

*M-Tron transforming vehicle, 1987.*



*M-Tron crane, 1987, this was before the magnets were involved in the theme.*



## **M-TRON CRANE** PROTOTYPE (1987)

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

CONCEPT BY LEGO  
PHOTOGRAPHY & INSTRUCTIONS  
BY COSMIC.BRICK

# Introduction

The M-Tron Crane is a prototype from 1987, as depicted in the awe inspiring interview with Jens Nygaard Knudsen by Mark Stafford, in BrickJournal issue 6, vol. 2 released in 2009. This model has been reverse engineered using the photo from Niels Milan Pedersen's personal archive, as shown in the article. See the next page for a comparison.

Obsessed with LEGO prototypes and unused Space concepts from the '80s, this is my favorite recreated "Magna-Tron" prototype from 1987, now known as M-Tron. As the depicted caption reads, this was made before magnets were involved in the theme. I had much fun with downgrading the iconic M-Tron containers, to fit the oldskool metal hook, see page 4.

As most prototypes are very fragile to handle, this build proves to be very stable, featuring a lot of playabilities.

No doubt Classic Town fans already spotted the likeness, but to my surprise the main body & crane were almost exactly re-used 4 years later in set 6352 *Cargomaster Crane*, released in 1991. Besides the different driver cabin, the wheels moved one stud outward, creating a wider base. A big turntable was added, making it possible to rotate the crane.

Although there's much similarity with the Classic Town set, some parts of this build were still challenging to get right. The prototype wheel shape didn't reach production until 1993, but only in black & white (Space Police II & Ice Planet). Light gray is an uncommon and challenging color when wanting to obtain 6 hard plastic wheels, as they only got produced for set 1195 Alien Encounter (using two).

One thing remains unknown regarding the black crate – as two red slopes are keenly placed and elevated with one red plate, something was definitely planned inside. The Cargomaster crate housed a dismantled tractor. What would the M-Tron Crane be hauling?

For creating the instructions, I have held the building steps of the 6352 Cargomaster Crane in high regard. You will find various references throughout this document – hopefully they are just as useful and inspiring to you.

Have fun building!  
Chris (cosmic.brick)



Excerpt from "The Truth About Space!"

# Comparison

Photo from Niels Milan Pedersen's personal LEGO archives, as published in BrickJournal issue 6, volume 2 (2009).



*M-Tron transforming vehicle, 1987.*



*M-Tron crane, 1987, this was before the magnets were involved in the theme.*



Replica model by @cosmic.brick.





# The model

Replica model by @cosmic.brick.



De-magnetize the iconic M-Tron crates & boxes for more fun!



The 6352 Cargomaster Crane, from 1991.

# Get your parts ready!



6x  
4073  
Black



1x  
3938  
Black



6x  
2458  
Black



1x  
x99  
Black



2x  
4215a  
Black



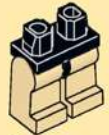
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3034  
Black



2x  
4070  
Black



1x  
4865  
Black



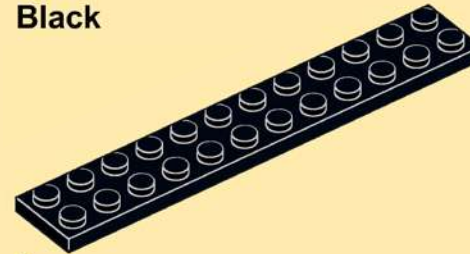
1x  
970c02  
Black



1x  
3709b  
Black



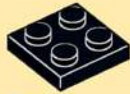
2x  
3666  
Black



1x  
2445  
Black



4x  
3069bp21  
Black



2x  
3022  
Black



1x  
4175  
Black



2x  
3020  
Black



3x  
3795  
Black



5x  
3023  
Black



8x  
2429  
Black



1x  
3021  
Black



1x  
3597  
Black



2x  
2412a  
Black



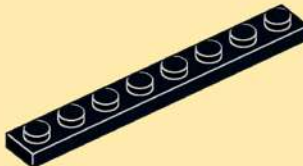
8x  
2430  
Black



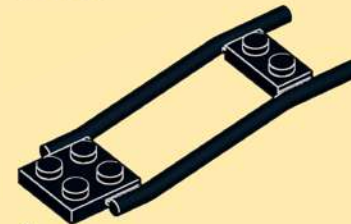
1x  
4730  
Black



1x  
3315  
Black



2x  
3460  
Black



1x  
2397  
Black



1x  
3937  
Black



1x  
2446  
Black



1x  
3035  
Black



3x  
2412a  
Light Gray

6x  
2412a  
Red

4x  
4276b  
Red

1x  
3021  
Red

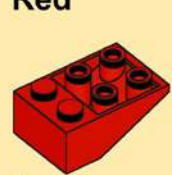


2x  
4070  
Red

1x  
2540  
Light Gray

4x  
2433  
Red

1x  
3003  
Red



1x  
4598  
Red

1x  
4081b  
Red

1x  
3829c01  
Light Gray

2x  
3040a  
Red

1x  
3039  
Red



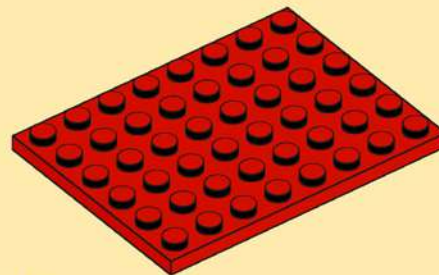
1x  
73037  
Red

6x  
6118  
Light Gray

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3004  
Red

1x  
2376  
Red

3x  
3710  
Red



1x  
3036  
Red

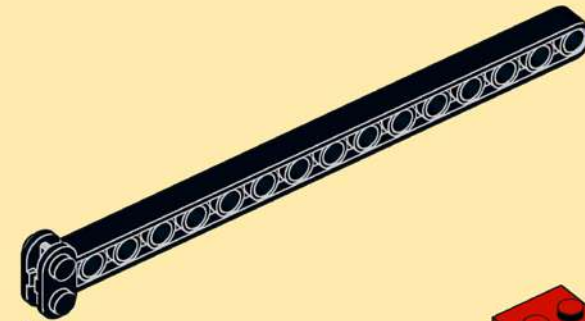
1x  
973c00

1x  
3068a  
Red

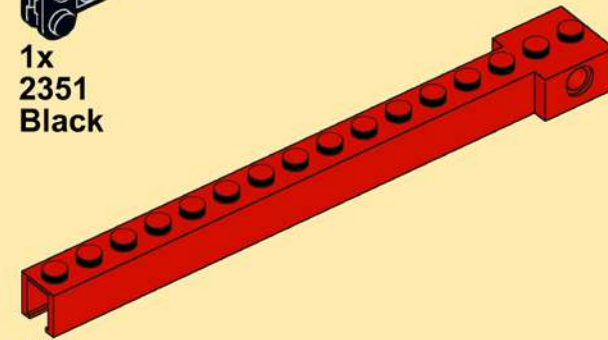
2x  
4286  
Red

1x  
3020  
Red

Don't forget to include some  
Black string (cord). Length unknown.



1x  
2351  
Black



1x  
2350a  
Red

1x  
3626ap01  
Yellow

4x  
4073  
Trans-Yellow

4x  
3070b  
Trans-Red

2x  
3062b  
Trans-Yellow

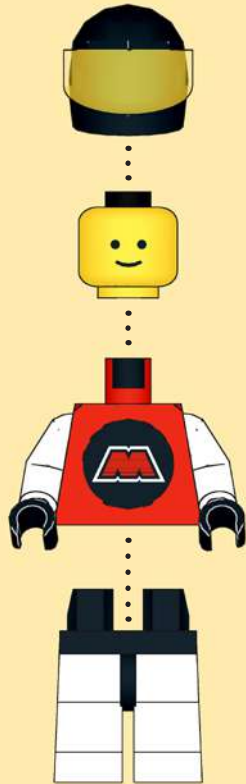
2x  
4073  
Trans-Red

1x  
2447  
Trans-Yellow

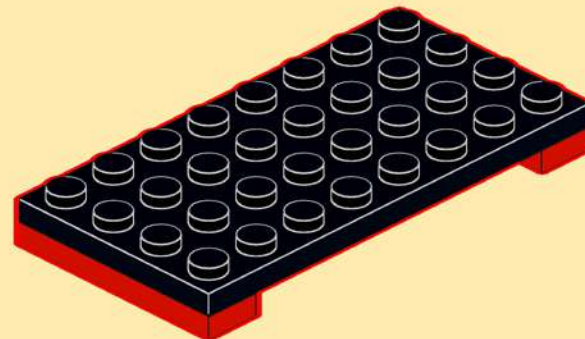
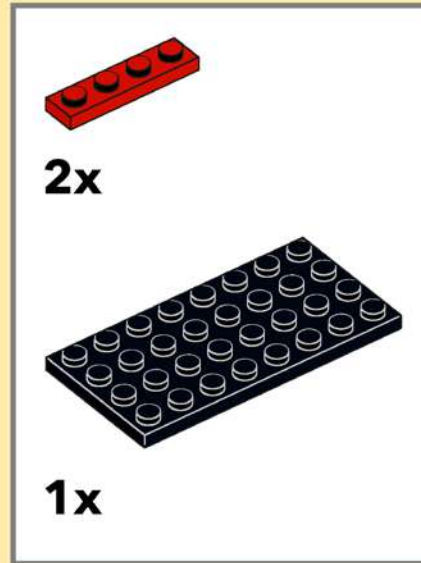
# 1

## Is this even legal?

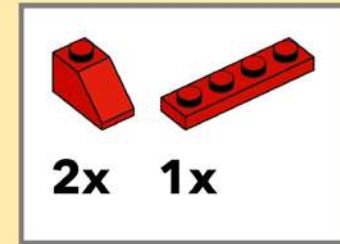
The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. Every M-Tron prototype depicted in the article uses minifigs without air tanks. With trans-neon green still in development, inconsistencies between models is not uncommon. This minifig uses a trans-yellow visor.



# 2



# 3

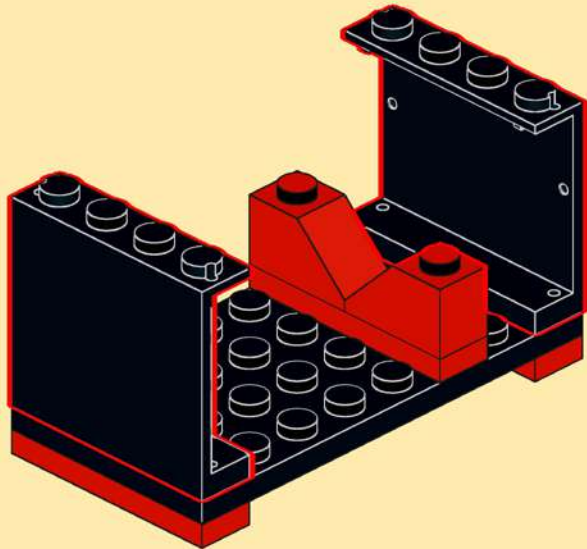


## What's in the box?!

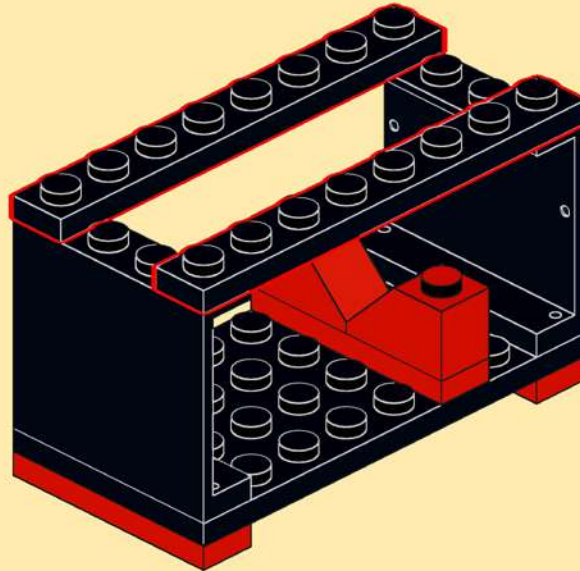
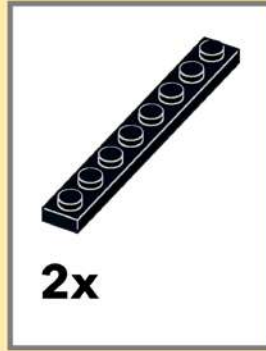
The intended use of these red parts is unknown. The crate in set 6352 Cargomaster Crane houses a small tractor. What will your M-Tron Crane carry?



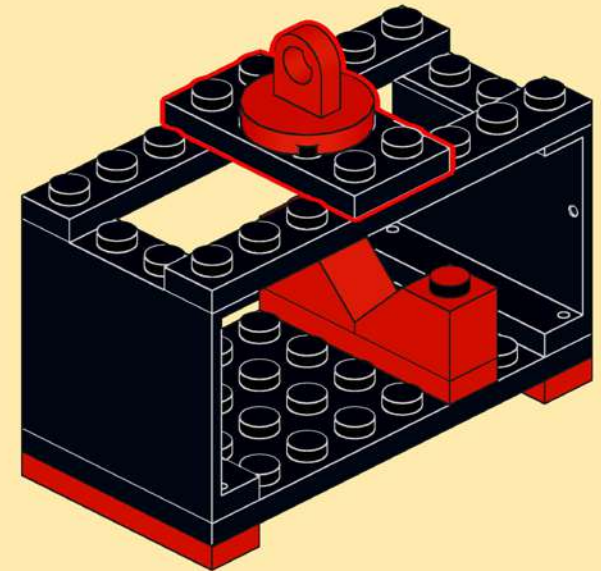
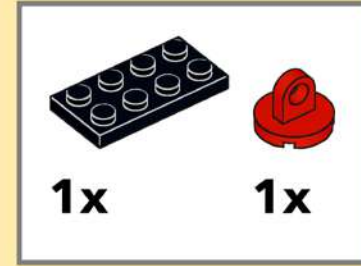
# 4



# 5

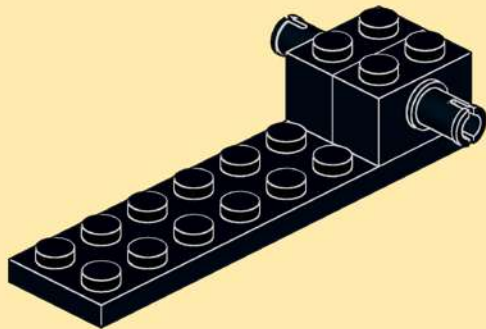
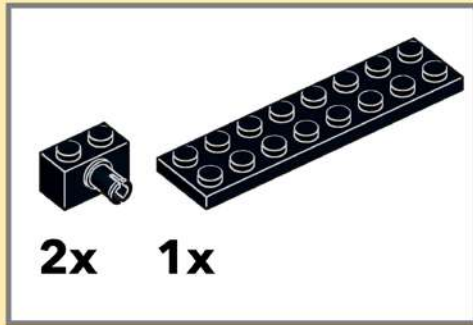


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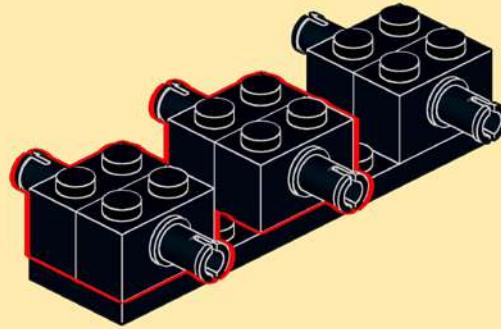




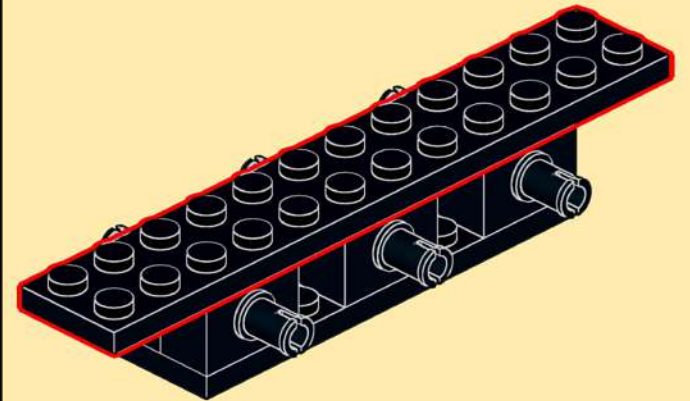
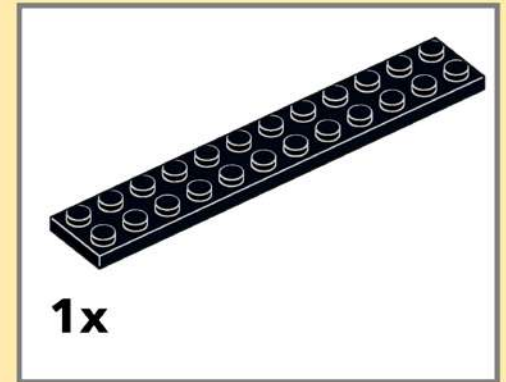
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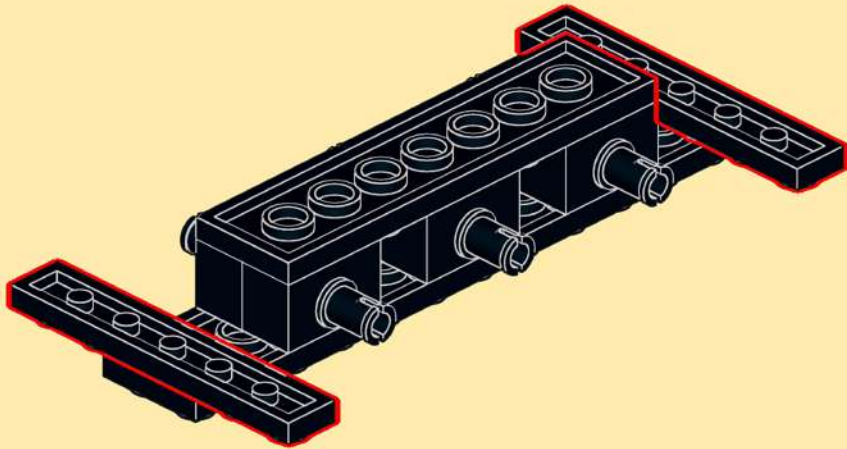
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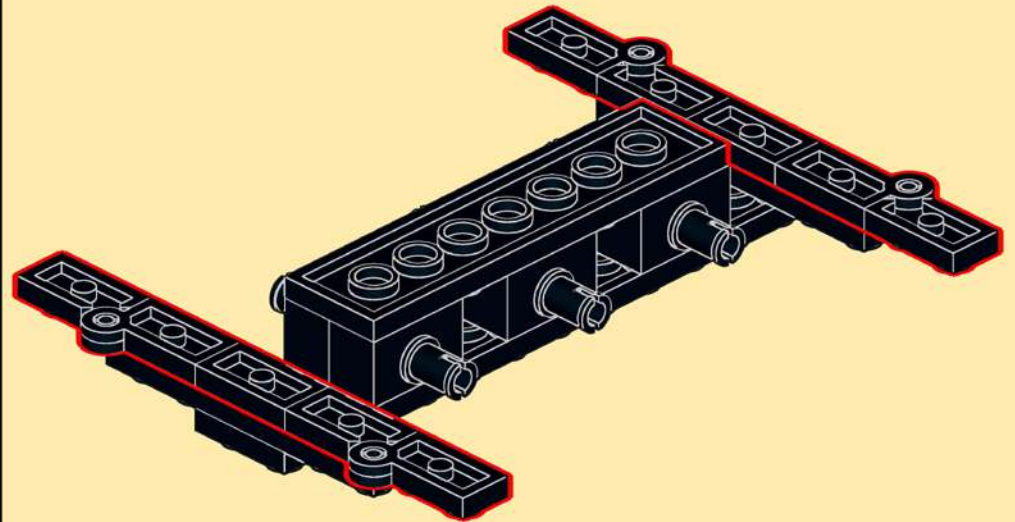
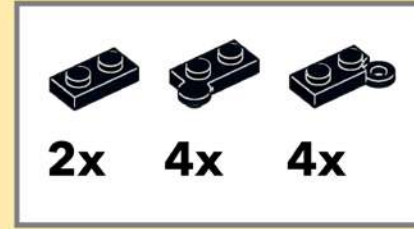
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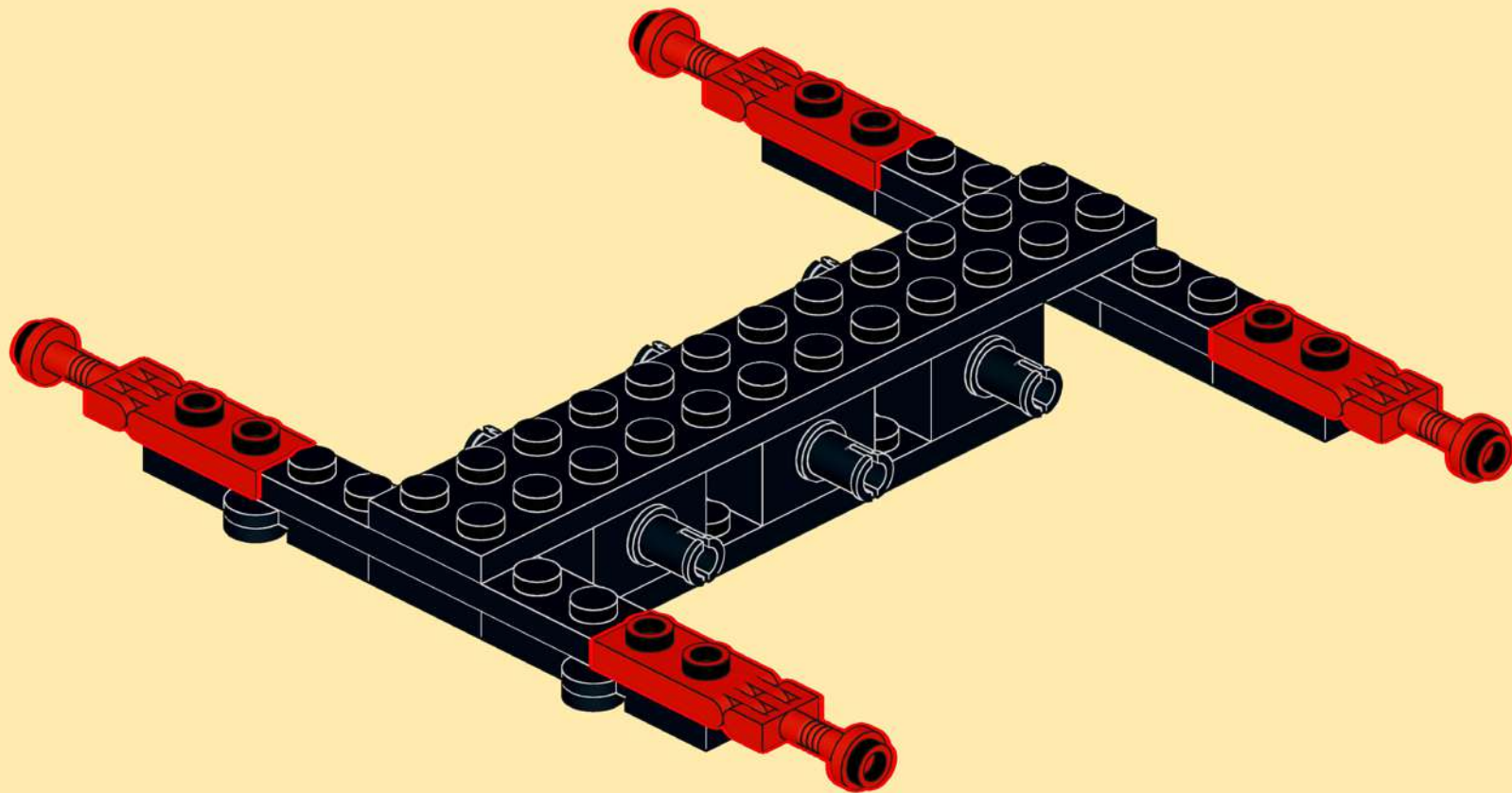
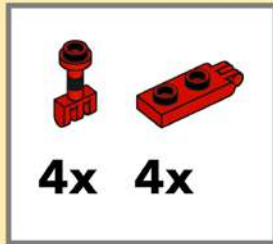
# 4



# 5

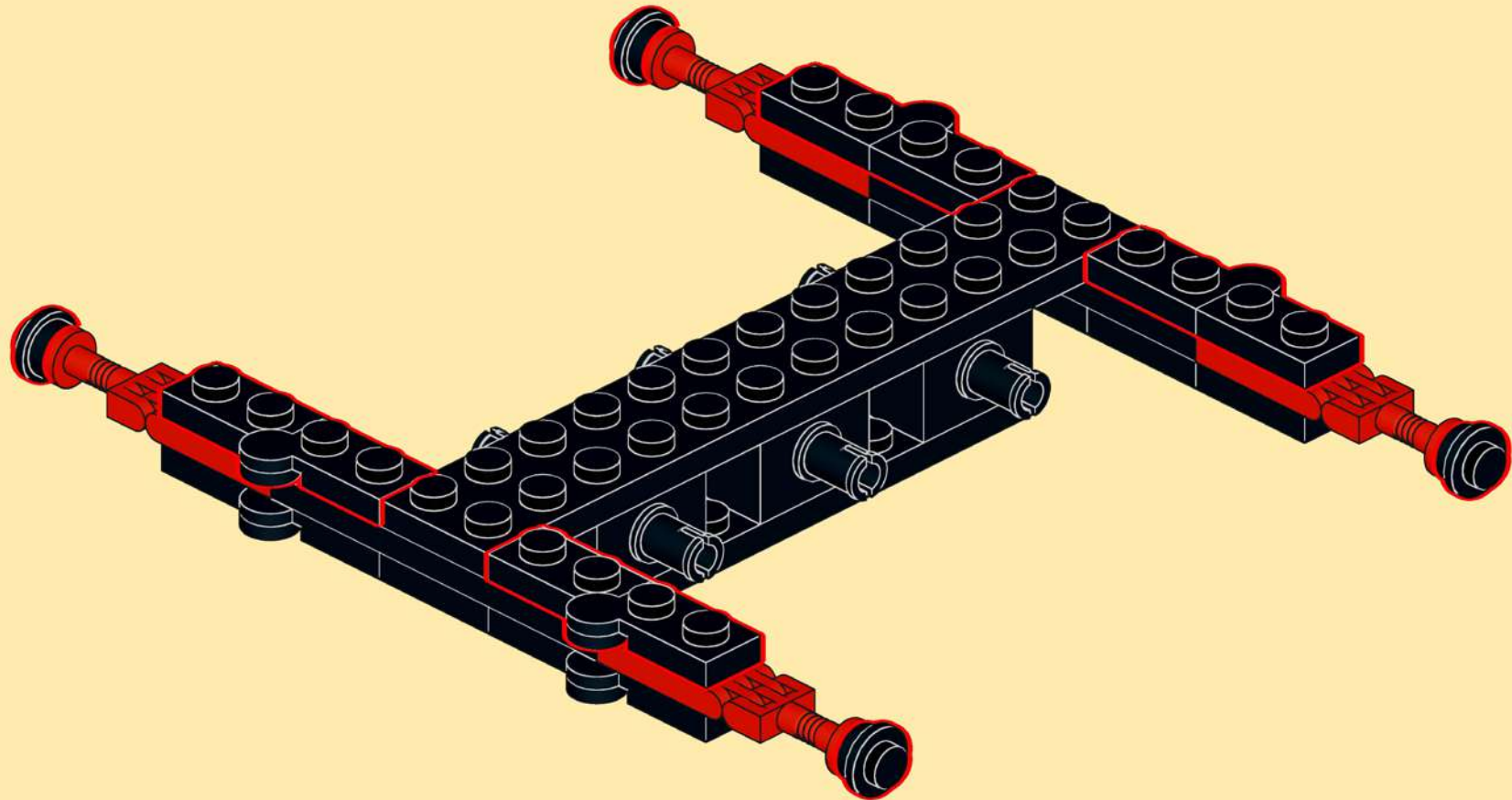
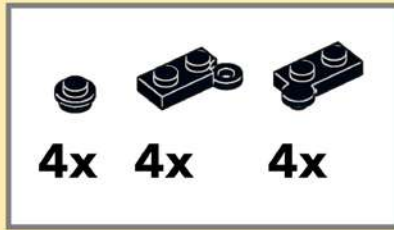


6

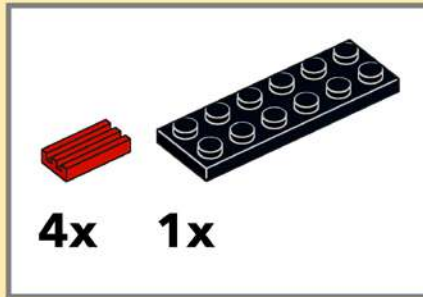




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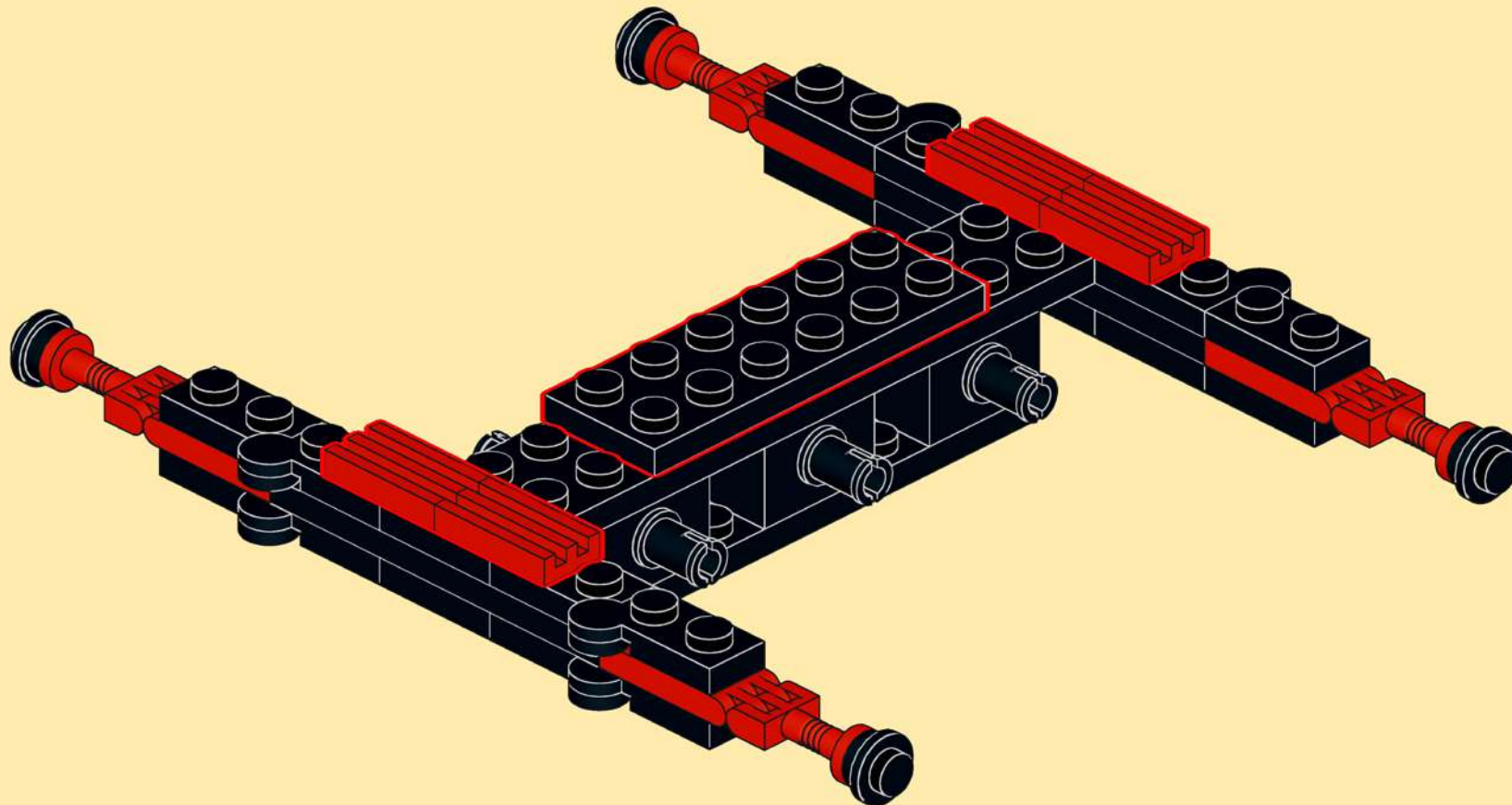


# 8

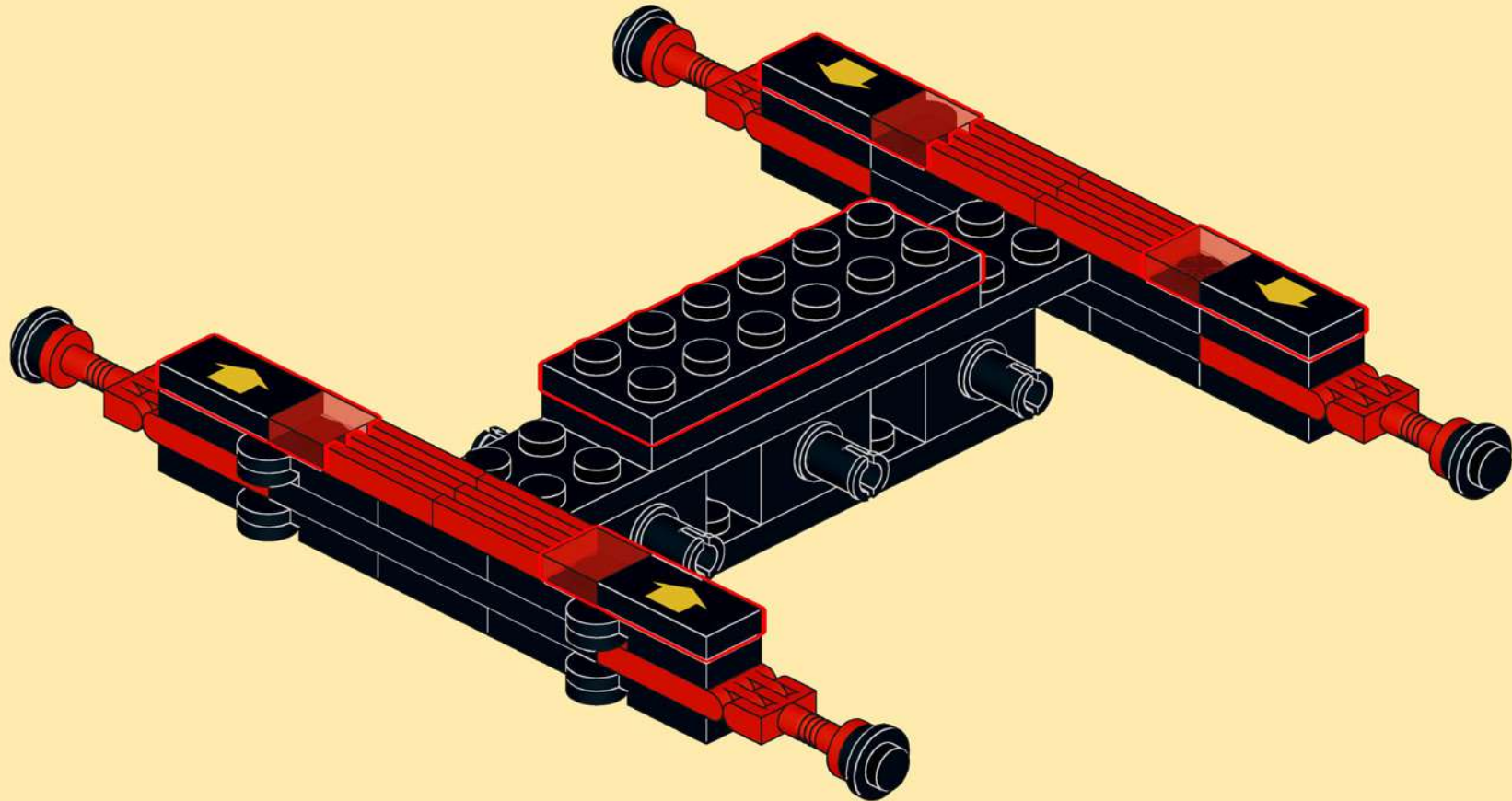
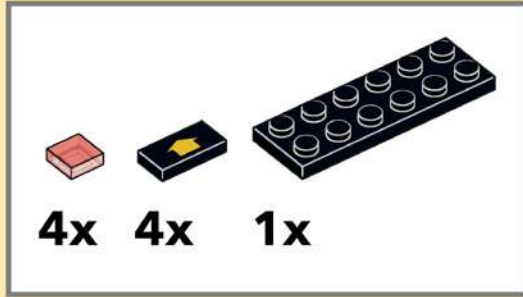


## No turntable?

Indeed. Set 6352 Cargomaster Crane uses a 4x4 sized turntable. Due to the width of the wheels and height of the cabin floor in the prototype depiction, it's safe to say the turntable was added later. See page 16 for comparison.

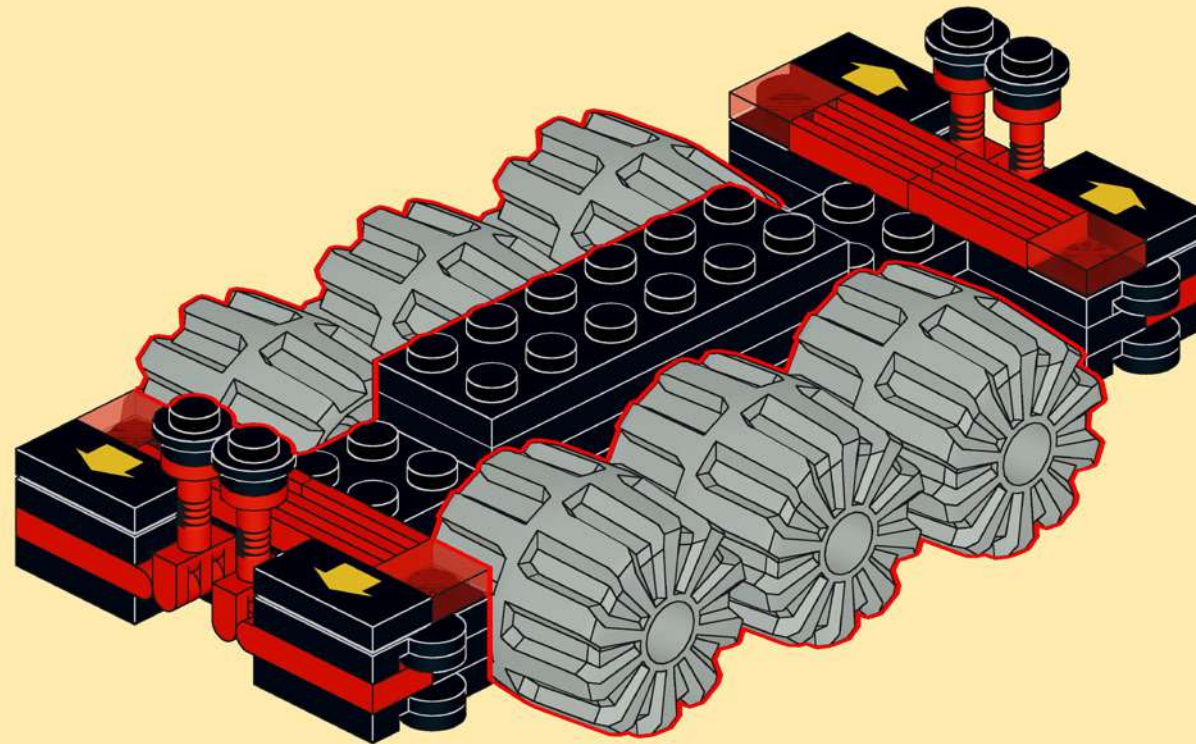
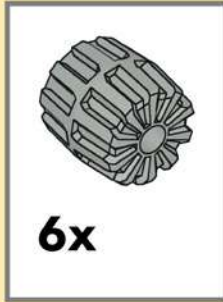


# 9





# 10

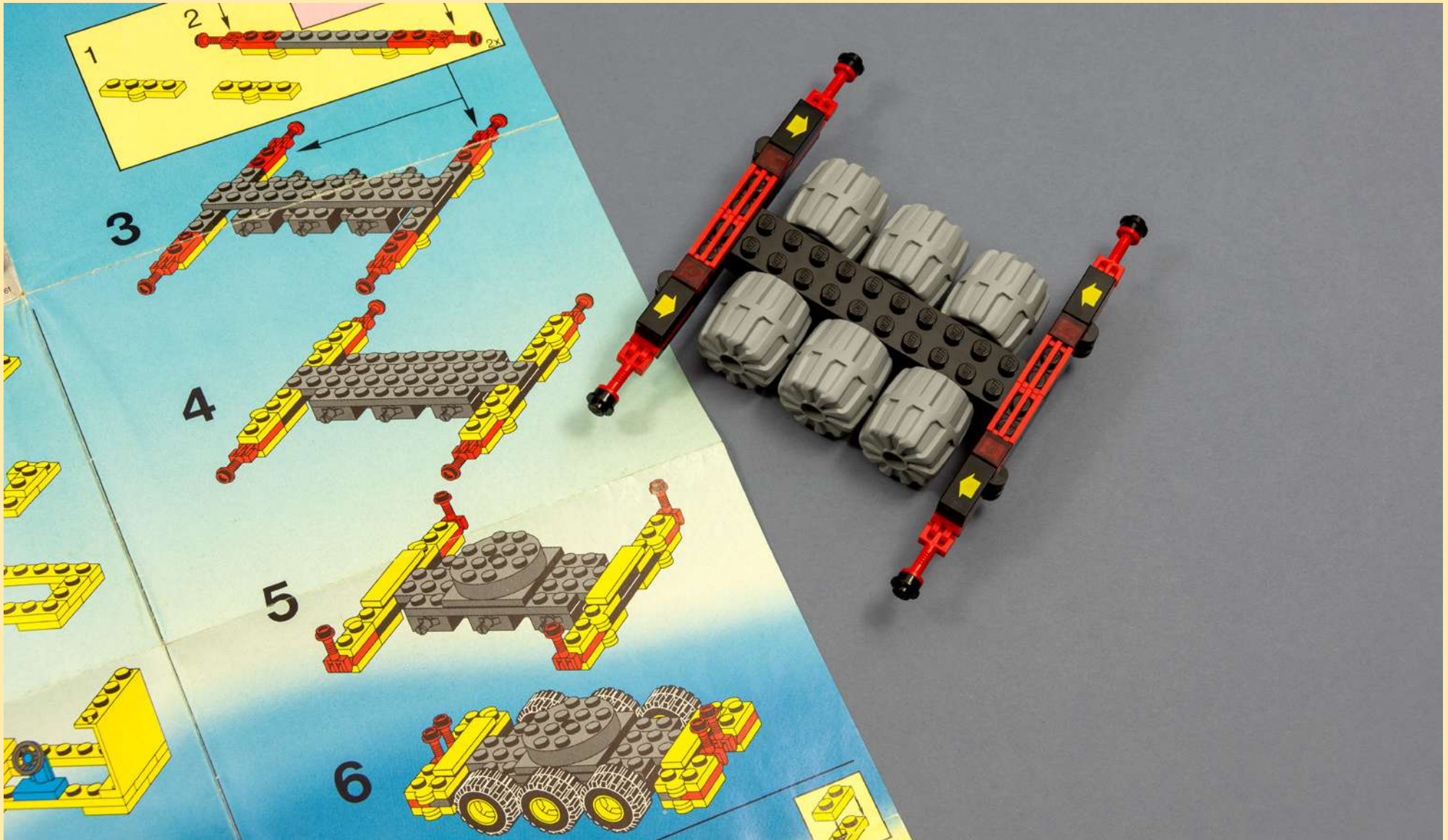


## Origin and comparison

Set 6352 Cargomaster Crane largely uses the same (but slightly bare) construction in the foldable support mechanism. Also notable is the lack of space for a large turntable, as the hard plastic wheels consume more space.

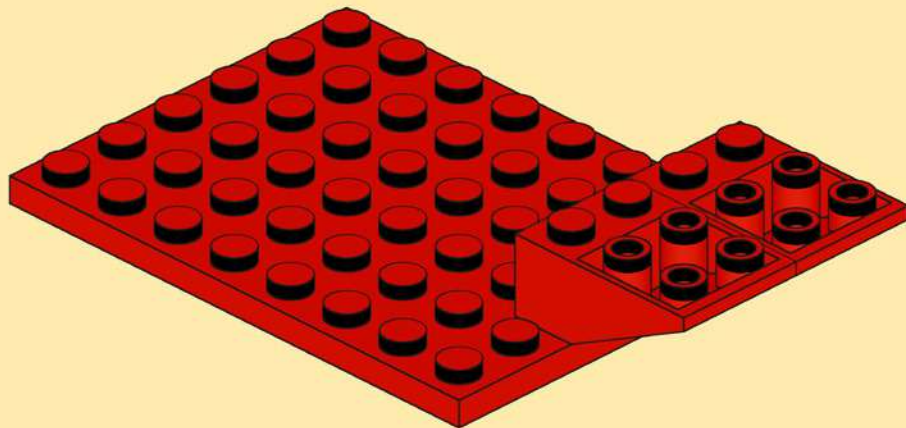
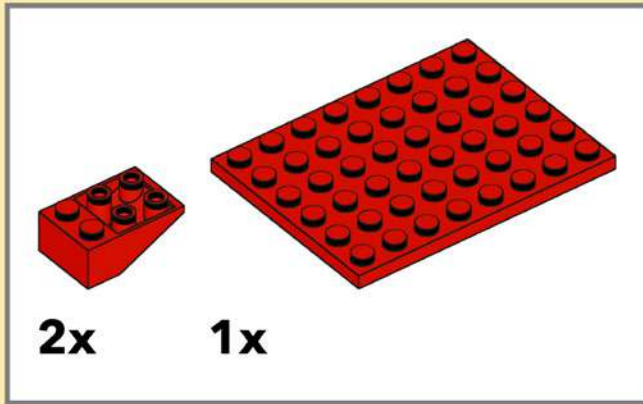
## Other construction similarities

Be sure to check out the full instructions of set 6352 for other interesting similarities. Plus they can be quite useful when it comes to placing the black metal hook and string (cord).

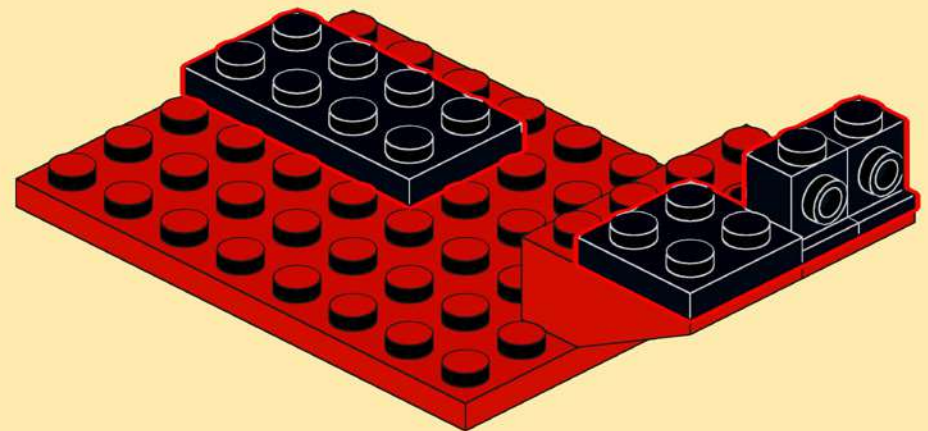
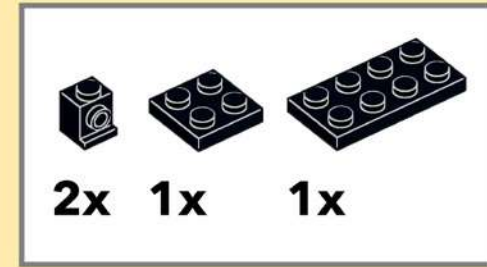




# 11

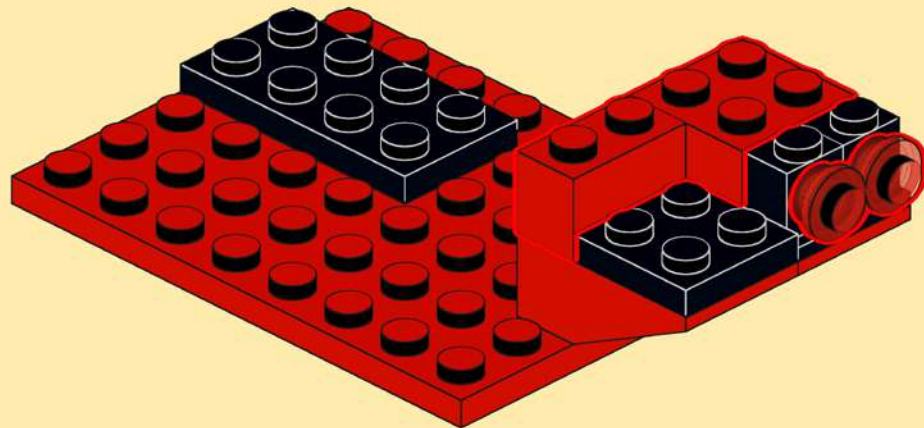
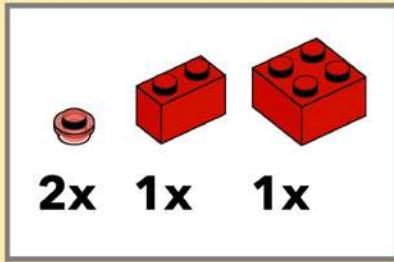


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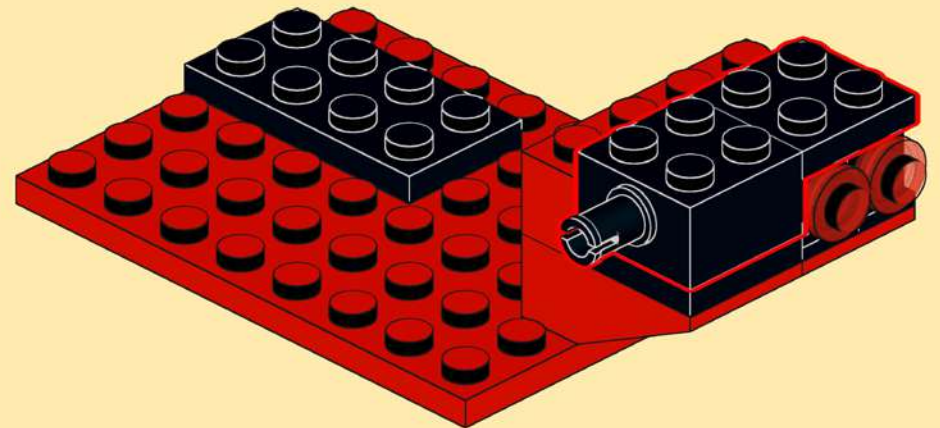
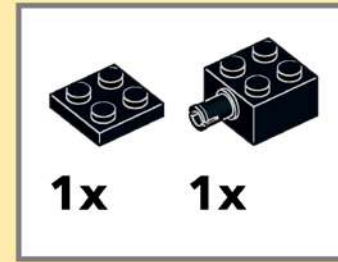




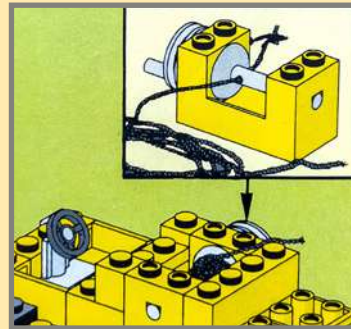
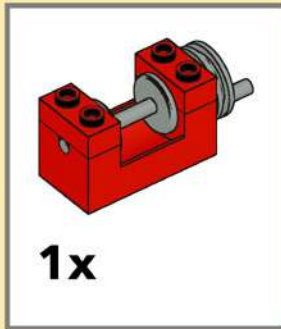
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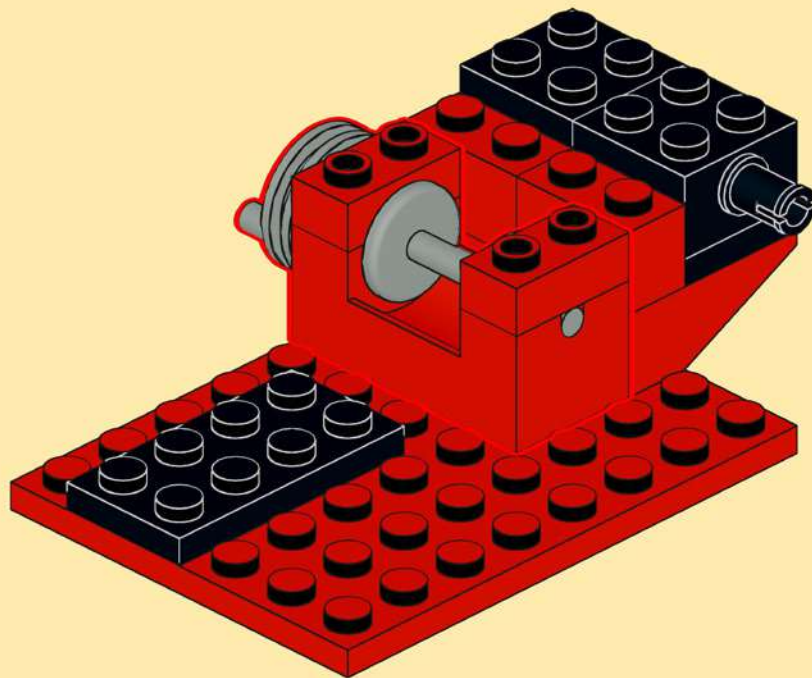
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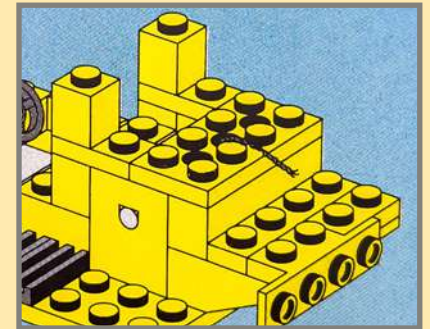
# 15



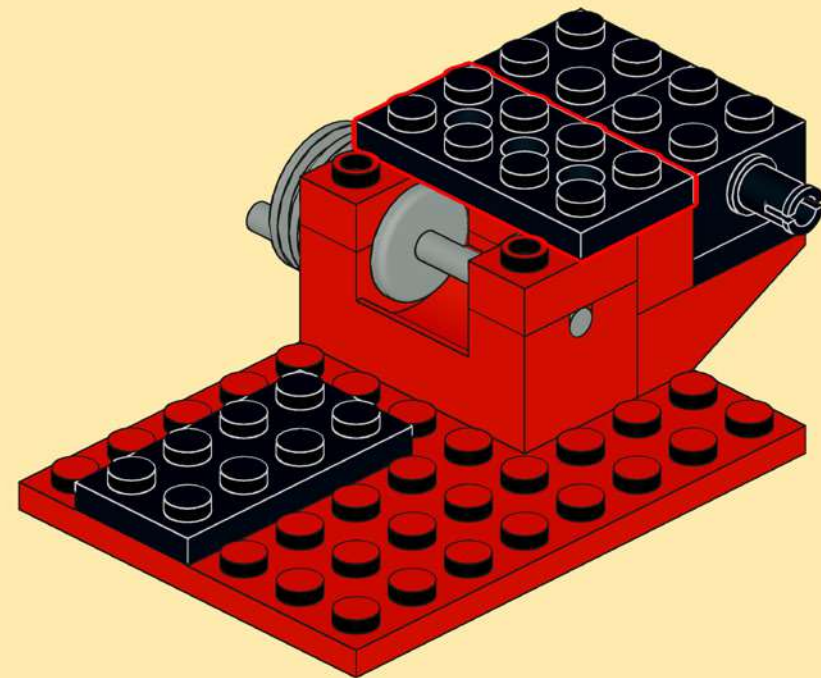
The instructions of set 6352 show how to mount the string onto the reel winch.



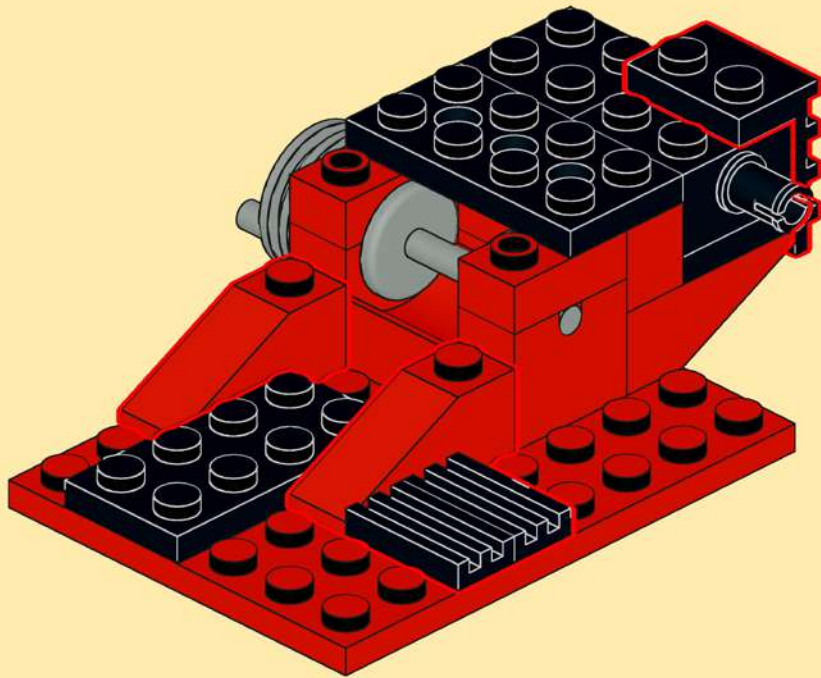
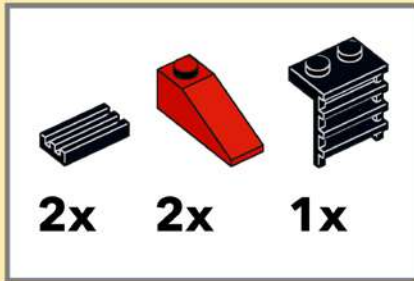
# 16



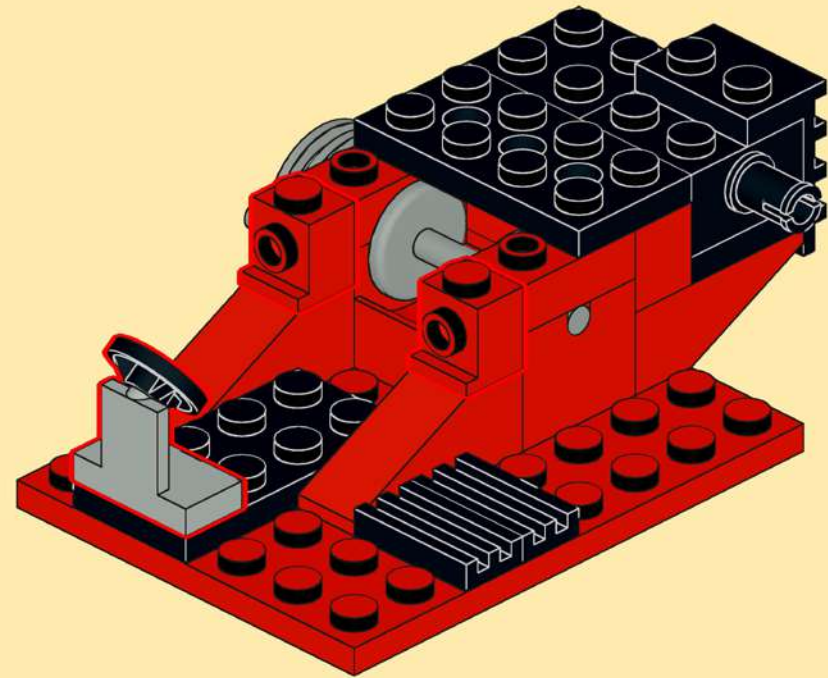
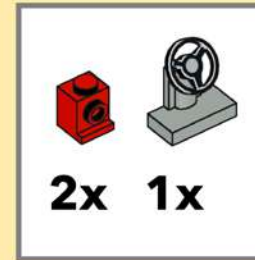
Similar to set 6352, the black cord pops out at the top via the middle hole of the 2x4 technic plate.



# 17

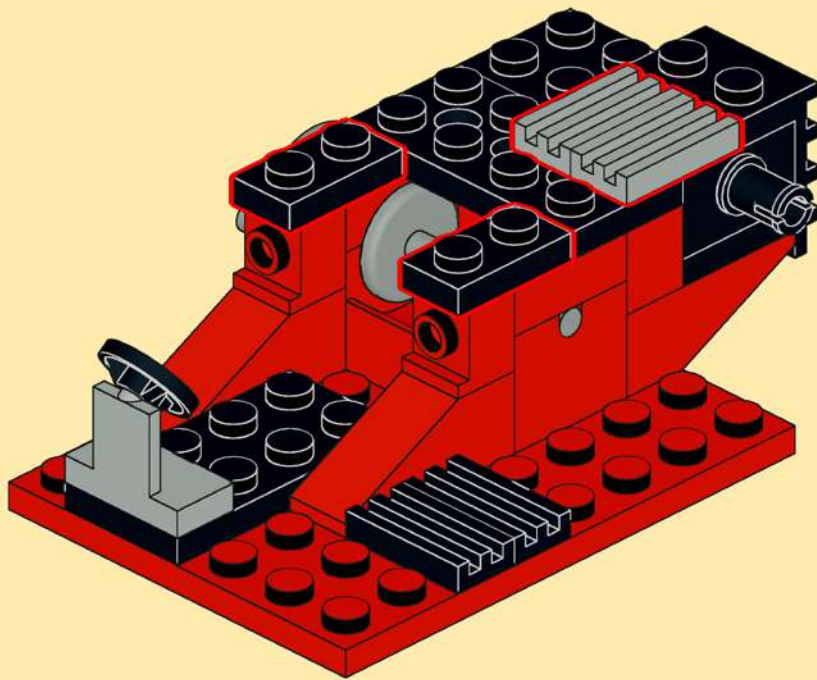
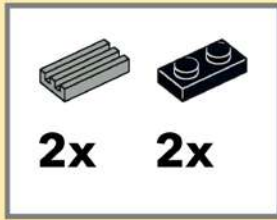


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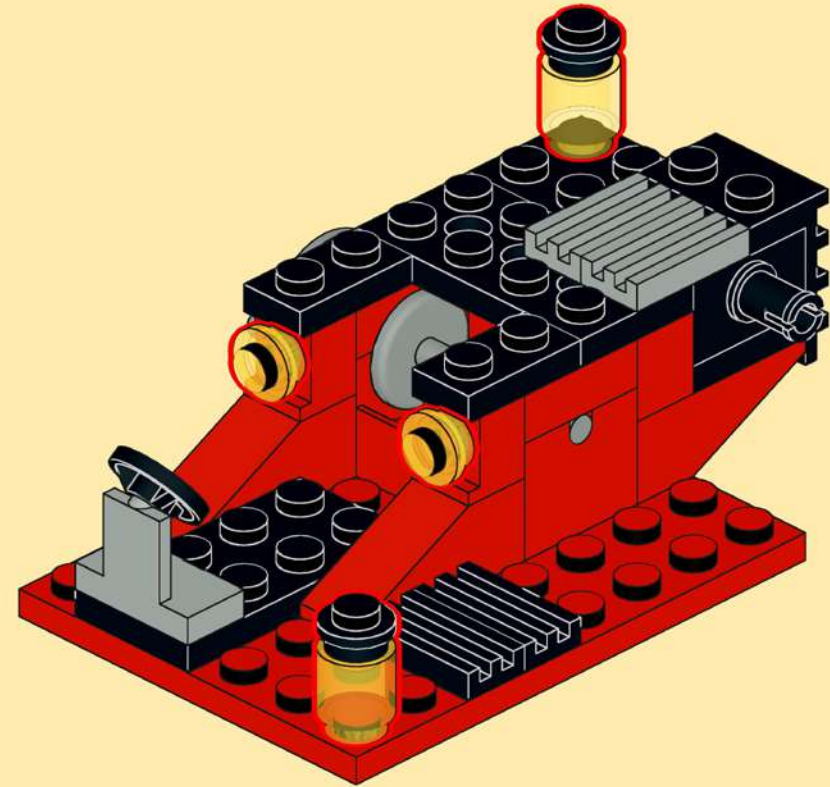




# 19



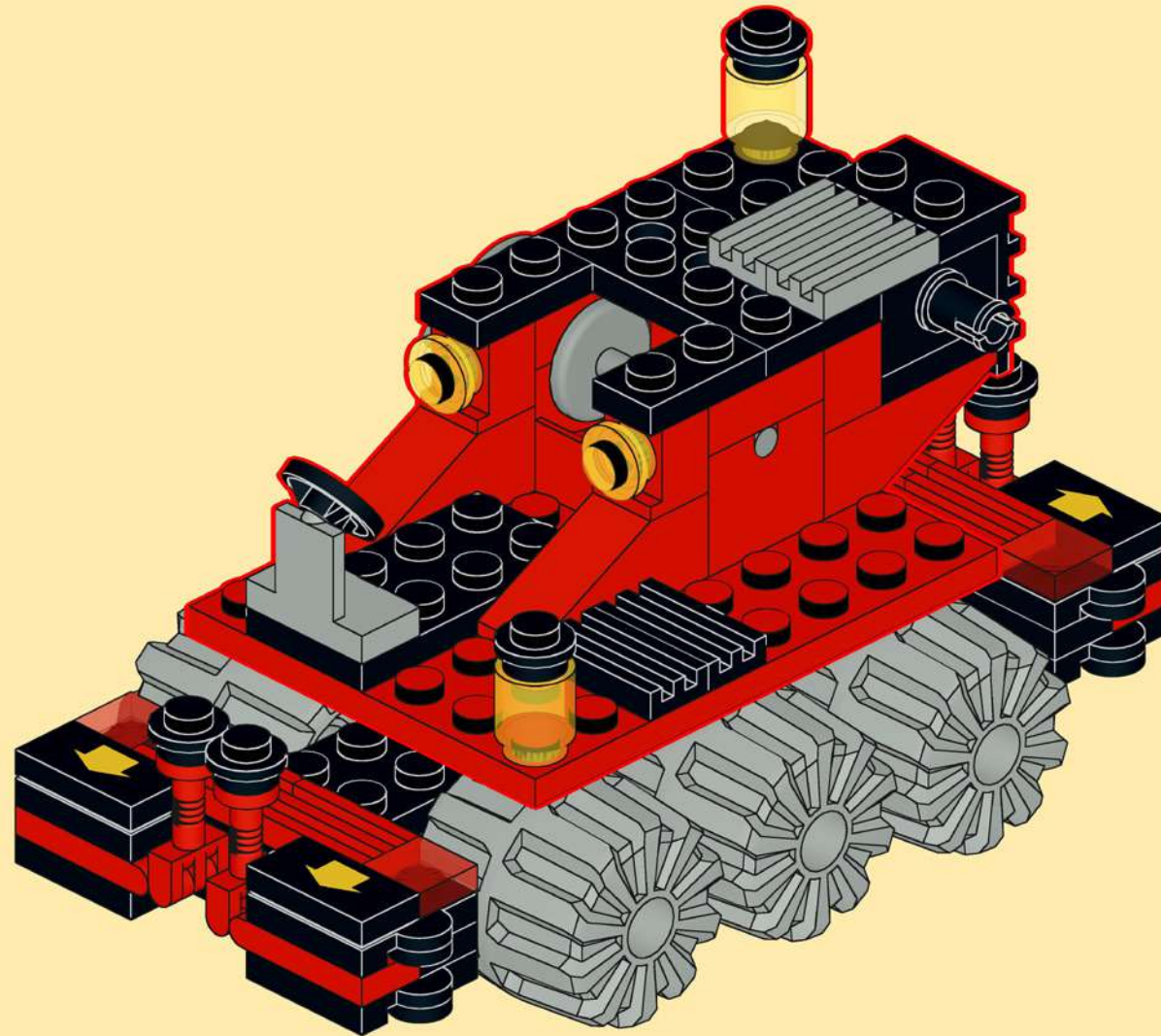
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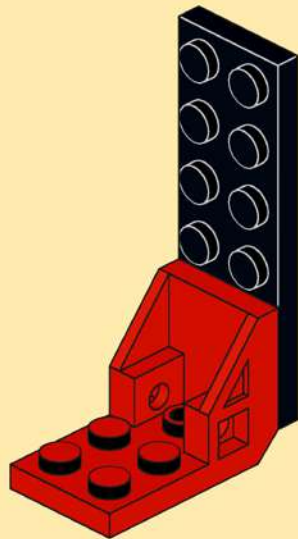
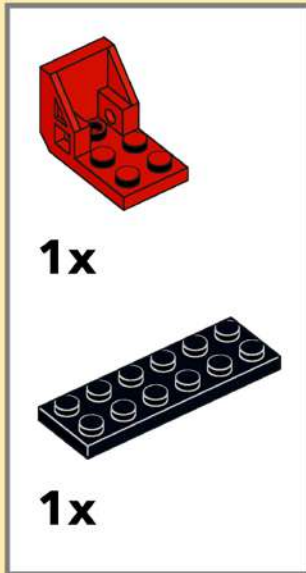
## Trans-yellow?

Correct. The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. With trans-neon green still in development, this build only uses the classic trans-yellow.

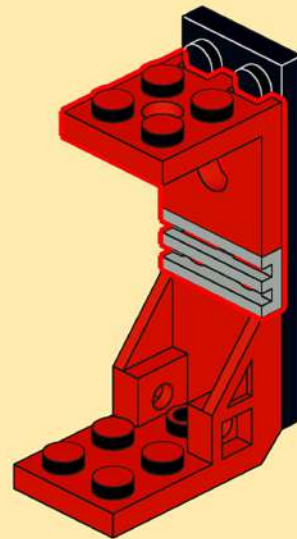
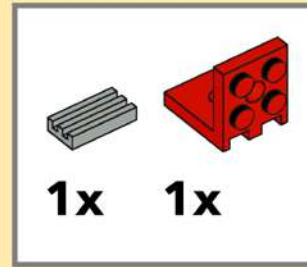
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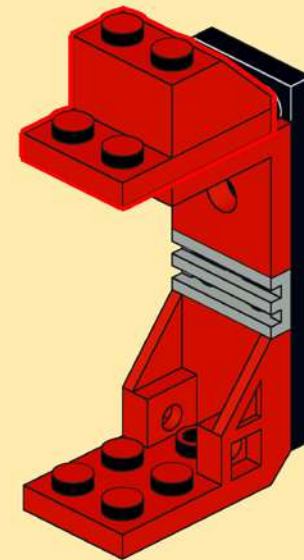
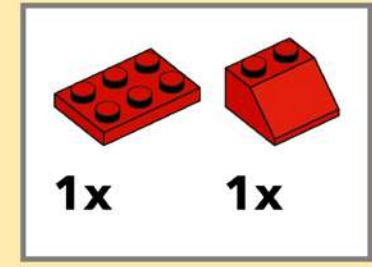
# 22



# 23

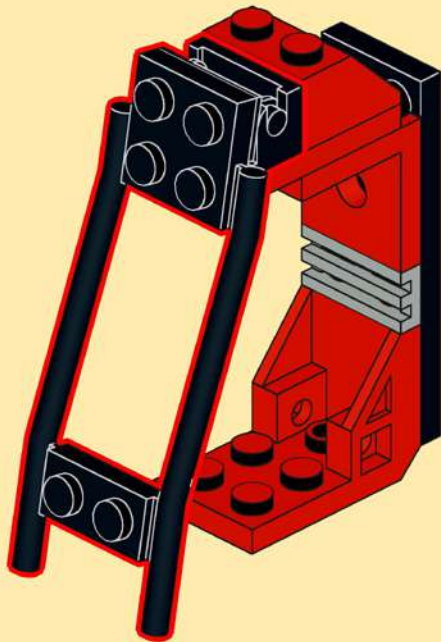
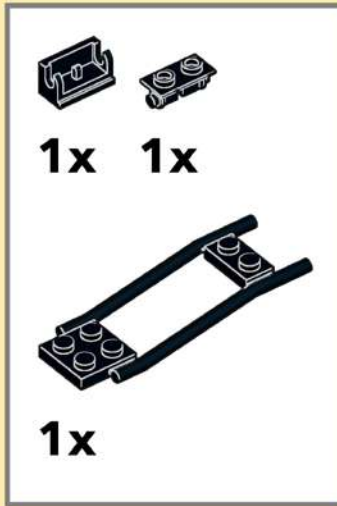


# 24

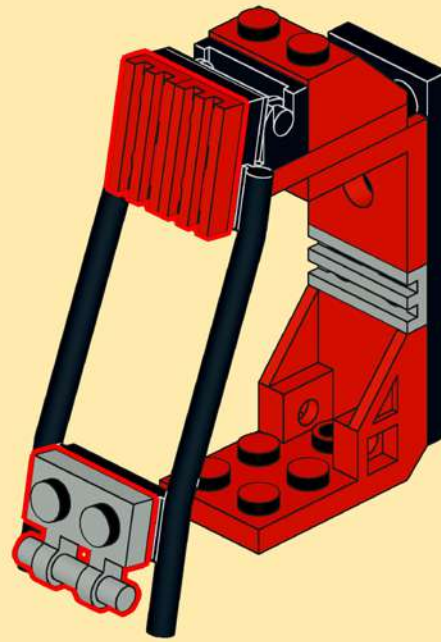
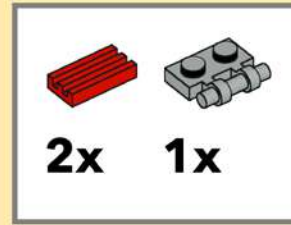




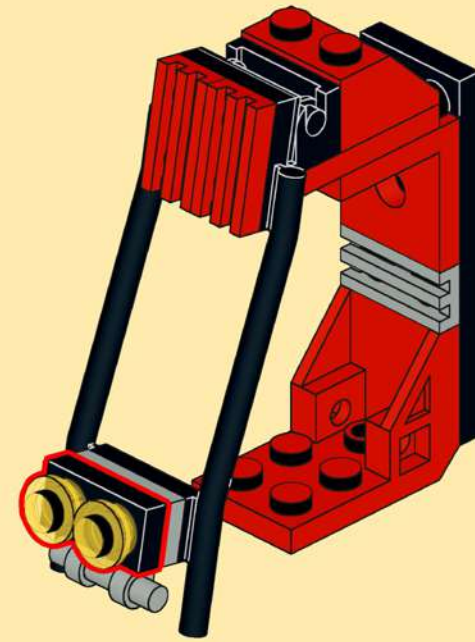
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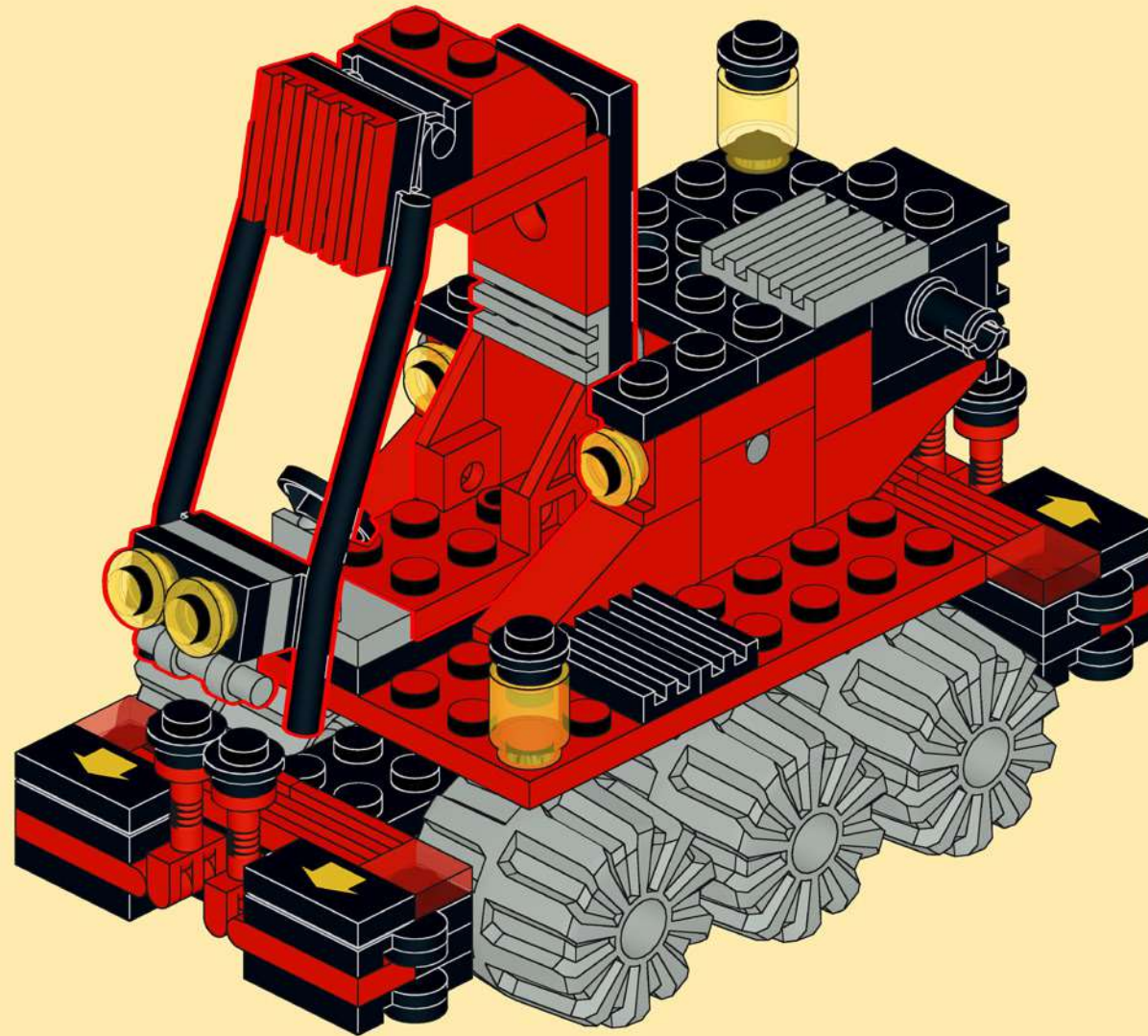
# 26



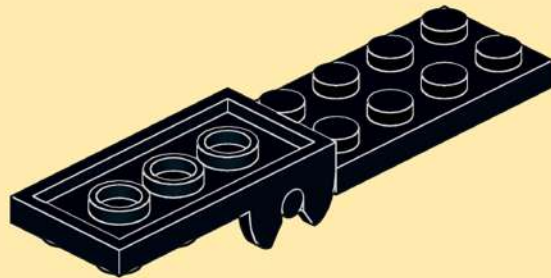
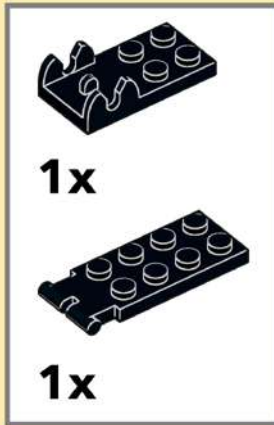
# 27



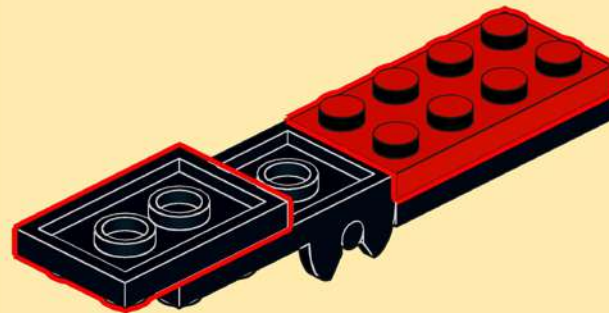
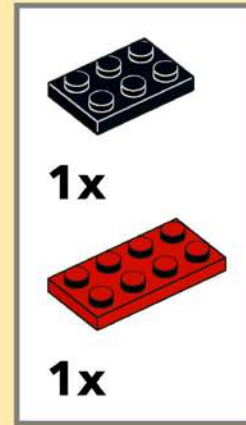
# 28



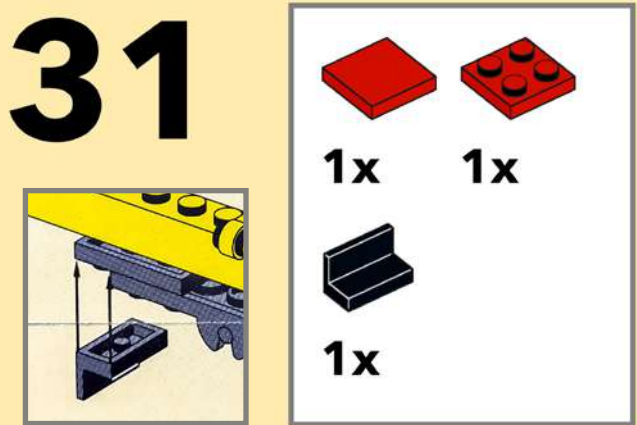
# 29



# 30

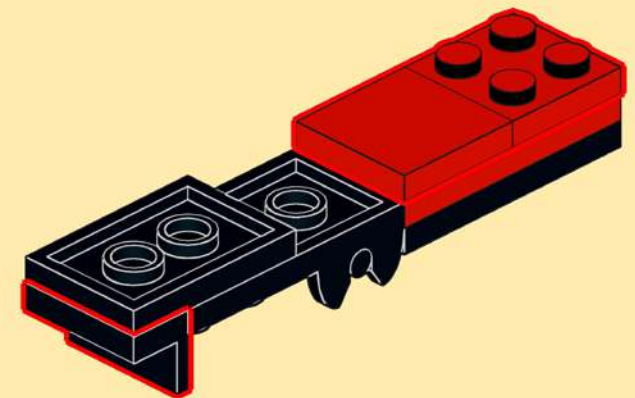


# 31



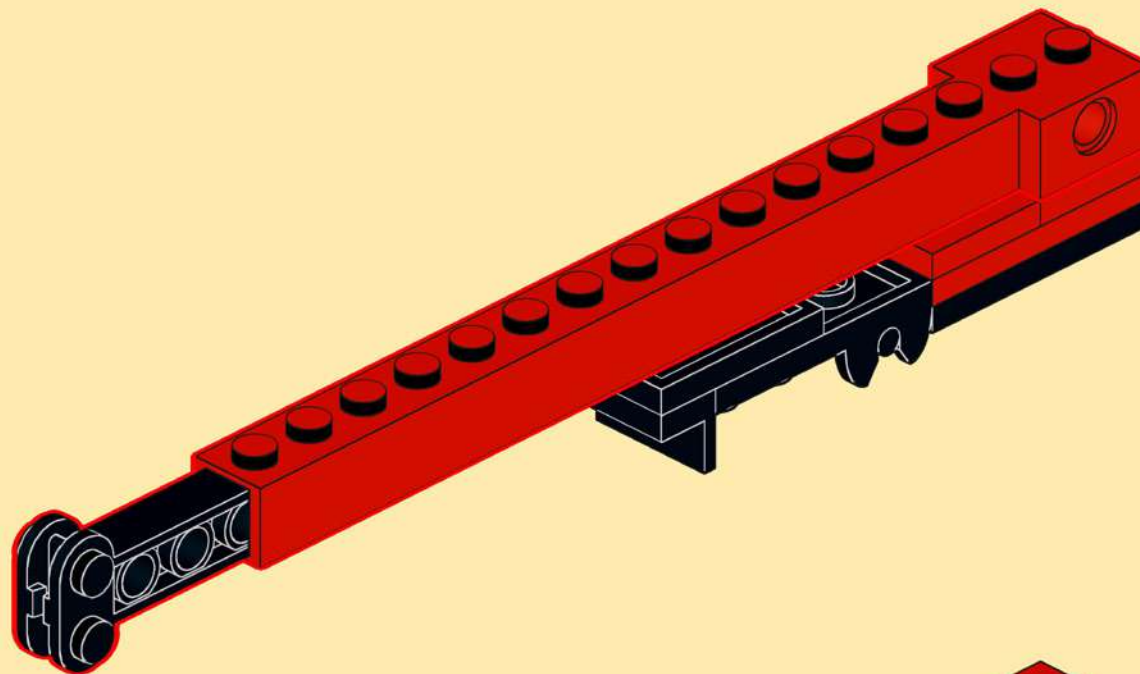
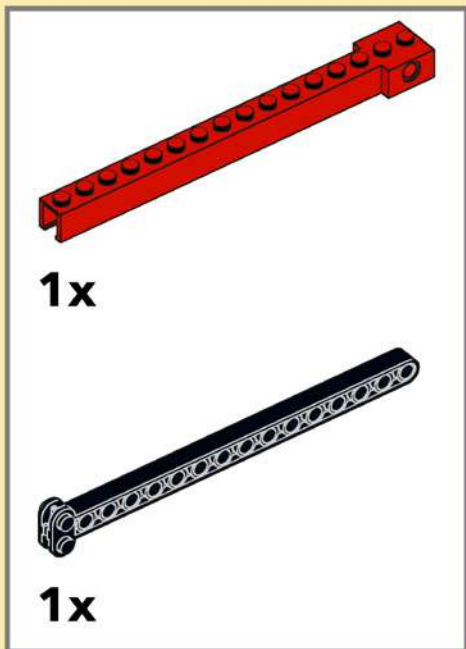
## Placement is everything

Left: The 6352 Cargomaster Crane instructions show the black modified tile placed in a 180° position for better grip. But by positioning it as depicted below, it will align with the trans-yellow cone (as depicted in the original image) after being mounted on the main body (see page 28).

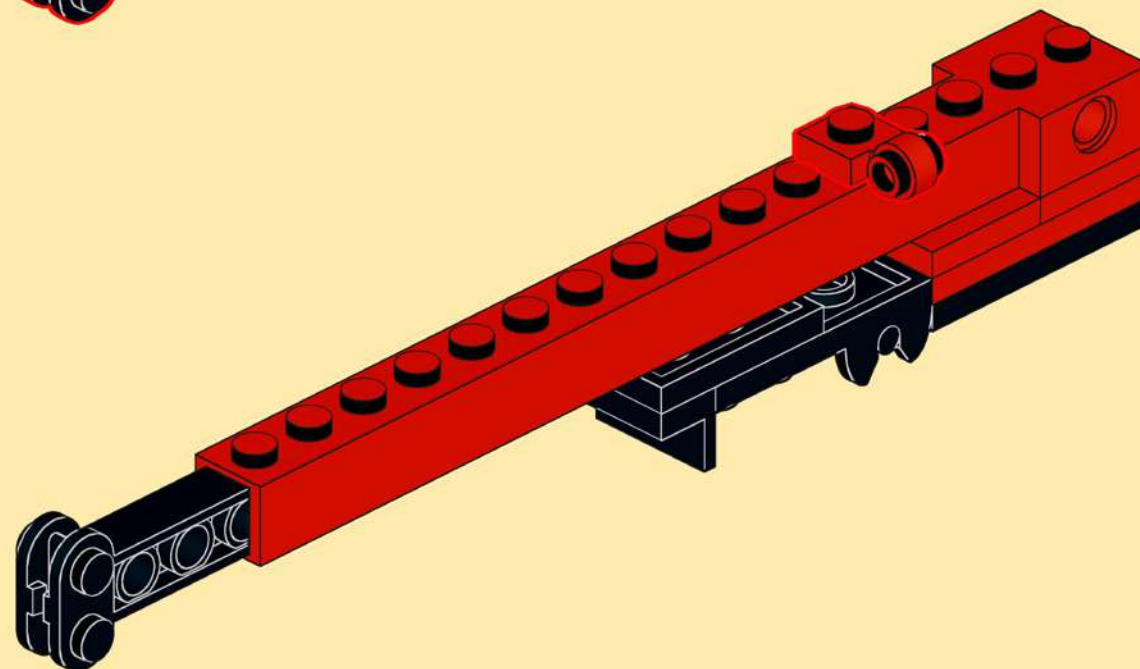




# 32



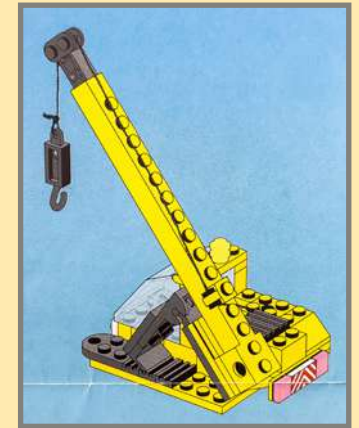
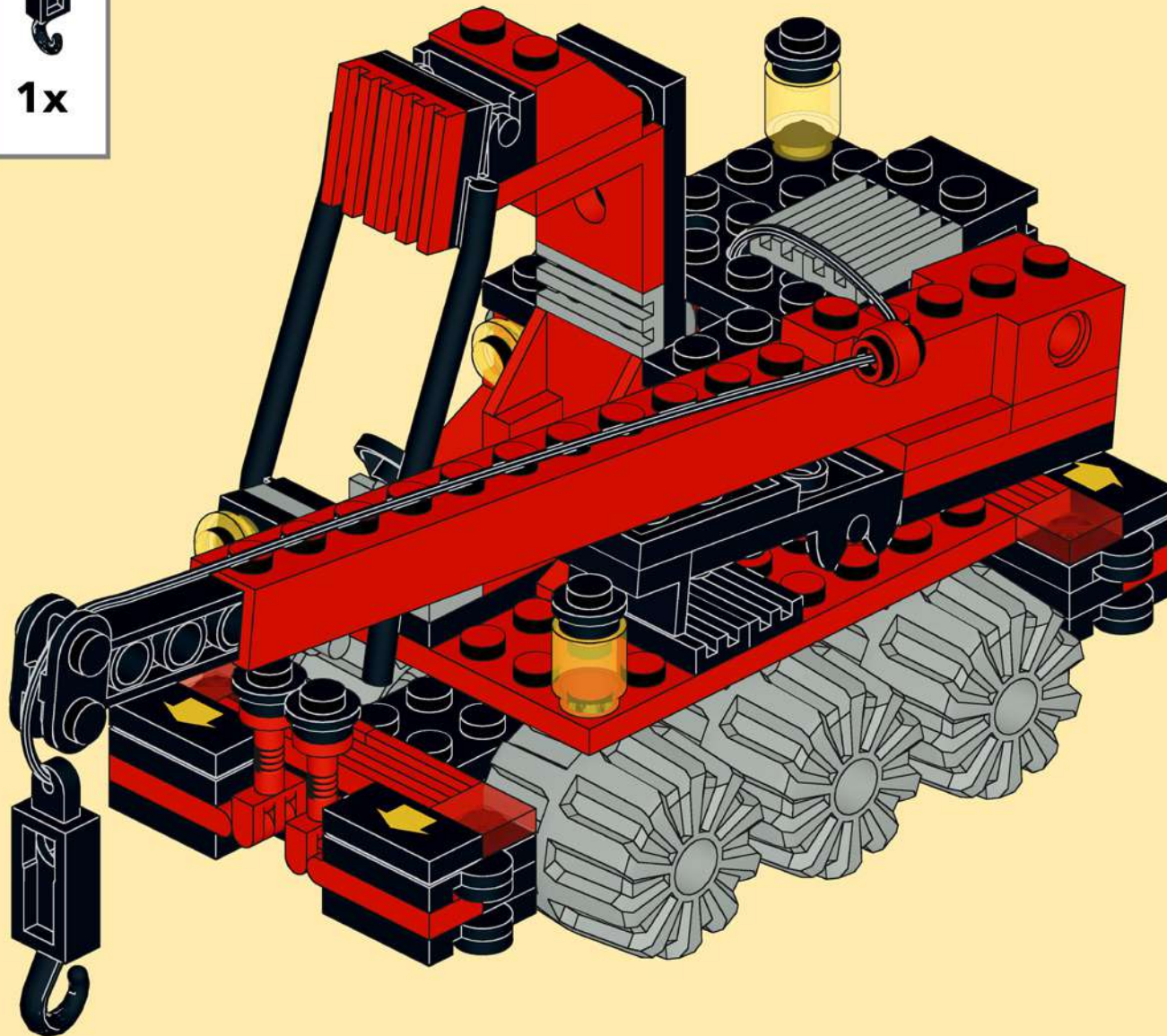
# 33







# 35



The instructions of set 6352 show a similar mount of the metal hook and string (cord).



# 36

