

## **42681 Axolotl Adventure Boat**

Set adapted by Miranda Delanty and tested by Jolene Nemeth

Enjoy pretend play and storytelling with a cute, pink axolotl-themed explorer boat featuring a wobbling tail, oars, and 2 life vests. This set comes with 2 characters, Leo and Alba, and 2 very cute mini axolotl toys so builders can create fun stories and explore the axolotl's natural habitat.

This build is 95 pieces designed for ages 5 and up.

On the front of the box, Leo, wearing an orange life vest and holding black binoculars, sits in front of the pink axolotl adventure boat. Alba, wearing an orange life vest, stands in the back of the boat. They are in the water, surrounded by the foliage of the axolotl's habitat. Two axolotls named Bubbles, a light pink color, and Opal, a light azure color, are in the water enjoying worms. There is an advertisement on the front of the box that states "Watch Series Online."

On the back of the box, there are three different pictures inspiring storytelling and pretend play. The top picture shows Leo and Alba standing outside of the boat. Opal, the light azure axolotl, is on top of the habitat which is covered in pink waterlilies and green vines. Bubbles, the light pink axolotl, is standing outside of the habitat enjoying worms. The bottom left picture shows Leo sitting in the Axolotl adventure boat with an oar in his hands. This shows the wobbling tail. The bottom right picture shows Opal and Bubbles swimming in the water, enjoying some worms. There is a QR code in the top right corner of the box to scan to access the Friends series online.

There is one tab on the right side of the back of the box that shows a finger or thumb where you hold down while opening the box up from the bottom.

Inside the box there are 2 bags with pieces, 2 instructional books, and a 6x6 medium azure plate with round corner.

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/building-instructions/42681>. 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.

**Technic brick** - a brick which contains one or more holes which accept technic pins.

**Lift-arms** - A lift-arm is a basic structural element, similar to a brick or a plate, but usually without any studs. It is a beam with rounded ends and with holes in it, with the same spacing as the studs on a LEGO brick. lift-arms come in a variety of lengths, including a 1x1 lift-arm which looks like a cylinder. Thick lift-arms are as wide as a LEGO brick, and thin lift-arms are half as wide as a LEGO brick, but not the same thickness as a LEGO plate! The holes in a lift-arm arm may accept axles or pins. They also come in a variety of shapes, including tees, ells and triangles.

**Gears** - A gear is a functional element. They are typically discs with teeth on the outside, there are also worm gears which look like a spiraling cylinder! Gears connected by axles transmit or even transform rotational motion!

**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.

**Bushes/Bushings** - LEGO Technic™ uses bushes largely as spacers, but they also can reduce friction between rotating parts, or can form useful elements such as handles. Bushes are typically light gray, generally cylindrical, and have an axle-hole running through the middle. They have a flange at the front and back to make them easier to pull on and off

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 includes the pieces to build Leo and the light pink Axolotl adventure boat with a double oar and water bottle. Bag 2 includes the pieces to build Alba and the axolotl habitat, in addition to the mini axolotls, Bubbles and Opal.

Bag 1 – Leo and Axolotl Adventure Boat

Group 1 – Substeps 1-4 to build Leo with a water bottle

Group 2 – Steps 1-8

Group 3 – Steps 9-13

Group 4 – Steps 14-22

Group 5 – Step 23

Bag 2 – Alba and Axolotl habitat

Group 6 – pieces for Alba

Group 7 – Steps 1-9

Group 8 – Steps 10-17

Group 9 – Steps 18-23

Let's get to building!

Building instructions (Bag 1, Book 1):

Group 1 – Leo with an orange life vest and water bottle

1. Place the torso printed with the orange vest with the geometric print overtop a red and white horizontally striped tank top on the legs printed with navy blue cargo shorts and blue sneakers.
2. Place the orange life vest on top of the torso, with life vest facing forward. Place the medium nougat mini doll head printed with thick black eyebrows, dark orange eyes, and a lopsided grin on top of the life vest and torso.
3. Place the reddish brown short tousled hair with 2 locks on the left side on top of the mini doll head.
4. Place a white 1x1 round plate with open stud and bar arm on a translucent light blue 1x1 round brick, with the arm bar hanging down. Place a dark azure 1x1 round tile with upright bar and small pin hole on the ppp. You just made a water cup. Place this in Leo's hand.

Leo is ready for his adventure. Now let's build the axolotl adventure boat!

Group 2 – Axolotl Adventure Boat

1. Place a bright pink 4x4 plate in front of you.
2. Horizontally place a dark pink 2x4 plate on the ppp so it is centered vertically.
3. Place a bright pink 2x2 plate with inverted curved slope on the back left corner of the 4x4 plate so it slopes to the back. Place another symmetrically to the right of ppp. Then, repeat the last 2 placements symmetrically to the front.
4. Vertically place a tan 1x3 plate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> rows from the back of the leftmost column. Then, repeat symmetrically to the right.
5. Horizontally place a black 1x2 plate on the back row so it is centered horizontally.
6. Place a tan 1x2 panel with rounded corners and center divider in front of the ppp. Place a tan 2x2 tile in front of the ppp.
7. Horizontally place two tan 1x2 plates with clip on the short end, one to the right of the other, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row from the front so the clips face outward to the left and right.

Let's build a part.

- 8.1 Place a medium stone grey 1x4 plate with bar hanging down from the long side horizontally in front of you.
- 8.2 Place a medium stone grey ½ pin with stud on the arm bar of the ppp, so the stud goes into the bar, and the pin hangs down.  
Place this part horizontally on the front row of the build with the studs facing up.

Let's make a part!

Group 3 – Axolotl Adventure Boat wobbly tail

9. Place a white 2x3 plate with rounded side and pin hole horizontally in front of you with the hole to the left.
10. Place another white 2x3 plate with rounded side and pin hole on top of the ppp so the pin holes line up.
11. Place two bright pink 1x2 jumper plates vertically side-by-side on the studs of the ppp.
12. Horizontally place a satin translucent dark pink 1x2 rounded plate with leaf on top of the 2 ppp so the leaf overhangs to the right.
13. Rotate your part 90 degrees clockwise so the leaf faces the front.  
Attach the downward facing pin at the front of the main build to the pin hole at the back of the sub build.

Let's get back to finishing the remainder of the boat!

Group 4 – Axolotl Adventure Boat continued

14. Rotate the main build 90 degrees clockwise so the leaf is on the left.  
Vertically place 2 bright pink 1x2 jumper plates, one in front of the other, on the leftmost column.

15. Vertically place a tan 1x2 slope tile on the second column from the left so it is centered vertically and it slopes to the right.

16. Horizontally place 2 bright pink 1x2 slope tiles, one to the right of the other, on the back row so they slope to the front and together they are centered horizontally. Repeat symmetrically to the front.

17. Vertically place a gray 1x2 plate with upright inverted 2x2 tile on the rightmost column so it is centered vertically and the side studs face the right.

18. Place a tan 1x1 plate with side stud hanging down on the front row of the ppp so the side stud faces the front. Repeat this placement symmetrically to the back

19. Vertically place a bright pink 1x2 jumper plate on the 2 ppp.

Let's make some gills for the axolotl boat.

20. Let's make 2 identical parts. Insert the micro pin of a transparent pink pair of antlers into the top facing micro pin hole of a bright pink 1x1 round tile with bar and micro pin hole. Now that you have 2 identical parts, place one upright on the front facing side stud on the rightmost column of the build so the antlers are vertical. Repeat symmetrically to the back. These are the axolotl gills.

21. Horizontally place a bright pink 2x4 oval tile printed with a face with dark blue and white eyes and smile, upright on the right facing side studs. You might have to get sighted assistance to make sure that the plate is oriented so that the eyes are on the top and the smile is on the bottom.

22. Attach black binoculars to the tan clip on the front left of the build.

Let's build the oar.

Group 5 - Oar

23.1 Hold a medium gray 1l bar with 2 side studs vertically in front of you so the side studs face the left and right.

23.2 Insert a white 2l bar into the left facing stud.  
Repeat with another 3l bar symmetrically to the right.

23.3 Attach a bright yellow paddle head to each of the white bars.  
You have built the oar. Attach the bar of your oar to the back facing clip.

Great job! You have built the Axolotl Adventure boat! Next up, you will build Alba and the axolotl habitat.

Bag 2, Book 2

Group 6 – Alba

Place an orange life vest on the top pin of the micro body printed with dark pink short-sleeve dress with an axolotl on the chest and dark pink shoes, with the life vest facing forward. Place a medium dark minidoll head printed with dark brown eyebrows, brown eyes, and closed mouth smile on top of the ppp. Place dark brown mid-length combed behind the ear hair on the ppp.

You have built Alba. She is ready for adventures on the Axolotl boat.

Let's build the axolotl habitat now!

Group 7 – Axolotl Habitat

1. Place a medium azure 6x6 quarter round plate in front of you so the rounded corner faces the front left.
2. Vertically place a transparent bright green 1x4 brick on the back 4 rows of the rightmost column.
3. Vertically place a transparent light blue 1x2 slope brick in front of the ppp so it slopes to the front.
4. Vertically place a transparent light blue 1x2 tile on the back 2 rows of the 2<sup>nd</sup> column from the right.
5. Place a transparent light blue 2x2 jumper plate in front of the ppp. Then, place the right column of another to the back of the left column of the ppp.
6. Horizontally place a transparent light blue 1x2 brick on the back row to the left of the ppp.
7. Place a transparent blue 1x1 slope tile on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row from the back of the leftmost column so it slopes to the front. Then, place a transparent 1x1 round tile printed with worms to the right of the ppp.
8. Place a dark green 2x2 round jumper plate on the front 2 rows of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> columns from the right. Then, place another on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rows from the back of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> columns from the left.
9. Place a transparent 1x1 round tile printed with worms on the leftmost column of the 2<sup>nd</sup> row from the front. Then place a medium lavender 1x1 round flower plate to the right of the ppp.

You have completed the base layer of the habitat. Let's build the canopy.

Group 8 – Axolotl Habitat

10. Place a transparent bright green 1x1 round brick on the back right corner. Then, vertically place a transparent light blue 1x2 brick in front of the ppp.
11. Vertically place a transparent light blue 1x2 slope brick in front of the ppp so it slopes to the front.
12. Vertically place a transparent bright green 1x4 brick on the rightmost column.
13. Horizontally place a transparent light blue 1x2 brick on the back left corner.
14. Place a yellow-green 1x1 round plate with leaves on the leftmost stud of the ppp, with the leaves overhanging to the left. Place a yellow green 1x2 inverted slope brick horizontally to the right of the ppp so it slopes and overhangs 1 column to the right.
15. Horizontally place the right column of a yellow green 1x2 plate with slope tile on the ppp so it slopes to the left. The left column should sit on the round plate with leaves.
16. Place a lime green 4x4 quarter round plate on the back right corner of the build so the rounded corner is in the front left. This makes a canopy over the water below.
17. Place a translucent light blue 2x2 jumper plate on the rightmost back corner of the ppp.

Let's add the flowers and foliage to the habitat!

Group 9 – Axolotl habitat, foliage

18. Horizontally place a bright green 1x2 slope brick to the left of the back row of the ppp so it slopes to the right. Then, place another vertically on the front 2 rows of the rightmost column of the build so it slopes to the back.

19. Place a medium lavender 1x1 round flower plate to the left of the back row of the ppp. Place a clear 1x1 round tile printed with a worm pattern on the leftmost stud of the third row from the front of the top lime green 4x4 quarter round plate.

20. Let's make two identical water lilies. Place a translucent yellow 1x1 plant flower with 2 layers onto a bright pink 2x2 round flower with 16 petals with open stud. Now you should have 2 identical parts. Place these on the two dark green 2x2 round jumper plates on the bottom layer of the habitat.

21. Let's make 3 identical lavender flowers with leaves. Place a lavender flower with bar and small pin hole into the open stud of a lime green 1x1 plate with leaves. Now you should have 3 identical parts. Place one of these parts onto the leftmost front stud of the bottom medium azure 6x6 plate with the leaves overhanging to the left. Place another one of these flower parts on the leftmost front stud of the top lime green 4x4 quarter round plate with the leaves overhanging to the front left. Place the last flower part on the rightmost front stud on the top of the habitat with the leaves overhanging to the front.

22. Place a bright green 1x1 round plate with drooping leaves on the back left stud on top of the build so the leaves face the front left.

23. Place a lavender flower with a micro bar on the ppp.

Add Bubbles and Opal the mini axolotls to their habitat. They can enjoy hiding under the canopy behind the overhanging leaves, or on the jumper plate on the top.

You have finished all parts of this build! Enjoy Leo, Alba, Opal, and Bubbles playing in this Axolotl Adventure Boat with axolotl habitat.

Congratulations on finishing your build! Would you like to inspire other blind people to build LEGO sets?

Let's feature your build on our [Builders page](#). It's easy and we will do all the work! Just contact us at [info@bricksfortheblind.org](mailto:info@bricksfortheblind.org) and together we will make it happen!

We hope you enjoyed building your LEGO set! Bricks for the Blind are able to create these text-based building instructions thanks to generous donations from our builders. If you enjoy the instructions we create, please consider making a \$5 donation at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bricks-for-the-blind-gofundme>

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At the end of the instruction booklet are advertisements for the following 5 Lego Friends themed sets:

42684 – Unicorn Dream Cafe

42652 – Friendship Tree House Hangout  
42688 – Horse Stable and Riding Academy  
42695 – Horse and Baby Foal Trailer  
42687 – Liann's Family House