

CLASSIC SPACE

Staff Edition HispaBrick Magazine Staff takes a look back at their Classic Space sets.

It was the late seventies. And the middle eighties. And the other years in between, too. Probably. Hair was big. Mutually Assured Destruction was a thing. MTV actually was Music Television. The despicable Helvetica clone, Arial, was in its infancy, not yet ready to besmirch the world with its gawdawful blandness. Into this void rose a beloved LEGO theme.

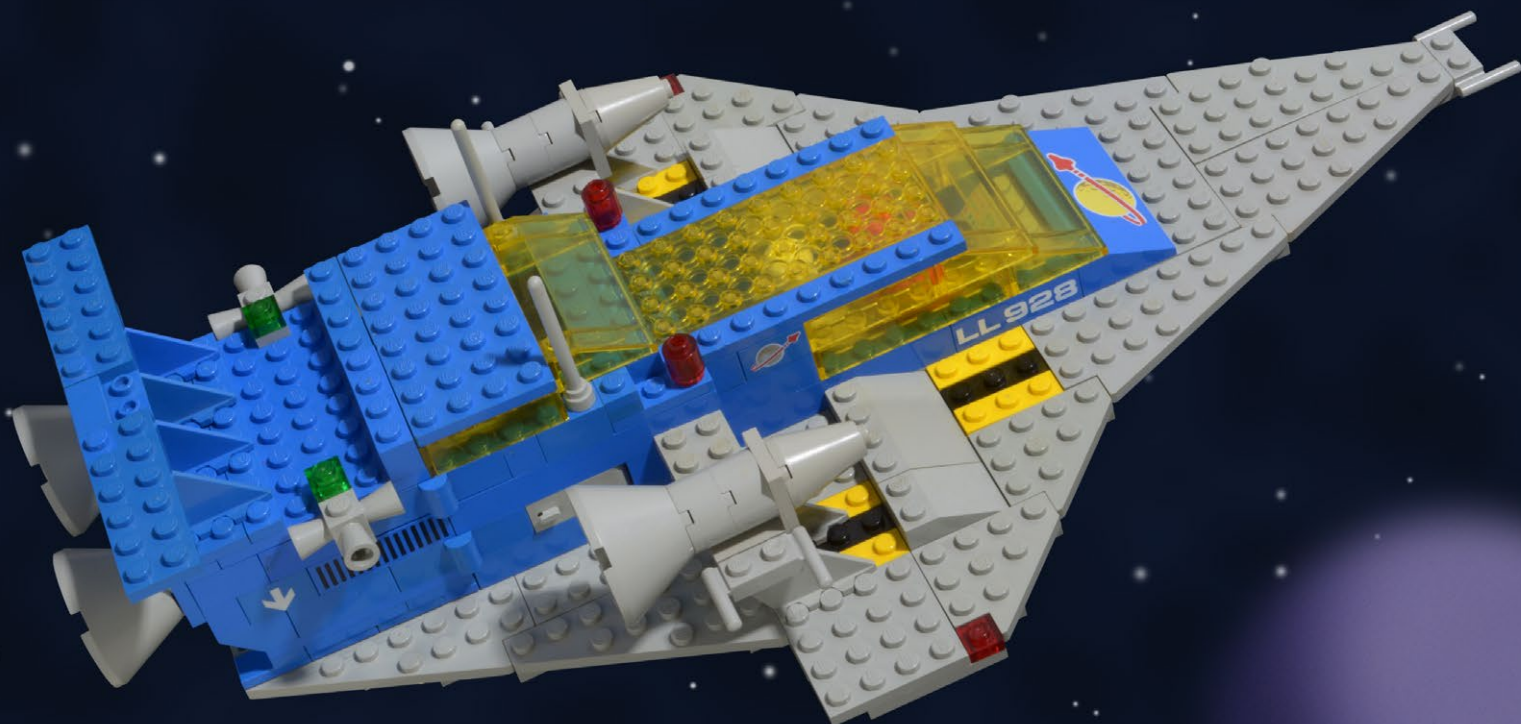
Much like Rock and Roll of that era was just plain Rock, the LEGO theme then was just plain Space. Those of us old enough to remember when Rock was Rock heave a heavy eyeroll at the label *Classic Rock*.

I tell you, whippersnappers and their need to invent new names for things that don't need

new names. Take note! These young'uns are members of exactly the same generation that eschewed Helvetica for Arial, and we all know how that turned out. Not pretty. At all. Also, Comic Sans. I rest my case.

So, with the whippersnapping new name that denotes oldness and exudes a certain *je ne sais quoi* coolness...well, to whippersnappers, anyway...a bunch of old AFOLs take a look back at their cool Space kits, fully aware that they were mighty cool long before they were *classic*.

Also, this article is typeset in the era-appropriate and design-accurate font Neue Haas Grotesk. Because. Suck it, Arial.





6820 Starfire 1

1986 • 34 pieces

So many cool pieces in this one... all retired. The bracket seat. The sloped-front cockpit block, printed two-color, no sticker! The 4x4 angled plates with the 1x1 cutouts. The standing control panel thingy. The 1x6 bar with the four open studs. Would be nice to see Classic Space win the 90th Anniversary Theme Set voting and have some of these classic pieces come back, but that's probably wishful thinking.



6809 XT-5 and Droid

1987 • some number of pieces
BrickLink lists this set as having 37 pieces, BrickSet as 52 and Peeron as 34. I counted, because, controversy! Droid has 15 pieces... 17 if you count the antennas and the nubs as separate. XT-5 has 17, and spaceman has 5 (I'm counting the torso assembly as one piece), for a total of 37 or 39, depending on how you skin cats. In any event, it's about 9000 less than the Colosseum, and mercifully so.



6824 Space Dart 1

1984 • 47 pieces

As with Starfire 1, Space Dart 1 was never followed by a version 2. Starfire 1 was followed by 1449 Twin Starfire, which in no way other than perhaps being predominantly white, resembled its earlier namesake. Space Dart 1 looks fast and the center certainly resembles a dart. One has to love the lawn-dart inspired missiles at the wing tips. Also notable is the little-bit-tricky rear loudhailer assemblies.

6805 Astro Dasher

1985 • 29 pieces

Blue Spaceman MacGyvered this contraption together out of spare medical parts one very early Monday morning after he had too much coffee and an episode of the original MacGyver under his belt...long before the double-decker couch was even a twinkle in Emmett's eye. Who says imagination-powered flight isn't possible? On the positive side, when it crashes, Spaceman will have five crutches at the ready.



1557 Scooter

1986 • 26 pieces

Red Spaceman definitely one upped Blue Spaceman's Astro Dasher with the Scooter. This design makes clever use of the rocker assembly to connect the nose cone and the light gray monochrome monotony of some earlier small-set models yields to some touches of blue and white.



6891 Gamma V Laser Craft

1985 • 135 pieces

The most notable aspect of this model is the detachable aft end. Held together by a pin into two 2x1 Technic bricks, the sections slide apart easily so Blue Robot can tinker while Black Spaceman takes off.





442 Space Shuttle

1979 • 39 pieces

This set was sold in the US as 442 Space Shuttle and elsewhere as the much more appropriately named 891 Two-Seater Space Scooter. A two-seater hardly qualifies as a shuttle; it doesn't even qualify for the carpool lane. And don't get me started about how you fly a thing with two steering wheels. This set shipped with only one minifig...Cap'n Clean doesn't want any side-seat driver!



6849 Satellite Patroller

1987 • 43 pieces

If you need your satellites patrolled, look no further than this 1987 single seat model, complete with dual control panels, multi-directional sensor array, hinged chassis and ribbed mag wheels. The only thing this baby is missing is rich Corinthian Leather. If you don't get the reference, you'll have to look it up.



6871 Star Patrol Launcher

1984 • 70 pieces

Satellite Patrol, Star Patrol, there's no end to what needs patrolling in space. The blue winged craft glides easily off the hinged bracket assembly of the launcher. This vehicle's center pivoting assembly is a turntable where other sets in the series use hinge plates. Let's hope Red Spaceman has the vehicle in park and isn't using his bazooka camera while driving. Safety first!

1558 Mobile Command Trailer

1986 • 68 pieces

Such a fun set. The vehicle sports the hinge plate center typical for the mid-sized wheeled space vehicles, we get the not-seen-before angled assembly on the trailer, and the spacemen have jet packs with antennae. Jet packs!



886 Space Buggy

1979 • 16 pieces

While the general public back in 1979 held onto the quaint notion of *buggy* being a conveyance of sorts, *buggy* now has a whole different meaning. What do you say we rename this one The Reliable? The last thing anyone wants is a buggy space vehicle.



6823 Surface Transport

1983 • 27 pieces

Yellow Spaceman can safely and securely transport his space anomalies in the cargo box on the back of this rig. The flashing red light on top notifies the other Spacemen to take care when near. Okay. The light doesn't really flash, but we can pretend, right?



885 Space Scooter

1979 • 20 pieces

Red Spaceman here is riding his earliest scooter. This monochromatic minimalist version does have trans-blue 1x1 cylinders, though. This was the only Space set to have trans blue parts that year...all the other sets had trans red or trans green.



6807 Space Sledge with Astronaut and Robot

1985 • 24 pieces

Given that a sledge is for sliding down hills, does this thing really need three-rocket propulsion? Well, yes it does, and if you don't think so you're obviously...well, I was going to say yellow...but clearly that doesn't track.



889 Radar Truck

1979 • 25 pieces

This kit was obviously named by a blue ribbon steering committee after intensive market research while hopped up on amphetamines and caffeine. This little kit's name is just as ebulliently colorful as its body. C'mon. Radar Truck? Truck? How about Open Top Space Radar Chariot...something like that.

6931 FX-Star Patroller

1985 • 221 pieces

A very playable ship in this set, with many cool features. This starship can be split into two parts. The forward part of the ship is an aggressive looking ship. The rear part is a cargo compartment which holds a small 6-wheeled vehicle driven by a robot. The whole ship is very detailed with plenty of printed parts, hoses, and transparent elements.



6286 Crater Crawler

1985 • 32 pieces

Yellow Spaceman has a definite upgrade with this ride over his 6807 Sledge. The center seat section lifts out of the wheeled chassis for exploring where the wheeled vehicle can't go. The trans-red parts are welcome detailing on yet another dreary gray wheeled vehicle.

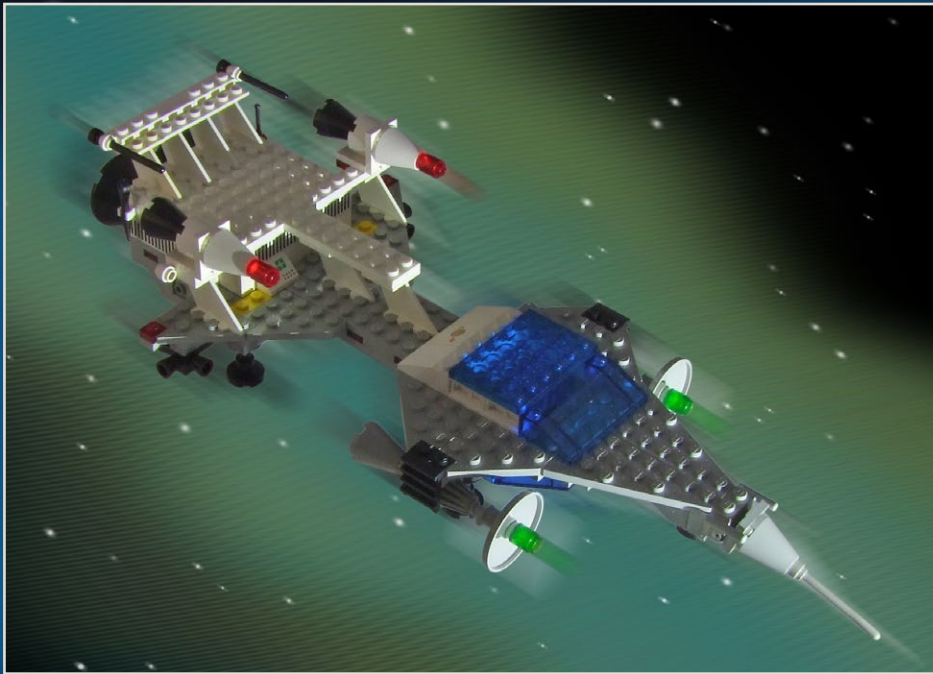


6808 Galaxy Trekkor

1987 • 29 pieces

This little set's cool factor comes in the form of hinged wings and some black tubes. Trans yellow tubes appearing in sets from the previous two years are gone.





6929 Starfleet Voyager

1981 • 247 pieces

One has to guess that this ship's design was in part influenced by the Concorde. The slightly down-pointing nose and narrow tail are SST characteristics. The opening-box tail end is a fairly direct pickup from the 928/947 Galaxy Cruiser. The bulbous cockpit was more interesting from the bottom than the top, but the overall design obscured that element.



6804 Surface Rover

1984 • 17 pieces

After a three-year absence of wheeled vehicles in sets with 25-parts-or-under, the Surface Rover debuted in 1984, and with it the welcome introduction of a color that was not gray. In 10 years of Classic Space, it is the only non-gray wheeled vehicle in this size category.



6841 Mineral Detector

1980 • 38 pieces

Undoubtedly once the minerals had been detected, the 6821 Shovel Buggy would have been called in to dig. But then what? I guess the 6901 Mobile Lab would mobile its way over to the pile as there was no craft to haul the minerals to the lab. Clearly time to invent an appropriate MOC!



6848 Interplanetary Shuttle

1985 • 54 pieces

Either this ship is crazy fast or Spaceman has some super special air tanks there, because in 1985 an interplanetary trip would take at least four months. And I don't see much in the way of radiation protection for Spaceman either. Oh well.

928 Space Cruiser and Moonbase

1979 • 338 pieces

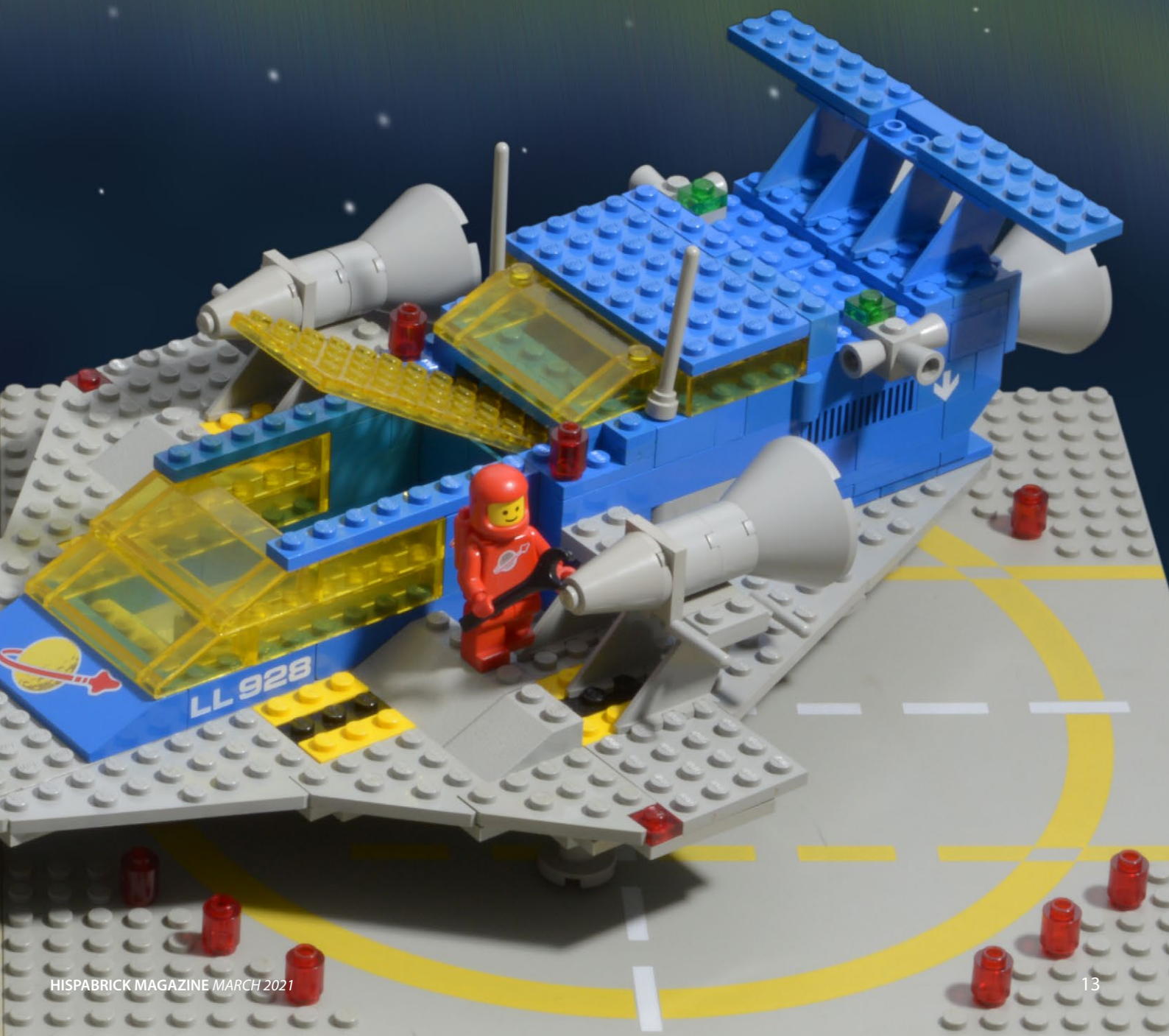
Released in the USA as 947 Galaxy Cruiser, this was the big set for its time and to this day it holds a special place in the hearts of fans. The design and charm of this kit wouldn't be matched by 1983's 6980 Galaxy Commander and certainly not by the everything-and-the-kitchen-sink Frankenstein of parts that was 1986's 6985 Cosmic Fleet Voyager.



6802 Space Probe

1986 • 22 pieces

Yellow Spaceman and Robot return a year later with another small kit. We don't know what has happened with Robot this time around as he isn't credited in the set name like he was the previous year. Come to think of it, neither is Astronaut. I bet you thought we were going to make up a joke about probes. Nope. You will have to do that yourself.



1498 Spy Bot

1987 • 62 pieces

One has to wonder how Spy Bot carries out a mission because this unit is anything but covert. Spy Bot is about three times taller than a spaceman and its “knees” bend side-to-side and not front-to-back. Then, maybe Spy Bot doesn’t need to have properly articulated legs given he has jets on his heels. Spy Bot’s head and arms do swivel 360°, and the arms are articulated at the shoulders and elbows.



918 Space Transport

1979 • 86 pieces

The baby sibling to 928 and 924, 918 brings us to the end of our staff edition classic space review. We hope your journey has been a pleasant one.

