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DALEK

ISSUE 65



**ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE:
MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION**

3

The Doctor is trapped on a Dalek ship as it hurtles toward destruction!



**BEHIND THE SCENES:
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Nicholas Briggs talks about creating the epic *Dalek Empire* audio series.



**STEP-BY-STEP BUILD:
PART 65**

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A base frame cover, connecting plates and all the required screws.

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BBC



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MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION

The Doctor is trapped on a doomed Dalek ship careering through the time vortex.

**Big Finish Productions
Audio Drama
Released: December 2020**

A Dalek time ship falls through the space/time vortex, out of control. Inside, its navigation systems have failed, and its engines are threatening to explode, thanks to the Doctor's sabotage. On the bridge, the Time Commander Dalek states, "The Doctor has betrayed us, but we survive!" The Dalek strategist comments that the Doctor must have died in the explosion. "Then this is still a victory for the Dalek race!" the Time Commander declares. Life support begins to fail in the engine room. The Time Commander orders no evacuation – reducing the temperature there is the top priority.

The Dalek engineer discovers an alien circuit that is altering the cooling systems. Another Dalek tries to remove it and is killed when it receives a shock. The engineer tries to contact the bridge, but the Doctor appears and tells it that he's pulled the communications unit out of the wall. "Now, point me to my TARDIS and I'll be on my way," he says. The engineer attempts to shoot the Doctor but is killed by a power surge. The Doctor travels through the coolant vents towards the main laboratory, in search of his TARDIS.

The Time Commander has removed the TARDIS from the time ship's engine room, and the Dalek Executioner has attempted



The Strategist warns the Time Commander that he is underestimating the Doctor. "He is manipulating a Dalek scientist, one of the most intelligent among us," the Strategist says. The Time Commander dismisses its concerns.

to destroy it. The Strategist is angered by the Time Commander's actions. The Strategist contacts the Dalek Scientist and orders it to divert power from the main laboratory to the ship's emergency systems. The Scientist points out that this will disrupt the cryogenic systems. "The cargo will wake from stasis. Survival is unlikely," the Scientist says. "Only Dalek lives matter," the Strategist replies.

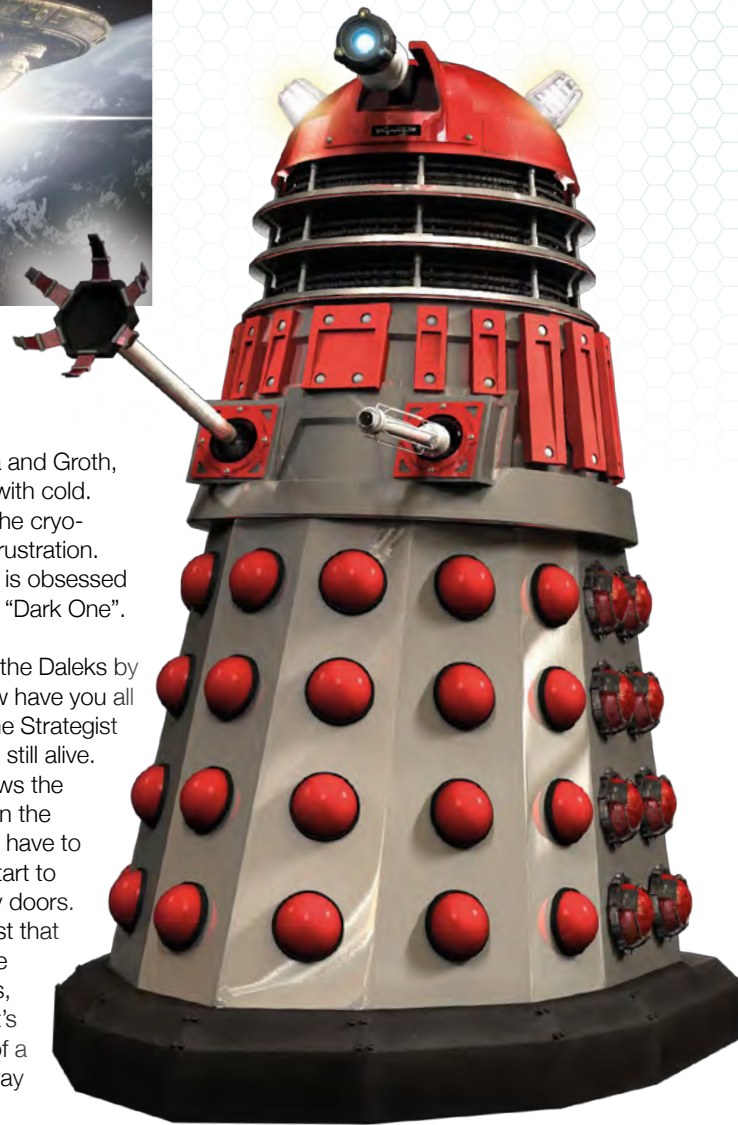
The Executioner gains entrance to the cryo-chamber to exterminate its occupants, but the guard cautions that the chamber's decaying systems could easily destroy it in the process.

The Scientist floats into the air as the laboratory's artificial gravity fails. The Doctor appears from the vent and starts to mock it. The Scientist tries to kill him but cannot aim properly, and the recoil from its weapon sends it bouncing around the room. "Who or what is waking up in cryogenics?" the Doctor asks. The Scientist says that the two subjects come from a world called Tralassa. The Daleks

have destroyed the world and taken the last two survivors captive.

A man and a woman, Tiska and Groth, awaken. They are shaking with cold. Groth is terrified and flees the cryo-chamber, much to Tiska's frustration. Groth triggers an alarm. He is obsessed with something he calls the "Dark One".

The Doctor tries to distract the Daleks by contacting the bridge. "How have you all been?" he asks, smiling. The Strategist is shocked to see that he is still alive. The Time Commander shows the Doctor that his TARDIS is on the bridge, knowing that he will have to come for it. Dalek drones start to blast through the laboratory doors. The Doctor tells the Scientist that it has failed and will soon be replaced. When it disagrees, the Doctor points out that it's been relegated to the role of a "glorified engineer", well away from the bridge.



LINKED STORIES

Mutually Assured Destruction was part of 2020's crossover event *Time Lord Victorious*. It featured linked stories told in books, audios, magazines, webcasts and comics. "It's a really smart idea," Paul McGann commented. "It's a huge shot in the arm. It gets everybody working together, it gives the fans what they want. To have some huge, overarching, intertwined story to work on is a brilliant idea. This is the future, kid!"



DALEK AUTHOR

Lizzie Hopley was offered the chance to write a Dalek story by script editor Matt Fitton: "The one-line [brief] I was given was '*Die Hard* on a Dalek time ship'. You're not saying no to that, really, are you?!" Hopley began working at Big Finish as an actor: "*Terra Firma* was my first introduction to Big Finish, and what could be better than a Dalek story where I play the Doctor's assistant, albeit in a parallel universe? It was a baptism of very nice fire! That first time you hear the Dalek voices being done by Nick [Briggs] through the cans is something you never forget." Hopley's acting experience aids

The Doctor shows the Scientist a device he has built from scrap parts. He plugs it in and it drains all the power from the laboratory. The time ship's lights flicker and die. The laboratory was powering all of the time ship's defences. "Our ship will be torn apart in the vortex!" the Strategist shouts. The Doctor escapes the laboratory and finds Tiska and Groth.

On the bridge, the Time Commander and Strategist blame each other for the disasters they are facing. The Strategist knows that the Doctor is deliberately creating dissent between them. They observe the Executioner destroying a group of Dalek Drones as they attempt to reactivate. The Time Commander orders it to stop its search for the Doctor but it is no longer obeying orders.

The Doctor, Tiska and Groth keep moving towards the bridge. The Doctor notes that their injuries are "neutronic laser burns, made by a specialised Dalek weapon." The Doctor indicates a bulkhead door which they can hide behind, but Groth runs back to a weapons store to find a Dalek gunstick. The Doctor learns that Tiska experimented on captured Daleks. Groth reappears, carrying many weapons. He confronts the Executioner, filled with hatred, but his attack fails. He is killed.

The Doctor contacts the bridge again. He tells the Time Commander that he rigged a device to detonate on a countdown when the laboratory was reactivated. Part of the time ship explodes. The laboratory and weapons store are sucked into the vortex, but the Doctor and Tiska are safe on the other side of the bulkhead.

The door slides open, admitting the Dalek Strategist. It knows that it will face the

blame for the destruction of the ship. "The Commander will terminate both of us," it says. It wants to be taken off the time ship. The Doctor agrees to an alliance.

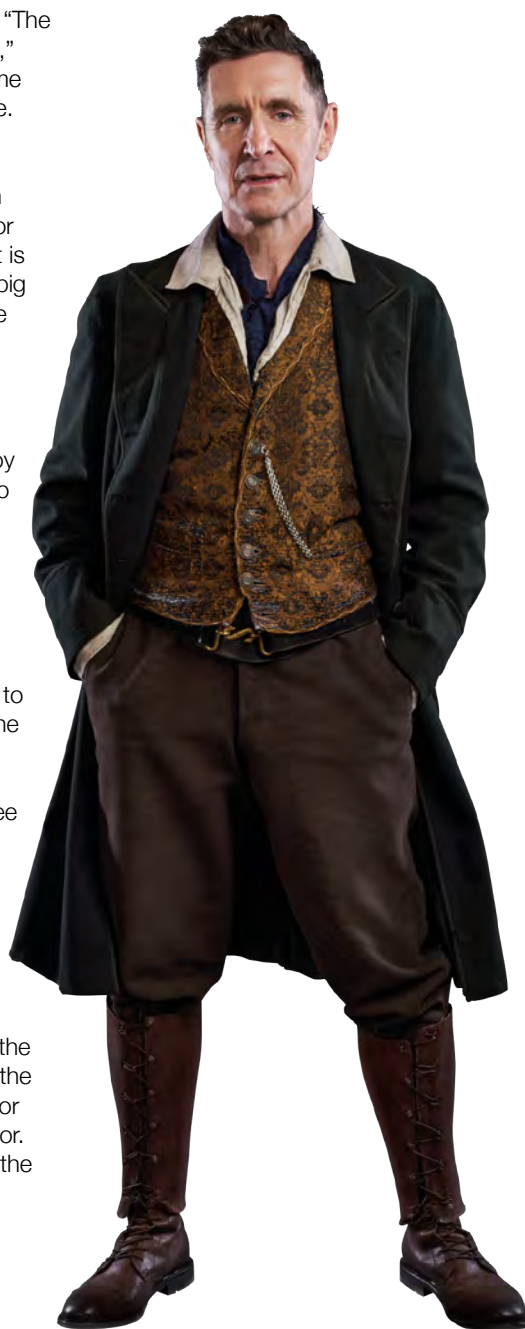
The Doctor and Tiska are then taken to the bridge, having apparently been captured by the Strategist. The Doctor is happy to see the TARDIS again but is upset by its condition. "You've put a big scrape down her side!" he says to the Time Commander.

The Strategist says that the Doctor must be spared, but the Time Commander is adamant: "I will destroy the Time Lord! I will deliver his body to the Emperor!" The Strategist argues firmly that they must bring both the TARDIS and its pilot to the Emperor. "The Doctor is too dangerous alive!" the Commander replies.

The Strategist points out that access to the TARDIS can only be granted by the Doctor. It has Tiska brought forward. "You said she was valuable," the Strategist says to the Doctor. "I will see how valuable she is to you."

The Doctor reveals that he made a deal with the Strategist. Their earlier conversation is played back to the Commander. The Strategist and the Commander turn on each other. The Strategist fires first and exterminates the Commander. As the other Daleks on the bridge attack the Strategist, the Doctor pushes Tiska through the TARDIS door. They escape the time ship and leave the space/time vortex.

The Strategist's voice seems to echo through the vortex: "I... am not defeated... I... will survive..."



her writing: "You hear everybody in those booths and you feel and see the script come to life. And to hear it come off the page like that helps you so much when you're writing, because you know exactly what the actors need, you know exactly how much they can do... [but] you also have to create that picture, the soundscape, for the producers, the engineers, the people who are going to be creating that world, and making it sound how you need it to sound... and also, coming up with how you need it to sound! I don't know what a Dalek time ship sounds like! You have to find a different language to describe sound!"



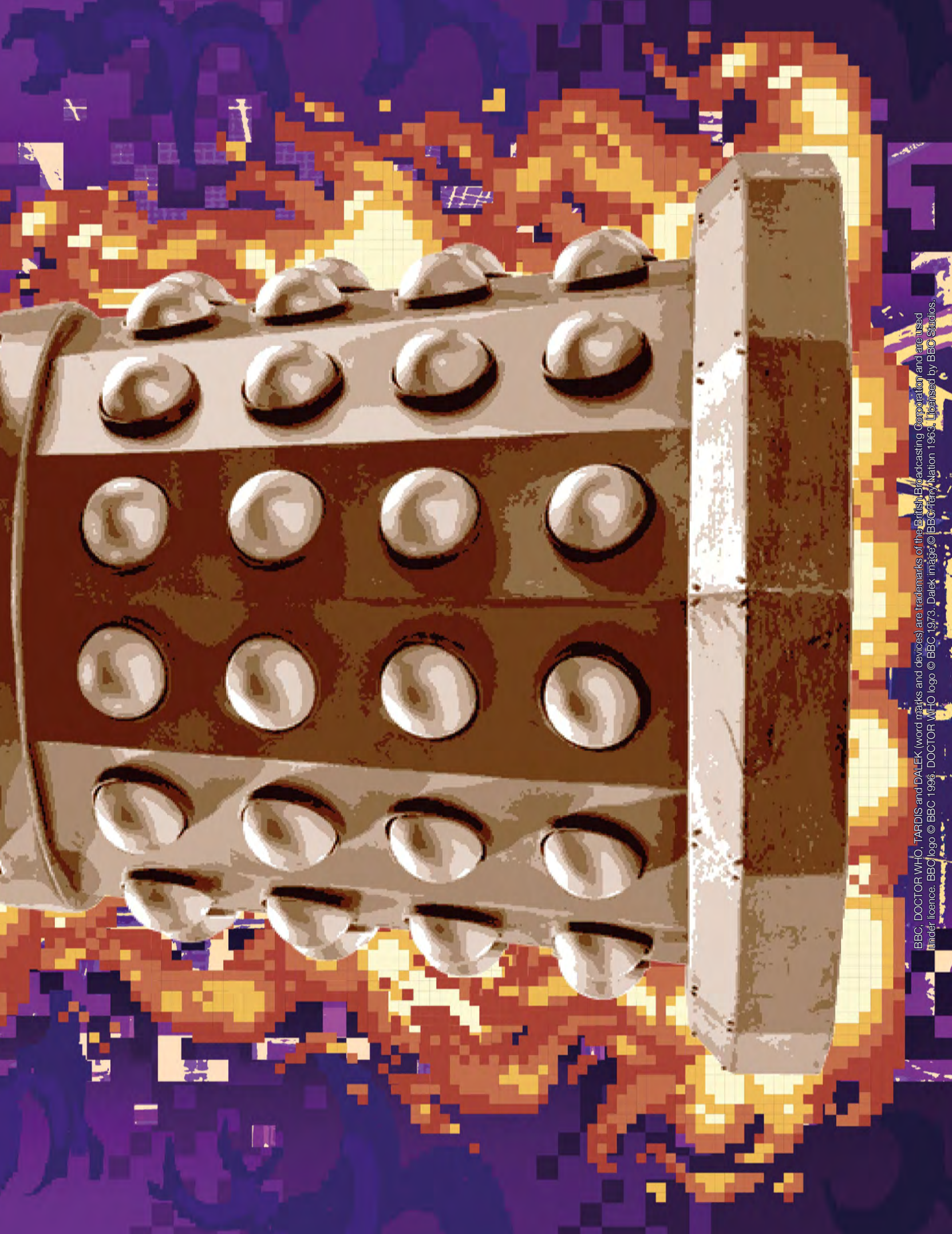
SCI-FI EXPERIENCE

Sam Béart played Tiska: "I've had a quite a bit of experience in my career playing in sci-fi and fantasy audio, things like *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Neverwhere*. This is my first time up against the Daleks, and I survived, so how awesome is that?! And I got to diss the TARDIS a little bit which was really fun [laughs]. Good times!"



THE GREAT ESCAPE





VOICE OF THE DALEKS - 2

With the Daleks now established as recurring villains in Big Finish's growing library of audio stories, Nick Briggs began an ambitious new project in 2001: *Dalek Empire*.

The series dispensed with the Doctor altogether as the Daleks took centre stage. Written and directed entirely by Briggs, it was a grim epic featuring

Sarah Mowat as Susan Mendes, Gareth Thomas as Kalendorf, and Mark McDonnell as Alby Brook. Its inspiration was *The Dalek Book*, published in 1964. Mostly written by David Whitaker, it had featured a series of stories starring three siblings – Jeff, Andy and Mary Stone – who battle the invaders from Skaro across the solar system. “My original idea was to just dramatise *The Dalek Book*, if we could get the rights to do that,” Briggs recalled. “I had spent my whole childhood rereading it. But when I went back to it, the science in it was so hokey/non-existent, I thought, ‘I don’t want to do this,’ but [instead] use it as a source of inspiration – the huge sprawl of that story. And I wanted there to be an emotional core. In *The Dalek Book* it was brothers and sisters. But I wanted this to be a relationship between a man and a woman – those special moments in your life when you meet someone and you feel a real connection. Sometimes it can happen insanely quickly when you just get this gut feeling, whether it turns

out to be right or not. I thought, if this could happen to two people who were so different and then be snatched away from each other – but by Daleks! – this would be an epic war story.”

The theme of collaborating with the enemy runs through *Dalek Empire*: “John Ainsworth was script-editing, and we spoke a lot about *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, where the Alec Guinness



character becomes so obsessed with being proud and doing a good job of building the bridge, he actually doesn't want it to be destroyed. He becomes a traitor to his own side because he becomes so devoted to doing the thing for the enemy that keeps his men alive. And that's what Suze does: she becomes so devoted to keeping people alive. It's like she has a higher ideal than the actual war. She's written into her own narrative that maybe there's no winning. But then Kalendorf comes along as this kind of mystical figure who has a sort of superpower who can help reverse the effects of the whole Dalek war."

Dalek Empire and the Big Finish range in general were exploring much darker territory than televised *Doctor Who*: "Very irresponsibly, we were making *Doctor Who* a bit more adult than I think it should be. We were using mild swear words, which seemed perfectly normal to us. I think it really hit home to me when Justin Richards said, 'My son Julian listens to this, but I have to edit it for him beforehand. Could you find it in your heart to not put these words in?' And I thought, 'Oh, don't be so namby-pamby!' But Justin was right and I was wrong."

"I wanted it to feel dangerous. I was very preoccupied at the time, perhaps unreasonably, that we always knew how things would turn out in *Doctor Who*. The Doctor cannot die; he always wins, he is the cleverest person on the planet. I was finding that repetitive. I just thought, 'If the Doctor's not there, no one will know who's going to die next.' So, when a Dalek says, 'Obey or be



Gareth Thomas confronts his nemesis in *Dalek Empire*.

exterminated,' I wanted the audience to think, 'They might die, and I care about this person now, because I've seen them fall in love.' Jason Haigh-Ellery said to me, 'Stop killing people off, because I think it's selling really well, and we might want to do a second series!'"

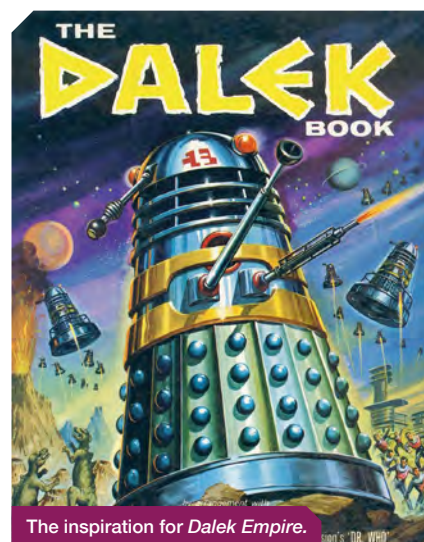
Dalek Empire was indeed a great success and ran for four series, comprising 18 stories in total. An important factor of the storyline was that the Daleks now had a far greater understanding of human psychology: "The Dalek Supreme was exploiting Susan's humanity and teasing it out of her. I seem to remember that I did justify it. In the previous stories there was this thing called the Kar-Charrat Library, and the Daleks had plundered that, so they had new information about human beings. They'd taken the time to analyse

the information and thought, 'Oh, hold on, there's more than one way to skin a cat. Yes, we can come bashing in and blow planets up. We'll do that, but then we have this problem of there being vastly more human beings than Daleks. So, we've gotta find a way of getting these people to do what we want. We'll kill them later, but we need to use them effectively and efficiently. We can't have an economy based on slave labour if all the slaves keep dying. But how do we make them work for us and not always be plotting to blow us up? We need an inspiring [human] leader, and they'll do it for her.'"

On 26 March 2005, *Doctor Who* finally returned to TV screens in a triumphant new series. The Daleks weren't far behind, resurfacing in the sixth episode. Nick Briggs found himself suddenly bringing his favourite monsters to life in another medium...



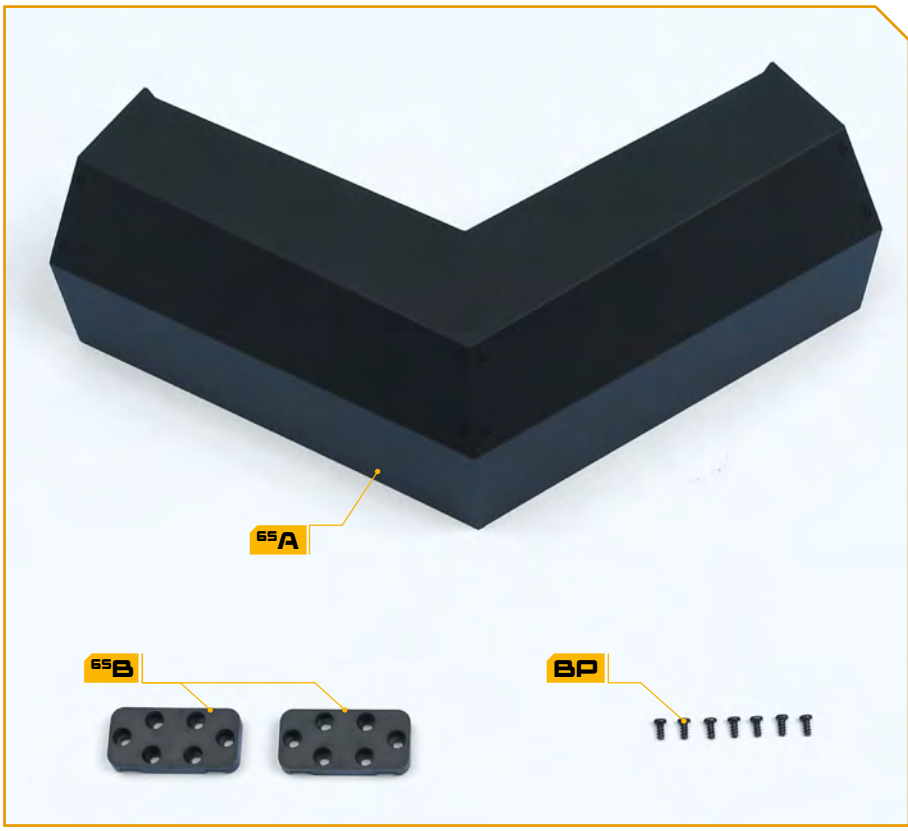
The stars of *Dalek Empire*: Mark McDonnell, Sarah Mowat, and Gareth Thomas.



The inspiration for *Dalek Empire*.

BASE SECTION

BASE ASSEMBLY



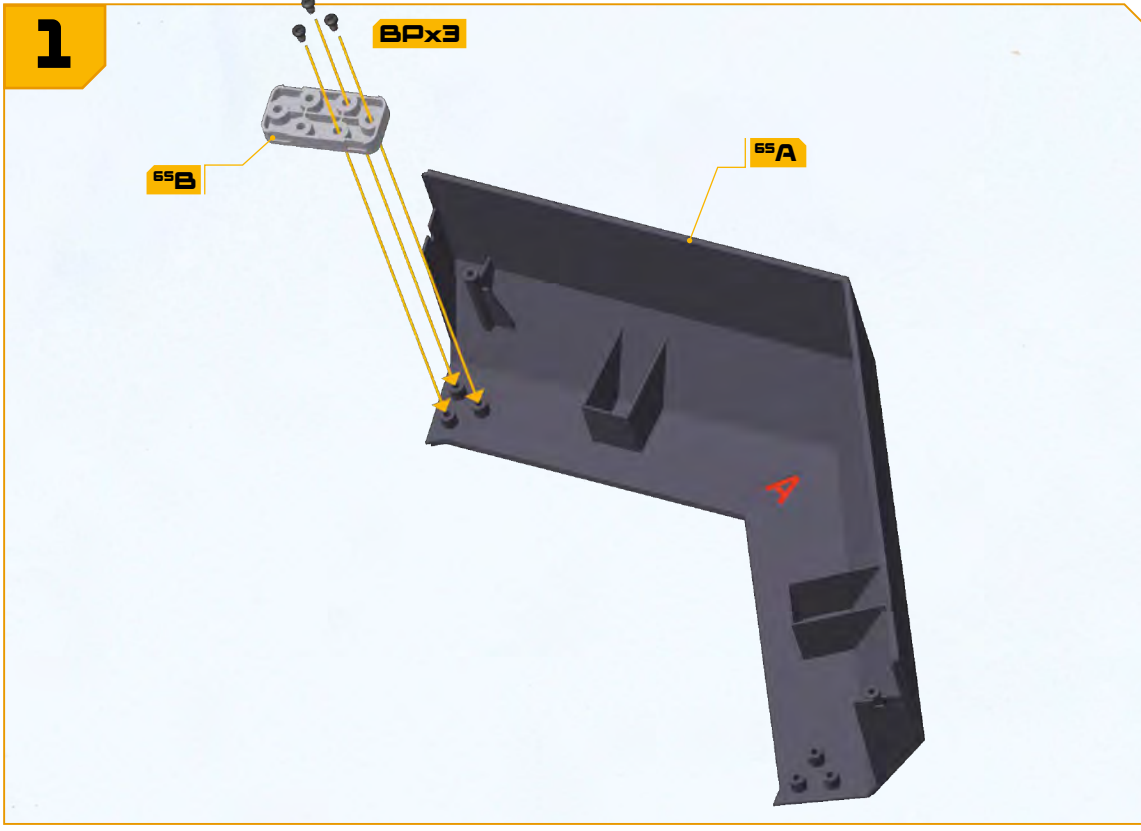
COMPONENTS OF ISSUE 65

65A BASE FRAME COVER (labelled A)

65B BASE FRAME COVER CONNECTING PLATES (x 2)

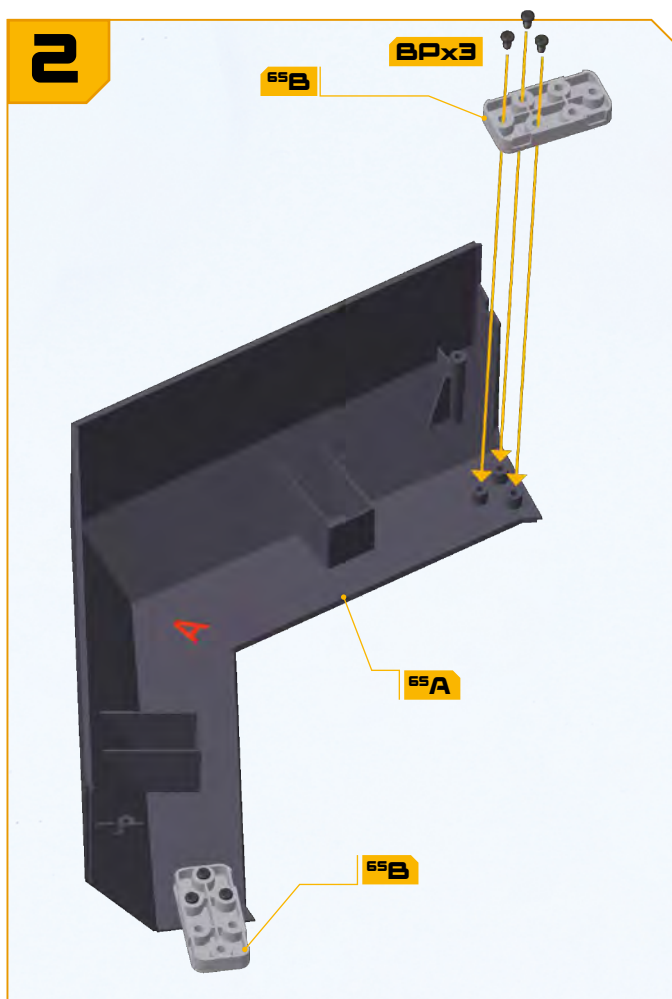
BP SEVEN 2.6 X 5MM PB SCREWS (1 spare)

—



#65-01
Take the base frame cover **65A** and check how to fit one of the connectors **65B** on one end of the cover so that the raised screw sockets on part **65A** fit into recesses in part **65B**. Fix in place with three **BP** screws.

2



#65-02

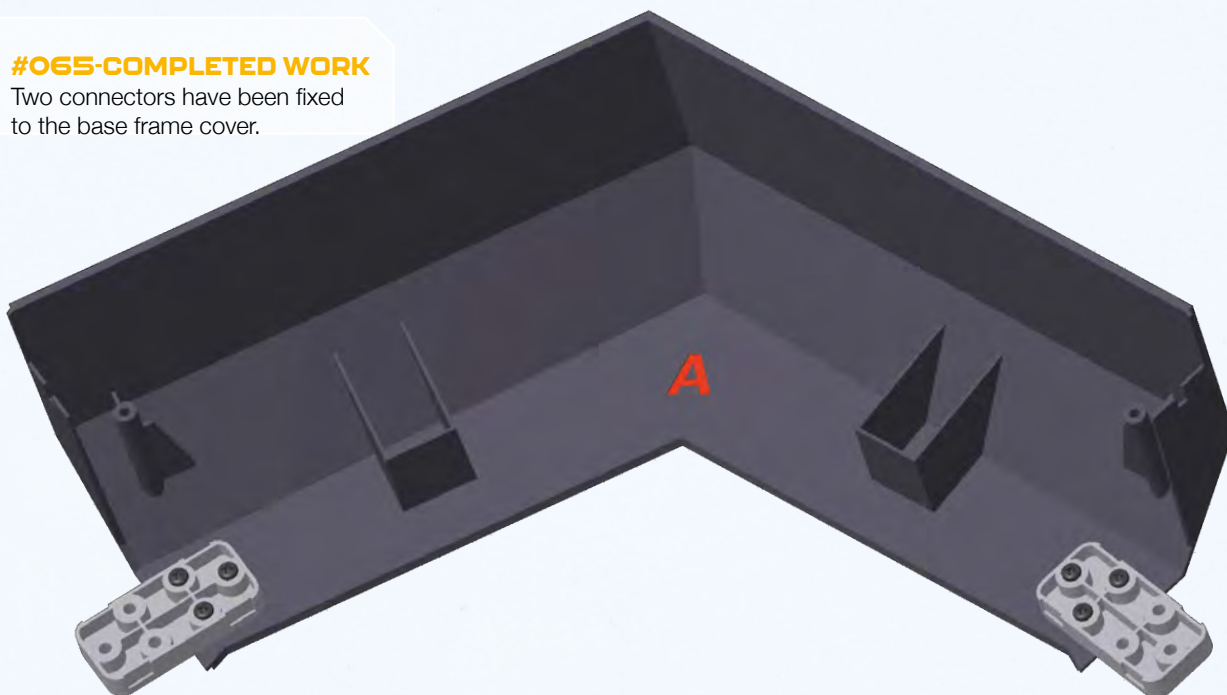
Similarly, position another connection plate **65B** at the other end of the cover **65A**. Fix in place with three **BP** screws.



COMPLETED WORK

#065-COMPLETED WORK

Two connectors have been fixed to the base frame cover.



THE DALEK

COMING IN
ISSUE 66

BUILD PART 66

A further base frame cover, a connecting plate, a base frame cover holder, and screws to continue building around the base of your model.



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