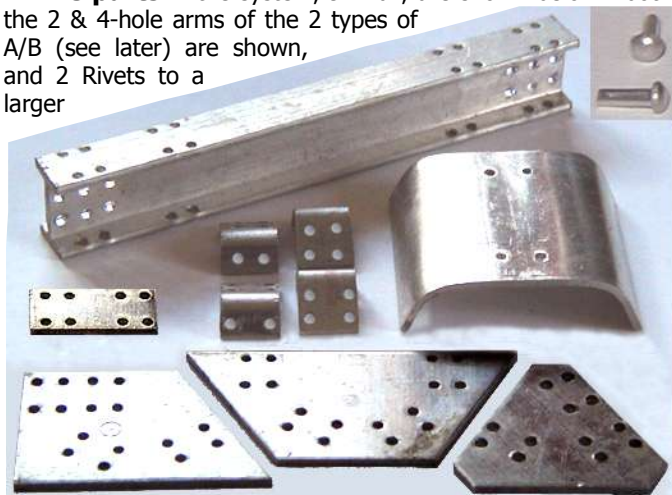


INSTRUCT-O-SCALE This small American system is said to have appeared soon after WW2, and was made by The Fox Toy Company, Buffalo, New York. It claimed to make structures at a scale of 1/4" to the foot. These notes are based on an unused example of the only outfit known, No.101, though another, No.107, was promised on the back cover of the manual. Models are simple frameworks made from 3 1/2" long, 'I' section Beams, Gusset Plates, & A/Bs. The parts are aluminium and are joined using 1/16" Ø aluminium Rivets, clenched by the pliers-type Tool provided.

The parts in the system, 9 in all, are shown below - both the 2 & 4-hole arms of the 2 types of A/B (see later) are shown, and 2 Rivets to a larger

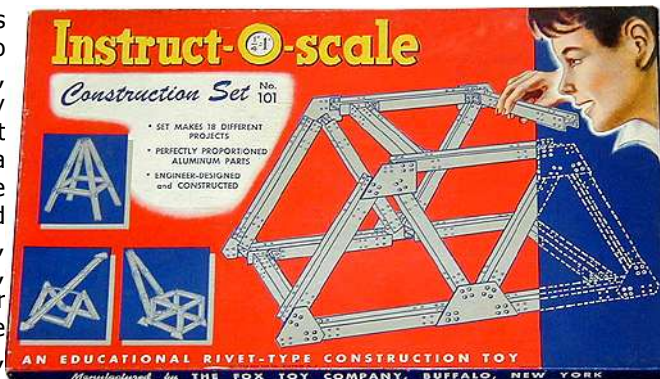


scale in the top right corner. Next notes on the parts, with quantities in curly brackets. • **Holes** are about 1.6mm Ø, just large enough to take the Rivets. • The **Beam** {18}, 5/16" x 1/2" in section, is a substantial extrusion. The holes in the web are at 5/32" pitch in both directions; each group of 4 in the flanges are at 5/32" lengthways but 7/32" across. Like the other parts, the Beam looks well made but some flange edges are a little distorted by the holes being punched so near them. • The groups of holes in the **Gussets** {6 Triangular, 4 Single-Angle, & 2 Double-Angle} and **Splice Plate** (Flat Bracket) {8} match those in the Beam's flanges. • The **'Narrow' & 'Wide' A/Bs** {8, 20} have the same overall dimensions, 7/32" x 13/32" by 11/32" wide, and both have 4 holes in one arm and 2 in the other. But the holes in the Narrow are 5/32" pitch across (to match those in the Beam web), while in the Wide they are 7/32" to match all the other holes. • The **Rivet** {320, enough to make 2 or 3 models} is 1.47mm (.058") Ø, & 3/16" under the 2.7mm Ø RH. • The **Tool**, steel of course, is 4 3/4" long o/a and can be seen is the box right. The left pair of



jaws above clench Rivets & each has a suitable hemispherical recess in it. The other pair remove Rivets - the lower jaw has a deep vertical cut inwards from the outer face to give an opening for the pin to pass into.

The Set The box is 10*16 3/4"

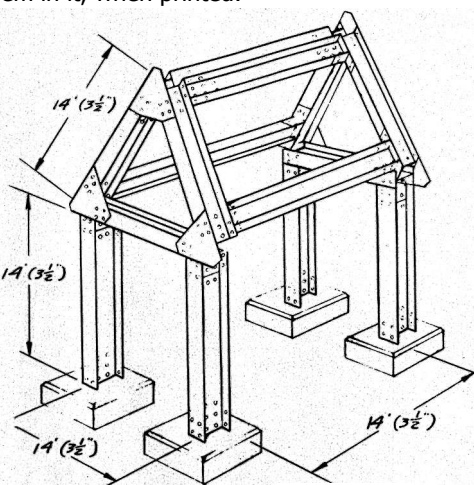


The Manual Including covers it has 12 unnumbered pages, 204*130mm. Apart from the colours, the front, below, is similar to the lid (in reality the grey parts are silver). Inside, p2 has a short (inadequate) Intro on using the parts, then 9 pages with one model on each. Finally, an ad for the Set 107 on the back cover - it promises Automobiles, Skyscrapers, & Moving Models; with Wheels, Larger Angles, & more 'I' Beams.

The first model, A-1 Railroad Bridge, & the last, A-9 Derrick & Crane, are both shown on the lid/manual cover. A Parts List and one line drawing, white on blue, is provide for each model, together with an identical view as an inset, but silver on white. So 9 models, but 18 are promised on the lid and there was a slip inside the manual explaining that a paper shortage prevented the other 9 being shown, and inviting an application for another booklet with them in it, when printed.

Most of the models are just frameworks and the House right (changed to B&W & 2/3 f/s), the Bridge, & the Derrick (the pyramid) on the lid/cover are typical. The other models there are a Crane without a winding mechanism, & a Teeter-Totter with the swinging beam loose on the cross bar.

I made the House, but with the length doubled. Most parts fitted well though the Beams were slightly too long & some holes in the Splice Plates and Narrow A/Bs had to be elongated with a file.



PROJECT NO. A-6

BLOCK HOUSE

The Tool worked well in clenched the Rivets, although a fair squeeze was needed, and not all the Rivets could be reached unless care was taken in the order of assembling some of the parts. Two Rivets were removed easily but then the removal pin fell out. The finished model was quite rigid except that the 'legs' really needed an extra A/B or Gusset, and none of the standard parts would fit. The system's main drawbacks are that it is fiddly in use and there is little flexibility in the way the parts can be used.

