## **Uses of Brick Separator**

## By Lionel Gevaert







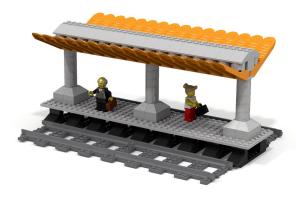


My name is Lionel, I am 43 years old and I come from Belgium. I started to play with LEGO® a long time ago, at the age of 8. I never really had a dark age – just a small slowdown but no real period without having some bricks in my hands. My main interest is in LEGO® City but I'm not against making an occasional detour into another theme if I really like a certain model. Sometimes I like to build a Star Wars ship or a big Technic set like the Bucket Wheel Excavator. But my preference is still the city.

I have my own LEGO® city, kept in a big space  $(2.5m \times 7.5m)$  where I can grow it further. Recently, I've even installed some lights in the display. You can see the result here (by day: video 1 and by night: video 2). This city really started when I was 12, when I finally received my first train (7745 High-Speed City Express Passenger Train). I was then able to run this

train around my city with only two buildings... but it was just a beginning.

Recently, I have discovered a new interest. It all started when I found a brick separator under the couch and kept it in my hand. I was watching television while manipulating this weird brick, and some ideas would come to me... Oh! Like that it's like a snowplough... and like this it can be a door, a wing, a body... but without any conviction... I was just letting my mind wander. The next day I was going to put it away with the others, and when I put it in the bag I noticed that I really had lot of these brick





separators – more than hundred – and I thought that it was really a waste to do nothing with them. Sell them? Pretty impossible... everybody has one (or even many). So the time had come to try to do something useful with all these things. My first attempt was to use the LEGO® Sweeper & Excavator (set 60152) I'd recently built and turn it into a snowplough. The result was pretty good, and just for fun I put a picture on the internet (via Facebook) and quickly received a lot of good reactions from people. It was really funny to see that a lot of AFOLs don't really know what to do with all of these brick separators either. And the project to create more solutions was born.







To create, I work a lot with LDD (LEGO® Digital Designer). For me this tool is really perfect when you don't really know exactly what you want to create. You can add in all the needed pieces without spending too much time searching and not knowing if you have the right parts in your stock. And also, don't forget that you need to sort out when you need to stop. Also, with LDD you can quickly change colors, make some adjustments, change the view and manipulate. I took lot of time learning to use LDD, but once you're used to it, it's a really great tool. Once the model looks okay to me, I use 'LDD to POV' to convert the file and then POV-Ray to render the model. For those who don't know, the rendering is an operation that allows you to create a pretty realistic picture based on a 3D virtual model.

I tried every week to publish a new idea. So far I have already published 12 ideas, but I still have at least ten further ideas in mind. For the moment I still have some ideas in advance which are not yet published, but it will become more and more difficult to create something original. Here I will present you with a new design created exclusively for HispaBrick Magazine: a Disney plane. This build uses a lot of pieces from LEGO® set 31028, and was also influenced by the Disney Movie 'Plane'. Here is the result:

