



Thomas & Friends in LEGO

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About Me

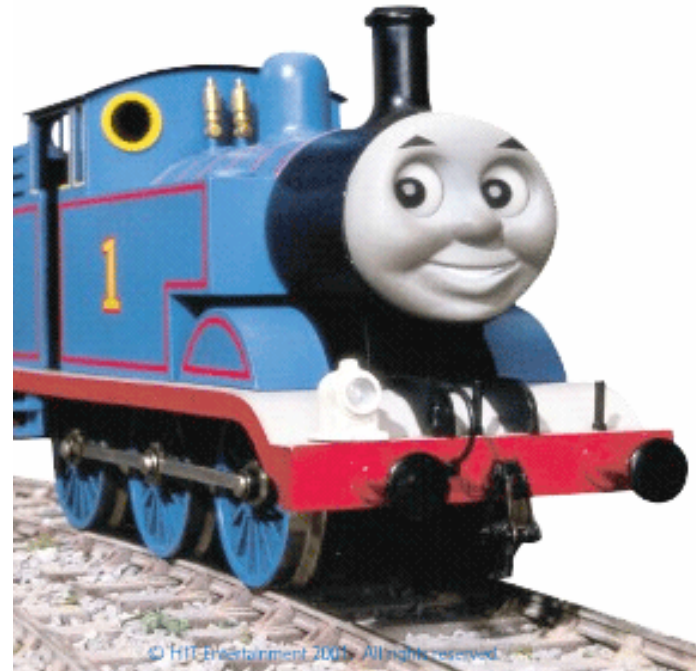
- Co-founder of both BayLUG in 1998 and BayLTC in 2000.
- Club representative, Assemblyman, and member, International LEGO® Train Club Organization (ILTCO).
- I have been playing with and collecting LEGO for almost 20 years.



LEGO Me

History

- Thomas the Tank Engine™ was created by the Rev. W. Awdry over 50 years ago for his son, Christopher; the original stories can be found in *"The Railway Series"*. In 1984, *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends* was recreated by Britt Allcroft and brought to us through the PBS program *Shining Time Station™*.





Background

- Larry Pieniazek's famous quote:
"Every show needs a Thomas."
- This presentation will:
 - Give some modeling hints, tips, and tricks.
 - Show examples of all known variations of Thomas and other related characters.
 - Benefit both the general public and other LTCs in making their own LEGO Thomas.



Impact of Thomas at Shows

- At train shows, I keep hearing 'Look, it's Thomas!' from both kids and adults alike. He is one of the biggest draws on the layout.
- Kids are either pressed against the sneezeguards or perched on their parents' shoulders, and they are always giggling and laughing.
- Questions/Comments I receive about Thomas:
 - I didn't know LEGO made Thomas.
 - Is it a retail set? Where can I get one? Where did you get it?
 - How did you build it? Where did you get the face?
 - Will you sell it? Do you sell copies? Do you sell instructions?

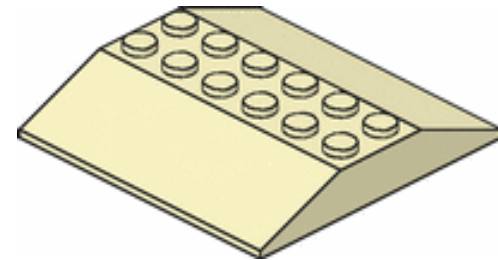
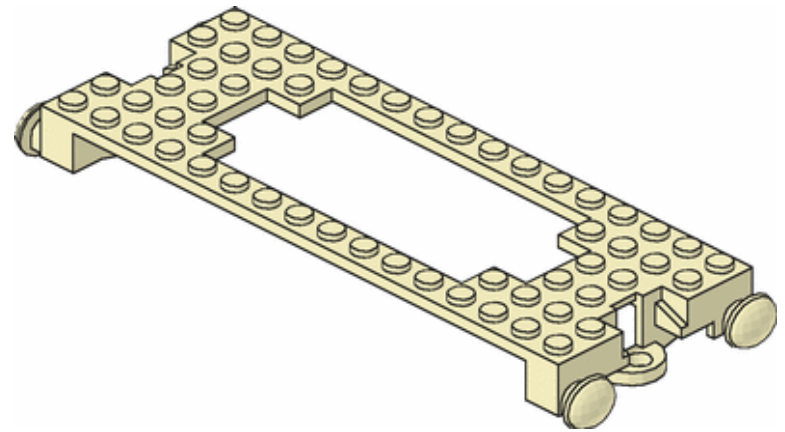


How do I get one?

- There are **four** ways to get Thomas in LEGO:
 - Download instructions (Adobe® Acrobat® .pdf format) for the Blue Tank Engine from Carolina Train Builders™.
 - Purchase the Tank Engine Train Set instructions on CD #3 from Lions Gate Models™.
 - Please note, the above are only based on Thomas, and are not officially licensed products.
 - Purchase the DUPLO® sets and run them on DUPLO track (non-motorized) or convert them to run on 9v track (motorized).
 - Design one yourself!

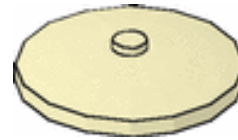
What do I need?

- While designs vary, all models use the same basic parts: black & blue pieces, and train motors. Most models use 9v motors, while some use 12v motors or no motor at all.
- Two rarer pieces used frequently are red 6x16 train bases and black 6x6 train roofs.



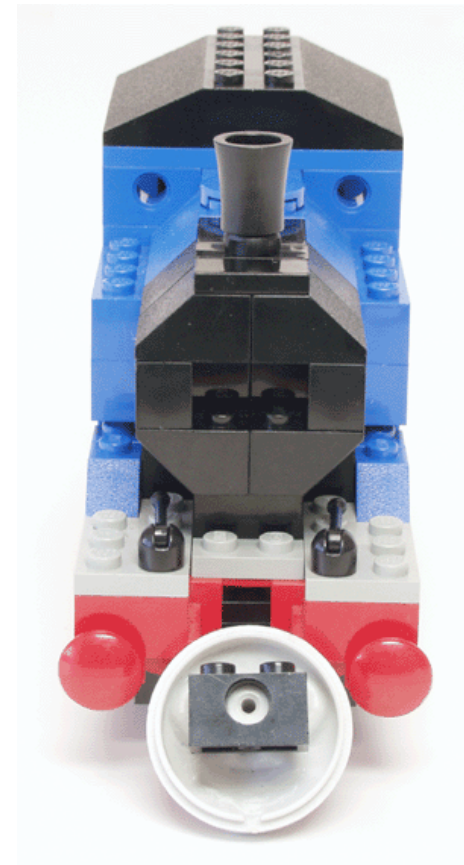
What about the face?

- The two most common ways of making a face for Thomas are by using a light gray 4x4 radar dish or by using the plastic face from a toy.
- Faces have also been done by painting, decaling, sculpting, "goggle-eyes", and by using pure LEGO pieces.



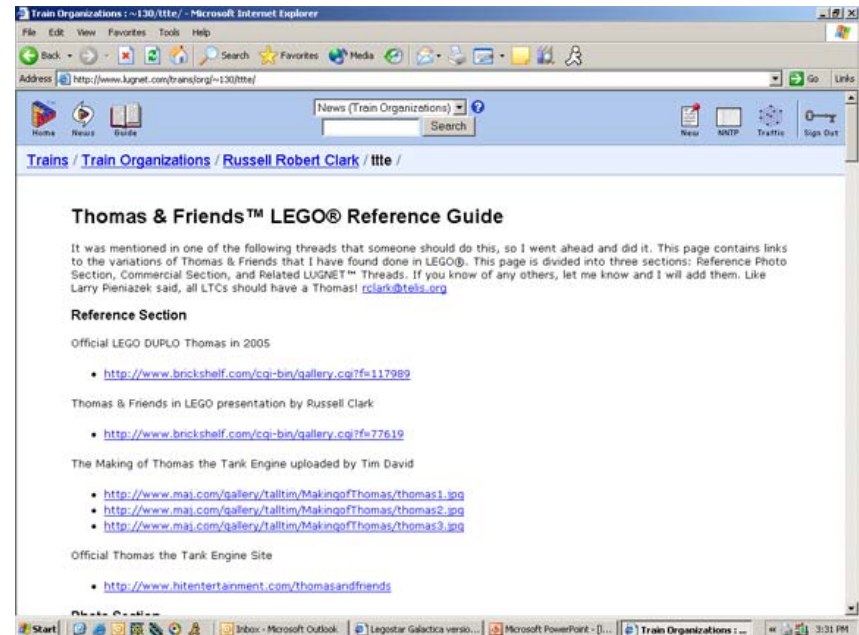
How I Built my Thomas

- I followed Dan Parker's hand-drawn instructions.
- I slightly modified them so that mine would be "mine".
- I used the face off of a broken battery-operated toy I bought at the flea market. By drilling out the ridge in the Technic™ brick hole, the post fit perfectly.
- I had the numbers drawn in Illustrator® to make decals.
- I plan on building a second Thomas using a 12v motor.



Resources

- Larry also said: "Maybe we ought to work up a canonical Thomas design that can be whipped out quickly, doesn't take any rare parts, and looks fairly good. If we pulled together a page of links to all the known Thomases that might be a good start."
- In response to this, I created the page below. This page contains links to all the variations of Thomas & Friends that I have found done in LEGO. All of the examples shown in this presentation come from this page. This page is updated regularly.



<http://www.lugnet.com/trains/org/~130/ttte/>

Models by Russell Clark (BayLTC-US)



- Picture 1 is Thomas.
- Picture 2 is Annie™ and Clarabel™.

Models by Russell Clark (continued)



- Picture 3 is Stacy Jones™ and Sir Topham Hatt™.
- Picture 4 is the London Bus representing Bertie™.

Models by John Neal (TCLTC-US)



- Picture 1 is Thomas, Annie, and Clarabel.
- Picture 2 is Bill™ & Ben™

Models by John Neal (continued)



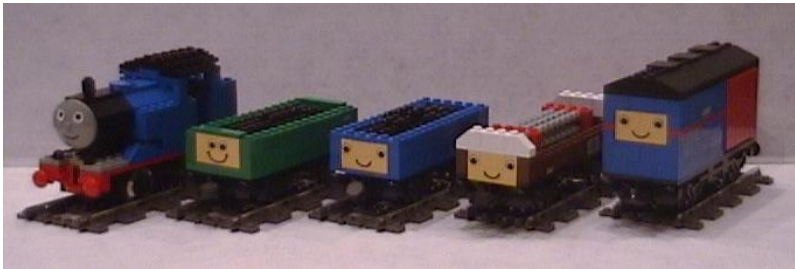
- Picture 3 is James™.
- Picture 4 is the Troublesome Trucks™.

Models by John Neal (continued)



- Picture 5 is Percy™.
- Picture 6 is Thomas in his “final” form.

Models by Dan Parker (US)



- Picture 1 is Thomas and friends.
- Picture 2 is a newer version of Thomas.

Models by Dan Parker (continued)



- Picture 3 is Percy.

Models by Mike Walsh (NCLTC-US)



- Picture 1 is a personal Thomas model.
- Picture 2 is the Blue Tank Engine from Carolina Train Builders.

Models by Mike Walsh (continued)



- Pictures 3 and 4 are Toby the Tram Engine™.

Models by Kevin Wilson (VLC-CA)



- Picture 1 is a personal Thomas model.
- Picture 2 is the Tank Engine Train Set from Lions Gate Models.

Models by Mark Bellis (UK)



- Picture 1 is Thomas.
- Picture 2 is Stepney™.

Models by Mark Bellis (continued)



- Picture 3 is an engine based on BoCo™.
- Picture 4 is an engine based on Bear™.

Models by Mark Bellis (continued)



- Picture 5 is Duck™
- Picture 6 is Toad the Brakevan™.

Models by Mark Bellis (continued)



- Picture 7 is Toby the Tram Engine.

Models by Jason Railton (UK)



- Picture 1 is Thomas.
- Picture 2 is Annie and Clarabel.

Models by Jason Railton (continued)



- Picture 3 is Duck.
- Picture 4 is James.

Models by Jason Railton (continued)



- Picture 5 is Percy.
- Picture 6 is Stepney.

Models by Janey Cook (CA)



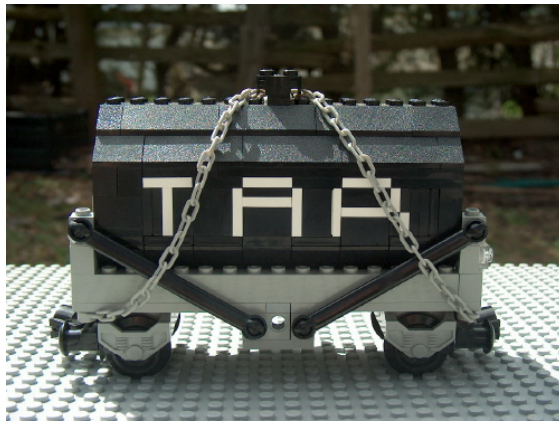
- Picture 1 is Thomas.
- Picture 2 is Annie and Clarabel.

Models by Janey Cook (continued)



- Picture 3 is Bertie.
- Picture 4 is Shining Time Station™.

Models by Janey Cook (continued)



- Picture 5 is the Tidmouth Tar Wagon™.
- Picture 6 is the Tidmouth Milk Wagon™.

Models by Janey Cook (continued)



- Picture 7 is Sir Topham Hatt, The Fat Controller .
- Picture 8 is Sir Topham Hatt's Car™.

Models by Janey Cook (continued)

Mr. Conductor™
(Starr)



Horace Schemer™
Entrepreneur



Stacy Jones
Station Master



Billy Twofeathers™
Engineer



Models by Janey Cook (continued)

Mr. Conductor's
Cousin (Carlin)



Mrs. Hatt™
Wife of the Fat
Controller



Harry Cupper™
Engineer



Models by Brian Darrow (IndyLUG-US)



- Picture 1 is Thomas, Annie, Clarabel, James, and the Troublesome Trucks.
- Picture 2 is Percy.

Model by “legozaemon” (JP)



- Picture 1 is Percy.
- Picture 2 is Yaemon™. While this is not a Thomas character, the design is similar.

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is Thomas by Matt Bates.
- Picture 2 is Thomas by Melody Brown (BUGS-AU).

Models by Others



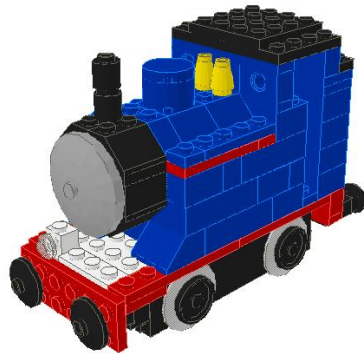
- Picture 1 is an engine based on James by James Mathis (US).
- Picture 2 is a tram engine based on Toby by Tim David (UK).

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is Edward™ by Toshiaki Mukai (EJLTC-JP).
- Picture 2 is Rheneas™ by Daniel Siskind (GMLTC-US).

Models by Others



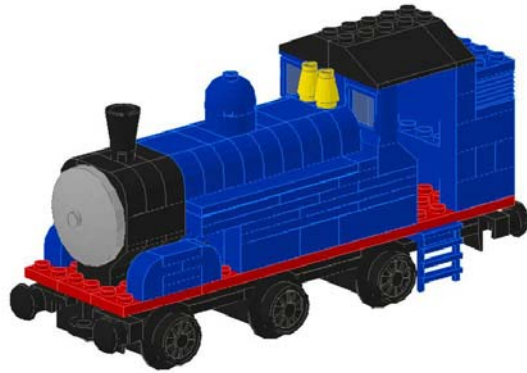
- Picture 1 is Thomas by Donald Acker.
- Picture 2 is Thomas by Peter Curby (AU).

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is Thomas by Steve Martin (IndyLUG-US).
- Picture 2 is Thomas by L. Andrew Reynolds (GtwLUG-US).

Models by Others



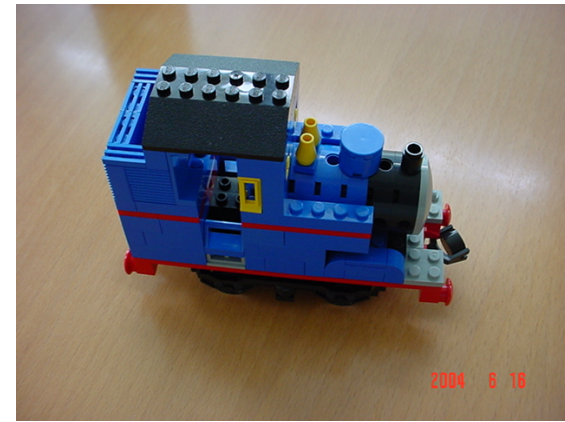
- Picture 1 is Thomas by Ben Rogers (UK).
- Picture 2 is Thomas, Annie, and Clarabel by Rémy Evard (NILTC-US).

Models by Others



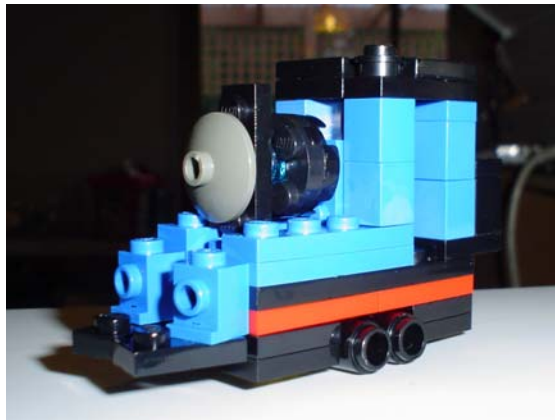
- Picture 1 is Thomas, Annie, and Clarabel by Michael Schian (DE).
- Picture 2 is Thomas by Jim Davis (MSLTC-US).

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is Thomas by Ken Nagel (NILTC-US).
- Picture 2 is Thomas by Adam Murtha (US).

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is mini-Thomas by “skerat”.
- Picture 2 is Thomas, Annie, Clarabel, Toby, Lady™, Bill & Ben, James, Percy, the Troublesome Trucks, and Donald™ & Douglas™ by Daniel House (US).

Models by Others



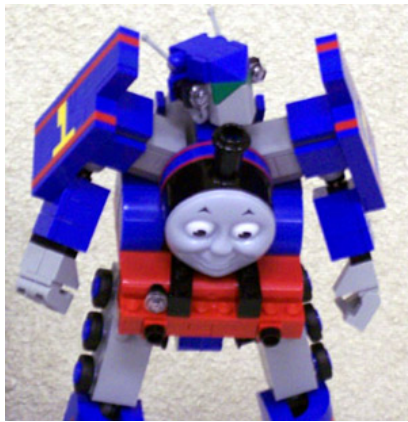
- Picture 1 is Thomas by unknown.
- Picture 2 is Thomas & Friends by unknown (NILTC-US).

Models by Others



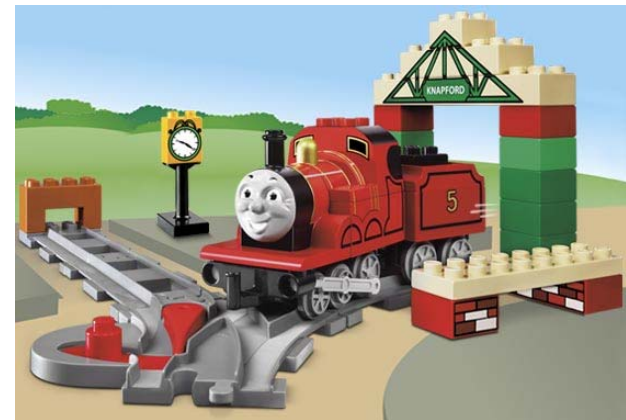
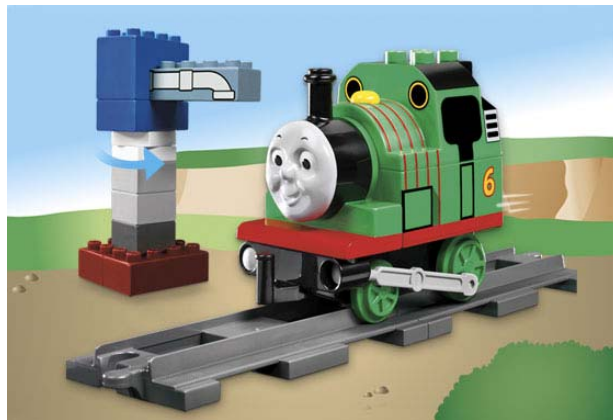
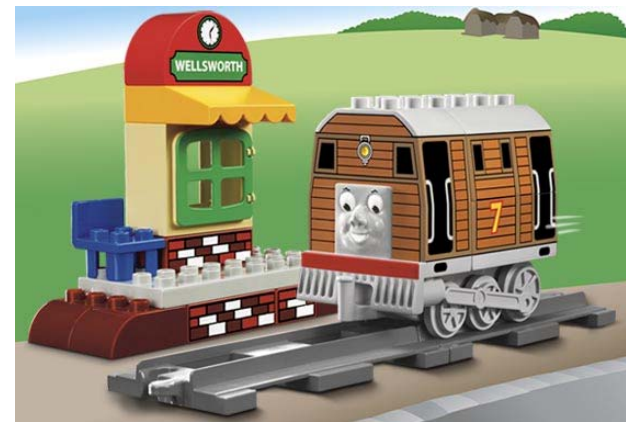
- Picture 1 is Thomas by “The Legoland Dude”.
- Picture 2 is Thomas and Bertie by Peter Delmolino.

Models by Others



- Picture 1 is Thomas-Bot by Jeremiah VanderMark.

Official 2005 DUPLO Sets





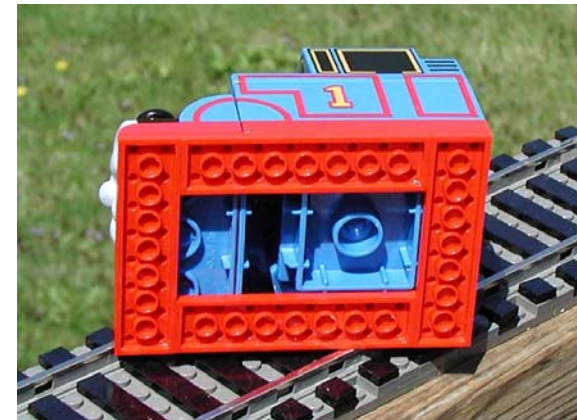
Official 2006 DUPLO Sets



Converting DUPLO Sets to 9v

by John Neal

- Well, the way I saw it, I was faced with 4 options:
 - Literally cut off Thomas' and the others' faces and glue them to my current MOC cast. That way they would all be, at least, all LEGO.
 - Take just the face *element* and recreate my MOC Thomas characters in 8-wide.
 - Remove the 9v track from the TCLTC Thomas section and lay DUPLO track, and power the trains via batteries somehow.
 - Remove the DUPLO wheels and replace them with 9v ones.
- I finally chose the last option. No cutting, simple modifications, giving the general public virtually a product out of the box to see and, hopefully, to purchase.



Examples of Converted DUPLO





Links

- <http://www.carolinatrainbuilders.com/models/ctb-3105/>
- <http://www.lionsgatemodels.com>
- <http://www.lugnet.com/trains/org/~130/ttte/>
- <http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=30000>
- <http://news.lugnet.com/trains/org>
- <http://news.lugnet.com/trains>
- <http://www.baylug.org>
- <http://www.iltco.org>
- <http://www.hitentertainment.com/thomasandfriends>
- <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>



Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank Dan Parker, John Neal, Larry Pieniazek, the members of BayLTC, ILTCO, Jake McKee, my wife, my mom, and all the people who let me use their models and pictures in this presentation.



Thanks

Thanks, and enjoy the show!

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