

LEGO GO PROJECT

When I was a child I loved to play with LEGO. To build new things after my imaginations not just following the instruction guide from an original set, just like many kids do. It was my childhood dream to become a LEGO designer once. But for the time I grew up, many years later I realised what I really want to do is to care for children and teach good things for them.

About eight or ten years ago I went in my country to a big Hungarian event where I first met with our beloved mind sport, GO. It became my hobby at first but then I joined a GO club soon in my town and turned myself into an amateur GO player and participated to a very few competitions so far.

But later on I think I have found something even more joyable activity than just simply playing the game. Teaching GO for children even for very little ones. Especially for those who never heard about it before.

Just like my dear friend and fellow countrywoman and professional GO player Diána Kőszegi I'm doing it every day in South-Korea. I need to thank her very much in this way too!

After I started to teach GO on events for charity and started caring for children as my daily job, I had the opportunity to experience that children love to play with LEGO very much.

So, one day it just got into my mind somehow. 'Why not combining the two games?'

I started to search the internet for official LEGO GO sets to buy one. But I had to realise there isn't any around.

What I could have found in the other hand were pictures and official 'serial numbers' of several LEGO CHESS sets which were produced by LEGO in the last twenty years...

I also had found a quite new website at that time called the LEGO IDEAS. Where everyone could and still can submit his or her own creations if they meet the requirements of the page. And where every projects which were approved by the site administrators can be supported by anyone from every country. At least from those who has created a LEGO ID first.

Every project which can reach 10.000 supporters will be viewed by LEGO Company and decided by them which one should be put into production and sell it in every LEGO Stores all around the World.

The Company even needed to make a new category for Ideas on LEGO.com among the others such as Creator, City, Elves, NinjaGo, Nexo Knights, Technic, Mindstorm, Minecraft, etc.

So, I decided in late 2015 to design and build a LEGO GO set.

During the Spring of 2016 I designed the set with the help of the LDD software (LEGO Digital Designer 4.2) which has the features to build Lego sets virtually in 3D, brick by brick and at the end of the build to compose an instruction guide for it. The software even generates the list of the used up LEGO bricks with serial numbers. Next step was to find all the bricks, those I needed to build the prototype with, in real life.

I have found a LEGO Club where the owner/director was so kind to let me build the project from the bricks of the LEGO Club. (They have plenty of different kind of bricks.)

After that I have found a small printing company which could print the 19x19 sized grid onto the LEGO bricks for one side of the board and a 13x13 size grid to the other side.

When the prototype was ready I asked my dear friend Gábor Hackl who is a professional photographer to make the promotion pictures and the video for YouTube about the LEGO GO projekt.

In September, 2016 I had submitted my LEGO GO idea on the LEGO IDEAS website. And the only thing was left to gather that 10.000 supports. Unfortunately not enough supports were arrived till the deadline for the projekt and it expired.

I started to take the prototype to events where I teach GO for Kids. It turned out my expectations were right all along. Every children who had the opportunity to see or even try out the LEGO GO set they started to love it immediately. I even had heard some children whom urged their parents to buy one for them for Christmas. (They did not know that this is not an official LEGO set yet.)

Some adults told me they like the fact this set looks so realistic that they could not tell at first sight, every part of it was built from LEGO bricks.

Diána Kőszegi 1p and other GO players and LEGO fans and I think that this could be a very effective and new way to promote the GO game in an even much wider range of area and call the attention of children for the GO form all around the World, even those whom otherwise could have not meet with or famous and very important mind sport.

If I am right LEGO Company started to produce LEGO CHESS sets about that time when Chess Grandmaster Garry Kasparov had his historical match against Chess software Deep Blue in 1997.

Now more than twenty years has past and by now we all know very well that in 2016 Baduk Grandmaster Lee Sedol 9p and in 2017 Weiqi Grandmaster Ke Jie 9p also had their historical matches against Google DeepMind's A.I. the AlphaGo.

So it is clearly the time now for LEGO Company to realise an official LEGO GO set is needed very much!

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