



Online K-12 Engineering Education

LEGO Constructopedia

Welcome To The Constructopedia

Major Topics Covered

Charging & Using the EV3 Brick

Overview of Parts in the Kit

Sturdy Structures

Sturdy Motor Attachments

EV3 Sensors

Using Gears

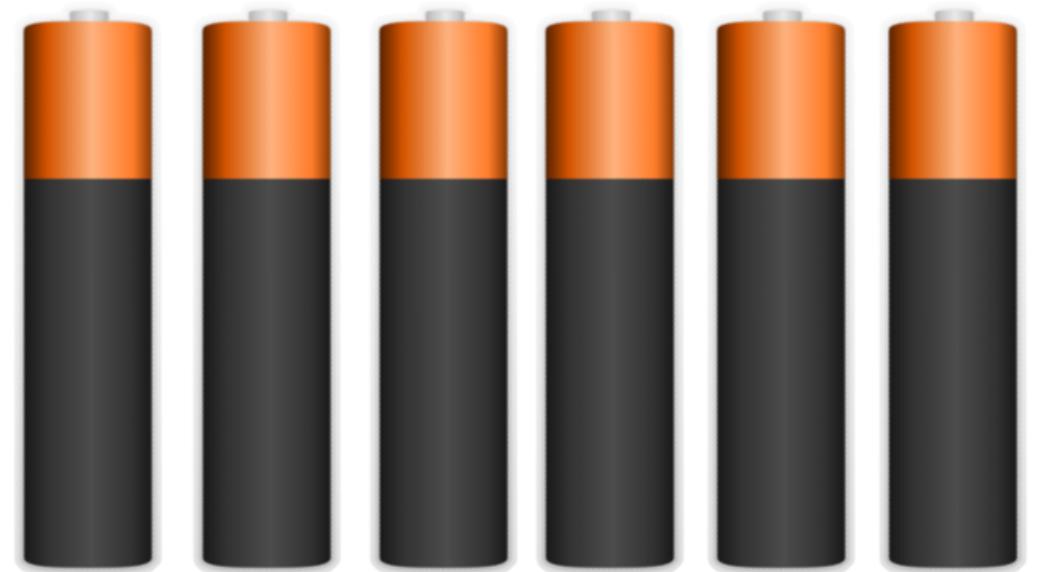
Orange boxes are for important information

Black boxes are for parts you will need for a design

Green boxes are for notes

Blue boxes are for key vocabulary

Charging Your EV3 Battery



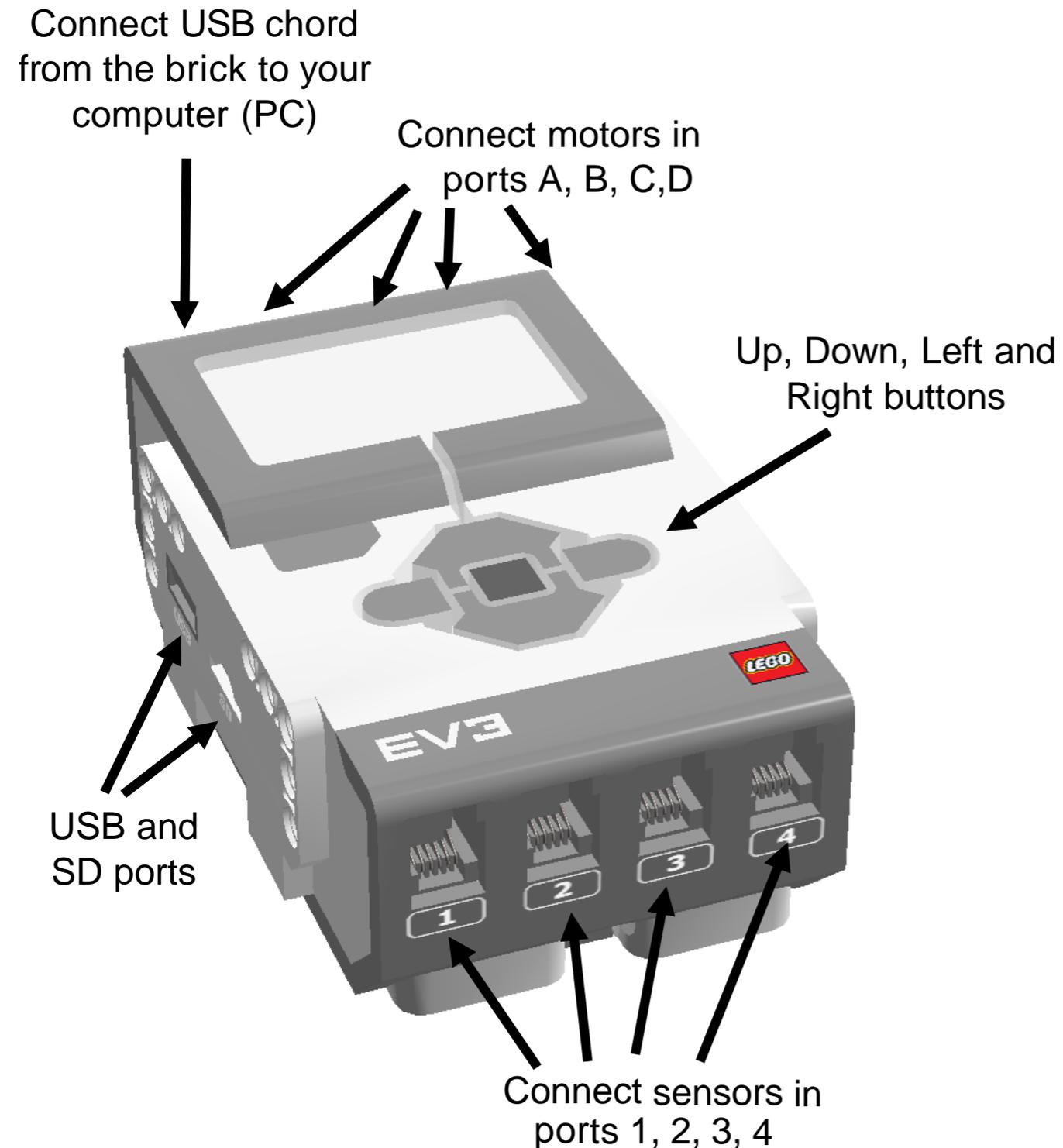
EV3 Rechargeable Battery
with Charger Cord

or

6 AA Batteries

- Takes approximately 4 hours to fully recharge
- Green indicator light turns on when the battery is connected to the power adapter
- Red indicator light is on when the battery is recharging and turns off when it is finished charging
- EV3 Brick can be used when battery is charging

EV3 Brick



Turn your brick **on** by holding down the center dark grey button

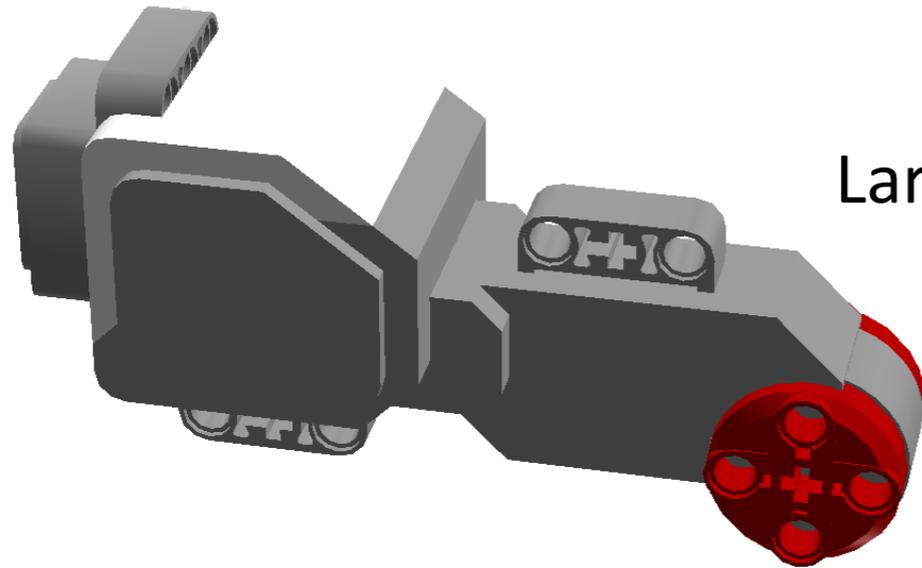
Turn your brick **off** by pressing the grey rectangular button in the top left and selecting the check on the screen with the center button



To access the files you downloaded onto the brick select the second tab then, select your project name "Project" by default, and then scroll using the arrow buttons to find your program file "Program" by default

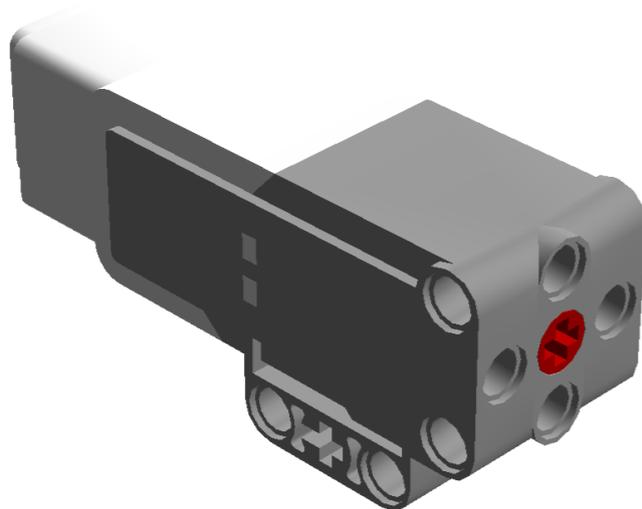
Overview of Parts in the Kit

Motors



Large Motor x2

Medium Motor



USB Cord



Used to connect the EV3 Brick to your computer

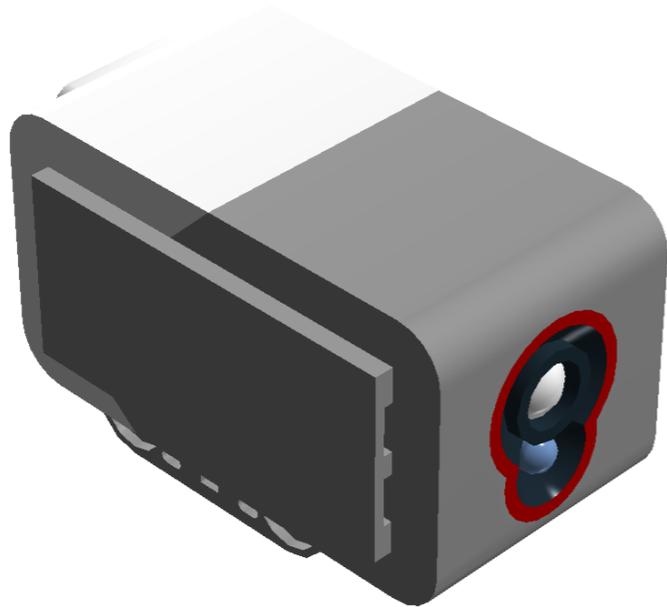
Cables



Cables of varying length used to connect motors and sensors to the brick

Overview of Parts in the Kit

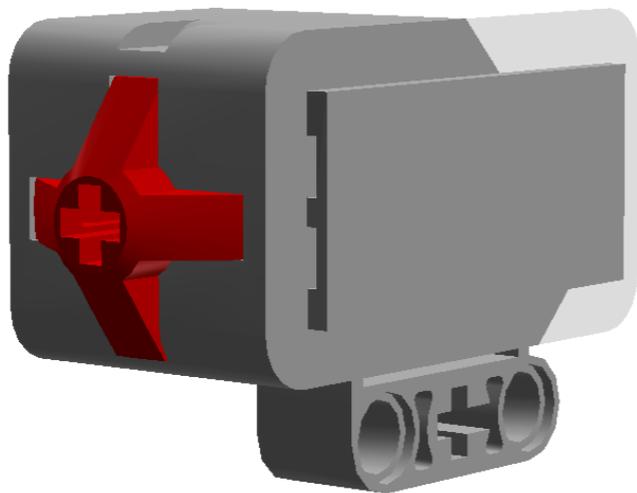
Sensors



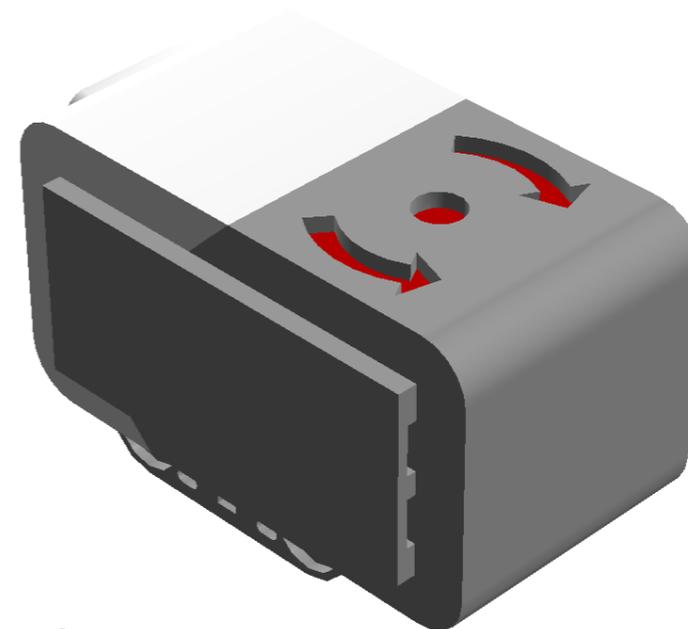
Color Sensor



Ultrasonic Sensor



Touch Sensor x 2



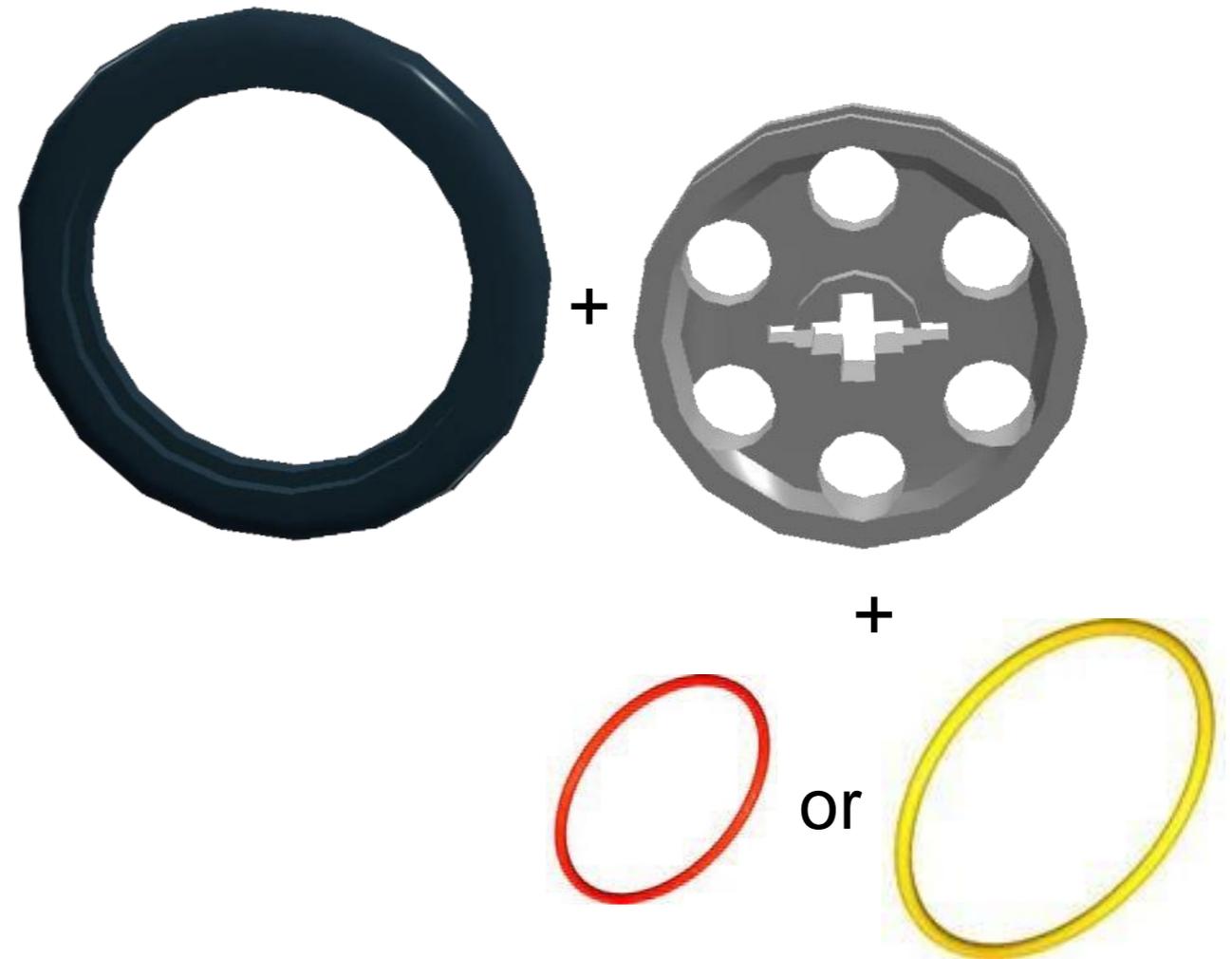
Gyro Sensor

For more detailed information on sensors go to page 36

Overview of Parts in the Kit: Wheels



This wheel must be attached to a cross axle

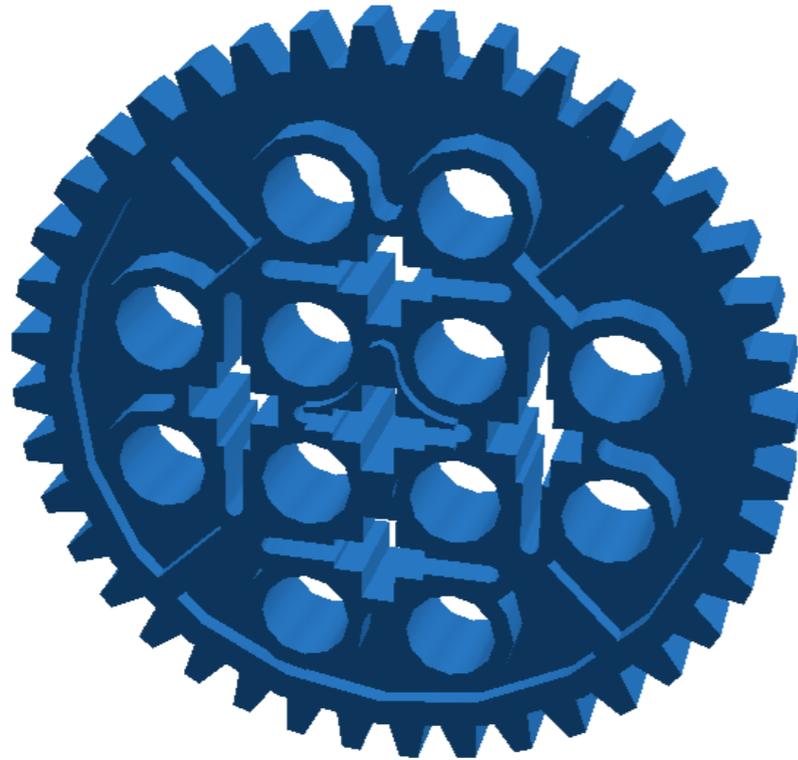


This thin wheel can either be attached to a tire and function as a standard wheel or it can be attached to one of the rubber bands to serve as a pulley wheel

Overview of Parts in the Kit: Different Gear Types



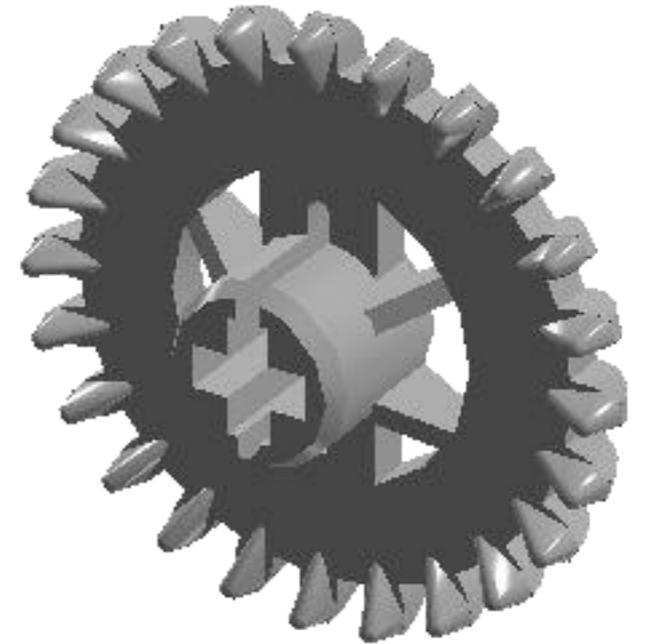
8 Tooth Gear



40 Tooth Gear



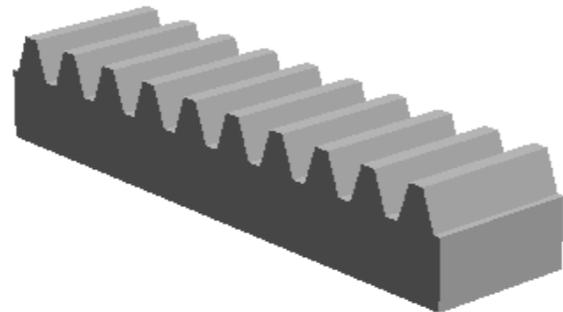
Bevel Gear



Crown Gear



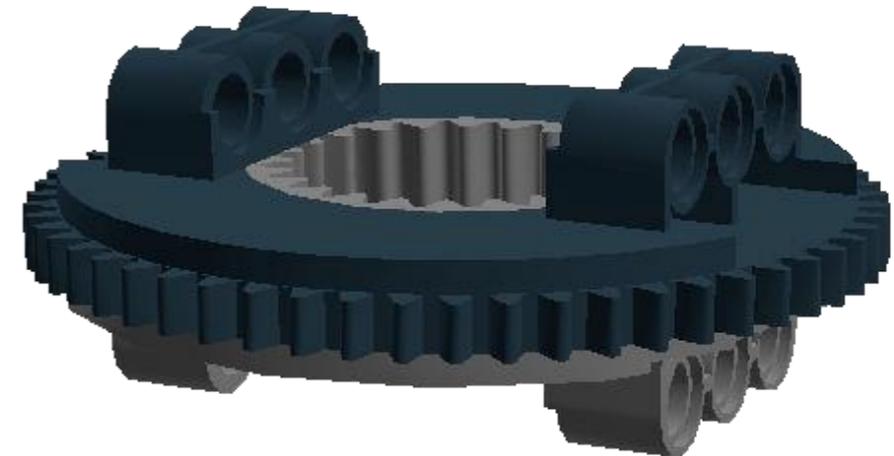
Worm Gear



Gear Rack



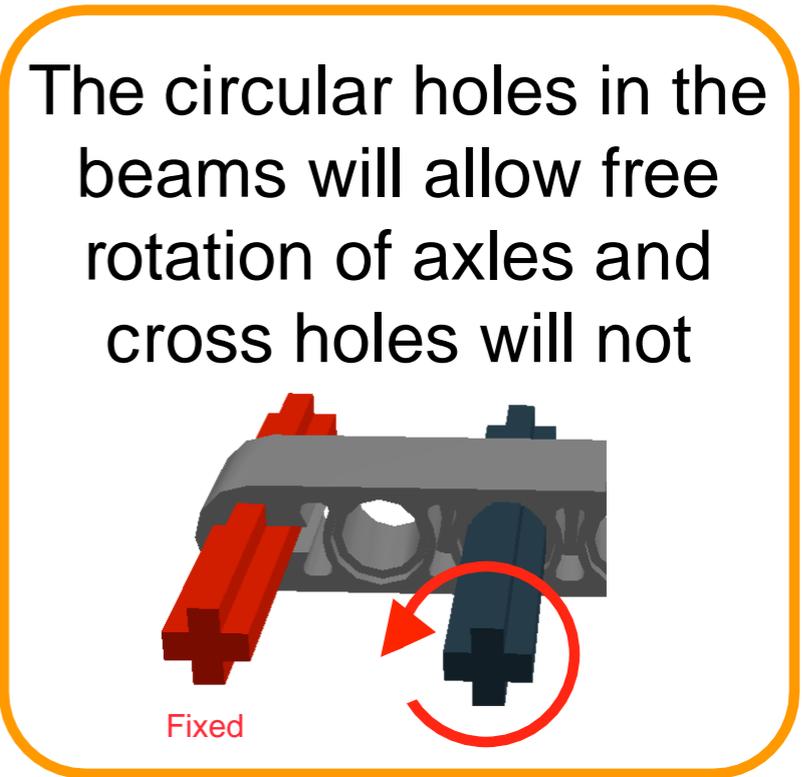
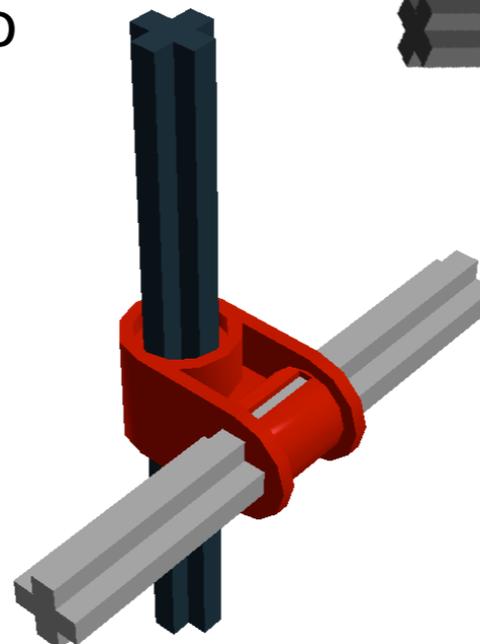
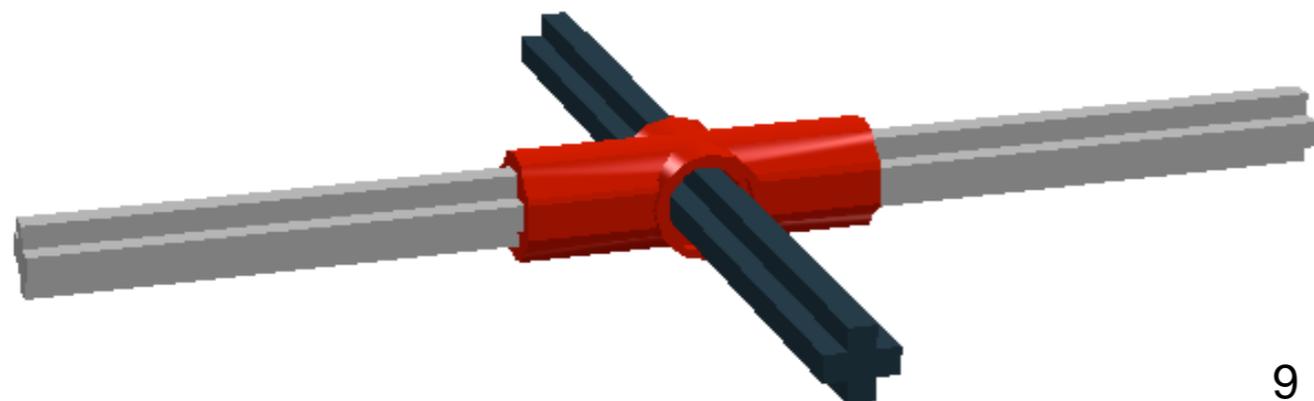
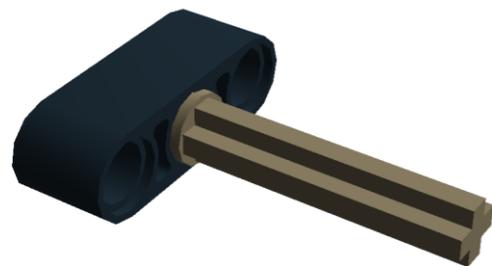
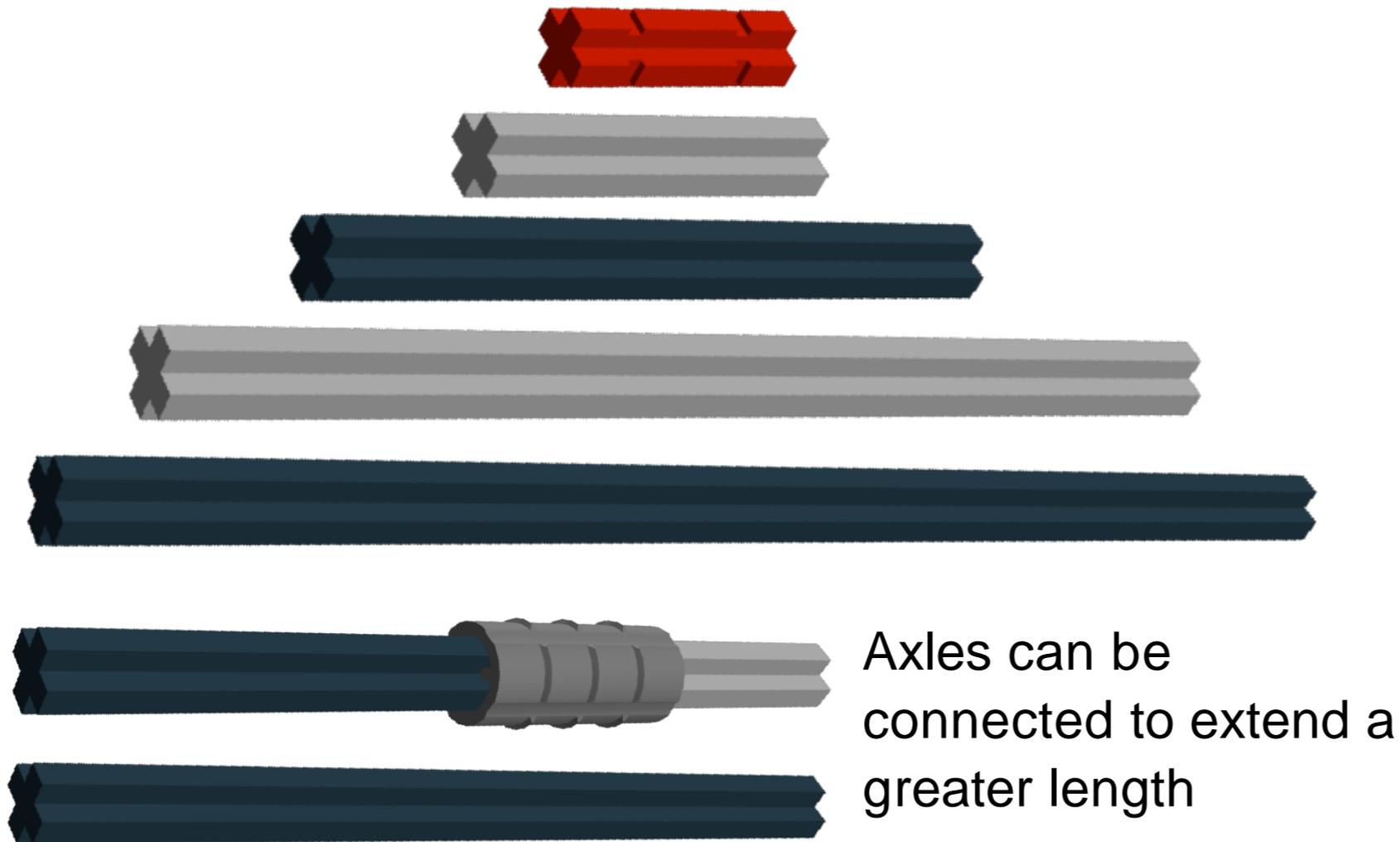
Knob Wheel



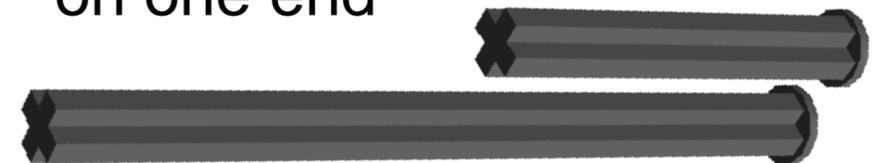
Turntable

For more detailed information using gears go to page 40

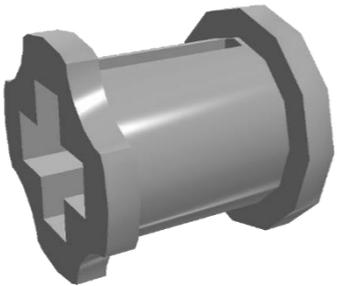
Overview of Parts in the Kit: Axles



Some axles have stops on one end



Overview of Parts in the Kit: Bushings



Full Bushing

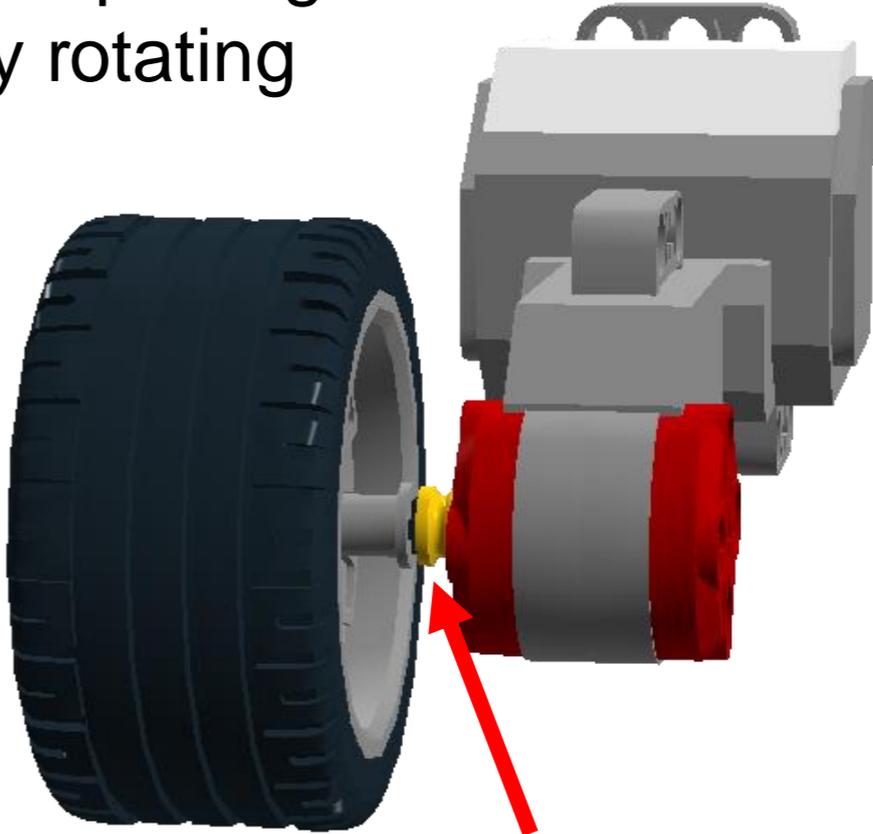


Half Bushing

Bushings are used to create spacing along axles and hold freely rotating objects in place



Bushings keep the wheel from sliding off the axle



A bushing creates spacing between the motor and the wheel so that the wheel won't rub against the motor as it turns

Overview of Parts in the Kit: Pegs



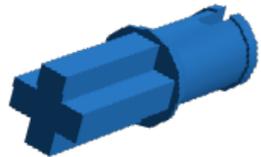
Connector peg with friction

-connects bricks or beams with minimal rotation



Frictionless connector peg

-connects bricks or beams allowing them to rotate freely



Connector peg with cross axle

-connects a cross hole and a circular hole



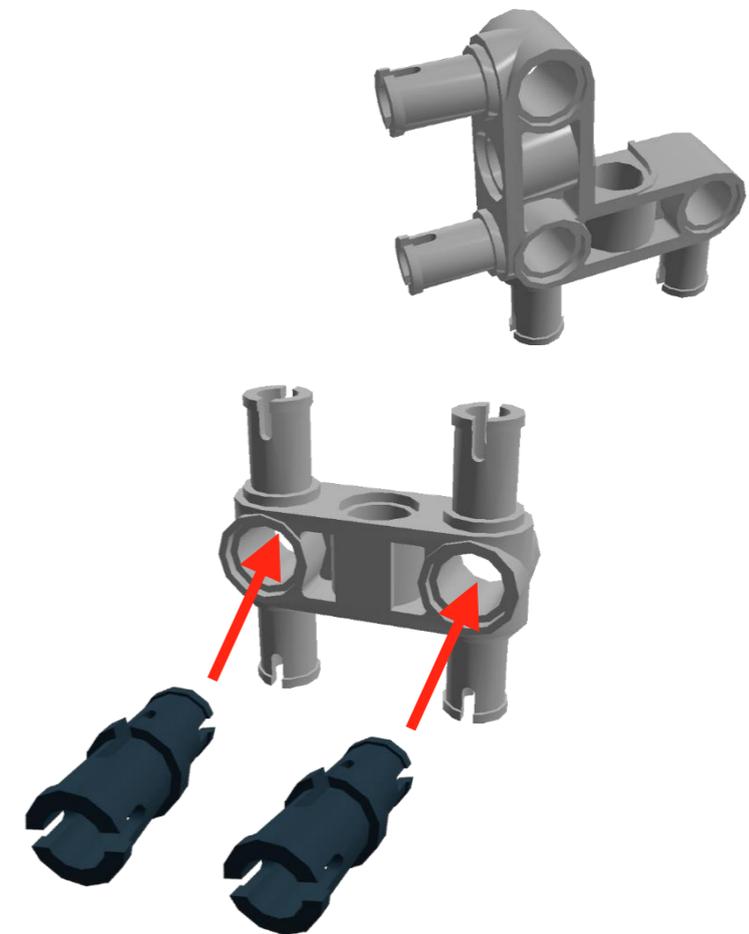
Long connector peg

-extends to connect 3 beams



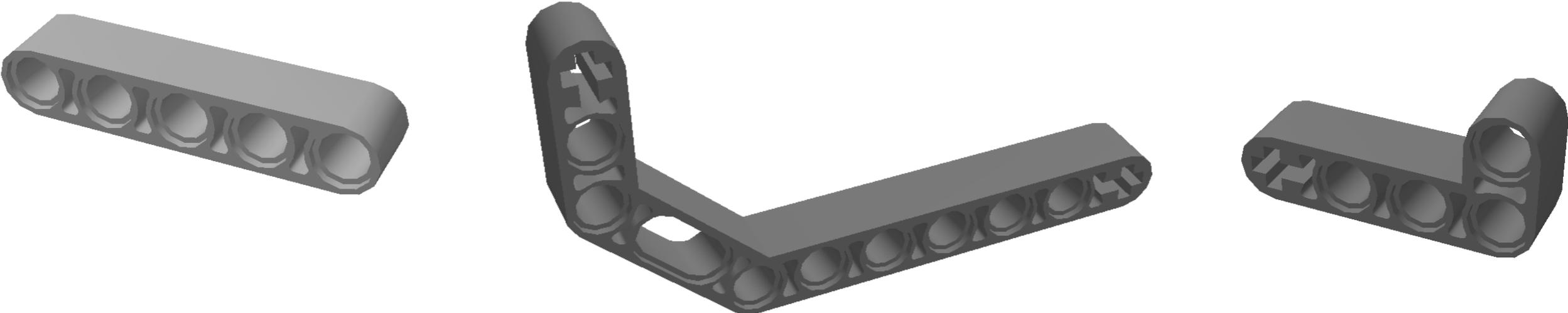
Connector with cross hole

-an axle can be attached at a 90° angle to a beam

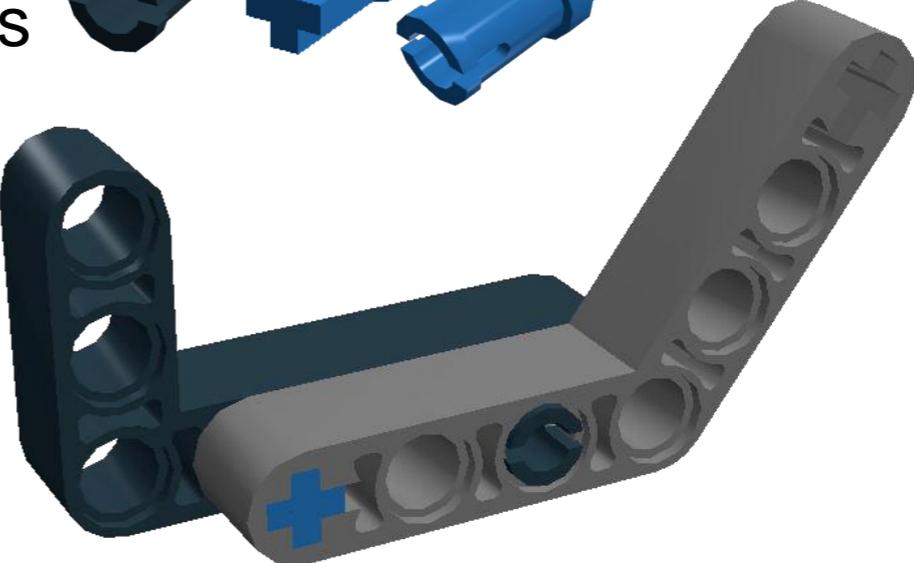
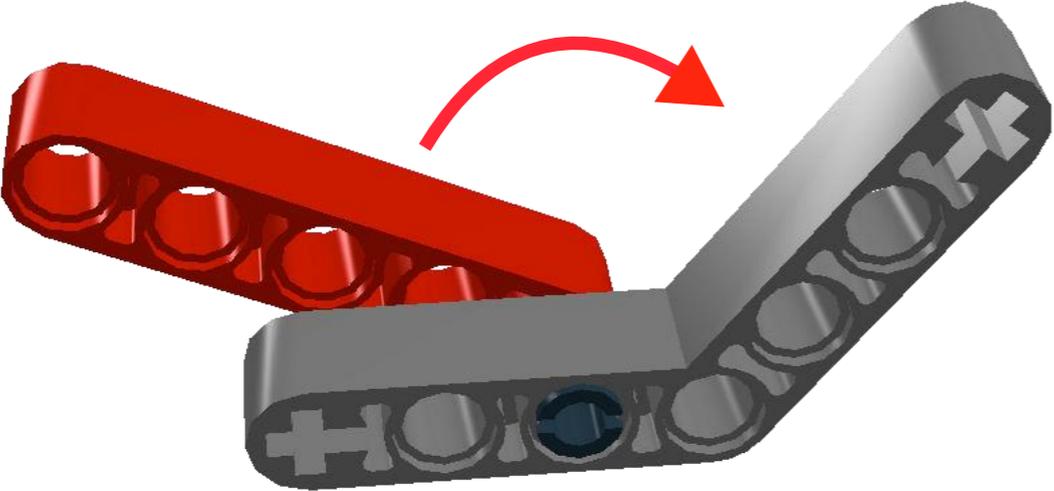
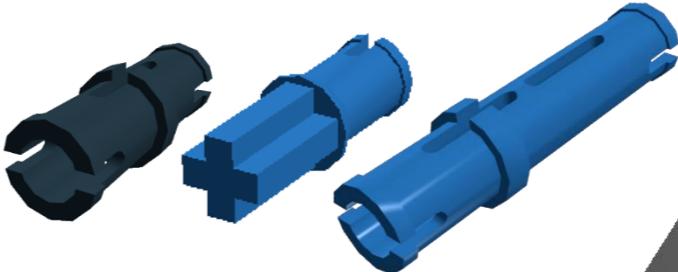


Using pegs or axles with these connectors can allow you to connect beams at different angles

Overview of Parts in the Kit: Technic Beams



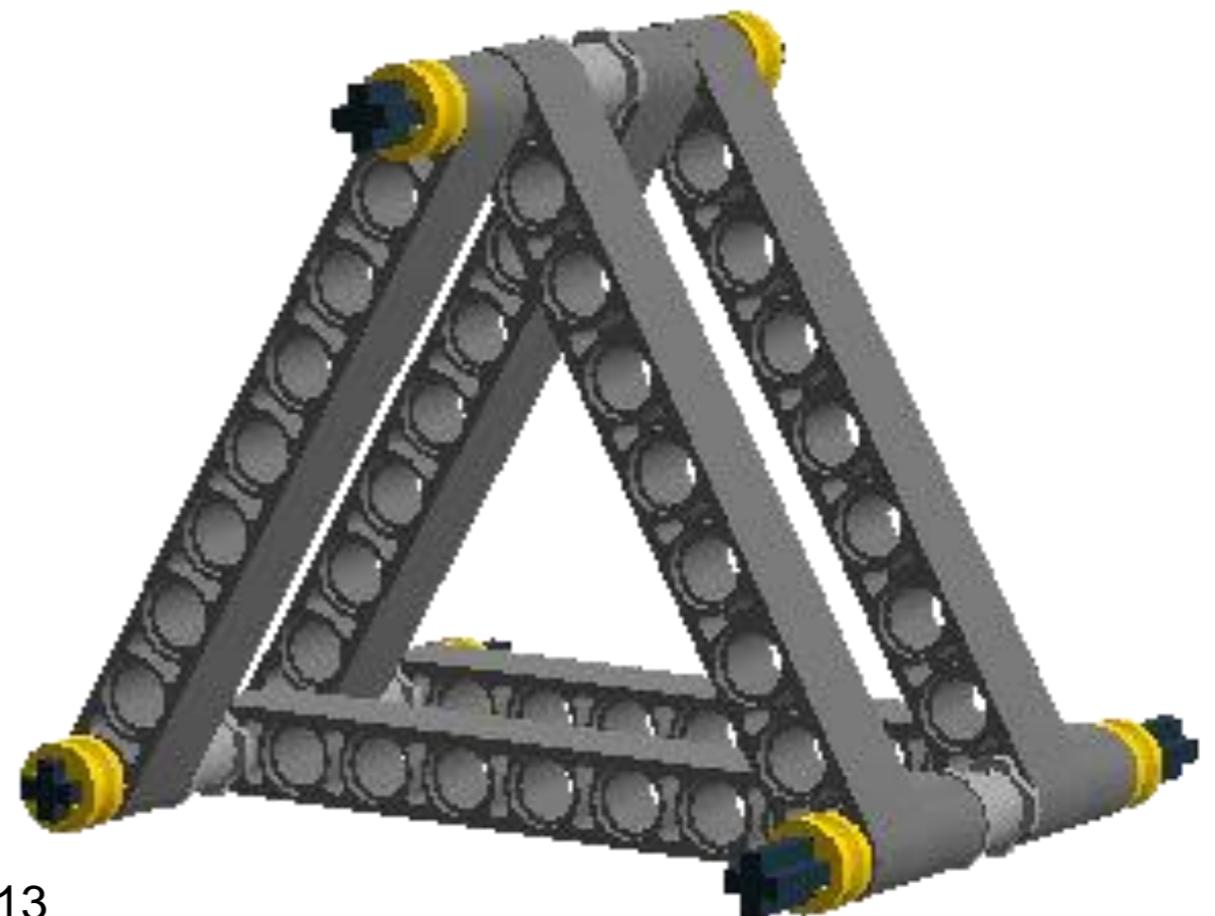
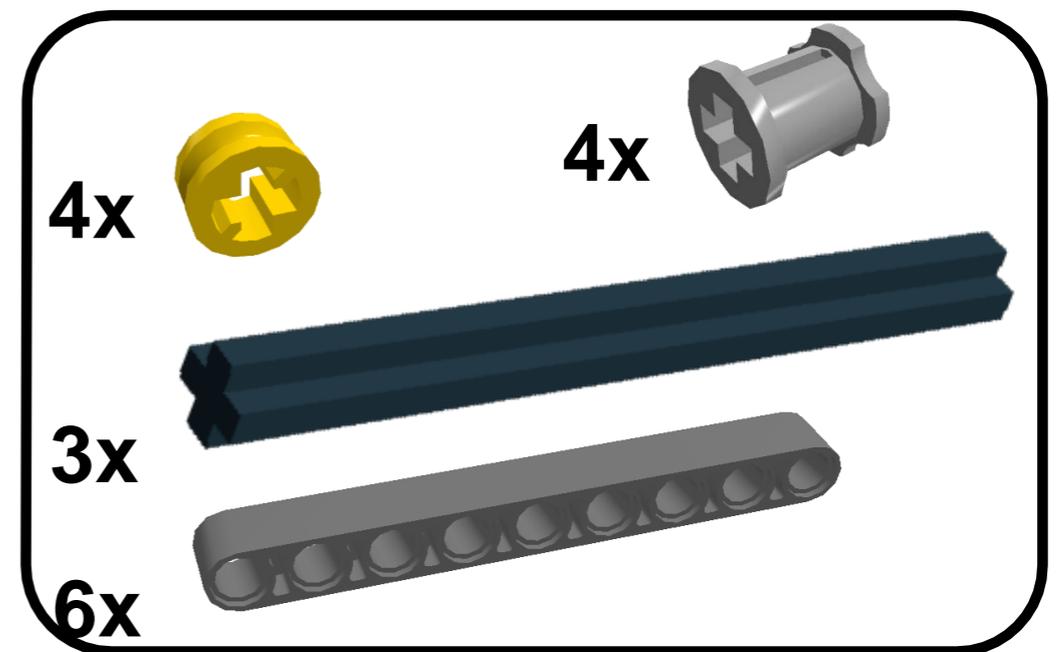
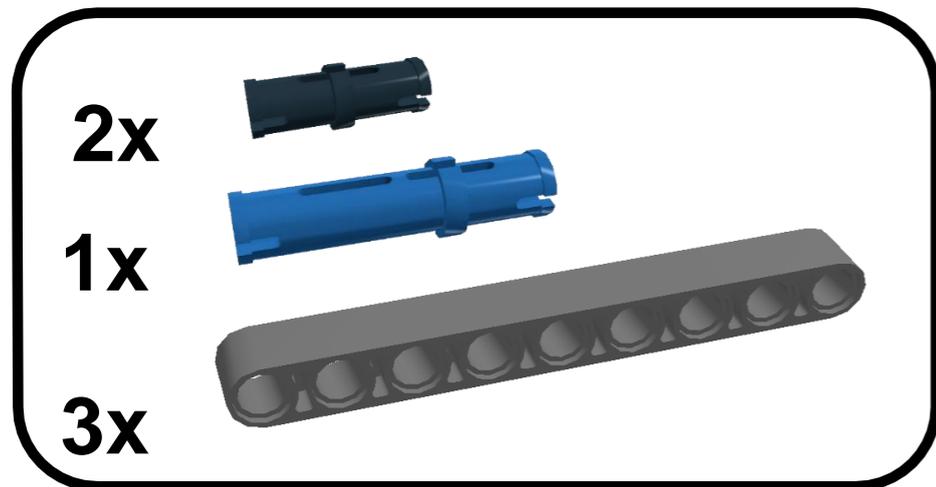
Beams can be connected using a variety of different connector pegs



- Connecting with **one** peg will allow the beams to rotate.
- Connecting with **two or more** pegs will keep the structure rigid

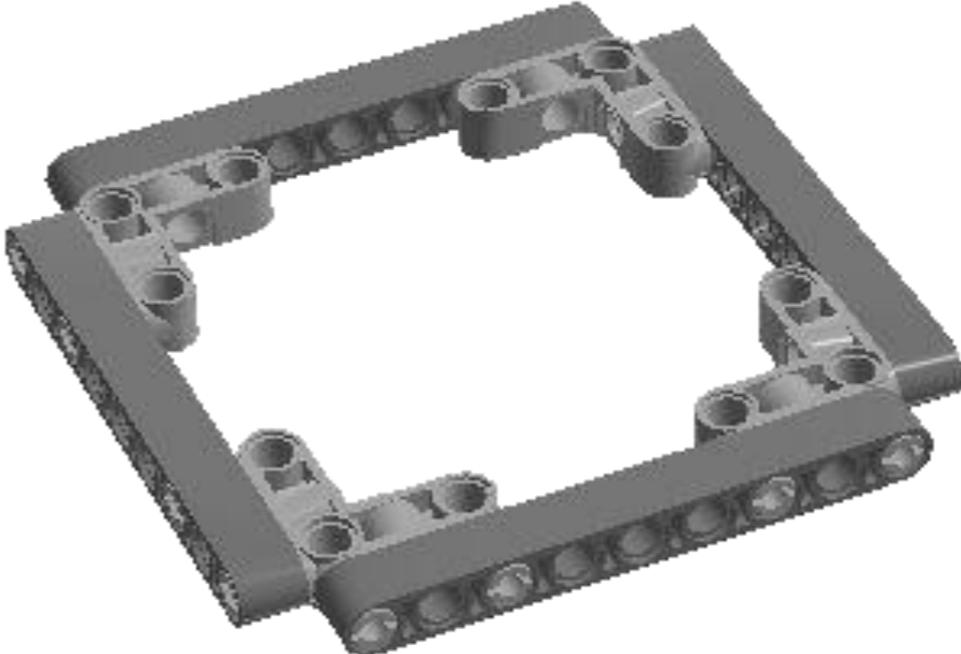
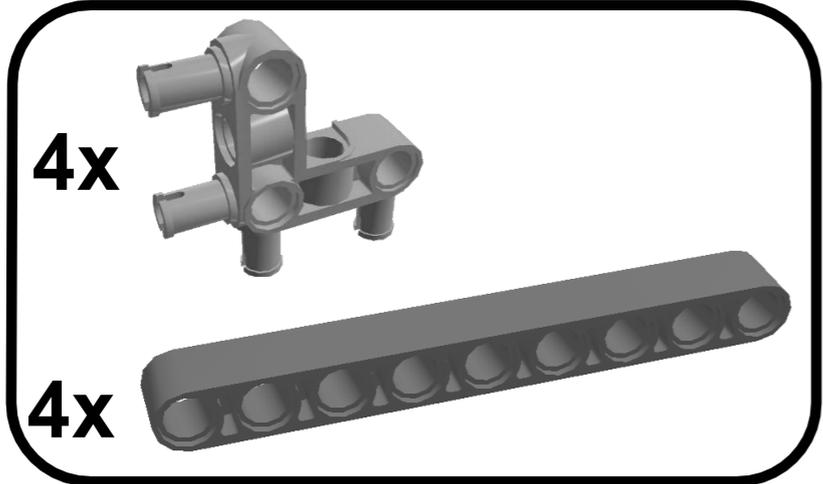
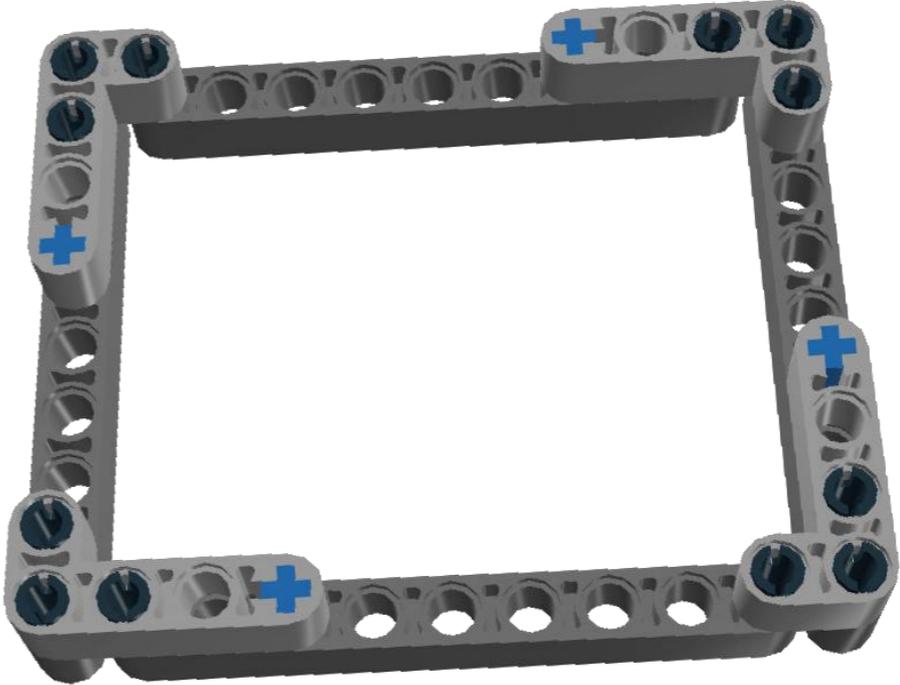
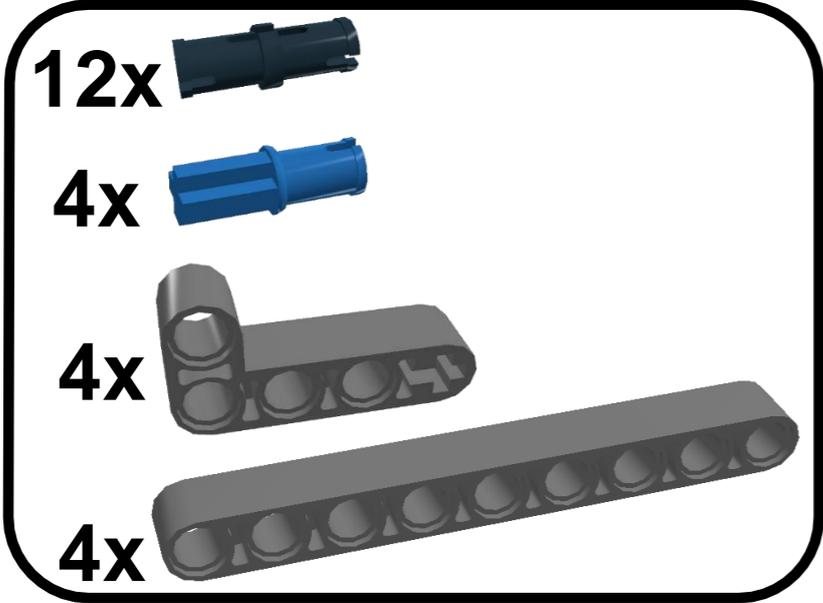
Sturdy Structures

Triangles

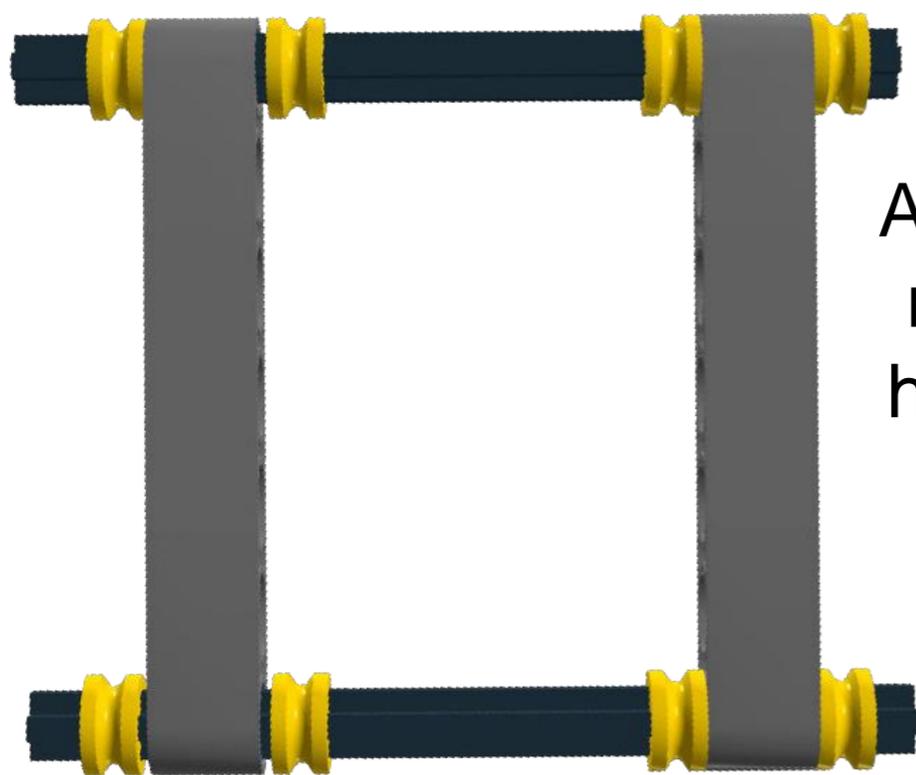
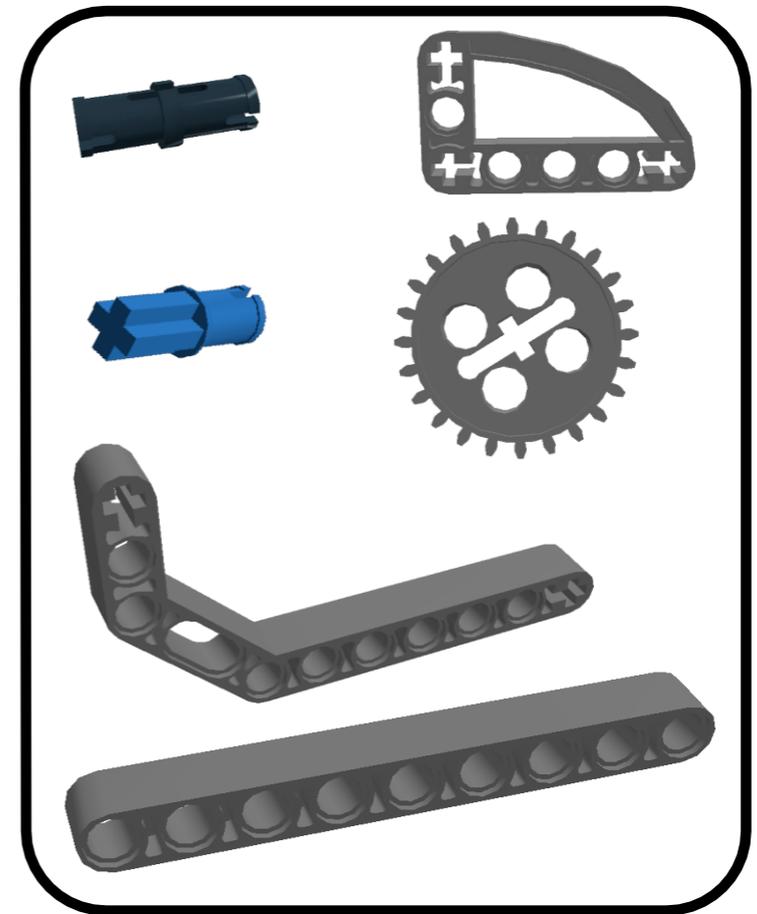
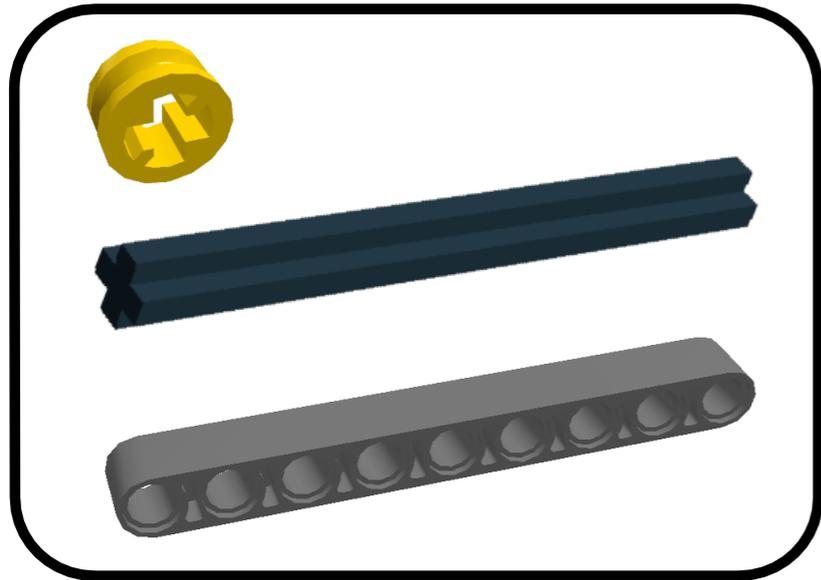


Sturdy Structures

Squares

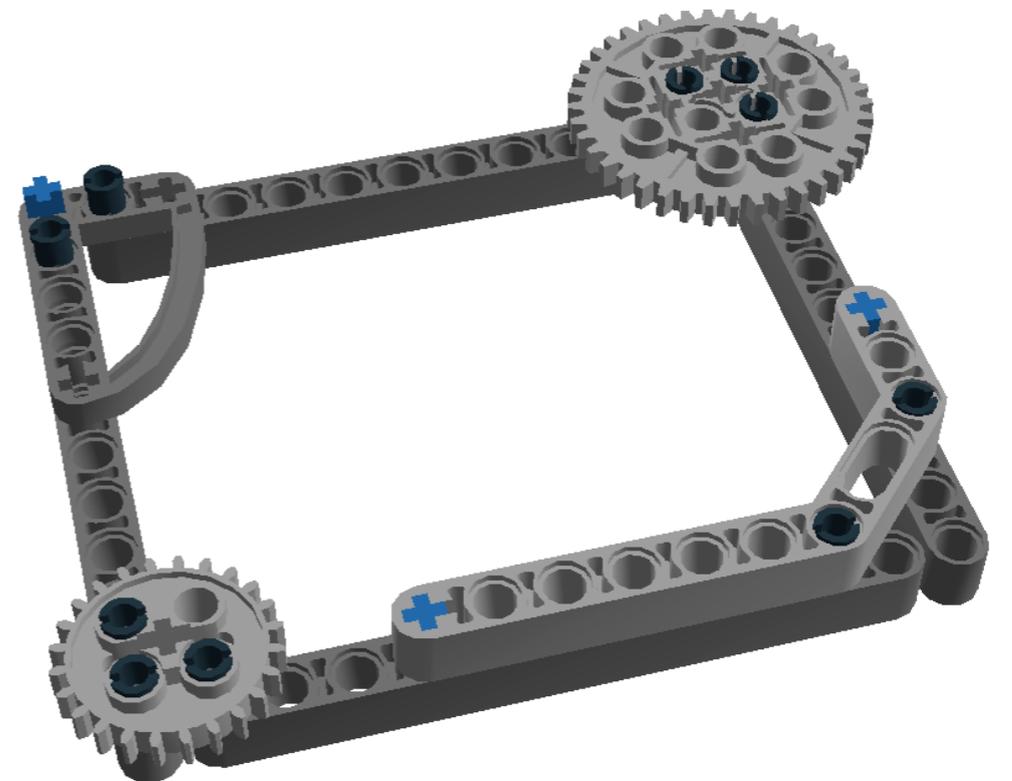


Sturdy Structures



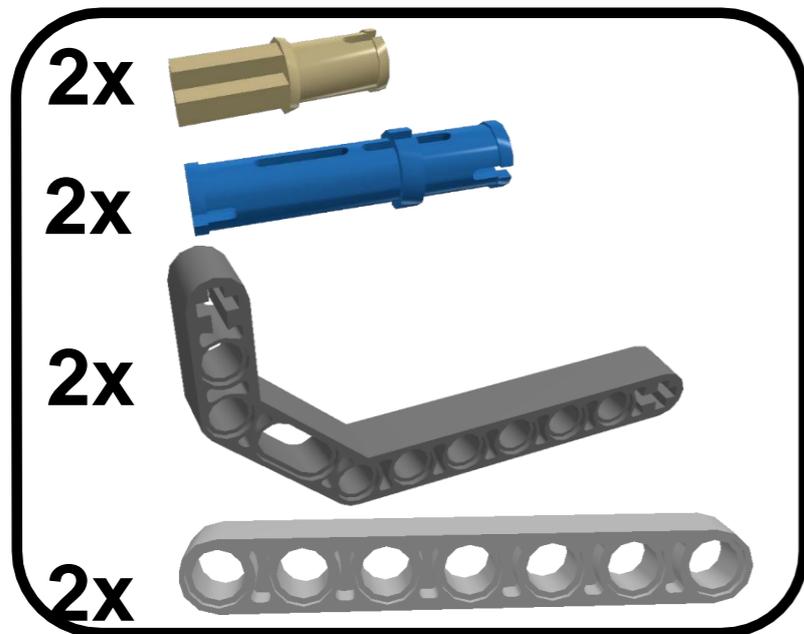
Axles will be free to rotate through the holes in the beams

Other Ways to Reinforce Corners

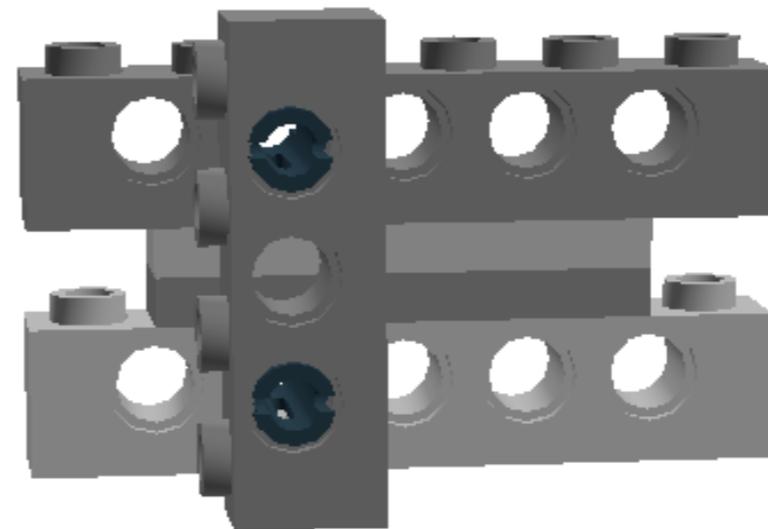
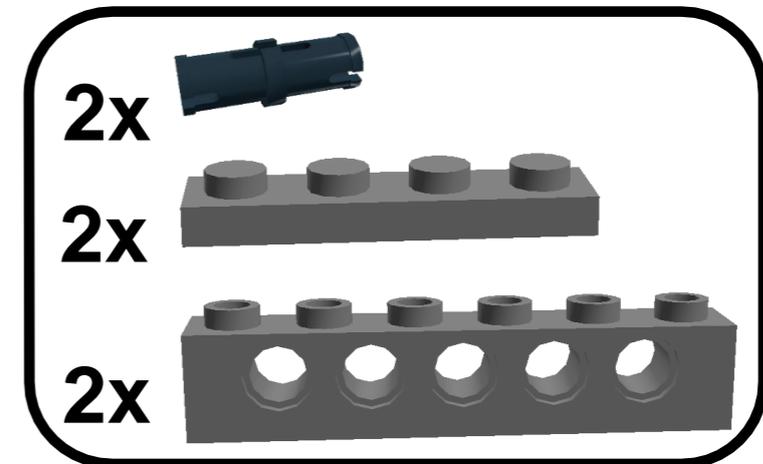


Sturdy Structures

Arch



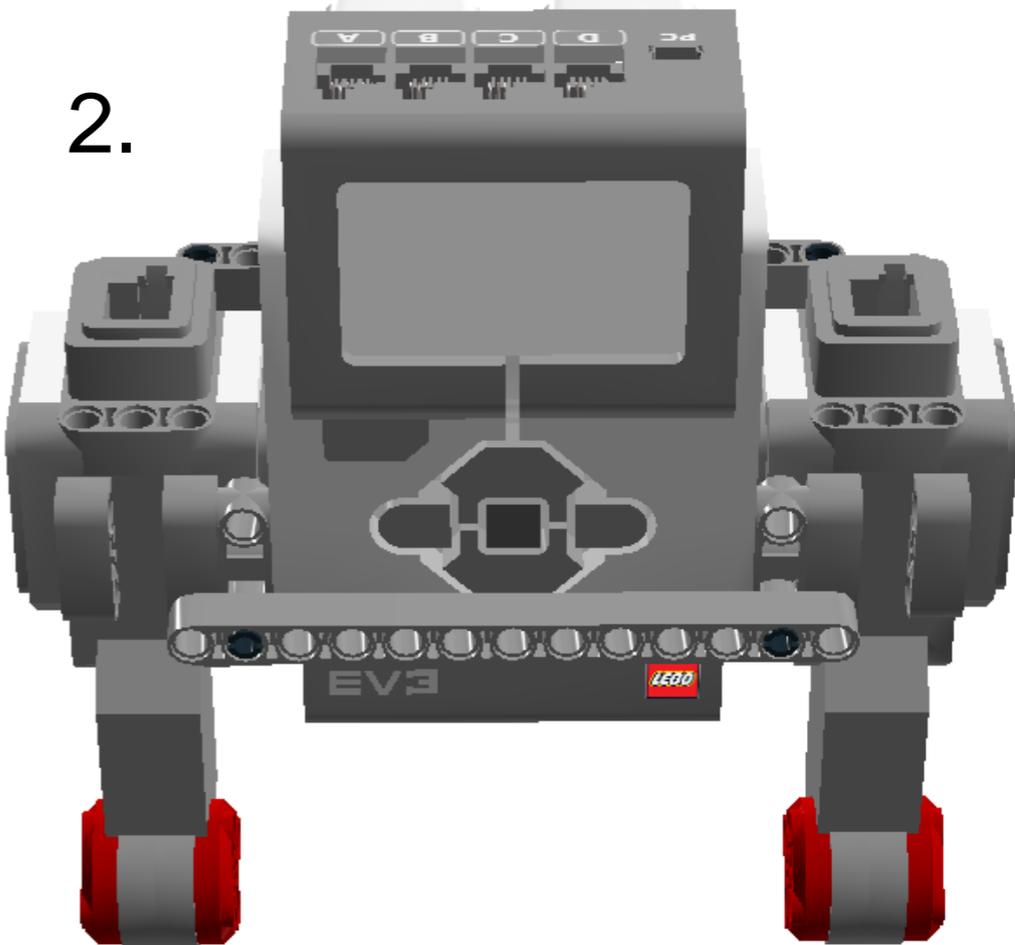
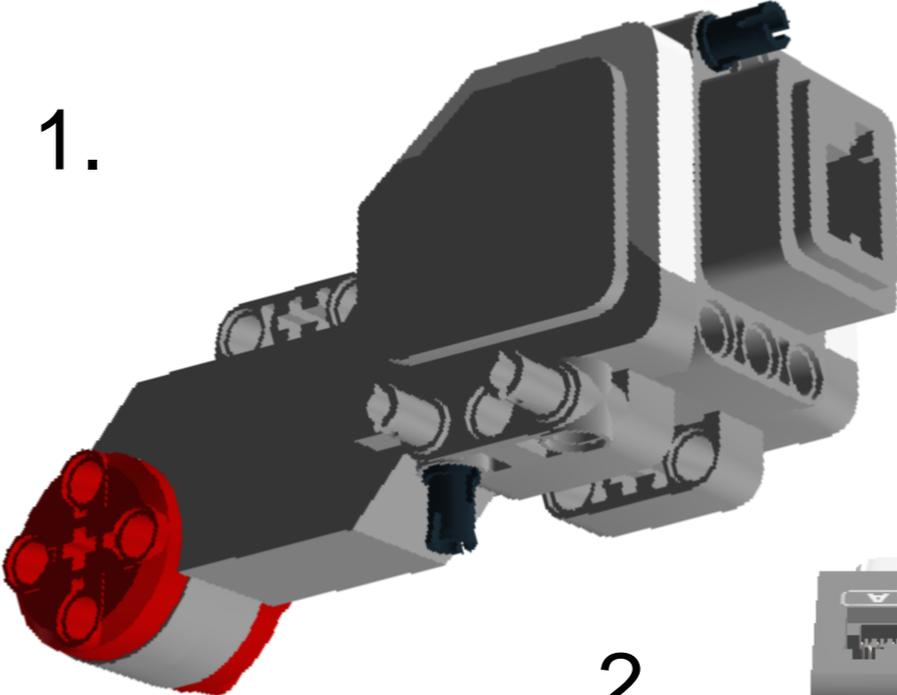
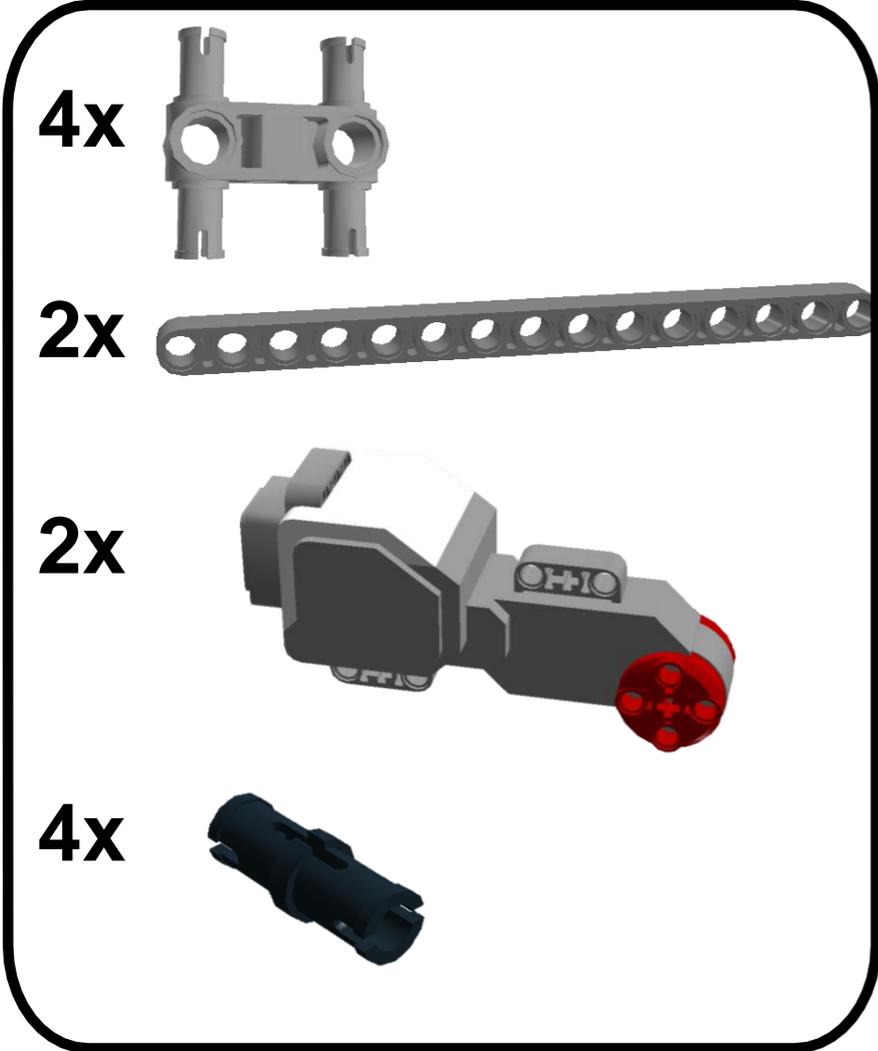
Bracing With Bricks



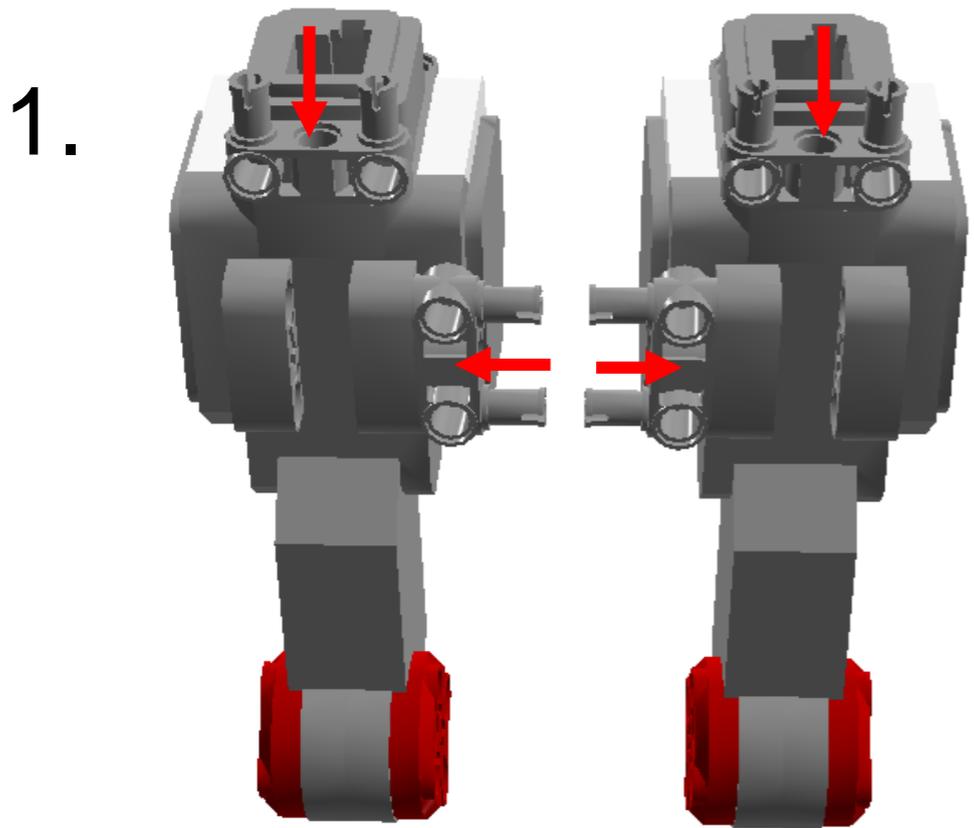
Bracing a stack of bricks in this way will keep the structure more rigid and less likely to break apart

Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

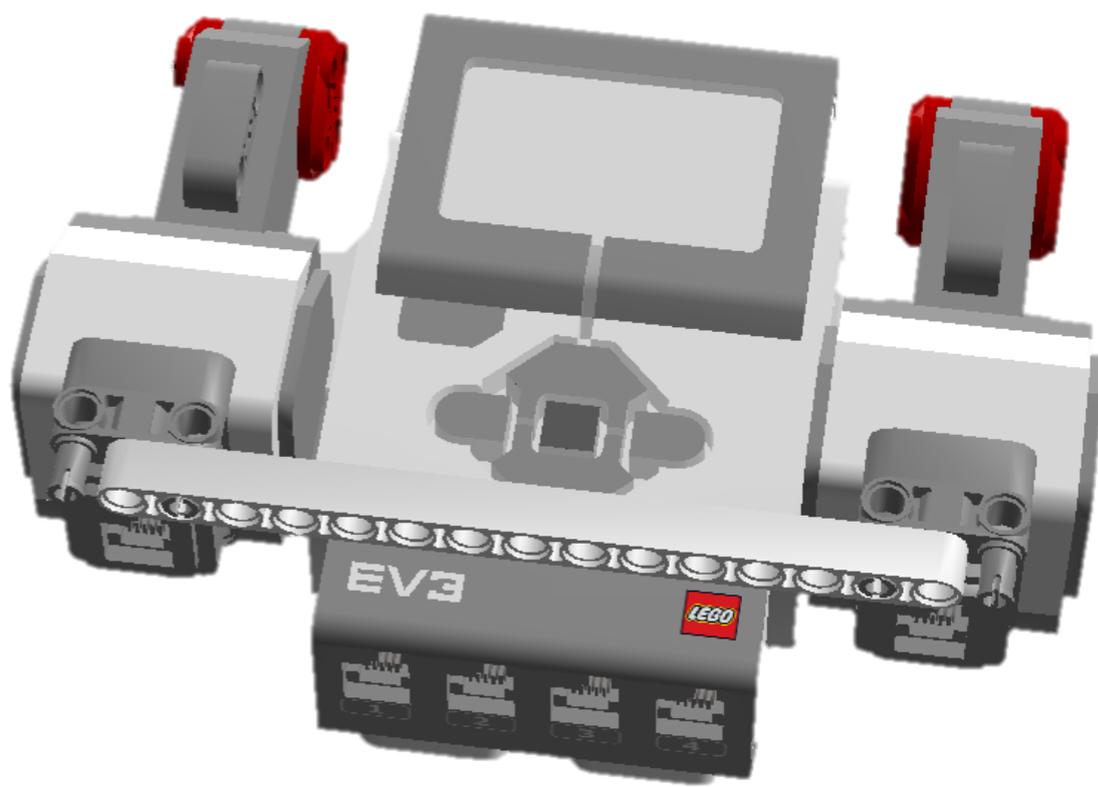
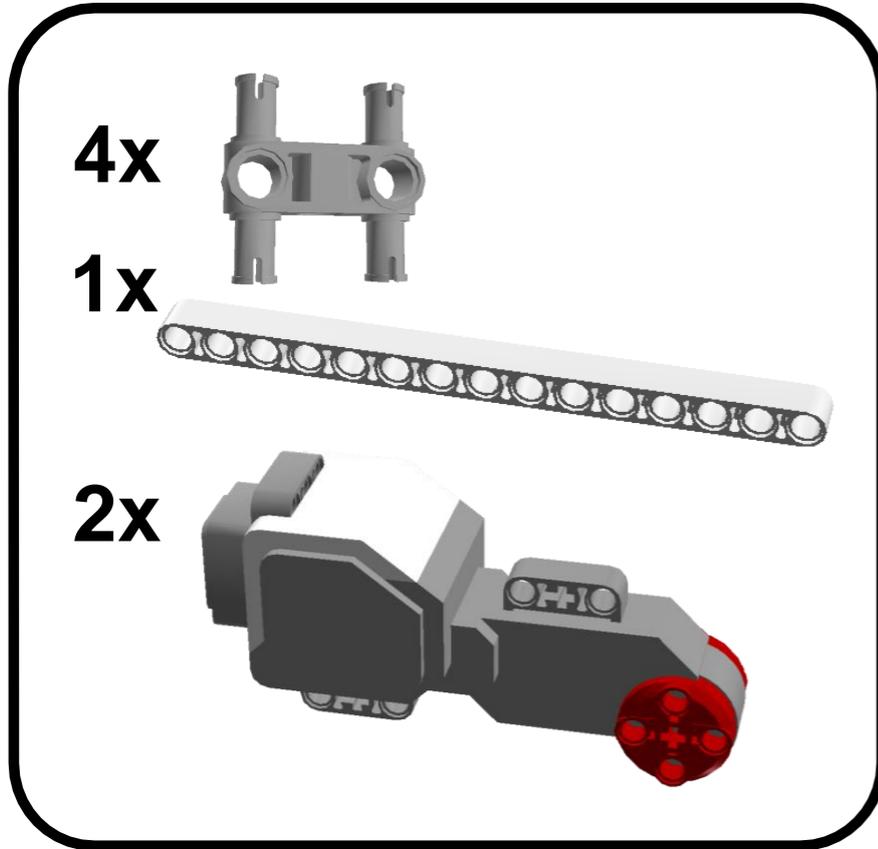
Two Step Motor Attachment



Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

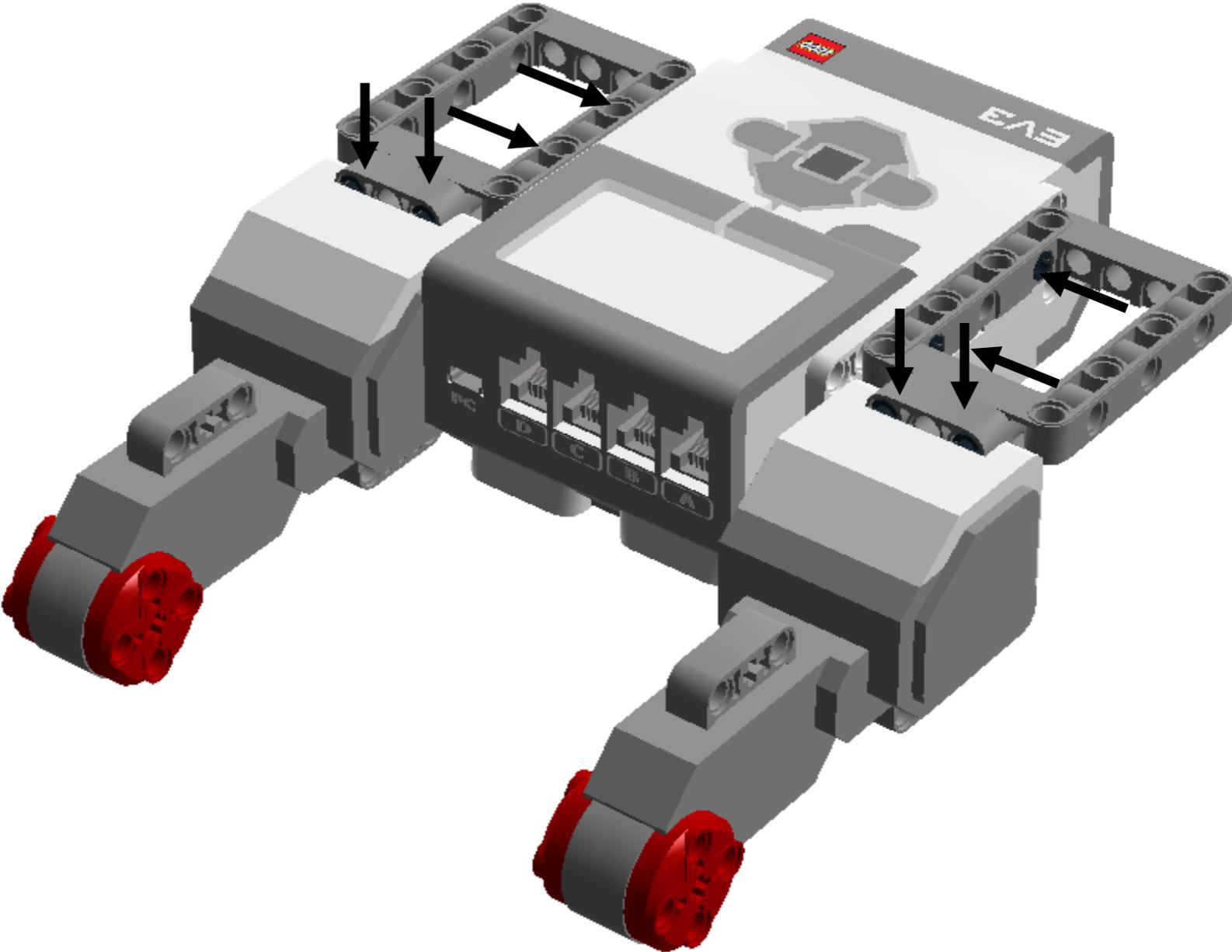
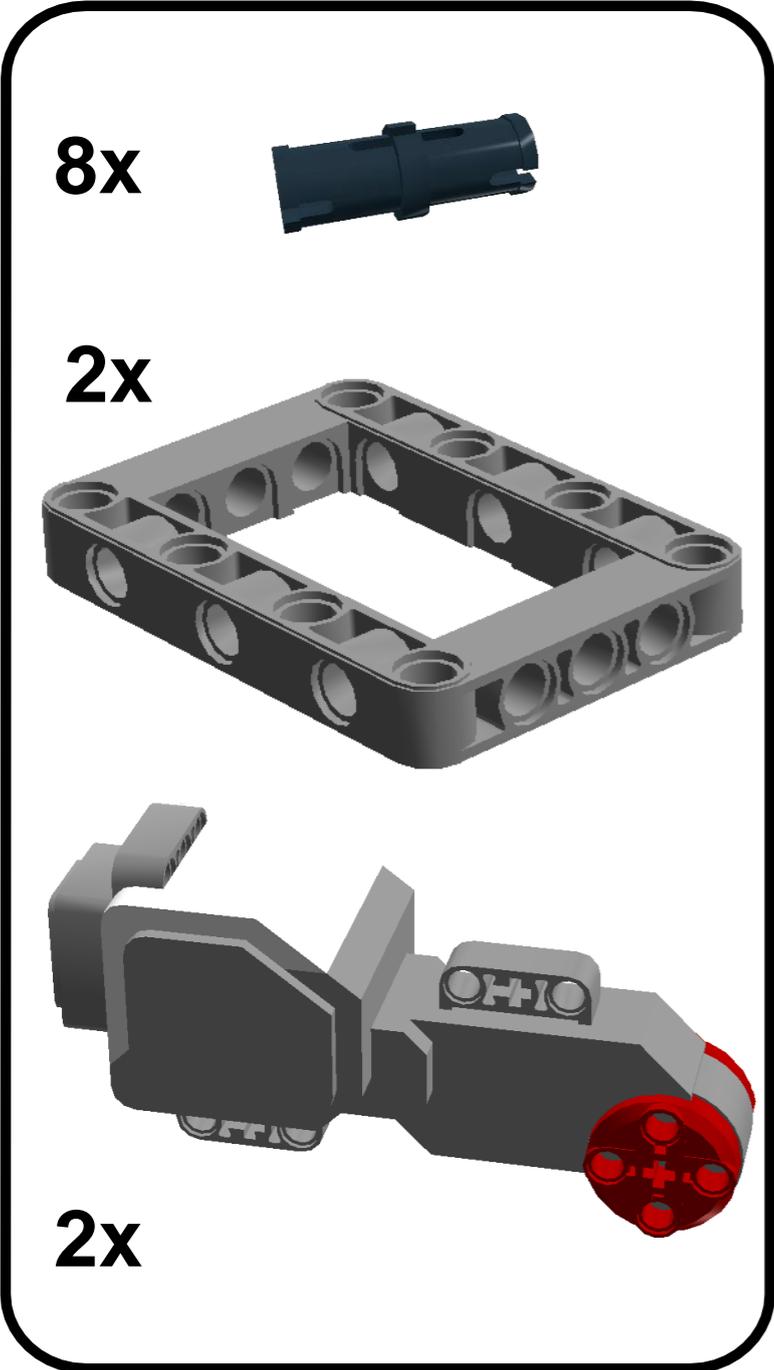


or



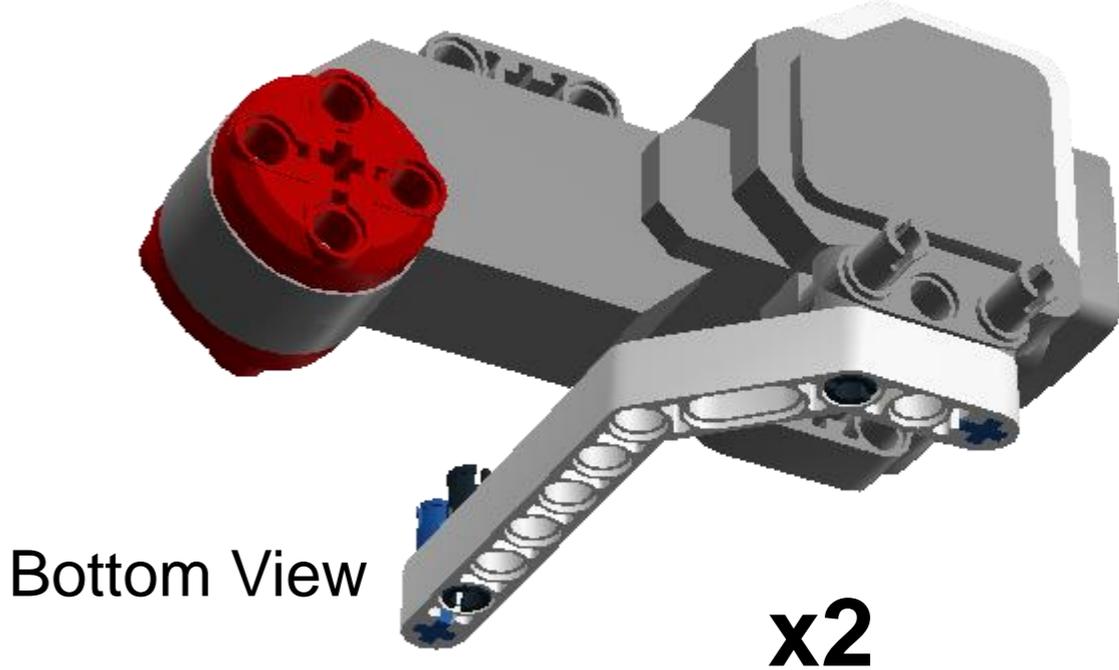
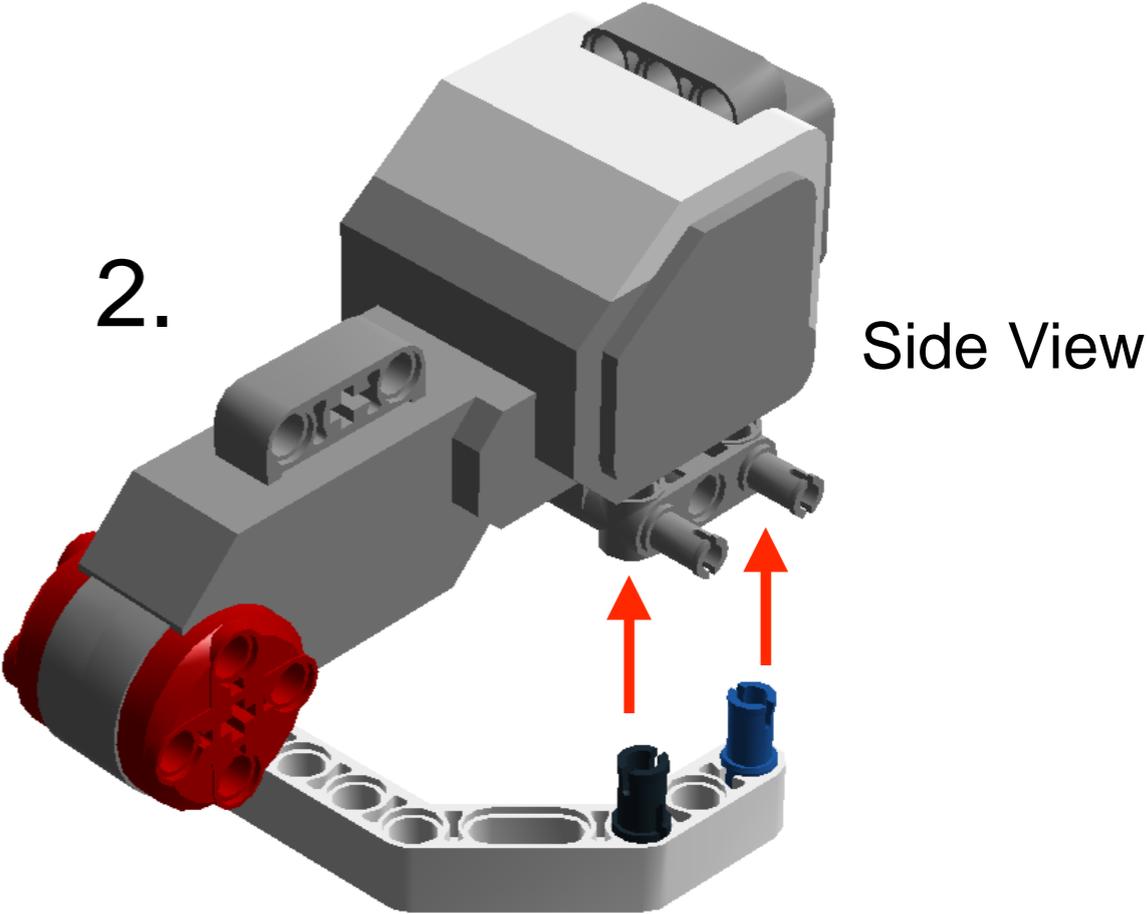
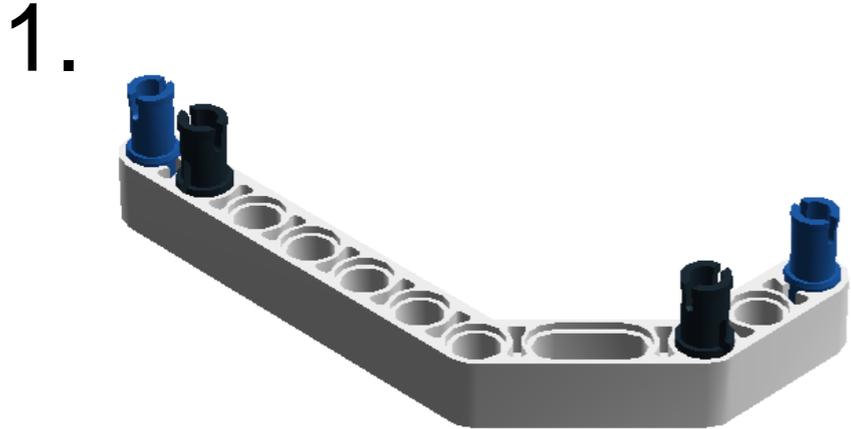
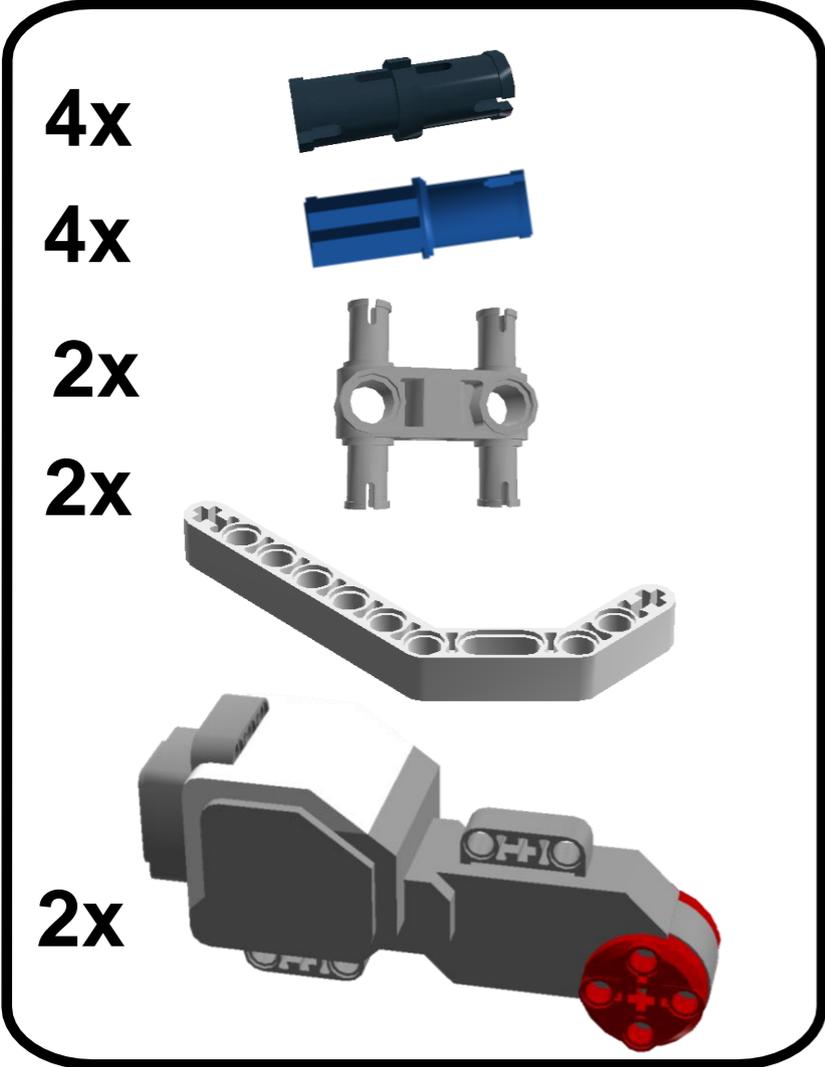
Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Wide Back Motor Attachment



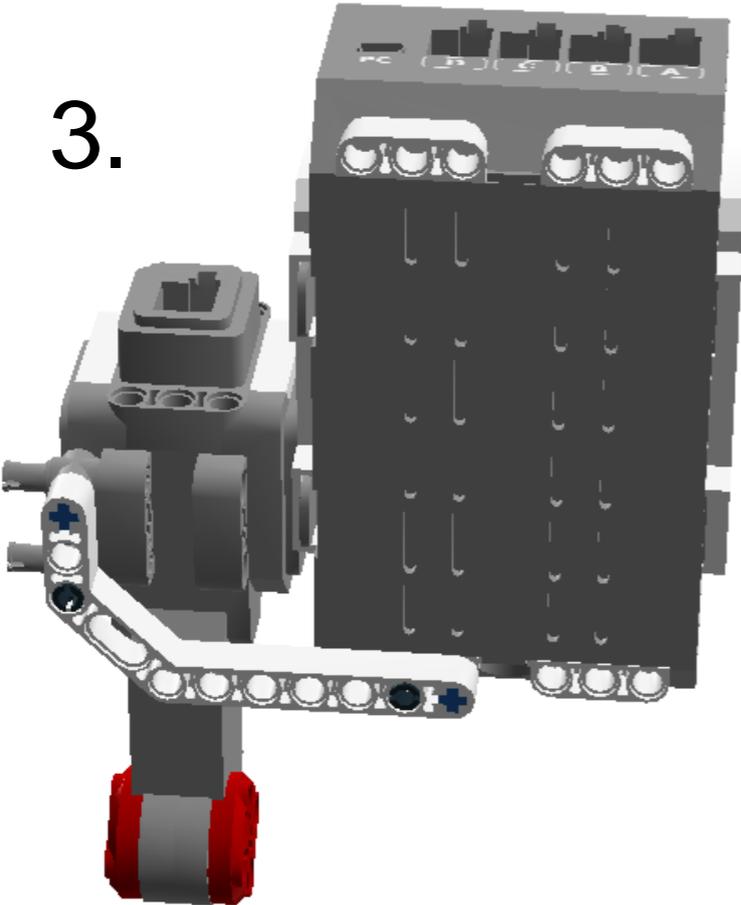
Arrows indicate locations of black pegs

Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

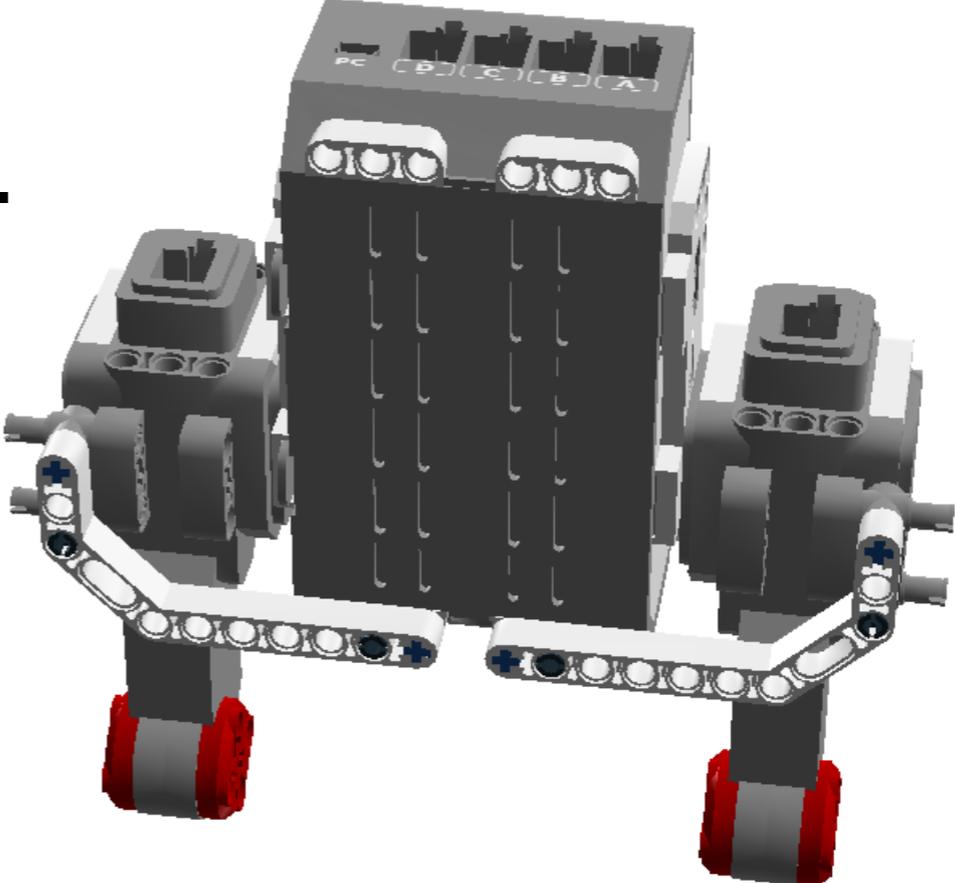


Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

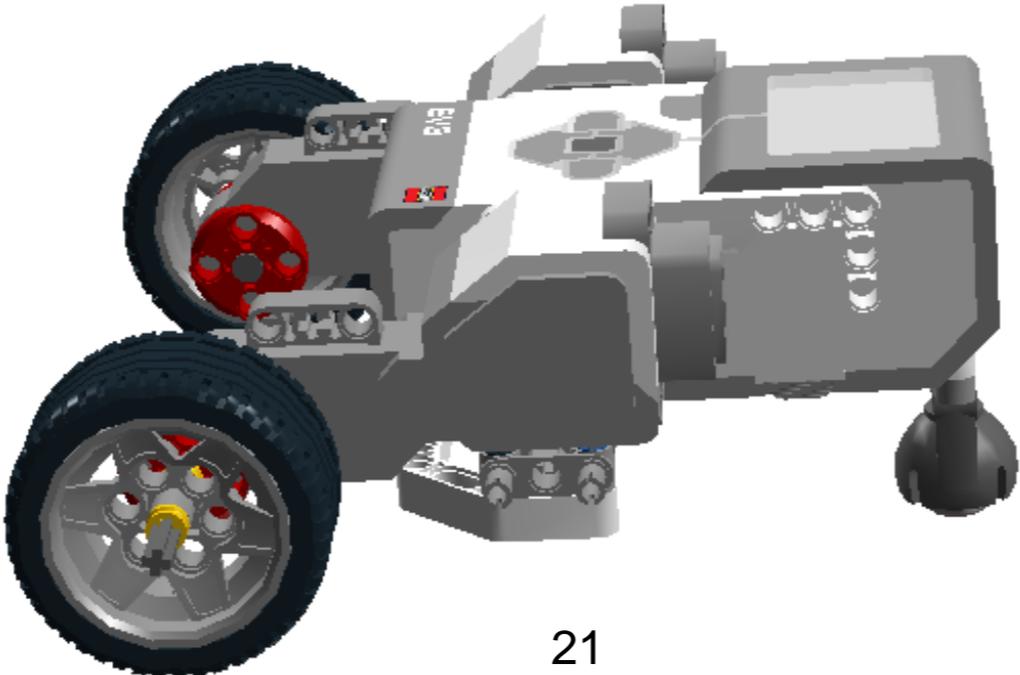
3.



4.



Adding Wheels

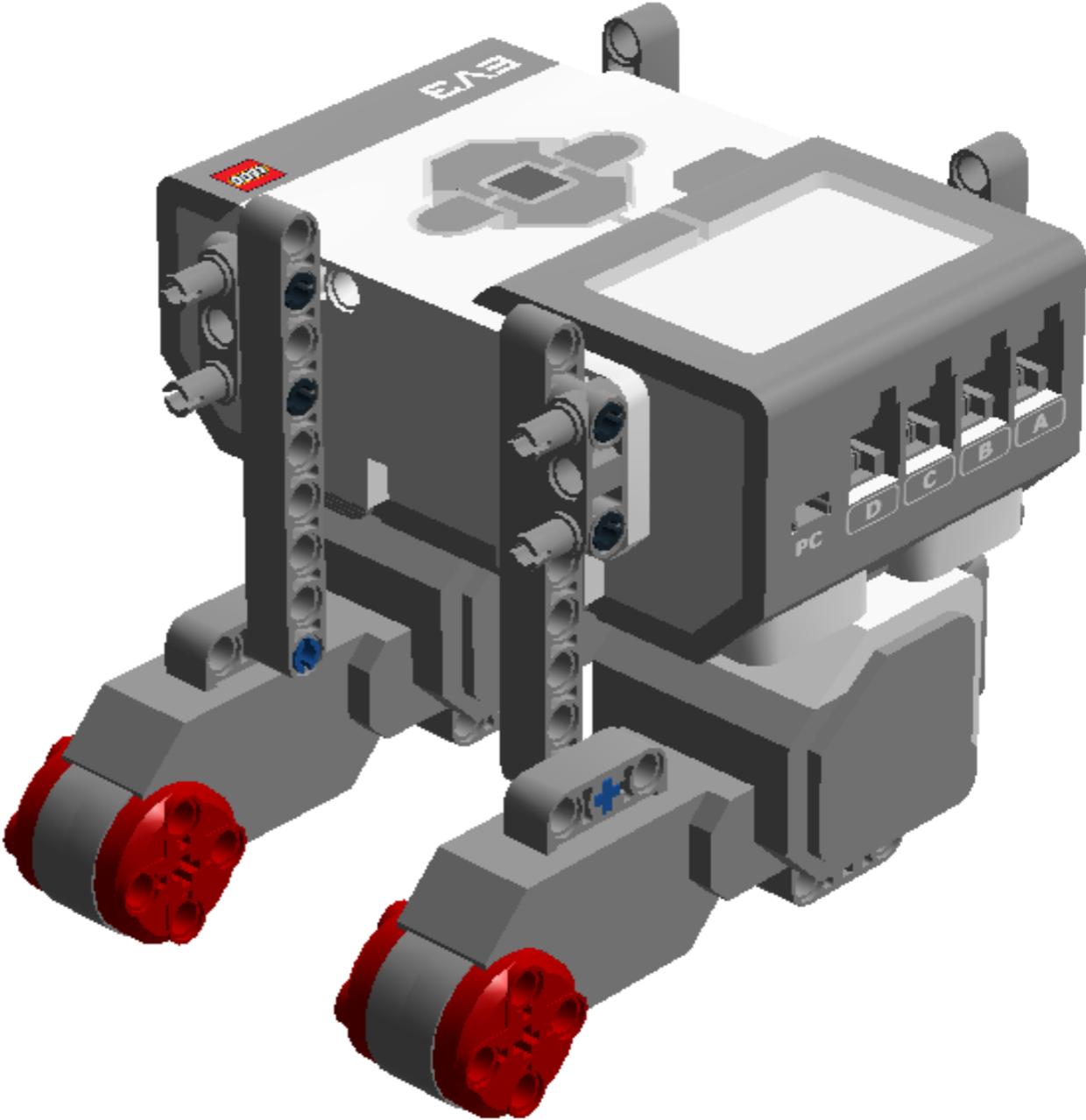
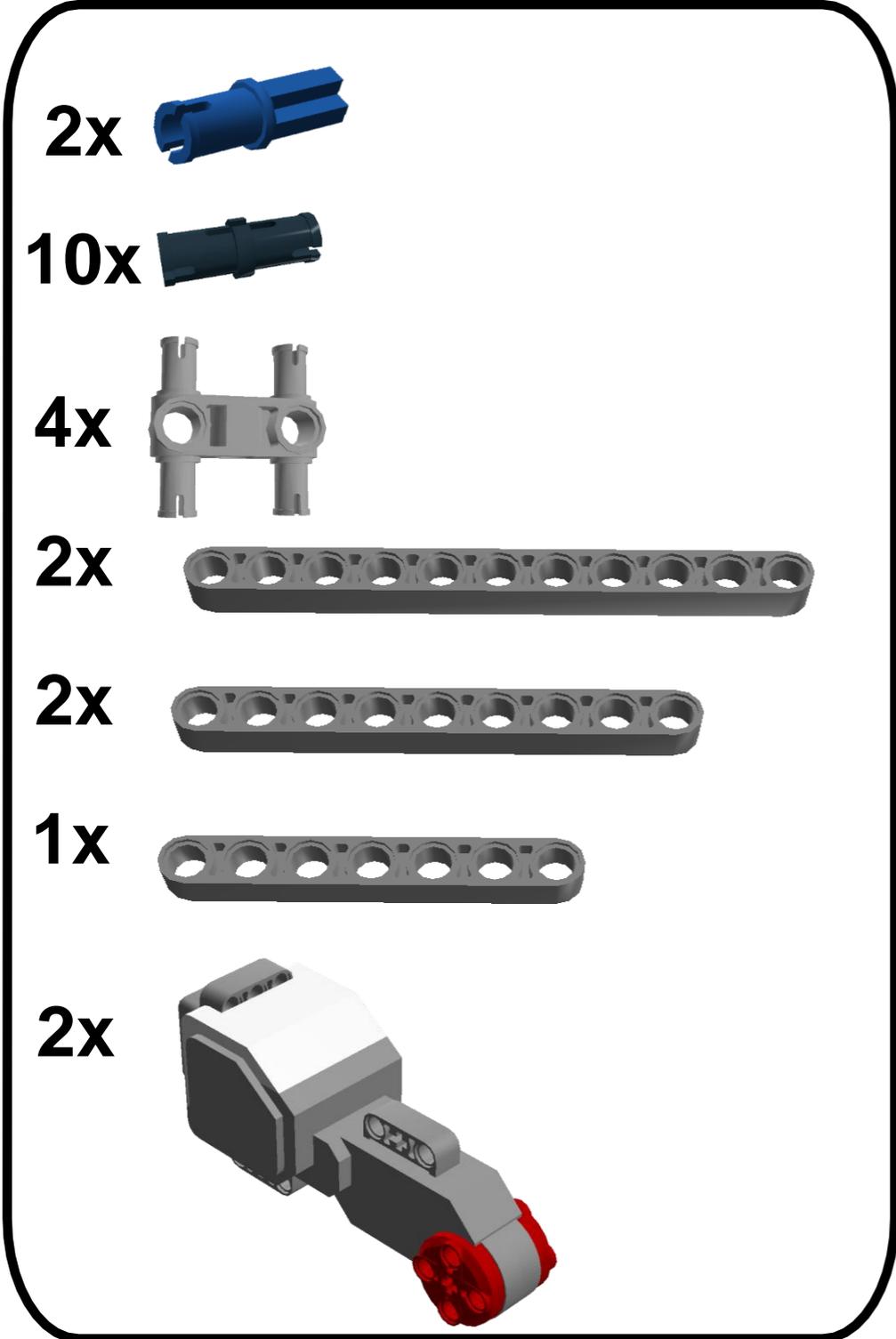


See page 27 for more front end attachments

Make sure that you position your wheels so that the brick does not drag on the ground

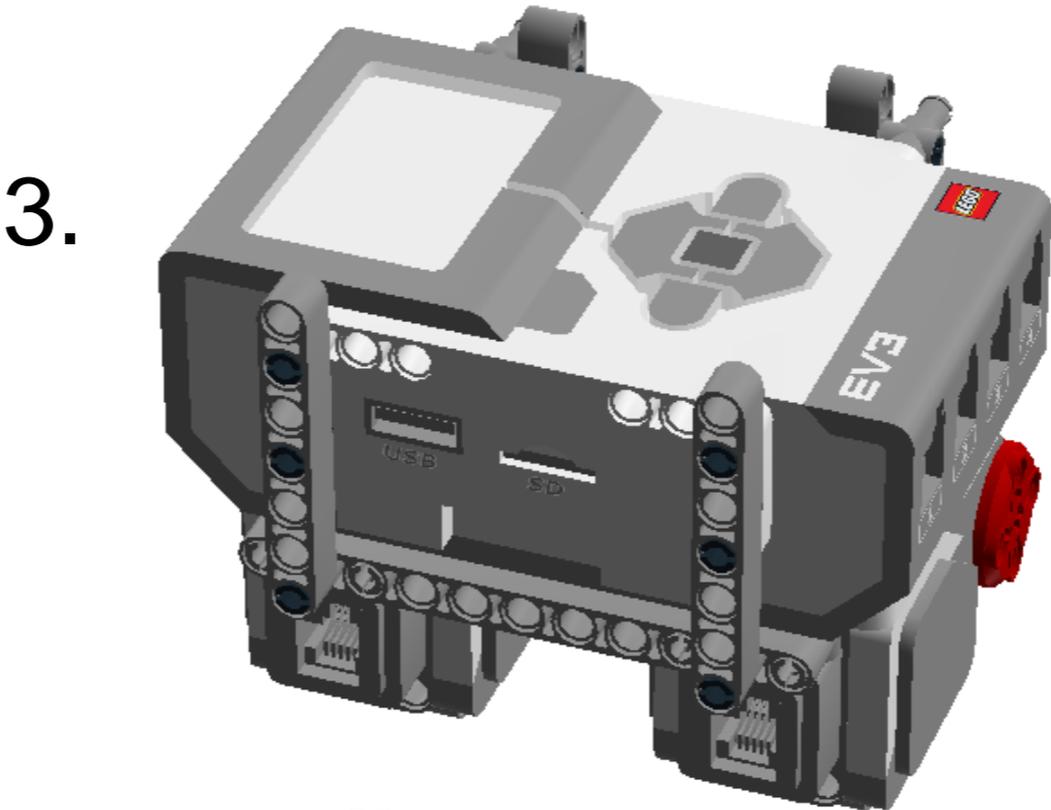
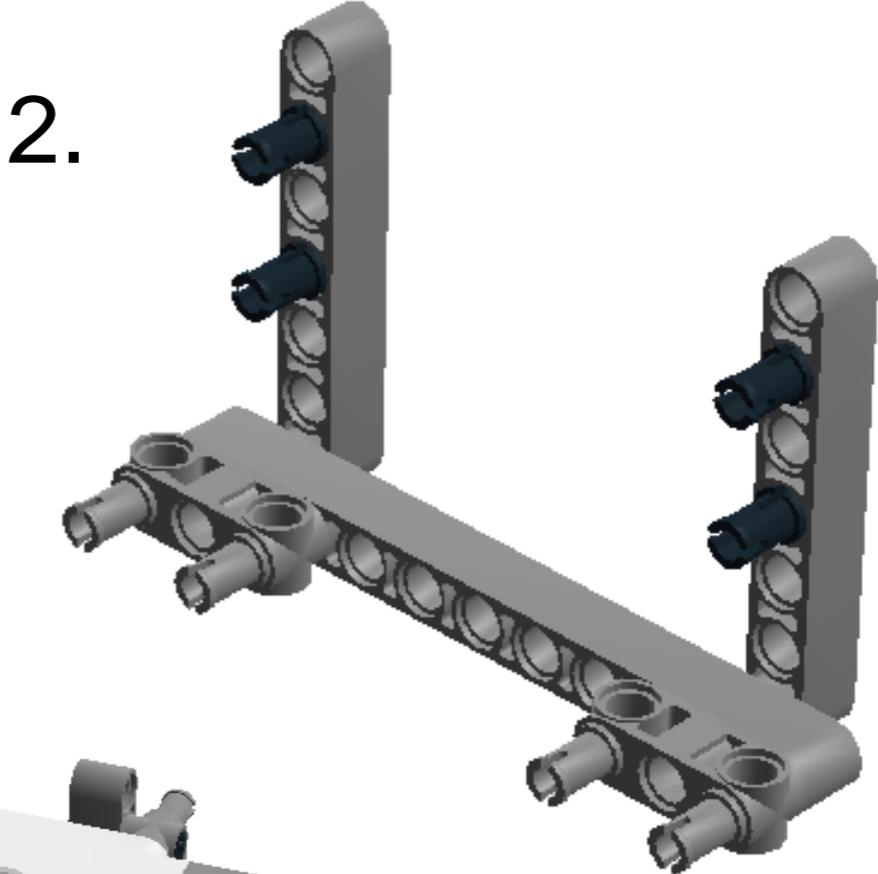
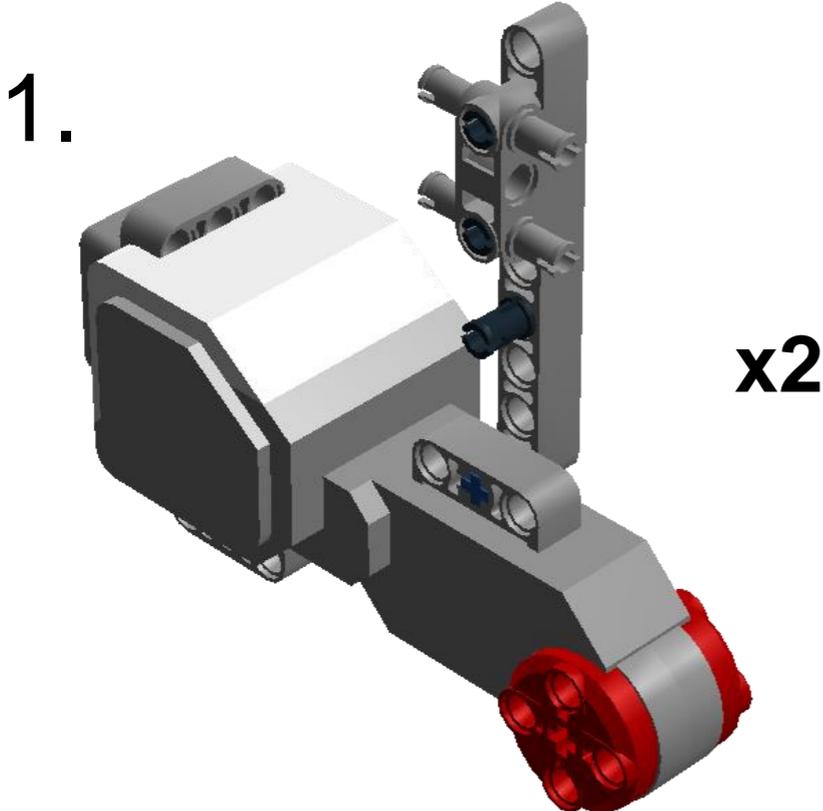
Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Underside Motor Attachment 1



Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

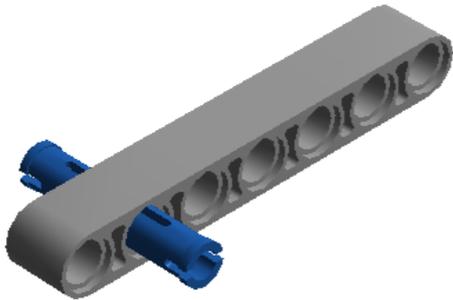
Underside Motor Attachment 1



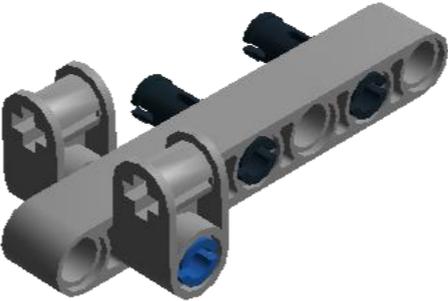
Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Underside Motor Attachment 2

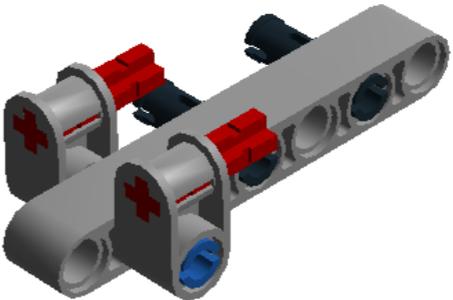
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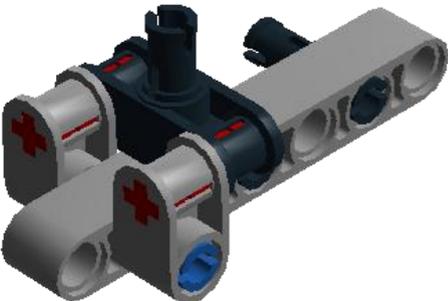
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3.



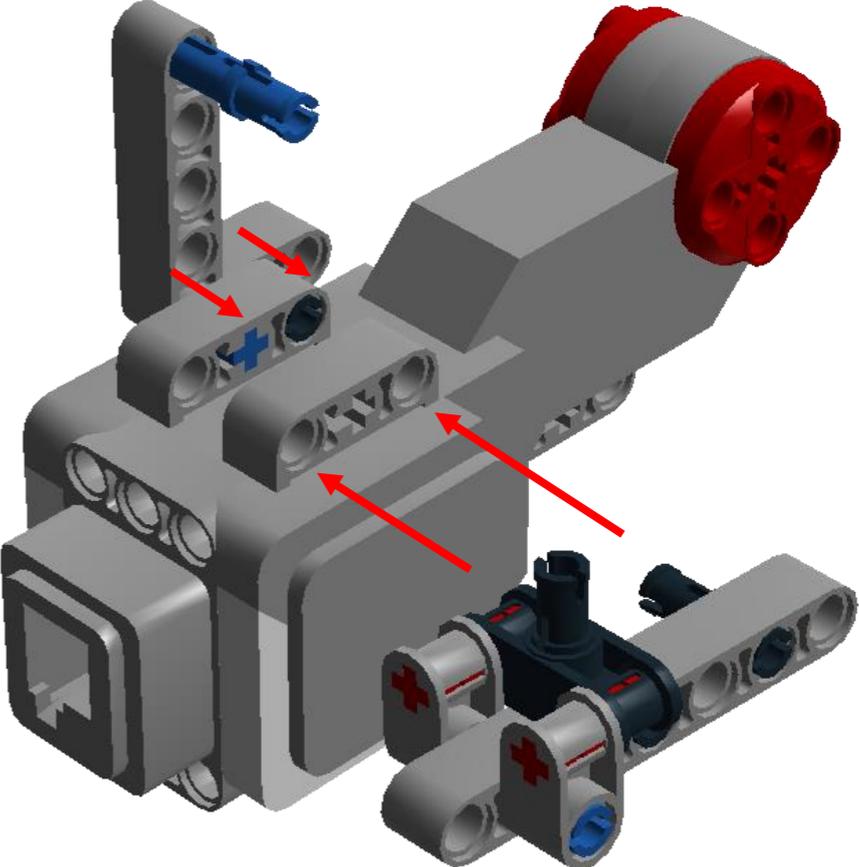
4.



5.



6.

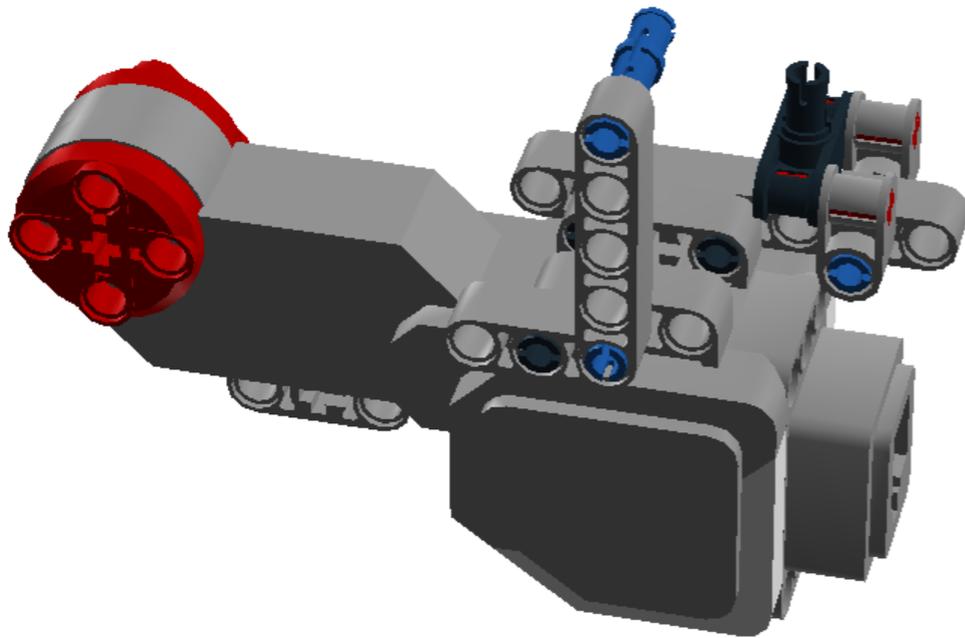


Repeat steps 1-6 for the second motor

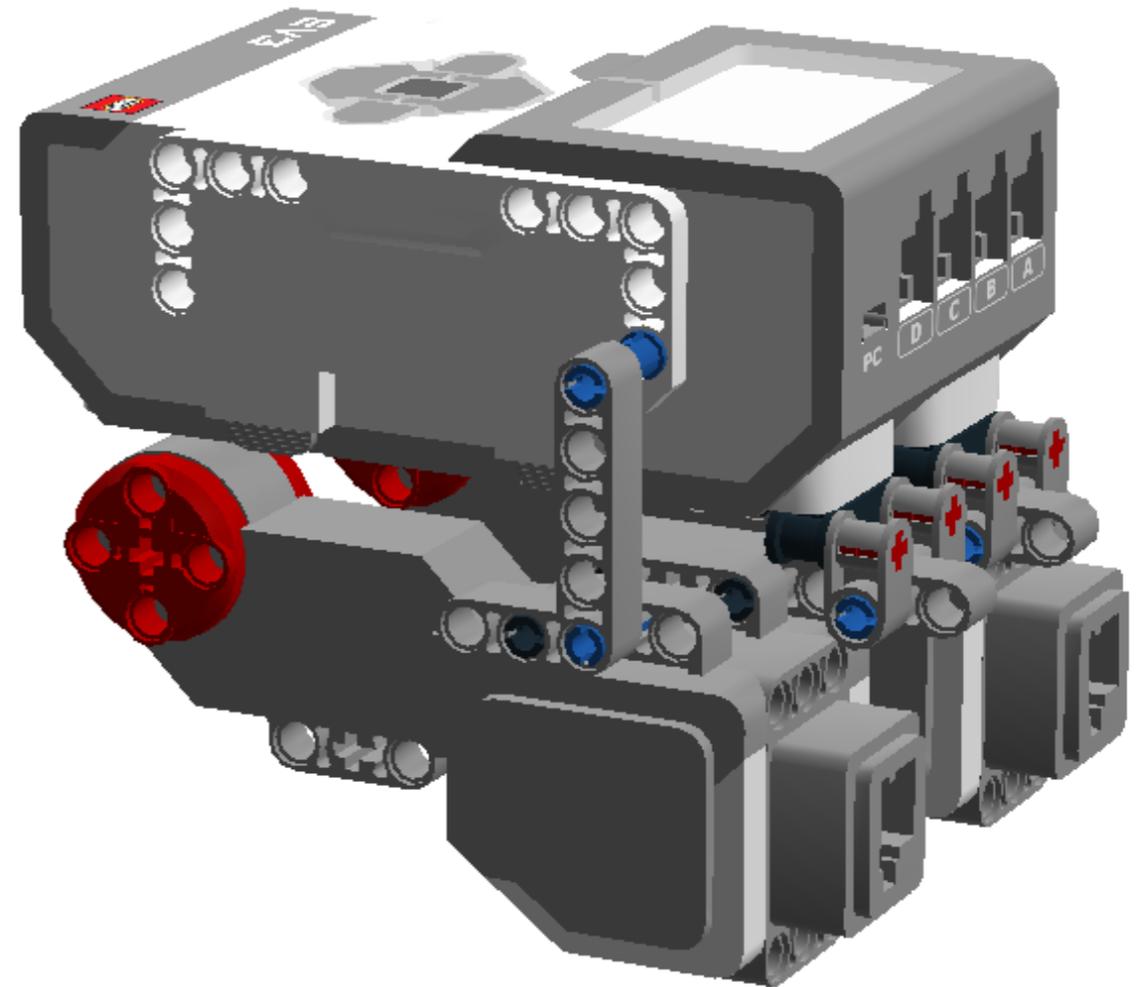
Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Underside Motor Attachment 2

6.



7.

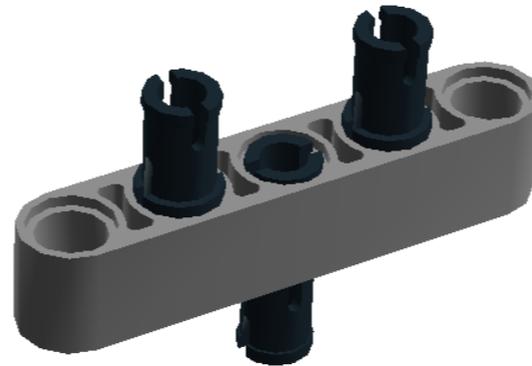


Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Front End Attachments: Caster Ball



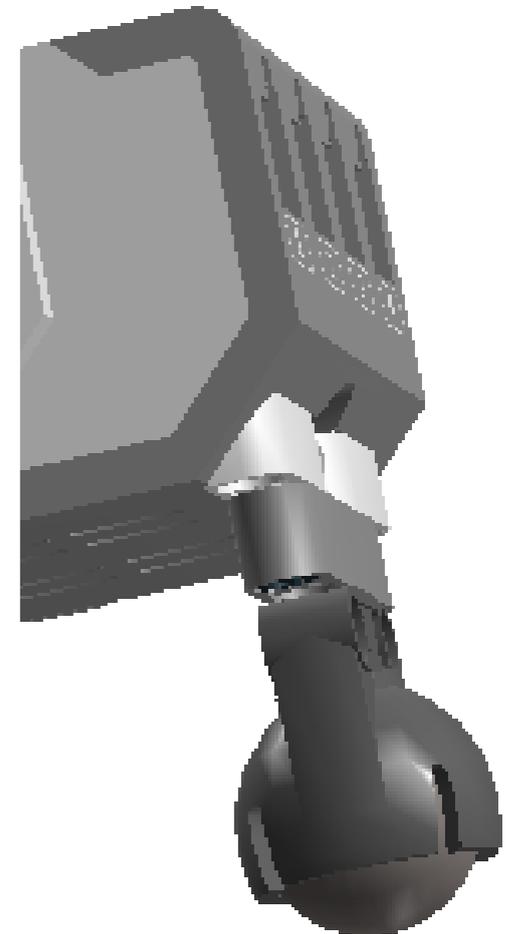
1.



2.



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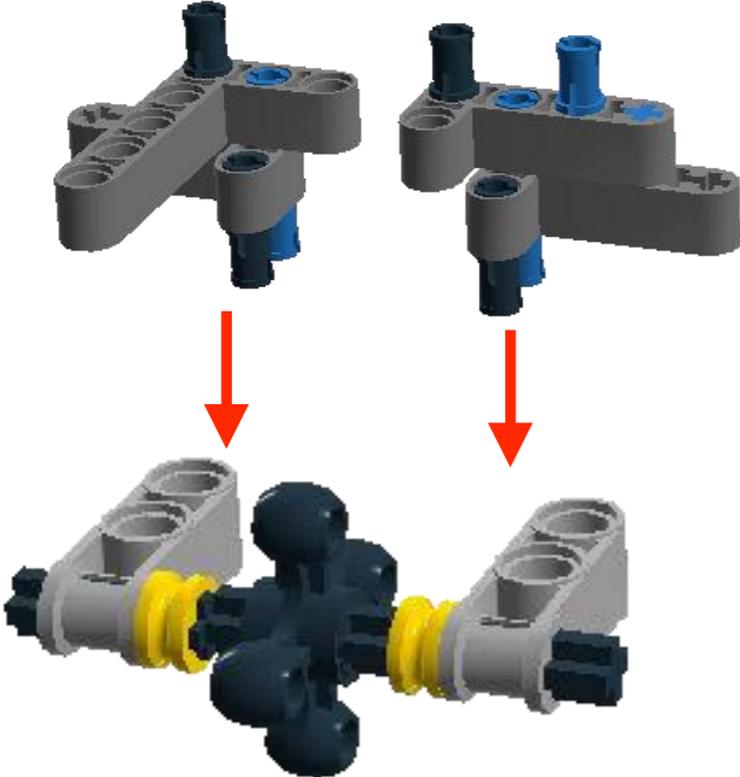
For increased stability, increase the number of points of attachment by using more pegs

Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Other Front End Attachments

Sliding Front

2x		2x		1x	
3x		3x		1x	
1x		1x			
4x					



The knob wheel will slide along the ground allowing the car to turn without using a wheel

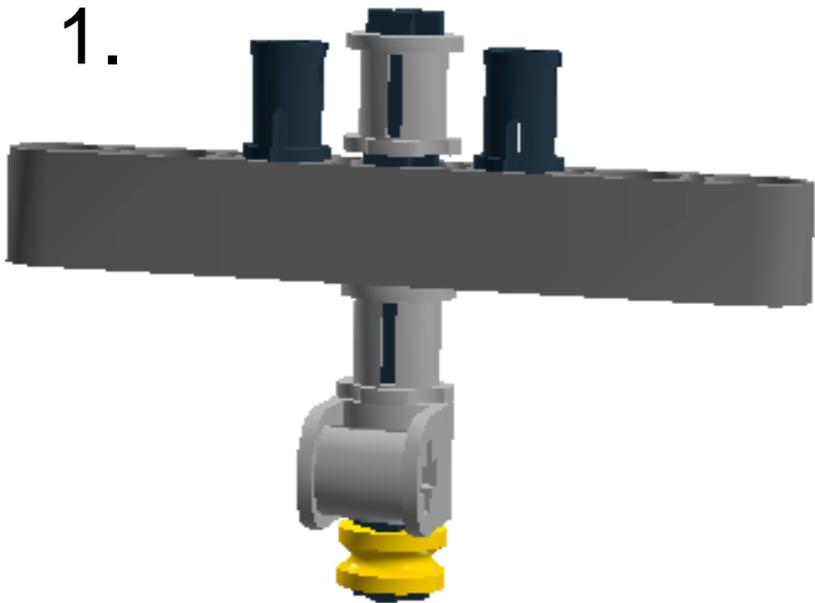
Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

Swiveling Front

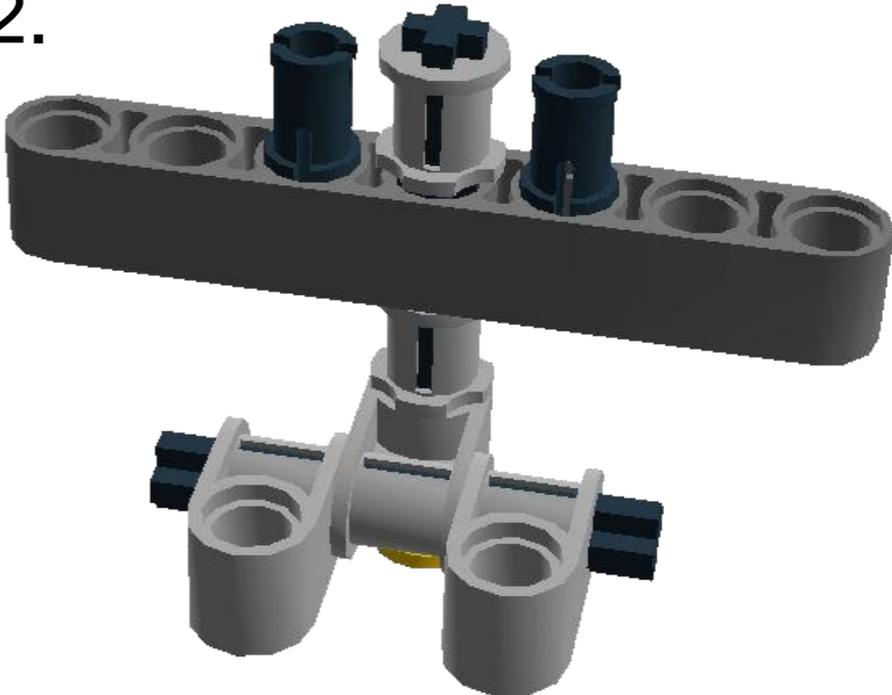


9x		4x		1x	
2x		1x			
5x		1x			
2x					

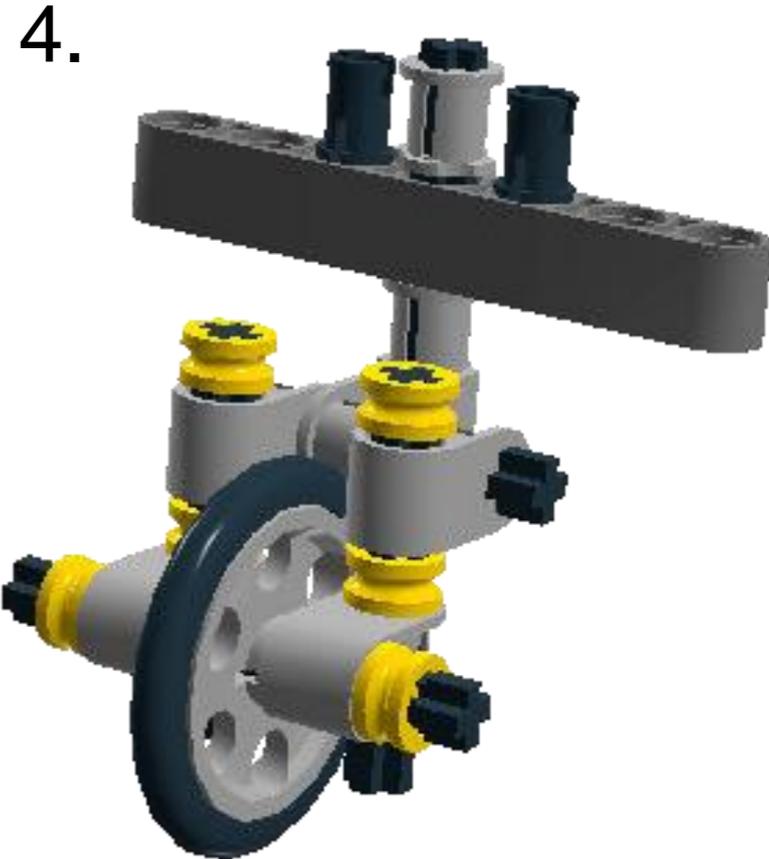
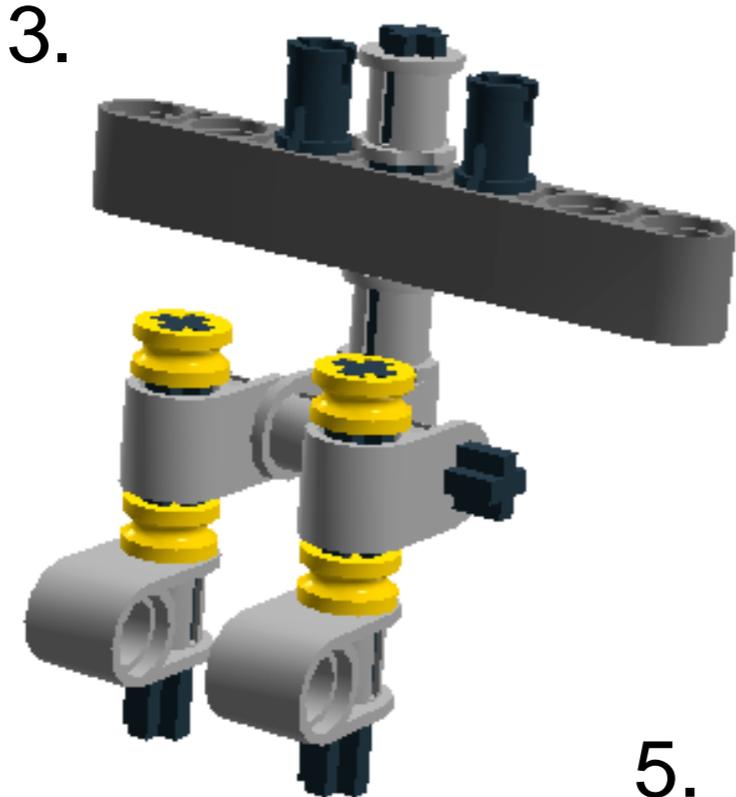
1.



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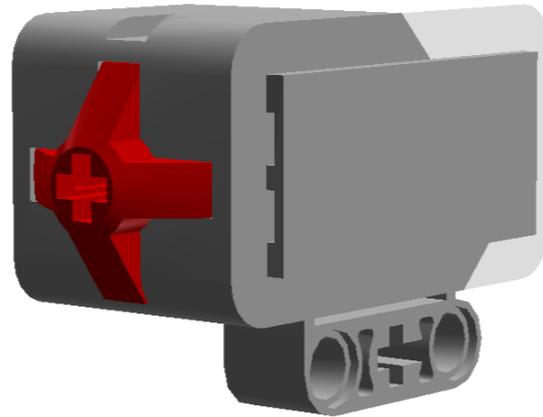


Simple Sturdy Motor Attachments

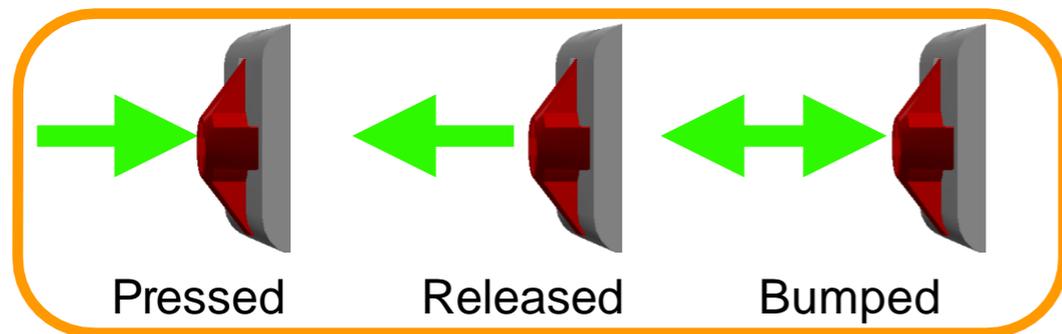


EV3 Sensors

Touch Sensor

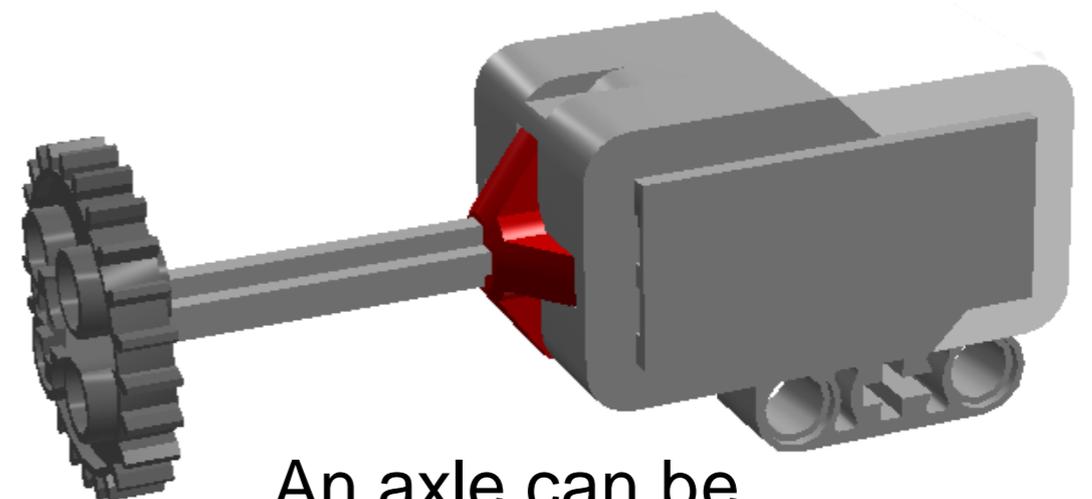


- Acts as a switch
- Can be activated when it is pressed, released or bumped



Useful for

- Changing direction when an obstacle is bumped into
- An On/Off switch



An axle can be inserted in the touch sensor to increase the range of touch

EV3 Sensors

Gyro Sensor



- Detects the rate of rotation on a plane
- Using the rate of rotation, the sensor can also detect angle rotated
- Works best when side with curved arrows is perfectly parallel to the plane of rotation

Useful for

- Measuring the rate of rotation of a robotic arm
- Measuring the total angle a car rotates during a turn

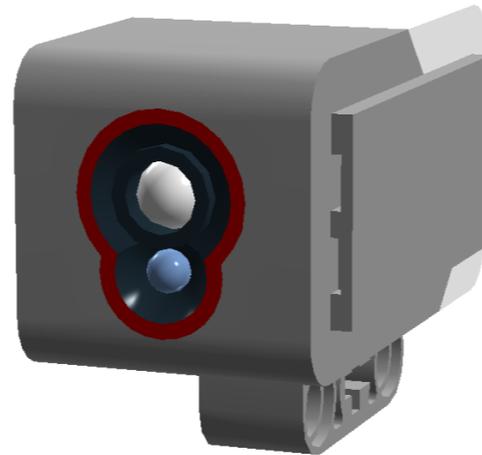
When using the Gyro sensor, always be sure to calibrate it.

To calibrate the Gyro sensor first placing your creation on a table and then gently unplugging the Gyro sensor from the EV3 at the brick connection and then plugging it back in to the same port.

EV3 Sensors

Color Sensor

- Detects different levels of ambient light as well as the light intensity of different colors



Ambient light - mode in which the light sensor detects the light intensity of its surroundings

Reflected light - mode in which the light sensor can detect the intensity of light reflected off certain colored surfaces

Useful for

- Responding to light/dark
- Following a dark line on a white paper
- Reacting to or sorting by different colors

Reflected light mode detects different colors in this way

Colors you see

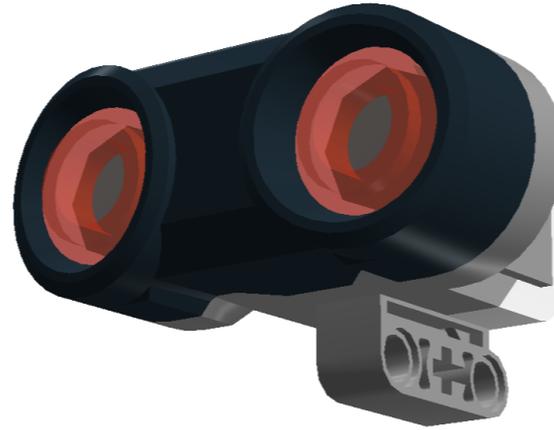


Light sensor detects



EV3 Sensors

Ultrasonic Sensor

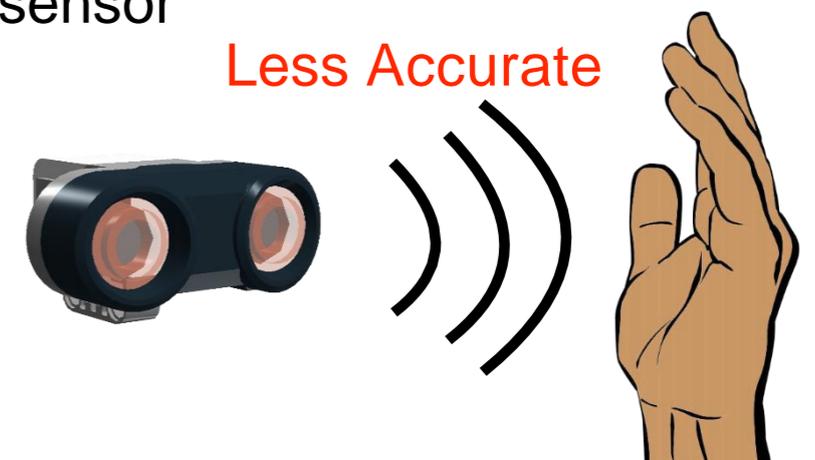
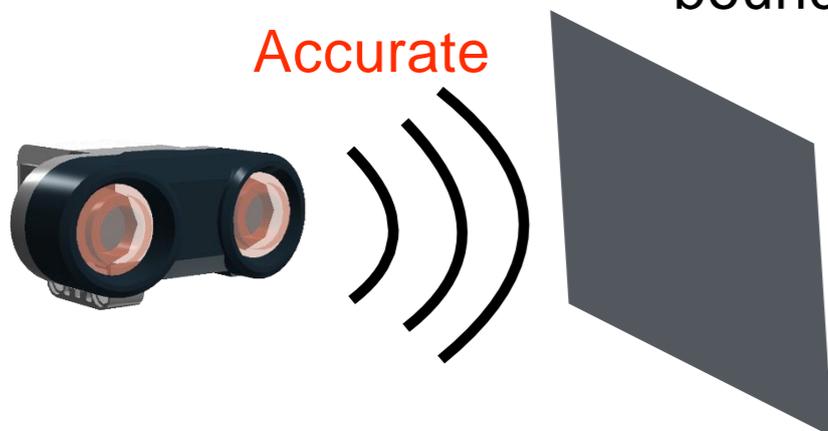


- Uses ultrasonic waves to compute its distance from objects up to 255cm (8.4ft) away
- Detects flat, smooth surfaces better than rough, curved ones

Useful for

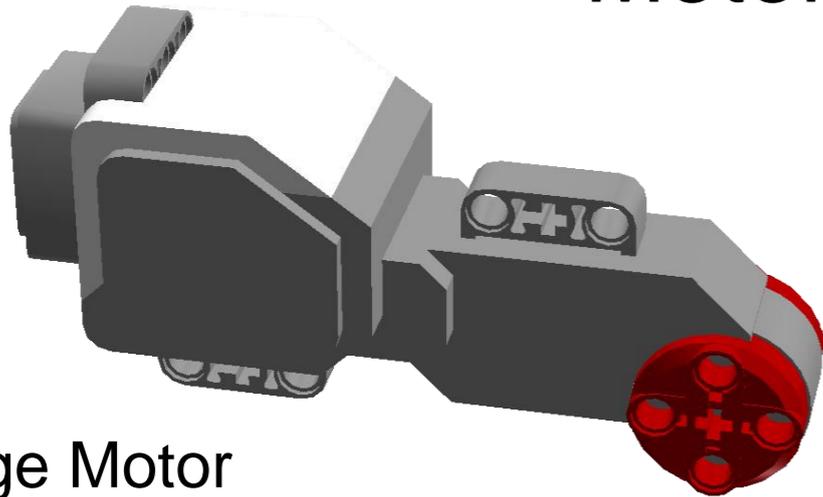
- Sensing walls and obstacles before they are reached
- Navigating a maze without hitting the walls

Waves will scatter when they bounce off a curved or bumpy object, such as your hand, and will not bounce straight back to the ultrasonic sensor giving less reliable readings

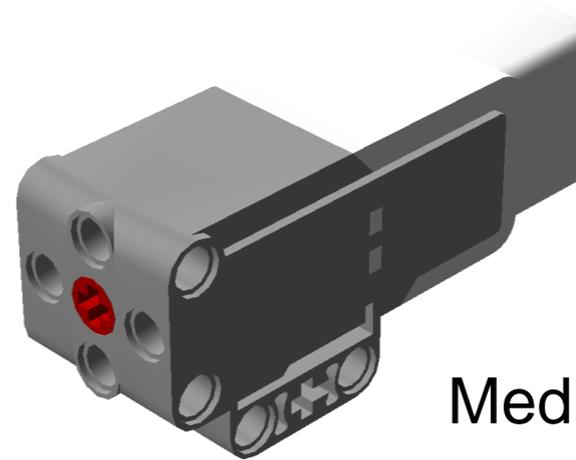


EV3 Sensors

Motor Rotation Sensor



Large Motor



Medium Motor

- Motors can detect how many rotations they have turned
 - Robots can be programmed to perform an action when a specified number of rotations has been reached
- Rotations be expressed in number of rotations or degrees, with 360° representing one full rotation

Useful for

- Computing distance traveled
- Traveling for a predetermined distance

The direction the motor is spinning is represented by the sign of the number of rotations or degrees

-150° and 150° is the same length spin but in opposite directions

EV3 Sensors: Viewing Sensor Input on the Brick

You can use the brick to view how certain stimuli are read through each of the sensors

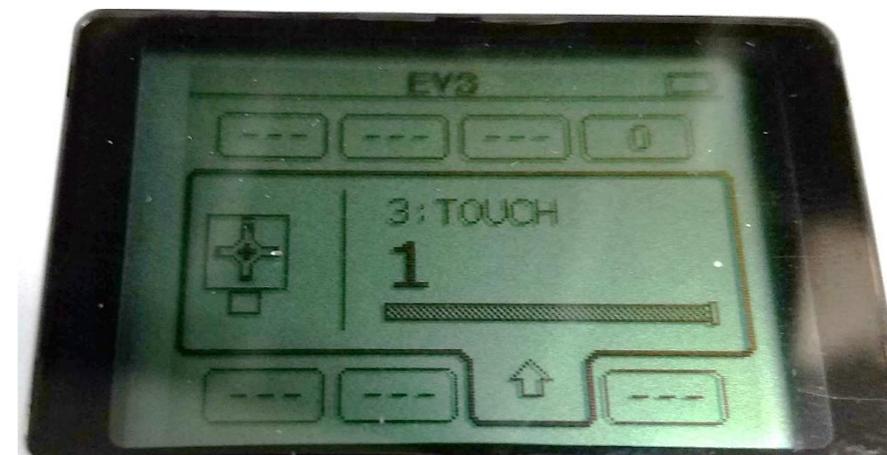
Select "Port View"



Scroll using buttons to select a port



Scroll to select a sensor



EV3 Sensors: Viewing Sensor Input on the Brick

Touch Sensor



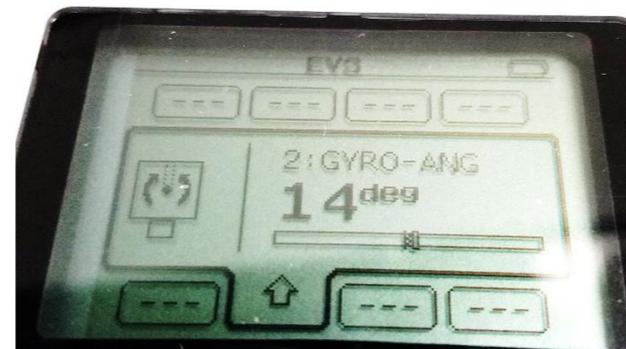
Pressed



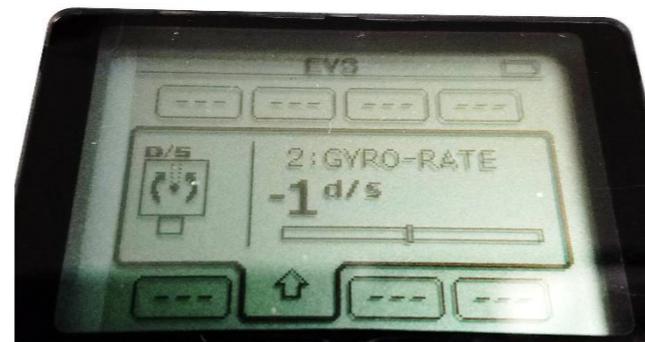
Released

The touch sensor has two states: pressed and released.

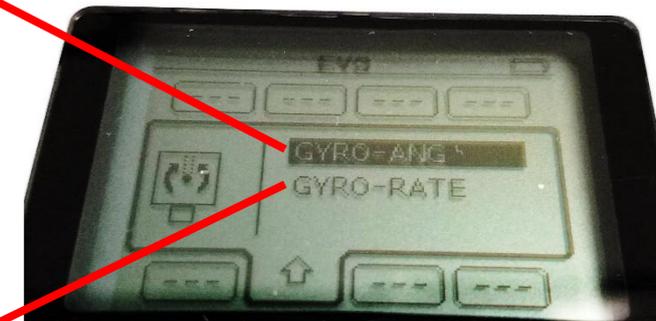
Gyro Sensor



Angle (degrees)



Rate (d/s)



The gyro sensor displays its readings as degrees or as degrees/sec depending on selected mode (ANG or RATE)

Use this value to determine how much your creation has rotated or the rate at which it is rotating.

EV3 Sensors: Viewing Sensor Input on the Brick

Color Sensor

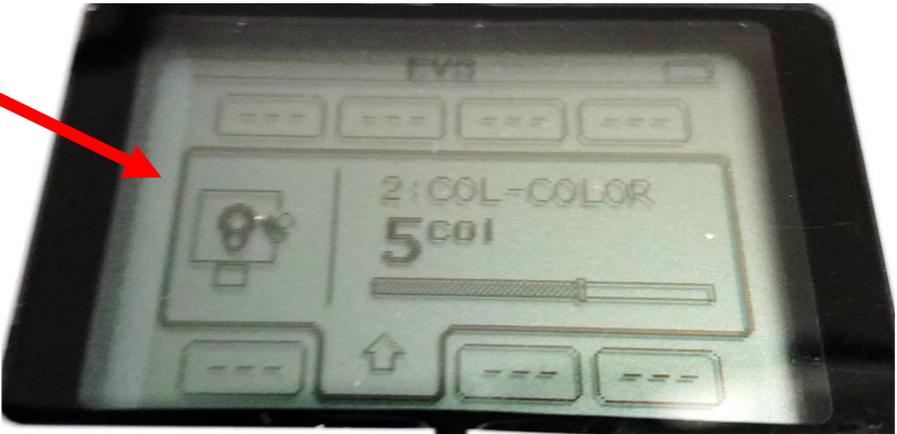
Select either “Reflected light” mode, “Ambient light” mode or “Color” mode



Use Reflected mode to determine what percent value corresponds to a particular color



Use Ambient mode to determine what percent value corresponds to the level of light in a certain part of the room



Use Color mode to determine what number value corresponds to a particular color using the key below

- Ambient light and reflected light levels will both be represented with a percent value
- Color mode will be represented by a number value



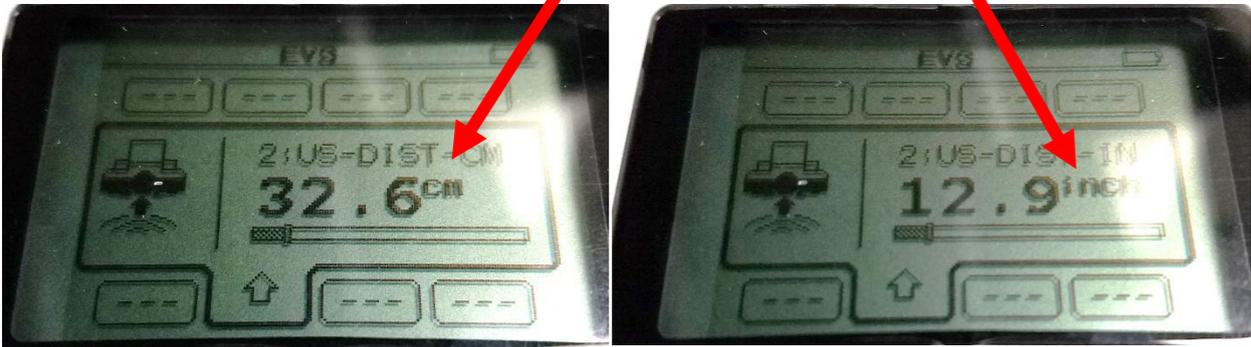
EV3 Sensors: Viewing Sensor Input on the Brick

Ultrasonic Sensor

Select either "Ultrasonic inch" mode or "Ultrasonic cm"



The distance from the object will be displayed in either centimeters or inches



Motor Rotation Sensor

Select either "Motor rotations" mode or "Motor degrees"

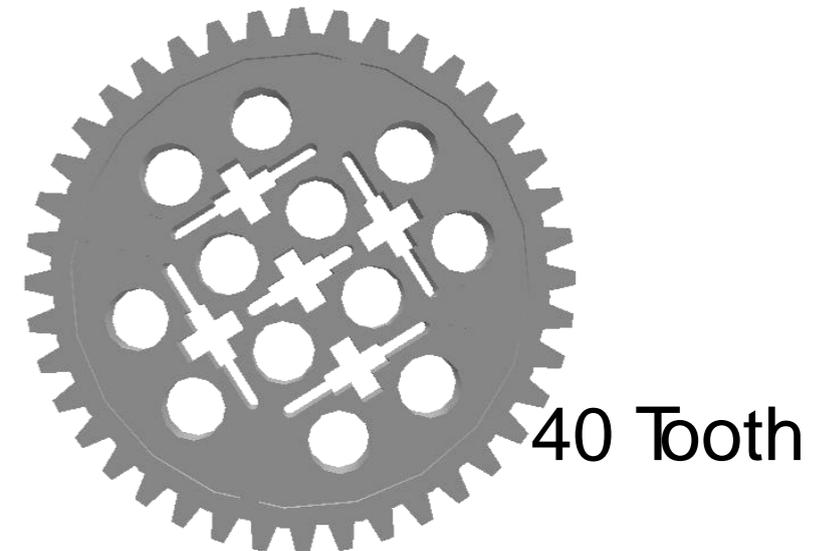
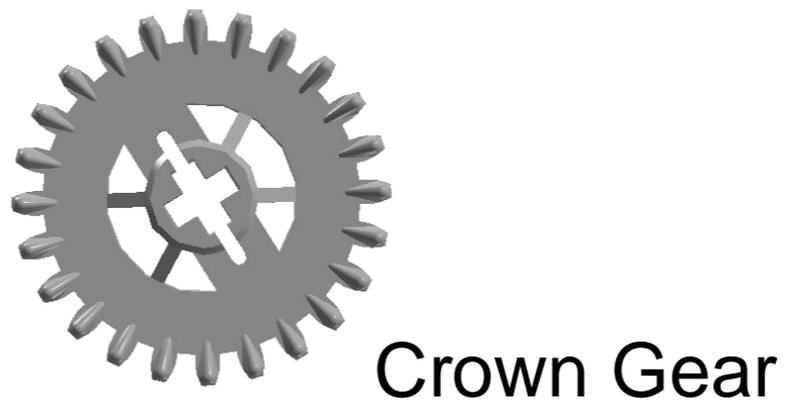
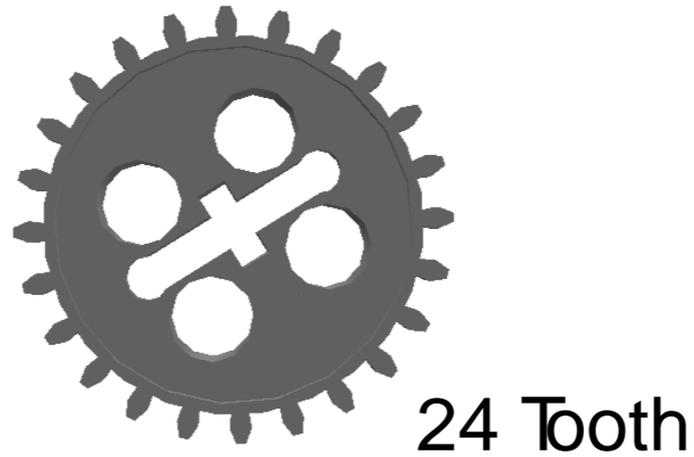


The amount the motor has rotated will be expressed in either degrees or whole number rotations.



*This icon on the left will differ but the output format is the same for both Large and Medium motors.

Using Gears: Gears Overview



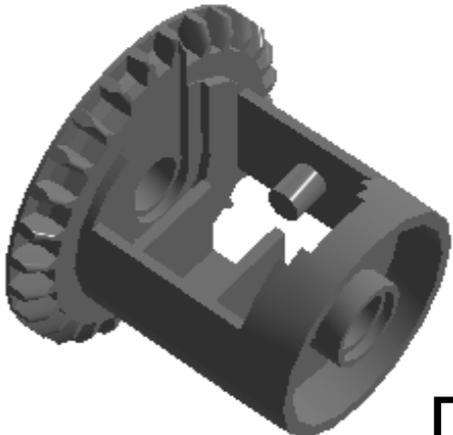
Using Gears: Gears Overview



Worm Gear



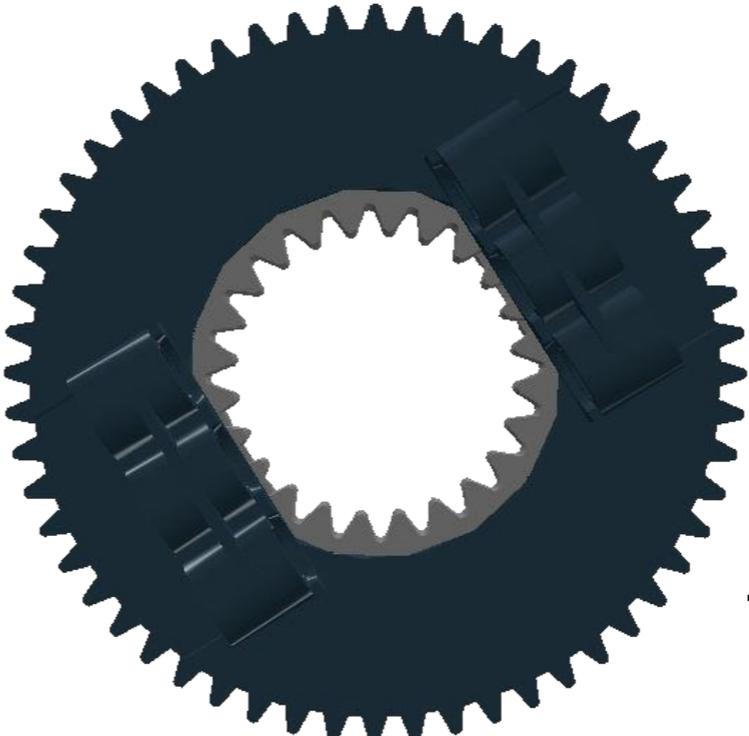
Knob Wheel



Differential



Gear Rack



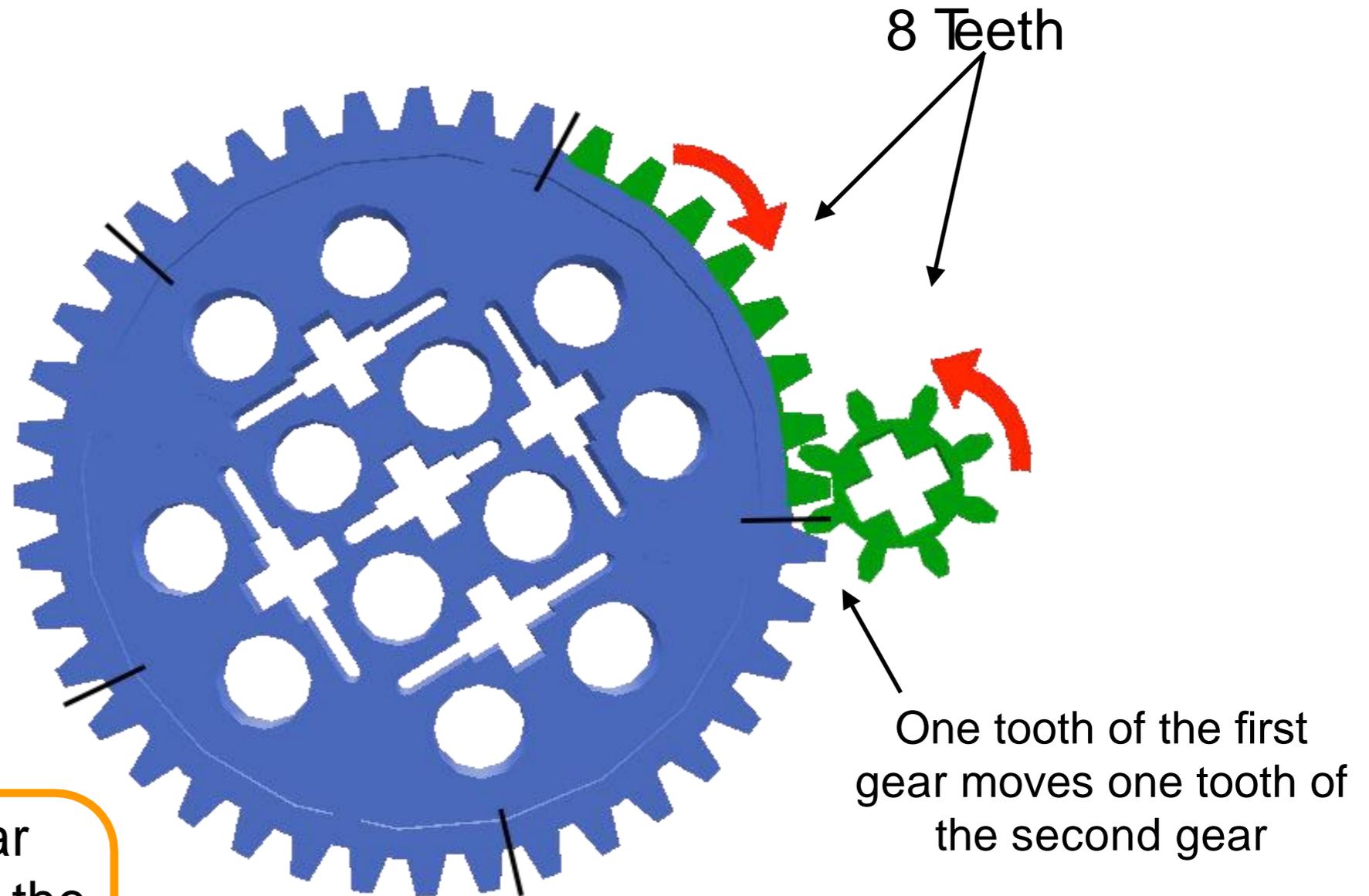
Turntable

Using Gears: Gears Overview

How the Sizes of Gears Compare

- The 40 tooth gear has 5x as many teeth as the 8 tooth gear
- The **circumference** of the 40 tooth gear is 5x greater than the circumference of the 8 tooth gear
- Spinning the 40 tooth gear one time will cause the 8 tooth gear to spin 5 times

This will apply to any gear combination - simply count the number of teeth to determine how many times one will cause the other to spin



Using Gears: Gearing Up & Gearing Down

Key Vocabulary

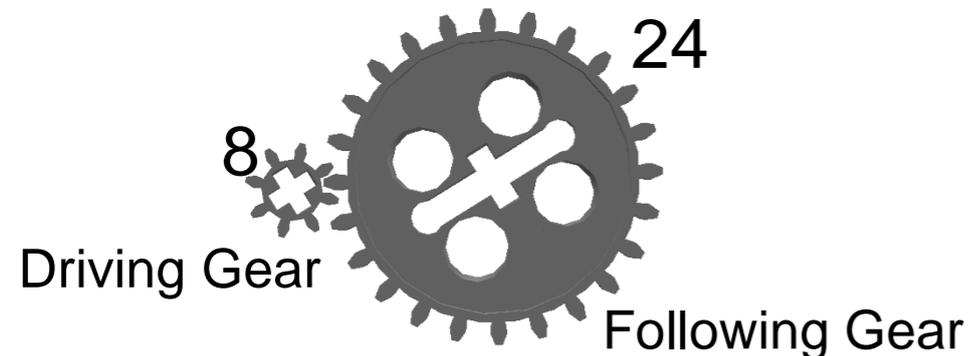
Driving Gear - Any gear that causes another gear to spin.

The first driving gear is connected to the motor.

Following Gear - Any gear that is being spun by another gear.

The last following gear outputs the final motion of the gear train

Gearing Down

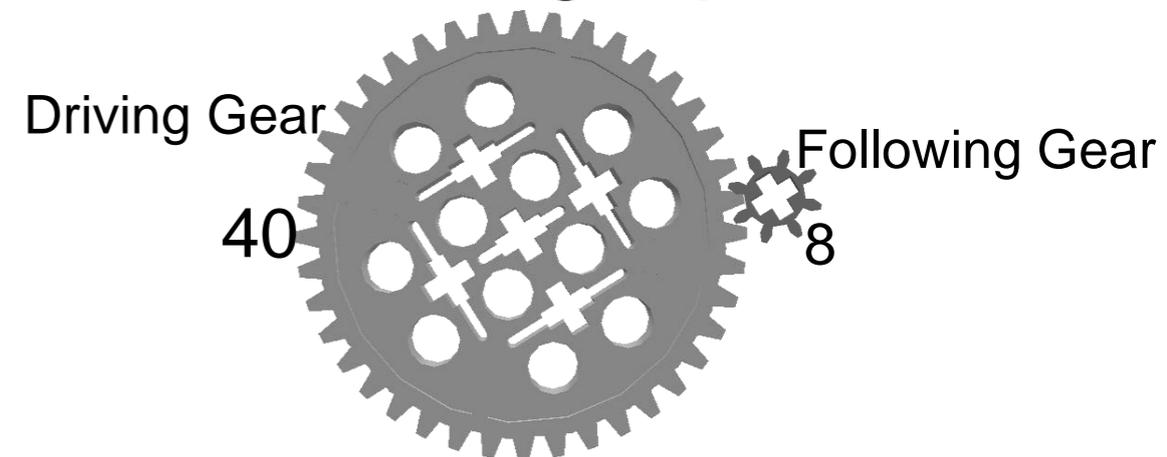


- When gearing **up**, the driving gear must be **smaller** than the following gear

In this example:

For each rotation of driving gear, following gear turns $\frac{1}{3}$ rotations

Gearing Up



- When gearing **down**, the driving gear must be **larger** than the following gear

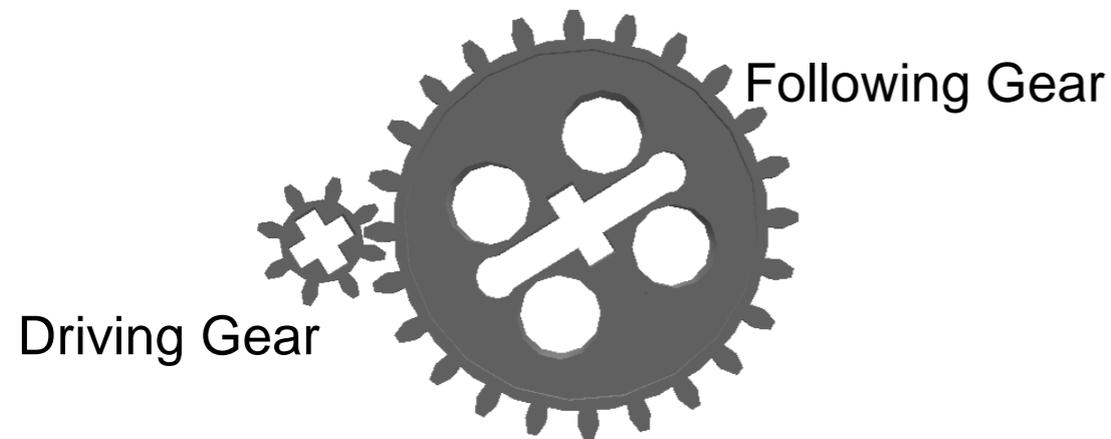
In this example:

For each rotation of driving gear, following gear turns 5 rotations

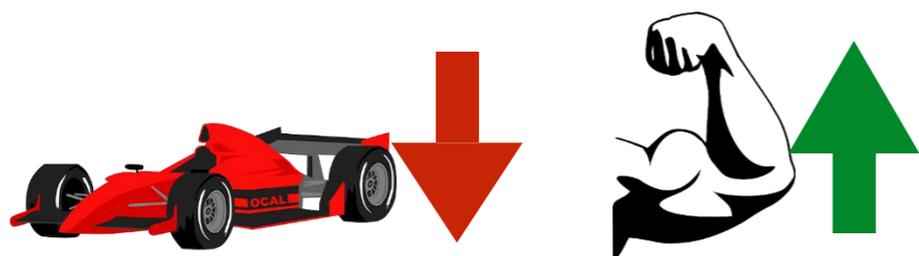
Using Gears: Gearing Up & Gearing Down

Speed vs. Power

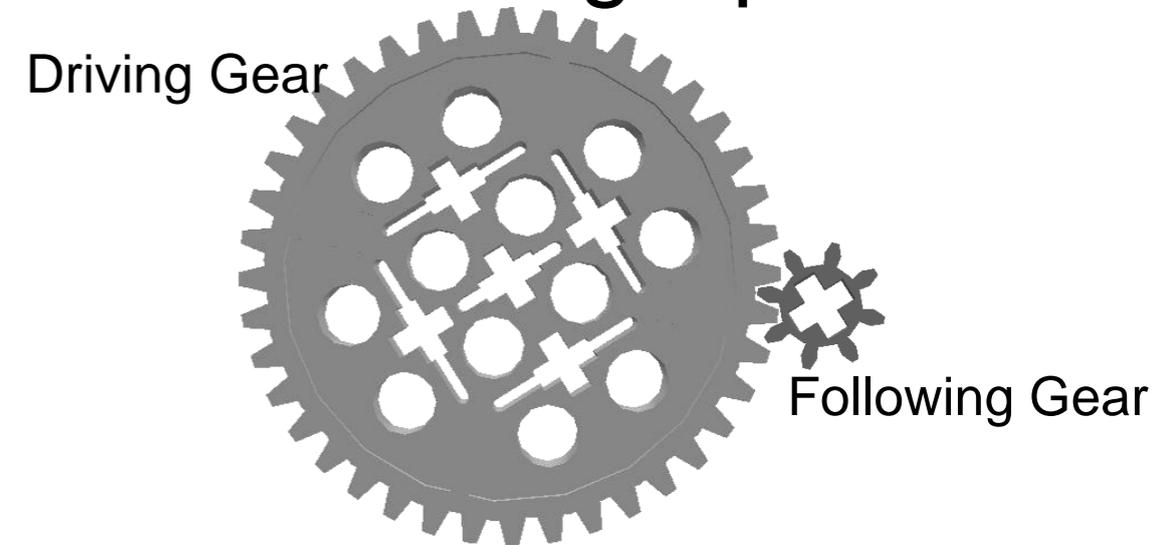
Gearing Down



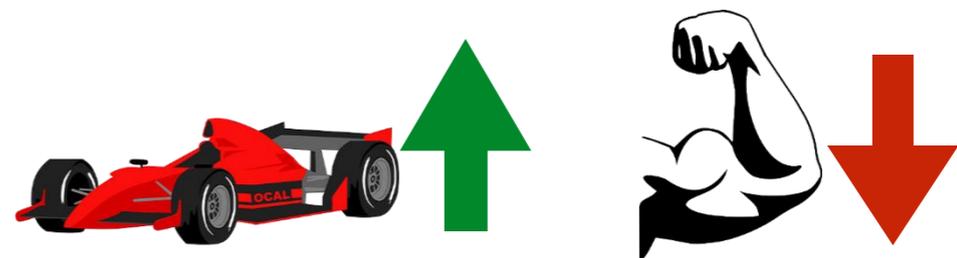
- Gearing down decreases speed, but increases power
- Allows your device to move heavier objects but at a slower speed



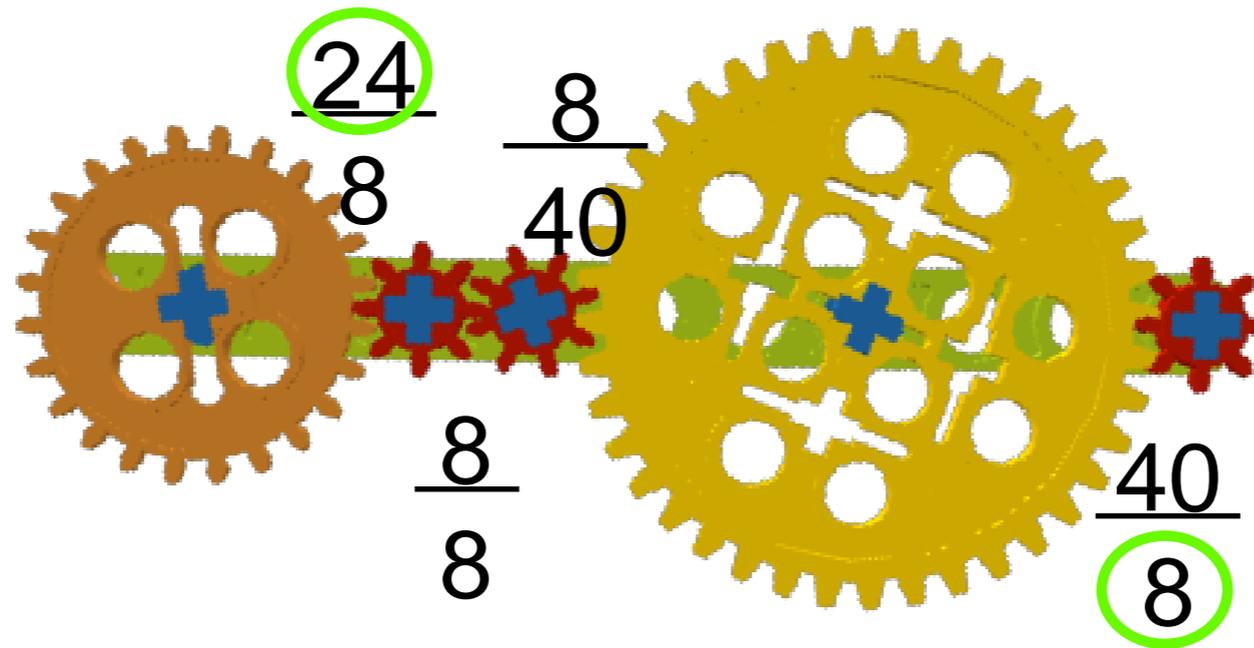
Gearing Up



- Gearing up increases speed, but decreases power
- Allows your device to operate at higher speeds but it can only move lighter objects



Using Gears: Gear Trains



Calculating Speed

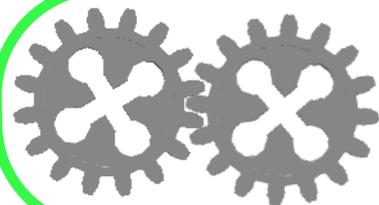
Multiply the ratio of each pair of gears in the train with the driving gear in the numerator and the following gear in the denominator

Since all the numbers in between will cancel out when they are multiplied together, simply write the ratio in terms of the first driving gear and the last following gear

$$\frac{24}{8} \times \frac{\cancel{8}}{3} \times \frac{\cancel{8}}{40} \times \frac{40}{8} = \frac{1}{1}$$

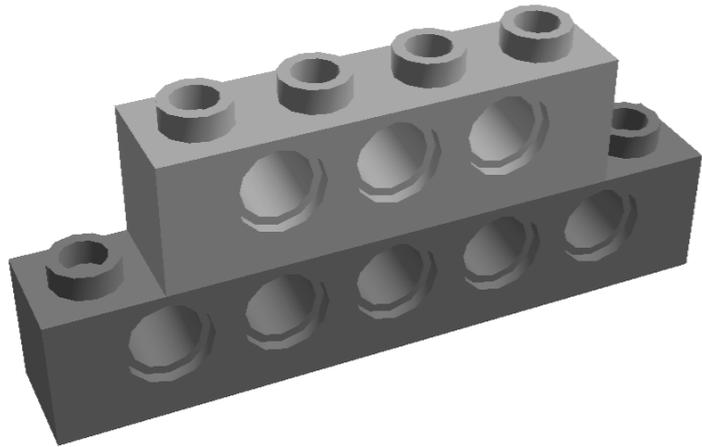
The last gear will spin 3 times faster than the first gear

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{First Gear } \frac{24}{8} = \frac{3}{1} \\ \text{Last Gear } \frac{8}{8} = \frac{1}{1} \end{array}$$

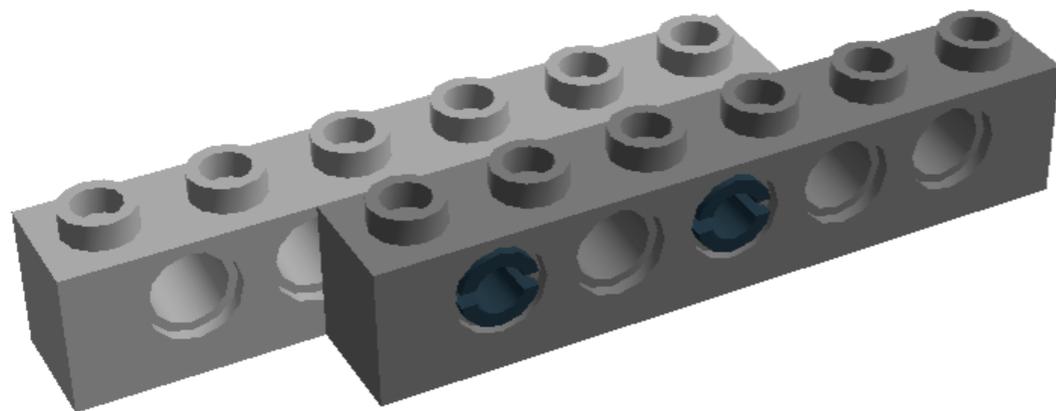
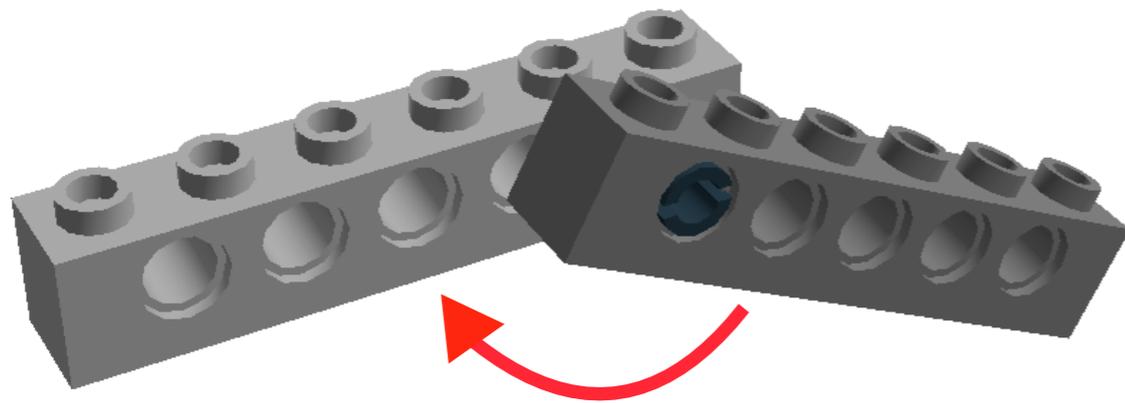


Note: 16 tooth gears will only fit with themselves along a beam, but two 16 tooth gears spans the same distance as an 8 tooth and a 24 tooth together

Additional Information: Technic Bricks

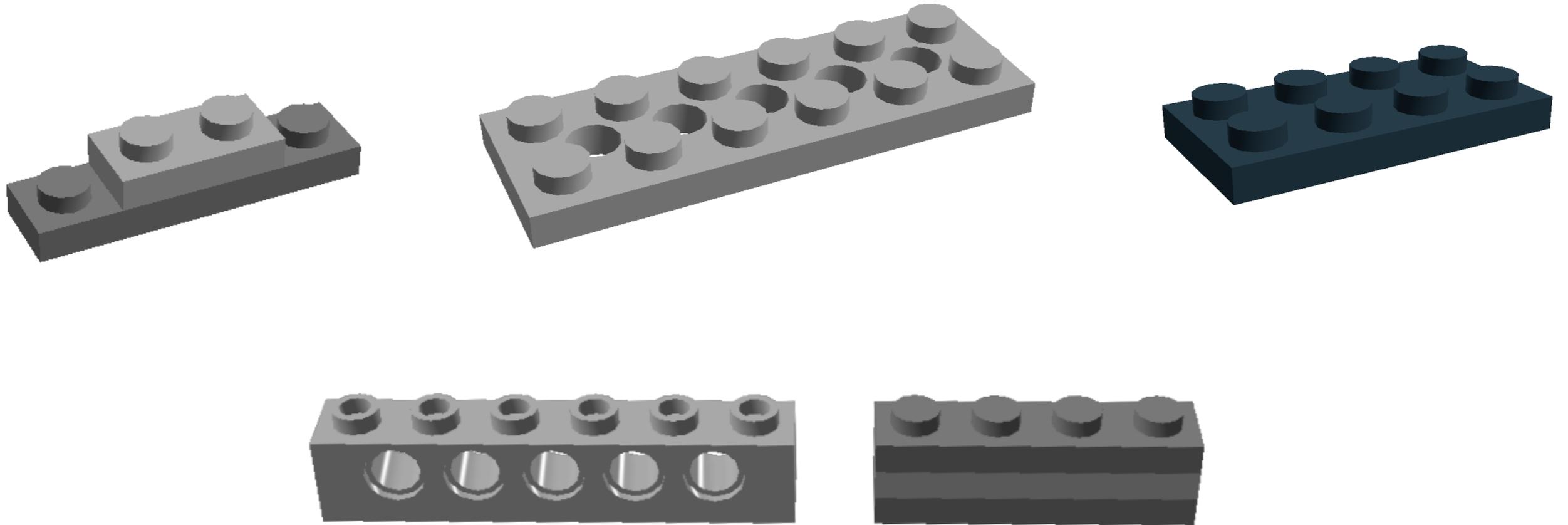


Technic bricks can be stacked or connected using connector pegs



- Connecting with **one** peg will allow the bricks to rotate
- Connecting with **two or more** pegs will keep the structure rigid

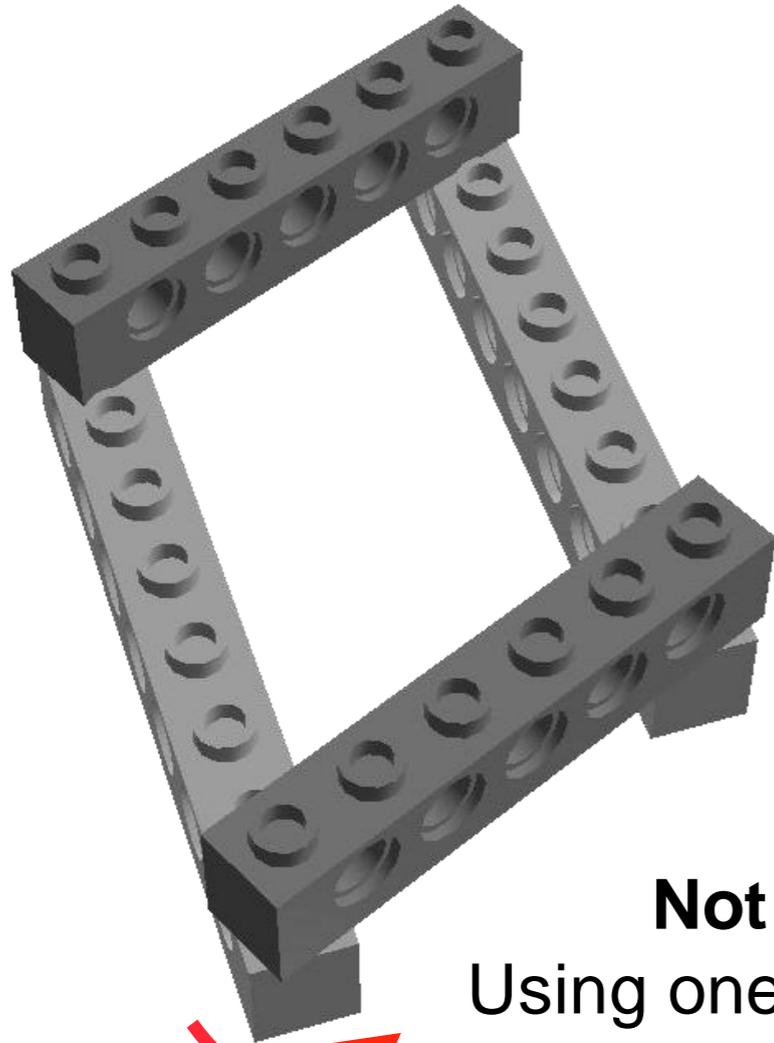
Additional Information: Plates



Stacking 3 plates is the
height equivalent of one brick

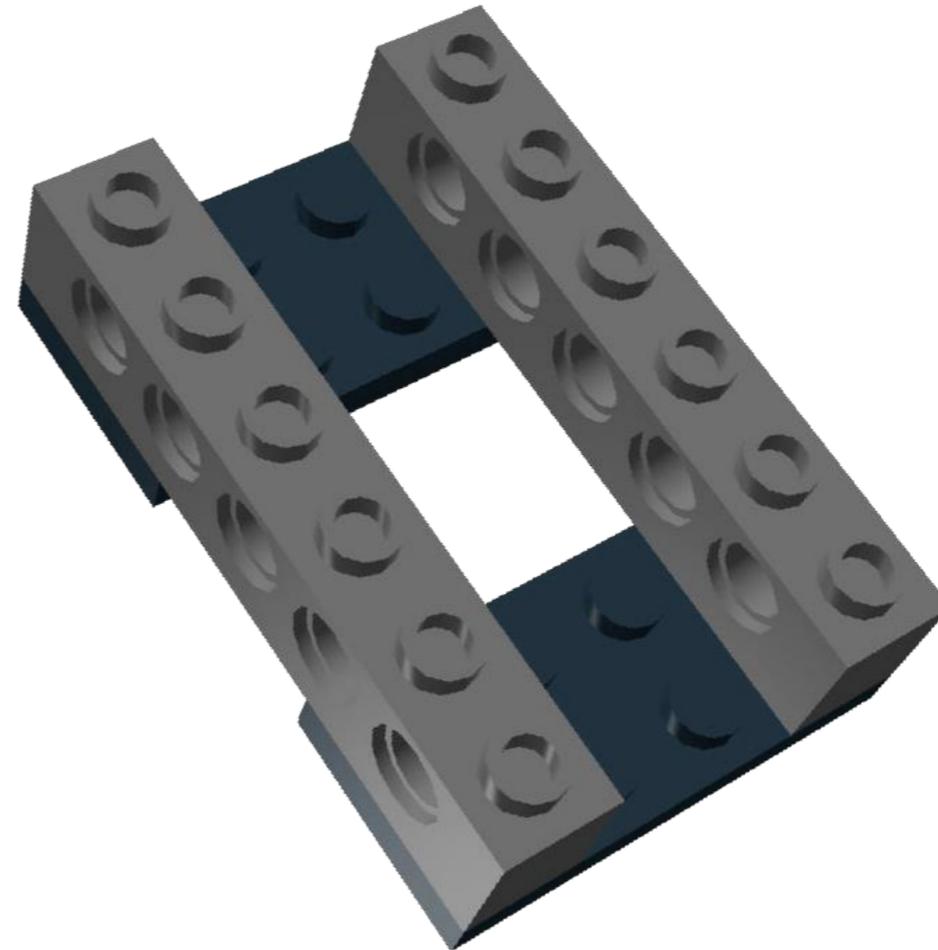
Additional Information: Sturdy Structures

Stacking Bricks & Plates



Not Sturdy

Using one connection point at a corner allows the corner to rotate



Sturdy

Using a plate creates two connection points at each corner which will keep the structure rigid