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Klutz LEGO Chain Reactions Craft Kit



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What is Klutz? Klutz is a premium brand of book-based activity kits, designed to inspire creativity in every kid. Our unique combination of crystal-clear instructions, custom tools and materials, and hearty helpings of humor is 100% guaranteed to kick-start creativity. Super-clear Instructions Open-ended Creativity Rewarding Reading Skills to Build On Everything You Need LEGO Chain Reactions Design and Build Moving Machines In a chain reaction, one thing leads to another, which leads to another, which leads to another, which. ..well, you get the idea With the stuff in this kit and a pile of your own ordinary LEGO bricks, you can build Ten awesome machines that can be combined to make dozens of different chain reactions that use many steps to do. ..a whole lot of nothing (or maybe something vaguely useful). Your machine could toss a gum wrapper into the trash, amuse your dog, deliver a message ('Oh Yeah!'), ring a bell, and generally make you the envy of the neighborhood.

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What You Get The box attached to this book contains what you need to turn ordinary bricks into amazing chain reaction machines. Including: - 33 LEGO Elements - 6 LEGO balls - 2.2 yds of string. - 8 paper ramps - 2 paper pop-up signs - 1 paper funnel - 1 paper flag - 1 paper bucket - 1 platform Klutz Crystal Clear Instructions With 78 pages of detailed instructions with brightly colored images, you will learn to build machines ranging in complexity from easy to advance. Stuck on a certain step? Throughout the book, you will also find helpful brick substitutions, suggestions how to fix common problems, and explanations on the physics behind each machine. Meet the Machines Each machine is specially designed to build upon the skills you've learned throughout the book. Meet our machines! 1. Quintopple: easy 2. Dominoes: easy 3. Seesaw and Ramp: easy 4. Pop-up Flag and Falling Hammer: medium 5. Board Bouncer: medium 6. Slow Spin: easy 7. Elevator Ramps: advanced 8. Pulley and Bucket: medium 9. Funnel Ramp: medium 10. Zigzag Ramp: advanced

This was not an easy concept for the authors and product planners to execute. It's radically different than just assembling Legos from an instruction booklet. A lot of thought and effort went into the chain reaction concepts and resulting projects. The book layout, the security so that the parts actually arrive at the consumer, the durability of the non Lego paper components, the directions on how to fold the paper components etc, etc, etc. are thoughtfully done. I think they struck a very good balance so this would not cost an arm and a leg. Some might call it cheap (a few Lego pieces, a

beautiful well laid out instruction book with nicely printed paper components) but I call it cost effective. A lot of what you're paying for here is in my opinion is the wow factor of the book and the well thought out concepts. I supported my 7 year old grandson's effort to build the first project. My 5 year old grandson looked at what was involved and walked away I think because it looks complicated and the projects contain very few pieces. Both of them are very skilled Lego builders who pride themselves on their ability to throw lots of pieces together quickly. Does that sound familiar to you? So... I think what motivates most young Lego builders is assembling lots of pieces quickly and having a relatively static object to play with when done. The chain reaction projects aren't that at all. They don't look like much - to an adult - when complete. They are challenging in my view mostly because of the need for precision alignment between the paper parts and the Lego motion actuators the kids assemble to create the Chain the Reaction. Once assembled and aligned, making it function can require trial and error, motivation to succeed, precision hand and eye coordination and patience. I think that doing the first project successfully might be a make or break point for this product. Failure would surely be a deterrent towards doing subsequent projects in the book so initial success seems very important at least for younger children. The greatest joy my grandson experienced (and it was great joy) was the moment the first project functioned properly for the first time after several complete and partial failures (just as his patience was wearing thin) and then joy again once the chain reaction was rehearsed and easily repeatable so as to show his parents without failure. Having achieved this first success he was excited about doing more projects. It remains to be seen what his long term interest level will be. Yes.. This is radically different than just sticking pieces together and success is not easy considering that the projects are minimalist in the total number of pieces. However I think the lessons and skills this product teaches are very important, worthwhile and noteworthy. Aside from the skills mentioned above this is also elementary physics of motion, weight, angle, momentum, etc. In summary, it appears that, assuming success along the way, the complicated chain reactions are fun for children to assemble, challenging to make fully, reliably functional and thrilling once they work for that first time. It's all good stuff!

Firstly - I bought this for a nephew for Christmas, so it hasn't yet been tested, but after reading some of the negative reviews, I thought I'd look through the book in detail to see exactly what you get (and don't get!). The premise is a good one, and I feel that it teaches some basic engineering ideas (levers, pulleys etc). The book seems well made, on quality paper. The Lego pieces supplied are mainly specialty pieces, to complete the machines. The real issue is the quantity of 'regular' blocks

required from your own collection - 167 to be exact. Each machine lists what parts you need from the box, and then just states "plus some from your own collection". Well I took the liberty of listing out what "some" means. The list below is the minimum requirements to build each machine once - not all together, so you will need to disassemble one to build the next. The machines get increasingly larger, and more complicated. You can substitute more smaller pieces for the larger ones if you have them, so the list is not rigid. Bricks: 2x8 24 of 2x6 5 of 2x4 62 of 2x3 2 of 2x2 12 of 1x6 6 of 1x4 1 of 1x2 21 of 1x1 2 of Plates: 2x8 1 of 2x6 4 of 2x4 7 of 2x3 2 of 2x2 2 of 1x12 2 of 1x6 6 of 1x4 4 of 1x2 2 of Specialty pieces: Sloping brick 2x4 1 of Tile 1x4 1 of In addition - just out of curiosity, I priced up the total of purchasing these bricks through the Lego web store and it came out a little under \$48. so your choices are - (a) buy the book, if you know the recipient has an extensive supply of excess Lego (b) buy the book, and the additional Lego you need (c) buy the book and get creative around what you can substitute for the additional required pieces - (book stacks are suggested in place of the towers, but I think would be unstable and difficult to get the components to align sufficiently for the machine to work). I give this 3 stars overall because I knew this was a risky purchase, but I think it will still provide some educational value.

Wow! Not sure who is having more fun, my husband or the kids (5 and 7 years.) They love engineering, building, projects, etc. If you are like-minded this shouldn't disappoint.

The first project can be completed with included parts. The second project requires 4 2x1 bricks, 10 3x1 bricks, 6 4x1 bricks "from your collection". They say not to worry about matching colors or the fancy designs they show and yet I bet there's a good portion of kids used to following Lego instructions verbatim who will have a meltdown if they don't match. How hard is it to find these bricks? I have an underbed storage container filled to the brim with the bricks from many, many Lego kits we've bought over the last 4 years. We don't have the bricks needed for the dominoes project. Third project needs: 6 4x2 bricks; 6 8x2 bricks; 2 4x1 bricks, 4 2x1 bricks; 3 4x2 plates; 2 2x2 plates. Fourth project requires: 11 2x8 bricks; 1 2x8 plate; 3 2x4 bricks; 2 2x1 bricks; 3 2x3 bricks; 3 1x4 bricks; 3 2x4 plates; 1 2x3 plate; 5 1x4 plates; 3 1x6 plates. Fifth project requires: 1 1x4 tile (flat top); 1 slope brick that is 2x4 on bottom and slopes to 1x4 on top; 1 2x6 plate; 1 2x4 plate, 1 2x2 brick; 1 2x8 plate; 3 1x4 bricks, 4 2x8 bricks; random amount of other 1x? Bricks to build single stud wide walls to knock over. And many more!

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