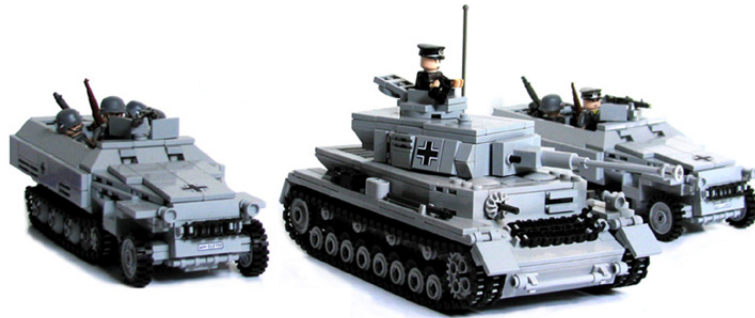


Panzerbricks



Panzerbricks 2008-2011 III Anniversary

*By HispaBrick Magazine
Pictures by Legotron*

Although there is no specific line of military constructions, the design of MOCs of military vehicles built with LEGO® pieces is very widespread among LEGO fans, due to their spectacularity and the endless possibilities offered by LEGO® parts.

HispaBrick Magazine: August 2011 marked the third anniversary of Panzerbricks, a project about construction of military vehicles that year after year has grown in number of followers, and MOCs. We talked about Panzerbricks to the person behind this project, A. Bellon (Legotron). So, how would you summarize these three years?

Antonio Bellón: Three years is a long way. As we told in HispaBrick Magazine 004, when we were interviewed for the first time, it all started in the HispaBrick 2007 event. This was a collaborative work with another great builder of military vehicles, Carlos Encinas (Henry_Chinasky). The Blog Panzerbricks and the whole idea of the project, as it has come so far, was born in August 2008, but this time as a personal project, since I could not count on the help of Carlos. From then until now its evolution can be divided into two parts, one referring to the construction of vehicles and the other referring to spreading Panzerbricks on the Internet.

Regarding the construction of all those new vehicles, it has undoubtedly been very entertaining. The project has grown from half a dozen designs to more than 30 that exist now. Even some of the early models have had an update to include new features that were not possible with the parts and techniques I used when I started. All the early models were updated except the first one, which remains unchanged. As I learnt more different techniques that allowed me to deal with more complex designs, I have created more types of vehicles, and no doubt it has been really fun and rewarding.

Regarding the Internet, it has been something totally unexpected and it has required a great deal of work to keep the project up to date. The Blog was written only in Spanish, and it was expected to be something with very little significance, but after 6 months visits and messages from outside Spain outnumbered those from Spain. So I considered doing the Blog both in Spanish and in English, but having to maintain two parallel Blogs meant a lot of work. Due to the experience I have with my Web LWSImperial with the result that everything is doubled, and therefore I have to do everything twice, that idea was all but good. After thinking about that I decided to open a gallery at Flickr for the pictures spotted in Panzerbricks where I could answer in both Spanish or in English, depending on the question, without having to do everything twice. As new vehicles were finished there was an increasing number of people who wanted to contact me, giving me the opportunity to meet people from many countries. That was a nice way to talk about our MOCs and ultimately share our hobby. Over time I spent more time on "social relationships" than on building, but I must admit it's has been a real pleasure. Everything built for Panzerbricks is posted in the Blog and I like to talk to my contacts on what they think of my last MOCs.

HM: Why did you choose the name of Panzerbricks?

AB: I wanted to give the project a specific name, and to make some other projects like Alliedbricks or ruskybricks in the future. The word Panzer is the term used for the German tanks, which was the part I wanted to do, so that's the reason the project was called Panzerbricks. When I had to face the whole project alone, I decided to discard the others and I focused all my efforts only on Panzerbricks, until today.

HM: It is a little contradictory to build these MOCs so sharply related to warfare with a toy like LEGO, isn't it?



AB: Well, I reproduce historic vehicles but not the ideas or attitudes they may have related to. So far in all the pictures I've been posting in Panzerbricks, I have focused on the vehicles only. I try to be careful not to include certain "inadequate" symbols or distasteful scenes. It's just a LEGO® construction. From that point of view a pirate ship or a tank are the same military related thing, so you have to focus on the MOCs and not its historical connotation.

HM: Is there any way to know how you choose the models you are going to build?

AB: It is something that is difficult to explain. It could be said that there is a list (secret) that is based on the 1/72 scale kits I have. It is also influenced by the fact that there are some vehicles I like more and others that aren't interesting to build. I know a lot about military vehicles from World War II so I know most of the vehicles and there are many to choose from. So those two parameters are the most important ones when choosing the next vehicle I want to try to build with LEGO pieces. There are even times when I'm building a vehicle suddenly some ideas come to my mind for building another one, and if the new idea is more interesting than the current build, I leave it and I begin to work on the new design, so that I always have some unfinished models in my work area.

HM: Are there any of your favourite vehicles yet to be built? Or do you think all expected models to be built are finished?

AB: Yes there are several of my favourite ones waiting to be built. Among those ones whose designs are finished there are three of my top five list: the battle tank Panzer IV, undoubtedly my favourite one. The SdKfz 251 half-track and the Opel Blitz truck. The two missing ones are the Stug III assault gun and the Panzer VI Tiger I battle tank. I have designed a Stug IV instead of Stug III; they are very similar but not the same, so it is an outstanding issue. The Tiger is almost ready, barring some details. Therefore, the Stug III design would be the last of my top five favourites pending to be built. When I design a model I like to explore all its variants, so until I finish all the

Panzer IV variants I want to build I'm not going to start with the Panzer III (the stug III belongs to the Panzer III vehicles family) and therefore it is a long-term project.

Regarding how many models I'm going to build, I think there are a lot of different models to design, but there is a limit: when I get bored of tank designs I will finish the construction of new vehicles. Now I like to do it because it is fun and entertaining. I like to build unknown vehicles as they are a great surprise and there are many of them to build.

HM: Are there many other builders who build tanks and military vehicles. Do any of them catch your eye?

AB: Yes, many. I'm interested in those builders who mainly use minifig similar scale. When I say similar I mean compatible with minifigs, sometimes a little oversized (that's my case) and sometimes not, but always consistent with the minifigs. It's nice to see how people make different designs of the same model, to discover how they use some of my techniques or learn how to use their own ones. It is just curious to see how some of the pieces you've never used can have applications in most unexpected ways.

Among all those builders the one I like most is Daniel Siskind, especially for the way he has evolved his models, some of them up to 3 or 4 times, and also the great variety of his constructions. He adds many features to the vehicles, including detailed interiors, which are not visible unless you dismantle some parts of the vehicle. He isn't the only one; there are many builders who are truly exceptional builders. You could say that in the past two years the increase both in quality and in quantity of tanks and military vehicles of LEGO parts has been enormous.

Although there is no specific line of LEGO about tanks and military vehicles there are many people who design and build this type of vehicles. Although not as spectacular as a 6 meters ship, 2 meter high skyscrapers, or a 200,000 piece castle, there is no doubt for those who like the construction of military



vehicles, that the availability of them that can be found on Internet, both in quantity and quality, is amazing.

HM: There is something that stands out in your MOCs. You never build detailed interiors, do you?

AB: Yes, it's true. I only make detailed interiors when you can see them without removing any part of the vehicle. That's one of my ideas, if you do not see it why add them? The main reason is because you save a lot of money on those parts needed to build detailed interiors, and thus I'm able to use that money for new vehicles.

Every time I build a new tank or other vehicle is not intending to be dismantled and integrate it into the collection. That forces me to buy more parts every time I make a new vehicle. Even sometimes you can omit some details of the original vehicle to get a nicer reproduction in LEGO®. Indeed, sometimes you have to add or remove details of the original vehicle, because the LEGO MOC is not that good. This is the case of the SdKfz 251 half-tracks, which only had one headlight on one side, but this detail in the model of LEGO pieces is really bad and it is preferable to place two headlights.

HM: But, construction of LEGO parts can be disassembled to use the parts in other constructions, that's the essence of LEGO. Why do you worry about it?

AB: Well, I couldn't do it. Once the vehicles are built I don't want to disassemble them, they are a part of my construction effort, and I want to preserve them all. The idea of Panzerbricks is to gather a collection of vehicles so that it can be expanded and improved with new ones year after year. The Panzerbricks project, In addition to its webcasting, has been made so that it can be shown at events related to LEGO or military vehicles. The fact that Panzerbricks has been displayed at six events in the last three years is evidence of what I mean. This project goes on, and will continue as I continue having fun with it. Furthermore, I have met a lot of people thanks to Panzerbricks and this is very important and a good reason not to give up.

The fact of not disassembling the vehicles forces me to slow down the building process, because my stock of available parts falls to zero many times. I have to wait until I buy new parts, and I have to compete with other projects such as castles and the Star Wars hangar, as they all need a lot of light bluish-gray parts.

HM: And finally, are there any anecdotes you can tell us?

AB: Now I can say that I now have 4188 track links (Technic Chain Link 3711) in the collection, I've just checked one by one.

On the other hand, to celebrate this milestone I've decided to publish here in Hispabrick Magazine the only instructions of a Panzerbrick vehicle I've ever made, so that readers can enjoy the small Kübelwagen passenger car.

#

Panzerbricks



1

1 x Plate 2x10 (LBG)
2 x Plate 1x4 (LBG)

11

2 x Plate modified 1x1 with horizontal clip (LBG)
2 x Plate modified 1x2 with handle type 2 (LBG)
2 x Technic Pin 1/2 (LBG)

15

2 x Hinge Brick 2x2 top plate thin (LBG)
1 x Plate 1x2 (LBG)

2

1 x Plate 4x6 (LBG)
4 x Plate modified 2x2 with hole (LBG)

12

1 x Plate 2x2 (LBG)
1 x Palte 2x3 (LBG)
2 x Plate modified 1x1 with door rail (LBG)

16

2 x Plate 2x2 corner (LBG)
2 x Tile 2x2 (LBG)

3

1 x Plate 2x4 (Black)
1 x Plate 4x6 (LBG)
2 x Plate 1x4 (LBG)

17

1 x Plate 1x2 (LBG)
4 x Plate modified 1x1 with horizontal clip (LBG)

4

1 x Plate 1x2 (LBG)
1 x Plate 1x4 (LBG)
2 x Plate modified with clip vertical (LBG)
2 x Tile 1x1 (LBG)
2 x Tile 1x4 (LBG)

18

1 x Plate modified 1x2 with one stud (LBG)
1 x Plate round 1x1 (LBG)
1 x Tile 1x2 (LBG)
2 x Tile 1x4 (LBG)
1 x Tile 2x2 (LBG)

5

1 x Plate modified 1x2 with door rail (LBG)
2 x Slope 30 1x1x2/3 (LBG)
1 x Tile 1x4 (LBG)

19

2 x Bar 4L lightsaber blade (LBG)
2 x Minifig body part arm mechanical, battle droid (LBG)

6

1 x Plate 1x4 (LBG)
2 x Plate 2x3 (LBG)
1 x Plate 2x4 (LBG)
2 x Hinge Brick 1x2 base (LBG)

14

1 x Tile 1x3 (Black)
1 x Tile 1x1 (LBG)
1 x Tile 1x2 (LBG)
1 x Tile 1x4 (LBG)
2 x Tile 2x2 (LBG)

20

1 x Plate round 1x1 (Black)
1 x Plate modified 1x2 with horizontal clip (LBG)

7

1 x Brick 1x2 (LBG)
2 x Brick modified 1x2 with headlight (LBG)
2 x Slope 45 2x2 (LBG)
1 x Tile 1x6 (LBG)

21

2 x Plate modified 1x1 with horizontal clip (LBG)

8

2 x Plate 1x4 (LBG)
2 x Slope 30 1x1x2/3 (LBG)

22

2 x Plate modified 1x1 with horizontal clip (LBG)

9

2 x Plate 2x2 corner (LBG)
4 x Slope 30 1x1x2/3 (LBG)

23

4x
4 x Dish 2x2 inverted (radar) (LBG)
4 x Plate round 1x1 (LBG)
4 x Technic Pin 1/2 (LBG)
4 x Tire 21x6 mm City Motorcycle

1 x Dish 2x2 inverted (radar) (LBG)
1 x Tire 21x6 mm city motorcycle

10

1 x Tile 1x4 (Black)
1 x Plate 2x4 corner (DBG)
1 x Tile 1x4 (DBG)
2 x Plate modified 1x1 with horizontal clip (LBG)
1 x Technic Brick 1x4 (LBG)

24

DBG = Dark Bluish Gray colour
LBG = Light Bluish Gray colour