

10281 Bonsai Tree

Set adapted by Maggie McGonigle and tested by Ashley Eisenmenger.

The art of growing miniature trees in decorative pots originated in China over 2000 years ago. This LEGO® variety is much more modern, but the process and outcome is the same: you assemble, plant and prune your LEGO Bonsai, then watch as it grows into a beautiful creation you can be proud of for yourself and share with others. Enjoy!

Growing up in New Zealand, LEGO® Designer Nicolaas Vás always loved trees and plants but admits to being pretty bad at looking after them. Luckily, he's much better at creating beautiful horticulture from LEGO elements. His first LEGO Bonsai tree was created as part of his work with the LEGO NINJAGO® series, and since then he's become the Bonsai specialist within the LEGO design team.

The box for this set is a simple black background with a photo of the Bonsai Tree build with green foliage centered on the front with the title "Bonsai Tree" in green capital letters centered at the top of the box. The "O" in Bonsai has a small Torri gate in the center. There is a small white silhouette of a Bonsai Tree above the green set title. The bottom of the box is a tan LEGO brick banner with the word "Botanicals" in white. The back of the box is a simple black background with a photo of the Bonsai Tree build with white and pink foliage. The green foliage for the build is detached and surrounding the base of the tree. This is accompanied by a diagram on the bottom left of the box depicting how the foliage can be interchanged on the tree from green to white. In the bottom center there is a photo showing that the Bonsai Tree and Pot can be separated from the stand. On the bottom right there is a diagram showing the dimensions of the build as 7 inches tall and 7.5 inches wide.

878 pieces

Recommended Ages 18+

When completed you will have a pot with a Bonsai tree, a stand, an alternative option for the tree's foliage, and no minifigs. The set consists of 6 numbered bags.

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/10281>

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.

- Group 1 Bonsai Pot – Bag 1, Steps 1 to 13
- Group 2 Tree Trunk – Bag 2, Steps 14 to 54
- Group 3 Bonsai Pot Soil – Bag 3, Step 55
- Group 4 Green Foliage – Bag 4, Steps 56 to 70
- Group 5 Pink Foliage – Bag 5, Steps 71 to 85
- Group 6 Bonsai Stand – Bag 6, Steps 86 to 103

Bonsai Pot – Steps 1 to 13

1. Place a tan 8x6 plate vertically.
2.
Orient the 2x2 plate with 2 side studs so the side studs face the back. Place its front right stud plate under the back left stud of the 8x6 tan plate.
Position the second 2x2 plate with 2 side with the side-studs to the front. Place the back right stud of it under the front left stud of the tan plate.
3.
Place the second 8x6 tan plate vertically, connecting the front right stud and back right stud of the second tan plate to the exposed studs of the plates with side-studs, symmetrically to the first 8x6 tan plate. The lower portion of the plates with side-studs should be covered, while the taller portion remains exposed in front of and behind the tan plates.
4.
Find 6 dark grey 2x6 plates, with an offset taller 1x4 section.

Position the first 2x6 plate with the taller side away from you. Place the piece behind the back side of 8x6 tan plate to the left of the light grey 2x2 offset plate, with the lower 1x6 under the tan plate.

Repeat symmetrically to the right of the 2x2 plate.

Repeat symmetrically on the front left and right of the tan plates.

Position a 2x6 offset plate vertically with the taller side to your left. Place the piece behind left side of the 8x6 tan plate.

Repeat symmetrically on the right side of the tan plate.

You should now have dark grey offset plates surrounding the tan plates.

5.

Find 4 light grey 1x3 plates and 4 white 1x1 plates

Place the first white stud on the back side of your build, on the lower portion to the left of the light grey 2x2 offset.

Repeat symmetrically on the right.

Repeat symmetrically on the front left and right of your build.

Position a 1x3 light grey plate vertically. Place the piece with the back stud of the 1x3 plate on the back left stud of your build.

Repeat symmetrically on the back right side of the build.

Repeat symmetrically on the front left and right side of the build.

You should now have a rectangular build with all of the studs at an even level.

6.

Find a 4x4 white turntable with a raised open stud in the center and a raised circle touching the edges.

Find 4 white angled tiles.

Place the 4x4 white tile in the center of your build, so there are 3 studs in front of the front edge and 5 studs to the left and right edges.

Place the 2x2 tiles with cut corner around the ppp, so that their cut corners face outwards, one will face front left, front right, back left, and back right, respectively.

7.

Find 4 white 1x1 studs.

Place a stud on the left side of the 4x4 white plate, behind the angled tile in the front left corner.

Place a stud on the back side of the 4x4 white plate, to the right of the angled tile on the back left corner.

Place a stud on the right side of the 4x4 white plate, in front of the angled tile on the back right corner.

Place a stud on the front side of the 4x4 white plate, to the left of the angled tile on the front right corner.

You should have one stud on each side of the 4x4 white plate, none of the studs placed symmetrically.

8.

Find 10 light grey 1x4 bricks with open studs on the side

Find 4 light grey 1x1 bricks.

These pieces will line the edge of your build.

Position a 1x4 light grey brick horizontally with the side studs facing away from you.

Place the 1x4 brick on the back left edge of your build, so that the left stud of the 1x4 brick is on the back left corner of your build.

Place a 1x1 brick to the right of the ppp.

Place a 1x4 brick horizontally with the side studs away from you to the right of the ppp.

Place a 1x1 brick to the right of the ppp.

Place a 1x4 brick horizontally with the side studs away from you to the right of the ppp.

Repeat symmetrically on the front of the build with the side studs facing toward you.
Position a 1x4 brick vertically with the side studs to the left.
Place the brick on the left edge of your build.
Place another 1x4 brick vertically in front of the ppp.
Repeat symmetrically on the right.
You should now have a raised ring of bricks around your build.

9.

Find 4 dark grey 1x10 plates.
Find 4 black 1x2 plates with end bar handle.
Place a 1x10 plate vertically, connecting to the side studs on the left side of your build.
Repeat symmetrically on the right.
Place a 1x2 plate standing upright, on the 2 front left side studs facing you, with the end bar handle facing to the left.
Place a 1x10 plate horizontally to the right of the ppp on the side studs.
Place a 1x2 plate standing upright, on the 2 front right side studs facing you, with the end bar handle facing to the right.
Repeat symmetrically on the back of the build.
You should now have upright plates surrounding the top layer of your build, the top outer edges of your build should be at an even level.

10.

Find 24 black curved sloped 2x2 tiles.
These pieces will be used to make the outside edge of your build smooth.
Position a 2x2 tile upright with the smooth side facing you.
Place the tile on the front left side studs of your build, with the top edge even with the top of your build, and the curve in toward the bottom. Connect the antistuds to the side studs on the outside of your build.
Repeat to the right of the ppp, continue repeating around all 4 sides of the build.

11.

Find 4 black 2x12 plates.
Position a 2x12 plate vertically.
Place flat on the left edge of your build, so that the studs on the right of your plate are on top of the studs on the left of your build. The plate will overhang one column to the left.
Repeat symmetrically on the right.
Place a 2x12 plate horizontally on the back edge of your build.
Repeat symmetrically on the front.

12.

Find 12 black 2x6 tiles.
Position the first tile horizontally.
Place the piece flat on the front left of your build so that the left edge of the tile is aligned with the left edge of the ppp.
Place the next tile to the right of the ppp.
Repeat, continuing around the edge of your build, on top of the 2x12 plates placed in the previous step.

13.

Using the remaining pieces from bag 1, create a mini build for the feet of the Bonsai pot.

For each foot, place a 2x2 plate on top of the studs of the round 2x2 with stem. Then place a black tire on each stem. Repeat four times.

Turn your build upside down.

Place a planter foot on each corner of your build.

Set your first build to the side for now.

Tree Trunk – Steps 14 to 54

Open Bag 2. Place the pieces in the small bag in a separate container.

14.

Find the 6x6 light tan round plate.

Position the plate so there are 6 studs horizontally.

15.

Find 1 black 2x3 plate.

Position the 2x3 plate horizontally centered.

Place the plate so the right edge of the plate is aligned with the right edge of the ppp.

Find 2 tan 1x2 plates with top clip.

Position the 1x2 plates horizontally so that the top clip is to the left.

Place the plates horizontally to the left of the ppp placed one in front of the other.

16.

Find 2 reddish brown ingot (gold-bar shaped tiles).

Place one ingot horizontally in front of the tan plates with top clips.

Place one ingot horizontally behind the tan plates with top clips.

17.

Find 1 reddish brown 2x2 corner (L shaped) plate.

Position the plate with 2 studs vertically on the left, and 2 studs horizontally on the back (the front right stud of the plate is "open").

Place the plate on the studs immediately to the right of the tan top clips.

Find 1 tan 1x2 plate with top clip.

Position the plate horizontally with the top clip on the left.

Place the plate immediately to the right of the back right stud of the ppp.

18.

Find a 1x2 tan plate with top clip and a black 1x1 stud with bar.

Position the 1x2 plate horizontally with top clip to the right.

Place the plate with the top clip in front of the top clip on the ppp. The two top clips should be aligned vertically.

Place the black 1x1 stud to the right of the ppp with the bar pointing to the right.

19.

Find a 1x2 light grey slope curved.

Position the slope vertically with the anti-studs down and the curved face to the left.

Place the brick on the 2 studs on the right edge of your build.
Place the assembly to the side.

20.

Find a 2x6 dark brown plate and a 2x3 black plate.

Position both pieces horizontally.

Place the 2x6 plate on top of the 2x3 plate so the right edges are aligned. The left side of the 2x6 plate will overhang the 2x3 plate.

21.

Find a 1x2 turquoise bracket with 2 side studs.

Position the piece vertically with the side studs to the right.

Place the piece on the right studs of your build.

22.

Find a black 1x2 bracket plate, with 2x2 side studs.

Find a white 1x2 plate.

Position the black bracket with the side studs toward the right.

Position the 1x2 white plate vertically.

Place the 1x2 white plate on top of the 1x2 studs on the black bracket.

Find 2 dark brown 1x2 plates.

Rotate your black and white pieces so the 2x2 open studs are facing up, and the 1x2 white plate is horizontal.

Place the 2 dark brown 1x2 plates vertically, symmetrically on the 2x2 open studs.

Find a 2x2 dark brown round plate with axle hole.

Place the plate centered on the ppps.

Rotate your pieces so the ppp is facing right, the 1x2 white plate is flat and positioned vertically and the side studs on the bracket are to the right.

Place this mini-build on top of the turquoise bracket placed in the previous step.

23.

Find two reddish brown 5x4 inverted arch bricks (smooth curve on one side, stair-steps on the other).

Position the piece upright so that the smooth curve is facing left, and the offset 1x1 stud is on the left.

Place the piece on the back of your build so the "stair-steps" on the right are touching the ppp mini-build.

Place the second piece identically in front of the ppp.

Find a black 1x1 stud with bar.

Place the stud on front left stud of your build with the bar to the left.

24.

Find 2 dark brown 1x2 curved sloped tiles.

Position the first sloped tile horizontally with the slope going down to the right.

Place it on the two front left studs of your build. The ppp stud with bar should be under the left anti-stud of the curved slope tile.

Position the second tile horizontally with the slope going down to the left.

Place the tile with the left stud of sloped tile behind the right stud of the ppp.

The two tiles should be offset by one stud and sloping toward each other.

25.

Find two reddish brown 2x3 tiles with horizontal bar.

Rotate your build 90 degrees back so that it is laying flat with the curved face of the tall reddish brown arches facing left.

Place a tile on the left and right of the front of your build that facing you with the horizontal bars pointing toward you.

26.

Retrieve the round assembly you set aside in step 19.

Place the horizontal bars of the ppps into the top clips on the round assembly.

The build with the tall arches will be tilted, this forms the roots and base of the trunk of your Bonsai tree.

Set this assembly to the side for now.

27.

Mini-Build!

27.1

Find a 2x4 reddish brown wedge plate with left wing. This plate has 4 linear studs and an angled tile portion with the tall side on the left when the plate is positioned horizontally with the studs on the front.

Note: there are both left and right wedge plates in this bag, make sure you confirm you have the correct plate.

Find a dark brown 2x2 sloped tile with point.

Position the wedge plate horizontally with the studs on the front of the plate.

Place the back anti-stud of sloped tile on the left stud of the ppp with the point of sloped tile facing the left.

27.2.

Find a 4x4 reddish brown plate with circular cutout.

Position the plate with the straight side on the back and right, the circular cutout is facing the left.

Place the plate with the back left stud under the front right corner of the sloped tile.

27.3.

Find a 3x3 reddish brown wedge plate.

Position the plate with 3 studs on the right and 3 studs across the back of the plate.

Place the plate with the back of the plate on the back 3 studs of your mini-build, with the right edge aligned to the right edge of the mini-build.

27.4.

Find a 1x4 dark brown slope brick with one stud.

Position the brick vertically with the stud at the back.

Place the brick on the front 2 studs of your mini-build.

Find a 1x2 reddish brown bracket plate with 2x2 vertical tile with anti-studs (T shaped)

Position the bracket with the 1x2 plate vertically, and the vertical tile on the right.

Place the 1x2 plate of the bracket on the 2 studs behind the ppp.

27.5

Find 2 dark brown 1x2 curved sloped tiles.

Position both curved sloped tiles vertically with the slope down toward the back.

Place the first curved sloped tile on the 2 back right studs of your mini-build.

Place the second curved sloped tile on the 2 front right studs of your mini-build.

The entire right edge of your mini-build should now be smooth (no studs)

Retrieve your tree-trunk assembly.

Position your tree-trunk assembly so the tallest portion is on the right side.

Rotate your mini-build so the bracket anti-studs are facing down.

Rotate again so the smooth edge is facing you and the tallest side is on the right.

Place the mini-build on the circular plate at the base of your tree-trunk assembly attaching the bracket anti-studs to studs to the right of the ingot.

28.

Mirror Mini-Build!

28.1.

Find a 4x4 reddish brown plate with circular cutout.

Position the plate with the straight side on the front and right, the circular cutout is facing the left.

Find a dark brown 2x2 sloped tile with point.

Place the back right anti-stud of the sloped tile on the left stud of the ppp with the point facing the left.

28.2.

Find a 2x4 reddish brown wedge plate with right wing. This plate has 4 linear studs and an angled tile portion with the tall side on the right when the plate is positioned horizontally with the studs on the front.

Note: there are both left and right wedge plates in this bag, make sure you confirm you have the correct plate.

Position the wedge plate horizontally with the studs on the back of the plate.

Place the plate with the back left stud of the wing plate under the front right corner of the sloped tile with point.

28.3.

Find a 3x3 reddish brown wedge plate.

Position the plate with 3 studs on the right and 3 studs across the front of the plate.

Place the plate with the front of the plate on the front 3 studs of your mini-build, with the right edge aligned to the right edge of the mini-build.

28.4.

Find a 1x4 dark brown slope brick with one stud.

Position the brick vertically with the stud at the front.

Place the brick on the back 2 studs of your mini-build.

Find a 1x2 reddish brown bracket plate with 2x2 vertical tile with anti-studs. (T shaped)

Position the bracket with the 1x2 plate vertically, and the vertical tile on the right.

Place the 1x2 plate of the bracket on the 2 studs in front of the ppp.

28.5.

Find 2 dark brown 1x2 curved sloped tiles.

Position both curved sloped tiles vertically with the slope down toward the front.

Place the first curved sloped tile on the 2 front right studs of your mini-build.

Place the second curved sloped tile on the 2 back right studs of your mini-build.

The entire right edge of your mini-build should now be smooth (no studs)

Retrieve your tree-trunk assembly.

Position your tree-trunk assembly so the tallest portion is on the left side.

Rotate your mini-build so the bracket anti-studs are facing down.
Rotate again so the smooth edge is facing you and the tallest side is on the left.
Place the mini-build on the circular plate at the base of your tree-trunk assembly attaching the bracket anti-studs to studs to the right of the ingot.

Set your tree trunk to the side.

29.

Find a reddish brown 1x4 hinge plate. (The hinge may be closed in your kit and feel more like a 2x2 plate with a bump on one edge)

Position this plate partially open with the opening toward you.

30.

Find 2 dark brown 2x2 round plate with axle hole.

Place 2 studs of the round plate under each leg of the hinge plate with the remaining studs on the round plate toward the back of your build.

31.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x4 hinge plates.

Open each hinge to approximately 90 degrees.

Position the first hinge with two studs vertically on the left, and two studs horizontally on the front.

Place the two horizontal studs on the available studs of the round plate on the right.

Position the second hinge with 2 studs vertically on the right, and two studs horizontally on the front.

Place the two horizontal studs on the available studs on the round plate on the left.

Adjust the hinges so the free legs of the hinges are positioned vertically and the long side of the free legs are touching.

32.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 bricks and 2 dark brown 1x2 bricks with pin holes.

Rotate the build approximately 90 degrees counter clockwise, so the free hinge legs are on the left.

Place a dark brown brick horizontally on the back 2 studs of your build.

Place a reddish brown brick horizontally on the remaining available studs, directly in front of the ppp.

Rotate the build approximately 90 degrees counter clockwise, and repeat.

You should have 2 bricks on top of each set of hinge legs that are connected by a round plate, with pin holes on the outside of your build.

33.

Find 2 reddish brown 2x3 curved arches. (These pieces have studs on the "stair steps" and the curved side is open)

Find a reddish brown 1x2 ingot (gold-bar shaped piece with no studs)

Connect the arches side by side, with the arches pointed in the same direction, by placing the ingot on top of the "stair steps" with one stud.

Position this mini-assembly with the ingot vertically on the left.

Connect the free legs of your hinge assembly to the available 2x2 studs on arch assembly horizontally.

You should now have the arch assembly on the left of your build and the bricks with pin holes on the right.

34.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 plates with hooks

Place one plate horizontally on the back 2 studs of the hinge legs connected to your arch assembly with the hook facing the back.

Repeat symmetrically on the remaining available studs on the hinge legs with the hook facing the front.

35.

Find a 1x2 reddish brown bracket plate with 2x2 side studs

Find a 1x2 dark brown plate.

Position the bracket with the 1x2 plate vertically.

Place the bracket plate on the left studs of the ppps with the open studs facing the left.

Place the dark brown plate vertically immediately to the right of the ppp.

36.

Find a 2x2 reddish brown 2x2 plate with 2 side studs.

Find a 1x2 reddish brown plate with hook.

Position the plate with the side studs on the left.

Place the two right studs of the plate on the left two studs of your build. The plate should overhang the left edge of your build.

Place the plate with hook vertically, immediately to the right of the ppp with the hook facing the right. The hook should be in the center of the triangle formed by the hinge assembly in your build.

37.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x4 hinge plates.

Open each hinge to approximately 90 degrees.

Position the first hinge with 2 studs horizontally on the front and 2 studs vertically on the right.

Connect the horizontal studs to the 2 back right studs of the left arm of your build.

Adjust the free leg of the hinge to connect to the two back studs on the back right arm of your build.

The hinge should be near the center of your build.

Repeat symmetrically connecting the front of your build's left arm to the front right arm.

38.

Find 2 reddish brown 2x2 curved sloped tiles.

Position the sloped tiles so they are sloping down to the right.

Place one tile on each of the right arms of the hinge assembly. The left antistuds of the sloped tile should cover the ppp.

39.

Find a 1x2 dark brown brick with pin hole.

Find a 2x2 dark brown round plate with axle hole.

Place the round plate on the 4 available studs on the top left of your build.

Rotate your build 90 degrees to the right, so the side studs on the left side of your build are facing up.

Place the 1x2 brick horizontally on the front left available studs.

Return your build to its previous orientation with the arches on the left and the smooth tiles on the right, facing up.

40.

Find a dark brown 1x2 curved sloped tile and a 1x1 reddish brown frog.

Position the curved sloped tile horizontally with the slope going down to the right.

Place the sloped tile on the 2 back right available studs of your build with the left anti-stud on top of the round plate.

Place the frog immediately to the left of the ppp with the head of the frog pointed left.

Set this assembly to the side momentarily.

41.

Find a 1x2 reddish brown plate with clip and a reddish brown long cattle horn.

Find a 1x2 dark brown plate.

Place the reddish plate with clip on top of the dark brown plate, covering both studs.

With the clip facing the back, connect the long cattle horn to the clip so the horn tip points left.

Retrieve your assembly.

Starting with the frog on top, rotate your build 90 degrees to the right so the frog is on the right side of your build.

Place the cattle horn mini-assembly on the back left available studs.

42.

We will now attach this assembly to your tree trunk.

Position your tree trunk with the tall side on the left.

Locate the two studs on the tallest portion of your tree trunk.

Connect the anti-studs on the bottom of the arches on your frog assembly, to these studs the tree trunk with the frog on the left.

When connected the tree trunk and new assembly will be at an angle.

43.

Find a 1x4 dark brown sloped brick with 1 stud.

Find a 1x1 reddish brown brick with side stud.

Rotate your tree so that the frog faces you and the inside of the C-shaped curve on the trunk faces the back.

From the smooth portion of the trunk facing you, move down the trunk to locate the 2x2 round plate.

Continuing down the tree trunk locate the two open studs on the turquoise bracket.

Place your dark brown sloped brick upright with the stud at the top and the slope pointing down on the right stud of the teal bracket.

Place the 1x1 brick on the left stud of the teal bracket, with the side stud facing down.

Set your tree trunk to the side.

44.

Find a 1x8 dark brown plate and a 2x6 dark brown plate.

Position both pieces horizontally.

Place the front anti-studs of the 2x6 plate, centered on the 1x8 plate, so there is 1 stud of overhang to the left and right.

45.

Find a 1x6 reddish brown plate.

Place the 1x6 plate under the anti-studs of the 2x6 plate, so that the right edge of the 1x6 plate aligns with the right edge of the 1x8 plate.

46.

Find a reddish brown 2x2 corner (L shaped) plate, and a 2x2 reddish brown curved sloped tile.

Position the sloped tile with the slope going down to the left.
Place the sloped tile on the left side of your build so the front right anti-stud of the tile is on the left-most stud of the build.
Position the 2x2 corner so there are 2 studs vertically on the right and 2 studs on the front.
Place the corner on the 2x6 plate leave one open stud to the right of the plate.

47.

Find a dark brown 2x4 curved sloped tile.
Position the tile with the slope going down to the right.
Place the tile so the right edge of the tile is aligned with the right edge of your build.

48.

Find a 1x4 dark brown sloped brick with one stud.
Position the brick horizontally with the stud on the right
Place the brick on the back of your build, immediately to the left of the ppp.
Find a 1x2 dark brown sloped tile.
Position the tile horizontally with the slope going down to the left.
Place the tile in front of the ppp on the right available studs.

49.

Retrieve your tree trunk.
Rotate your tree trunk horizontally so the base is on the left and the frog is on the right, with the smooth straight portion of the trunk pointing up.
Rotate your assembly so that 2x2 reddish brown sloped tile is on the right. On the underside of this build, you should feel a "notch" in the anti-studs on the front side of the build.
Locate the raised hollow studs on the right side of the tree trunk, connect the anti-studs in the notch of your assembly to the raised open studs on the tree trunk.
Return your trunk to upright.

50.

Find 3 reddish brown elbow tubes with axle hole.
Find 3 red 2L axles,
Insert an 2L axle into one end of each elbow piece.
On the top of your tree trunk, locate the 3 axle holes and connect the elbows by inserting the other end of the axles.
The elbows may be placed in any orientation, these are the branches of your Bonsai and may grow in whichever direction you please.

51.

Repeat the previous step with one additional elbow and 2L axle.
Connect this elbow to the axle hole in the elbow attached to the base of the trunk.

52.

From inside the box of the kit, locate 21 stud long flexible tubes with studs. These were not located in the bags for this step and are flexible.
Attach one end of each 21 stud long flexible tubes with studs to the black rod at the base of the trunk on the straight side.

Wind the tubes around the trunk attaching the other end to the hooks on the left and right of the frog at the top of the trunk.

53.

Find 1 reddish brown mechanical arms with clips.

Find 2 black elephant trunks vines with rod on one end and stud on the other.

Attach the bar of one elephant trunk to the clip of the mechanical arm.

Slide the base of the mechanical arm on to the black rod on the curved side of the tree trunk with the elephant facing down. This is one of your Bonsai's roots.

On the straight side of the tree trunk locate the open stud above where your flexible vines connect.

Attach the anti-stud of the other s-vine to this open stud.

54.

Attach the base of your Bonsai tree trunk to the white plates at the bottom of the Bonsai pot.

55.

Open Bag 3 of small studs, and do not dump out the pieces.

Retrieve the smaller bag inside bag 3. Open the smaller bag and dump the pieces into the larger bag to mix.

Carefully pour the pieces into your pot around the base of the Tree Trunk. These form the soil in the Bonsai tree's pot.

Green Foliage – Steps 56 to 70

You may build this section, or skip to Step 71 to build the pink flowering foliage for your Bonsai. The foliage may be interchanged after it is built.

Open Bag 4. Place the pieces in the small bag in a separate container.

56.

Find 1 green 1x1 plate with handle, and 1 green 1x2 rounded plate.

Position the 1x2 plate horizontally. Place the 1x1 plate on the left stud with the handle facing left.

57.

Find a green 5x6 green plant leaves piece. (Note, all of the plant leaves pieces in this bag are the same size)

Position the piece so there is 1 stud to the right and 4 studs vertically on the left.

Place the center of the leaf on top of the available open stud on the 1x2 plate.

58.

Find a 1x2 green rounded plate with open studs and rounded corners.

Place the plate horizontally on top of ppp connecting the leaf to the stud with handle.

59.

Find a reddish brown mechanical arm.

Attach the clip of the mechanical arm to the handle on the leaf assembly, with the support of the arm pointing down.

60.

Retrieve your tree trunk.

Place the support of the mechanical arm on the hook pointed upward in the center of your tree trunk to attach the leaf to the tree.

Set the tree trunk and leaf aside.

Foliage Cluster Mini-Build! Steps 61-68. You'll need to repeat steps 61-68 3 times to make 3 total foliage pieces, so feel free to build them all at once if you wish.

61.

Find a brown 2x2 round plate with axle hole.

62.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 bricks with pin hole.

Place the bricks on top of the ppp with the rod holes aligned.

63.

Find a dark grey 3-stud-long axle pin.

Place the smooth part of the axle pin through the rod holes.

64.

Find a reddish brown 1x2 bracket plate with 2x2 side studs attached, and a 1x2 dark brown plate with clip.

Position your build with the pin pointing left.

Place the bracket's 1x2 plate vertically on the right side of your build.

Place the 1x2 plate with clip vertically on the left side of your build with the clip toward you.

65.

Find a reddish brown 1x2 plate with hook, and a 1x2 dark brown plate with clip.

Position your build with the pin pointing left.

Place the 1x2 plate with hook horizontally on the back of your build with the hook away from you.

Place the 1x2 plate with clip horizontally on the front of your build with the clip to the right.

66.

Find a bright green 2x2 round plate with rod hole.

Place the plate on top of your build.

67.

Find a reddish brown mechanical arm.

Place the base of the arm on the hook.

68.

Create 3 leaves repeating these steps:

Find 1 green 1x1 plate with handle, and 1 green 1x2 round plate.

Position the 1x2 plate horizontally.

Place the 1x1 plate on the left stud with the handle facing left.

Find a plant leaves piece.

Position the piece so there is 1 stud to the right and 4 studs vertically on the left.

Place the center of the leaf on top of the available open stud on the 1x2 plate.
Find a 1x2 green round plate.
Place the plate horizontally on top of ppp connecting the leaf to the stud with handle.

Connect each leaf to one of the clips on your foliage assembly.

Repeat steps 61-68 two more times to create the foliage for your tree.

69.

Place each foliage cluster on one of the branches of your Bonsai by inserting the axle into the reddish brown elbow forming the branch.

70.

On the leaves, attach the green 1x1 studs with leaves and the 1x1 green flower studs to the open studs. The 1x1 studs are scattered across the leaves, not every open stud on the branches will be covered.

Pink Flowering Foliage – Steps 71 to 85

Open Bag 5. Set aside the bag with light pink frogs for now. Open the other small bag and place in a separate container.

71.

From large bag find 1 reddish brown mechanical arm and 1 reddish brown double hook.
Attach the handle of the double hook branch which looks like a pair of handlebars connector to the clip of the mechanical arm with the handles pointing up when the mechanical arm base points down.

Fun Fact – included on the instructions page: “These branch connectors were originally used as mini-doll bicycle handles”

72.

Find 2 white plant leaves.
Attach one plant leaf to each of the handles.

73.

Find 2 additional white plant leaves.
Attach an additional plant leaf to each of the handles. Pivot the leaves to the fan out creating branches for your Bonsai.

74 and 75.

Carefully open the bag of pink frogs, and place 10 frogs and 4 hot pink flowers on the open studs of the white branch in an assorted order. Not every stud will be covered.

Builders Note: The instruction guide recommends placing the frogs and flowers on the branches as you go. You may also choose to decorate all of your Bonsai branches at the end of this section.

Fun Fact – included on the instructions page: “The colorful blossoms on this tree are actually frog elements from earlier LEGO sets”

Retrieve your tree trunk.

Place the support of the mechanical arm on the hook pointed upward in the center of your tree trunk to attach the leaf to the tree.

Set the tree trunk and leaf aside.

Foliage Cluster Mini-build! You'll be repeating steps 76-84 three times to make 3 foliage clusters.

76.

Find a brown 2x2 round plate with axle hole.

77.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 bricks with pin hole.

Place the bricks on top of the round plate with the pin holes aligned.

78.

Find a dark grey axle pin.

Place the smooth part of the axle pin through the pin holes in the ppp.

79.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 plates with clip.

Position your build with the axle pointing left.

Place the 1x2 plate horizontally on the top and bottom of your build with the clips facing out.

80.

Find a reddish brown 1x2 bracket plate with 2x2 open studs attached.

Find a 1x2 dark brown plate.

Place the bracket's 1x2 plate vertically on the right side of your build with the 2x2 open studs facing the right.

Place the 1x2 dark brown plate vertically on the left of the ppp.

81.

Find a reddish brown 1x2 plate with hook.

Place the plate vertically on the left side of your build with the hook pointing to the left.

82.

Find a reddish brown 2x2 sloped curved tile.

Place the sloped tile on top of your build with the slope going down to the right.

Find a 2x2 dark brown round plate with axle hole.

Place the round plate on the right face of your build covering all of the available open studs.

83.

Find a mechanical arm.

Place the mechanical arm on the hook on the left side of your mini-build.

Set this mini-build to the side.

84.

Find a reddish brown double hook.

Place two white leaves on each of the hooks to create a branch assembly. Decorate the leaves on the assembly with 10 frogs and 4 flowers. Repeat 2 more times to create 3 branch assemblies.

Attach the handle of each branch assembly to the clips on your mini-build.

Repeat steps 76 to 84 three times to create 3 foliage cluster mini-builds.

85. Place each foliage cluster on one of the branches of your Bonsai by inserting the axle into the reddish brown elbow forming the branch.

If you are not satisfied with the direction your foliage is “growing” you may go back and adjust by rotating the reddish brown elbows or pivoting the elements of your foliage mini-build.

If you did not add the flowers and frogs to your foliage mini-builds earlier, do this now.

Bonsai Stand – Steps 86 to 103

Open Bag 6. Place the pieces in the small bag in a separate container.

You'll be repeating steps 86-93 twice to make 2 identical builds.

86.

Find a reddish brown 2x10 plate.

Position the plate horizontally.

87.

Find 3 reddish brown 1x4 panels (tiles with a vertical wall along the long side).

Position the panels horizontally with the anti-studs down and the wall toward you.

Place the panel along the back row of studs of your ppp, overhanging the ppp by one stud on the left and right.

88.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x2 plates.

Place the plates vertically on the left and right of the 2x10 plate, connecting the back stud of the 1x2 plate to the antistud on the overhang on the ppp.

89.

Find a 1x8 reddish brown brick.

Place the brick horizontally on the front studs of the build with 2 free studs remaining to the left and the right of the brick.

90.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x4 log bricks (brick with a wavy side)

Place a brick vertically with the back anti-stud on the stud to the left of the ppp.

Repeat symmetrically on the right of the ppp.

91.

Find 2 reddish brown 2x10 plates.

Position the plates vertically.

Place the 3 back right studs under the anti-studs of the ppp on the left. The left edge of your build should be aligned vertically.

Repeat symmetrically on the right.

92.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x8 bricks.

Place the brick vertically on the back left studs of your build with the back of the brick touching the smooth wall of the tile.

Repeat symmetrically on the right.

Find 2 reddish brown 1x4 bricks with side studs.

Place the brick vertically on the available studs on the bottom plate in front of the log brick on the left side of your build with the side studs facing right.

Repeat symmetrically on the right.

93.

Find a 2x6 reddish brown brick.

Place the brick vertically on the available studs on the bottom plate on the left side of your build.

This brick will overhang the front of the bottom plate by 3 studs.

Place this assembly to the side and repeat steps 86 to 93 to make a second identical assembly.

94.

Position both identical assemblies so one overhang is in the back and one overhang is in the front.

Connect the overhang bricks to the available studs on the bottom plate of each piece to form a rectangle.

95.

Find 4 reddish brown 1x10 plates.

Position the plates upright horizontally, on the open studs facing the center of the rectangle, with one plate on the left and one on the right. The left edge of the left plate should touch the side of the rectangle, and the right side of the right plate should touch the side of the rectangle.

Repeat symmetrically on the front and back.

96.

Find 4 reddish brown 1x6 tiles.

Place 2 tiles vertically on the left edge of your build, covering all available studs.

Repeat symmetrically on the right.

97.

You will place the next tiles in a repeating pattern.

Find 2 reddish brown 2x1 plates with one stud centered on the tile.

Starting on the back left stud of your build, place a 1x2 tile horizontally, then place another 1x2 plate with one stud horizontally immediately in front of the ppp.

Leave one free stud open to the right of the ppp. Then repeat with two more 1x2 plates with one stud.

Repeat this pattern leaving one stud horizontally between each set of 1x2 plates with one stud. When you complete this step you should have seven sets of 1x2 plates with one stud on the back of your build.

Repeat symmetrically on the front of the build.

You will use a total of 28 reddish brown 1x2 plates with one stud.

98.

Find 12 reddish brown 1x2 plates.

Place a 1x2 plate vertically on the available studs between each set of 1x2 tiles placed in the previous step.

99.

Find 1 dark brown 1x8 plate, and 2 reddish brown 1x6 tiles.

Place the 2 tiles symmetrically on the 1x8 plate covering all of the studs, with 2 anti-studs of overhang on each side.

Position this assembly vertically, and attach the anti-studs on the overhang to the studs aligned vertically on the top and bottom of your build starting on the left.

Repeat 12 times until all available studs on the top and bottom of your build are covered.

100.

Turn your build upside down.

Find 4 reddish brown 4x4 wedge plates.

Place a wedge plate with studs facing down in each corner of your build so that the straight sides align with the edges of the build.

Find 2 dark brown 2x2 round plates with axle hole.

With your fingernail, find the seam between the two plates on the front of the build.

Place the 2x2 round plate with studs facing down, so there are two studs on each side of the seam.

Repeat symmetrically on the back of the build.

101.

Find 4 reddish brown 2x2 sloped bricks.

Place the 2x2 studs on each corner, set 1 stud in from both edges of the corner, with the angle slanted down and toward the middle of your build.

Set your build to the side momentarily.

102 and 103.

Find 4 reddish brown 3x3 rounded corner plates (quarter circle).

These will become the feet of the stand.

Position the quarter circles studs facing up, with the right angles toward each corner.

Find 4 reddish brown 1x3 tiles and 4 reddish brown 1x2 ingots (gold bar shaped tiles)

Place the 1x3 tiles horizontally on the front studs of the front corners, and the back studs of the back corners.

Place the 1x2 tiles vertically on the outer edges of each corner.

Flip your stand right side up and attach each foot to the angled bricks on the corners of the stand.

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 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>. Bricks for the Blind is a registered tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

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new instructions are available!

At the end of the instruction booklet there is an informational text that reads:

“KEEP ON GROWING. Unlike other art forms, a LEGO Bonsai tree is never complete, but instead is an ongoing dynamic masterpiece. Once you have mastered the first two varieties of LEGO Bonsai, we hope you will want to branch out and create your own individual vision of the perfect tree. We have created this gallery to inspire you in future building (they cannot be built from the bricks included in this set). While all the elements you see here are LEGO elements, not all of them are still available in our assortment, so hunt up your old LEGO sets and use whatever you find.

This is accompanied by representative photos of other builder creations replacing the foliage on the Bonsai tree with a variety of LEGO pieces. For example:

Photo 1 replacing the foliage with minifigs.

Photo 2 replacing the foliage with grey pieces.

Photo 3 replacing the foliage with brown pieces.

Photo 4 replacing the foliage with red spikey piece and creating a tan pot.

Photo 5 replacing the foliage with colorful coral pieces, adding a dolphin to create an “underwater” scene.

Photo 6 replacing the foliage with tallow pieces and updating the pot.