

BUILDER TEAM · EPISODE 1

How to Organize and Build a Brick Set

A read-along picture book for ages 7–11

Made with love by a Nana and her grandkids, with help from the bots of Botsville USA.



Zipley It's here! The new space station set! Eight hundred pieces. I'm gonna build it in ten minutes flat.

Binley Ten minutes? Zipley, you say that every time.

Remixa Okay, crew. Let's build it the smart way, starting right now.



Binley Step zero: set up your space. A clear, flat table, with good light.

Planzo Skip the carpet. Tiny pieces love to hide in there.

Remixa And keep tiny pieces away from little brothers, sisters, and pets.



Planzo Big sets often come with numbered bags. Bag one, bag two, bag three. If yours has them, open just one bag at a time.

Zipley Just one? But ripping them all open is the best part!



Binley **Now we sort. Sort it, spot it, snap it! I sort by color first, then by size. Bowls and trays work great. So does a muffin tin.**



Remixa The muffin tin is genius. Every cup is a tiny parking spot.

Binley The tiniest pieces get their own little tray, so they can't roll away.



Planzo Next, the instructions. Every step has a little box that shows which pieces you need, and how many.

Zipley So it's like a shopping list... but for bricks.



Binley **Can't tell two pieces apart? Count the studs. Those are the little bumps on top. This one is a two by four. Two studs across, four studs long.**



Planzo Big builds are made of smaller sections. First we build this solar panel by itself.

Remixa It's like building the arms, the legs, and the head, and then putting the whole robot together.



Zipley **Okay, step twelve! Thirteen! Fourteen! Look at this speed! Wait. Why is there a hole right here? And why do I have an extra piece?**



Planzo Let's check the book. Step nine... you skipped it.

Zipley Oh no. Now I have to take apart five whole steps.



Binley No problem. Grab the brick separator. It's the little tool that pops pieces apart.

Remixa Much better than fingernails. And never, ever use your teeth.



Planzo Here's the trick. After every step, compare your build to the picture.

Zipley Huh. Going slow is actually faster, because there are no do-overs. Quick is cool... but checking is cooler!



Remixa And if your fingers get tired, or you're feeling frustrated, take a break. The bricks will wait for you.

Planzo Put a bookmark in the book, so you know exactly where you stopped.



Zipley Last step... done! The space station is complete!

Binley A few tiny pieces left over? That's normal. Many sets come with spares. Keep them in a small bag.



Remixa **Now that it's built the right way... let's remix it! I'm adding a rainbow antenna with some spare pieces. Use your own colors and ideas to make it yours.**

Can you remember?

Point to the answer, or circle it!

Your big set has numbered bags. What's the smart way to open them?

- 1️⃣ One bag at a time
- 💥 Rip them all open at once
- 🎲 Pick any bag you like

Can't tell two pieces apart? What do you count?

- 🔘 The studs, the little bumps on top
- 📄 The pages in the book
- 🎨 The colors in the box

Zipley has a hole and an extra piece. What went wrong?

- ⏭️ He skipped step nine
- 📦 The set was missing a bag
- 🐶 A puppy ate a piece

Answers: One bag at a time · The studs, the little bumps on top · He skipped step nine



You did it!

Binley **Today's builder tips: set up your space, open one bag at a time, and sort your pieces.**

Planzo **Read each step, count the studs, and build in sections.**

Zipley **Check every step before you move on.**

Remixa **Then add your own spin!**

I am a **Smart Builder!**

Name: _____

For grown-ups: Next time you build a set, sort your pieces first and check each step against the picture. Keep tiny pieces away from little brothers, sisters and pets.

Made with love by a Nana and her grandkids, with help from the bots of Botsville USA.