

CHAPTER 5

OLD-STYLE REFRIGERATOR CAR

Since the early days of the railroads, large amounts of food have moved around the country in refrigerated rail cars. Today's cars use mechanical refrigeration units, but prior to their development, ice had to be used in these *reefer* cars (short for “refrigerated”) to keep the food cool. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these cars used to rumble down the tracks delivering fresh produce, meats, and other perishable goods to markets around the country.

Over the years, these wooden reefers were continually upgraded to improve the effectiveness of the ice cooling. Still, the thing about ice is that it melts. Every so often, the train had to stop at icing stations along the track to replace the melted ice. The fresh ice was added to the reefer cars through openings in their roofs.

This old-style reefer car was one of my favorite LEGO models so far. (Figure 1)

Using the Internet and the LEGO CAD software (see www.ldraw.org for more info on the software), fellow LEGO Train builder James Mathis and I collaborated on this design. Together we developed a ter-



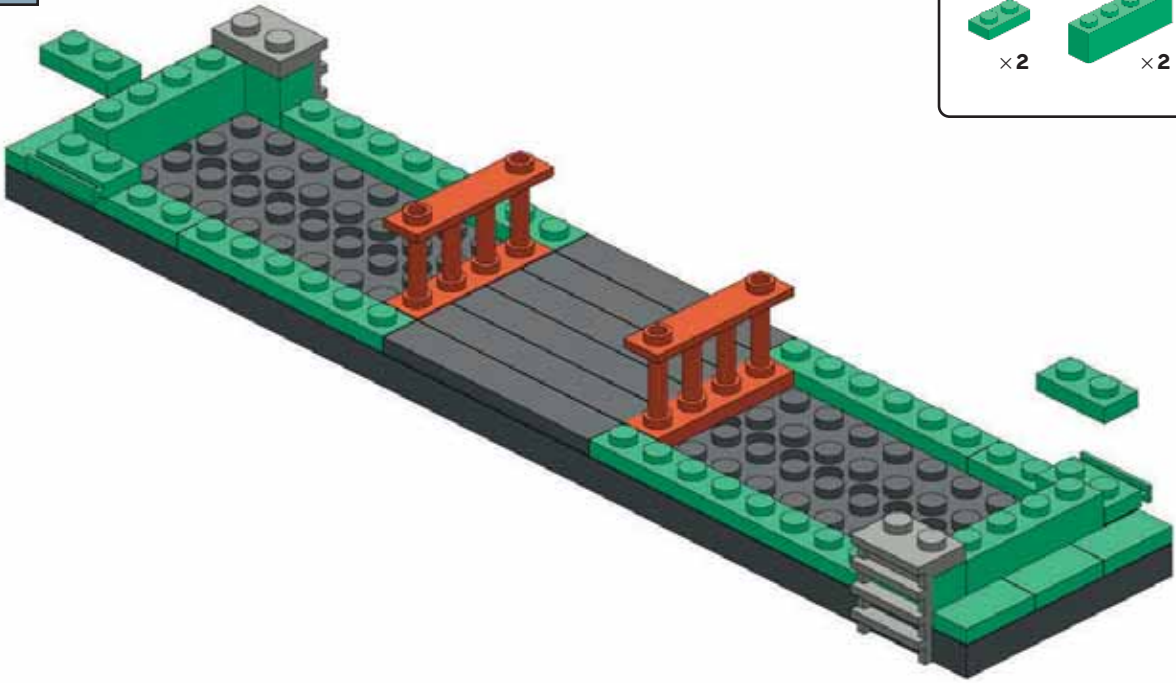
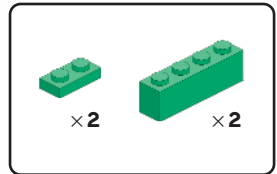
rific design that, while simple, is still quite elegant.

COLOR SCHEME

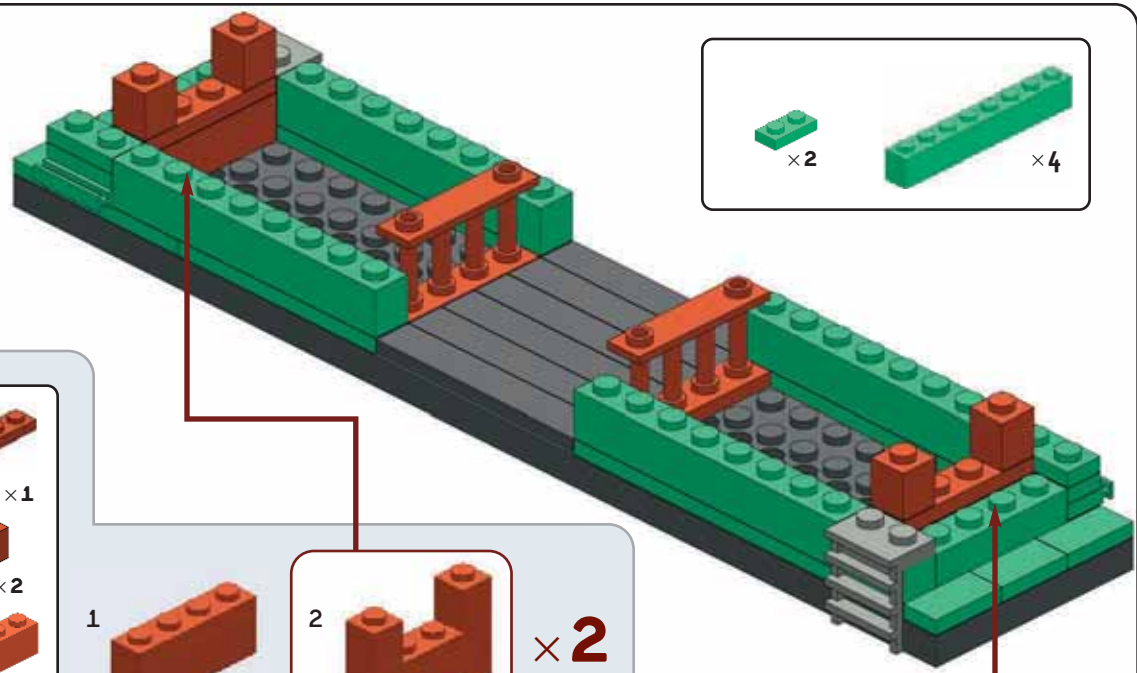
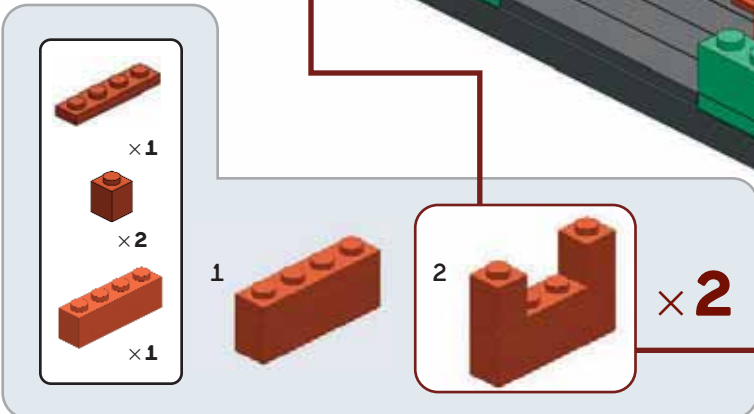
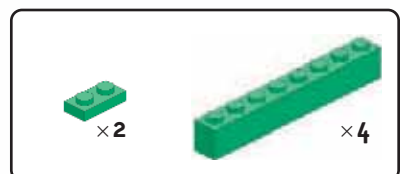
The great thing about reefers is that thousands were built over

the years. Many were owned by companies who branded them with their colors and logos in order to use them as moving billboards. The result is that there are easily hun-

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