





# Hispabrick 2009: an indispensable event

*For the first time, Madrid was the venue of the third edition of Hispabrick, the annual meeting of the adult LEGO fans in Spain. Once again, the success in number of visitors and exhibited creations was proof that this hobby is on the rise.*

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*Images by Antonio José Fernández and car\_mp*

From December 5 to 7, the third edition of Hispabrick took place at the Isla Azul shopping centre. The event has reached a mature youth as a meeting place for adult (and younger) fans of LEGO® constructions. It was marked by the challenge presented by fans in Madrid of preparing and successfully organizing an event of this level of complexity, after two years of organising the event in Castelldefels.

The final result, with its mistakes and failures, was a success in terms of spectators, which forced many of the more than 50 exhibitors to stand by their creations, explaining, showing and, of course, making sure the fingers of intrigued children shouldn't get too close to the bricks. The exhibition, which was divided into three areas, was completed with various activities for the public and some exclusively for exhibitors. The models on display again demonstrate the endless possibilities for building with LEGO, from smaller vehicles to larger dioramas.

The City area, the largest and most populated, was developed around a group of tables arranged in an L. At one end, there was a spectacular country diorama, by Stanspoet and Bitxa, including an amazing scene starring a flying saucer abducting a cow. Separated by the railroad track circuit, the amusement park by Jero, which each year rises on the scale of perfection, and the diorama by Manticore: a remix of monorail, airport and construction works which merited closer proximity to the public.

The long freight or passenger trains brought by Otum and Manti were more visible. They made good use of the track layout to show trains with up to four locomotives and thirty wagons, demonstrating the power and how much you can do with the tracks and engines of 9V. The passage under the city and the area closest to the audience did not go unnoticed by anyone.



In the centre, the building skills of Valgarise, Isabel and Legofan1974 were tested with an elevated city to allow passage of trains and let commuting minifigs take the Metro. Valgarise transformed the rear of all the buildings facing the audience in a delightful set of vignettes as much fun as witty. Isabel brought a suitcase -and this is not a metaphor- filled with a city block with facades and constructive solutions of great beauty and originality. The city was full of details – vehicles, signs, etc – by several builders and ended in two landmark buildings of excellent workmanship, a monumental theatre by Manatarms and an astronomical observatory by El Señor del Ladrillo.

At the long end of the L, the earth ended in a big construction by Car\_mp, including cliffs, a lighthouse and a beach on which the police made every effort to give chase to some nudist – there were children at the event after all. Meanwhile, below sea level, submarine creations by JM left a trail of yellow at the bottom of the sea. This area was completed by the always





amazing dioramas of Legotron, in which The Force is felt in every brick.

This area dedicated to Star Wars™ was completed with several models and dioramas by Lokosuperfluolegoman, who was very active, Vrykolakas showing the Indy adventures in Egypt; Manatarms also exhibited his large-scale minifigs and the HispaLUG forum logo, there was a spectacular sea battle by Gobernador...





The second area was the one that concentrated the largest amount of public with a number of frankly impressive Technic models. The GBC modules, including two railway tracks caused a lot of surprise although the complexity of their settings sometimes caused some problems. Small LEGO® balls went from one extreme to another, jumping, rolling down ramps, raised by screws and belts, transported by railway wagons or fired upwards in a great work of coordination.



Jethro, Sheepo, Blastem and Ignacio were responsible at all times for adjust the delicate machinery of the GBC, whose construction solutions are worth reviewing in the many videos uploaded to YouTube. This Technic area had an interesting show of non-commercial models, foremost among them a fully motorized and remote controlled super convertible, made by Sheepo, that only needed to be a little bigger to be able to actually drive it. We cannot forget the MINDSTORMS® stand

The third of the islands that made up the exhibition was presided by the extraordinary creations of the arvo brothers, capable of using any brick to reproduce reality in ways that no one else can. Besides them, in a line as attractive as difficult to implement, Evo displayed his extensive collection of steampunk models, his great specialty, accompanied by Gorilawer's creations, in which robots and apocalyptic scenes drew a lot of attention.

But there is more: medieval dioramas by SeñorLego, military vehicles of World War II, Bionicle and Harry Potter MOCs., monumental figures of Bender the robot from the animated series Futurama, Mechas, StemPunk ... Work and more work of many enthusiastic creators.

During the two days, there were countless anecdotes and explanations, children blackmailing their parents, the stress of the exhibitors and some angry words on account of the problems and difficulties that arose as a result of the location for the Hispabrick.







Aside from the exhibition, the activities for fans and guests began on December 5 with a social dinner that was a lot of fun, beginning with the correct identification of the participants by our Ambassador Lluís and then with an auction – better than at Sotheby's – in which even bids by phone were made at breakneck speed. A team building contest and an individual building contest – using only the left hand – closed the evening.

During the exhibition, there was time for conferences and the usual pick-a-brick, which, frankly, often bring out a certain level of greed on our part, due primarily to our love of bricks. To sum up, an annual event that aside from the difficulties and different criteria, is also an appointment with the imagination and creativity, whether you are a spectator or long-suffering companion.

I cannot end this article without thanking the management of Isla Azul for the trouble they went through to have us and, of course, the greatest appreciation for the exhibitors who came from all over the country to enjoy an event that every year is again 'the best ever'.

More about the HispaBrick event at <http://www.hispabrick.com>

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