

# The Mariner 2 model

Terry Regan

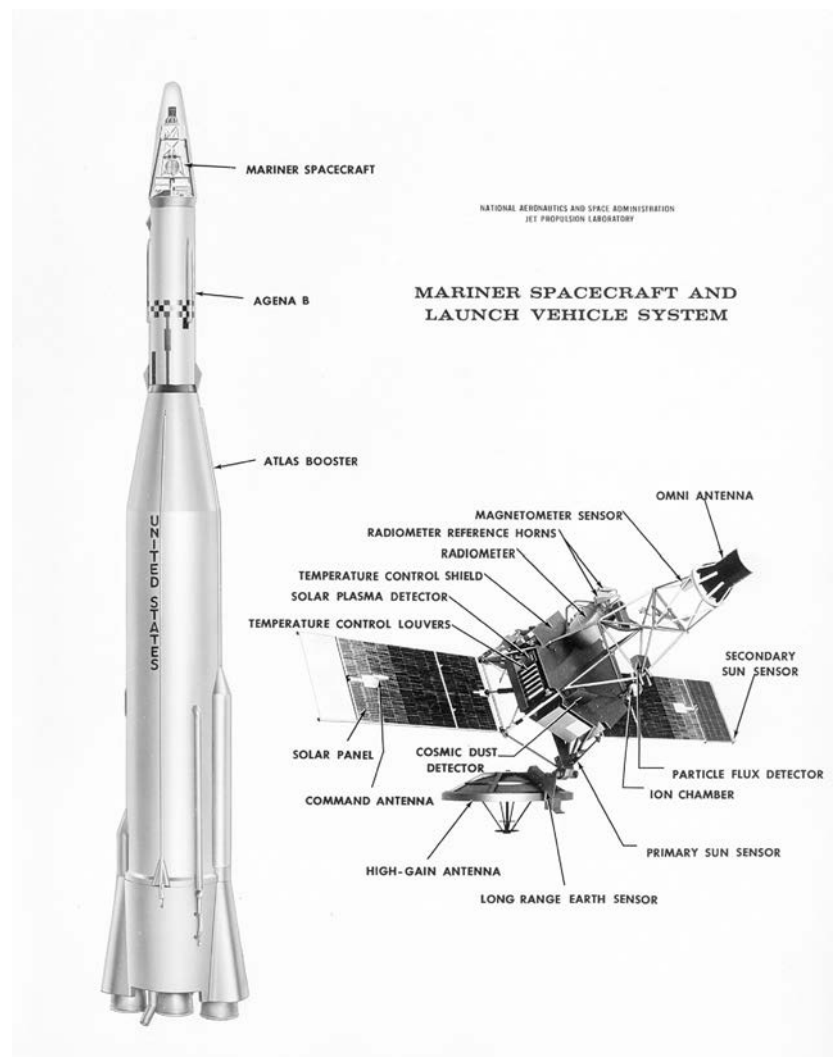
The i4is star model maker, Terry Regan, has celebrated another pioneering spacecraft by producing one of his brilliant scratch-built models. Here he recounts the original spacecraft and his motivation to build a model of Mariner 2. He'll be recording the rest of his creative process in later articles for Principium.

## Introduction

Mariner 2 became the first successful mission to another planet when it flew by Venus on December 14, 1962. But it wasn't the first attempt to get a spacecraft to Venus. The Russians sent Venera 1 on 12 February 1961 but it lost communication on the way to Venus, incidentally Venera is Russian for Venus.

## Brief History

Mariner 2 was launched on 27th August 1962 and it would be a flyby, so what happened to Mariner 1 spacecraft? It was launched on 22 July 1962 but around 5 minutes into flight it went off course so it was blown up by the range safety officer. Mariner 1 and 2 were simplified versions of the block 1 spacecraft of the Ranger programme. Mariner 2 is now in orbit around the Sun, and this is the start of space exploration - beginning by sending more probes to the inner planets then getting more ambitious by sending probes to the outer planets in the solar system, like Pioneers 10 and 11, Voyagers 1 and 2 and New Horizon. The team at i4is build on this legacy by looking at possibilities for getting probes to other stars. And this all started with Mariner 2.



A diagram of the Mariner series of spacecraft and launch vehicle. Mariner spacecraft explored Mercury, Venus and Mars. Credit (caption and image): NASA/JPL-Caltech

*The Toolkit. Credit: Terry Regan*

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