

The Magazine for LEGO® Enthusiasts of All Ages!



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Brick Journal

Issue 47 • September 2017

people • building • community

Going Undersea with Mitsuru Nikaido

*Boarding Ships
by Marcello
De Cicco*

*Instructions
and MORE!*

*Creating
Dan Church's
Cienasis*



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People



Cindy Su:
**Big Fig
Maker!**

Cindy with her creations.

Last issue we met Helen Sham, and this issue we meet a friend of hers, Cindy Su. Like Helen, Cindy is a minifigure builder. BrickJournal was able to talk to her about her building and her models.

What do you do outside the hobby?

I live and work in Taipei City, Taiwan. I am an Executive Personal Assistant for a company vice president in a large Taiwanese manufacturing company. I am responsible for our corporate events around the world.

In my job, I need to be good at planning with a strong attention to detail, so all this helps with LEGO!

When did you start building?

When I was a child between 5 and 15 years old, I often played LEGO with my older brother, building LEGO castles and space rockets. My brother always took control of the building process, 'delegating' to me the task of finding the bricks for him. It made me so sad, because I was never able to do any of the assembly work. In those days (1980s), LEGO was more of a boys' toy.

After I turned 15 years old, I entered my 'dark age' until the age of 40. I spent the majority of my time doing many other things such as cooking, travelling, and listening to music.

My husband was always an avid LEGO collector, playing with big sets such as Grand Carousel and Sydney Opera House. He owns his own company and is under a lot of time pressure, so was always unable to complete them. One day, I started to work on his unfinished sets. That got me hooked back on LEGO! That was two years ago now and since then, I haven't stopped!



Cindy's builds of Donald and Daisy Duck.



Marge and Bart Simpson.



The USS Yorktown.

Marcello de Cicco: Telling World War II's Stories with Bricks

Article and Photography
by Marcello de Cicco

I always like to tell a historical story when I build with LEGO.

When I was a little buckaroo, I was always fascinated with LEGO and World War II warships. As I became older, I began studying to become an architect, designing and building luxurious homes in high school and college. One day I realized if I could design a home with blueprints, then I could design a World War II warship out of LEGO. The internet has a plethora of information with pictures, diagrams, blueprints and books to use for LEGO building.

I built the LEGO battleship Yamato... because it was the biggest and most powerful battleship ever built. Then I started wondering, "This battleship should have been put into a museum. What happened to it?"

That's how it all started.

My first story: **Operation Ten-Go**.

Japanese Battleship Yamato was sent on a one-way mission to Okinawa in April 7, 1945. Japanese Destroyer Yukikaze was one of the destroyers with the Yamato. 400+ U.S. Navy aircraft from eight U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, including the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* (CV-10), helped sink the mighty Japanese battleship.

I built all of the models needed for this story, from the ships to the planes on the deck of the *Yorktown*.



Marcello with his ships, from front to rear: The destroyer Yukikaze, the super battleship Yamato, and aircraft carrier Yorktown.

All the LEGO ships and planes are built to the same scale (1:108) from actual blueprints and diagrams. Here are some measurements and details:

Essex Class Aircraft carrier USS Yorktown CV-10.

Over 26,000 bricks used.

8'6" long, 21" wide and 18" tall.

Weight : 76 pounds, has flashing lights and rotating radar antenna. Separates in four sections.

Japanese Super Battleship Yamato

Over 25,000 bricks used.

8' long, 14" wide and 19" tall.

Weight: 50 lbs and separates into three sections.

Japanese Destroyer Yukikaze (the lucky ship)

Over 3,000+ LEGO bricks used.

44" long, 4 ½" wide and 10" tall.

Weight: 15 lbs separates into two sections.

The Yamato.



The Yorktown.



Some details on the Yorktown.



Creating Cienasis 5

*Article and Photography
by Dan Church*

Dan Church is a 23-year-old college graduate with a degree in civil engineering. He works currently as a structural engineer and lives in Wisconsin. Dan started building at a young age and never really stopped building, although he did build a lot less throughout college while away at school. He discovered the online LEGO community in 2007 when he was 14 and started posting on mocpages.com and flickr. His original building was more into the castle side of things, but he transitioned into more of a sci-fi builder in recent years.



**"Esprit del Mar"
(Spirit of the Ocean)
Air Skiff**

This is a more recent build by Dan and has a clean color palette of white, light bluish gray, and gold. To achieve the rounded hull, rounded slopes and Friends curved panel elements are used.

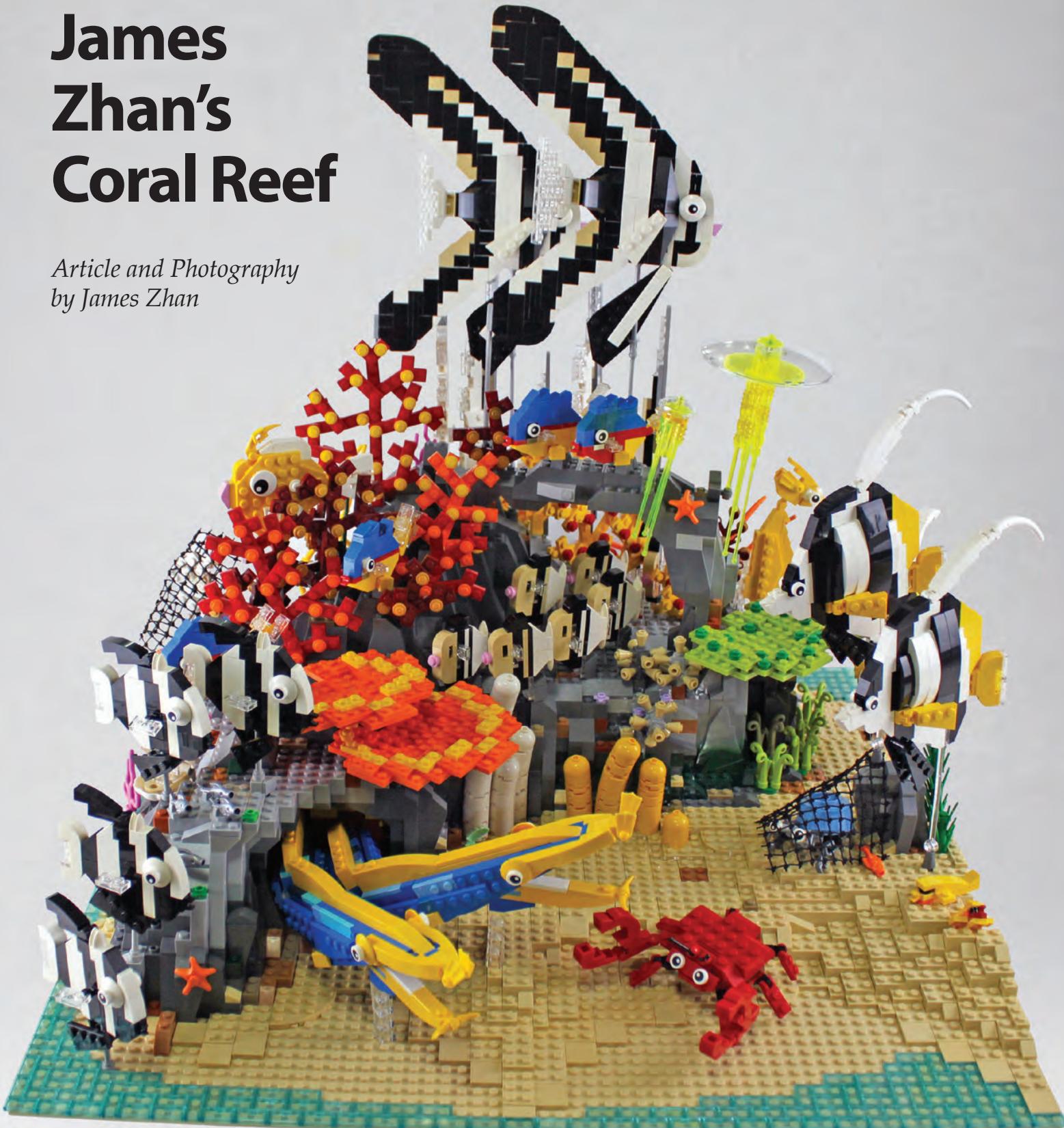


As far as building preferences go, Dan's builds do not refer to outside sources very much. He tries to show his creativity in its purest form. Many of his builds begin from fumbling around with a few parts and seeing how they look, and going from there. Table scraps (builds made from leftover parts from a build) are where most of his builds start. Dan's builds often start with an odd connection which inspired an idea, then down the line became a finished build.

Building

James Zhan's Coral Reef

*Article and Photography
by James Zhan*



James Zhan is from Taipei, Taiwan and is a 39 year old Graphic Designer and AFOL. While he does building in a lot of themes, this diorama is different, as it has many different creatures in a colorful environment that takes advantage of the LEGO color palette. BrickJournal asked him to talk about this model and his building, and this is his reply:

I did not have LEGO sets when I was young, so I bought a lot of sets in 2007, such as Vikings and Castle series. I bought almost all of them (I needed all kinds of parts), and I started building my own creations. I have always been building since 2007 to the present. My favorite themes are Pirates and ocean adventure-based, because pirates and marine explorers are free to sail and explore.



Some views of the reef, showing the fish, the blue ribbon eels, and a crab.





The full layout.

Gilcélio Chagas' Underwater Adventure

Article by Joe Meno

Photography

by Gilcélio Chagas

Gilcélio Chagas is a Brazilian AFOL builder who works as an engineer for a company that fixes elevators. While he has been in the hobby for only ten years, he has built dozens of creations, from Model Team scale vehicles to microscale starships. He also has competed in the Iron Builder online building competition, so he is generally acknowledged as one of the most creative AFOLs around.

His first hobby is diving, which inspired him to build the Underwater Adventure diorama. He really loves LEGO, so everything he sees makes him feel like he could build it in LEGO. When diving, his thoughts drifted to whether he could build the reef in LEGO.

Planning a build requires that Chagas look for picture and photos online before starting, and then checking to see if he has the colors to begin. After that, it's building time and he builds brick by brick until he reaches the final result. Sometimes this takes a lot of time to find the perfect part to fill a detail.

His experience in building aquatic models is relatively new, but he'll be building more in the future. His next project? He's doing a lot of research on Pixar movies, so expect something soon! 

Mitsuru Nikaido's Animal Kingdom!

Article by Joe Meno

Photography
by Mitsuru Nikaido

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Mitsuru Nikaido is a print designer who designs books and product packages during the day, but in his off time is a LEGO builder. His current focus is a blend of organic and mechanical textures and forms that are mostly in the form of sea animals. His creations are visually complex, with tubes and spikes coming from shells and exoskeletons. The result is a wonderful weaving of organic and technical, and of creatures that would breathe and also whir with noise for gears and hinges. It's a different look that is futuristic and also naturalistic.

Nikaido's interest in LEGO building began in elementary school, but like many, after graduating he stopped building and entered a Dark Age. His interest with building was rekindled when he started buying sets for his child. That was three years ago, and in the time since, his models have gotten the attention of many online for his distinct style.

As mentioned before, his style is a blend of nature and technology. For most builders, the LEGO brick and its limitations as a block shape have led builders to make block-shaped creatures. Nikaido uses curved elements to define organic shapes and uses tubing to simulate veins or other organic forms.

Sea Turtle

Nikaido's sea turtle uses the shell color to break up the forms of the rest of the body. The shell pattern is based on the limitations of the curved slopes, but also matches the organic pattern of a real turtle. The shell pattern also conceals the interior and underside, which can be seen at the right. The form of the turtle is accurate proportionally, and even looks right when taken off its stand to rest on the ground.





Submarine ROV



Parts List

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

Qty	Part	Color	Description
2	6141.dat	Trans Clear	Plate 1 x 1 Round
1	30151.dat	Trans Clear	Cylinder 2 x 2 x 1.667 with Dome Top
1	98138.dat	Trans Clear Tile	1 x 1 Round with Groove
1	98100.dat	White	Brick 2 x 2 Round Sloped
1	3749.dat	Tan	Technic Axle Pin
2	2654.dat	Yellow	Dish 2 x 2
2	3023.dat	Yellow	Plate 1 x 2
4	4085c.dat	Yellow	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Vertical (Thick U-Clip)
12	6141.dat	Yellow	Plate 1 x 1 Round
10	6143.dat	Yellow	Brick 2 x 2 Round Type 2
1	30361a.dat	Yellow	Cylinder 2 x 2 x 2 Robot Body without Bottom Axle Holder
4	47905.dat	Yellow	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Two Opposite Sides
4	50950.dat	Yellow	Slope Brick Curved 3 x 1
2	6583.dat	Dark Bluish Gray	Plate 1 x 6 with Train Wagon End
1	30162.dat	Dark Bluish Gray	Minifig Binoculars with Round Eyepiece
2	2341.dat	Black	Slope Brick 45 3 x 1 Inverted Double without Inner Stopper Rings
1	3021.dat	Black	Plate 2 x 3
1	3023.dat	Black	Plate 1 x 2



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.

Design and Instructions
by Tommy Williamson

About this issue's model:

This model is of an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) — basically an underwater drone. These are primarily used in sea exploration, but as prices for these vehicles have decreased, ROVs have become more accessible for public use. This particular model could be used for taking film footage and photography. 

Qty	Part	Color	Description
1	3062b.dat	Black	Brick 1 x 1 Round with Hollow Stud
1	3666.dat	Black	Plate 1 x 6
1	3710.dat	Black	Plate 1 x 4
2	4529.dat	Black	Minifig Saucepan
2	4735.dat	Black	Brick 1 x 1 x 2/3 Round with Bar and Clip Vertical
1	6041.dat	Black	Propellor 3 Blade 3.5 Diameter
4	11090.dat	Black	Bar Tube with Clip
1	30360.dat	Black	Cylinder 3 x 6 x 2 2/3 Horizontal
2	30367a.dat	Black	Cylinder 2 x 2 with Dome Top with Blocked Stud
2	30374.dat	Black	Bar 4L Light Sabre Blade
1	55299.dat	Black	Minifig Tool Open End Wrench
1	58367.dat	Black	Minifig Hose Nozzle with Side String Hole
1	60478.dat	Black	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle on End
2	85984.dat	Black	Slope Brick 31 1 x 2 x 0.667
1	92593.dat	Black	Plate 1 x 4 with Two Studs
1	3023.dat	Light Bluish Gray	Plate 1 x 2
1	4032a.dat	Light Bluish Gray	Plate 2 x 2 Round with Axlehole Type 1
2	60470a.dat	Light Bluish Gray	Plate 1 x 2 with 2 Clips Horizontal (Open U-Clips)

You Can Build It

MINI Model

Gungan Tribubble Bongo Submersible

Design and Instructions
by Christopher Deck



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

Qty	Color	Part	Description
4	Sand-Blue	40386.dat	Animal Dinosaur Flipper with Pin
4	Sand-Blue	3062b.dat	Brick 1 x 1 Round with Hollow Stud
1	Trans-Yellow	3941.dat	Brick 2 x 2 Round
3	Trans-White	30367b.dat	Cylinder 2 x 2 with Dome Top with Axle Hole and Blocked Stud
2	Blue	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
4	Sand-Blue	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
1	Blue	50949.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Racer Grille 4 x 1 x 2/3
1	Sand-Blue	3710.dat	Plate 1 x 4
2	Sand-Blue	3022.dat	Plate 2 x 2
2	Sand-Blue	2420.dat	Plate 2 x 2 Corner
3	Sand-Blue	3021.dat	Plate 2 x 3
2	Sand-Blue	30357.dat	Plate 3 x 3 Corner Round
4	Sand-Blue	2450.dat	Plate 3 x 3 without Corner
4	Blue	54200.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 0.667

Hello everybody, I am certainly glad to join you again for a building session in *BrickJournal!* Going along with the underwater theme of this issue, I would like to build the Gungan Bongo Sub from *Star Wars: Episode One* with you. It's a sleek and organic looking submersible, nimbly maneuvering through the oceans with ease. The flexible driving fins and front diving plane give the vehicle its superior underwater agility.

Many versions of the Bongo Sub already have been built; official sets and fan creations, in minifigure or microscale. But this won't prevent us from developing and building another new version using cool pieces, colors and techniques. Thus we will employ dinosaur flippers (animal body part 40386) for the driving fins. To convert the technic pin into a stud, we will cover them with 1x1 round bricks. Now we attach these to a 2x2 round brick. The best way is to attach them so that the flipper tips point outward. Then you can start rotating the flippers inward until they are nicely twisted together and give a dynamic visual appearance.

I hope you will enjoy building this model and hope to see you next time!

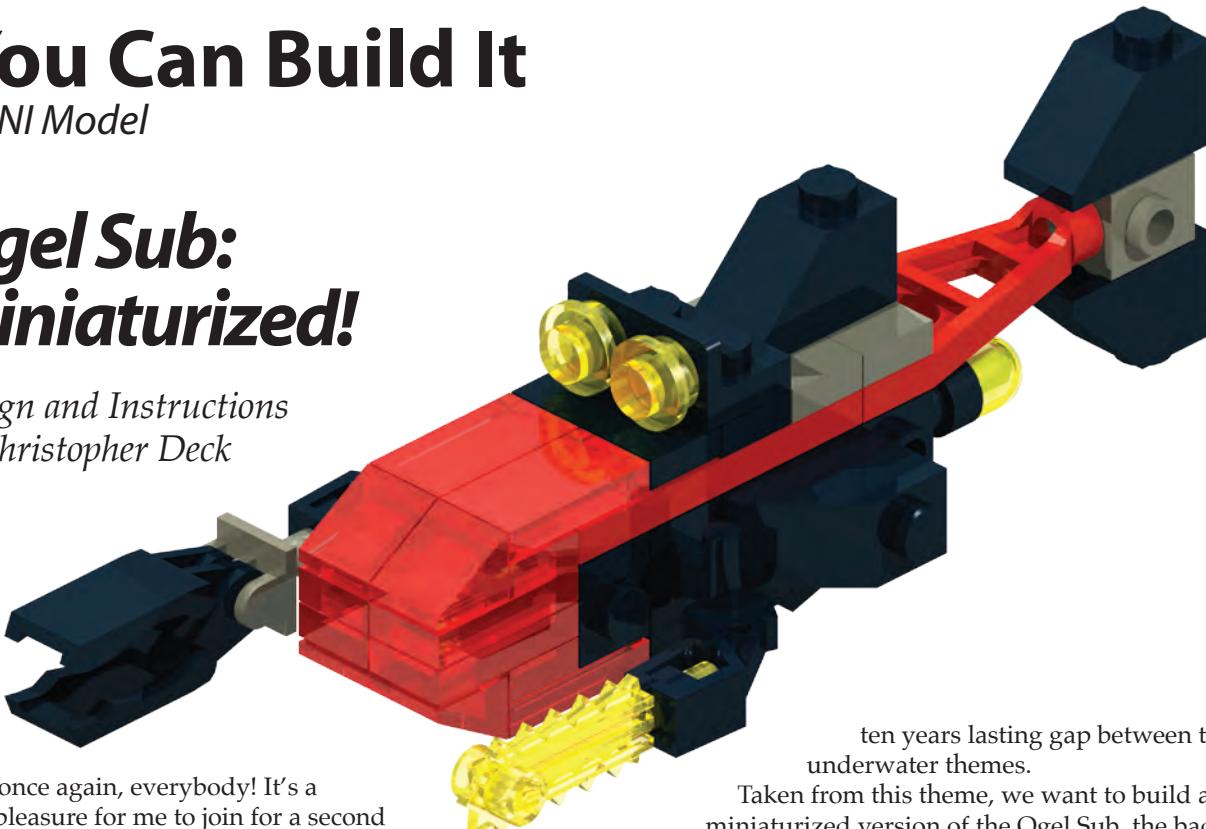
Qty	Color	Part	Description
1	Blue	29120.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 1 with Cutout Left
1	Blue	29119.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 1 with Cutout Right
1	Blue	47457.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 2 x 2/3 Triple with Two Top Studs
2	Blue	47456.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 2 x 2/3 with Fin and 2 Studs
1	Blue	43093.dat	Technic Axle Pin with Friction
1	Sand-Blue	3700.dat	Technic Brick 1 x 2 with Hole
2	Black	4263.dat	Technic Plate 1 x 4 with Holes
2	Trans-Green	98138.dat	Tile 1 x 1 Round with Groove
2	Sand-Blue	43723.dat	Wing 2 x 3 Left
2	Sand-Blue	43722.dat	Wing 2 x 3 Right

You Can Build It

MINI Model

Ogel Sub: Miniaturized!

Design and Instructions
by Christopher Deck



Hello once again, everybody! It's a great pleasure for me to join for a second building session with you this time! Before we start, we go back in time fifteen years. When you browse the LEGO catalogue of the year 2002, you will see the sets of the *Alpha Team* theme. One of its sub themes is *Mission Deep Sea* with exciting underwater sets continuing the action of the *Aquazone* theme sets from the late 1990s. Just for completion, *Aquazone* was continued in the year 2007 with a second wave of underwater sets, so *Mission Deep Sea* bridges a

ten years lasting gap between the underwater themes.

Taken from this theme, we want to build a miniaturized version of the Ogel Sub, the bad guys' main submersible, featuring two extra large tool arms equipped with claws and a saw. If you like SNOT bricking, you will like this model. It's quite compact and features studs on every side to obtain the desired shape and functionality. Particularly tricky is the cockpit with trans-red inverted underside and sloped upper side. I hope you will enjoy building this streamlined submersible as much as I did! 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
2	Black	4221.dat	Arm Piece Grab Jaw
1	Dark Bluish Gray	30198.dat	Arm Piece Grab Jaw Holder with Handle
1	Black	99780.dat	Bracket 1 x 2 - 1 x 2 Up
2	Black	2921.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Handle
2	Black	4070.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Headlight
1	Dark-Grey	4733.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Four Sides
2	Black	4595.dat	Brick 1 x 2 x 0.667 with Studs on Sides
2	Trans-Neon-Green	58176.dat	Cylinder Domed 1 x 1 x 1.667 with Bar
1	Trans-Orange	6117.dat	Minifig Chainsaw Blade
2	Black	53989.dat	Minifig Mechanical Arm with Clip and Rod Hole
1	Black	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1

Qty	Color	Part	Description
2	Trans-Neon-Orange	6141.dat	Plate 1 x 1 Round
1	Black	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
6	Trans-Red	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
1	Red	4596.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with 3L Extension and Stud Hole
2	Dark-Gray	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Centre Stud
1	Black	3022.dat	Plate 2 x 2
1	Red	3020.dat	Plate 2 x 4
2	Black	61409.dat	Slope Brick 18 2 x 1 x 2/3 Grille
4	Trans-Red	54200.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 0.667
5	Black	3040b.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1
1	Black	32000.dat	Technic Brick 1 x 2 with Holes
1	Black	3069b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove
4	Trans-Red	3069b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove
1	Black	24307.dat	Wing 2 x 2 Right

Building

Minifig Customization 101

Intermission

*Article and Photography
by Jared K. Burks*



Figures with 3-D printed lightsaber and walking stick.

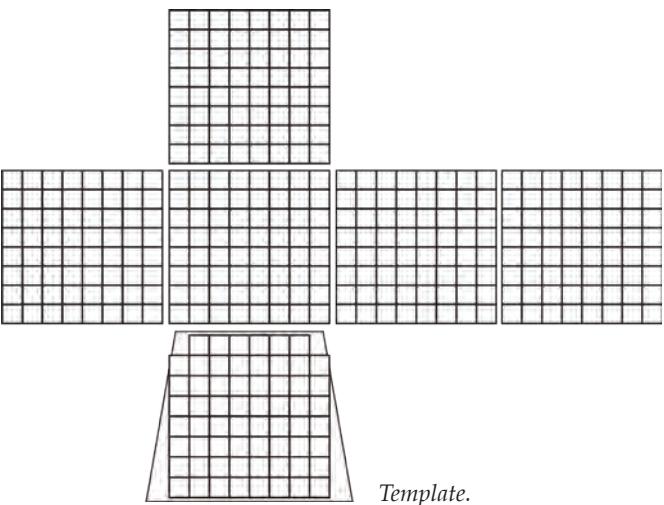
Cue the hold music

(This is a very specific song; can you guess it?)

Life: it happens. Projects never run as smoothly as you hope, as there are always unforeseen obstacles. What does this mean? It means that I have not, as of the writing of this article, been able to complete my giant figure I started in the last article, so please stay tuned for the next one. As an intermission of sorts, I am going to be covering the creation I made for a friend's son's birthday party. I was given very strict instructions (wink). A friend of mine asked me to create a figure kit that they could make during the party and give away as party favors. The figure they wanted me to put together was entirely up to me, but I was told the birthday boy enjoyed LEGO, Star Wars, and Minecraft. What was I going to do with that bit of guidance? Well, I quickly visited my local LEGO store and dug through the build-a-figure box to see what parts were available. Luckily, they had tan stubby legs, and this set me in motion.

Please recall from a previous article that I had molded the Minecraft head to create some custom colored Minecraft head parts to create my daughter's favorite Minecraft YouTube characters. As this friend's son was a Minecraft fan, this would allow me to make another custom Minecraft figure. So I set to casting some custom colored Minecraft heads. Now, all I needed was a torso, a decal, and an accessory item, and we would have a party project for my friend's son. Luckily, I had a stack of tan torsos to go along with the tan stubby legs; can you guess the character we are going to make (tan torso, tan stubby legs, and custom colored Minecraft head)?

Clearly, LEGO, Star Wars, and Minecraft needed the greatest Jedi Master of all time, Yoda! Therefore, I needed an 8-bit decal for Yoda's head and torso, which sounds easy to create, but perhaps not. We have to examine Minecraft figures and determine how many boxes fit on the head, and then figure out a way to get Yoda's details to fit inside these boxes. This led me to create the following template.

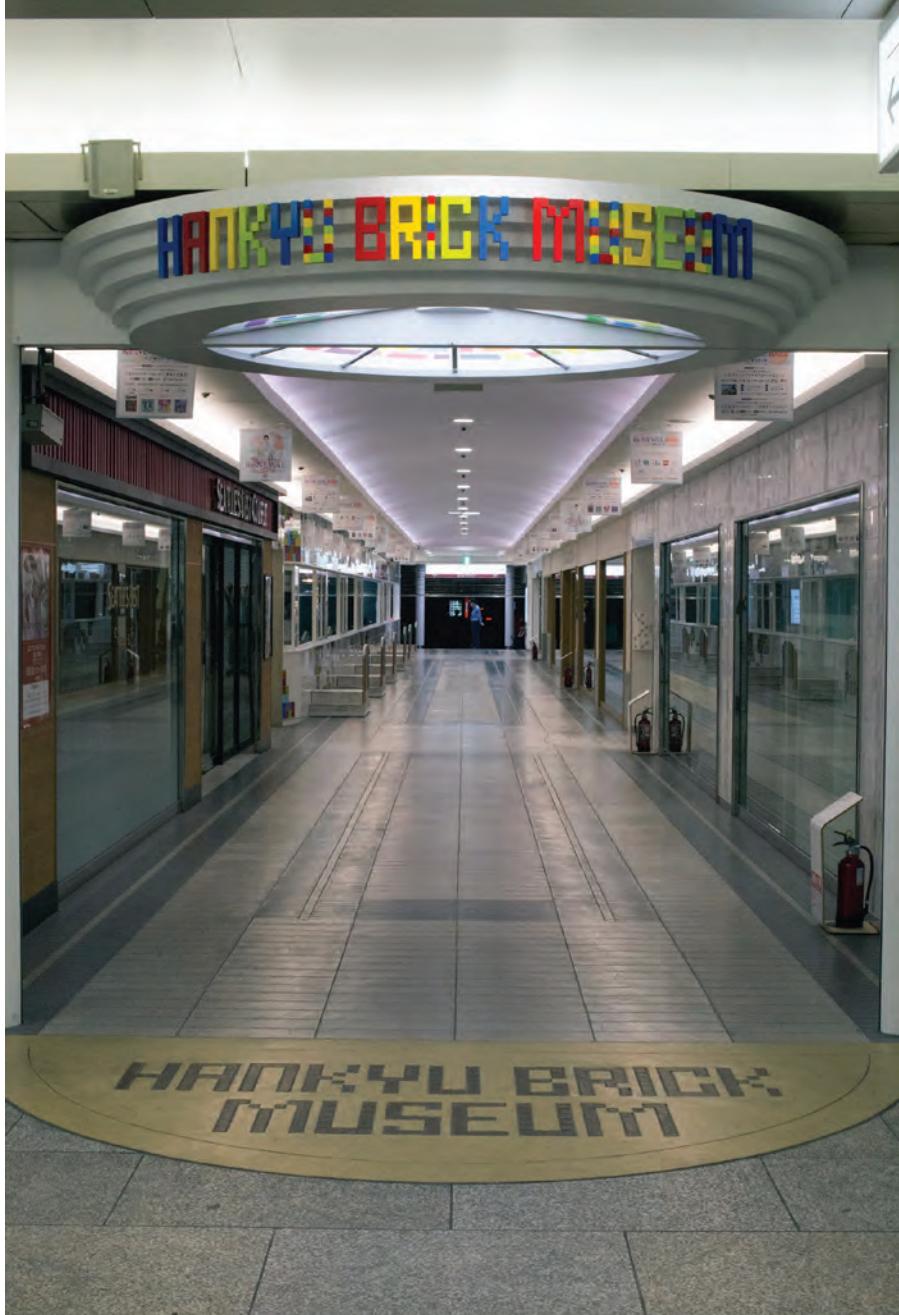


Template.

Hankyu's Brick Aquarium

Article by Joe Meno

Photography by Jumpei Mitsui



In April 2017, the Hankyu Brick Museum opened at the Hankyu Umeda Station, which is connected with Osaka Station in Japan. Located in an alleyway, the museum has five showcases for displaying the work of LEGO Certified Professional Jumpei Mitsui. There is no admission fee to see his work.

In front of the museum is the largest LEGO brand store in Japan. As a result, there are many visitors that come to see Jumpei's work.

The display showcased in this issue is an aquarium, which was built by Jumpei in respect to the aquarium that previously was kept in the same place. This year Hankyu decided to renovate the alley, so the aquarium was removed.



Jumpei's work at the Hankyu Brick Museum is semi-permanent, so his displays are changed yearly.

So if you are traveling to Japan or planning such a trip, before you go to the Osaka LEGO store, visit the Brick Museum. It's a free time-exhibit space that changes every year. Mitsuri's work is inspired by the ocean.

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