



For the 1962-63 TV season, NBC picked up a show from the UK for its Saturday morning cartoon lineup. "Fireball XL5" was produced by Gerry Anderson, who would go on to create "Thunderbirds," "Stingray," and "Captain Scarlet." But this was his second show to be produced and the first to be picked up in the USA.

XL5 featured, as did most of Anderson's work, marionettes, or as they called it "Supermarionation." Based in the year 2067, Fireball XL5 was part of a fleet of ships that patrolled our Galaxy looking for wrong-doers and the like.

Article courtesy of Fiddler's Green (www.fiddlersgreen.net)

Building tips:

1. An easy way to bend the pieces into tubular shapes is to hold them in the palm of your hand, printed side down. Take any kind of dowel such as an old ball point pen and rub it back and forth over the piece so that it starts to curl.
2. When completed, your model will look even better if you tint any exposed area of white paper using a little bit of watercolor. Inexpensive watercolors work just as well as more expensive watercolors...the idea is to remove any hint of exposed white paper.