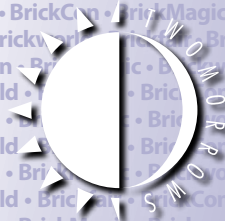


The Magazine for LEGO® Enthusiasts of All Ages!



\$8.95  
in the US

# Brick Journal

Issue 19 • June 2012

people • building • community

## Event Roundup 2011

Events:

BrickMagic

Brickworld

Brickfair

BrickCon



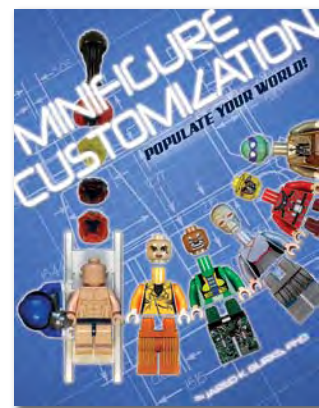
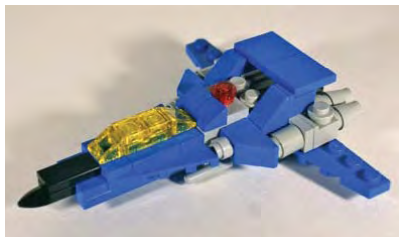
Instructions  
and MORE!



Take home  
some of the

# Brick Magic

2012 Raleigh  
Limited Edition  
MERCHANDISE



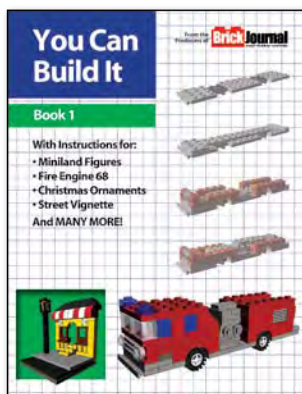
Minifigure  
Customization  
Book \$10

**Tulip or Spaceship Kit \$10**

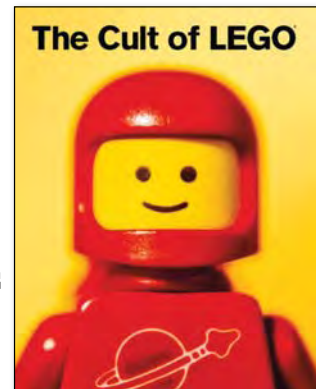
Get both with You Can Build It, Book One for \$20



Patches  
\$2



You Can  
Build It  
\$10



Cult of  
LEGO \$35



T-Shirts  
\$14-16



BrickStix  
\$5



BrickJournals &  
Compendium 15% Off

**Order now at [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)**

FOR A FREE COLOR CATALOG, CALL, WRITE, E-MAIL, OR LOG ONTO [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)



**TwoMorrows—A New Day For LEGO® Fandom!**



TwoMorrows Publishing • 10407 Bedfordtown Drive • Raleigh, NC 27614 USA • 919-449-0344 • FAX: 919-449-0327  
E-mail: [twomorrow@aol.com](mailto:twomorrow@aol.com) • Visit us on the Web at [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)

## Contents

From the Editor ..... 2

### News

LEGO® CUUSOO Meets Minecraft ..... 3

### People

Building the Fellowship ..... 9

Building Barad-Dûr ..... 12

Building the Last March of the Ents ..... 16

### Building

William Pugh: Dino Builder ..... 20

You Can Build It:

Velociraptor ..... 23

Mini Modulares Review ..... 26

Rod and Bert ..... 32

Minifigure Customization 101:

3D Printing Minifigure

Accessories ..... 34

You Can Build It:

*Radiant VII* ..... 39

### Community: Event Reports

BrickMagic 2011 ..... 42

Brickworld 2011 ..... 46

Brick Fiesta 2011 ..... 51

Lecco 2011: Bricks Near the Lake ..... 56

BrickFair 2011 ..... 61

BrickCon 2011 ..... 64

A Towering Achievement ..... 68

LEGO Fun at Lynhurst Castle ..... 72

Community Ads ..... 77

Last Word ..... 79

AFOLs ..... 80





# LEGO® CUUSOO Meets Minecraft!

*Article by Joe Meno  
Photography provided  
by the LEGO Group*

On December 5, 2011, a project was posted on LEGO CUUSOO that changed the website forever. A model project based on the online game Minecraft was presented on the site, developed initially by two LEGO fans. With the expansion of LEGO CUUSOO to international size, the number of supporters needed for consideration by the LEGO Group went from 1,000 to 10,000. What's amazing is that the Minecraft project reached that threshold in 48 hours to become the first international set to be considered and approved by the LEGO Group - an astonishing feat! Tim Courtney, Senior Consultant for Community Business at the LEGO Group's New Business Group recounts: "We were quite taken by surprise. Some of my colleagues are avid Minecraft players, but I'm not a gamer and didn't realize how popular it was."

The resulting set, LEGO Minecraft Micro World (#21102) was developed in collaboration with four LEGO fans: Chris Malloy, Michael Thomas (suparMacho), Kyle Tingey (koalaexpert), and Bjarne Panduro Tveskov. These fans developed their own concepts alongside LEGO designer Steen Sig Andersen and the LEGO CUUSOO team, and helped shape the product into its final version.

*BrickJournal* talked to one of the builders, Kyle Tingey, about designing the set. He was one of the two fans that originally submitted the set, with Michael Thomas. Asked about how the project collaboration was done internationally, he replied, "We collaborated over the internet. We gave feedback and made some models to share our ideas. We looked into multiple scales, including brick-built figures and minifigures. We also looked into sets with giant mobs."



*Some preliminary designs before scale was decided.*

## Designing the Set

With all the ideas that went through different scales, the breakthrough for the set design came when microscale was explored. Kyle notes, "Bjarne brought the idea up and it evolved from there." Bjarne said the scale "packs the most Minecraft DNA into the model per LEGO brick." Once the LEGO Group saw the micro-scale concepts, there was no doubt that this was the right direction for the product.

For Kyle, the biggest challenge was "Getting the look of Minecraft right. There was definitely some pressure about maintaining the quality of the set so getting the feel of Minecraft down was key. The easiest part, though was coming up with ideas."

The total cycle from design to production was only six months, compared to the usual cycle of up to 2 years for LEGO sets. When asked about this, Tim replied by stating that LEGO CUUSOO exists to find and connect passionate interest groups to the LEGO brick. He continued, "With Minecraft, we struck a very passionate online community. Since "Internet time" moves a lot faster than real life, and we knew people would be anxious for this, we decided to look at new methods to produce the product faster than the traditional cycle. This required buy-in from many colleagues in various roles. Thanks to everyone doing their share, we were able to compress the entire product development cycle, from design to play testing to packing and distribution to just six months. That's six months from concept stage to having your own LEGO Minecraft Micro World in your hands!" Kyle noted that the collaborative effort also made the project move faster.



*Mob studies.*

## People

# Kevin Walter: Building Barad-Dûr

*Interview and Photography by Joe Meno*

One of the outstanding models at Brickworld was the tower Barad-dûr, as seen in the *Lord of the Rings* movies. The model was built (actually rebuilt, since it arrived from shipping in pieces) by Kevin Walter. Kevin is a history student on the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität (University) in Freiburg - Southern Germany. On October 2010, he began work on the tower. Serving his civilian service over nine months, he earned the necessary money to finance the tower and his trip to Brickworld 2011. When he arrived there, his tower took center stage at the event. *BrickJournal* was able to talk to him about his building and the tower.

***BrickJournal:* What is your usual building theme, and what led to building Barad-Dûr?**

***Kevin Walter:*** Generally, my preferred building themes are spaceships or in general all kinds of science-fiction stuff. That made the construction of the tower even more of a challenge than anything before; it was a completely different genre that I never worked with before.

But I appreciated it, because I love to build models based on concept art or an existing model. The motivation and challenge for me lies in building it as detailed and close to the original as possible.

The tower itself was part of the *Lord of the Rings* collaboration at Brickworld, called "The Journey of the Fellowship." It was a secret collaboration and until the unveiling in Chicago, no one except the other members knew about this tower. Originally, the tower was the someone else's project. Now in review, I can luckily say that I had the honor to take over this important part of the model - since I saw *Lord of the Rings* the first time, even the scene where Saruman watches the Palantir and you can see Barad-dûr in it's all size and glory/beauty, I told myself that I had to build it.

This collaboration gave me the wonderful opportunity to work with some of the best builders and friends in the community together and also allow me to build Barad-dûr. I was really shocked and just amazed when I saw how many people had seen my model and read all the wonderful reactions and great feedbacks and praise I received - at Brickworld, in the internet community (on mcpages and flickr); even from non-community people, such as blogs (like MTV Geek: <http://geek-news.mtv.com/2011/06/24/fan-used-50000-lego-bricks-to-build-saurons-dark-tower-from-lord-of-the-rings/> or on *The Hobbit* movie blog)



*An imposing view of Barad-Dûr.*

**BrickJournal:** How tall is it? How many parts do you estimate the tower has?

**Kevin Walter:** The tower was exactly 1.75 meters high and 1.10 meters wide (on the base). I can say that at least are 50,000+ parts are in it. I ordered about 35,000 and I had to use all my black I have (And I got a lot of it *before* Barad-dûr), not to mention all my other colored bricks I used for the internal structure or to fill the gaps and made the rockwork strong.

So I think even 50,000 is a small guess for it - When I look back I think 75,000+ is an even more accurate estimate.

**BrickJournal:** How long did it take to build?

**Kevin Walter:** The construction time was about 6 months - separated in two blocks of 3 months each. From November 2010 (where I took over the project) to January 2011, I just searched for reference material (which was a real pain) and did some first experiments with wall segments, rockwork, baseplate - long story short: I used my "normal bricks" and worked on ideas about how to do what before ordering a lot of parts I couldn't use in the end. The problem with the reference material was that in the movies you see the tower only in a few scenes for a few seconds, not to mention that this is a black tower on a black background. So I searched the internet for pictures and more pictures (A miniature model would have been much easier and had not caused all that trouble...). But I found pictures of Barad-dûr in different angles and views - to capture the details and the right proportions there was a lot of visual judgement necessary. That were the first three months of construction - actual building started in February when I



*An overall view of the tower.*



*The Eye of Sauron.*



*A look at the detail work around the gate to the tower.*

## Building

*The builders behind The Last March of the Ents:  
(from left to right) Bruce Lowell, Remi Gagne,  
Brandon Griffith, and Alyse Gagne.*



**OneLug:**

# Building The Last March of the Ents

16

*Article by Joe Meno • Photography provided by Brian Bautista and Joe Meno*





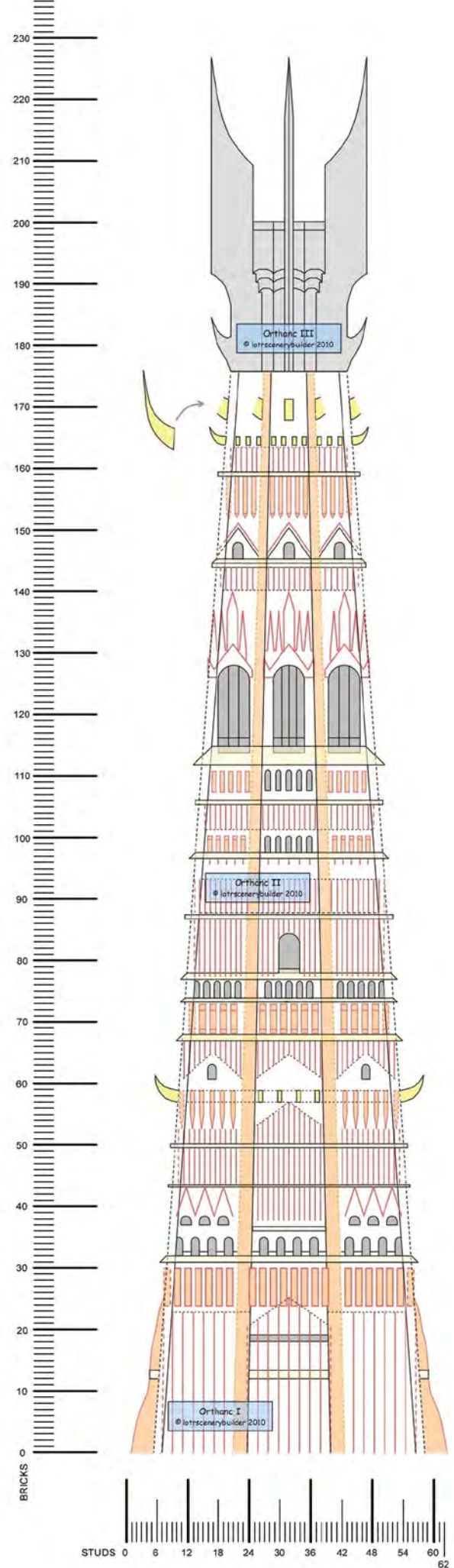
Above: A closeup of the top of Orthanc.  
 Right: The tower set to scale for building. Graphic courtesy of [www.lotrscenerybuilder.org](http://www.lotrscenerybuilder.org).

BrickCon was the place where an astounding creation was shown. Based on the *Lord of the Rings* movies, the model was not just one of the buildings or characters, it was an entire scene from *The Two Towers*: the march of the Ents on Orthanc.

The model was the work of several builders, including Brandon Griffith, who has been in *BrickJournal* before. Here he talks about the group that came together to build the model and how it was built.

**BrickJournal: When was the project first considered and how was it initially thought of?**

**Brandon Griffith:** The project was originally conceived by Remi Gagne and myself. Wait, let me back up. A few weeks prior to us coming up with this, Remi and Alyse Gagne, and I went to a special back-to-back-to-back screening of the extended cuts of all three movies. A few weeks later Remi and I carpoled to our local LUGoLA (LEGO Users Group of Los Angeles) meeting. On the way back, we stopped for lunch and began talking. I had an old school mecha frame that Bryce McGlone had given me and was showing Remi how I thought it would make an awesome Ent from *Lord of the Rings*. As the conversion progressed, building one Ent turned into building several Ents. Building several Ents turned into building a small layout for them to stand on. From there we decided to add minifig Orcs for them to fight. Then of course, since we are building all of this, lets build the Tower of Orthanc! A couple of Italian beef sandwiches and a milkshake later, OneLug was born.



# You Can Build It


Dinosaur Model

## Velociraptor

Design by William Pugh  
Instructions by Geoff Gray



Two raptors showing posability.

William's dinosaur models are a combination of sculpture and function, and his velociraptors are a great introduction to his building style. Using less than 50 parts, he was able to make an articulated animal with 9 joints. You can build one of these by using the directions on the next two pages. Have fun! 

### Parts List (Parts can be ordered through [Bricklink.com](http://Bricklink.com) by searching by part number and color)

Qty	Part	Description	Color
3	2555.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Clip	Light Bluish Gray
1	3005.dat	Brick 1 x 1	Light Bluish Gray
1	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2	Light Bluish Gray
1	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1	Yellow
2	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1	Light Bluish Gray
5	3623.dat	Plate 1 x 3	Light Bluish Gray
1	3710.dat	Plate 1 x 4	Dark Bluish Gray
2	4070.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Headlight	Light Bluish Gray
2	4733.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Four Sides	Light Bluish Gray
2	4735.dat	Brick 1 x 1 x 2/3 Round with Bar and Clip Vertical	Light Bluish Gray
4	6019.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Horizontal	Light Bluish Gray
2	53451.dat	Minifig Helmet Viking Horn	White
3	54200.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 2/3	Light Bluish Gray
5	60478.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle on End	Dark Bluish Gray

## Set Review



# Mini Modulars

*Article and Photography  
by Geoff Gray*

## The History of the Modular Buildings

Back in the summer of 2006, I traveled to Billund, Denmark as part of a series of onsite meetings and tours for the staff of BrickJournal. I found out while I was there that (former NELUG member) Jamie Berard had accepted a job as a set designer. Another AFOL (Steve DeCramer) was visiting Jamie to talk to him about a new set that would soon be released. At that time, the set and all information surrounding it was top secret, so I was not able to learn anything about it. But I knew the abilities of both of these guys and I guessed that it would be something really spectacular.

In 2007, my suspicions were confirmed as TLG released the first in a series of Town sets. It was the "Café Corner", and it ushered in an era of high end sets designed to please AFOLS just as much as children. The community was very excited about this set. Right after this release, TLG released another set as part of LEGO Factory called Market Street. This set was designed by an AFOL (Erik Brok). It also received a lot of acclaim.

The next year, TLG released the second set in the Town Modular Building line, the Green Grocer. They have continued by releasing a new set each year; Fire Brigade in 2009, Grand Emporium in 2010, the Pet Shop in 2011 and Town Hall in 2012. All of the sets are designed to minifig scale and are built so that they can be connected and used in many combinations. They offer a great deal of detail and "playability." We have done a few different reviews on these sets throughout the years.

## The Advent of the Mini Modulars

This year, TLG released a new set that was made available only to VIP Members called the "Mini Modulars." It is a set of micro scaled copies of the first five sets from above. I love the challenge of building in micro scale (see the Micro Scale Standard article on page 33 of Issue 12) and immediately fell in love with what I saw in the pictures. I contacted TLG and asked for a set to review (thanks Jim for hooking me up). Unfortunately it arrived about one hour before I left for the airport on business travel, so I had to leave it behind for a few weeks. When I finally got back home, I immediately started building the models.

The set is divided into 5 sets of bags, each one containing a single building. They are numbered in order of release, and each build is similar in design to the build steps for the original sets, just much smaller and faster. There is a lot of ingenuity in the methods used to create certain details, such as the decorative arch over the entrance to the Café Corner, the recessed upstairs windows of the Fire House, and the escape ladder on the back of the Green Grocer. All of the models also use the same type of Technic pin connections that allow you to hook all of the buildings together in any order you wish.

After completing the build and working on the review, I am ranking this set as a keeper, and as a great place for TLG and fans to have a growing line of models. I hope TLG will release mini sets of the newer modular builds as that line continues to grow. But even if they don't, I know plenty of AFOLS will design their own minis. I suspect I will even design one myself.

## A Mystery Solved

I think the set is a great value, is a lot of fun to build, and will also provide many opportunities for people who want to learn SNOT and MICRO building techniques. The one thing that really confused me about this set was the number of pieces that were left over at the end of the build. This is not an uncommon occurrence with LEGO sets, but this particular set had many more than I expected. I sent email to a couple of people at TLG and asked them why there are always extra pieces in some of the sets. I got an answer and it makes perfect sense.

# Minifig Customization 101: 3D Printing Minifigure Accessories

*by Michael Inglis and Jared K. Burks*

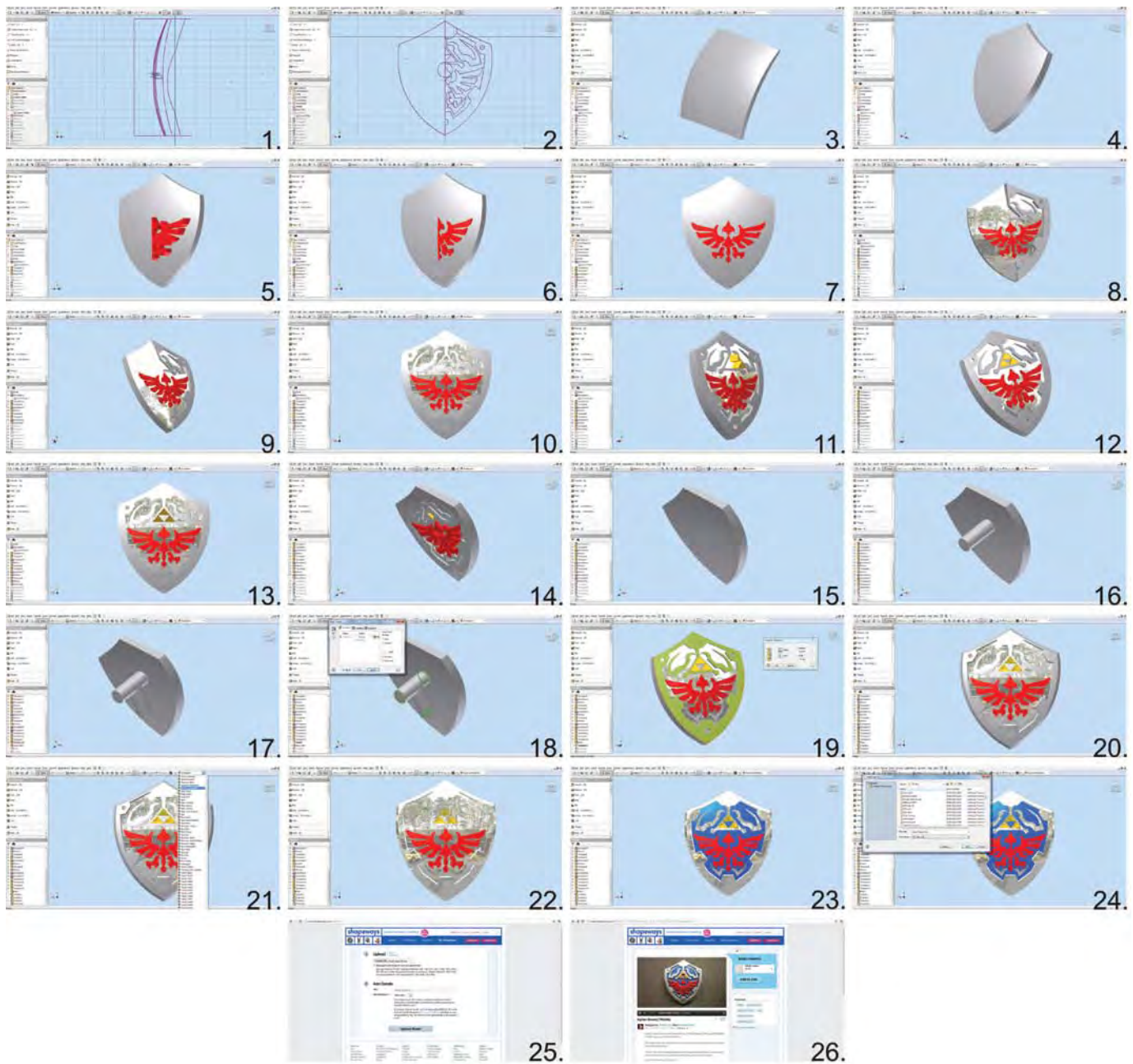


Hello everyone and welcome to another article on minifigure customization. In today's article we are going to discuss one of the biggest technology advances in minifigure customization: three dimensional printing. As I am new to 3D printing, I have asked Michael if he would help with the article as he has created several items using this technology.

3D printing a method of rapid prototyping, which involves creating digital 3D objects and 'printing' them by having a printer lay down successive layers of a material. Objects manufactured using this process can often be extremely detailed and include awkward shapes. Other manufacturing processes such as metal injection molding cannot easily manufacture these awkward shapes without multiple molds. The process of 3D printing allows a minifig customizer to physically make a 3D model without having to deal with extremely large production costs and minimum orders. The rate at which these models can be ordered and received is merely a matter of days with companies such as Shapeways offering a 10 - 15 day turnaround. This is also a great option for prototyping any mass production piece as all the measurements can be confirmed before a metal mold is tooled.

The materials that can be produced by a 3D printer are extensive. Shapeways, the leader in hobby creation of 3D printed parts, currently provides metals, plastics, glass, ceramics and sandstone. This technology was very limited in the early days, however currently it has limitless potential in the creation of custom items. The production of custom

## Creating a Shield



**1.** A sketch is set up which will be used to cut the layers which make up the front and back of the shield. This is then named 'Curve Cutter'. **2.** Other sketch named 'Detail' is drawn. This is the basis for the shapes that will be created. **3.** Using the Curve Cutter sketch, a solid created by revolving the sketch a small amount. **4.** Using the Detail sketch, the basic shape is cut from the revolved solid. **5.** The lowest shape on the front of the shield is then extruded forward. **6.** It is then cut through a revolution by the lowest band on the 'Curve Cutter' sketch. This allows the surface of the solid to be curved and not flat. **7.** The shape is then mirrored on the opposite side. **8.** Another batch of detail is extruded forward. This is done separately as this detail sits above the bird extruded in step 5. **9.** The new detail is again cut using the Curve Cutter sketch. Less however is 'shaved' off as a different band is used for the revolution. **10.** The detail is once again mirrored. **11.** The Triforce is then extruded from the detail sketch. This is done last as it is sticking further out than everything else. **12.** Using the curve cutter, it is cut through a revolution. **13.** It like the other solids is mirrored. **14.** We then have the problem of the original detail sketch being extruded from the back. This often happens when working on curved shields. **15.** It is easily removed by a cut revolution on the Curve Cutter sketch. **16.** A cylinder with a diameter of 3.2mm is then extruded from the Detail sketch. This allows it to be compatible with a LEGO Minifigure. **17.** Using a workplane, another cylinder is extruded downwards. This allows the Minifigure to hold it like the official LEGO Shields. **18.** A small fillet is added to the cylinders. This removes the sharp edges and is more visually appealing. **19.** A chamfer is then added to the edges of the shield. **20.** The shield as a solid is now finished. **21.** A base color is chosen. Usually the whole piece would be colorless up until now, but for the sake of showing how it is created, I applied colors as I went along. **22.** A base color is then added. **23.** An individual color is added to a singular surface. Adding colour is only necessary for renders which show the completed product and has does not affect the 3D model. **25.** The file is saved as STL File. **24.** It is then uploaded to Shapeways. Due to an STL retaining only the surface geometry of the 3D object, the user must declare the units of the model. **26.** Renders and a description are added and the model is then made available to the world for purchase. The photograph of the shield is a painted print of it in the Frosted Ultra Detail material. For a larger version of this, you can go online to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kaminoan/7309053998/in/photostream>.



# BrickMagic 2011

Article by Joe Meno

Photography provided by the  
LEGO Group

BrickMagic, a LEGO fan event in Raleigh, North Carolina, took place over Mother's Day weekend (May 5-8). Builders from as far north as Pennsylvania and as far south as Florida came to show their models and layouts over the weekend to thousands of public visitors. Some of the displays that were highlights are spotlighted here.

Tim Allwein's layout *StudsVille*, above, was a table-size model with a LEGO train, monorail, and electronic effects that could be activated by visitors. A set of buttons on the front of the exhibit could turn on a carnival, start a helicopter or trip a fire alarm in a city building!

On the other end of the spectrum, Joseph Merlack's space layout, seen below, captured a space base, complete with spacecraft, mechsuits, and support vehicles. He also had a large ship on display.





BrickMagic's Guest of Honor was Sean Kenney, a LEGO Certified Professional. Over the weekend, he built a LEGO bicycle while visitors young and old built cars to make the "world's gnarliest traffic jam." Along with this project, Sean had some other models on display, including his bust of William Shatner, top right.

Below, Dennis Hoppe's Universal Castle paid homage to all the classic Universal horror films. Vampires, mummies and Frankenstein took up residence in the rooms of the castle. Seth Higgin's transformer, bottom center, kept guard of his other models while Will Stroh's Endor trees towered above his layout, bottom right.



Sam Forker, above, built a rover that used a MINDSTORMS NXT and solar panels to power itself. He demonstrated it outside during the weekend.





# Brickworld 2011

*Article and Photography by Joe Meno*

For one weekend in June, the 'Windy City' of Chicago became the Brick City. June 16th through 19th were the days of Brickworld, one of the largest LEGO fan events in the country. Over 800 builders and fans came to the event bringing models and more to the Westin Northbrook, the convention site.

With all the builders, there was a diverse collection of creations and layouts. LEGO train clubs from Illinois and neighboring states showed off layouts of cities with running trains along with large collaborative displays built by other groups. In 2011, collaborative builds included a *Lord of the Rings* display and a layout named *Oasis*, built by Nannan Zhang and Tyler Clites.

The *Lord of the Rings* layout included Minas Tirith under siege and Barad-dûr, which was built by Kevin Walker and showcased later in this issue. *Oasis*, at 5 by 7 feet, was a layout that had motion built in so the central wheel rotated. The water also rippled with another set of motors and gears.

Minifigure models included planes and other vehicles. A model of a Super Constellation L-1049 was built by Nick Dean that not only on a custom made base, but had a full interior.

Microscale was also well-represented, with a collaborative microcity layout built onsite from standard modules brought in from attendees. What started as single buildings became a growing micropolis.

Benjamin Caulkins brought an unusual model: a HALO Spartan armor uniform. What made it unusual was that it was life-size, and he wore the suit during the public hours of Brickworld, where he was the subject of countless photos.

The convention side of the event, for registered LEGO fans only, had activities specially for them, including presentations and demonstrations on building and LEGO-based filmmaking to games and competitions.





HOUSTON, Texas. If you're an AFOL living anywhere close to America's fourth largest city, chances are good you're involved in some aspect of planning for the second annual Brick Fiesta.

And even if you aren't involved in the planning phases, which are plowing full speed ahead incidentally, chances are good you will want to kick yourself for weeks on end afterwards if you miss this brick-packed extravaganza.

The Texas LEGO Users Group (TexLUG) is hosting Brick Fiesta 2012 in Houston from July 4 through July 8. The event will be held at the Westin Hotel at the Houston Galleria.

What makes a bunch of AFOLs crazy enough to want to even start something like this? Try a combination of inspiration and sheer willpower.

"The convention for Texas was mine and Tony (Sava)'s idea at BrickFest back in 2003," recalls Chris MacDougald. "I approached Christina Hitchcock about doing a convention in Texas and using the BrickFest name like PDX. Only it was (going to be) BrickFest SAT and I was going to host it in San Antonio." And even before that, Lee Rahe of New Braunfels remembers that MacDougald wanted to put on some kind of major LEGO-themed event. "I remember Chris MacDougald talking about trying to engineer a major LEGO show in Texas in 2002."

Tony Sava agreed that the AFOL population had grown in Texas to a level that justified hosting such an event, but he felt that the venture should bear a name more relevant to the culture of its host state. "The name Brick Fiesta was a result of a conversation between myself and Nelson Yrizarry," says Sava. The exact date remains unknown, but MacDougald and Sava are both fairly certain that this occurred at an event sponsored by the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio called Halloween Howl'r in October of 2007, in which TexLUG was invited to put up a sizable LEGO display.

The next stage was to sell the idea of a local brick to the rest of TexLUG. This was probably the easiest step; indeed, many of its members had long been kicking around similar ideas, but it

*Slum Dogs by Forest King*



## Second Annual Brick Fiesta Promises to Outdo the First!

*Article by William "Pat" Hough of TexLUG*

*Photography by TJ Avery*



*Chris MacDougald and Tony Sava, the men behind Brick Fiesta.*

wasn't until June of 2008 that the idea was formally expressed on the TexLUG online forum.

Collin Harvey of Arlington (Texas) began the initial thread. He echoed the sentiments of many of his fellow Texan AFOLs when he wrote "Just browsing through all the pictures from the past weekend's BrickCon (in Seattle)," he wrote, adding that TexLUG should "invite everyone down here (and) have one big 'ol BrickCon". Sava quickly responded, introducing the name "Brick Fiesta" to the group for the first time. The next day, October 9, 2008 (a Thursday), MacDougald announced registration of the Brick Fiesta domain. Brick Fiesta was finally official.



*Classic Space Base by Pat Hough*



*Batman by Evan Bacon*

But when would the first Brick Fiesta be held? The initial plan was to host it in the winter of 2009. In the same posting in which he announced the event's name, Sava wrote "My personal thoughts on it would be to have it sometime between October and March when the weather here would draw the snowbirds". Harvey later added to the same thread "I was discussing hypothetical situations with Chris Giddens and then later Ryan Wood, and it seems like Decemberish (sic) would indeed be a good time."

But Harvey later experienced doubts. He pointed out on October 10 that not only would the weeks before or after Christmas be financially lean ones for most folks (the recession was well underway by then), but there were also five established LEGO-oriented conventions taking place across the United States between March and October. In short, all the good time-slots were taken.

There followed a slight period of disagreement as to when the new convention should be hosted. Sava held out for winter – particularly January – of 2010, citing the paucity of, and therefore lack of competition with, established LEGO-themed events during the season, the fact that airfare would be cheaper that time of year, and the comparatively milder weather of Texas winters. TJ Avery agreed, stating "Things tend to slow way down after the first of the year." And for a time, January 2010 was the target. The city would be Houston, since the Baybrook Mall LEGO Outlet had recently opened (June 20, 2008) in nearby Friendswood.

For the next two years, discussion about Brick Fiesta slowed to a crawl. January 2010 came and went. The venture "sort of quietly went on the back burner," recalls Chris MacDougald. Two events were soon to change all that, and the planning for Brick Fiesta would, as a result, be driven to a frantic pace.

# Dragons and Spaceships and More.. BrickFair 2011

*Article and Photography by Joe Meno*

For BrickFair (held August 5th - 7th at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly Virginia), this was the year of the dragon. While there were around a thousand LEGO fans who attended from around the world, and thousands more public, the most visible newcomers were the dragons.

Built by a new group of builders, including Sean and Steph Mayo (who will be in an upcoming issue of *BrickJournal*) the dragons took many forms, from flying to fire dragons. Castles and medieval models also made an impressive showing, from an immense black castle (8 foot wide, taking two tables) to simple scenes embellished with details.





# BrickCon 2011

*Article and Photography by Joe Meno*

BrickCon, held in Seattle during the first week of October, is the oldest convention still running in the US. In 2011, the event continued its growth, both in attendance and in visitors, reflecting a growing awareness with the event locally.

With over 500 attendees primarily from the West Coast, BrickCon has a different atmosphere than other conventions. Many of the models and layouts at this convention are not seen anywhere else, and with the constant expansion, BrickCon has managed to keep its accessibility to both newcomers and established LEGO fans.





Some of the established builders include Tommy Williamson and Angus MacLane, whose work has been seen in *BrickJournal*. Building themes such as Bricks of Character (models of well-known people or figures from any media, like Monty Python) or Bionicle have taken root and prospered thanks to the building and efforts of builders like Iain Heath and Breanna Sledge, respectively.

There are many other builders showing different things. Lino Martins, a builder of miniland scale cars, displays dozens of his creations each year with a group of fellow car builders called the LUGNutz. In an upcoming issue of *BrickJournal*, there will be a feature on the group and its members!

Other layouts included castles (BrickCon is something of a castle building center, with builders coming locally and from Canada regularly bring immense layouts) and space dioramas. The largest creation was the Last March of the Ents, which was built by a OneLUG, a group of four builders. There is a feature on these builders on page 16. The smallest creations were the microscale models from James Mathis of trains and an airport, which could be held in one hand.





The finished water tower on display with other models and sets.

# A Towering Achievement!

Article by Benoit Kayser and Joe Meno  
Photography provided by Fanabriques

It takes many bricks to make a tower. For Fanabriques, the French LEGO Users Group, it took more than 140,000 bricks and over 1600 hours to complete. Benoit Kayser, designer and head of this massive project, made the tower out of only 2 x 4 and 2 x 8 bricks, making this a design challenge as well as a building challenge. How this started and how this was done is a story of people and bricks.

Fanabriques was invited to display at Sélestat Habitat Déco, a home crafts and trade fair. Celebrating its twentieth anniversary, the event coordinator, Beatrice Weichel, wanted to do something special. Proposing a building workshop for children, Beatrice also wanted something built by the club.



The actual water tower.

Fanabriques had some — sponsored by the e the Burj Khalifa the y completed.

After reviewing some of Sélestat was quickly to build. From there, n was going to use basic sculpture work done t to be determined to fig Photographs were tak of the roof and windo Service came architect its archives. From the 1/10 scale rendering, (18 feet). While not as that the water tower w

The parts shipped to t 15 workshops, 40 mer the tower. While the building effort was important, what was more important was that so many people in the club met and participated in a common project.

The workshops mostly involved building large round sections that were drawn out by Kayser. The completed model was taller than the room being used to build, so sections were

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS PREVIEW, CLICK THE LINK TO ORDER THIS ISSUE IN PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT!**



**BRICKJOURNAL #19**  
LEGO EVENTS ISSUE covering our own BRICKMAGIC FESTIVAL, BRICKWORLD, BRICKFAIR, BRICKCON, plus other events outside the US. There's full event details, plus interviews with the winners of the BRICKMAGIC CHALLENGE competition, complete with instructions to build award winning models. Also JARED K. BURKS' regular column on minifigure customizing, building tips, and more!

(84-page FULL-COLOR magazine) \$8.95  
(Digital Edition) \$3.95

[http://twomorrows.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&Path=98\\_78&products\\_id=1008](http://twomorrows.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&Path=98_78&products_id=1008)



Building the base of the tower.



Working on the upper section. A window section is on the right.



Upper section further in construction.