



This Siege Tank, from the StarCraft universe, recreated entirely in LEGO Technic, has six separate motorized tracks. (© Antti Hakala)

Review: Incredible LEGO® Technic

By Jetro

Pictures: Reproduced from Incredible LEGO Technic, with the permission of No Starch Press. © 2014 by Paweł “Sariel” Kmieć.

Title: Incredible LEGO Technic – Cars, Trucks, Robots & More

Author: Paweł “Sariel” Kmieć

Editorial: No Starch Press

To anyone with the slightest knowledge about or interest in LEGO® Technic, “Sariel” is a household name; a prolific builder of beautifully detailed, working Technic MOCs and writer of many tutorials, including The Unofficial LEGO® Technic Builder’s Guide. His latest offering, Incredible LEGO Technic – Cars, Trucks, Robots & More, however, is not about HOW to build fully functional models, but WHAT stunningly beautiful models can be built using many of the techniques outlined in his first book.

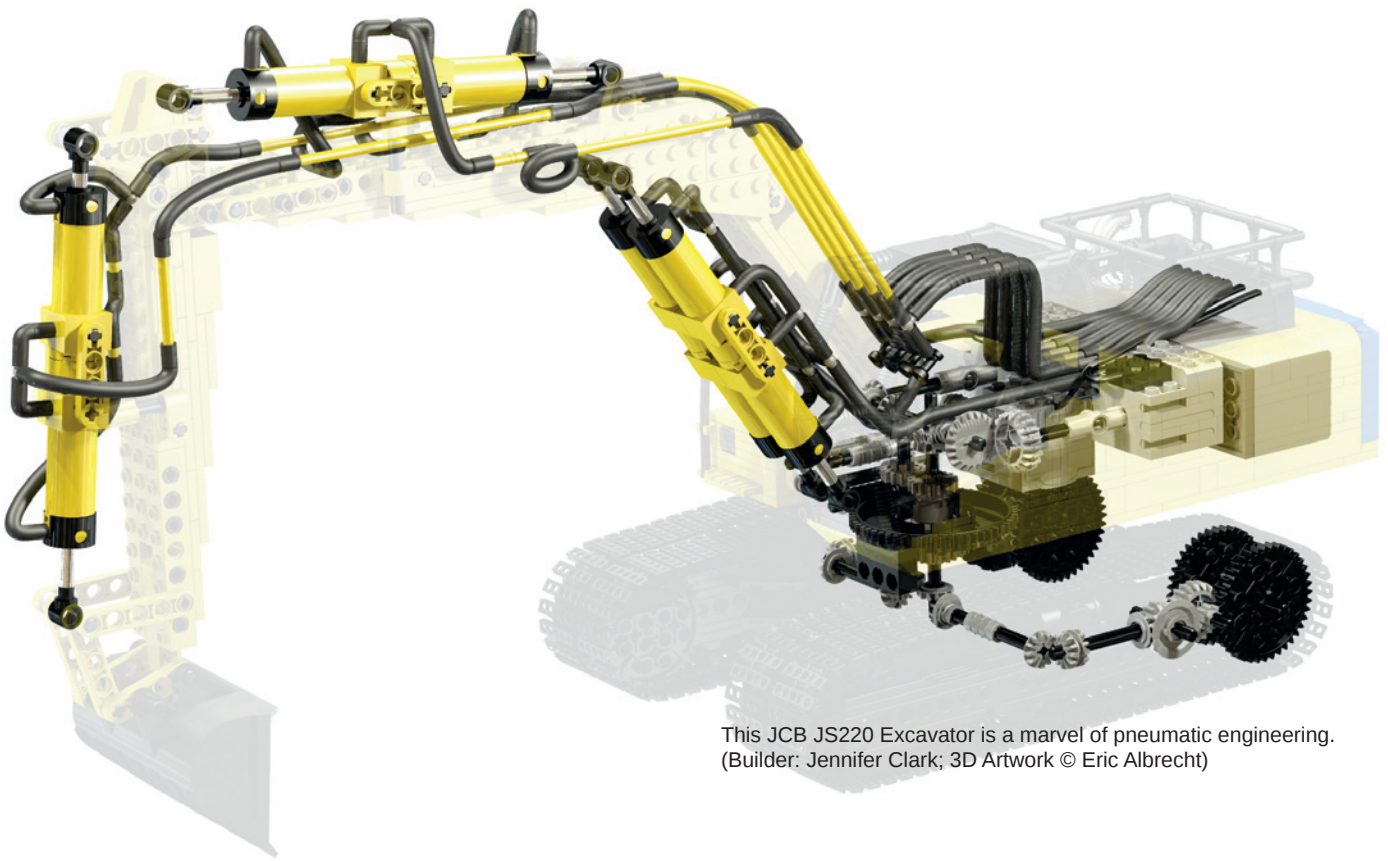
Although the book has been compiled by a master builder, the models displayed are not solely his own. Sariel has reached out to a considerable number of great Technic builders who have all contributed one or more models to turn this book into a catalogue of Incredible LEGO Technic.

But what good is a catalogue if you can’t buy any of the models? Well, let me try to explain that in stages. First of all, the book has a clean and attractive design and features

high quality images of the models displayed. Each model is shown from various angles, some backstory about the original model is provided as well as interesting facts about the build, including dimensions, part count and functions. The models are organised into categories and include not only cars and trucks, but a wide range of subjects from aircrafts to watercrafts, including a very interesting “Miscellaneous” category that includes a braiding machine and the Tachikoma robot from Ghost in the Shell. [1]

A good technic model is not defined by its well-designed “shell” – which is of course a must to qualify for this book – but requires incredible internals as well. Showing clear images of the mechanics isn’t always an easy task, but in this book Sariel has had the inestimable help of Eric “Blakbird” Kingsley, who has created digital models, creating renders that literally allow you to look inside the models.

Still not satisfied? So far I have refrained from naming any of the builders who collaborate in the book because naming only a few would be unjust to the rest. Two sections at the end of the book merit some attention in this regard. First there is a complete list of the 37 builders who have participated in the book, including a small bio and links to their websites and or



This JCB JS220 Excavator is a marvel of pneumatic engineering. (Builder: Jennifer Clark; 3D Artwork © Eric Albrecht)

YouTube/Flickr/etc channels [2]. The second section are the credits for the individual models, providing specific links to videos, building instructions and additional information where available.

But wait, there is more! I did say I didn't want to single out any of the builders, but I must make an exception for Jennifer Clark, as this book includes a model she built in 2003 and that had not previously been published. An attractive bonus for an already very attractive book.

Incredible LEGO® Technic will be available in digital format later on (possibly in January). The official story is that this is done to curb piracy and allow the book to sell better initially. I have my doubts... not about the piracy issue, mind you, but about the convenience of a digital edition. It is true that while browsing the book I occasionally had the urge to make the well-known gesture that on a tablet would zoom in on an image to see it in more detail. True, the links to the online images and videos that are provided in the back of the book could serve precisely that need, but they are less immediate,

instantaneous, and require switching over to a different medium and finding the images. In that regard I would have welcomed a QR code with each model that links directly to online information about it. However, the physical space a book takes up and the feeling of idly turning page after page, or simply opening it at a random location still makes me prefer the physical format of this high quality book. The timing of the publishing date is also important: just in time for the holiday season. Incredible LEGO Technic is a great gift, something to enjoy on a cold winter day while planning your next Technic MOC, or to inspire a friend, partner or child.

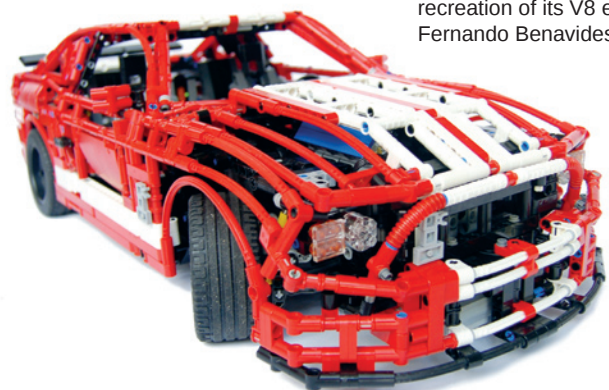
[1] http://www.nostarch.com/download/Technic_toc.pdf

[2] http://www.nostarch.com/download/Technic_builders.pdf
<http://sariel.pl/book2>

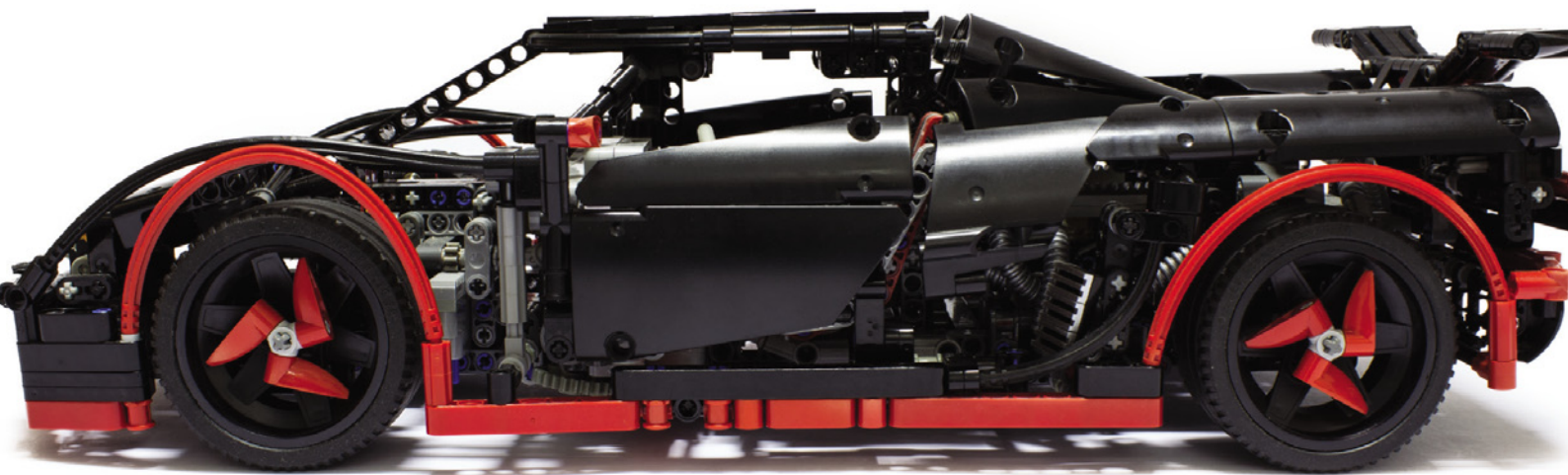
Thanks to No Starch Press for the book and graphic material.
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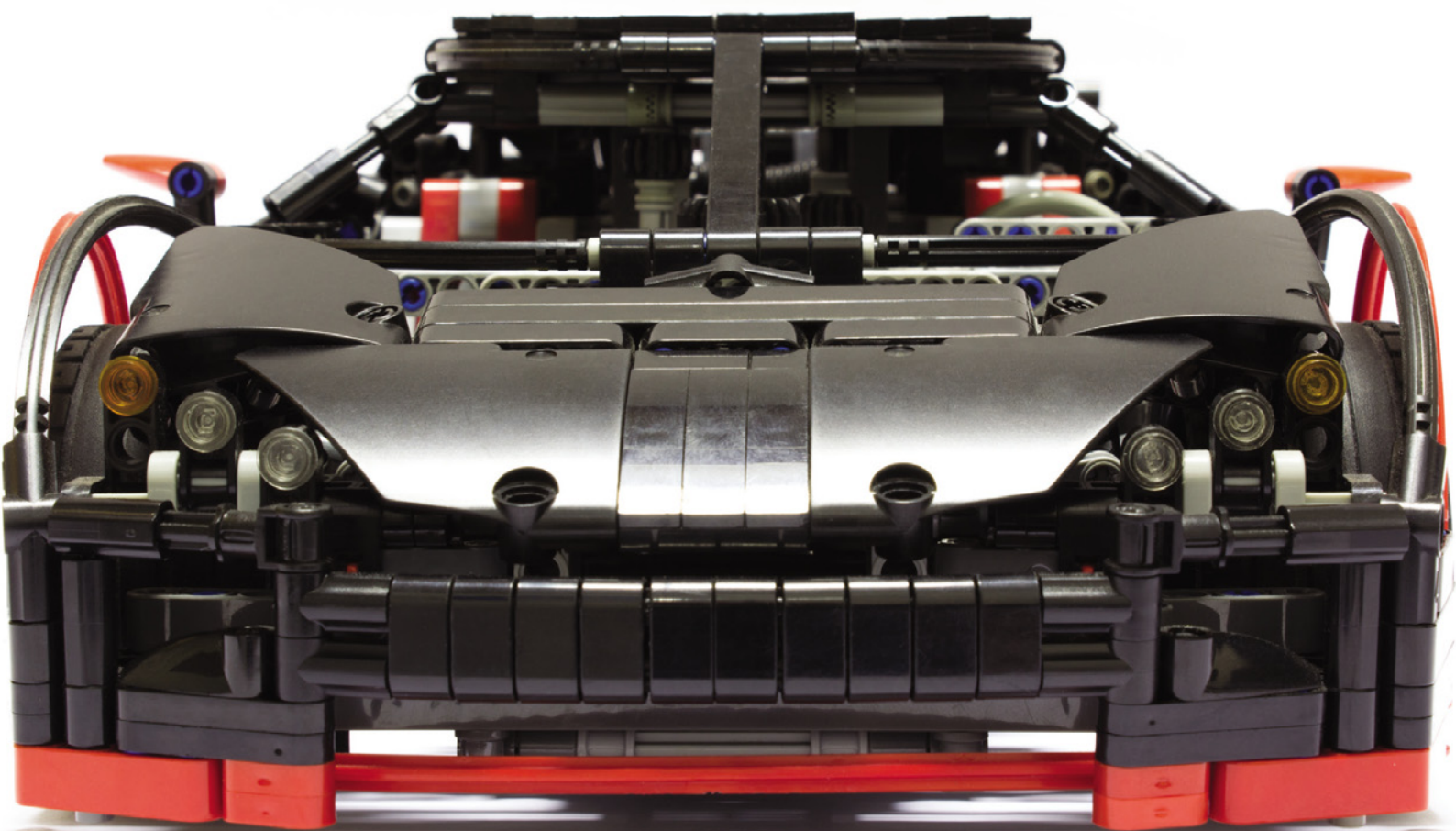
This Kawasaki Vulcan has a full suspension, disk brakes, and even a folding stand. (© Marat Andreev)



This Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 was painstakingly built at 1:8 scale, including a recreation of its V8 engine. (© Fernando Benavides de Carlos)



**INCREDIBLE LEGO® TECHNIC
CARS, TRUCKS, ROBOTS & MORE!**



Paweł "Sariel" Kmiec

