

News first half 2018

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A new year means a large number of new sets in the catalogue. It is hard to follow all the novelties – honestly, there are too many. Sometimes I think that more stability in the catalogue would be good for our mental health, and the health of our wallets... But I am not complaining either, since many of the new models are fantastic. Let's have a look at some of the most significant novelties for the first half of 2018.

60188 - Mining Experts Site



2018 brings a second wave of sets from the Mining theme in the CITY world. The truth is I rather liked the first wave and I was afraid the sets for this year would just be 'remakes' of those from 2012. Fortunately, I couldn't be more wrong!

Set 60188 is the largest in the subtheme and reproduces a gold mine with its vehicles.

The set contains 6 minifigures, 4 male and 2 female. The decoration on the torsos is, as always, excellent. This year the hardhats the miners use are a different colour, silver instead of white, although the mould is the same.



This set also contains a black bear. A rare element indeed. Previously a brown version had appeared in two sets from 2012. The set also contains a white spider.



The model consists of the mine, with two wagons to transport the ore, and three vehicles: a transport truck, a small front loader and an enormous grinder to extract the precious ore from the mine.

The goldmine is rather small and only occupies a single 16x16 plate. There are two walls and on top of one of them is the mountain the ore is extracted from. This face of the mountain contains gold ore that can be 'extracted' with the grinder. The other wall is the entrance to the mine through which the wagons enter to transport the ore. There are also two removable walls. When you press the dynamite levers, those walls explode away.



The track is built using the same elements used in the roller coaster from the Joker Manor, but this time in light bluish gray. There are two straight tracks and a curved one. The straight tracks are longer than the ones that come with the Joker Manor. The curved one and the wagons are the same, but the colour of the wagons is black. The wagons move very smoothly and with just a little push they roll to the opposite side of the track.

The smallest vehicle is a front loader. There isn't much to say about it – what you see is what you get. The only difference with previous front loaders is that instead of using a small base with lever, this time the controls are two Black Tile, Round 1 x 1 with Bar and Pin Holder.



There is also a transport truck. The truck is small, but allows you to transport the ore that the front loader gets from the wagons that come out of the mine. Despite its size, the truck is six studs wide, so it looks like it can handle heavy loads.



The star of the set is the grinder: an enormous and heavy vehicle that will grind the ore out of the walls of the mine.

The grinder moves on four large tracks, allowing it to advance over any kind of terrain. In the centre there is a large column that gives the model structural rigidity and holds the grinding arm. On the left side there is a cabin for the operator. The grinding wheel is very big. You can make it turn from the right side of the column, on the opposite side from the cabin. The arm can be lowered and raised with the counterweight you can see over the motor. The vehicle is 14 studs wide and 20 studs tall.



The set is very complete and quite playable in some respects. The wagons and the small vehicles allow you to work in the mine. The grinder is a bit too big for my taste. Although it is an interesting vehicle, its presence makes the rest of the set look smaller. I would have preferred a larger and more complete mine with a smaller grinder. Still, it is a completely new addition to the world of CITY.

70923 - Batlanzadera espacial



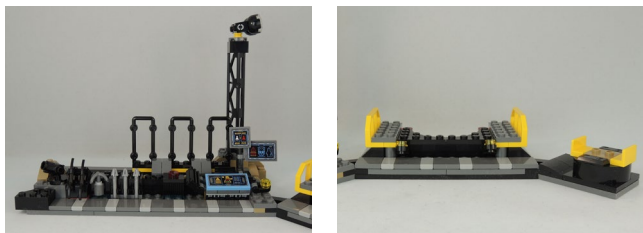
The LEGO® Batman™ Movie gets some more sets this year, with the appearance of a number of sets that were not included last year. Among those, probably the most acclaimed is the Bat-Space Shuttle.

The model appears in the movie, even though it doesn't get much attention, and given how beautiful it is, LEGO® couldn't go without making it into a set.

The set contains six minifigures: Batman™, Dick Grayson™, Catwoman™, Reggae Man Batsuit, Space Batsuit and Firestarter Batsuit. These latter three are interesting for collectors as these suits can be added to the ones that came with the Batcave, in the Joker Manor and with the Collectible Minifigure series. The Reggae Man Batsuit hat-mask is a new mould.



The set is an extension to the Batcave and can be connected to it. On the left there is a weapons arsenal, a control panel, a spotlight to illuminate the Bat-Space Shuttle and a transport belt for the suits. In the centre there is a small launchpad for the Bat-Space Shuttle, but there is no way to connect the shuttle to the pad. On the left there is a platform for the first of the vehicles: a kayak.



The Bat-Kayak is based on a Kayak element that appeared last year, and in this case it is black. There is a small reactor on the back to give strong propulsion and of course it sports bat wings to clearly identify it as a Bat-Vehicle.



The second vehicle is a Bat-Moon Buggy, a miniscule vehicle to move about on the moon... The buggy has a foldable antenna, a radar and a headlight. In addition, it can be placed inside the Bat-Space Shuttle.



Finally there is the Bat-Space Shuttle, the iconic main element in this set. Similar to the CITY Space Shuttle, it has three rockets to push it into orbit, a large central one and two smaller ones on the sides.

The Bat-Space Shuttle is really beautiful. It comes in an elegant black with yellow windows. I was afraid it might be a copy of the CITY version in a different colour, but that is not the case. Although they are similar (in the end they are both space shuttles) the Bat-Space Shuttle has its own style.

It comes armed to the teeth. There are five weapons on each wing and two of these shoot. Instead of a single rudder there are two Bat-Rudders placed at an angle of 30°. The Shuttle has a single reactor at the back, which is built with a Technic gear and a half barrel. The shuttle does not have landing gear.



I believe the set is worth it because of the iconic shuttle and the minifigs it contains. I also think it is interesting that it can be connected to the Batcave to complete the model. The Bat-Kayak is a curious and interesting accessory. I miss being able to connect the launch pad to the Batcave and also landing gear for the shuttle, to give it more playability. Anyway, neither of these elements are indispensable nor do they detract interest from the set.

75889 - Ferrari Ultimate Garage



I hope this won't be the ultimate Ferrari garage LEGO® makes. This is a dangerous set... for me. A classic Formula 1 set touches me deeply.

The set includes 7 minifigures: 3 drivers with outfits from different eras, 2 team members and 2 visitors. I like how they have reproduced the different overalls in accordance with the era of each car.



The set is very complete. Not only does it include the workshop part, but also a museum, with a grand prix cup, scale models and posters. In the central part there is ramp to lift one of the

cars. It can be adjusted in height and on both sides there are drawers with tools that also serve as workstations. On the left wall you find the museum area and on the right wall more tools, a support for the second rear spoiler of the Formula 1 Ferrari 312 T4, and vintage-style fuel pump.



The side walls can open so you can see the garage in all its splendour.

There is an arch that serves as the finish line. This is made with two curved roller coaster track parts. On the floor there are elements which serve as a base and to which you can attach parts of a 'wall' that traces part of the racing track.



Let's have a look at the three cars. We will start with the 488 GTE: a beautiful GT car from 2016. Despite the fact that LEGO® elements limit the decorative lines of the original model, I believe the designers have done a great job overcoming this. The aesthetics and the aerodynamics are well represented, as in all the Speed Champions vehicles. There are many stickers, as expected, but without them the model looks a bit odd. The only thing I miss in this kind of model is having headlights that are not stickers...



The 250 GTO is a 1962 model that Ferrari developed for Group 3 in the FIA GT category. There were only 39 of these ever made and it has been named the best sports car in history by several international magazines. I understand this to be the reason why LEGO® has decided to reproduce this model. The reproduction corresponds to a competition model with number 22. I believe the designers have managed to perfectly recreate the design of the car. The use of curved slopes is essential to capture the characteristic curves of this model. Maybe the more important challenge in the design of the car was how to fit the rear. As it is at an angle, it is not easy to attach it well to the model. The designers have done a splendid job and the small gaps you can see in the front part are understandable.



The last of the three cars was a big surprise for me. The Formula 1 Ferrari 312 T4 is beautiful. This car won six races in 1979, and was driven by Gilles Villeneuve and Jody Scheckter. The LEGO® version is very good. It captures the essence of those 70s Formula 1 cars: dangerous and with aerodynamics consisting of just a few spoilers. The size of the front wheels is smaller than that of the rear wheels. The cockpit is open and quite low, so you can see a large part of the driver. The profile is quite simple and the only thing that stands out is a small spoiler behind the cockpit that carries the number 12. This piece is a triangular 2x2 tile which is a new element this year. Cars didn't have a lot of sponsors back then so there are only a few stickers.



This set is a must-have for racing fans. The garage is well equipped, with old elements and a museum. The cars are iconic and well reproduced. The design work on the GTO and the 312 T4 is excellent and they are a breath of fresh air compared to most of the supercars LEGO® has brought out so far. I hope to see more of these classic cars, particularly from Formula 1 in the next few years.

We would like to thank LEGO® for providing these sets for review. However, LEGO® neither approves nor endorses the opinions we publish about their sets.

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