Custom Delta - 7 *Aethersprite* Light Interceptor (Episode 2 Jedi Starfighter)

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http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?m=Supercat7
http://www.mocpages.com/home.php/1256

Introduction

Small wedge-shaped one-man starfighters, these vessels were used by the Jedi order in the waning days of the Galactic Republic. While the ship does employ weapons, most Jedi pilots preferred to rely on their cunning and attunement to the Force to avoid disputes and aggression.
A truncated astromech droid was hard-wired into the starfighter's port side, providing repair and navigation information to the Jedi pilot. The vessel was too small to carry a hyperdrive, and instead relied on a separate booster craft for transit through hyperspace.

Source: Official Star Wars Website
http://www.starwars.com

Delta -7 Jedi Starfighter has always been one of my favorite *Episode II* starships. Though it is small and fast, it is in no way fragile. I was disappointed in the official LEGO set, so one day (sometime in June 2005) when I had nothing better to do I started thinking about how it really was supposed to look. Before long, I had a fine model with perfect scaling and proportions, but without engines or landing gear.
Two or three days later, I found the solution for engines and strengthened the wings. The landing gear was still a problem. When done exactly by the scale I used on the rest of the fighter, the rear landing ‘foot’ would have to be 2.5 studs long. After a short struggle, I decided to make it 3 studs long. And, in my opinion, it turned out pretty well.

Scale Calculations

- *Measurements:*

METRIC	LEGO
meter, *m*	stud (length / width**), *st*
centimeter, *cm**	brick (height / depth**), *b*
	plate (height / depth**), *pl**

** Will not be used in calculation for this particular model*
*** Traditional usage given*

1 *m* = 100 *cm*
1 *b* = 3 *pl*
2 *pl* = 1 *st*

-*What are JSF's dimensions?*

According to the Official StarWars website a Delta -7 light interceptor is 8 meters long. The Website gives us no clue about its width or height.
According to Star Wars Incredible Cross-sections, Episode II – AOTC*, a JSF is 8 meters long, 3.92 meters wide and 1.44 meters high.
I did not find any dimensions which differ from these, so I decided to use them. When rounded, the numbers look as follows:

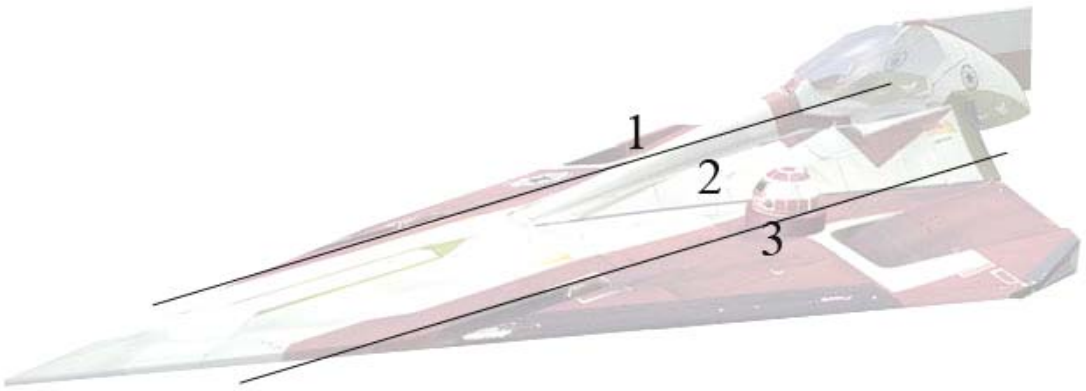
Length = 8 meters
Width = 4 meters
Height = 2 meters

**Saxton, Curtis J. (2002). Incredible Cross-sections of Star Wars, Episode II - Attack of the Clones: The Definitive Guide to the Craft. DK Publishing. ISBN 0-789-48574-5, see p. 10, Jedi Starfighter*

- *IMS – Ideal Minifig Scale*

In the IMS, 1 minifig is approx. 2 meters, which are 4 bricks or 5 studs. i. e. 1 meter is equal to 2 bricks or 2.5 studs.
In general, I do not like using IMS for construction of small vehicles, because it sometimes doesn't allow even basic detalisation in some parts of the model.
Had I used the IMS in making the Jedi Starfighter, the dimensions would be as follows:

	Metric	**Bricks (x2)**	**Studs (x2.5)**
Length	*8 meters*	*16*	*20*
Width	*4 meters*	*8*	*10*
Height	*2 meters*	*4*	*5*



Picture 1

- *Why not IMS?*

As can be seen from *Picture 1*, the starfighter is virtually divided into 3 equal parts: the right wing *(1)*, the middle part *(2)* and the left wing *(3)*. The middle part *(2)* is supposed to bare the cockpit canopy between the virtual borders *(Picture 1)*, whilst each wing part *(1 and 3)* is supposed to accommodate dual blaster cannon and waste heat outlet, in the meantime the port wing should support an astromech droid.

In the light of that, we face 3 major problems: dividing 10 studs into 3 equal parts (approx. 3.33!), fitting the cockpit canopy (the canopy is 4 studs wide) into the middle part of the starfighter, and fitting the dual blaster cannon, the R4 droid and the waste heat outlet into the fighter's port wing.

Each of these problems by itself could be solved with some loss of accuracy in the model's scale, but it is very hard to solve all of those problems together and save even basic accuracy.

-*The Final JSF Scale*

So, I had to come up with a new scale to make an accurate model. I tried many suitable scales, but the scale I finally used is 120% of the IMS. In the Final JSF Scale, 1 minifig is approx. 2 meters, which are 5 bricks or 6 studs. i. e. 1 meter is equal to 2.5 bricks or 3 studs. So my JSF's current dimensions are:

	Metric	**Bricks (x2.5)**	**Studs (x3)**
Length	*8 meters*	*20*	*24*
Width	*4 meters*	*10*	*12*
Height	*2 meters*	*5*	*6*

Part Acquirement

Most of the parts I used in this MOC came from the original Jedi Starfighter Set (#7143), but I had to purchase some of the parts (like white 2x3 wing parts) from bricklink (www.bricklink.com)

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