The Magazine for LEGO® Enthusiasts of All Ages!





People

Mel Finelli's Picnic in the City

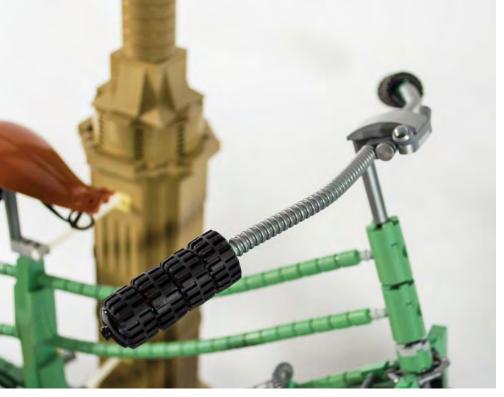
Article and Photography by Mel Finelli

It all started with a pair of old gray LEGO wheels from the Star Wars Hailfire Droid set...

Slowly trying to rid my collection of old gray, I had placed these wheels into a box of "Pieces to Donate to the LUG" where I knew a few of the old timers in ToroLUG would get more use from these than I would. They had been a part of my collection for over five years and always tossed aside when looking for pieces of a prettier coloured variety. It wasn't until I was Skypeing with a friend that I had thought about those pieces for the first time in a while—we were talking about weird LEGO parts we own, and I held up the wheels, exclaiming "Well, do you want these? Cause they're being given away!" and he then replied, "Do you know how much those are worth?!"

I didn't. With a quick search on Bricklink, I realized I was about to give away two LEGO parts that cost double the worth of the set they came in! Although they became quite the valued parts in my mind, they still were worthless to me in use: I wasn't a Technic/gears/motorized-type builder, and I was focusing on small-scale MOCs like vignettes or NPU highlighted microscale... there was no way I was going to use these wheels, no matter how expensive they were!





The handlebars are made of tires, while the frame is made of 1x1 sand green round bricks threaded on a length of flex tube.

in my mind and I sat on that thought for a few minutes—I started picturing the handlebars and the seat, how the wheel would attach; I could picture the layout coming together... ding! Inspiration hit me!

Now whenever I have an idea for a creation, I never start with bricks right away, like most builders would. I spend more time doing research then I actually spend on building! I first always check if someone else has had the idea, searching the web for other LEGO bikes and ensuring that my idea was genuinely mine and not a memory of seeing that idea off a blog or Flickr. I then searched types of bicycles to chose which model I wanted to base my creation on—I became obsessive with the details, needing to ensure I was creating as close to a replica as possible, so that real bike enthusiasts would admire the attention to detail. I searched every component that made a bicycle, learned how every part functioned, and how it connected in real life. I put so much of my time learning about bikes that if you gave me the parts to put a real one together, I could. This creation was taking over my mind; every spare moment I had, I would search a bike part and think which LEGO part would represent it best. When it came down to picking a colour for the

creation, I became genuinely stressed

of me, I said out loud, "How can I

use you?" A flash of a bicycle appeared

That week I had been sitting in my LEGO studio trying to plan out what I would build for BrickCan Vancouver, which would also be the MOC I would bring to BrickWorld Chicago. It was my first BrickCan show, but I had been attending BrickWorld Chicago for years now, and after being nominated in 2016 for BrickWorld Master, I had to return with something impressive. Ever try to force inspiration or creativity? It's so difficult! I sat there for hours after work all week, putting bricks together and taking them apart when the idea fell through—I even procrastinated by sorting! I was organizing and cleaning up my workspace hoping that a clean desk would give me a clean slate and new ideas. I noticed the box of old gray, and those annoying expensive wheels; picking them up and holding them in front

out—how to best represent the idea I had in my mind? I loved colour, and had some of my favourite LEGO colours in mind, but it would be crazy to try to come up with the techniques I wanted to do for this bike with Sand Blue or Dark Tan. There wasn't enough part options in those colours to make much of anything. I then fell in love with an image of a 1930s bike that had been fixed up by a bike hobbyist. It was Sand Green with a brown seat and black handlebars, and it was beautiful. That was the one I needed to make—Sand Green's piece catalogue wasn't large, and I searched every part available in it



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The flex tube used to curve the fender of the bike can be seen here.



People



David with his Mk I arm.

David Aguilar Amphoux: Building A Hand-Solo!

Article by Joe Meno Photography by David Aguilar Amphoux David Aguilar Amphoux is a 19-year-old student from Andorra (a small independent state between France and Spain). Online, he is known as Hand Solo, as his right arm and hand were undeveloped at birth. That didn't stop him from LEGO building, though—in fact, he built a prosthetic LEGO arm for himself!

He has been a LEGO builder since he was a child, and tried to build his first LEGO arm when he was nine years old. That effort wasn't successful, as he wasn't as familiar with the LEGO parts as he has become. It took him almost ten years to try again, and this time, he was successful in making what became the Mk I arm in only five days!

Using the parts from the Technic Helicopter (#9396), David built a prosthetic extension to his arm that had an elbow and a gripper on the end. The Mk I arm attached to the arm and was strong enough to allow David to do push-ups! When asked about the arm, he answered, "I wanted to build something different than a normal helicopter. The arm had no design, but I had an idea that had the same shape as my prosthetic."

He continued, "The first arm did a great job, but it couldn't lift heavy objects, so as soon as I designed a second arm (the Mark II), I thought that a little servo could help while grabbing more than 500 grams."

The Mark II was built from a different LEGO Technic set—this time, the Air Race Jet (#42066). This set had panels, which allowed the Mark II arm to be smoother in appearance. The set included a motor, which David used as the servo he wanted to strengthen the grabber's grip.

His building efforts were shown on Youtube, and quickly went viral. Through his efforts, he has become inspired to keep on building, going to a university and getting a job that relates to what he likes: Building prosthetics.

All of this came from his LEGO building. As he states, "LEGO building



Joe with his Titanic Belfast Museum replica.

Builder Spotlight: **Joe Perez**

Interview by Joe Meno Photography by Joe Perez Joe Perez works for Bright Bricks, the UK's only LEGO Certified Professionals. He has worked there for about five years now, having great fun being able to combine work and a hobby.

He started working in the workshop, building all sorts of things, but now manages large shows and exhibitions. As a result, he gets to travel all over the world setting up huge LEGO exhibitions. *BrickJournal* talked to Joe about building and his models.

BrickJournal: How long have you been building?

Joe Perez: I started building when I was about four or five, in the early 1980s. I remember my first LEGO set was 854—the blue Technic Go Cart with a number 9 sticker on the front; soon after came my all-time favorite set 8860. I was a bit too young for Technic sets, but I completed them with a little help from my older brother. From then on I was hooked on Technic and didn't really play with other themes. I must have rebuilt them a hundred times over the years. I used to look longingly at the Classic Space sets, but I only ever bought Technic; I think I have my brother to thank for that. I guess I shouldn't complain, as cutting my teeth on these technical sets prepared me nicely for working at Bright Bricks.

Did you ever have a Dark Age?

By the time a reached my mid-teens, I must admit I starting to get interested in other activities, so I didn't really play with LEGO—so everything was packed away into the loft. About ten years later, in 1999, the *Star Wars* range came out and I did buy a few of those sets, and I made a few MOCs with the pieces. However, this was short-lived and they were also put into storage for another ten years or so. I then concentrated on going to University, getting married and having children, so I was preoccupied until my kids started to play with LEGO, which must have been around 2010. Playing with them triggered my interest all over again and I haven't looked back since.

What got you into building sculpture?

Once I started building again, I concentrated on building man-made objects such as cars and other vehicles. In time, I wanted to move on and branch out a little, so I decided to start to build humanoid figures and animals. At first I was building articulated figures that could be positioned in various different poses. However, they felt a bit robotic and static. I eventually settled on my current style of sculpture, where I am trying to portray dynamic movement; I enjoy the challenge of trying to transform what is traditionally perceived to be a square-edged motionless media into something with curves and motion. This demonstrates the endless possibilities of the brick.



A stag (above) and ray (below) sculpture.

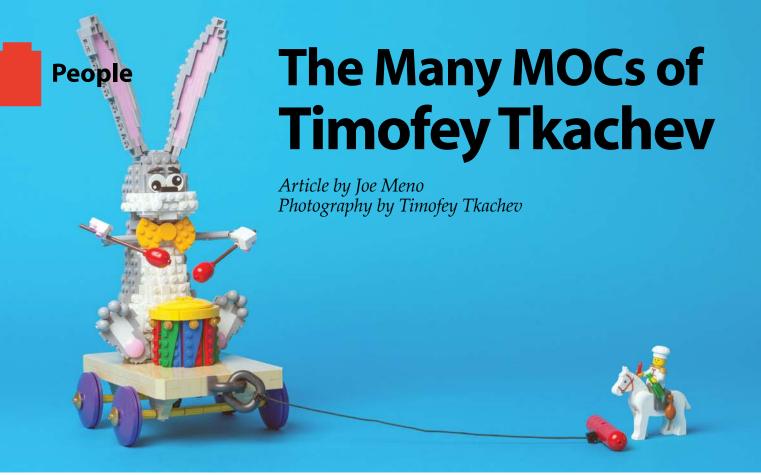




to transform what is traditionally perceived to be a square-edged motionless media into something with curves and motion.



Joe's rendition of Usain Bolt, record-breaking Olympic runner.



A pull toy replica.



Timofey Tkachev lives in Russia and is a cook, confectionist, and food production technician. He's also now a student again. He started building very early in his childhood with LEGO Duplo. After having a Dark Age, he returned to building with a new, more serious attitude in 2012, when he registered on the forum RFFL (Russian LUG), and began to communicate with like-minded people. From there, he began to build and post his work online, where his work got the notice of blogs. *BrickJournal* talked to Timofey briefly about his building and hobby.

BrickJournal: What is your favorite theme?

Timofey Tkachev: It's difficult to single out a favorite topic, because I mostly buy sets for parts, and more often buy parts in Pick-A-Brick.

But of course I like big sets like Ultimate Collector Series, Creator Expert, and the Ideas sets—because of their individuality. And probably most of the sets from LEGO Architecture, because you can see many interesting solutions from the designers of these sets.

What inspired you to start building sculptures?

I don't try to build only sculptures. I just have some ideas, some feelings, thoughts that I want to express, some images in my head. And then I try to visualize them using LEGO. Sometimes the most successful form seems to be a sculpture, but it can be anything else: A diorama, a picture...

...the idea can come from anywhere. A book, music, or my own reflections can inspire.

How do you plan and design your sculptures?

Sometimes I write down some ideas for buildings in notes. If in time this idea still seems interesting, it becomes overgrown with details, and a more or less solid image appears. Then I select some LEGO parts for the most complex elements of the sculpture, which are difficult to build any other way. Based on these parts, I select the scale. Sometimes I draw a sketch, sometimes I start to build right away, having an image only in my head. Through trial and error, something turns out.





Sarah von Innerebner's Beauty and the Beast's Library

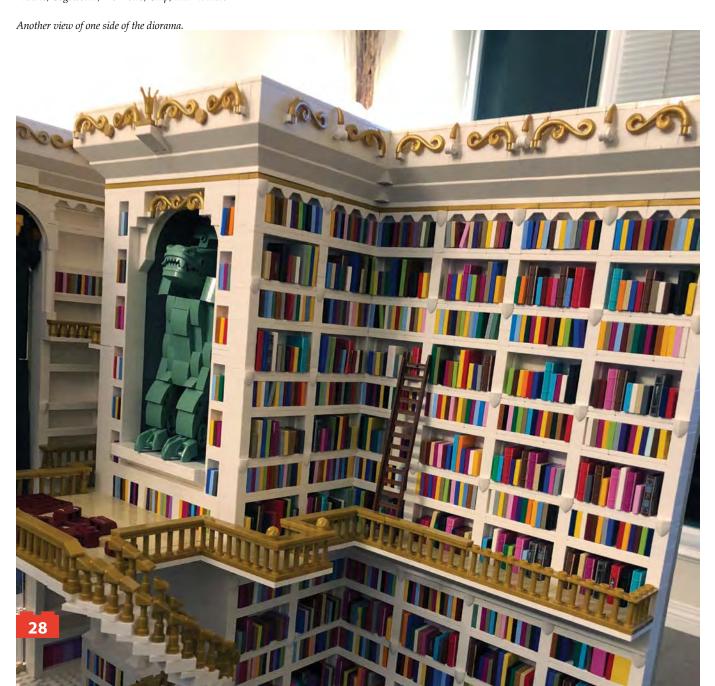
Interview by Joe Meno Photos by Sarah Von Innerebner and Alexandriamaija One of the best scenes in Disney's animated *Beauty and the Beast* is when the Beast opens his library to Belle. As Belle is a reader, this gift from the Beast amazes and moves her, as she has never seen such a large collection of books, much less a library of such size. Since the film was animated, the



Babette, Cogsworth, Ms. Potts, Chip, and Lumiere.

Did you design it for travel?

Yes, one of the best things I've learned from builders at LEGO conventions is techniques on travel. Once the dimensions of the library were established, I built it on six 32 x 32 baseplates. A pedestal floor was also built, so Technic pins were used to connect the baseplates together; not unlike modular builds. As the library came together, the crown moulding was also designed to be its own piece. The top of the shelves are fully tiled except for a few studs, so that the crown moulding can be mounted on top and secure the shelves at the top.





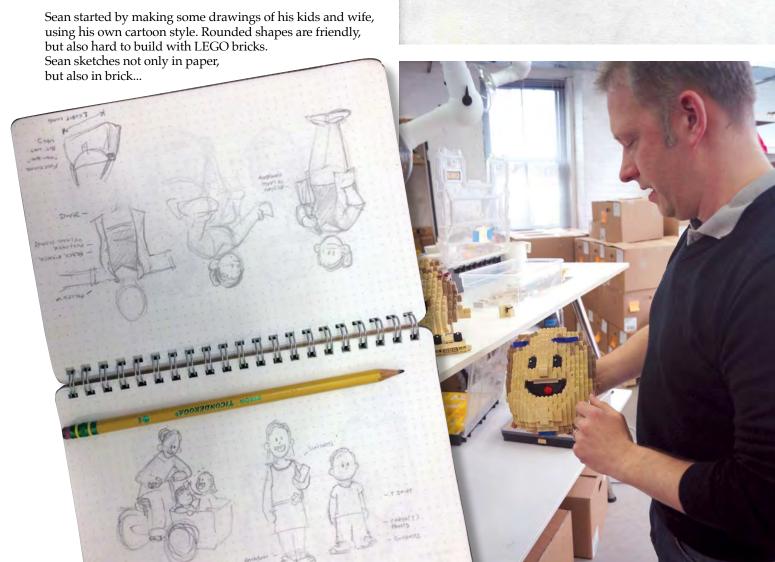
"Cargo bikes are a common sight in Scandinavia and throughout Europe, but they have yet to catch on in America. As an urbanist I am a big proponent of alternative transportation, and as a New Yorker, I envy European cities' progressive cycling infrastructure. I personally own a bike much like this one and use it as my primary means of running errands and taking my young children from place to place.

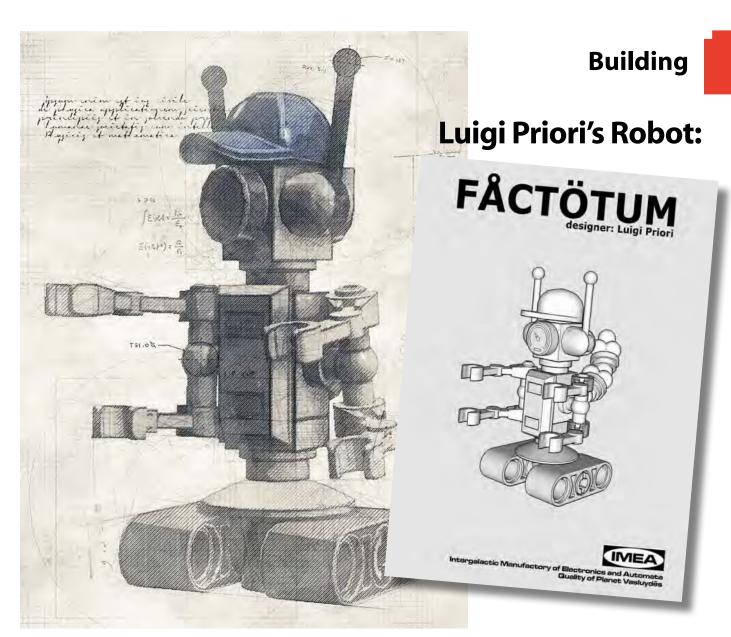
In creating this sculpture, I wanted to capture the simple joys of everyday life as a parent, while solidifying the image of a cyclist as that of a normal person doing normal things, and having fun in the process."

This model was first presented at LEGO Bricks: A Celebration, an event at the ASF + Scandanavia House in New York City. *Back from the Market with Mom* will be on display until August 4.

BrickJournal visited Sean's studio while *Back from the Market with Mom* was being built, so here's a behind-the-scenes photo album of the model!

Beginning Sketches





Design and Instructions by Luigi Priori

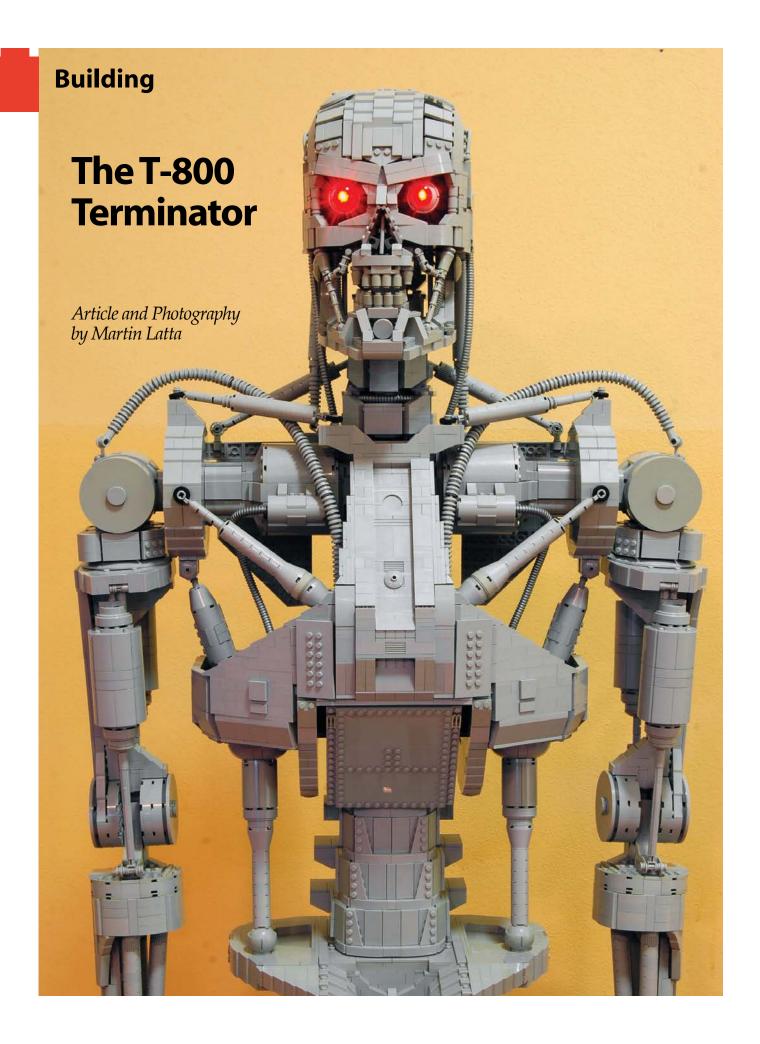
Other than being a builder, I'm also a member of the Toy Photographers Community (toyphotographers.com). Last January a new hashtag was launched on Google+ and Instagram: #mechanoidmonday. Every Monday, anyone is invited to post a photo with a robot of any kind as subject. I immediately thought that it would be nice to share my little robot with the fellow photographers and with anyone who follows me on social media.

I actually invented this robot two years ago and its chef counterpart, CHEF-A-TRON XC 4000, already appeared in my Flickr series "Benny's adventures in space" and also on page 26 of *BrickJournal* #41 (September 2016).

The instructions I decided to share had to be untypical. Definitely. I didn't want to just take a series of photos of the (few) steps. So I started thinking of something unusual, until, totally unexpectedly, I had the idea of making IKEA-like assembly instructions. The idea looked really great,

but the first problem was finding an acronym that sounded like IKEA. After some attempts, I found a good one: IMEA, Intergalactic Manufactory of Electronics and Automata. The second problem, definitely bigger, was drawing in IKEA-like instructions style. The screenshots you can take in LDD [LEGO Digital Designer] weren't right for the purpose. So I remembered some attempts at creating LEGO pieces I had made six years ago with a 3D software called Sketchup, that I've always loved because of its ease of use and the choice of rendering styles. And, in the end, I'm quite happy with the result.

Just some advice: Like its cousin CHEF-A-TRON, the robots of the first series (serial number from I-FTM1000000001 to I-FTM1000527436) because of a defective mood microchip, are very touchy, so it is better not to criticize their work. A firmware update is highly recommended.



I've been playing with LEGO almost my whole life. Around the year 2005, I joined our local LEGO forum, and since then we've organized many LEGO exhibitions mostly in the Czech Republic.

I'm not really focused on a specific LEGO theme, but most of my models are sci-fi themed. Together with *Star Wars*, the *Terminator* series is one of my most favored sci-fi franchises.



Martin's first head model.

This life-size statue is, in fact, my third rendition of the T-800 Terminator. The first "head" is from 2005, and to be honest, it was quite ugly. But at that time I was 14 years old and my LEGO collection was really small.

A few years after, I came across one awesome Predator bust on some foreign LEGO forum. It inspired me so much that I created my second T-800 head, this time also with part of the torso. The scale was a little smaller than 1:1. With this bust I participated in few exhibitions organized by our LEGO club in the Czech Republic. It was quite popular so



Martin's second head model.







Design and Instructions by Tommy Williamson



Tommy Williamson is no stranger to *BrickJournal*, having been featured previously for his Jack Sparrow miniland-scale figure. Since then, he has gone farther into building, making some remarkable *Star Trek* props and other models. He's now doing a column for *BrickJournal*: DIY Fan Art. Here, Tommy

takes a little time out from his busy schedule at BrickNerd.com to make a model of his choosing for the magazine.

About this issue's model:

When I heard the theme for this issue was sculpture, the first thing that popped in my head was Rodin's *The Thinker*. I have no idea why, I've never even seen one of the many castings of this classic in real life, but he was the first thing I thought of, and I never considered anything else. Designing him was a fun challenge; I hope you enjoy building him.

Parts List (Parts can be ordered through Bricklink.com by searching by part number and color)

Qty	Part	Color	Description
1	2431.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Tile 1 x 4 with Groove
4	2555.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Tile 1 x 1 with Clip
2	3005.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Brick 1 x 1
1	3020.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 2 x 4
2	3021.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 2 x 3
4	3022.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 2 x 2
8	3023.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 2
1	3031.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 4 x 4
1	3068b.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Tile 2 x 2 with Groove
1	3069b.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove
1	3176.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 3 x 2 with Hole
5	3623.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 3
2	3710.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 4
1	3794a.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Centre Stud
5	6019.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Horizontal (Open U-Clip)
3	30039.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Tile 1 x 1 with Groove
2	41769.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Wing 2 x 4 Right
2	41770.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Wing 2 x 4 Left
1	44567.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Hinge Plate 1 x 2 Locking with Single Finger On Side Vertical
21	50746.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 0.667
13	60478.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle on End
4	63868.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 2 with Clip Horizontal on End (Thick C-Clip)
1	87087.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Brick 1 x 1 with Stud on 1 Side
2	87580.dat	Dk Bluish Grey	Plate 2 x 2 with Groove with 1 Centre Stud
1	2431.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Tile 1 x 4 with Groove
4	2449.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 75 2 x 1 x 3 Inverted
3	3005.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Brick 1 x 1
3	3009.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Brick 1 x 6
1	3031.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Plate 4 x 4
1	3036.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Plate 6 x 8
3	3039.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2
5	3040b.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1
4	3045.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2 Double Convex
2	3666.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Plate 1 x 6
2	3685.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 75 2 x 2 x 3 Double Convex
2	4286.dat	Lt Bluish Grey S	lope Brick 33 3 x 1
4	4460a.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 75 2 x 1 x 3 with Open Stud
7	60481.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Slope Brick 65 2 x 1 x 2
1	99780.dat	Lt Bluish Grey	Bracket 1x 2 - 1x 2Up

You Can Build It

MINI Model

Giza Sculptural Diorama

Design and Instructions by Christopher Deck

Hello everybody, and welcome to another building session in *BrickJournal!* Sculptures are this issue's topic, and we want to be part of the fun, too, with our new model. Our journey takes us to the Egyptian city Giza on the western bank of the Nile. Giza is most famous for its archaeological places, especially the Giza Pyramids and the Great Sphinx of Giza.

We want to express our admiration for these monuments of Egyptian history by building a sculptural landmark of the Giza Plateau with a Sphinx sculpture and a pyramid background. Depending on your parts selection, you can build this diorama in Tan, Dark Tan, Earth Orange, or a mixture of these colors, as they work nicely together.

Once we have set up the straight-forward pyramid background, we want to take care of the Sphinx sculpture. For this diorama we go with a body width of five studs as it suits our needs best. After placing the lion's sleek corpus into the sand, we attach the human head which uses several rounded slope elements, and two of the recently-released round quarter tiles to resemble the sculpture's face.

The pyramids' top ends at the corner of our little diorama do not depict the highest tip of the pyramids, as we are limited by the baseplate's dimensions. If you like you can attach more baseplates to all sides of the diorama and expand the scenery with all ideas of your imagination!

Happy building and see you next time!

Parts List (Parts can be ordered from Bricklink.com by searching by part number and color)

Qty	Color	Part	Description
8	Tan	3005.dat	Brick 1 x 1
2	Tan	4733.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Four Sides
14	Tan	3004.dat	Brick 1 x 2
21	Tan	3003.dat	Brick 2 x 2
1	Tan	85080.dat	Brick 2 x 2 Corner Round w Stud Notch and Reinforced Underside
1	Tan	6143.dat	Brick 2 x 2 Round
8	Tan	3002.dat	Brick 2 x 3
4	Tan	3001.dat	Brick 2 x 4
1	Tan	4740.dat	Dish 2 x 2 Inverted
15	Tan	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
10	Tan	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
2	Tan	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Centre Stud
2	Tan	3623.dat	Plate 1 x 3
1	Tan	2420.dat	Plate 2 x 2 Corner
1	Tan	3021.dat	Plate 2 x 3
1	Dark-Tan	91405.dat	Plate 16 x 16 with Underside Ribs
8	Tan	54200.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 0.667
1	Tan	85984.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 2 x 0.667
1	Tan	4286.dat	Slope Brick 33 3 x 1
13	Tan	3040b.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1
3	Tan	3665.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1 Inverted
32	Tan	3039.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2
12	Tan	3045.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2 Double Convex
2	Tan	11477.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 1
1	Tan	44675.dat	Slope Brick Curved Top 2 x 2 x 1 with Dimples
3	Tan	25269.dat	Tile 1 x 1 Corner Round
1	Tan	3070b.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Groove
4	Tan	3069b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove

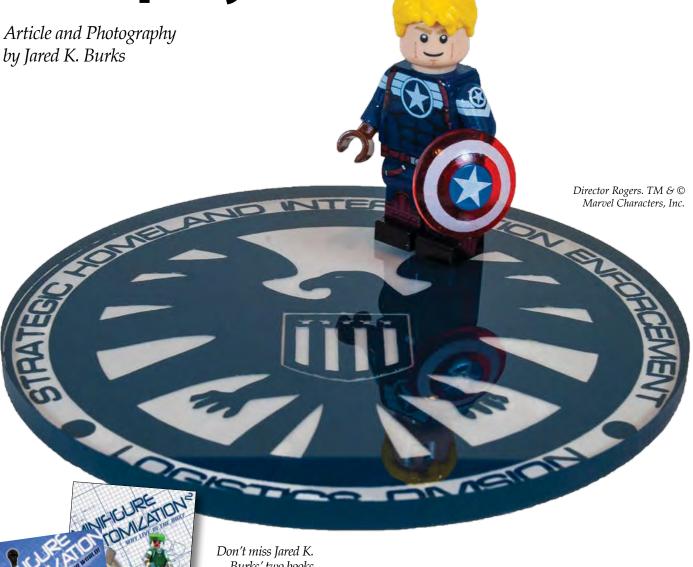
Building

Minifigure Customization 101

Sculpting a Display

Article and Photography

How many times have you created that perfect custom figure, and for some odd reason it feels like an incomplete thought? You keep looking at the design, custom parts, and accessories and you wonder: What is missing? Ultimately, every figure feels much more at home in its native environment, such as a spaceman on the moon, a police officer walking a city street, or a scuba diver in the water. We would not expect to see the scuba diver on the moon or the police officer under the water unless we were watching some incredible science-fiction, but I digress. We need to place our custom figures, at minimum, in a themed vignette of proper content. These vignettes work best when the display case holding the custom figure becomes part of its environment. By designing the display case this way, it appears to disappear, as it is merely part of the figure.



Burks' two books Minifigure Customization: Populate Your World! and its sequel Minifigure Customization: Why

Live In The Box? (both available now at www.twomorrows.com)

In the article today, I am going to speak about sculpting with a laser to create display elements. It is important to figure out some of the tricks that can be employed to highlight those custom figures to turn them into something more. Complete the thought you started by creating them, put them back in their environment, and bring a snippet of that environment to your desk or shelf.



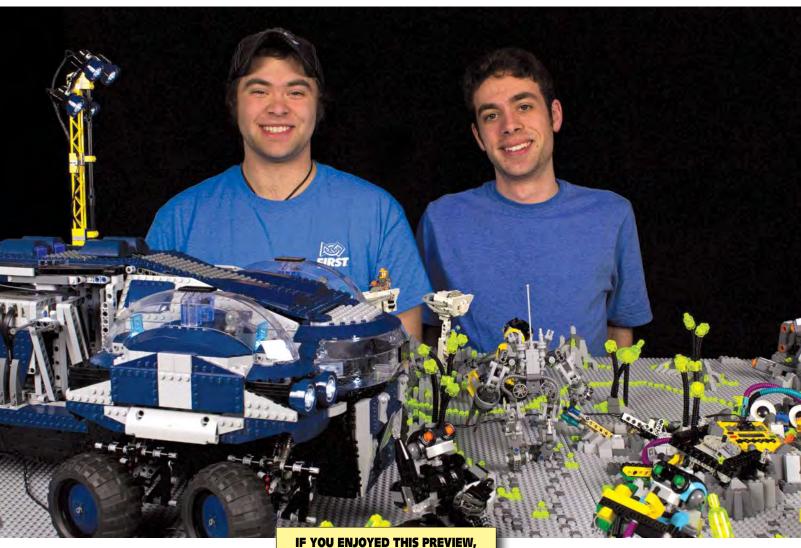
The MINDSTORMS Archaeological Dig

Article and Photography by Calvin Hartley and Jared Harkema In the near-future, the final resting place for ancient MINDSTORMS Systems is discovered on an extraterrestrial planet, RIS-1998. A team of scientists, along with a robotic excavation crew, are sent to explore the remains. These are excerpts from the mission logs.

LOG ENTRY 98-9719

VISION COMMAND HAS DETECTED TRACE SIGNATURES

A SURVEY CREW HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE PLANET SURFACE TO INVESTIGATE.





The Jawa Sandcrawler.

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BRICKJOURNAL #52

LEGO SCULPTURE 'ROUND THE WORLD! Russian builder TIMOFEY TKACHEV, plus what it takes to become a LEGO Certified Professional (an elite group of builders officially recognized by LEGO), with New York's SEAN KENNEY and Australian RYAN McNAUGHT! Also: Minifigure customizing from JARED K. BURKS', step-by-step "You Can Build It" instructions by CHRISTOPHER DECK, BrickNerd's DIY Fan Art, & more!

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MS Archaeological Dig is the creation of medical manufacturing worker) and n information technology technician for icts), who have worked on two previous both have been LEGO building since they vin states, "I've been around LEGO for as ember. My older brother and I couldn't growing up, and we always asked for it tuck with it ever since. For a few years, sted, but I never had a true Dark Ages igh school, I fell deeper into the hobby. ng conventions and joined the Western Users Group." Jared comments, "I have uilding with LEGO, from when I got Bucket when I was four or five. I got ut the hobby when I got into high school. gan putting more effort into my MOCs ding Conventions."

ctive with MINDSTORMS building, ing with MINDSTORMS since he was or eight eight years old, when his brother X brick (first generation MINDSTORMS).

His building experience has been mostly in robotics and Technic, though he has been expanding his building recently. Calvin's experience also extends to FIRST® LEGO league, when he started at the age of nine. At his 13th year in FLL, he has since aged out of competing and now mentors and coaches teams.