

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES  
INFORMATION AT THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM

# GUNDAM FORWARD

SAMPLE

SPECIAL  
FEATURE

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM SEED

THE  
DESCENDING  
SWORD

OPENING  
TOPIC

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM SEED  
FREEDOM



The logo features a large, stylized white 'G' with a blue outline, positioned to the left of the words 'GUNDAM' and 'FORWARD' stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# GUNDAM FORWARD

This is the 13th issue of *Gundam Forward*, a Gundam magazine dedicated to reporting on the latest Gundam news, providing professional modelers' Gunpla production techniques, and sharing other useful information from the front lines of the Gundam universe.

Following the eleventh installment released in June 2023, this edition features *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED*. We've included various Mobile Suits, starting with the popular Freedom Gundam and the Justice Gundam, as well as the later period GAT-X series. Additionally, Mobile Suits from the official spin-off work *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED MSV* are featured.

In our opening segment, we'll present the latest updates on *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*, which premiered recently. We'll also highlight *Mobile Suit Gundam: IRON-BLOODED ORPHANS Urdr-Hunt*, which has been announced for an anime adaptation.





MOBILE SUIT  
GUNDAM SEED  
FREEDOM



GUNDAM FIGURE REVIEW



MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM  
IRON-BLOODED ORPHANS



GUNDAM  
GACHI OTA MODEL

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION AT THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM

# GUNDAM FORWARD

HOBBY JAPAN MOOK

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 \*\*"panmodel" is a registered trademark owned by the Japan Plastic Model Industry Association.  
 \*The information in this book is current as of January 18, 2024.





TOPIC ①

# Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM Released Nationwide in Theaters!

Nearly two decades after the 2002 TV broadcast of *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED*, the eagerly anticipated movie, *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*, has finally premiered in theaters nationwide, delighting fans across the globe. Set in C.E. 75, two years after the epic clash surrounding Gilbert Durandal's Destiny Plan depicted in *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Destiny*, the story unfolds in a world where the conflict between Naturals and Coordinators remains unresolved, with regions still ravaged by war. In this timely issue, released shortly after the film's debut, we revisit the captivating world, cherished characters, and awe-inspiring Mobile Suits featured in this highly anticipated sequel.

## STAFF

Planning & Production: SUNRISE  
 Original Story: Hajime Yatate, Yoshiyuki Tomino  
 Director: Mitsuo Fukuda  
 Script: Chiaki Morosawa, Riu Goto, Mitsuo Fukuda  
 Character Design: Hisashi Hirai  
 Mechanical Design: Kunio Ohkawara, Kimitoshi Yamane, Kazutaka Miyatake, Junichi Akutsu, Manabu Shintani, Zenseava, Takuya Ito, Hiroyuki Taiga  
 Mechanical Animation Director: Satoshi Shigeta  
 Color Design: Akemi Nagao  
 Art Director: Shigemi Ikeda, Yukiko Maruyama  
 CG Director: Mitsuhiro Sato, Kensuke Kushida, Tomohiro Fujie  
 Monitor Design: Azusa Tamura, Jiro Kageyama  
 Photography Director: Takeshi Katsurayama, Shigenori Toyooka  
 Editing: Yukiko Nojiri  
 Sound Director: Sadayoshi Fujino  
 Music: Toshihiko Sahashi  
 Production: Bandai Namco Filmworks Inc.  
 Distributor: Bandai Namco Filmworks Inc., SHOCHIKU

### Official Website

Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM  
<https://www.gundam-seed.net/freedom>

Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Series  
<https://www.gundam-seed.net/>

### Social Media

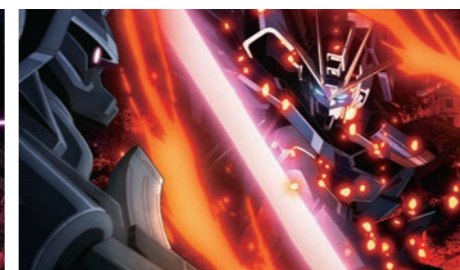
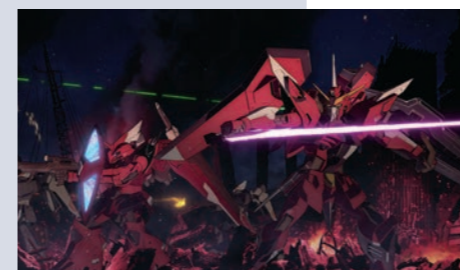
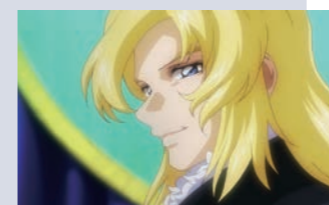
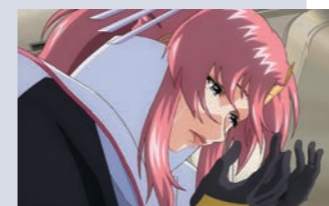


Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM Official TikTok



Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Series Official X (Twitter)

*You are there inside me. Am I there inside you?*

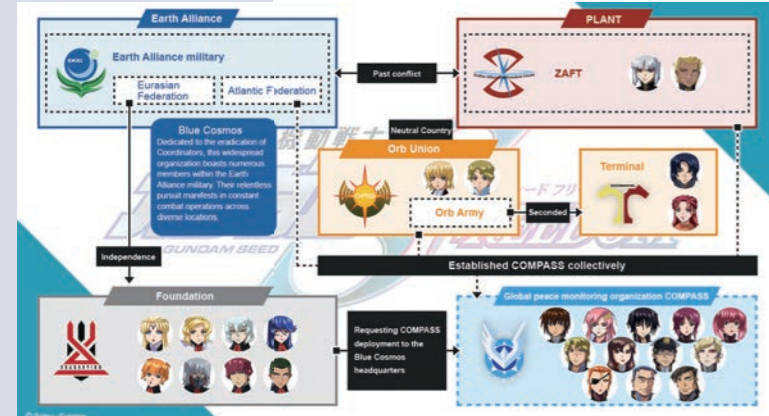


▲ The narrative centers on Kira Yamato and Lacus Clyne, with a key highlight being the involvement of characters from the Foundation. The film's impressive Mobile Suit battles are further enhanced by the use of CG animation.



# WORLD/CHARACTER

Although the war between the Earth Alliance and PLANT concluded, skirmishes erupt across various regions. Nations formerly part of the Alliance declare independence, while the extremist Blue Cosmos faction engages in armed operations. To address these ongoing conflicts, Orb, PLANT, and the Atlantic Federation have established COMPASS, a global peace monitoring organization tasked with intervening in disputes worldwide.



## Earth Alliance

Established as an international organization to oppose the Coordinator-led colony nation PLANT, taking the United Nations' place. Its military arm is the Earth Alliance military.

## PLANT

PLANT, an acronym for "Productive Location Ally on Nexus Technology," refers to both the cluster of new-generation colonies where Coordinators reside and the nation they established: the People's Liberation Acting Nation of Technology. The PLANT Supreme Council, comprised of elected representatives from each PLANT city, serves as the nation's ultimate governing body.

## Terminal

A discreet organization facilitating intergovernmental information exchange.



**Athrun Zala**  
(VA/Aktra Ishida)  
▶ ZAFI soldier Athrun Zala initially opposed his childhood friend Kira Yamato, but ultimately recognized the futility of their conflict and opted for cooperation. He now serves in the Orb Military, stationed at Terminal.



**Meyrin Hawke**  
(VA/Tomiko Orikasa)  
▶ The younger sister of Lunamaria utilizes her exceptional information processing skills to support various critical operations within the Terminal.



**Cagalli Yula Athha**  
(VA/Nanako Mori)  
▶ The representative and leader of Orb. Although a Natural, she is Kira's twin. She initially meets Athrun as an enemy, but gradually comes to understand him and wants to go with him. However, she chooses to stay in the country to protect Orb. She currently works with COMPASS, assisting Kira, Lacus, and others.



**Toya Mashima**  
(VA/Ayane Sakura)  
▶ Cagalli's secretary. He is being trained by Cagalli with the goal of eventually entrusting him with the position of Orb Chief. He is a bright and intelligent boy.

## COMPASS

Established under Cagalli Yula Athha's leadership, COMPASS is an international peacekeeping organization jointly founded by Orb, PLANT, and the Atlantic Federation. This unique body features combined military contributions from each nation and operates from its headquarters in PLANT Aprilus One.

**Kira Yamato**  
(VA/Souichirou Hoshii)  
▶ Initially embroiled in the conflict as an Earth Alliance soldier, Kira Yamato later joined an independent faction with Lacus Clyne to forge peace. He vehemently opposed Gilbert Durandal's Destiny Plan and clashed with him. Now, as a member of COMPASS, he tirelessly pursues peace in a world still mired in turmoil.



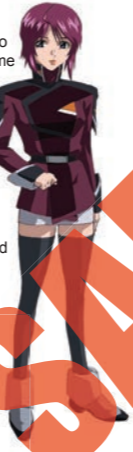
**Lacus Clyne**  
(VA/Rie Tanaka)  
▶ Daughter of PLANT Supreme Council Chairman Siegel Clyne, Lacus Clyne rose to fame as a popular idol. Inspired by her encounter with Kira Yamato, she defied expectations and formed an independent faction dedicated to ending the war. A staunch opponent of Gilbert Durandal's Destiny Plan, she now leads COMPASS, the international peacekeeping organization, in pursuit of a new, peaceful world order.



**Shin Asuka**  
(VA/Kenichi Suzumura)  
▶ Lost his family during the invasion of Orb and joined ZAFI. He was manipulated by Durandal and became an enemy of Kira and others, but they reconciled after the war. He joined COMPASS and together they strive for a world without conflict.



**Lunamaria Hawke**  
(VA/Maaya Sakamoto)  
▶ She is a ZAFI pilot who was in the same class as Shin and fought alongside him, but later joined COMPASS. She has a strong and assertive personality and is known for being reliable.



**Yzak Joule**  
(VA/Tomokazu Seki)  
▶ A ZAFI pilot who is Athrun's contemporary and rival. He currently serves as an information officer at PLANT HQ.



**Agnes Giebenrath**  
(VA/Houko Kuwashima)  
▶ She is a ZAFI pilot in the same class as Shin and others. She is referred to as the "Valkyrie of Moonlight."



**Albert Heinelein**  
(VA/Jun Fukuyama)  
▶ A highly skilled individual responsible for the overall technology of the newly constructed battleship Millennium.



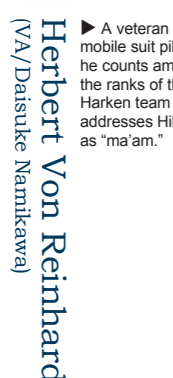
**Hilda Harken**  
(VA/Michiko Neya)  
▶ Leader of the Mobile Suit (MS) team. She deeply admires Lacus.



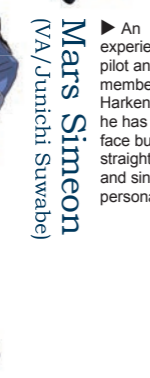
**Mu La Flaga**  
(VA/Takehito Koyasu)  
▶ A renowned pilot known as the "Hawk of Endymion," he serves as an older brother figure to Kira and the others.



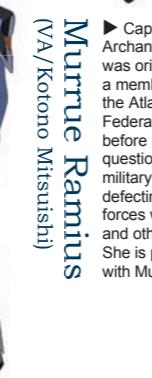
**Ingrid Tradoll**  
(VA/Sumire Uesaka)  
▶ As Secretary of the Foundation, she provides administrative support to Orphee. She is also Redelard's sister.



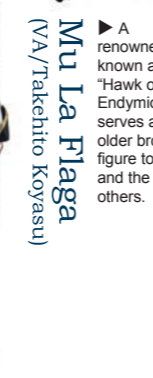
**Herbert Von Reinhard**  
(VA/Daisuke Namikawa)  
▶ A veteran mobile suit pilot, he counts among the ranks of the Harken team and addresses Hilda as "ma'am."



**Mars Simeon**  
(VA/Junichi Suwabe)  
▶ An experienced MS pilot and a member of the Harken team, he has a stern face but a straightforward and sincere personality.



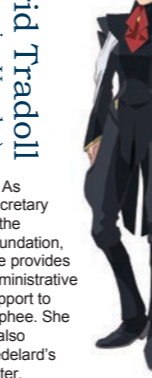
**Murru Raminus**  
(VA/Korono Mitsuishi)  
▶ Captain of the Archangel, she was originally a member of the Atlantic Federation before questioning the military and defecting to join forces with Kira and others. She is partnered with Mu.



**Redelard Tradoll**  
(VA/Misato Fukuen)  
▶ A member of the Black Knight Squad, she has an intuitive and impulsive personality and takes pride in her own strength.



**Daniel Harper**  
(VA/Yoshitsugu Matsuoka)  
▶ A member of the Black Knight Squad, he may seem unmotivated, but when the situation calls for it, he can be ruthless.



**Liu Shengqiang**  
(VA/Kentarou Tone)  
▶ A member of the Black Knight Squad, he has a polite demeanor, but it seems that he looks down on others.



**Griffin Arberlest**  
(VA/Win Morisaki)  
▶ A member of the Black Knight Squad, at first glance, he may seem reckless, but he possesses high skills.

## ZAFI

A military organization owned by the Coordinator Nation "PLANT." Its formal name is the "Zodiac Alliance of Freedom Treaty" and "ZAFI" is its abbreviation.



**Dearka Elsman**  
(VA/Akira Sasanuma)  
▶ A ZAFI pilot in the same class as Athrun. He is a kind of buddy with Yzak.



**Aura Maha Khyber**  
(VA/Yukari Tamura)  
▶ The queen of the Foundation, she displays remarkable intelligence and mature behavior despite her youthful appearance.



**Orphee Lam Tao**  
(VA/Hiro Shimono)  
▶ The Prime Minister of the Foundation, he leads the Black Knight Squad with strong leadership and determination. He is highly intelligent and educated, and deeply loyal to Aura.



**Shura Serpentine**  
(VA/Yuichi Nakamura)  
▶ The Minister of Defense of the Foundation, he also serves as Commander of the Imperial Guard Division and Captain of the Black Knight Squad, Queen Aura's personal guard.



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## The Foundation

A nation that gained independence from the Eurasian Federation with the help of ZAFI. It is a monarchy, and the current monarch is Aura Maha Khyber.

## Black Knight Squad

Queen Aura's personal guard, the Black Knight Squad, consists of seven members, including Orphee Lam Tao. They are a special forces unit that operates independently of the regular military force.



# Unveiling the Mecha!

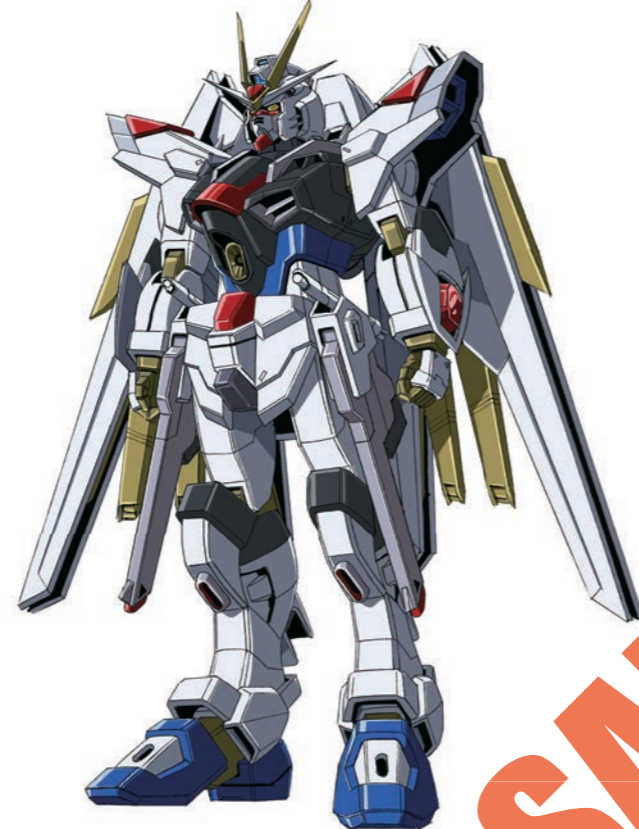
After the screening began, the previously restricted mechas were revealed all at once. Of particular interest are the new forms of the units piloted by Kira, Athrun, and Shinn in the second half of *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Destiny*. The Strike Freedom is particularly intriguing due to its ability to transform into other configurations by changing its backpack.

## MECHA

Strike Freedom Gundam Type 2



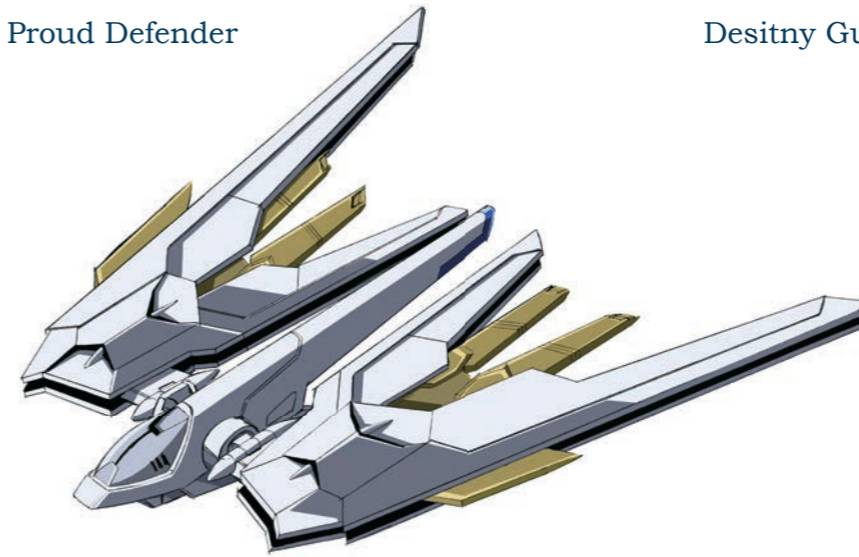
Mighty Strike Freedom Gundam



### Key Point!

The Strike Freedom Gundam Type 2 might appear similar to the original at first glance. However, a closer look reveals noticeable revisions in several key areas. Notably, its transformation into the Mighty Strike Freedom Gundam with the Proud Defender equipment significantly alters its silhouette.

Proud Defender



Destiny Gundam Spec II



### Key Point!

The Destiny Gundam Spec II retains its original shape but has undergone a color change, with the blade antennas now matching the body color, creating a more subdued atmosphere. While it may not seem to have as many changes as the Strike Freedom Gundam Type 2 or the Infinite Justice Gundam Type 2, it plays an important role in the movie, so you can have high hopes for it. The Impulse Gundams Spec II don't have any changes in their shapes, but they have distinct body colors according to the Silhouette packs on their backs.

Force Impulse Gundam Spec II



Sword Impulse Gundam Spec II



Blast Impulse Gundam Spec II



Z'Gok



Infinite Justice Gundam Type 2



### Key Point!

Behold, the surprising return of Z'Gok! This homage from the original *Mobile Suit Gundam* stands out amongst Millennium series machines like the Zaku Warrior and Gouf Ignited. Witness its unexpected arrival and thrilling maneuvers firsthand on screen!

### Key Point!

The Infinite Justice Gundam Type 2 boasts a radical transformation at first glance, starting with its entirely revamped lifter design. Even the main body undergoes a meticulous overhaul, but the most striking alteration lies in the head, where the sensor-like protrusion of the original has been replaced.

Akatsuki



Strike Rouge



■ ZAFT

### Key Point!

It's great to see existing units like the Akatsuki and Strike Rouge get a chance to shine amidst the introduction of new mobile suits. Additionally, the return of early series machines like the Duel Blitz Gundam and Lightning Buster Gundam with updated designs is sure to delight mech enthusiasts.

Duel Blitz Gundam



Lightning Buster Gundam





■ COMPASS

Rising Freedom Gundam



▲▼ MA (Mobile Armor) Forms

**Key Point!**

In addition to the previously announced units, two new mobile suits were unveiled: the Hilda variant of the Gyan Strom and the standard Gelgoog Menace. The Gyan Strom, successor to the Gouf Ignited from *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Destiny*, bears a resemblance to its predecessor, while the Agnes variant has a color scheme similar to that of the Yzak variant. The standard Gelgoog Menace has a slightly bluish hue and a color scheme reminiscent of the mass-produced Gouf units from *Mobile Suit Gundam*.

Immortal Justice Gundam



■ Foundation

Black Knight Squad Cal-re.A



**Key Point!**

On the Foundation side, in addition to the previously announced Black Knight Shi-ve.A and Black Knight Rud-ro.A, a new unit called Black Knight Cal-re.A has been unveiled. It clearly has a different vibe than the others, featuring a design that exudes nobility and signifies the exceptional nature of this machine.

Black Knight Squad Shi-ve.A



Ziggurat



**Key Point!**

Black Knight Squad units often specialize in close combat. The Black Knight Squad Rud-ro.A accompanies unmanned drones called Ginn or Dinn to supplement its firepower. These unmanned drones have a somewhat sinister appearance, with their heads resembling helmets. They have a device attached to the cockpit, presumably for controlling these unmanned units.

▲ The Black Knight Cal-re.A is accompanied by a support unit during combat. This support unit also functions as a sub-flight, carrying a mobile suit on top.

Gelgoog Menace (Lunamaria Custom) with aerospace backpack



Gelgoog Menace (Lunamaria Custom) with atmosphere backpack



Gyan Strom (Agnes Custom) with aerospace backpack



Gyan Strom (Agnes Custom) with atmosphere backpack



Black Knight Squad Rud-ro.A (Redelard's unit)



Black Knight Squad Rud-ro.A (Daniel's unit)



Black Knight Squad Rud-ro.A (Liu's unit)



Black Knight Squad Rud-ro.A (Griffin's unit)



Gyan Strom (Hilda Custom) with aerospace backpack



Gyan Strom (Hilda Custom) with atmosphere backpack



Gelgoog Menace (Standard Unit) with atmosphere backpack



Murasame Kai (Mu Custom)



Ginn-F



Ginn-R



Dinn-F



Dinn-R





# Surpassing the prior series with exceptional quality

Three types of Gunpla will be released simultaneously with the movie premiere. Among them, the HG series, designated as the flagship product for this movie and numbered as HG COSMIC ERA, has a quality that far exceeds that of the previous series. Following the movie information, we will now provide you with a comprehensive introduction to this latest Gunpla, using straight builds from test shots.

- Manufacturer: BANDAI SPIRITS Hobby Division Creation Department
- Plastic kit



**HG Rising Freedom Gundam**  
● 2640 yen, on sale now ● 1/144, approx. 12 cm



**HG Immortal Justice Gundam**  
● 2640 yen, on sale now ● 1/144, approx. 12 cm

## HG Rising Freedom Gundam

FREEDOM Gunpla series. It incorporates the latest technologies, resulting in a level of sophistication that far surpasses the conventional HG series in terms of design, color separation, articulation, and gimmicks.



◀ The color separation is almost entirely reproduced using the mold colors, with the exception of the blue lines on the beam rifle and the white lines on the wings. The sculpting is precise and meticulous, including details such as the side head ducts and the slits on the sides of the beam rifle.

▼ The nose on the back unfolds and the wing base slides back. By opening the nose and the small wings on the calves and mounting the weapons on the lower part of the unit, it can reproduce the MA (Mobile Armor) form.



▲ The shield, which serves both offensive and defensive purposes, can be fitted with beam effect parts and used as a boomerang. The Beam Shield features a polarization molding that changes color depending on the viewing angle.