

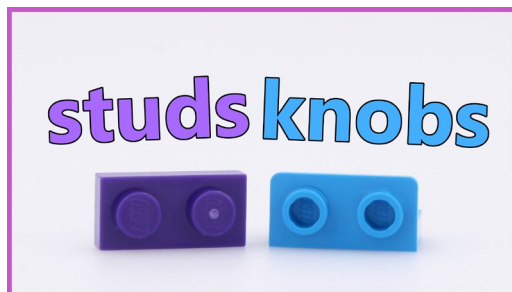
Minidolls vs. Minifigures: Head On

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The head is a substantial part of a mini, so it's important to know how to use it.

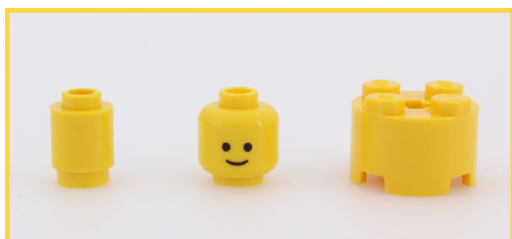
We'll again only look at the human-like minis, and I'll give out points to the minis for outstanding achievements wherever I find them.

A quick note about the terminology: I'll use 'stud' when referring to the round shapes on top of LEGO® pieces with the LEGO® logo molded into them, and 'knob' when talking about the stud-wide ring-shaped bumps.



Shape

A minifigure's head is a round brick that's somewhere between a 1x1 round brick and a 2x2 round brick. And, out of these three, it definitely looks best on a minifig torso. It also has the best chance of rolling off my desk while I'm working. The fig's neck is integrated into the bottom part of the head piece, which connects to the body with a stud-wide hole. At the top of the head, there's a knob. This makes the heads easily stackable, which can be convenient if you're constructing a head tower.



Even a superficial comparison of the doll and fig head pieces will reveal many differences. A minidoll's head is shaped like a simplified human head. Its most prominent features are the chin and the nose. They also use three slightly different molds — one for all female characters, one for boys, and one for adult men. All of them attach to the body via a bar-wide hole and they all have a knob on top. The neck isn't a part of the head, but the body. So, it's easier to make a head on a stick, but you'll need to get a bit creative if you want to stack these heads.



In spite of all the differences, there are many similarities too. Both have no ears, rely heavily on prints for facial features, are roughly the same size and have a knob on top. The last two characteristics allow for the interchange of almost any piece of headwear.

Prints

For a mini to have a face, it needs to be printed-on. We'll look at how well the faces reveal the emotion, gender and age of the mini.

The minifigures started their face-evolution journey with a curved line and two dots. This smile is very simple and yet very effective in communicating the joy the mini is feeling.



Most modern figures have a mouth, eyes and eyebrows. Female minifigures also have lips and eyelashes. No matter who or what the fig is representing, the face is wonderfully expressive. Sometimes maybe even too much. At some point LEGO® experimented with noses on the figs, but it didn't stick.

Older people and kids are represented very well, while the difference between a teen and an adult can be hard to spot.





The dolls also started with a simple smile and eyes; and eyebrows, eyelashes and lips. They had more detail than the standard minifig face, but still conveyed the same emotion. Since then, the minidolls have grown their emotional spectrum considerably.



The focus of all of the minidoll themes is on teens and their parents, so they are great at distinguishing them. We still don't have an official child or senior minidoll, so we can't *officially* review them.



So we can see that the face prints on the minis are fairly similar. The biggest difference is in how the eyes are portrayed. The doll's eyes are more anatomically correct, but that doesn't really add or detract anything from the mini's ability to show anger, excitement or indifference. That's why both the dolls and the figs get a point for expressiveness.



We are not yet done with prints. Because of the symmetrical nature of a minifigure head it's possible to print two faces onto one head. It's advisable to cover the second face with a headwear item, just to avoid some awkward situations. Some faces and hair pieces are better at this than others, but it's still an excellent option to have, so the minifigures get a second point. It's now 2:1 for the figs.



Neck Accessories

The neck is a popular area on minis for squeezing in an accessory. Mostly capes, but also armor, wings, necklaces, beards and more.

The figs can't use any of the dolls' things. Not the capes, not the necklaces, not the heads.

Due to the minidolls' slimmer neck, they can put on everything a minifigure can. True, many of the accessories will aesthetically not be the best fit, or will at least wobble, but you can use them. You can even use a figure's head on a minidoll. It's not a secure fit without some help, but again, it can be done.



This ability to borrow accessories and heads from the figs earns the dolls their second point today, making the final score for this battle 2:2. If we add this to the 6:4 result for the minidolls from our previous two battles, we can see that the dolls now lead 8:6 in the war. But don't rush to declare a winner, because in the final battle the minis will have to 'Strike a Pose!'.

This article is also available as a video on the BrickoMotion YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/9vRfCs98dqE>

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