

## Assembly Guide: The Discovery Outreach Transport (DOT)

*A 3D model of the Discovery Outreach Transport van.*

### Essential Tools

- **Cutting:** Scissors or a craft knife.
- **Straight Edge:** A sturdy ruler.
- **Scoring:** A ballpoint pen (ink is fine!), large paperclip, or knitting needle.

### Step 1: Score the Fold Lines

*Before cutting, you must "score" the dotted lines to ensure sharp, professional creases.*

- **The Anchor Technique:** Place your pen tip on one end of a dotted line. Slide the ruler up to the pen. Move the pen to the other end of the line and adjust the ruler.
- **The Goal:** Run your tool firmly along **every dotted line** to compress the paper fibers.

### Step 2: Cut Out the Model

- **The Perimeter:** Cut around the outer edges of the van. Remove all white areas.
- **The Slits:** Carefully cut out the white slits on the front and back bumpers.
- **The "Triple-Thick" Rule:** Make two parallel cuts for each slit to create a small gap. The gap must be wide enough to hold **three layers of cardstock**.

### Step 3: Pre-Fold the Creases

*Folding now makes the final assembly much easier.*

- **Mountain Folds:** Fold most lines **down** (printed side out).
- **Valley Fold (The Windshield):** Fold the line between the windshield and hood **up** (toward you) so the windshield angles toward the roof.
- **The Bumpers:** Ensure the side folds on all four bumper tabs are crisp.

### Step 4: The Interlocking Bumper

*The van locks together without glue. Work on one end at a time.*

1. **Right Side:** Insert the right-side tab into the middle bumper's slit.
  2. **Left Side:** Feed the left tab through **both** previous slits.
  3. **The Click:** Pull the left tab until its own slit "clicks" into place.
- **Pro-Tip:** If it's too tight, trim a sliver off the middle tab. These ends are hidden inside!

### Enjoy Your DOT!

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