



ISSUE 2- SUMMER 2018



**SET REVIEW:
6971 INTER-GALACTIC
COMMAND BASE**

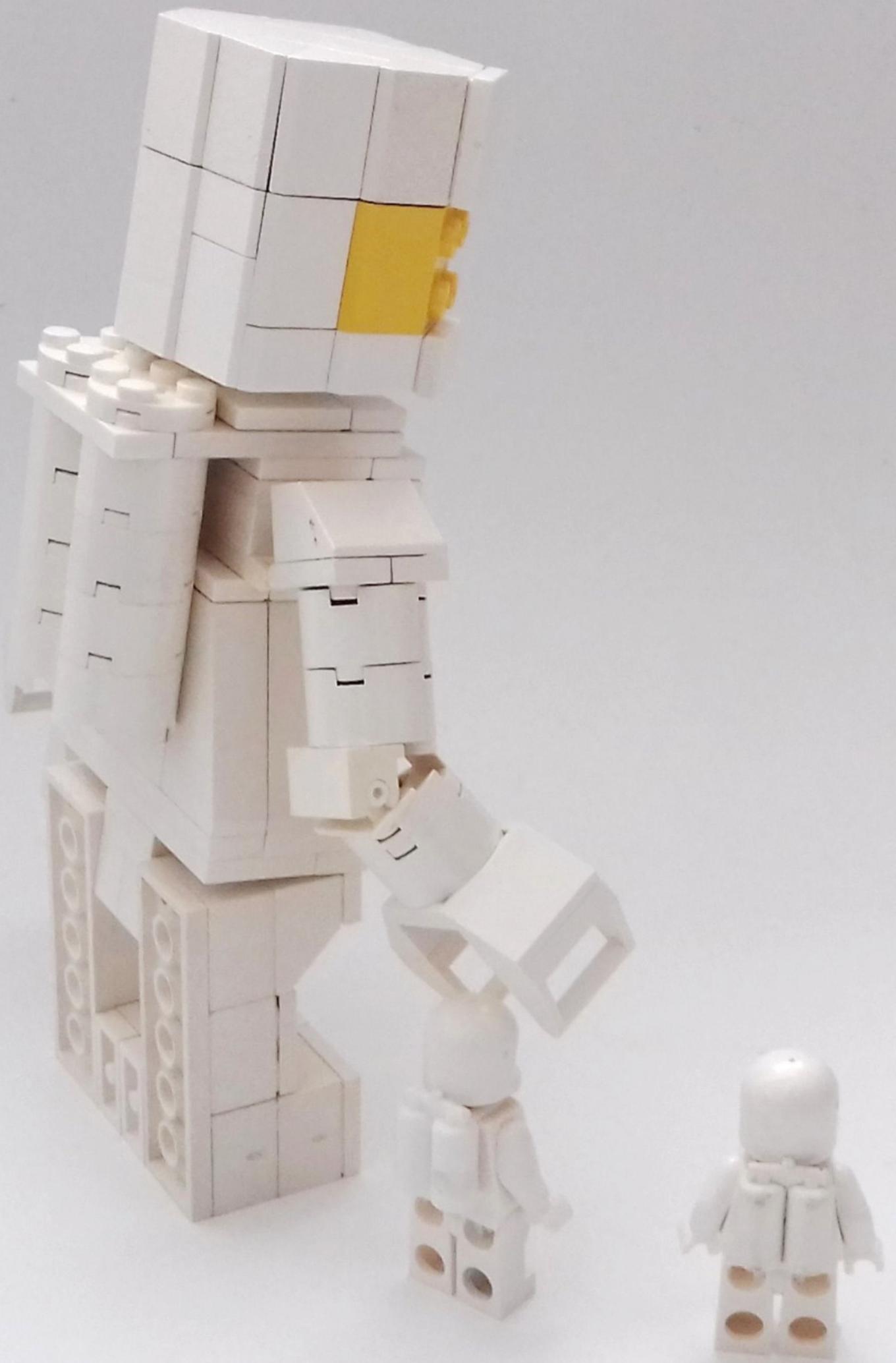
MOC SPOTLIGHT

ELEMENTS: WINGS

**BUILDING SKILLS:
PIVOTING FROM A STUD**

**COMIC STRIP:
THE SURVIVORS**

**AN E-ZINE FOR THE
CLASSIC SPACE
ENTHUSIAST**





INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue 2 of Celestial Orbit.

The Spring issue sold 57 copies thus far and the feedback I received was very positive - which is an encouraging start. Hopefully interest in the magazine will continue to grow.

The Summer Issue brings you more MOC and set reviews, tips and techniques for getting the most out of the original Classic Space elements, as well as continuing the saga of The Survivors comic strip.

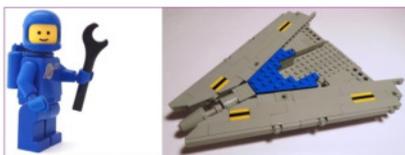
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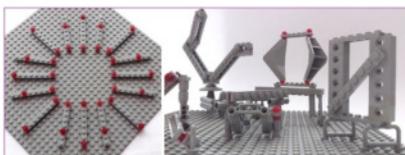
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MOC stands for 'My Own Creation'.

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.



Walter Whiteside collects super-rare LEGO elements. He has also built some really great MOCs, and I would like to share some of them with you.

Walter has set up some great scenes and built beautiful models. He uses a lot of unusual elements and the quality and attention to detail is of the highest order.

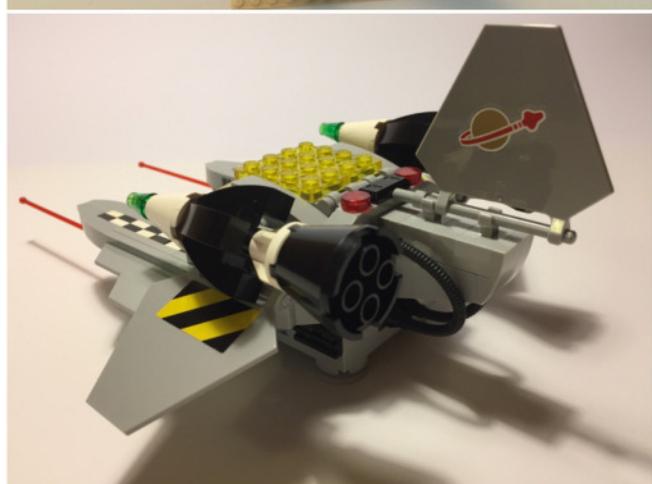
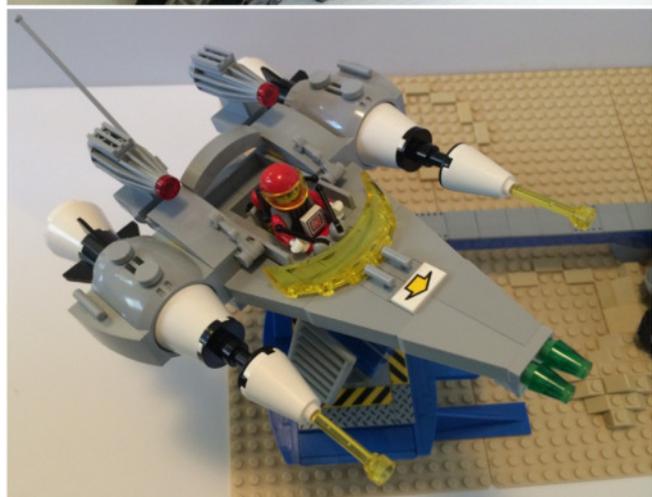
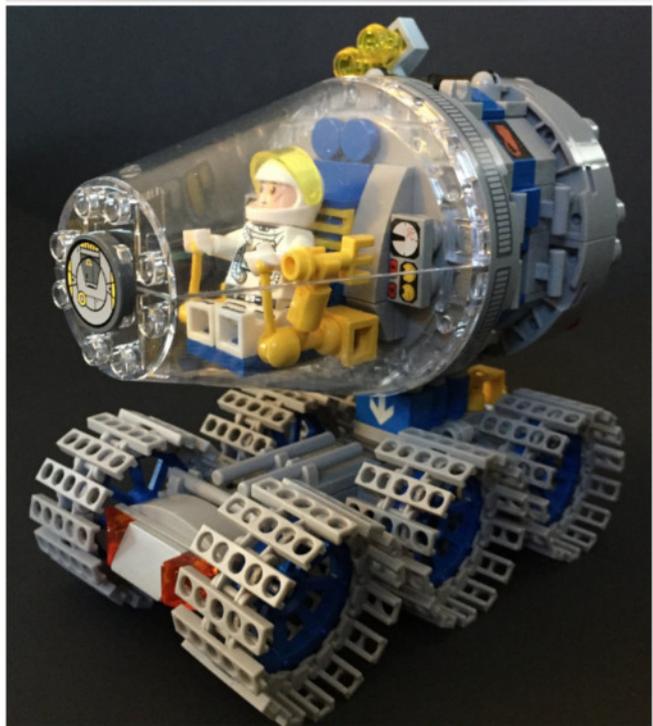
I could write pages about each of these MOCs but I think instead I will just let you enjoy this collage. It was difficult to choose which ones to show you here.

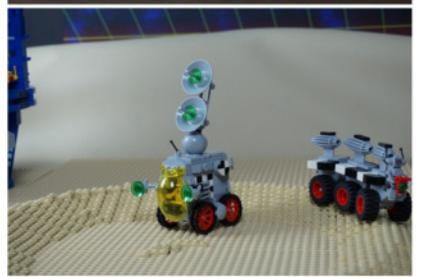
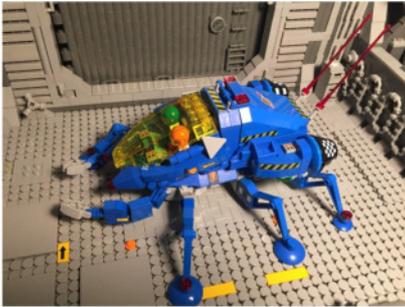
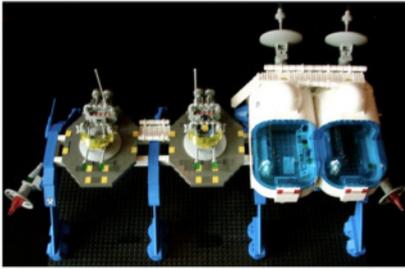
You can see more of Walter's work at his Flickr Site:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/66166063@N07/>





There is a temptation to flick quickly through the images because there is such abundance available. By looking carefully at the models of other MOC builders we can gain inspiration - ideas can be triggered. Maybe the builder used a part in a way that you have not seen before, or used an interesting technique. A lot of time, thought and effort goes into these models so take the time to really enjoy and appreciate them.





Classic Set Review: 6971 Inter-Galactic Command Base

Release Year: 1984



I'm glad for this set and wish LEGO had created more moonbases in the series. The main purpose of this moonbase is clearly the rocket launch. The rocket itself can slide along the tiles, and with the roof opened up, it can be moved into the building structure. Unlike the previous rockets, this one has fins, and at the top a smaller projectile which presumably would detach at a later stage of the launch, and that this projectile is what they are needing to launch out into space.

On the opposite side of the base a ship can be launched and in the middle there is a computer centre with large webbed dishes above. I'm not quite sure why these dishes point downwards. There are also some trans-red shields which also seem to act either as sensors or communication dishes and two further white dishes above the station legs on the rocket side of the base. I think the purpose of all these dishes is more decorative than functional - they add interesting detail to the base.

The building structure itself is skeletal, with lots of gaps and I'm not sure whether that was intentional or merely a cost cutting exercise. Personally I would have liked to have seen glass in all of the window frames.

Lurking around on the surface is a white ground-based vehicle. The design of this white vehicle is very basic and I wish they had put some more effort and parts into it - but I expect LEGO wanted to keep the part count low for that craft.



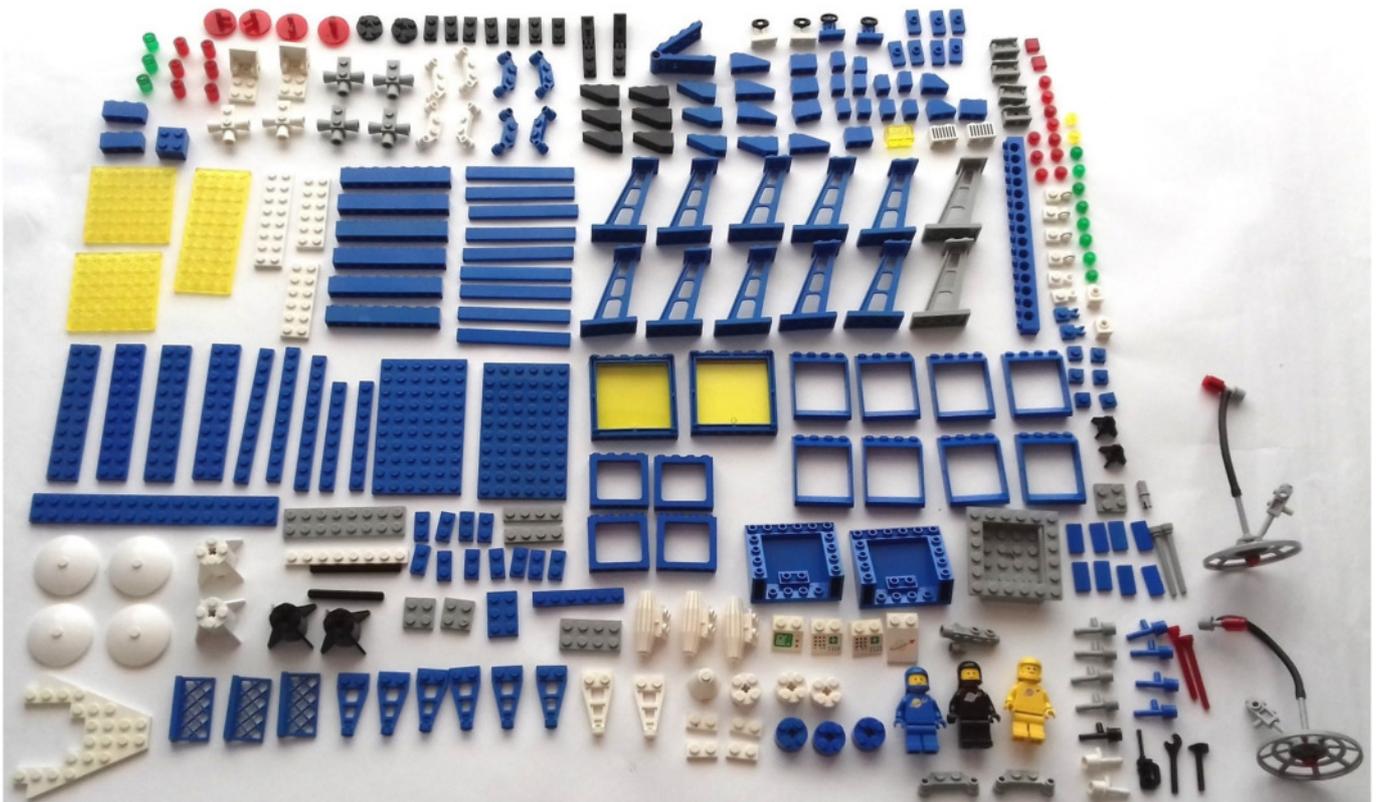
For me, the absolute strong point of this set is not the design - but the fantastic array of parts that it includes. For a start you get two crater baseplates which are always useful. No less than 10 blue stanction supports and 2 grey. Those stanctions were a new element in the previous year - We saw them used on set 6930 Space Supply Station, and LEGO seemed keen to get plenty of use out of this element by including them in blue, grey or white in various sets from 1983 onwards. I love the blue fences, which were only used in two sets (The other being the 1986 set 6874 Moonrover in which the fences are laying down on their side. The two large trans-yellow windows are adored by Classic Space MOC builders. It is unfortunate that this window is expensive to buy and hard to find. The window frame also has a tendency to become damaged. There are several other window frames included in the set (Parts 4447 and 4033).

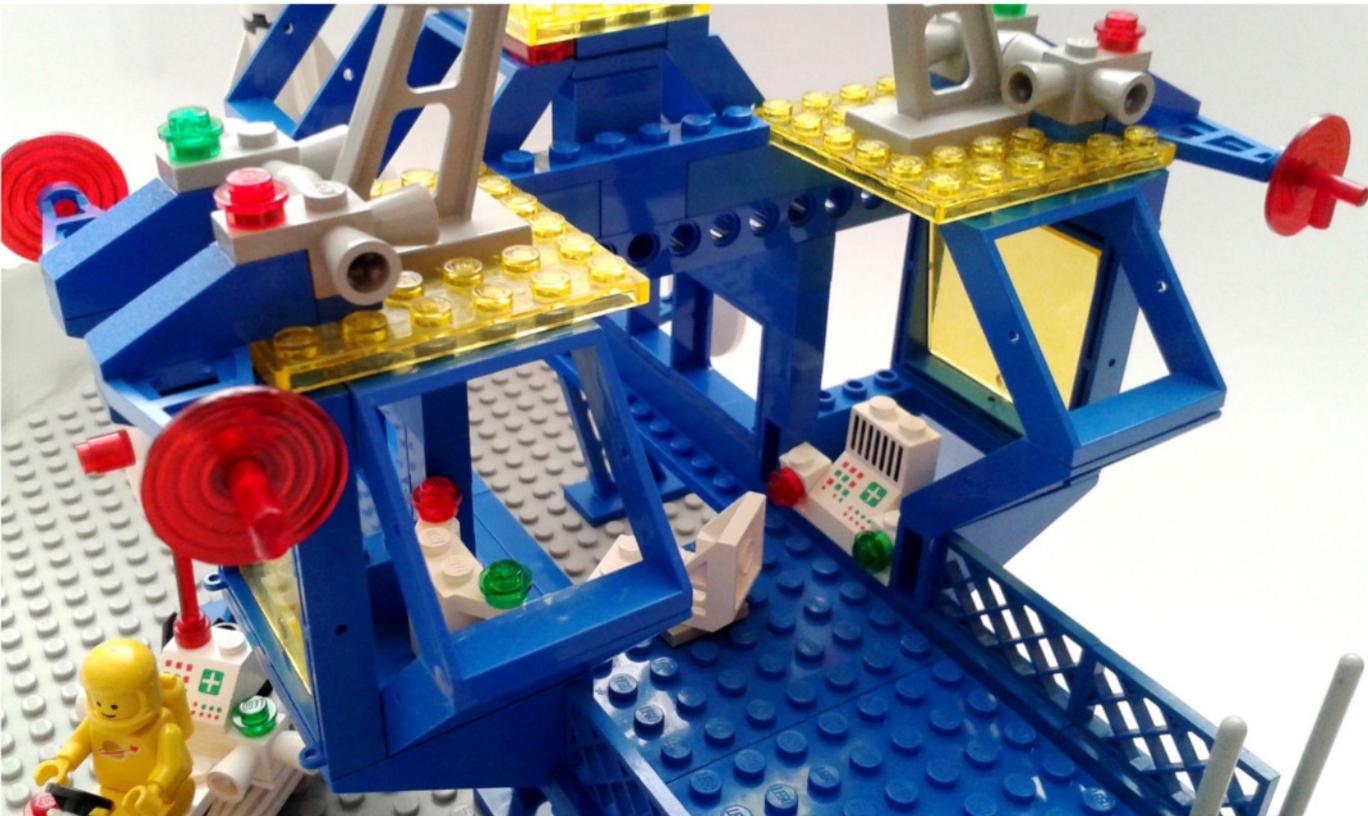
You don't get any red or white astronauts with this set, but you do get one of each of the newer colours and a range of utencils. You also get some useful trans-yellow plates of 6x6 studs and 4x10.

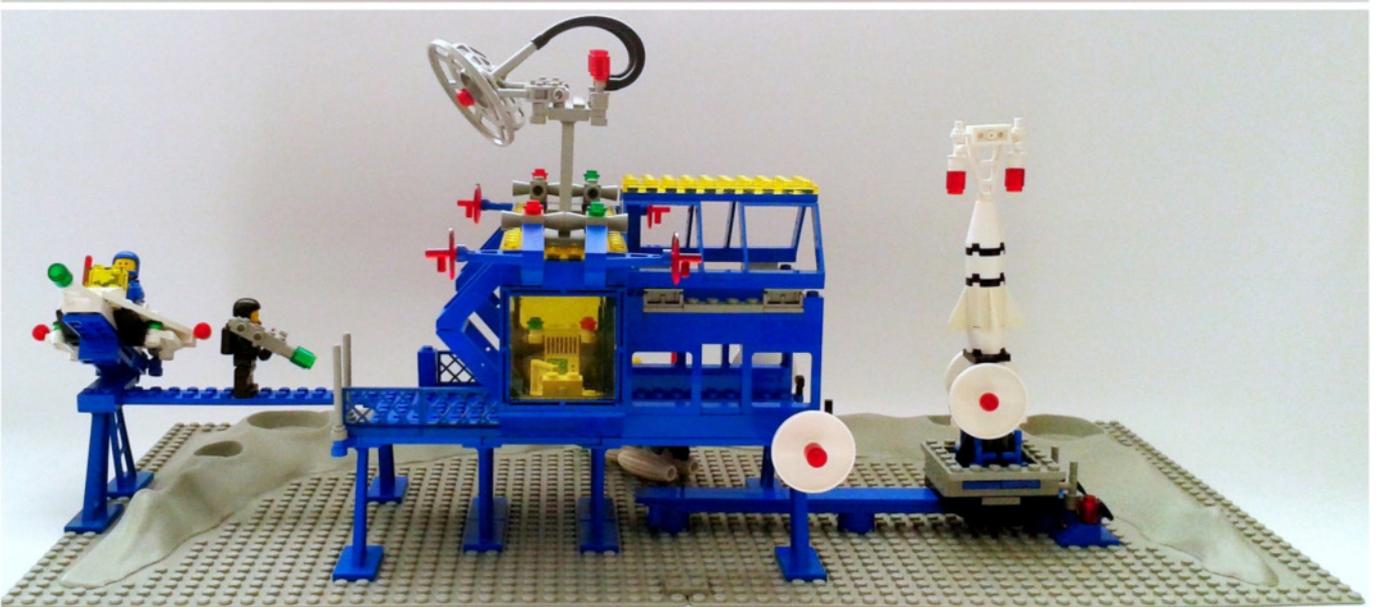
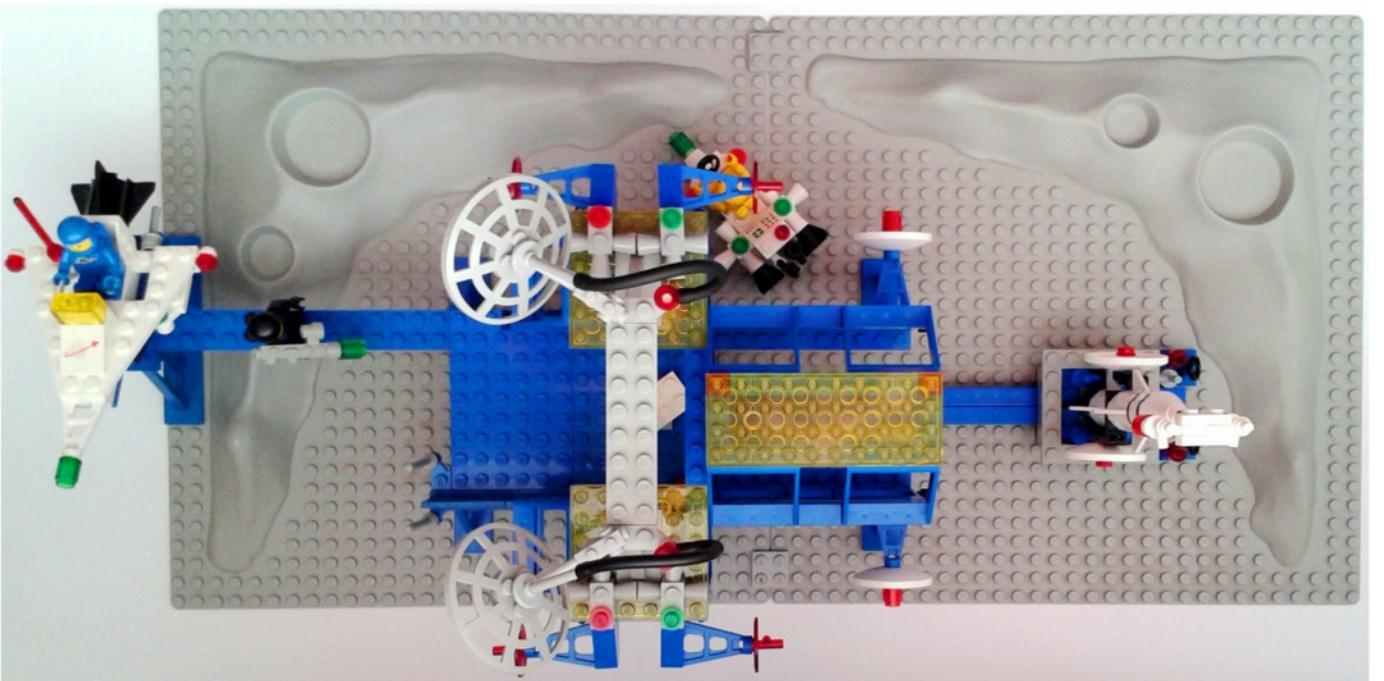
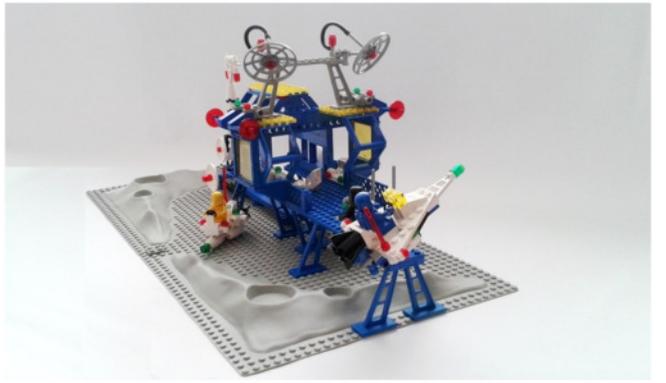
I love the alternate builds that are shown on the back and inside of the box and overall this is a great set - whether you display it per the instructions or buy it just to expand your stock of parts.



You can see the Inter-Galactic Base in the background of these adverts promoting the available sets of the time.









BUILD SKILLS

WINGS

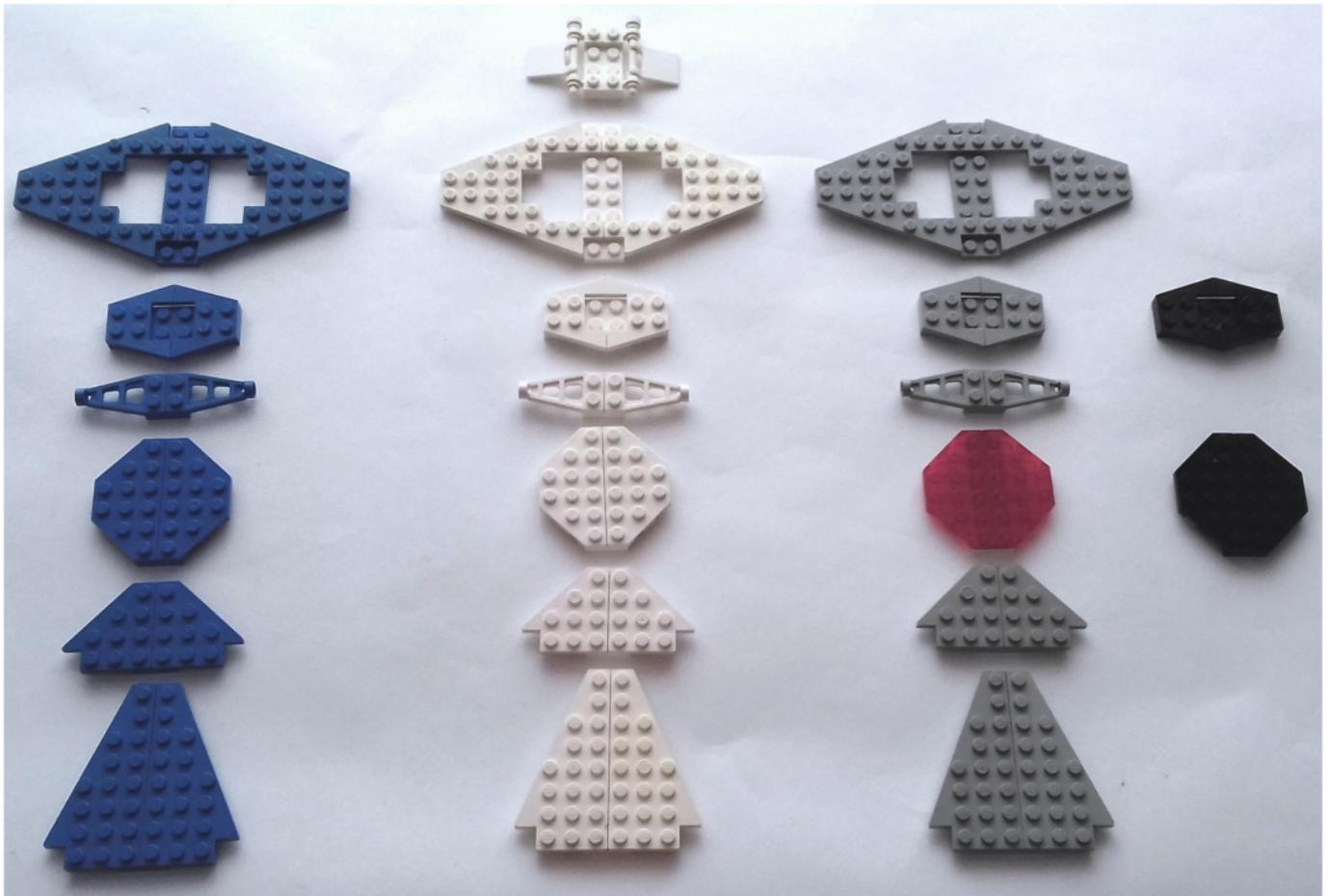
In this seasons edition I am going to take a look at wings. Whilst spaceships do not necessarily need them, many of the Classic Spaceships did have them, and they were generally made from wedge plates or from part 4596 - Modified Plate 1x2 with Long Stud Receptacle (Space Wing).

During the neo-classic revival, many MOC builders started to prefer to use slope bricks and inverted slopes as a way to create wings without studs. I have also seen wings made from regular bricks that have been angled using either hinges or technic bricks with pins.

There is a certain element of MOC builders who are either afraid to try the newer wing types or just don't like it and prefer to stick with wedge plates. A lot of them move in the direction of more modern wedge plates, as there is a greater variety of sizes and angles, but they seem reluctant to invest a little money into some slope bricks. Personally I have experimented with all of these methods within the scope of original Classic Space elements and I can't say that any one method is superior to another, however I do like to hide or minimize the amount of studs that are on show in my models. On the matter of covering studs, I would say, don't be stringent that every single stud must be tiled or hidden - It's okay to have some studs on show, but the overall appearance of your models will likely look better if it is not completely covered with dimples. I use all the methods that are available and would also consider mixing those methods into the same model as well - a combination of wedge plates, slopes and or angled bricks. When building MOCs, experimenting is key and don't be satisfied with your first attempt build - Pull it apart again and ask 'What if I did it like this instead?', try out all the options - contemplate, sleep on it and by the next morning you will know what works best.

Let's start this exploration of wing building, by looking at what elements we have available...

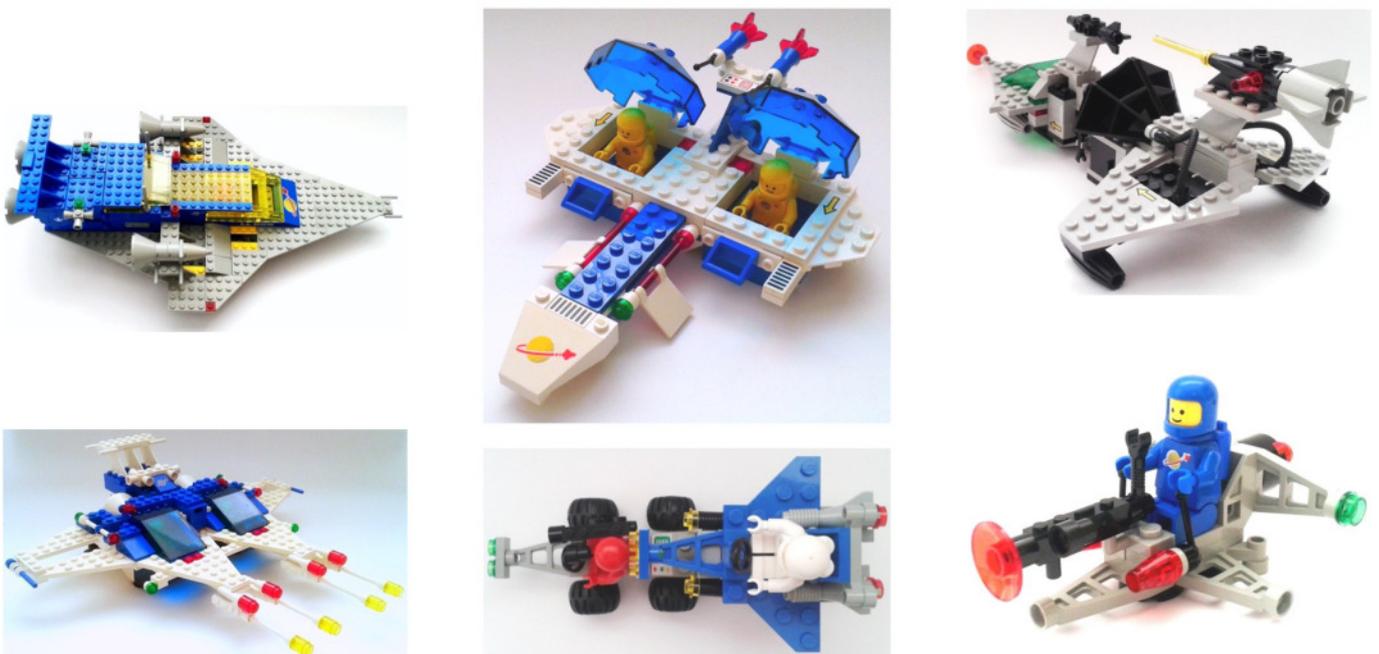




TRADITIONAL WINGS

See Wedge plate parts 3933a, 3934a, 3935, 3936, 2419, 4859, 4475, Modified Plate 4596 and Flag 2335 above. The picture shows the available colours. These parts can be arranged and combined in endless ways together with regular plates to create spaceship wings. If you want to build a spaceship using some of these, look hard at the picture I've provided above and try to imagine all the possible wing shapes that can be made.

You might also gain inspiration from seeing how they have been used in the original classic space sets:

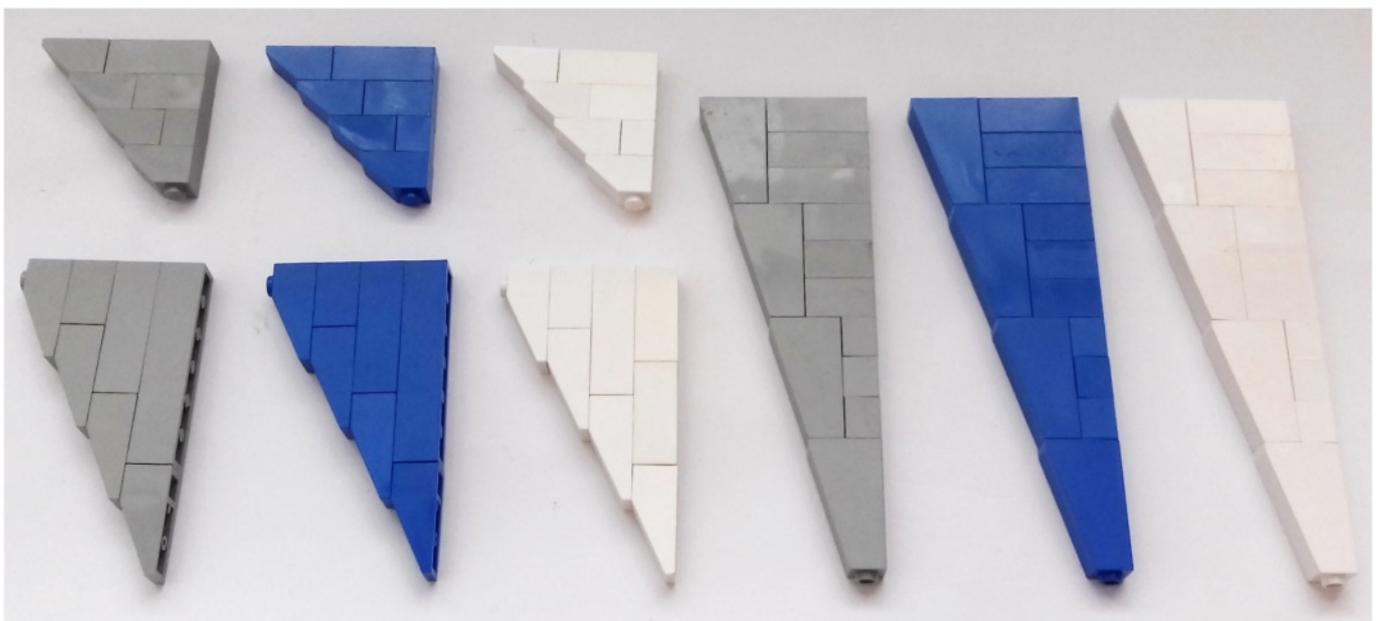


SLOPE BRICK WINGS

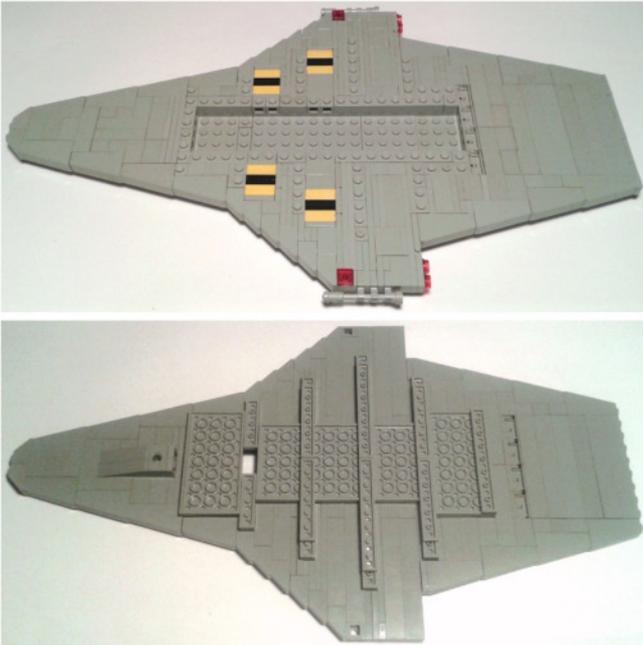
MOC builders often choose to replace the tradition wedge plate wings with 1-stud thick slope bricks / roof tiles - effectively walls that are laying down - studs not on top (SNOT).

Using the original parts from Classic Space theme, we have three different angled slopes to work with in a choice of grey, blue or white. I highly recommend purchasing some of these: 33 degrees 3x1 (4286), 45 degrees 2x1 (3040) and 75 degrees 2x1x3 (4460a) and experiment with this type of wing. You can also make use of the inverted slope equivalents - 33 degrees 3x1 (4287) and 45 degrees 2x1 (3665) - and the inverted versions of these were also available in black within the theme. There is an inverted slope equivalent of the 75 degrees 2x1x3, however this element never appeared in any classic space set - therefore I don't use it so that my models remain authentic to the theme and the time period.

Using combinations of these slopes, there are endless possibilities for delta wing shapes - the slopes can be turned through 90 degrees to allow further possibilities. You will need to use regular bricks with these slope bricks. If you start off by building your wings very simply - plain with regular bricks, you can later go back and start replacing some of them with other elements in order to add detail to the wings - perhaps some lights, bumblebee stripes, engine mounts, or legs, rockets or other machinery on the underside of the wing.



Once you have decided upon the shape of your wings, the next thing you need to worry about is how you are going to attach them to your spaceship. I think this problem might be what puts some builders off attempting slope brick wings - they imagine that the construction techniques must be far too complicated for them to grasp or they need to use some very unusual elements that they don't have. They also worry that this type wing will be too flimsy and not structurally strong enough to hold together. There is some mental block telling them that they need to stick to the wedge plate wings. Overcoming this block is going to take your building abilities to the next level - try not to feel overwhelmed by it - you will make a few mistakes and that is okay - you will learn from them and these days there are plenty of online communities where you can seek advice when you get stuck. I am always more than willing to help other builders and offer advice to them. Some builders prefer to keep all their building skills and techniques a closely guarded secret - because they don't want copycats of their work appearing - or others taking credit for their creations. Personally I don't fall into this category - I want to help other builders who might be just starting out to become better builders and then the whole community can benefit from enjoying a higher standard of model displays.

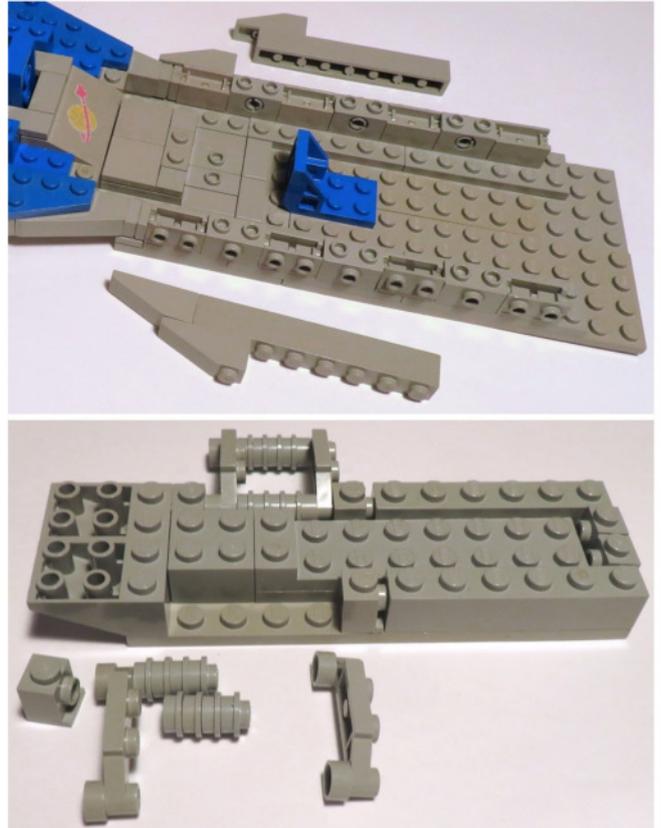


The pictures above demonstrate some methods you can use to attach slope brick wings to your spaceship.

Modified Brick 1x1 with Headlight (Part 4070) can be extremely useful to pin the wings to the plate base of a ship. You have to be careful with the spacing when using the 1x1 headlight as the side stud is slightly inset from the edge of the brick. I've found that spacing the headlight bricks with a 3-stud gap between them will help you avoid spacing problems when mixing sideways facing bricks with stud-upwards plates.

ANGLED BRICK WINGS

Below left you can see a different method for creating wings. I learned this technique from a model created by MOC builder Xavier Lafont. This combines traditional wedge plates in the centre with sideways facing bricks - tiled along the edge. The angle is achieved by using technic bricks and pins. Getting the spacing right for this type of wing is challenging and I wouldn't recommend attempting it if you are beginner! If you are brave enough to attempt it - I would love to see the finished result.



Hinge brick 1x2 (Parts 3937/3938) can also be very useful for shifting the stud direction through 90 degrees, and also technic bricks with half pins will give you the same result.

On the bottom right image, you can see I've used Modified Plate 1x4 offset (Part 4590) together with the 1x1 headlight brick to create a kind of hinge. Wings can then be built around this hinge and can be tilted to any angle you wish - freeing you from having the wings at right angles to the fuselage of the ship.

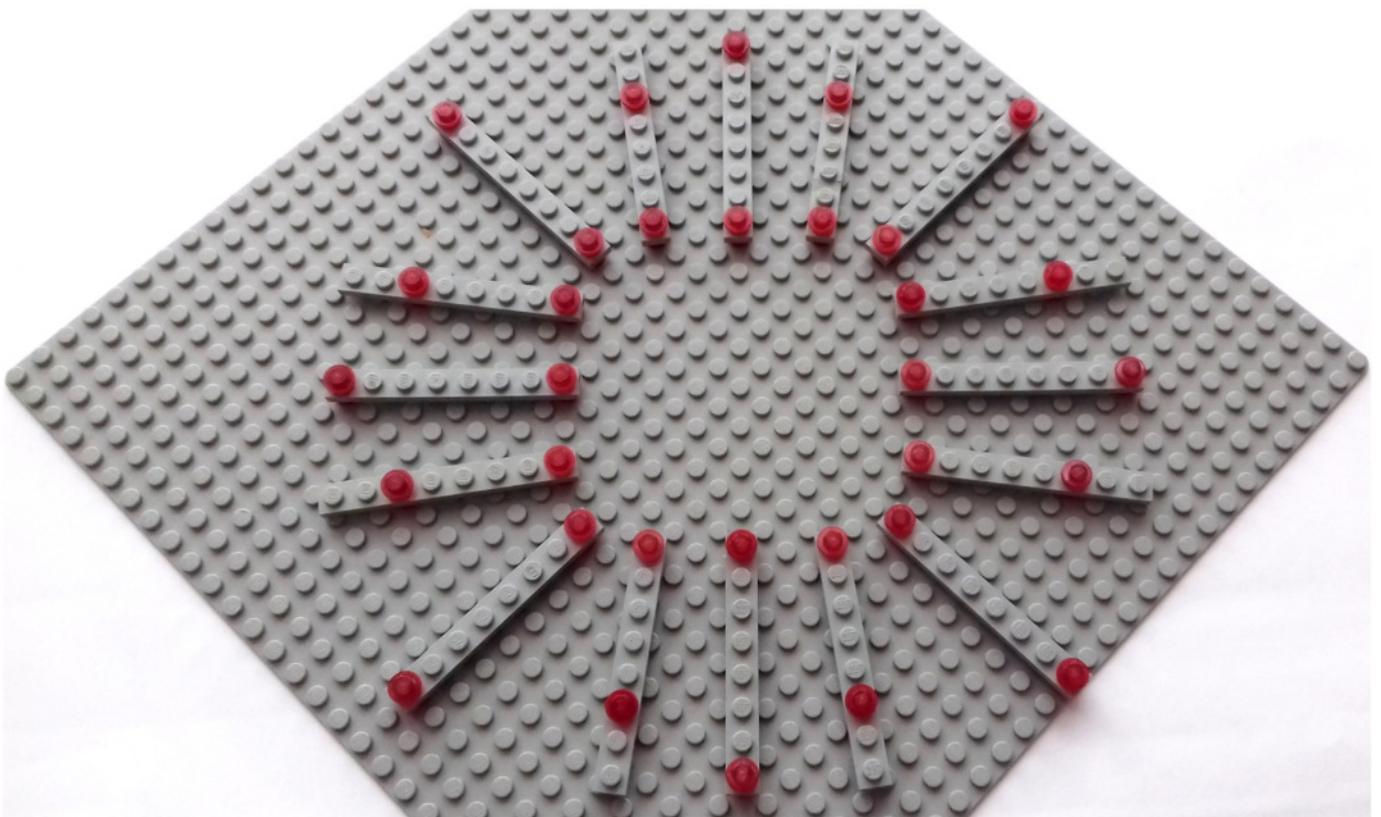




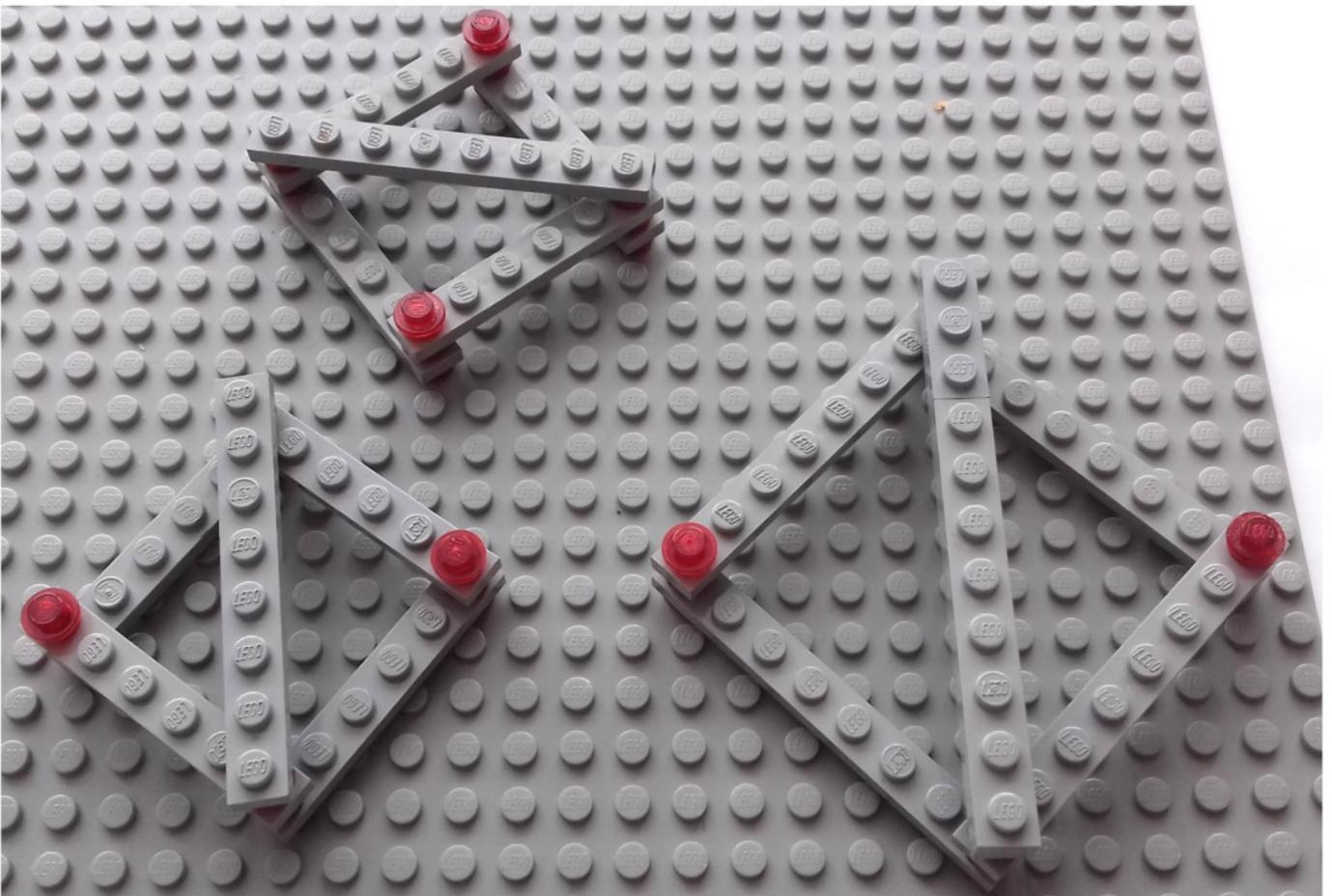
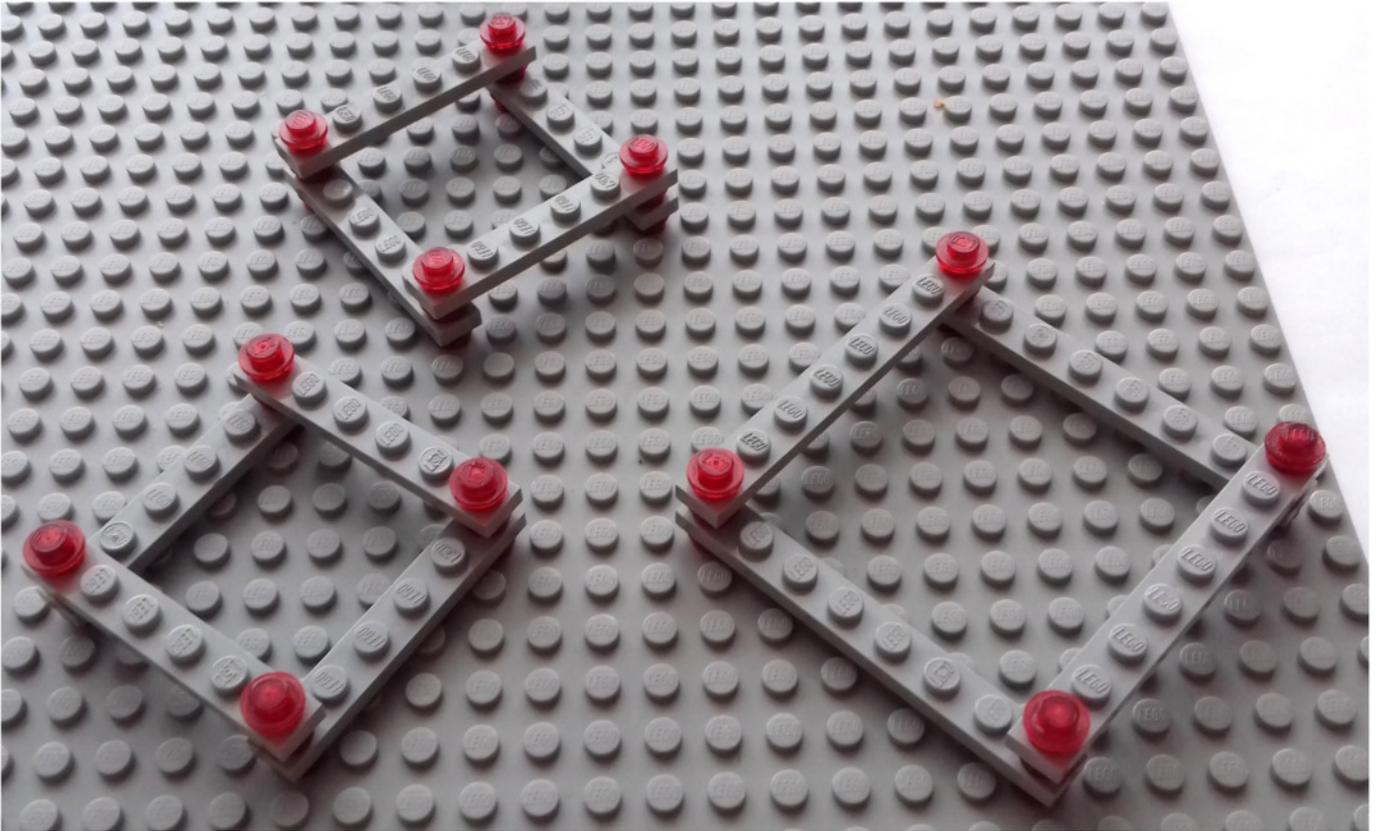
PIVOTING FROM A STUD

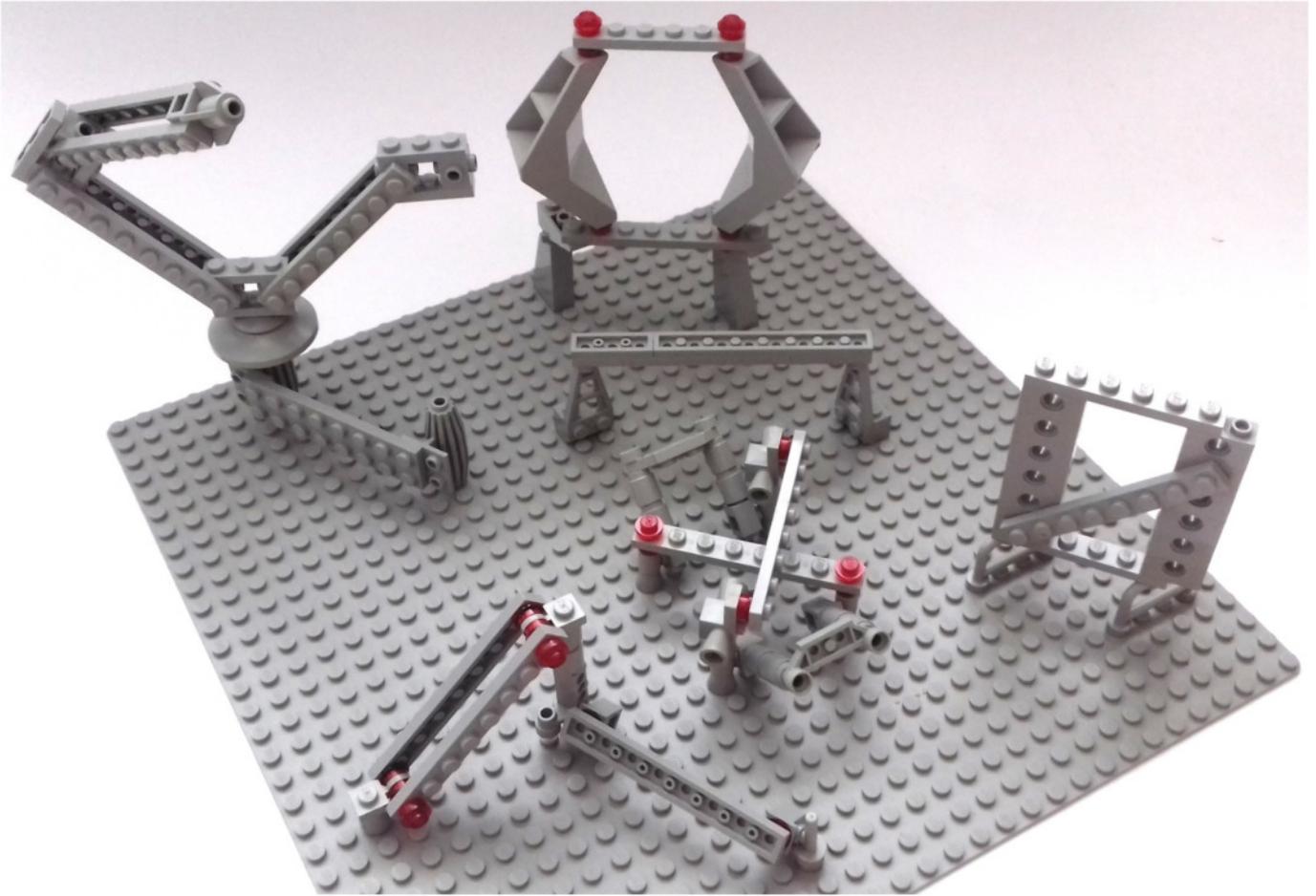
The theme for this edition of Elements is pivoting from a stud. What I mean by that is the act of rotating elements to angles other than right angles without the use of hinges. To achieve this you need elements that allow you to have one stud with no surrounding studs to get in the way of the rotation.

There are a large amount of elements that have a single stud not surrounded by other studs. Look closely at the images and identify the elements that have been used in perhaps unexpected ways.



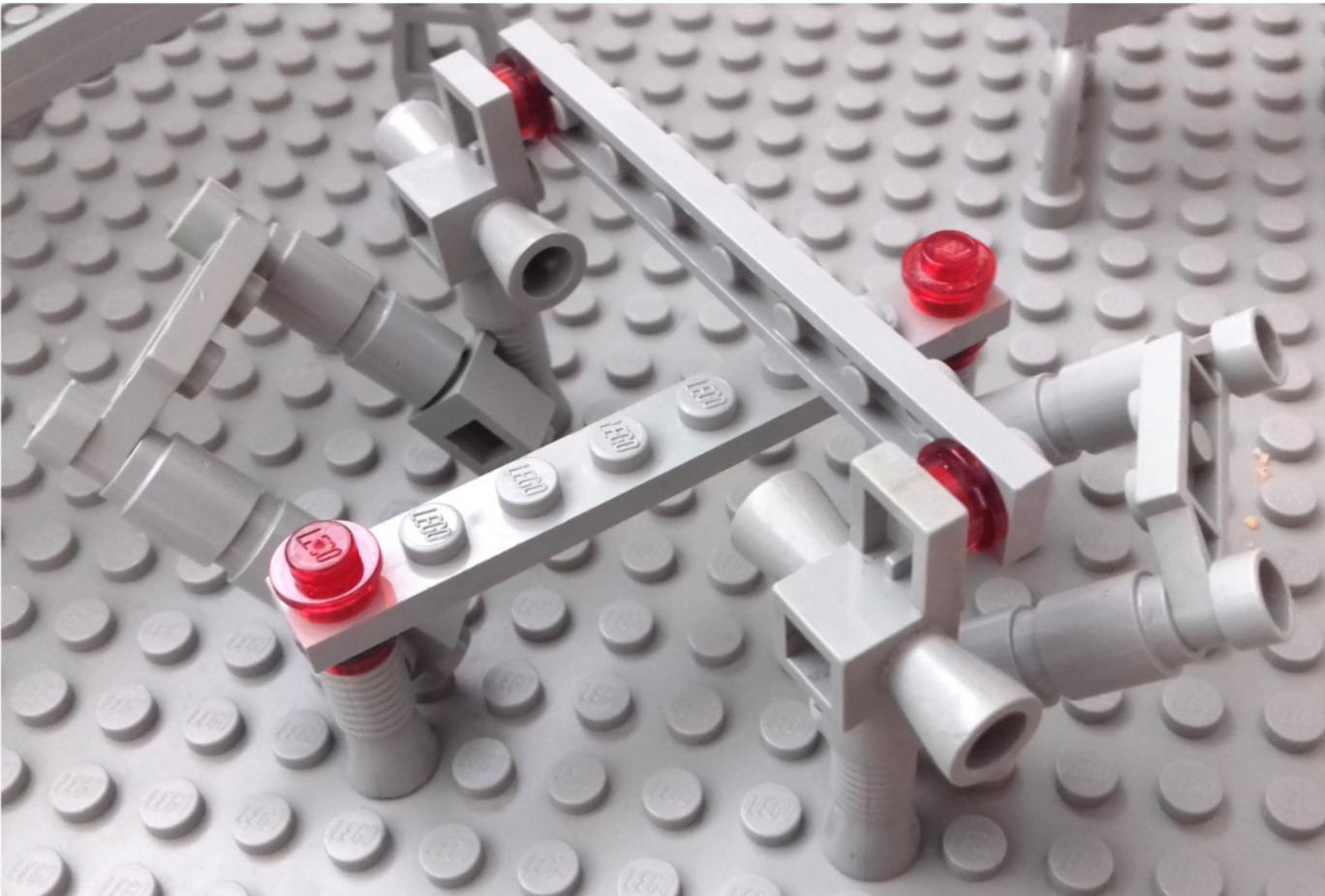
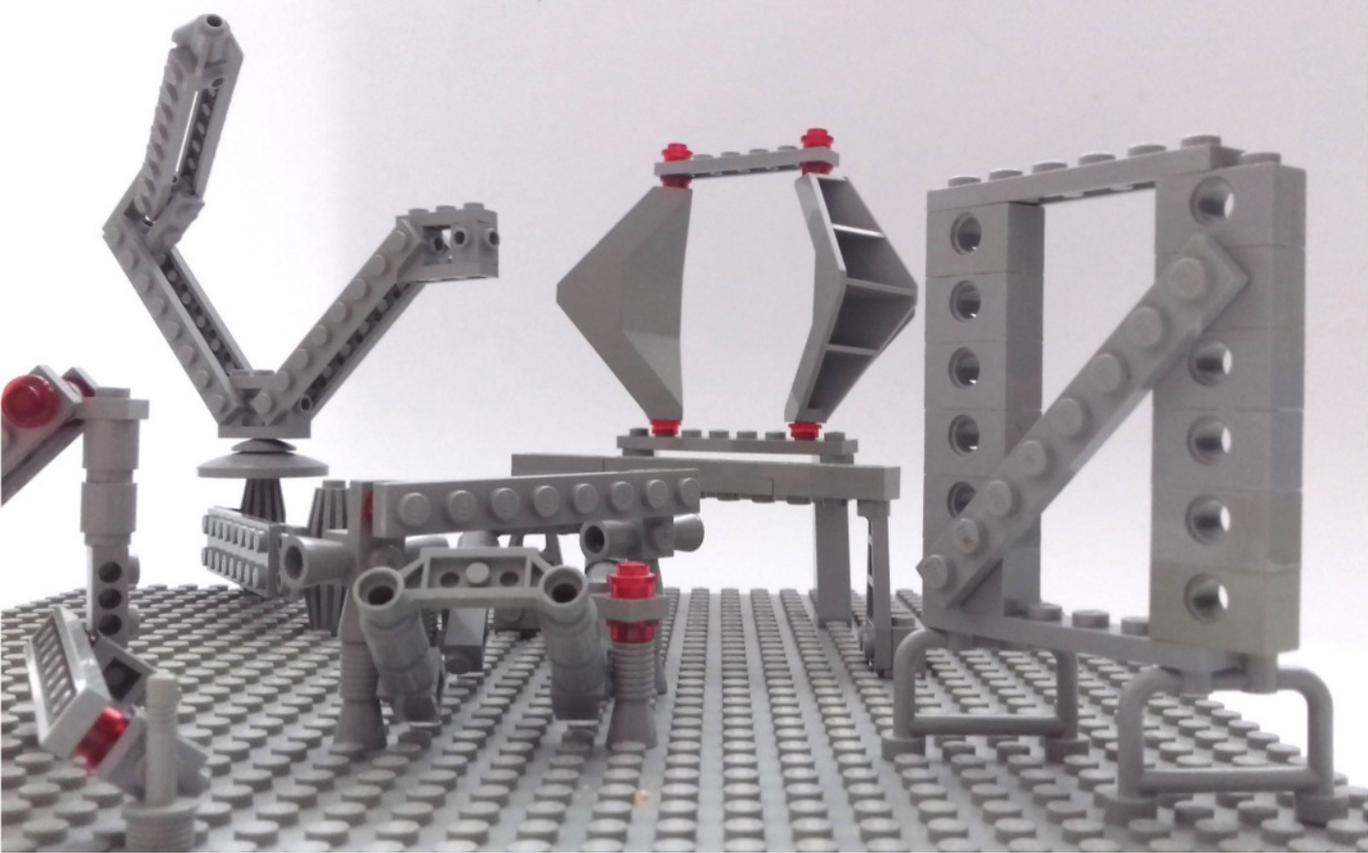
The trans-red 1x1 round plates indicate the positions where the studs line up perfectly with the baseplate below the angled plates.





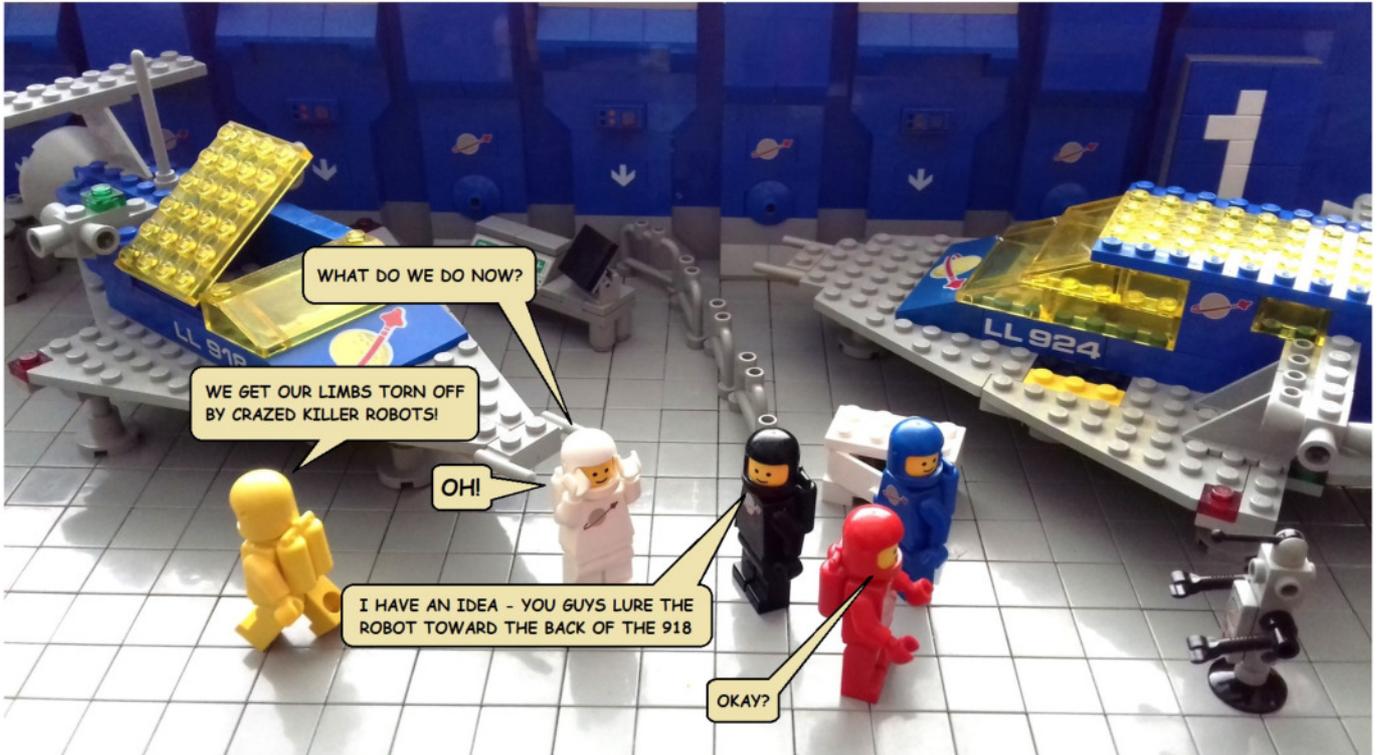
Look carefully and see how many different techniques you can find and what elements were used in order to create them. Perhaps some of these examples can spark some design ideas for a model or scene.

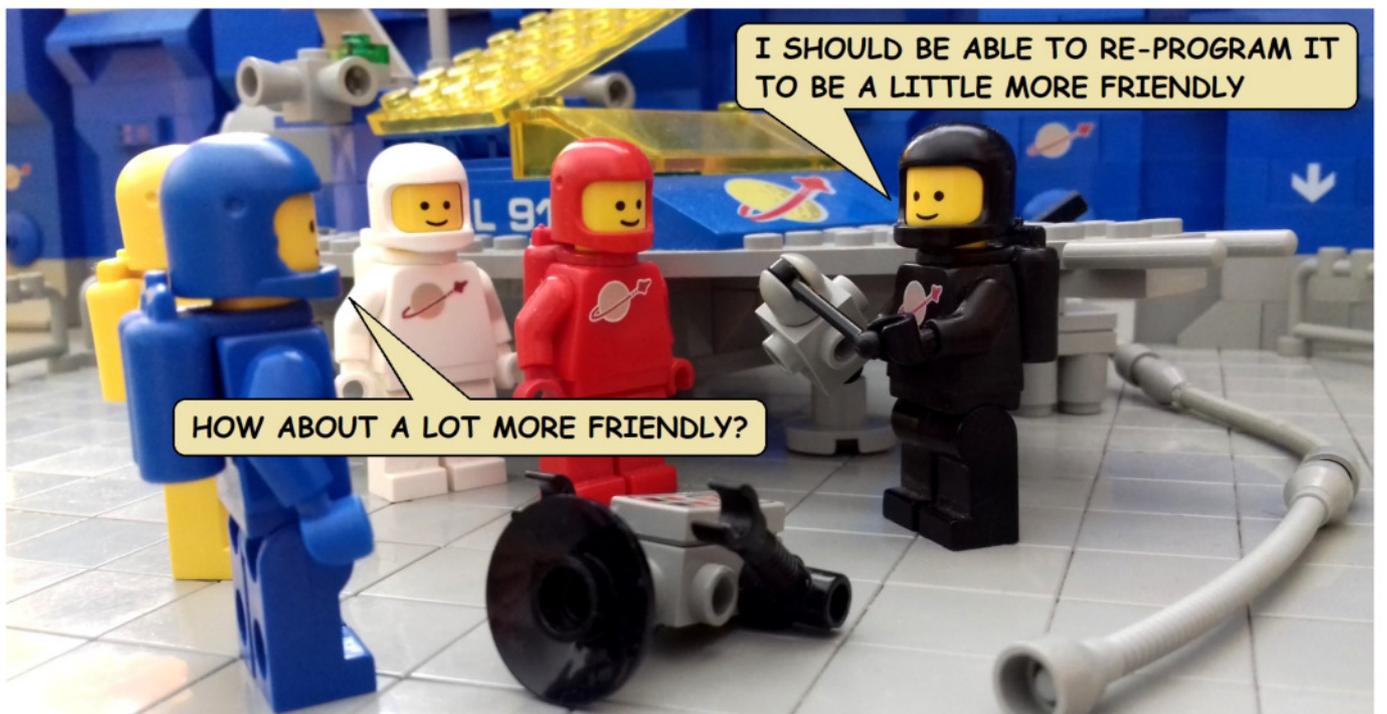
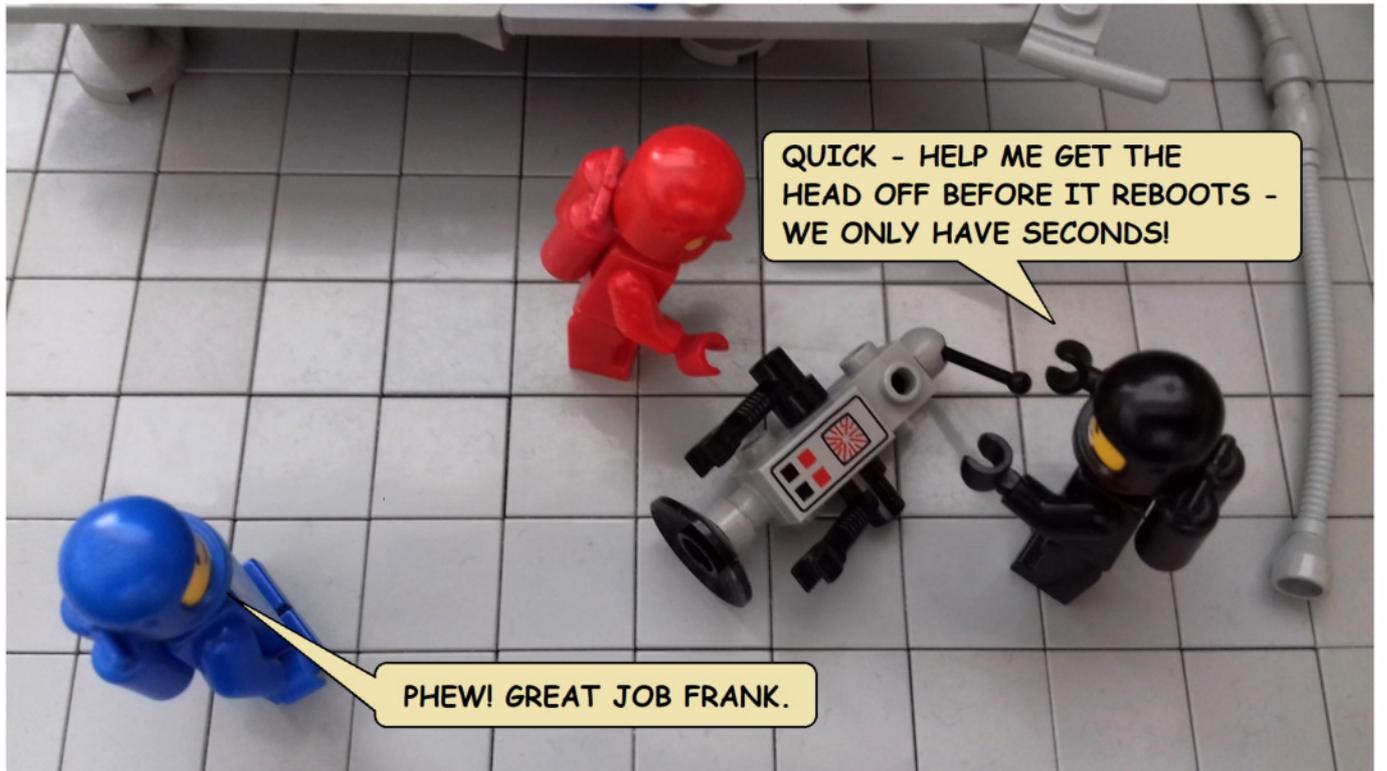




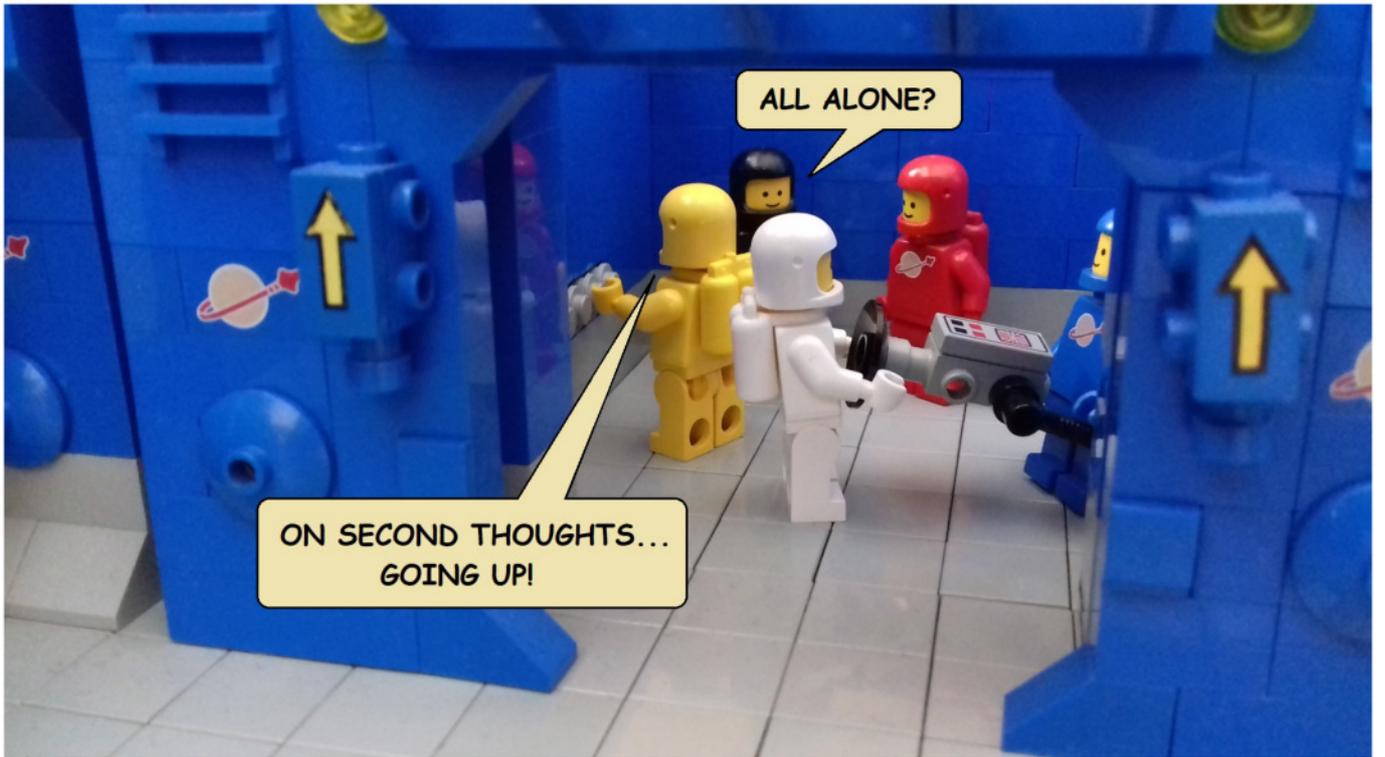
THE SURVIVORS

PART 2



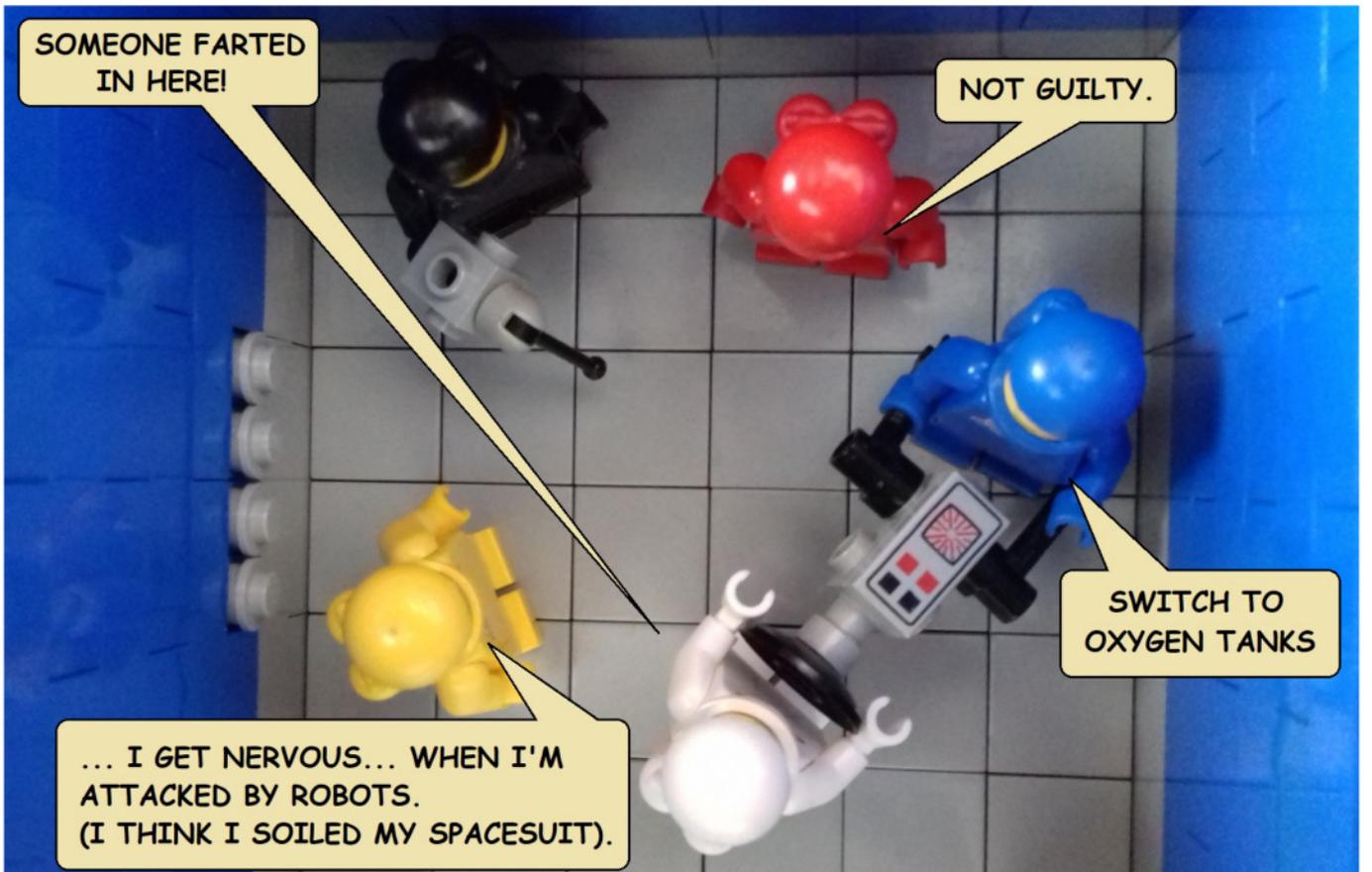






ALL ALONE?

ON SECOND THOUGHTS...
GOING UP!



SOMEONE FARTED
IN HERE!

NOT GUILTY.

SWITCH TO
OXYGEN TANKS

... I GET NERVOUS... WHEN I'M
ATTACKED BY ROBOTS.
(I THINK I SOILED MY SPACESUIT).



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

Many thanks to all those that have encouraged and supported me by purchasing Issue 1.

Special thanks to Michael Gilliam, Matthew William Walker-Rowe, Petter Lerdaahl, Stephan Lange, William Reiss, Damiano Baldini, Bartosz Bąkowski, Stefan Gruenig, Erwin Jansen and Alessandro Farioli.

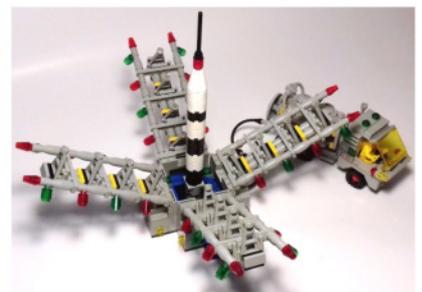
I would also like to thank Walter Whiteside for allowing me to feature his fantastic models in MOC Spotlight.

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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6 Model Instructions To Collect for only £1 each

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

There are currently six to collect including Pursuit Immobiliser, Bluebird/Blackbird, Buggy, Sleep Module, Tanker and Large Rocket Launch Pad.

Available at jaseman.com

