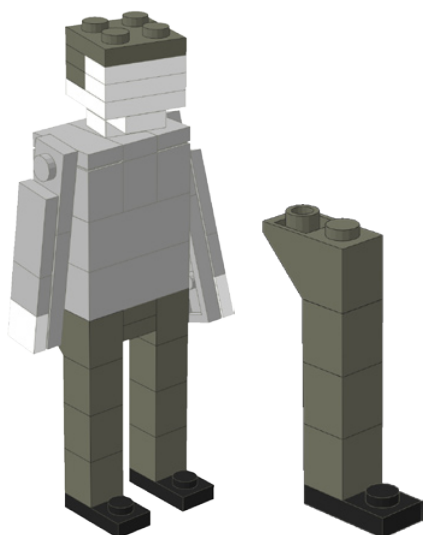


Miniland Building: MINILAND character build

Extended Guidelines Part V - The legs

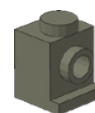
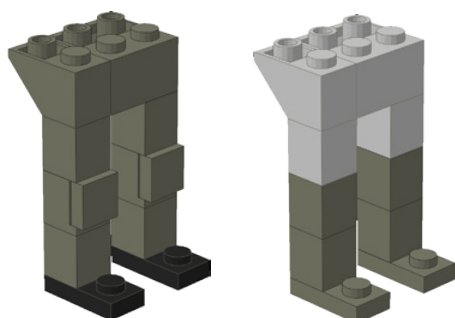
By Didier Enjary



As you can see from this basic MINILAND character, a prototype which illustrate these guidelines from chapter one, legs simply consist of a 1x2 plate as a shoe, a stack of three 1x1 bricks for the leg itself and 1x2 inverted slope brick to link with the torso. Although this is in no way an obligation, it is best to choose contrasting colors for the shoes and legs.

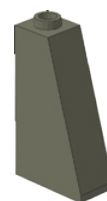
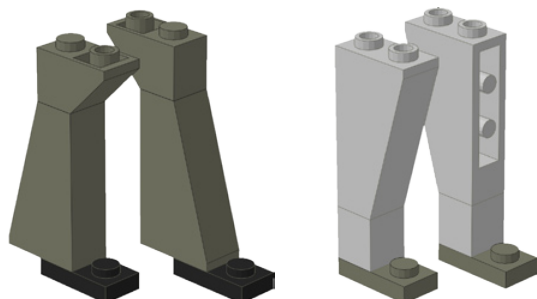
Let us see now how to improve this basis to represent different styles of clothing (pants, shorts, boots, socks ...) but also different postures through some examples.

The first thing we can do is to add details, for example by adding a knee. The 1x1 brick halfway up is replaced by an Erling brick covered with a 1x1 tile, thereby giving an illusion of thickness and the presence of a joint. You can also play with the contrast of colors to give the illusion of boots, such as a fisherman or a gardener's.



Erling brick

These trousers are obviously of a regular fit. They can be turned into bell-bottoms or flares using slope brick 2x1x3 or into an oversized or relaxed fit using the inverted slope brick 2x1x3.

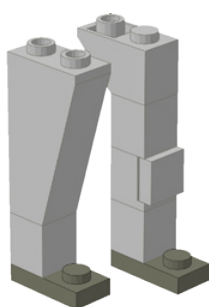


2x1x3 Slope



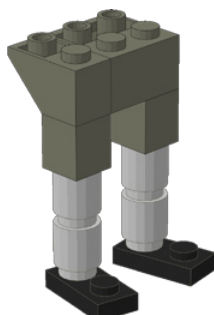
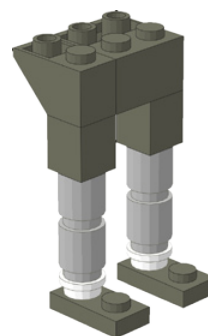
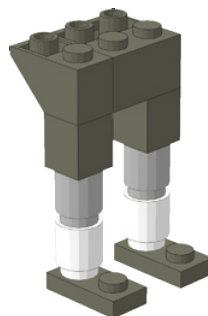
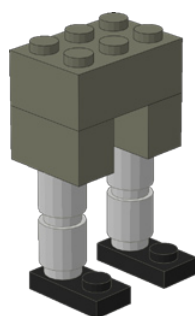
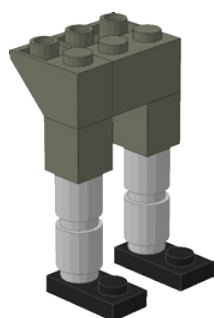
2x1x3 Inverted Slope

You can create a motion effect, as if the character sketched out a step, by combining different kinds of legs.



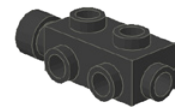
The bricks are very geometric, blocky. They may fit your needs to represent clothes such as pants or boots but bare legs deserve to be represented with round bricks. By substituting wisely a few bricks, it is easy to represent shorts (short trousers, Bermuda shorts, sport shorts...).

Playing with the contrast of colors and 1x1 round parts (bricks or plates), you can add more details such socks (knee-high socks, mid-calf socks, ankle socks...)

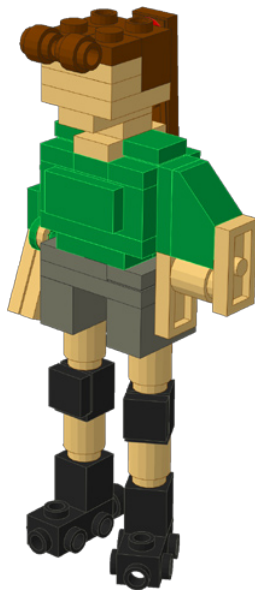
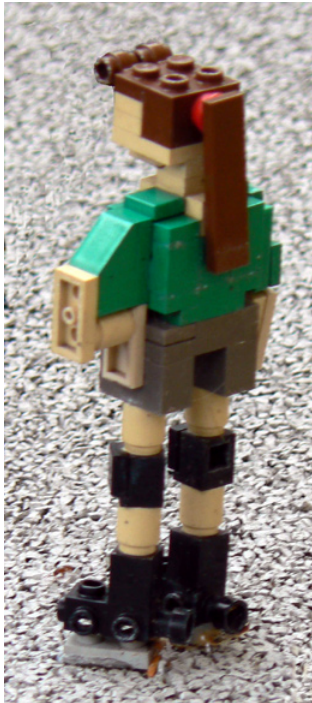


The connection between the leg and foot being carried out through a single stud, the two elements can rotate freely with respect to one another. You can take advantage of this opportunity to give more natural postures to you characters.

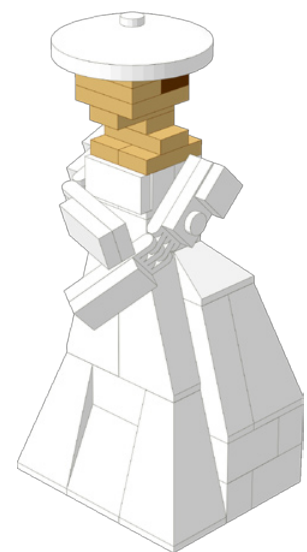
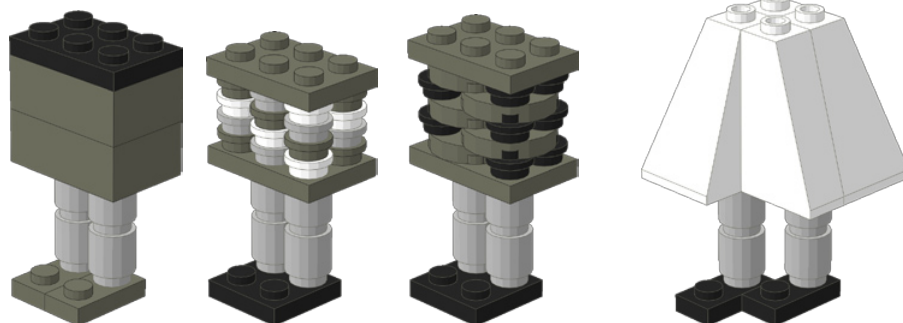
The character below suggests an in-line skater and implements several tips given above. The shoes are represented by a very specific part: the brick 1x2x2/ 3 with studs on sides. On bare legs, made of flesh-colored round 1x1 bricks, Erling bricks covered with 1x1 tiles represent knee protections. A slight rotation of the legs give the character a firm and natural posture.



1x2x2/3 Brick with studs on sides

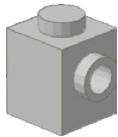


There are two main designs for dresses and skirts. In the first case they are straight and consist of a more or less complex and colorful stack of bricks and/or plates to recreate various pattern and material effects. In the second case, they are flared out by making use of slope bricks, sometimes in a massive way, as for instance for an evening gown or a wedding dress.

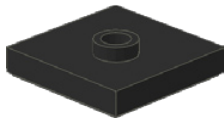


Conclusion

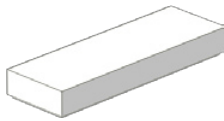
As a conclusion to this chapter, you will find on the following pages the building instructions for a mummy. This character is made of 64 parts and is 10 bricks tall (5'8" - 1.73 meters at scale). The parts to build it are very common - mostly white and grey regular 1x1 and 1x2 plates. But the legs are built in a somewhat unusual way. The design is by Brickshelf user k-hatch who has other great designs for Halloween. Check his gallery at <http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=282630>



1x1 Brick with stud
on one side



2x2 Plate
with one stud



1x3 Tile



1x1 round plate
with open stud

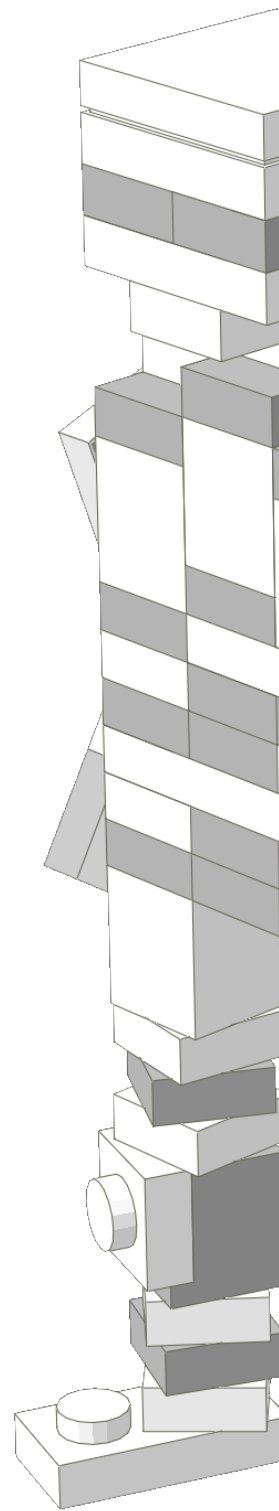
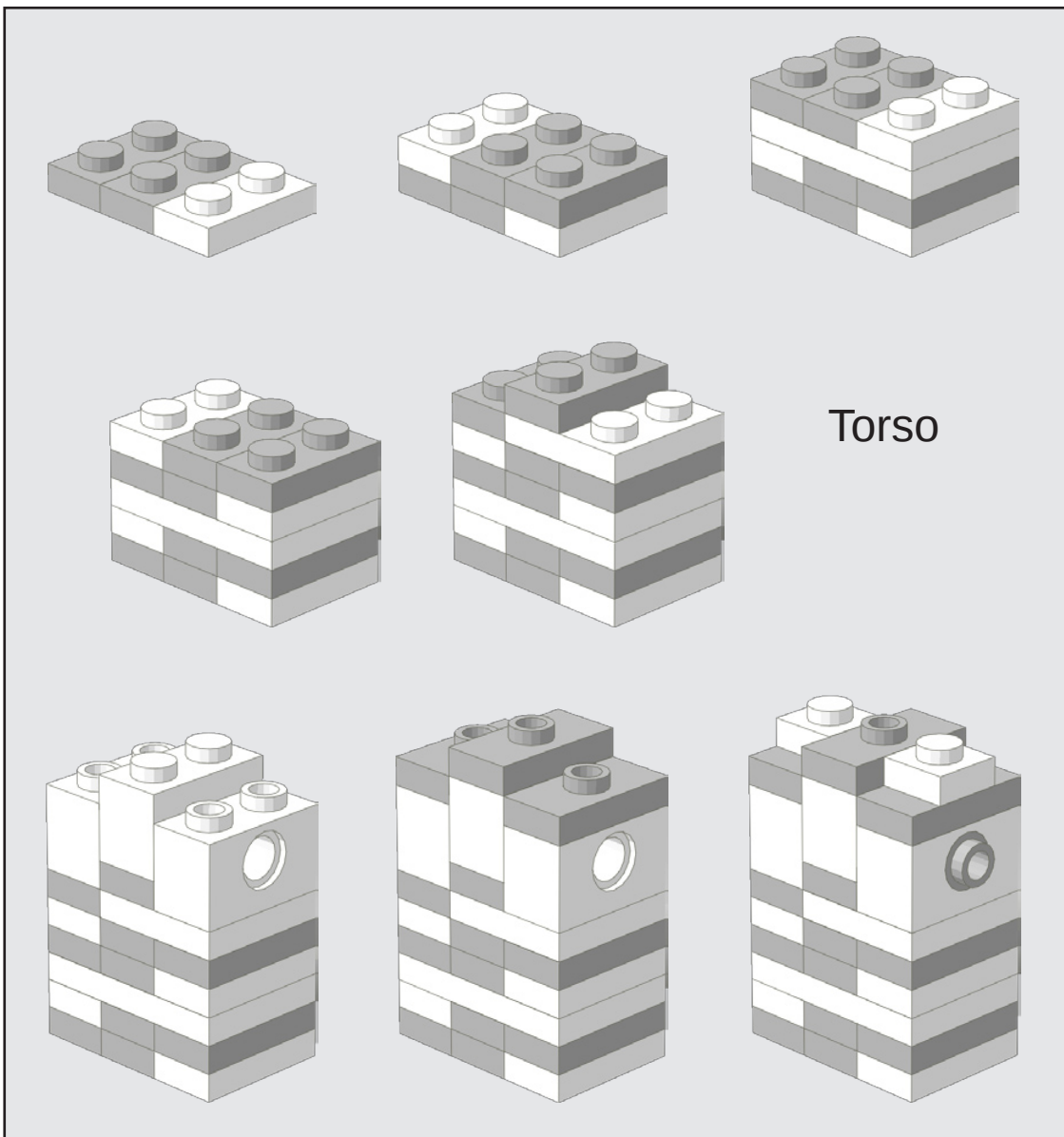
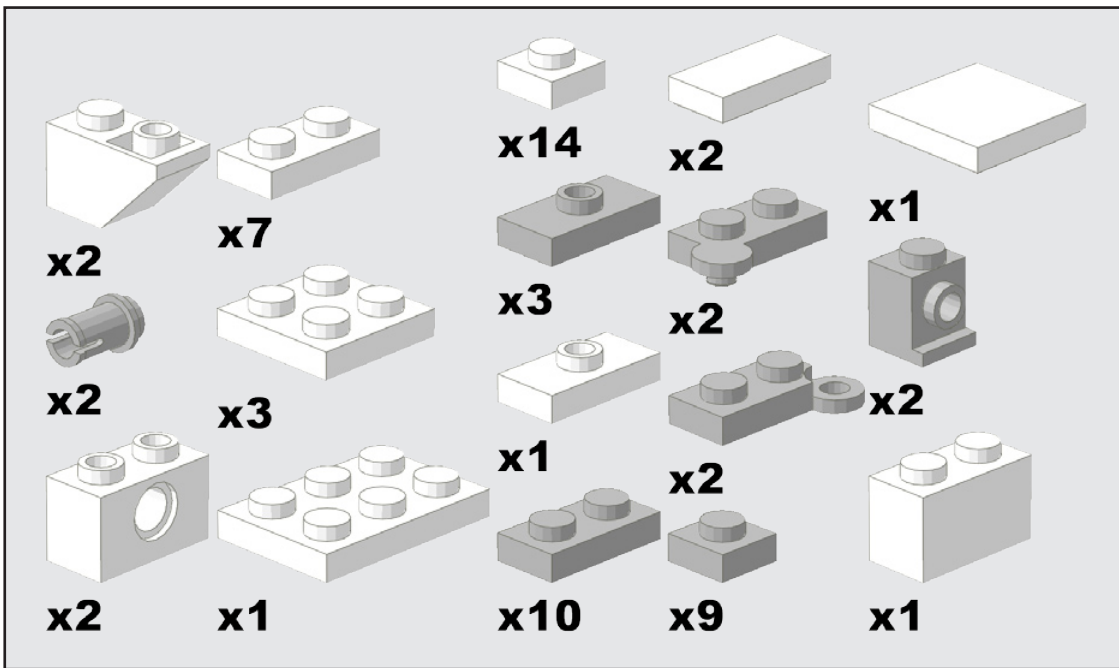
As a conclusion to these guidelines, I initially thought to gather and display in a table all the necessary parts to build MINILAND characters from small plates, bricks and tiles to various hinged parts, slope bricks and Technic pieces. But this is both unfeasible and useless.

Unfeasible because the part selection used is huge. And more than that, it is larger and larger as new parts are released and as new characters appear in MINLANDs around the world. Useless because these guidelines and building instructions are not meant to describe limits but to inspire builders, showing them that possibilities are endless with help of your imagination and creativity.

The guidelines here are based mainly, on designs older than 2007. Since then, new colors (dark tan) and new parts with great potential have been available or more widely available such the brick with stud on one side, the 2x2 plate with one stud or the 1x3 tile and the 1x1 round plate with open stud. The truth is that a bunch of new parts are coming out every year and that the guidelines are not meant to prevent you from using these new parts but to inspire you.

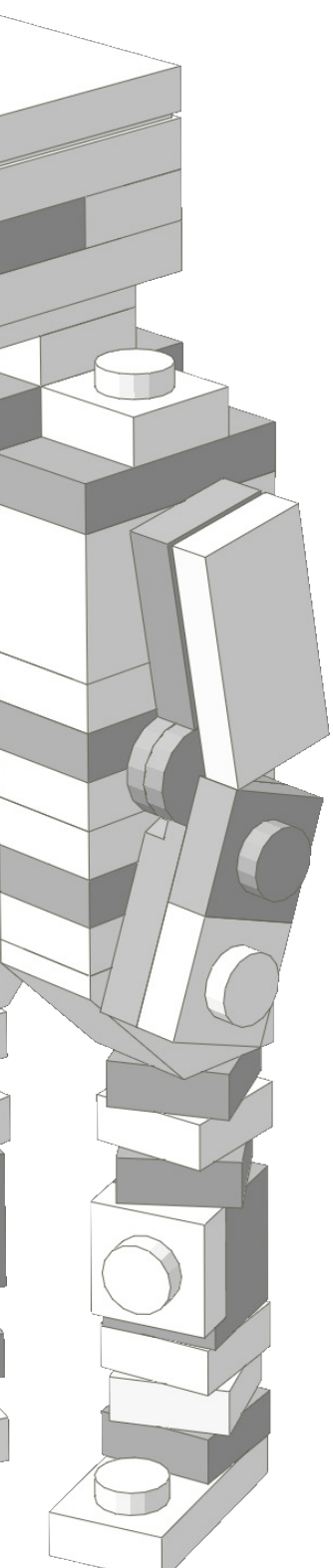
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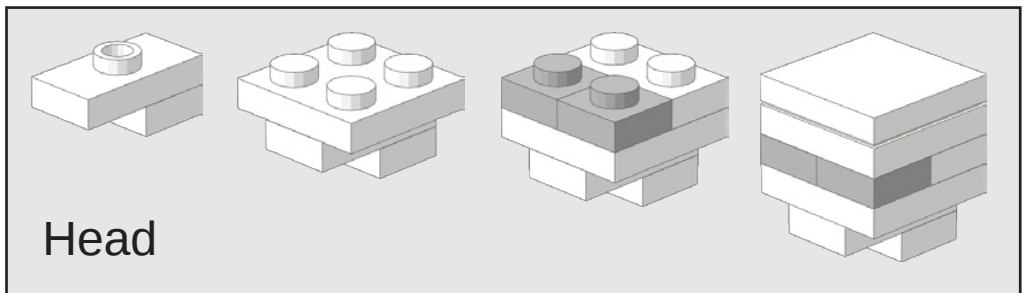


Original Design

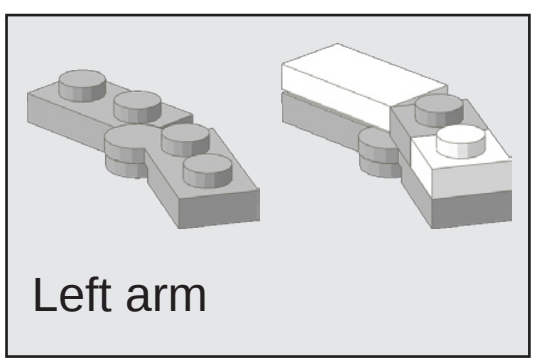
MUMMY



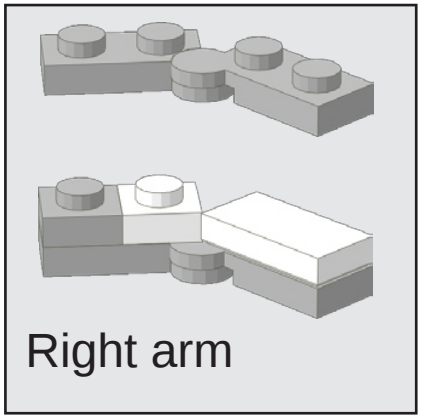
gn by k-hatch



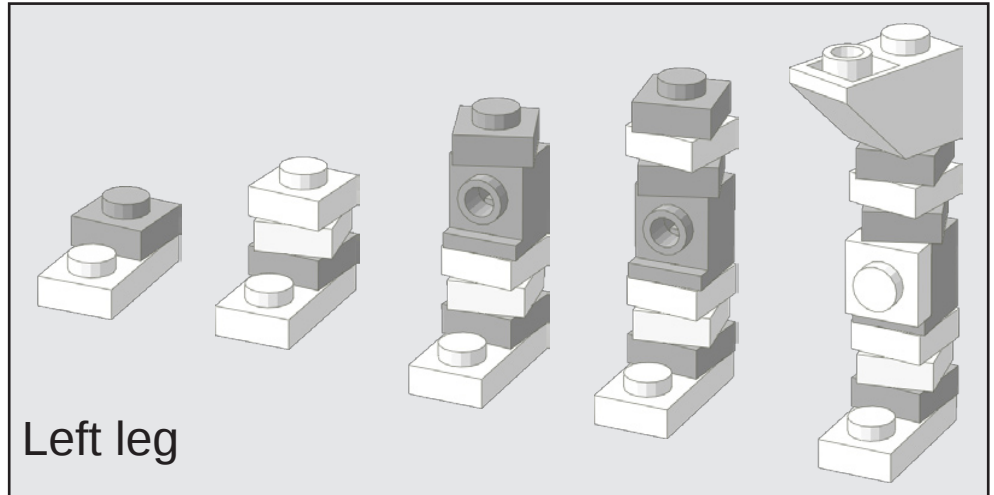
Head



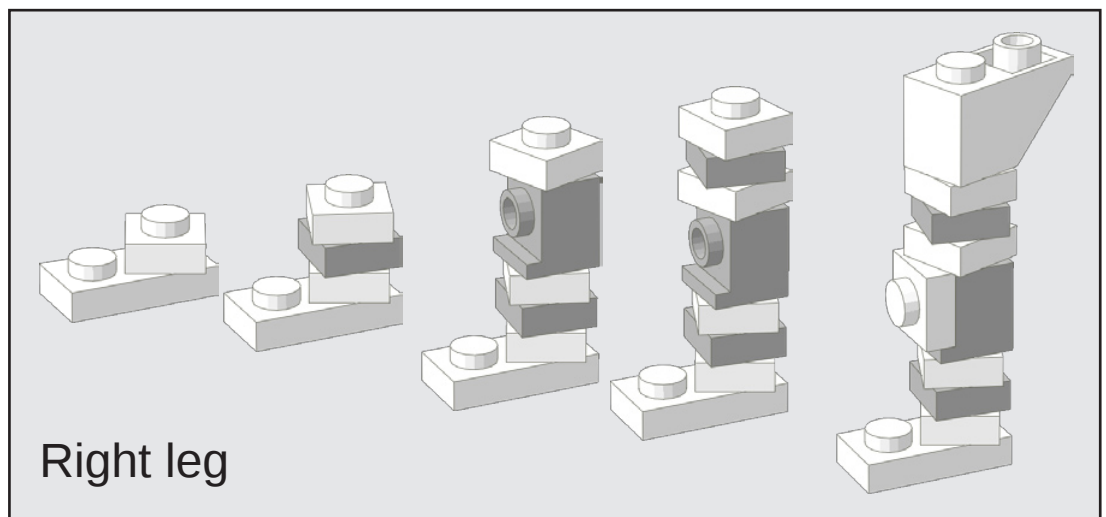
Left arm



Right arm



Left leg



Right leg