

Bricks for the Blind Newsletter

September 2026

Hello, Builders and Friends!

If you're a builder, we hope you are enjoying building LEGO sets with our Text-Based Instructions (TBIs). If you're just an interested subscriber, thank you for your interest in Bricks for the Blind.

Our mission is just to bring the joy of building LEGO sets to as many blind people as possible.

Here's what's happening at Bricks for the Blind:

A Growing Community Around the World

Our family of builders continues to grow!

- **Our Builders:** We now have a community of more than **4,500 builders** in more than **120 different countries** around the world.
- **Downloads:** Our instructions have been downloaded more than **16,500 times**.
- **The Team:** We are supported by a passionate team of about **30 writers and testers** from all around the world who make this all possible. Thanks to them!

Building More Together

We continue to expand the library of **Text-Based Instructions (TBIs)** so you have more choices for your next build.

- **The Library:** We now have more than **680 total TBIs** available. Through the passionate work of our writers and testers we are producing a new TBI at the rate of about one per day!
 - **Great Coverage:** As LEGO produces more builds, we are keeping up! We currently provide instructions for about **50% of all suitable LEGO kits**.
 - **Coming Soon:** Our writers and testers will produce about another 125 the rest of this calendar year!
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Highlights of Some of Our New TBIs

- LEGO just released new Advent Calendars! CITY, Star Wars, Disney Princesses, Friends and Marvel Advent Calendars are now available to purchase. They were our most popular downloaded instructions last year. Our writers and testers are hard at work getting TBIs ready to post as soon as we can. Stay tuned!
- If you're a fan of Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts Cartoon, we have the set for you! We just adapted Snoopy's Dog House, so if you need a novel-writing, air-plane-piloting, marshmallow-roasting regal beagle and his best friend Woodstock in your life, you're in luck. Instructions for it are available on our site [here](#).
- For those of you who need more plants but don't feel like taking care of real ones, we've just adapted [Rocking Plants](#), and [Water Lillies](#), both now on our site. The Rocking Plants rock back and forth because the bottom of their vases are hemispherical. It's cool! The Water Lilies builds two lilies, a white one with yellow accents, and a vibrant pink one, as well as vases to put them in. Happy building, no watering required!

We've Improved Our TBIs!

We acted on a suggestion we received from some of our Builders and recently added Step Headings to our TBI's! This makes using a screen reader easier because you can jump to the next header (or step), replay the step you are on, and pause building and restart by jumping to the last step you were on. We added Step Headings to all of our TBIs!! And every TBI has both PDF and DOCX files of the instructions. For more information on using screen readers and our new Step Headings, read this new page on our website: bricksfortheblind.org/help-with-screen-readers

We Want to Hear From You!

Do you have a story to share about your experience in building with our TBIs? We get excited every time we hear from our Builders! Please share your story, as simple as it may be, by sending us a note at info@bricksfortheblind.org. Here's one of the latest stories we received that really touched our hearts:

"I am 71 and have an eye condition in which I have gone progressively blind from my initial diagnosis at 21; I have been completely blind for 20 years.

I retired some 10 years ago and my wife died last year and I have been moping around ever since ... then I heard about your service on the Doubletap podcast and I thought I'd give you a try since model building was

something I really enjoyed in my youth, and I've been looking for something to do with my hands and fill up my time.

In the last two months I have completed the following models:

- 10281 Bonsai Tree
- 10363 Leonardo da Vincis Flying Machine
- 77243 Oracle Red Bull Racing RB20 F1 Race Car

Building these has given me a sense of achievement, has exercised my mind and fingers, and consumed an inappropriate amount of my time! I am now about to start the Kingfisher model and have the Apollo 11 Lunar module waiting in the wings.

This is only possible because of the text instructions you make available.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart,

Allan M.

Scotland"

What's Matthew Doing Now?

Matthew Shifrin, our founder and CEO, is always up to something new! Matthew was recently invited to a training camp for the Men's National Blind Cricket Team. He also recently received a grant to make a classical music concert with a giant puppet of himself so that he won't have to worry about walking off the stage, and he can focus on singing while the puppet wreaks havoc on-stage, visually entertaining the audience.

Want to Be a Writer or a Tester?

It's easy! All you have to do is let us know you're interested at info@bricksfortheblind.org and we'll tell you all you need to know.

Thank You.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Please tell anyone you know who is blind or knows someone who is blind. We want to bring the joy of building LEGOs to every blind person.

From all of us at Bricks for the Blind,

Happy Building!