

# Oversized load in small-scale

## “Swedish giants” by an italian LEGO® builder

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### A passion that comes from far off

As almost all children I started playing with LEGO® bricks at an early age, “stealing” them from my older brother who in time passed them on to me.

At the beginning of eighties I was awe struck by the 12V Train theme and, after insistent requests to mum and dad the Train set #7740 arrived for Christmas. Many others followed the “Trans Europe Express” and in this way the collection got bigger little by little.

After my childhood all the bricks, sets and original boxes came to my country house attic where at times I peeked into the old dusty wooden trunks to remember the long and carefree times spent playing.

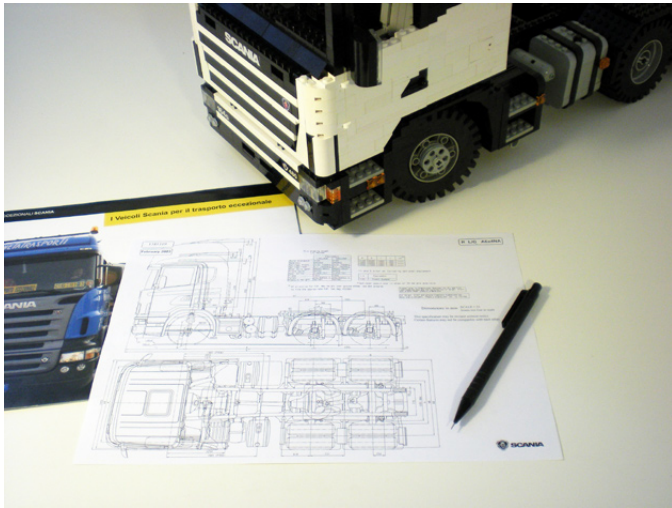
### Hit by the LEGO® bug

Around the year two thousand, immersed in my dark age, my uncle and aunt gave me a very big bag full of spare bricks of my younger cousin; they were going to throw them away. For a long time the bag remained in the country house attic, together with the other bricks, closed in the wooden trunks, until I decided to look inside during a long and boring winter Sunday.

Soon I found a lot of rails, wheels and many other Train parts but they weren't familiar to me. Curiosity to understand what they were pushed me to type the words LEGO® train on my PC and at that moment “I discovered a world”. I never imagined that across the five continents there were so many adult LEGO® builders, building the most fantastic things. Furthermore, I discovered the existence of many web sites







where you could download free instructions, catalogues and all kinds of information about the LEGO® world and even a site for buying and selling single used bricks from all the world (“bricklink” has been fundamental to building my truck models). In a few days, after many hours of internet research, I understood that in addition to other parts, the bag contained two little treasures: the set # 4563 (Load and Haul Railroad) and especially the set # 4558 (Metroliner – a myth for LEGO® 9V Train collectors). After downloaded the instructions I built them in a few hours and I discovered with a great pleasure that the two sets were complete, including the minifigures. I caught the LEGO® bug and from that moment on I couldn’t only build original sets but I had to build something great and designed by me, a unique model as detailed as possible that replicated a real subject.

## Old times were good times... remembering dad’s old trucks

Since I was a child I have been intrigued by the world of trucks, probably because when I went to my dad’s firm to help him he



always took me for a drive with the old IVECO trucks of the seventies and eighties, an indelible memory in my mind. So I right away decided to build a truck with LEGO® bricks, but not a normal truck but a large-scale truck. Rummaging through my old LEGO® pieces I found some very big LEGO® Technic wheels and soon I decided to use them for my trucks. Thanks to many LEGO® model images found on LEGO® fan websites I understood that I could build a very detailed 1/13 scale model, practically similar to the 1/1 model. I chose to use the classic LEGO® bricks assembly technique, leaving the studs and not covering them with “tiles”, because I think it’s more characteristic and because it reminds me of my childhood and the “golden age” of LEGO® bricks. I always use only original bricks to build my models, only the stickers are not LEGO® pieces but are made by me with a graphic application (Adobe Illustrator).

## Ready, steady, go!

First of all I had to choose the model to build. I chose a Swedish SCANIA: the 164G 6X4 of the “4 series”, manufactured from 1995 til 2004 (Truck of the year 1996). I’ve always liked the “4 series” because of its rounded shapes and for the family feeling that reminds memof the previous SCANIA series (furthermore the line was designed by Bertone, a very famous Italian designer).

Once brand and model were decided, and my LEGO® bricks availability was verified, I was ready to start building. It was the fall of 2006.

First I built the front grille, that it’s the most distinctive part of the truck. Once I finished the front hood I started to outline the chassis, made of two spars linked by a few reinforced bars. I wanted to make it as real as possible and so I went to SCANIA dealer of my town where I found the technical drawing with all the sizes (chassis, cab etc...). With the technical draft in my hands I could respect the 1/13 ratio and build a perfect chassis. Then I completed the entire cab.

Next I built the two fuel tanks, the exhaust silencer, the side ladder, the fifth wheel, the 4 rear mudguards and all the other details. Now only the engine unit was missing.

From the beginning I wanted to equip the SCANIA with the most powerful engine unit, the V8 engine with 480 HP. Thanks to many photos found in SCANIA’s on-line imagebank I could build it using “light grey” LEGO® bricks. The cab can be opened and beneath it is positioned the powerful V8 engine coupled with the gearbox. The front grille can be opened too, discovering the radiator. The first version I built had the fixed cab doors but at the end of 2010 I modified the doors and, using plate hinges, now the doors can be fully opened. The doors have a little glove box on the inside. Also the sunroof can be opened. I also put two 4,5 Volt light bricks behind the two lamps so the lights work thanks to a remote controlled battery box.

I finished the SCANIA in February 2008, after about 100 hours of hard work (including document, image and pieces research) and I’m very happy and proud of it.

It wasn’t finished yet. In fact I again had a lot of pieces and so I decided to give the white SCANIA a “brother”. In December 2008, inspired by an illustration of a yellow SCANIA on the box of a 1/24 scale plastic model released by Italeri (a famous Italian scale-model manufacturer), I decided to build





another "4 series", a yellow 124L. It had practically the same cab of the SCANIA 164G (the first I built) but with a shorter chassis and one rear axle only. A tractor truck for long distance routes.

In a few weeks I built my second 1/13 tractor truck in a very bright yellow. It looks great!

## Modelling and large scales

Besides LEGO® bricks I have always loved static model building and I have more than once built 1/24 plastic kits of cars and trucks. But my dream has always been a very big 1/8 scale truck model released by Pocher Rivarossi (a historic Italian static scale trucks and trains manufacturer that went bankrupt a few years ago): it was the VOLVO F12 model year '83.

When Pocher released it in the mid eighties it was very very expensive and because of this my parents couldn't give me one. So I have waited to have a job and enough money to start searching it on eBay. In November 2010 I found the right model at the right price on eBay, and so I bought it.

Soon I decided to give the Pocher F12 a "brick brother" and in December 2010 I started to build the LEGO® F12. With the very detailed 1/8 model in my hands I could calculate the truck sizes respecting the ratio. I started with the chassis that is composed of two spars curved on the front side (I made

the curves with hinge plates). After building and fitting the differential I made the steering axle shafts fitted in the right place as the real truck. At the end of this first phase I built the fifth wheel, the front bumper and the front white grille complete with the lamps. The first step was complete and the truck looked very fine and with a great aesthetic impact.

From January 2010 I designed and built the cab with all its distinctive elements.

I started with the front mudguards making reference to them to calculate the ground height of the cab. Then I made the front cab parts, the great black grille (the most distinctive element of the F12), the side deflectors and I started designing the doors. To open them I couldn't use the same mechanism of the SCANIA because there was not enough room. So after many attempts I fitted two hinges working opposite to each other. The only disadvantage is the presence of two quite big "brick blocks" inside the cab, fortunately they're black and so they aren't so evident.

Taking the measurements of length, width and height of the cab through the measuring of the POCHEP F12, I was able to build the cab with simply red bricks. I completed it with supplemental roof lamps, mirrors, screen wipers, air filter pipe and back cab service light. The F12 started to look like the 1/1 original model.

In February I worked on the back chassis elements, the ones linked to the spars. The vertical exhaust pipe looks great as it was represented on the original VOLVO brochure. The pipe is







linked to the chassis by an oblique bar. The pipe also has the top cover.

Fuel tanks are made of light grey "brick rounds". Finally I built the two side boxes, for battery and tools (they can be opened) and the rear mudguards (more curved than the SCANIA ones). Two bars, linked to the chassis, carry the mudguards. As for the SCANIA I left the engine and gearbox building for the end.

The engine is a 6 cylinder inline of 12 litres and I used only light grey bricks. In a few working nights the engine unit was ready to be fitted into the chassis. Then I joined the gearbox with the rear differential using 1X1 bricks round.

In April 2011 the red VOLVO was complete.

A curiosity: I've discovered a real out of service VOLVO F12 (model year 1987) placed on a container at the entrance of a transport company close to Milan; I spent the last day of 2011 taking pictures of my model (MY '83) side by side with the real truck. To close the year in a big way!

## From F12 to F16

As for the first SCANIA I built, also for the F12 I couldn't resist to give it a "brother" and so on April 2011 I started building the VOLVO F16 Globetrotter. The F16 is the second



upgrade of the F10/F12 series that came in 1987. The F16 truck had a new six-cylinder, straight-in-line engine with four valves per cylinder and a high-placed camshaft. It was widely used for hauling large train weights, such as timber trucks in Scandinavia (a market hitherto dominated by Scania AB trucks powered by the Scania V8 engine) and road trains in Australia. Lamps are now rectangular and the front grille is bigger than the F12 one. The VOLVO logotype is smaller and on the left side of the front cab, in the middle of the big black grill there's now the VOLVO square logo and the F12 tag is replaced with the F16 tag.

To distinguish the two models better I chosen the Globetrotter version, the one with the upturned roof that represented a revolution at the beginning of the eighties.

I decided to build it completely in black, as the truck that VOLVO presented to the specialized press during the F16 launch press conference and as the 1/8 Pocher model. So I was going to build the second VOLVO of the pair that POCHER released on the modelling market many years ago. I started with the frame, copying the F12 one and then I built the cab using bricks "slope 75°" that give the truck a very realistic Globetrotter look. As the F12 also the F16 has a lot of details.

I finished the model in September 2011: my stable of giants is complete (at least for now...).

By a curious coincidence in 2012 VOLVO Trucks will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 16 litre engine (the F16 one exactly) and to promote this event the manufacturer has made a great movie in which the old and glorious black F16 470 HP (as my LEGO® model) "fights" against the brand new FH 16 750 HP (the most powerful truck in the world) on an icy uphill road right out of Goteborg: a great challenge!

Job, wife, daughter (1 ½ years old) and an oncoming son permitting I'm already thinking about a future project: after 4 Swedish giants it's time I built an Italian truck. In Italy there's an old truck that is still loved by truckers and fans: it's the IVECO TurboStar. Wait and see...

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