

This is the official NASA Press Kit for the first flight of the Space Shuttle orbiter Columbia, first in a fleet of spacecraft for the nations Space Transportation System. Liftoff on its first orbital shakedown flight was in April 1981. Crew for the first orbital flight was John W. Young, commander, veteran of two Gemini and two Apollo space flights, and U.S. Navy Capt. Robert L. Crippen, pilot. Crippen had not flown in space. Columbia had no payloads in the payload bay on this first orbital flight, but carried instrumentation for measuring orbiter systems performance in space and during its glide through the atmosphere to a landing after 54 1/2 hours. Extensive testing of orbiter systems, including the space radiators and other heat rejection systems, filled most of the STS-1 mission timeline. The clamshell-like doors on Columbias 4.6 by 18-meter (15 by 60-foot) payload bay were opened and closed twice during the flight for testing door actuators and latch mechanisms in the space environment. Other tests measured performance of maneuvering and attitude thrusters, the Columbias computer array and avionics black boxes, and, during entry, silica-tile heatshield temperatures. The first of four engineering test flights, STS-1 was launched into a 40.3 degree inclination orbit circularized first at 241 kilometers (130 nautical miles) and later boosted to 278 km (150 nm). Columbia was used in these four test flights in proving the combined booster and orbiter combination before the Space Transportation System becomes operational with STS-5.

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Space Shuttle STS The NASA Mission Reports: Apogee Books Space Series along the previously established Apogee Books format: Mission Press Kit. STS-1 (Space Transportation System-1) was the first orbital spaceflight of NASA's Space . on a solid-fuel motor in their escape towers and Mercury capsules had a solid-fueled retrorocket pack). .. NBC News coverage of launch of STS White's book provides a detailed account of STS-1, the first space shuttle mission to before the flight of supplying Crippen and Young with a tile repair kit? else, he was the public face of NASA during the STS-1 press conferences, but as. Get a constantly updating feed of breaking news, fun stories, pics, memes Send an email to [1] shakethatbrain.com@shakethatbrain.com from your NASA email.

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