

Building LEGO® trees

Text and images by Andrea Valcanover

A little about my history as an AFOL

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Age: 34

City: Cremona, Italy

RLUG: Cremona Bricks

Job: Civil engineer

Hobby: LEGO®, photography, singing

My passion for LEGO® started during childhood. Most of the toys I asked for were LEGO®. My first set was the 6659 TV Camera Crew, which I received when I was four. I loved Town in particular because it was my dream to build a large city with houses, garages, trains and stations. I also played with Pirates, Space, M-Tron and Technic. My last set was the 8880 Super Car in 1995.

That is when I entered my dark age – a period in which I saw LEGO® from a distance and pursued other passions (photography and choir singing).

In 2011 my girlfriend Chiara, my friends and me went on a camping trip to Holland and we visited the red lighthouse on the isle of Texel – we loved it. As a memory of those holidays they gave me three sets: 7567 Traveller, 7639 Camper, and 5770 Lighthouse Island. That's how my interest in LEGO® bricks came back, and they brought with them some unexpected discoveries, including the AFOL world.

In 2012 I met a group of LEGO® fans in my town, Cremona Bricks, and this became my LUG through which I have participated in exhibitions, events and also the Skaerbaek Fan Weekend. I am particularly interested in City and in reproducing a quarry. In my MOCs I have concentrated on open spaces with lots of details and minifigs::

- A camping ground
- A marketplace
- A big band with audience, lights and sounds
- A large park with a lake and green areas, conceived for combining all 12 modular buildings together at their 10th anniversary

This latest MOC has made me look for new methods of creating plants. The most important point when it comes to the technical level is the amount of pieces used, and the impact this has is the subject of the present article. I have built this tree design in bright pink and orange varieties.

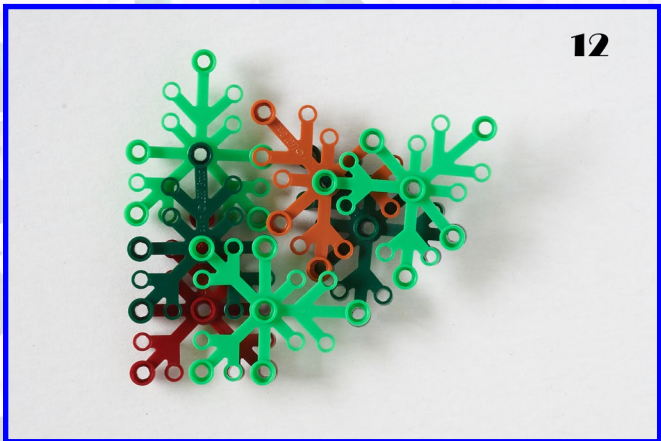
My MOCs are integrated in the Cremona Bricks City diorama, the design of which I have also contributed to. In April 2017, at the event called 'Mattoncini all'ombra del torrazzo', Cremona Bricks presented a 60m2 City diorama, with 130m of train tracks and the collaboration of more than 30 AFOLs. My childhood dream of building a large city has been fulfilled.

...But the story continues with new ideas and projects.

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Parts list

LATERAL CROWN (x4) - Steps 1 - 9

Number of pieces	BL Code	Color	Description
4	2417	DARK GREEN	Plant Leaves 6 x 5
3	2423	GREEN	Plant Leaves 4 x 3
1	3023	REDDISH BROWN	Plate 1 x 2
1	44302	REDDISH BROWN	Hinge Plate 1 x 2 Locking with 2 Fingers on End
2	4073	REDDISH BROWN	Plate Round 1 x 1 Straight Side
25	3741	GREEN	Plant Flower Stem
75	3742	WHITE	Plant Flower Small
75	4073	BRIGHT PINK	Plate Round 1 x 1 Straight Side

TOP CROWN - Steps 10 - 16

Number of pieces	BL Code	Color	Description
28	2417	DARK GREEN	Plant Leaves 6 x 5
110	3741	GREEN	Plant Flower Stem
330	3742	WHITE	Plant Flower Small
330	4073	BRIGHT PINK	Plate Round 1 x 1 Straight Side
2	4032	DARK GREEN	Plate Round 2 x 2 with Axle Hole

TRUNK - Steps 17 - 22

Number of pieces	BL Code	Color	Description
8	3040	REDDISH BROWN	Slope 45 2 x 1
4	4286	REDDISH BROWN	Slope 33 3 x 1
1	60481	DARK BROWN	Slope 65 2 x 1 x 2
3	4460b	REDDISH BROWN	Slope 75 2 x 1 x 3 - Hollow Stud
3	3022	REDDISH BROWN	Plate 2 x 2
1	3005	REDDISH BROWN	Brick 1 x 1
4	2449	REDDISH BROWN	Slope Inverted 75 2 x 1 x 3
4	2339	REDDISH BROWN	Brick Arch 1 x 5 x 4 - Continuous Bow
2	3003	REDDISH BROWN	Brick 2 x 2
4	3023	REDDISH BROWN	Plate 1 x 2
4	44301	DARK GREY	Hinge Plate 1 x 2 Locking with 1 Finger On End
4	3623	REDDISH BROWN	Plate 1 x 3