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 thoughout this document – hopefully they are just as useful and inspiring to you.

Have fun building! Chris (cosmic.brick)



BrickJournal issue 6, vol 2 (2009



but you are true repairs, we consider the competing factors. For the har grays, and that hay were then competing factors. For lad wanted a brick this said 1 EGO paper to be primit and he in all the original sets, much like the norther Legolas. I bricks had been in many of his town sets, but again this was a during too many.

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Exerpt 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.

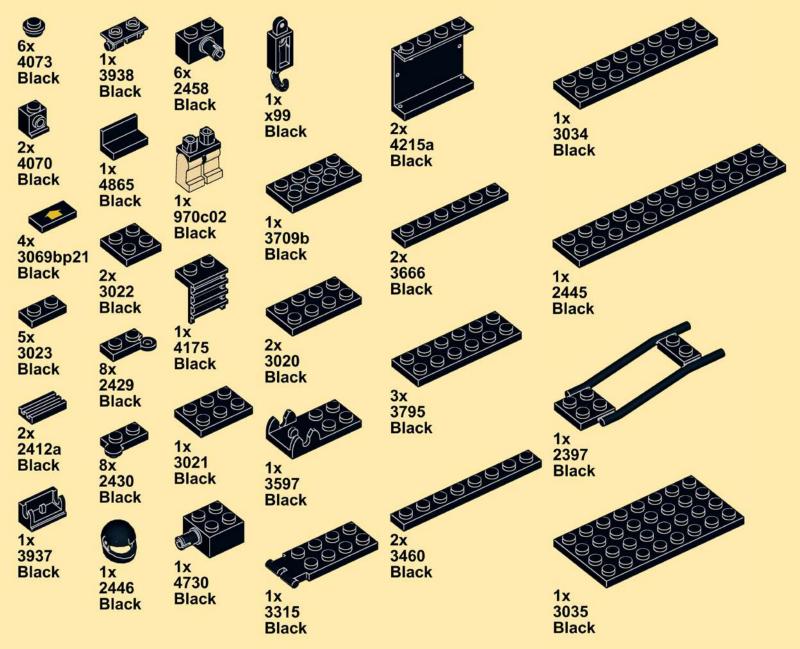


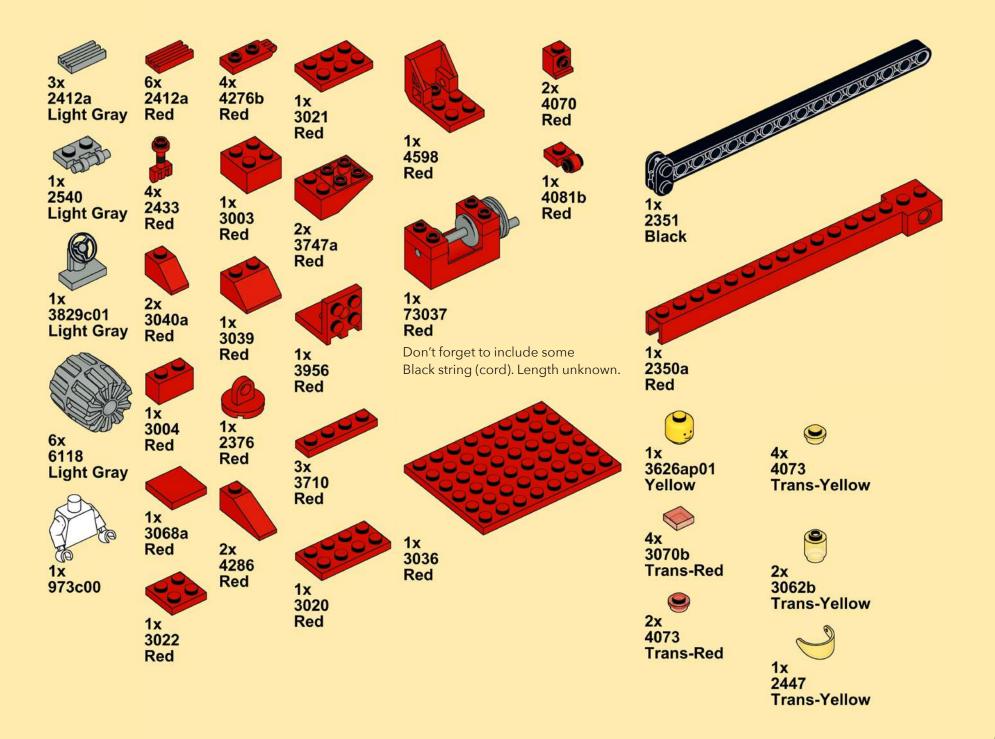
M-TRON CRANE PROTOTYPE (1987) MODEL INSTRUCTIONS





Get your parts ready!



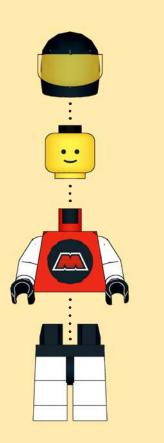


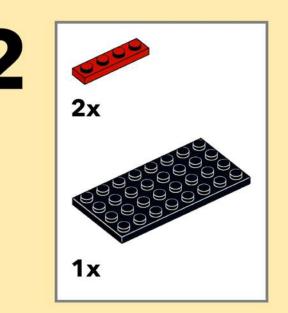
6/31

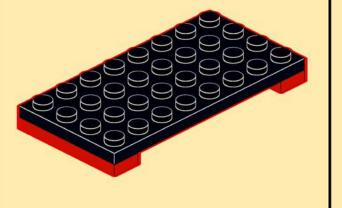


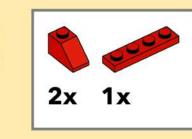
Is this even legal?

The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. Every M-Tron protoype 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.



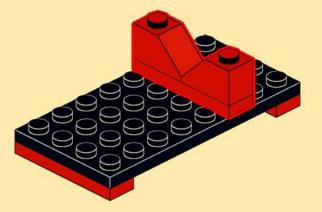




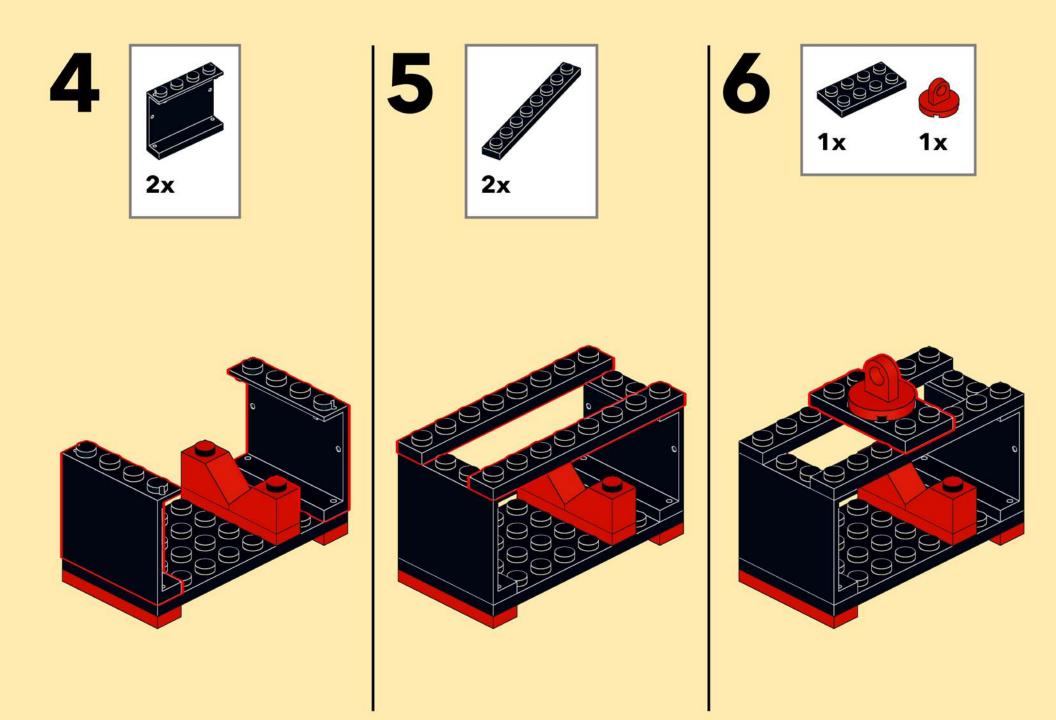


What's in the box?!

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?

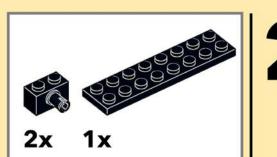


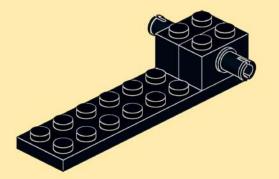








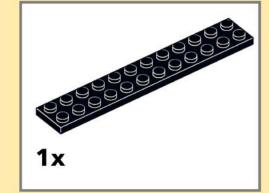


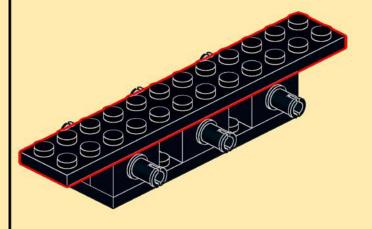




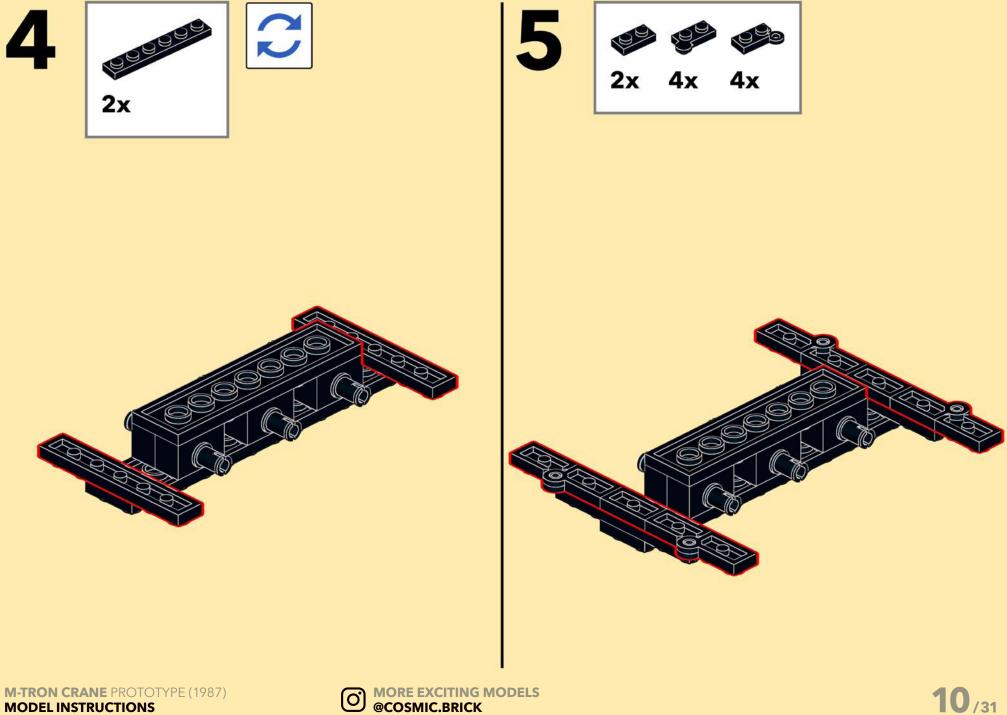
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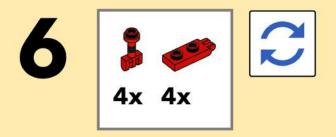


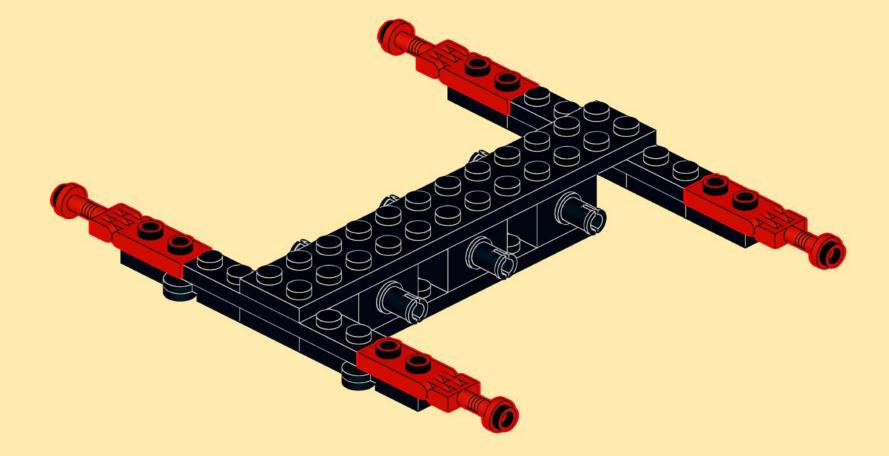






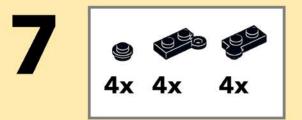


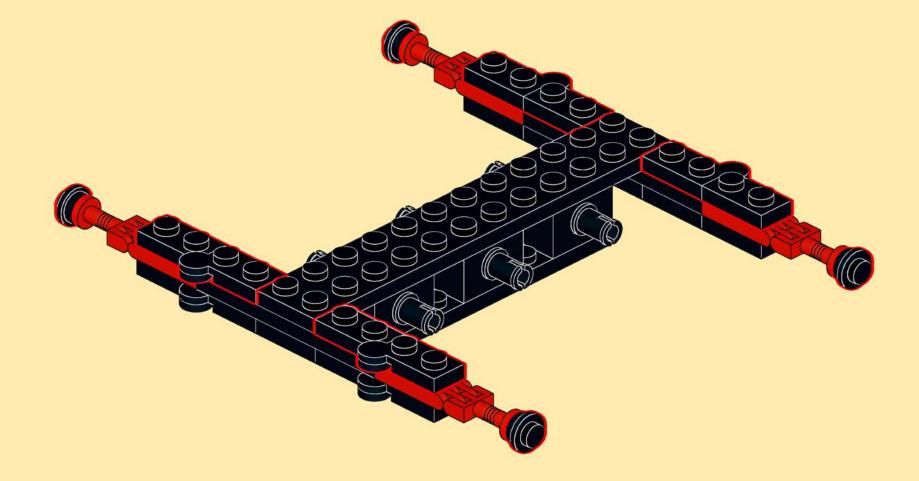






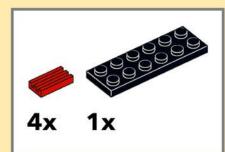








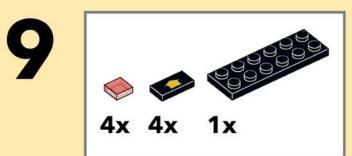




No turntable?

Indeed. Set 6352 Cargomaster Crane uses a 4×4 sized tuntable. 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.

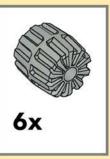


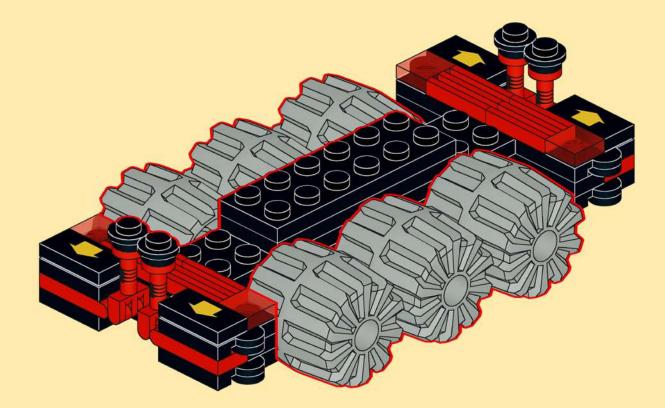














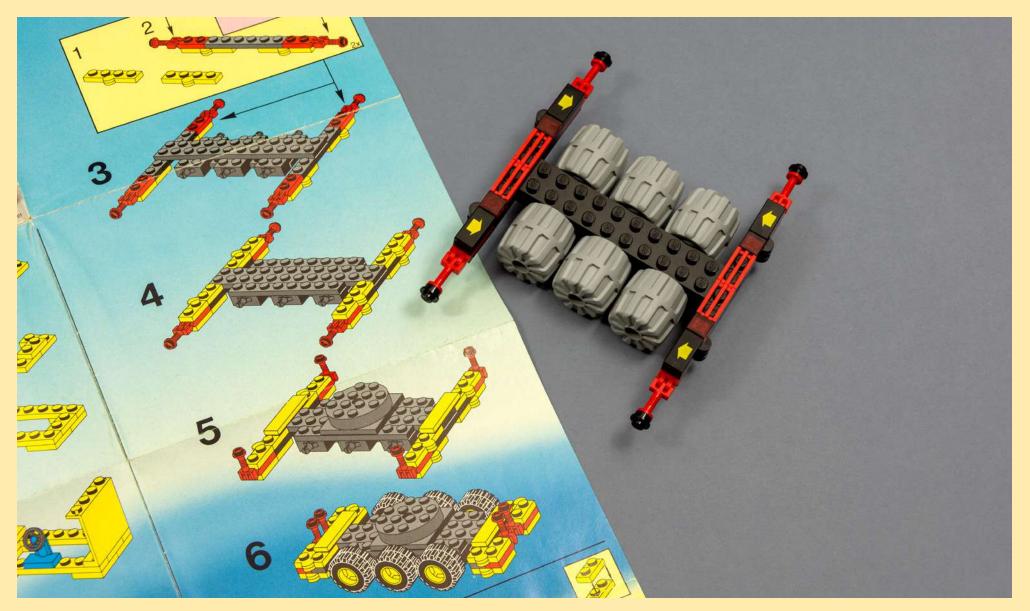


Origin and comparison

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

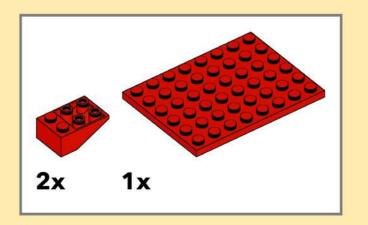
Be sure to check out the full instructions of set 6352 for other interesting similarities. Plus they can be quite useful when it comes to placing the black metal hook and string (cord).



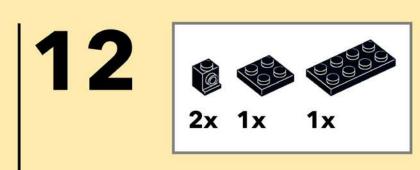
M-TRON CRANE PROTOTYPE (1987) MODEL INSTRUCTIONS

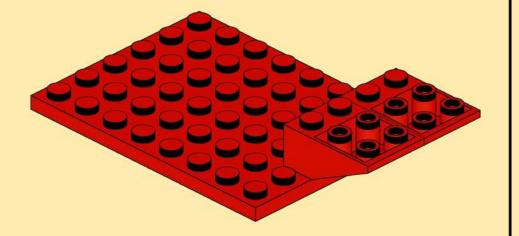


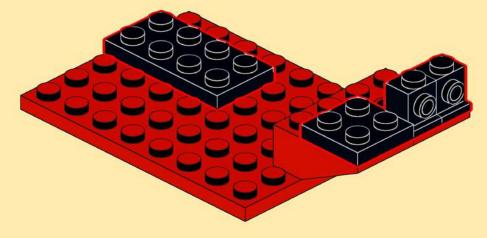




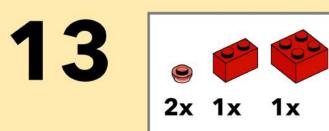




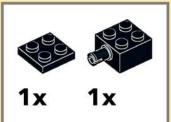


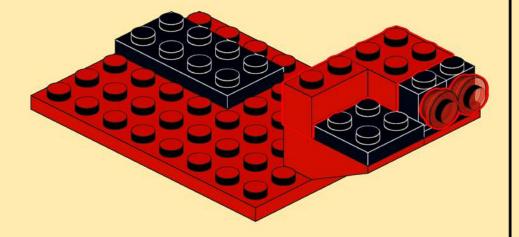


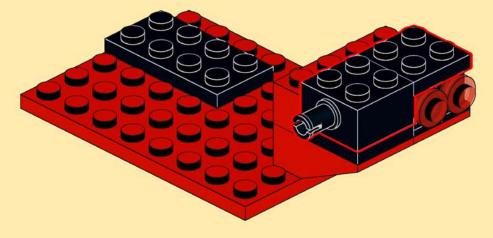






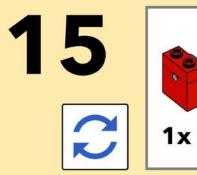


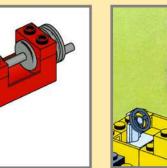


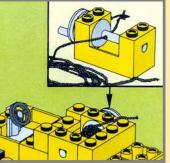






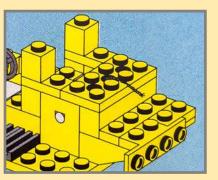




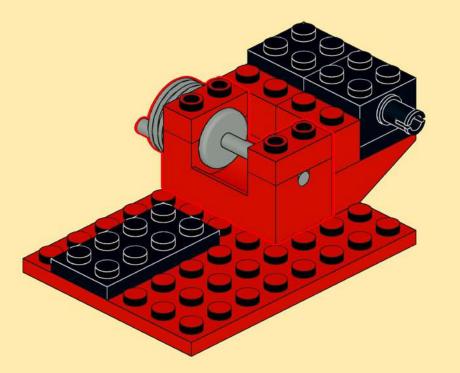


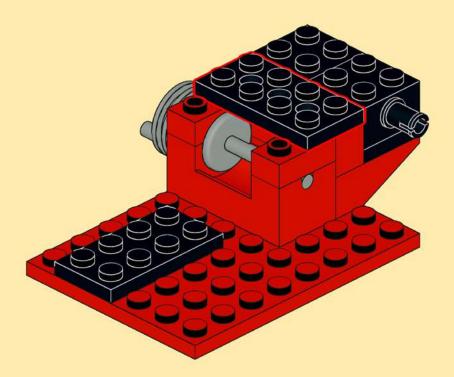
The instructions of set 6352 show how to mount the string onto the reel winch.





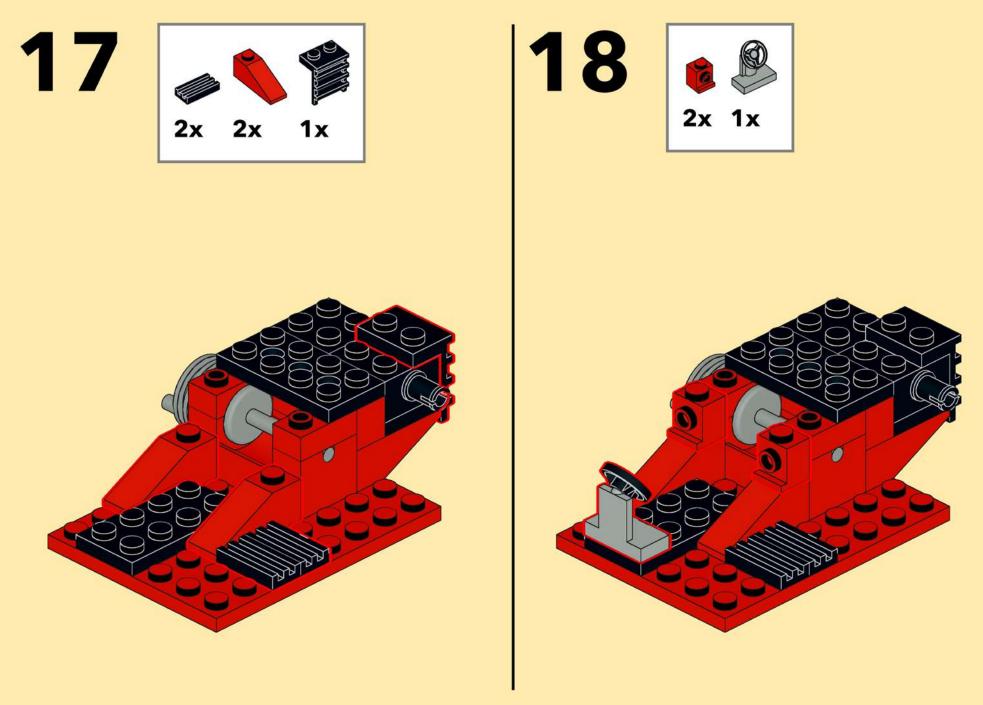
Similar to set 6352, the black cord pops out at the top via the middle hole of the 2×4 technic plate.



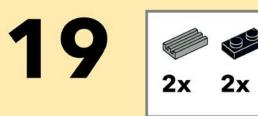








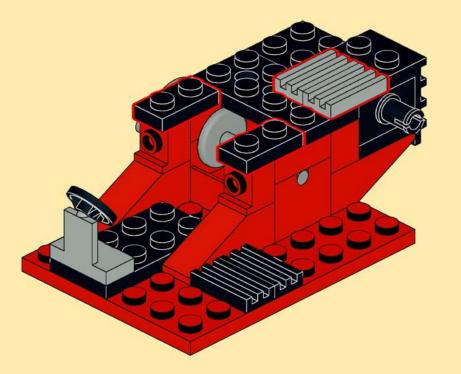


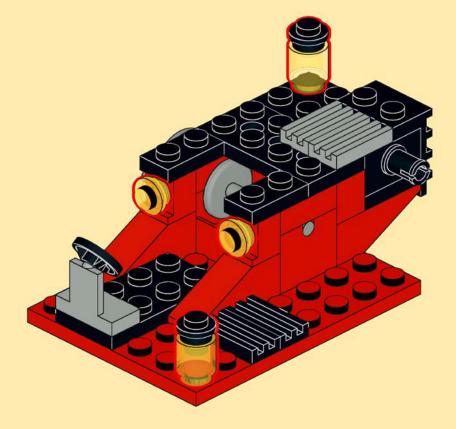




Trans-yellow?

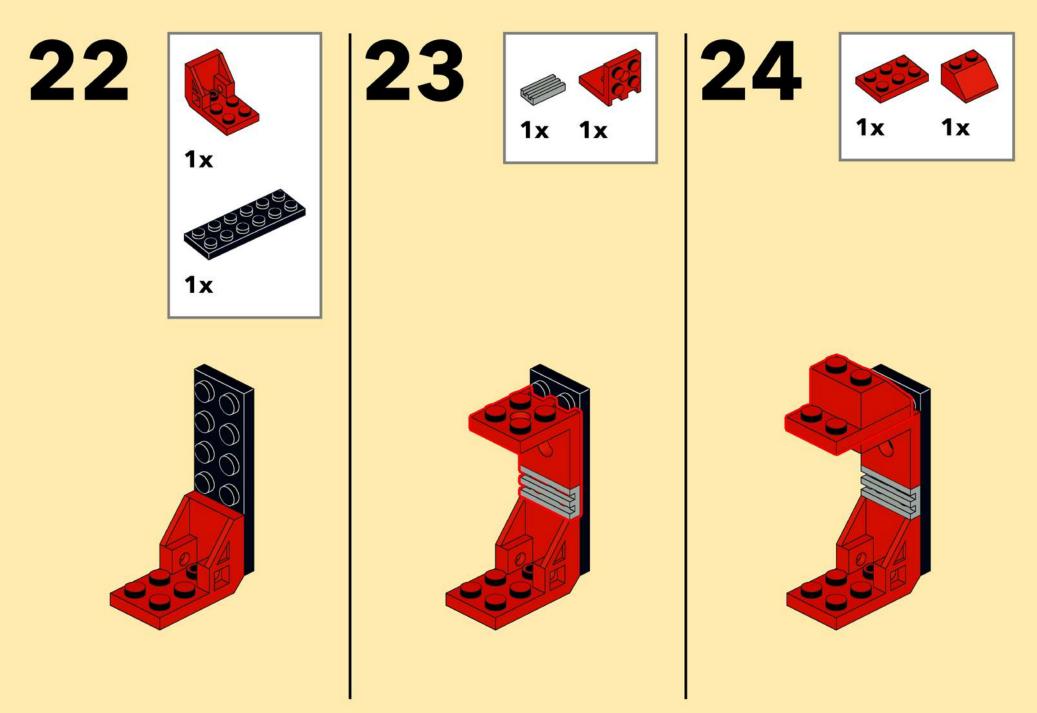
Correct. The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. With trans-neon green still in development, this build only uses the classic trans-yellow.





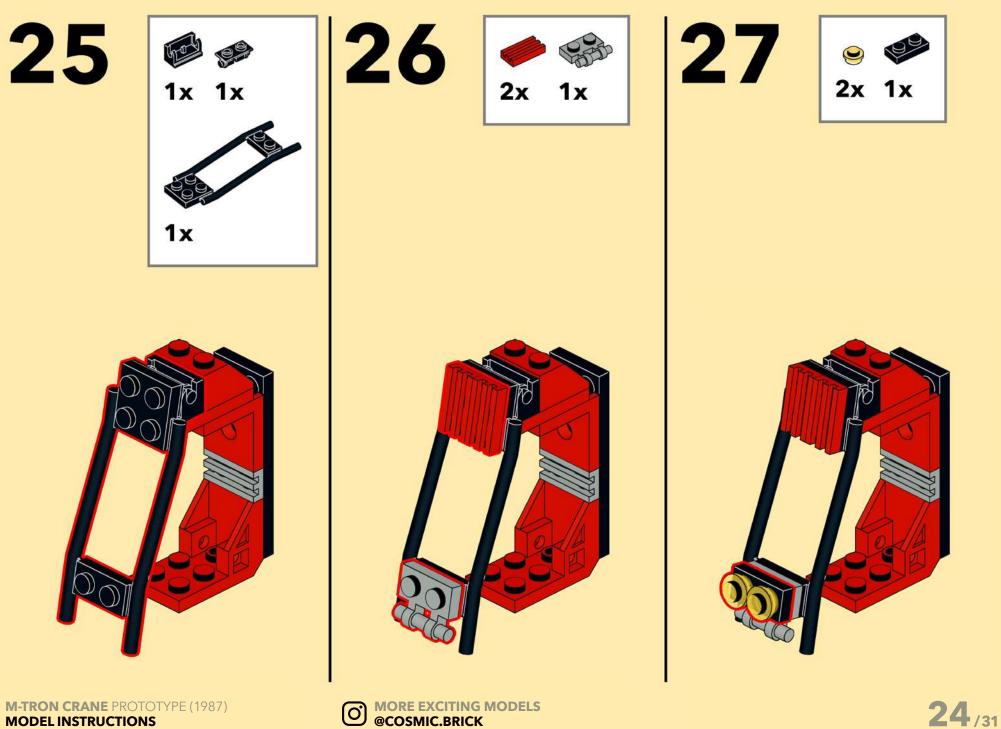


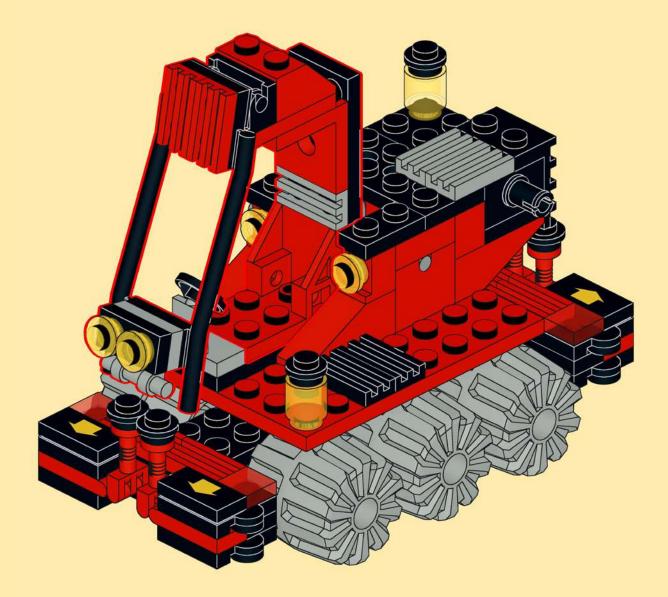




M-TRON CRANE PROTOTYPE (1987) MODEL INSTRUCTIONS

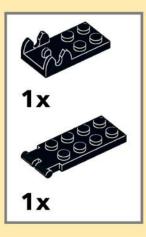








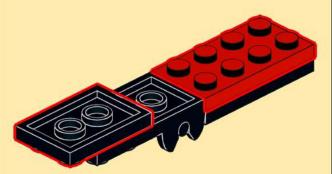


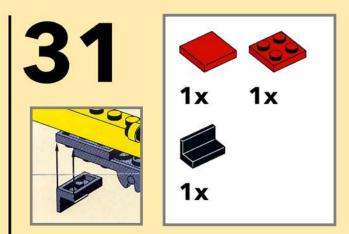






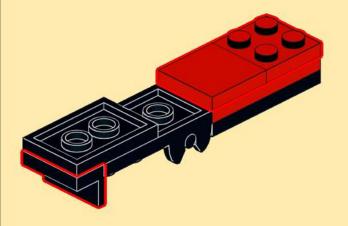






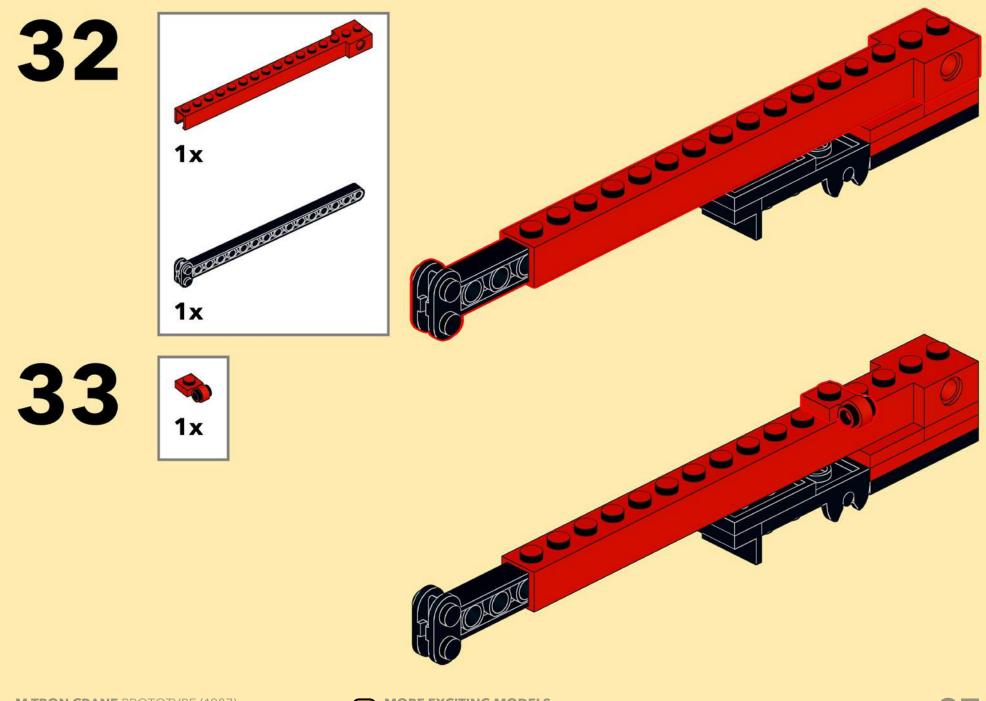
Placement is everything

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).

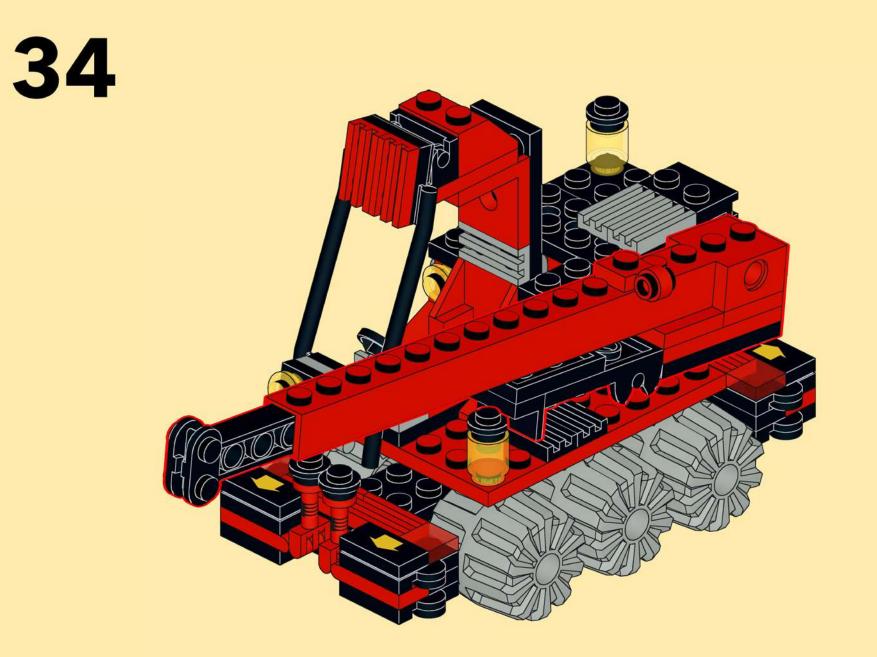




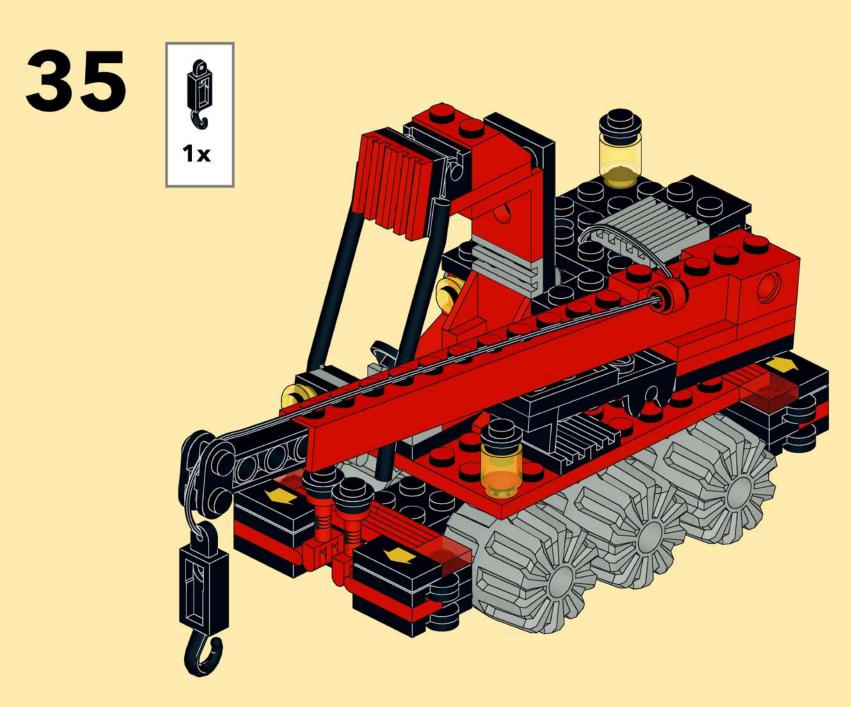














The instructions of set 6352 show a similar mount of the metal hook and string (cord).





