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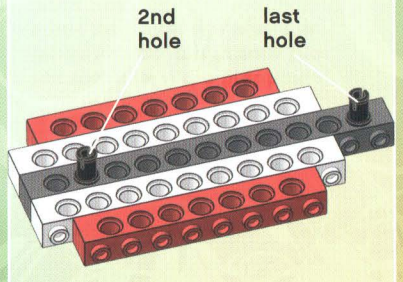

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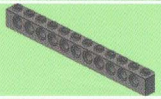

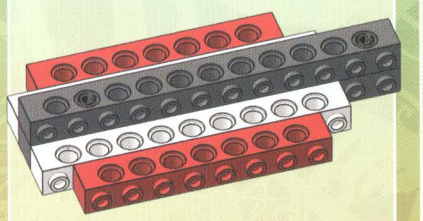

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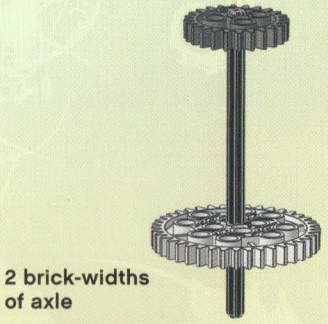
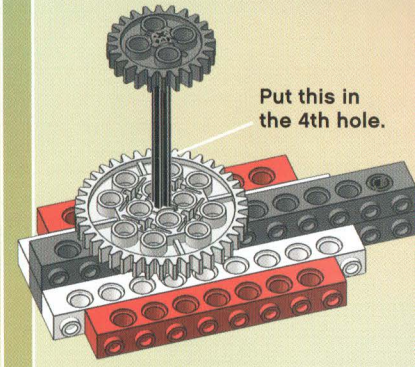


5

Step 3 + Step 4



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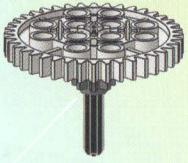
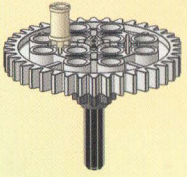


Push the small gear right next to the big one.

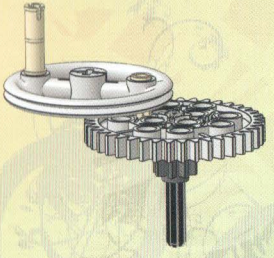
7

Push the axle peg partway into a cross hole.



Don't push it all the way in, though. You want the bottom of the peg to be flush with the bottom of the gear.

8



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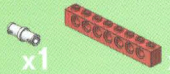

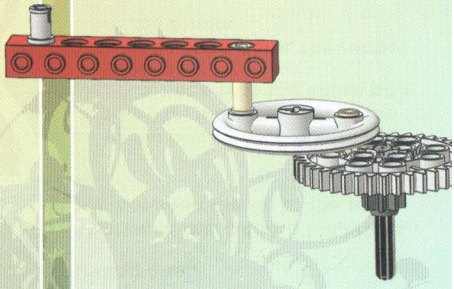

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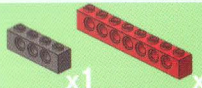

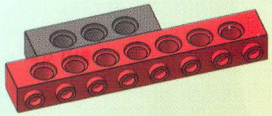

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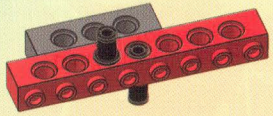
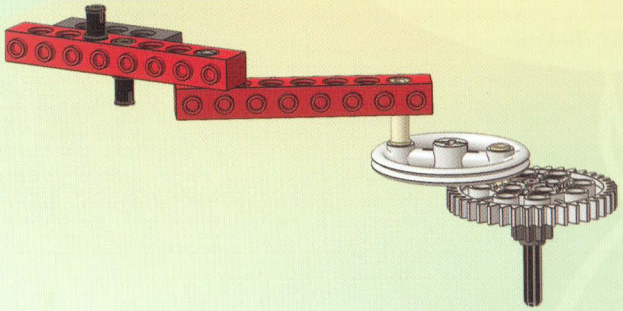


12

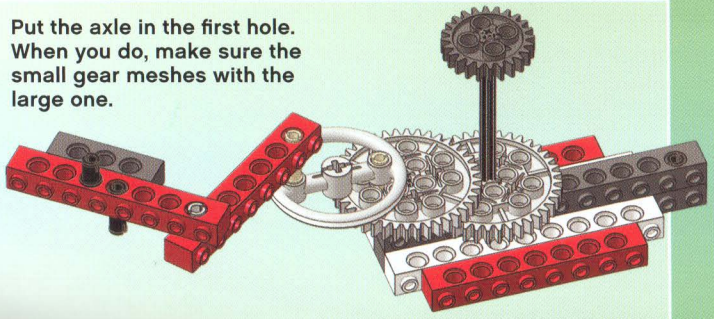
Step 9 + Step 11



13

Step 5 + Step 12

Put the axle in the first hole. When you do, make sure the small gear meshes with the large one.



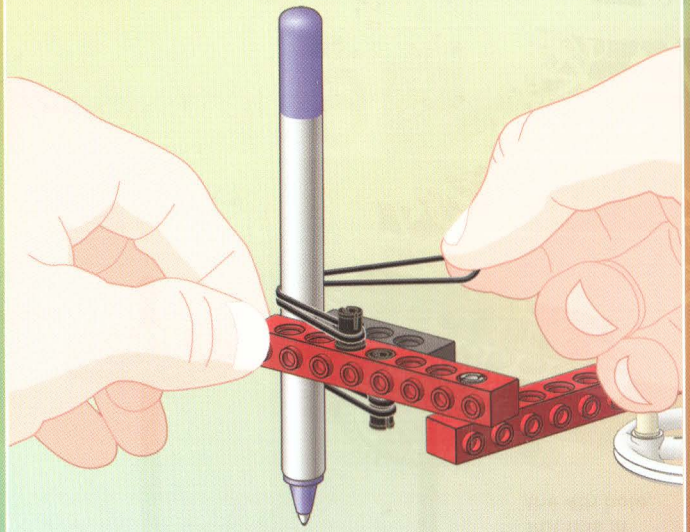
14

For the next part, you'll need a pen that uses water-based ink (see below for tips on finding one).

Press the pen to the space between the 1x4 and 1x8 bricks, so that there's about 2 inches between the tip of the pen and the bottom of the bricks.

Then, holding the pen tightly to the bricks, loop a small rubber band around a black peg. Pull the other end of the band around the pen, then hook it back onto the same peg.

Do this for both pegs, so that when you're done, the rubber bands hold the pen securely to the bricks.



Pen-Hunting Tips

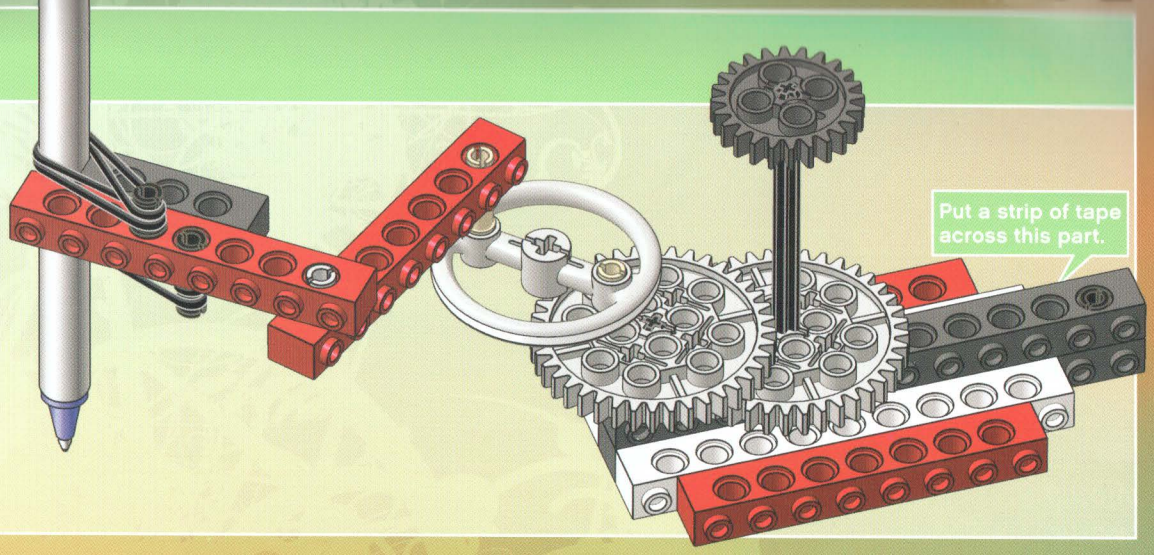
Pens with water-based ink work best because they don't need to press down very hard on the paper to leave a mark. Most cheap-o pens use oil-based ink, which doesn't work very well.

You can tell if a pen's ink is water-based if it bleeds out on the page when you dab a bit of water on it.

When you're done, it should look like this.

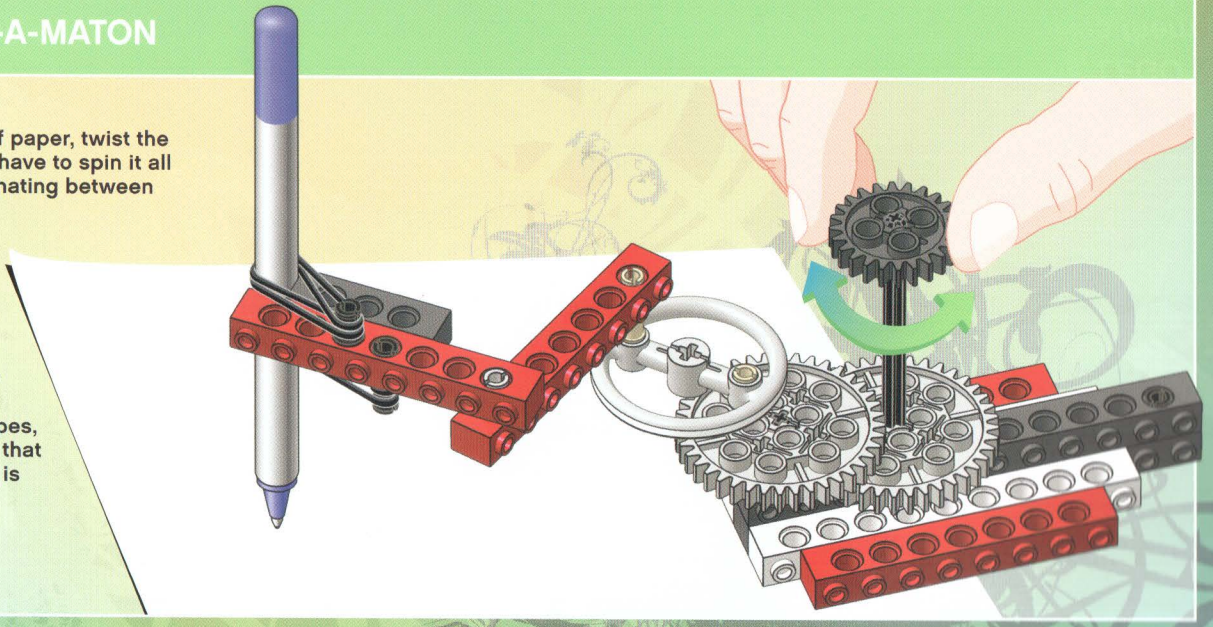
The last step is to tape the back of the contraption to a table or desk.

Then, slide a piece of paper underneath the pen tip and the front couple inches of the base of the Art-a-maton.



DRAWING WITH THE ART-A-MATON

With the pen tip resting on your piece of paper, twist the medium gear back and forth. You don't have to spin it all the way around; just rotate it a bit, alternating between clockwise and counter-clockwise.

The drawing arm should whip around, making the pen doodle randomly over the paper.

For more interesting scribbles, swap out pens with different-colored inks. Try rotating the paper between rounds of doodling. Also, you can try other pen types, like markers and felt-tip pens. Anything that leaves a mark when very little pressure is applied to the page is worth a shot.