

Minidolls vs. Minifigures

Size matters

By Jasna Miklin

For a long time minifigures were the dominant humanoid species in the LEGO® world, but then came minidolls and everything changed. Well, the minifigs still remain the dominant species, but the dolls are now here to stay as well. Here we'll take a look at what makes them better, worse or just different from minifigs, and how that reflects on their surroundings.

The minidolls are a bit taller than the figures. The head pieces are roughly the same size, the doll's torso is shorter, and its legs are longer. These proportions make the minidolls look more human and win them the first point in this made-up contest.



And how does this height variation affect the minidolls' homes?

Everything that is approximately at waist height will have to be one or two plates higher for minidolls.

The standard doors and windows work with both dolls and figs. The doors are high enough that you can use them in the same way with both, but you will need to position the minidolls'



windows a bit higher, at least if you want the dolls to be able to see through them.

The two brick high cupboards with a plate on top work great with minidolls, so feel free to use them as much as you want.



For minifigs, however, the cupboards are more like a standing desk. To bring them down, you can 'bury' them in the floor. You'll only lower them by one plate this way, but sometimes a plate is all you need.

Moving on to width and depth, which is probably the most noticeable difference between the minis: the dolls are thinner than the figures. But they both have the same arm span, so they will both have the same difficulties getting through doors and windows. No extra-stealthy-burglar points to give out here. Nevertheless, we can look at how closely they can



stand or sit next to and behind each other. We'll only look at square patterns as they are of more use to us than hexagonal ones.

Minifigs stand comfortably next to each other at a distance of two studs. If they are willing to do some awkward hand holding they can shrink it to a one stud gap. With some bending at the waist you could further decrease it to zero, but that may not qualify as standing anymore, so we won't count it.



The minifigs' feet need a space of 1x2 studs to firmly stand on the ground. Does that mean they can stand in line one behind the other with no gap? Of course not. An essential part of a minifig is its head, which is wider than a stud, so the fig next in line will have to back up at least one stud.



The minidolls also need a two stud separation gap for a spacious line-up because of the arm span. However, the narrow shoulders allow for a lot more arm wiggling, resulting in a zero stud gap between dolls standing next to each other.

Since the dolls' feet are a bit larger than one stud, you can only position a doll on every second stud. Not that you could line them up without a gap otherwise – they've got big heads too, not to mention hair pieces.



So, the closest you can pack standing minifigs on a surface is so that every fig takes up a space of 3x2 studs. For standing minidolls the area is smaller: 2x2 studs. Thus, the dolls win their second point. The figs will need to step it up if they want to win this battle. Maybe in the seating department?



The minifigs need a 2x2 space to sit down. But they also need half a stud space on each side for the arms. Therefore, the effective area a fig takes up in a closest packed seating arrangement is 3x2 studs. The minidolls' longer legs occupy a space of 2x3 studs, but the arm bending allows them to be seated right next to each other.

The total area needed for one minidoll is, in this case, 2x3 studs, making this round a tie. Still, both minis get a point: the dolls for the closeness next to each other, and the figs for the compactness after each other.



The most obvious place where you would use the closest packed square seating formation is in vehicles. Just don't forget to factor in the vehicle's walls and the arms of the minis sitting at both ends. With all that in mind, we can look at an example. Three minidolls can squeeze next to each other in an eight stud wide car or bench. The same bench will fit only two minifigs. Similarly, when it comes to the length of a car, you will be able to fit more rows of figures than dolls.



In conclusion, minidolls are taller and thinner than minifigures, and their world reflects that. The windows and desks are a plate or two higher, and the cars are slimmer and longer than the minifigure ones. The minidoll world looks a bit more like the real world, and ultimately that won them this battle of size.

But this is not the only battle to be had. We'll see who wins the next one and who wins the war.

See the video this article is based on here: <https://youtu.be/ZWJo35wmVVc>