

Review 10219: Maersk Train

Text by Iluisgib

Pictures by Iluisgib and LEGO® Systems A/S



Set: Maersk Train
Set number: 10219
Parts number: 1234
Minifigs: 3
Recommended price: 109,95€

Introduction

After the re-release the Maersk container ship (10155) I don't think anybody expected another set to appear in collaboration with this transport company. This magnificent set, which reproduces one of the trains that are used in the United States for transporting containers across the country, was presented at LEGOWORLD Copenhagen (after images of this set were leaked some days earlier, something that unfortunately is becoming all too common).

The collaboration between LEGO® and Maersk has a long history. I believe it will be best to simply reproduce the text that appears on the first pages of the first building instruction booklet of the train, and which explains the development of this collaboration in 6 languages:

A.P. MOLLER - MAERSK GROUP - The LEGO Group History

The relationship between The LEGO Group and A.P. MOLLER - MAERSK GROUP was founded in a personal relationship between Godtfred Kirk Christiansen and Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller. The first Maersk promotional set was a Maersk Line container ship released in 1974. Now, more than 37 years later, 10219 Maersk Train is inspired by an actual train that transported containers across the United States.

2 million Maersk containers are currently in circulation worldwide. The white containers, or 'reefers', are different from the gray containers because they are refrigerated. One of the longest containers trains ever was pulled by nine locomotives and stretched almost 3.5 miles in length!

It is the first time the result of the symbiosis between these two Danish companies is a train, after several trucks and ships. Additionally, this train has a completely different design from the ones marketed up till now with the PF system, and it is more similar to the 9V system, like a mix between the 10133





Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Locomotive and the 4549-1: Container Double Stack, although in the characteristic Maersk colours. If we also take into account the fact that the set contains a container truck this is truly a novel set.

Building

The building process is divided into two parts. The first part consists of the engine and takes up the first instruction manual; the second part comprises the wagons and the truck.

Upon starting to build the engine I find the first nice surprise. The two minifigs (plus the one you build in the second part) are exclusive to this set. They also have a special decoration on their torso (which curiously is covered by their safety vests), and wear the much desired Maersk blue worker helmet. A nice detail!

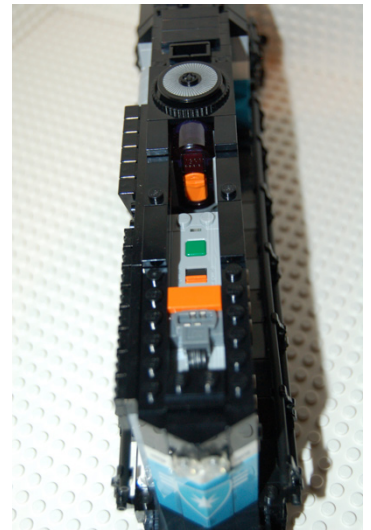
I start to build the engine from its base. Since it is very long, the 28 studs of the Train base is not enough and the first step consists in making it 6 studs longer on both sides, resulting in a total of 40 studs (over 30cm). It's an impressive length to see

Something to highlight in the construction of the engine is that, although it may seem that way at first glance, it is not



symmetrical. At the backside of the driver cabin both sides are different. This is a very positive aspect as it makes the building process more interesting and less monotonous.

For the front of the train an interesting technique is used. In order to obtain the angles shape, the designers have used a Slope 30 1 x 2 x 2/3 and some plates to adapt the distances and integrate it as if it were single piece. In the words of the designer of this set, it's a technique they could not have used in sets targeted at children due to its complexity (especially that of the support which uses interesting combinations of parts to change the direction of the construction by 90°). Later on the whole of this angles section is covered by stickers with the Maersk logo. That is also my biggest criticism on this set. It is understandable taking into account the cost, that stickers need to be used, but lately the stickers in the sets were adapted to the size of individual parts which allows you to disassemble those parts instead of having various parts covered by the same sticker. This is not the case here, and although I understand the difficulty of dividing, once you apply the stickers you cannot disassemble this part of the model and about 20 parts are affected. I consider this an important failure as without the stickers the train loses a lot, but if you apply them you lose the possibility of using those pieces for anything else or of storing the set disassembled.

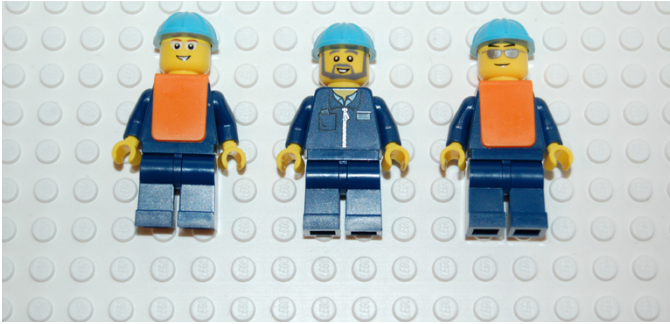


The driver's cabin opens which allows you to place a minifig inside. It contains controls and a seat. The funny thing is that if the driver sits down he cannot see the track. Fortunately, the minifig also fits standing. On the other end of the engine there is a structure that accommodates the diesel engine that gives this 'monster' its power. A notable fact is that the original set consists of a replica of the diesel engine and some parts to simulate the IR receiver. The second booklet contains instructions to motorize the engine with Power Functions. The diesel engine is replaced by the battery box, the IR receiver in the centre of the engine, well hidden between the ventilation turbines on the roof of the engine. The IR receiver is really well integrated and you need to take a close look to distinguish it from the engine. It is also possible to incorporate a 9V motor, leaving the diesel engine replica in its original place.

The covers for the area where the battery box is located are a bit fragile and difficult to remove, especially because of a tile 1 x 8 that is only fixed on one stud and comes off really easily if you are not very careful.

To finish describing the engine, I'd like to highlight the small details that make the design so much more realistic, like the horns on the roof of the engine, or the railings to the sides that provide safety to the maintenance crew.

The wagons are a lot simpler and there isn't much to say about them. The two-level train base is used again. Building the wagons was easy and few pieces are used for them. The interesting part of the wagons is the flexibility in the placement of the containers. You can place one in the central part, stack two or place them in parallel, adding a small extra to level the



centre part of the wagon. This flexibility allows for numerous combinations, making the train much more eye-catching.

The containers are very well recreated. Modified 1 x 2 bricks with groove are used to simulate the typical corrugated iron look of containers and at the sides there are 3 bricks 1 x 8 to place the Maersk stickers. Another characteristic that has been copied from the real containers is the colour. The set comes with 3 containers, 2 for general purposes and a refrigerated one. The general purpose containers are grey and the refrigerated container is white. The latter includes a reproduction of the cooling equipment and the control panel.

Finally, the truck is also different from the typical LEGO® truck you can see in LEGO CITY sets. It feels like the type of truck that is used in harbours or loading bays and that serves to move containers from a ship to a train or to other long distance trucks. The cabin is not centred and has a very modern, semi-octagonal shape. To the right of the cabin there is a small barrier the operator can hold on to. The truck is also very detailed, with mud flaps on the rear wheels of both the tractor and the trailer, mirrors, warning light on the roof and an exhaust. Like the rest of the model, it has its own stickers to clearly show it is a Maersk truck.

The set as a whole

When I finished building the engine I spent some time observing. It is very beautiful and realistic. Compared to other engines, this one is very big and really transmits the feeling of great power. The colour scheme is beautiful and the stickers make up for what cannot be achieved with parts. It's a pity the engine cannot be fitted with the PF lights, at least not easily. There are no holes to pass the cable trough, nor a place to fit the tips. It would be spectacular to see the engine lighting the track.

The wagons, although simple, fulfil their aesthetic and functional objective. I really appreciate having the possibility of placing the containers in different ways, making the composition less monotonous. The Maersk blue decoration and the small stickers with the brand name are discreet but appreciated in the context of the train. The containers in real-life colours are another attractive point that adds to the overall interest of this set.

The decision of incorporating a truck in the set was very good. The truck has a modern design and makes for a perfect complement to the train and its potential inclusion in a diorama. The minifigs are all the same but for the expression on their faces. This does not make the set less attractive as their specific design and the Maersk Blue colour, make them a collector's item.

At first I thought that 1234 parts was a lot compared to what you see on the box, but as you build the set you realize many parts are needed to reproduce the shapes and details of the engine. The set contains over 200 Maersk Blue parts.

Conclusions

I think every AFOL was impressed when they first saw images of this set. A cargo train that is different than usual and that, thanks to the collaboration with Maersk, has a very attractive colour scheme.

I believe it is probably the best cargo train set of the last 10 – 15 years. Big, beautiful, realistic and exclusive; what more can you ask for?

I look forward to seeing double, triple or quadruple engines to pull 40 or 50 container wagons in one of those miles long trains you can see in American documentaries. I know it sounds exaggerated, but I bet it won't be long before we see one of those in one of the upcoming events.

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