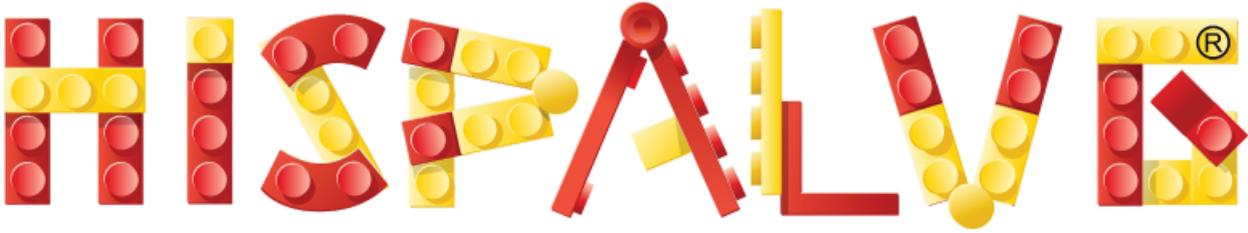


Asociación para aficionados a LEGO®



HispaBrick Magazine: What is the name of your LUG?

HispaLUG, Asociación para aficionados a LEGO

HBM: ¿When and how did the idea to start a LUG come about?

HL: In 2006, a 23-year-old LEGO fan decided to create a forum to be able to communicate with other fans and share experiences, ideas, creations, etc. Shortly afterwards there were contacts with LEGO and the company recognised the LUG.

It wasn't long before the first personal meetings were organised and in 2007, we were able to celebrate the first LEGO event in Spain.



HBM: How many members do you have?

HL: Currently there are 56 members. On the forum, there are 1300 registered members and some 500 of those are regularly active.

HBM: Are you in touch with other Spanish RLUGs? And with RLUGs in other countries?

HL: Yes. There have been some timid contacts, as many of their members were (or still are) members of HispaLUG, but unfortunately relations aren't as good as could be expected. We wish to keep working in that direction. On the other hand, we have good communication and relations with LUGs in other countries, like Comunidade 0937 in Portugal, and members of both our LUG and theirs attend events organised by either LUG.

HBM: Do you organise events or exhibitions?

HL: Yes. We have a large annual event at a national level called HispaLUG Expo. In 2016, we celebrated its 10th edition. The whole RLUG participates in the HispaLUG Expo in which, aside from dioramas and sets we have workshops,

competitions and activities for the public, with the intention of transmitting our passion for this "toy" to children and adults, as well as showing its many possibilities and applications.

In addition to this big event, we organise smaller events on a regional level: exhibitions, workshops, collaborations with town councils... Always with the same objective: to reach children and adults and grow our RLUG.

Important events in this context are CatBrick in Catalonia, BrickSur in Andalucía and NorteBrick in the north of the peninsula.

HBM: Are you in contact with The LEGO Company?

HL: Yes. We are in contact through the LEGO ambassador program.

HBM: Is it easy to be a LEGO fan in your country? Are there advantages or difficulties?

HL: Is it easy to be a LEGO fan in your country? Are there advantages or difficulties? It's a little more complicated than in other countries since LEGO isn't as popular here as other toys are and if you are not in a LUG, it is hard to find people with the same hobby. That is one of the main reasons why we organise events: to show our hobby, whenever possible, and get to the people who want to share, learn and grow and don't have, or don't know, the tools and the channels that can help them.

If you add to this the difficulty to get exclusive sets, compared to neighbouring countries, as well as the absence of an official LEGO Store (which makes it harder for fans to contact each other) there are quite some difficulties, but we are still very excited to share our hobby just like we have done from the very first day.

HBM: Can you tell us any anecdotes related to your RLUG?

HL: The most recurring anecdote is when an adult LEGO fan, who lives his hobby in a certain solitude, discovers HispaLUG and realises there are many other fans of their same age and it isn't just kids who play with LEGO.

