

# Review: 71040 Disney Castle

By Jetro

Images by Alex van Belle

**Set:** Disney Castle

**Set Number:** 71040

**Parts:** 4080

**Minifigs:** Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy Duck and Tinker Bell

**Current Value:** 349,99 € / \$349,99

2016 is the year of the big huge sets. Sure, there have been large sets before – The Millennium Falcon (5197 pcs), 2 Death Stars, the Taj Mahal (5922 pcs) – but this year is special in the sense that there is an unprecedented number of large sets across a series of different themes. LEGO® Technic has obliterated its previous record for set size twice in a single year, with the 42056 Porsche coming out at 2704 parts in June, only to be surpassed by the 42055 Bucket Wheel Excavator in August, weighing in at 3927 parts. Star Wars has another record UCS with the re-edition of the second Death Star at 4016 parts. Then there are Big Ben with 4163 parts and the Ghostbusters Firehouse Headquarters with 4634 parts. Now another theme has joined the ranks of largest box size usage with the 71040 Disney Castle.

Of course, size isn't everything. Technic fans want to distinguish between pins and parts when thinking about set size and part numbers, and in much the same way 50 1x1 round plates don't weigh up to the same number of 1x2 bricks. Before we dive into the build of this monstrous Disney set, let's have a look at the numbers and see how large this set really is.

## Numbers

Set number 71040 boasts a sum total of 4080 parts and will set you back some 350€. So much you can learn from just looking at the set entry on [LEGO.com](http://LEGO.com) or any of your favourite shop or set listing pages.

However, you will have to dig deeper to find out that those 4080 parts separate out into 36 different colours and 682 different elements.

No real surprises there: lots of parts = lots of different colours and elements. When you look at the picture of the complete model you can easily guess that Light Bluish Grey (LBG) and Tan will rank high on the list of parts per colour.

More surprising is the fact that the number one colour is actually white with 1160 parts in 126 different shapes.

The most abundant part in this set is the Plate 1x2 white with a record 146. Number two on the list is the same element in LBG.

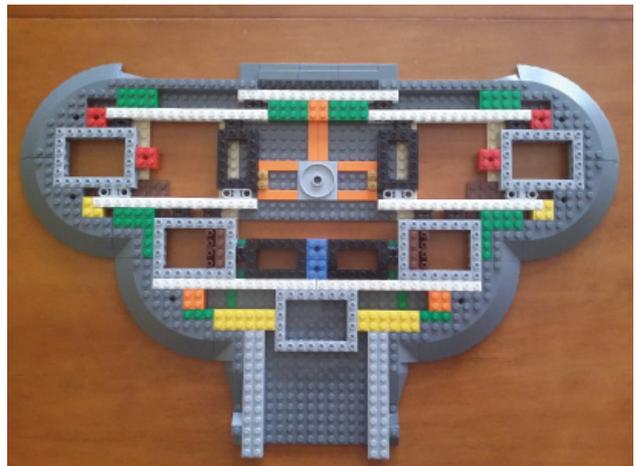
Plates represent the largest fraction of parts in the set. When you add up all the different plates, the total number comes out at 779 and that is before counting the modified and round plates, which add another 708.

Next up are the bricks: 326 1x bricks, 207 2x bricks and another 488 modified, round, etc... That brings the total of bricks and plates to 2508. Add 366 slopes and 592 tiles and you are up to 3169.

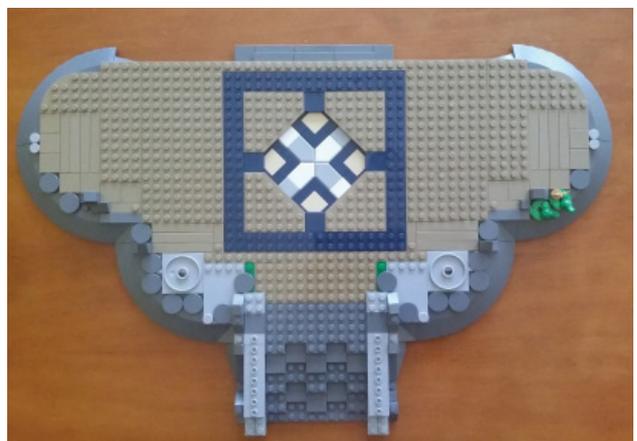
The set does contain some larger panels, but the truth is this is a great assortment of useful parts even before you look at the model that you build with them.

## Ground zero

With a massive list of parts comes a serious set size. The completed set reaches a height of 74 cm and supporting such a build requires a solid foundation. This is where the structure of Technic bricks and plates that make up the base comes in. The top of the base is covered with plates and also houses the nice central mosaic. Furthermore, there is a considerable number of plates underneath as well, making the base very solid – so solid that moving the complete model is relatively easy and feels very safe.



A side effect of these bottom plates is that the 6 Brick Round Corner 10x10 that make up most of the perimeter of this base don't touch the floor. Slightly odd looking in the model, but great if you want to integrate it in a larger display as it allows you to create a seamless transition under the curves.



## Up and up

The Disney Castle is marked 16+ not simply because of the stamina it takes to finish such a large model. Some of the structures become quite large before they are well braced and stable; and while some of the build is repetitive – something that is inevitable in a model like this – it doesn't become boring.

The first level of the castle consists of 2 parts: the inside and the outside. The towers flanking the gate are built in two mirrored blocks (with the exception of some minor decoration on the rear), after which they are joined to the gate, which in turn is connected to the inner structure.

The castle is very much a play set and the back is built with ample room for stories and includes references to a number of Disney stories. Aladdin's magic carpet on one side, some shields decorated with stickers on the other, and a pair of nice LBG knights on pedestals to make it a real fairy tale castle. The large vase, a chandelier and especially the large grandfather clock not only add some decoration, but also provide a welcome change in the building process and contain some nice building techniques.

After connecting all the elements of the base level it is time to put tips on the towers. This is where two new(ish) elements take the spotlight. The first is the Plate Round 1x1 with open stud.

The opening in the centre of the stud makes it possible to connect it to the centre of a 1x2 brick and this technique is used to place the 1x2 bricks at an angle and build an 8 sided tower.



The second part is the Panel 1 x 2 x 1 with Rounded Corners and 2 Sides. There are 32 of this part in white in the set and they are all used in the towers, mostly to create the illusion of a window.

If, like me, you were wondering where those 134 white 1x2 plates go, an important number of those are used together with 1x1 tiles to decorate the castle walls and simulate supports for overhanging structures.

The tower over the gate includes the two largest printed pieces: a Panel 1 x 6 x 5 with Light Bluish Gray Ironwork Pattern and a Dish 4 x 4 Inverted (Radar) with Clock Face Light Blue with Roman Numerals Pattern.



Together with some nice building techniques and a smattering of other decorative parts in pearl gold for the top of the roofs and white unicorn horns it is really eye catching and every bit as Disney as the original.

The next layer of structure is predominantly tan and is built as a completely separate element before adding it to the castle. It is attached on a series of 2x2 jumper plates so you can easily take it off again if you don't have space enough to put the model on display or need to transport it (more) safely.

From here on, the build feels a lot more like other buildings and each room has its own share of details and surprises: a spinning wheel for Aurora to prick her finger on, mops for the wizard's apprentice, Lumière in the same room as a rose in a glass dome, a magic mirror and a poisoned apple...





The final spire is added as a third element, meaning you can break the set down into 3 parts, with each section being roughly the same height. It includes a few nice SNOT techniques and brings the model to a stunning 74cm (29").

The finished model is even more impressive than the pictures. Judging from the enthusiasm with which its owners play with it, it's not just an impressive show model, but also an exciting play set for any Disney fairy tale you can imagine.

This opinions in this review are of course entirely my own.  
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