

ASTRO BRAL AND SPACE SHIP BRAL In 1988 I bought a BRAL set in Milan and the name on the box was BRAL SPACE SHIP. It is a simplified version of the ASTRO BRAL set included in MCS (in FB's latest edition only I think), and the instruction leaflet contains only 2 models against the 6 for the larger set. There are no details of the contents of the ASTRO set in MCS but the parts in the SPACE set are as follows, using MECCANO part numbers:

Nickel plated steel: 4x2, 2x3, 8x12, 1x34, 2x48a, 4x126, 1x126a.

Brass plated steel: 38x37b.

Black painted steel: 2x9.

Zinc alloy: 2x23, 38x37b.

Grey plastic: 1x194e, 4x226.

White plastic: 1 nose cone, 3" long, which clips into a circular base plate.

Red plastic: 4 'engines'.

Black plastic: various small mouldings of guns, radar dish, etc.

Clear plastic: 1 cockpit canopy, 2 push-in 'screw' type fasteners which are needed to hold the canopy (insecurely) in place.

Misc: 1 sheet of labels, 1 plastic handled screwdriver.

The envelope type box that the set is packed in measures 15½"x12"x2" and as well as the name BRAL SPACE SHIP on the top it has the reference "Art 90050". Pictures of the 2 models featured in the instruction leaflet are also on the top face and one of them has ASTRO BRAL across one of its fins. This name isn't on any of the stick-on labels though. On the bottom of the box the parts included in the set are illustrated (no PN's are shown) together with the drawings of the models in the leaflet.

The above came to be written because Dennis Higginson sent me the ASTRO BRAL leaflet to look at (the illustrations in MCS come from it) and it was clear that the set I have is not just a repackaging of the ASTRO set but has fewer parts in it. There are obviously more plates in the ASTRO and there is also a largish circular transparent dome. It doesn't show well in my copy of MCS and I hope it will be clearer in the model reproduced here. The second illustration shows the other ASTRO canopy which is similar to the SPACE one. The model it is part of is similar to one of the two from the SPACE set, the other is a slightly simplified version of that shown in the first 3 illustrations of the 2nd row of p.(B)2 of MCS.

#### SUMMARY OF MANUAL

#Name: ASTRO BRAL. #Details of maker: BRAL, Milano. #Dates or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 244x170mm deep. #No of pages: leaflet with 4 unnumbered pages. #Language: Italian, French, English, German, Spanish? #Printing: fulltone. Cover is shown in MCS. #Page nos of Parts List & highest PN: none. #Page nos of Set Contents & highest PN: none. #Sets covered: 1. #No of models: 6. #Name, model no, page no of first and last model of each set: there are no names or model nos. The 1st model is on p.2, the 6th on p.4. #Other notes: none.

#### SUMMARY OF MANUAL

#Name: SPACE SHIP BRAL. #Details of maker: BRAL, Milano. #Dates or Ref Nos: 20154 Milano-Italia-Via P. Lomazzo, 34. #Page size: 205x315mm deep. #No of pages: single sheet printed on both sides. #Language: Italian, French, German, English. #Printing: line drawings. The name on the leaflet is 'Kitspace bral' #Page nos of Parts List & highest PN: none. #Page nos of Set Contents & highest PN: none. #Sets covered: 1. #No of models: 2. #Name, model no, page no of first and last model of each set: no names or page nos. The models are on one side of the leaflet. #Other notes: the other side of the leaflet gives detailed instructions on how to bend strips and plates.

