

Review: 42024 Container Truck

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Pictures by LEGO® System A/S



After clearing several containers of debris out of the flat I am renovating I was looking forward to finding some time to build a LEGO® Technic version of the truck that has come to pick them up. But LEGO has beaten me to it, and the 2014 line-up includes the 42024 Container Truck: a compact model with all the right functions.

The 42024 Container Truck is the second largest model in the Technic series for the first half of 2014. It isn't the first time LEGO presents a truck that is approximately this size, nor one with this name. Both the 2008 Cherry Picker (8292) and

the 2010 Container Truck (8052) appear to be in the same approximate size range although the number of parts for those two models is significantly lower – 726 and 686 respectively while the 42024 Container Truck has 947 pieces. The set is however quite novel, for several reasons.

For starters, the type of container this truck carried and the loading/unloading mechanism with double “hydraulics” has never before been reproduced in an official LEGO Technic set. Additionally, while all three trucks are roughly the same length, the difference in piece count translates into a wider wheelbase



(from 13 to 15 studs), made possible in part by one of the new elements included in this set: the new 49.5x20 tyres. These new tyres are a lot more realistic in the relationship between the diameter of the hub and the thickness of the tyre. As a consequence, the wheel arch under the cabin is raised by 1 brick while the rear tyres give the truck a much more robust look.

The truck is however, roughly in the same price range as the two I mentioned earlier – allowing for inflation over the years. So how is that possible? One key factor is that both the Cherry Picker and the 2010 Container Truck included a PF M-motor and the inevitable battery pack. While the 42024 Container Truck can be very easily motorised (instructions are included in the second booklet) the set doesn't include the necessary PF elements, allowing for more "standard" pieces at the same price point. The mechanisms are built in such a way that they can be comfortably used manually. Some earlier Technic sets that could be motorized were hard to use without the motor (e.g. the 8265 Front Loader – a great set, but difficult to operate without motorizing it first). In this case however, the functions have been geared in such a way that manually turning them isn't too much work, including a motor is a matter of a snap and a click and the speed of the motorised function is roughly the same as the manual speed.

The new tyres are not the only novelty in this set. After the appearance of the 8L and 4L axles with stop it is now time for the 5L axle with stop (a flat stop at the end of the axle) which is produced in a convenient Dark Tan (to match the 3L axle with stud). This axle configuration is turning out to be very convenient for separating functions on the same plane and avoiding axles from moving out of their designated areas. Another intriguing part in this set are the chain elements used to lift the container. My first thought was that these must be new pieces, but some further research told me they were first introduced in 2006 (!) in a Bionicle set (!! – BL part number 53551 – thanks Fernando!). The chain links work very well and are kept in place laterally by $\frac{3}{4}$ pins (colour coded Tan). So what does this set "do"? – isn't that what Technic sets are all about? Well, yes and no. Technic is about functions, but the nice colour scheme – yellow cabin, red bed and blue container – is part of the appeal of the model too... There are no real surprises in this set, but the functions have been nicely



executed, which again, speaks for the aesthetics of the set. Of course there is the HOG for steering the model and the doors of the cabin open. But the best part of this set is in the back of the model.

Deep inside the model there is a Driving Ring to select one of the two functions. Rather than having direct access to the Changeover Catch, this is connected to a system of levers that end under the space reserved for the battery box on the left side of the model. At the exact same place on the other side of the truck there is a knob to manually move the functions. This symmetry is very nice touch that enhances the overall look of the model.

The gearbox allows access to two functions: one is the arm that lifts (and lowers) the container. This function is powered by two Linear Actuator, mimicking the real life function of this truck. The second function lowers (or raises) the stabilizers – with the aid of a mini LA – which are placed at the back of the model. Together with the stabilizers a catch is raised or lowered. This means that with the stabilizers lowered, the arm can place the container behind the truck. But with the stabilizers (and the catch) raised, the container will tip over to spill its contents behind the truck.

As usual the set comes with instructions for a secondary model which is displayed on the back of the box: a road grader, which uses the chains to control the angle of the blade, the Linear Actuators to control its height and the mini LA for the ripper at the back. At the time of writing this review the instructions have not been made available yet, but while the general look of the model is less clean due to the variety of colours used, the fact that it is a completely different vehicle which uses all the main element from the A model is a definite plus.

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