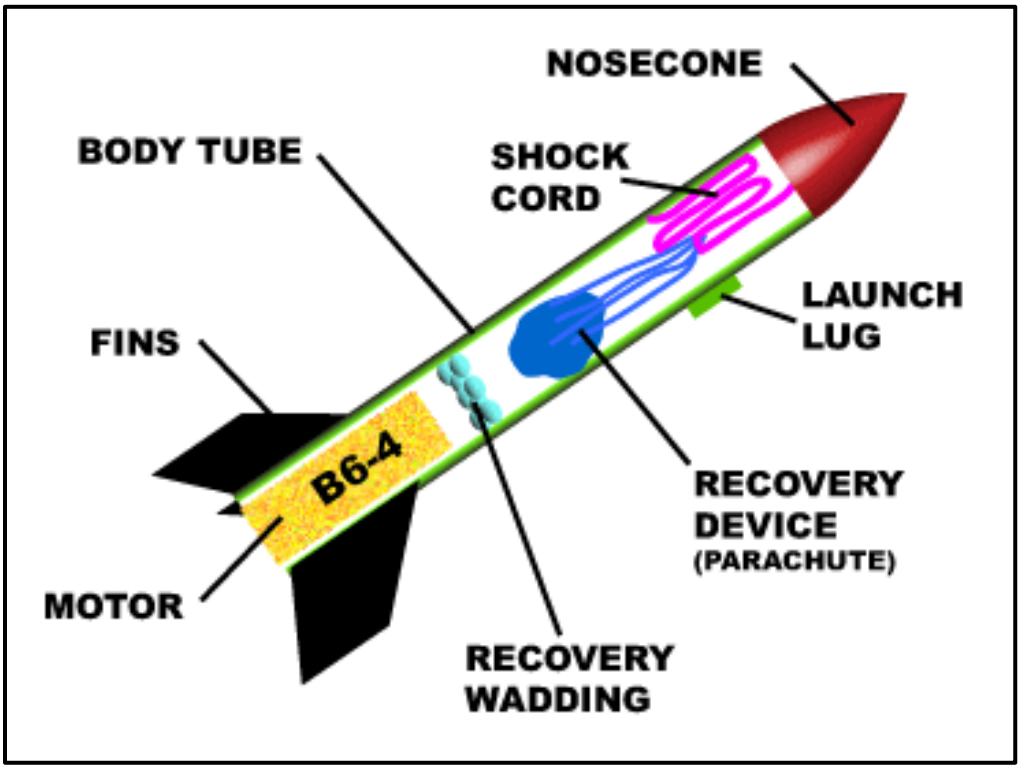
Common Terms used in Model Rocketry



In accordance with the NAR safety code for low power rockets, model rockets may only be constructed using only lightweight, non-metal parts for the nose, body, and fins.

Nosecone: These come a variety of shapes and material, depending on the objective of the mission.

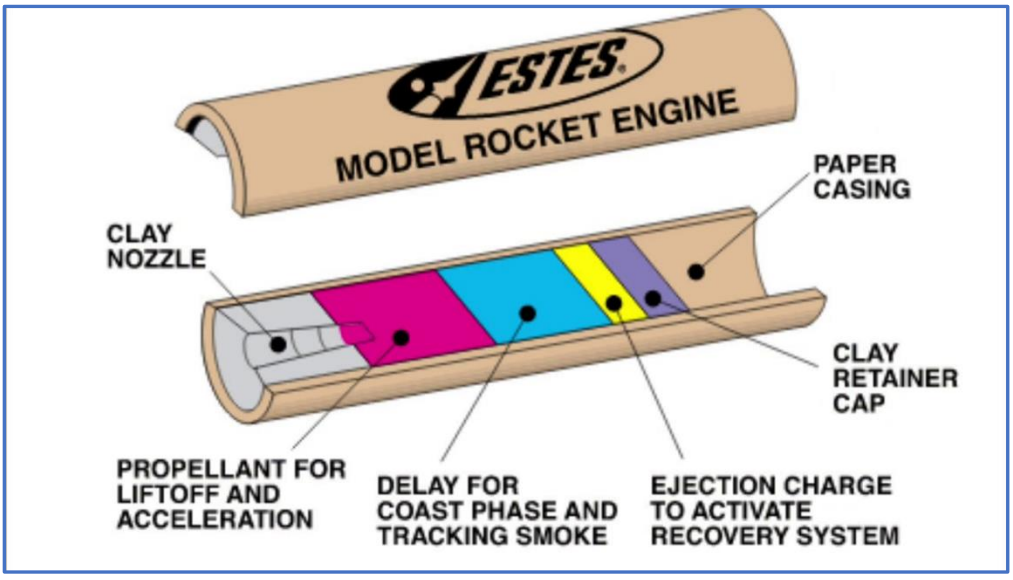
Body Tube: The Body tubes are usually made from cardboard.

Fins: Fins can be constructed from balsa wood, plywood, and even paper.

Launch Lug: These are straws glued to side of the body tube that the launch pad guide rod slides through, providing a stable path guidance until sufficient speed is achieved allowing the fins to provide guidance.

Motor: Low power rocketry utilizes motors in the A, B, and C classification. Motors are rated by thrust produced, each classification produces double the thrust of the previous. For example, B motors are double the thrust of A motors and so on. Also, motors are labeled with codes representing the speed with which the thrust is delivered and the delay in seconds between the end of burn and the ignition of the ejection charge that blows the nose cone off releases the recovery system.

This cutaway shows the interior of an average motor:



Recovery Wadding: Fireproof barrier that protects the recovery system from melting when the ejection charge ignites.

Shock Cord: Absorbs the kinetic energy of the ejection charge and prevents the nosecone and recovery system from departing from the rocket.

Recovery System: Usually a parachute, but can be any system that reduces the descent velocity of the rocket allowing for a safe landing.

Payload: (not shown) More advanced model rockets are capable of carrying a wide variety of payloads and instrumentation for experiments. Some are even capable of launching a raw egg and returning it intact.