

Bodylicious!

Minidolls vs. Minifigures

By Jasna Miklin

Let's say you want to build a LEGO® avatar. And I'm sure you do, because, why wouldn't you? Do you choose the minidolls or the minifigures? How do you combine the mini's pieces to make a satisfying entity?

The basic assembly of the dolls and the figs is the same. They are both constructed using legs, a torso piece with arms and hands, and a head. Adding a headwear item to the mini is advisable, but optional, so we won't cover it here. We'll also focus only on the human-like minis.



A quick note, just in case you didn't know: the doll and figure parts don't mingle. At all. There's only one exception to this rule and we'll cover it in the 'Head On' article in the next issue. So, when you're assembling a minifigure, you can freely put all the doll parts away.



Both minis come in several skin colors. The minifigures have yellow skin in the majority of the LEGO® original themes and have real-life human skin tones in the licensed sets. And by 'real-life' I also mean all of the superhero, mutant, alien, robotic and fantastic hues.

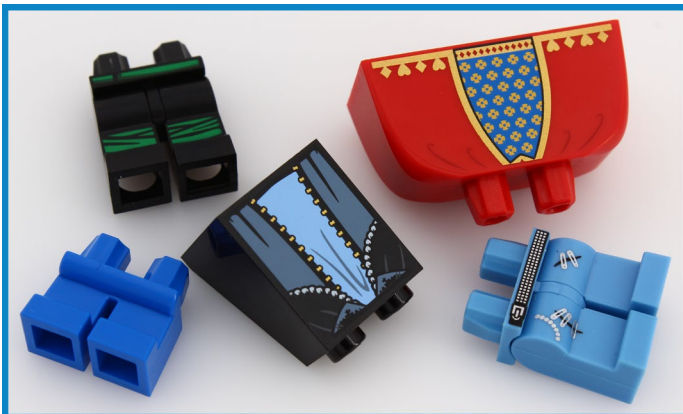
The minidolls use the lifelike complexions in all of their themes. Again, by 'lifelike' I mean any color the character needs the doll to be.



All these skin tones add variety to your pool of options, but they have their downsides as well. You'll need to keep in mind that different skin colors look displeasing when used on a single mini. Except if that's the effect you are looking for – then go ahead! I won't stop you.

There are still no points awarded for either side yet, because they have been too similar so far. To see where the minis really shine, we'll need to take a closer look at the figs and the dolls separately.

When choosing a legs piece for a minifigure, you have the following options in regards to the mold: the standard legs, the short legs, the long skirt and the ballgown. The last three contain no movable parts. The ballgown is the same height as the standard legs, the short legs are shorter and the long skirt is longer. The skirt attaches to the torso only with the help of studs. That is why the skirt is sometimes inadequate for play – the figs look much taller and the torso falls off easily.



Basically, in nearly all cases, you should go with the standard legs and just choose a matching print. The printed-on skirts are not very believable, but you can individually swap the legs and hip pieces. It's not advisable to do this because the joints may never be the same again, but it can be done and that earns the minifigures their first point today!



The minifigure torso comes in only one shape, but with an abundance of prints. Some are gender specific and some are gender neutral. But that's not the end of the possible tweaking. You can also swap their arms and hands around to fine-tune the look you are going for. Again, don't do this if you can avoid it – the figs simply don't like it. Nevertheless, the minifigures win two more points with this, bringing the overall result to 3:0 for the figs.



But this result doesn't yet include the dolls' strengths in tailoring the perfect avatar.

Minidolls wear full length trousers, baggy trousers, two kinds of cropped trousers, shorts, short skirts, double layered short skirts, wrapped skirts, two kinds of asymmetric layered skirts, ankle long skirts, full length skirts and ballgowns. All of them are the same height and connect with the torso piece in the same way. Such consistency earns the dolls their first point. And they get a second one for having 3D clothes, because the mold conveys much more meaning than a print alone.



But the variety of designs doesn't stop at the waist line. The dolls' torso pieces come in a total of four molds – two for each gender, a smaller- and a bigger-chested one. The male buffed-up torso piece is slightly taller than the rest, which makes it that more believable. This realistic assortment gets the dolls their final point, ending this battle in a 3:3 tie.



What does that mean for your avatar? Should you use the figs or the dolls? It means that both have their weaknesses and strengths: the figs have interchangeable parts, while the dolls express themselves through form and print.

Thus, you should simply choose the mini you prefer.

The Minidolls vs. Minifigures series is also a YouTube playlist. The Bodylicious video can be found [here](#).

In the first battle, that of size, the dolls won with a score of 3:1, so the total result so far is 6:4, but there are still two more battles to be fought before we can judge the outcome of this war.

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