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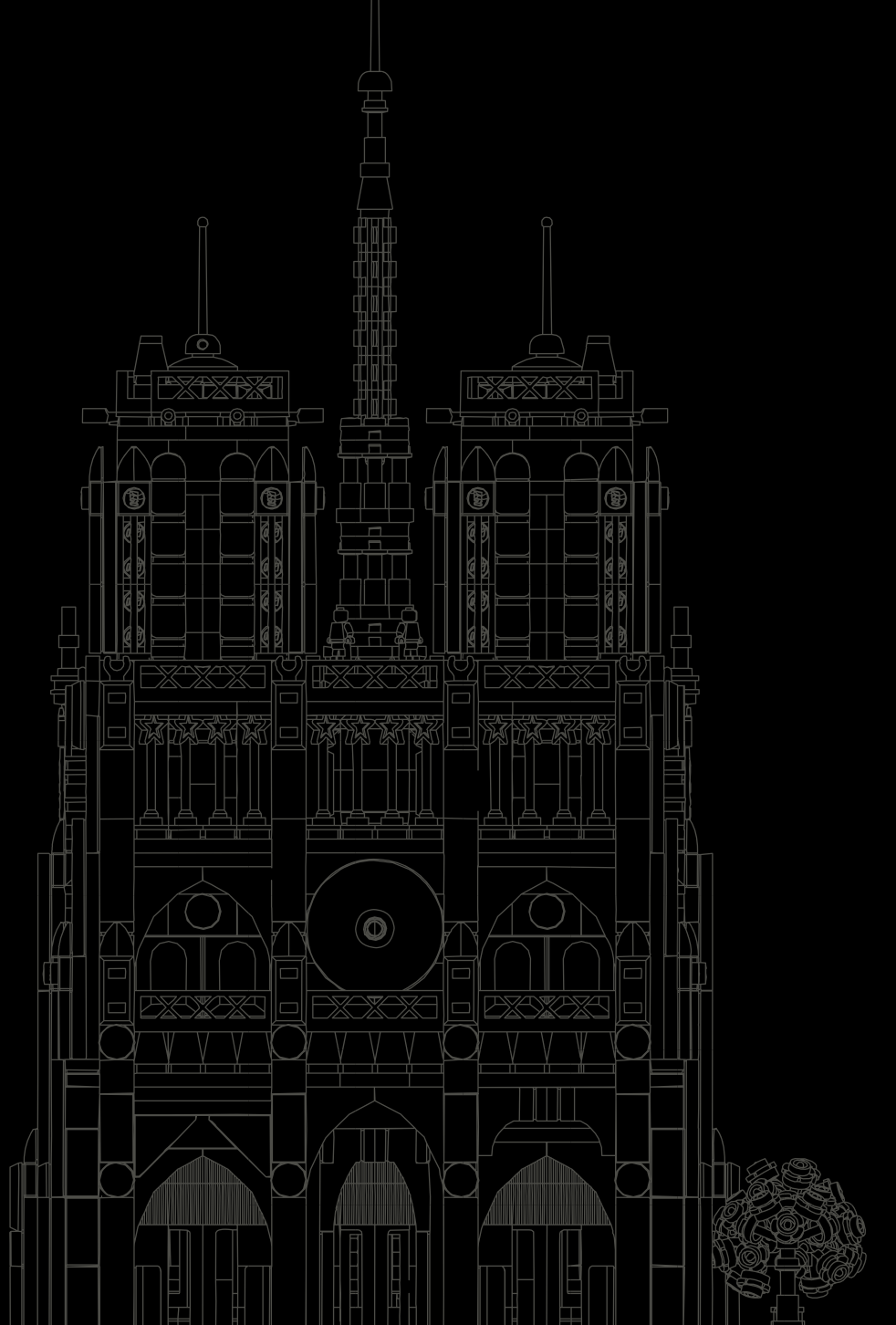
NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

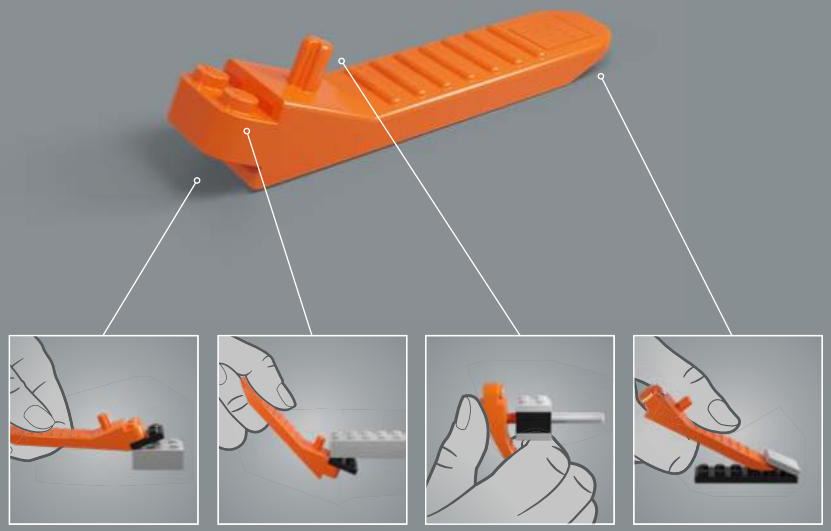
"It's hard to imagine Paris without the majestic Notre-Dame Cathedral. Over the centuries, the spectacular landmark has weathered the elements, revolution and devastating destruction, and remains one of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris. When you see it in all its seemingly gravity-defying splendour, you may wonder how architects, masons and builders created such a monument, starting nearly 900 years ago, with construction going on for centuries. Inspired and awed by the ingenious techniques employed by these craftsmen, we set out to 'translate' this magnificent construction and its intricate details into a LEGO® model."

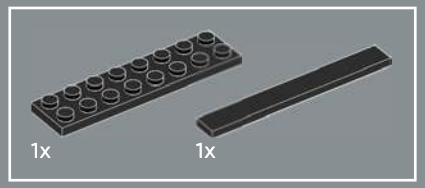
"These instructions will guide you through the building process, with each brick carefully placed to correspond with a specific architectural element in the original cathedral. With every bag you complete, you will see a model of a specific point in time in the construction of the cathedral, from 1163 to today."

Rok Žgalin Kobe, Senior LEGO® Designer

1163–1182: The east side of the cathedral was completed first and served as a functioning church while construction continued on the rest of the cathedral.







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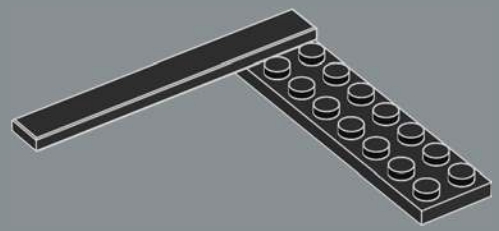

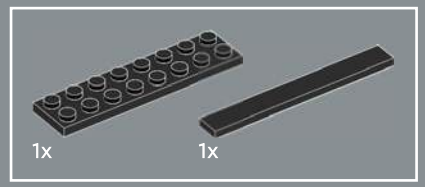

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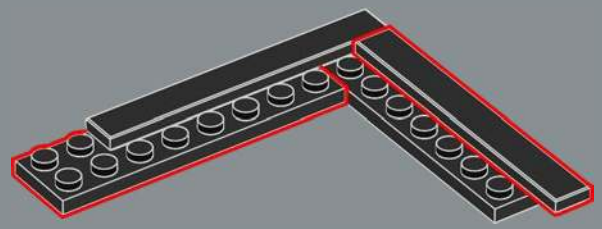

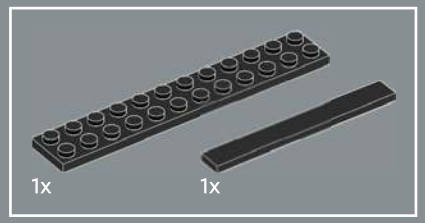

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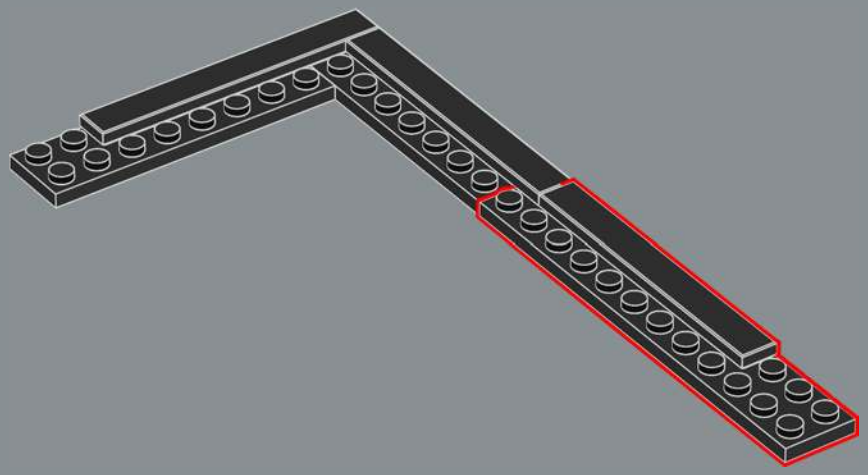

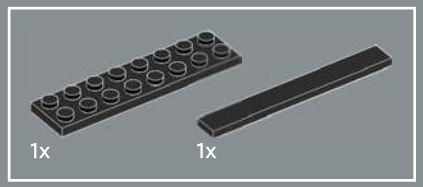

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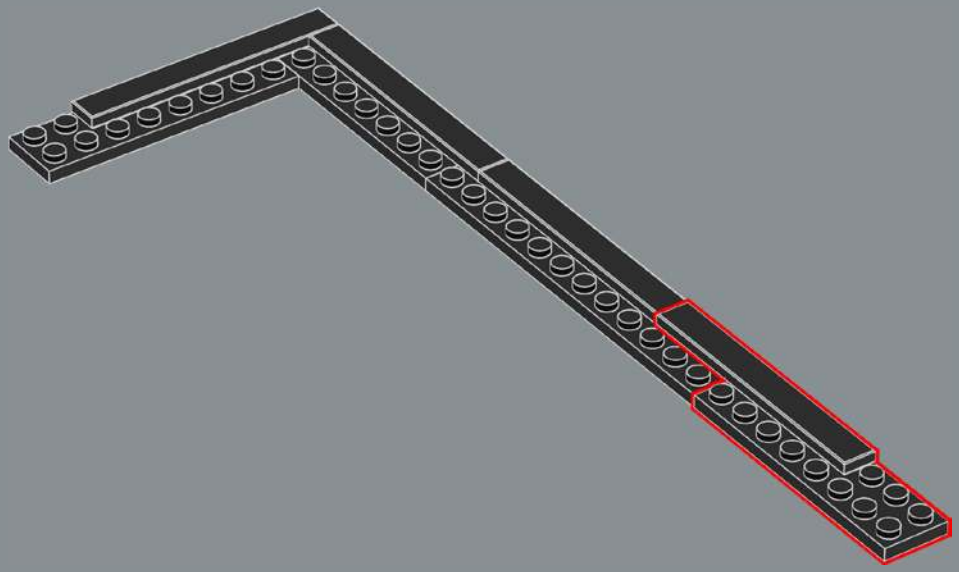

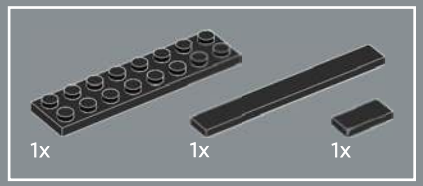

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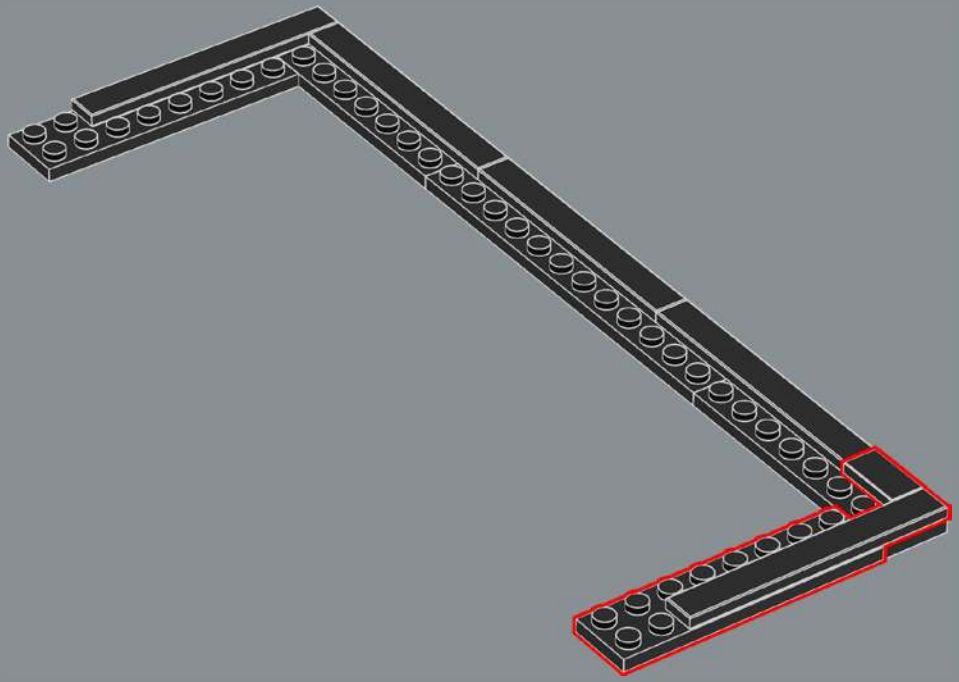

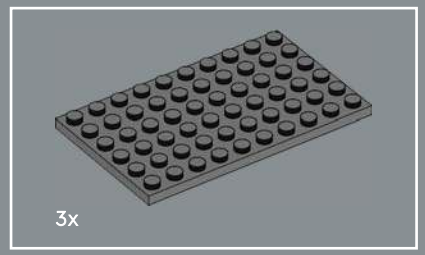

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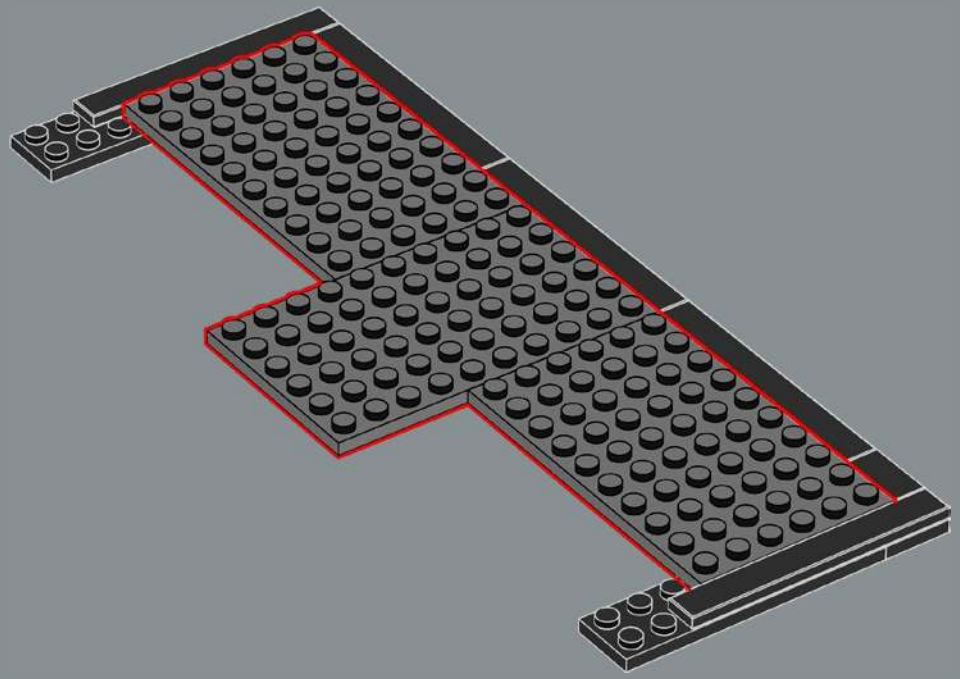

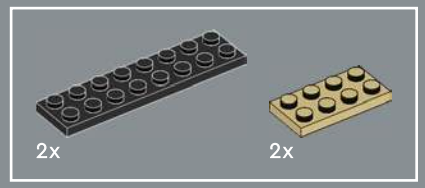

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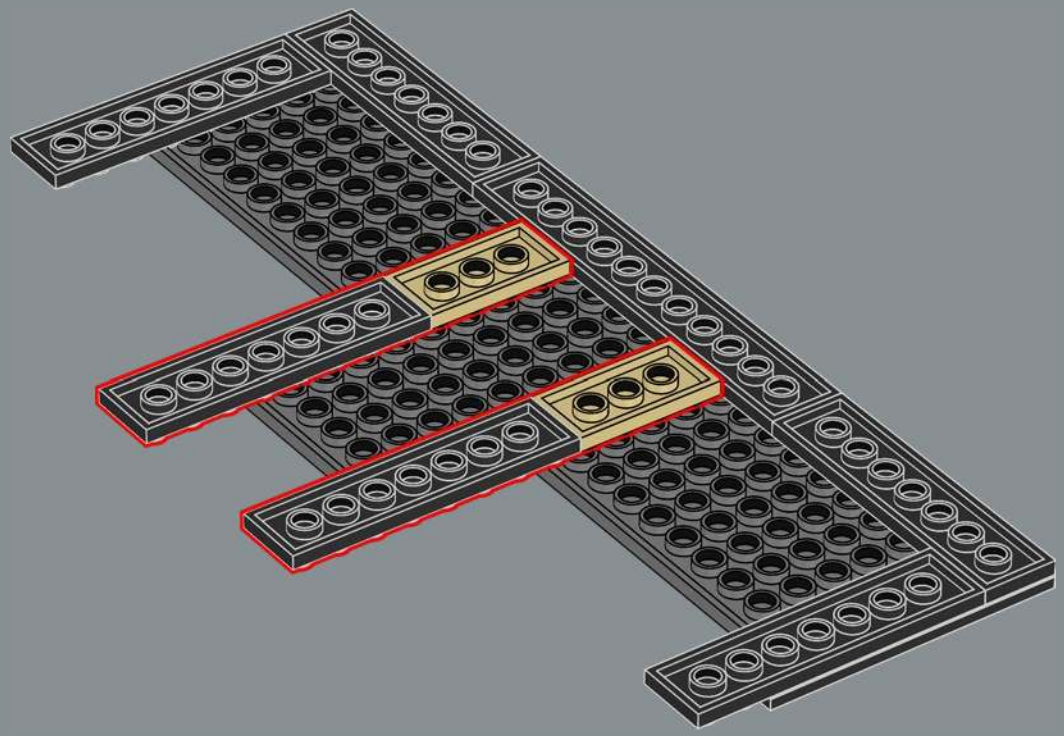

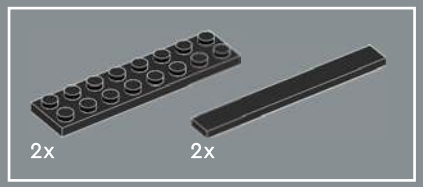

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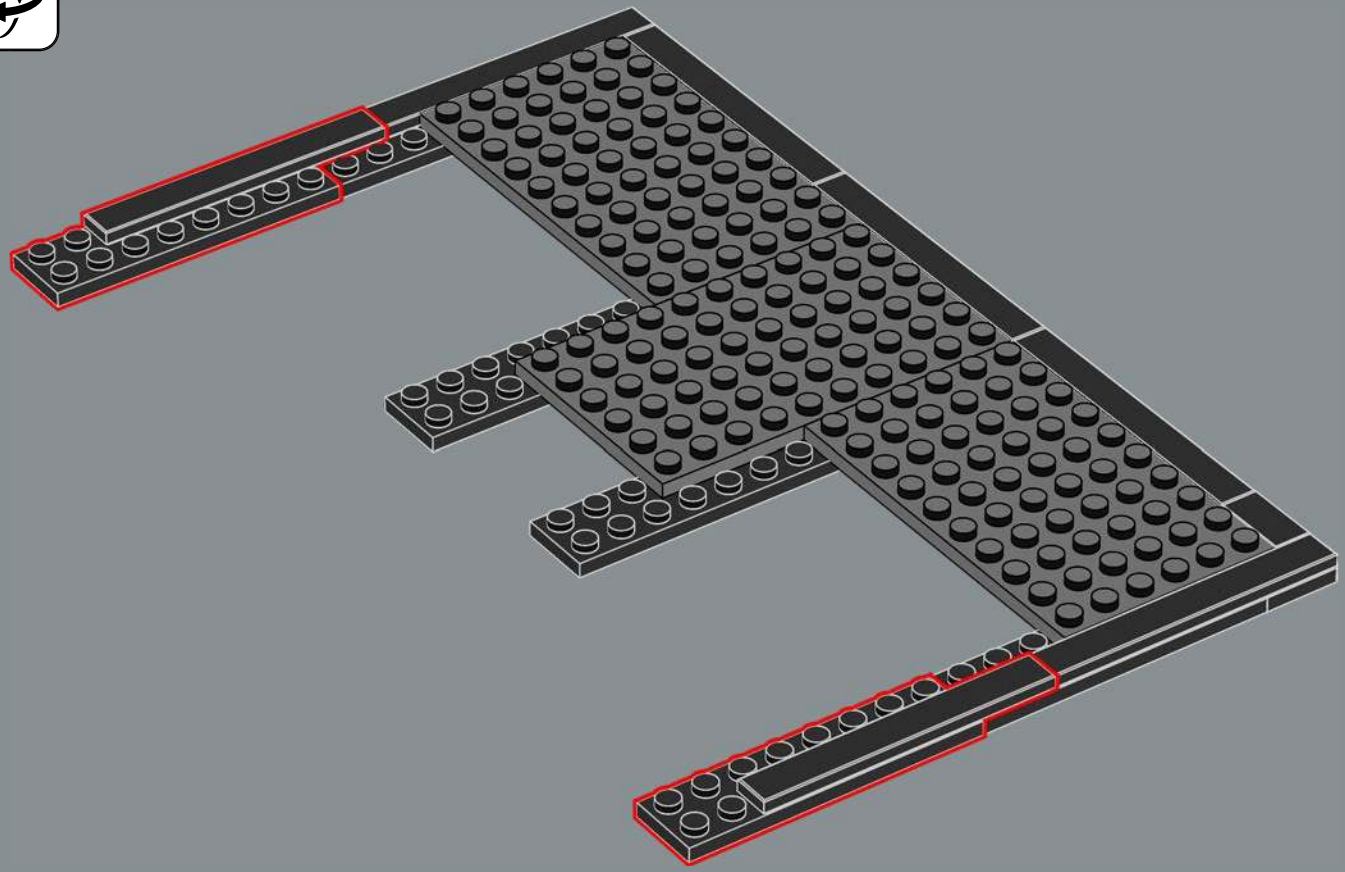

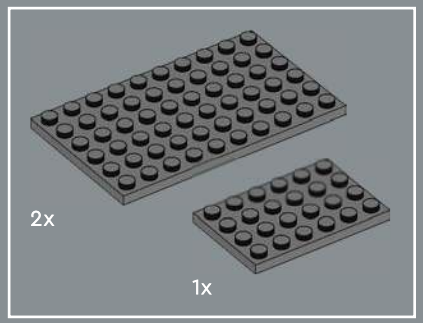

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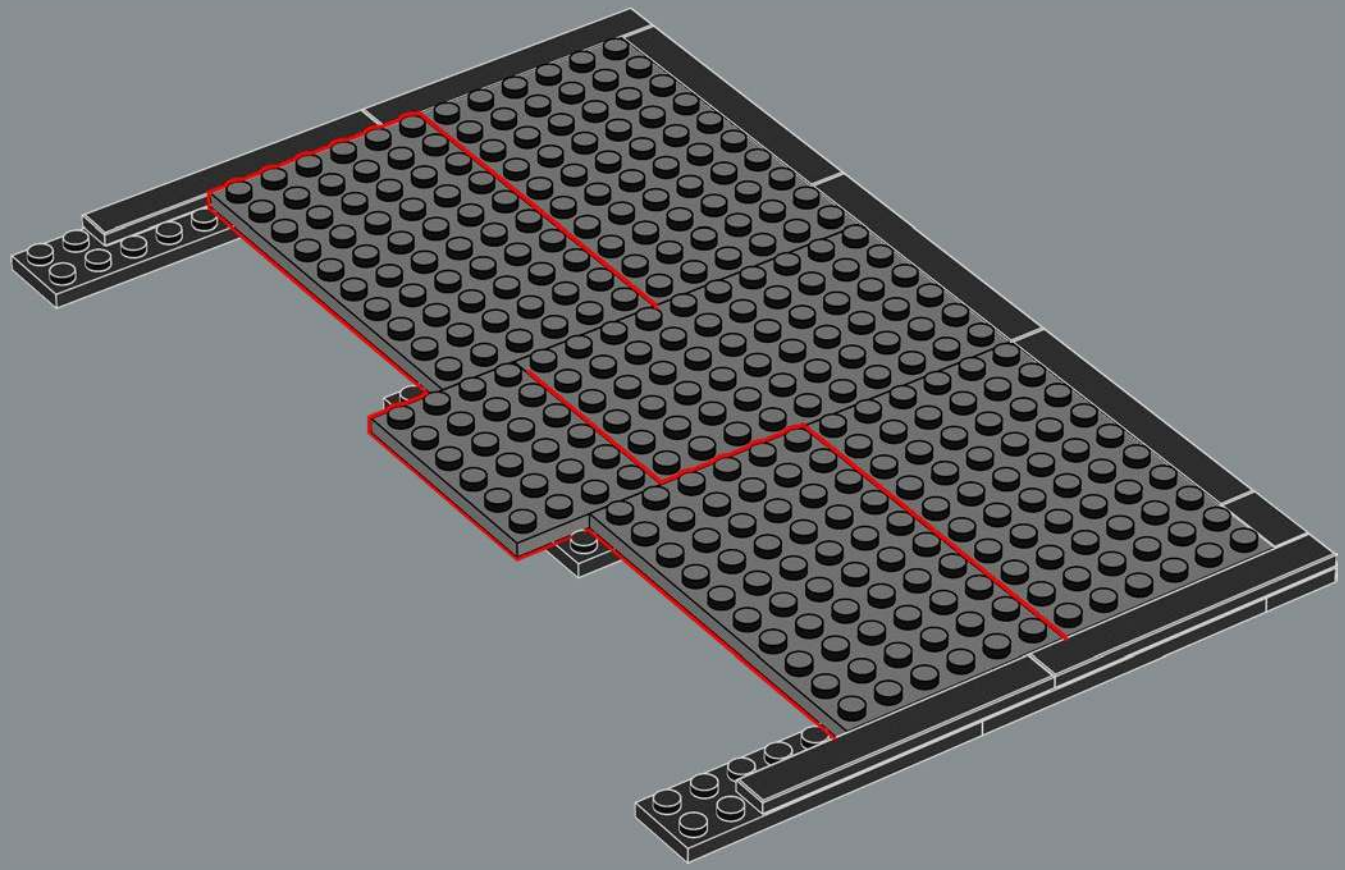

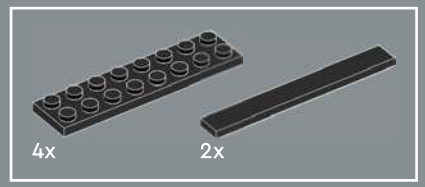

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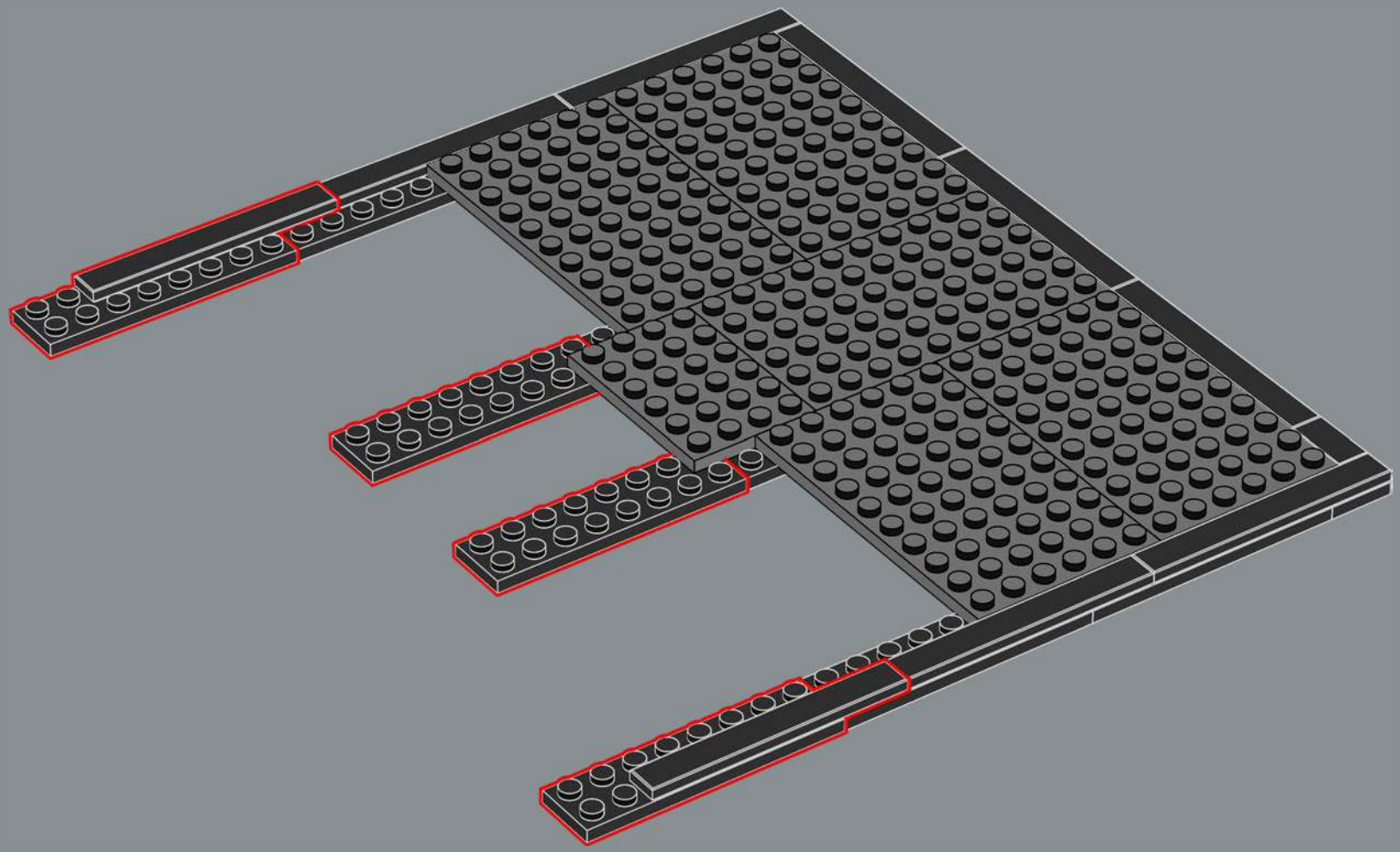

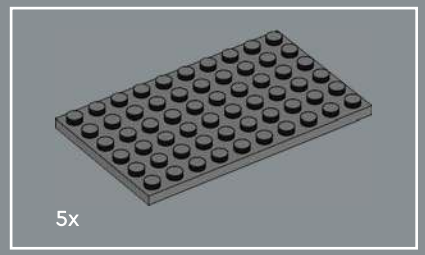

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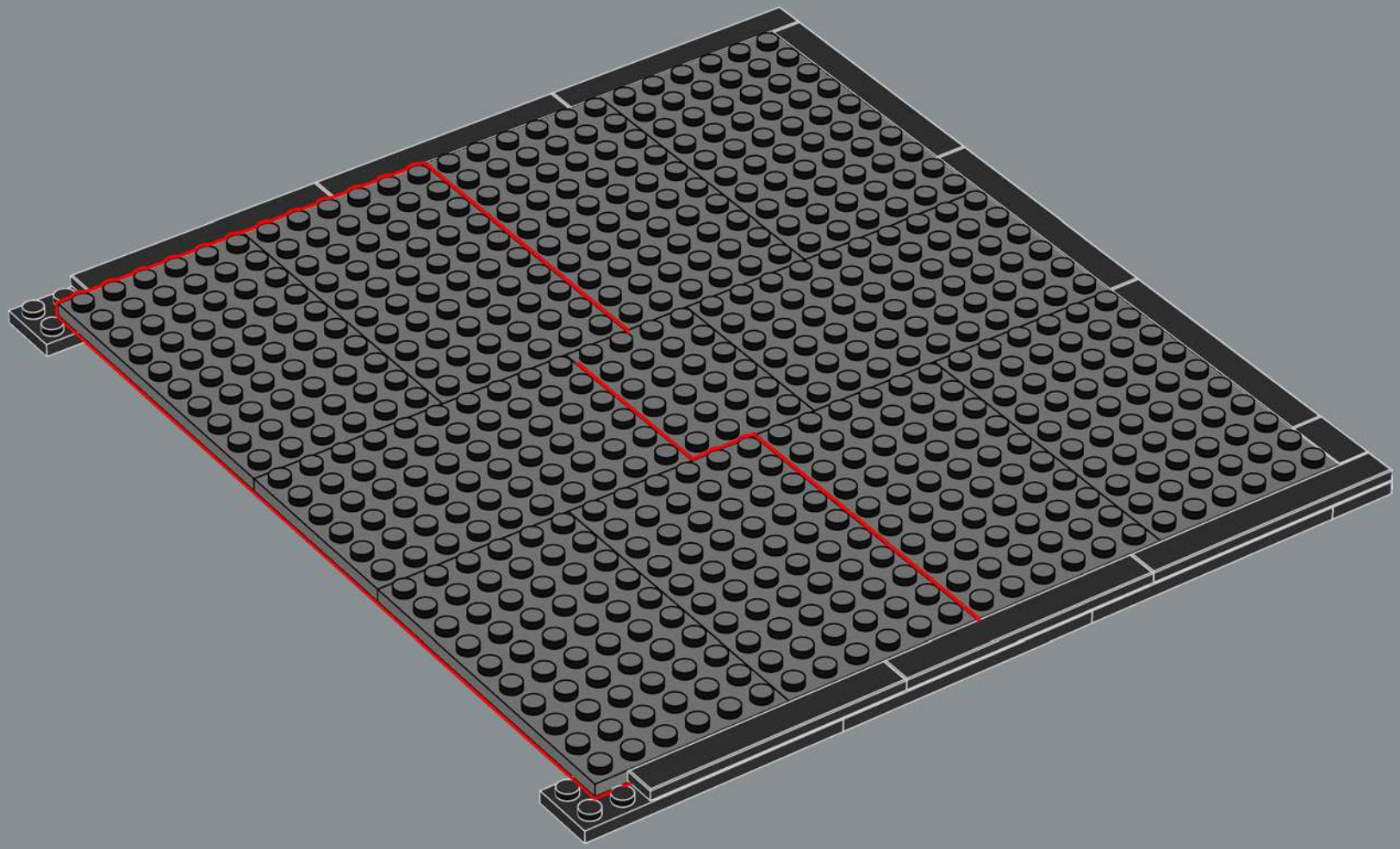

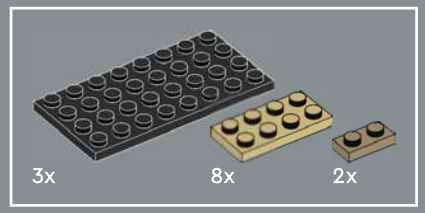

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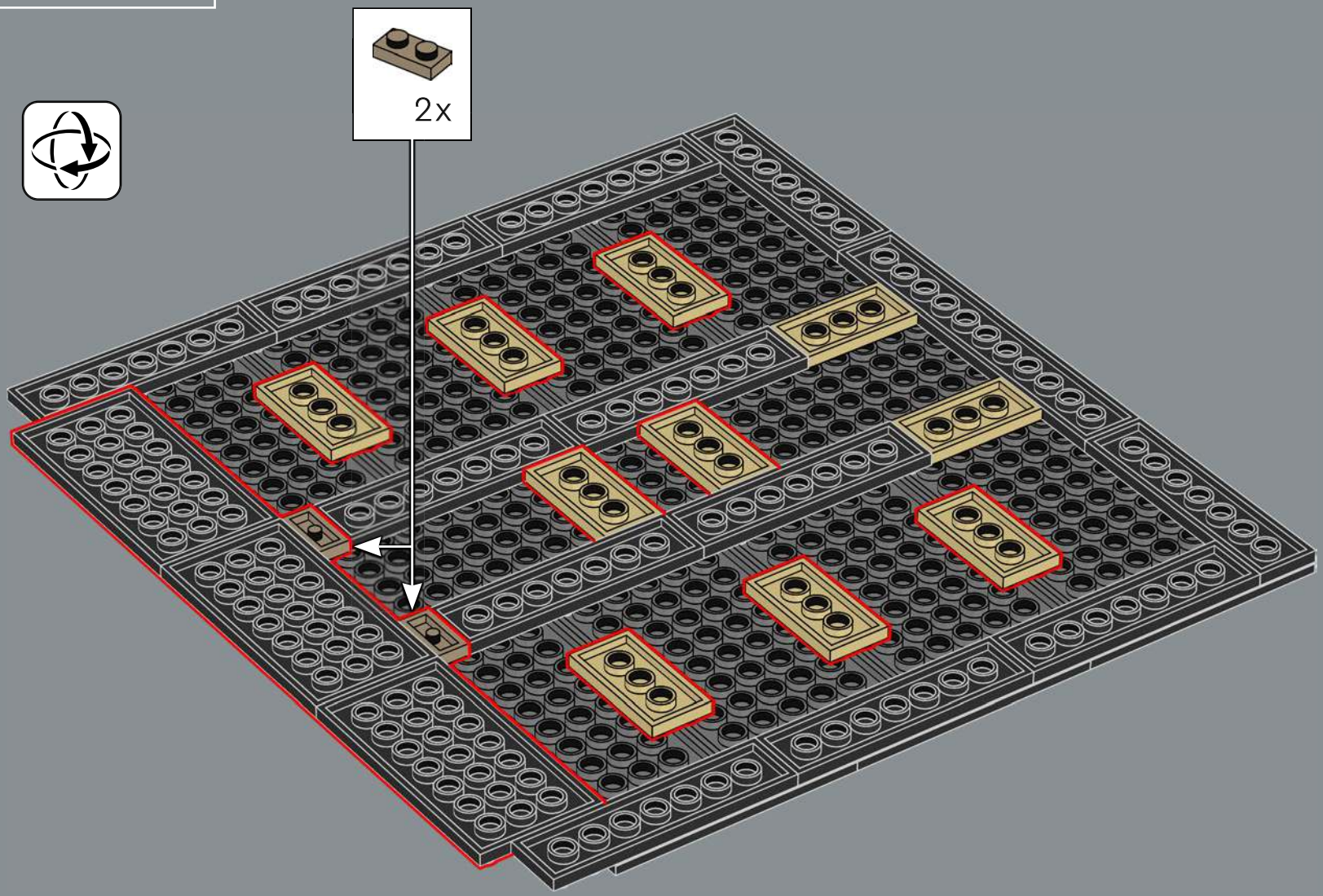

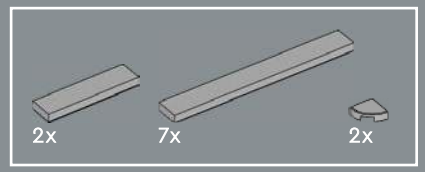

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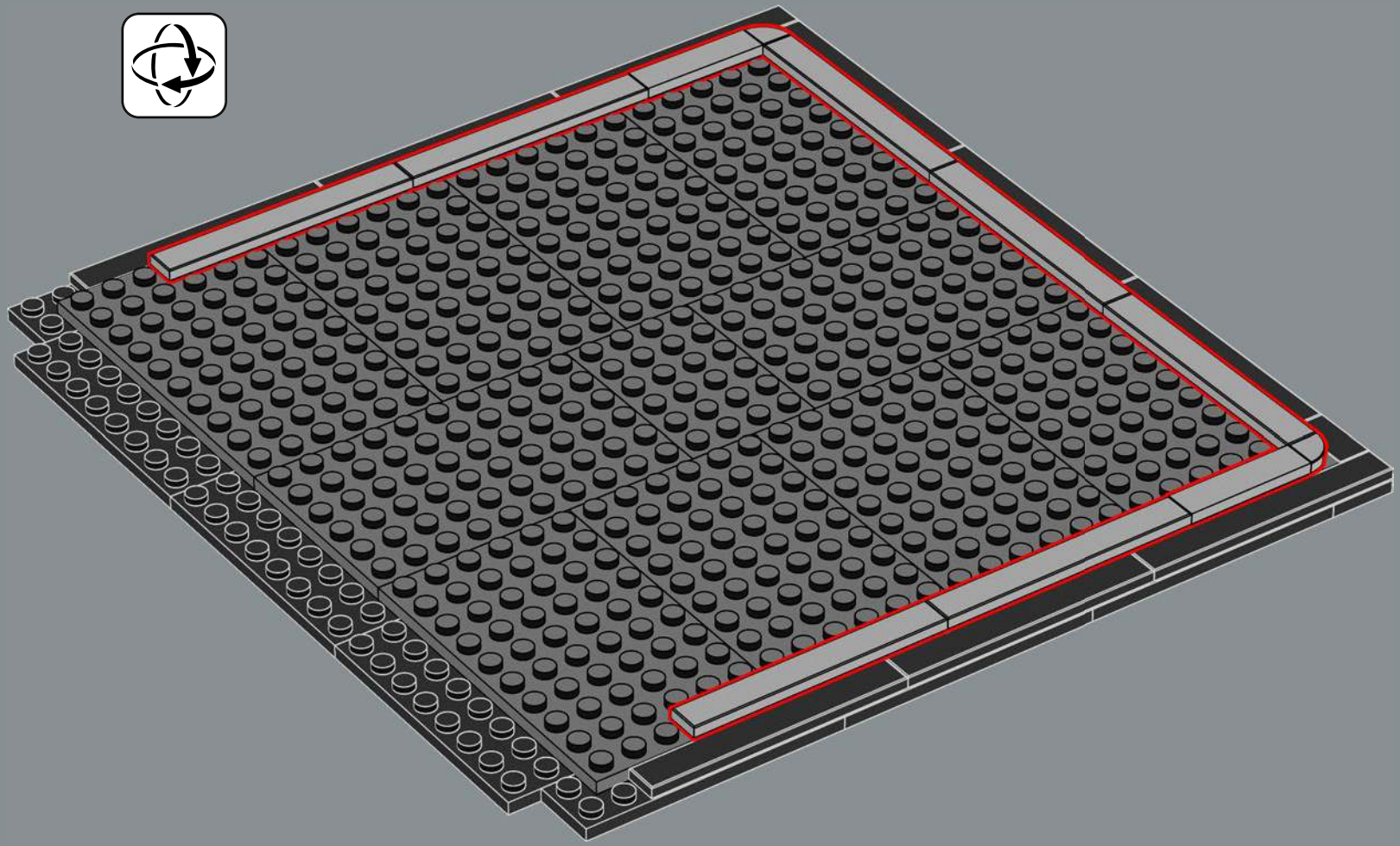

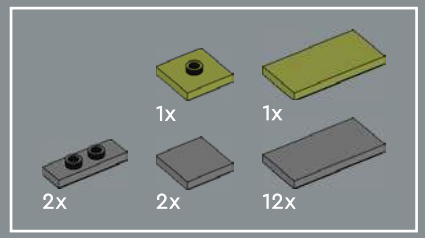

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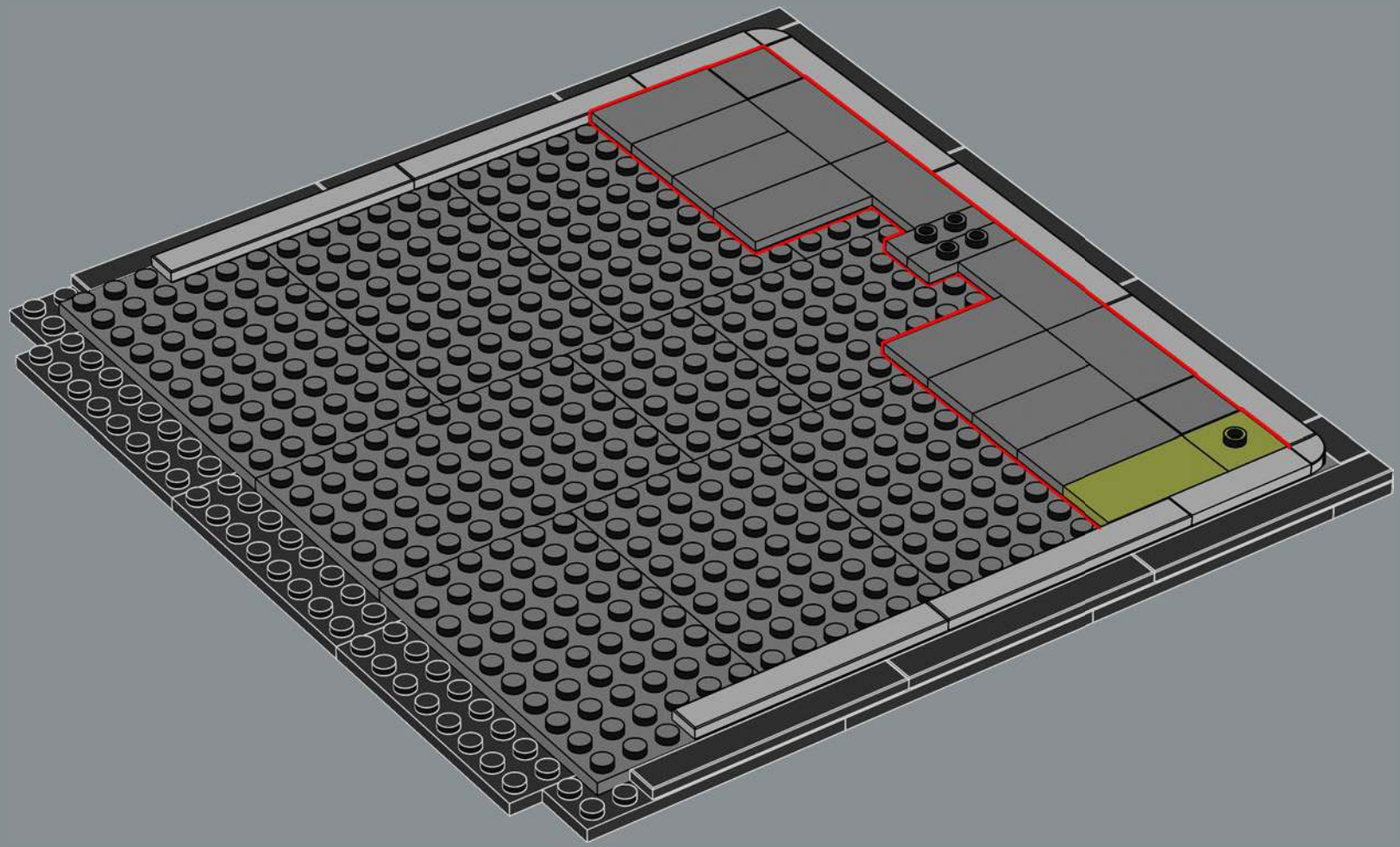
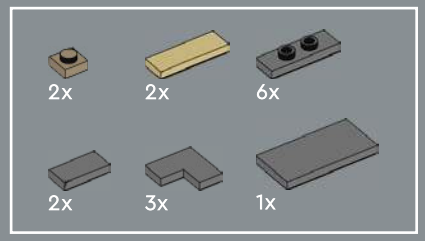
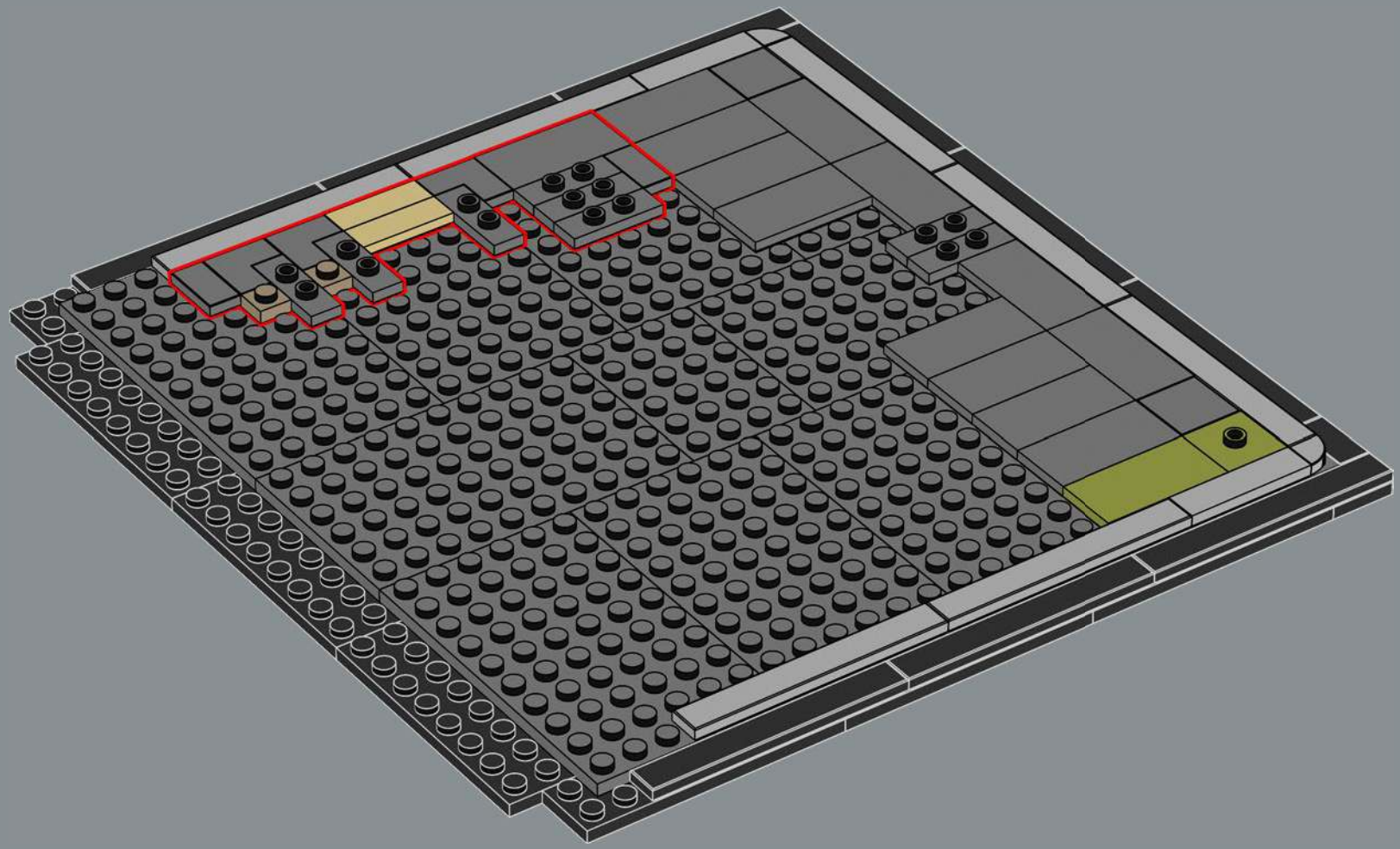
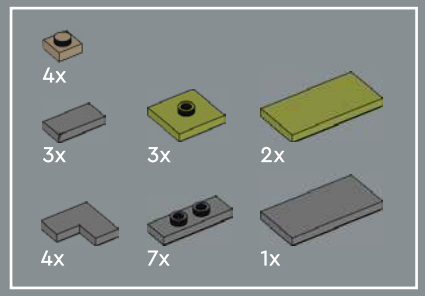




1163 – The plans for the Notre-Dame Cathedral are ready. Construction begins and Pope Alexander III oversees the first stone being set in place.

15





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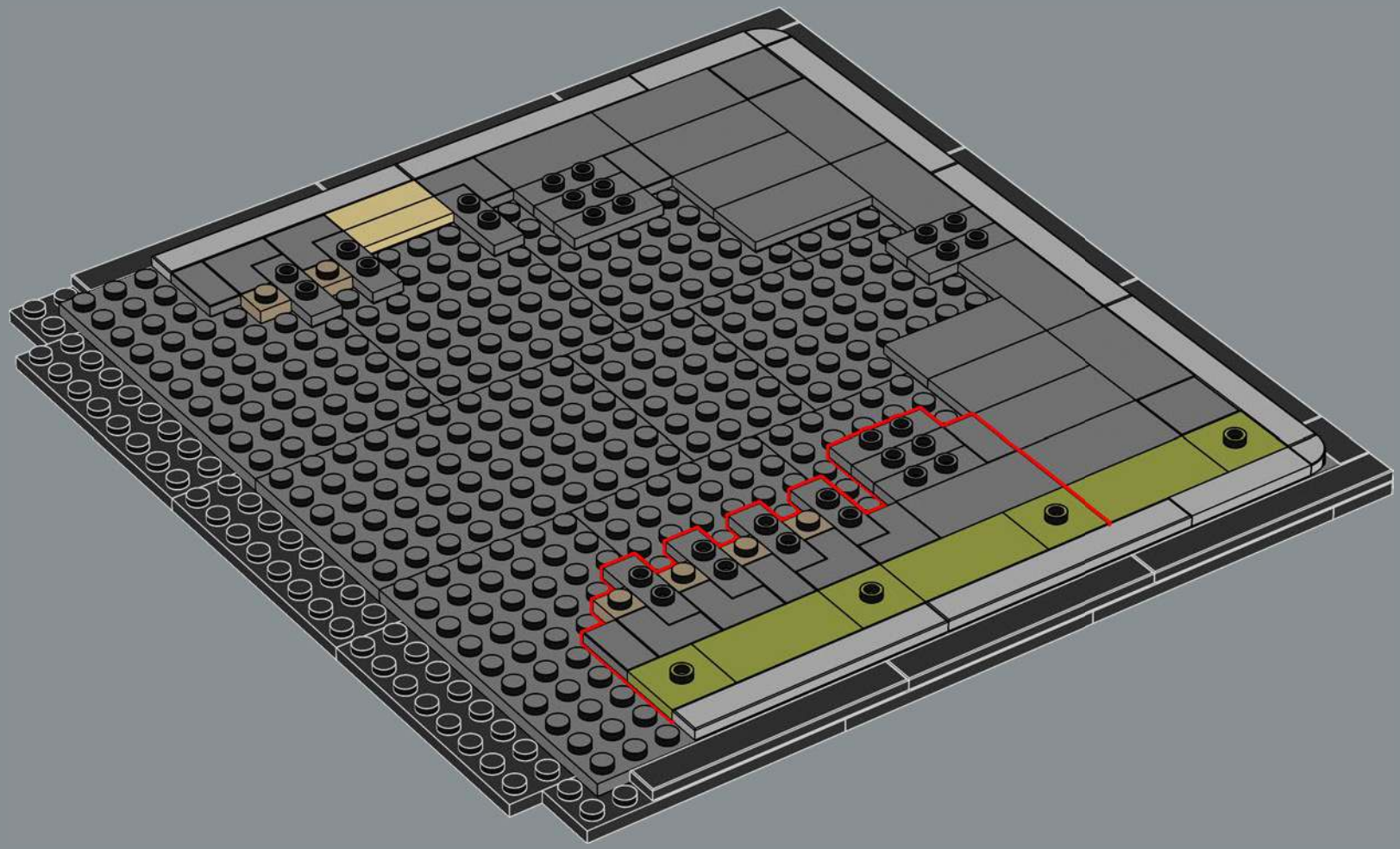

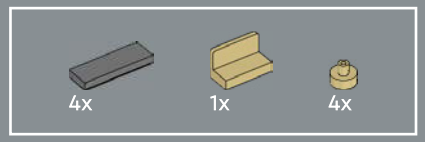

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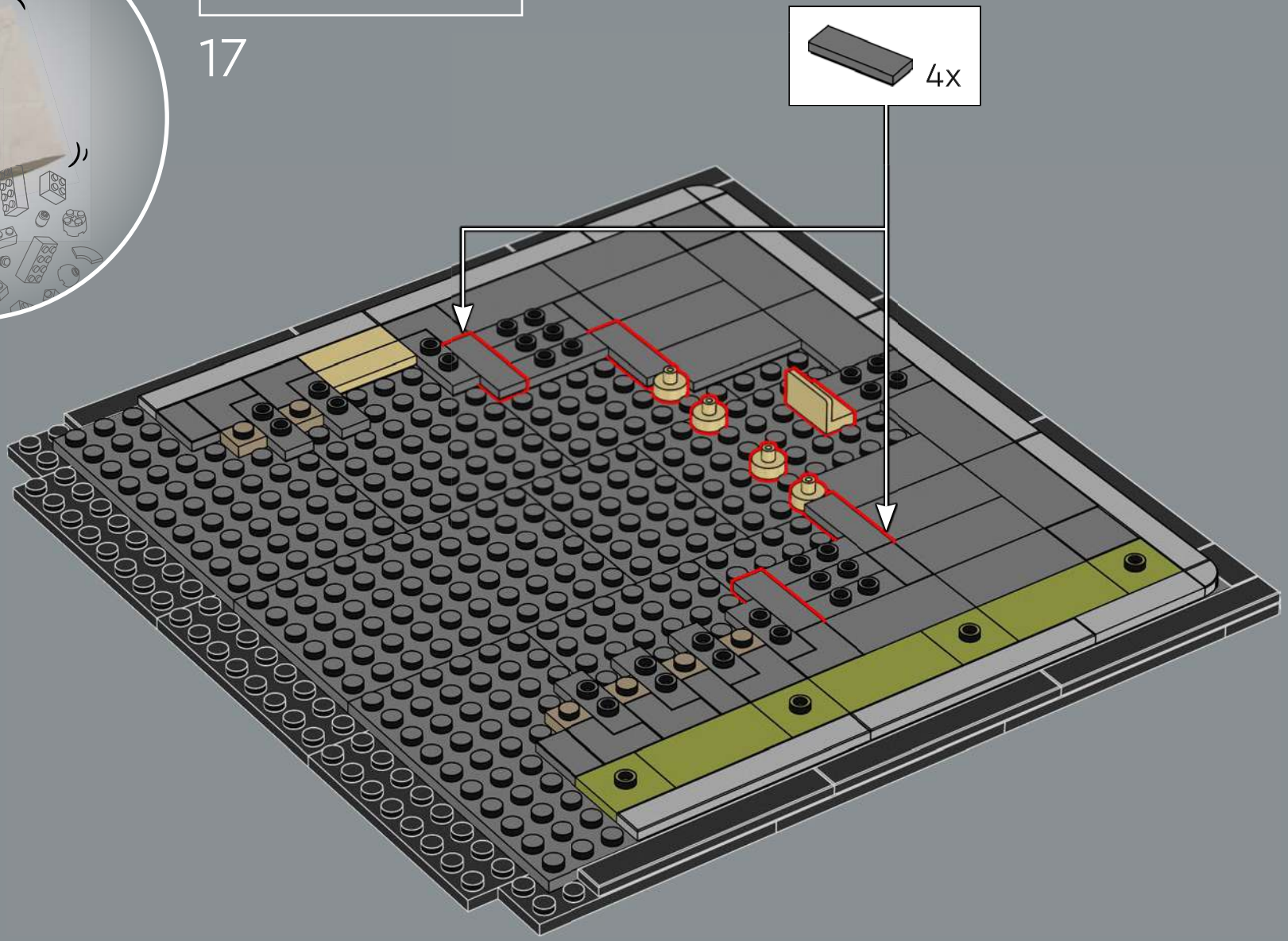

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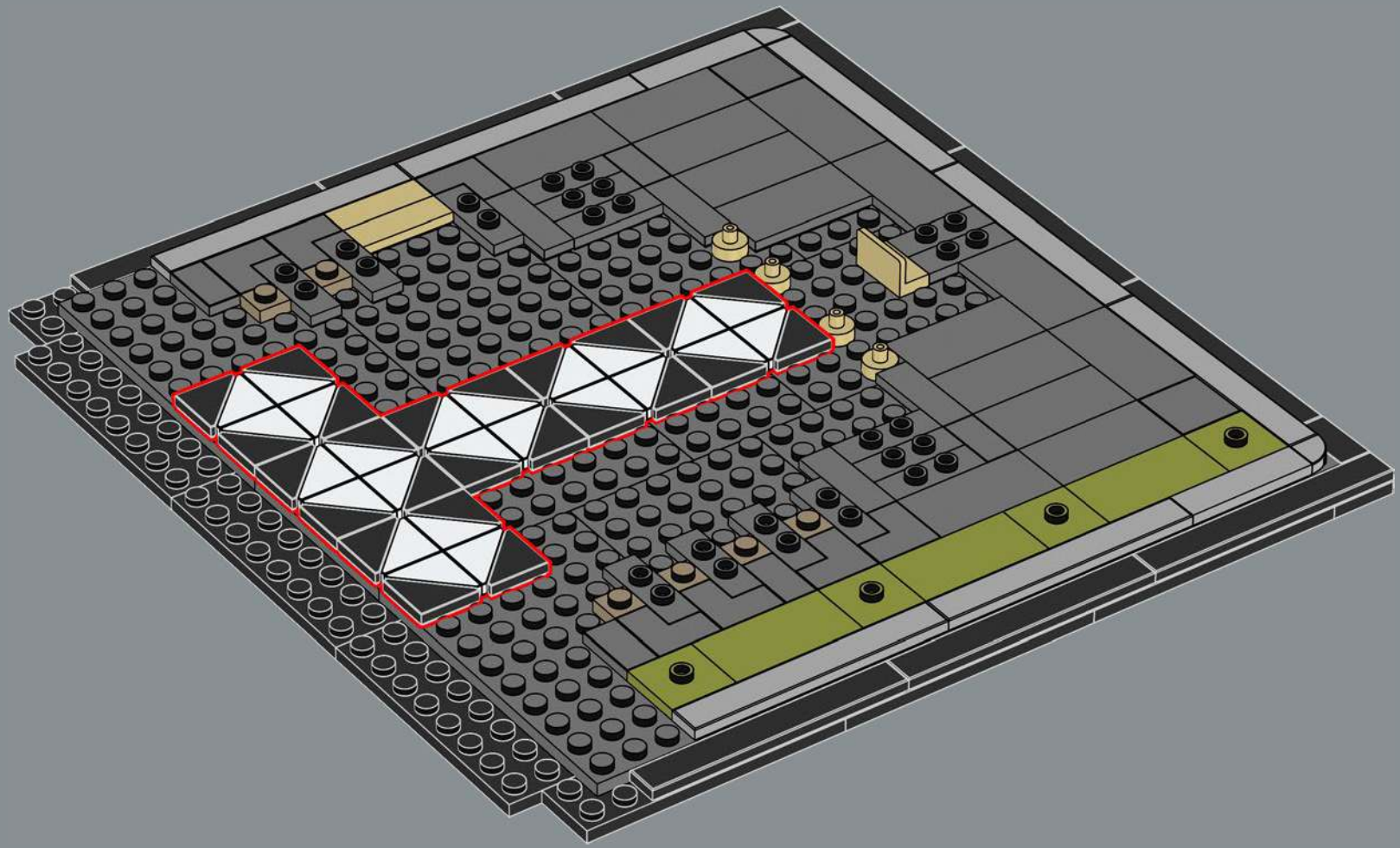

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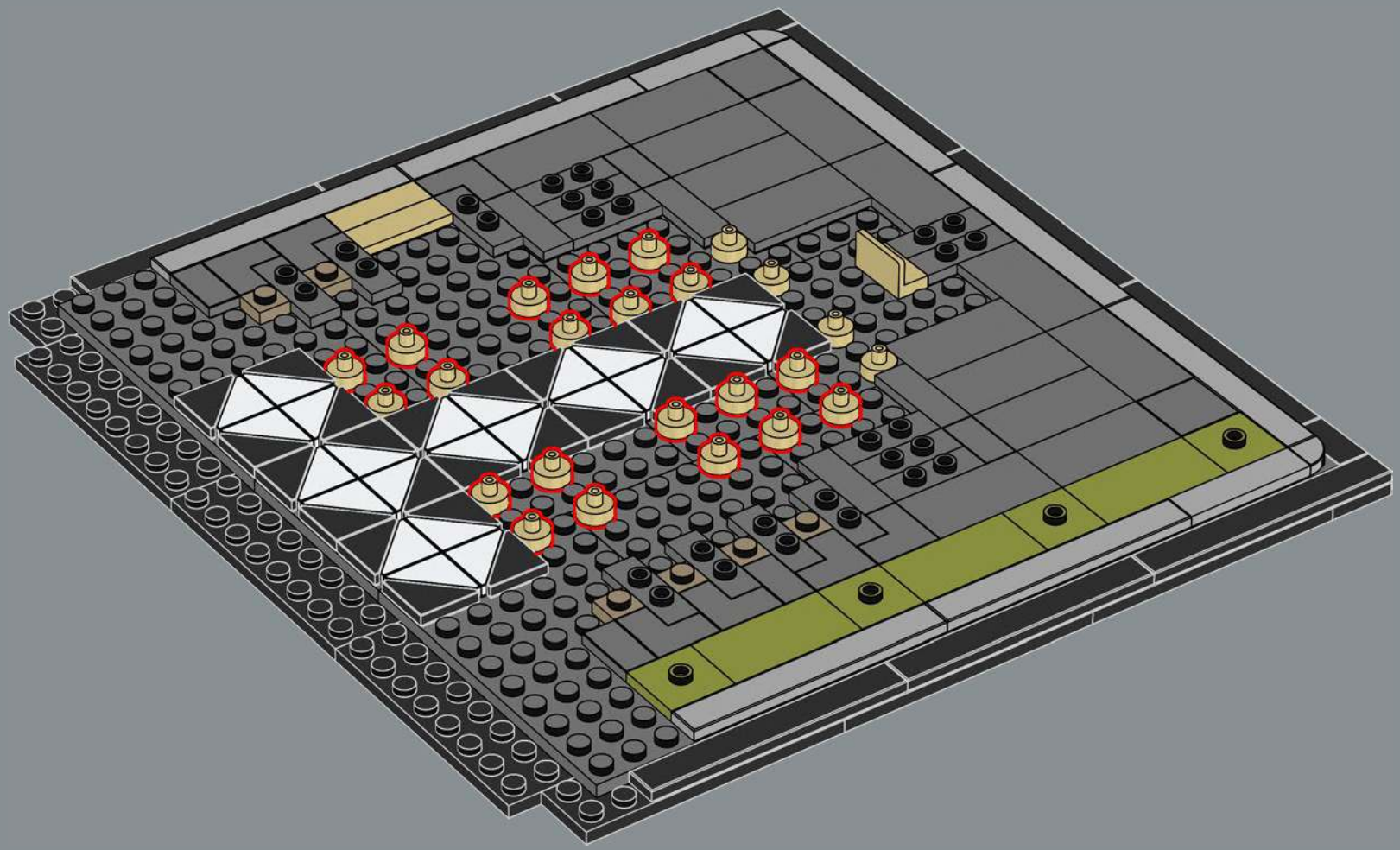

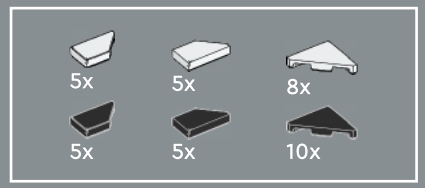

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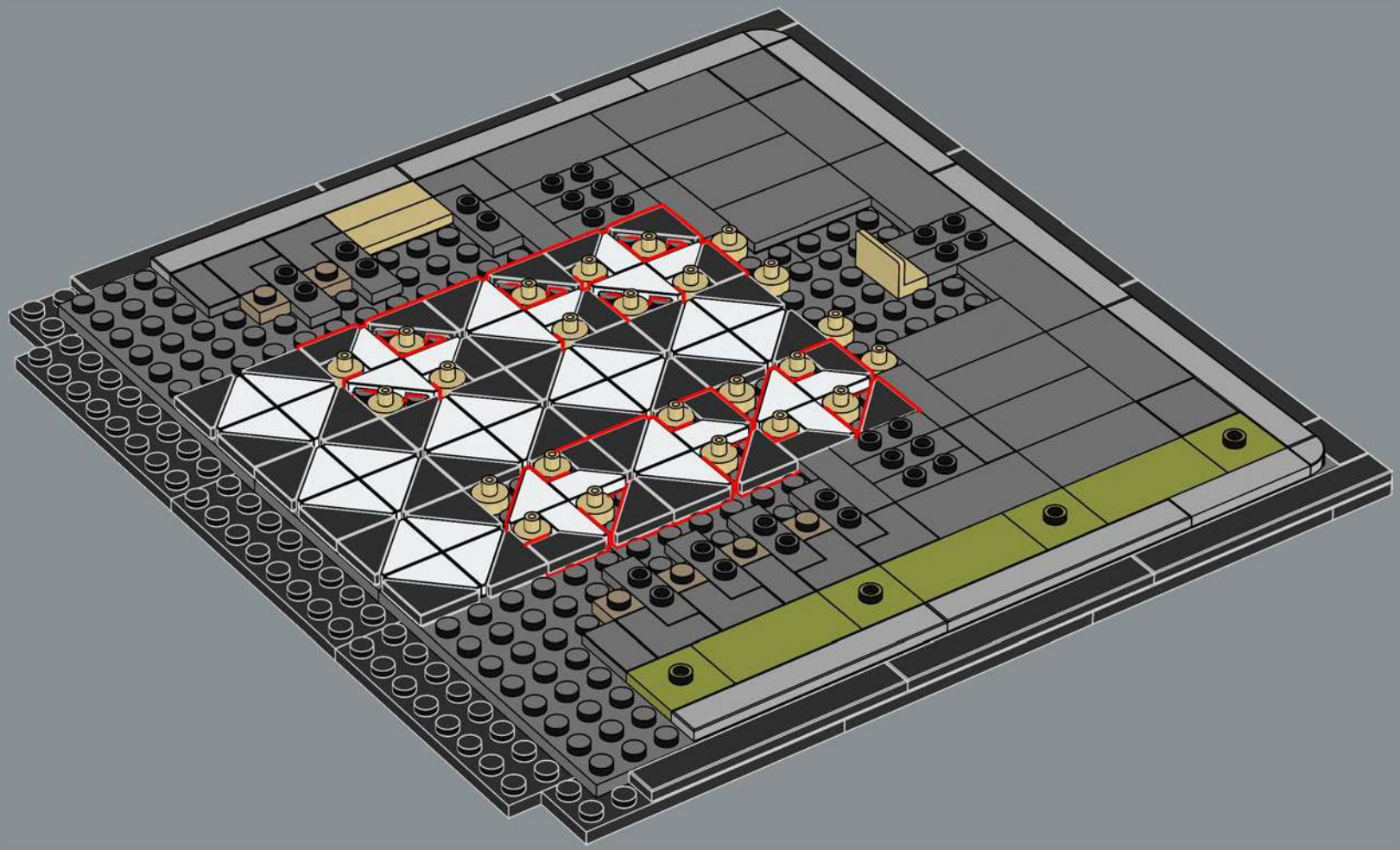

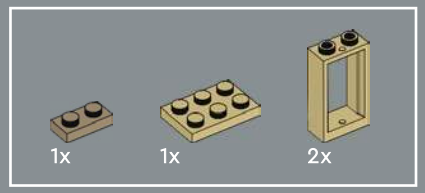

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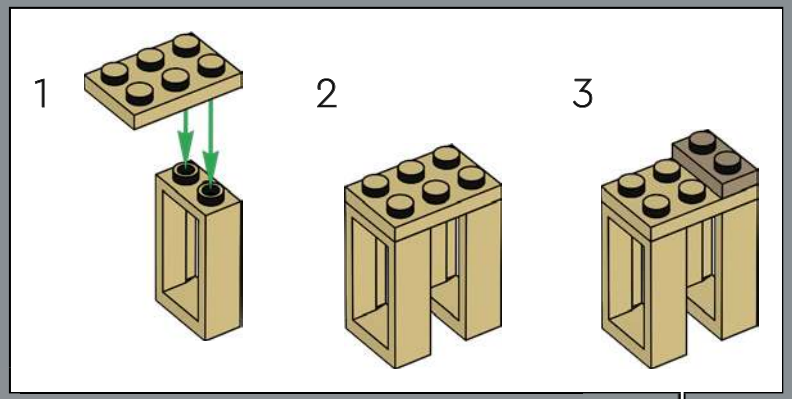

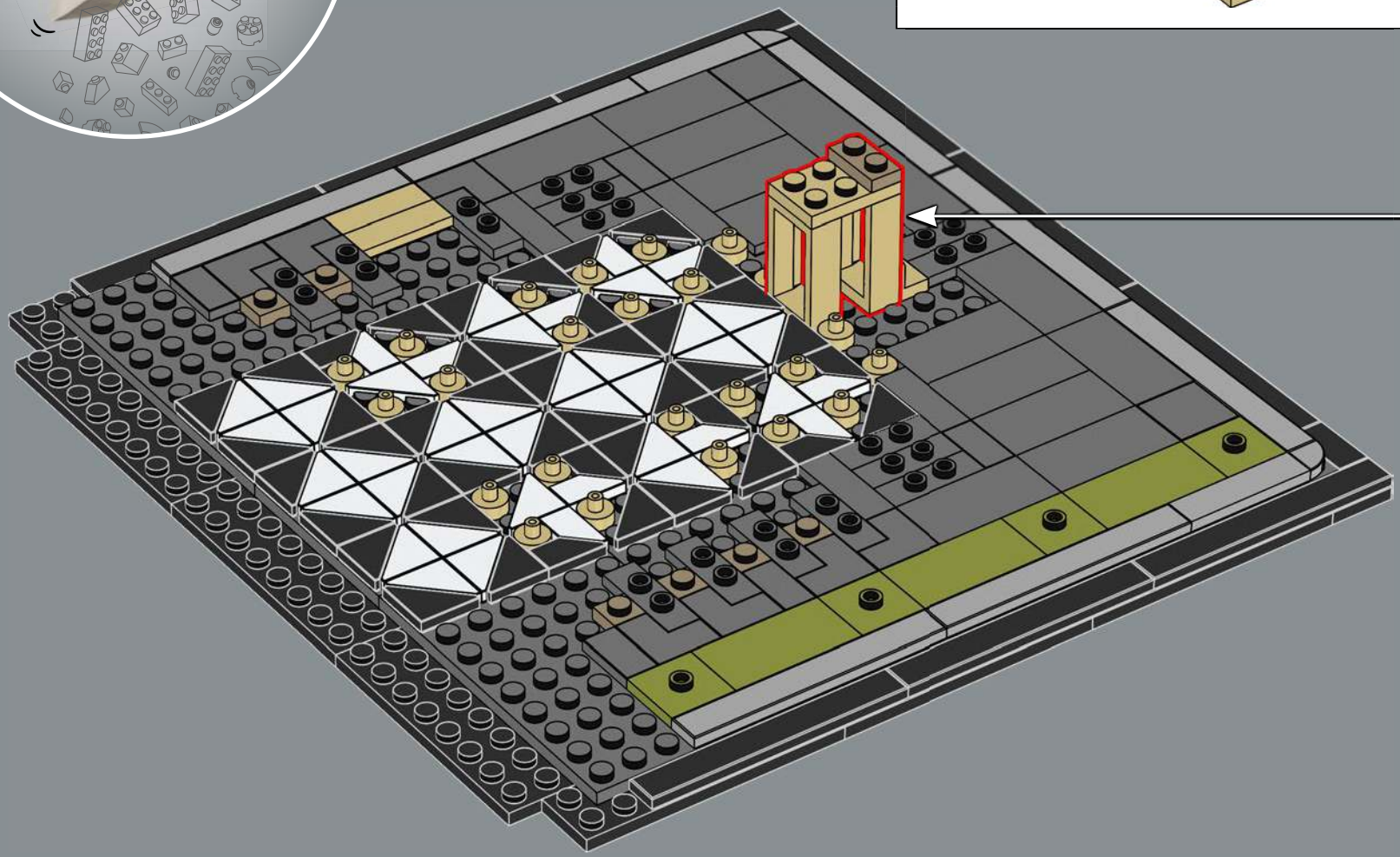

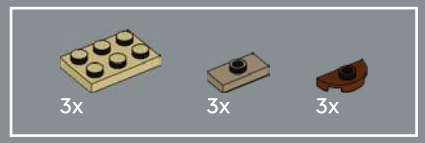

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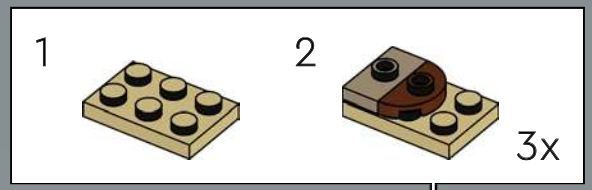

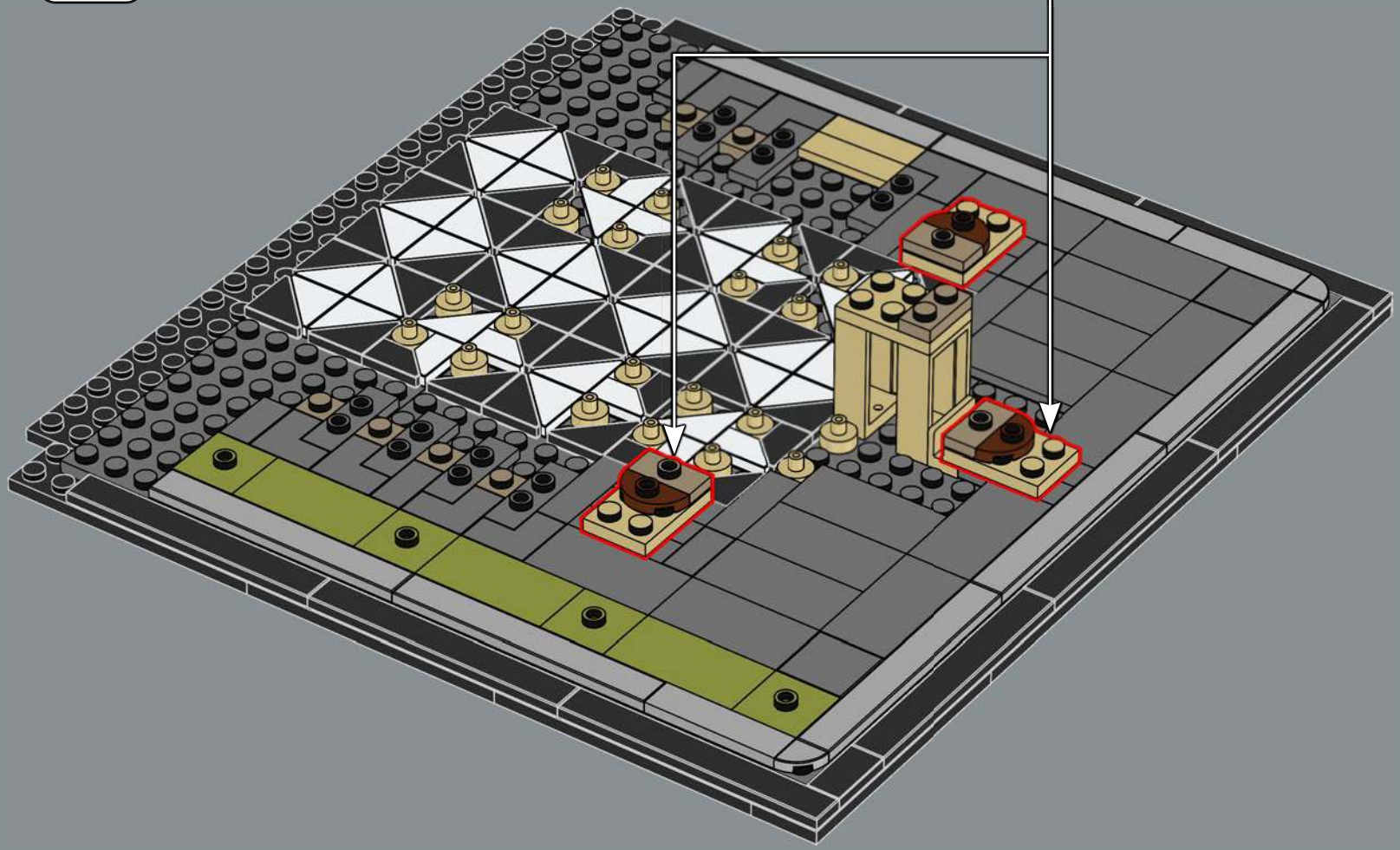

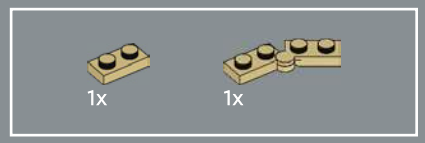

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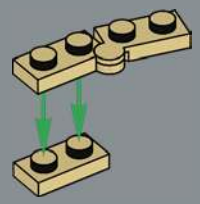

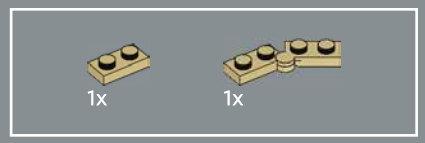

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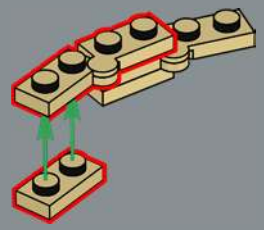

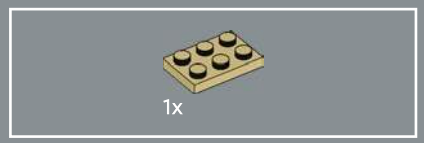

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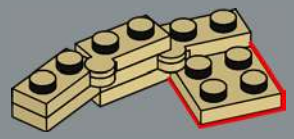

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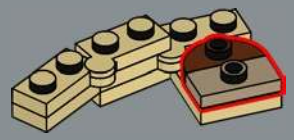

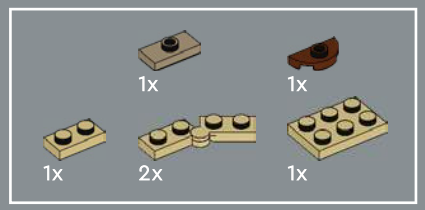

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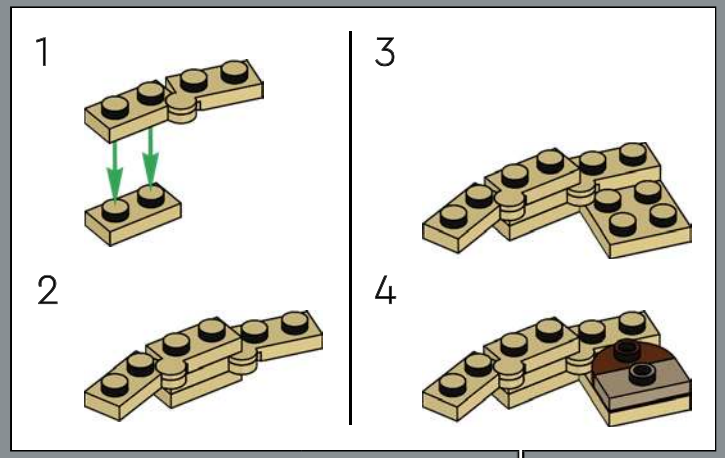

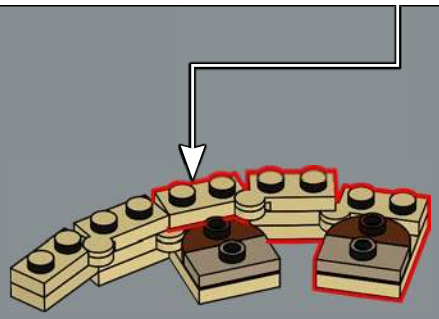

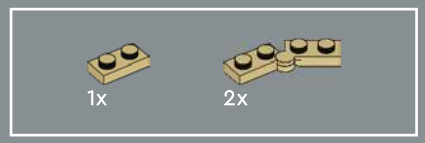

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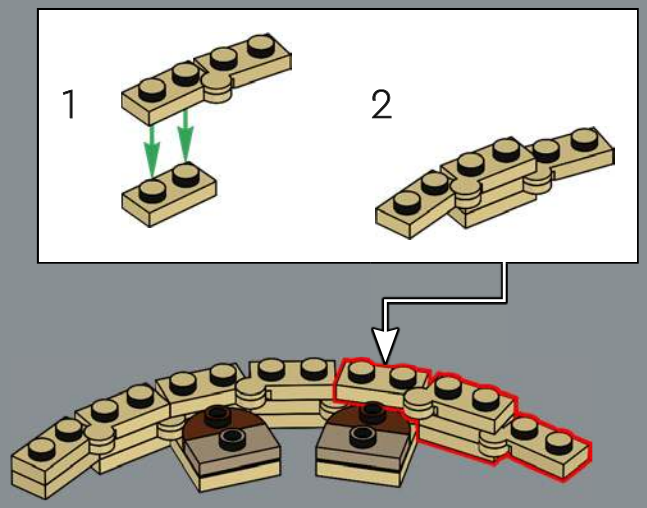

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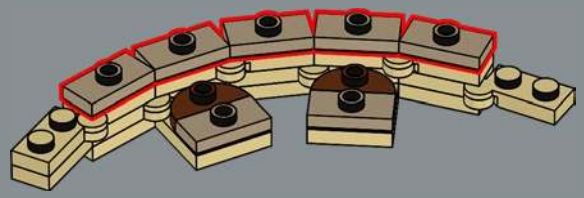

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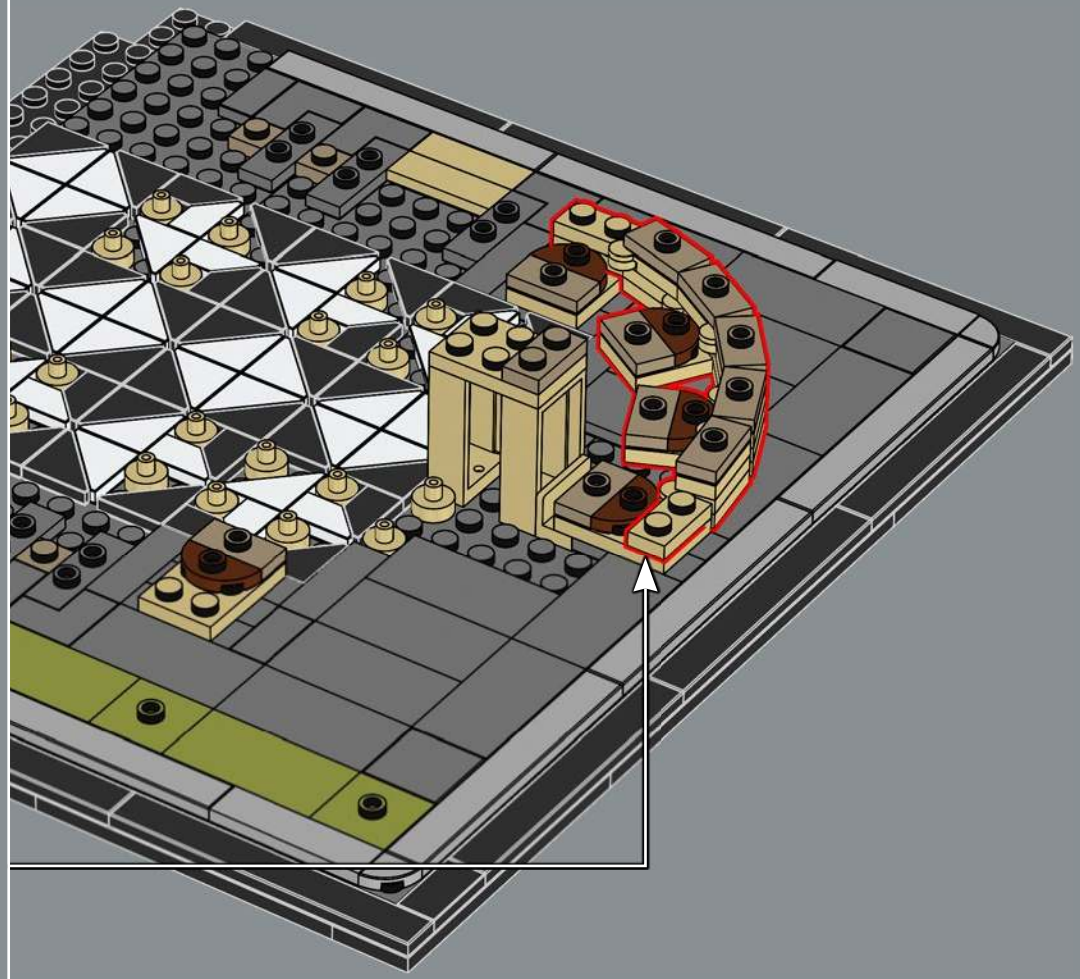

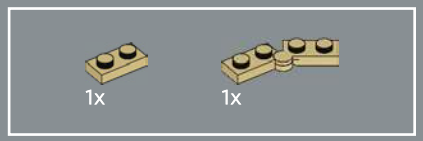

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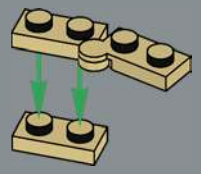

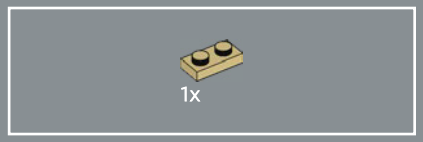

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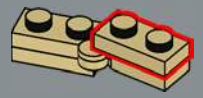

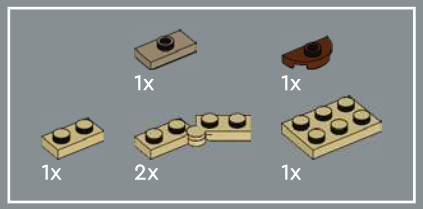

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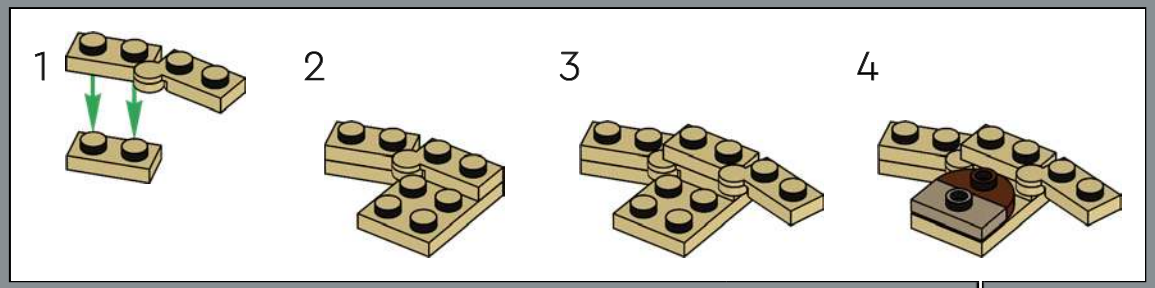

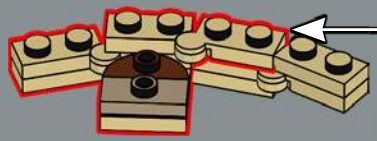

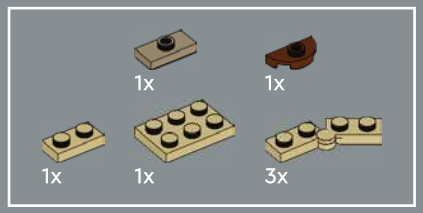

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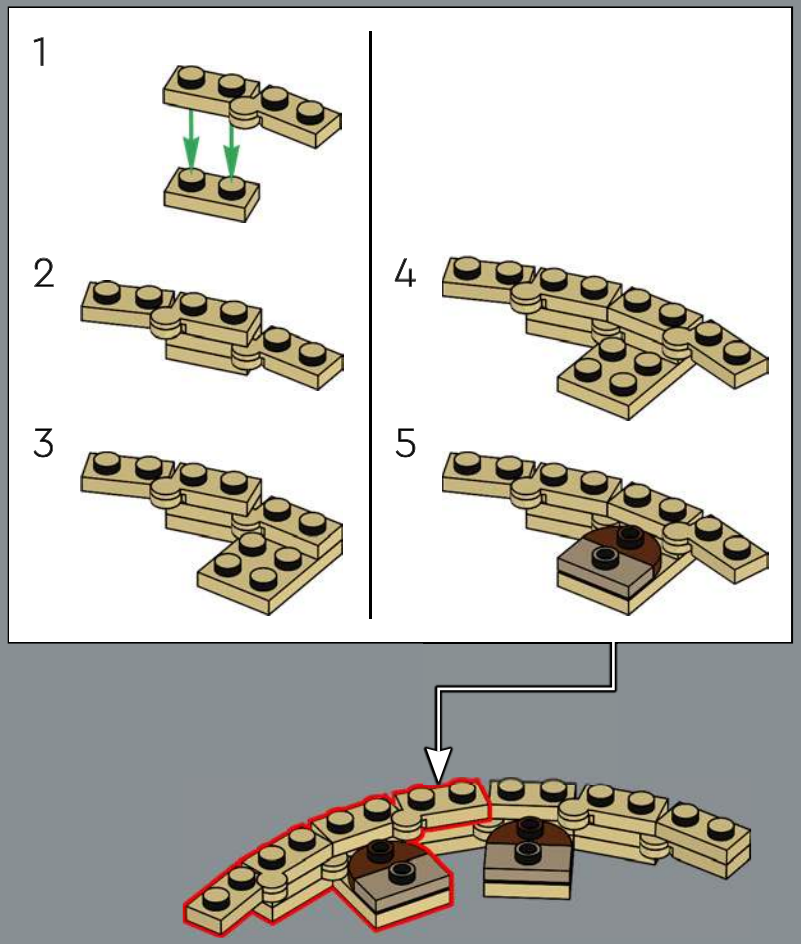

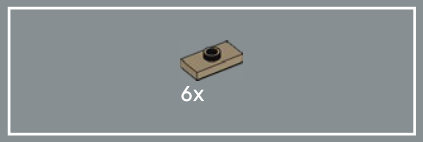

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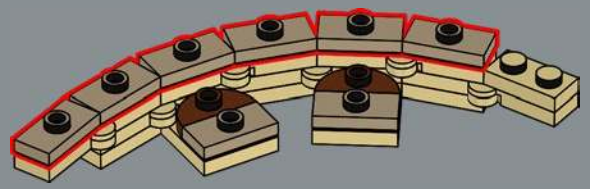

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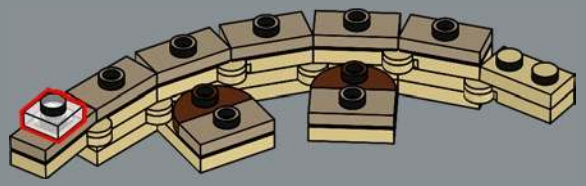
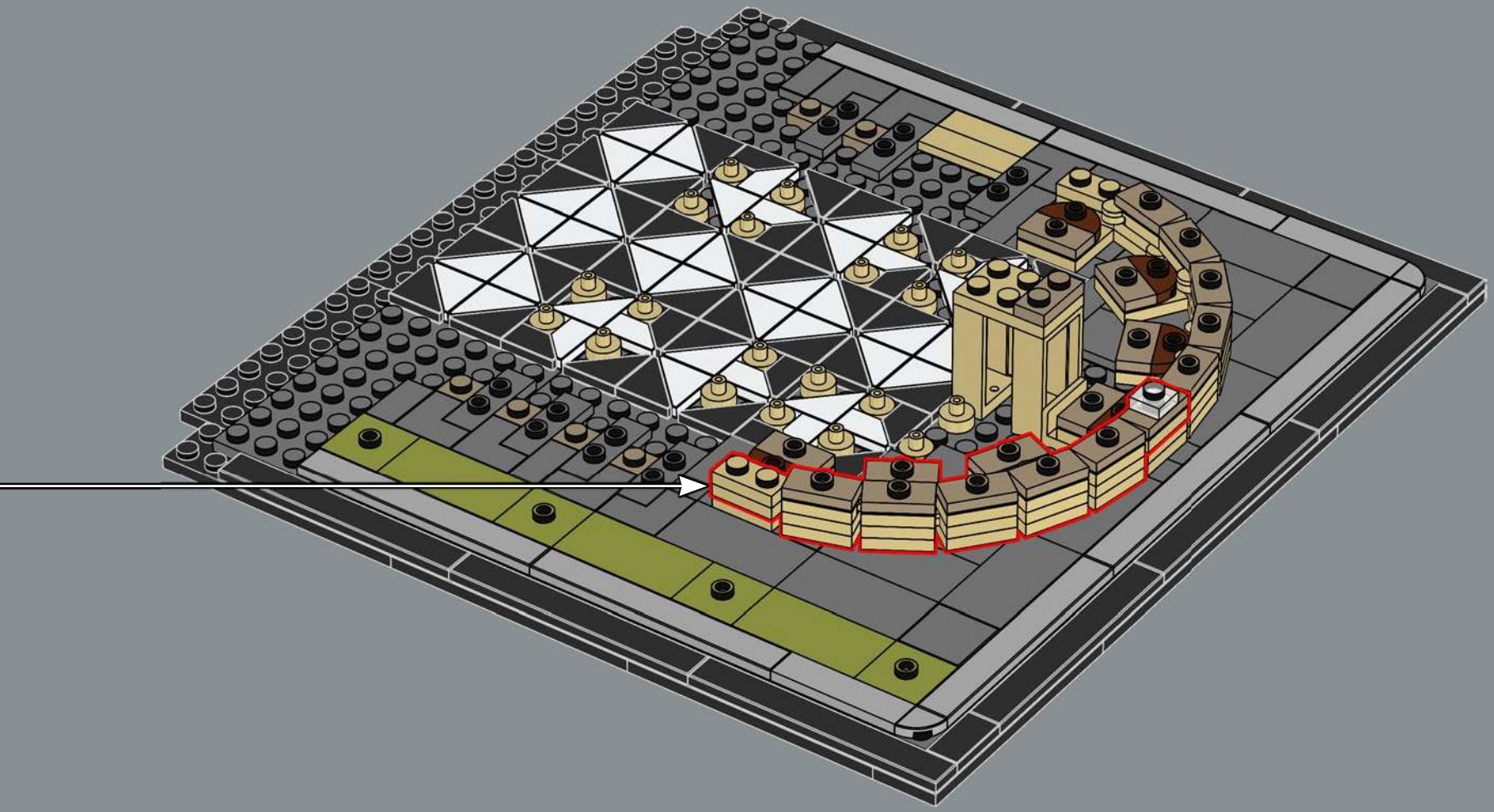
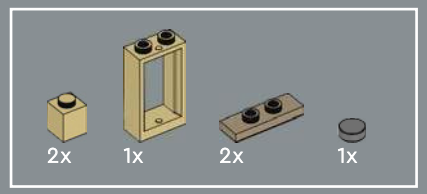


1163 – Elements of the floor plan are determined by a series of circles created with the help of ropes of different lengths attached to a stake at the centre of the cathedral.

37





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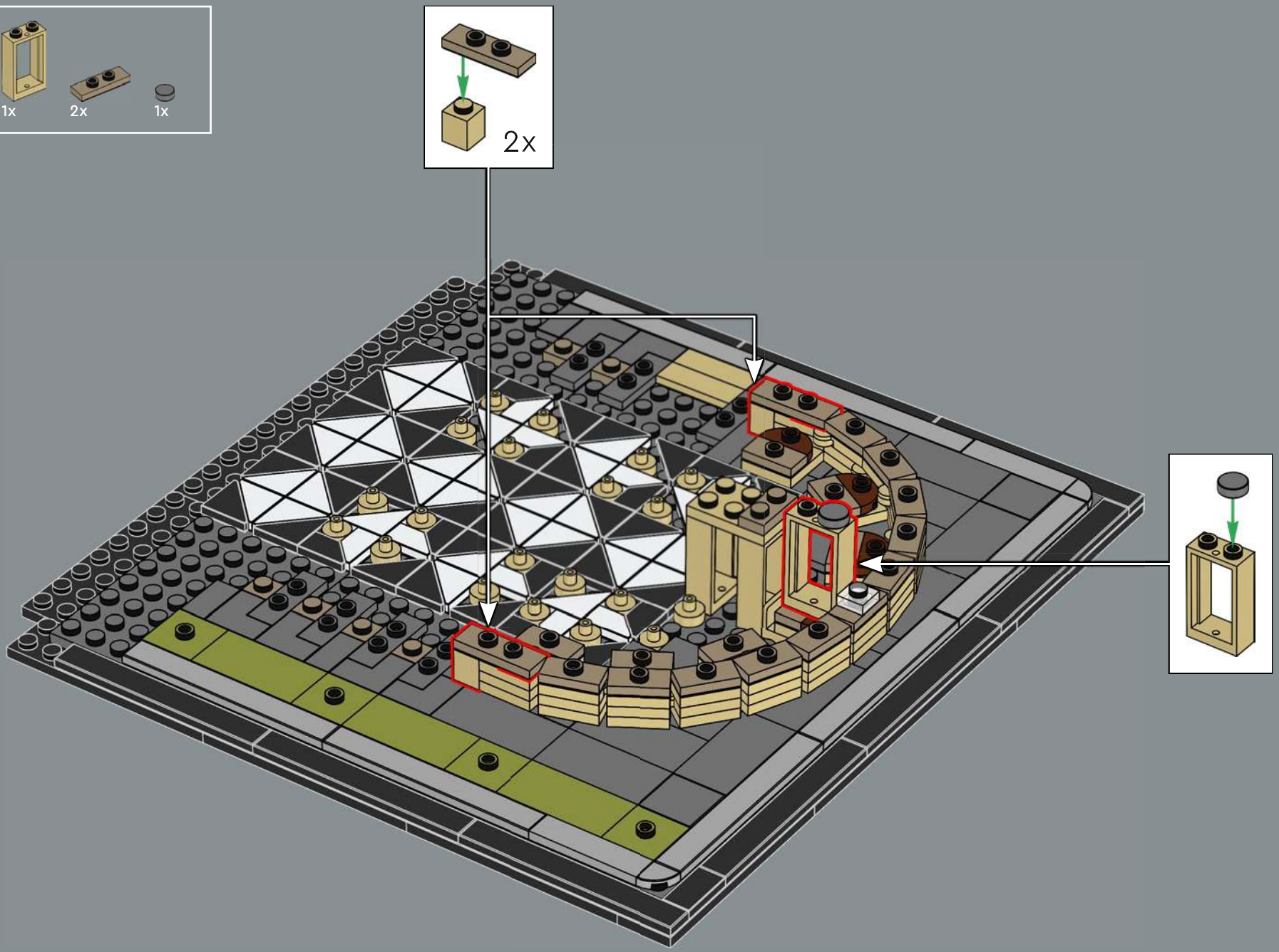
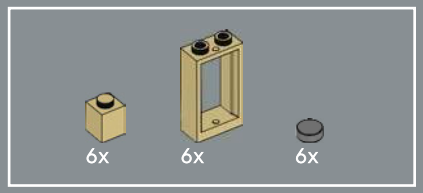


1163–1170 – The chevet is constructed, with piers set in a centrifugal arrangement.



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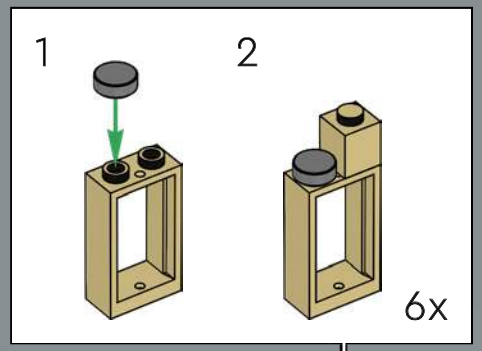

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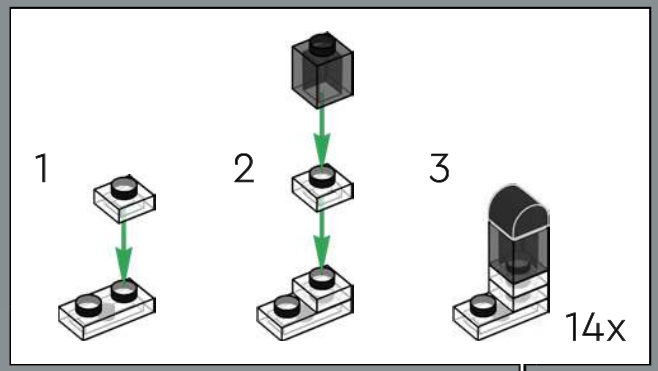

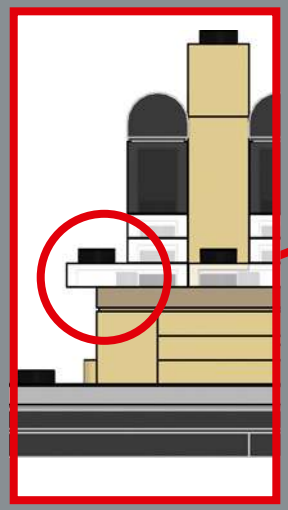

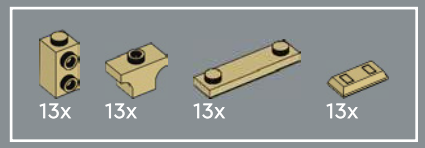

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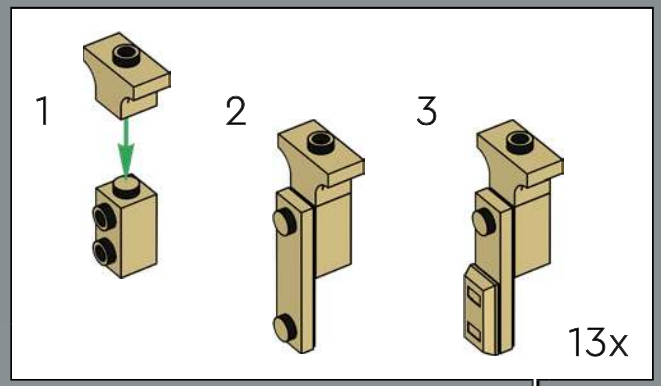

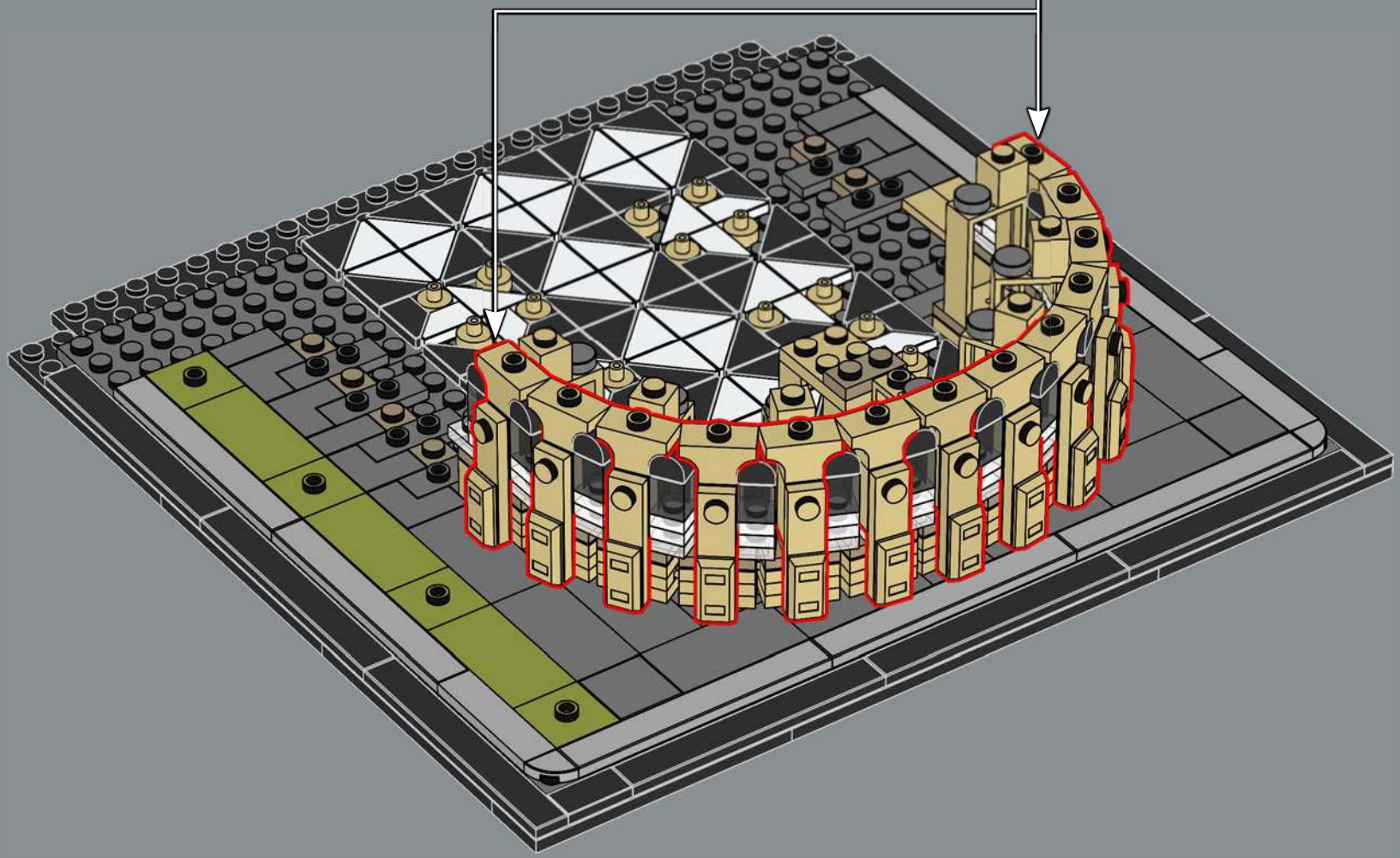

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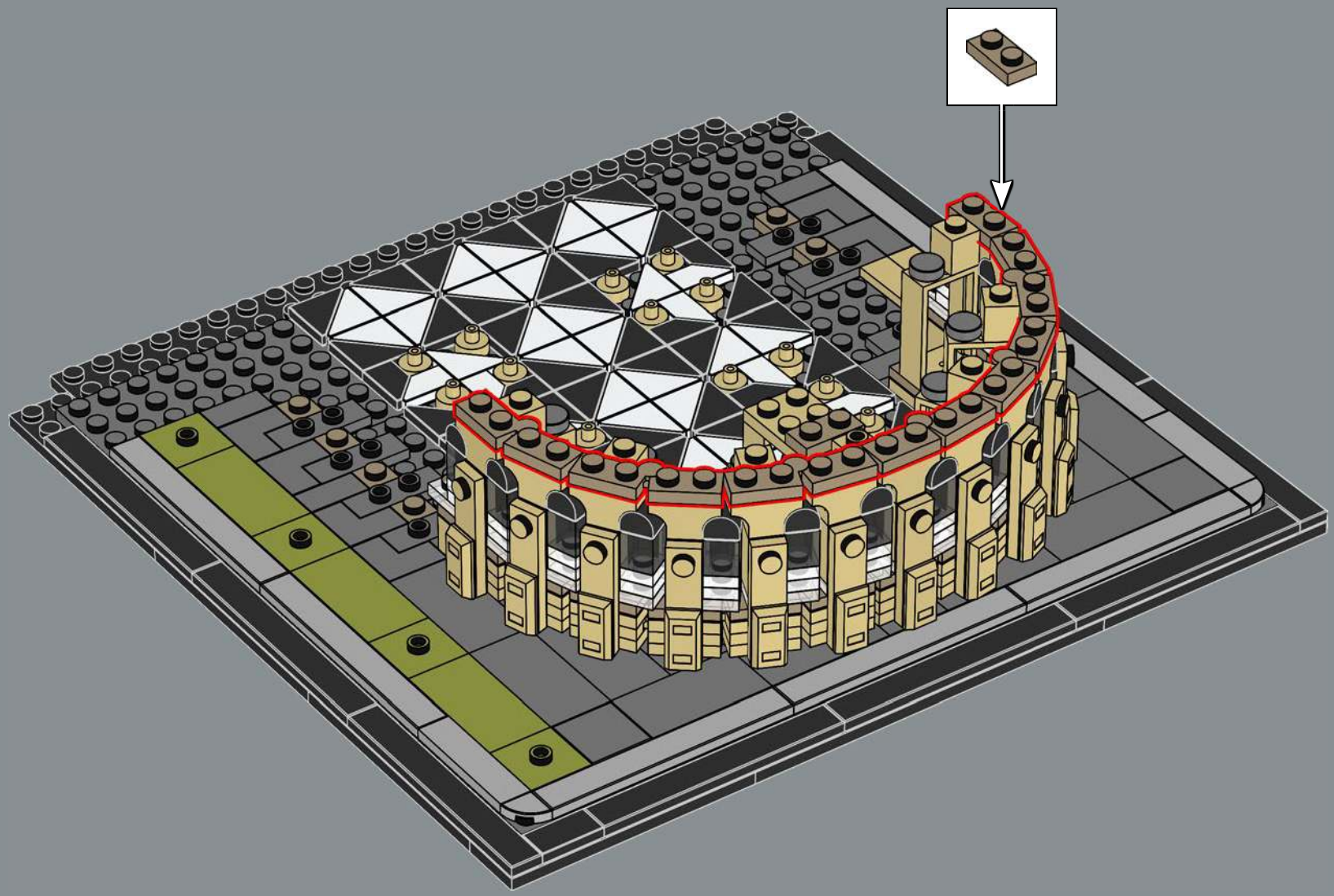

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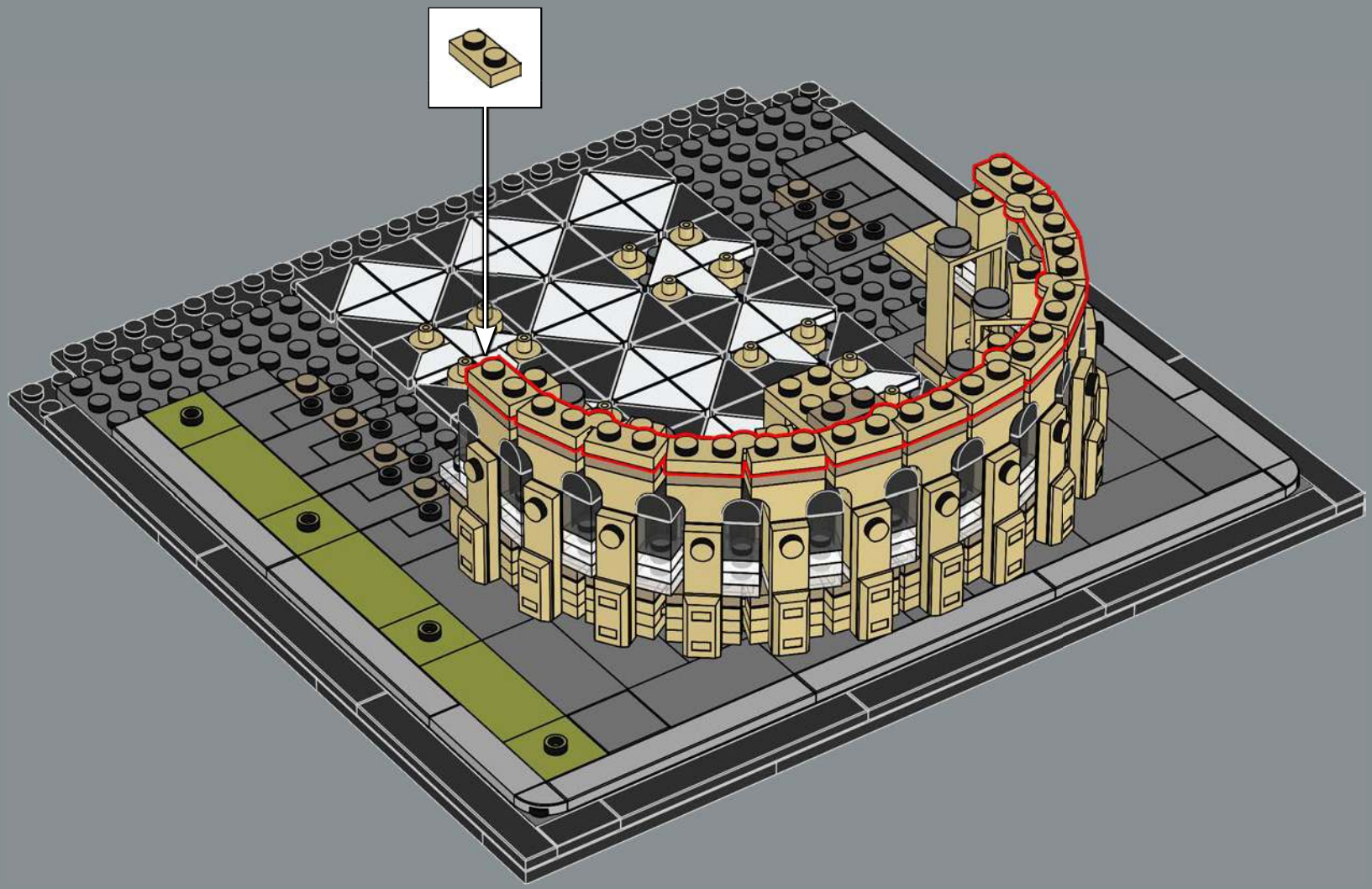

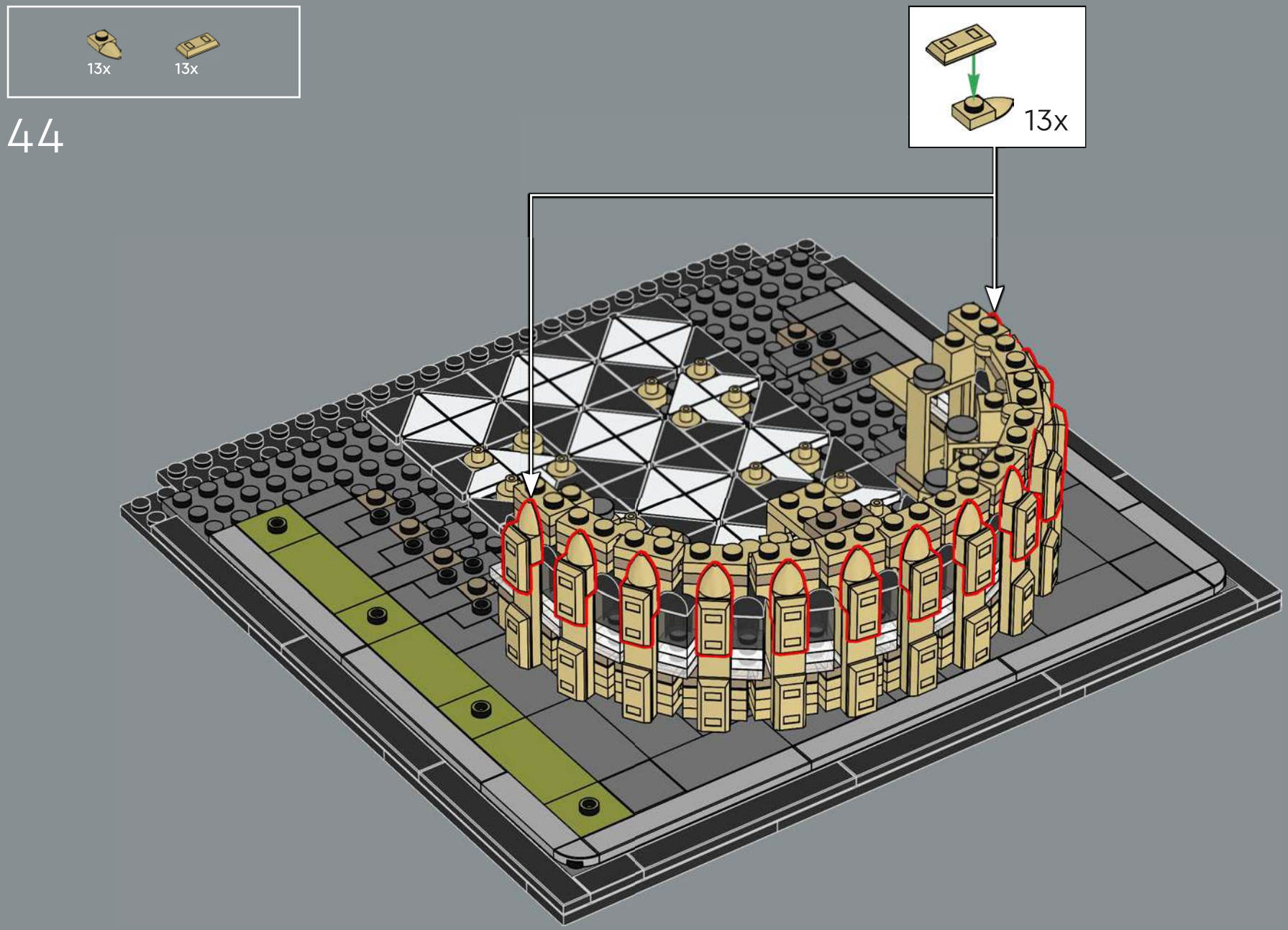
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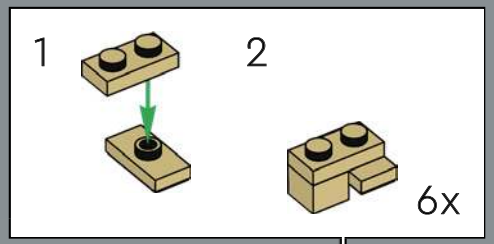

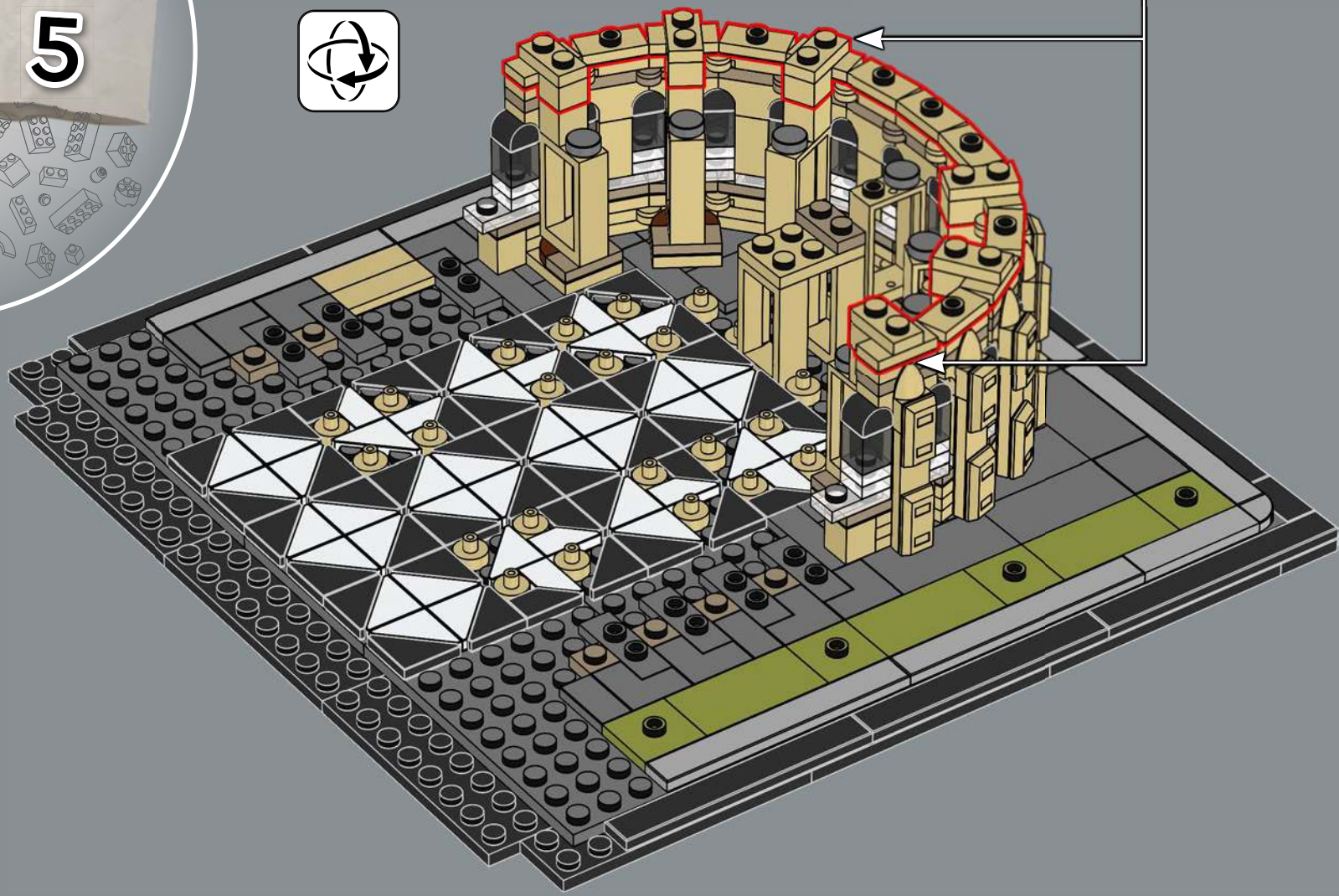

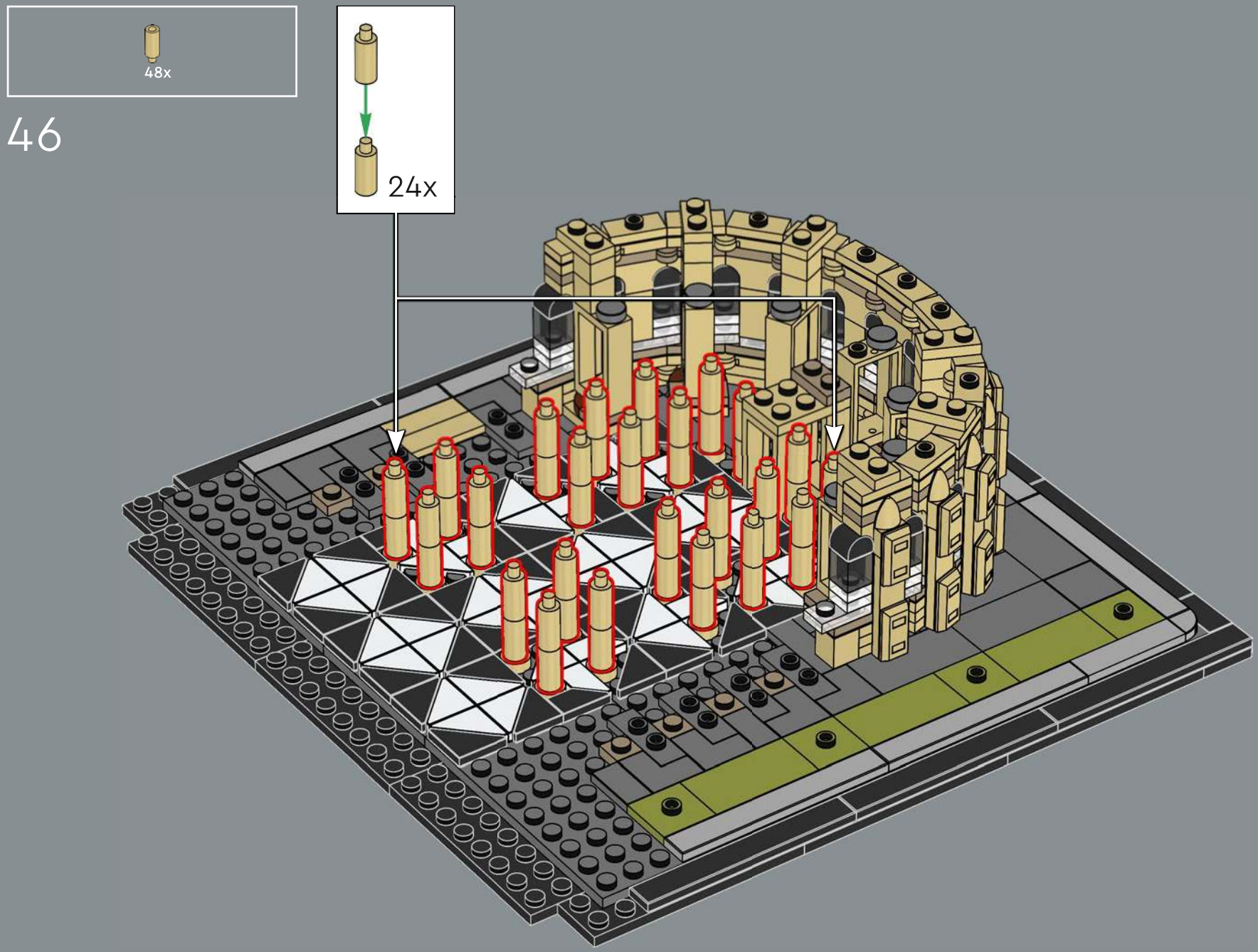
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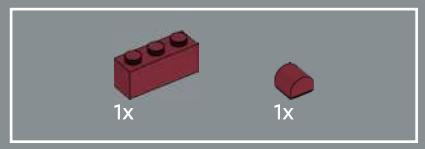

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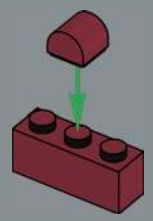

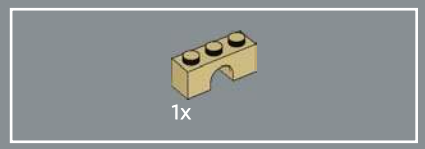

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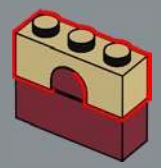

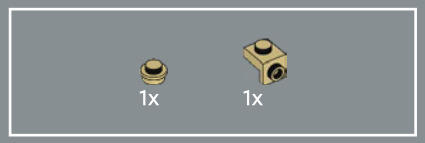

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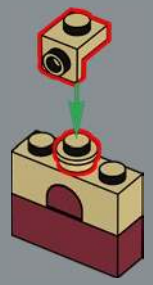

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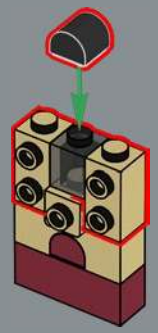

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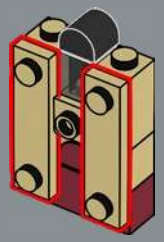

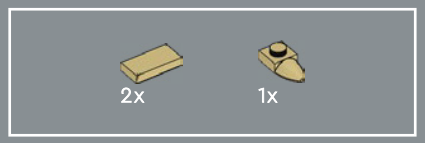

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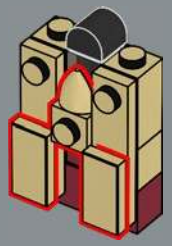
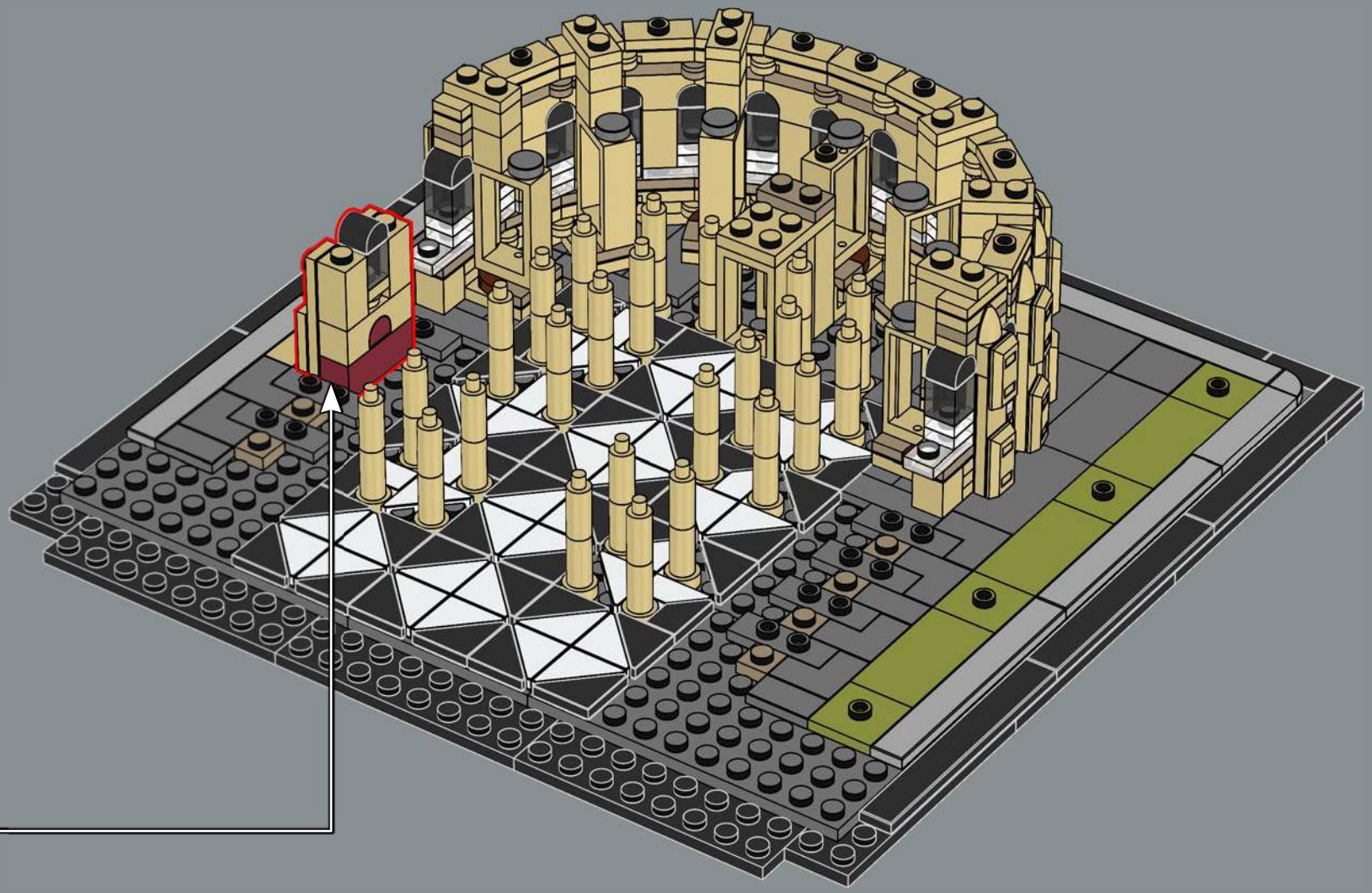
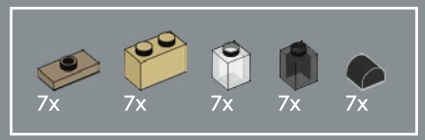


An elegant portal that offers direct access to the choir takes its name from the colour of the portal's door panes – The Porte Rouge. It was renovated around 1270.

53





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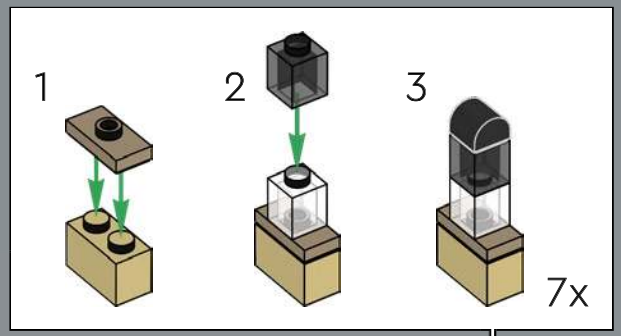

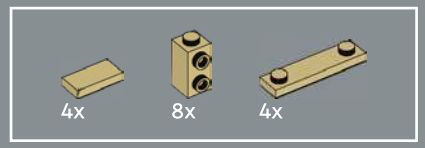

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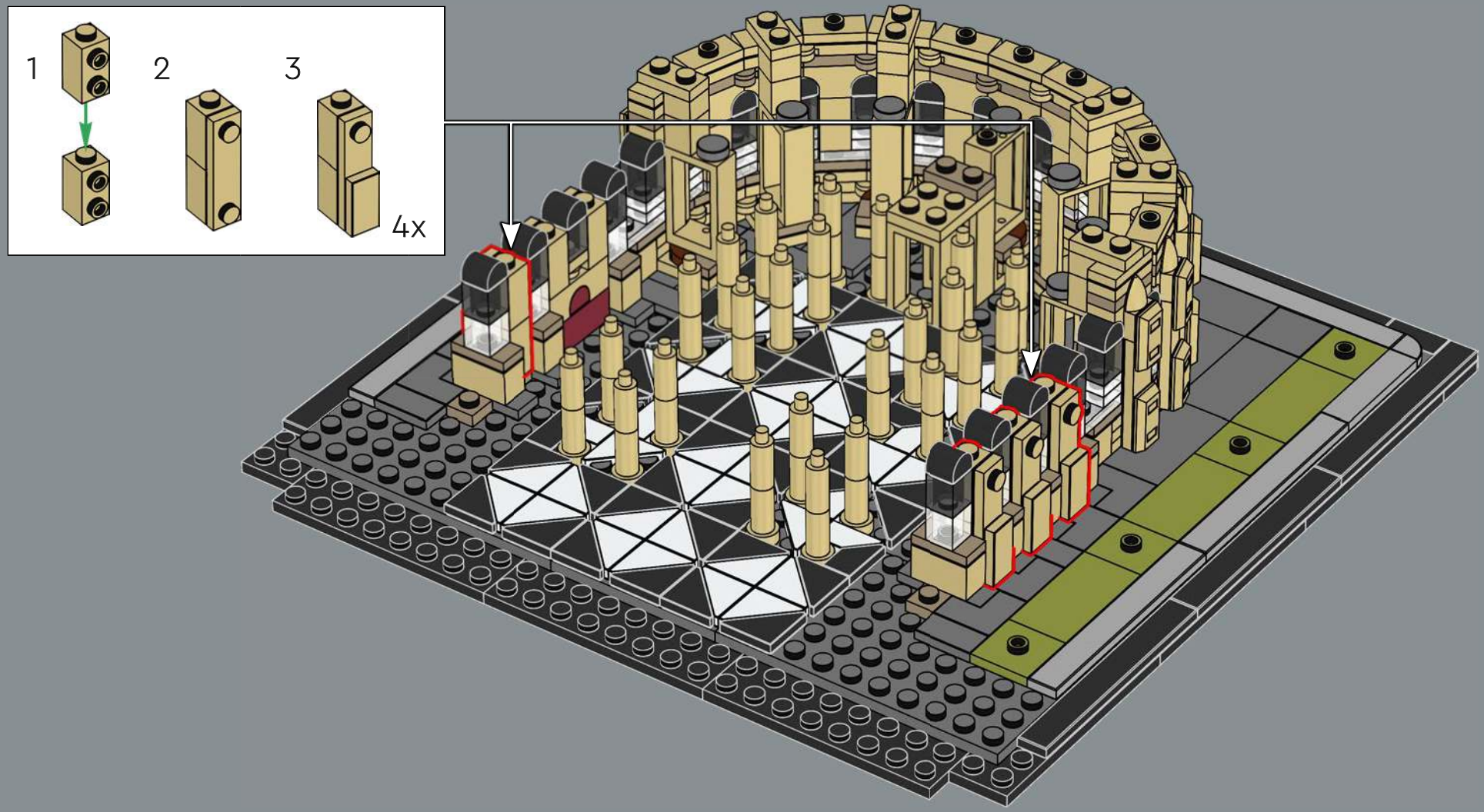

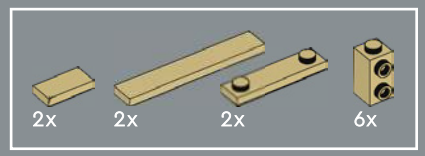

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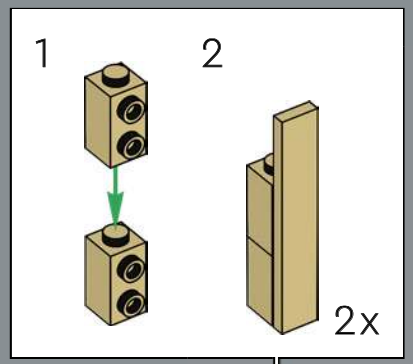

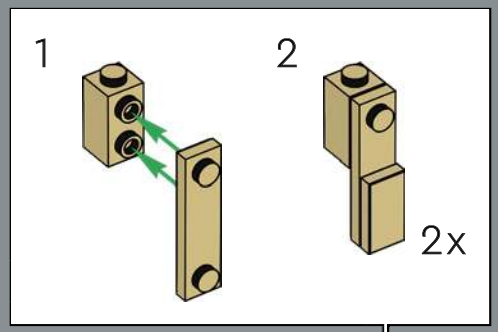

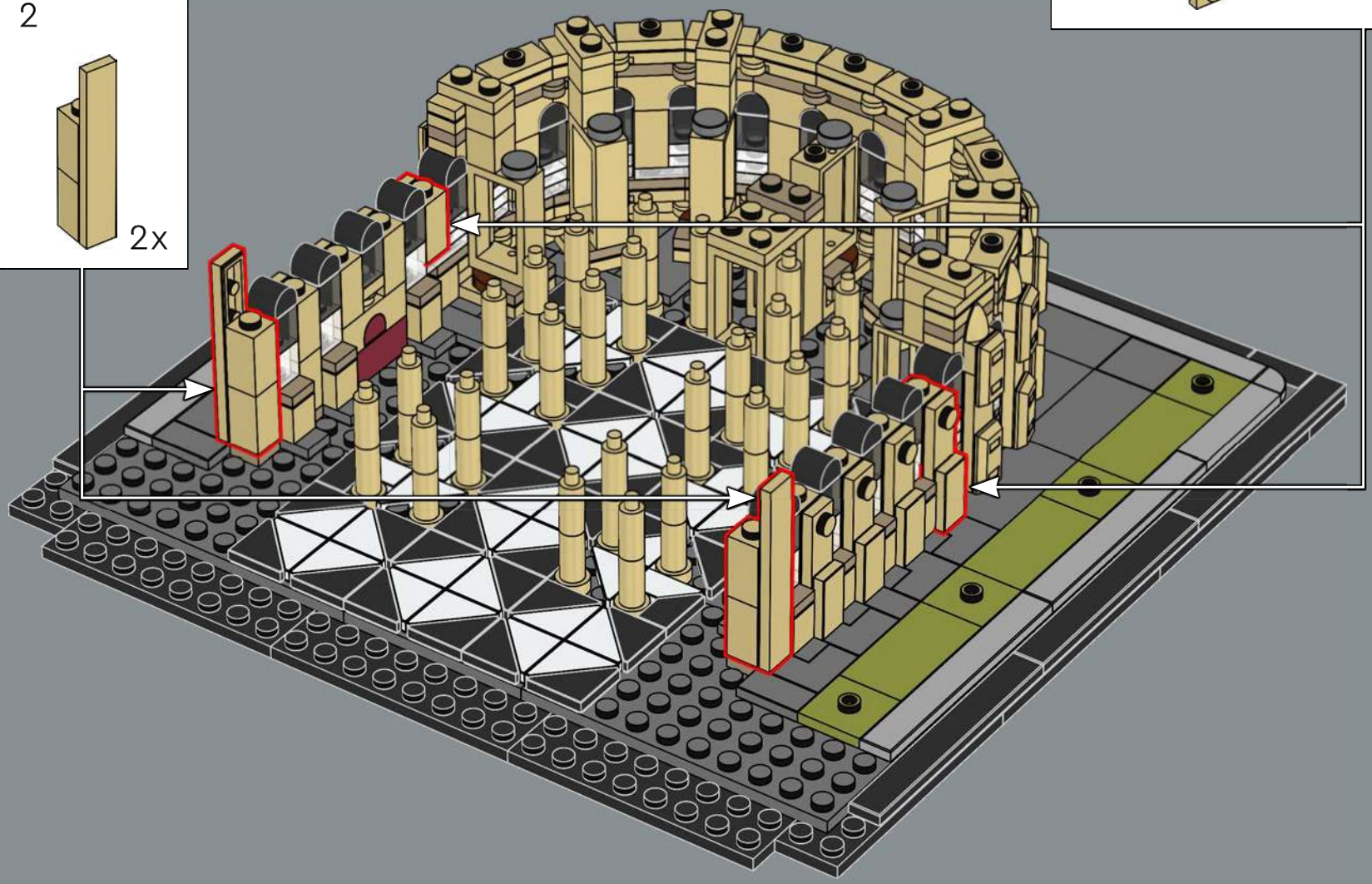

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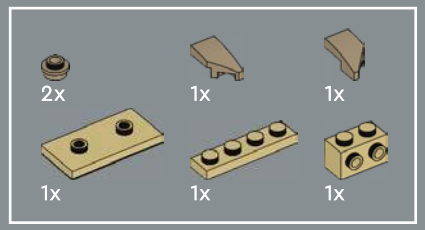

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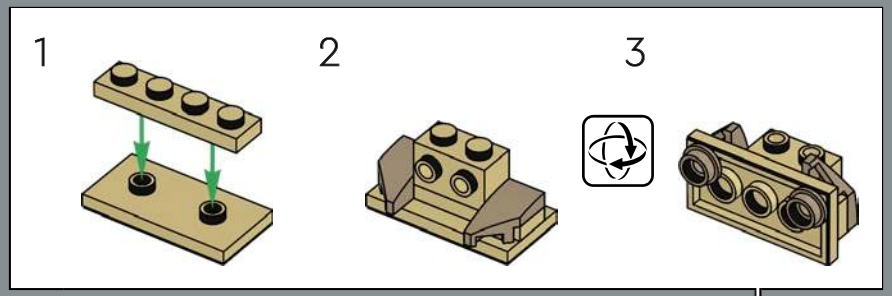

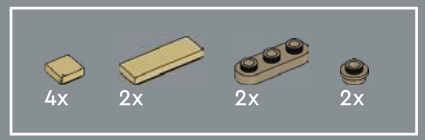

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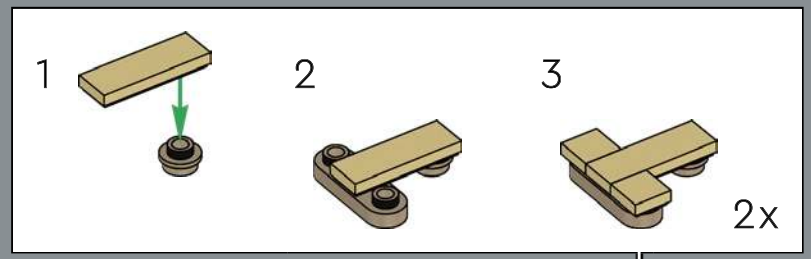

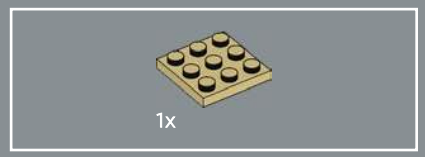

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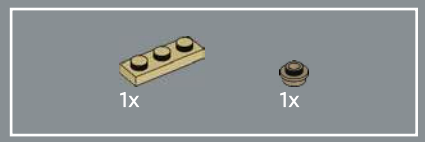

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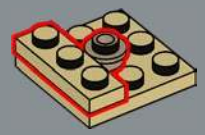

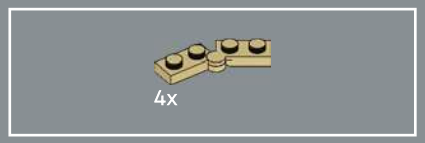

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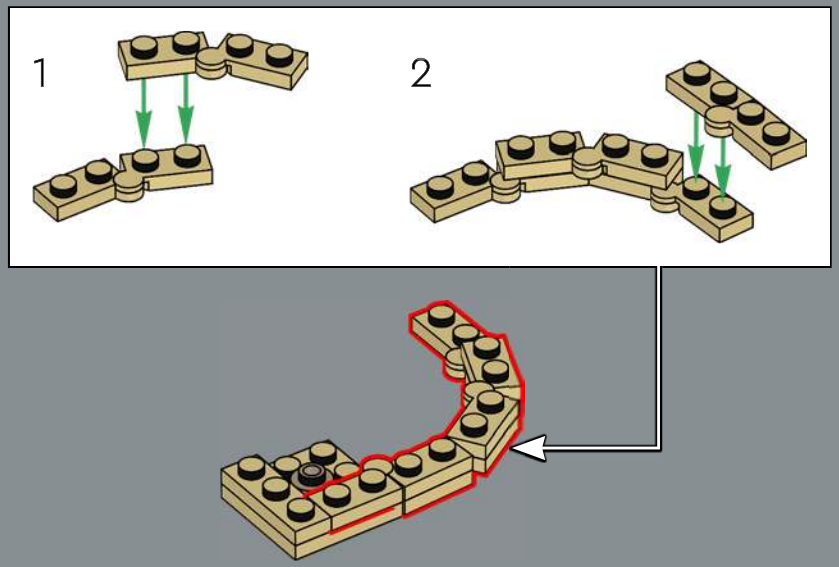

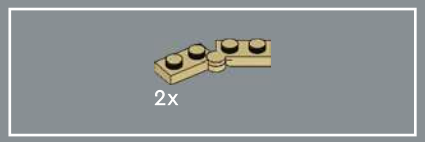

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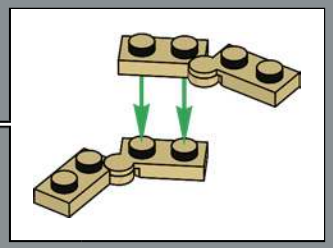

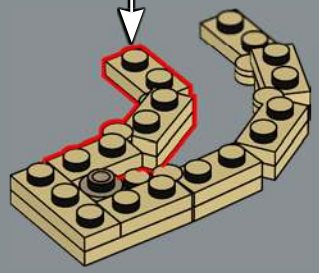

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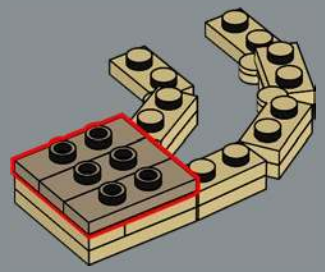

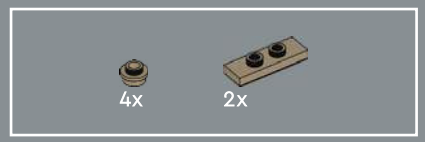

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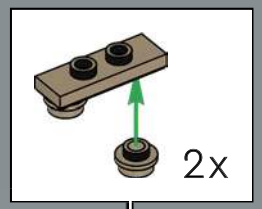

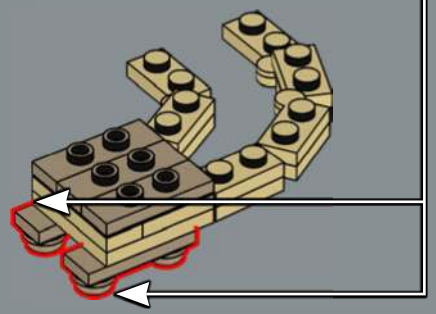

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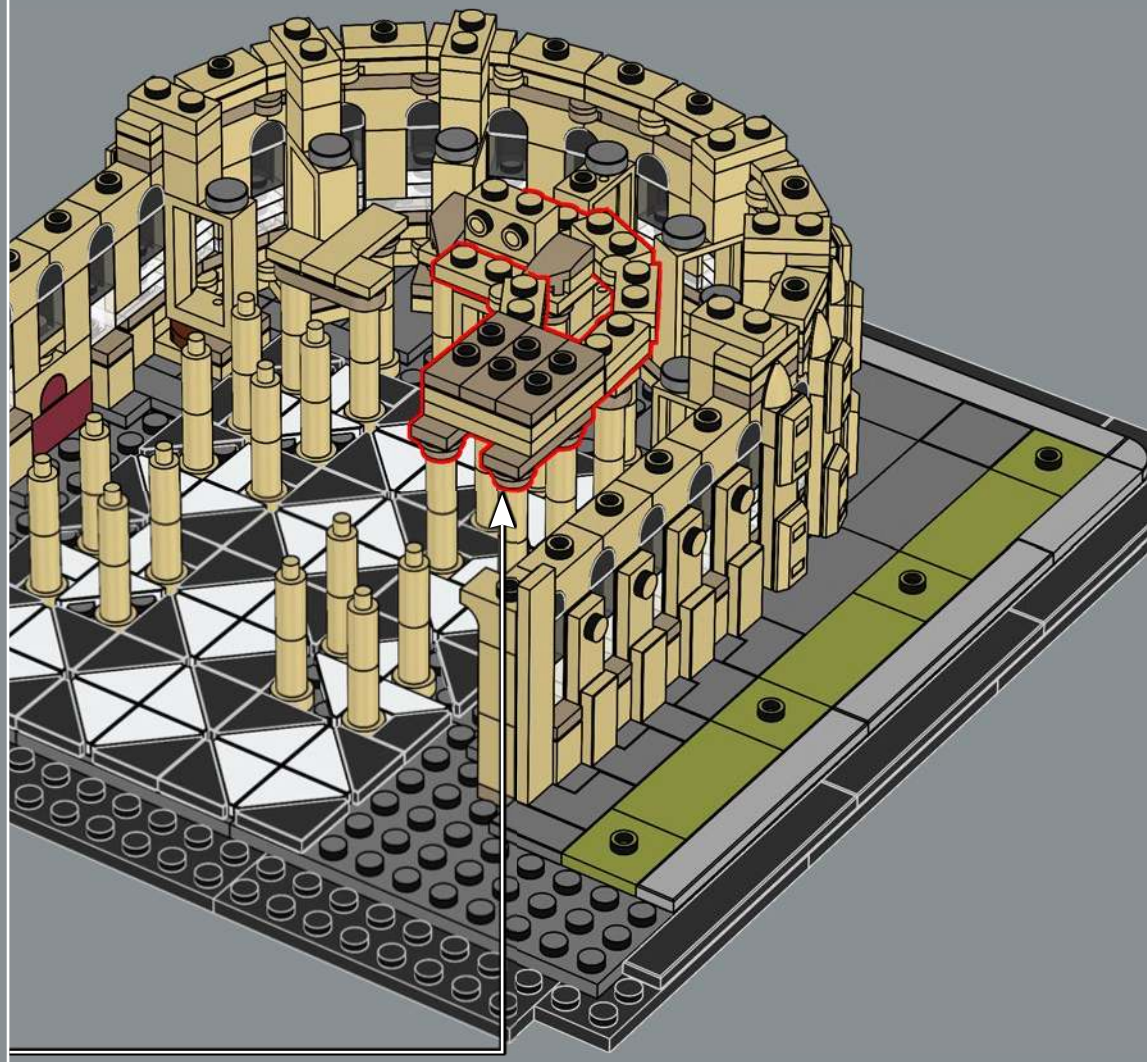

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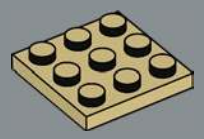

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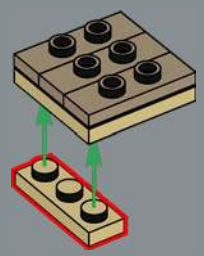

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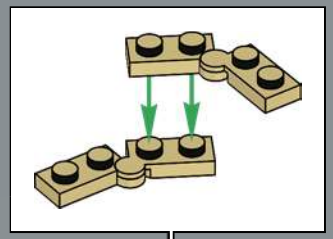

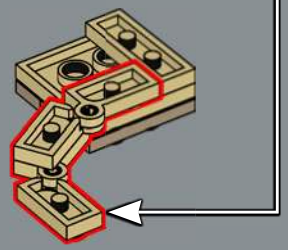

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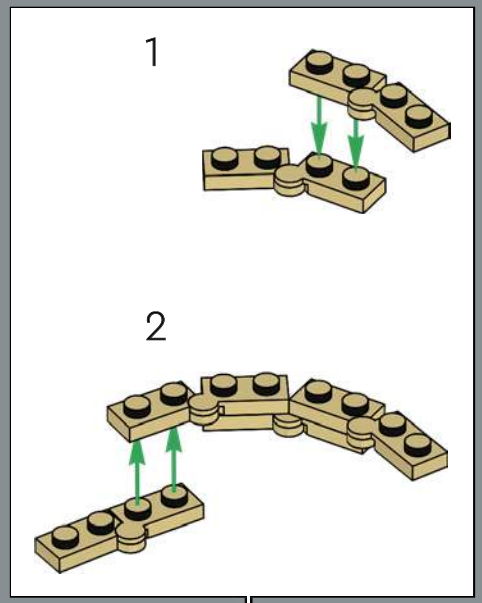

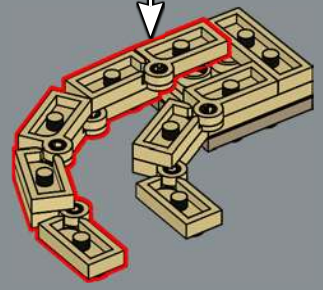

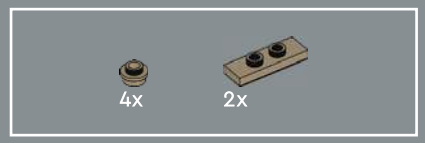

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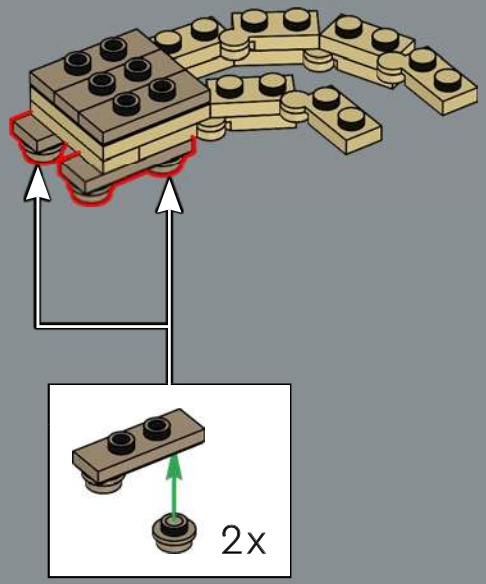

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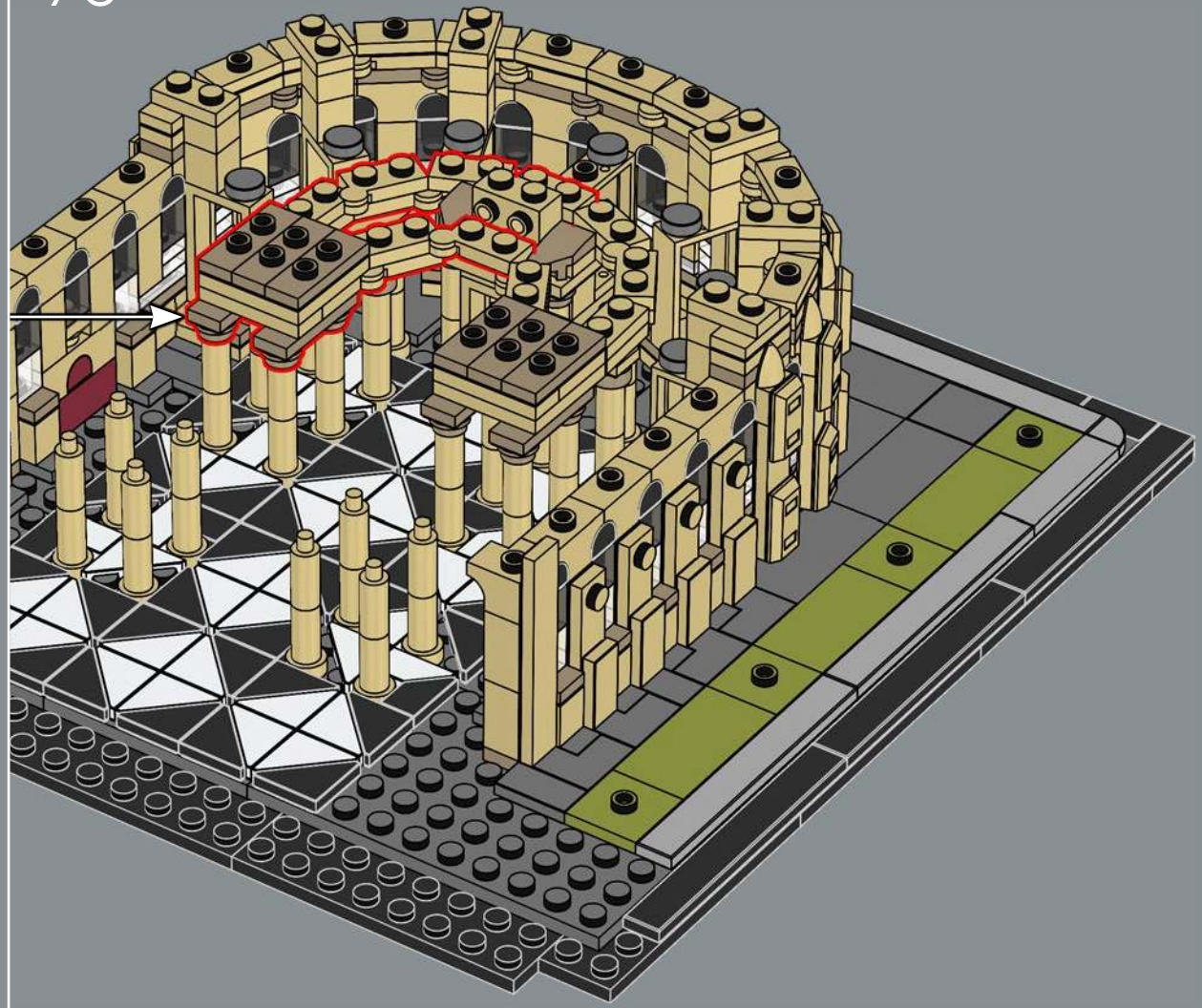

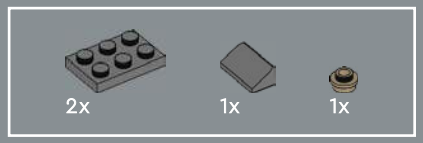

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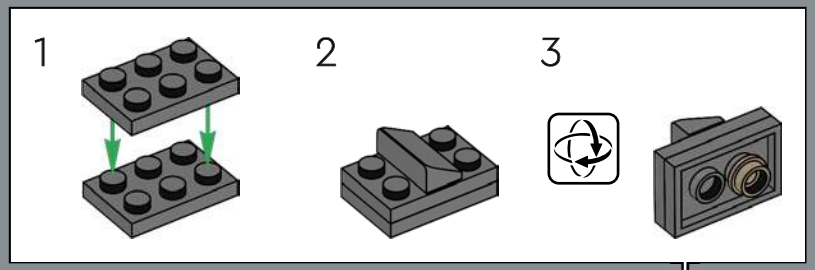

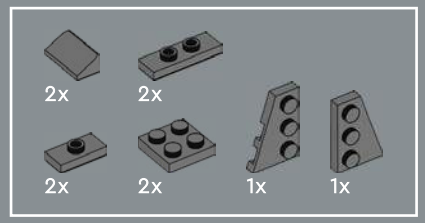

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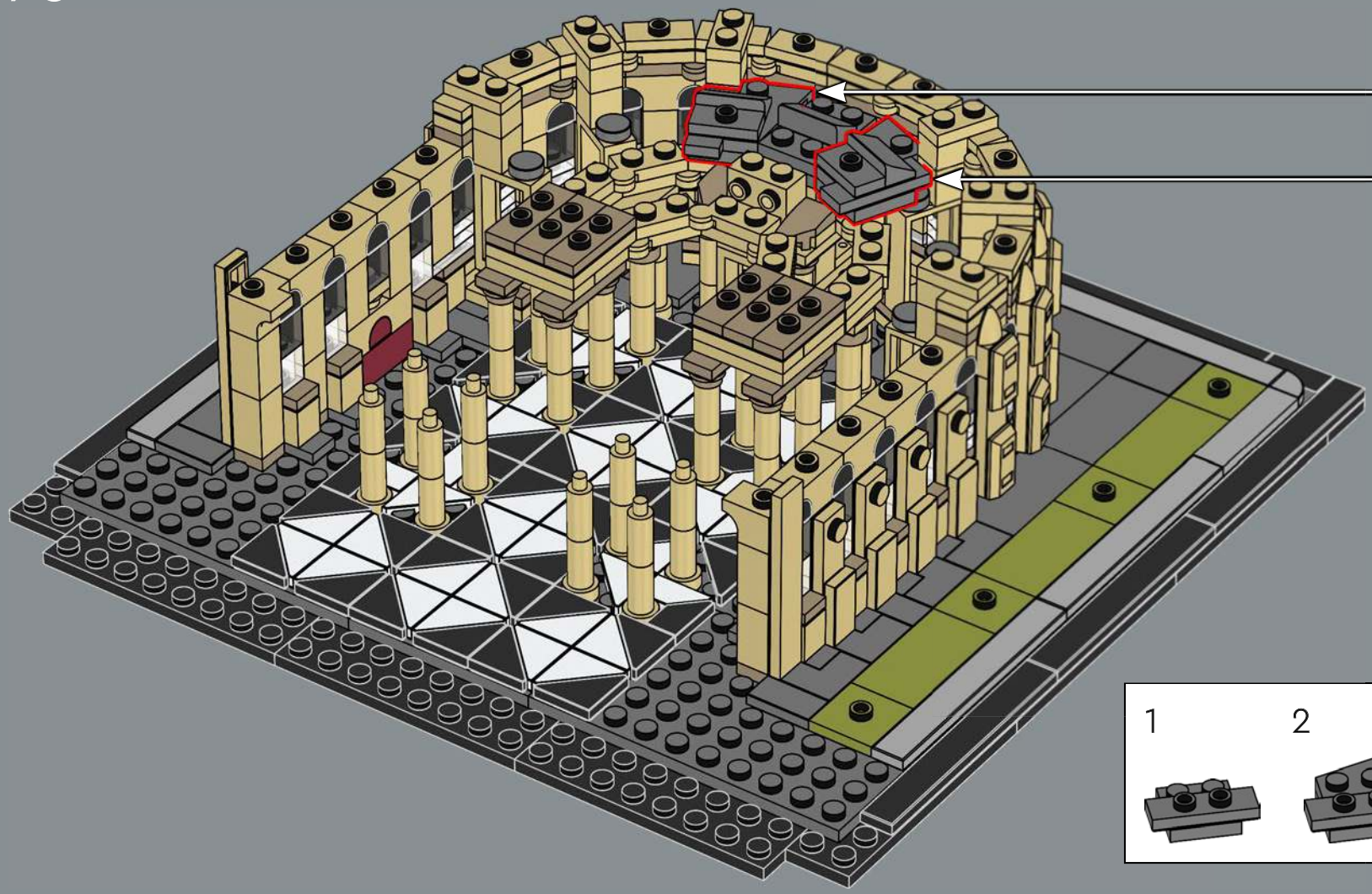

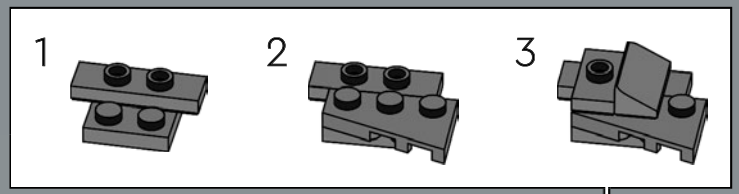

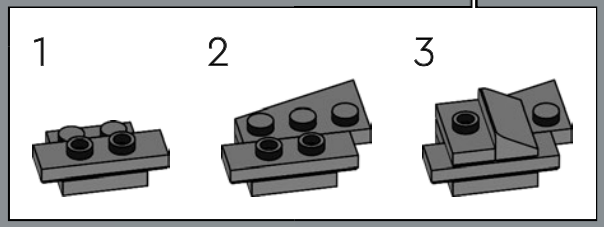

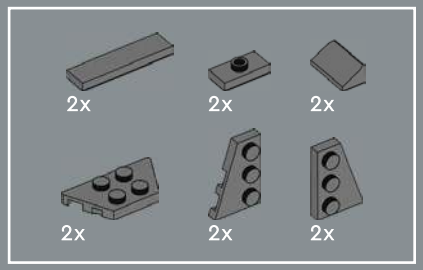

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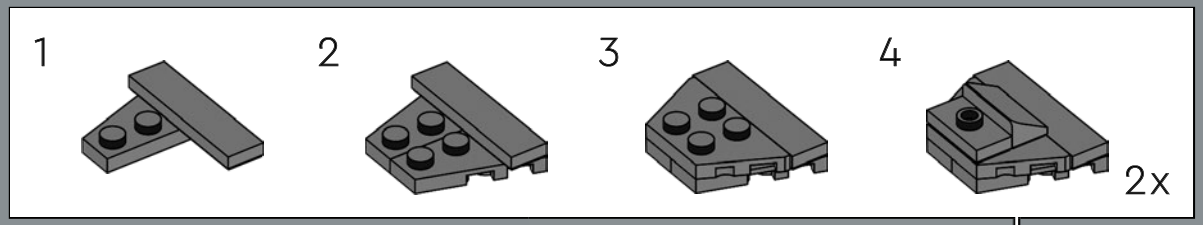

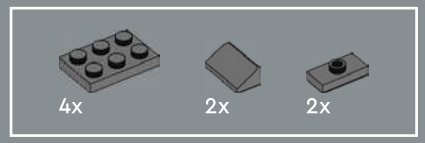

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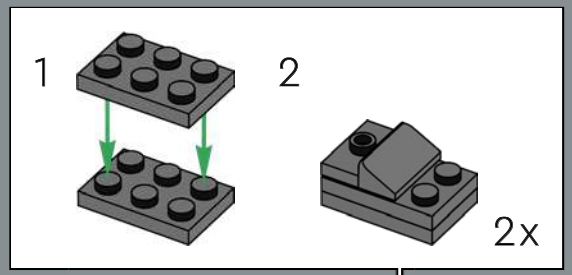

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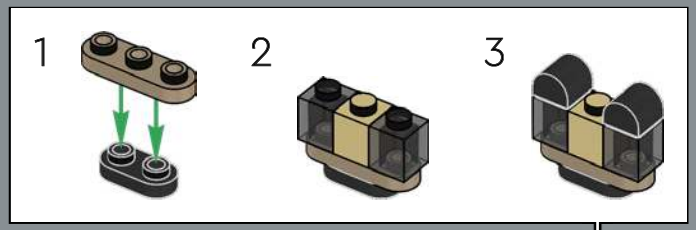

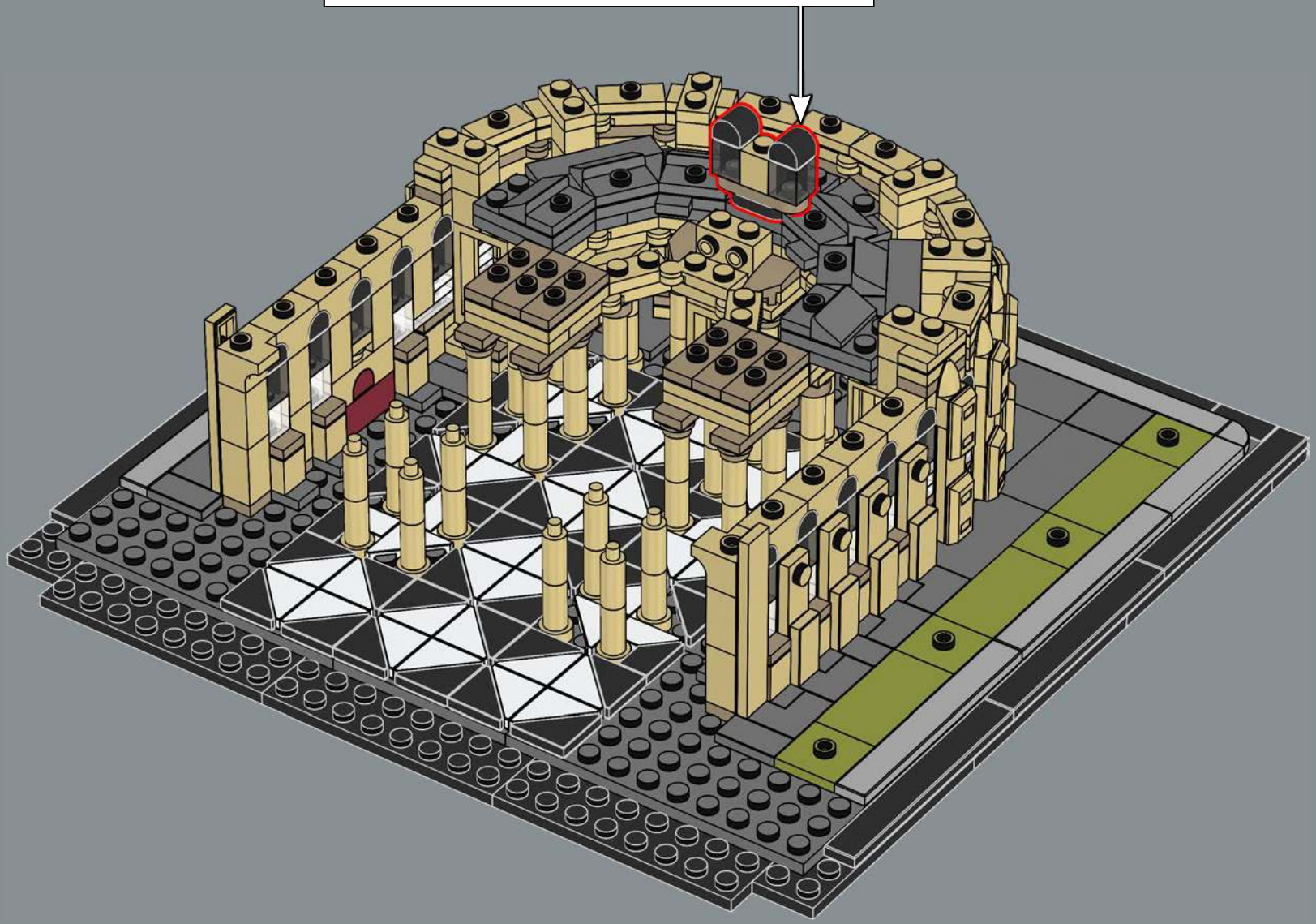

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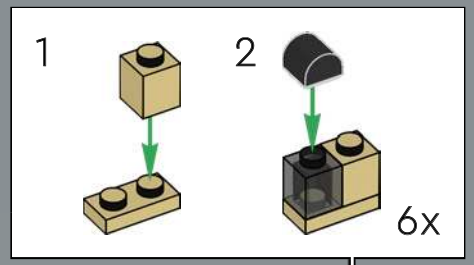

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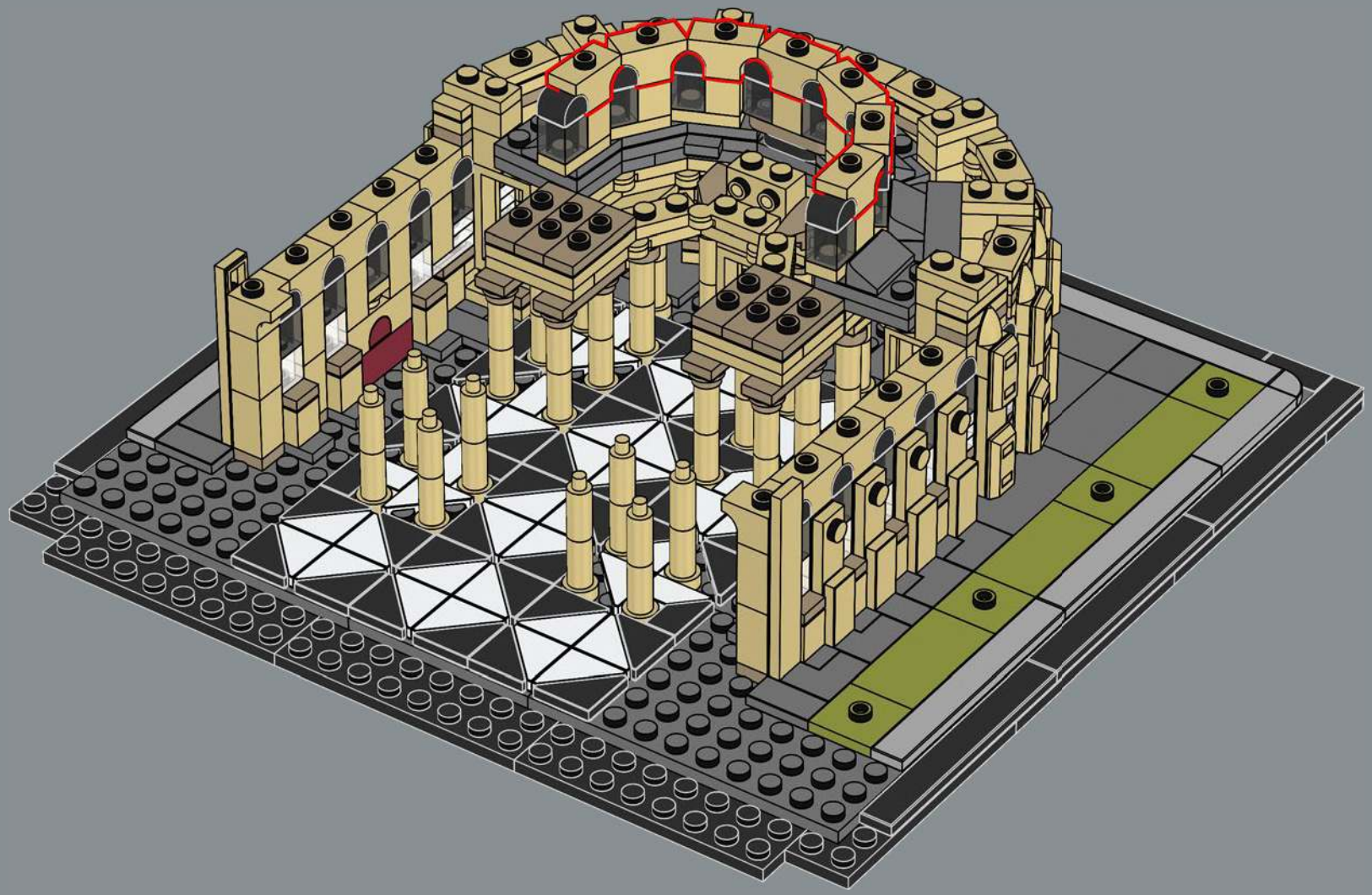

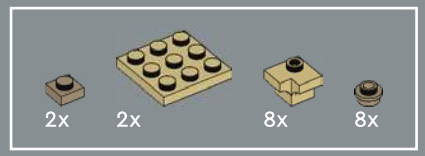

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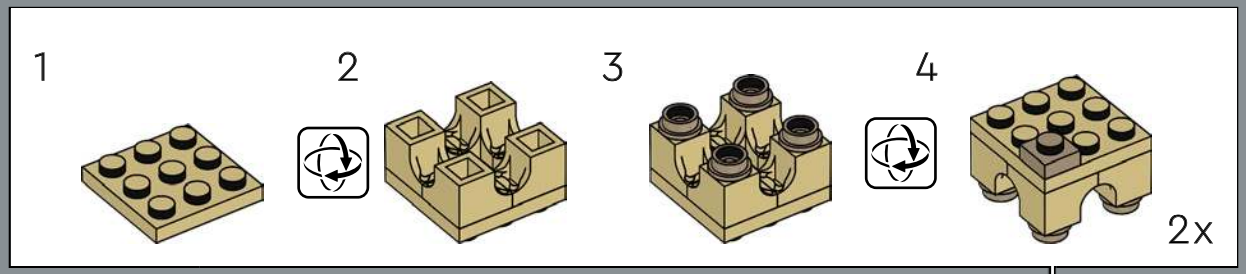

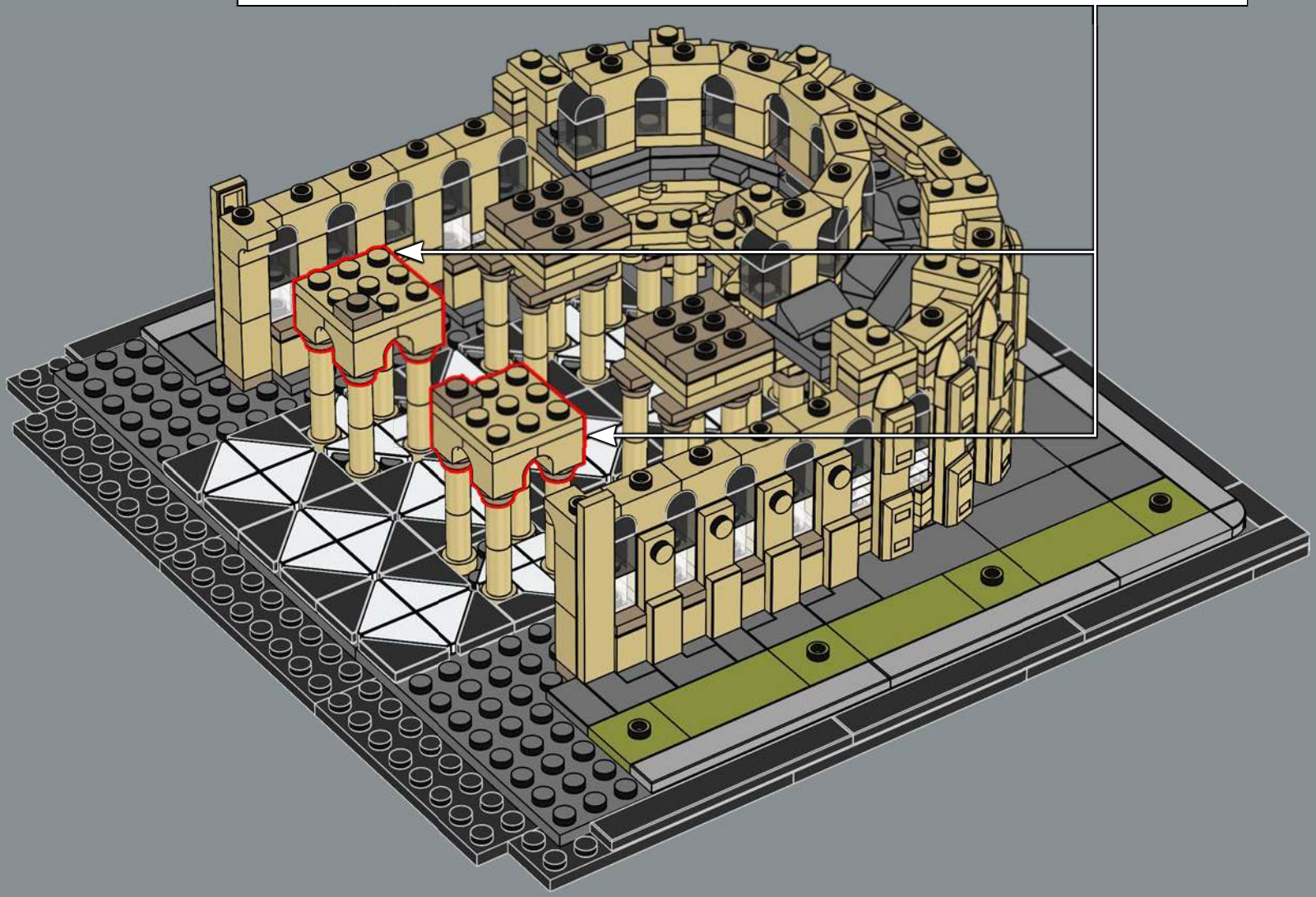

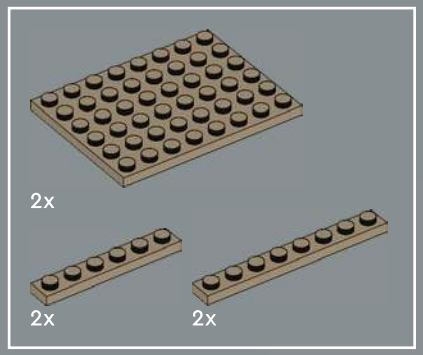

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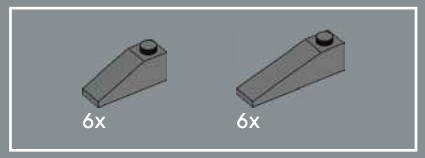

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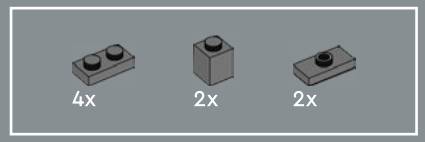

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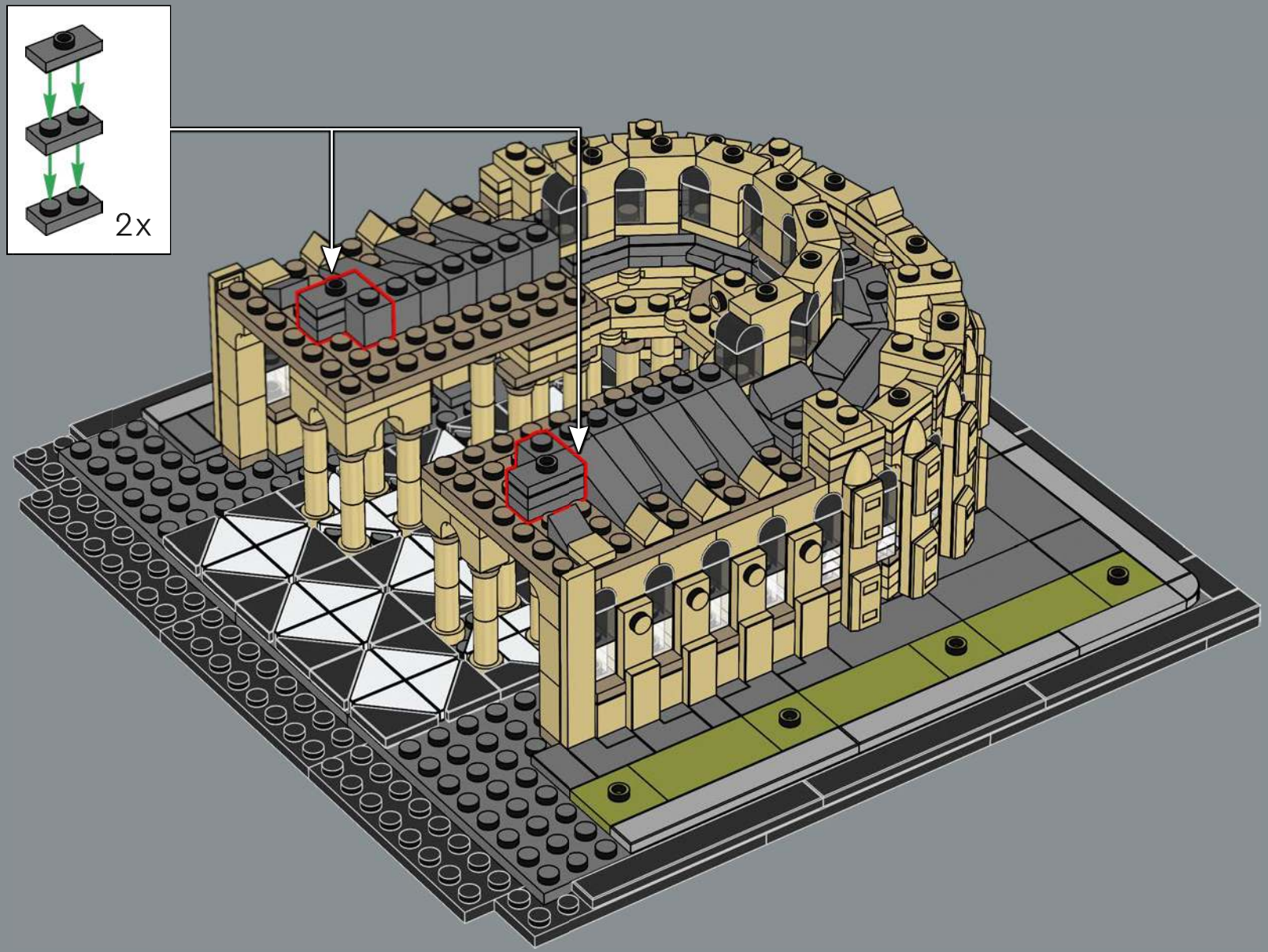

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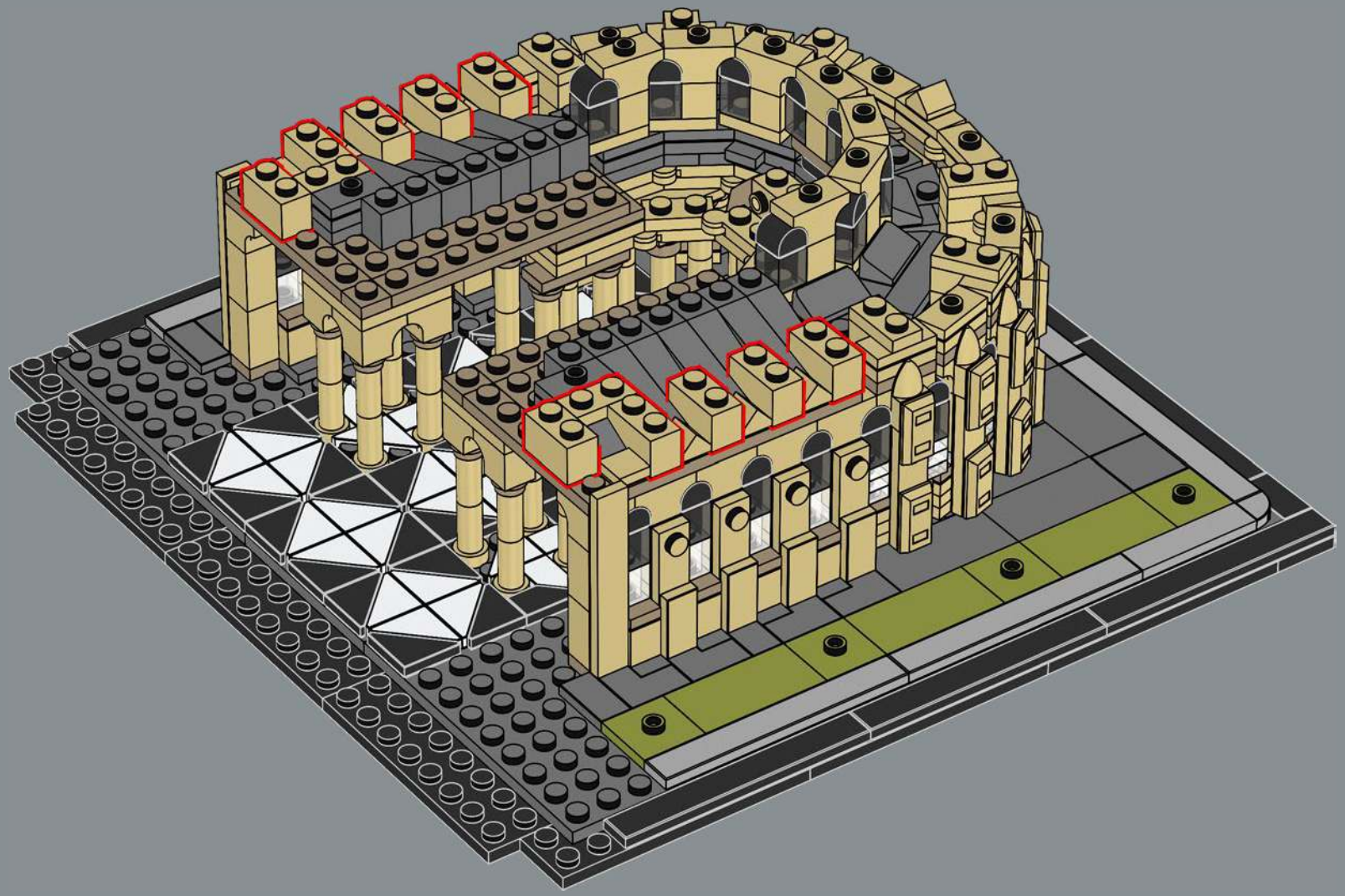

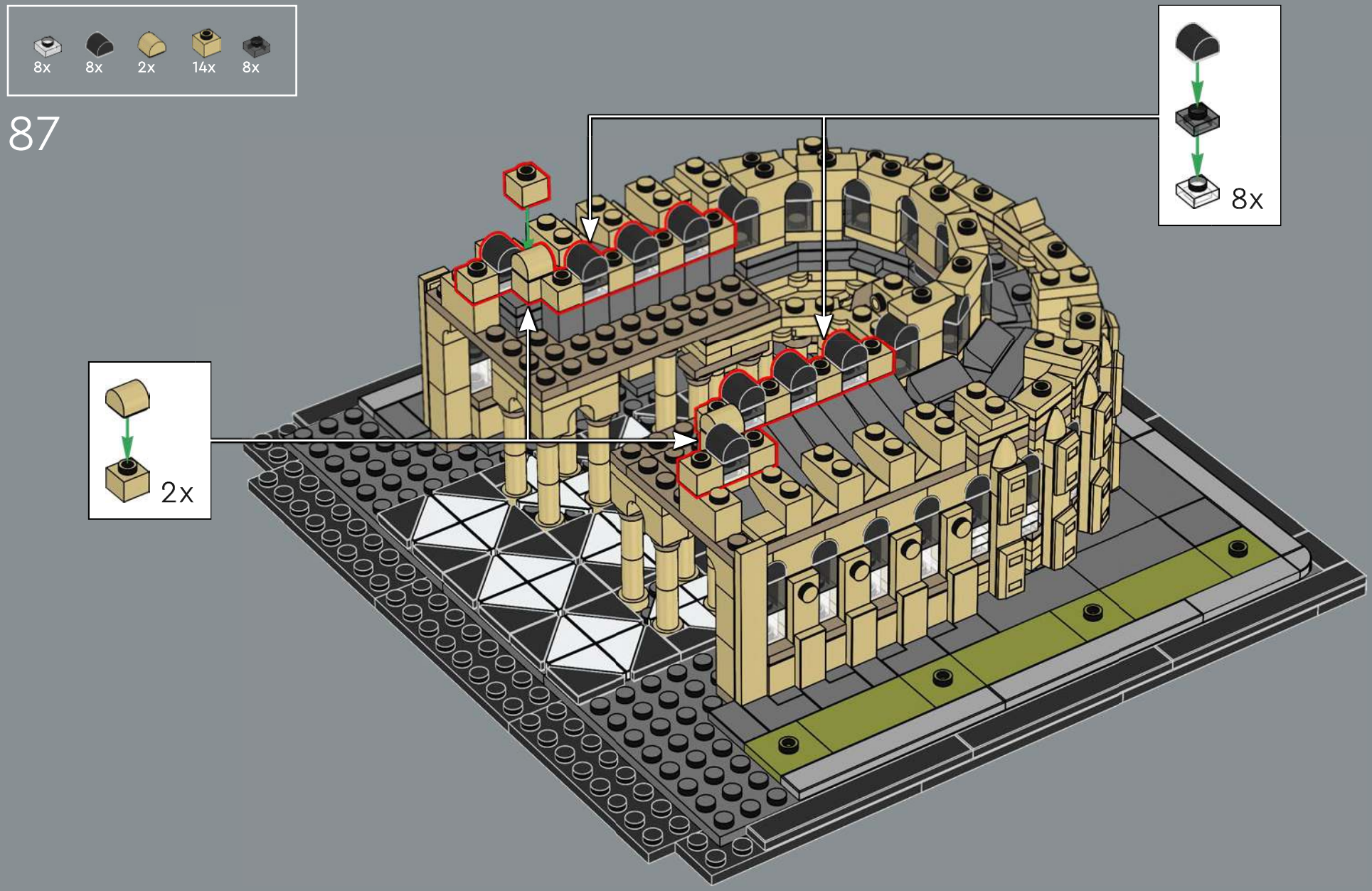
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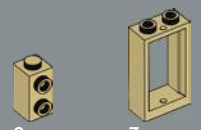

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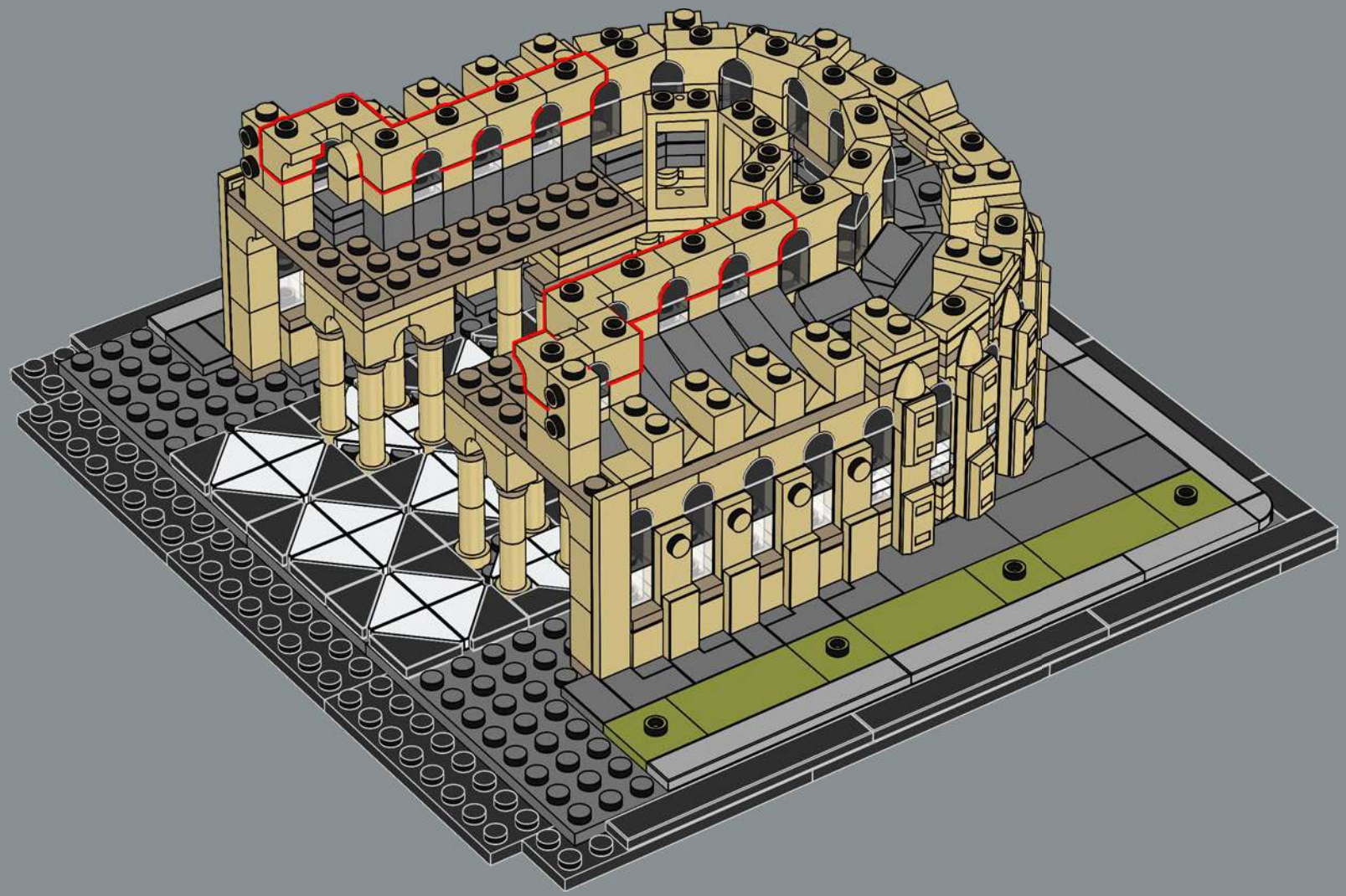

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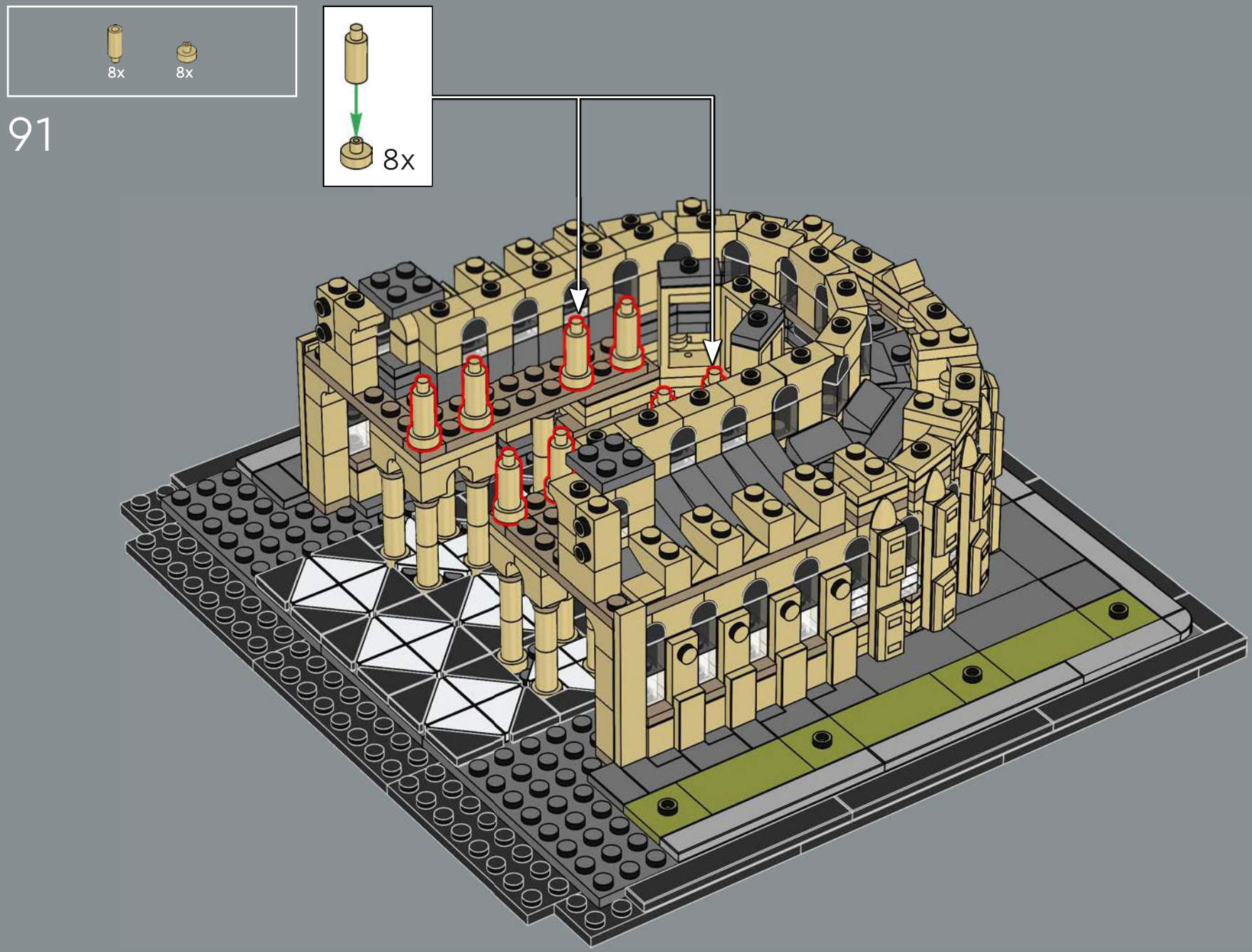
1170 – The first two stories of the choir are nearly complete.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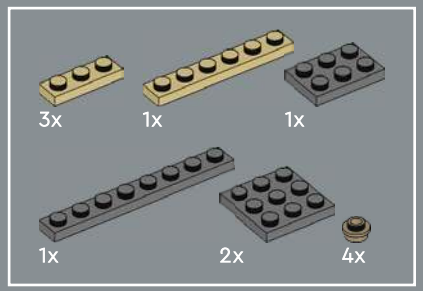

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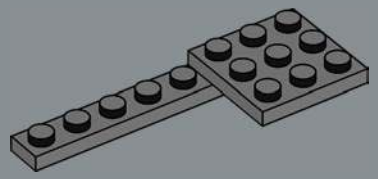

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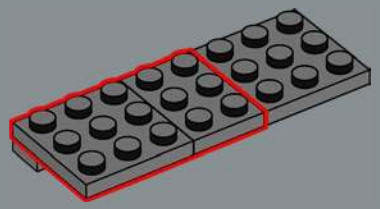

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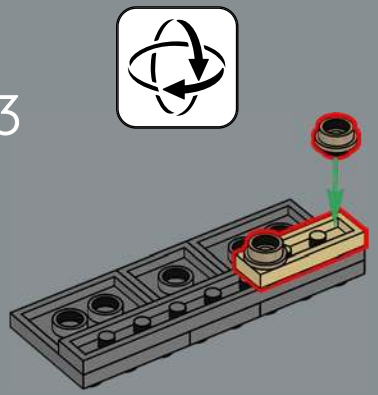

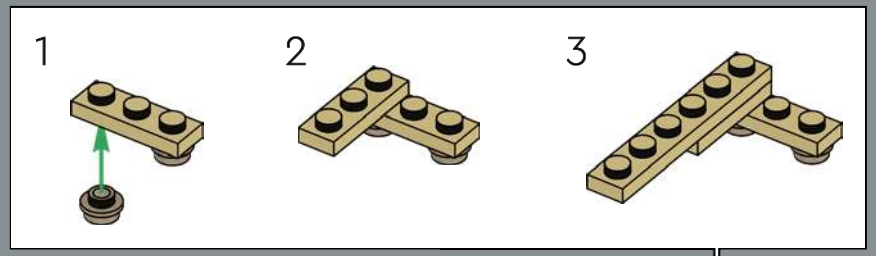

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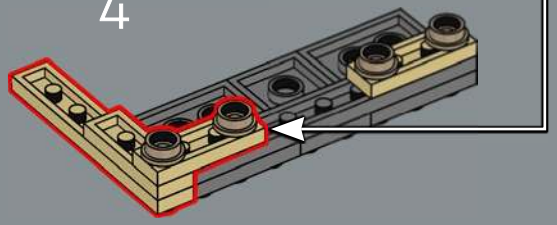

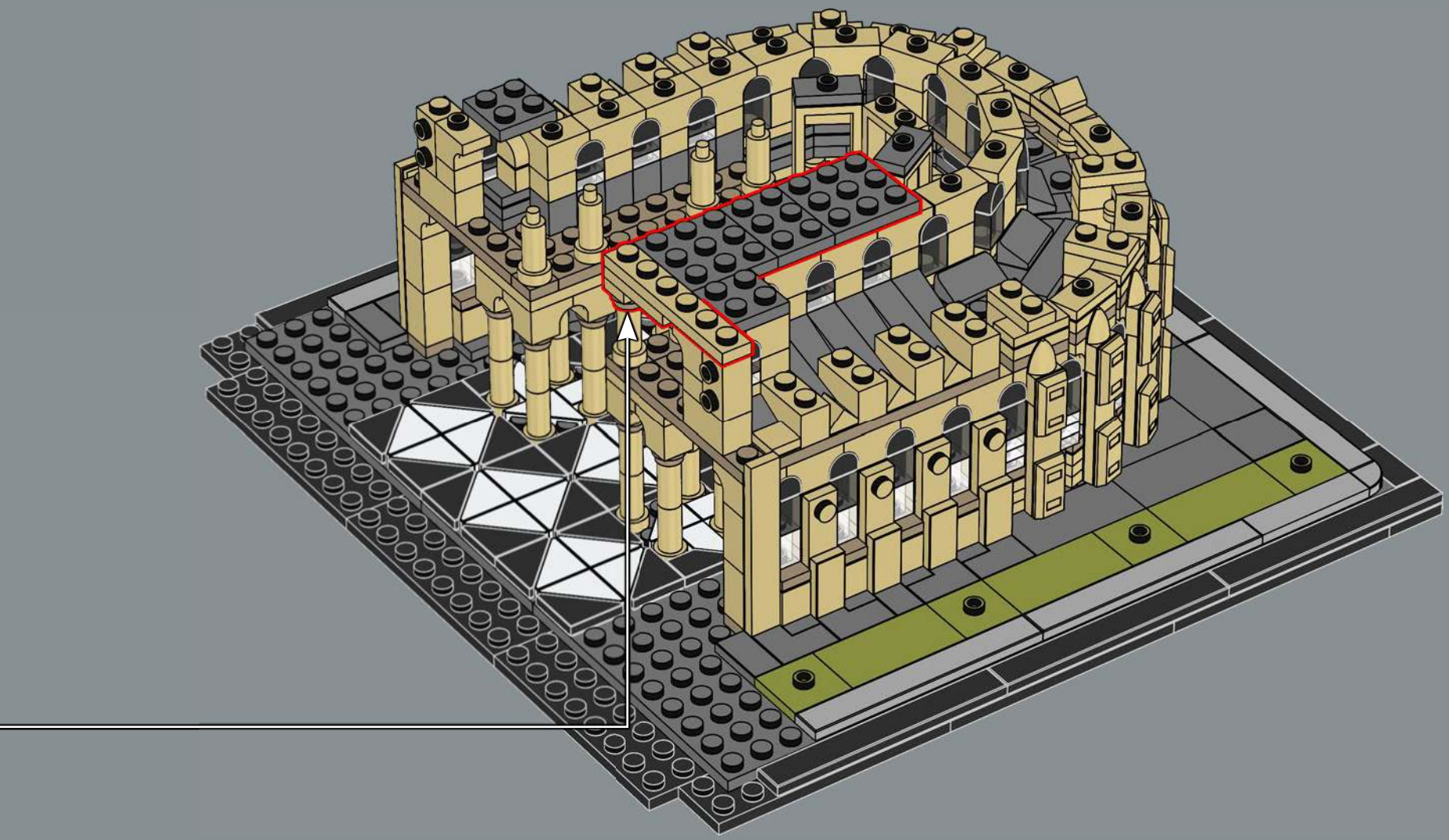

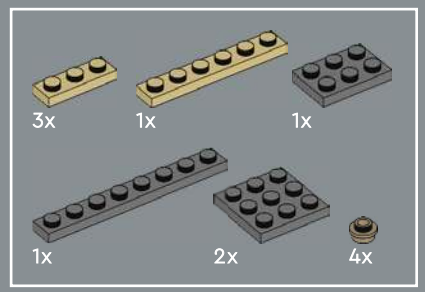

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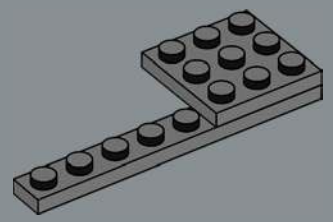

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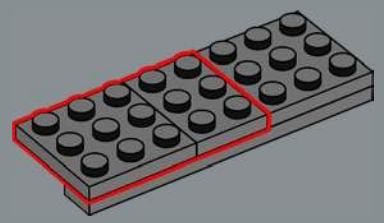

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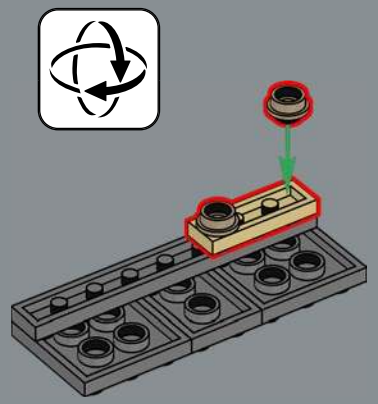

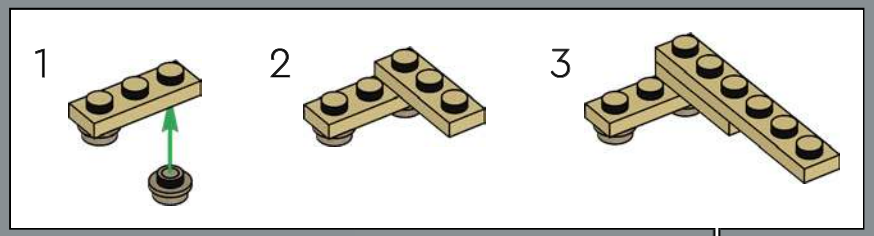

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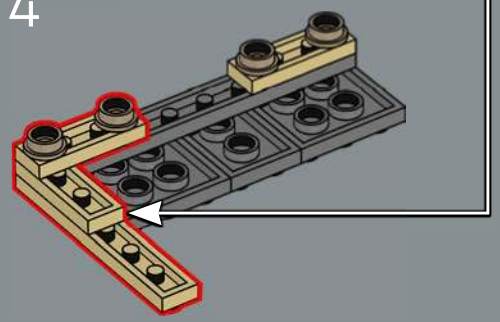

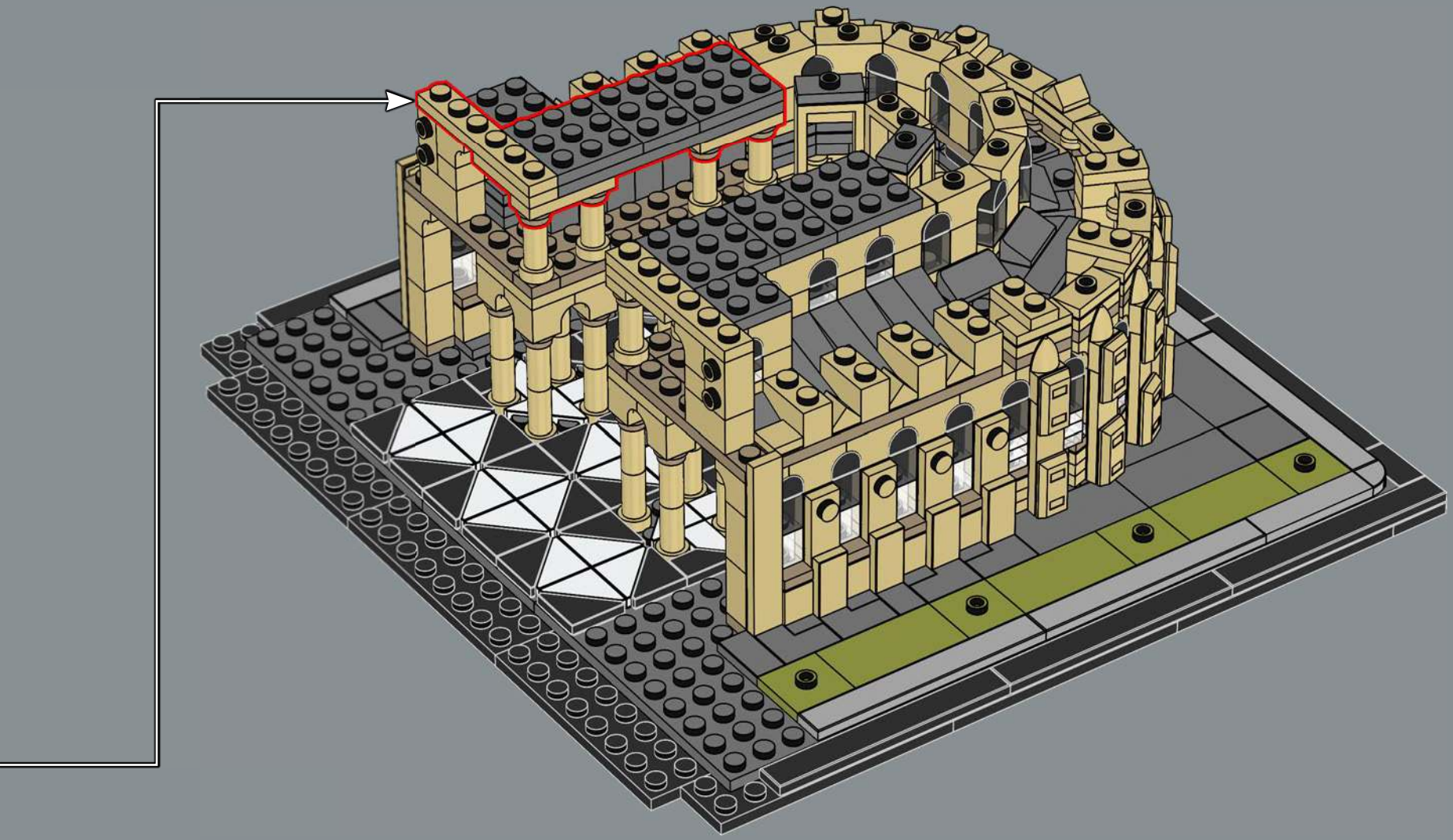

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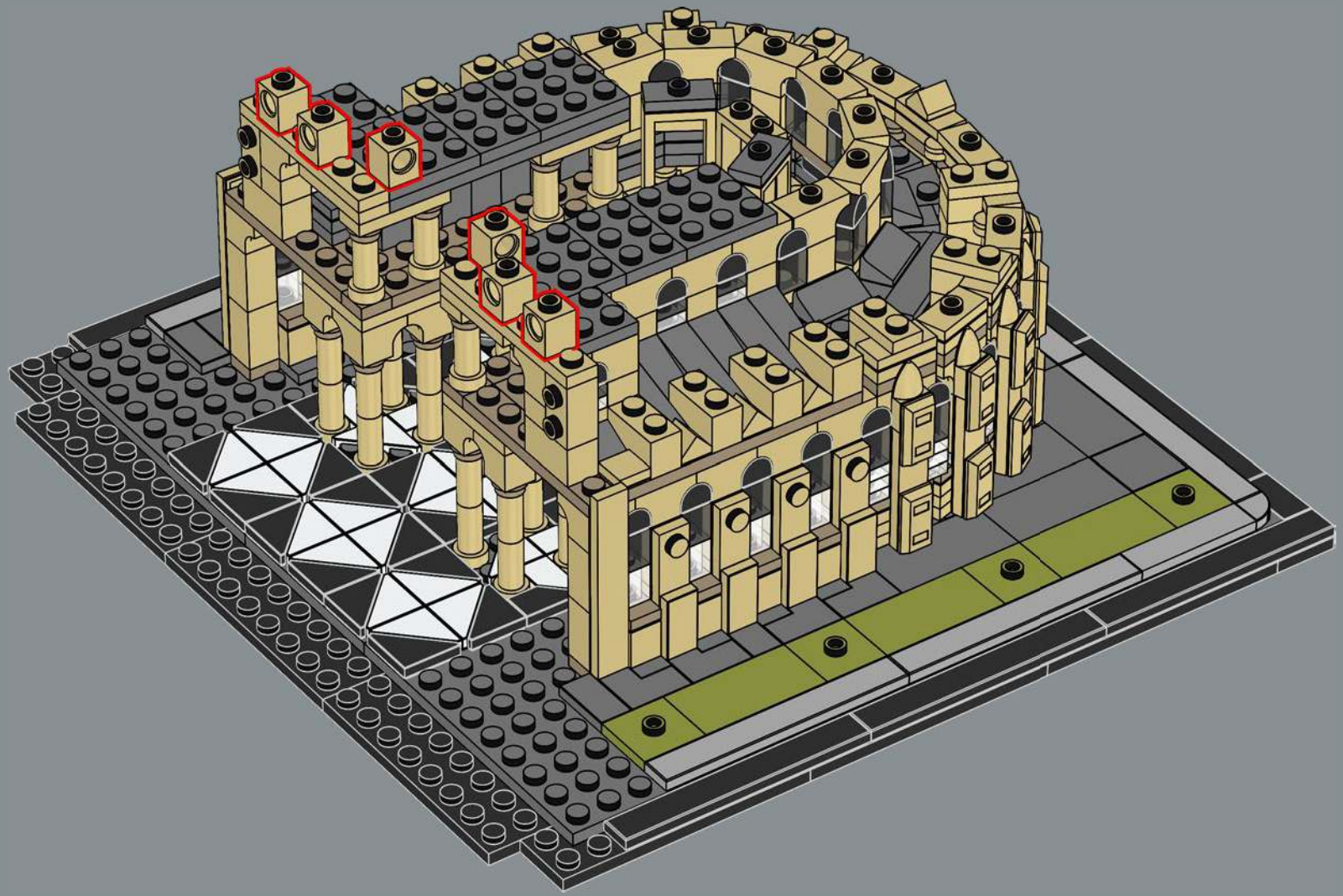

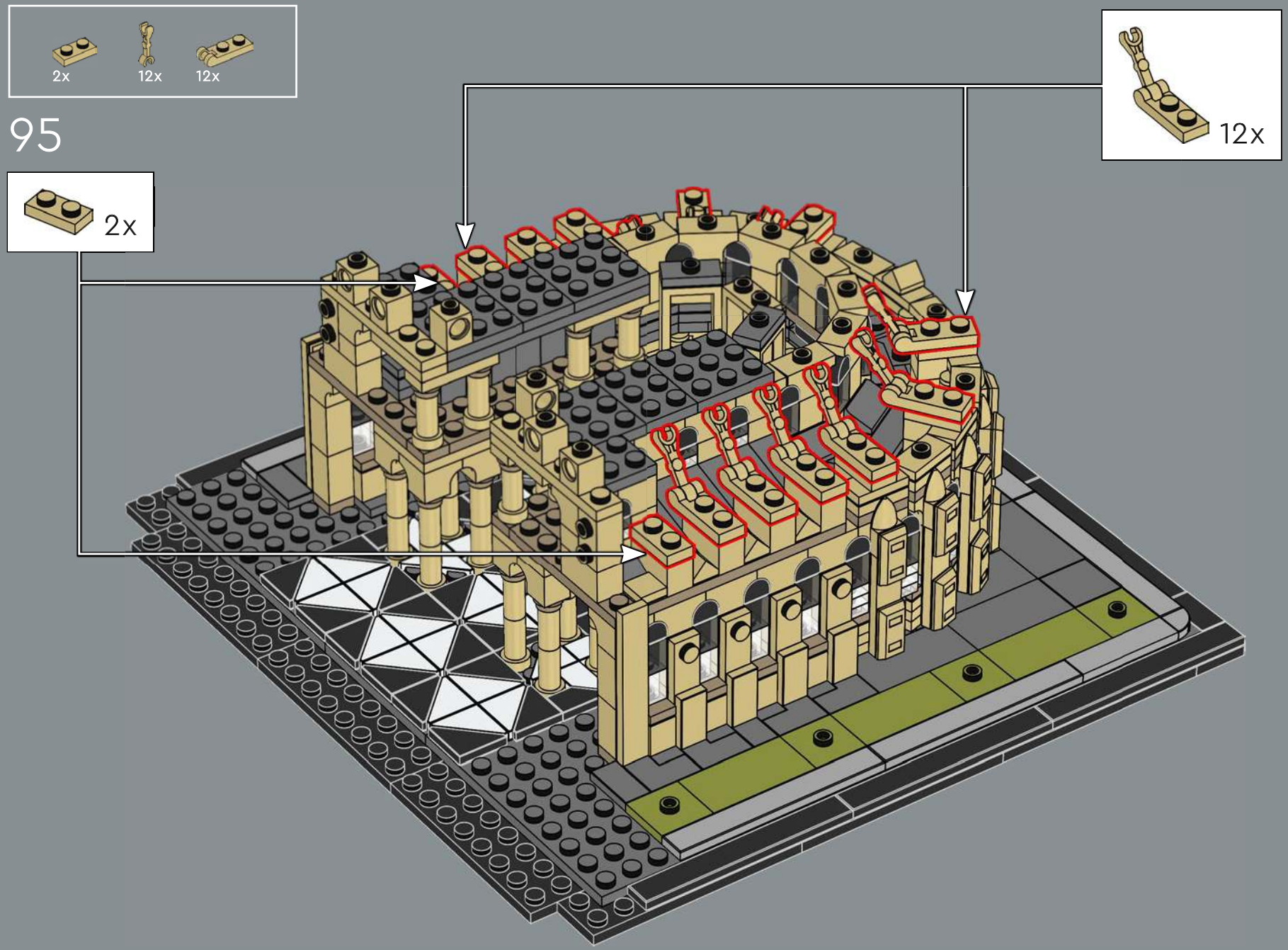
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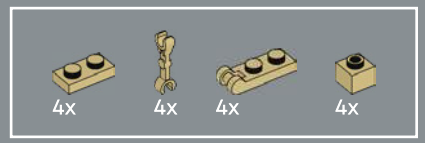

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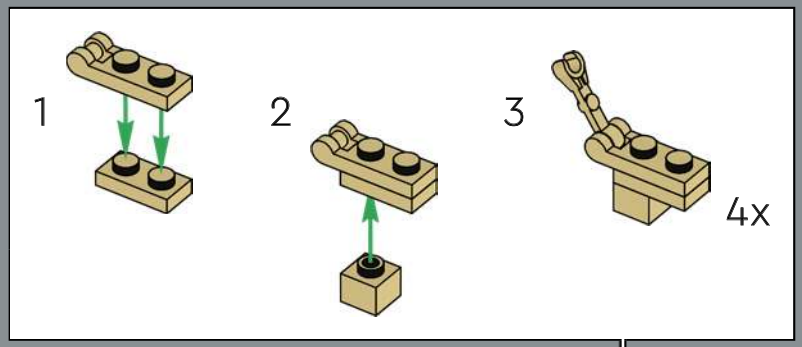

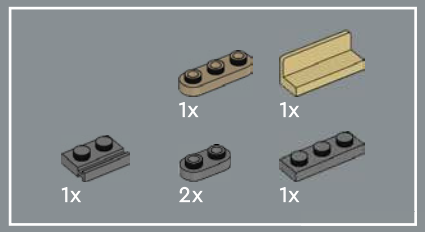

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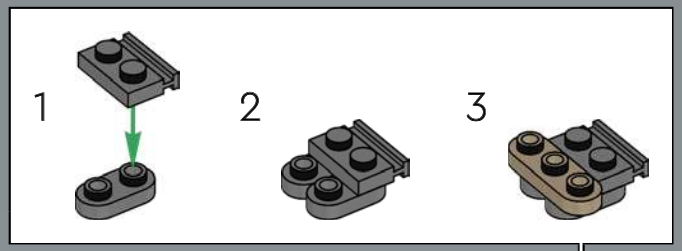

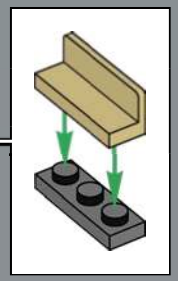

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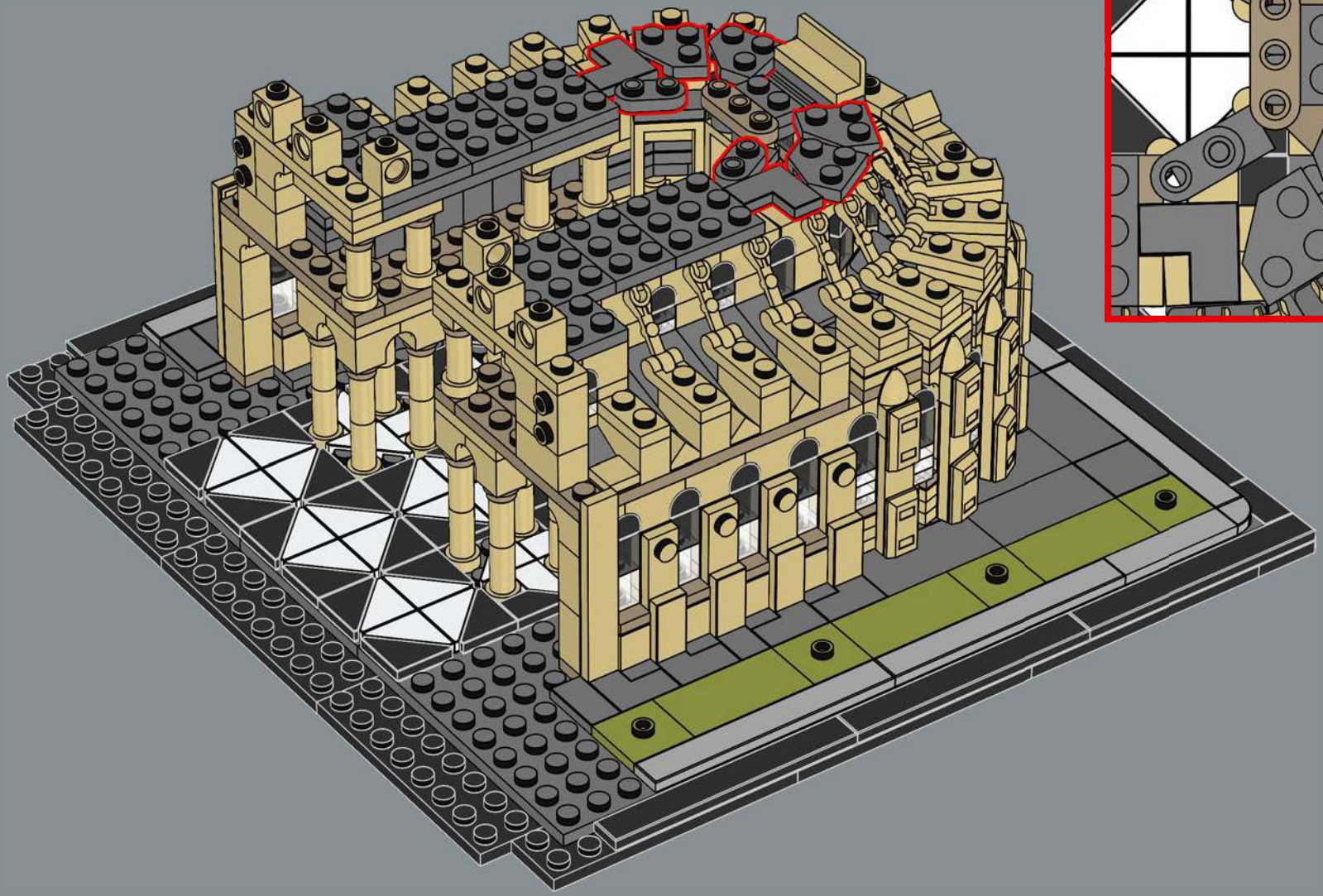

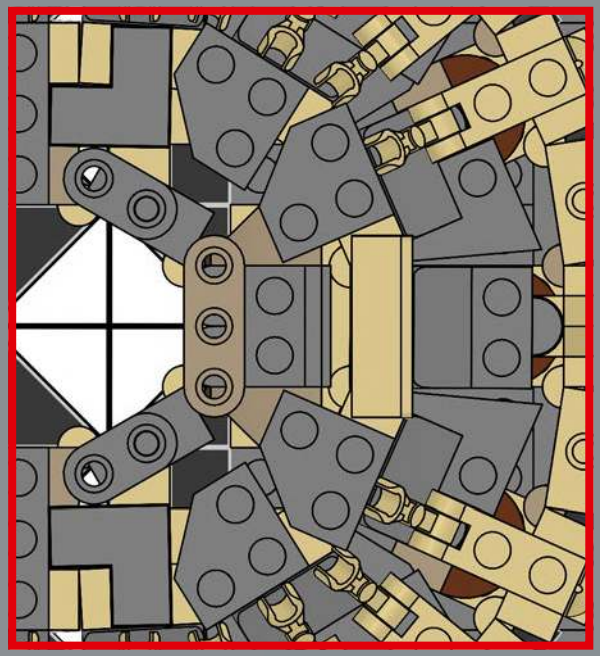

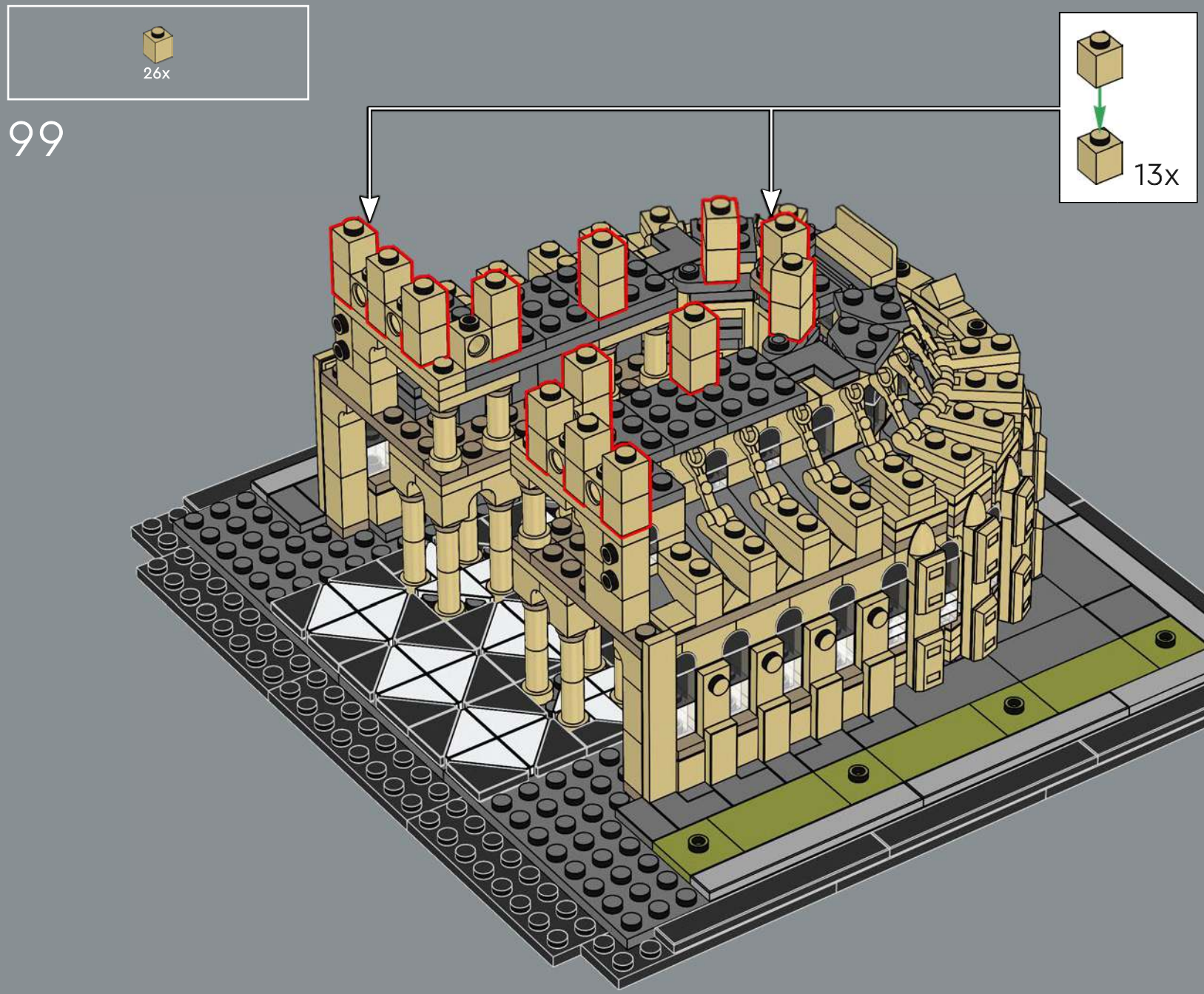
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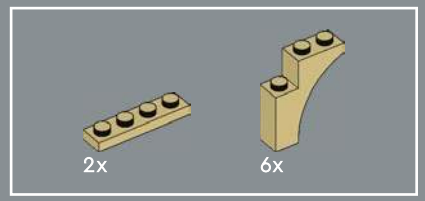

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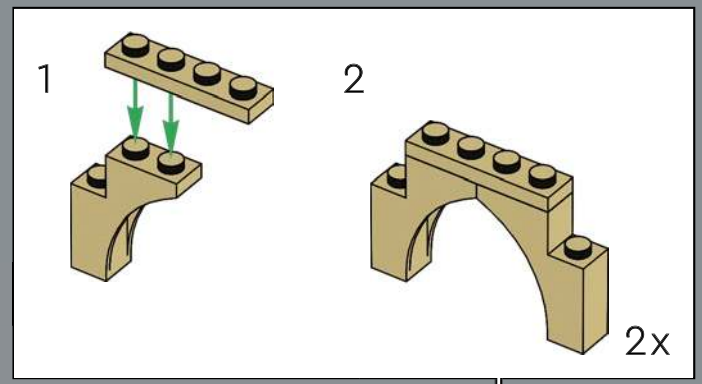

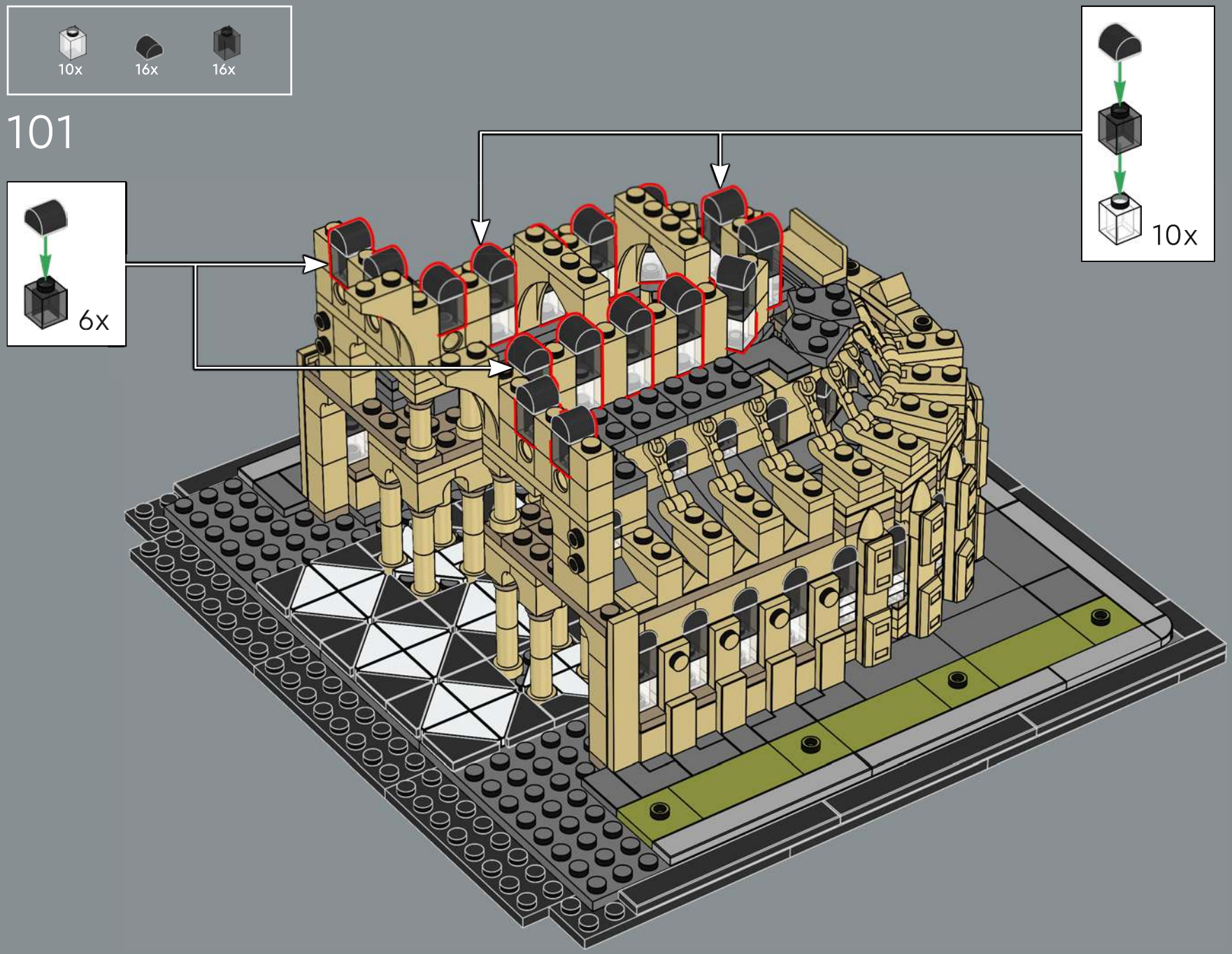
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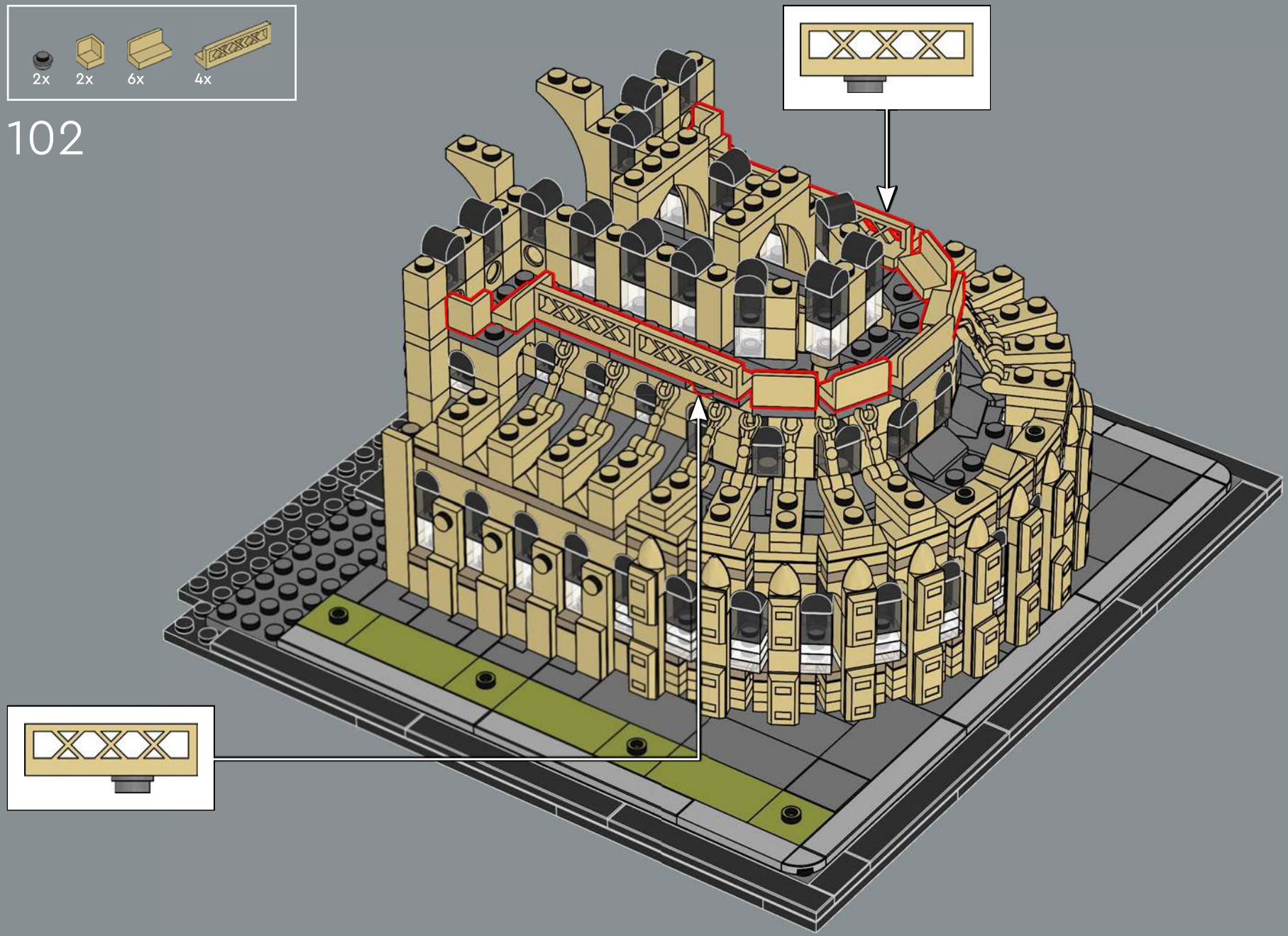
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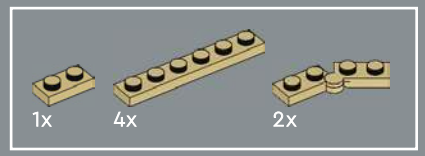

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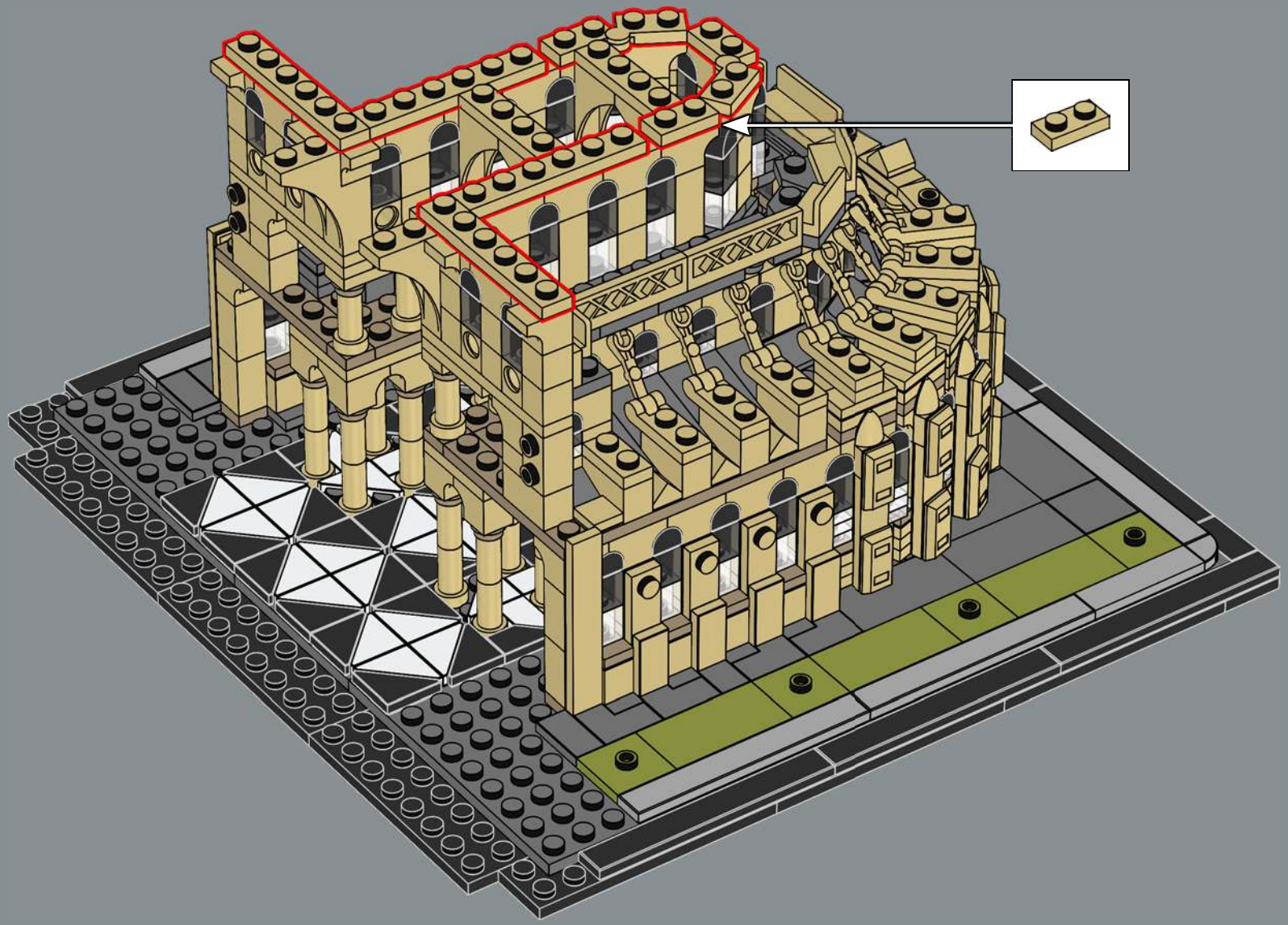

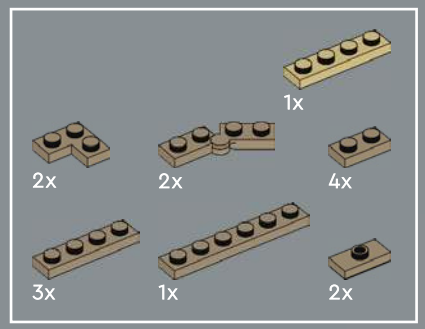

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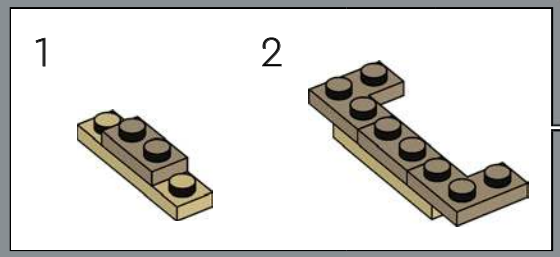

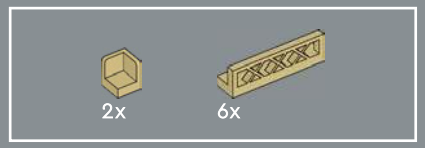

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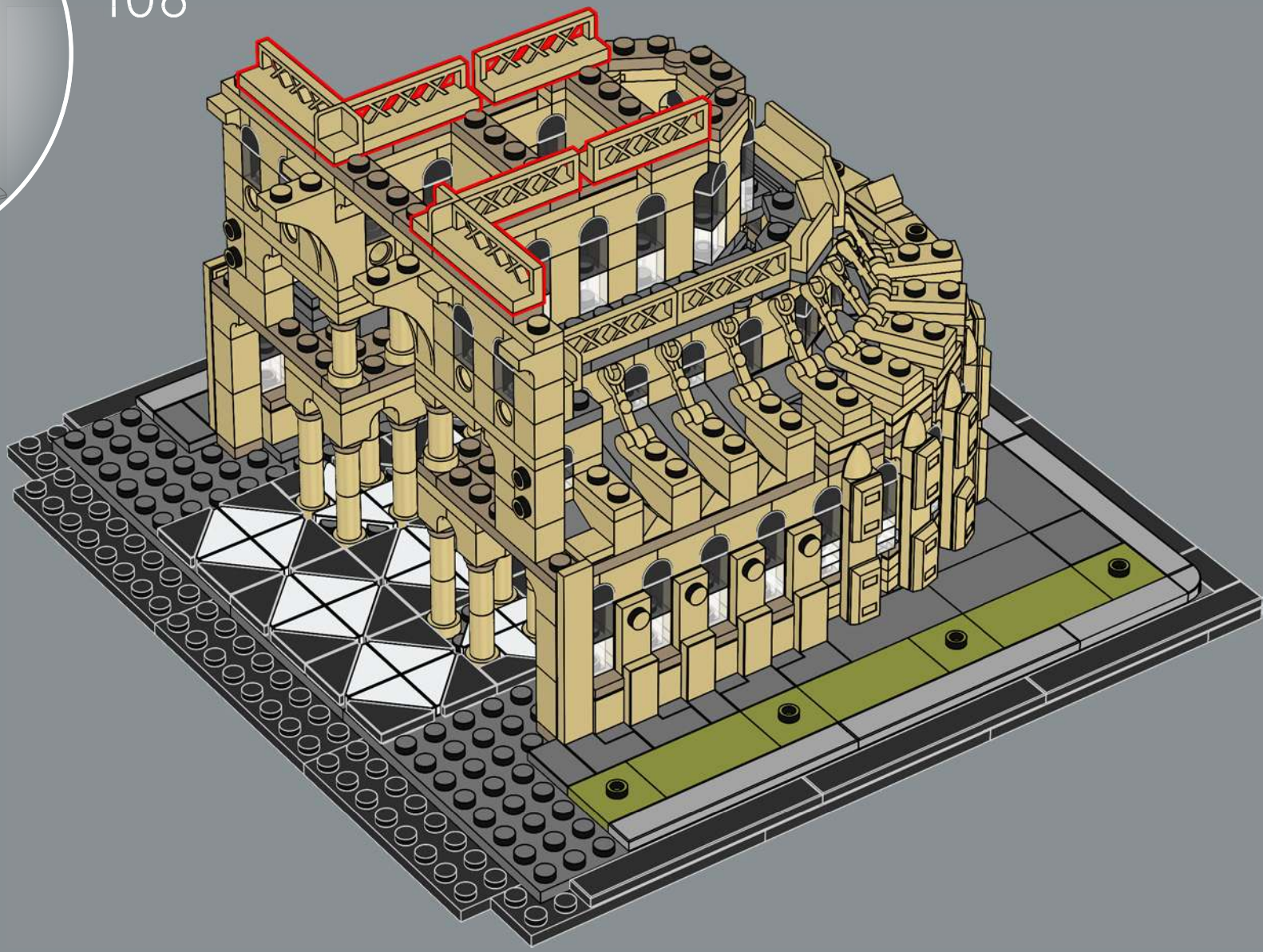

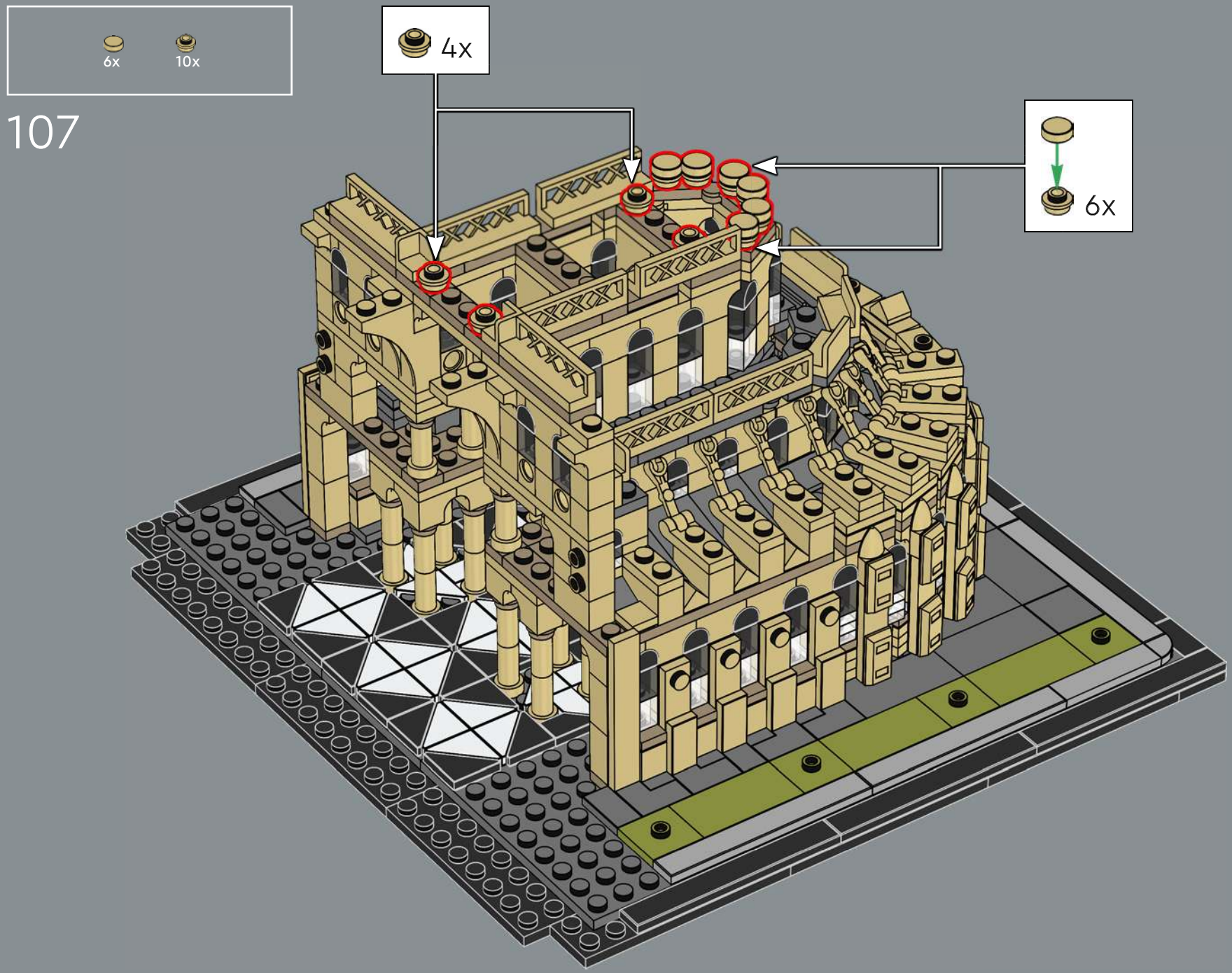
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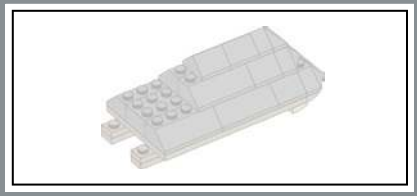

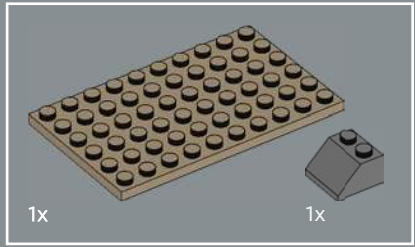

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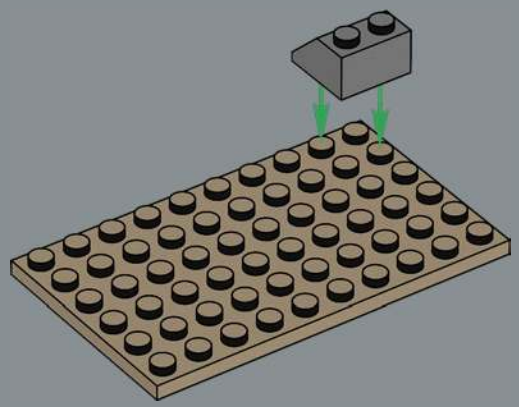

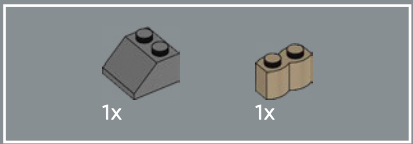

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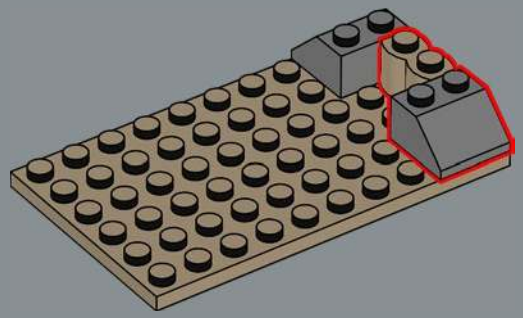

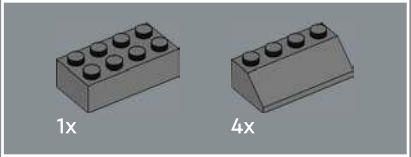

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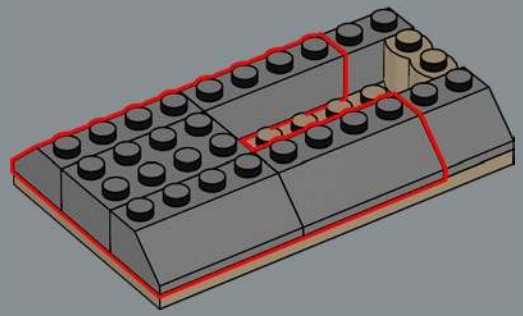

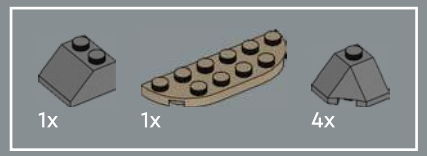

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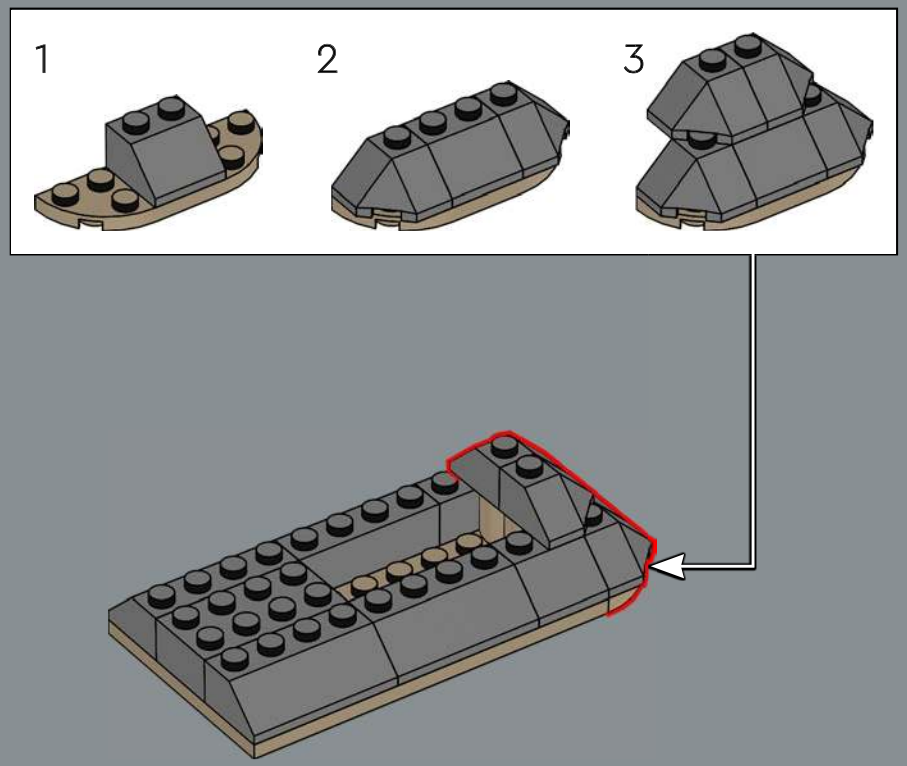

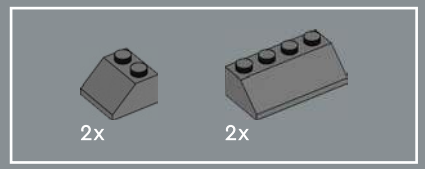

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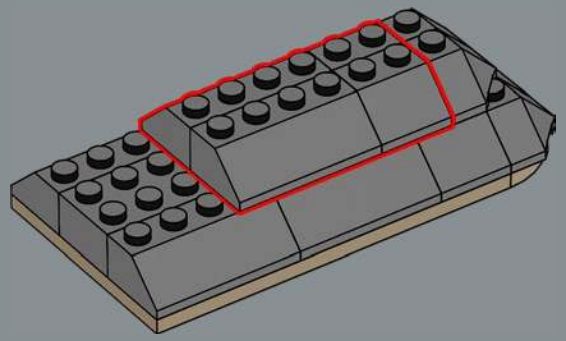

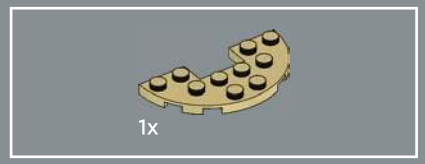

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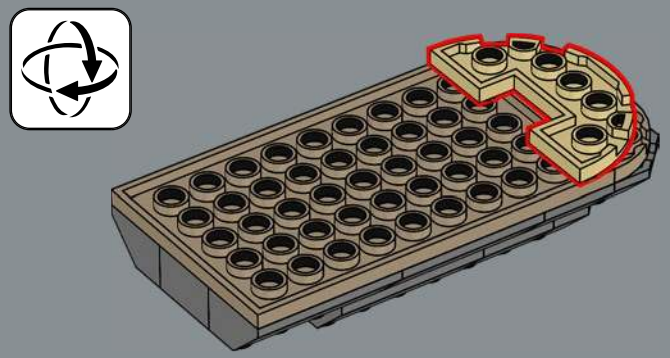

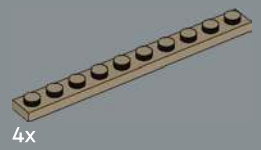

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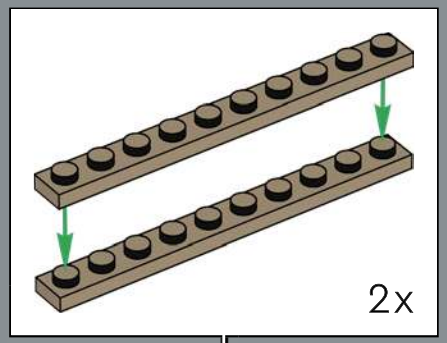

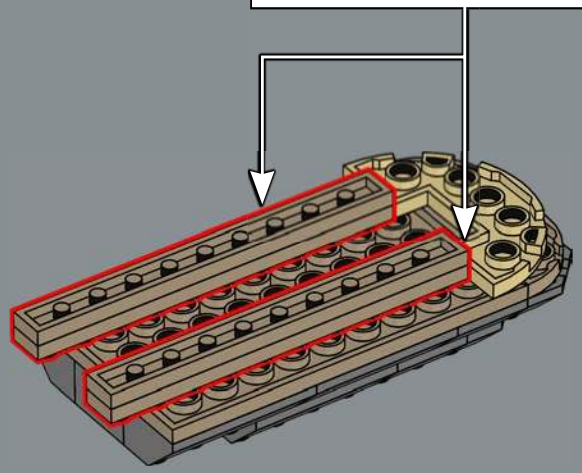

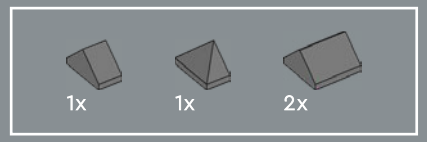

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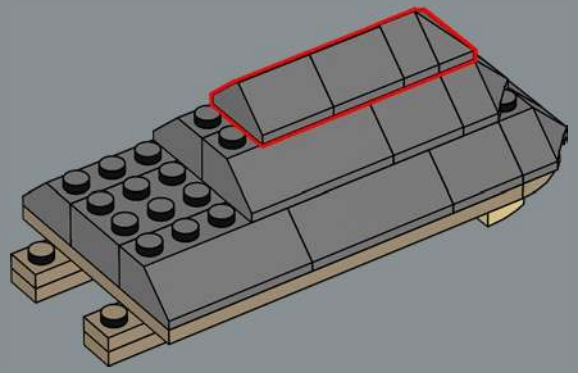
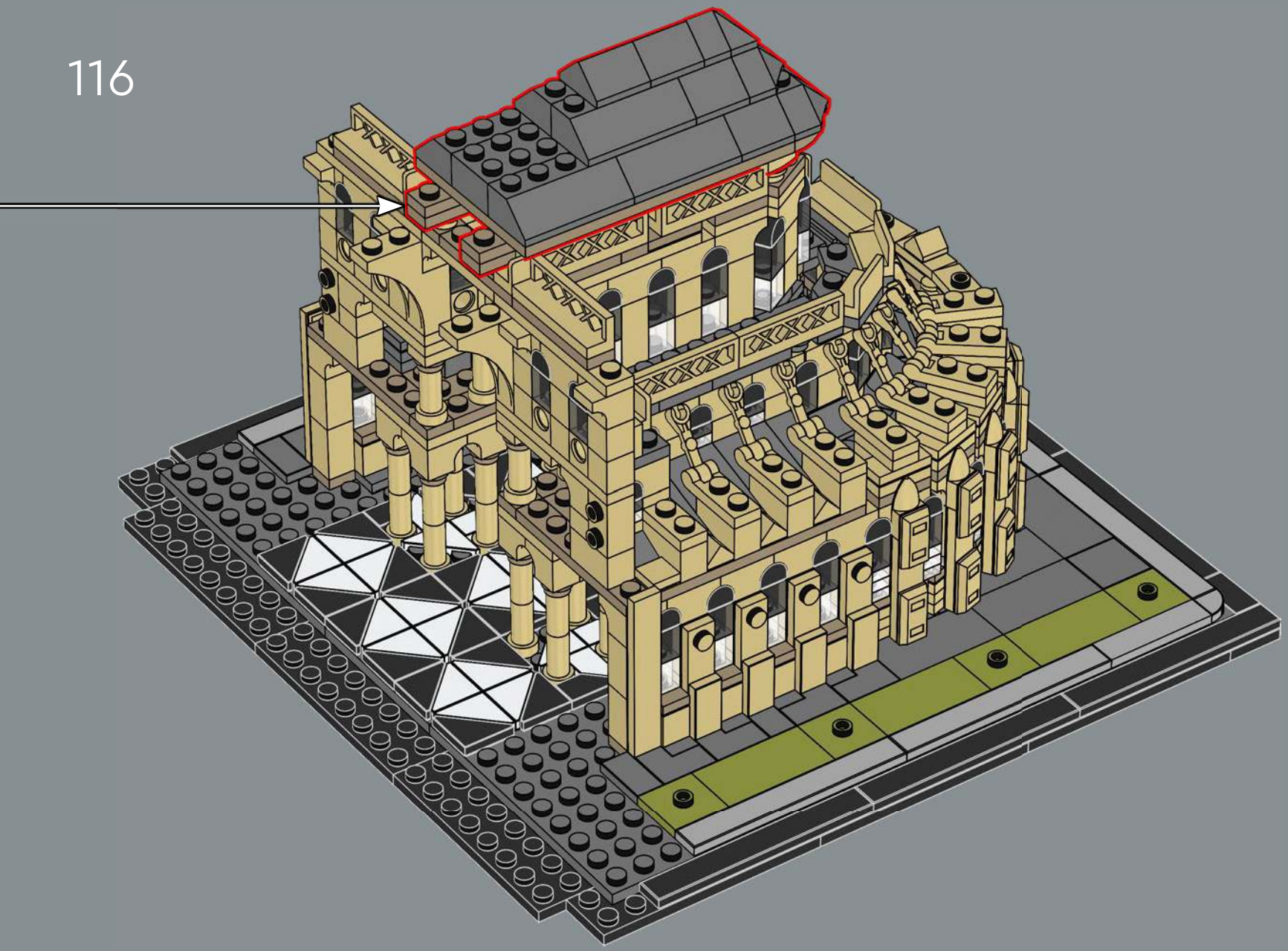
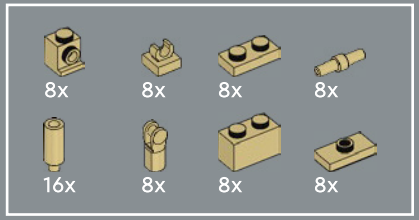


1177 – The choir and chevet are nearly complete, except for the high vaults. The roof and wooden framework are constructed prior to the vaults to offer protection from wear and tear.

116





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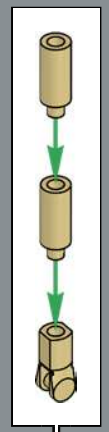

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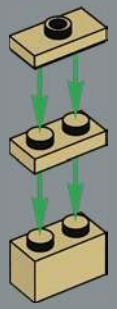

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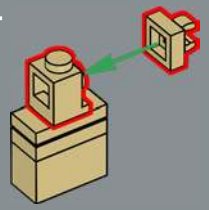

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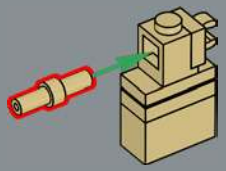

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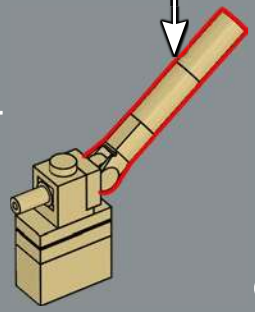

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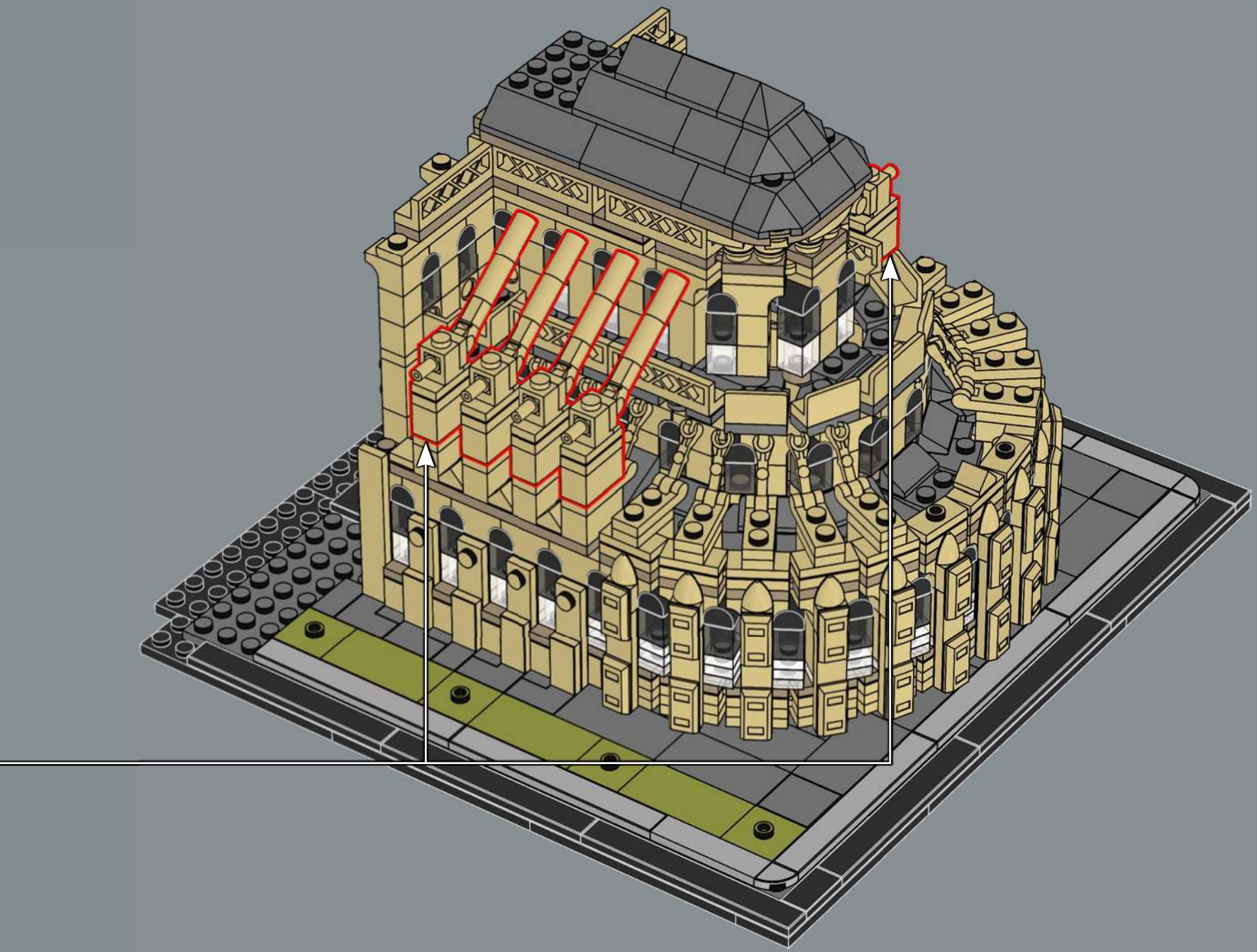

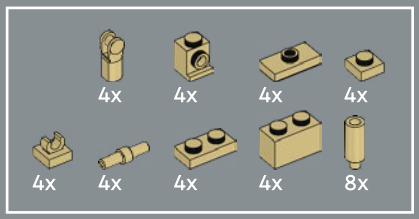

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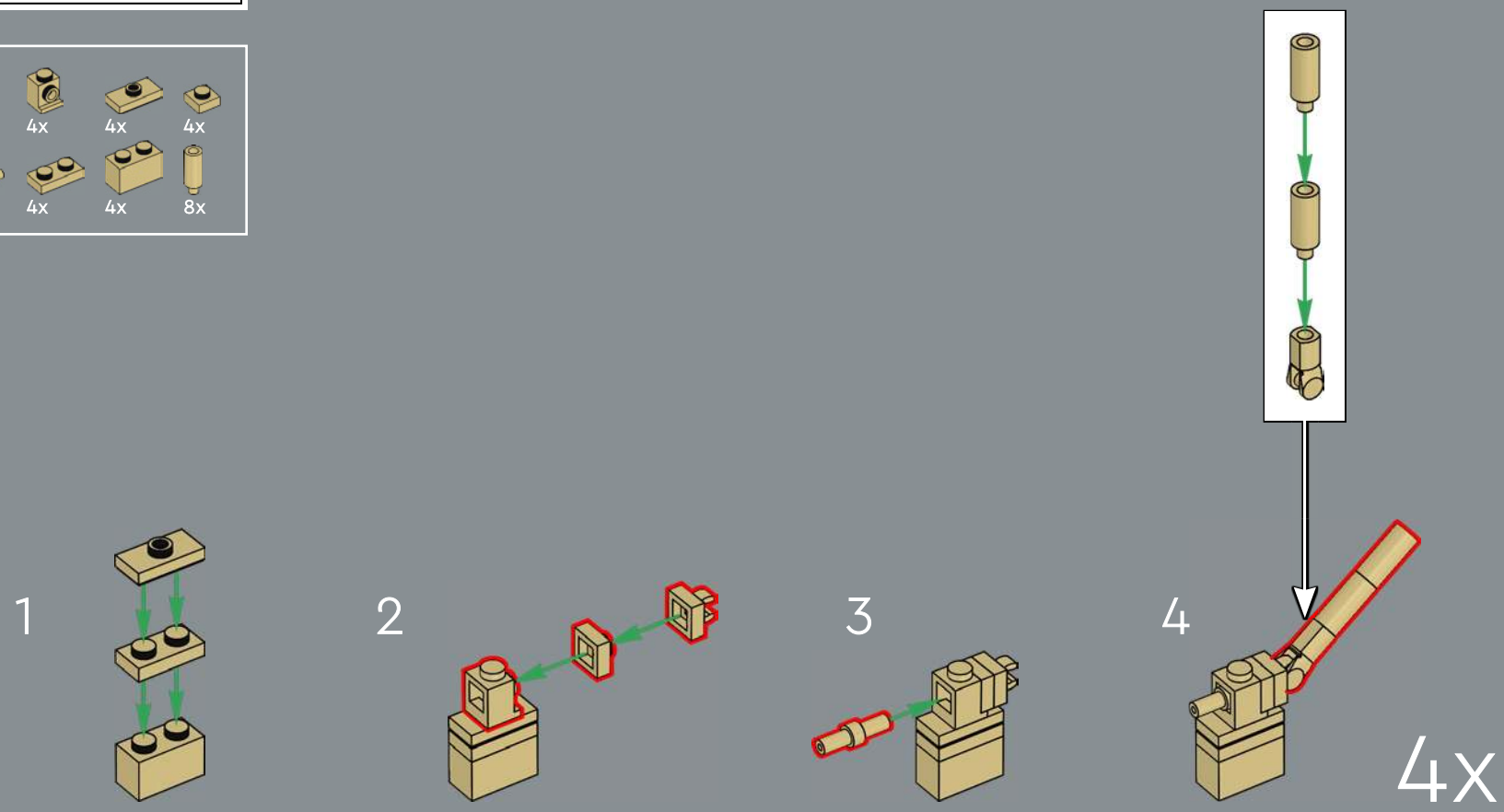
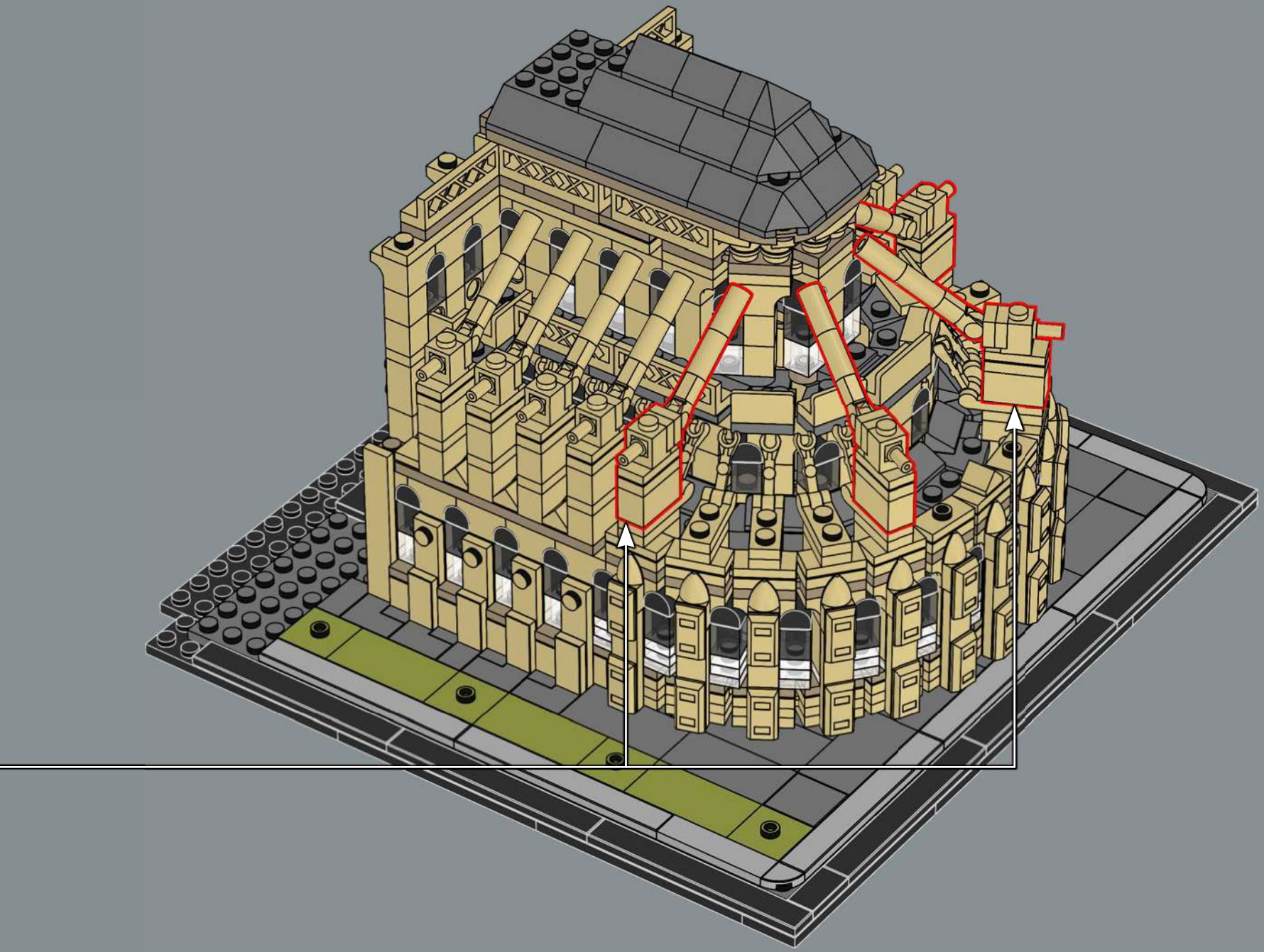
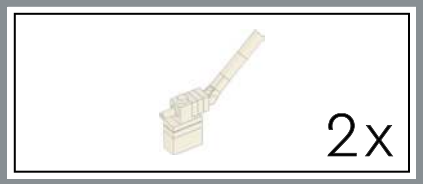
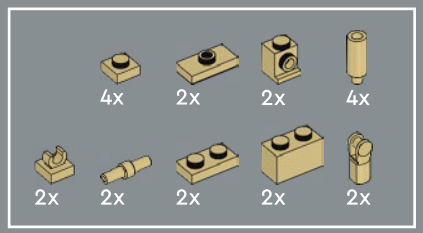




The Notre-Dame Cathedral is the first to fully integrate the flying buttresses that are hallmarks of Gothic architecture.





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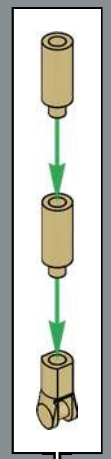

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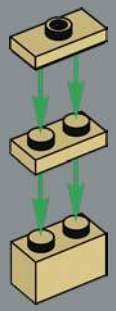

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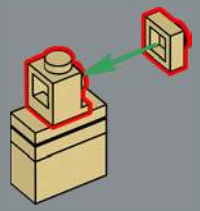

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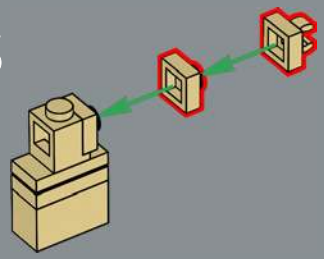

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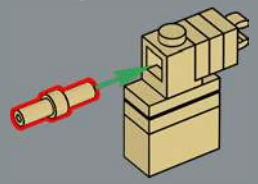

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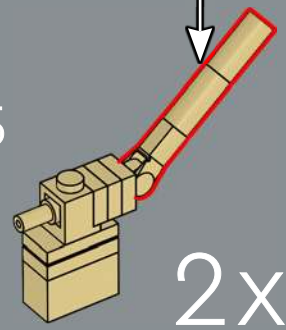
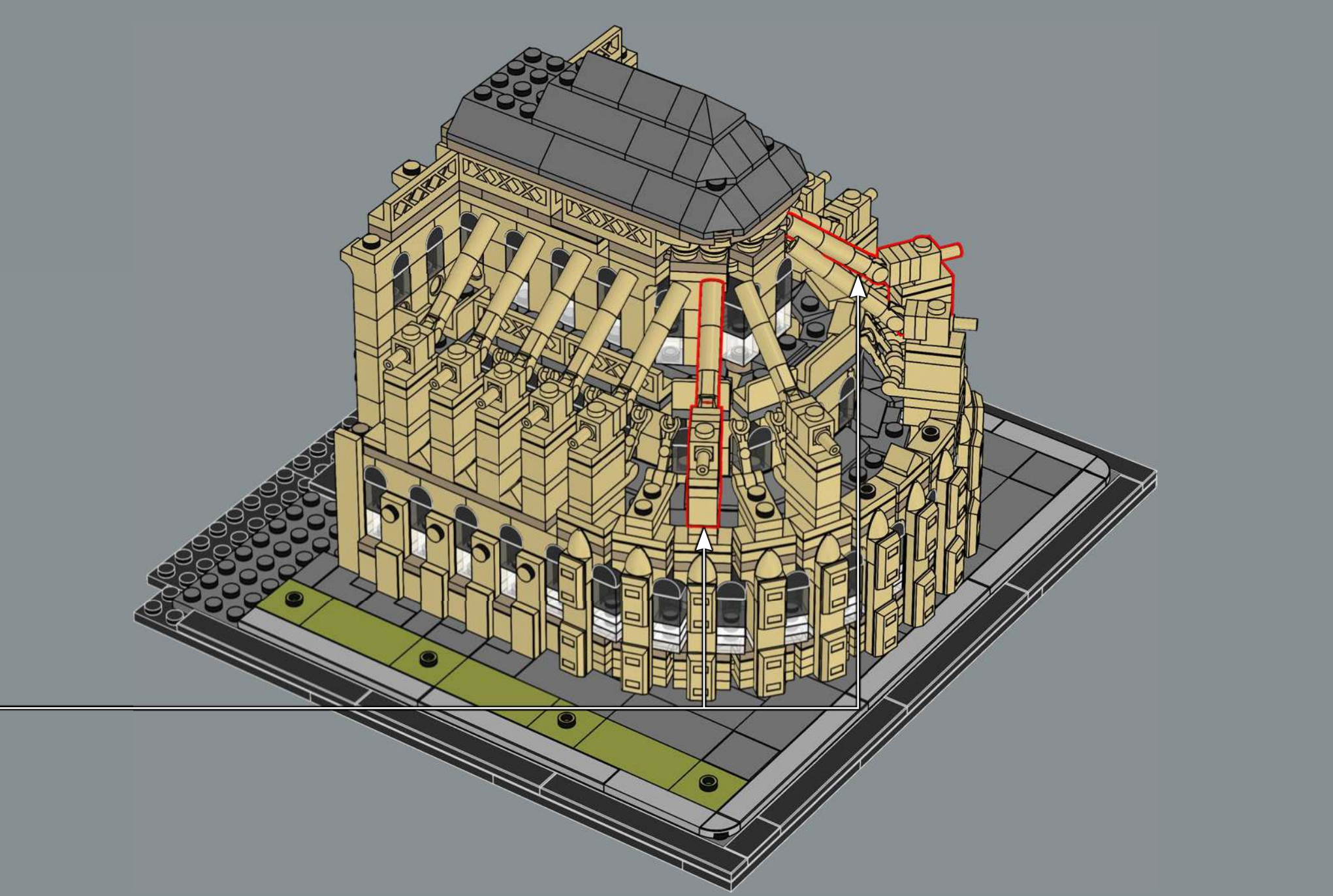
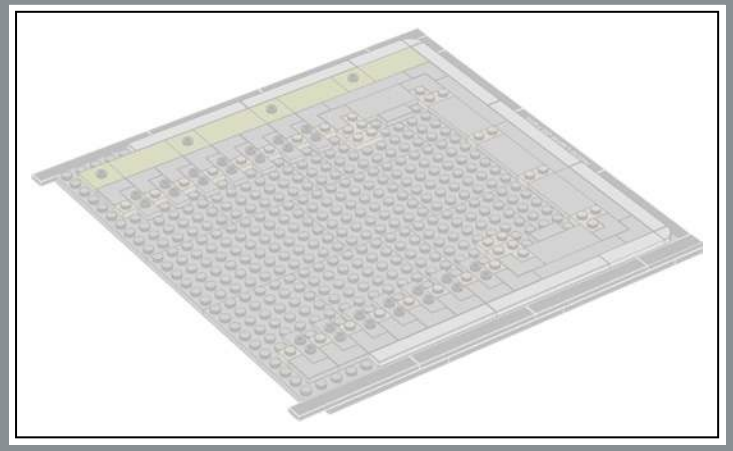


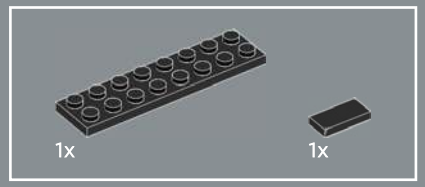


A LEGO® LANDMARK TAKES SHAPE

Construction work continues in the transept and in the bays on the south side of the nave.

At 128 m (419.9 ft.) long, 48 m (157.4 ft.) wide and 69 m (226.3 ft.) tall, the Notre-Dame Cathedral was built on the site of an existing cathedral on Île de la Cité in the Seine. While the first completed eastern section functioned as an interim church, construction work continued on the transept and in the first bays on the south side of the nave. From the original Romanesque architectural style, the construction gradually incorporated contemporary architectural styles, evolving into the Gothic style it represents today. This model stays faithful to the construction of both the structure within and the external architectural details – with certain features scaled down – to recreate the awe-inspiring view that has met visitors through the centuries.





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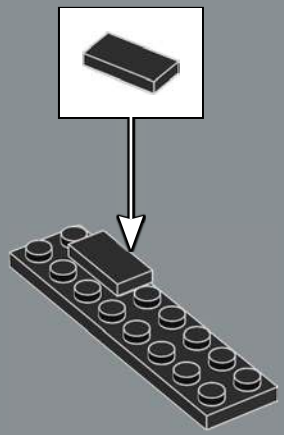

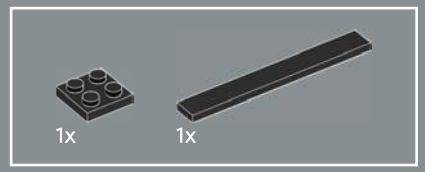

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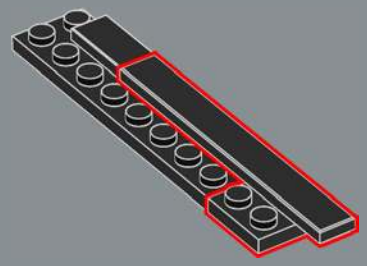

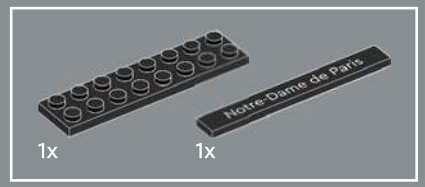

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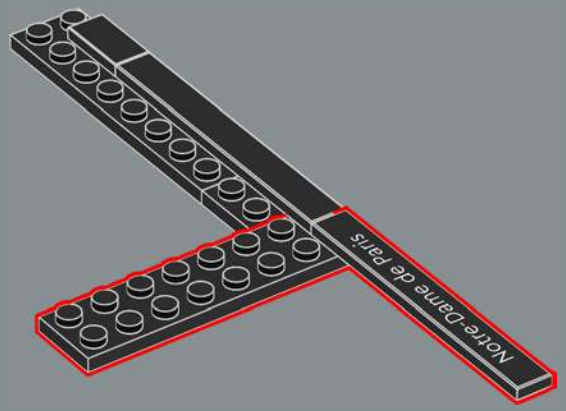

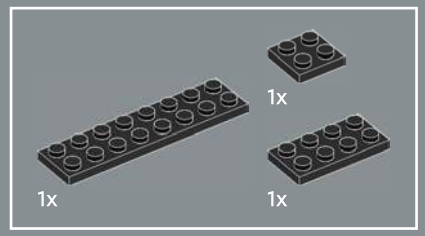

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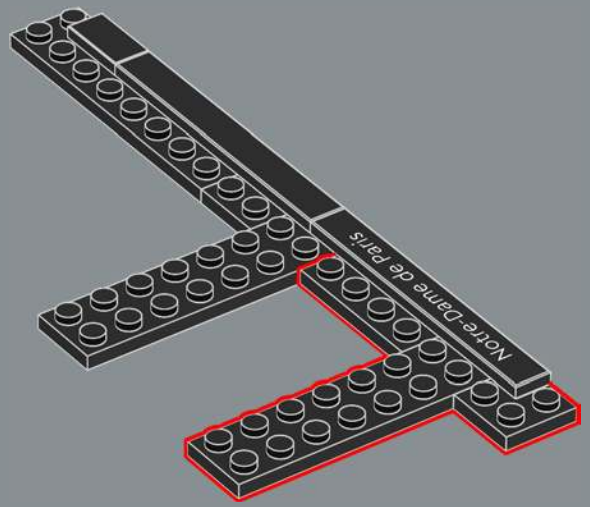

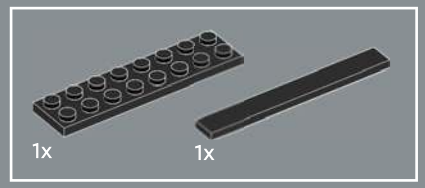

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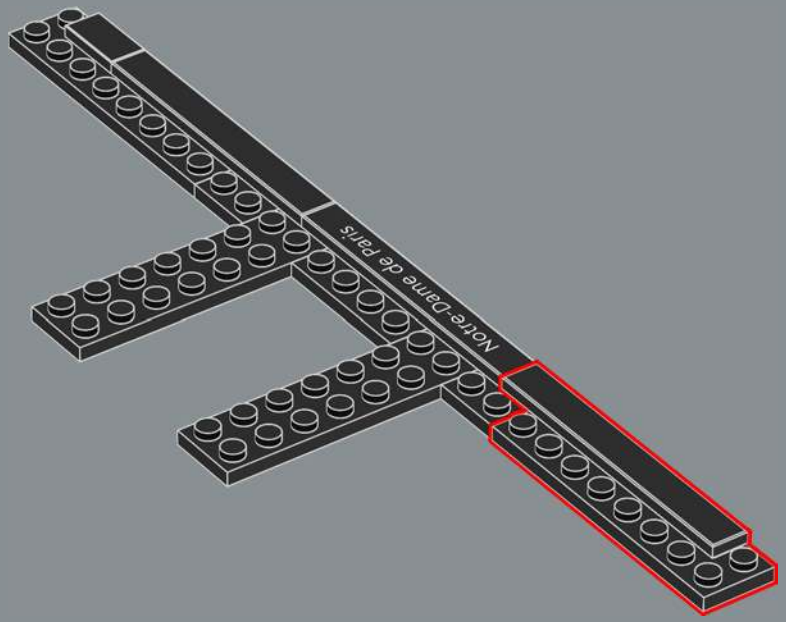

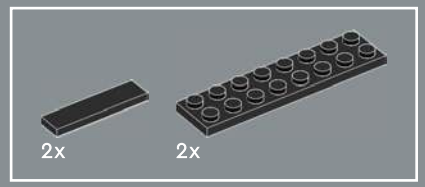

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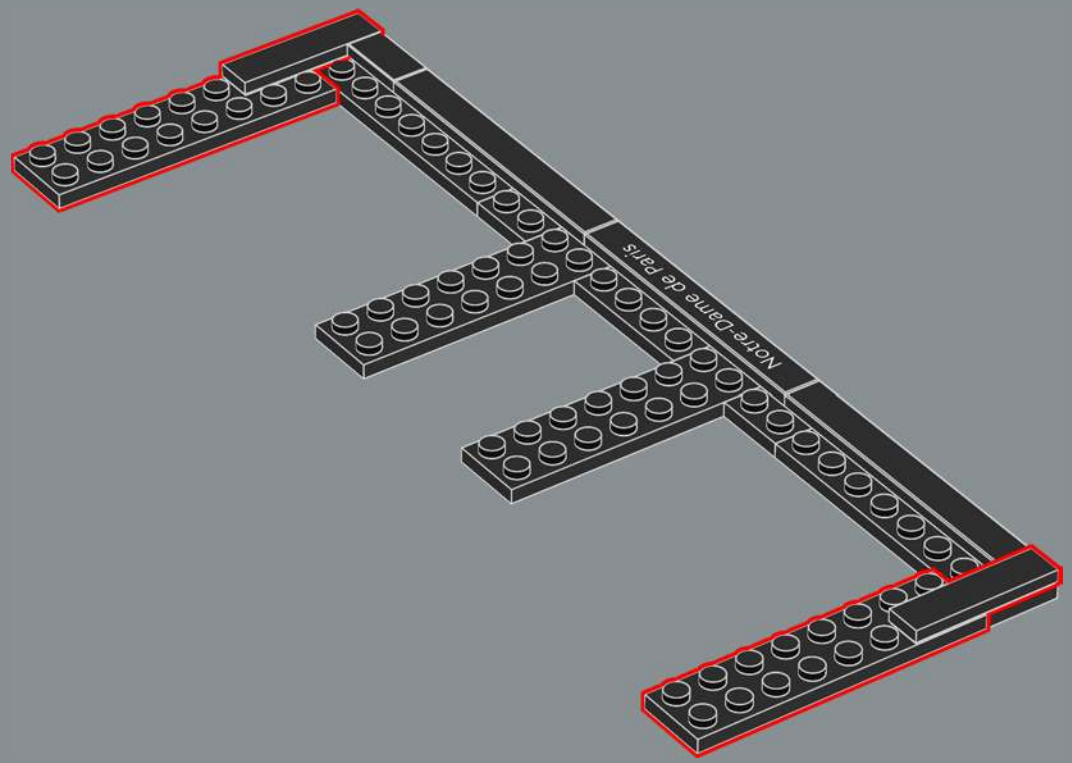

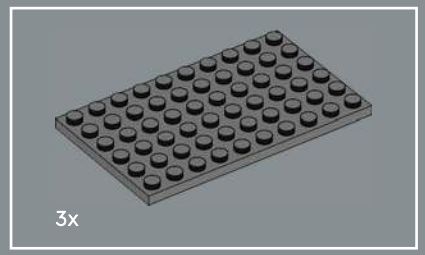

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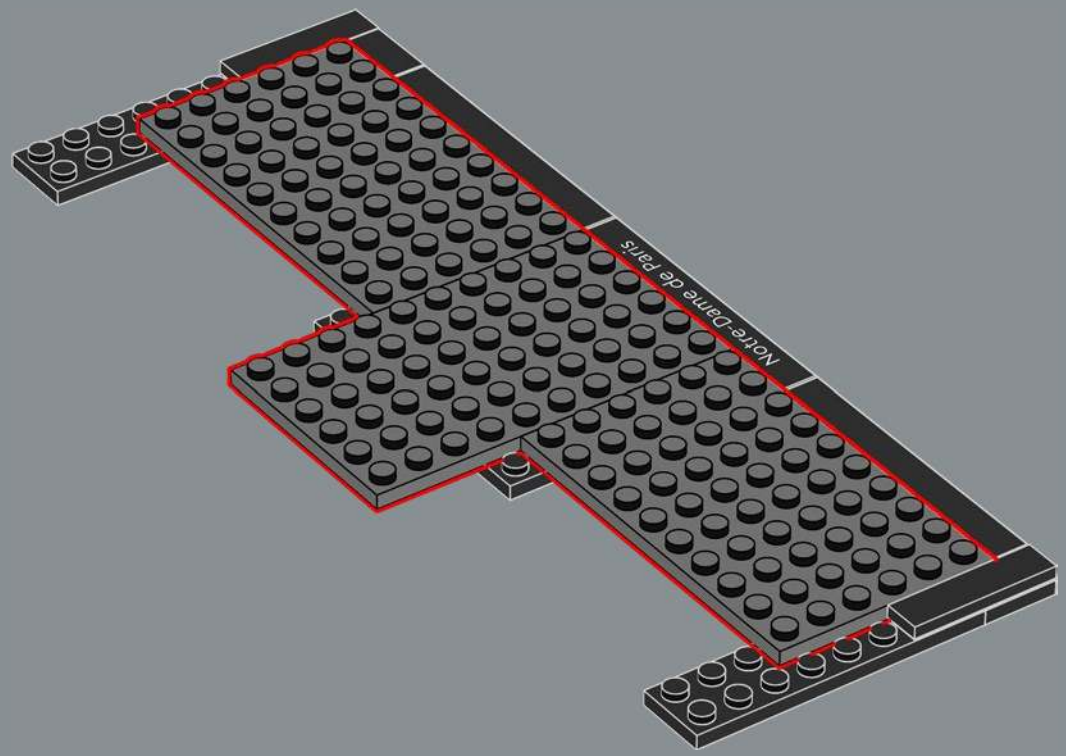

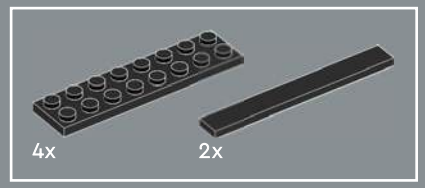

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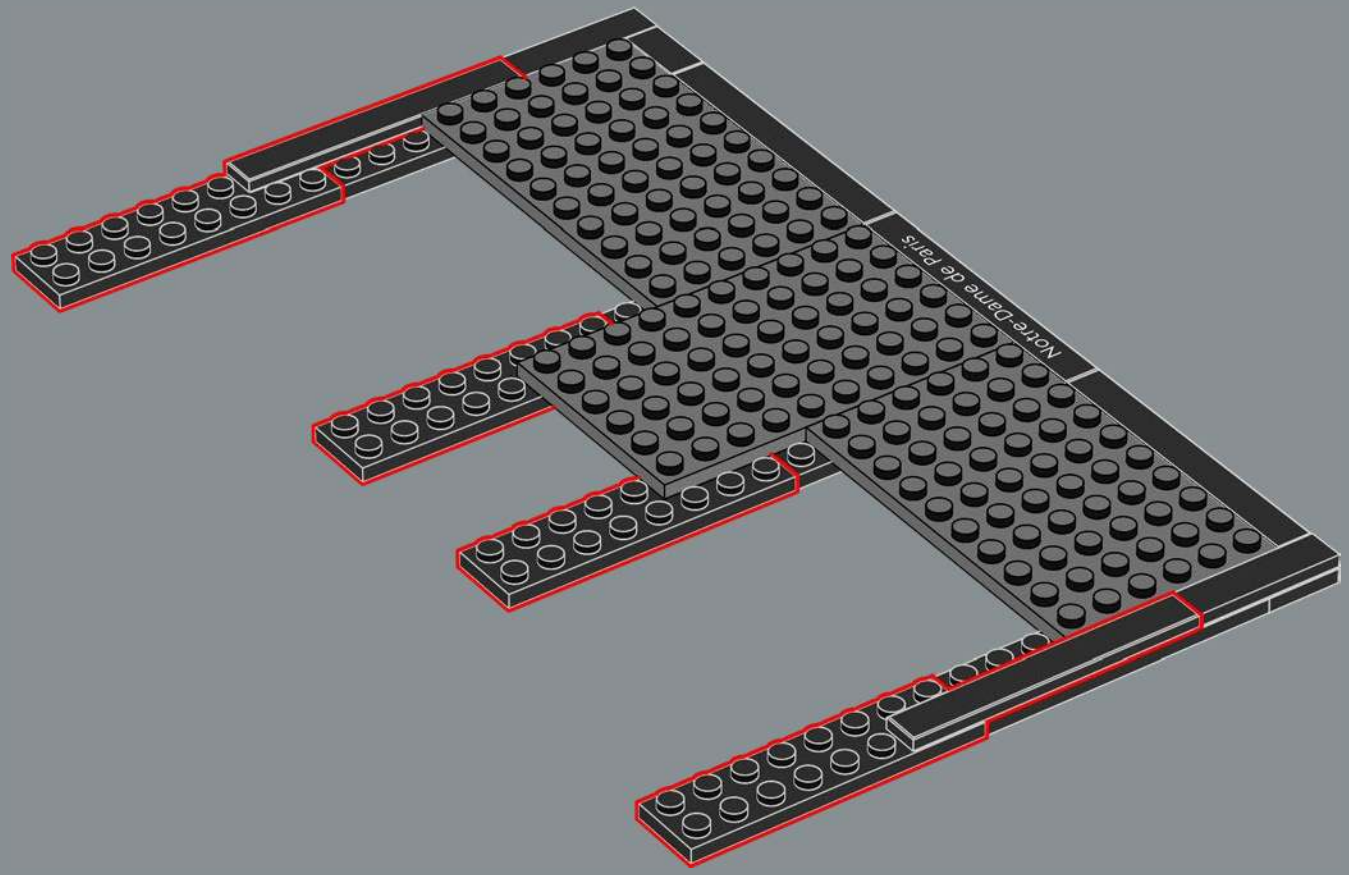

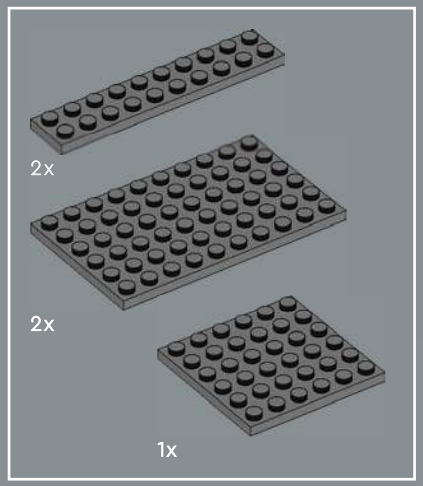

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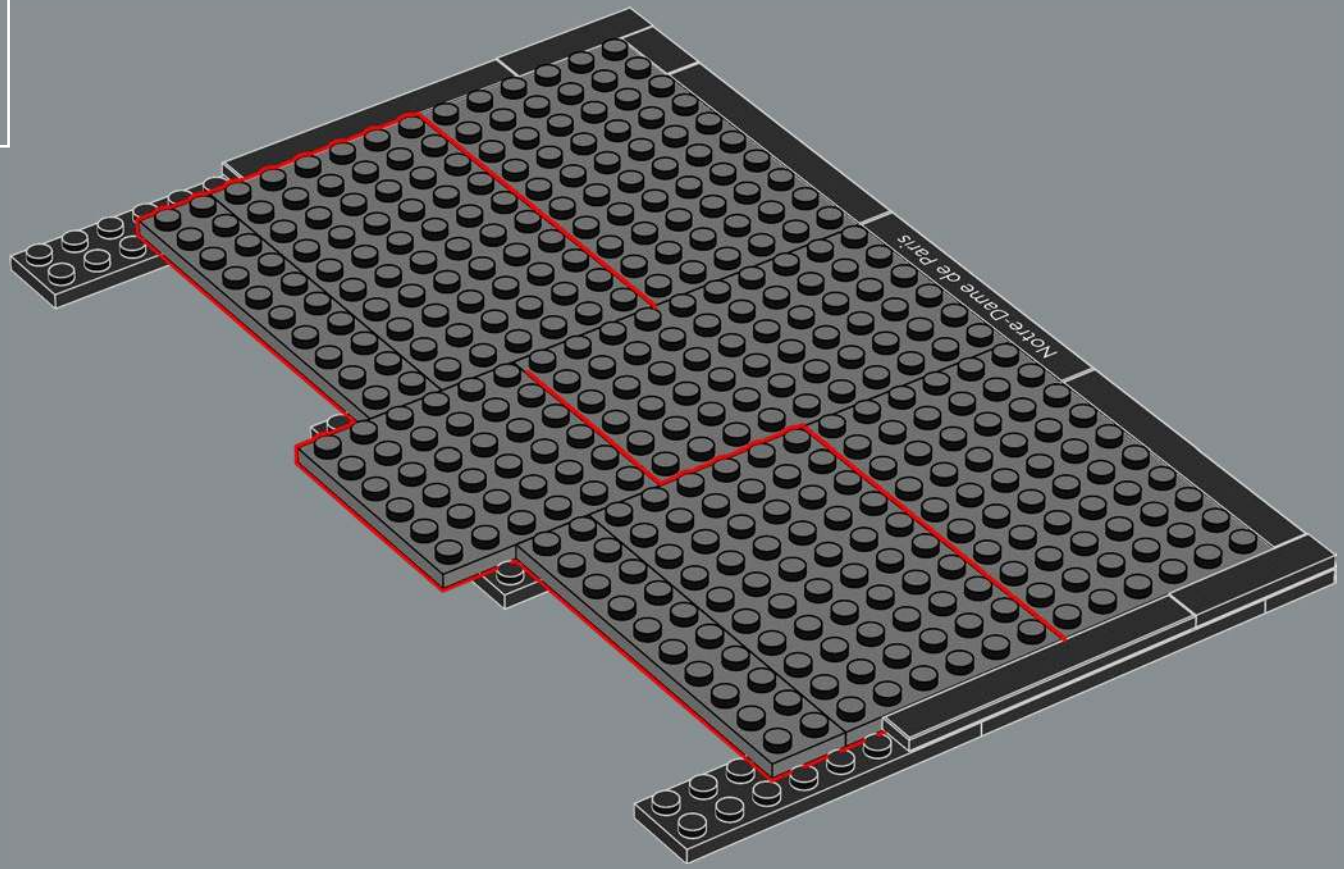

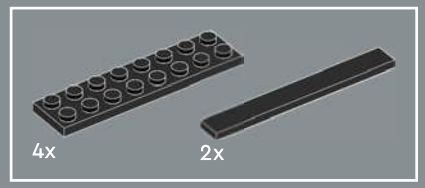

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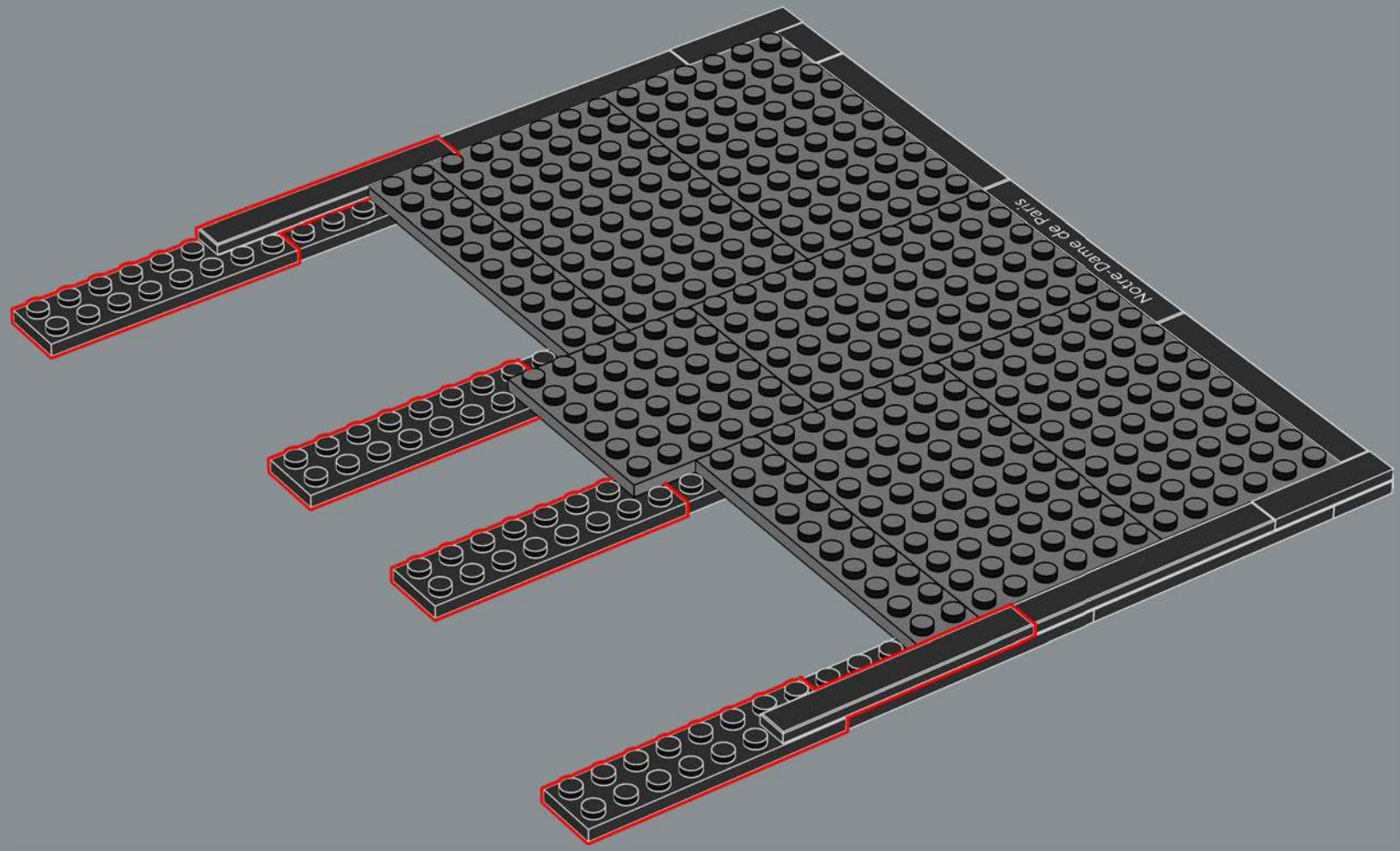

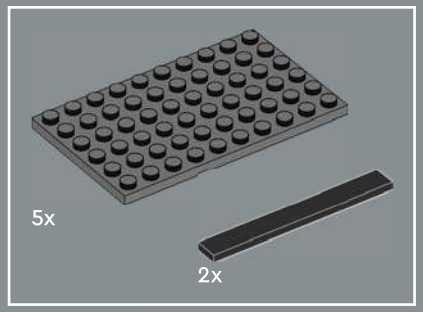

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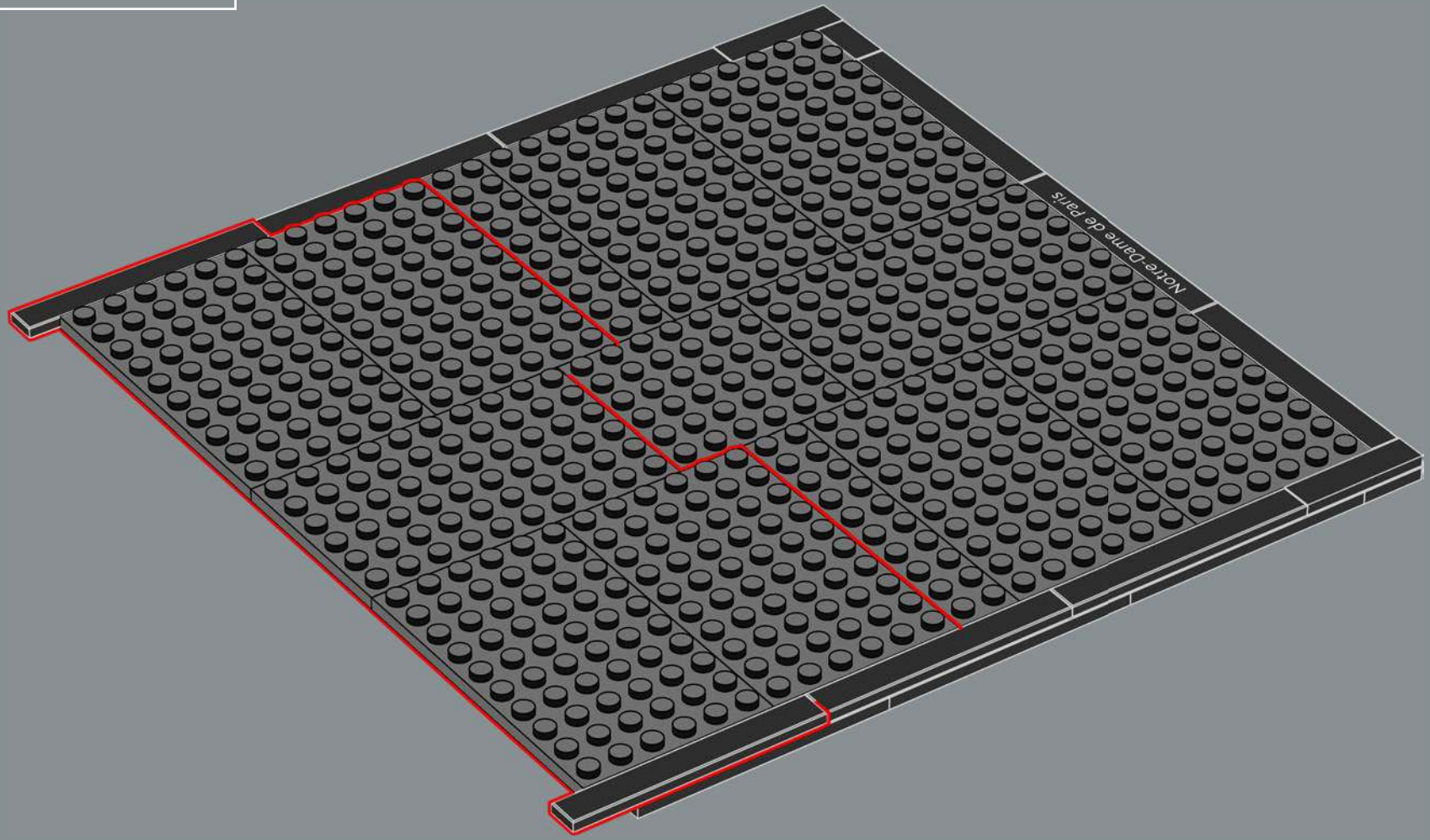

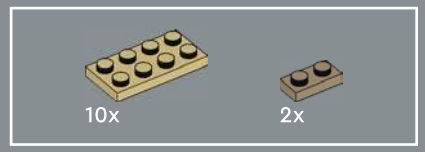

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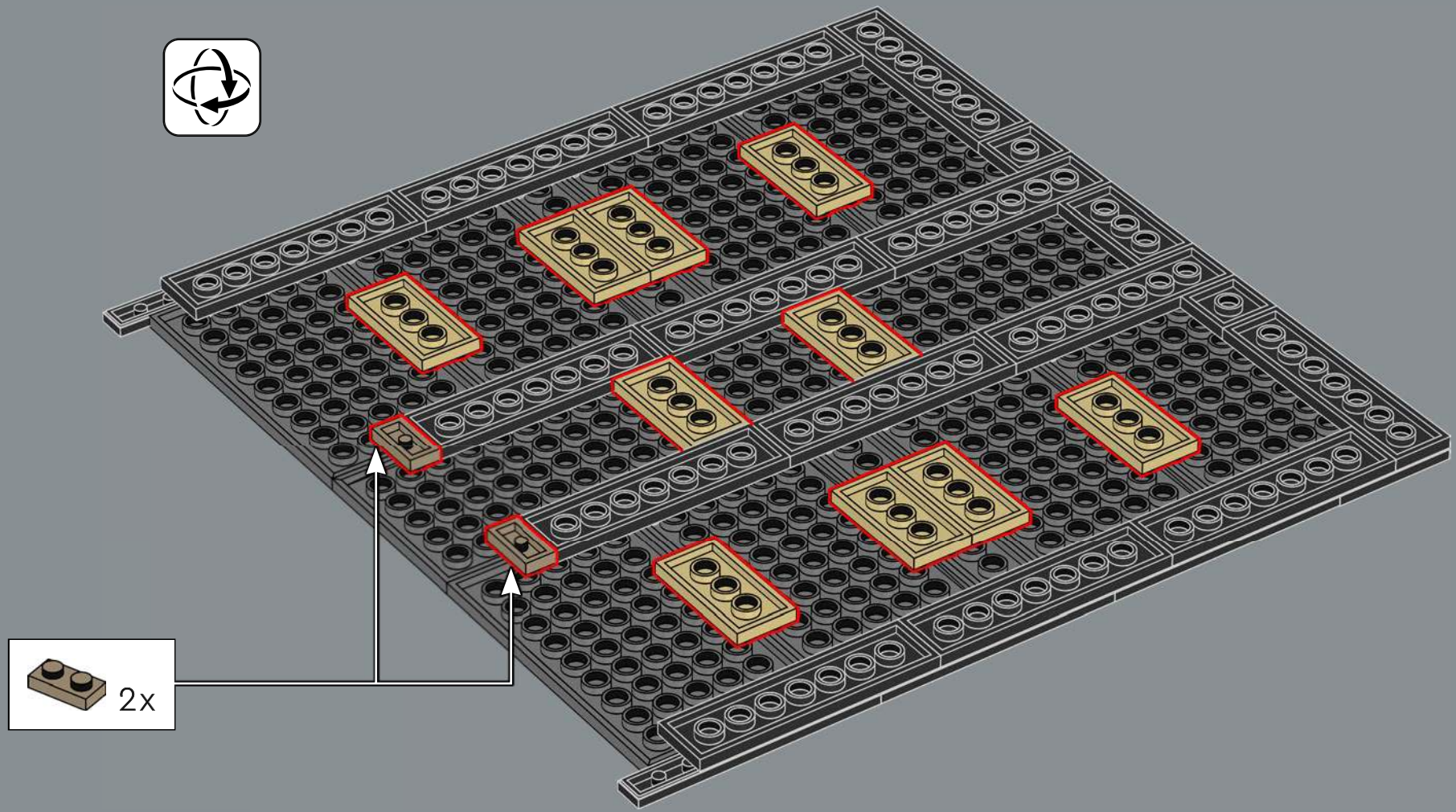

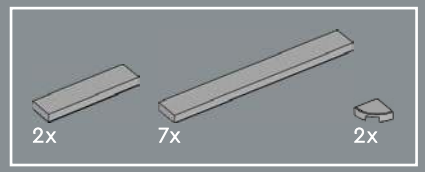

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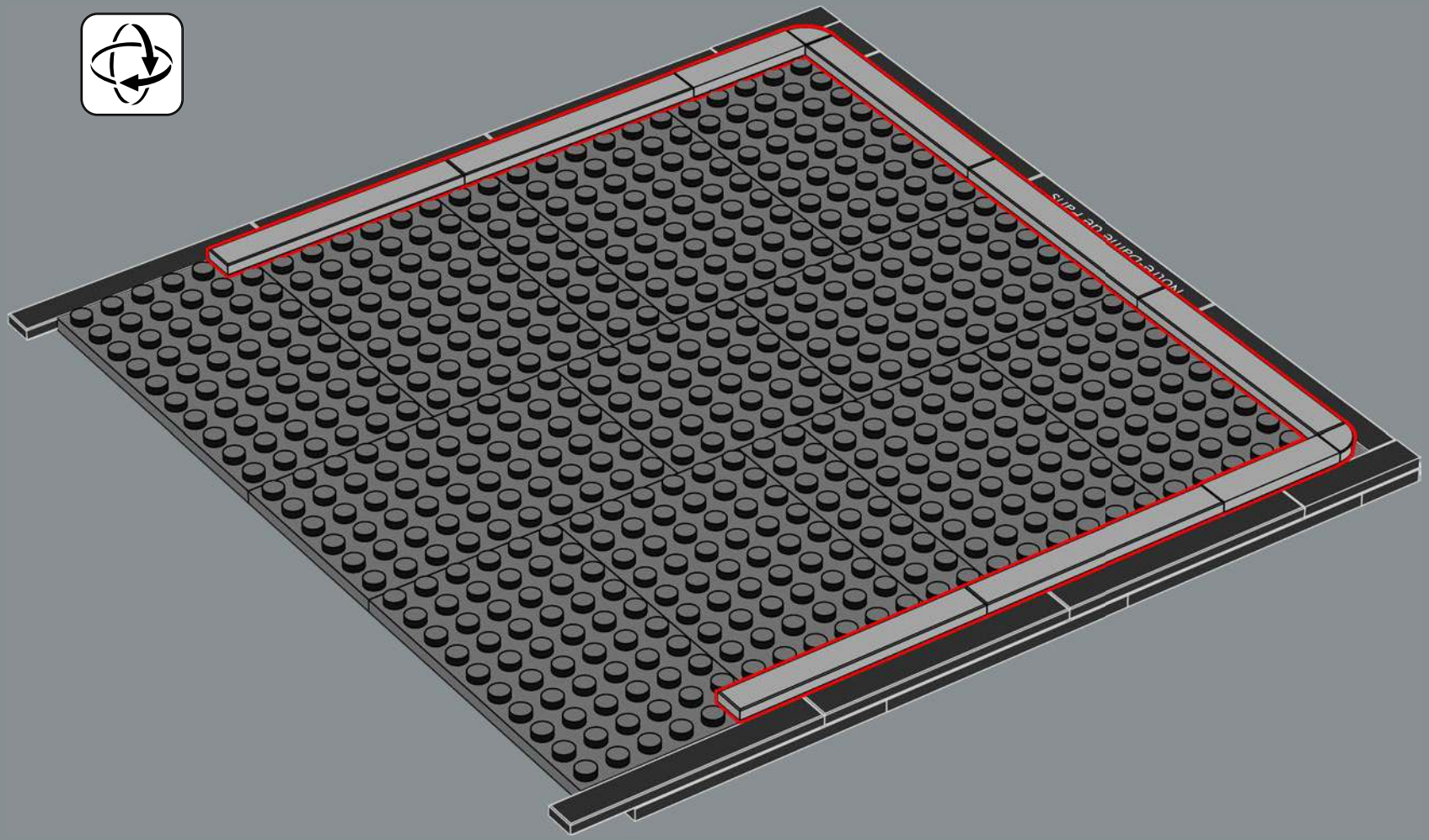

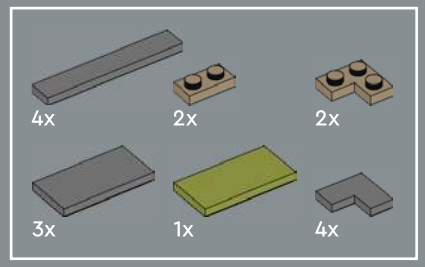

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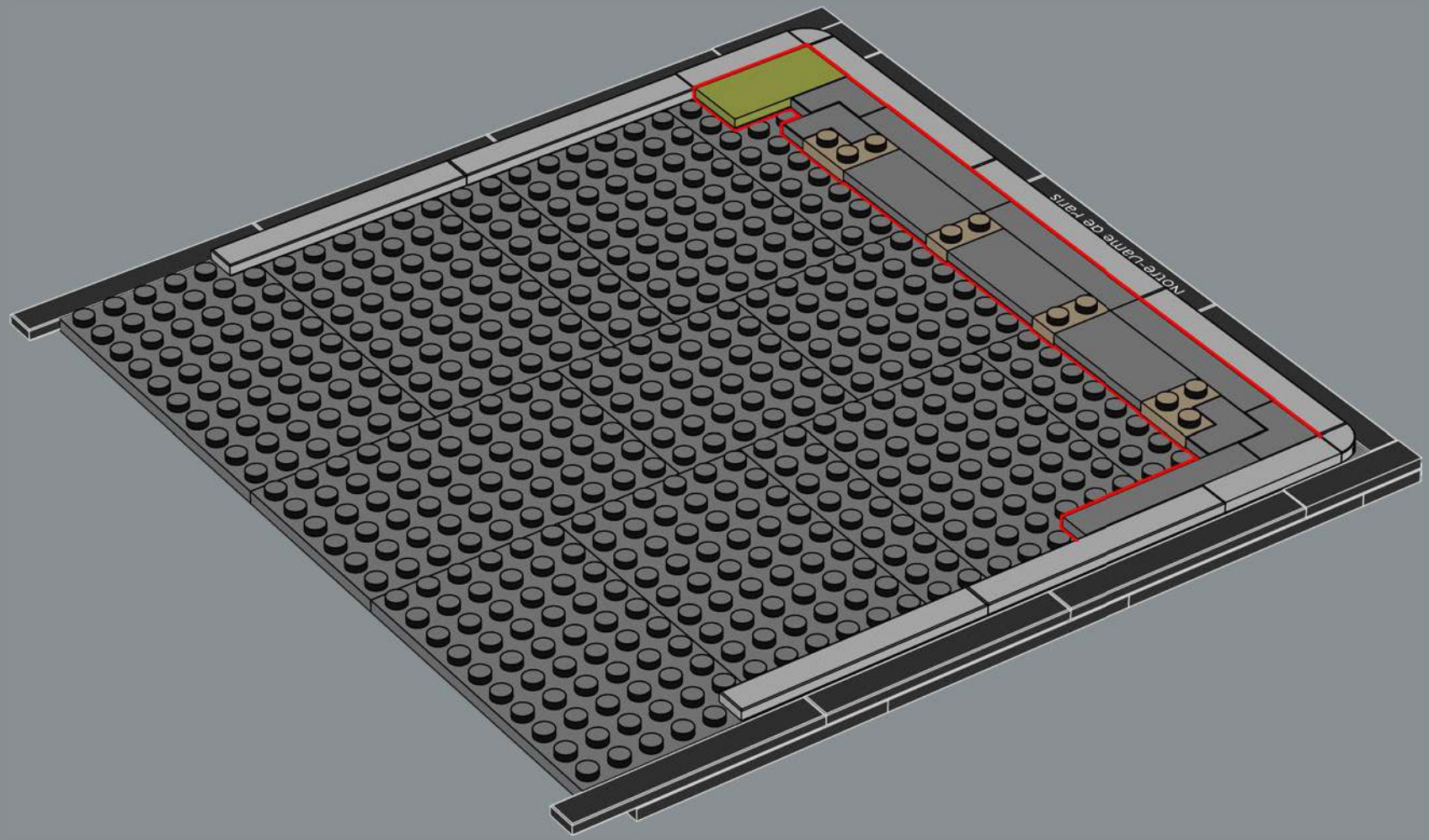

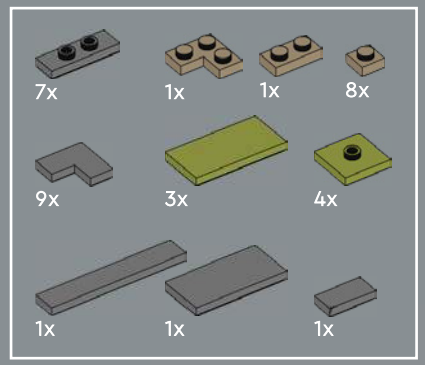

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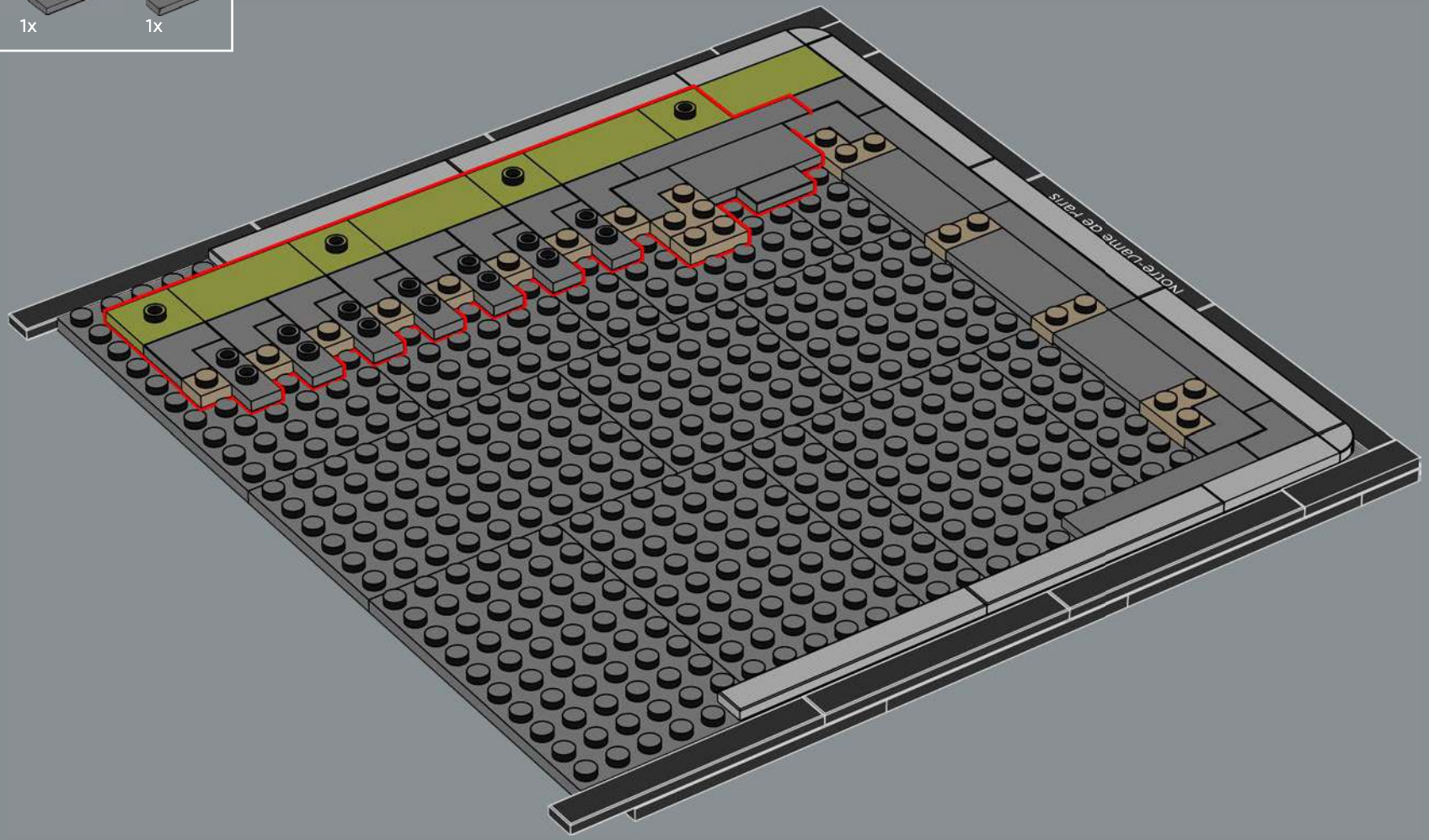

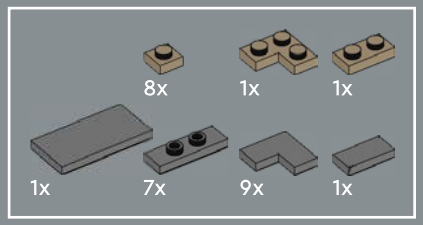

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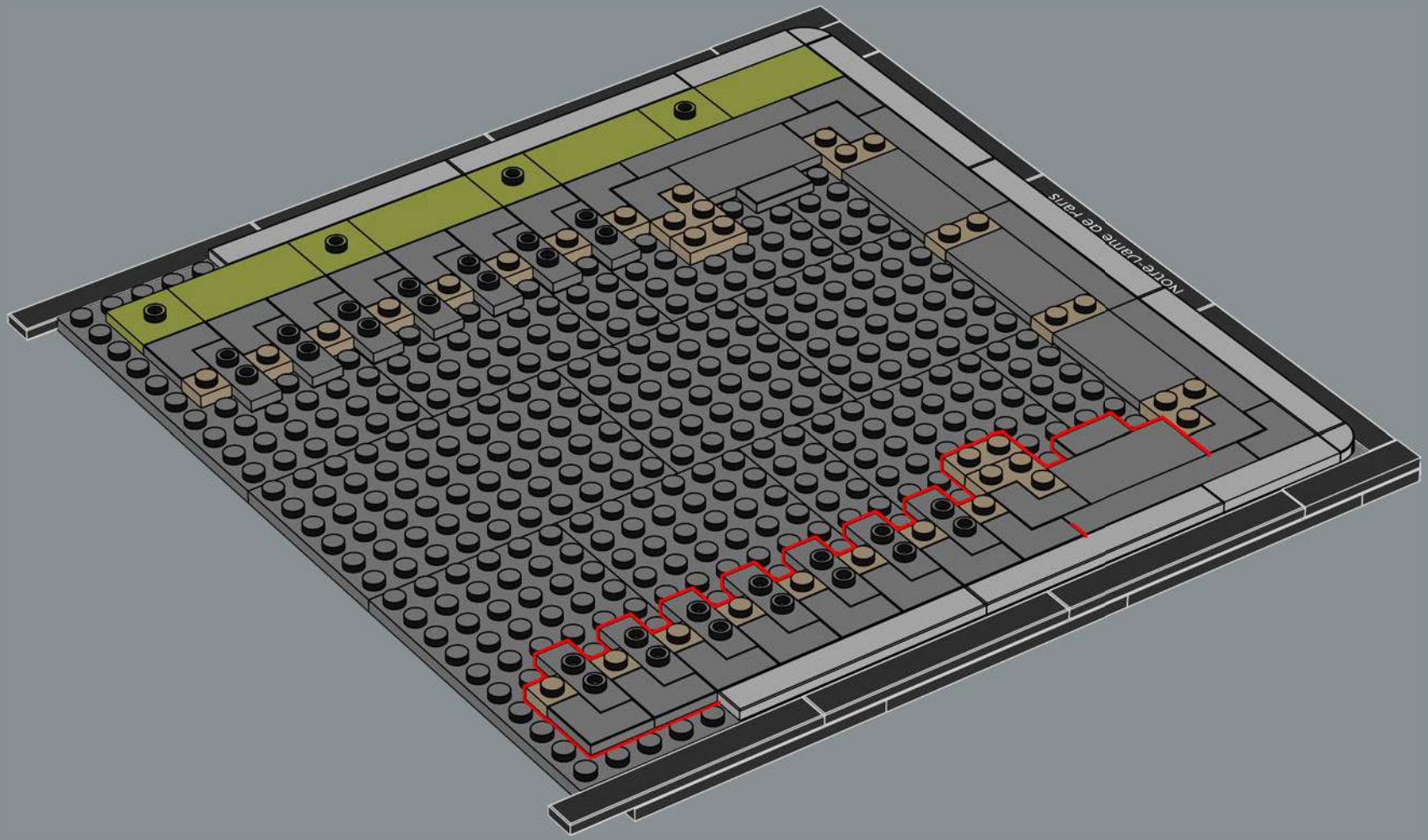

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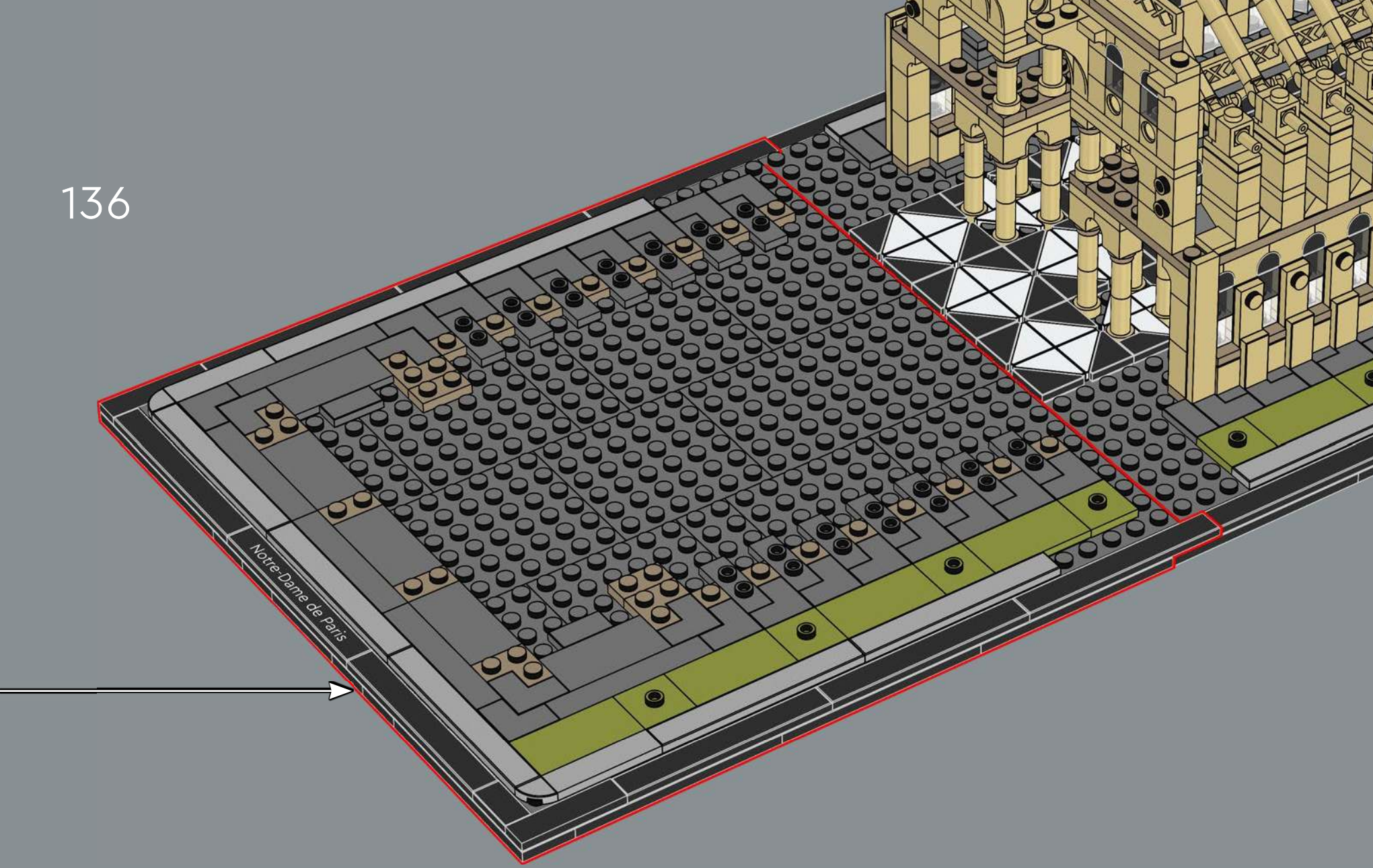

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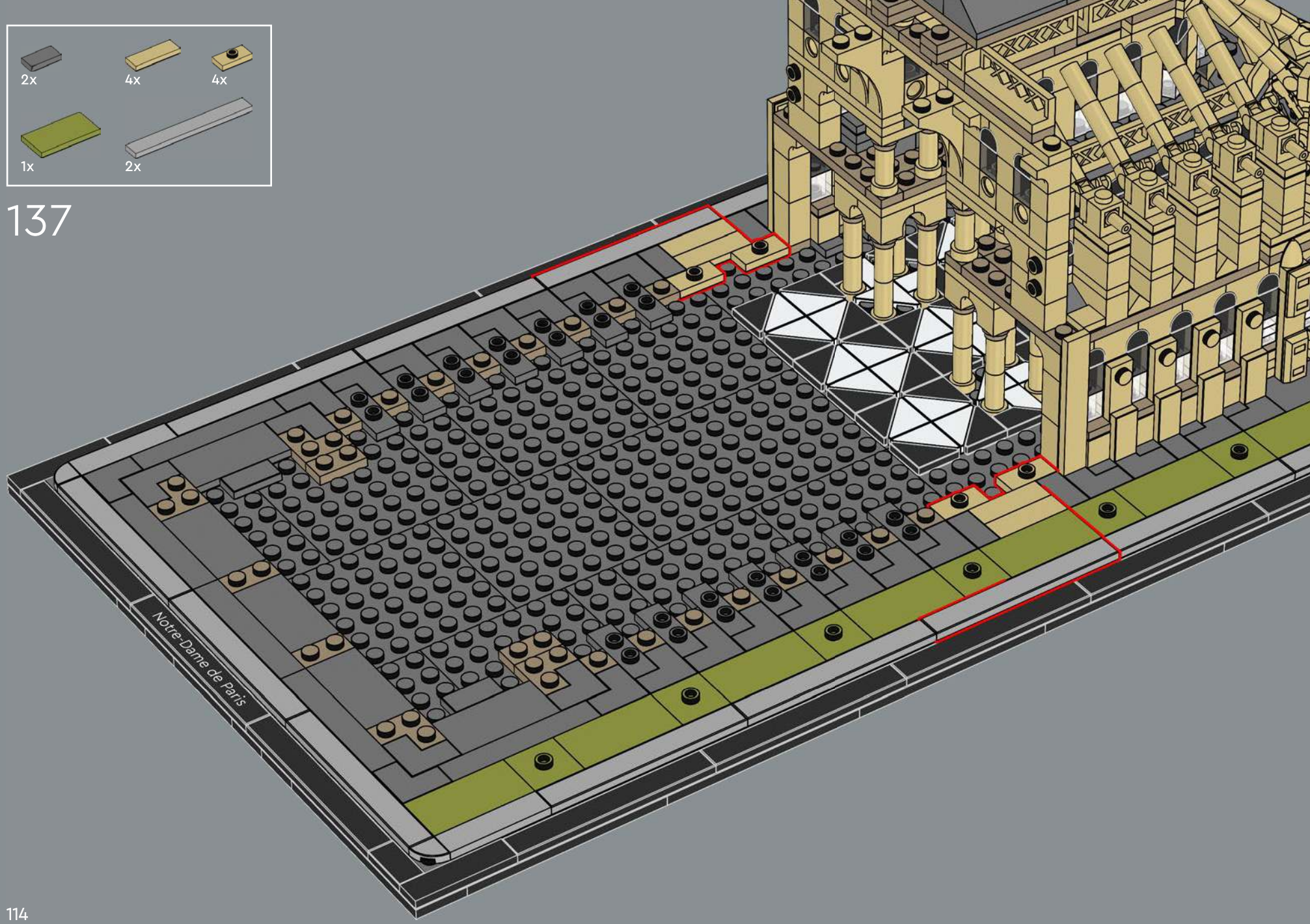

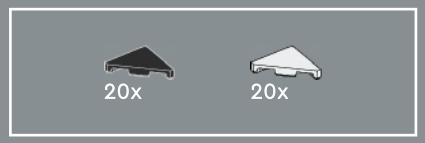

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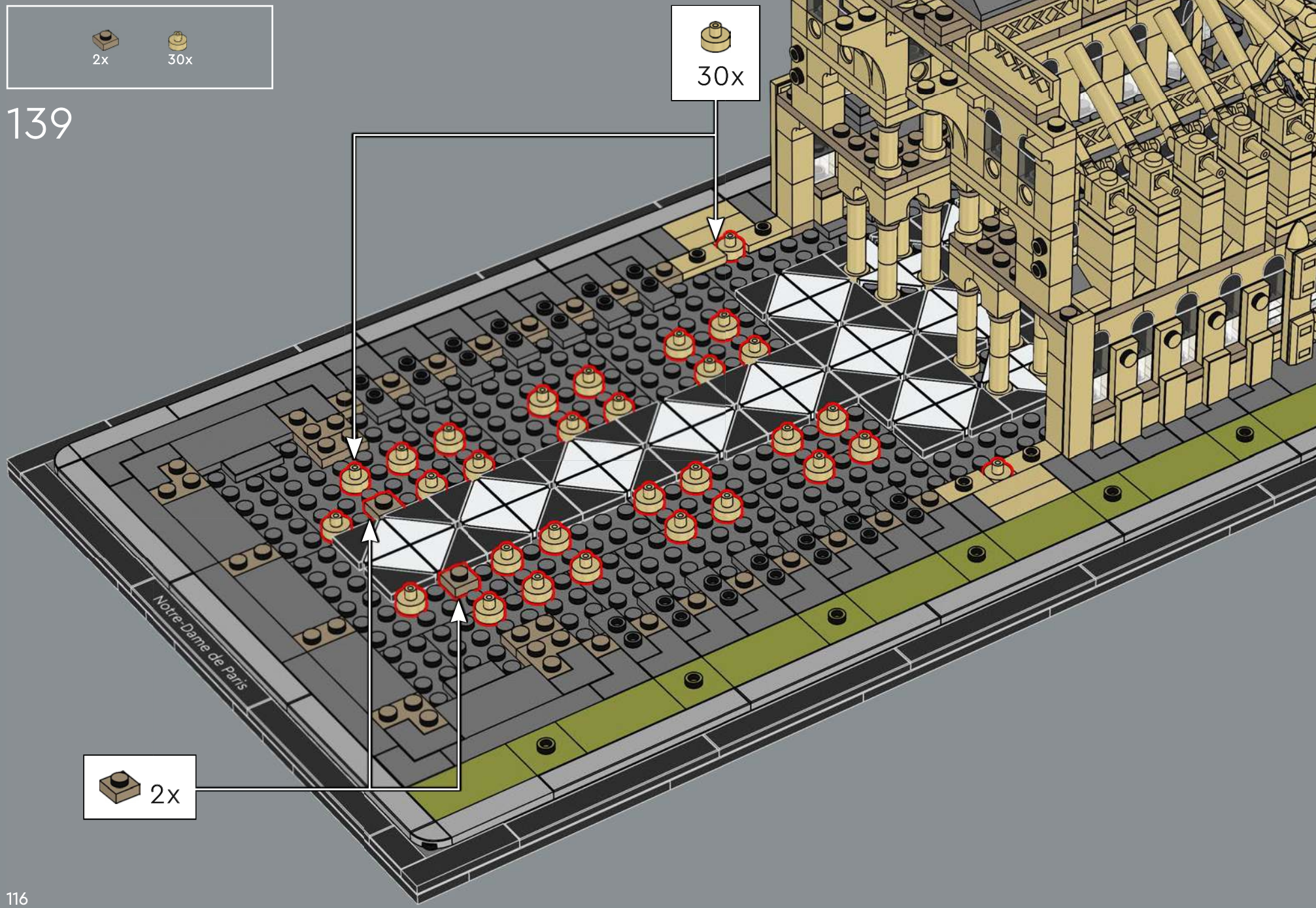
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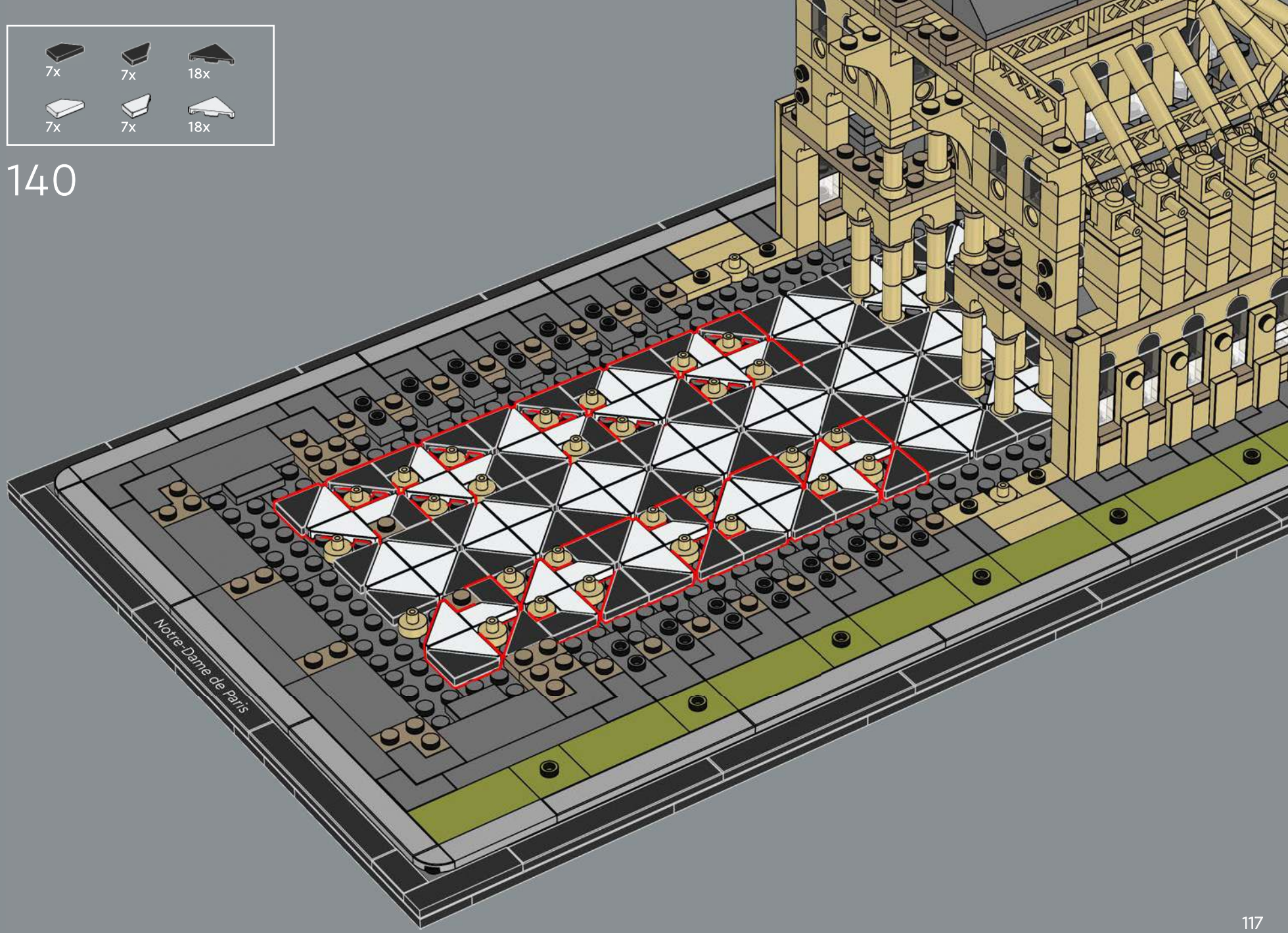
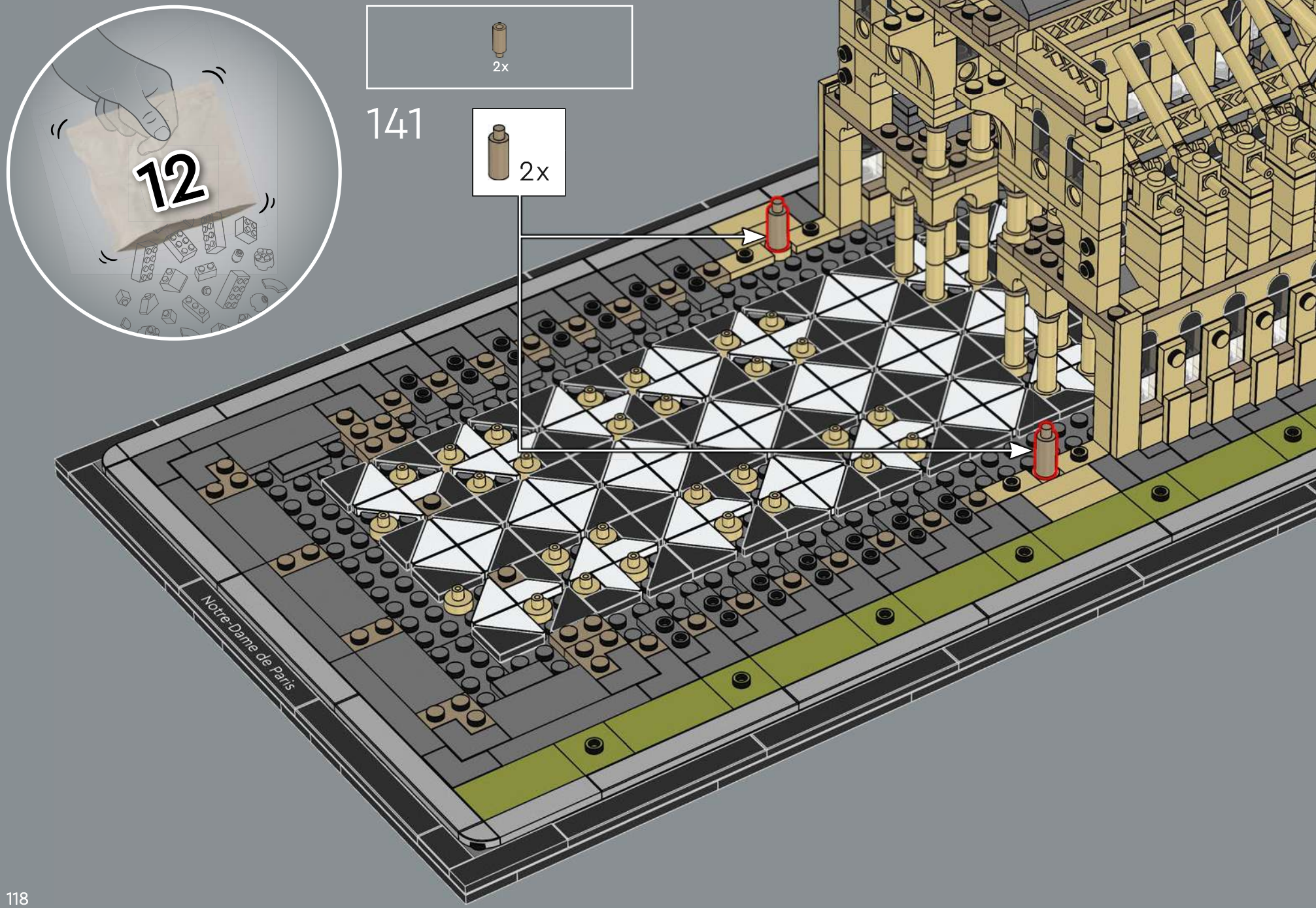
Notre-Dame de Paris

140

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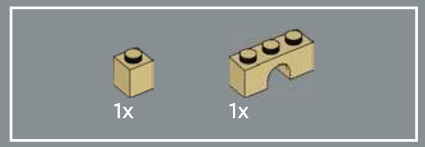

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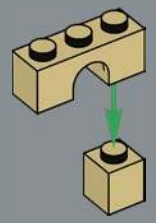

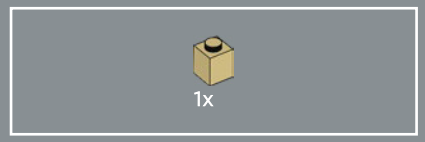

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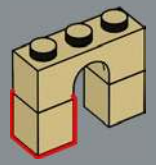

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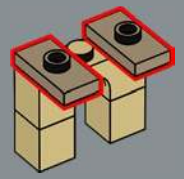

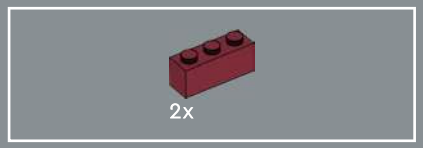

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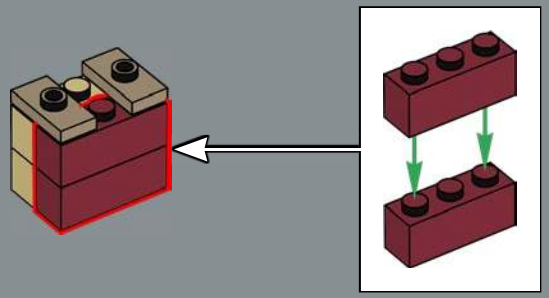

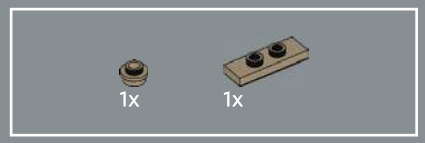

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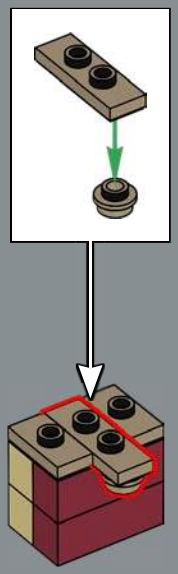

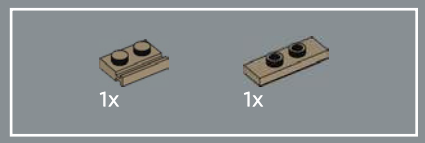

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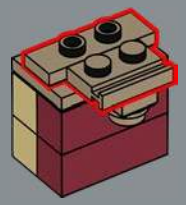

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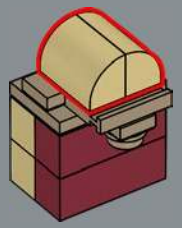

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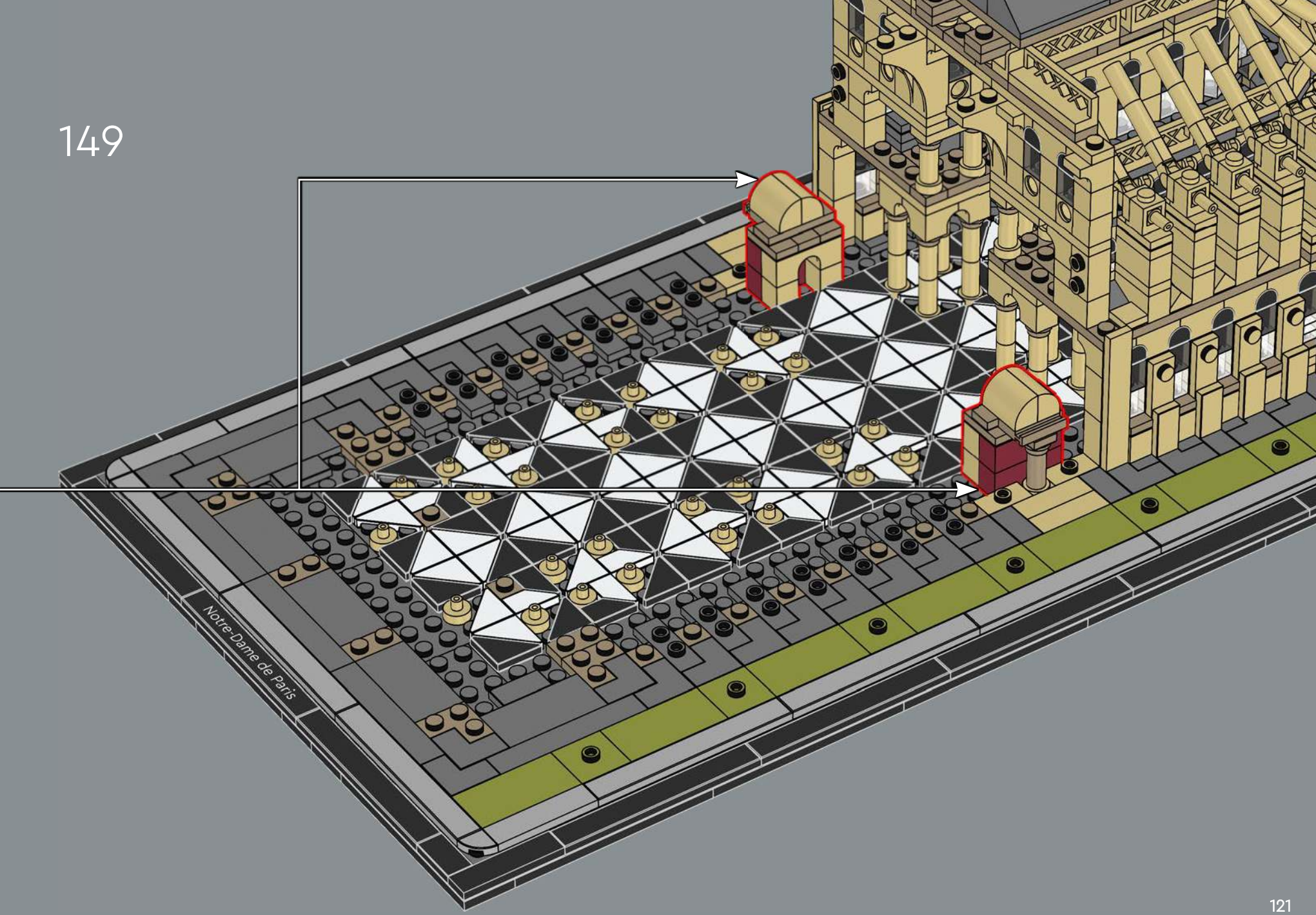

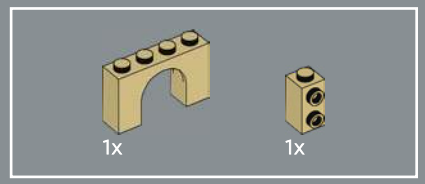

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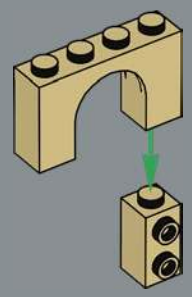

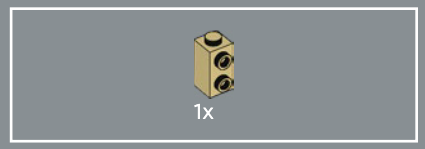

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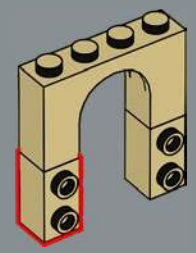

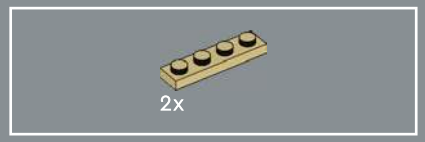

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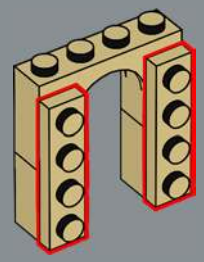

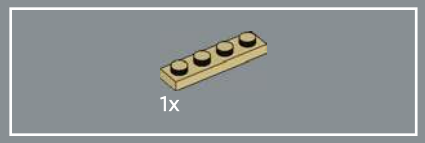

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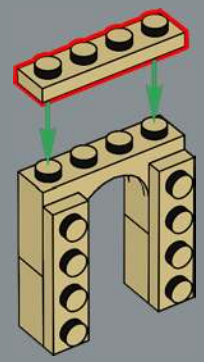

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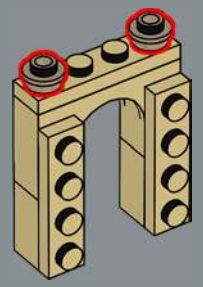

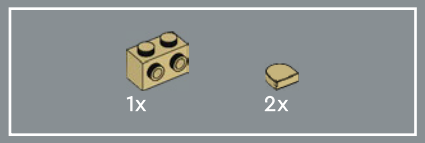

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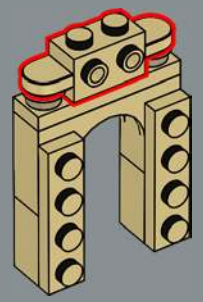

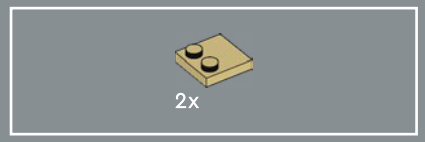

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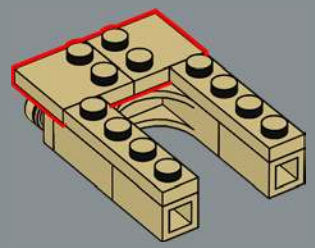

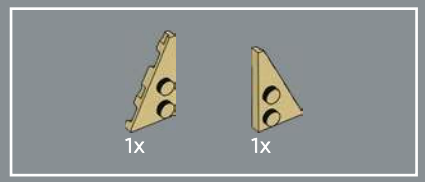

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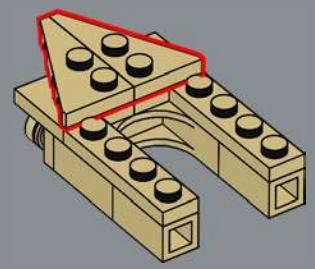

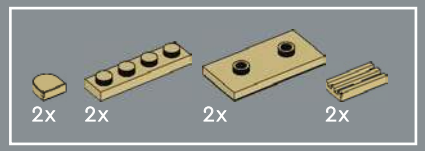

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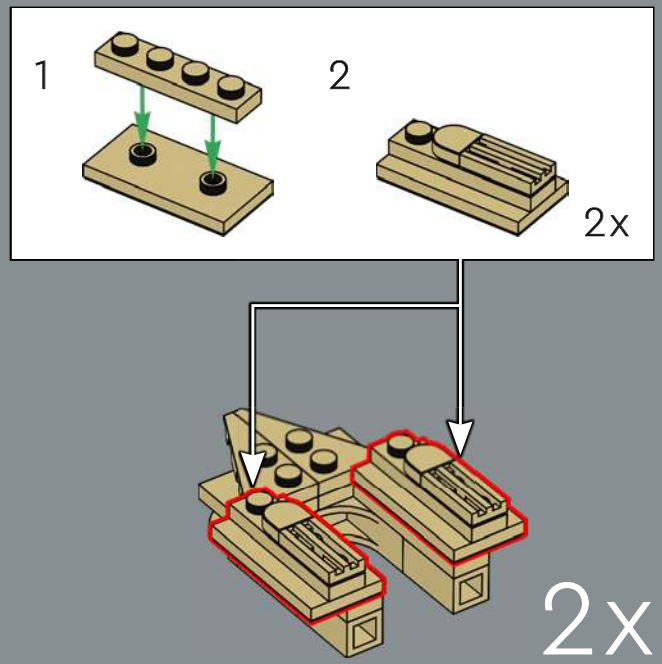

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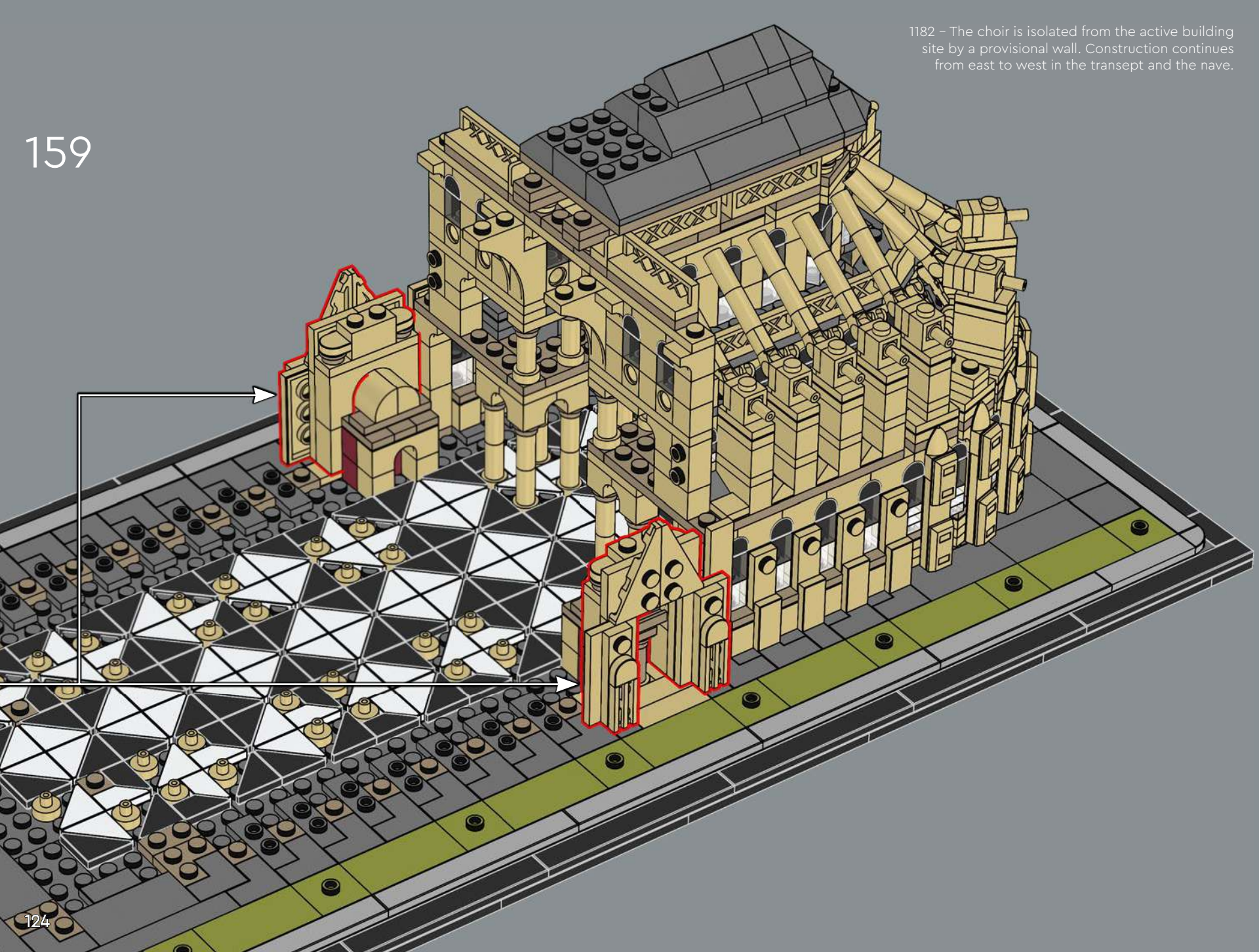
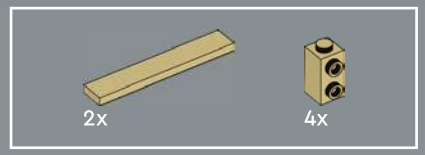


1182 – The choir is isolated from the active building site by a provisional wall. Construction continues from east to west in the transept and the nave.



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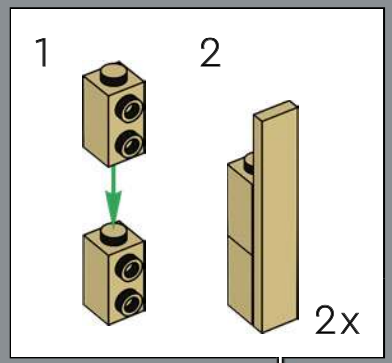

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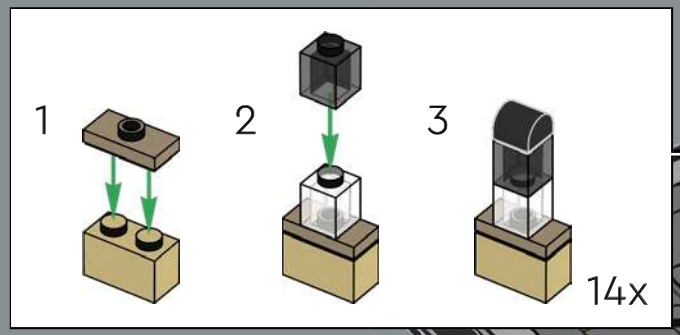

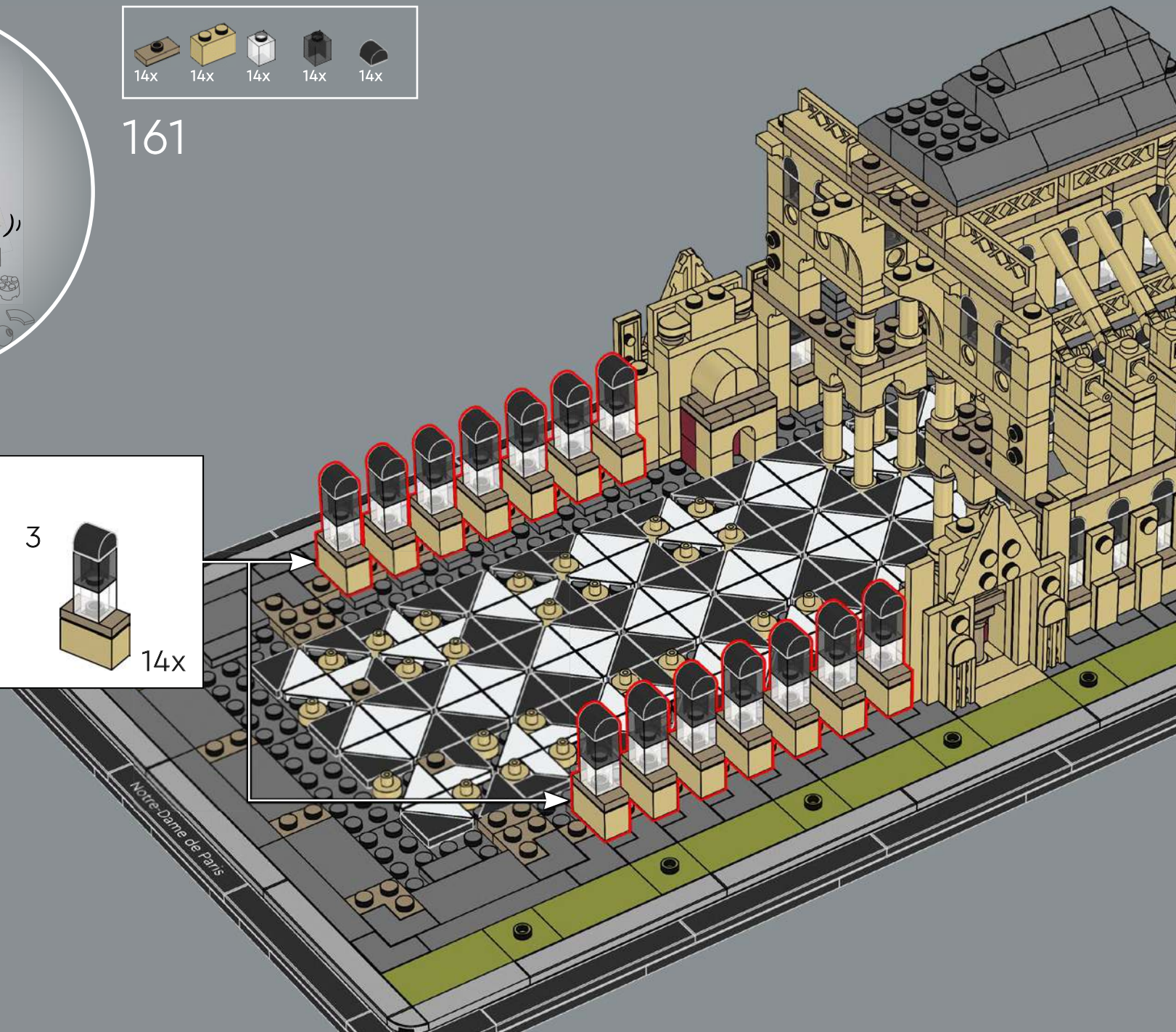

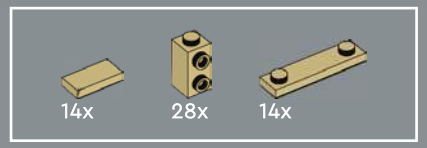

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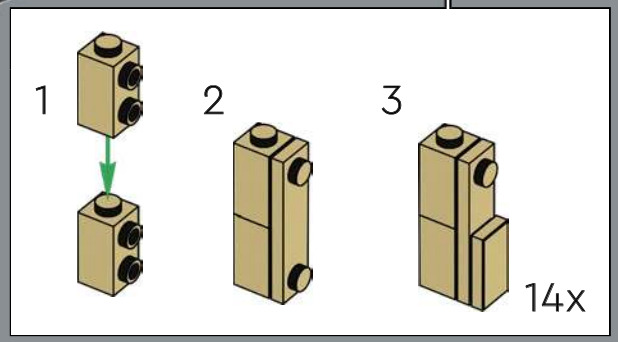

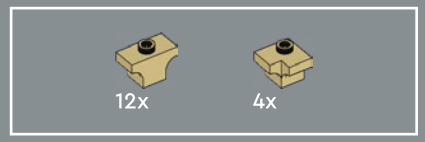

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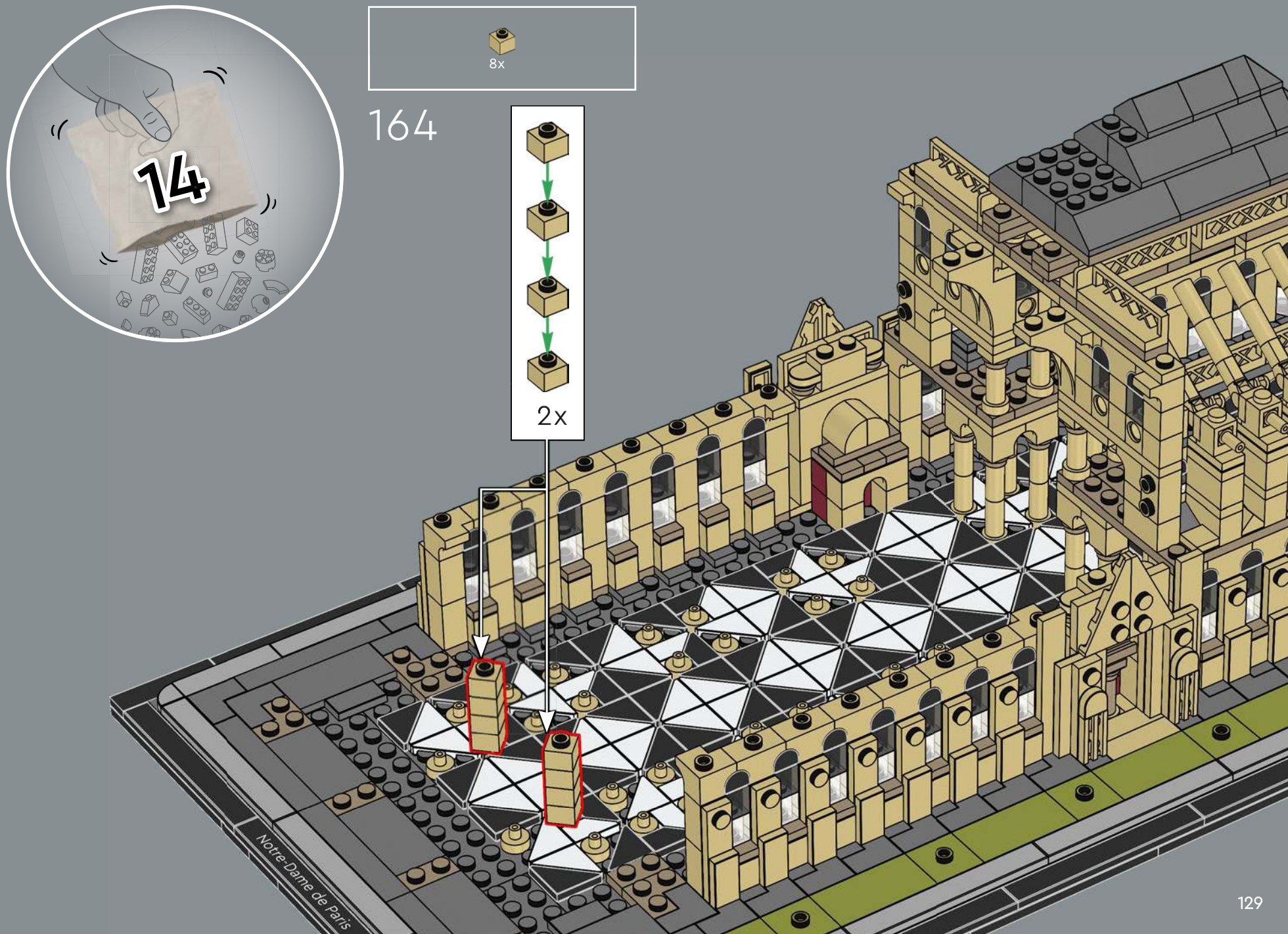
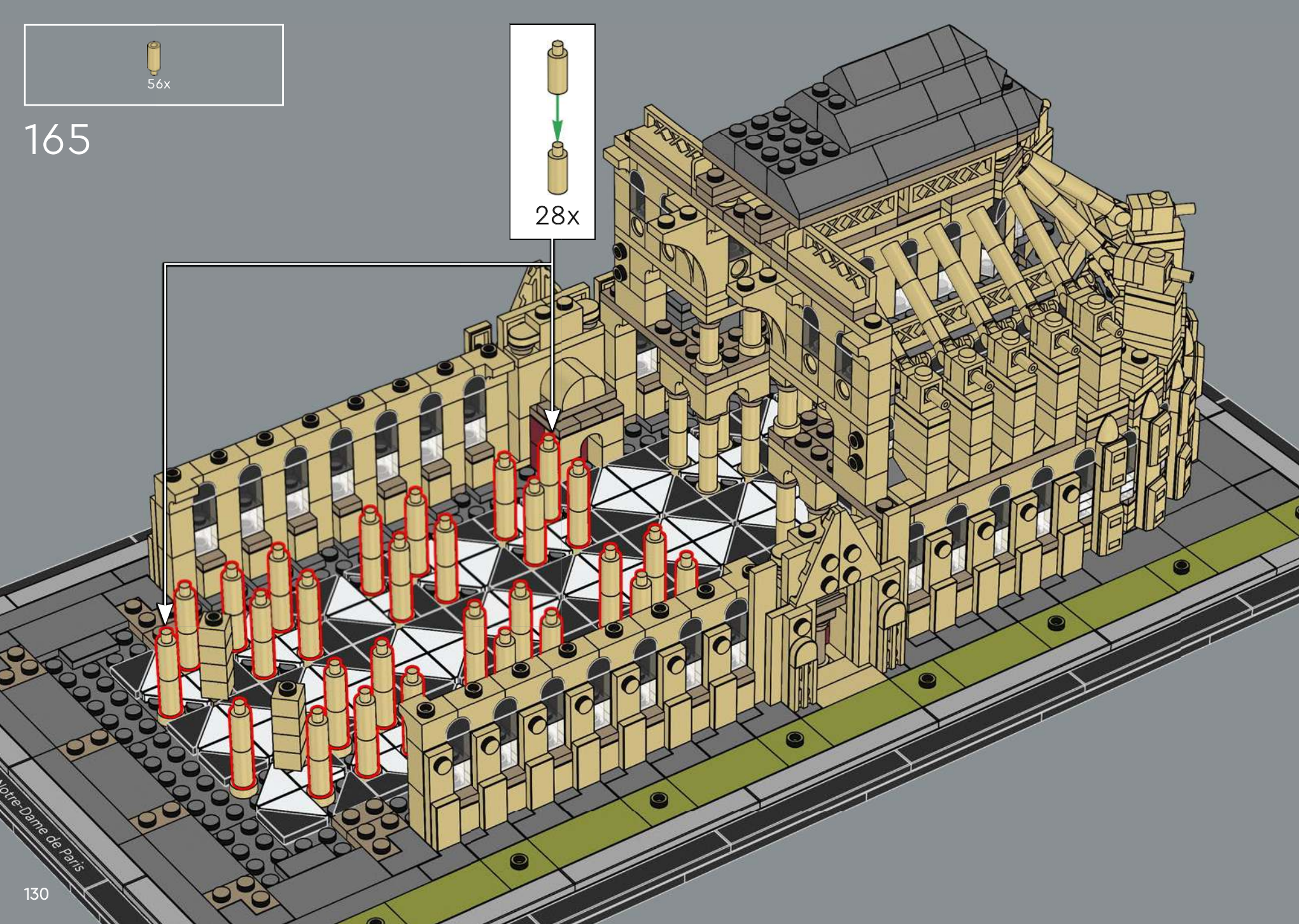

14
8x
164
2x
Notre-Dame de Paris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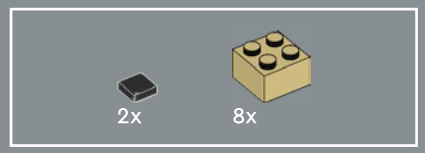
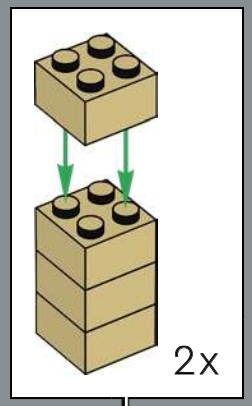
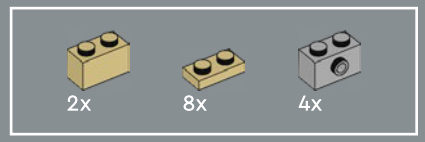


166

1208 – Work continues in the nave, and the foundations of the great west towers are laid.





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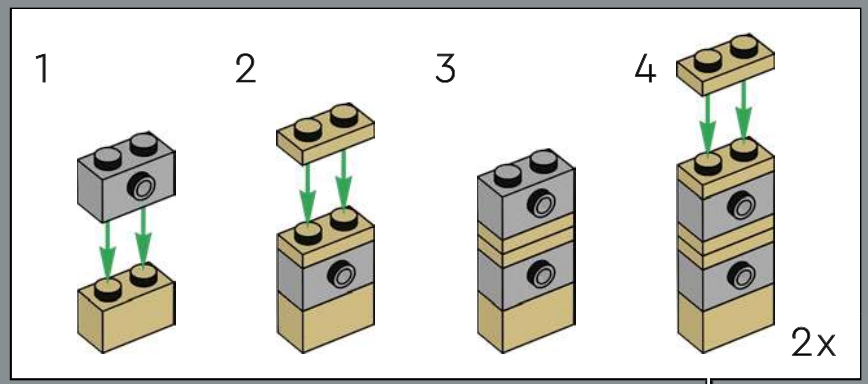

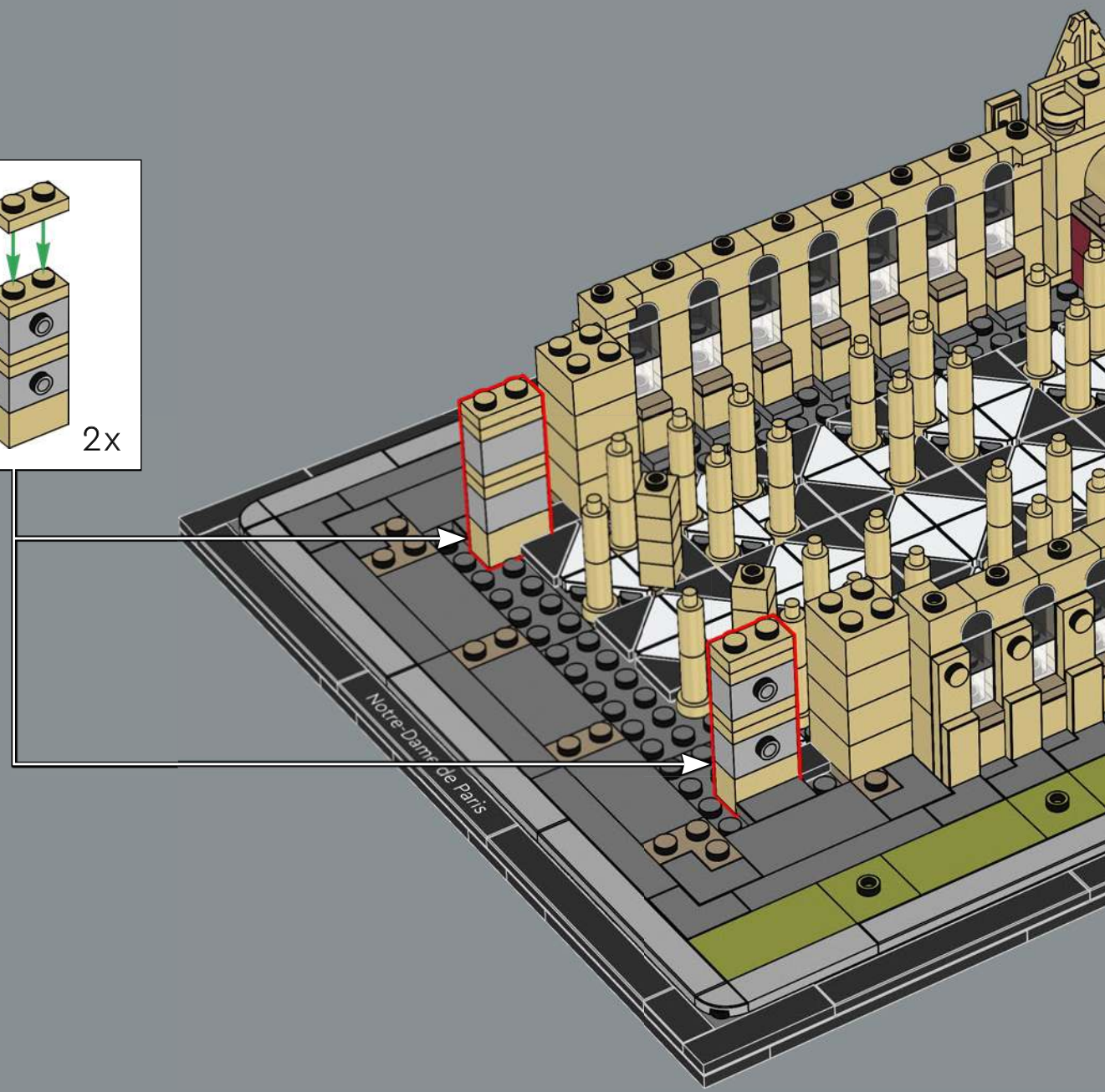

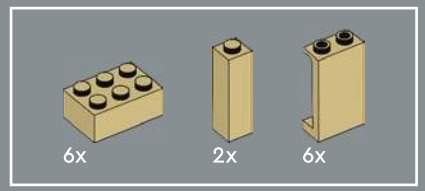

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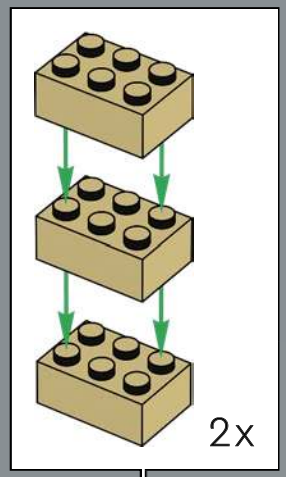

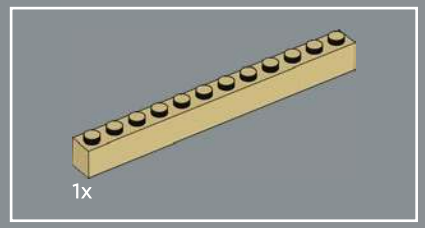

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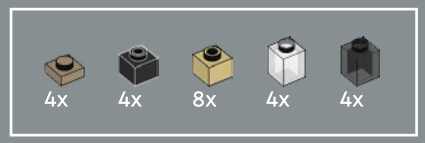
Notre-Dame de Paris



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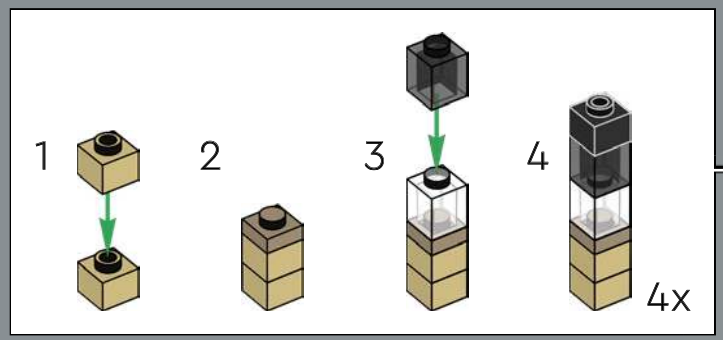

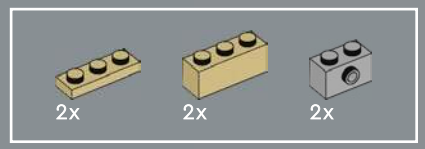

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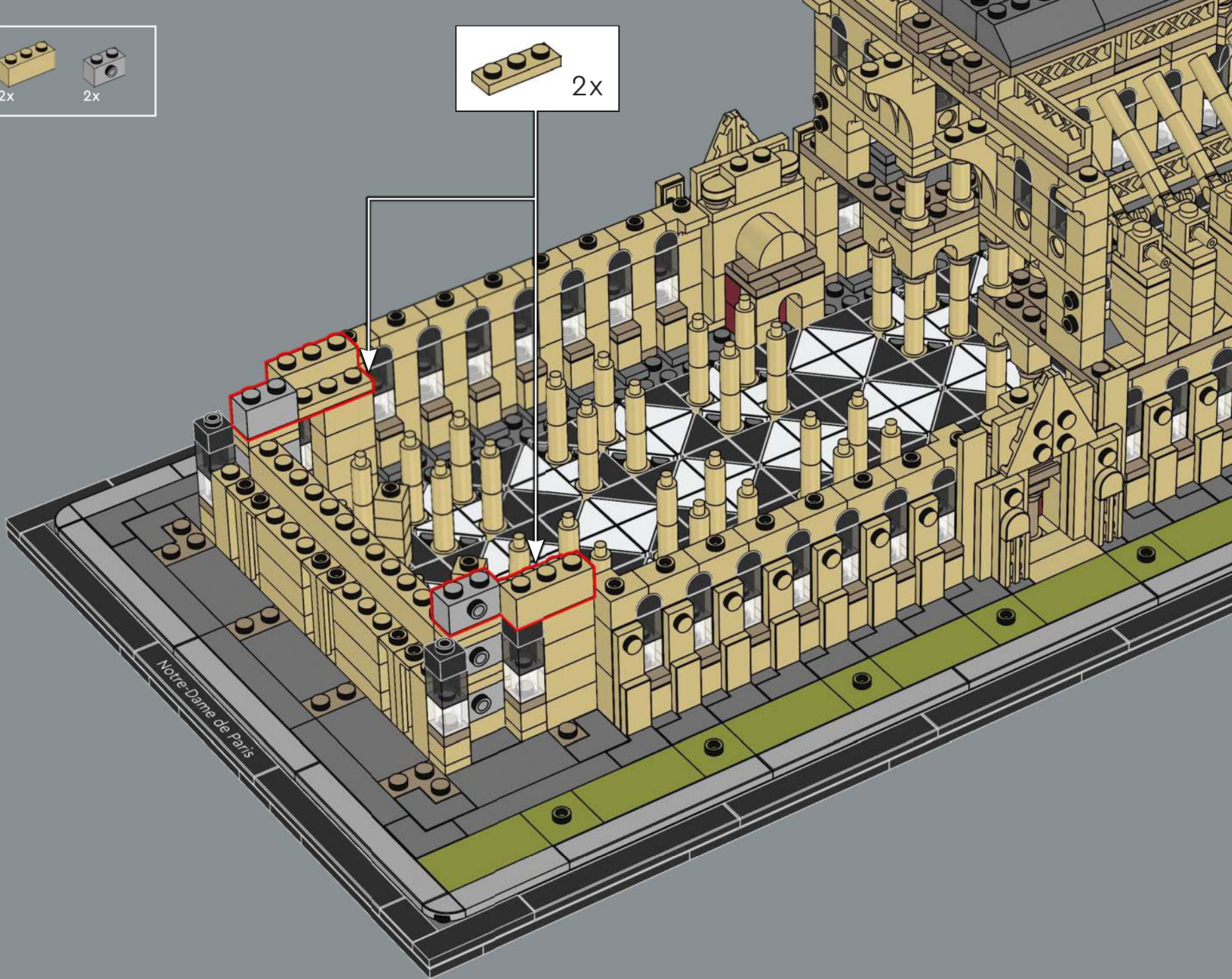

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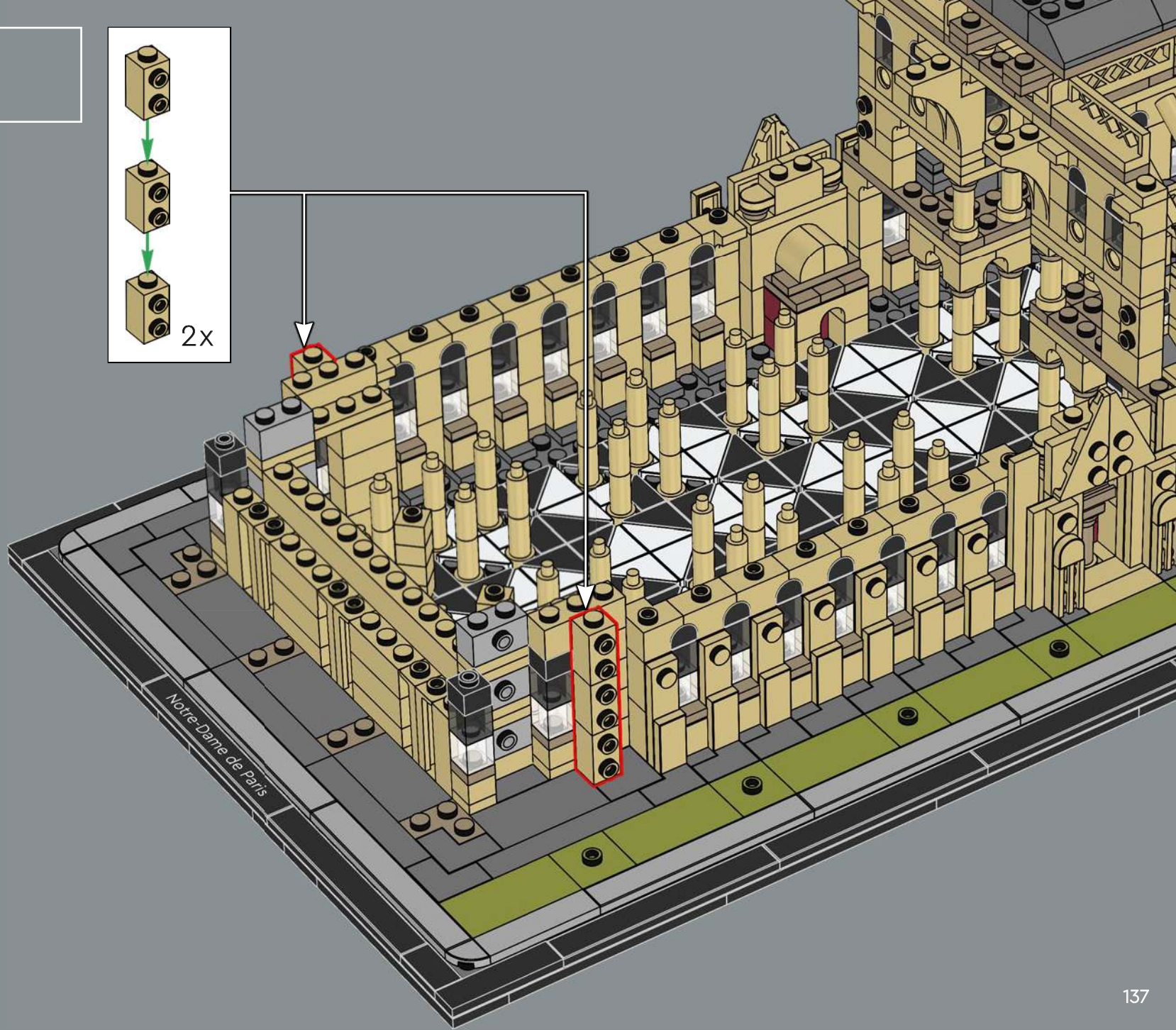
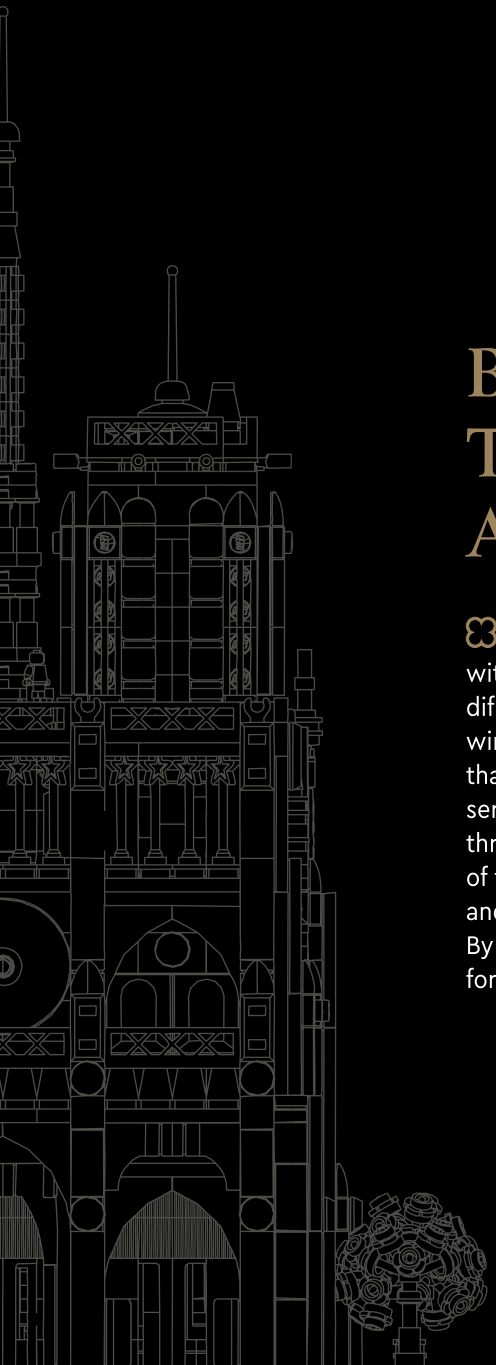


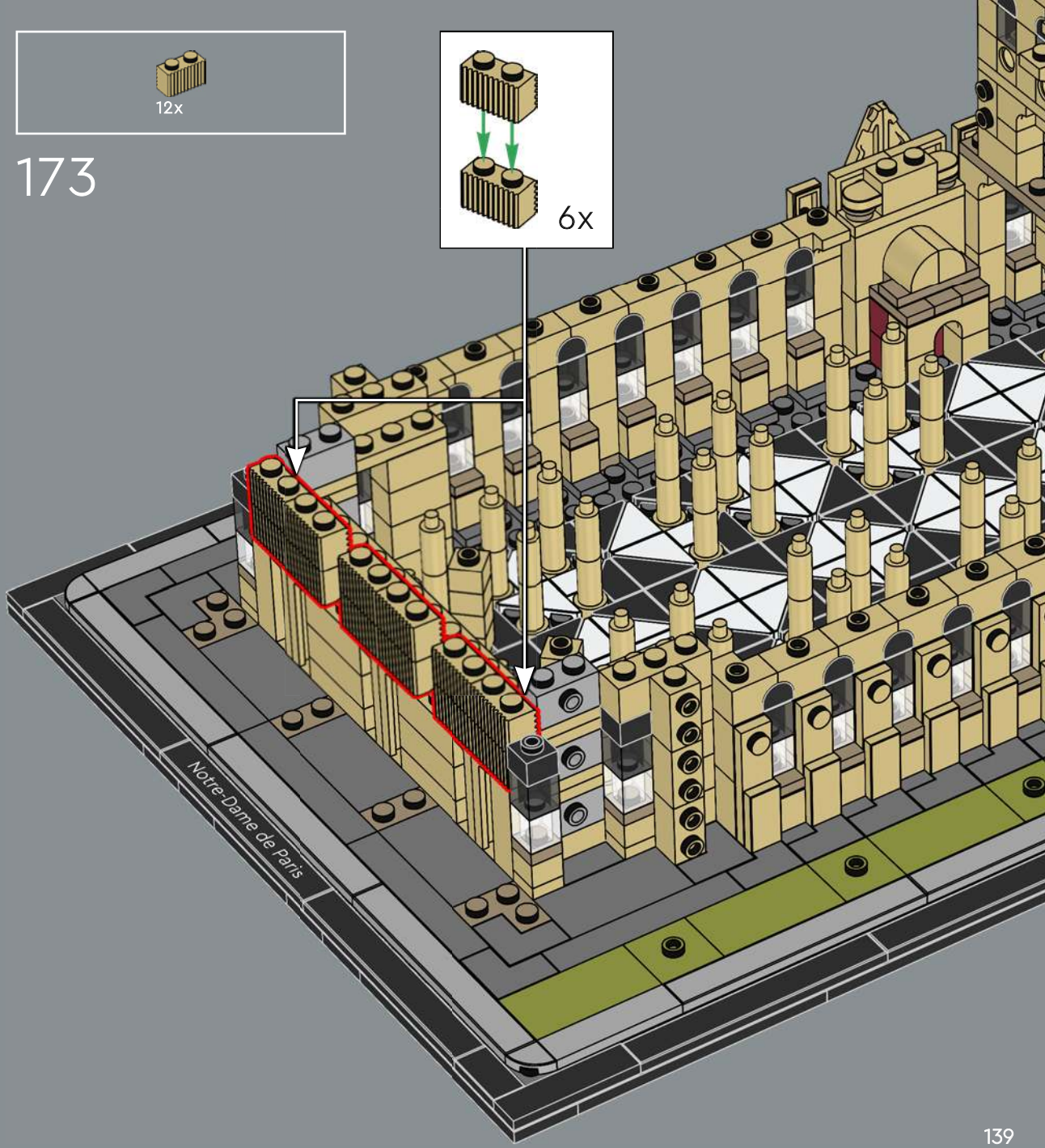


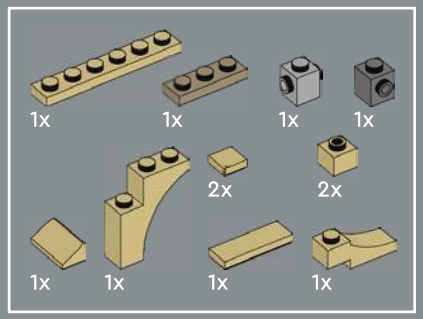
BUILDING TECHNIQUES AND FEATURES

In 1208, construction of the transept was complete, with large, unique rose windows on the facades, all in different sizes and designs. The original north rose window has a diameter of 13.5 m (44.2 ft.), a record at that time. Every architectural feature in the cathedral serves a purpose, both decorative and practical. The three LEGO® rose window elements are an abstraction of the originals – they are all the same size and design, and you can use them interchangeably in the model. By 1220, the body of the cathedral is complete except for the upper part of the towers.

By evacuating rainwater, the characteristic gargoyles also serve to protect the cathedral from damage caused by excessive runoff. You can see this feature replicated in your model.

173





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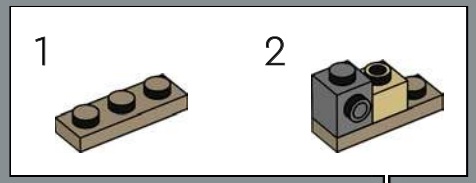

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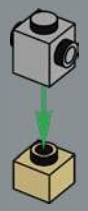

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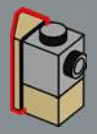

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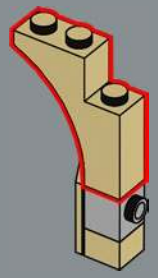

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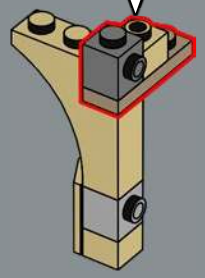

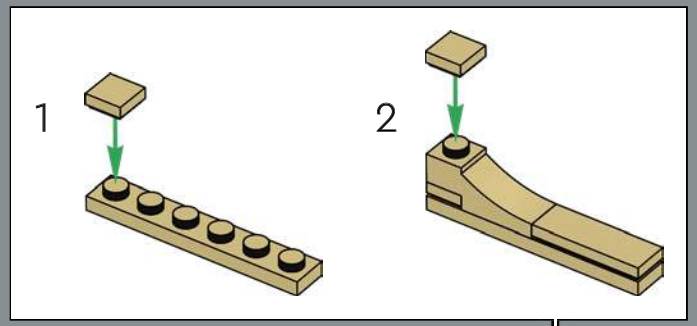
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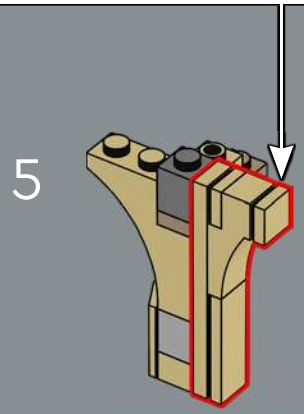
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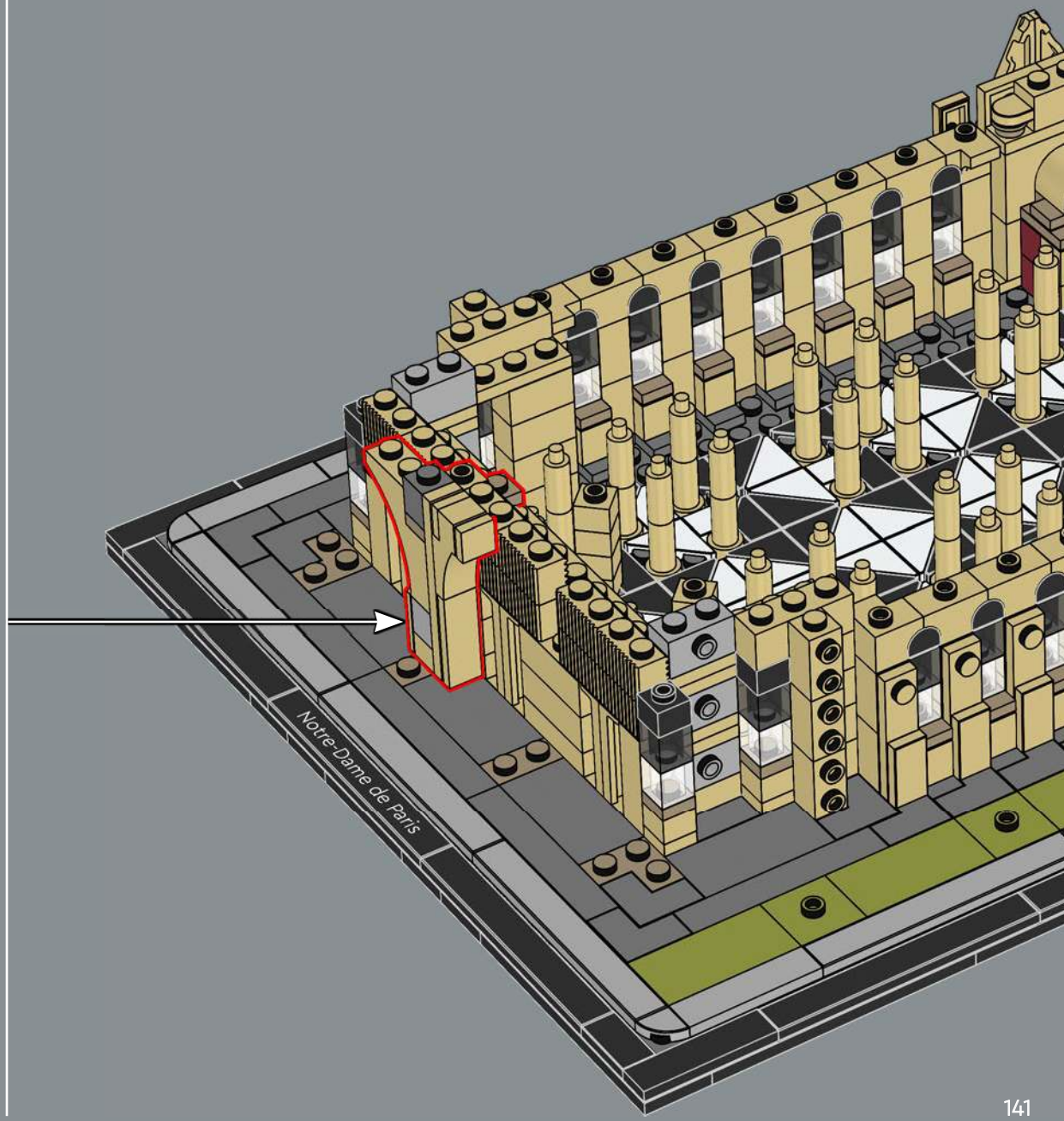
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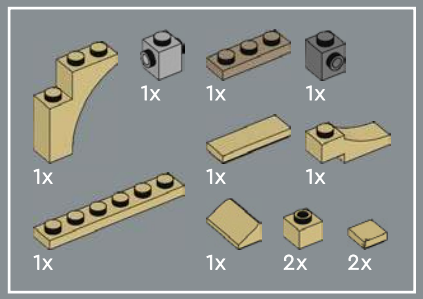

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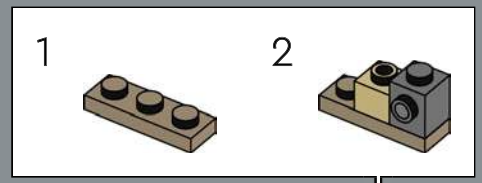

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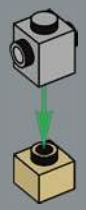

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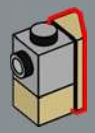

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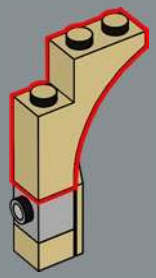

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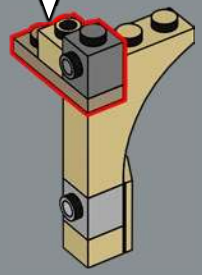

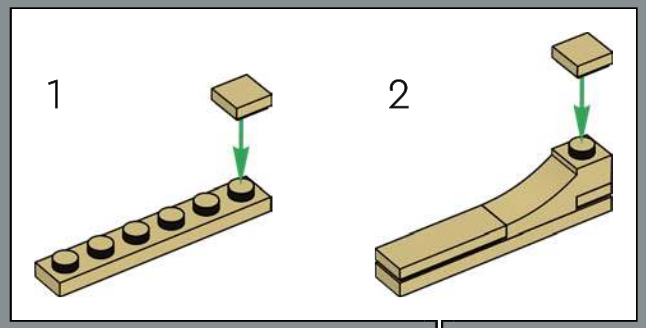

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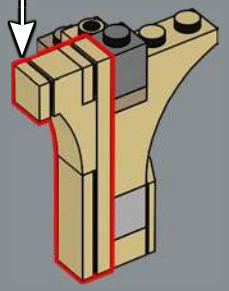

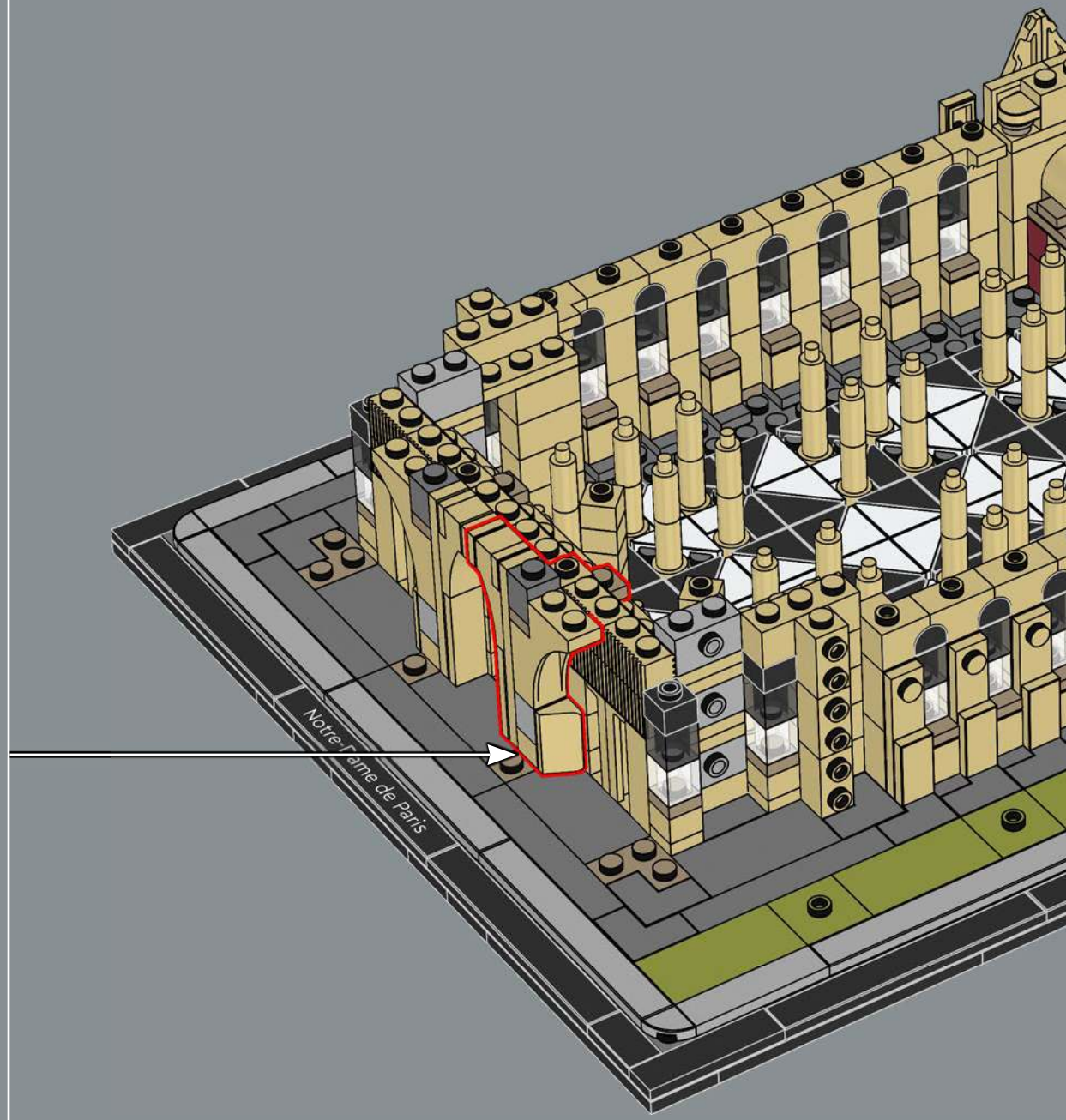

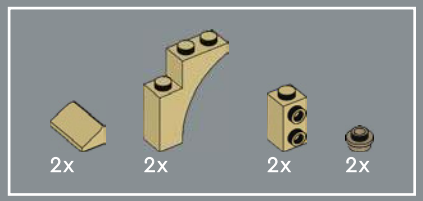

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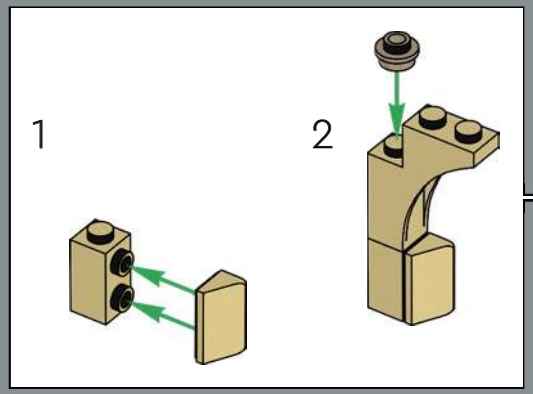

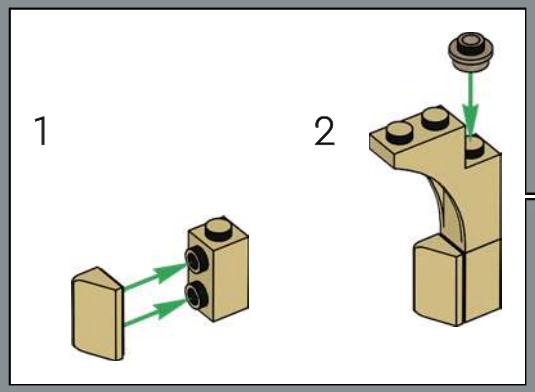

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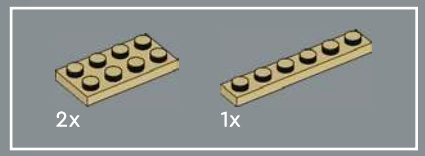

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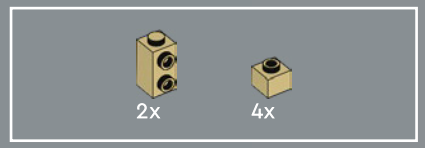

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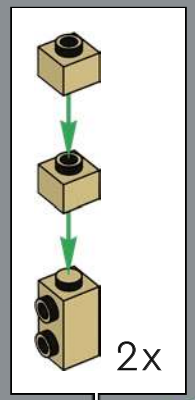

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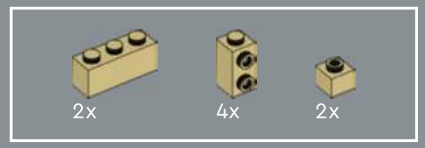

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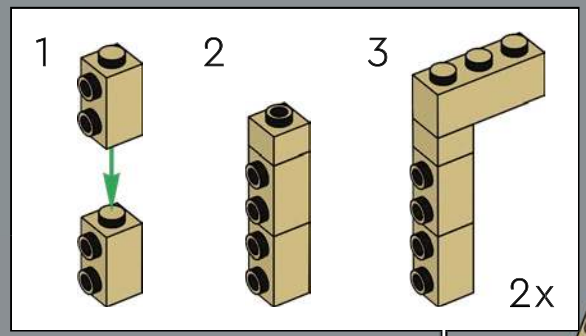

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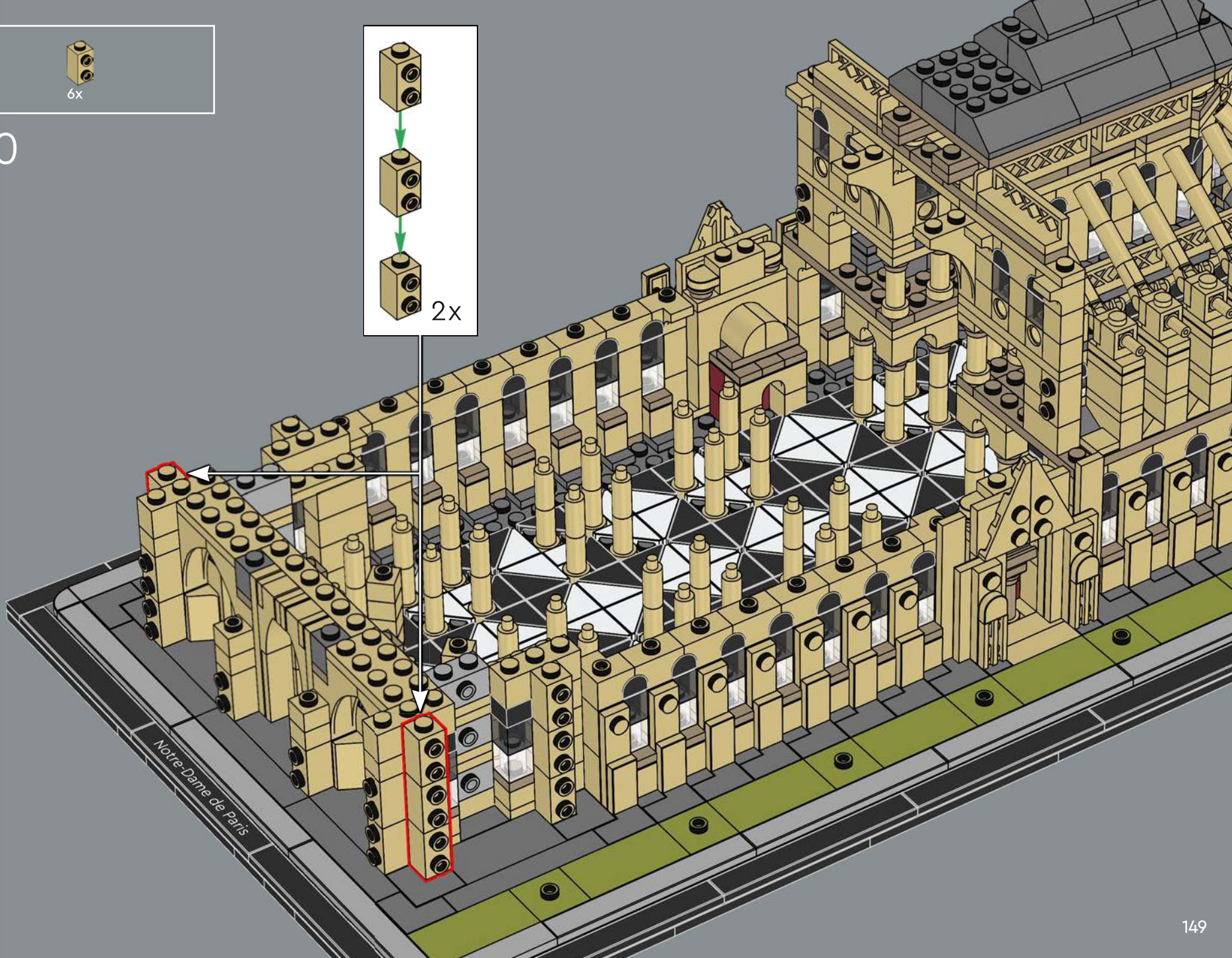

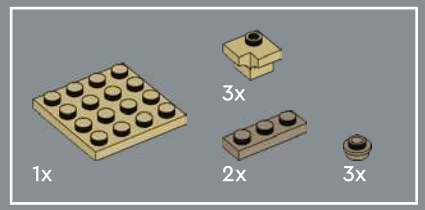

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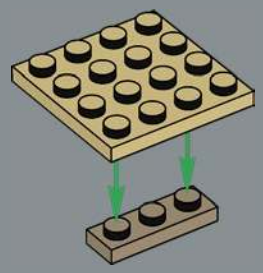

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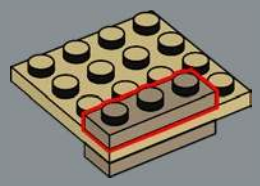

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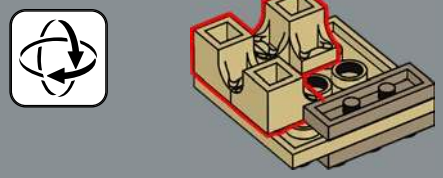

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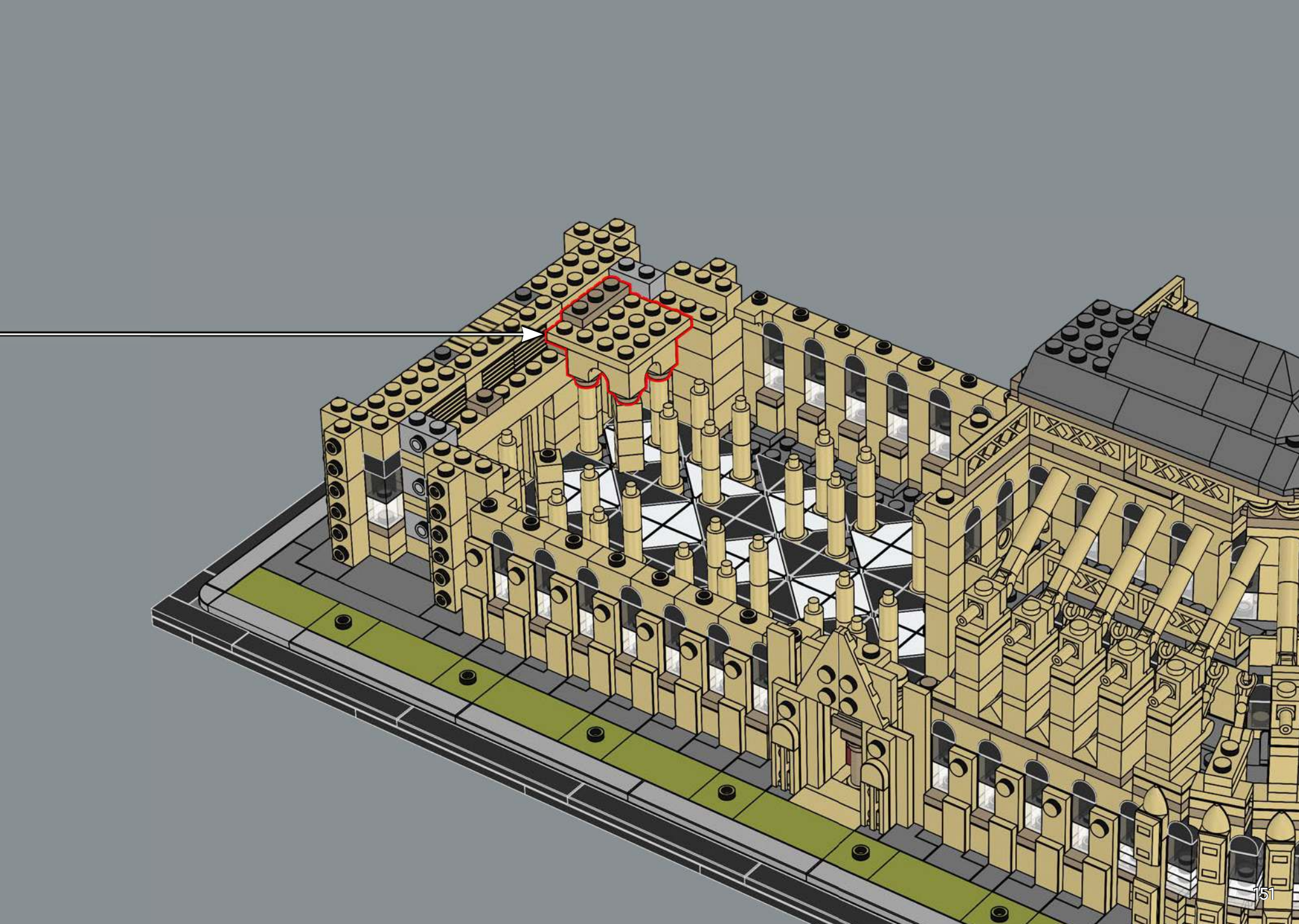

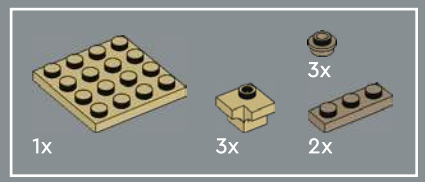

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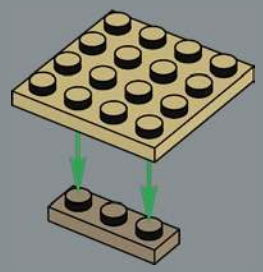

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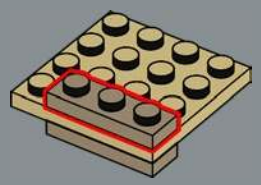

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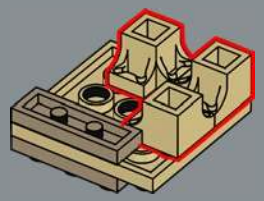

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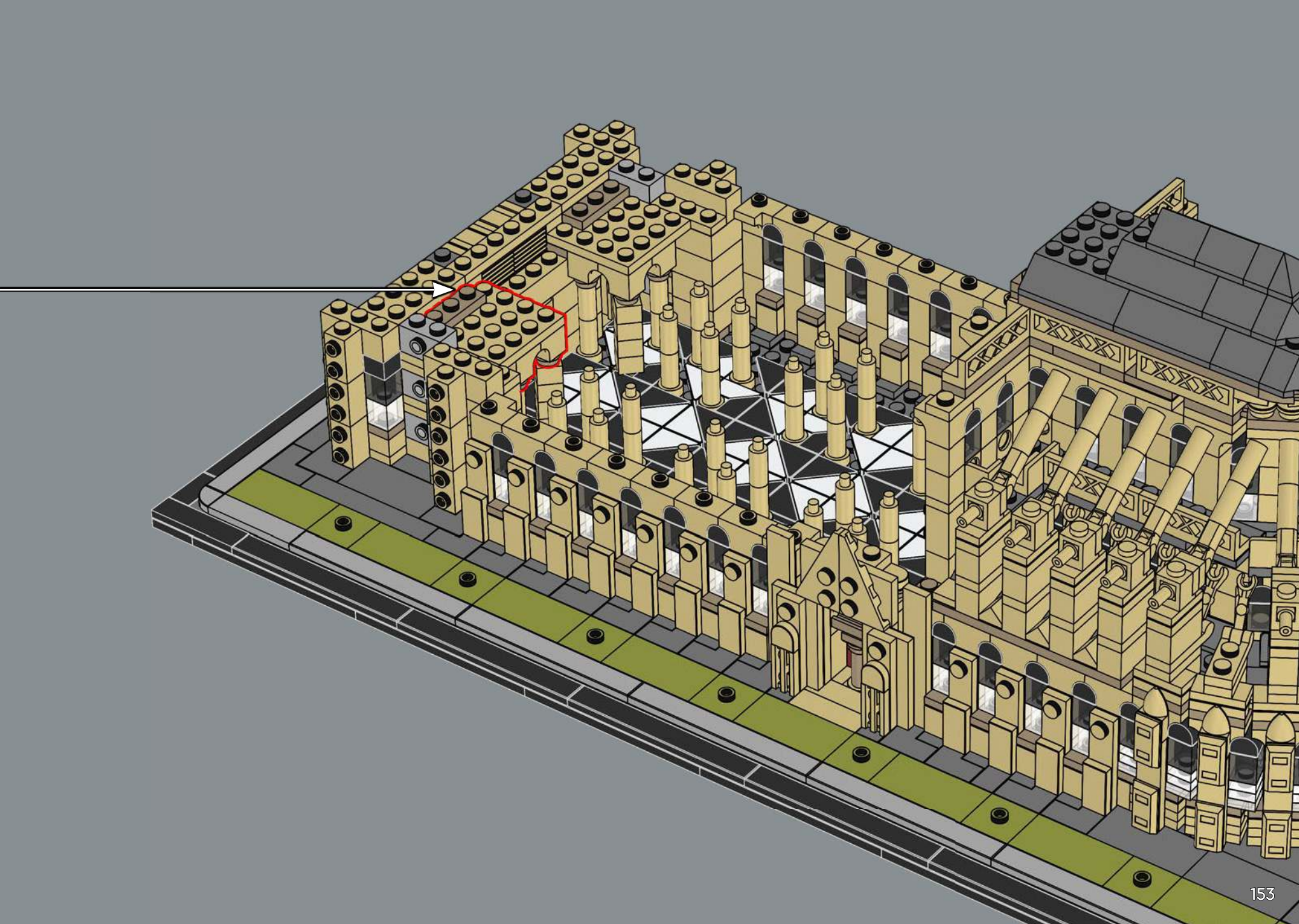

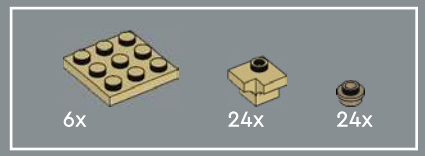

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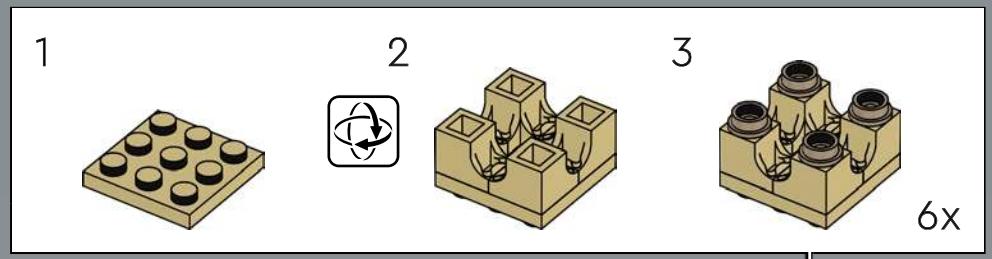

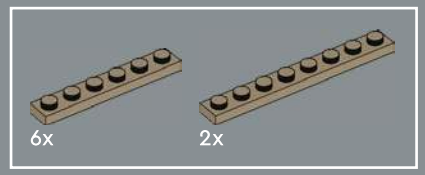

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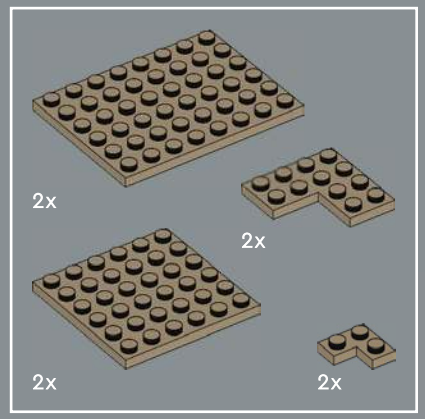

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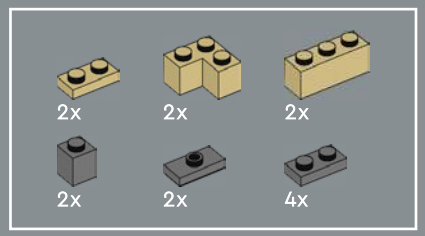

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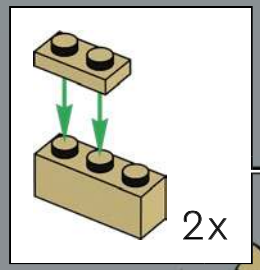

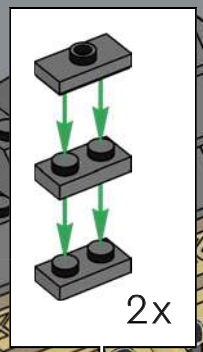

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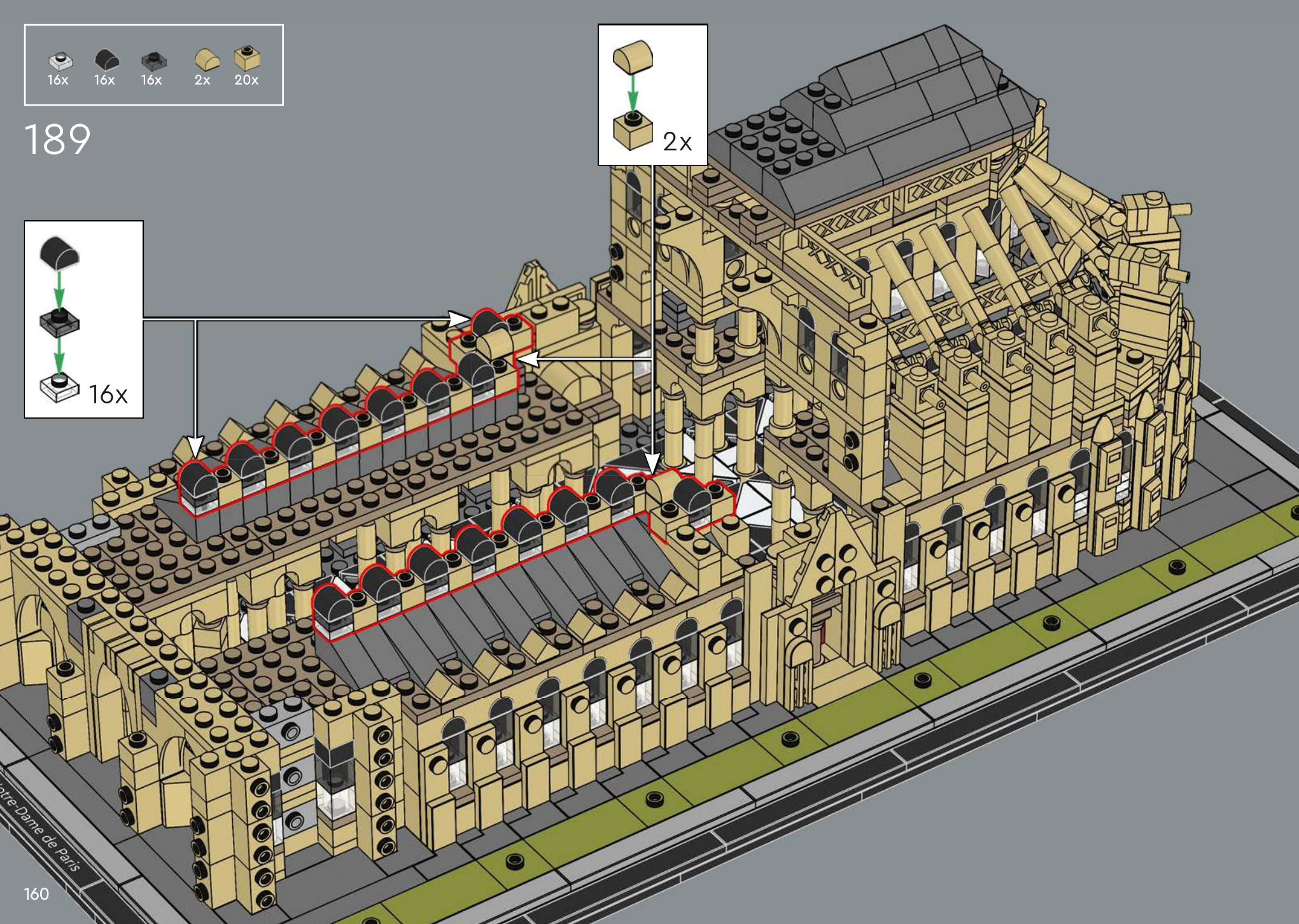
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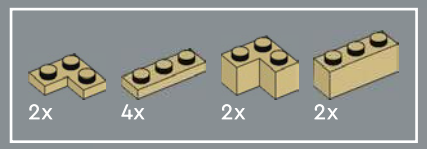

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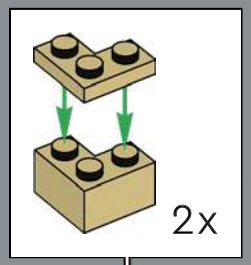

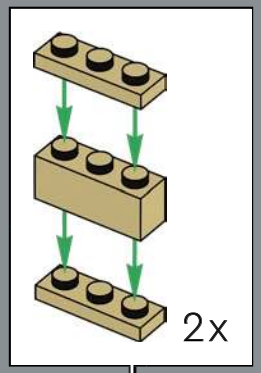

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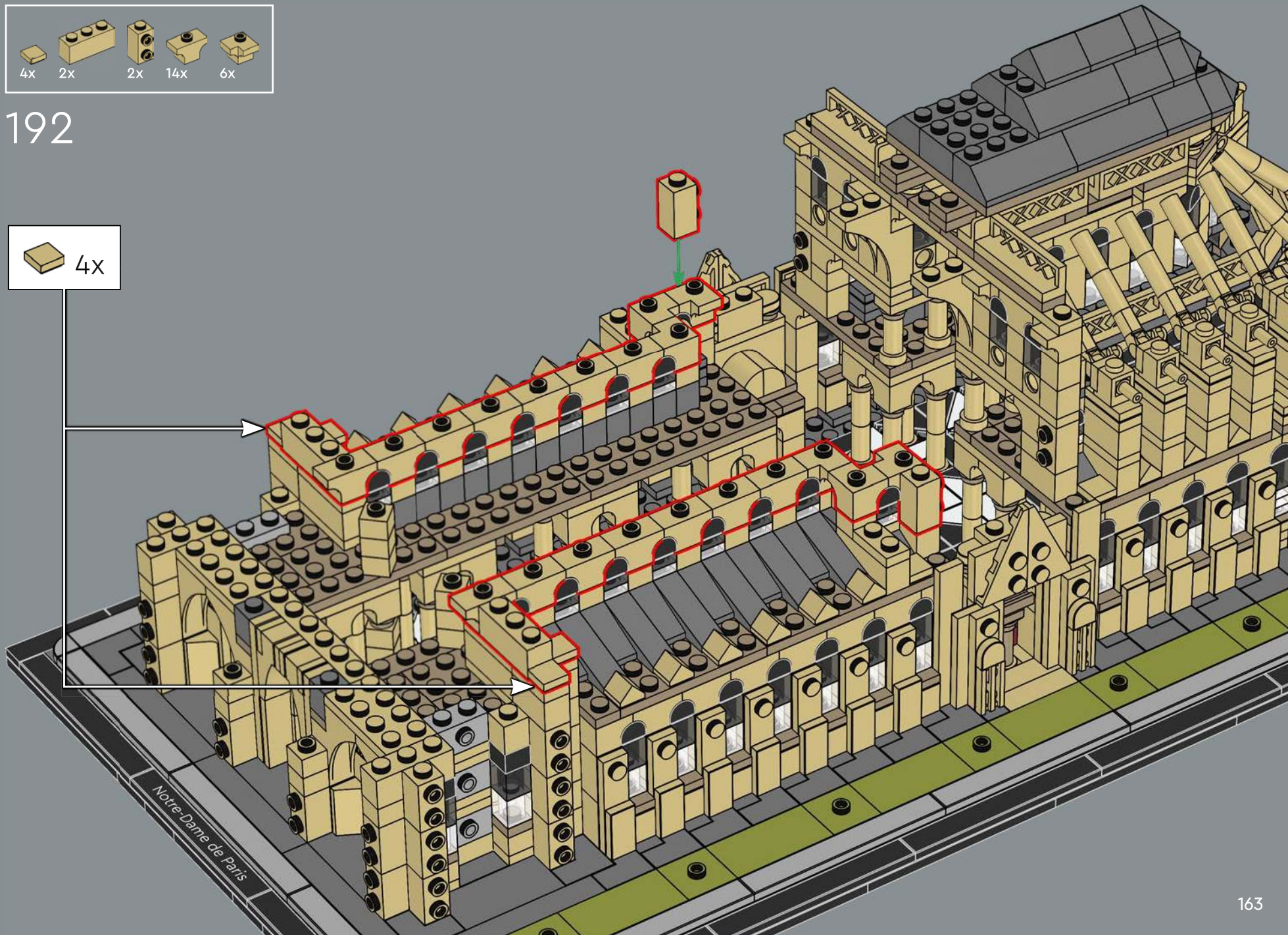
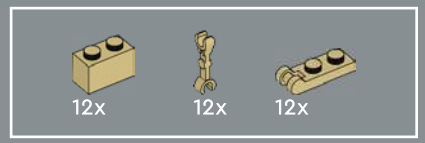
192





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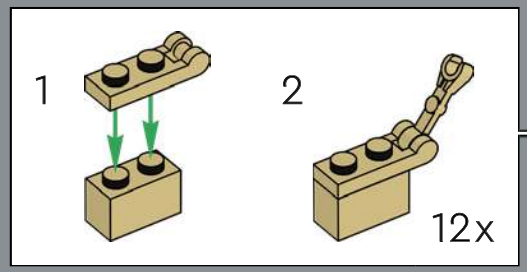

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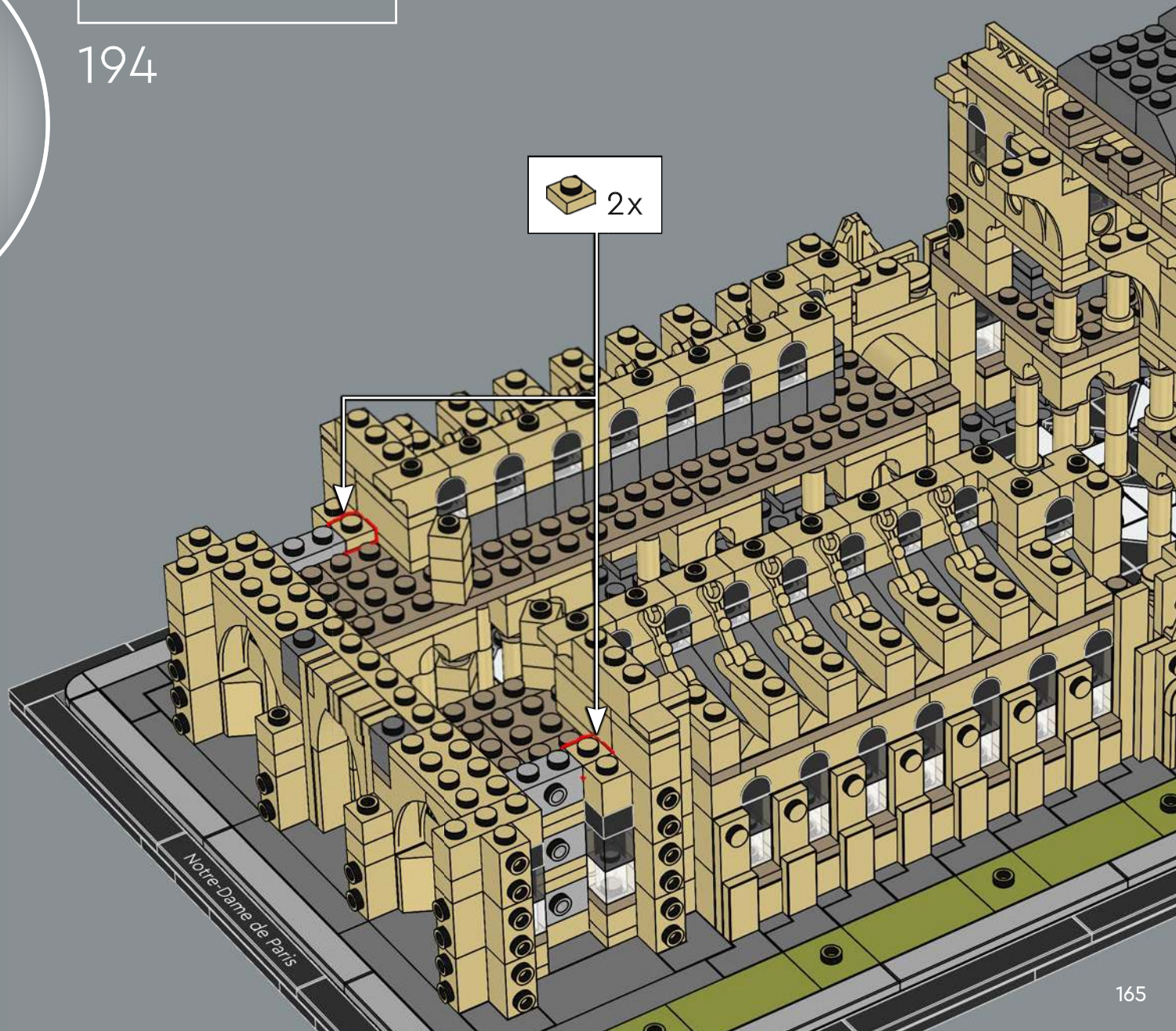

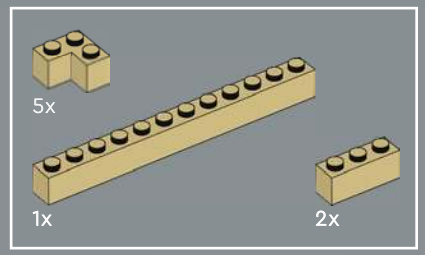

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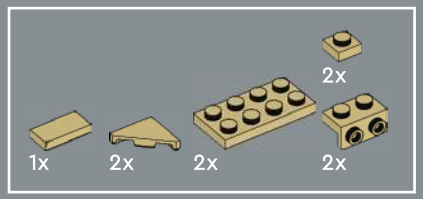

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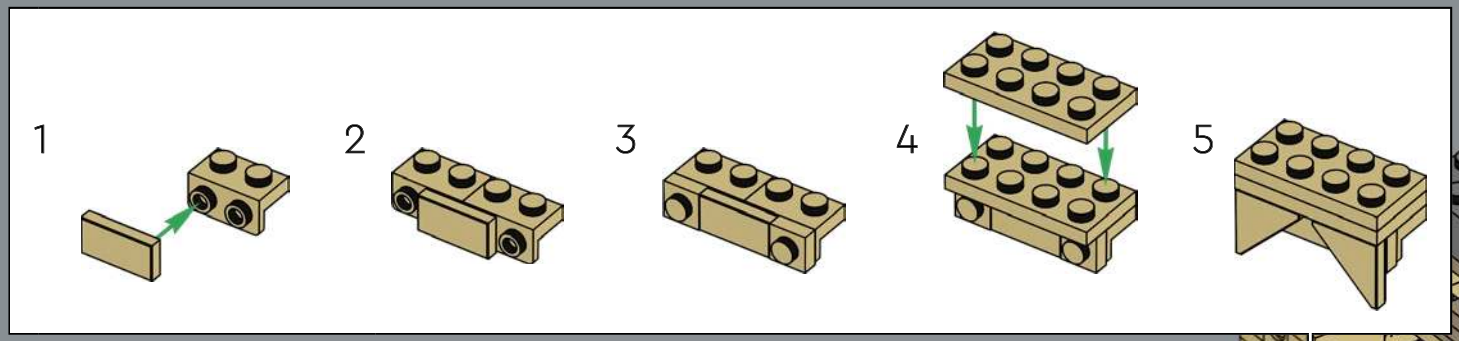

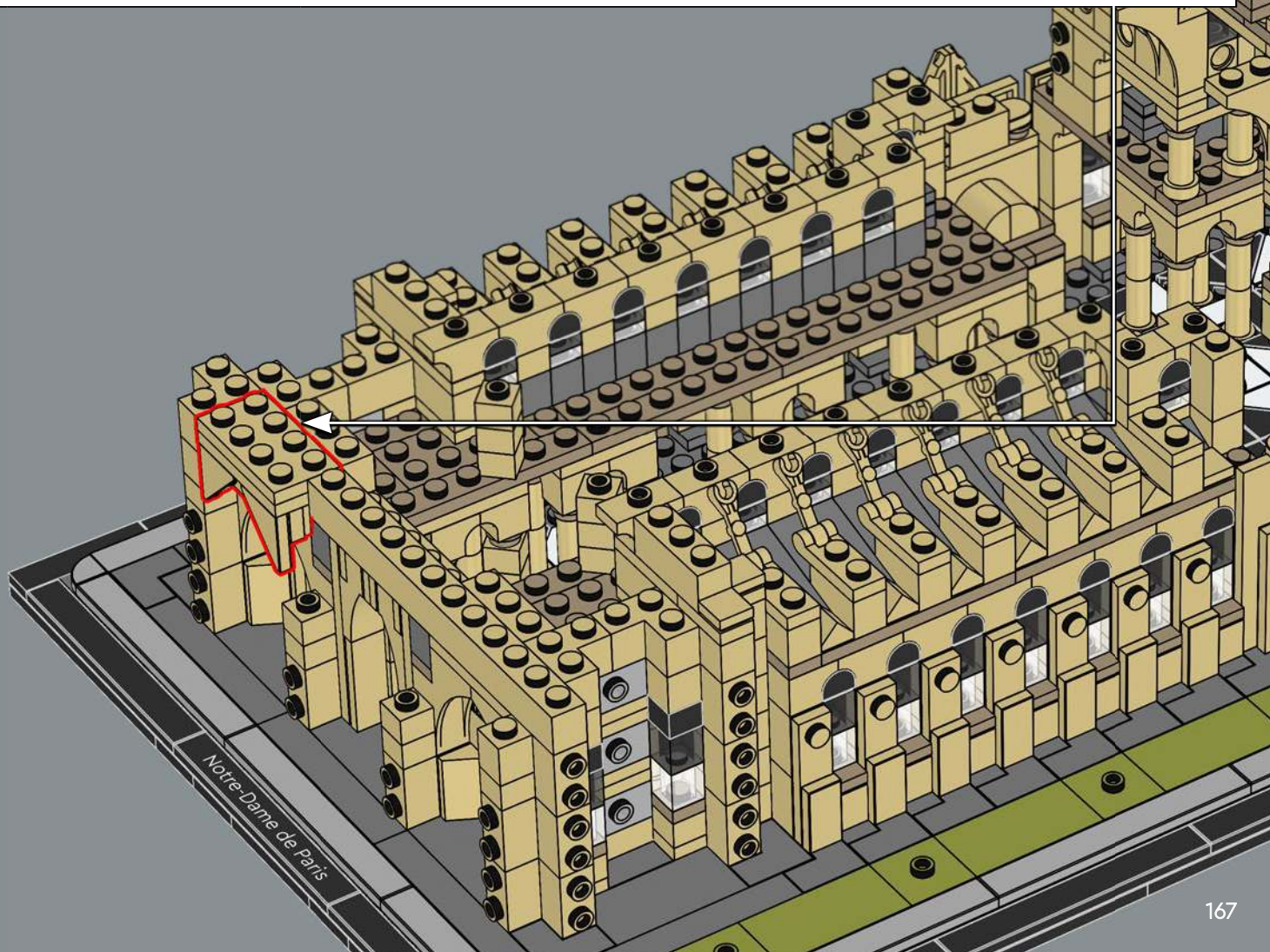

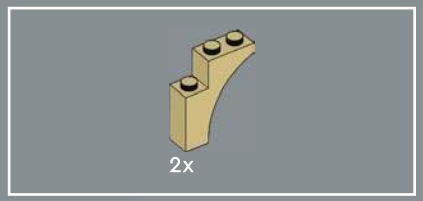

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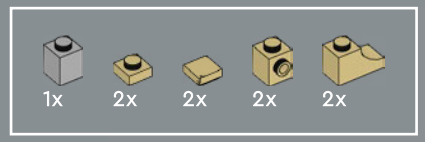

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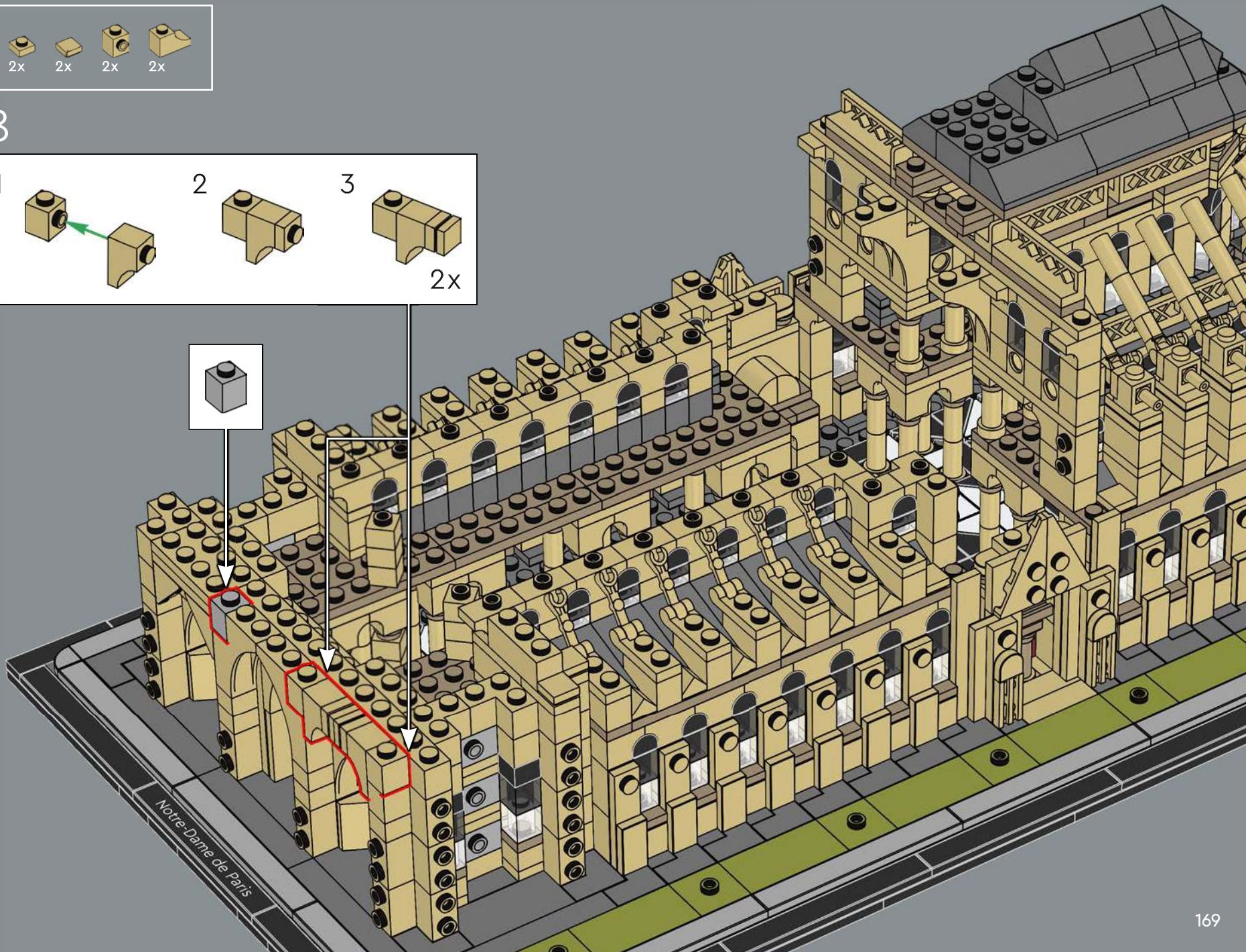

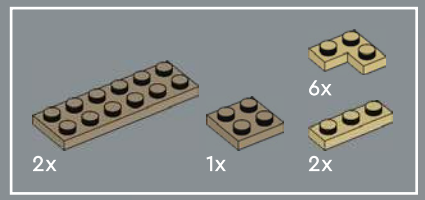

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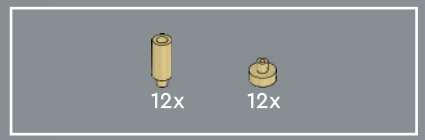

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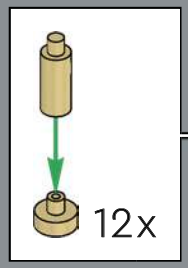

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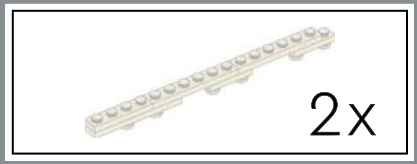

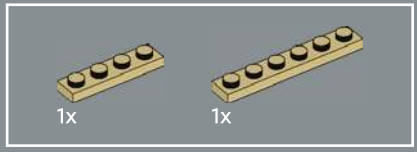

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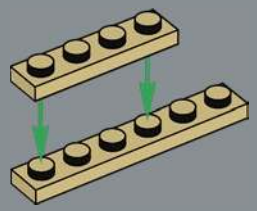

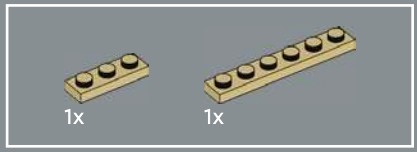

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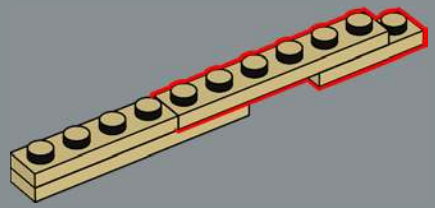

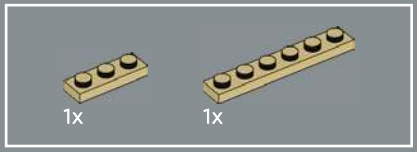

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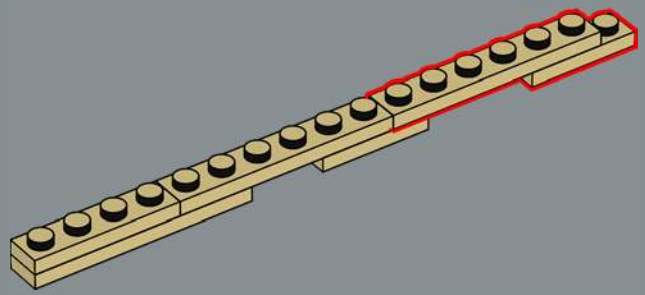

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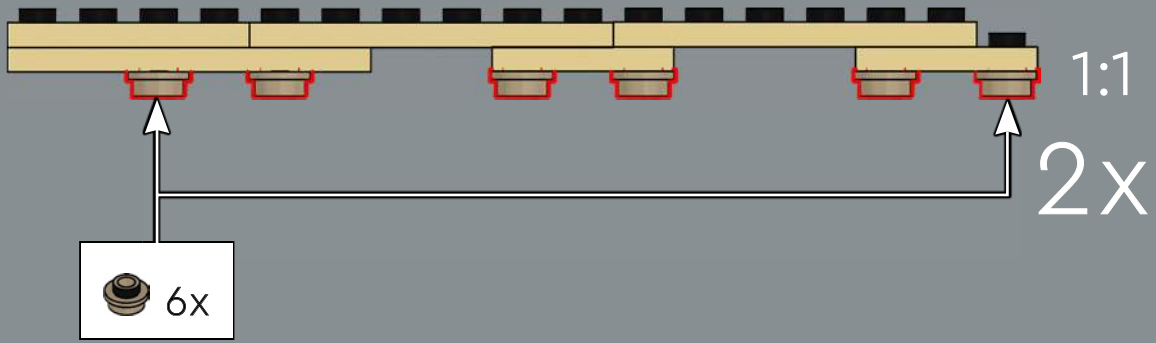

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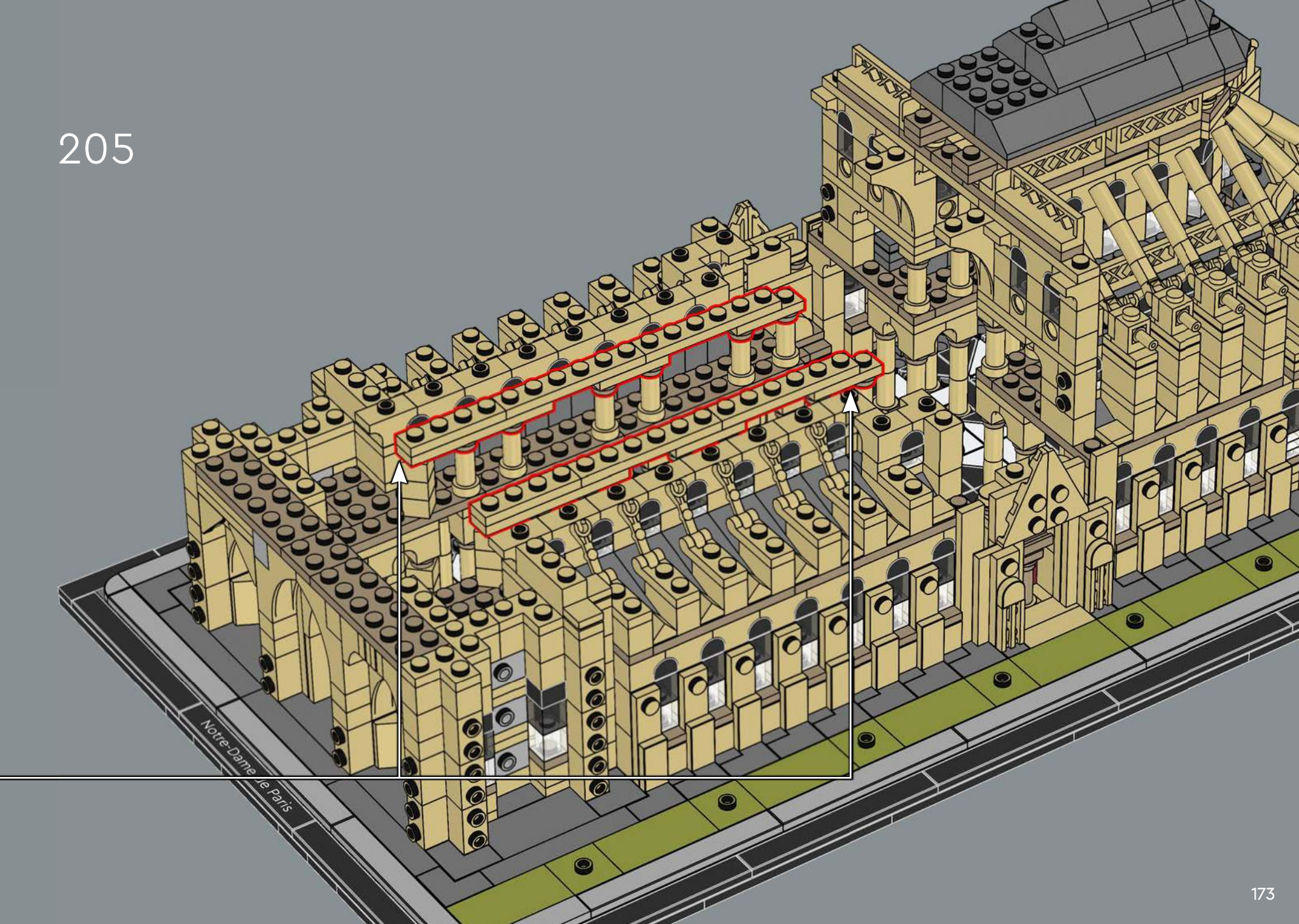

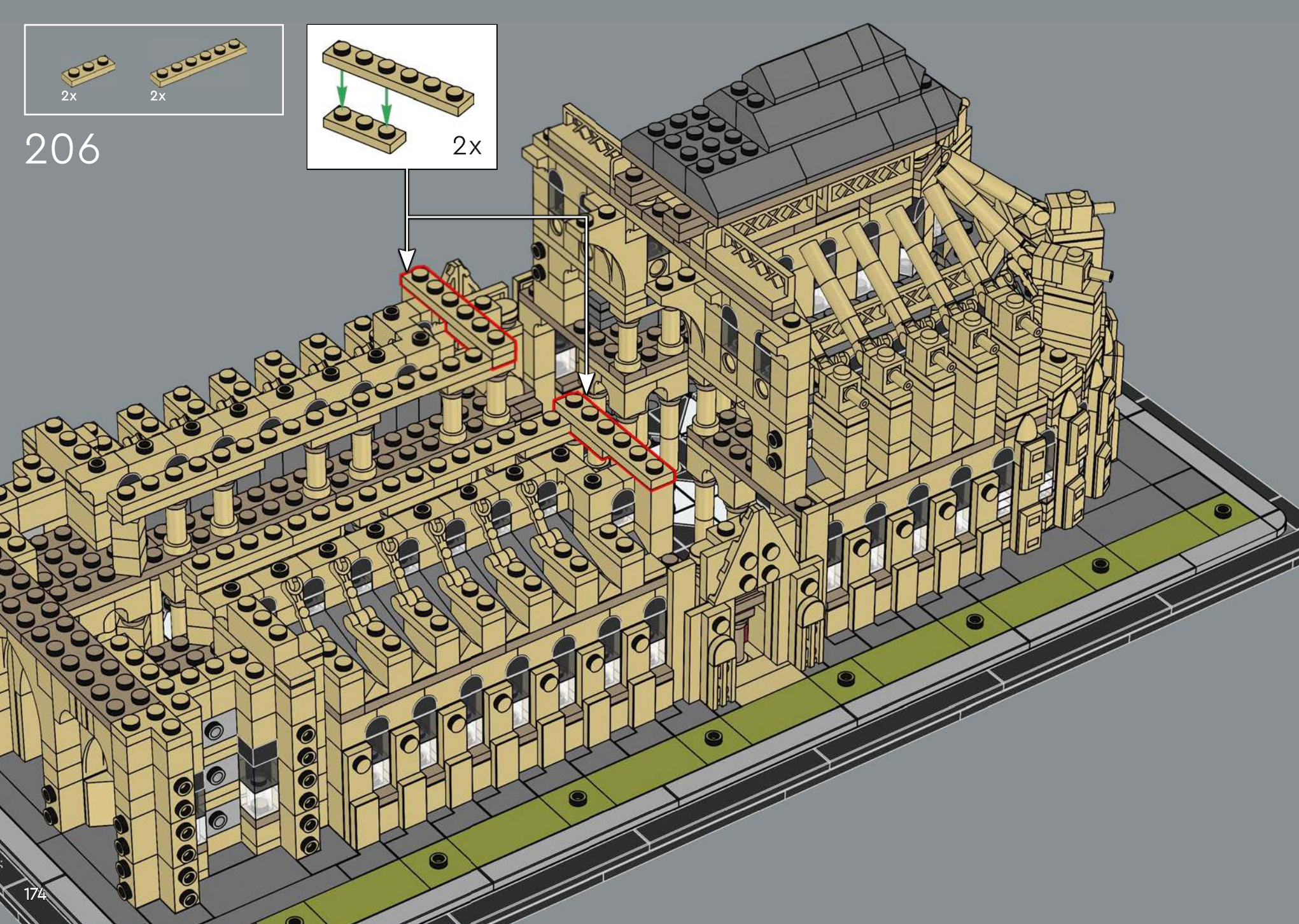
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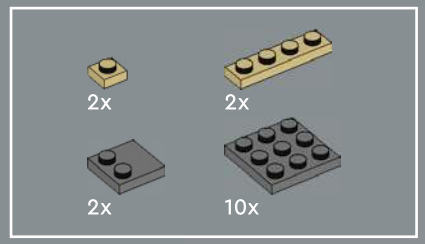

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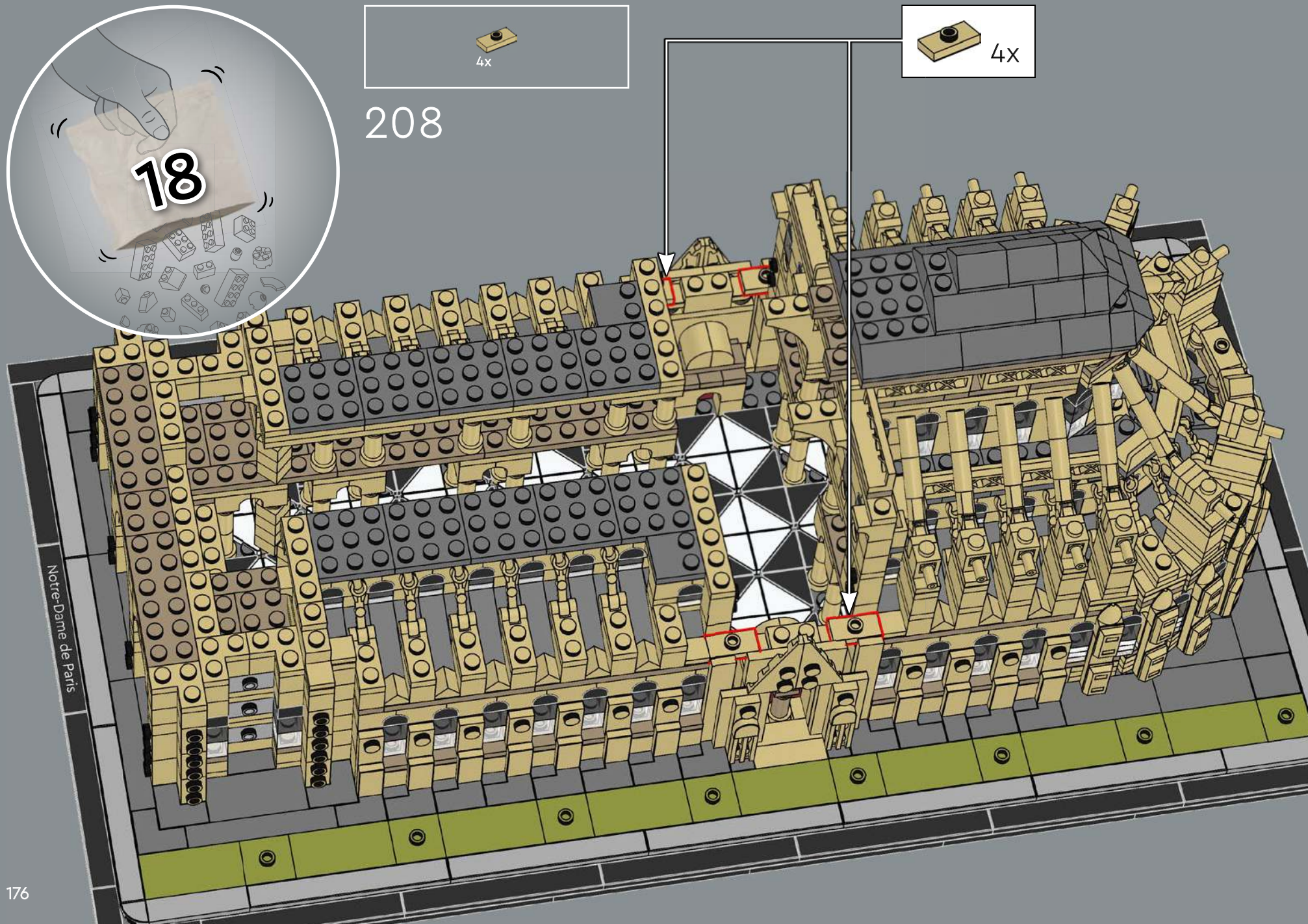
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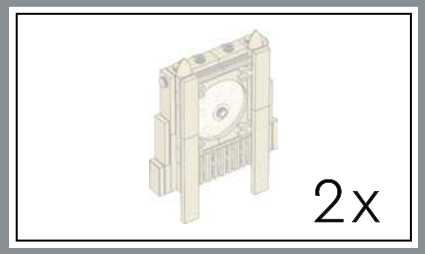
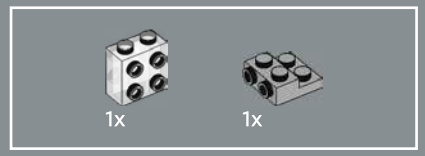
Notre-Dame de Paris





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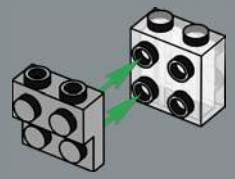

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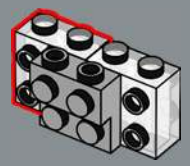

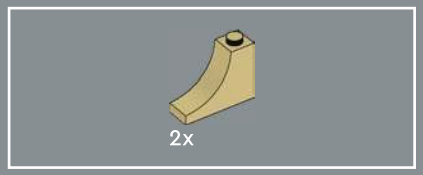

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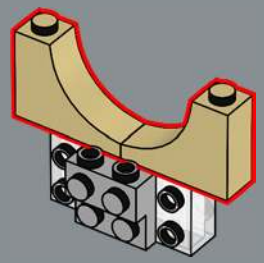

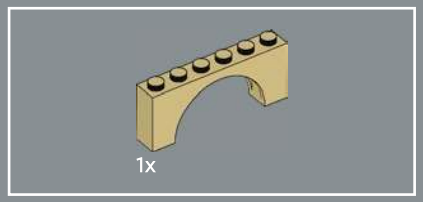

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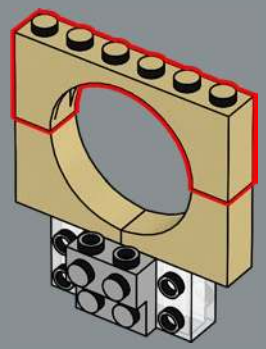

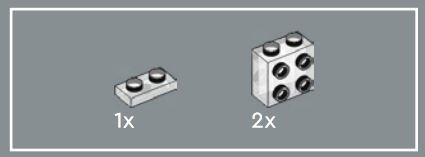

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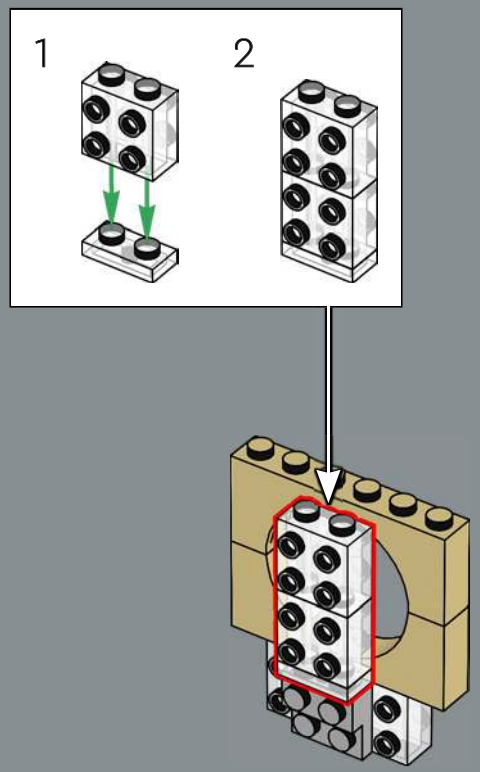

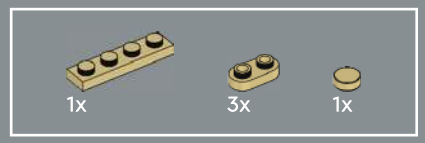

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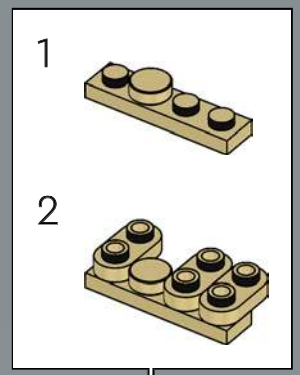

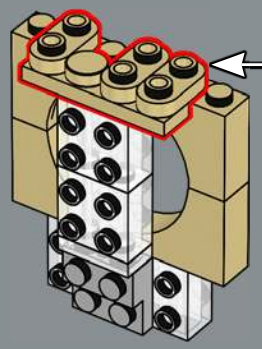

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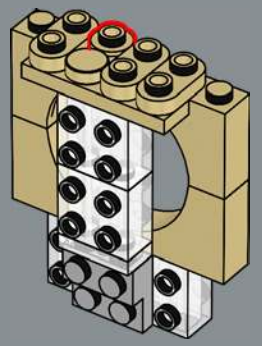

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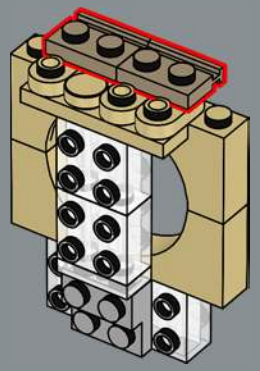

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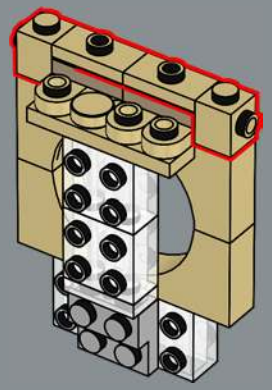

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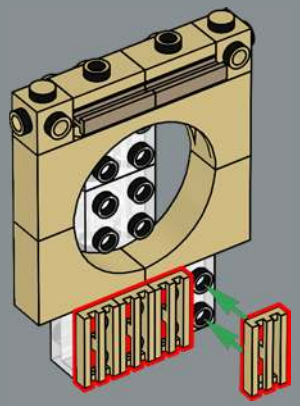

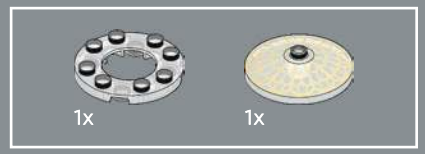

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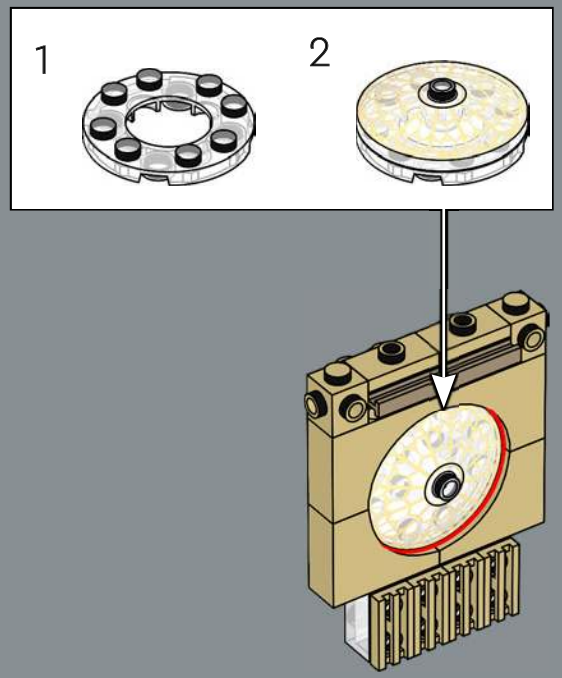

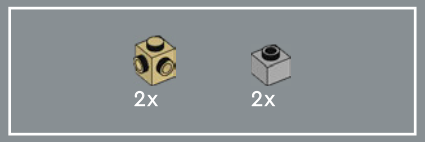

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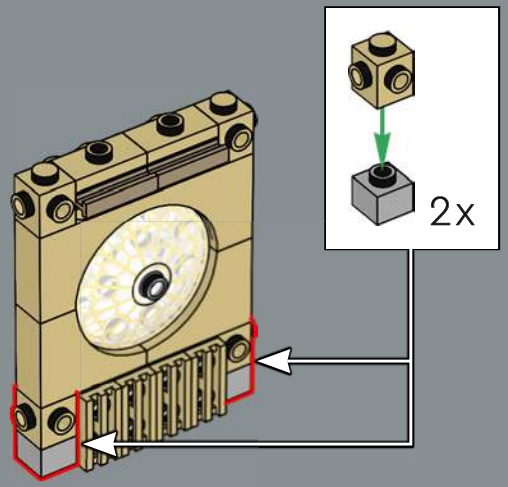

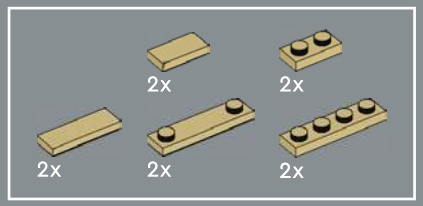

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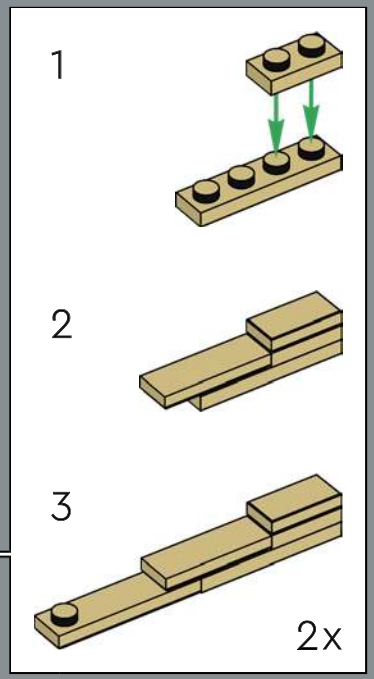

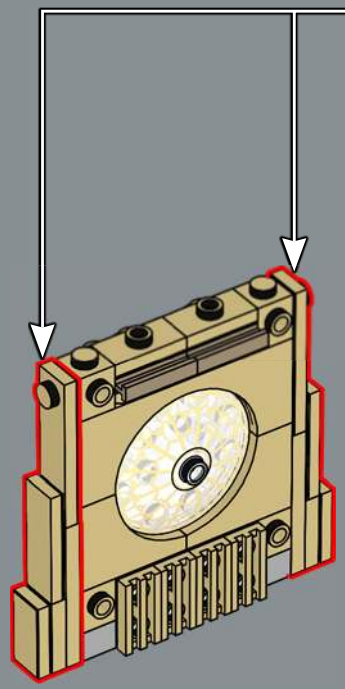

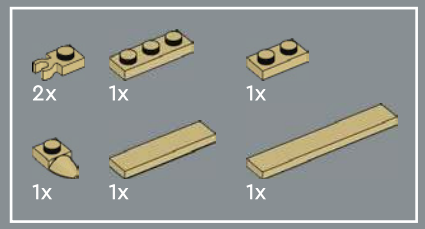

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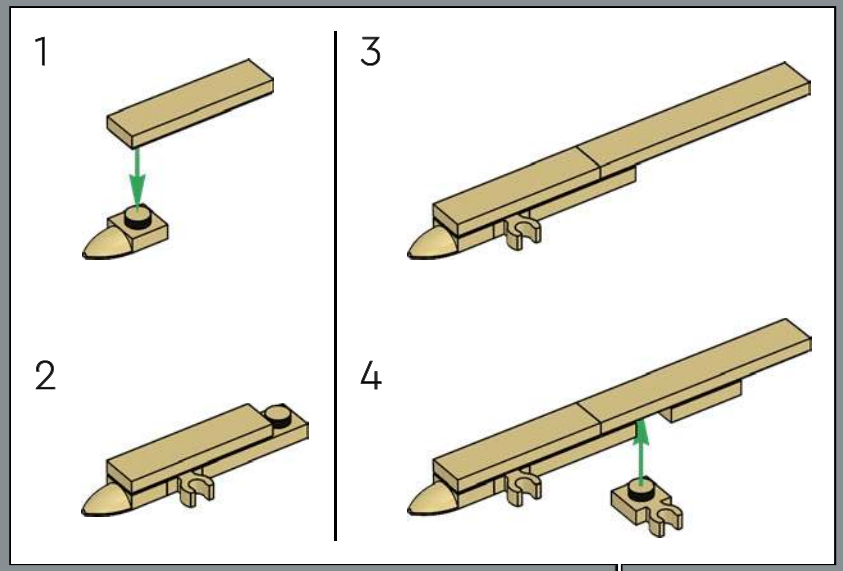

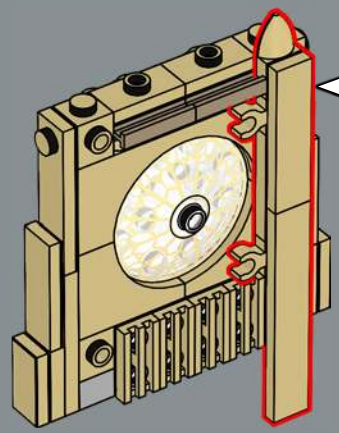

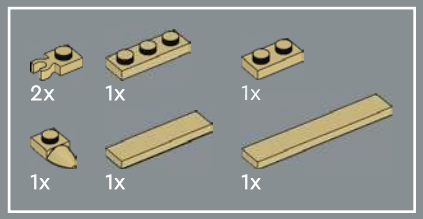

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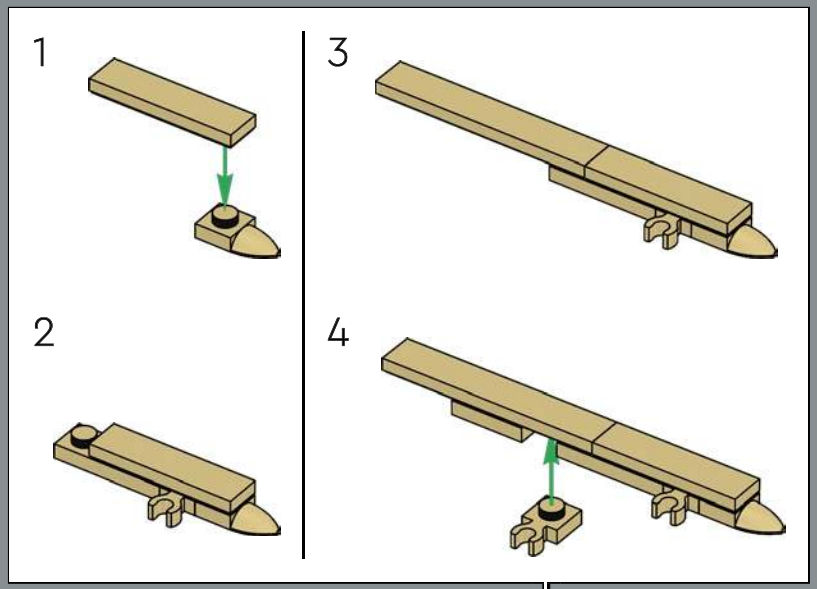

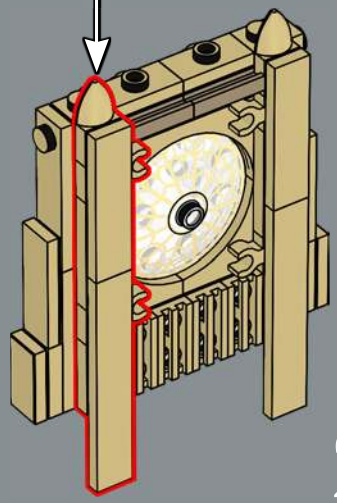

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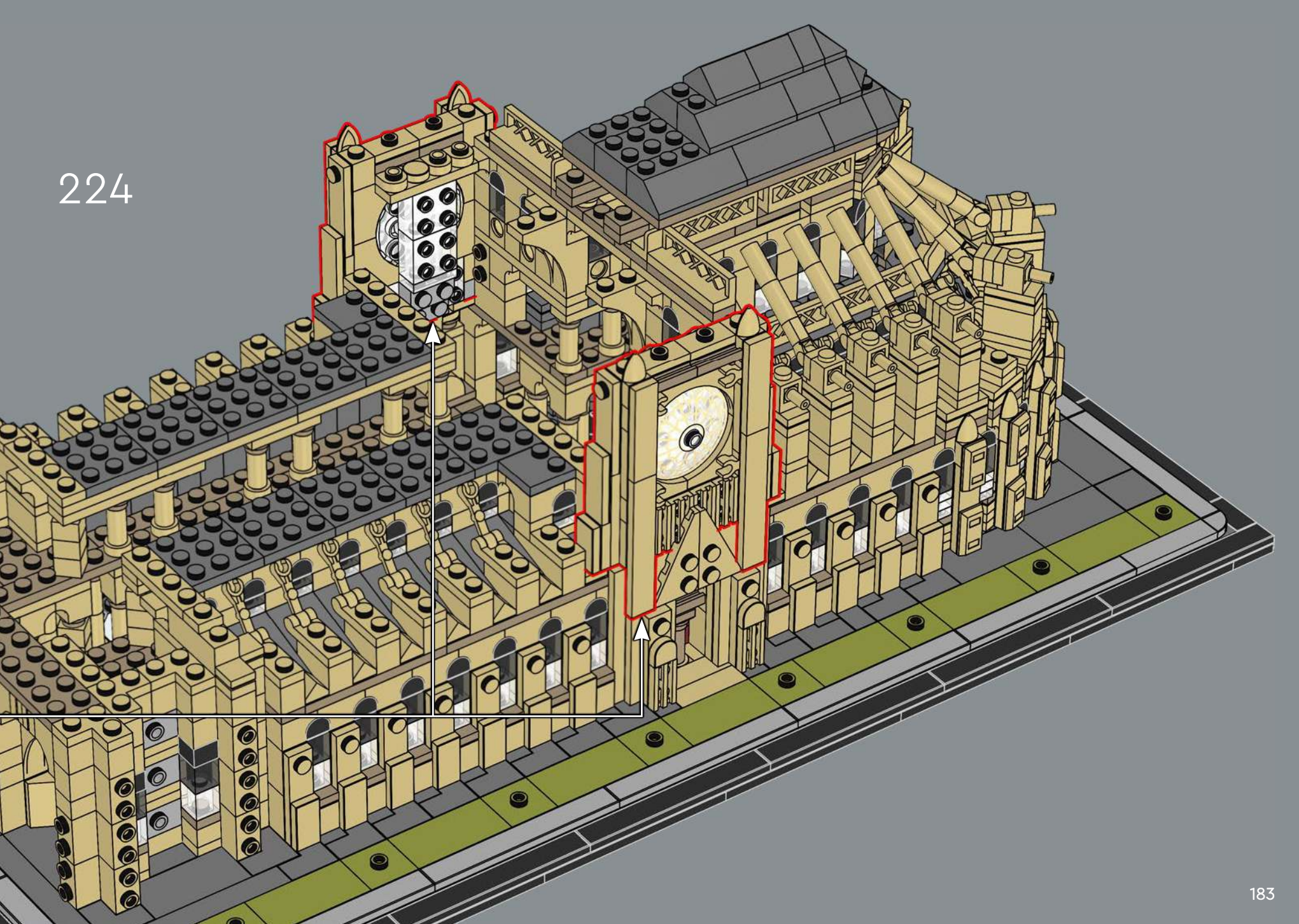

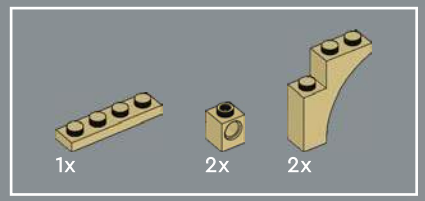

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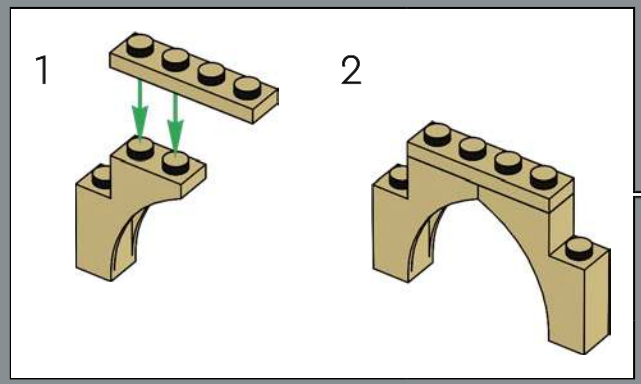

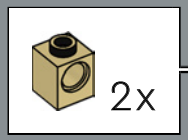

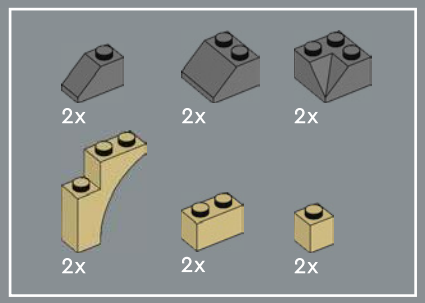

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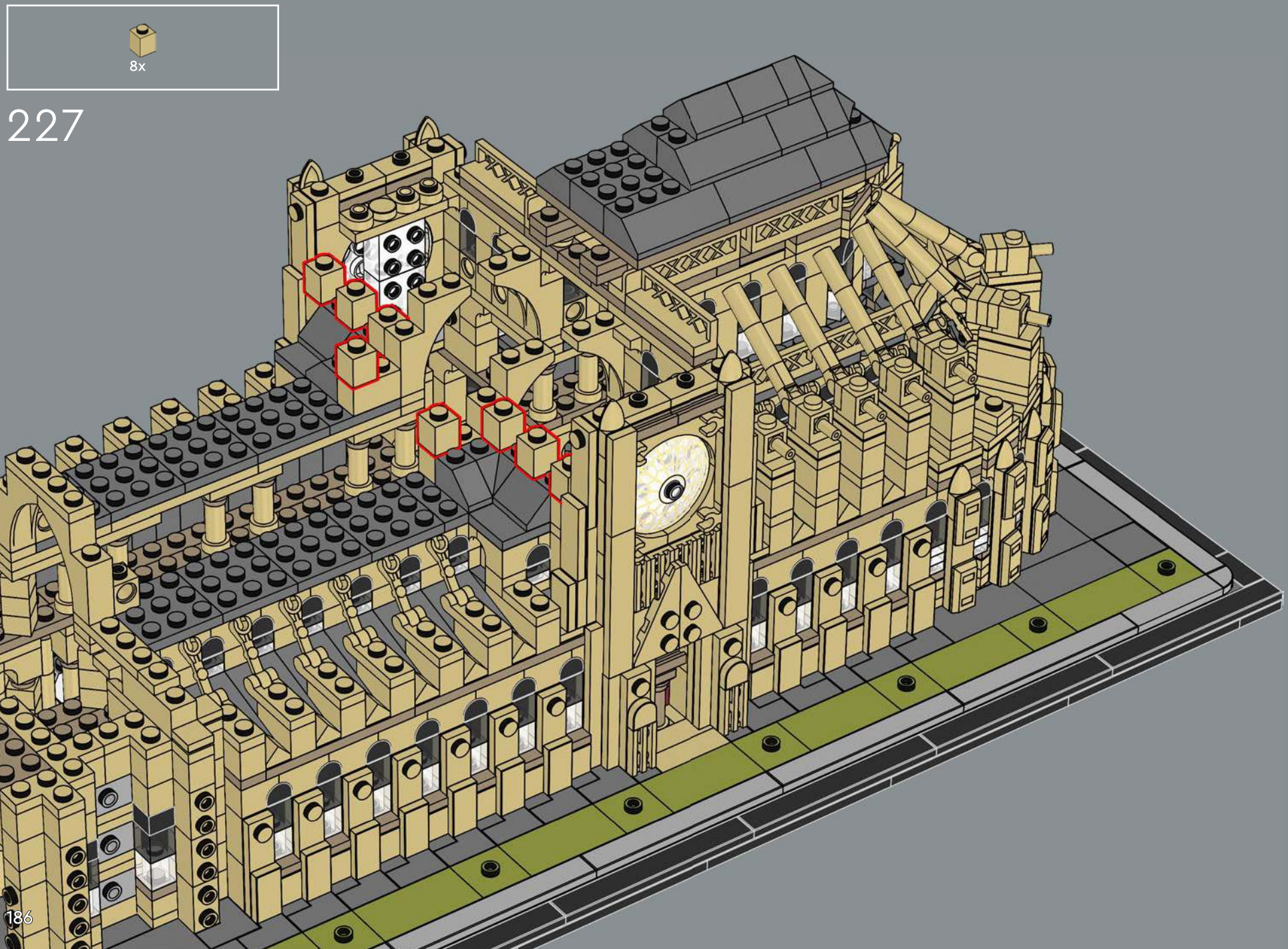
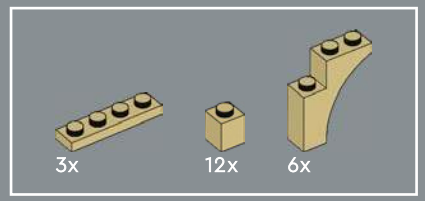

8x
227

Vaults are divided into six parts by ribs – 'sexpartite vault'. The LEGO® model follows the original by having a transverse rib at every second capital.



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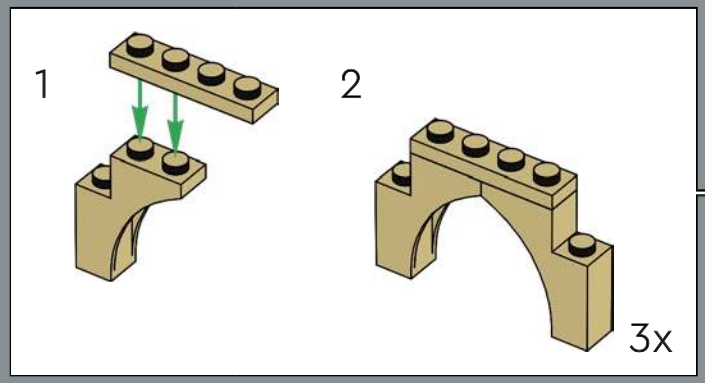

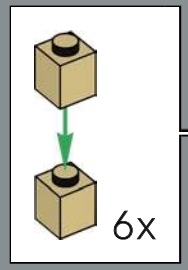

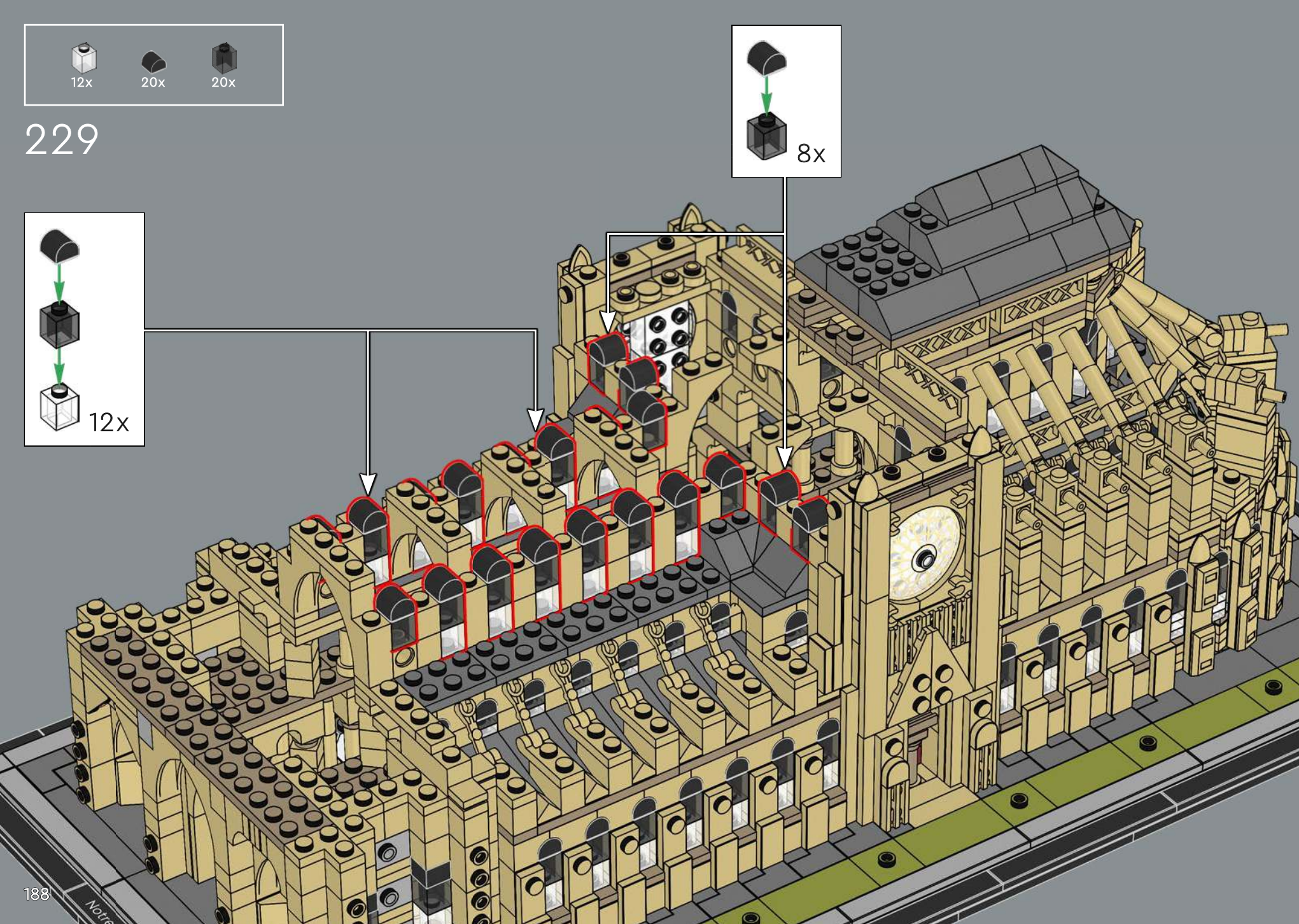
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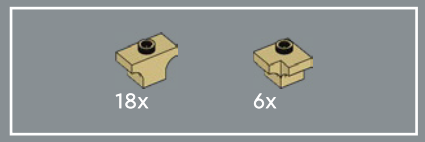
20x
229
8x
12x



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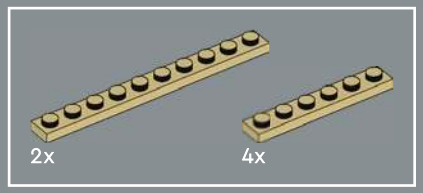

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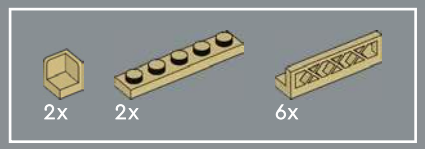
Notre-Dame de Paris



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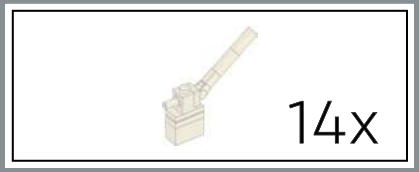
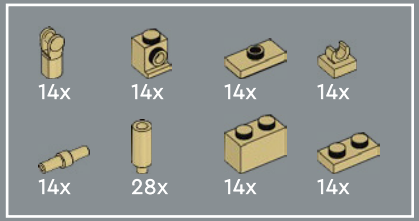


The flying buttresses in this LEGO® model feature holes through the candle elements to mimic the water channels in the real buttresses.



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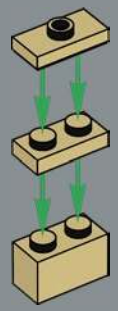

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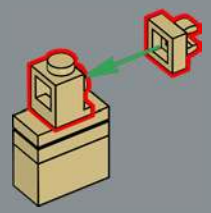

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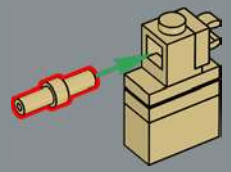

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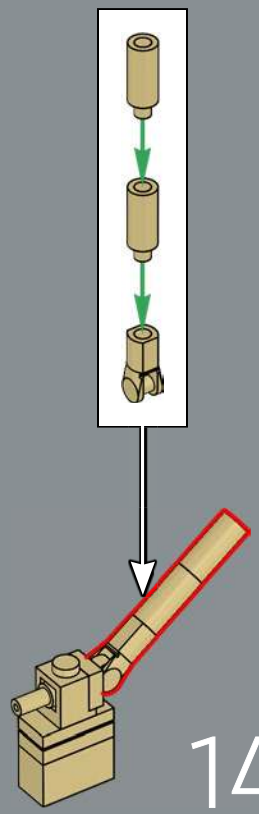
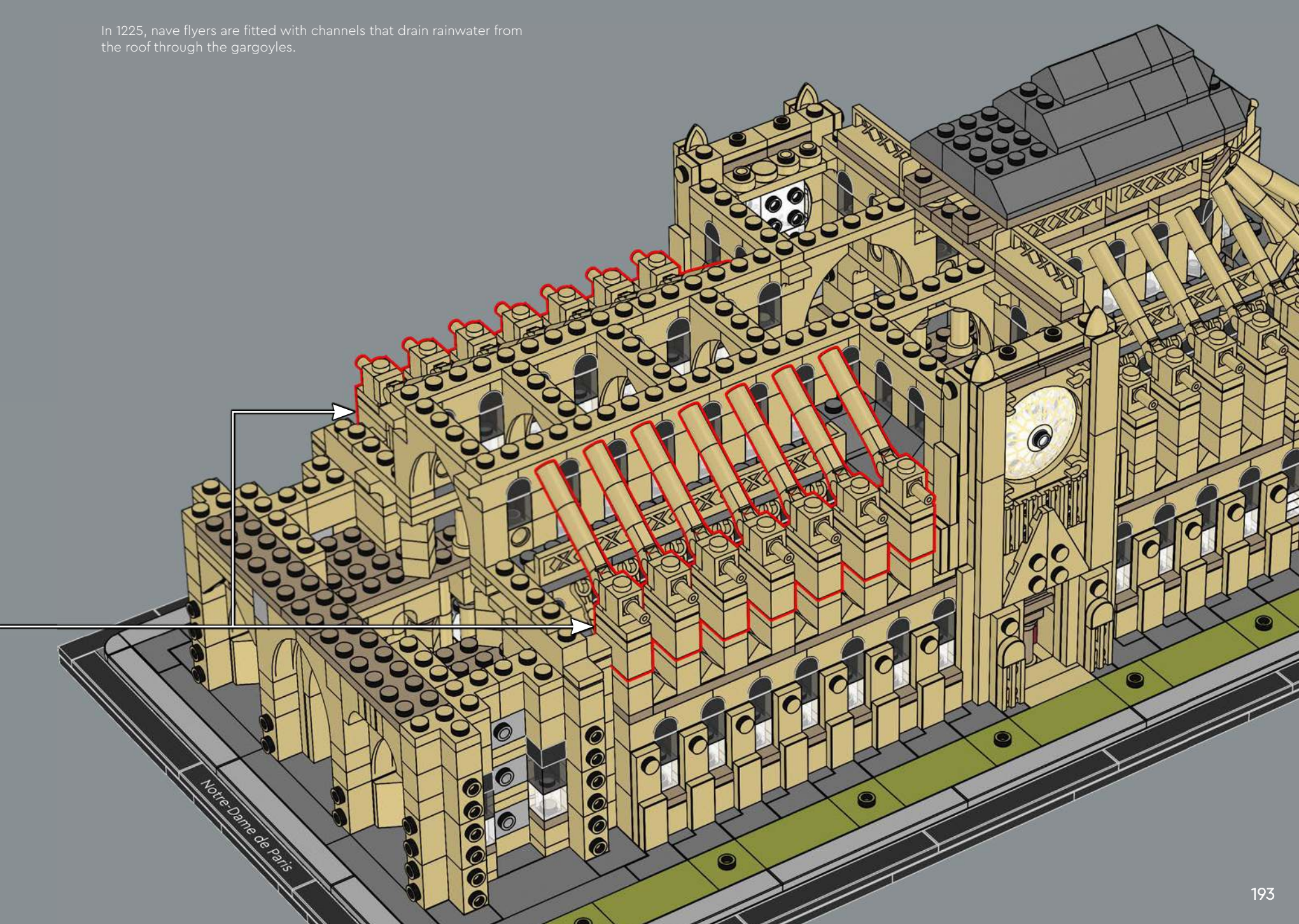
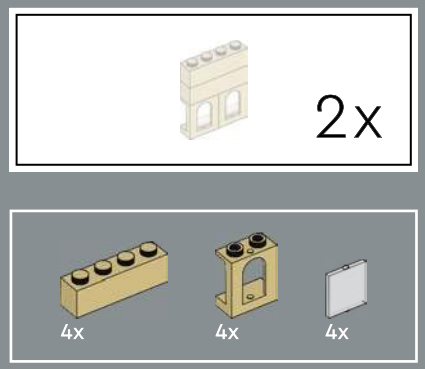


14x

In 1225, nave flyers are fitted with channels that drain rainwater from the roof through the gargoyles.





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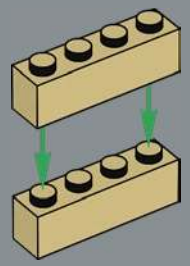

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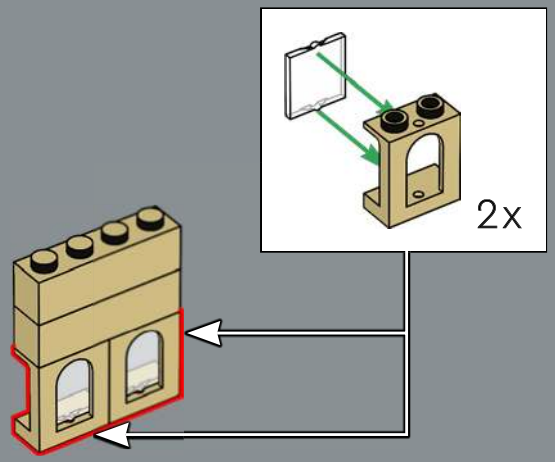

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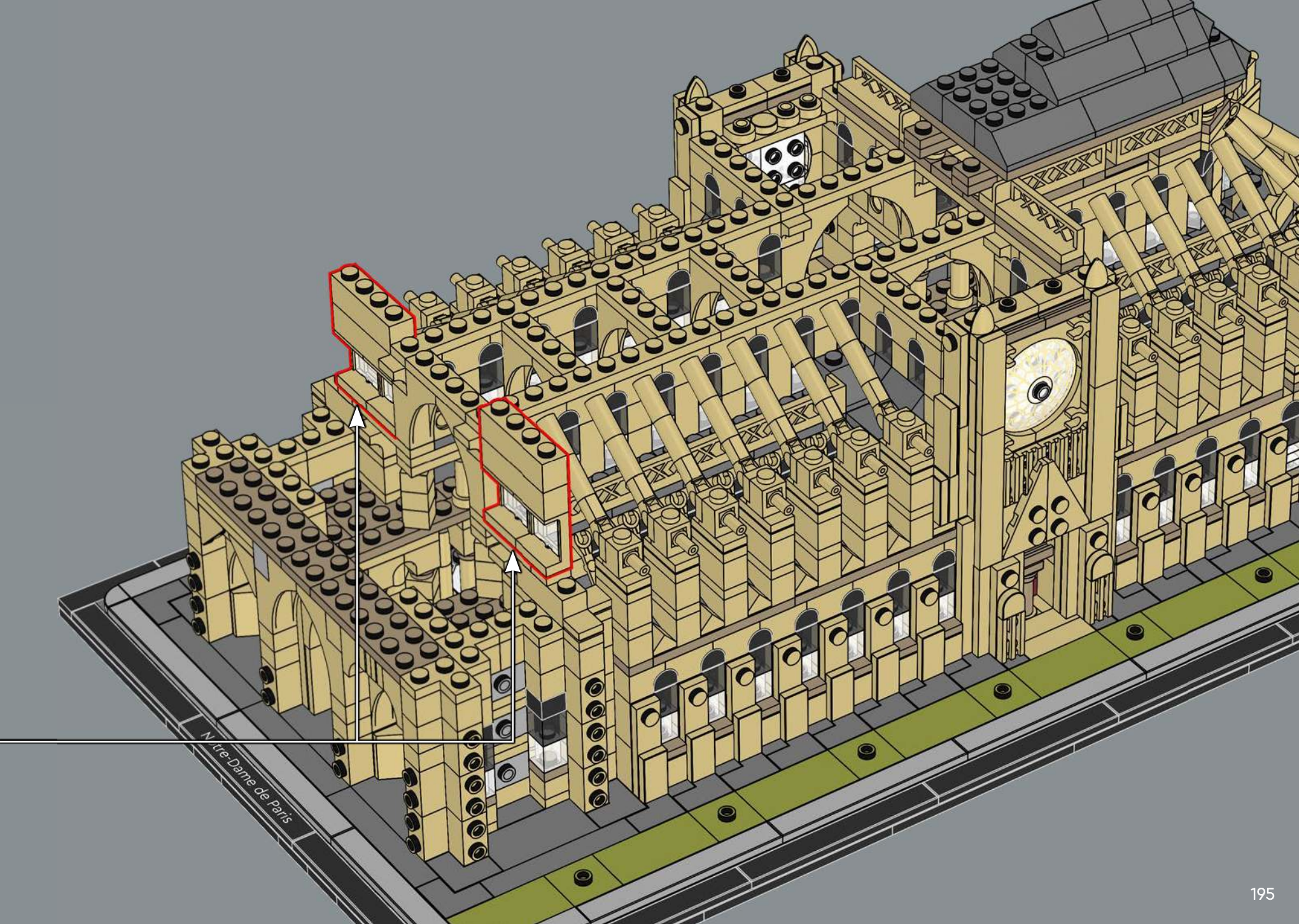
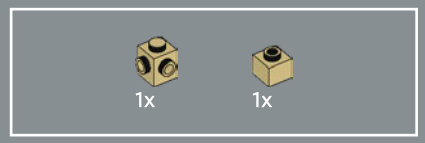

Notre-Dame de Paris



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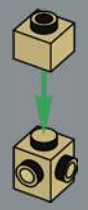

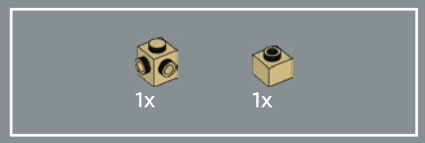

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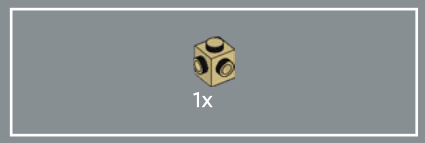

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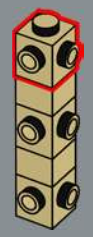

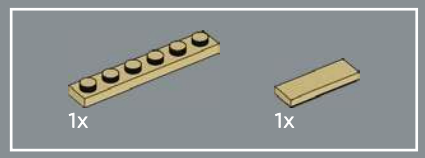

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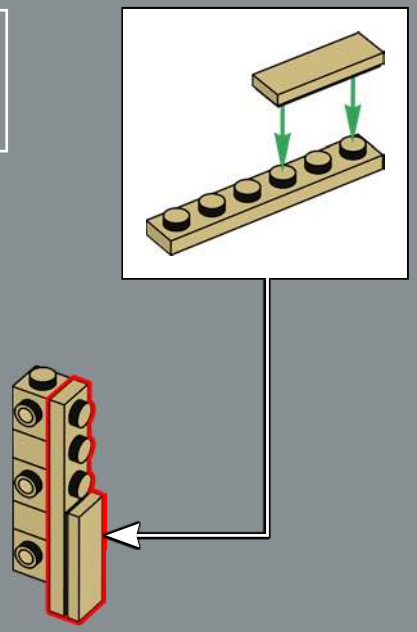

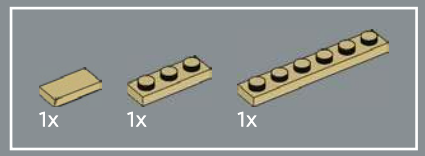

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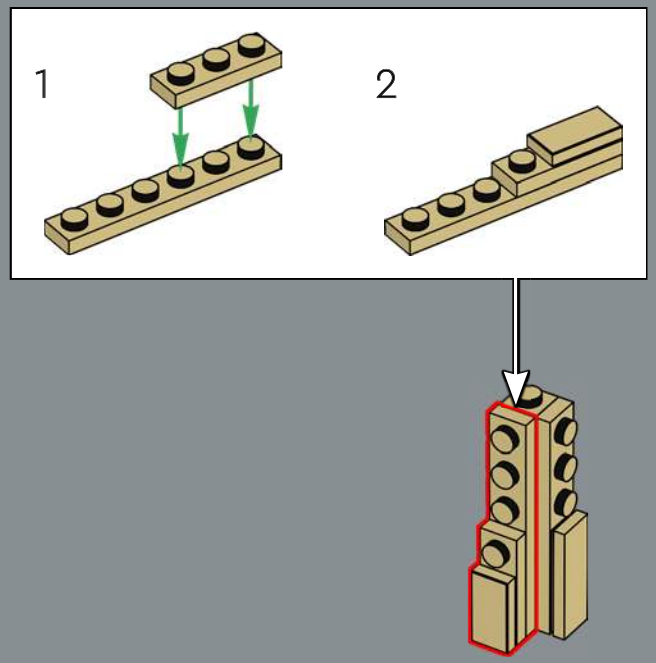

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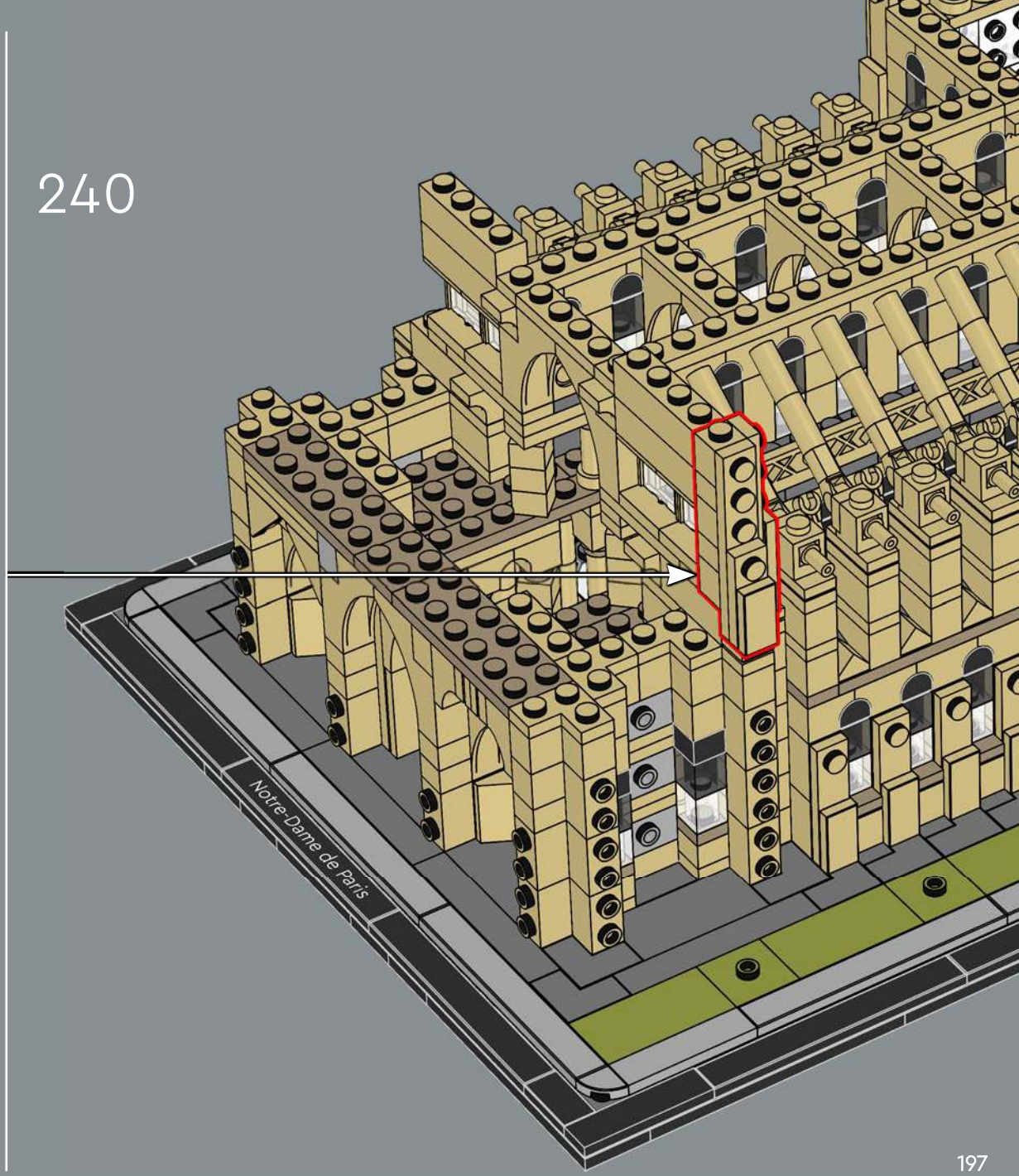

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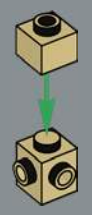

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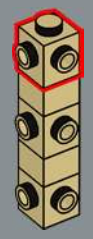

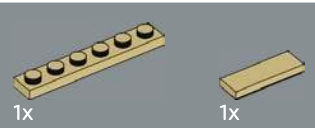

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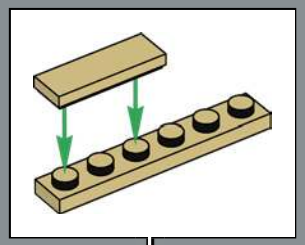

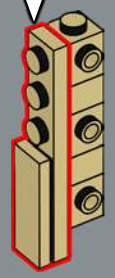

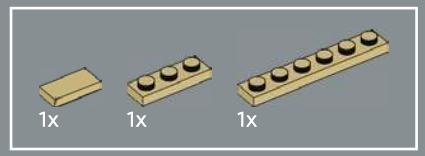

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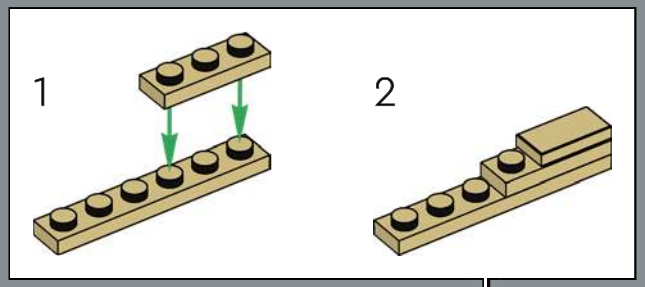

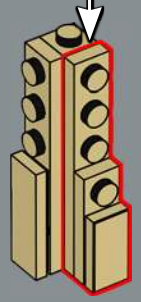

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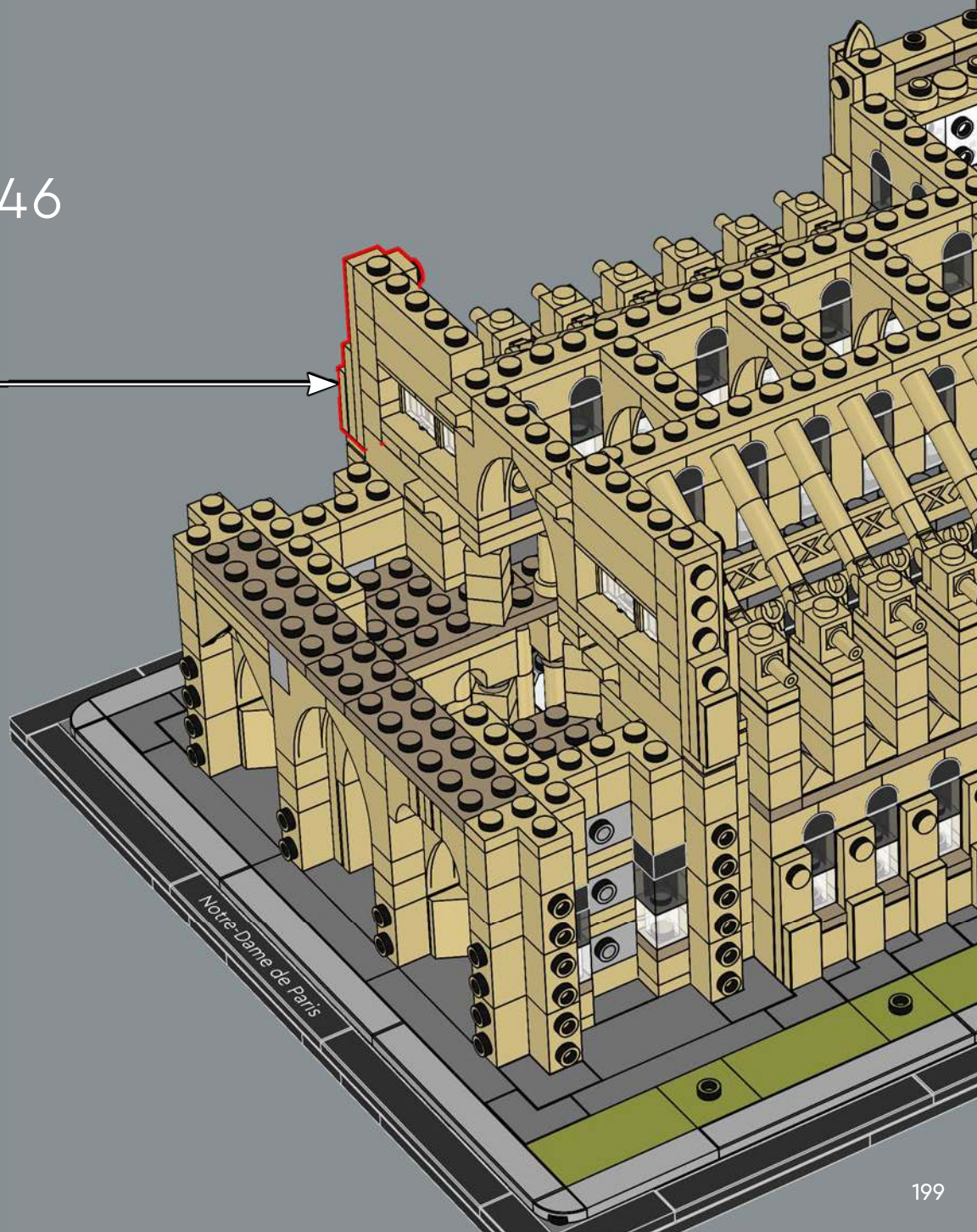

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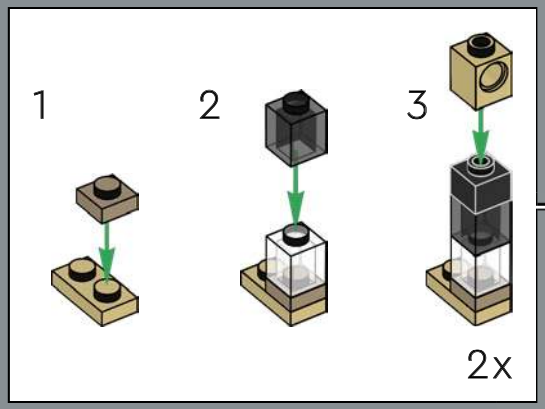

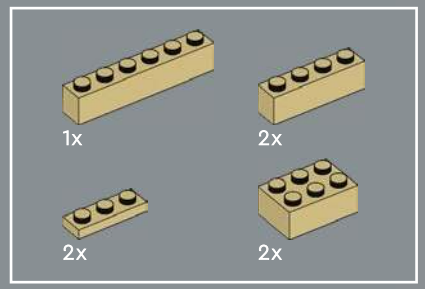

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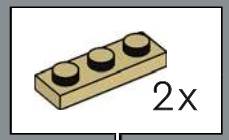

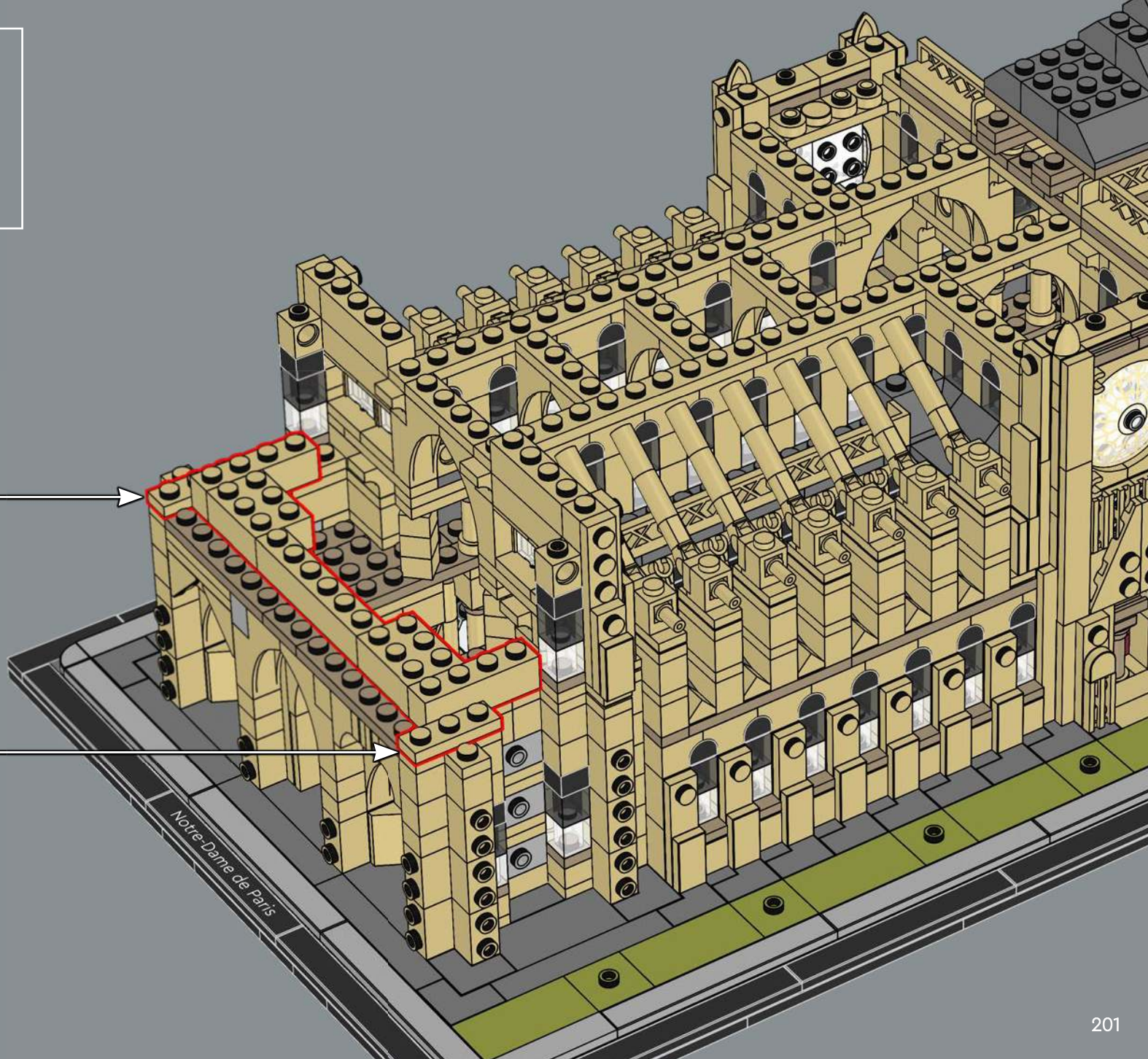

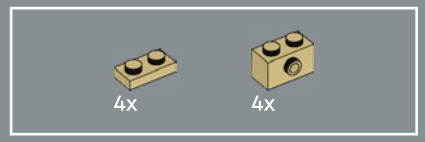

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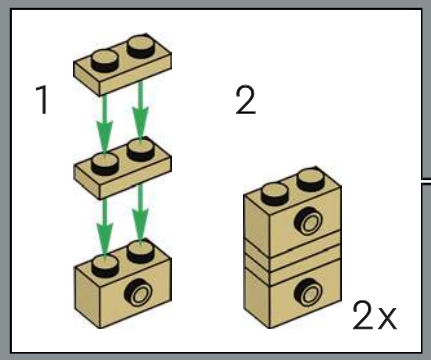

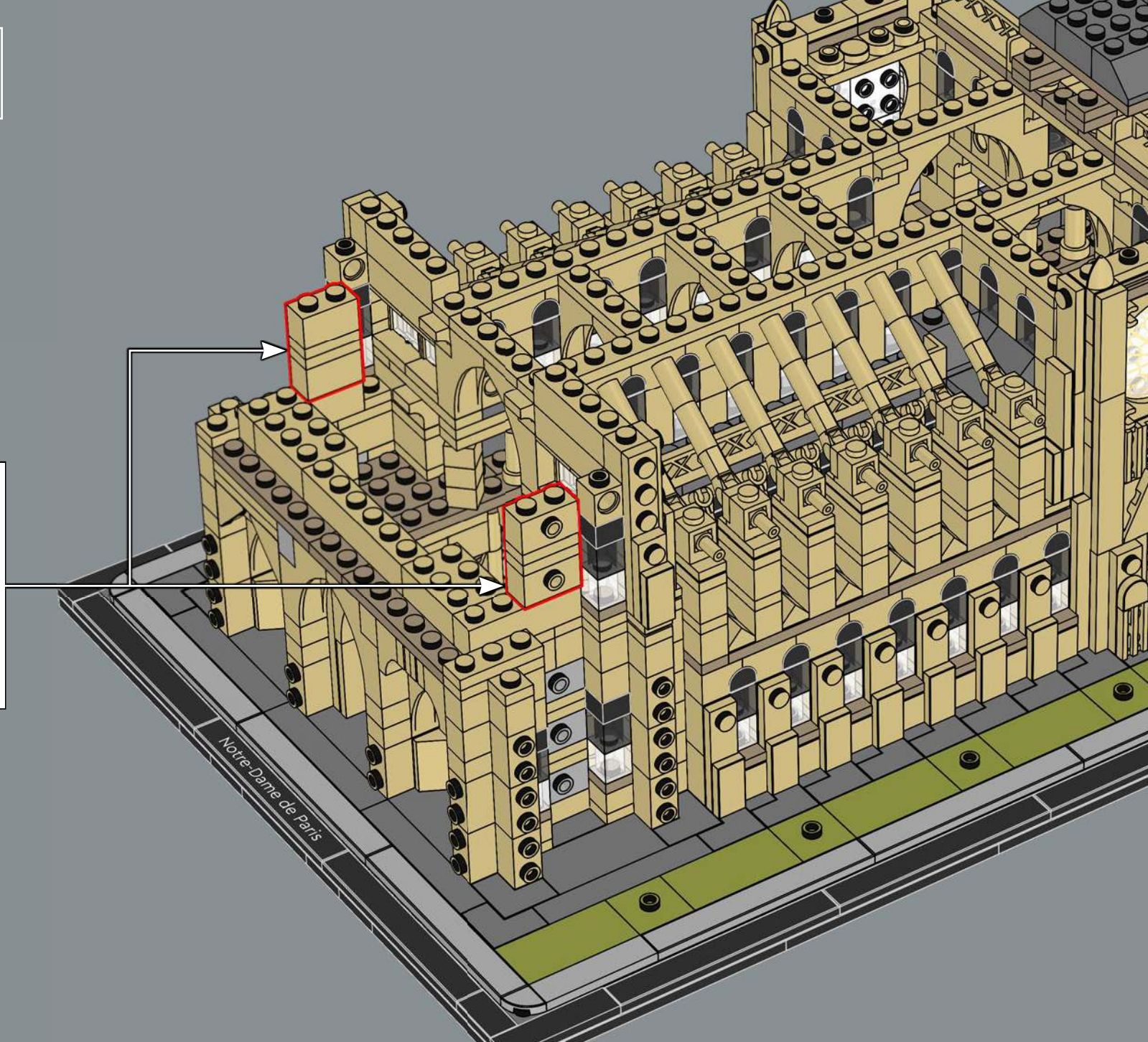

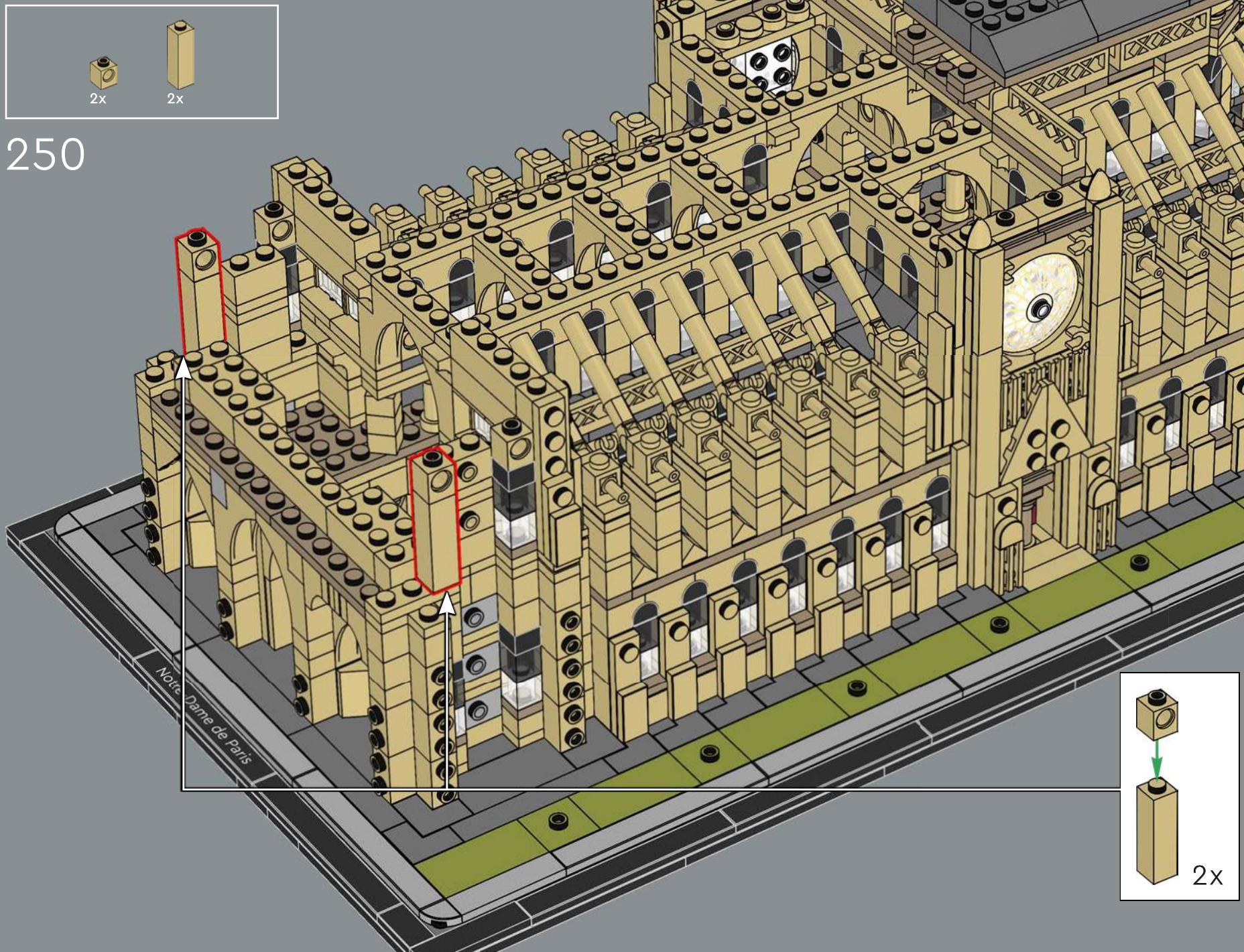
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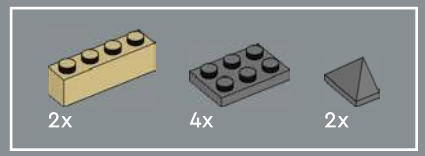
Notre Dame de Paris
2x



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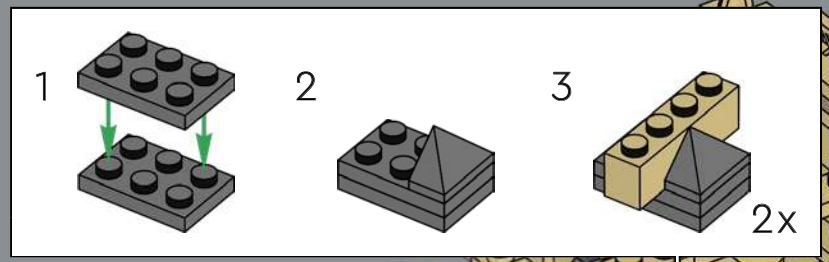

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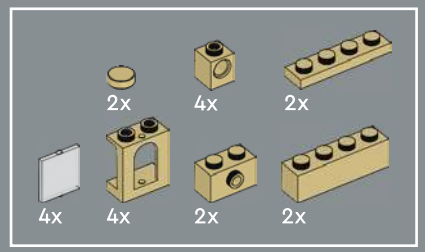

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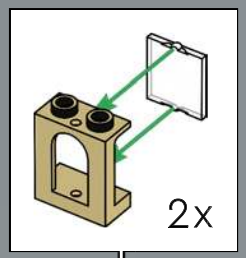

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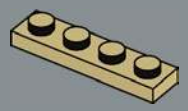

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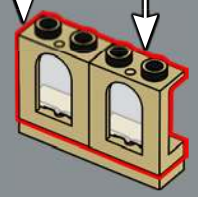

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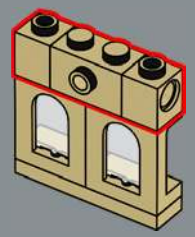

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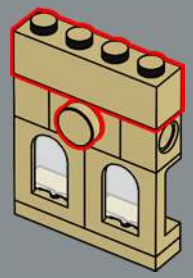

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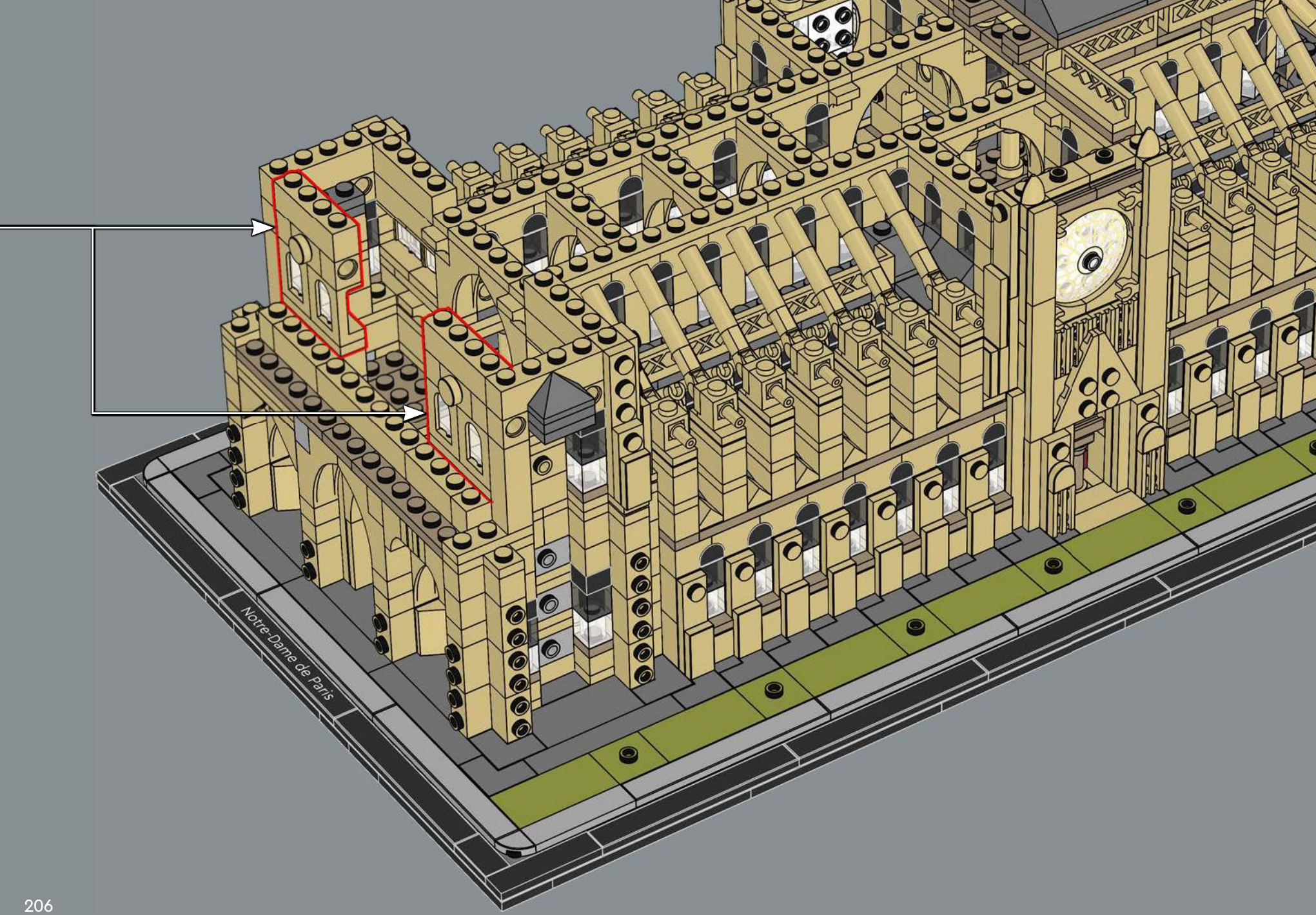
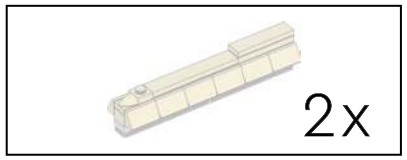
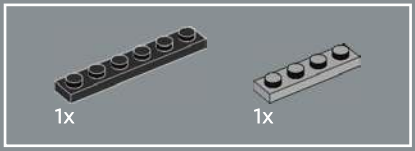

Notre-Dame de Paris





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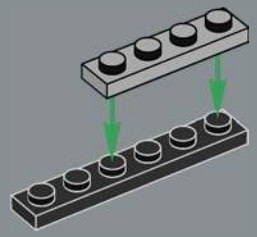

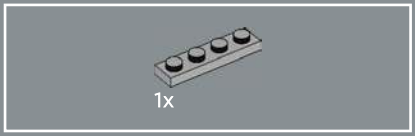

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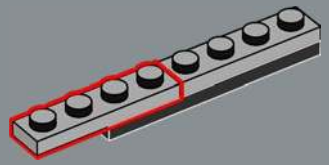

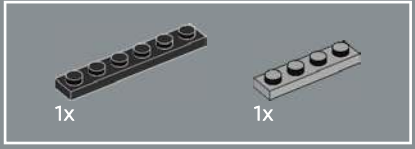

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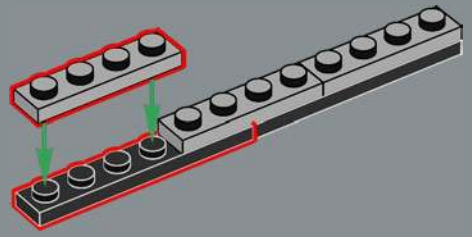

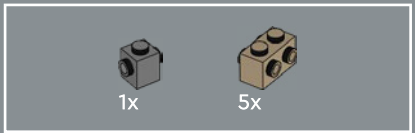

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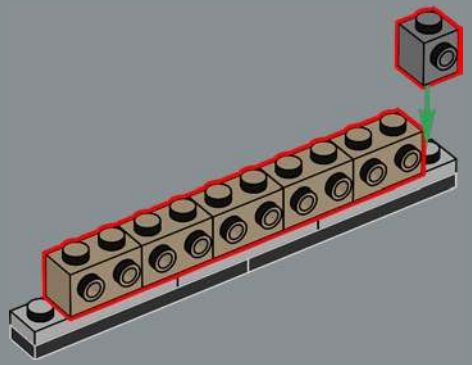

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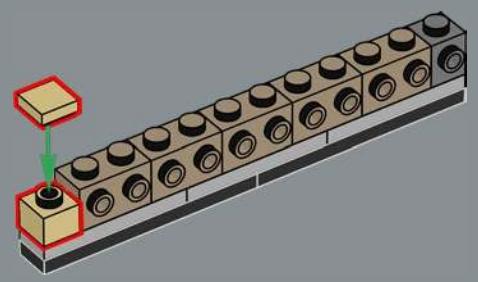

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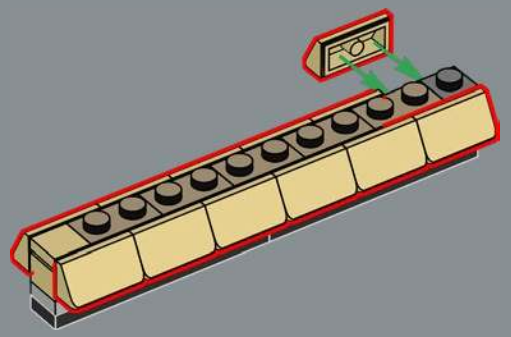

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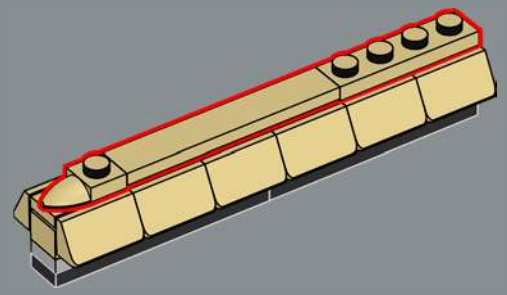

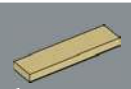

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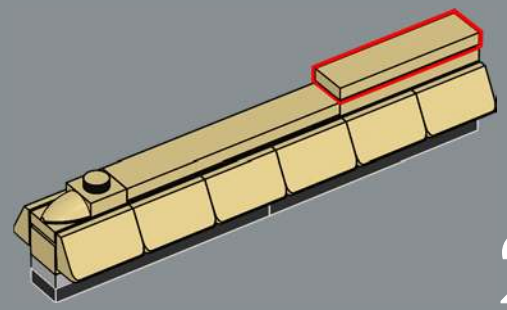

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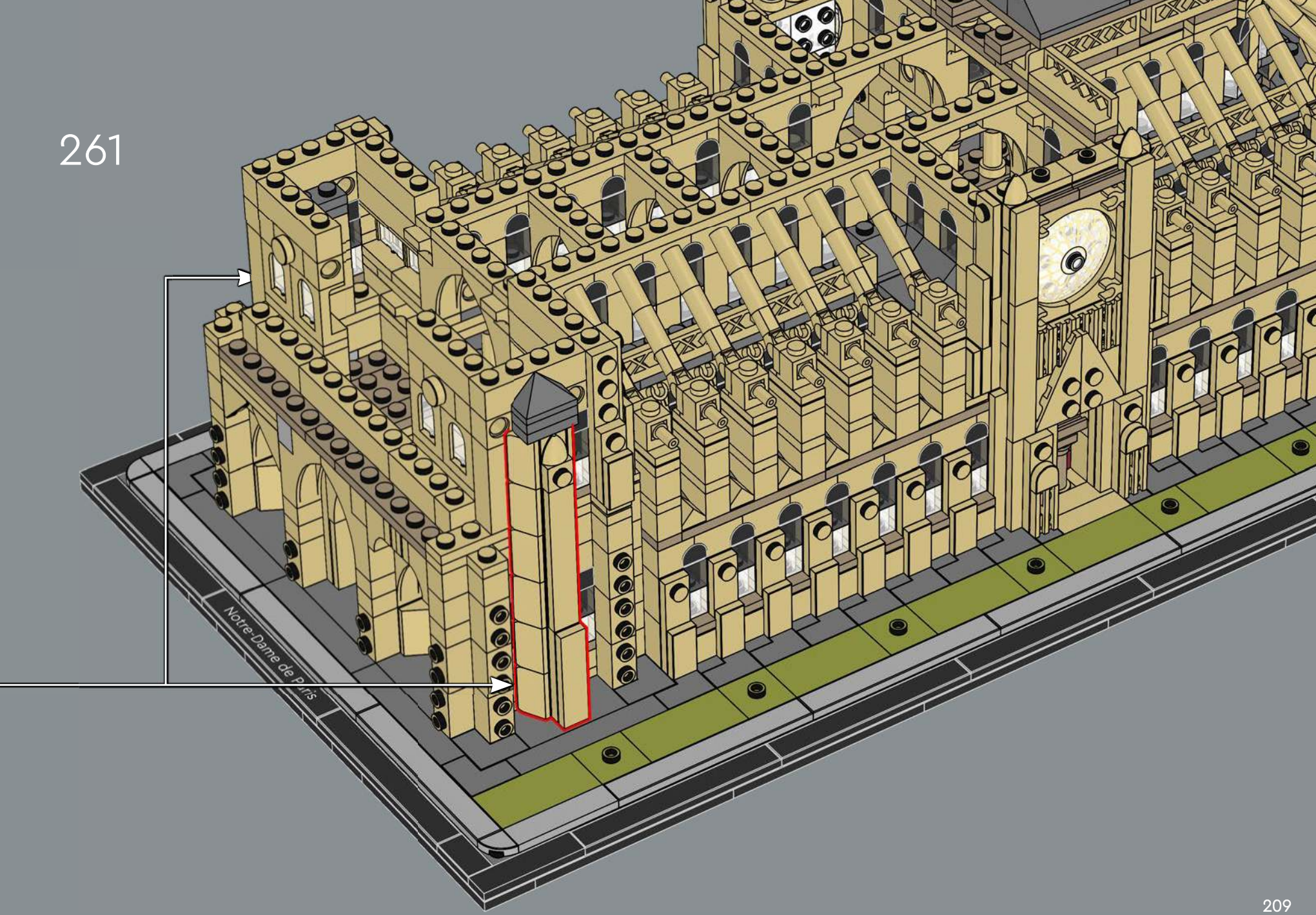

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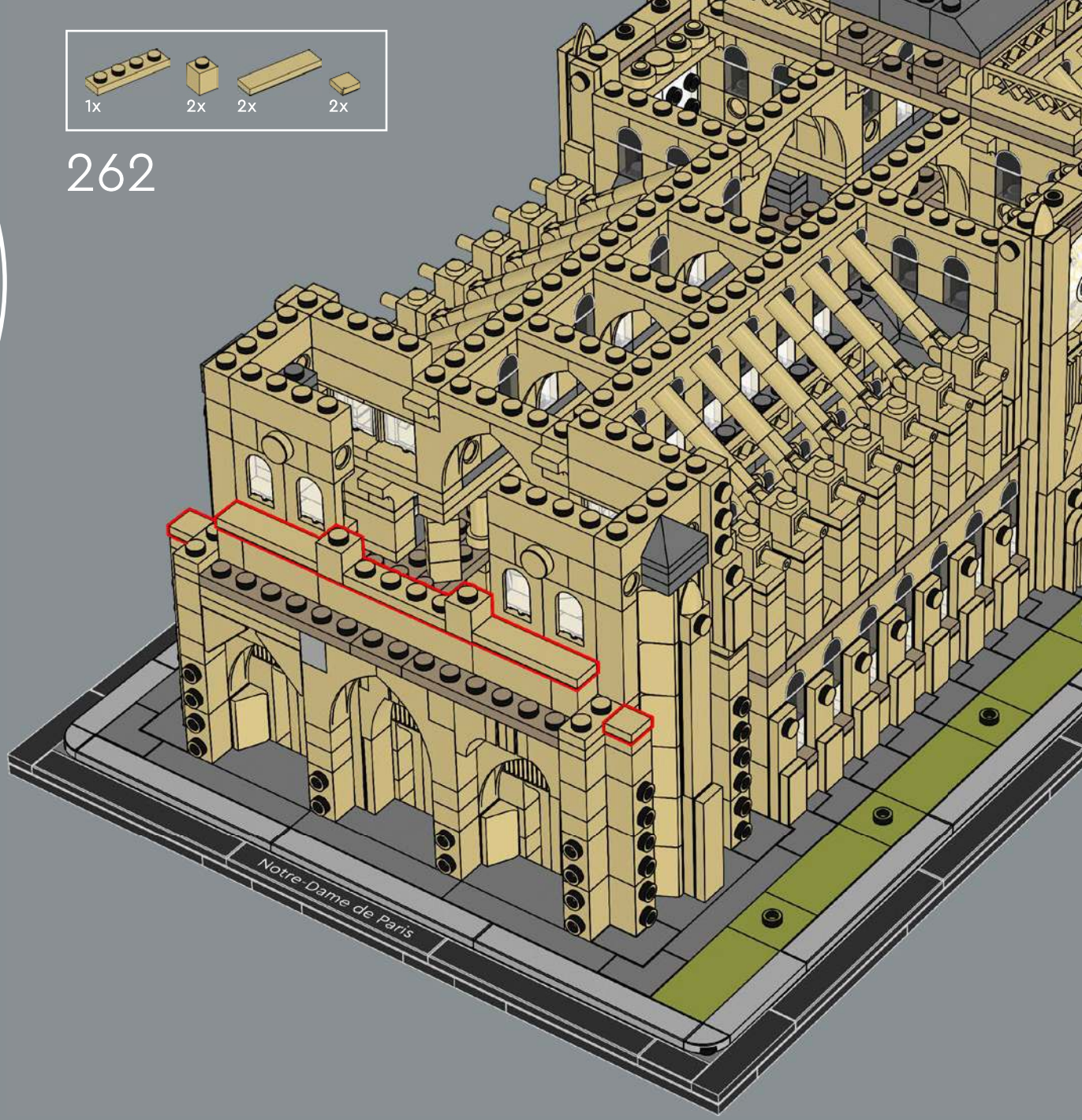

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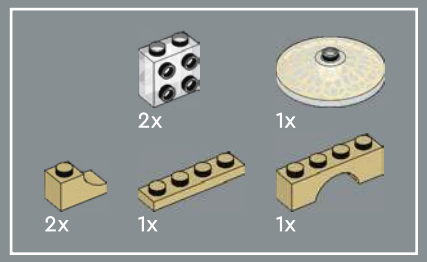

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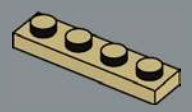

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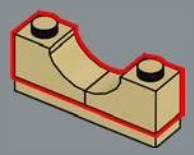

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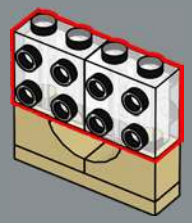

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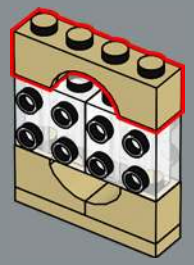

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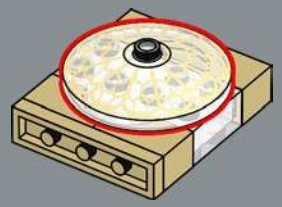
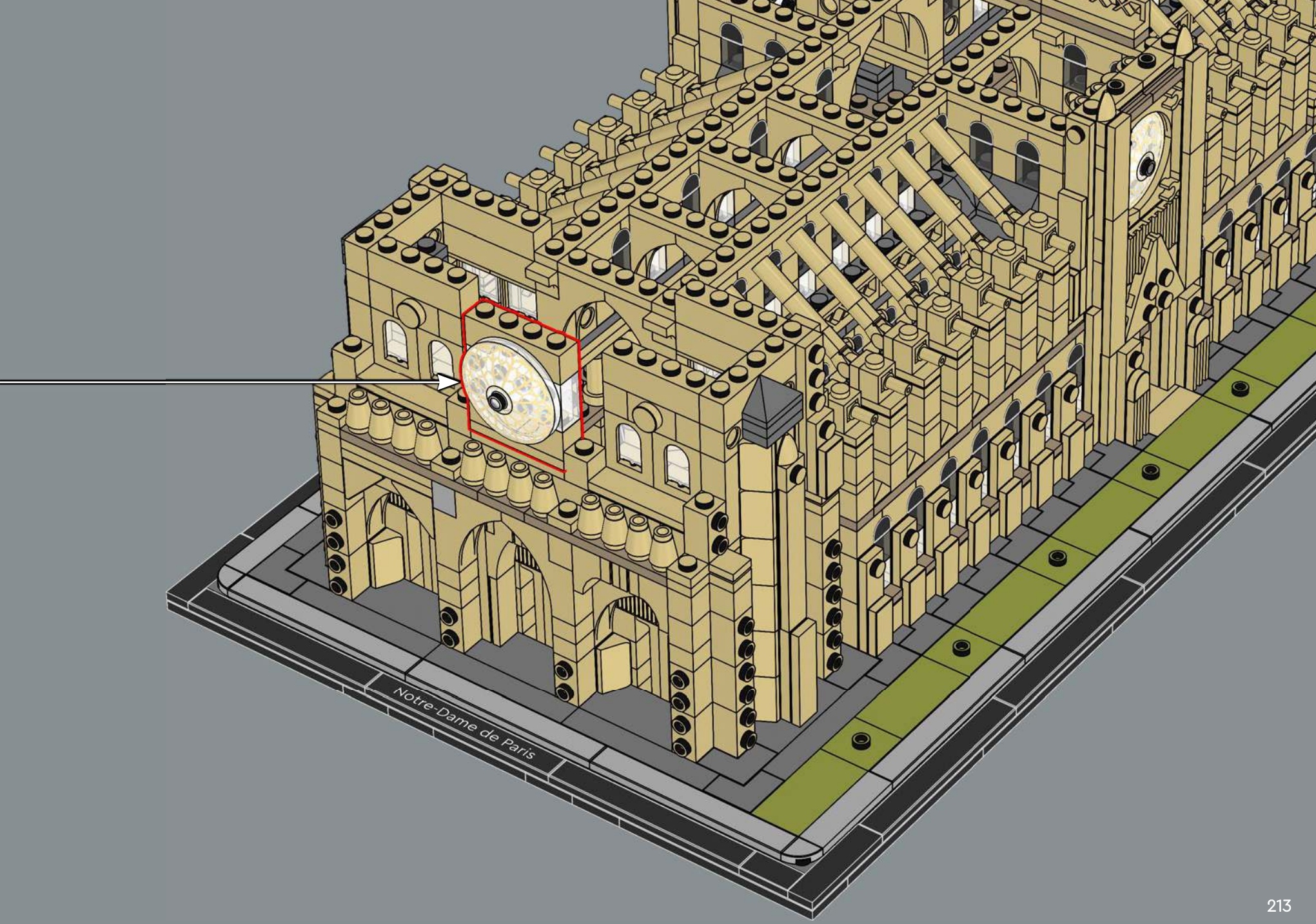
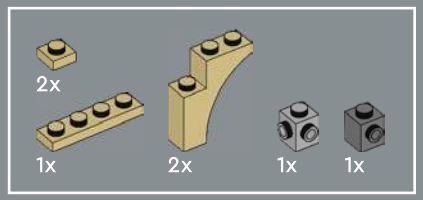



Notre-Dame de Paris



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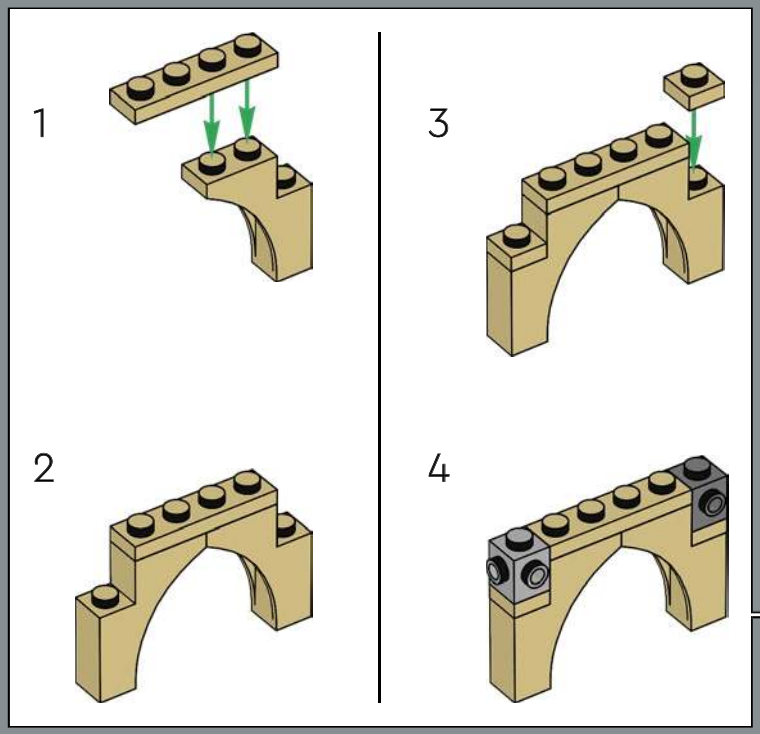

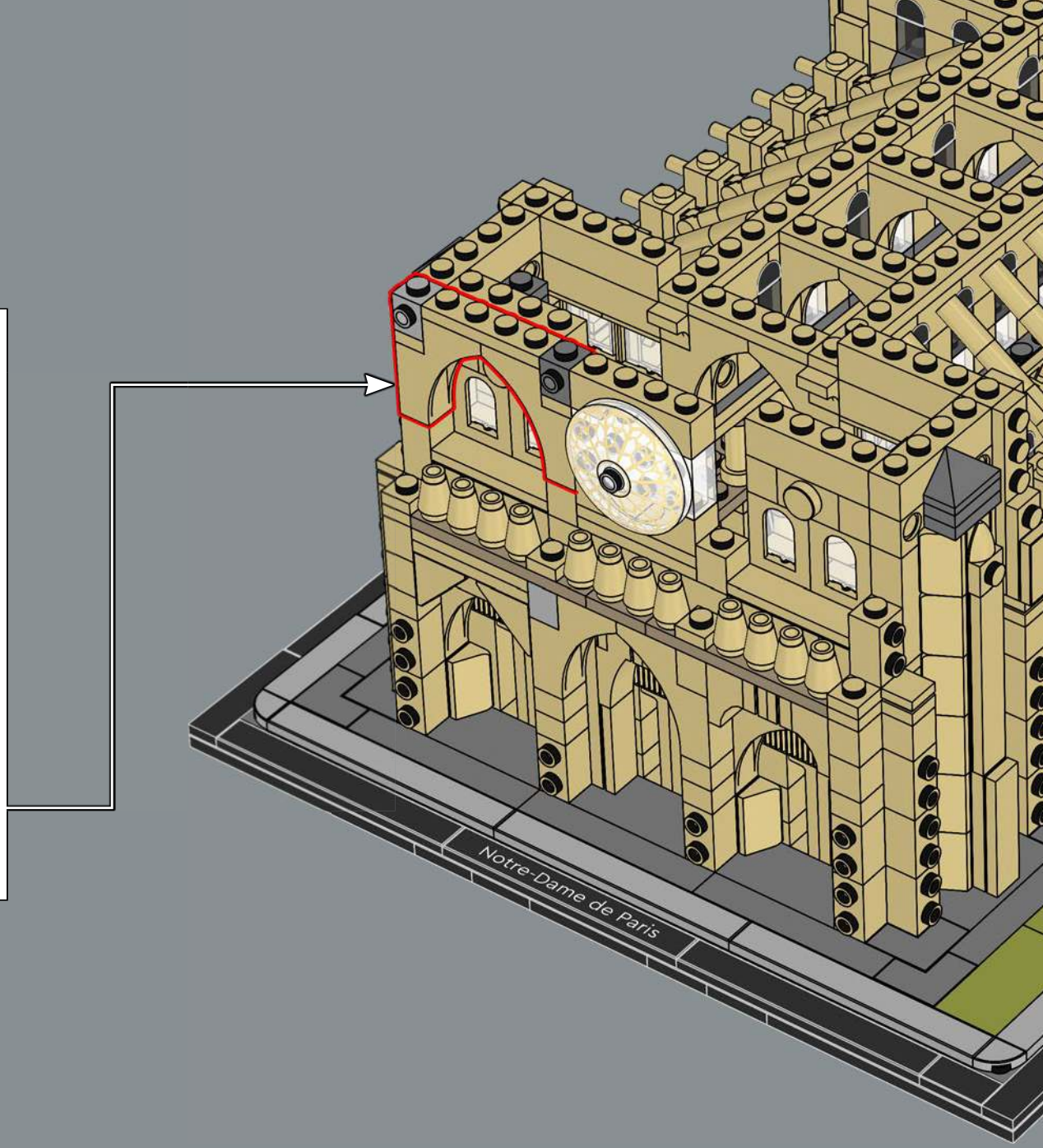

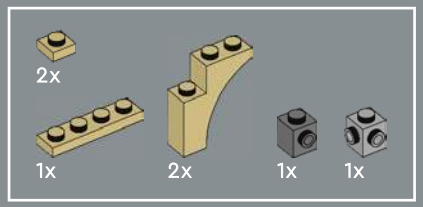

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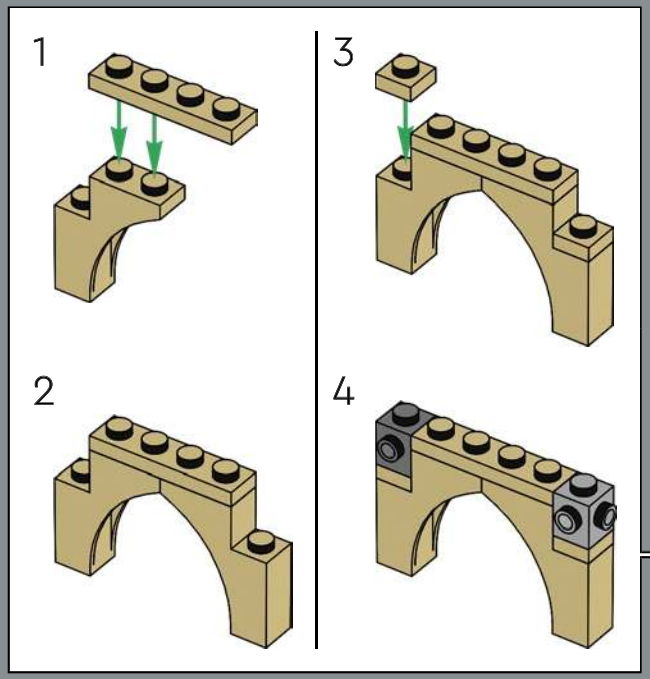

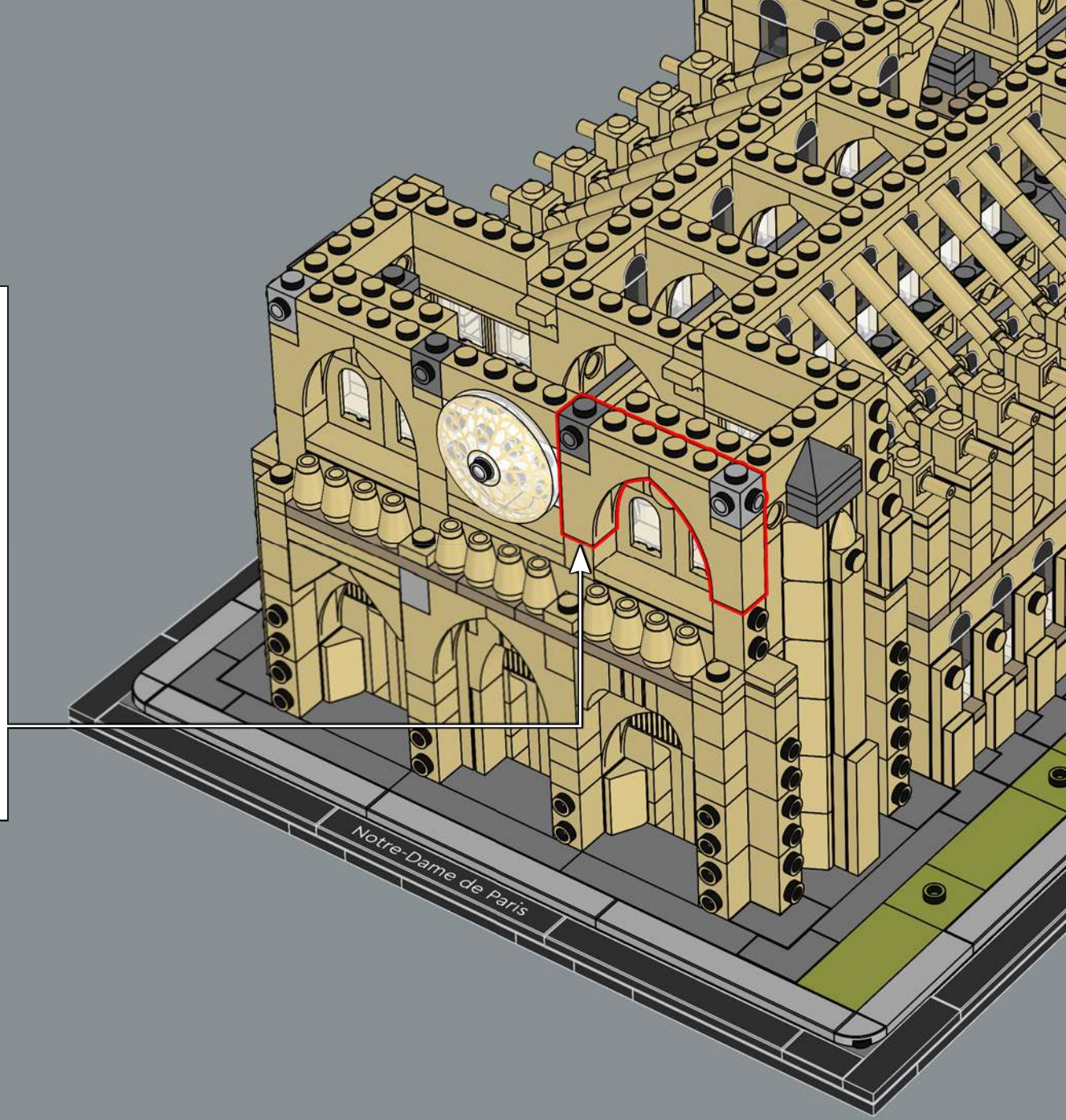

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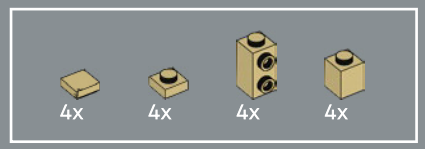

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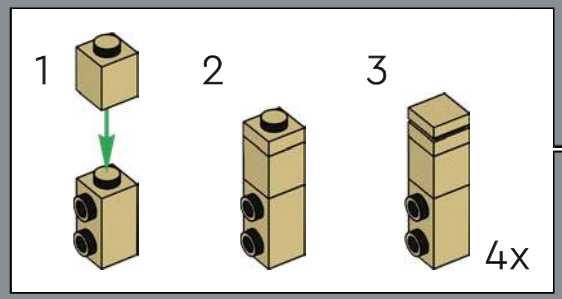

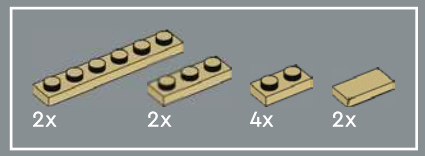

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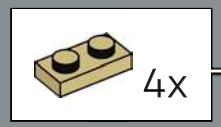

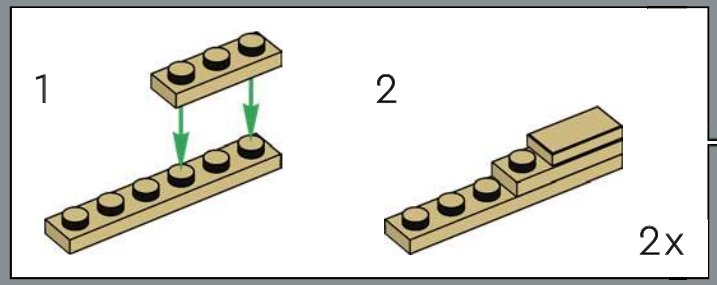

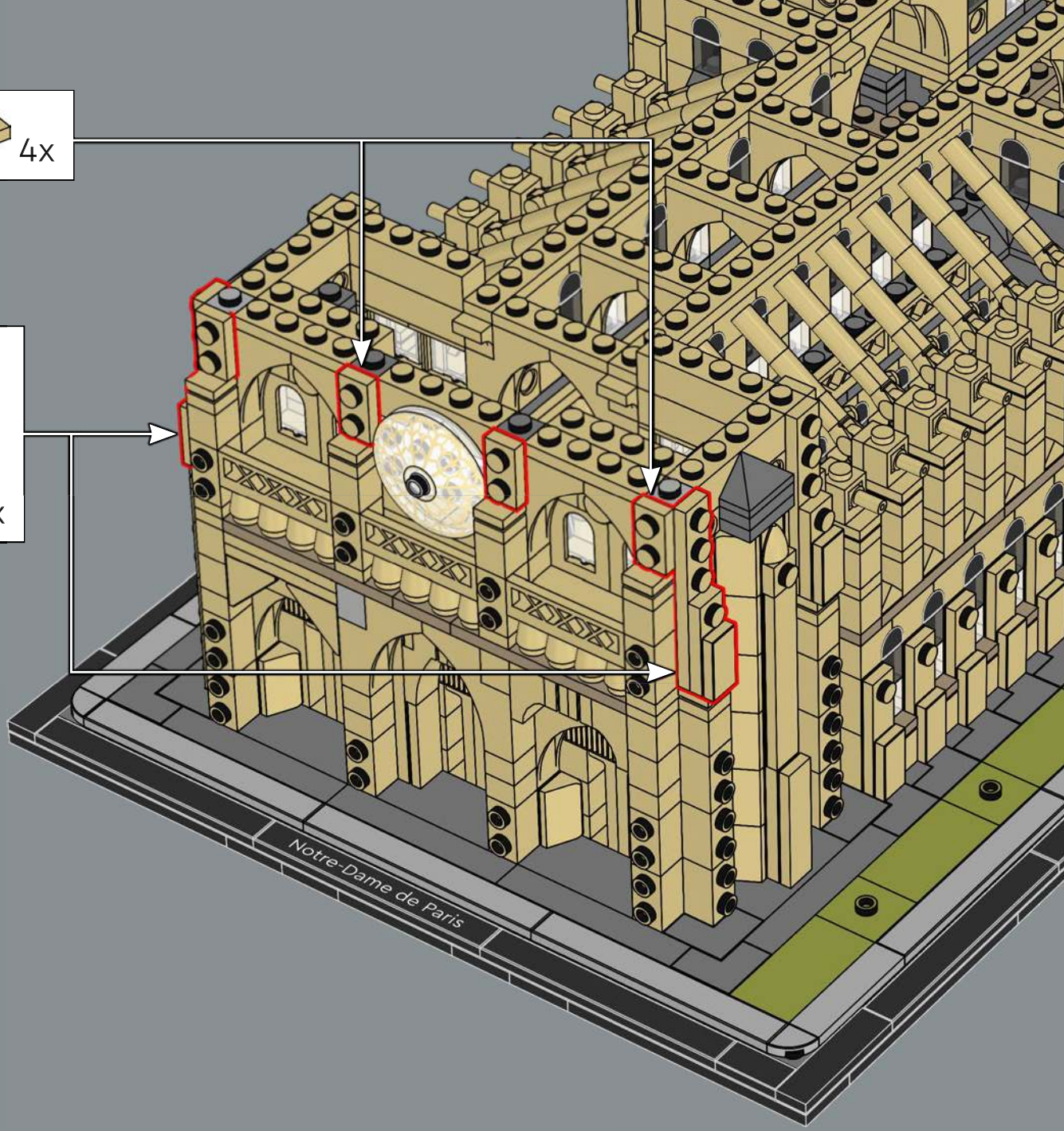

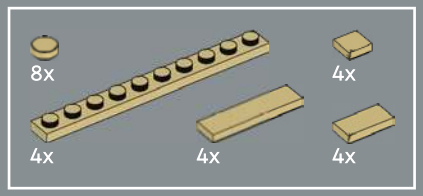

1220 – Three portals, overseen by the Gallery of Kings, welcome visitors through a majestic entrance to the cathedral. The 28 colossal statues are represented by 20 LEGO® cones and round elements.

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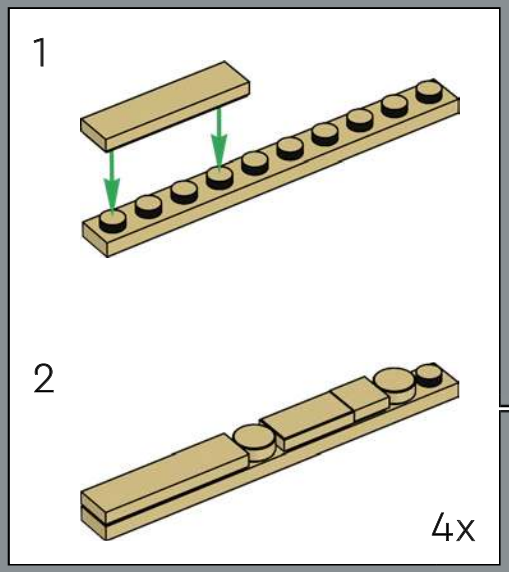

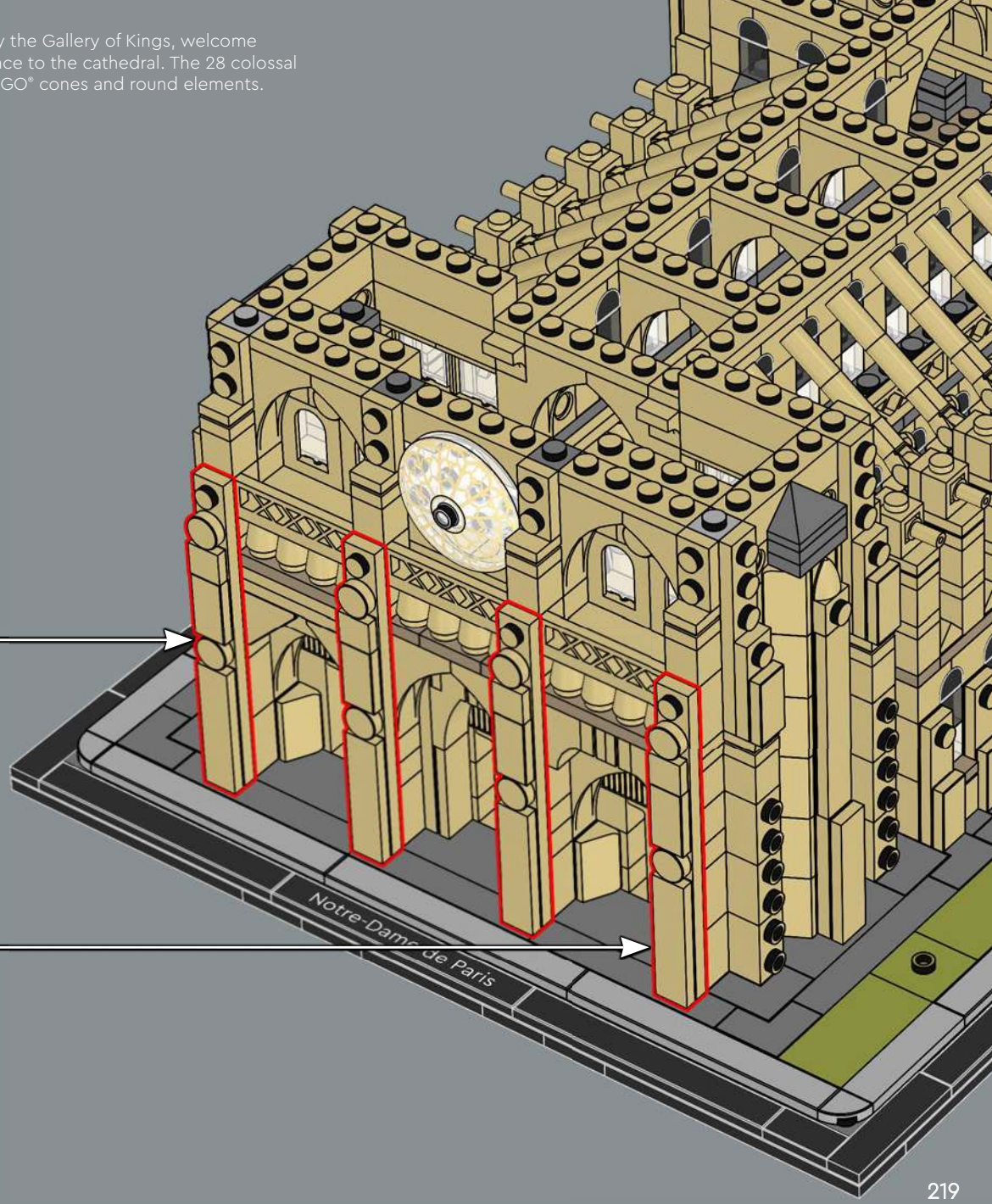

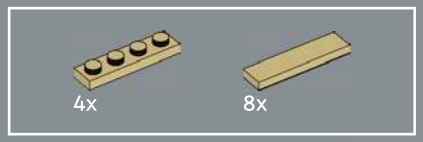

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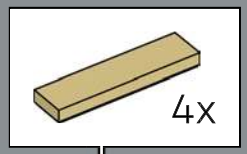

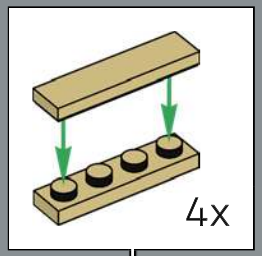

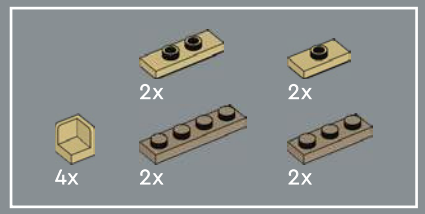

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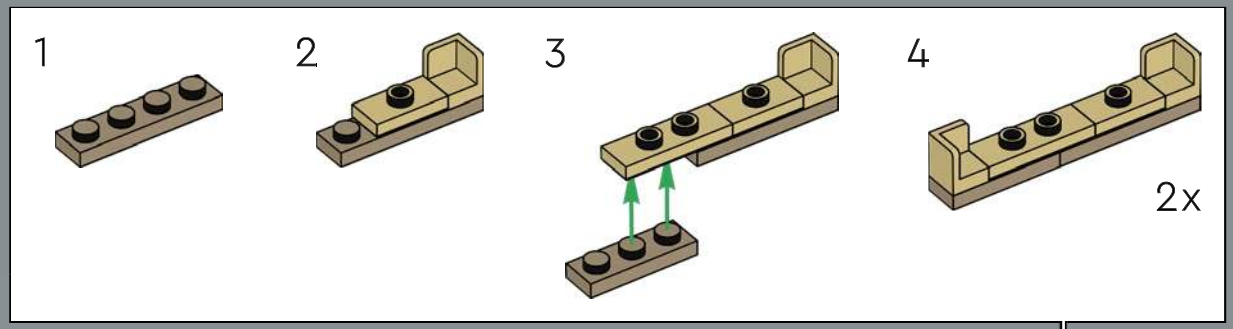

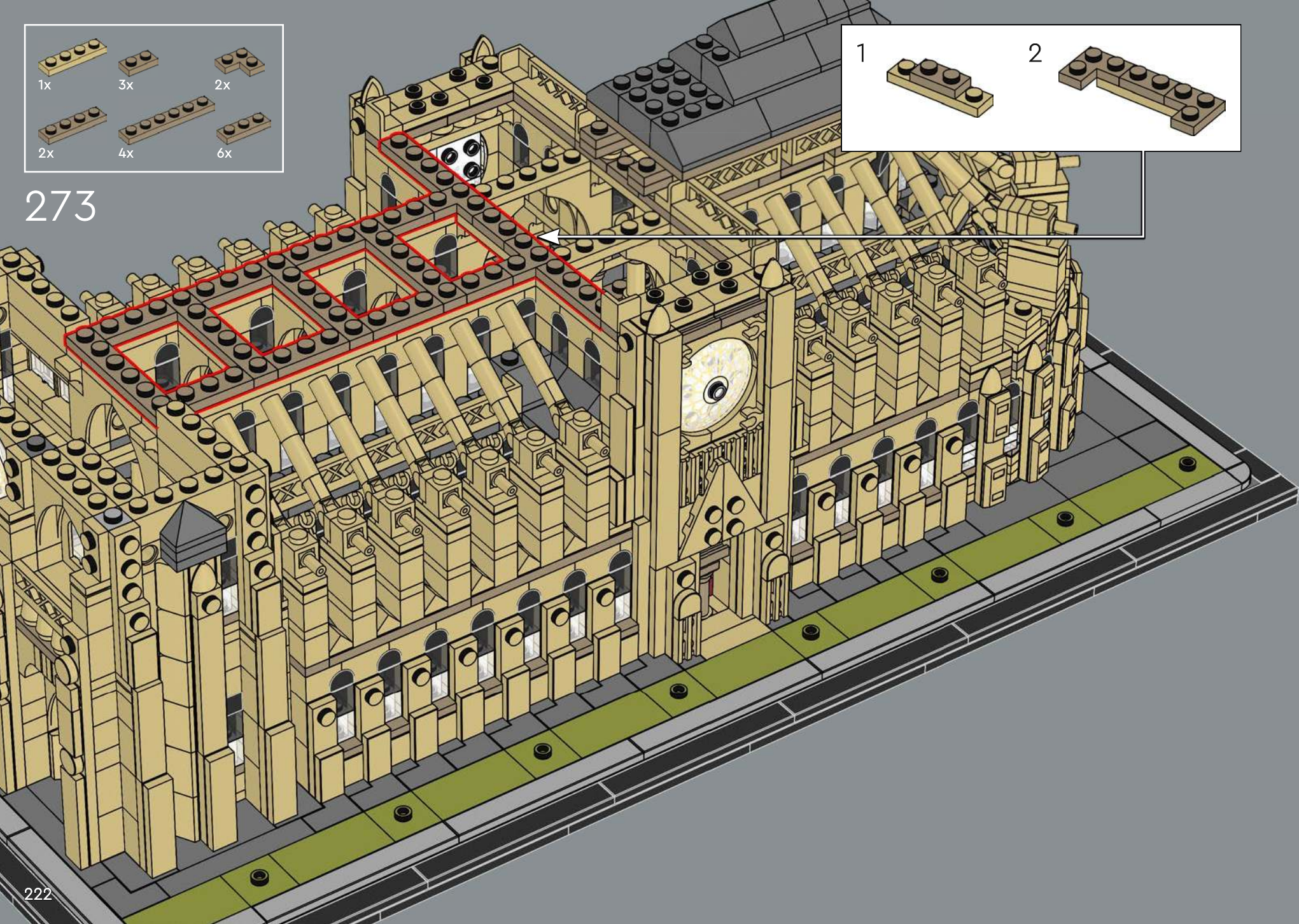
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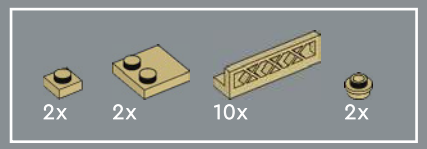

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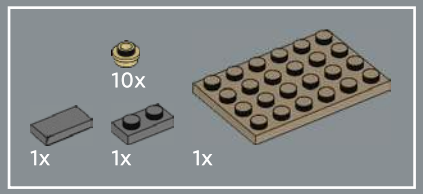
Notre-Dame de Paris

THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

In 1245, all towers were complete. As you build the towers, you can experience some of the inner workings of the cathedral's belfry and the superstructure that supports the legendary bells. Throughout the following five centuries, wear and tear set in. New generations of architects oversaw modifications, repairs and additions – like a lead-covered wooden spire constructed above the crossing. In 1300, the chapels were added to the perimeter of the choir.



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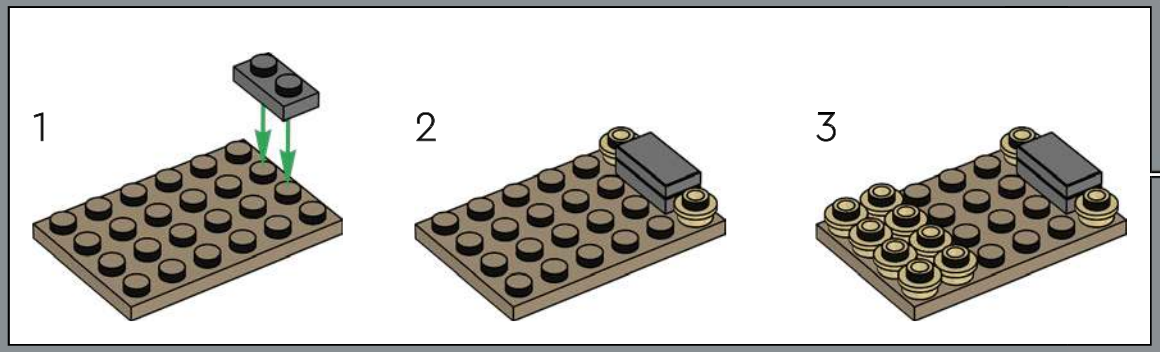

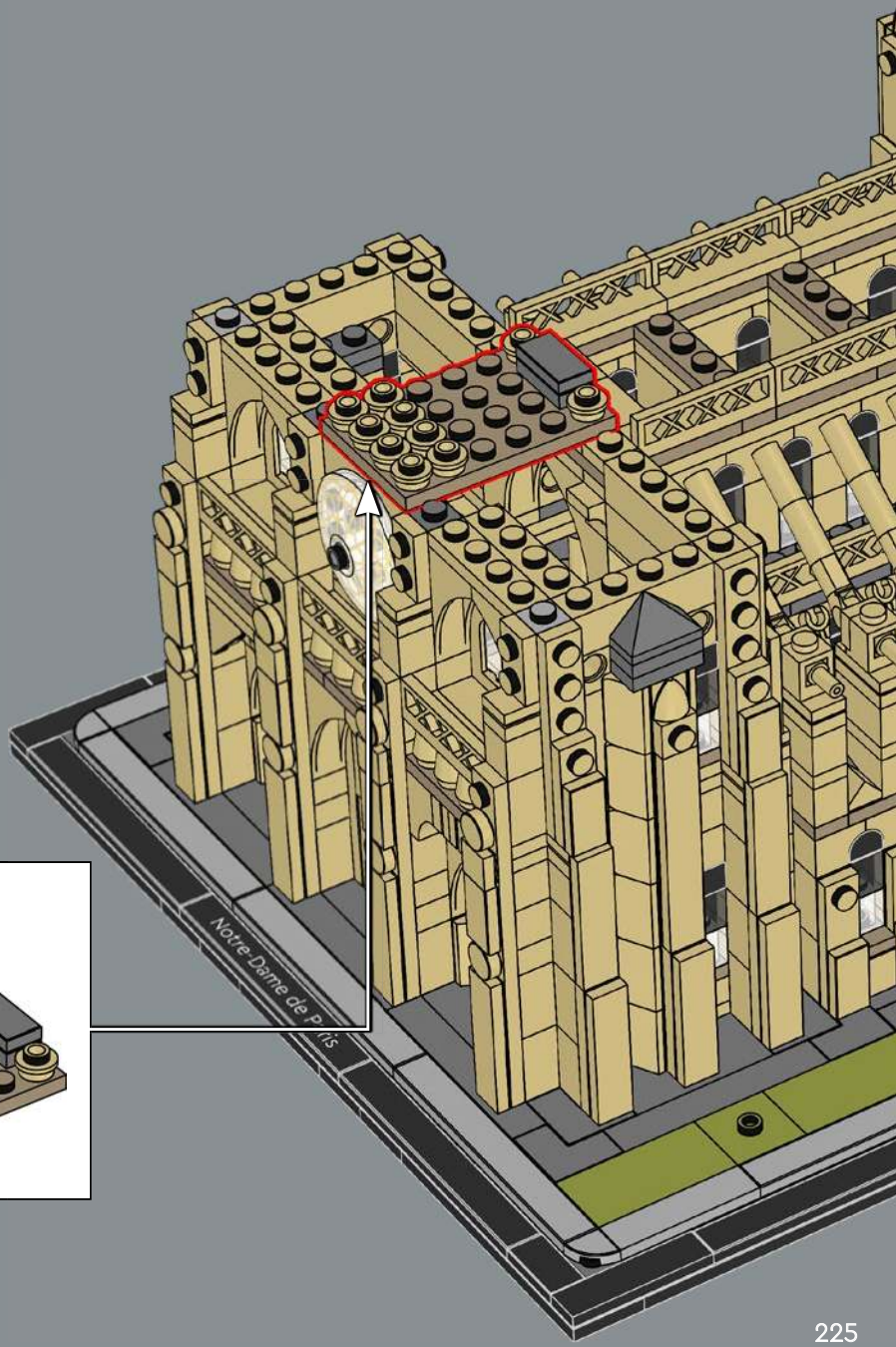

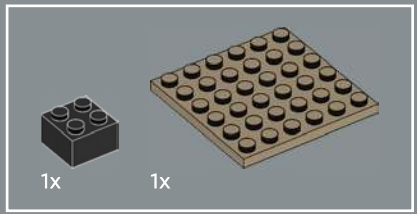

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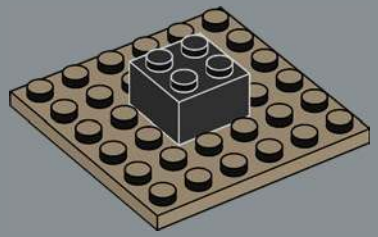

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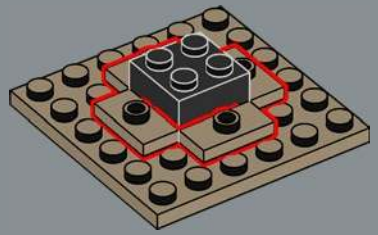

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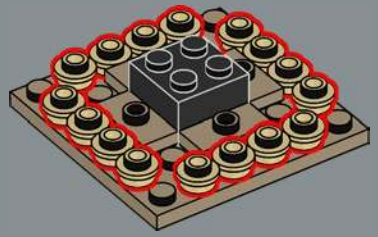

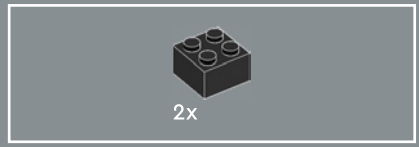

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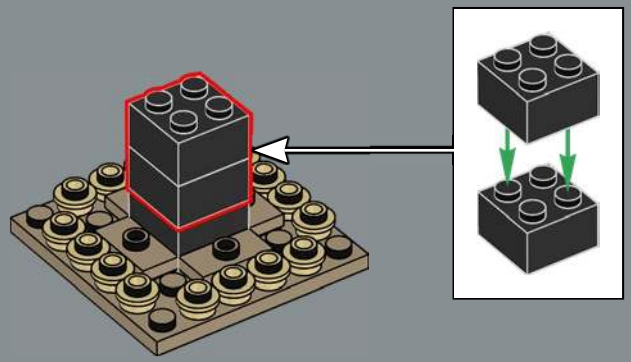

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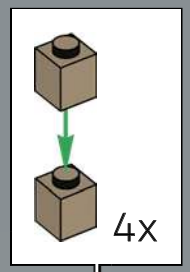

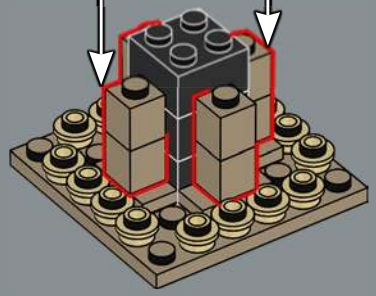

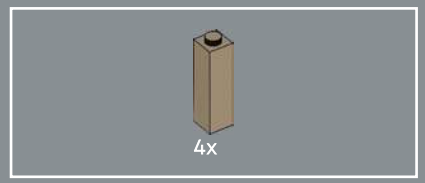

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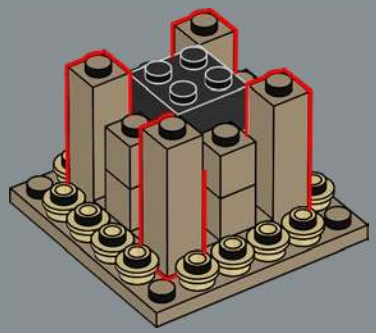

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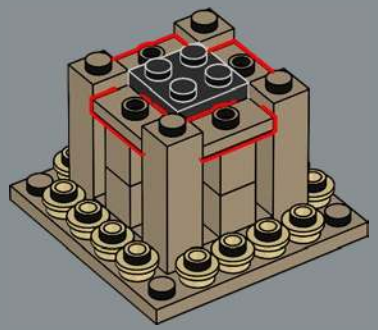

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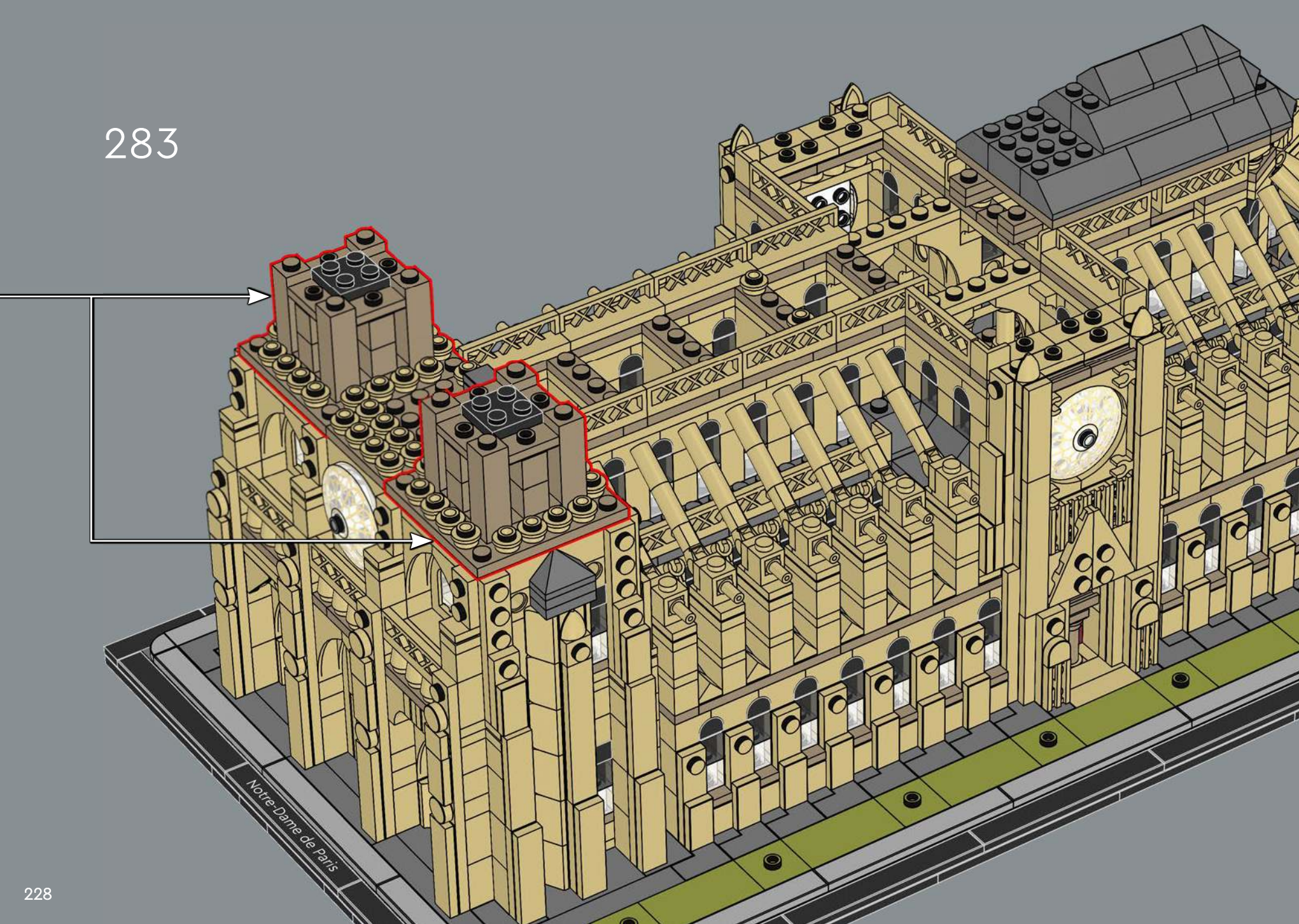

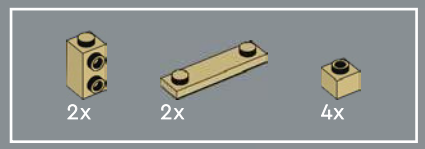

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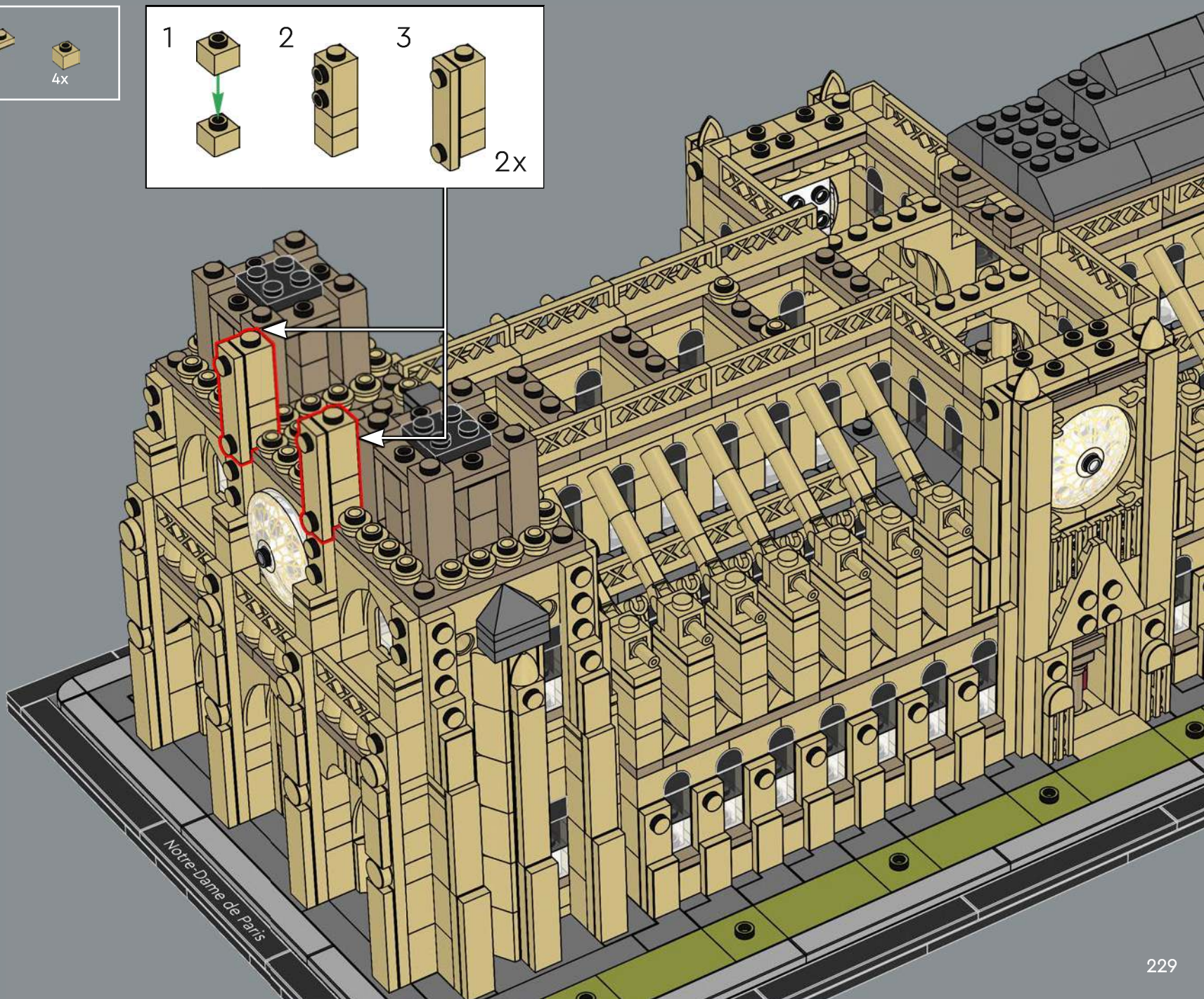

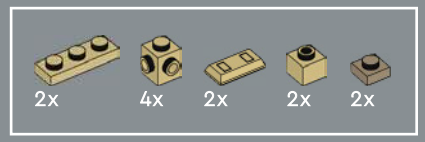

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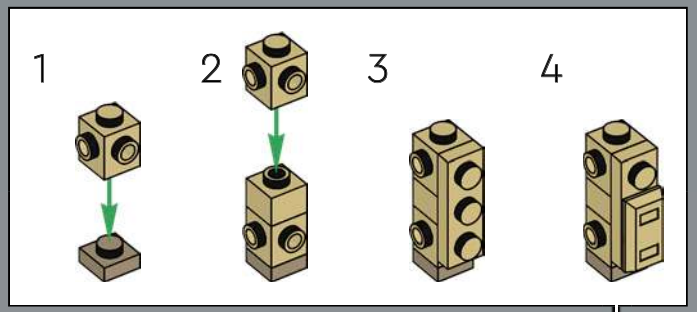

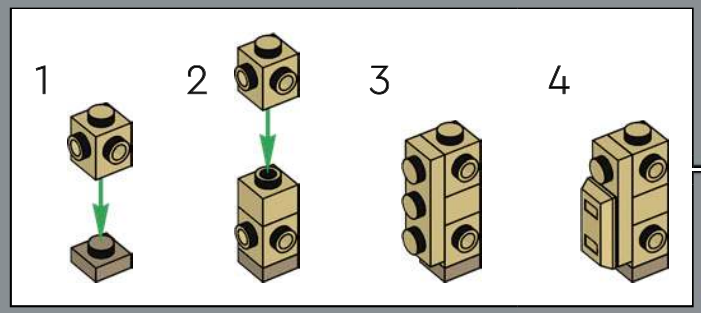

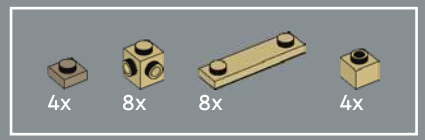

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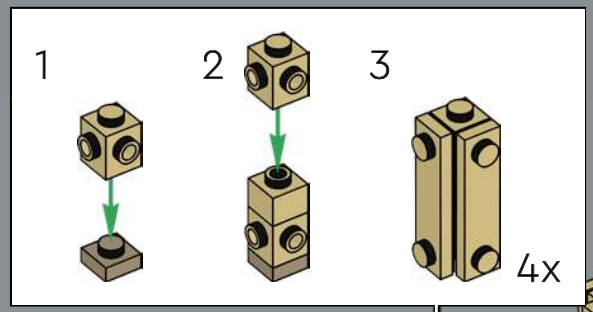

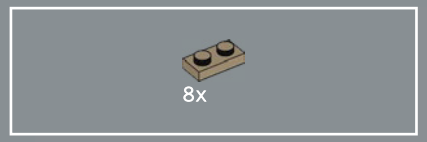

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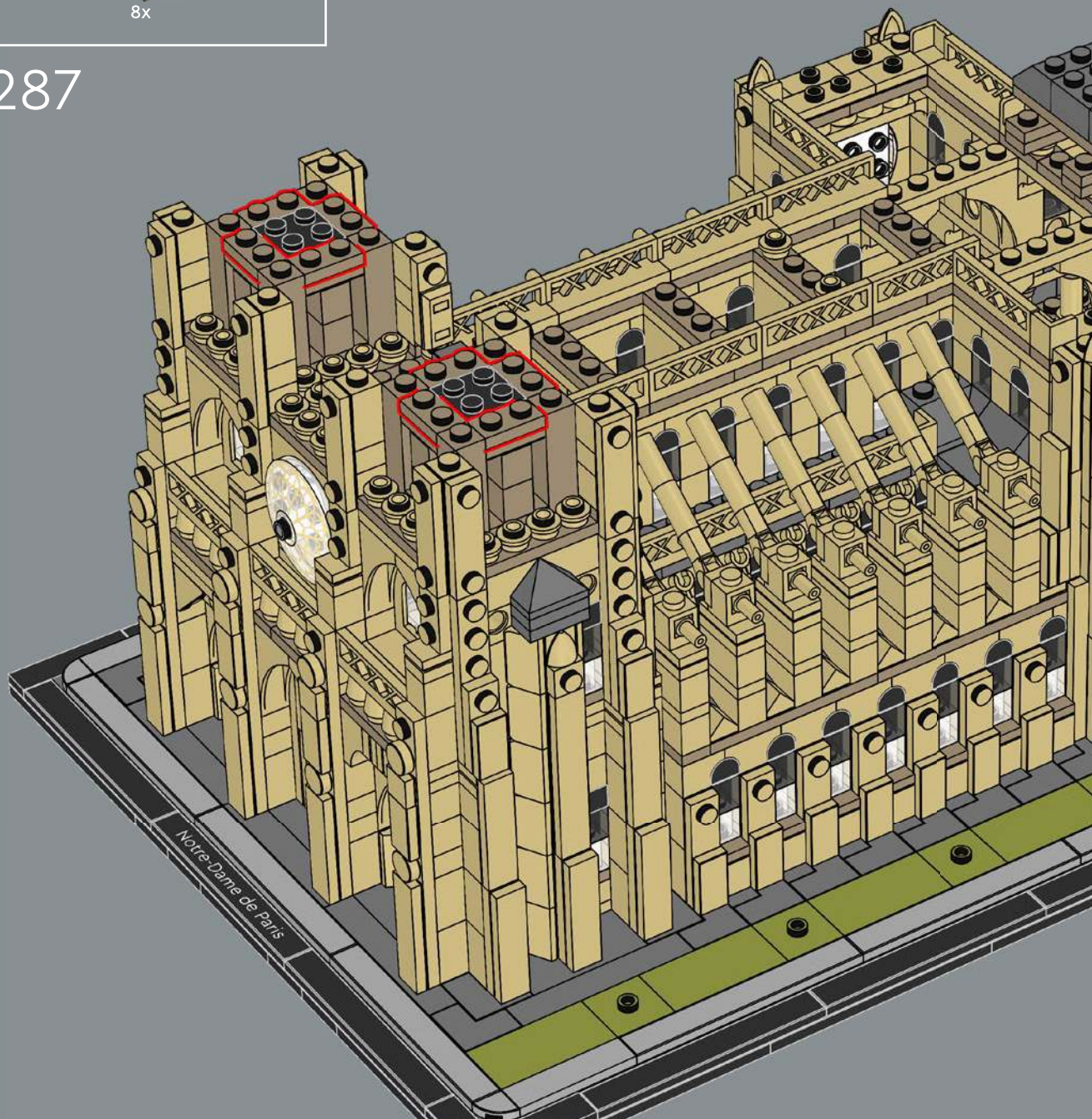

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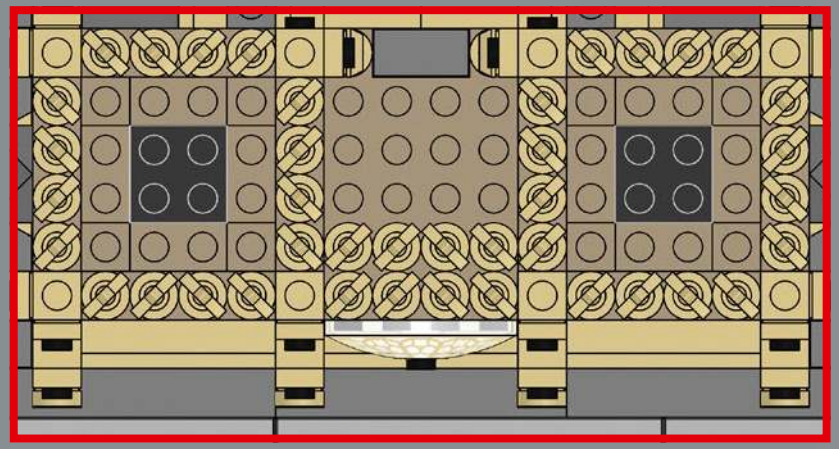

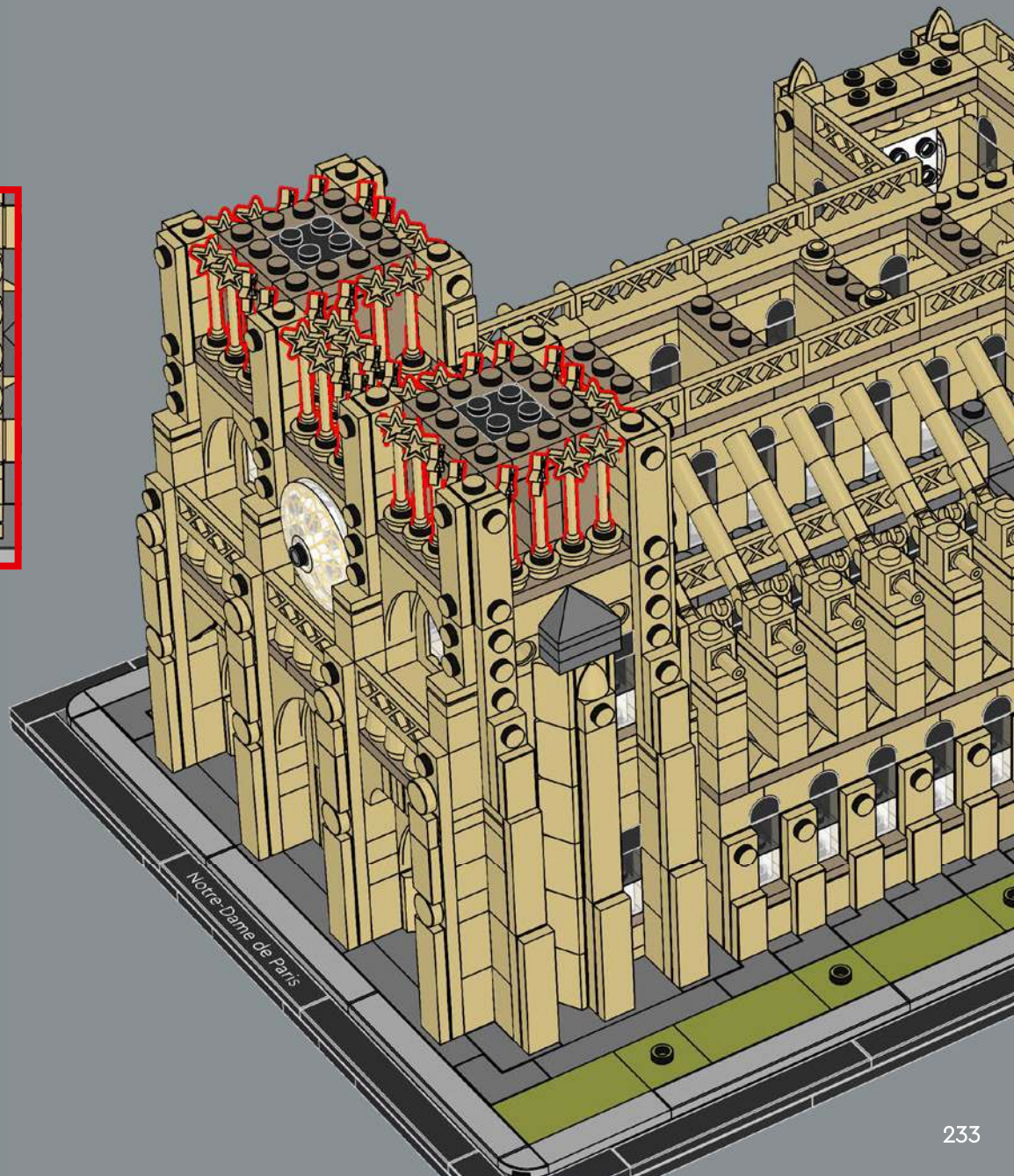

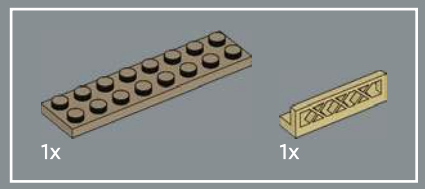

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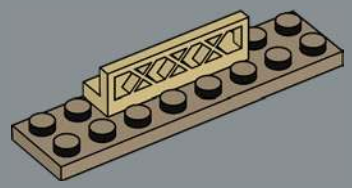

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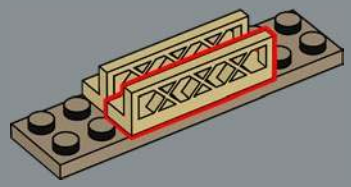

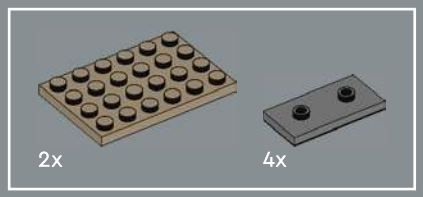

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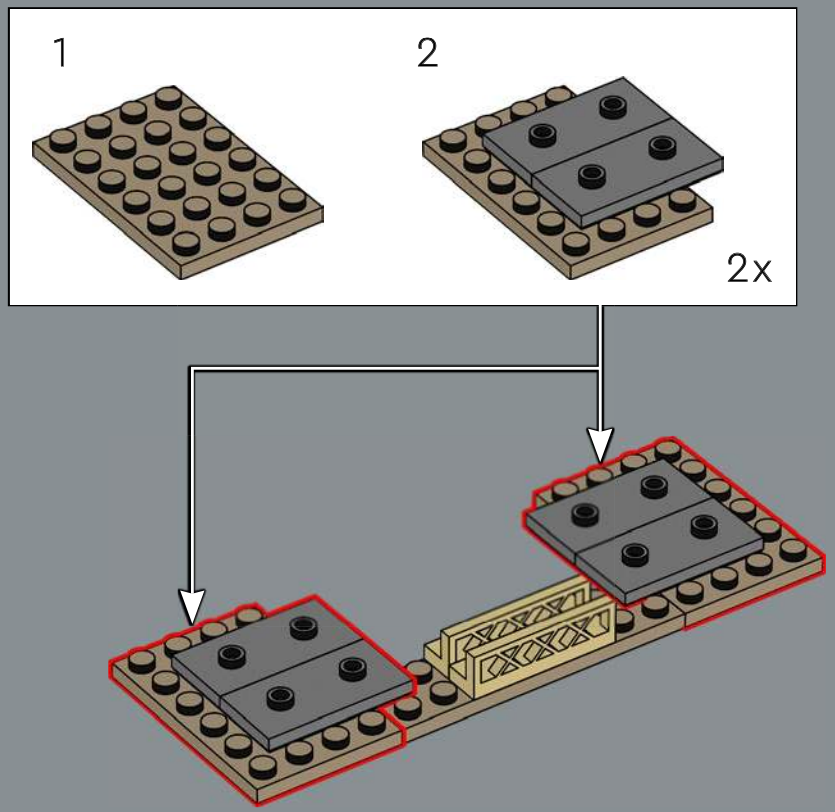

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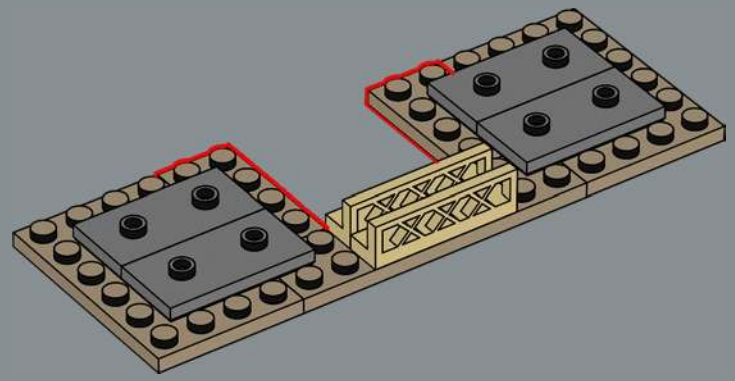

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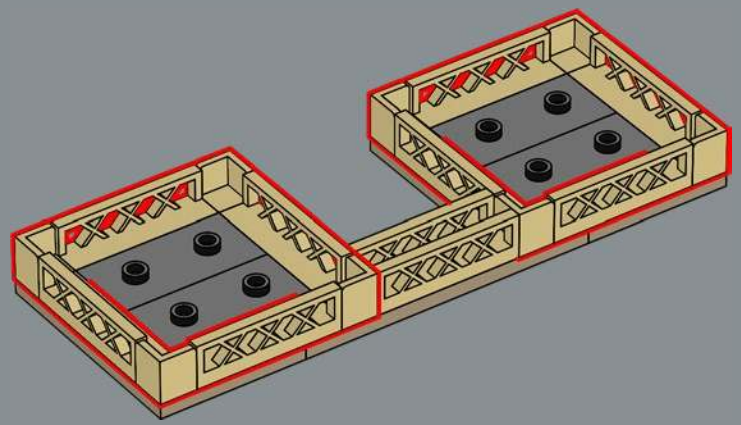

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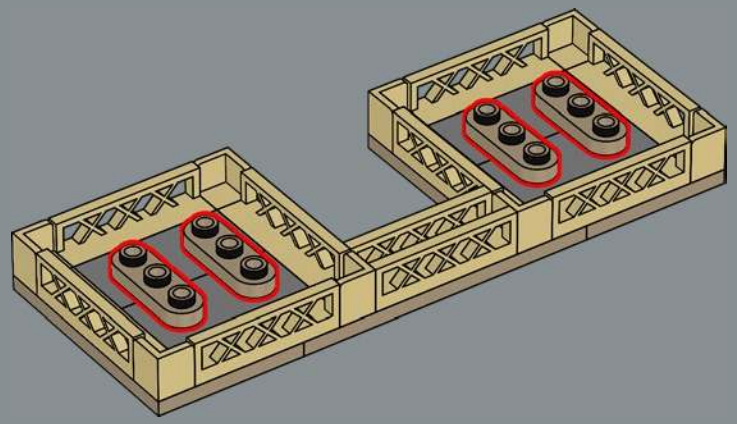

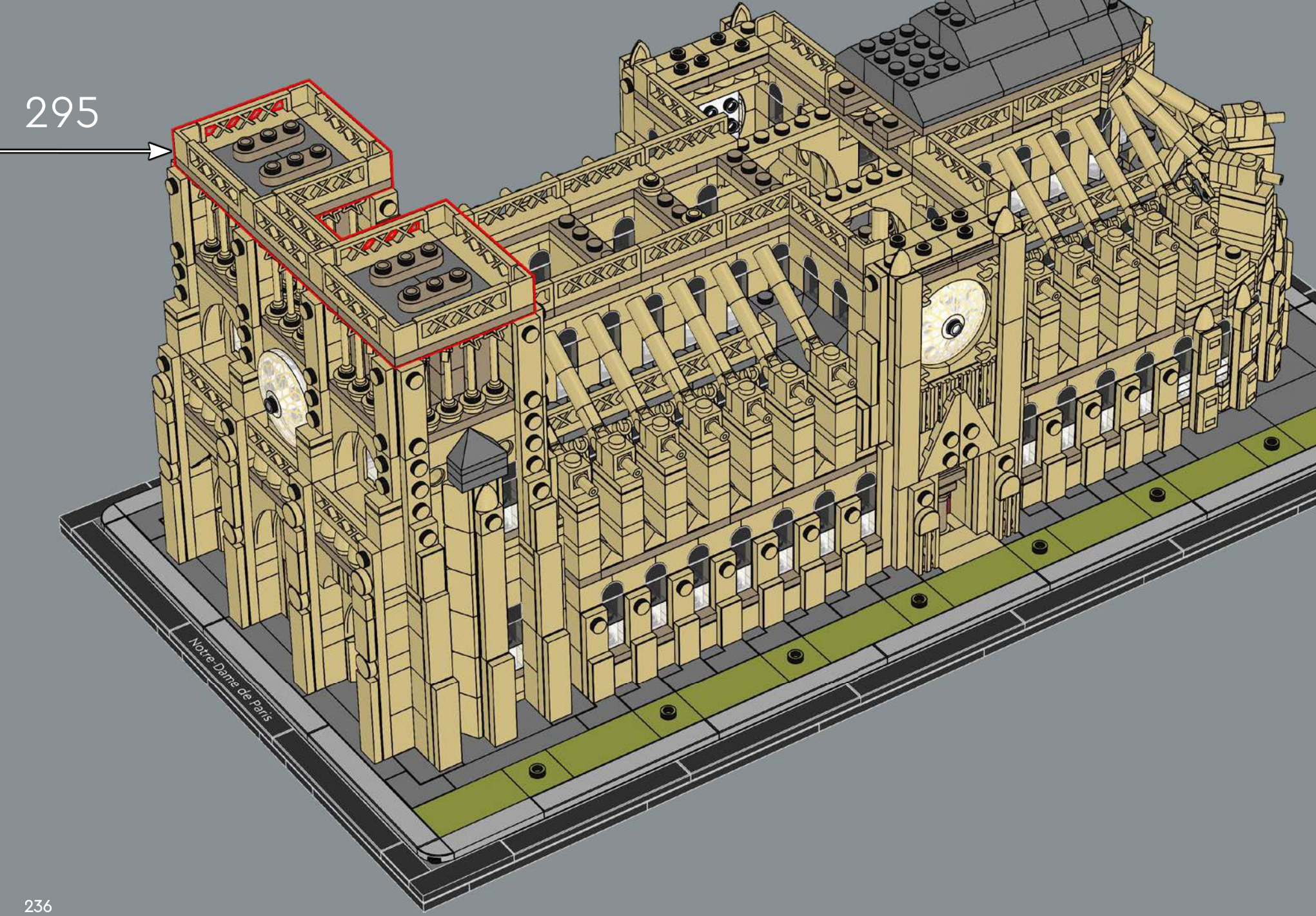
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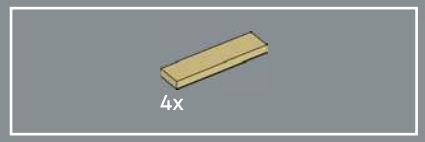

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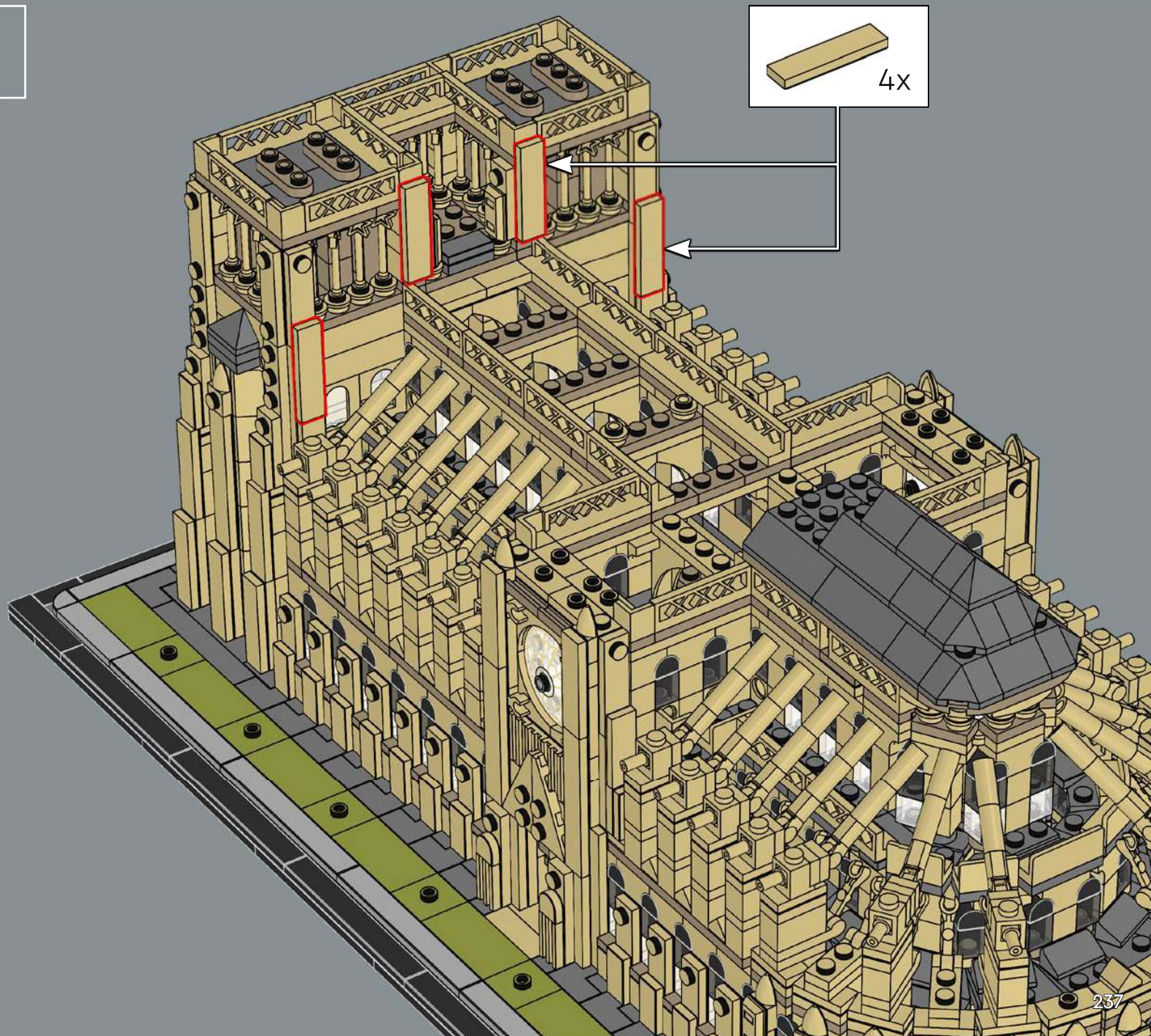

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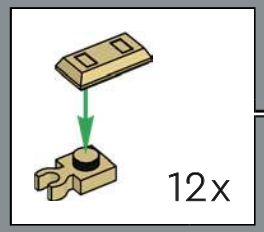

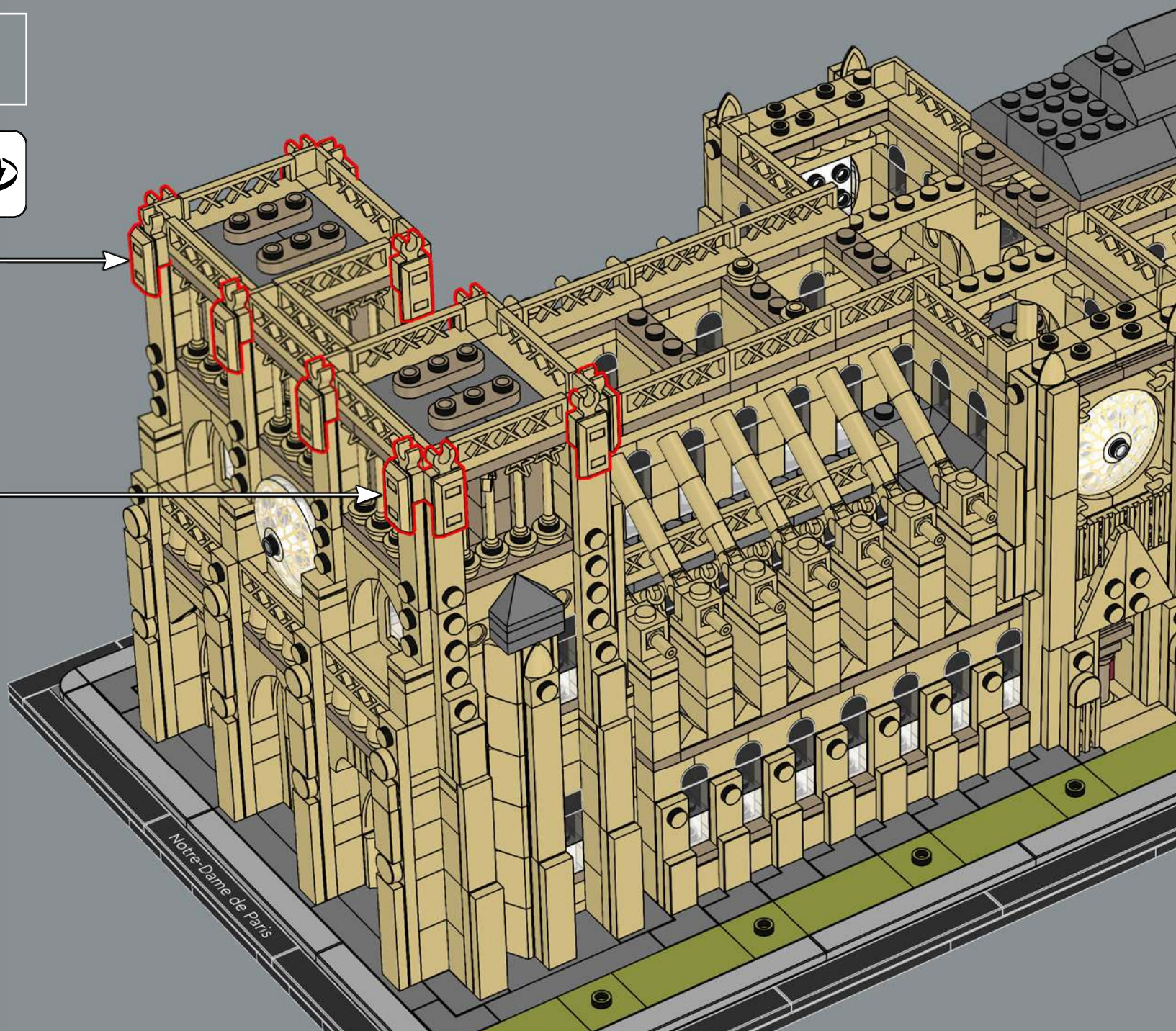

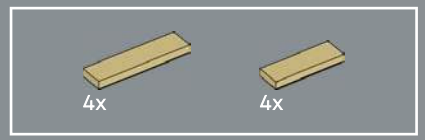

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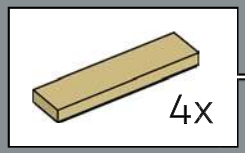

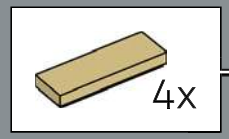

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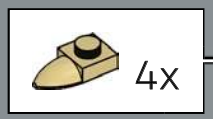

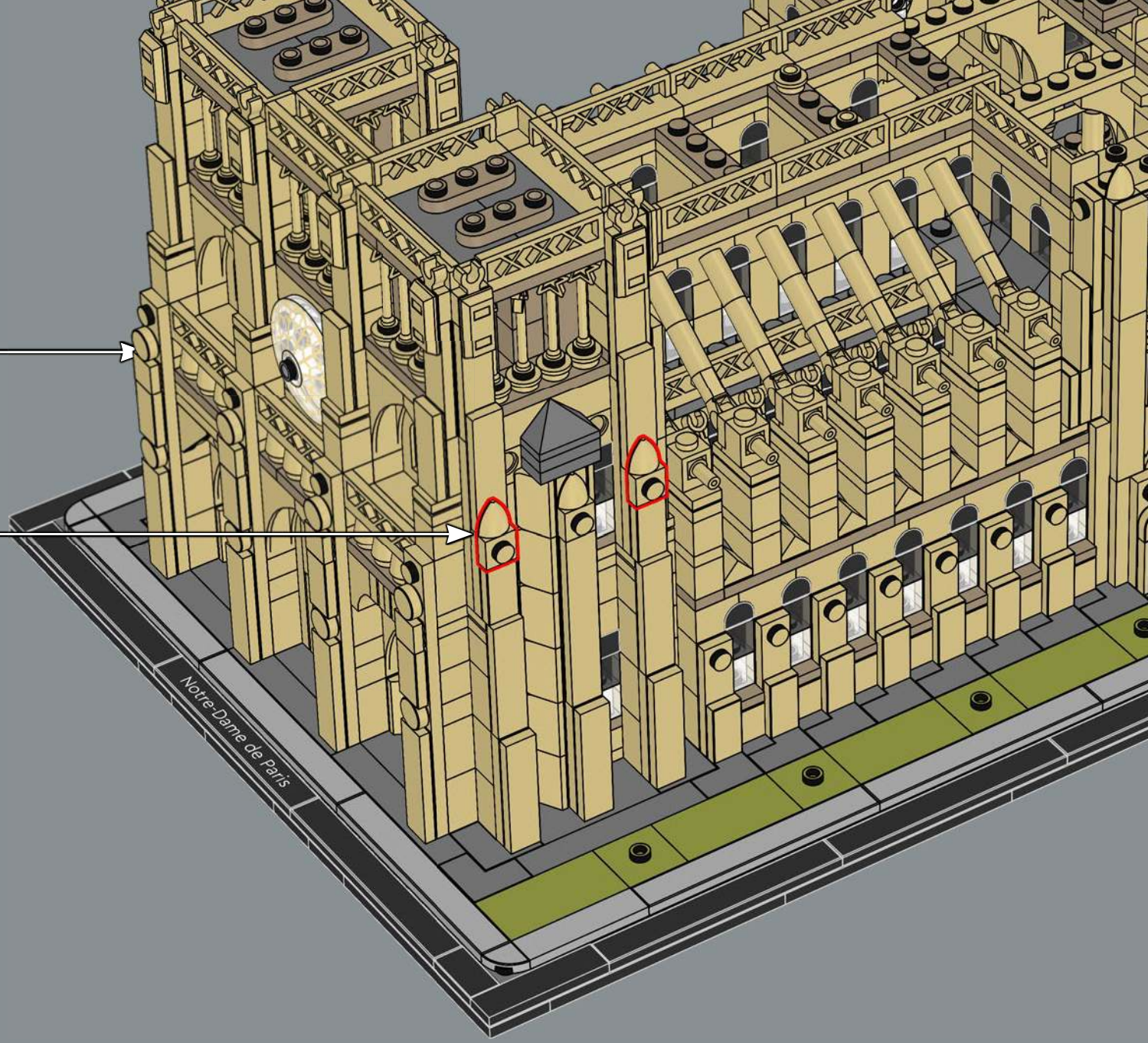

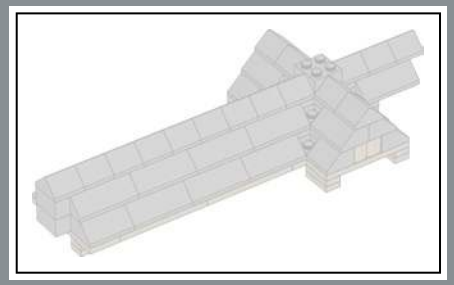

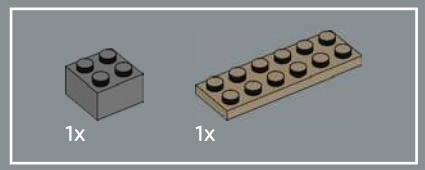

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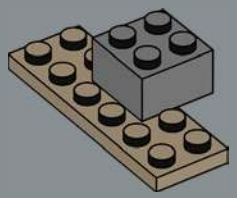

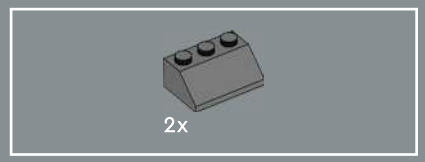

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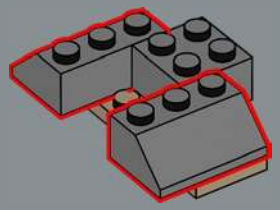

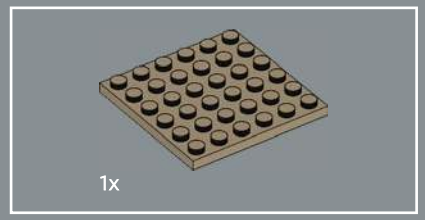

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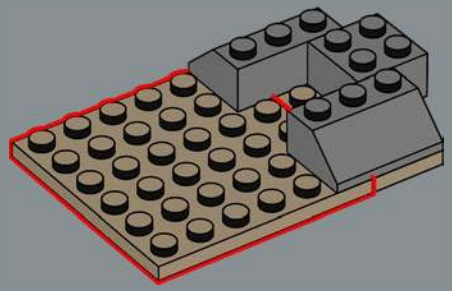

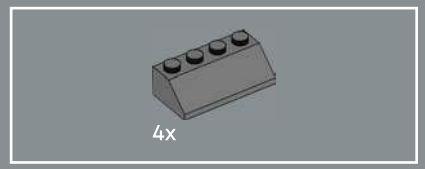

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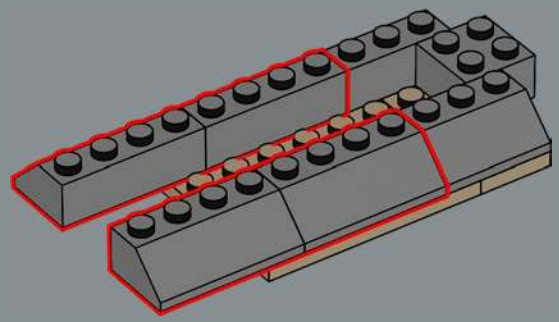

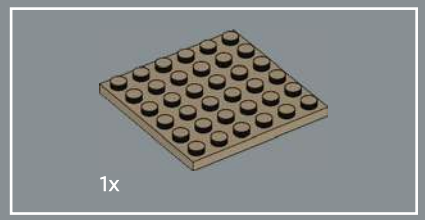

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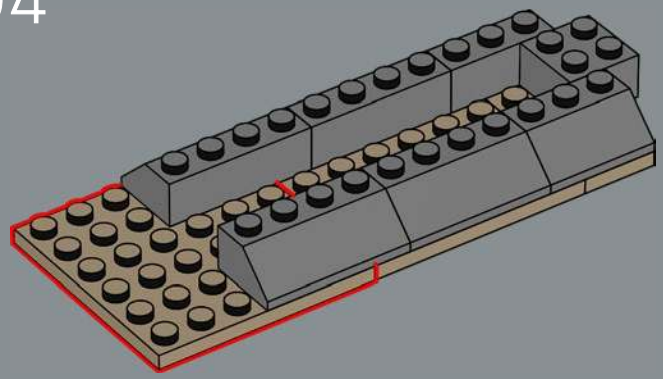

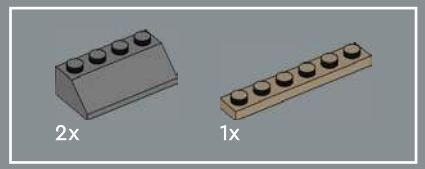

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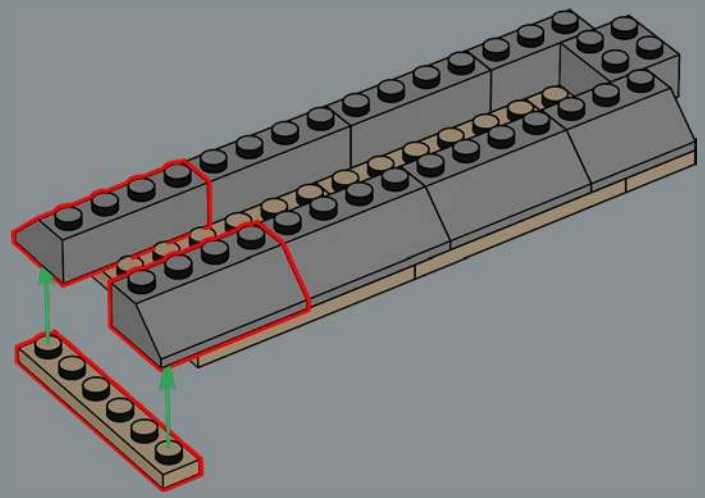

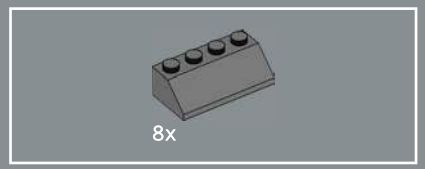

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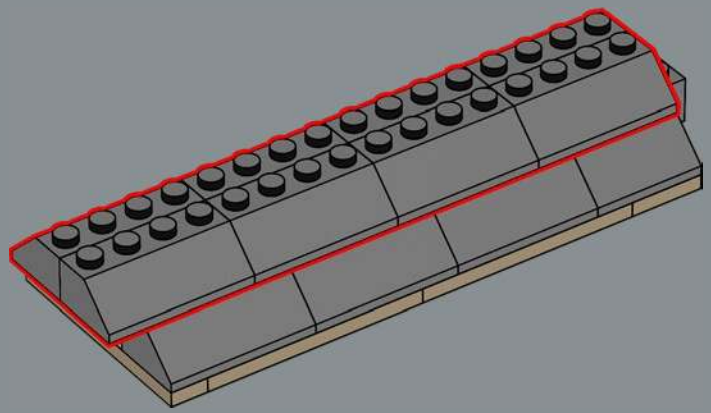

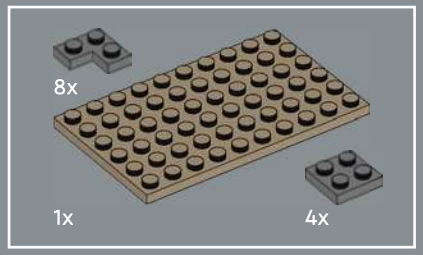

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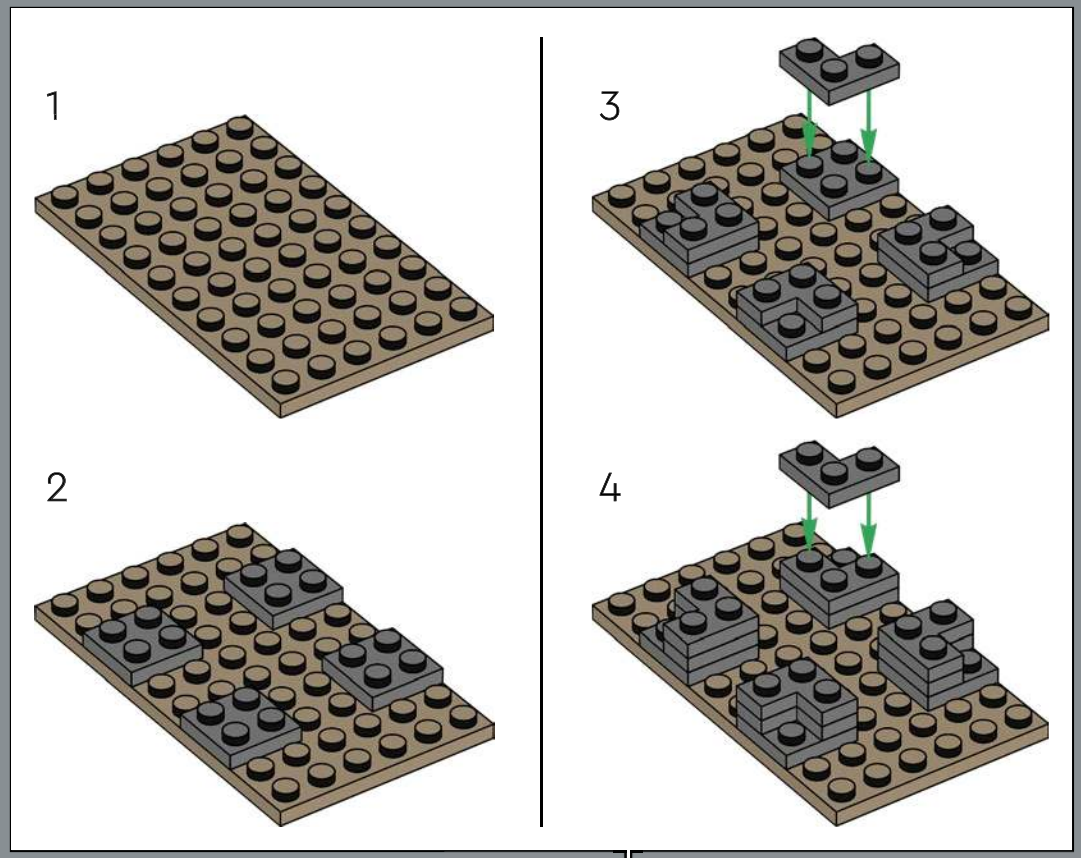

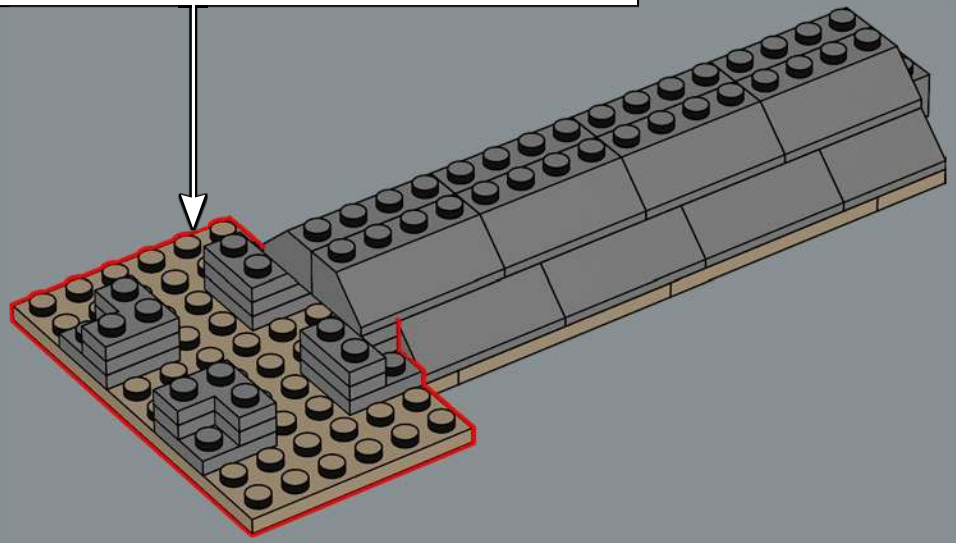

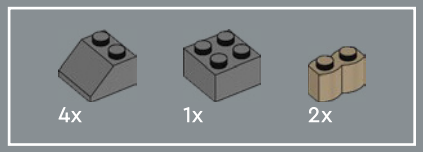

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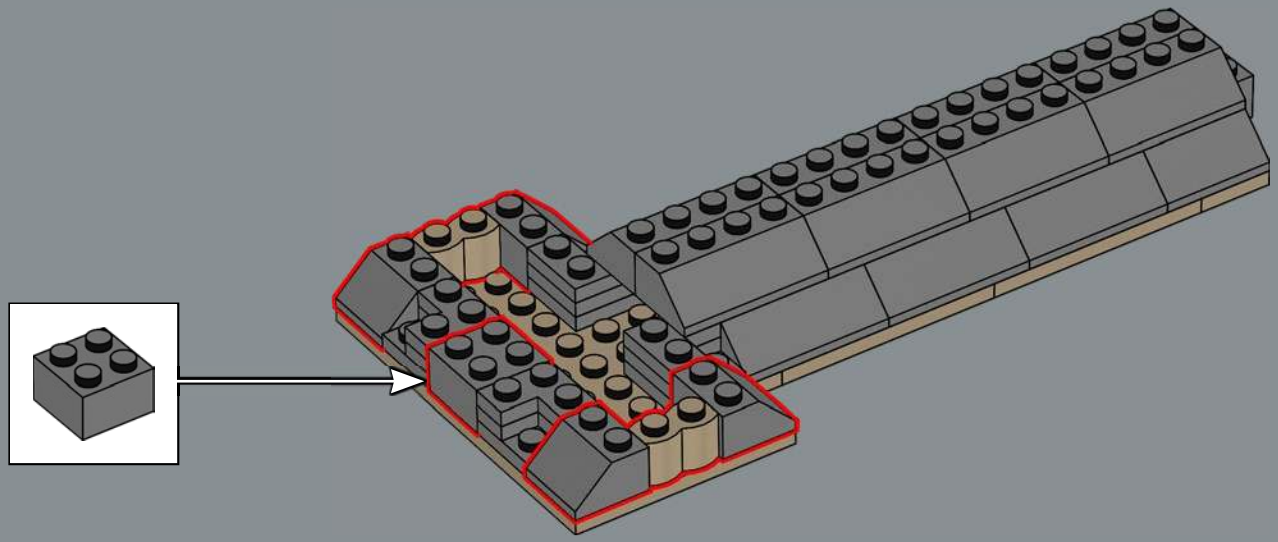

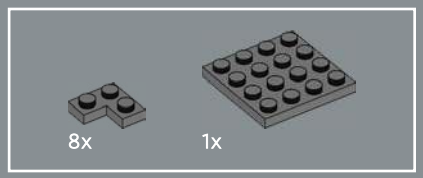

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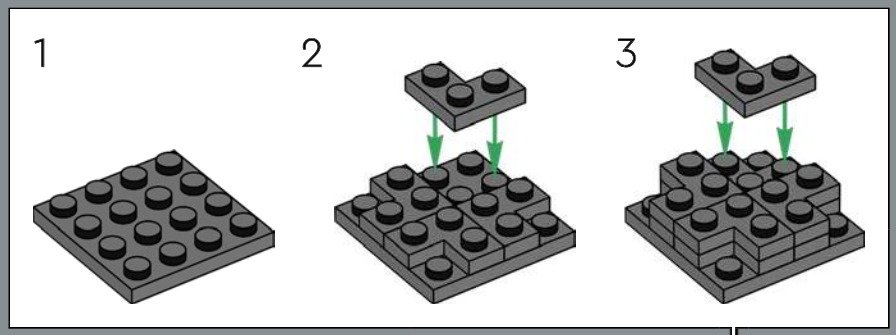

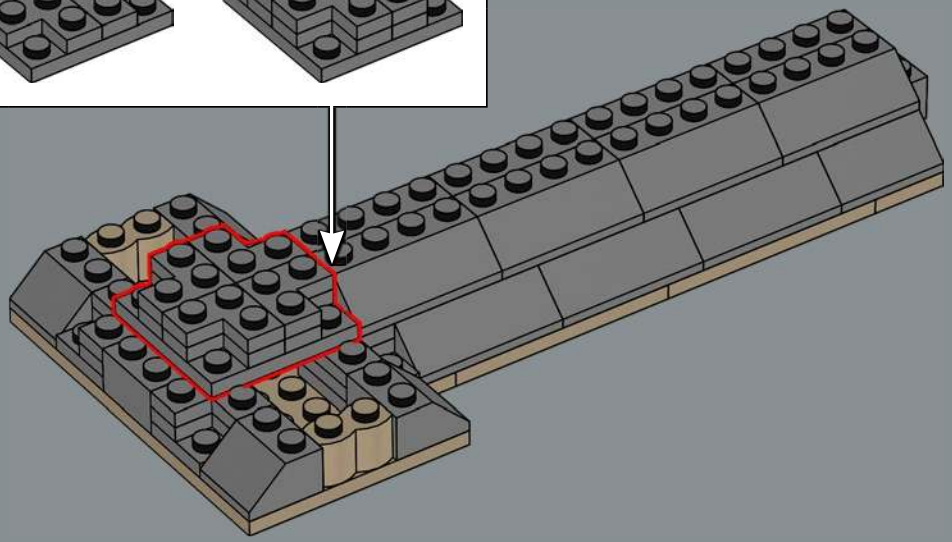

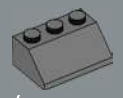

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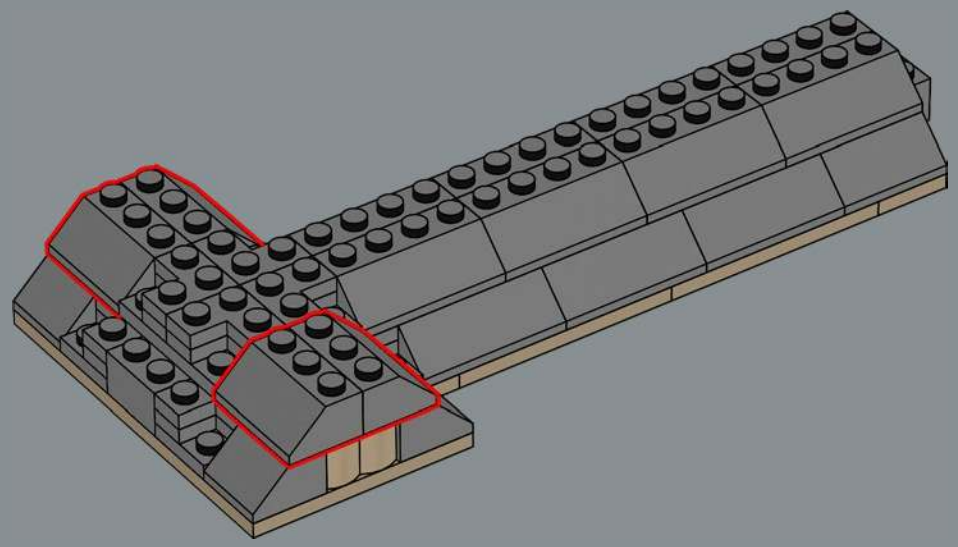

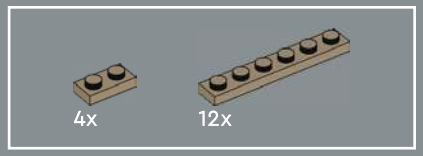

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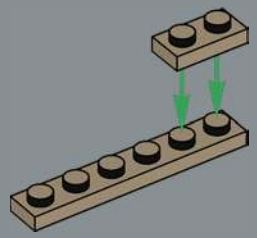

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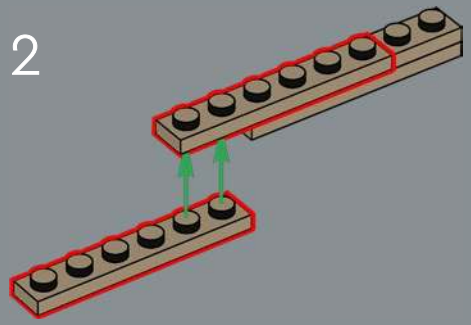

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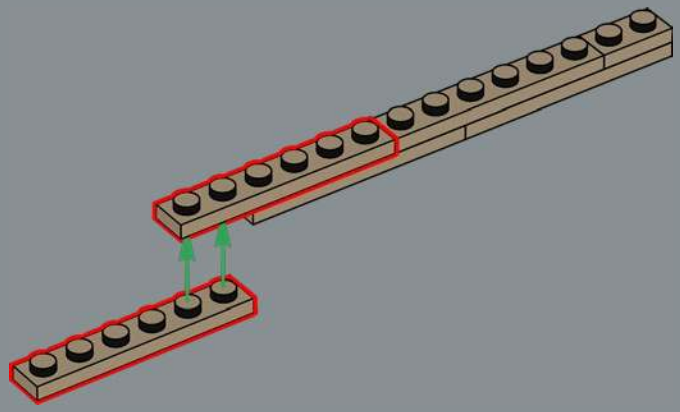

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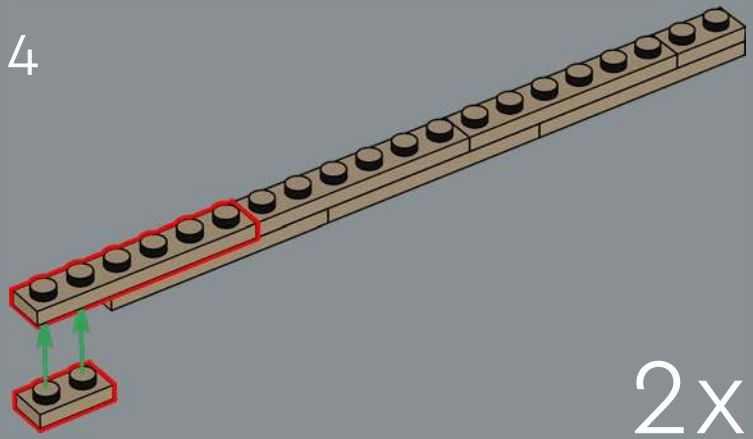
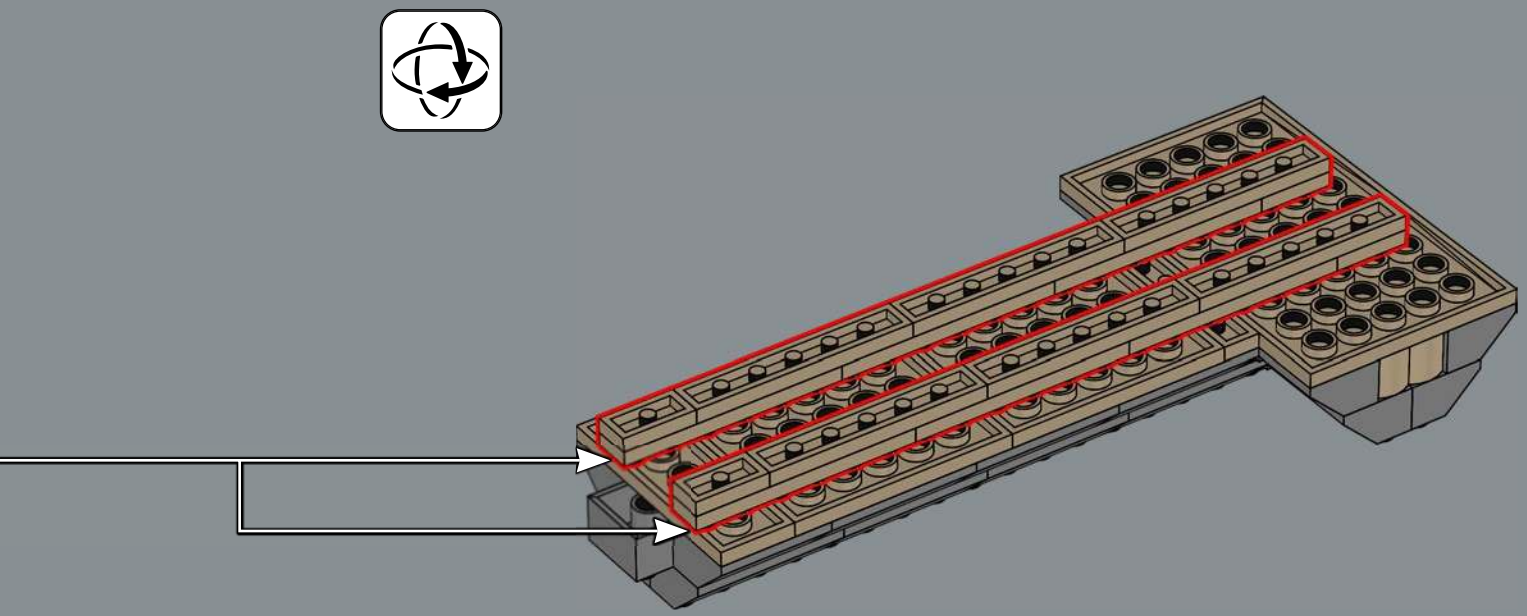
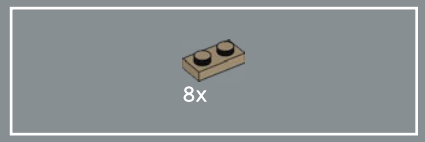


2x

Timber for the wooden structure of the cathedral came from around 1,300 oaks, or the approximate equivalent of 21 hectares (51.8 acres) of forest!





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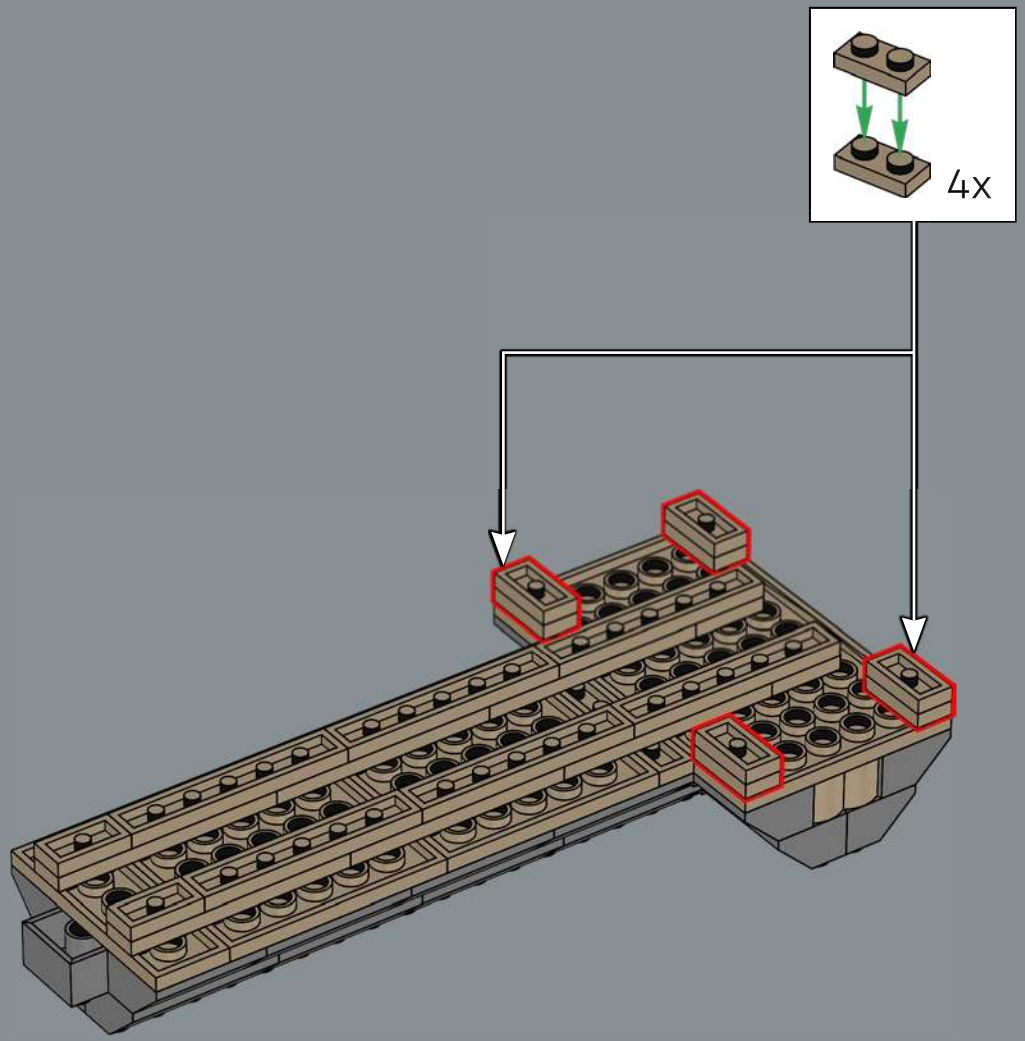

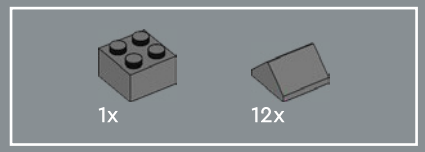

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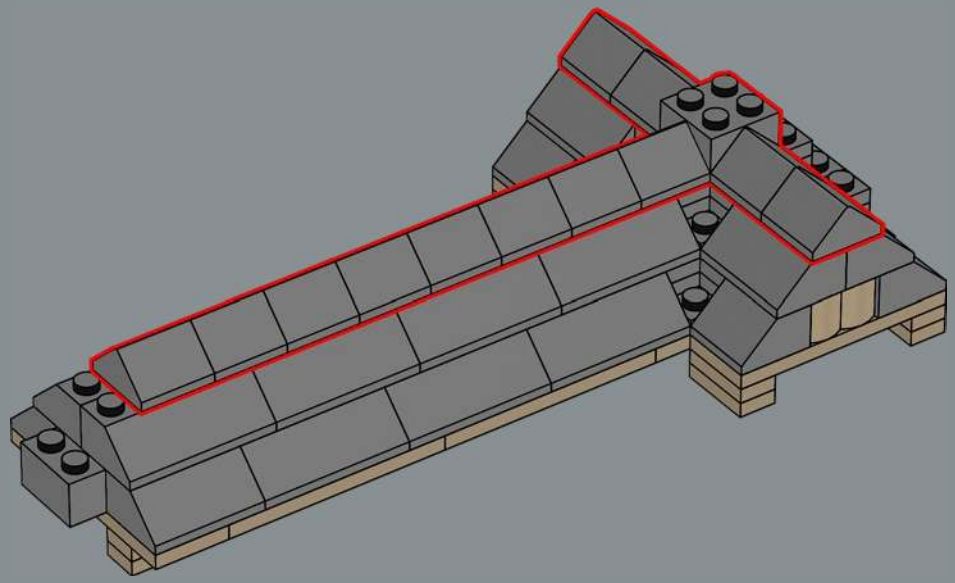

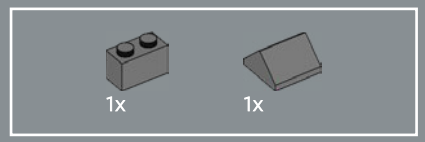

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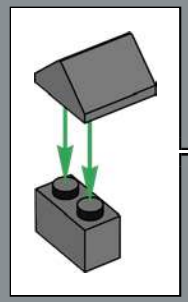

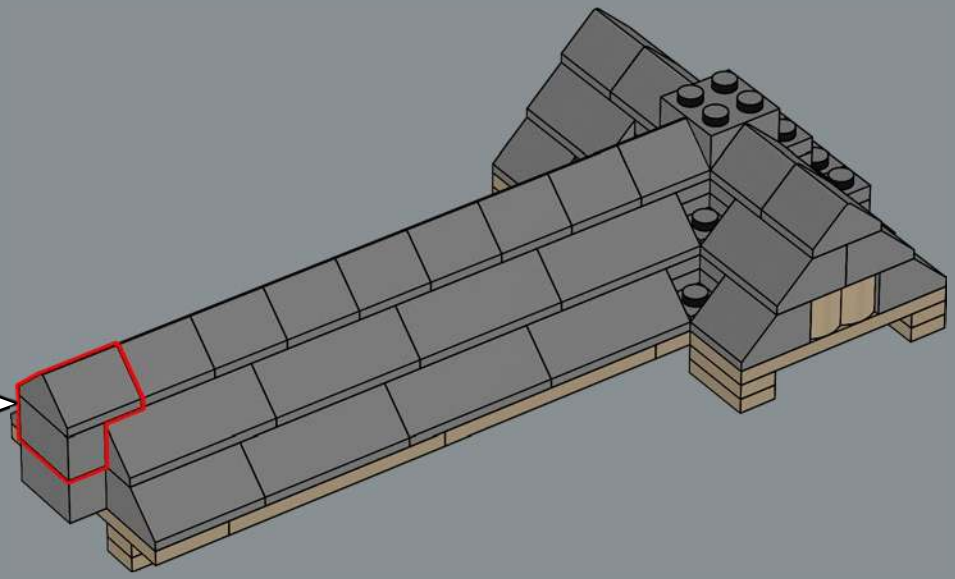

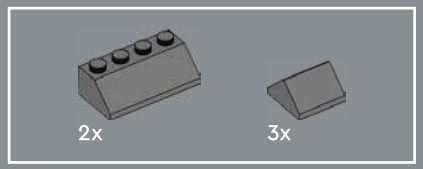

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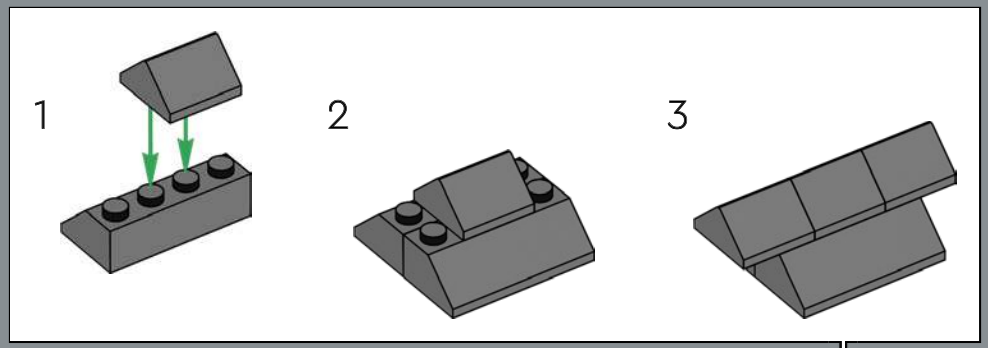
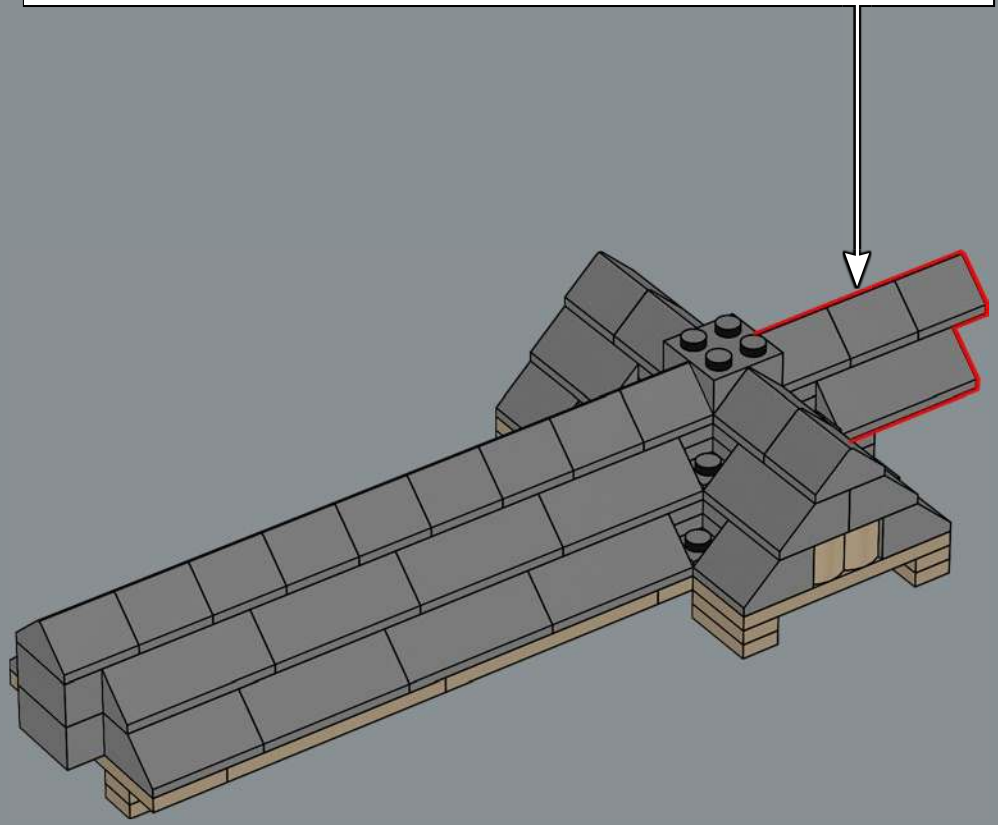
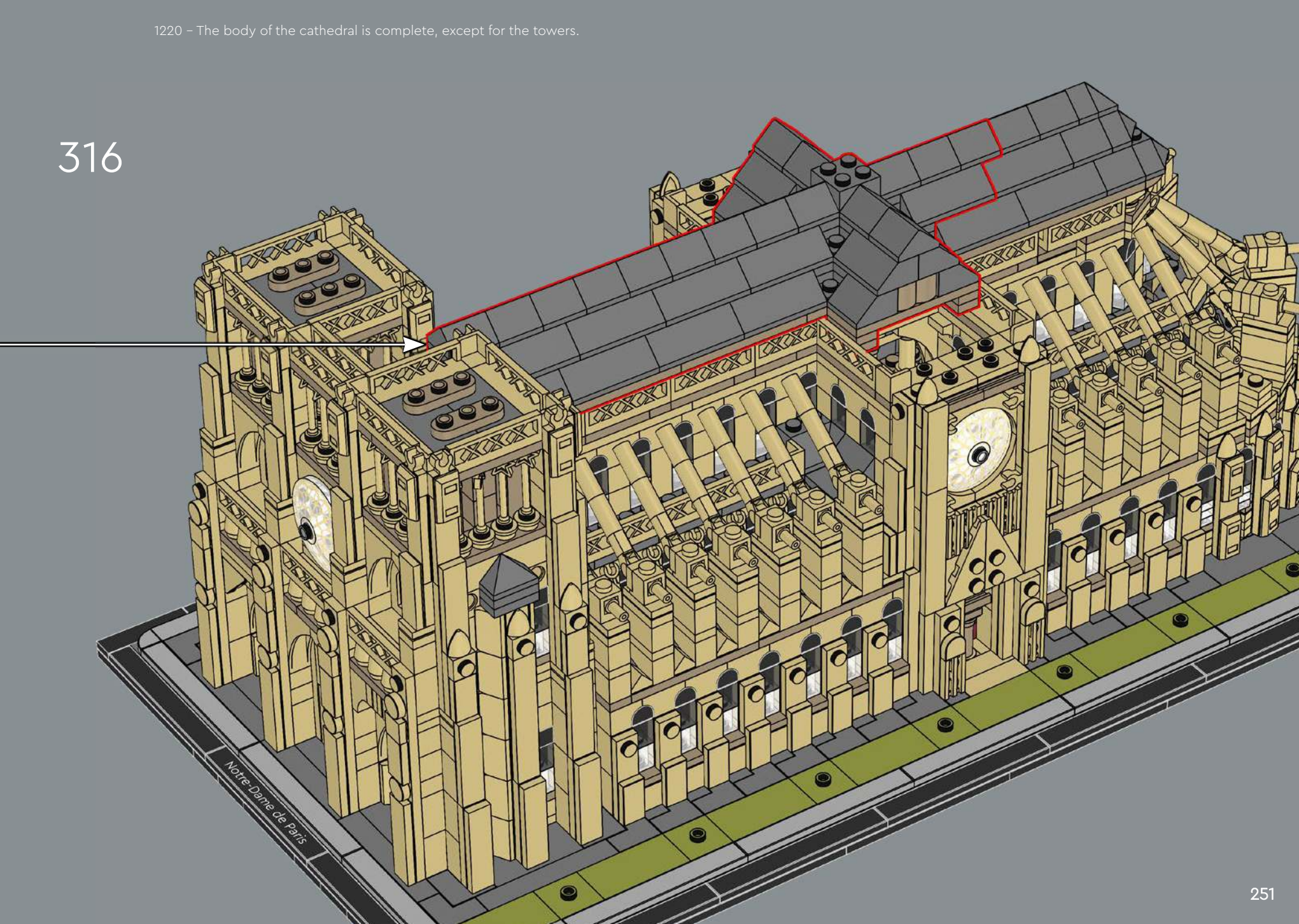




1220 – The body of the cathedral is complete, except for the towers.

316



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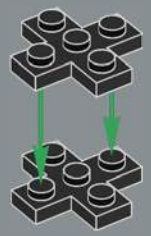

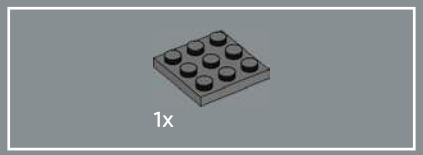

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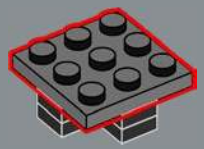

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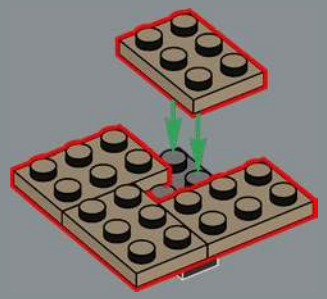

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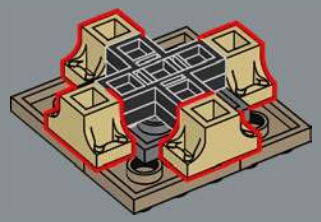

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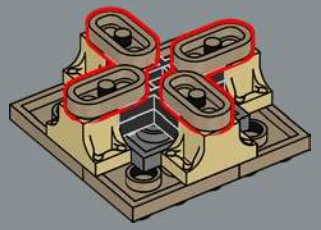

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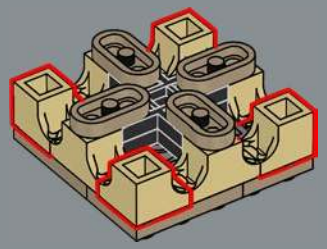

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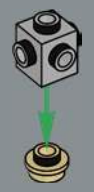

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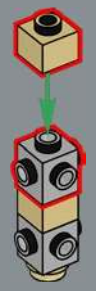

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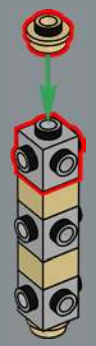

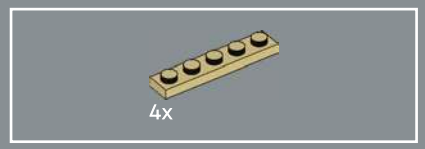

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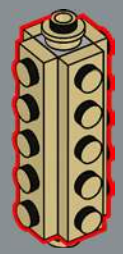

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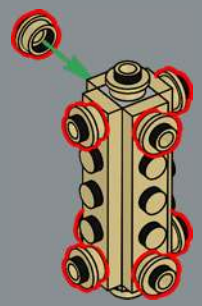

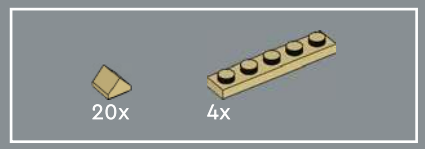

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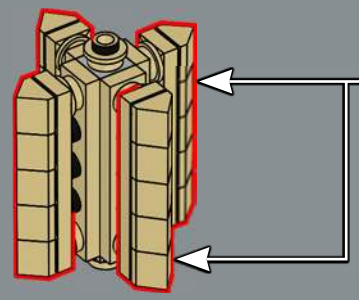

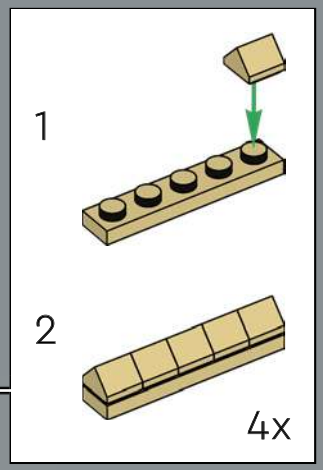

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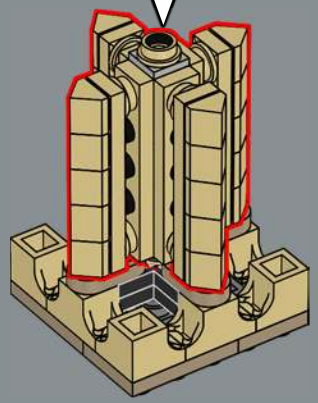

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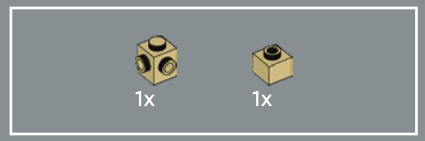

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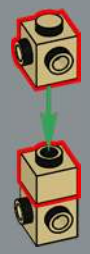

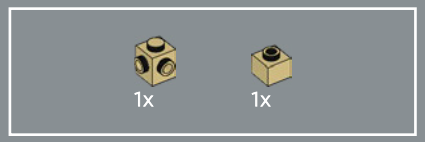

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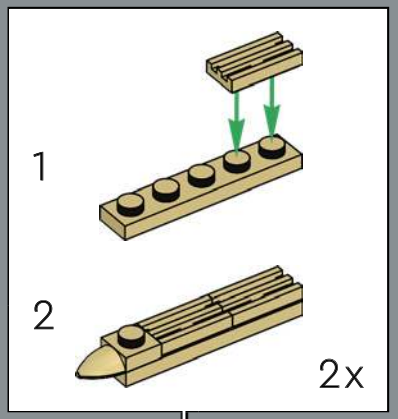

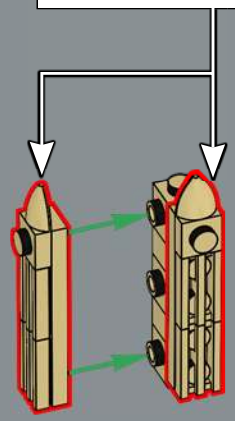

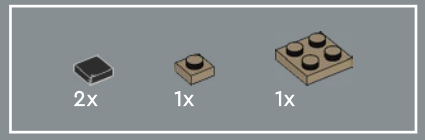

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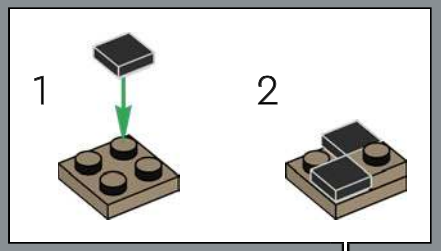

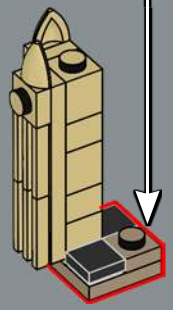

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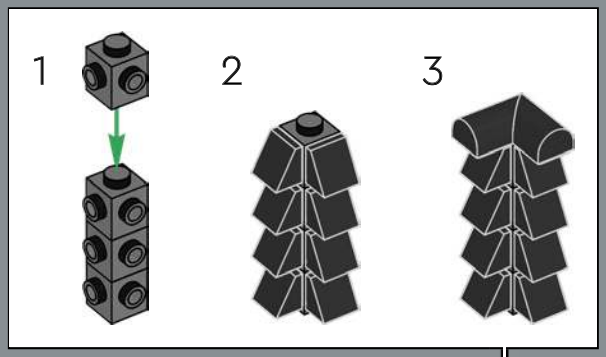

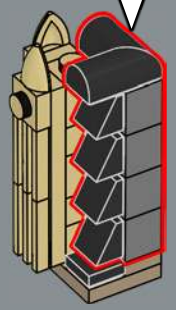

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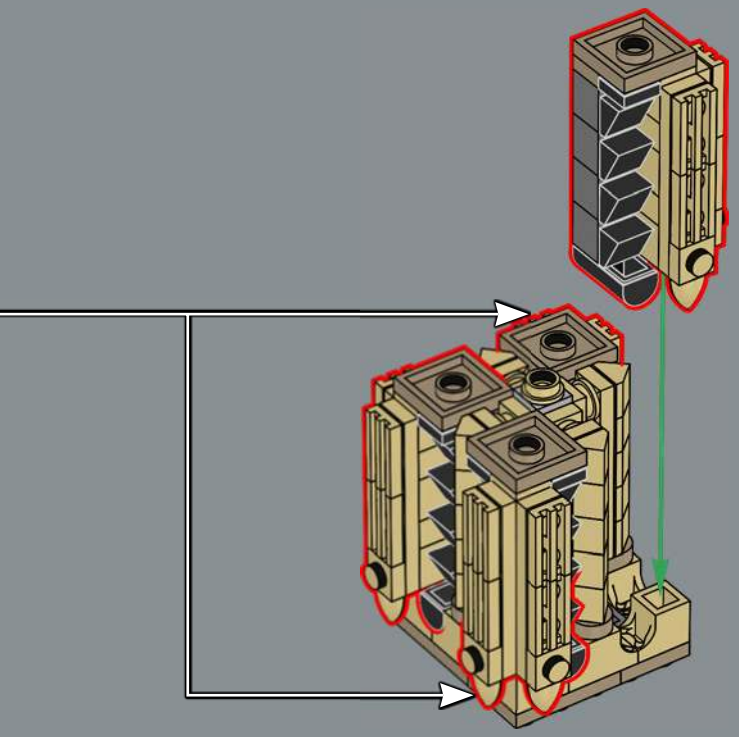
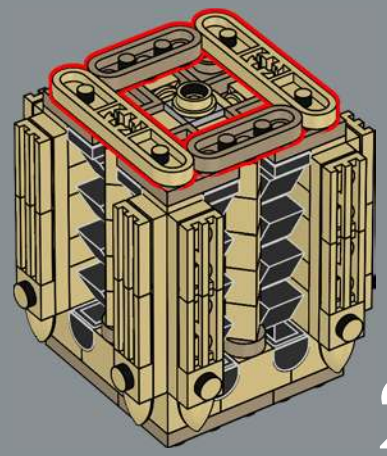


The towers house the cathedral's legendary bells. They were first installed in the north tower, also known as the Grosse Tour or 'Guillaume Tower'.

338



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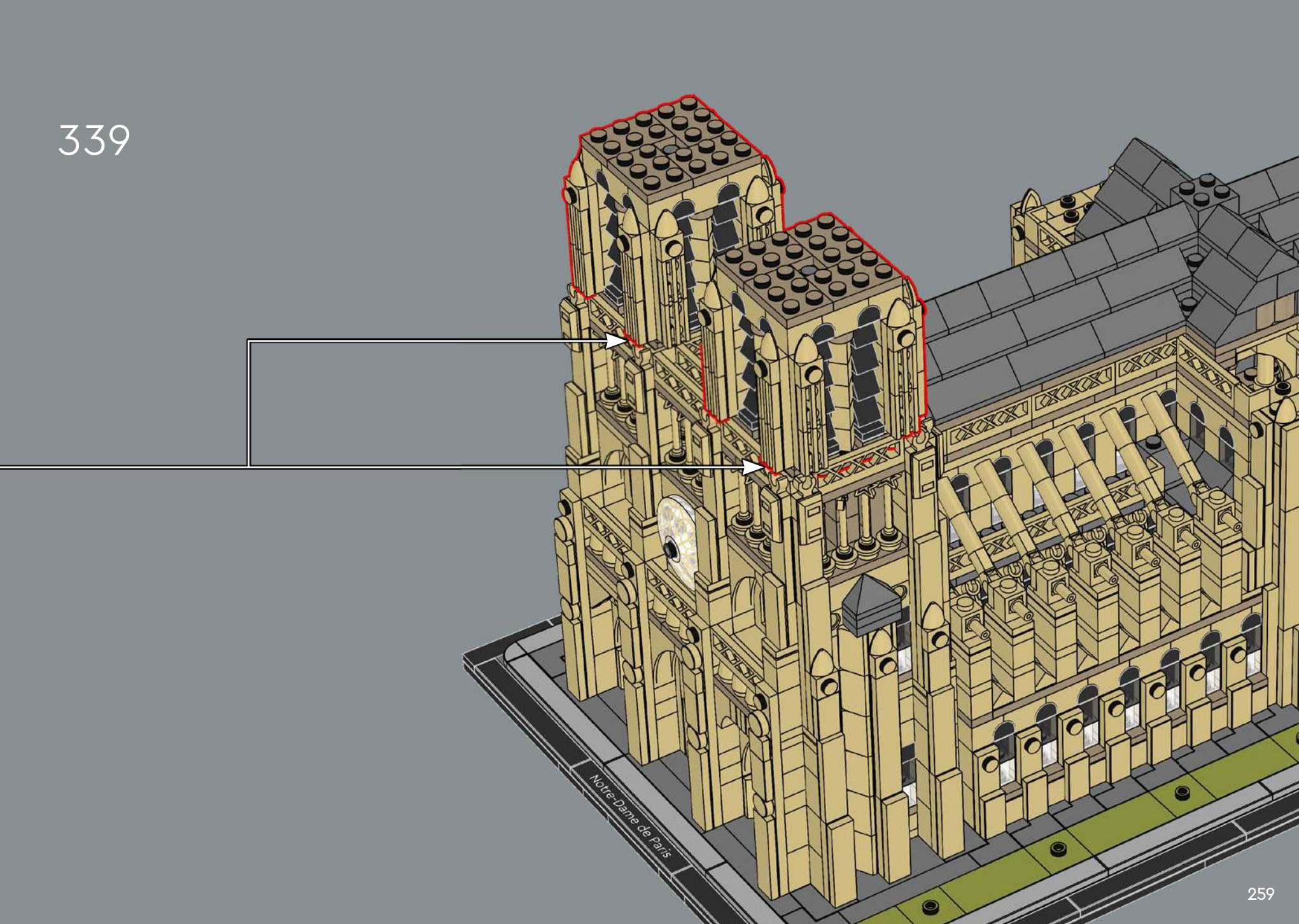

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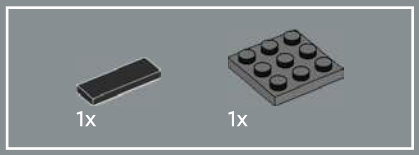

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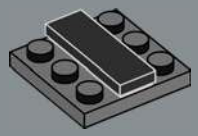

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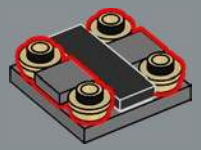

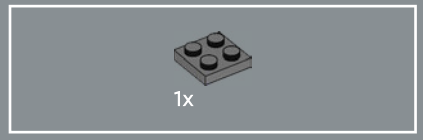

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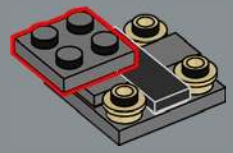

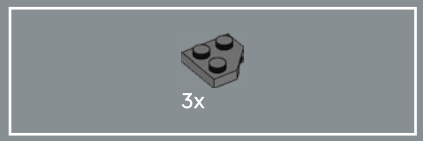

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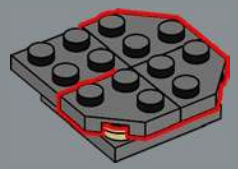

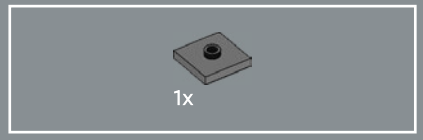

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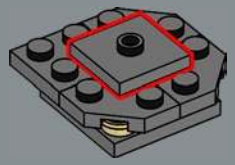

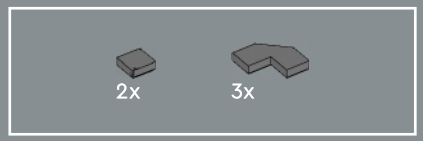

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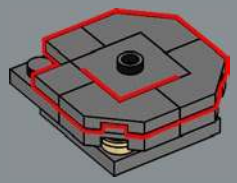

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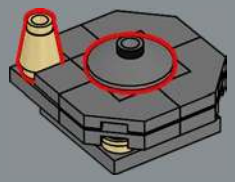

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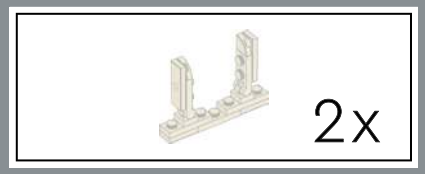

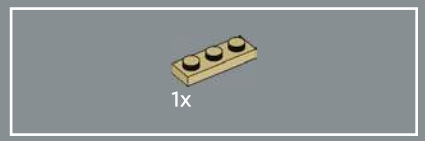

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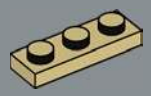

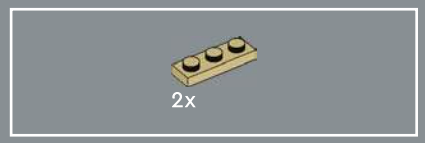

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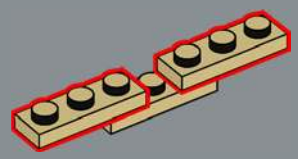

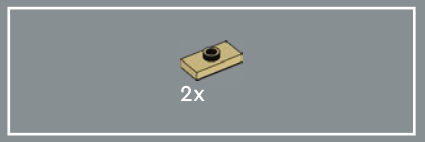

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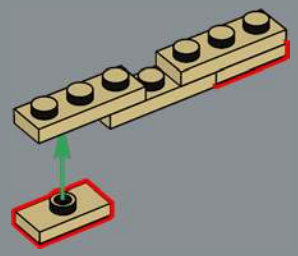

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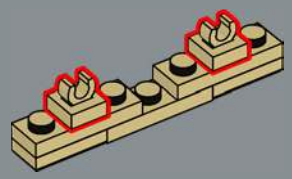

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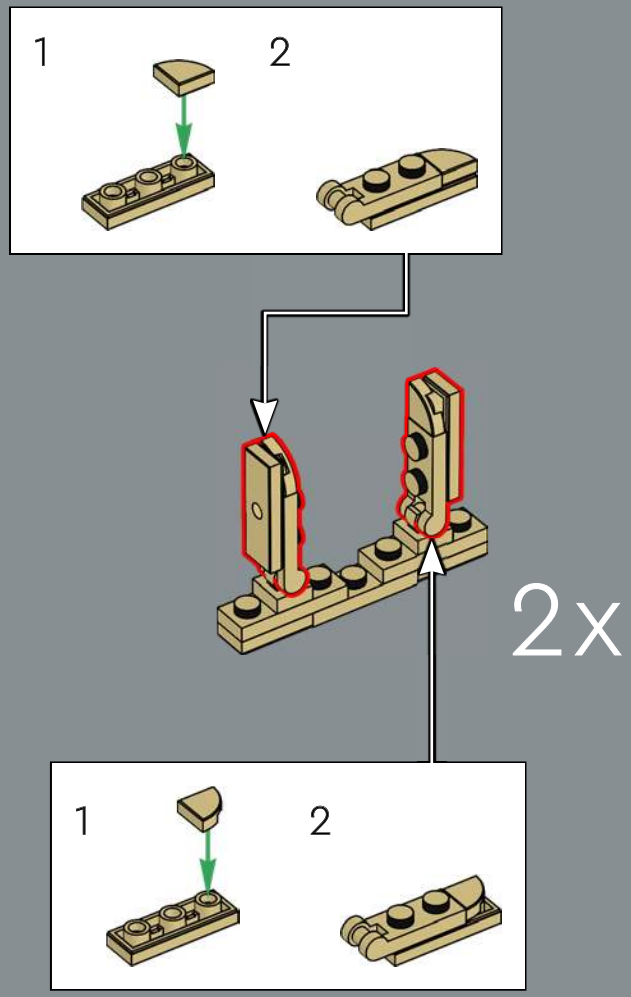

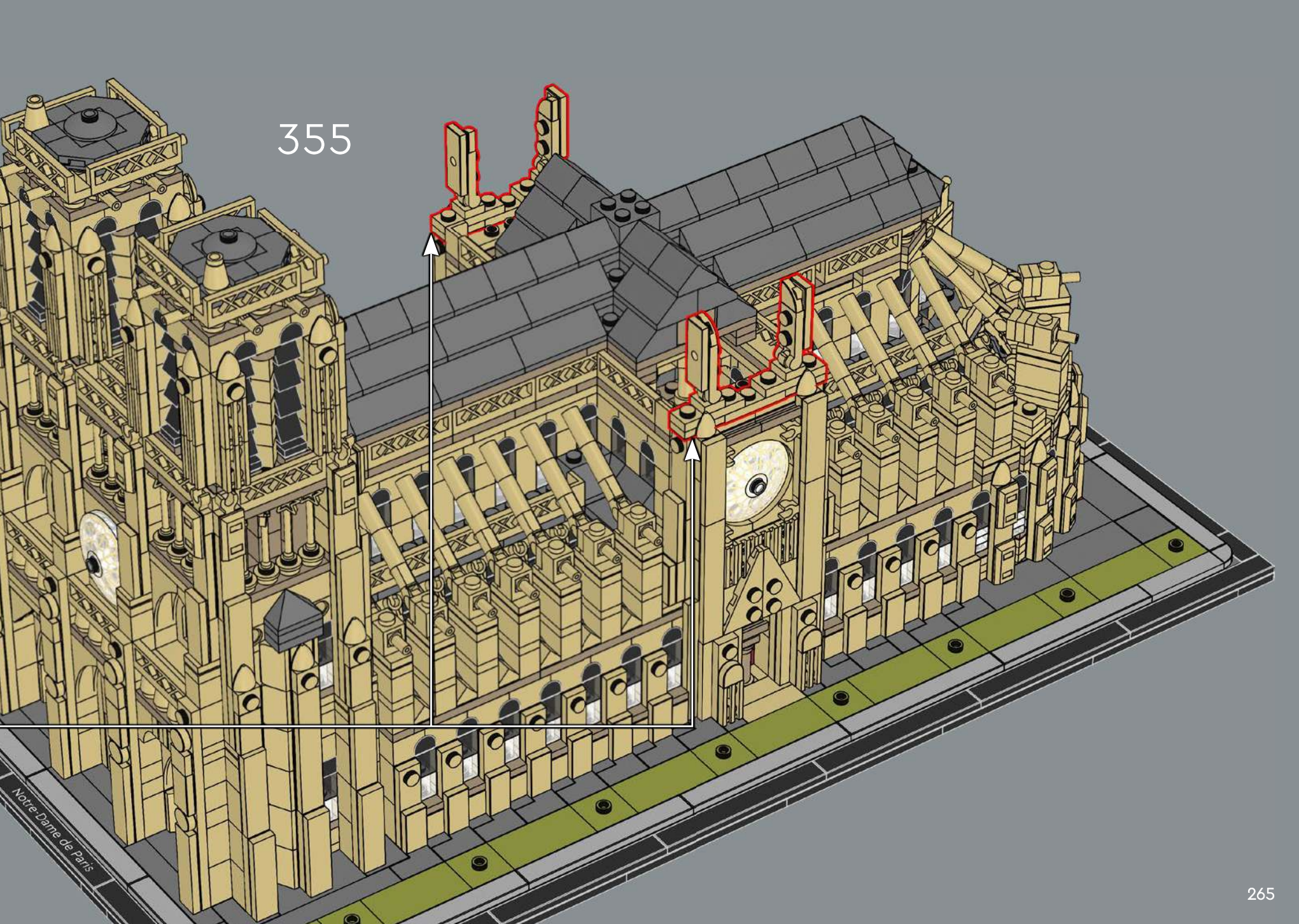
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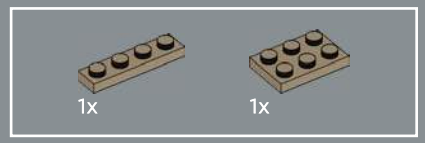
Notre-Dame de Paris



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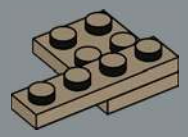

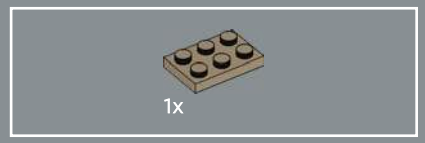

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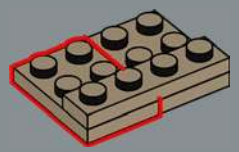

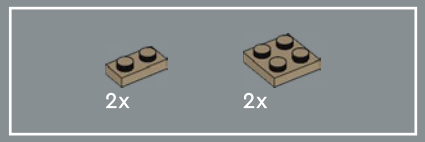

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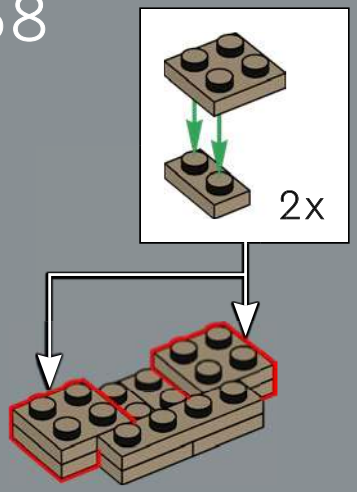

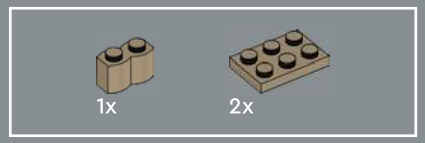

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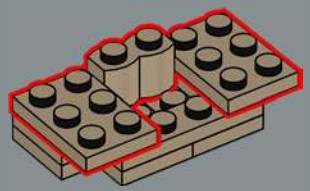

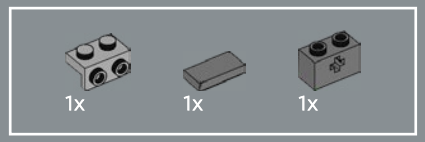

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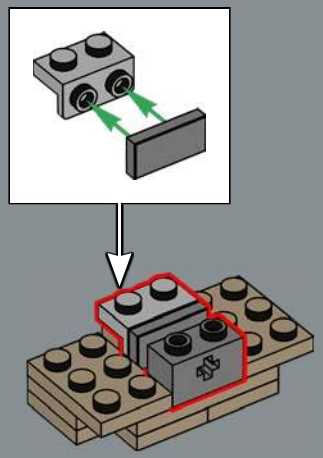

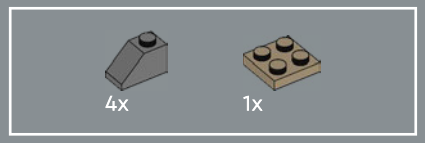

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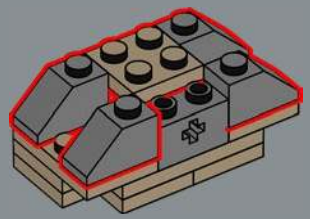

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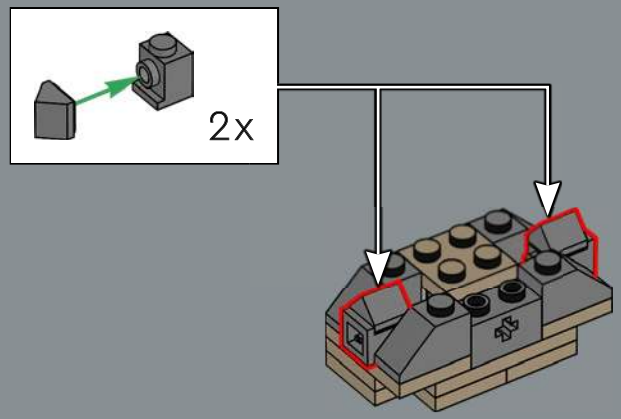

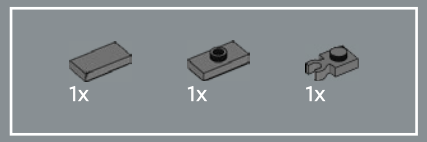

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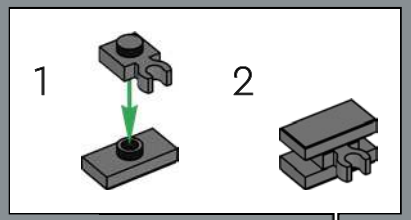

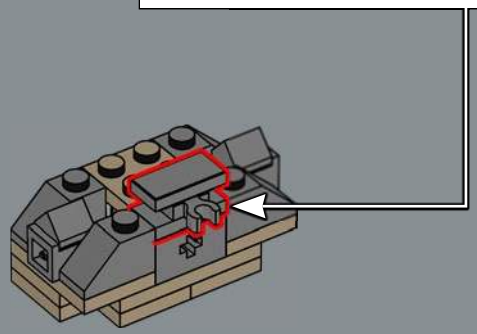

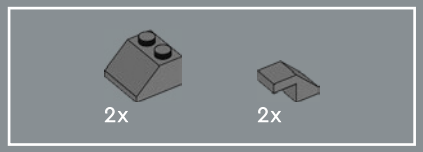

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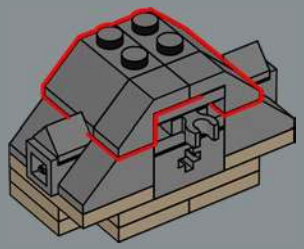

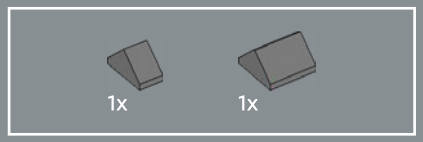

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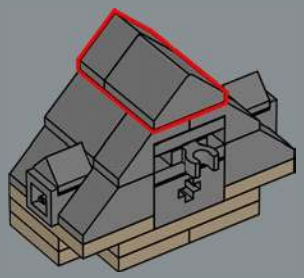

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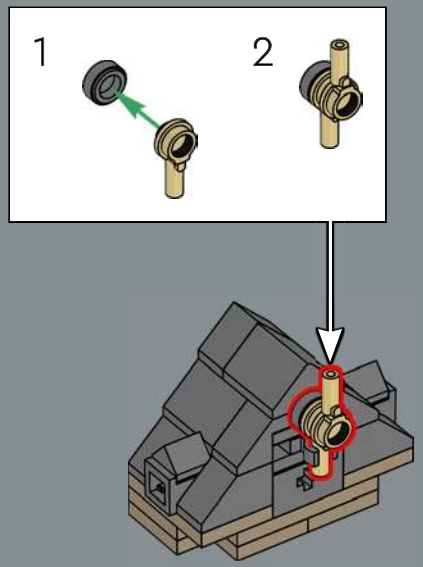

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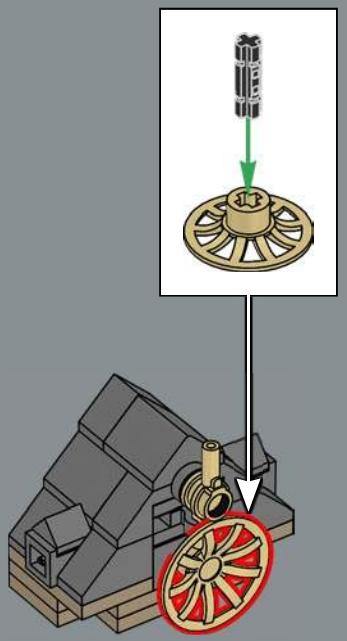
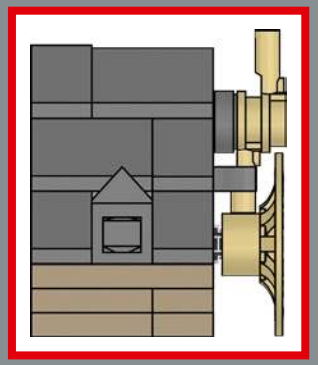
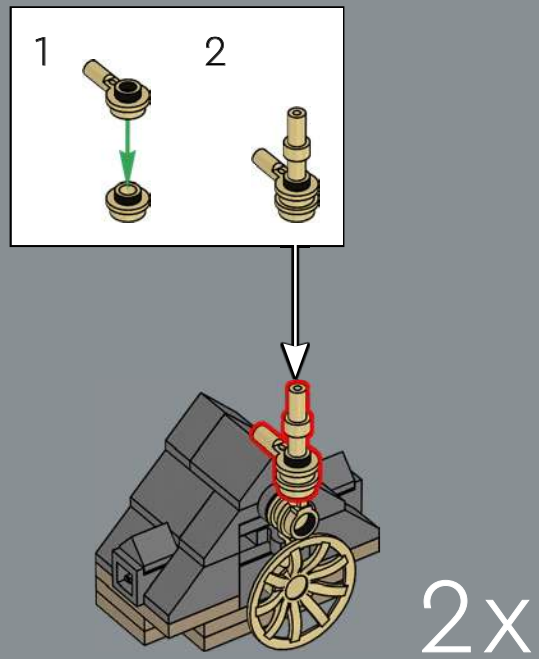




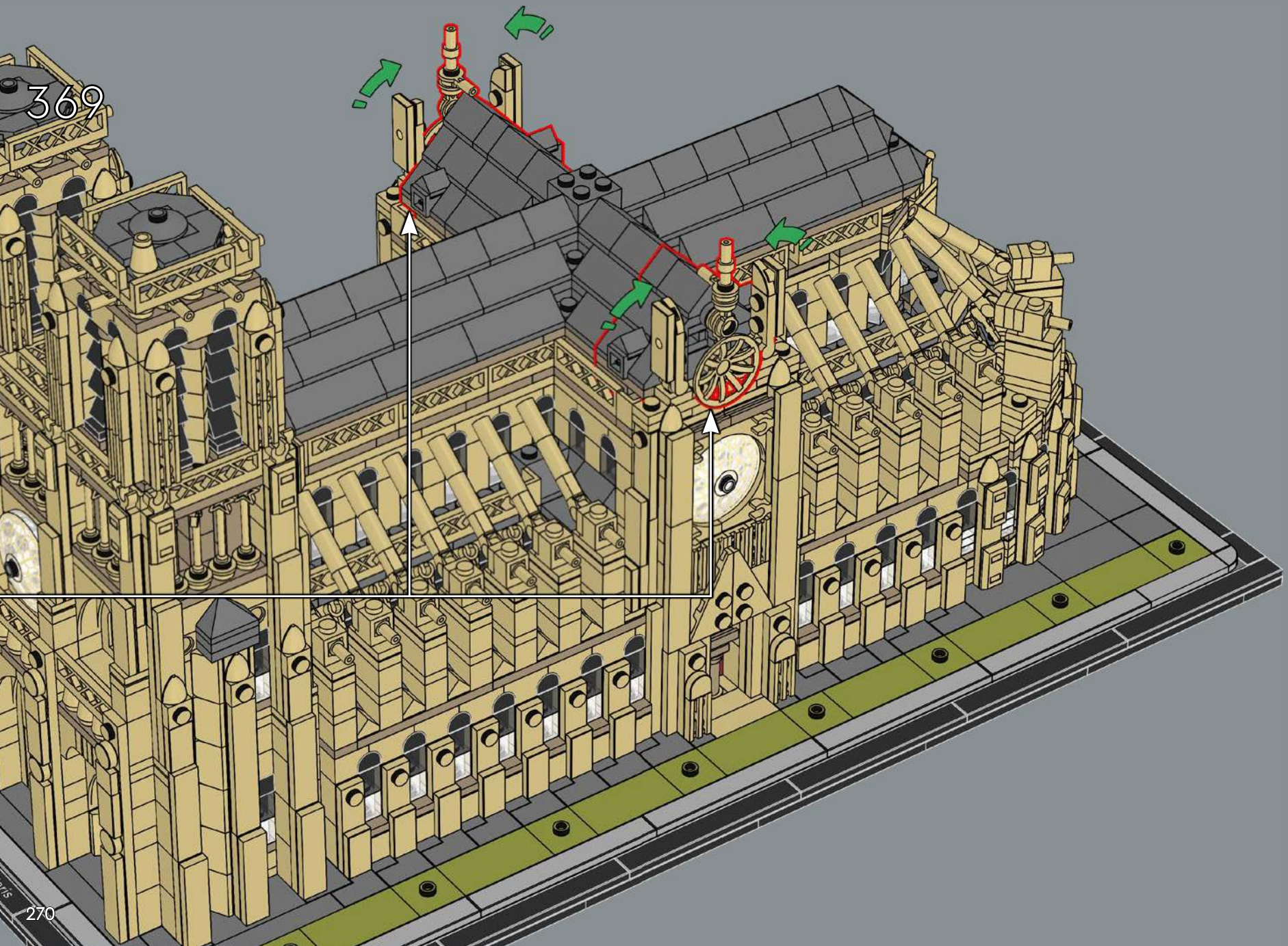
The smaller rose windows are represented with LEGO® hubcap elements.

368

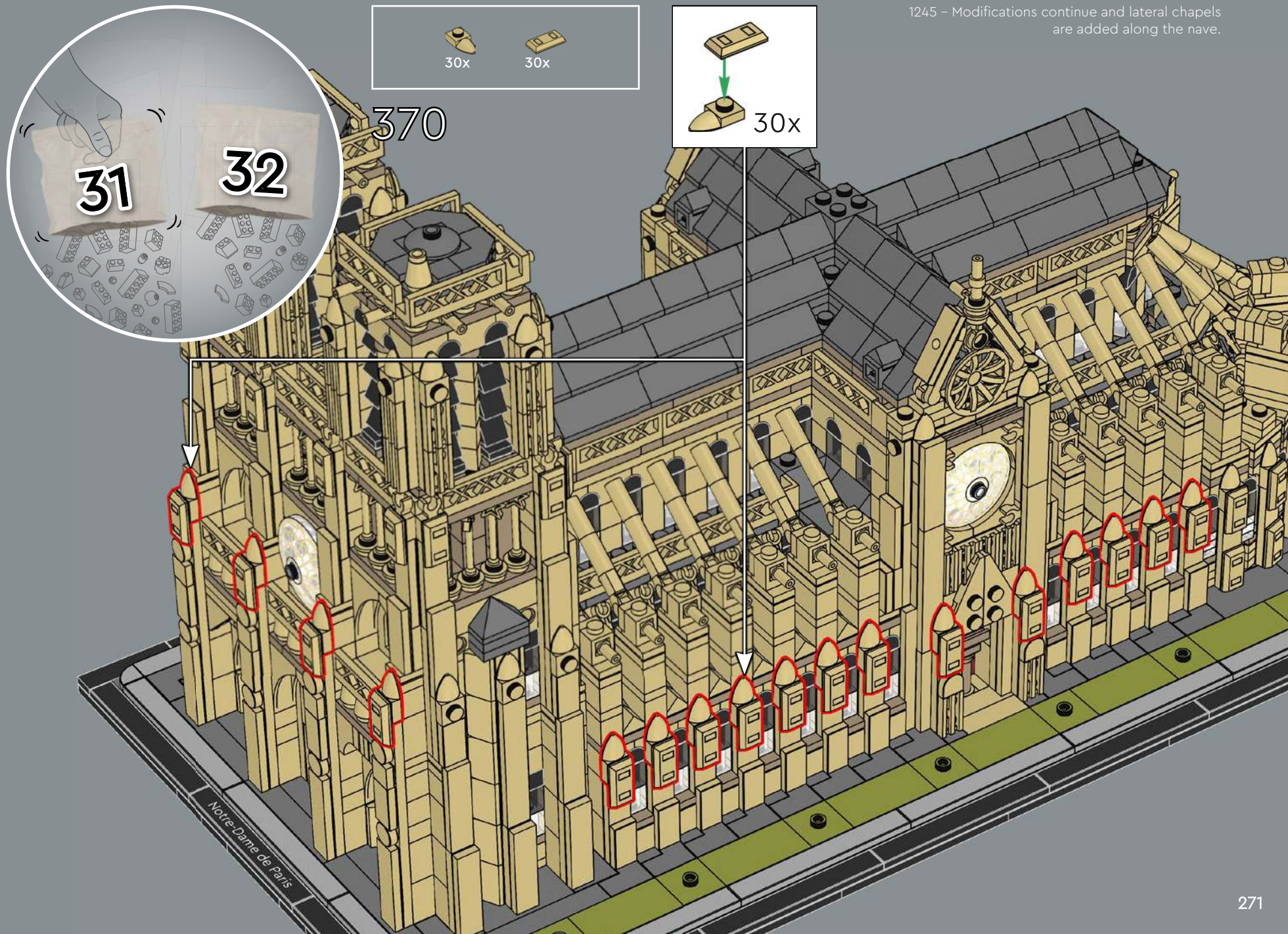


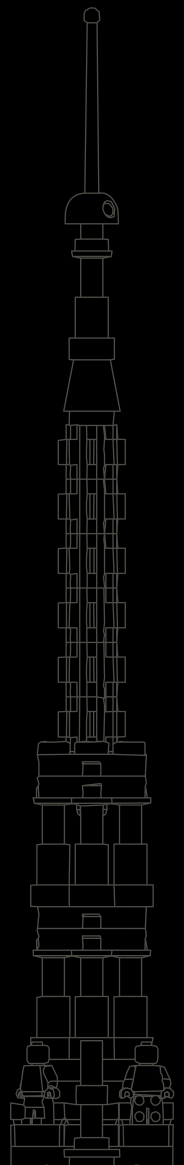
2x

1245 – The overall structure is complete.



1245 – Modifications continue and lateral chapels are added along the nave.

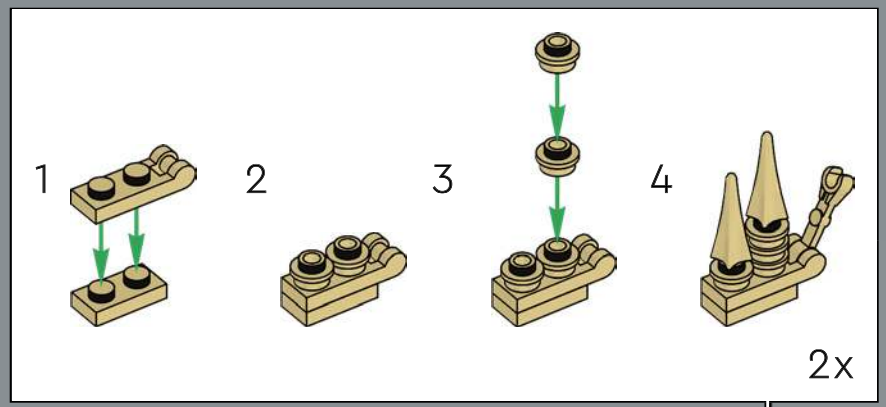


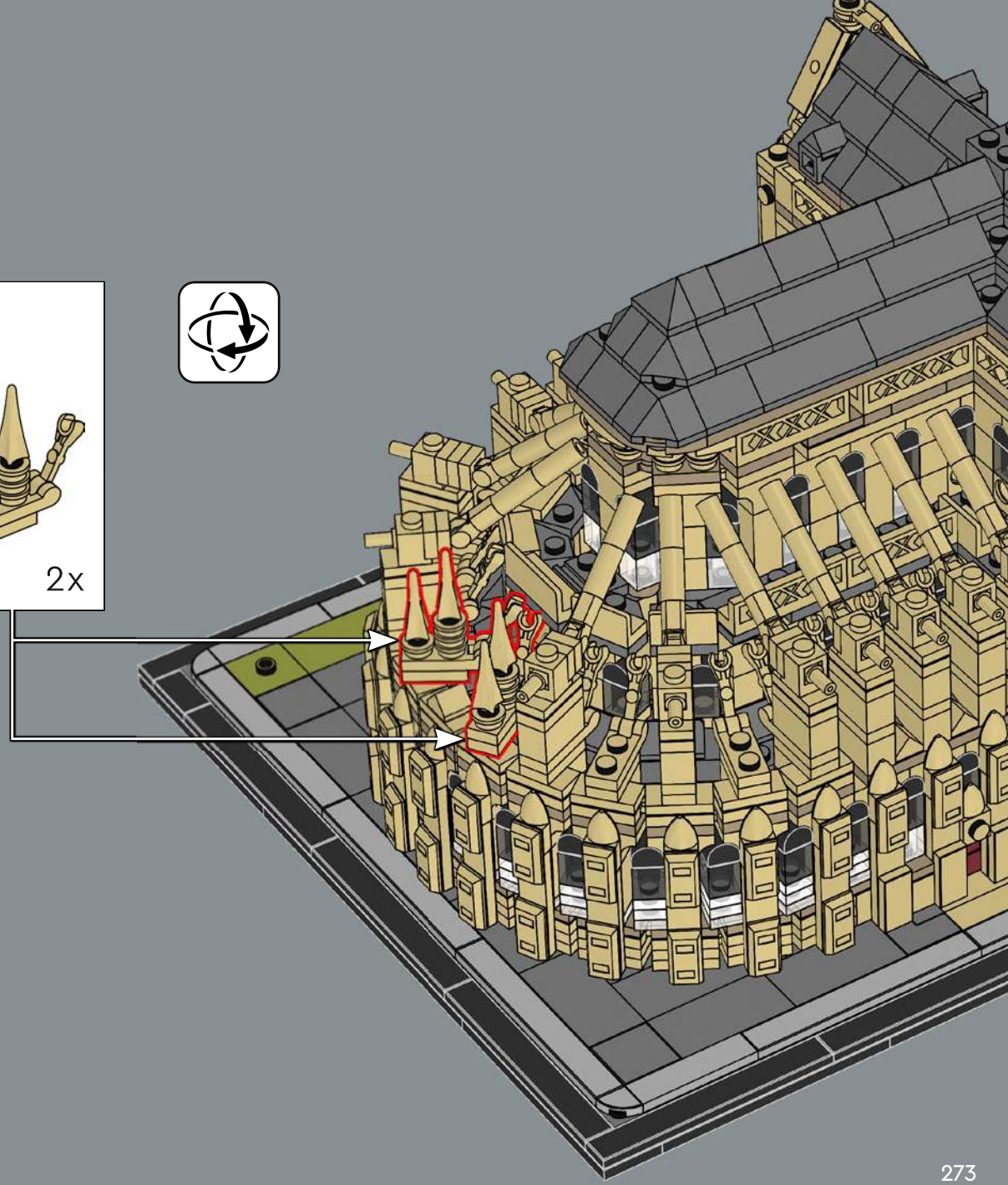


REVOLUTION AND CULTURAL LEGACY

During the turbulent years of the French Revolution (1789–1799), the noble Notre-Dame Cathedral suffered damage and gradual decay. Windows, altars and tombs were destroyed and bells were dismantled to be melted down. In 1792, rioters tore down the statues from the Gallery of Kings and dismantled the spire. For a while, the cathedral was even used to store wine and other goods. But in the wake of the revolution, there followed an emerging awareness and appreciation of French national heritage. The publication and widespread international acclaim of Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (1831) cemented the cathedral's status as a cultural gem in world history. From 1843 to 1860, architects Jean-Baptiste Lassus and Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc led the cathedral through an extensive restoration campaign to the version of the historic landmark we know today.

371





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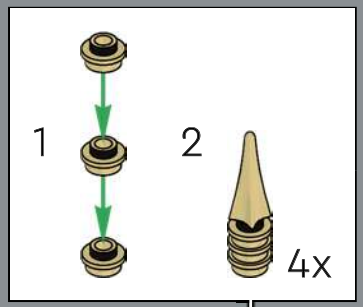
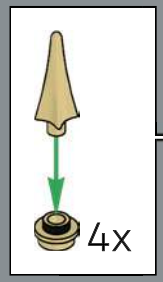
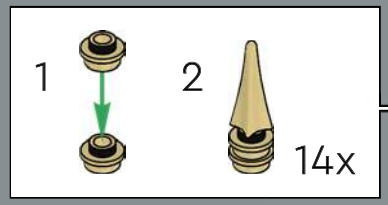




1350 – Finishing touches to Notre-Dame are complete; pinnacles on the uprights of the flying buttresses were redone before they were replaced yet again in the nineteenth century.

373



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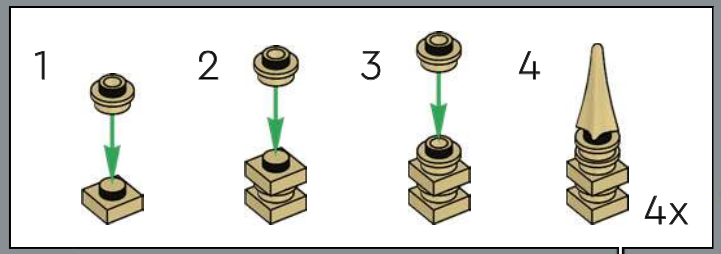
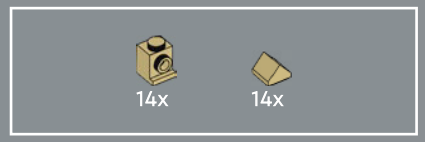
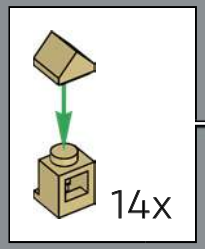
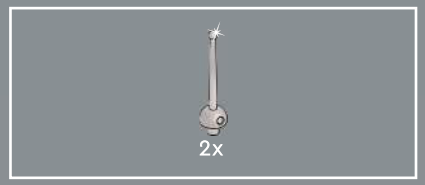




375

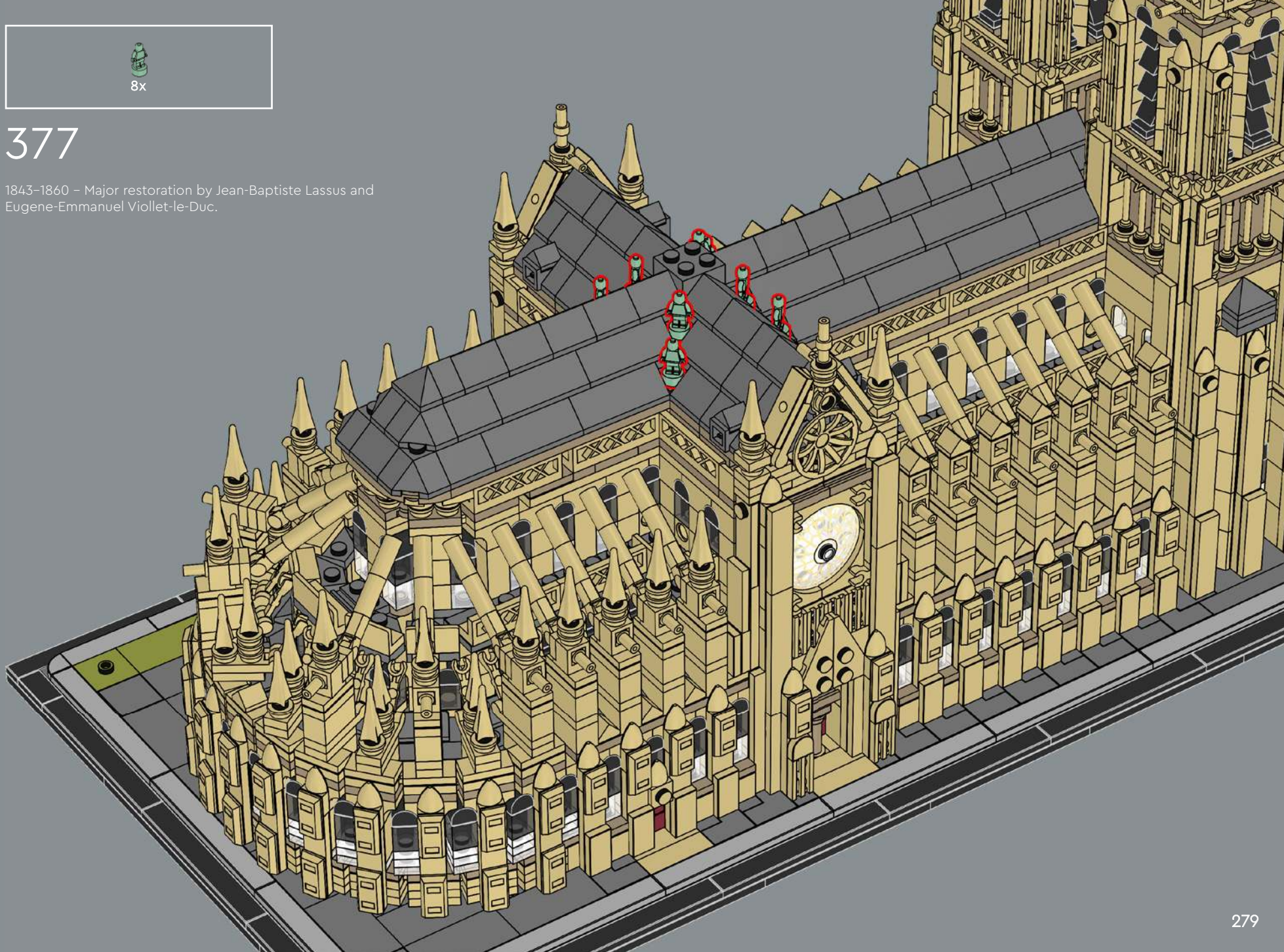
1858 – The tabernacles on the flying buttresses are added by Jean-Baptiste Lassus and Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc.





376

At 69 m (226 ft.), the two towers of the western facade made the Notre-Dame Cathedral the tallest building in Paris until the construction of the Eiffel Tower (1887–1889).



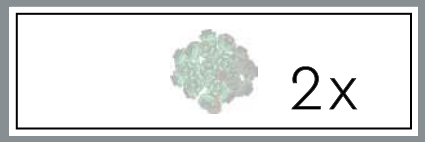
377

1843–1860 – Major restoration by Jean-Baptiste Lassus and Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc.

2x
1x
1x
8x
378
2x
1
2
Notre-Dame de Paris

18x
3x
3x
379
Notre-Dame de Paris
1
2
3x

Current sizes of the Notre-Dame Cathedral: Facade width: 43.5 m (142.7 ft.). Transept width: 48 m (157.5 ft.). Total length: 128 m (419.9 ft.). Spire height: 96 m (314.9 ft.). Towers' height: 69 m (226 ft.). Nave roof height: 35 m (114.8 ft.).



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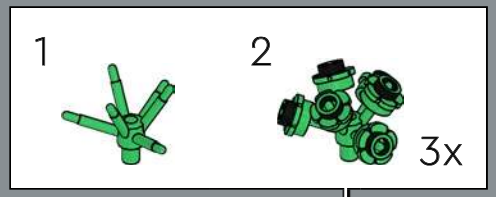

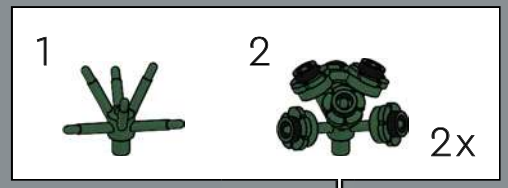

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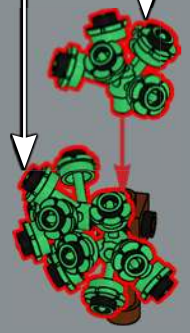
2



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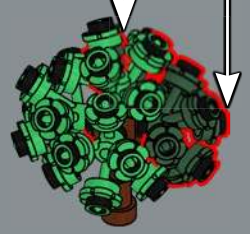
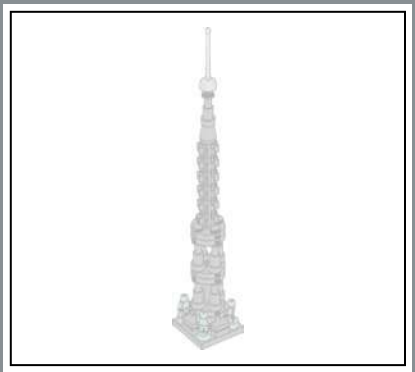
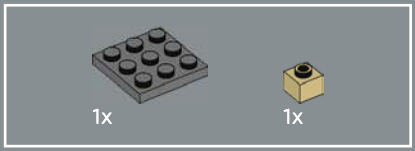


2x

Notre-Dame de Paris





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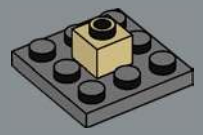

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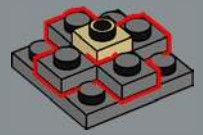

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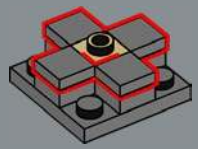

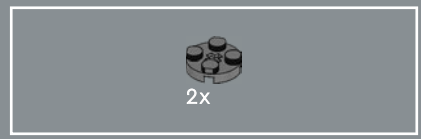

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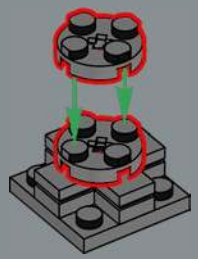

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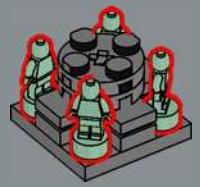

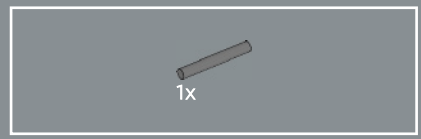

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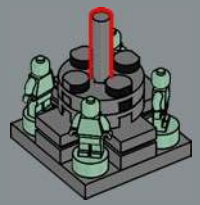

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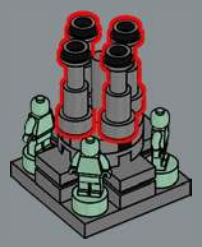

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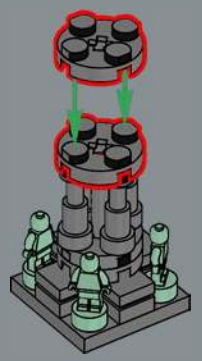

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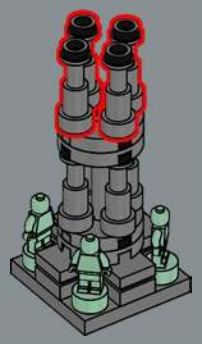

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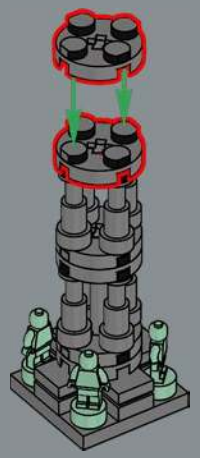

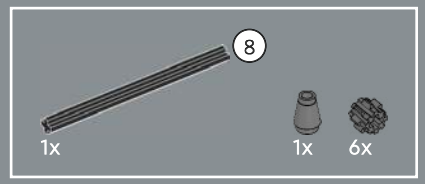

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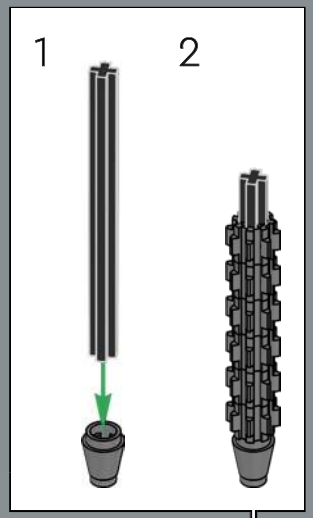

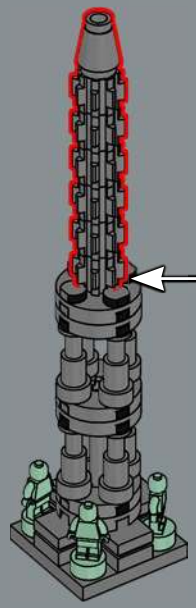

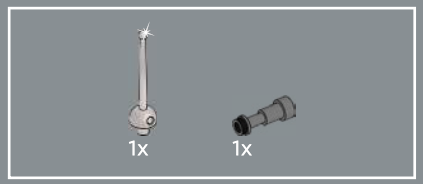

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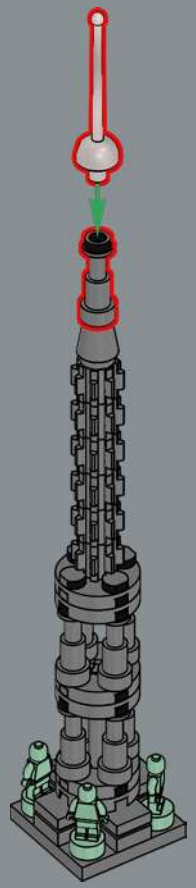
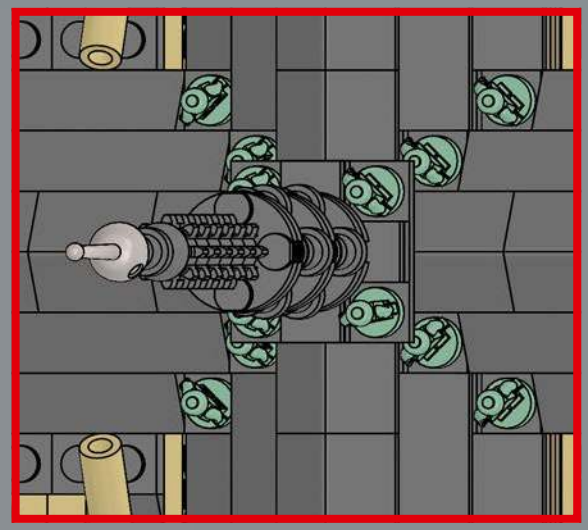


1860 – The spire is reconstructed, now slimmer and taller than the original, with the addition of sculptures of the 12 apostles along the slope of the roof.

The front doors of the LEGO® Notre-Dame Cathedral are open to allow us to peek through and feel the sense of awe you might experience when entering the intricate, vast arched space within.

393



The single statue facing the spire has the face of Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, one of the architects of the Cathedral. He gazes at the spire in appreciation of the building, while the others watch over Paris.

FIRE AND REBUILDING

After the devastating fire in April 2019, the Notre-Dame Cathedral was forced to close indefinitely, pending reconstruction. As the world watched rescue workers extinguish the fire, global fundraising campaigns raised overwhelming contributions towards the extensive rebuilding efforts in record time. A testament to the lasting impression the Notre-Dame Cathedral has left on people of all cultures throughout its lifespan, and to the incomparable spirit of Paris. With nearly 900 years of history packed into more than 4,000 LEGO® elements, we are excited to include this model in our LEGO Architecture collection.

12x 6510140
12x 6510126
70x 6217875
4x 6057517
73x 4113915
12x 4655900
77x 4109995
9x 4124455
8x 4114306
12x 4162465
8x 4159739
10x 4113916
1x 4112982
2x 6075179
2x 4579260
97x 6232135
42x 4118793
50x 6175968
6x 6478176
3x 6024495
14x 4529237
16x 4179771
73x 6230284
28x 4624086
4x 6286329
76x 6236425
4x 6383295
99x 6236423
4x 6391523
26x 6058093
2x 6328182
4x 6212038
3x 4618651
1x 4550323
2x 6031057
2x 6106187
30x 4125253
113x 6458392
36x 4159553
86x 4113917
59x 6092587
35x 4114026
44x 4124456
2x 6314477
6x 6221467
8x 4114077
2x 6211966
40x 4121921
20x 6131896
8x 4118790
41x 4113233
28x 4550324
49x 6257600
10x 6115031
24x 4114309
5x 6294227
34x 6351905
27x 4124067
10x 4157277
2x 4243824
6x 4143409
74x 6463667
32x 6360078
1x 6374192
22x 6286492
20x 6352222
2x 6249809
34x 6211975
4x 6410762
4x 6311104
166x 6443061
1x 4161734
18x 6284573
8x 6353196
4x 6145570
2x 6421618
2x 6458390
6x 6212758
1x 6099893
18x 4612603
8x 4642933
7x 6146221
6x 6300317
12x 6468347
1x 6300325
47x 6458386
30x 6447501
30x 4508093
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40x 6465134
30x 6269968
2x 6458388
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12x 6510125
2x 306926
72x 6214807
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2x 4558170
4x 6097283
2x 243126
1x 302026
4x 366626
17x 416226
Notre-Dame de Paris
1x 6476498
26x 303426
3x 303526
1x 244526
1x 6210270
2x 4109810
8
1x 370726
56x 6135287
9x 6269940
53x 6513962
49x 6514207
8x 6514136
16x 6514001
10x 6514455
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3x 6507075
1x 6240515
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5x 4520257
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7x
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4210869

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6396412

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6332045

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6168776

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10x
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20x
6232193

4x
6227909

2x
6477380

15x
4211054

4x
6262021

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4x
4504378

6x
6012451

20x
4211045

6x
4218188

2x
4210678

20x
4211114

3x
6222063

8x
6212080

8x
6016488

24x
6513968

86x
6514214

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