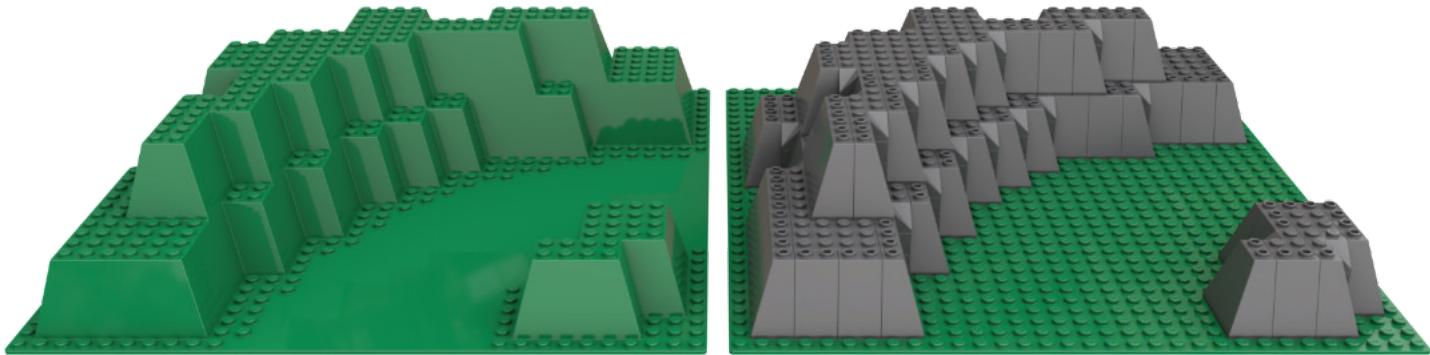


RAISED BASEPLATE



VS BRICK BUILT

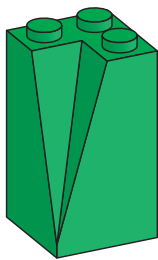
By Mark Favreau

Some sources will suggest to you that instead of using an old raised baseplate, you should brick build your own. Given that the Castle theme is rife with old raised baseplates... none of which I have, of course... I thought it would be interesting to investigate the premise.

To start, the 6024 baseplate from set 6079 Dark Forest Fortress was selected at random. Researching the 6024 part I found there are five decorated versions in three colors: the light gray and light blue parts each have two different patterns while the green part has one. There is no solid-color version of this part.

Price point for the five parts was interesting. Using BrickLink's currently available price guide as reference, one of the light blue versions, the underwater pattern appearing in set 6195 has an average sales price of about \$20 US. The green part, by comparison, is about \$90 US. The others are in the \$40 range. It appears that Castle comes at a premium.

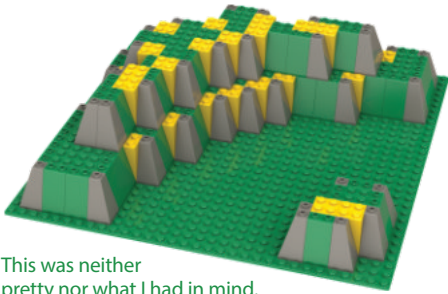
The next step was to launch Studio and see what that could offer. Luckily it did have the 6024 part which would serve as reference. My idea was



Surprise! This part does not exist.

to try and replicate the raised baseplate design as close as possible with a bricks assembly using currently available parts. It was no real surprise that problems arose immediately.

Problem number one is that there is no 75° 2x2x3



This was neither pretty nor what I had in mind.

double concave brick. As all the sides of the raised baseplate are sloped, all the inner corners would need some alternative solution. Initially I used a 2x2x3 brick as a placeholder. While I attempted to build everything in green, I set these bricks in a contrasting color so I could keep track where that problem was located. When the model was completed I checked for color availability. Unfortunately the 75° 2x2x3 slope double convex brick is not available in green. Studio mapped the closest neighbor color as dark gray.

Next was to try and resolve the inner corners. I replaced all the 2x2x3 bricks with an assembly of two 2x2 bricks stacked, and a 2x2 double convex

on top of those. While this was a far more appealing solution, alas, the 2x2 double convex brick is not available in green. Ultimately, attempting to build this model in green is a fail.

Green being a lost cause, I decided to try other colors. All necessary pieces were not available in the brown range... but they were available in black and dark bluish gray/medium stone grey. I felt DBG was an acceptable solution and I was on to the next step: brick count and pricing.

The chart at the bottom shows the part count with BrickLink average pricing in the first column and Pick-a-Brick pricing in the second.

No single seller on BrickLink or BrickOwl had all the required pieces in stock. LEGO itself does not offer all the required pieces. While standard bricks were readily available in quantity on the aftermarket, the tall slopes definitely were not. Pick-a-Brick may or may not have things, and if they do have them, you may need to wait months for delivery. To get the parts in the quantities necessary, several orders would need to be placed in several stores, possibly in multiple countries. Add shipping and taxes onto those orders and it was not long before that \$90 for the old green baseplate looked like a bargain.

My conclusion is that unless you are willing to go all rainbow warrior on the project, happen to have parts on hand, and are willing to make some design compromises, brick building a replica raised baseplate is near impossible and not in any way a cost-effective alternative to the original at this time.

Qty	Part	BL /pc	LEGO /pc	BL total	LEGO total
1	32x32 baseplate green	7.50	8.00	7.50	8.00
52	2x4 bricks filler	.10	.21	5.20	0.92
12	2x2 bricks filler	.05	.13	.60	1.56
63	2x2 bricks dbg	.08	.13	5.04	8.19
28	2x2 slope double concave dbg	.13	.17	3.64	4.76
47	2x2x3 75° slope dbg	.34	n/a	15.98	n/a
47	2x2x3 75° slope double convex dbg	.60	.39	28.20	18.33
27	2x4 bricks dbg	.18	.21	4.86	5.67
277				71.02	