

Building my own Millennium Falcon™

The fastest pile of junk in the Galaxy. Who wouldn't want one?

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Even if you don't like the Star Wars™ universe, we have to agree that one of its biggest qualities is the incredible design for the spaceships. The Millennium Falcon™ has been reproduced so many times that we could say it has almost become an icon.

After a few well made tries, in 2007, LEGO® made the definitive version of it: A humongous 5195 pieces set, with a price tag almost as impressive. I can suppose that when it came out, many of the fans were having trouble deciding whether to treat themselves to such purchase or just pass on it.

As for me, even though I couldn't stop drooling all over the set whenever I saw it, the price was too high, and overall my enthusiasm towards LEGO comes from a different kind of sets, as well as building my own things rather than buying a set made for collectors.

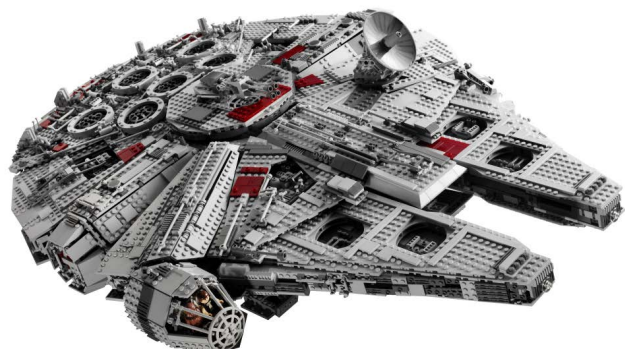
But I still had an itch for it. I made a well thought list of pieces I needed and even bought some of them through BrickLink, but many of them were hard to get or too expensive and the idea of building a 10179 started fading slowly. So I just decided to make the Millennium Falcon on my own, "improvising", as I do in many of my MOCs, just using some blueprints I got from the Internet as reference for the dimensions and general proportions of the ship.

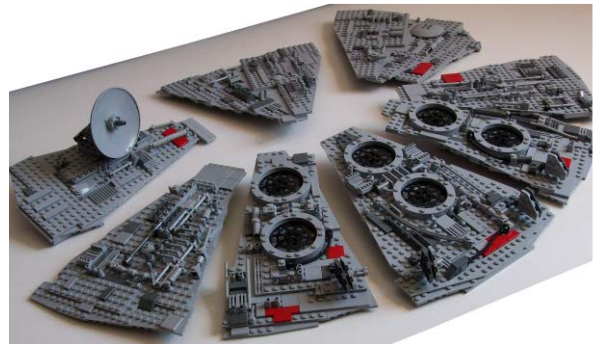
The build of the ship is relatively simple and similar to that of the 10179. A robust Technic structure with many rows of crossing Technic bricks vertically attached with Liftarms, to achieve a big but low framework for making the ship's characteristic shape. This is a really important point since the Millennium Falcon is thin and low in relation to its length, and the structure had to be sturdy enough.

Once the structure was made, I built the central



My model along with LEGO's. They look quite similar at a first glance





turret by making complex combinations of plates and wings to achieve the radial shape of the covers. For the famous cockpit on the right side of the ship, I just copied LEGO®'s version since it was a fragile and complicated bit to deal with. After that all the details started coming, the motors, nozzle, openings in the front... and finally the most entertaining step of all: filling all the visible studs with small pieces to achieve the so called "greebling", using my imagination so the same cup a king would be using could be some sort of cooling duct!

In the pictures of this article, you can see the final version. A ship really close to the 10179 design wise but completely different overall, a tad bigger (92x68x24 cm against the 84x56x21 cm of the official model), and lacking a complete bottom cover due to

the builder's tiredness and because it wouldn't show when taking pictures anyway.

A note worthy detail is that the ship is really photogenic from the top, but from the sides it doesn't have the same attractiveness, which is the reason why I didn't finish decorating the bottom and the legs that hold everything.

So I hope you liked it. In these links you can see the pictures of this and other MOCs I've built these past few months.

<http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=385192>
<http://www.mocpages.com/moc.php/125559>■