



M-TRON FORKLIFT MECHA PROTOTYPE (1987)

INSTRUCTIONS

CONCEPT BY LEGO
PHOTOGRAPHY & INSTRUCTIONS
BY COSMIC.BRICK



Introduction

This M-Tron Space Forklift Mecha is a transforming prototype from 1987. Joe Meno, the BrickJournal editor, wrote in his intro of issue 6, vol 2 released in 2009, there would be more stories & photo's regarding vintage prototypes. Although less shared by fans, a follow up article by Mark Stafford also contained a prototype Space model from the "Magna-Tron" series.

This M-Tron prototype was depicted in BrickJournal issue 12, released in 2010. The article partly reads: "This is a prototype space model approximately built between 1987 and 1990. It's in M-Tron LEGO Space theme colors and is a Space-forklift vehicle that transforms into a forklift-mecha. No-one has been able to shed light on which designer built it or even if it was intended to be part of the M:Tron theme or was a sketch model for another space theme."

Although small, it uses an overkill of fingered hinge parts making it insanely flexible but stable. I like the unexpected weirdness of this thing, with an interesting part usage. The engine cylinder (x461b) was an unknown part for me, I recognized it by eye after looking through databases for hours. It was used on the front of 12v trains, and first hit the market in 1983 (set 7727).

At the time of creating these instructions this specific engine cylinder wasn't available in Brickink Studio. I've added an image and part number on the designated pages for clarification.

With trans-neon green still in development, this model uses trans-yellow instead of trans-neon green. The yellow Space seat looks deliberate compared to the other M-Tron prototype models, as yellow was considered part of the theme colors in 1987. Ultimately a yellow seat was only used in Blacktron set 6987, issued in 1988. The white forklift forks were released in sets from 1989.

Oh, and those two small red plates with pinhole on the bottom? That part had its first (slightly altered, part 18677) release in 2015! Almost 30 years later. Insane. See page 10 for a detailed comparison.

Have fun building!
Chris (cosmic.brick)



Excerpt from the follow-up article.

Forklift comparison

Photo from Niels Milan Pedersen's personal LEGO archives, as published in BrickJournal issue 12 (2010).

Replica model by @cosmic.brick.



Above is a prototype space model approximately built between 1987 and 1990. It's in M-tron LEGO Space theme colors and is a space-forklift vehicle that transforms into a forklift-mecha. No-one has been able to shed light on which Designer built it or even if it was intended to be part of the M-Tron theme or was a sketch model for



Mecha comparison

Photo from Niels Milan Pedersen's personal LEGO archives, as published in BrickJournal issue 12 (2010).

Replica model by @cosmic.brick.



From the

The model

Replica model by @cosmic.brick.



Get your parts ready!



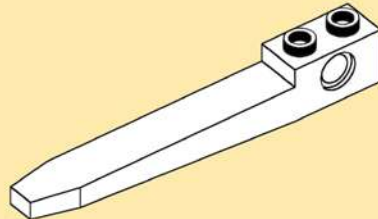
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3023
Black



6x
4276b
Black



1x
3020
Black



2x
2823
White



2x
2430
Red



1x
3626ap01
Yellow



1x
2446
Black



1x
2817
Black



4x
43093
Light Gray



4x
4073
Red



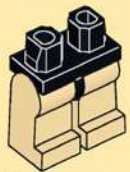
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Red



1x
4598
Yellow



2x
2420
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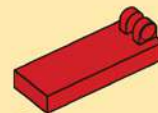
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Black



2x
4592c02
Light Gray



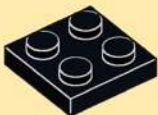
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Red



4x
4531
Red



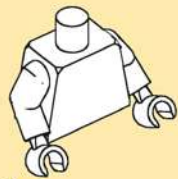
8x
4073
Trans-Yellow



1x
3022
Black



6x
2880
Black



1x
973c00
White



2x
18677
Red



1x
x461b
Red



1x
2447
Trans-Yellow



6x
4275b
Black



4x
4288
Black



2x
2429
Red

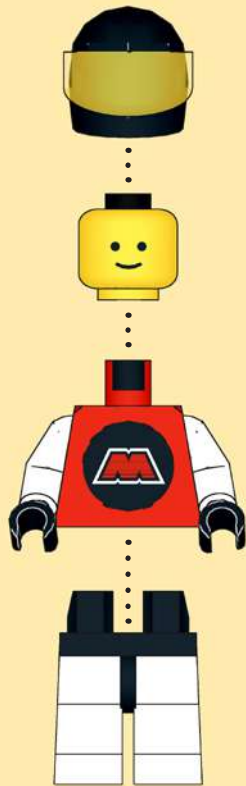


2x
3020
Red

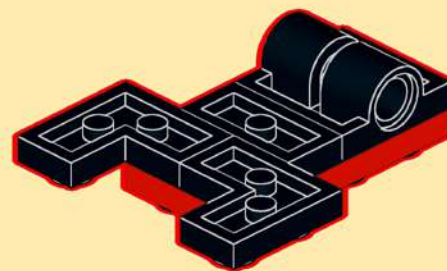
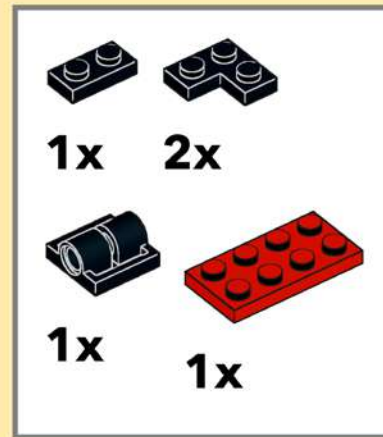
1

What's going on here?

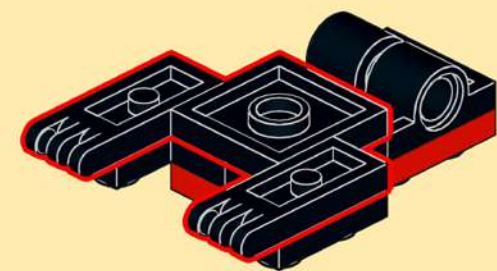
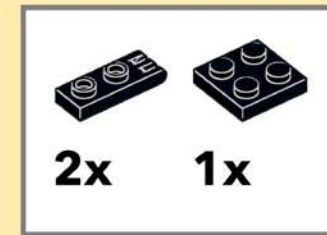
The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. Every M-Tron prototype depicted in both articles uses minifigs without air tanks. With trans-neon green still in development, inconsistencies between models is not uncommon. This minifig uses a trans-yellow visor.



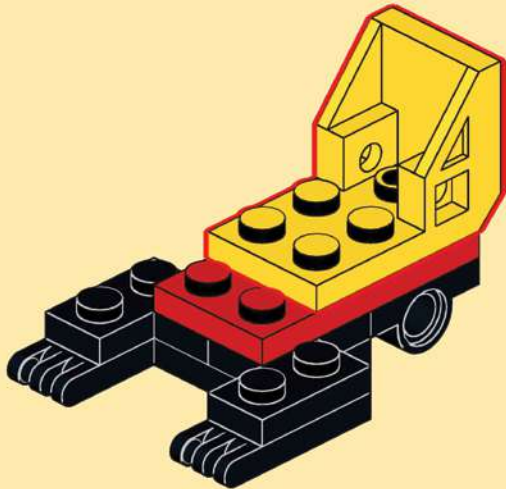
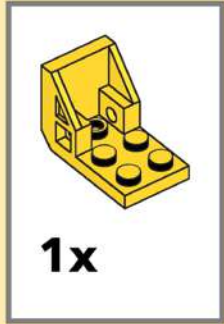
2



3



4



5

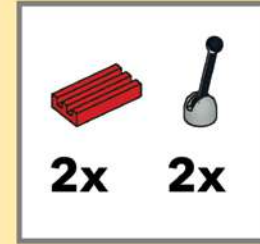


Part X461B




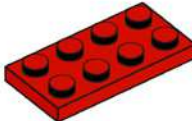
Using the depicted part on the left is essential when wanting to build an exact replica of this model. At the time of the creation of these building steps only engine cylinder 263 was available, please ignore the part as shown below.



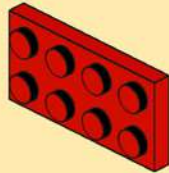
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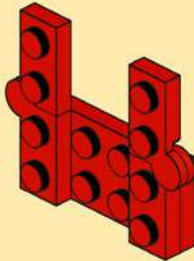
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-  2x
-  2x
-  2x
-  1x

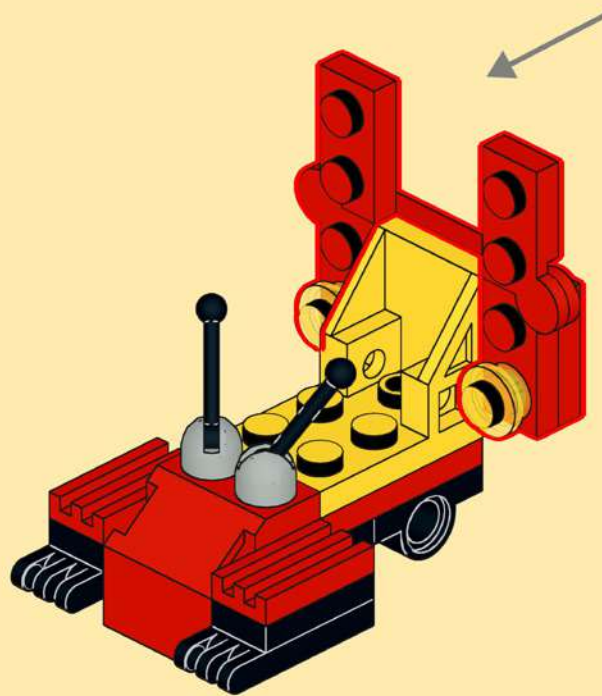
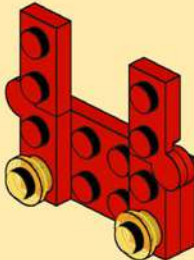
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2

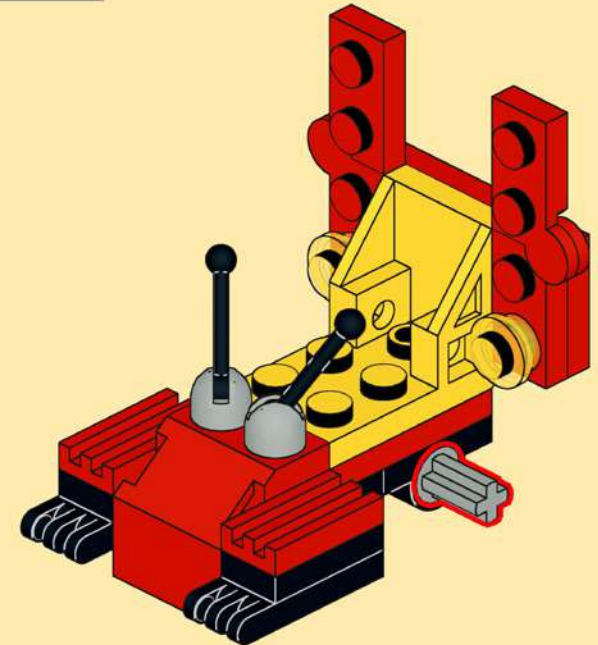


3









8

-  2x



9

-  2x
-  2x
-  2x
-  2x
-  2x
-  2x

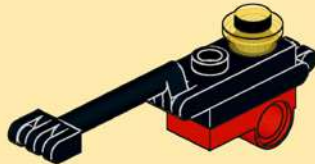
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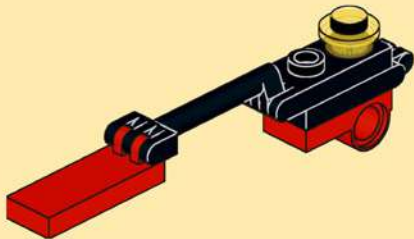
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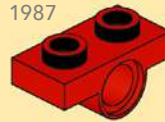
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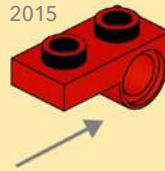
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1987



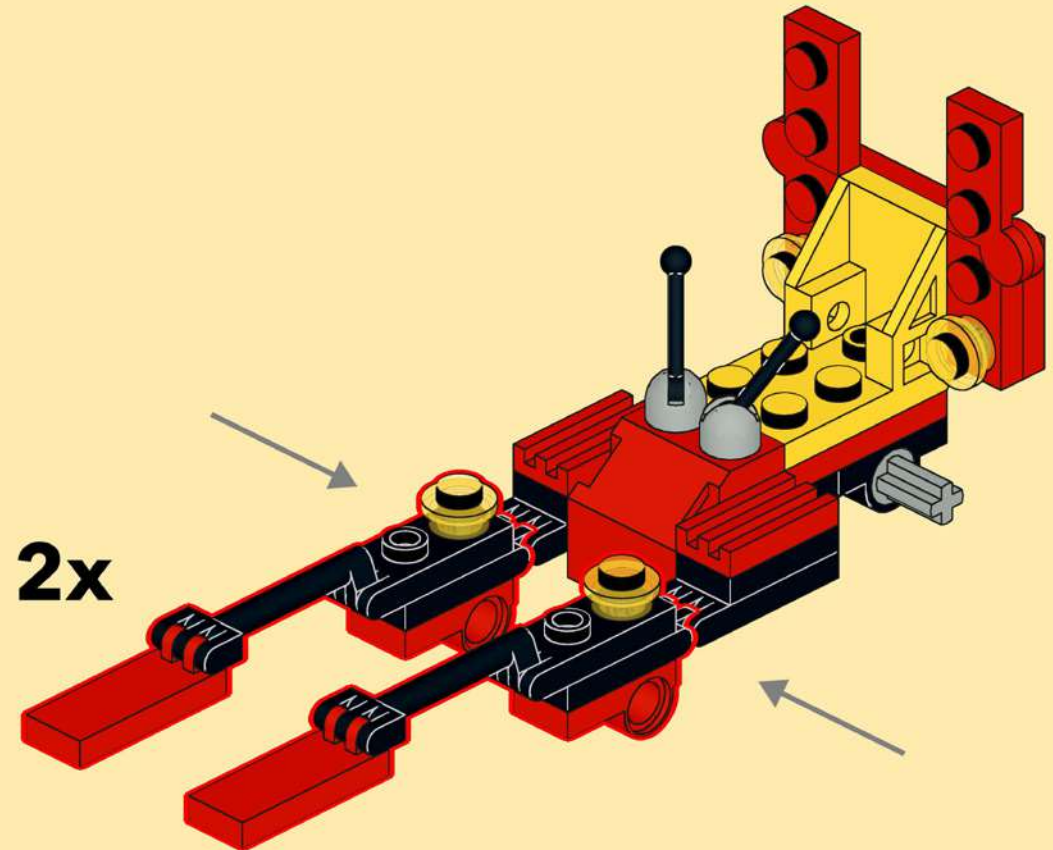
2015



Part 18677 and its prototype predecessor

This now common part is not the exact same as the depicted prototype part from the original image.

When it finally got produced after almost 30 years in 2015, the pinhole moved to the side instead of staying in the middle, creating a slightly different height regarding this reconstruction.



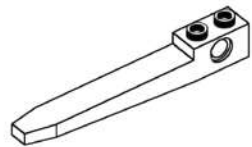
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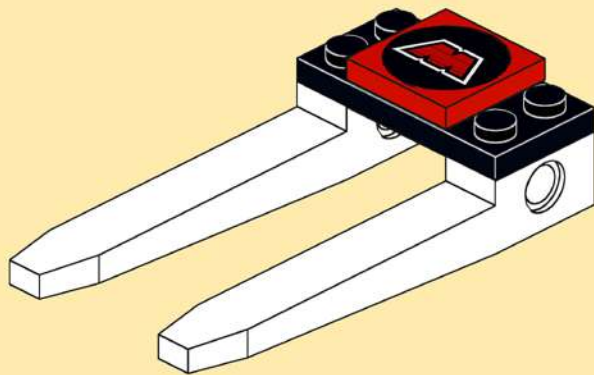
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1x



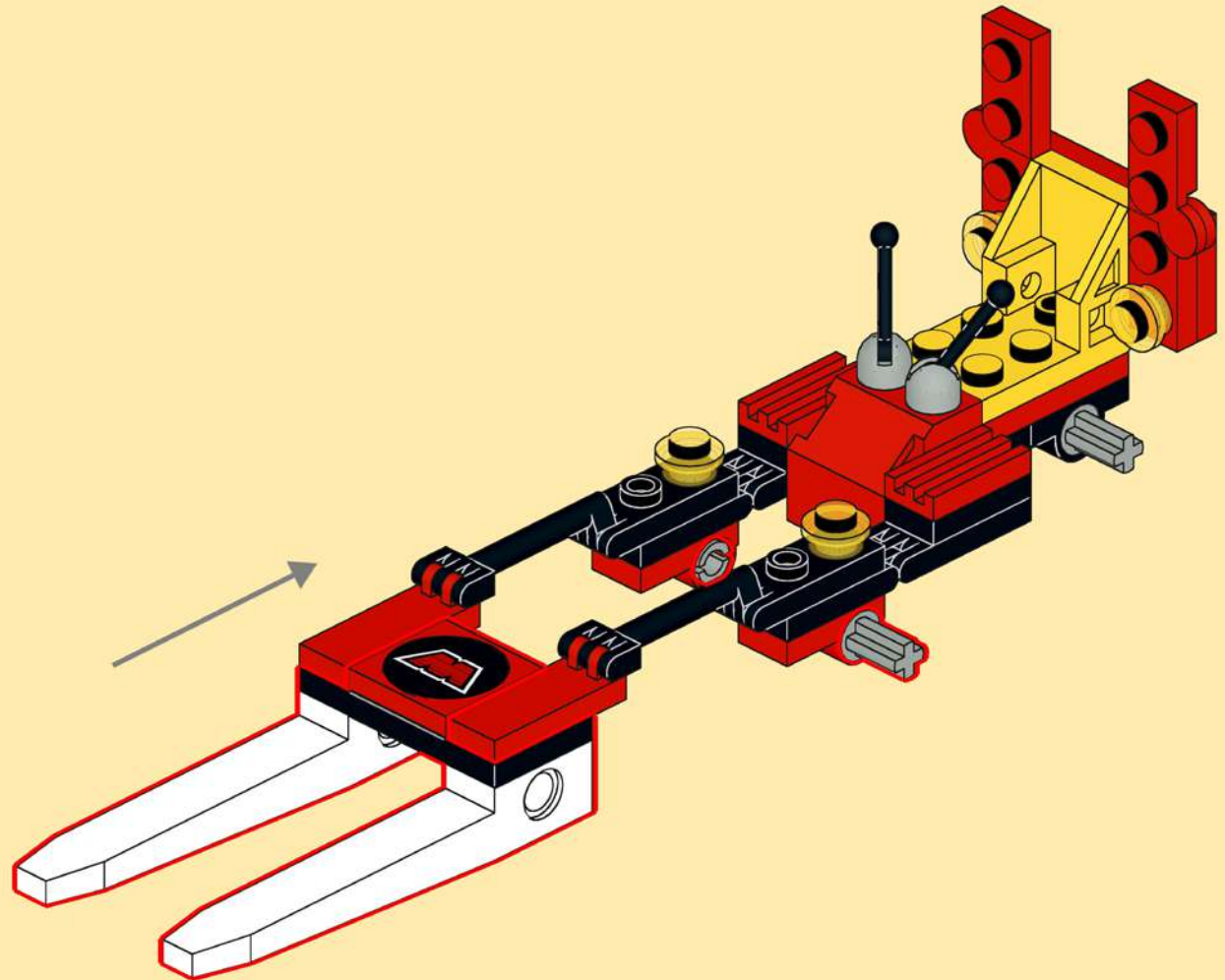
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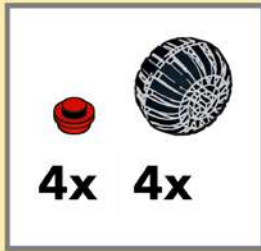
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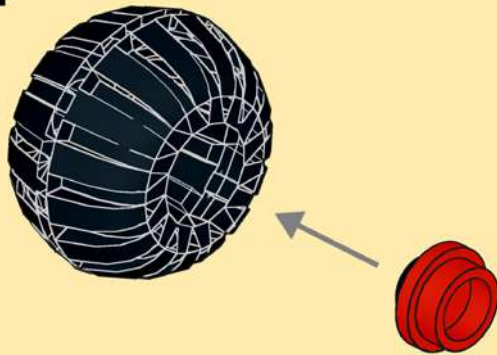
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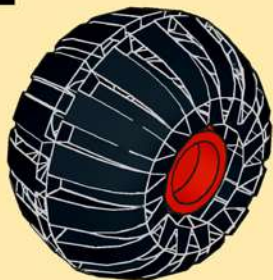
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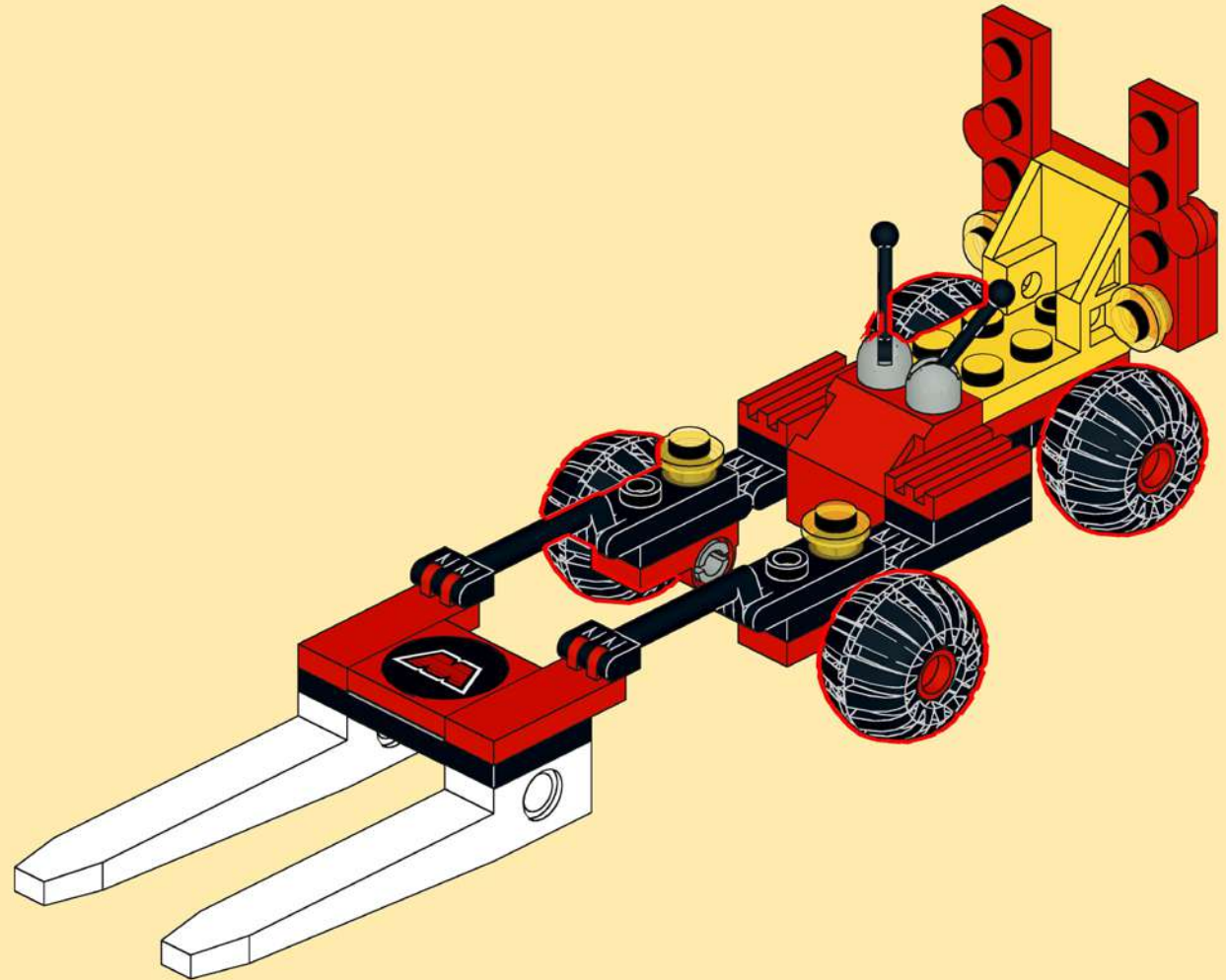
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2

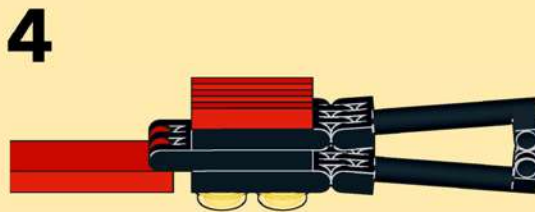
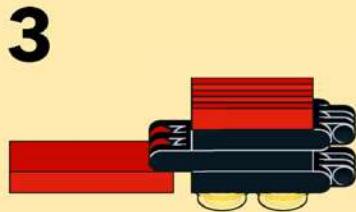
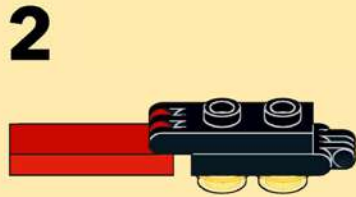


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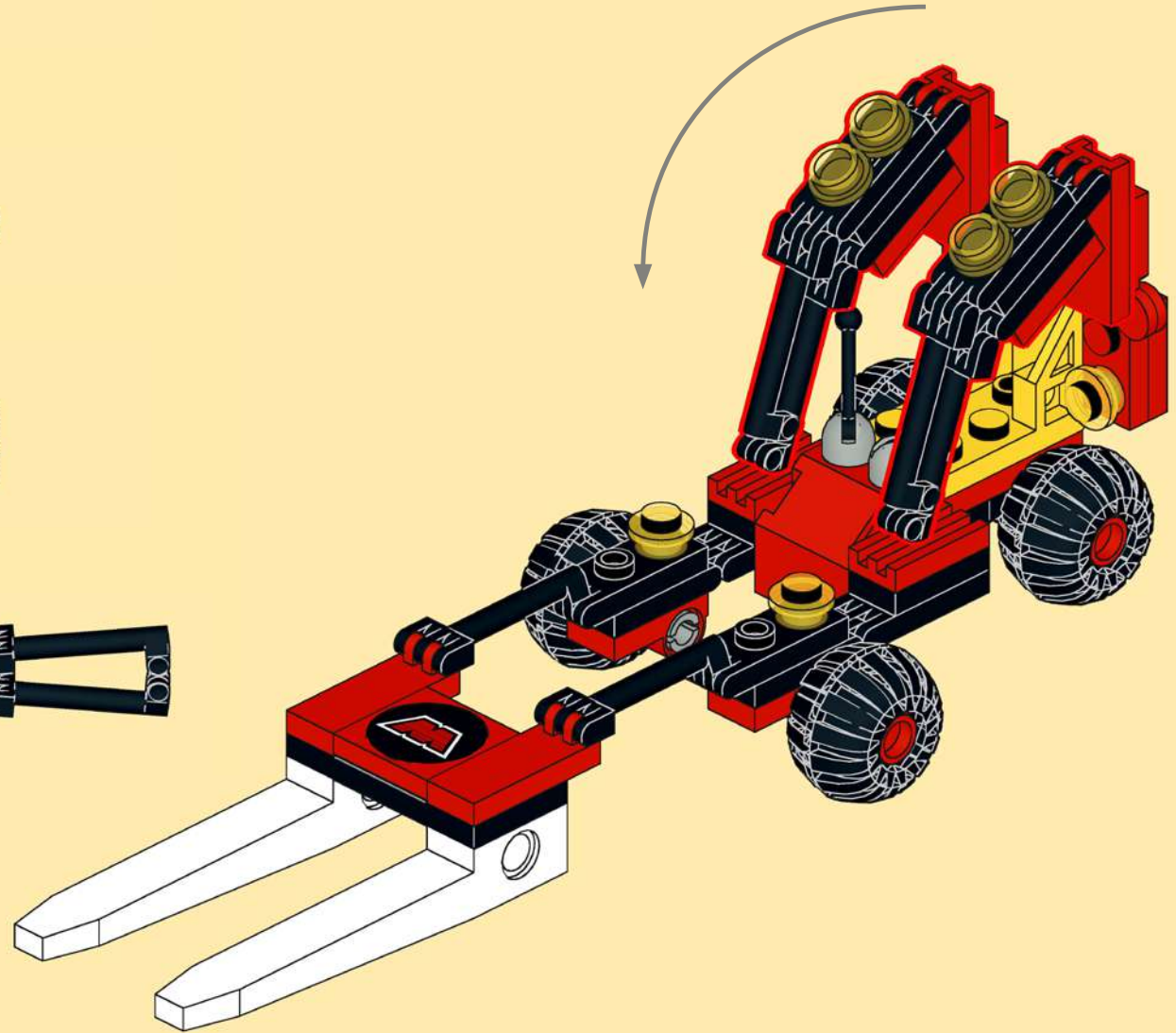


14

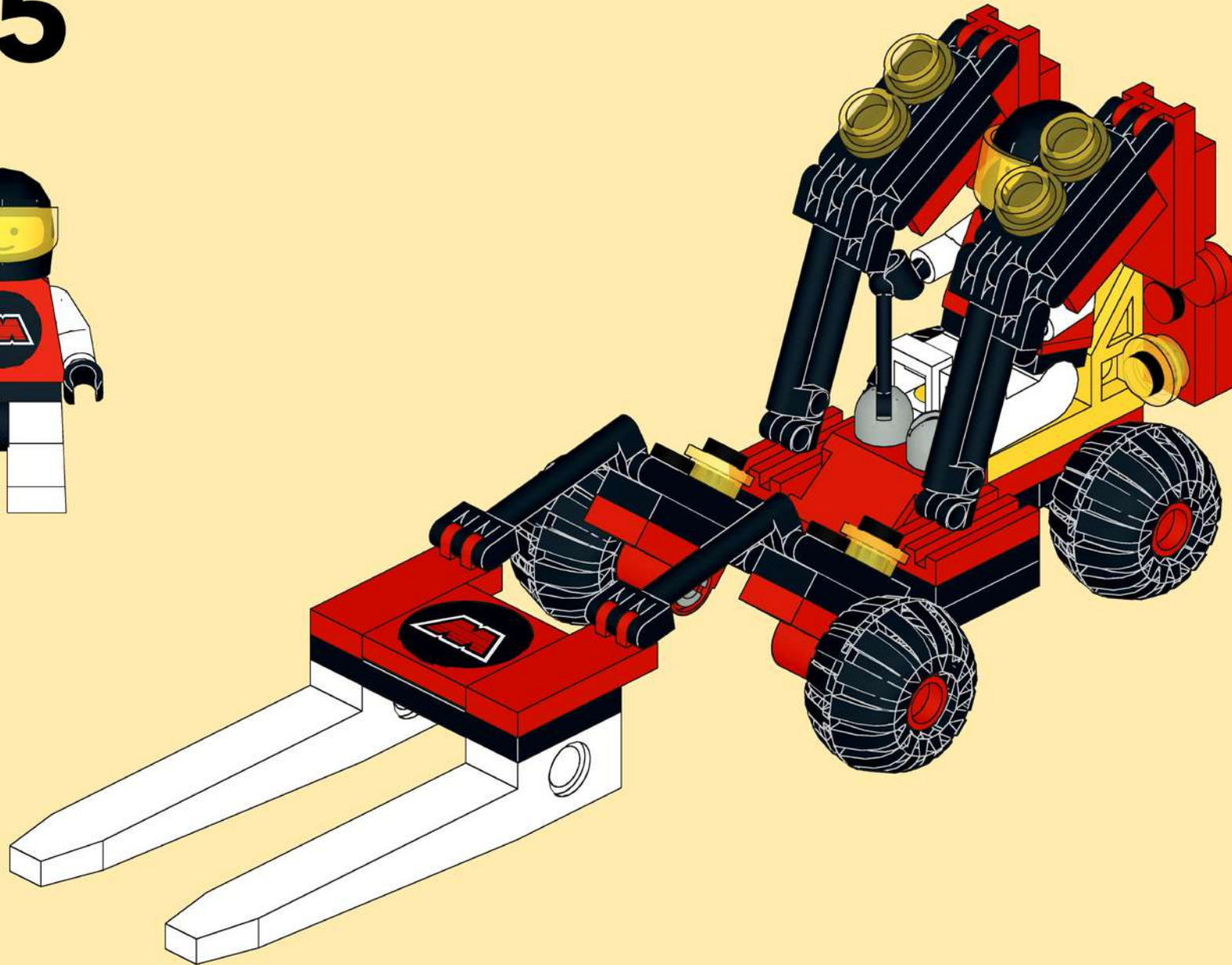
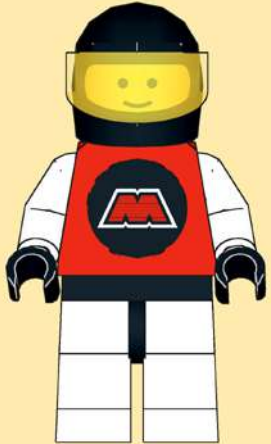
-  4x
-  2x
-  2x
-  4x
-  2x
-  4x



2x



15



Transform!

The Space-forklift vehicle on the left can transform into the forklift-mecha shown right. And many other weird things (see page 5).

