

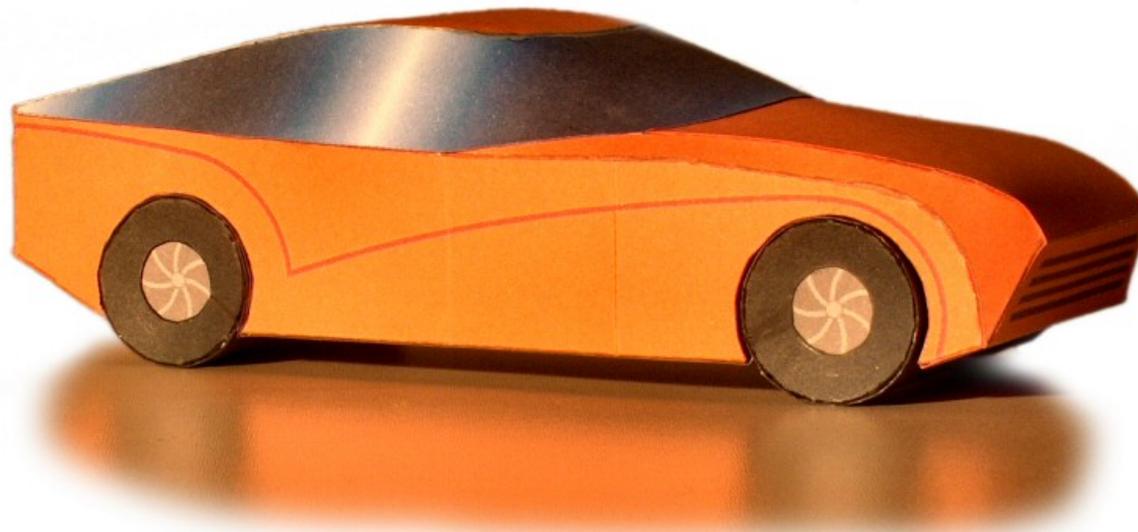
# Concept Coupe

Armada Model Designs Ltd

VA01B

The Concept Coupe highlights the problem of poor visibility in modern vehicles. The problem with modern vehicle design is that it is largely guided by a system of assessment that is illogically selective. A significant influence on vehicle styling today is crash protection. A relatively cheap method of improving crash protection is to increase the thickness of the windscreen A-pillar.

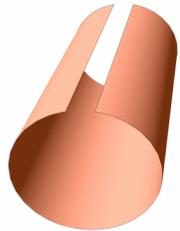
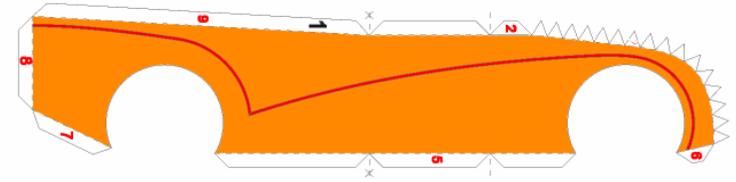
The problems associated with A-pillars are not widely appreciated. Drivers of road vehicles are generally unaware of the many physiological factors that make it difficult to identify a risk of collision in the direction of the A-pillar (unlike private pilots who are required by the Civil Aviation Authority to pass an exam in human physiological limitations before they receive their licence).



Unfortunately the handful of safety studies conducted on A-pillar obscuration have been fairly inconclusive - not too surprising given the complex nature of road safety. Although the Concept Coupe is likely to enhance primary safety through its unparalleled level of visibility, the fact is also recognized that this remains a contentious issue. For this reason, the selling point of the Concept Coupe is not improved safety but the sheer joy of driving a vehicle with an eye-opening degree of visibility. Once consumers witness what can be achieved, demand for the product will surely follow. On a technical note, the Concept Coupe's massive window area is facilitated by the unique cantilever roof. Its rigidity is derived from a boron-steel structure, while modern seals ensure reliable glass-to-glass joins in the vicinity of a conventional door.

## Instructions

The tools required for card modelling (referred to as paper modeling in the USA) are generally to be found around the home. This model requires 1 sheets of 160 gsm white card, scissors or a knife to cut out the components, a ruler for scoring straight lines and some glue (PVA white-glue, used sparingly is best but Uhu, Bostick or even Pritt Stick will do). Careful scoring of fold-lines is the key to accuracy of shape. Score-lines can be made using a pin or perhaps a blunt craft knife.

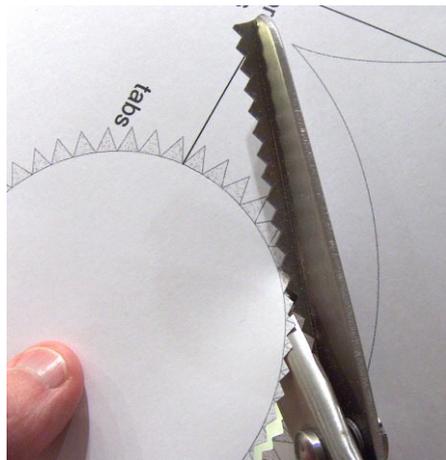


All components are numbered with large black numbers. Where possible these numbers appear on the component itself. Glue-tabs are white and generally have a small red number on them. These numbers identify the component that the tab is glued to. All glue-tabs should be scored and folded, except for the ones on parts 13 and 16 (the cylindrical surfaces of the tyres). To simplify the model a single cylindrical tube is used to represent the front set of wheels and another represents the rear set of wheels. Each cylinder needs to be rolled before assembly, as indicated by the elliptical arrow illustrated in the adjacent figure. Parts 13 and 16 can be improved by cutting each tab off altogether and using a piece of scrap card to secure the loop. In this way, the ends can abut one another, creating a continuous surface without a step.

Fold lines will need to be scored first. Most components are folded back on themselves as viewed from the printed side (so-called crest folds). There are, however, those that need to be folded in the opposite direction (so-called valley folds). Valley folds are denoted by a cross through the guidelines adjacent to the component.

There are a number of curved edges that have small triangular flaps on them. Cutting out all those tabs can be somewhat fiddly and very time consuming. A faster method is to score around the components as usual and then use pinking shears to cut out the triangular tabs. The resulting tabs have a different geometry,

but they work quite well and certainly avoid the tedium of having to make multiple cuts. If you're going to be doing a lot of card modelling then it is best to purchase a set of pinking shears especially for model building, rather than blunting your mother's best dress-making pair.



Pinking Shears

As always, don't try to glue everything at once. Make sure each tab is aligned correctly before moving on to the next. When it comes to the roof, secure the rear, then the front and finally draw in the sides to complete the job.

As with all card models, the white edges of the cut components can be disguised by applying water colour paint of the same shade.

