



M-TRON POWERSUIT #2

PROTOTYPE (1987)

INSTRUCTIONS

CONCEPT BY LEGO
PHOTOGRAPHY & INSTRUCTIONS
BY COSMIC.BRICK



Introduction

This M-Tron Powersuit is a “Magna-Tron” prototype from 1987, now known as M-Tron. It is reverse-engineered following the depiction in the awe inspiring interview with Jens Nygaard Knudsen by Mark Stafford, in BrickJournal issue 6, vol. 2 released in 2009.

Thought this would be a slippery slope, but I’m happy to have met the challenge of reconstructing this. The biggest question: what’s holding up the torso? With most of the lines recognizable, I gradually discovered that this exo-suit uses the hips of... the minifigure. Wait, what?

Yes. The top half of the Powersuit is built on a modified plate with handlebars, sticking into the back side of the white jet pack (first seen in sets from 1991). Surprisingly experimental, and quite the core workout. For the construction to remain stable, the legs of the minifig are tucked in deep. The driver is still able to bend both ways. It’s extra fun if you let the fig only wear half of the suit.

For stability and aesthetic reasons I’ve added a few slopes in the rear. Feel free to alter or ignore them, as I’ve pointed them out in the building steps.

This exo-suit is clearly an early sketch model. Note the different hoses and plain red torso with yellow hands. Whilst the slopes on the arms are very common, various used wedge-like pieces were to be released in the coming years.

The article shows a lot was already in progress, as there is much resemblance with future sets. It’s interesting to see that in 1987 LEGO experimented with exo-suits and robots – product categories that have become an integral part of LEGO sets to this day.

This model is part of 2 powersuits, depicted at the lower end of the M-Tron page from the article. Separate building steps are issued for the model on the left.

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).



Replica model by @cosmic.brick.

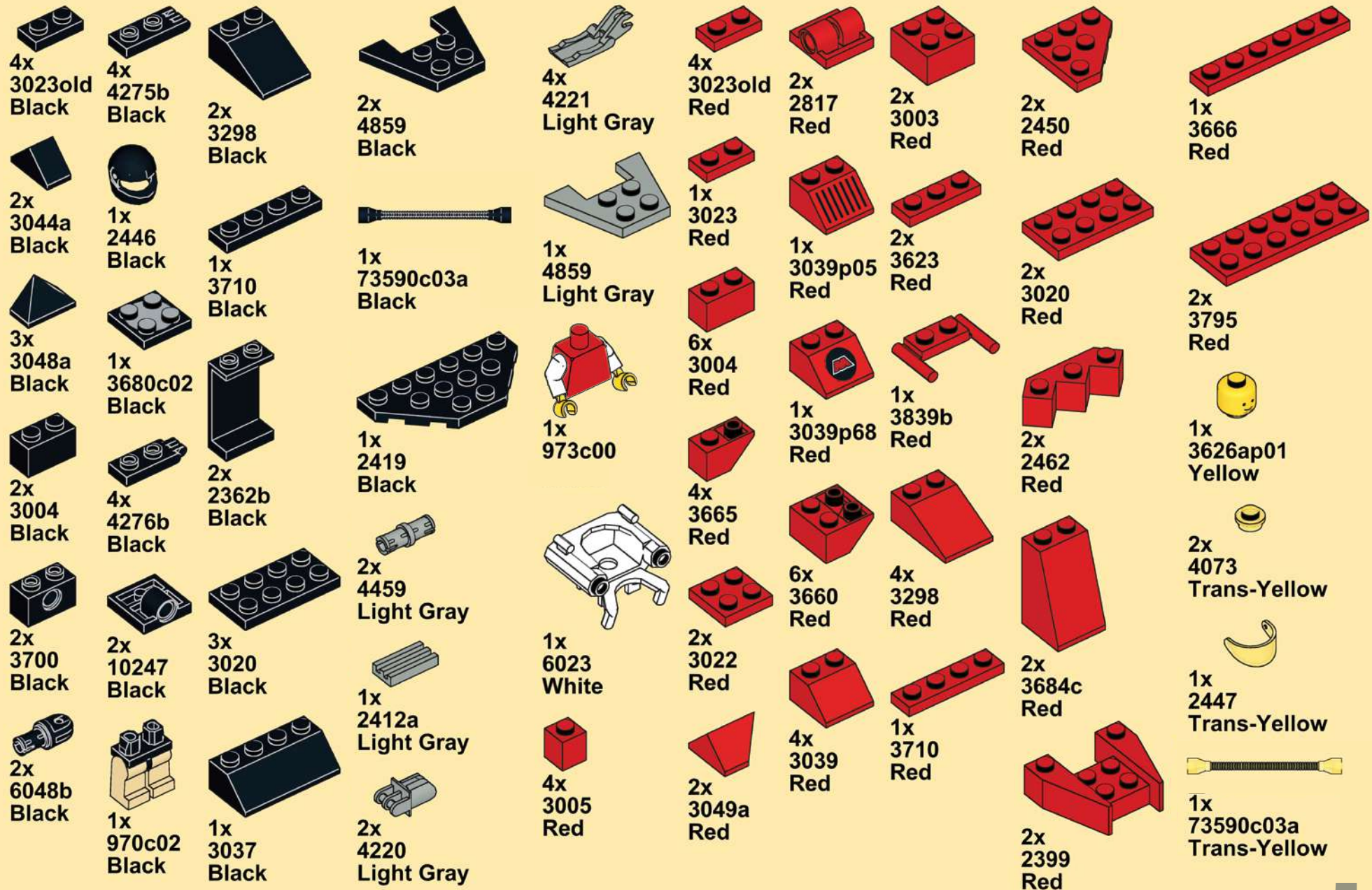


The model

Replica model by @cosmic.brick.



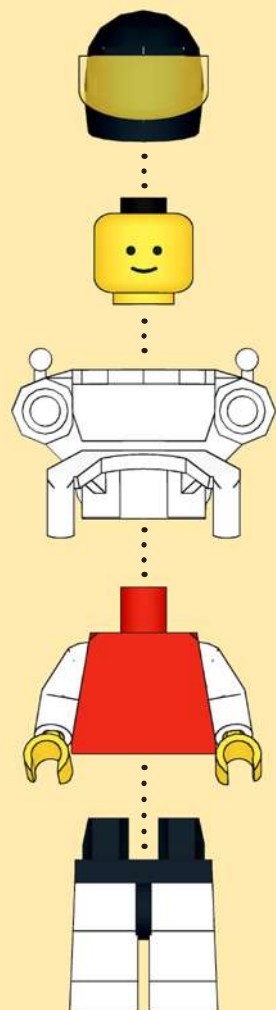
Get your parts ready!



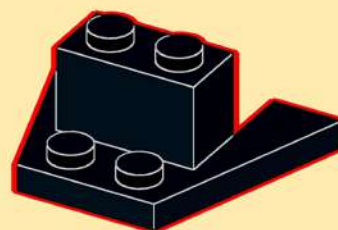
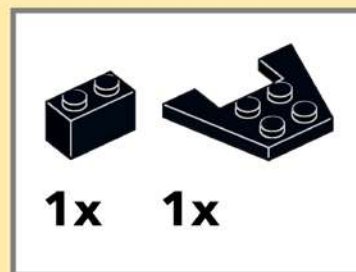
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What's this?

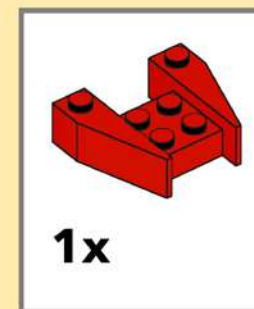
The building steps show how to build an exact replica of the original model. This early prototype minifigure is (strangely) issued with a plain red torso and yellow hands.



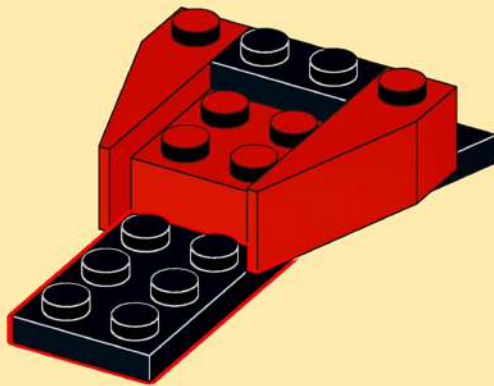
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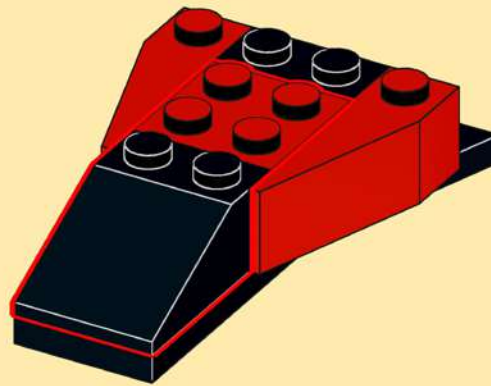
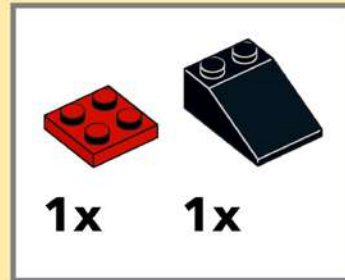
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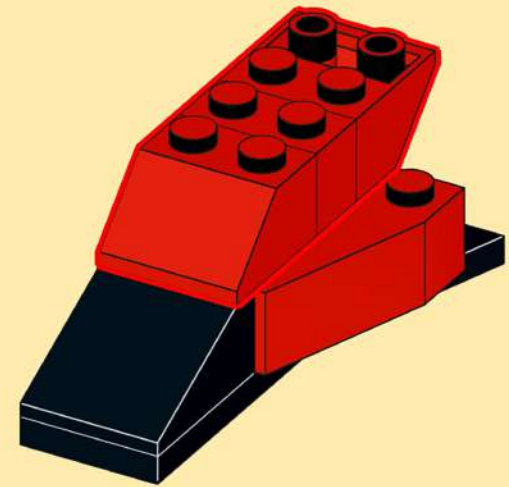
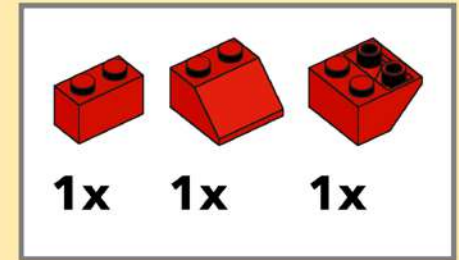
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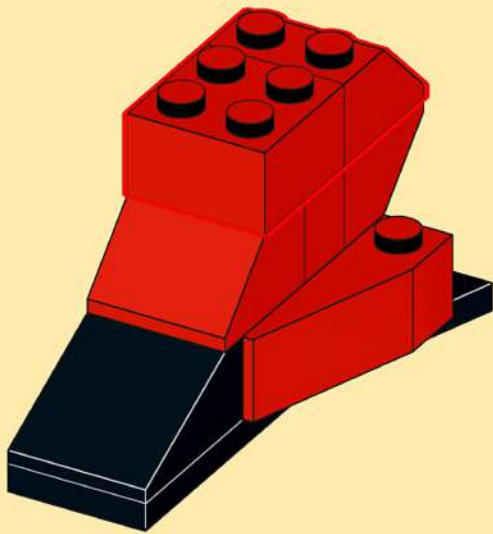
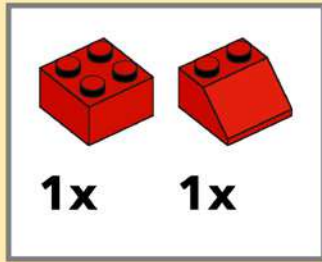
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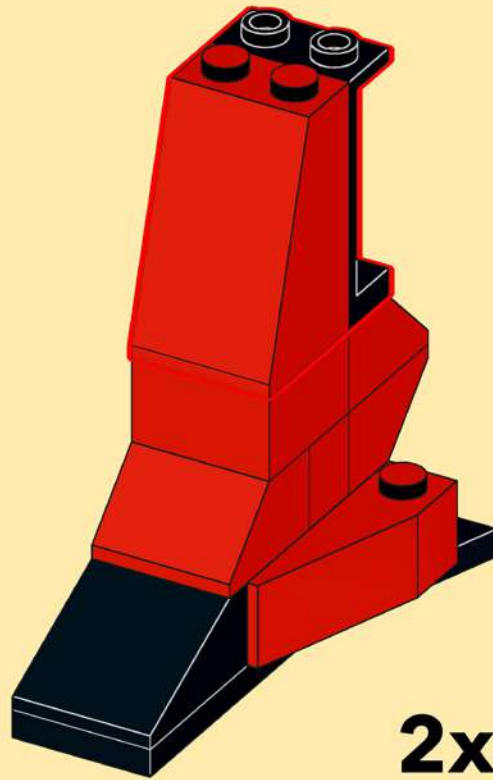
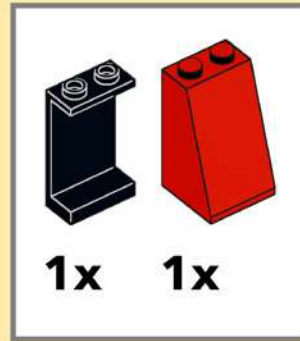
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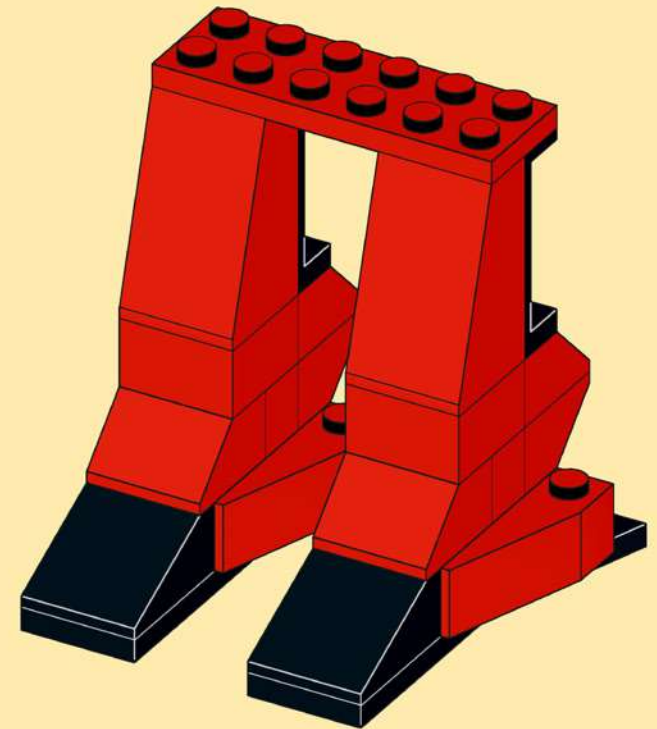
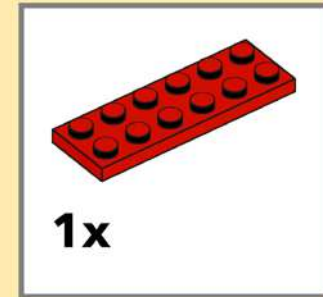
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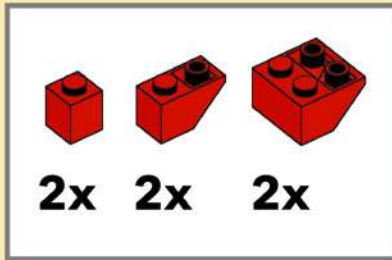
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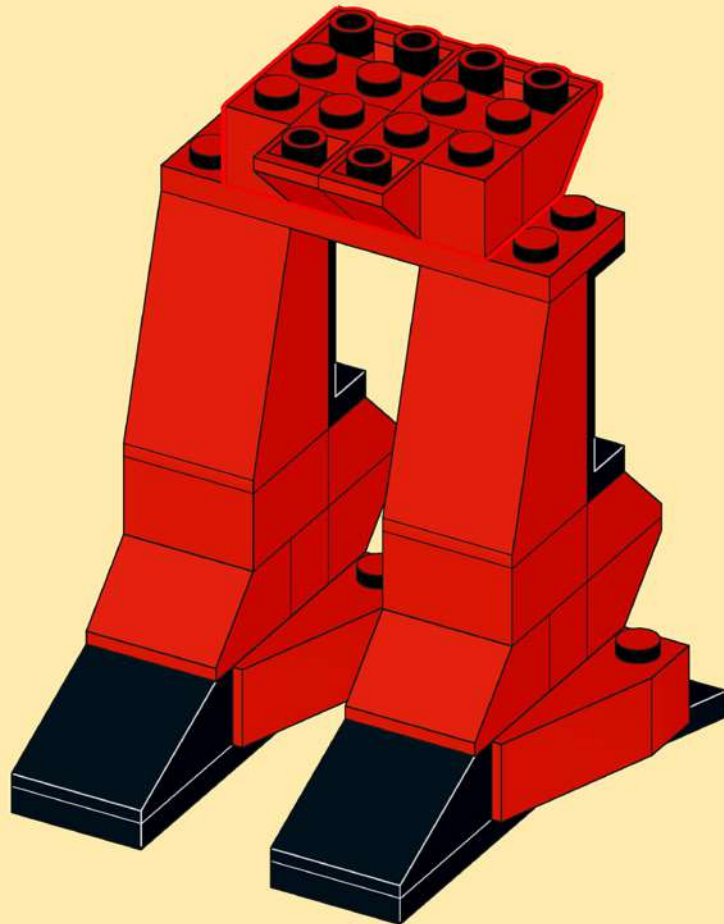
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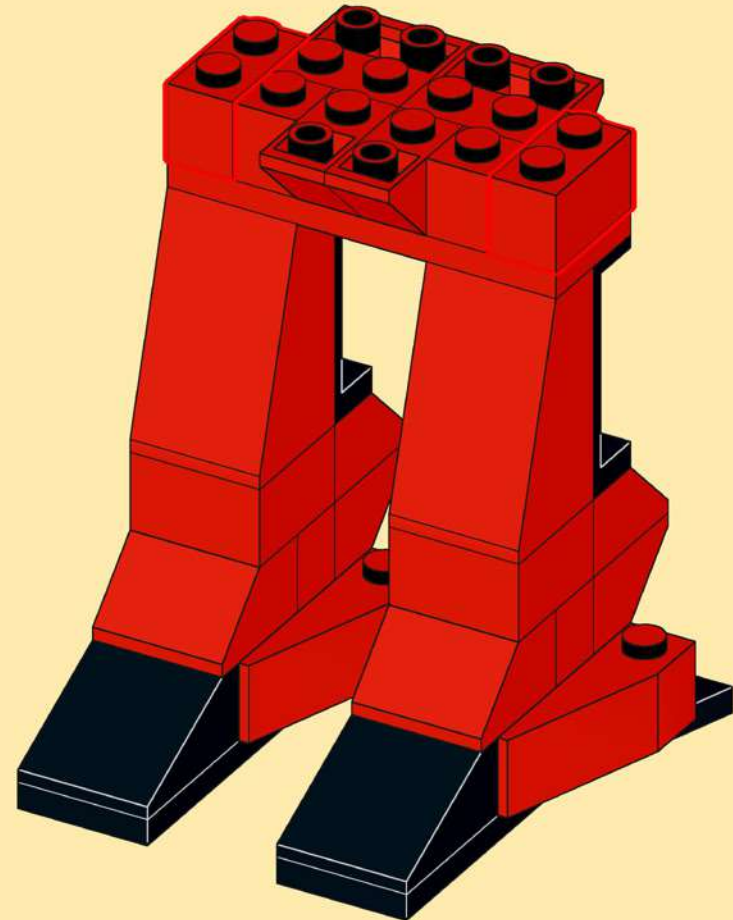
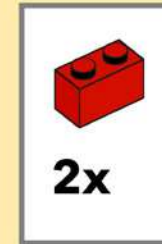
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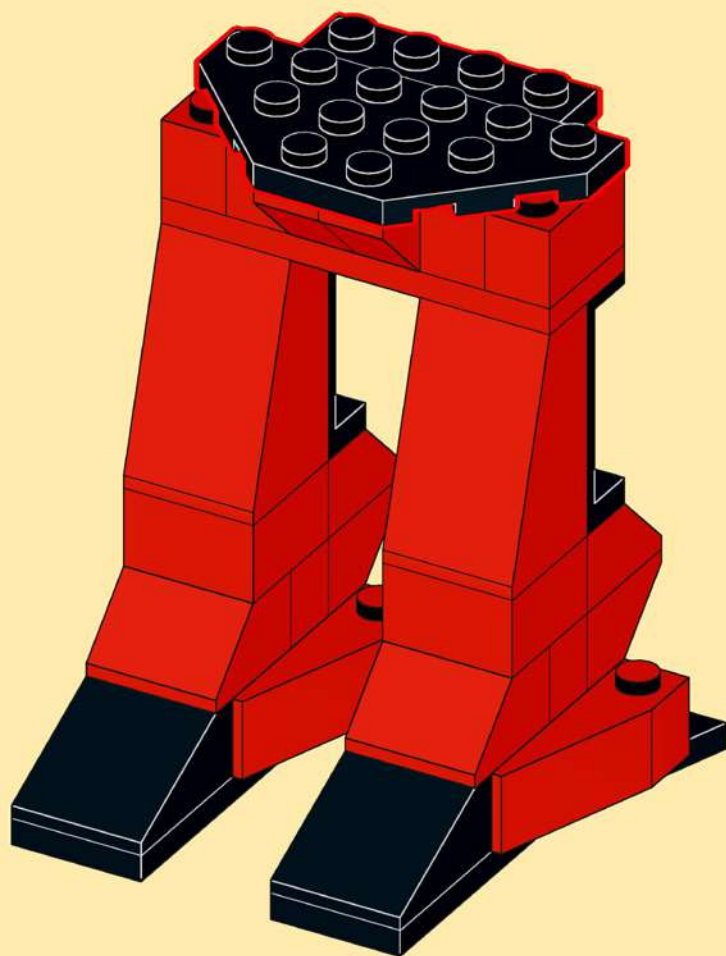
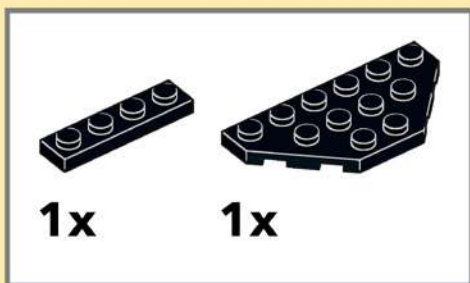
The two rear inverted slopes are added for aesthetic reasons. a 1x4 brick will also suffice, as this part of the build is not visible in the depiction. This part receives its finishing in step 13.



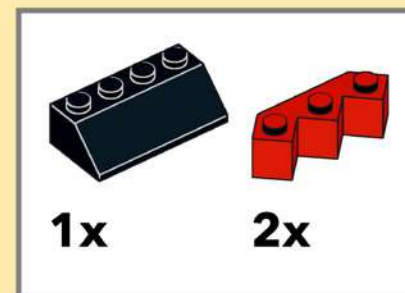
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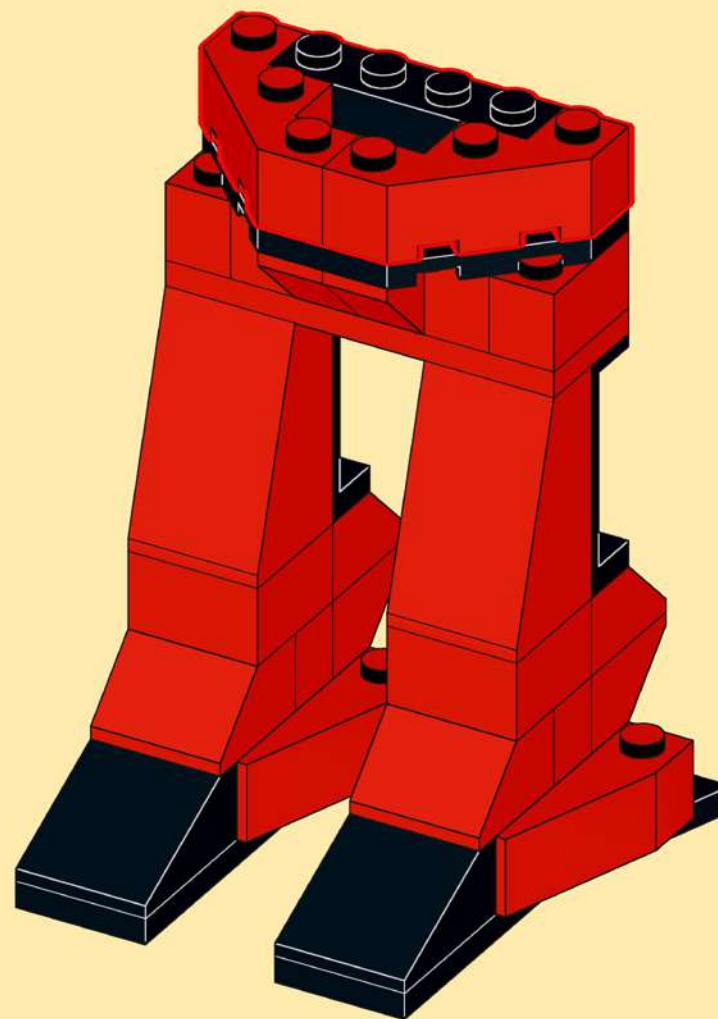
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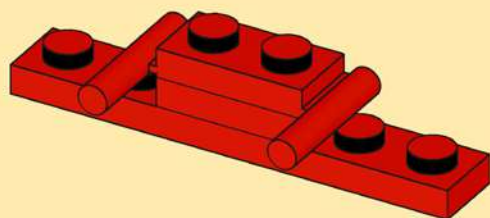
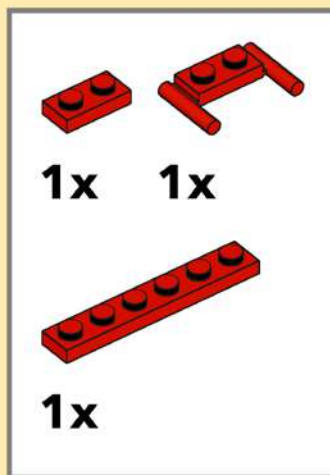
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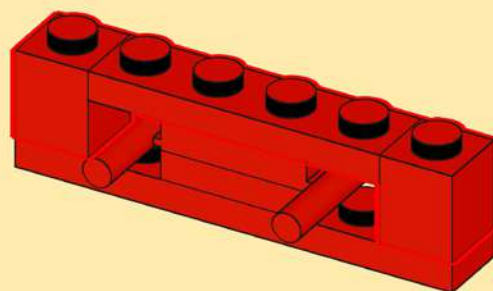
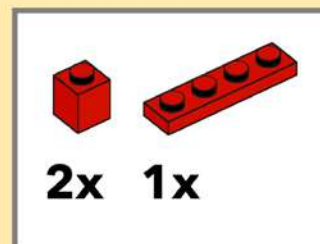
Befitting the calves of the legs, the rear black slope was added for aesthetic reasons. A 1x4 brick will also suffice, as this part of the build is not visible in the depiction.



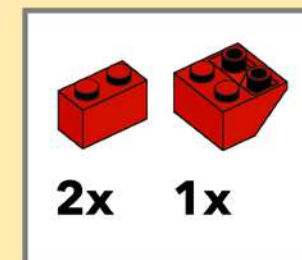
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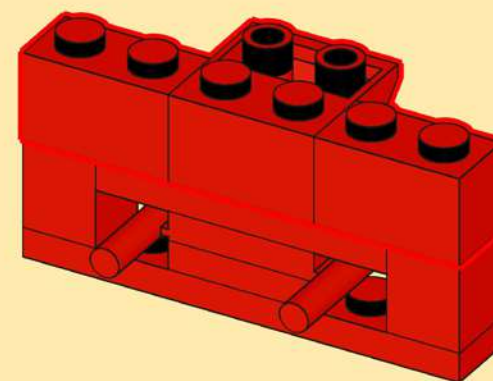
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16



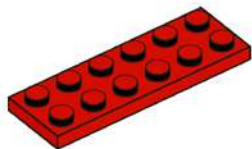
This inverted slope was also added for aesthetic reasons. a 1x2 brick will also suffice, as this part of the build is not visible in the depiction. This part receives its finishing in step 18.



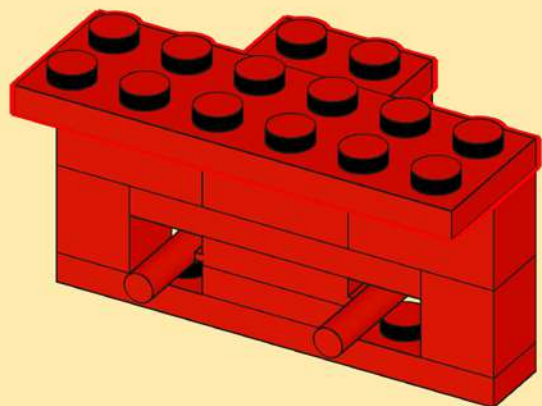
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1x



1x



18



2x

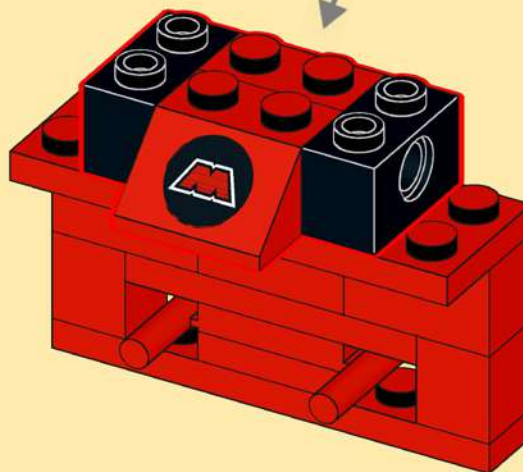


1x



1x

The rear decorated slope was added for aesthetic reasons. A plain slope or even a 1x2 brick will also suffice, as this part of the build is not visible in the depiction.



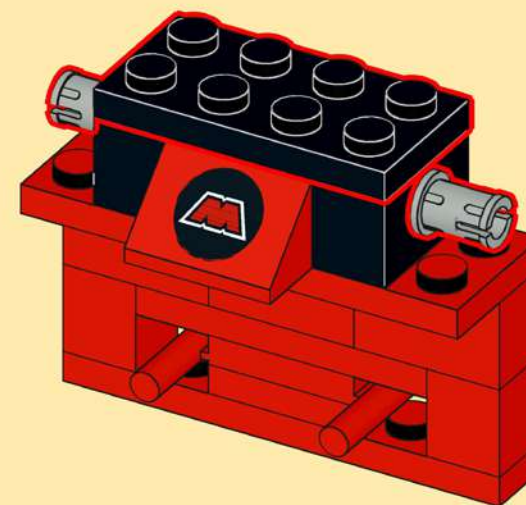
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2x



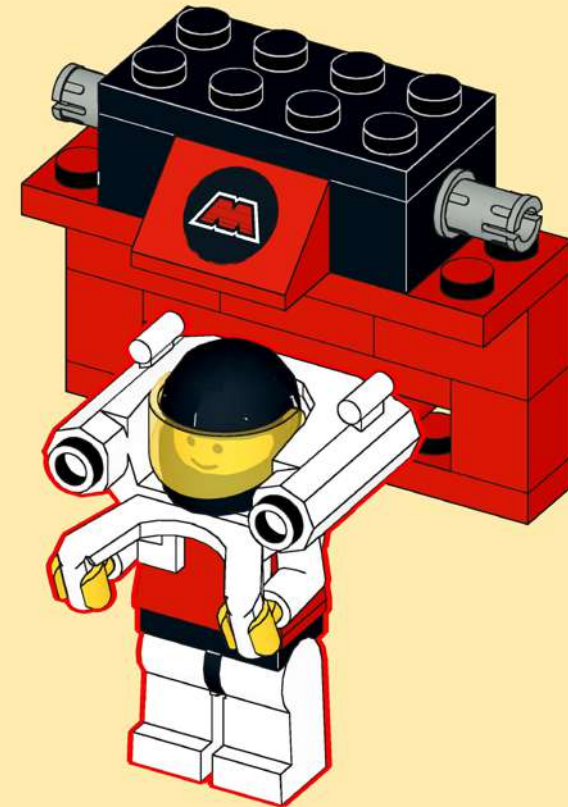
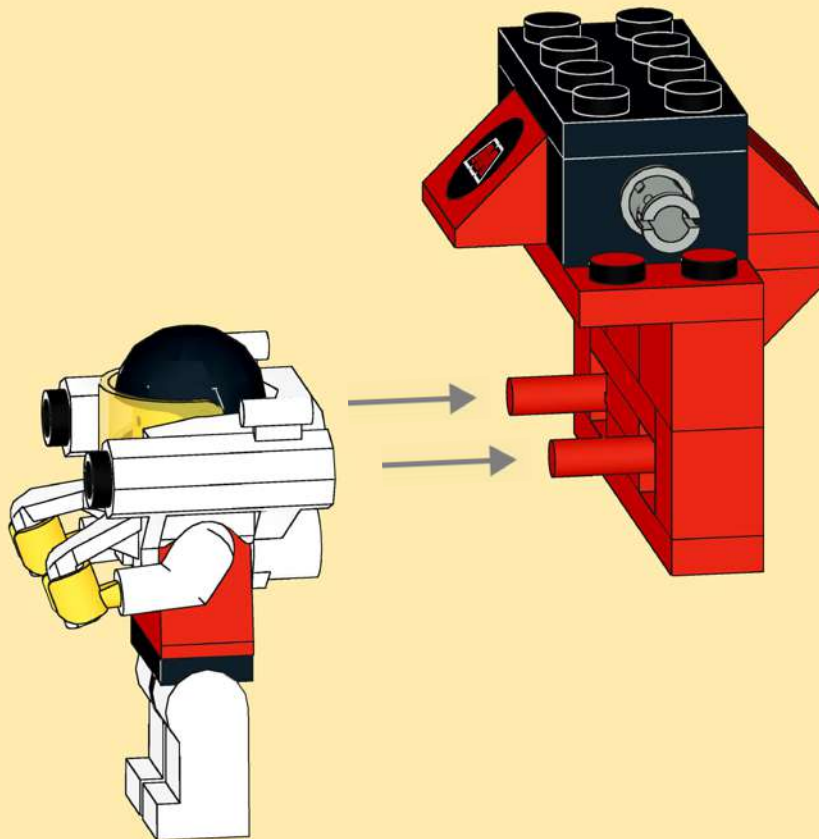
1x



20

Construction tip

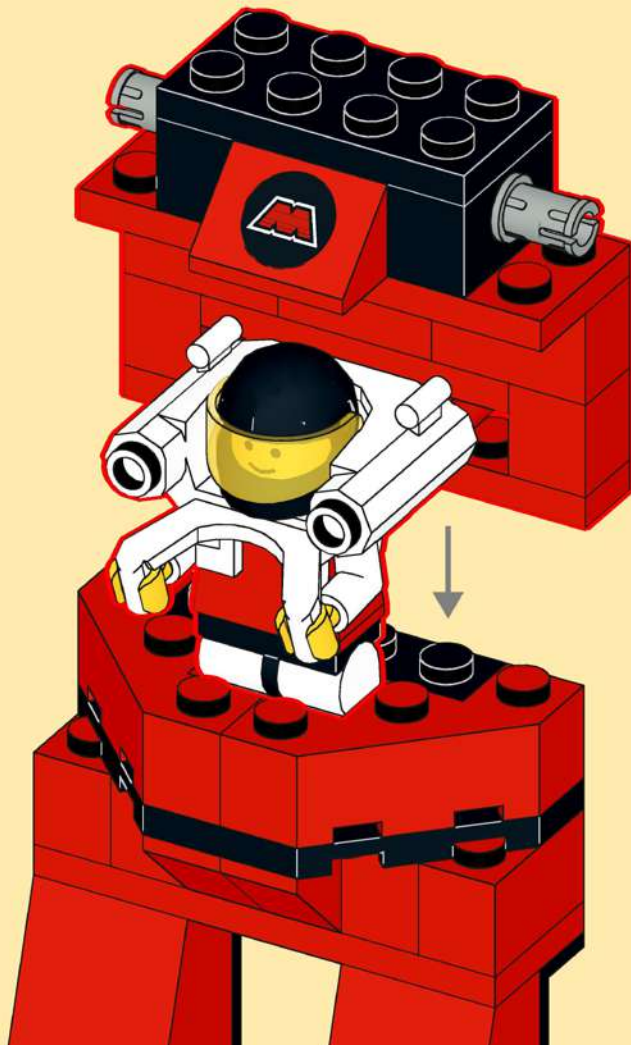
At this point the build becomes a bit unstable due to poor connections around the modified plate with handlebars. Be sure not to slide the handlebars all the way into the jet pack, but leave a little bit of space left. See page 16 for overall alignment.



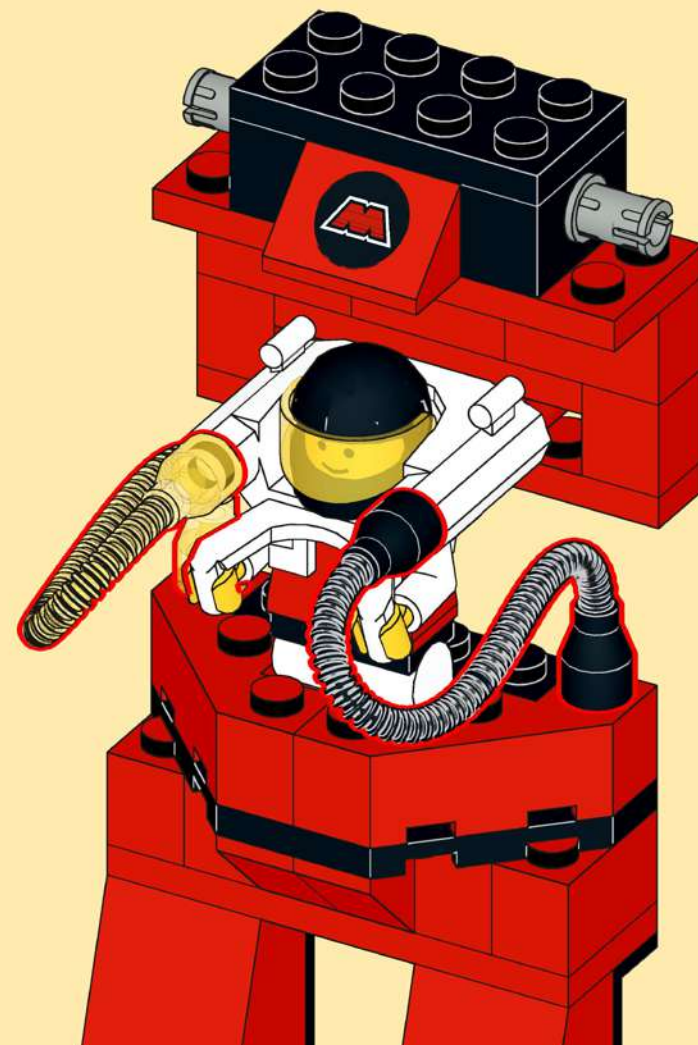
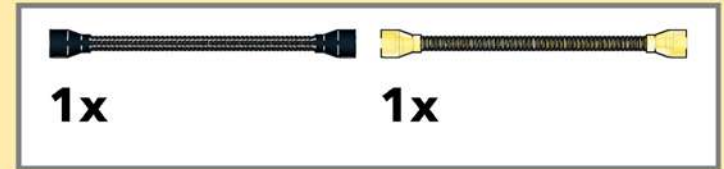
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Construction tip

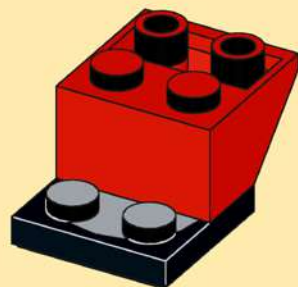
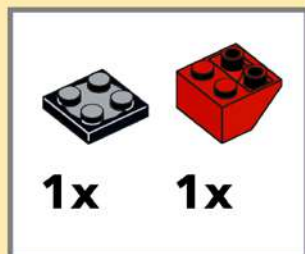
Surprisingly experimental, this exo-suit uses the hips of the minifigure. For the construction to remain stable, the legs of the minifig need to be tucked in deep. Make sure you pick legs with a firm hip connection, so they can carry the upper weight.



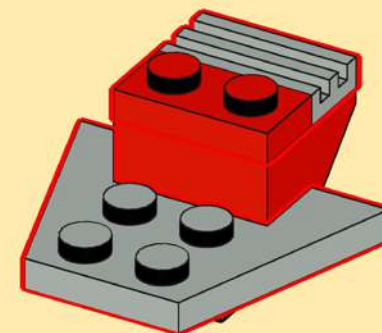
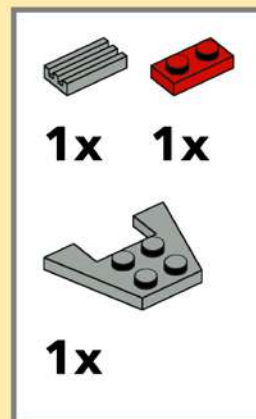
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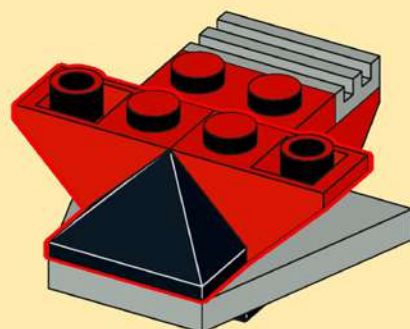
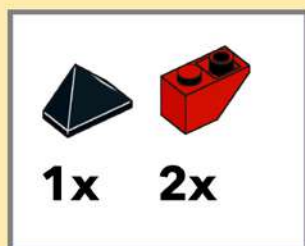
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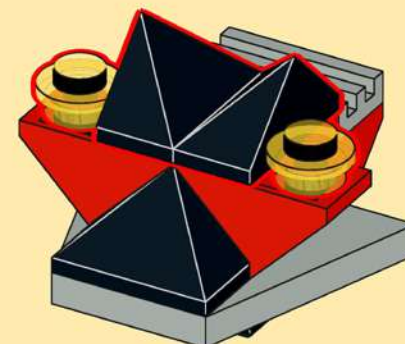
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25



26

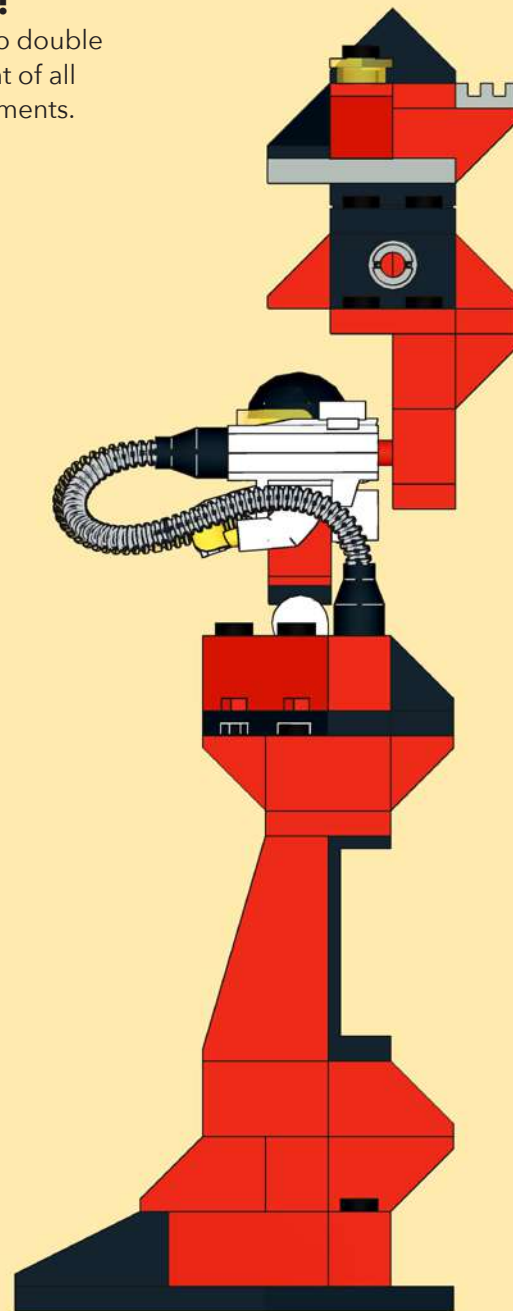


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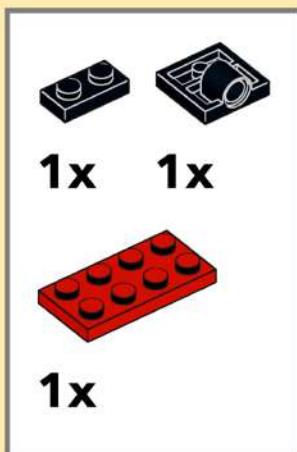


Almost done!

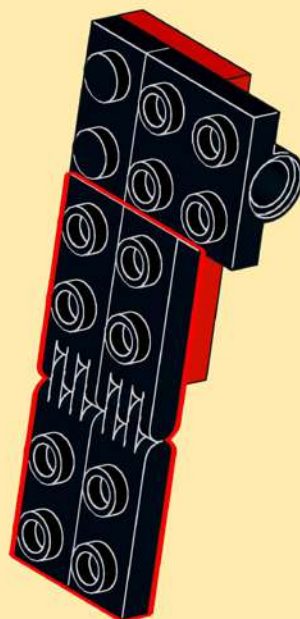
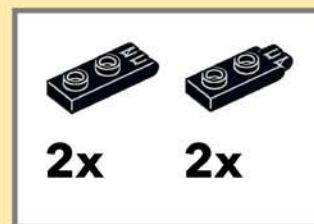
Use this side view to double check the alignment of all previously built elements.



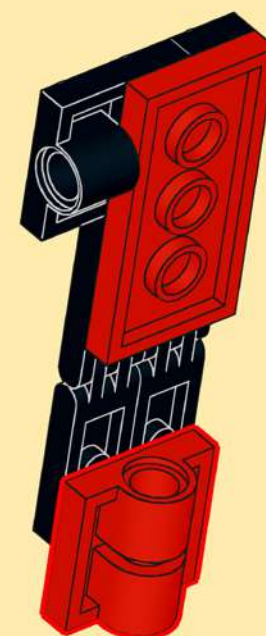
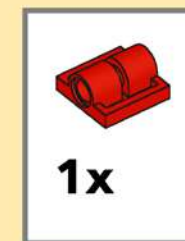
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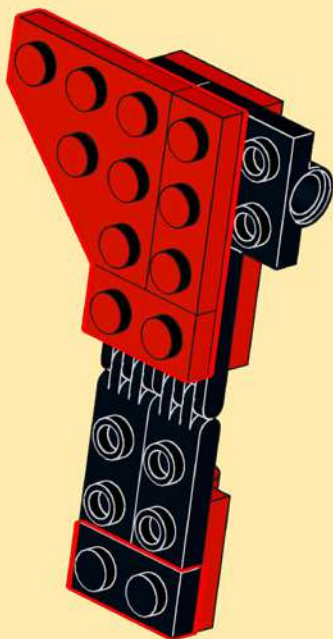
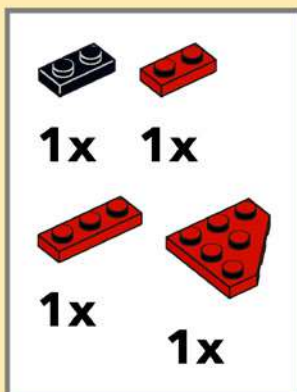
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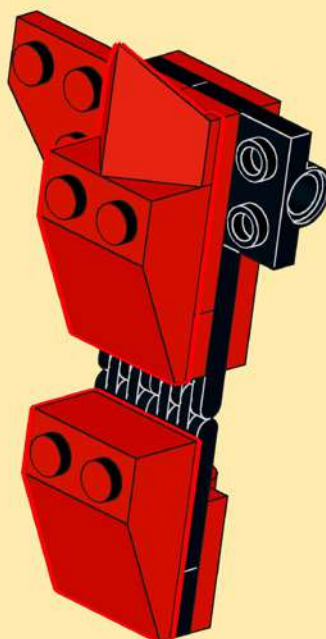
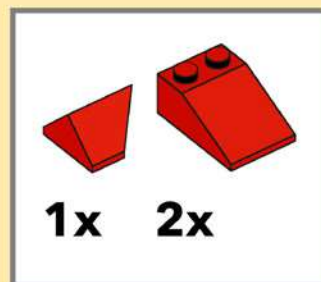
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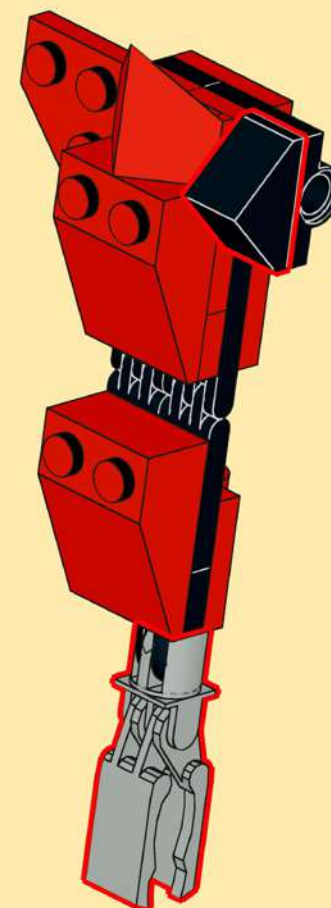
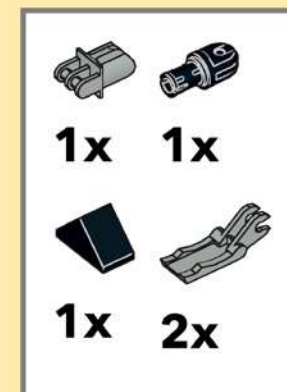
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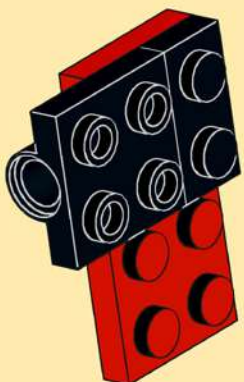
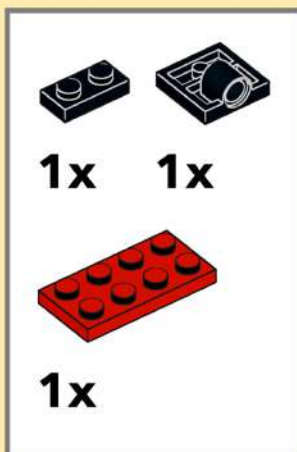
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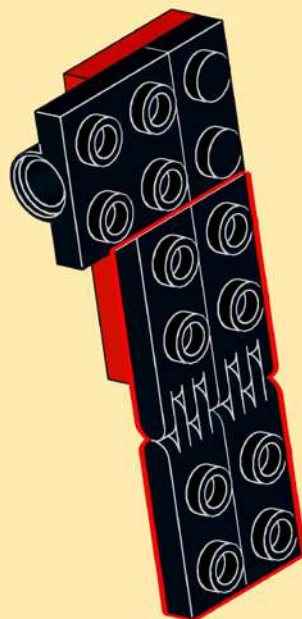
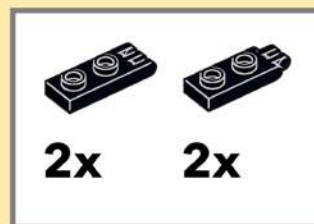
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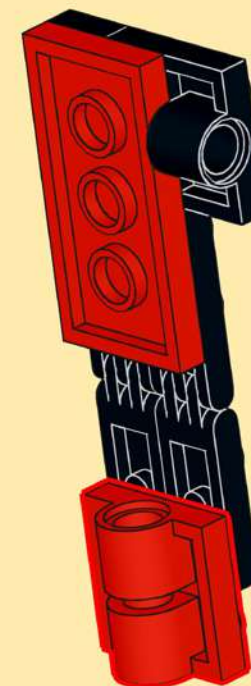
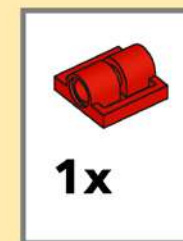
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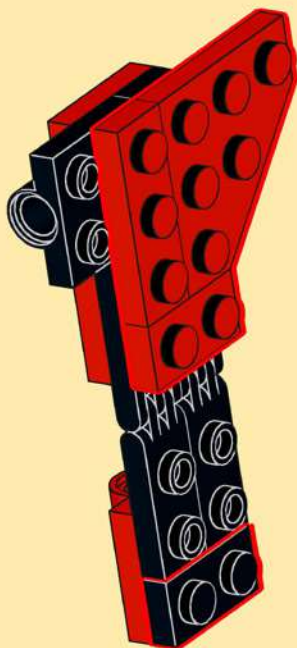
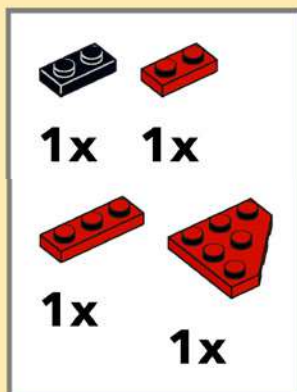
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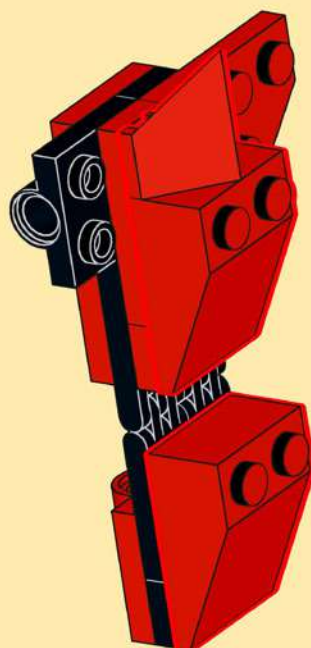
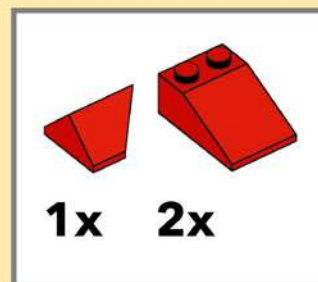
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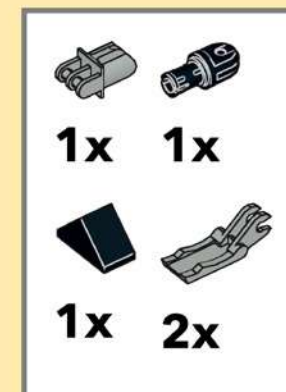
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