

And now the book

Kaneda's Bike, a book by the arvo brothers

By car_mp

Pictures by arvo

It is always complicated to critique a friend's creation. If these friends are also the original inspiration of this magazine with their MOC Alien some 5 years ago, it is even more complicated on a moral level. But in the end when they ask your opinion about a product they don't expect an objective analysis, but rather your personal view with whatever baggage that entails.

Their way of creating, building and seeing things has always been an unreachable mystery to me. Their capability to use parts in order to create realistic volume and angles is something I will never achieve. I have stopped trying. So when they said they wanted to present their latest work exclusively, and they wanted me to give my opinion, I prepared my senses for a new instalment of their exploits. And it turns out it's a book.

I really appreciate the arvo brothers, but... a book? really? is that what they have been working on instead of the mother of all Aliens?

In the end I decided to give them an opportunity Over the last couple of months there has been a frenzy of LEGO® related books and I can't blame them for having been infected.

KANEDA'S BIKE

A R V O B R O T H E R S

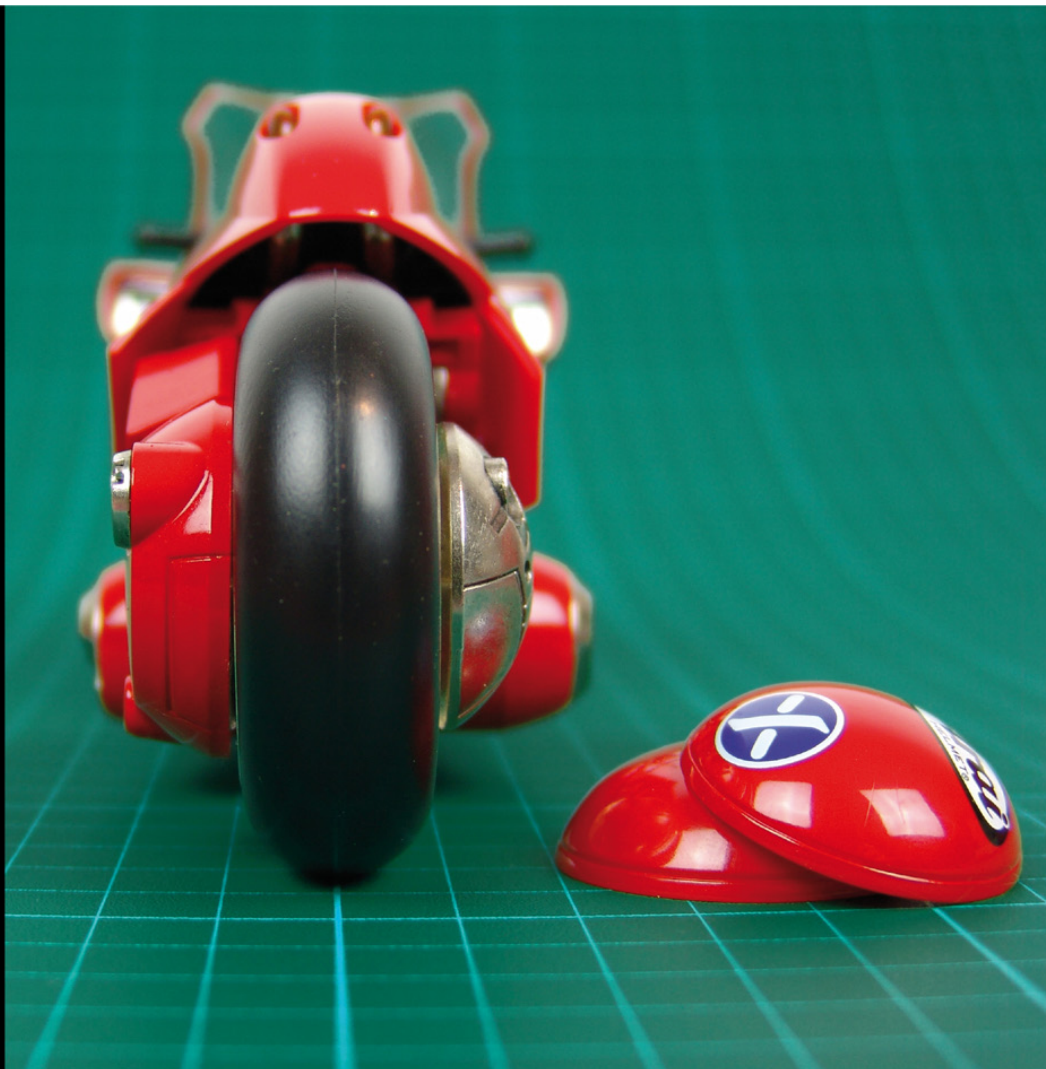


"Wheels"

Even though they are not included in a specific area of this initial study, the wheels are undoubtedly the most characteristic feature of the bike. Above the family-size glass, the large seat, side drums or the many small details that make this bike a real "delicatesen", we come across the wheels and their bulky spherical rims. Truly spectacular.

It is a challenge to include some details, but we will not ignore them as long as the solution does not compromise the polished look we aim to achieve. Yet another difficulty that we face when building is that of obtaining evenness in the solutions. It is not sufficient to find them; these solutions must also be in line and in harmony with each other. Occasionally, we have been forced to renounce solutions that looked pretty good when isolated, but "strange" within the model as a whole.

Returning to the idea that we mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, which deals with the slight disproportion we aim to achieve between the front and the rear, it is worth mentioning a last remark in relation to the wheels. It is easy to note the difference in size between them. Some models exaggerate this feature a lot, and from our point of view, this is a very wise detail that really helps to obtain the desired disproportion.



But let's turn to the book, after all that's what we're here to talk about. As always it's good to start at the beginning. We all know the aesthetic taste these guys have, we've seen it in their MOCs over the years, so the presentation is very elegant and the photos are close to perfection. But the contents are probably the most surprising part.

Throughout the chapters we witness the birth, development and construction of the legendary bike of Kaneda from the Akira manga and anime. Nothing more, nothing less. Without secrets, without holding back. The entire creative process, all the decisions and sacrifices regarding the original model they have had to make. Rarely does a book reflect this, not only because of how hard it is to find someone willing to show their creative process, but also because of the consciousness self-examination that underlies showing the how your brain works when creating something.

It isn't a book about ideas, although in its pages you can find many, nor is it a book about building techniques even though from its pages you can decipher the way these guys build. It isn't an instruction manual either, even though one is included. It is all of that and more. It is a book about an evolution, the evolution of a model and its builders, about a constant search for perfection to confer physical qualities to a dream that arose from a manga.

It is a different book, maybe not something for everybody, but it is clear that it is a little treasure of LEGO construction.

And what's more, when you finish reading it, the only thing you can think about is that bike, you need that bike...

The book will be available from December 14 through email: arvobrothers@hotmail.com
 And later on page:
www.arvobrothers.com (still under construction)
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