

# Great creators of the world: Marek Markiewicz

*Who said Technic was only trucks and cranes?*

*By HispaBrick Magazine®*

*Pictures by Marek Markiewicz*

**HispaBrick Magazine:** Name?

**Marek Markiewicz**

**HBM:** Age?

**MM:** 22.

**HBM:** Nationality?

**MM:** Polish.

**HBM:** What do you do normally?

**MM:** I work as an electrician in one of the KGHM's underground mines.

**HBM:** When did you first start building with LEGO®?

**MM:** It all began when I was six years old, with the 6535 Dumper set.

**HBM:** And your last set?

**MM:** The last set I got was 8484 Lightning McQueen - a good amount of red parts and a nice design.

**HBM:** Your favorite commercial LEGO building theme?

**MM:** I like Technic, because its parts give me opportunity to make my models more realistic, and Model Team (now it will be Creator, the latest sets that include vehicles look like Model Team 2.0) because it has shown me that LEGO models can also look like real machines.

**HBM:** What is your favorite LEGO element and why?

**LUGPOL** 





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**MM:** Cheese slope. It gives me lots of options when I build - it could be used as part of a sloped panel in minifig scale model, but it could also be used in large quantities to smooth out large edges.

**HBM:** Which part would you like LEGO® to produce?

**MM:** There are a lot of them, but I think that it would be a plate with studs at top and bottom. Other LEGO-like brands have these type of element and I can't wait for LEGO to make their own version of it.

**HBM:** How many hours do you spend building with LEGO?

**MM:** It depends - I work in a tough environment and sometimes I'm too tired to even think about building. But when I manage to find some time, I usually spend one or two hours on it. But a few times a year I have a building marathon, usually when I am starting a new big model. I try different versions of frames, mechanisms and details which consumes lots of time. Then I find myself in the middle of the night, realize that time to go to bed passed two hours ago ;)

**HBM:** What do your family/friends think about this hobby?

**MM:** My parents were always telling me that playing with LEGO increases creative thinking. My mother still thinks that it's a good way to spend free time. The rest of my family have neutral relation with it.

Some of my friends thought that I am too old to play with LEGO, but when I showed them some of my models they changed their minds. They look forward to seeing my new models since that time.

**HBM:** Do you draw or pre-designs before you start building?

**MM:** I never draw sketches, but I make lots of quick build sketches, to visualize how big the model could be, how much space I will have to incorporate mechanisms and if it's even possible to make it.

**HBM:** It's clear that the theme that you like the most is heavy

machinery. Also in your models you typically incorporate all the functionality that the space available allows. What is your main objective, functionality or aesthetics?

**MM:** I can say without a doubt that both of them are important. These two are related - working Technic mechanisms makes the model more realistic, System parts are needed to hide all Technic mechanisms, and gives details and shape to the model. I have never learned how to build with panels and I think that I will never learn - I just don't like hollow models.

**HBM:** Sometimes you cut the scale to minifig scale; is it more difficult to you to create at this scale?

**MM:** It varies. When I am making a model that doesn't have working mechanisms, it's easier than making bigger technic models. But when it comes to adding some functions to minifig scale, it is sometimes way more difficult.

**HBM:** Your models are usually fully bodied and studless, giving them an air of "Model Team" that distinguishes them from other models. Do they not become heavier than models with liftarms and Technic Panels? Is it more difficult to include mechanisms in those models?

**MM:** As I have mentioned above, I don't like holes in models. Of course, more elements equals more weight, which must be reflected in the building process. Mechanisms are the most important part of the model - Model Team bodywork is matched to them. Sometimes it works against me - a few models never went public, because they were not working properly due to weight. I'm usually balancing on a thin line ;)

**HBM:** If you had to choose one among all your creations, which one would you choose and why?









**MM:** Kenworth W900 Rotator tow truck. It's my most complex model to date. It took me two months to build, consumed lots of pneumatic and electric parts. That effort, however, has been rewarded with a smoothly working model.

**HBM:** A complaint of Technic fans is the lack of originality in the official models, especially in the main models, cranes, bulldozers, trucks,... You have shown that there are other alternatives, especially mining machinery. What do you think about it? Do you think that LEGO® should also innovate in the Technic theme?

**MM:** It would be nice to see more specialized machines, like drilling rigs or forestry machines (more than this year's logging truck).

I am aware that LEGO is oriented to kids, and sets must be recognizable by them. Of course, I would be happy to see a

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bolting rig as a Technic set, but kids will have problems even trying to name this type of machine. Anyway, I always stick to this rule: something does not appear as a set? BUILD it for yourself. I think this is how it should work.

**HBM:** The increase of AFOLs and lines like Star Wars™ create new possibilities not imagined before by LEGO. What do you think about the old school LEGO and the new LEGO?

**MM:** Each year a new batch of parts arrives with the new sets, and they allow you to build things that could not be built a few years ago. New shapes and colours help a lot, but I keep in mind that it all started with a few basic bricks and there would not be anything "new" without those "old" pieces. I like the SW universe, but when I see the third or fourth iteration of same spaceship I would like to return to those "old" sets from Classic Space. Each was unique and many of them had great features, not present in latest sets.

**HBM:** What do you think about the use of non-official parts (stickers, modified parts, non-LEGO elements,...)?

**MM:** I use stickers, and for my Kenworth W900 I ordered some custom chromed pieces, to get as close as possible to the look of the real truck. I never cut pieces, because building with LEGO is based on using a limited range of bricks to achieve the desired shape of model. Sometimes it is challenging, but I like it, and I don't like to cut corners, so to speak.

**HBM:** What can you tell us about the AFOL community in Poland?

**MM:** Our community, LUGPol was established mid 2004. We're divided into several groups, corresponding with the hierarchy of our community. Marcin 'Szarikm' Szarek, Marcin 'Żbik' Żbikowski and Maciej 'dmac' Szymański are currently the board of LUGPol.





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Our purpose is to promote the most interesting, mind developing and exclusive hobby: LEGO® model building. Through the Internet we are constantly trying to reach the adult LEGO fans, who often work alone, unaware that there is a large and strong community of equally passionate individuals in Poland (not to mention Europe and the whole world). From time to time we also proudly show off our creation at public events and it is hard to say who is more overjoyed at these meetings: the builders or the visitors (usually entire families). We are sure you have already heard about 'TruckTrial' - it

is a challenge of LEGO trucks powered by 9V motors and built in 1:13 scale, according to very strict rules. It's basically an outdoors race of extremely slow and extremely powerful trucks, a race against time and against man-made obstacles. It requires both experience in LEGO Technic building and proficiency in driving. Our members have also participated in the Colossal Castle Contests, winning many prizes and honorable mentions.  
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