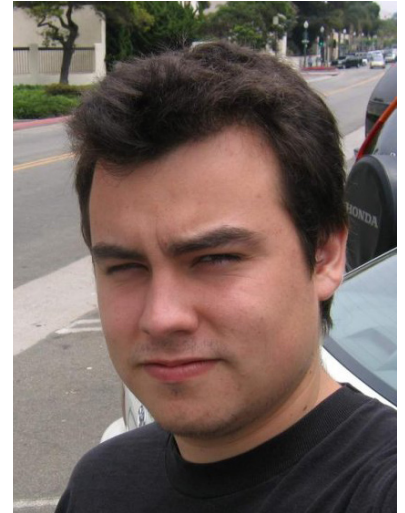


# Great creators of the world: Bruce Lowell

By HispaBrick Magazine®

Pictures by Bruce Lowell



**HispaBrick Magazine®:** Name?  
**Bruce Lowell**

**HBM:** Age?

**BL:** 27

**HBM:** Nationality?

**BL:** American

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

**BL:** I work as a computer technician.

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

**BL:** Probably when I was around three years old. I don't remember a time that I didn't have LEGO to play with.

**HBM:** Which was your first set?

**BL:** The first set I remember my parents purchasing for me was 6660 Hook & Haul Wrecker

**HBM:** And your last set?

**BL:** The latest set I purchased was 9490 Droid Escape

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

**BL:** Star Wars™!

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

**BL:** 4733 Brick, Modified 1 x 1 with Studs on 4 Sides  
This is the quintessential SNOT (Studs Not on Top) piece; it allows building on the X, Y, and Z axes in the smallest space possible.

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

**BL:** I have a long list, but one I've wanted lately is a 1x2 plate with a stud on only one side.

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

**BL:** On average about three hours a week.

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

**BL:** They have grown up with my building LEGO so they tend to accept it as something I do for fun, but usually when they see something I build they're reminded that it can also be an art form and not just a hobby.

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

**BL:** I usually come up with a basic design or a specific piece or piece combination in my head, and start building it as soon as possible. I usually do not draw up designs beforehand.

**HBM:** One of the topics on which you like to build more is everyday objects. Why are you searching for the perfect imitation of such objects? What do these objects have in common for you to replicate them?

**BL:** I tend to translate what I see in my everyday life into LEGO in my mind, and it makes sense for me to build some of it. I used to think of myself as just a Star Wars or minifig builder, which prevented me from building a lot of everyday objects, but I've found a lot more inspiration and I've had more fun building some of the more common things I see in my life, and it also has a broader appeal.



Bruce Lowell | flickr.com/bruceywan

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

**BL:** All building scales have their unique challenges, and minifig scale is obviously not excluded from this. I think my mind gravitates to minifig scale because LEGO® System has been around as long as I've played with LEGO, so sometimes it can be difficult to think outside of minifig scale. Because minifig scale is small, you have to be very precise about which details are the most essential to convey what a particular object is.

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

**BL:** Right now I'd have to choose the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. I was very happy that I was able to incorporate the sphere design I created almost ten years ago as the basis of it, which was actually the first MOC I had planned for the sphere. I'm happy I did wait until now to follow through with the idea because a good amount of the pieces that helped perfect the MOC were not available ten years ago.

**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?

**BL:** I have a great admiration and fondness for the beauty of LEGO from the 1980s and before, considering the limited parts and colors available at the time, but some of that might also



 Bruce Lowell | [flickr.com/bruceywan](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bruceywan/)



Bruce Lowell | flickr.com/bruceywan

be the nostalgia of my childhood. The increase in the color palette, the transition in parts from angular and studded to curved and tiled, and the amount of parts available has made building much more fluid and more realistic.

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

**BL:** I like the challenge of building within the framework that LEGO gives us, which is why I stay away from non-official elements as a rule. Occasionally if a MOC or commissioned piece call for it I will create a sticker or use engraved bricks, but when I do I like to keep it to a minimum and utilize them in a way I think LEGO would if they were building what I was.



Bruce Lowell | flickr.com/bruceywan

**HBM:** In addition to the Lowell sphere, lately you are experimenting with other surfaces derived from the sphere. Is it a way of challenging the square shape of the LEGO brick?

**BL:** Definitely. I've always liked experimenting with SNOT and other non-traditional building styles. What I like most about SNOT building is that it allows a far greater "resolution" in building, which means that MOCs can be more accurate in their shaping and successful in their completion. Using the Lowell sphere as an example it is very round for being only 7 studs in diameter. If the same size sphere were to be built traditionally (studs up) then its outcome would be much less rounded.



**HBM:** Recently you have faced Legohaulic in the Iron Builder Contest. Is it hard not to draw on opponent models to find new uses for the part chosen for the challenge?

**BL:** When I have an idea for a MOC I purposely avoid looking at what other people have done to try and keep my design completely my own. With Iron Builder it was difficult because Tyler (Legohaulic) and I had to see what the other was making for the entire month of the contest. Seeing what he built helped me constantly try and think of new and better ways to use the part. I'm very fortunate to have gone up against such a good builder who never let me take a break for the entire month! And looking back, I've extremely pleased with the MOCs I created during the contest.

**HBM:** How do you think of the combinations of the different parts from the minifigs for your fantastic minifigs of famous characters?

**BL:** I love minifigs, so I try and stay updated on any new minifigs and printings. Having a good working knowledge of what is available helps me make connections as to what part combinations would work well to make a certain character. I also keep my printed minifig pieces sorted by categories (for example happy faces and angry faces or space torsos and pirate torsos) that I can browse on a wall to come up with as perfect a combination as is possible. Since I try not to use any custom parts or prints, most of the character minifigs I make are very close to what they should be but could be perfect if LEGO were to make an official version.

#





Bruce Lowell