

LEGO® TECHNIC BELL BOEING V-22 OSPREY - QUICK FACTS



The LEGO®-model of a „V-22 Osprey“....



...and its real version - here during a practice shot.

The set: LEGO® Technic 42113 Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey

Pieces: 1.636

Price: US\$149.99 (€129.99)

Release date: August 2020

Licenses: Boeing® (The Boeing Company), Bell® (Bell Textron Inc.)

Ages: 11+



Boeing® (The Boeing Company)

The Boeing® Company was founded in 1916 and has its corporate headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. The aeronautics and astronautics company works both in the civil as well as in the military field. According to the 'Stockholm International Peace Research Institute' (SIPRI), Boeing® is the second largest arms manufacturer in the world after 'Lockhead Martin'. In 2018, the company sold military equipment worth of US\$29.15 billion (€26.08 billion). In 2019, the company's defense sector aggregated 34 percent of its total turnover. Next to the Osprey, Boeing® also produces jet fighters, combat helicopters, bombs and missiles. These weapons are mainly used by the US army but also by states like Saudi Arabia, which deploys the equipment in the war against Yemen. There are countless examples of weapons made by Boeing® used in military missions, which are in violation of international and human rights law. Next to conventional weapons, also nuclear weapons (i.e. the intercontinental missile LGM-30G Minuteman III) are part of Boeings® portfolio.



An „Osprey“ of the US Marines.

The original vehicle: Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey

Manufacturers: Boeing Defense, Space & Security (The Boeing Company, Chicago, USA), Bell Textron Inc. (Textron Inc., Providence, USA)

Specifications: tiltrotor aircraft; maximum speed 351 mph (565 km/h); range 1.012 miles (1.628 km); the standard version can transport up to 24 soldiers; average unit costs US\$75 million (€60 million)

Implemented loadout: 1× 7.62 mm (.308 in) M240 machine gun or .50 in (12.7 mm) M2 Browning machine gun on ramp, removable, 1× 7.62 mm (.308 in) GAU-17 minigun, belly-mounted, retractable, video remote control in the Remote Guardian System

Possible loadout: AGM-114 Hellfire, AGM-176 Griffin, GBU-53/B SDB II, Hydra 70 rockets, APKWS

Used by: United States Marine Corps, United States Air Force, United States Navy (the United States Armed Forces operate a total of 400 Ospreys), Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (5 pieces) – no civil use

Deployed in: Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Mali, Syria and others

Bell® (Bell Textron Inc.)



The aviation group Bell® was founded in 1935 and today is part of the multi-industry company Textron Inc. It has its corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. With a revenue of US\$3.5 billion (€3.18 billion), Textron® was number 27 of the 'SIPRI Top 100 Arms-producing and Military Services Companies' in 2018. Next to the Osprey, Bell® produces the combat helicopter AH-1Z Viper and several transport helicopters. Weapons of Bell/Textron® are mainly sold to the US army, which were often produced by order of the same. For a long time Textron® was one of the biggest producers of cluster munition.



Door gunner of a US „Osprey“ over Iraq.

Deployment of the Osprey in the ‚Raid of Yakla‘

In January 2014 US Navy SEALs of the ‚Naval Special Warfare Development Group‘ also known as ‚SEAL Team Six‘ were flown into the Yemeni village of Al-Ghayil using two Ospreys to gather information about the activities of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and to find its leader. Due to an engine failure, one Osprey was heavily damaged and destroyed during landing. The operation escalated; 1 US soldier and 14 extremists were killed in battle. The local Al-Qaeda leader was not amongst them. Investigations by Human Rights Watch revealed the killing of 14 civilians (9 of them children) by direct fire of the US soldiers. All of the children were younger than 13 years old.

Why the set is bad for fans of LEGO®

Licensing costs: Rather than using the licensed V-22 Osprey LEGO® could have produced a model of a fictional tiltrotor aircraft based on the original. In 2004, the company released the set ‚LEGO® Technic 8434 propeller plane‘, a tiltrotor aircraft with 445 pieces. In 2013, it released the set ‚LEGO® City 60021 Cargo Heliplane‘, again a tiltrotor aircraft. Due to the licenses of Boeing® and Bell® the new model will probably becomes more expensive. The amount of money that LEGO® pays to the arms manufacturers is unknown. Consequently, everyone who buys the Osprey set will finances Boeing® and Bell® as well.

No B-Model: Boeing® and Bell® want the customers to build the Osprey only. Therefore, the set does not include a manual for a B-Model, as it is available in many LEGO® Technic sets.

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Pictures: Front page: LEGO, Bell; Back page: US-Army, LEGO | **V.i.S.d.P.:** Michael Schulze von Glaßer c/o DFG-VK Bundesverband, Hornbergstr. 100, 70188 Stuttgart

Official principles of LEGO® with regard to depiction of military vehicles, weapons and war

‘The basic aim is to avoid realistic weapons and military equipment that children may recognize from hot spots around the world and to refrain from showing violent or frightening situations when communicating about LEGO products. At the same time, the purpose is for the LEGO brand not to be associated with issues that glorify conflicts and unethical or harmful behavior.’

[Progress Report 2010 - THE LEGO GROUP, Billund 2011, Page 26.]

‘Product Ideas related to the topics below do not fit our brand values and will not be approved for publication on LEGO Ideas.’

[...]

6. Death, killing, blood, terrorism, horror, or torture

[...]

7. Warfare or war vehicles in any modern or present-day situation, or national war memorials

8. Large or human-scale weapons or weapon replicas of any kind, including swords, knives, guns, sci-fi or fantasy blasters, etc.’

[Product Idea Guidelines, in: ideas.lego.com, December 18, 2019.]

‘In 2003, we became the first toy company to join the United Nations Global Compact – the world’s largest corporate social responsibility initiative – and remain committed to this universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and to ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.’ [Kristensen, Henrik Trangeled/Jacobsen, Claus Lindholm: The LEGO Group Responsibility Report 2018, February 21, 2019, Page 9.]



A RESCUE tiltrotor aircraft?

The Osprey set includes a RESCUE-sticker to give it a civil appearance. However, that version does not exist in reality. The dark grey version with its orange colour accents, as it is depicted in the LEGO® set, is used by the United States Marine Corps. Although the RESCUE-sticker is not an imprinted LEGO® element but a sticker that can be attached to the model optionally, the criticism remains the same: The V-22 Osprey is a modern military vehicle and there is no civil use.