

Droids, droids, droids

10225 R2-D2™

Text by car_mp

Pictures by The LEGO® Group, Brickset, car_mp and their respective owners

There are many ways to be a fan of Star Wars™. You can be a fan of the fantastic classic trilogy, you can be a fan of the not so fantastic modern trilogy, you can be a fan of Darth Vader and the Dark Side or the Jedi Knights. And then there are those who have realized that the real protagonists of this saga are not the Skywalker family nor any of the characters that surround their stormy life. The protagonists are two droids, C3-PO™ and R2-D2™. If Anakin had known that they would be guilty of bringing down his empire of terror, he would certainly not have built that gold bar with legs nor intimidated with that R2 unit.

Let's be clear, at least once in every film they are there to save the day. Always with the right tool for each task and fortunate enough to dodge the bright laser beams passing all around. What would have happened if these droids had been on the other side?

Each of them has a personality and nature that is much more defined than any of the human characters from which they steal the spotlight, maybe they have no love scenes and their facial expression are a bit limited ... but with their actions and attitudes they have been able to arouse feelings that are more characteristic of flesh and blood characters.

And you will say, "Okay, you're one of those geeks of the droids, so what?". Well, all of this comes hand in hand with the new set of R2-D2 that LEGO® has released. And it is not just any set, but it belongs to the series of the 10000, an UCS and rightly so. But let's get some background



R2D2

R2D2 is an astromech droid that appears for the first time in the series (if we follow the timeline of the story) in *The Phantom Menace*, on board the ship in which Padme Amidala escapes Naboo breaking the planet blockade imposed by the Federation of Commerce. In this first scene it already saves our heroes by repairing the ship and saving it from being destroyed by the Federation. If you look at our timeline, its first appearance is in *The Star Wars: A New Hope* aboard the *Tantive 4*, while Princess Leia records a secret message to Obi Wan Kenobi moments before being captured by imperial troops.

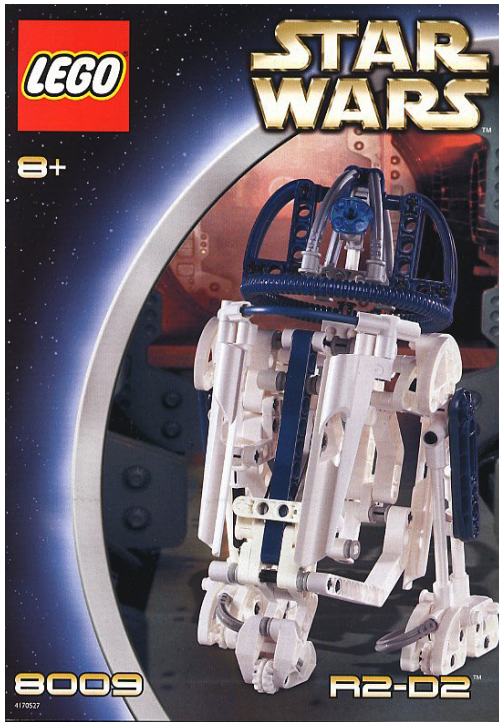
With a cylindrical body and hemispherical head, R2D2 measures 96 cm and has three legs (one of them retractable) that allow it to change its configuration to move or work. Its body is mainly white, with blue and metallic details. Its head is blue and metallic. Equipped with more tools than a Swiss army knife, it would certainly be the ideal companion of Mac Gyver, given its ability to repair, open, hack and if necessary, to fight. Along with C3-PO, Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi, they are the only characters that appear in all the films in the series.

R2D2... in LEGO

Since the beginning of the LEGO® Star Wars franchise this droid has been represented in different ways and in different themes. At Minifig scale there are several models. Initially its head was white with blue details and later it changed to a more appropriate color scheme with a light bluish grey head. It has emerged as a minifig in sets, magnets, clocks, pens and key rings.



At larger scales it has appeared as a Technic set, alone in the 8009 in 2002, with 240 parts, or accompanied by C3PO in the set 65081. Then within Robotics theme we have the set 9748 Droid Developer Kit, with which we could build a replica of R2-D2™, fitted with a brick with a series of preloaded programs that gave the robot different movements.



R2D2 on the Internet

There have been many attempts to render our favorite droid and there are many models that can be found in a multitude of different scales and with different functionalities.

As examples we can find this model by Flickr user SAPRKART!, which uses all the curved pieces that LEGO® puts at our disposal to accurately portray its form in an intermediate scale. In addition he has also made a tribute to the original concept by Ralph MacQuarrie.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/36161867@N08/>



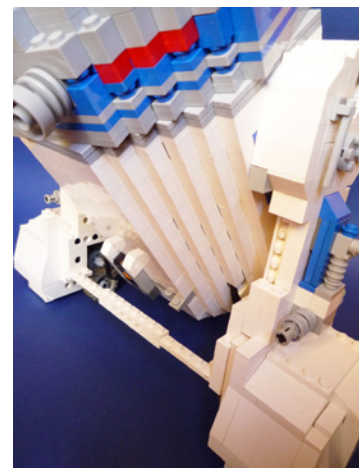


PF. I added it the third leg, it was painful for the droid, more painful for me. I added wheels without knowing exactly how to and put two motors in the side legs. As my Technic knowledge is not very extensive (those who read this magazine already know) I decided that the steering would be like the ones in the tanks, using the motor of each leg independently. The main problem, besides my ineptitude, was to get the correct angle on the rear legs and that these legs did not separate from the body by the moments of forces suffered when spinning. At the end it worked..., more or less, and still it does..., more or less. Obviously after the headaches and pain in my fingers, the idea of putting in a NXT brick and making it "intelligent" is basically at the bottom of my to-do list.

As this model had lost the aesthetics that allowed me to have it at home without my wife giving me funny looks, I have kept

And the second is a fantastic model in a larger scale and endowed with movement. Its author is Peter Salter (Ickelpete) and it is 60 cm high (depending on its position)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/34247814@N07/>



My personal attempts

As you may have guessed, a fan like me of this little friend, would have tried to have his own droid from a long time ago. Well yes, and not just one, I have three versions of the same "pileup", at three different scales, and each with its own history. As I am a brave man in these things, I started with a big one. And using LDD (in its early versions) I built a 40 centimeter tall R2. It was a static version on two legs, whose unique gadget was its rotating head. After what I thought was an unprecedented success and a great sample of my talent as a builder, my ego was inflated and I decided to power it up with



it in a box which it only leaves to go to events, and I started to build another on a smaller scale. By then, I had discovered the Lowell sphere and my life had changed. So the domes were no longer stacked bricks and plates and became plates in all directions. Thus the two smaller versions that now decorate my desk were born. They have no gadgets, motors or anything like that, but they are nice looking and don't come apart easily. For most of my builds, that is usually sufficient.

The 10225

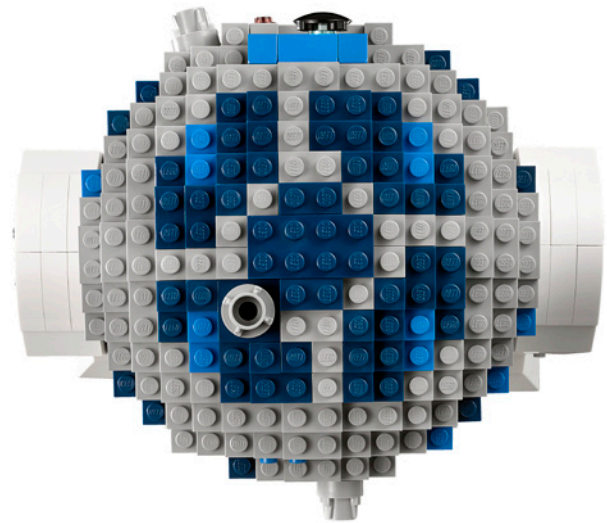
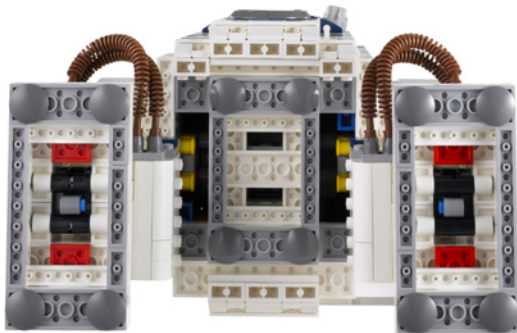
And when everyone had lost hope and we had filled internet with MOCs of R2D2™ in different sizes and styles, LEGO® released this set. And after 2127 parts, this is what I can say about this set.

The box is large, more than necessary, but I have to say that although it has the image of Darth "I killed your master" Maul in the corner, it is quite impressive. The content comes in numbered bags and the instructions are divided into 3 books. It has only one sticker, the information plate.

The building process is entertaining, not too repetitive (it has two equal legs, you have to learn to live with that) and with Technic components in the mechanism of the third leg. There are no problems of confusion with colors although the dark blue and bright blue can lead to error if they are not together, but as the types of parts for each color do not coincide it is not a major problem.

The final set is very attractive and the head is more rounded than the photos suggest. Perhaps the body should be slightly wider, it seems that our dear friend has been on a diet of low viscosity oil lately, but it is not something that stands out. The gadgets included are well designed and work perfectly, except, perhaps, the mechanism of the third leg. We must recognize the difficulty of designing such a mechanism, and it has indeed been done very well, but its operation requires practicing a couple of times before that change from 2 to 3 feet is more or less fluent. In the two-legged position the model is stable but it has gaps that allow it to move slightly in all directions, as when it suffered an overload and deployed all its gadgets. Yet it is not annoying and the aesthetic result in this position allows you to have it on display without your wife giving you funny looks. The three-legged position is more stable, but since it leans back it doesn't look as good. The mechanism of the third leg uses almost all the available space in the interior of the body, so if someone tries to power it or modify it this functionality will probably have to be given up if much extra space is needed. The aesthetic details are many and well made. Perhaps the head could have been worked harder and a gadget could have been added in that area, because the dome is virtually empty. A light brick would have been a good detail and they are very fashionable lately.





CONCLUSION

It is a great set and personally I like it, I enjoyed building it and playing with it, but I have to be honest and say that I would have paid more for a more extreme version. Larger, motorized, more detailed..., but it is clear that the objective was a balance between what is desirable and possible to a sale price. In short... highly recommended.

Acknowledgements: LEGO® SYSTEM A/S and Jan Beyer for this set and LEGO Iberia S.A., Joachim Schwidtal and Rosa Seegelken for the official images.

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