 1) By sending money direct to our PayPal account using the "Send Money" button on your PayPal summary Screen. Payments should be made to e-mail address [mjreade@aol.com](mailto:mjreade@aol.com) .

The amount payable (as confirmed by our e-mail to you) should be entered in the box provided and the currency "GBP" selected.

The radio button marked "Payment for Goods or Services" should be checked.

Remember to include your Postal address, E-mail and a phone number if possible.

- 2) By calling us with your Mastercard or Visa card details. We sadly are unable to accept Amex payments – our Card Processing Company seems to have a problem with Amex.

Please DO NOT e-mail card details to us.

Our Phone Number is +44 (0)1606 871170 and we tend to work normal office hours GMT.

We will attach your card transaction slip to your Sales Receipt and include it in your package.

**We DO NOT keep records of customer's card numbers – all written references to card numbers are blacked out and then cross-cut shredded at the time of posting your package.**

**Our accounts software automatically records your name and address and details of your purchase when generating an invoice or Sales Receipt. We keep this information secure, and it is NEVER passed on to any third party.**

## NOTE REGARDING CUSTOMS DUTY

We have no control over any duties that may be imposed by the Customs organisation in any Country. We attach a customs declaration label to all packages leaving the UK to non European Union Countries. The label is completed as containing "Plastic Model Aircraft Parts" (it goes down a lot better than "Blaster Gun Parts" with the authorities) and the value of the purchase excluding postage and packing charges is stated on the label.

So far, we haven't heard of any customer incurring such charges.

We hope that the cylinders prove to be just what you were looking for.

May the force be with you.

Best regards

Malcolm J Reade

[www.reademodels.com](http://www.reademodels.com)