

Getting Started with the Café Corner Standard

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Before you can make your own beautiful buildings, you'll need to understand the fundamentals. If you've ever built the LEGO Group's official modular building kits, then you already know the basics of how LEGO buildings can be connected to form streets, neighborhoods, and cities. If you're new to modular buildings, then you'll want to pay special attention. You'll need this knowledge to make sure that the buildings you create line up with official LEGO sets.

In October 2007, the LEGO Group released its first modular building, Café Corner (set #10182). This first building set the standard (sometimes called the *Café Corner Standard*) for how all later modular buildings would connect to one another and how the sidewalk would look. This style of building was developed by Jamie Berard, a designer at LEGO, and then embraced by a community of fans.



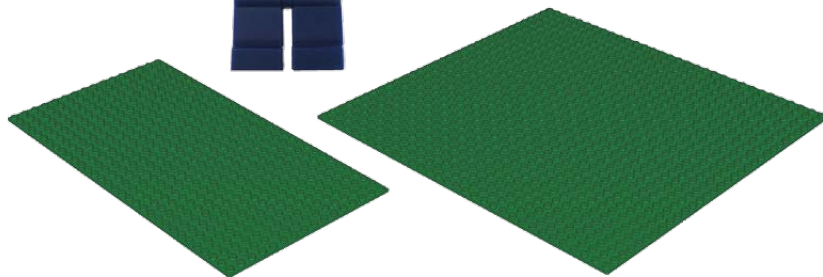
The buildings connect to form a block or row of buildings.

Base Size

All modular building sets to date use a 32×32-stud base, composed of either a single 32×32 plate or two 16×32 plates. So, to adhere to the standard, you need to build in 16-stud-wide increments too: 16×32, 32×32, 48×32, and so forth. You can, of course, create larger buildings by combining baseplates.



SMALL SHOPS AND NARROW HOUSES WORK BETTER WITH THE 16×32 BASEPLATE, BUT THE DEPTH OF EACH LOT NEEDS TO BE 32 STUDS, EVEN AT A NARROWER WIDTH.



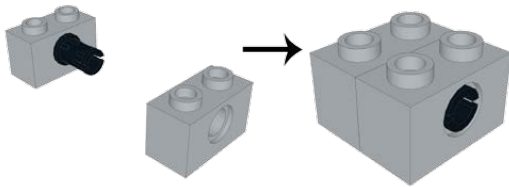
A 16×32 plate versus a 32×32 square plate

Connecting the Buildings

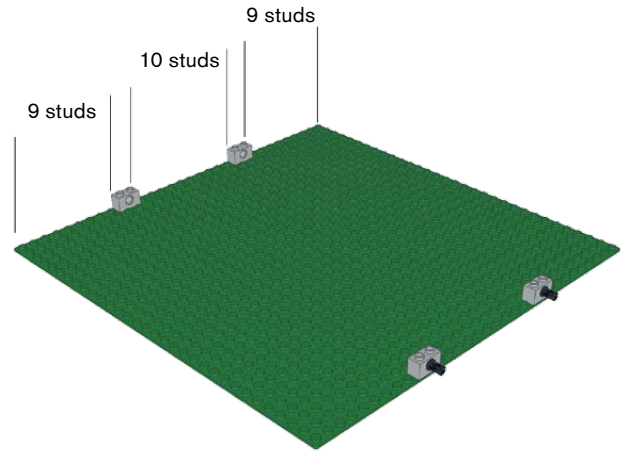
Buildings are connected to one another at the base via LEGO Technic pins. You'll use four Technic bricks (part #3700) and two Technic pins (part #2780) for each connection.

Of course, you must space these Technic bricks consistently to match other buildings.

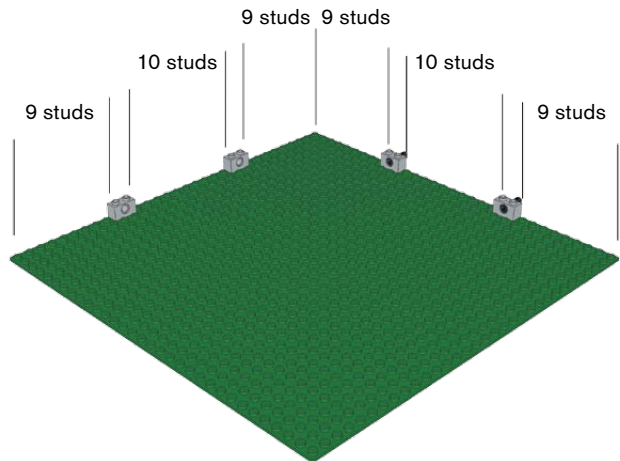
For a corner building, the placement of the Technic bricks remains the same: the 9-stud, 10-stud, 9-stud pattern shown at right.



Technic pins hold your town together. They also allow you to build houses separately and connect them when you're finished.



Even though you don't have a building yet, you'll want to place these Technic parts first for planning purposes.



Corner buildings maintain the same connections at the same spacing, just on a different side of the plate.

The Sidewalk



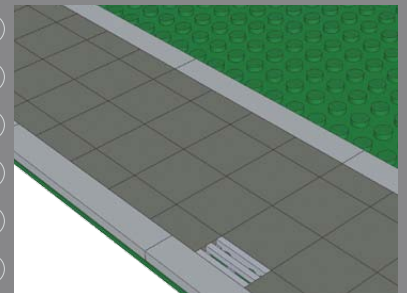
The sidewalk has a standard depth as well, but it has more options for versatility. Sidewalks may have stoops, staircases, flower boxes, or other details protruding from the building.

In the image below, you can see the first row of studs has light grey tiles covering it.

The second row of sidewalk studs is primarily made up of 1×2 dark bluish-grey tiles. This second row of studs also has two 1×2 tile grills that represent sewer grates, spaced six studs away from the outside edge of the plate.

The next four rows of studs are occupied by 2×2 dark grey tiles running from left to right. The seventh row of the sidewalk is also made up of 1×2 dark grey tiles.

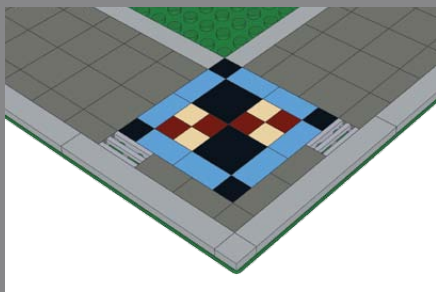
The eighth and last row of the sidewalk is made up of light grey tiles.



A finished sidewalk

A corner building will have a sidewalk on two edges of its baseplate, often with a design or colored pattern at the corner of the sidewalk.

All LEGO modular buildings also feature a white lamp post on the right side of the sidewalk. The exact placement is always different. You'll want to decide on the best place for lamp posts in your own models. For example, if your building has a door on the right side, you could move a lamp post to the rightmost edge. Several official LEGO buildings place the lamp post right beside another object, like a fire hydrant or a mailbox, to keep the rest of the sidewalk clear for pedestrians.



This pattern gives a pop of color to the sidewalk.

The lamp post is usually on the right side.



THE SIDEWALK FORMS A DISPLAY BASE FOR THE BUILDING ITSELF, SO TAKE THE TIME TO CUSTOMIZE IT TO MATCH THE BUILDING.