

Review: 21127 The Fortress

Defending your achievements in the dangerous world of Minecraft™.

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Set: The Fortress

Set number: 21127

Parts: 984

Contains: 4 minifigs and 2 animals

Set 21127 The Fortress is part of the latest series of sets in the Minecraft™ theme. As the name indicates, the set recreates a Minecraft fortress.

We've already reviewed several sets from this theme in the magazine: 21118 The Mine in HBM021, 21121 The Desert Outpost & 21122 The Nether Fortress in HBM024, and 21128 The Village in HBM025.

Personally, I quite like the design of these sets, because of the way they represent the constructions and because of the kind of parts they contain. So this is a good opportunity to analyse whether the Minecraft sets are still continuing along the same lines.

The building process of this set is a different experience compared to most sets that are made by LEGO®. Like most sets this size, the box includes a series of numbered bags with all the parts and the corresponding instructions. This set contains five instruction booklets.

One is larger and the other four have considerably fewer pages. At the start of the building process you build the different elements, but as you advance you can see clearly that you are not building the set as it appears on the box. You are building modules. This set is 100% modular!

The building process consists of building the modules that make up the different structures, parts of the floor and elements to connect the different modules. But unlike other sets, the modules are designed so they can be connected to any other module; there are no edges or connecting areas that



limit the way they can be placed. There are several elements that are repeated many times, but given their small size this doesn't become tedious.

Some modules, like the entry gate to the fortress, have very simple but ingenious mechanisms that are integrated within the module, so they don't need to be combined with other modules to make them work.

The different elements you build include several tower structures, a gate in the wall, a stable, green areas and several sections of the wall. Given how similar Minecraft structures are to LEGO construction blocks, most of the build process is very simple and except for the latticework on the windows or the mechanism of the gate it can easily be built by small children.

In addition to the modules, the set contains four minifigs (Steve and three skeletons) and two animals (a horse and a sheep), as well as some accessories like utensils, weapons and armour.

Another outstanding detail is the absence of stickers – all decorated elements are printed. This is quite important to many within the AFOL community.



As we have seen before, with the first instruction booklet you build all the modules. The set contains another four instruction booklets which allow you to build four different constructions based on the modules once they are already built. Basically, these are guides to build four different fortresses, and each booklet details how to connect the different modules. What stands out in these constructions are the different ways you can combine the modules and how the end result differs notably from one model to another.

Repeating what I have said in previous reviews, this is the type of set we want to see in other themes as well. I'm not a fan of Minecraft, but I love these sets. This particular set has a modular design which gives you the modules as well as different ways to use them, and this may help many people, who normally just stick to building the model as it comes in the instructions, to develop their own modules or modify them. The set is a perfect playset. It offers a great variety of possible scenes to build.

Best of all, it contains a fortress you can play in. When you see the fortress and you compare it to other themes, like the latest Pirate sets, you can see the difference. In this set, the buildings are complete, with four walls, doors, windows, and a roof and enough space inside to place several minifigures. Even the stables for the animals look like complete structures. In addition, inside the walls and between the different structures there is a lot of LEGO surface where you can play and place the minifigs and accessories. And since they are placed on studs you can place them in any pose without them falling over. There is even space to place three or four minifigs in a line

This is the best part of these sets: there is plenty of space to play and build. You can make a vegetable garden, more structures, place more minifigs in all kind of scenes... you can play inside the walled keep, but always on LEGO pieces. There is even a small green space with a tree outside the keep when you build the biggest composition. It is one of the things I like most about the construction.

Another thing that stands out – just like in all the other sets in this theme – is the inventory. Replicating the square structures of the Minecraft world means the prevailing part type is the brick. And nearly all the elements in these sets are grey, brown and green, which are quite useful for any landscape, structure or building. The set also contains a fair amount of medium sized plates, which tend to be omnipresent in any type of construction. The accessories, like utensils and plants, are also welcome parts.



We wish to thank LEGO for providing this set for review. However, LEGO does not approve or endorse the opinions we publish about their sets.

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Obviously these sets are clearly focussed on fans of Minecraft and that may be the biggest fault in the theme. In this theme the storyline feels monotonous, as that's what the story of the game is like. There is only one character the player steers, and that translates into the fact that if you buy all the sets you end up having dozens of minifigs of Steve.

Even though new characters have been added, this monotony in the minifigs means the focus of the sets is on the elements you build.

The fun of the game is building and that is what LEGO is also all about. But if you are going to build with LEGO, and you are not a fan of Minecraft, it is a lot more fun to build more realistic models. The simplicity of the sets is also perfect for the smaller ones. My 5-year-old nephews build houses and structures that are very similar to the Minecraft sets and so they have become used to Minecraft very quickly.

