

Review 9558: Training set

Preparing for combat

By Legotron (A.Bellón)



Set: TRAINING SET
Set number: 9558
Number of parts: 209
Contains: 1 minifig, one spinner and a little deck of combat cards.

This is a new set of the Ninjago line. It depicts a training field for Kai master, dressed in his Kendo gear. The set itself comes with the normal plastics bags, which contain the parts needed to build the training facilities and the minifig of Kai. The set also contains an orange decorated spinner, with a silver spinner crown for master Kai, who is represented on his own game card "Kendo Kai" (nr. 3). There is also a deck of combat cards with "Spin Circle!" (n 55), "Extinguish" (n 114), "Backflip" (n 67) and "Blinding Flash" (n 33) game cards. Yes, it is a set with all the items needed to fight in the quest of Spinjitzu power.

The building process of the training field is very easy. There are two small instruction booklets and all steps are very easy to follow. The first impression when you see all the parts together is, "what kind of disco do you want me to build?" There are tons of lime, reddish brown, light bluish grey, red, black, white, green and trans-neon pieces for such a small set. But, make no mistake, the final result is very impressive. It is very nicely done. The training field consists of a brick wall with a snake thingy attached in the middle. The tail of the snake is the activation mechanism to move 2 walls on either side of the snake, one of wooden appearance and the other more like a stone built wall. Each time the tail is hit in the correct way by the spinner, the wall moves and you will discover a nice surprise: a hidden weapon will fall from the wall section! All the weapons of the set can be attached in two small sections of

the wall at the end of both sides.

The decoration of the snake is curious, as the head piece is a printed part and the rest of the body is done with stickers with the same pattern. It would be better to avoid stickers in the parts that will suffer so many hits when playing with this set.

In the path to be a great master of Spinjitzu this a great set, because it carries a grand total of 8 different weapons for Kai master. Yes, that is a great advantage to conquer your enemies!

If we have a look into the parts we can see some very interesting ones, like the 1x2 bricks with masonry pattern in dark tan color. Any AFOLs will have thousands of ideas for MOCs with this piece. I can not imagine how many walls, houses or other structures can be completed with these nice bricks. If we test the functional features of the set we can see that the mechanism to activate the walls with the tail of the snake is very ingenious, but very difficult to activate in a "legal" game. You have to throw the spinner against the tail from one side of the training field, because the minifig itself it is too light to activate this mechanism.

My final words about this set will highlight two main ideas: this is a nice set for Ninjago fans, plenty of weapons, with a sturdy construction to fight your battles in. And for the rest of the AFOL, the set is better in real life than what you might expect from a Ninjago set, with an interesting selection of pieces.

Acknowledgements: LEGO® Iberia S.A., Joachim Schwidtal and Rosa Seegelken for this set.

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