

Pixar are well known for their easter eggs and each one has a backstory. A113 is a reference to the CalArts classroom number where many animators studied. The lamp and the ball are from Luxo Jr. one of Pixar's earliest shorts. But arguably the most popular Pixar easter egg is - the Pizza Planet Truck. The Pizza Planet Truck from Toy Story 1 appears in almost every Pixar movie and has become something of a game for fans trying to find where it's hidden. Now, remember one sentence ago when I said "almost every Pixar movie". There is just one exception to this rule and it's The Incredibles. It is the only movie to not include the Pizza Planet Truck.

Lee Unkrich, director of Toy Story 3 and Coco confirmed it's definitely not there.

Director of The Incredibles, Brad Bird said:

"I don't know. I was busy making the movie. I didn't think about the Pizza Planet [Truck], so I would not be surprised if it was not in there and I would not be surprised if somebody got it in there when they were building the sets."

Wait what? Does this mean the truck could actually be in The Incredibles?!

If there's a chance it's there, I have to find it. The fact this movie is the only exception is *driving* me nuts. Look, I like it when things follow rules and patterns and- Hello? Autism diagnosis? No, you must have the wrong number. They had the wrong number.

The search is on. But first, let's recap the story behind the Pizza Planet Truck itself.

THE ORIGINS OF THE TRUCK

Of course, the Pizza Planet Truck is first seen in Toy Story 1.

Woody and Buzz are lost at a petrol station, and just to rub the situation in his face some more, Woody has to pretend it's a spaceship, just to convince the deluded Buzz to get inside the truck in order to get back to Andy. It's a very early sign of Woody and Buzz trying to work together before, the first step to becoming close friends.

Toy Story 1 came out in smack dab in the middle of the 90s. Which is also around the peak of Chuck E Cheese in the US. These days they might be better known for the other thing, but in the 90s it was the pizza place to be if you're a kid. So in Toy Story, Chuck E Cheese serves as the inspiration for Pizza Planet. Except, back then Chuck E Cheese didn't deliver pizzas, because why would they do that? They want people there for the arcade and games, no-one goes to Chuck E Cheese for the pizza.

So why would Pizza Planet deliver pizza? This is probably just a general blanket reference to all pizza stores. But this may be partly due to the original version of this scene that got scrapped.

Since it was originally meant to be a sort of direct Pizza Hut parody, it would have its own delivery truck. Then they just swapped out the pizza place but kept the truck. This makes sense to me. Apart from the mini-golf thing, in fact, no-one knows why it was a mini-golf thing.

Story co-creator, Andrew Stanton, said:

"It seems too obvious now [...] it's hard to believe Pizza Planet was an eleventh-hour change."

In *A Bug's Life*, when Flik travels to Bug City, it's located underneath a trailer, next to which is the truck. John Lasseter says:

"We always figured this is where the guy lived"

If you're someone who believes in all Pixar movies taking place in the same universe, like the old lady in *Brave* is actually a grown up Boo from *Monsters Inc*, this one's for you.

But this is just a joke, right?

In concept art for the trailer, it does feature *A* truck, but clearly not actually "always planned" to be *THE* truck. Maybe instead of creating a brand new truck from scratch to fill a scene that's barely 7 seconds long, they just saved themselves the time and reused the Pizza Planet Truck, turning it into a silly little background gag, rather than the intentional beginning of a long standing easter egg.

Toy Story 2 was originally meant to be a straight-to-video sequel, and for a while, animation was being handled by Pixar's video game department, since across two games, they had made just as much original animation as the first *Toy Story*.

Eventually *Toy Story 2* was bumped up into a feature film but it had to be completely overhauled. Disney had an immovable deadline meaning Pixar had nine months to complete the entire film. So Pixar had to do a lot of creative corner cutting.

The alien trench is from *Bug's Life*. The tree in Jessie's song is from *Bug's Life*. *Bug's Life* characters are used as toys. The toy cleaner is from the short *Geri's Game*.

Hell, one of the new characters added to the cast is literally another Buzz. So naturally, the truck was used again. Twice actually, as it's also used as this white van during the road crossing scene.

During test screenings for *Monster's Inc*, audiences felt that during the final encounter with Randall wasn't enough.

"This is another change that we made kind of late in the game, was kind of really pumping up this Randall's comeuppance"

"We realised in early previews we weren't quite there yet"

So the moment where Boo fights back was added in to show her triumphing over her fears. There was also the addition of what happened to Randall after being thrown through the door.

This scene is literally the one from *Bugs Life* but just dressed up to look like the bayou. The human characters are just the child animatronics and Randall has some very basic animation. Instead of his slivery lizard-like movement, he just tweens in like a bad Flash cartoon. I don't have to stand for this, I'm leaving. (cue bad tween)

Obviously, late stage alterations are commonplace in movies. But it seems there was never really a plan to include the Pizza Planet Truck in *Monsters Inc*. It's only here because it was used in *Bug's Life*.

However, it was clear Pixar were now more mindful of easter eggs, such as starting the tradition of intentionally placing references to their future movies. *Monster's Inc* has an easter egg of *Finding Nemo*.

Here the truck zips past during the escape plan. Now again, maybe just needed a truck and reused it again. But given Luigi from Cars, yet another future movie easter egg, is also in Finding Nemo, I think it was this moment that now cements the truck's place as a Pixar tradition, as confirmed in Cars when the truck appears twice. Which makes The Incredibles an interesting omission.

THE INCREDIBLES

To date, The Incredibles is the only movie to not include the Pizza Planet Truck. It is found in The Incredibles video game, so did they just forget?

Production on The Incredibles began the year 2000 and concluded around 2004. So there was a crossover of productions.

Given that from Bug's Life to Monsters Inc, the Pizza Planet Truck's inclusion was out of production necessity and last minute changes, it's possible that, while The Incredibles was being made, the truck just wasn't seen as this mandatory Pixar tradition yet.

When Brad Bird joined Pixar, following the box office failure of The Iron Giant, he was effectively given the golden keys to write and direct a Pixar movie solo. In Behind The Scenes footage, there is this sense that Brad Bird has his own way of doing things, even if it went against the grain of how things in Pixar were normally done. Except The Incredibles hides Doc Hudson, a future movie easter egg to Cars which came out after The Incredibles, plus the regular John Ratzenberger cameo. So it's odd that some traditions were adhered to, and others weren't.

Some believe in a more in-universe reason for the missing truck. This scene has Bob Parr reading a newspaper revealing the film takes place in 1962. Therefore it's set in a time before the Pizza Planet restaurant chain exists. But it appears in the sequel. And given it appears in an asteroid belt in The Good Dinosaur, I don't think time is an issue. Your pizza in 66 million years or your money back!

Alright, so if the truck is in this movie, where could it be?

The most likely candidate is the fight in the city against the omnidroid. There's a lot of cars around, so it'll be very easy to hide the truck here.

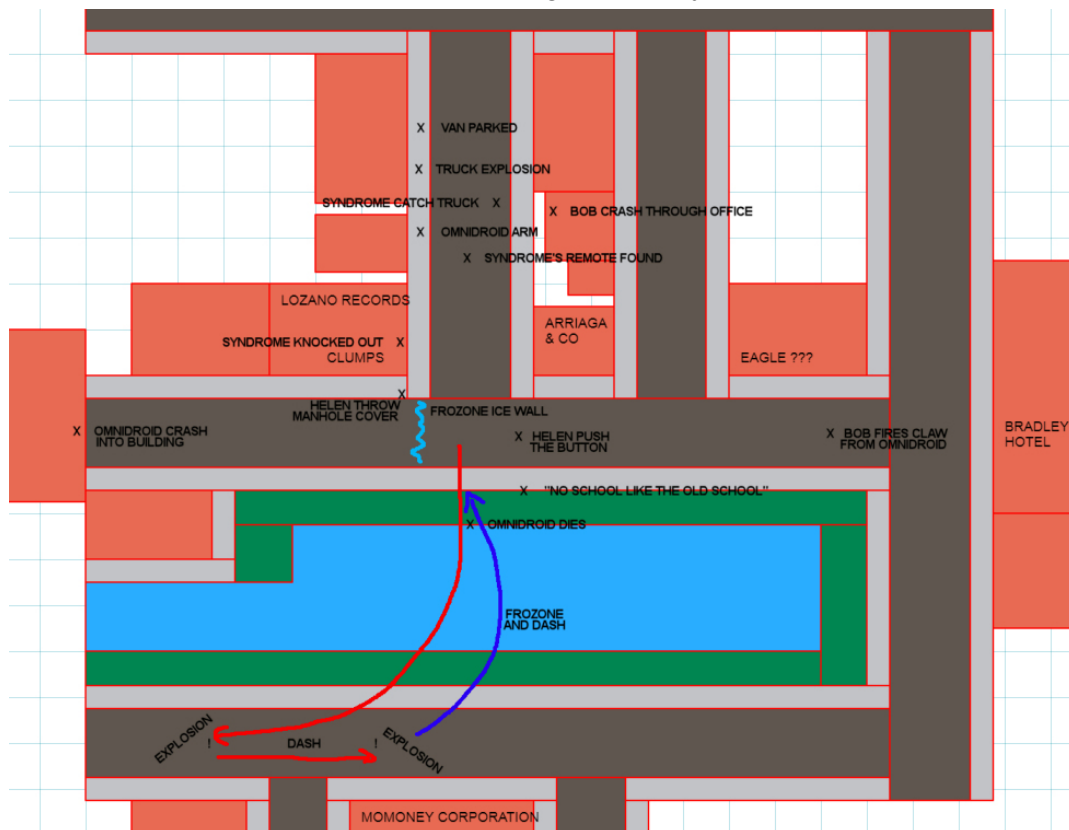
Cinemablend shares a theory that it's this car here. It's a yellow vehicle and there seems to be something above it, but it's unclear.



So I scanned through the entire fight scene and realised, most of the Omnidroid encounter takes place in one road. The scene where Syndrome catches the truck and throws it away, is in the same location where the Parr family park the RV. In fact you can see the smashed up truck here. So I took note of the names of the buildings in the background and assembled a rough map of the whole sequence. Here's where Bob crashes through the office, here's where Dash crosses the river, here's where Frozone made the ice wall and so on. So if it's any one of these cars, we'll be able to see it in a bunch of different angles to make sure. Here's where Dash falls towards this Clumps building. What kind of business does a store named "Clumps" do?

"Eddie! You look amazing! Who are you wearing?" "Clumps."

Anyway, you can see it's down the same street as where most of the action takes place and I found the same car seen from multiple angles. Clearly not the Pizza Planet Truck.



Similarly this kid thought it might be this yellow car that's a bit closer to the action. But that's clearly this yellow car, not the truck. Get wrecked kid from 2009!



Pixar Fandom user "PixarFandom", suggests it could be over here:

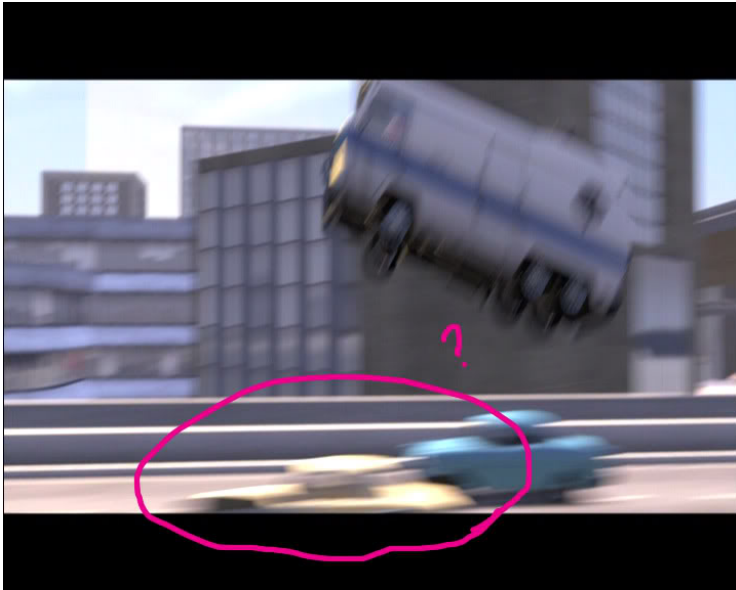


Ooh yeah, look at that streak of light, it's practically pointing straight at it! Except here it is in a different angle. Not the truck.

Maybe it's this car that blows up in front of Dash? Except you see it at this angle seconds before and it's not the truck.



Alright, so maybe it's not during the Omnidroid fight. Maybe it's just before the fight begins? One often cited sighting is just as the RV is coming into land. Look at that! Yellow vehicle and something rocket shaped on the roof! Now for no reason let's play it for two more frames. Hmm, the rocket shape has now become a flat roof. I think that was just a blur. And speaking of blurry images.



This website suggests it's on the reflection of this passing oil truck. Now, I can't see anything in this reflection. There's this kinda block shape that could be a reflection of another vehicle. But if you look at this oil truck, it's not reflecting anything, not even the omnidroid's claw. This oil truck doesn't even reflect the passing bus, nor the RV. So I doubt it's reflecting a Pizza Truck that's somehow running perfectly parallel with this oil truck.



These two theories are the most pervasive and they're just blurs. Is this truck like Bigfoot and only exists in blurry images? Look, we can scan through every car in the Underminer scene, or Bob in traffic, or the opening scene, but maybe the reason we can't find it means the truck isn't actually a truck.

BLUE SKY THINKING

In many Pixar films, the Pizza Planet Truck has turned into a different vehicle. In *Elemental* it's a boat, in *Luca* it's this bike thing and in *Lightyear* it's a sort of space truck?

In other Pixar films, the Pizza Planet Truck has taken on other forms entirely. In *Brave* it's a wood carving, in *Toy Story 4* it's a tattoo and in *The Good Dinosaur* it's a rock formation.

Basically, maybe we shouldn't be looking for a truck at all.

The front of these missiles kinda look like the Pizza Planet rocket? Or maybe this rocket? Is this guy who kinda looks like a human rocket?

What if it's just text? Like the number plate RES1536. I checked every number plate I could see but couldn't find it. These ones are upside down for some reason. Maybe it's somewhere else? It's not on these cabinets. Or these cabinets. It's not any of these numbers on the Omnidroids scanner.

I found the word PIZZA written on the wall for the Luxo Deli, named after Luxo Jr. So there is a Pixar connection there but I think we need more than just the word PIZZA.



There's a forum thread on this Pixar fan site that spent 4 years searching for the truck in this movie. And their best theory is during the video the teacher shows, it says PIZA on the wall and below it is a planet. Piza Planet.

I like this theory, this is a fun theory. I don't think it's true. You'll have to be really looking for the word PIZZA to think that these fuzzy letters spell PIZA. It's a stretch, but I like it, it's my favourite theory so far.



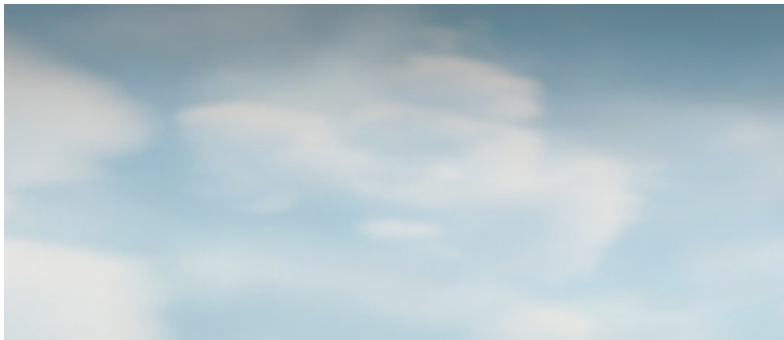
Alright that's it. I'm resorting to maths. ("No don't do it!") I'm a man on the edge!

I've taken the time code of every known Pizza Planet Truck sighting. The earliest sighting is the asteroid field in The Good Dinosaur. The latest sighting is in Cars 2, during the final race. I put all this data into a spreadsheet to work out what is the average timecode for a Pizza

Planet Truck sighting. 41 minutes, 53 seconds. Alright so what happens at 41:53 in The Incredibles? Hnng, I don't think that's right. Unless Jack Jack is the truck! His eyes are the wheels, the hair is the rocket- No... clearly I'm getting desperate.

I think the simplest explanation is that the Pizza Planet Truck is not in this movie. It came out in 2004 and no one has found it yet. Any sightings are blurs and any links are tenuous. The truck isn't there. But before we close the book, there is one more theory I want to discuss.

Mr Incredible is flying over to the island for the first time and did you notice it? Watch it again. There's a cloud formation that looks eerily like the truck. This was found in this reddit thread, and I was ready to take this with a grain of salt, a clump of salt. But looking at the scene itself, it makes for a strong case. It's in the first third of the movie so not far off our timecode, it's something that could have reasonably been added pretty late into the animation process. Call it Blue Sky Thinking but this makes for a very compelling case.



So what's the point of all this, it's just a truck. Why is it so important?

Looking back at the early works of Pixar movies, the truck was a handy shortcut. It played a part in helping animators focus their attention on the other more demanding parts while under strict deadlines. And while its purpose as, well, a truck, isn't needed so much anymore, it has still come to represent the resourcefulness and ingenuity that makes Pixar Pixar.

And who cares if the truck is not in The Incredibles. I care! I care immensely! (Phone call) I said not now!