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# Coollest toy of CES unearthed: Robotis Bioloid

**Consumer Electronics Show 2006** Lego step aside

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**I SAID THERE** were cool toys around CES, not tech, just toys, and the second coolest was a motorized skateboard. What is number one? Without a doubt, it is the robotics kits from [Robotis](#), Bioloid and Dynamixel. If you are a true geek, you simply must own this, even if there is no US distributor yet.

Robotis takes a serious robotics kit, with actuators, grippers, sensors and wheels, and packages it up in a toy like format. The kit itself looks like a big Lego box, but at an MSRP of around \$900 for the large one, \$350 for the small, is in a completely different league.



The Bioloid kit is a hardcore but accessible robotics workshop, make no mistake there. It comes with a C-like programming language, a GUI, 3D modelling software, and an image recognition workshop for the more advanced sensors. You can program it to respond to distance (IR), sound and light as well as pictures.

With the bigger kit, you can make an 18 degree of freedom bot, enough for quadrapeds, spiders, and other fantastic creatures. These are not cheesy toys though, if you put the time and effort in, they will walk, dance and react. The puppy, below, would even do a headstand.



These kits are amazingly cool, complex and powerful. Combine the large movement range with the sensor and you get the 'biting duck', an arm with a beak that responds to movement. Put your hand near it, it will swivel over and snap at you. The booth was set up so the duck would defend the table where the puppy, dinosaur and robot were playing.

I can't stress enough that these are not kids toys, unless your kid programs AI in C. These are flat out adult toys, and will provide the interested with hours of fun. Children that had a large Lego kit years ago, and refuse to grow up, IE an average Inq reader, will find a lot to like here. As I said earlier, there is currently no US distributor, but hopefully someone will pick it up. The Robotis products are too cool not to be available in the US, I want one.