



The Space Shuttle is a reusable launch system and orbital spacecraft operated by NASA for human spacecraft missions. The procedure combines rocket launch, orbital spacecraft and re-entry glider. The space Shuttle provides crew rotation for the International Space Station, payloads to low earth orbit, and perform servicing missions.



The Space Shuttle is made up of three main assemblies:

1. The reusable orbital vehicle which is a mixture of rockets, spacecrafts, and aircrafts. It is the orbiter's job to carry the crew and payloads into Earth's orbit, and to return back to earth.
2. The external tank which is component of the Space Shuttle launch vehicle that contains liquid hydrogen fuel and liquid oxygen oxidizer.
3. The third is two reusable solid boosters. They are the pair of large solid rockets used during the first two minutes of powered flight.



Enterprise



Columbia Landing

Six airworthy orbiters have been built. The First, Enterprise was not built for orbital space flight, but was used for testing glide and landing. The rest are Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour. Columbia broke apart during re-entry in 2003. The challenger disintegrated 73 seconds after launch in 1986. Discovery has retired on Feb. 24 2011, it was launched on August 30, 1984. The other two, Atlantis and Endeavour are still in flight.



Columbia



Atlantis



Endeavour



Challenger Going Up



Challenger After 73 Sec

Spacelab is a major component in Space Shuttle Program. It is operated and shared by the U.S. and international partners. Spacelab executed on multidisciplinary science, orbital logistics, and international cooperation. Spacelab helped many missions with microgravity, radar, life sciences and missions such as Hubble Telescope servicing and space station resupply.

YouTube

Challenger Disaster

YouTube

Columbia Disaster

A photograph of a Space Shuttle launching from the launch pad. The shuttle is ascending vertically, leaving a large plume of white smoke and fire. To the left of the shuttle is the service structure, a complex metal framework with a tall mast. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The entire image is framed by a large orange circle with a dark red border.

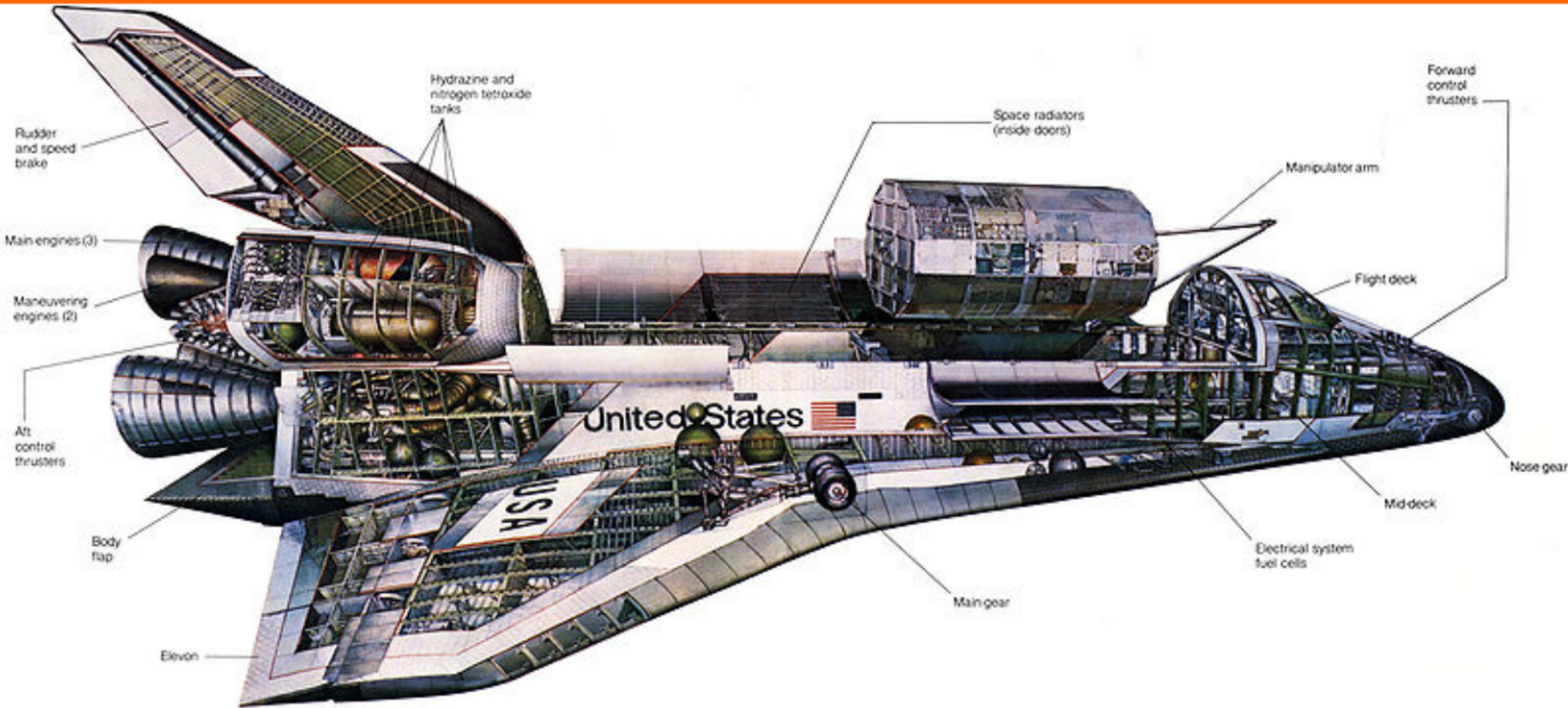
# Space Shuttle

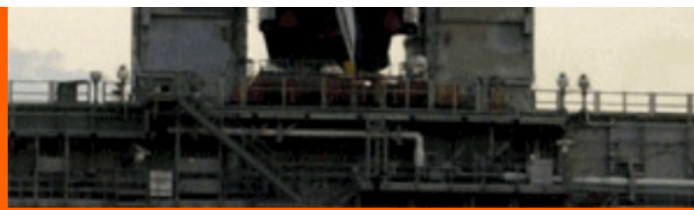
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