

Review: 70908 - The Scuttler

By linmix

Images by linmix and LEGO® System A/S

Set: The Scuttler

Set number: 70908

Parts: 775

Contains: 6 minifigs

Price: 79,99€ / \$79,99



It's LEGO®, it's a movie, it's Batman™ – what could possibly go wrong?

When The LEGO Batman Movie came out it took me quite a while before I went to see it. Truth be told, I was a little afraid; of disappointment, of seeing simply 'another movie' – entertaining at best, but nothing substantial. In the end it turned out that my fears were unfounded; that the movie wasn't just a succession of gags, but also had an interesting plot line. As a bonus, the sets representing scenes from the movie all had the same mix of crazy fun as the movie itself.

With 'The LEGO Batman Movie' something similar happened. On the one hand I was looking forward to another encounter with the crazy character of the Dark Knight. The trailers were all quite entertaining and it looked like the the movie would have both a multitude of gags and a story to tell. On the other hand I was afraid I might be disappointed – watching it at a local cinema means having to 'suffer' the Spanish dubbed voices, and I wondered what would be left of the main character without Will Arnet's characteristic voice. As for the sets... although I like superhero movies, I am not so much of a fan that I want to have every Marvel set LEGO has produced

to date. I simply fail to see the connection. At first sight I wasn't at all interested in the series of sets LEGO brought out for The LEGO Batman Movie. There are clear and charming references to the typical villains Batman battles, but nothing that screams "Buy me!"



However, there is one set that stood out for me: The Scuttler. There are two determining factors that drew my attention in this set from the very first time I saw it. The first thing is the beautiful shape of the model. It looks almost feline yet clearly represents a crawling bat, while the absence of wings doesn't stand out at all.



The cab perfectly captures the shape of the head and the front legs include claws which allow the bat to hang from any surface. The second factor is related to functionality. Despite, or maybe as a consequence of the well-drawn shape, the Scuttler is perfectly functional and robust. The hinges that determine the angle of the legs, the extending mechanism of the front legs, the way the head can be posed... it all resonates with techniques that are usually found in Technic builds, while at the same time they remind me of some of the dinosaurs that have appeared in the Creator theme and of which I'm also a big fan.



Even before having watched the film, the minifigs are delightful. I instantly fell in love with Poison Ivy, not just because of her magnetic personality and excellent printing, but also because of the representation of the character, including her 'transport'. Without a doubt, to me this is the best minifig in the set.



I was never a big fan of the Joker, even though his grotesque jokes are part of what makes the movie. His large gun destabilizes the minifig in such a way as to make it hard to get him to stand. His long coattails don't make it any easier either.



Batman™ is... Batman, but his new ally, Dick Grayson is, to say the very least, peculiar. The fact that his glasses are one with his hair piece was probably inevitable, and just seeing those glasses makes you imagine what his character is going to mean to the movie.



There is little to say about the remaining characters. Until you watch the movie it is hard to place them: will they be Batman's allies or doing their best to arrest him?



Let's get back to the centrepiece of this set: The Scuttler. The main mechanism of this set is evidently the legs. Although the model has a convincing crawl, extending and retracting its legs just like in the movie, that's where the comparison ends. In the movie, in addition to crawling, the Scuttler transforms to fly. It is easy to see how adding wings would have been difficult, but in order to ensure the excellent stability of the model, the front legs can't open to the sides. This limits the representativeness of the model significantly. Even so, both the excellent shape and the solid working joints make this a very playable model. In addition to the plate launchers on the cab and front legs, the Scuttler also has a cannon which shoots a net. When I saw the mechanism I had my doubts, but the fact is that due to the rigidity of the net it works quite well. The net extends correctly and with a bit of practice it is possible to catch friend and foe alike.

As for The LEGO Batman movie, I won't give you any further spoilers. I will simply say that if you go in with few expectations you will likely come out pleasantly surprised.

I would like to thank the LEGO AFOL Relations & Programs Team for providing the set for review. However, LEGO® does not approve nor endorse the opinions we publish about their sets.

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