

Review 4204: The Mine

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Set: The Mine
Set number: 4204
Number of parts: 748
Minifigs 4
Recommended retail price: 79,99€

Keeping in mind how things have happened in the last couple of years, it isn't hard to know that in the second semester LEGO® launches the "interesting" sets for the year, defining as interesting those that are outside the traditional police, fireman or airport sets.

During these years there have been several surprises, like the coastguard, farm or harbour sub-themes. This year there is a major surprise as it is something that has never before been done in CITY: The Mine. It's true that in the past there have been themes like Rock Raiders or Power Miners, but in universes that are independent from CITY. This time we have a real an fully fledged mine.

The theme to date consists of 5 sets and a promotional bag. I don't expect it to go any further. In order to see the characteristics of this attractive sub-theme we'll have a look at the crowning set of this series: The Mine.





It is made up of the façade of the mine, which has a modular design and contains all the necessary accessories for working, a drill and a transport truck.

The truck is probably the most predictable part of the set. It isn't very different from other trucks we have seen in the last 2 years, although evidently adapted to the task it has to perform. The trailer has the typical container which can be lifted to empty it. The cabin is similar to others with small variations.

Looking at the models that are more specific to the mine, the drill has an interesting design. It has large wheels that give it good traction and allow it to go into rough terrain. The driver's seat is in the front right of the vehicle and has no protection whatsoever. The engine is in the back. Using a central liftarm which goes through the whole vehicle you can make the drill head turn to perforate the mountain. As for accessories or characteristics there isn't much to say, but the model is quite attractive.

The part that corresponds to the face of the mountain is the most interesting part of the model. It is made up of 2 modules:

- The access to the mine, where the drill enters
- The mountain block with a gate for a mining train and a crane to hoist the mineral onto the truck.

The entrance to the mine has a large door that allows the tunnelling drill to enter. To the side there is an access door for the miners, and on top there is a conveyor belt to transport the mineral from the crane in the other module to truck. I have tried the system, as the set comes with several round bricks 1x1 to simulate the extracted mineral, and it works really well. The hopper that receives the mineral from the crane has a sign (sticker) which informs us that this is a gold mine.

The largest rock part is the most interesting one as far as



design and detail are concerned. The mountain is built using BURP and LURP together with bricks and slopes. In the centre there is arch through which the train enters the mine to extract the mineral. To the left there is a building with a safety door where the explosives and the extracted gold is stored. The safety door is well built and looks like the door of a safety vault. On top of the mountain there is a crane that collects the mineral and takes it to the conveyor belt which is in the other module.

The model is beautiful and quite well represented, but there are a few details that make it an extraordinary set. I will start with the train. It is I'd say a perfect representation of the typical mining train you might imagine. With a limited number of parts this is a more than acceptable model. The wagon is also well represented with little over 20 pieces.

A lot of small details complement the mine, starting with the miner's helmets, a new part that has a stud to attach the light that is necessary for working in the dark. There are also the typical plungers to detonator the dynamite, gold bars, a wheelbarrow, new decoration for the torsos of the minifigs...

It's a great set that shows the possibilities of this CITY sub-theme and that guarantees hours of fun and probably many dioramas with mining scenes.

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