Body Terminology

A note on **Skins.** Droid builders have used a variety of methods for making the main body for their droids. Currently popular is the frame and skin method, where a frame of aluminum, wood or PVC is sheathed in skins made of either Sintra, styrene or aluminum. These skins are either hand cut or laser cut, and often are made of two 1 millimeter layers, to show door gaps and recessed panels. These can be made to open by radio control by use of servos, or can open manually. Sintra or styrene skins are flat, where aluminum skins are pre rolled and laser cut. These aluminum skins are offered in runs on occasion when there is demand for them. There are some builders who hand cut Sintra skins for other members, or they can be purchased in a laser cut set from A&A. The A&A skins come in sets for R2-Units and R7-Units. Both sets of skins have extras which include flatpacks, or flat faces of the parts that can be assembled into a three dimensional part.

Skins have also been available as a two-piece fiberglass set. Previously, bodies were made from a Sonotube frame, a tube form made from highly pressed cardboard of about 5/16" thick, in a diameter of approximately 18 inches. These could be used with or without a support frame and have skins attached. Also popular was the Tape-ease plywood cylinder. These were also solid enough to preclude the need for a support frame. Many older droids were made with these. Lastly, some builders have explored using a large diameter piece of white PVC pipe and etching the body panels into it. In this case also the body might be strong enough that a support frame may not be needed.

1. Large Data Port (LDP) These have been available in aluminum runs, and are readily available in resin. There is only one LDP, in the front of the droid, at the base of the dome.

2. Utility Arms These are also available on occasion in aluminum runs, or are readily available in resin. There are two per droid, and are interchangeable. These are usually mounted in a grid-like arm carrier frame, and usually comes as part of the frame.

3. Front Vents There are three separate parts to these vents. The vent internals are different between the top and bottom, and are available occasionally in aluminum runs. These are also available in styrene as part of the A&A Skins set. In this set they come as separate pieces in a 'flatpack' and are glued together with a styrene adhesive. There is also an outer frame to the vents, known as vent surrounds. These have been offered in aluminum runs, and are also available in resin. There are two vents on a standard R2-Unit.

4. Side Vents These blue and metal parts are in the body, under the legs. They have ben offered in aluminum runs, and are available as part of the A&A Skins set as a flatpack that is glued together. There are two on a standard R2-Unit, one under each leg.

5. Coin Slots These are usually made in a 'strip' of rectangular pieces that are slotted on the face, and attached to a backing strip. They have been offered in aluminum runs, and are readily available in resin. There is one strip on the standard R2-Unit.

6. Pocket Vents These are similar in appearance to the side vents, except for a recessed metal pocketed at the bottom of the part. They have been offered in aluminum runs, and are made available as part of the A&A skins set as a flatpack. There are two per standard R2-Unit, toward the bottom of the body.

7. Coin Returns These have been available in aluminum runs, and are offered as part of the A&A Skins set as the faces only. The recessed box needs to be made separately. Some builders have made these by hand from scrap aluminum with good results. There are three on a standard R2-Unit, with the front being larger than two on the back, toward the bottom of the main body.

8. Power Couplings These are round ports that mount flush with the skin. These have been made available in aluminum runs, both with and without the external surround. They are readily available in resin. There are two per standard R2-Unit, one in the front center of the body at the bottom, and one in the back center at the bottom.

9. Octagonal Ports These are octagonal shaped parts that mount flush with the skin, like the power couplings. These have been offered in aluminum runs, as well as readily made in resin. There are two per standard R2-Unit, mounted toward the bottom of the body.

10. Skirt The skirt is mounted to the base of the body, or the lower frame ring. These have been made in a variety of ways, from being offered in an aluminum run to being scratchbuilt with a wood frame and styrene or Sintra curved face pieces.