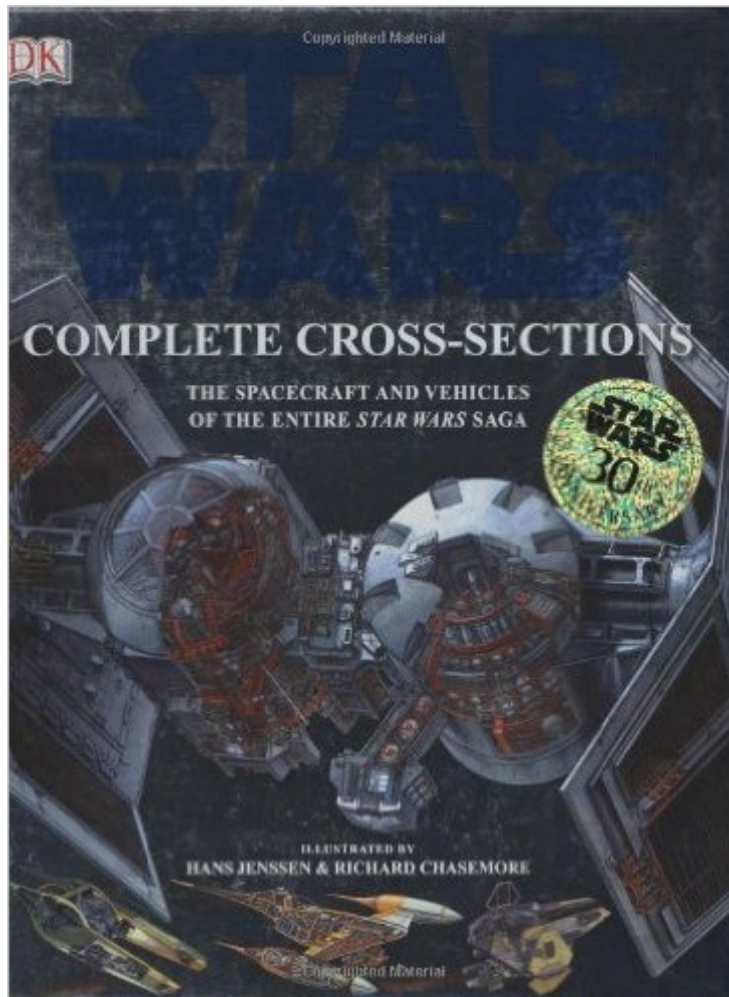


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Star Wars Complete Cross-Sections: The Spacecraft And Vehicles Of The Entire Star Wars Saga



Synopsis

This amazing title unites all four Incredible Cross-Sections books in one volume, enlarged and updated with brand-new illustrations-including the TIE bomber, Imperial shuttle, A-wing, and B-wing-along with revised technical introductions, behind-the-scenes pages, glossary, and index. (c) 2006 Lucasfilm Ltd. and TM

AUTHOR BIO: Hans Jenssen Hans Jenssen has spent the last nine years in a galaxy far, far away, co-illustrating a total of ten Star Wars books with Richard Chasemore, with whom he has developed a close friendship. They have traveled across three continents, sampled exotic beverages with Boba Fett, and partied with R2-D2. He now lives a quiet life in Devon, England, with his partner and young son.

RICHARD CHASEMORE Richard Chasemore has worked as an illustrator and 3-D computer artist in the United States and Europe, most notably on DK's Star Wars: Incredible Cross-Sections and, Inside the Worlds of the Star Wars series. Lately he has written educational books for budding digital artists. He lives on the south coast of England, where he enjoys sports involving boards and high speeds!

Book Information

Age Range: 1 and up

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Customer Reviews

Previously, DK Books has release four volumes in their Star Wars cross-sections series, covering the various Star Wars films. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of Star Wars, they've now combines all four of those volumes, along with new illustrations into the massive Star Wars: The Complete Cross Sections. This coffee table-sized hardcover book packs information on every ship and vehicle used in the six films into 152 full-color pages. John Knoll, the Visual Effects Supervisor

for episodes I - III, provides the foreword to the book. The book is basically an encyclopedia for Star Wars ships and vehicles. The items are shown in a cutaway art, allowing the reader to not only see the outside, but also see the interiors as well. This gives fans a unique viewpoint as you generally didn't get a chance to see inside many of these ships and vehicles in the films themselves. Most of these are given a full two-page spread which include data files about each one. The data files provide information such as design and manufacture, wingspan, speed, crew capacity, armament, dimensions, ship or vehicle type, and other special features. The book begins with Episode I, The Phantom Menace with each of the first three episodes getting their own chapter while the original three films are combined into the last chapter. In addition to the data files, a host of other information is provided on each vehicle as well. Text keys with map lines are drawn to each, pointing out important features of each vehicle. These are about the next best thing to the actual ships blueprints. The detail is simply amazing!

The absolutely byzantine level of detail in these illustrations is remarkable to view in such a large format. Just like how Lucas wanted his vehicles to look "used" and "worn out" for his first 3 films these drawings have plenty of that "lived in" look that draw your eyes over all the little doodads behind the metal skins. As an engineer I love technical drawings and I really get a kick out of seeing how these fictional craft can have their internals look so "purposeful". The real life technical illustration field is tough enough when working from real objects and so I am impressed by the amount of creativity required to invert so much "how and why" detail. You can see how the form and function were intertwined to give these designs plausible suspension of disbelief. For example, even though there are no shields in our real world, the way the emitters are located and shaped in these drawings causes you to envision how they "work" in an intuitive way. You can see the power conduits feeding them and see how they outline the profile of the ships. The section at the end of the book where the illustrators show how the drawings go from pencil sketch to painting is fascinating and awe inspiring in this age of overwhelming CGI. I only had one of the previous cross section books so for me the value of this title was a no-brainer. If you already own the others then it boils down to having them in a single volume and if that is worth it for you. My only gripe is on the fold out illustrations. They are really almost too wide to allow easy use. I'd rather see the folds be vertical where the two open pages are joined across the top and fold upwards into more of a square.

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