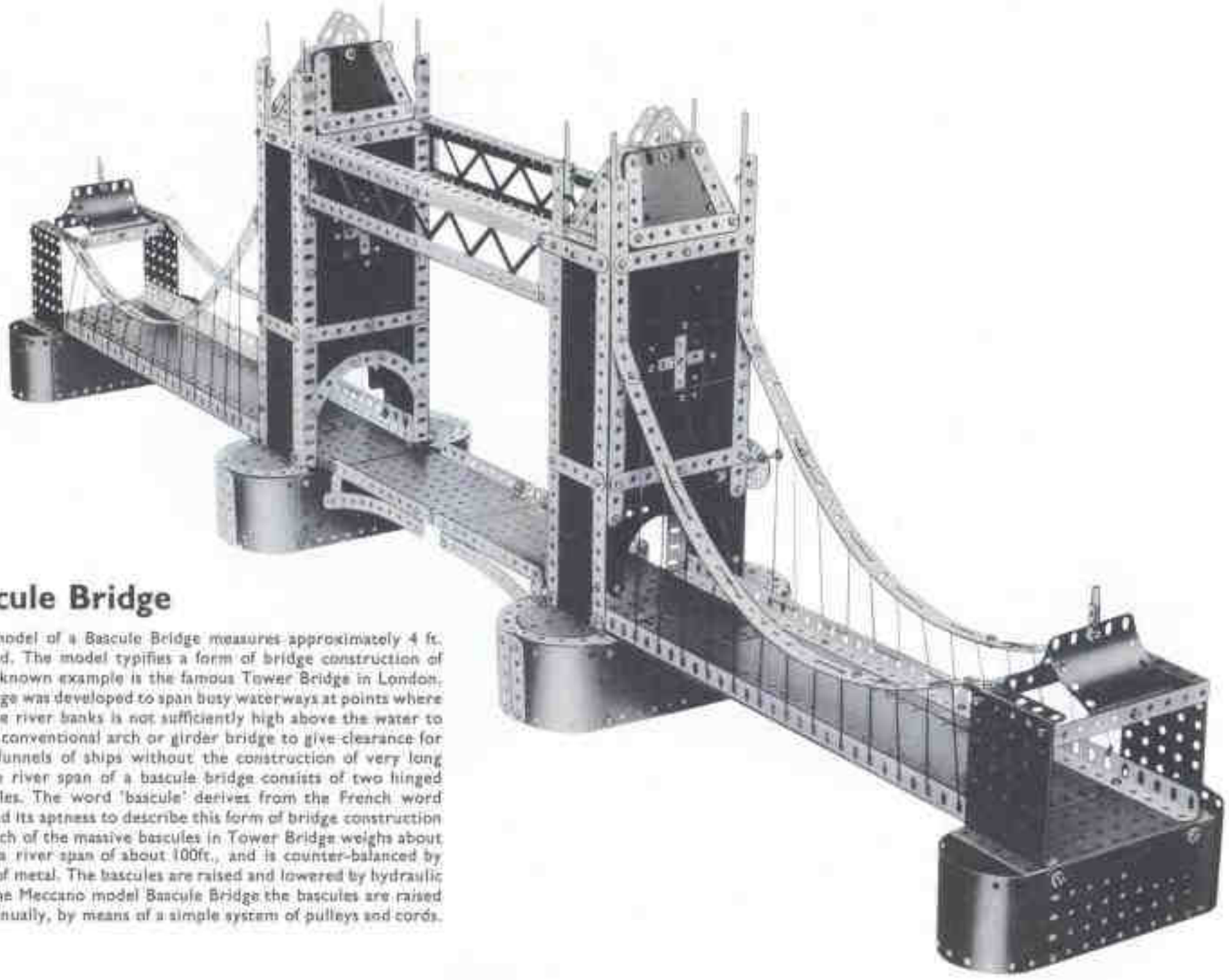
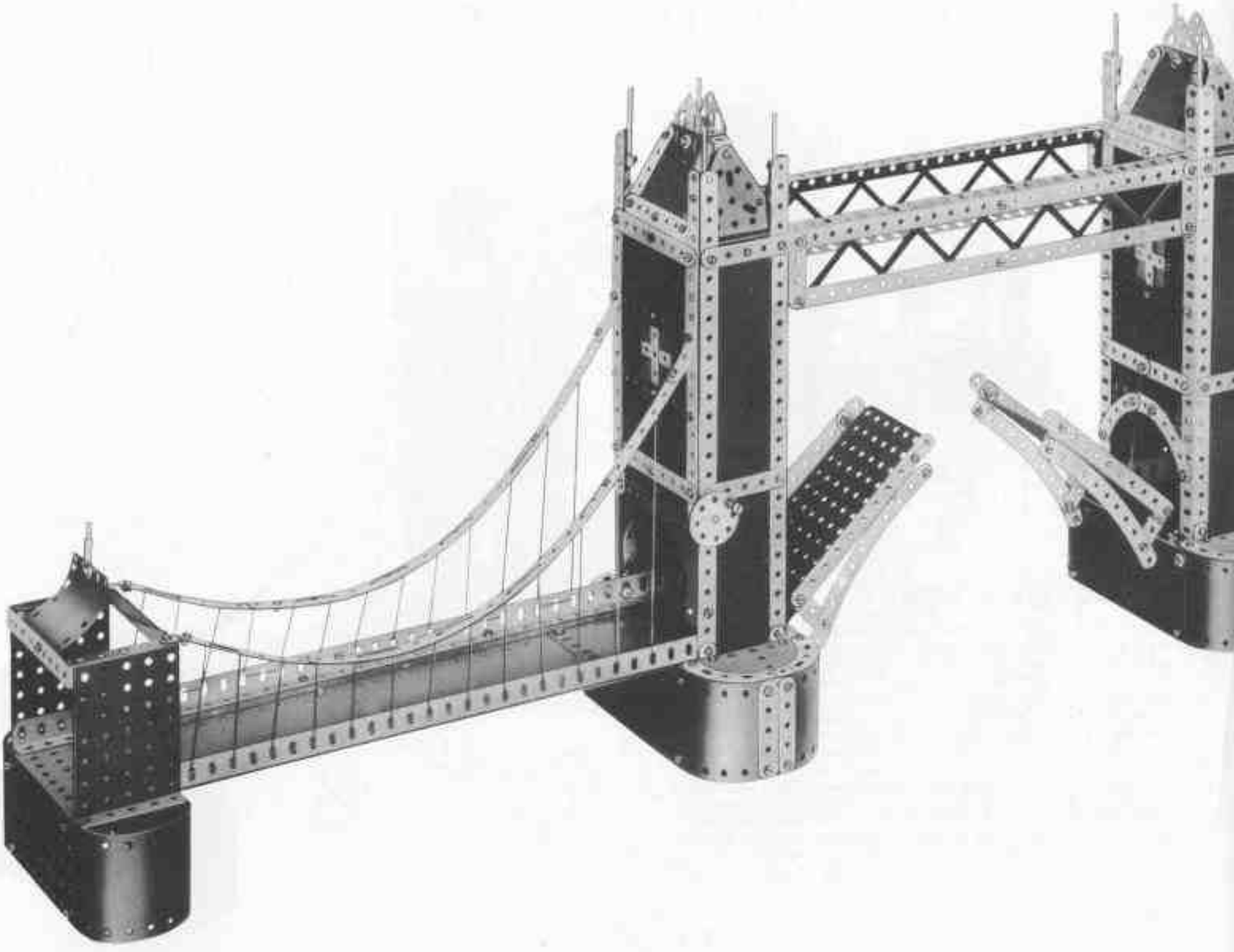
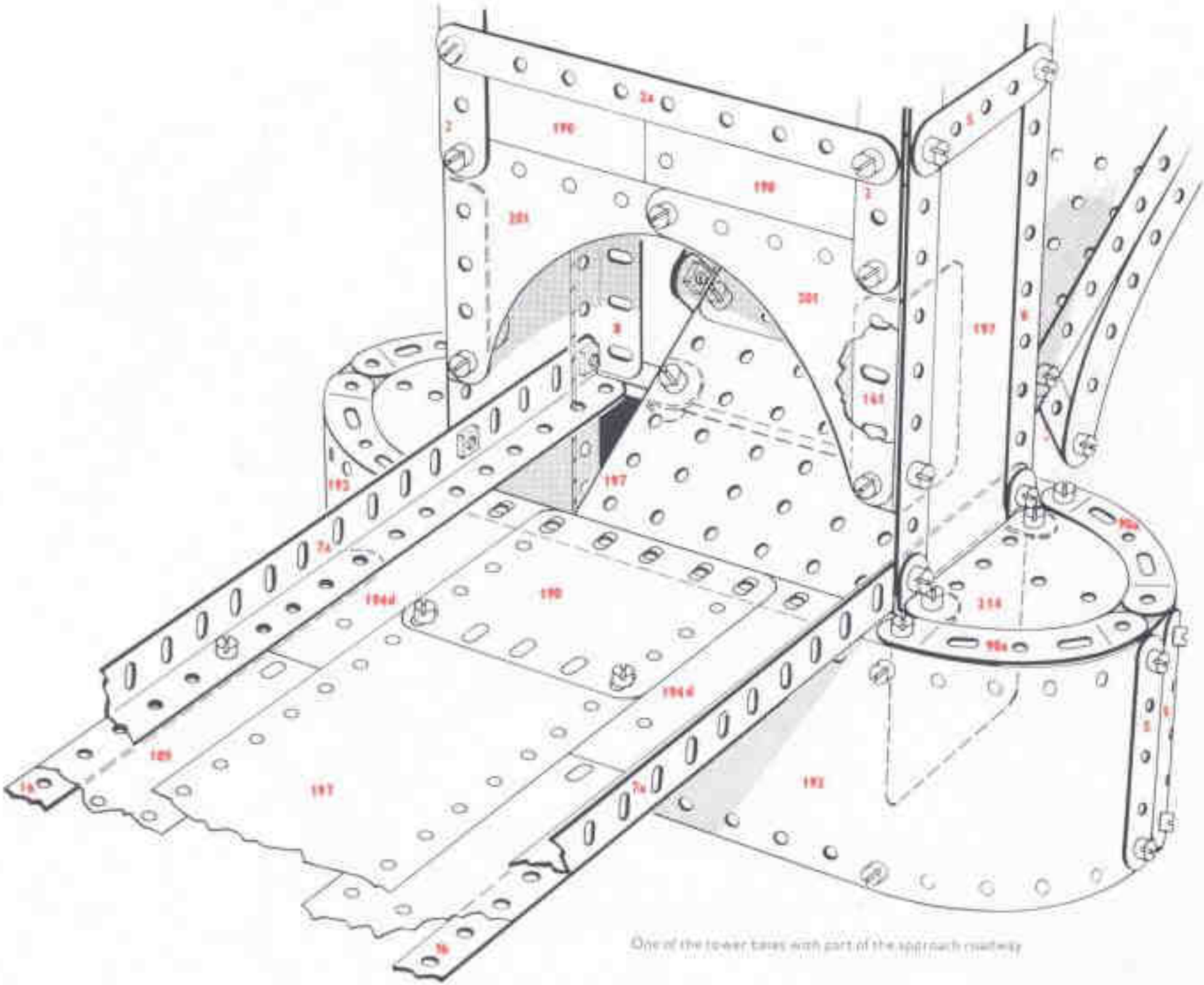


9.6 Bascule Bridge

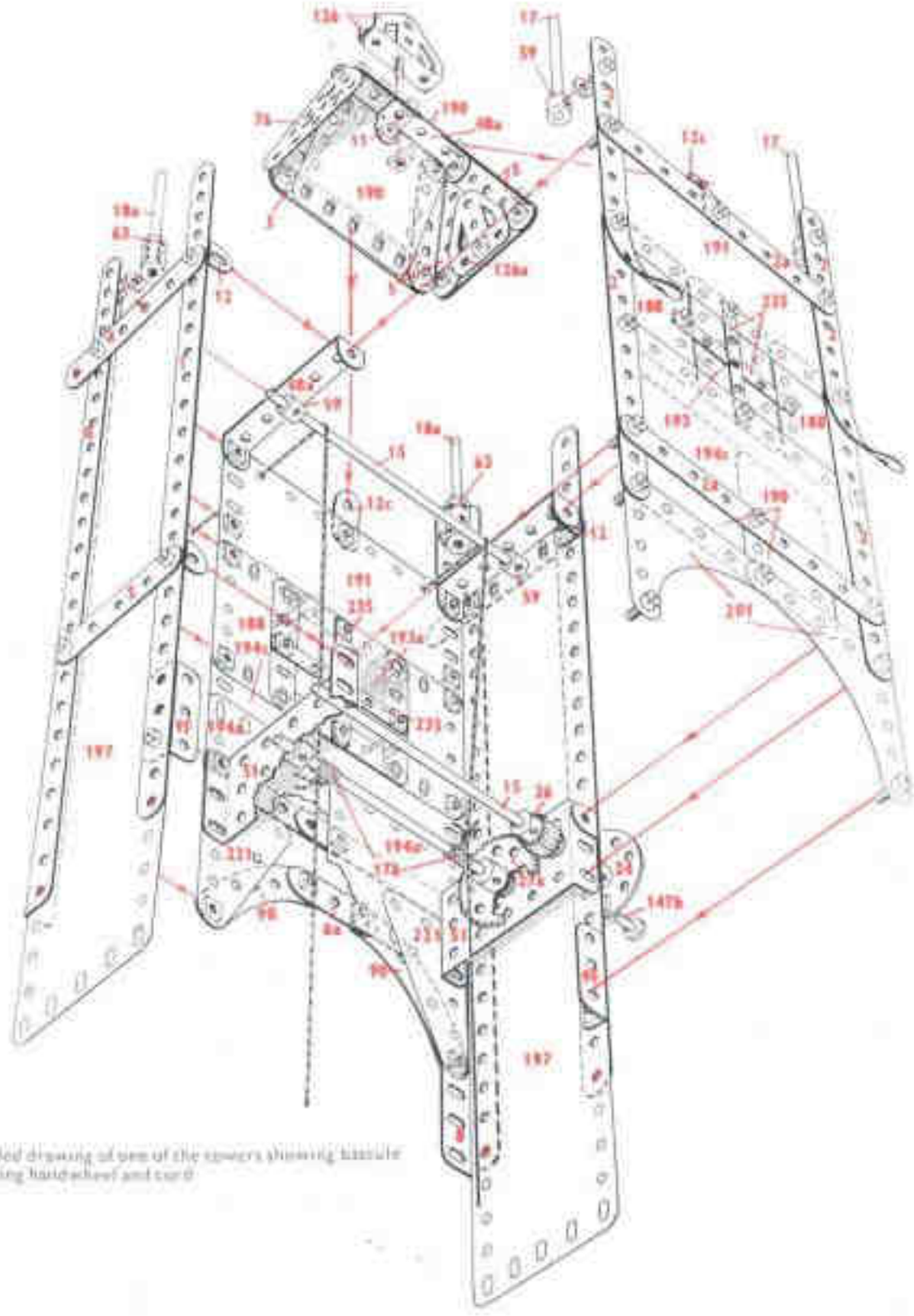
This Meccano model of a Bascule Bridge measures approximately 4 ft. from end to end. The model typifies a form of bridge construction of which the best known example is the famous Tower Bridge in London. This type of bridge was developed to span busy waterways at points where the height of the river 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.



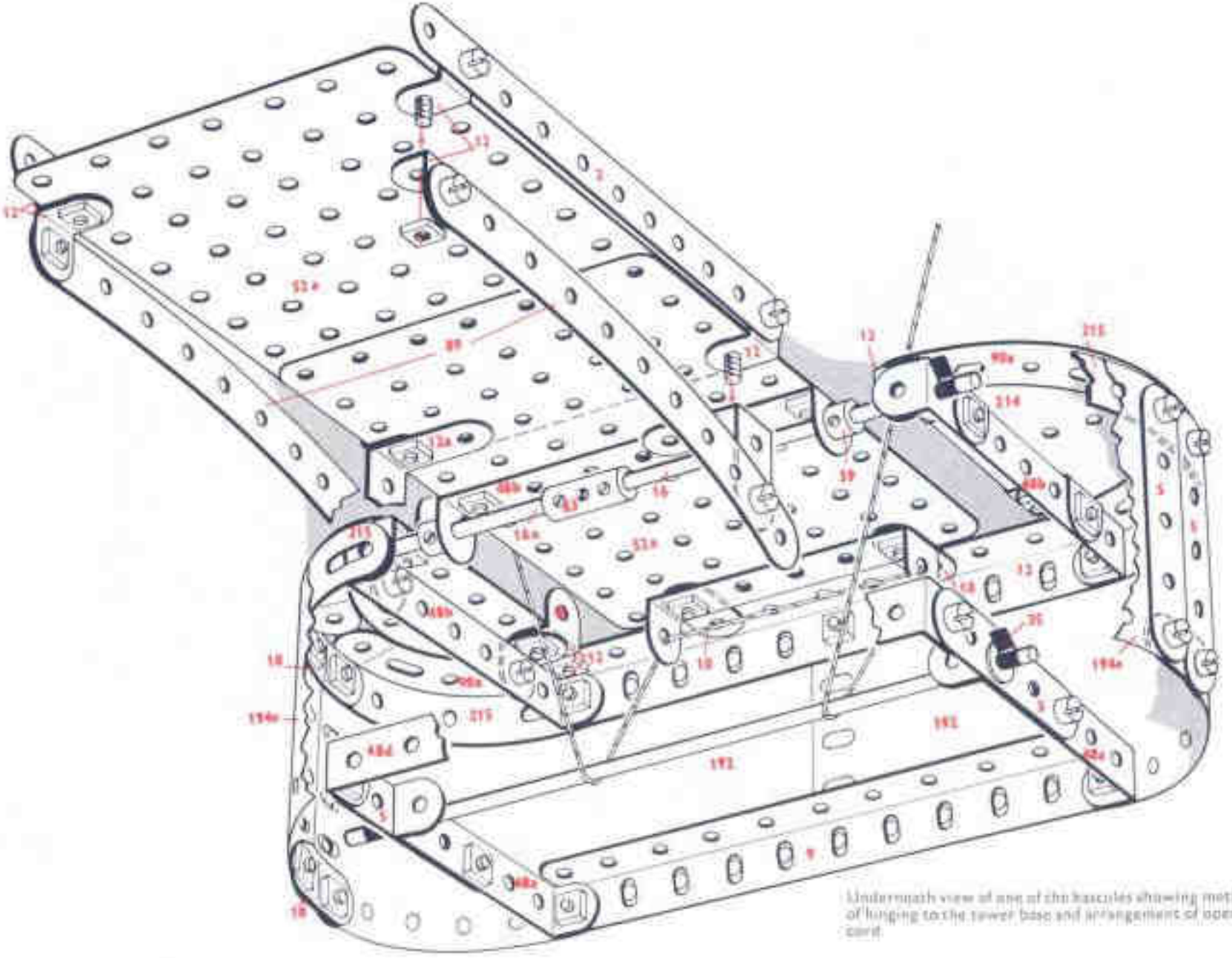


One of the tower bases with part of the approach roadway

14	1	32
2	1a	32a
14	2	33
6	2a	33a
6	3	59
8	4	63
32	5	72
4	6	79
24	6a	89
24	7a	90
48	8	90a
42	9	99
2	9a	115a
12	10	125
2	11	126
30	12	126a
4	12a	147b
2	12b	154a
8	12c	154b
2	14	161
2	15	165
1	15a	176
1	15b	188
2	16	189
2	16a	190
4	17	191
4	18a	192
2	18b	193
1	24	193a
1	26	194
1	27a	194a
1	35	194c
331	37a	194d
321	37b	194e
25	38	197
2	40	200
4	48	201
2	48a	212
8	48b	214
2	48c	215
2	48d	227
2	51	235
		235a



Exploded drawing of one of the towers showing bascule operating handwheel and cord



Underneath view of one of the bascules showing method of hinging to the tower base and arrangement of operating cord.

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