

### **Does the LEGO company support you with building material?**

No, there is no sponsorship by the LEGO company for its fans. All bricks are bought and collected by fans.

### **Does the LEGO company give you a discount?**

No. LEGO fan organizations are not typically affiliated with the LEGO company in any way, and do not receive compensation for the time spent building models or the time dedicated to promoting LEGO to the public.

### **Where do you get special colors like sand-green, bright-yellow?**

The colour palette of LEGO elements is wider than you might think. Some colors appear in small quantities in official LEGO sets. Larger amounts of rare colors are sometimes available at Pick-a-Brick in LEGO brand stores or the LEGOLAND parks.

### **Can I buy fan-created models?**

Creations by LEGO fans are usually unique models, which are not sold. Sometimes models are sold by the builder; feel free to ask them directly. [design-byme.lego.com](http://design-byme.lego.com) offers the opportunity to build a virtual LEGO model and buy it directly from the LEGO company.

### **Can I get building instructions for fan-created models?**

Models are normally built without instructions. Sometimes fans create instructions afterwards and publish them online. It is nearly impossible to make instructions for huge models.

### **What does your partner think about your hobby?**

Many of our partners are very supportive of our hobby, and some are also fans as well!

### **How much does it cost to build a custom creation?**

You really don't want to know the answer! Otherwise the answer of the previous question might change ;-]

In all seriousness, the average LEGO brick costs about \$0.10 retail. If a model has 1,000 bricks, it will cost \$100 to make. Many fan-created models are much larger than 1,000 bricks.

### **How many LEGO bricks were used in a custom created model?**

It is difficult to keep a tally on the number of bricks used! A detailed train locomotive could be built with more than 1,000 elements. Huge models could easily contain more than 10,000 or even 100,000 LEGO elements.

### **How long did it take you to build the model?**

The time varies. A rainy weekend could be used very creatively and efficiently. Huge models take months or even years to get them finished.

### **Do you take the model apart?**

If you can store your models somewhere at home or in a storage facility / club house, they might survive a long time. Other models have a short life expectancy, or are destroyed in transit to / from a show. The elements are reused for new projects.

### **How do you transport the models?**

Huge models are typically built modular. That means you have handy modules which could be transported in boxes. Depending on the size of the model, it might be necessary to use a mid-sized van or small trailer for transportation.

### **What about gluing, cutting, painting or drilling LEGO elements?**

No, normally LEGO fans do not harm LEGO elements. Sometimes, especially when adding custom electric lights, some folks do modify LEGO elements.

### **Do you produce bricks by yourself?**

No. Standard and sometimes hard to find LEGO elements are used by fans to create all models.

### **Is LEGO model making your profession?**

No, LEGO is not our profession. It is more of a hobby and a passion! Many of us have full-time jobs that keep us busy during the week, and spend evenings and weekends working on our LEGO creations or attending LEGO-related events.

### **Which gauge is the LEGO train system?**

We call it L-Gauge – 38 mm (not compatible to other model railway systems). All different LEGO train systems have the same L-Gauge.

### **How long has LEGO been making trains?**

LEGO trains were introduced in 1965, with the first motor-powered trains released the following year. The original LEGO trains were 4.5V trains available in the US and Europe, followed by a 12V version available only in Europe. Both were phased out in 1991 with the introduction of the 9V line, which is the train most fans run today. Recently, the LEGO company also introduced a battery powered, remote controlled train with plastic track, which is geared towards kids. The Monorail Transit System is also a favorite of some train fans, and a unique collector's item since it is no longer produced by the LEGO company.

### **Curious Abbreviations of LEGO Fans**

**ABS** = Acrylnitril-Butadien-Styrol, the basic chemical material LEGO elements are made of since 1962/63.

**AFOL** = Adult Fan Of LEGO

**BURP** = Big Ugly Rock Piece.

**LURP** = Little Ugly Rock Piece.

**MISB** = Mint In Sealed Box/Bag.

**MISP** = Mint In Sealed Polybag/Package/ Package.

**MOC** = My Own Creation; model built with LEGO bricks.

**SNOT** = Studs Not On Top; SNOT techniques deal with all ways of building by not stacking parts with the studs on the top, resulting in a smooth surface. SNOT techniques are innovative ways to create shapes that could not be realized another way. In this way, MOCs are more detailed.

**TLC** = The LEGO Company

Initial idea by Holger Matthes  
([www.holgermatthes.de/bricks](http://www.holgermatthes.de/bricks))

## Major Online Resources

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- **www.fbtb.net** – From Bricks To Bothans, the LEGO Starwars experience
- **www.brothers-brick.com** – bloy with daily news about cool MOCs
- **www.1000steine.de** – melting pot of the German LEGO fan community.
- **www.brickshelf.com** – free picture galleries to present your LEGO creations.
- **www.brickfactory.info** – building instructions online.
- **www.peeron.com** – set- and part-reference, building instructions, catalogues.
- **www.brickset.com** – another set reference.
- **www.mocpages.com** – share your LEGO creations with the world for free.
- **www.ldraw.org** – centralized LEGO CAD resources.
- **www.lego.com** – the official LEGO website.
- **www.flickr.com** – various LEGO related groups and user.
- **www.youtube.com** – tons of LEGO related videos.

## Shopping Tips By LEGO Fans

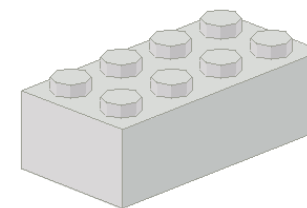
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- **shop.lego.com** – LEGO sets and some parts are available in the online store (S@H). Some sets are only available through this resource.
- **www.bricklink.com** – a premium venue for individuals and businesses from all around the world to buy and sell new, used and vintage LEGO through fixed price and auction services. Sets, as well as individual elements, can be purchased through this site.
- **Toy-Shops** and **superstores** – keep an eye open for bargains and sales at local toy stores, as well as at big chain stores, like Toys R Us and Target!
- **www.ebay.com** – always thousands of LEGO-related auctions.
- **LEGO Brand Stores** – in various major cities in the US, UK and Germany. You can purchase recent LEGO sets, S@H offers and loose bricks in the Pick-a-Brick wall.
- **LEGOLAND** parks - in Carlsbad (CA), Günzburg (Germany), Windsor (UK) or Billund (DK) – Single parts are sold by weight (pick-a-brick = PaB). The Pick-a-Brick varies from store-to-store, traveling a long distance is not always worth it – check out bricklink.com for tips from locals who may have knowledge of what is available.
- Check **flea markets** for LEGO ...

... and you must have a lot of patience while collecting LEGO elements. Sometimes it can take a while to find what you need, in the quantities that you need it!



# Questions & Answers



Need-to-know  
about  
LEGO®  
as  
a  
hobby