

### **10343 Botanicals Mini Orchid**

Adapted by Chris Harper and tested by Jolene Nemeth.

Let creativity blossom with the LEGO® Mini Orchid (10343) building kit. A gorgeous decorative plant, this orchid makes a stunning floral display that will never need to be watered.

The lifelike replica features 5 orchid flowers in bloom and a few in bud, as well as leaves for extra authenticity. It also comes with a light terracotta flowerpot that sits on a beautiful wood-effect plinth, making it easy for budding florists to display the flower proudly to bring the tranquility of nature into any living or working space.

Part of a classic quartet of beautiful plants known as the Four Gentlemen in traditional art, the orchid represents the season of spring and is believed to symbolize new beginnings.

The mini orchid has 274 pieces and stands over 10 in tall with 33 steps in this build.

The cover of the instruction book shows a close up of the 5 orchid petals.

The second page describes sustainable packaging initiatives. Get excited about our new packaging! We're switching from plastic to paper-based packaging. That's why you might find a mix of paper and plastic in our boxes! There is a bird's-eye picture of a table and two kids building legos with the new packaging.

Pages 3, 4 and 5 describe the Builder app.

Page 6 shows a watercolor painting of orchids with the caption "The Four Gentlemen".

Page 7 has the following text: Peach Phalaenopsis Orchid. A staple in interior decor, the orchid is often seen as a popular motif in art. In a tradition that spans more than a thousand years, it is often portrayed in ink and wash paintings as part of a classic quartet of beautiful plants known as The Four Gentlemen, or The Four Noble Ones. Together, they represent the virtues and continuous circle of the seasons: The orchid (spring), the bamboo (summer), the chrysanthemum (autumn) and the plum (winter). With its beauty and endurance, the orchid symbolizes nobility, friendship and integrity – all refined virtues of a scholar.

Page 8 has the following text: Noble by Nature. Creating LEGO decor that draws inspiration from nature is a relaxing and rewarding way to set your imagination free. With flawless symmetry, orchid blossoms peek out to greet us from the humblest nooks and crannies in nature. They stretch towards the light and absorb nutrients and moisture from their surroundings. This model captures every stage in the natural life cycle of an orchid, from emerging buds to full blossoms, and you can play with the poseable petals to adjust it organically and find new ways to let it brighten your space. Whether it sparks your curiosity for new, noble, scholarly pursuits or nurtures your growing creativity, we hope you will enjoy the experience.

Page 9 has the text on the prior page in French and Spanish.

Welcome to text-based instructions from Bricks for the Blind. Before you start building, here are some terms we'll be using:

- In Front of/Front: towards you.

- Behind/Back: away from you.
- Up: towards the ceiling.
- Down: towards the floor.
- Stud: the bump on a LEGO brick. Example: A 2x1 brick has two studs on it.
- Vertically: with the longest side going from front to back
- Horizontally: with the longest side going from left to right.
- Upright: pointing up towards the ceiling.
- Standing upright: The piece is perpendicular to the ground, like a wall.
- Lying flat: The piece is parallel to the ground, like a piece of toast which fell off the table.
- That one/ppp: previously placed piece.
- Plate: piece with studs.
- Tile: smooth piece without studs (unless otherwise specified)
- A jumper plate is a 1x2 plate with a single stud on top, or a 1x3 plate with only two studs on top.
- "Anti-stud" is a term for the portion of a LEGO piece which accepts studs, like the bottom of a plate or brick.
- Symmetrically: a mirror image. Example: If you place a 2x1 brick with technic connector on the front wall at the right, connector to the front, and then place another such piece symmetrically on the back wall, at the right, the technic connector of the second piece should point to the back, since it will be placed symmetrically.
- Centered-vertically: even amount of space in front of and behind piece
- Centered-horizontally: even amount of space left and right of piece.
- Row: studs lined up horizontally (left to right/side to side).
- Column: studs lined up upright or vertically (top to bottom/back to front).

For builders with low vision, or a sighted building partner who may want to follow along with the printed visual instructions that come with each set, PDF versions are always online at [<https://www.lego.com/en-us/service/buildinginstructions/76924>]: As low vision users may benefit from viewing the instructions on a personal device where they can zoom in on content and use assistive technologies to enhance the visuals.

A note on LEGO Technic™ part names. These parts are somewhat different from regular LEGO bricks. Here are some definitions in case the builder or helper is not familiar with LEGO Technic™.

**Axles** - An axle is a connector which has an X shaped cross-section. Because their cross section is not round, anything connected to an axle using an axle-hole will rotate with that axle. Axles are longer than they are wide, and the length of an axle corresponds with how many bricks long it is. Aka a 3L axle is three bricks long. Axles come in a variety of lengths, with a 2L axle being the shortest available. They may be combined with pins, or have circular stops on them. A stop prevents the axle from sliding through an axle-hole at a specific point on the axle.

**Pins** - A pin is a connector which has a circular cross section and a flanged notch out of one or both ends. This flanged notch allows them to click into bricks with a pin-hole. Pins come with and without friction ridges, which are small bumps on the pin which prevent them from rotating freely. For standard pins, black is a high friction pin, and gray is a low friction pin. A standard length pin is two brick lengths long, with a stop in the middle. This prevents a brick from being pushed from one side of the pin to the other. A 1L pin is one brick long and still retains the stop, however it also includes a hollow stud at the other end. A 3L pin is three bricks long, and only contains a stop at one side, allowing two bricks to be pushed onto the other side of the pin. Pins may also have one side which is an axle.

**Axle and Pin Connectors** - These elements are typically smaller than lift-arms and are used to connect some combination of pins or axles. They might have pins or axles, as well as axle or pin-holes. They have a lot of different angle combinations! The simplest just connects two axles or pins together in a straight line.

## Sorting the Pieces

To begin a successful build, it helps to sort the pieces into groups, bags or small containers. Have a sighted friend or family member do this in advance following the instructions below. You will see that the pieces should be sorted into groups according to the building steps in the set. Doing this in advance makes locating the pieces easier. See below on how to sort the pieces to correspond to the steps in this set. Number the containers using letters A-Z, numbers or meaningful names. The parts will be collected into a small number of steps in the instructions. Example: Steps 1-3 means collect all the parts used in steps 1, 2 and 3, and put them in one container.

### Bag 1: Terracotta Pot

Group 1: Base: Steps 1-6

Group 2: Pot: Steps 7-15

### Bag 2: Orchid

Group 3: Big Leaves: Step 16-17

Group 4: Small Leaves: Step 18

Group 5: Plant Step: Step 19-22

Group 6: Buds: Steps 23-25

Group 7: Petals: Steps 26-32

Group 8: Finishing: Step 33

Let's get to building!

### Building instructions (Bag 1)

Group 1: Base: Steps 1-6

1. Place a black 8x8 round plate with hole in front of you. Place a dark tan 1x4 tile with two studs horizontally on the 4th row centered horizontally. Place another behind the ppp.

Let's make 4 identical parts

2.1 Place a brown 2x2 plate with two side studs in front of you, side studs to the front. Horizontally attach a 1x2 half round jumper plate upright on the front facing side studs so the round side faces up.

2.2 Place the front row of the black 8x8 round plate on the back row of one of your parts so the half round jumper plate faces front. One row of the part will be exposed to the front.

Rotate the black 8x8 round plate clockwise 90 degrees and repeat again. Repeat twice more until all four sides have a part attached to them.

3. Place a brown 2x3 plate vertically starting on the front three rows so it is centered horizontally. On the rightmost stud of the 3rd row place a brown 1x1 round plate. Rotate the build 90 degrees clockwise.

Repeat the previous two placements and rotate the build 90 degrees. Repeat twice more until you have completed all four sides. Finish by orienting the build so that the two previously placed dark tan 1x4 tiles with two studs are oriented horizontally.

Make a part:

4. Place a gray 2x2 tile in front of you so the anti studs face up. Place 2 black 1x1 plates with clip, one in front of the other, on the right column so the clips face right and the anti-studs face up. Repeat symmetrically to the left. In each of the clips place a tan 1x1 round tile with an upright bar so the bar faces up. Horizontally attach the part to the center of the build. Each of the tan 1x1 round tiles with a bar will attach to the dark tan 1x4 tile with two studs. The clip tiles should have their anti-studs facing up.

5. Place a brown 5x5 curved slope macaroni tile on the right column of the front two rows. The piece will connect to the rightmost two studs on the front row of the right brown 2x3 plate. The piece will cover 3-6 on a clock face. Rotate the build 90 degrees clockwise and repeat the placement. Repeat two more times.

6. Flip the build upside down, orient it so one of the side studs faces front. Attach a brown cat tail piece to the side stud. The large curved section will face front and the hooked part will face back. Rotate 90 degrees clockwise and repeat the placement. Repeat two more times. These are the legs for the base. Flip the build so it is now right-side up with the cat tails facing down.

Group 2: Pot: Steps 7-15

Let's make 2 identical parts

7.1 Place a brown 2x4 brick horizontally in front of you. Place a light nougat 5x5x3 quarter dome brick on the left 2 columns so the slope faces front and to the left. Repeat symmetrically to the right.

7.2 You should now have two identical parts.

7.3 Flip the part upside down and attach the downward facing studs to the front two of the anti-studs of the black 1x1 plate with clips. Repeat symmetrically on the rear two anti-studs.

8. Insert a red 2L axle into the middle anti-stud of the previously placed rear brown 2x4 brick. Repeat to the front.

9. Place a brown 2x4 brick on the 2 ppp so both axles attach to the anti studs. Orient the build so the brown 2x4 brick is horizontal.

10. Horizontally place a tan 1x4 brick upside down in front of the ppp. Repeat symmetrically to the back.

Let's make 2 identical parts.

11.1 Horizontally place a pink 1x4 plate in front of you. Place another on the ppp. Horizontally place two white 1x2 bricks with side studs on two long sides, side by side on the ppp. Horizontally place a gray 1x2 plate on the 2 ppps, centered horizontally.

11.2 Orient the part so the pink 1x4 plates face left and the side studs face upwards and down. Place your sub build vertically to the right of the brown 2x4 brick. It will attach by the side studs of the white bricks. Repeat symmetrically to the left.

Let's make 2 identical parts

12.1 Place a yellow 1x8 plate horizontally in front of you. Place another on the ppp. On the 3rd and 4th studs from the left, horizontally place a white 1x2 brick with side studs on 2 long sides. Place another to the right of the ppp. To the right of the ppp place a grey 1x1 short brick. Repeat symmetrically to the left. On the ppp place a gold 1x2 tile with slope and cutout so it slopes to the left, it will overhang the ppp one stud to the right and attach to the plate.. Repeat symmetrically to the right. horizontally place a gray 1x2 plate On the ppp so it is centered horizontally. place a gold 1x3 curved sloped tile horizontally on the right column of the ppp so it slopes to the right. Repeat symmetrically to the left.

12.2 You should now have two identical parts.

12.3 Orient the part so the gold 1x2 curved slope tile faces front and the white side studs face upwards and down. Place this part horizontally in front of the 1x4 bricks with the 1x8 plates facing the back. It should be centered horizontally. Repeat symmetrically to the back.

13.1 Rotate the build 90 degrees. Attach a gold 1x3 curved slope tile horizontally upright on the right 2 columns of front facing side studs so it slopes to the right. It will overhang one column to the right. . Repeat symmetrically to the left.

13.2 Rotate the build 180 degrees and repeat the two previous placements.

Make a part:

14.1 Place a beige 6x6 round plate in front of you. Place a brown 1x2 plate with upright bar on the long side horizontally on the second row from the front on the first and second column from the left so the upright bars are facing the back. Repeat symmetrically to the right. Repeat both placements symmetrically to the back.

14.2 Attach the part to the main build so it is centered horizontally and vertically.

15. Place a nougat 5x5 curved slope macaroni tile starting on the left two columns of the front row. The piece will cover 6-9 on a clock face. Repeat symmetrically to the right. Then repeat both parts symmetrically to the back.

Bag 2:

Group 3: Big Leaves: Step 17

Lets' make a part

16. Insert a red 2L axel into a dark green 2L axle connector. Insert a yellow 3L axle into the other end of the connector, this part should face up. Attach two black 1x2 thin lift arms to the yellow 3L axle. Insert a brown candle stick into the bottom of the black 1x2 thin liftarms. Insert the part by the red 2L axle into the center of the build so the Brown candle stick faces the back.

Let's make 2 identical parts.

17.1 Place a gray 1x2 plate with hinge finger vertically in front of you with the hinge finger to the left.

Place a green 2x2 curved slope tile on the ppp so it slopes to the left and overhangs to the right.

17.2 Place two green 10x2x2 curved wedge bricks side by side horizontally and attach them to the anti-studs of the right column of the part.

17.3 Flip the build upside down. Attach a green 2x2 inverted round tile with rounded bottom on the leftmost two columns, centered vertically. Attach a brown 1x2 axle connector with two fingers to the gray 1x2 hinge plate with hinge finger.

17.4 You should now have two identical parts.

17.5 Attach the brown 1x2 hinge cylinder to the right rear brown 1x2 plate with upright bar. Orient the leaf so the tiled side faces upwards at a 45 degree angle. The leaf should point towards the back right. Repeat symmetrically to the left.

Group 4: Small Leaves: Step 18

Let's make 2 identical parts.

18.1 Place a green 2x4 plate horizontally in front of you. Place a green 2x2 curved slope tile on the front row so it is centered horizontally and slopes and overhangs to the front. Repeat symmetrically to the back.

18.2 Place a green 2x2 curved slope corner tile to the right of the ppp, corner to the back right. Repeat symmetrically to the left. Repeat the previous two placement symmetrically to the front.

18.3 Flip the part upside down. Vertically attach a gray 1x2 plate with hinge finger on the long side, locking finger to the left on the leftmost column.

18.4 Place a green 2x2 inverted curved slope on the ppp.

18.5 Attach a brown 1x2 axle connector with 2 hinge fingers to the gray 1x2 hinge plate. You should now have two identical parts.

18.6 Attach the brown axle connector to the front right brown 1x2 plate with upwards bar. The tiled side should face upwards at a 45 degree angle and the leaf should face to the front right. Repeat symmetrically to the left.

Group 5: Plant Step: Step 19-22

19. Behind the yellow 3L axle insert a brown candle into the black axle hole. Stack two more on top. Insert a black 2L bar with stop ring into the brown candle.

Let's make a part:

20.1 Insert a red 2L axle into the top of a green 2L axle connector.

20.2 Attach a green 2L axle connector to the red 2L axle. Insert another red 2L axle into the top of the previous piece.

20.3 Attach a green angled axle connector to the red 2L axle. The connector should face upwards and to the right.

20.4 Insert a black technic pin with a pin hole into the back facing pin hole of the angled connector.

20.5 Attach the part to the yellow axle, the pin hole should be over the black 2L bar. The angle should face up and to the right.

21. Stack 5 brown candle sticks onto the black 2L bar with a stop ring. This is the dowel that helps to stabilize the orchid.

Let's make a part:

22.1 Attach a green 2L axle connector to the top of a black double axle and pin connector. The pinholes should face left and right.

22.2 Attach another black double axle and pin connector to the green 2L axle connector. The pin holes should face left and right.

22.3 Attach an angled axle connector to the ppp. It should face up and to the right. The pinholes on the bent connector should face front and back.

22.4 Attach a black double axle and pin connector to another angled axle connector. Repeat two more times. The angle should face up and to the right. All the pin holes should face left and right.

22.5 Attach the first axle and pin connector to the angled axle connector on the main build. The stem of the orchid should face up and to the right.

Group 6: Buds: Steps 23-25

23. Place a green 1x1 cone brick in front of you. Place a green 1x1 round tile with upright bar on the ppp.

Let's make 2 identical parts

23.2 Attach a green egg to the stud on a green plant stem. Repeat again. Attach the first part stem to the green 1x1 round plate with an upright bar. Egg to the right. Repeat with the second part, egg to the left.

23.3 Attach a bar with a stud on each end to the pin on top of the part. Attach a flower stem to the top of the ppp.

23.4 On each of the stems place a lime flower bud with a bar.

23.5 Attach the part to the end of the flower stem on the build. One egg should face up, one egg should face down.

Let's make a part.

24.1 Insert a black 2L bar with a stop ring into the stud side of a 1L pin with a stud. Attach a green 1x1 round plate with hollow stud onto the black 2L bar. Place a green 1x1 cone on the ppp. Insert a green 1L bar with angled stud into the ppp. Insert the part into the upwards facing side of the lowest open pinhole on the flower stem. The stud should face front and to the left.

Let's make a part.

24.2 Insert a green 1L pin with a stud into the stud side of a grey 1L pin with a stud. Attach the pin into the upwards facing side of the 3rd open pinhole on the stem. The stud should face up and to the left.

Let's make 3 identical parts.

25.1 Attach a grey 1L pin with a stud to a green technic pin with pinhole. Insert a black 2L bar with a stop ring into the pin. Place a green 1x1 round plate with pin hole on the ppp. You should now have three identical pieces.

25.2 Attach one of the parts you made to the right facing side of the lowest open pinhole. The bar should face front.

25.3 Attach another part to the upwards facing side of the highest pinhole. The bar should face front.

25.4 Attach the last part to the downward facing side of the second open pinhole from the top. The bar should face front.

Group 7: Petals: Steps 26-32

Let's make 5 identical parts.

26. Insert a gold 1L bar with claw into the stud holder of a gold 3x3 ring. The hands of the claw should face left and right.

27. Place a green 1x1 short round brick in the ring and insert the gold 1L bar into the pin hole. The stud should face up.

28. Attach a pink shield to the claw so the shield faces up. Orient your part so the shield faces front.

29. Place a pink 1x1 round plate with three leaves on the stud, so the eaves face the front. Place a pink 1x1 round plate on the ppp.

Let's make 2 identical parts.

30.1 Place a nougat 1x1 plate with tooth in front of you. Place a tan 1x1 with top clip on the ppp. The hands of the clip should face towards and away from the tooth. You will now have two identical parts.

30.2 Attach both clips to the gold ring. One tooth should face back left and the other should face back right. Orient the part vertically so the shield faces upwards and the pink 1x1 round plate faces front.

31. Insert the center bar of a white T bar into the anti-stud of an orange 1x1 round plate with 3 leaves. The T bar should face front and back and the plate with 3 leaves should face front. Insert the white T bar into the pink 1x1 round plate so the plate with 3 leaves faces front.

Let's make 2 identical parts.

32.1 Place a shield in front of you shield facing down with the point facing away from you. Attach a tan 1x1 tile with upright clip to the shield using the clip so that the part faces front. The anti-stud should face front. Attach a gold 1x1 plate with bottom clip to the ppp. The hands of the clip should face up and down.

32.2 Attach three of the parts to the gold ring so the shields face front and one faces up and right and another faces up and left. You have now completed one of the orchids.

32.3 You should now have 5 identical parts.

Group 8: Finishing: Step 33

33. Attach each of these petals to the studs you attached to the stem in steps 24 and 25. The petals should face front. They attach to the studs by the green 1x1 short rounded brick.

Page 41 shows a list of all the parts in the set sorted by color. The next page shows three other plants in the botanical mini series for each season. The three plants are; chrysanthemum, plum blossom, mini orchid and lucky bamboo.

Thank you so much for building this set!

Visit [bricksfortheblind.org](http://bricksfortheblind.org) for more accessible instructions, [signup](#) for our newsletter and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to be the first to know when new instructions are available!

We also love seeing your completed builds, so please tag our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts in any photos of your builds so we can share your accomplishments with our Bricks for the Blind community.

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