

Anakin Skywalker's Podracer

High-speed pod racing harkens back to primitive eras with its traditional podracer designs and the mortal danger seen in racing spectacles. Pinned on flexible control cables by fearsomely powerful independent engines, a small open cockpit (the "pod") carries a daring pilot at speeds that can exceed 800 kilometers per hour. Considered in its lightning-fast modern form too much for humans to manage, pod racing is almost exclusively carried on by other species that sport more limbs, more durable bodies, a wider range of sensory organs or other biological advantages.

Pod racing has its origins in ancient contests of animal-drawn carts, of the kind still seen in extremely primitive systems far from the space lanes. Long ago a daring mechanic called Phobos recreated this concept with repulsorlift pods and flaming jet engines for a whole new level of competition and risk. The famous first experimental race ensured pod racing's reputation as an incredibly dangerous and popular sport.

Long ago banned from most civilized systems, pod racing is still famous on Malastare and in a few other locales. Real pod racing aficionados, however, look beyond the Republic to the rugged worlds of the Outer Rim, where pod races still serve as a spectacle for hundreds of thousands and vast gambling fortunes are made and lost. This naturally makes the Hutts an accessory to most racing venues.

Anakin made his engines from salvaged Radon-Ulzer racing engines that Watto regarded as too burned-out to be worth keeping track of. Anakin did a great deal of rewiring and re-routed the fuel distribution, adding a whole new subsystem that injects much more fuel throughout the combustion sequence to develop radically greater thrust.

One of Anakin's cleverest engine modifications is the set of triple air scoops ranged around each primary turbine intake. These "air brakes" provide additional control in cornering. Anakin had to wait a long time before he found metal plates and a hydraulic system that would be strong enough to make this idea work. The hydraulic struts are of Tyrian manufacture and came from a military surplus lot that Watto bought from Dreddon the Hutt, a crimelord known to make many arms deals in the star systems of the Outer Rim.

- Taken from Star Wars Episode 1 Incredible Cross-Sections, pages 14-17)

Model: Heavily Modified Radon-Ulzer 620C Racing Engines

Type: Podracer

Scale: Speeder

Skill: Repulsorlift operation: Podracers

Length: 7 meters (engines) plus pod

Crew: 1

Crew Skill: See Anakin Skywalker as of The Phantom Menace

Cargo Capacity: 5 kilograms

Cover: 3/4

Altitude Range: Ground - 105 meters

Maneuverability: 3D+2

Move: 330; 950 kmh (estimated maximum velocity)

Body: 2D

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