

LEGO

CATERHAM SEVEN 620R

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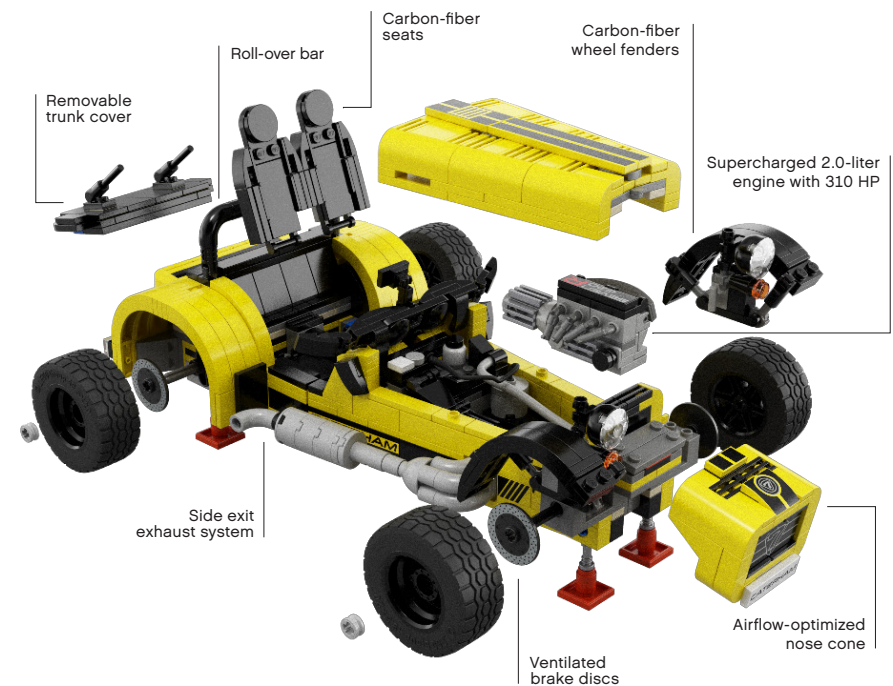


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The Caterham Seven

The Seven is no ordinary car. With over 50 years of high-performance heritage behind it, it has achieved an iconic status amongst race car enthusiasts the world over. Its simple racing-

inspired design and light weight remain as relevant today as when it was first introduced as the Lotus Seven in 1957.





The Perfect Racing Machine

Created by visionary Formula One designer Colin Chapman, the Lotus Seven was a road-going sports car based on racing car principles, and supplied to the customer as a build-it-yourself kit. A Lotus dealer in the Surrey town of Caterham saw a great potential for the tiny sports car, and in 1973 Caterham Cars bought the rights from Lotus and started to build the third generation 'Series 3' version, which remains in production today.

Put side by side, an original Lotus Seven Series 3 from 1968 would look very similar to the cars being built nearly fifty years later. But under the skin Caterham has continued to refine and develop the car, ensuring that its overall racing performance is always highly competitive.

The most powerful Caterham car to date, the Seven 620R, was revealed in 2013. With a 310HP supercharged Ford engine developed by Caterham, coupled with a six-speed sequential

racing gearbox, the 1,261 lbs (572 kg) car accelerates from 0-63 mph (0-100 kph) in just 2.8 seconds and has a top speed of 155 mph (250 kph). It also utilizes the latest in material engineering, with lightweight carbon-fiber used for the fenders, interior panels, dashboard and seats, while the wheels and tires have been developed especially for the car.

It is estimated that there are as many as 1,000 Sevens competing on any given weekend, with championships all over the world from Colombia to Taiwan. The Caterham factory in Dartford, Kent, UK continues to build 500 cars each year, with well over half of the cars being exported around the world. Although all export cars are now fully pre-built like any other regular road car, customers in the UK still have the option to build their car from a kit, just like the original, and more than 100 do so each year.



Being a Fan ...

... of both fast cars and LEGO® building provided the perfect starting point for Carl Greatrix's idea for a LEGO version of the Caterham Seven.

“One of the most exhilarating drives I've ever had was out on the track in a Caterham Seven. It is brutally fast due to its light weight, and tremendous fun to be in. It really struck a chord in my heart that I have never forgotten.”

“When I got back into building LEGO car models, I thought the shape of the vehicle would lend itself to being modeled well in LEGO bricks, as it is very angular, and if I could find a suitable scale, then I would be able to get all the details into it that I would love to see.”

“Each version took between two to three weeks to design and then re-design, looking at all possible options. The decal work took another week to figure out, so it's safe to say that each version took the better part of a month to design and build to finished standards, then photograph, etc.”

“I take my hat off to Henrik, the LEGO designer who worked on my model, as he was as passionate about it as I was. You can see that instantly with the version he created. It is superb, and he has done so well to keep it looking just like my original idea even though it is built quite differently.”

LEGO designer

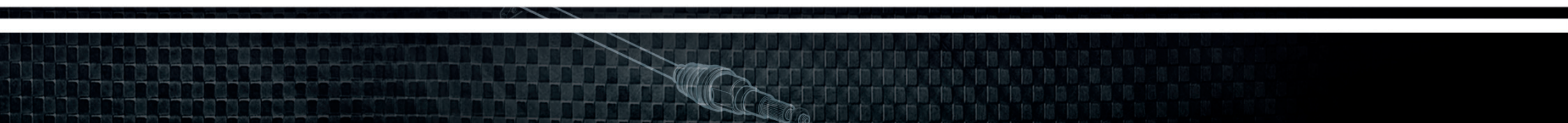
Henrik Andersen was also happy to be involved in this latest LEGO Ideas project.

“It's always really exciting to work on more detailed models. I'm a car fan, so I knew about the Caterham Seven before starting on the project”.

“My role as a LEGO designer is to ensure that the model can be built according to LEGO quality standards, and that it's built in a way so that it can be displayed in LEGO Building Instructions”.

“Carl really did a great job of converting the real car's shape into a LEGO version, as both the sloping front and the hood are really complex. There were quite a few iterations, at least five or six before the model was complete, so the final version is somewhat different from his original one”.

“I am really happy about the proportions of the finished model, it's really close to the real car – and I think it's a nice and clean build”.



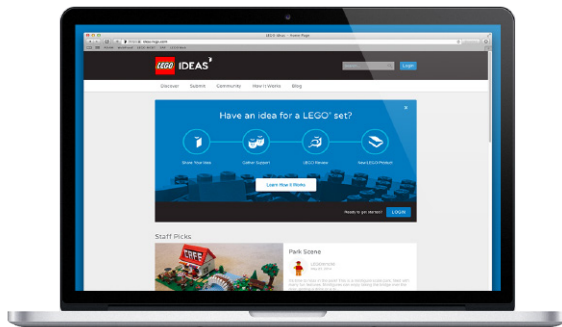
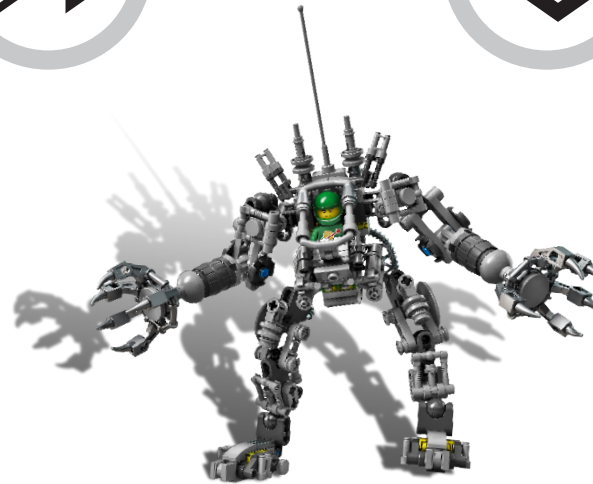
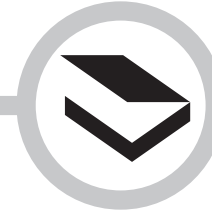
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