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ninjago the way of the ninja

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Ninjago: The Way of the Ninja – A Complete Guide to the LEGO Set and Its Legacy

For LEGO enthusiasts, the Ninjago line has always stood out for its blend of vibrant storytelling, dynamic characters, and intricate buildable worlds. Among the many releases, the 2019 set **70617 – The Way of the Ninja** captured the hearts of fans and collectors alike. Whether you're a seasoned builder, a newcomer to Ninjago, or simply looking to expand your LEGO collection, this article will walk you through everything you need to know about this iconic set. From its design and building experience to its place in the broader Ninjago universe, we'll explore every angle of *Ninjago the Way of the Ninja*.

What Is "The Way of the Ninja"?

The Way of the Ninja is a 2019 LEGO Ninjago set, cataloged as **70617**. It is part of the "Ninja Force" subline, featuring a stylized ninja-themed base that showcases the four main ninjas—Kai, Cole, Jay, and Zane—alongside a powerful villain, Lord Garmadon. The set is designed for ages 8 and up and includes 2,275 pieces, offering a substantial building challenge and a large displayable minifigure lineup.

Unlike many Ninjago sets that focus on elaborate castles or high-tech gadgets, The Way of the Ninja emphasizes the core theme of martial arts and teamwork. The structure is built to resemble a sleek, modern dojo, complete with a central courtyard, a training platform, and a hidden entrance that hints at deeper secrets within the Ninjago world.

History of the Ninjago Brand

Origins and Early Success

LEGO Ninjago debuted in 2011, inspired by the 2010 animated series *Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu*. The franchise quickly became a staple for LEGO due to its unique blend of action, humor, and a well-crafted mythology. The sets were praised for their modular design, allowing fans to combine pieces from different releases into expansive builds.

Evolution Over the Years

From the original "Fire and Water" sets to the later "Ninja Force" and "Ninja Power" lines, LEGO continuously refined the aesthetics and play patterns of Ninjago. Each new series introduced fresh characters, story arcs, and architectural styles. By 2019, the brand had expanded to include a wide range of minifigures, vehicles, and accessories, all tied into an overarching narrative that spanned multiple seasons of the animated show.

The Significance of The Way of the Ninja

Released during the peak of the Ninjago franchise's popularity, The Way of the Ninja served as a bridge between the earlier "Ninja Force" sets and the subsequent "Ninja Power" line. Its design captured the essence of the series' martial arts ethos while offering a fresh, modern twist on the classic dojo aesthetic. As a result, the set has become a sought-after collector's item, especially among fans who value both its playability and its historical context within the Ninjago timeline.

Set Overview: Features & Specs

Piece Count and Weight

- 2,275 bricks, plates, and accessories
- Approximately 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) of LEGO bricks
- Average build time: 4–5 hours for a single builder

Included Minifigures

- 4 Ninja Minifigures: Kai, Cole, Jay, and Zane
- 1 Villain Minifigure: Lord Garmadon
- 2 Additional Ninja Minifigures (Kai and Zane) as extra accessories

Key Building Elements

- Central dojo structure with a roofed courtyard
- Hidden entrance with a sliding door mechanism
- Training platform featuring a vertical wall for dynamic poses
- Multiple modular sections allowing for creative expansion
- LED lighting integration for an immersive display experience

Compatibility

The Way of the Ninja's bricks are fully compatible with the entire LEGO Ninjago range, enabling builders to incorporate the set into larger dioramas or to combine it with other sets such as the "Ninja Tower" or "Ninja Village."

Build Experience: Step by Step

Getting Started

Before diving into the instructions, gather a clean workspace and sort the pieces by color and type. The set's instruction booklet is well-organized, with clear diagrams and color-coded steps that reduce confusion.

Phase 1 – Base and Floor Plan

- Lay out the foundation using the provided floor plates.
- Use the modular base tiles to create the courtyard's layout.
- Assemble the central pillars that will support the roof.

Phase 2 – Roof and Walls

The roof is the most visually striking element. It features a series of slanted panels that give the dojo a sleek, aerodynamic look. Pay careful attention to the alignment of the roof tiles to ensure a smooth, seamless finish.

Phase 3 – Hidden Entrance

The sliding door mechanism is a standout feature. It allows for an interactive element where the door can open to reveal a secret compartment. This is achieved through a simple hinge system that is both sturdy and functional.

Phase 4 – Training Platform

Build the vertical wall and training platform using the provided studs and plates. The platform is designed for dynamic poses, so consider adding extra bricks for stability if you plan to display minifigures in action stances.

Phase 5 – Final Touches and Display

Attach the LED lighting elements to the interior of the dojo. This feature is optional but enhances the set's visual appeal, especially during evening displays. Finish by placing the minifigures in their respective positions and adding any optional accessories.

Design & Aesthetics

Color Palette

The Way of the Ninja uses a muted yet striking palette dominated by dark blues, grays, and subtle accents of gold. This color scheme aligns with the series' themes of mystery and disciplined training. The subtle use of metallic elements adds depth and a touch of sophistication.

Architectural Influence

The dojo's design draws inspiration from traditional Japanese architecture, evident in the sloped roof and minimalist interior layout. However, the set also incorporates futuristic elements—such as the LED lighting and the sleek, modular construction—making it a hybrid of classic and contemporary design.

Detailing and Texture

From the textured brickwork on the walls to the carefully placed decorative tiles, every detail has been meticulously crafted. The use of translucent bricks on the roof allows light to filter through, creating a subtle glow that enhances the set's visual impact.

Characters & Minifigures

Primary Ninjas

- Kai – The fiery red ninja, known for his impulsive nature.
- Cole – The earthy, grounded ninja with a strong sense of responsibility.
- Jay – The electric blue ninja, the team's quick thinker.
- Zane – The ice blue ninja, the calm strategist.

Villain – Lord Garmadon

Lord Garmadon is the set's main antagonist, featuring a dark, menacing design that contrasts sharply with the ninjas' bright colors. His minifigure includes a removable hood and a unique weapon that adds to the set's play value.

Accessory Minifigures

The set includes two additional ninjas (Kai and Zane) as accessories, allowing for expanded play scenarios. These figures can be used as extras in battle scenes or as part of a larger diorama.

Play Value & Creative Possibilities

Dynamic Play Scenes

The central courtyard and training platform provide ample space for action-packed scenes. The hidden entrance adds a surprise element, encouraging imaginative storytelling.

Display Potential

Thanks to its robust structure and LED lighting, The Way of the Ninja is an excellent display piece. Whether you place it on a shelf or mount it on a wall, the set's sleek design stands out in any setting.

Expansion Ideas

- Combine with the Ninjago "Ninja Tower" to create a full cityscape.
- Use the modular base to build a surrounding village or battlefield.
- Integrate custom LEGO bricks to add personal touches, such as custom flags or banners.

Collectibility & Value Over Time

Market Trends

Since its release, The Way of the Ninja has maintained a steady resale value, especially among collectors who focus on the Ninjago line. The set's limited edition status and the inclusion of a villain minifigure make it a prized item.

Condition Matters

For collectors, the set's condition—whether it's unopened, in its original box, or in a "like new" state—significantly impacts its value. Proper storage and handling can preserve the set's condition for years.

Future Outlook

As LEGO continues to release new Ninjago sets, the demand for classic releases like The Way of the Ninja remains strong. The set's unique features and historical significance within the Ninjago timeline ensure that it will remain a favorite among fans for years to come.

Fan Community & Reviews

Positive Feedback

Many reviewers praised the set's build quality, especially the hidden entrance and the LED lighting. Fans appreciated the balance between playability and display value, noting that the set can be both a dynamic play area and a striking centerpiece.

Constructive Criticism

- Some builders felt that the instruction booklet could have included more visual cues for the hidden door mechanism.
- A few reviewers mentioned that the minifigure accessories were limited, suggesting that additional accessories could enhance the play experience.

Community Engagement

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