

Technic today?

An overview of building styles in Technic

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The Technic theme appeared for the first time in 1977, as a “Technical Set”. The term technic would be known later, after succeeded to the “pro-builder set”. You can find the complete sets overviews year per year on the Technopedia by Blakbird. Everyone knows the technic theme, its gears, its motors, its complex linkages... But the most interesting part is what technic builders make with it.

Technic Creations

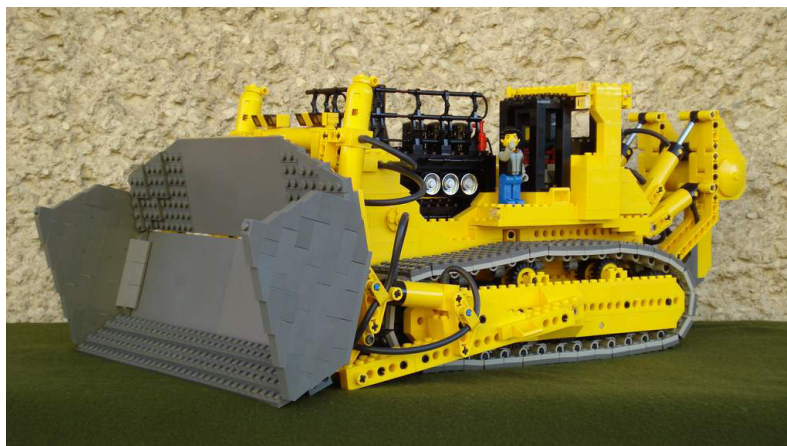
The aim of this article is to show you what Technic creations are today.



M_longer

Machinery and heavy-equipment

The heavy equipment such as earth-moving equipment or handling equipment is one of the most active fields for Technic builders. The reason is that this type of equipment can be easily remote controlled and each function can be powered by a motor or pneumatic devices (raise an arm, drive a steering...), which enables builders to have a remote controlled vehicle. LEGO® has also released a lot of official sets in this field but most of these were manually operated, not designed to be completely remote controlled. Before the appearance of the Power Functions System, the models were powered by old wired motors. Most of the controllers are outside the model, and the design was reasonably sturdy. As a result, the models look like model trains with a high definition of details but depend on the length of wire and aren't very powerful.



Zbiczasty

Since 2003, the Power Functions System appeared and especially the InfraRed receiver. The IR receiver allows builders to have the battery box in the moc, then it was remote controlled with no wires, which is a great breakthrough for the autonomy and playability. In addition, the new studless parts allow you to build with more complex lighter and smaller constructions. The design was studfull (many details), studless (more affordable) or both (mix up the advantages).

Cars and Supercars

LEGO® has officially released many supercars. Because of the design and the functionalities, people like cars for what they represent and how they were build. Most of supercars from technic builder are unpowered : all functions are manually operated. The standard package includes a complex drivetrain with gearbox, steering, opening doors, roof or trunk and suspension. The new studless parts enable the builder to develop new designs or new functionalities. The flex parts and the new panels are used for the design, which give a smooth design (comparably with the 8880 studfull design). The new suspension arms or differentials enable builders to have smaller and lighter constructions. Today, the supercars are lovely and nice, with a lot of functions (manually and sometime remotely), which explains why builders like building supercars.



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Trial Truck

The trial truck field was a young field, initially developed by the east-european builders. The reason is that this type of competition is widespread in their countries. The aim is simple : build a offroad vehicle, self powered by motor(s) which can pass obstacles without assistance, like real offroad vehicles. This sport attracts builders because of the complex building and driving skills that are basic requirement to have a good Trial Truck. The appearance of the Power Function system was the most important breakthrough, because it enables the builders to have a complete package in the truck : motor, Battery box, receiver : no wire. Also, the PFS motors are more powerful than the older motors, so they are better liked in a sport where the power of the drive train is very important. This field has had an important blossoming thanks to east-european builders like lugpol or klockilug builders and is today one of the most active field.



Emilus

GBC

GBC takes a completely different approach as the modules for this construction are mostly static. However, they are a major attraction at LUG events because they provide continuous action for the visitors to observe. You can read more about GBC in issue 002 of this magazine.

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