

**CELESTIAL
ORBIT**

**SET REVIEW:
MOBILE ROCKET TRANSPORT 6950**

MOC SPOTLIGHT

ELEMENTS

BUILDING SKILLS

COMIC STRIP: THE SURVIVORS

AN E-ZINE FOR THE CLASSIC SPACE ENTHUSIAST





INTRODUCTION

Hello there, I am Jaseman. Welcome to Issue 1 of Celestial Orbit - A new, quarterly e-zine dedicated to the Classic Space LEGO theme.

Through this publication I will share with you my reviews, observations, tricks and tips on all things Classic Space. I am also including a short comic strip story, for which I will be building and photographing all the scenes in LEGO.

I hope there will be sufficient interest for Celestial Orbit to be a success. With support from the online LEGO Space community, I will be able to keep creating new content for you to enjoy.

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MOC stands for 'My Own Creation'.

In this section of the magazine, I will choose a MOC Builder from the Classic Space online community, and share with you some of their fantastic models.



David Alexander Smith is one of the most active and imaginative Classic Space MOC builders I know. You may be familiar with his amazing Classic Space Dinosaur range.

During February this year, David produced a large selection of fascinating 'Rovers' for what he called 'Febrovary 2018'.

I've picked out a few of my personal favourites, but you can see some of David's other work on his Flickr site by visiting the following address:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidalexandersmith>



This vehicle is build sideways (Studs not on top), and features 12 balloon tyres, a skillfully designed large trans-yellow cockpit allowing plenty of room for the driver, printed bricks and an interesting centre section made from blue corner convex ribbed panels (Part 4737) wrapped inside 4x4x6 outward sloping window frames.

At the rear are storage containers/mailboxes, a mechanical shovel and a grey rocket.

The overall shape is rectangular, however there are lots of angular shapes in the front, middle and rear of the vehicle.



We don't see much red in Classic Space so this model makes a refreshing change. This model also has a splash of blue with grill tiles and the technic pins at the centre of the large chunky wheels that we know from Mobile Rocket Transport 6950.

In this quirky rover, the driver sits high inside a circular cage with rockets that seem to have been fired through the middle of it.

Another unexpected design choice is that the entire base of the vehicle is built upside down with the studs facing downwards!

This sleek, swept-back rover resembles some sort of space-age New York taxi cab.

There doesn't look to be many parts to this model, yet there are interesting shapes and curves everywhere you look.

As with all the rovers, there is fun in the design - big chunky tyres, yellow wheels, black rockets and a long orange antenna.

The choice of windscreen canopies work very well together.



This massive beast looks like it will have no problem over rugged terrain, and it's back to a more traditional colour scheme.

The vehicle is hinged in the middle, with super-cool massive wheels, and lots of great detail. I really like the yellow 2x2 round bricks and technic wheel combination on the top - it makes it look as though this vehicle is electrically powered - that feature would sit very well in a power station MOC.

As with the other models, the overall shape and design is pleasing to the eye. Brilliant!



This rover is reminiscent of Robbie the Robot, with ball joint arms carrying radar detectors.

Another excellent use of trans-yellow windows for the cockpit.

12 balloon tyres at the base, several printed bricks, computers and an array of different tiles including blue Nexo Knights shields. The traditional split grey and blue colour scheme for this model, with a few yellow parts, and various trans-red lights, dishes and other detailing.

There is something almost insect like for this one.

The chassis sits atop stanchions, and the massive yellow wheels suggest this is a good off-road vehicle.

Yellow, blue and black are the prominent colours and this time there is a domed windscreen.

David has used a number of blue wedge plates, slopes and round plates to add shape to the body. Plenty of different textures and layers to keep it looking interesting.



I really love the look of this one. In yellow and black, this looks like it belongs on a construction site.

Two downward-facing sensor dishes are attached to L-shaped technic bricks at the front, and in the mid section large black wings covered with lights and circular tiles. It looks to me that this is a ground surveying vehicle.



It appears to be three sections hinged together, with a pair of large wheels on each.

The rear section looks to be the engine, with black rockets at the back and a very cool looking tail/spoiler.

Notice how again, he has used a different type of windscreen - this time a 4x4x3 canopy (Part 2620) in trans-light blue.

The sheer amount of models David has made is staggering. It is easy to gloss over them as a collection, but each one deserves close attention. Keep your eyes open - because he's probably built a whole lot more of them whilst you were looking at this!



Classic Set Review: Mobile Rocket Transport 6950

Release Year: 1983



This much-loved set is a favourite of many Classic Space collectors.

The set comprises of an 8-wheeled ground vehicle with a mechanical arm that carries and unloads a large rocket complete with satellite.

This was one of the first ever sets to feature yellow space minifigures. Previously only white or red spacesuits were available, so in 1983 this was a VERY big deal!



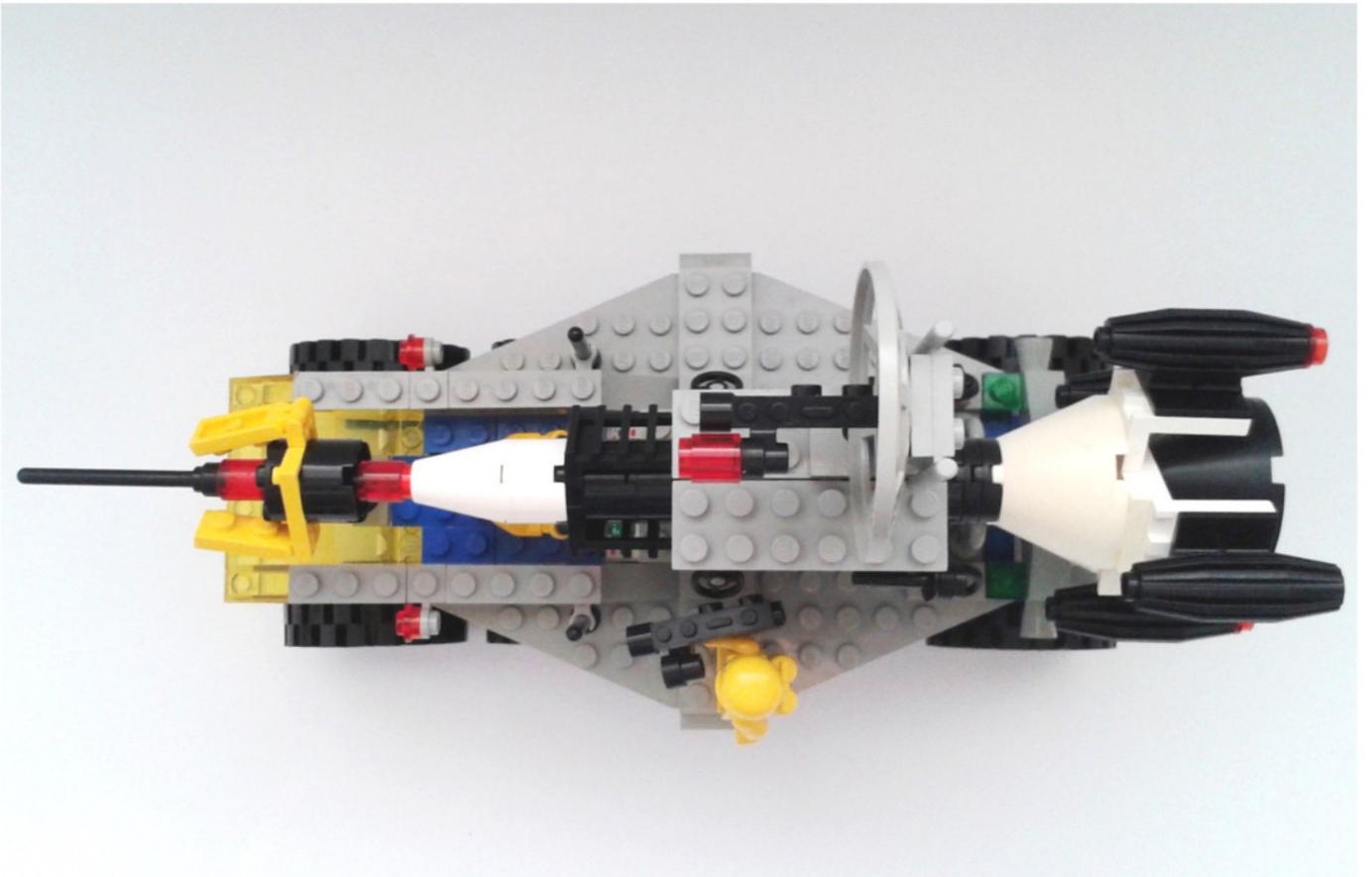
One of the things I love about the set is that it comes with many very useful elements. 4x wing slope plates, several types of hinges, a turntable, technic bricks and pins, trans-yellow windows, bar fences, ladders, tiles, rocket cones and thruster rockets, inverted blue slopes as well as a selection of trans-red and trans-green elements and black antennas.

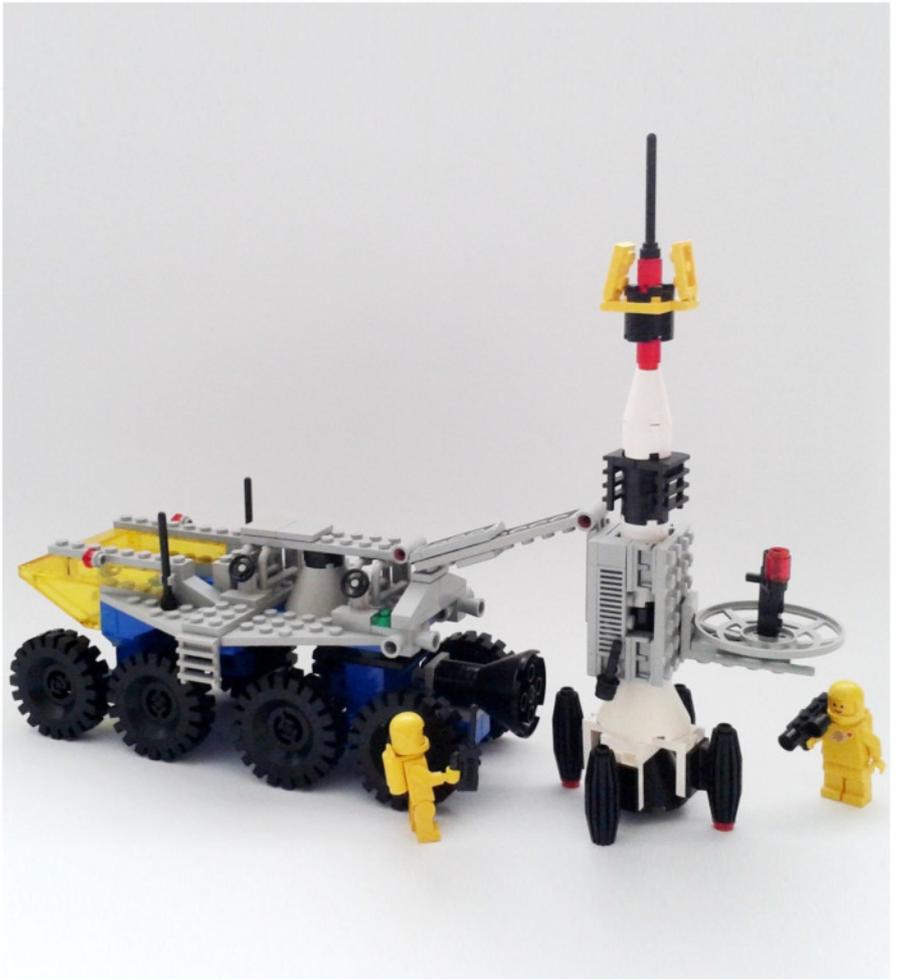
One of the poor aspects of the design is that the technic pins that hold the wheels on usually become loose, causing the wheels to constantly fall off as you drive the vehicle around. This problem can be fixed with a modification - You just need to replace the technic pins with short length axles, and bushes to stop the wheels falling off.

The construction is fairly easy, but young children will find it challenging. Ultimately it is a very rewarding build, and the model is packed with great features.



Depending on when and where you purchased the set, it may have come with single finger/double finger yellow hinge plate assembly (hngpltc01) or with two and three finger hinge plates (Parts 4275 + 4276).





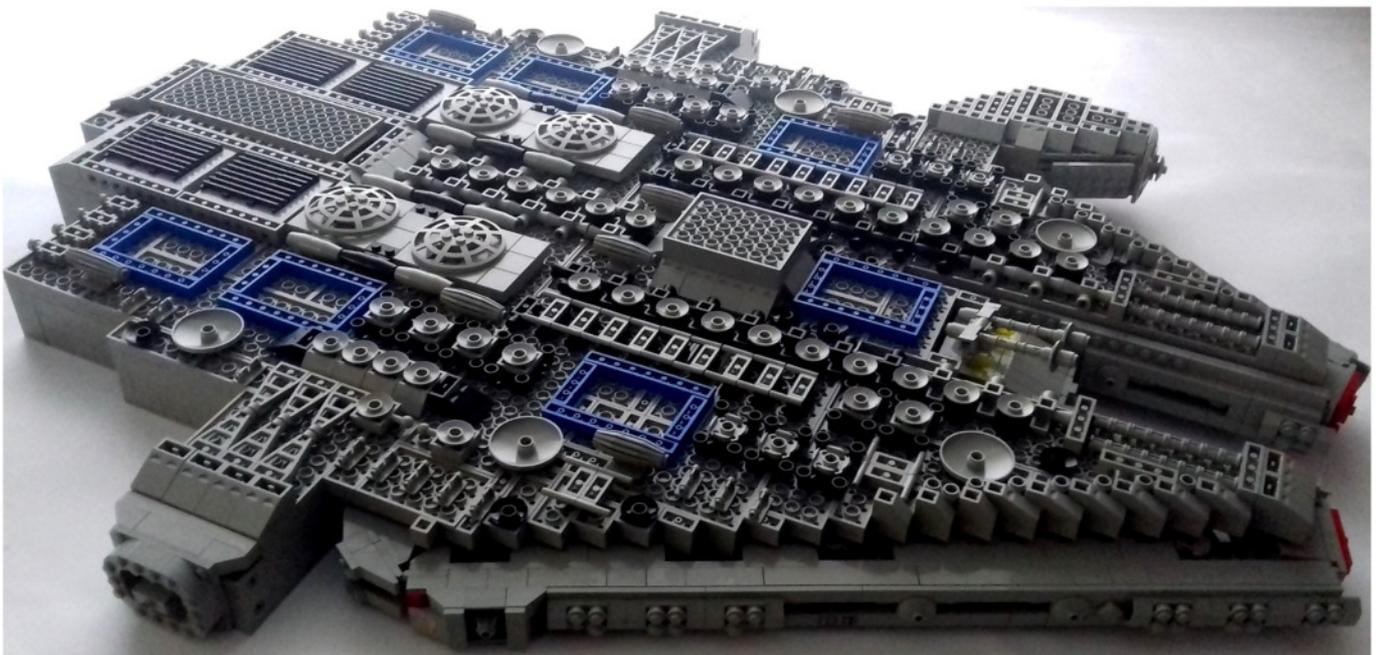
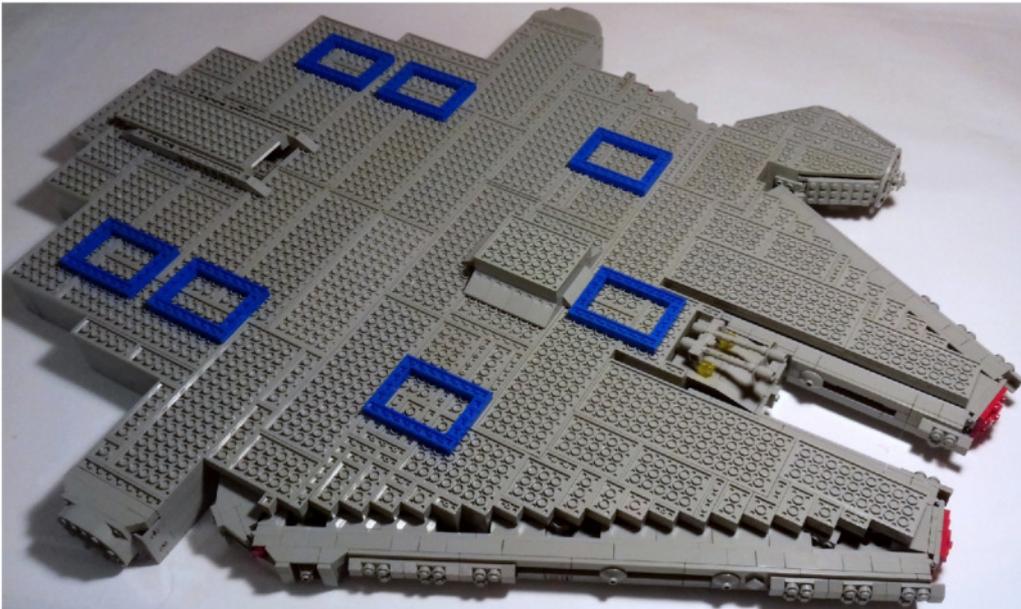


BUILD SKILLS

Build Skills will teach you some useful building techniques and tips.

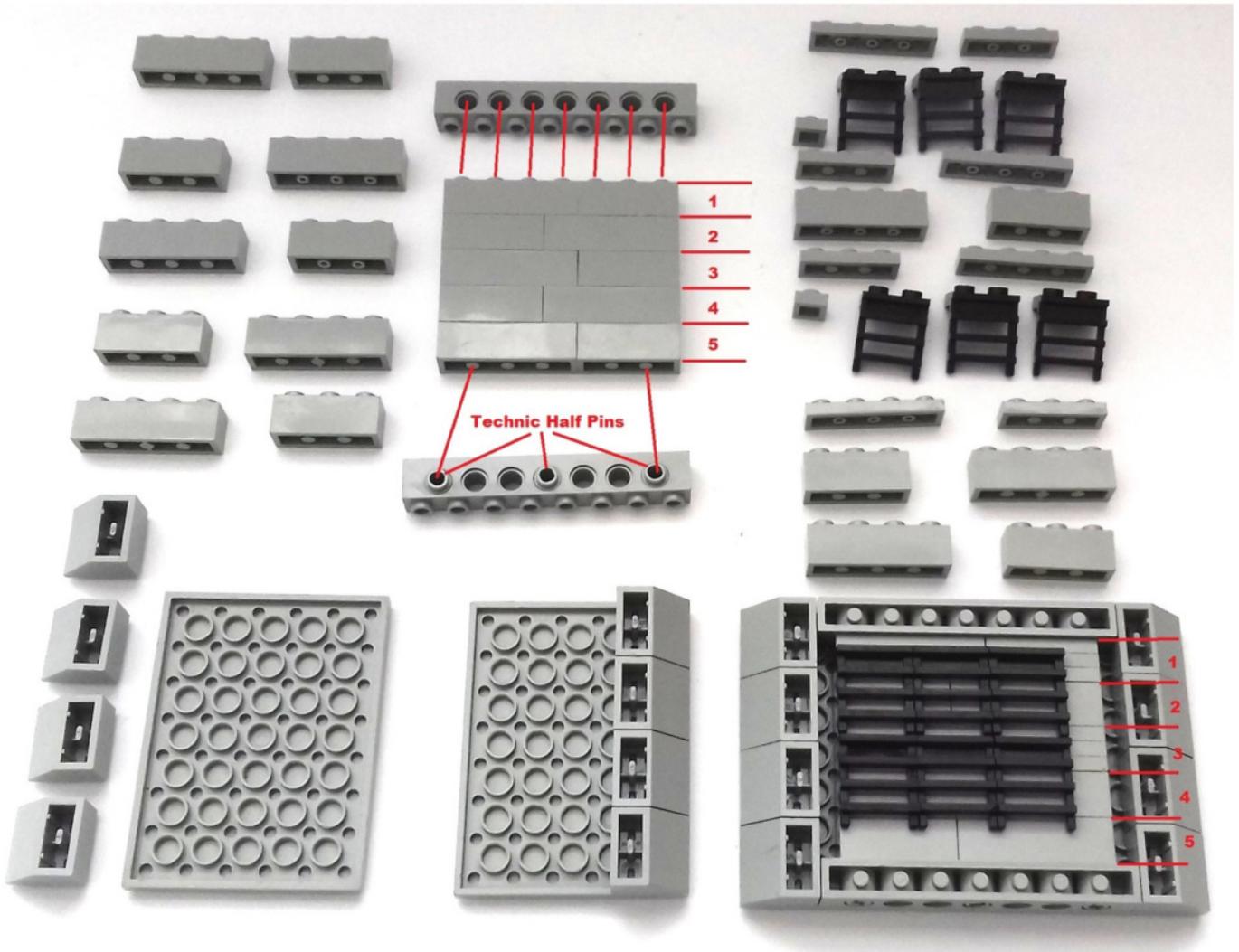
In this edition I will show you a number of ways that you can decorate the underside of plates to add texture, depth and intricate detail and create the impression that your model is packed full of mechanical engine parts.

Below you can see how I transformed the underside of my Classic Space Millennium Falcon from boring plate to something great.



LADDER VENTS

Here is one of the techniques I used to make ladders look like vents under a spaceship. It could also be used as ceiling detail or the underside of a raised moonbase. You could adapt this technique to create other types of sideways facing walls in different shapes and sizes.



Start by building a simple wall 7 studs x 5 bricks tall using a combination of 1x3 and 1x4 bricks.

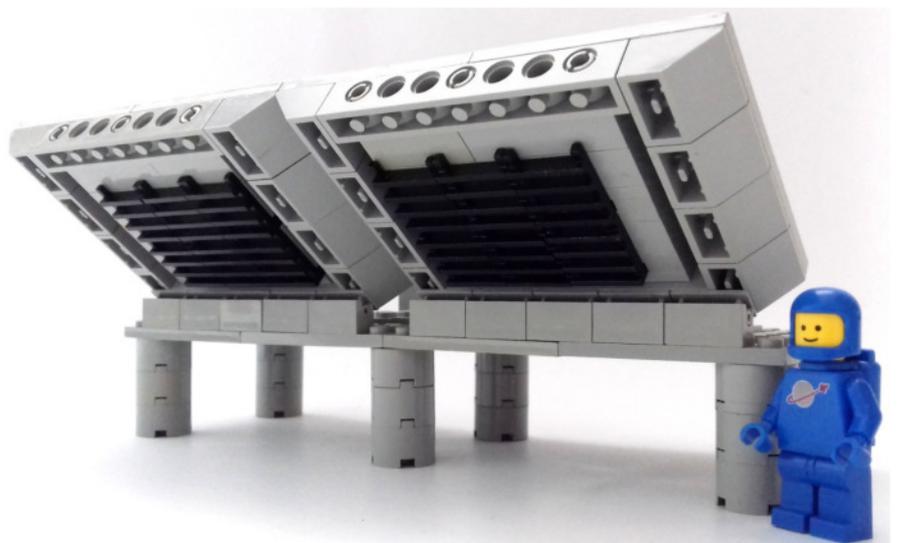
Next take two 1x8 technic bricks, and put 3 technic half pins into one of them.

Attach the studs of the 1x7x5 wall into the holes in the technic brick and at the bottom pin the other technic brick using the technic half pins.

I've attached this wall to a couple of 6x8 plates with 2x2 inverted slopes at the edges.

The ladders have been incorporated into the 1x7x5 wall (See top right).

With a little imagination this technique can be used to great effect.

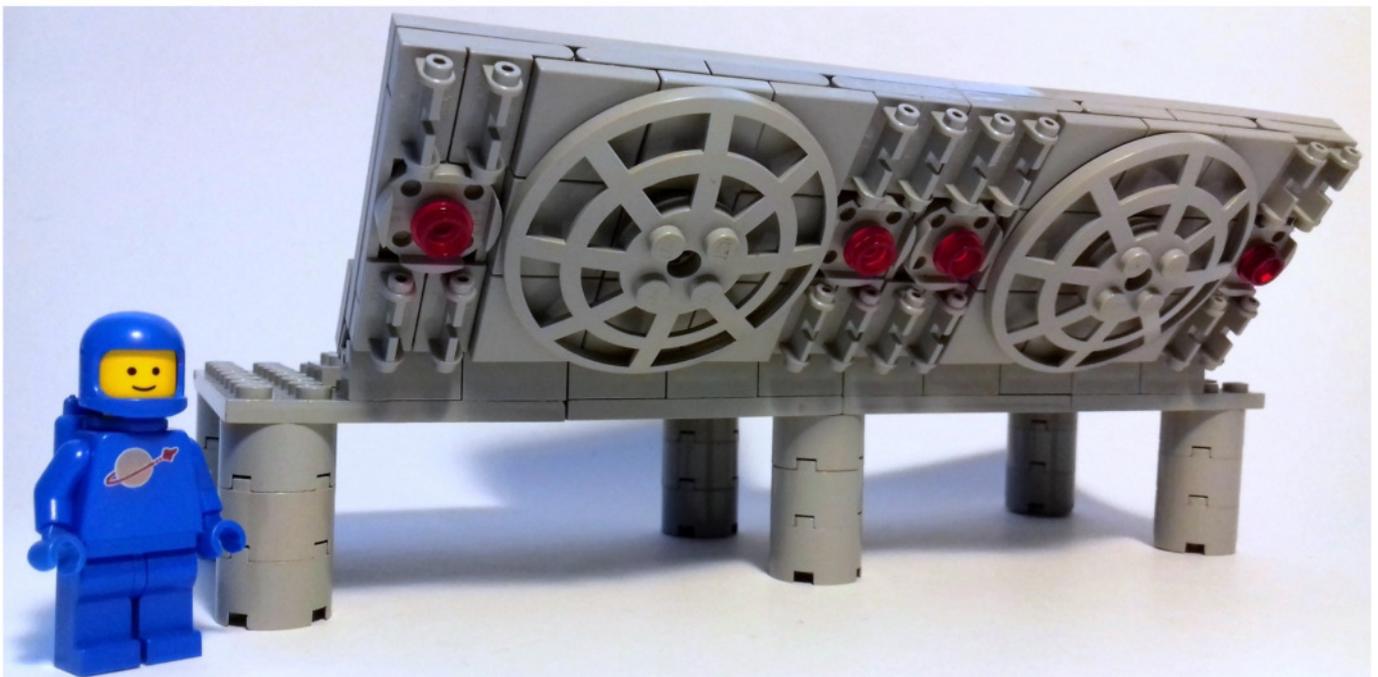
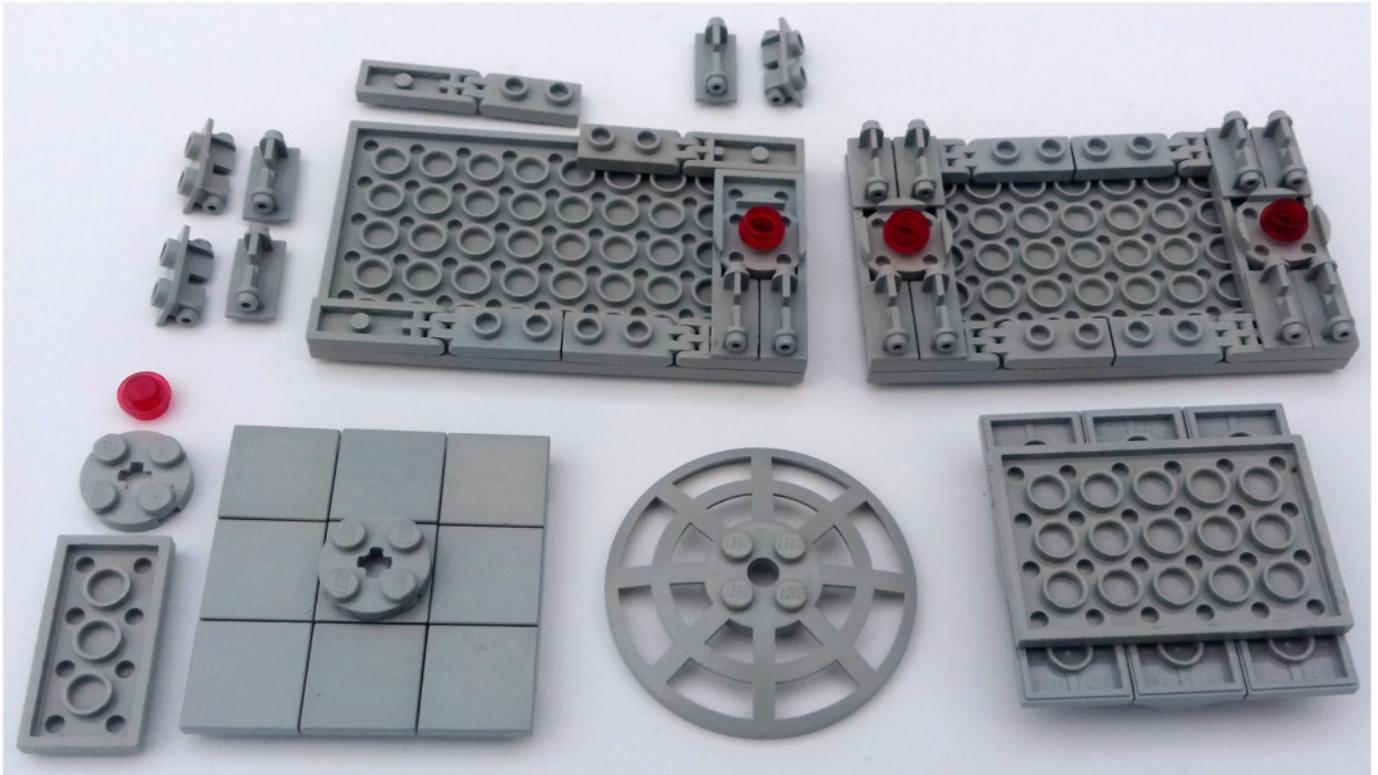
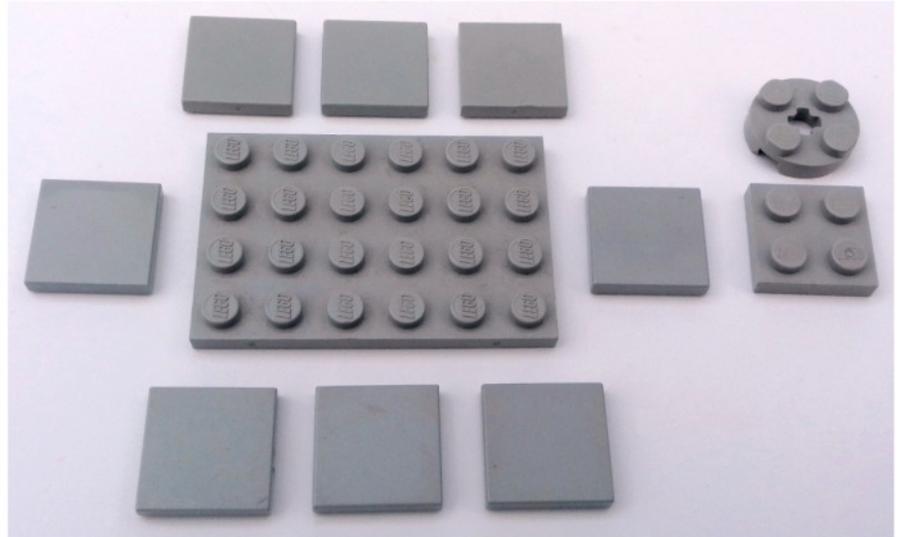


INVERTED WEBBED DISH



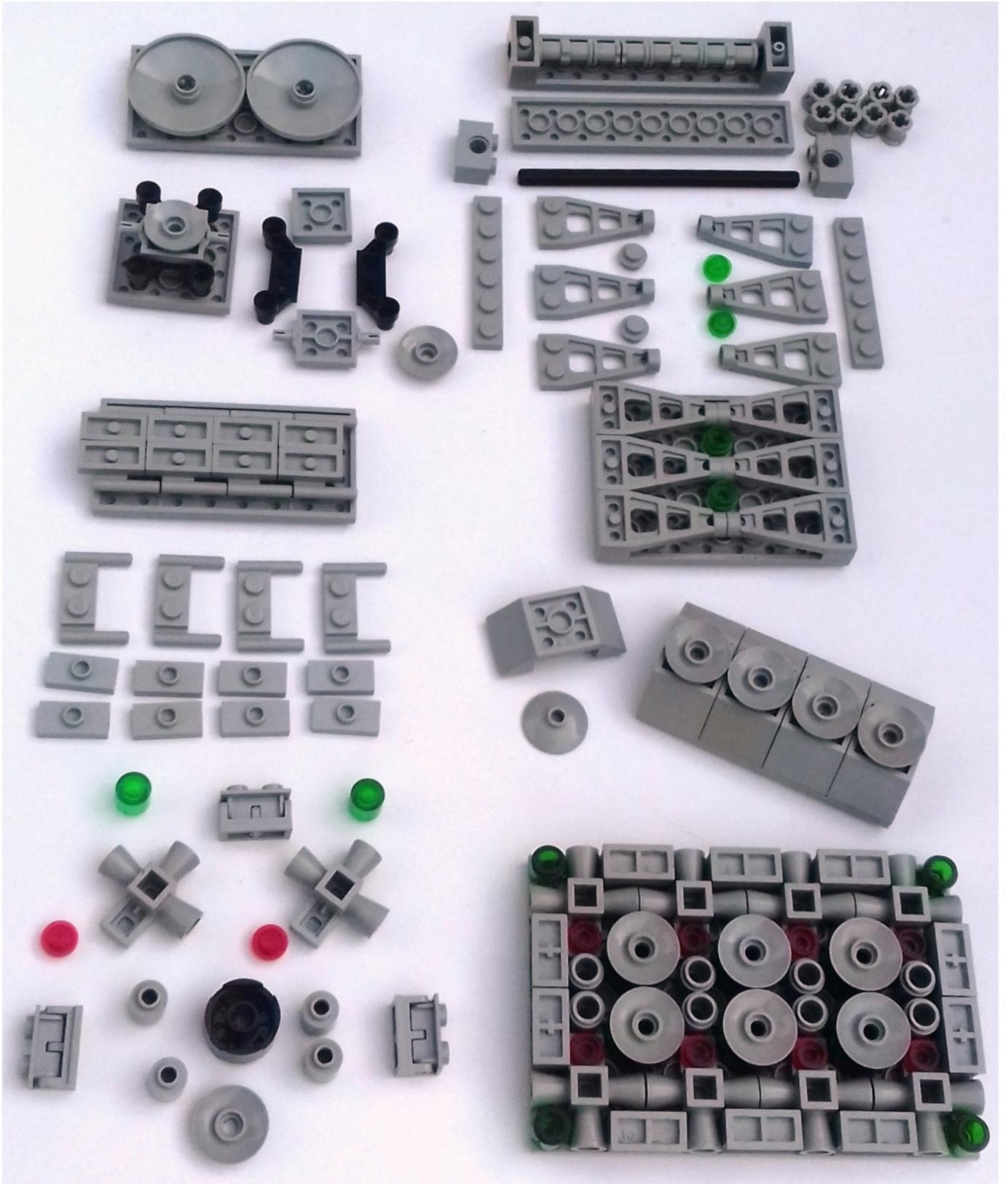
I'm using 2 & 3 finger 1x2 hinge plates to flip the direction of the studs.

The 1x2 hinge top plate (Part 3938) helps pin hold the reversed plate securely and adds some interesting detailing and 2x2 round plates with a trans-red 1x1 round plate fill in the gaps to help hide some of the plate below.



OTHER IDEAS

Experiment with different elements to create interesting textures.





People call them bricks, bits, parts or 'Legos' but the LEGO company refer to each item as being a 'LEGO Element'.

In Brick Skills I looked at building techniques and tricks. In this section titled 'Elements' I pick out a single LEGO element that I find most useful, and explore the versatility of it. There are many different ways each element can be used and endless combinations and interactions made between elements. Often I can pick up one LEGO element and just look at it for a while and imagine all the different uses for it and then gain inspiration for an entire model.

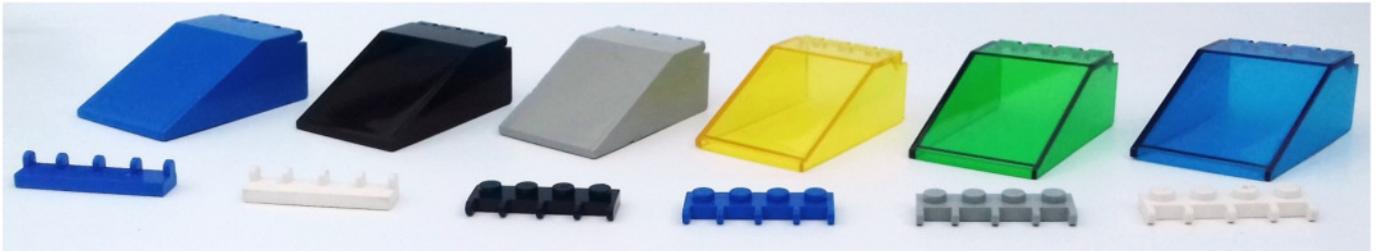
In the original Classic Space theme created between 1978 and 1987, there are 84 individual sets comprising over 700 element types if you include colour variations. Many MOC builders like to incorporate newer elements into their Classic Space-themed models which increases the possibilities exponentially. LEGO introduce new types of element all the time and the range of available colours is also expanding. New LEGO sets may contain a unique element. There are also individuals and businesses that manufacture customised LEGO elements - original LEGO with custom printing on, elements that have been modified or recoloured, and even new plastic moulds that are compatible with LEGO.

Personally, I find the 700+ original elements that came with the Classic Space sets to be more than sufficient. By restricting myself to the original Classic Space elements, I believe I can reach a point where I do have a sufficient stock for my building requirements. Nostalgia certainly plays a part in my interest for 1980s Space LEGO, so I like the fact that the models I build now, would have been possible to build even during the Classic Space period.

With so many elements to choose from it is difficult to decide which of them to buy, and how many. So the purpose of this section is to highlight some of the elements that I personally have found to be extremely versatile and useful. I would like to note that having a good amount of the basic bricks and plates of all the standard sizes will be essential, but my reviews here will be focused on some of the more interesting or complex shaped elements.

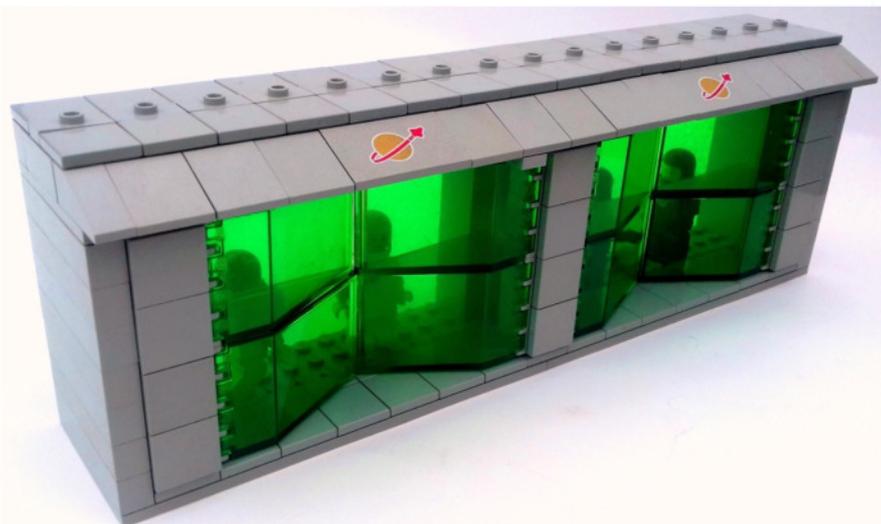
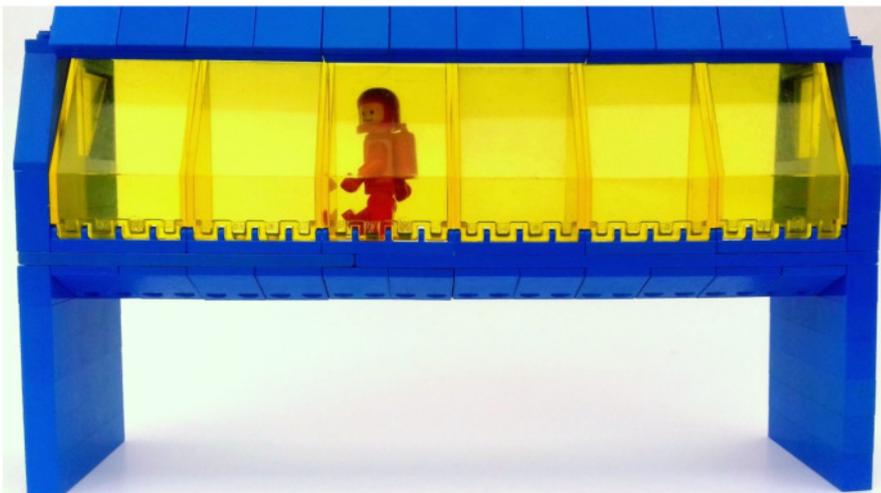
Once you start to accumulate a large amount of elements, it becomes helpful to devise a system for sorting and storing. I firstly separate the elements by the colours. I use plastic containers of various sizes for each colour, and within those boxes I store each element type separately in sealable clear plastic bags.

Windscreen 6 x 4 x 2 Canopy (Part 4474)



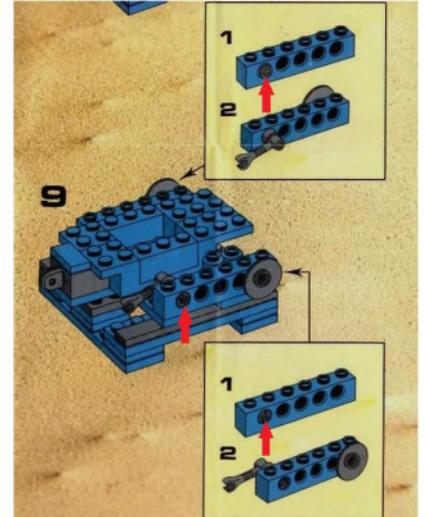
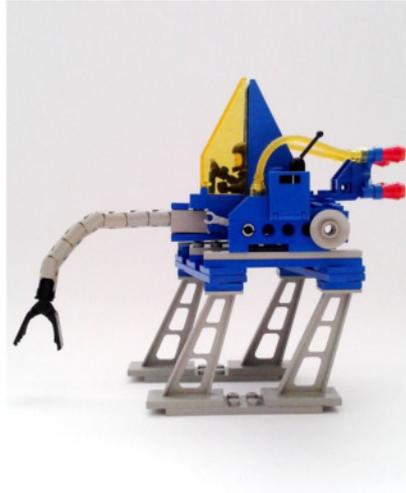
Part 4474 could be used as a windscreen, a window, a door, a claw, a ramp, a slide a chute or a shovel. Generally it is used with Hinge Vehicle Roof Holder 1 x 4 (Part 4315) or Hinge Tile 1 x 4 (Part 4625).

With some imagination and experimenting with different orientations of the windscreen, some great glass displays can be created.



Technic 1/2 Pin (Part 4274)

The technic half pin only features on one Classic Space set - 6882 Walking Astro Grappler. I'm very glad that this part can be considered a Classic Space element, as it is very useful, and I use it all the time on my MOCs. Within Classic Space it is only available in light grey, however LEGO did produce this element also in black, blue, dark bluish grey, dark grey, light bluish grey, red, tan and white.

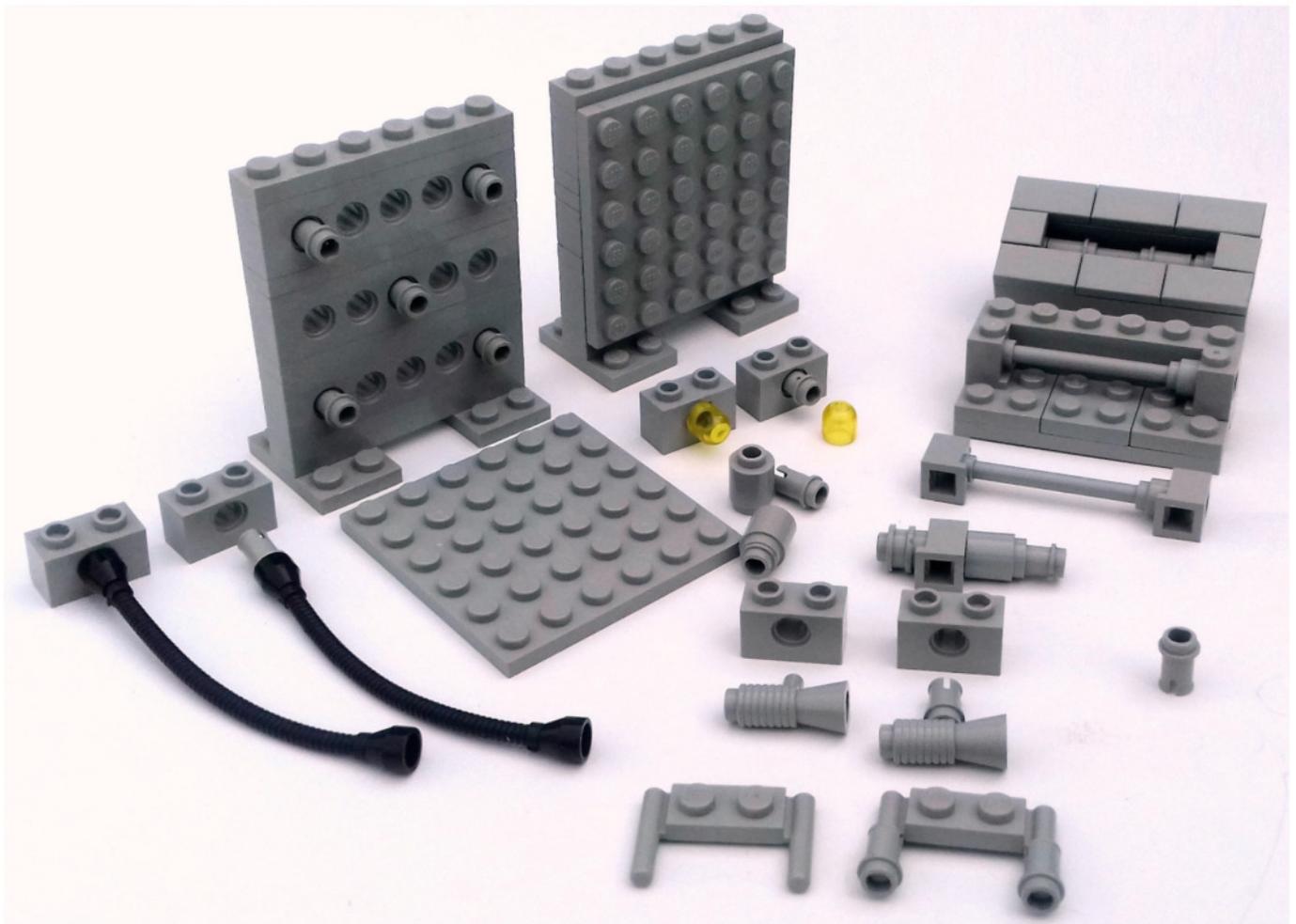


Here are some example uses for this element:

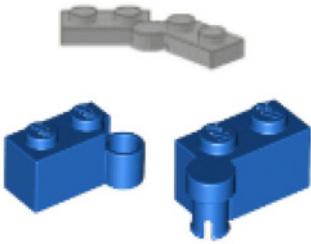
Together with technic bricks, the pin can be used to attach a plate, a light bulb, a hose or a utencil onto a vertical wall.

It can be used inside a 1x1 round brick to reverse the stud direction.

It can be used decoratively to make gun barrels, pipes and hydraulic looking details.

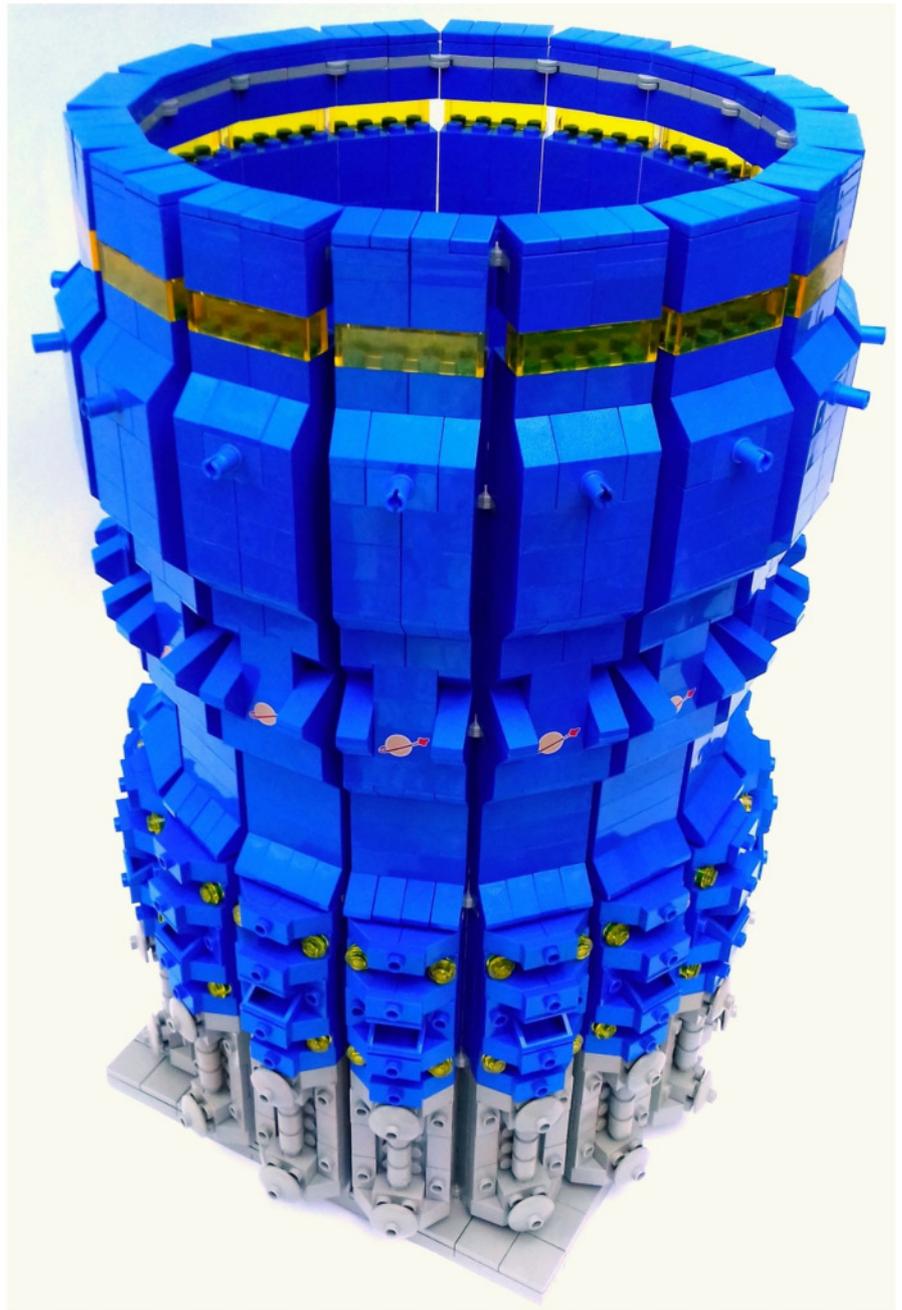
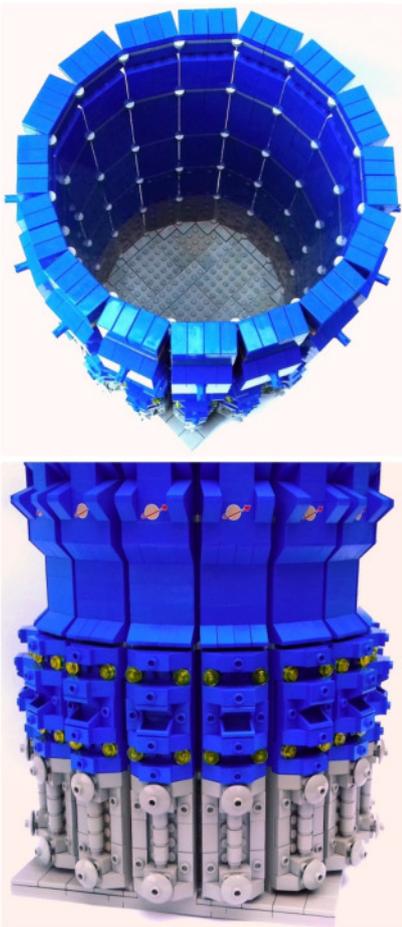


Hinge Plate 1 x 4 Swivel Top / Base Complete Assembly (Item 2429c01 / Parts 2429 + 2430)



This element appeared in set 1498 in light grey, 6808 and 6827 in white, 6849 in black and 6883 in blue. There is a similar hinge brick (Parts 3830 + 3831) which has the same functionality as the hinge plate equivalent, however I find the thinner plate version to be more adaptable than the hinge brick.

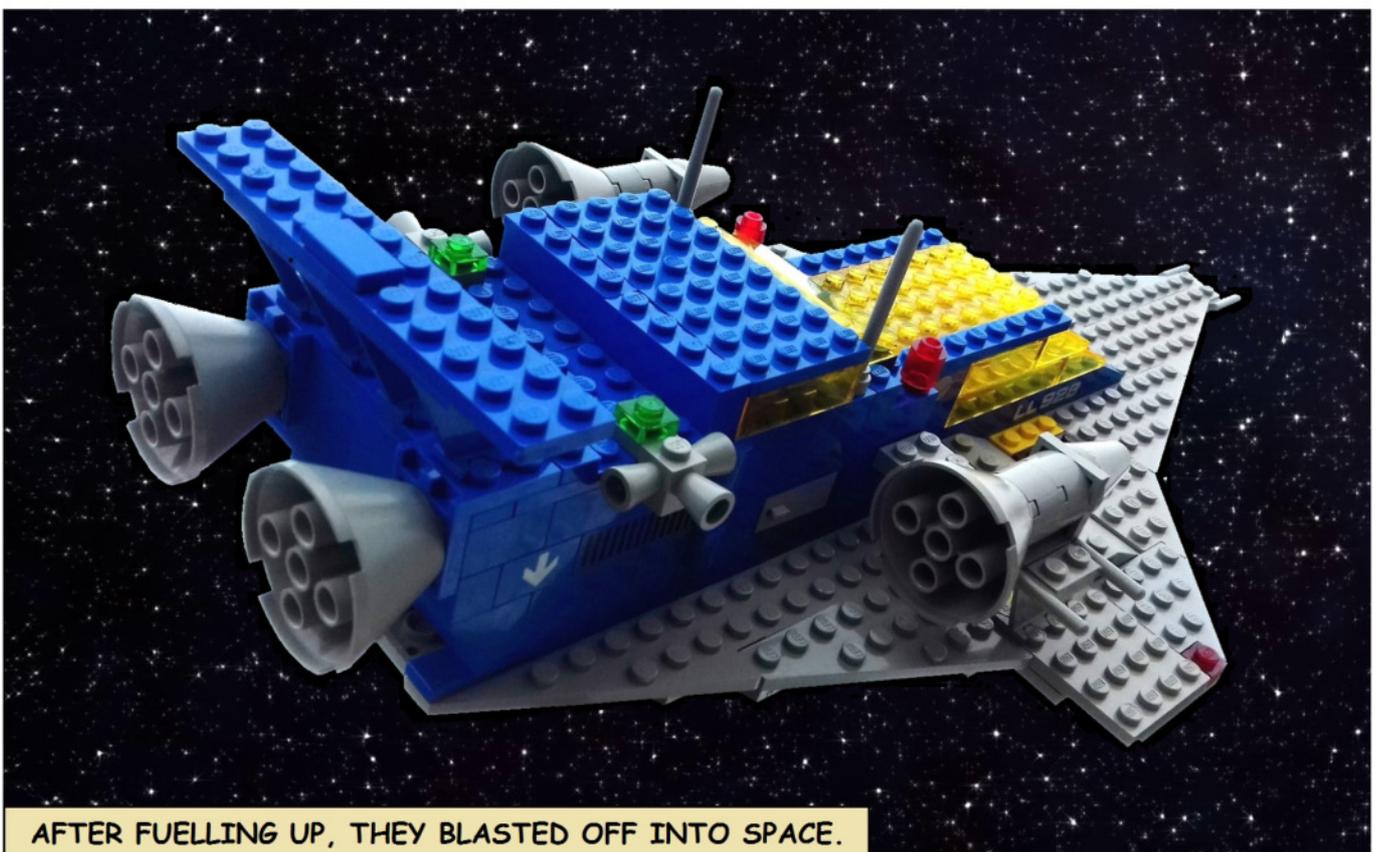
Because of the grid pattern of the studs, LEGO models tend to form rectangular boxes. When you start to introduce hinges, this opens many new opportunities to build things at varying angles and to create far more interesting shapes.

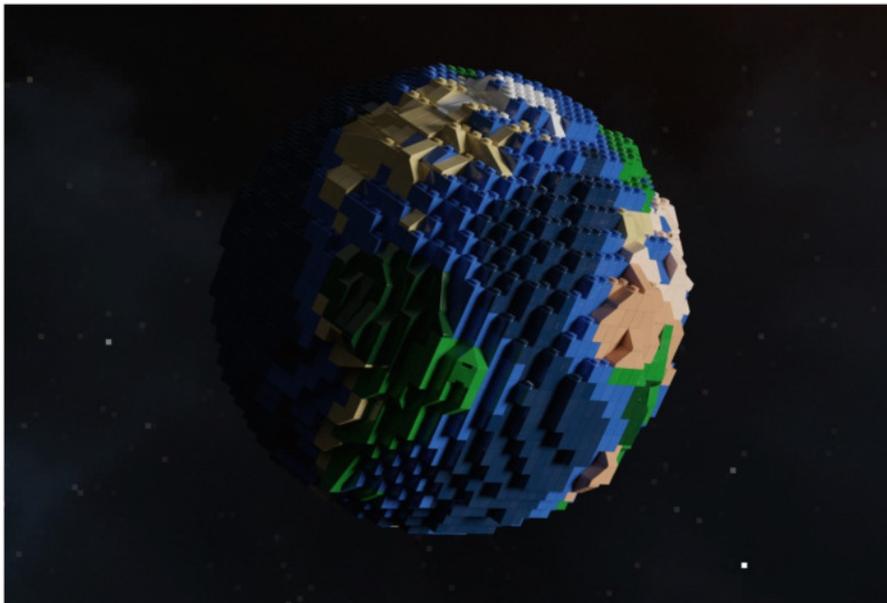


In this example I have created a baseplate 22 x 22 studs square with a bed of 2 x 2 tiles covering it. 1 x 4 plates are placed at the centre on each side to pin the hinges to the base. The tiles are required to allow 16 hinges to sit flat on the base as they will not align with the studs below due to the varying angles. As you can see they form a nice circular structure.

THE SURVIVORS

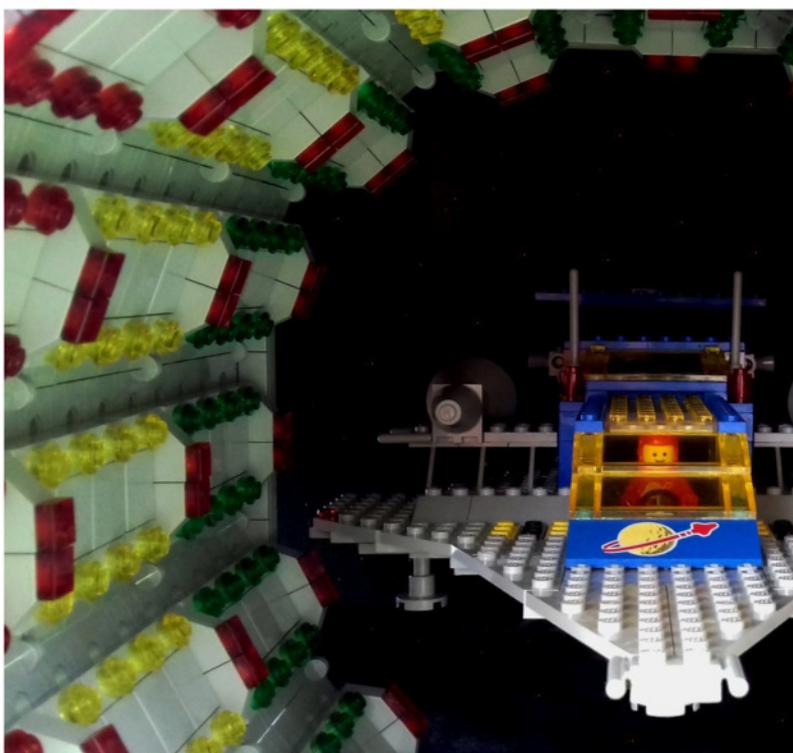
PART 1



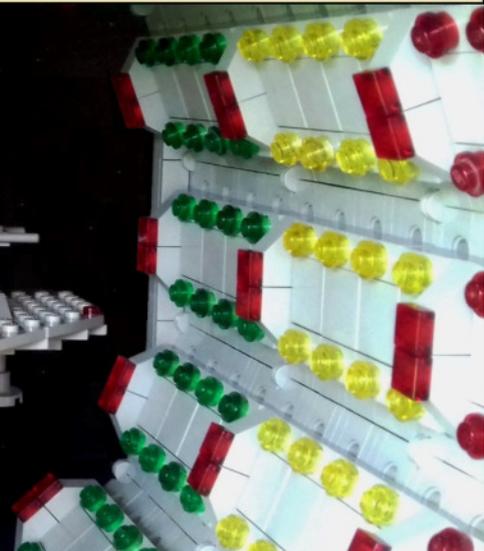


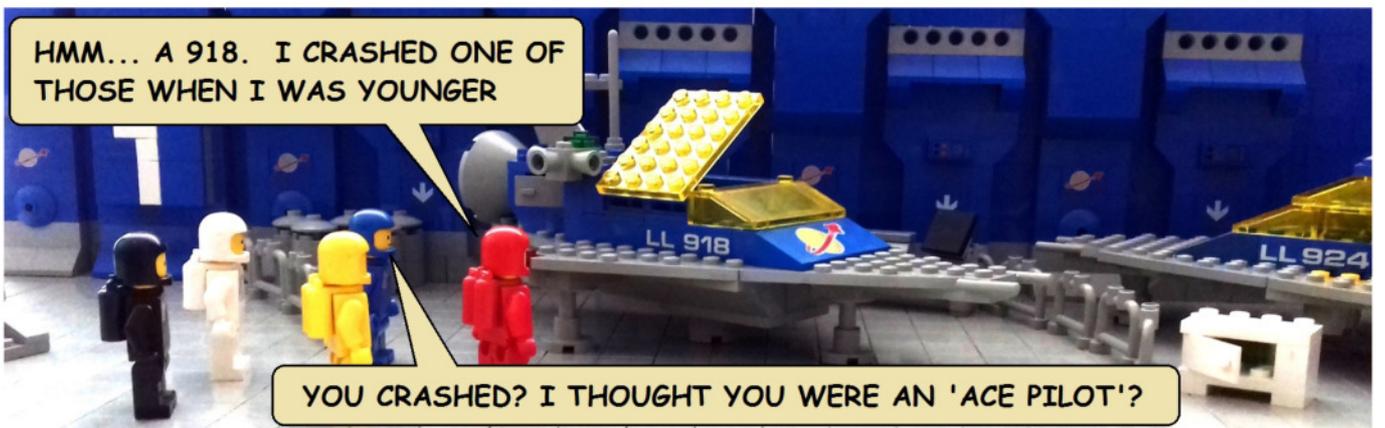
FORESEEING THE ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE, THE MINIFIGURES OF LEGOLAND HAD SET ABOUT BUILDING A GIANT-SIZED DEEP SPACE VEHICLE WHICH THEY NAMED 'THE ARK'.

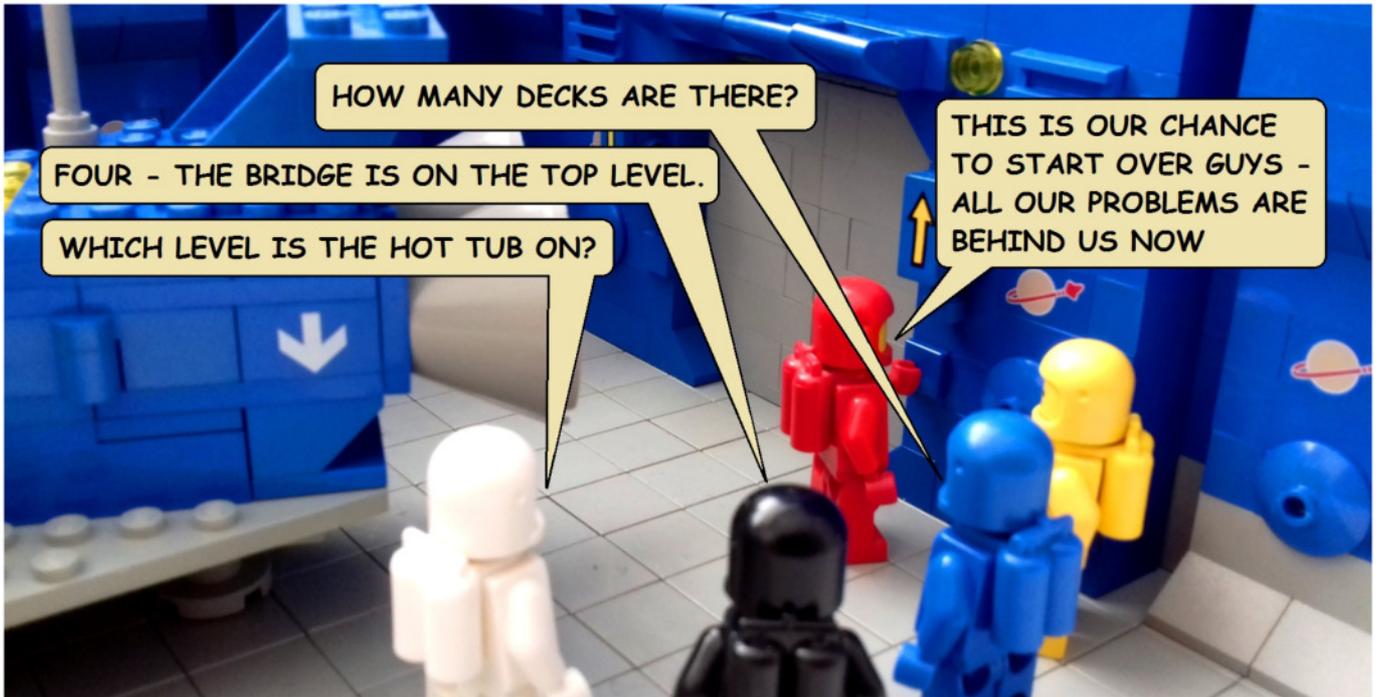
THE ARK WAS POSITIONED IN ORBIT AROUND PLANET LEGOLAND, AND THIS WAS THE DESTINATION OF JACK, SUSAN, SPENCER, MADISON AND FRANK.



AFTER A SHORT TIME, THE GALAXY EXPLORER DOCKED INTO THE HANGAR BAY OF THE ARK AND THE SURVIVORS DISEMBARKED.









The Celestial Orbit E-Zine is produced entirely by Jaseman / Jason Andrew Davies

Planet Legoland image from The Survivors Comic Strip is courtesy of renderbricks.com

Many thanks to all those that have encouraged and supported me.

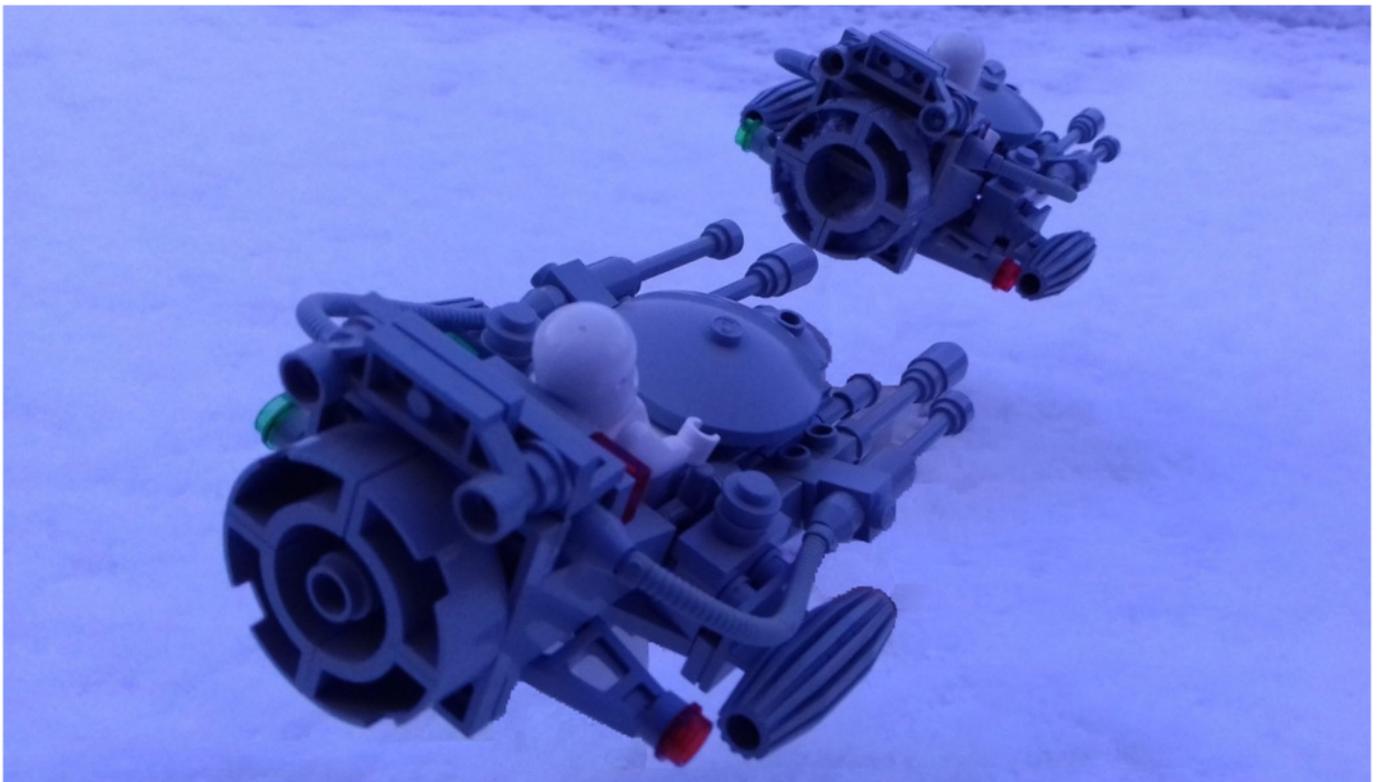
Special thanks to Damiano Baldini, Bartosz Bąkowski, Stefan Gruenig, Erwin Jansen and Gennadi Gurianov for donations and financial support.

This E-zine can be purchased through the jaseman.com website

Please do not share this content online. If you know people that will enjoy this publication, send them to my website or contact me via facebook for details of how to purchase it - I depend on your payments, and future editions are only possible with your continued support.

Thank you for reading, and let me know if you have enjoyed Celestial Orbit.

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Get instructions for the Pursuit Immobiliser for £1

As well as producing the Celestial Orbit e-zine, I am also planning to offer a range of space model building instructions for very low prices. Not only will you get to enjoy and collect the models, but you will also be learning valuable LEGO building techniques along the way.

The first in the range is the 'Pursuit Immobiliser'

'This short-range mini pursuit ship is equipped to unload a barrage of firepower from it's multiple forward laser cannons. It is a fast and nimble little fighter with a large single rocket at the rear supported by two more thrusters on either side. Agility and firepower all packaged up in an armoured shell that emits a protective force shield around the pilot. A small squadron of Pursuit Immobilisers can effectively disable mobile or static enemy weaponry or confidently go head to head in dogfights. The ship holds together well and rates highly on swooshability.'

JASEMAN
J A S E M A N . C O M