Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Overview

In this lesson, users will learn how to use the elements of the TETRIX® system that will be involved in building the basic chassis of the Ranger Bot without using any motors or wires. Safe building practice will be introduced, as well as proper usage of required hand-tools.

Estimated Time: 60 minutes

Preparation:

- · Clean the workstation.
- · Organize the TETRIX set.

Materials:

- TETRIX Education Base Set (739143)
- · Hex Key 4-Pack

Resources:

- Engineering Journal Worksheet
- · Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Overview
- · Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Building Guide
- · Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Reference Guide
- · Safety Guide
- Hand-Tools Guide
 - TETRIX Endless Possibilities video



Basic Chassis 3-D Model

Building Objectives:

- · Learn how to build with the TETRIX system.
- · Learn how to use hand-tools.

Programming Objectives:

• This activity focuses on building.



Best Practices:

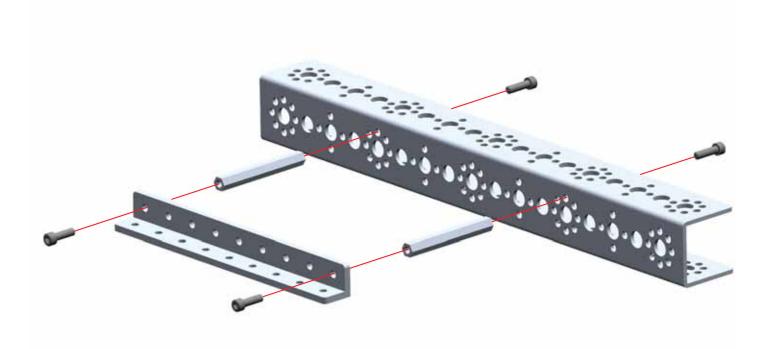
Be sure to review the General Best Practices Guide in the Introduction section of the TETRIX Getting Started Guide. Building

• It is important to orient the screws and channels carefully. Orient the screws as directed in the building guide so that they can be tightened or removed easily.

Step 1

Parts Needed

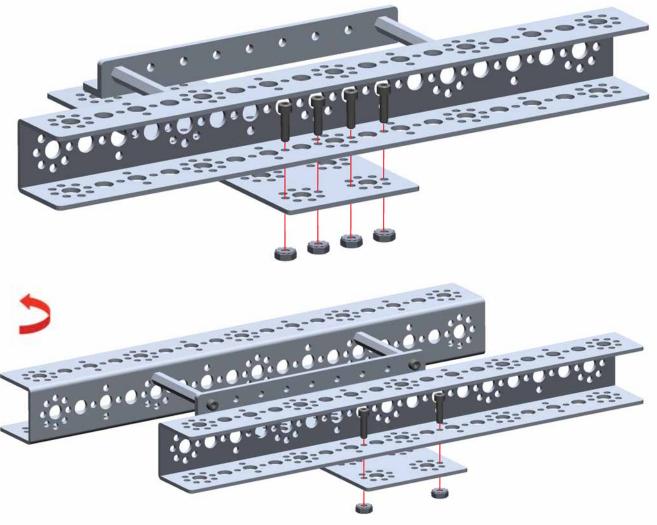




- There is only one size of screw to use while building this model: the 1/2" SHCS.
- To maintain accurate angle orientation, tighten all screws a little at a time, alternating between turns, until all screws are tightened completely.
- Use the correct size of hex key when tightening screws to prevent screws from stripping. Use the 7/64" hex key for these screws.

Step 2



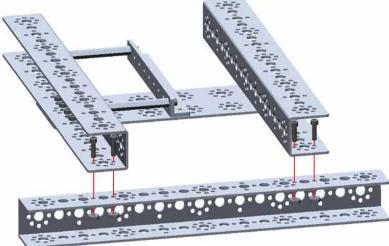


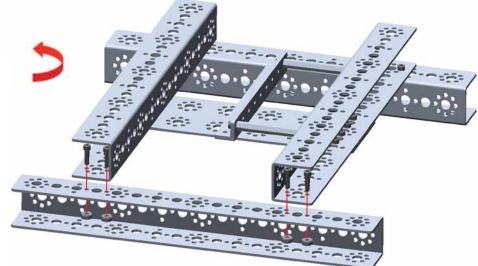
- The easiest way to tighten the screws is to insert the hex key through the holes above them.
- Do not tighten all of the screws fully until the plate is attached.

Step 3

Parts Needed





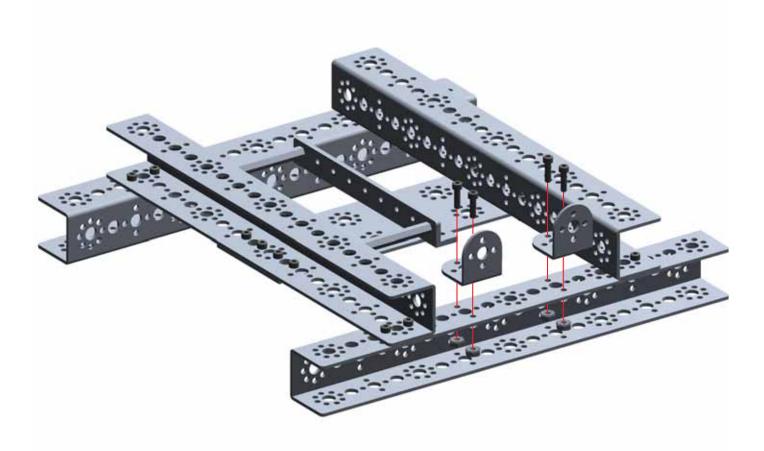


- Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.
- For easier access, face the inside angle of the channel away from the center of the model.
- Remember: The easiest way to tighten the screws is to insert the hex key through the holes above them.
- The head of each screw should face the top of the chassis.
- Attach the top channels to the lower channels by aligning to the fourth large hole, counting from the ends of the lower channels, as shown.

Step 4

Parts Needed





Tir

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 5

Parts Needed





- Attach the stand-off post to the chassis first. The screws that are attached to the channel are held in with a nut and cannot be turned.
- To keep the flat bracket oriented properly, tighten the bottom two screws bit by bit, alternating between them.

Parts Needed

Step 6



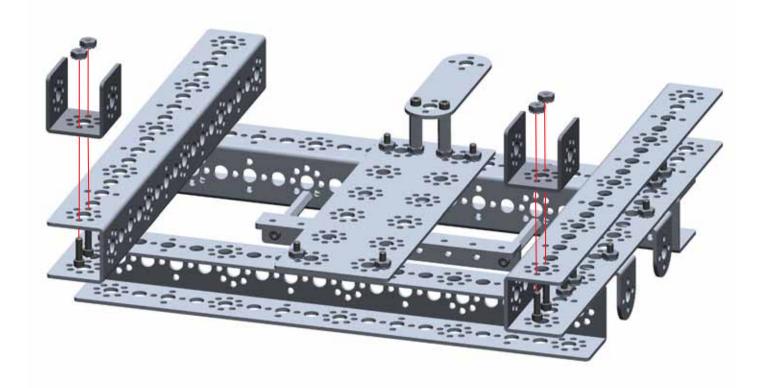




2x 32 mm Channel

4x 1/2" SHCS

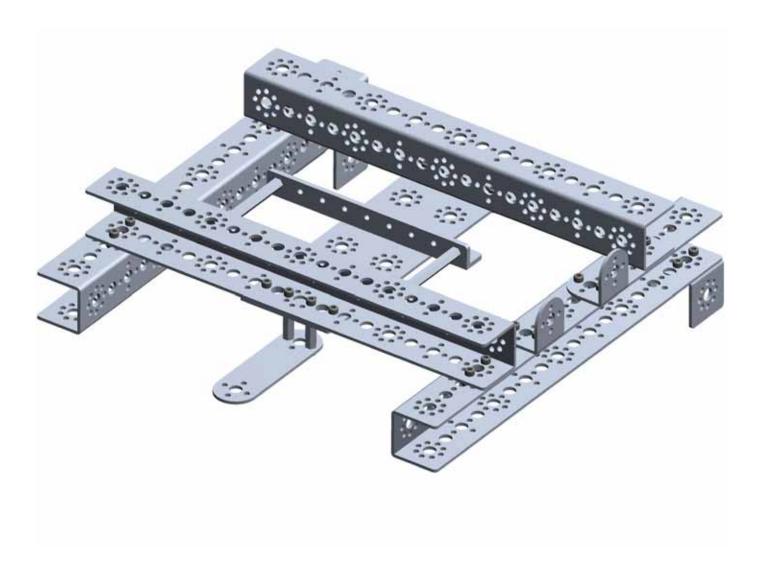
4x Kep Nut



Tip

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Final View



Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Reference Guide

Expectations

Technology:

- Develop an understanding of the characteristics and scope of technology.
- Develop and produce a product or system using a design process.
- Develop an understanding of the attributes of design.
- · Develop an understanding of engineering design.
- Develop an understanding of the core concepts of technology.

Mathematics:

- · Understand patterns, relations, and functions.
- Analyze characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional shapes.
- Develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships.
- Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement.
- Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize, and display relevant data.

Science:

- · Implement a proposed solution.
- Communicate the problem, process, and solution.

Engineering:

- · Identify a need or problem.
- · Sketch a two-dimensional model.
- · Sketch a three-dimensional model.
- Test and evaluate.
- Redesign what has been created.
- · Meet design constraints.

Classroom Organization and Setup

1. Open the TETRIX® sets and sort the elements into the compartments of the plastic tray.



- 2. Set up a projector with a computer to show the TETRIX Endless Possibilities video.
 - 3. Organize the class into groups of two or three students. These groups will work together for the first three lessons in the TETRIX Getting Started Guide activities.
 - 4. Provide each student with a copy of the Engineering Journal worksheet.
 - 5. Provide each group of students with a copy of the Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Building Guide.

Lesson Progression

1. Become familiar with the TETRIX set and the resources provided with it.

Take out and examine:

- a. The metal and electronic elements within the TETRIX set, starting with the elements in the "Start Here" box.
- b. The tools that will be used when assembling the elements in the TETRIX set.



- 💫 2. Watch the TETRIX Endless Possibilities video that is provided on the TETRIX Getting Started Guide DVD.
 - 3. Highlight one or two interesting building or programming goals from the video. Record these goals in a notebook or as part of an engineering journal entry.
 - 4. Identify and inventory each element within the TETRIX set using the Elements Inventory or the Parts Card.
 - 5. Sort the elements into the tray provided and think critically about why this is a necessary step. For example, it allows users to identify any missing parts. It also creates an organizational system so that parts can be easily found when needed.
 - 6. Follow the Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Building Guide to complete the basic chassis.

Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Reference Guide

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the benefits of using metal pieces to construct the basic chassis?

A: Metal pieces make the structure of the basic chassis much sturdier than one made with plastic materials. Using metal pieces means that the basic chassis will be able to accomplish tasks that require greater strength.

Q: Which tool would be most effective in assembling the basic chassis? Why?

A: The 7/64" hex key provided in the TETRIX® Base Set is required to assemble the basic chassis because it is the only tool that will fit the head of the socket head cap screw.

Q: What features make the base stable?

A: The basic chassis is stable because it has a square base and because its center of mass is very low to the ground and near the center of the robot.

Q: Why is it important to pay attention to the orientation of the screws while assembling the basic chassis?

A: It is important to orient the screws so that they can be easily accessed in future lessons as additional elements are added to the model.

Q: Why should the inside angle of the channel face away from the center of the basic chassis when assembling the basic chassis?

A: Orienting the channels so that the inside angle of the channel faces away from the center of the basic chassis ensures easy access and a clear visual line to elements that may be attached in future lessons. For an illustrated example, see the General Best Practices Guide in the printed TETRIX Getting Started Guide.

Q: What could be the result of using an incorrectly sized screwdriver or hex key?

A: It is easy to accidentally strip the screws and even damage the hand-tools when the wrong-sized tool is used.

Q: What is the proper way to orient the nuts when assembling the basic chassis?

A: The teeth of the nut should face the head of the screw.

Q: Why should screws be tightened fully only after the entire subassembly has been completed?

A: Tightening screws before an entire subassembly is complete can make it difficult to accurately line up the holes in the channels. All screws in a subassembly should be fastened loosely before any are completely tightened to ensure that the elements have been aligned properly.

Innovation and Inspiration

Suggestion #1: "What could be built from this?"

- Using the basic chassis as a starting point, brainstorm what could be built with the remaining TETRIX and MINDSTORMS® elements.
- This new model can be a real or imaginary product, such as a frame for a new musical instrument.
- Create a sketch of the plan and add elements to the base.
- Share developed ideas with others and outline additional uses for the model.
- · Various constraints can be imposed on the design, such as cost, size, or weight.
- These constraints can be gathered from other students in the class, acting as potential customers, depending on what they want to do with the product.
- The data that is collected can be graphed to anticipate what the demand of the class is, as well as which design might have the best sales.
- · Give the product a name and a monetary value. Discuss who might be interested in buying it.

Lesson 1: Basic Chassis Reference Guide

Suggestion #2: "Find the perimeter and area of the TETRIX® Channels."

- Place a five-hole TETRIX channel on a blank piece of paper and trace its outer edge.
- · Measure the perimeter and calculate the approximate area of the traced image.
- · Estimate the perimeter and area of the nine-hole TETRIX channel.
- · Place the nine-hole TETRIX channel on a blank piece of paper and trace its outer edge.
- · Measure the perimeter and calculate the approximate area of the traced image.
- · Calculate the area of the traced image.
- Create a table containing the perimeters and areas of both the five-hole and nine-hole TETRIX channels. For example:

	Perimeter	Approximate Area
Five-Hole TETRIX Channel		
Nine-Hole TETRIX Channel Estimation		
Nine-Hole TETRIX Channel		

- · How accurate was the estimate?
- · Calculate the difference between the measured nine-hole TETRIX channel perimeter or area and the estimated values.
- · Consider the relationship between the perimeter of the TETRIX channels and the number of holes in them.
- · Also consider the relationship between the area of the TETRIX channels and the number of holes.
- Create another table containing the calculated values for the perimeter per number of holes in the TETRIX channels and the area per number of holes in the TETRIX channels. For example:

	Perimeter/# of Holes	Area/# of Holes
Five-Hole TETRIX Channel		
Nine-Hole TETRIX Channel		

- Is the area per number of holes approximately constant for the five- and nine-hole TETRIX channels? Is the perimeter constant? Explain why or why not.
- Does this rule apply to other sizes of TETRIX channels?

Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement Overview

In this lesson, DC motors, a DC Motor Controller, the NXT brick, wires, and wheels will be attached to the basic chassis that was created in Lesson 1. The Ranger Bot will be observed completing basic movements. Movement can be implemented using a keyboard in LabVIEW for LEGO MINDSTORMS, or by running the provided ROBOTC sample code in ROBOTC. Optionally, if a joystick is available, it can be used in either LabVIEW for LEGO MINDSTORMS or in ROBOTC.

Estimated Time: 90 minutes

Preparation:

- Clear the workstation.
- · Organize the TETRIX® and MINDSTORMS® sets.
- · Charge the TETRIX and NXT batteries.
- · Download the latest firmware onto the NXT Brick

Note: See the Quick-Start Guide in the Introduction section of the TETRIX Getting Started Guide.

Materials:

- · Completed Basic Chassis from Lesson 1
- TETRIX Education Base Set (739143)
- L FGO® MINDSTORMS Education NXT Base Set (W979797)
- Programming Software (ROBOTC® or LabVIEW™ for LEGO MINDSTORMS) installed on each computer

Note: A joystick is not included in the TETRIX Education Base Set (739143)

Resources:

- Engineering Journal worksheet
- · Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement Overview
- Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement **Building Guide**
- · Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement Programming Guide or (Optional) Joystick Programming Guide
- · Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement Reference Guide



• Lesson 2 Sample Program



 Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement Tutorial video (optional)



· Lesson 2: (Optional) Joystick



· Lesson 2: Ranger Bot Movement - How It Should Work video



• Ranger Bot Movement 3-D Model

Building Objectives:

- · Wire and attach a TETRIX DC motor and a DC motor controller.
- · Attach an NXT Brick to a MINDSTORMS with TETRIX robot.

Programming Objectives:

- Make the Ranger Bot move using either a sample program or remote control from either the computer or a joystick.
- Configure the robot motor controller (with LabVIEW for LEGO MINDSTORMS or ROBOTC).
- · Control the Ranger Bot:
 - Using a keyboard with LabVIEW for LEGO MINDSTORMS.
 - · By deploy a basic movement program in ROBOTC.
 - · (Optional) By controlling the Ranger Bot using a joystick with LabVIEW for LEGO MINDSTORMS or ROBOTC.



Best Practices:

Be sure to review the General Best Practices Guide in the Introduction section of the TETRIX Getting Started Guide. Building

• To balance the weight of the robot and provide weight on the front wheels for better traction, mount the battery toward the front of the Ranger Bot.



- MINDSTORMS elements can be attached to TETRIX with hard point connectors. Turn the screws only until the hard point connectors are securely attached to the TETRIX channels.
- · Motor controllers are attached using screws and hex keys different from those used in Lesson 1: Basic Chassis. Keep this in mind when choosing which hand-tools to use.



- Complete all wiring before attaching the battery.
 - · Use the 4-in-1 screwdriver to tighten the screws that secure the wires into the motor controllers.

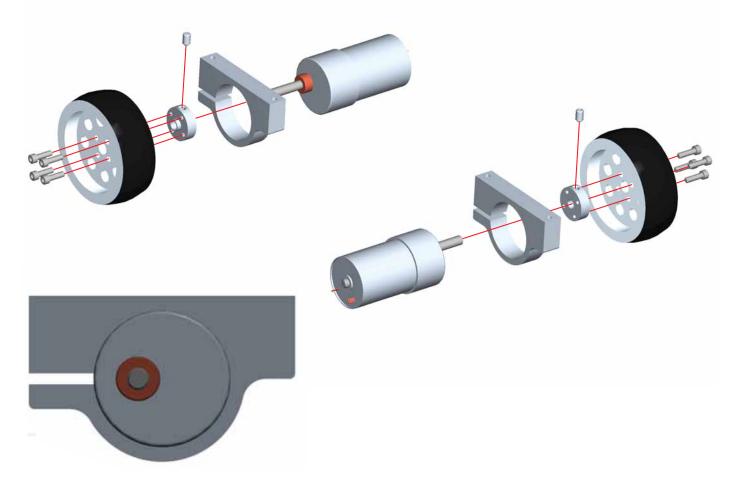
Programming

· Ensure that all NXT Bricks are given unique names.

Step 1

Parts Needed



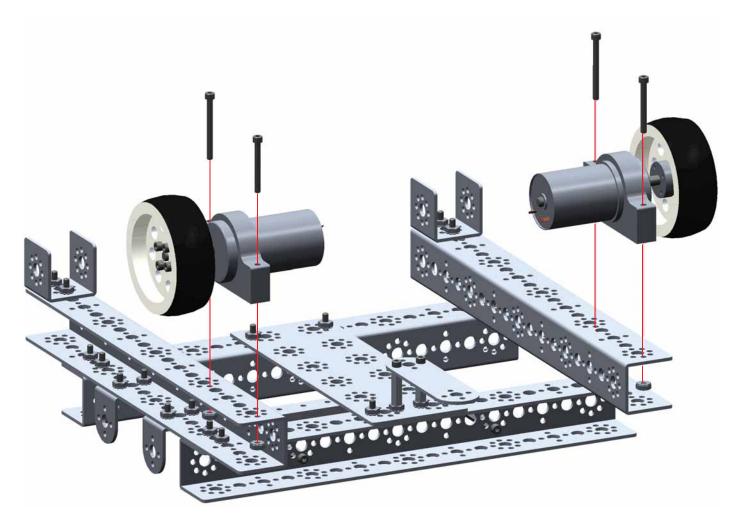


- The 7/64", 3/32", 5/64" hex keys will be needed to build this model. Some sets may also require a 1/16" hex key.
- Use the motor shaft hub. The axle hub is too small.
- The set screw should connect to the D-flat side of the motor shaft.
- Make sure that the gaps in the motor mounts are facing as shown.
- Note that the shaft of the DC motor is not centered. Ensure that the motor is rotated in the mount so that the shaft is positioned closest to the gap, as shown in the bottom picture.

Step 2

Parts Needed



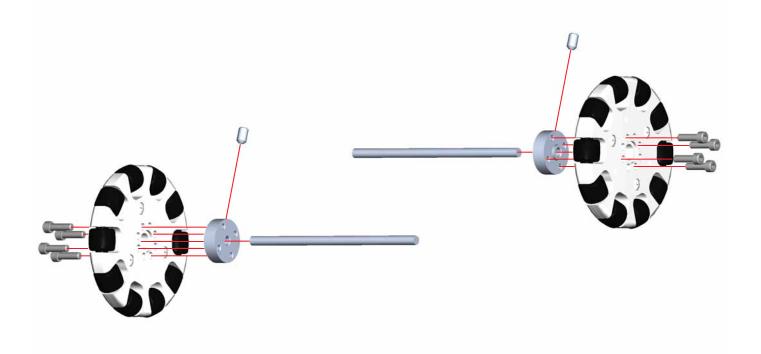


Tip

• Ensure that the teeth on the nuts face the head of the screw.

Step 3

Parts Needed 2x Omni Wheel 2x Axle Hub 2x 100 mm Shaft 8x 1/2" SHCS



- Make sure to use the appropriate hub. The axle hub is smaller than the motor shaft hub.
- Use the 3/32" hex key for the axle hub.

Step 4

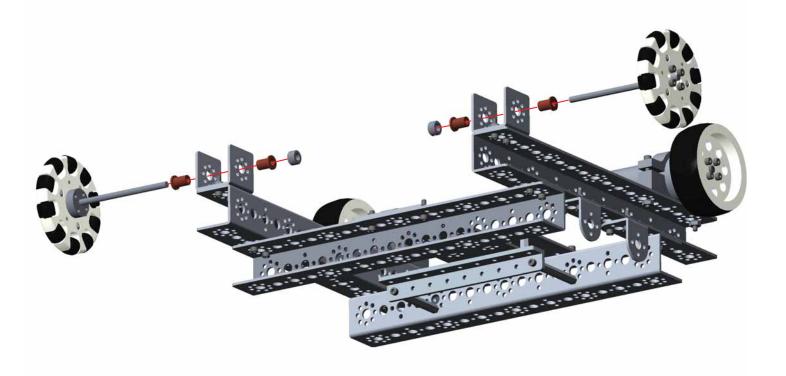
Parts Needed





4x Bronze Bushing

2x Shaft Collar



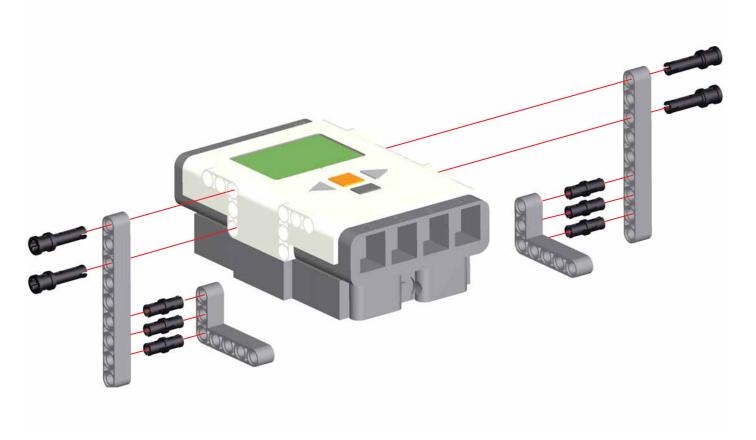
Tip-

• Depending on the TETRIX® set, use either the 1/16" or 5/64" hex key for the shaft collar set screw.

Step 5

Parts Needed





Tip

• Make sure that the NXT rechargeable battery has been attached to the NXT brick.

Step 6

Parts Needed



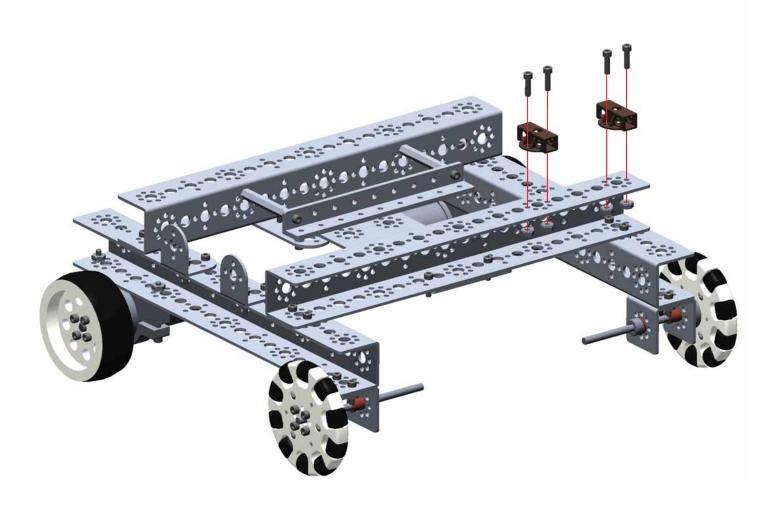
2X TETRIX® Hard Point Connector



4x 5/16" SHCS



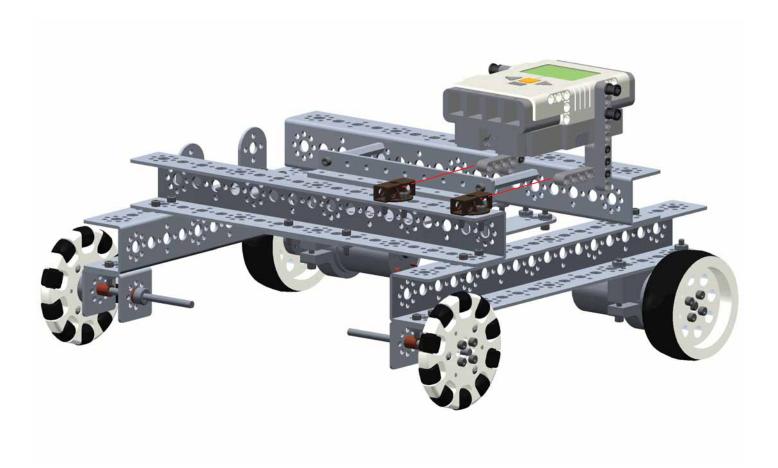
4x Kep Nut





Turn the screws only until the hard point connectors are securely attached to the TETRIX channels.

Remember: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

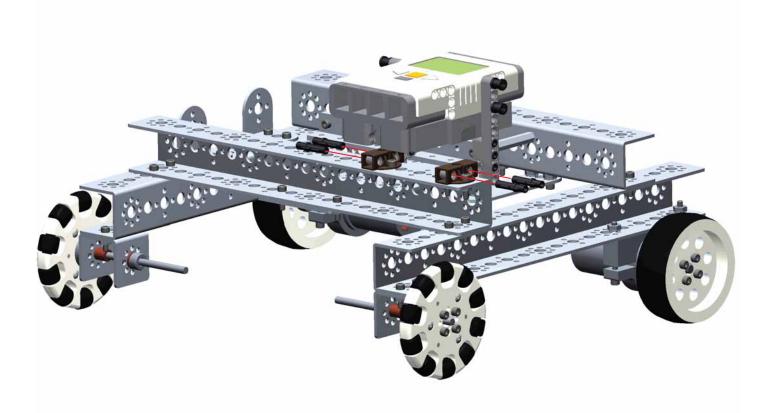


Step 8

Parts Needed



4x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



Step 9

Parts Needed



1x HiTechnic DC Motor Control



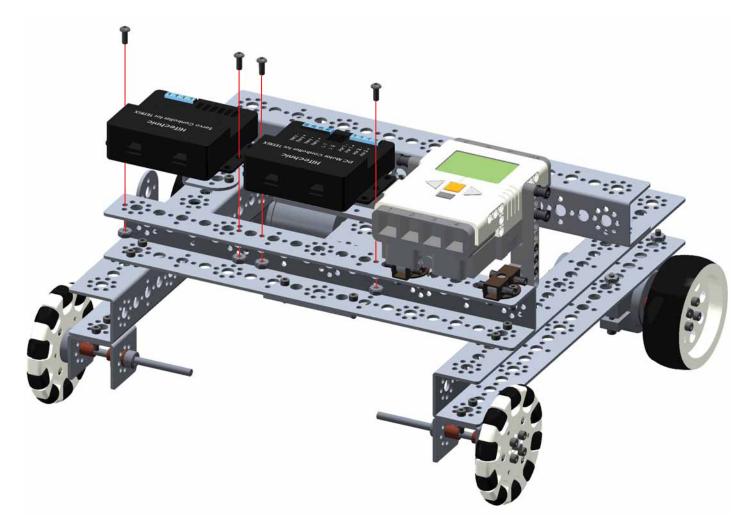
1x HiTechnic Servo Controller



4x 3/8" BHCS



4x Kep Nut

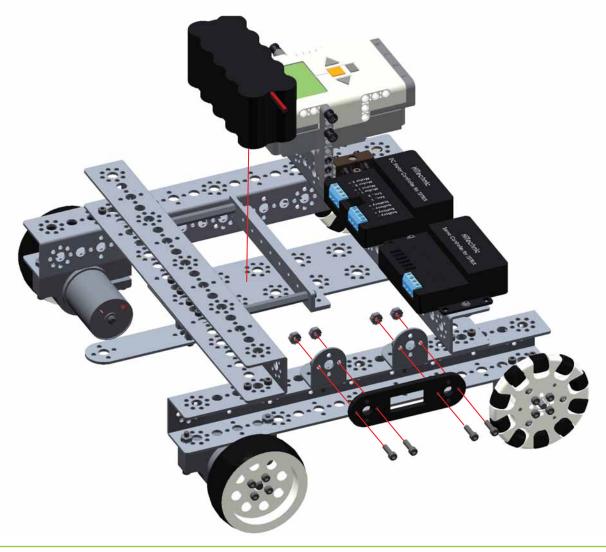


- \cdot The motor controllers are attached using the button head cap screws. Use the 5/64" hex key for these screws.
- Tighten the screws only until the controllers are securely attached.
- Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 10

Parts Needed





Tip

• Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

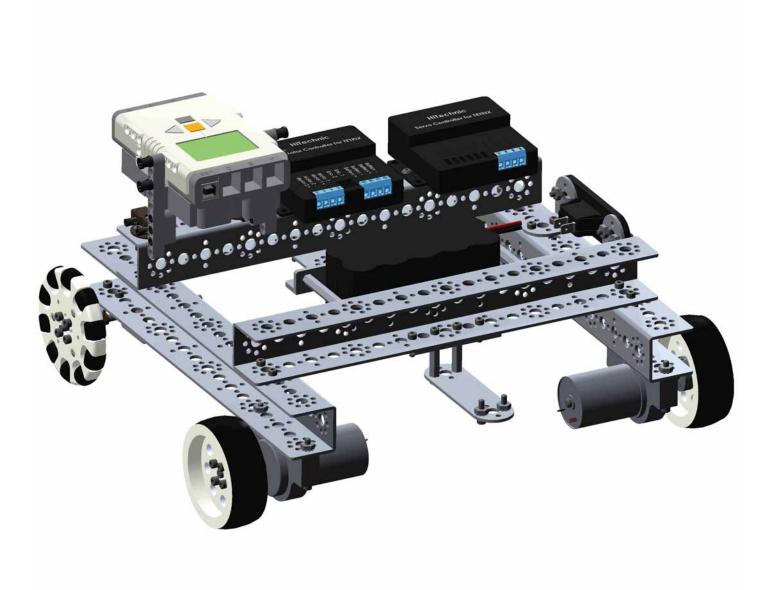
Step 11

Parts Needed





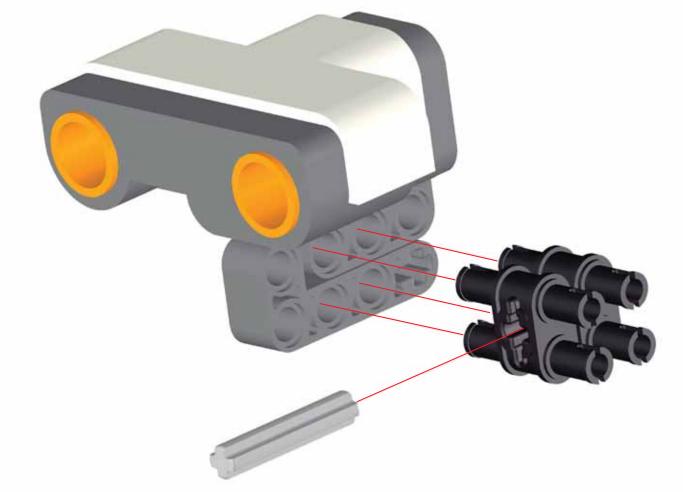
Final View



Step 1

Parts Needed





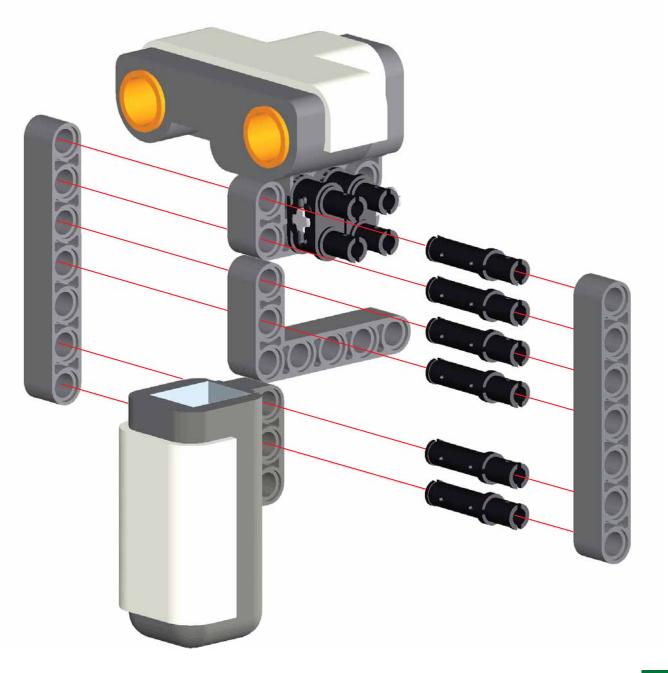
Tip

• Only the 7/64" hex key is necessary while building this model.

Step 2

Parts Needed





Step 3

Parts Needed



1x TETRIX® Hard Point Connector



2x 5/16" SHCS



2x Kep Nut

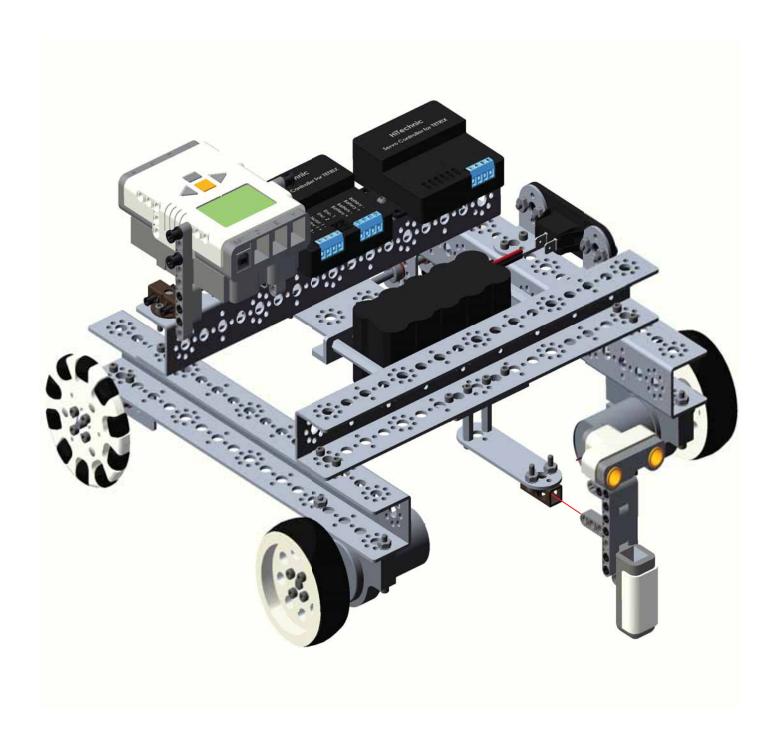




Turn the screws only until the hard point connector is securely attached to the TETRIX channels.

Lesson 3: Ranger Bot Sensors Building Guide

Step 4

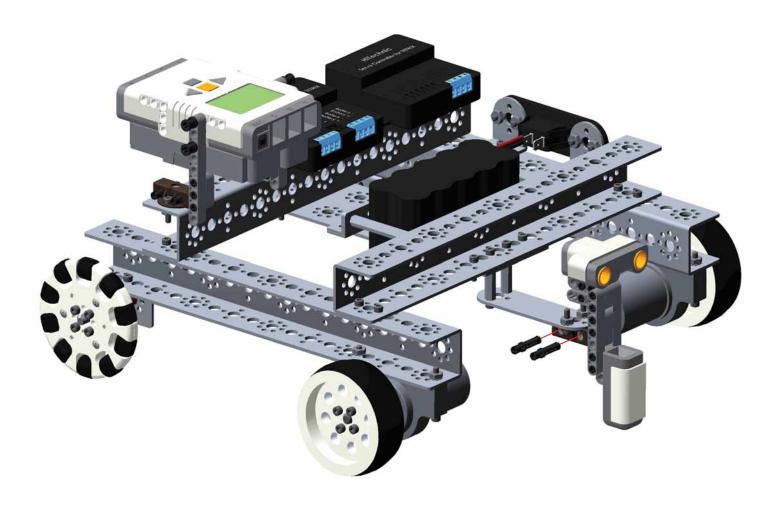


Step 5

Parts Needed



2x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



Final View



Step 1 **Parts Needed**







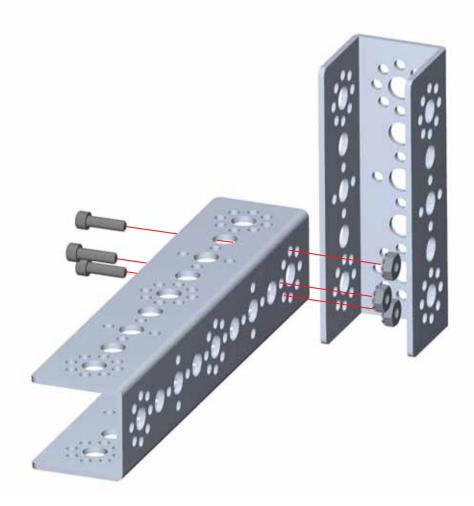


1x 96 mm Channel

1x 160 mm Channel

3x 1/2" SHCS

3x Kep Nut

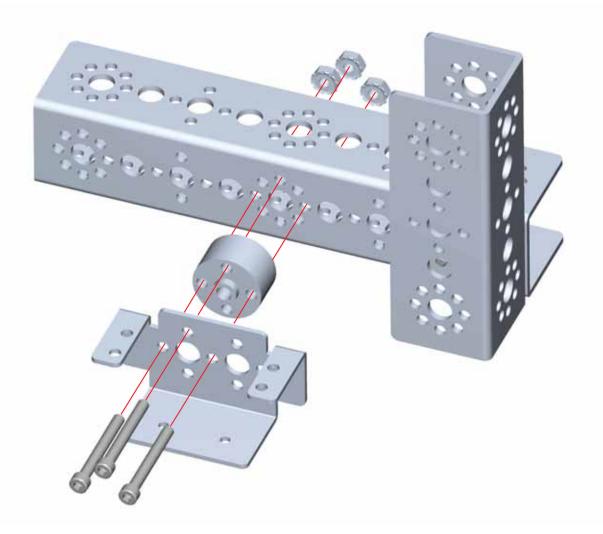


- Make sure all the internal screws are very secure, as they will be hard to retighten later.
- The 7/64", 5/64" and 3/32" hex keys will be needed to build this model.
- \cdot Use the 7/64" hex key for these screws throughout the model.
- Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 2

Parts Needed



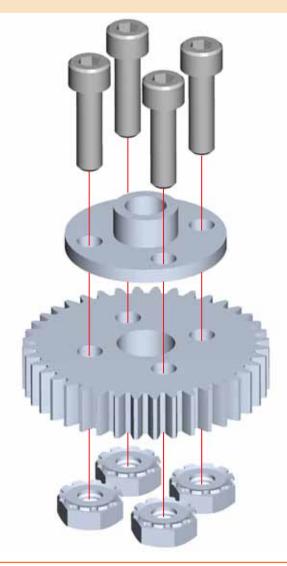


- Ensure that all screws are tightly secured at this point, as they will not be easily accessible later.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 3

Parts Needed





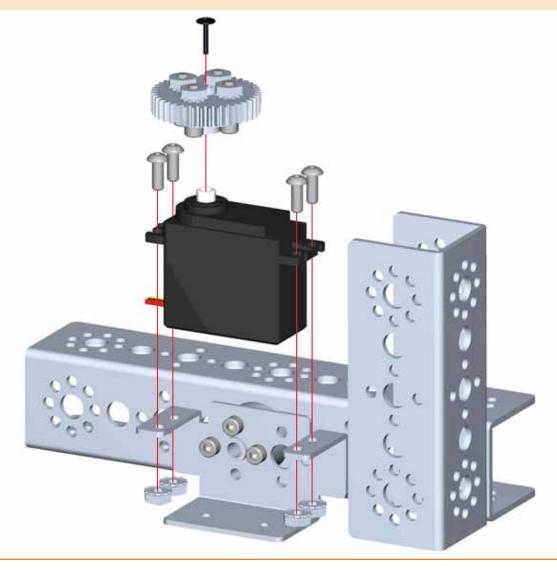
Tip

• Ensure that the teeth of the nuts are facing the gear.

Step 4

Parts Needed



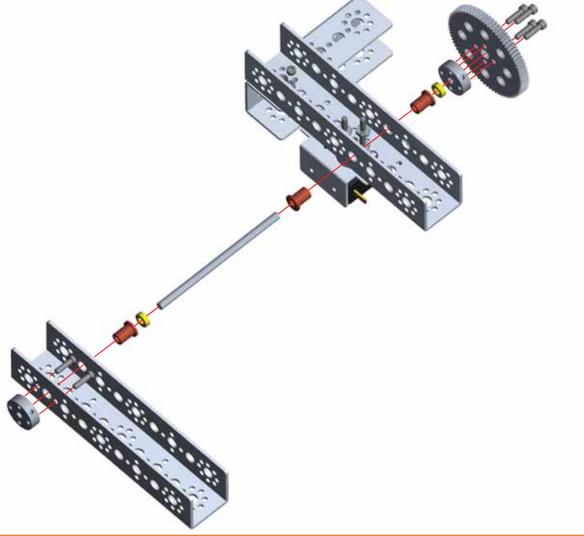


- Use the Phillips head on the 4-in-1 screwdriver to tighten the servo screw. This will keep the servo horn attached to the servo motor.
- Use the 5/64" hex key for the BHCS.

Step 5

Parts Needed



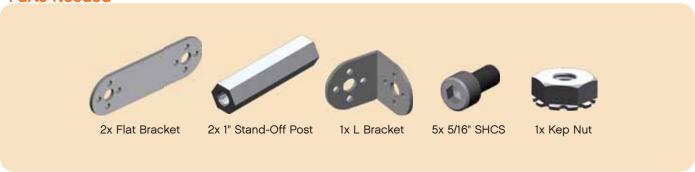


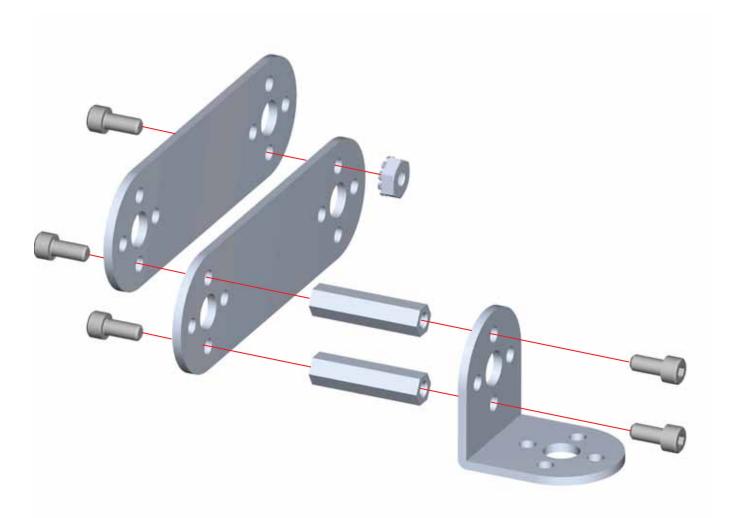
Tip

 \bullet The 3/32" hex key is used on the axle hubs.

Step 6

Parts Needed





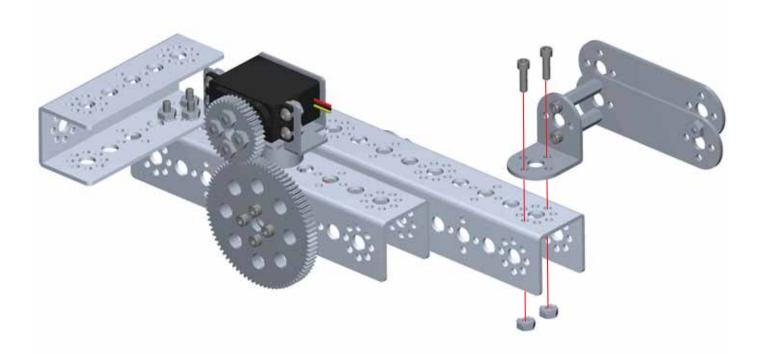
Tip

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 7

Parts Needed





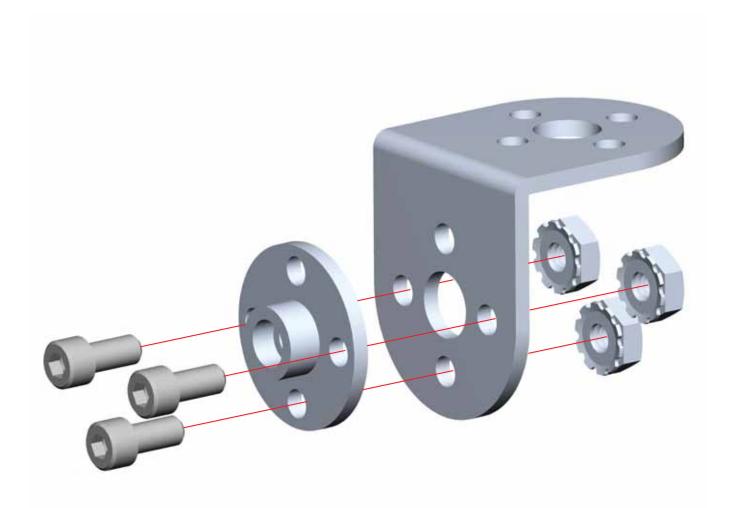
Tin

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 8

Parts Needed



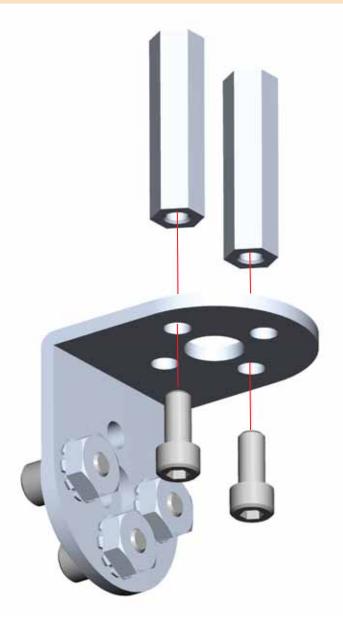


Tip

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

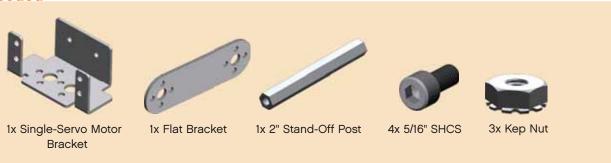
Step 9

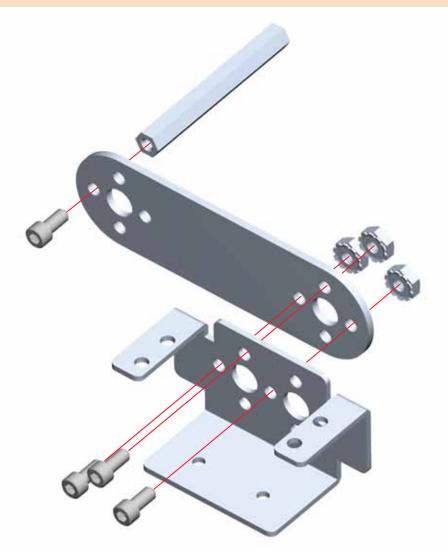




Step 10

Parts Needed





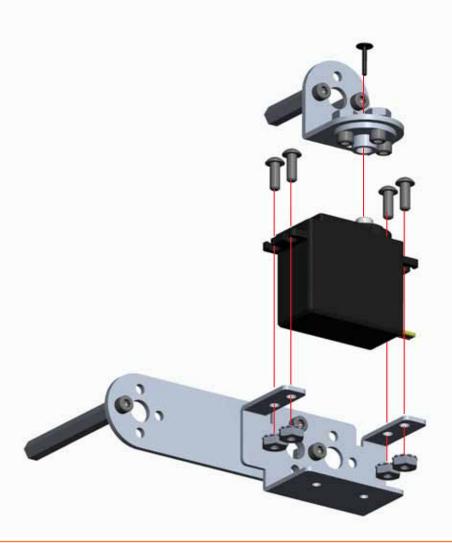
Tip

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 11

Parts Needed





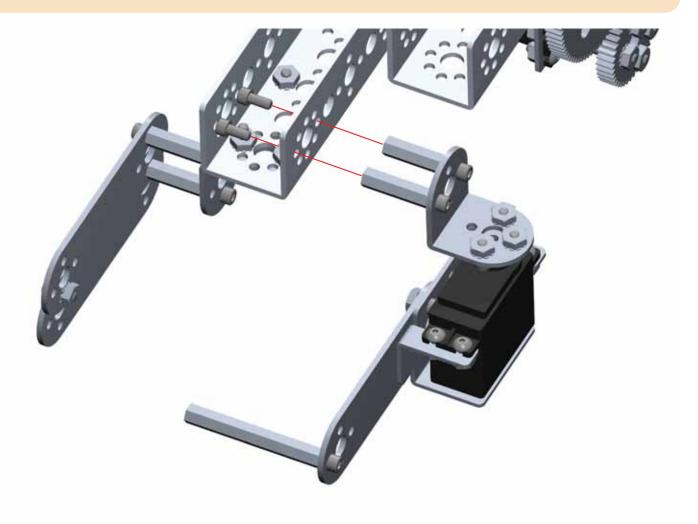
Tip

• Use the Phillips head on the 4-in-1 screwdriver to tighten the servo screw. This will keep the servo horn attached to the servo motor.

Step 12

Parts Needed





Tip

• To keep the arm oriented properly, tighten the screws bit by bit, alternating between them.

Step 13





Step 14



2x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



2x 5-Module Beam



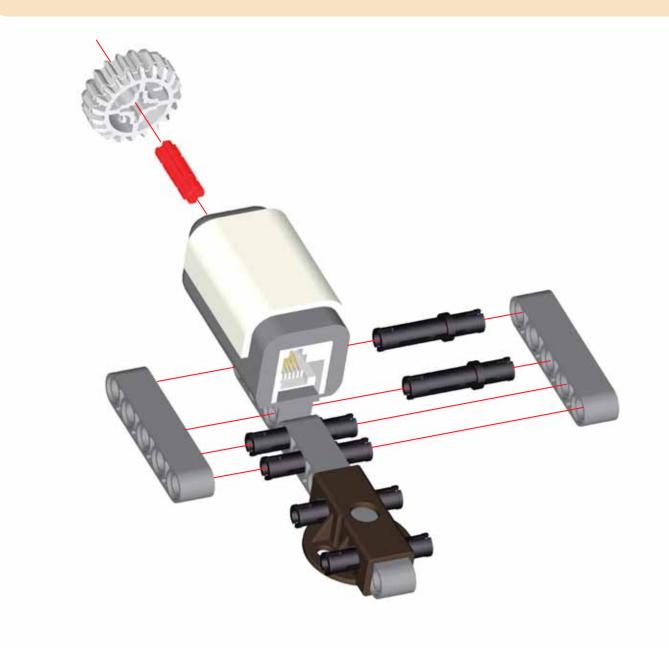
1x NXT Touch Sensor



1x 20-Tooth Gear



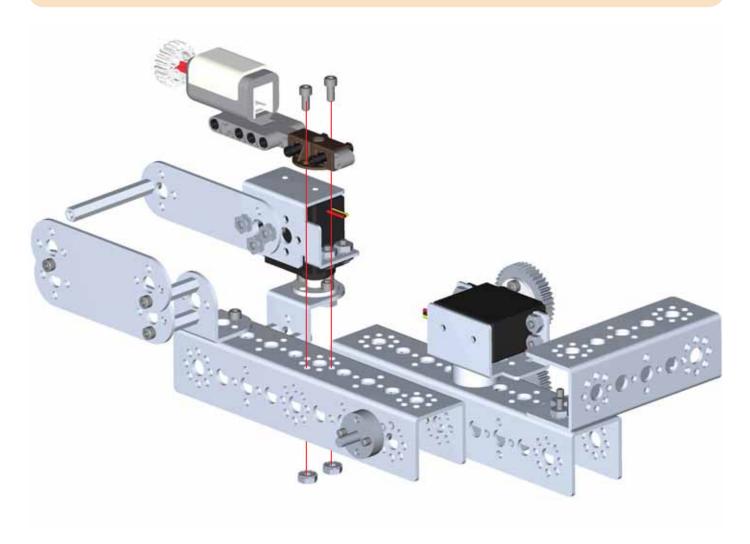
1x 2-Module Axle



Step 15

Parts Needed



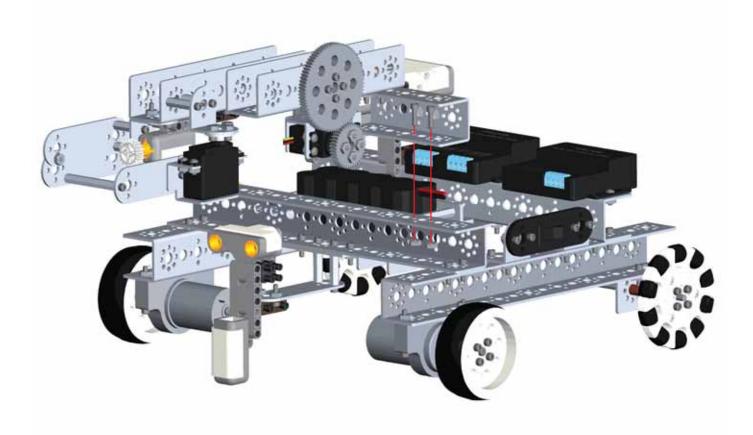


Tip

• Turn the screws only until the hard point connector is securely attached to the TETRIX® channel.

Step 16





Step 1

Parts Needed



2x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



1x Connector Peg with Friction



1x Connector Peg with Friction/Axle



1x 4 x 6-Module Angular Beam



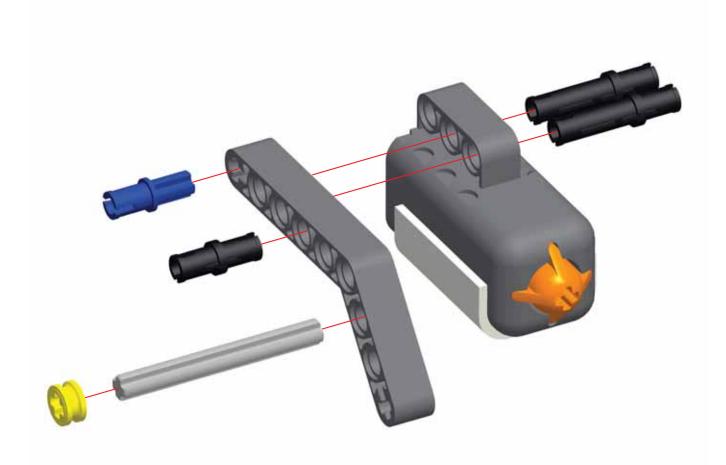
1x Half-Module Bushing



1x 5-Module Axle



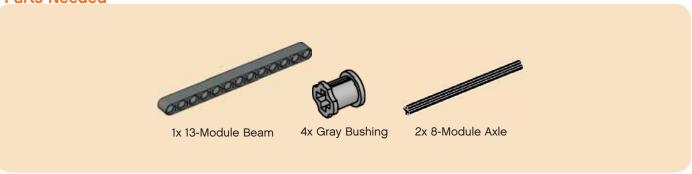
1x NXT Toucl Sensor

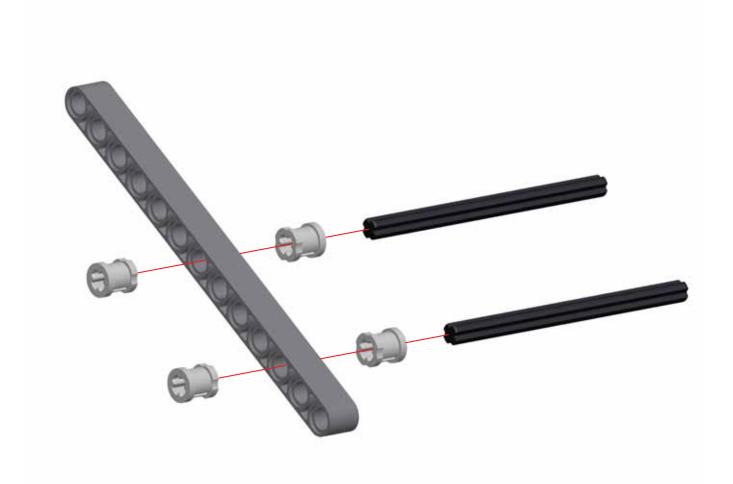


- \bullet Use the 7/64" and 5/64" hex keys in this model.
- · Make sure that the connector pegs on the same side are inserted facing the same direction.

Step 2

Parts Needed





Tip

• Ensure that the bushings are firmly in place against the beam.

Step 3



Tips

• Ensure that the axles on the assembly from Step 2 are pointed away from the angular beam from Step 1.

Step 4



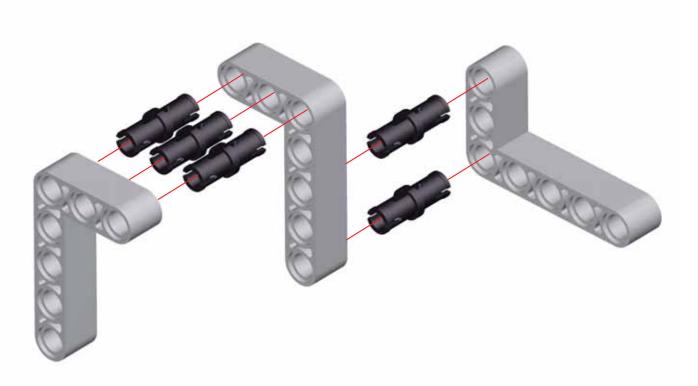
1x 4 x 6-Module Angular Beam





Step 5

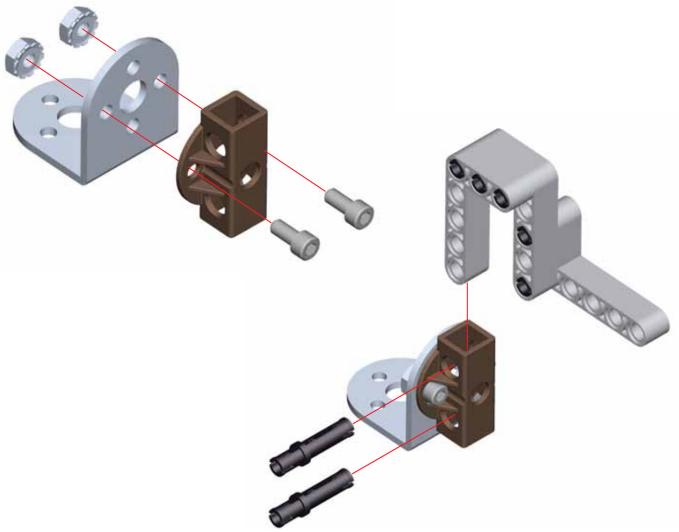




Step 6

Parts Needed



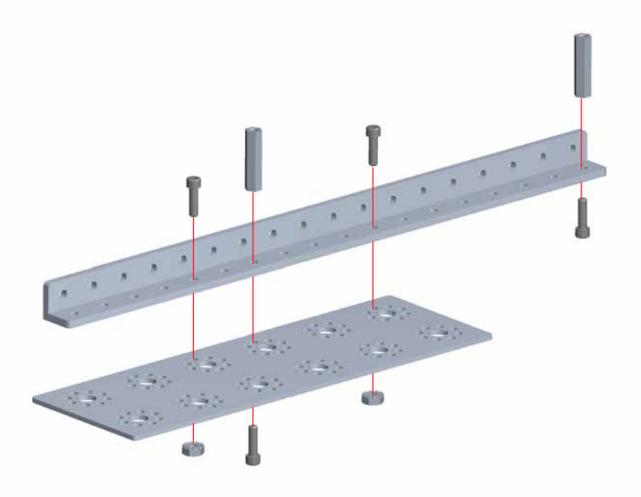


- · Make sure the screw heads are on the same side as the connector pegs.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 7

Parts Needed



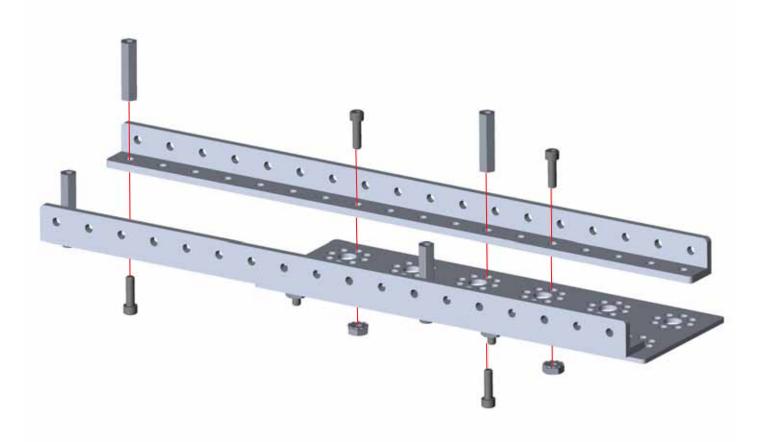


- ${\boldsymbol \cdot}$ Make sure that the nuts are on the opposite side of the angle.
- Make sure that the stand-off posts are in the first hole and the 12th hole counting from the end (without the flat building plate).
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 8

Parts Needed



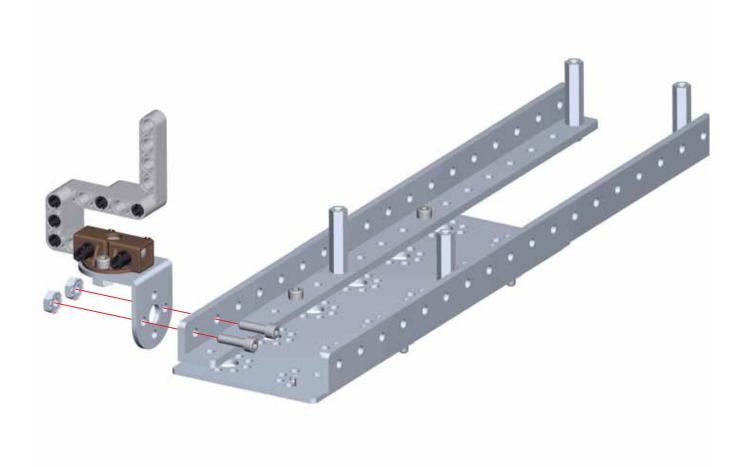


- Ensure that both sides are symmetrical.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 9

Parts Needed

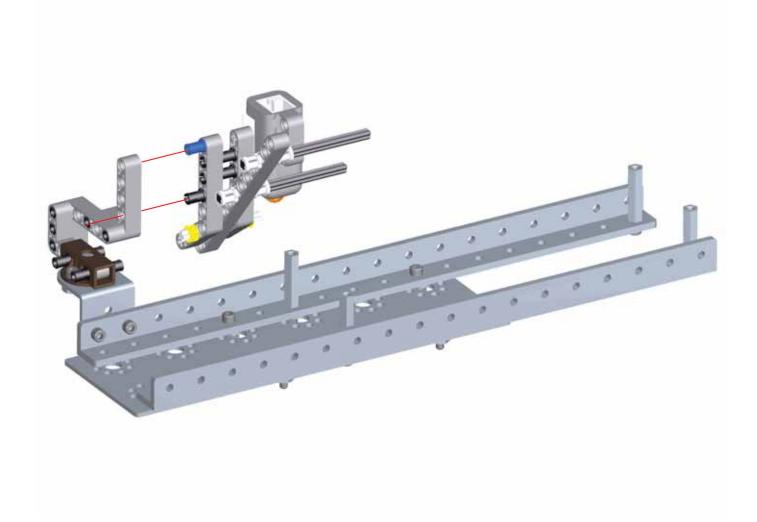




Tir

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 10



Tir

• Make sure that the protruding axles on the subassembly are pointing towards the far end of the angles.

Step 11

Parts Needed



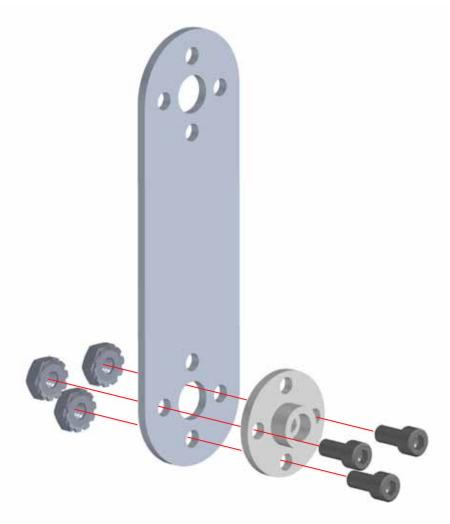


- Ensure that the screw heads are on the inside of the bracket.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 12

Parts Needed



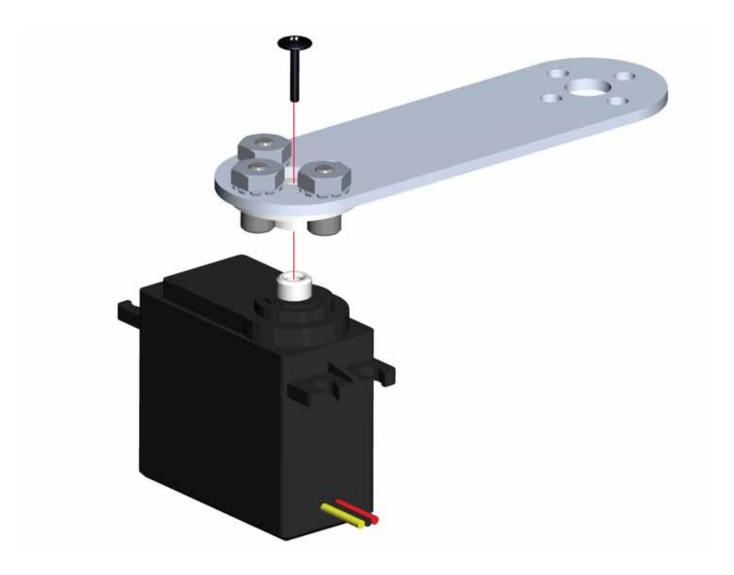


Tip

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

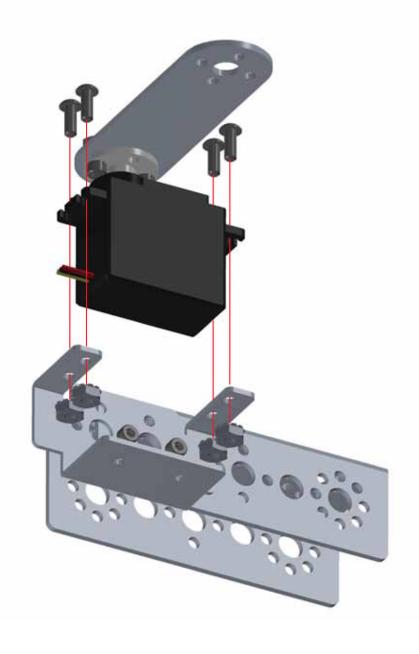
Step 13





Step 14





Step 15



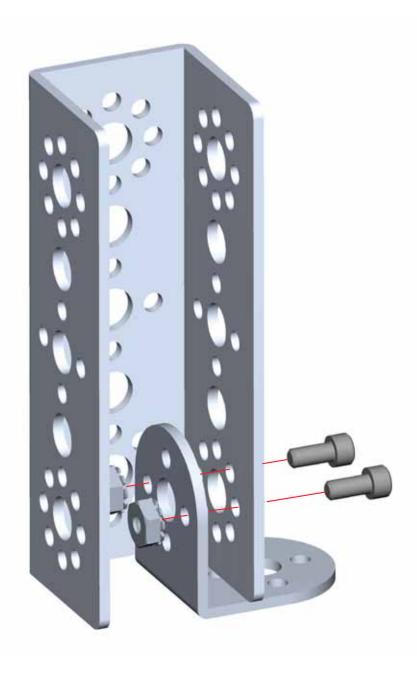




1x L Bracket

2x 5/16" SHCS

2x Kep Nut



Step 16



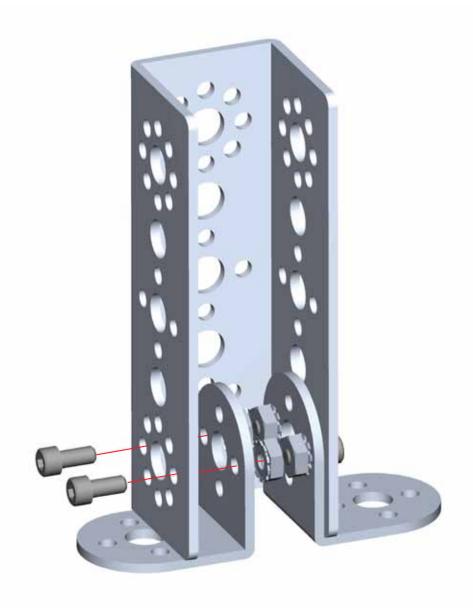




1x L Bracket

2x 5/16" SHCS

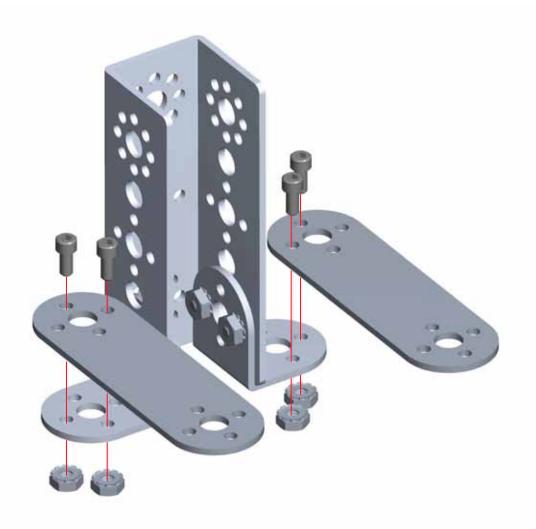
2x Kep Nut



Step 17

Parts Needed





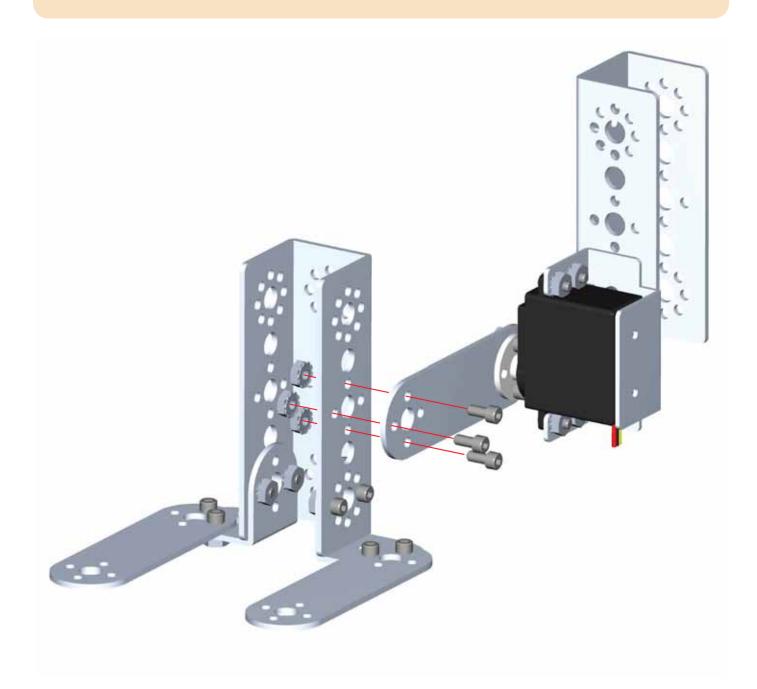
- Make sure that the open side of the channel is on the same side as the flat brackets.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 18





3x 5/16" SHCS 3x Kep Nut



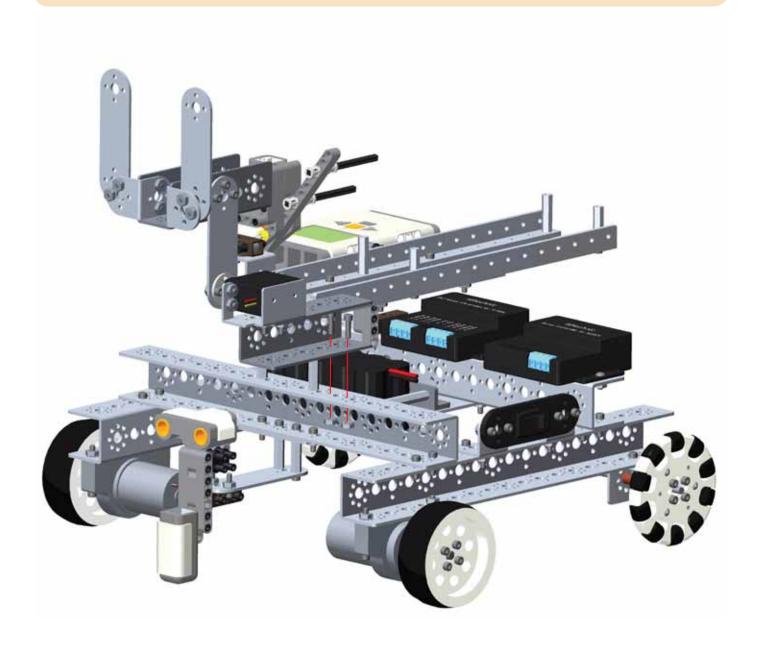
Step 19



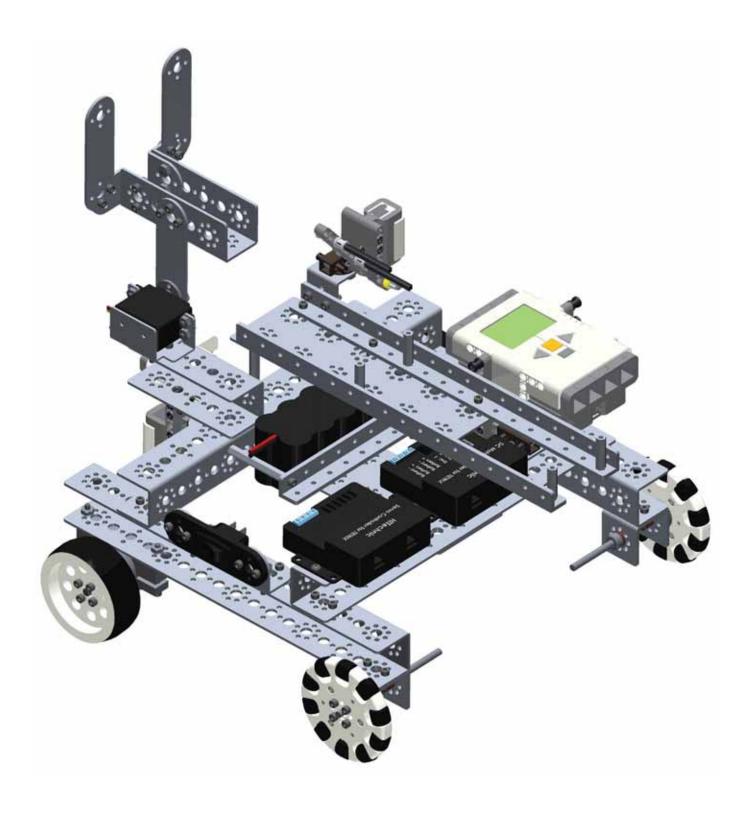


Step 20



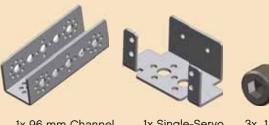


Final Version



Parts Needed

Step 1







1x 96 mm Channel

1x Single-Servo Motor Bracket

3x 1/2" SHCS

3x Kep Nut

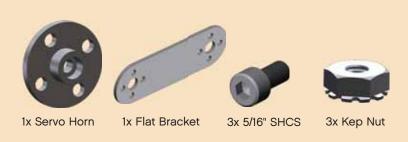


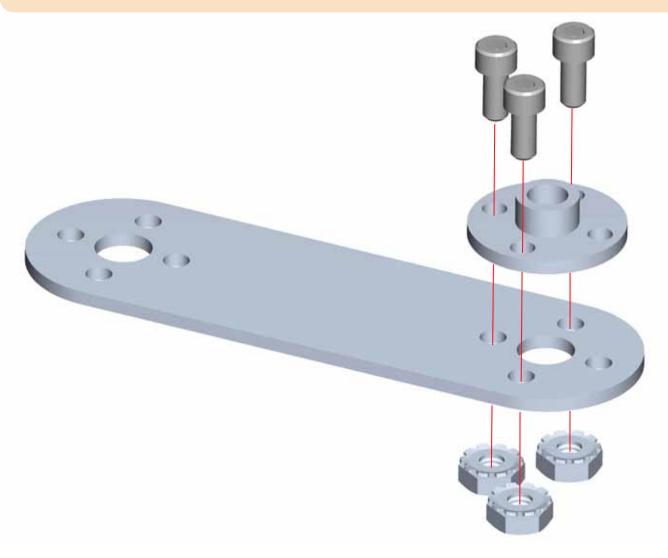
Tip

• Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 2

Parts Needed





Tir

• Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 3

Parts Needed



1x 180° Servo Motor with Horn



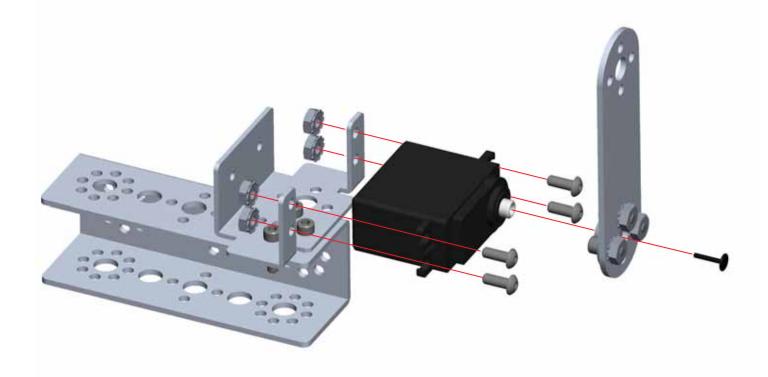
1x Servo Screw



4x 3/8" BHCS



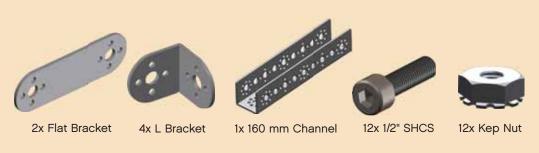
4x Kep Nut

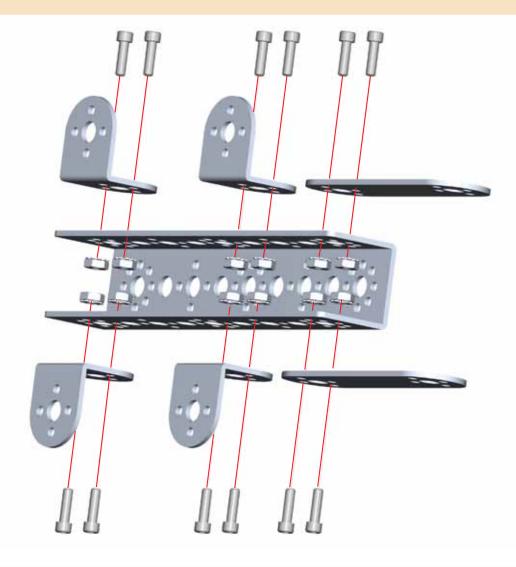


- Use the Phillips head on the 4-in-1 screwdriver to tighten the servo screw. This will keep the servo horn attached to the servo motor.
- Use the 5/64" hex key for the BHCS.

Step 4

Parts Needed

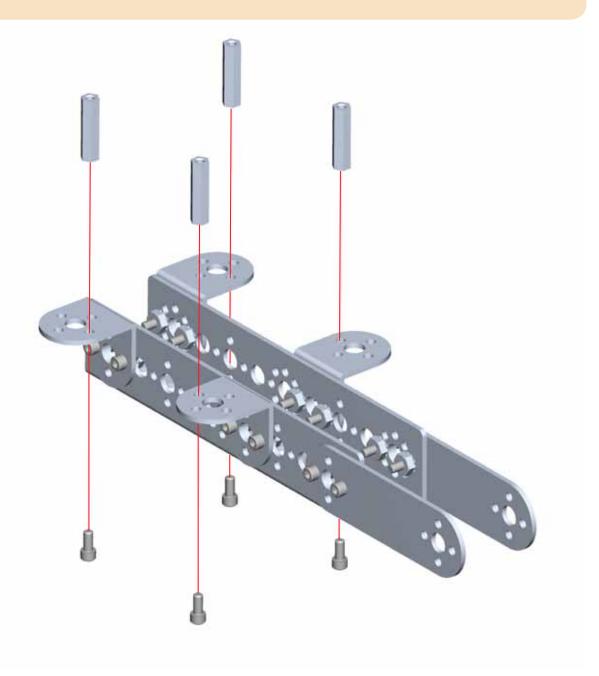




- Ensure that the screw heads are on the outside of the channel.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

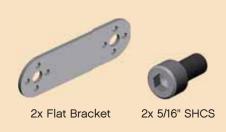
Step 5

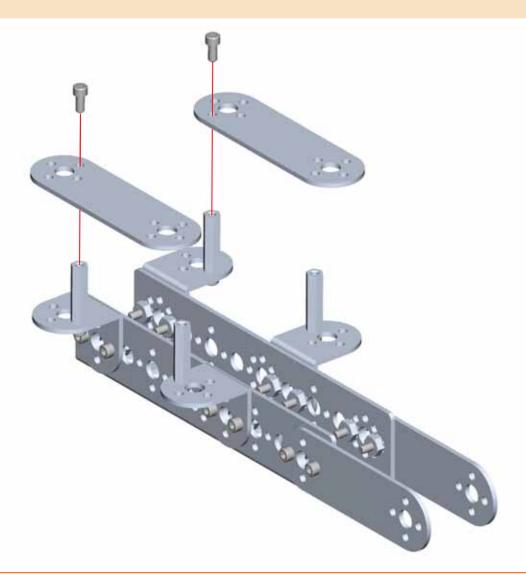




Parts Needed

Step 6





- Remember not to put the screws on the two front-most stand-off posts; the hard point connectors will go there in Step 12.
- Do not tighten all of the screws fully until Step 12.





2x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



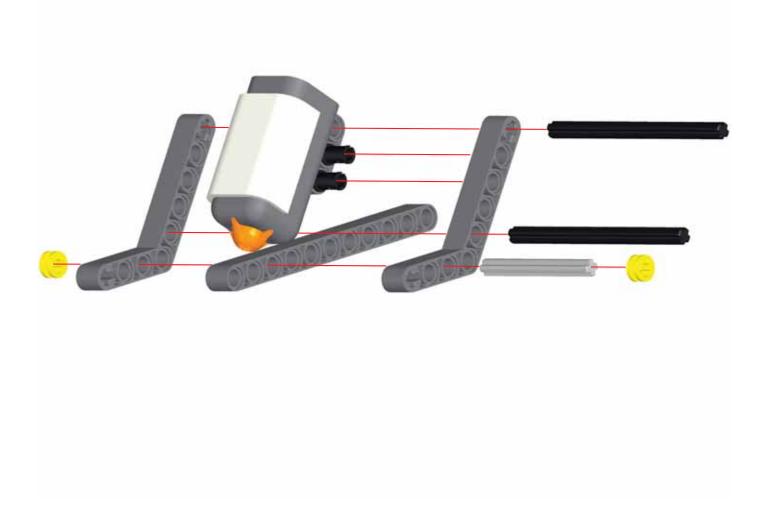
1x NXT Touch Sensor



Step 8







Step 9



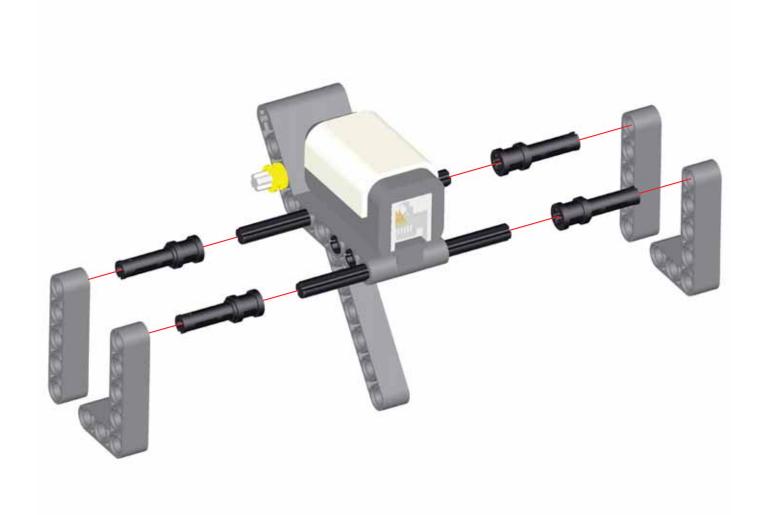
1x 5-Module Beam



2x 3 x 5-Module Angular Beam

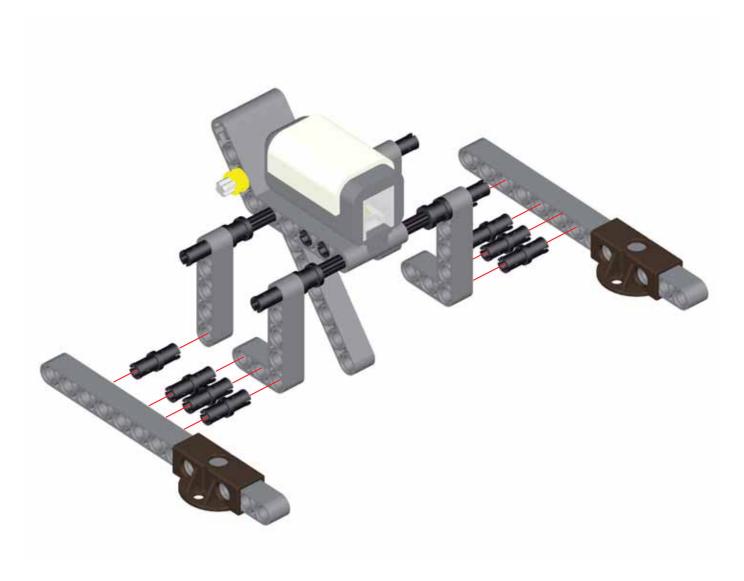


4x Connector Peg with Bushing



Step 10





Step 11



4x 3-Module Connector Peg with Friction



Step 12

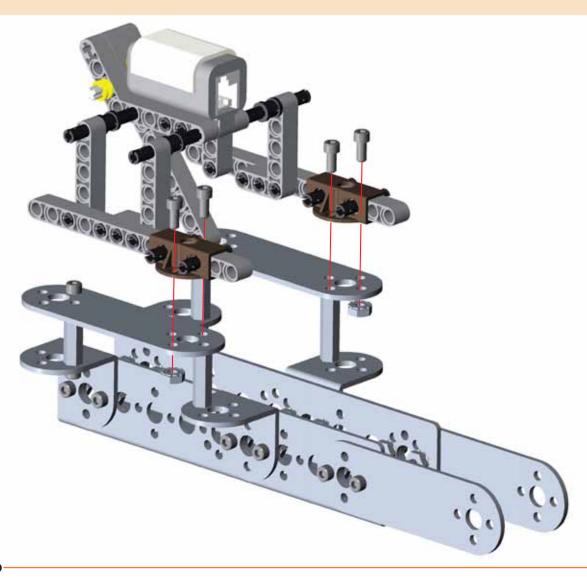
Parts Needed





4x 5/16" SHCS

2x Kep Nut



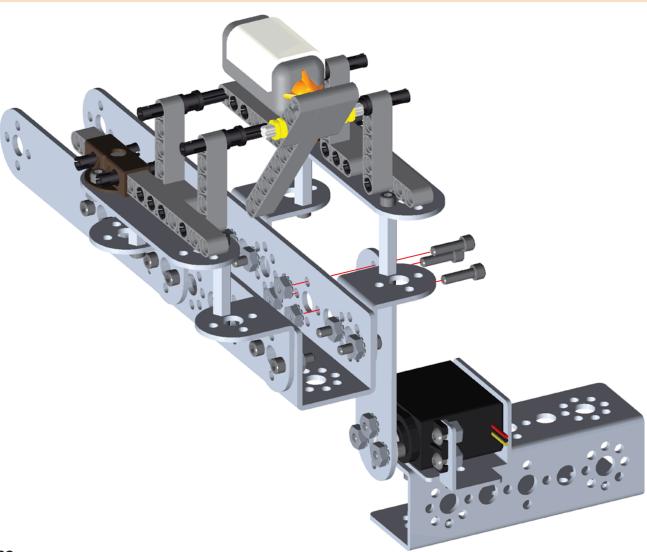
.Tip

• Turn the screws only until the hard point connector is securely attached to the TETRIX® channel.

Step 13

Parts Needed





- Ensure that the screws are oriented so that the heads are on the outside of the channel.
- Reminder: Ensure that the teeth of the nut face the head of the screw.

Step 14



2x 1/2" SHCS

2x Kep Nut



Final View

