

Review 75098: Assault on Hoth™

All set to recreate one of the best scenes of the film *The Empire Strikes Back*.

By A. Bellón (*Legotron*)

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Set: Assault on Hoth™

Set number: 75098

Parts: 2055

Contains: 15 minifigs and 2 creatures.

Finally it is here, 75098 Assault on Hoth™ which recreates one of the best known scenes of the Star Wars™ saga; the assault of the forces of the Galactic Empire on the secret "Echo" base the Rebel Alliance has hidden on the planet Hoth. A UCS (Ultimate Collector's Series) Star Wars set that contains no less than 2055 parts and 15 minifigs.

Before starting the review of this set I would like to say that this set has generated enormous expectation and it is one of the most talked about sets I remember. If memory serves, the first rumours about this set started to circulate about a year and a half ago. The first thing that drew the attention was the fact that it was rumoured to be a UCS set, causing much speculation about what a UCS of the battle of Hoth might look like. After seeing the magnificent 10236 Ewok Village a new playset was anticipated. Many speculated that the set might include some of the interior of the Echo base or the the battle that raged outside it. The rumours were only increased by the continuous delays in the launch date and everything exploded when the contents of the set were finally announced. It has certainly been one of the most discussed sets of the last few years in the themes I normally follow. So let's have a look at the contents of this set.

Since the set is labelled as a UCS, as an AFOL I expect a certain minimum quality in design to justify branding the set as a UCS. The box is large, and from the description of the elements it is clear that this is a playset with different elements that make up the scene of the assault on the rebel base. The box is quite heavy - understandable in a set with more than 2000 parts. Inside it we find the different numbered bags, a few loose parts and the enormous instruction manual with stickers (!!), perfectly bagged to protect it.

The construction process is divided in the different elements that make up the scene, each of which has a different bag number.

The first bags are used to build the outside perimeter of the base and the defence laser towers as well as the imperial units that attack. First are my favourites: the imperial elements, an E-Web cannon with a curious construction with somewhat unfortunate new launchers which are so in fashion now, and a speeder bike which is very similar to the model that comes in other sets with 2 snowtroopers.

That's it! This is all the empire can summon in what looks to be a suicide mission. Next the outer perimeter is built with its towers and laser cannons. Comparisons are often odious and it is immediately obvious that the towers are quite a bit smaller than the ones that were in previous sets and that the laser cannon looks horrible with all this missile launchers. It is something I don't like for a UCS set. It is good that the stickers are numbered both on the sheet and in the instruction manual so you don't make any mistakes. To finish off there are three rebel soldiers to defend the perimeter and they are printed with the new colours. The printing doesn't look very good. There should have been two layers of print to ensure the print didn't look transparent but really white. These minifigs don't look very good.





The next element you build is the shield generator. It is built with a mechanism that allows you to blow up the shields. After building the shields and placing it besides the rest of the parts you can see it is really small. It is disappointing that this UCS playset doesn't include a more powerful (or larger) shield generator, especially since this is the first time there is an official LEGO model of this element.

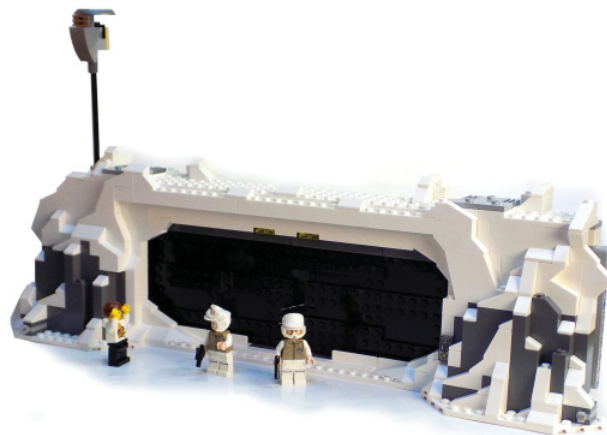


The next element is the landspeeder. This isn't a particularly novel construction either. Anyone who collects Star Wars sets will be able to tell you this is the 7th or 8th landspeeder they build and the whole construction process is very similar to all the other landspeeders in Star Wars sets. It includes the hook, the spoilers and the omnipresent missile launcher. If memory serves, at this point I found an error in the manual since the numbering of the stickers was wrong: sticker number 17 should have been 18. Talking of stickers, I now realise I have built several elements of the set and haven't encountered a single printed brick, only printed minifigs. Very strange for a UCS. At this stage two pilots are included and the printing of their helmets is very nice.



The next step is building the entry to the Echo base, the largest and most outstanding element of the set. It is a laborious building process, with many steps, and although it reminds me vaguely of other sets, this time it is much bigger. I also start seeing the first printed parts which means the set is beginning to earn some points. After finishing this construction the doors are adjusted and the mechanism for opening and closing the doors works perfectly.

As a final detail some positions for attaching defence weapons or the towers are included, as well as a watchtower! Ouch! It is exactly the same as the one on the Yavin 4 base. They have mixed up the bases! LOL. Finally two new minifigs are added, rebel soldiers with a different uniform.



So far we have built the outer perimeter and the entrance to the base. Now it's time for the inside of the base.

First up is the control structure - a small segment with some controls and the famous screens on which enemy ships that approach the planet Hoth are monitored. It is a pity this representation has been done with a sticker, because the sticker is much smaller than the element it is attached to and the edges of the sticker can be seen on the transparent background. The best part of this stage are the minifigs, 1 rebel officer and 2 droids. The trans black part that serves as the head of R3-A2 looks really good.



The next element represents the Wampa cave. At first I thought it belonged to a scene that had been cut from the film in which the Wampa gets into the rebel base and attacks the Tauntaun, but the Luke's saber stuck in the floor, the parts to hang Luke from the ceiling and the image of the Wampa with its arm cut leave no doubt: this is the Wampa cave. So why is it in the base? It is not a very realistic detail, contrary to what is said in the introduction of the construction booklet.

Anyway, it is a modular element you can place anywhere you like so it isn't a problem. The minifig that is included at this stage is Luke Skywalker and, of course, the Wampa.



A new element on the inside represents the area where the Tauntaun are stabled together with a small canteen. There is also a crane arm on rails that allows you to load and unload containers. Finally there is also a small transport vehicle. This stage includes Han Solo and a Tauntaun.



Finally you build the ion cannon. This construction is a little more complex than the rest, with different support systems using Technic parts, which allow you to move it and simulate a discharge. First the structure, base and mechanism are built and finally the panels which give the cannon its spherical shape. This has several snags. The first one is the size which is very small compared to the rest of the elements. The second is the mechanisms which don't allow you to cover the canon, leaving the rear open. And third the shape of the cannon is really extremely ugly. There are too many structures and mechanisms making it look ugly and there still isn't a lot of playability. In this case the minifig for this stage is a rebel officer.

The building process is long and takes quite some time so you'll be entertained for a couple of hours. After finishing all the steps you can put everything together. As far as I am concerned, the most interesting part of the set are the minifigs: no less than 15 in total.



To sum up, and as a very personal opinion, from the point of view of the standard fan or of a child, this is a perfect set to get all the elements of the battle of Hoth in a single set. These elements are mostly very similar to the ones that have appeared in other sets in previous years, except for the ion cannon and the shield generator. It is a very complete playset, with many minifigs that will provide many hours of fun for the little ones.



However, from an AFOL point of view, who sees this kind of details:

And who looks for something more in this kind of set the contents are disappointing. UCS sets are designed to be displayed as collectibles. Would anyone who has the UCS Super Star Destroyer, the Ewok Village or the UCS X-Wing put this set next to them? I certainly wouldn't because as a UCS I think this set is ugly and unattractive. The different scales make the structures look disproportionate and the launch elements that are present everywhere make the set look quite ugly. If you look at it as a Star Wars fan, the set isn't very faithful to the movie either, starting with the name which should be "Suicide Assault" because of the lack of balance between the forces in the set, especially compared to the movie. It is true that the set contains a lot of mechanisms,

making it quite playable, but UCS sets tend to have a finish that makes them stand out as desirable objects to AFOLs and in my eye this set lacks that. What stands out most is the selection of minifigs, which are abundant and in some cases very nice, but still doesn't justify calling this a UCS and placing it at the same level as the X-Wing (UCS), the Imperial Star Destroyer (UCS) or the Millennium Falcon (UCS).

HispaBrick Magazine® would like to thank LEGO® for the set they provided for review. We can't guarantee they agree with our opinions on the set

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