

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen is the grandson of the LEGO Group's founder Ole Kirk Christiansen and led the company when the Space series was launched in 1979.

A WORD FROM KJELD

In the late 50s and early 60s as a young boy, I was very interested in the Space Race and built a rocket base inspired by the US Space Center at Cape Canaveral. When it launched in 1979, the Galaxy Explorer set quickly became one of my favourites. I especially liked the hidden compartment at the rear, where the moon buggy is stored – it was a nice, almost secret feature. And then, of course, there were the LEGO[®] Astronauts! This 90th anniversary model brings back happy memories and truly transports the *Galaxy Explorer* into the 21st century.

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen

A CLASSIC REVISITED

As a part of the LEGO[®] 90th anniversary celebrations we've chosen to revisit one of the most iconic LEGO space sets ever launched. Bringing back a much-loved model from the past always requires careful consideration, but our goal was to create a bigger and more detailed version of the *Galaxy Explorer* while still paying homage to all the magical aspects of the original model. We hope you enjoy building this new classic LEGO spaceship!

90 years of play

To celebrate 90 years of LEGO play in 2022, we asked fans to vote for the classic LEGO themes they most wanted to see revived with a special anniversary set. Tens of thousands of fans took part in the poll and Classic Space was one of the clear winners!

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Sets 924 Space Cruiser and 918 One Man Spaceship were similar in design but smaller than the mighty 928/497 Galaxy Explorer.



THE JOURNEY INTO SPACE

Space themed LEGO[®] sets have always proved immensely popular and for many fans a brick-built LEGO spaceship was often their first journey into a new world of space and science fiction.

Launched in 1979, the iconic 928/497 Galaxy Explorer set included a futuristic spacecraft, a small space rover, a moon base with tower and landing pad and, best of all, 4 of the first space astronaut minifigures in red and white colours!

What we now know as Classic Space grew as a theme, and over the next decade the space cruisers would become more detailed and the moon bases, moon buggies and robots more advanced. Other sub-themes quickly followed, such as Futuron (1987), Blacktron (1987) and Space Police (1989), which introduced monorails and more complex interchangeable sets, deeper story universes and uniquely defined minifigure characters.





The introduction of the astronaut minifigure was a ground-breaking element. Originally only red and white in colour, blue, yellow and black versions quickly followed.



The uniform design was updated with a zipper crossing from hip to shoulder, plus a newly redesigned helmet with a transparent blue visor.



90's Space sub-theme Ice Planet saw an alternate version of the classic logo where half the planet was frozen.





This unique astronaut 'statue' only appeared in a single Space Police set.



Everything in the original Classic Space theme was branded with the now iconic and much-loved LEGO[®] Space logo, with its red spaceship circling around a moon.





Perhaps the most famous LEGO astronaut of all, Benny from The LEGO Movie, featured a worn-out Space logo and cracked helmet.



A new greenuniformed astronaut appeared in the 21109 Exo Suit LEGO Ideas set.



Lenny, the first pink astronaut, joined Benny's Space Squad in *The LEGO Movie 2* along with Kenny and Jenny.



An exclusive orange astronaut was included in the book *LEGO Minifigure: A Visual History.*



The collectible Minifigures Series 21 featured a Space Police Guy with a Classic Space logo on his armour and a Futuron torso.





The astronauts in this updated Galaxy Explorer set are almost exact copies of the originals from 1979.

"EVER SINCE I BEGAN DESIGNING LEGO" MODELS IN 2012, I HAVE DREAMT ABOUT CREATING AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE GALAXY EXPLORER."

MICHAEL PSIAKI

Michael also designed two smaller spaceships that you can build using the same bricks included in this set. These spacecrafts were inspired by sets 924 and 918. You can find the instructions to these alternate models online at: LEGO.com/buildinginstructions

The designer couldn't help adding one more personal feature to the updated model. The little robot wasn't in the original set. It first appeared in set 6809 in 1987.

FROM THE DESIGN TEAM

I began work on an updated version of this set quite early on in my career as a LEGO[®] designer, around winter 2013. The ship has gone through many iterations since then to bring it to what it is today. I originally built versions that strayed a lot farther from the original model, but as the model was refined, we kept on bringing it closer to the original design, with a few cool upgrades. One of the big decisions was to make it 1.5 times larger than the original. We wanted to give that feeling that, just like the fans of the original, the Galaxy Explorer is now grown up. And because the ship is larger, we were able to seat all 4 astronauts in the cockpit, instead of just one. We also built an airlock door between the crew compartment and the rover compartment, so that the astronauts are protected even when the rear doors are open. Adding retractable landing gear gives the ship a much sleeker profile when it is cruising through space!

Michael Psiaki, LEGO[®] Design Master



















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1x















When completed, this Galaxy Explorer will feature 3 retractable landing pads.


























































The model features the same 4 astronauts from the original set, only their helmets have been slightly modified and now feature a stronger chinstrap!







































































The colour palette for this spaceship uses only colours that were available in 1979 when the original product was released, except for colour 194, medium stone grey.





















































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The red and green navigational lights on the original model were not placed traditionally, (red lights on the left side, green lights on the right). Instead, the red lights are towards the front and green towards the rear. This new model keeps that same placement.








































The set number 10497 is an homage to the set number used for the US version of the original Galaxy Explorer set, 497.



































The astronauts' beds are designed so they can lie down without taking their air tanks off.














































































3x 2x





































On the original model, the arrow decoration was printed on a 1x2 brick. The arrow in this model is built using a shield from a LEGO[®] NEXO KNIGHTS set.













































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The thrusters on the original model were built using a single element. These larger thrusters are built using paint buckets, first introduced in the 2011 Castle theme.
















































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