







The LEGO® Technic Idea Book WHEELED WONDERS

Yoshihito Isogawa

























LEGO® Inspiration for All Ages

The LEGO Technic Idea Book: Wheeled Wonders

is a collection of hundreds of ideas for building cars, trucks, motorcycles, and other vehicles. The models are easy to build based on their pictures alone, and colors distinguish each part, showing you how they're assembled. Each photo illustrates a different principle, concept, or mechanism that will inspire your own original creations.

The Technic models in Wheeled Wonders spin or move things, drag race, haul heavy gear, bump off walls, wind up and go, and much more. You'll discover how to build differential gears, implement steering and suspension, and design clutch and transmission systems to use in your own vehicles.

This visual guide, the second in the three-volume *LEGO Technic Idea Book* series, is the brainchild of master builder Yoshihito Isogawa of Tokyo, Japan. Each title is filled with photos of Isogawa's unique models, all of which are designed to fire the imaginations of LEGO builders young and old.

Imagine. Create. Invent. Now, what will you build?

Visit http://nostarch.com/technic/ to view videos of many of this book's projects and to join the discussion!









VOLUME 2

The LEGO® Technic Idea Book WHEELED WONDERS

Yoshihito Isogawa





The LEGO® Technic Idea Book: Wheeled Wonders. Copyright © 2011 by Yoshihito Isogawa.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publisher.

MIX Paper from

FSC™ C016245

Printed in Canada

15 14 13 12 11 10 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ISBN-10: 1-59327-278-2 ISBN-13: 978-1-59327-278-4

Publisher: William Pollock Production Editor: Serena Yang

Cover and Interior Design: Yoshihito Isogawa and Octopod Studios

Technical Reviewer: Sumiko Hirano Compositor: Octopod Studios

For information on book distributors or translations, please contact No Starch Press, Inc. directly:

No Starch Press, Inc.

38 Ringold Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

phone: 415.863.9900; fax: 415.863.9950; info@nostarch.com; www.nostarch.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Isogawa, Yoshihito.

Wheeled wonders / by Yoshihito Isogawa.

p. cm. -- (The LEGO Technic idea book; v. 2)

ISBN-13: 978-1-59327-278-4

ISBN-10: 1-59327-278-2

1. Motor vehicles--Models. 2. LEGO toys. I. Title.

TL237.I86 2010 629.22'1--dc22

2010029779

No Starch Press and the No Starch Press logo are registered trademarks of No Starch Press, Inc. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners. Rather than use a trademark symbol with every occurrence of a trademarked name, we are using the names only in an editorial fashion and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

LEGO®, MINDSTORMS®, the brick configuration, and the minifigure are trademarks of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize, or endorse this book.

The information in this book is distributed on an "As Is" basis, without warranty. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this work, neither the author nor No Starch Press, Inc. shall have any liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in it.



This book is full of little seeds for ideas.

It is you who will cultivate those seeds
so they grow into wonderful masterpieces.

Yoshihito Isogawa





Contents

Introductio	n · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Note to Pa	ırents · · · ·	
Where to I	Find Parts	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Part 1		
	4	Motorcars
		Various tires· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		Tire size, torque, and speed of rotation · · · · · · · · · · 5
		Simple motorcars · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		Cars That Spin Something
	18	Push the car, and something spins · · · · · · · 18
		Motorcars that spin something · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	32	Cars That Move Something
		Nonmotorized cars that move something · · · · · · · · 32
	<u> </u>	Motorcars that move something · · · · · · · · · · · · 36
		A motorcar that lifts its tires · · · · · · · · · · · · 44
Part 2		
-		Differential Gears
	48	What is a differential gear?
		Let's examine the differential gear · · · · · · · · 48
		Each wheel moves a different distance in one turn · · · · · · 49
		Building differential gears · · · · · · · · · · · 50



	54	Steering Steering without motors 54 A three-wheeler that zigs and zags 56 Moving straight when going forward; turning when going backward 58 A car with a lot of gears and mechanisms that zigs and zags 60 A front-wheel drive car 62
	64	SuspensionRubber band suspensions64Spring suspensions66A graceful suspension68Suspension for a heavy car70Suspension for a 4WD car72
Part 3		
	76	Combining Vehicles with Different BasesPutting one motorcar on one of four bases76Two cars x four bases = eight cars76One car, four combinations78Another car, four combinations80A base for making a car with big wheels82A base for making a suspension car84A base for a four-legged walker86Creating electricity by turning a motor88A base for turning on lights88
	90	Reversing After Bumping a Wall Going forward and backward

• vi •



		Using Pullback and Windup Springs
	94	A pullback spring · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		A pullback car · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		More pullback cars · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 96
		Spinning a propeller with a pullback spring · · · · · · · · 97
		Non-pullback springs · · · · · · 98
		A windup spring-powered four-legged walker · · · · · · · 98
		A windup spring-powered two-legged walker · · · · · · · 99
		A spring unlocked by dropping the car · · · · · · · · · · 100
		A pendulum and a spring · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 102
Part 4		
* \(\tag{\tau} \)		Transmissions
@ • (· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	106	A two-speed transmission · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
• 6		Three-speed transmission cars · · · · · · · · 108
		A three-speed transmission · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		A large-scale transmission · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 112
		A four-speed transmission · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 114
		Changing the speed by changing the motor's
		rotational direction · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 116
		A transmission with two motors and a differential gear $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ 118
		Shifting gears smoothly · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 120
2		Cool Cars
	122	A handcar/pump car · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 122
		An off-road vehicle · · · · · · · · · · · · · 124
		Executing a J-turn · · · · · 126
		A car that runs without falling off a table
		A car that moves like an inchworm · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 130

• vii •





INTRODUCTION

LEGO® Technic is designed to allow builders to create advanced models with moving parts, like those built with LEGO MINDSTORMS®. The LEGO Technic Idea Book series is a collection of unofficial LEGO building guides that offer hundreds of ideas and examples for building mechanisms with Technic. This volume focuses on vehicles that can drive, turn, move things, and go backward.

Building with LEGO

LEGO bricks aren't designed to fit in just one specific place, one particular way. Your imagination is your guide when building with LEGO, and you can put bricks and other LEGO pieces together in many ways to build an almost infinite number of creations. After building a model according to the instructions included with your set, try taking the model apart and using its pieces to create a variation of the model—or build a new one altogether. That's where the real world of LEGO begins.

My hope is that this book will give you some ideas to help you build your own original creations.

You Are the Creator

The LEGO Technic Idea Book: Wheeled Wonders is full of photographs of mini-projects designed to show you various ways to build with LEGO bricks, motors, and wheels. Combine these projects, add decorations, and change them to create your own unique masterpieces.

The Use of Color

The examples in this book are made with parts of various colors to make it easier for you to see the individual brick shapes. Judicious use of color can add real beauty to your models, and I've tried, wherever possible, to use colors in an artistic way. You don't need to use the colors I've chosen in your models; use whichever colors you want to use to make your projects your own.

Where Are the Words?

Other than this brief introduction and the table of contents, this book has almost no words. Instead, you'll find a series of photos of increasingly complex models that are designed to demonstrate building techniques. This is an idea book; it's about imagination. Rather than tell you what to see or think when you look at each photograph, I encourage you to interpret each one in your own way. If I were to tell you what to see, you would see things through my eyes. My hope is that you will see my models through your own eyes and that your interpretations will lead you to invent your own LEGO creations.

Join the Discussion!

View videos of many of this book's models, ask questions, and share your own designs at **http://nostarch.com/technic/**.



NOTE TO PARENTS

Praise Your Child

When your child shows you their creations, take the time to really look at them together. Ask your child what they were focused on when building their model or what they wanted to accomplish. Offer your child sincere praise about their work and address aspects of the model that impress or surprise you. Talent is fostered by praise. Encourage and praise your child, and watch their talent shine through.

Express Your Feelings

Talk to your child about their creations. Ask them to show you how things move and how the parts fit together. Have them explain how they came up with their design. Your words can serve as hints or advice for your child, planting the seeds for new ideas.

Play with Your Child

Make things with your child. Offer ideas and build together. For a challenge, compete against each other to build different versions of a model. It can be inspiring for your child to see what an adult can do. When competing with your child, always encourage them and explain your creations so that they can learn from your experience.

WHERE TO FIND PARTS

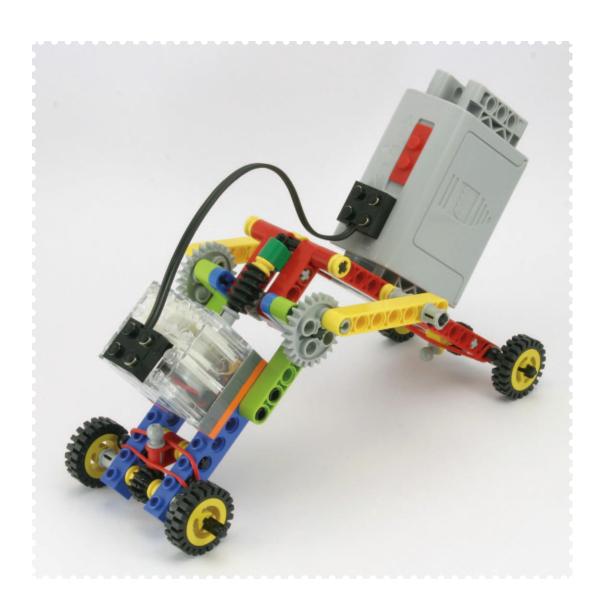
There are hundreds of models in The Lego Technic Idea Books, and you may not have all of the parts you need in order to build a particular model. If you are having trouble finding a specific piece, please visit **http://nostarch.com/technic/** for a list of parts and answers to questions that you may have (the information on this page is dynamic so check back for changes).

The parts list includes various Technic pieces used in this series, from basic gears and pins to harder-to-find treads, springs, and electric motors. Each part is accompanied by a picture and a link to the BrickLink website, where you can easily browse for and order any part you desire. For the more unique parts, I have also included some purchasing tips as well as specific page references to where each part is used in each book.

If you prefer to purchase a LEGO Technic set, please visit **http://nostarch.com/technic/** for a recommended list on the parts list page. This list will change as the LEGO Group frequently replaces their Technic sets, so check back for updates.

If you still cannot find a particular piece used in one of my models, try substituting your own parts. The models in this series are meant to inspire, and there is no one right way to build. I encourage you to explore and have fun.















PART 1

















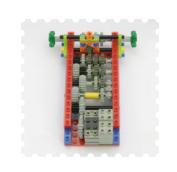








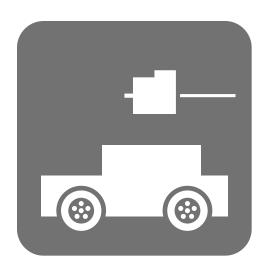




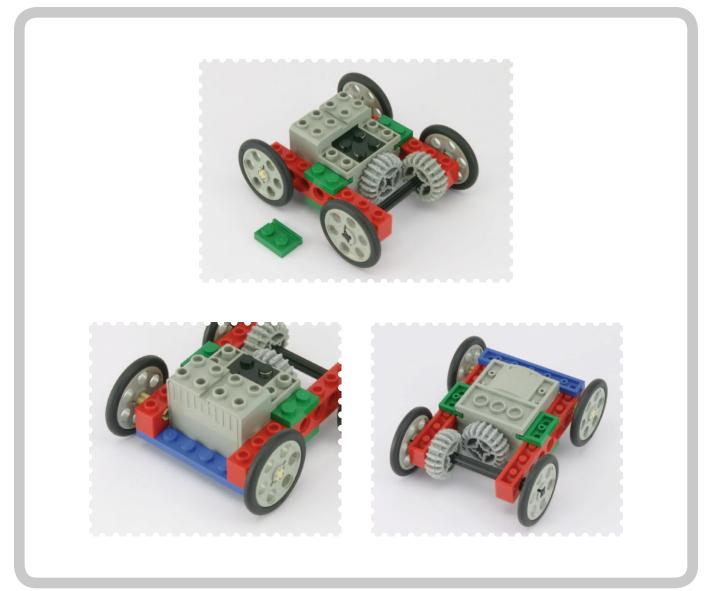




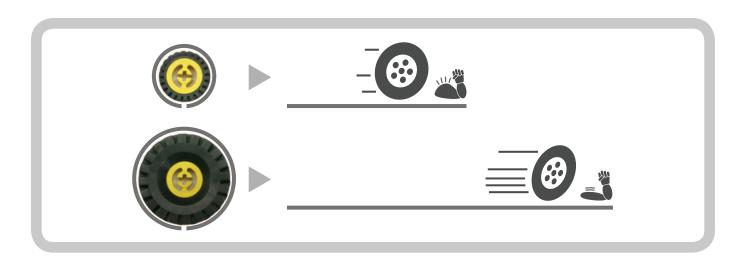


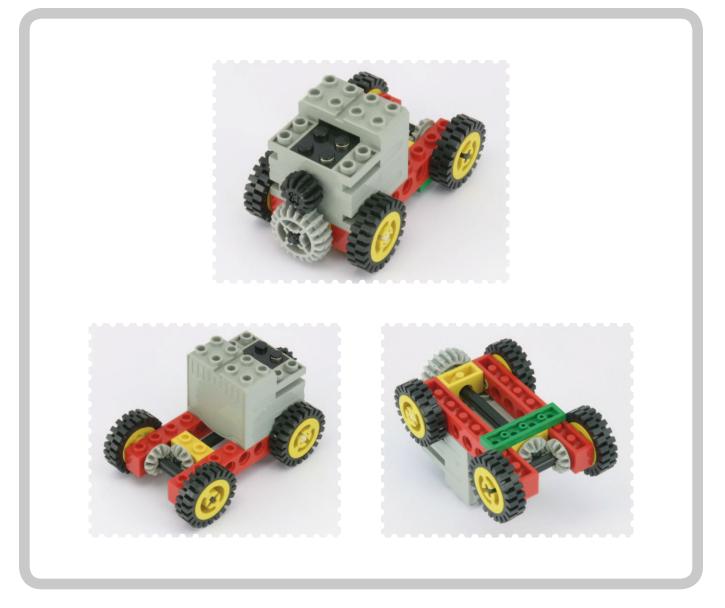




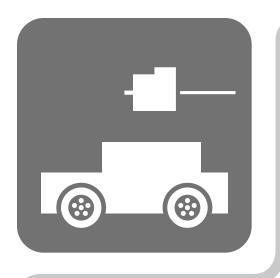






















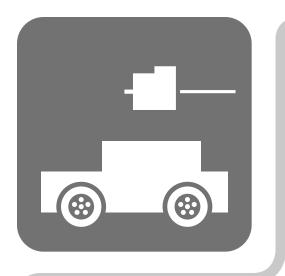




















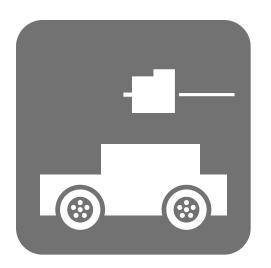






















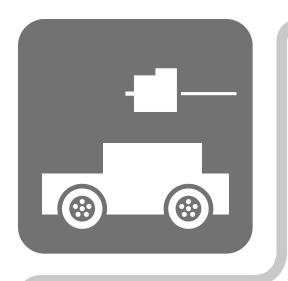




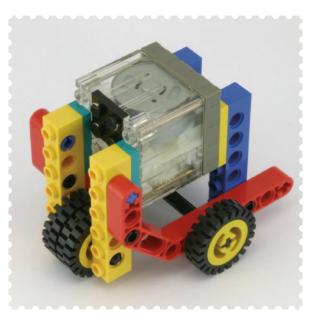














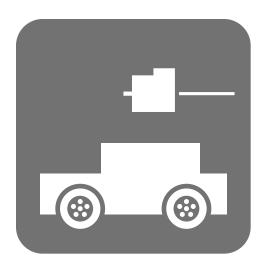




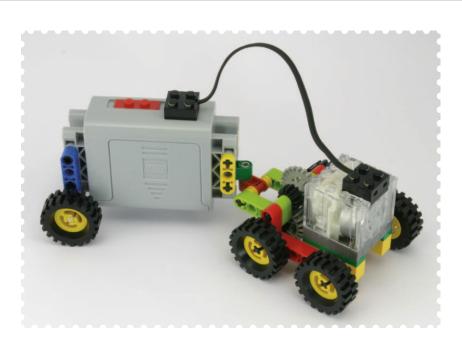








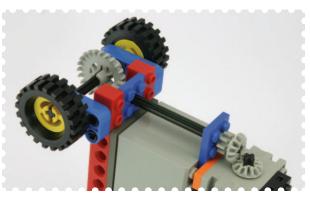










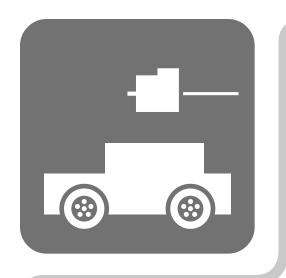


































































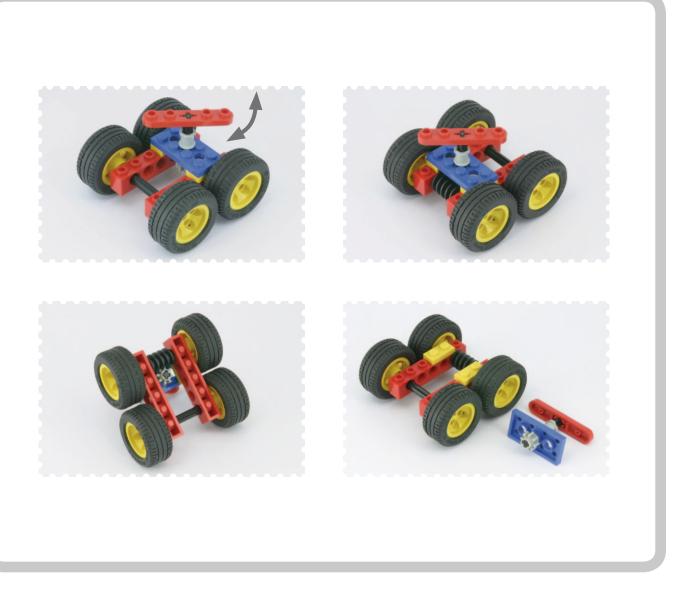












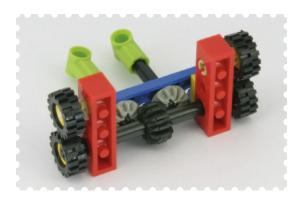




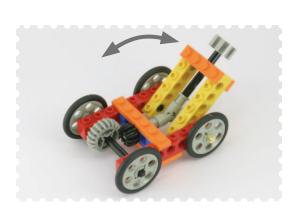










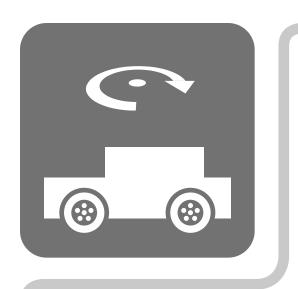


































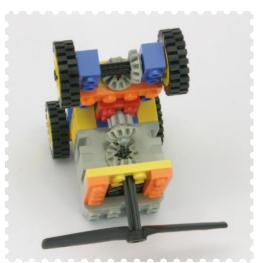




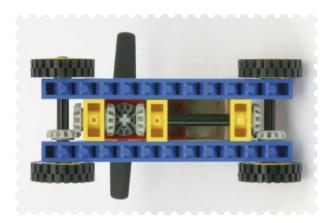


























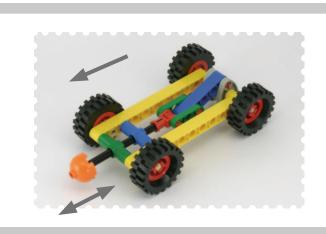






















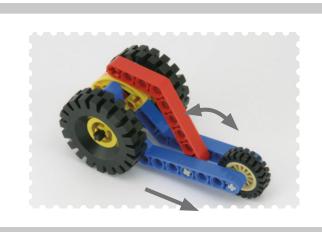










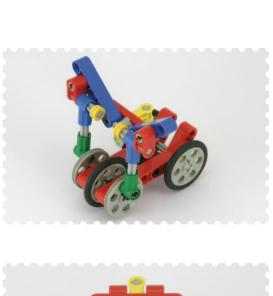










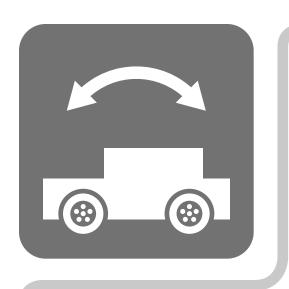


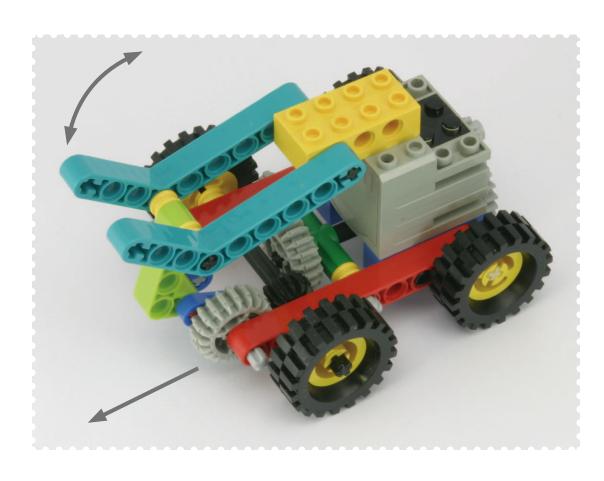








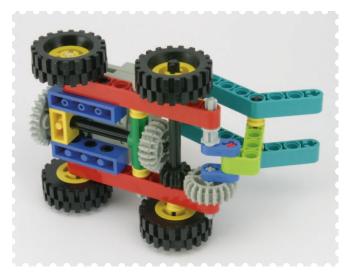


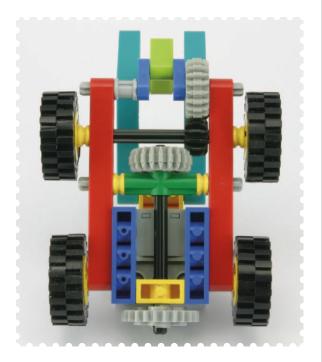




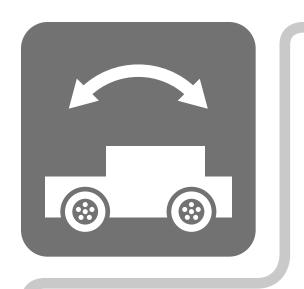














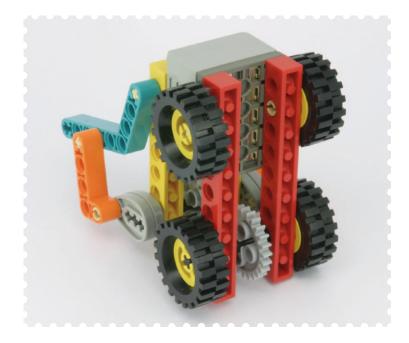




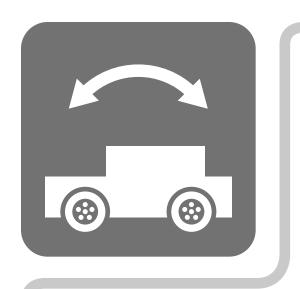












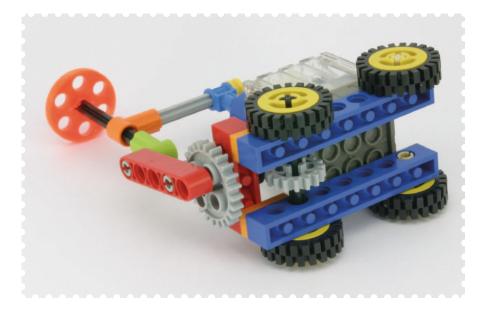




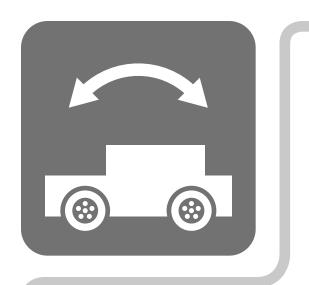


















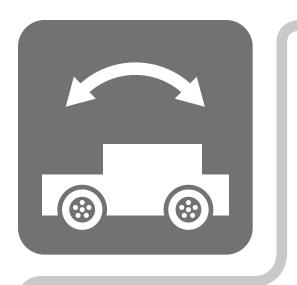










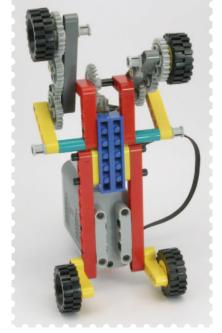




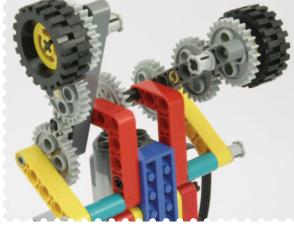






















PART 2



















-<u>I</u>





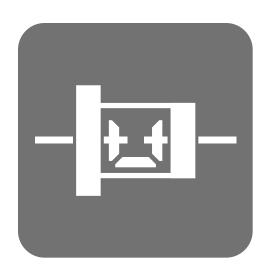




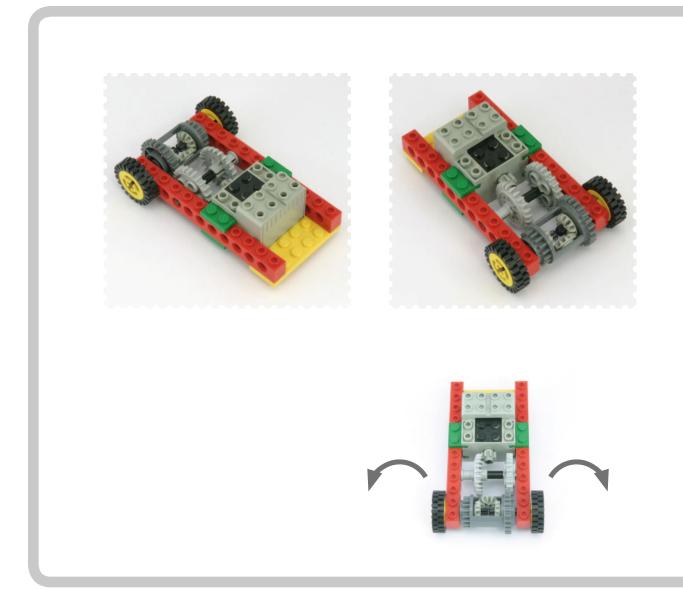




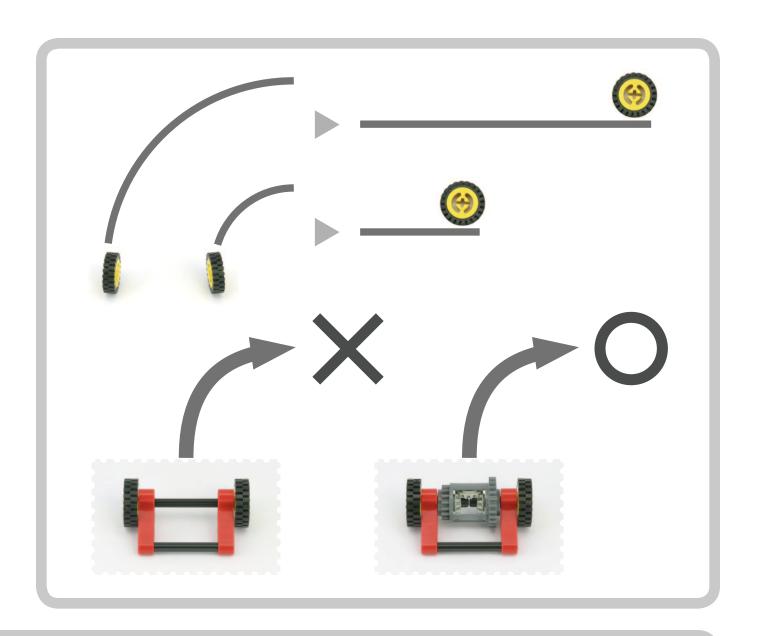


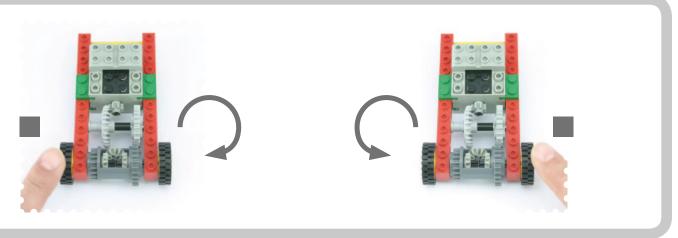




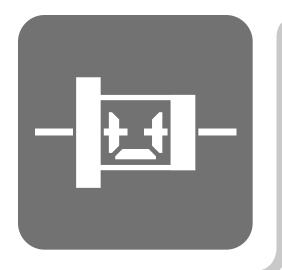










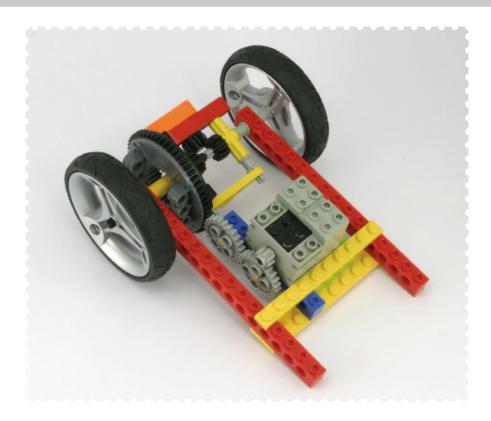


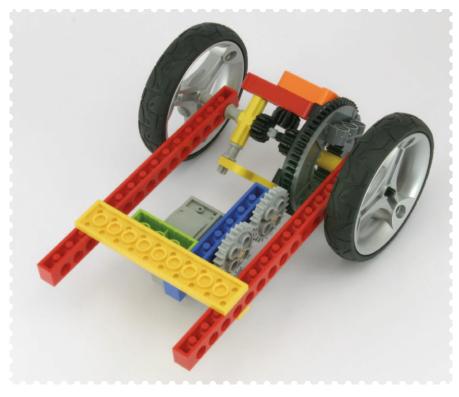




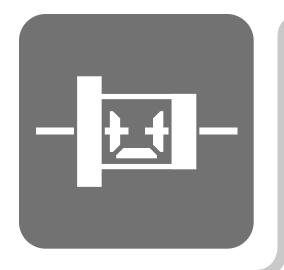




































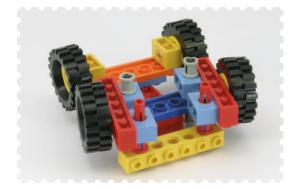










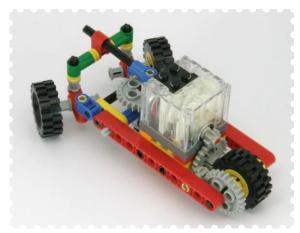


















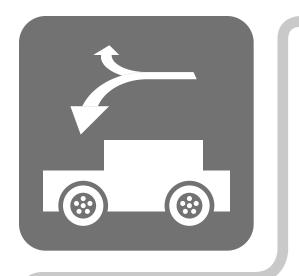


















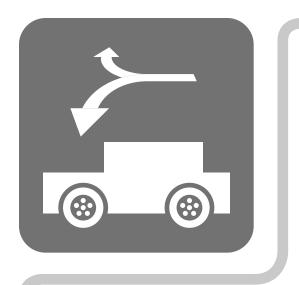




















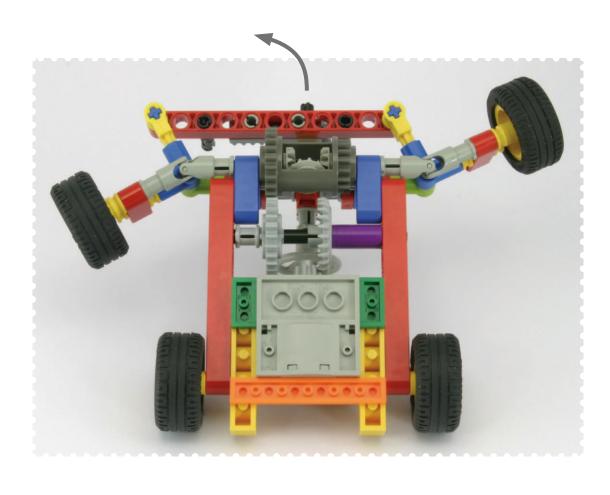














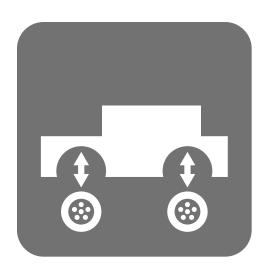


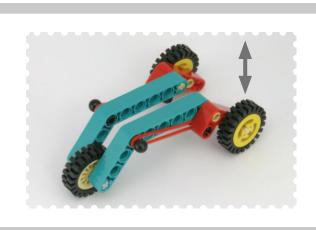
















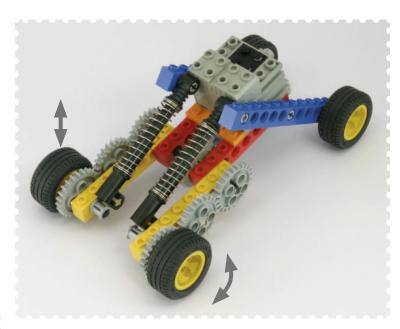
















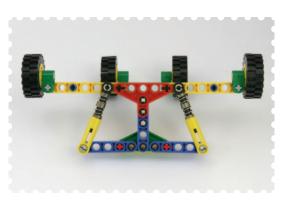




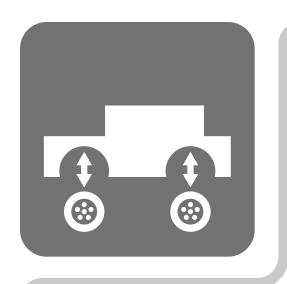


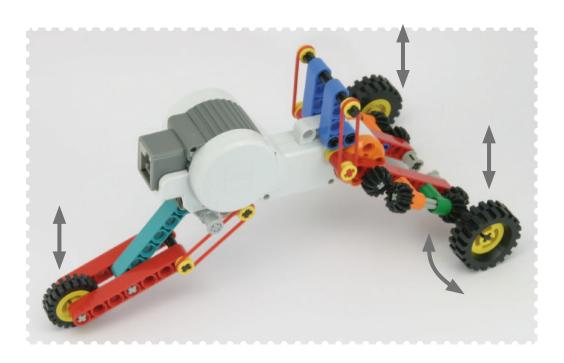














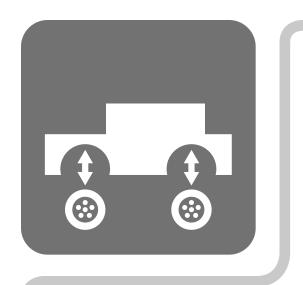


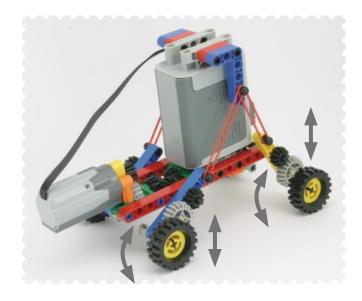




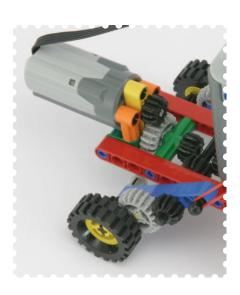








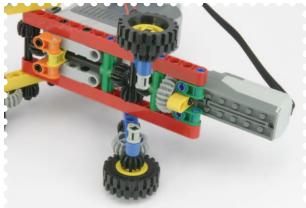




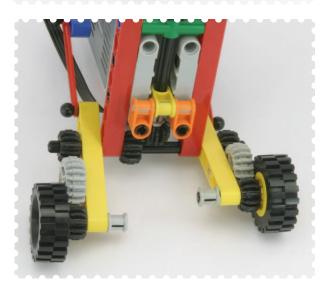


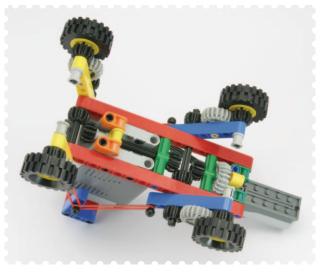




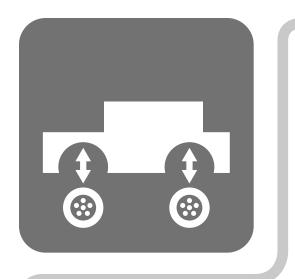


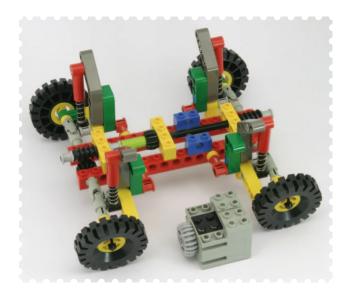




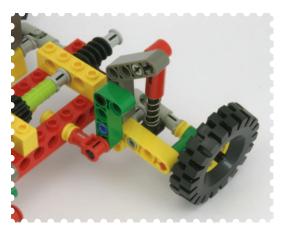






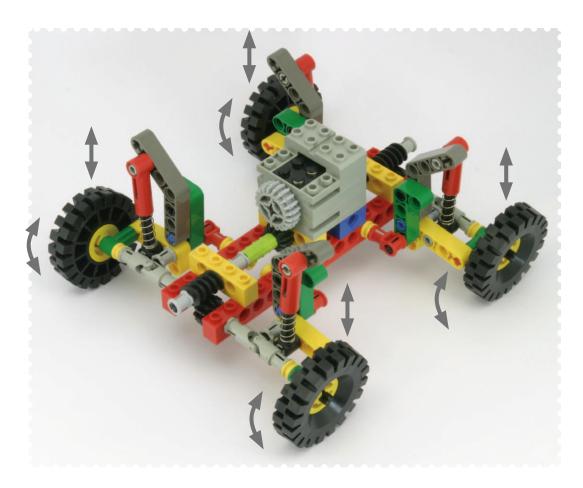


























PART 3

















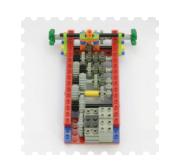












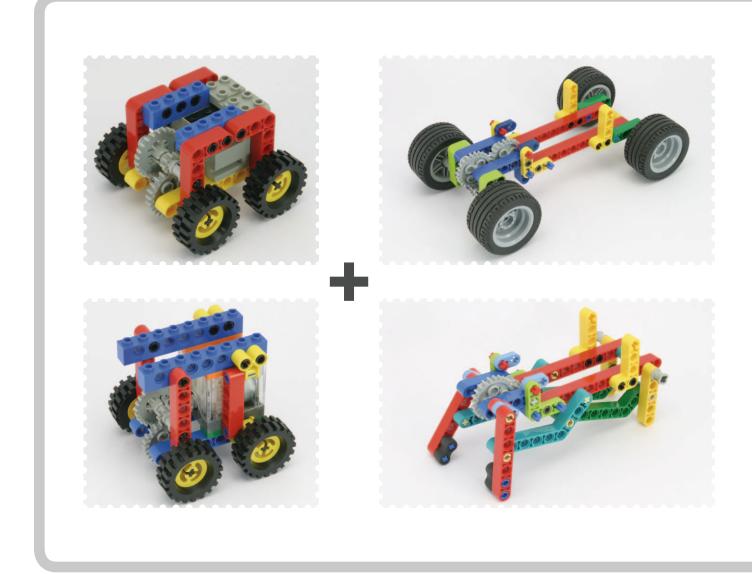




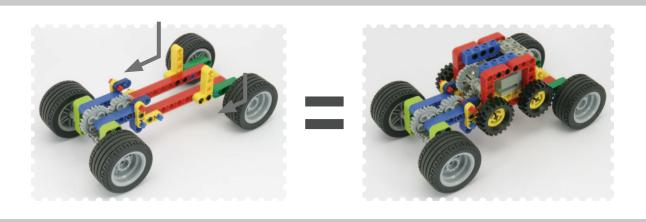




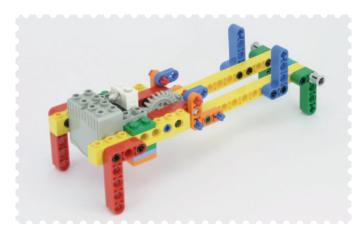


















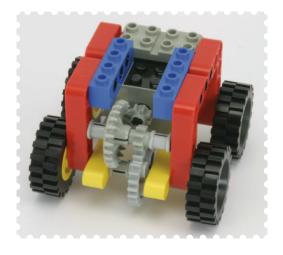


























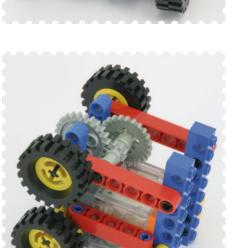










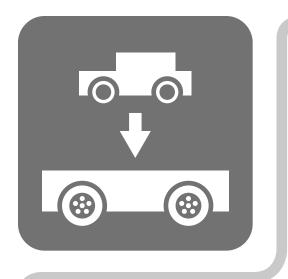






















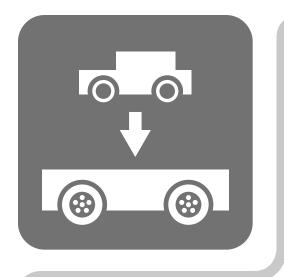




















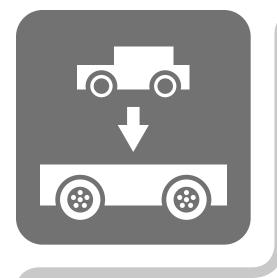


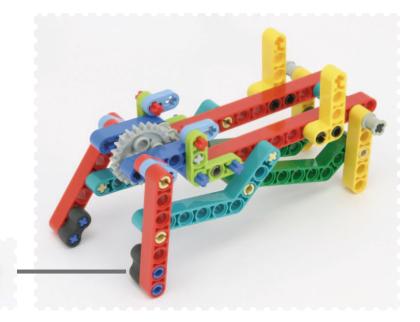


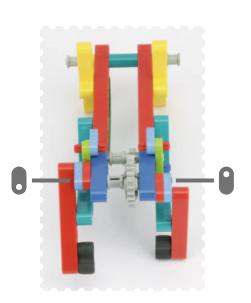






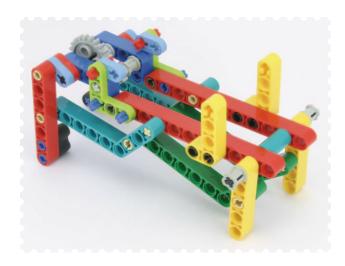












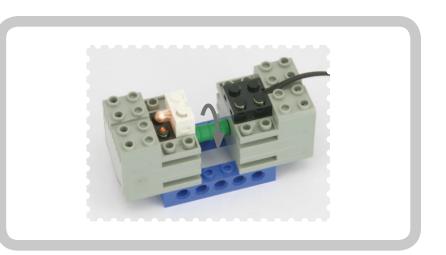




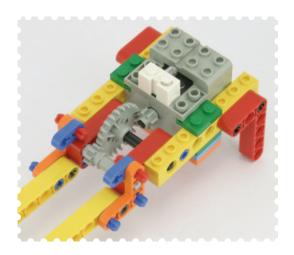


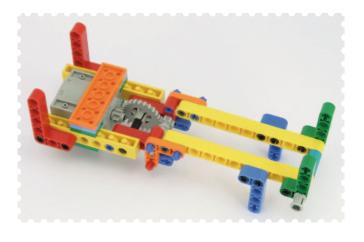




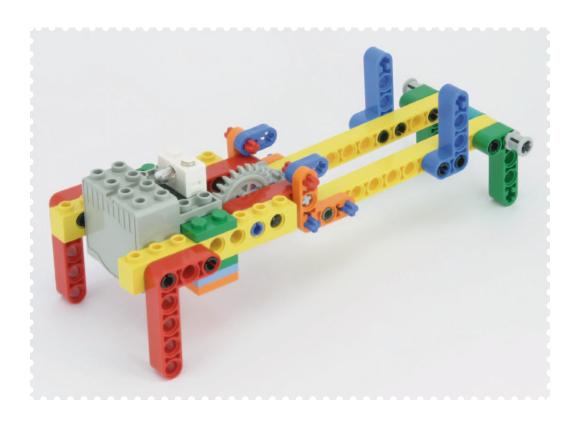




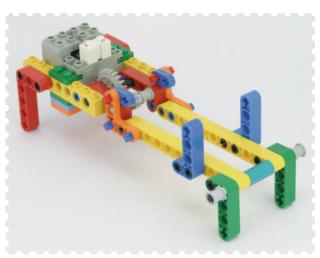




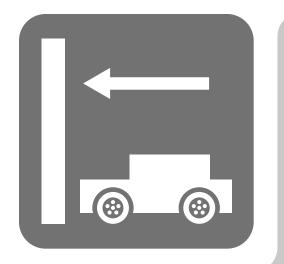


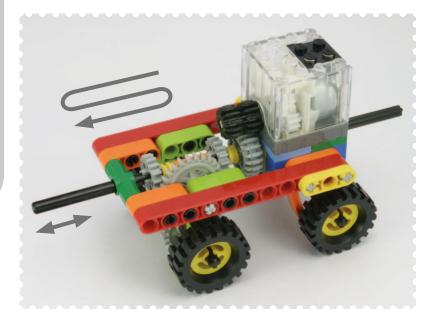






















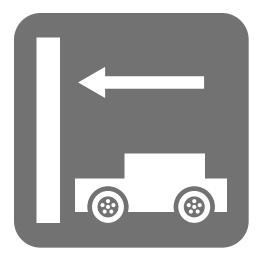


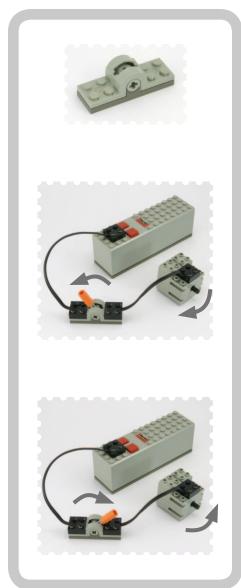


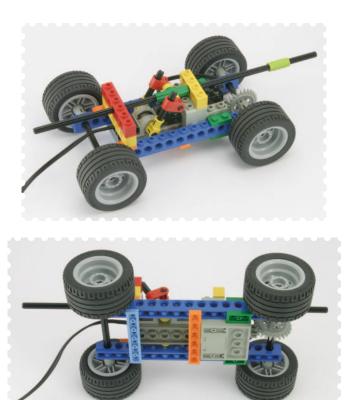






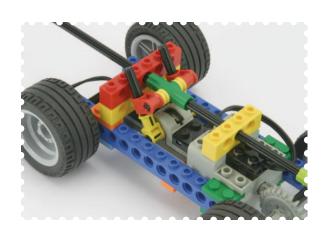
















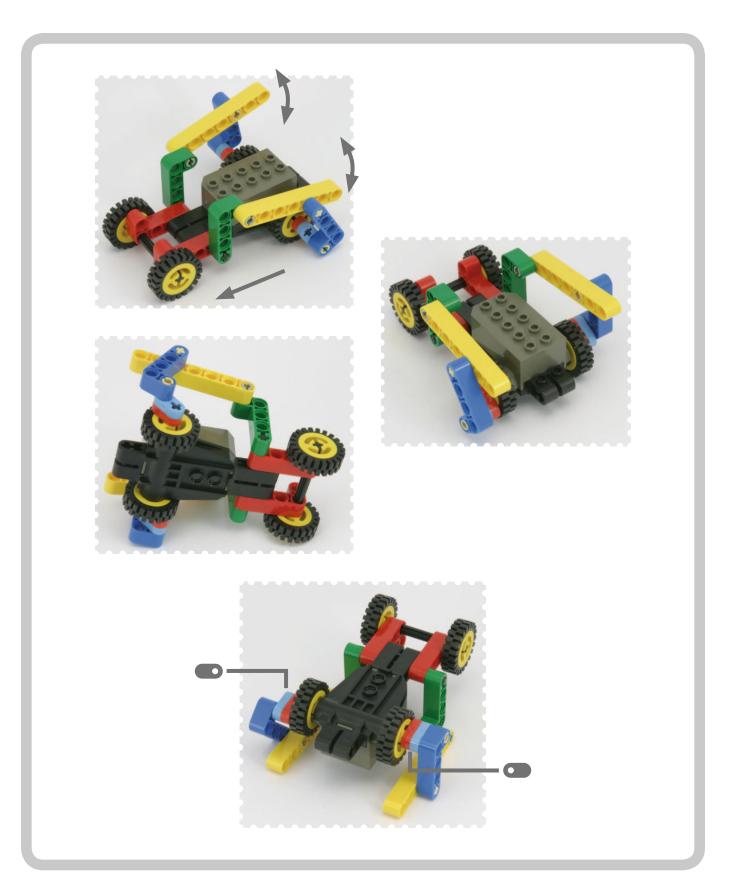






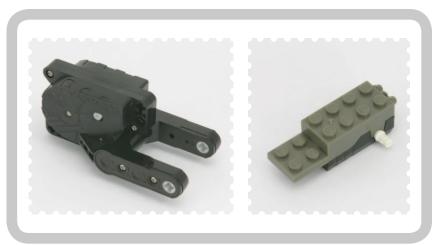










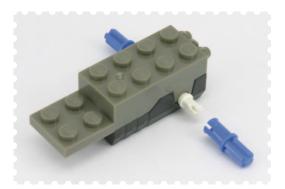










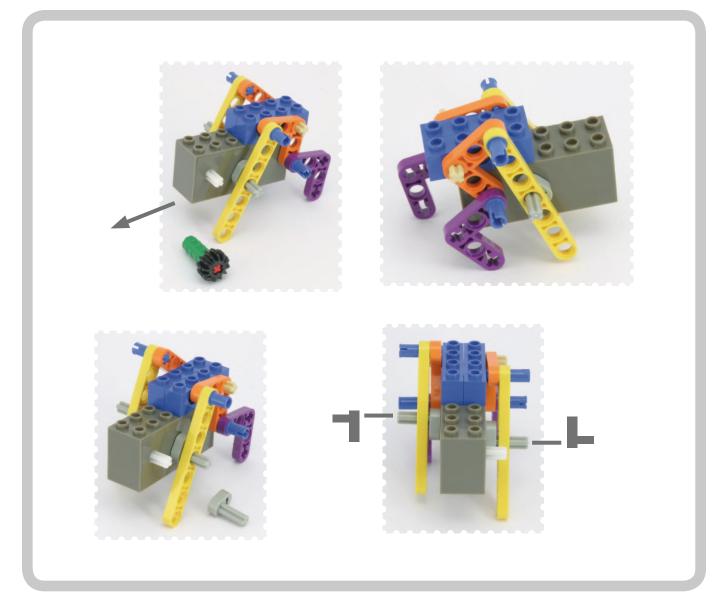






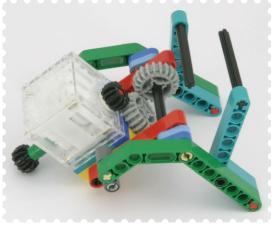


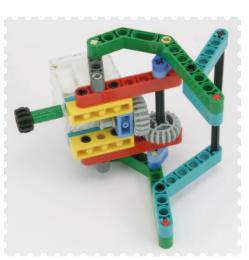








































































PART 4





















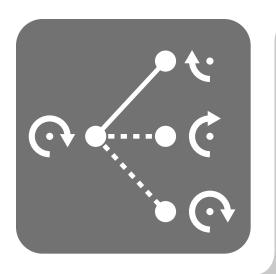


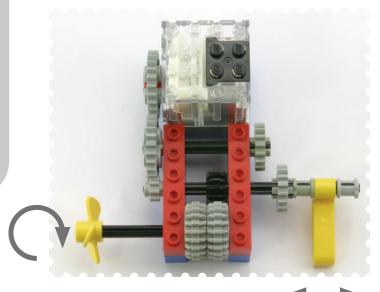


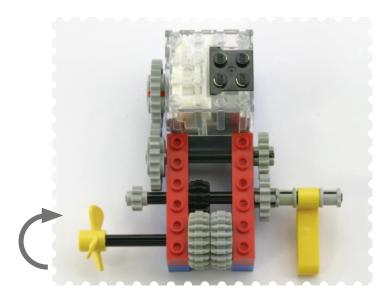




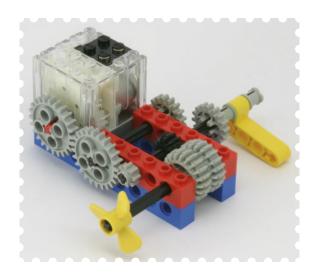


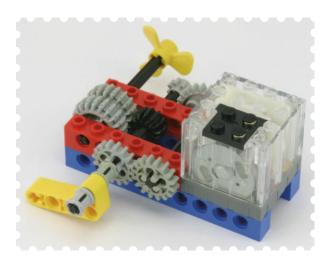


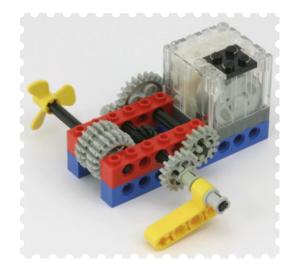


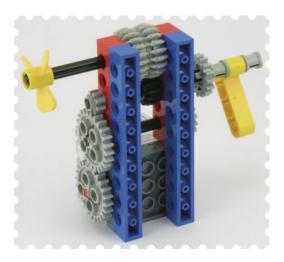




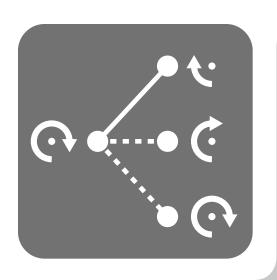


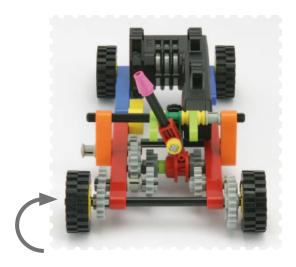


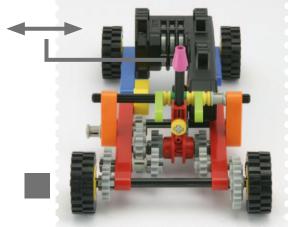


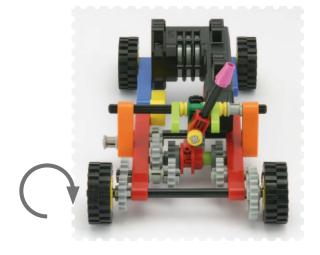


















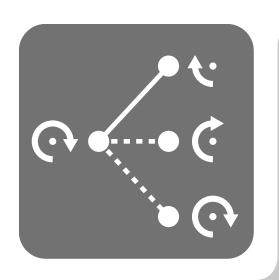


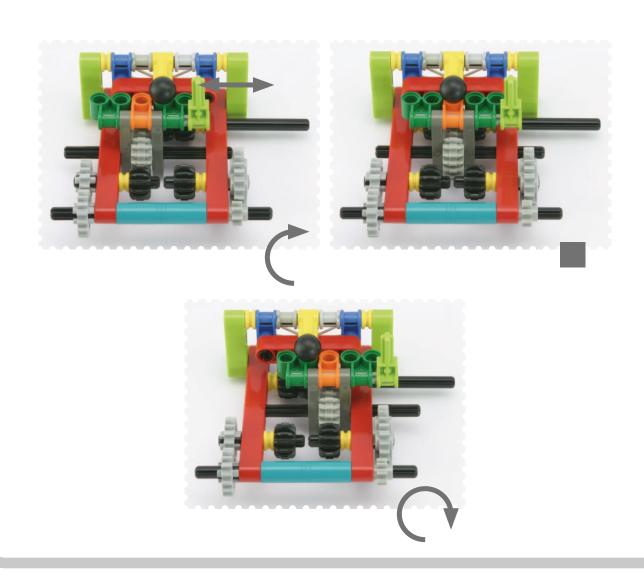










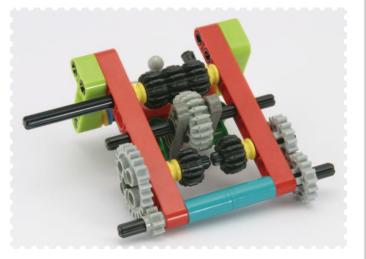




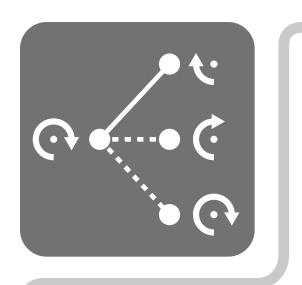




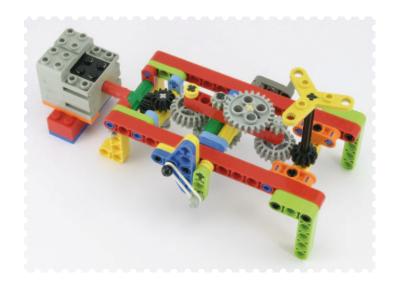








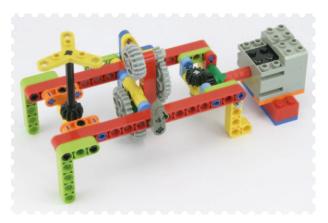


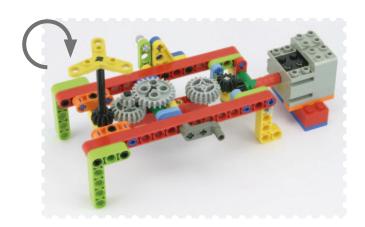








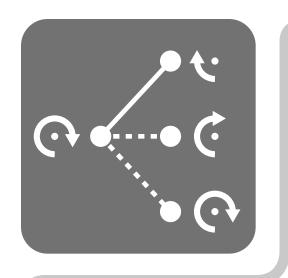


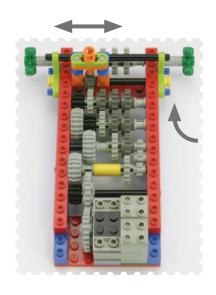


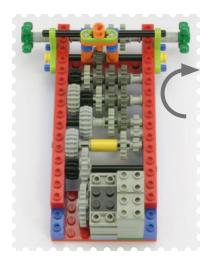


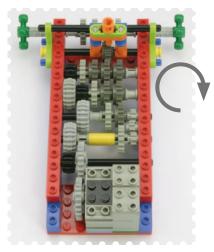


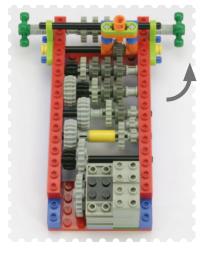


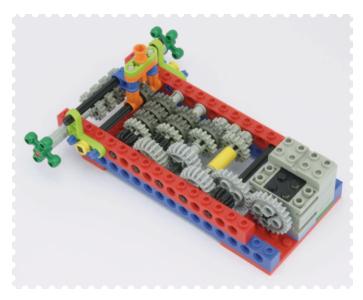




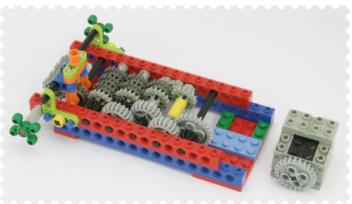




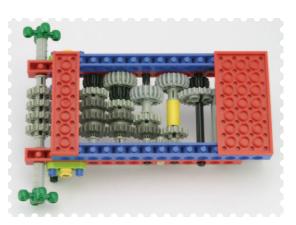




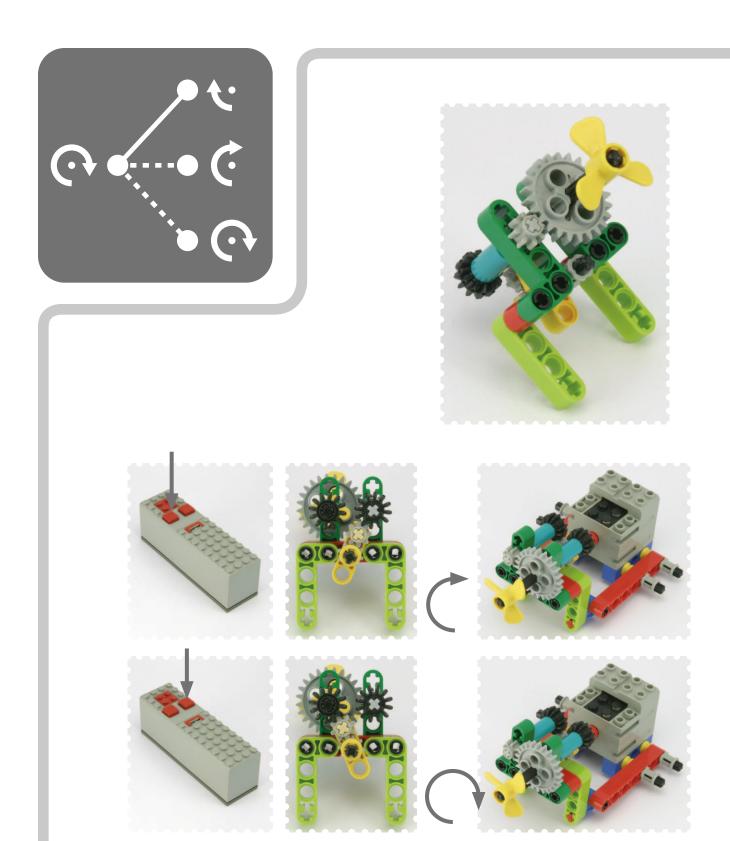








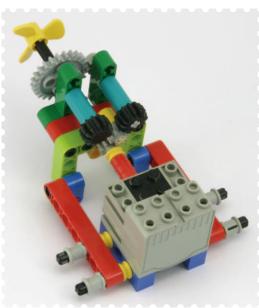




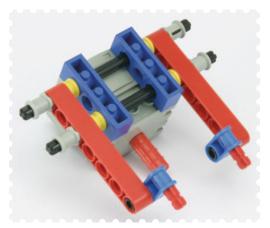




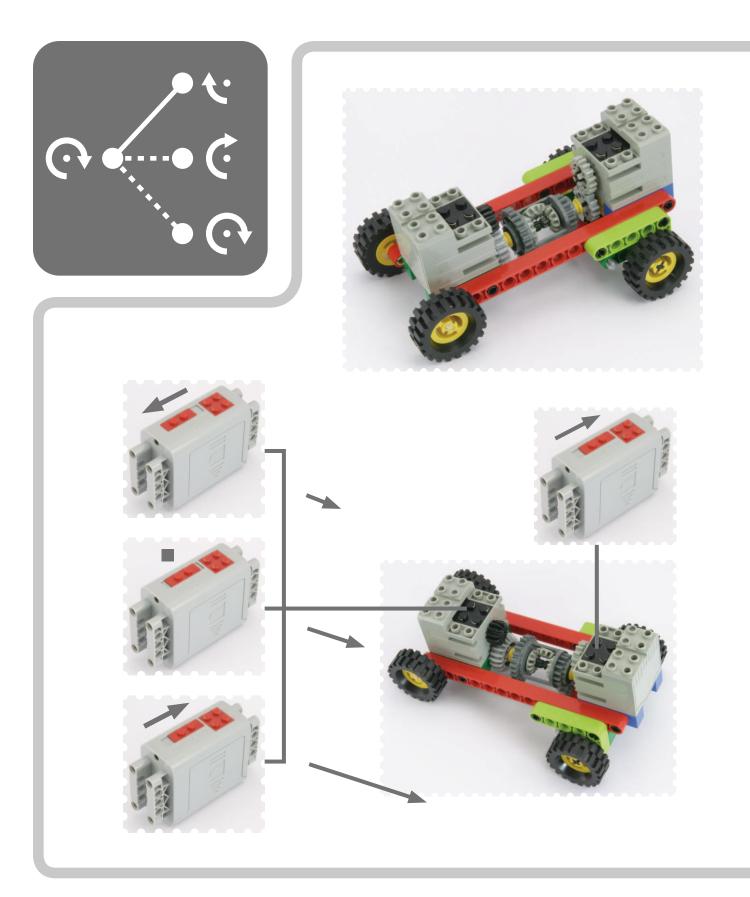








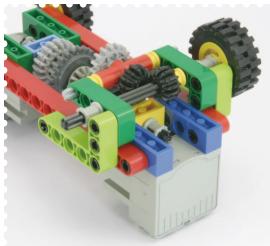






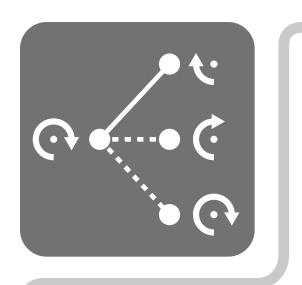














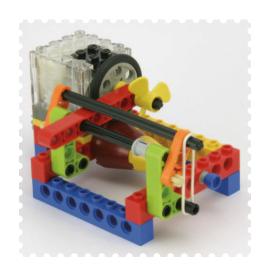












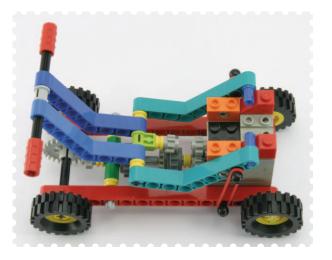














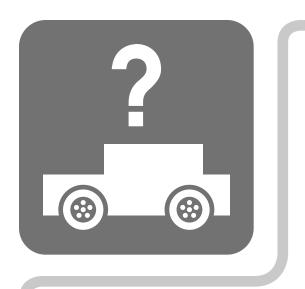


























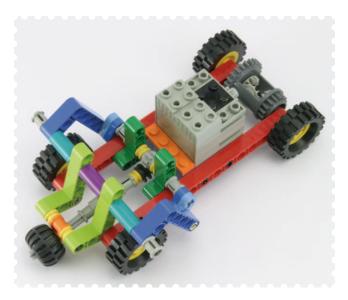




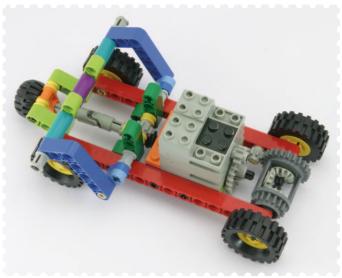






















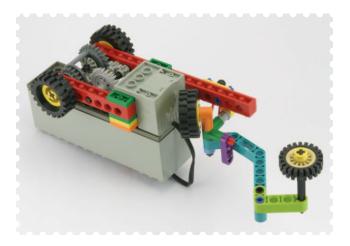










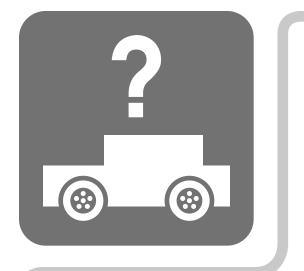


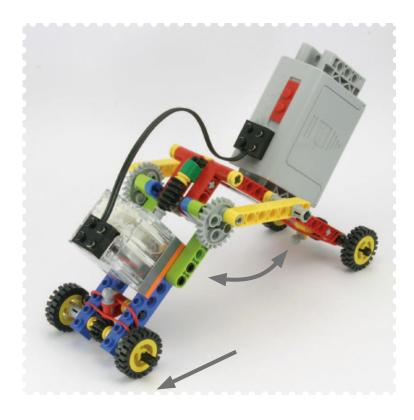








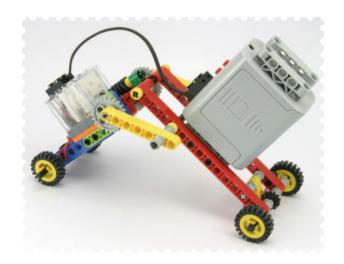


























Yoshihito Isogawa of Tokyo, Japan, is a technical writer and LEGO® luminary. In addition to running Isogawa Studio, Inc., he regularly holds LEGO workshops, lectures at schools and science museums, and creates LEGO models for events and exhibitions. He is the author of the LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT Orange Book, Making Machines with Bricks, and several other Japanese-language LEGO titles. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering at the Tokyo University of Science.

These unofficial books are not endorsed or authorized by the LEGO Group.



LEGO® INSPIRATION FOR ALL AGES

