

Sand Green vs Pearl Gold Hotrods

By Martin Redfern

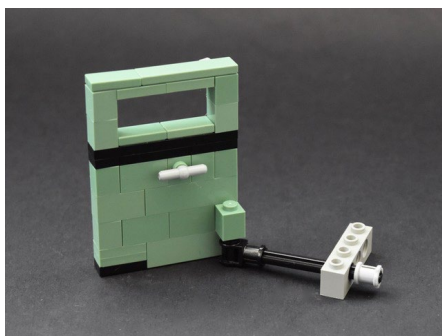
Pictures by Martin Redfern

Sand Green Hotrod

As a lifelong fan of our beloved LEGO® brick and a huge fan of classic cars including custom cars such as 'hotrods', I was pleasantly surprised when a good friend of mine posted an image of a really cool custom car on his Facebook page. I was instantly inspired. The car in question was a heavily customised 1930's Model 'A' Ford. This sand green work of art had a cool name: 'Voodoo Psychosis' and belongs to a very well known custom car specialist known as Larry 'Voodoo' Grobe based in the United States.

One of the comments which grabbed my attention on my friend's Facebook page was 'Who is going to MOC this?' Without hesitation I took on the challenge. I do like a challenge and this was certainly going to be one! The colour sand green is not the easiest colour to work with, and as many avid LEGO® fans will know it is very limited in its availability. I knew I already had a few elements of this beautiful colour but not enough to build the whole car. After searching a myriad of resources such as Ebay and Bricklick, and due to the limited amount of elements/shapes available to me, many hours of juggling was undertaken to work around this issue.

As a rule I would usually start with a car's chassis, but this time I decided to start with the car's body instead. The body would have been a pretty straight forward build if hinges were available to me. (These are the times I wish LEGO® produced more in sand green.) A few years ago I built quite a few MOCs of VW vans – many with working features, which included a certain design for the hinges on the side doors. I decided I also wanted to incorporate this feature within these two builds as I did not want any gaps visible. This method is not the most stable, but is the best I can do with the limited amount of LEGO® available to me.



Side door design with hinges

Both engines on my hotrods are inspired and built in a similar way as the old Model Team sets. In particular the LEGO® Blue Fury (5541) hotrod set. The Sand Green Hotrod has four of the chrome curved pipes from the Model Team hotrod set and the rest are custom. Also, for some time now I have been brick-building my wheels on various builds (motorbikes etc.) and the same applies here. Using five pieces for the front (not including tyres) and eight on the rear (two tyres on the rear). I've been able to get as close as possible to what I want.



Parts of the front tyres



Parts of the rear tyres

The model includes many different features, but the interior is by far my personal favourite.



Sand Green Hotrod

Pearl Gold Hotrod

Some time before I decided to build 'Voodoo Psychosis' I had wanted to build a hotrod in pearl gold, but again due to the limited availability of elements/shapes in this colour it was to be placed on the back burner. Fortunately for me, being a member of the Sheffield LUG, Kevin (Top Bloke) our esteemed leader was able to lay his hands on a load of 1x4 pearl gold tiles! Happy days!

Although the Pearl Gold Hotrod looks similar to the Sand Green Hotrod, I had to build the gold body using a different method. I used the well tried and tested SNOT method to build the sides and the doors, but aside from this method it is pretty much the same as the other. This gold car is still loosely based upon a 1930's Model 'A' Ford but with a few more extreme details such as its length and roof chop and oversized supercharged engine, again using many Model Team pieces.



Pearl Gold wheels

As with 'Voodoo Psychosis' I wanted to brick-build the wheels and tried various designs before deciding on using stock LEGO® items. Again the rear wheels use two tyres – the outers are from set 8880 (I'm still working on other designs). The interior is pretty much the same as the other model. The only custom chrome pieces used on this are the door handles and the 2x2 round bricks on the blowers. The rest is official LEGO®, again sourced from various Model Team sets.

Since building these I decided to contact Larry 'VooDoo' Grobe and send him some images of his beautiful car in LEGO® form, but I've still yet to hear back from him!

I am now in the process of searching for another cool hotrod to build :-)

Out of these two, my personal favourite would have to be the gold one, as I love the colour. The only downside is the model is not quite as stable as the other one.

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Pearl Gold Hotrod