

Benny's Corner

By Luigi Priori

My name is Luigi Priori, I live in Cremona, a town in the north of Italy, and among AFOLs I'm known as Prioit70. I'm one of the seven founding members of Cremona Bricks, and I became its ambassador after it was recognized as a LUG by the LEGO® Group in 2014.

Photography has been my hobby since always. I've never taken any photo lessons. I am totally an autodidact. And I'm also a builder. In 2009 I came out of my Dark Age with the Winter Village Toy Shop. The next year, when the Winter Village Bakery came out, I started thinking of a winter diorama and faced the problem of photographing my creations, moving to much smaller subjects than my usual ones which were landscapes.

The real turning point for me came in 2014 – the LEGO® movie. And Benny the spaceman. At the same time, lo and behold, in my mom's attic I found a box full of bricks from my childhood, with some Classic Space pieces. To my great surprise, one of those was the 1x6x5 blue brick with a monitor showing a lifting-off rocket printed on (3754pb01). You could find it in the Beta I Command Base set (6970), definitely one of my all time favorites. And with that piece in my hands I thought that, after all, the spaceman on the monitor could have been a forefather of Benny's. This was the start of my 'Benny's adventures in space' series on Flickr. And now, after two and a half years, it contains 238 photos.

In my mind Benny became a spaceman, full of hope and longing to explore the universe with his spaceship, and ended up at Outpost Alpha, on a forgotten asteroid, leading a life not as exciting as he had imagined, but always with this smile on his face – and with his sidekick (and good friend, after all those years) Mr Robot. And since I am a builder, just after the first photos I started working on a real space station, which could fit a single baseplate and was detailed only on the inside (as the outside was not important for my purposes). This is where I set most of Benny's adventures, adding each time new characters and/or new elements. Speaking of new characters, one year ago I introduced professor Kelly Wedgensen, from ground control. She's a rocket scientist and comes from Earth. After a communications breakdown with Outpost Alpha, following the emergency procedures, she jumped on the first available spaceship and went to Benny's aid. And she realized that life in space is more exciting than on Earth, so she decided to stay with Benny at Outpost Alpha. They are the same age, but she has state-of-the-art technology and, most of all, she is a woman! So after her arrival Outpost Alpha would never be the same again.

I hope you enjoy the photos I've taken for HispaBrick Magazine. This is the first one and the title could be: 'This is the last one, I promise!' showing Benny busy playing old video games (with Mr. Robot supporting him), while Kelly tries to recall him to his duty as Outpost Alpha Commander.

#

