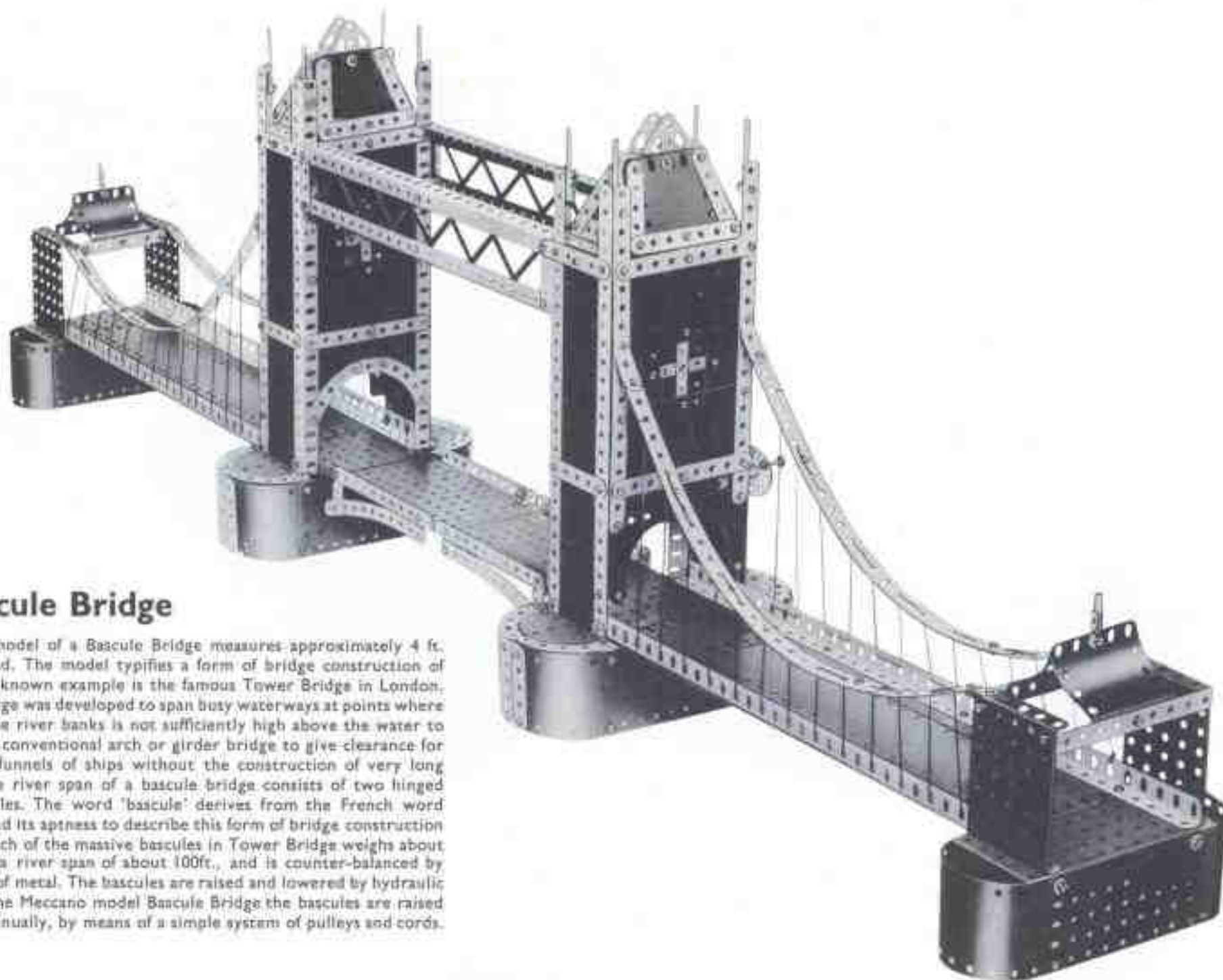
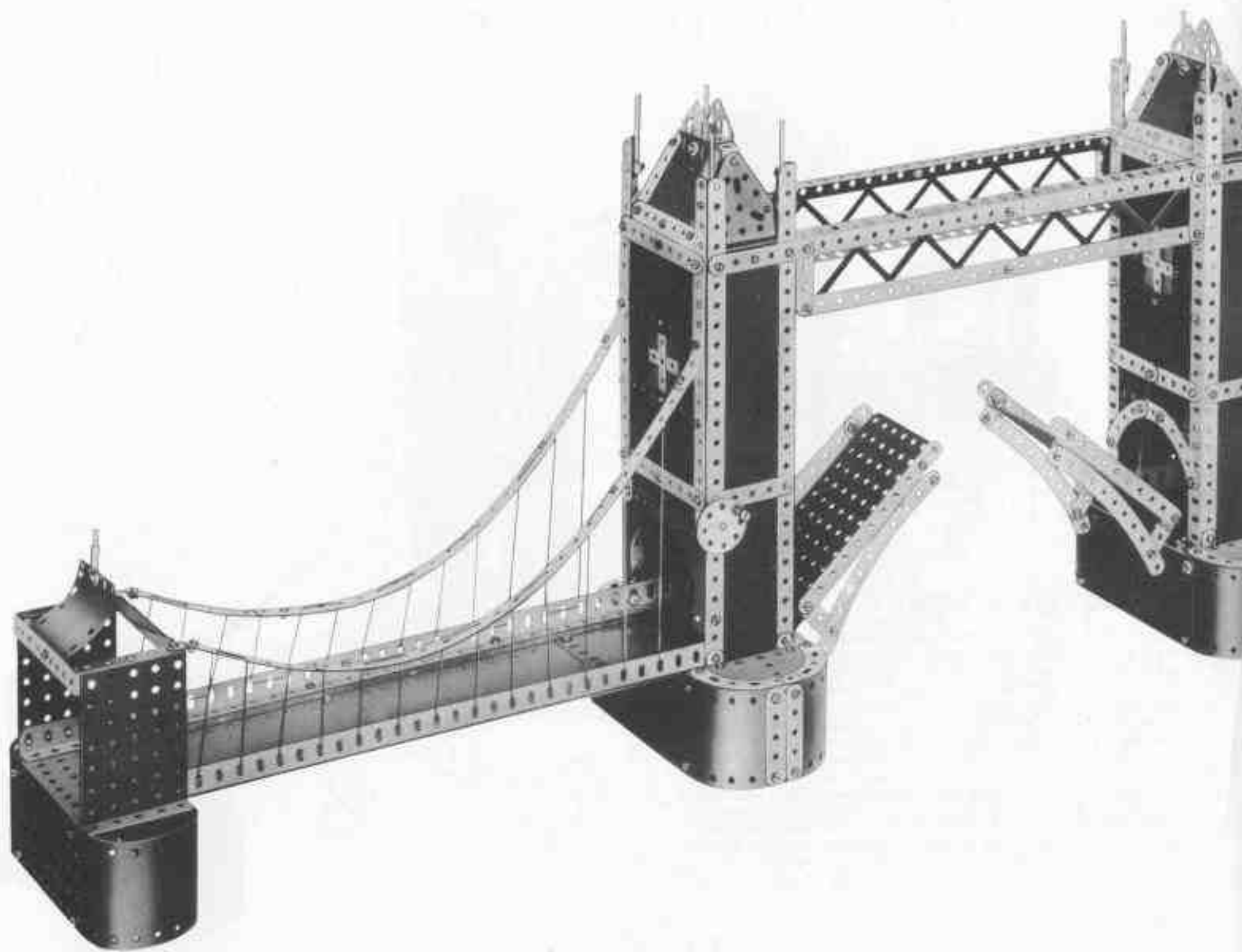
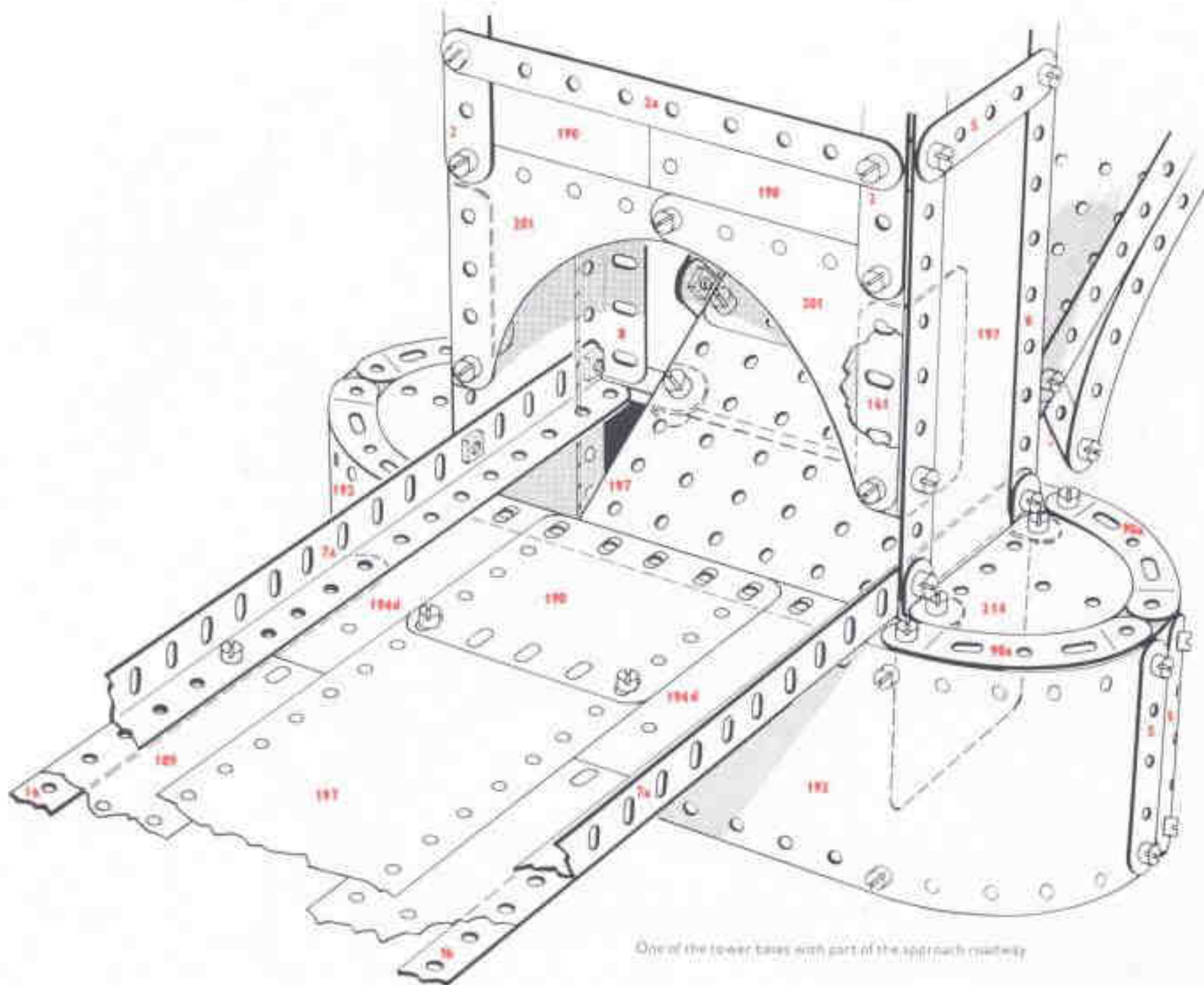




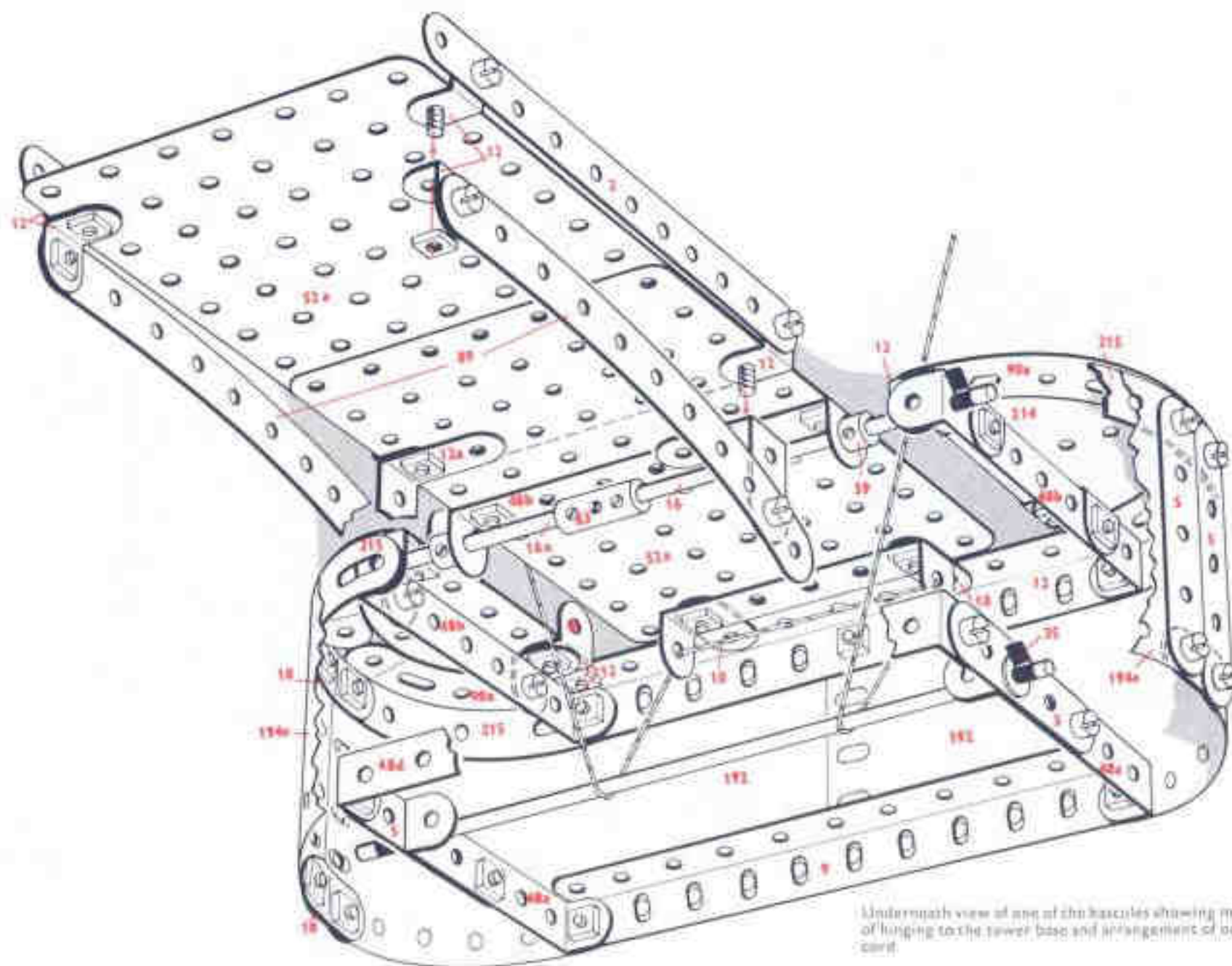
9.6 Bascule Bridge

This Meccano model of a Bascule Bridge measures approximately 4 ft. from end to end. The model typifies a form of bridge construction of which the best known example is the famous Tower Bridge in London. This type of bridge was developed to span busy waterways at points where the height of the river banks is not sufficiently high above the water to allow the more conventional arch or girder bridge to give clearance for the masts and funnels of ships without the construction of very long approaches. The river span of a bascule bridge consists of two hinged leaves or bascules. The word 'bascule' derives from the French word for 'see-saw', and its aptness to describe this form of bridge construction will be plain. Each of the massive bascules in Tower Bridge weighs about 1,200 tons, has a river span of about 100ft., and is counter-balanced by about 350 tons of metal. The bascules are raised and lowered by hydraulic machinery. In the Meccano model Bascule Bridge the bascules are raised and lowered manually, by means of a simple system of pulleys and cords.





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Underside view of one of the hancules showing method of linging to the tower base and arrangement of operating cord