LEGO IDEAS

21310

GONE BUILDING!

When I was young, I loved to play with LEGO® bricks. I remember that my first set was the 336 Fire Truck. After getting my two sons, my interest was rekindled and we enjoyed building LEGO models together. Especially the Super Heroes sets are a favorite of my sons. Our storage room has been turned into a LEGO room for the boys. Don't ask my wife...

Fishing has always been my hobby. From fishing in the Caribbean, where I lived for a while, to fishing in Holland. So you could say that my interest in fishing and my job as an architectural draughtsman came together in this model.

Inspiration is very important, and so was finding a theme that could help develop the model. I got my initial inspiration from the LEGO Christmas houses and sea villages. I started by doing some sketching on paper, then created a mood board to determine the details and color schemes. Especially the use of the right colors was important in my design.

Robert Bontenbal
Fan designer

After submitting the model on LEGO Ideas, people commented and asked about the inside of the building. This was the moment where I decided I could really get creative designing something special for inside. It was a lot of fun. And it also got me thinking that the building could have a seasonal design with different faces for the winter and summer.

It turned out to be a fairly complicated model and it took some time to design the initial house and do the adjustments. It probably took me a couple of months to get it completely as I wanted it to be.

It only took six weeks for the model to reach the 10,000 votes on LEGO Ideas, which was very exciting. It was a lot of fun to read the comments and see that people were really interested in my model.

My tip for people who are considering uploading an idea is to just do it! Use your creativity and have fun. Even the simpler models get lots of votes. And you never know what might happen!

When you start out, the fun part is the idea that your model might be chosen to be developed as a LEGO set. But after submitting my model on the platform, the waiting, the comments from other LEGO Ideas community members and checking out how your model is doing are all very exciting. It all makes you want to check regularly on how things are going, but also to see what other cool designs are uploaded to the platform.

LEGO® DESIGNER

My task is to make sure that the model lives up to LEGO® quality. It can be quite challenging as I have to respect someone else's design, but at the same time alter it so it fits our guidelines. As a LEGO designer I have to be aware of the many rules and restrictions that a fan designer like Robert doesn't have to worry about. This could be small things like changing elements that are no longer available, or bigger stuff like changing measurements, building techniques or even whole sections of a build.

I tried to stay very true to the original design. That's what got 10,000 votes and is what the people want. I didn't want to change much of the original look and there was no reason to do so. As for the build though, probably not a single brick was left untouched.

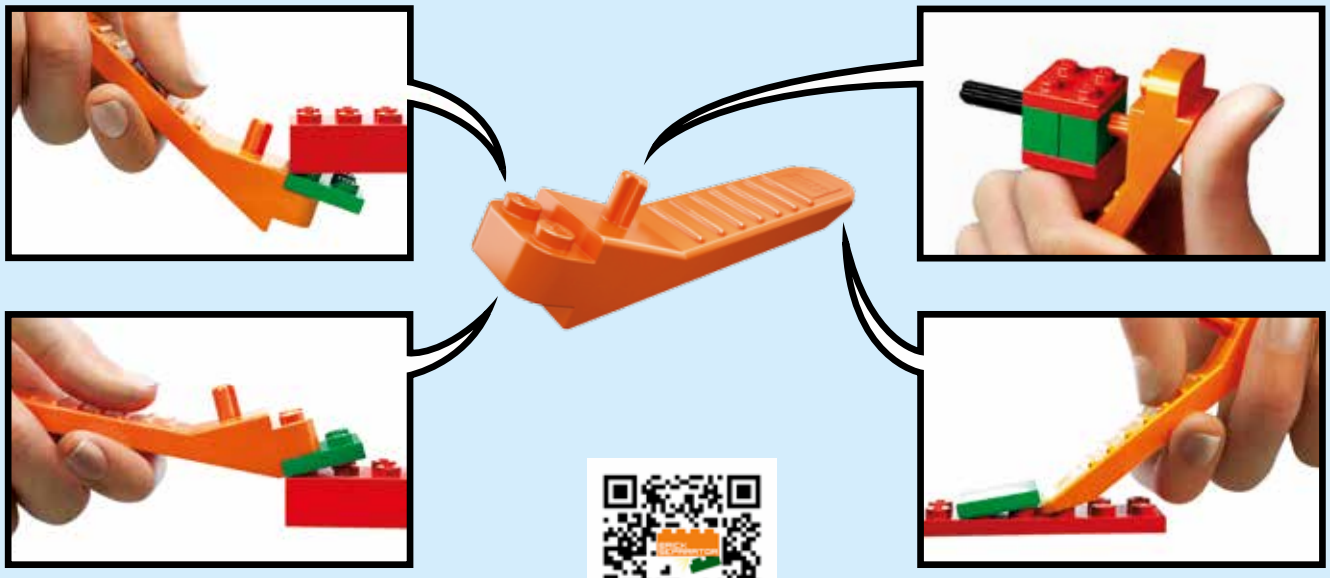
It took quite a while to fine tune the measurements so that all the walls could be built with only 1x1, 1x2 and 1x4 bricks. This meant they could interlock and be covered with sand green tiles at the same time. Also the tiles simulating boards on the outside should ideally lock the bricks underneath. There are many ways to do this, but only one really works.

Even with all these structural changes, you would probably be hard pressed to find any major differences between the winning design and the actual product. It was therefore easy for me to discuss the necessary adjustments with Robert.

It was great to be able to bring back certain elements like the seagull, and use others like the lobster that were only previously available in other sets. We also have two new prints and a sticker sheet. I think we did a great job deciding what should be printed and what could be a sticker – and the model doesn't lose much of its appeal if the stickers aren't applied.

It was actually me who suggested the name "Anton's Bait Shop". He's my son and even though he's only seven months old right now, someday he'll be old enough to build the set and to understand the joke.

Adam Grabowski
LEGO designer



LEGO.com/brickseparator

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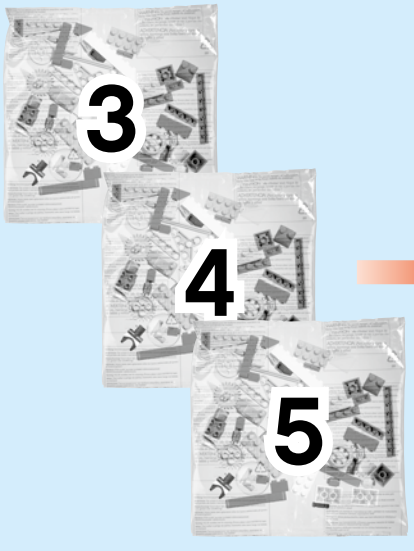
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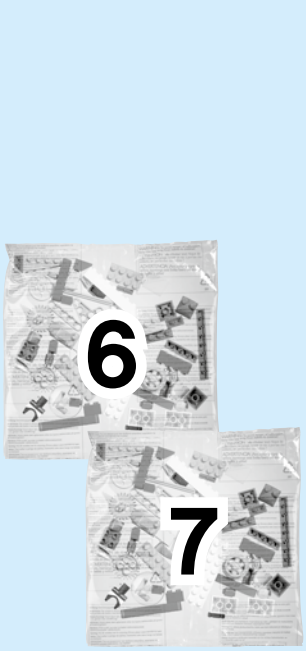
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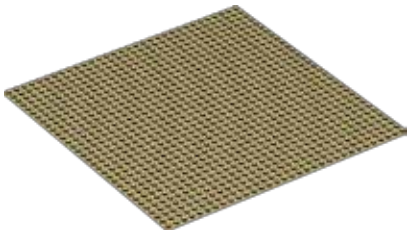

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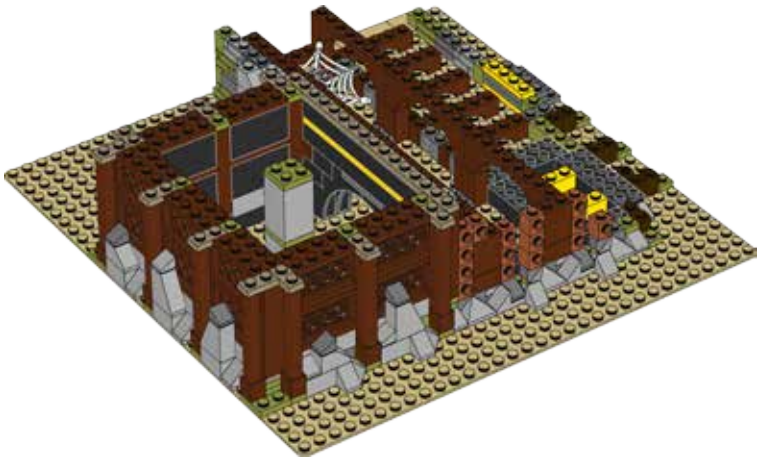

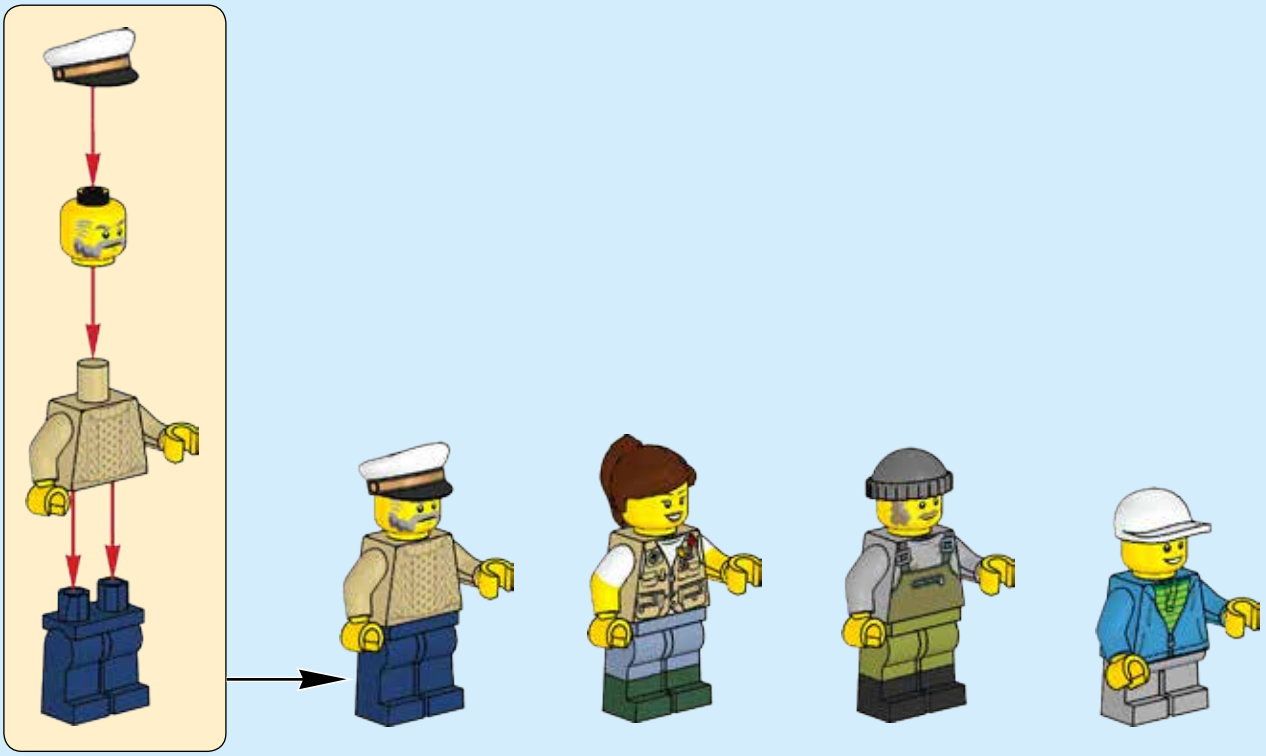

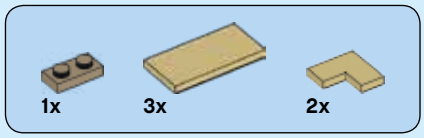

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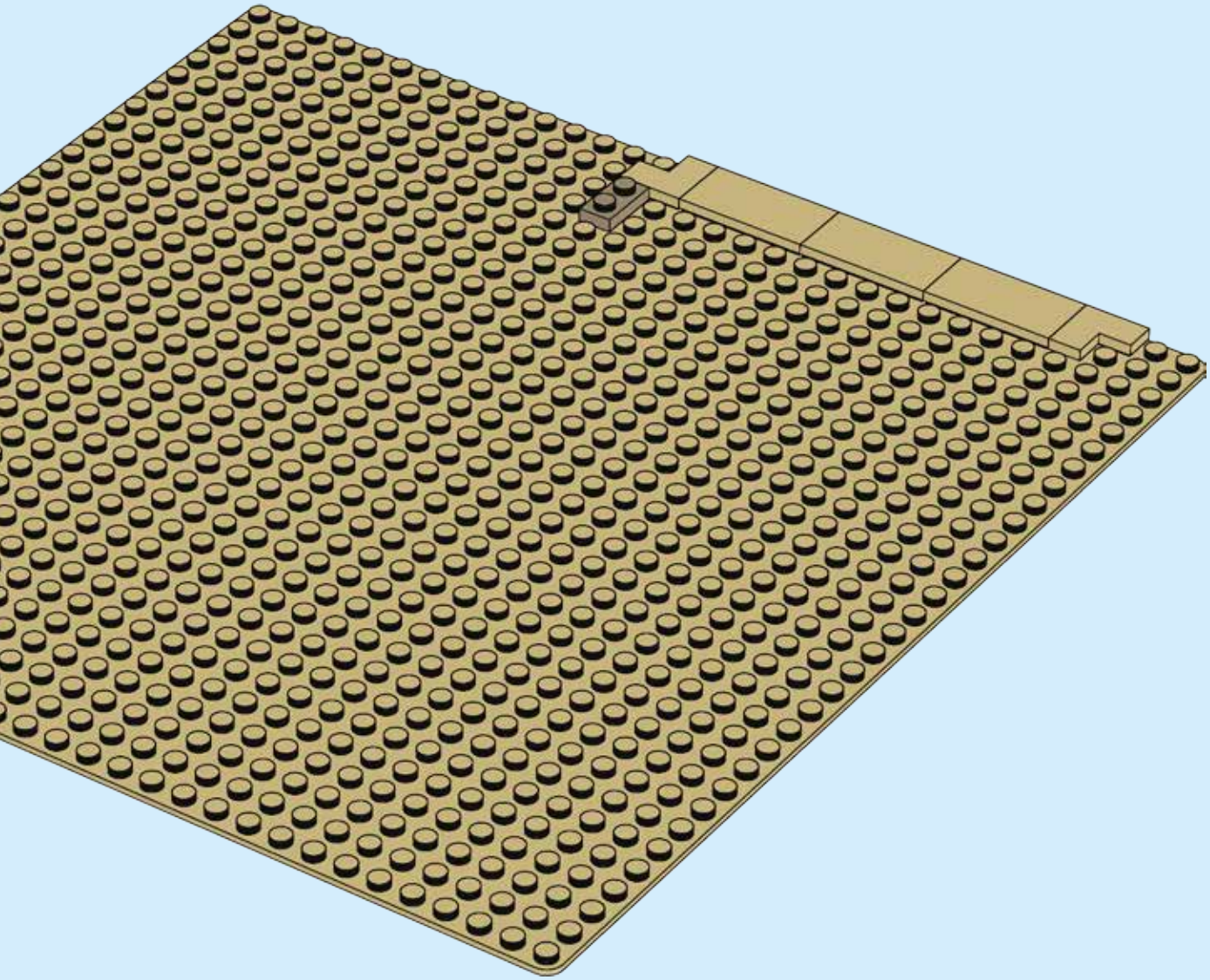

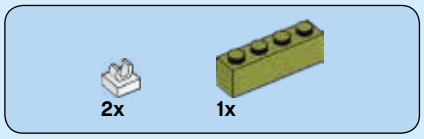

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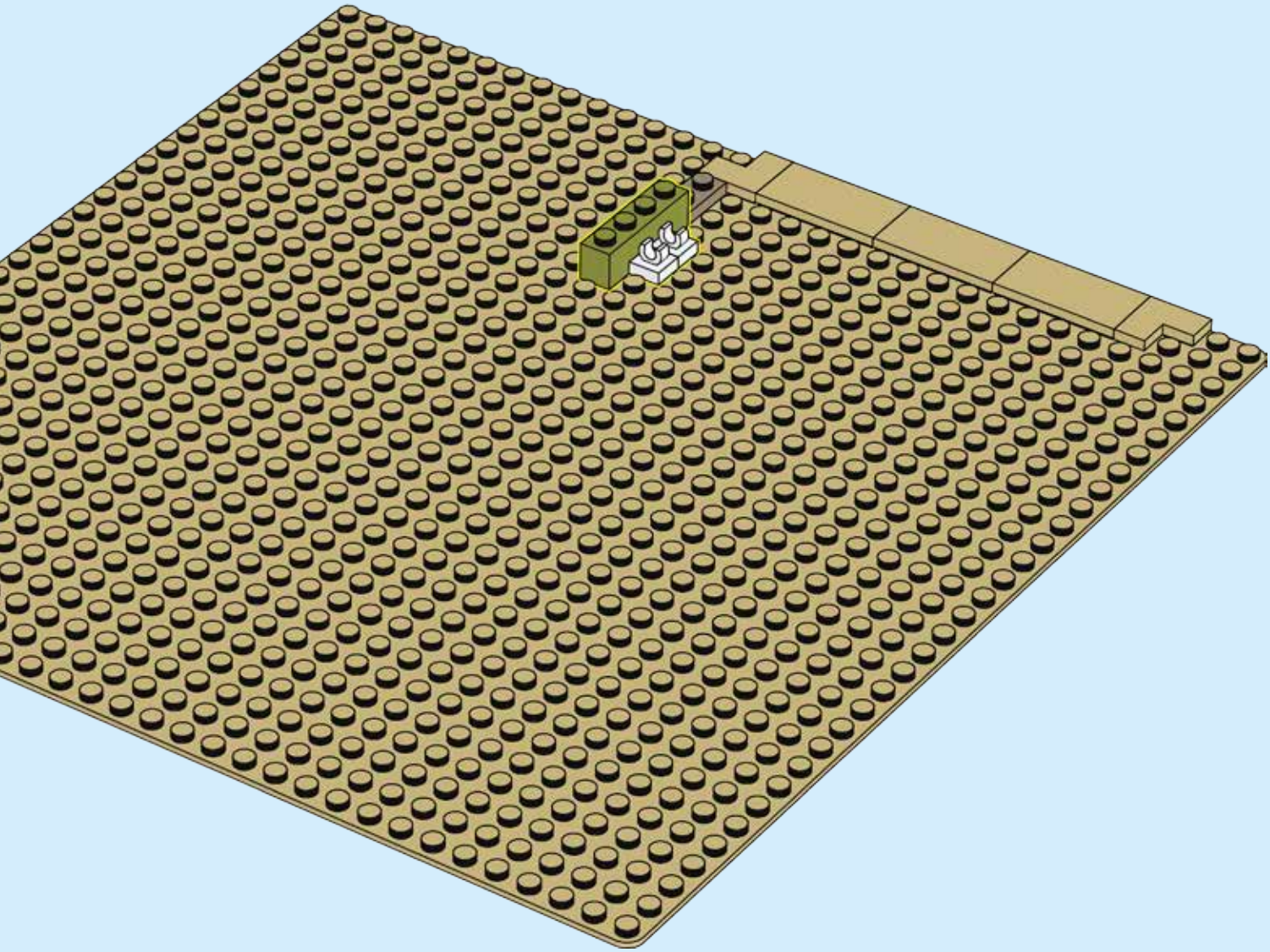

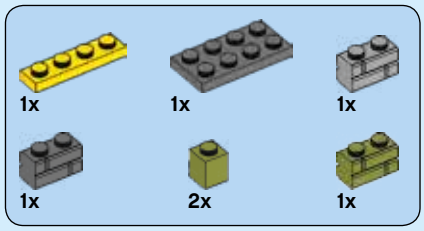

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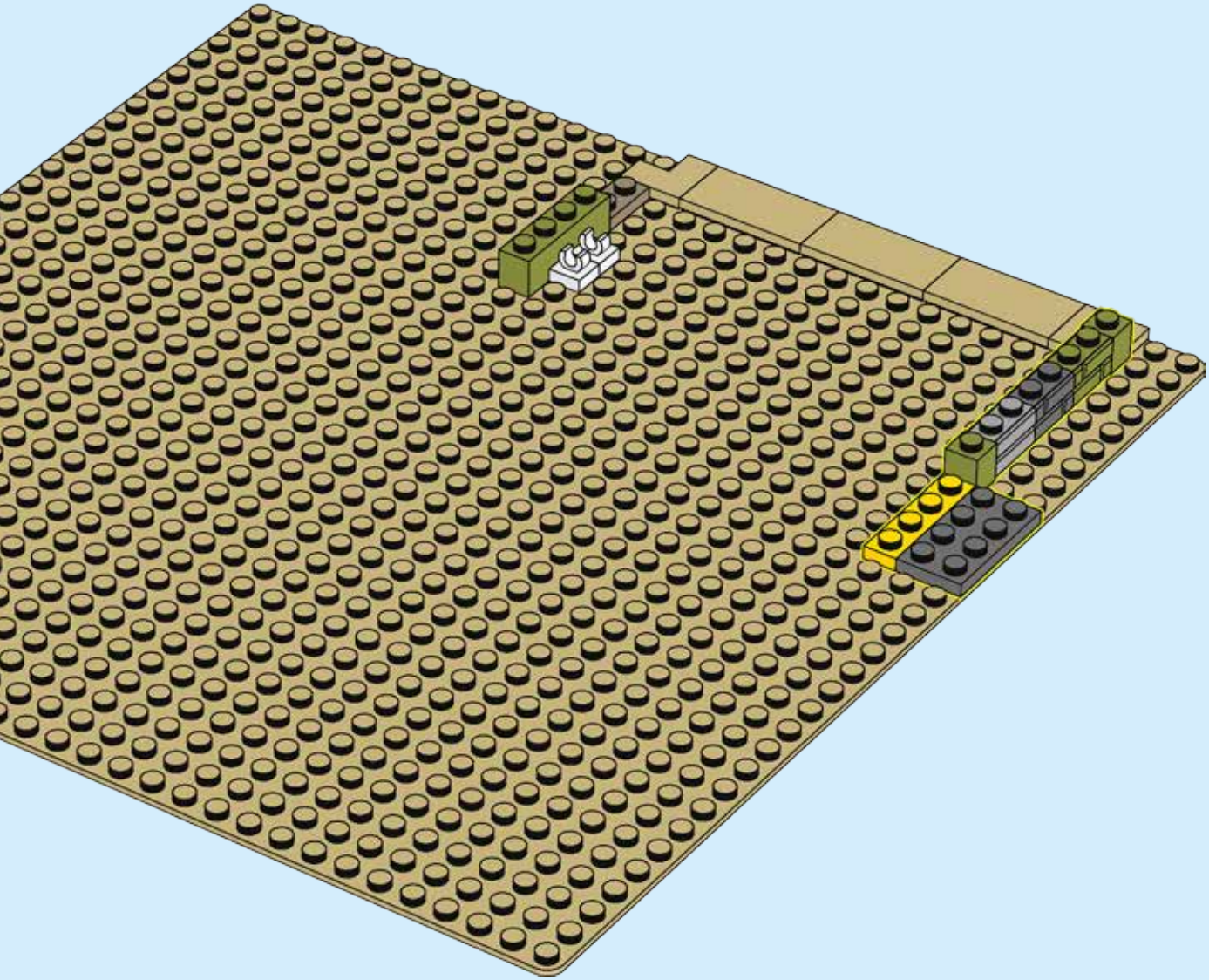

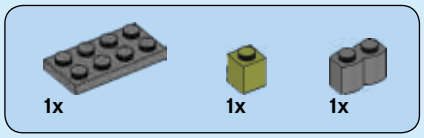

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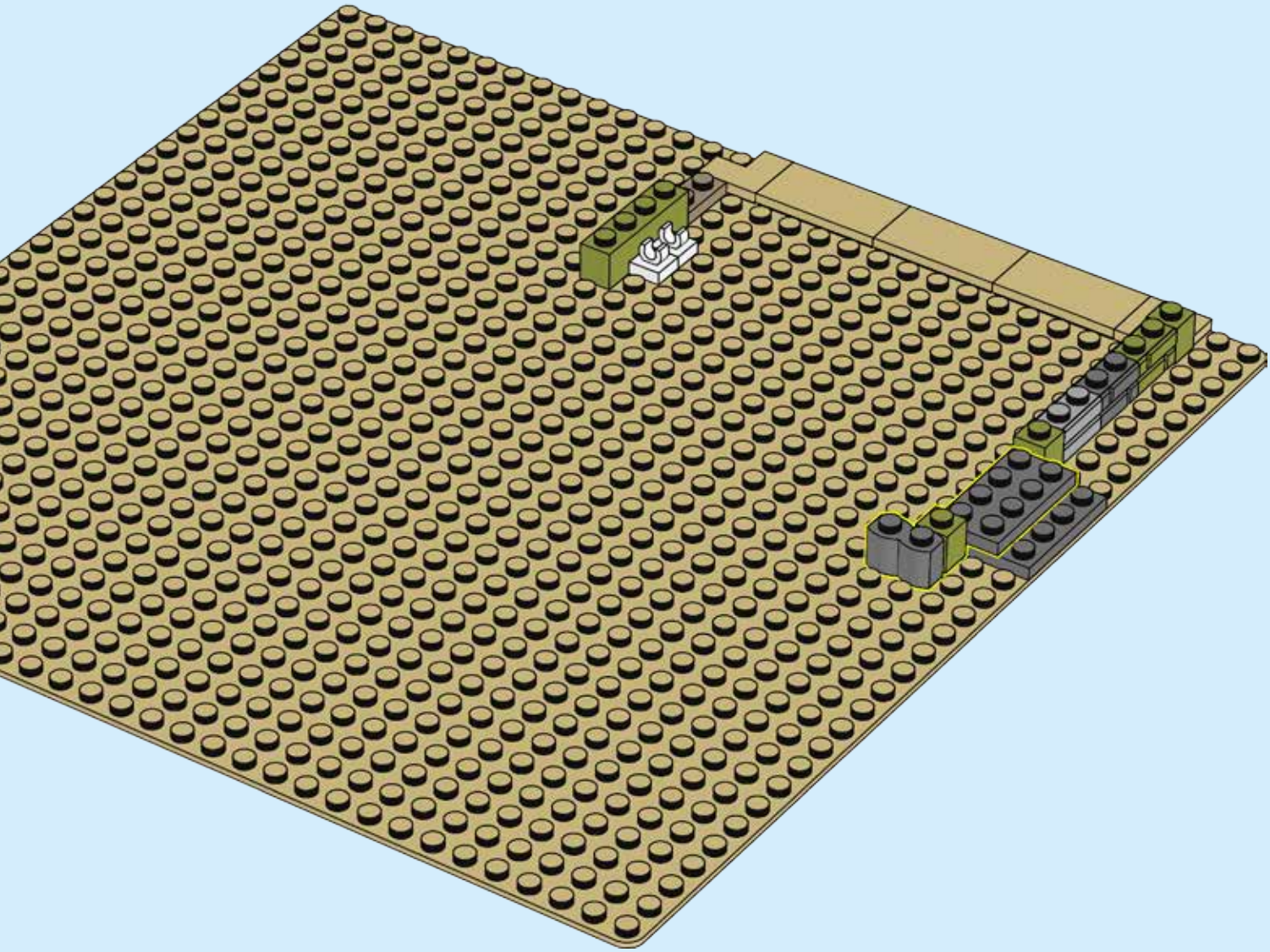

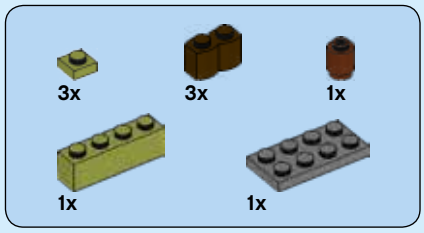

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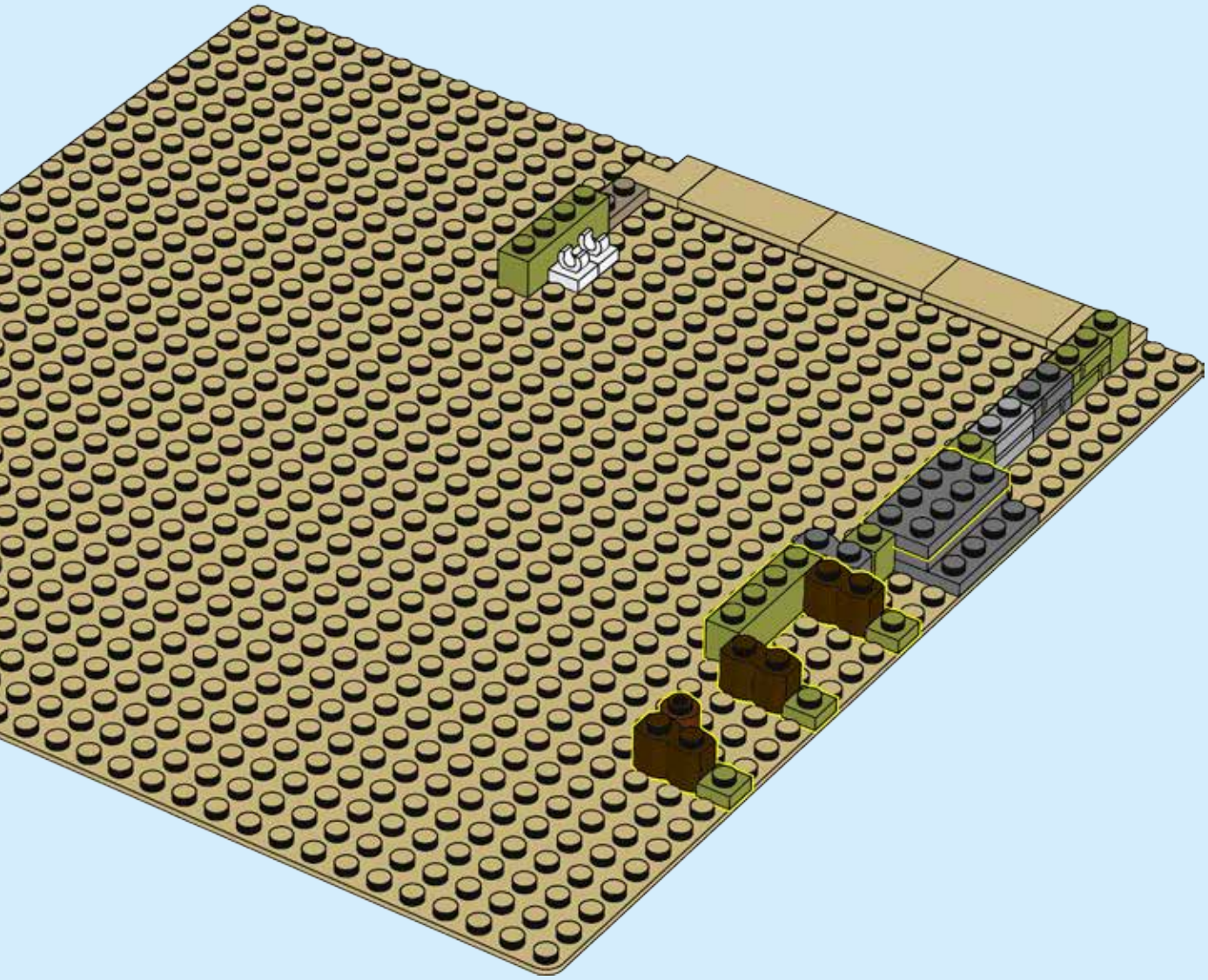

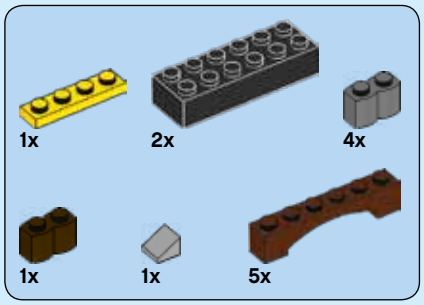

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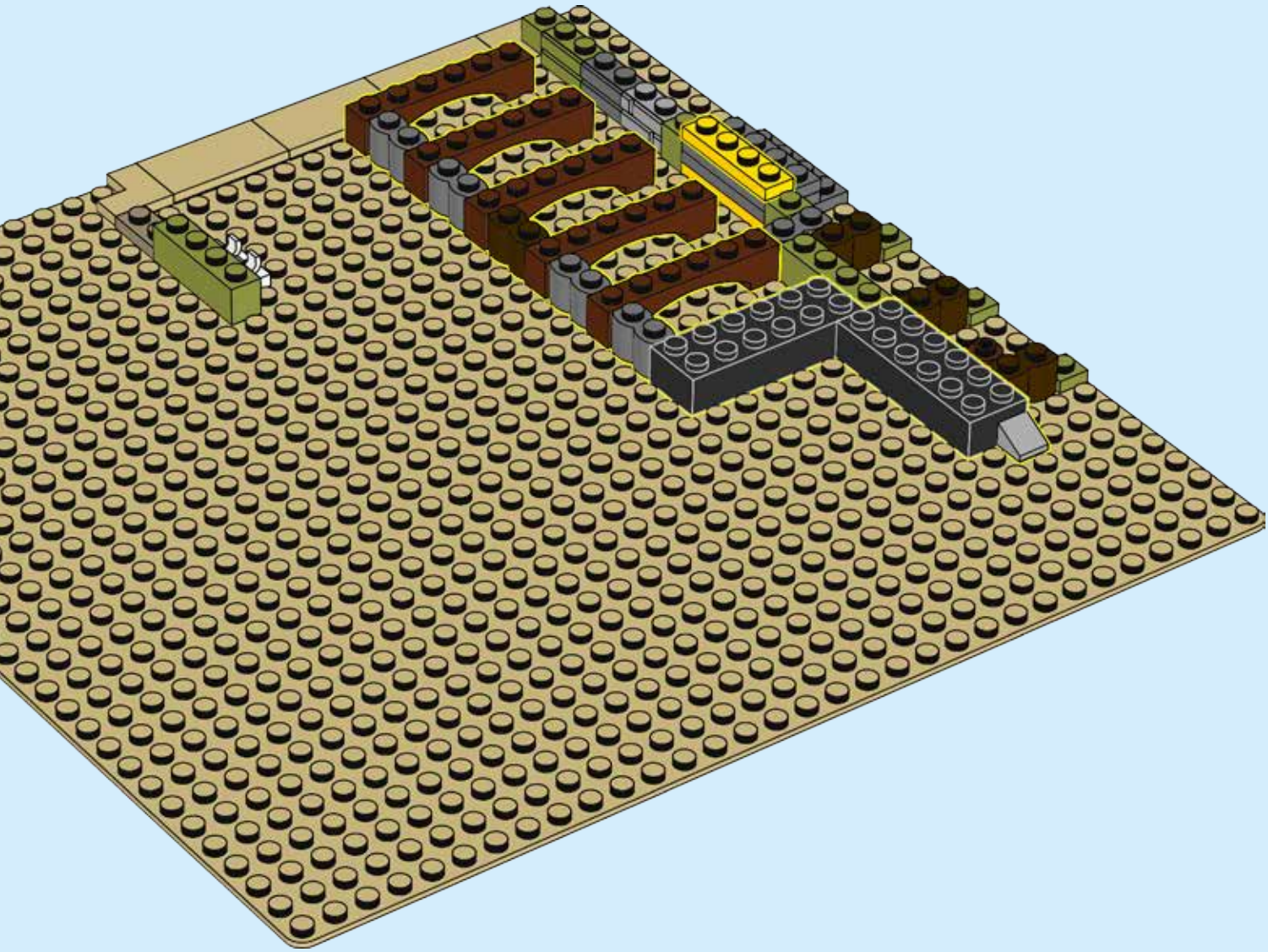

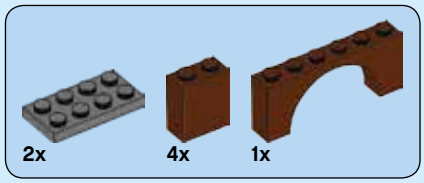

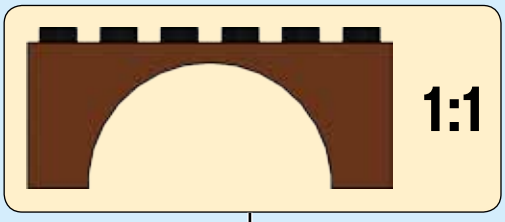

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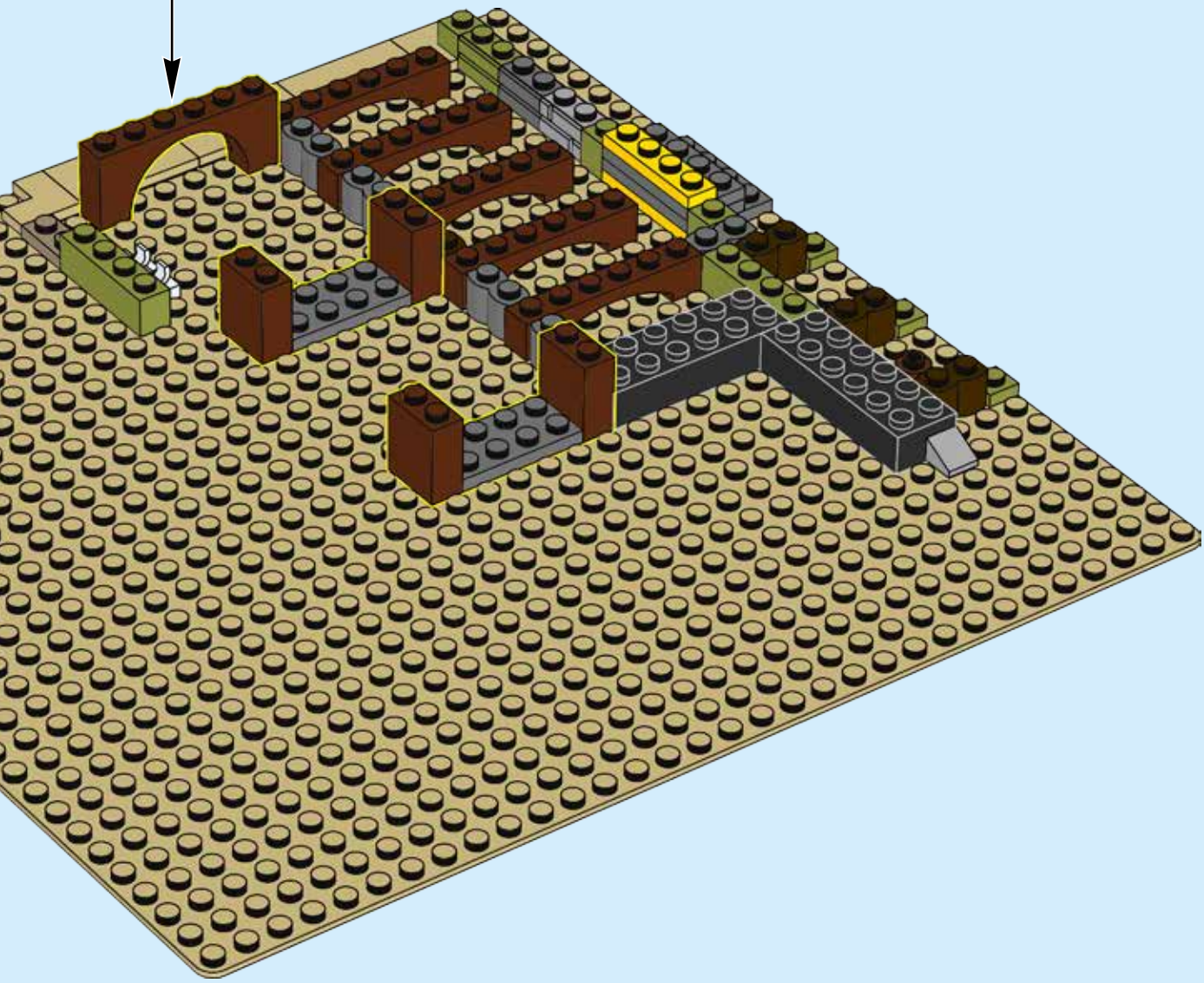

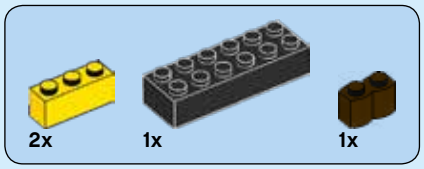

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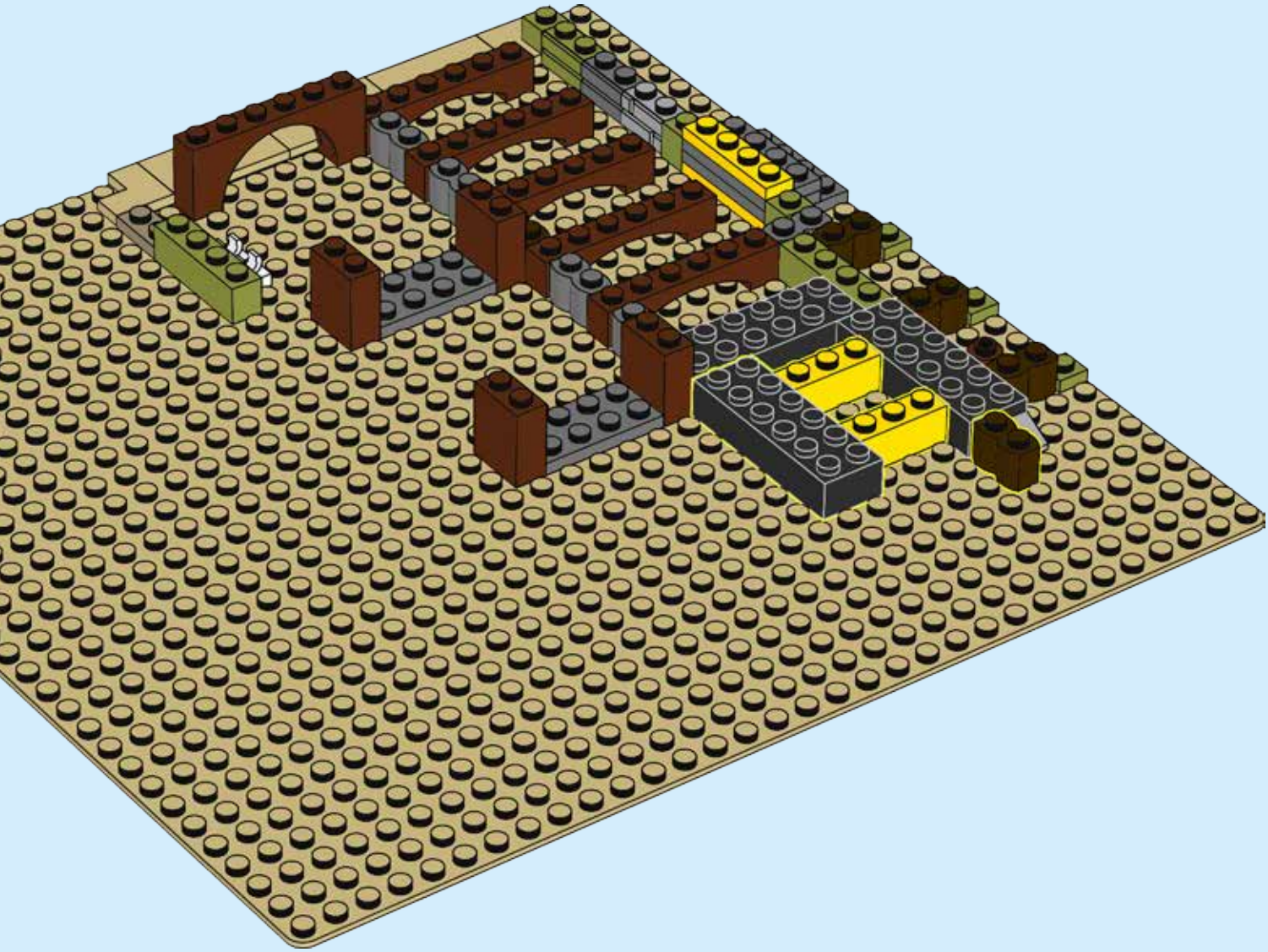

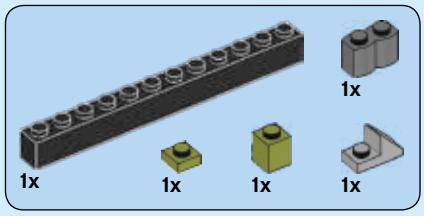

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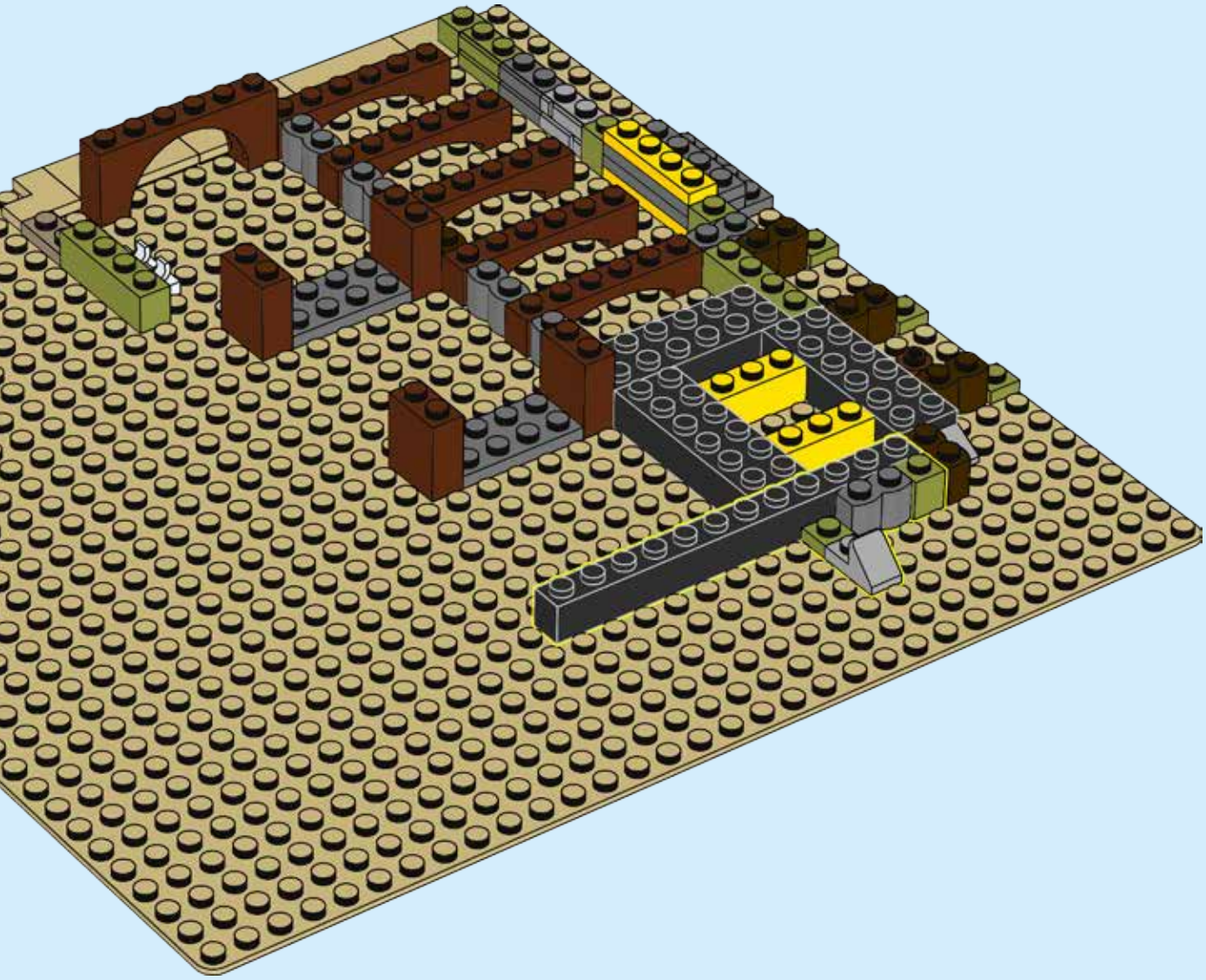

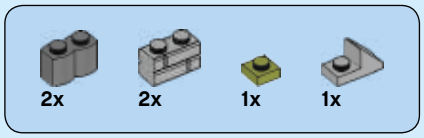

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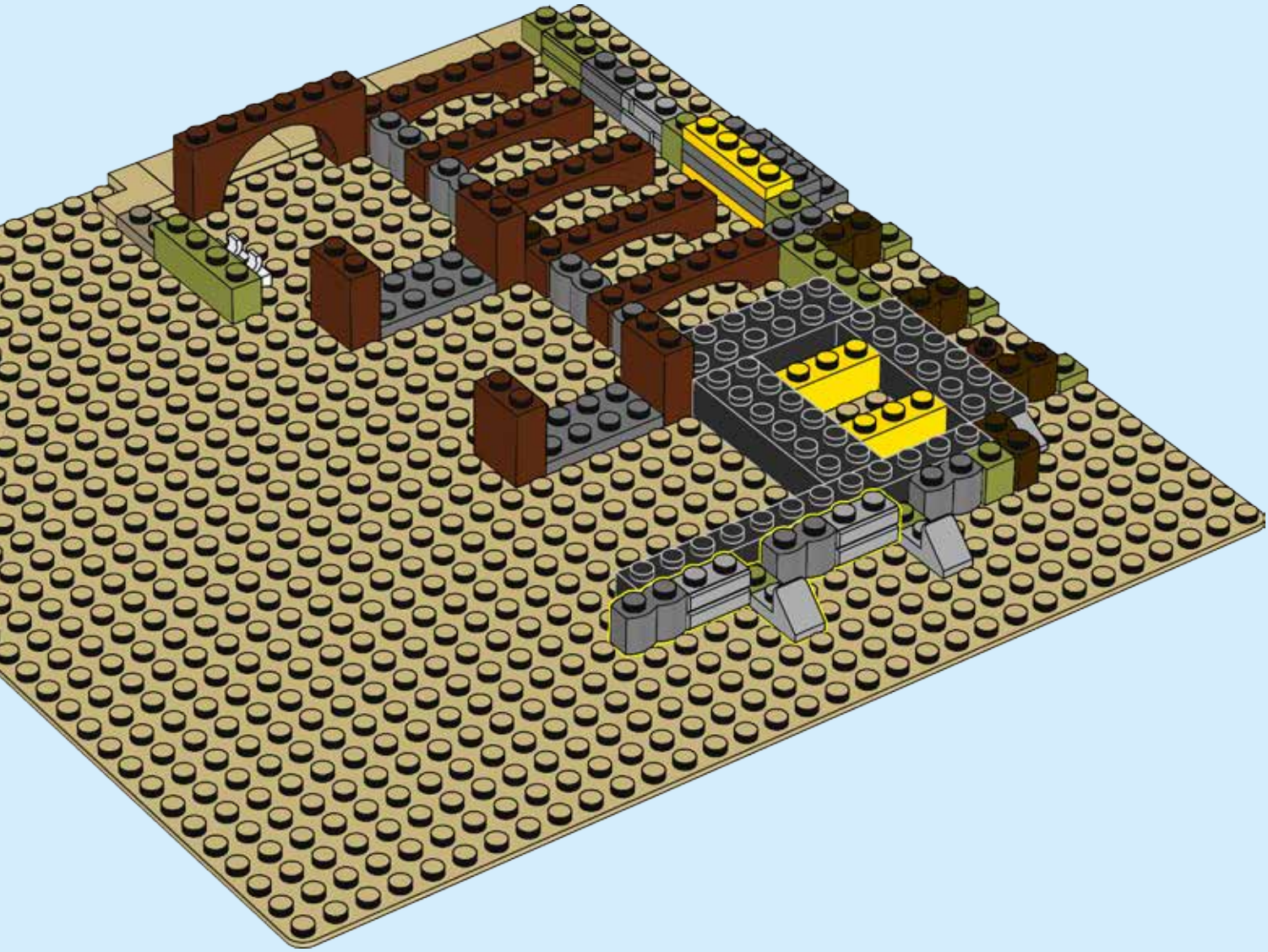

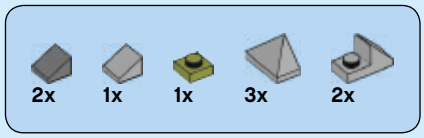

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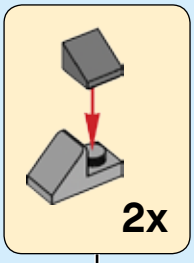

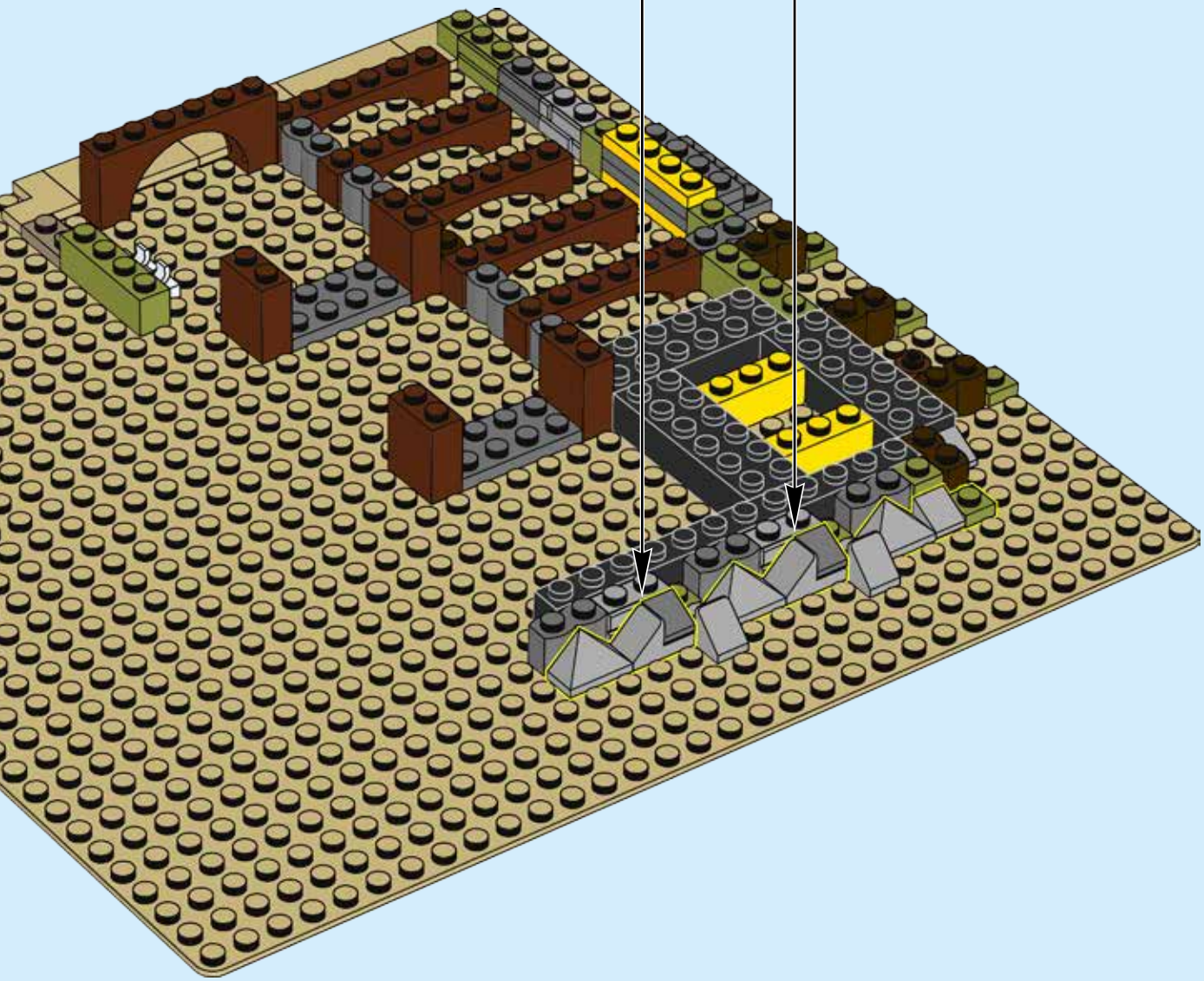

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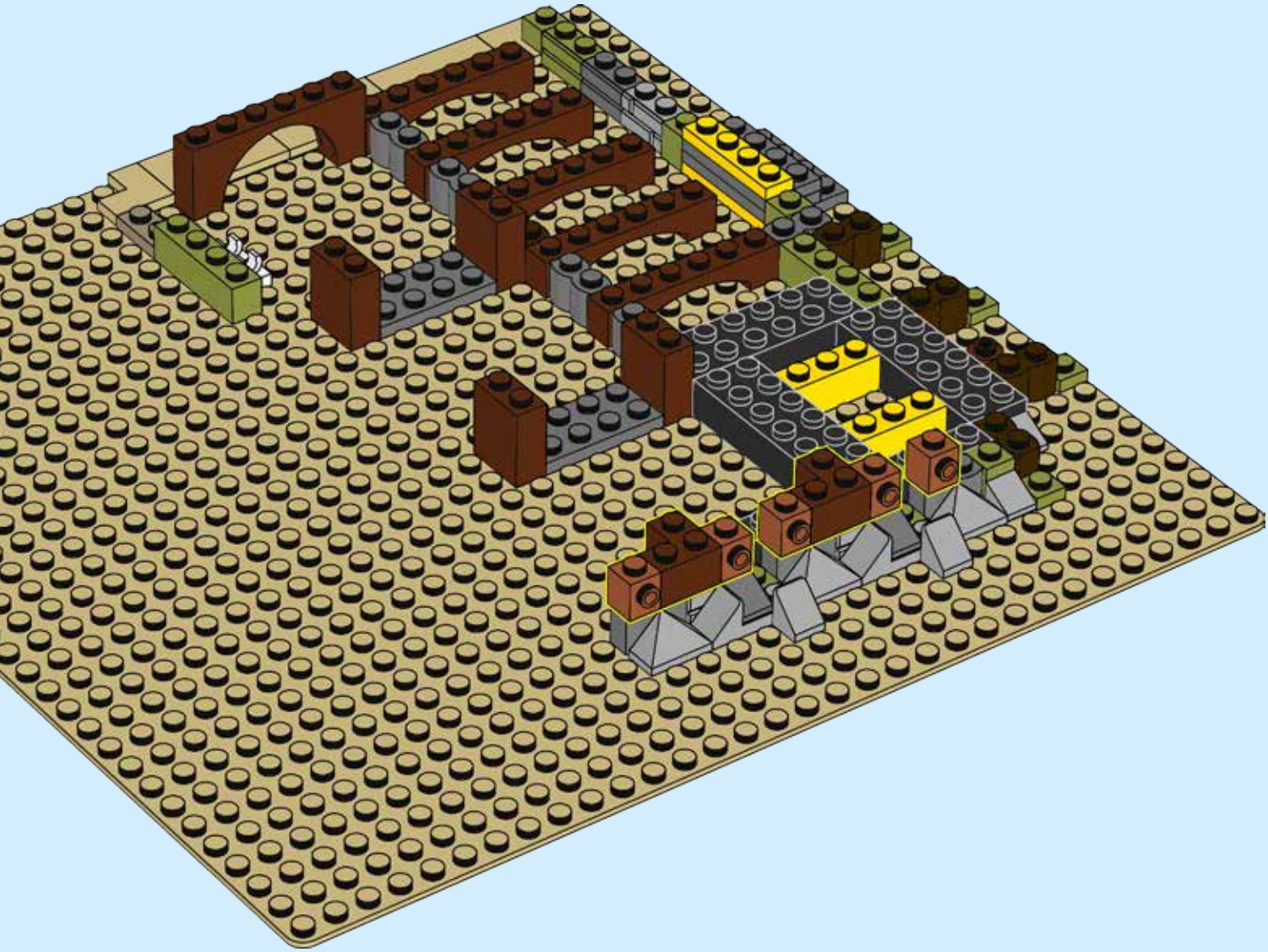

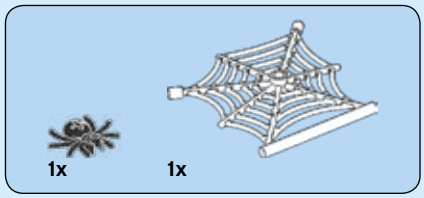

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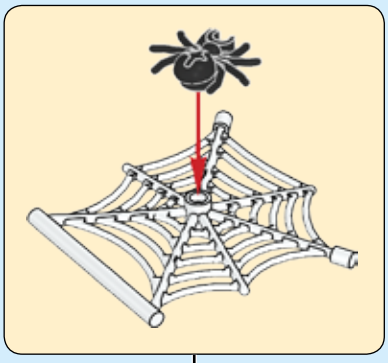

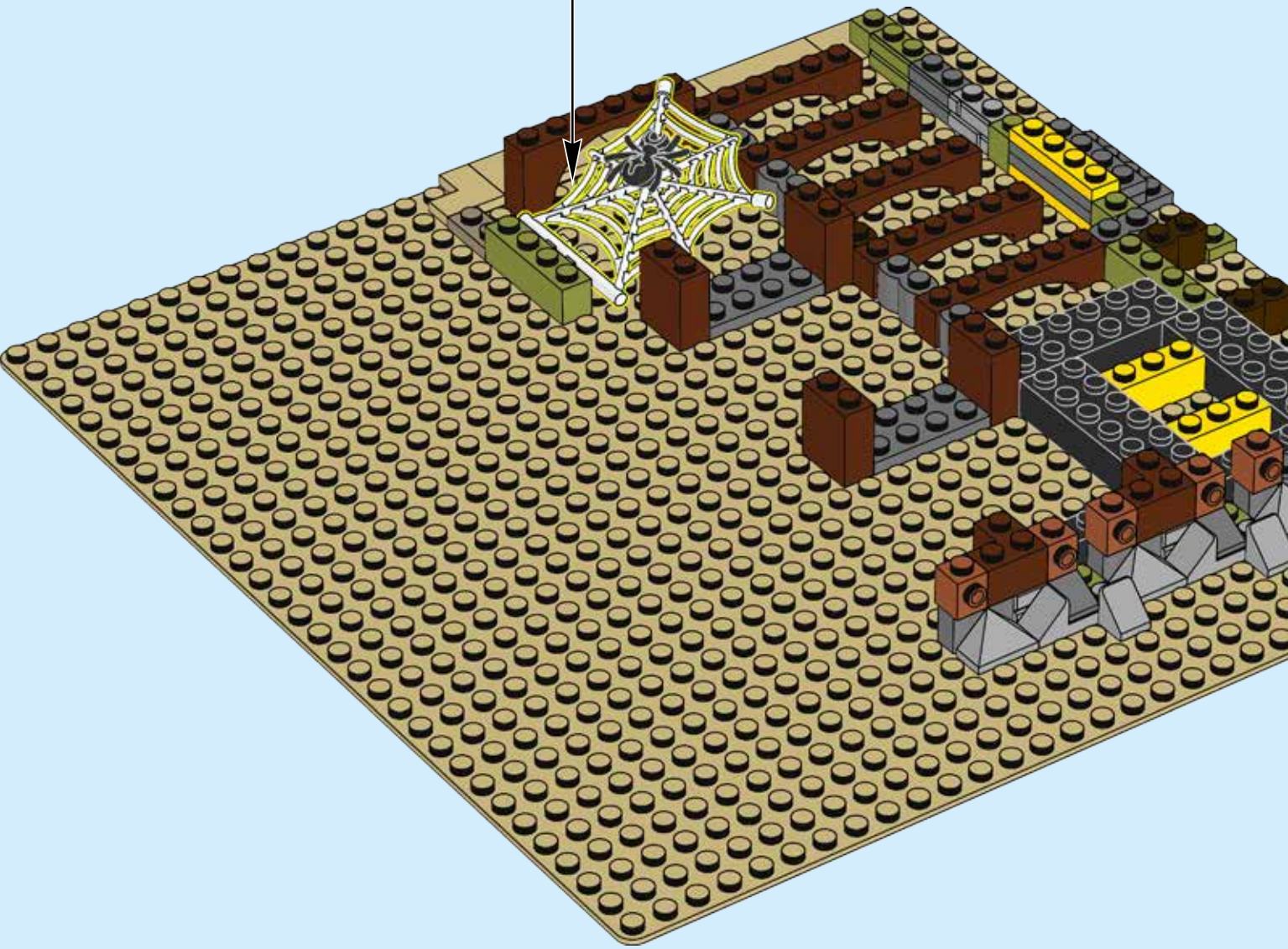

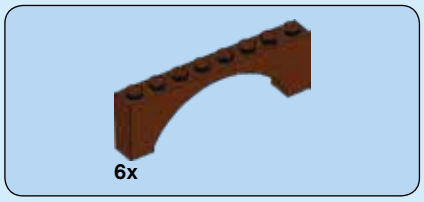

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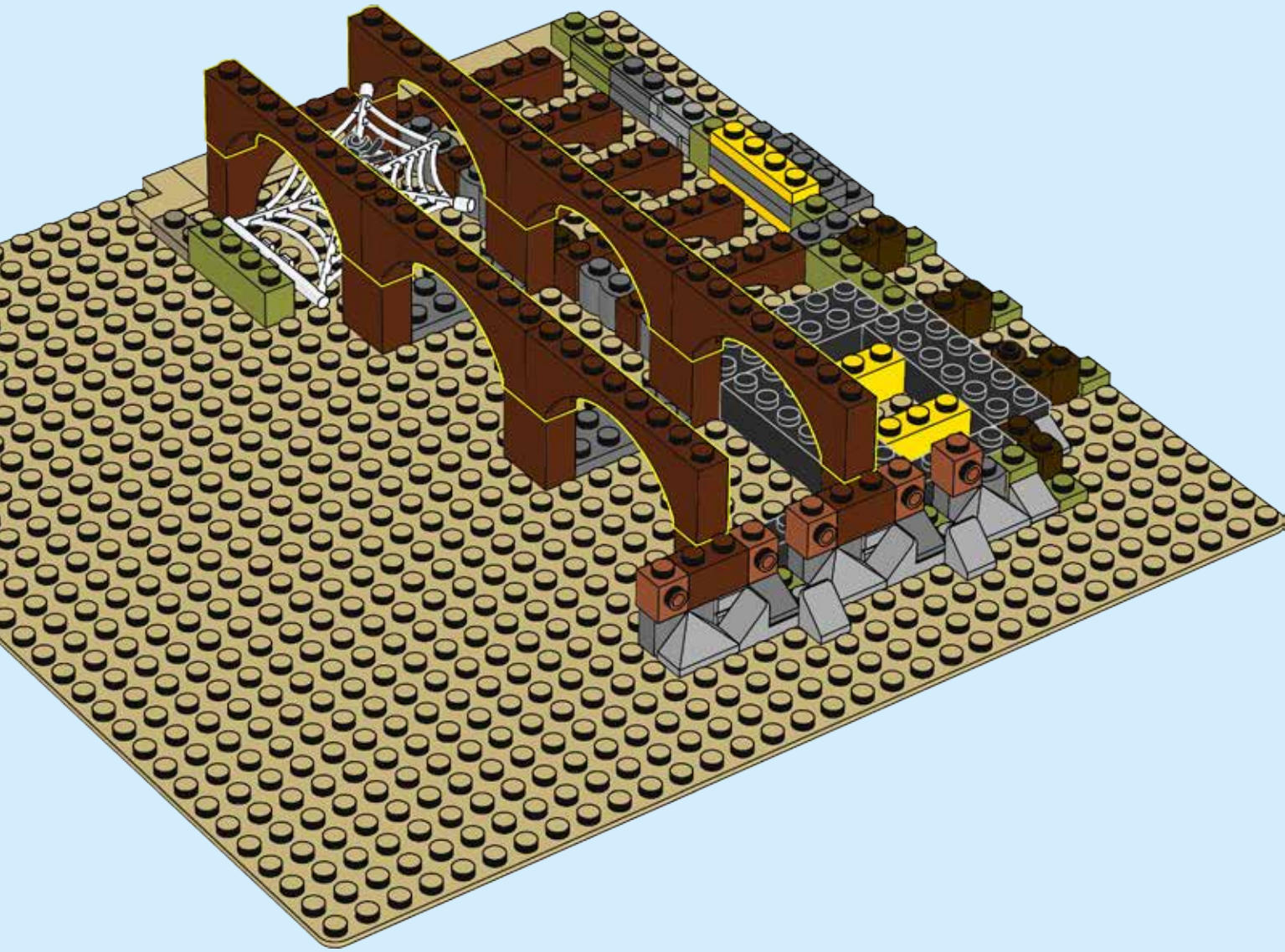

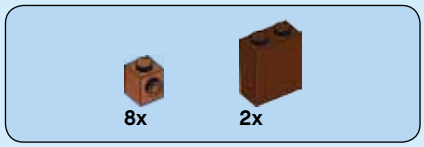

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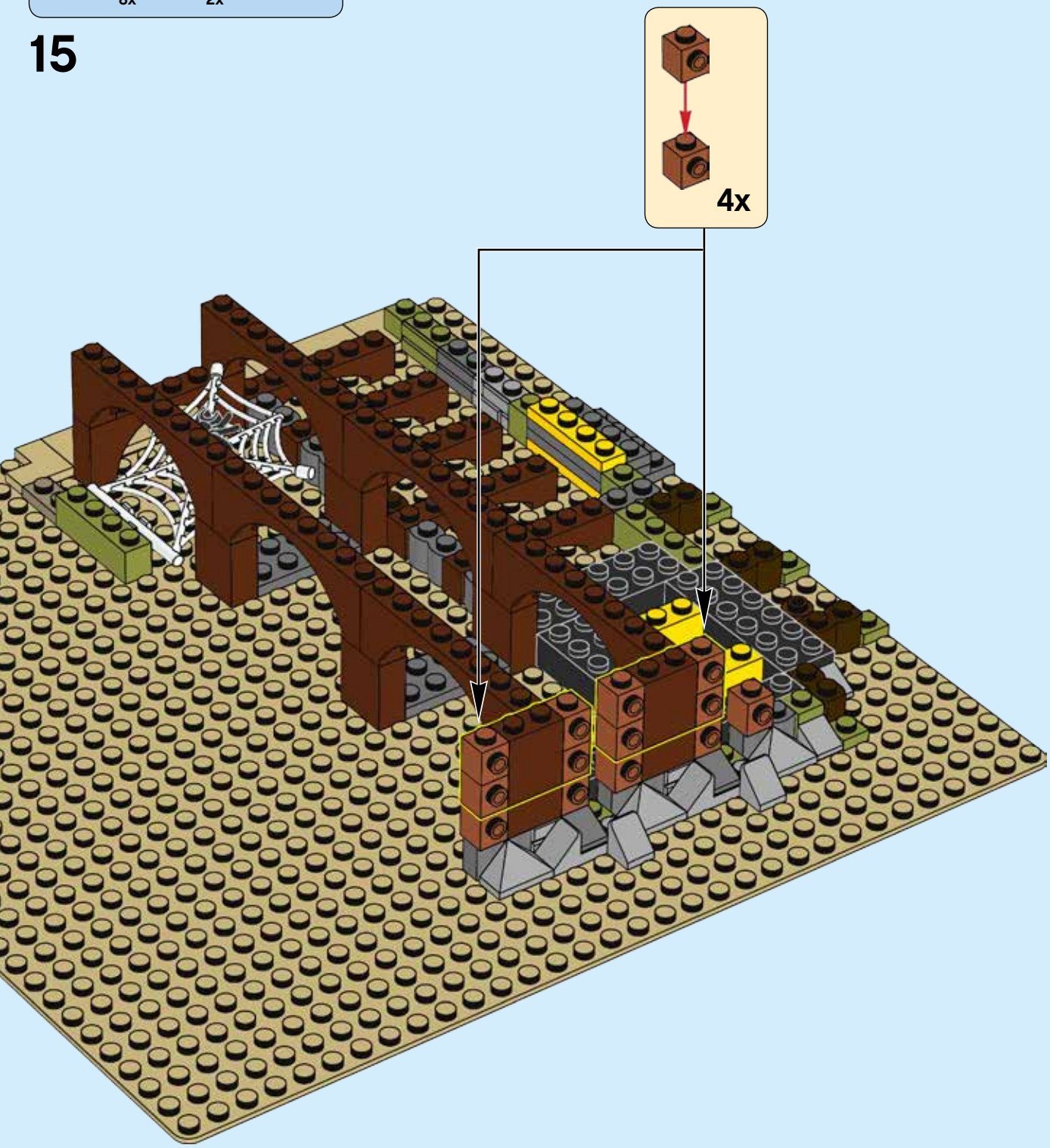

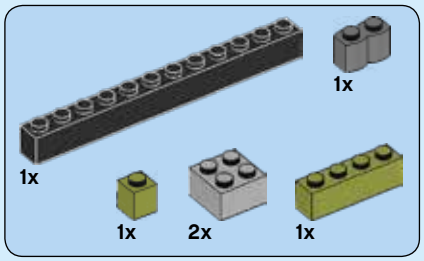

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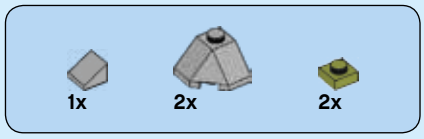

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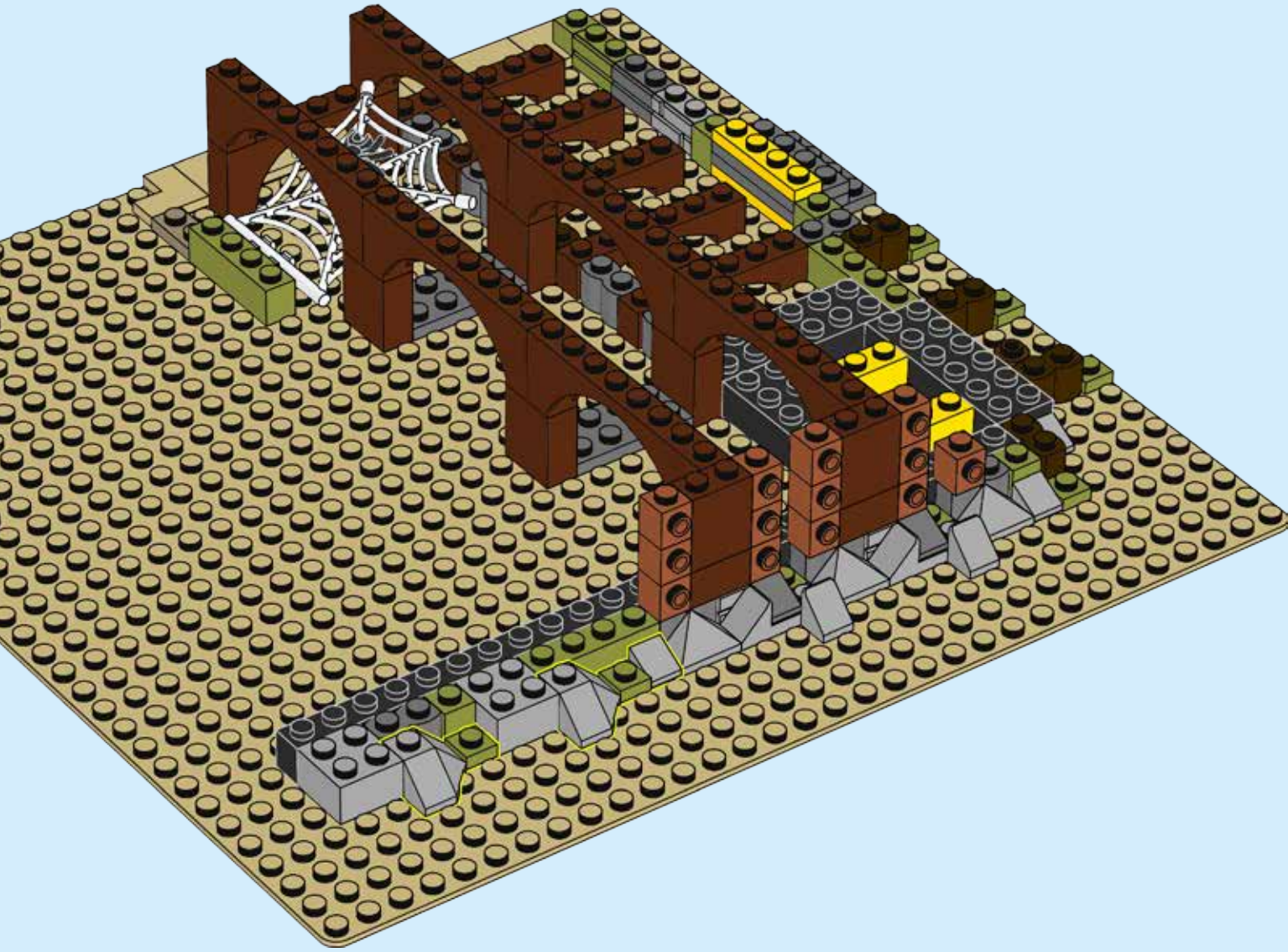

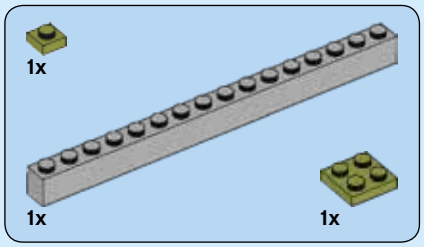

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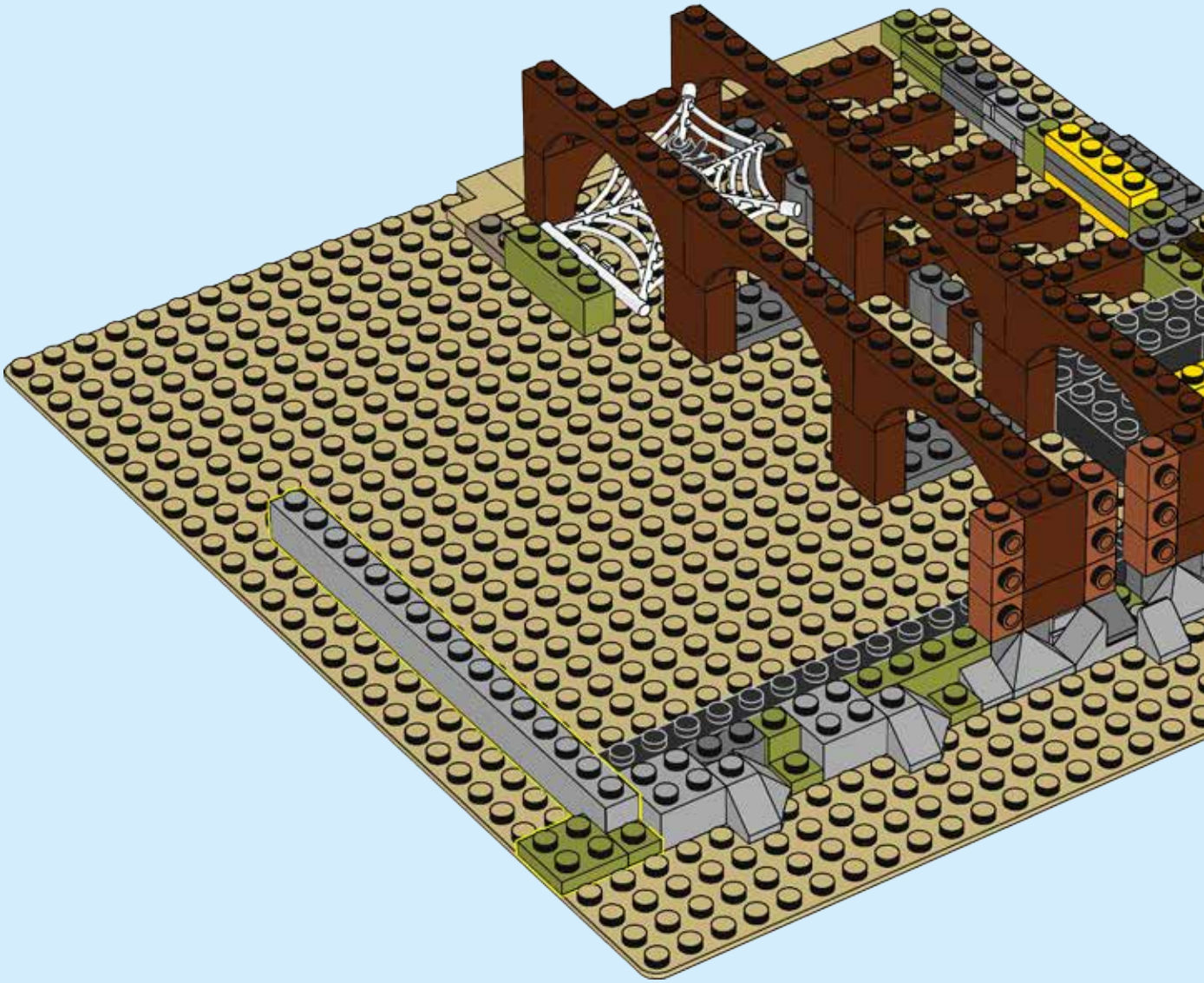

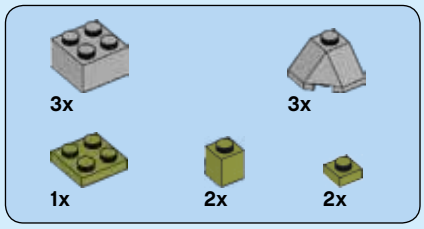

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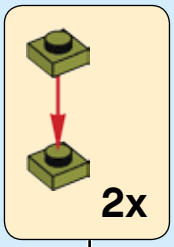

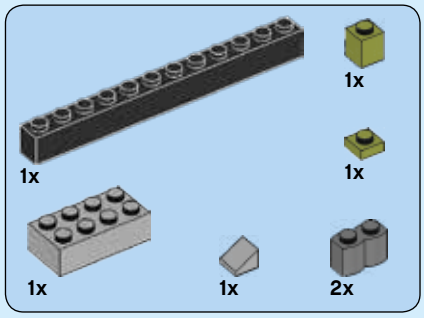

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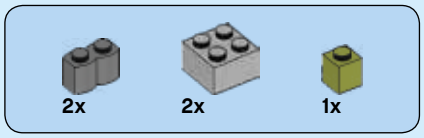

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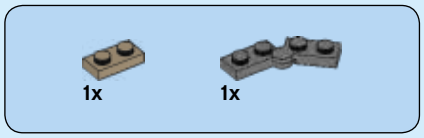

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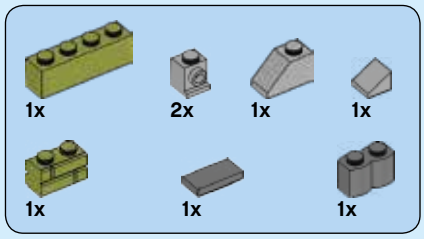

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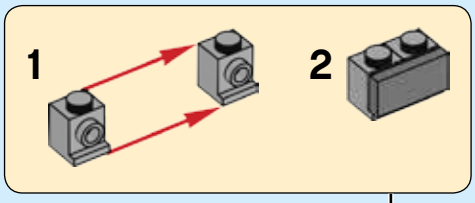

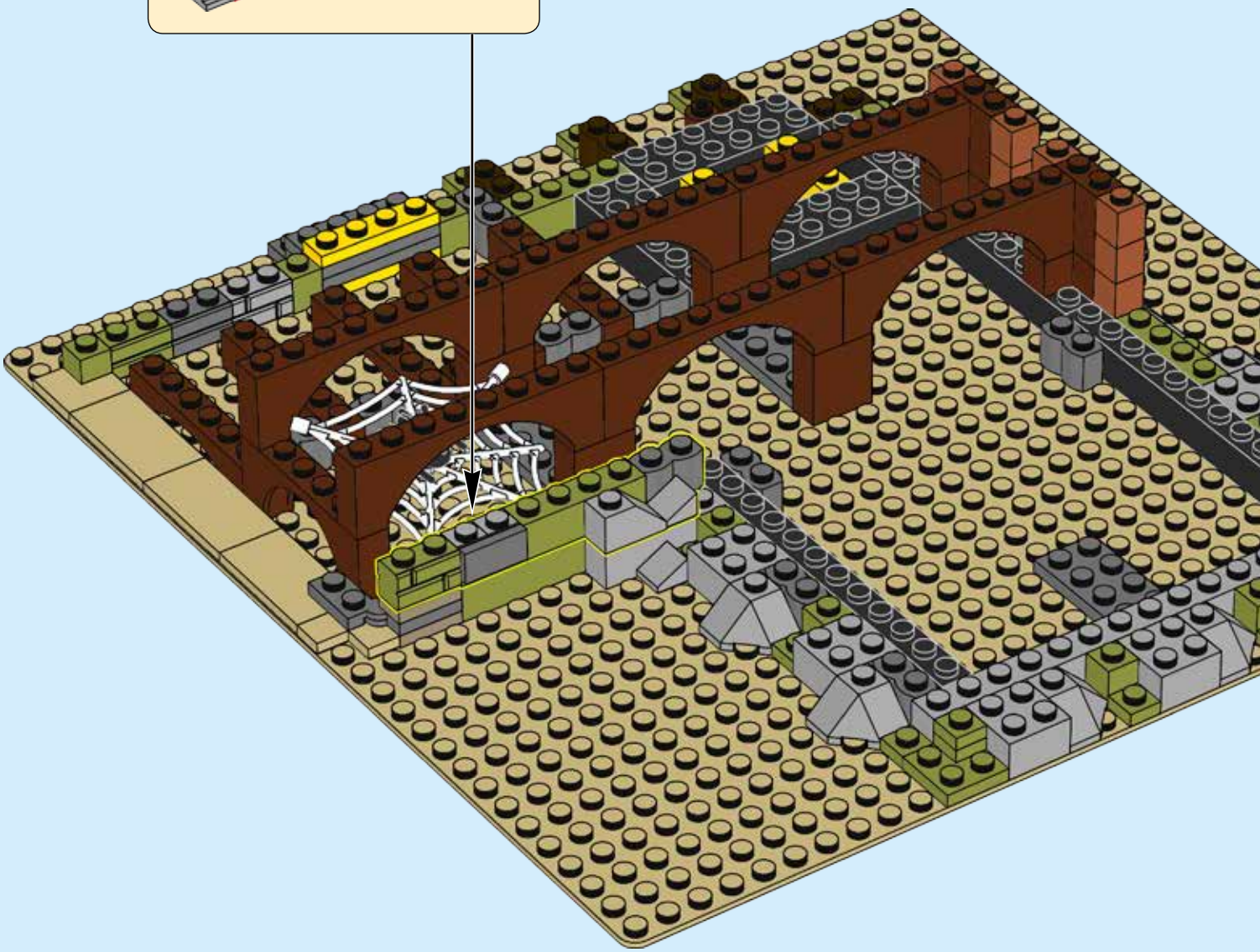

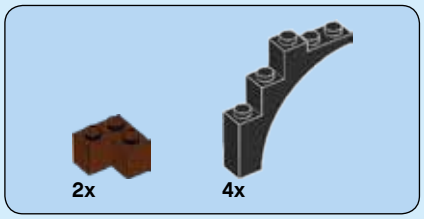

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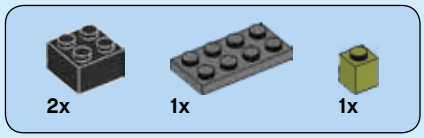

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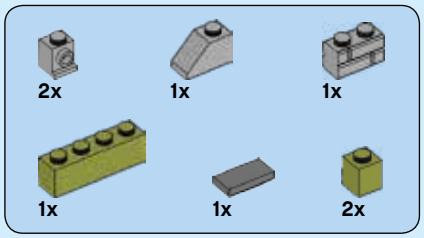

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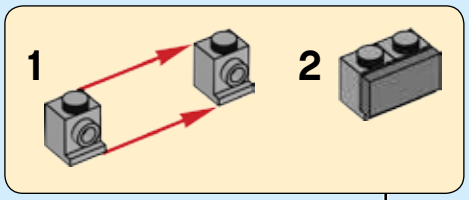

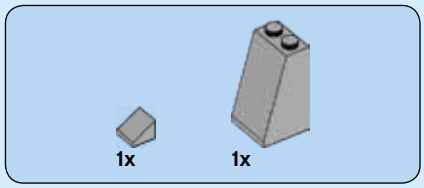

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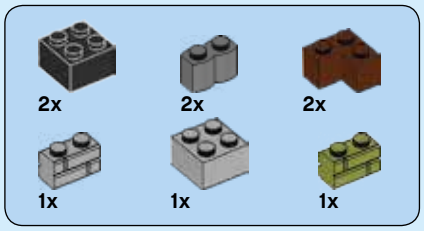

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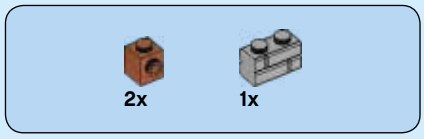

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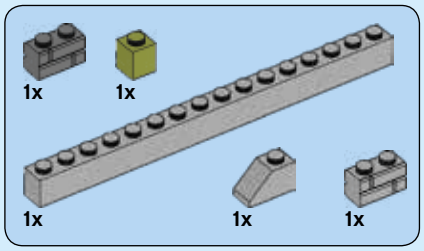

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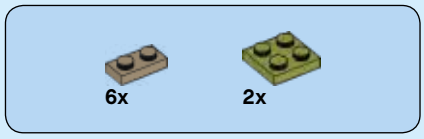

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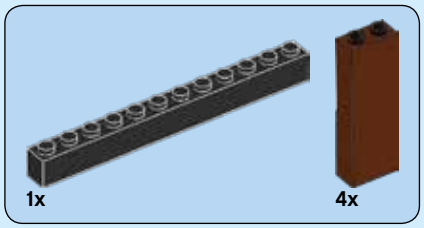

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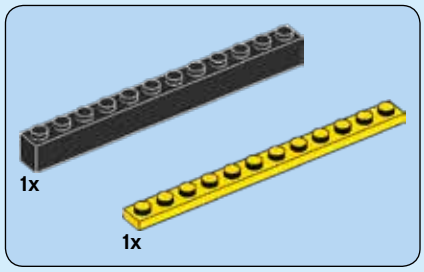

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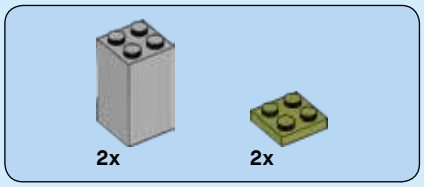

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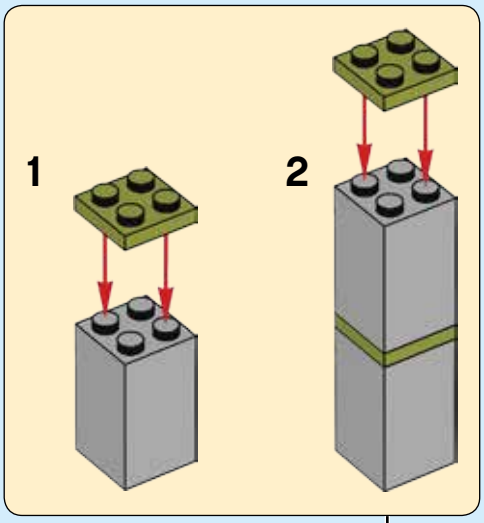

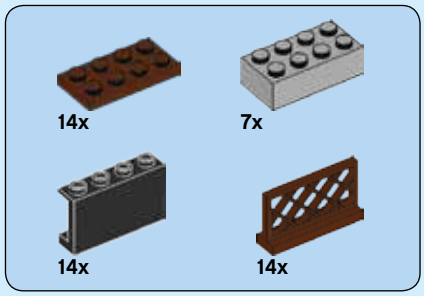

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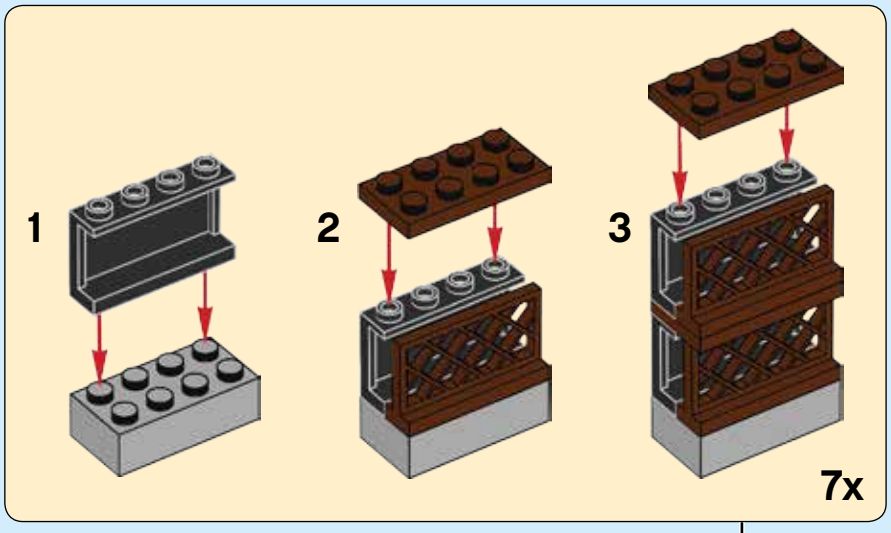

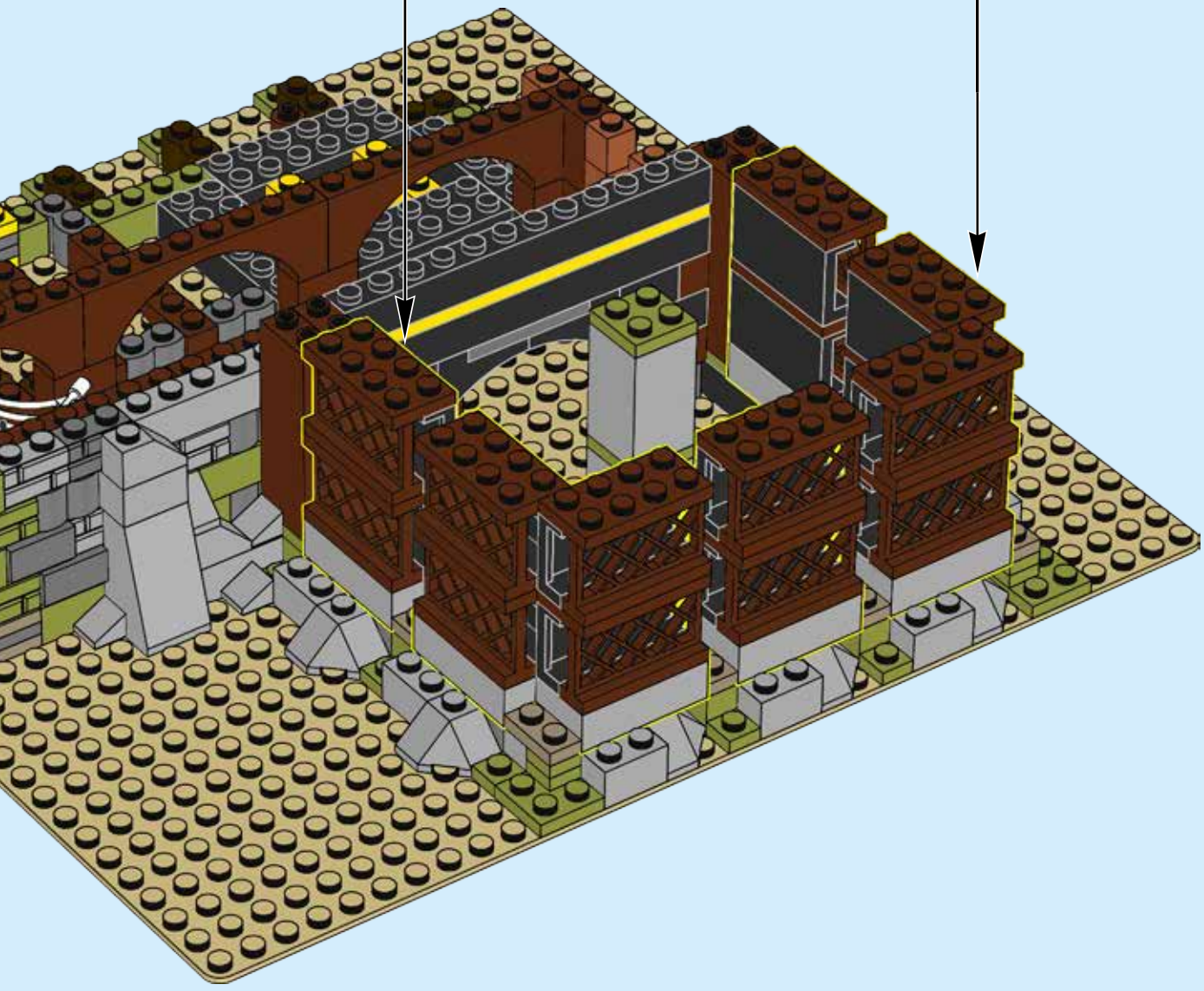

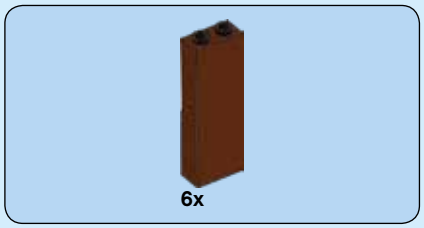

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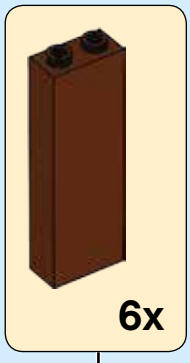

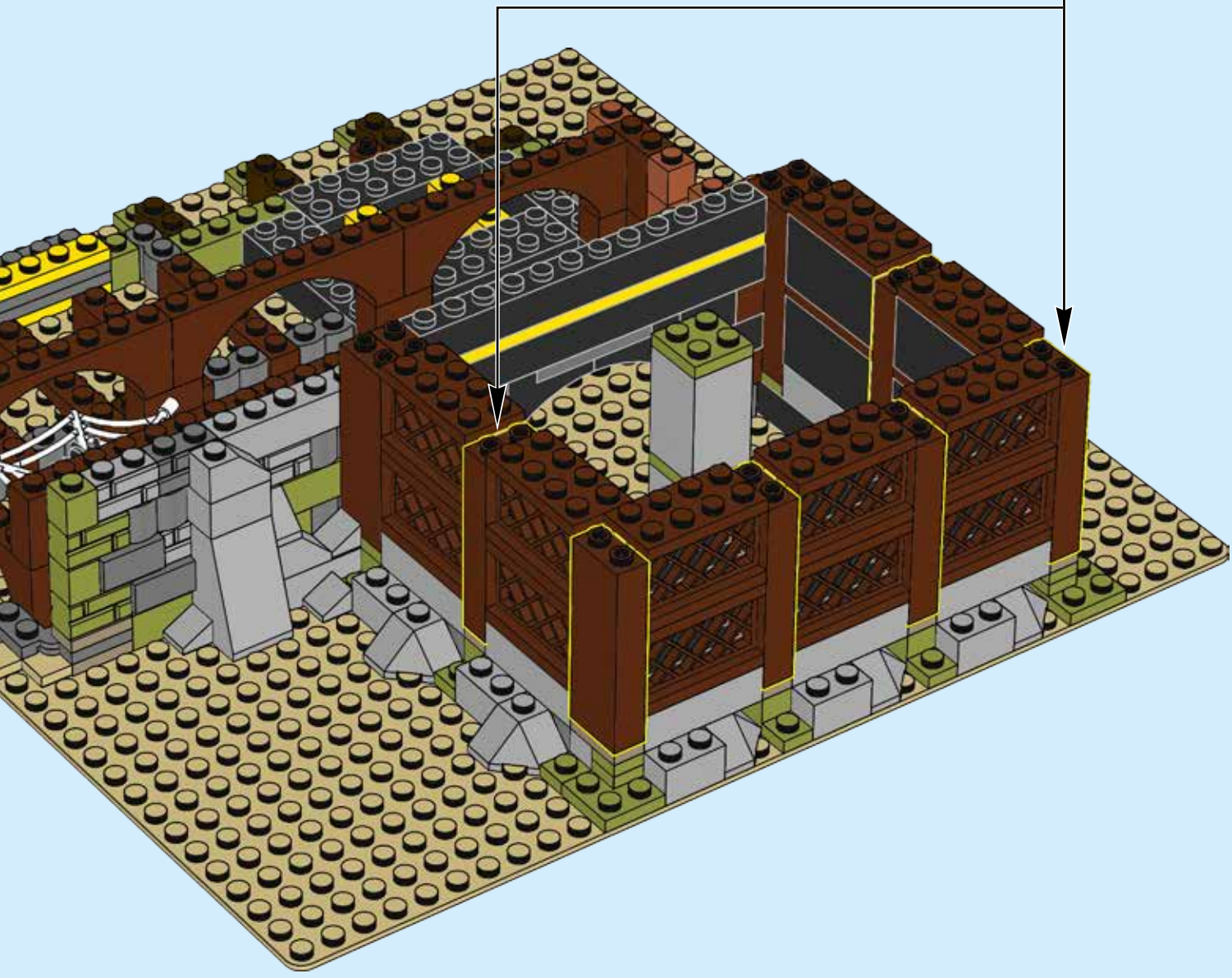

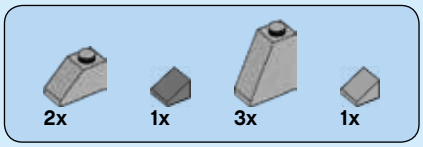

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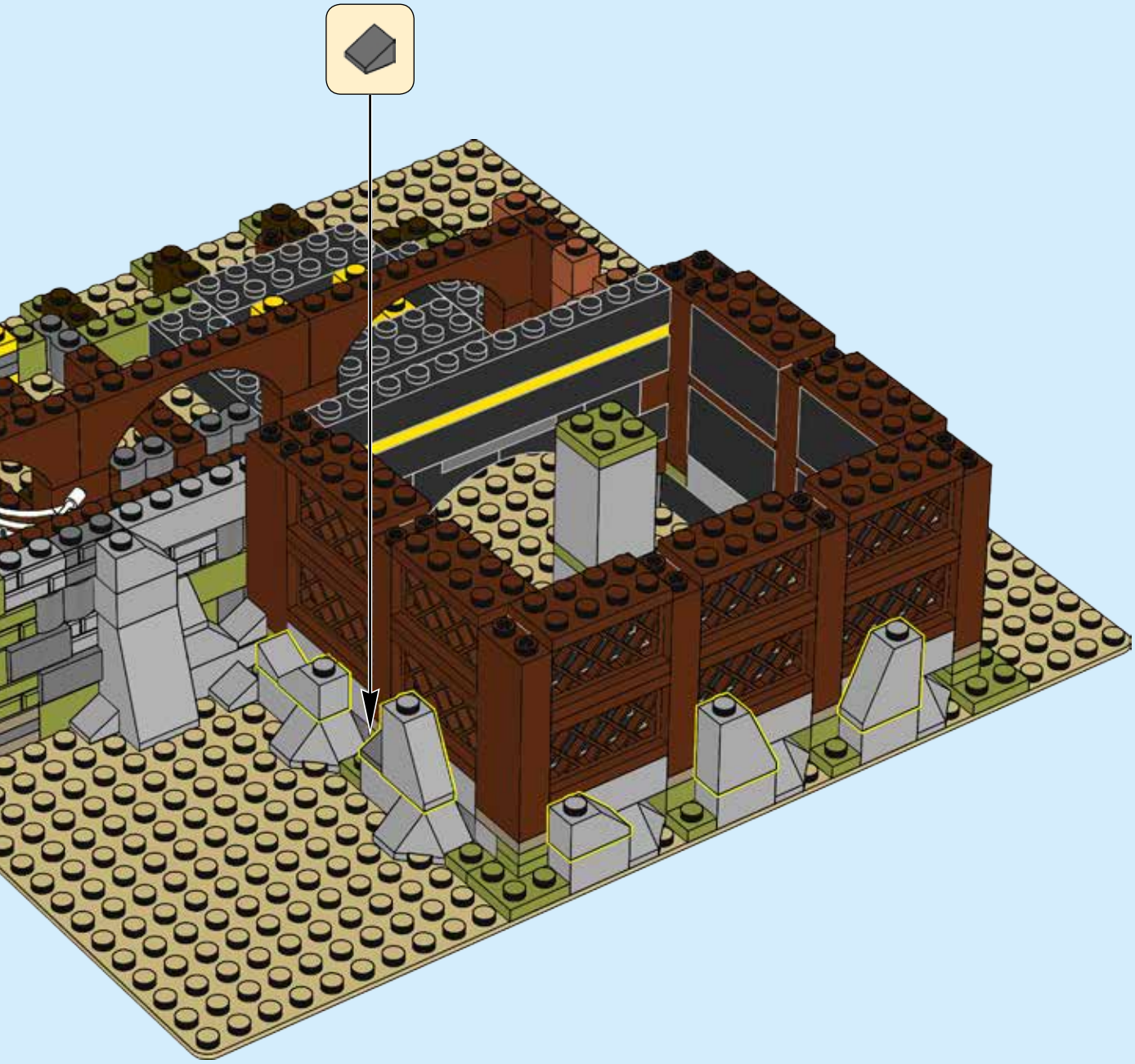

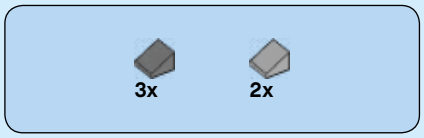

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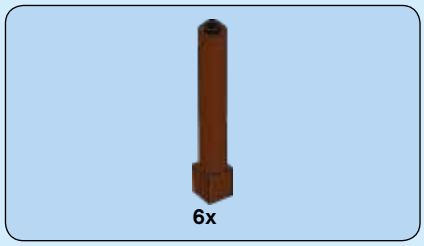

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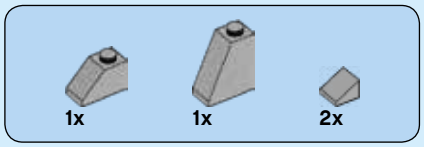

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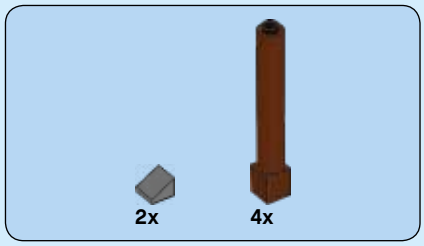

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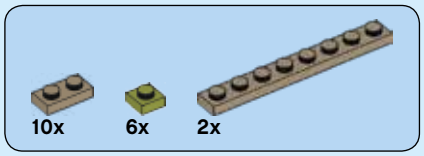

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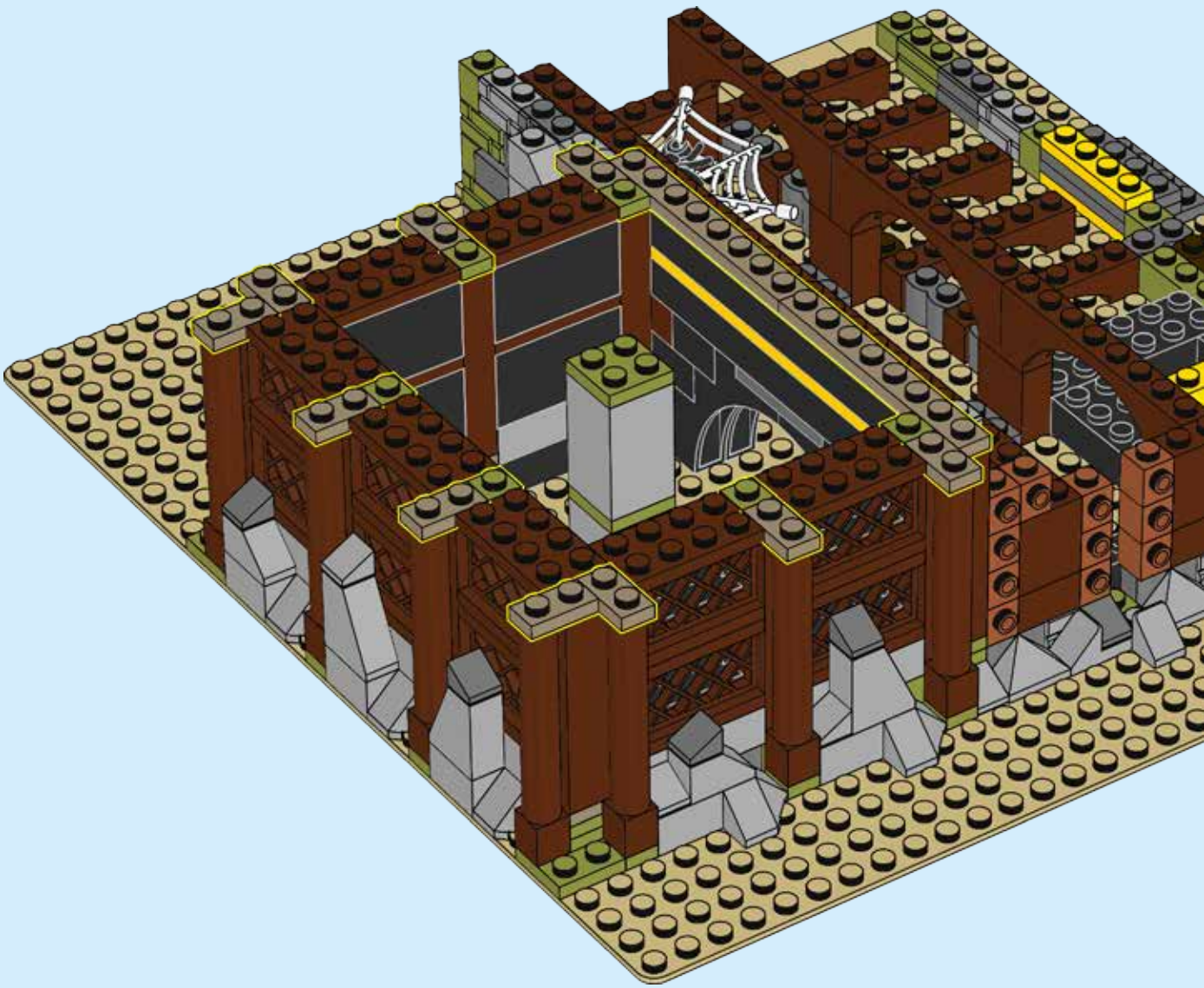

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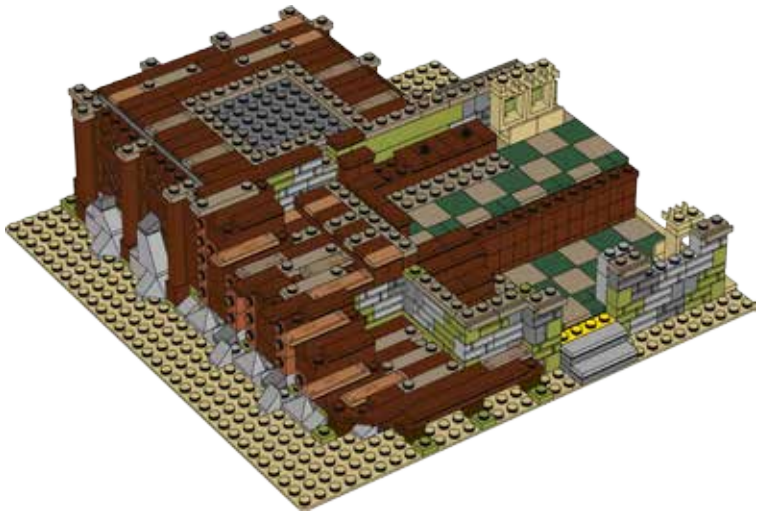

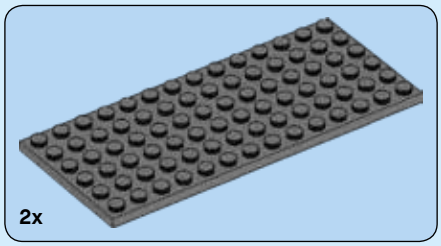

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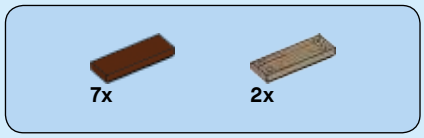

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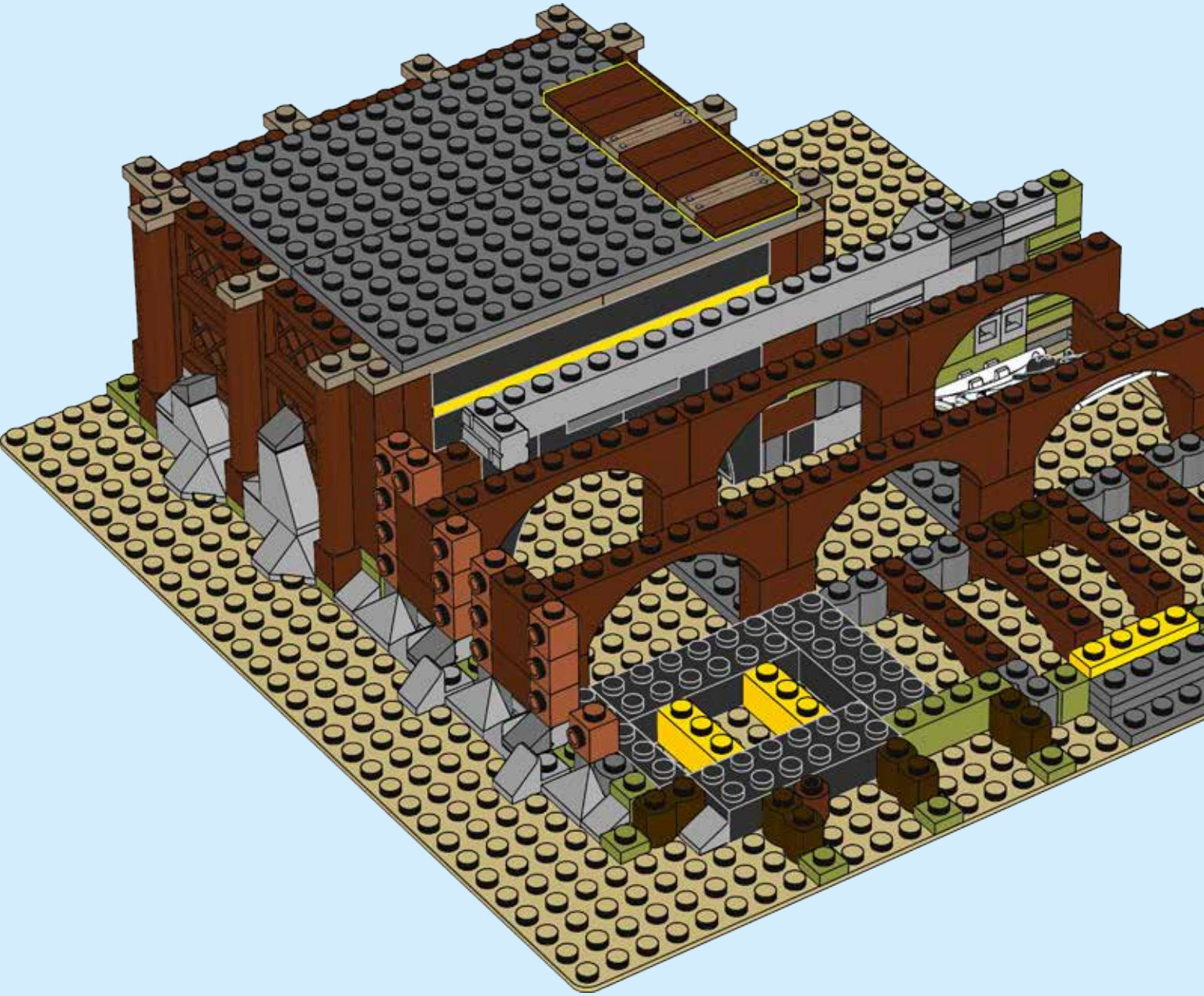

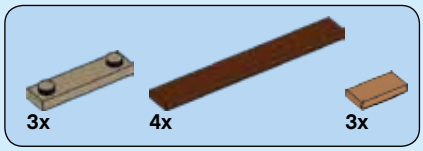

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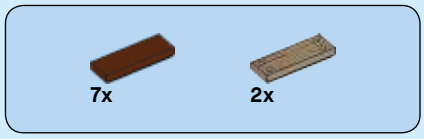

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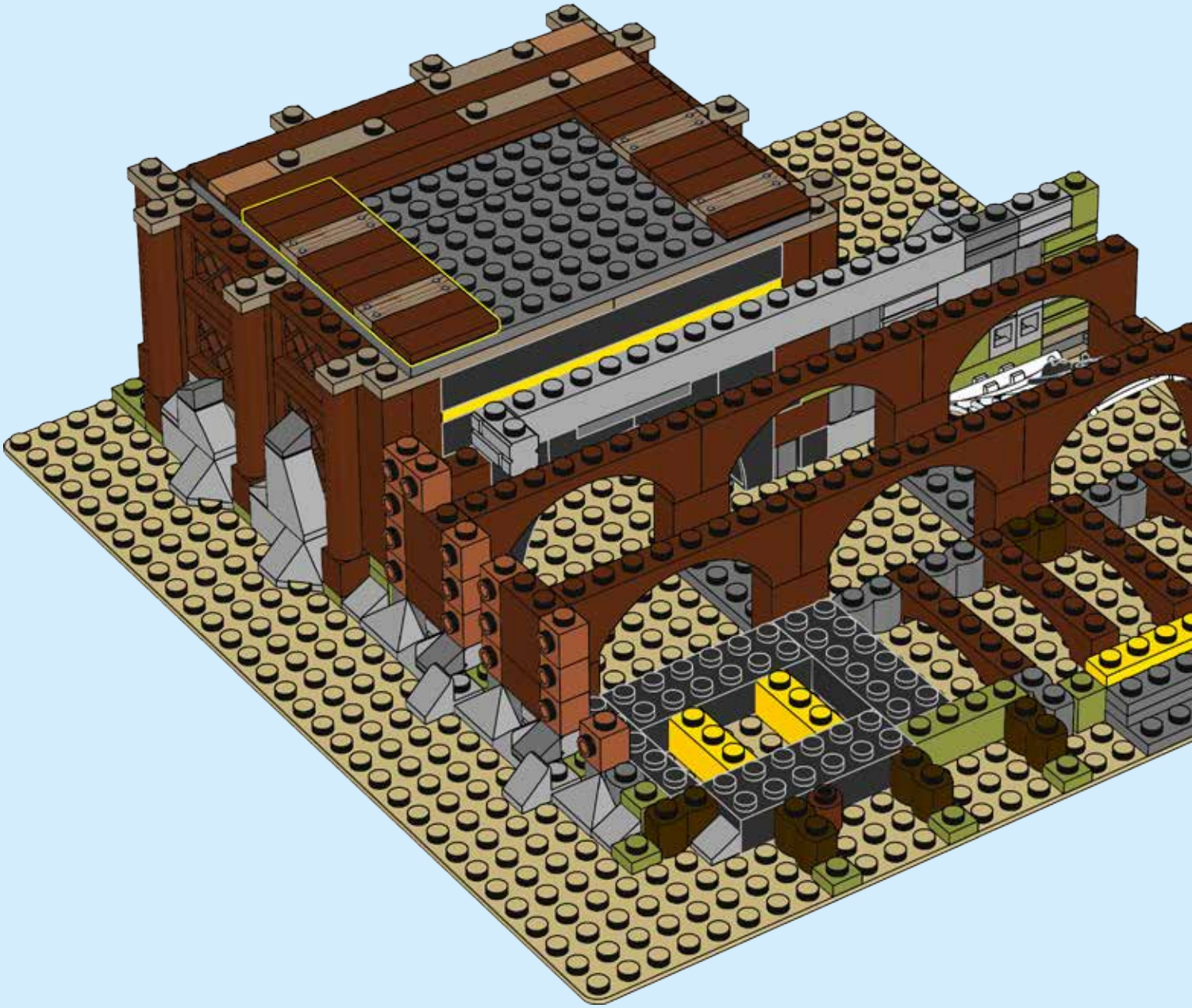

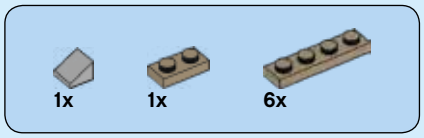

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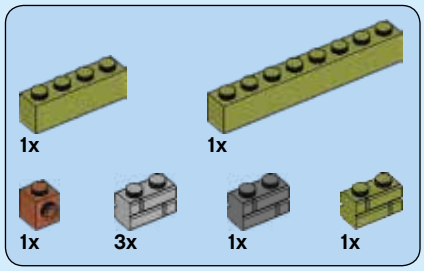

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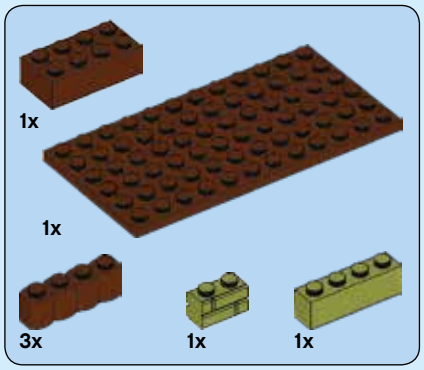

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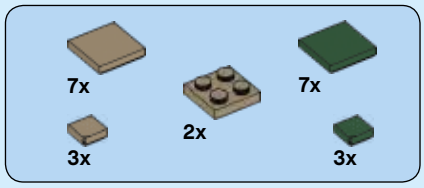

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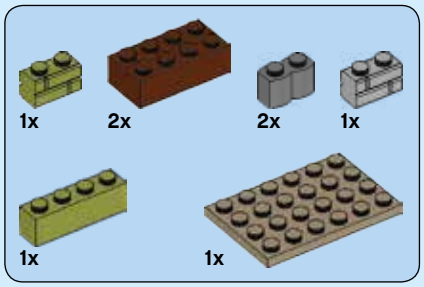

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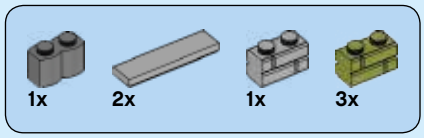

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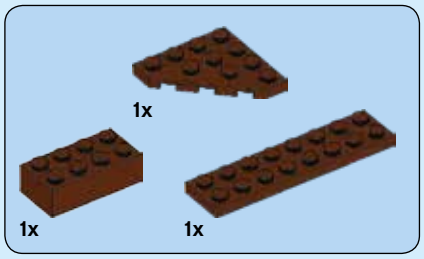

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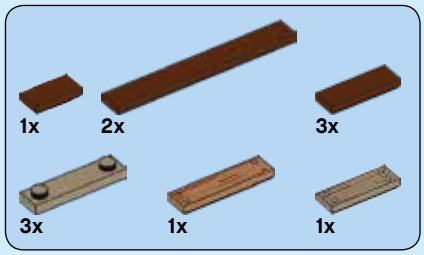

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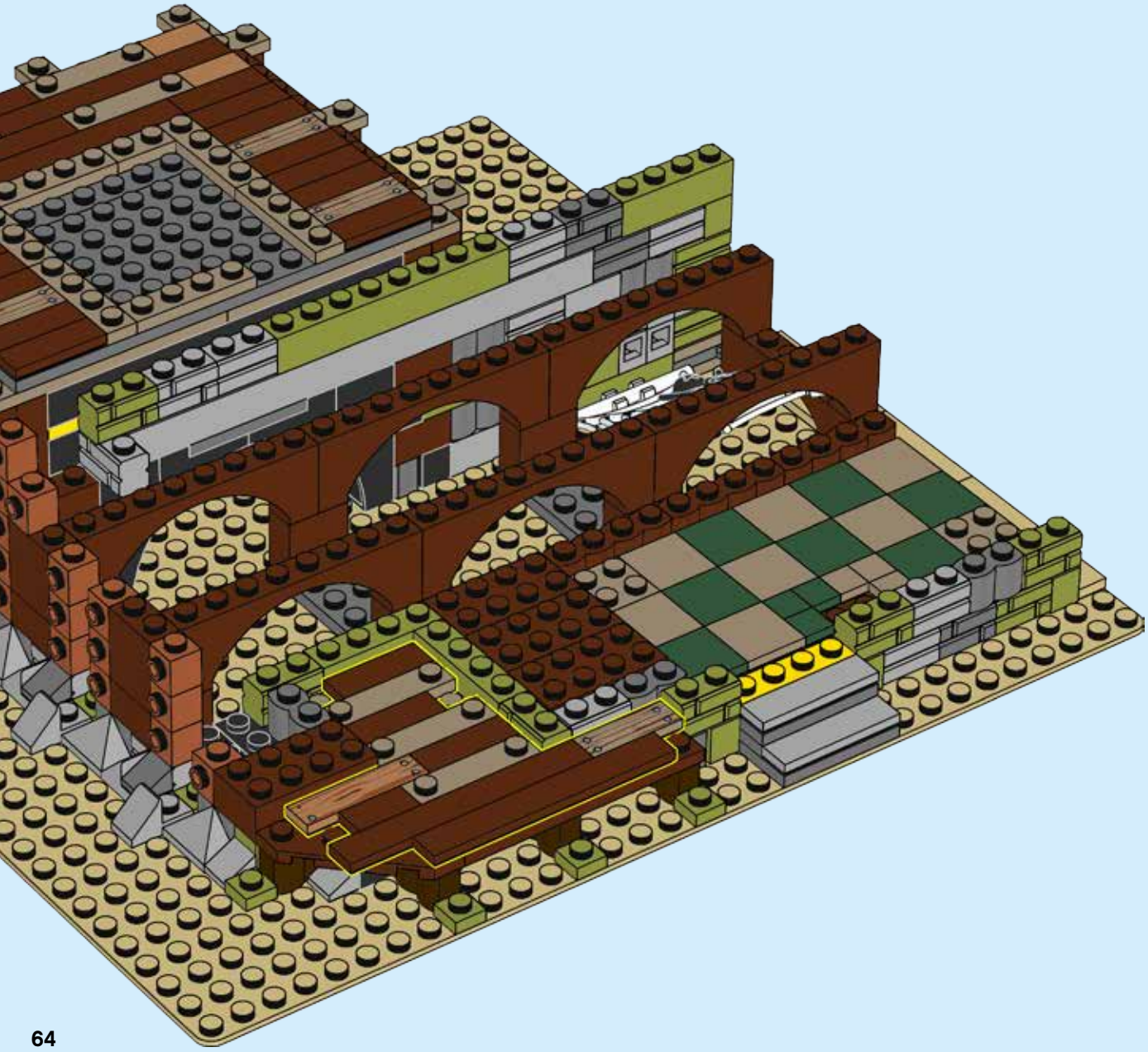

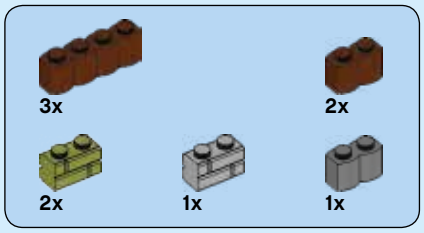

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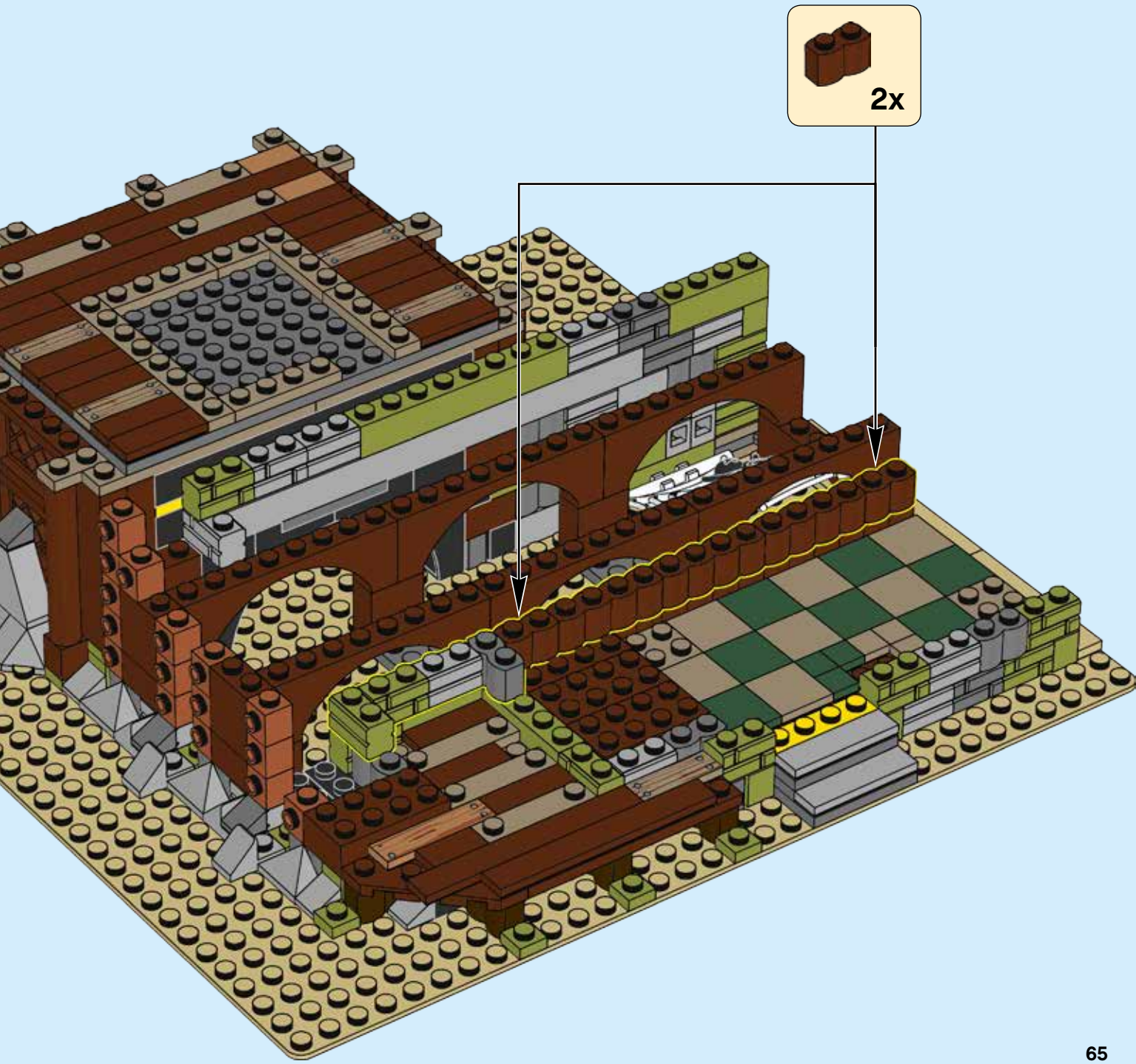

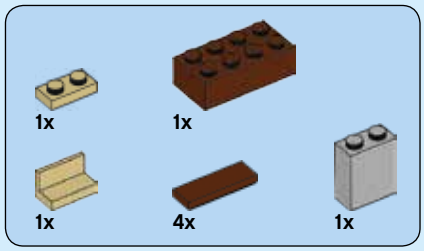

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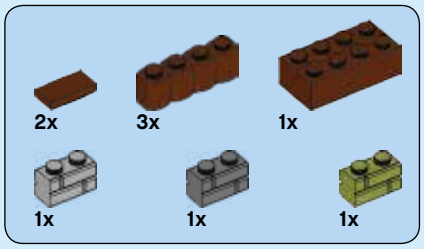

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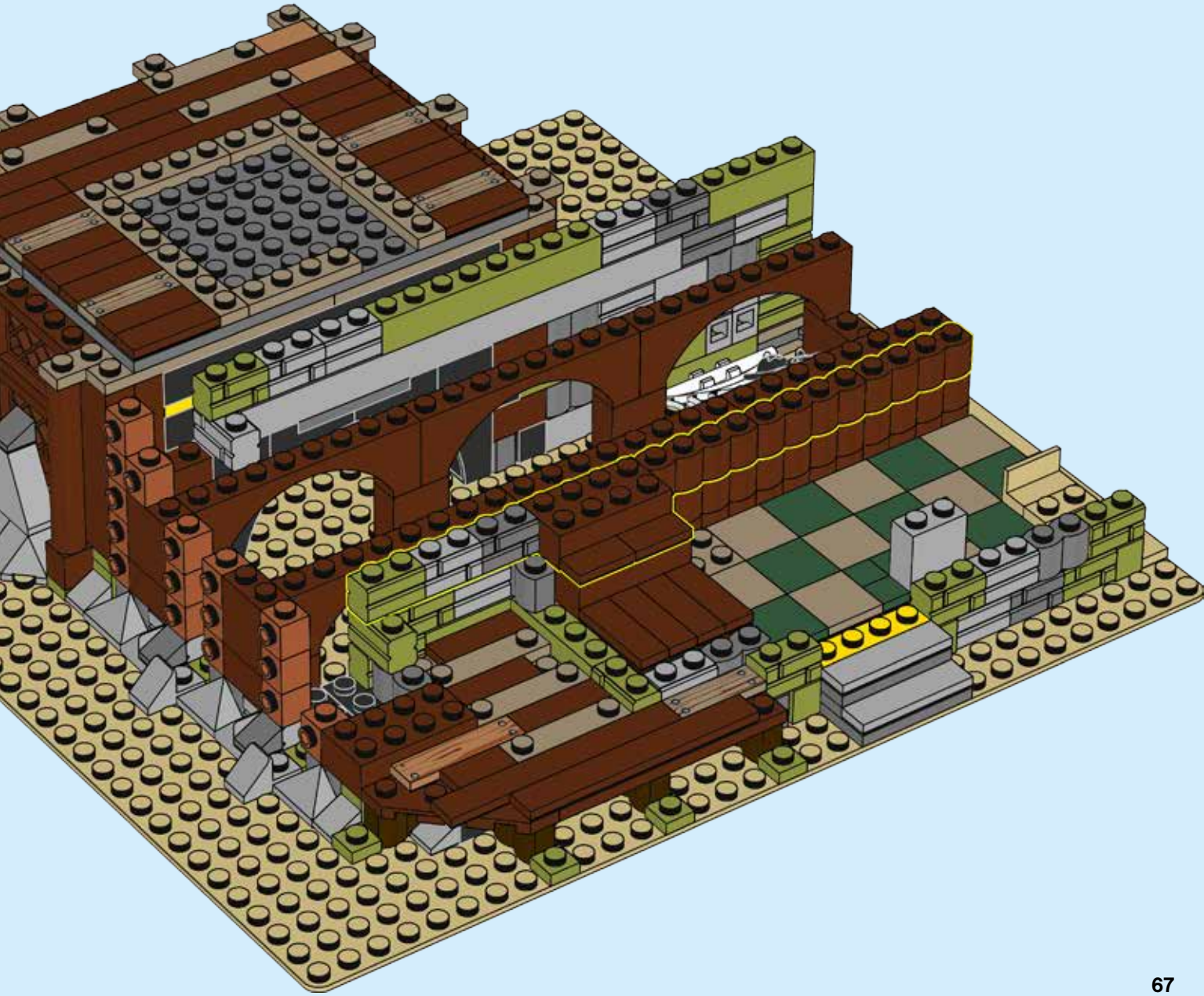

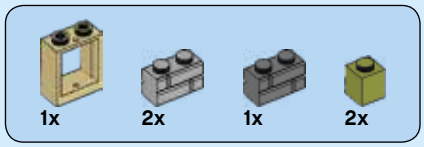

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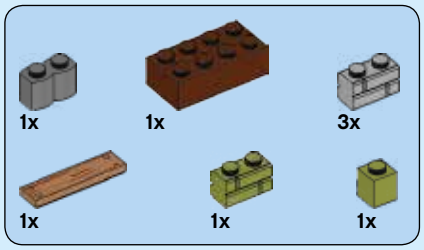

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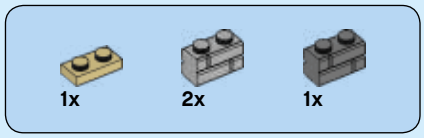

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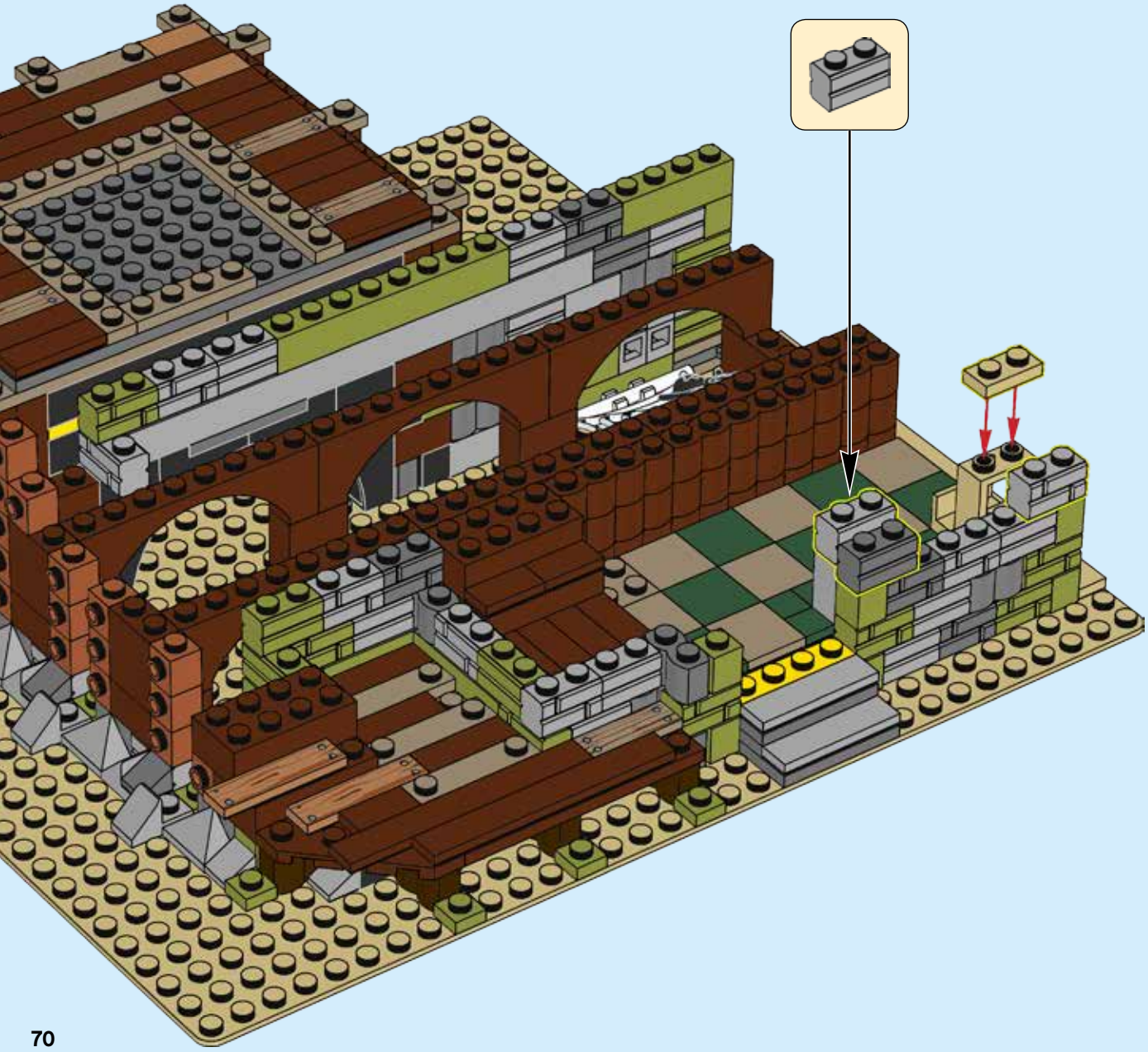

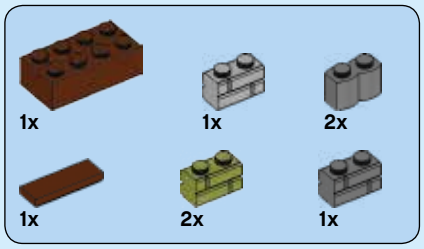

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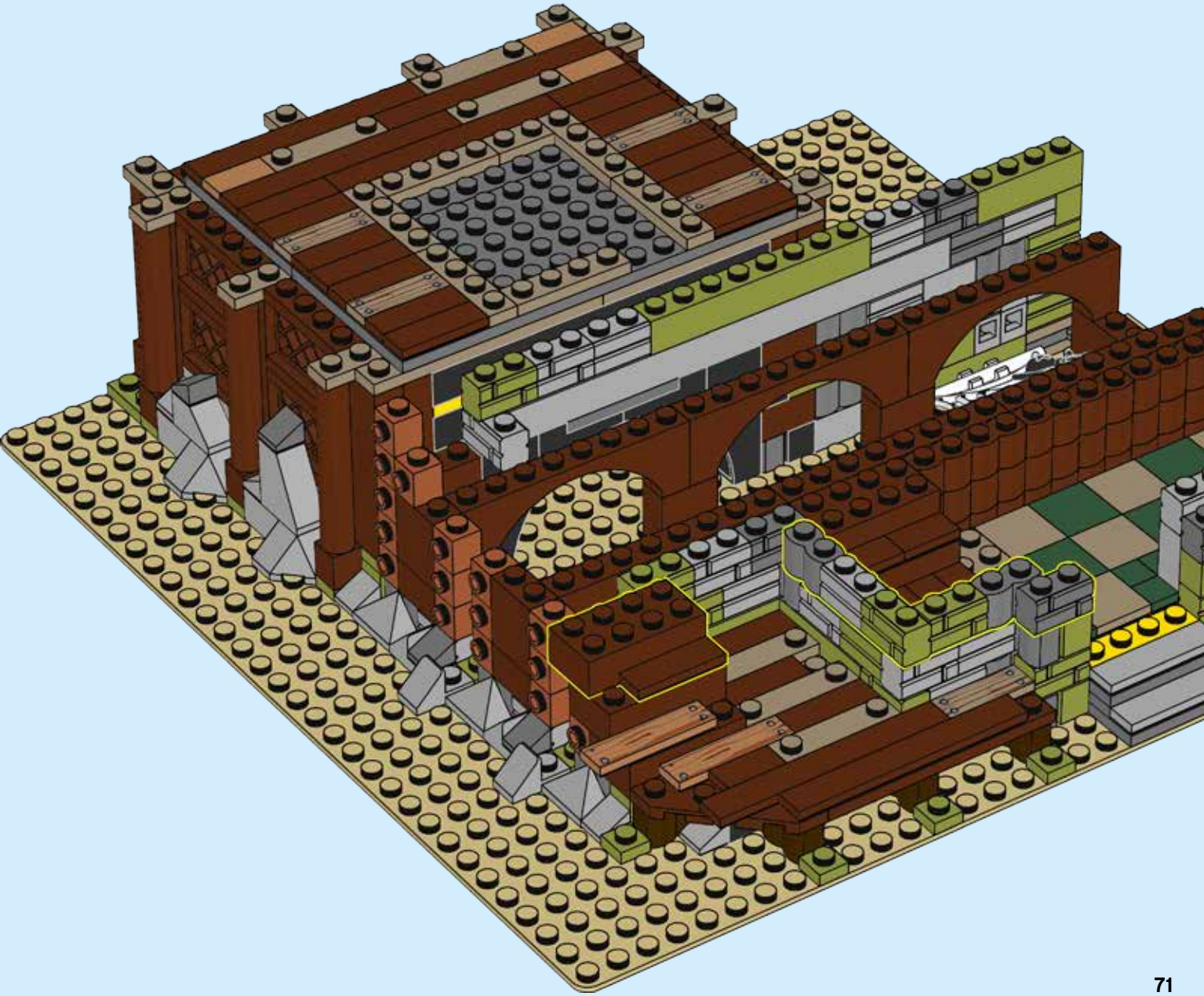

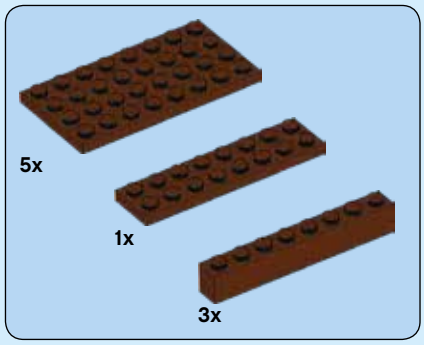

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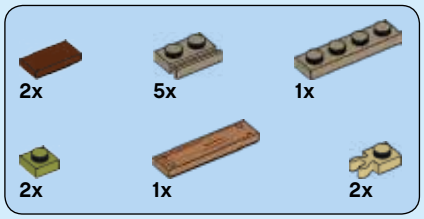

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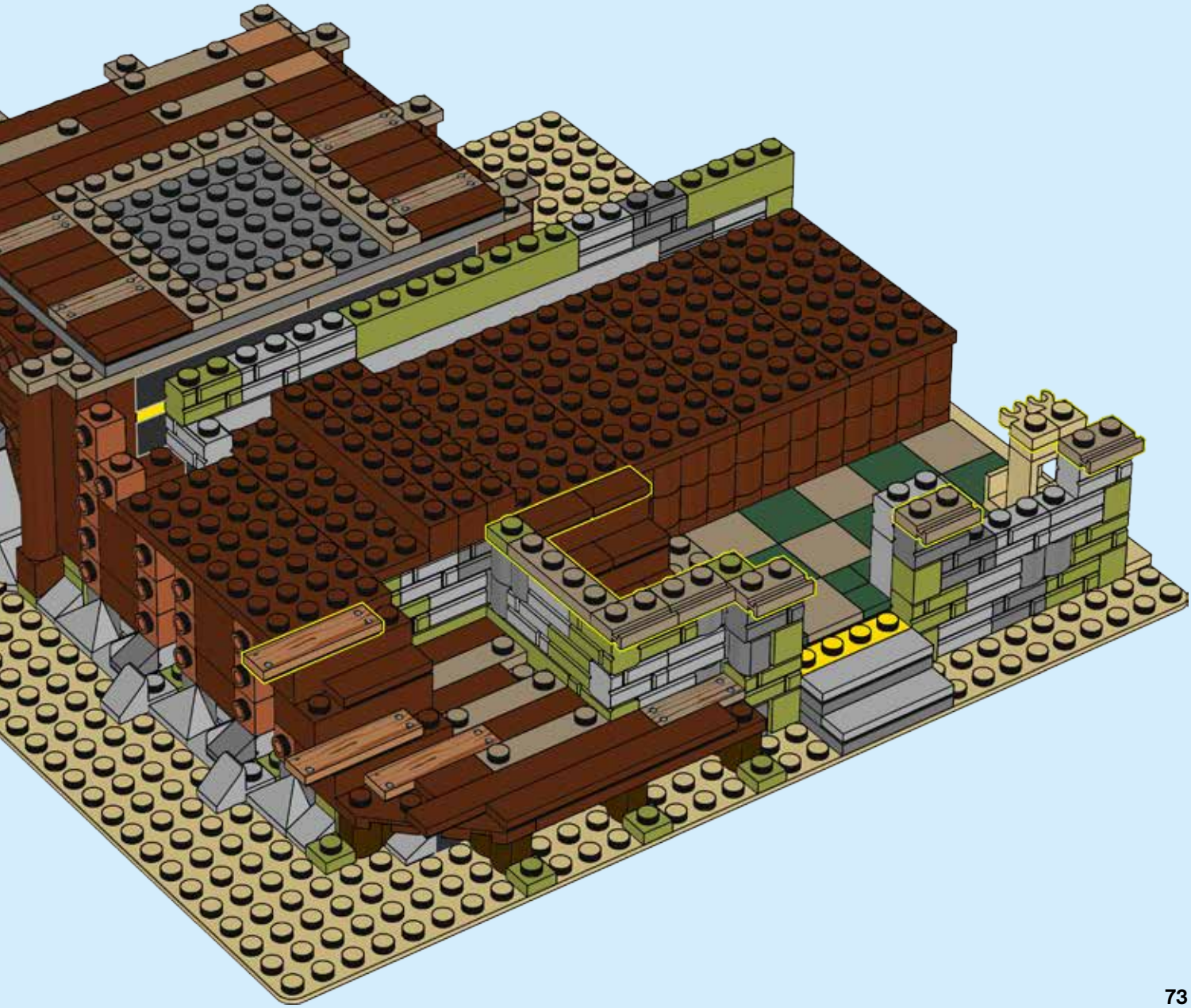

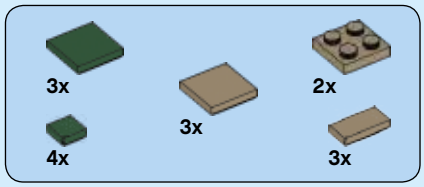

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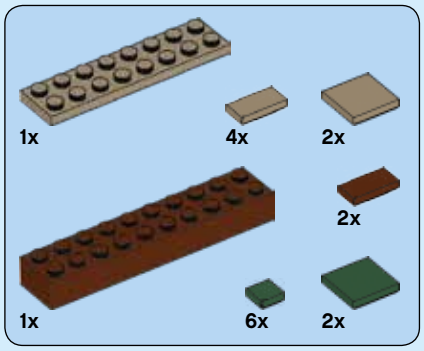

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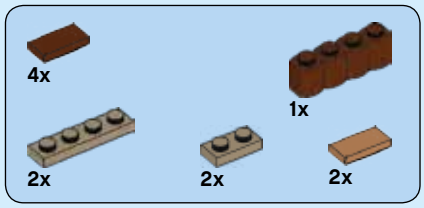

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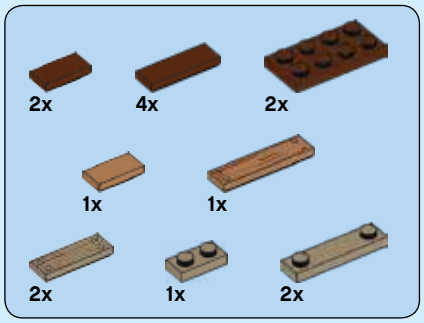

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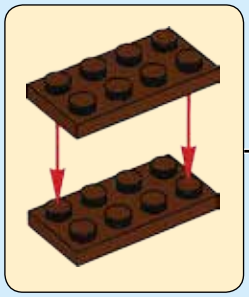

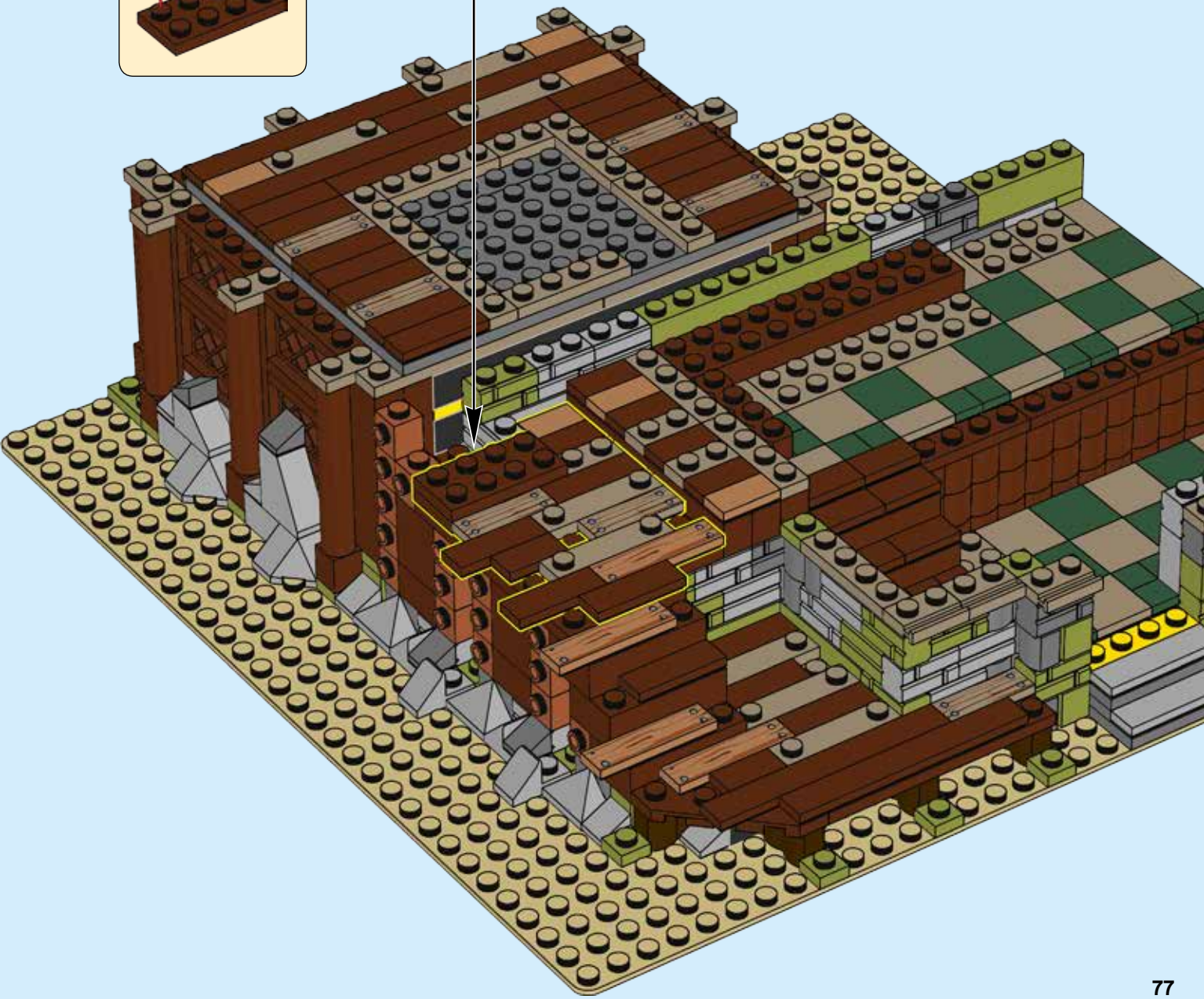

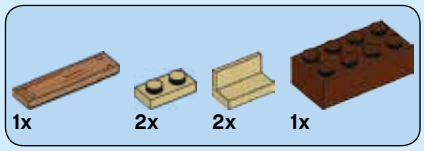

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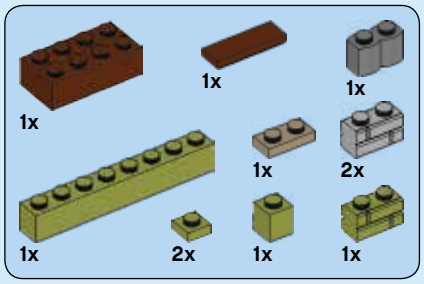

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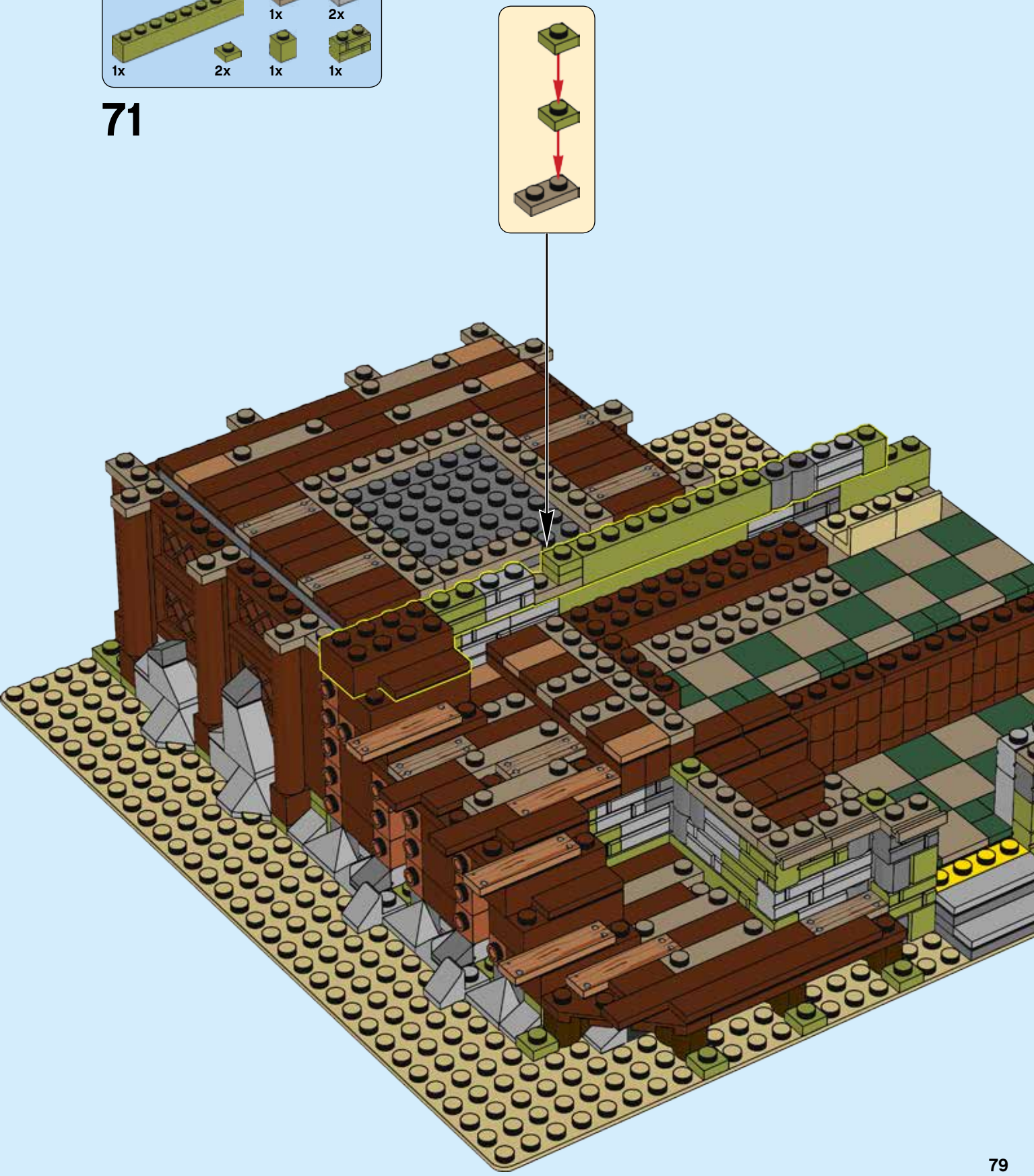

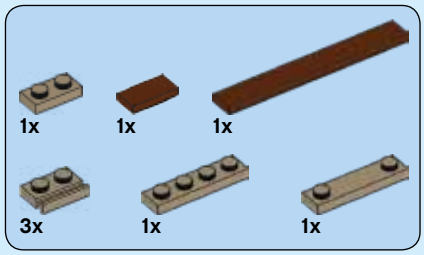

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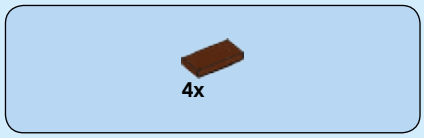

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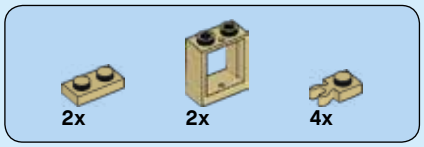

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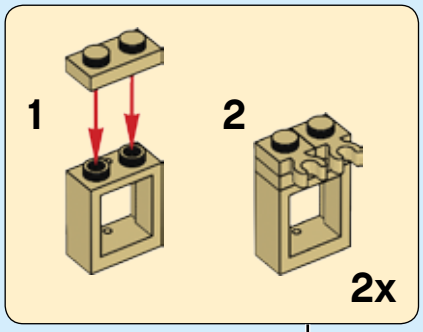

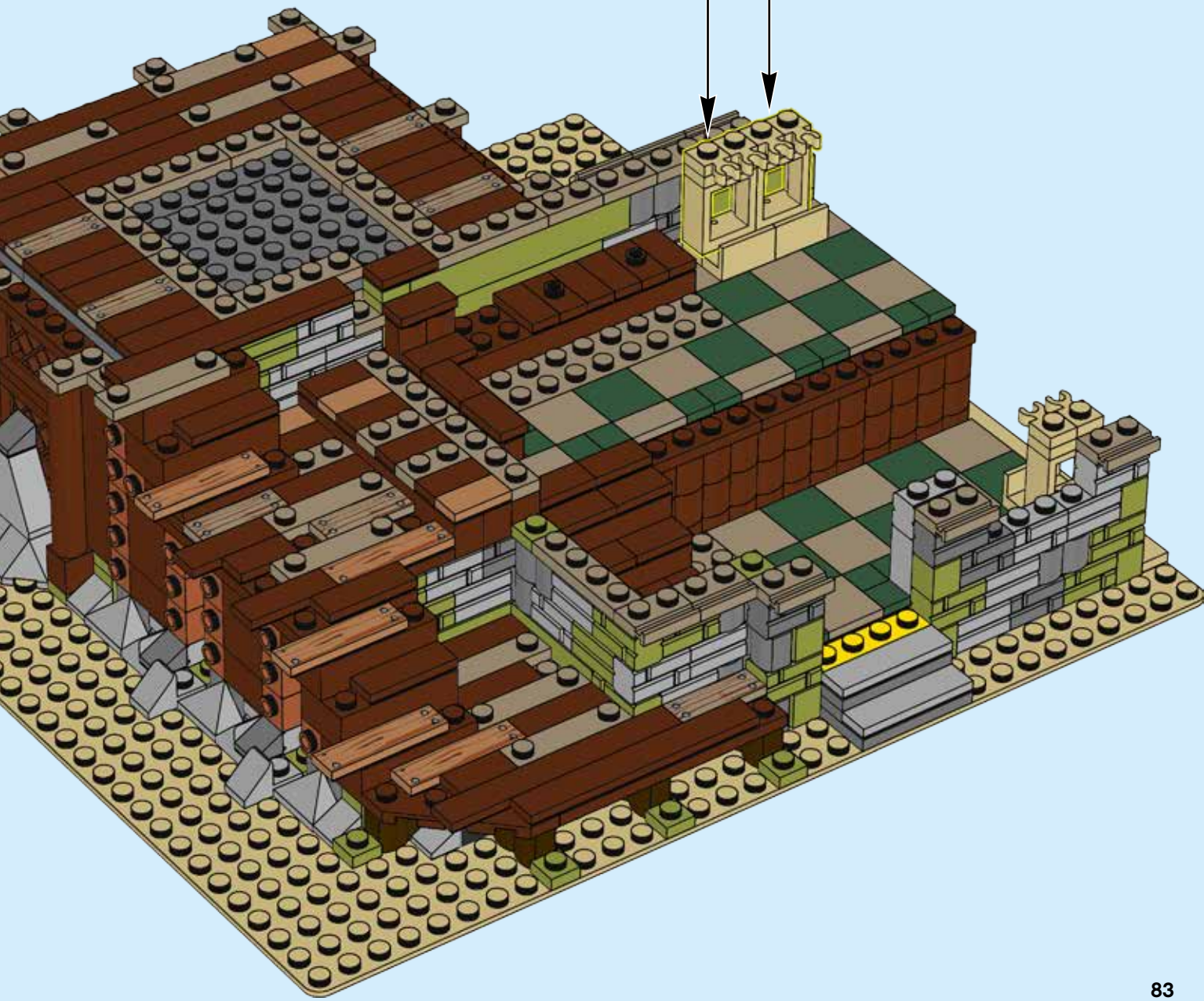

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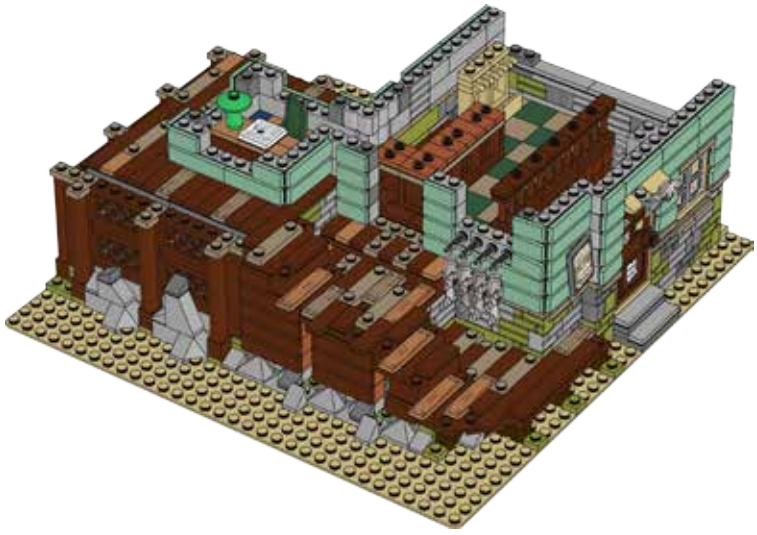

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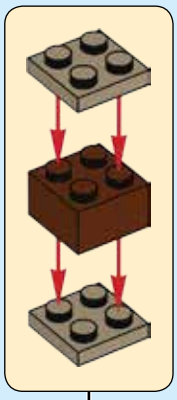

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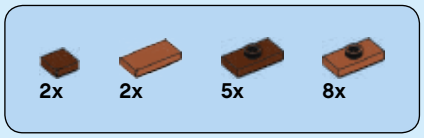

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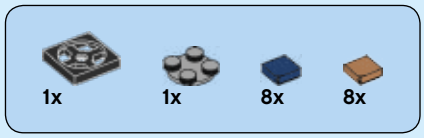

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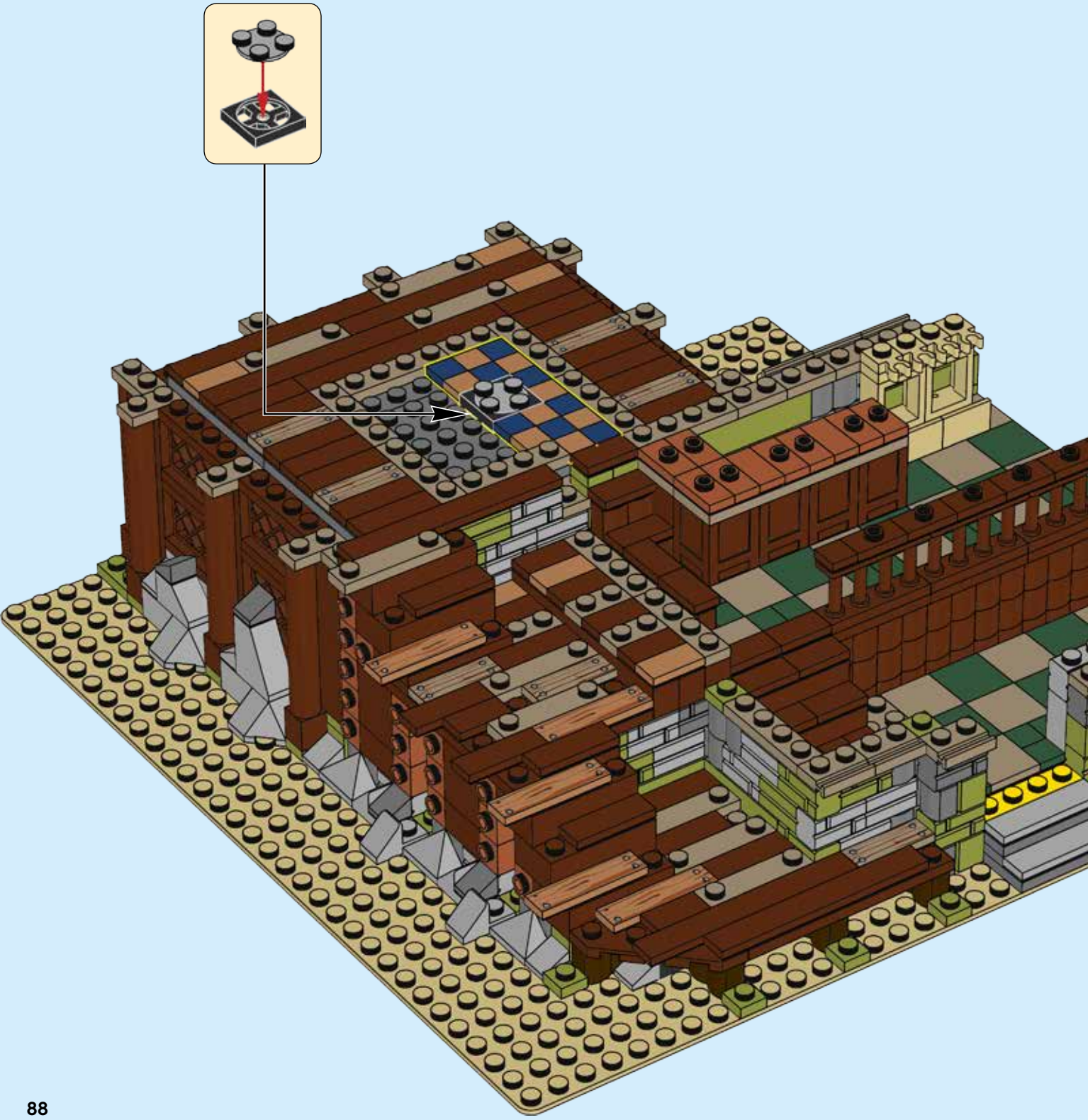

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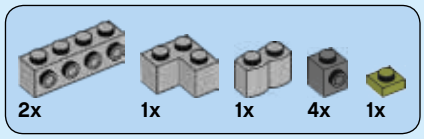

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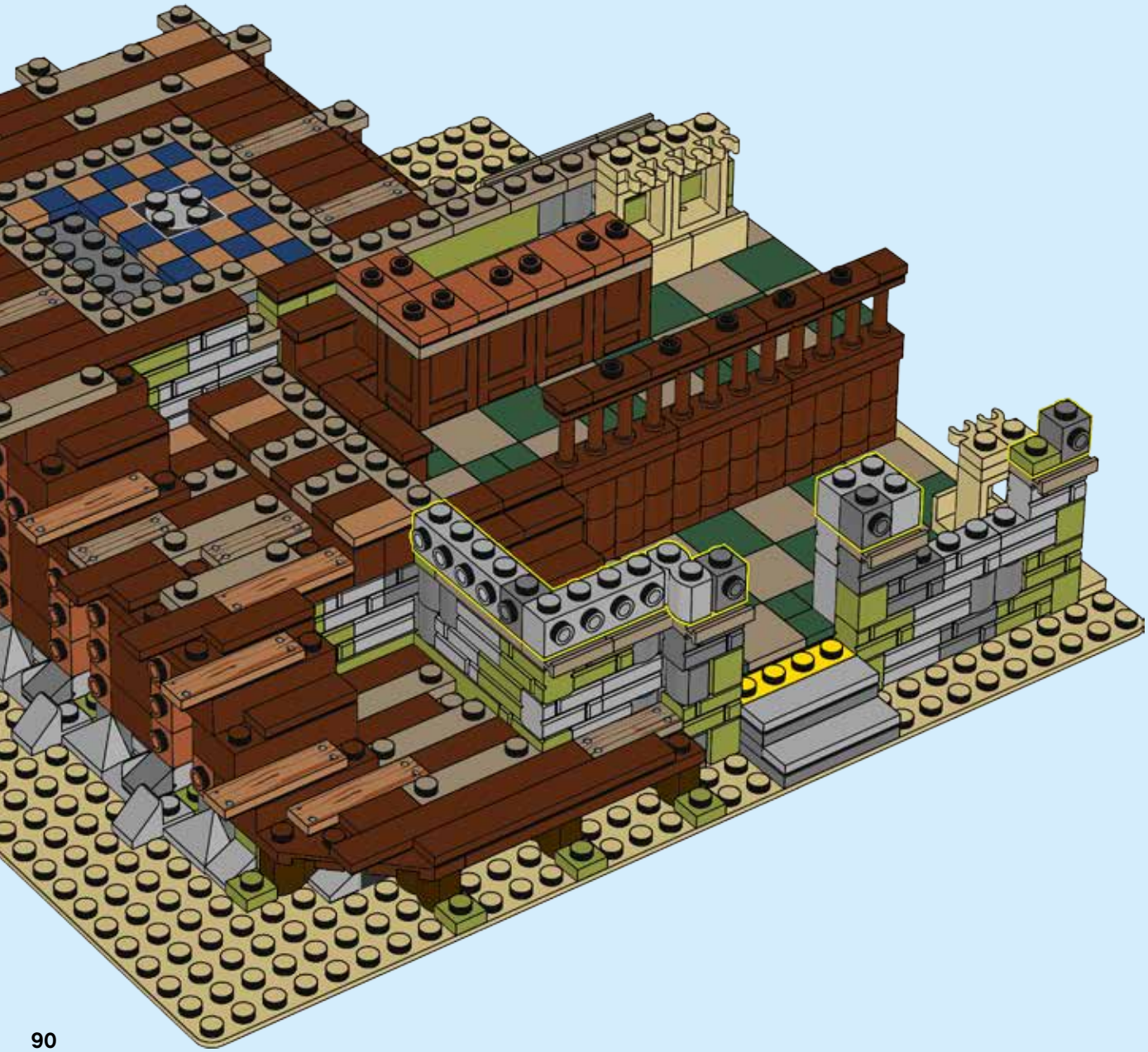

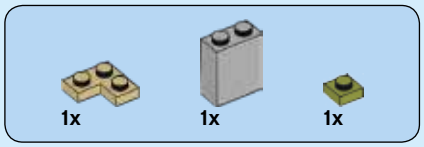

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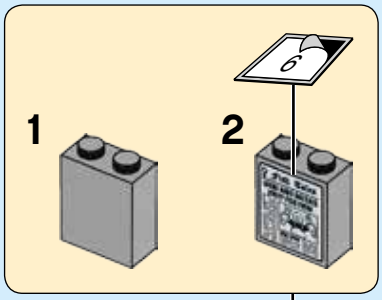

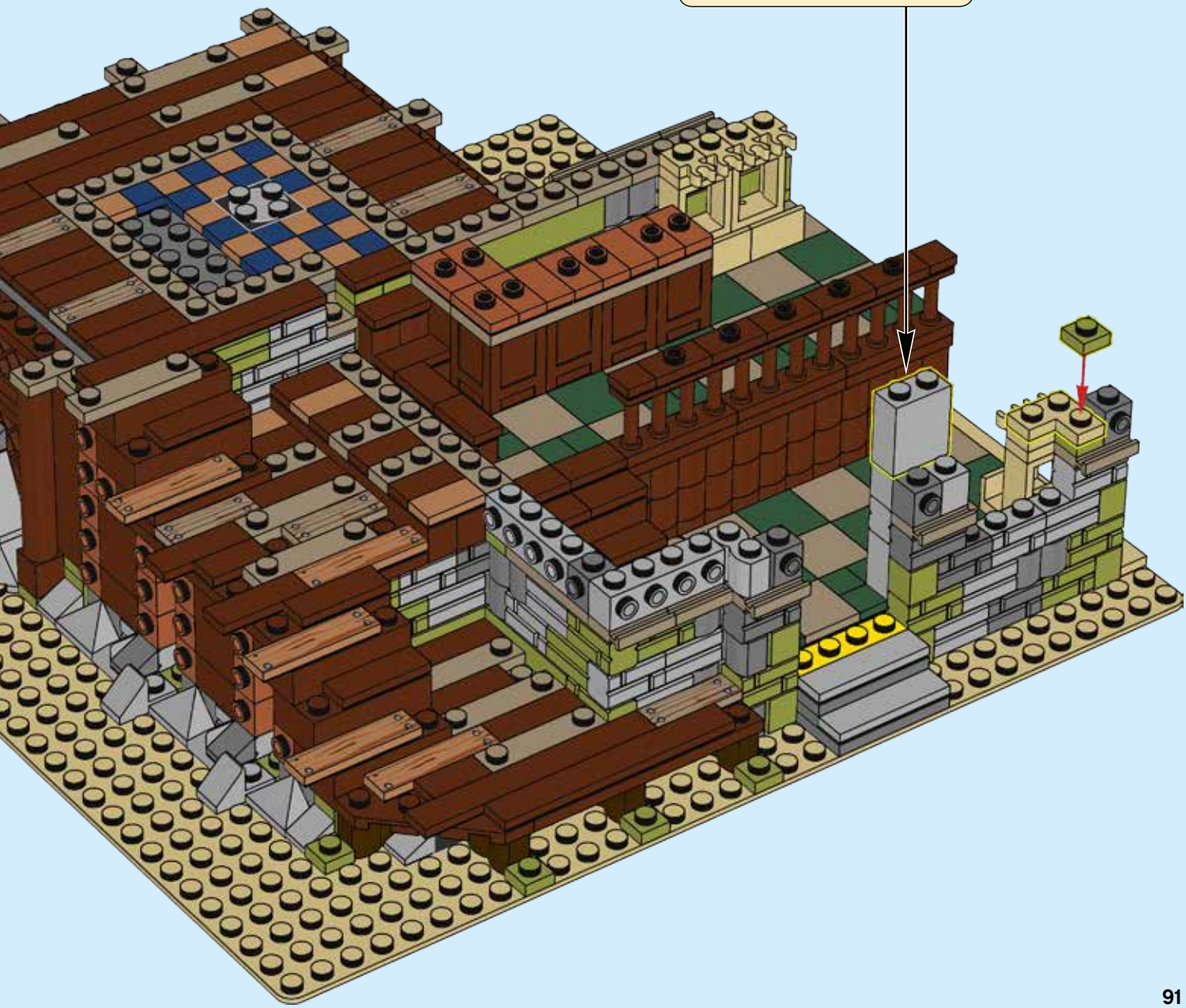

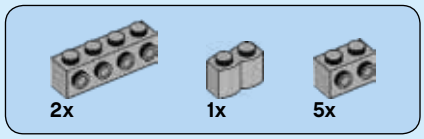

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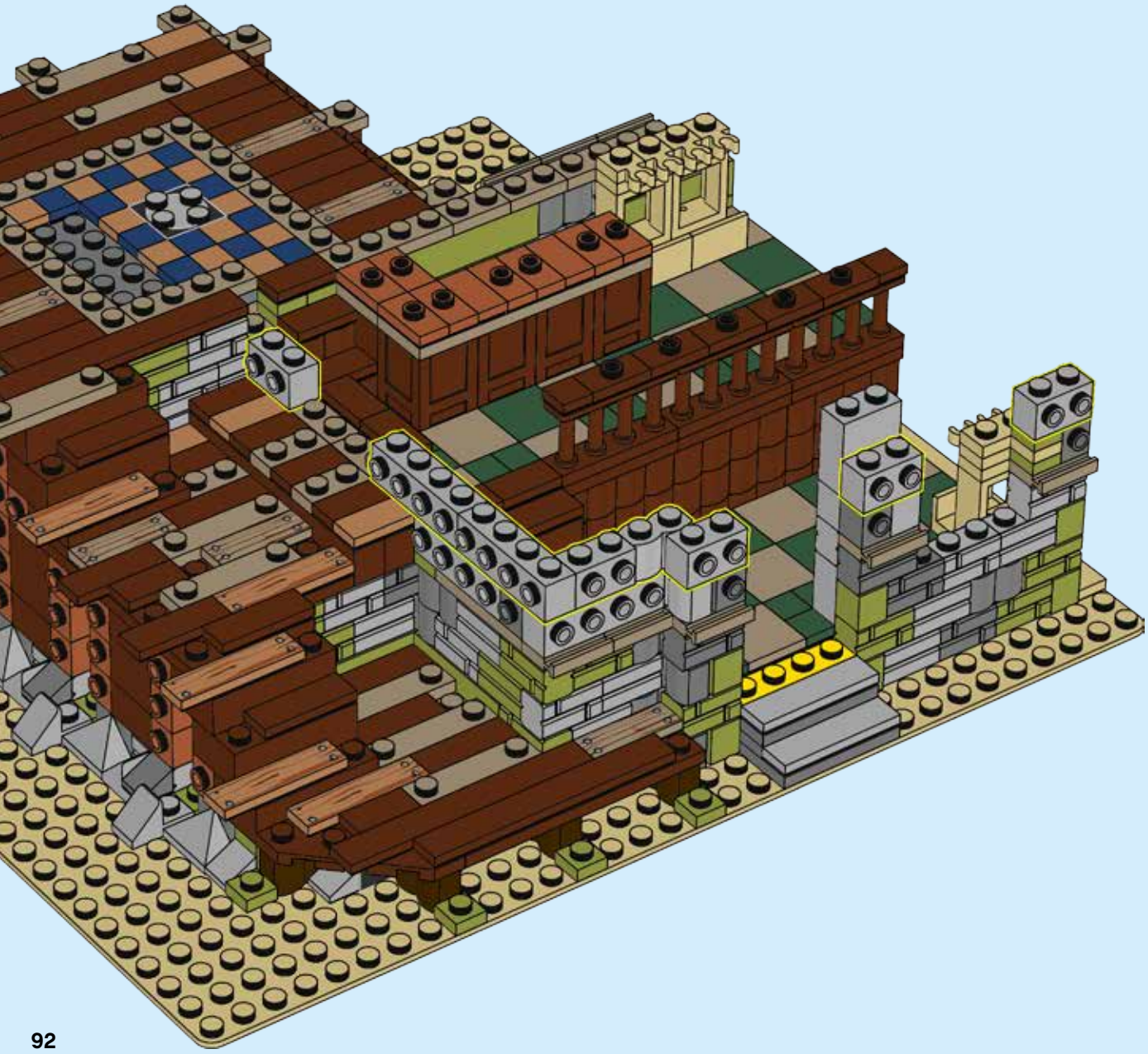

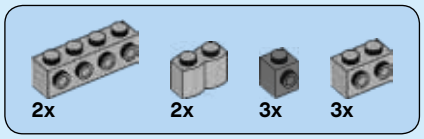

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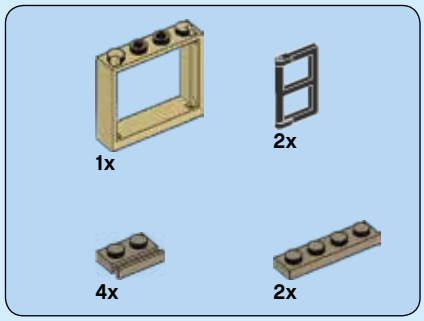

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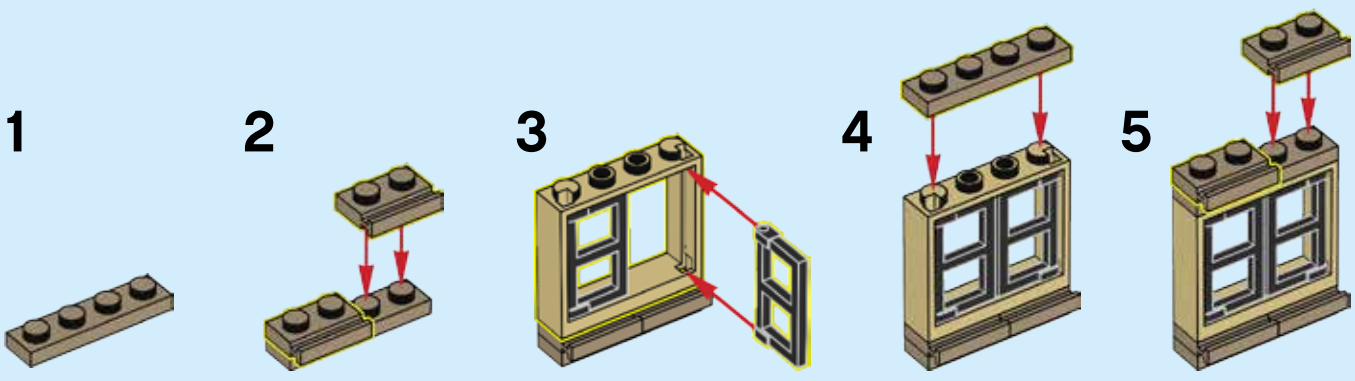

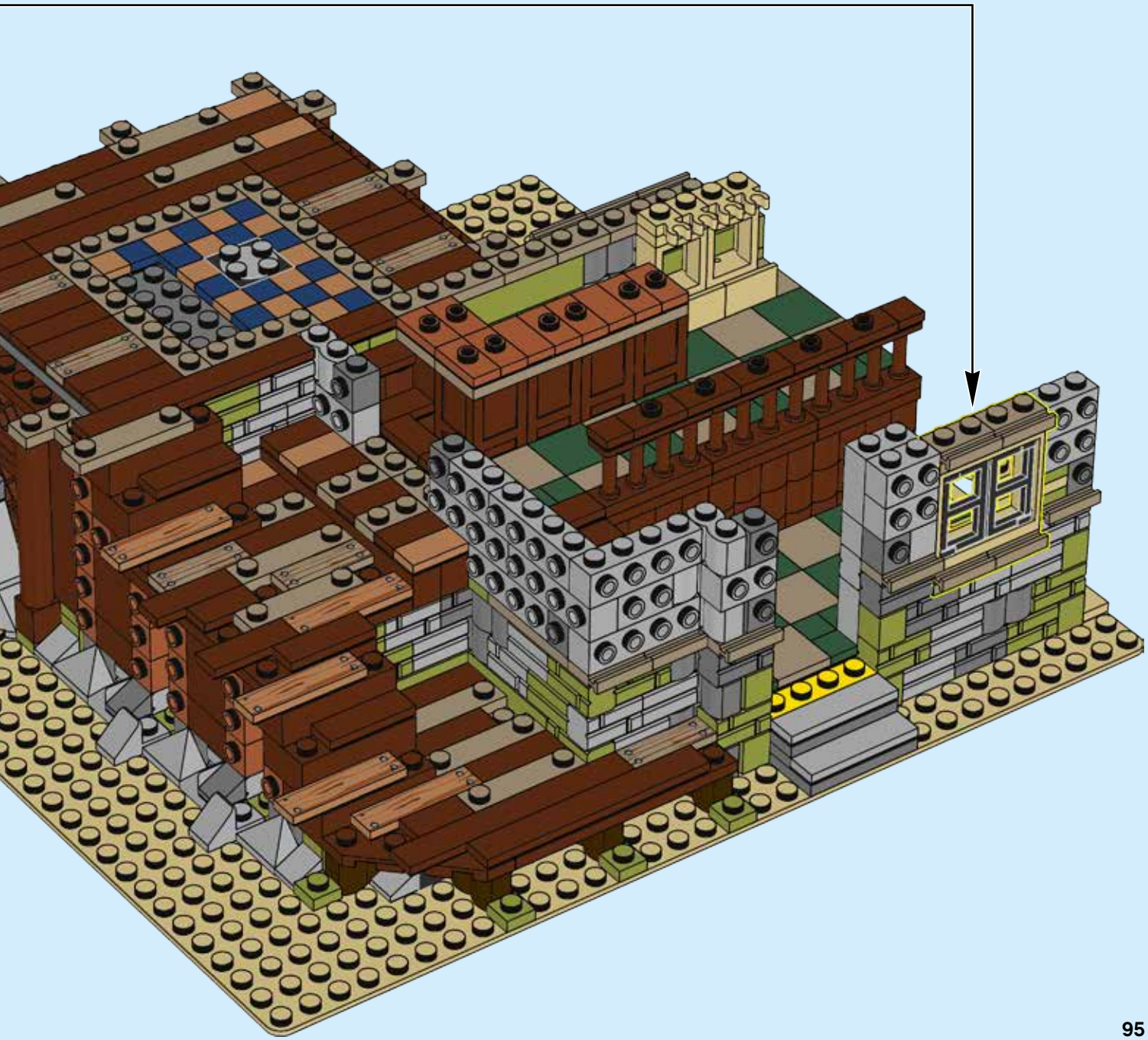

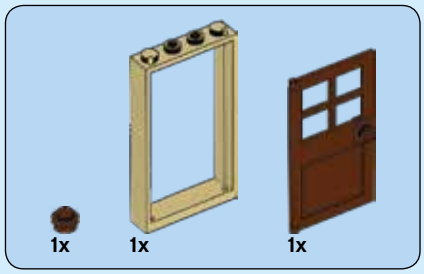

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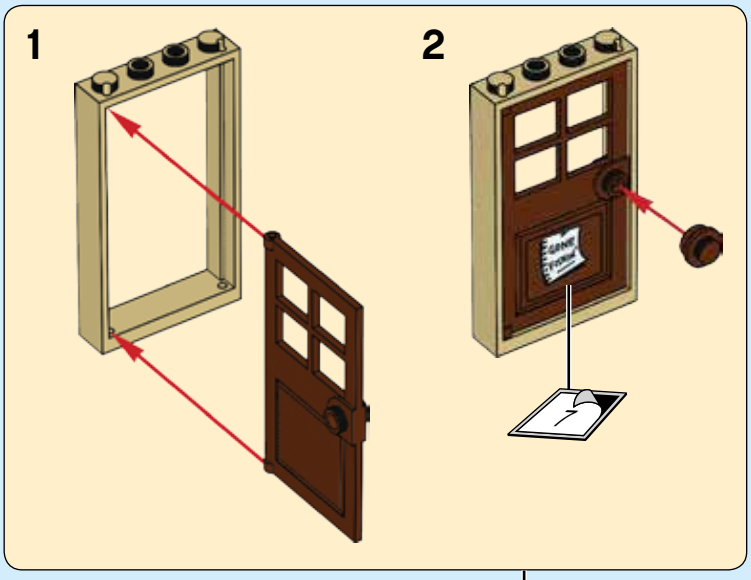

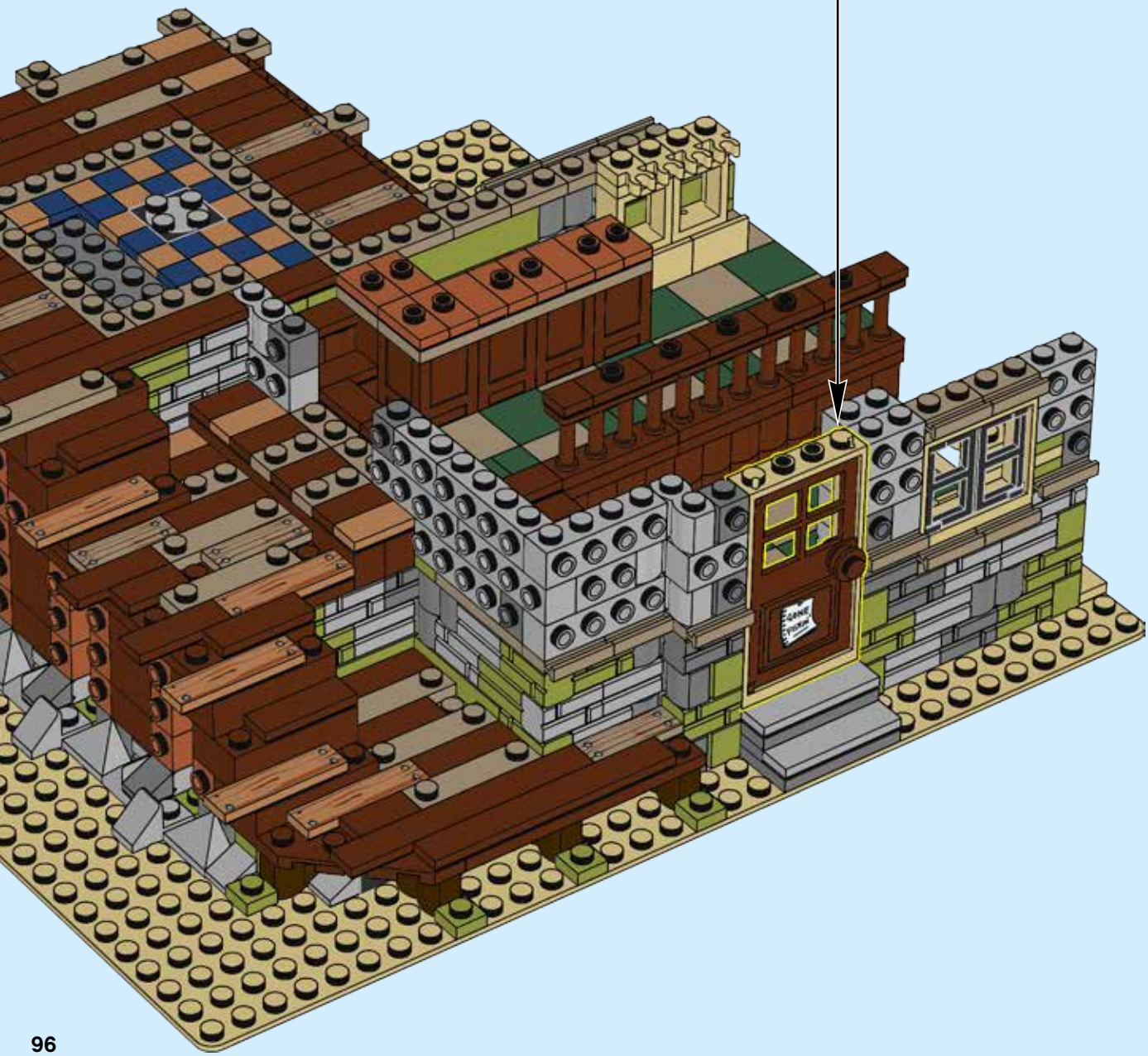

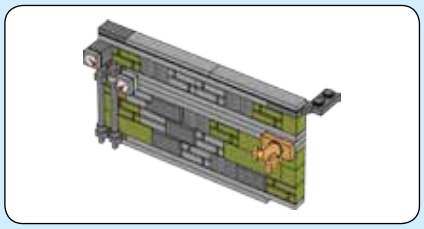

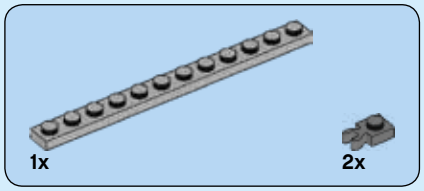

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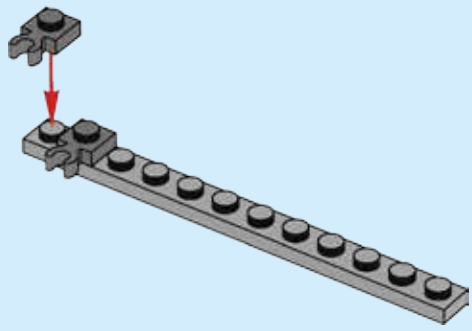

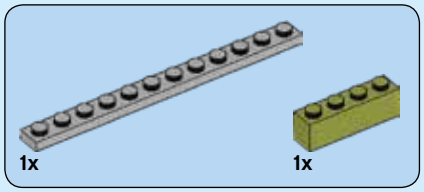

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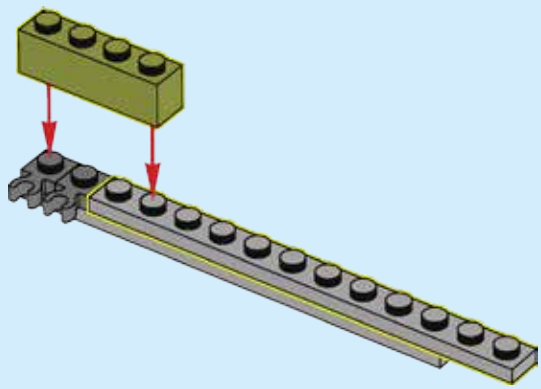

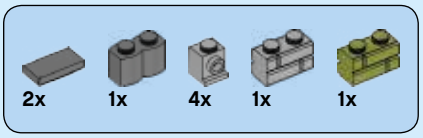

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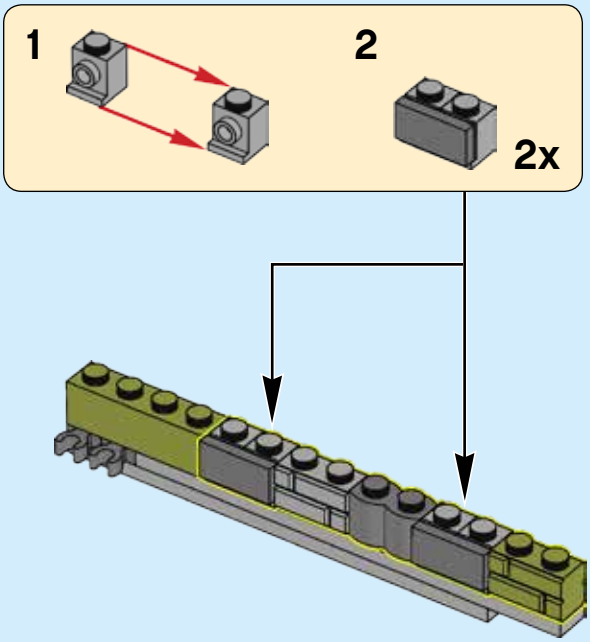

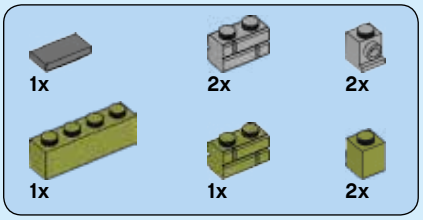

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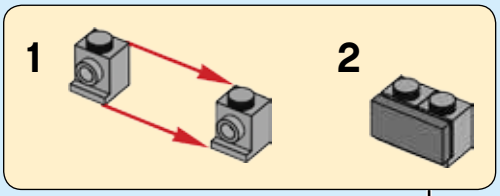

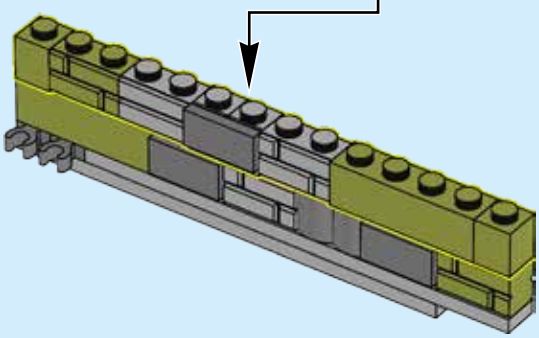

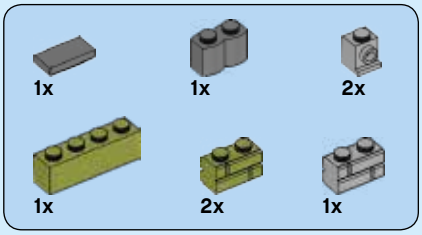

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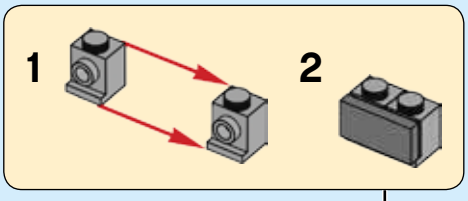

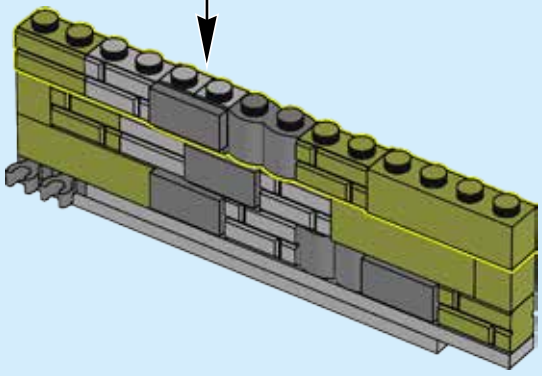

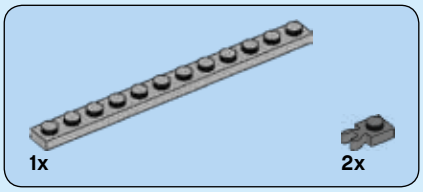

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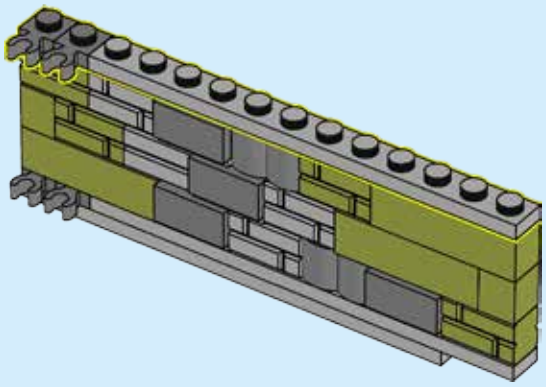

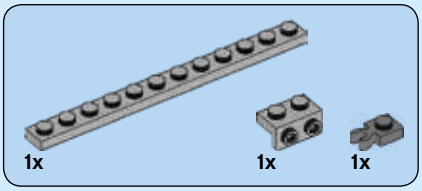

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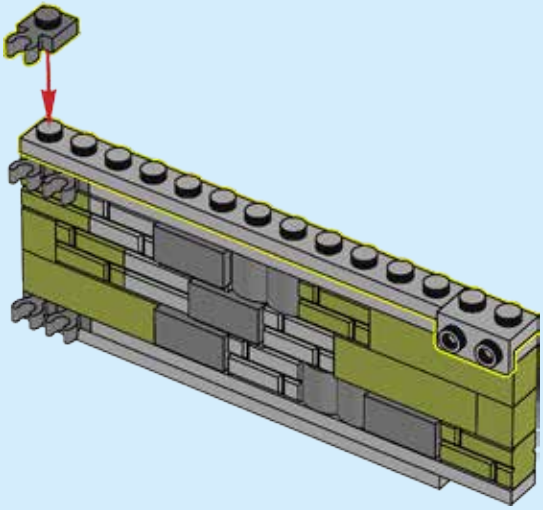

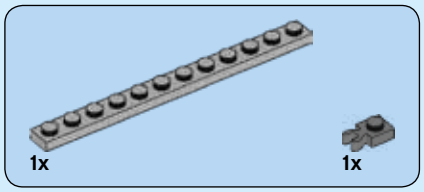

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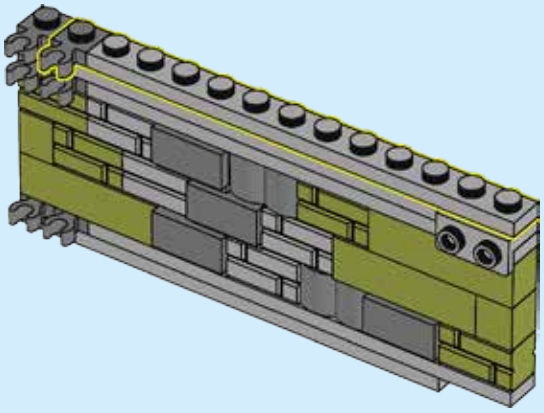

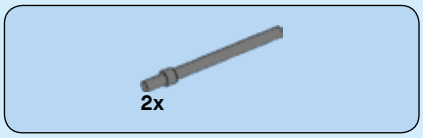

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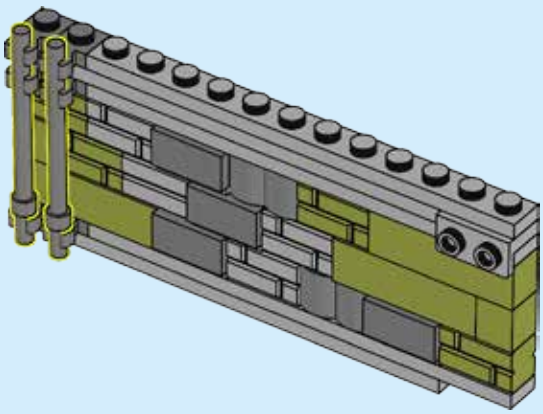

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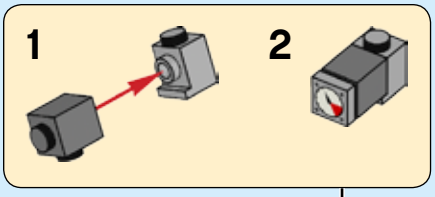

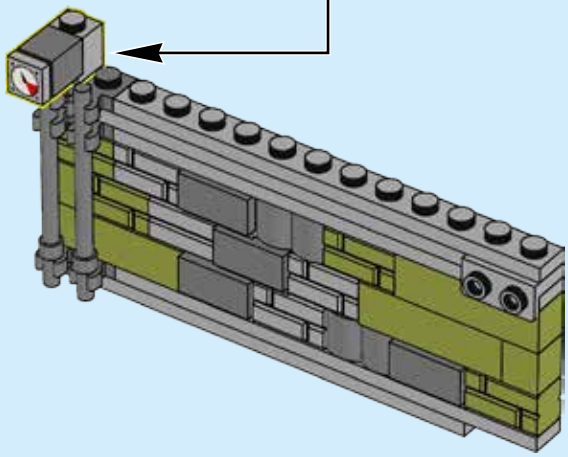

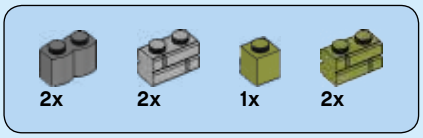

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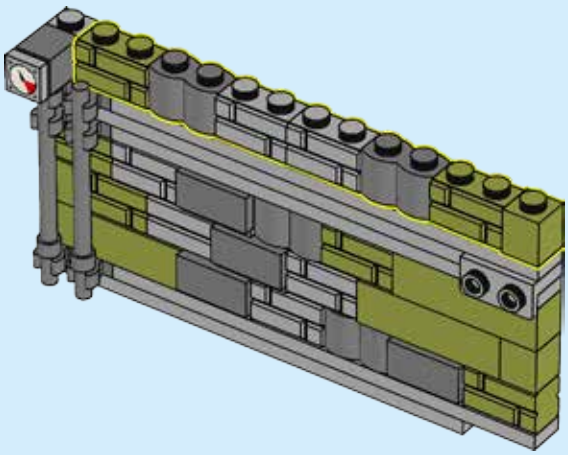

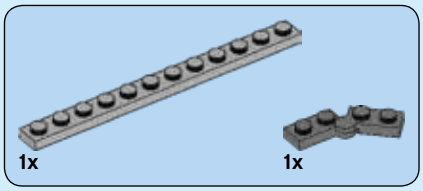

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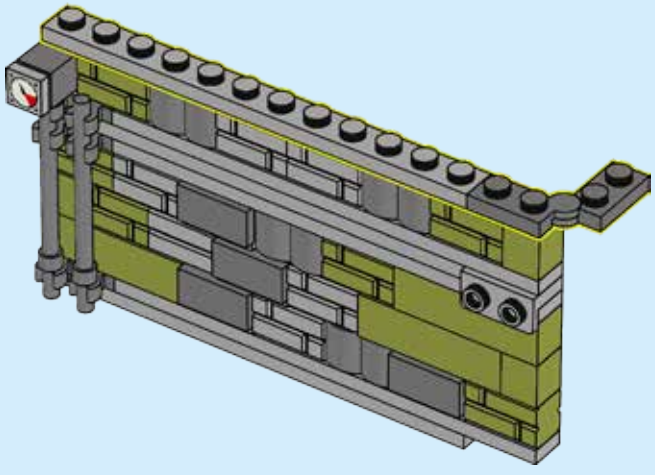

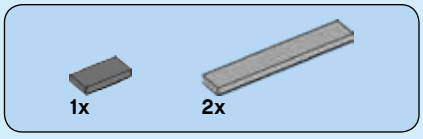

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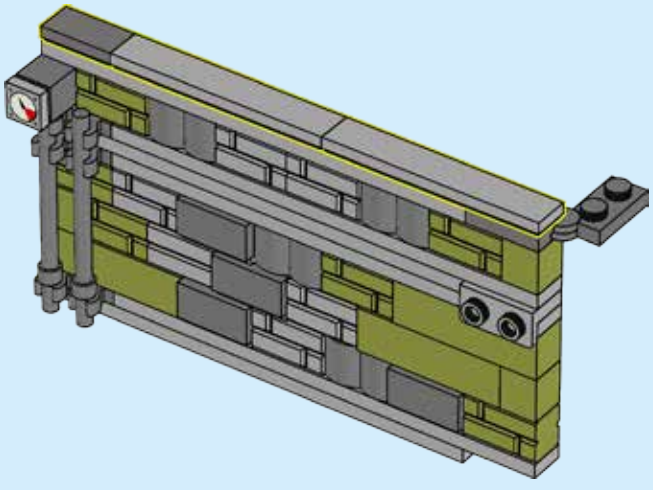

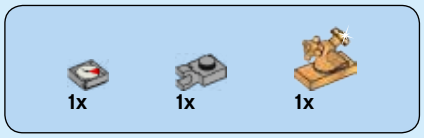

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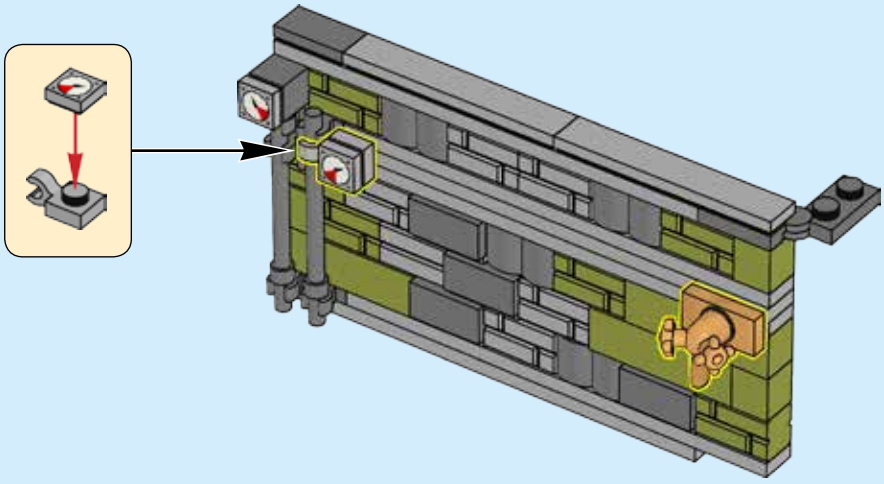

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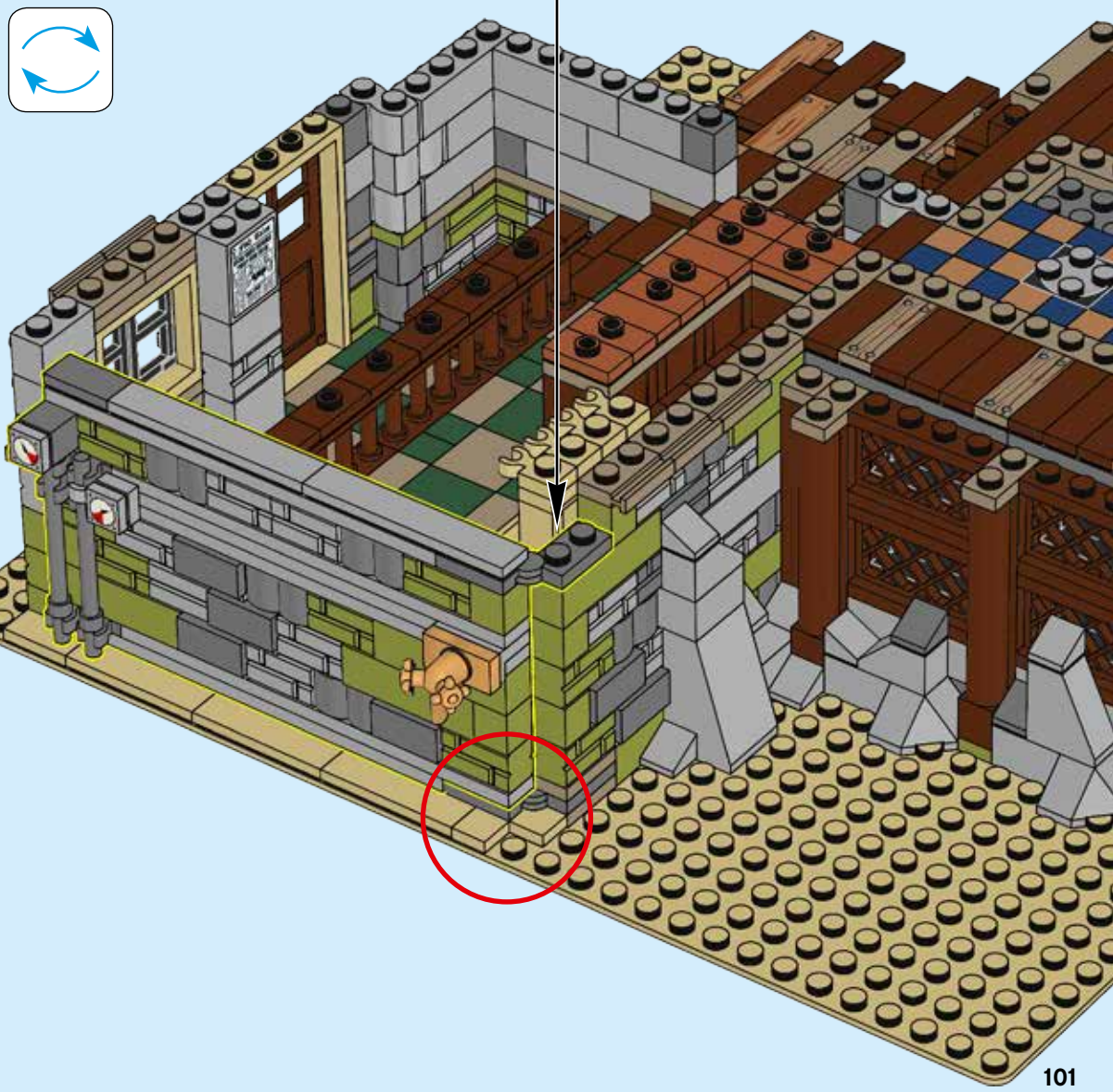

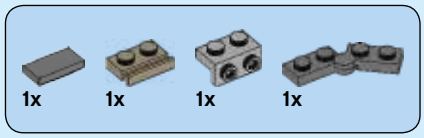

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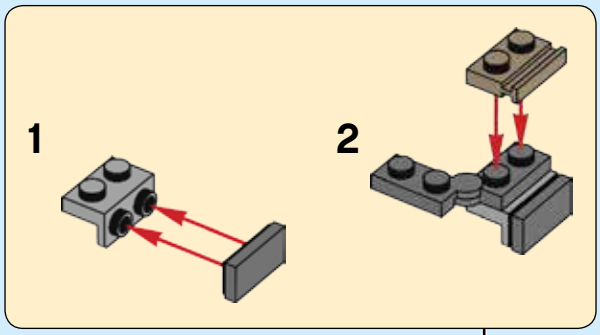

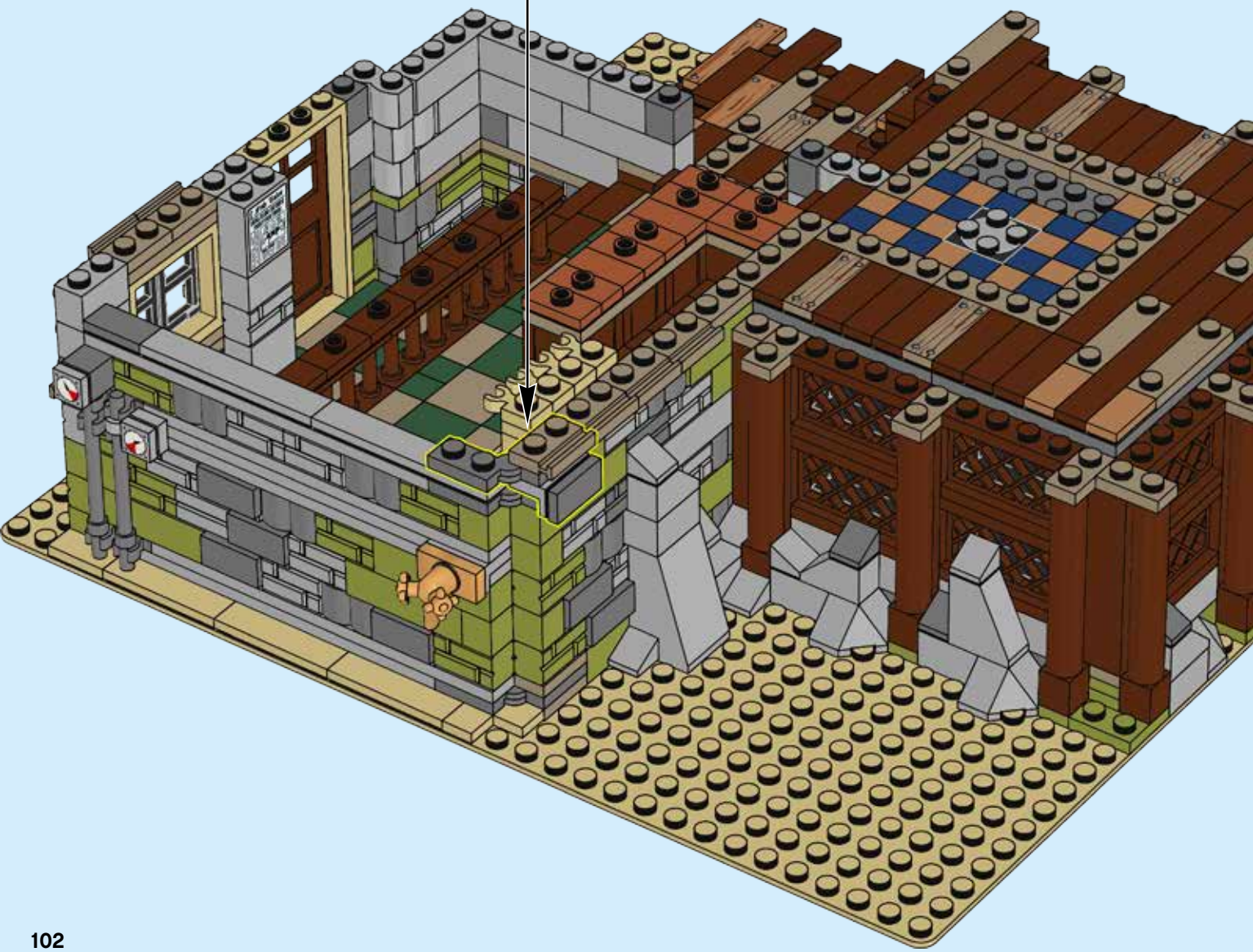

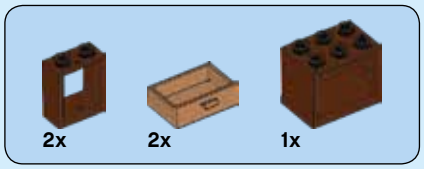

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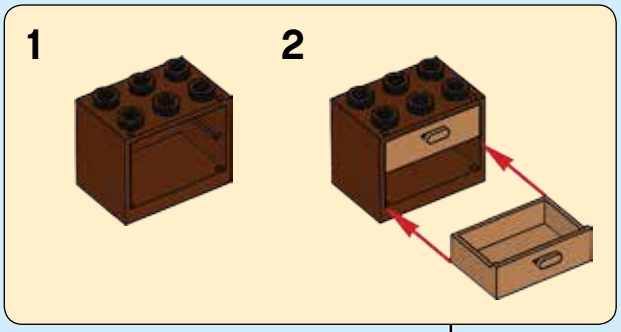

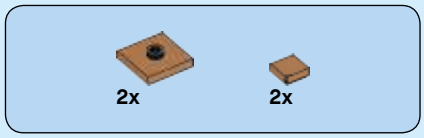

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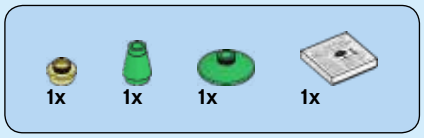

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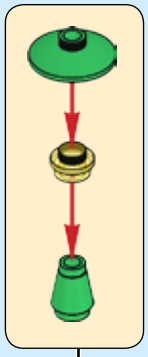

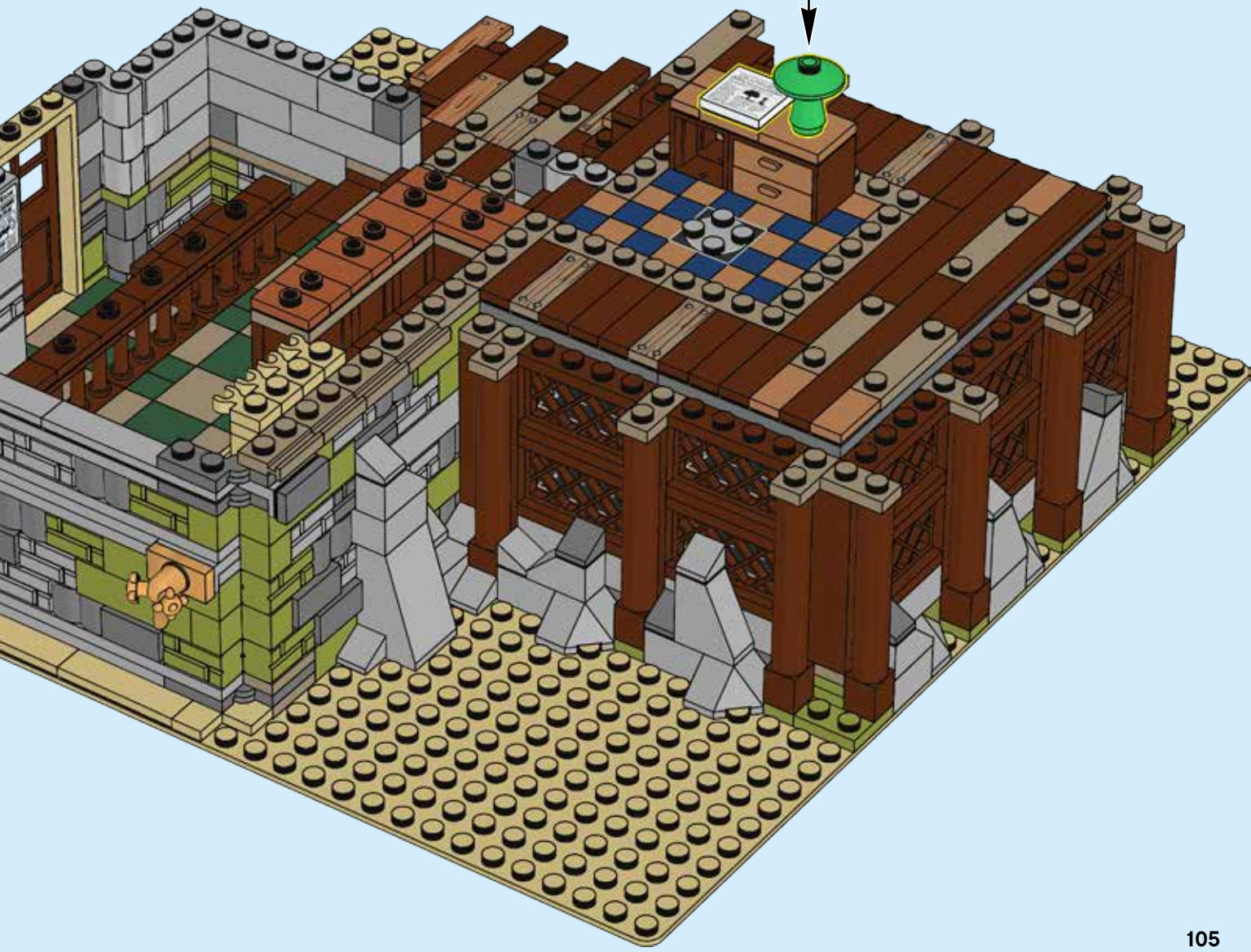

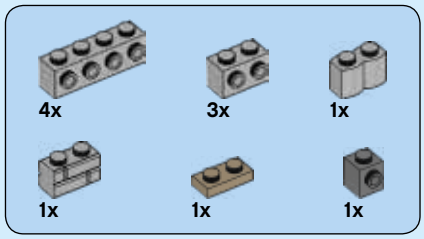

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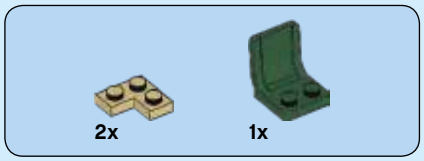

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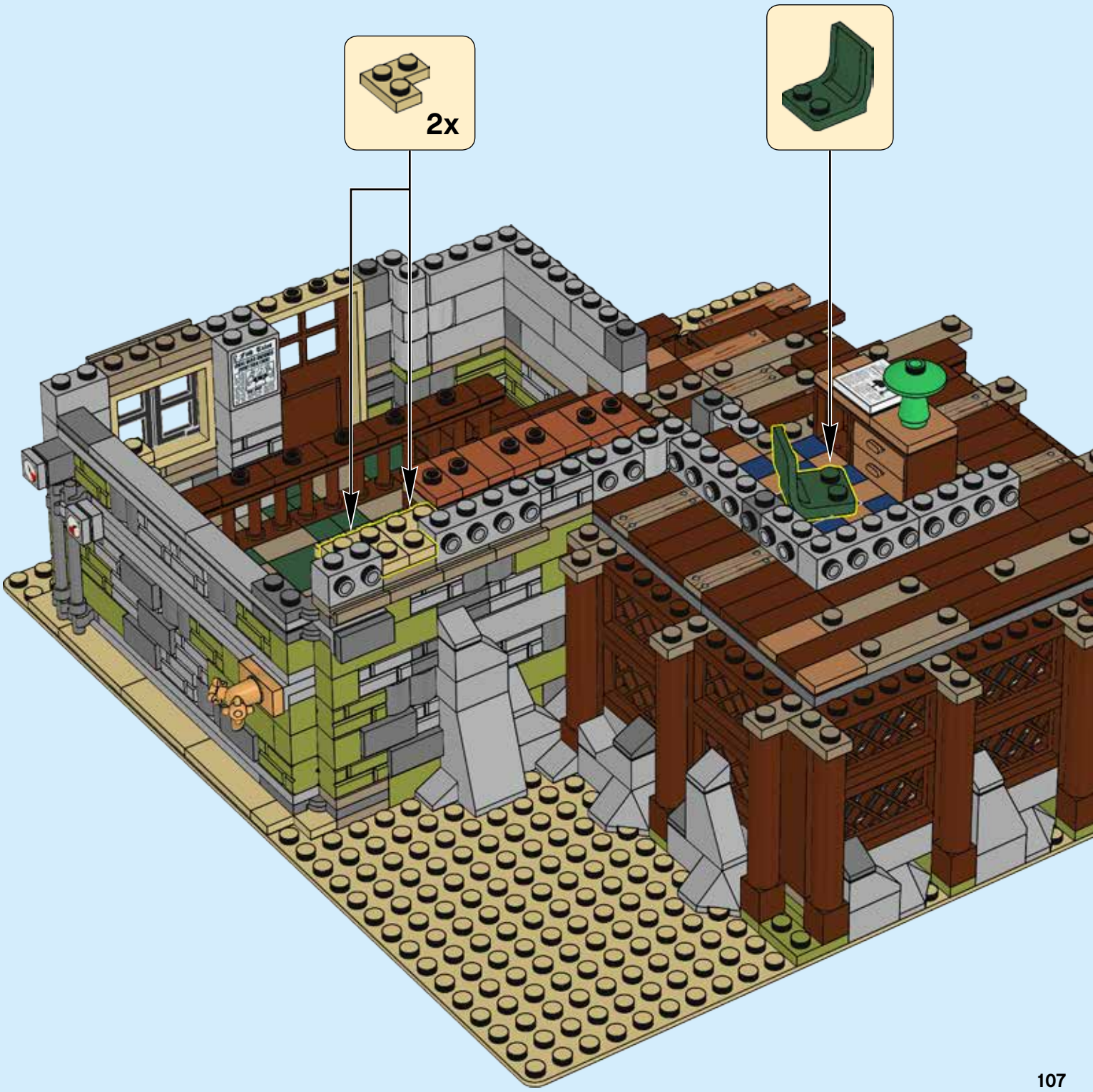

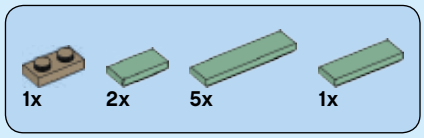

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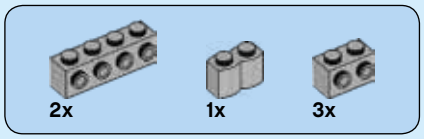

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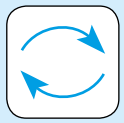

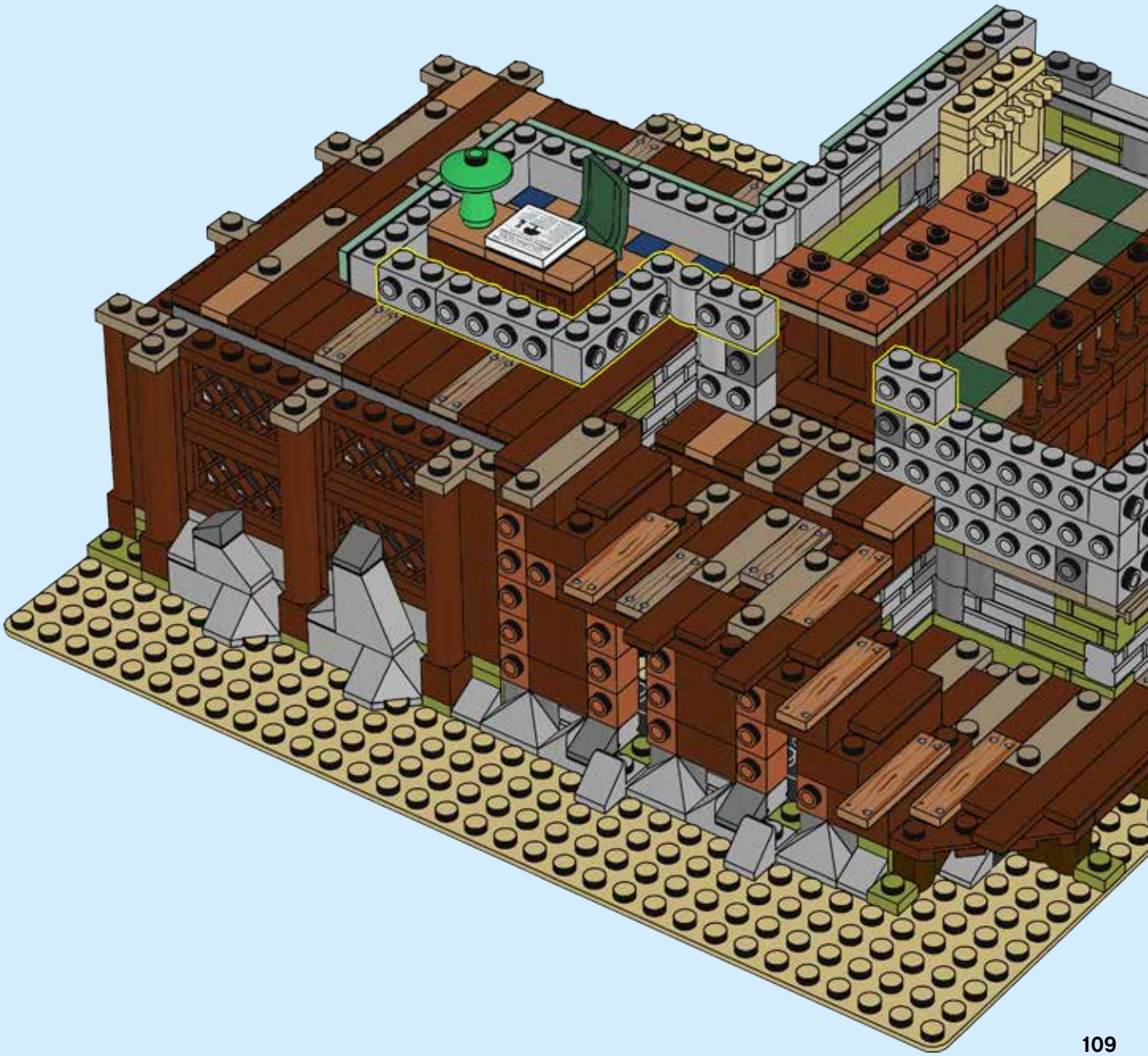

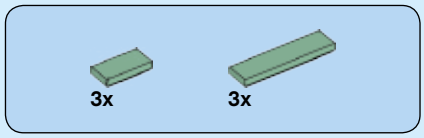

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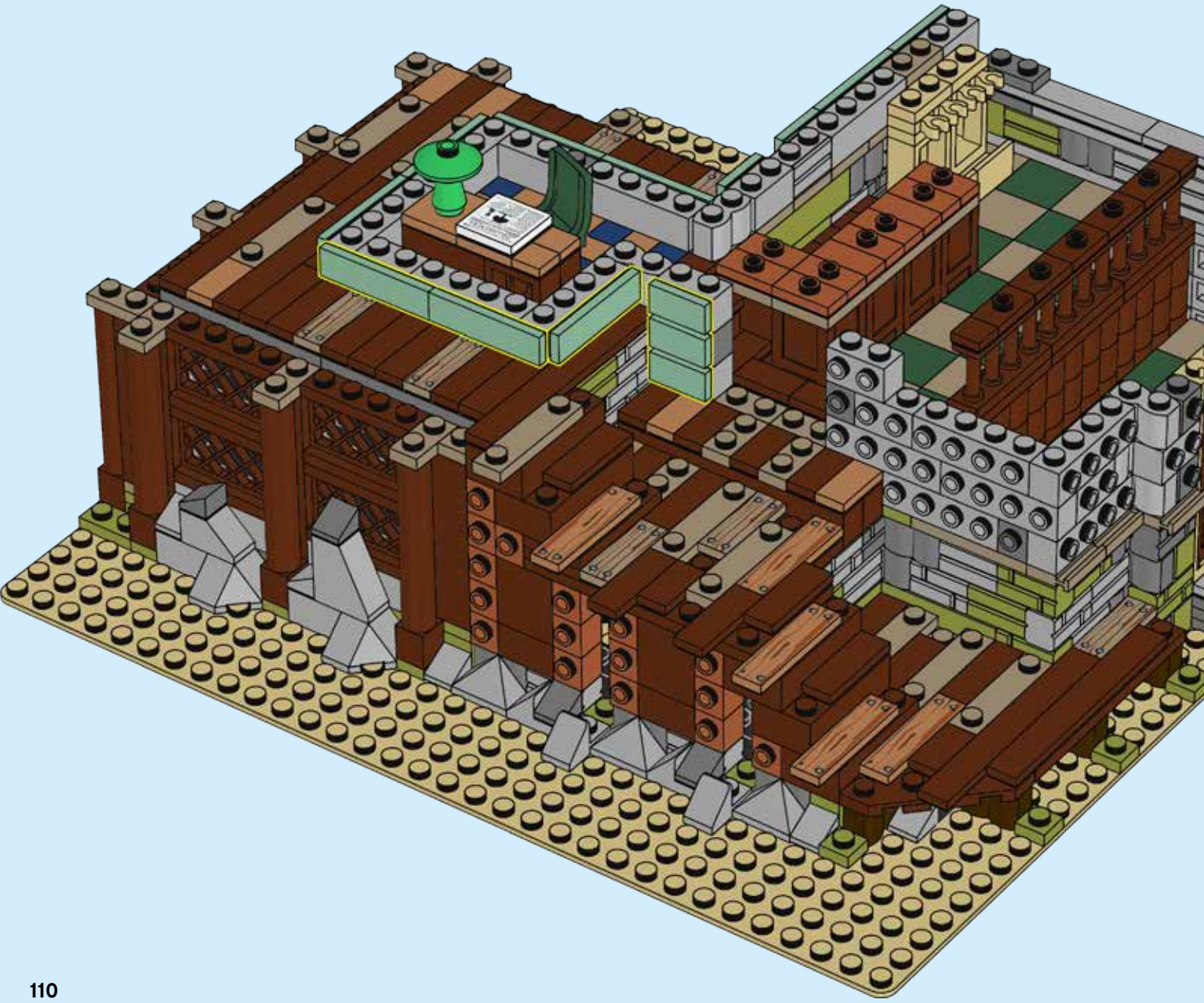

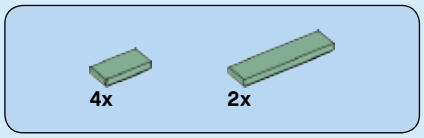

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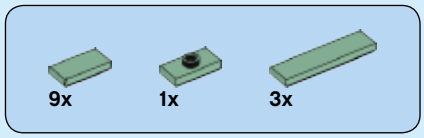

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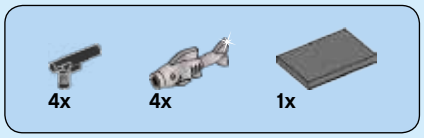

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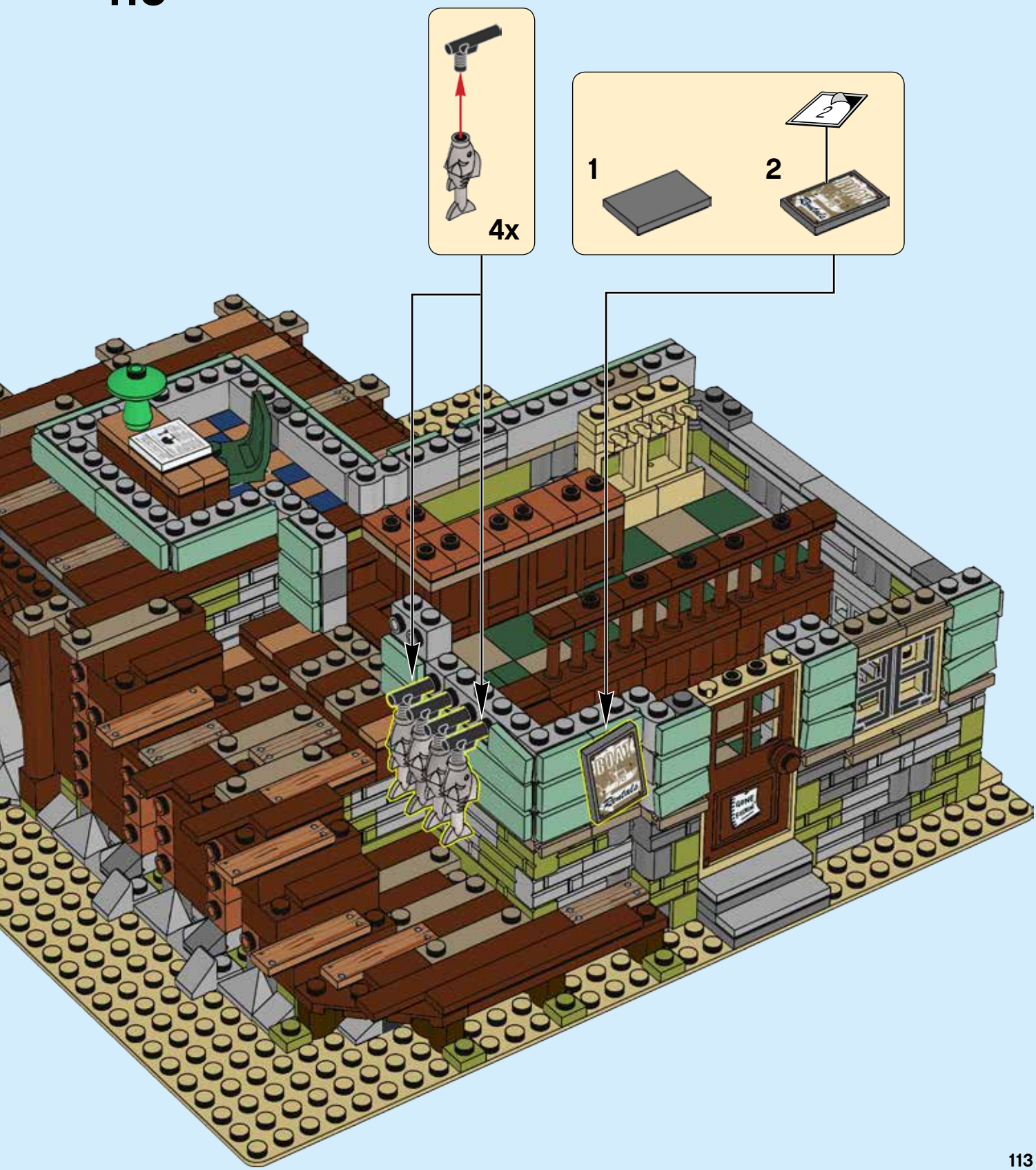

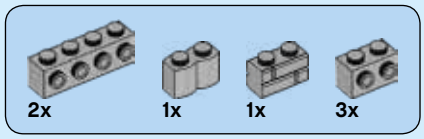

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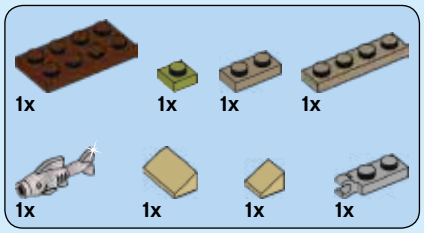

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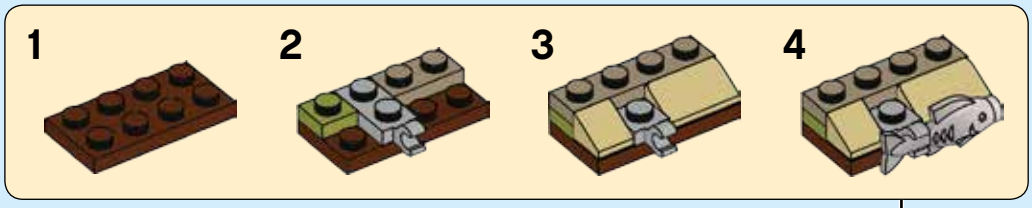

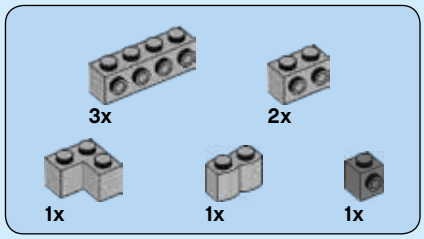

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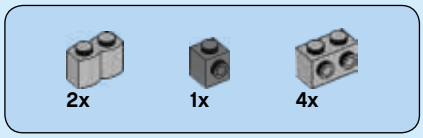

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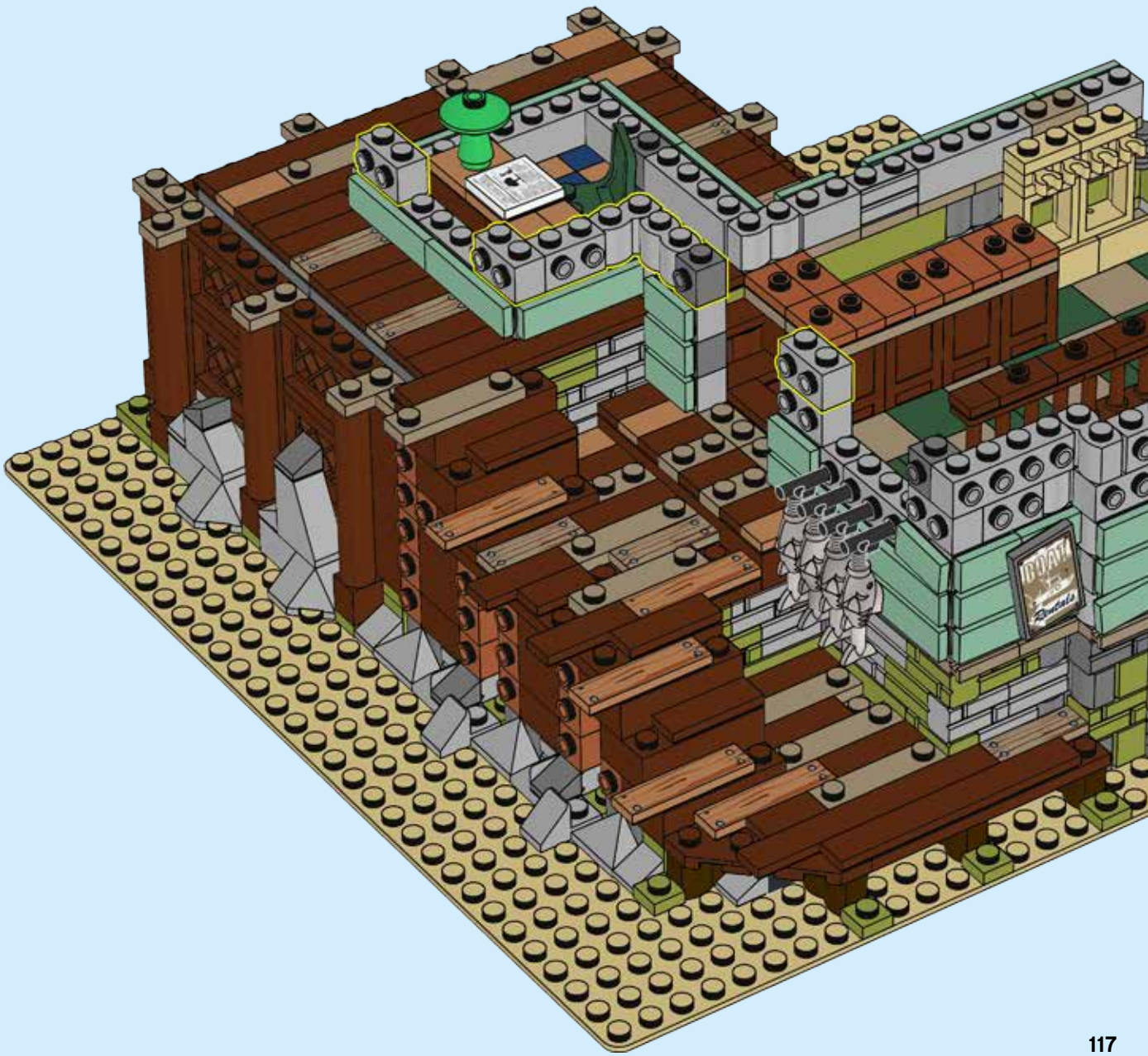

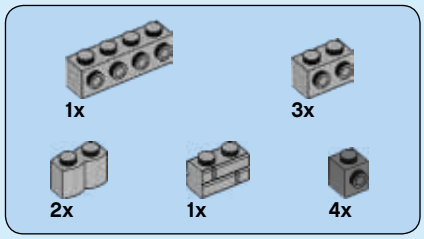

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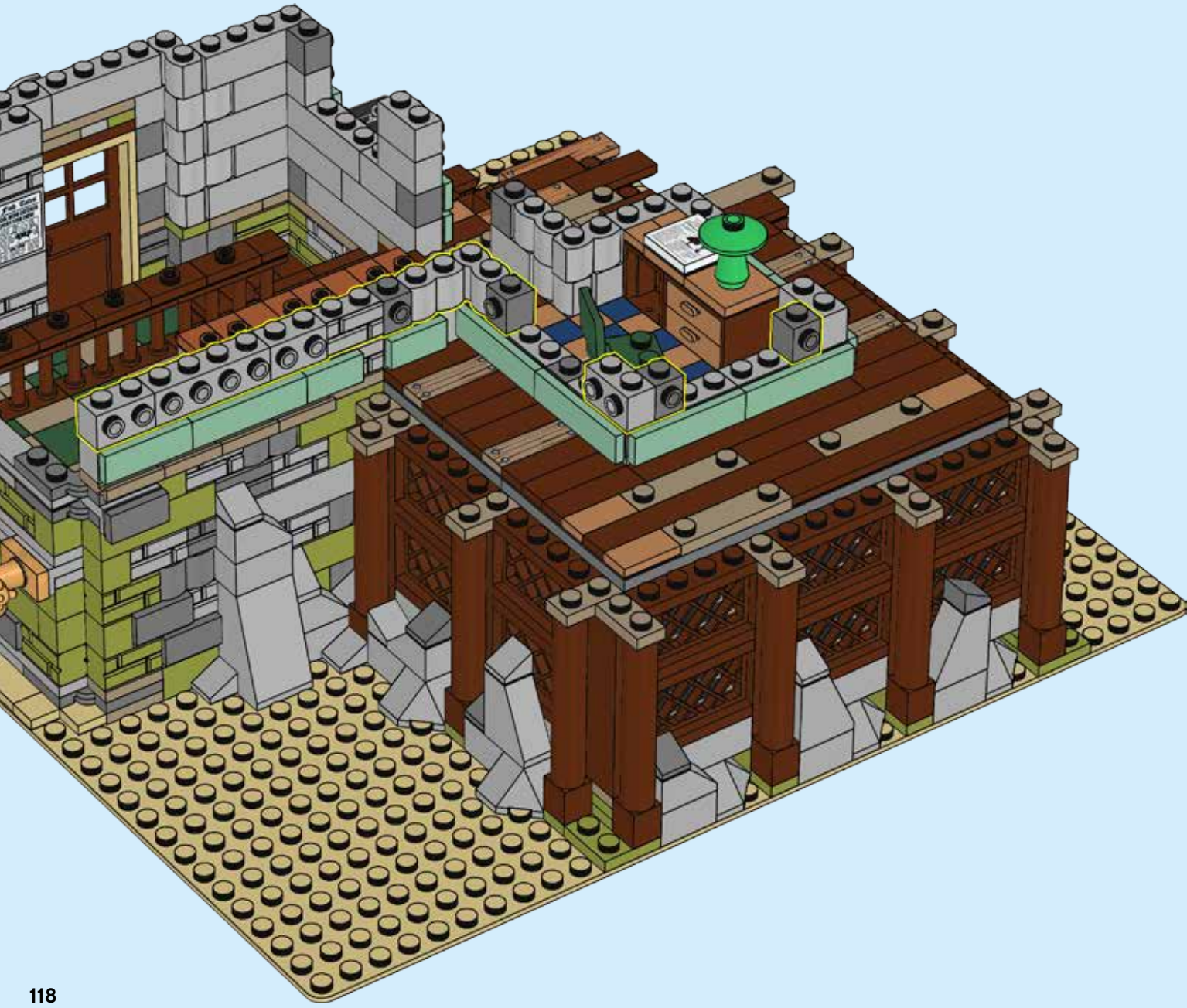

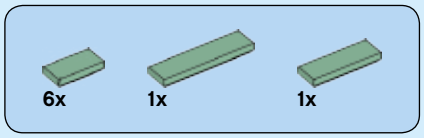

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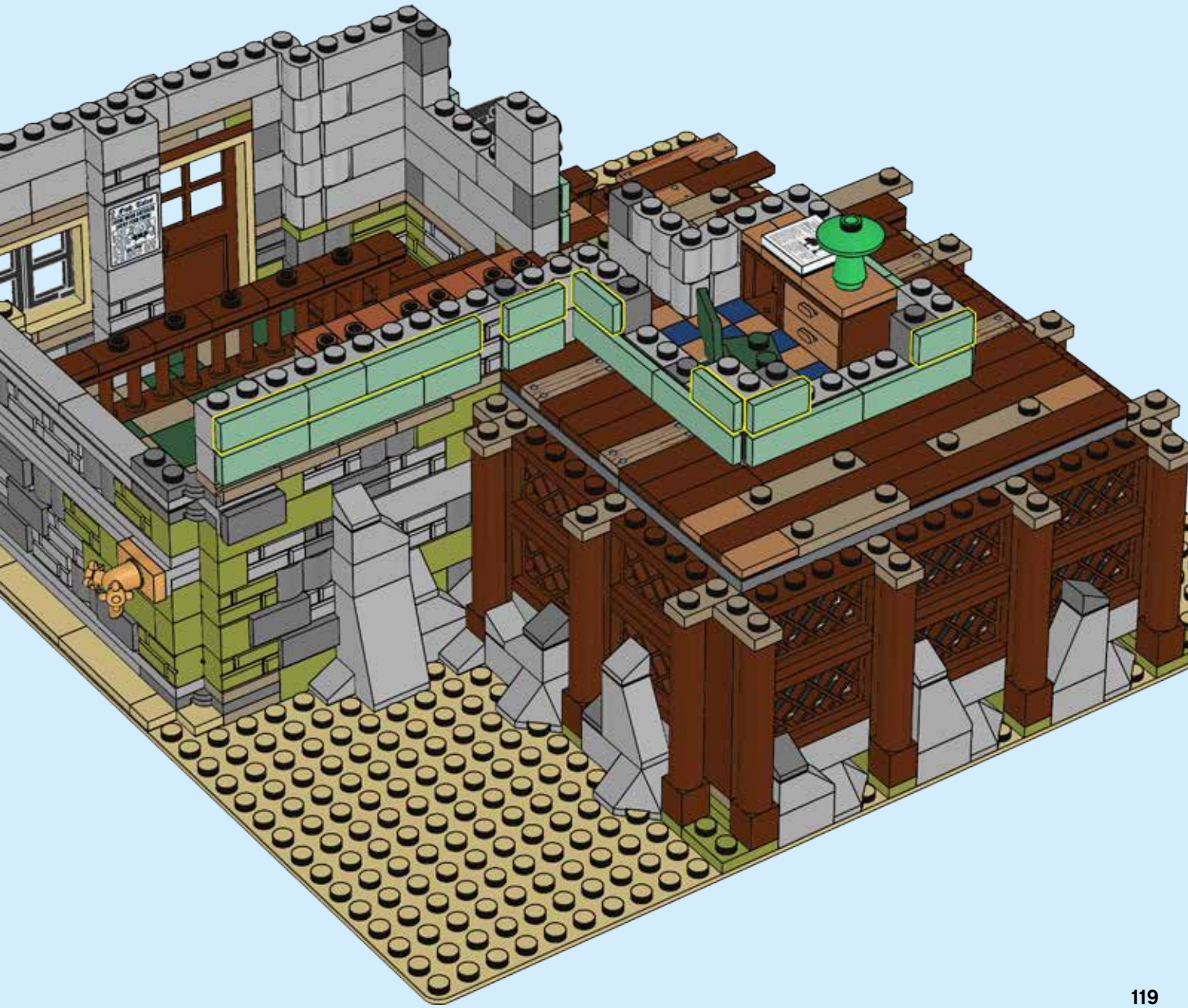

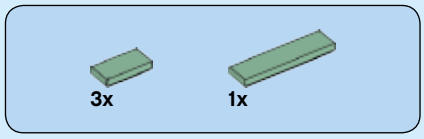

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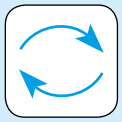

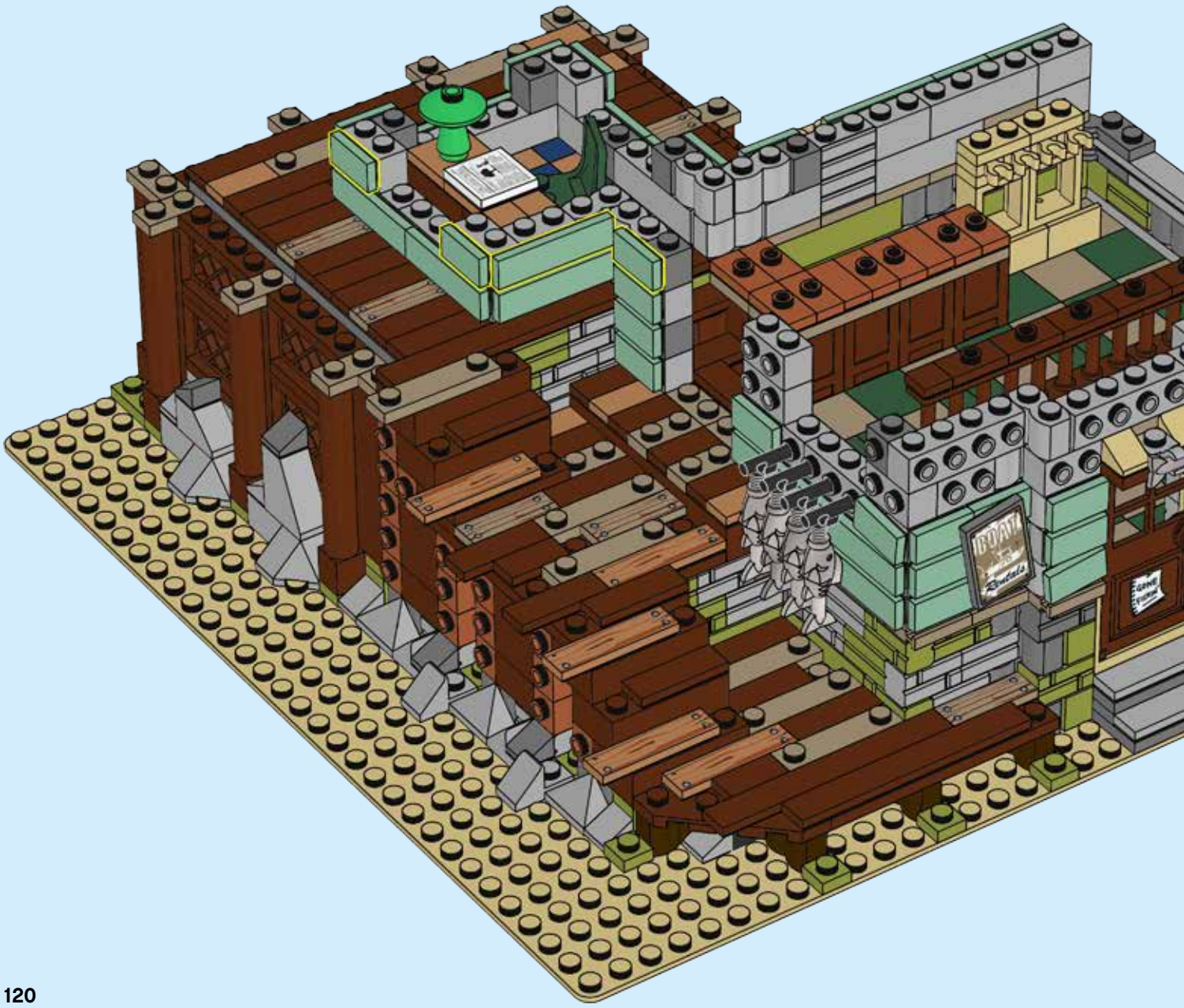

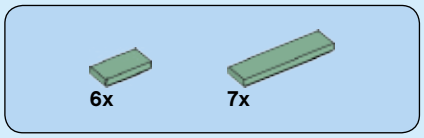

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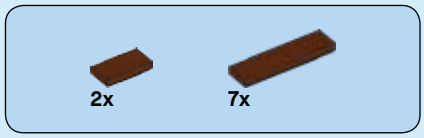

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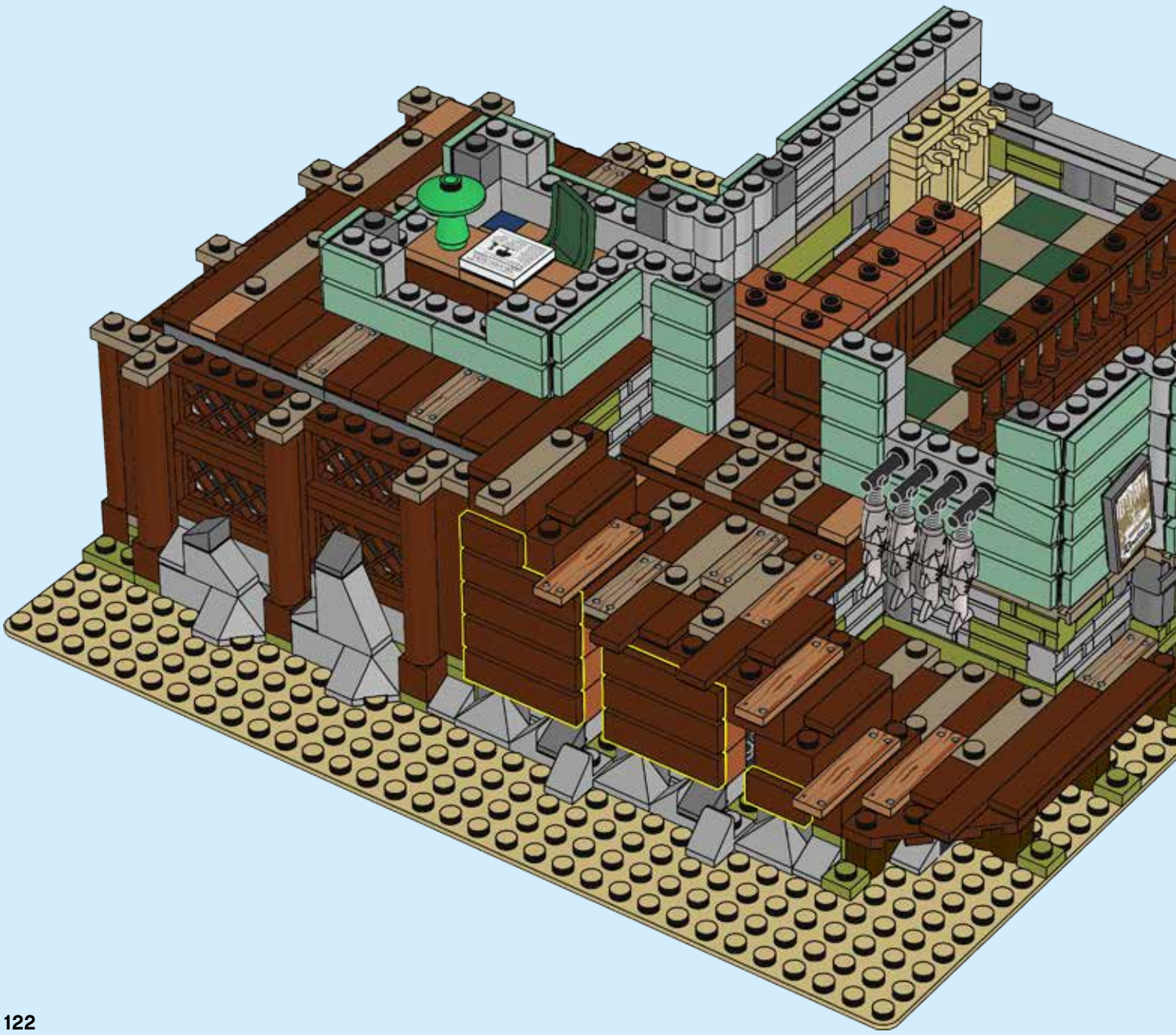

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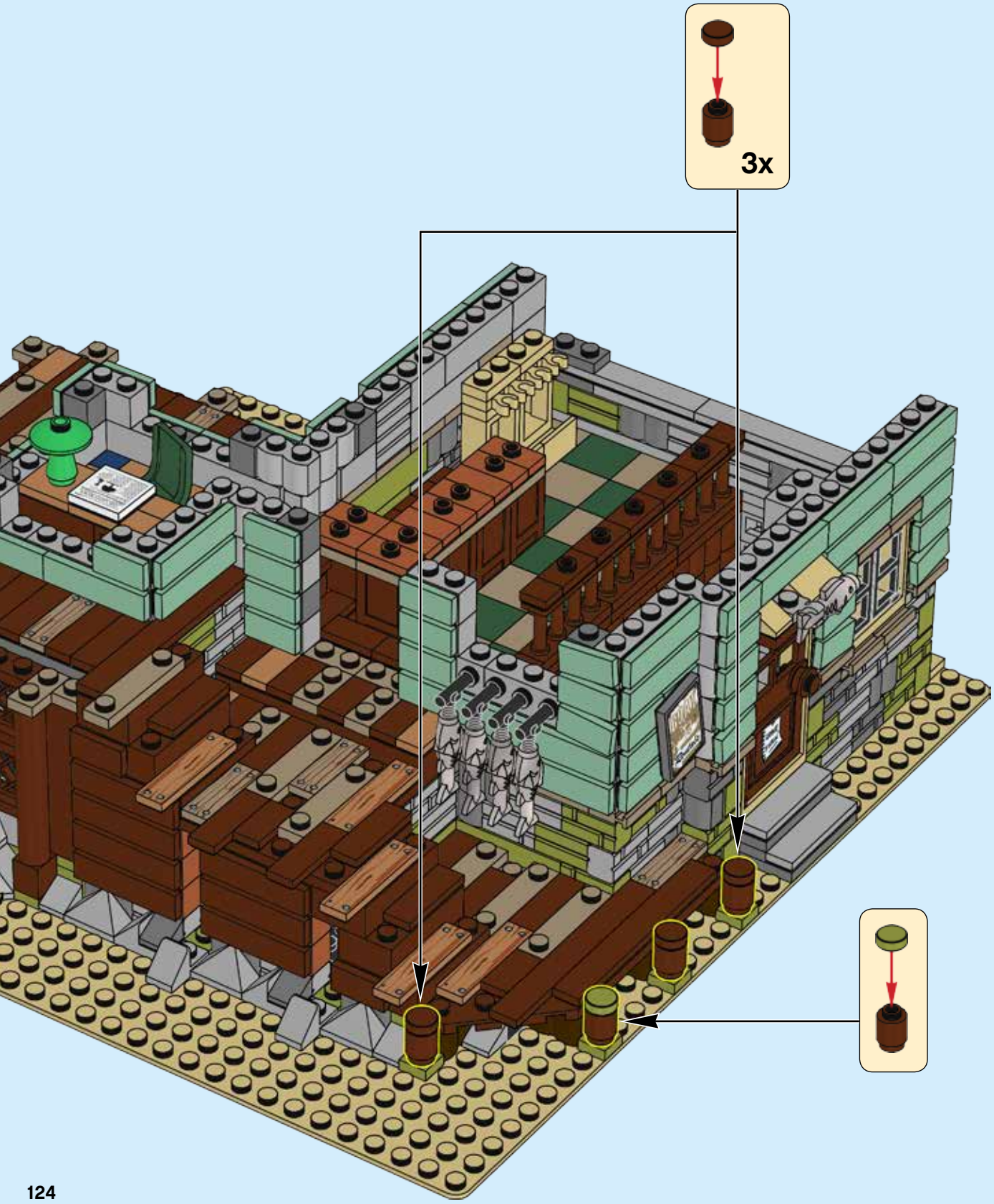

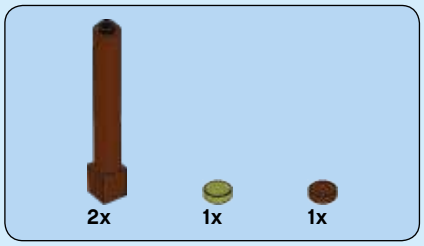

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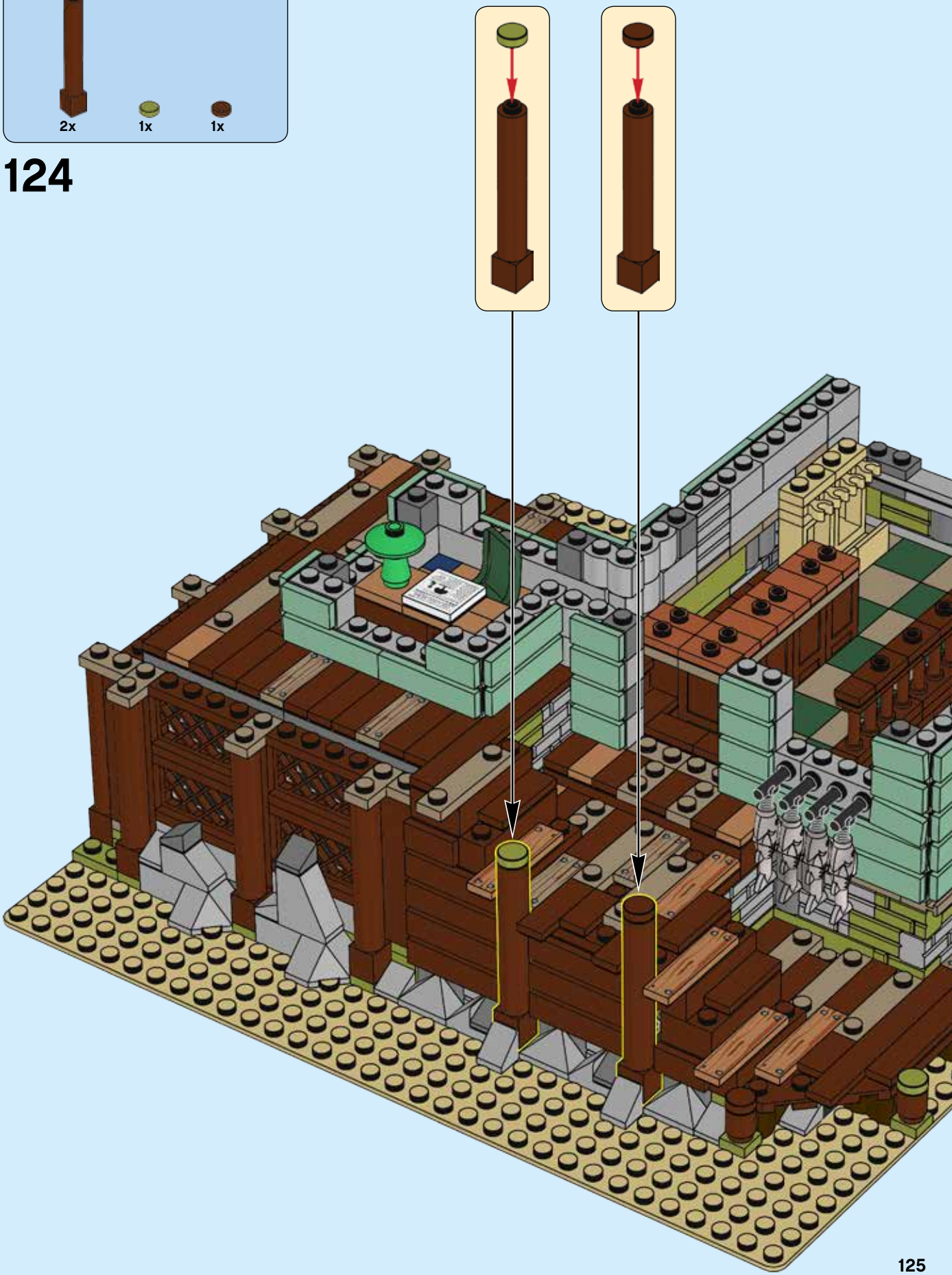

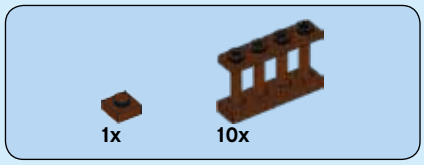

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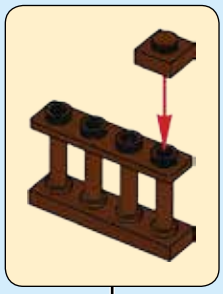

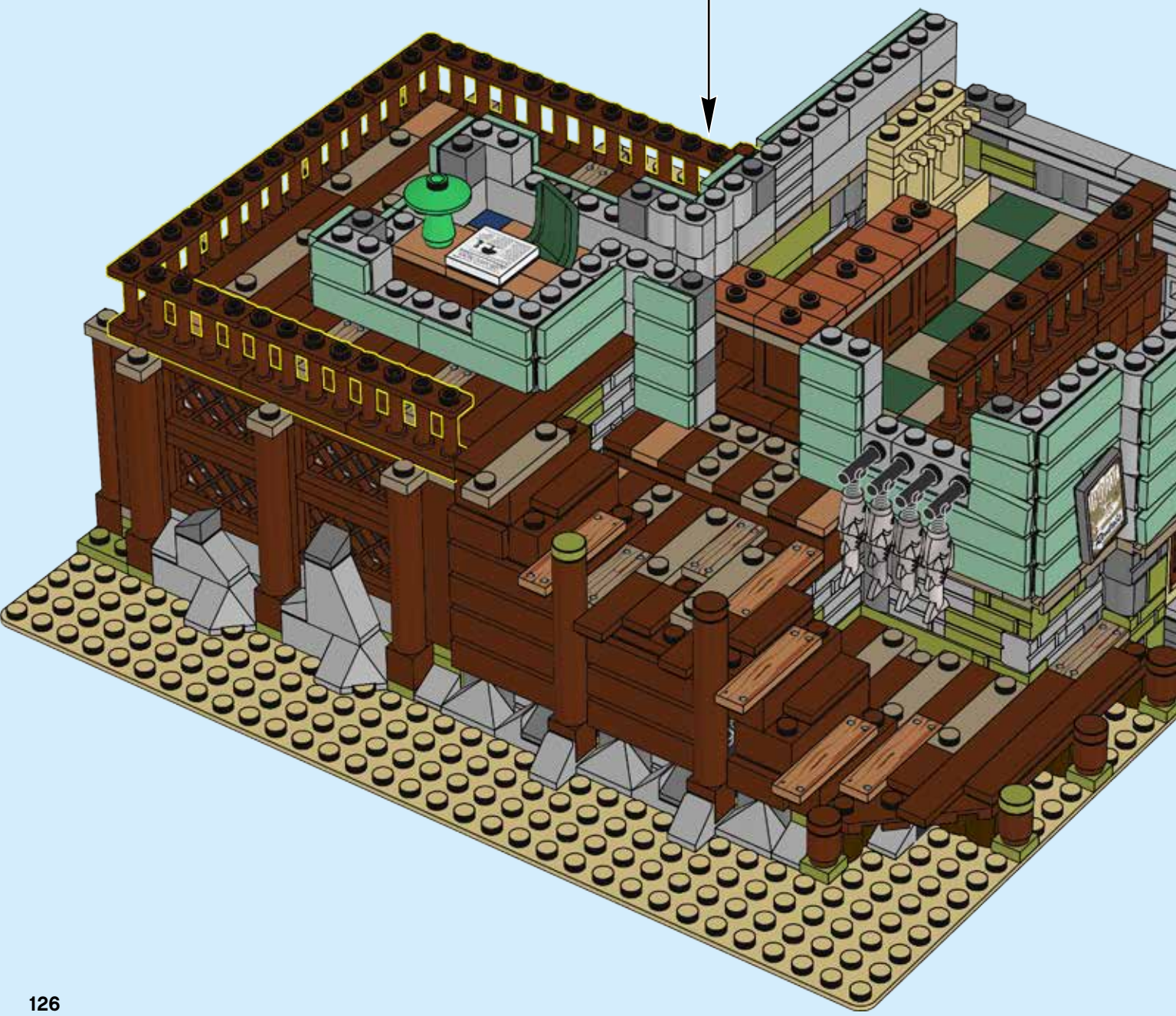

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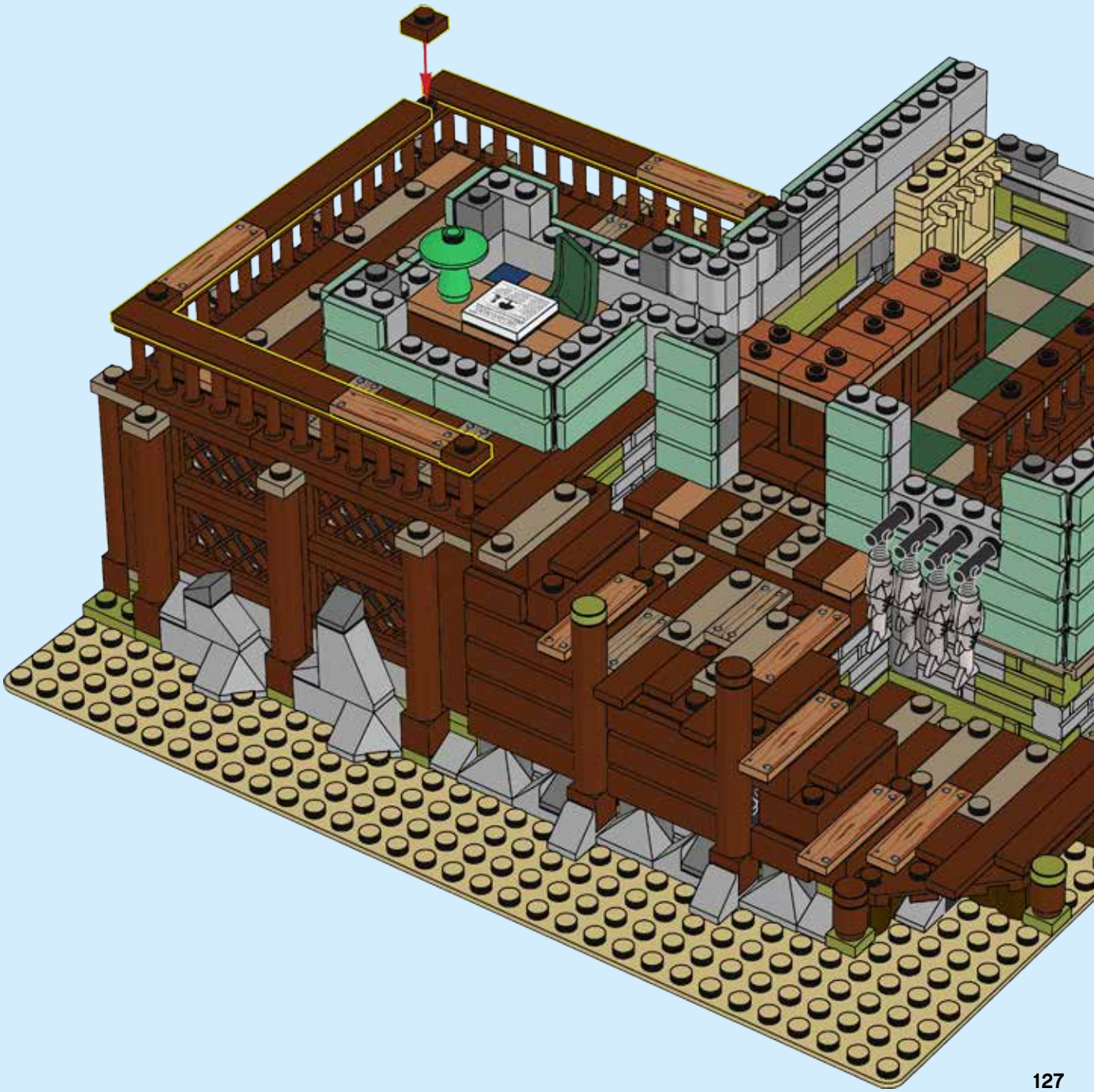

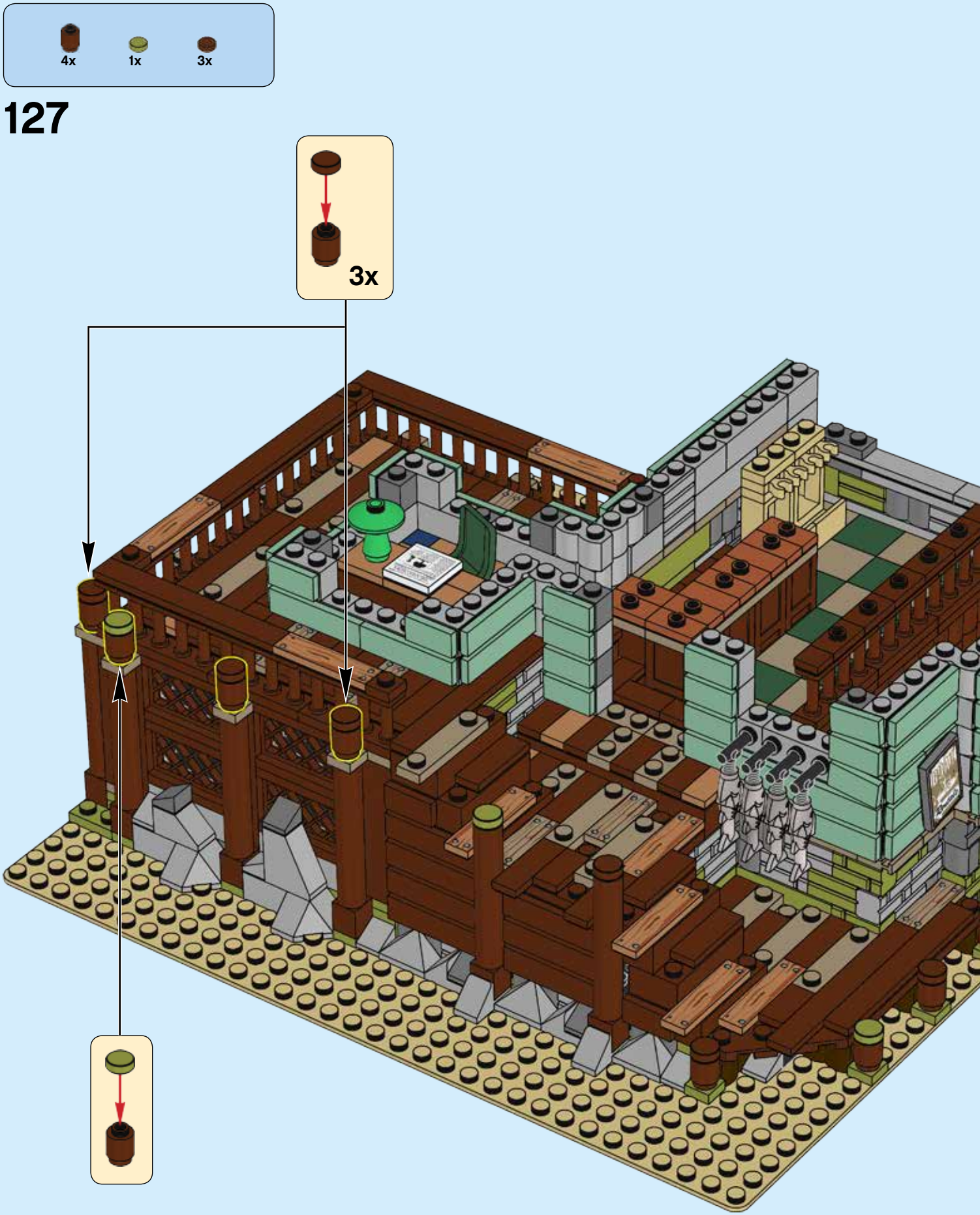
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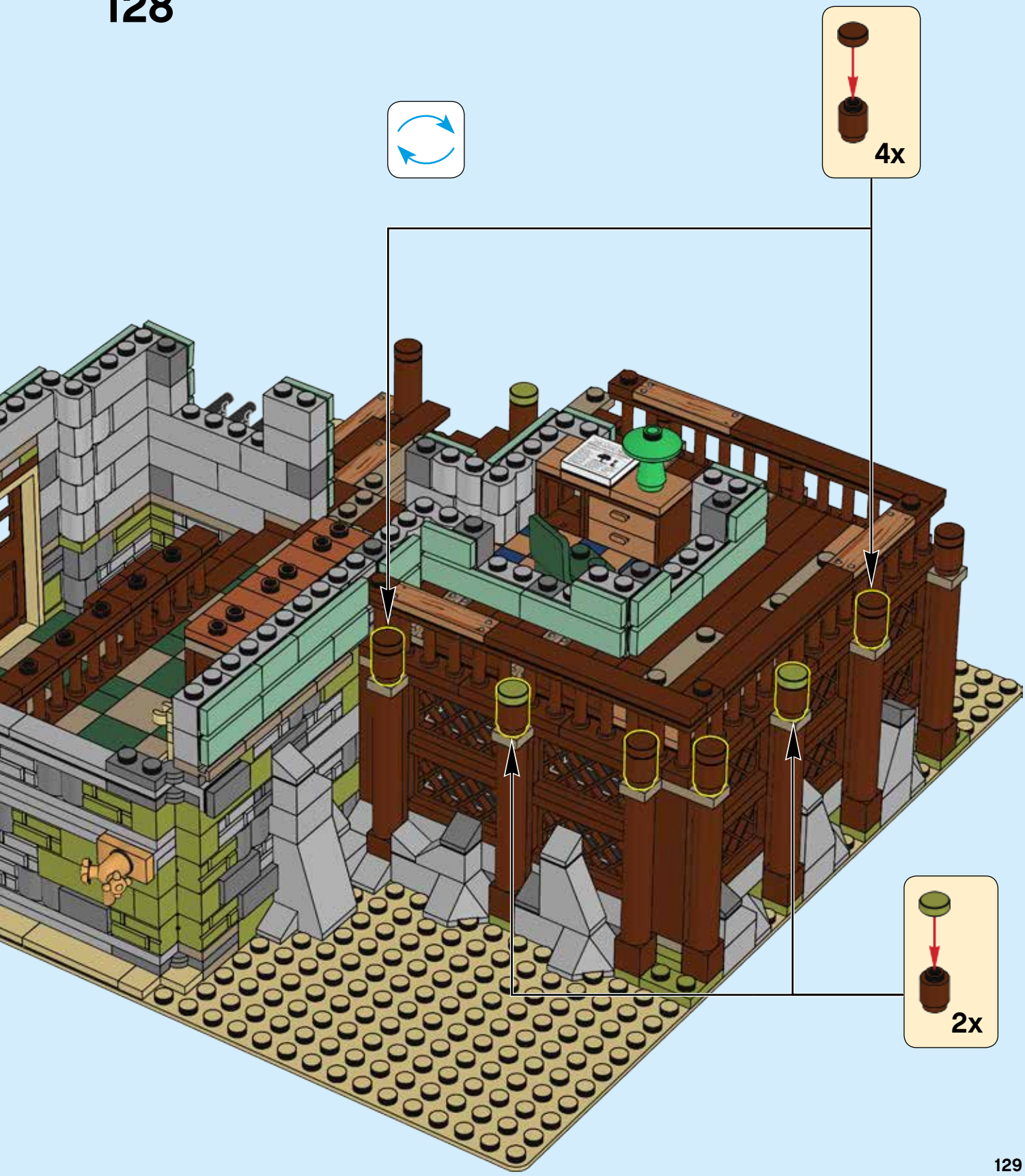

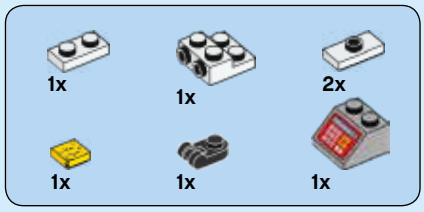

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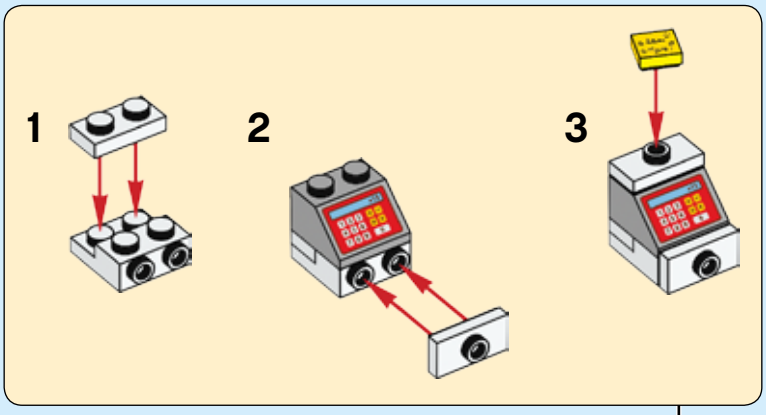

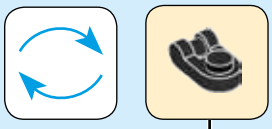

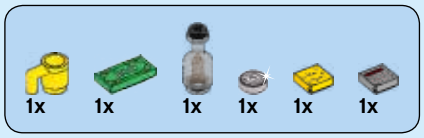

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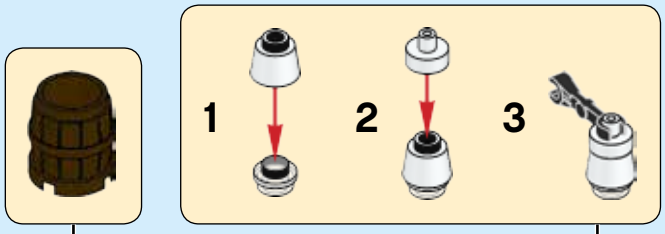

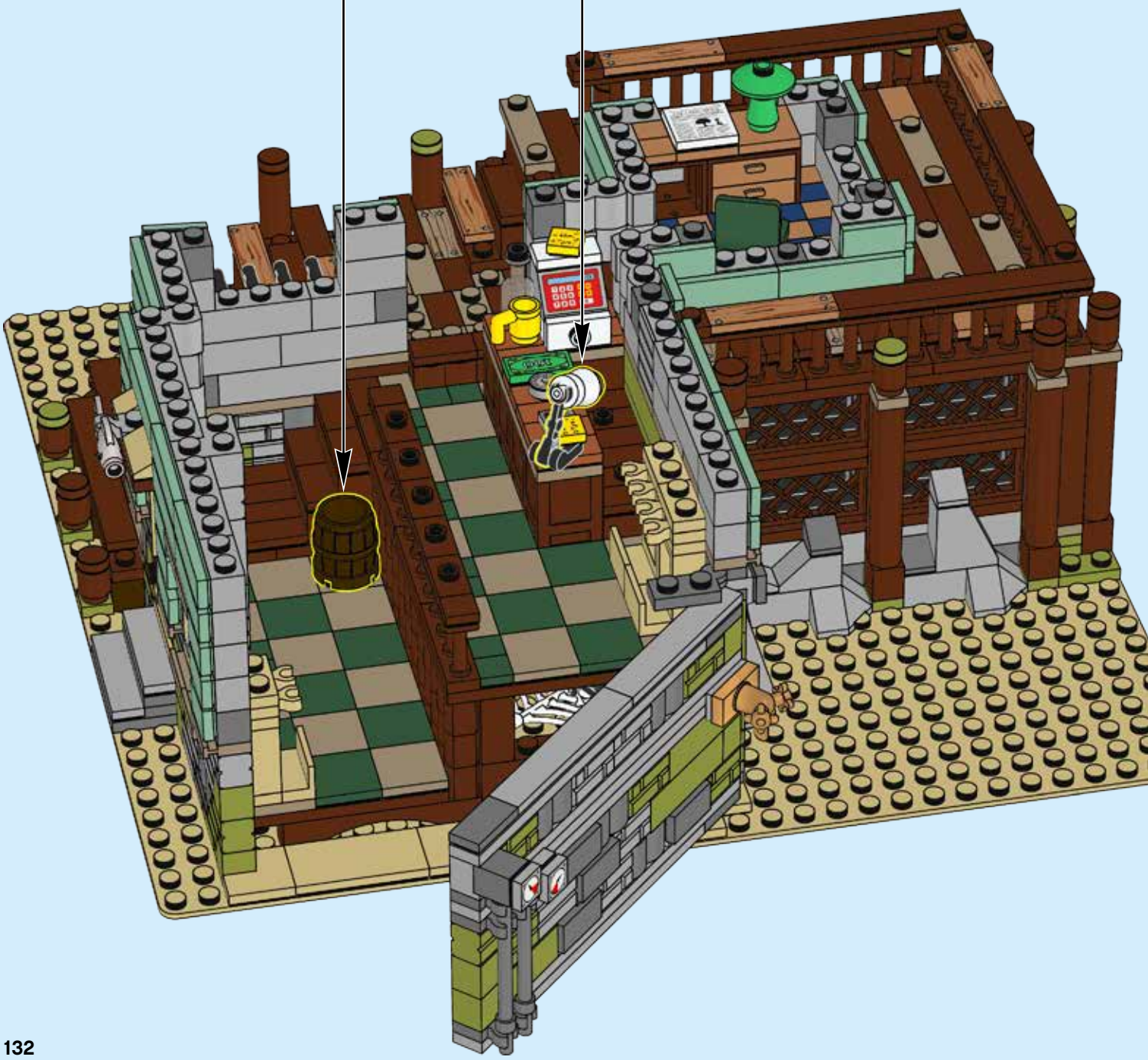

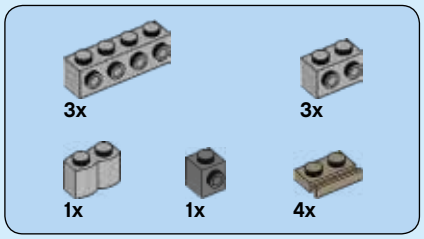

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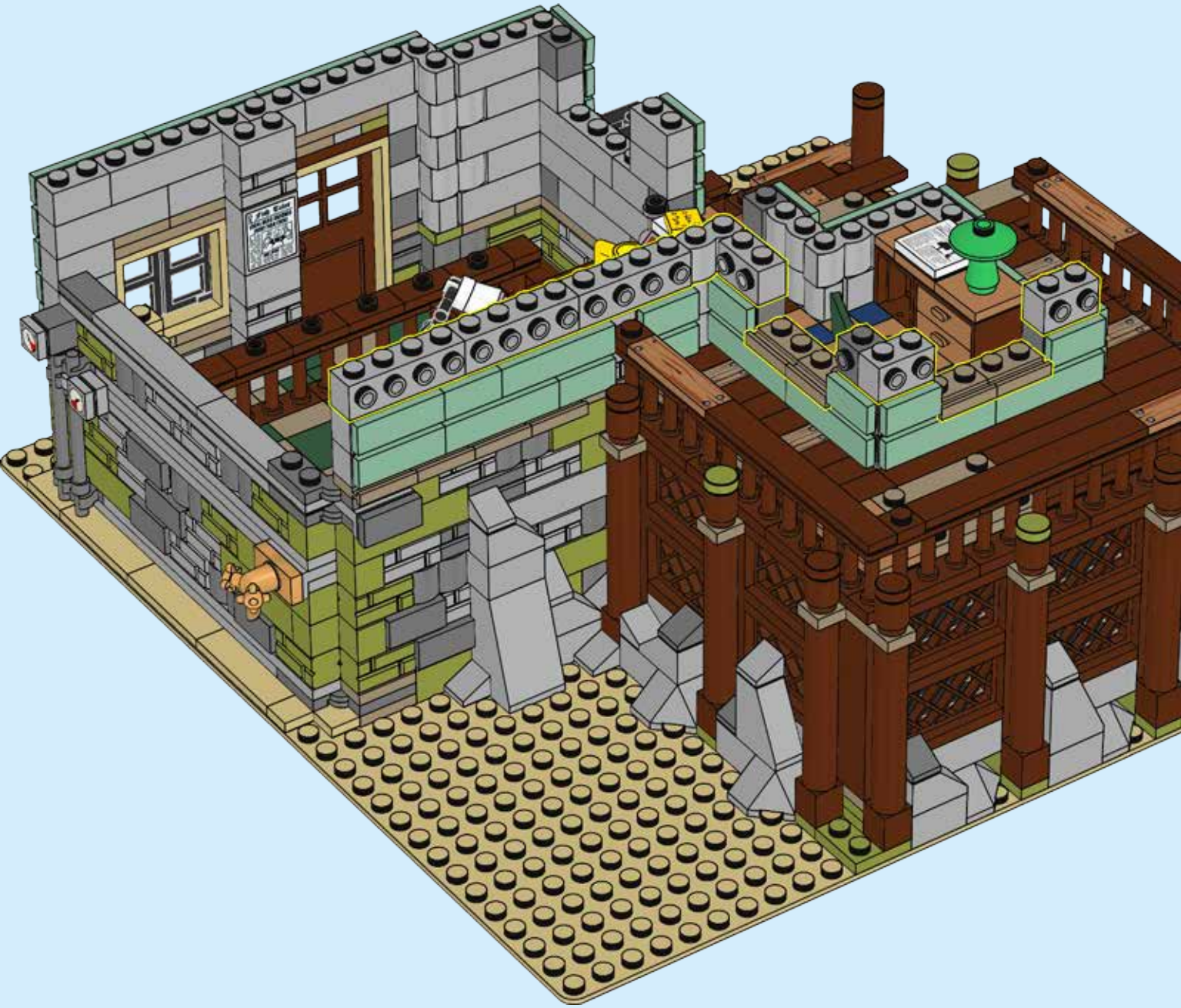

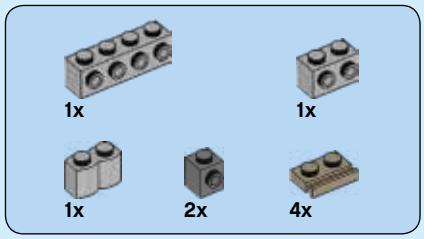

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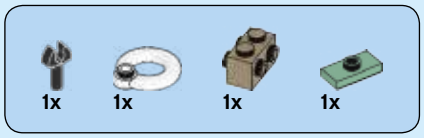

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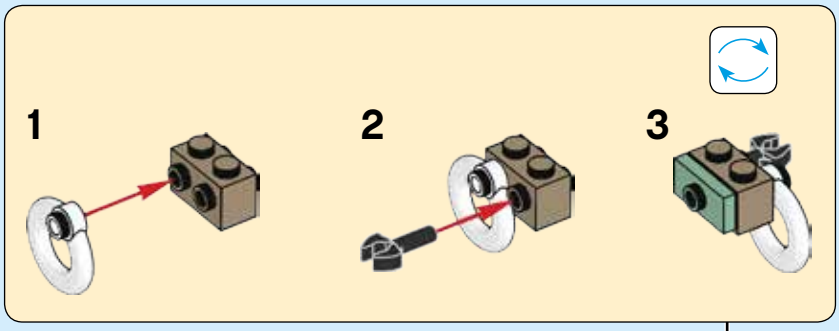

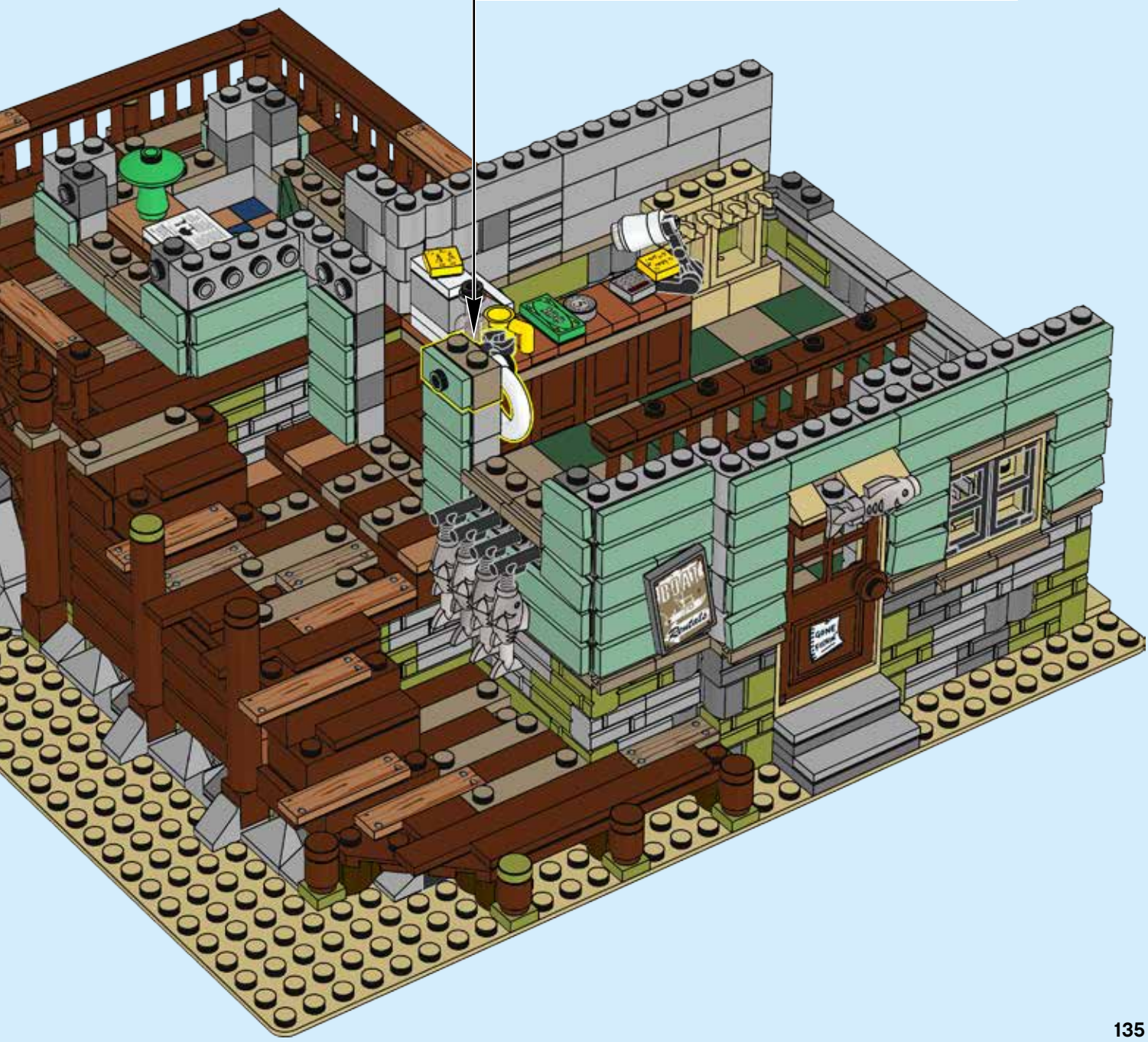

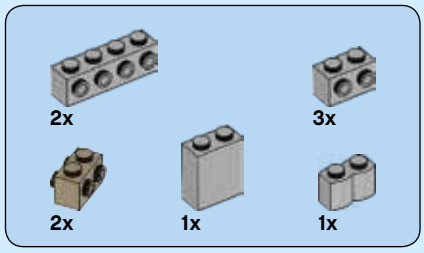

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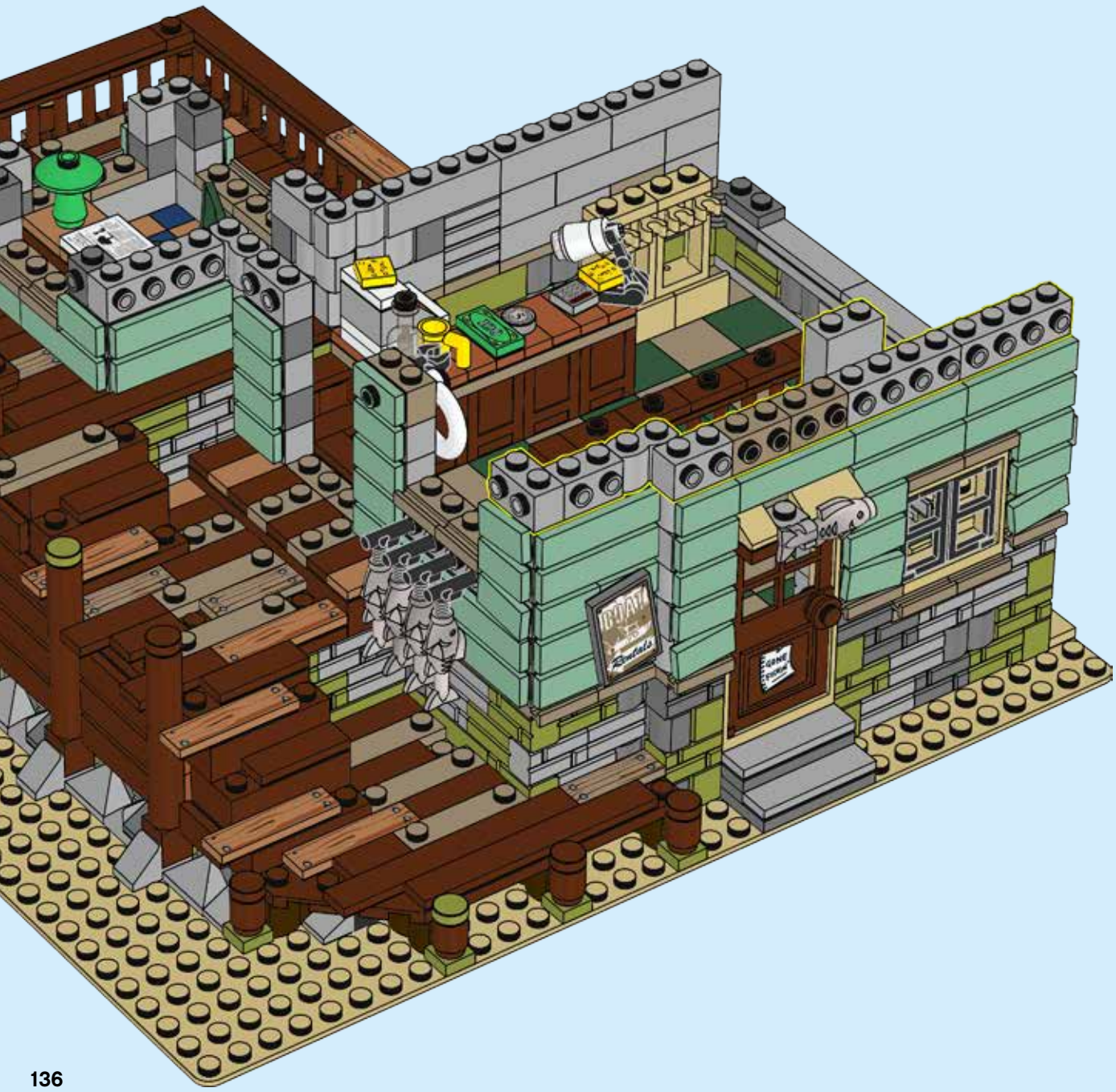

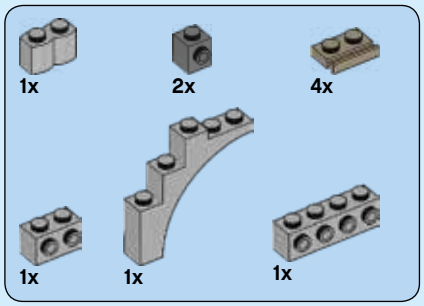

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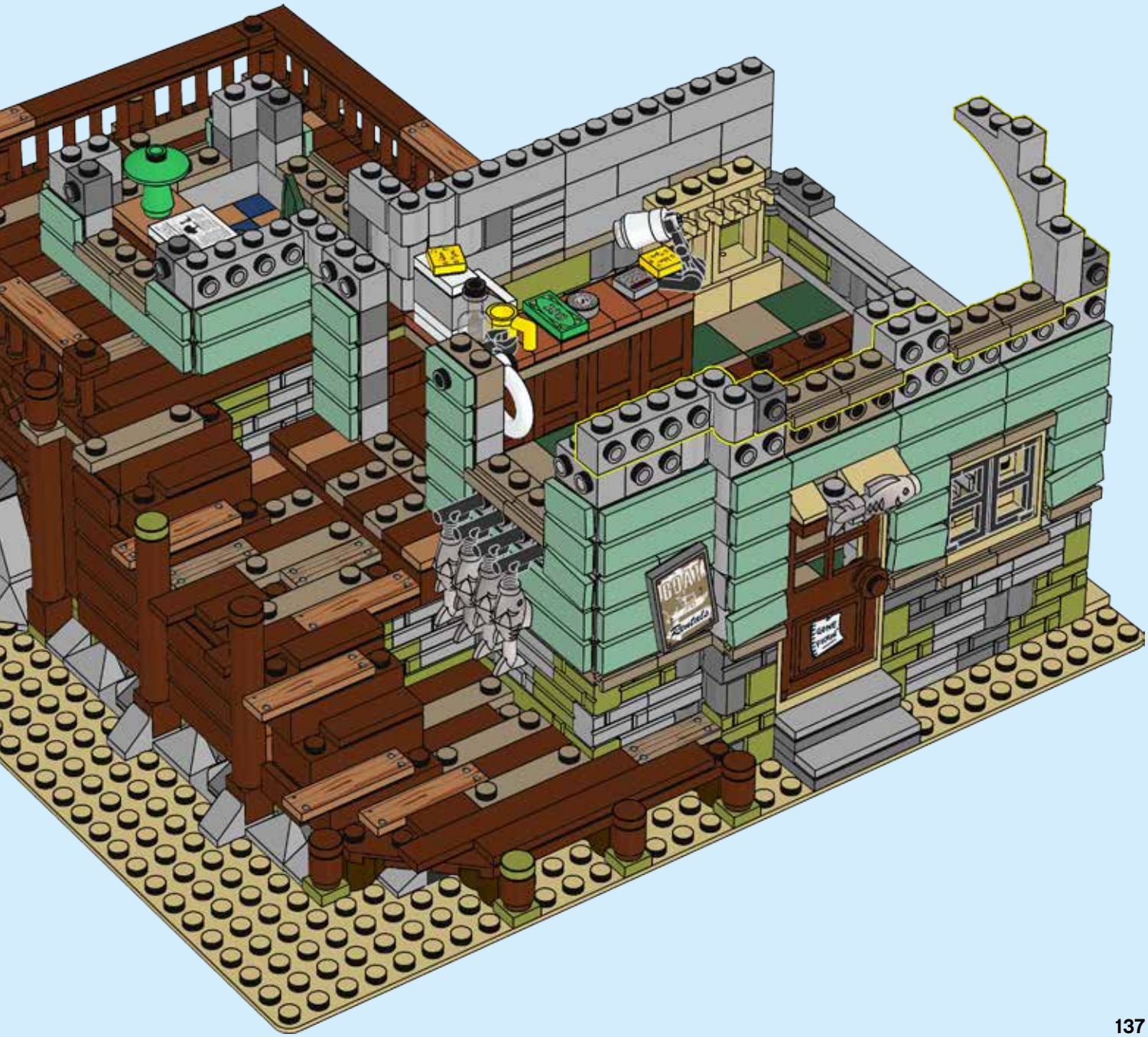

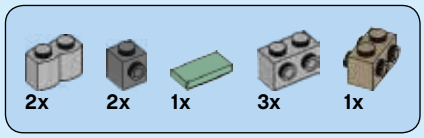

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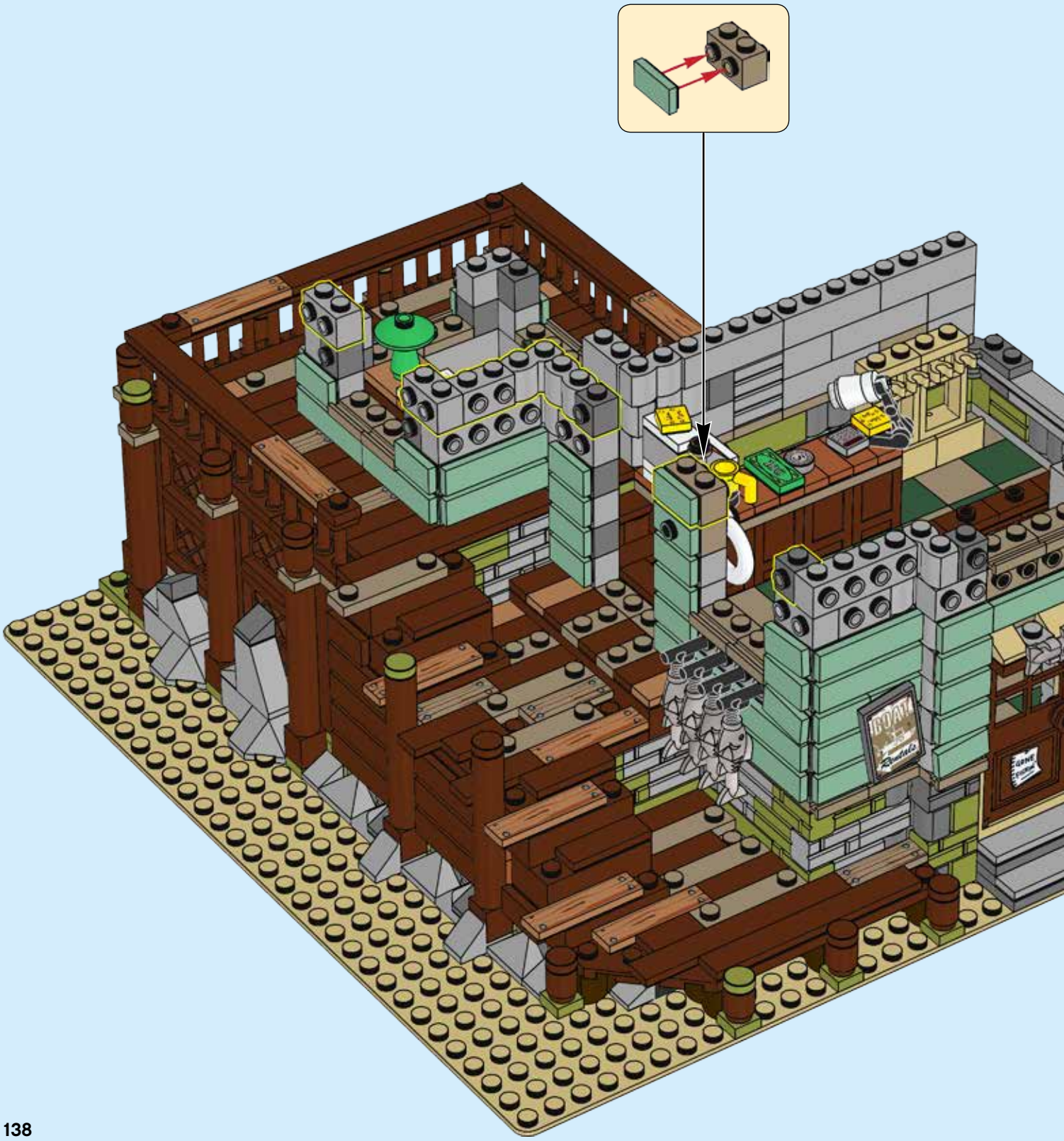

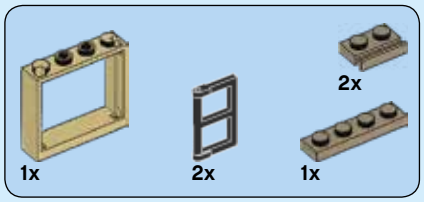

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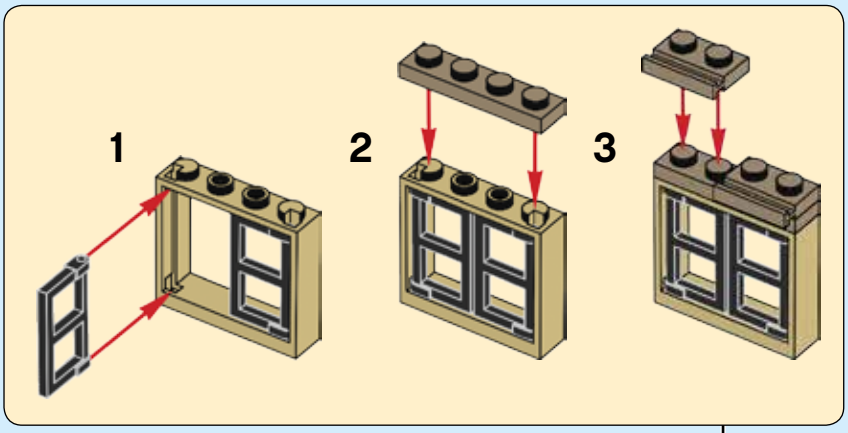

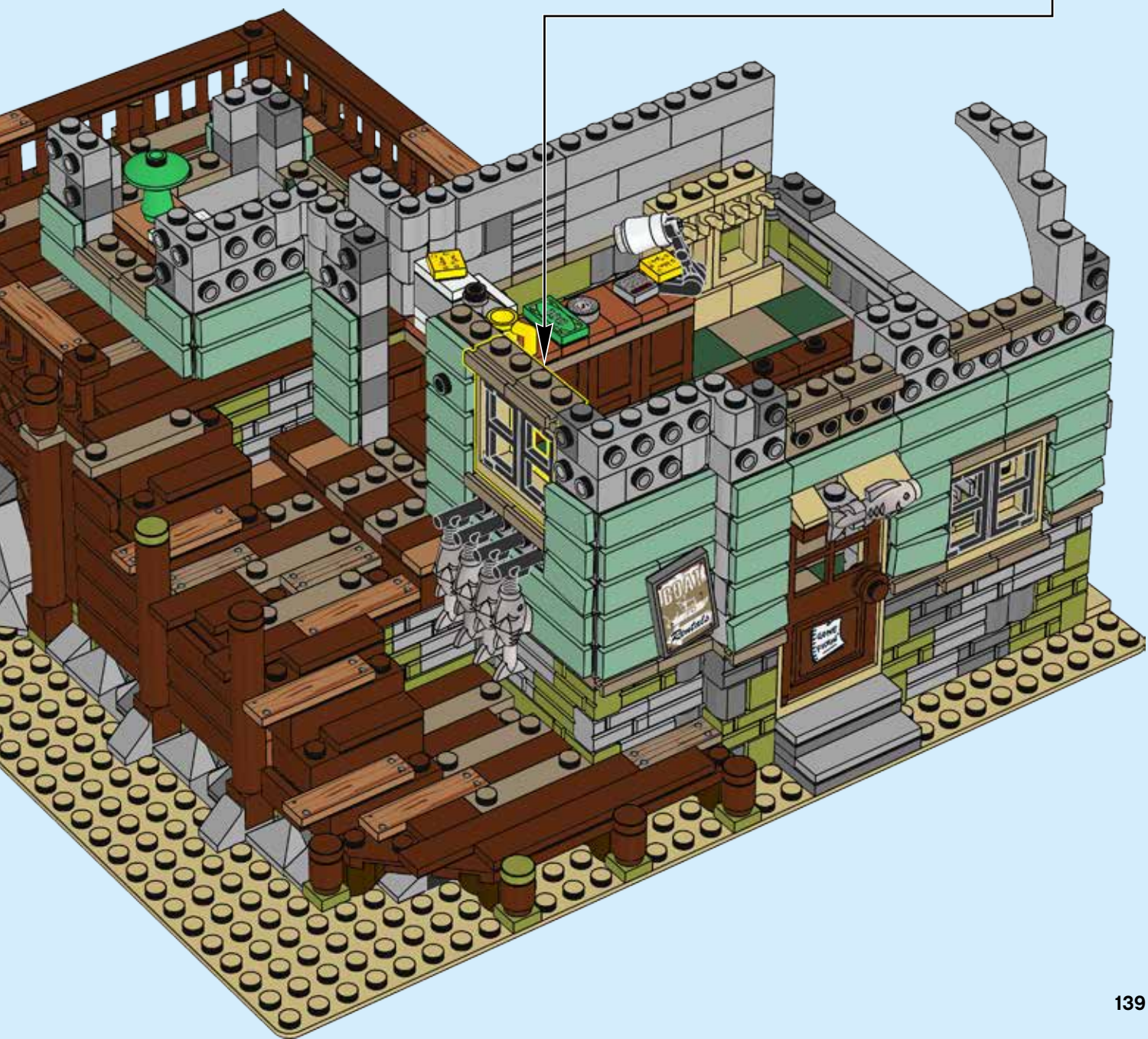

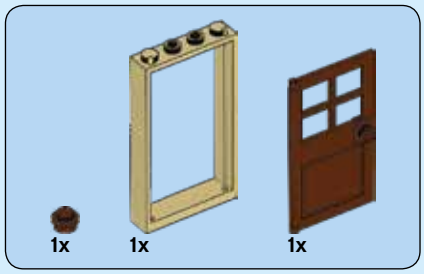

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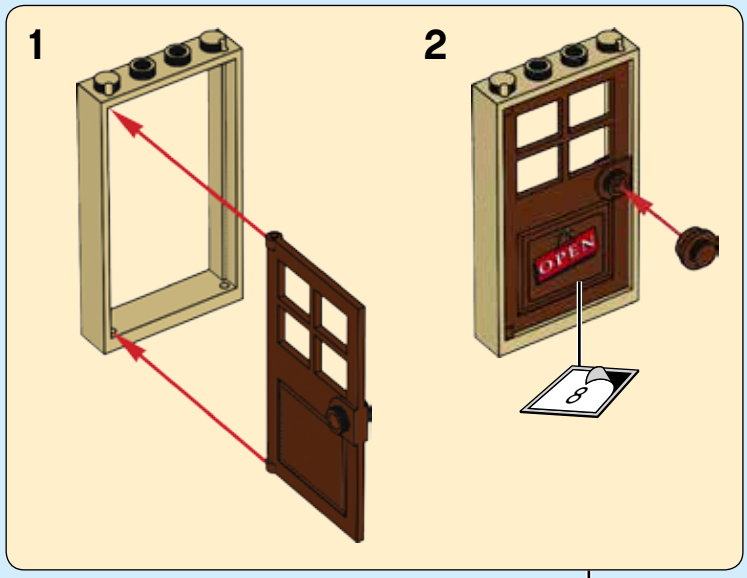

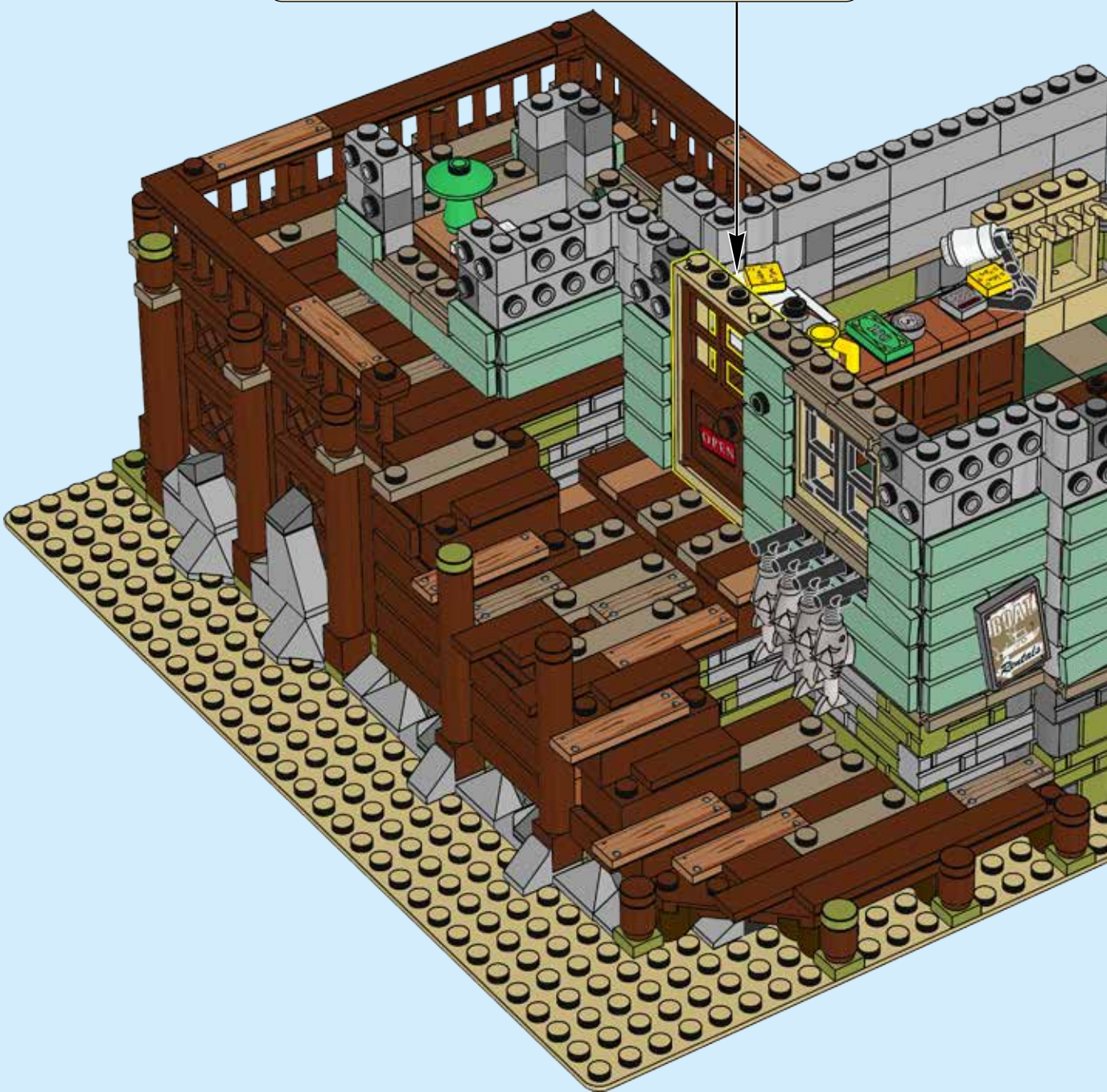

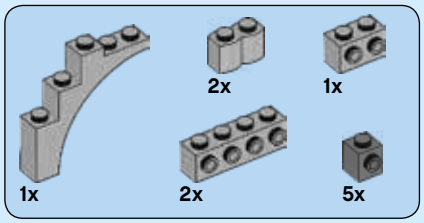

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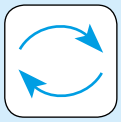

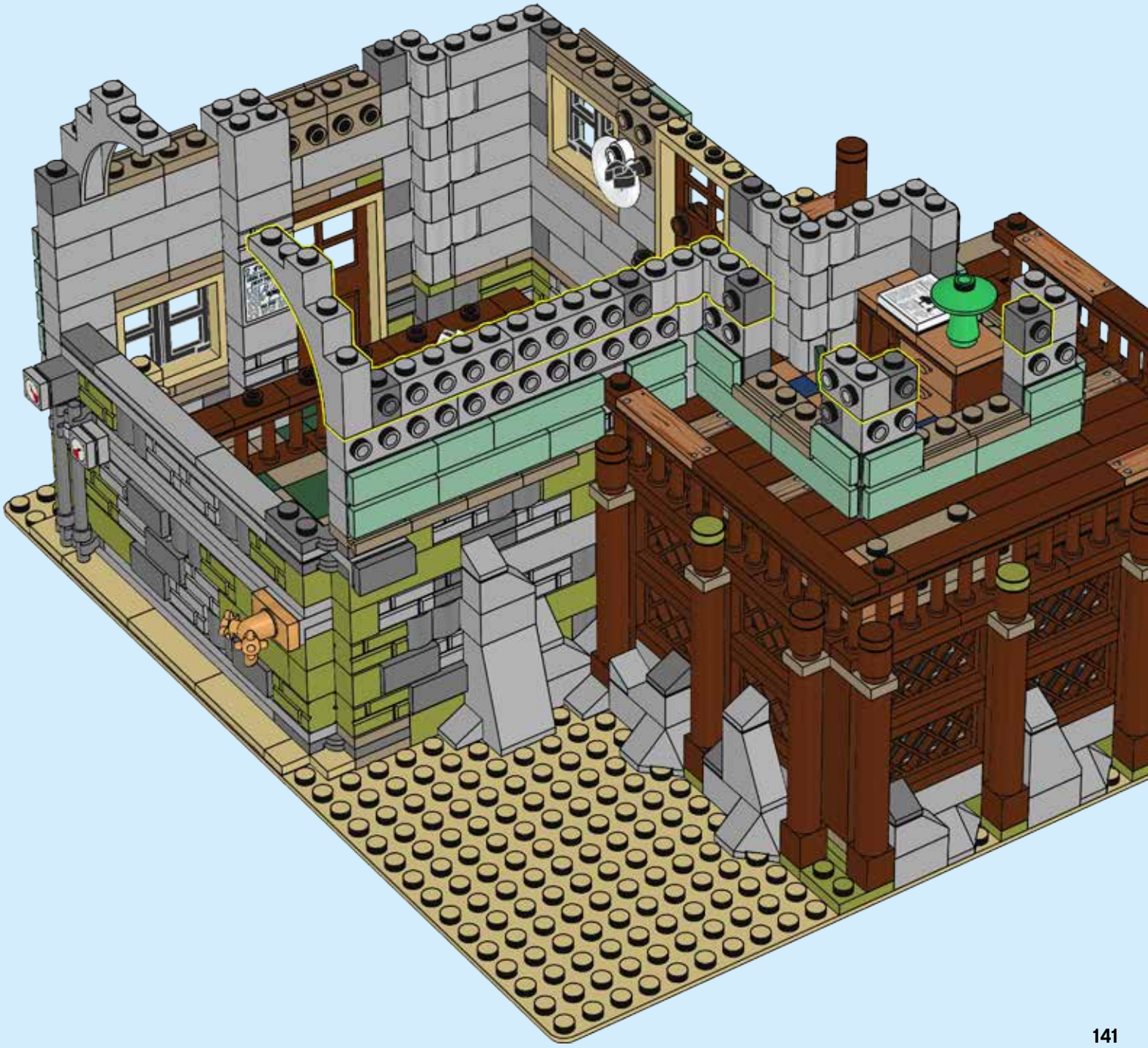

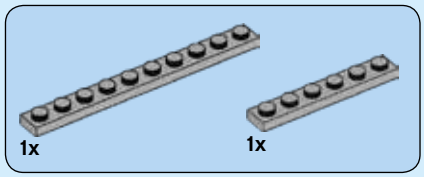

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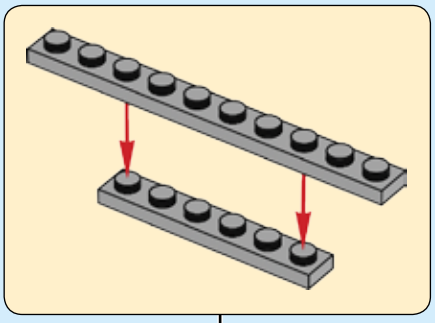

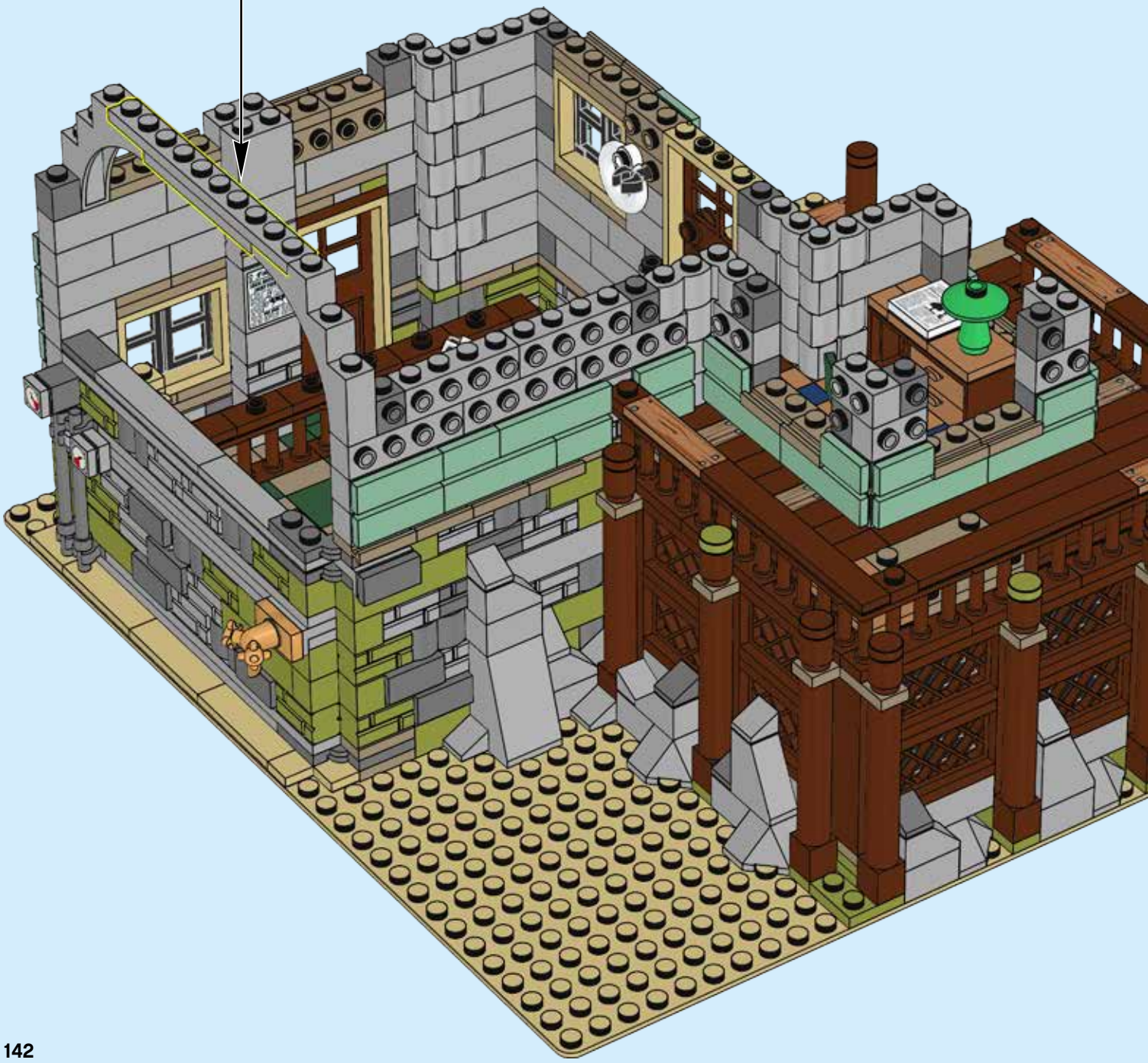

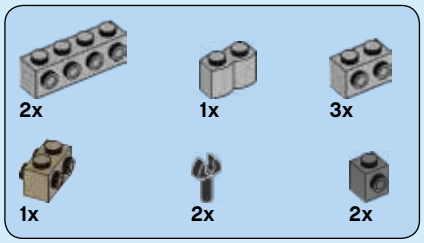

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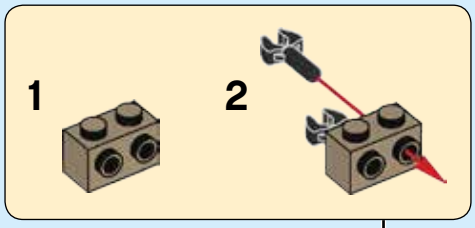

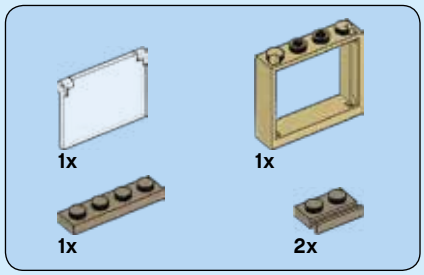

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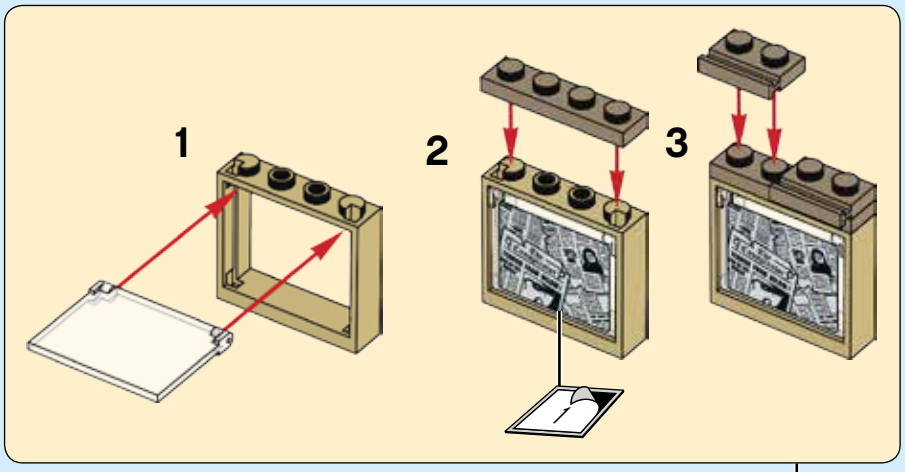

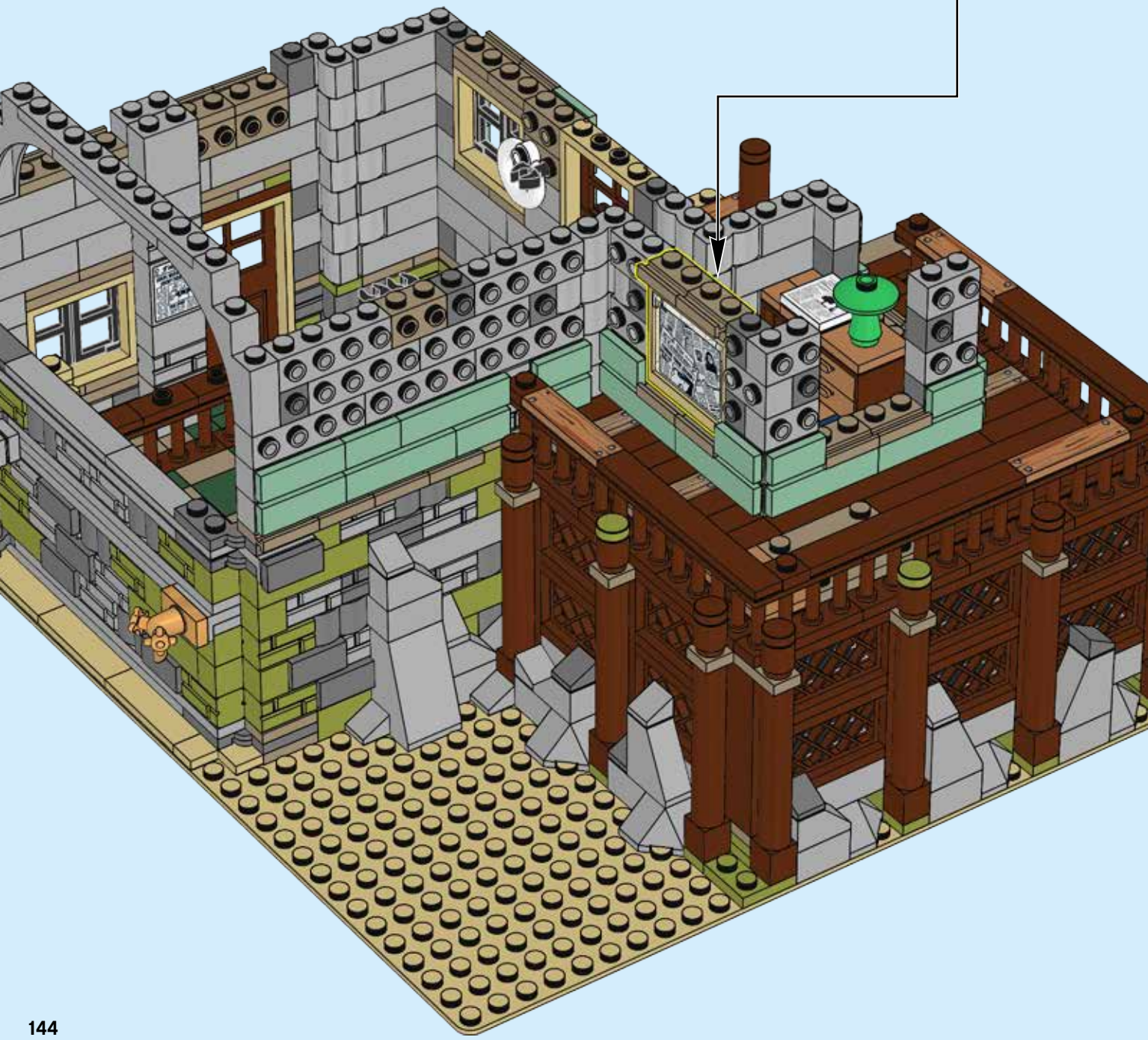

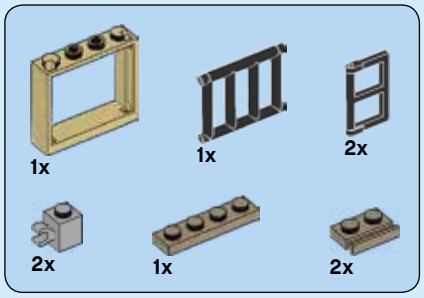

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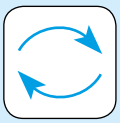

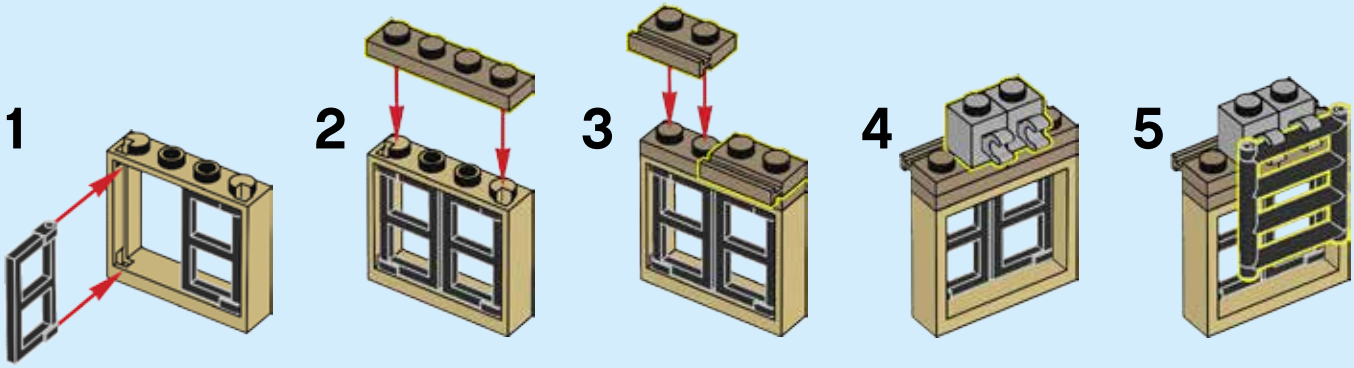

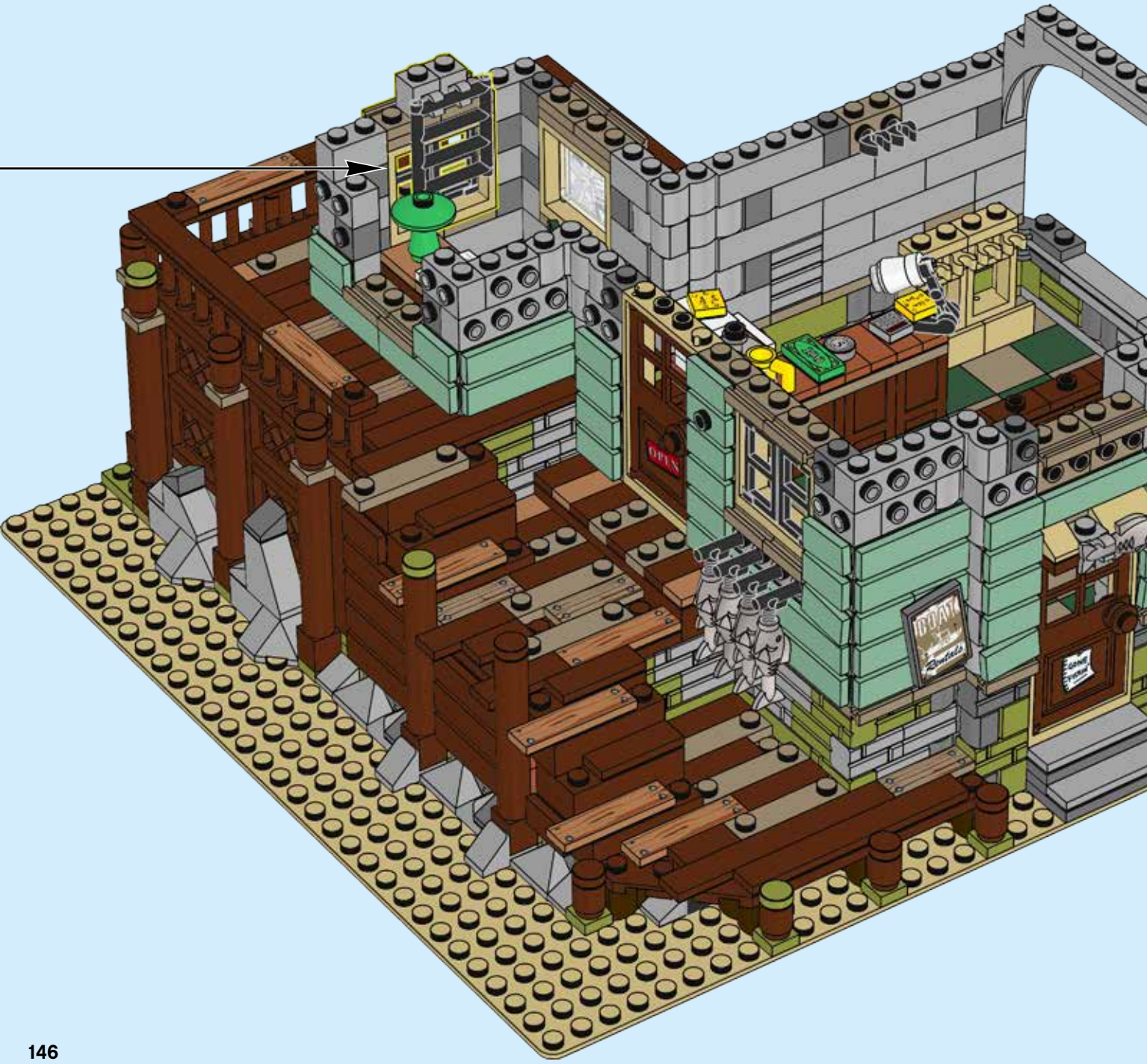
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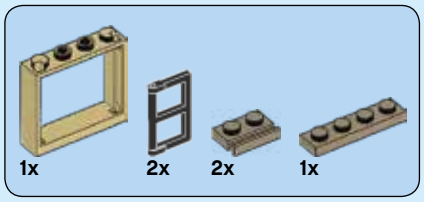

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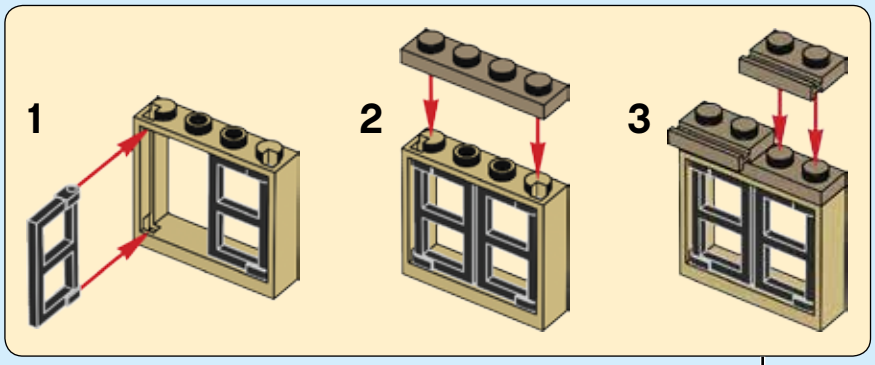

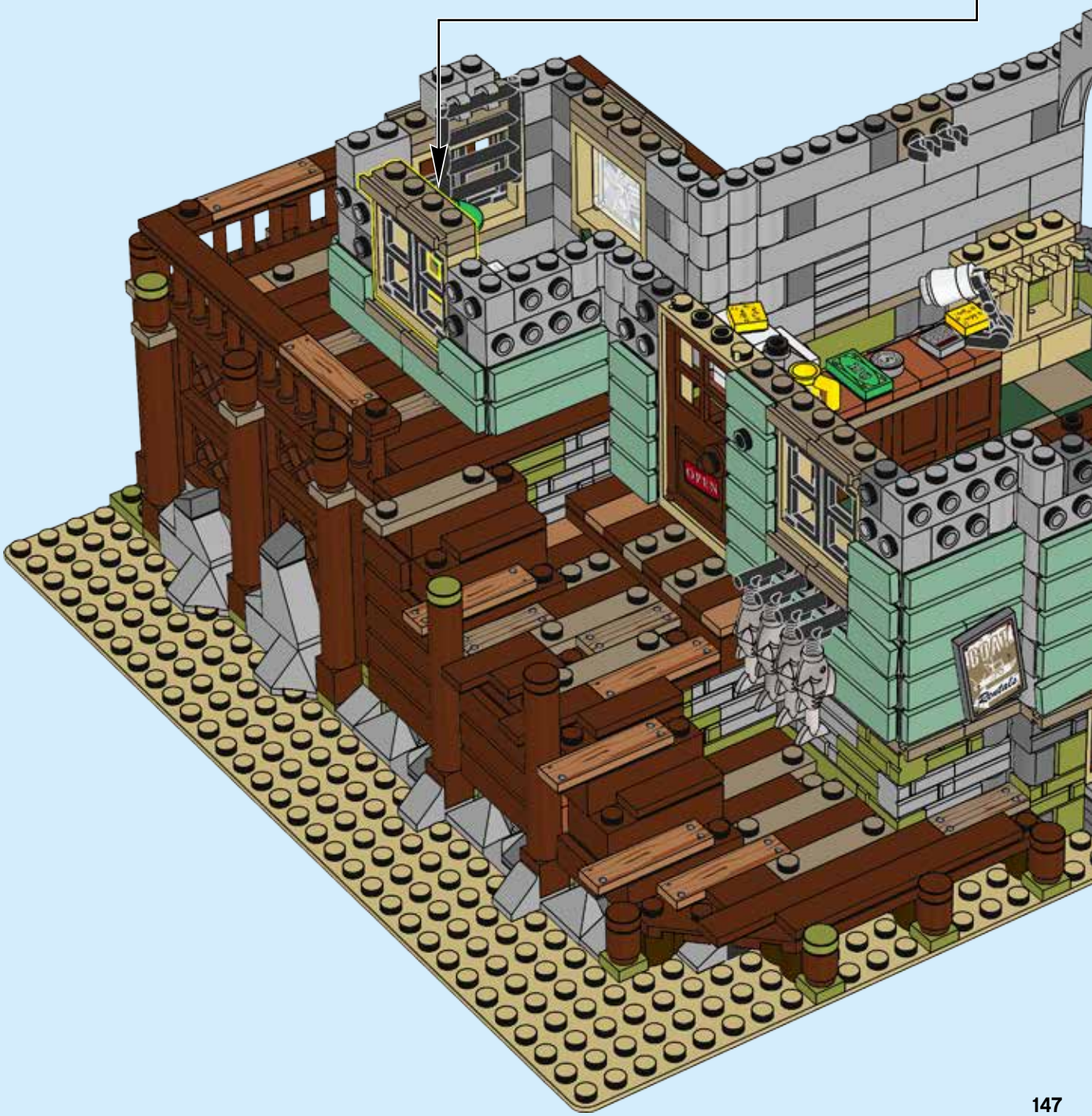

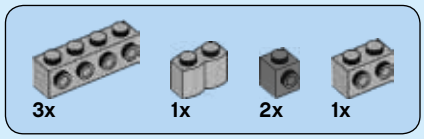

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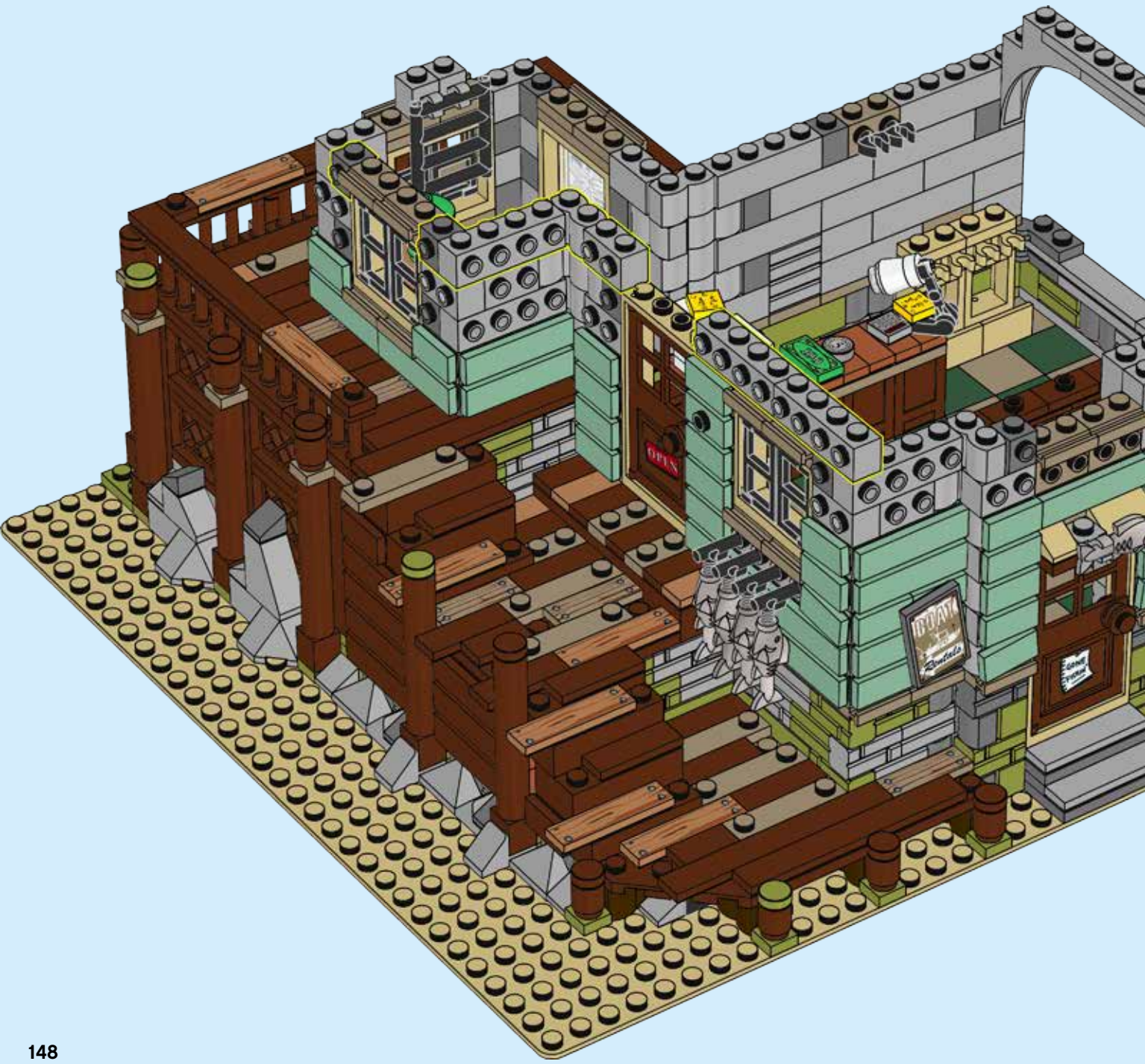

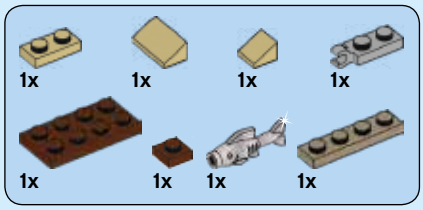

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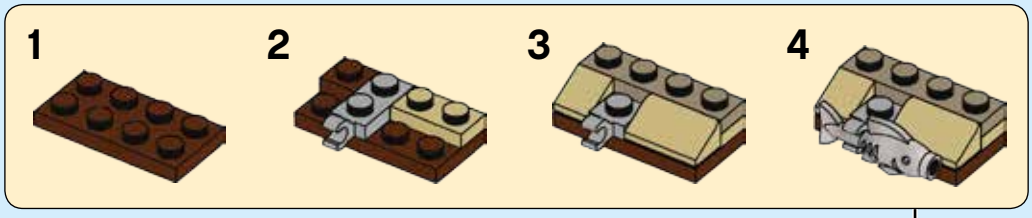

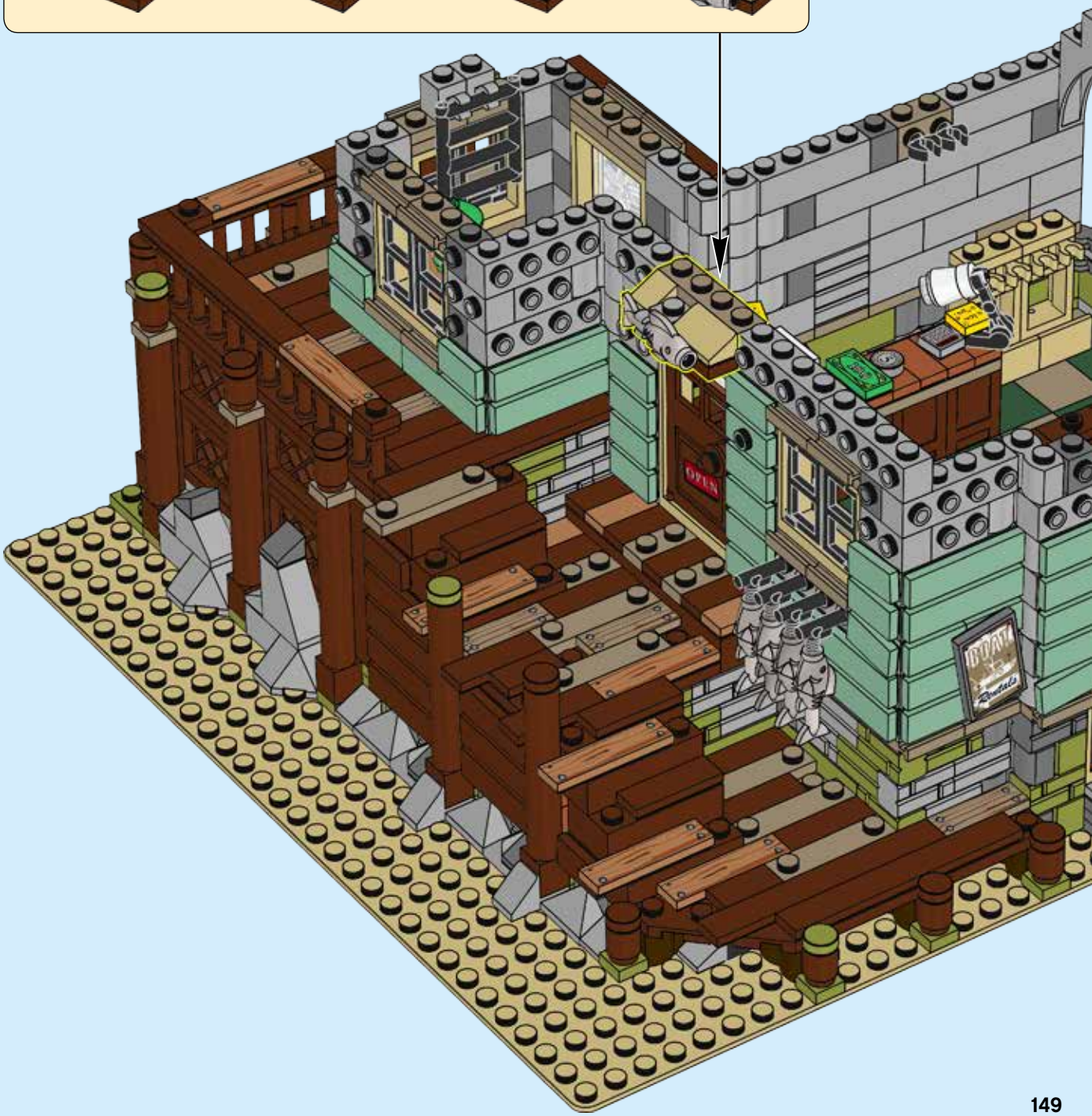

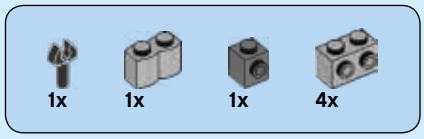

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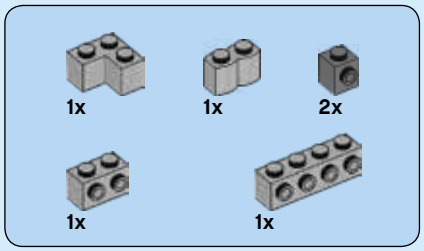

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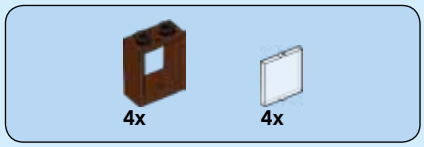

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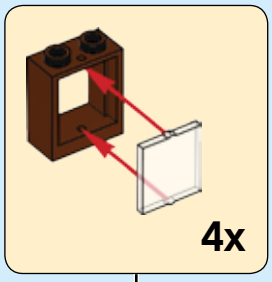

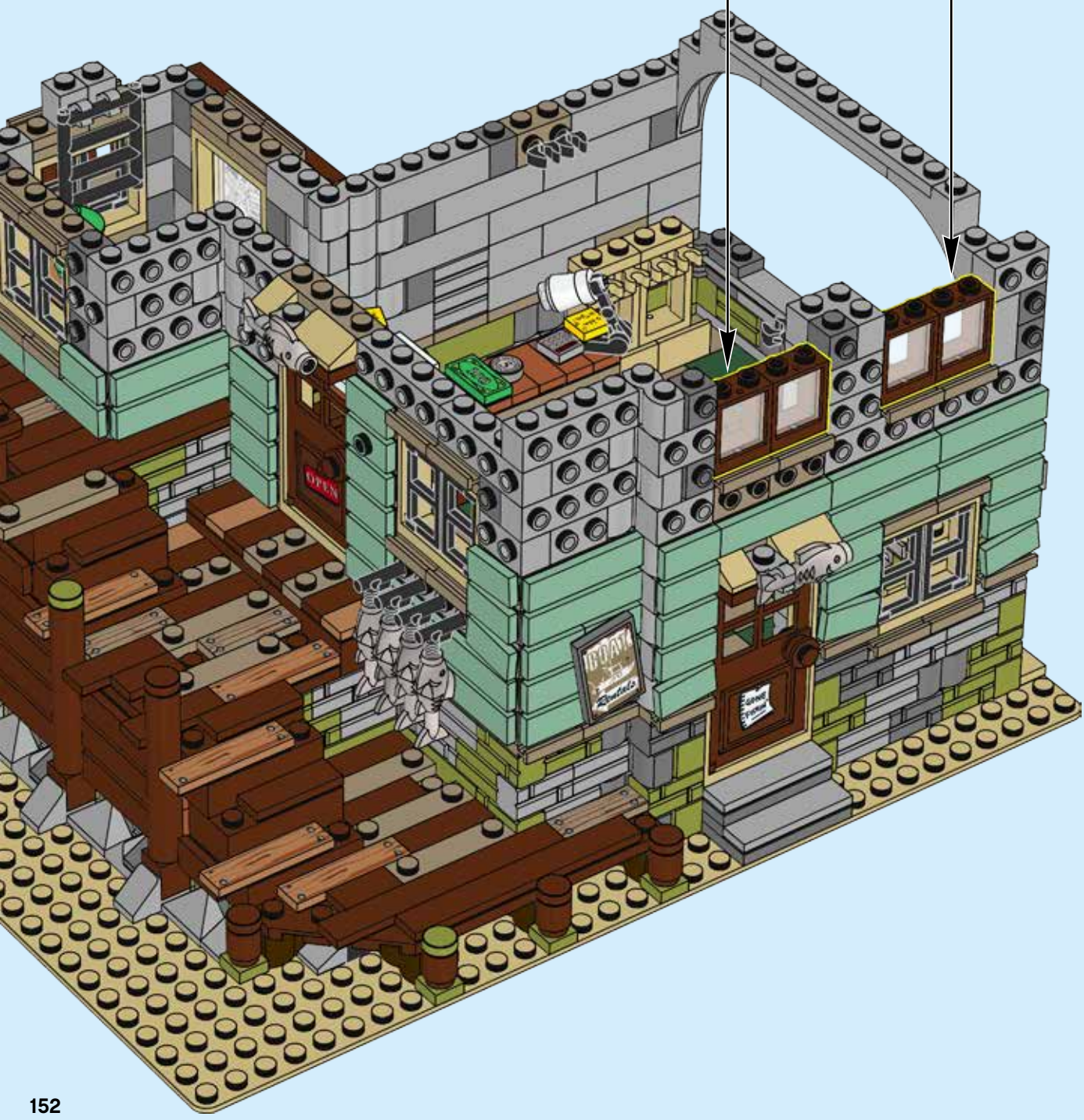

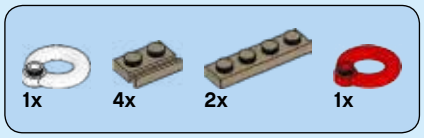

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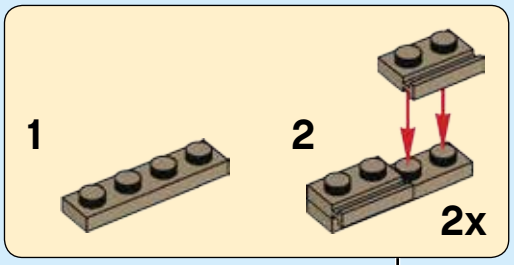

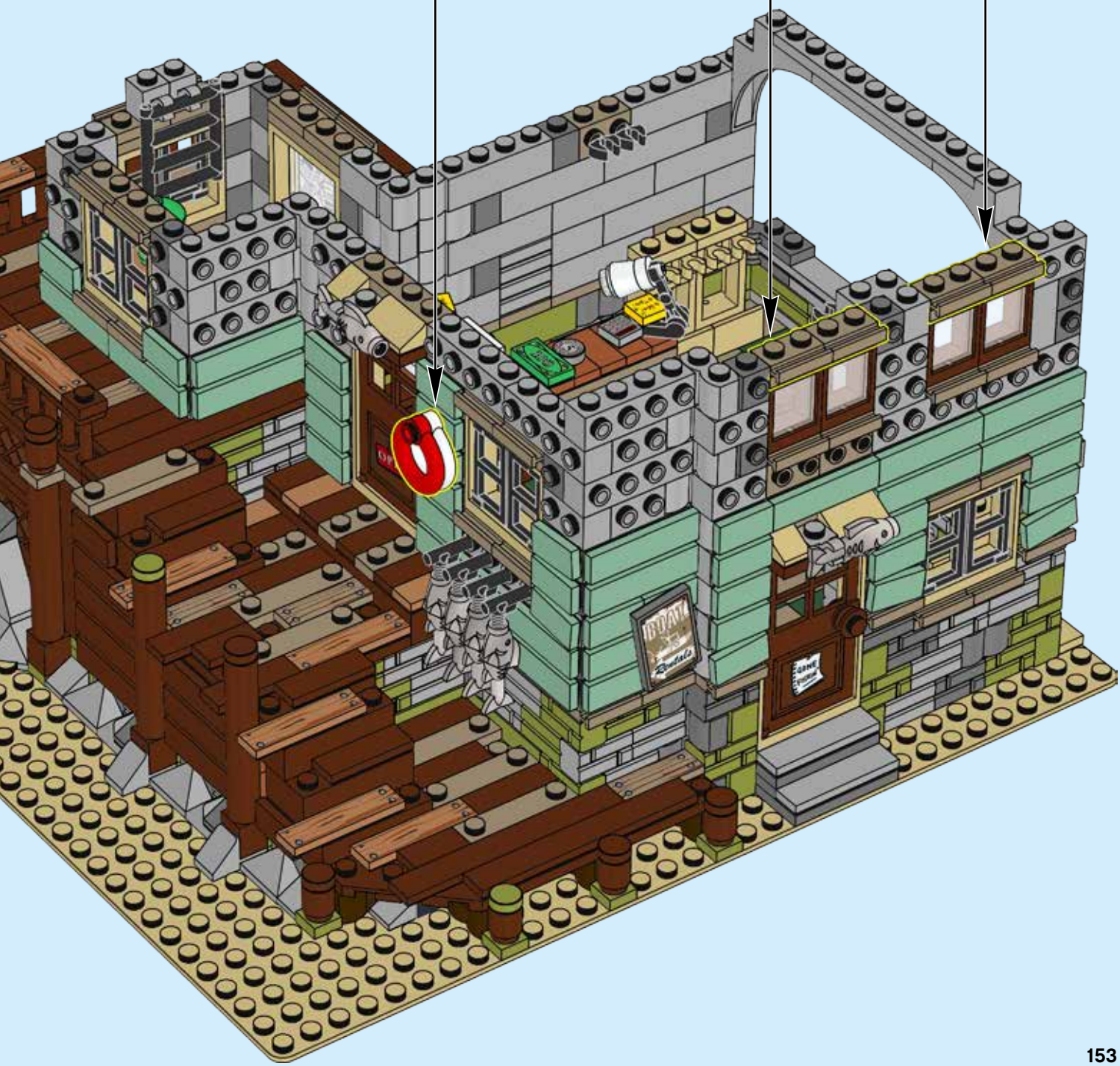

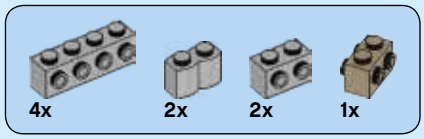

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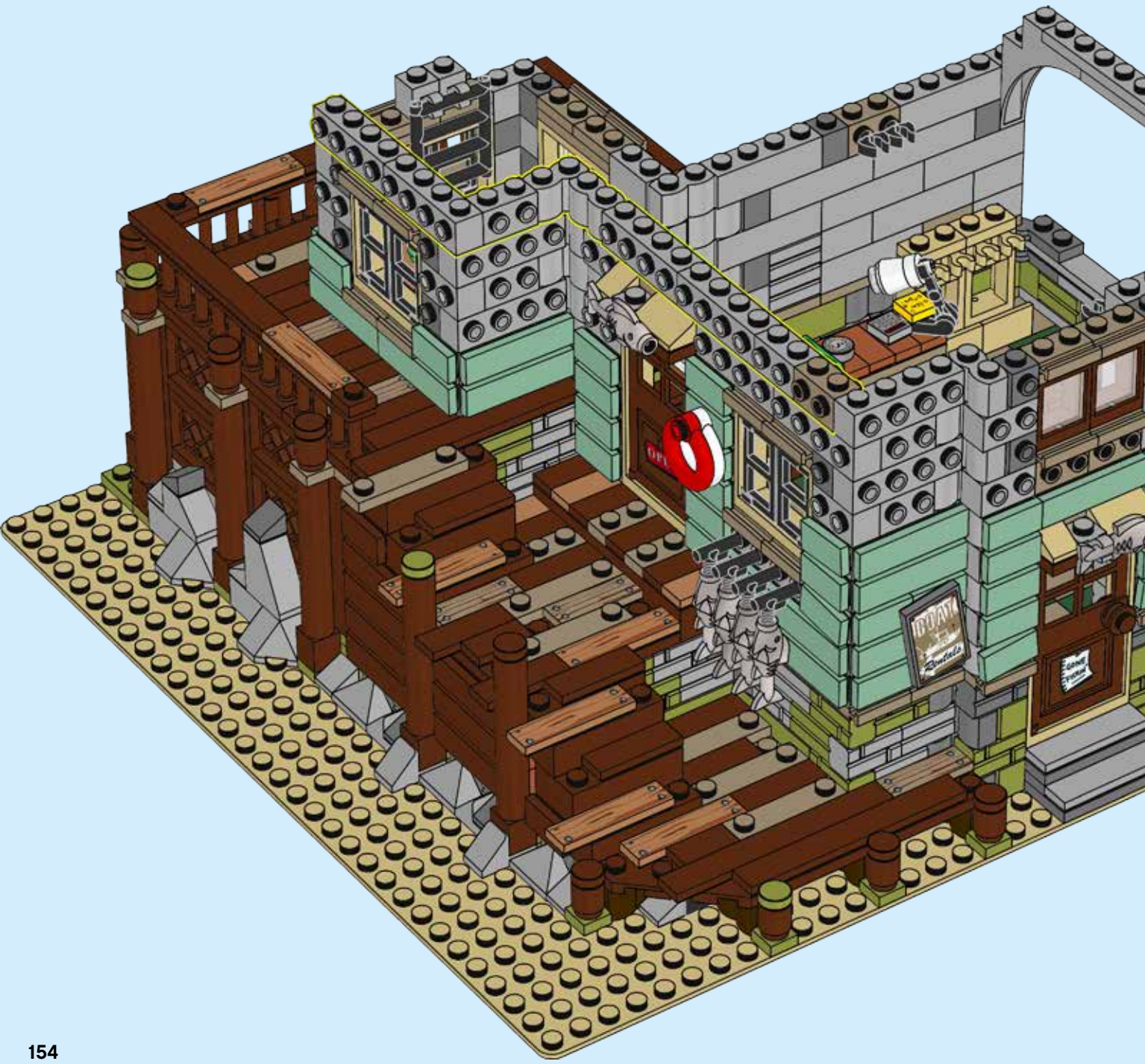

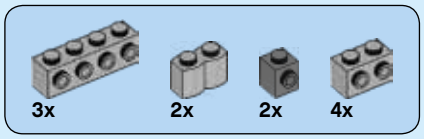

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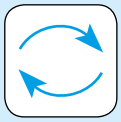

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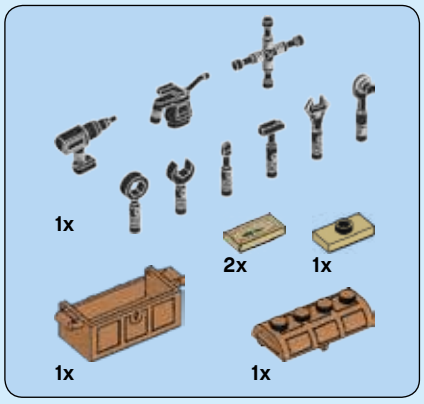
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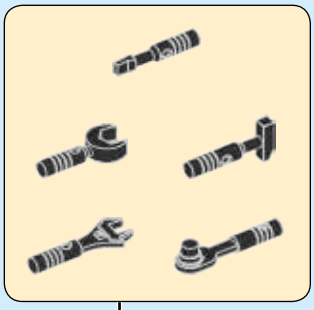

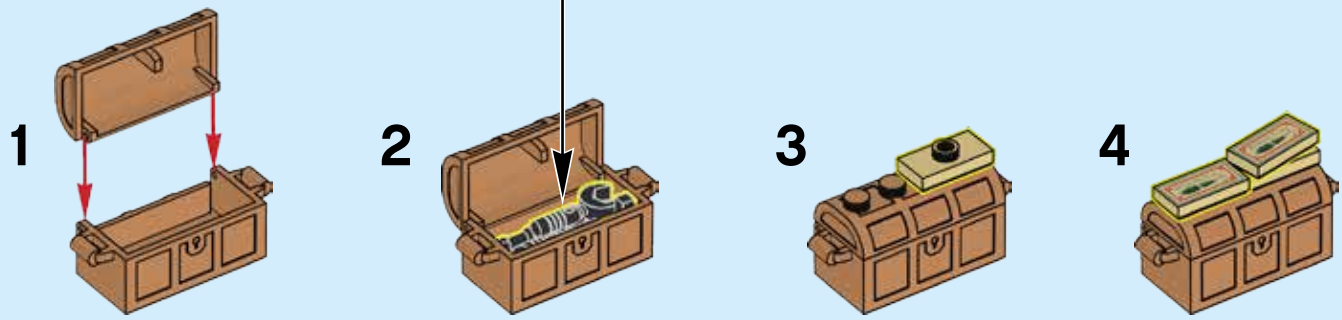
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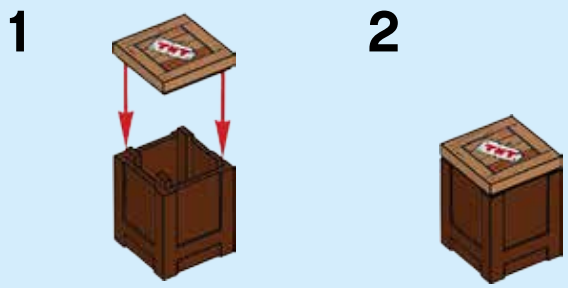
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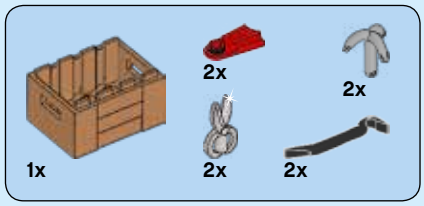
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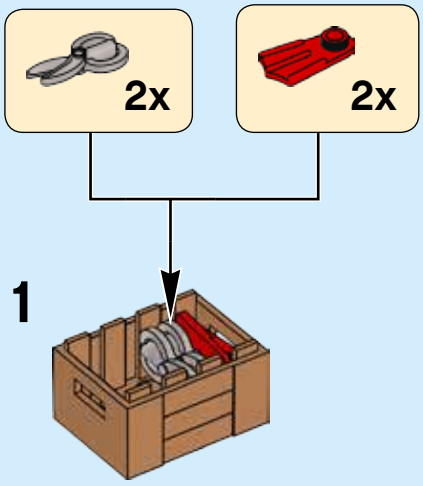
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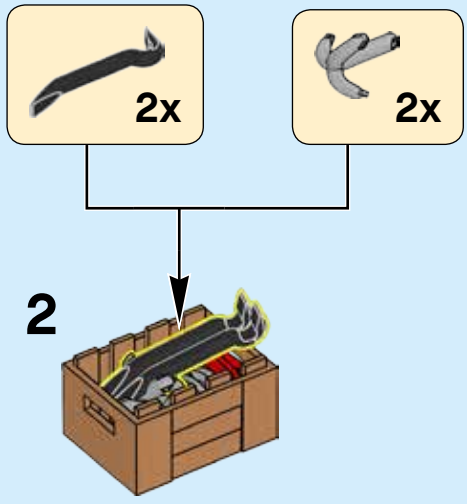
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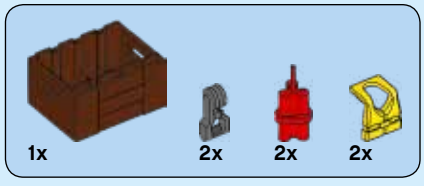
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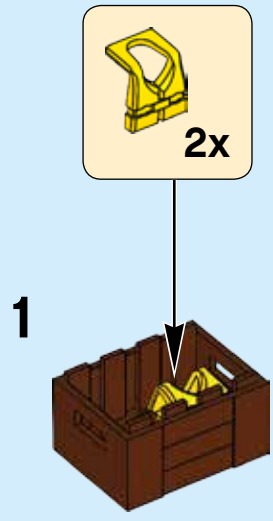
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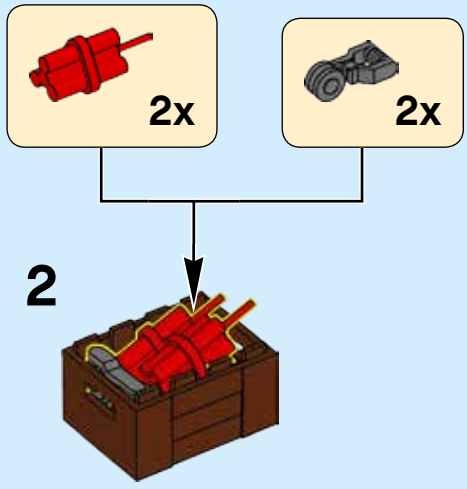
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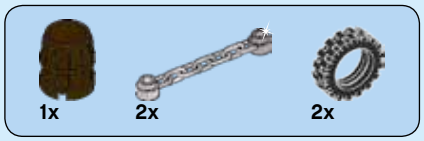

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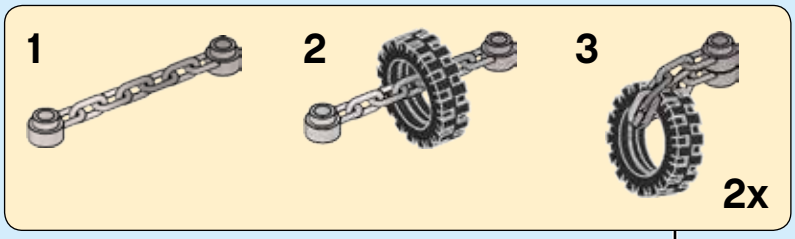

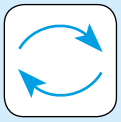

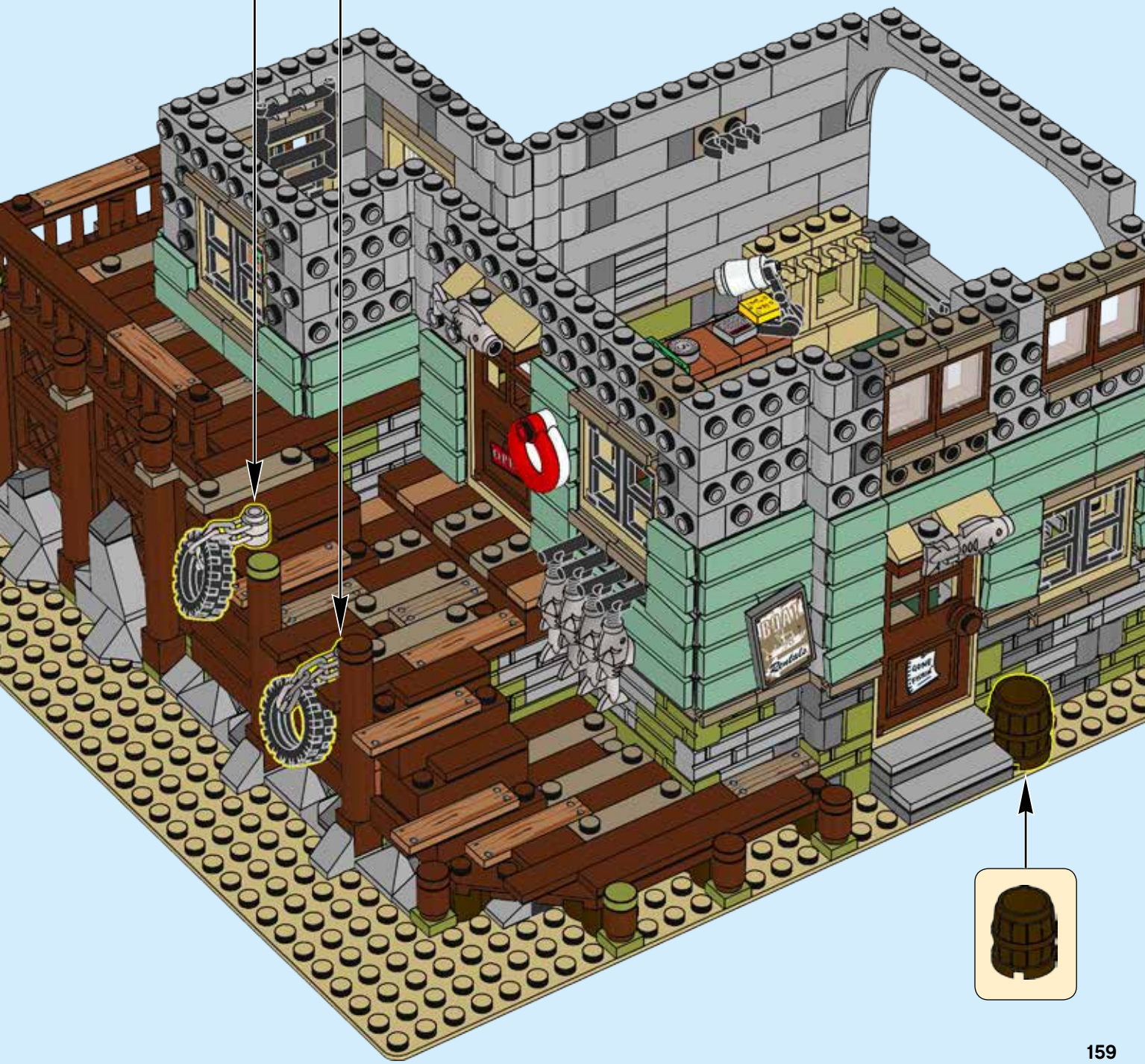

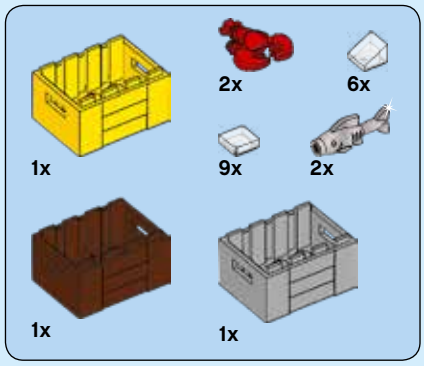

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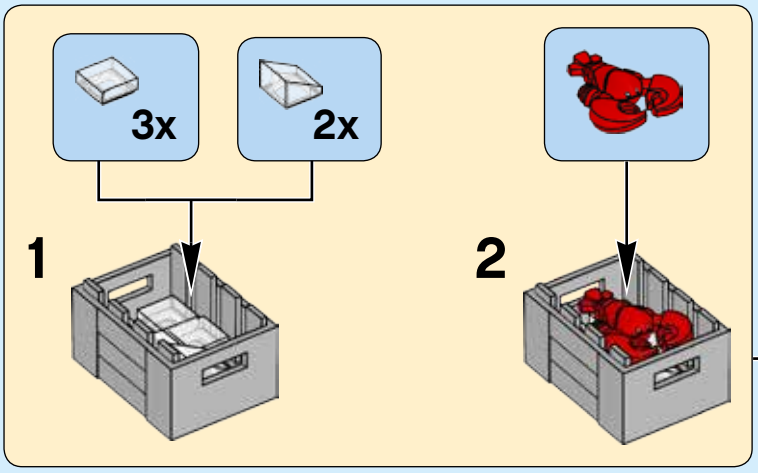

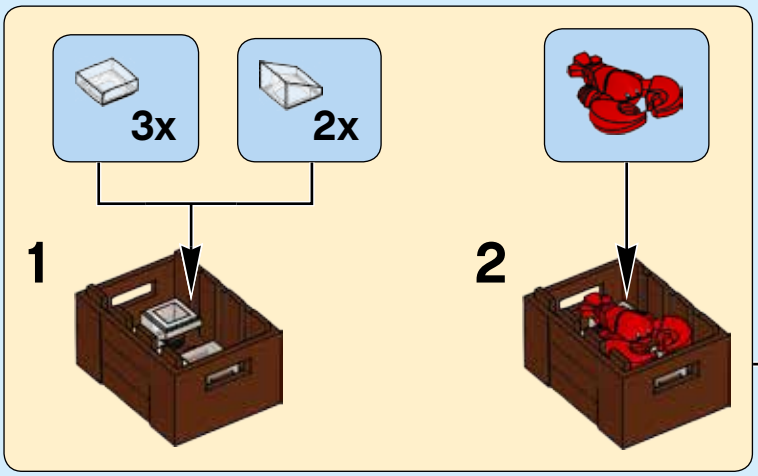

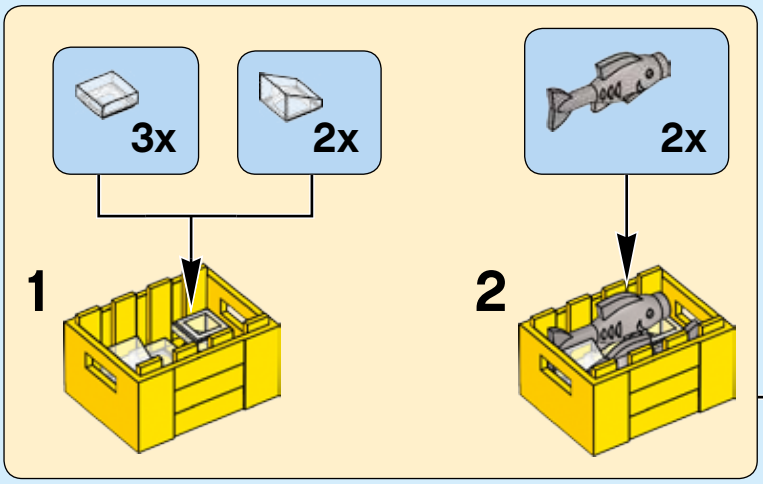

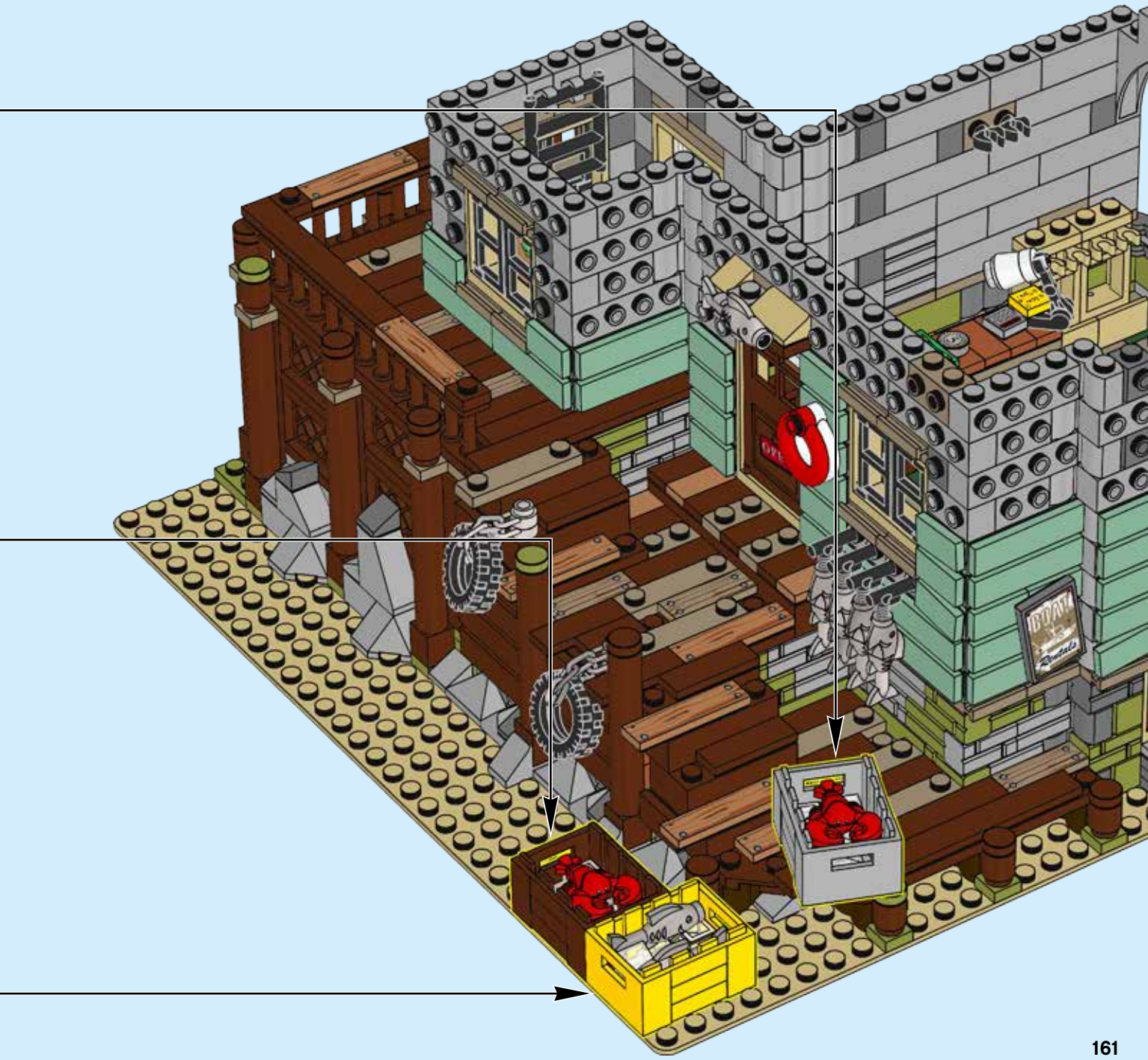

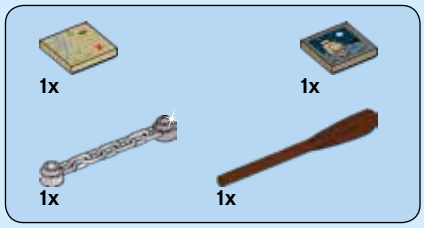

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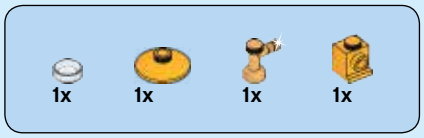

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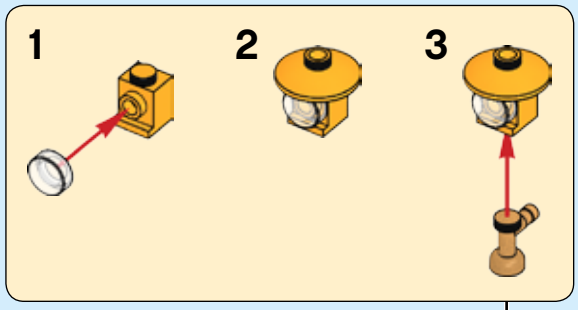

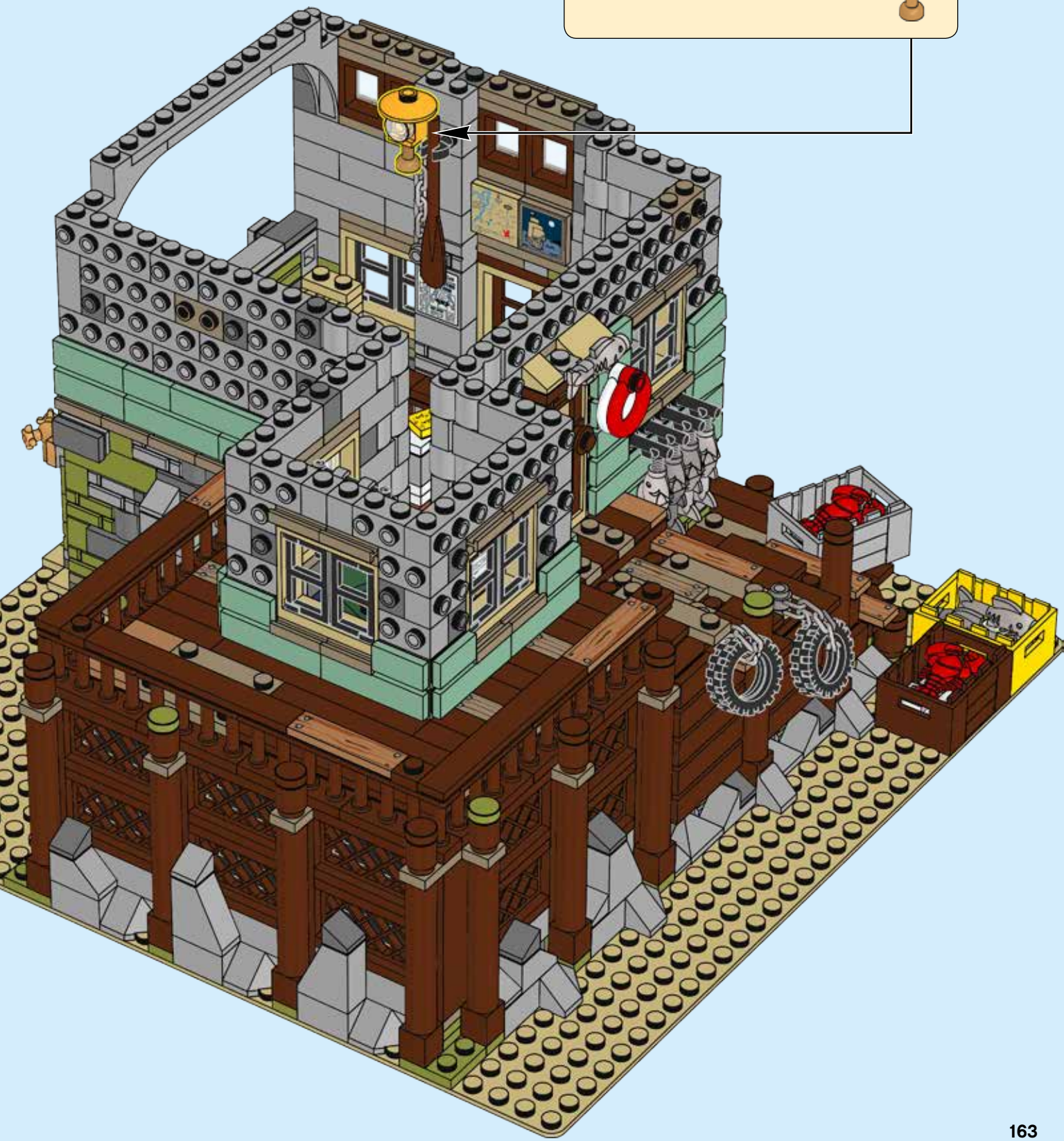

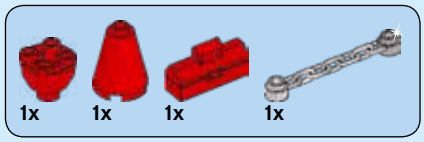

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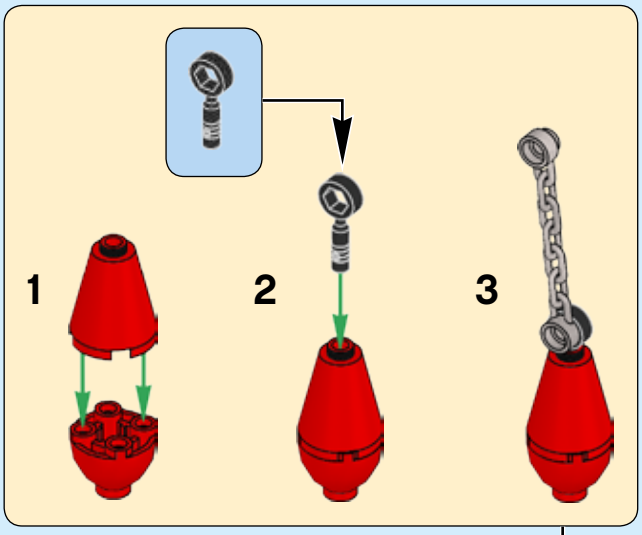

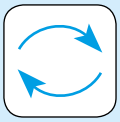

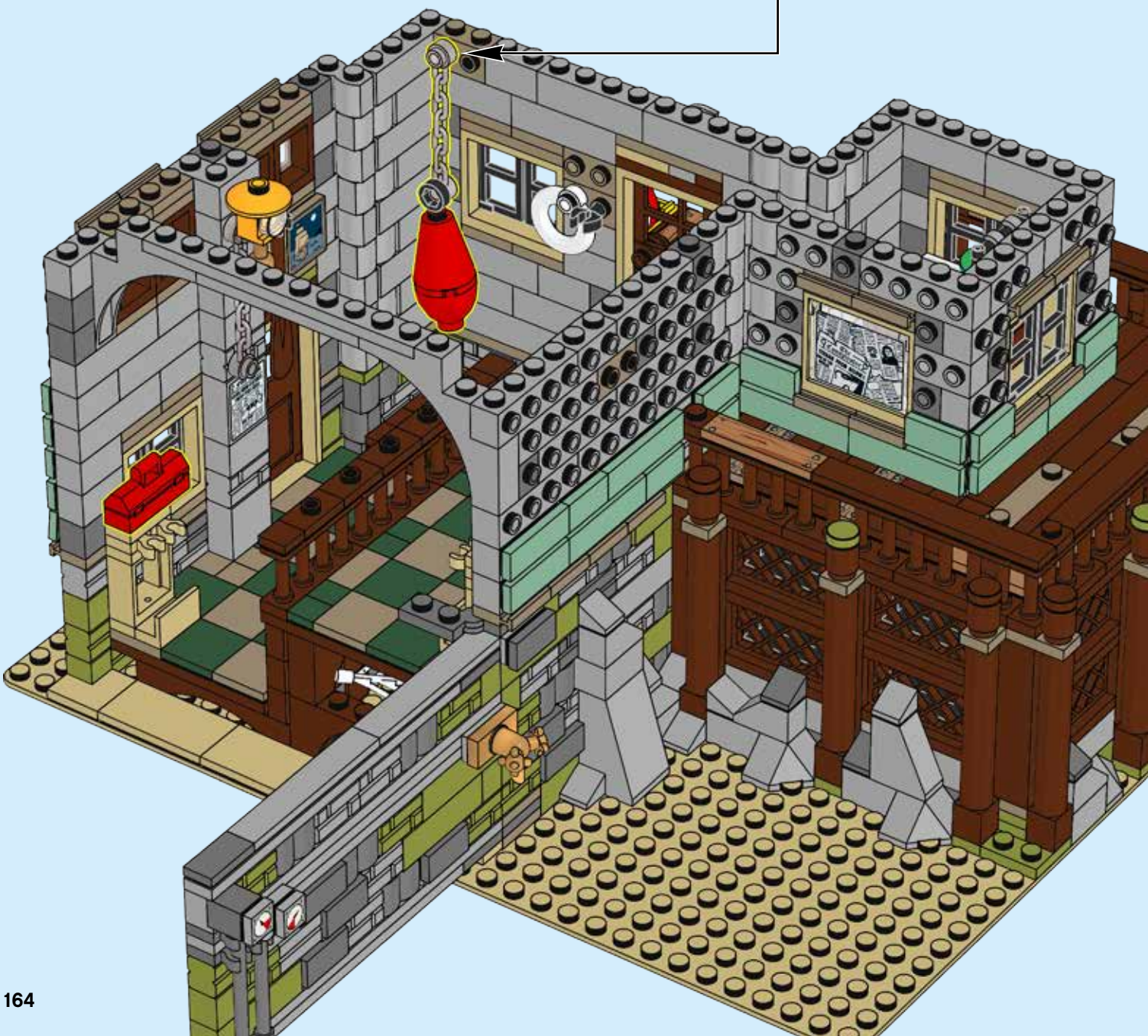

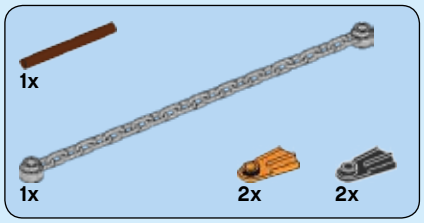

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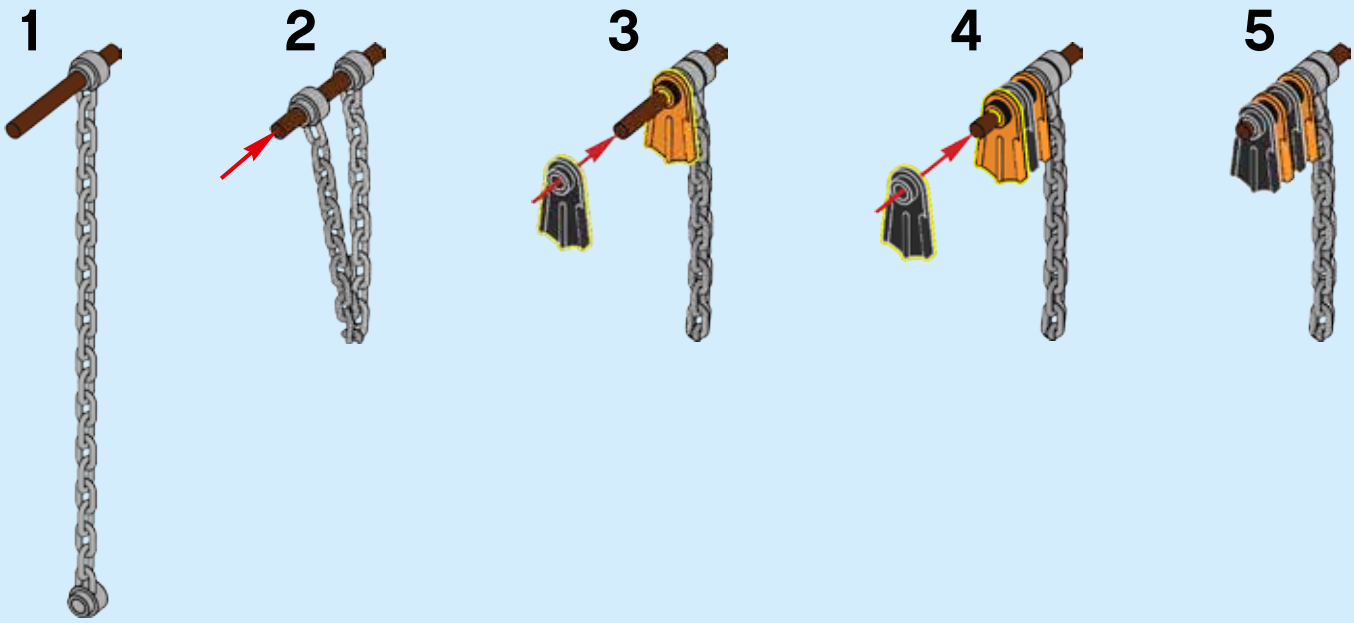

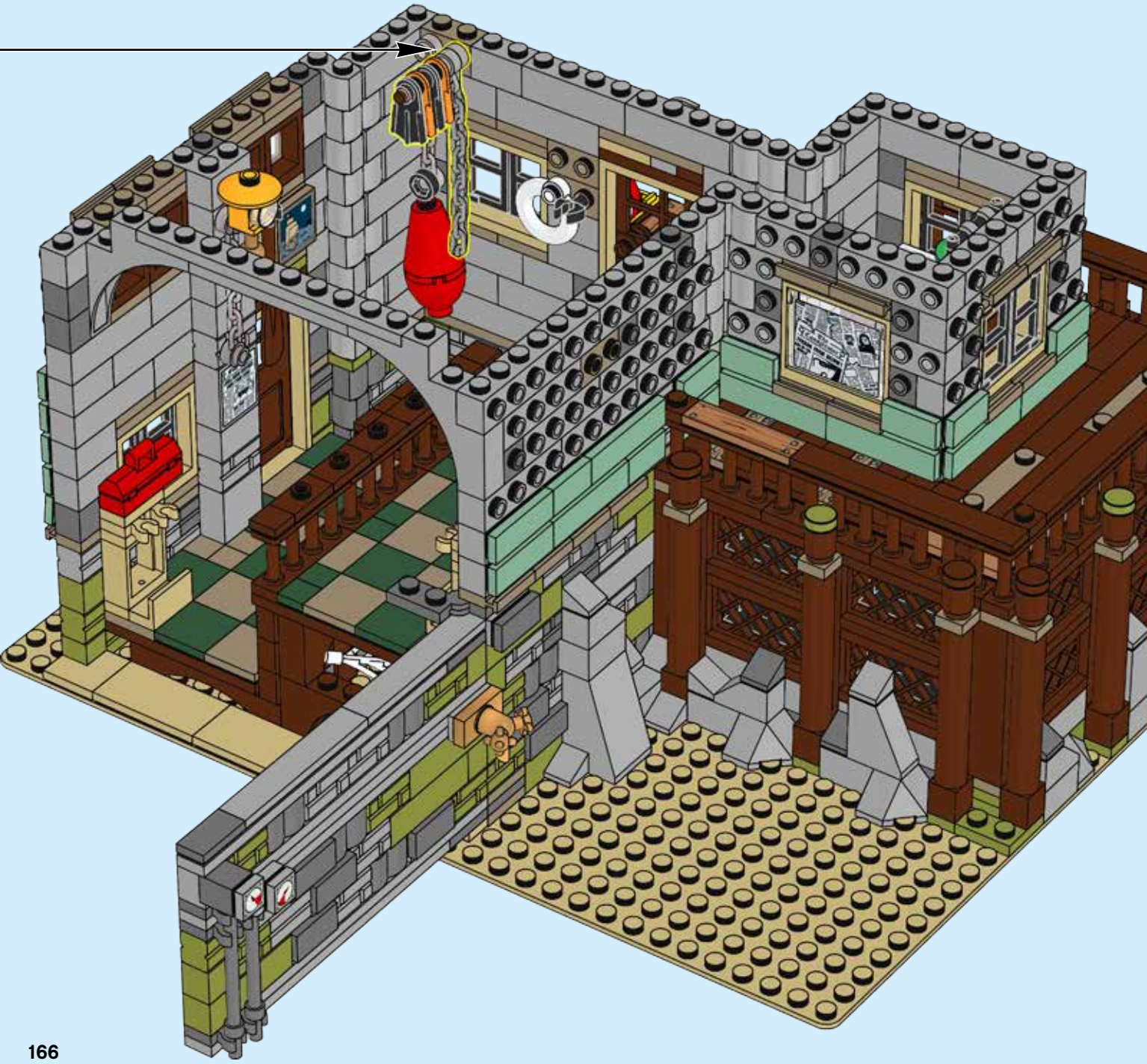

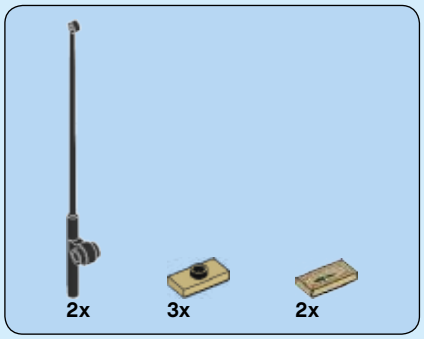

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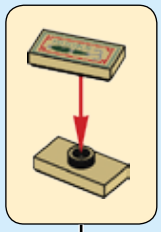

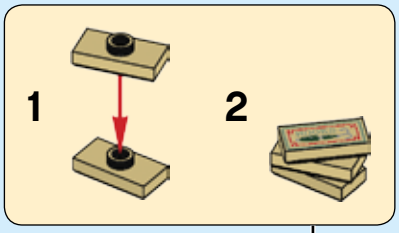

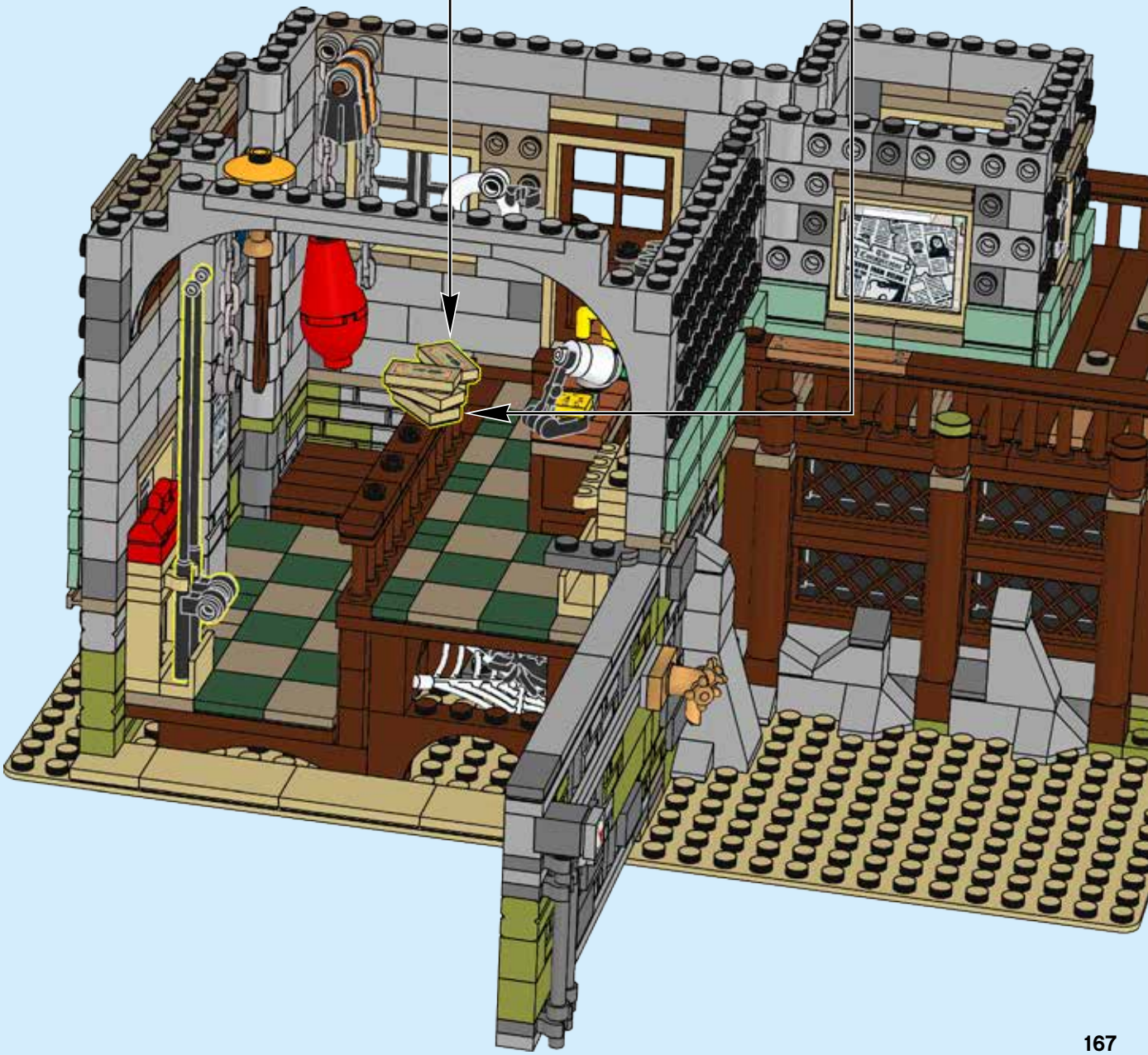

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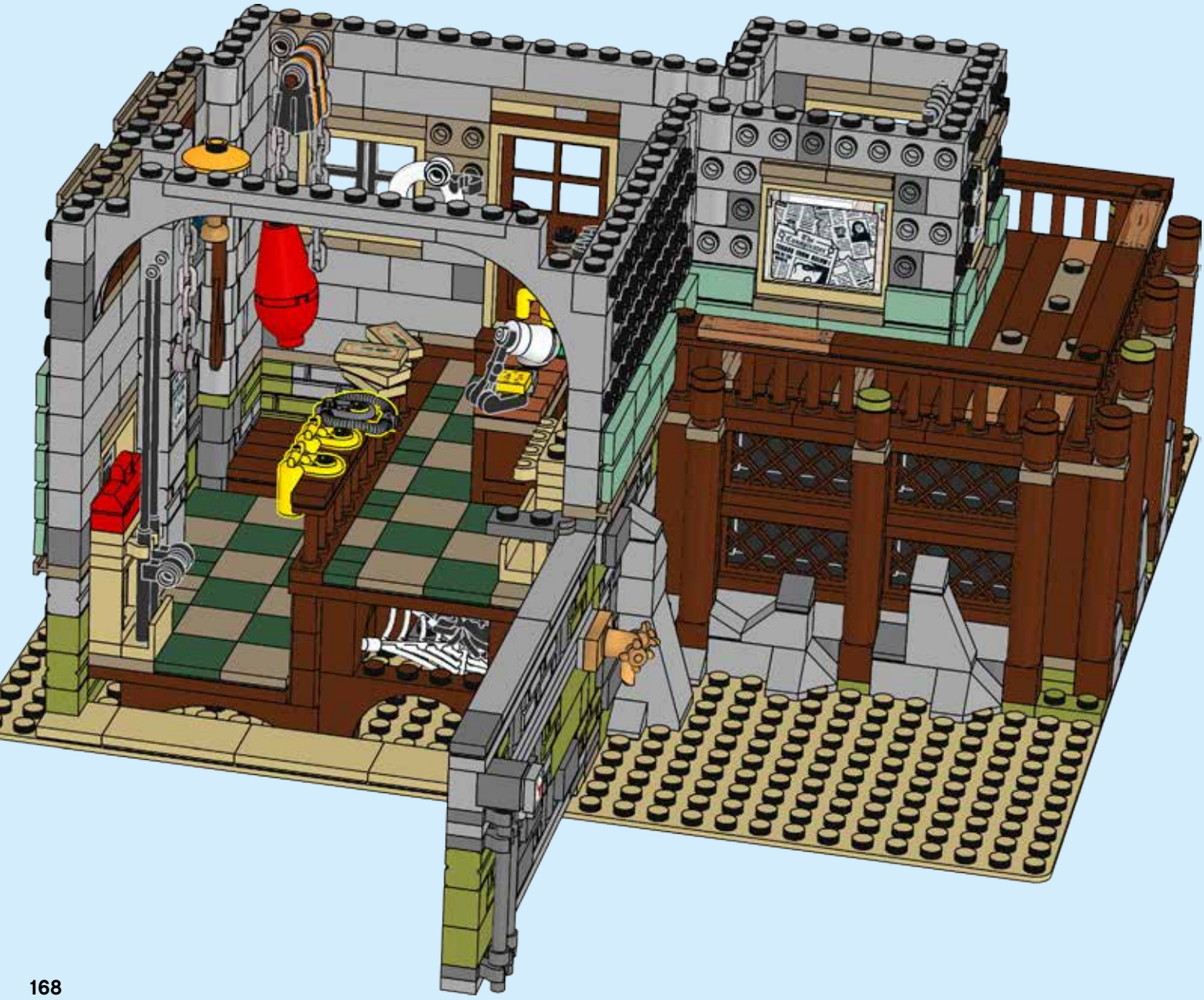

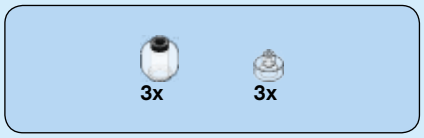

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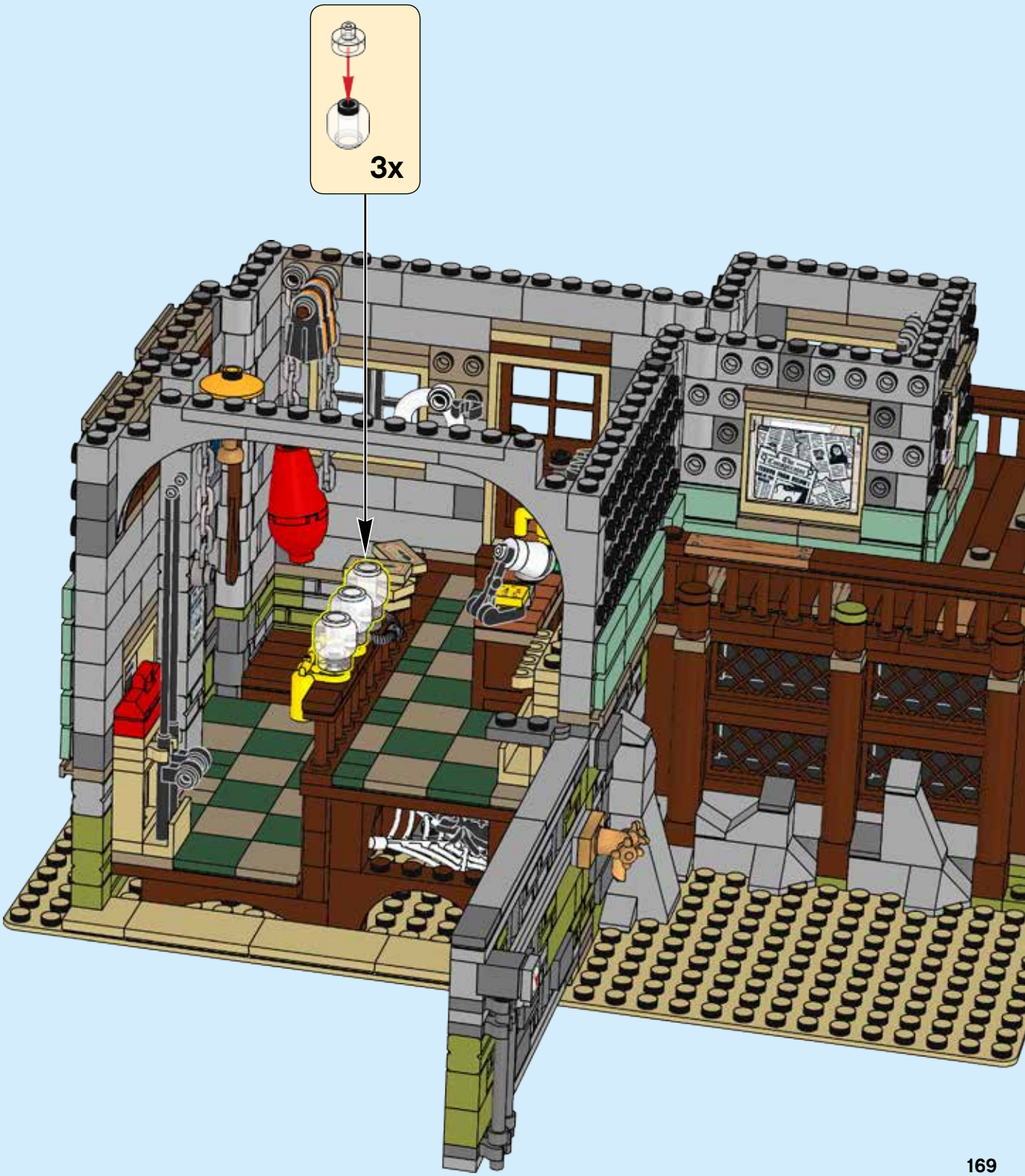

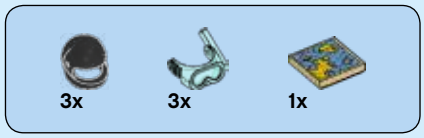

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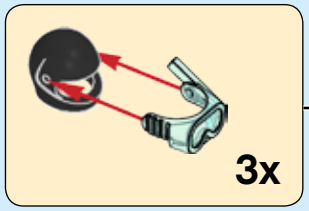

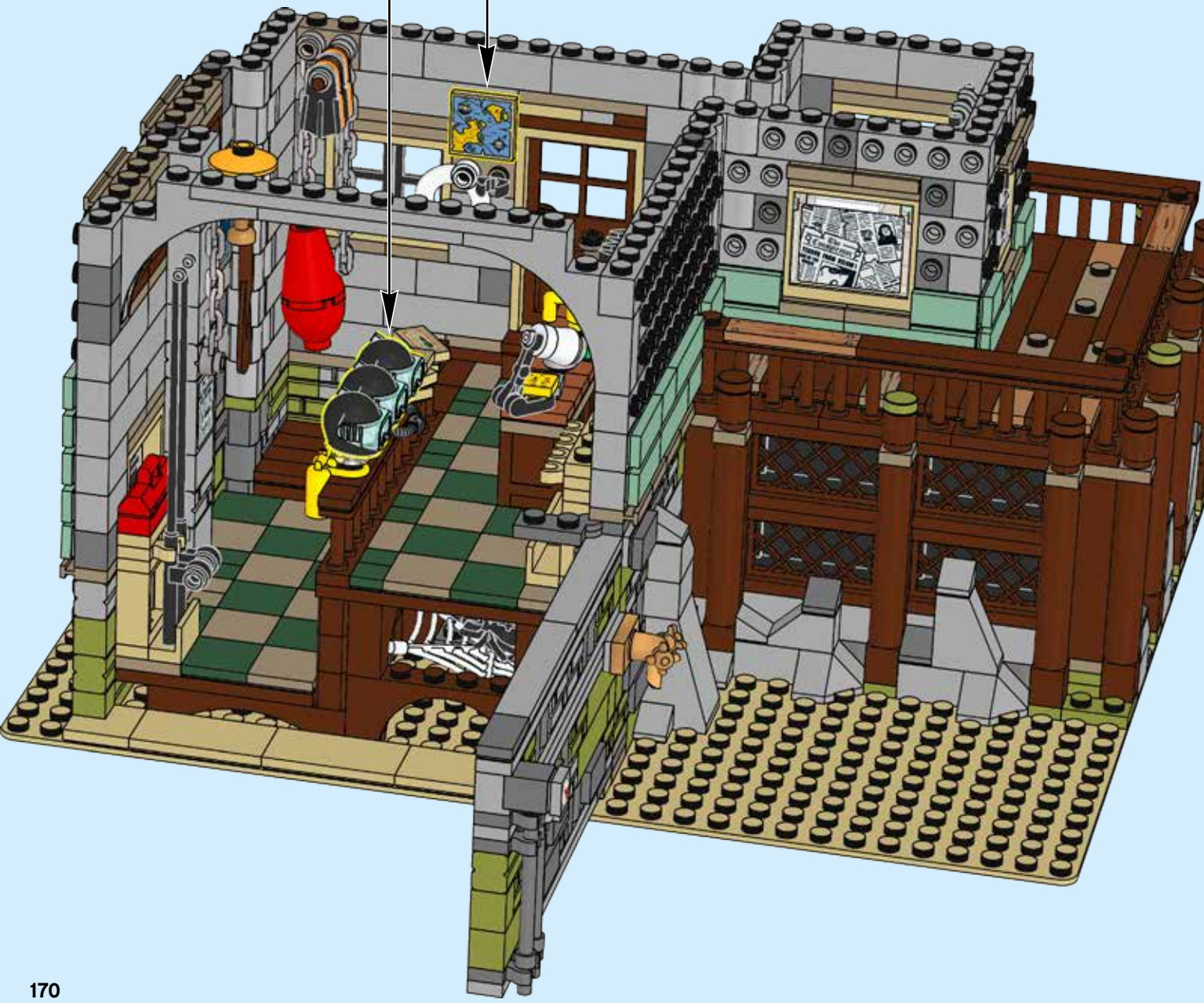

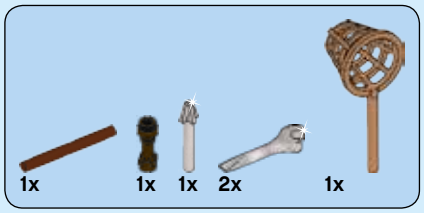

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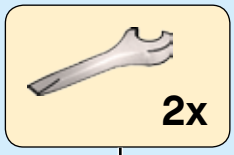

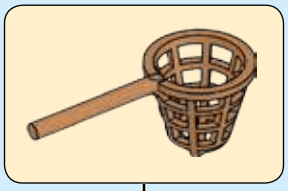

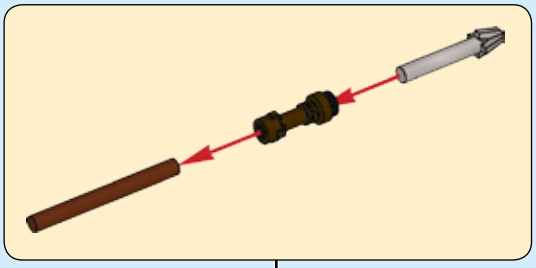

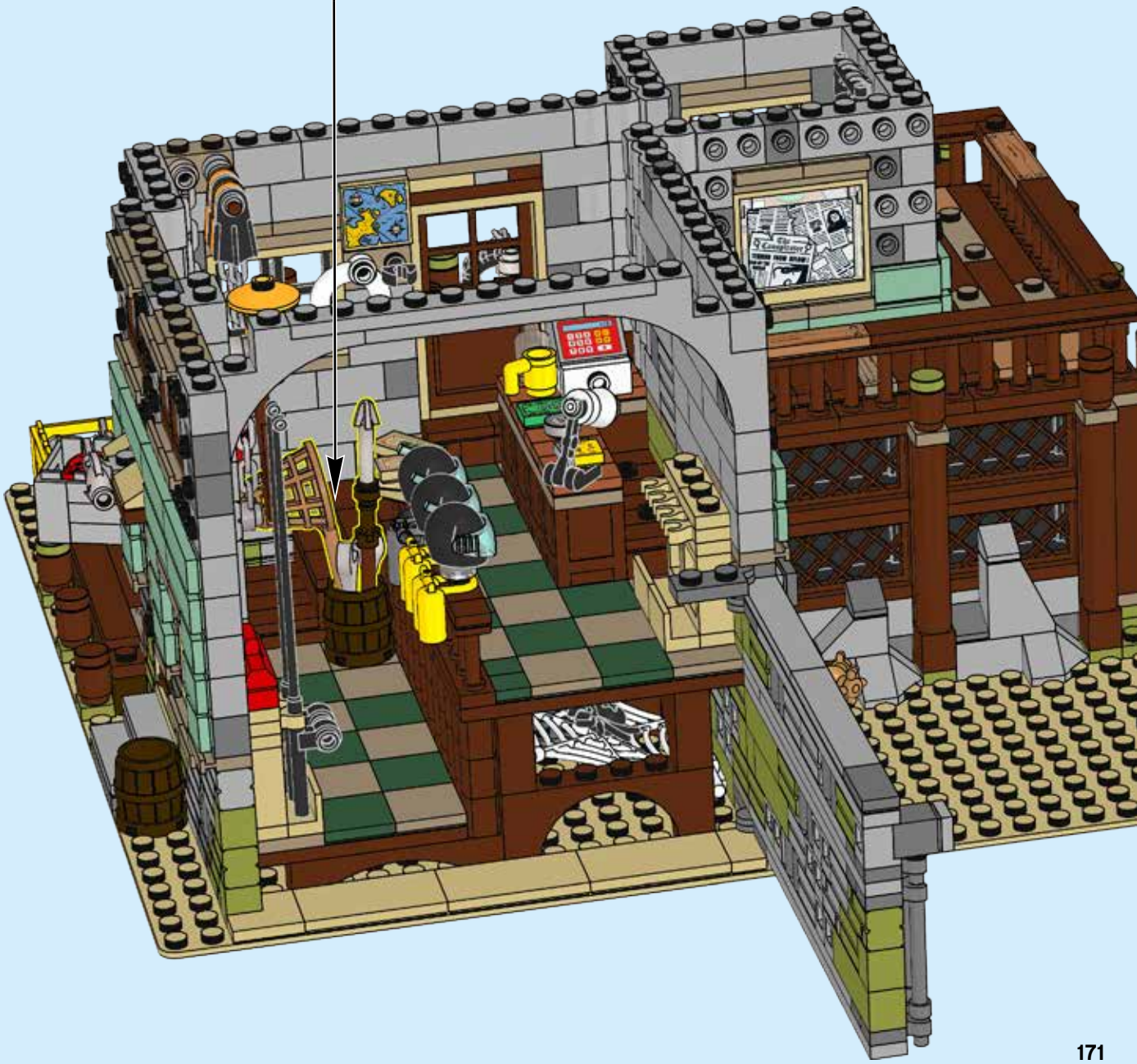

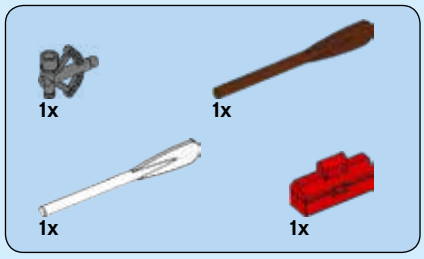

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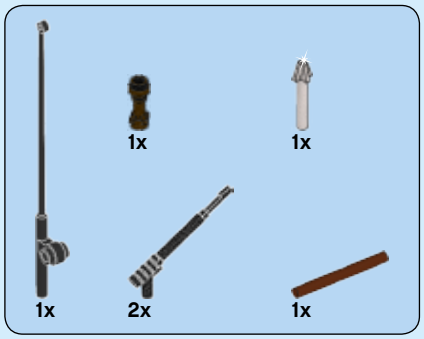

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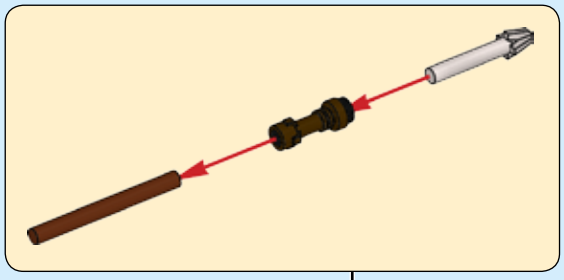

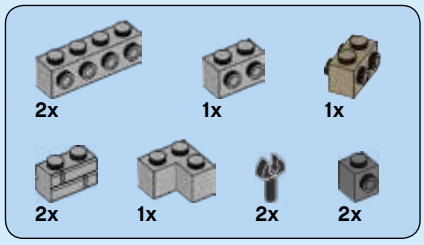

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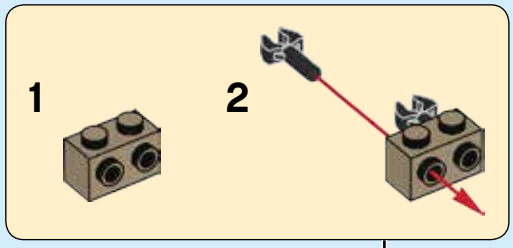

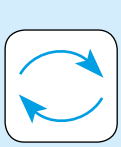

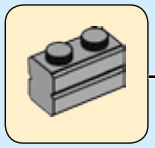

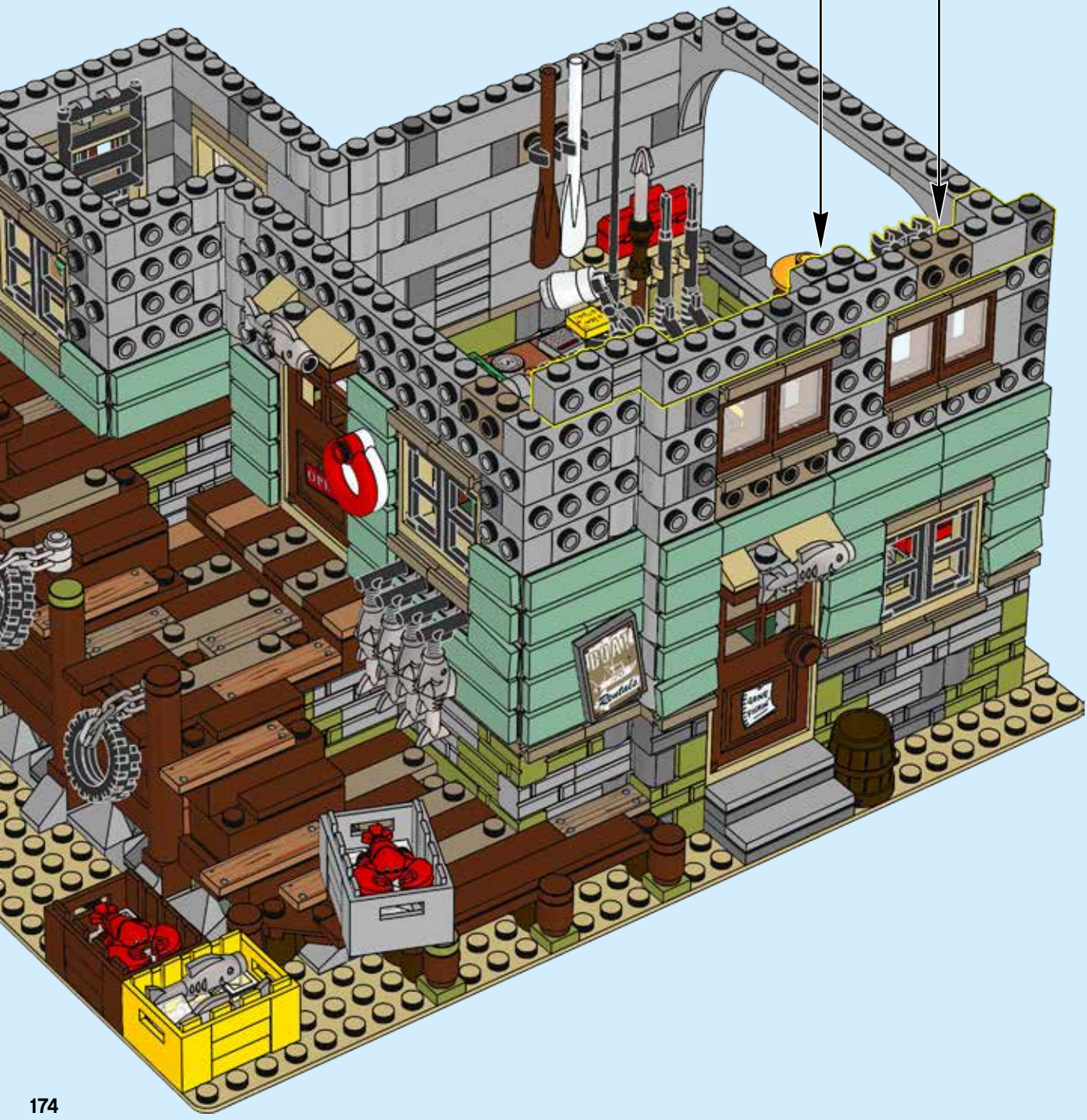

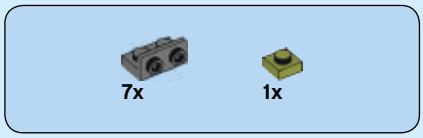

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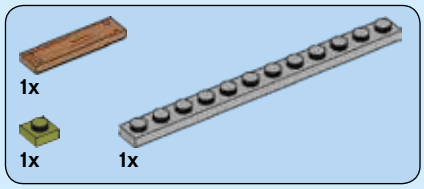

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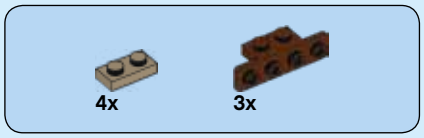

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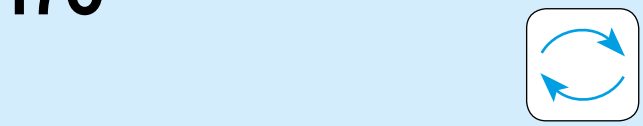

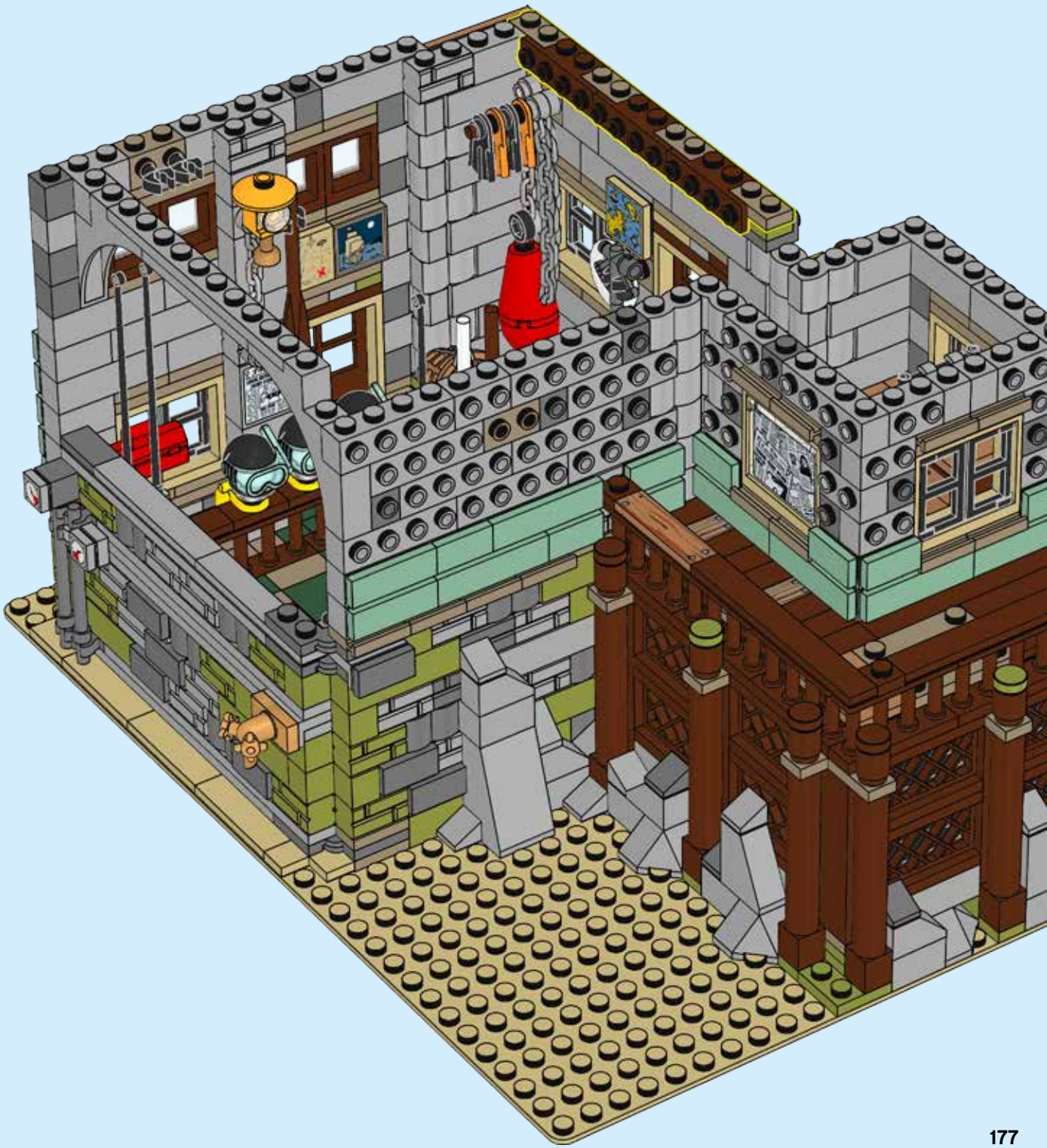

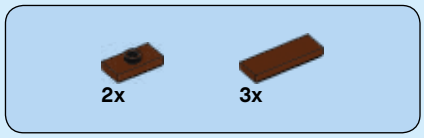

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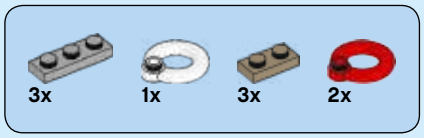

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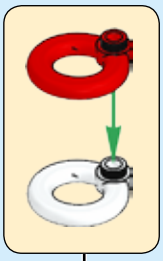

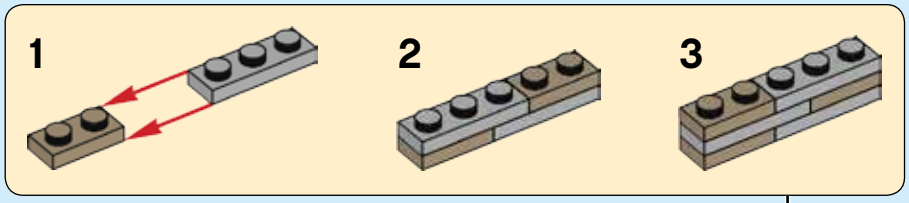

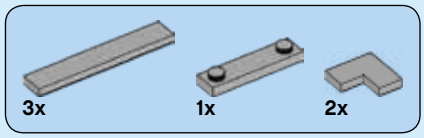

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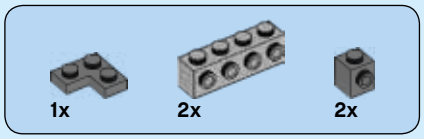

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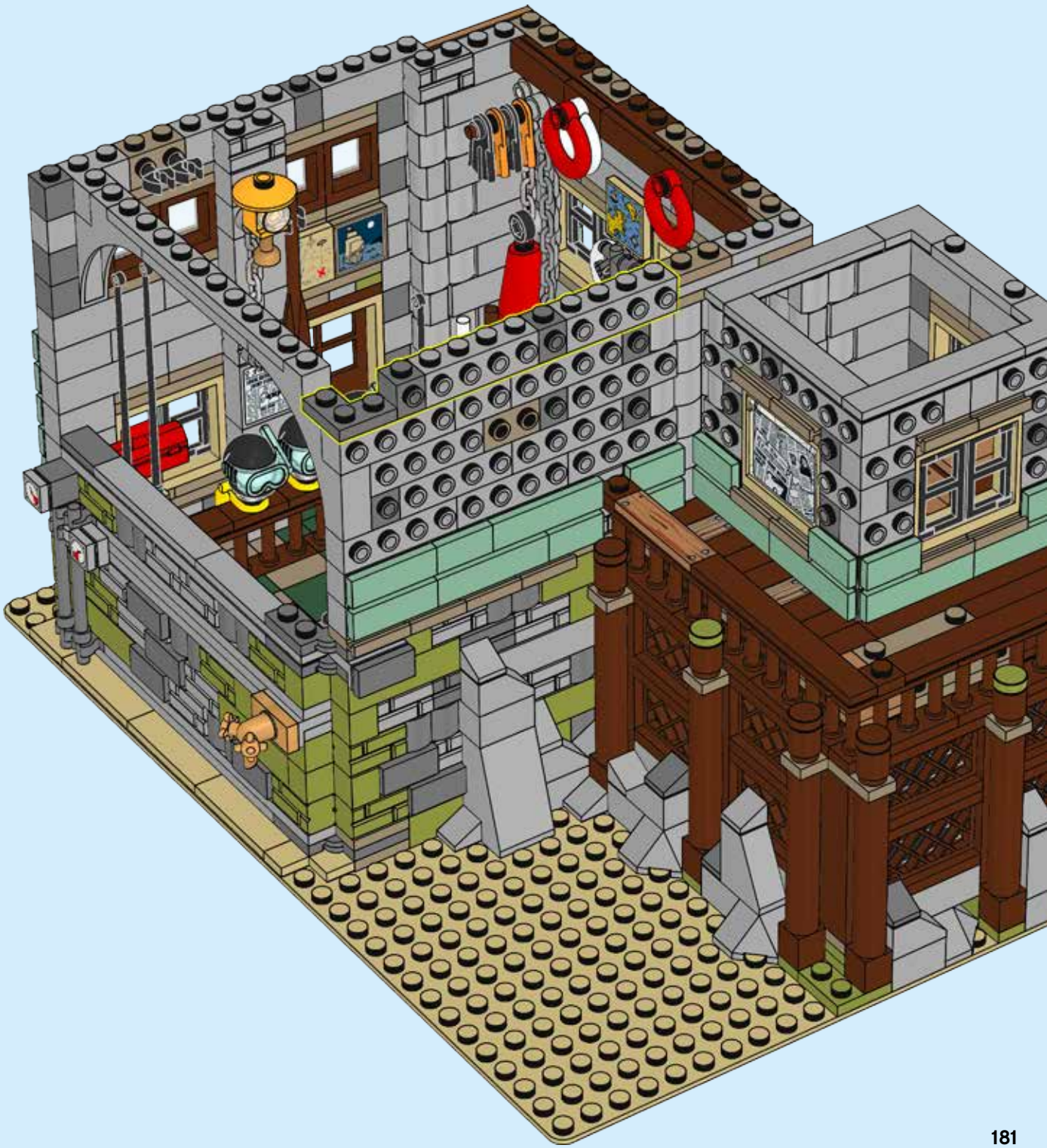

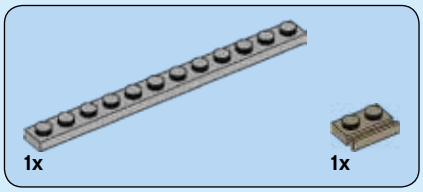

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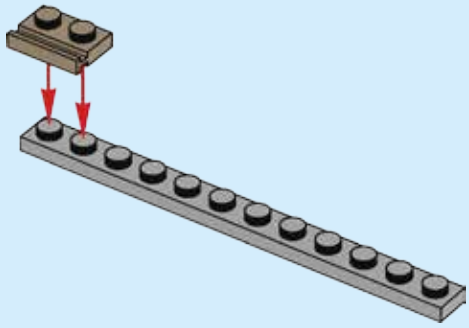

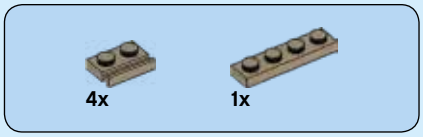

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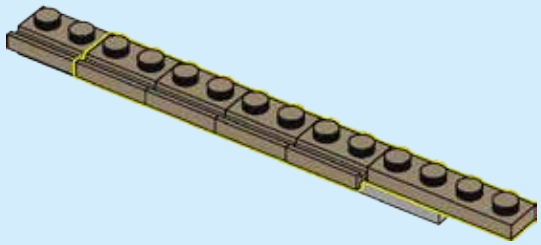

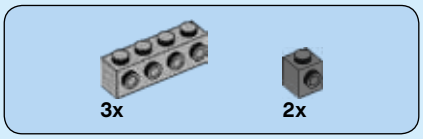

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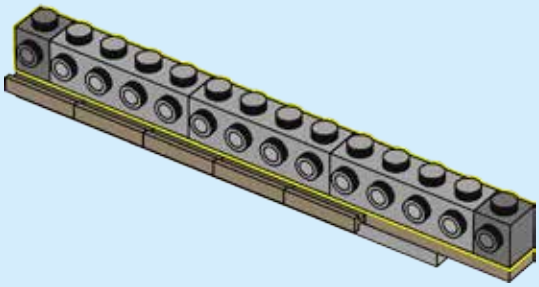

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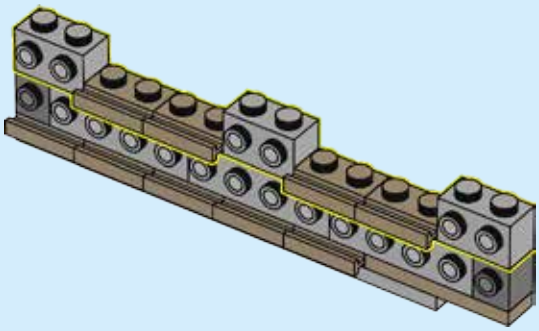

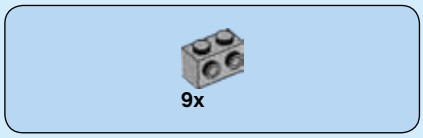

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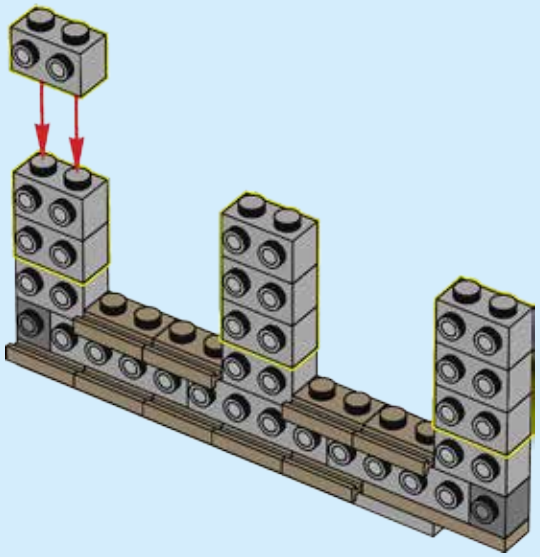

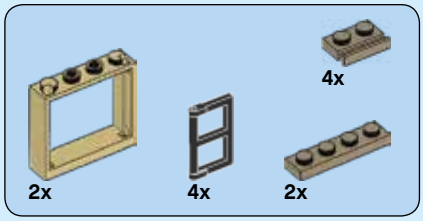

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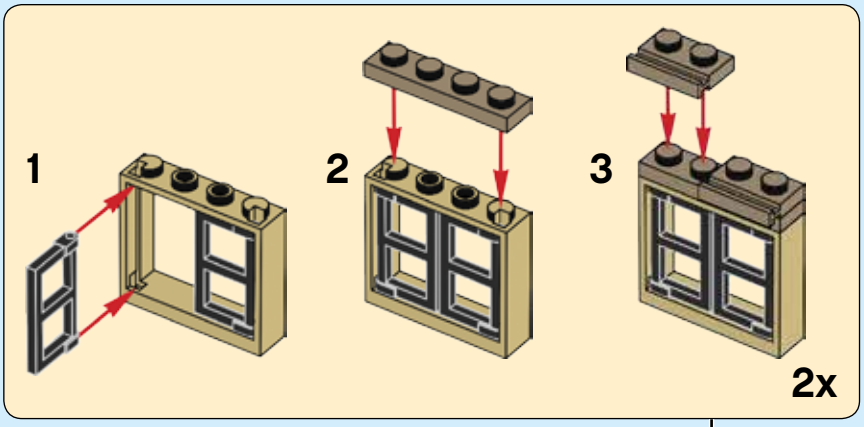

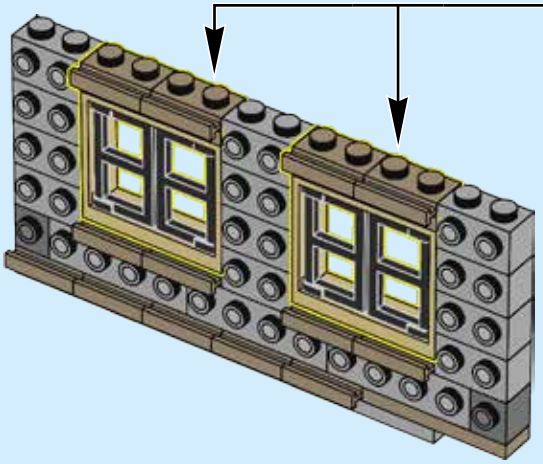

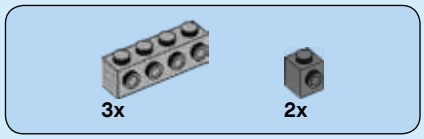

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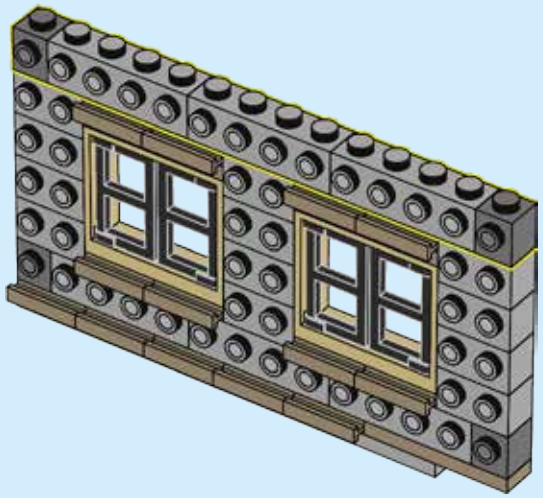

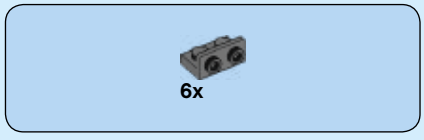

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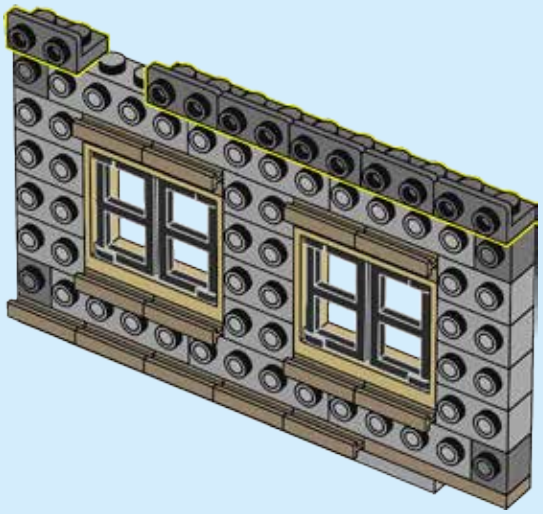

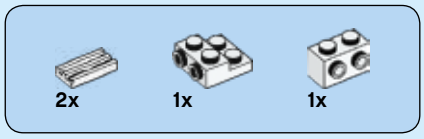

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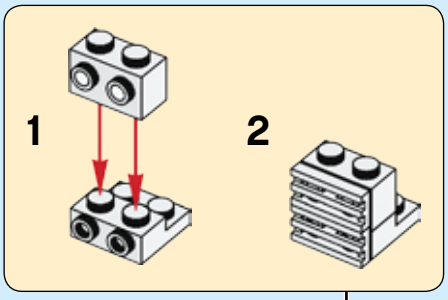

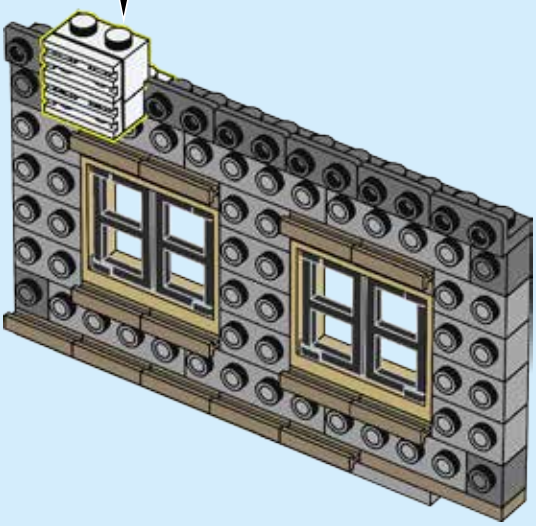

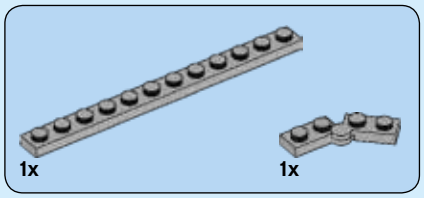

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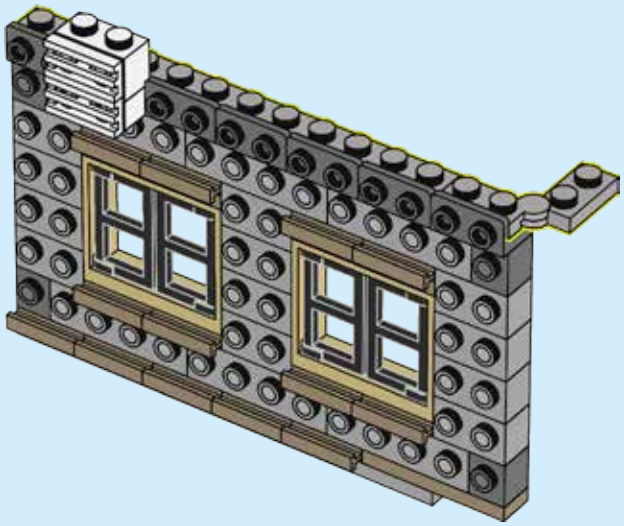

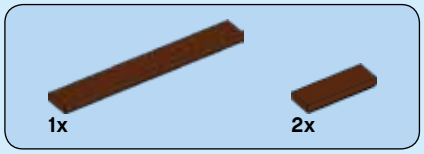

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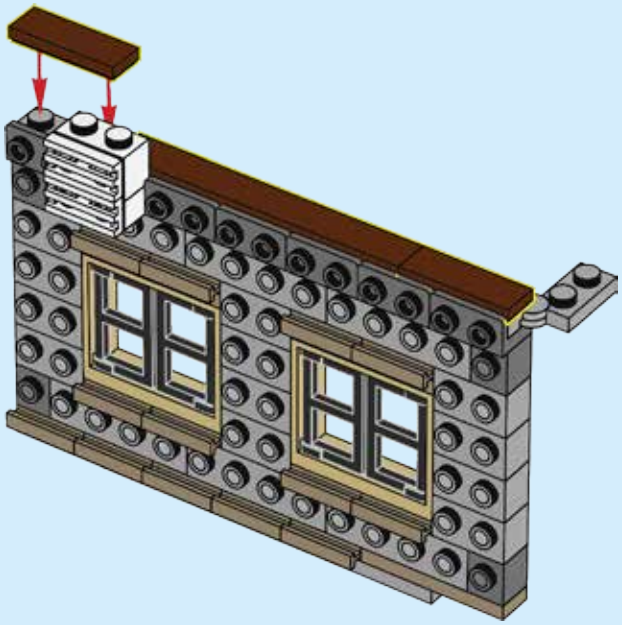

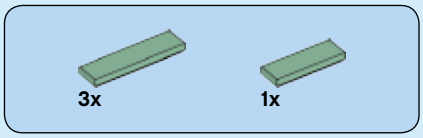

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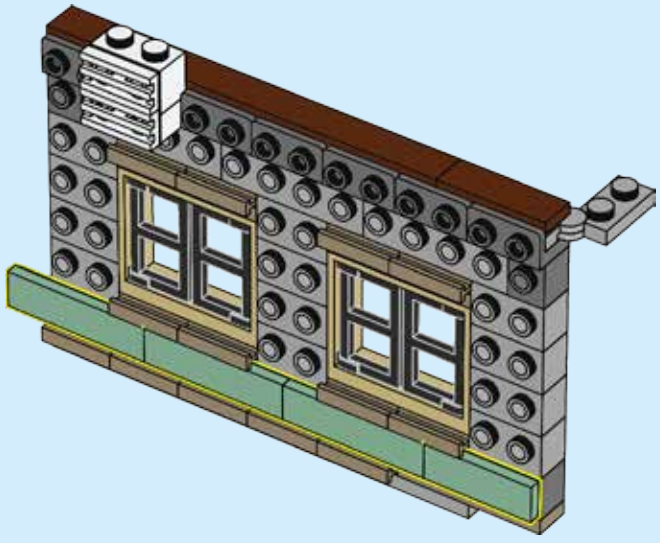

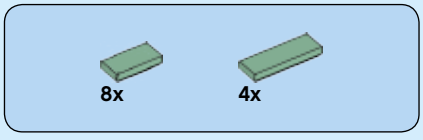

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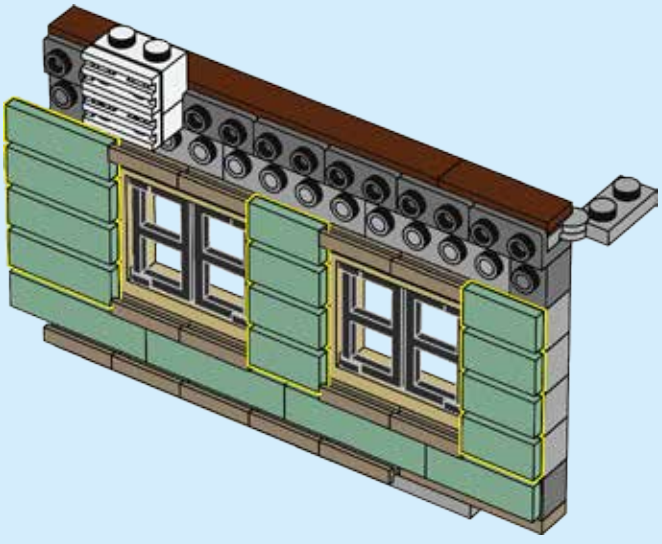

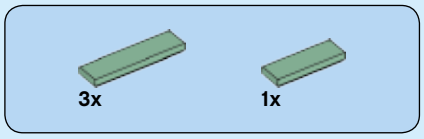

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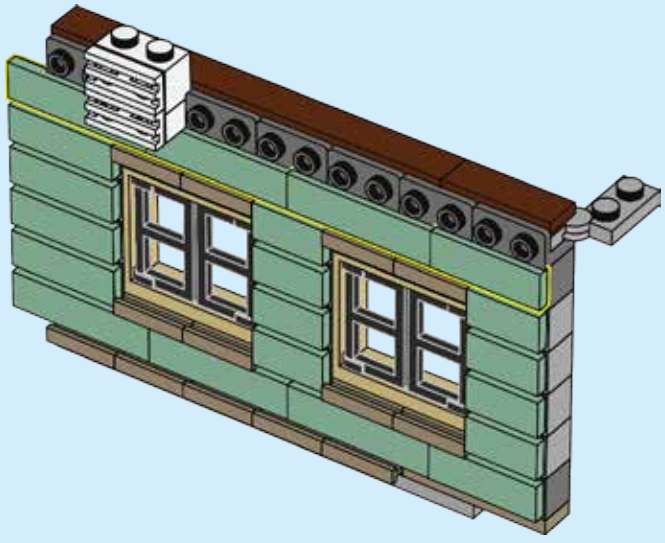

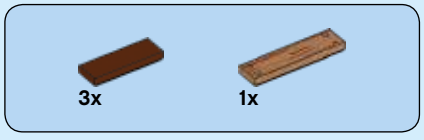

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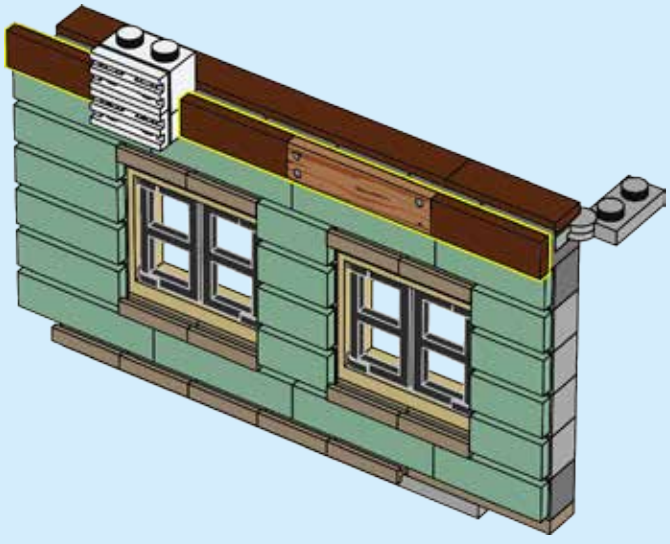

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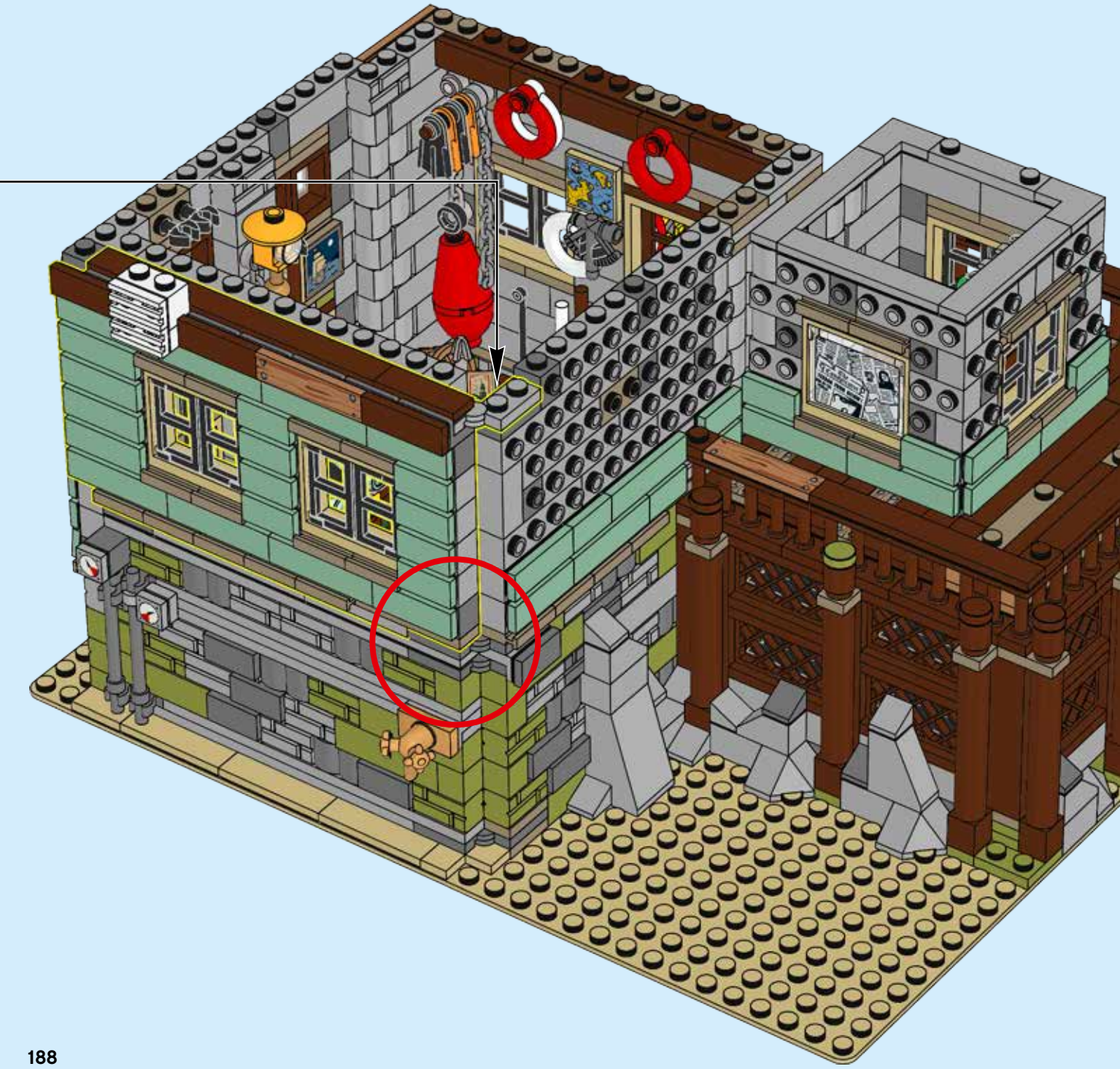

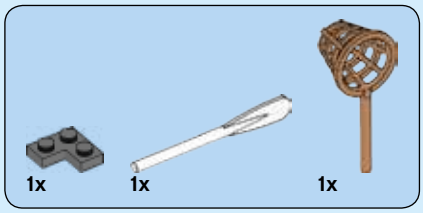

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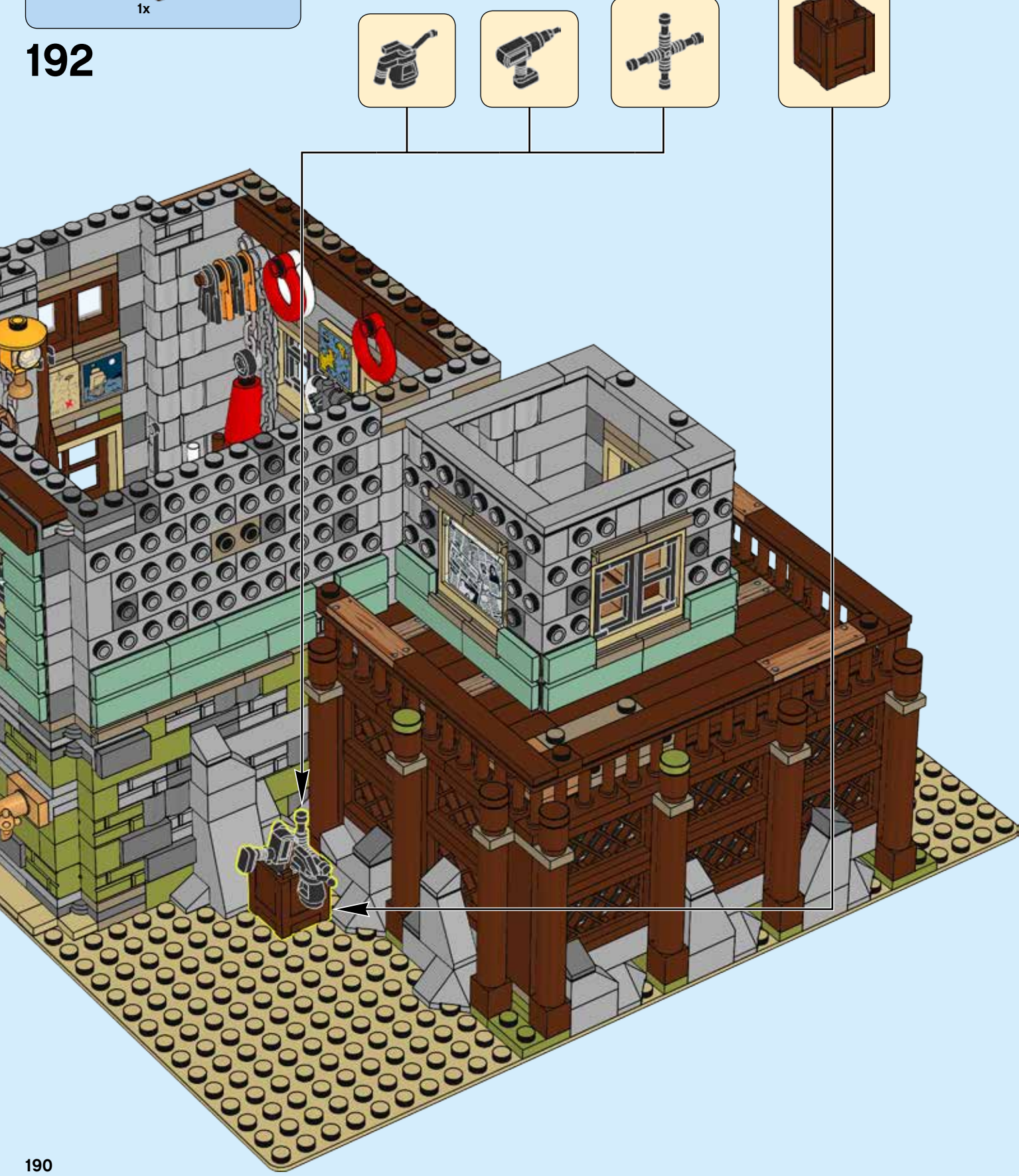

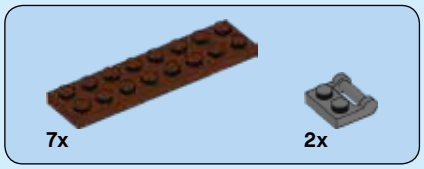

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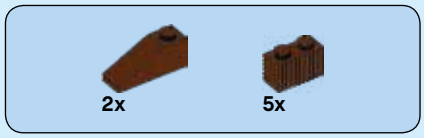

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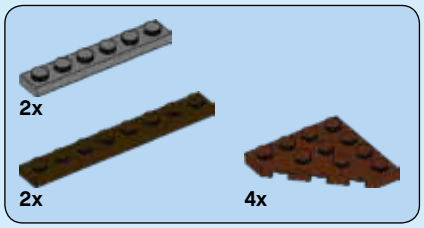

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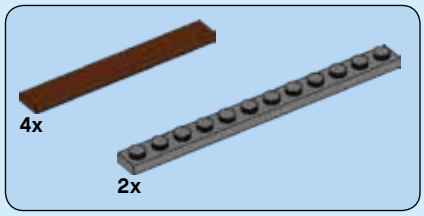

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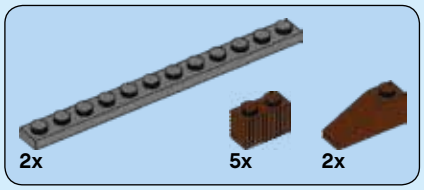

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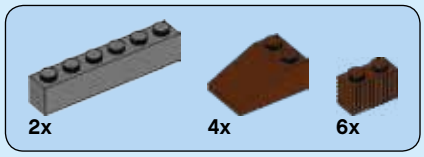

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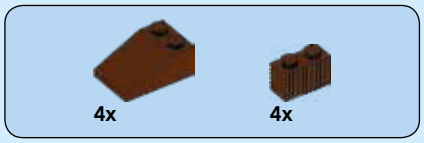

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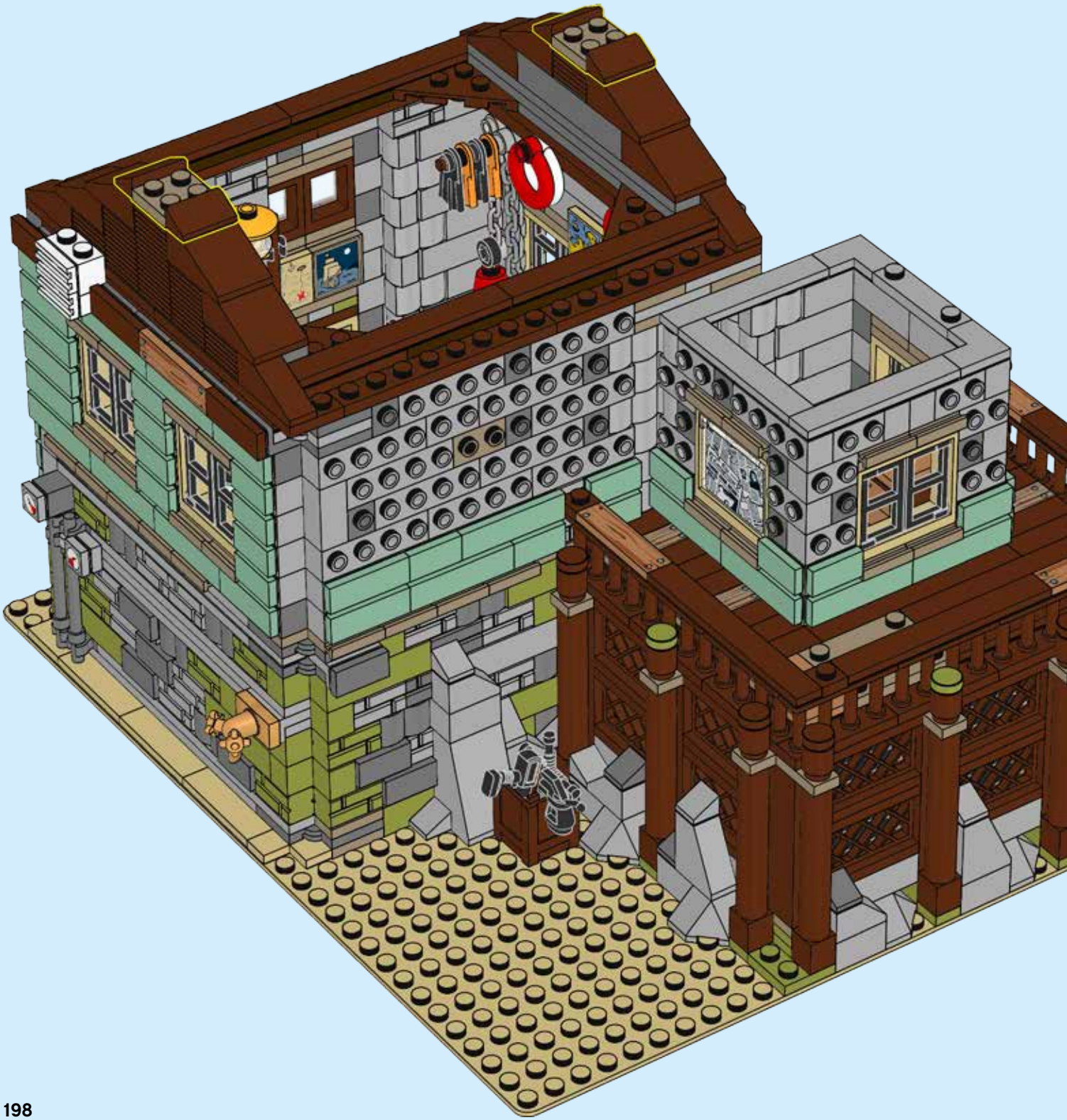

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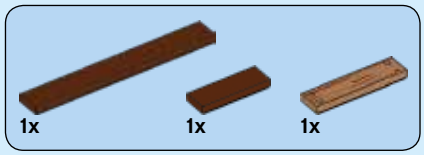

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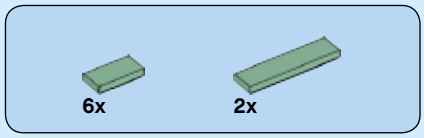

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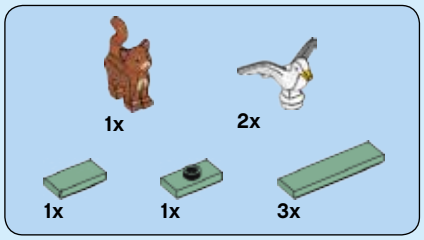

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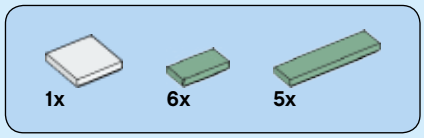

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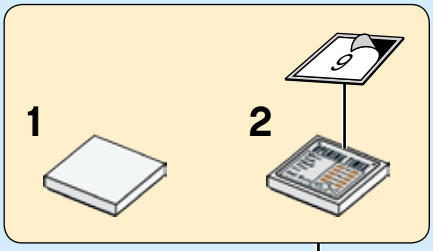

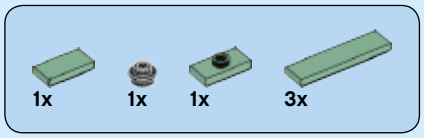

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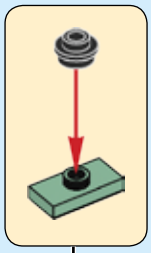

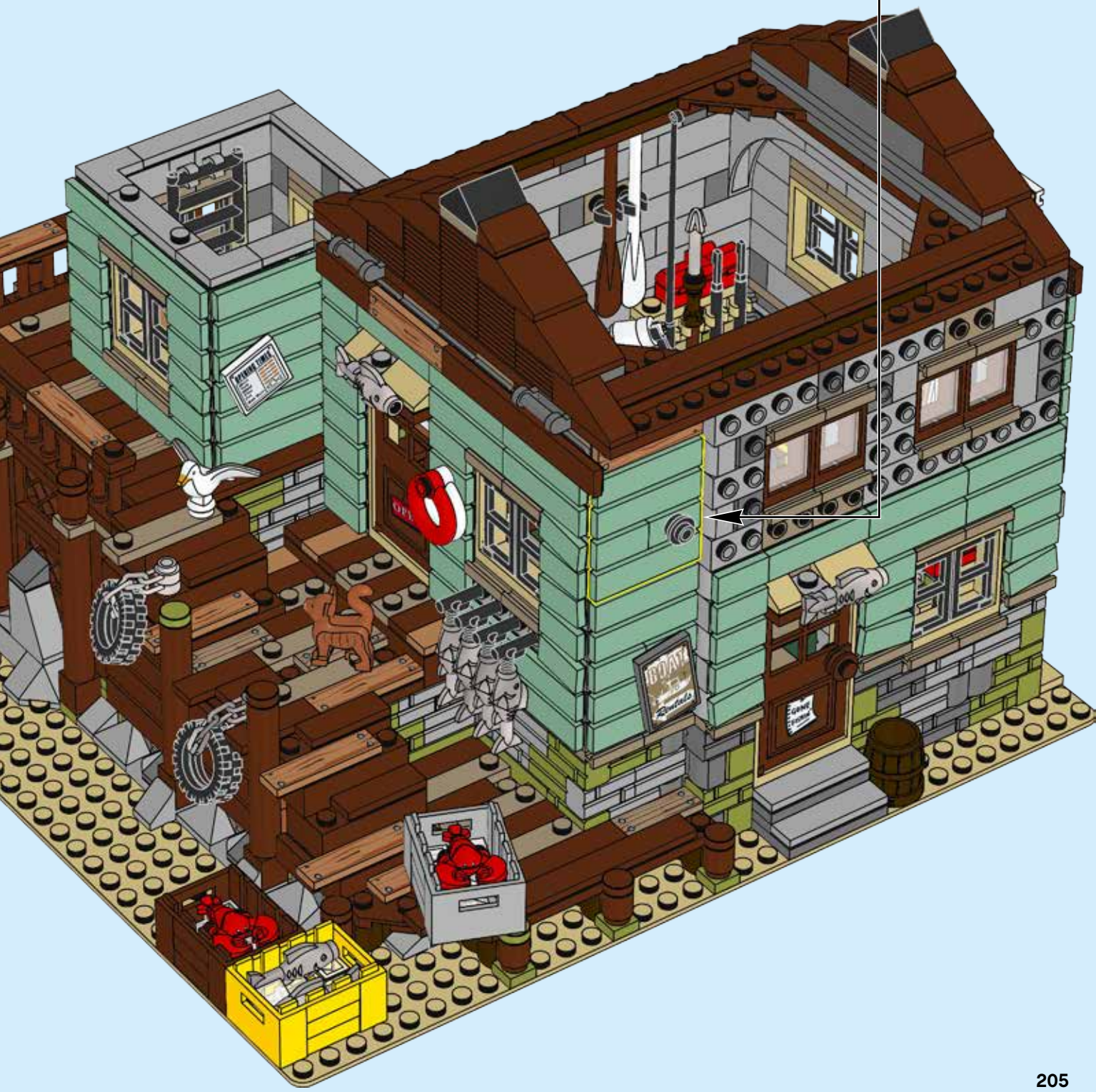

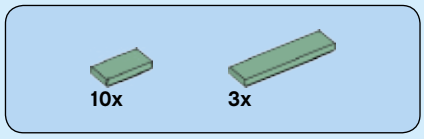

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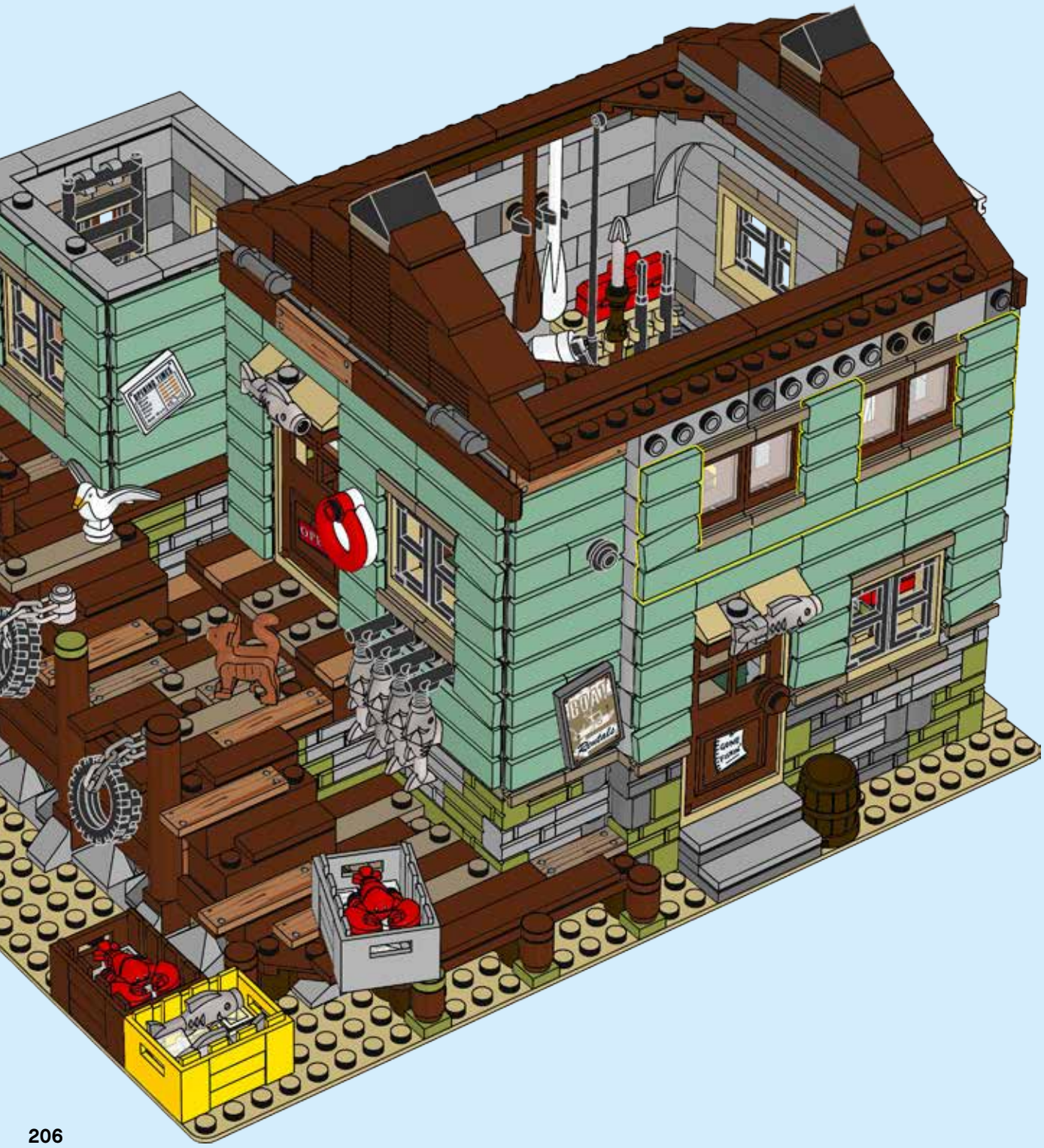

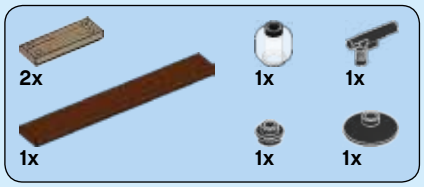

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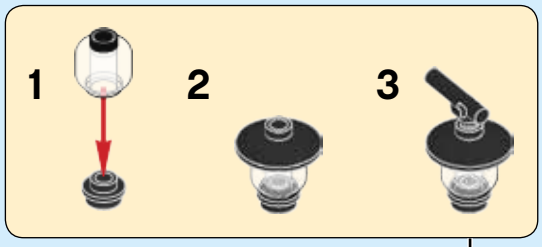

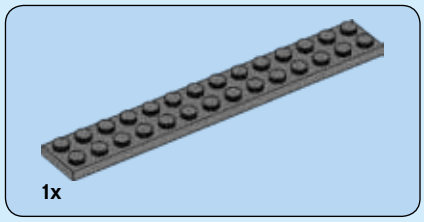

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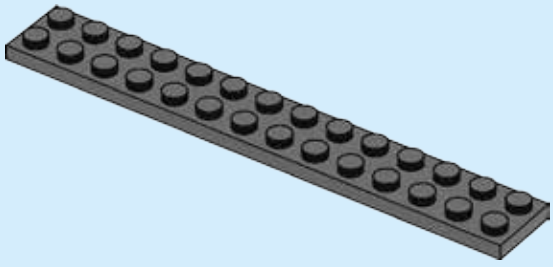

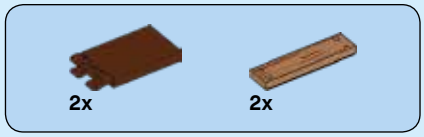

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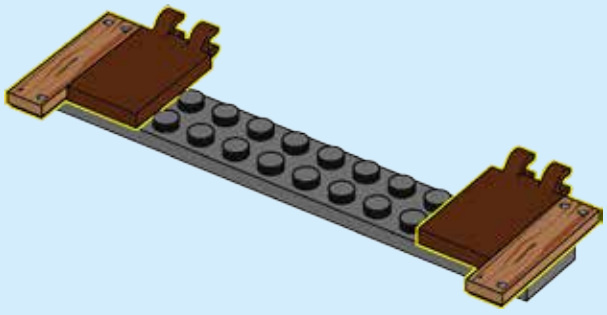

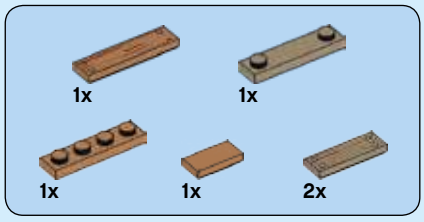

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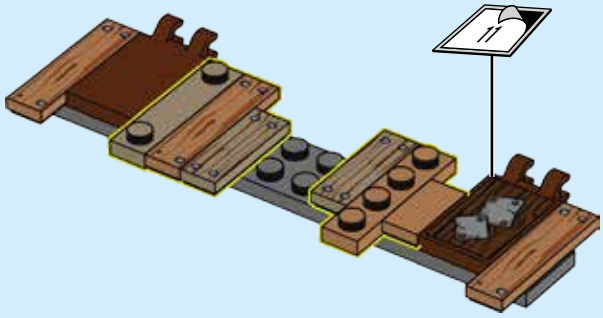

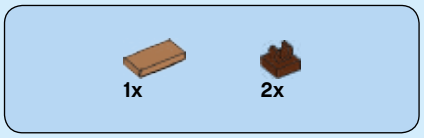

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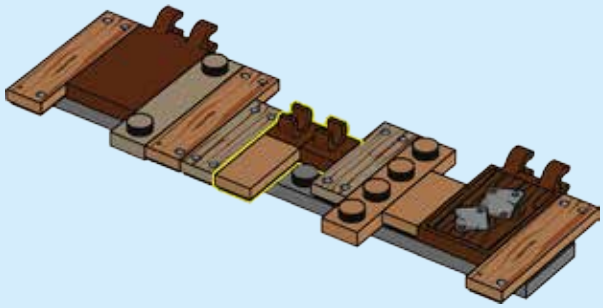

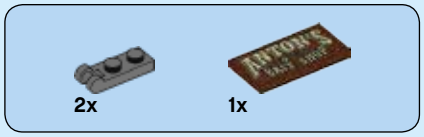

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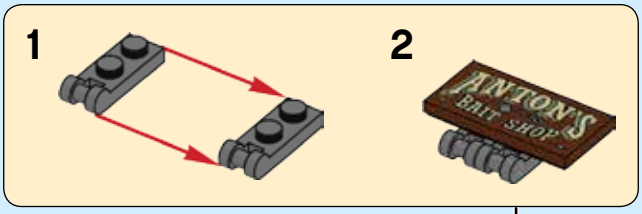

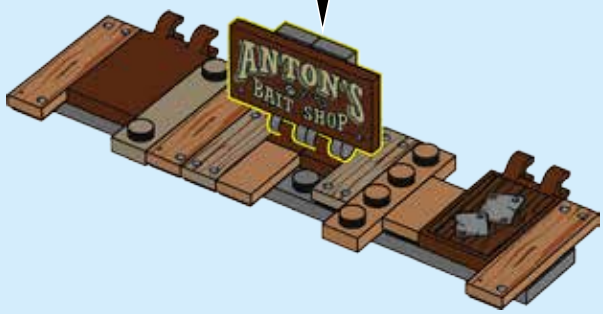

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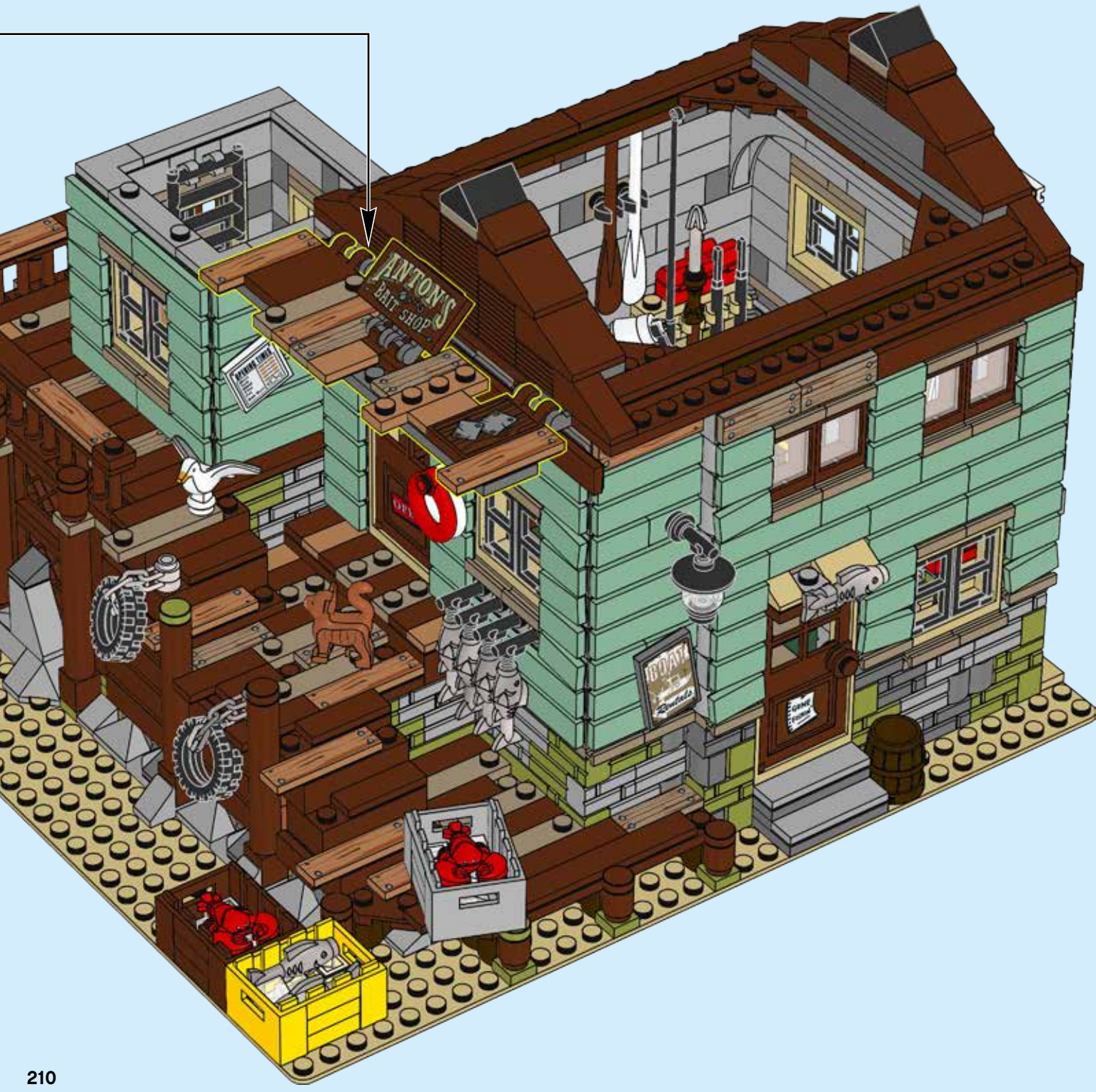

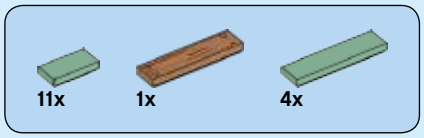

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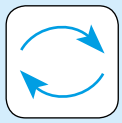

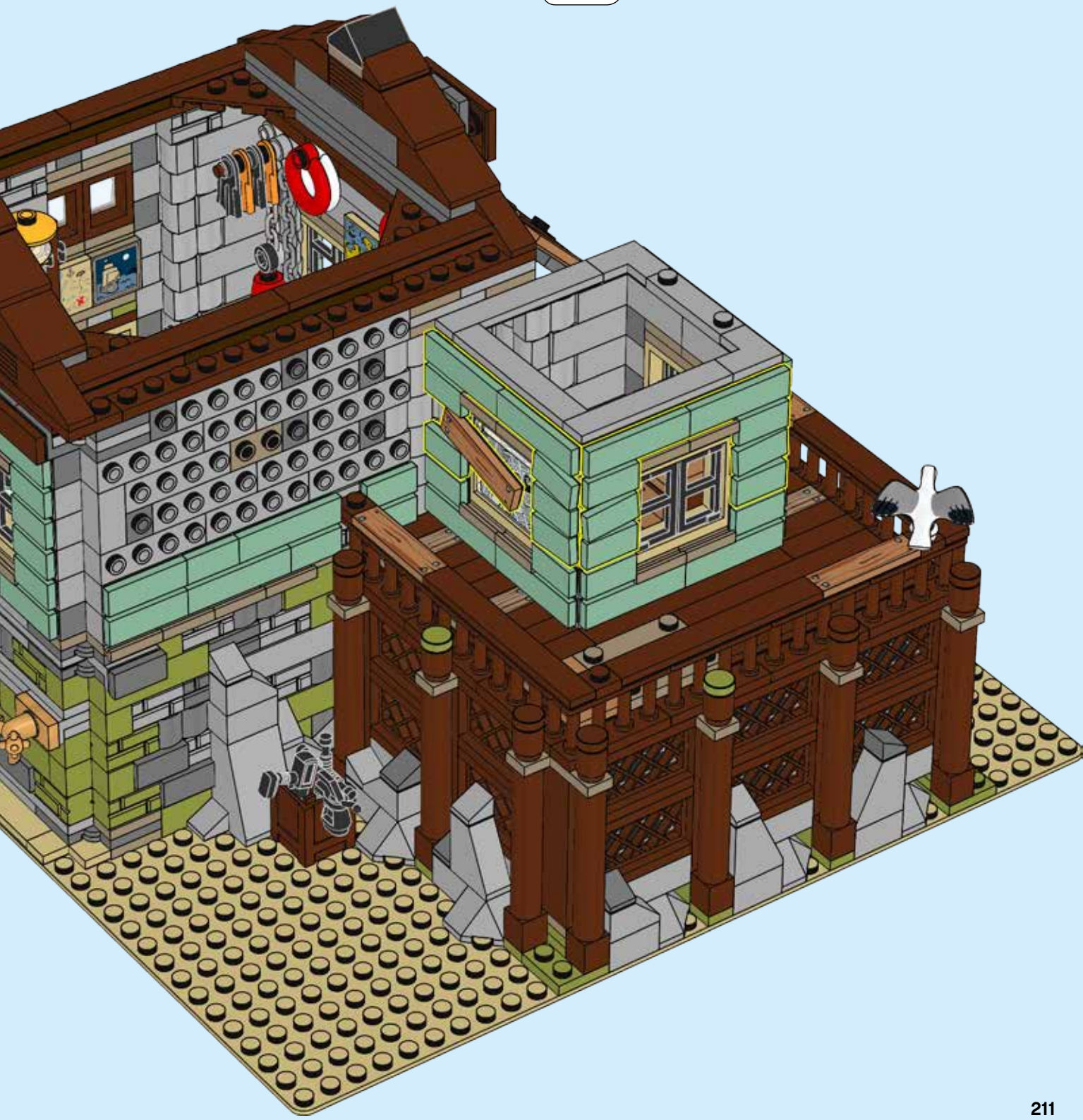

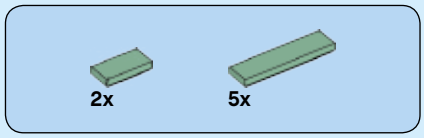

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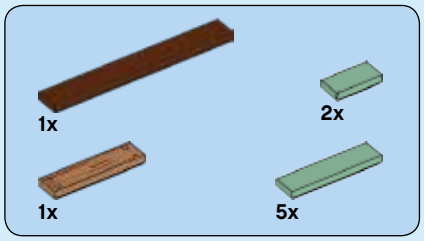

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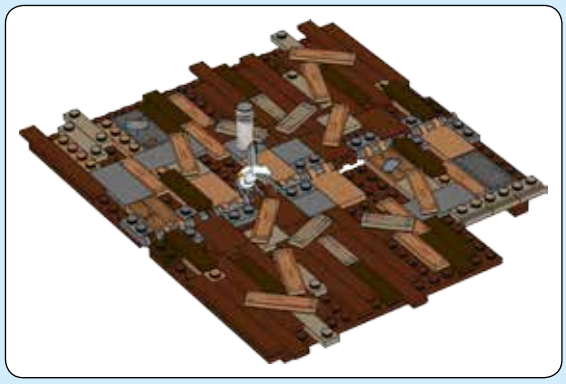

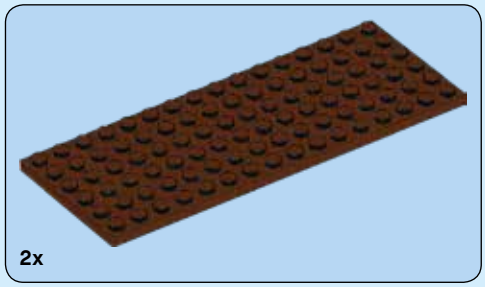

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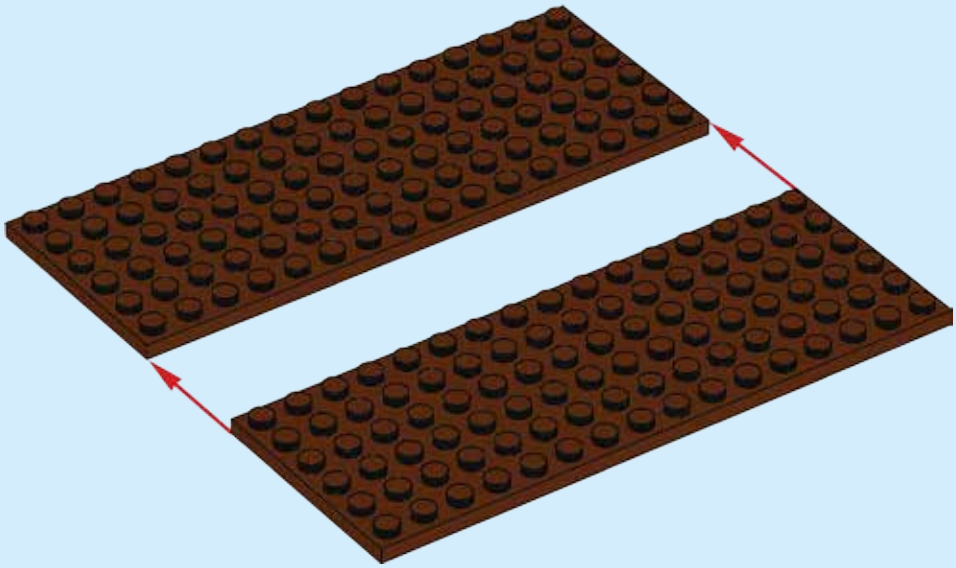

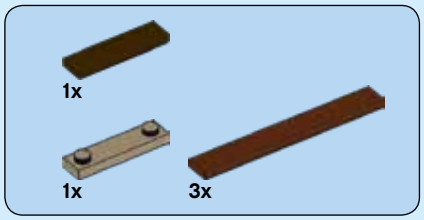

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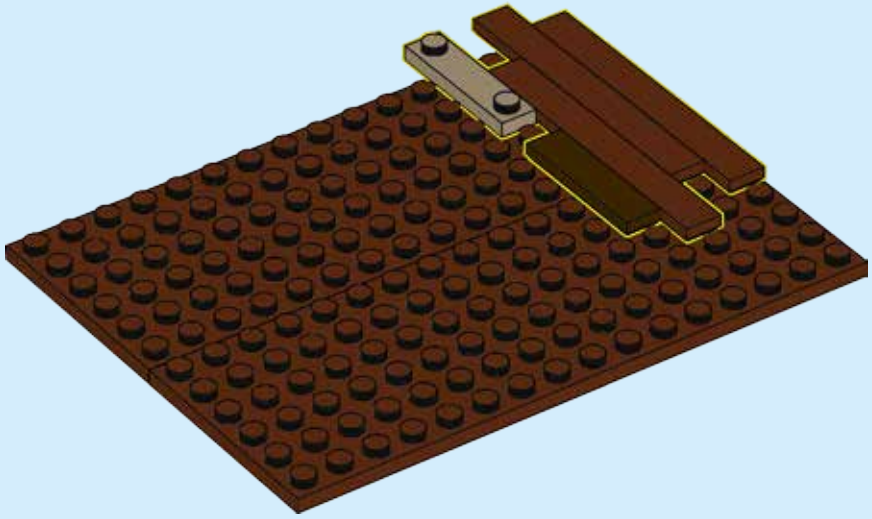

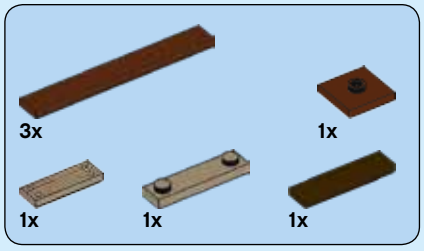

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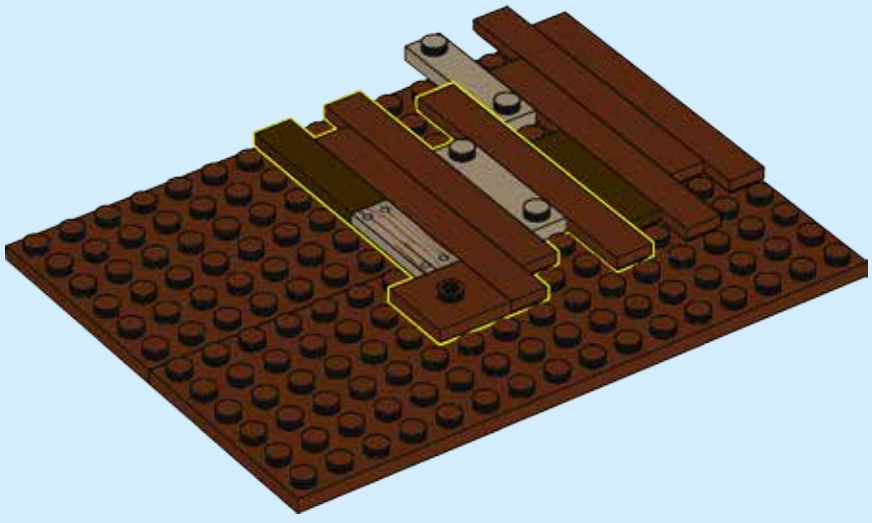

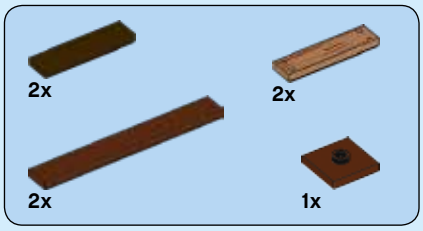

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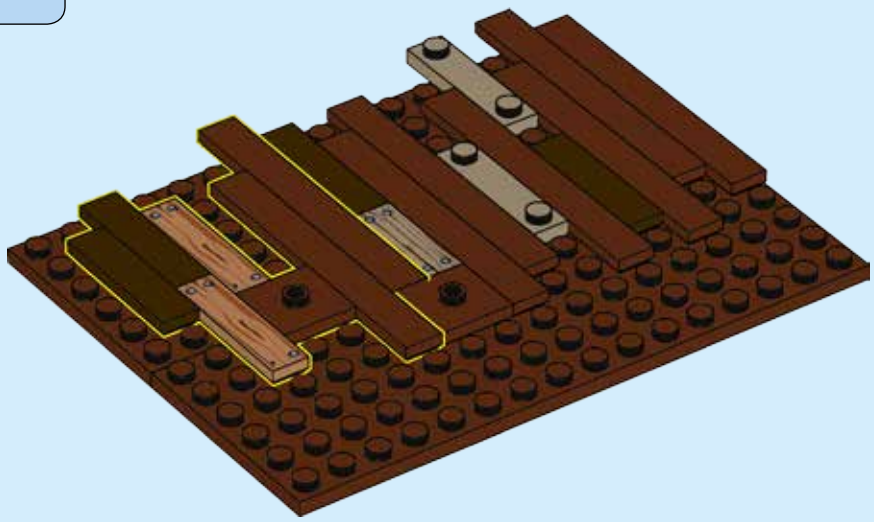

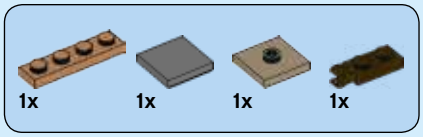

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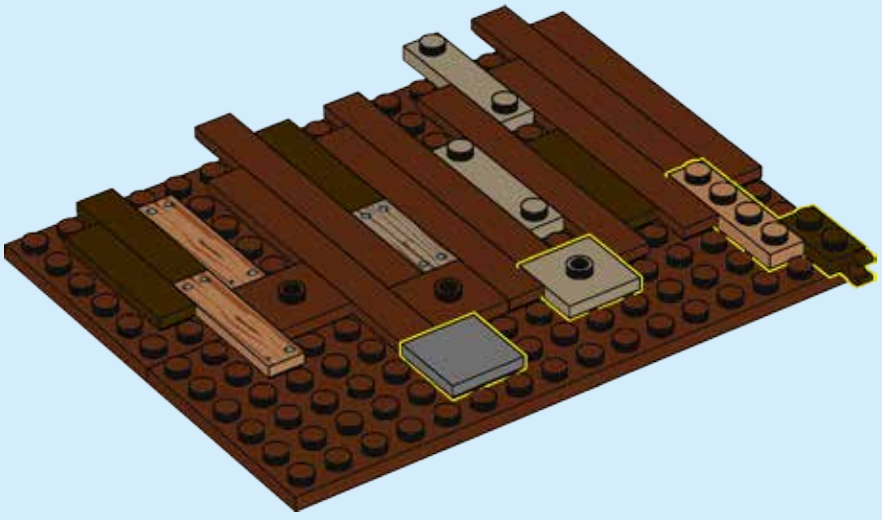

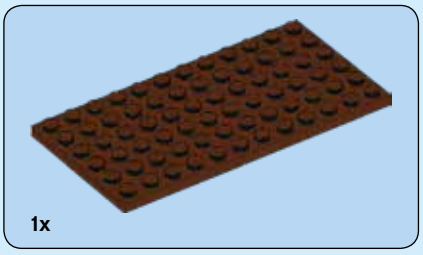

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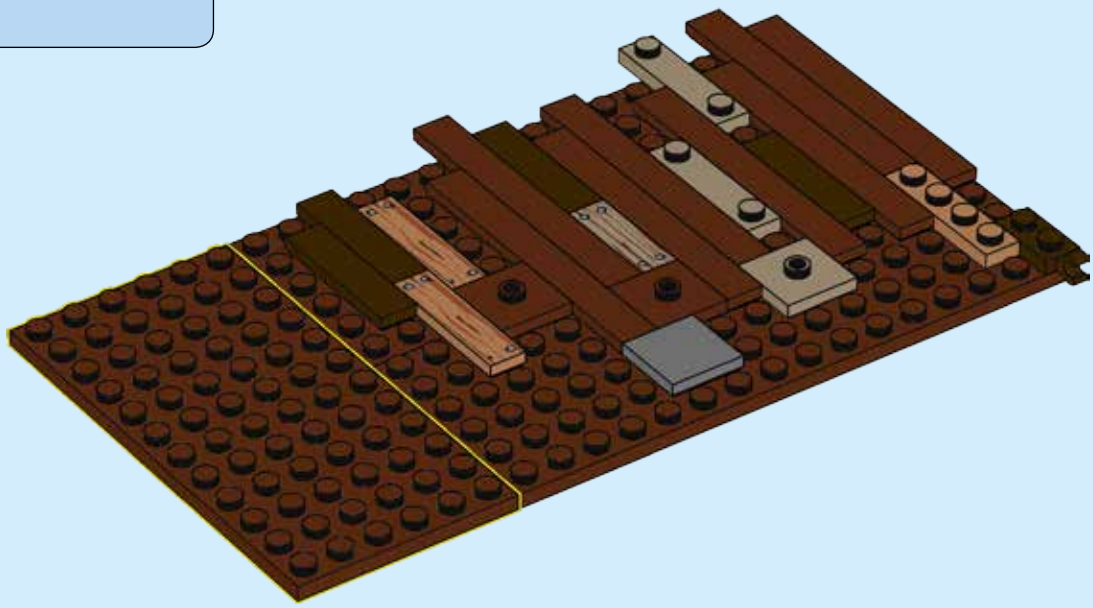

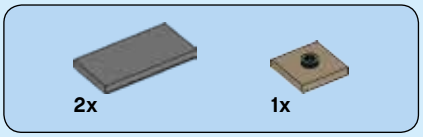

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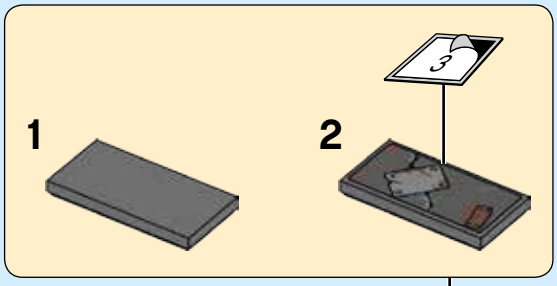

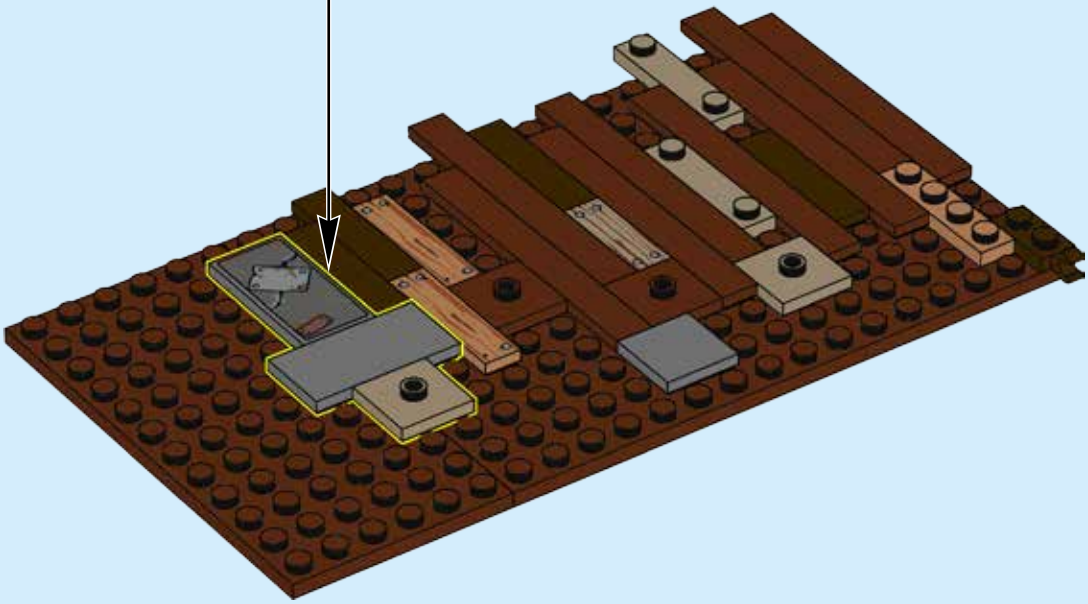

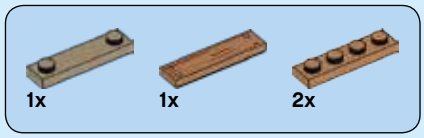

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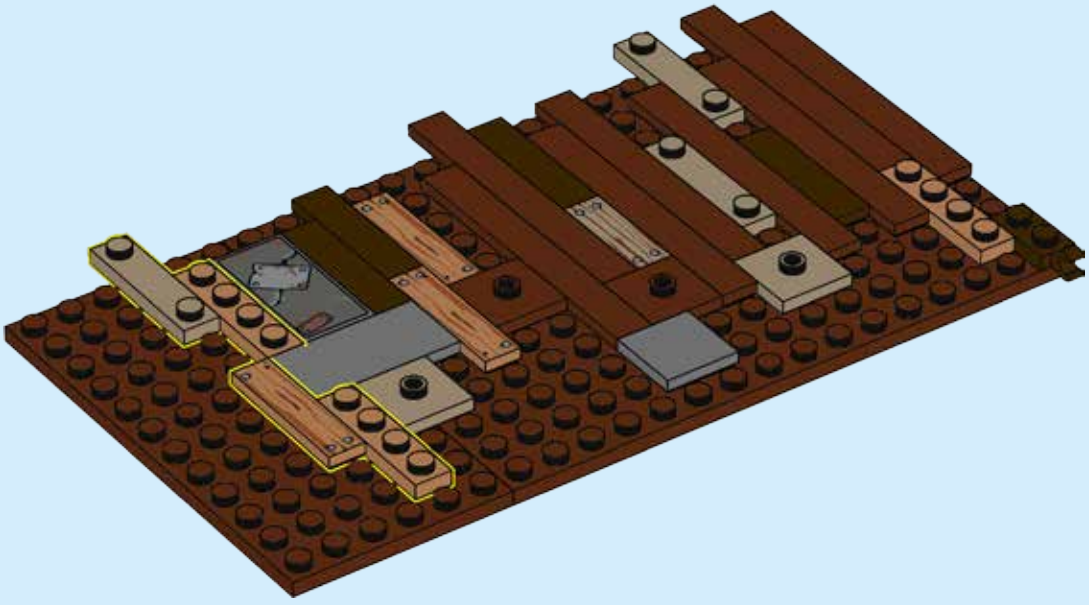

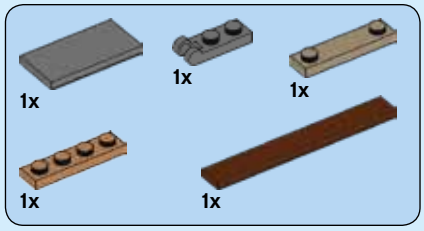

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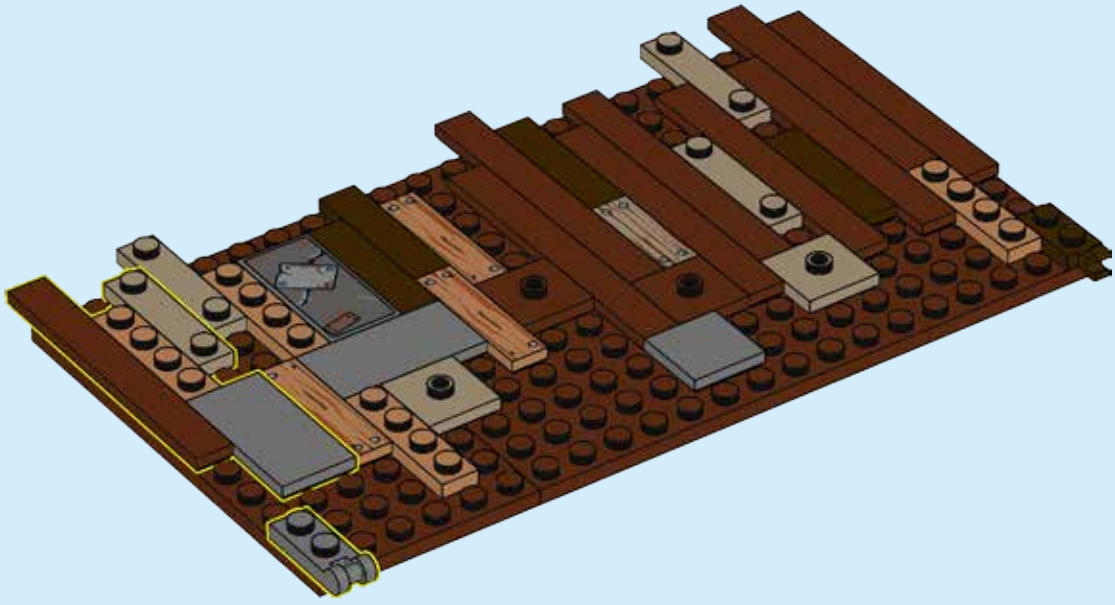

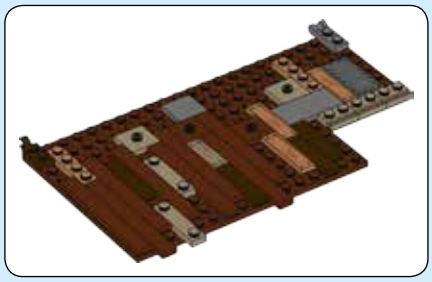

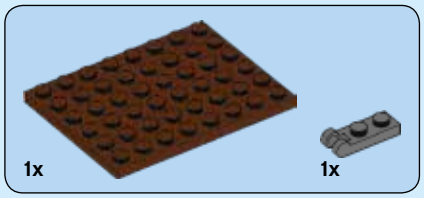

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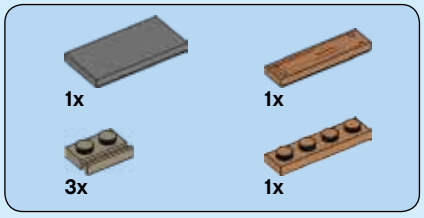

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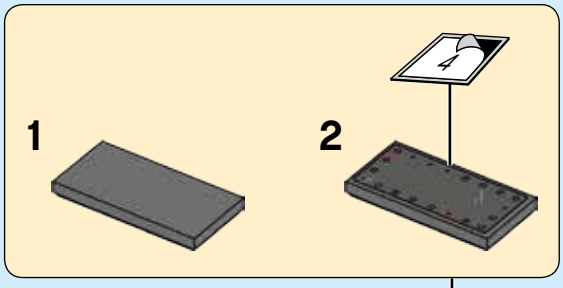

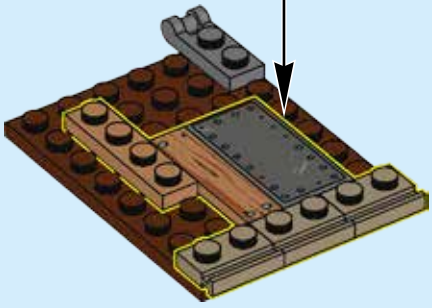

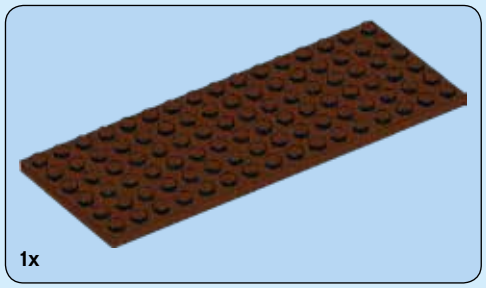

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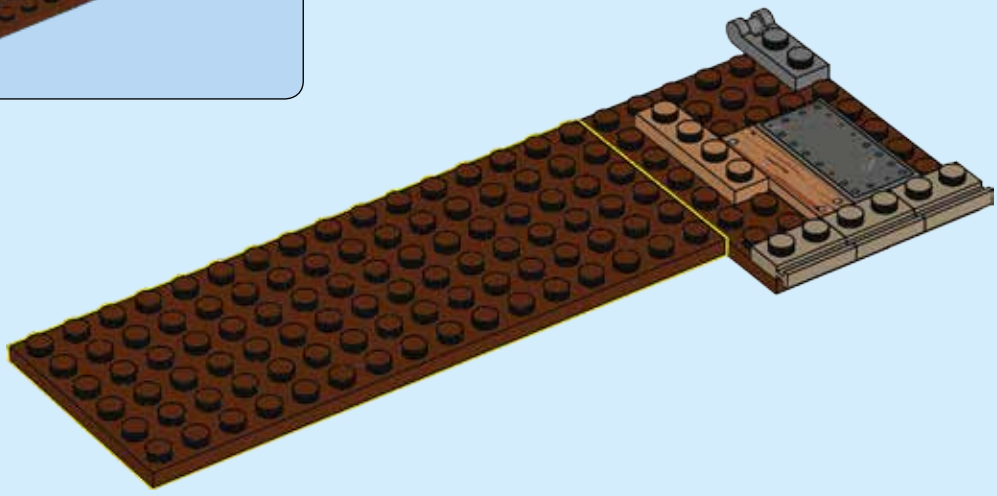

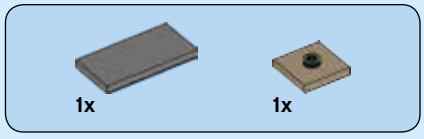

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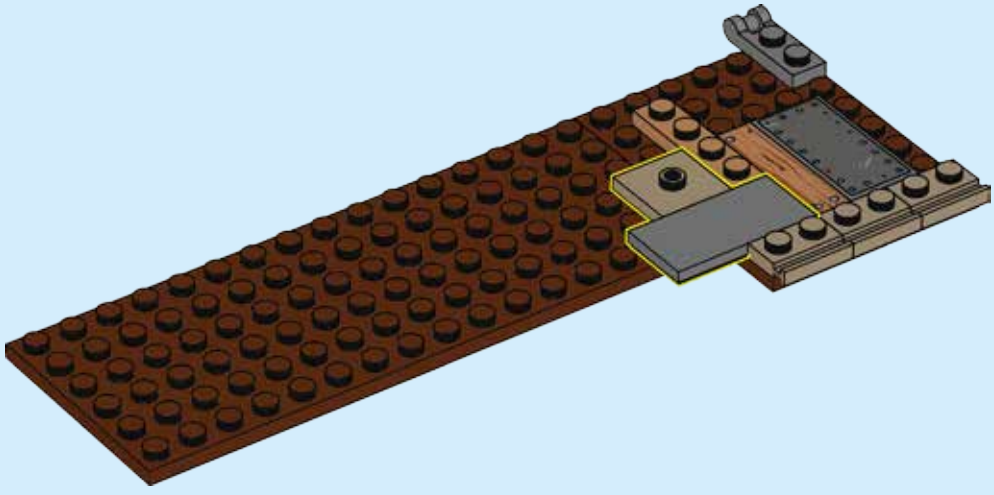

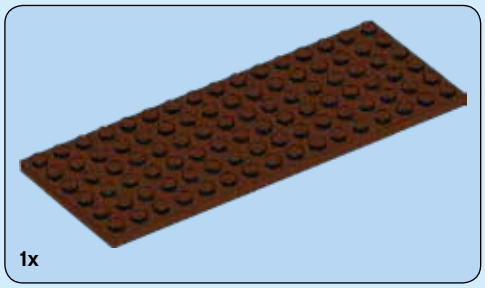

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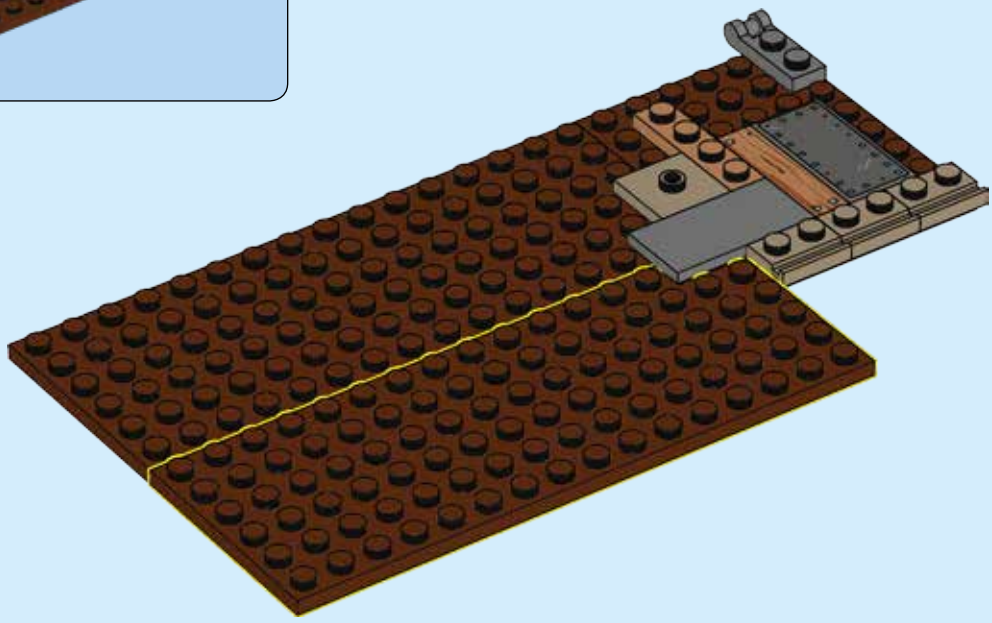

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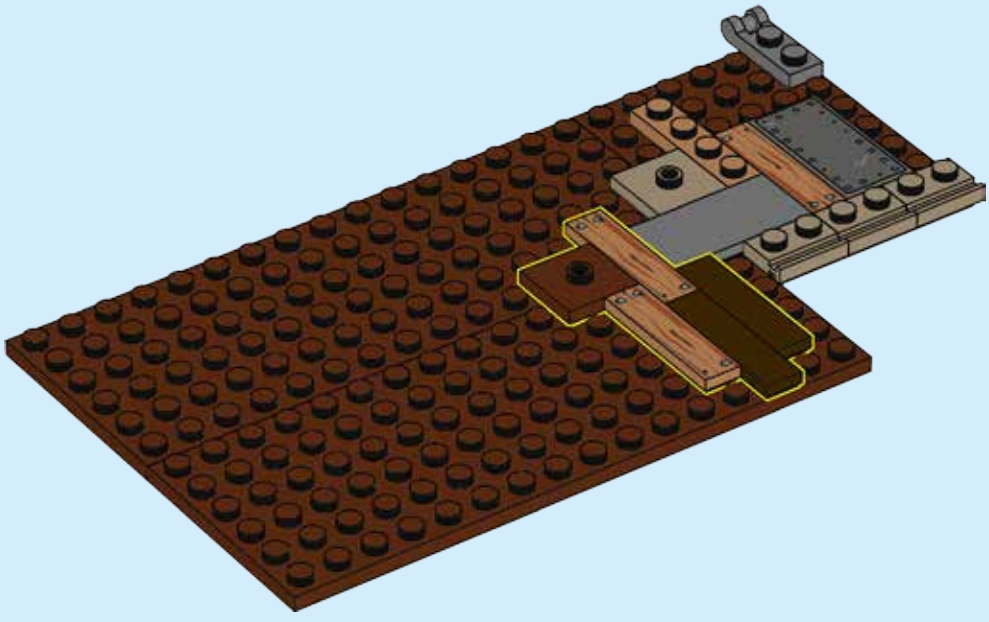

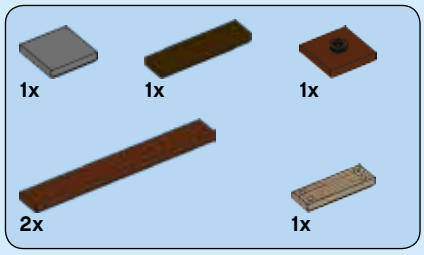

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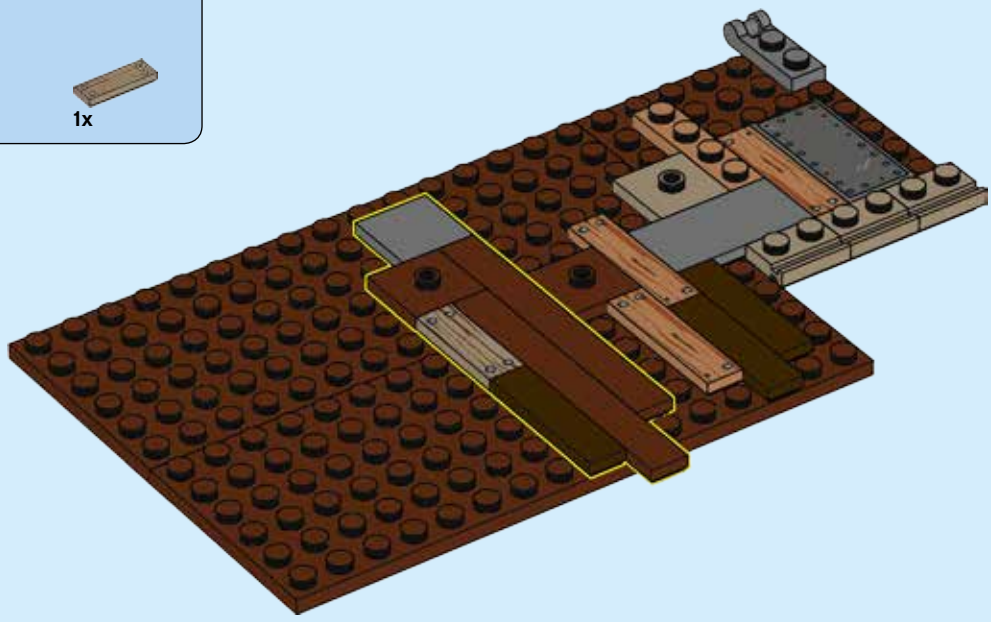

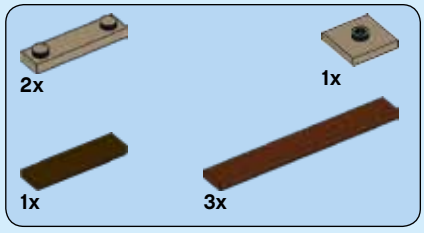

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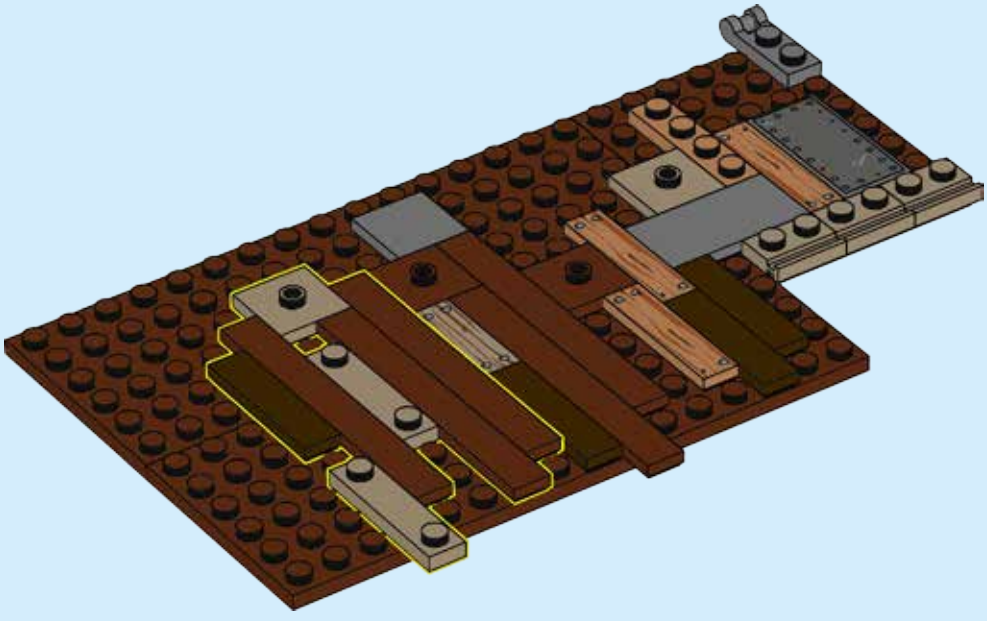

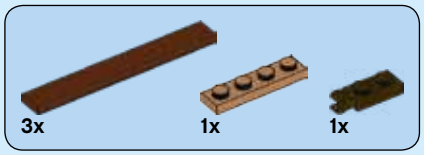

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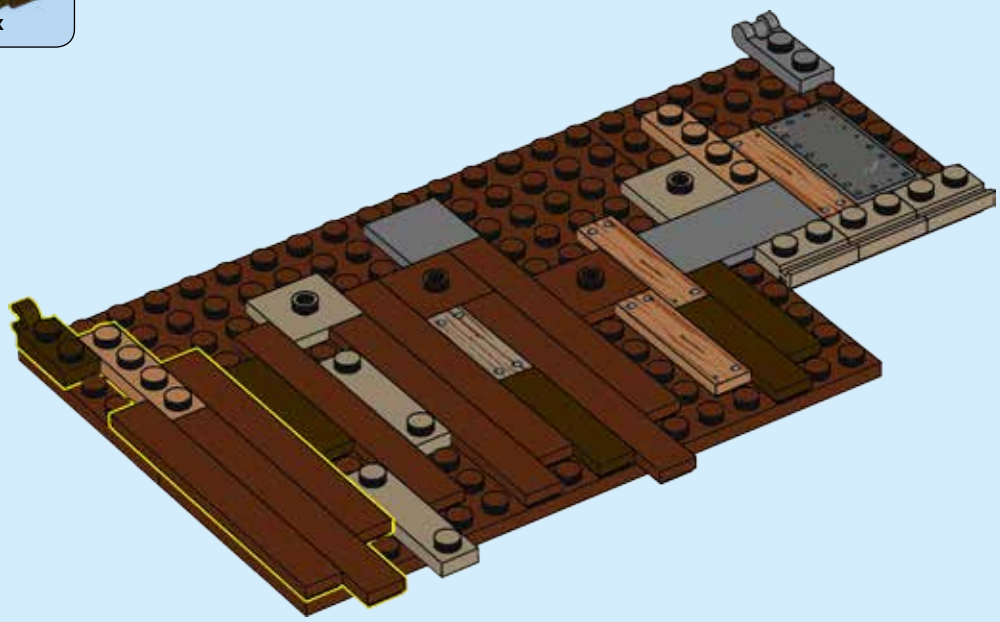

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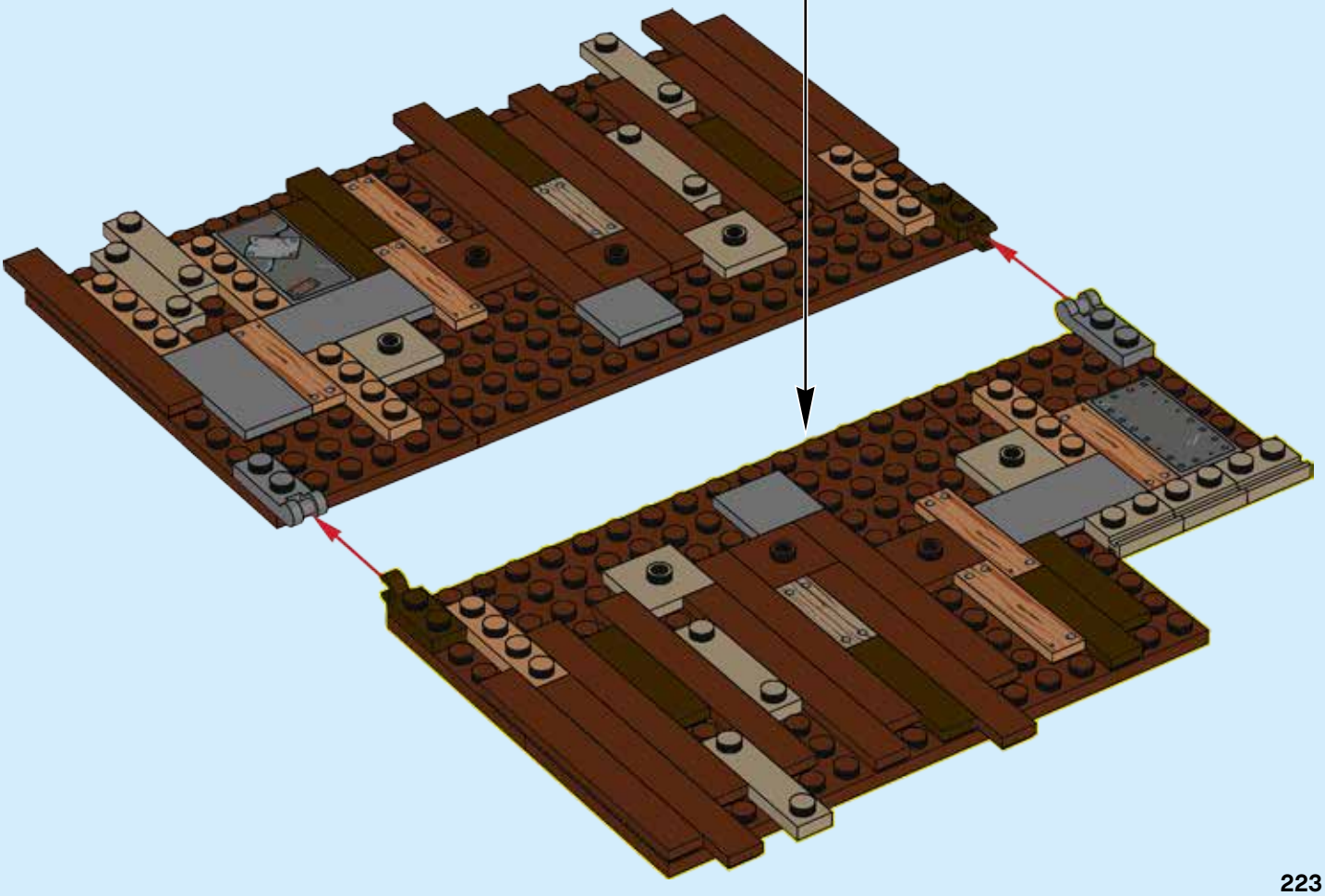

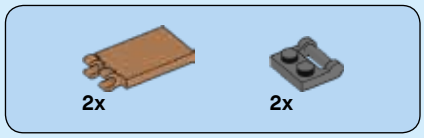

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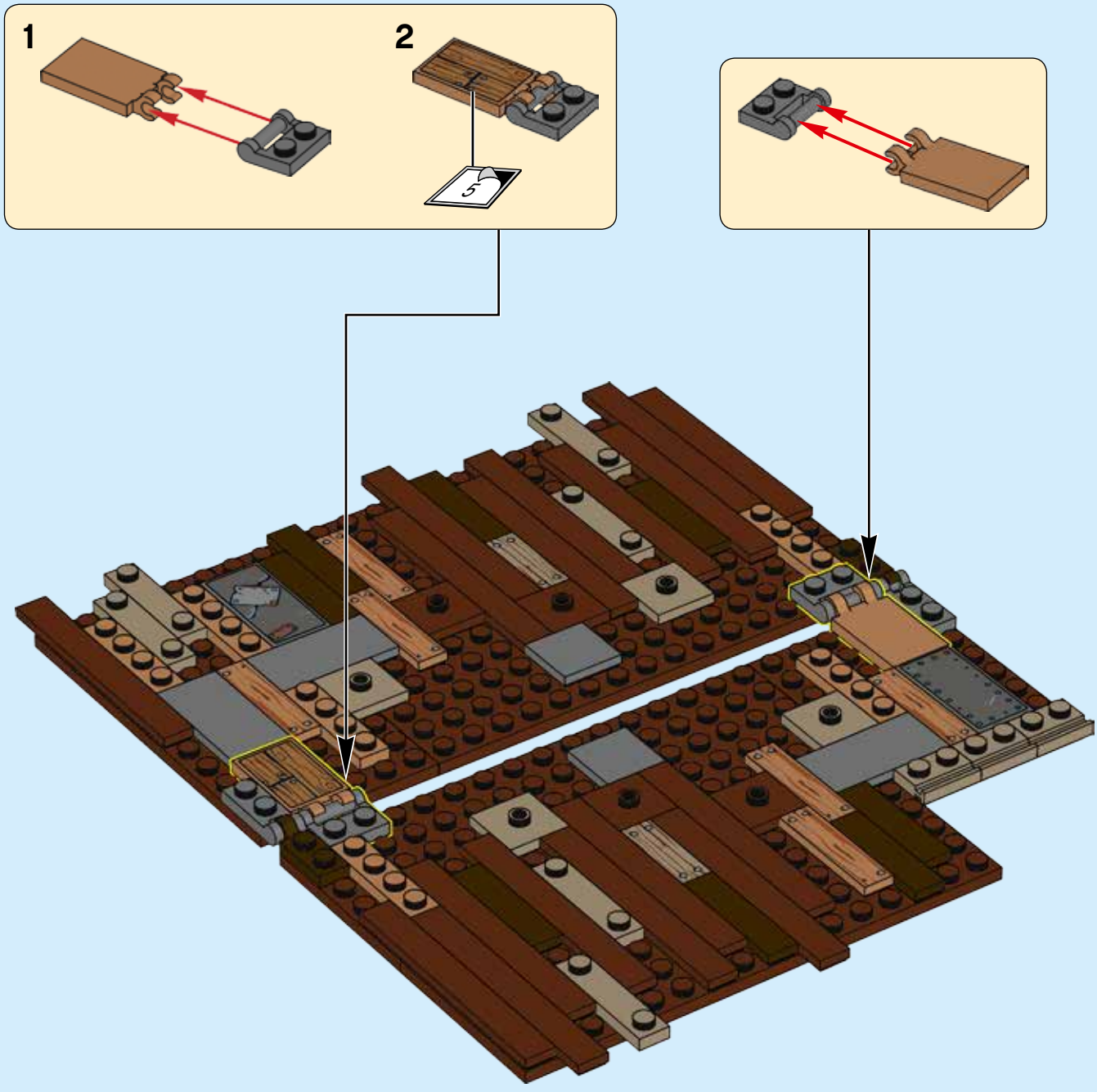

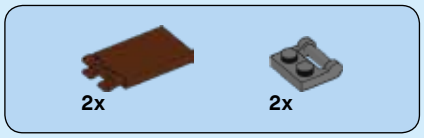

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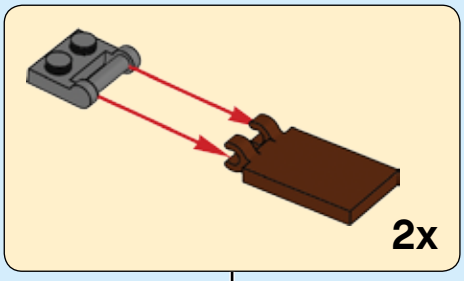

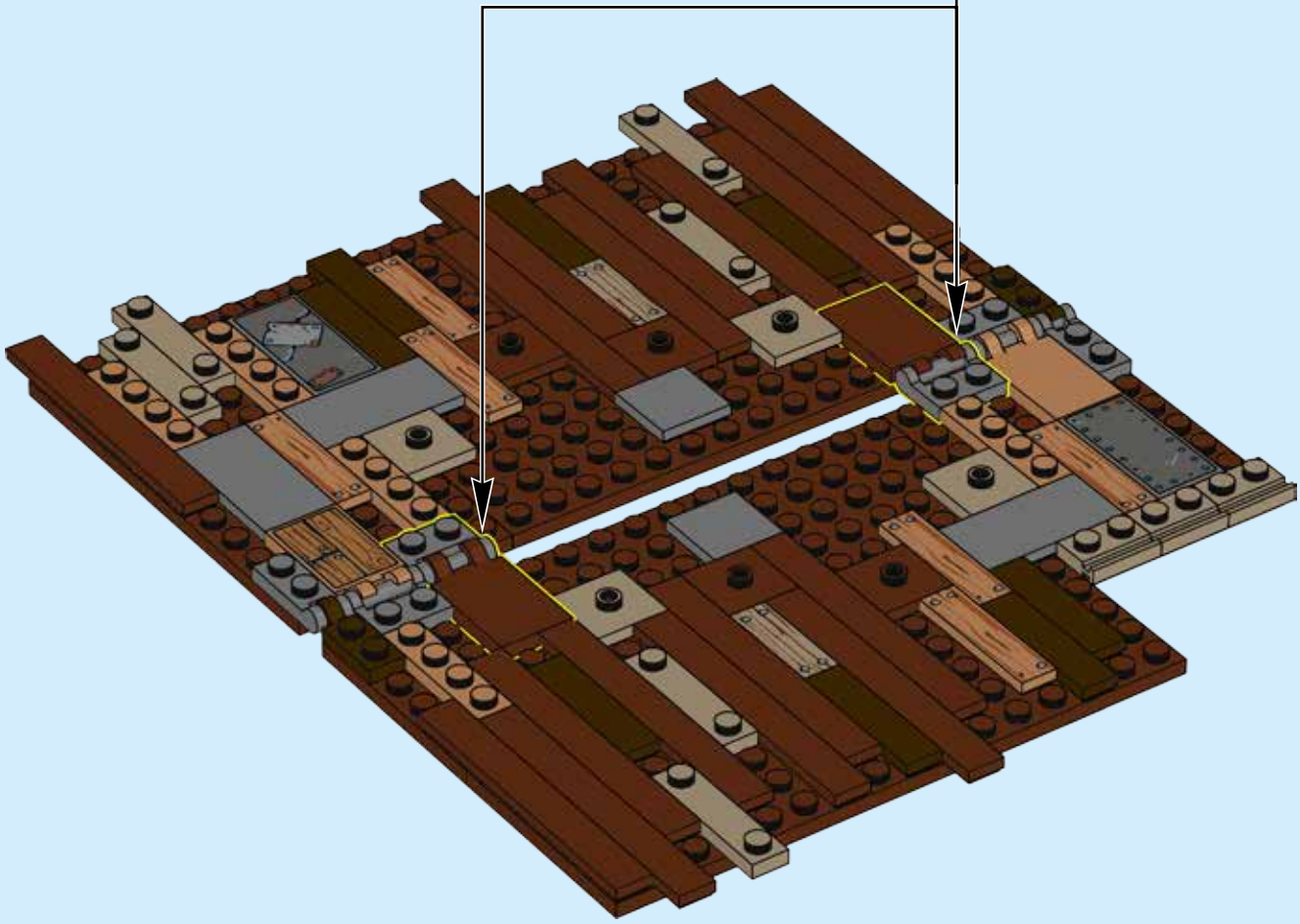

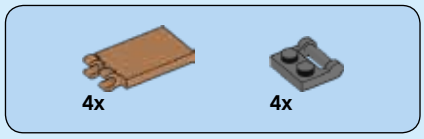

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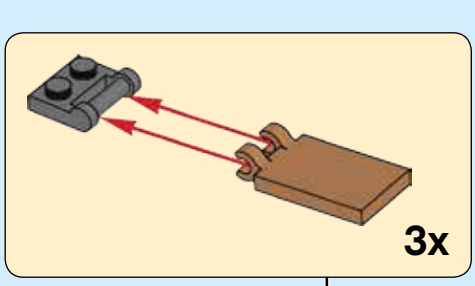

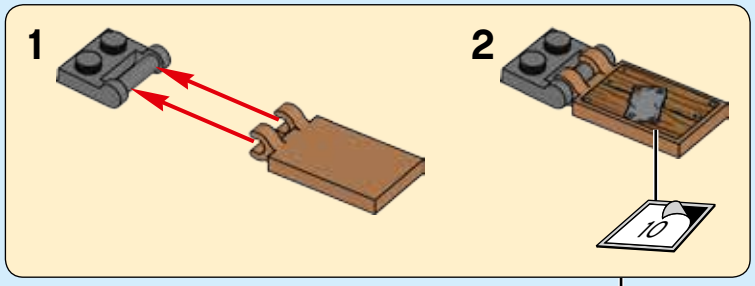

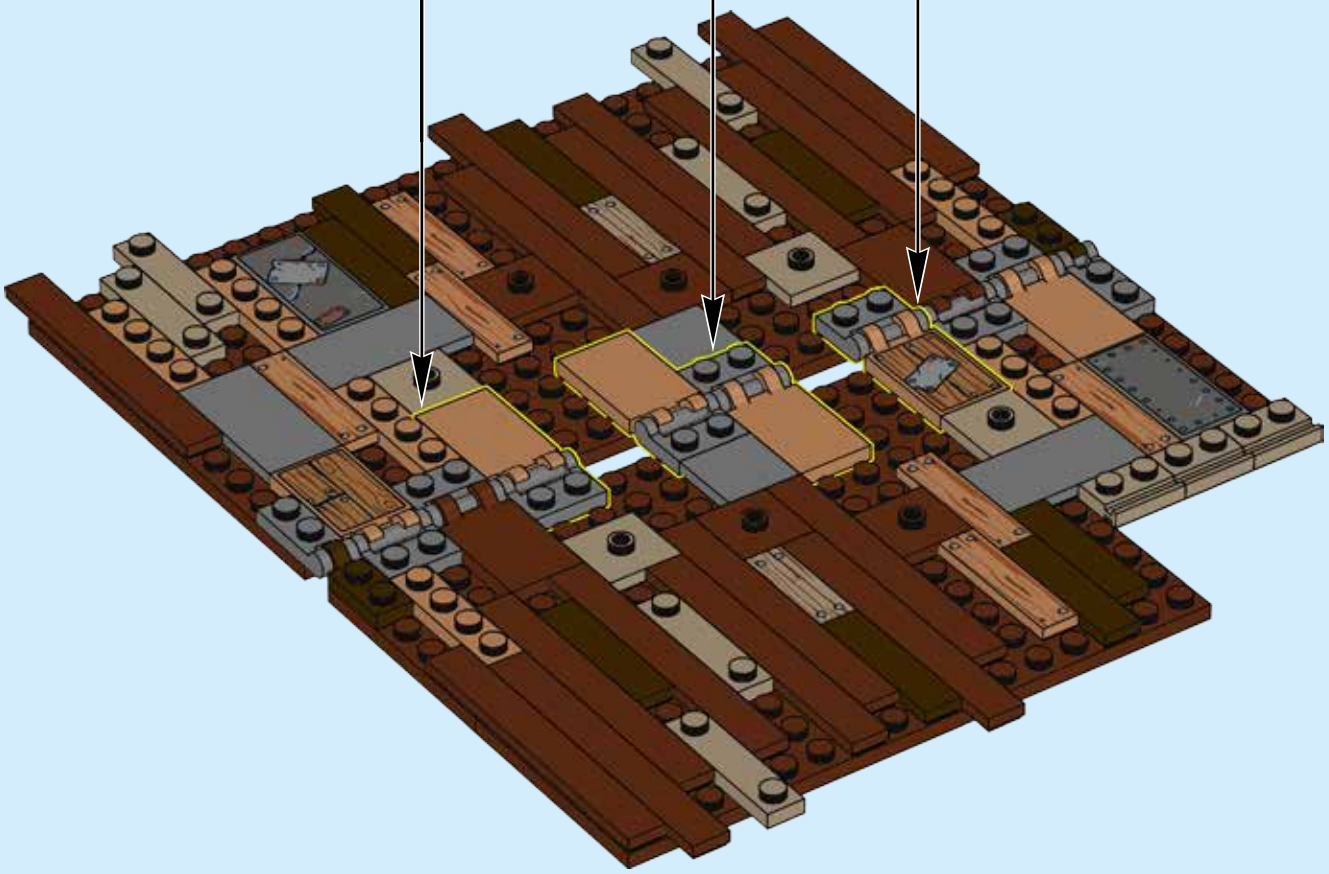

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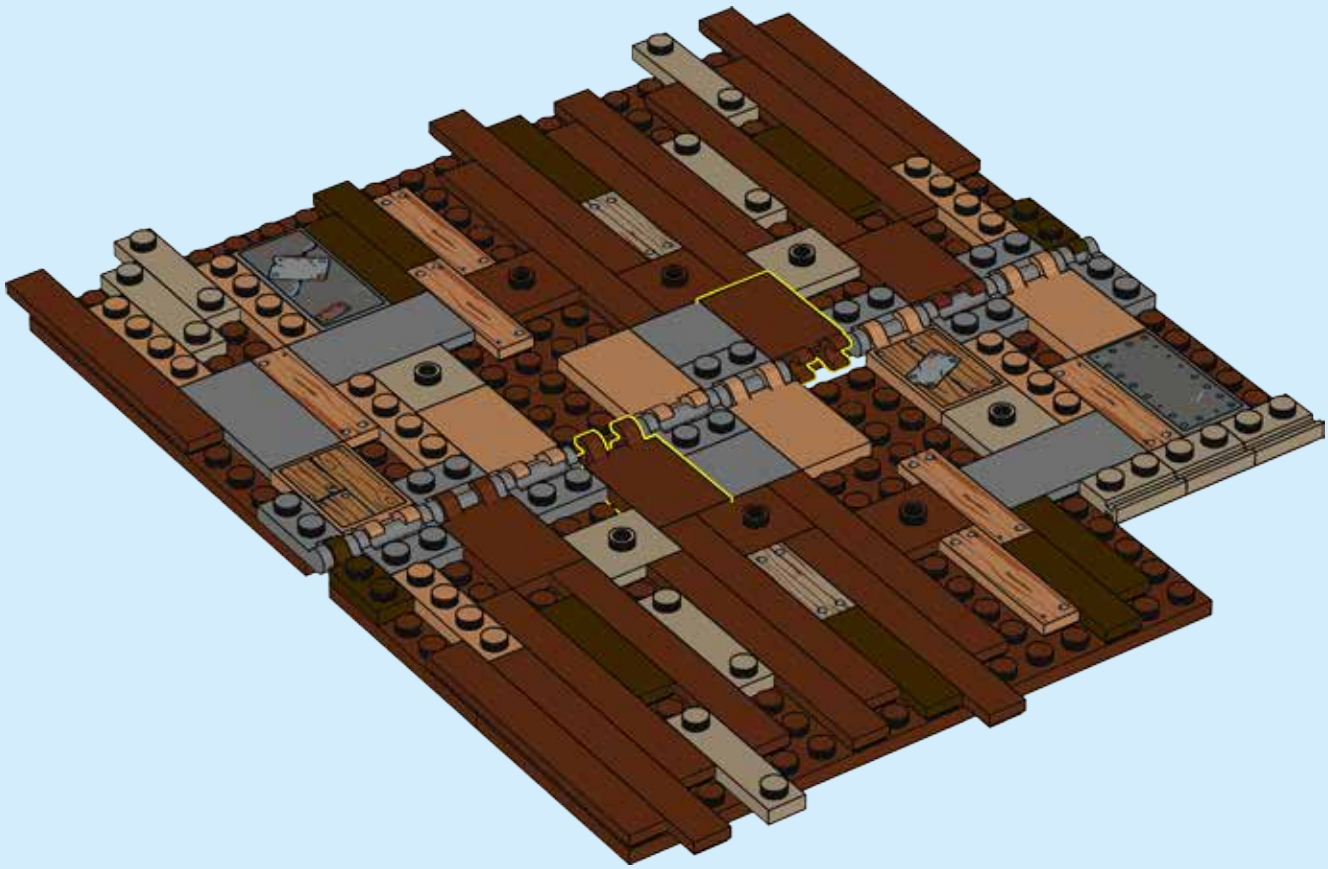

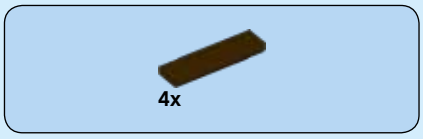

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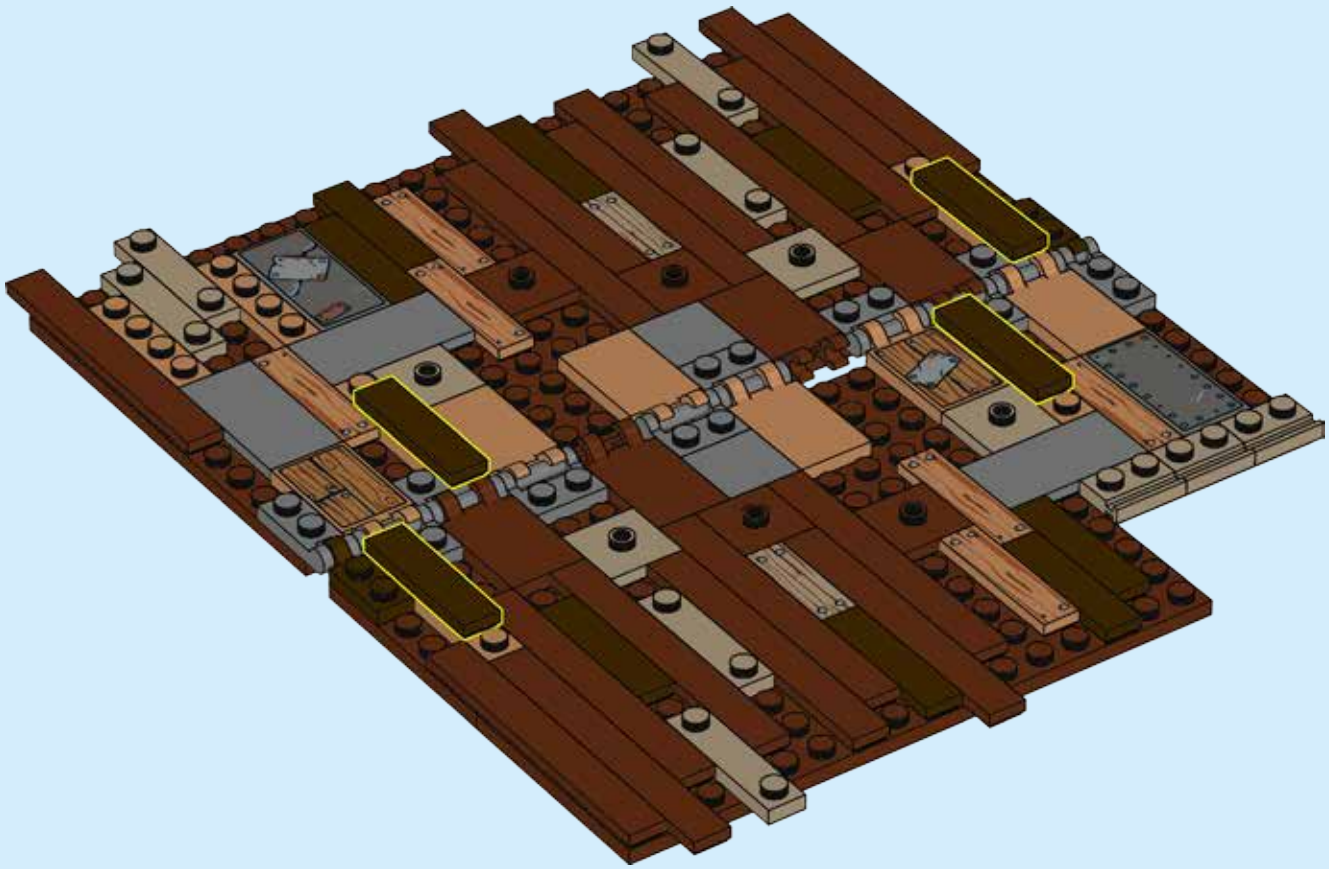

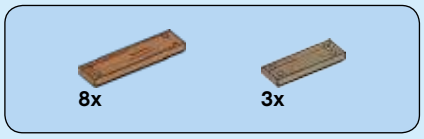

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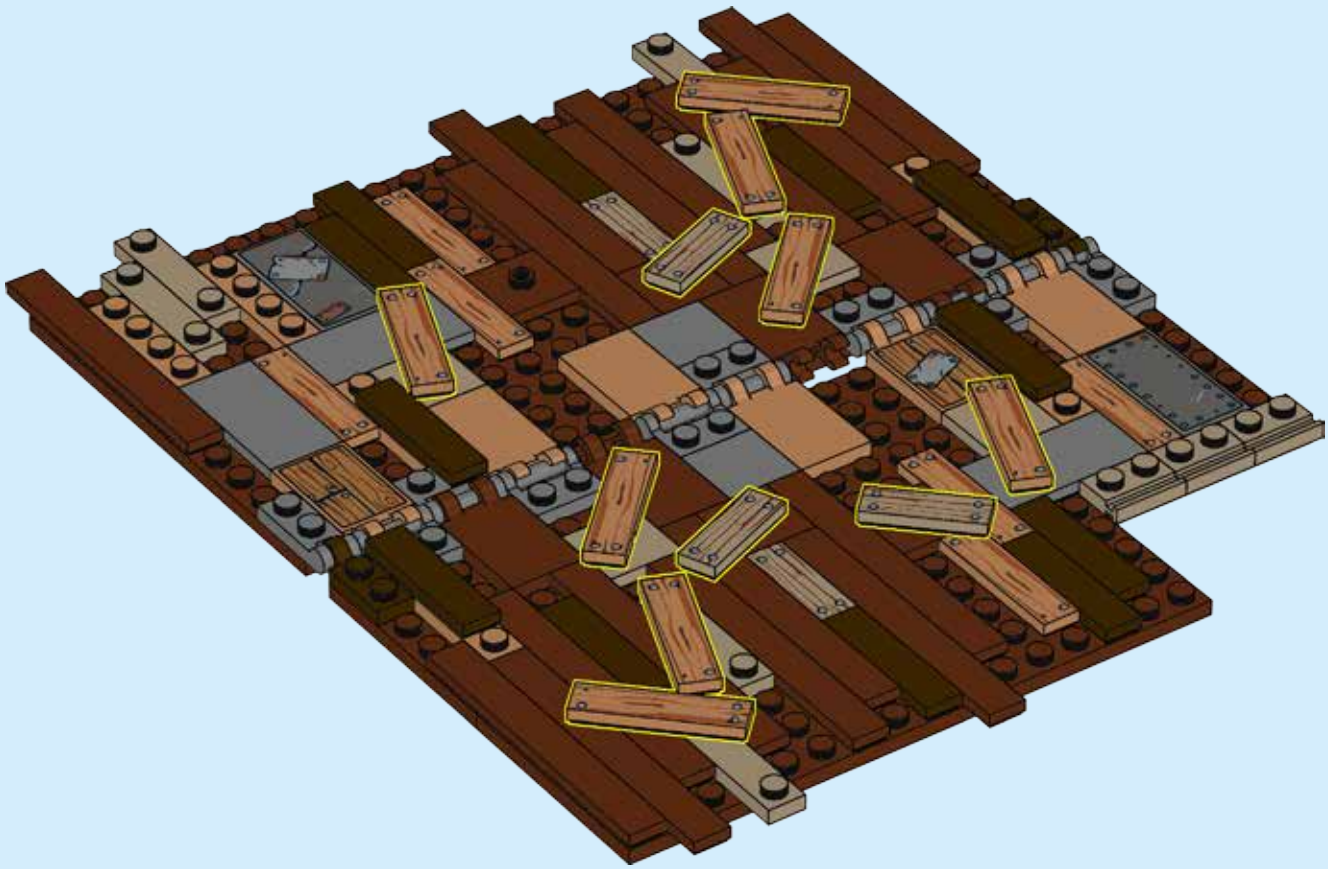

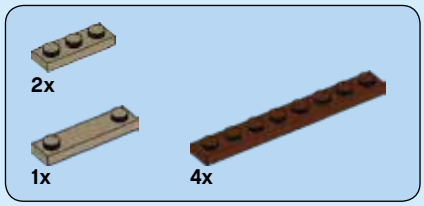

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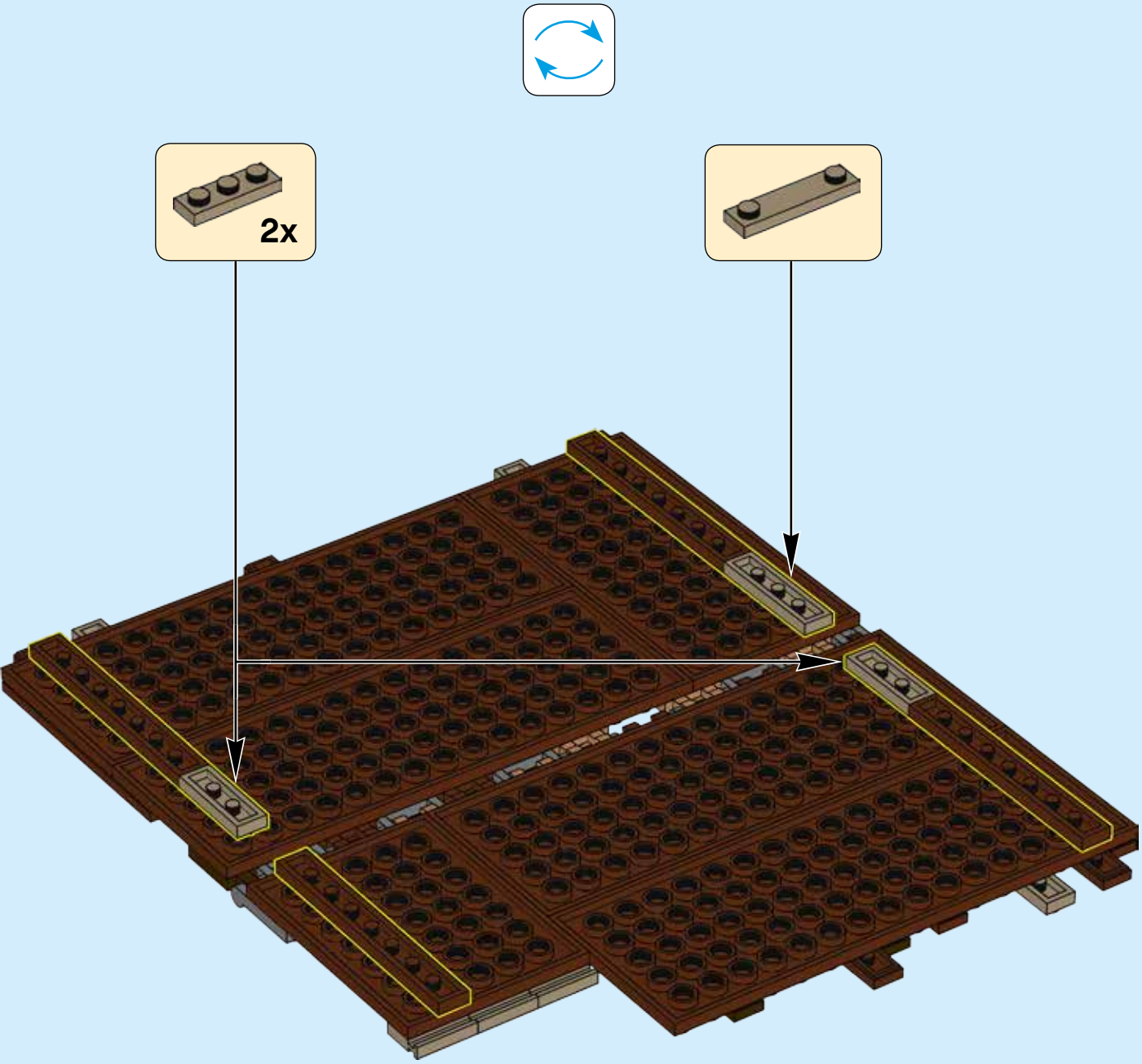

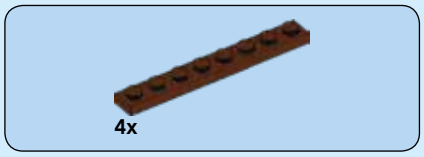

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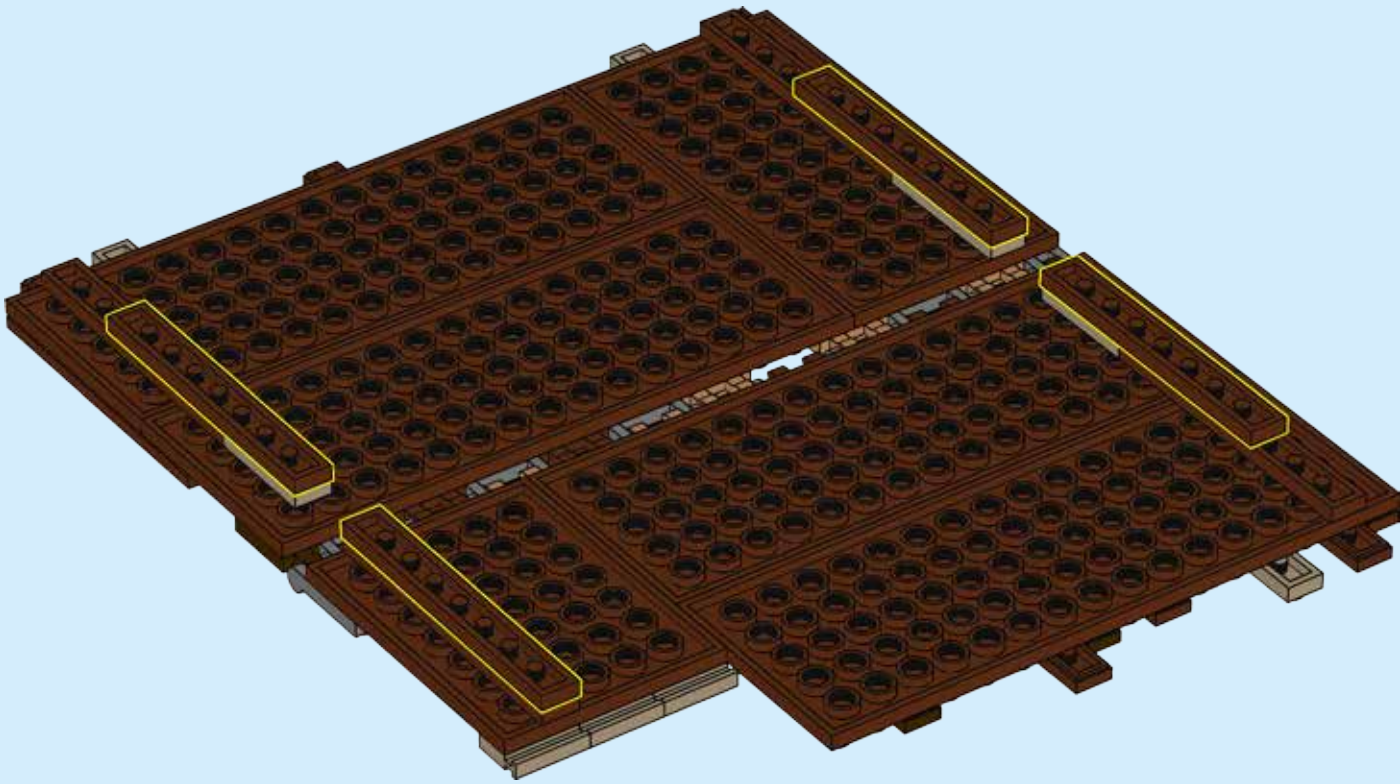

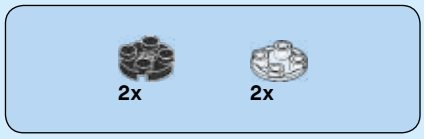

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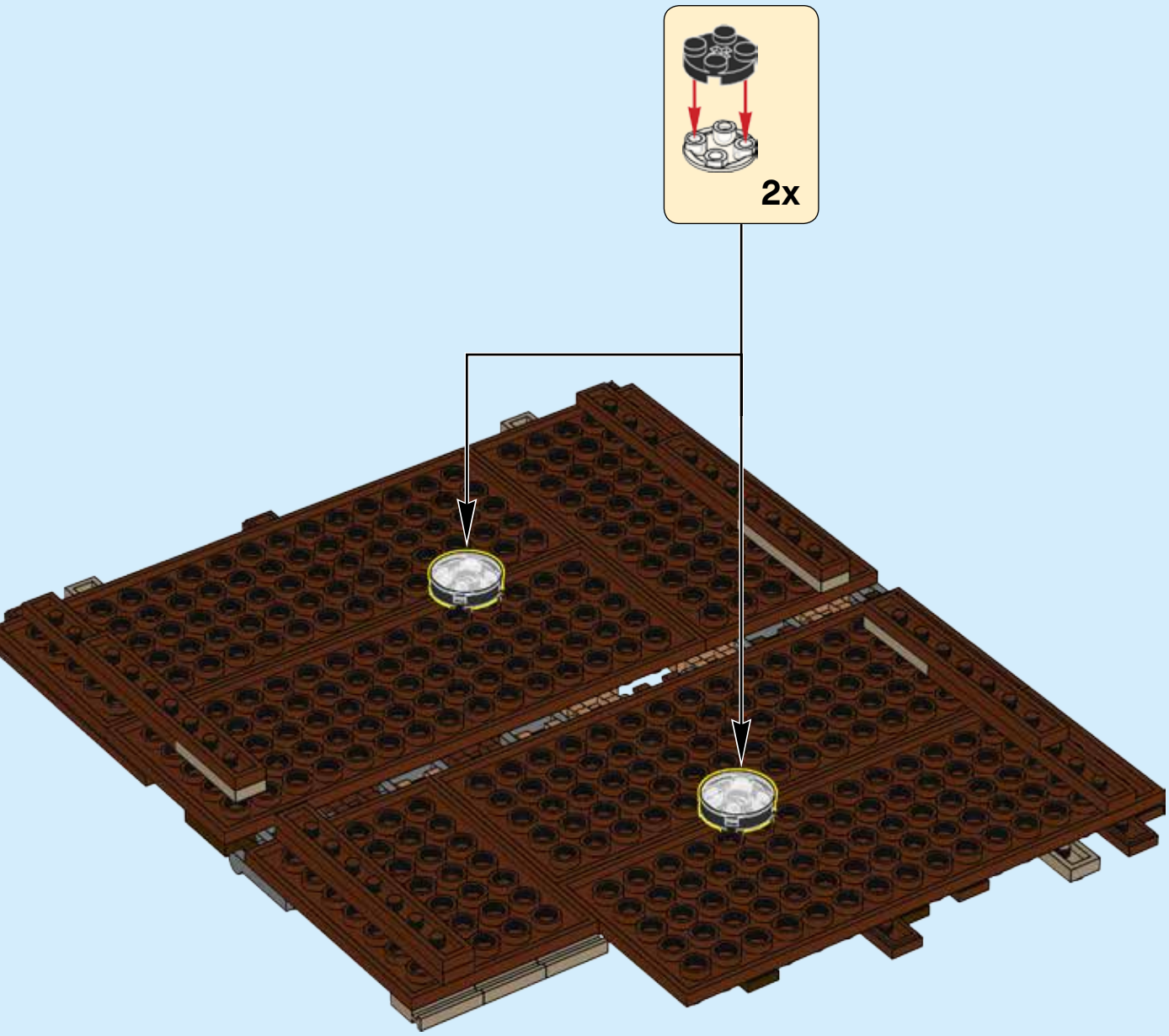

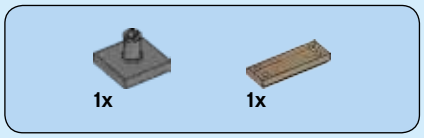

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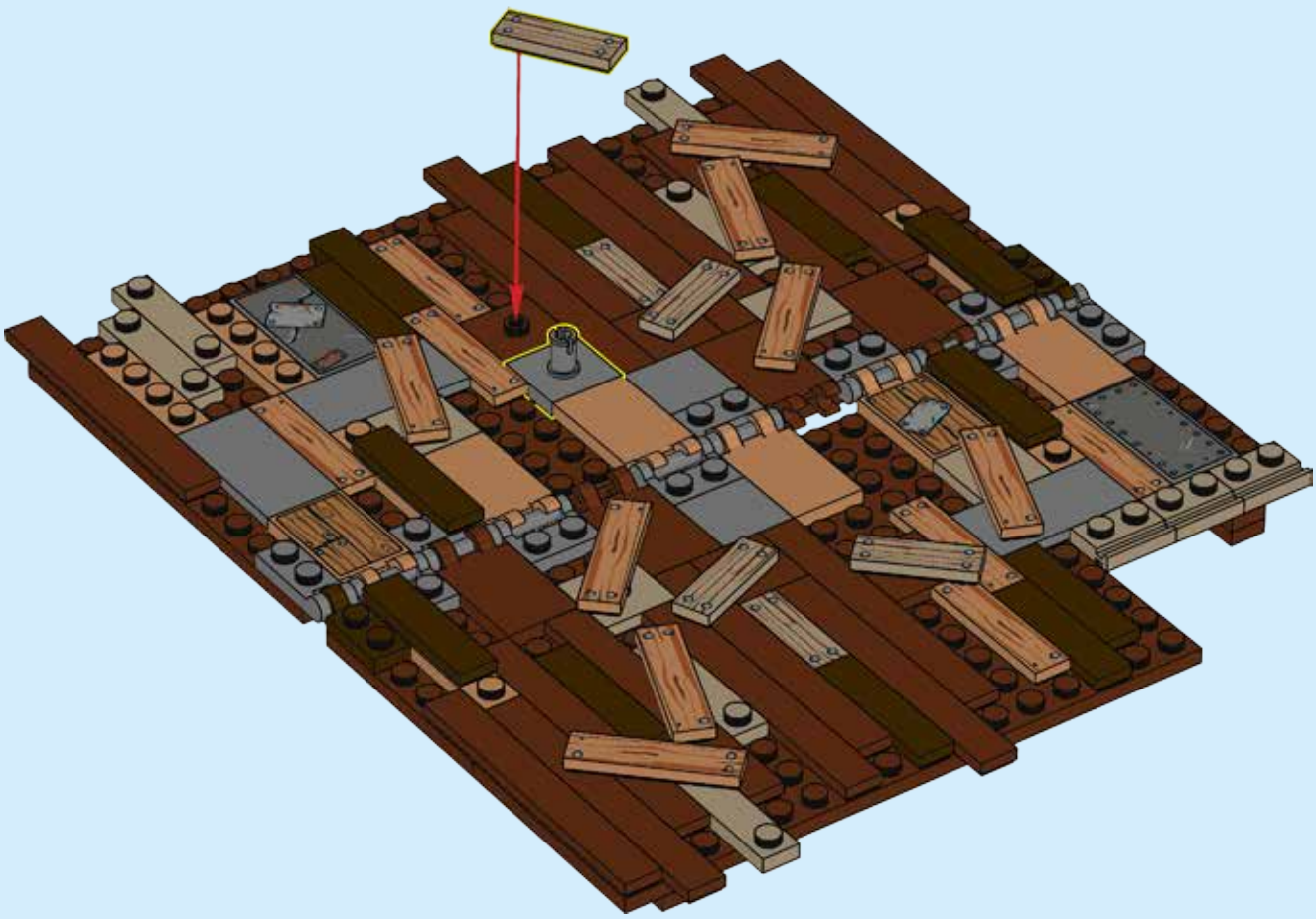

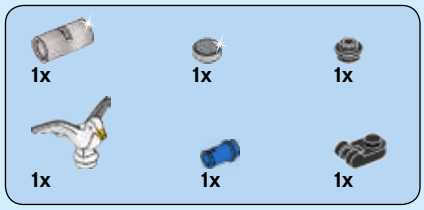

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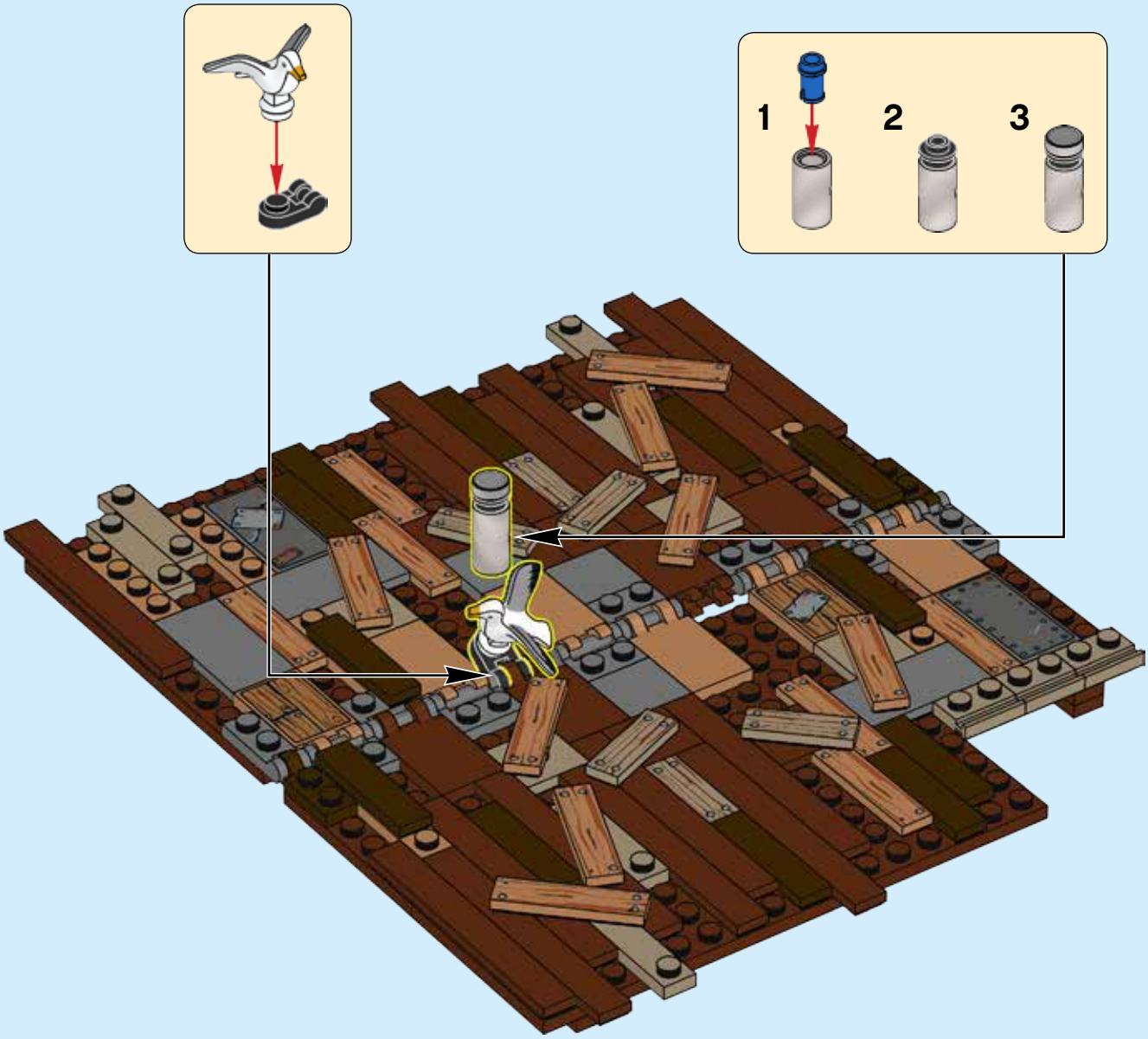

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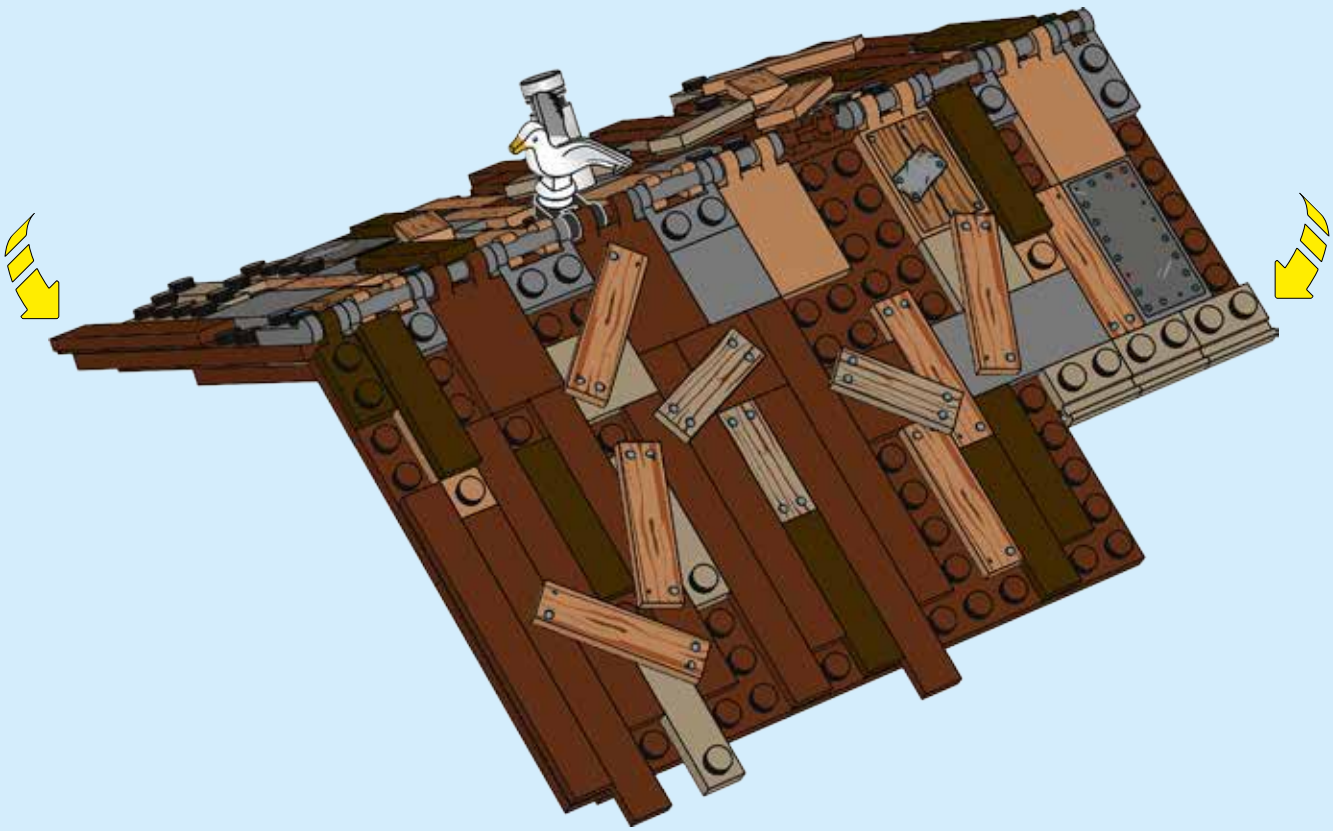

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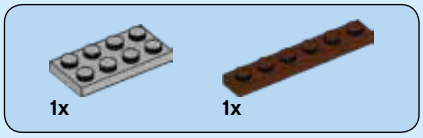

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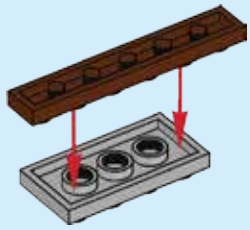

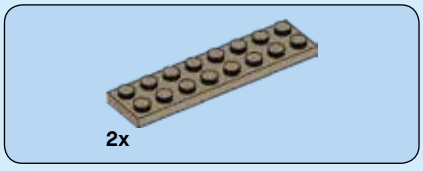

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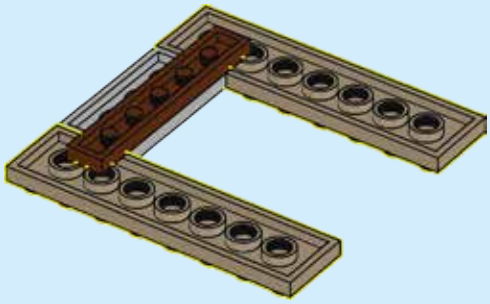

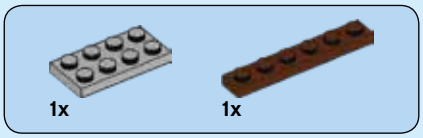

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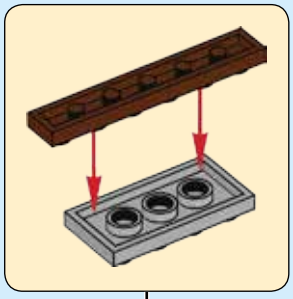

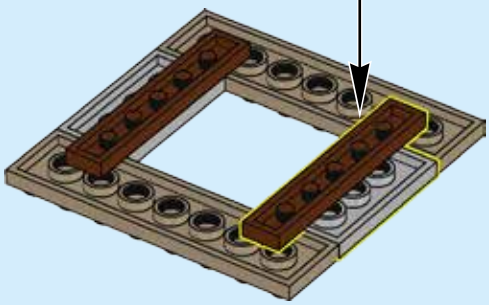

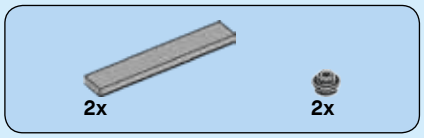

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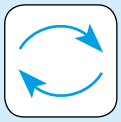

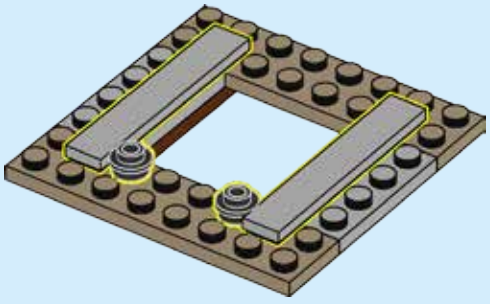

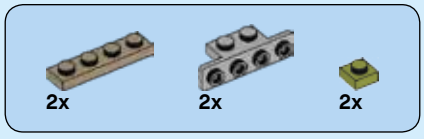

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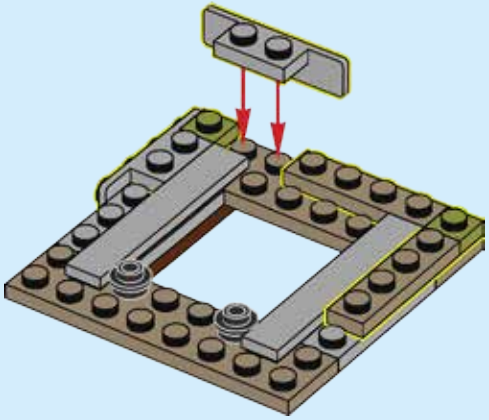

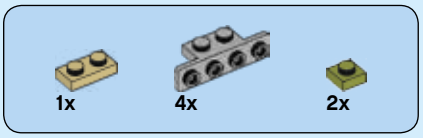

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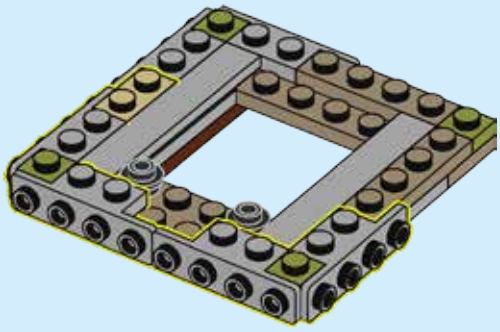

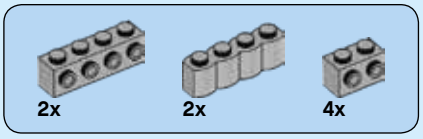

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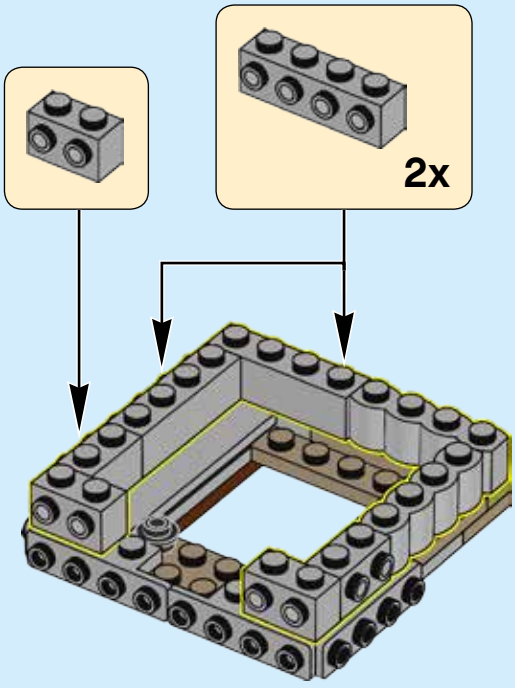

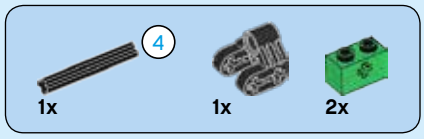

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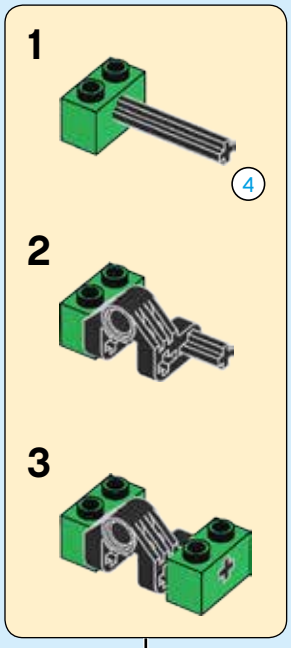

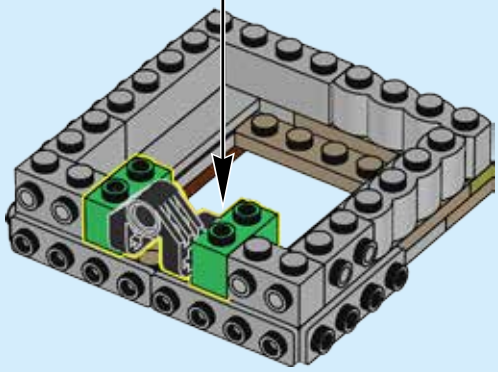

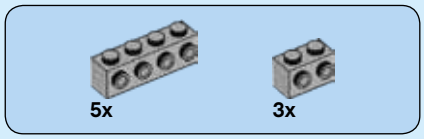

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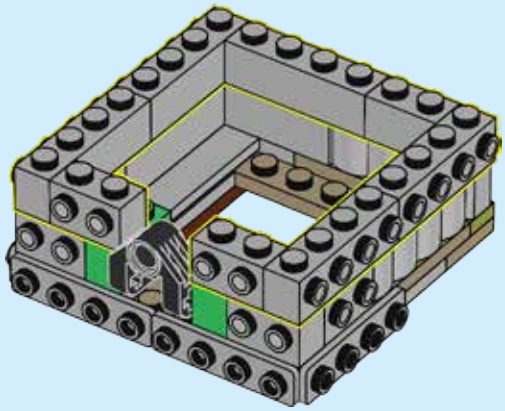

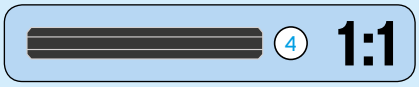

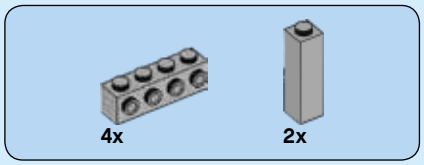

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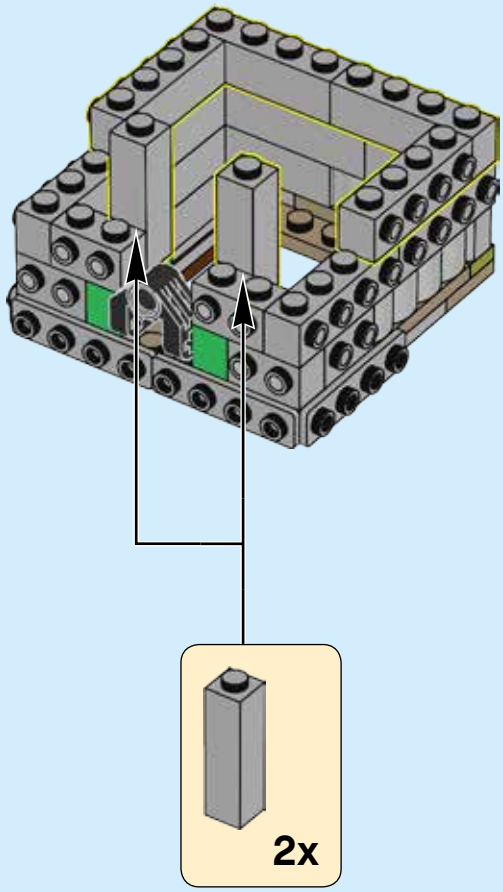

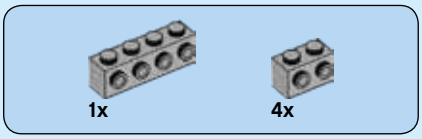

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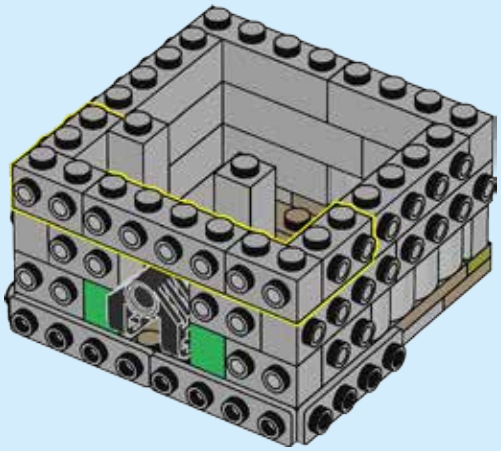

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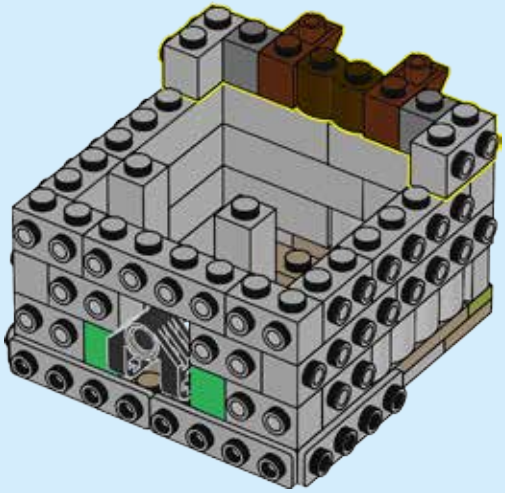

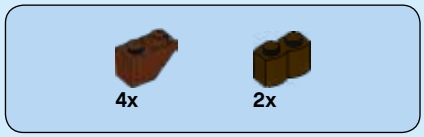

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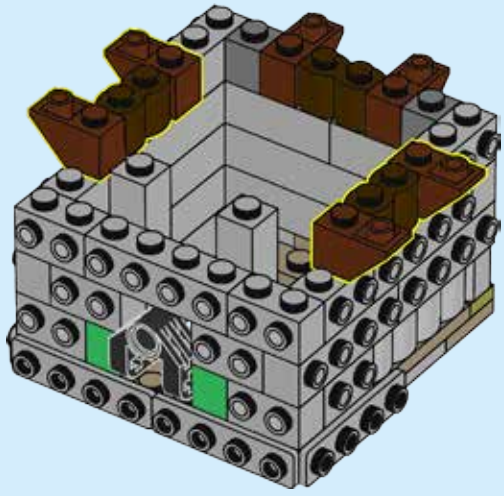

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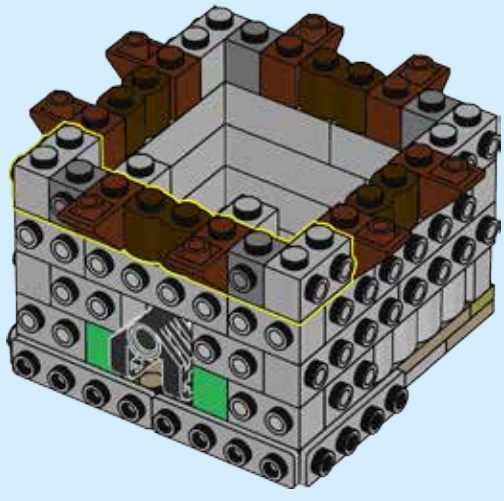

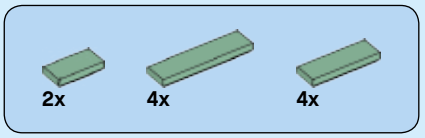

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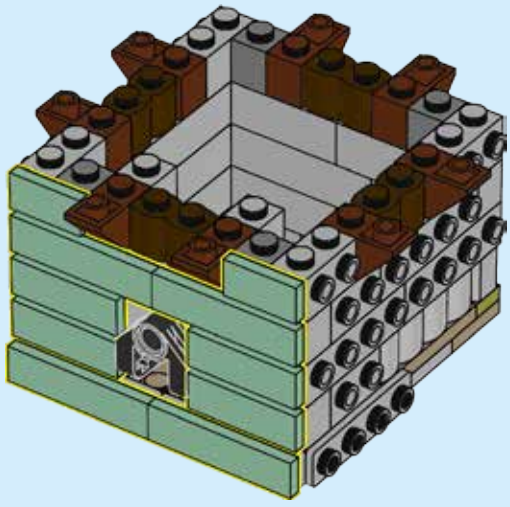

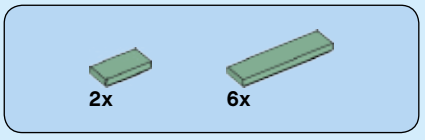

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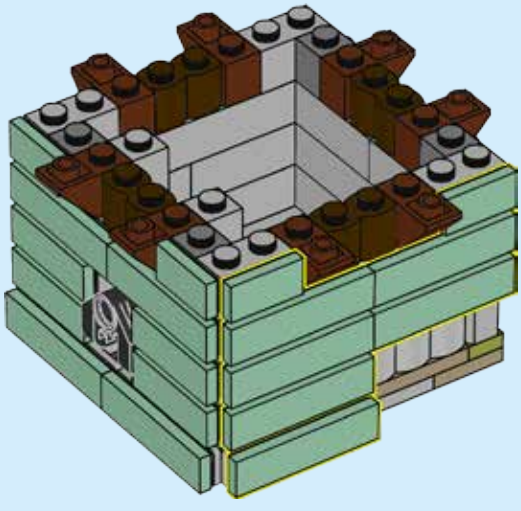

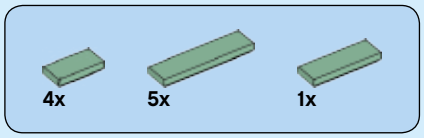

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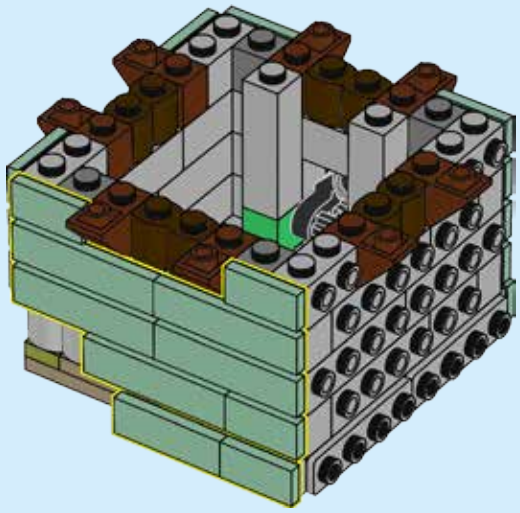

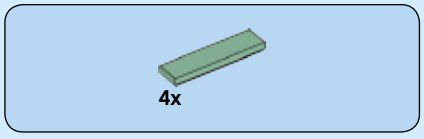

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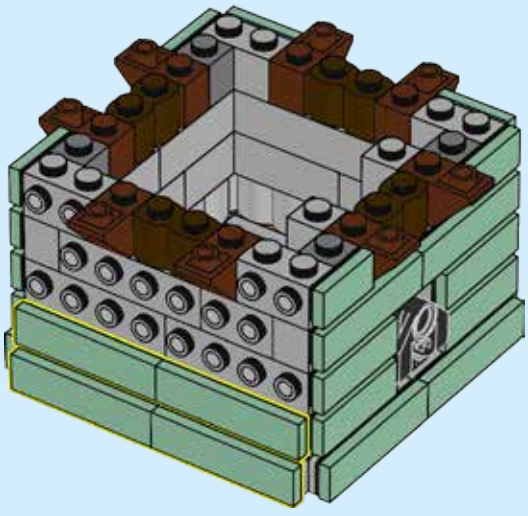

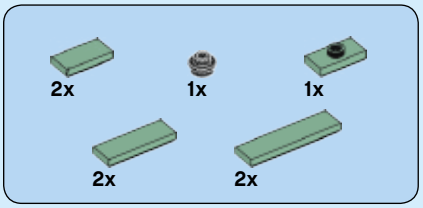

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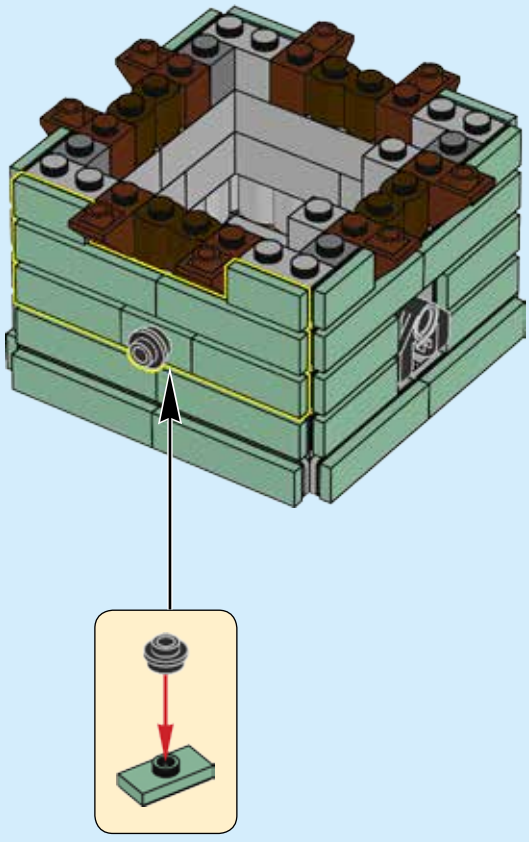

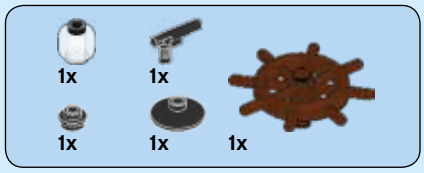

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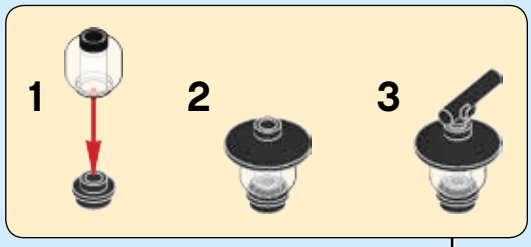

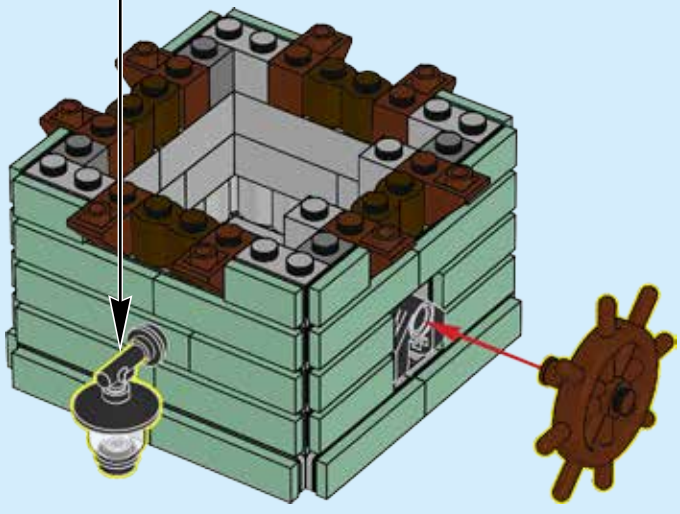

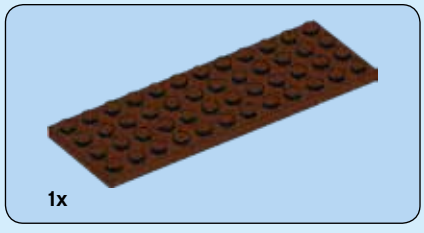

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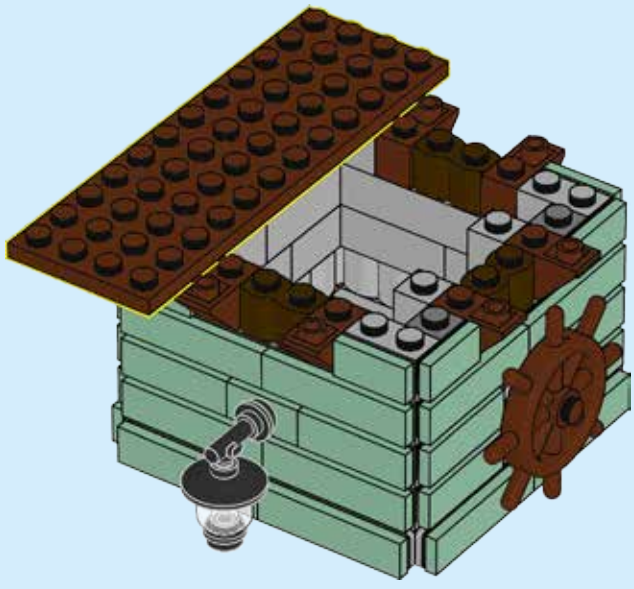

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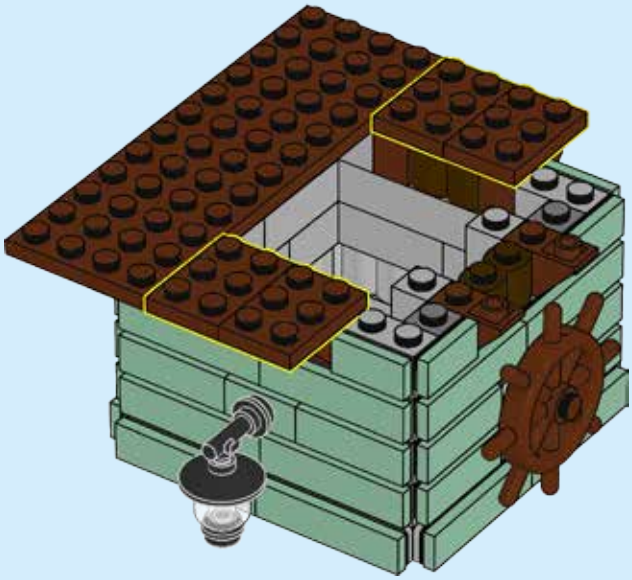

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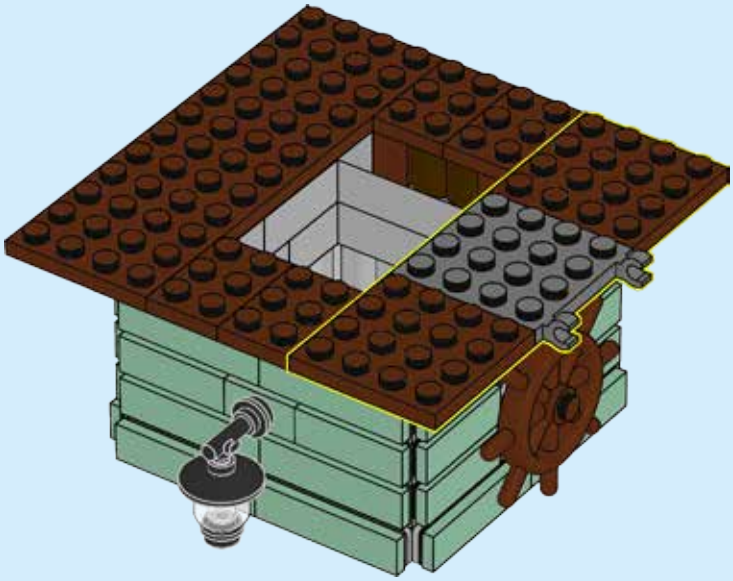

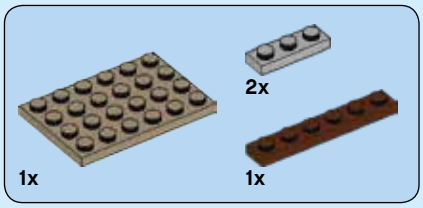

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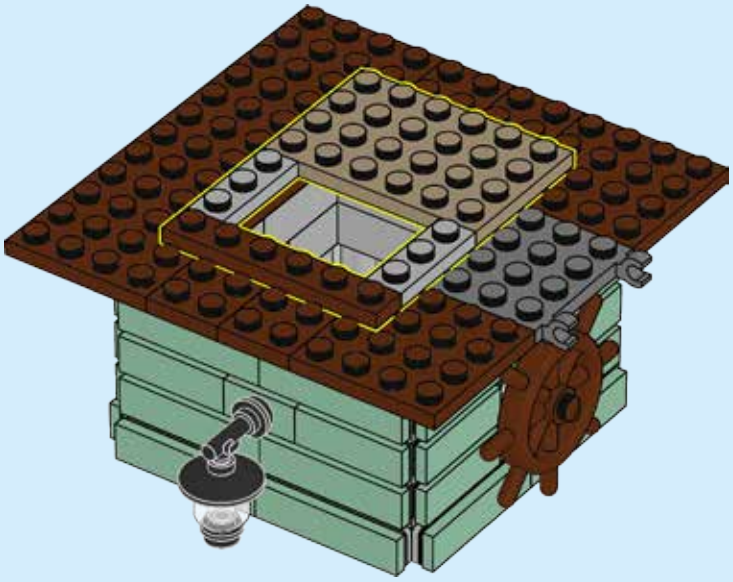

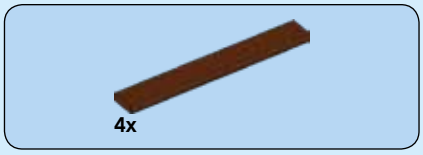

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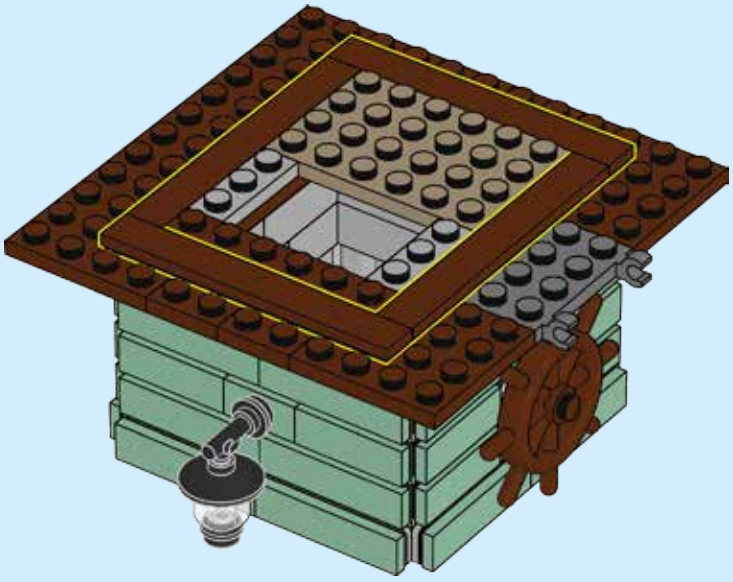

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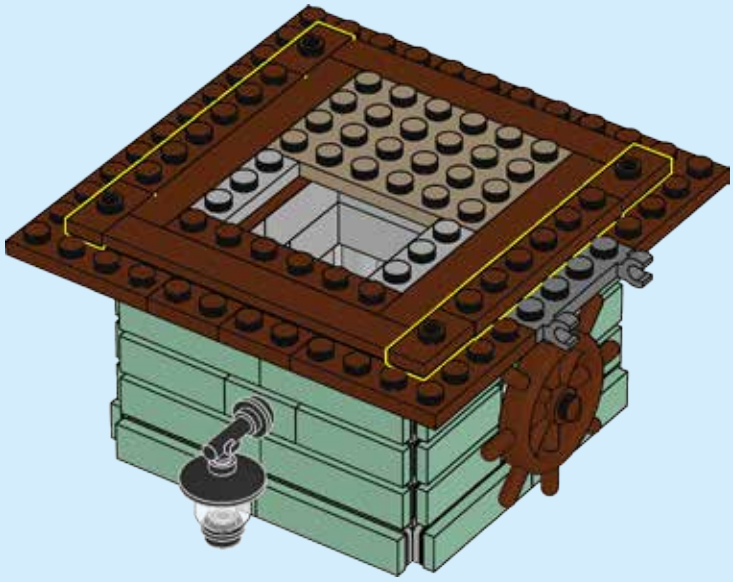

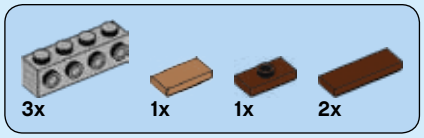

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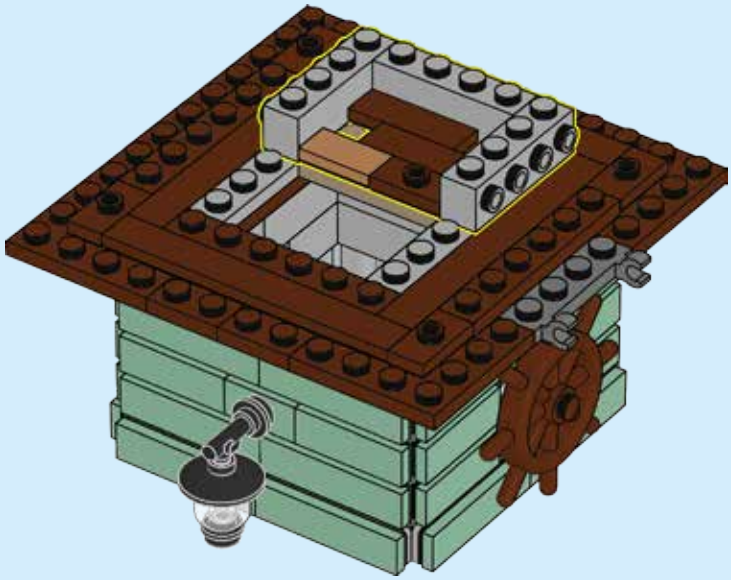

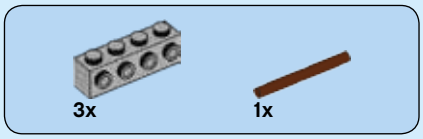

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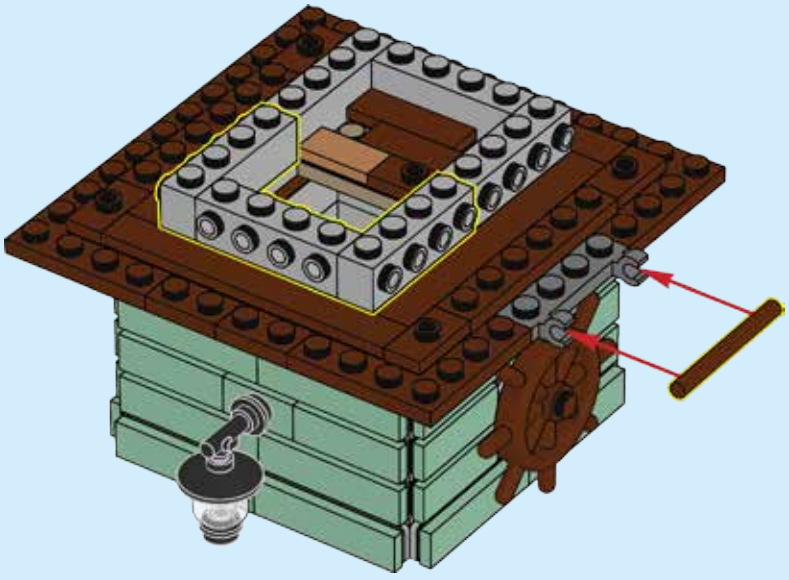

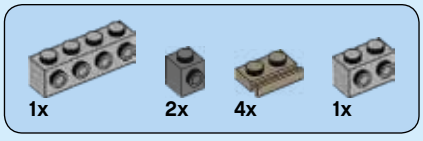

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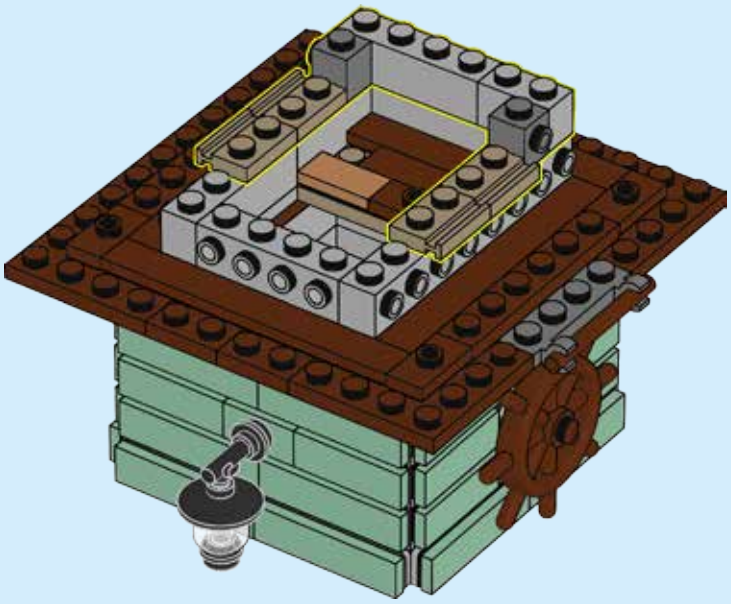

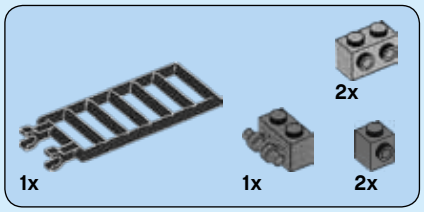

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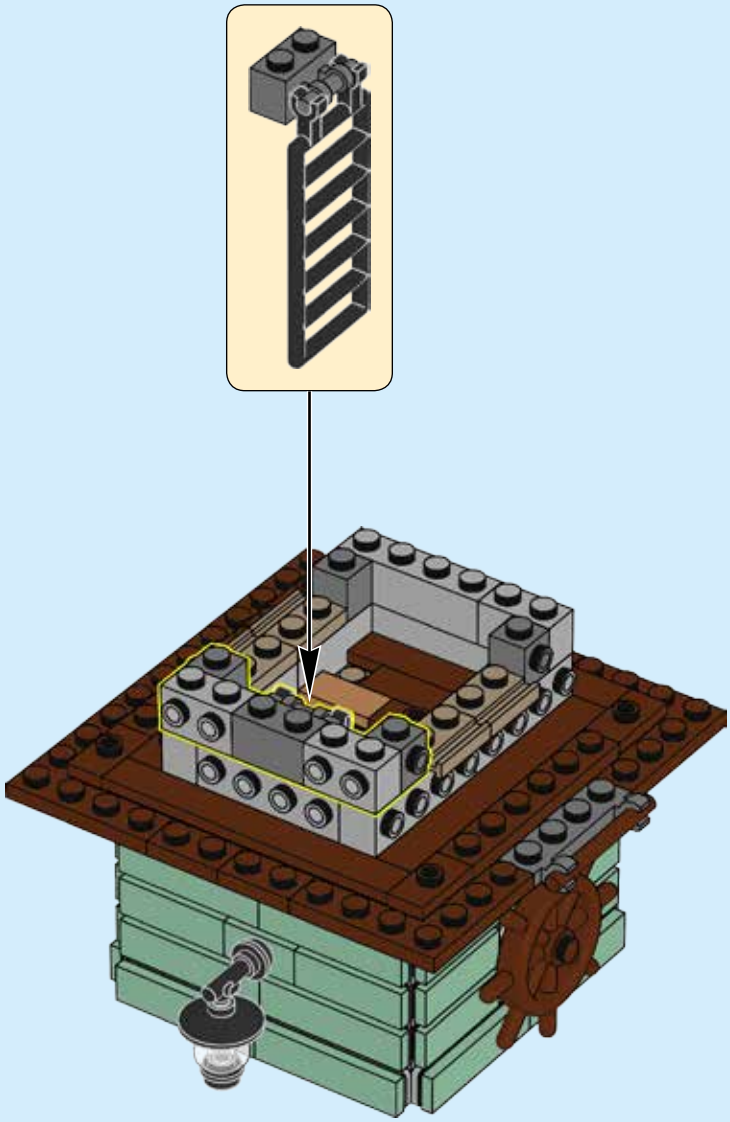

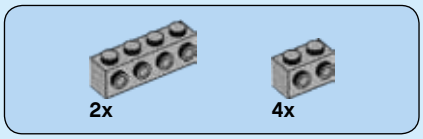

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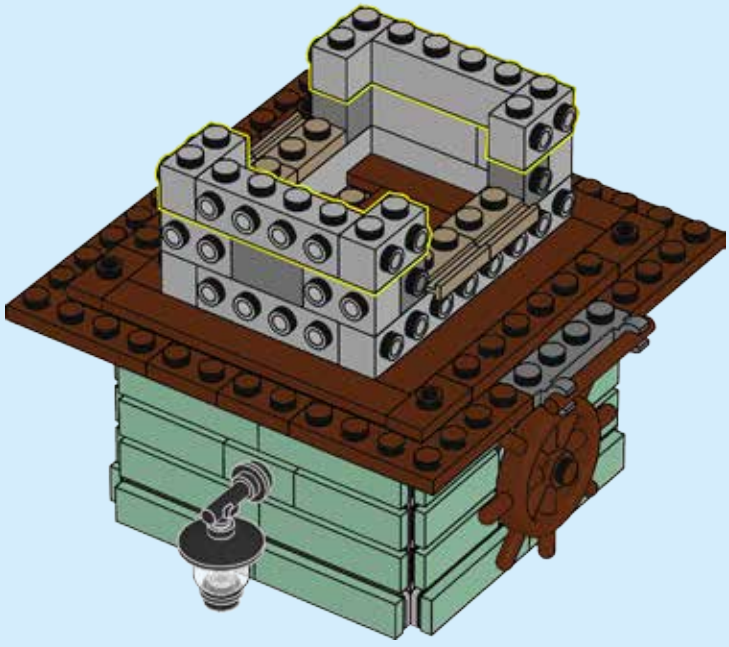

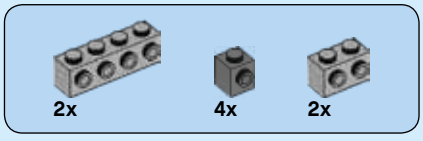

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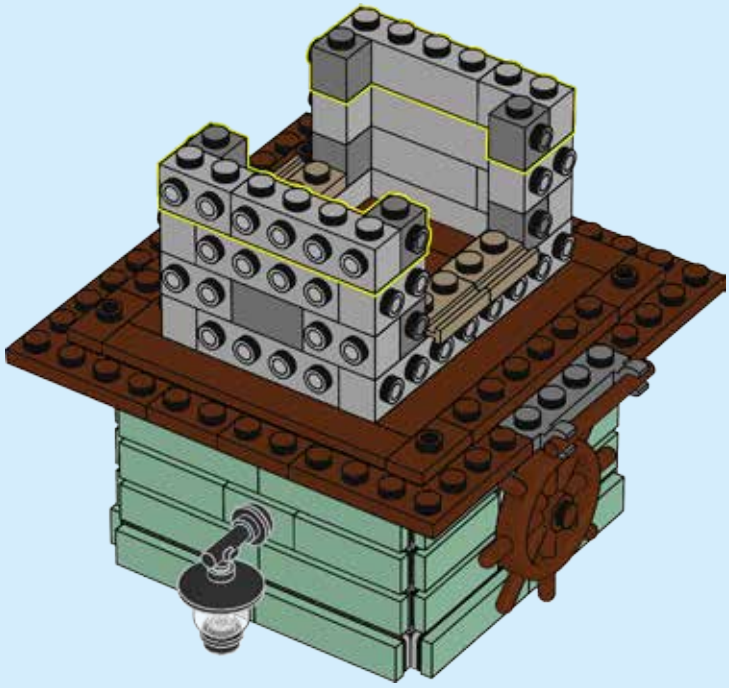

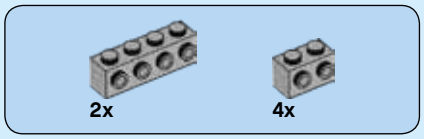

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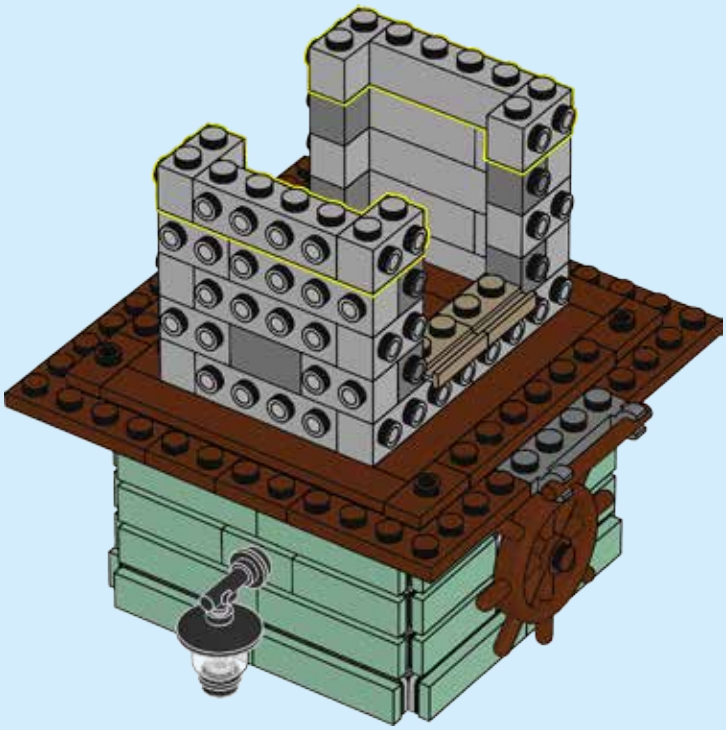

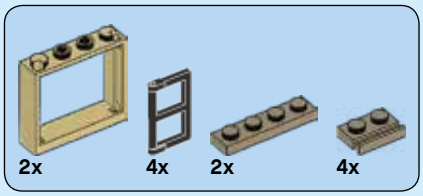

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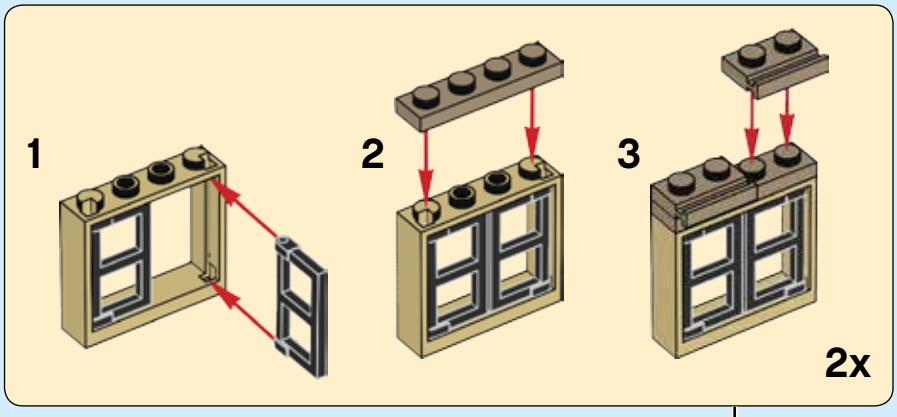

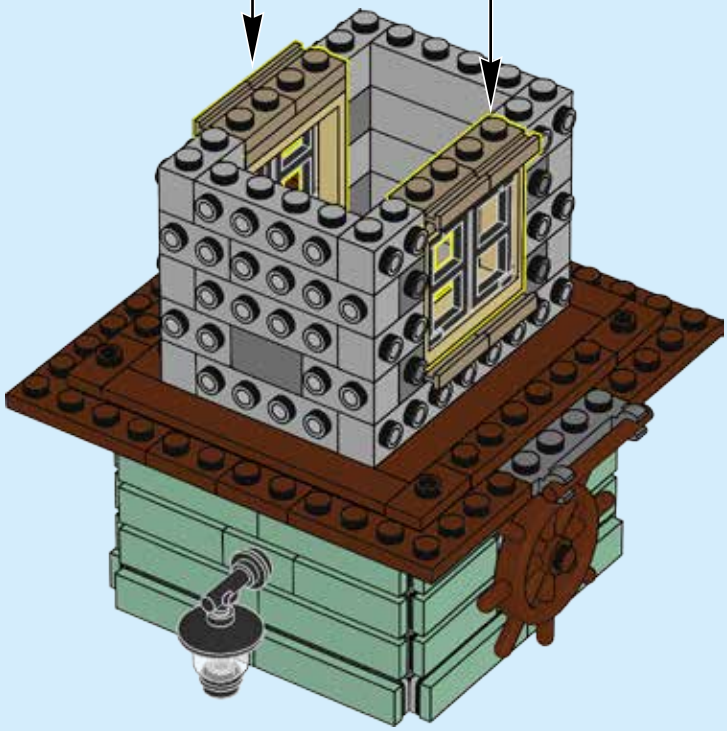

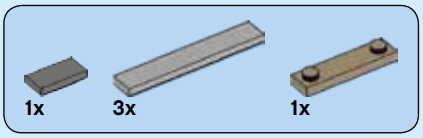

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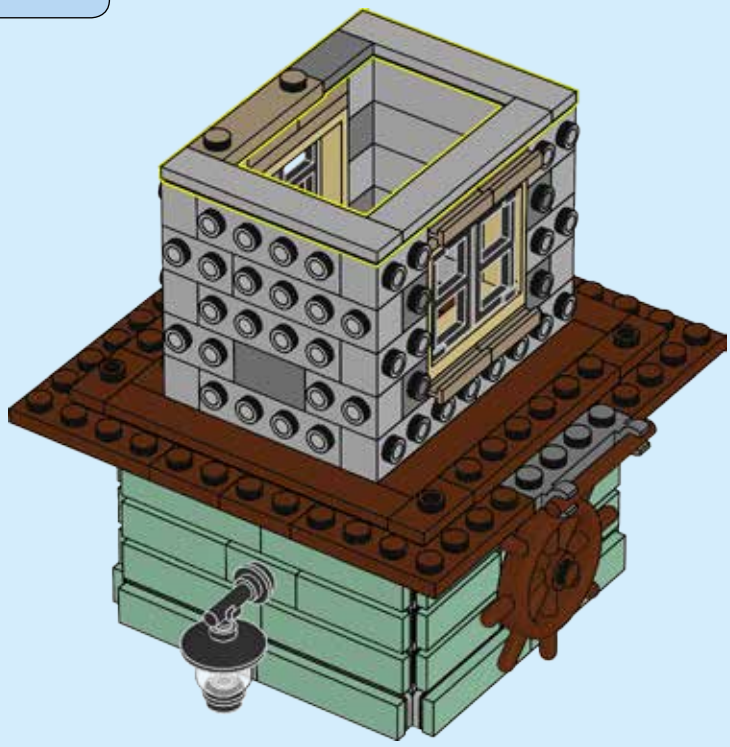

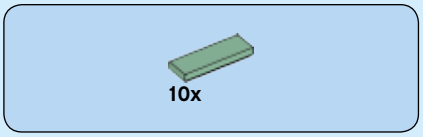

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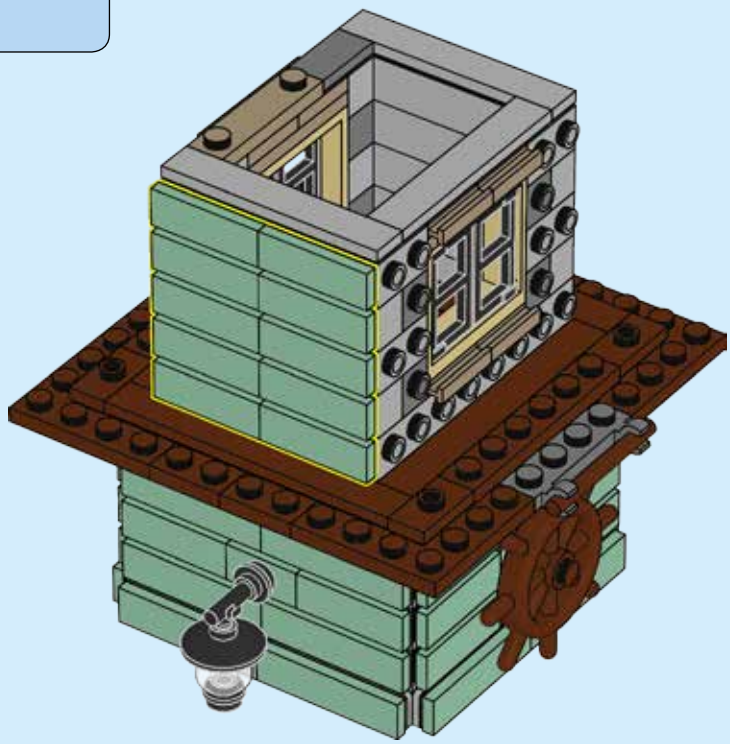

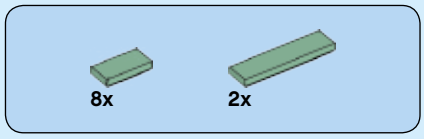

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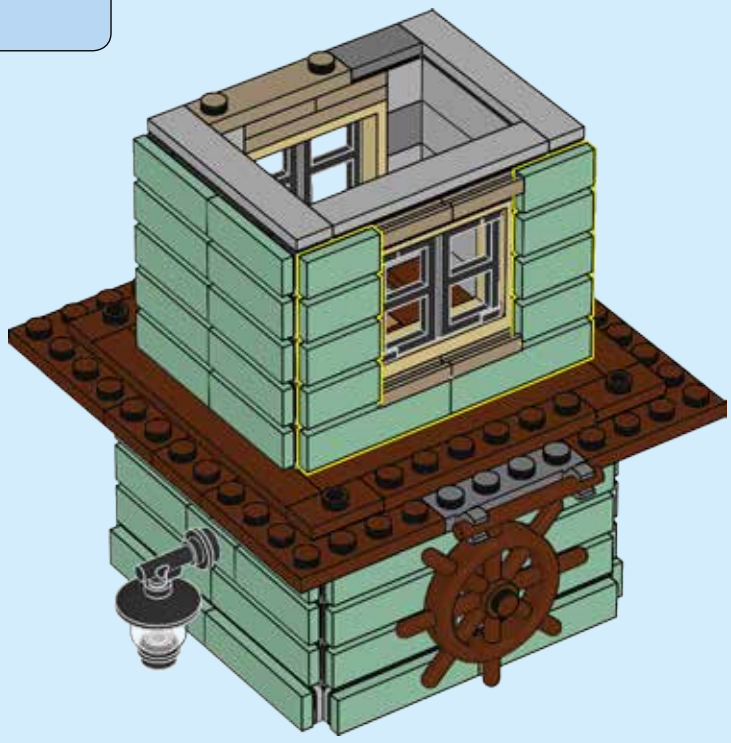

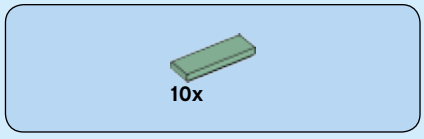

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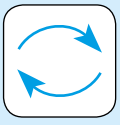

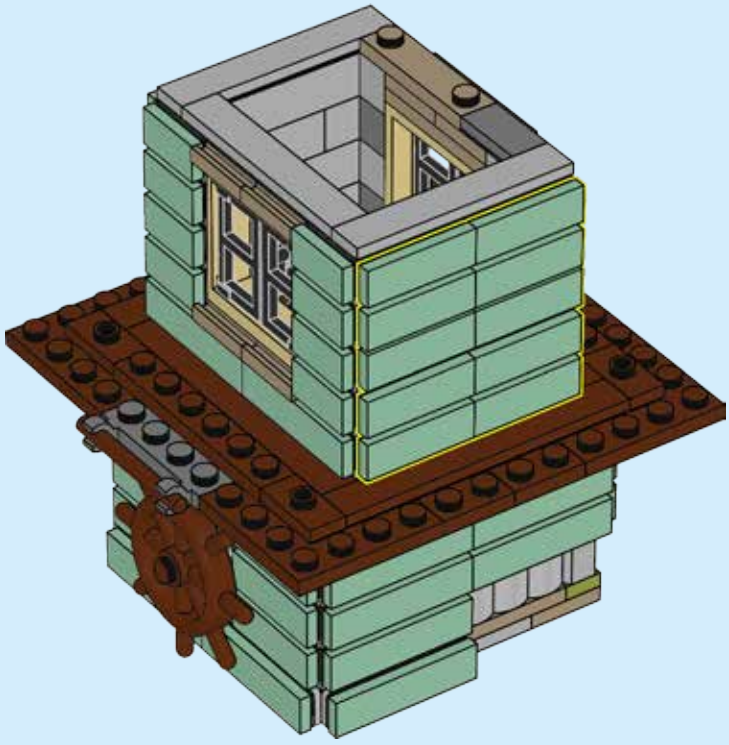

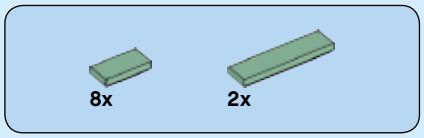

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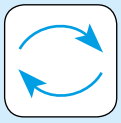

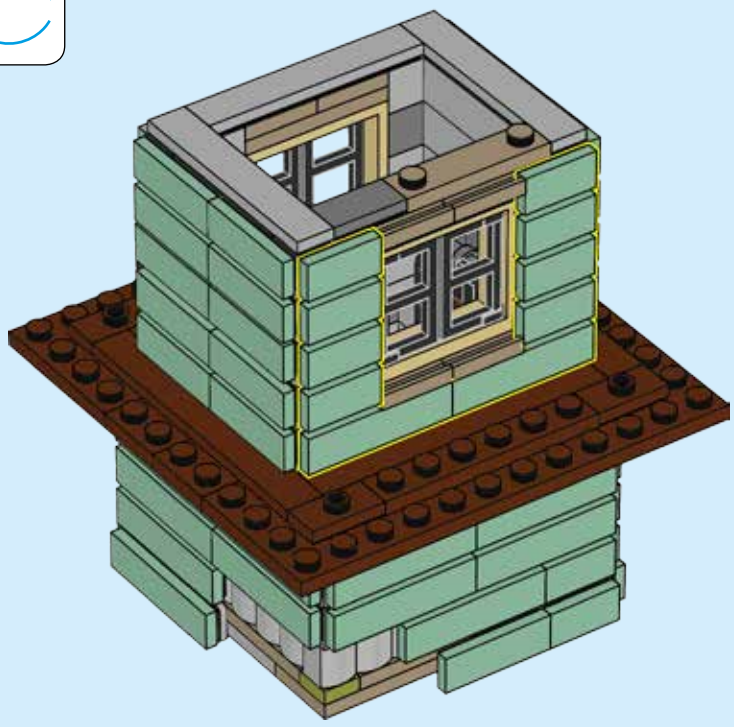

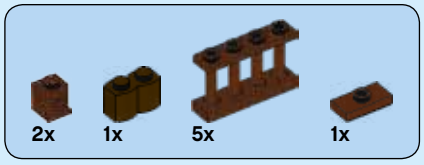

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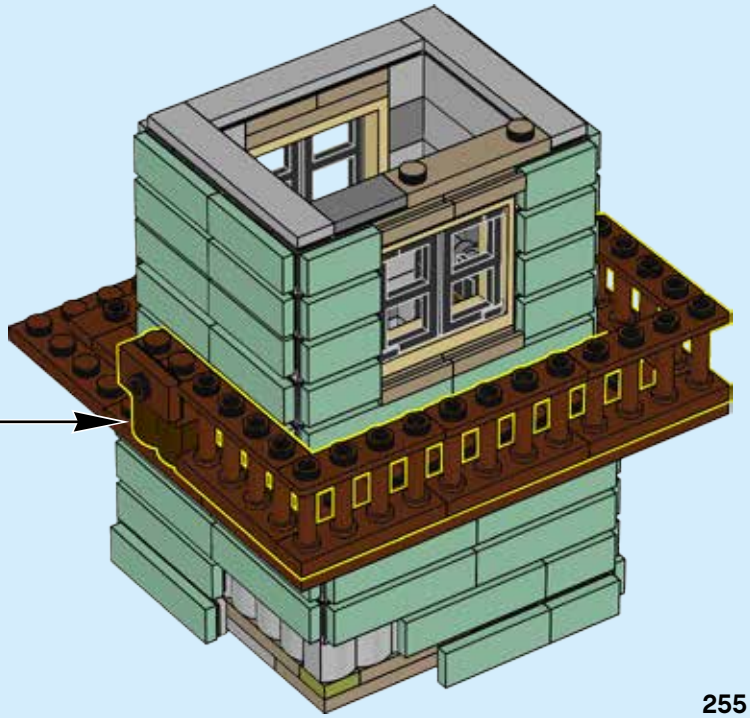

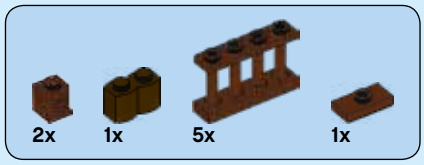

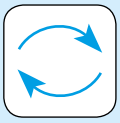

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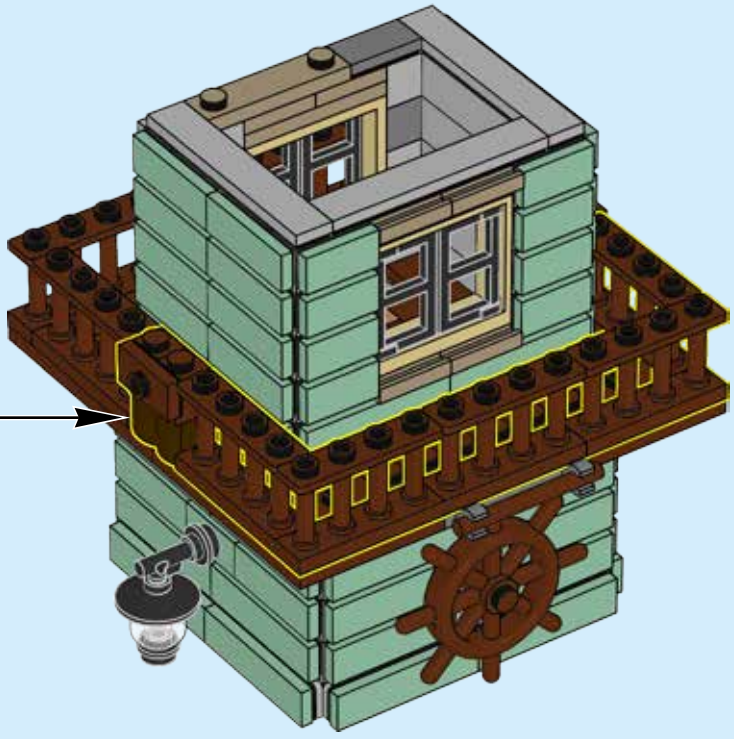

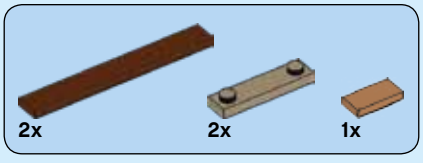

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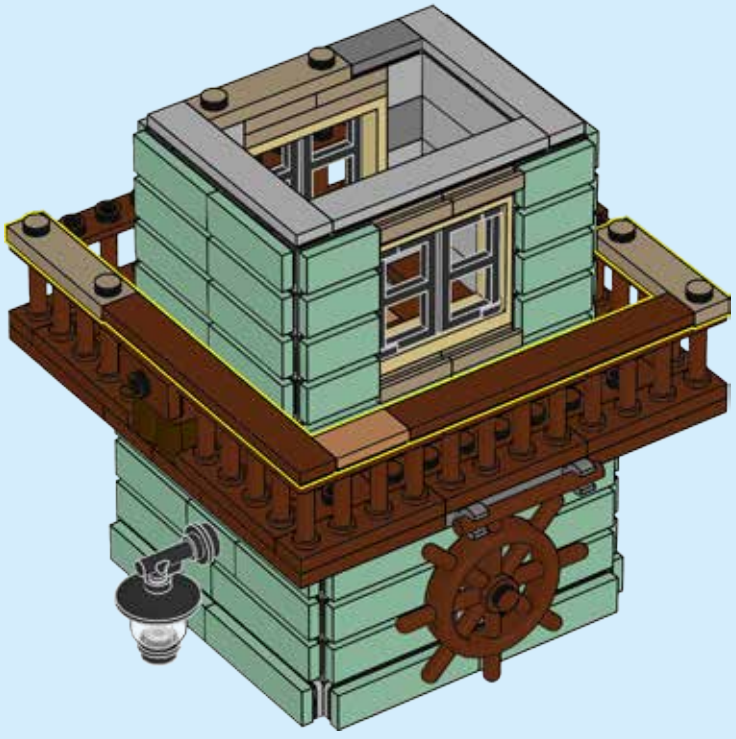

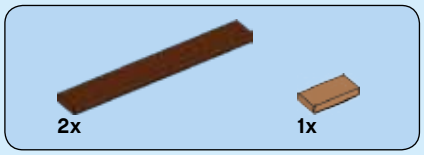

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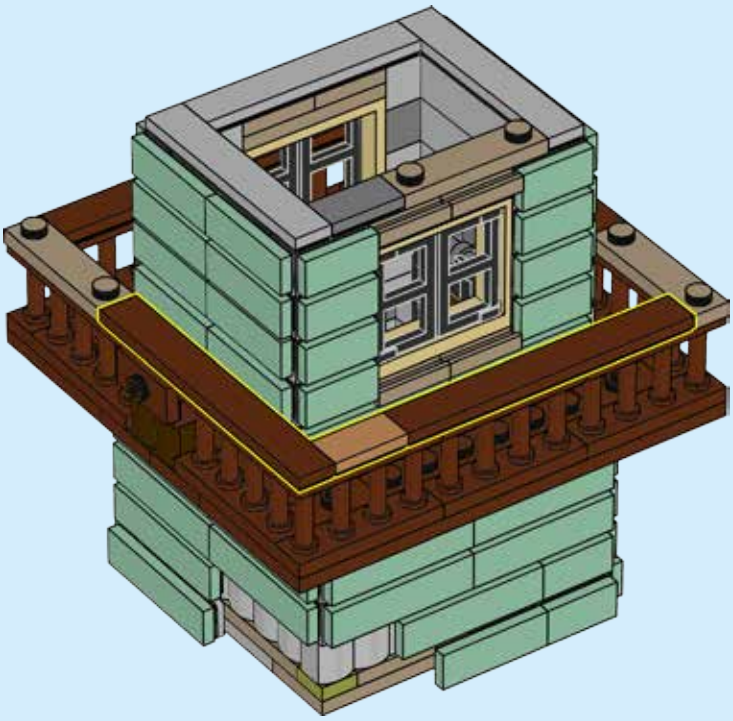

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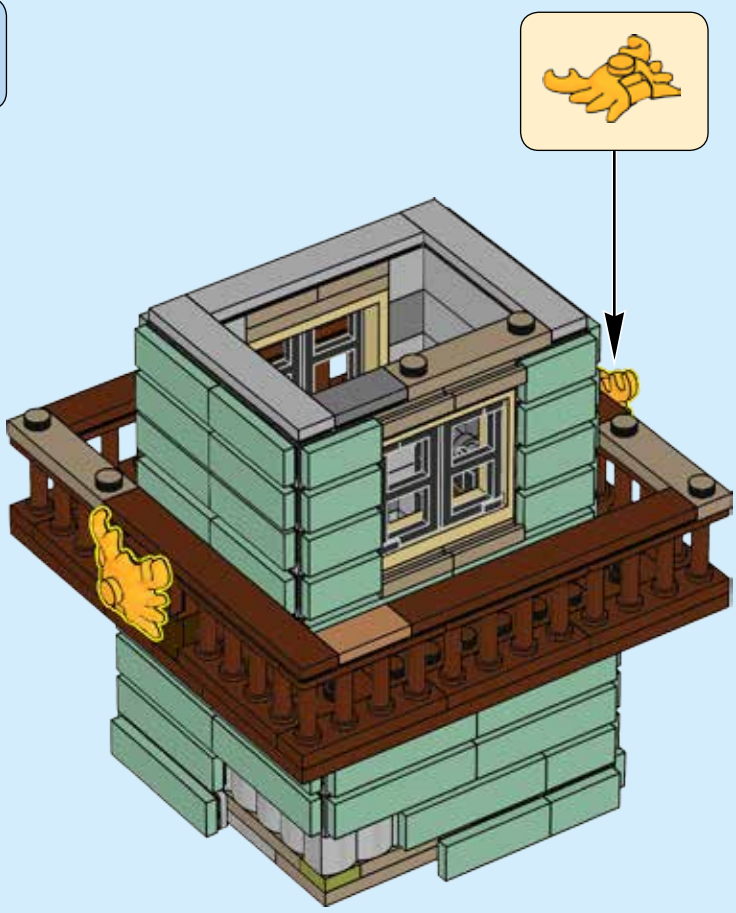

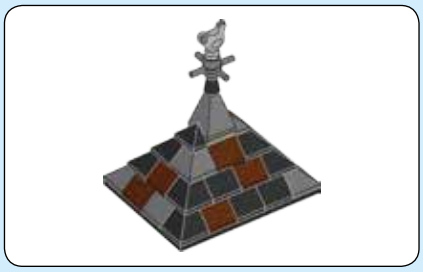

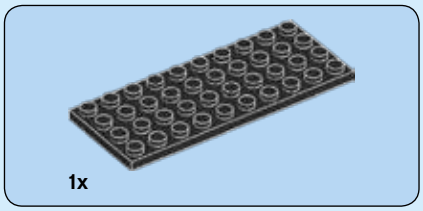

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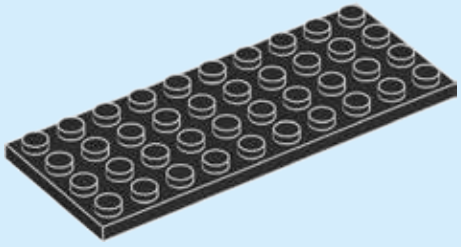

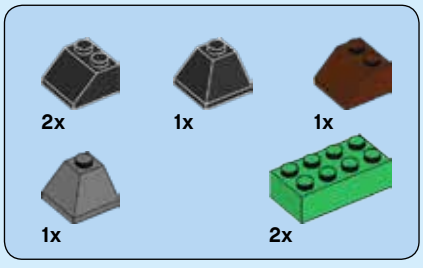

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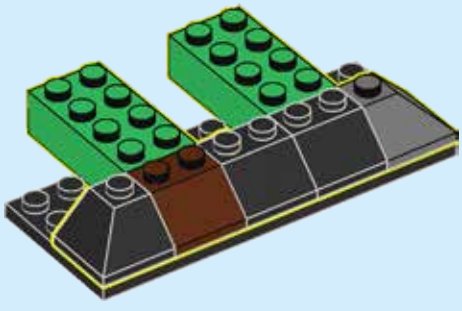

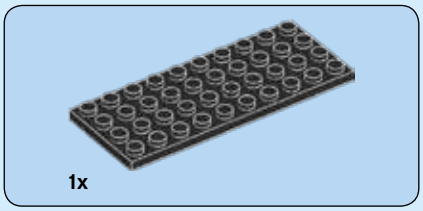

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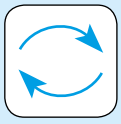

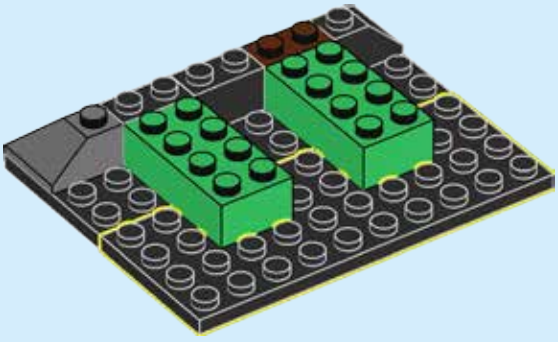

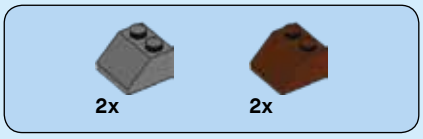

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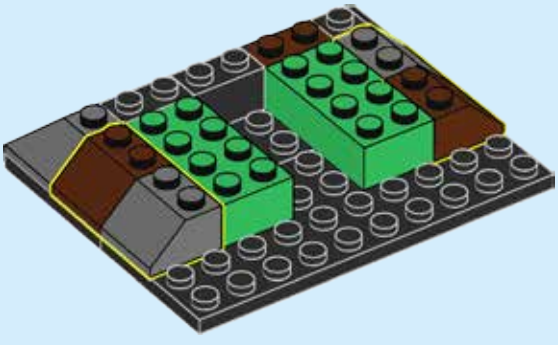

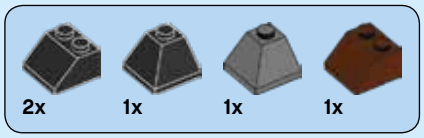

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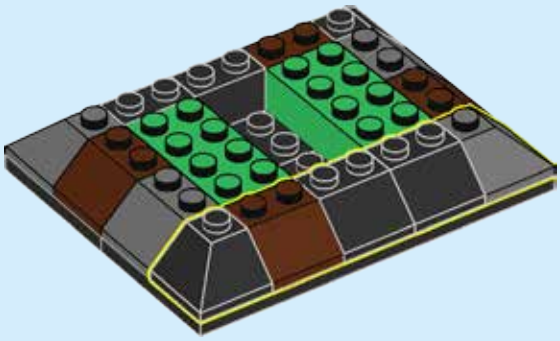

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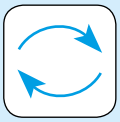

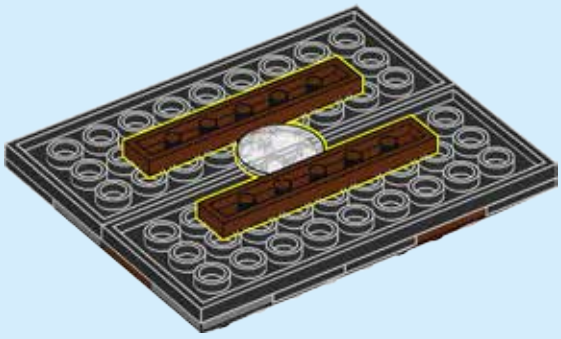

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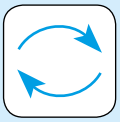

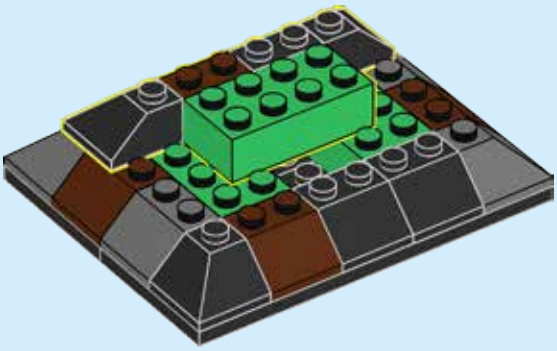

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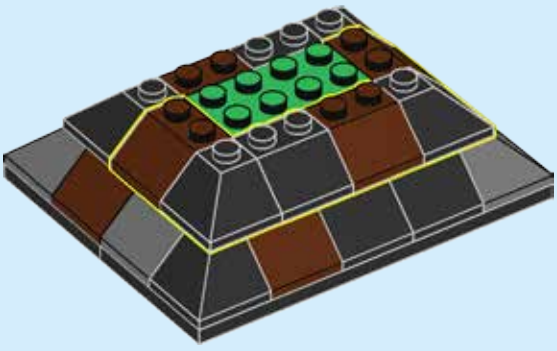

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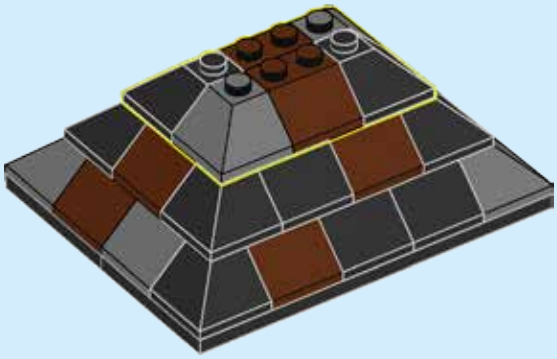

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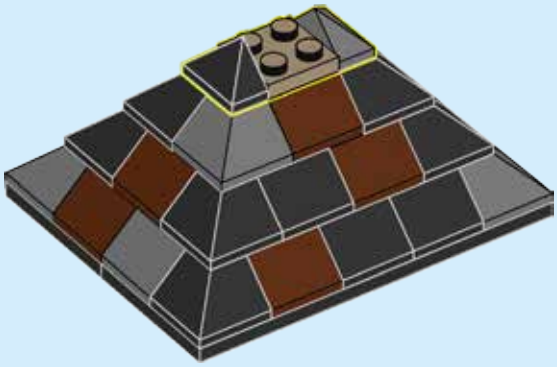

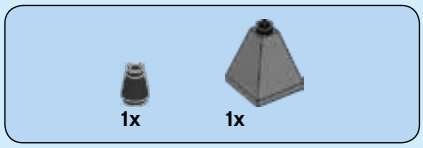

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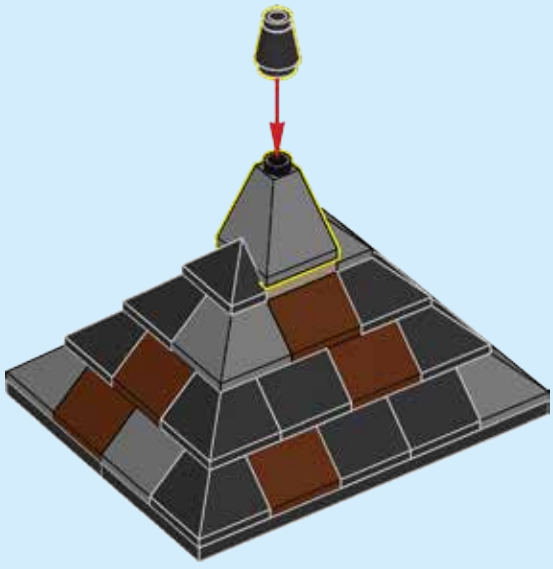

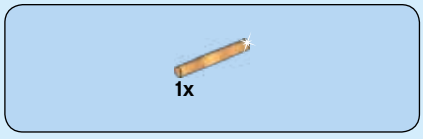

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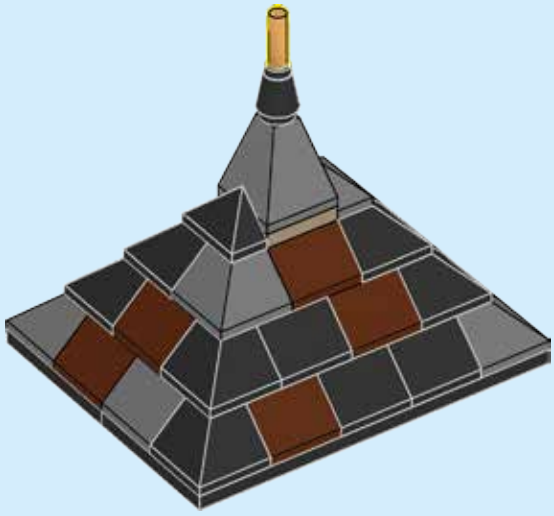

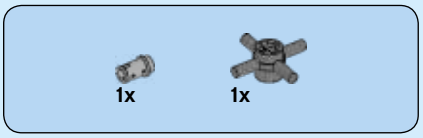

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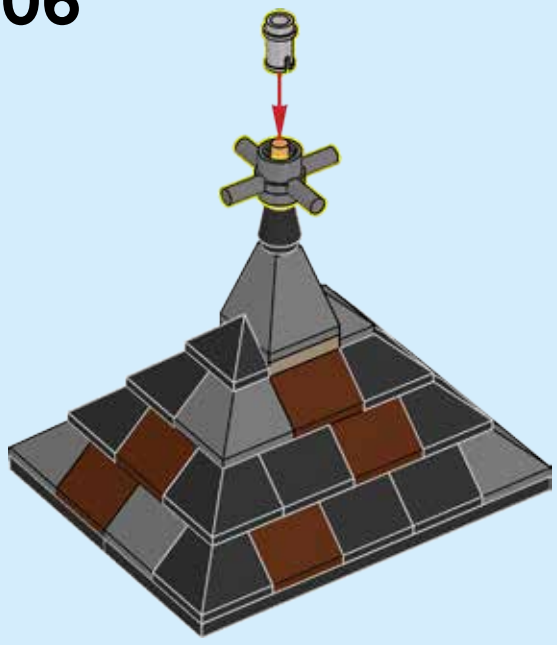

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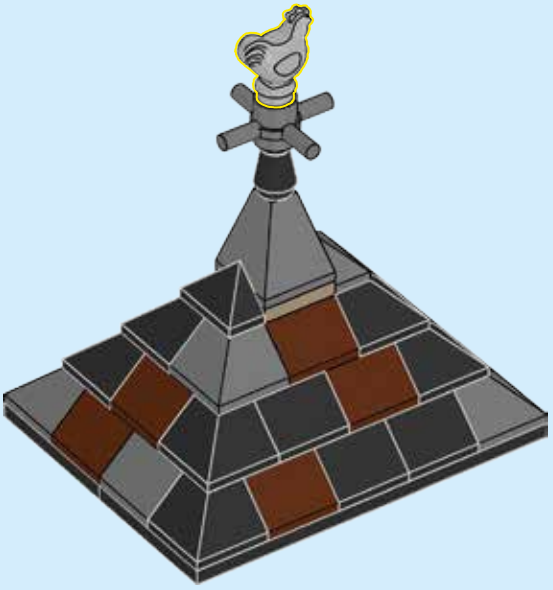

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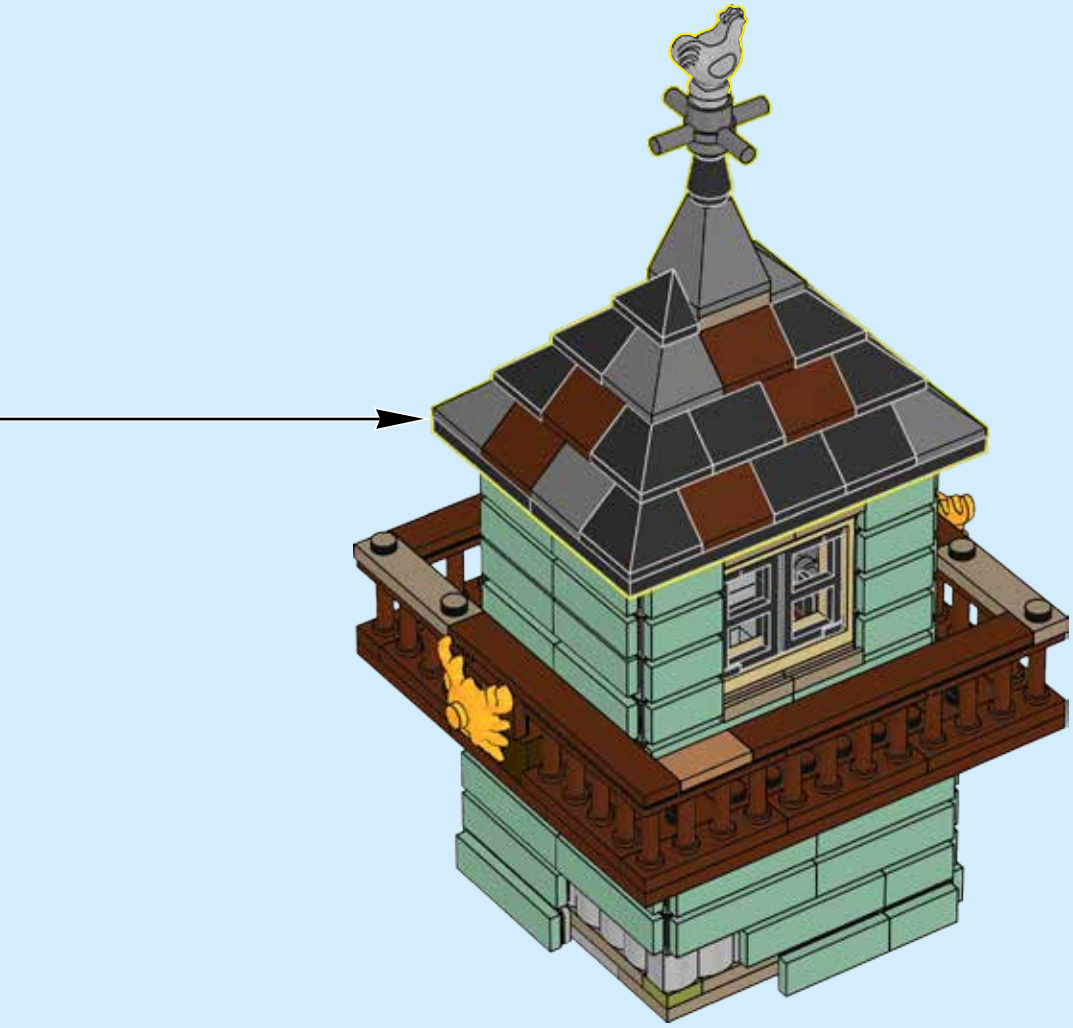

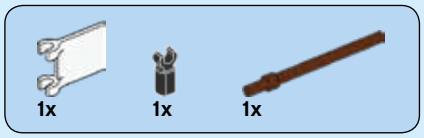

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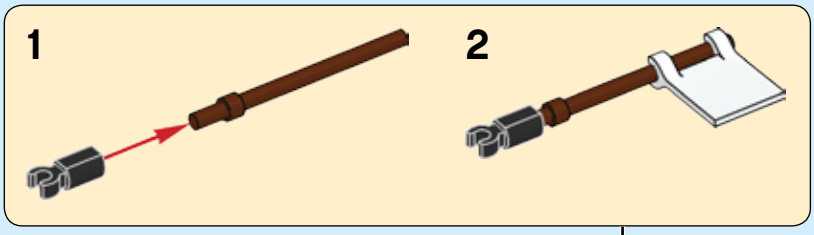

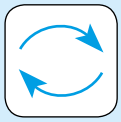

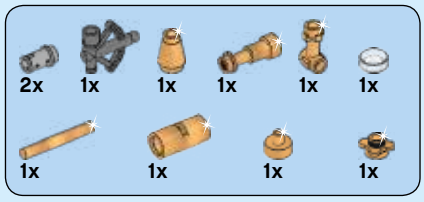

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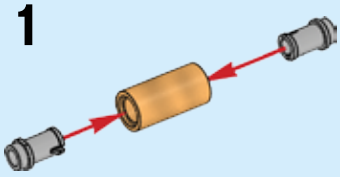

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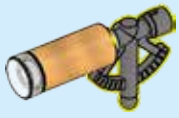

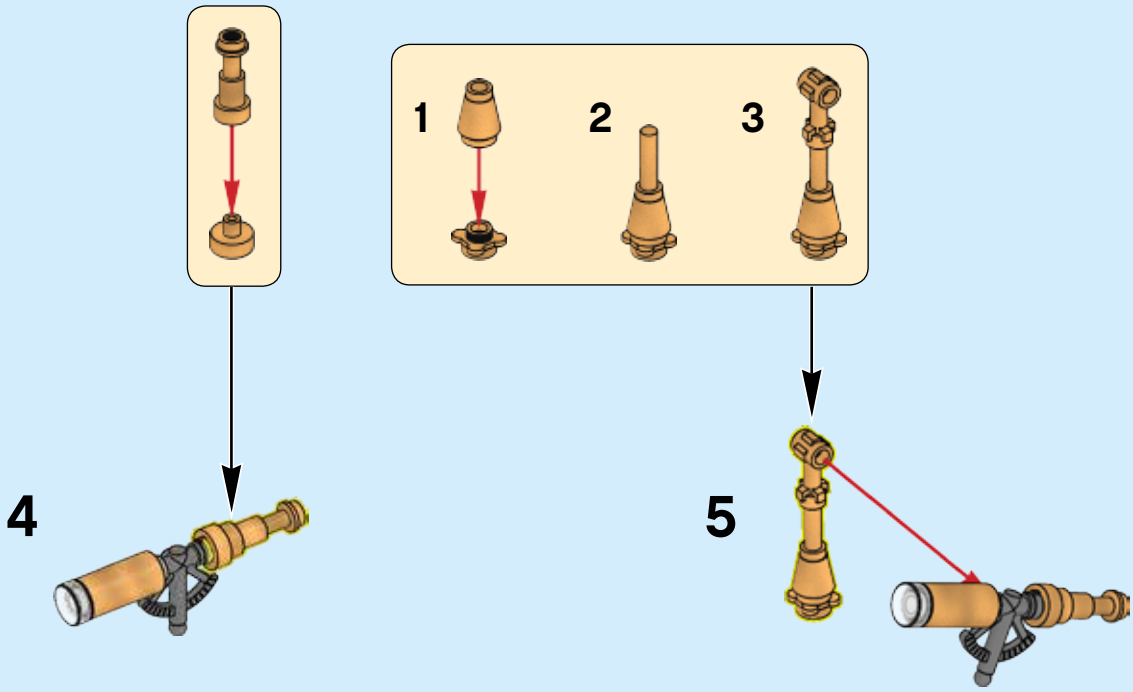
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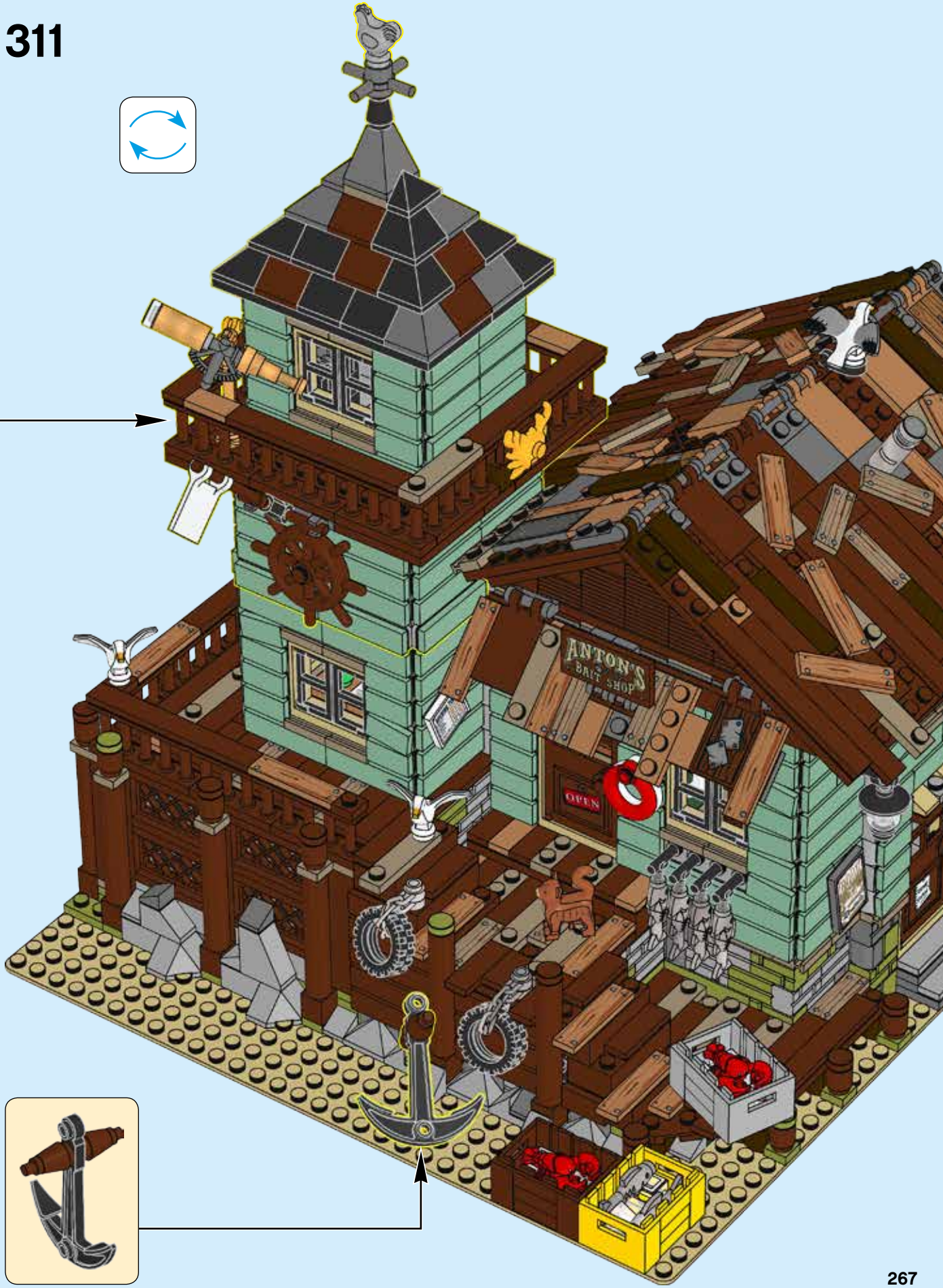

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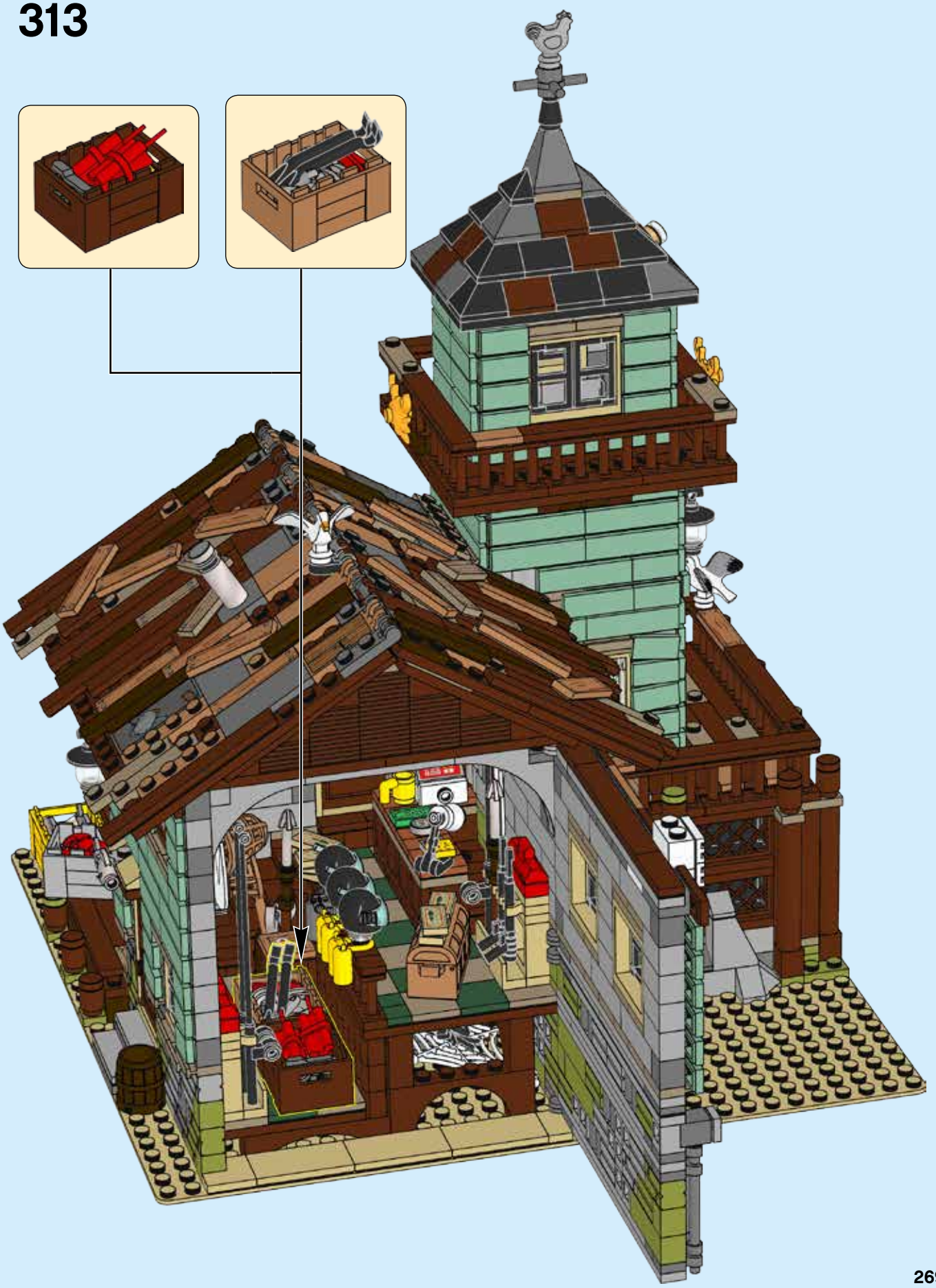

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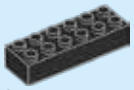
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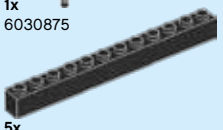
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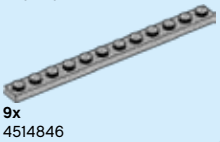
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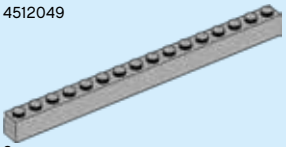
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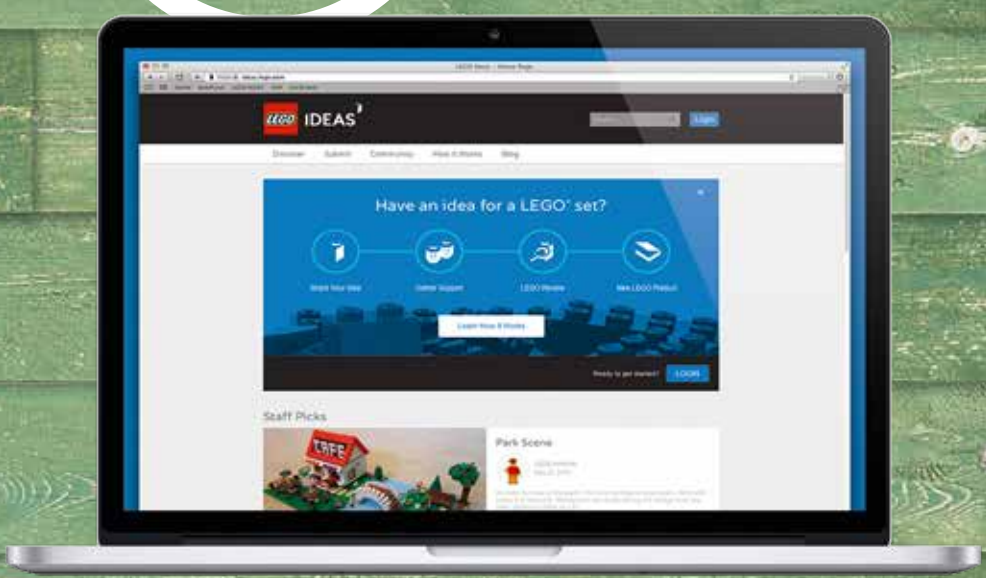

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