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The LEGO Christmas Ornaments Book: 15 Designs To Spread Holiday Cheer



Synopsis

This Christmas, LEGO is moving from under the tree to on the tree! With The LEGO Christmas Ornaments Book as your guide, you'll make classic globe and barrel ornaments, all out of LEGO, as well as original gingerbread houses, a merry Santa, arcade cabinets, and many more. Packed with step-by-step instructions for 15 charming builds, The LEGO Christmas Ornaments Book is the perfect family activity this holiday season.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No Starch Press's latest LEGO book is adorable. The LEGO Christmas Ornaments Book by Chris McVeigh contains 15 Christmas themed models in two groups. The design of the geometric hanging ornaments is really inspired. The second half has instructions for several micro-objects, like an old-school arcade machine, a tiny desktop PC, and a SLR style camera. Adorable. Like most of the things No Starch Press does, I love this book. The photos are gorgeous and the book itself is a nice square hardback. The instructions are very clear and easy to follow. My five year old son and I easily built the gingerbread house together (pictured above, with a few color swaps). I'd say a typically eight year old could do most of the models with only minor assistance. My only complaint, and really this goes for most of the LEGO books, is the challenge of getting the right pieces. Most models in the book require at least a couple of specialty pieces, in most cases multiples and in specific colors. The average child simply won't have enough of these pieces to build a

model. Even I (an adult with decades of LEGOS) had to substitute a few pieces for ones I didn't have. In short, few people have the exact pieces to build these models without specifically ordering them for the project from a website like BrickLink and BrickOwl, or the rare times that a LEGO Store's Pick a Brick wall has what you need.

As the photo editor for BrickJournal magazine, I get a chance to review several different books on LEGO creations. This one arrived from No Starch Press last week and is being released in plenty of time for people to enjoy it during the Christmas holiday. This is a fun book and is perfect for people who want to make some little ornaments for their Christmas Tree. It is, simply put, a hard cover set of instructions for 15 ornaments. Each ornament is shown full page, and then followed with a page showing the necessary LEGO elements to use when building it and (of course) several pages containing the actual building instructions. On some of the models (like the barrel), the author shows a few color variations at the end of the instructions. The book includes some traditional looking ornaments like a Christmas Tree, a snowflake and a wreath, a few ball ornaments, barrel ornaments (elongated six-sided balls) and a few fun ornaments like a computer, a hamburger and a camera. The designs of these ornaments is top notch and really shows off the creativity of Chris's work. This book is also good for people wanting to learn some SNOT (Studs Not On Top) techniques. I have been making Christmas ornaments for years using an old technique known to the LEGO community for making 4 x 4 cubes, and have also seen several other useful ways of building SNOT, but Chris introduced me to a couple of different techniques that I had never seen before. They are great for ornaments, and will also end up being great for other builds I will be doing. This information alone made the book worthwhile. The one thing that might prove to be a little frustrating to some people (and the reason I gave the book only 4 stars instead of 5) is acquiring the parts that are needed to build the ornaments. As I browsed through the parts lists, I did not see any rare elements being used, and for an AFOL such as myself, I can find all of the parts easily in my collection. However, if you only have a couple of LEGO sets at your disposal, you will need to go shopping for the parts. This is really quite easy once you know some of the places to buy individual LEGO elements. There are a few ways you can do this: 1) [Recommended] Use the LEGO community based exchange called Bricklink [...] 2) Chris McVeigh (the author) has some models available for purchase on his web site (the link is in the book). 3) The LEGO Shop At Home web site ([...]) offers individual elements for sale. 4) A local LEGO retail store where there is a "Pick a Brick" wall will have some of the elements needed (do not plan on being able to find every element there since they only carry a small selection at any given time).

For the past few years, I've followed along on Chris' photostream and website where he has released designs for new ornaments each year. I was thrilled to find out that he was collecting and adding new designs in book format. No Starch Press is known for their lovely Lego books, but this one stands out above the rest. Chris is not only a brilliant designer, but a fantastic photographer and the models presented in this book are stunning. Novice Lego builders will find the instructions easy to follow and ideas are included for alternate designs. There are even part numbers included so that you can order missing pieces. Expert builders will appreciate the thought and care that Chris has put into each design and the techniques are quite versatile and can be applied to various projects. This book would be a great gift for anyone who wants to take their interest in Lego a bit further, or for your favorite quirky artistically inclined friend who is looking for unique projects. I can see entire families breaking out their collections and creating models for hanging on the tree or displaying around the house. I'm looking forward to December and filling my tree with these beautiful builds.

Chris McVeigh is one of my favorite LEGO artists. His designs are simple and elegant, and have always looked approachable. Now that he has published 15 of his ornament designs in book form I can see that they are both approachable and well put together. These are ornaments that could actually survive hanging for a while. The designs are simple enough to be created by kids as a family activity but attractive enough that adults would enjoy making and owning a few.

This is a must have guidebook for any LEGO lover to make the holiday season complete! There are specific instructions for no less than 15 different ornament designs, ranging from poinsettias and snowflakes to a gingerbread house, Christmas Tree, lantern and wreath. The instructions for every ornament start with a recipe for the exact number of LEGO building blocks needed, with several pages of all-visual guidance to create some of the most unique ornaments that ever decorated a holiday Evergreen tree.

We received a copy of this book for our holiday gift guide, all opinions are ours. We fell in love with several of the ornaments but decided to start simple with the wreath. We had to search through our huge bucket to find the pieces but we did have enough to make it in gray and silver. It was super easy to follow the directions and I love that the book gives you part pieces to order directly from LEGO.

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