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EDITORIAL

By Jetro de Château

You thought we were dead and buried? Well, the buried part is close enough. Sometimes life takes over and sometimes there are so many LEGO bricks to play and build with that other things go on a back burner. Not all is lost though. Occasionally we find inspiration in little things or get a big thing sorted out and find the energy to write about it.

Change is inevitable and there's plenty of change: new LEGO elements to explore, new LEGO sets to build, new LEGO themes to discover. But change isn't always about the new and shiny. In this issue you will see several examples of change, though in different directions. What if your LEGO pieces start to yellow? What if your kids test their sharpies on some bricks? What if the set that has been sitting on your shelf for years turns out not to have withstood the test of time in as glorious a condition as you would have liked? These aren't

just problems to solve—they're reminders that even our most beloved toys experience the passage of time.

I've faced cracked elements, pieces that have become brittle over time, peeling stickers and fading print. In a sense LEGO is a reflection of life: we yellow, fade, and crack, and have our limitations. Yet somehow, just like us, LEGO endures.

Even so, LEGO is still a constant in our lives and we interact with it on many different levels. This magazine is one of them. Whether we're discovering new elements, restoring old favorites, or simply building with our children, LEGO continues to evolve with us. And so does this magazine—imperfect, occasionally weathered, but always ready for the next build.

We hope you will enjoy it and look forward to your reactions.



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SHARPIE VERSUS BLEACH

Experiments by Mark Favreau





We LEGO faithful have all witnessed the carnage of a nine-year-old's epic Star Wars battle: LEGO Stormtroopers covered in red Sharpie blood, torsos blackened to become ersatz Darth Vaders, and various other minifigure atrocities. The question is whether or not, months or years later, these valiant warriors can be resurrected from their permanent marker deaths.

I have seen articles describing the use of various substances and methods for removing Sharpie from LEGO pieces. . . dry erase markers, isopropyl alcohol, toothpaste, baking soda, and various others, usually combined with some rubbing. . . and a warning that too much of anything will remove prints as well as the Sharpie ink.

What I had not seen was any mention of bleach. And I probably would not have thought of bleach except for my practice of reusing old spray bottles. Once emptied of their original contents, I repurpose the bottles by filling them with home brewed cleaning concoctions or try to save some money by buying a large commercial refill instead of a new sprayer. Because the spray bottle gets reused and re-reused, I tend to write on the bottle whatever liquid I have put in it so I know what's in there as time goes on.

Some time ago I noticed a spray bottle containing a bleach and water mixture had dribbled and the more recent Sharpie-on-plastic label I had placed there was partially missing. And it wasn't just faded, it was pretty much gone altogether in one spot. Older Sharpie was there and faded, too, but more faded where the bleach had dribbled. A dim bulb in my mind flickered.



Yep. The spray bottle that used to say BLEACH.

So I marked up a yellowed white brick and a bitten yellow head with some gratuitous Sharpie scribbles and let those pieces sit for two weeks. Then into a small container they went



Day 0: Into the bleach.

along with the bleach and water from the aforementioned spray bottle, and I waited.

The ink was substantially reduced after the first day. It was more reduced on the third day. At this point I took the pieces out to inspect them and took a cotton swab and gave them a rub. A little bit of Sharpie ink did come off on the swab, but there was still a noticeable amount on the brick, appearing as a sort of faded brown on the white brick and gray on the yellow head. So back into the bleach they went.

On day six I took the pieces out of the bleach and inspected them again. On both pieces the ink was just barely noticeable, and then only in spots where the coverage had been heavier. I dried the pieces off and took pictures. Then back into the bleach the pieces went again.

The next morning I couldn't find any traces of ink on the head or the brick. And for what it is worth, the bleach seemed to have no effect on changing the yellowing on the white brick.

To this point it seemed pretty definitive that bleach was an effective solution (hah! pun) for



Day 6: Staining drastically reduced.



Day 6: Some Sharpie is still evident, barely, on the side of a stud.

Day 7: Another half day in the bleach and Sharpie is no longer visible.



Day 0: Sharpie scribbles on the head; photo for comparison purposes.



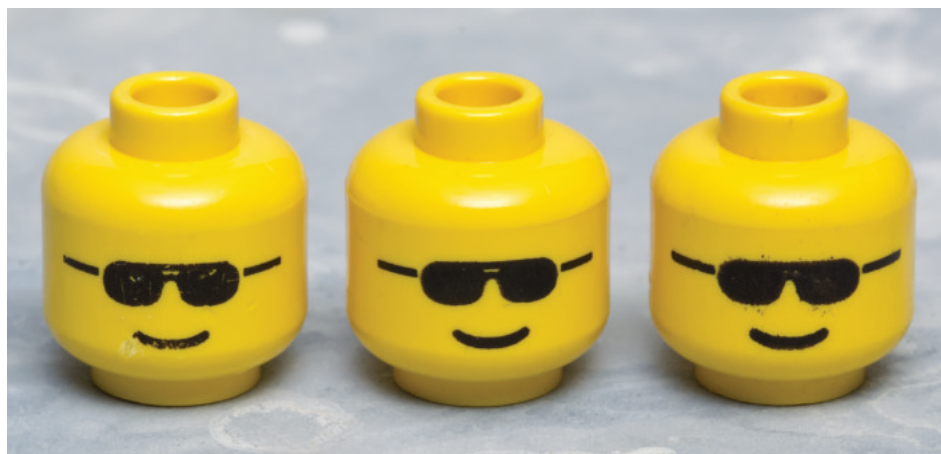
Day 6: Staining much reduced, but still evident behind the bows of the glasses and elsewhere.



Day 6: Opposite side of head, staining is still evident here, too.



Day 7: Staining appears to be completely gone.



Comparison of bleached head on left and un-sharped heads center and right.

removing Sharpie. The next things to try were
1) seeing if Sharpie over stamp pad ink came off as cleanly or if it permanently stained the print,
2) trying out the bleach on transparent bricks, and
3) some red and blue Sharpie for the heck of it.

Red and blue were applied to a white brick. Transparent bricks were selected from different time periods with older bricks being definitely yellowed. The smaller transparent bricks had a generous amount of ink applied to the top of one stud and a one-pass on the side. On one of the longer faces of the 2x4 transparent I put a larger spot of ink on the left side. Ink was applied and reapplied repeatedly to build up a thick layer of ink. Next to that were five lines of ink, the first line of ink with a single application, the second line with two applications, and so on up to five. Two 1x2 printed “control panel” tiles had ink applied, one with ink completely covering portions of the print and the other partially covering the print. The ink was allowed 14 days to dry and then into the bleach.

After one day the blue was barely noticeable on the white brick, which was not really a surprise given that blue colorants tend to come from dyes and red colorants from pigments. That difference in layman’s terms is dyes are soluble (e.g. berry juice) and pigments are insoluble (e.g. clay) substances. After the first day continued color removal was less dramatic. As it took a week to completely remove the black Sharpie off the earlier bricks it wasn’t a particular surprise. What was surprising was the persistence of the color. While the blue faded out completely after 23 days, the red had staying power. It took 52 days for the red to fade from the side, but the studs took longer. One particular stud—in the red/blue pictures the third stud from the left, which was colored with two layers of red topped with two layers of blue, and which happened to have the injection pip—took 104 days for the red to finally fade out around the pip.

Also interesting were the transparent bricks. While the newer bricks held up well, the older bricks were affected by the bleach, turning the plastic cloudy and soft. A fingernail could easily scratch the surface, almost like peeling dead wet skin. After drying, the plastic rehardened but the surface retained the scratches and what had been cloudiness when wet dried to a chalky appearance. For more specifics, see the photos and captions on the following pages.

The bottom line is there may be hope for resurrecting *some* of those sharpied-up stormtroopers if you can be patient.



Day 0: Into the bleach.



24 hours: Staining dramatically reduced.



Prior to bleach bath.



Day 1: blue drastically reduced, red less so.



Day 2: color further reduced, but less dramatically.



Day 3: blue drastically reduced, red less so.



Day 4: fading continues, more evident on the studs.



Day 6: blue now almost gone with more evident fading on the studs.



Day 12: blue is just barely discernible, significant reduction on studs.



Day 30: the barest hint of red remains on the side, but persists at the pip.



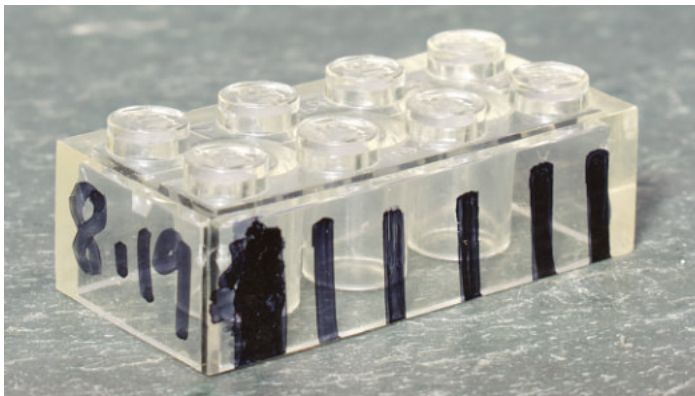
The Pat. Pend. 2x2 brick prior to bleach bath; the Sharpie did not like the side of the brick. Stud heavily coated.



24 hours: Black on side completely gone, a little bit left around the edges of the logo on the stud. Plastic on sides has become noticeably cloudy.



48 hours: Black is completely gone. Transparency has given way to translucency. Plastic has softened such that it can be peeled with a fingernail.



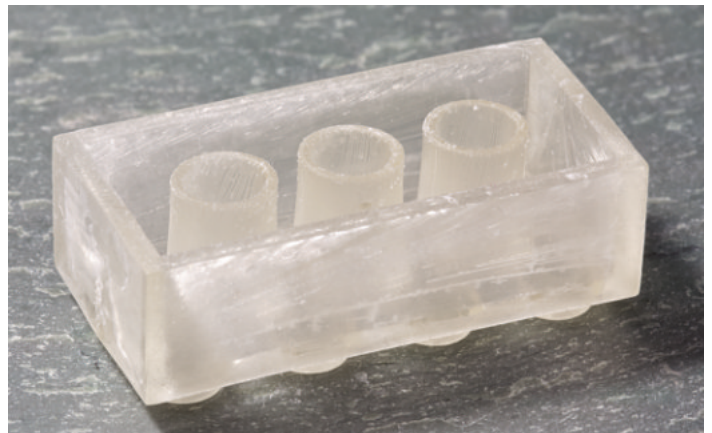
The Pat. Pend. 2x4 brick prior to bleach bath; the Sharpie did not have any trouble marking this brick. The 8-19 marking is a single pass.



24 hours: The 8-19 marking is gone from the side. The one and two pass stripes are barely visible. The 3, 4, and 5 pass stripes are mostly gone. The heavy stripe is mottled.



48 hours: Sharpie marks are completely gone, and as with the 2x2 brick the sides have gone cloudy and can be easily scuffed with a fingernail.



The underside of the 2x4 brick. It appears that the bleach has actually etched the plastic. Note striations in the tubes.



Comparison of bleached and unbleached transparent Pat. Pend. bricks.



The 1x2 brick with underside bar prior to bleach bath. Writing on side is one-pass, ink on stud is multiple coats.



24 hours: Black on side completely gone, a little bit left around the edges of the logo on the stud. Plastic remains clear.



48 hours: Black on stud completely gone. Plastic remains clear and hard.



The 1x2 brick with no underside bar prior to bleach bath. Writing on side is one-pass, ink on stud is multiple coats.



24 hours: Black on side completely gone, a little bit left around the edges of the logo on the stud. Plastic remains clear.



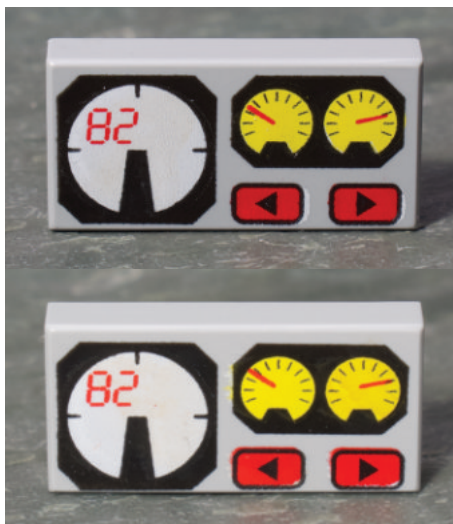
48 hours: Black on side completely gone, a little bit left around the edges of the logo on the stud. Plastic remains clear.



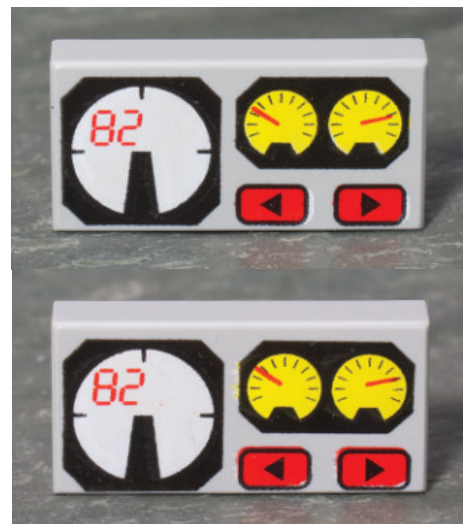
1x2 printed tiles. On the left is an unmarked tile. Center and right have sharpie applied.



24 hours: sharpie substantially reduced but still clearly evident.

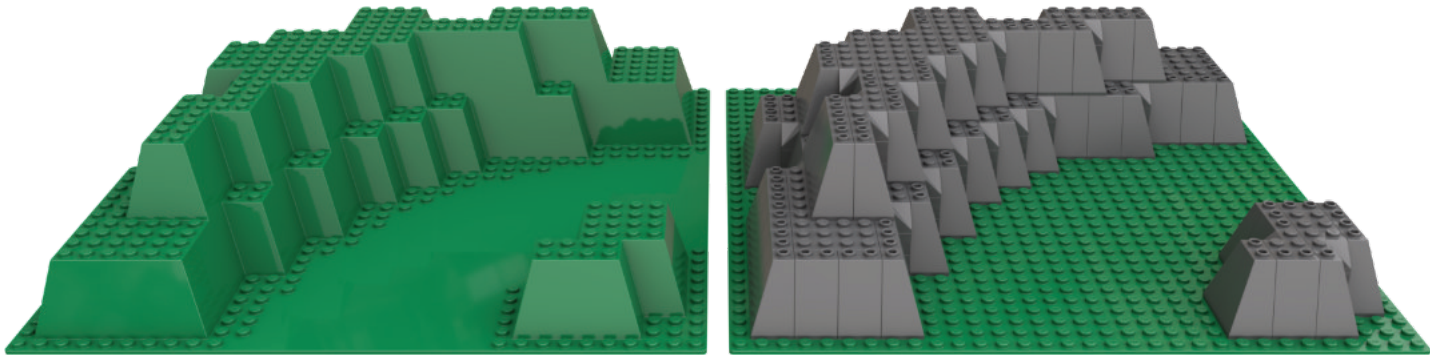


48 hours: sharpie still slightly evident.



48 hours: sharpie gone.

RAISED BASEPLATE



VS BRICK BUILT

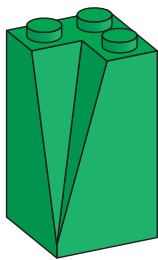
By Mark Favreau

Some sources will suggest to you that instead of using an old raised baseplate, you should brick build your own. Given that the Castle theme is rife with old raised baseplates... none of which I have, of course... I thought it would be interesting to investigate the premise.

To start, the 6024 baseplate from set 6079 Dark Forest Fortress was selected at random. Researching the 6024 part I found there are five decorated versions in three colors: the light gray and light blue parts each have two different patterns while the green part has one. There is no solid-color version of this part.

Price point for the five parts was interesting. Using BrickLink's currently available price guide as reference, one of the light blue versions, the underwater pattern appearing in set 6195 has an average sales price of about \$20 US. The green part, by comparison, is about \$90 US. The others are in the \$40 range. It appears that Castle comes at a premium.

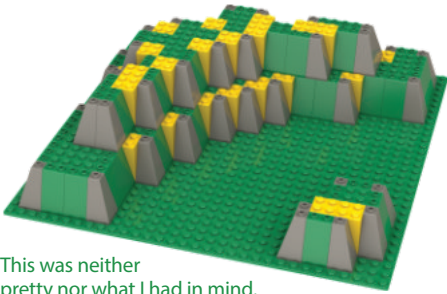
The next step was to launch Studio and see what that could offer. Luckily it did have the 6024 part which would serve as reference. My idea was



Surprise! This part does not exist.

to try and replicate the raised baseplate design as close as possible with a bricks assembly using currently available parts. It was no real surprise that problems arose immediately.

Problem number one is that there is no 75° 2x2x3



This was neither pretty nor what I had in mind.

double concave brick. As all the sides of the raised baseplate are sloped, all the inner corners would need some alternative solution. Initially I used a 2x2x3 brick as a placeholder. While I attempted to build everything in green, I set these bricks in a contrasting color so I could keep track where that problem was located. When the model was completed I checked for color availability. Unfortunately the 75° 2x2x3 slope double convex brick is not available in green. Studio mapped the closest neighbor color as dark gray.

Next was to try and resolve the inner corners. I replaced all the 2x2x3 bricks with an assembly of two 2x2 bricks stacked, and a 2x2 double convex

on top of those. While this was a far more appealing solution, alas, the 2x2 double convex brick is not available in green. Ultimately, attempting to build this model in green is a fail.

Green being a lost cause, I decided to try other colors. All necessary pieces were not available in the brown range... but they were available in black and dark bluish gray/medium stone grey. I felt DBG was an acceptable solution and I was on to the next step: brick count and pricing.

The chart at the bottom shows the part count with BrickLink average pricing in the first column and Pick-a-Brick pricing in the second.

No single seller on BrickLink or BrickOwl had all the required pieces in stock. LEGO itself does not offer all the required pieces. While standard bricks were readily available in quantity on the aftermarket, the tall slopes definitely were not. Pick-a-Brick may or may not have things, and if they do have them, you may need to wait months for delivery. To get the parts in the quantities necessary, several orders would need to be placed in several stores, possibly in multiple countries. Add shipping and taxes onto those orders and it was not long before that \$90 for the old green baseplate looked like a bargain.

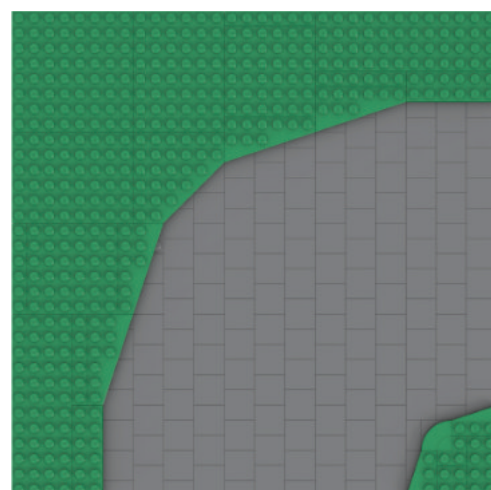
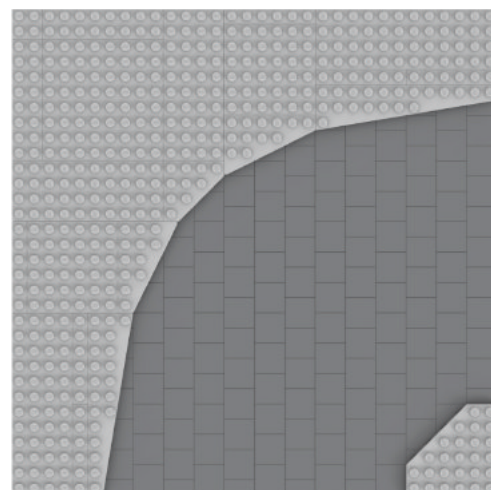
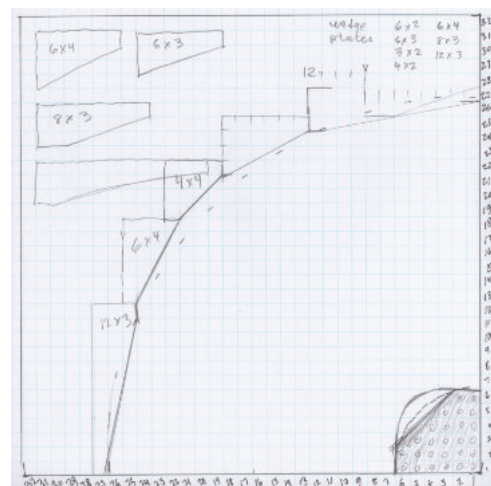
My conclusion is that unless you are willing to go all rainbow warrior on the project, happen to have parts on hand, and are willing to make some design compromises, brick building a replica raised baseplate is near impossible and not in any way a cost-effective alternative to the original at this time.

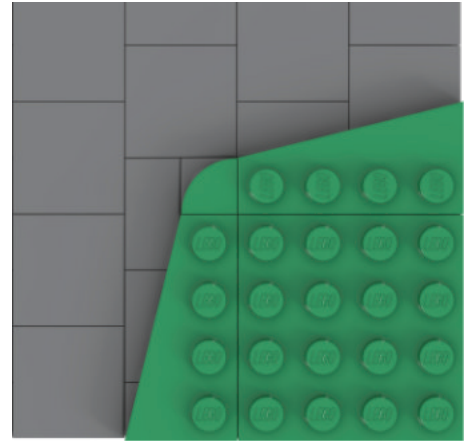
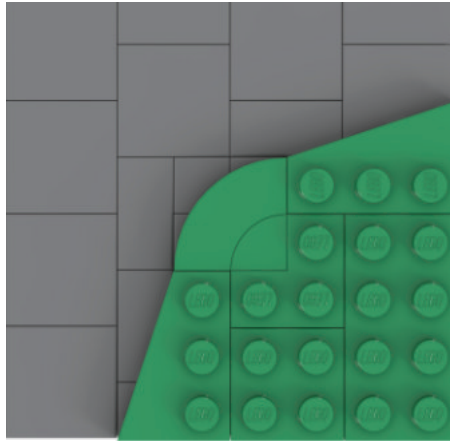
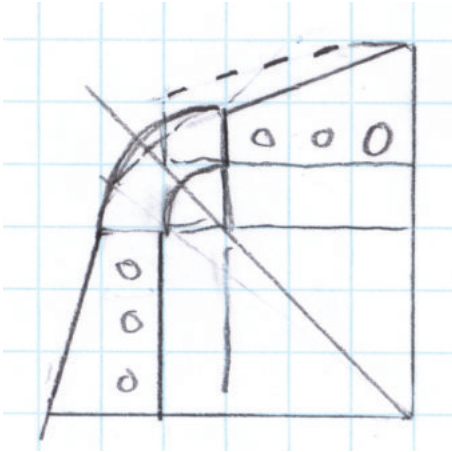
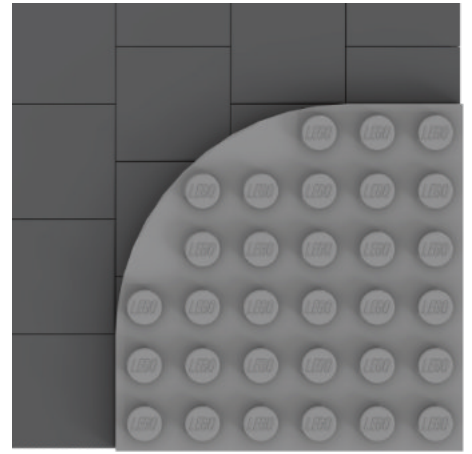
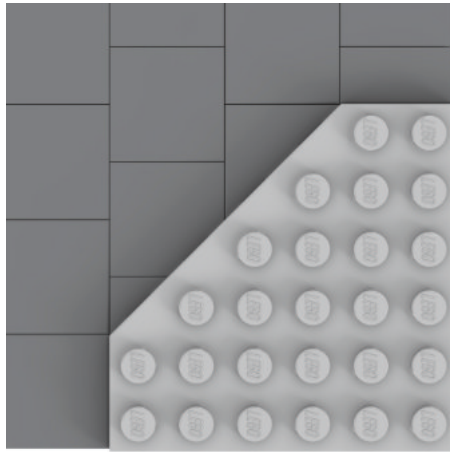
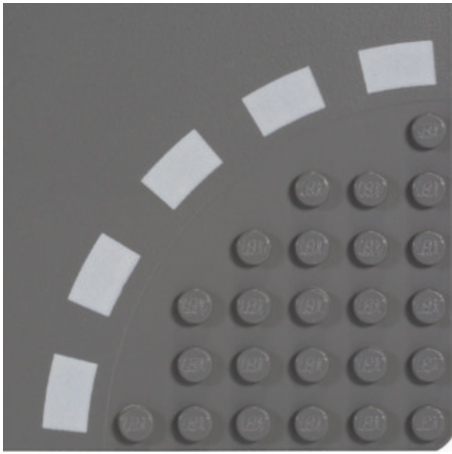
Qty	Part	BL /pc	LEGO /pc	BL total	LEGO total
1	32x32 baseplate green	7.50	8.00	7.50	8.00
52	2x4 bricks filler	.10	.21	5.20	0.92
12	2x2 bricks filler	.05	.13	.60	1.56
63	2x2 bricks dbg	.08	.13	5.04	8.19
28	2x2 slope double concave dbg	.13	.17	3.64	4.76
47	2x2x3 75° slope dbg	.34	n/a	15.98	n/a
47	2x2x3 75° slope double convex dbg	.60	.39	28.20	18.33
27	2x4 bricks dbg	.18	.21	4.86	5.67
277				71.02	

By Mark Favreau

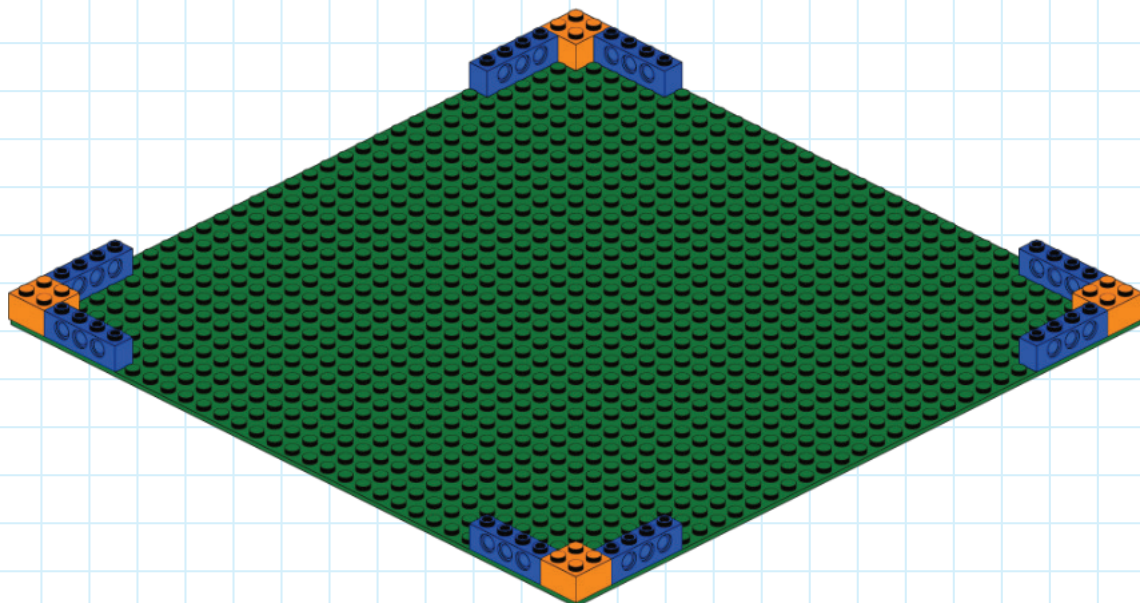
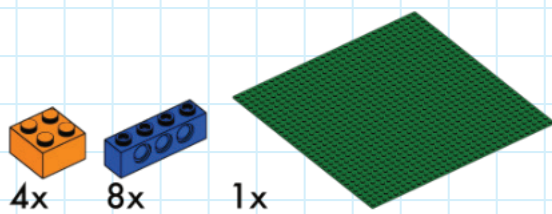
There was no clear winning design with which to emulate the 6-stud radius of the original inner curve with plates, but there were options. Option one is the 6003 6x6 round corner plate, but it has a 4x4 curve, so the curve is sharper than the original and bites into the roadway a bit. Option two is the 6106 6x6 cut corner wedge plate which fills the space nicely, but is a little severe looking. Option three uses 2x3 wedge plates combined with a 2x2 and a 1x1 curved tile, yielding a rounded but kind of lumpy curve. Option four uses 2x4 wedge

"Stickers," I replied. "Stickers."

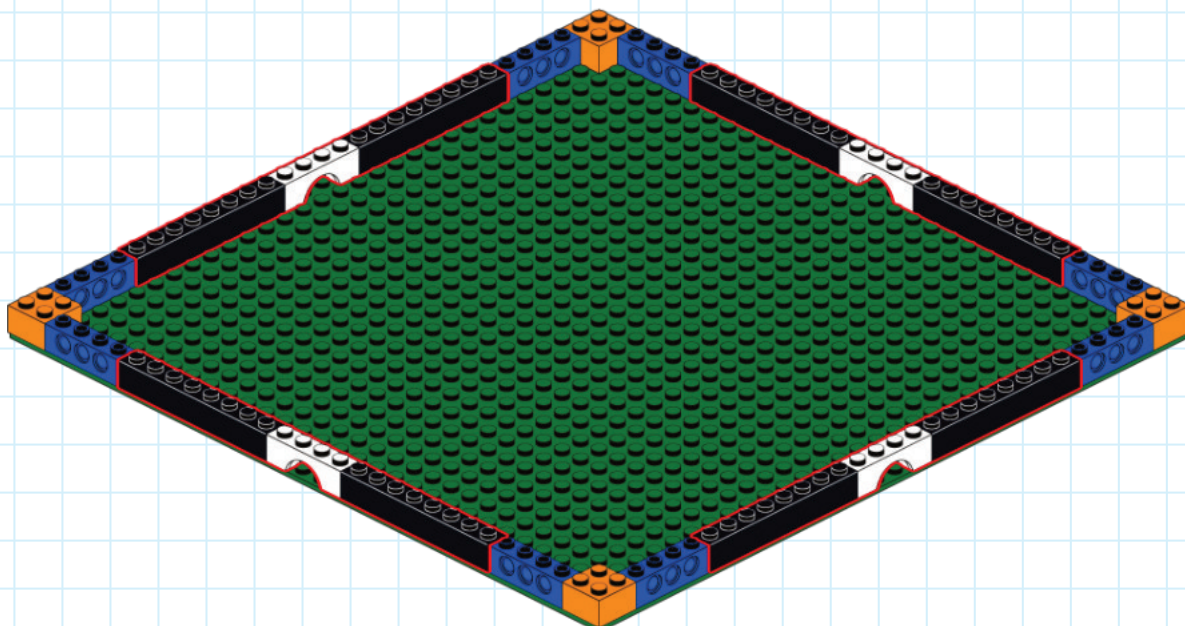
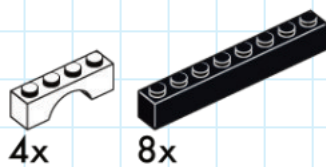




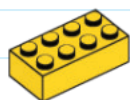
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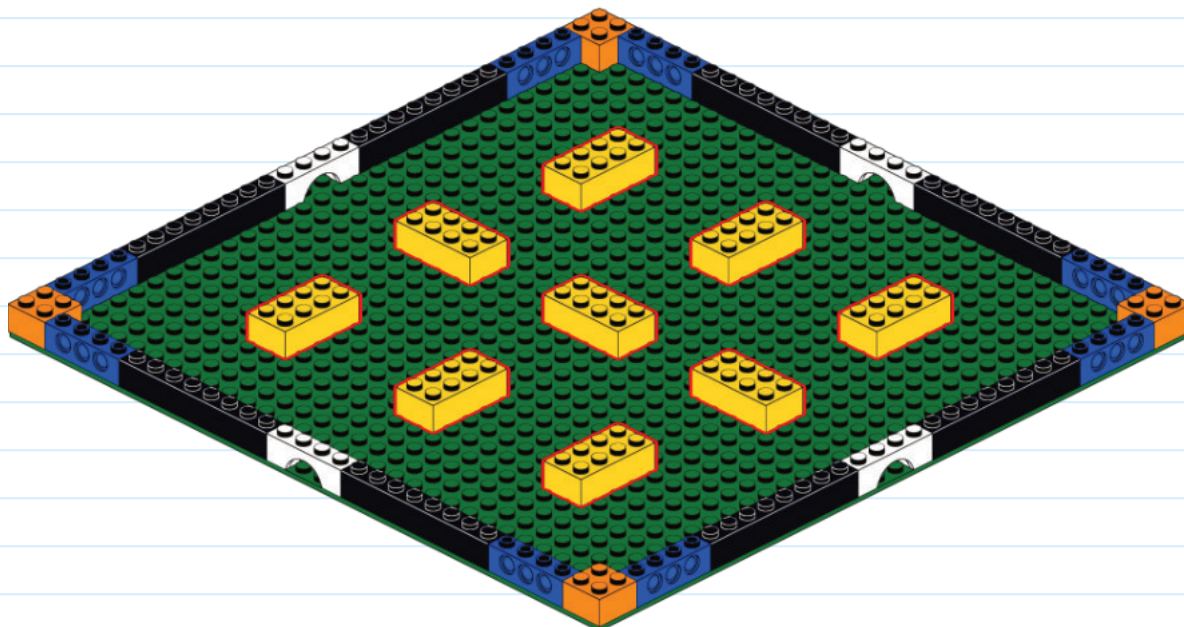
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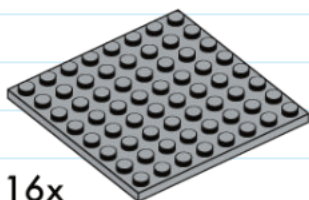
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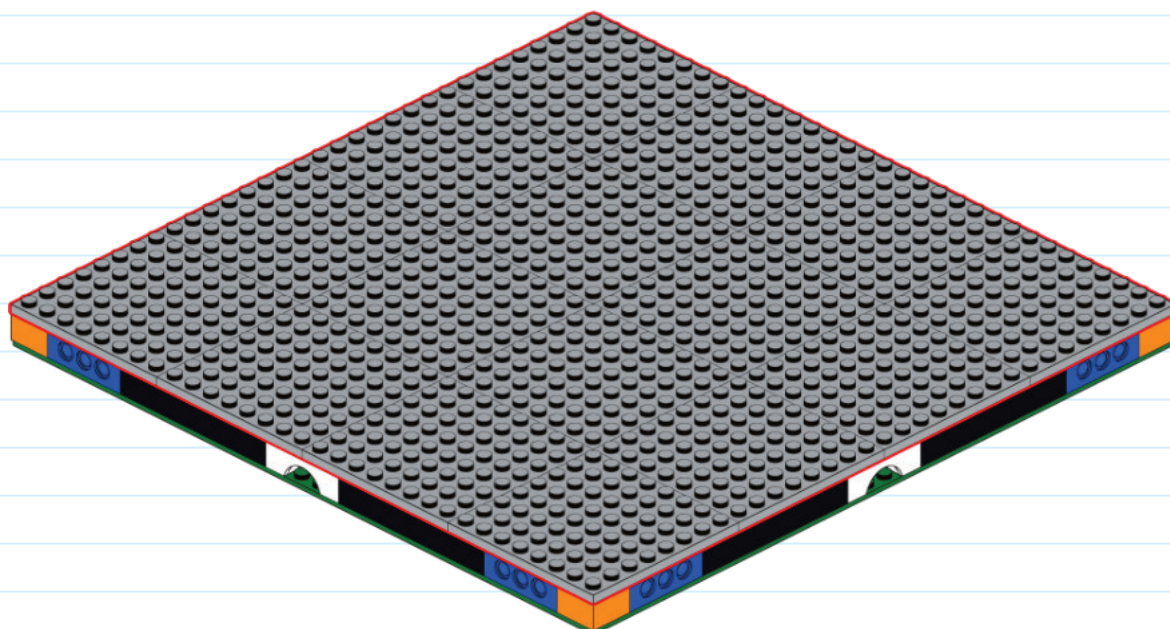
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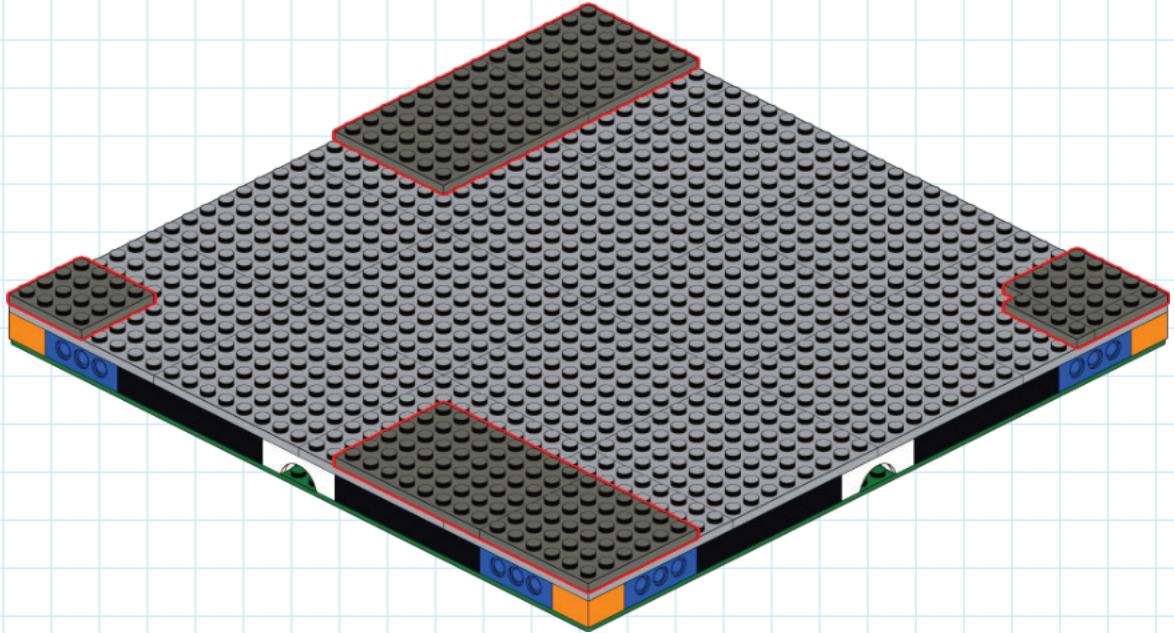
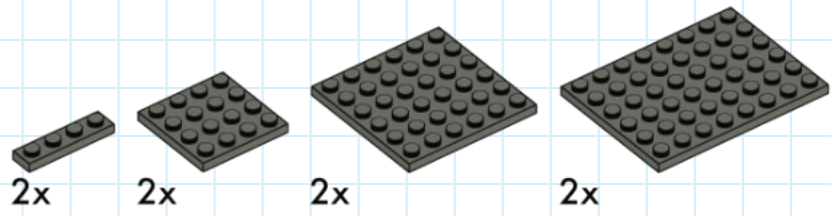
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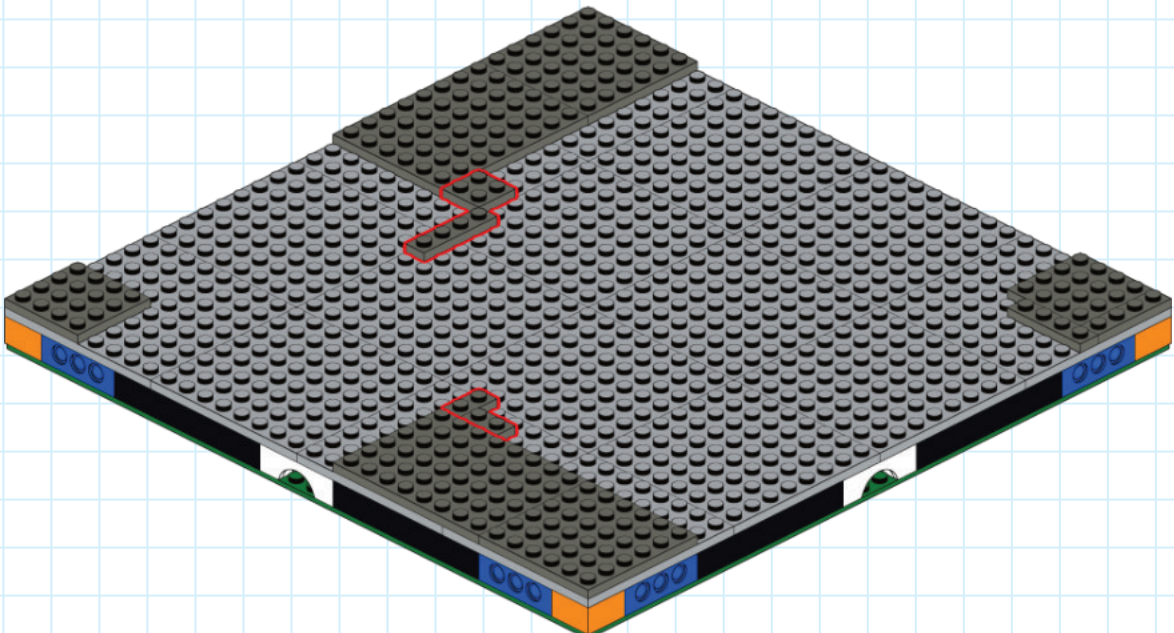
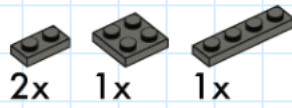
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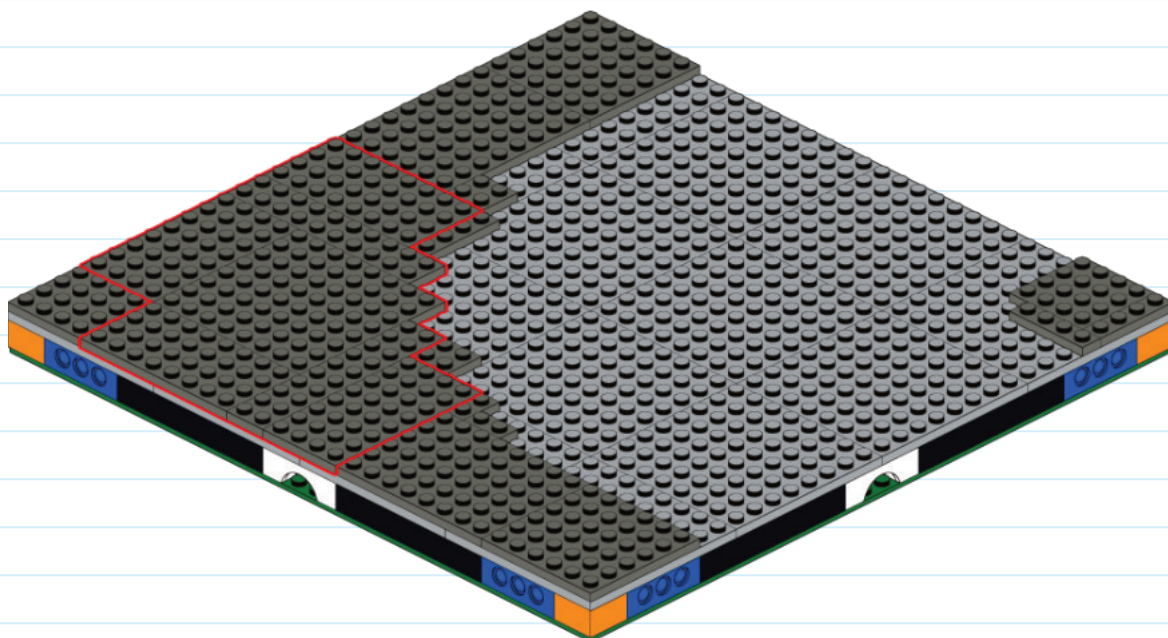
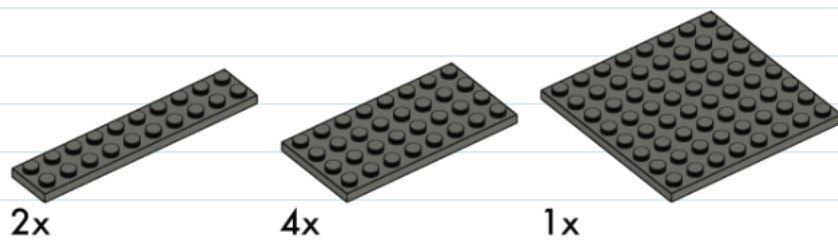
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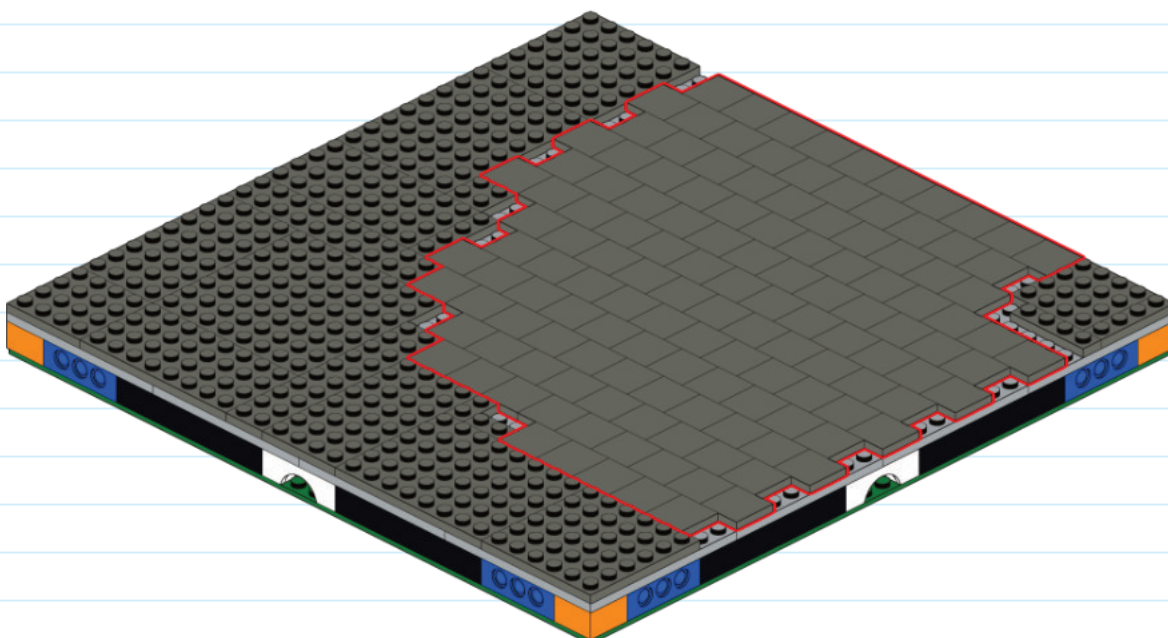
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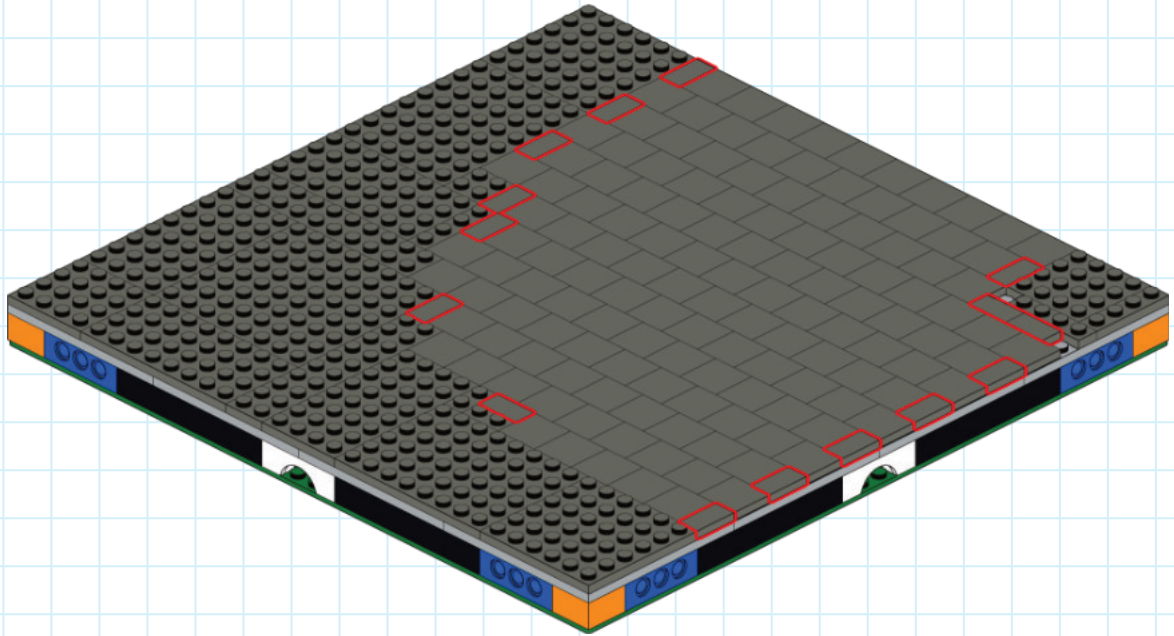


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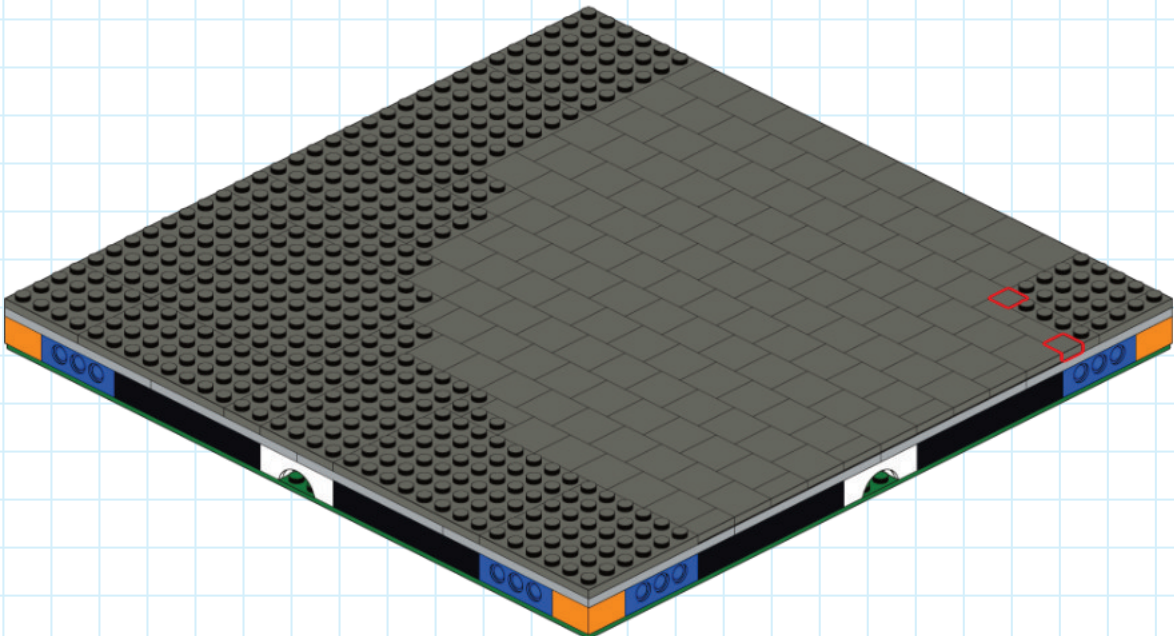
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15x

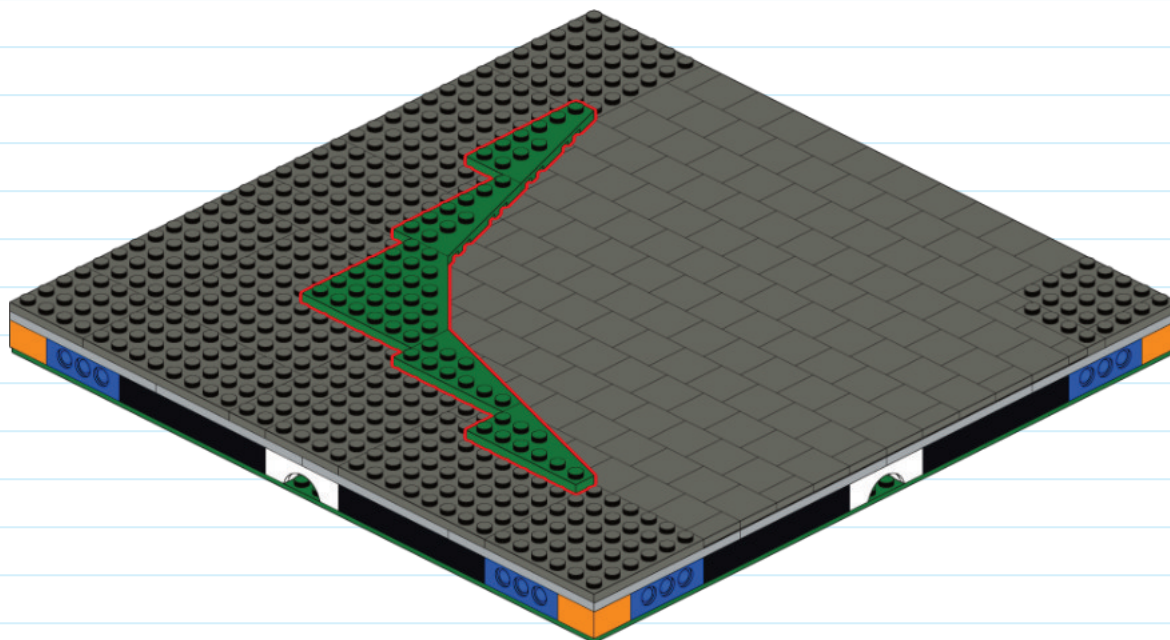
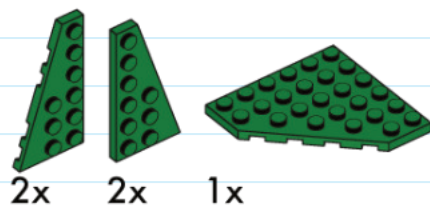


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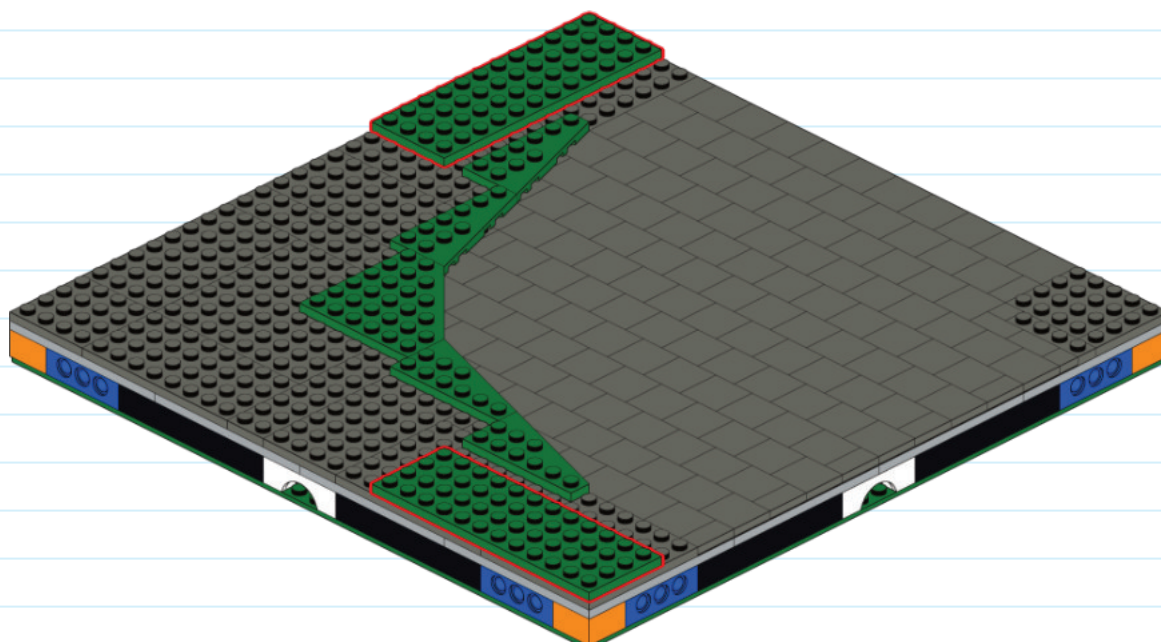
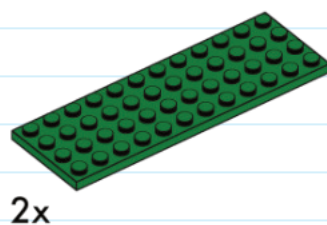

2x



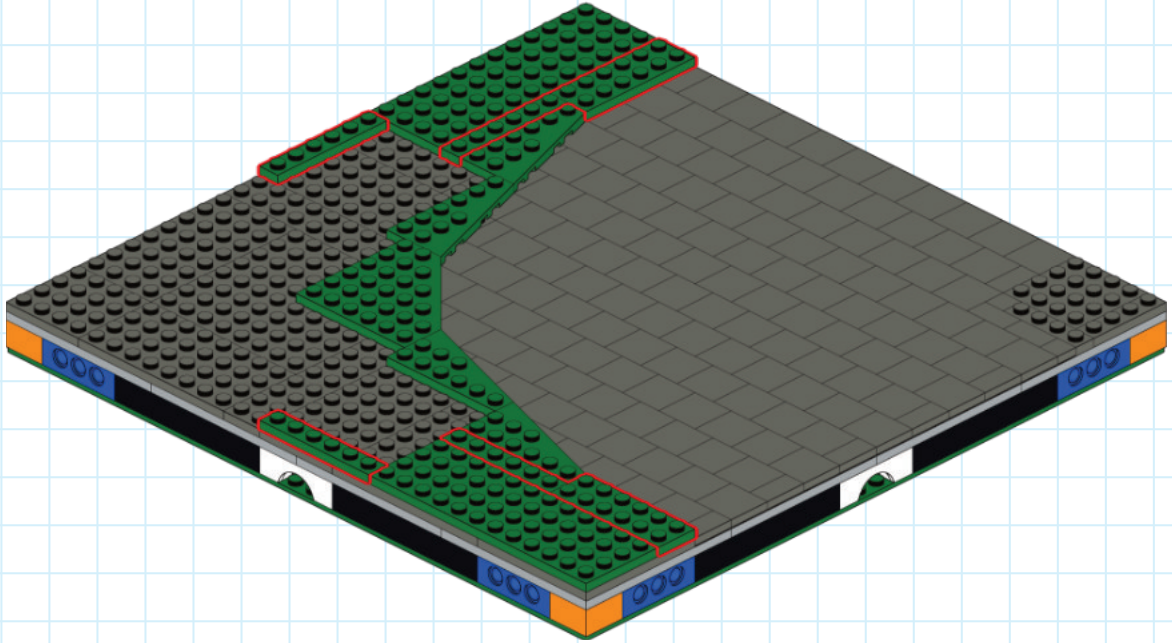
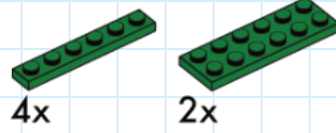
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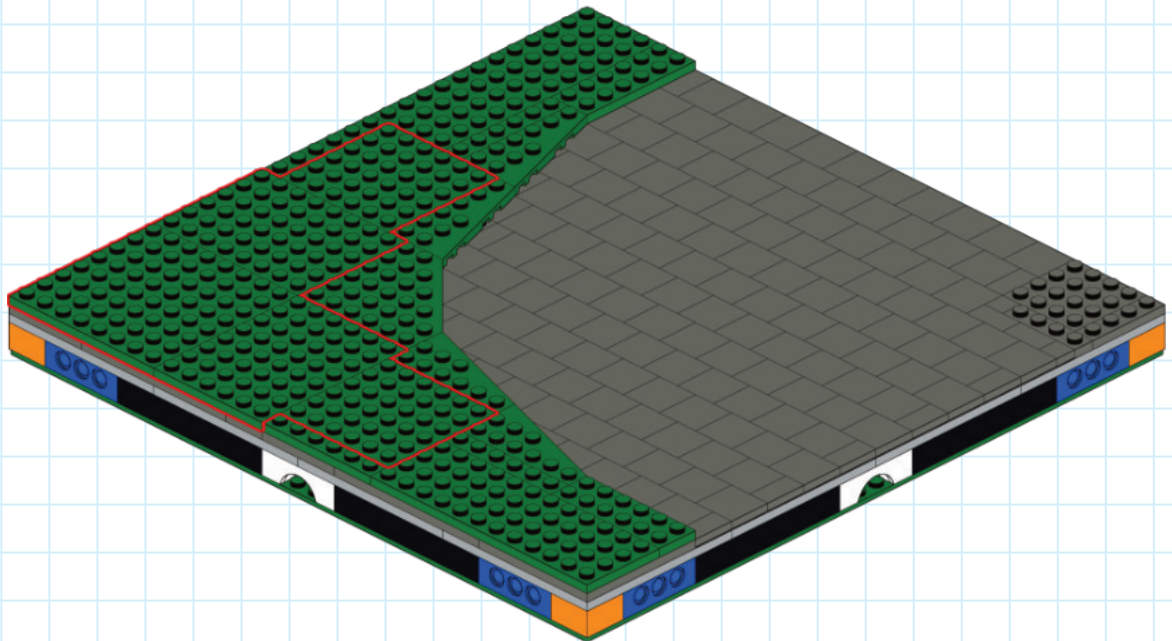
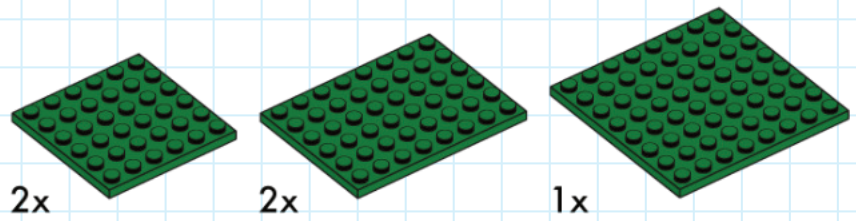
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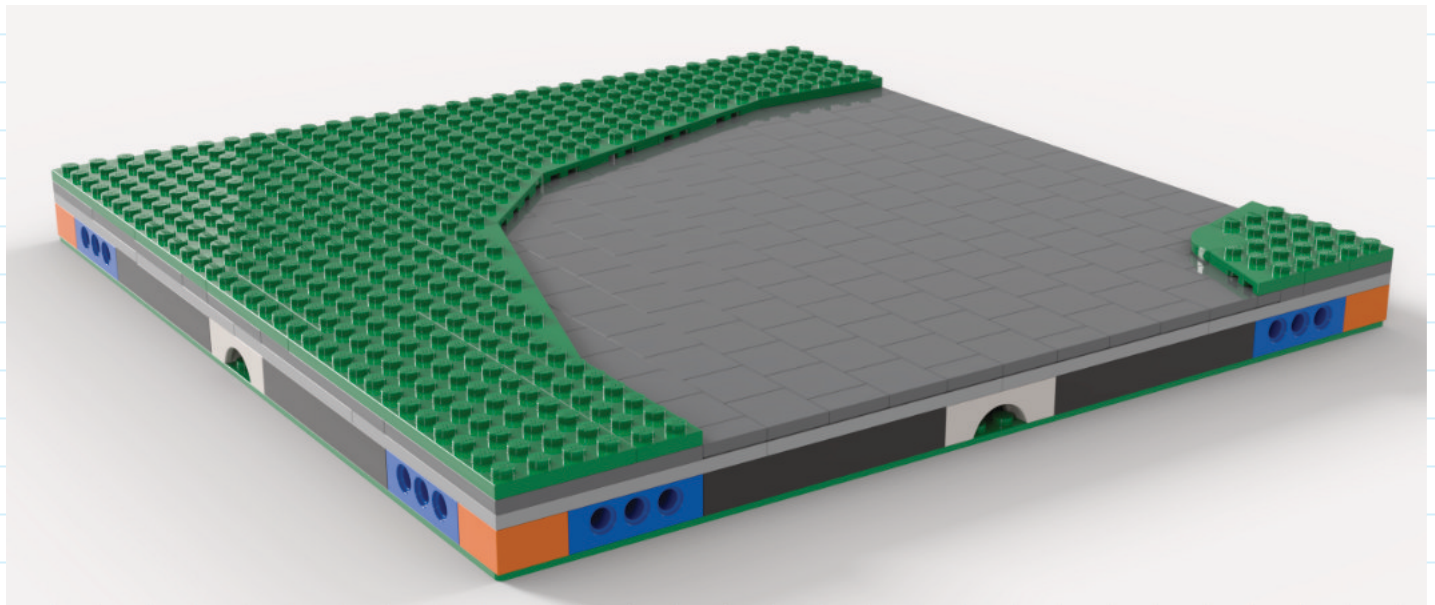
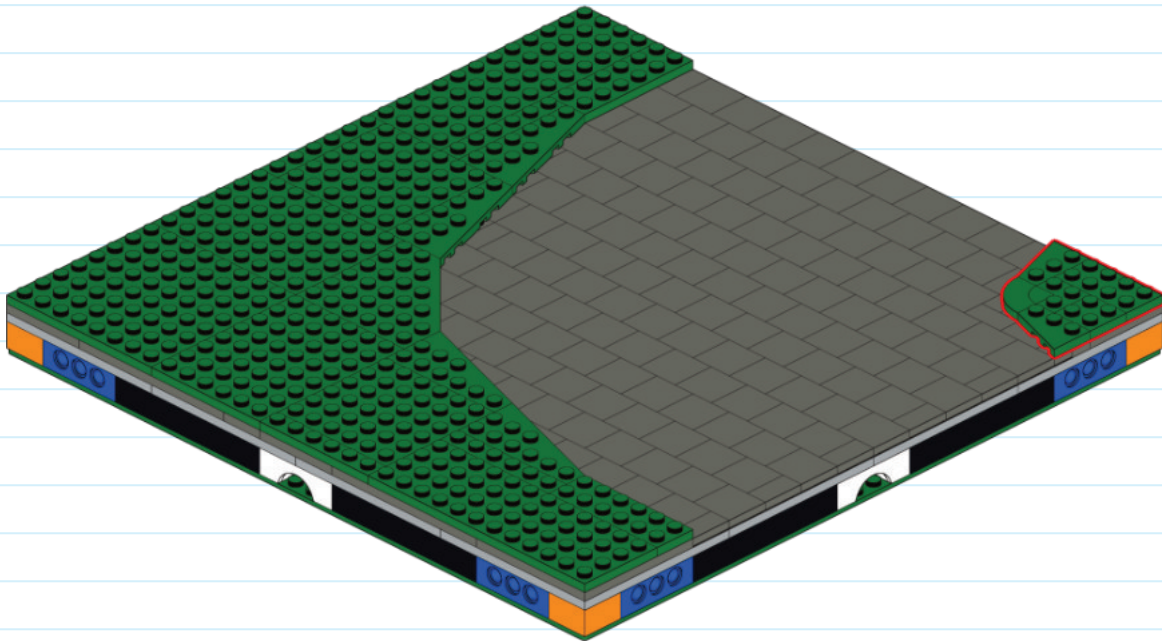
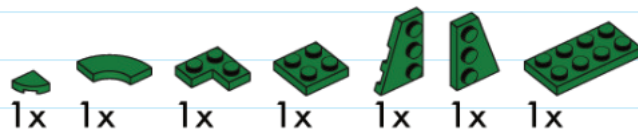
13



14



15



Parts List

1 32x32 baseplate
4 2x2 brick
8 1x4 technic brick
4 1x4 arch brick
8 1x8 brick
9 2x4 brick
2 1x2 plate
3 1x4 plate

4 1x6 plate, green
1 2x2 plate
1 2x2 plate, green
1 2x4 plate, green
2 2x6 plate, green
2 2x10 plate
2 4x4 plate
4 4x8 plate
2 4x12 plate, green

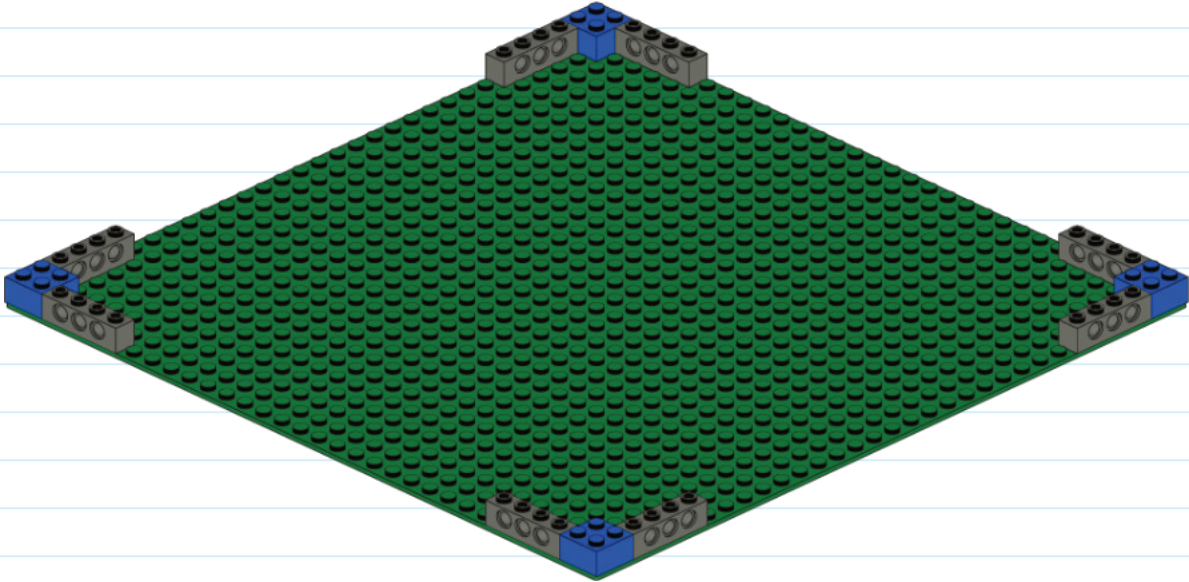
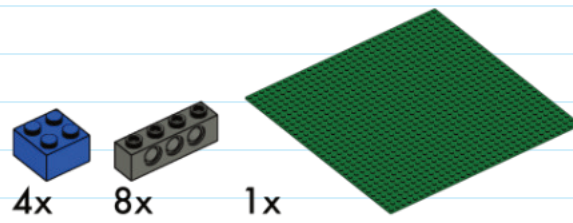
2 6x6 plate
2 6x6 plate, green
2 6x8 plate
2 6x8 plate, green
17 8x8 plate
1 8x8 plate, green
1 2x2 corner plate, green
1 2x3 wedge plate left, green
1 2x3 wedge plate right, green

2 3x6 wedge plate left, green
2 3x6 wedge plate right, green
1 6x6 wedge plate, green
2 1x1 tile, dbg
15 1x2 tile, dbg
139 2x2 tile, dbg
1 1x1 tile round corner, green
1 2x2 tile round corner, green

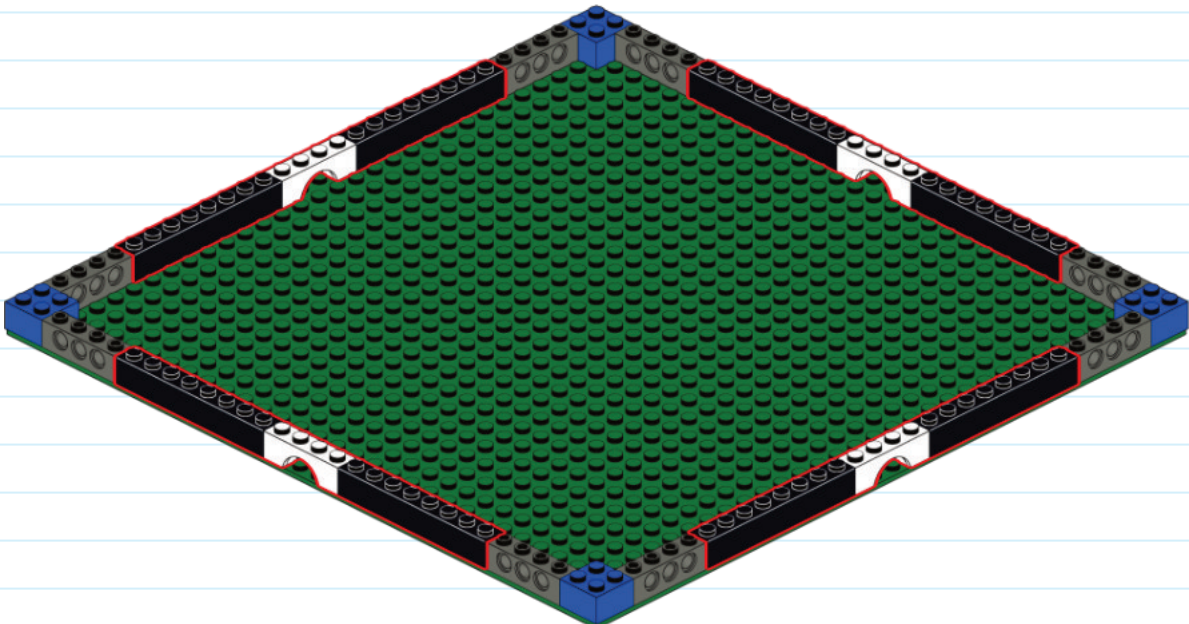
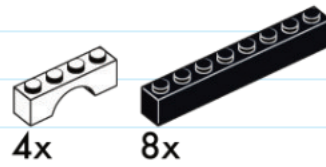
250 parts in 35 lots



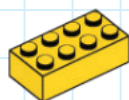
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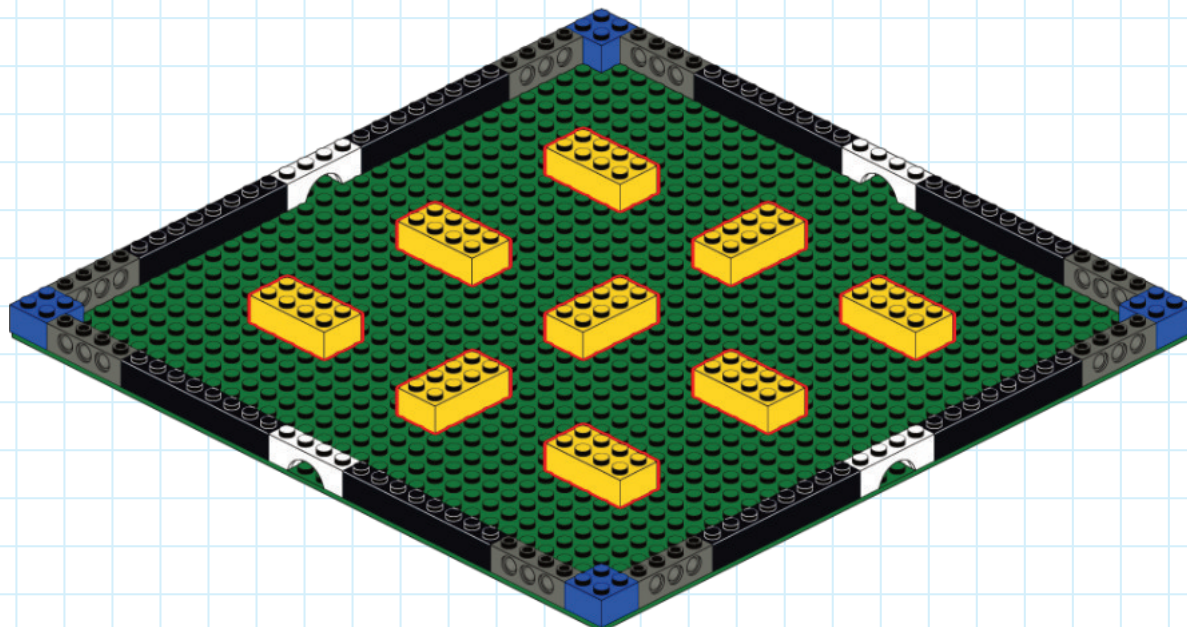
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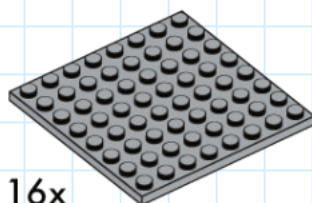
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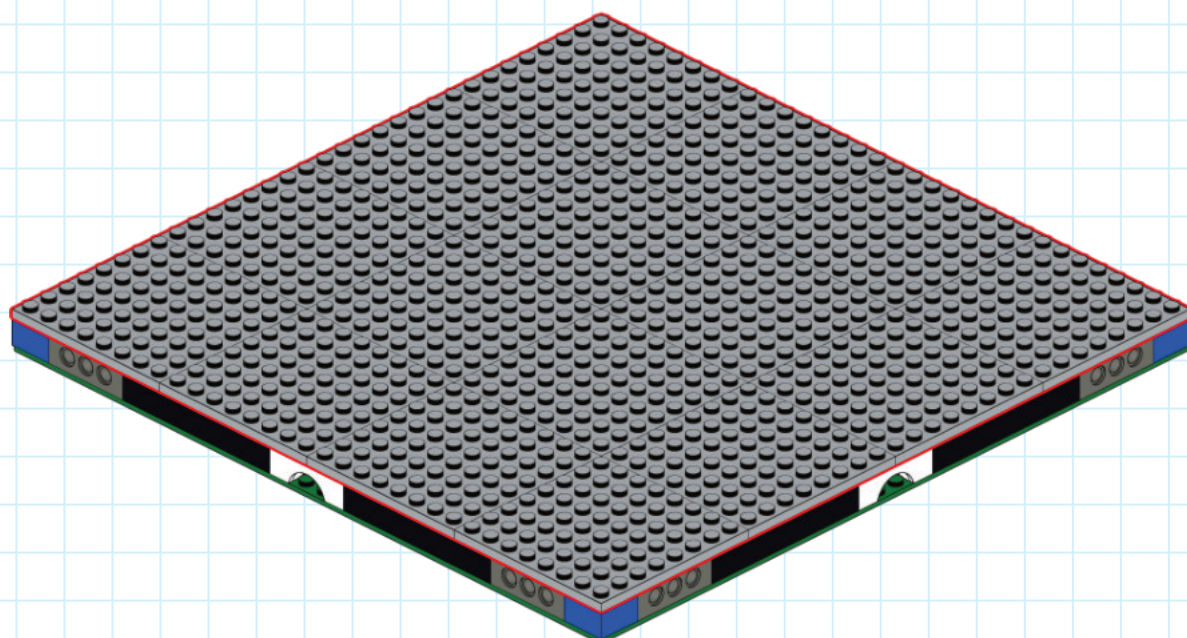
9x



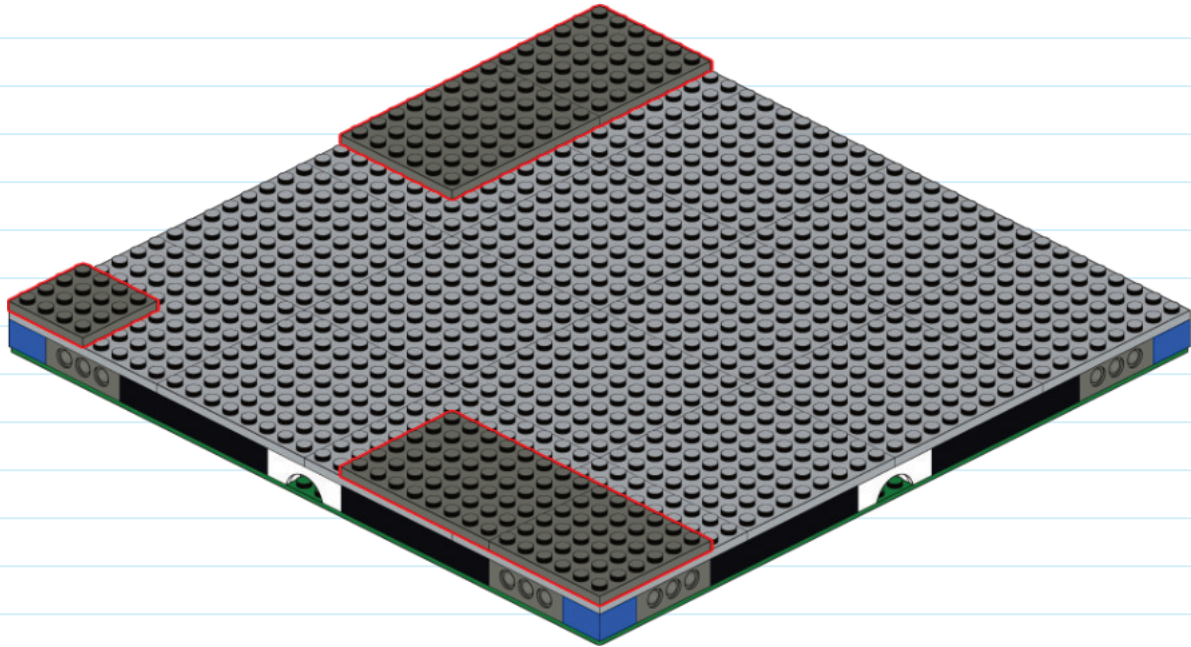
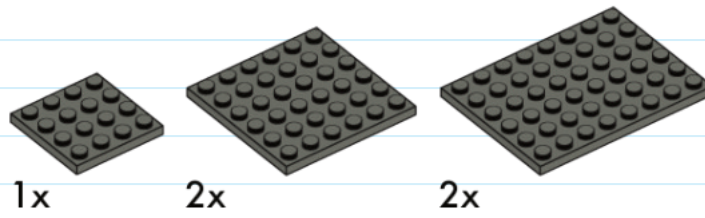
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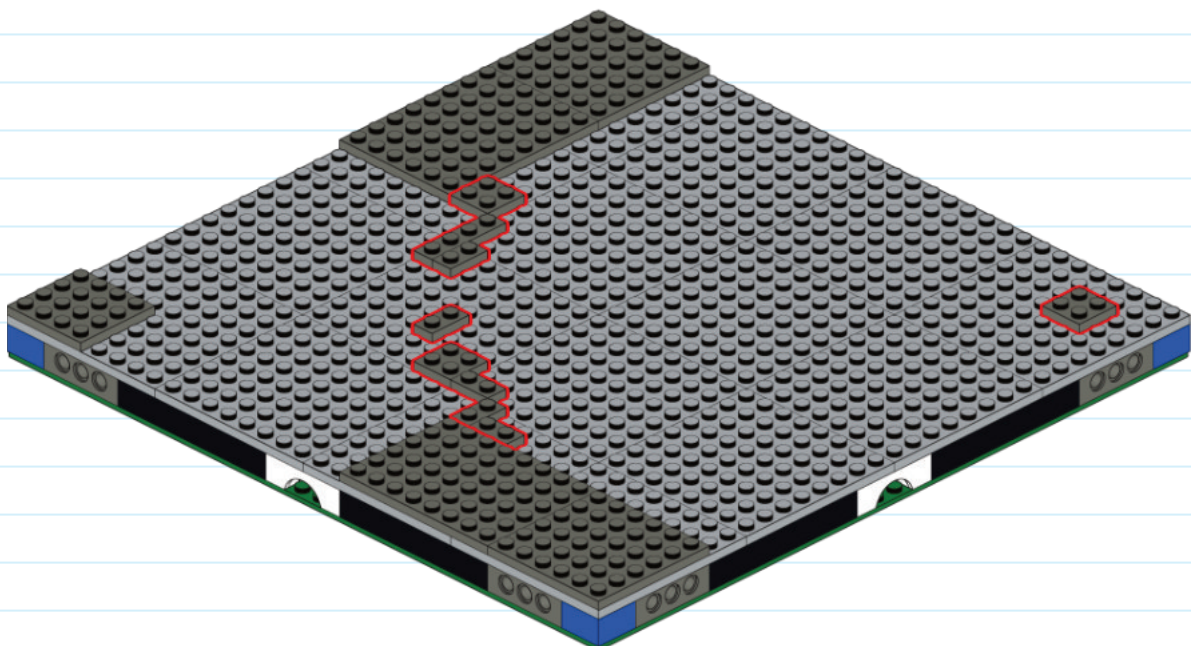
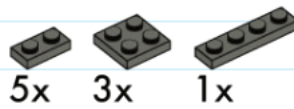
16x



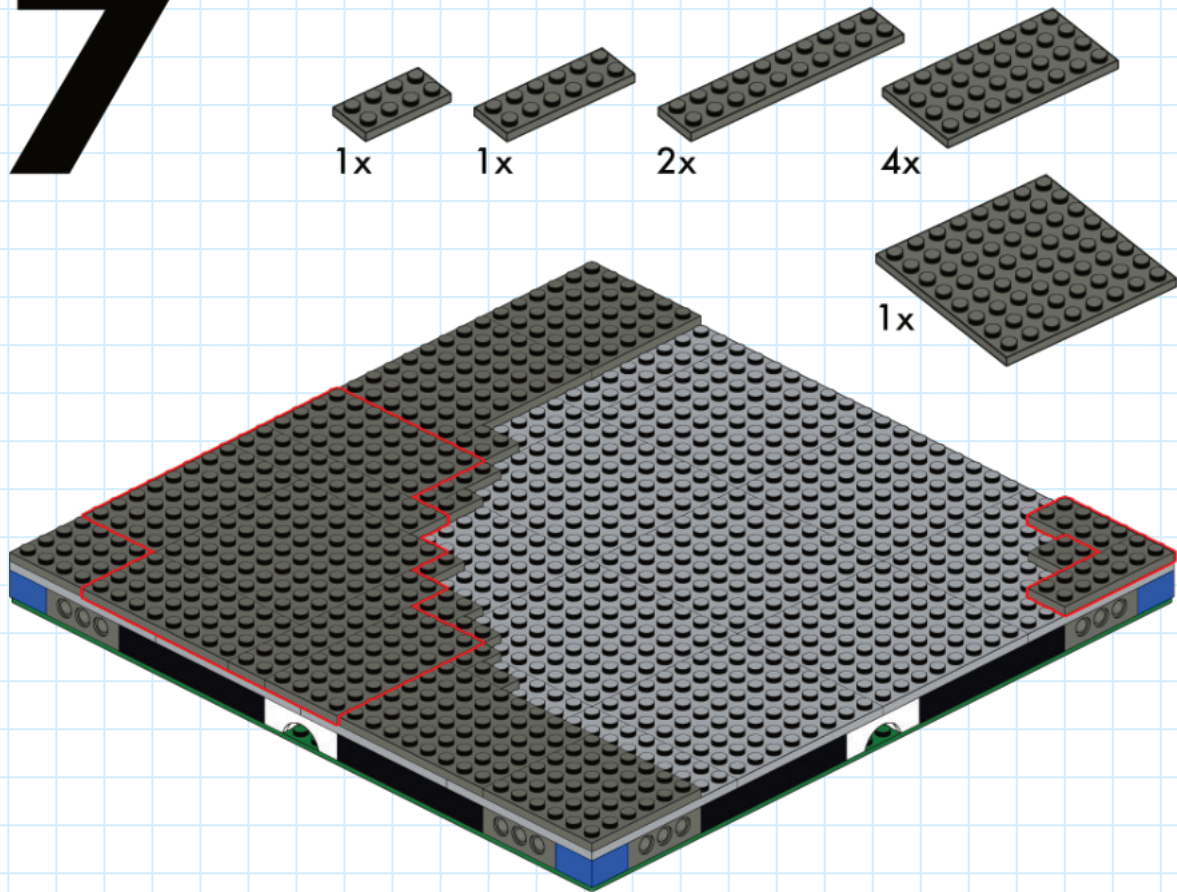
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6

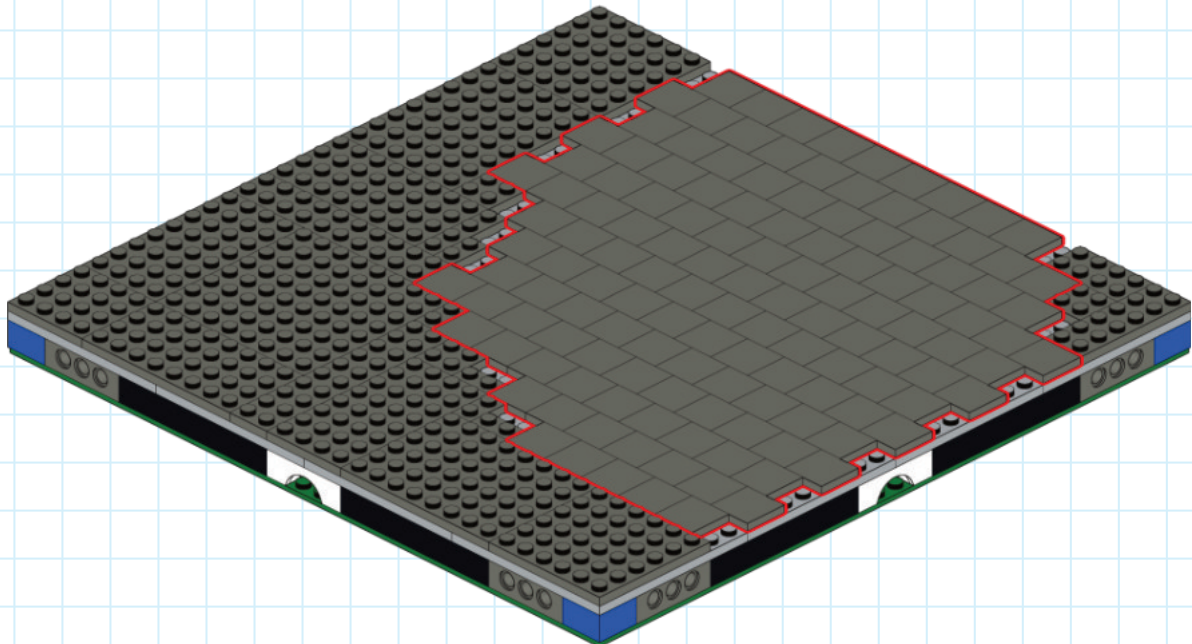


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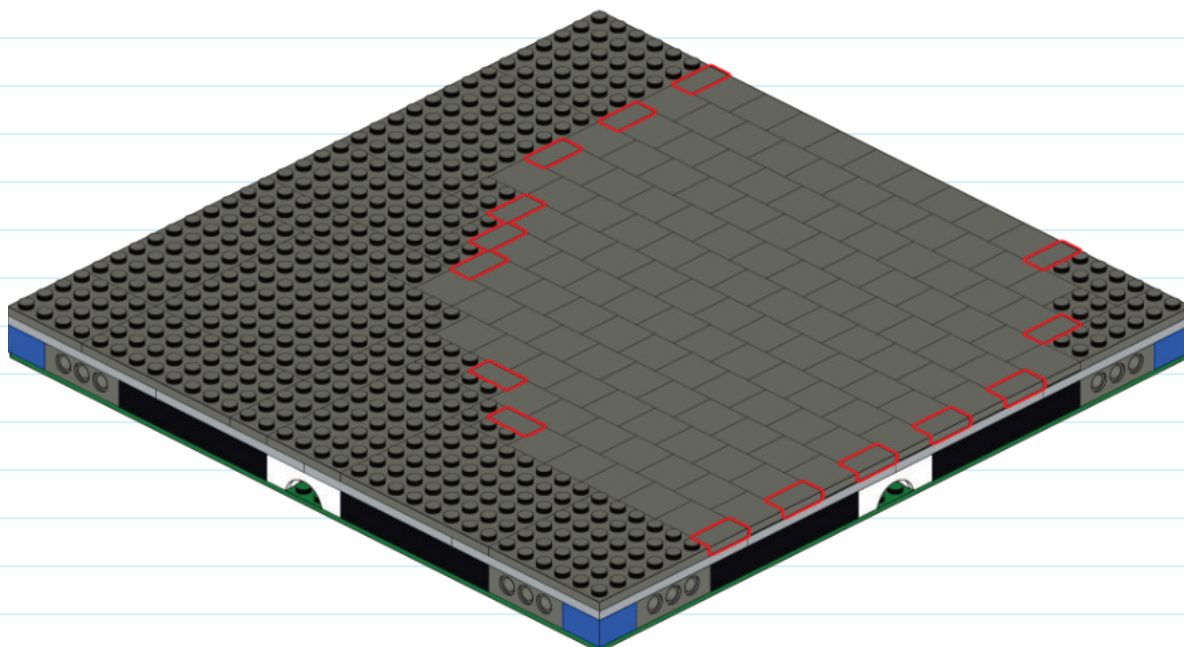


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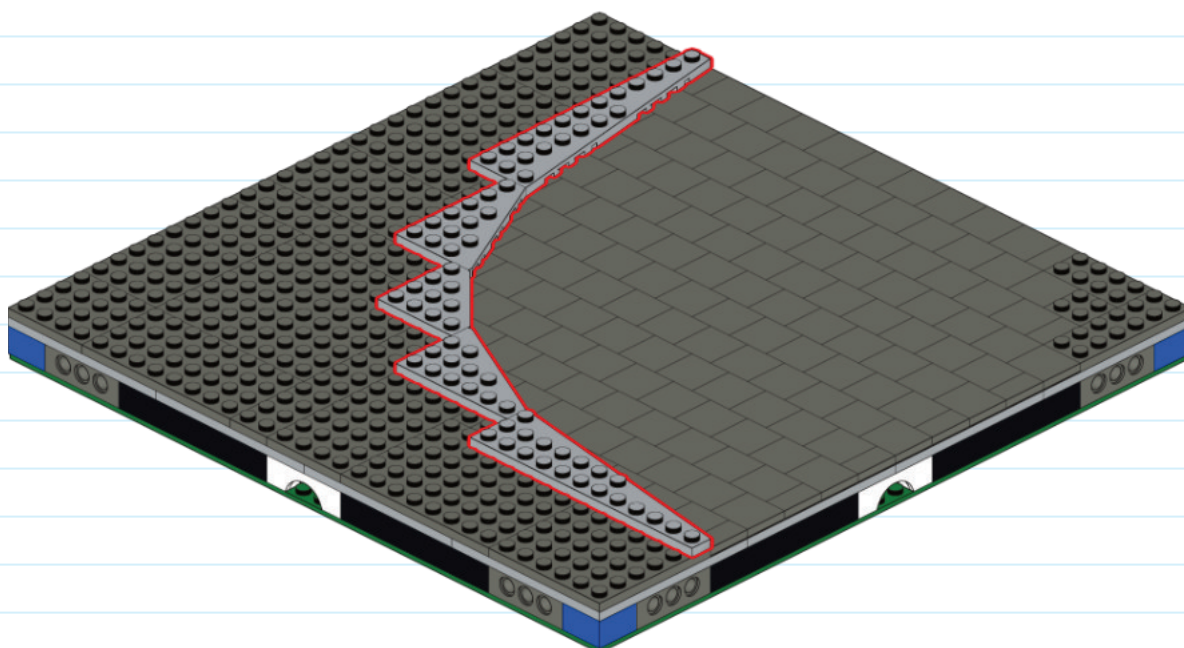
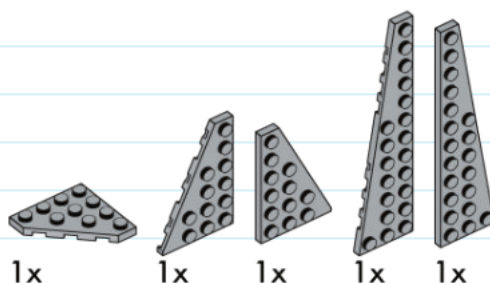
137x



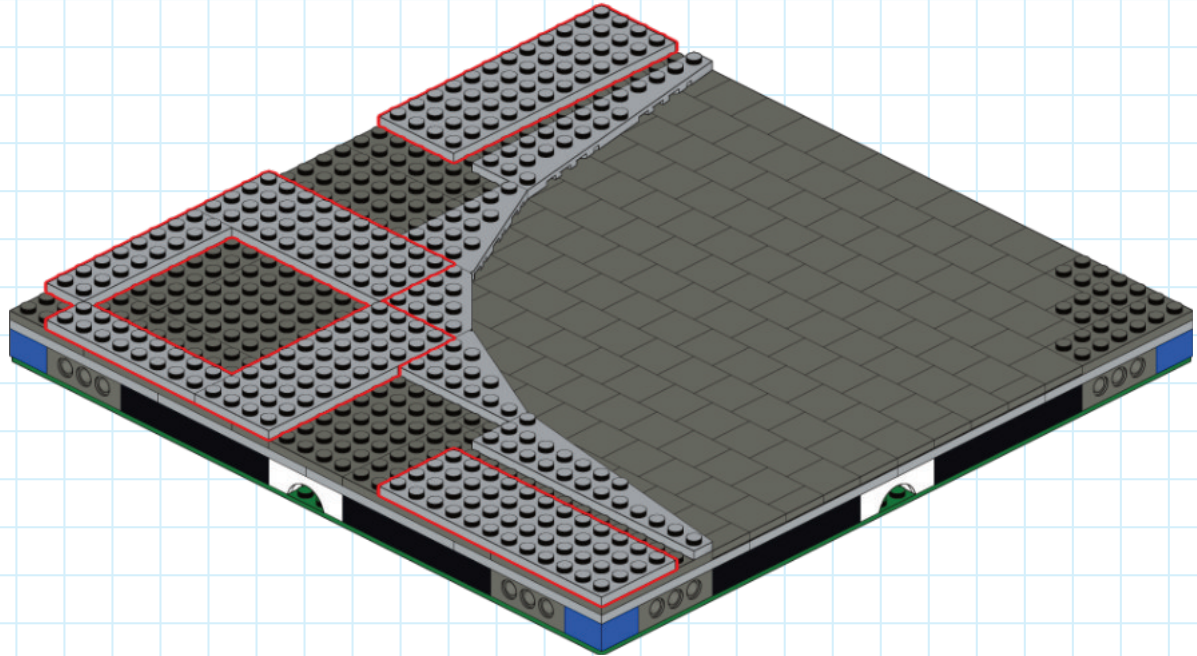
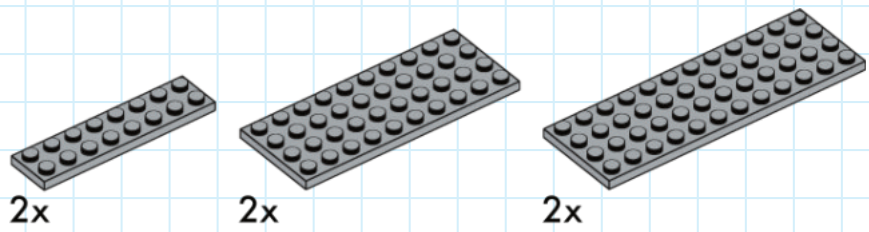
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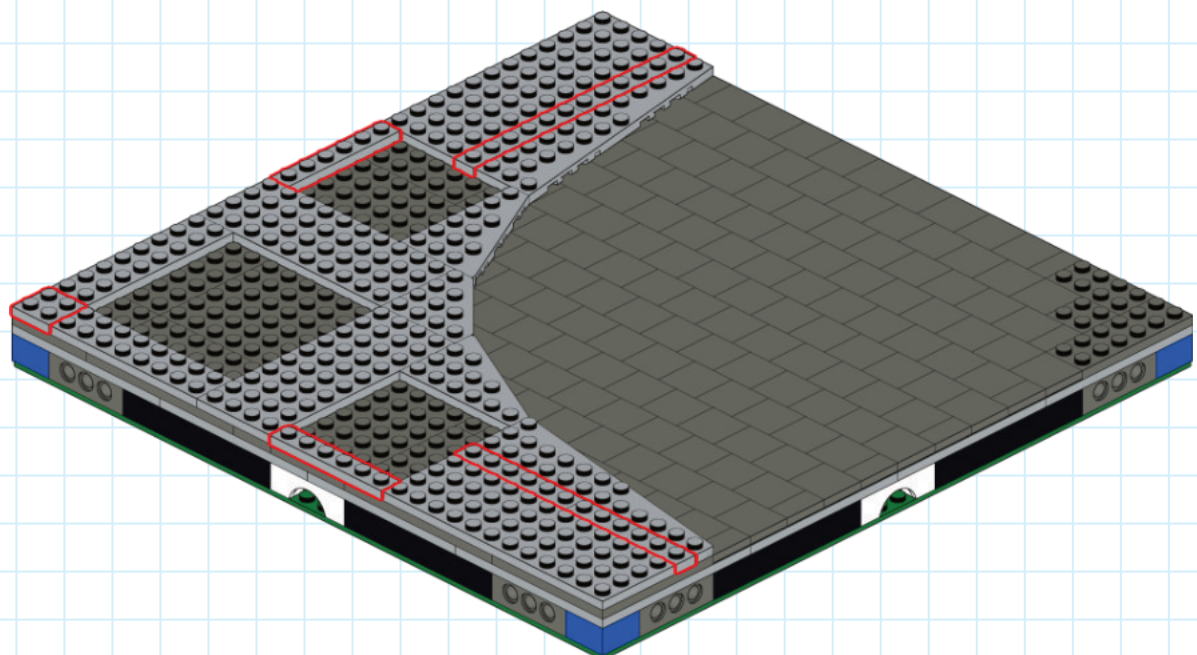
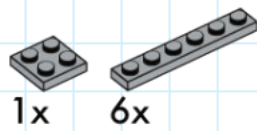
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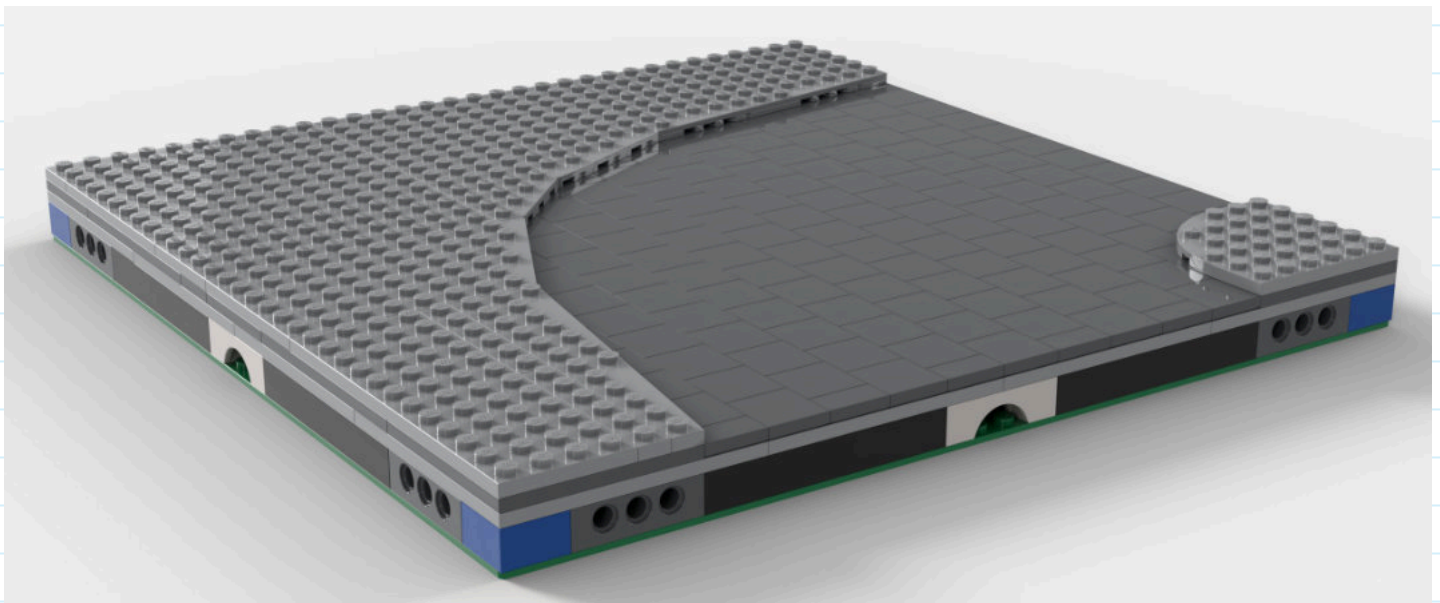
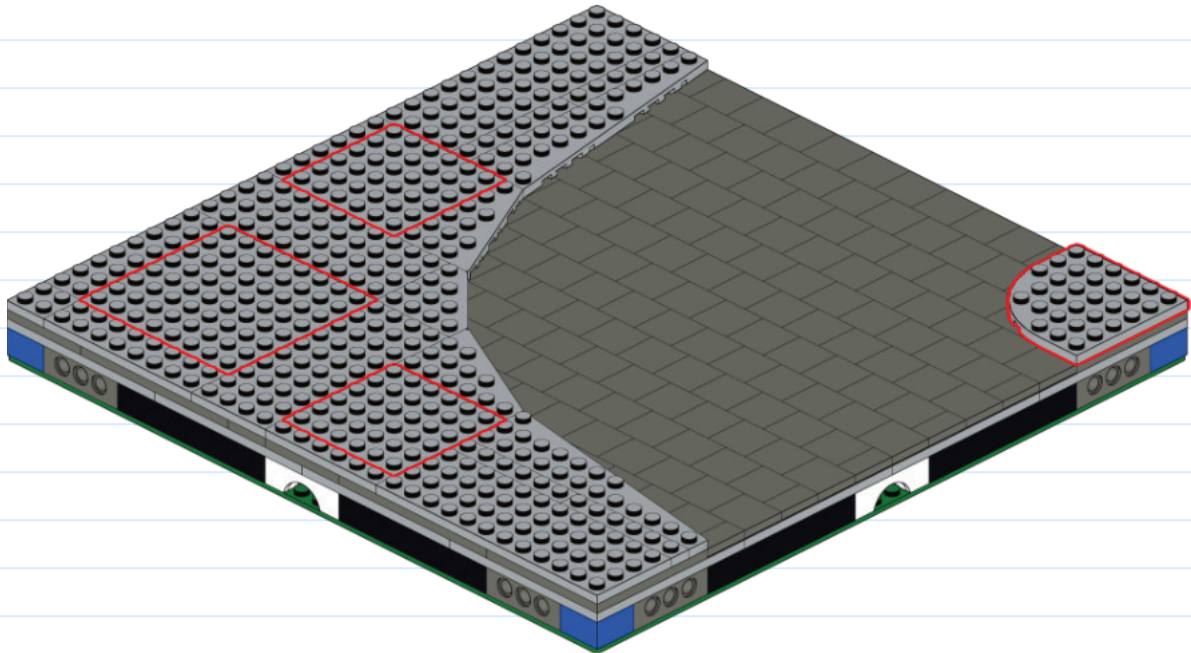
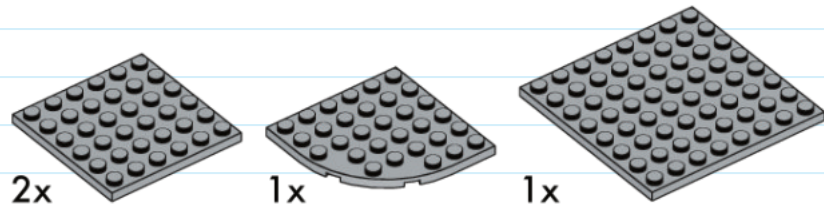
11



12



13



Parts List

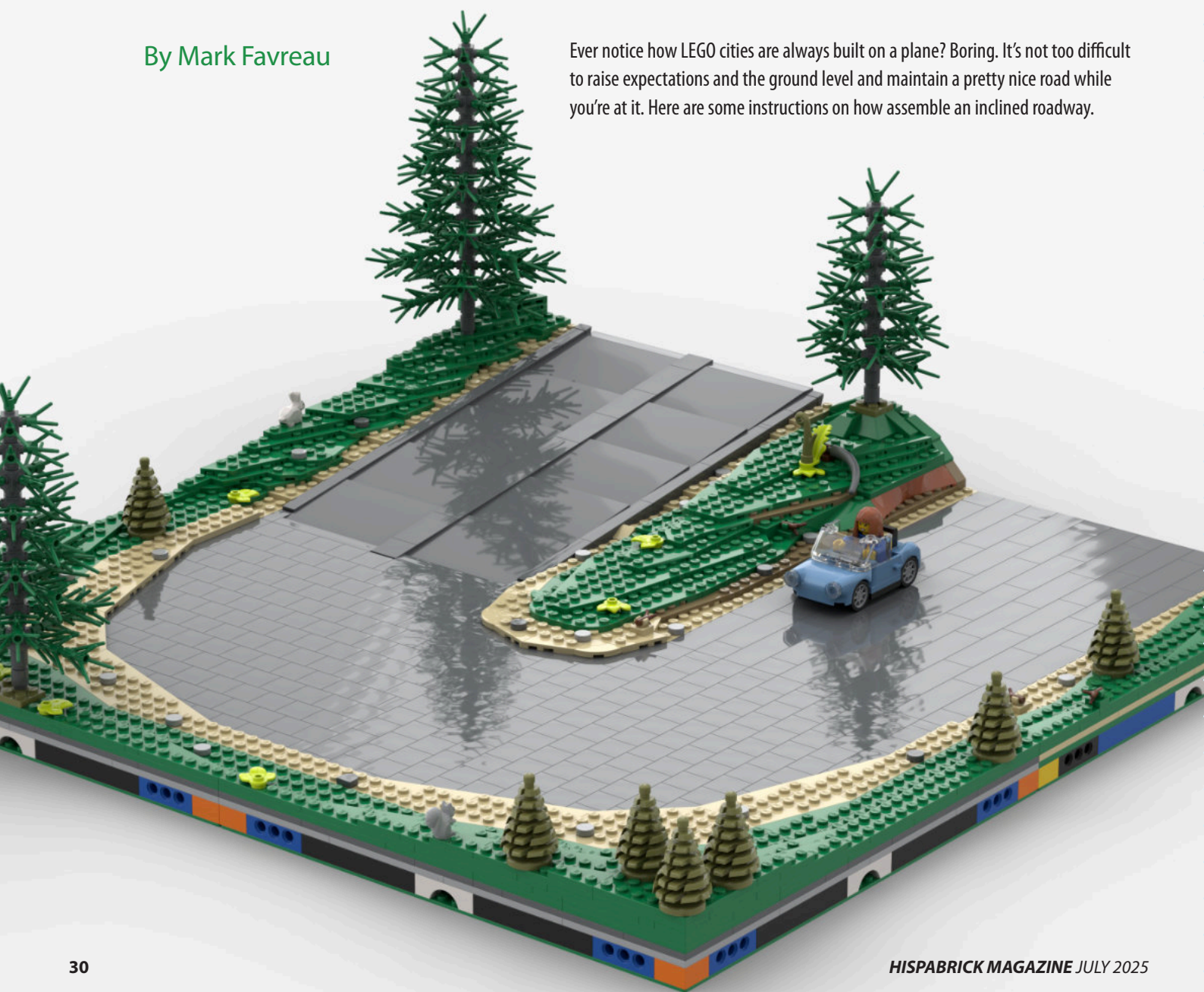
1 32x32 baseplate	6 1x6 plate, lbg	2 4x10 plate, lbg	1 3x12 wedge plate right, lbg
4 2x2 brick	3 2x2 plate	2 4x12 plate, lbg	1 4x4 wedge plate, lbg
8 1x4 technic brick	1 2x2 plate, lbg	2 6x6 plate	1 4x6 wedge plate left, lbg
4 1x4 arch brick	1 2x4 plate	2 6x6 plate, lbg	1 4x6 wedge plate right, lbg
8 1x8 brick	1 2x6 plate	1 6x6 plate, round corner, lbg	15 1x2 tile, dbg
9 2x4 brick	2 2x8 plate, lbg	2 6x8 plate	137 2x2 tile, dbg
1 1x4 plate	2 2x10 plate	17 8x8 plate	247 parts in 32 lots
5 1x2 plate	1 4x4 plate	1 8x8 plate, lbg	
	4 4x8 plate	1 3x12 wedge plate left, lbg	

A small blue LEGO convertible car with a driver minifigure is positioned on a grey ramp that leads up to the top of the word 'RAMP' in the title.

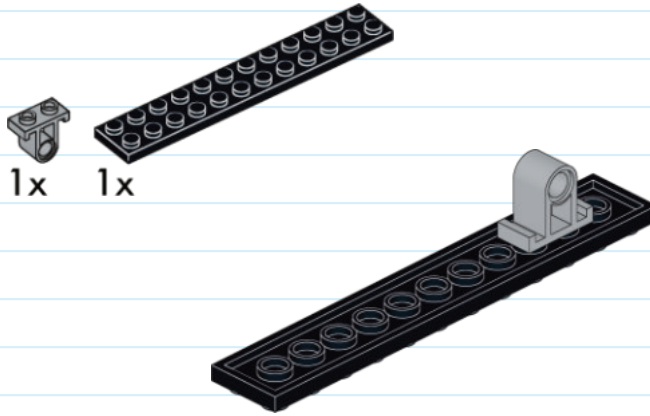
RAMP UP YOUR MILS

By Mark Favreau

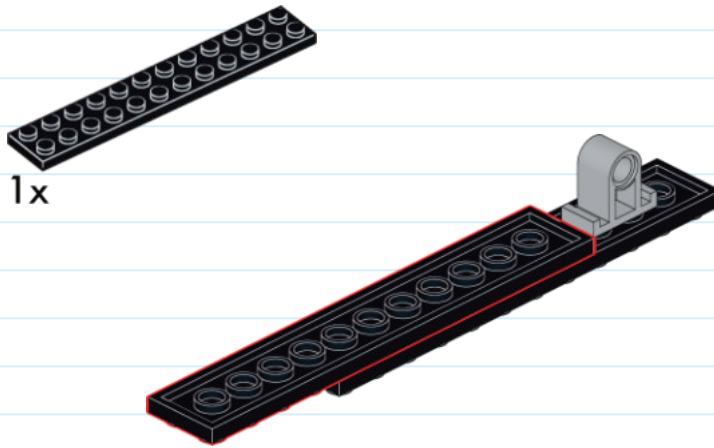
Ever notice how LEGO cities are always built on a plane? Boring. It's not too difficult to raise expectations and the ground level and maintain a pretty nice road while you're at it. Here are some instructions on how assemble an inclined roadway.



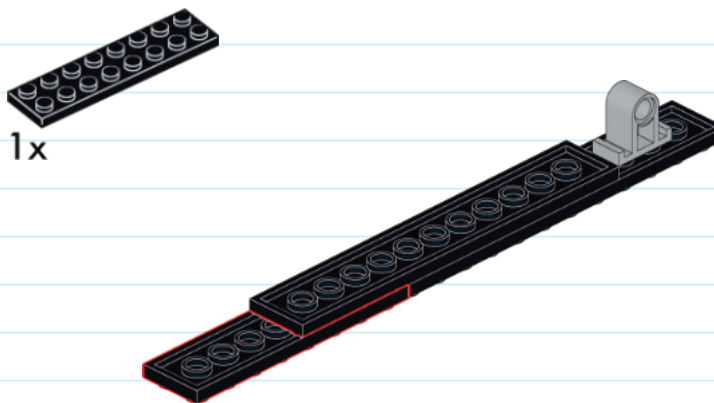
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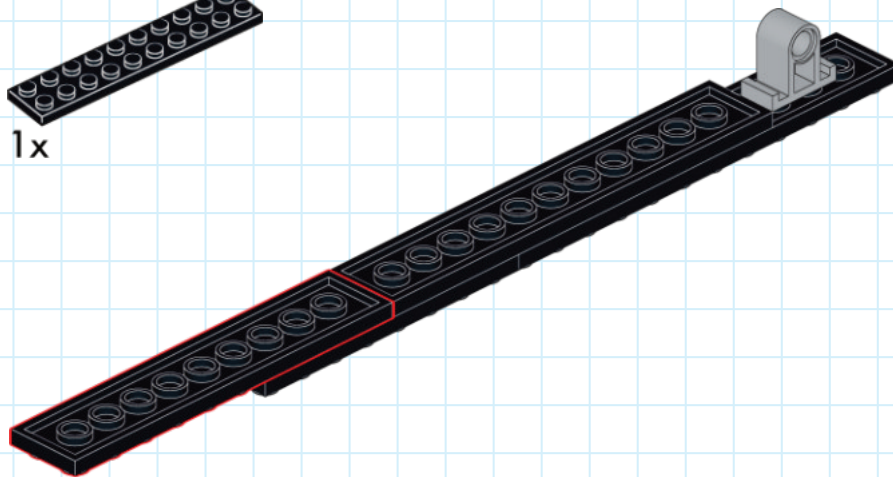
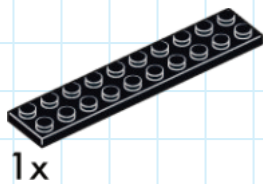
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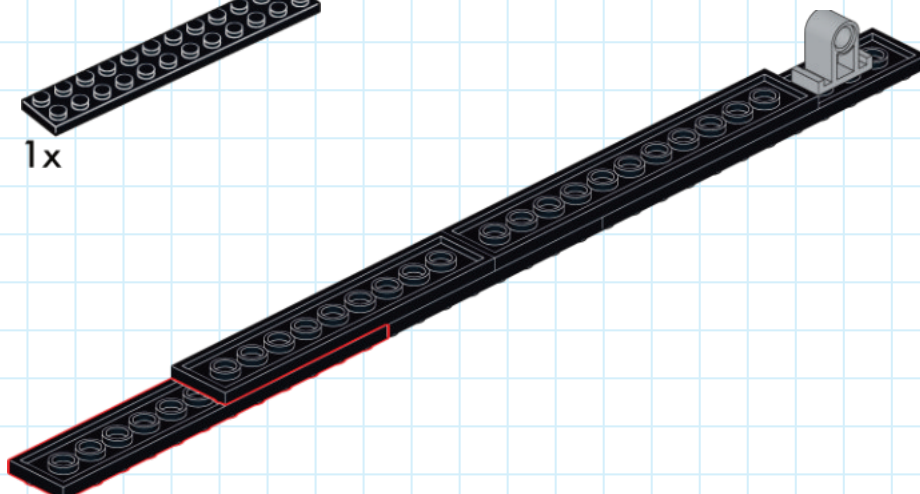
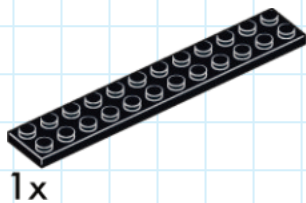
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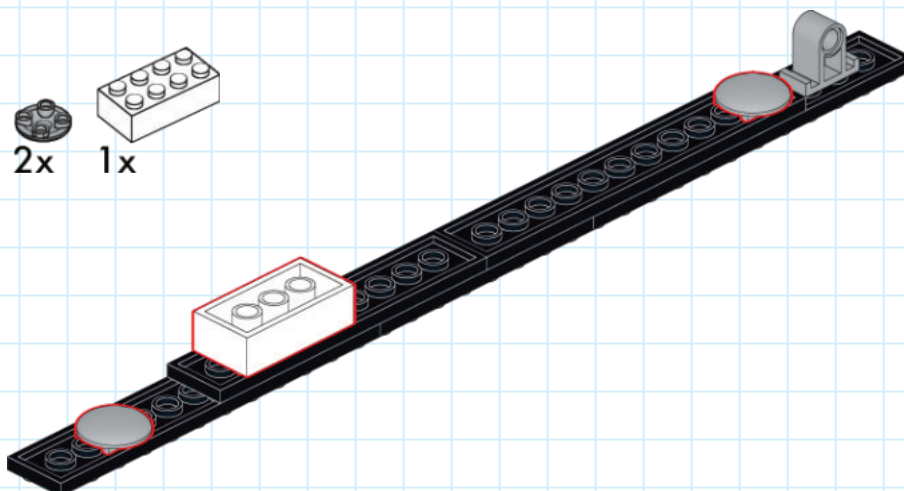
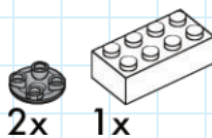
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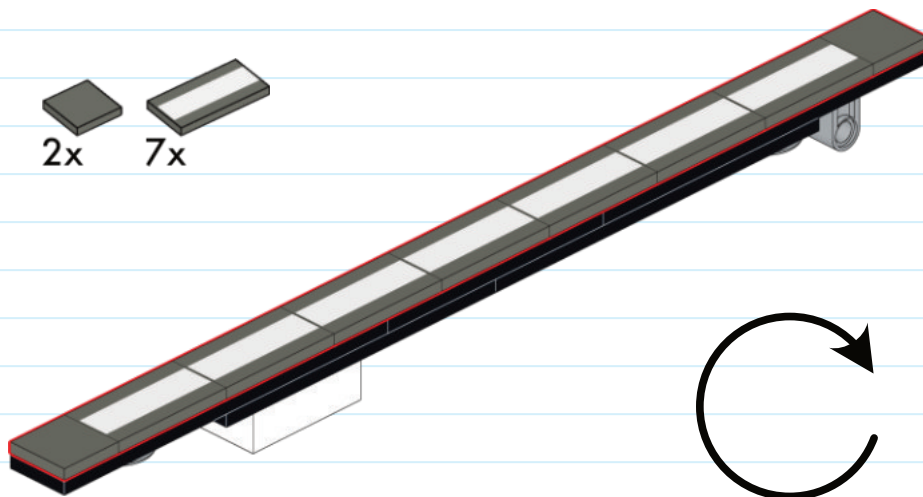
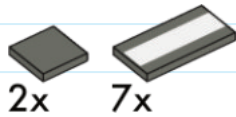
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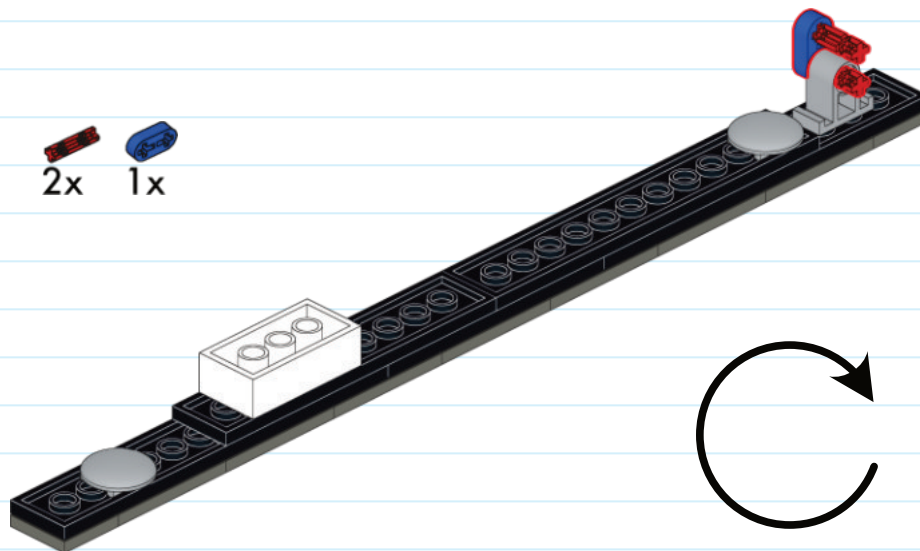
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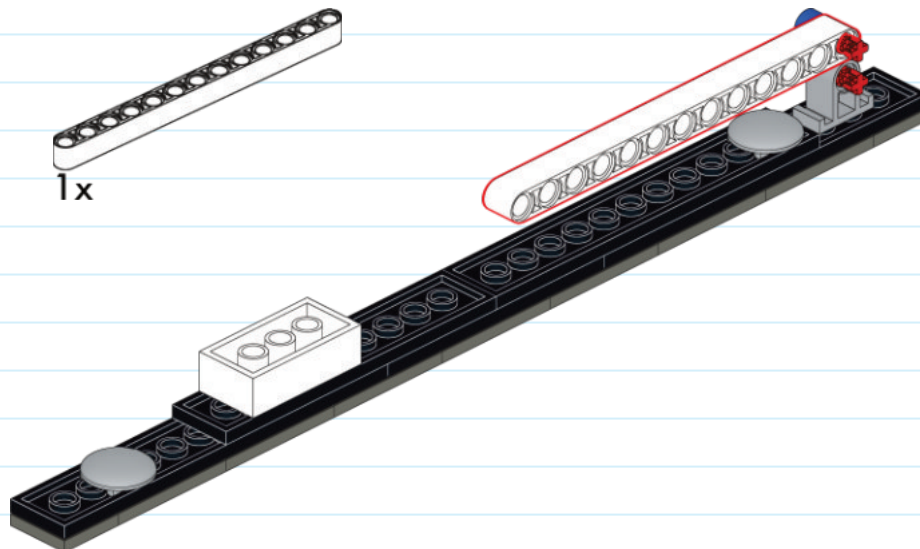
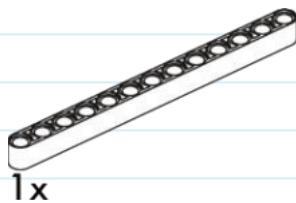
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8

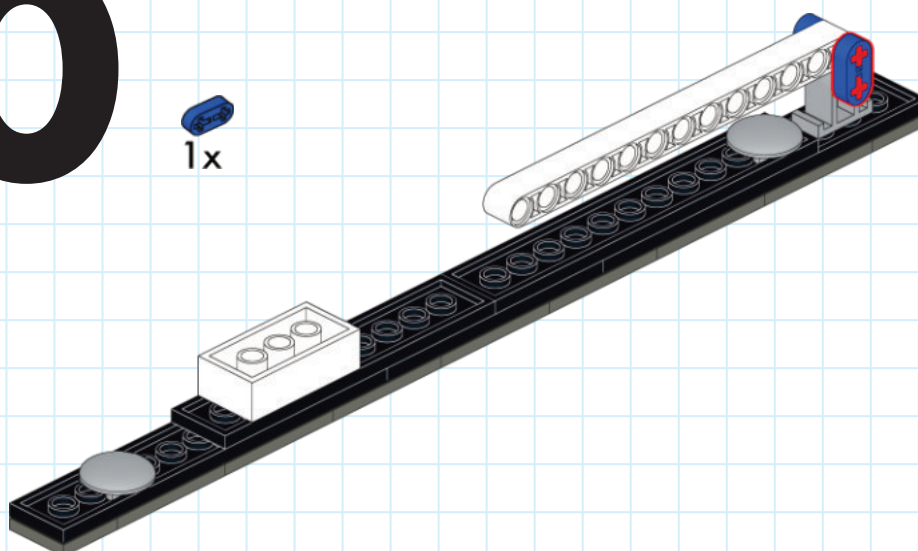


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10

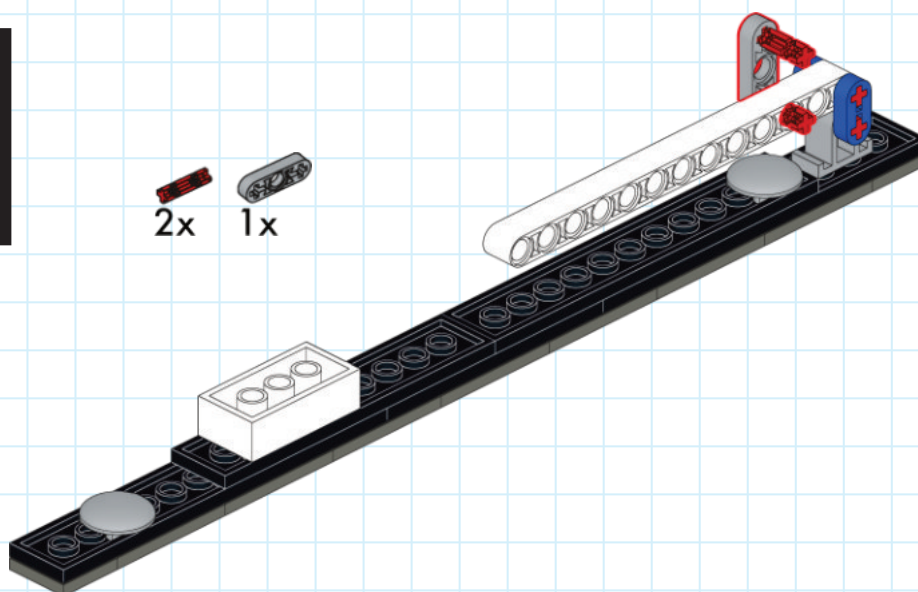
1x



11

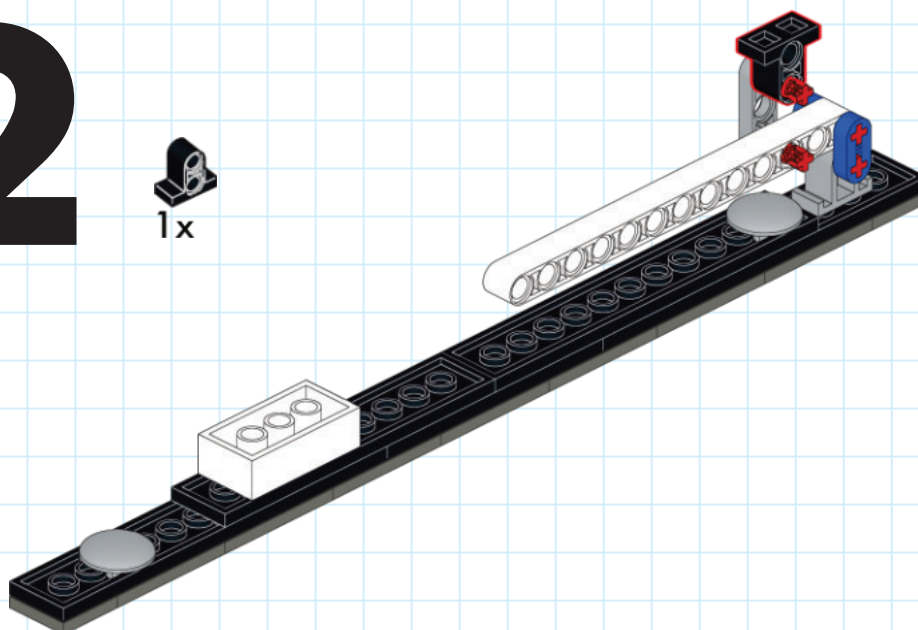
2x

1x



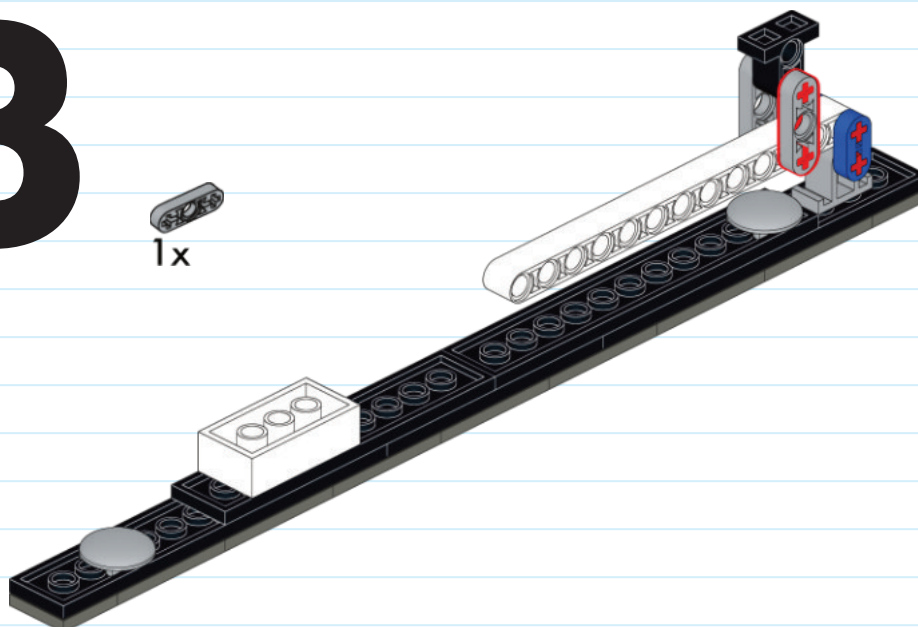
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1x

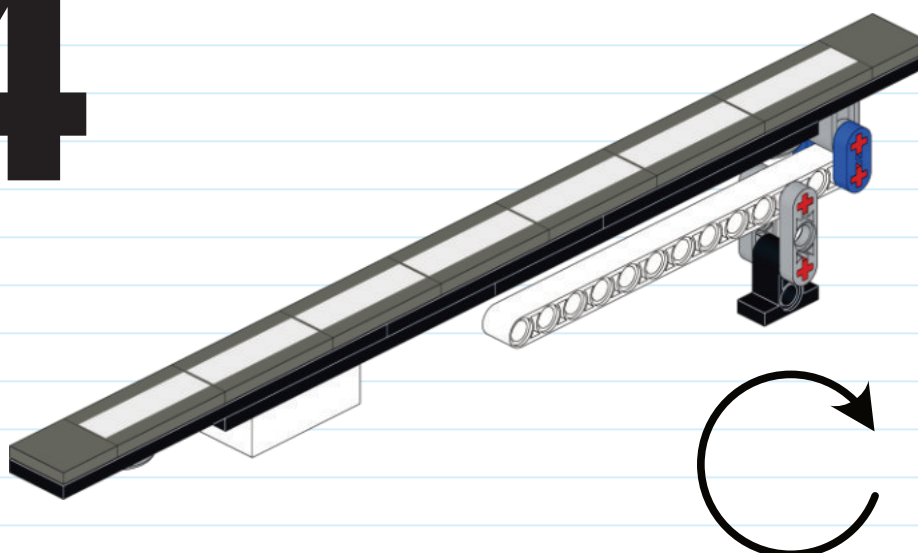


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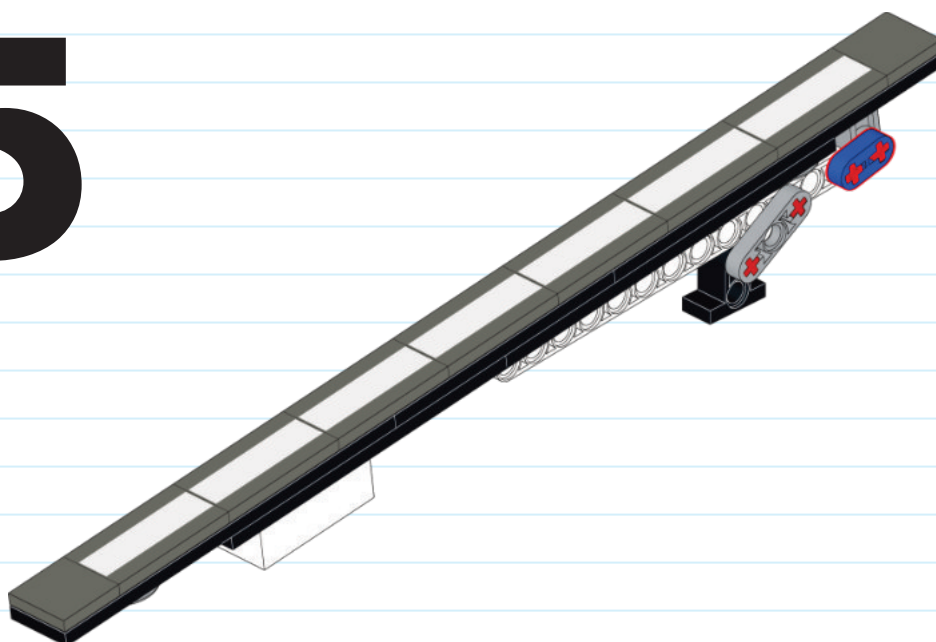
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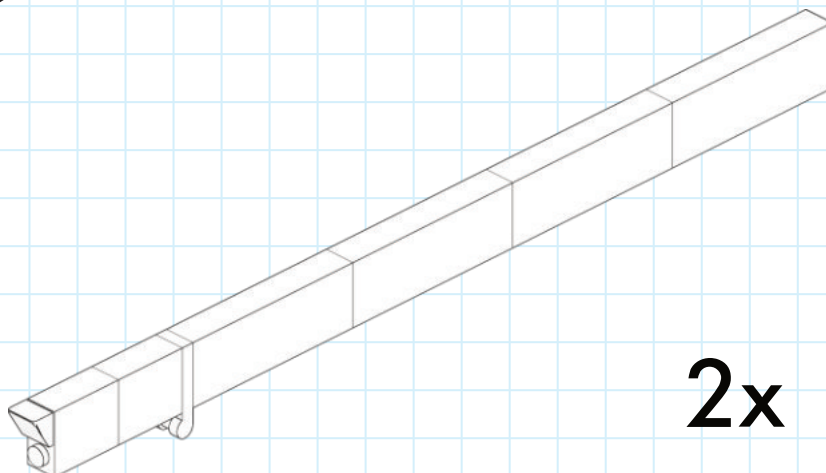
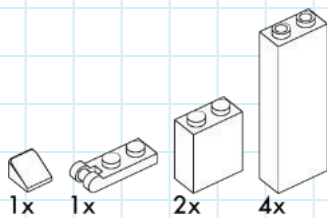
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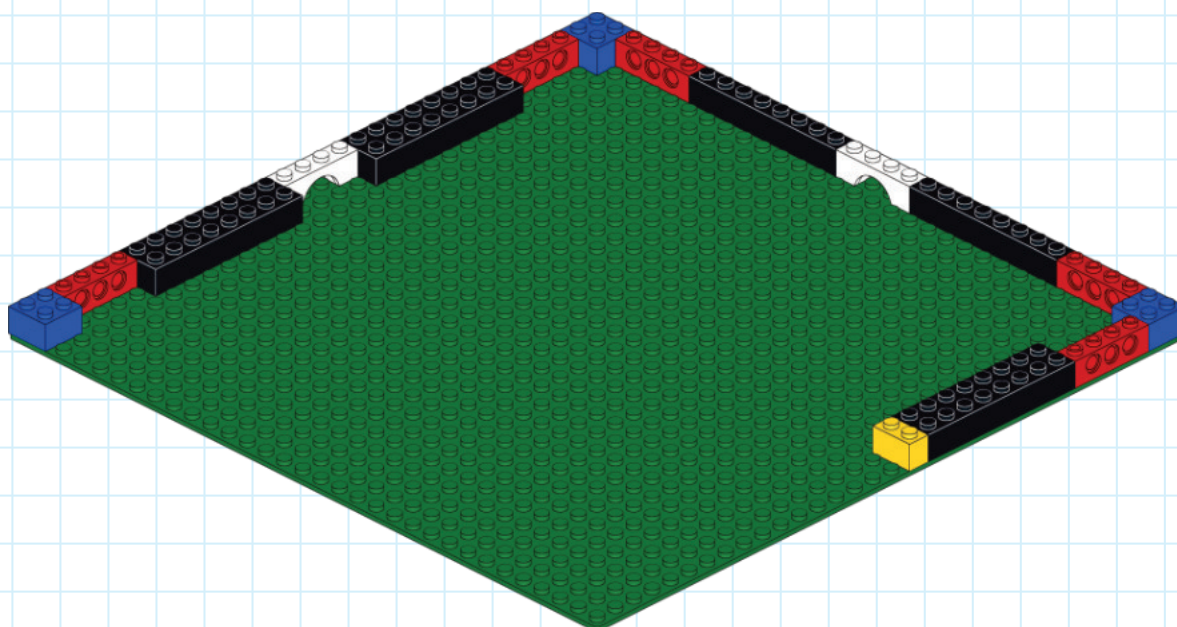
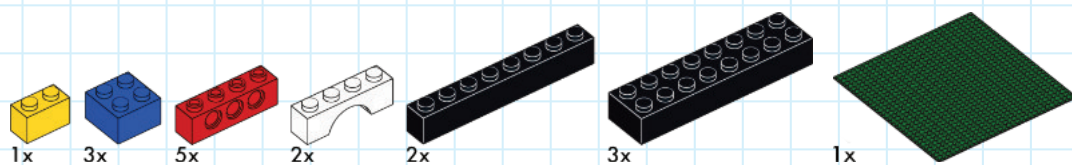
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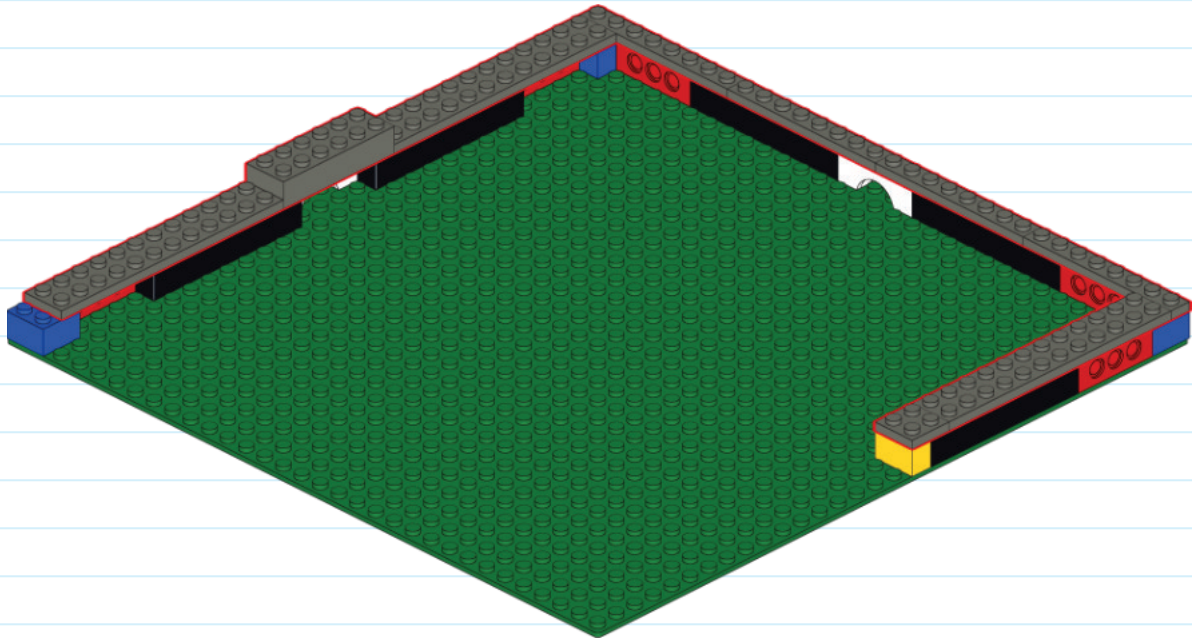
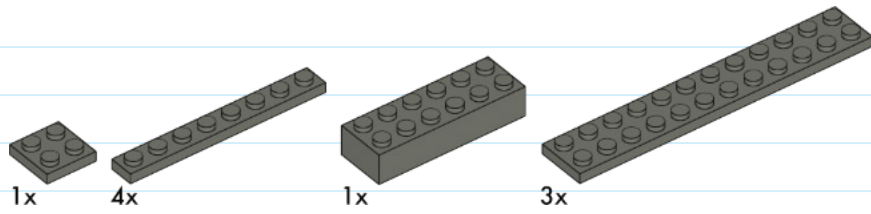
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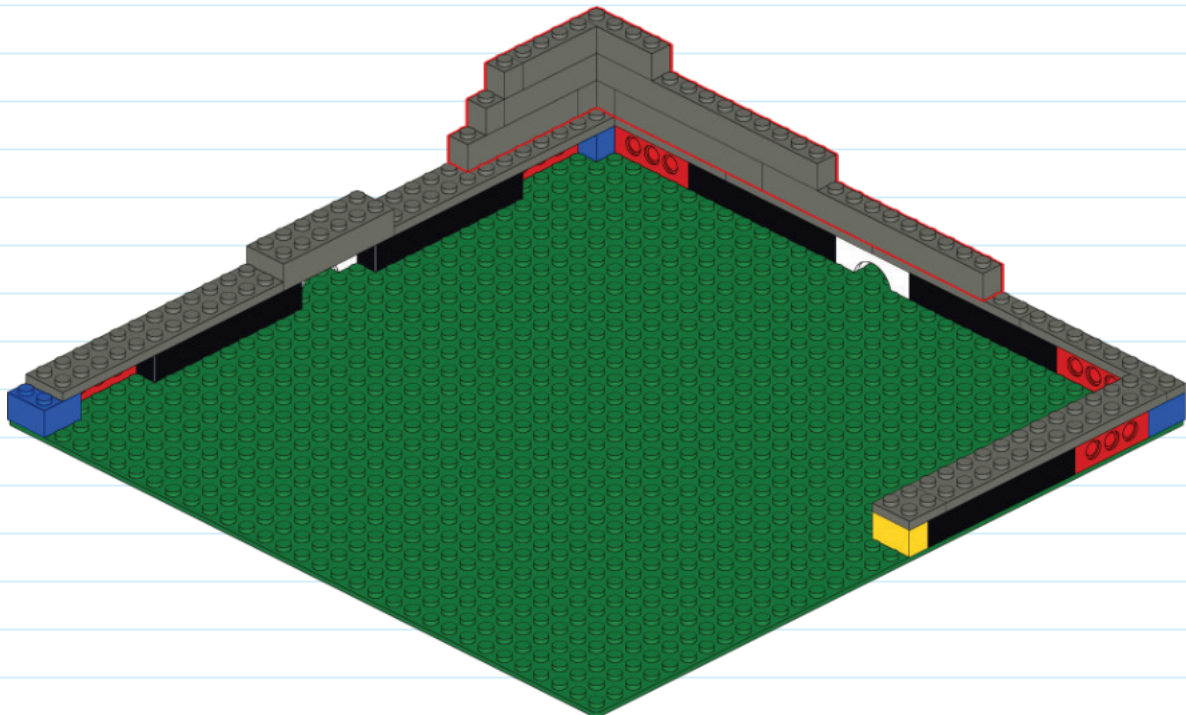
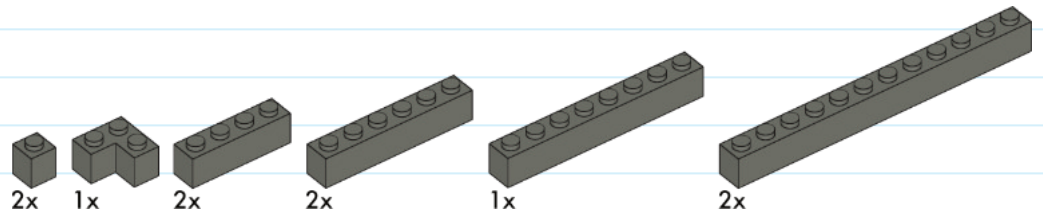
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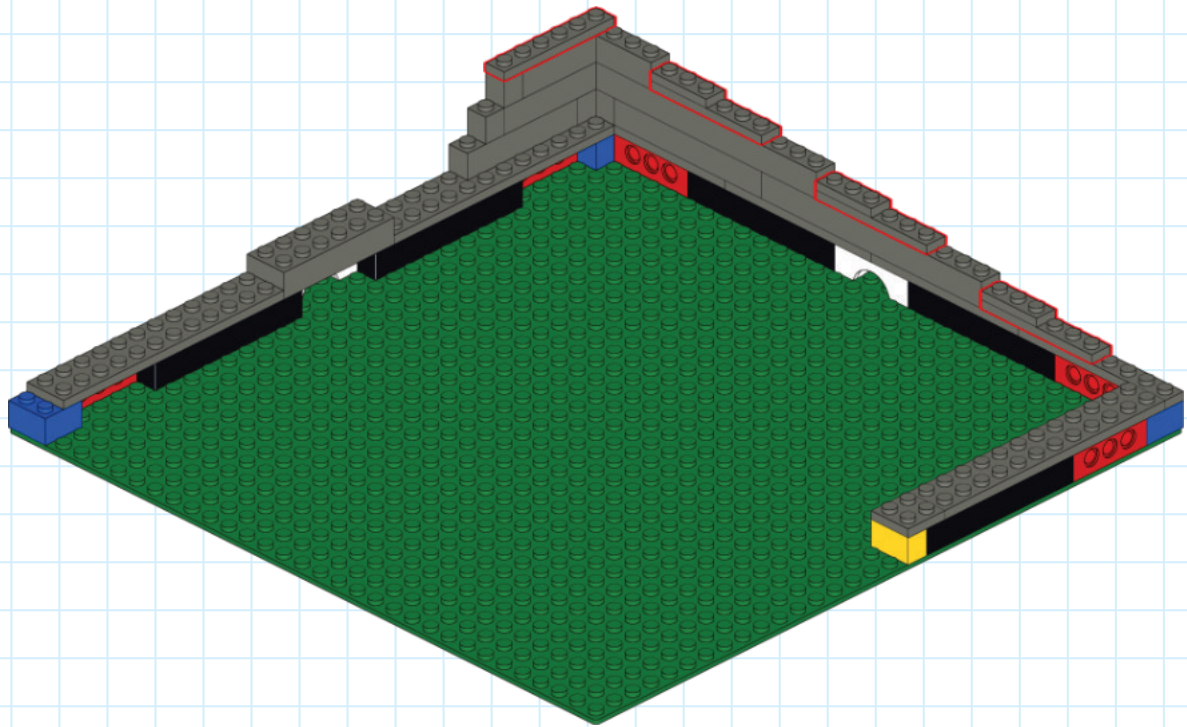
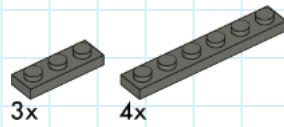
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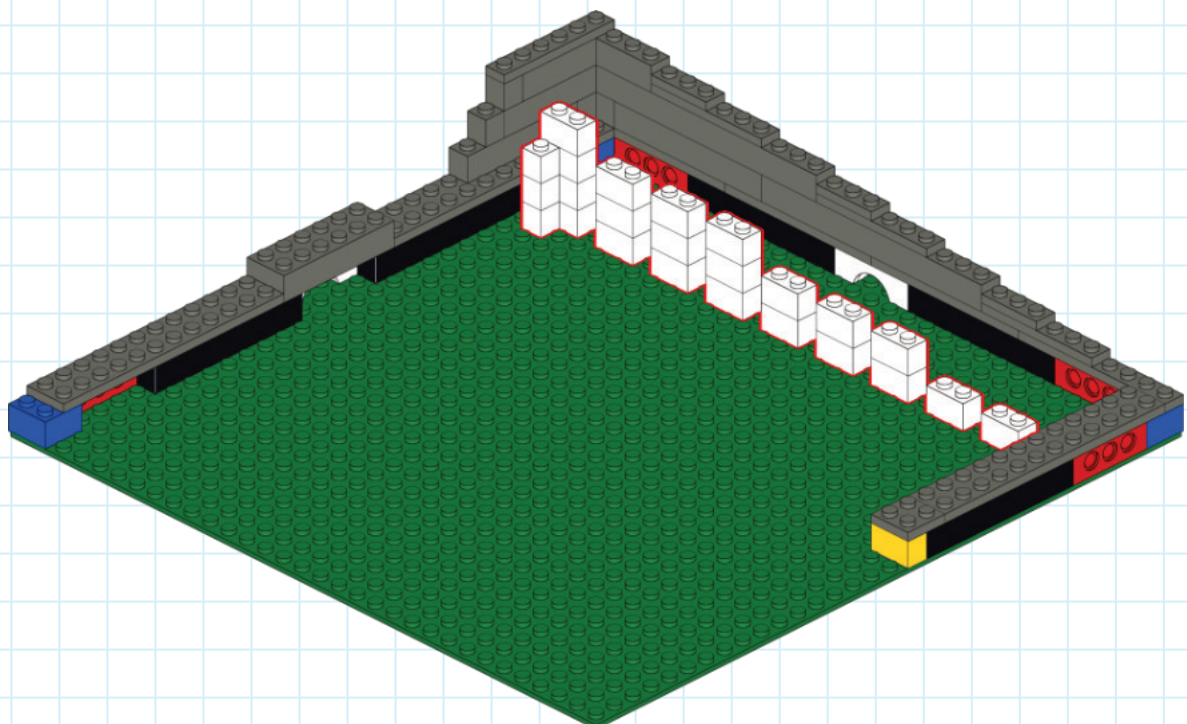
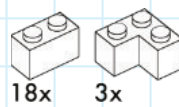
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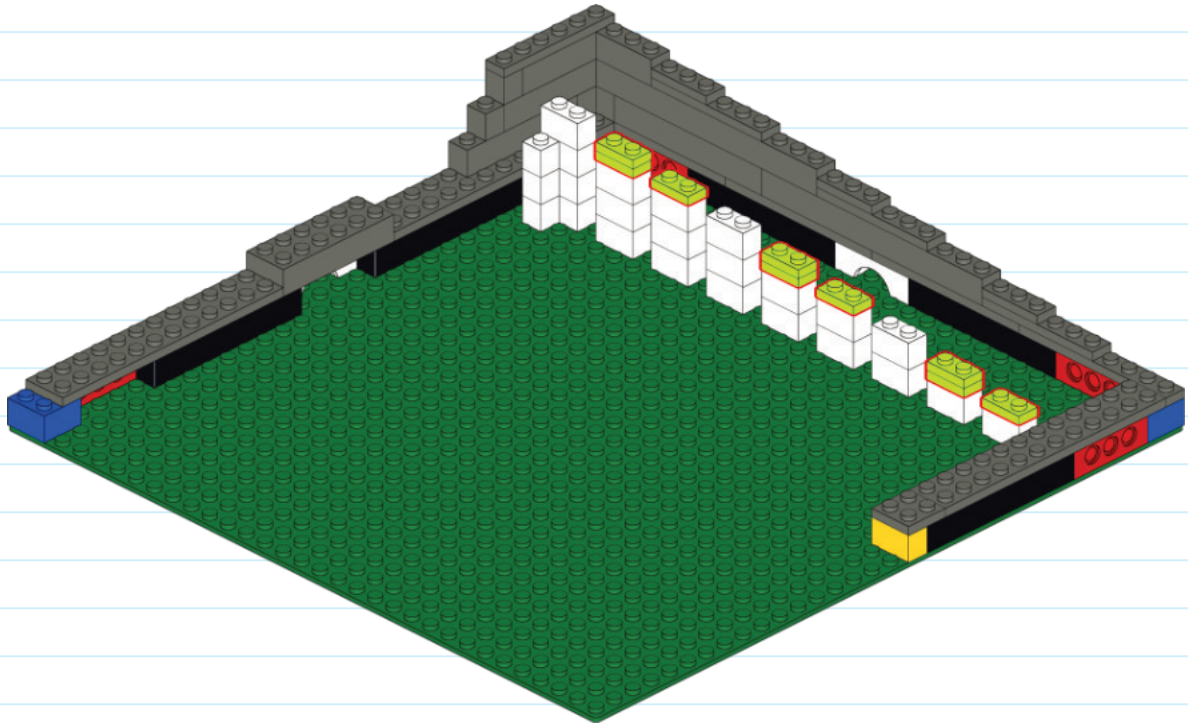
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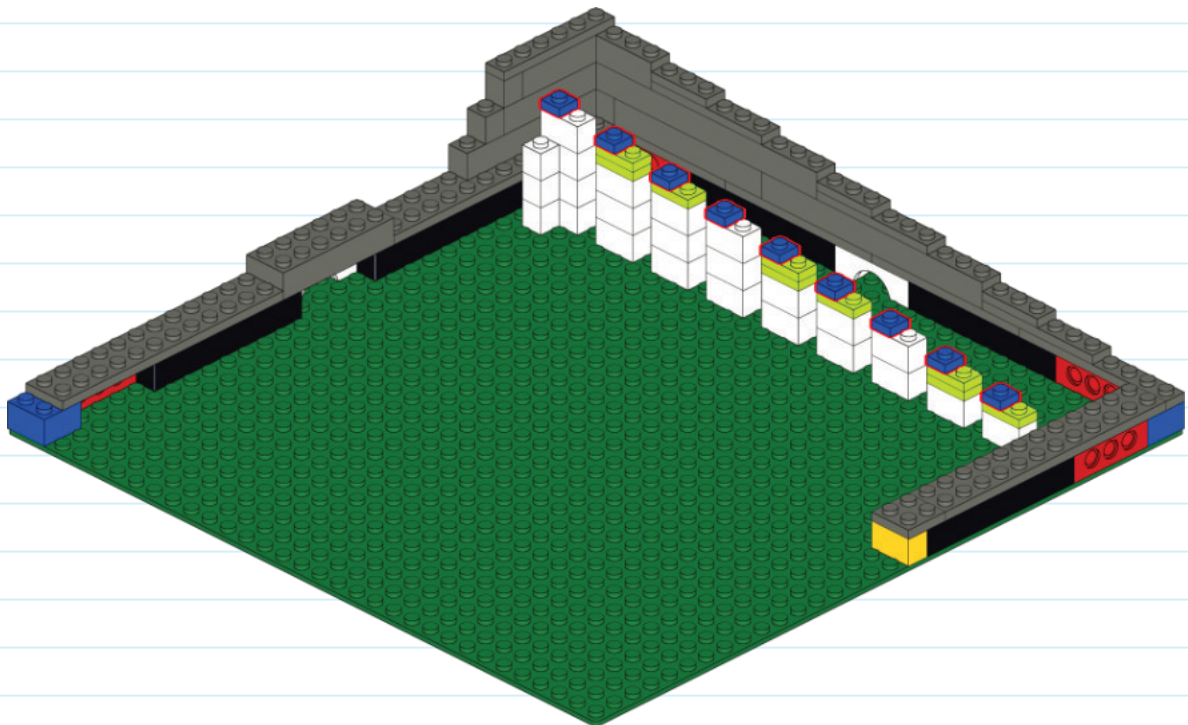
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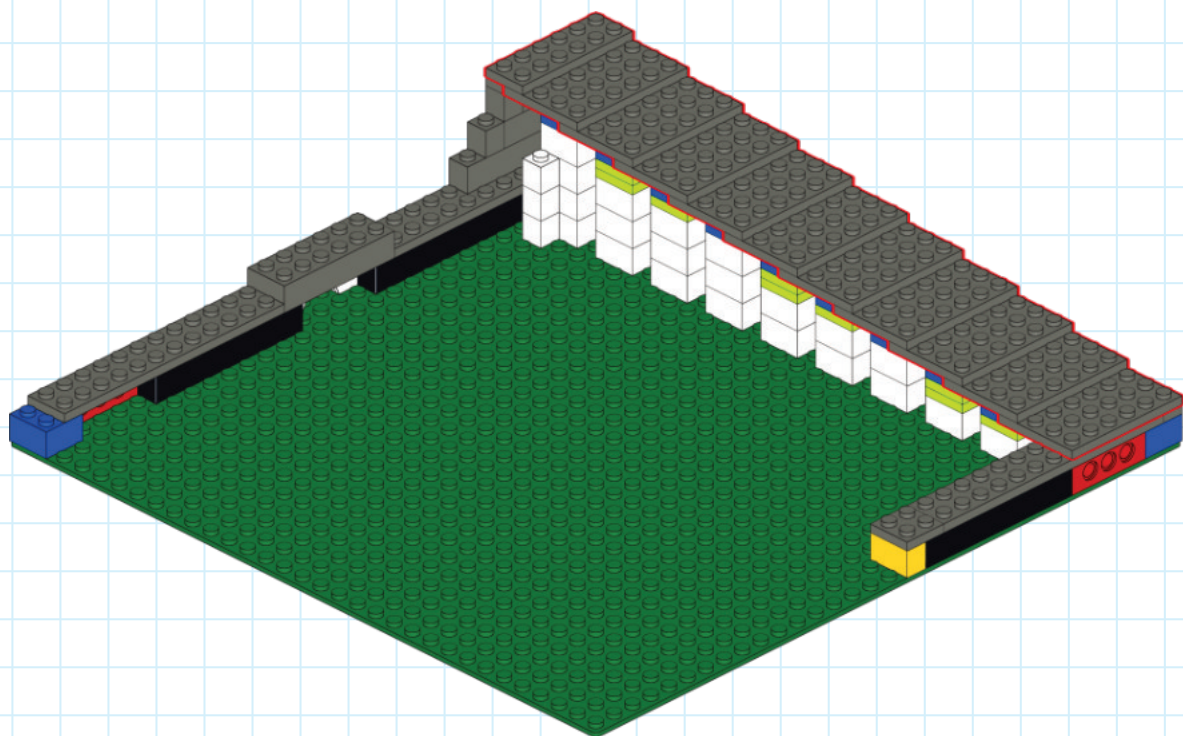
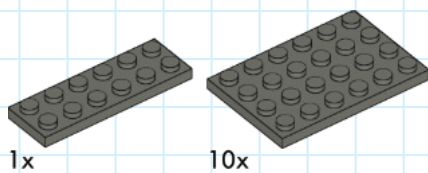
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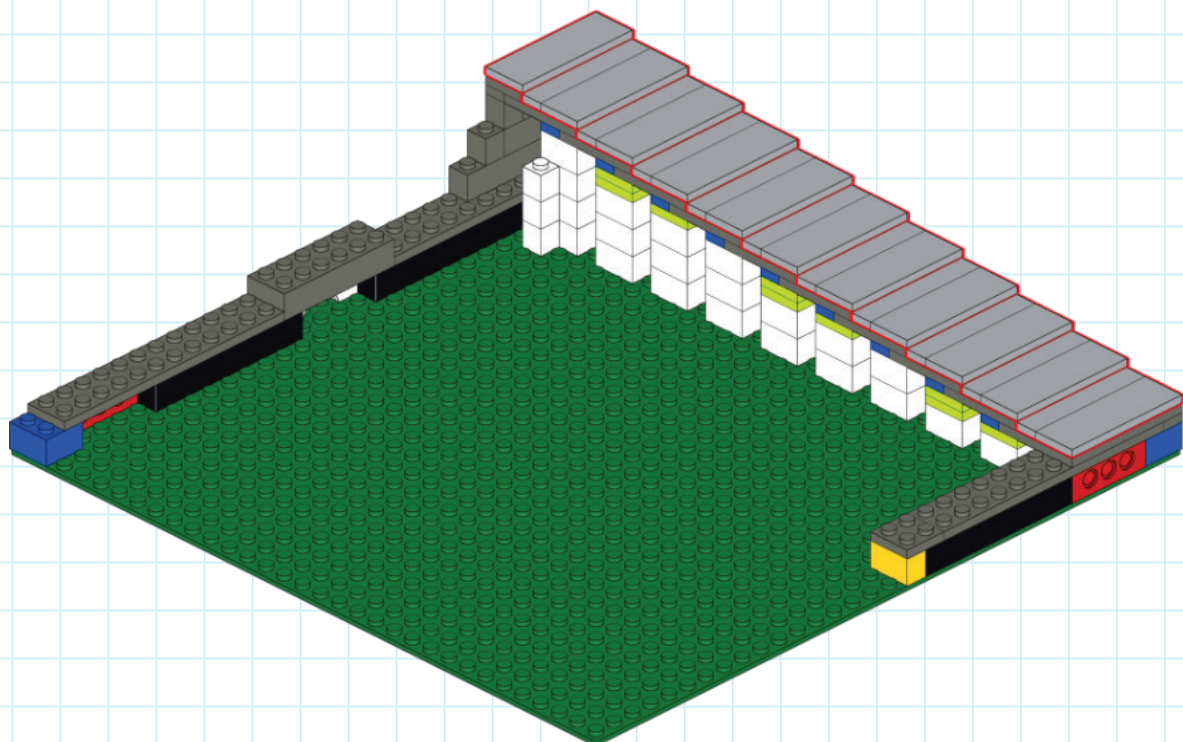
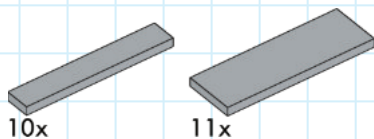
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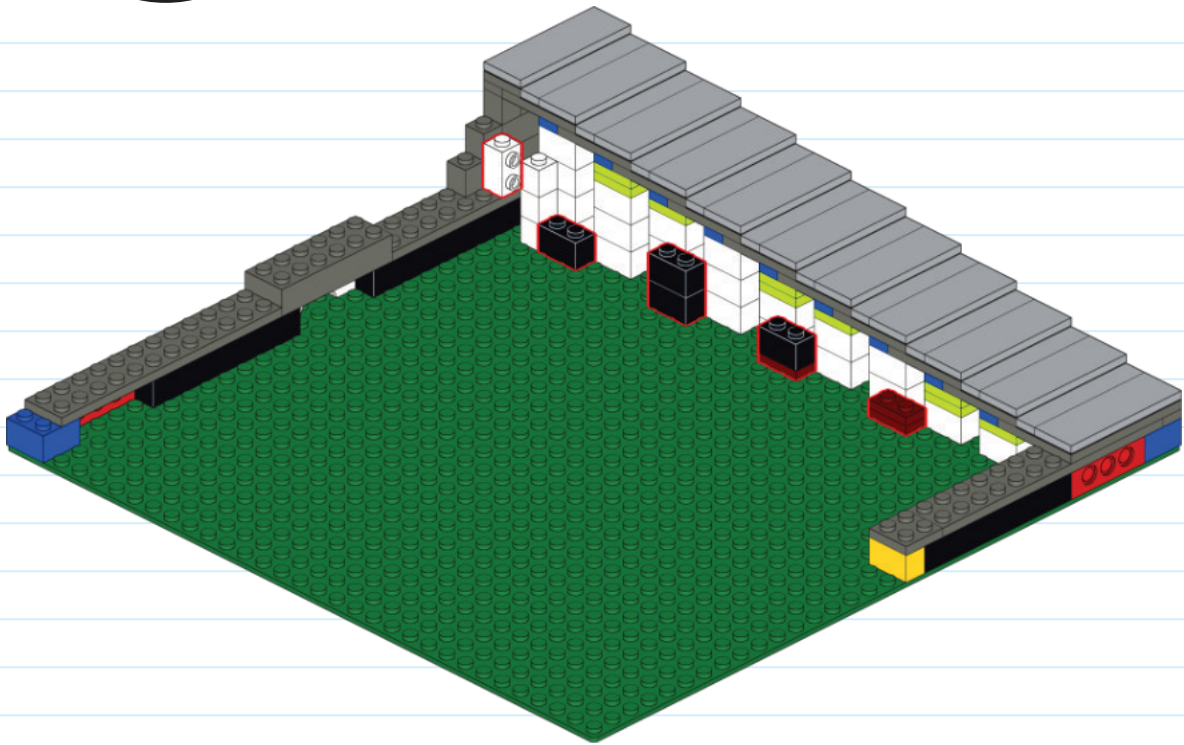
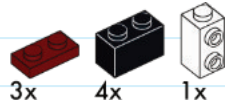
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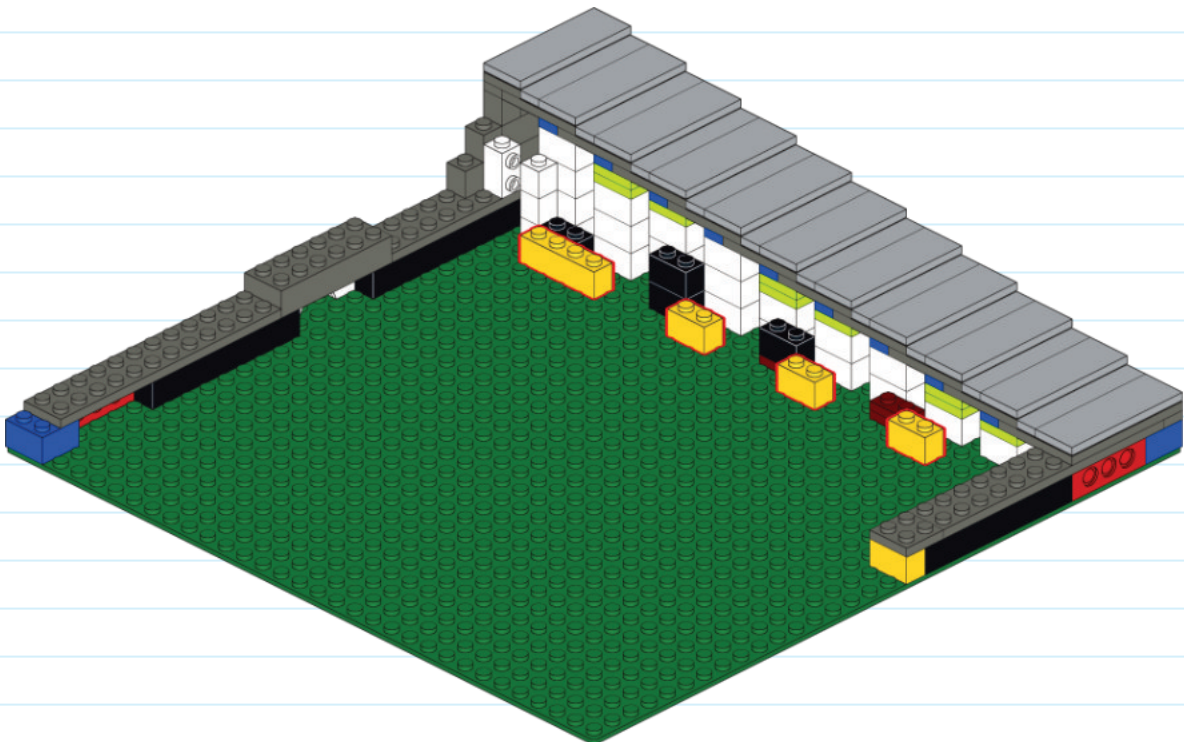
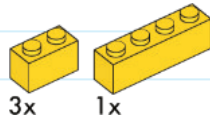
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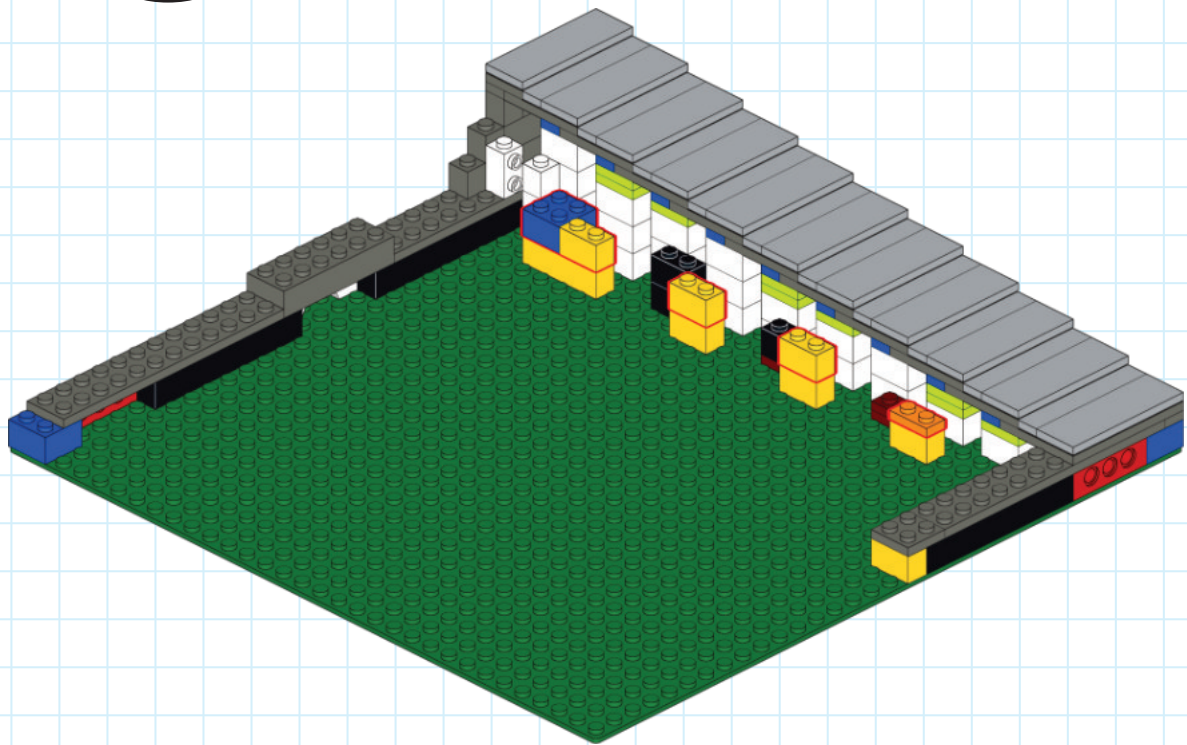
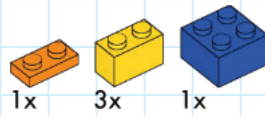
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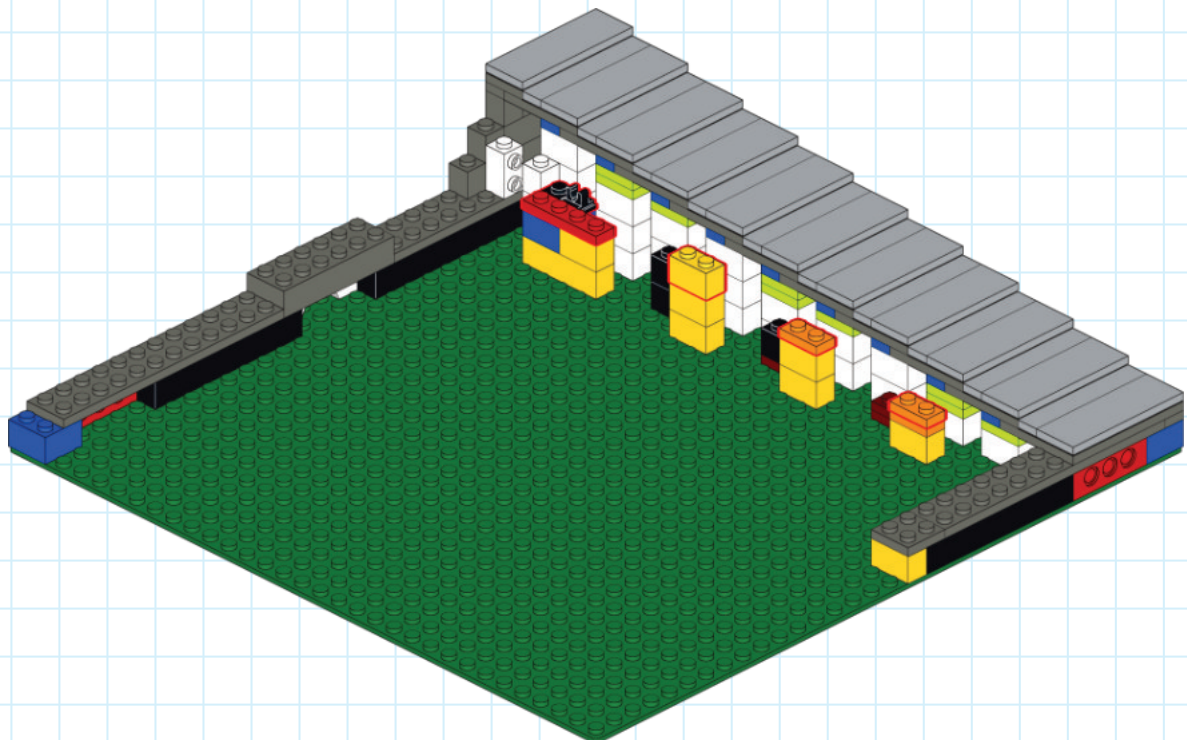
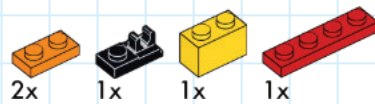
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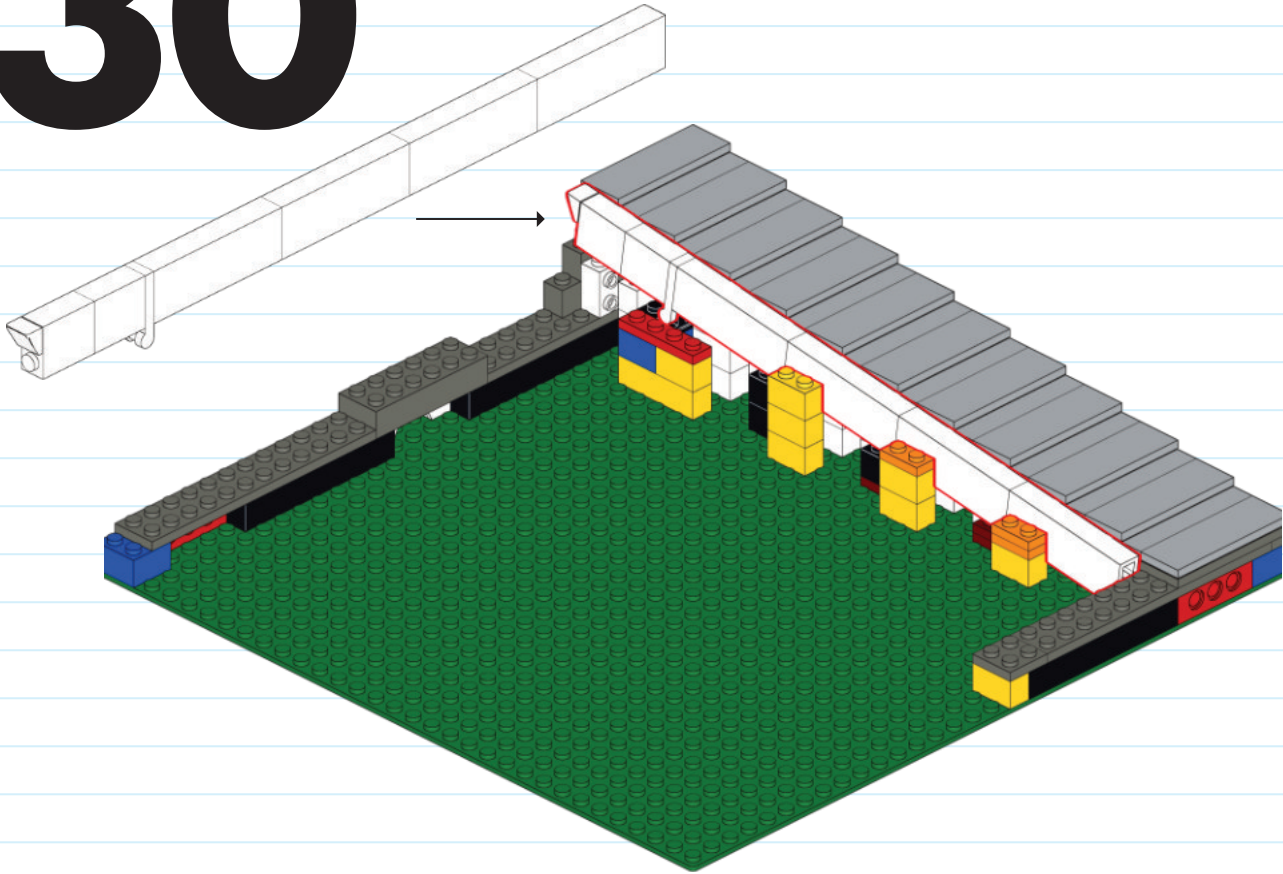
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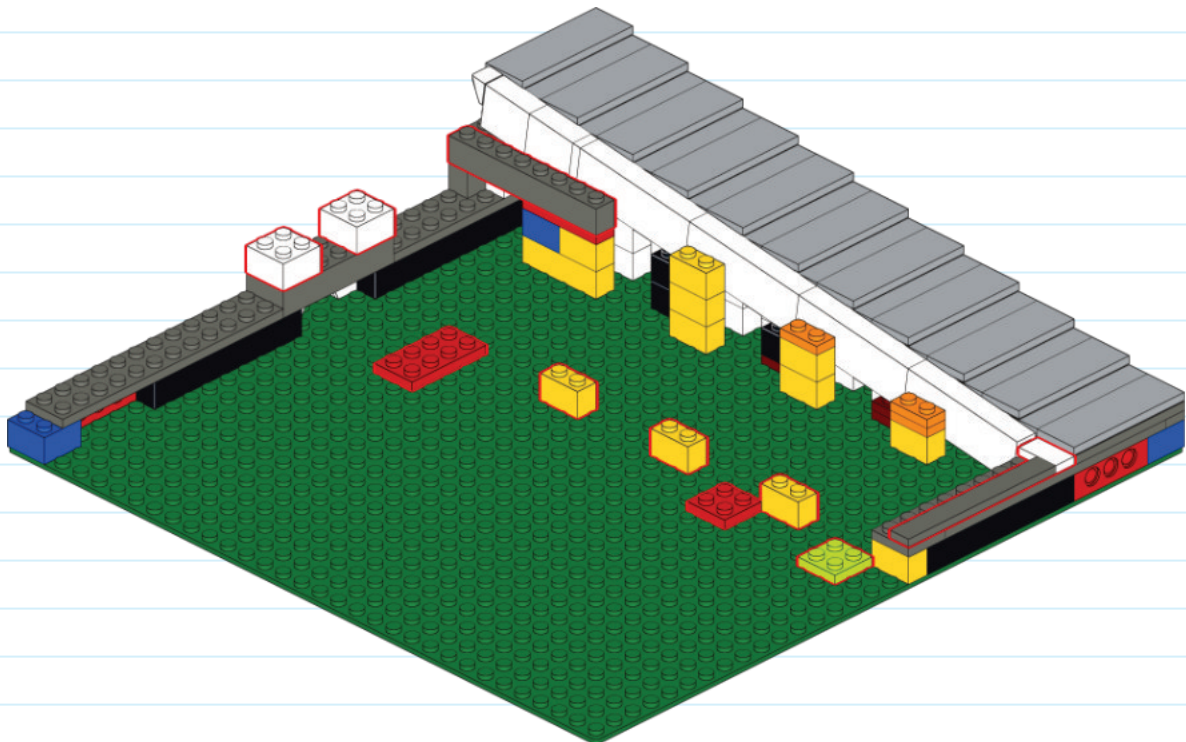
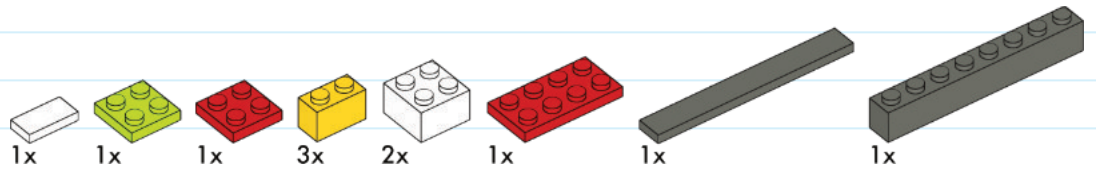
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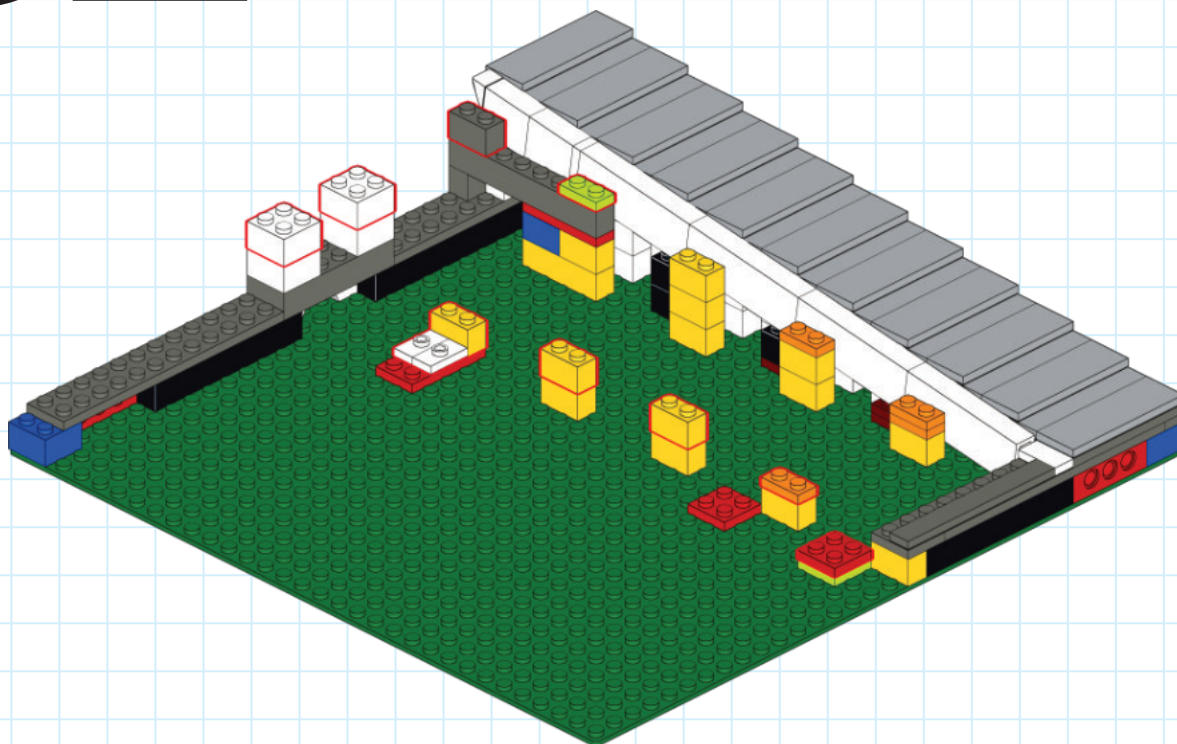
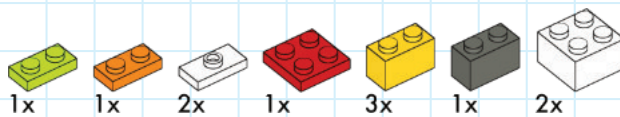
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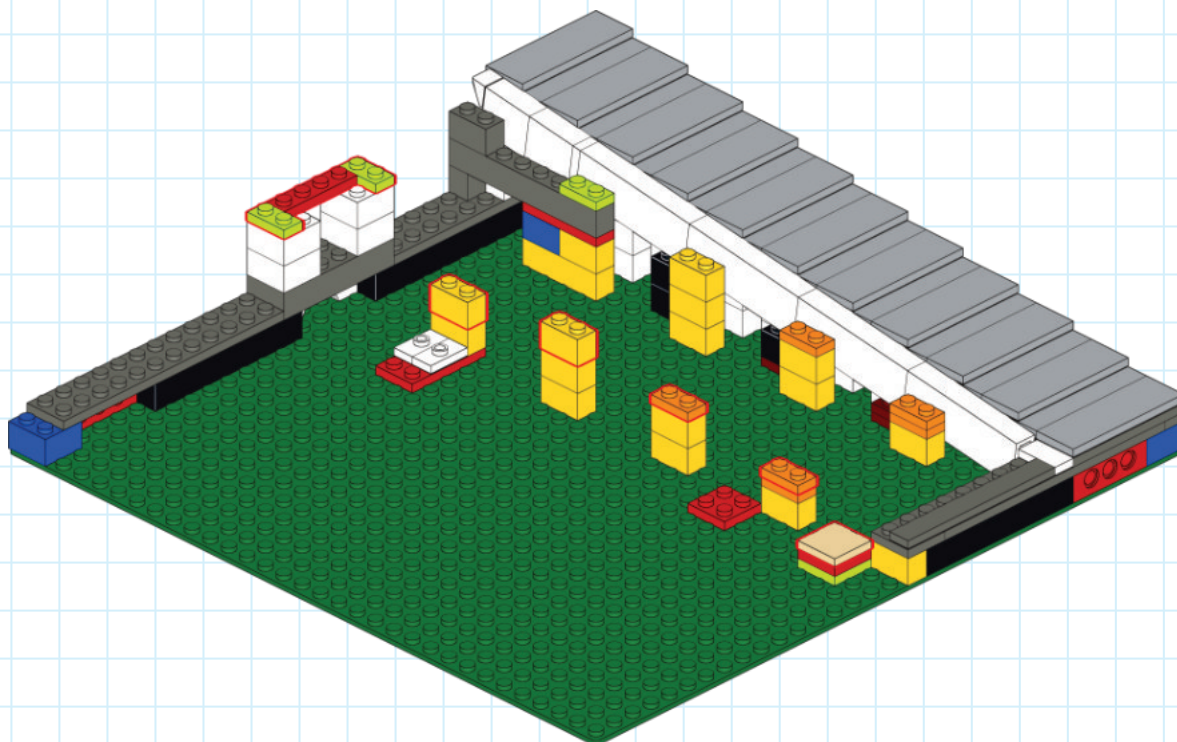
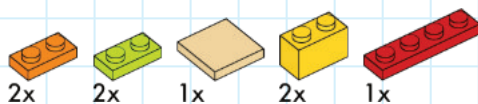
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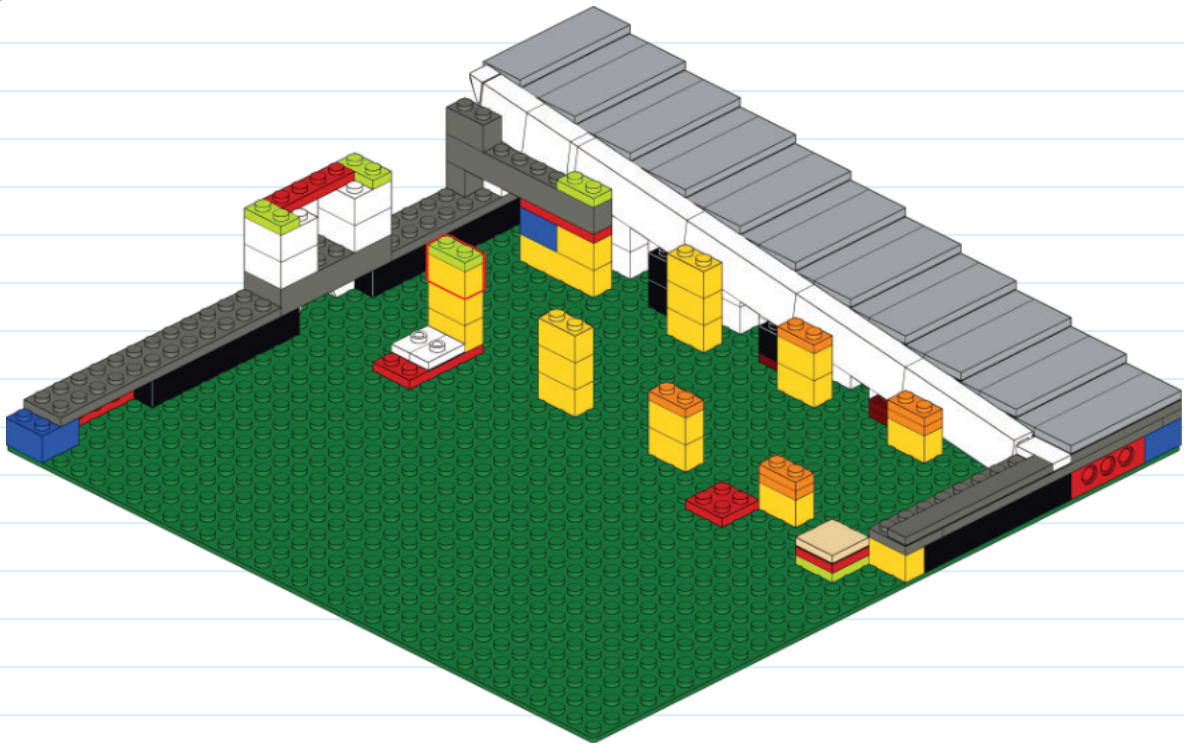
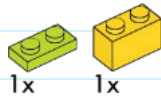
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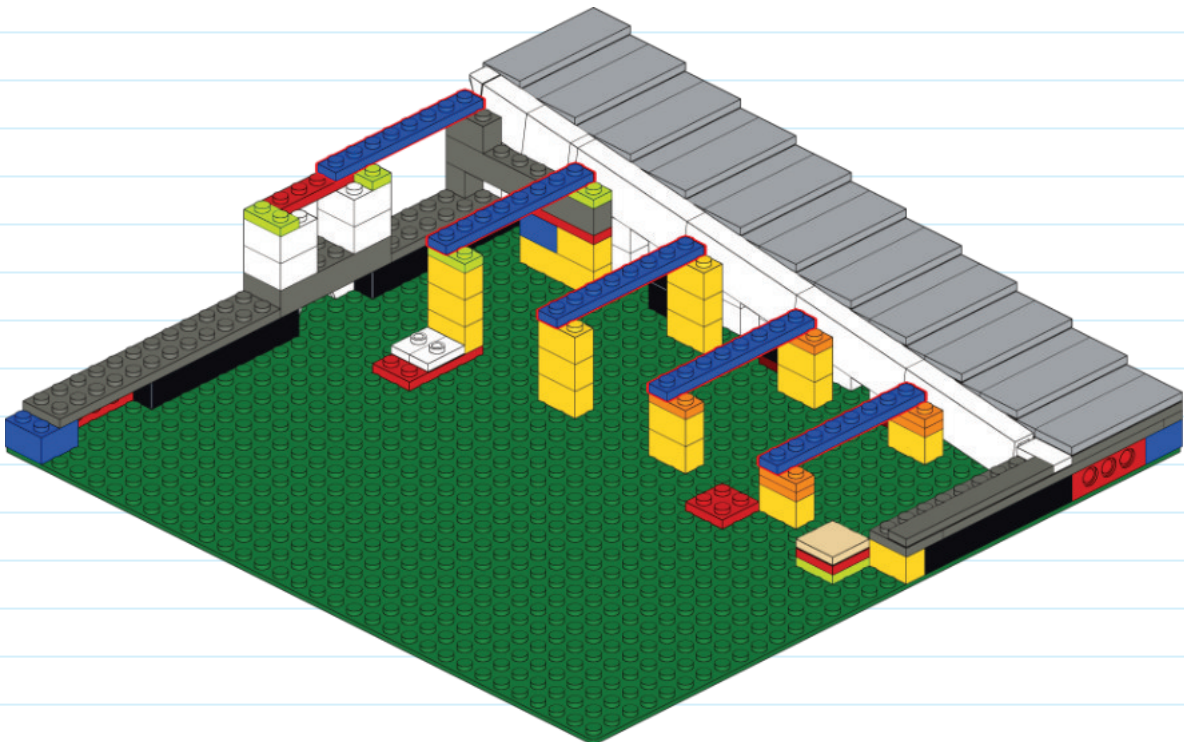
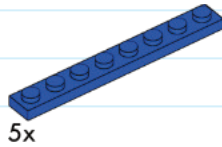
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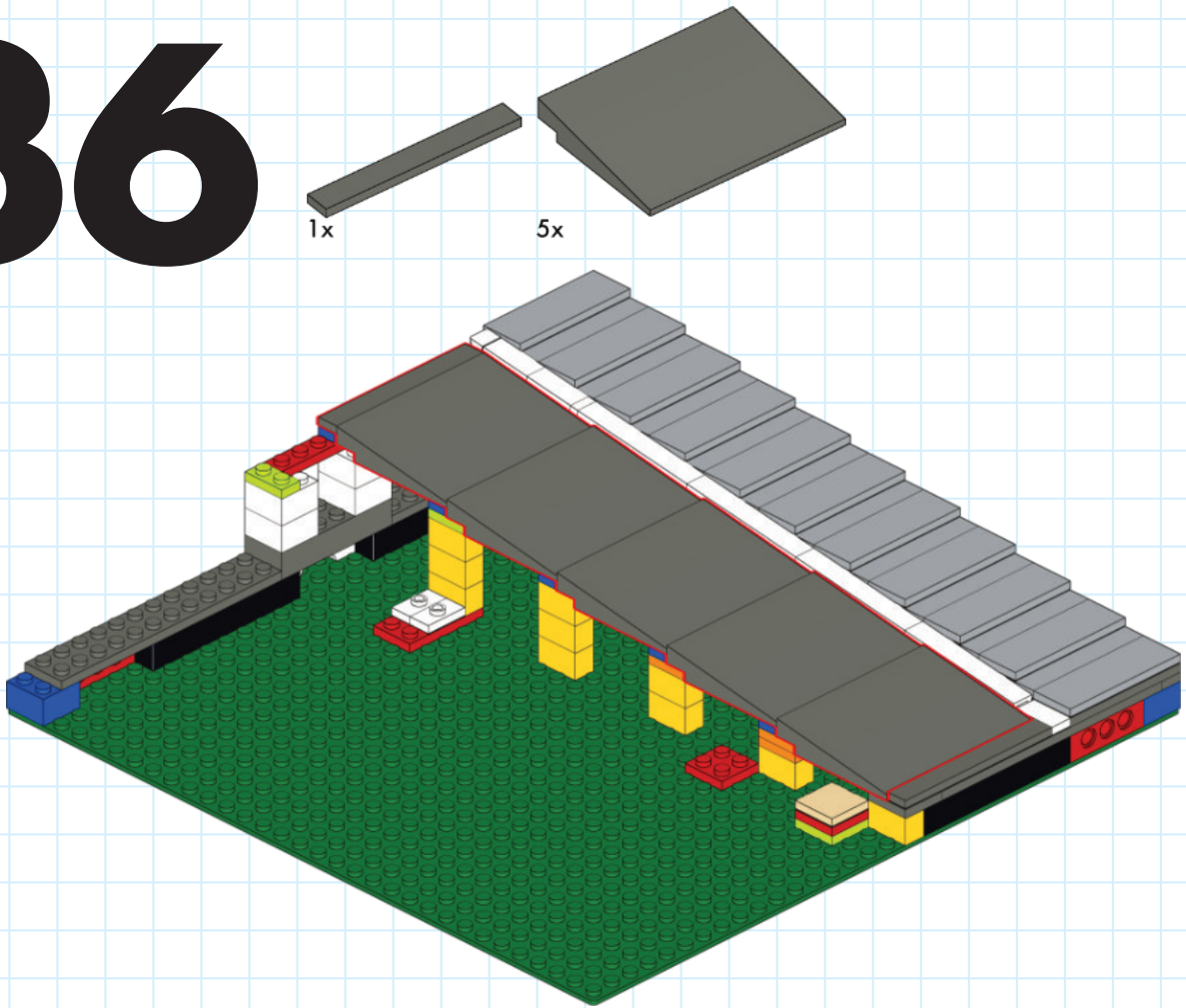
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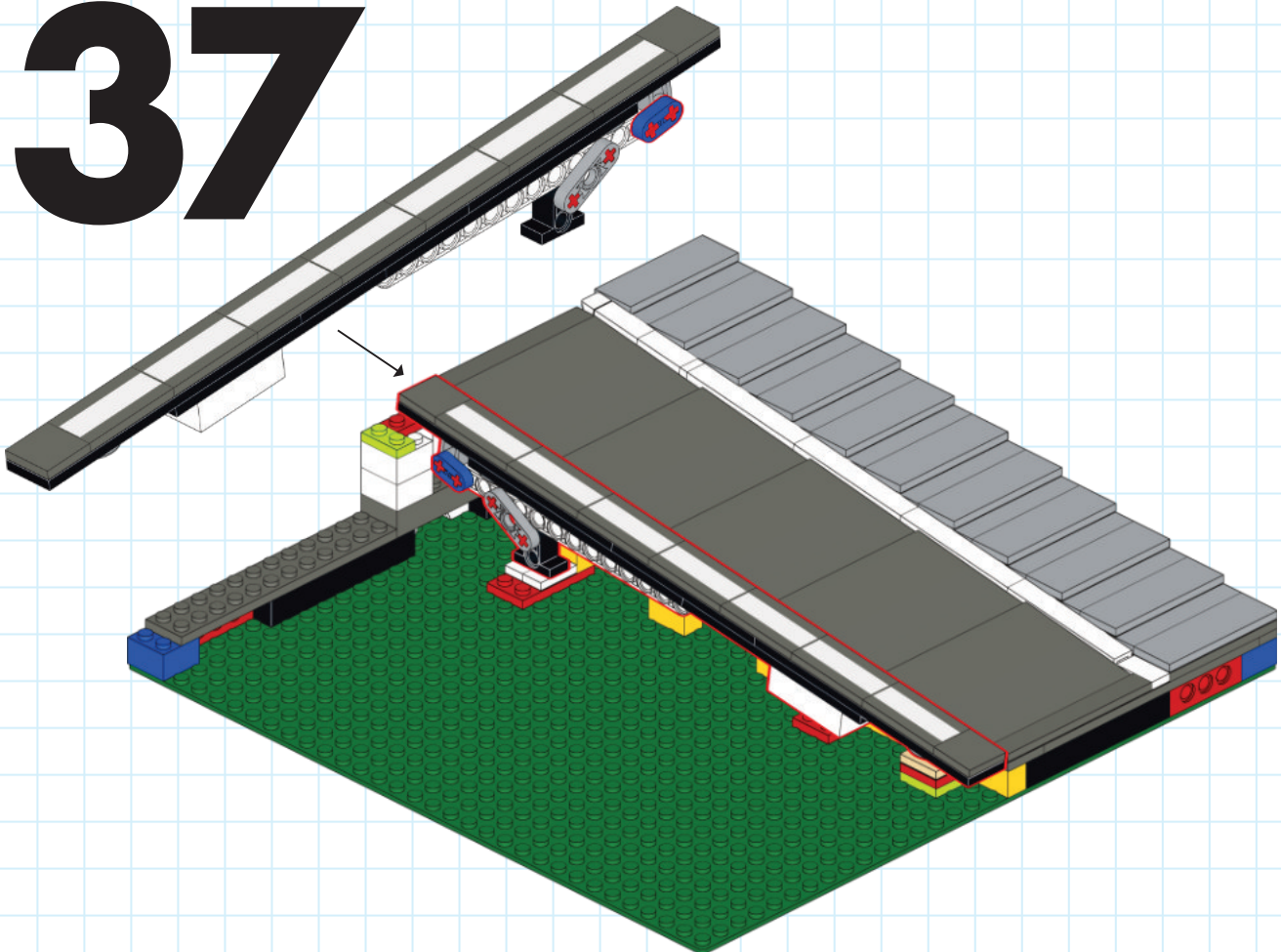
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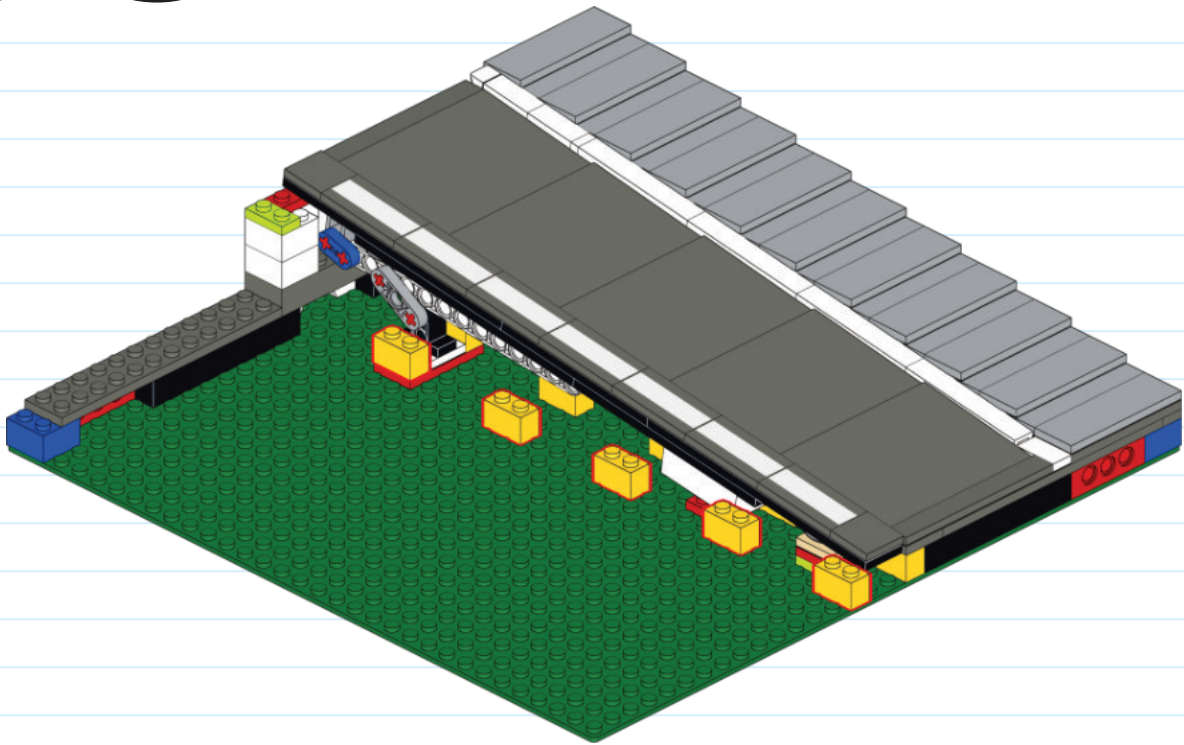
36

 $5x$ 

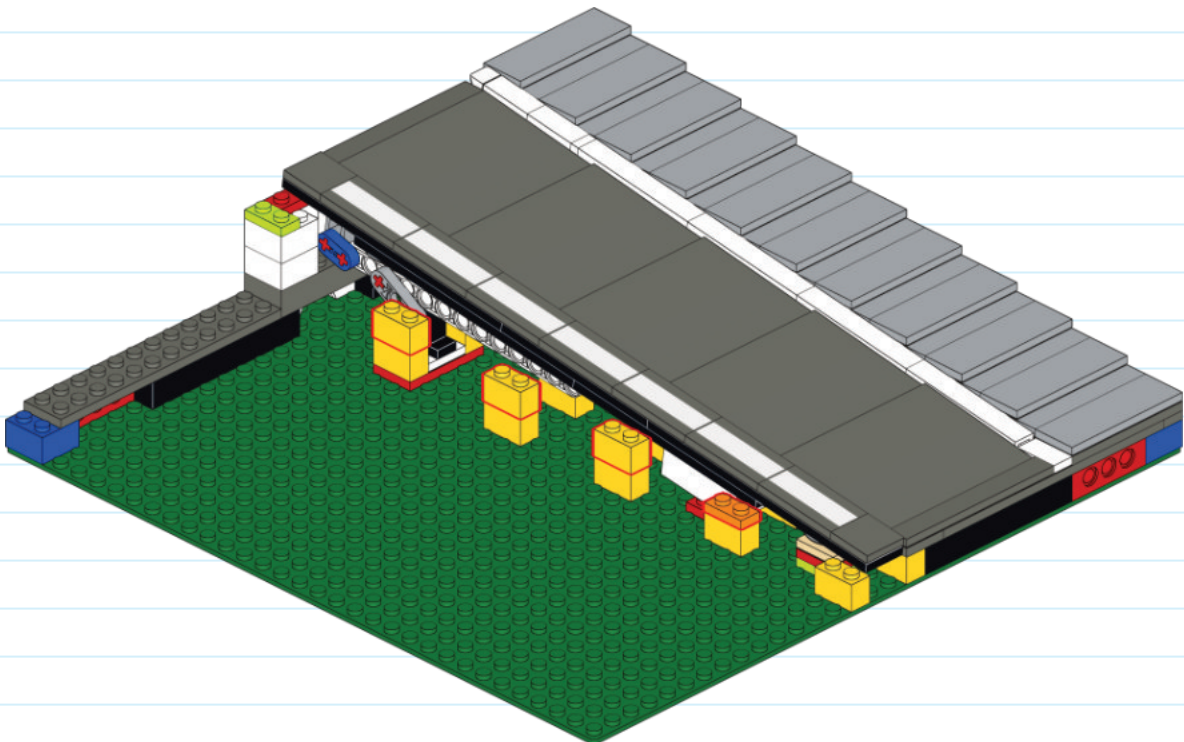
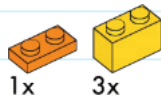
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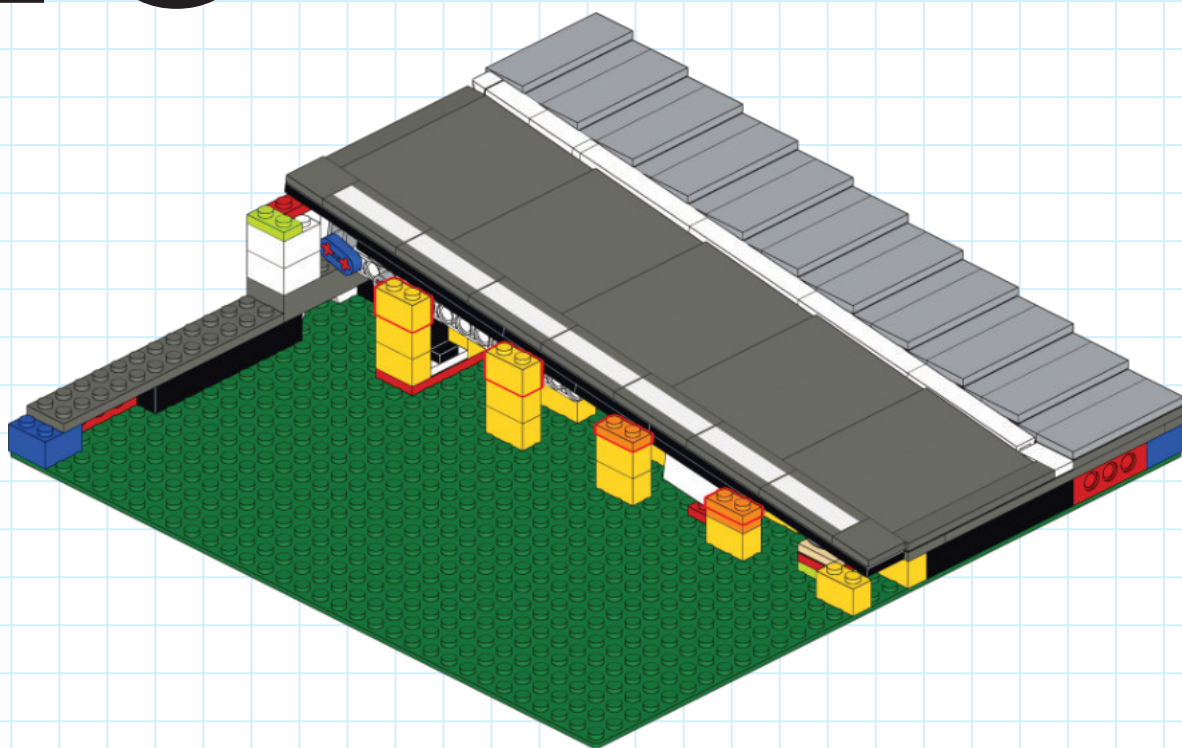
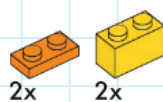
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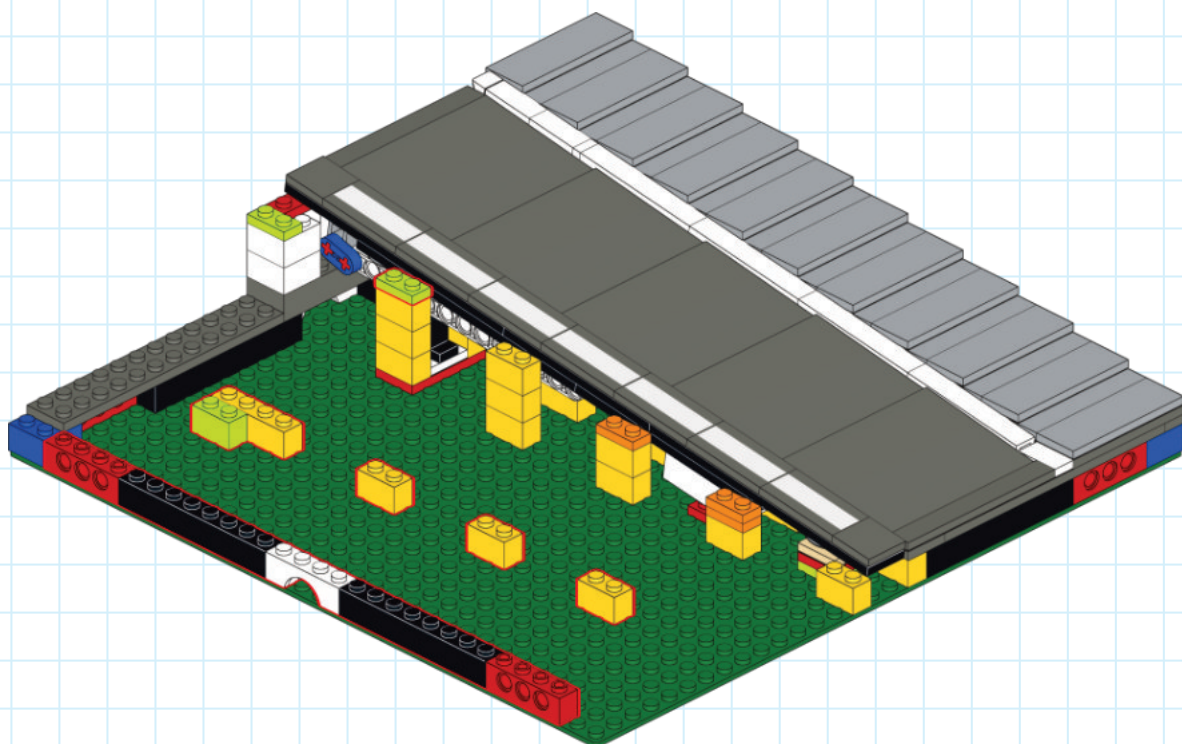
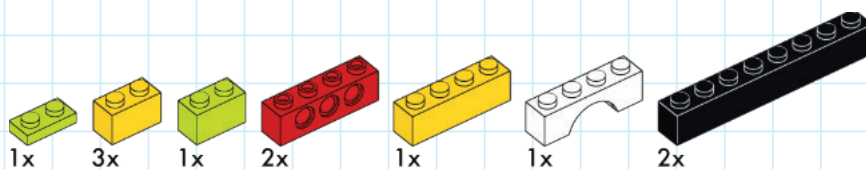
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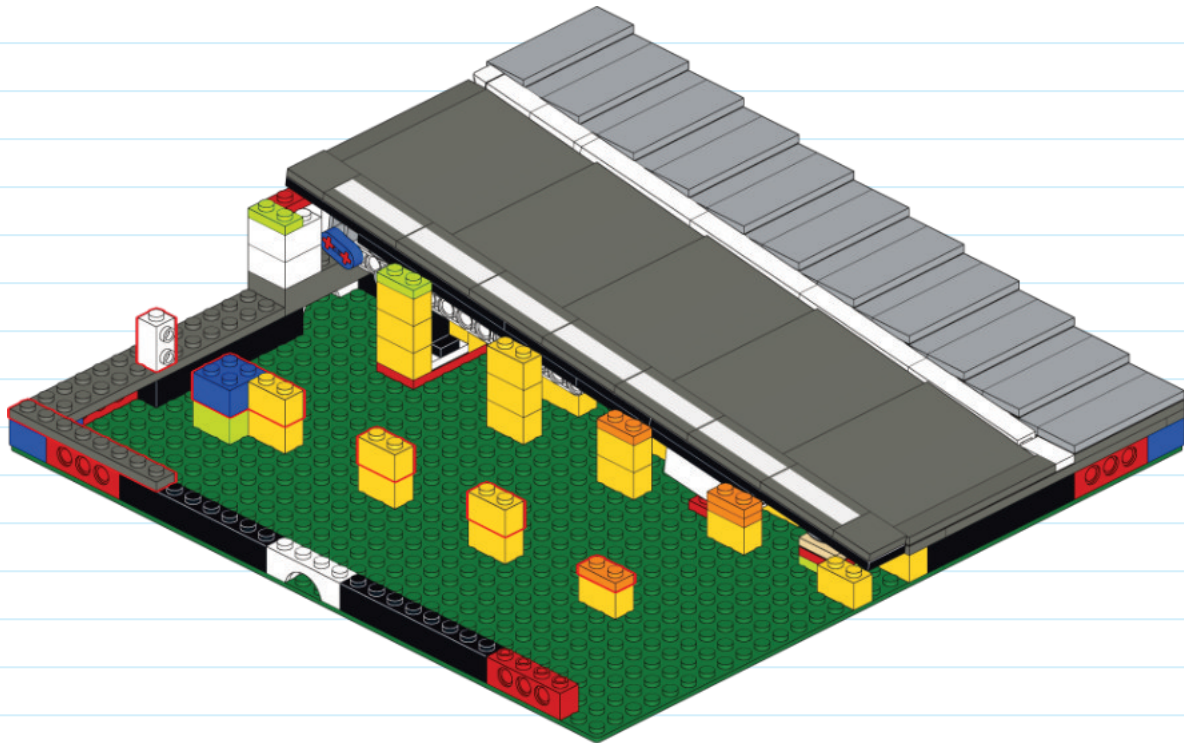
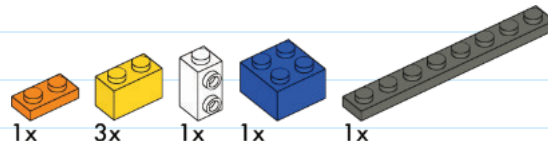
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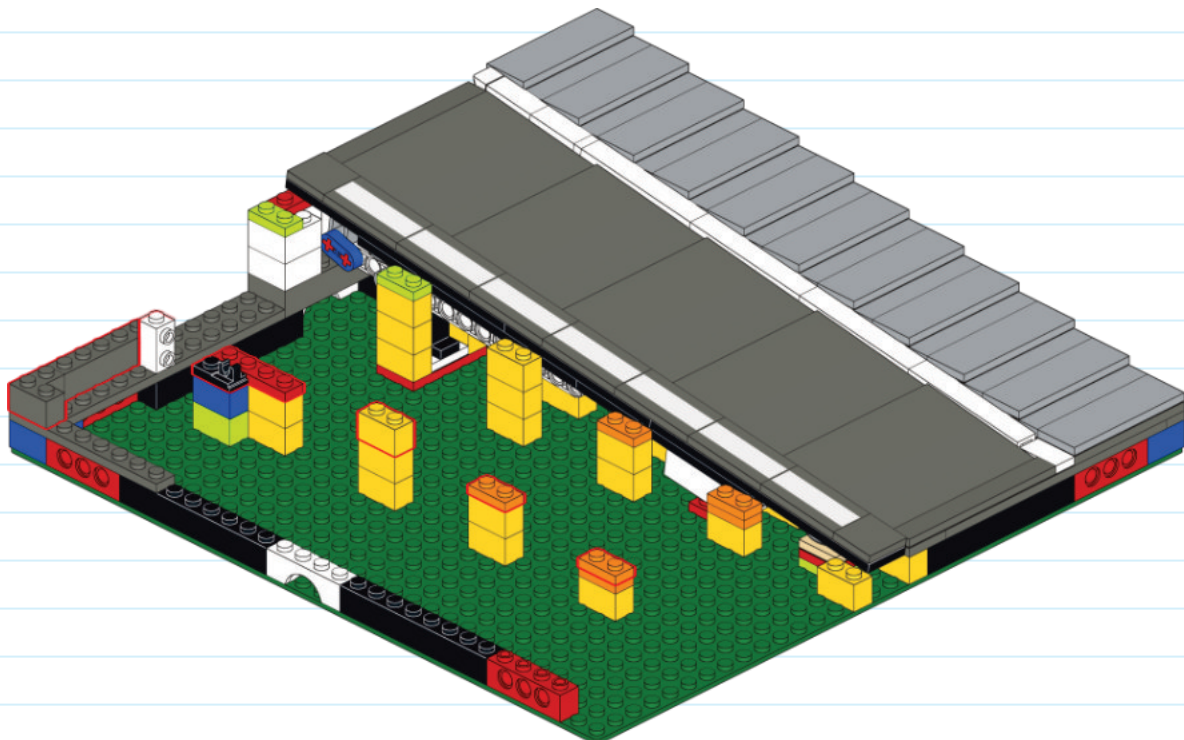
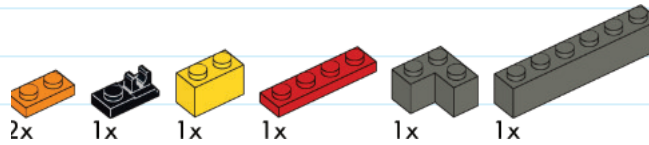
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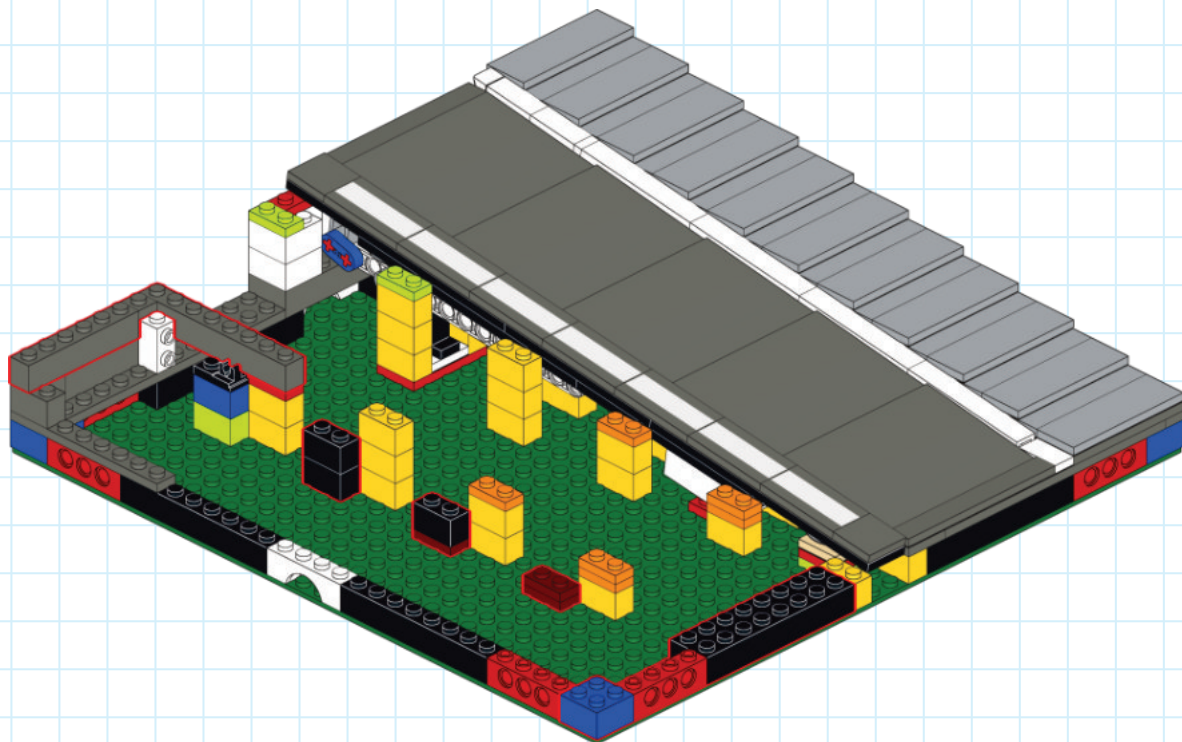
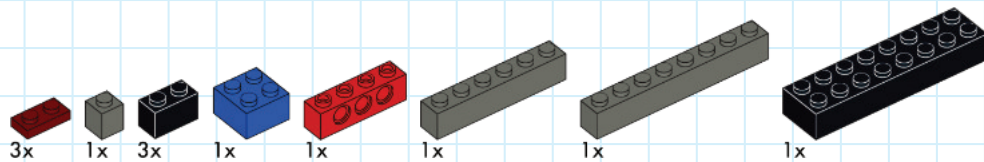
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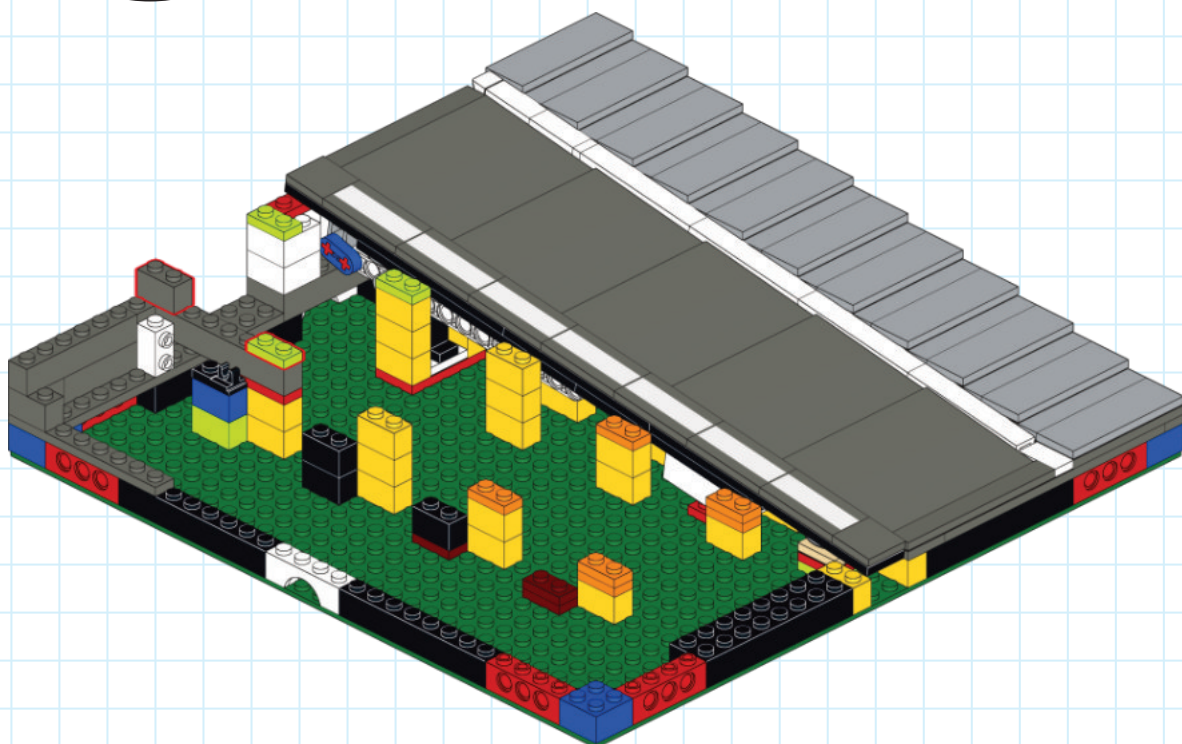
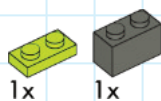
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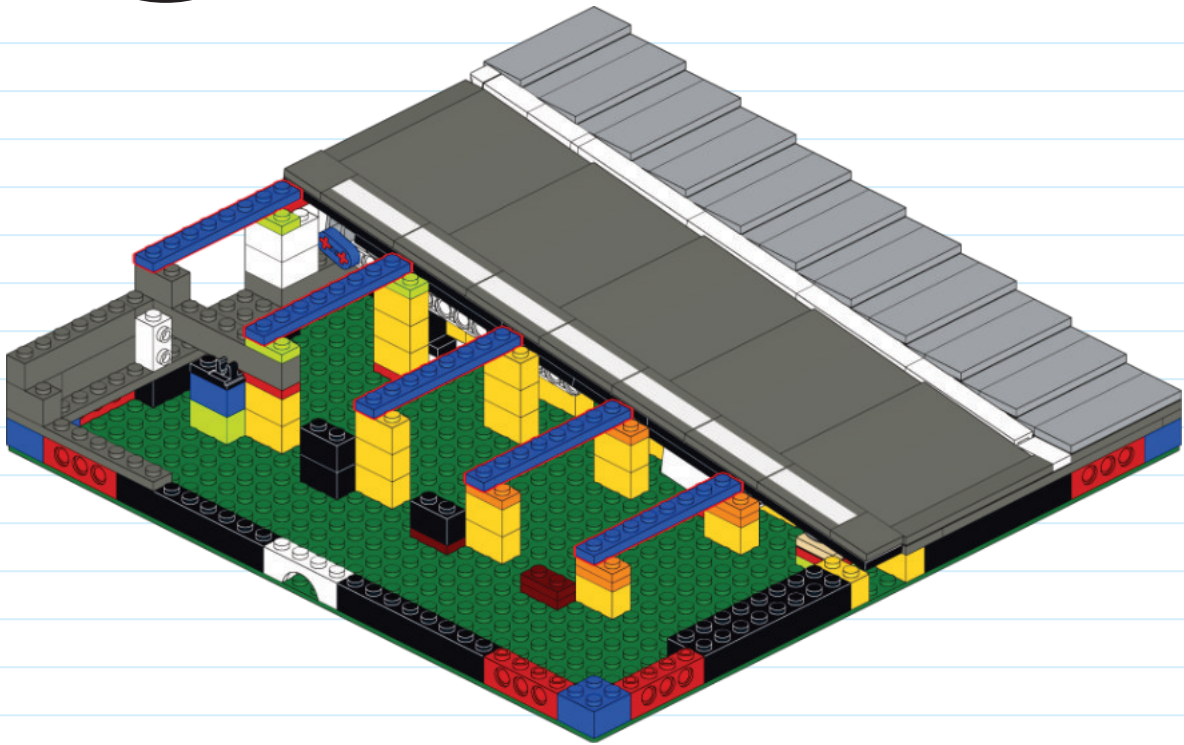
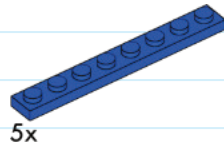
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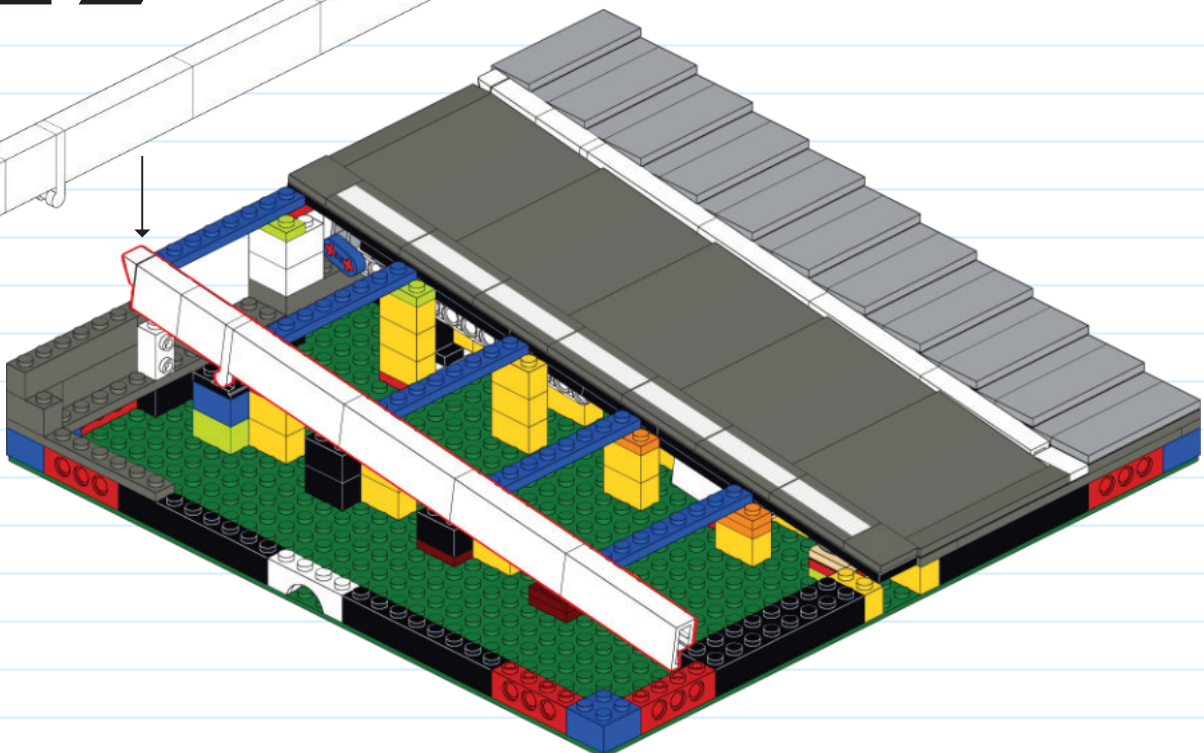
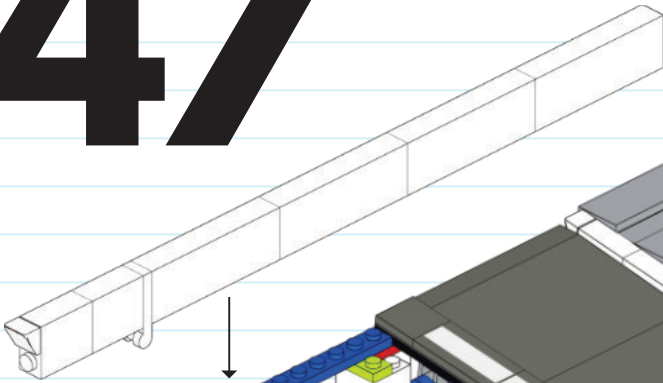
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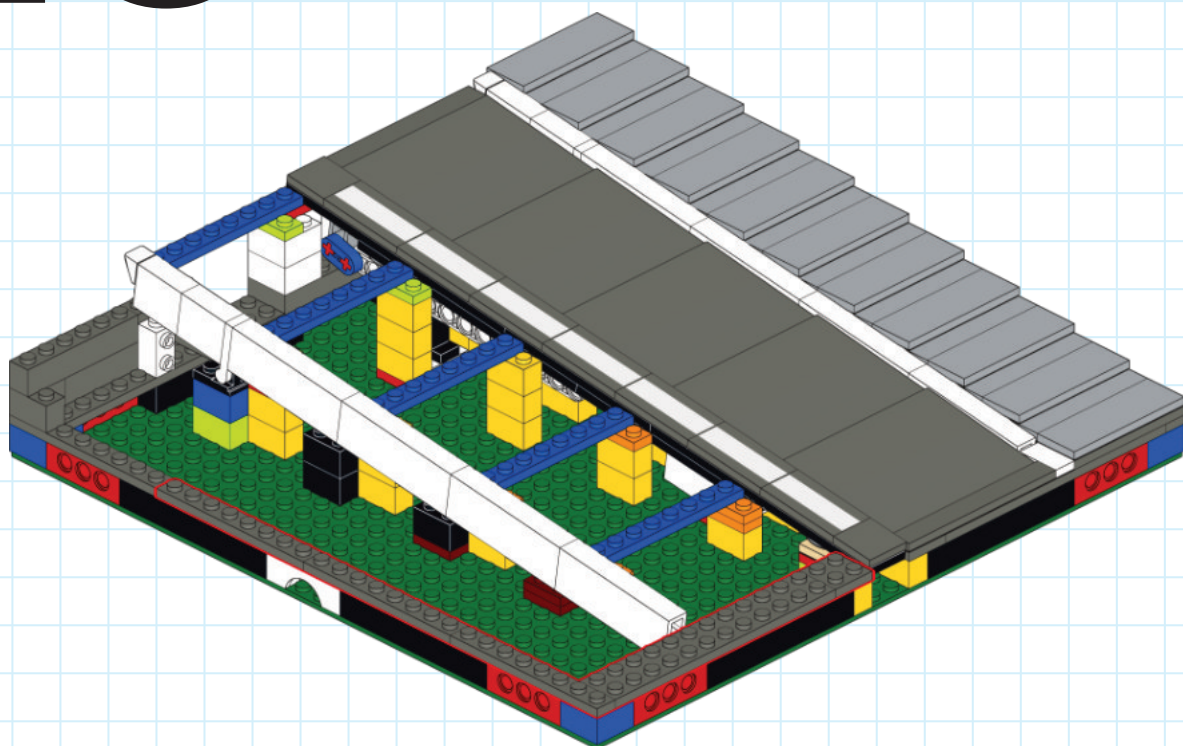
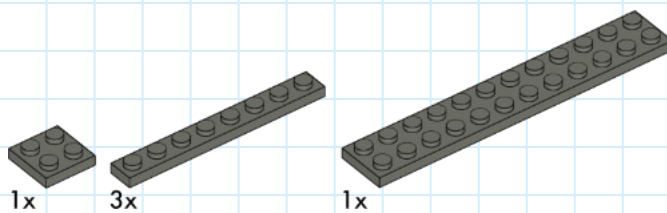
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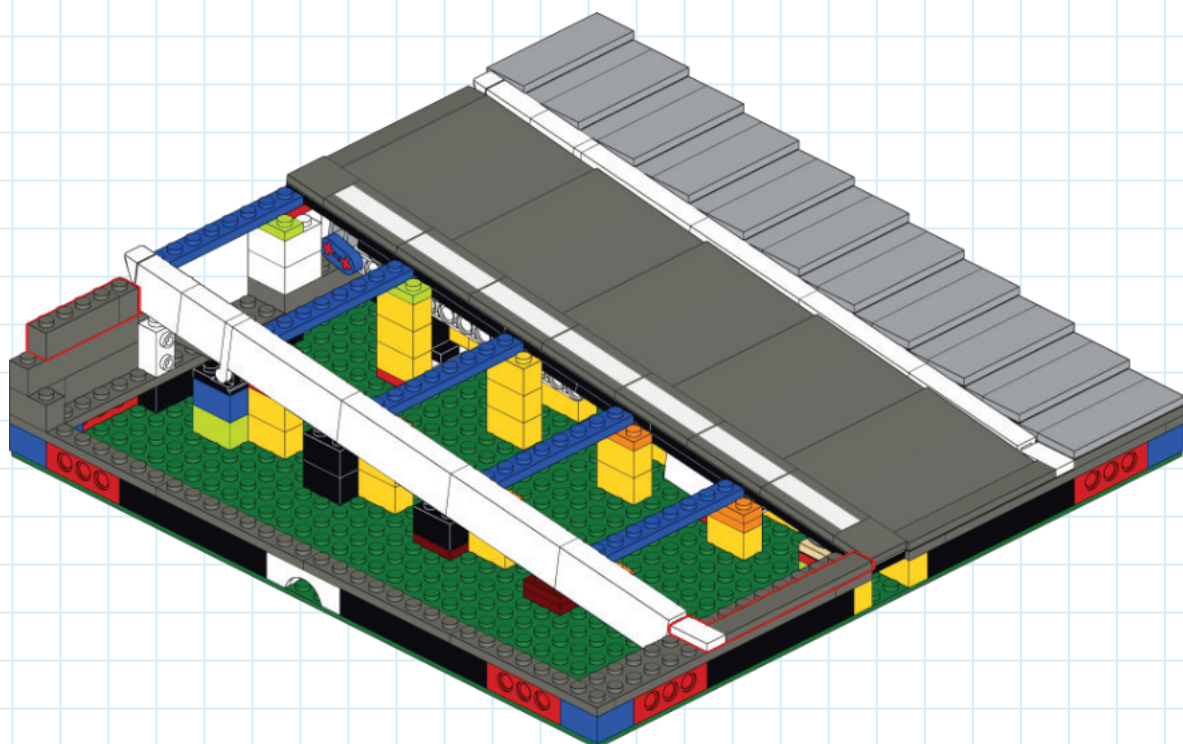
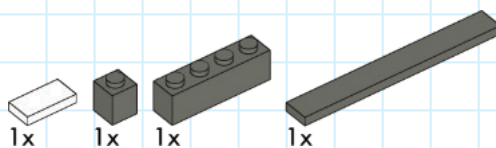
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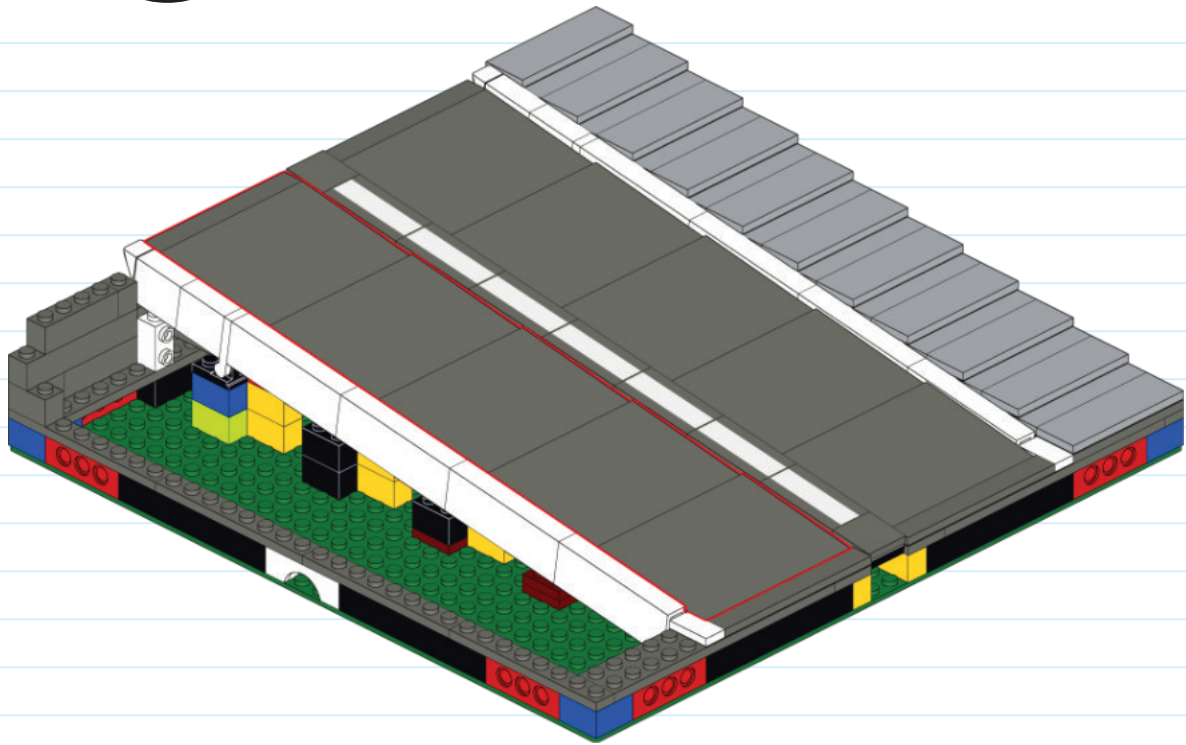
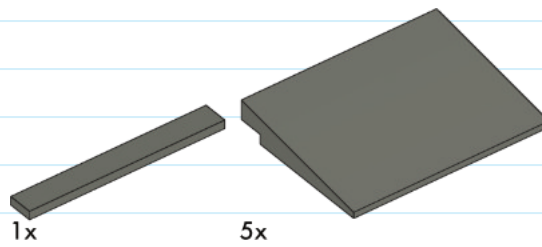
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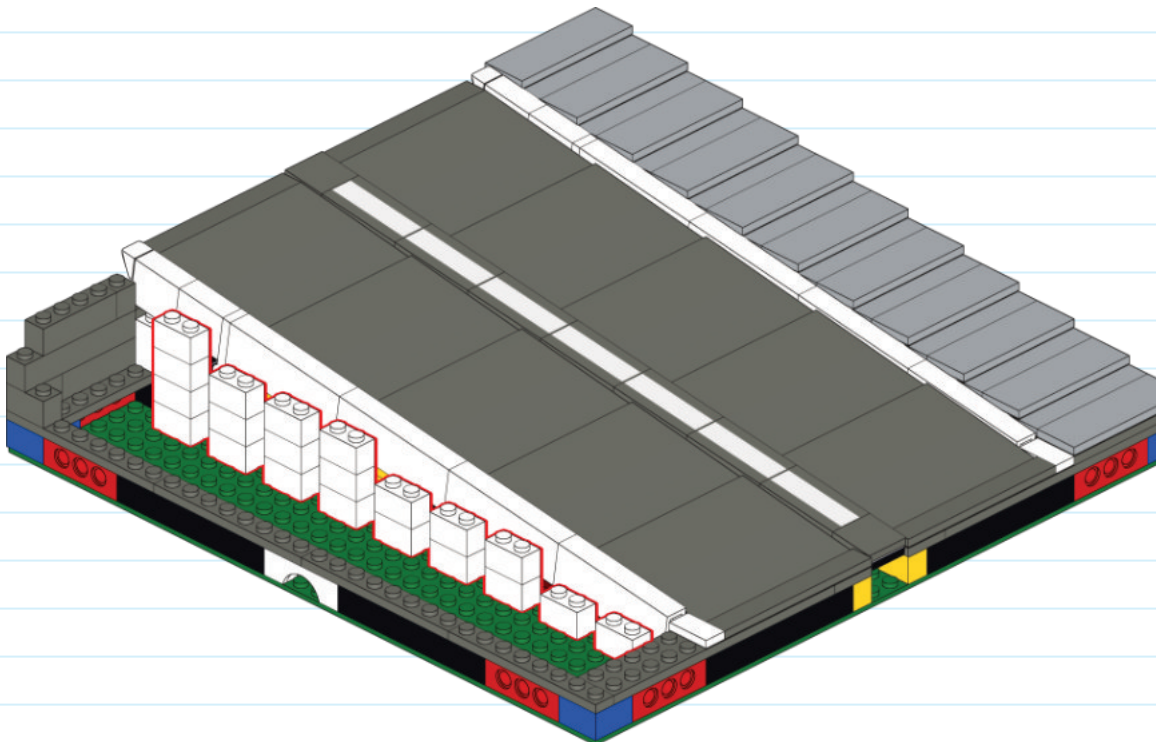
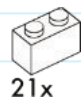
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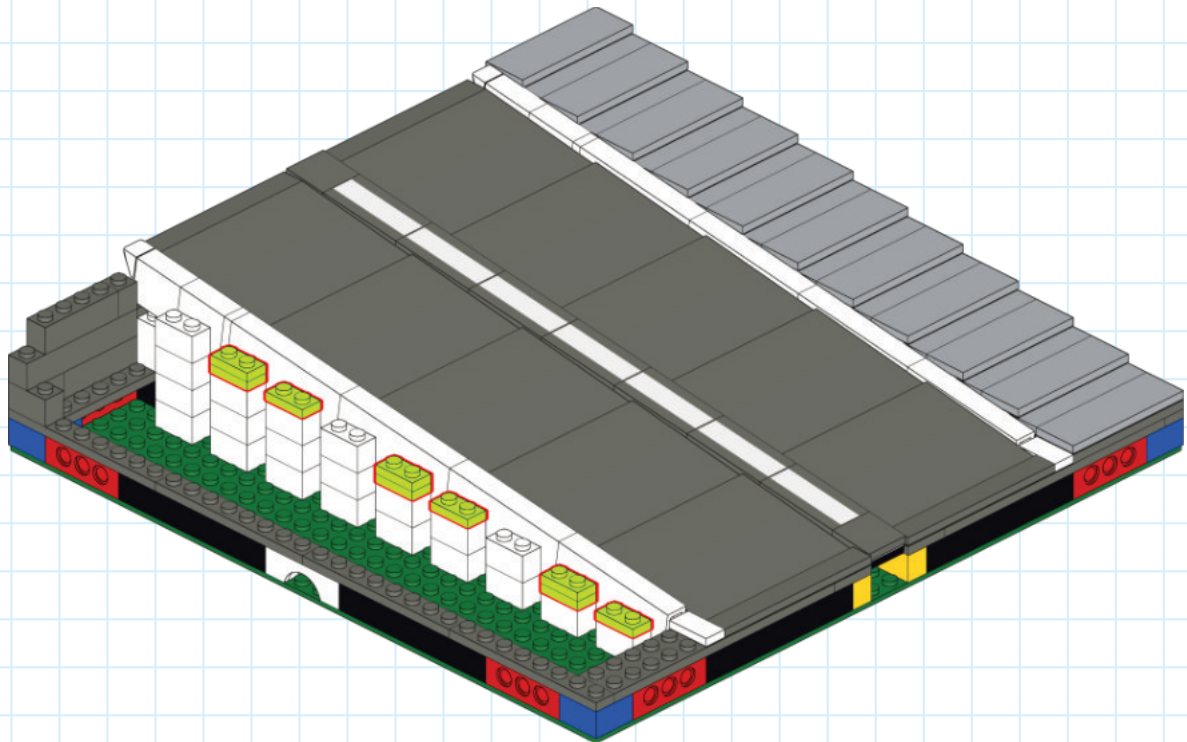
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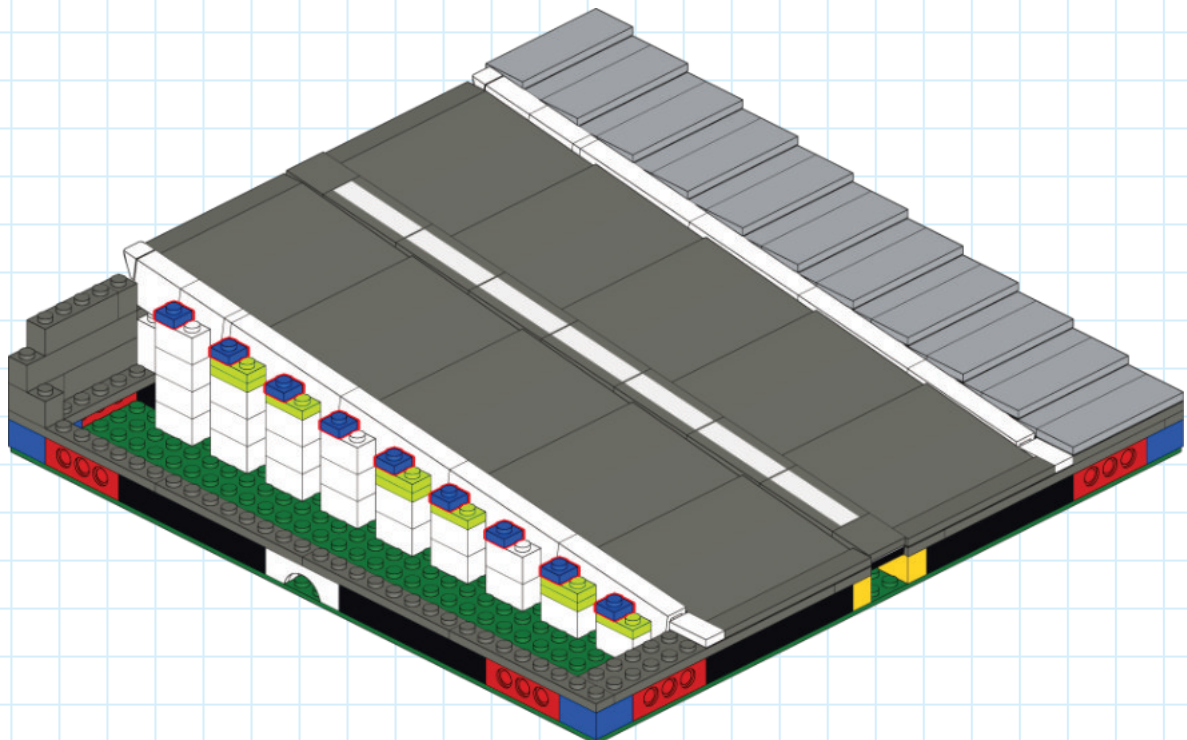
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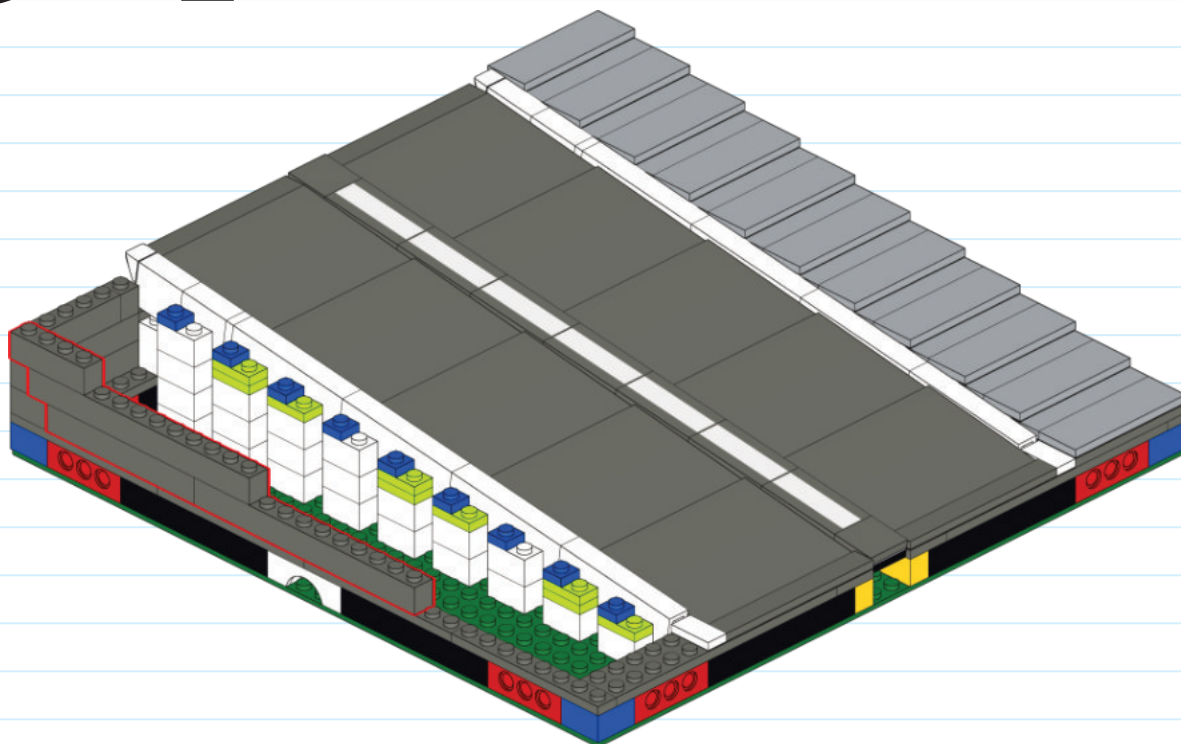
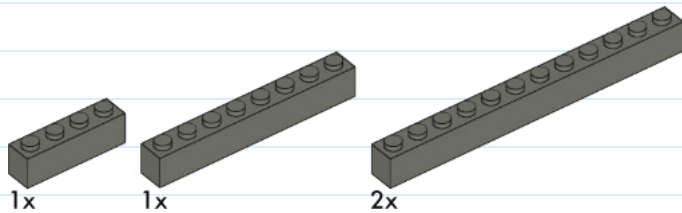
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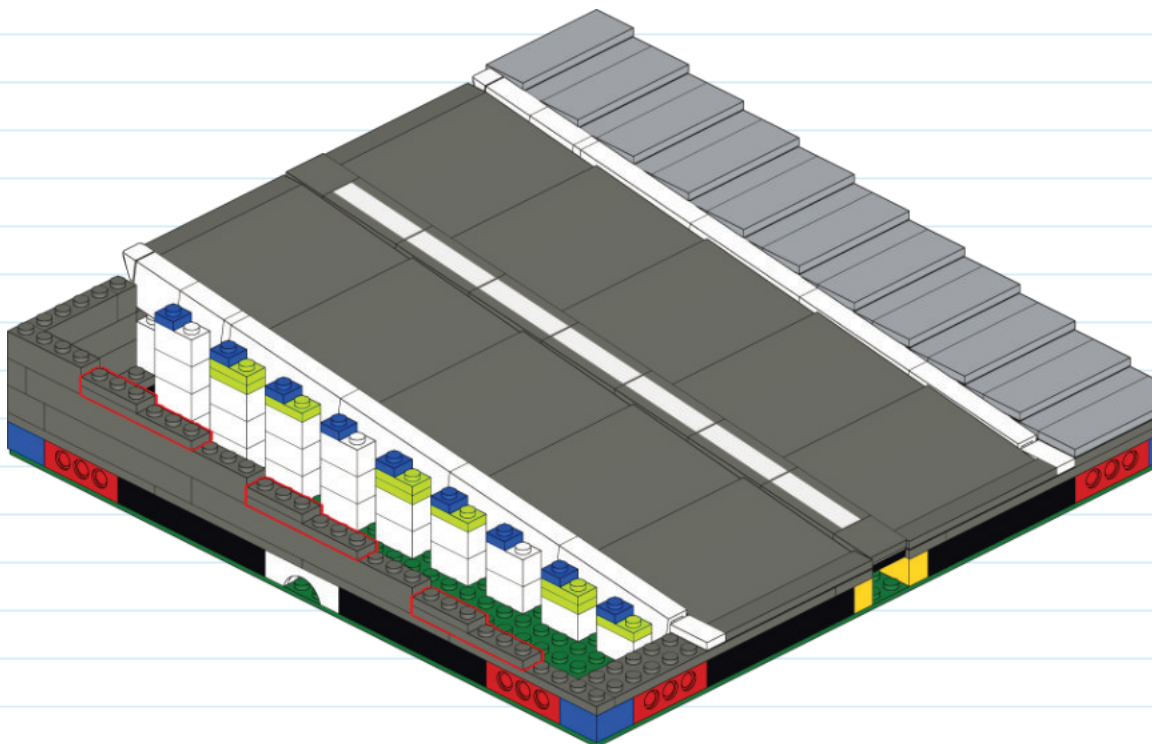
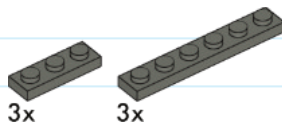
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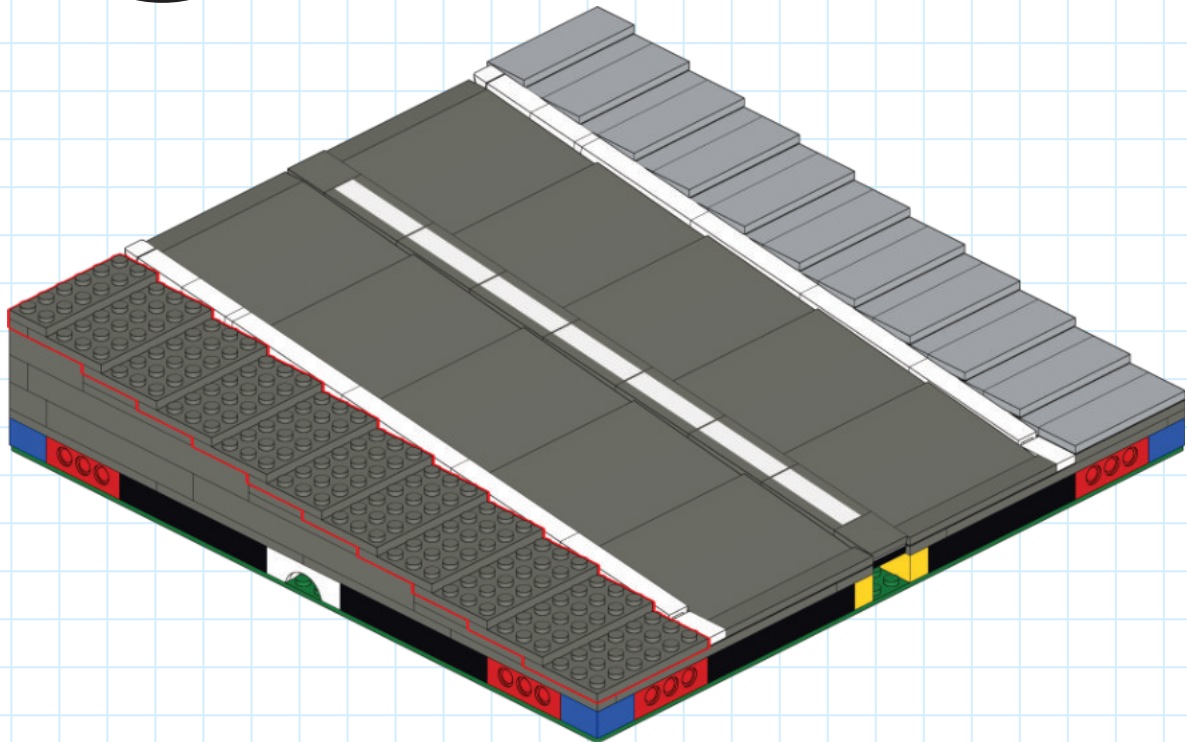
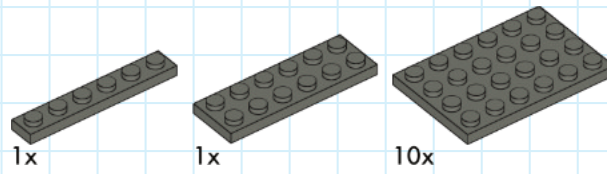
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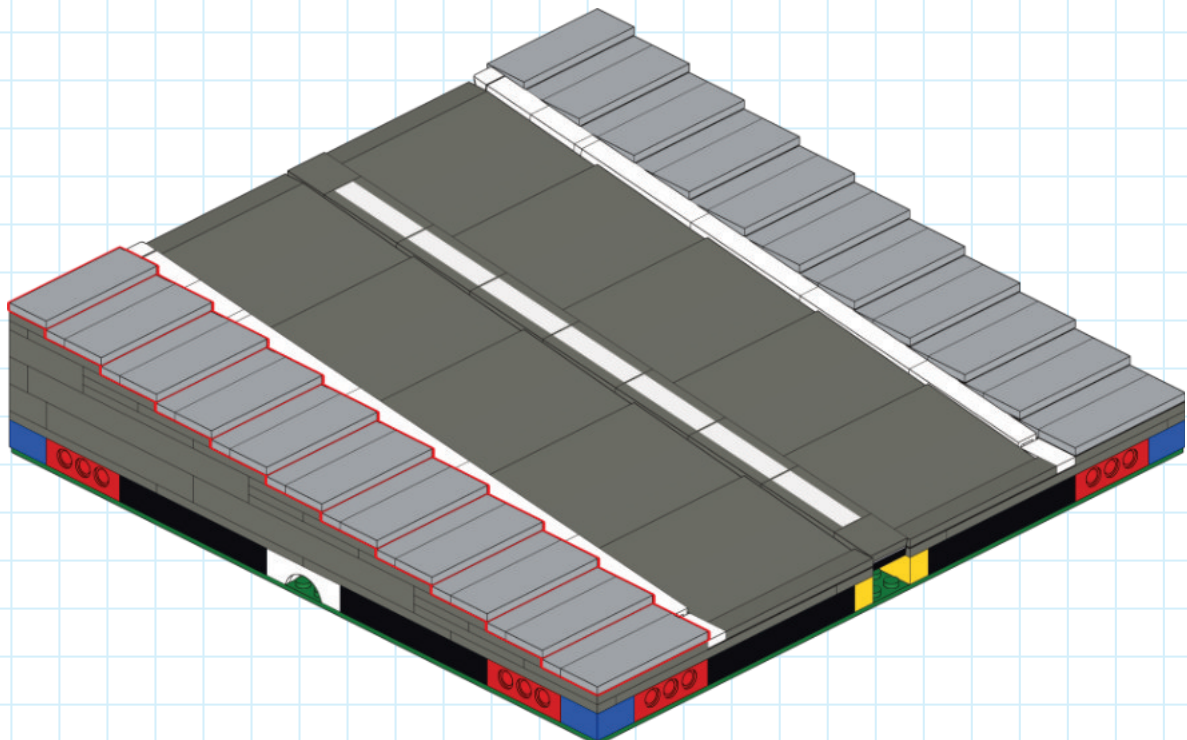
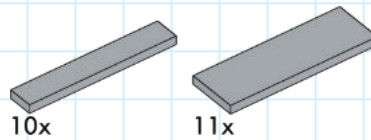
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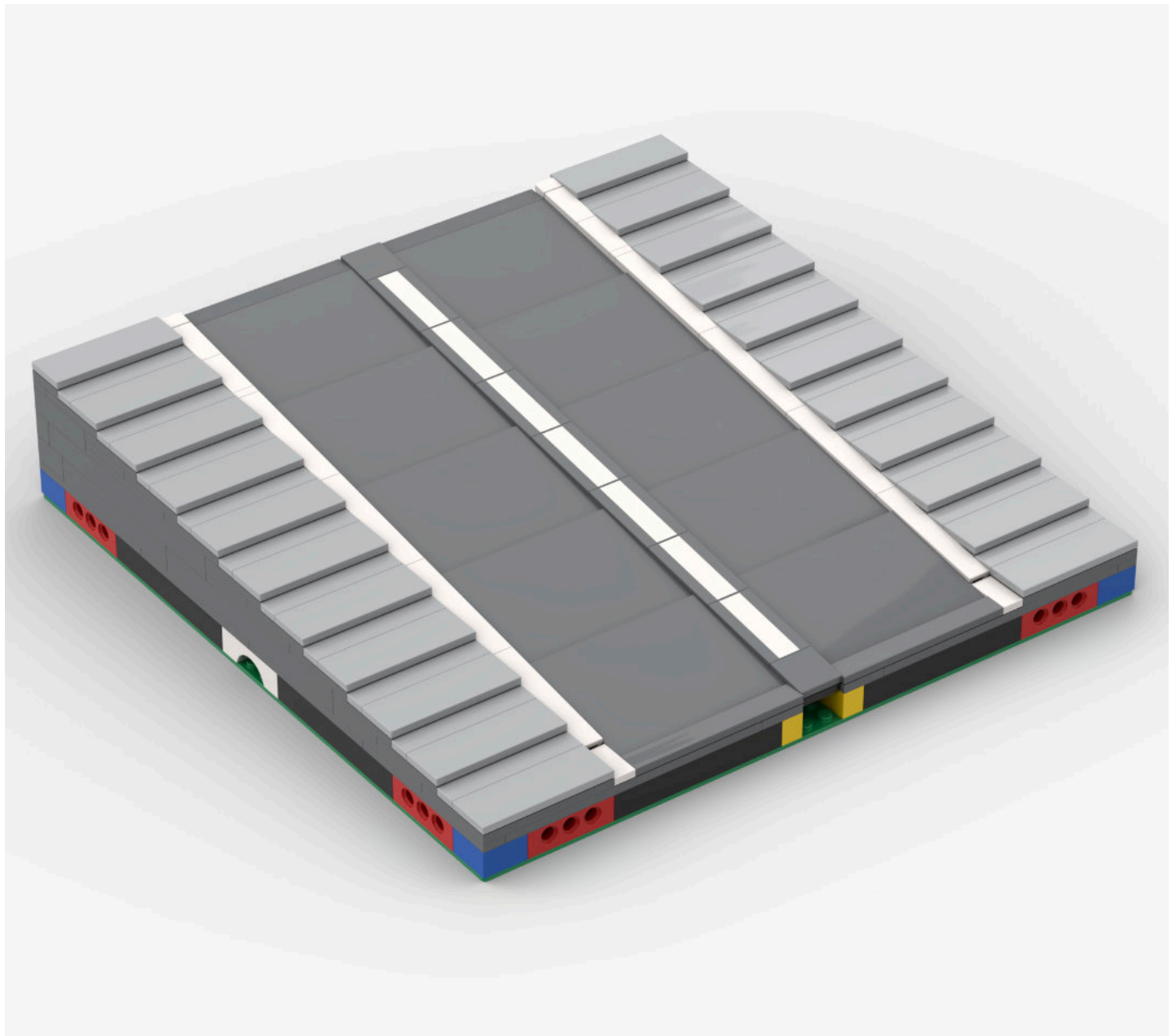


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Parts List

2 1 x 2 Jumper	1 Plate 2 x 4	3 Arch 1 x 4
2 Brick 2 x 2 Corner, dbg	3 Plate 2 x 2	8 Plate 1 x 6, dbg
3 Brick 2 x 2 Corner	2 Plate 2 x 2, dbg	8 Technic Brick 1 x 4
4 Plate 2 x 12, dbg	42 Plate 1 x 2	3 Plate 1 x 4
3 Plate 2 x 12	18 Plate 1 x 1	2 Plate 2 x 6, dbg
8 Brick 1 x 2 x 5, white	20 Plate 4 x 6, dbg	1 Baseplate 32 x 32
1 Brick 2 x 6, dbg	1 Plate 2 x 8	1 Plate 2 x 10
2 Plate Round 2 x 2 (Boat Stud)	2 Tile 2 x 2, dbg	1 Technic Liftarm Thick 1 x 13
1 Brick 2 x 4	1 Tile 2 x 2	4 Tile 1 x 8, dbg
10 Brick 2 x 2	2 Tile 1 x 2, white	2 Technic Liftarm Thin 1 x 2 - Axle Holes
2 Brick 1 x 2, dbg	4 Technic Axle 2L Notched	10 Slope 10 6 x 8, dbg
81 Brick 1 x 2	4 Brick 1 x 2 x 2, white	2 Slope 30 1 x 1 x 2/3, white
4 Brick 1 x 1, dbg	1 Technic Pin Connector Plate with Hole on Bottom	2 Plate Modified 1 x 2 with Bar Handle on End, white
4 Brick 2 x 8	1 Technic Pin Connector Plate 1 x 2 x 1 2/3 with 2 Holes on Top	4 Brick 1 x 12, dbg
4 Brick 1 x 8, dbg	2 Brick 1 x 1 x 1 2/3 with Studs on Side	2 Technic Liftarm Thin 1 x 3 - Axle Holes
4 Brick 1 x 8	8 Plate 1 x 8, dbg	20 Tile 1 x 6, lbg
4 Brick 1 x 6, dbg	10 Plate 1 x 8	22 Tile 2 x 6, lbg
4 Brick 1 x 4, dbg	6 Plate 1 x 3, dbg	7 Tile 2 x 4 with White Stripe Pattern, dbg
2 Brick 1 x 4		2 Plate Modified 1 x 2 with Clip on Top

Curling Up with plastic sheets

By Mark Favreau

I thought the nine-headed beast had been perched motionless atop the shelf for ten months. It was time to disassemble and retire the beast to make way for something new to go on display. Then I noticed. It hadn't been entirely motionless. The sheet plastic wings were quite curled at the ends.

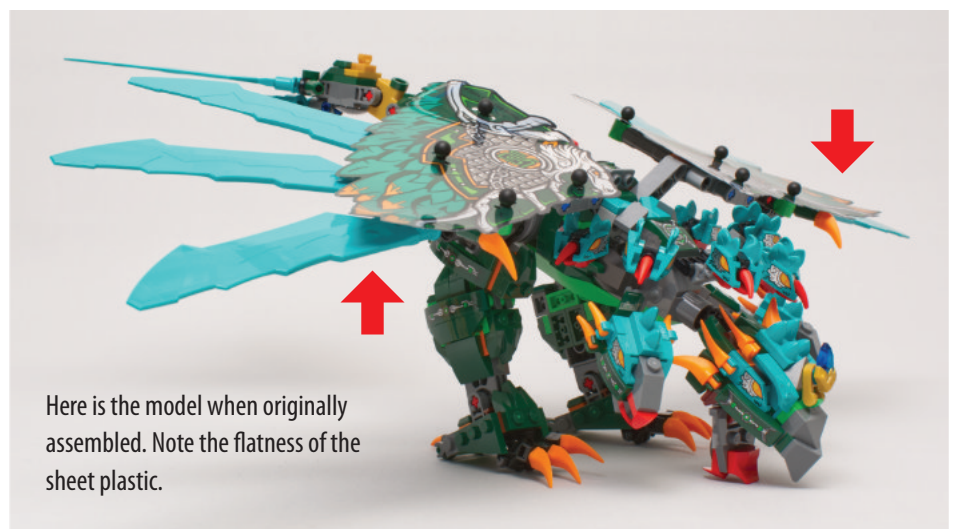
The plastic was flat enough where the pins held the sheet to the model, but I suspected the only reason it was flat was the pins holding it down. Sure enough, when the sheet was unpinned the whole thing curled more or less uniformly.

There was more disappointment than surprise upon observing this condition. I'd known for years that if one covered a sheet of paper or cardboard with paint that the sheet would curl. The paint would dry and contract at a different rate than the substrate and voilà the curl. The solution to counteract the curl was to paint the other side of the sheet.

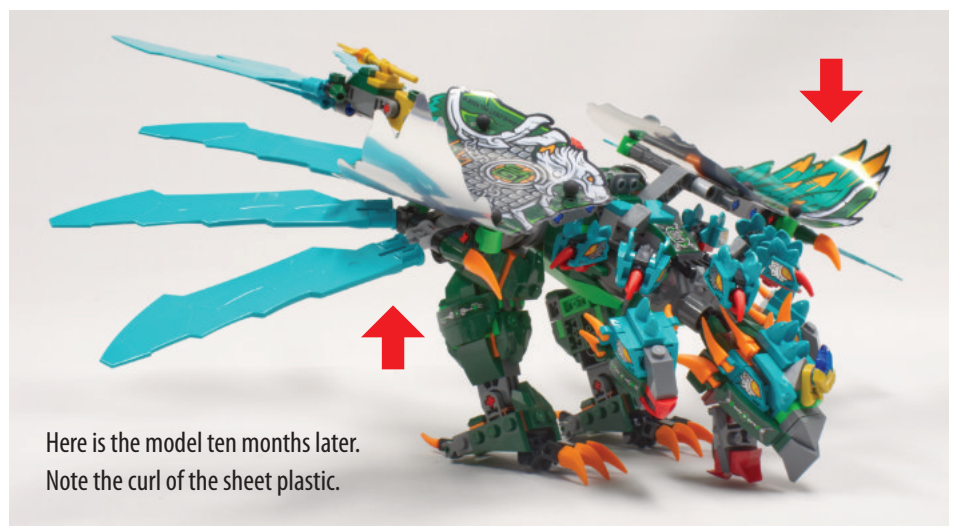
I was curious, though, to see if a little heat might remedy the situation. I took out the hair dryer, pointed it at the printed side of the sheet for a couple minutes, and the sheet did relax somewhat. As soon as the heat was removed, however, the sheet quite quickly began to curl again. I had expected it to curl gradually, but that was not the case. The sheet popped and jumped abruptly in a series of steps and after that there was gradual return to its full curl. I then left the sheet alone for a day to see if there would be additional curling, and there was, but it was extremely minimal.

I repeated the procedure a day later and this time the return to the curl was gradual, no jumps, and again it took no more time to return to the curl than it had taken to flatten it.

Next I tried putting the heat to the unprinted



Here is the model when originally assembled. Note the flatness of the sheet plastic.



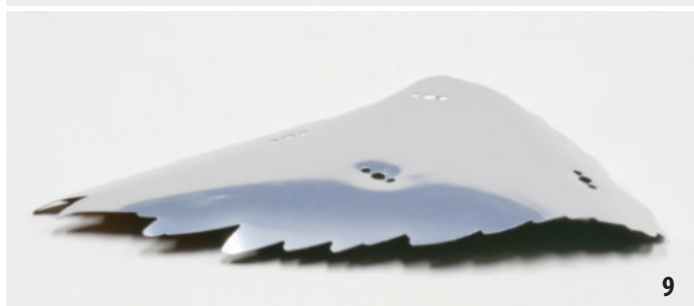
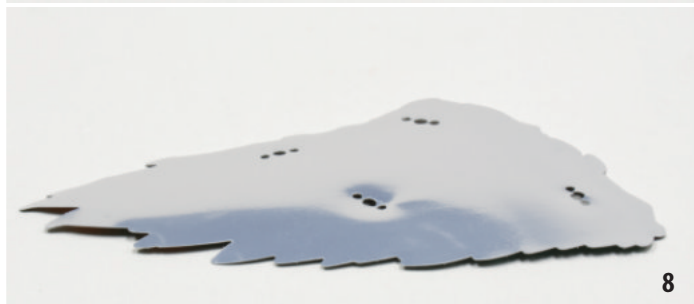
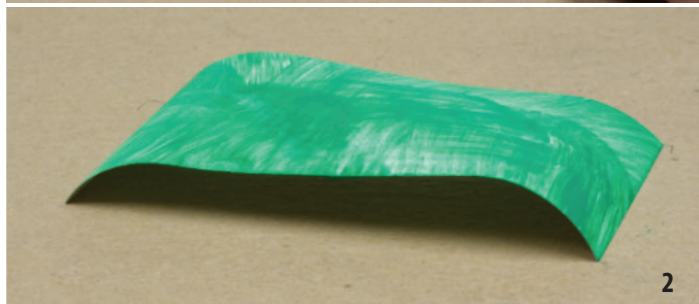
Here is the model ten months later. Note the curl of the sheet plastic.

side of the sheet. It again flattened, and this time perhaps a bit more than before. The curl did again return, but this time it was far more gradual, taking quite a while. Leaving it printed side down, it appeared to curl from all sides around the center as opposed to the earlier side-to-side curl along the long axis.

After two days without change, I turned the

sheet printed side up and it immediately began to curl as it had earlier. It started with small jumps then over the course of a day gradually returned to the initial full curl.

Further testing might yield more information, but to the extent of what was tested here the conclusion is that the plastic is going to curl and stay curled in an average room environment.



1 Paint being applied to a card. 2 Wet paint on card. 3 Dried card showing curl. 4 Immediately after heat applied first time. 5 Moments later. 6 Minutes later.

7 Back immediately after heat application. 8 Seconds later. 9 After two days. 10 Flipping over. 11 Moments later. 12 One day later.

THE Pink BRICK



Story by Rafael Muriel
Photos by Antonio Bellón a.k.a "Legotrón"

As AFOLS, we like to share our hobby as well as our MOCs and collections. We love to talk about it in such scope that we might never finish covering its various aspects, such as techniques, builders, pieces, and of course talking about LUGs. This time we will talk with Fran Fontán, president of the recently created association of LEGO users focused on events supporting cancer research.

HBM: Hi Fran, why yet another LUG?

FF: And why not? It is the eternal question asked by the fan who gets into a "consolidated" LUG and sees that he does not find his place in it, either because it is too big, or because of the groups already created within it, with specific themes, in which he does not find the expected welcome and help to start. So we thought why not do it, but do it our way and the way we would have liked the experience to be when we started. I do not know if we will be better than what we know, but we are going to put a lot of enthusiasm and passion into it. Regardless of the LUG theme, we felt the need to do something more, to do our bit. And so we came up with the idea of combining our hobby with events to support the fight against cancer.

HBM: How was this project conceived?

FF: The idea came after an event we did last year for the AECC (Spanish Association Against Cancer) in Pamplona. Legotron, one of our members, was approached with the idea of doing an event together with the 501st Legion and The Pink Force. At that time, due to personal issues, he could not organize the event, so he started to call people he knew. These people called their acquaintances, and we got together as a small group of people. The experience was positive in every respect, from the event itself to the personal relationships between those who were part of it. Also appealing was the idea of doing something more for others. And all this led us to ask ourselves why not?

HBM: How many members are there at the moment?

FF: Right now there are eleven of us, but we already have five more people interested in joining. We are not looking for an excessively large LUG, as we prefer something small yet committed to our values.

HBM: What was the event or meeting that triggered the idea of creating a new LUG? As clearly creating an association like this is not something that is discussed one afternoon and then up and running the next day.



FF: It was an exhibition we did in Portugalete (Bilbao) at the Rialia Museum, and that's where most of us got to know each other. The event was positive in all respects, both personally and in terms of the exhibition's execution. Everything went smoothly and the exhibition was spectacular. Since that event, a large part of the people that make up this new project "The Pink Brick" have kept in touch.

HBM: Each LUG has its own guidelines and therefore its own direction, so what is the main idea of the group?

FF: To organize, manage and collaborate in events related to LEGO® pieces and products with the aim of promoting and raising funds for the fight against cancer and other diseases, but always trying to foster a space of understanding, good atmosphere and camaraderie among the people who make up this LUG.

HBM: Sometimes this path leads us to others who have nothing to do with LEGO. So do you collaborate with other associations beyond LUGS?

FF: Yes, we have collaborated with the Spanish Association Against Cancer in Bizkaia and Navarra, and also with The Pink Force Foundation and the 501st Legion. We are open to collaborating with other associations or entities related to our

purposes, so any proposal is welcome.

HBM: Do you have a calendar of upcoming events? Have you already held any, and how did they go?

FF: We are preparing some events but still have no confirmed dates. As soon as we know something more, we will post it on our social media. Here are our links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572290108087>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tpb_the_pink_brick/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUSj3dNQsyfa6SM0tdrGzA>

X: <https://x.com/TPBThePinkBrick>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@thepinkbrick>

Web: <https://thepinkbrick.org/>

In April this year we celebrated our first event as THE PINK BRICK in Mungia (Bilbao). It was a weekend event and we were very happy with how it went and the great atmosphere. We collaborated with the AECC by placing collection boxes to raise money.

HBM: What is the group's position regarding other LUGs?

FF: We have the greatest respect for other LUGS, since many of us come from other

associations and still participate in them. As far as we are able we would like to collaborate with anyone in any event with LEGO pieces.

HBM: Do you plan to keep the group open and expand your membership?

FF: The idea is to bring in new people who are interested in what we do and who we are, and who share our interests.

HBM: If someone decides to take that step, how can they contact you?

FF: They can contact us via email at contacto@thepinkbrick.org, mentioning New Incorporation in the subject (it can also be in English of course). We will get in touch with the person in the shortest possible time.

HBM: What challenges have you faced in organizing these events and how have you overcome them?

FF: The main challenge is finding a balance between what the LUG can do, what the organizer has in mind, and the time we are given to put together something new from scratch. Many times people think that making a big diorama is a matter of just a few weeks, while in reality it takes much more time. That is the great challenge, to make people understand that you can do anything you want, but that it requires



significant time to do it. In general, the solution is to put in the hours, with a great team behind every event, from the people who build to the people who organize or manage. Our events would be impossible without all of their work.

HBM: What message would you like to convey to those who support or participate in your exhibitions?

FF: Thank you for the interest and time dedicated to making every event perfect. We hope to live up to everything they contribute, not only to the LUG, but also to the charitable goal behind every event we organize.

HBM: What would you like to say to those who do not yet know about your project but who might be interested in supporting this cause?

FF: We are happy to welcome them and answer any questions they may have about us. We would

like to encourage them to participate from within the association as well as to follow us through the events we are organizing. Do not be scared by the level of the events, because no one is born knowing everything and we are happy to assist each member in the process of joining and learning. We are trying to combine our hobby with charity and solidarity.

HBM: Could you share a memorable story or anecdote about an event or a person who has been impacted by your work?

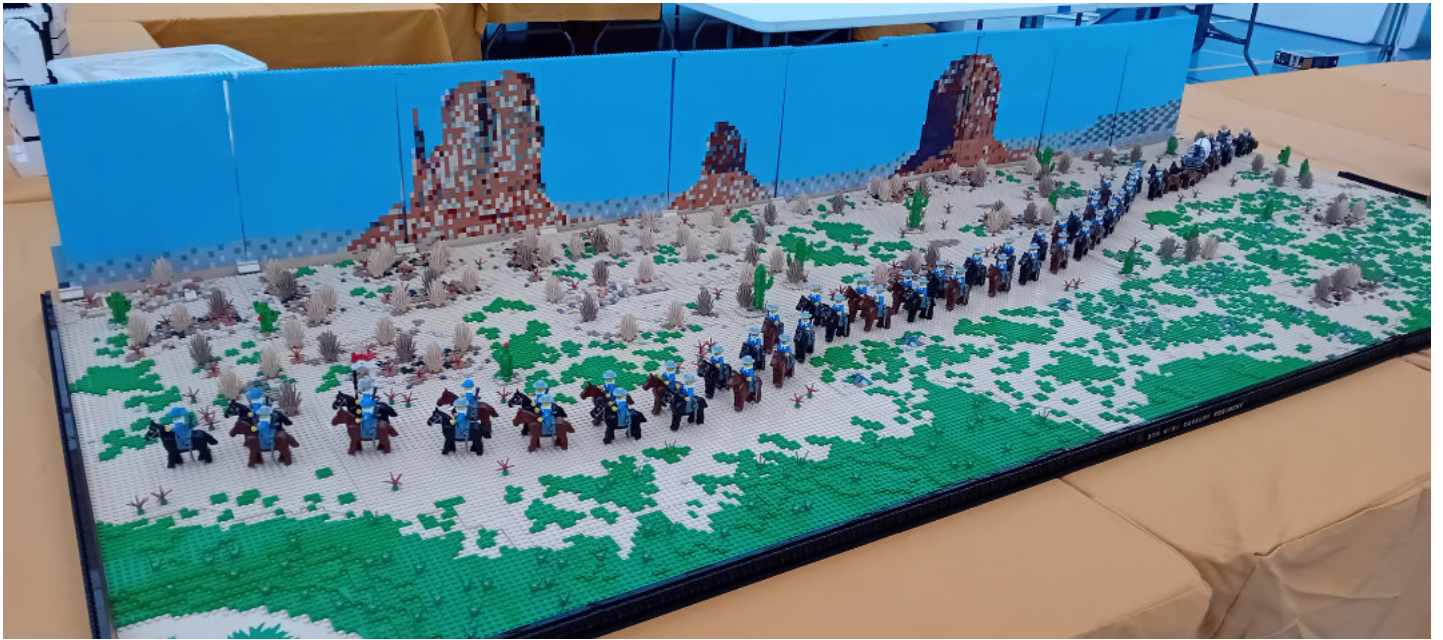
FF: The truth is that we usually have a great time at all the events we do. Although it may not seem like it at times, in the end we remember and laugh fondly about those anecdotes. The most common thing that usually happens to us is that we forget some part of what we are going to exhibit, in spite of checking everything

exhaustively the day before an installation. On some occasions we have had to improvise on the fly or try to assemble something with what we have left over to replace what we have forgotten. On other occasions it has been necessary for one of the crew to go and look for what had been left behind and make a "little trip".

HBM: What would you like people to remember or value most about the activity of your association?

FF: The level of commitment and dedication we have with every event we organize, from the smallest to the largest. The involvement in making sure that the event goes as well as possible so that it has the greatest positive repercussions. And that people enjoy it, both spectators and organizers.





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