

Review: 70922 - The Joker™ Manor

By Jetro de Château

Images by Jetro de Château and LEGO® System A/S

Set: The Joker™ Manor

Set number: 70922

Parts: 3444

Contains: 10 minifigs

Recommended Price: 269,99€ / \$269,99



The Joker™ Manor is the latest big set in a series related to the LEGO® Batman Movie. The sheer size of the box already looks impressive on paper: More than 3440 pieces and 10 minifigs. And of course the size of the box is in accord with the size (and volume) of the set. Is the set worth it, even for someone who is not a 8big) fan of the movie? Let's see...

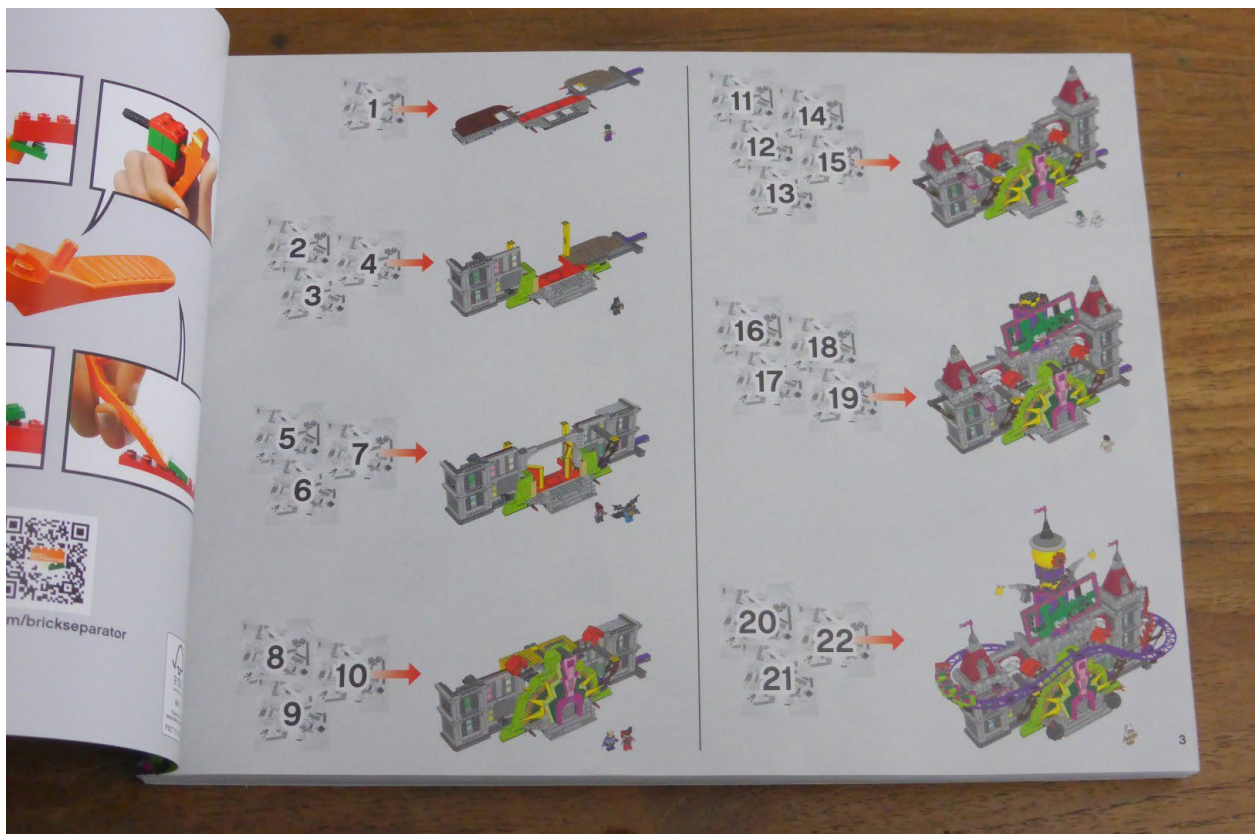
LEGO® produces an important percentage of licensed sets and that has both advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, it means they can take advantage of certain fashions, which brings in a public that follows a particular license aside from LEGO® fans. On the other hand, licences have a clear influence on the cost of sets – the set reflects not only the price of the bricks and the work of the LEGO® designers, but there is also another brand that receives a percentage. The larger the set the bigger the effect on your pocket? Doing the numbers (or simply going to Brickset to see the price per piece) I was pleasantly surprised: despite the license, the price per piece (which is usually a reasonable indicator in larger sets) shows the set is very reasonably priced. In Spain the price of the set is 279,99€ which comes down to 8.1ct/piece. Compared to the new modular, with a price per piece of 6.9ct there evidently is a difference, but it's quite a bit less than the 10 to 11ct/piece of some Star Wars™.

Let's get to the set!

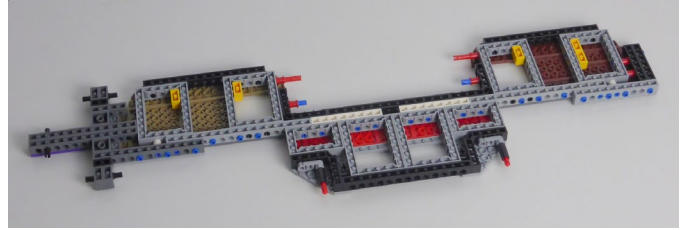
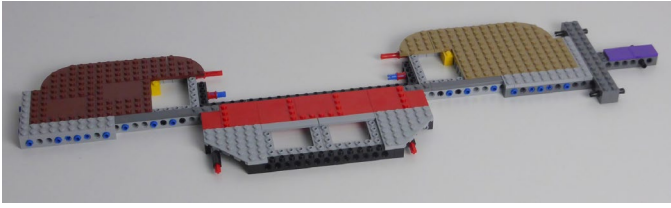
Given the size of the set, LEGO® used two interior boxes to prevent the outside box from being deformed. 22 numbered bags and two with additional parts.



These are grouped into stages for the construction of the mansion as the instruction booklet shows.



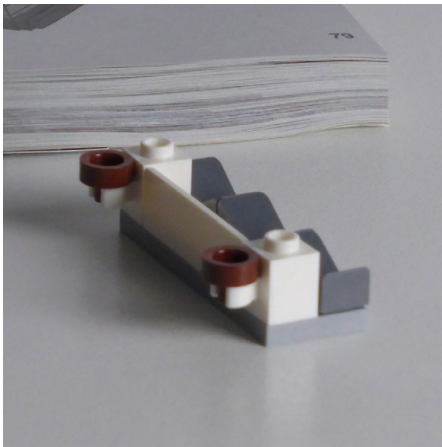
A set this size requires a solid base. Contrary to modular building which are built on baseplates, the Joker™ Mansion is built on a base made up of Technic Bricks and plates. Truth be told, during the first steps it's hard to know whether you are building a spaceship, a car or a house, but little by little things start to take shape.



Technic elements are included in several places, both for structural and mechanical reasons. It is nice to see different LEGO® systems to complement each other in this way.



It isn't just Technic that stands out. Although most of the construction techniques are quite simple – one brick on top of the next and a little SNOT – there are a few exceptions. The most notable one is the one used in the top part of the windows in both towers.



Another curious construction is the one used at the entrance of the Mansion.



The quarter arch with sunbeams on either side of the doorway stays in place thanks to modified plate with bar and a clip.

Another outstanding element is the modified plate with towball socket. This element is perfect to convert a “traditional” house into a comic book representation. The large illuminated arrows and the “Ha! Ha!” of the Joker™ can be placed at almost any desired angle and they provide the mansion with a look that is in accord with its main occupant.



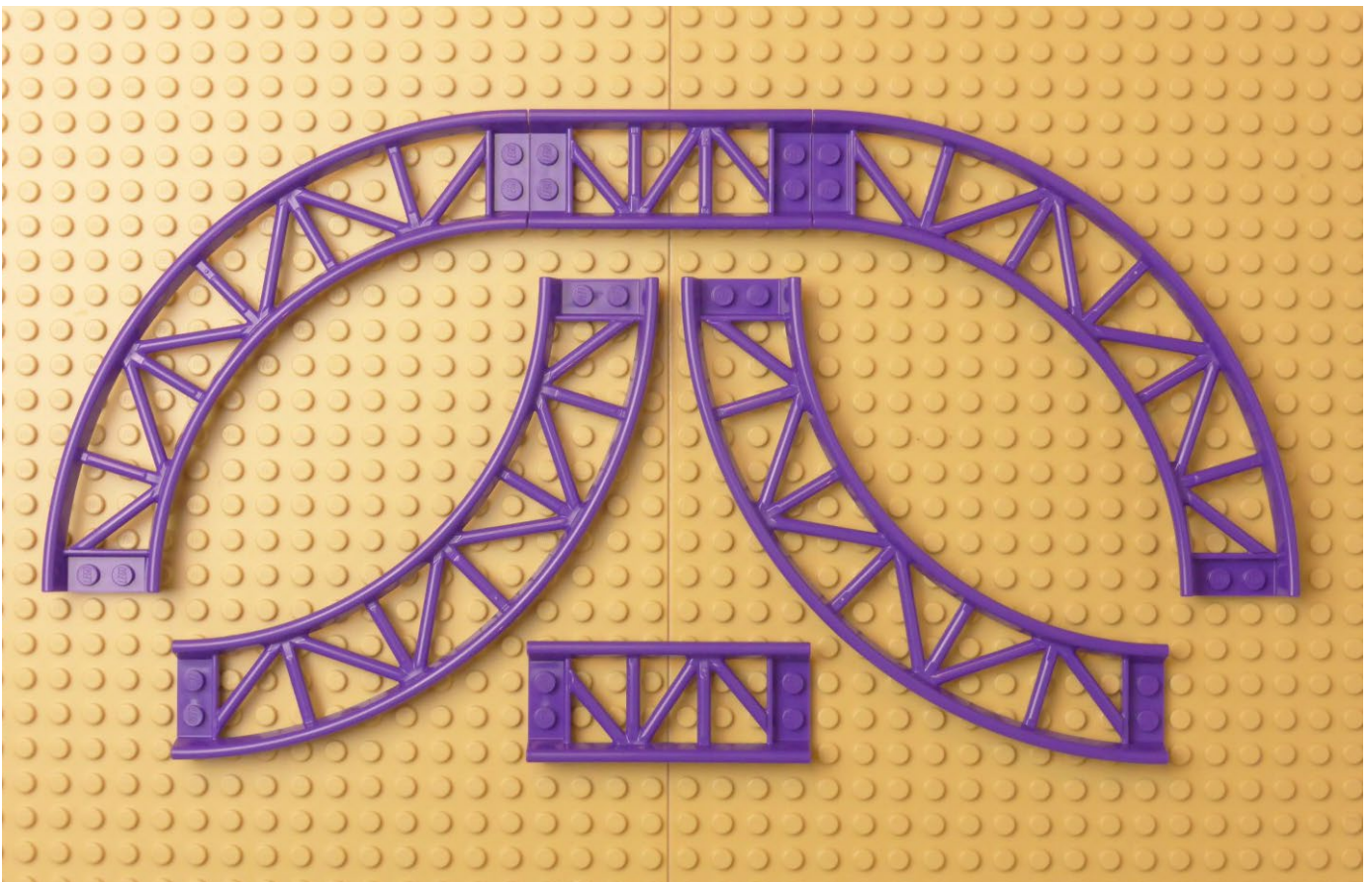
Another interesting way to obtain an angle can be seen in the large Joker™ sign, which is one of the more interesting parts to build due to the techniques used to create the different letters. Initially I thought it would be fixed into its position in some way, but it turns out gravity does all the work. The left side of the build is heavier than the right side.

At this point it is time to bring in the “external consultants”. There’s nothing like having kids that put you up to speed about their favourite films, and fortunately the LEGO® Batman™ Movie is one of them. What already looked like a great set suddenly takes on a whole new dimension. There isn’t a detail in the house that isn’t in some way related to the movie. From the lobster thermidor in the microwave to the projection room where Batman™ retires.

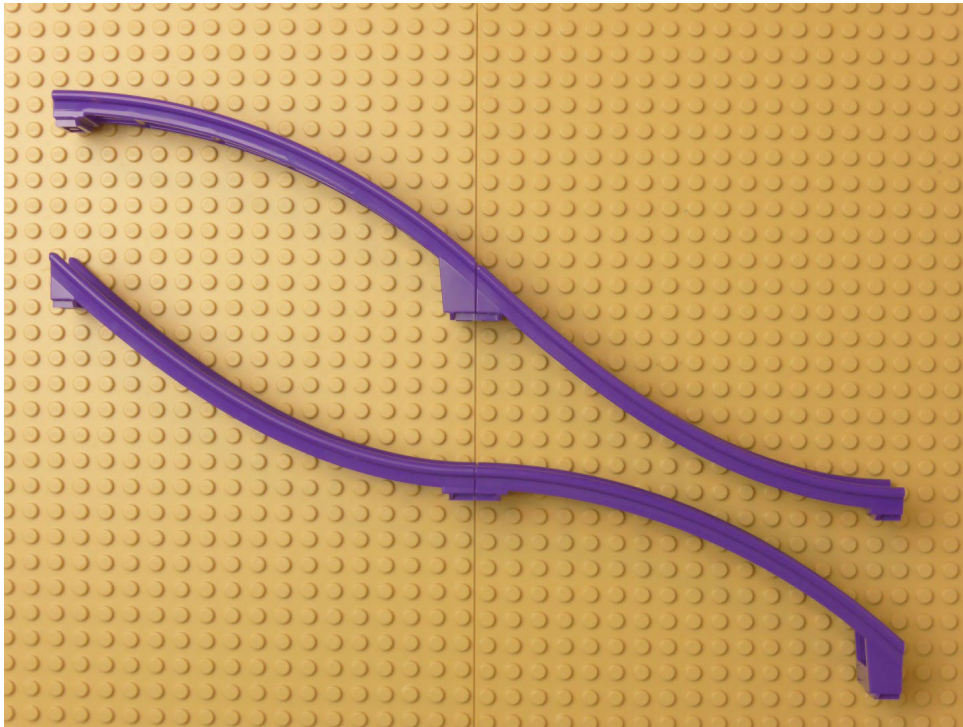


Each room tells part of the story of Batman™ and his invasive guest, the Joker™. The level of detail is excellent. But I don't want to give away too much of the movie (I have finally seen it) so let's get on with something else.

Let's get to the main attraction of this set: the rollercoaster. AFOLs have been looking for ways to build roller coasters for a long time, but up to now LEGO® had never produced a specific element for this purpose. The Friends fun fair made use of the narrow gauge tracks, but there is only one type of slope and curve. In this new set there are already four types of roller coaster tracks. First off, there are the flat elements. The set contains four curves and 2 straights. As you can see, the elements are connected with plates or tiles.



Then there are two types of (straight) slopes and there are also four of each. The first type connects directly to any of the previous elements on both sides. It is 16 studs long and slopes up (or down) 5 studs, creating a slight undulation in the track. Then there are two slope elements that need to be used together that create a steeper incline.

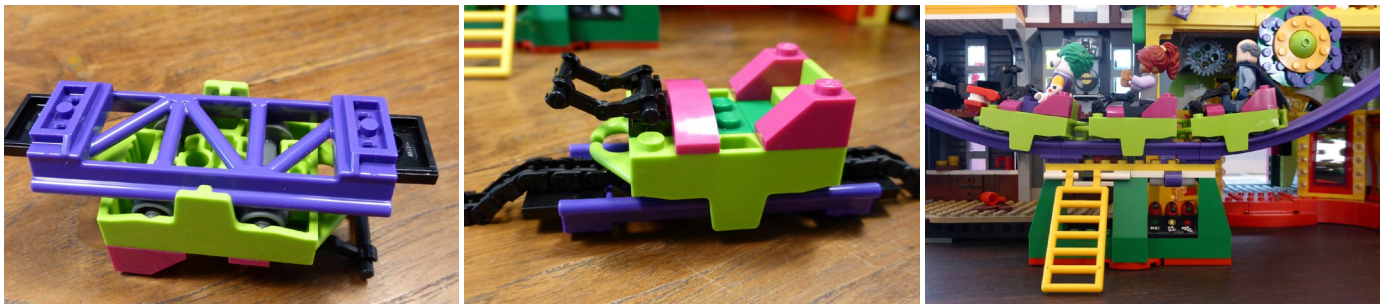


As you can see in the image, placed in the first manner they fit in perfectly with the rest of the track. However, as you can see in the bottom combination, placed the other way down they have an attack angle that is not compatible with the rest of the track elements - only with its counterpart from this set.

The wagons are the necessary complement to the track pieces, and they are also new in this set. The axles come placed in the wagons, but can be taken out with a little effort. The most interesting part of the wagon is almost hidden. In the centre of the wagon there is a pin that sticks out. Its use?



It allows you to use a Technic chain to pull the wagons! Get ready for a complete motorised rollercoaster set!



Another new element is the one used to create the mirrors. At first I had my misgivings about their use, but the stickers work well, provided you apply them with some care.



Speaking of stickers, taking into account the size of the set the 23 that are included (plus four for the stickers) are not that many, and each one of them serves a specific purpose, adding value to the set.

To sum up, I've had a lot of fun building this set. There are elements that are repeated, like the basic structure of the towers, but on the whole it is a fun build. The finished set is very inviting to play with. Especially playable is the rollercoaster, and best of all, it is relatively simple to motorise:

At our event last December (HispaBrick Magazine Event 2017) you could see one way to motorise the rollercoaster. The key to success is making sure there is enough slack in the system to allow the wagons to catch well on the chain. I expect to see many more and exciting roller coaster models in the following months as new track elements become available.



We would like to thank LEGO® for providing this set for review. However, LEGO® does not approve nor endorse the opinions we publish about their sets.

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