



\$8.95
in the US

Brick Journal

Issue 40 • July 2016
people • building • community

LEGO Mecha Returns!

Robot Building with Benjamin Cheh Ming Hann

Building Mech Frames with Kelvin Low & J Dennis

Seth Higgins and his Transforming Robots!

Instructions AND MORE!



ISBN-13: 978-1-60549-069-4



9 781605 490694



Contents

From the Editor.....	2
People	
A Transforming Brick?	3
Building Transformers and Gundam.....	7
J Dennis: Mini Mecha Maker.....	12
Benjamin Cheh Ming Hann: Mecha Master.....	16
Building	
Kelvin Low, also known as: Chubbybots!....	24
You Can Build It:	
Gamera MINI.....	30
Duncan Lindbo's Mecha MOCs.....	40
The Mecha of Spencer Rollins.....	46
You Can Build It:	
Classic Space Mech	48
BrickNerd's DIY:	
MINI Gundam.....	56
Miniland Scale Chinese Figures	64
Minifigure Customization 101:	
Ultraman!.....	69
Community	
Community Ads.....	78
Last Word.....	79
AFOLs	80

A Transforming Brick?



Photos by Moko

Moko, a LEGO builder in Japan, is one of the best LEGO mecha builders in the world. One of his most recent builds is one his most clever builds—a transforming LEGO brick.

From the form of the well-known 2 x 4 studded brick, Moko has created a robot that unfolds from the brick body.

The brick is enlarged 3x from an original LEGO brick to allow for all of the hinges and other parts to fit. Completely folded, the brick hides its contents until the bottom is revealed.

This model is a great showcase of Moko's ingenuity. The robot itself has a lot of poseability, thanks to multiple

Building

Transformers and Gundam

Article and Photography
by Seth Higgins



Seth Higgins

Age 21
Graphic Designer

Background

When I was about five years old I started playing with LEGO bricks and have been hooked on them ever since. There hasn't been a year in my life since then that I haven't played with or not gotten something LEGO. I hit a new jumpstart of building in about 2009 when I discovered the many communities of LEGO builders on the internet. This is when I started to really develop my skills as a builder. Seeing all the creations that others had made with the same bricks I had made me want to create LEGO versions of things I grew up with.

I liked a lot of robot and mecha shows growing up and one of my favorites was *Transformers*. My mom found out that the NCLUG group had a LEGO display every year in Chapel Hill, NC and e-mailed the

group about me being able to display some of my transformers in the show. It was there I met Joe Meno and the rest of the NCLUG group and started displaying with them at shows with several different types of displays. I have built mecha probably more than any other type of building theme. My top two mecha building styles are Transformers and Gundam. I've been building Transformers for about seven years and Gundam for about three years. It is amazing how much improvement I have seen in my building skill and style. I keep working to improve my building style because you can never stop getting better at doing something. Work has cut my building time but I still find time to enjoy my addiction.



AUTOBOT LEADER **OPTIMUS PRIME**



DECEPTICON COMMUNICATOR **SOUNDWAVE**
AND CASSETTE LASERBEAK



AUTOBOT WARRIOR **SIDESWIPE**



J Dennis: Mini Mecha Maker

Article by Joe Meno

MCS Unit X "NaniRyuuKi."

A new builder to hit the scene is J Dennis. While he may not have a large library of builds, his gallery is growing. It's not the builds that caught *BrickJournal's* attention, but the idea of a mini mecha frame (the Mobile Core System [MCS]) that could be easily modified by builders for different missions. *BrickJournal* chatted with Dennis about his building and mobile frames.

BrickJournal: What do you do outside of building?

J Dennis: By day, I'm a mild-mannered husband/father, but in the evenings I work for the local water works as a Treatment Plant Operator. On the side, I like to study Buddhism, meditation, comparative religion, calisthenics, and the occasional *Star Wars* novel.

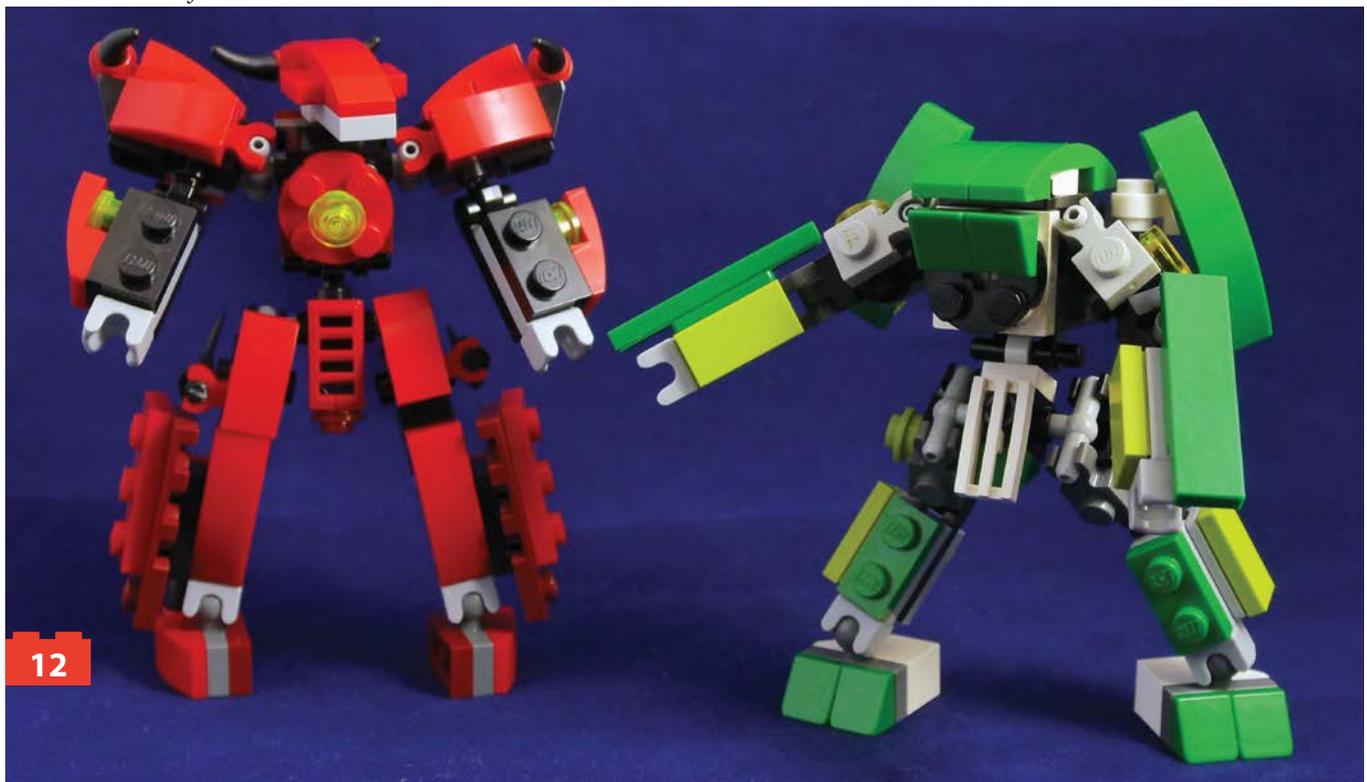
How old are you?

I just recently turned 35.

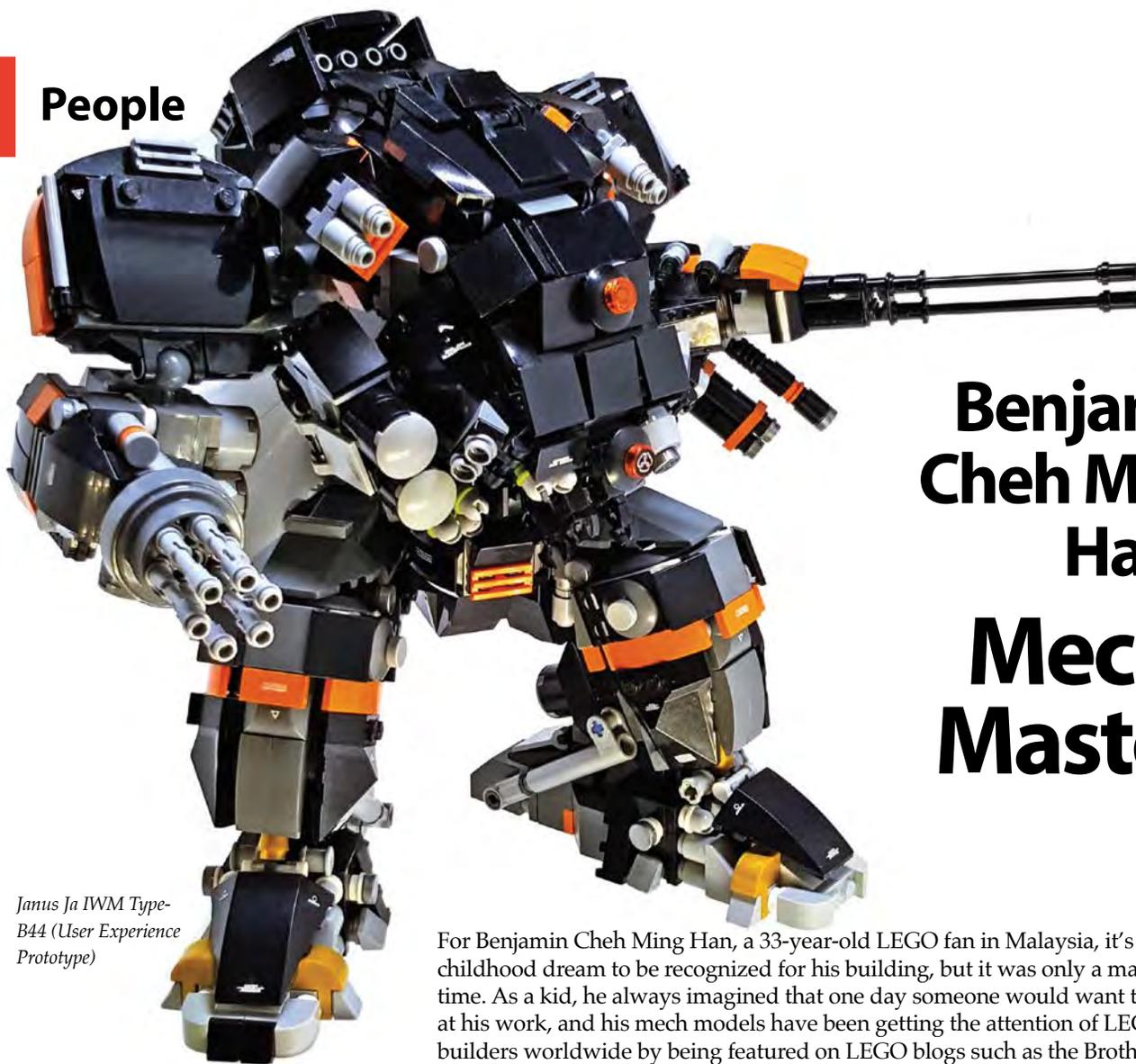
How long have you been building?

That's a tricky one, actually... I don't remember a time before

MCS Unit X "NaniRyuuKi" and Dock Worker.



People



Janus Ja IWM Type-B44 (User Experience Prototype)

Benjamin Cheh Ming Hann: Mecha Master!

*Article by Joe Meno
Photography by Benjamin Cheh Ming Hann*



Hann's first mecha.

For Benjamin Cheh Ming Han, a 33-year-old LEGO fan in Malaysia, it's a childhood dream to be recognized for his building, but it was only a matter of time. As a kid, he always imagined that one day someone would want to look at his work, and his mech models have been getting the attention of LEGO builders worldwide by being featured on LEGO blogs such as the Brothers Brick, Bricknerd, Tilesorstud, Hellobricks, and by many other bloggers all around the world. He has also built a presence on Facebook with many followers. However, with all the attention, he doesn't want the spotlight for himself.

Talking to him on a Skype call, Benjamin is a very casual and energetic speaker who is grateful for the attention, but wants to share his building to inspire young kids. He displays his MOCs in his hometown, Malacca, at a local department store (Parkson Mahkota Parade) "to show the kids and to others that LEGO is something you can build with. Go ahead and build anything—it doesn't have to be exactly like my models, but they inspire more kids. They say, 'Hey, that man built that, and I can try it out.'"

"Some people thought I did the display to sell my work, but no, it's not for sale. It's to inspire kids and adults alike. It's for show—some adults and kids don't know about LEGO. It's important that I get the message to the kids, the small kids, the next generation to encourage them to build something good, even something better than my MOCs."

Hann started building mecha when he was young. His first inspirations were Transformers and the Gundam series. He was very curious as to why these robots were so transformable and unique in the way they were constructed. He would think about where the guns were placed on a mech, and that curiosity drove him as a kid. From there, it wasn't long before he began figuring out how to build them in LEGO. If he liked the robots so much, could he build it in LEGO? He answers, "I got a lot of LEGO parts, but not the special parts out now, just lots of basic parts from the sets in the '80s and '90s. I started building robots then and have been enjoying it since."

Building



Above and below: Kelvin's mecha, named G-Core.

Kelvin Low, also known as: Chubbybots!

*Article by Joe Meno
Photography by Kelvin Low*

Kelvin Low is a 35-year-old builder in Singapore. In the daytime, he helps out in his family's business stocking and supplying materials for the oil and gas industry as well as the construction industry. In his off-hours though, he is busy building his version of mecha models. Some of them are anime-based, but he also makes others of a more whimsical nature. He goes by the nickname Chubbybots, a name he went by during his Gundam-making days, and later named his Flickr page after. *BrickJournal* chatted with him online about his building and models.

Kelvin started building ever since he could control his two hands. He also dabbled with model kits, K'Nex and many other construction toys along with LEGO when he was young. He also had a Dark Age where he stopped building at around the age of 10. He got back into building much later, and has been seriously building LEGO MOCs for the past two years.

Kelvin mentions two factors in his return to LEGO building: "When my first son was born, I could no longer find time for my Gundam model kits. With LEGO, I can leave a model and continue when my son is asleep!

"The second reason was seeing fellow LEGO builder Kos Brick's Titanfall model. His mind just went 'wow...is that even LEGO?' Then I told myself, 'why not give it a go,' and here I am now!"



You Can Build It

MINI Model

Gamera MINI

*Design by Kelvin Low
Instructions by Joe Meno*



One of Kelvin Low's many models is of Gamera, the giant turtle that has been seen in many Japanese monster movies.

Kelvin talks about the model: "This build came about for the Alien Month on our Facebook Group Lego MOC Challenge. Each month, there is a specific theme where all the MOCers will come to build together around. I built Gamera as not many people have build Kaiju-related aliens. Gamera happen to be my second-favorite Kaiju after Godzilla!"

The MOC has a lot of articulation for its size and uses the small ball joints that are available with the Mixels sets.

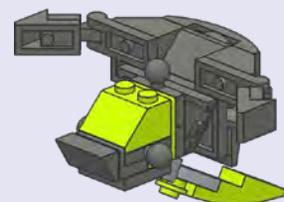
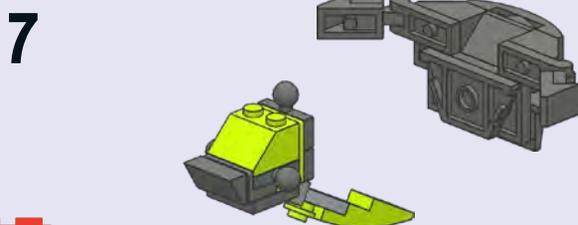
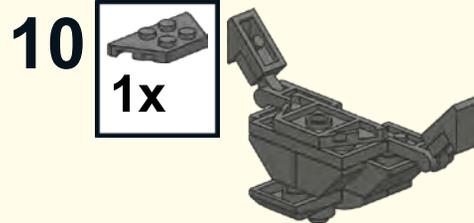
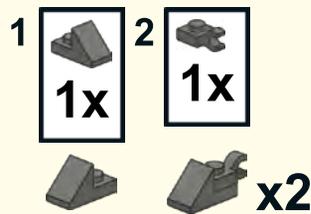
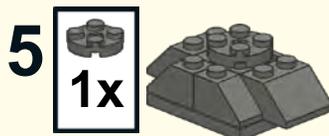
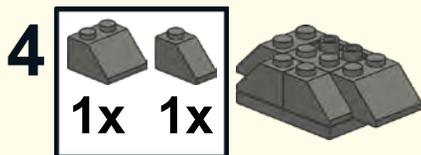
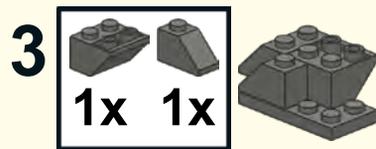
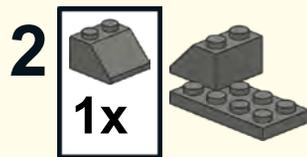
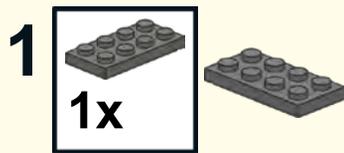
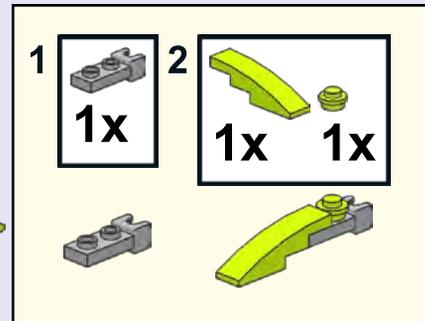
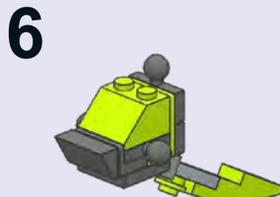
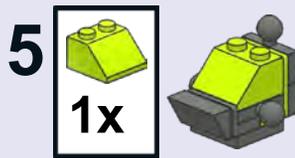
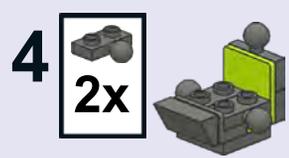
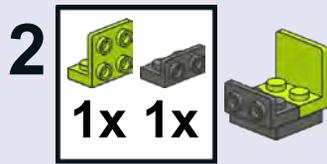
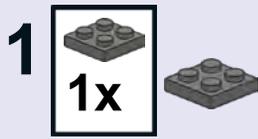
This model will take a little patience in getting the assemblies built and added, but the result is a perfect monster to destroy a microscale city! 

If you're viewing a Digital Edition of this publication, PLEASE READ THIS:

This is copyrighted material, **NOT** intended for downloading anywhere except our website or Apps. If you downloaded it from another website or torrent, go ahead and read it, and if you decide to keep it, **DO THE RIGHT THING** and buy a legal download, or a printed copy. Otherwise, **DELETE IT FROM YOUR DEVICE** and **DO NOT SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS OR POST IT ANYWHERE**. If you enjoy our publications enough to download them, please pay for them so we can keep producing ones like this. Our digital editions should **ONLY** be downloaded within our Apps and at

www.twomorrows.com







Duncan Lindbo's Mecha MOCs!

*Article and Photography
by Duncan Lindbo*

My name is Duncan Lindbo, and I dig giant robots! I'm a 25 year old software developer, currently living in North Carolina. I got into LEGO at a young age, and unlike many AFOLs, I never went through a "Dark Age". I've always been a fan of sci-fi and fantasy, and I find mecha especially appealing because of the technical/engineering challenges involved in building them—both real ones and LEGO ones! I strive to make my mecha as flexible as possible, while still being fairly sturdy. To that end, I rarely use "illegal" techniques in my MOCs, aside from a few small details here and there. I almost never build digitally: I've yet to come across a LEGO CAD program capable of simulating the weight of a MOC and its effect on its balance and joints. I've got a selection of some of my favorite MOCs here, and you can see additional pictures of them and many more on my Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/124874271@N06/>

Building

The Mecha of Spencer Rollins!

*Article by Joe Meno
Photography by Spencer
and Hadley Rollins*

Spencer Rollins, a high school student in Raleigh, North Carolina, started his building young. He joined the local LEGO Users Group (NCLUG) and started to build on his own. Originally interested in Bionicle, he often was the only person with models from that theme. As time went on, however, he began to build other models.

He started building MOCs based on his interests in video games and TV shows, most notably *Dr. Who*. Other mech-based creations followed, which led him to build models based on the Japanese Evangelion and Gundam series. He currently builds mech-based models and has been displayed in local conventions and LEGO fan events.

Here's a small sampling of his work, including his mech and videogame models. You'll also be able to build a creation of his in just a page or two! 

You can see more at his Flickr gallery:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/therollins/>



Evangelion Unit 00.

Proto Man from the Mega Man videogames.



Samus Aran from the Metroid videogame.



You Can Build It

MINI Model



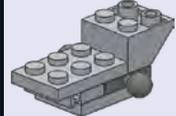
Classic Space Mech

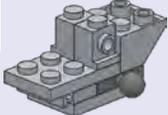
*Design by Spencer Rollins
Instructions by Joe Meno*

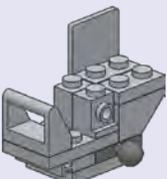
The Classic Space mech was built by Spencer Rollins (Commander Spencer online). His first experimentation with mixel joints, Spencer sought to build something which he felt would encapsulate the feel of the original Classic Space line. Based off of the Powerloader from the movie *Aliens*, this model boasts two large claws perfect for carrying cargo. With its relatively small size and personal features, this mech makes for a great addition to your Classic Space army. 

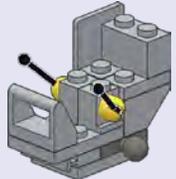
1  1x 

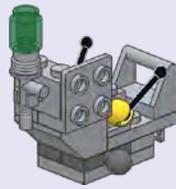
2  2x  1x 

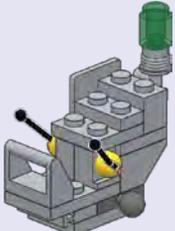
3  1x  1x 

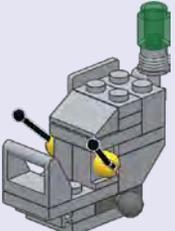
4  2x 

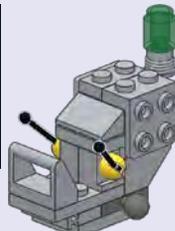
5  1x  1x  1x 

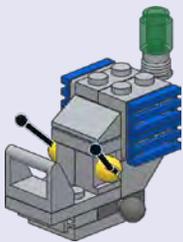
6  1x 

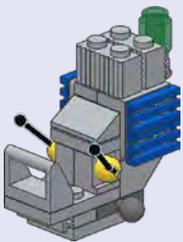
7  1x  1x  1x  1x 

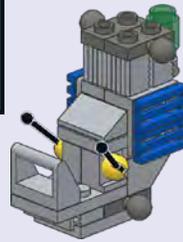
8  1x  1x 

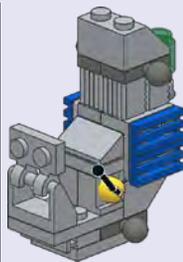
9  1x  1x 

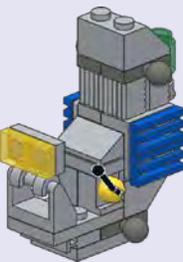
10  1x  1x 

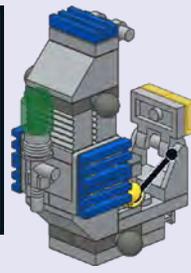
11  4x 

12  2x 

13  2x 

14  1x  1x 

15  2x 

16  1x  1x 



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.

MINI Gundam

*Design and Instructions
by Tommy Williamson*

About this issue's model:

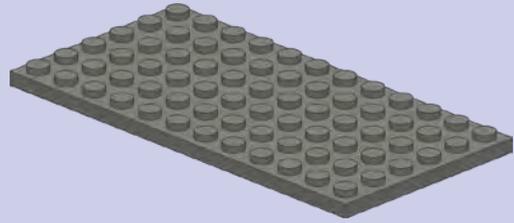
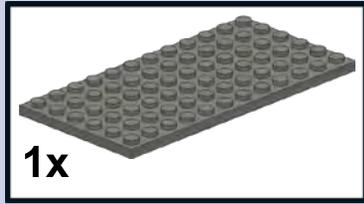
When someone says the word "mech," several things come to mind, but first and foremost is the classic RX-78-2 Gundam. I've actually never built any mech in LEGO before. I built classic Tamiya model kits a few times way back when, but I've never broken out the bricks for some classic giant robot action, at least not until now. And what better way to build a giant robot than to do it at microscale? I hope you like him. 

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

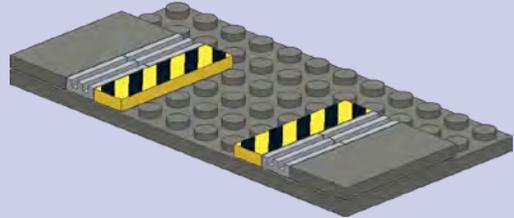
Qty	Color	Part	Description
1	White	18746.dat	Minifig Snowboard Small
2	White	99781.dat	Bracket 1 x 2 - 1 x 2 Down
2	White	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
1	White	33291.dat	Plate 1 x 1 Round with Tabs
2	White	4081b.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Light Type 2
1	White	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
1	White	63868.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Clip Horizontal on End (Thick C-Clip)
1	White	15573.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Groove with 1 Center Stud, without Understud
6	White	60478.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle on End
1	White	98138.dat	Tile 1 x 1 Round with Groove
2	White	2555.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Clip
2	White	15712.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Clip (Thick C-Clip)
1	White	4073.dat	1 x 1 Round Plate
2	Red	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
1	Red	2431.dat	Tile 1 x 4 with Groove
2	Yellow	2431p52.dat	Tile 1 x 4 with Danger Stripes Black Pattern
4	Dk Bluish Gray	3005.dat	Brick 1 x 1
16	Dk Bluish Gray	87087.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Stud on 1 Side
2	Dk Bluish Gray	3633.dat	Fence Lattice 1 x 4 x 1
1	Dk Bluish Gray	4865a.dat	Panel 1 x 2 x 1 with Square Corners
4	Dk Bluish Gray	2362b.dat	Panel 1 x 2 x 3 with Hollow Studs

Qty	Color	Part	Description
2	Dk Bluish Gray	30413.dat	Panel 1 x 4 x 1 with Rounded Corners
2	Dk Bluish Gray	4215b.dat	Panel 1 x 4 x 3 with Hollow Studs
14	Dk Bluish Gray	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
1	Dk Bluish Gray	60479.dat	Plate 1 x 12
1	Dk Bluish Gray	2445.dat	Plate 2 x 12
1	Dk Bluish Gray	3028.dat	Plate 6 x 12
8	Dk Bluish Gray	61409.dat	Slope Brick 18 2 x 1 x 2/3 Grille
5	Dk Bluish Gray	2412b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 Grille with Groove
2	Dk Bluish Gray	63864.dat	Tile 1 x 3 with Groove
3	Dk Bluish Gray	87079.dat	Tile 2 x 4 with Groove
1	Black	57899.dat	Minifig Gun Long Blaster
1	Lt Bluish Gray	4735.dat	Brick 1 x 1 x 2/3 Round with Bar and Clip Vertical
4	Lt Bluish Gray	60849.dat	Minifig Hose Nozzle with Side String Hole Simplified
1	Lt Bluish Gray	15573.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Groove with 1 Center Stud, without Understud
1	Lt Bluish Gray	60479.dat	Plate 1 x 12
10	Lt Bluish Gray	2412b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 Grille with Groove
1	Blue	44567.dat	Hinge Plate 1 x 2 Locking with Single Finger On Side Vertical
2	Blue	6019.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Horizontal (Open U-Clip)
1	Dark Purple	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Center Stud

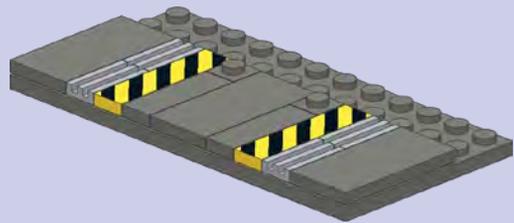
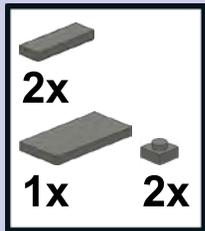
1



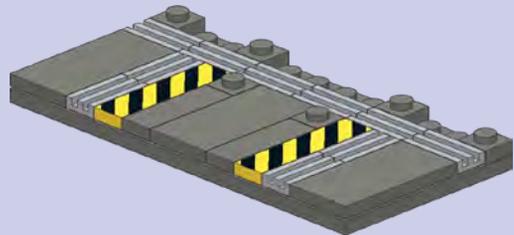
2



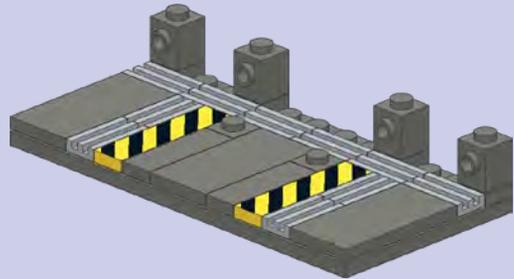
3



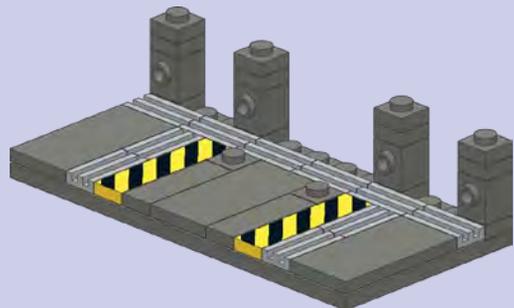
4



5



6





Kevin's creation.

Miniland Scale Chinese Figures

Article by Kevin Hall

Since I was young, I could remember seeing footage and photos of LEGOLand, which always inspired me as a young builder. One year when I visited the LEGO World Show in Sydney Australia, they had a display featuring a part of Miniland from LEGOLand. The intricate details of the buildings at that scale were phenomenal, but it was the Miniland scale figures that really impressed me.

Around thirty years later I ended up working as a designer at LEGOLand in the UK and got to spend every day in the park, and of course, as much time in Miniland as possible. Even though I had been building Miniland scale figures and buildings for quite some time before arriving at LEGOLand, being at the park allowed me to study the different techniques and use of parts to create more realistic and detailed displays.

As an artist, I am inspired by the world around me—from places I have visited such as castles and

theatres, to various people in my life; from ballerinas and ice hockey players to DJs and breakdancers. One of my favorite Miniland models I have created would have to be the Chinese traditional wedding couple, which was inspired by my amazingly creative wife, Brenda, who is from Hong Kong.

Traditional Chinese Wedding Couple

Wanting to create a model that was close to me, I didn't have to look far. Spending time in Hong Kong visiting my wife's family and friends, I immersed myself in their culture, experiencing their long-lasting traditions and, of course, their amazing food. After returning to the UK, I set myself the task of bringing the colorful traditions of the Chinese culture to life at Miniland scale.

Luckily for me, having my wife looking over my shoulder while I was designing the figures was very helpful. Not only could she help with getting the details as accurate as possible, the fact that she is a toy designer really helped. I spent a few days researching photos of traditional Chinese dress and studied photos I had taken from museums while on my holiday in Hong Kong. After going through different themes of dress, I decided to create a traditional wedding couple, since we were recently planning a

CREATIVE



WANTED...

Love to build with LEGO® bricks? Got an idea for a new LEGO product? Got Internet access? Great! Then you have all the criteria needed for designing the next LEGO Ideas product!

Upload your idea on ideas.lego.com and it might end up being a real LEGO product. Put your creativity to the test today!



LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of the LEGO Group. ©2015 The LEGO Group.

ideas.lego.com

PRINTED IN CHINA

