

OH! HI THERE!
MY NAME IS GEORGE.
I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE IN
THIS BOOK!



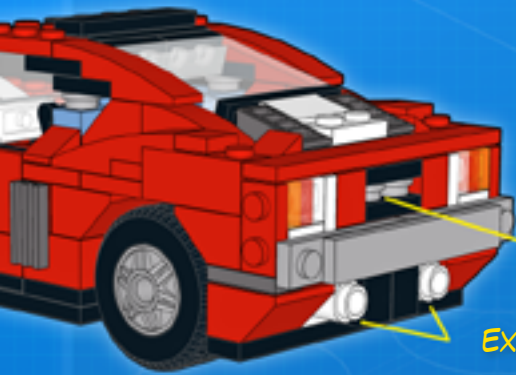
BUILDING BASICS



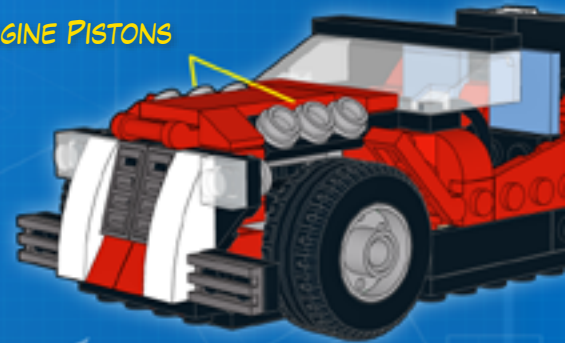
GETTING CREATIVE WITH PARTS

WHEN YOU'RE BUILDING, IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHAT BRICKS YOU START WITH. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE CREATIVE WITH THE MATERIALS YOU HAVE.

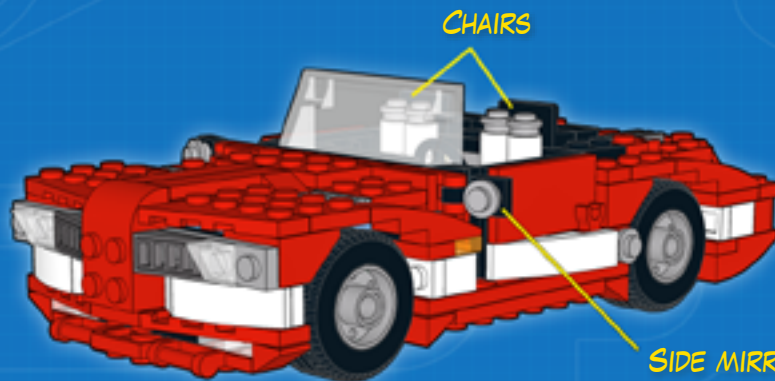
WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION, EVEN THE SIMPLEST ELEMENTS CAN HAVE AN AMAZING VARIETY OF USES.



ENGINE PISTONS



SHOCK ABSORBERS



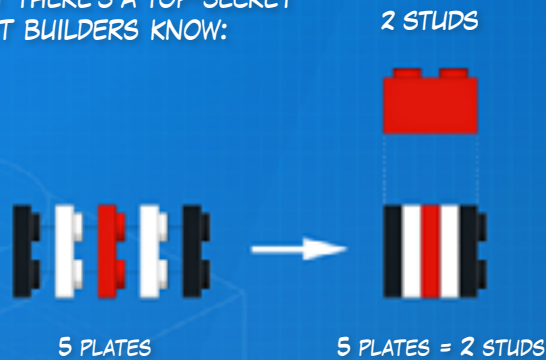
HOW BRICKS FIT TOGETHER



THE LEGO BUILDING SYSTEM HAS A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS TO MEASURE DISTANCE. WE'LL USUALLY MEASURE PIECES IN TERMS OF THEIR **WIDTH** AND THEIR **HEIGHT**. THE LEGO BRICK ON THE RIGHT IS **2 STUDS** WIDE AND **1 BRICK** HIGH. THREE PLATES ARE EQUAL IN HEIGHT TO ONE BRICK.



A LOT OF BUILDERS KNOW THAT. BUT THERE'S A TOP-SECRET **MAGIC FORMULA** THAT ONLY EXPERT BUILDERS KNOW:



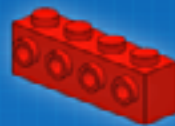
SO WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY?



FOR MANY YEARS, THE ONLY THING YOU COULD DO WITH BRICKS WAS STACK THEM ONE ON TOP OF ANOTHER. BUT IN THE PAST DECADE OR SO, THE LEGO GROUP HAS INTRODUCED MANY MORE ELEMENTS THAT ALLOW YOU TO BUILD SIDWAYS! THIS CREATED A SMALL REVOLUTION IN BUILDING TECHNIQUES.



WITH THESE SIMPLE BRICKS, YOU CAN LITERALLY BUILD IN A NEW DIMENSION!



IT MIGHT NOT BE OBVIOUS, BUT ALL OF THESE COMBINATIONS WERE BUILT WITH THE **MAGIC FORMULA** IN MIND. TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. DO YOU SEE HOW THEY'VE BEEN COMBINED?



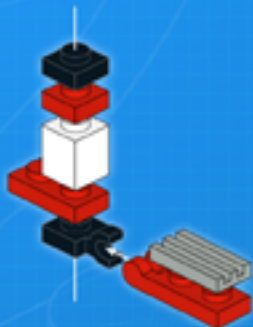
BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AN INTRIGUING PIECE. EVER WONDER WHY THE CLIP ISN'T PERFECTLY CENTERED IN THE PLATE?



WHY THIS GAP?



TO FIND OUT, LET'S ADD A FEW MORE PARTS. IT TURNS OUT THAT IT'S ANOTHER CLEVER DECISION, WITH THE MAGIC FORMULA IN MIND AGAIN.



SAME HEIGHT!

THAT'S ALL INTERESTING IN THEORY, BUT HOW CAN WE PUT THIS KNOWLEDGE TO USE? THIS BOOK IS FULL OF EXAMPLES OF THESE TECHNIQUES. HERE ARE A FEW:



I USED A CLIP TRICK (LIKE THE ONE SHOWN ABOVE) TO ATTACH THE WINDSHIELD OF THE MULTI-PURPOSE TRUCK.



IN THE MUSCLE CAR'S BACK LIGHT, THE MAGIC FORMULA IS CLEARLY VISIBLE!

5 PLATES = 2 STUDS



NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THESE BASIC TECHNIQUES, LET'S START PUTTING THEM INTO PRACTICE.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE MAGIC FORMULA!

ONE MORE THING! YOU'LL SEE A CLASSIFICATION LIKE THIS ON THE INTRODUCTION PAGE FOR EACH MODEL. THIS TELLS YOU HOW COMPLEX THE MODEL IS.



HOW DIFFICULT THE MODEL IS TO BUILD

HOW MANY WORKING FUNCTIONS IT HAS

HOW MANY PIECES ARE NEEDED

A blue rectangular box with a grid pattern on the right side. The text inside the box is arranged vertically: "Complexity" at the top, "Functions" in the middle, and "Pieces" at the bottom. Three white lines connect the text labels on the left to the corresponding words in the box.

LET'S GO!

