

Lone Ranger

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Pictures by LEGO® System A/S

Those of us who are of a certain age, remember watching a TV series called "Lone Ranger", the story of a masked Texas Ranger, who galloped to set straight injustices with the help of his astute and iconic aid, the Potawatomi native called Tonto. In 2013 Disney brings out a film based on this character and LEGO® has taken advantage of the licence it has with Disney to launch 6 sets and 2 polibags related to the film. In this article I will present some of these 8 sets to give you an idea of what you can find in the Lone Ranger boxes.

Unfortunately I cannot make reference to the film in this review as it will premiere on July 3rd, after this edition of the magazine has been closed, so I'll stick to describing the sets.

The smallest set is the 79106 - Cavalry Builder, a battle pack with Lone Ranger, Silver (his horse) and three cavalry soldiers. The set also includes accessories like a cannon, a fire, and a protective wall to hide behind when the cavalry fights the enemy. In this set you can see that there will be a new, more stylised model of the revolver used in Western sets. It is an interesting set if you want to make a cavalry army, or if you want to get your hands on Lone Ranger and his horse for a reasonable price.



The second set in the series is the 79107 - Comanche Camp. In the case we change "sides" and join a group of Comanche Indians, specifically with one of their typical teepees. It is built on a plate. Some bricks to make the round shape of the base and some bars placed in X which connect to the 2 plastic sides that make up the cloth covering the teepee. Both sides are the same and have an opening by way of a door. You need to try not to open the door on the rear side so the back wall will remain closed. In addition to the cabin there is a canoe, a stand for the bow, arrows and a spear, other tools, like a hatchet or an oar, and a small hill with a mechanism that reveals a scorpion.

The set includes three minifigs: Lone Ranger and the Comanches Tonto and Red Knee. The Comanches are very complete and each one has his own characteristic hair, which

is a special piece for each minifig. It is the first set to feature Tonto and it is curious to see a crow can be fitted to his head (also a new piece).



Continuing with this review, the 79108 - Stagecoach Scrape is a precious stagecoach with a strong box with silver ingots that the bandits will try to steal. In this case I want to start with the 5 minifigs. They are extraordinary. Especially the one I have mentioned before that represents Tonto, and the one of Red Herrington, a spectacular lady with a large hairdo, a cape and a hat. The two bandits are differently dressed and also their legs are decorated.

The stagecoach is in no way less spectacular. Pulled by two horses, it is a precious red and contains some interesting building techniques, like the rear axle, which is very much like the real thing visually, although quite fragile functionally. Inside there are two couches for the passengers, and on the roof there is a strong box to transport silver. In addition to this precious cargo there is sack with mail. The rear luggage carrier holds a suitcase and has a mechanism to make it jump out. This is the first Western stagecoach and I think it leaves the bar very high.



One of the largest sets in the theme is the 79110 - Silver Mine, which reproduces the mine where the silver comes from that the bandits try to steal. Again there are 5 minifigs. Aside from Lone Ranger and Tonto, in this case dirty with dust, we find an Indian Chief, Chief Big Bear, Butch Cavendish and the bandit Skinny Kyle. This is a real play set. It is very detailed and has many mechanisms to promote play.

In the mine there is a hut for the bandit to hide, cook and drink. It has a nice fireplace inside with chimney outside the cabin. Outside there is a skull of a cow that can be used as a weapon as it can be launched. At the top of the mine there is a crane to lift stones (or people) from the floor. There are different moving elements for play, like a lever to move a rock, a slide that allows you to go down from the inside of the mine to the trolley, moving stairs, catapults, explosions... There is a lot of play opportunity in this set. I would like to highlight the possibility to simulate explosions, that is, placing a dynamite cartridge in the right place, using mechanisms that push this dynamite, you can make the wall crumble, simulation an explosion.

As far as decoration is concerned the set is also very interesting. LEGO® hasn't simply piled up a couple of BURPS, but tens of slopes of different colours and sizes have been used to simulate the shape of a mountain. The result is fantastic. In addition, there is a river that passes through the mine, made with transparent tiles and cheese slopes on light blue plates. To simulate the waterfall there is a plastic piece that is like a curtain and can be traversed. From the centre of the mine a railway track comes out that allows two wagons with ore to come to the surface. The interior of the mine is full of silver crystals.

In my opinion this is the best set in the entire theme. If you want just a single Lone Ranger set, get the kine!!!



The star of the Lone Ranger theme is the 79111 - Constitution Train Chase. It includes 7 minifigs. Lone Ranger, Tonto, Rebecca Reid, Danny Reid, Butch Cavendish, Latham Cole and Captain Fuller. It is a typical Western steam train. The engine and the tender are designed in a combination of green, light grey and black. The engine has a 2-3-0 configuration and has quite some details, like the headlight, the chimney from the boiler, the bell to announce the train is leaving the station or the typical cow catcher on the front. Inside the cabin there is no decoration, except for the door that gives access to the burner. The boiler is 4 studs wide and looks a little small in comparison to the rest of the engine. The three driven wheels turn freely. In my opinion that is the worst part of the engine. Since the wheels are not connected by rods they turn freely. What's more, the centre wheel is fictitious as it doesn't touch the rails and so doesn't turn. The effect is a little strange. I believe LEGO could have used axles as well as connecting rods. It would have improved the looks of the set no end. There isn't much to say about the tender, except that it has a little trap door that hides the coal and where also a treasure or a minifig could be hidden...

The train has 2 wagons. The first one is open and has a turning machine gun, with a mechanism that allows you to simulate the turning. The other wagon is closed. Inside there is a door that separates the free access area from the "jail". This closed area has a mechanism that, like in the mine, simulates the explosion of dynamite and makes the rear wall fall out so the captive can escape.

The set includes railway tracks to build a 0, and also some elements that include the "explosion function". One of them is the water deposit. It has a movable tap that allows you to move it close to boiler of the engine, or retract it after the filling operation has been finished. The entire structure is fixed to a plate with 2 hinges, so after the explosion of the dynamite, the deposit falls onto the train to create the desired effect. There is also a little mound with the explosion function. The idea is that when the train is about to pass, it explodes, filling the rails with stones.

The Lone Ranger sets have been designed to maximise playability. They all have some element to simulate actions or explosions. In addition they have been carefully designed and there are no sets with great minifigs but poor design. The film has been a good excuse to enjoy the Western theme again and, forgetting the Hollywood characters for a second, there are some great models for a generic Western diorama.

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