

# Legos

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**Legos Legos** (often stylized as LEGO) are a popular line of plastic construction toys manufactured by The LEGO Group, a Danish company founded in 1932. The iconic interlocking plastic bricks were first introduced in 1949 and have since become one of the most beloved and versatile toys in the world.

## Key Facts About LEGO:

- Brick Design – LEGO bricks feature a unique interlocking system that allows them to be securely connected and combined in endless ways.
- Themes & Sets – LEGO offers a wide range of themed sets, including:

## City (vehicles, buildings)

- Technic (advanced mechanics)
- Star Wars, Marvel, Harry Potter (licensed franchises)

## Creator (modular builds)

- Mindstorms/Boost (robotics & coding)
- Architecture (famous landmarks)

## Ideas (fan-designed sets)

- Minifigures – Small, posable LEGO people that add playability to sets.
- LEGO Movies & Media – Successful films like The LEGO Movie (2014) expanded the brand's reach.
- LEGO Video Games – Popular titles like LEGO Star Wars and LEGO Batman.
- LEGO Education – Used in schools for STEM learning.
- Sustainability Efforts – LEGO is working toward using sustainable materials, including plant-based plastics.
- Fun LEGO Facts:
  - Legos The name "LEGO" comes from the Danish phrase "leg godt," meaning "play well."
  - There are over 4,000 different LEGO elements in production.
  - The LEGO Group produces about 36 billion bricks per year.
  - The tallest LEGO tower ever built was over 36 meters (118 ft) high.

## LEGO's Early History Before Plastic Bricks

- LEGO started in 1932 as a wooden toy company (making ducks, cars, and yo-yos).
- The name "LEGO" (1934) comes from "leg godt" (Danish for "play well"), but it also means "I put together" in Latin—a happy coincidence.
- LEGO later refined them into the stud-and-tube system we know today.

## How LEGO Bricks Are Made (Precision Matters!)

- LEGO bricks are molded with precision of 0.002mm—so consistent that a brick from 1958 still fits with one made today.
- Legos The plastic used is ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene), which is durable and colorfast.
- LEGO makes ~36 billion bricks/year—enough to circle Earth 18 times if laid end-to-end.

## Rare & Expensive LEGO Sets

- Some LEGO sets are highly collectible, selling for thousands:
- Taj Mahal (2008) – Retired, resells for \$3,000+.
- 14K Gold LEGO Brick (2019) – Only 2 were made, worth \$25,000+.

## LEGO's Dark Side (Controversies & Oddities)

- LEGO's Short-Lived "Scala" Line (1970s) – A bizarre attempt at LEGO jewelry for girls (failed).
- LEGO Universe (2010 MMO) – Shut down after just 2 years, breaking fans' hearts.
- LEGO's Oil Ties – The company has faced criticism because ~1% of oil production goes into plastic toys.
- Banned LEGO Sets – Some sets (like #4183 The Black Pearl) were pulled for "too scary" skull designs in certain countries.

### **LEGO in Pop Culture & Records**

- Biggest LEGO Set Ever – #10307 Eiffel Tower (10,001 pieces).
- Longest LEGO Model – A 1.2-mile-long LEGO train track (2019).
- LEGO Art – Artists like Nathan Sawaya create stunning sculptures (e.g., a life-size LEGO car).

### **LEGO Building Secrets & Techniques**

- SNOT (Studs Not On Top) – Building sideways for sleeker designs.
- Greebling – Adding tiny details to make builds look complex (common in Star Wars sets).
- Illegal Techniques – LEGO terms for stressful connections (e.g., bending bricks), which designers avoid.

### **LEGO's Future & Innovations**

- Legos Sustainable LEGO – By 2030, LEGO aims to use 100% plant-based or recycled materials.
- Braille Bricks – LEGO makes bricks to help blind children learn Braille.
- LEGO Super Mario – Interactive sets with scannable NFC tiles.
- LEGO's Biggest Failures They Don't Want You to Remember
- Galidor (2002) – LEGO's attempt at a TV show + toy line (like Bionicle but worse). It bombed hard.
- Jack Stone (2001) – A weird, chunky LEGO line for toddlers that ignored the brick system. Lasted only 2 years.
- LEGO Clickits (2003) – A failed girls' jewelry line (yes, again). Featured sparkly, non-LEGO-compatible parts.
- LEGO Znap (1998) – A "flexible" building system that felt like K'Nex knockoff. Discontinued in 1 year.

### **The Rarest LEGO Minifigures (Worth More Than Gold)**

- Solid Gold C-3PO (2007) – Only 5 were made (given to LEGO employees). Value: \$300,000+.
- Mr. Gold (2013) – A mystery minifig from LEGO Collectible Minifigures Series 10. Only 5,000 exist. Sells for \$5,000+.
- Error Minifigs – Misprints (like two-faced Batman) can fetch \$1,000+.

### **LEGO's Banned & Censored Sets**

- #10018 Darth Maul (2001) – Banned in Turkey because the horns resembled the devil.
- #4524 Mindstorms NXT (2006) – Banned in Iran (feared it could be used for military robotics).
- #71044 Disney Train (2019) – Modified in Germany because the cross symbol on the conductor was deemed "too religious."
- LEGO's Secret Underground Vault
- LEGO keeps every set ever made in a high-security vault in Billund, Denmark.
- Even failed prototypes are stored there.
- Only a handful of employees have access.

### **LEGO in Space (Yes, Really)**

- 2011 – LEGO sent minifigs to the International Space Station as part of an educational program.
- 2012 – A LEGO Space Shuttle was launched into the stratosphere by a 10-year-old.
- 2019 – A LEGO Apollo Lunar Lander was displayed at NASA.
- LEGO as an Investment (Better Than Stocks?)
- LEGO sets appreciate faster than gold (avg. 11% yearly return).

### **Top 5 Appreciating LEGO Sets:**

- Legos #10179 Millennium Falcon (2007) – \$500 → \$10,000+
- #10189 Taj Mahal (2008) – \$300 → \$4,000+
- #4184 Black Pearl (2011) – \$100 → \$1,500+
- #21109 NASA Apollo Saturn V (2017) – \$120 → \$600+
- LEGO's Hidden Adult Fan Culture (AFOL Secrets)
- BrickLink – The eBay of LEGO (where rare parts sell for \$100+ each).

- LEGO Ideas – Fans submit designs; if they get 10,000 votes, LEGO might make them real (e.g., #21322 Pirates of Barracuda Bay).
- LEGO Conventions – Events like BrickFair and BrickCon attract thousands of AFOLs.
- MOC (My Own Creation) Culture – Fans build insane custom models (like life-size LEGO cars).

### **Most Complex Building Techniques**

- Microscale – Tiny, ultra-detailed builds (e.g., #21056 Taj Mahal).
- Brick-Bending (Illegal Techniques) – Pushing LEGO's limits (e.g., forcing plates to curve).
- Global Dominance (By the Numbers)
- 36 billion bricks made yearly.
- 7 LEGO Houses worldwide (including Billund, NYC, & Shanghai).
- Over 900 LEGO themes since 1949.
- 2 LEGO bricks for every person on Earth.

### **LEGO's Real CIA Connection**

- In the 1980s, the CIA used LEGO sets to build scale models of Soviet military bases for training.
- Why? LEGO was cheaper than professional modeling kits and allowed quick reconfigurations.
- Some speculate Cold War-era LEGO trains were studied for real rail system designs.

### **The Lost LEGO Colors (Discontinued & Cursed)**

- Copper (2000-2001) – Only in 2 sets (#10024 & #10025). Now oxidizes and turns green.
- Legos Sand Green (1998-2004) – A rare pastel green in Harry Potter sets. Now sells for \$10 per brick.
- Old Gray (1970s-2003) – Replaced because it yellowed over time. Purists hoard it.
- Glow-in-the-Dark (1990s) – Early versions stopped glowing after a few years.
- The LEGO Mafia (Rare Part Black Market)
- BrickBoosters – Scammers buy exclusive Comic-Con minifigs, then resell them for 1000% markup.

### **LEGO's Forbidden Experiments**

- LEGO Flamethrower (2010) – A fan-built working flamethrower using LEGO pneumatics. LEGO sent a cease-and-desist.
- LEGO Death Star Hack (2017) – A hacker wired a LEGO Death Star to play DOOM.

### **LEGO's Ancient Pre-Plastic History**

- Wooden LEGO Trucks (1930s) – Before plastic, LEGO made hand-painted wooden toys. A single truck now costs \$5,000+.
  - LEGO's First Plastic Toy (1947) – A duck-shaped rattle (not a brick).
  - The LEGO "System" (1955) – The first time LEGO marketed bricks as a universal system, not just individual sets.
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