



Review 8053: Mobile Crane



Text by Jetro

Pictures by LEGO® Systems A/S

Set: Mobile Crane
Set number: 8053
Parts: 1289
Recommended Price in Spain: €100

This year LEGO® presents another mobile crane. Although it is not the first time we see one in LEGO Technic, it not in any way a remake as the design presents notable differences with respect to earlier models. Especially noteworthy in this model (designed by Markuss Kossman, as reflected in the license plate: MK8053) are the stabilizers and the act that it comes prepared for Power Functions. The set has an interesting inventory and a good selection of functions. It does not include PF but does provide instructions for motorizing the crane with the #8293 add-on set.

Just like we have seen in other models that include a turntable, the building process is divided into two clearly separate parts: the vehicle and the crane.

Of special interest in the vehicle are the stabilizers in X configuration, which, just like the steering, are controlled from the back of the model. Although the stabilizers don't add any real stability to the model, they can be individually adjusted in

height to adapt to the terrain the crane is on and this allows them to be firmly placed on the ground and not suspended in the air. When the stabilizers are retracted they rest on supports in the chassis and the opening mechanism is hidden from view. In this way the stabilizers act as mudguards and give the model an attractive look.

The vehicle has steering on all axles and the steering mechanism is constructed so that the central axles turn less than the front and back ones. They also turn symmetrically so despite the length of the model it is very easy to steer either on the road or at a construction site.

The front of the driver's cabin – with blue seats, a decorative steering wheel and opening doors – is designed to easily allow the hook to be attached there.

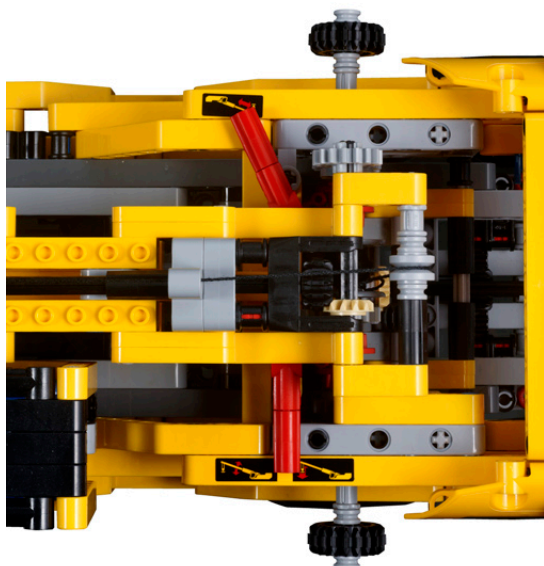
The crane is made up of an interesting mix of liftarms and Technic bricks and has an arm in two segments which is elevated by means of a Linear Actuator (LA) and a cable with a hook built out of liftarms.

It is highly recommendable to motorise the crane as turning the knob to extend the LA can become quite tedious. The remaining functions are prepared to work at similar speeds so it takes a considerable number of turns to extend the arm or lower the hook. The two function selectors give access to extending the arm on the one side and to lifting it or lowering the hook on the other. There is a difference in speed between the extension of the arm and the lowering of the hook (also in the opposite direction), so it is not altogether comfortable to use both functions at the same time, although the fact that you can access more than one function at the same time is interesting.

The cabin of the crane sports another blue seat, but stands out in that it can tilt backwards to allow the crane driver a better view of the load.

B-model

Probably the most surprising and at the same time recommendable aspect of the set is the secondary model, instructions for which are available on the official LEGO website. The model represents a harbour crane which is very realistic and includes a good number of functions. The base



of this harbor crane rests on 8 wheels, allow for the crane to move along the quay. The body of the crane is set on the traversing beam of this moving base to allow it to move closer to and further away from the water. This movement is controlled by a rack and pinion assembly. Just like the mobile crane, the rotation of the crane is controlled manually as there is no mechanism connected to the turntable. From the body of the crane, using the function selector you can either extend or enroll the cable or modify the inclination of the crane.

The cabin of the crane holds a little surprise: the operator's chair is red!

The hook for this crane is identical to the one from the main model, but a new element is attached to allow it to elevate special loads. The mechanism is similar to what is used to lift containers of trucks or the quay and onto a ship. This adds playability to the set, especially since the inventory allows for not one but two frames with tires that can be lifted with this mechanism.

Despite its size, the size of the harbor crane is quite stable, although it cannot lift much weight. The frames with tires that are part of this model are close to the maximum weight



it can support. This is due to the fact that the crane has no counterweight. It would be possible to use the battery box of the PF add-on set as a counterweight but there are no instructions for using PF elements with the harbour crane: a nice challenge to make the most of your PF elements!
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